

Archive Page

Sightings and news from July to December 2009

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between July and December 2009.

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

December 2009

Thursday 10th December 2009

1 Red Admiral flying across Priory Street, Ware in bright sunshine at lunchtime today - Andrew Wood

A December sighting for you, seen today (10th) at Patmore Heath, Red Admiral sunning itself on a tree trunk, along with about 30 Bluebottles, don't they know its December ? - Martin Dodd

Saturday 6th December 2009

Hot sunshine today, Sunday 6th December, brought out a Red Admiral in our Hayes garden. Good news as I expect it is hibernating here somewhere, which means hopefully I will get to see it again! - Helen George

November 2009

Saturday 28th November 2009

Red Admiral, near Hillingdon, flying then settling on pavement to bask in weak sunlight - Andy Whitney

Tuesday 24th November 2009

Noticed a Cream-spot Ladybird at Myddelton House Grdns., Bulls Cross, today (Tues 24th November 2009) on the wheelbarrow I was using for raked leaves. Perhaps not so surprising given the mild weather we are having? - Rober Callf

Saturday 21st November 2009

One Red Admiral in our Hertford back garden feeding on rotting pears Saturday lunchtime 21 November - Andrew Wood

Even I have now seen a butterfly! A male Brimstone also fluttering around, in my next door neighbour's garden in Ware today at 12.30 - Liz Goodyear

Friday 20th November 2009

A female Brimstone fluttering on low vegetation on a track leading to Shackledell Grassland, Stevenage at 1335. I have never seen a Brimstone this late in the season before. - Peter Clarke

Thursday 19th November 2009

Just one Red Admiral in Ware Cemetery today 19th November Andrew Wood

Tuesday 17th November 2009

4 different Red Admirals in Ware Cemetery this lunchtime. The first butterflies I have seen for 3 weeks - Andrew Wood

I was thrilled to see a peacock butterfly flutter against a window in Kings Langley in sunshine around 12.30pm on November 17th 2009 - Elizabeth Debenham

Sunday 15th November 2009

Red Admiral & Painted Lady nectaring on hebe in my St Albans Garden at lunchtime today - Malcolm Hull

Saw a large dark Nymphalid butterfly in Oakwood Park, N14 this afternoon after church (I saw it through the binoculars whilst it was in flight and could not make out any white in it's wings - so probably not a Red Admiral, though not 100% sure). - Robert Callf

9.30am Painted lady basking on conifer in garden N.W.Bishop's Stortford Jim Fish

Saturday 7th November 2009

Still two Small Copper in set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:18 GMT (Our latest record by one day!). What is the all time latest record for Herts & Middx? - Robert Callf & Robin White. *The extreme date was 6/11/01. It was 12/10/55 when Brian Sawford wrote his book!* - Andrew Wood

Also Robin White also saw a Painted Lady fly across the Lower Lake in Trent Park today at 10:50 GMT. - news via Robert Callf

Wednesday 4th November 2009

One Small Copper remains in the set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park (TQ2997) at 13:08 GMT - still in good condition and my latest record in Trent Park for eight years. - Robert Callf

I had a close view of a Small Copper today (7th November) in Mad Bess Woods (TQ075891), Ruislip, which is the latest I've ever seen one. Other witness: Michael Hammond - Michael Robinson

Monday 2nd November 2009

1 Painted lady in my garden N.W Bishop's Stortford also 1 Red Admiral Grange Paddocks B. S - Jim Fish

Painted Lady seen next to the north circular in Finchley, approx TQ258899 - Tom Clarke

I thought the Painted Lady season was finally over - but one was seen in our garden in Pinner, Middlesex on Monday 2nd November. Graham Elcombe

One freshly-emerged Painted Lady nectaring in full sun on a Hebe shrub at 1405 in Sun Lane, Harpenden. Whether due to the sun or the nectar I can't be sure - but the insect seemed totally unaware of my presence, allowing me to approach it to within a couple of inches. Alan Jackson

Some interesting late sightings of Small Copper today (Monday 2nd November 2009) in Trent CP - one in rough area between Ride Wood and the Lower Lake, 12:01 GMT, and three, including two together (one of which was in good condition and could conceivably last another week or two) in set-aside field near Dew Pond, 12:18 - 12:21 GMT. If the weather stays reasonably mild I can imagine a late record being broken? Also four Firecrests seen today in Trent Park. - Robert Callf

I saw a late Painted Lady in Robert Avenue St Albans. The date was the 2nd of November 2009 at 12:20, the insect was feeding on a Hebe bush. We have yet to experience an air frost generally in this area although the 17th of October saw temperatures only a fraction above freezing. Alan Gardiner

My garden in Hatfield. A bright Red Admiral flitting round Ivy blossom at 12.30 was a pleasant surprise on a chilly day, the first sighting for 10 days or more - John Moss

October 2009

Saturday 31st October 2009

A couple of butterflies to report today (Saturday 31st October 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, near Water Grdn., 13:13 GMT; 1 Small Copper, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Dew Pond, 13:40 GMT. - Robert Callf

Today 2.30 feeling fed up as spurs were 3-0 down, so go up to Waterford Heath to look for late small coppers, none at all but as i was leaving, in car park on vicarage lane one female CLOUDED YELLOW flew by and settled in silver birch tree. It was in good condition, probably second brood - Steve Kiln

A lone comma at 1445 near the pond at new hall farm Babbs Green, feeding on Blackberry remnants in the afternoon sun - Laurence Drummond

Friday 30th October 2009

1 Red Admiral seen on a cloudy day near stortford farm park near Bishops stortford - A J Steele

Thursday 29th October 2009

Another quick walk alongside the River Colne near Stanwell Moor after lunch today (29th) produced a couple of fast-flying Painted Ladies and a Peacock sunning itself on a bramble bush. - Dave Miller

Sunday 25th October 2009

A quick tour of my local patch in Stanwell Moor during the morning of the 23rd October revealed just the one butterfly, a Red Admiral avidly feeding on ivy. Dave Miller

I see that sightings reports are tailing off, so you might like to hear of a Small Tort on a late dandelion, Red Ad and at least one, possibly two, Painted Lady on ivy at the end of the garden here (Tring) mid-day on Friday 23rd - Nick Bowles

Friday 23rd October 2009 (seven species reported)

At lunchtime, One Red admiral on the Ridgeway in Ware and a Small Copper and Painted lady in a field behind Wodson Park, Ware which still has a pretty good show of Knapweed in flower. - Andrew Wood

Batford - Weedy field by B653 at lunchtime: 1 male COMMON BLUE - Darin Stanley

The fine and warm weather today brought out a Peacock - seen flying in Fairlands Valley Park just outside Monks Wood, Stevenage at 1320 hrs. - Peter Clarke

In my Garden N.W Bishop's Stortford. 2 Painted Ladies, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small White - Jim Fish

Thursday 22nd October 2009

Some news for today (Thursday 22nd October 2009) - 5 Small Copper, at Trent Park (1 on Michaelmas daisies, near Lower Lake, 12:34 BST, 4 nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Dew Pond, 13:03 - 13:06 BST) - a good number so late in the autumn? - Robert Callf

I see from the latest Newsletter that there is some interest in your 2 counties in Heath Fritillary. I'd like to draw to your attention, therefore a caterpillar search field trip scheduled for Saturday 7 November at Thrift Wood, Essex - [details on the Cambs and Essex website](#) - Guy Manners

Sunday 18th October 2009

A few sightings for today (Sunday 18th October 2009) - 1 Green-veined White, settled, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:56 BST; 4 Small Copper,(3, including two together, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:59 - 12:08 BST, 1 set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:21 BST); 1 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path, near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 12:54 BST. Also two unidentified White sp., (1 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 1 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm). - Robert Callf

Tuesday 13th October 2009

Lovely autumn day, at Commons nature reserve (Welwyn Garden City) 1 large white, at Rickneys 3 common blue, one brown argus, a small copper, a small white and a painted lady - Steve Kiln

2 Brown Argus and 4 Small Copper on a field NW of Hadley Wood today - news from Diane Andrews

There was a red admiral outside Grebe House (St Albans) this lunchtime, on ivy. I saw 3 comma (all nectaring on bramble together) and 2 small copper at Aldbury yesterday. Have attached a photo of 2 of the commas together. Paul Thrush

One Red Admiral on Ivy in my Harpenden garden this morning plus usual assortment of bees.
Robin Pearson

Monday 12th October 2009

I'm still getting visits from Painted Lady's in my garden in Hayes, Middx, as well as Peacocks. I've attached a picture of a Painted Lady that came in today, nectaring on a Verbena 'Seabrooks Lavender'. I can't praise this plant enough for attracting insects. It compares to any Buddleia as a magnet for Butterflies, Bees, and especially Moths, Silver Y's in particular, the plant was covered in them this summer. So anyone wanting other idea's on what to plant for our Butterflies and other insects, this is definitely a contender for best performing plant. Its been in flower since the Spring and its still going strong! - Helen George

BENTLEY PRIORY-----6 x Red Admiral (4 females) 3 X Painted lady (2 females)----I x Comma, all on a small patch of ivy flowers in full sun behind "The Case Is Altered" Pub. Kit Jones

Sightings for today (Monday 12th October 2009) - 1 Comma, along Merryhills Brook, at Vicarage Farm, 10:09 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:31 BST; 7 Small Copper,(1 near Lower Lake, 11:02 BST, 6, including four together, on Michaelmas daisies, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:10 - 11:15 BST); 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:12 BST. 1 Painted Lady, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, 'Old Golf Course', 11:15 BST; 1 Small White, settled at Ferny Hill Farm, 11:40 BST; 1 Painted Lady, in flight South of 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 13:02 BST; 1 Painted Lady, nectaring on thistles, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 13:12 BST. - Robert Callf

Sunday 11th October 2009

Female Common Blue and three Painted Ladies around Bengo today 11 October. Yesterday 10th October nothing but Small Whites in Bengo and Bramfield, 6 in total - Andrew Wood

Saturday 10th October 2009

Aldenham Church TQ 14 98 - Red Admiral; Hogg Lane nr Elstree Aerodrome TQ 16 96 - Red Admiral; Elstree Aerodrome/Hilfield Park Res boundary path TQ 15 96 - male Brimstone; Watford Link Road TQ 11 97 - white sp (probably Small White). - Colin Everett

Two painted lady travelling S E through the same gap in the woodland that others went N W in June----- I x fresh male painted lady seen caught in spiders web and released-----I x Comma, 2x Red Admiral on Michaelmas daisies ----- I x Speckled wood and something that looked like a Brown hairstreak but obviously wasnt flying high in the oak canopy.--- KIT JONES

Some news for today (Saturday 10th October 2009) - 6 Small Copper,(4 at 'Old Golf Course', 11:02 - 11:05 BST, 2 together, set-aside field near Dew Pond, 11:41 BST), Trent Park; 1 Painted Lady, nectaring on Ivy flowers, 'Old Nursery', Trent Park, 11:32 BST; 2 Comma,(1 nectaring on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Dew Pond, 11:41 BST, 1 edge of Shaws Wood, 11:56 BST); 1 Painted Lady, set-aside field near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 11:43 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 11:59 BST. - Robert Callf

Robin White reported a Common Blue in set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park on Thursday 8th October 2009. - news via Robert Callf

Thursday 8th October 2009

Batford - 1 late male COMMON BLUE beside Lower Luton road & 1 PAINTED LADY in weedy field, at around lunch time - Darin Stanley

A real disappointment today after last week's plenty - perhaps to be expected really. However, the major let down was that the access to the best bit of my local patch (north of the A3113) has been cut off. [I attach a picture of the ominous signs](#). I believe the intention is to turn the area into a country park of some sort, but I suspect it will be rather sanitised in the process. Portions of the wildflower area appear to have been cut short already - perhaps not unreasonable in October. I will keep an eye on what they're up to. On the rest of the walk today (8th), there were two

Peacocks, a Comma and a Red Admiral on ivy flowers, and two Painted Ladies, very new, basking on brambles in between flying energetically around the treetops. Also of note was a Speckled Wood spotted last Sunday (4th) apparently considering laying eggs on the lank grass by my front doorstep. - David Miller

Today in the Bicentenary Garden at Brunel University I saw a small but fresh, brightly coloured Painted Lady. Also Speckled Wood, Peacock & Large White. Steve Pash

A Speckled Wood flying over the pond in Whomerley Wood, Stevenage at around 1400 hrs. Peter Clarke

Tuesday 6th October 2009

A couple of sightings today (Tuesday 6th October 2009) - 1 Red Admiral, flew low over Cuckolds Hill, Parkside Farm, 13:00 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm, 13:12 BST. - Robert Callf

We were down at the post pond (Ruislip Common) on Saturday afternoon (3/10) near the gate into the woods when we saw a **white admiral** butterfly. It briefly flew round before disappearing back up into a tree. We realise that this is a very late sighting - Sue & Steve Place

Sunday 4th October 2009

A single clouded yellow recorded near Hadham Hall, Little Hadham on 04.10.09. Brief feeding stops as it headed North East at 12.45pm. Flight speed was about 5mph in a light westerly breeze. My first record for the parish - Jonathan Forgham

A Red Admiral at Abbots Langley TL 09 01 - Colin Everett

At Rickneys 4 brown argus and a painted lady, a new one, at Waterford Heath south only 2 small coppers. In Bengoe at home small tortoiseshell and a painted lady - Steve Kiln

Friday 2nd October 2009

I was working at Alpine Meadow yesterday, saw a small copper, comma and speckled wood - Paul Thrush

A few sightings for today (Friday 2nd October 2009) - 2 Small Copper, set-aside field, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:57 - 13:59 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at South Lodge Farm, 14:17 BST. - Robert Callf

Thursday 1st October 2009

A few sightings for today (Thursday 1st October 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, at Parkside Farm, at 09:56 BST, 1 Small White, at Parkside Farm, 09:56 BST. 4 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:18 - 11:22 BST. 1 Red Admiral, set-aside field near Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:34 BST. 3 Speckled Wood, together, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 12:48 BST. - Robert Callf

It may be 1st October, but my trip today along the river to the usual patch by the motorway was like something out of midsummer in terms of numbers and variety. First of all, I clocked species number 22 for the year on this spot, by finding two Small Coppers in amongst the Common Blues. These were as numerous as at any time this summer, with 25+, mostly male and some very fresh indeed. Also in with the Blues were two or three Brown Argus, likewise brand new and given the date, a definite third brood (as reported from other sites). Only four Small Heath today however. I spent a couple of hours at the site, during which time Clouded Yellows hurtled through at regular intervals: often in twos, and at least fifteen altogether, probably more. Any that showed signs of stopping were intercepted by Common Blue males and chased away in colourful dogfights. There were a lot of freshly emerged Painted Ladies, again more than a dozen, and a similar number of Peacocks. Finally, along the riverside, four Speckled Woods, three Small Whites, one Large White, and last of all a Red Admiral and a Comma on ivy flowers. 70+ butterflies from 12 species. Not bad for October, I'd say. And a lot of photos to sort out! - Dave Miller

Tower Hamlets Cemetary **Large Tortoiseshell** sighting - we'd like to give you a little bit more info that'll be more accurate. The large tortoiseshell was seen by Terry Lyle on Friday 25th flying 10metres from him in woodland with a light understorey. It was a rich orange butterfly, Red

Admiral size. Terry has seen L. Tortoiseshells before. One in London in 1977 sitting right before him, others flying in France and Spain. As that sighting was at 10metres, he decided to do the transect again on Sunday 27th, in the hope of seeing it again. On section 7 of the transect he did. Terry put it up from open grassland, just as he reached it. It flew to the top of a tall birch 100 metres away and again Terry saw what a rich orange impression it makes in flight - Kenneth Greenway Cemetery Park Liaison Officer

September 2009

Wednesday 30th September 2009

Saw a single Small Copper at the 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park this afternoon (Wednesday 30th September 2009) at 12:08 BST. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 29th September 2009

Tower Hamlets Cemetary, Speckled Wood & Small White still in good numbers here over the last two days plus a single male Common Blue on each day - Keir Mottram

One settled very battered painted lady, so much so that I thought it was something new and one or two others in a dog fight along the edge of the Rose Garden and Butterfly World boundaries on 12 Sept around 5pm. One common blue male in good condition at Ivinghoe on 18th Sept in afternoon. One pristine peacock at around 12.30pm in Kings Langley on 24th Sept and one male brimstone in Kings Langley on 27th Sept which was too fast to take a photo.. Elizabeth Debenham

Spotted a Painted Lady in Fairlands Valley Park, Stevenage near the car park at the southern end. Also 2 Speckled Woods in nearby Whomerley Wood. Peter Clarke

Detailed report of a second brood White Admiral seen at Wimbledon Common on Sunday 27th recieved - news received via Nick Bowles on the Uk-Leps newsgroup

Sunday 27th September 2009

Still feeling quite chilly though it was 1030 and very sunny, I set off today (27th) round the standard route to Junction 14. The usual suspects were all present, but in different numbers to last week: Two Speckled Woods along the riverside, plus a single Red Admiral and only one Comma, but once on the other side of the A3113, things hotted up. There has been a second flush of flowering thistles, and no less than seven Peacocks and three Painted Ladies were making the most of them, along with a Large White and two Small ones. No GVW today. There is still an abundance of big white daisies and tall yellow oxtongue (I think that's what it is!), and these were proving attractive to the Common Blues, which were out in force. I counted 17 males and 7 females before giving in. A few Small Heaths remained (no more than 6 or 7), one of which appeared to be laying eggs. Finally, making a late appearance on the walk, were four Clouded Yellows. Spiralling in pairs when first seen, one male reluctantly sat near enough for a reasonable photo. Not quite the spectacle which I experienced on Friday of 500+ Clouded Yellows by the Sussex coast at Birling Gap, but lovely to see some so close to home nevertheless. - Dave Miller

A Clouded Yellow on the eastern side of the lake at Southern Country Park, Bishop's Stortford (TL474193) on this fine sunny morning, my first of the year. Tony Moverley

The Warren, Colney Heath - 19 Small Coppers & 2 Painted Ladies Bury Dell, Park Street - 8 Small Coppers, 1 Small Heath & 1 Painted Lady - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 26th September 2009

In serene anti-cyclonic conditions the Abbots Langley/Kings Langley areas provided a scattering of records of Red Admirals & Commas on ivy flowers, a Speckled Wood, several Small Coppers and Small Whites (all the whites I was able to check were that species and included egg-laying females). Records as follows: Garston garden TL 11 00 - a Red Admiral around ivy; The Retreat at Abbots Langley TL 08 01 - a Red Admiral flying through; Kings Langley TL 07 02 - 3 Red Admirals (2 on ivy, 1 on Buddleia) & 3 Commas (all on ivy); near New Plantation nr Kings Langley TL 07 04 - 2 Small Coppers (1 feeding on ragwort), 3 Red Admirals (all on ivy) and a Comma (on ivy) [also a Silver Y]; near Bedmond TL 09 03 - 2 Small Coppers at edge of stubble field (1 feeding on Scentless Mayweed); Abbots Langley TL 09 02 - 3+ Small Whites including 2 females ovipositing on winter rape & a Speckled Wood; near Abbots Langley TL 10 02 - a female Small White. - Colin Everett

Saw a small copper yesterday in Brunswick Park - TQ285938 - Tom Clarke

Friday 25th September 2009

Saw a Red Admiral in Oakwood Park, N14 this morning (Friday 25th September 2009) at 08:26 BST. - Robert Callf

St Albans - Red Admiral, Peacock, Painted Lady, Large White, Small White & Speckled Wood all flying today. 19 Painted Ladies in the gardens at Butterfly World was the highlight. Many are quite fresh still so I suspect will still be around for a while, though it closes for the winter after next Sunday (4th Oct) - Malcolm Hull

Wednesday 23rd September 2009

A few sightings for today (Wednesday 23rd September 2009) - 3 Small Copper, (2 'Old Golf Course', 10:40 and 10:42 BST, 1 by Lower Lake, 10:48 BST); 1 Green-veined White, on thistle-head, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 12:19 BST; 1 Comma, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 12:27 BST; 3 Small White, on thistle-heads, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 12:27 BST; 1 Painted Lady, on thistle-head, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 12:29 BST. Best Regards, Robert Callf

Wednesday 23rd September 2009 A Red Admiral flying swiftly SW through Aldenham TQ 13 98 at 1520 hours (cf movement of Swallows and Meadow Pipits in the same direction on this afternoon) and Wednesday 16th September 2009 A Painted Lady along Blackbirds Lane near Radlett TL 14 00 this afternoon, looking fresh and behaving territorially. - Colin Everett.

Tuesday 22nd September 2009

I had a red admiral this morning at Aldbury, it was basking between two of the southern enclosures. Paul Thrush

Saw a single Painted Lady on buddleia outside my window in Southgate, N14, this morning (Tuesday 22nd September 2009) at 09:55 BST. - Robert Callf

Monday 21st September 2009

News for today (Monday 21st September 2009) - 1 Small Copper, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:31 BST. 1 Comma, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 11:41 BST. - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, warm sunny and light winds. Perfect for inspecting the ivy. All Speckled Woods were East side of the road. 3 Commas and 1 Red Admiral all on one ivy bush in the nature trail just west of the road. Whites well scattered as usual. Not bad numbers for the time of the year and my best haul of the month by and large. 11x Speckled Wood 5x Whites 4x Comma (All on ivy) 2x Red Admiral (All on ivy) 2x Unidentified (Silhouetted high up as they fluttered past) 1x Painted Lady (Near ivy) Total: 25 - Mike Rubin

Sightings for the weekend - Saturday 19th September North Enfield CC 2 Purple Hairstreak flying across the cricket ground and up into the old master tree. 1 red admiral 1 comma Several green veined whites. Wareside 1 Red Admiral 4 Comma - also nectaring on ivy flowers - which is extensive in the orchard next door. 1 painted lady - somewhat worn but very active. + several whites (green veined and large). The brown argus eggs are all still accounted for and currently unhatched. Also went for a purple hairstreak egg hunt on Sunday and found several on English Oak next to the footpath near Bromley Grid ref 414208 (although no adults seen) - will look at this place next year during flight season. - Phil MacMurdie

Sunday 20th September 2009

Out came the sun on Friday morning (18th), so off I trudged along the Colne to Junction 14 and a little way north. Plenty of butterflies: Six Red Admirals and ten Commas all told, mostly concentrated on one patch of ivy which gets the sun most of the day. Three Peacocks and a Painted Lady on a Buddleia bush by the lake, plus three more Painted Ladies at various spots along the way. There were eight Speckled Woods, evenly spread and varying in wear and a selection of all three Whites. On the north side of the A3114, the patch of Small Heaths produced over a dozen today, and I was pleased to see that there appeared to be another flush of Common Blues, after seeing the last tatty specimen two weeks ago. These were new, and I spotted seven, three females and four males: two engaged in a whirlwind courtship, mating within a couple of minutes.

Finally, disturbed by one of the Blues, up popped a Clouded Yellow, which led me a merry dance as I attempted a close photo - I made do with a long shot, but good enough to show the individual was a male, apparently brand new. On Sunday 20th, I repeated the exercise with three small boys in tow, and we saw a very similar selection (more Peacocks but minus the Clouded Yellow, sadly). However, my eldest son (Toby) spotted a female Common Blue lay an egg, and I managed a good photo of it. - Dave Miller

News for today (Sunday 20th September 2009) - 1 Comma, at Ferny Hill, 11:12 BST. 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:31 BST. 1 Clouded Yellow, Uni-lawns, Tent Park, 11:49 BST. 2 Small Copper, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:06 - 12:08 BST. - Robert Callf

St Albans - A fresh flush of Small whites, with sightings in many locations around in St Albans. Peacocks appear to be coming out of hibernation with 4 seen at different locations around the District. 7 Painted Ladies at Butterfly World, mostly newly emerged individuals. Commas around in good numbers & a few Small Tortoiseshells. Nomansland HMBC Branch Field Trip - Highlight of the weekend 70 Small Coppers, 1 Comma, 1 Common Blue, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Green-veined White, 2 Peacock & 1 Silver Y. This is the highest total of Small Coppers recorded from one site visit anywhere in Herts/Middx for 14 years - Malcolm Hull

Sunday PM 20th Sept Fir and Pond Woods NR Potters Bar ... 5 small coppers, 2 small whites and a peacock. - David Gompertz

Highlight today 2 small copper at Waterford Heath south near gate, still common blue, brown argus and small heath at Rickneys. At home in Bengeo painted lady, comma and peacock - Steve Kiln

Saturday 19th September 2009

News for yesterday (Friday 18th September 2009) - 1 Clouded Yellow, nectaring on dandelions, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 14:34 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 14:39 BST. 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 16:39 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 17:33 BST. Some sightings for today (Saturday 19th September 2009) - 1 Clouded Yellow, at Park Farm, 11:58 BST. 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:41 BST. 3 Small Copper, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:29 - 13:31 BST. 1 Comma, at South Lodge Farm, 13:48 BST. These are my first sightings of Clouded Yellow this year! - Robert Callf

Friday 18th September 2009

Friday 18th Sept In the garden this lunchtime N.W. Bishop's Stortford 6 Commas 1 Peacock 1 Red Admiral 1 Painted Lady (in pristine condition) 2 Small Whites 1 Large White. Painted lady still here 15.30hrs All were nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies and Verbena Bonariensis. Small Tortoiseshell also turned up 16.00hrs Not bad for this time of year - Jim Fish

Horsenden Hill, I didn't look on Tuesday as it was raining. But on Wednesday I found hibernators feeding up on ivy, and were easy to spot even under cloudcover. 4x Comma (all by the nature trail just West of Horsenden Lane north on unshaded ivy. There might even have been a 5th but not sure.) 2x Red Admiral. One with 2 of the Commas on the same ivy. 1 a couple of fields further West. 1x Speckled Wood. 1x Large White. On Thursday I returned to Grove Farm. No leps on the extensive ivy there under the cool overcast. But I found posts blocking the Northeastern end of the meadow below the large grass field and a note saying not to cut due to Japanese Knotweed control. I did see small knotweed plants there indeed. The meadow there was nice with Ragwort and other nectar sources. I wish they'd keep it like that all the time rather than keep raising the plants to the bare soil. Then having been alerted to Knotweed, I noted several large flowering knotweed plants on my way back along the narrow road from David Lloyd (/Bedser Drive) to Greenford Road. (And a large number of conkers. Ahhh those were the days...) I'd never paid attention to these before. But are they any good as a nectar source for butterflies at this sparse end of the season? The flowers were quite extensive. Just like in http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_knotweed ... - Mike Rubin

Wednesday 16th September 2009

News for today (Weds 16th September 2009) - 2 Small Copper, together, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:55 BST. 1 Small Copper, on stubble field E of Shaws Wood, at Vicarage Farm,

12:06 BST. - Robert Callf

Ware garden, 3 Comma on garden ivy flowers this afternoon - Liz Goodyear

Monday 14th September 2009

A couple of sightings of note today (Monday 14th September 2009) - 1 Small Copper, at Cuckold's Hill, Parkside Farm, 10:13 BST. 1 male Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:41 BST. - Robert Callf

Sunday 13th September 2009

Yesterday afternoon (Saturday Sept.19th) was spent on our Dark Lane, Cheshunt allotment where I was delighted to see as well as a number of whites (mainly small) one male common blue butterfly which nectared on the flowers of some pot marigolds for a while. I can't recall seeing a common blue here before. It seemed to be in good nick and enjoying the September sunshine. - Roger Newbold

Well, I was proved wrong again - there was another butterfly lurking in the cage on Saturday morning (12th)! This one set off determinedly into the sunshine unbothered by wasps, I'm glad to say - making 290 in all (yes, Friday's total was typing error). I did my usual walk straight afterwards, so the count started with one Peacock, followed swiftly by a succession of Commas (seven in all), three Red Admirals and a single Painted Lady. In addition, three Speckled Woods were seen, several Small and/or Green-veined Whites and finally the Small Heath patch produced ten or so, but they are beginning to look pale and tired now. I have no idea where the Peacocks I released have dispersed to, but with strongish winds from all quarters over the period of their emergence, they could be anywhere. I have yet to see one of them again. - Dave Miller

Wareside 12th September Front garden - having decided to re-lay the front lawn, I then had the pleasure of following a female brown argus around who was busy selecting which hedgerow cranbesbill (*Geranium pyrenaicum*) seedlings to lay her eggs. I managed to track her for about 30 mins and identify approx 30 small plants that she had laid her eggs on - all now have white plant labels next to them so I don't cut them up as they will be carefully dug up and potted next weekend. She was very selective and only picked the small plants growing in full sun. gently placing an egg either under the leaf or between the curled edge where the stalk joins the leaf itself. The eggs are blue-green in colour and tended to be laid singularly on each plant, only rarely did a plant receive more than one and only then if she flew back to a previously visited specimen. It was interesting that she did not select any of the larger plants only those that were no more than 1cm high and with leaves almost flat to the ground surface. She was then followed by a female small copper who was more interested in the sorrel that was growing in a sunny corner. This now has 5 eggs on two leaves - (and another plant label next to it) so it won't get dug up. It certainly fascinated the kids who wondered what the hell I was up to on my hands and knees in the middle of the lawn / weeds. New lawn to have some daisies these cranbesbill plants come up everywhere and are great when they get bigger. Other visitors this weekend Comma - drinking from the last of the blackberries. Small Tortoiseshell 1 Several speckled woods (4) - Phil MacMurdie

Saturday 12th September 2009

News for today (Saturday 12th September 2009) - 2 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:44 and 10:48 BST. 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:48 BST. 1 Red Admiral, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 10:59 BST. 2 Comma, together, on Bramble, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 10:59 BST. 2 Comma, together, on Ivy, 'Old Nursery', Trent Park, 11:31 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:37 BST. 1 Small Copper, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:07 BST - Robert Callf

Commas and speckled woods abound. Commas - 5 at waterford heath, 9 at broxbourne wood and 2 at Bencroft wood in same order speckled wood 3, 6 and 3. Rickneys 2 small heath, 2 brown argus and 9 common blue also small white and a speckled wood. No small coppers anywhere - Steve Kiln

Friday 11th September 2009

The 189th and last Peacock butterfly (I think...) emerged today. However it met a nasty end almost immediately, being viciously attacked by a wasp. The latter's modus operandi was to bite the butterfly's head off, carry the body to the ground and then sting it to death. Once the butterfly was still, the wasp then abandoned it - Dave Miller

Thursday 10th September 2009

Some news for today (Thurs 10th September 2009) - 1 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:44 BST; 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:44 BST; 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:46 BST; at least 1 Red Admiral, edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 13:03 BST. - Robert Callf

Records for today at Aldbury Nowers - S2 - Comma S3 - Comma Common blue - 2+ Meadow brown Brown Argus N1 - Comma on buddleia Red Admiral at bottom of horse chestnut track Speckled woods throughout in suitable areas Paul Thrush

Few butterflies in the Bricket Wood/lower Ver valley area; at Smug Oak Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 14 02 a Green-veined White was feeding on flowers of Dandelion and Bristly Ox-tongue. - Colin Everett

Wednesday 9th September 2009

Yesterday 8th September in my garden in Hayes, 2 Whites, 1 Comma, 1 Red Admiral, all looking in pristine condition. A Hummingbird Hawkmoth which kept flitting in and out of the garden in Hayes for about 20 minutes, feeding on Caryopteris and Verbena 'Peter Seabrook', also looking in very good condition. Helen George

Some news for today (Weds 9th September 2009) - 1 Silver Y, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 09:46 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, 09:49 BST. 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:02 BST. 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:04 BST. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 8th September 2009

A couple of sightings for today (Tuesday 8th September 2009) - 1 Green-veined White, settled on Ragwort, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 10:20 BST. 1 Comma, settled on Bramble, S of Barracks, at Vicarage Farm, 11:23 BST. Also a number of Small White seen at Vicarage Farm over cultivated field. - Robert Callf

After a day's break, the Peacocks had clearly been watching the weather forecast and went for it big time today. I released a further 145 this morning, punctuated by the solitary Comma, which emerged in the middle of it all. 28 degrees and very sunny. There are still a few left, amazingly. Dave Miller

Monday 7th September 2009

Some news for today (Monday 7th September 2009) - 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, 11:41 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:57 BST. 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:20 BST. 1 Painted Lady, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 16:05 BST. - Robert Callf

I had 2 small tortoiseshells and a red admiral at Wilstone Reservoir on Saturday (5/09). Paul Thrush

Sunday 6th September 2009

Just to let you know of a **purple hairstreak** in my Harpenden garden, today, Sunday 6th. The usually tatty autumn specimen, but never seen one before in my garden. Not even sure which sex - Richard Harrington

Saw a Red Admiral this morning (Sunday 6th September 2009) in Oakwood Park, N14 at 09:43 BST, which flew across the tennis courts. - Robert Callf

Today at Maple Lodge Nature Reserve TQ 03 92 with Paul Lewis, several species of butterfly included two Small Coppers on ragwort near the owl nestbox, one or two Commas and a Painted Lady. Nearby on buddleias at Maple Cross TQ 02 92 were two Large Whites and three Painted Ladies. Saturday 5th September In north Herts with Rob Clements, the rather few butterflies included two Red Admirals on ivy at Wallington TL 29 33. - Colin Everett

Saturday 5th September 2009

Some sightings for today (Saturday 5th September 2009) - 1 Red Admiral, flew S, at Vicarage Farm, 09:59 BST. 1 Painted Lady, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 11:05 BST. 1 Red Admiral, flew SW, at Park Farm, 11:50 BST. 1 Red Admiral, near Ash Wood, Enfield Chase, 12:03 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:33 BST. 1 Comma, near Dew Pond, Trent Park,

13:40 BST. 1 Red Admiral, S edge of Williams Wood, 13:54 BST. - Robert Callf.

The first of the chrysalids hatched today, so the day began with releasing ten brand new Peacocks into the sunshine. I set off round my usual local route and encountered no shortage of butterflies. The ivy has flowered, attracting a selection of gleaming Red Admirals - I saw a dozen or more, including some groups. They were also attracted by the rotting blackberries everywhere, as were a Comma and a Speckled Wood. Four of each of these were seen in various spots. Whites were in abundance, mostly Small and Green-veined in equal numbers, but a handful of Large Whites too. The area near the M25 had, if anything, more Small Heaths than ever - I stopped counting after 20. However, the Common Blues had dwindled to just two, and only three Meadow Browns were spotted. Added to all this, I saw four Painted Ladies in a variety of places, including a very new individual on the ivy with the Red Admirals. Eleven different species. - Dave Miller

Butterfly World, Chiswell Green - Painted Ladies still around in good numbers (21 today), including both fresh & worn specimens. Also 2 Red Admirals, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 4 Common Blues, 1 Silver Y & assorted whites. At the other end of Lye Lane, a very different range of species on Bricket Wood Common - Speckled Woods (37), 7 Commas (5 of them feeding on blackberries), 1 male Brimstone, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Silver Y & whites - Malcolm Hull

Friday 4th September 2009

Two Comma's in my back garden in St Albans feeding on the over-ripe Victoria Plums. At least one was present every time I checked (about half hourly) between 10 am & 3 pm. To put this observation in context, I've never seen more than one Comma in the garden at the same time in the last 15 years & the plum tree has been present for about 10 years. Only other butterfly in the garden today was a Small White, laying on Nasturtiums - Malcolm Hull

Thursday 3rd September 2009

Some observations some a little dated as I've been busy at work But here goes Went back to re-visit some of the tetraad squares where some of the "better" finds have been located. 28/8 Bury Green - Small Heath colony found earlier this year continues to thrive with another 5 individuals found Also small copper (1) Standon (Mill lane) The thriving colony of common blues continues 7 found and 1 brown argus The farm there has a "back garden" which is loaded with trefoil and kidney vetch which is approx 8 inches tall Small blues would love it if only they were around. Elsewhere Wareside Small Copper, Common Blue and Brown Argus seen. The latter egg laying on the trefoils and rock roses planted in the garden. So will watch these develop. North Enfield CC (Hilly Fields) - bit out of my patch but my old cricket club Purple Hairstreak still very common - watched 20+ PH's gently fly across the cricket outfield on their way to the master oak Which is a 400+ yr old tree at the top of the hill. 22/8 Dame Alice Owen school potters bar Purple Hairstreak (3) seen flying across the cricket field nr the M25 - Phil MacMurdie

While Blackberrying along the public footpath behind Bylands House, Dunstable Road, Redbourn I came across a total of 5 Small Coppers sometimes feeding on thistles & Knapweed in the short rabbit grazed turf. Occasionally I have found them on Redbourn Common. The only other Butterfly in this disused paddock was a Meadow Brown - Ernie Leahy

Some news for today (Thurs 3rd September 2009) - 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:57 BST. 1 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 14:27 BST. 2 Painted Lady, on thistles, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, 14:35 BST. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 2nd September 2009

News from 31st August: Croxley Common Moor. During a half hour walk across the Eastern end of the Reserve (which is being grazed by cattle) I saw about twenty Small Heaths. Otherwise there were very few butterflies to be seen, despite the warm bright weather. - Graham Elcombe

Tuesday 1st September 2009

I have seen a speckled wood most days over the last week in Kings Langley. On 30th August there was a common wainscot moth in Barnes Lane in the field hedgrows border just outside the village. Yesterday August 31st I saw at least 7 small tortoiseshell butterflies all at once, one white and one painted lady on lavender in Barrowby Road, Grantham, Lincs! (I thought they were worth a mention even though they are out of the local area.) - Elizabeth Debenham

News for today (Tues 1st September 2009) - 2 Painted Lady, flew W, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent

Park, 10:48 and 10:51 BST. 2 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:34 and 11:37 BST. 1 male Common Blue, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:00 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on concrete path S of Barracks, at Vicarage Farm, 12:23 BST. - Robert Callf

August 2009 2009

Monday 31st August 2009

Butterfly World, Chiswell Green 31.08.09 - 1 CLOUDED YELLOW at far end of site by steps (looks really good for them, surprised I only saw 1 !), numerous painted ladies & tortoiseshells & a few Common Blues. I even saw 3 Wood whites.....in the tropical house!?! (the only ones we'll have in Herts) Darin Stanley

Speckled Woods still numerous (38 counted) during weekly transect at Bricket Wood, but otherwise only single Comma and scattered Large & Green-veined Whites. Saturday 29th August 2009 Merry Hill nr Bushey: Painted Lady flying rapidly approx SW at 1052 hrs (grid ref TQ 12 93) and 2 Common Blues (grid ref TQ 13 93). Sunday 23rd August Near Elstree Aerodrome TQ 16 96: single Small Copper & Common Blue. Sunday 16th August Aldbury Nowers: Brown Argus watched ovipositing on Common Rock-rose during BC branch field meeting. - Colin Everett.

Sunday 30th August 2009

1 Painted Lady at Parkside Farm, Enfield today (Sunday 30th August 2009) at 10:48 BST and a Red Admiral at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm at 13:36 BST. - Robert Callf

Saturday 29th August 2009

One Small Copper near Dew Pond, Trent Park, this afternoon (Saturday 29th August 2009) at 13:17 BST. - Robert Callf

In bright, but cool, morning sunshine I set off on my usual walk by the River Colne. There were a fair few white butterflies up and about, mostly of the Green-veined variety - at least a dozen of these were seen. There were about half that number of Small Whites and four or five Large Whites. Having not seen one at all for a couple of weeks, next up was a solitary male Gatekeeper, looking fairly new, too, and then four Speckled Woods at regular intervals along the riverside. Coming to the "new" patch, just on the north side of the T4 link road, the Small Heath colony was as strong as ever, and making an effort to count them properly, I reached 15 in about 10 minutes over a relatively small area. Also noted were four Common Blues, 2m and 2f, almost bereft of colouring now, but still busily chasing each other. Finally in this area was a single Meadow Brown. On the return trip, one Comma and one Painted Lady were seen on a garden Buddleia, and one of the Peacock caterpillar nests seen before had now dispersed, with its inhabitants spread out widely across the nettle bed. My captive Peacocks have now pupated, and sad to say, parasitical maggots have begun to emerge from several of the chrysalises. Quite what proportion will have suffered remains to be seen. The single Comma caterpillar has also pupated, and I am hoping it too didn't swallow something nasty during its caterpillar days! During my clean-out of the insect cage I discovered three Buff Ermine caterpillars on the nettles too - one of these has also pupated, and the remaining two looking to follow suit. These hibernate as pupae I believe, so they will have to be found somewhere cool for the winter. - Dave Miller

Thursday 27th August 2009

[Butterfly World Family Fun Day is being held this Saturday - click on link for more details.](#)

Two red admirals today, one in bencroft wood and one in Broxbourne wood near west car park - Steve Kiln

Saw a Small Heath near the Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm, Enfield today (Thurs 27th August 2009) at 11:17 BST. Also saw a few quick flying nymphalids which I was unable to identify. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 26th August 2009

Saw a Small Heath on the 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park this morning (Weds 26th August 2009) at 10:44 BST. - Robert Callf

Spotted in the [Spectator Magazine](#) of 15 August, a report by Ursula Buchan of the sighting of a

Large Tortoiseshell at the Gardens of the Rose, Chiswell Green. Her article also mentions seeing Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady & Peacock at the same location. Date of the site visit is not mentioned, but probably 1 August - news from Malcolm Hull

Monday 24th August 2009

St Albans - A fresh flush of Speckled Woods at Bricket Wood - over 50 seen. Purple Hairstreaks still there in decent numbers. Butterfly World - Painted Ladies still around in about the same numbers as last weekend, so no further emmigration. Brimstones also now at this site. Nomansland Common - Small Heath, Common Blue, Small Copper & a few Meadow Browns. Common Blues at Jersey Farm. Masses of Large Whites at all locations, Small & Green-veined also doing well - Malcolm Hull

Some news for yesterday (Sunday 23rd August 2009) - 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, 08:53 BST. 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course, Trent Park, 09:56 BST. News for today (Monday 24th August 2009) - 2 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:58 and 11:07 BST. 1 male Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:08 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:38 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:00 BST. - Robert Callf

Saturday 22nd August 2009

A couple of sightings for yesterday (Friday 21st August 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, near Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 10:00 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:18 BST. Sightings for today (Saturday 22nd August 2009) - 1 Small Copper, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 08:55 BST. 1 Small Copper, at Parkside Farm, 09:25 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:38 BST. 2 female Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:40 and 10:46 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:46 BST. - Robert Callf

Thursday 20th August 2009

Every time I report that a species has not been seen recently. They then turn up!!! 3x Common blue, 1 male, 2 females Oakhill Woods LNR *Not seen any Monarchs or Bath white this year though* - Kit Jones

Butterfly notes: 22 July one small skipper in a field margin in Kings Langley, a first in this district for me. On 23rd July a speckled wood. 25th July an Essex skipper in same field. 26th July in Commonwood, Nr Kings Langley. one small copper, no blues this visit. In the same week up to 7 peacocks and one small tortoiseshell in Kings Langley on buddleia. On 27th July in Commonwood I was delighted to find two small coppers as well as a blue! 30th July at midday in Kings Langley there were 5 peacocks, 4 painted lady and a white on buddleia. In evening a large green emperor moth caterpillar was relocated from a passing place in Barnes Lane, Kings Langley, a lucky rescue. 31st July a red admiral and a small tortoiseshell in Kings Langley. The butterfly bush in Kings Langley has been a regular feeding place for Small tortoiseshell for several consecutive days this August too. It was first seen on 31st July. I saw none last year here. 1st August painted ladies, peacocks and a comma. 9th August I videoed a large white dying under my buddleia in Kings Langley. It was being eaten by a wasp. The wasps had been trying to attack several peacocks and whites earlier in the month. On 11th August there were two small tortoiseshell, about 16 painted lady, lots of peacocks and whites, one red admiral. In early evening at Aldbury Nowers 25-30 resting blues in the grassy triangle. I took a photo of a variant common blue or brown argus at rest with no lower line of spots, one small skipper. On 12th August the buddleia had painted lady, peacock and speckled wood, two small tortoiseshell, meadow brown in Kings Langley. 13th August meadow brown and red admiral came to visit the buddleia. 14th August in evening at Aldbury Nowers looking along tree margin of layby field and mostly in the triangle of grass with the central whitebeam, we counted 50+ Common blue at rest. Some were 4 on a single grass! One common blue had a red parasite egg or mite attached. It was a much weakened butterfly. I took a photo. One squashed moth on path possibly a lackey. At Wendover woods we have seen silver washed fritillary, meadow brown, peacock, whites, comma and many wings on the ground under the bush most of which were whites, one dark veined and one meadow brown. Could this have been hornet attack? Also I saw one footman moth. 16th August after 6pm fewer blues than previously seen at this time of day, one dull 6 spot burnet on scabious and a yellow shell at Aldbury Nowers. 16th August a yellow underwing on windowsill in Kings Langley. 17th August two small tortoiseshell on same buddleia flower at one time, spent at least an hour flitting about the buddleia and each other. Painted lady and peacocks now seem to have disappeared, but whites still around. August 19th, One small tortoiseshell today, one or two whites, and last evening a small white plume moth. Also seen in my garden in daylight was a newly emerged orange swift moth. Have not seen

the tortoiseshell since. - Elizabeth Debenham

A few sightings for today (Thurs 20th August 2009) - 2 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm (1 Barracks, 12:17 BST, 1 Sidhil's Field, 12:20 BST); 1 Painted Lady, set-aside field, N of Williams Wood, 13:03 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on concrete path S of Barracks, at Vicarage Farm, 15:08 BST. Also saw a Common Blue on the 'Old Golf Course' in Trent Park this afternoon at 14:02 BST. - Robert Callf

Went to Rickneys on Wed afternoon for 20mins rather than your 1.5hours. Same distribution although I saw no small coppers and clouded yellows but I've seen them there before. Also went to waterford heath south and very similar mix although I had more common blues and a few brimstones. The one area that is interesting is the north pit where I saw 10 brown arguses and only one common blue as well as the whites and meadow browns . The other day i saw 20 brown arguses at least but if i had done a survey there were probably 50 or more. - Steve Kiln

Wednesday 19th August 2009

I checked out the "new" part of my walk again late this afternoon (19th) in the blazing 30° sunshine: there were even more Small Heaths than yesterday, sparring in groups of three and four and involving unsuspecting Common Blues as well. At one point, a rather larger passer-by was drawn into the melée, and I realised on approaching them that it was a Clouded Yellow. Pausing only to shake off its assailants, it promptly headed off with the breeze in the direction of Terminal 5. Others seen today included three Commas (two old and one brand new), a Red Admiral (but not the one seen a couple of days ago), a couple of Speckled Woods and a Meadow Brown. The local tally now stands at 21 species. - Dave Miller

Rickneys, this morning during a 1 1/2 to 2 hour survey of the site, Common blue 79 (many females selecting areas for egg laying), brown argus 17, small heath 13, painted lady 4, meadow brown 9, small white 3 small coper 2, clouded yellow 2 or 3. Earlier on Waterford Heath south: brown argus 3, common blue 7, Gvwhite 3, small heath 4, meadow brown 9, speckled wood 2, painted lady 1, latticed heath 1, gatekeeper 1 - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Broxbourne Woods pm, central area, 1 worn female silver-washed fritillary - Laurence Drummond and Andrew Middelton

Tuesday 18th August 2009

I strayed a little from the normal patch and ventured just across to the north side of the link road from the M25 to Terminal 4. Apart from a generous helping of Common Blues, I discovered a thriving colony of Small Heaths, numbering at least a dozen in the small area I surveyed. Every day a new surprise, and a 20th species for the area. - Dave Miller

Monday 17th August 2009

After work today I first spent an hour at Harmondsworth Moor. Not a great deal of variety to report: many Common Blues of both sexes, looking rather battered in some cases, but not diminishing their willingness to get close up and personal. All in all there must have been over 30, perhaps quite a few more as they were beginning to roost. Also seen were 5 Meadow Browns, 4 Small Heaths, 1 Speckled Wood, Whites of all three common species and a single Small Tortoiseshell chasing anything that moved, dragonflies included. After the walk on Harmondsworth Moor, I followed up at about 6 o'clock with the usual stroll along the River Colne to Junc. 14 of the M25. Before leaving the house, I found a brand new Small Tortoiseshell in the garden. Almost immediately into the walk there was a Comma, and then another, followed shortly afterwards by two Red Admirals in aerial combat. Their antics drew my eye to a large oak tree which (how unobservant can you be) I hadn't previously noticed. Lo and behold, around the top were 4 or 5 Purple Hairstreaks. I managed a minute's worth of video, enough to confirm it wasn't my imagination! One Red Admiral then became very friendly (see photo) Further on, I found two Common Blue, one of each, already tucked up for bed on grass stems by the river - unlike the two Painted Ladies zooming up and down on the opposite river bank. On the small oaks near to the motorway, where I had seen them back in July, I saw two or three more Purple Hairstreaks dancing in the late sunshine. Finally, to end the adventure, I found a nest of caterpillars on nettles. I assumed them to be rather dark Small Tortoiseshells (as it is after all August), but enlarging the photos I took convinces me that they are a second brood of Peacocks. It certainly seems an unusual year: I had no idea Purple Hairstreak continued so late, and I have never seen Peacock caterpillars beyond the end of June before. And on top of all the Painted Ladies and Clouded

Yellows too (I saw several at Denbies Hillside last week, so they are well inland now). - Dave Miller

Oakhill Woods LNR-----Purple hairstreak female nectaring on Ragwort 9am Monday----- KIT JONES

A few Small Heath to report today (Monday 17th August 2009) - 1 in Sidhil's Field at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 08:14 BST and two at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:13 - 10:15 BST. - Robert Callf

Sun 16th Common blues everywhere, Bencroft fields, Rickneys and Waterford heath, noticed Small heath more common, 4 at Rickneys 2 at waterford heath where also there was a very battered clouded yellow and 4 brimstones - Steve Kiln

Redbourn sightings: 14 Aug : Harpenden Road hill is a chalk habitat with many fine Common Blues, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns & fresh Painted Ladies(4). Garden visitors include a male Brimstone, Common Blues(2), Small Tortoiseshell(3), Peacocks, Painted Lady, Green Veined White & Large Whites in abundance. - Ernest Leahy

Sunday 16th August 2009

The meadows adjacent to Ten Acre Wood, Hillingdon, 10+ Common Blue, 3 Small Heath, Small Copper, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 8 Painted Lady, Peacock, Speckled Wood, dozens of Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Small & Large White. Steve Pash

TL3618: completed my second WCS visit just before midday today in pleasant conditions, not a great deal to report but in addition to quite large numbers of Small and Large Whites, 4 Painted Ladies, 6 Brown Argus, 4 Common Blue (plus more on detour), a few Speckled Wood and Meadow Brown, a Holly Blue and a nice surprise a fairly tatty Purple Hairstreak on low vegetation - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 15th August 2009

Bricket Wood, St Albans - Small Copper nectaring on Ragwort in the small meadow on School Lane. This is only the second time this species has been seen on this transect in 5 years, hopefully a sign that last years major decline across Herts may be reversed. Numbers of all other species, apart from Silver Y moths have declined. No Silver-washed Fritillaries this week, but worth recording that this species has done very well at this site in 2009. It was recorded on the transect for 6 weeks in a row, starting on 6 July, with 29 records in total. This compares to a maximum total of 4 recorded on this transect in the previous five years since it recolonised. Malcolm Hull

Ware garden, a Jersey Tiger last night - Liz Goodyear (other reports have subsequently come through from Croxley Green on Wednesday, several in Essex and over 20 individuals seen by Helen and Tristan Bantock on Brockley Station in south London on the 3.08.09. Just on the platform-on vegetation and station signs-they were so easy to see and only two stops from London bridge!)

Friday 14th August 2009

Tatem Park, Enfield, field trip with Enfield Outreach and Heather Frost, Friends of Tatem Park About 20 people came along, on this warm but cloudy afternoon, for a stroll around Tatem Park, adjacent to the North Circular / A10 roundabout....a new park for many people on the visit. First, the meadow bank is being well-managed with a diverse cutting scheme, always retaining some taller flowering patches vegetation. Here, where the birdsfoot trefoil grows, we found several common blues, plus a couple of meadow browns, one painted lady and a silver Y moth; and we took a closer look at some of the meadow plants. After trying out a few tree and shrub IDs, we passed on to the woodland paths where we saw several speckled woods, including a male courting and suffering rejection by a female, plus gatekeeper and comma. Plenty of whites around and time was spent trying to separate large from small around a large buddleia bush. Too cloudy for dragonflies, we only managed to locate a few azure and blue-tailed damselflies, but we did see a nice party of long-tailed tits, a great-spotted woodpecker and young sparrowhawks. It was reported to have been an enjoyable couple of hours. Andrew Middleton

Tuesday 11th at Rickneys, 3 clouded yellows chasing each other amongst the trees, plus 24 common blues and half a dozen brown arguses. At waterford heath 30 common blue (20 on south pit) and 6 brimstones but the surprise was 20 plus brown arguses ,difficult to tell apart from

female common blues, in central area near statues on north pit. A host of whites everywhere however now small whites and green veined together matching number of large whites. Steve Kiln

On Tuesday 11th Aug. we noticed the once familiar flashes of Purple Hairstreaks in the top of Oak trees and one came lower and settled long enough to be firmly identified. It was last seen here in 2004 This morning (Friday 14th) a Clouded Yellow flew past us and settled .Every time it was approached it flew a few metres and resettled. We chased it for about 30 minutes taking digital photographs from a distance before we left it still in the field. . Clouded Yellows were usual here in good Clouded Yellow years. The site,now usually known as Napsbury Fields is at TL 165053 off Heronsway behind New House Park shops, St.Albans. (Our garden, in same tetrad, is at present overcrowded with Painted Ladies, Peacocks, Red Admirals, all 3 Whites, and others, around a large Buddleia every time the sun comes out, first Holly Blue yesterday) Charles and Sheila Smith

13th August at my home in Yiewsley, 1 painted lady in the morning At least 8 Silver Y moths feeding on buddleia in the evening - Paul Field

Saw a single Small Heath at Parkside Farm, Enfield on (Weds 12th August 2009) at 16:25 BST. - Robert Callf

Thursday 13th August 2009

Northfield Rd, near Pitstone (Herts side of the border) - Clouded Yellow, **Dingy Skipper,lots of Common Blues (120 in ther first hour, stopped counting after that)**, Small Heath (12), and lower numbers of Brown Argus, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Painted Ladies, Brimstones & Speckled Woods, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns & the 3 whites. Church End chalk pit, Pitstone, Bucks - **3 Small Blues** (2 of them at a spot only 200 meters from the Herts border), **Dingy Skipper**, Common Blues (122 in 50 mins), Small Heath (13) Ivinghoe Beacon - **Chalkhill Blues (3)**, Small Skipper(1), Marbled White (1) & 24 Common Blues in 2 hours - Malcolm Hull

Sawbridgeworth Marsh nature reserve this afternoon. Arrived with the sun behind the clouds and the only butterfly about a rather splendid male common blue near the entrance gate. Tramped around in the sunshine looking for further common blues without success, butterflies seemed scarce :- 8 rather worn meadow browns, 3 gatekeepers, 5 unidentified small whites before clocking a green veined white, and a single silver Y moth. Reached the county boundary and was rewarded by a purple hairstreak flying from Essex, past me and into some Hertfordshire oaks. Returned to the entrance via the boundary scrub, noting a large white and a painted lady. Not bad, only 21 butterflies but 7 species - Len Crouch.

Wednesday 12th August 2009

OAKHILL WOODS LNR-----I x Hummingbird hawk moth with several Silver Y---on Buddleia Lochinch The species that have had a bad year so far at this reserve are Small tortoiseshell despite quite a few Spring sightings----- Brimstone, WLH and Ringlet numbers have all been very low. Gatekeeper, Small skipper, Large skipper, Six-spot burnet moth and Purple hairstreak have had a bumper season also Painted lady. Small copper and Common blue not recorded for several years-- --no sign of recolonisation despite plenty of suitable habitat. KIT JONES

Tuesday 11th August 2009

10 species seen at a couple of locations in 23c degree heat this afternoon. Symondshyde Great Wood 8 Comma, 3 Peacock, Gatekeeper, Red Admiral, male Brimstone, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Large and Green-veined Whites. Wheathampstead LNR 5+ Common Blue - Robin Pearson

News from 19th July: (*missed in error*) I went for a walk up to Tring Park this afternoon and was pleased to count 3 Silver-Washed Fritillaries flying around the brambles in the wooded area at the top of the slope (2.00pm).This was the first time I had seen them here since 2006. I also saw in the same area a probable Purple Hairstreak flitting around the leaves at the top of a hawthorn bush in that familiar hairstreak style of flying.I have always suspected that they may be here but this is the first time I have seen one. No Purple Emperor. Phil Woodward

Some news from Saturday 8th Aug from Horsenden Hill: Netted a Brown Argus at the southern end of Batts Field also 2 Marbled White still hanging on in that compartment. Common Blues everywhere - turning into a really good year for these on Horsenden Hill. And from my garden moth trap (bordering Horsenden Hill) on Tues 4th August - a Jersey Tiger! Quite a long way from traditional haunts - Andy Culshaw

A few sightings for today (Tues 11th August 2009) - 1 Small Copper, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:09 BST. 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 10:37 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 10:56 BST. 2, male and female, Common Blue, together, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:00 BST. 1 male Common Blue, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:40 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, nectaring on thistles, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 12:26 BST. - Robert Callf

Monday 10th August 2009

Some news for today (Monday 10th August 2009) - 13 Painted Lady, on buddleia, at Dalrymple Close, N14 at 09:37 BST. 3 Painted Lady, on buddleia, at Grovebury Court, N14 at 09:41 BST. 2 Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 12:04 BST. 5 Painted Lady, on buddleia, at Park Farm, 12:16 BST. 1 Comma, near Obelisk, at Trent Park, 12:40 BST. - Robert Callf

Just a quick report - I released six brand new Small Tortoiseshells on Friday morning (8th) at exactly the spot the caterpillars had been collected near the River Colne. None lost to parasites. Another batch of 25 has just resulted in 17 chrysalids, with the remainder succumbing to something nasty whilst at the large caterpillar stage. This manifests itself as a cocoon of white silk which I haven't felt like investigating further... I noted exactly the same culprit last year and the year before, though in a bigger proportion of caterpillars. Dave Miller

Ware garden, at least 12 Painted Ladies early morning plus a Small Tortoiseshell - Liz Goodyear

Sunday 9th August 2009

Already this year I've seen huge numbers of Painted Ladies and Large Whites Today it was another one of those rare days when a species is seen in super-abundance, in this case Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner *Cameraria ohridella*, which was flying in swarms of thousands around every horse chestnut tree in the district. Most stuck close to the trees, although some fell down to the ground, allowing a close up view of the tiny dark brown moths with white stripes, only about half a centimeter long. Butterfly World, Chiswell Green - 68 Painted Ladies, double the number of last week. Interestingly they have been breeding on the large numbers of sunflowers at the site; 18 Small Tortoiseshells - my highest total for this species at any Herts site for several years; and 83 Large Whites. I've heard reports of all three species arriving on the Dorset coast in numbers this week as migrants, with Large White being the most numerous. Also at BW today, 4 Common Blues, Peacocks (much lower numbers than last week) Silver Y's Small Whites & a single Red Admiral. - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 8th August 2009

Aldbury Nowers - Over 150 Common Blues - this butterfly is at last living up to its name! Also Dark Green Fritillary, Brown Argus, lots of Brimstones, Small Heath, Small Copper, Large Small & Essex Skipper & much more. See for yourself on the Branch Field Trip at the site next Sunday 16th at 2 pm - [for details see field trip page](#).

AM Fir and Pond Woods on the meadow....many gatekeepers, male and female common blues, small coppers, a small skipper, a meadow brown, peacock, various white and my first brown argus of the year. As usual speckled woods in the woods. David Gompertz

Silver-washed Fritillaries still flying in the Norton Green area. I saw 2 yesterday (both females) at around 11am when the weather was just about perfect. One was in a small clearing very close to Pigeonswick Cottage (TL226 227) and the other along the western edge of the meadow between Watery Grove and Cannocks Wood. I had not seen this species at the site before this season so excellent news. - Peter Clarke

Croxley Green TQ 06 96 - Small Copper; Micklefield Green nr Sarratt TQ 04 98 - 2 Small Whites, Green-veined White, Small Copper, 2 Brown Argus, 2 Painted Ladies, Peacock & 3 Meadow Browns; Chorleywood House TQ 03 97 - mating pair of Common Blues; Micklefield Hall nr Sarratt TQ 05 97 - Brown Argus; Chandler's Cross TQ 06 98 - Small Copper, 2 Common Blues, Painted Lady, 3 Gatekeepers & 2 Meadow Browns. Painted Ladies very widespread including further emigration but intensive raptor surveying left me no time to record details. - Colin Everett

News for today (Saturday 8th August 2009) - 1 male Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 14:08 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 14:19 BST. 1 female Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood,

14:25 BST. 3 Peacock, on buddleia, at Park Farm, 14:51 - 14:54 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 15:18 BST. 2 male Common Blue, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 15:31 BST. - Robert Callf

Friday 7th August 2009

Clouded Yellow at Deadman's Hill, 2 miles NW of Sandon - James Hanlon

Just a short note to let you know that we observed a Clouded Yellow (found by Katie) at Deadman's Hill near Sandon at 18:00 this evening (07 Aug) at grid reference TL 295 367. - Darren Oakley-Martin & Katie Fuller

Thursday 6th August 2009

A Wildlife Site Survey of Thames Water's Maple Lodge Nature Reserve, Maple Cross, Rickmansworth, was carried out on Thurs 30 July. The weather was mixed with sun and some showers; the following butterflies were noted: Large, Small & GV Whites - locally frequent; Peacock - 4; Red Admiral - 2; Painted Lady - 4; Comma - 2; Common Blue - 2; Speckled Wood - 2; Gatekeeper - 1; Meadow Brown - 6. The Reserve Warden reported up to 8 Marbled Whites seen during the previous couple of weeks. Michael Pearson

At Numbers Farm nr Abbots Langley TL 08 02, the first indications of Painted Lady emigration, with 4 flying SW in a couple of minutes at lunchtime; nearby at Abbots Langley TL 09 02, a Holly Blue ovipositing on ivy buds. - Colin Everett.

News for today (Thurs 6th August 2009) - 1 Peacock, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:28 BST. 1 male Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 13:32 BST. 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 14:07 BST. 7 Comma, together, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 14:31 BST. 3 Peacock, edge of Moat Wood, 14:33 BST. 3 Painted Lady, edge of Moat Wood, 14:34 BST. 1 male Common Blue, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:51 BST. 1 Peacock, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 14:57 BST. 2 Green-veined White, copulating, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 15:17 BST. Also a number of Painted Ladies seen but not noted. - Robert Callf

Some more news for yesterday (Weds 5th August 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, near Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 14:09 BST. 1 female Common Blue, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 14:42 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 14:44 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, 14:51 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Leeing Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', at Trent Park, 15:07 BST. 2 Comma, (1 edge of Shaws Wood, 15:25 BST, 1 near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 15:36 BST). - Robert Callf

Wednesday 5th August 2009

Once again a stroll along the Colne to J14, but a bit earlier than usual (11ish). Very warm and humid, but not a lot of sunshine. Nevertheless, plenty to see: a good dozen Painted Ladies, 5 or 6 Peacocks, but only 2 Commas and no Red Admirals today. A sprinkle of Gatekeepers, but at least 10 Common Blues, including a female (photo attached) happily flying under the cloud cover. I am also pleased to say that I also spotted an unmistakable Brown Argus in with the blues, a quite different appearance in flight and more aggressive; likely to be a male, I guess. I took a photo of the area where they were flying, just for interest. There was one Brimstone (photo) and a Holly Blue laying on an Ivy flower bud cluster (photo - though I didn't quite catch her in the act). Last but not least, a selection of whites, mostly Green-veined today, including the one depicted with rather unusual black patterning. Not a wonderful photo - sorry. - Dave Miller

Took a group on a butterfly walk at Therfield heath today, weather was surprisingly good, saw hundreds of chalk hill blues, scores of painted ladies, a few common blues and small heath and a clouded yellow, wild flowers lovely. At waterford heath, of note, saw one maybe two clouded yellows, two brimstones, many painted ladies and twenty or more common blues on south pit and four brown argus (3 on north pit) - Steve Kiln

Some news for today (Wed 5th August 2009) - 9 Painted Lady, on buddleia, at Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14, 09:59 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on buddleia, Chase Road, N14, 10:08 BST. 3 Painted Lady, on buddleia, Avenue Close, N14, 10:13 BST. Saw four Purple Hairstreak at Oakwood Park, N14 this morning (Weds 5th August 2009) at 08:40 BST - Robert Callf

Aldbury Nowers today: Had a very good day at Aldbury, in between taking out saplings, we

counted at least 64 common blue across the whole site. All the figures probably don't represent the true number of everything we saw, there were so many butterflies about today, I've never seen so many! S1 - Large white - 5+ Brimstone - 3+ Brown argus Common Blue - 3+ Small copper - 2 Meadow brown Peacock - 11+ Small white Painted lady S1/S2 Corridor - Speckled wood Painted lady Common blue Peacock - 3 S2 - Common blue - 4 Painted lady Small heath - 2 Brimstone Peacock Large white Meadow brown S3 - Common blue Peacock Brimstone Coppice area - Peacock - 4 Meadow brown Gatekeeper Small white Dingy area - Common blue - 3 S4- Common blue N1 - Ringlet Peacock - 6 Gatekeeper Meadow brown Large skipper Large white Common blue - 9 Small white Brimstone - 4+ N2 - Common blue - 24+ Brimstone - 10+ Small copper Brown argus - 3 Painted lady - 2 Comma Gatekeeper Peacock - 3+ N3 - Upper slope - Peacock - 3+ Common blue - 13+ Brimstone - 5+ Painted lady - 3+ Large white Gatekeeper Bottom slope - Common blue - 3 Gatekeeper Peacock - 3 Painted Lady - 2 N4 - Peacock Common blue - 4+ Brown argus - 2 Small white - 3+ Gatekeeper Small heath Brimstone - 2+ Glade along Ridgeway - Peacock - 8+ Totals - Common blue - 64+ Peacock - 44+ Brimstone - 25+ Brown argus - 6+ - Paul Thrush

Tuesday 4th August 2009

Saw a Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this afternoon (Tues 4th August 2009) at 12:21 BST. - Robert Callf

Monday 3rd August 2009

Had a couple of Small Copper butterflies on the 3rd of August at Tyttenhanger GP at TL 198049. One was a pristine specimen, the other very faded and worn. Photos attached, high resolution images available if needed. I remember seeing a very late Small Copper in November some years back in the same area. Alan Gardiner

Sightings for Sunday 2nd, Bricket Wood Common, St Albans - 6 Common Blues on today's transect, including a mating pair. This is the highest weekly total since the transect began 12 years ago, which is surprising as the species has not been recorded at the site at all during the last 2 years. Good numbers of Brimstones, Peacocks & Green-veined Whites and the Silver-washed Fritillaries are tatty, but still hanging on Butterfly World, Chiswell Green - 63 Large Whites, 32 Painted Ladies (double last weeks number), 17 Peacocks, 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Comma all gorging themselves on the masses of Buddleia, Verbena Bonariensis in the newly planted gardens. Also exciting news that Common Blue has also made it to this site - I saw both male & female in the wildflower meadow - the 12th native species I've recorded here in the 2 months since it opened. Potters Crouch Plantation, St Albans - an unsuccessful late afternoon trip to check for Silver-washed Fritillary. But I could easily have missed it as the small east/west ride was alive with other species. In half an hour I saw 57 Peacocks, 74 Green-veined whites, 12 Comma and yes a Common Blue had found its way here too. Monday 3rd - St Albans - 9 Painted Ladies on my garden buddleia, my highest ever garden total for this species. Also 3 Peacock & several Large and Small Whites - Malcolm Hull

Sightings for today (Monday 3rd August 2009) - 1 Red Admiral, Hog Hill, at Vicarage Farm, 10:31 BST. 1 Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:42 BST. 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 11:12 BST. 3 Painted Lady, at Park Farm, 11:25 - 11:33 BST. 1 Comma, near Obelisk, Trent Park, 12:11 BST. 3 Painted Lady, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:15 BST. 2 Peacock, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:15 BST. 2 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:15 BST. 1 Peacock, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:26 BST. 2 Painted Lady, near Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 12:42 BST. A few sightings for yesterday (Sunday 2nd August 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, on buddleia, Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14, 08:48 BST. 1 male Common Blue, at Oakwood Park, N14, 12:05 BST. - Robert Callf

Leavesden Green traffic island nr Watford TQ 09 99 - 2 Large Whites, Green-veined White, 7 Common Blues, Gatekeeper & 2 Meadow Browns; no Small Heaths, an isolated colony of which had previously seemed to be surviving well here. - Colin Everett.

Sunday 2nd August 2009

Symondshyde footpath entrance:-12.30-1.30pm mostly sunny but some cloudy patches 4 Silver Washed Fritillaries, 1 worn White Admiral, 1 Red Admirals, 3 Peacocks, numerous Commas, Green Veined, Small & Large Whites all on mainly feeding on Burdock. Also Migrant Hawker female, Brown & Southern Hawker males & 3 small Common Toads - Ernest Leahy

Cottonmill Lane nr St Albans TL 15 05 - 5 Large Whites; Prospect Road at St Albans TL 14 06 - 2 Large Whites; Prae Mill nr St Albans TL 12 08 - 5 Green-veined Whites, Painted Lady, Peacock & 2 Speckled Woods; Victoria Street in St Albans TL 15 07 - Large White & Painted Lady; Lye Lane (derelict land) nr Bricket Wood (SE corner) TL 13 02 - 4 Large Whites, Brown Argus, 2 Painted Ladies, 4 Peacocks & Gatekeeper; same site (SW corner) TL 12 03 - 5 Large Whites, Small White, 2 Painted Ladies, 11 Peacocks & Meadow Brown. - Colin Everett.

Saturday 1st August 2009

Some local Offerings. 28.07.09 Weedy field, Batford: 1 SMALL COPPER, 4 Painted Ladies, 1f Common Blue, 2 Marbled Whites - Darin Stanley

August 2009 ~ a series of moth and bat evenings in Enfield's parks (Enfield Outreach) with bat expert Jackie Wedd, and a look at the previous night's moth trap: Wed 5th August 8.00pm Forty Hall, Wed 19th August 8.00pm Town Park, and Fri 28th August 7.30pm Oakwood Park. More details from Andrew Middleton

Long Green nr Berkhamsted TL 00 06 - 5 Large Whites, Green-veined White & 4 Gatekeepers; Bankmill Bridge nr Berkhamsted TL 00 07 - Green-veined Whies, Painted Lady & Gatekeeper; Little Heath Lane nr Berkhamsted TL 01 07 - 29 Large Whites including female ovipositing on Garlic Mustard, 3 Small Whites, 6 Green-veined Whites, Small Copper feeding on ragwort, Brown Argus, 2 Common Blues, 6 Painted Ladies, 3 Peacocks, Comma, 13 Gatekeepers & 7 Meadow Browns; Little Heath nr Berkhamsted TL 01 08 - 5 Large Whites, Small White, 2 Common Blues, Peacock, 4 Gatekeepers & Meadow Brown. - Colin Everett.

1-3pm ~ c15 people joined BCHM and Pam Hallesy of Broxbourne Borough Council (Leisure) to visit Baas Common and Top Field / Cozens Grove Broxbourne. Recent management of these meadows by Pam and the friends has encouraged the wildflowers to flourish in place of the coarse grasses. And as a high quality green space managed with the local community group, Top Field has just won a Green Pennant Award. In addition, the careful 'hay' cutting over several years was rewarded with sightings of several common blues, plus single small copper and brown argus, with small heath scheduled for 2011: Other butterfly species noted were purple hairstreak, meadow brown, gatekeeper, painted lady, peacock, Essex skipper, and whites small and large ~ Andrew Middleton

Just a few sightings for today (Saturday 1st August 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:31 BST. 1 Peacock, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 14:45 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:43 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 15:49 BST. - Robert Callf

I did the usual walk to the M25 junction 14 yesterday, in bright sunshine for a change, and saw over a hundred butterflies: Red Admiral (5), Peacock (15+), Painted Lady (20+), Comma (10+), Gatekeeper (10+), Speckled Wood (3), Meadow Brown (3), Large White (10+), Small White (10+), Green-veined White (3), Brimstone (1m), Common Blue (1f - very blue; 15+m), Holly Blue (5). No sign of any Brown Argus... One nest of about 30 Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars was also seen, each about 1cm long at present. The Holly Blues were seen in groups chasing each other around ivy-choked trees about 5 metres above the ground - there could well have been more than five. One detached itself from the squabbles and started to flutter along the ground near my feet, eventually landing and sucking away at damp ground covered in rabbit droppings. Delicious, I'm sure. I'll send you a photo of this at a later date. - Dave Miller

July 2009

Friday 31st July 2009

Saw a real Painted Lady "hotspot" today on a walk. Grid ref TL294323 (Shaw Green Farm)..several hundred Painted Lady on creeping thistle at field margin ..magnificent. Phil Lumley

[Butterfly World Family Fun Day is being held this Saturday - click on link for more details.](#)

Some news for yesterday (Friday 31st July 2009) - 2 Purple Hairstreak, at Oakwood Park, N14 at 08:39 BST. 3 Painted Lady, on thistles, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 12:03 BST. 1 Comma, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 12:03 BST. 1 Comma, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:12 BST. 1 Peacock, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:12 BST. 1 Painted Lady, near

Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:13 BST. 3 Small Heath, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:16 BST. 1 Painted Lady, Sect. 8, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:19 BST. 1 Painted Lady, Sect. 8, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:19 BST. 2 Painted Lady, Sect. 6, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:24 BST. 1 Peacock, Sect. 6, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:24 BST. 1 Small Heath, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:25 BST. 3 Peacock, near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park, 12:29 - 12:31 BST. 3 Comma, near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park, 12:2 BST. 1 Small Heath, Sect. 6, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:32 BST. 2 Small Copper, Sect. 5, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:34 - 12:35 BST. 3 Painted Lady, Sect. 4, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:39 BST. 1 Small Heath, Sect. 4, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:41 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Sports Field, Trent Park, 12:51 BST. 2 Painted Lady, near Sports Field, Trent Park, 12:53 BST. 1 Peacock, near Sports Field, Trent Park, 12:53 BST. 1 Comma, near Sports Field, Trent Park, 12:53 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, near Nature Trail, Trent Park, 12:59 BST. 4 Peacock, together, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:13 BST. 1 Red Admiral, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:13 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:13 BST. 1 Comma, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:13 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:27 BST. 1 Comma, on buddleia, Parkside Farm, 13:56 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along track, at Vicarage Farm, 14:14 BST. 1 Green-veined White, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 14:17 BST. - Robert Callf

Clouded Yellow over RAF Uxbridge today heading west - Chris Lamsdell

A lunchtime walk in the Bicentenary garden at Brunel University produced the following: 40+ Painted Lady (including 11 on one buddleia bush), 7 Peacock, Comma, 4 Speckled Wood, 8 Meadow Brown, 10+ Gatekeeper, 4 Large White, Small White, GV White, Holly Blue, 4 Common Blue and 2 Brown Argus. Steve Pash

Ware garden, at 7 o'clock this morning a Painted Lady flew down onto my patio table, which is in shade - Liz Goodyear

I understand that a Silver-washed Fritillary was seen and photographed by the Lee Navigation bridge by the watchpoint on the 20th July. I have not seen the photograph myself but know a man who has - Alan Reynolds

Wednesday 29th July 2009

Was working up at Telegraph Hill yesterday, at the Treasures grove car park there were 3 comma together, gatekeeper and various whites. On the chalk gullies we had at least 6 chalkhill blues flying around, peacock, meadow brown, gatekeeper, brown argus and brimstone. Today at Alpine Meadow I had a painted lady, common blue, meadow brown and marbled white. - Paul Thrush

A few sightings for today (Weds 29th July 2009) - 1 Small Copper, very fresh, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:41 BST. 2 Painted Lady, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:41 and 10:45 BST. 1 male Common Blue, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 11:25 BST. 2 Painted Lady, together, near 'Barracks', at Vicarage Farm, 11:51 BST. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 28th July 2009

Still three Silver-washed Fritillaries (two separate males and a slightly worn female) along the main N-S ride at Bricket Wood Common during a lunchtime transect visit, which produced 120+ butterflies of a dozen species including two Common Blues (separate male & female) and seven Painted Ladies. - Colin Everett.

News via Colin Everett from Tyttenhanger GP: Butterflies were well represented and included my first CLOUDED YELLOW of the year, a fresh PAINTED LADY, several Peacocks, 4 COMMAS and a Common Blue.

News for today (Tues 28th July 2009) - 1 Peacock, edge of Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 10:24 BST. 1 Painted Lady, edge of Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 10:24 BST. 2 Painted Lady, along hedgerow off Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 10:31 BST. 4 Painted Lady, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:48 - 10:53 BST. 1 male Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:51 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:00 BST. 3 Painted Lady, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:02 BST. 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:02 BST. 3 Purple Hairstreak, at Park Farm, 11:48 - 11:53 BST. 1 Holly Blue, at Parkside Hse., Hadley Rd., 11:53 BST. 2 Painted Lady, near Duncan's Wood, 12:00 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Hadley Road at Park Farm, 12:09 BST. 3 Painted Lady, edge of

Rough Lot, Trent Park, 12:19 BST. 10 Peacock, together, on thistles, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:21 BST. 3 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:21 BST. 2 Peacock, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:27 and 12:30 BST. 4 Painted Lady, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:33 BST. 2 Peacock, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:33 BST. 1 Peacock, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:40 BST. 1 Comma, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:54 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:00 BST. 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:06 BST. 1 Comma, near Equestrian Centre, Trent Park, 13:21 BST. - Robert Callf

On a windy day 28th July popped into Rickneys and saw a clouded yellow, very bright in good condition, saw also there 5 common blues, 3 small heaths of note at Waterford Heath south 17 peacocks but no clouded yellows - Steve Kiln

16 Painted Ladies on my transect at Butterfly World in Chiswell Green this afternoon - Malcolm Hull

Monday 27th July 2009

News for today (Monday 27th July 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:43 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Hadley Rd at Park Farm, 12:06 BST. 1 Painted Lady, edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 12:12 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:15 BST. 1 Peacock, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:18 BST. 2 Painted Lady, on thistles, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:26 BST. 1 Large Skipper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:38 BST. 1 Painted Lady, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:45 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:46 BST. 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:53 BST. 1 male Common Blue, S edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:55 BST. 3 Painted Lady, S edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:56 - 12:58 BST. 1 Adonis Ladybird, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm - first record of the year! saw a Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this morning (Monday 27th July 2009) at 10:51 BST. - Robert Callf

Visited Broxbourne Woods this afternoon (Monday). Weather on the cool side. Saw a good number of whites - at least 30 which seemed to be mainly green veined whites but not all were obliging enough to settle for a while to be easily identified. Also saw 10 meadow browns, eight gatekeepers, five ringlets, four speckled woods, two peacocks, three commas, one red admiral and one white admiral. It was noticeable that when the sky clouded over and there were a few spots of rain how the butterflies seemed to disappear. - Roger Newbold

I took a walk into Balls Wood on Sunday at approx 10.30, weather was warm and partly cloudy. I saw my 1st Silver washed Fritillary in Balls Wood, it was very worn though. Also saw very fresh Painted Lady, 5 Peacocks, 5 Commas, 3 Red Admirals, Large Whites, Green Veined Whites, Small Skippers, Ringlets, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown and Gatekeepers. - Kevin Standbridge

Sunday 26th July 2009

News for Saturday (25th July 2009) - 2 Peacock, along track, at Vicarage Farm, 17:46 and 17:49 BST. 1 Comma, along Hadley Road near Pumping Station, 18:03 BST. 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 18:11 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 20:00 BST. Some sightings for yesterday (Sunday 26th July 2009) - 2 Painted Lady, on buddleia, at Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 at 10:21 BST. 2 Painted Lady, at Oakwood Park, 12:24 and 12:36 BST. 1 Comma, at Oakwood Park, 12:24 BST. 2 male Common Blue, together, at Oakwood Park, 12:38 BST. 1 Large Skipper, on buddleia, at Grovelands Park, 13:01 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on buddleia, at Grovelands Park, 13:01 BST. - Robert Callf

I visited Symondshyde Wood after heavy rain on Friday 24th & when the sun broke through the butterflies were out in force. At the footpath cross point on the SW side where there is a nice area of Burdock, Nettles & Ragwort numerous fresh Commas, Painted Lady, Peacocks Large & Small Whites. One of each Dark Green Fritillary & White Admiral both worn. At lower gated area I green Veined White & 3 Purple Hairstreaks, plus Meadow Browns & Gatekeepers & a Ringlet. - Ernest Leahy

Sue and Caroline recorded a single Clouded Yellow among the Painted Ladies on our Mardley Heath transect on Saturday afternoon July 27th. It was alighting on teasel and ragwort, and would not stay still long enough for a good photo, though it is unmistakable even from some slightly blurred ones! Sue Stephens

Hogg End nr St Albans TL 11 09 - Green-veined White & Peacock; Hogg End Lane nr St Albans TL 10 08 - 3 Large Whites, 2 Green-veined Whites & 2 Gatekeepers; Punch Bowl Lane (W) nr Hemel Hempstead TL 09 09 - 4 Large Whites, Green-veined White, 3 Painted Ladies, 3 Commas &

Meadow Brown; Punch Bowl Lane (W) nr Hemel Hempstead TL 09 08 - 8 Large Whites, 4 Small Whites, Green-veined White, 4 Painted Ladies, 2 Peacocks, Speckled Wood & Meadow Brown; Eaton Lodge nr Hemel Hempstead TL 08 08 - Large White & Speckled Wood; Westwick Farm nr Leverstock Green TL 08 07 - Gatekeeper attacked in flight by Swallow (falling injured onto road); Westwick Row nr Leverstock Green TL 09 06 - an estimated 300+ white spp in 14-hectare bean field, 5 Large Whites, Small White, 4 Green-veined Whites; Pimlico nr Bedmond TL 09 05 - Red Admiral, Peacock, Gatekeeper & 2 Meadow Browns; nr Bedmond TL 10 04 - 12 Large Whites & Painted Lady; nr Bedmond TL 09 04 - Essex Skipper, 7 Large Whites, 2 Green-veined Whites, Peacock & 3 Gatekeepers; Tenements Farm nr Bedmond TL 10 03 - 10 Large Whites, Painted Lady, 2 Peacocks & Meadow Brown; and finally nr Abbots Langley TL 10 02 - Small Skipper, Painted Lady, Peacock, 2 Speckled Woods & Gatekeeper. - Colin Everett

On cloudy day of note 11 peacocks and 31 large whites and 2 brown argus and a common blue and 5 painted ladies. Second brood of common blues as 4 at rickneys plus 3 brown argus and a few peacocks and painted ladies - Steve kiln

Saturday 25th July 2009

Just after five this afternoon, during a break in the clouds, I counted 20 Painted Ladies, 4 Peacock and a single Large white on a group of butterfly bushes in hedging alongside Obrey Way, Thorley (TL. 481 192). About 15 minutes earlier I passed by a side garden with 11 Large white fluttering around a few cabbages. Len Crouch

Saw a Painted Lady in Dalrymple Close, Southgate this morning (Saturday 25th July 2009) at 10:42 BST - Robert Callf

Fir and Pond Wood, an amazing collection of butterflies on the meadow and in good numbers too....11 species, mainly on the knapweed and marsh thistles, seen in less than an hour. Small, large and green veined whites, meadow browns, numerous gatekeepers, ringlets, peacocks, painted ladies, two commas, a few small skippers and occasional small coppers. Elsewhere in the woods... speckled woods. David Gompertz

At Symonshyde Great Wood this morning, the clearing on the footpath opposite the farm held a large number of butterflies. There were three, maybe four Silver Washed Fritillaries, all quite worn, one White Letter Hairstreak, on White Admiral (also very worn), one Holly Blue, one Red Admiral, and large numbers of Comma, Peacock, Painted Lady, Speckled Woods, all three whites and Purple Hairstreak. On Telegraph Hill, there were small numbers of Chalkhill Blue flying - outnumbered by Common Blue and a single Clouded Yellow on the Bedfordshire side flying south. Phil Bishop

Northaw Great Wood, Saturday afternoon July 25th. A mixed bag of butterflies seen whilst walking the yellow trail (the long route at Northaw Great Wood). Weather a mix of cloud and sun. About 20 whites (mainly small and green veined), five meadow brown, one gatekeeper, five comma, four speckled wood, one peacock and two purple hairstreak. - Roger Newbold

3 Purple Hairstreaks seen this evening all flitting over top of tall oak trees on my transect site in Stevenage. First one at 1820 in Monks Wood near the ponds. The other two were found in the small wood just west of the Peartree pub at around 1835 and 1845. Very sunny and warm (23 degrees) and light winds. Peter Clarke

Watford Junction station TQ 11 97 - Painted Lady; South Bovington TL 01 02 - 50+ Large Whites, 3 Small Whites, 5 Green-veined Whites, 4 Peacocks, 2 Commas, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper & 2 Meadow Browns; Hogpits Bottom nr Flaunden TL 01 01 - 14 Large Whites, 2 Green-veined Whites, 3 Painted Ladies, Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Peacocks, 2 Commas, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper & Meadow Brown; Lower Plantation nr Flaunden TL 02 01 - 2 Green-veined Whites, 3 Peacocks, Comma (on horse dung) & Speckled Wood; Flaunden village TL 01 00 - 23 Large Whites, Green-veined White, 8 Painted Ladies, Small Tortoiseshell, 30 Peacocks, 2 Commas, 2 Speckled Woods, Gatekeeper & 3 Meadow Browns; Newhouse Farm nr Flaunden TL 02 00 - 5 Large Whites, Peacock, Gatekeeper & Meadow Brown; Woodman's Farm nr Chipperfield TL 03 01 - 6 Large Whites, 3 Small Coppers feeding on Creeping Thistles, Common Blue, 3 Painted Ladies, Peacock, 2 Speckled Woods, 3 Gatekeepers & 3 Meadow Browns; Chipperfield TL 04 01 - 2 Large Whites, 2 Painted Ladies, Red Admiral & 12 Peacocks; Tower Hill nr Chipperfield TL 03 02 - 5 Large Whites, Green-veined White, 2 Peacocks, Speckled Wood & 8 Meadow Browns; North Chipperfield TL 04 02 - 5 Large Whites, 2 Gatekeepers & 2 Meadow Browns; Badgerdell Wood nr Chipperfield TL 04 03 -

2 Large Whites, 5 Green-veined Whites, Peacock & 3 Gatekeepers; nr Felden TL 04 04 - Large White, 2 Small Whites, 3 Green-veined Whites, Peacock & Gatekeeper; Great Wood nr Apsley TL 05 04 - Speckled Wood; Roughdown Common East TL 05 05 - Painted Lady; and finally Roughdown Common nr Felden TL 04 05 - 7 Large Whites, Small White, 2 Green-veined Whites, 2 Painted Ladies, Peacock, Comma, Marbled White & 8 Meadow Browns. - Colin Everett

Friday 24th July 2009

Saw a Painted Lady this morning (Friday 24th July 2009) at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 08:28 BST. - Robert Callf

Thursday 23rd July Near M25 Junction 21 TL 11 03 - Large White, Small White, 4 Green-veined Whites, Peacock & 10 Gatekeepers; Gorhambury Estate - Purple Hairstreak nr Maynes Farm TL 12 08 and Red Admiral near entrance TL 13 07. Sunday 19th July Scatterdells Wood nr Chipperfield TL 04 02 - 2 Large Whites & 4 Commas (all on bramble flowers including 3 within a metre). Saturday 18th July Butterfly World nr Chiswell Green TL 12 04 - 3 Painted Ladies, two of which appeared to be fresh. [Also an Adonis' Ladybird.] Sunday 12th July Smug Oak Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 14 02 - Large Skipper, Large White, Green-veined White, 3 Commas, Marbled White & 3 Gatekeepers; Smug Oak nr Bricket Wood TL 13 02 - Green-veined White ovipositing on Garlic Mustard, Purple Hairstreak & Comma. Saturday 11th July Long Wood nr Abbots Langley TL 08 02 - 130+ white spp including 40+ Large Whites and 10+ Small Whites, 2 Peacocks, Red Admiral & 3 Painted Ladies; Parsonage Farm nr Abbots Langley TL 09 02 - Large White & Painted Lady. - Colin Everett

CORRECTION to records for Fri 29th May: the Painted Lady egg-laying at Kendal Wood nr Radlett TQ 17 98 was on Spear Thistle (NOT Creeping Thistle as I originally reported). Sunday 5th July 2009 Lye Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 13 03 - Comma, Speckled Wood, Marbled White, Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper; Blackgreen Wood nr Bricket Wood TL 13 02 - 2 Green-veined Whites, 3 Purple Hairstreaks, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, 2 Speckled Woods & Ringlet; Smug Oak Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 14 02 - Small Skipper & 2 Commas; near Drop Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 14 01 - 15+ Large Whites, 2+ Small Whites, 2 Commas & 2 Gatekeepers; Jack William's Wood nr Bricket Wood TL 13 01 - Large White, Purple Hairstreak, Red Admiral & 3 Commas. Friday 3rd July The Meads at Bricket Wood TL 12 02 - Painted Lady; Blackgreen Wood nr Bricket Wood TL 13 02 - 2 Large Whites, 3 Purple Hairstreaks, Comma, Meadow Brown & Ringlet; Drop Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 14 01 - 46+ Green-veined Whites feeding on damp gravelly margins of a River Ver ford (23 on each side! - Malcolm Hull has photos) - Colin Everett.

Thursday 23rd July 2009

Horsenden Hill, 22nd July 2009, very windy but otherwise quite pleasant. At one point I watched a Peacock flying furiously backwards. Then the gust briefly lulled and it shot forwards straight into my chest before vanishing downwind and over a hedge. All the Peacocks super fresh, and no doubt ready to nectar up for the hibernation. In many places meanwhile, the Gatekeepers seemed to be ganging up and picking on the Meadow Browns. Tried to get a shot of a Gatekeeper and Peacock feeding on same thistle but Peacock was having none of it. Oh well. Gatekeepers - Scores. Maybe 50+. Some looking rather tatty now. Others still quite fresh looking. Meadow Browns - 30+ Whites - 15+ - more than half were Large Whites Small/Essex Skippers - Only 2 or 3. Common Blue - 3 Males Small Copper - 5+ Peacock - 15+ Speckled Wood - 3+ - Mike Rubin

Some news for Sunday 19th July 2009 - 1 Painted Lady, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 14:27 BST. 1 Comma, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 15:26 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 15:30 BST. 2 Comma, together, near Merryhills Brook, at Trent Park, 15:39 BST. Saw a Painted Lady at Abney Park Cemetery, Stoke Newington Wednesday morning and a Painted Lady on buddleia outside my window in Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 at 14:07 BST 22nd July 2009. Some news for Tues 21st July 2009 - 2 Comma, together, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:20 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:26 BST. 1 female Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood. at Vicarage Farm, 11:28 BST. 1 Red Admiral, N of Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:38 BST. 1 Essex Skipper, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:33 BST. 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 12:34 BST. 1 Peacock, at Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 13:37 BST. 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:41 BST. 1 Comma, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 14:01 BST. 1 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 14:16 BST. 1 male Oak Eggar, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 14:19 BST. News for Monday 20th July 2009 - 1 Red Admiral, near Allotments, at Vicarage Farm, 09:04 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 09:10 BST. 3 Peacock, on thistles, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 09:33 BST. 1 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 10:28 BST. 1 Red Admiral,

at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 10:28 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 10:30 BST. 2 Painted Lady, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:37 BST. 4 Peacock, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:40 - 10:44 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on thistle, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:44 BST. 1 Comma, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:44 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:44 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 10:50 BST. 2 male Common Blue, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 10:53 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 10:54 BST. 1 Red Admiral, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:59 BST. 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 11:45 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at Park Farm, 12:23 BST. 4 Peacock, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:32 BST. 2 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:32 BST. 1 Peacock, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:40 BST. 1 Comma, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:40 BST. 1 Peacock, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:44 BST. 2 Peacock, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 12:50 - 12:53 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 12:52 BST. - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, 20th July: Plenty of butterflies around despite sunshine being at a premium. Skippers - 5-10 Small / Essex seen. Small Copper - No live butterflies but one fresh looking forewing fragment found attached to a thistle. Comma - About 5 Peacock - About 5 Whites - 10+ Gatekeeper - 20+ Meadow Brown - 20+ Speckled Wood - 2 or 3. - Mike Rubin

Nomansland Common, 20th July 1pm to 3.30 pm Cloudy with some occasional sun but windy. We went with the intension of finding the Purple Hairstreak which was relatively easy with at least 9 good sightings of the insects often keeping low on the small oaks . They were well spread in most small oaks on the N of the car park area to the end of the open area W of the car park in an area I used to find common lizards. However the first hairstreak I found was a White Letter in a roadside oak in Green Lane. I did not notice any nearby elm saplings. Also seen were 2 Peacocks, 1 Marbled White, 4 Commas, numerous unidentified whites. The "umbrella" like oak in the cleared area was good for the Purples but a picnicing family had two lads tree climbing when I came back with my camera so I found an alternative to photograph with 4 megapixels still on my Sony Camcorder. - Ernest Leahy

News from 19th, I was on a non-butterfly walk. But I noted that whenever the sun shone between heavy showers lots of Whites (Large, Small and possibly Green Veined) were on the wing. Just a handful of Meadow Browns though, and only a couple of Gatekeepers. (I also found a dead Female Gatekeeper which was a shame.) Also saw 2 Peacocks and a fresh Painted Lady. That and one of the Peacocks seen flying in the rain! Not seen that before. - Mike Rubin

Saturday 18th July 2009

Some Bricket Wood sightings. 15th July.. injured yellow tail moth at Bricket Wood. 16th July ..At Bricket Wood late pm. Brimstone female among usual skippers, and browns, also a 6 spot burnet. Freshly hatched peacocks, scorpion fly. In my house found a geometer moth probably a Common Wave, but it had a dot on each wing. 17th July another yellowtail at rest under a leaf. Peacocks, skippers, whites, various browns. Met a couple of butterfly spotters who had seen one white admiral earlier in day. 1 purple hairstreak in flight 18th July pm at Bricket Wood spent several hours butterfly twitching. As afternoon warmed up we saw speckled wood, marbled whites both sexes, one tandem pair of small whites, large white, 2 purple hairstreak, ringlets, meadow browns, gatekeepers, 2 resting peacocks on path, 1 painted lady on pile of dung!. Also we saw both sexes of small skipper, possibly one was an Essex, not sure, large skipper, holly blue or small blue, but I was too slow for photo of that. No white admiral or comma seen today. I think that makes 14. Large blue green dragonfly and 7 spot ladybirds... good to see indigenous species. Found uprooted ragwort along the path. Gatekeeper and skipper enjoy nectar on this plant as well as it being food for cinnabar and burnet moths. Elizabeth Debenham

News for yesterday (Friday 17th July 2009) - 1 Peacock, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 15:15 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 15:15 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:23 BST. 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 15:31 BST. 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 15:56 BST. 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 16:39 BST. Some sightings for today (Saturday 18th July 2009) - 1 Purple Hairstreak, at Park Farm, 09:56 BST. 1 Red Admiral, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 10:56 BST. 2 Comma, together, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 10:57 BST. - Robert Callf

Butterfly Survey - Kit Jones & R. A. (Bob) Husband. Saturday 18th July 2009 TQ29D (tetrad 'D')

12.00 Noon Rowley Green LWT Local Nature Reserve, Rowley Lane, Arkley, Barnet. Meadow Brown (many), Gatekeeper (many) males & females noted, Small White, Large White, Comma, Essex Skipper, Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Ringlet, Speckled Wood, Green-veined White, Painted Lady (fresh female), Purple Hairstreak, Peacock (fresh - on Rose-bay Willow herb), Roesel's Bush Cricket, Southern Hawker, Cinnabar Moth Caterpillars (on Ragwort), Hornet, Soldier Beetle. Saturday 18th July 2009 TQ29C (tetrad 'C') 12.30pm Barnet Gate Wood, Hendon Wood Lane, Mill Hill, London (Barnet) NW7 Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper (about 20 on vegetation in corner of hay meadow), Small White, Large White, Comma, Essex Skipper, Small Skipper, Ringlet, Speckled Wood, Green-veined White, Painted Lady (fresh female), Purple Hairstreak, Peacock (fresh), Red Admiral. Southern Hawker, Cinnabar Moth Caterpillars (on Ragwort).

Oakhill Wood LNR, 4pm---Two WLH females on Hemp agrimony--(-same area as the males were using hornbeam keys as launch pads earlier this season)----The entire Oakhill WLH population seems to have relocated into the middle of the wood this year-----none were found on their usual Wych elms on the sunny southern boundary??? ----- NB A friend saw WLH in the front garden of Kitts End Cottages, Kitts End Road, Barnet. last week--- (Part of Wrotham Park estate--scrub elm along roadside) KIT JONES

Friday 17th July 2009

News from the 16th, another walk to junc.14, at around 1700 this time, and a slightly different selection to three days ago. For one thing, there were more Peacocks than I could count - one patch of thistle had over a dozen - whereas there was not even one on 13th. Also an explosion of Gatekeepers, again too many to count. Commas were around in large numbers too: I have never seen so many, including several four-way aerial tussles. (I think others have remarked on the increase in Comma numbers.) Others seen: Red Admiral (5), Painted Lady (1), Meadow Brown (3), Common Blue (2 male), Holly Blue (1), Small White (3), Green-veined White (2), Large White (4). No Purple Hairstreak today - probably just too early, and the sun was very patchy. Finally, I found two nests of Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars, very recently hatched. By the way, I miscounted the total species for the year for this spot the other day - it should be 18 - Dave Miller

Thursday 16th July 2009

Bishops Stortford - A nice selection of species on the buddleia and hebe today: 3 Painted Lady (pristine), 3 Small Tortoiseshell (1 or 2 have been around for a couple of weeks now), 2 Peacocks, 2 Comma, 3 Large White (again pristine), several Green-veined White, Gatekeeper and Small Skipper. I suspect the Painted Lady and Large Whites were enjoying the first day(s) of adulthood. This has been the best year for Small Tortoiseshell in the garden for some years - Andrew Palmer

Nomansland Common - 6 Small Copper plus at least 4 Purple Hairstreaks all down low on shrubs following recent heavy rain - Malcolm Hull

Records for today from Aldbury Nowers - S1- Small heath Peacock Gatekeeper S2 - Small white Green veined white S2/S3 Corridor - Brimstone Coppice glade - Marbled white Peacock Meadow brown Gatekeeper Ringlet Ridgeway glades - Silver washed fritillary - at least 2 - 1 female seen and photographed, a male seen and photographed further along the trail with sightings of 2 more fritillary like butterflies flying through the woodlands. Large skipper Comma Peacock Green veined white Speckled wood Small white Ringlet N3- Brimstone Comma N4 - Marbled white - Paul Thrush

Some sightings for today (Thurs 16th July 2009) - 1 Comma, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 11:37 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Vicarage Farm, 11:39 BST. 2 Peacock, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:46 - 11:47 BST. 1 Red Admiral, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:47 BST. 1 Painted Lady, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 11:52 BST. 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 11:54 BST. 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 12:13 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, at Park Farm, 12:19 BST. 2 Peacock, together, near Duncan's Wood, 12:25 BST. 3 Painted Lady, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:18 - 13:21 BST. 2 Peacock, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:21 BST. 1 female Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:21 BST. 1 Red Admiral, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:37 BST. 2 Comma, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, 13:39 BST. 1 Comma, Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 14:04 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, on Ash, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 14:06 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 14:14 BST. 1 Peacock, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 14:17 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 14:20 BST. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 15th July 2009

6-spot Burnets have been present on both Bunkers Park and Long Deans NR in greater numbers than I can remember having seen before. Also, this has been a record year for Marbled Whites and Ringlets on my Bunkers Park transect. Michael Pearson

A **Six-belted Clearwing** *Bembecia ichneumoniformis* was recorded this lunchtime in the Wildlife Garden of the Natural History Museum. It's the first time that this species has been recorded there. - Martin Honey

Tuesday 14th July 2009

A freshly emerged Brown Argus in a small private wood near St Albans - Malcolm Hull

Got home from my tring park transect walk yesterday. Monday 13th July and my son had left a message on my phone. he works at the Tring Icknield Way industrial estate and had just popped out of the factory, when he nearly trod on a butterfly ! it was obviously dying, so decided to pop it round to my house for me to see, thinking he would not be believed. was tatty around the edges, but still alive, just, was this MALE PURPLE EMPEROR!!! Not seen any at tring park again! - Brian Jessop

Last night (13th July) on Horsenden Hill still plenty of Purple Hairstreak around despite the rather windy conditions particularly on the west side. I secured about 20 on Horsenden East, 16 on Horsenden West and 2 on Paradise Fields. On Sunday 12th, still 2 White-letter Hairstreaks along the cycle track close to the farm, with one rather tatty individual nectaring on one of the few remaining bramble flowers in that general area. Saturday 11th, at least 1 Ringlet in Perivale Wood and 3 Marbled Whites on Horsenden West transect. - Andy Culshaw

Some news for today (Tues 14th July 2009) - 4 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm (1 at 'Barracks', 09:01 BST, 1 along track, 09:29 BST, 1 off Hog Hill, 09:34 BST, 1 along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, 11:04 BST); 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, 09:07 BST; 1 female Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm, 09:09 BST; 1 Common Blue, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:14 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 11:56 BST; 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:25 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:29 BST; 1 Comma, Water Grdn, Trent Park, 12:44 BST. - Robert Callf

Sighting today at Broxbourne Wood despite sun and showers 1 white Admiral, 2 Red Admiral, 1 large skipper, 100+ ringlets 60+ gatekeepers 30+ meadow browns + Riband Wave moth - A J Steele

Monday 13th July 2009

Barnhill, Sat 11th July 2009 Went for a test walk up Barnhill with some just arrived hiking sticks (bought for October's Scotland trip). While up there many of the usual suspects. Scores of Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers. A few Skippers, 10-20 each of Whites and Speckled Wood, and one Comma. Kenton Sun 12th July 2009 A pristine Red Admiral (freshly emerged?) found resting on a fence post near Buddleiah. Allowed me to get really close with the camera, even in front of its head - never done that before. Full frame 12 megapixels could be a candidate for an A4 print. Could even go to A3. Cool! Also Small and Large White seen. Plus a Comma feeding on the Buddleiah later in the day. Harlequin also seen on one tomato plant. - Mike Rubin

Visit to Wilstone Reservoir on Monday 6th July. Strong wind. I walked along the NE bank. Between SP909132 and SP910132 I saw 22 Small Tortoiseshell between 11am and 11.10. The bank had not been cut and there were 7 Tort on one thistle plant. Also I saw 7 Small White flying round hedges and trees. - Helen

News for yesterday (Sunday 12th July 2009) - 2 Red Admiral, (1 edge of Church Wood, 12:21 BST, 1 near tube-line, 14:08 BST, Trent Park); 5 Small Copper, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:40 - 14:04 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park, 12:51 BST. 1 Painted Lady, near Triangular Wood, 13:30 BST. 1 Peacock, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 13:47 BST. 1 Marbled White, rather worn and tatty, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 14:11 BST. News for today (Monday 13th July 2009) - 1 Comma, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:41 BST. 1 male Marbled White, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:50 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, on thistles, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:52 BST. 1 Small Copper, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:02 BST. 1 female Essex Skipper, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm,

11:02 BST. 2 Green-veined White, together, at Park Farm, 11:51 BST. 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 11:55 BST. - Robert Callf

Today at 11am on the Firs and Ponds reserve there were 2 marbled whites in the open meadow area in the centre of the woodland. - Graham Smith

Bricket Wood Common - not so much about on a cool damp morning, so only 15 Marbled Whites, 7 Peacocks, 2 Brimstones (both female), 10 Silver-washed Fritillaries (3 female), 10 White Admirals, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Purple Hairstreaks, 5 Comma & the usual supporting cast of browns whites & skippers - Malcolm Hull

I walked along the River Colne to junction 14 again this evening (around 1900). Along the riverside I encountered the usual Commas setting up their stalls at regular intervals, with a couple of Red Admirals swooping in and being vigorously chased away. I also found a mating pair of Gatekeepers. Further on in the wooded bit right next to the motorway roundabout, there were more Commas and Red Admirals, plus a freshly emerged female Common Blue. This was the darkest, most chocolate-coloured individual I have ever seen, and if it wasn't for the merest sprinkle of blue scales, I would have believed it was a Brown Argus. But there was more interest to come. On the embankment next to the main road from the Airport, where it joins the roundabout, there is a screen of trees of medium height, including two or three oaks. Flying around the tops of these were a dozen or so Purple Hairstreaks. After watching them for a while I realised that they were flying back and forth from the ash trees I was standing underneath. In fact there were more in the ash trees than around the oaks, and lower down. I was able to get a few pictures at extreme 10x zoom, which at least show a recognisable and identifiable butterfly. Finally, to add to the tally, there was one each of Holly Blue, Speckled Wood and Meadow Brown, and three brand new Painted Ladies. Not bad for so late in the day... The overall total for this location this year so far is 17 species. - Dave Miller

Sunday 12th July 2009

Bricket Wood Branch Field Trip (am) - Despite the early rain, 25 butterfly spotters assembled at St Stephens Parish Centre. The hedge there alongside Drop Lane contained a good amount of elm & we saw approx 4 White-letter Hairstreak, including one at rest. Brimstone, Red Admiral, Essex Skipper, Gatekeeper, Comma & Large White were all on the same hedge. Tearing ourselves away, we headed for the Common, pausing at some oaks on Station Rd, where we had a good view of a single Purple Hairstreak through binoculars & on digital camera. Along the ride, a large cloud passed over & Ringlets were the main species in evidence. But when the sun returned we were rewarded with Marbled White, White Admiral (6 in total) and Silver-washed Fritillary. Unusually the first two SWF's were both females, nectaring close together on bramble. Males patrolled up & down the ride at high speed, behaviour which makes a precise count difficult. At one point three were seen flying together. In total 3 females were positively identified & 2 males, though most of those patrolling are likely to be males. A conservative total is 12, including 11 along the ride plus one more seen later in School Lane. More Marbled Whites were seen on the thistle patch on the Hertfordshire Way, another Brimstone and a new Peacock. In total 19 butterfly species were recorded including (in addition to those mentioned above) Large & Small Skipper, Small & Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Speckled Wood & Comma. Heading back along School Lane we saw several Green-veined Whites & a Skipper taking moisture or salts from mud beside a puddle. Moths included Straw Dot, Dusky Footman & Vapourer. Watercress Wildlife Reserve, Riverside Rd, St Albans (pm) - Visited the site of this new transect on a local nature reserve, where BC have been advising on planting to attract butterflies. Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Comma, Large Skipper, Ringlet, Large, Small & Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper plus Blood-vein Moth. Also news of a sighting of SWF on last weeks transect (4 July) - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 11th July 2009

10th July 2009 - Broxbourne Woods West on the main ride: Meadow Brown, Comma, Silver-washed Fritillary, Large Skipper, Ringlet, Large White, White Admiral. I wasn't lucky enough to see the sighting of the Purple Emperor! - Marion Moss

News from July 5th. Evening. Found marbled whites, burnets and small skippers on the layby at the south turning to Tring at the Wiggington turn off from the A41 bypass. Later at Aldbury Nowers more marbled whites, ringlets, one fresh 6 spot burnet and some 5 spots beginning to look tatty. Purpose of visit was to find summer chafer beetles which come out just after sunset. Success! Thursday pm July 9th at Bricket Wood along the ride. One vivid brimstone colliding with a white, possibly a female brimstone, several marbled whites feeding on thistles, 1 comma

sunbathing on bridge, many small skippers and large skippers (one with what I think was a tiny parasitic fly on its body), large whites... some mating, small whites, 1 resting ringlet and 1 dead, 1 white admiral, several meadow browns, several gatekeepers, speckled woods. Overall 12 types of butterfly which was a good trip for an afternoon. Elizabeth Debenham

Some news for today (Saturday 11th July 2009) - 2 Comma, at Vicarage Farm (1 'Barracks', 10:20 BST, 1 near Hadley Road, 11:04 BST); 1 Peacock, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:57 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, at Parkside Farm, 11:25 BST. 1 Red Admiral, Park Farm, 11:45 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:25 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park; 1 female Essex Skipper, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:35 BST. 1 Peacock, near Icehouse Wood, 12:53 BST. 1 Southern Hawker, S edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 13:17 BST - First of the year! 1 Purple Hairstreak, S edge of Shaws Wood, 13:17 BST. - Robert Callf

Friday 10th July 2009

In Norton Green/Cannocks Wood, 20+ Purple Hairstreaks on low-level vegetation (brambles and bracken) between 1045 and 1200. Whilst searching for Purple Emperors on tree tops in nearby Watery Grove, saw only 3 PHs - too windy for them? - Peter Clarke

Well that was curious. I was busy tending to some tomato plants in warmish / bright / overcast conditions and taking pictures of a growing stalk of them and noticed something different right by my hand. Lo and behold a pair of mating Small Whites sitting there on the tomato plant a centimeter or so from my hand. I wouldn't be surprised if I touched them before I noticed them. They've been fluttering around the area all afternoon. - Mike Rubin

Evening jaunt to Symondshyde wood between 1740 & 1930 found me 3 SILVER WASHED FRITILLARY. 1 of which was a glorious female feeding on thistles, with a male on a separate plant, briefly for about a minute. They were seen about two thirds of the way up of the ride with telegraph poles in. Alas didn't have time to get a shot (as with most butterflies this year). Also numerous PURPLE HAIRSTREAK dotted about most of the wood but mainly around the entrance to the bridle path. Alas yet again no sighting of WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK. Knew this species would be a nightmare (though I note that Steve Chilton has had them...lucky guy). - Darin Stanley

Aldbury Nowers, Tring (am) - A cold north wind concentrated the butterflies in south facing shelter belts. 4 Fritillaries - Silver washed male in clearing on the Ridgeway path, another male SWF along the woodland path just behind the layby field & another SWF nearby, plus a likely DGF (not seen at rest) at the bottom of the slope in the clearing north of Turlhanger Wood. Good numbers of Marbled White (60 plus), Comma (9), Ringlets & Whites. Low numbers of Small Copper (2), Common Blue (3 all male), Painted Lady (1), Small Tortoiseshell (2), Red Admiral (1). Species list also included Small, Large, Essex Skippers, Green-veined Large & Small Whites, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper & Speckled Woods, Moths - Silver Y, Shaded Broad Bar, 6-spot & Narrow bordered 5 spot Burnets. - Malcolm, Dudley & Joyce Hull

Whippendell Wood, Watford (pm) - 12 Silver-washed Fritillaries, of which 9 were confirmed as males and two as females. Also 2 White Admirals, 21 Commas, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small Copper, 4 Purple Hairstreaks plus the usual range of browns, whites & skippers. This is possibly the highest total for SWF from a single site in Herts for over 40 years, which fully compensated for our lack of success in finding Purple Emperor (yet) - Malcolm Hull and Colin Everett

During a two hour visit to Symondshyde Great Wood today (10th July) I saw five or six White Admiral, two Silver-washed Fritillary and at least two White-letter Hairstreak. I managed to take some decent photographs of the Hairstreak and a few record shots of the Fritillary and White Admiral. There were also several Green-veined Whites, Meadow Browns & Gatekeepers as well as numerous Commas and Ringlets. - Steve Chilton

Parked at the local nature reserve Therfield heath at 09.45 and walked east along the south of the heath, seen were, 50+ meadow brown, 20+ gatekeeper 3 ringlet, 6 large skipper, 16 small skipper, 12 large white, 5 small white, singles of small tortoiseshell, red admiral & brimstone, over on the eastern side, 32 marbled white and **12 chalkhill blue**, some of the marbled whites are already looking worn, I then parked up east of Plashes wood at the Latchford turning, as I walked up the track west I noticed many whites over the cereal crops and along the side of the wood, at the entrance there were 8 ringlets, 6 meadow brown, 2 small skipper, 1 comma, & 4 large white nectaring on a bramble patch, inside the wood was pretty shaded and only 2 speckled wood were

seen here, behind the farm house 3 commas basked, on the bridleway, on one bramble bank there were 12 ringlet and 2 small skipper, seen on the walk back through hanging wood I noted 1 red admiral, 2 small tortoiseshell and 4 ringlet, disappointed not to find any white admiral which have previously been here, although much of the wood is private - Laurence Drummond

I spent a few hours here between 1030 and 1300. Ringlets, Meadow Brown and whites abundant. Male Purple Emperor seen for about fifteen minutes, a little way west of where yesterday's sighting. Another? was seen about an hour later near the seat. Only one White Admiral. Images on my blog <http://philbishopsbirdingblog.blogspot.com/> Phil Bishop

News for today (Friday 10th July 2009) - 2 Purple Hairstreak, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 11:25 BST. 2 Small Copper, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 11:39 - 11:41 BST. 1 Comma, near Sports Field, Trent Park, 11:42 BST. 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:03 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, edge of Ride Wood, Trent Park, 12:17 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Ride Wood, Trent Park, 12:17 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 12:27 BST. 1 female Large Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:01 BST. 1 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:02 BST. 2 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, 13:13 and 13:29 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at Vicarage Farm, 13:26 BST. - Robert Callf

Thursday 9th July 2009

Quick jaunt around Hitch wood nr Preston looking for Woodcock found me 5 PURPLE HAIRSTREAK amongst Oaks early PM. - Darin Stanley

Horsendeh Hill, 40+ Gatekeepers 40+ Meadow Browns 10+ Skippers 5+ Whites - including 2 Large Whites and 1 Green Veined White 1x Marbled White 1x Small Copper 1x Comma 1x Red Admiral 1x Speckled Wood 1x Silver Y 2x 6 Spot Burnet - Mike Rubin

Broxbourne Wood Nature Reserve Field Trip ~ a larger crowd than of recent years joined this field trip and soon located a male purple emperor feeding down on the path for an hour or so. The butterfly was in pristine condition and allowed very close approach for all in the 20+ group who wished to take pictures, be it with mobile phone or more professional looking equipment. Eventually it flew to the tree tops, then later made off north, whereupon everyone appeared to be satisfied, apart from a few late arrivals. There were also a few sightings of white admiral, and other more common species, along the main ride. Later, in the afternoon, some of the group went on to Northaw Great Wood where 3 purple emperors were seen ~ Andrew Middleton

The following seen at Hatfield Aerodrome, Hatfield, Hertfordshire Am on the 5th July, Good numbers of Marbled White - judging by the numbers appears to be a colony here. Also good numbers Meadow Brown, 1 x Gatekeeper, also a few Small Tortoiseshell, Small Skipper, & Small White. - David Wheatcroft

Wednesday 8th July 2009

Monday 6th July While walking my dogs on Monday afternoon, on an open area of Northchurch Common, above Dudswell (SP9710), I saw a staggering number of butterflies. First it was a moderately high number of ringlets and meadow browns going about their business individually. Then when I came to a bramble bush in blossom in a hedgerow, the whole thing seemed to be trembling. Some 50 butterflies, especially gatekeepers and skippers (small, I think), but also plenty of meadow browns, marbled whites and ringlets. Further on, I came round a clump of bushes onto open ground with plenty of thistles. There I counted 40 marbled whites without changing my position. Finally, I should mention that there was a truly enormous number of cinnabar moth caterpillars. Almost every ragwort plant had them, sometimes about 50 to a plant, and there were a good number of plants stripped of leaves. I also came across several case of a plant with caterpillars on also being visited by one of the moths, perhaps seeking places to lay the next generation. Over this whole area of the common there must be many thousands of the caterpillars. If Butterfly Magazine is correct in recording a national decline of 83 per cent over 35 years, stand by for a dramatic reversal! - Patrick Lepper

Bury Farm, Edgware, Middx, John Rogers and I saw several (about 8) Marbled White Butterflies when undertaking a flora survey on Tuesday 30th June 2009. The farm is in TQ19. These fields are in TQ19X. These fields are under threat of development - cemetery extension - and will be bereft of wildlife if planning permission is granted. Other species: Green-veined White Small & Large Whites Tortoiseshell Meadow Brown Purple Hairstreak Small Skipper Ringlet Five-spot Burnet Moth - Bob Husband.

Horsenden Hill, caught a brief break in the cloud. The only sunshine of the day thankfully timed over lunch. Now all gloomy again. Was warm and muggy. I didn't do a proper count alas so mostly approximations. 30+ Gatekeepers 30+ Meadow Browns - all faded - scales washed off by the heavy rain??? 10-20 Whites including courting small whites and a large white feeding on thistle. 10+ Skippers. Possibly all Small / Essex. 4 Marbled Whites - 3 of them together in Batts Field. 3-4 Commas 1 Holly Blue - the summer brood has arrived! 1 Unidentified Satyrid. A smattering of those C. Culmella moths. Saw no Hairstreaks at all despite keeping my eyes peeled for them. Is it too late now for White Letters? Surely Purples must still be around? - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 7th July 2009

Heartwood Forest, Sandridge - Four additional species, Purple Hairstreak, Small Copper, Essex Skipper & Gatekeeper, bringing my butterfly species total for the site to 20. Most spectacular is the display of Large Whites on a field of unsprayed brassicas to the west & west of Well/Puddlers Wood (TL1511) - based on several estimates of the number within a 10 sq meter area & calculating the total size of the field, I'd say there were approx 5,000 in total. Quite amazing as they flew around individually & in little groups of up to 20 individuals, stretching away right across the field to Round Wood - Malcolm Hull

Horsenden Hill Field Trip report for 27th June 2009: The walk was a success. Prior to meeting everyone, I had a quick spin around the site, registering 17 White-letters including 1 nectaring. A good omen. By the time 17 people had assembled for the walk (including Dave and myself) a bit of cloud had drifted in and activity dropped off a bit. Nevertheless, we quickly scored with White-letters, though they were being a bit uncooperative and it took some time to get good views for everyone. I always take my scope on this walk these days and it proves very useful for getting good views of WLH. We also got some stonking views of freshly emerged Purple H., basking low down. So, the first section of the walk (actually part of section 1 of the Horsenden East transect) registered perhaps as many as 5 White-letters, 2 Purple H and a supporting cast of Comma, Speckled Wood and Large Skipper. Moving onto the cycle track (section 1 of the Horsenden West transect) we registered another 3 WLH with one briefly flirting with the brambles but not settling. Onto Home Mead (covering parts of sections 10 and 11 of the East transect) we had 2-3 Marbled White, Comma, Gatekeeper, Common Blue, Meadow Brown, Small Skipper, our first Essex Skipper of the year (netted and temporarily potted to allow people to appreciate the antennae difference compared with Small) and some other bits and pieces like Narrow-bordered 5 spot and 6 Spot Burnets, Burnet Companion, Silver Y and the attractive micro Agapeta zoegana. We finished off with a visit to our favoured 'honeydew tree' and scored with another 2 Purple H and our best scoped views of WLH of the day. Back to Horsenden Farm to look through the contents of the moth trap that Dave and I had run there overnight. A good selection, including crowd pleasers like Peach Blossom, Poplar Hawk, Buff Arches and Burnished Brass. On last weekends Horsenden West transect there was still at least 1 WLH and good numbers of Marbled White - I got 5 in all. Off transect I got a Ringlet near the Ballot Box pub, only my second locally (though I understand that on Saturday Dave got 'several' in Perivale Wood). Unlikely that we would have overlooked these in the past, so I guess they are continuing to spread - seem to be doing pretty well at Brent Res, for example. - Andrew Culshaw with Dave Howdon

I saw two White Admiral butterflies nectaring and basking on some bramble within my transect (Sherrards Park Wood, Welwyn Garden City) on Thursday. I have been to look in the same area of bramble on two subsequent occasions but have not seen them again. However, on my return through my garden yesterday I saw another basking on some ivy about 8-9ft up an oak tree. It, or another was flying there today in a small clearing adjacent to the house which is on the edge of the woodland. Although I have not seen them nectaring I think they may be attracted by some privet and buddleia blossom which are both out at the moment. I think this may be the first time they have been recorded in this wood though they may have been present in the oak canopy for some time. The Purple Hairstreak are present again this year in some numbers in three oaks bordering our garden. I have not yet visited the other areas where we saw them before - Gwynneth Pearman Jenkins

Today: Nothing! A very heavy shower went through at lunchtime! Monday Grove Farm, Middlesex, TQ18 despite mostly 8/8 cloud and showers: 4x Gatekeeper 2x Meadow Brown 2x Speckled Wood 1x Comma - possibly injured. Was flying very oddly like a fish out of water. Vanished down into the brambles before I could get a closer look. 1x White 1x Unidentified Satyrid. Saturday 4th July, Kenton, Middlesex: A few whites if I remember right. 1x Comma basking on a Pepper plant. 1x Red Admiral flying through. All seen while in the garden. - Mike Rubin

Monday 6th July 2009

At least 3 Purple Hairstreaks in the tops of oaks in the southern half of Balls Wood this evening.
Chris Dee

Mating pair of Silver-washed Fritillaries in Bricket Wood. I had a clear view as they flew past "in cop" and landed on Sallow. After 2 mins they lifted off, still joined together & landed briefly on the grass, before flying up into a nearby oak & proceeding with their business 25ft off the ground! This is the first time I have seen this in Herts & possibly the first record of this species breeding since its recolonisation? I recorded a total of 7 SWF on the transect this morning - is easily the highest number ever for a single week. White Admirals are also doing well at the same site with 10 seen this morning. Marbled White is also doing well on the site & Gatekeeper Small & Essex Skippers also put in their first appearance on the transect this week. [The branch field trip around the site takes place this Sunday, 12 July - see Events Diary page for details](#) - Malcolm Hull

I recorded today a manic male sw fritillary in Highfield wood at 14.28, heading wsw along the track, same part where I've been watching the pemps - Laurence Drummond

One Marbled White on Broadmeads, Ware today, I think that is a site first - Andrew Wood

Conducted my WCS walk today in the High Cross area. Despite having to stop for about 20minutes whilst it rained, was surprised how many Marbled Whites were flying along the A10 bypass, also a pristine Small Tortoiseshell and fresh Small Copper were seen. 12 species in total were recorded. Later went to Broxbourne Common hoping to see PE on territory but mostly cloud and very windy in the canopy. At least 3 active White Admirals and 3 clashing Commas in adjacent clearing and the oak/ash were busy with Purple Hairstreaks when the sun decided to shine. - Liz Goodyear

Some news for today (Monday 6th July 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, hedgerow off Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 09:58 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Parkside Farm, 10:24 BST. 2 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 10:28 and 10:29 BST. 1 Comma, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:00 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:00 BST. 1 Comma, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:43 BST. - Robert Callf

3/7/2009 - Firs Wood, Potters Bar, 16:30 At least 4 Marbled Whites - P. Smith

Yesterday's viewing on the green at Westland Green and in the verges along Chapel Lane leading from Little Hadham, Herts (post code SG112AA) Ringlet (100's) meadow brown (100's) small skipper (50+) essex skipper (50+) large skipper (15+) PURPLE HAIRSTREAK (1:1st for parish on the green at Westland Green) MARBLED WHITE (4) **small tortoiseshell (50+ big numbers after the decline of the last few years)** gatekeeper (15+: 1st for 2009) speckled wood (4) painted lady (10) six spot burnet moth (7: on the green at Westland Green, 1st for 2009) - Jono Forgham

Sunday 5th July 2009

I ventured out into the purple empire again today, unusually for me parked at the goose green car park, then walked south along Ermine street, turned wsw into Highfield wood, white admirals are doing well here this year 8+ seen with a dark aberrant again, many commas, small & large skippers, large whites, meadow browns, ringlets, 1 painted lady and 1 gatekeeper, at 10.25 I stopped at the spot where I saw the emperors yesterday, none were seen until @ 10.50 one was seen to cross the ride in a southerly direction, no more until at 11.09 a sudden burst of activity around the tops of the trees with 3 presumed males clashing and searching the hornbeam and sallow, this again stopped as quickly as it started, @ 11.57 a large male swooped down out of a sallow nearby and shot over my shoulder in an ene direction along the track flying low and fast, it then appeared flying back towards me and showed signs it may ground but did not and I lost sight of it along the track wsw, then a small male showed what I believe is known as sallow searching, made repeated short flights in out and around the top of one sallow, I stayed until 12.40 but no more sightings were made here so I headed wsw along the track, then close to the crossway between Highfield and cowheath woods I nearly stepped on a male feeding on fox dung!!, he flew up and around me and up to the crossway in short very fast bursts and I had trouble keeping a fix on him, he wanted to ground but could not find a spot he was happy with, after me chasing around after him for 15 minutes or so he came back to the fox dung and settled next to it, I crept up to him and as I did he showed off his purple regalia in fine style for around 5 minutes and allowed me to take pics!!, it then hopped up onto the fox dung and fed for another 5 or so minutes before flying of west at around 13.05, now in a daze I turned north along the bridleway towards monks green, at the northern end where the bridleway leaves the wood I noticed a large female emperor gliding

around an oak in a very leisurely fashion ,at one point hovering on the breeze before perching inside the tree,at 13.20 another emperor glided high over the pines here , another fantastic day!
Laurence Drummond

A great day on the Balls Wood for HMWT today. About 30 attendees saw good views of a number of White Admirals (around 7 probable individuals) including a chasing pair. A male Purple Emperor that was spotted high in a tree, and after a few minutes flew around before sitting in an adjacent one. A couple of Silver washed Fritillaries, one of which flew a eye level along the line of us. Plenty of Large, small/Essex Skippers, Ringlets, meadow Brown, comma, Large and Green-veined whites and a few Speckled Wood and fresh looking Gatekeepers. At the end about a dozen of us went to some of the areas of the wood further to the west and recorded another White Admirals, patrolling the tops of the main Sallow patch, a Purple hairstreak, extremely docile in the grass at ground level, which was happy to be potted and carried to a better vantage point at which point it shot off at high speed as cameras were focussed on it. An early summer Peacock was also seen at the same point as was a Painted lady larva (an adult was also spotted on The Heath by a couple of people before the walk started. Earlier in the week I had been told of Silver Washed-fritillary and Marbled White in the wood and one of today's walkers had seen one in the wood, last Sunday 28 June) So that makes three records in the last two years and with more being seen in Hertford and several at Waterford heath it looks as if they are moving more strongly into south east Herts -
Andrew Wood

Saturday 4th July 2009

Margaret Grocock, saw a Purple Emperor on private land close to Weepings Wood and the cricket pitch which is between Bayford and Bayfordbury.

After 4.5 hours of searching I eventually saw a male PE glide across the wide ride on Grubb Ground at 15.05. No evidence of activity at the St Vincents end of the wood. Quite a few Purple Hairstreak in the canopy. 2 White Admirals, 4 Red Admirals, 2 Painted Lady, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, reasonable numbers of Large & Small Skippers, at least 1 Essex Skipper, plenty of Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Large White, GV White, 2 Speckled Wood & 7 Comma. - Steve Pash

My wife and I ventured to north Hertfordshire today (Saturday) to Therfield and Kelshall to complete walk 28 in the book "Pub Walks in Hertfordshire" - 3 1/2 miles long. We saw at least 26 small tortoiseshells - I can't remember seeing so many for several years and nearly all looked fresh and bright. We also saw 100+ ringlets, about the same number of whites (mainly small and green veined I think), about 40 meadow browns and several speckled woods, small skippers and one or two large skippers. Weather mid 20s - fairly bright early on and then more overcast. -
Roger Newbold

After seeing the Purple Emperors (see pics) in Broxbourne Wood (it must be my scope that's mentioned) I went to far-northern Herts where I saw at least three Small Tortoiseshells along Wallington Road near Baldock. - Jan Hein van Steenis

Butterflies on Buddleia - 3 more species today, Large White, Comma & Small White, all nectaring on wild buddleias in Lisson Grove, Marylebone, where I kicked off my contribution Wider "Countryside" Butterfly Survey - Malcolm Hull

Started today at Broxbourne woods main ride 09.00, at least 2 purple emperors seen over and around trees on north side of ride,several observers, no groundings while I was there, at least 6 white admiral, also purple hairstreaks, commas, large and small skippers & lots of browns & one male brimstone. Left at 11.00 for the Martins Green car park Danemead, usual walk north along Ermine Street into hoddessedon park wood, at the crossway my first gatekeeper of the year, happy to report that there are still white admirals here, 2 seen one of witch was an aberration, all dark with just a few white spots where the bands should be, then west into highfield wood. More commas ,skippers,browns,a painted lady & 2 more white admirals, as I reached the high point at about 12.15, what I had really hoped to see here, a purple emperor glided over the tree tops to the south of the path & then did circuits of the area for the next ten minutes, then another one arrived from the north and perched high up in a hornbeam spay,the active emperor continued to circle despite the fairly cloudy conditions until it flew over the spray where the other emperor was perched the two butterflies then clashed and headed off west, amazingly then followed by a third ! @ 12.36, one more was seen on the north side of the path @ 12.48, stayed until 13.15 but no more where seen. Tried the broxbourne common territory @13.25-14.00 but by then conditions where very windy an cloudy no pemp where seen. Laurence Drummond

Best ever time in Bencroft Wood this morning 10-11 am, in particular in short ride going towards field, saw silver washed fritillary, 2 white admirals, red admiral, 6 commas, 2 gatekeepers 15 species in all, over 100 butterflies, purple hairstreak on path in front of me as well as in oaks. Then dropped into Broxbourne Ride and saw purple emperor, courtesy of telescope from one of the watchers - Steve Kiln

Some news for today (Saturday 4th July 2009) - 1 Purple Hairstreak, along tube-line near Oakwood entrance, 12:09 BST. 1 Comma, near Triangular Wood, 12:13 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along tube-line near Oakwood entrance, 12:18 BST. 1 Red Admiral, along tube-line near Oakwood entrance, 12:19 BST. 1 Painted Lady, Sect. 6, 'New Fields'; 1 Comma, edge of Church Wood, 12:33 BST. 1 Painted Lady, edge of Sports Field, Trent Park, 12:47 BST. 1 Comma, near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 13:30 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, at Parkside Farm, 13:44 BST. 2 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 13:58 and 14:00 BST. 3 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, 14:09 - 14:29 BST. 3 Red Admiral, along track at Vicarage Farm, 14:11 - 14:16 BST. - Robert Callf

A morning visit to Ladywalk Wood at Maple Cross gave excellent views of a fresh White letter Hairstreak on thistle heads along the east edge of the wood. Also here many Ringlet, several Marbled White, one Comma, two Painted Lady, two Small Tortoiseshell and a Small Skipper. In all thirteen species. John Edwards

A White Admiral in Knebworth Woods at 1145 today - Peter Clarke

Spent a couple of hours in Balls Wood yesterday and saw more butterflies on the wing than I have seen for at least 10 years. Hundreds of Meadow Brown and Ringlet, good numbers of Small and Large Skippers but more amazingly 30-40 sightings of White Admiral, with at least 9 separate individuals. Unfortunately no Silver-washed Fritillary or Purple Emperor. Alan Reynolds

Here are a few recent reports from my usual walk along the River Colne to Junction 14 and back: 21st June, about 1830 Comma 3 Red Admiral 2 Painted Lady 1 Small tortoiseshell 1 Large White 2 Large Skipper 1 Small Skipper 1 24th June, about 1400 Comma 7 Red Admiral 2 Small Tortoiseshell 1 Painted Lady 1 Meadow Brown 5 Large White 2 Small White 2 Common Blue 1 (extremely ragged...) 25th June, about 1800 Noteworthy from this last trip were the Painted Lady caterpillars - I suspect there were more in the dense thistle patch, but 4 were close to the path. The Gatekeeper was brand spanking new, and a picture is attached. A splendid little butterfly! Finally, studying the various Comma photos I took revealed that one was more of a "G" than a comma, and another was very definitely an "O". I know these varieties have little scientific significance beyond making a common butterfly more interesting to the likes of me... There is also a picture showing that Commas do not always chase everything else in reach. Totals seen: Comma 5+ Red Admiral 1 Meadow Brown 5+ Large Skipper 3 Green-veined White 2 Small White 2 Painted Lady 1, plus 4 caterpillars Gatekeeper 1 Dave Miller

Friday 3rd July 2009

30th June. Red admiral flying over patio in Kings Langley, comma on buddleia in neighbouring garden, painted lady in country lane, whites + one meadow brown in garden. July 1st several ringlets on hazelnut tree at Bricket Wood around sunset. July 3rd. Thrilled to have one marbled white in my garden and in evening FOUR marbled whites in Barnes lane, Kings Langley!! Three were resting on umbelliferae flowers and tall grasses between the barley crop and hedgerow. One very active painted lady flying under oak trees and settling on road briefly, one ringlet resting on brambles which is a first for me in this location. Masses of peacock butterfly caterpillars on nettles this week in the lane. Elizabeth Debenham

Today popped into **Therfield heath** while coming back from north. Saw 4 or five **chalk hill blues** plus 10 or so marbled whites. Dropped into waterford heath south and there was a marbled white there too. Steve Kiln

News for today (Friday 3rd July 2009) - Several Gatekeeper, including my first female of the year, set-aside field near Dew Pond, 13:25 - 13:28 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, settled on Turkey Oak, near Dew Pond, 13:28 BST. 1 Comma, nectaring on thistles, near Icehouse Wood, 13:33 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, near Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 13:34 BST. 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:28 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Parkside Farm, 14:30 BST. 2 Comma, together, at Parkside Farm, 14:32 BST. 4 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, between 14:43 - 14:47 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, at Vicarage Farm, 14:44 BST. 2 Red Admiral, along track at Vicarage Farm,

14:44 - 14:47 BST. Also there was a Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield yesterday (Friday 3rd July 2009) nectaring on thistles at 14:35 BST. - Robert Callf

2nd July - Ruislip/Harefield Yesterday evening at approx 18.30 I saw a WL Hairstreak on Bramble along the bridleway between New Years Green Lane & Bayhurst Wood (TQ 068884). There are young Elms nearby. Also in the vicinity were Plenty of Meadow Browns and at least 6 Comma, a few Gatekeeper, Large Skipper, Small/Essex Skipper, Large & GV White, Red Admiral, & Small Tortoiseshell. Steve Pash

Thursday 2nd July 2009

OAKHILL WOODS LNR EAST BARNET, WLH still flying but outnumbered now by Purple H-----
--Frst Ringlet and Gatekeeper of year-----Released 106 Peacocks on site that had been taken into protective custody as first instar larvae----44 tachinids also from this batch-----these i destroyed-----New Colony of Marbled white found -----Clay lane fields west of M1 Scratchwood LBB-----
----(-very few MW records in LBB)---And---WLH x2 on small leaved elm along Jewish cemetery boundary-----this whole area is due for developement unfortunately-----KIT JONES

Purple emperors were rampant in Broxbourne woods main ride 09.00-11.00 !, first sighting over the shallows and the smashed up oak, at 09.16, at 09.20 I looked west up the track through my bins only to see a grounded pemp between the bracken patch and the new "clearing" on the north side of the ride,as I approached it I could see he (male) was feeding on some dried belachan paste I had smeared on some stones the day before, it allowed a very close approach, over the next hour or so 3 males were almost constantly gliding & grounding along the ride, flying around our legs & feeding on the belachan, they did not open their wings much when grounded due to the heat I think, a fantastic day, also there to share the spectacle were several others - Laurence Drummond

A bit of good news for a change: Firstly, small tortoiseshell now plentiful on the allotments at back of my house. Secondly, first ever record of a ringlet in my Bengoe garden 25th June. - Jack Doyle

Today (Thurs 2nd July 2009) at Barrowfield Road Allotments, Edmonton saw a Small Skipper and a Comma. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 1st July 2009

Bricket Wood, 5 Silver-washed Fritillaries, 4 males and a single female, 11 White Admiral, 4 Purple Hairstreaks were among very large numbers of Ringlets in Bricket Wood this morning. - Clive Burrows

Doing my transect today (**Balls Wood**) when a large butterfly flew past my left shoulder, circled my legs and almost landed on my shoe before flying off into the wood, it was clearly a pristine male **Purple Emperor**. Also saw 6 White Admirals which is a considerable improvement on the last two weeks. Andrew Wood

A long day today, started at Broxbourne woods main ride 09.30-11.20, despite the lack of sunshine until around 10.30, seen were 3 white admiral, 6 comma, 8 large skipper, 4 purple hairstreak, 3 painted lady, many ringlet & meadow brown, no purple emperors, at 13.20 arrived at Martins green carpark and walked north along ermine street and into danemead nature reserve here there were many ringlet and 3 small skipper, on the bridleway west of the reserve 1 white admiral, I then walked back south along the bridleway to broxbourne common to check the canopy gap at the western end of the veteran oaks for emperors from 13.40-14.15, none were seen, then back to **Broxbourne woods** ain ride at 14.35, stood at the back of the grass area just before the bench and at 14.45 saw a large butterfly fluttering around in a willow bush, a quick scan with the bins showed it to be a **purple emperor**, probably newly emerged slowly opening and closing its wings, then more unusually a marbled white went whizzing by !, at 15.20 I decided to walk back to the car and on the southern side of the ride by the patch of bracken noted a large purple emperor gliding around high up over the pines, almost straight away I then noted another emperor flying low along the sculpture trail, I jumped over the wooden railing just in time to see it settle on the path, I tried to approach it slowly but it was off away east through the trees and I could not relocate it - Laurence Drummond

Symondshyde Great Wood, Hatfield - 6 Silver-washed Fritillaries along the bridleway & power cable ride - the most I have seen at this site. Its now 6 years since I first saw this species here & it now appears to have become established in this wood. Also 6 White Admirals - quite a good total

for this wood, but not as high as some years. I saw a courting couple of WA's & also one laying on honeysuckle on the edge of a small clearing, about 12 ft off the ground. Also one Purple Hairstreak, one Large Skipper, nine Commas & lots of Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods & Whites. Heartwood Forest, Sandridge - I'm now up to 16 species at the Woodland Trust site. Huge numbers of Meadow Browns & Large Whites, the latter thriving on fields of unsprayed brassicas. Still quite a few Painted Ladies, with some specimens very faded and others pristine - could this be a rare example of a butterfly meeting its parents? Lots of Commas, Ringlets & Large Skippers plus a few Small Tortoiseshells, Red Admirals, Marbled Whites, Speckled Woods, Cinnabar moths & Small Skippers. The branch are providing information to HMWT who are preparing an environmental study of the site before tree planting commences. This is due in by mid July. If anyone has any butterfly records from the site please let me know. Last but not least, my first butterfly on buddleia this year - a Red Admiral in my St Albans garden - Malcolm Hull

2 Silver-washed Fritillaries in Norton Green Common area, Stevenage at 1200 hours today. Also 100+ Ringlets, 30+ Marbled Whites, 2 Small Tortoiseshells (first seen here for several years), 2 Purple Hairstreaks and a possible White-letter Hairstreak as well as a Red Admiral, several Commas, whites, skippers, Meadow Browns and a Gatekeeper. - Peter Clarke

News for Tuesday 30th June, 1 Red Admiral, at Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 19:01 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Shaws Wood, 19:02 BST. 1 female Large White, near Williams Wood, Trent Park, 19:03 BST. 1 male Gatekeeper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 19:43 BST. 6+ Purple Hairstreak, around Oak crown, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 19:50 BST. 2 Purple Hairstreak, at Parkside Farm, 20:07 BST. 7+ Purple Hairstreak, around Oak and Ash, Hadley Road near Pumping Station, 20:40 BST. 3+ Painted Lady, along track at Vicarage Farm, 20:56 BST onwards. News for today (Weds 1st July 2009) - 1 female Large White, at Dalrymple Close, N14, 10:11 BST. 1 Comma, on buddleia, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 10:28 BST. - Robert Callf

Garston railway station TQ 11 99 - Large White, Holly Blue & Red Admiral; nearby at TQ 12 99 - White-letter Hairstreak & Comma, both on Wych Elm. Dome roundabout area in North Watford TQ 11 99 - Red Admiral by Sainsbury store - Colin Everett

Horsenden Hill, only 27-28C today and drier air, so a bit more bearable. 95+x Meadow Browns! 19x Skippers 12x Whites 5x Gatekeeper (All Males) 5x Marbled White 2x Unidentified Hairstreaks - one was close to Kellogg Tower / Greenford Road flying onto an Ash Tree. No Oak or Elm nearby. Curious... The 2nd was around oak so probably Purple. 2-3x Comma 2x Speckled Wood 2x 5 Spot Burnet (looking tatty now) I think that was it. Activity so frenetic in the meadows that it was hard to count and keep track of everything. Also in the morning a Least Carpet moth hitched a ride into the office on my bag. I recognised it but it flew off into an office not to be seen again so failed to catch it and take it outside. Also in the last couple of evenings several Whites (mainly Green Veined) and a Comma spotted in Kenton. The Comma was basking on one of my pepper plants. (Despite the large-hail (1-2cm) and severely heavy thunderstorm last Saturday pm punching holes in and tearing all the leaves the veg plants seem to be coping OK thankfully.) - Mike Rubin

I saw 2 white admirals yesterday (tuesday) in wormley wood entered by the south entrance on hammond street walked along the fence and down the main path going to the right both were not far down the path. Would i expect to see purple emperor in this wood? also today wednesday saw 1 white admiral on the ride from west carpark broxbourne wood no sign of P E have any been seen this year? Paul Coyston