

Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch

Butterfly Sightings 2016

~ 29th December 2016 ~

Ched George reports that a female **Brimstone** was seen by the BBOWT work party at **Yeosden Bank, Bucks** on **8th December**, and a **Comma** was seen in his garden at **Radnage, Bucks** on 29th December.

~ 22nd December 2016 ~

Brian Clews sent these sightings: "Two butterfly sightings whilst bird surveying, **14th December**: 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, flying near **Amerden Scrapes, Bucks** (SU912807), and 1 **Red Admiral**, sunning, at footbridge, south of **West Town Farm, Bucks** (SU920800)."

Don Stone reports seeing a **Small Tortoiseshell** in flight at **South Heath, Bucks**, on 14th December.

~ 11th December 2016 ~

Nick Bowles sent this sighting: "The work party at **Holtspur Bottom, Bucks** today (11th December) had a visitation from a **Red Admiral**."



Red Admiral
Photo © Tony Gillie

Dave Miller sent this news: "A friend of mine saw a female **Brimstone** while out walking in **Taplow, Bucks** on 9th December."

~ 5th December 2016 ~

Martin Kincaid sent this sighting: "An unusual sighting to report on **1st December**. Attending the launch of the Rock 'n Roll exhibition at **Milton Keynes Central Library**, the crowds were delighted when a **Small Tortoiseshell** emerged and proceeded to fly circuits of the exhibition room, landing on a few lucky guests. Looked very fresh and colourful. It was a bizarre but beautiful moment. Not surprised it was woken from hibernation as the place was heated like a sauna!"

~ 26th November 2016 ~

John Ward-Smith sent this news: "Just before mid-day on **25th November** a single **Red Admiral**

was seen basking in the sunshine at [Felix Farm Trout Fishery, Binfield, Berkshire](#). A single **Common Darter** dragonfly was on the wing at the same site."

~ 13th November 2016 ~

Michael Hunt sent this news: "A **Red Admiral** out in the sunshine here in [Buckingham, Bucks](#) today, 13th November."

Don Stone reported the following: "Lee Common, Bucks, 11th November. Surprised to see a **Red Admiral** in a sunny spot in the garden feeding on Michaelmas Daisies."

~ 5th November 2016 ~

Michael Hunt had 1 **Small Tortoiseshell** in his garden in [Buckingham, Bucks](#) on 30th October and a **Brimstone** and **Small Tortoiseshell** on 31st October.

Ray Goodearl reported the following: "A little late in reporting this one: on Thursday 6th October a **Clouded Yellow** was photographed in [Downley, High Wycombe, Bucks](#) in a field just above the old West Wycombe station site. I waited about an hour, two **Red Admirals** were on the wing, on a cloudy day, then along came this gem. My sister had seen it the previous 3 days in the same area."



Clouded Yellow
Photo © Ray Goodearl

~ 29th October 2016 ~

This report came from Chris Webster: "Today, October 28th, in a [Caversham, Berks](#) cemetery a female **Holly Blue** was visiting flowering Ivy. A **Speckled Wood** also appeared, but for a change I saw no Red Admirals."

Michael Hunt sent this report: "A single **Small Tortoiseshell** in our garden in [Buckingham, Bucks](#) twice today (27th October)."

David Hastings sent the following: "I saw a **Red Admiral** in the [University Parks, Oxford, Oxon](#) at lunchtime today (27th October)."

John Lerpiniere reports seeing a **Red Admiral** flying rapidly SE in [Tilehurst, Berks \(SU6673\)](#) on 27th October.

~ 24th October 2016 ~

Michael Hunt sent the following: "Seen today (22nd October) in [Buckingham, Bucks](#): 1 **Red Admiral** and 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**."

Dennis Dell sent this news: "Every day, including today (22nd October), since 10th October, there has been at least 1 **Red Admiral** feeding on the beijing and buzz buddleias in the garden, even with shade temperatures as low as 9 degrees. On the 11th, there were 3 **Red Admirals** and

one **Small Tortoiseshell**. On the 17th, 2 **Red Admirals** were sunning themselves on the choysia - see photo."



Red Admirals
Photo © Dennis Dell

~ 21st October 2016 ~

Helen Hyre reported as follows: "Our garden at [Bierton, Bucks](#) faces south-east and this week it has been very sunny. On [18th, 19th and 20th October](#) we have seen a **Red Admiral**, plus a pristine **Painted Lady** which has stayed for around 2 hours each day."



Painted Lady
Photo © Helen Hyre

This news came from Peter Law: "Just a note to say there was a late **Painted Lady** this afternoon (16th October) at [Dix Pit near Stanton Harcourt, Oxon](#)."

Michael Hunt sent the following: "One **Red Admiral** in [Winslow, Bucks](#) on [16th October](#) and one **Speckled Wood** seen here in [Buckingham, Bucks](#) on [17th October](#)."

~ 16th October 2016 ~

Mark Griffiths sent this sighting: "I was surprised to see a **Green-veined White** today, [16th October](#), in the garden. Just a short visit to my garden in [Garsington, Oxon](#) but I got to see the upperside and briefly the underside."

Helen Hyre reports: "Today, [15th October](#), in our garden in [Bierton, Bucks](#) we saw a **Small White**, **Brimstone** and 2 **Red Admirals**. At the top of a buddleia I saw a **Small Copper** but by the time I got my camera, it had flown off. There was a **Peacock** on another buddleia - this is only the fourth sighting in the whole year (the others being on 2nd April, 30th May and 11th August)."

Chris Brown sent this news on 13th October: "A few remaining updates whilst the dry and sunny weather lasted:

[04/10/16](#) - [Crowsley Wood Sonning Common, Oxon SU 735 795](#) - **Red Admiral** 1, **Speckled Wood** 4.

[05/10/16](#) - [Millennium Green Sonning Common, Oxon SU 713 794](#) - **Small Copper** 1.

[11/10/16](#) - [Crowsley Wood Sonning Common, Oxon SU 735 795](#) - **Red Admiral** 1, **Speckled Wood** 1."

Derek Brown sent this report: "I saw a surprisingly late **Holly Blue** today ([12th October](#)) in [Beenham, Berkshire](#)."

~ 10th October 2016 ~

This report came from Adam Bassett on 10th October: "A **Meadow Brown** was still on the wing on farmland at [Little Marlow in Bucks](#) today, [October 10th](#). Seemed quite late, but the weather has been set fair for a while."

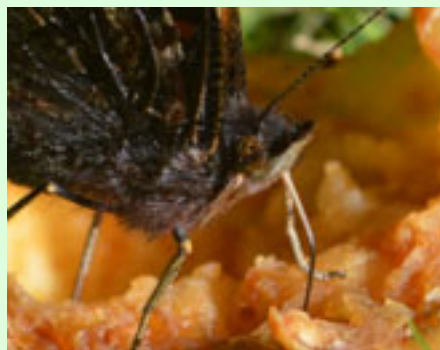
Dennis Dell reported the following on 7th October: "September 30th until October 7th: Every day in my garden in [Aylesbury, Bucks](#) there have been up to 3 **Red Admirals** feeding on a Buddleia "Buzz". This plant is advertised in catalogues as a miniature plant, suitable for pots. A few years ago, I transferred this buddleia into the ground and it has been a revelation. It grows to about 2.5 metres: see photo below, taken two days ago. More importantly, it is covered in flower spikes from June until October, and there are still plenty of blooms now. It surpasses the Beijing Buddleia in terms of longevity of flowering period. The butterflies love it! I also have ice plants and asters in flower, which are visited by the vanessids, but they spend much more time nectaring on the Buzz. Also present in the garden during this last week were a **Brimstone**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, and **Large White**."



Buddleia "Buzz"
Photo © Dennis Dell

~ 3rd October 2016 ~

Nick Board sent this sighting: "Came across this **Red Admiral** in my garden today ([3rd October](#)) in [Chackmore, North Bucks](#). It was drinking plenty of apple cider and, by the looks of it, a little bleary eyed, ready for a snooze in the afternoon sunshine!"



Red Admiral
Photo © Nick Board

Chris Brown reported the following: "Some additional updates but no surprises this time! Despite 2 recent visits to Crowsley Wood the second brood White Admiral was not seen again (see [Chris's report for 22nd September](#)), even though the weather was warm in full sunshine. Overnights have been decidedly chilly and sometimes wet with some fierce showers.

[28/09/16 - Millennium Green Sonning Common, Oxon SU 713 794:](#) **Small Copper** 2.

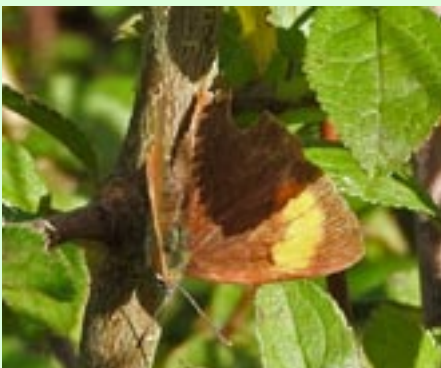
[29/09/16 - Crowsley Wood Sonning Common, Oxon SU 735 795:](#) **Red Admiral** 2, **Comma** 2, **Speckled Wood** 3.

[02/10/16 - Millennium Green Sonning Common, Oxon SU 713 794:](#) **Small Copper** 1.

[03/10/16 - Crowsley Wood Sonning Common, Oxon SU 735 795:](#) **Comma** 1, **Speckled Wood** 2."

This report came from Wendy Wilson: "This afternoon, [October 2nd](#), I went to [Swan Meadow in Iwer, Bucks](#), without my camera as I wasn't expecting to see anything much. There was a **Small White** in the meadow itself but in the wild area behind I was delighted to see 3 **Small Coppers** all nectaring on ragwort in the sunshine. They would have made a lovely photo! Two were fresh and bright and the third was a bit faded. I had only recorded one Small Copper previously in my square this season."

Pat Clissold sent this report: "Please find attached photo (see below) of a **Brown Hairstreak** butterfly seen yesterday ([30/09/2016](#)) in [Gavray Meadows, Oxon](#) at 15.06 hours."



Brown Hairstreak f.
Photo © Pat Clissold

Dennis Dell sent the following report: "We were away for most of September but I thought this catch-up of butterflies in our garden ([Aylesbury, Bucks](#)) might be of interest.

[29th & 30th August](#): Fantastic **Small Tortoiseshell** show in the garden - at least 30 on both days, feeding mainly on the beijing buddleia. **Comma, Red Admiral** and **Large Whites** also present.

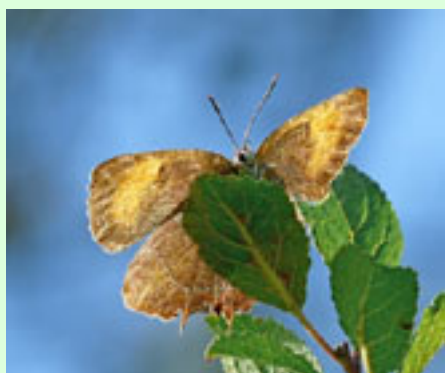
[14th September](#): **Red Admirals** were then in ascendancy - 8 on buddleias; just 6 **Small Tortoiseshells** and 1 **Large White**.

[30th September](#): **Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell** and **Large White**.

[1st October](#): 3 **Red Admirals**.

The nectar preferences have changed, because the Beijing has almost gone over. The 'buzz' Buddleia however is still in bloom and this is being visited as well as the asters."

Tony Croft sent this news: "Encouraged by my sighting of a **Brown Hairstreak** at Rushbeds Wood a couple of days ago I thought I'd try for a repeat performance today, [September 30th](#), at [Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon](#). I was rewarded with views of two females, one of which was co-operative enough for this photo (below). As you can see she is faded but reasonably intact. I also found a pair of **Brown Hairstreak eggs**."



Brown Hairstreak f.
Photo © Tony Croft



Brown Hairstreak eggs
Photo © Tony Croft

Nick Bowles reported the following: "I went to [Inchcombe Hole, Bucks](#) at about 10.30 today [28th September](#) and saw probably my last **Chalkhill Blue** of the season. Also 8 **Red Admiral**, 9 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Common Blue**, 2 **Meadow Brown** and a single **Small Heath**. Returning to my garden (admittedly in Tring, Herts) I had a couple of Comma and Small White, Brimstone and Red Admiral. So this morning, I saw 9 species which is pretty good for this time of year!"

Tony Croft carried out his final transect walk of the season at [Rushbeds Wood, Bucks](#) this afternoon, [September 28th](#). "The totals seen were **Red Admiral** 22; **Speckled Wood** 4; **Comma** 3; **Large White** 1; **Green-veined White** 1; also a late season **Brown Hairstreak** flitting around an oak tree."

Don Stone reported the following: "25th September, [Lee Common, Bucks](#). At least 6 **Red Admirals** still visiting our garden, now they've moved on from the rotting plums and turned their attentions to the Ivy."



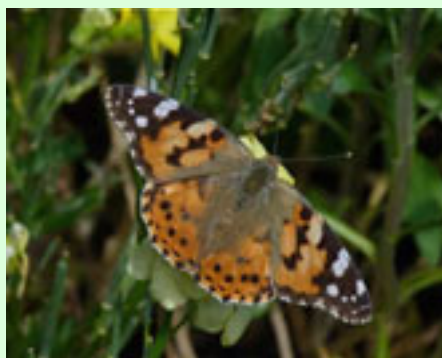
Red Admiral
Photo © Don Stone



Red Admiral
Photo © Don Stone

This news came from Michael and Diane Hunt on 25th September: "On the last transect walk for 2016 in a [private wood in Bucks](#), we encountered 7 **Red Admirals** and 3 **Commas**."

Chris Carter sent this report: "On [22nd September](#) we had three **Painted Lady** on our Buddleja at [Alvescot, west Oxfordshire](#), more than I have seen at one time for several years at least. There were also at least four **Red Admirals** and one **Small Tortoiseshell** and two **Small Copper** on asters and other lower plants. The Buddleja (B.'Lochinch') is interesting this year; many of its early buds were spoiled by aphids (probably) so it has produced this late flush, giving a good opportunity to check on what is around."



Painted Lady
Photo © Chris Carter



Small Copper
Photo © Chris Carter

~ 24th September 2016 ~

Helen Hyre reports: "23rd September: In bright sunshine and a cool breeze we walked across the fields from [Aston Abbots, Bucks](#). There are good margins and hedges. We saw 3 **Red Admiral**, 1 **Comma**, 1 **Speckled Wood** and 1 **Small Copper** (very pleasing as we have seen few Small Copper this year). In the afternoon there were 7 **Red Admiral** on ivy flowers in [Bierton, Bucks](#) churchyard. Many thanks for churchyard surveys received, I'm happy to receive more!!"

The following came from Judy and Terry Wood: "On a recent trip to relatives in [Little Chalfont, Bucks](#) we had a very welcome visitor in the garden on the [20th September](#) with a **Small Copper** - the first we can recall at this location. We believe it was of the aberration form *caeruleopunctata* with the row of blue dots inside the margin of the hind wing. Other butterflies were pretty scarce that day with only a **Red Admiral** and a **Small White** seen in the vicinity."



Small Copper
Photo © Judy Wood

Chris Brown sent this update on 22nd September: "A couple of surprises recently. This evening at home ([Sonning Common, Berks](#)) a **Painted Lady** on the patio feeding on the *verbena bonariensis*. It has proven to be a good eye-catching location for that plant this year, both for butterflies and bees. The second surprise, also today (22nd), whilst in [Crowsley Woods](#), was a single **White Admiral**, clearly seen both with and without binoculars! I last saw 2 White Admiral there back in July. I thought they were out of season now. Hot autumn influences?"

13/09/16 - [Crowsley Wood Sonning Common, Oxon SU 735 795](#): **Brimstone 1, Green-veined White 1, Red Admiral 2, Comma 1, Speckled Wood 14, Meadow Brown 1.**

14/09/16 - [Millennium Green Sonning Common, Oxon SU 713 794](#): **Small White 1, Small Copper 3.**

22/09/16 - [Crowsley Wood Sonning Common, Oxon SU 735 795](#): **Brimstone 1, Small White 1, Red Admiral 4, White Admiral 1, Comma 3, Speckled Wood 4."**

Keith O'Hagen had 6 **Red Admirals** on the ivy in his [Milton Keynes, Bucks](#) garden on 22nd September.



Red Admiral
Photo © Keith O'Hagen

~ 19th September 2016 ~

Rob Thomas reported the following: "On 18th September I was surprised to find a pair of **Large Whites** pairing in my garden at [Combe, Oxon](#). Surely this is too late for the offspring to successfully get to chrysalis stage to overwinter? I also saw a pristine **Red Admiral** nectaring on the ivy."



Large Whites pairing
Photo © Rob Thomas

David Hastings sent this news: "At [RSPB Otmoor, Oxon](#) on 18th September I saw at least eighteen **Red Admirals** (more than last weekend), but only four **Commas**. Also two third-

generation **Small Coppers**, three very worn **Common Blues** and one **Small Tortoiseshell**."



Small Copper
Photo © David Hastings

The following came from Tom Dunbar prompted by Nick Bowles' report of 8th September:

"During an [Aylesbury \(Bucks\)](#) 4 hour survey on [12th September](#) I recorded 116 butterflies – 47 **Small Whites**; 8 **Large Whites**; 33 **Small Tortoiseshells**; 26 **Red Admirals**; 1 **Painted Lady**; 1 **Speckled Wood**. Urban butterfly surveys in late September /early October have been a regular activity of mine for many years."

~ 15th September 2016 ~

Nils Beaven sent these reports:

"Location: [Twyford, Berkshire, 13-14th September](#): Yesterday (13th) and today I visited some local Buddleias and saw half a dozen very fresh **Red Admirals** completely preoccupied with feeding and each day also saw a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth**, a bit too high up and hyperactive for a better photo.

Location: [Twyford, Berkshire, 15th September](#): Just prior to the stormy evening I went out to see if I could find any 'third-brood' **Small Copper** butterflies. I found and managed to photograph 2 fresh ones! The male was still buzzing after a hot day and the female was busy nectaring."



Red Admiral
Photo © Nils Beaven



Hummingbird Hawkmoth
Photo © Nils Beaven



Small Copper
Photo © Nils Beaven

This report came from Nick Bowles on 14th September: "In approximately 2 hours I walked around the [Ivinghoe Hill, Bucks](#) complex and saw a good range of species for mid-September. Most were in the deep valley of Inchcombe Hole but there were butterflies in all parts of the complex. Only the 'gully' parallel to the road between the cattle grids was disappointing, with only Red Admiral and Speckled Wood. Species seen were: **Clouded Yellow** 2, **Brimstone** 6, **Large White** 1, **Small White** 16 and **Green-veined White** 1, **Common Blue** 8, **Brown Argus** 23, **Chalk Hill Blue** 9, **Red Admiral** 2, **Painted Lady** 1, **Small Tortoiseshell** 17, **Speckled Wood** 5, **Meadow Brown** 11, **Small Heath** 6. No sign of Small Copper or Holly Blue."

Michael McNeill sent the following: "September 12 - my garden Buddleia in [Upper Basildon, West Berkshire](#) produced a **Small Tortoiseshell**, a **Red Admiral**, a **Painted Lady**, a **Small Copper** and two **Hummingbird Hawk-moths**, all at the same moment. A trip to [Langbourne Valley](#) the same day saw good numbers of **Speckled Wood** plus, on the way home, in [Yattendon, West Berkshire](#), a **Clouded Yellow** flying fast across the road. Small numbers, but some exciting species."

Don Stone saw the following: "13th September, Lee Common, Bucks. Late in the afternoon on rotting plums in our garden were at least 10 **Red Admirals**, 2 **Speckled Woods** and a **Comma**. Never seen Red Admirals in such numbers in the garden before!"

Ewan Urquhart sent this report: "Following were on three buddleias in our garden at **Kingham, Oxon** on 10th September: **Small Tortoiseshell** 12, **Red Admiral** 1, **Comma** 1, **Small White** 3. Tortoiseshells still there today 13th September."



Small Tortoiseshell
Photo © Ewan Urquhart

This news came from Michael and Diane Hunt: "Sightings today 13th September at **Hyde Lane Pit, Foscote, Bucks**. A walk through a set-aside field revealed 7 **Small Tortoiseshells**, 1 **Large White**, 2 **Small Whites**, 4 **Green-veined Whites**, 2 **Red Admirals**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 1 **Brimstone**."

Neale Fraser sent the following on 12th September: "Just wanted to let you know that I saw a **Red Admiral** at the end of our garden in **Emmbrook, Wokingham, Berks** in **early September**. We have lots of **Large Whites** in the garden but haven't seen many other varieties which is unusual."

~ 11th September 2016 ~

David Gantzel saw the following on Sunday 11th September at **Hazlemere, Bucks**: several **Large White**, one **Speckled Wood**, one **Red Admiral**.

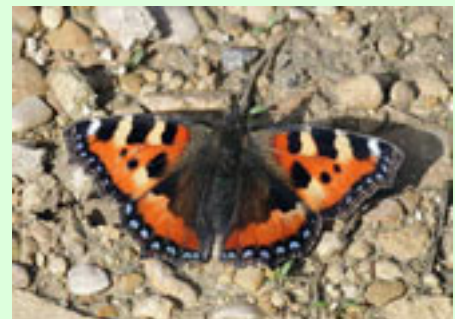
David Hastings reported the following: "At **RSPB Otmoor, Oxon** this morning (11th September) I counted at least twenty-five **Commas** and sixteen **Red Admirals** - I've never had numbers like this at Otmoor before. Other species seen were **Speckled Wood** (11), **Green-veined White** (7), **Large White** (3) and **Small Tortoiseshell** (3)."



Comma
Photo © David Hastings



Red Admiral
Photo © David Hastings



Small Tortoiseshell
Photo © David Hastings

Richard Wheeler visited **Ardley Quarry, Oxon** on Sunday morning (11/09/16). "I went with my two boys in warm and sunny weather (c.17°C). Butterflies seen in 1.5 hrs included: 14 **Small White**, 21 **Speckled Wood**, 3 **Red Admiral**, 7 **Comma**, 1 **Large White**, 1 **Brimstone** (M), 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 1 **Small Heath**, 5 **Common Blue** (incl. 1F) and 1 **Painted Lady**."



Red Admiral
Photo © Richard Wheeler

Chris Brown sent the following on 10th September: "Some further reports on the two main areas I record frequently. The Crowsley Wood Silver-washed Fritillaries have now come to an end. My last sightings were 2 very worn males, half their normal wing spans and so faded and ragged yet still flying so well, making full use of some self-sown buddleias. The usual explosion of Speckled Wood has emerged to replace them. I was delighted to see a **Hummingbird Hawk moth** working over every flower floret on some verbena bonariensis I grow on my patio, last Thursday evening. 10 minutes of furious activity just a few feet away!
30/08/16 Crowsley Wood Sonning Common, Oxon SU 735 795 - **Silver-washed Fritillary** 2 (2M), **Speckled Wood** 18, **Meadow Brown** 14.
06/09/16 Crowsley Wood Sonning Common, Oxon SU 735 795 - **Small White** 2, **Comma** 1, **Speckled Wood** 19, **Meadow Brown** 4.
07/09/16 Millennium Green Sonning Common, Oxon SU 713 794 - **Small White** 1, **Large White** 1, **Small Copper** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Small Heath** 1."

~ 9th September 2016 ~

Nick Bowles sent this news: "I saw a late female **Silver-washed Fritillary** in a private wood in north Bucks yesterday (08.09.16) whilst walking the transect. I don't actually know, but probably my latest Silver-washed Fritillary in Bucks. I have seen them flying in September before but I suspect only in the first week. Otherwise there was little to see, as you might expect at this time of year. Even the normally productive Devil's bit Scabious was very nearly empty of all butterflies. 1 **Meadow Brown**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 1 **Small White**, 2 **Brimstone**, 2 **Large White**, 3 **Common Blue** plus several **Speckled Wood** and **Green-veined White**."



Small Tortoiseshells & Red Admiral at
Barbury Castle, Wilts
Photo © Mick Campbell

Judy and Terry Wood travelled down from North Northants for their first visit to **Yoesden Bank, Bucks** on the **7th September**. "We arrived in time for the sun to come out and spent 3 hours on site during the late afternoon. We saw 1 **Chalkhill Blue**, at least 7 **Adonis Blue**, over 20 **Common Blues** including a mating pair and a female ovipositing, 9 **Brown Argus**, 6 **Small Copper**, 1 **Clouded Yellow**, 9 **Large White**, 17 **Small White**, 2 **Brimstone**, 1 **Comma**, 2 **Red Admiral**, 4 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 36+ **Meadow Brown**, 2 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Small Heath**, a late and very worn **Gatekeeper** and 2 very worn **Silver-washed Fritillaries** – a total of 17 species and well worth the trip! There were also 4 **Silver Y Moths**."



Adonis Blue
Photo © Terry Wood



Brown Argus
Photo © Terry Wood



Small Copper
Photo © Terry Wood

Malcolm Brownsword sent the following: "On our final 2016 BBOWT transect at [Hartslock, Oxon](#) on [7th September](#), we finally saw our first **Clouded Yellow** of the season. It was in pristine condition. Also seen were one each of **Large White**, **Peacock** and **Common Blue**, 2 each of **Small White** and **Speckled Wood**, 23 **Meadow Browns** and a healthy 12 second brood **Small Heaths**."

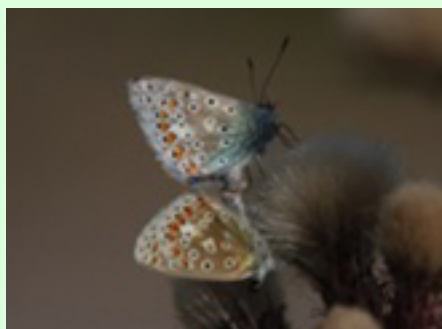


Meadow Brown
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword



Clouded Yellow
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

Colin Mather sent this belated report on 8th September: "Down at the local green in [Sonning Common, Oxon](#) pairing **Common Blues** on [13th August](#). Also I have only seen one **Small Copper** all year - saw this one on [29th August](#). Generally a very low count of butterflies this year."



Common Blues pairing
Photo © Colin Mather



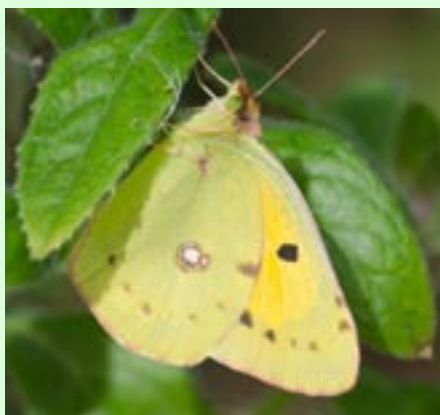
Small Copper
Photo © Colin Mather

~ 1st September 2016 ~

Keith O'Hagen reported the following: "Just down the road from me in [Milton Keynes, Bucks](#) by an underpass, there are lots of Buddleia bushes. Today, [31st August](#), they were covered in **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Red Admiral** and a lone **Painted Lady**."



Nicholl Williams sent this news: "I went to [Spade Oak, Bucks](#) on [31st August](#) to the new area along the stream. I was looking for Dragonflies, but saw immediately a **Clouded Yellow** passing by, which I followed but soon lost. However, I then walked along the stream and saw 6 other individuals."



Clouded Yellow
Photo © Nicholl Williams

David James reported the following: "On [30th August](#) there was a **Clouded Yellow** tearing up and down [Camborne Avenue](#) near the [Bedgrove centre](#) in [Aylesbury, Bucks](#) (SP839126) at 11.30am."

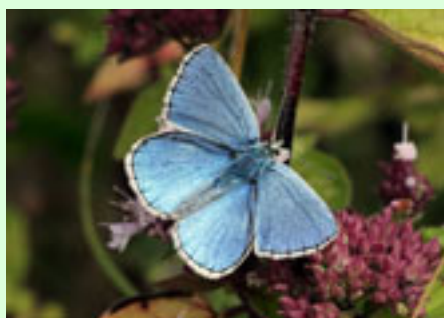
This report came from Dave Cleal: "On [30th August](#) I visited [Springfield landfill](#) south of [Beaconsfield, Bucks](#). I found a colony of **Brown Argus** - I counted 7 along the central track but it was difficult to be accurate and I got the impression there were more. At [Dorney Lake, Bucks](#) there was a single **Meadow Brown** and a **Red Admiral**."

These sightings came from Andy Bolton:

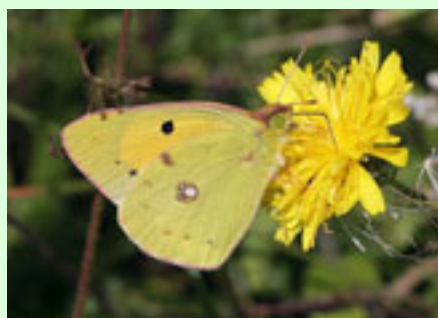
"[29/08/16](#) [The Holies, nr. Streatley, Berks SU594798](#) - **Adonis Blue** 2, **Chalk Hill Blue** 4, **Common Blue** 3, **Brown Argus** 4, **Clouded Yellow** 2, **Small Heath** 1, **Meadow Brown** 63, **Speckled Wood** 2, **Small White** 7.

"[On 30/08/16](#) a field margin at [Colthrop, Thatcham, Berks SU544669](#) - **Brown Argus** 2, **Common Blue** 1, **Small White** 1."

David Hastings visited [Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon](#) (north side) on [29th August](#). "I saw at least eight **Adonis Blues** (7 males) and four **Clouded Yellows** (my 48th species of the year). **Meadow Browns**, **Common Blues**, **Brown Argus** and **Small Heath** were numerous. There were still a few **Chalk Hill Blues** and **Silver-spotted Skippers** about, but most were looking quite worn. I also saw seven **Small Tortoiseshells**, one **Red Admiral**, one **Painted Lady**, a couple of **Speckled Woods** by the car park, one late **Gatekeeper** and various whites."



Adonis Blue
Photo © David Hastings



Clouded Yellow
Photo © David Hastings

Ben Hobbs reported the following: "[29-08-16](#) - 4 **Small Tortoiseshell** in [Cholsey Churchyard, Oxon](#), basking on bare soil. 6 **Small Tortoiseshell** On [Buddleia](#) in our garden in [Cholsey](#), (highest number seen at one time over past week). 2 **Red Admiral** also. Late arriving this summer."

Nicky Reilly sent this report: "I saw a **Clouded Yellow** in my garden, [Beaconsfield, South Bucks](#), on the afternoon of [28/08/2016](#). It was flying and looked as though it was trying to oviposit. I observed it for a good 10 minutes. Other sightings that day 2 x **Painted Ladies**, 3 **Red Admirals**, 1 **Holly Blue**, 2 x **Small Tortoiseshell**, several Whites and 1 **Brimstone** (male), main nectar plants visited were Buddleja sp. and Verbena bonariensis."



Clouded Yellow
Photo © Nicky Reilly

Simon Fenner sent the following: "I had an hour to visit [Yoesden Bank \(Bledlow Ridge\), Bucks](#) on Saturday morning [27th August](#) and it clouded over as I arrived, turning to thunder and then drizzle. However, while still dry I found a few male (5) and female (2) **Adonis Blues**, as well as **Common Blues** (10+), a couple of **Brown Argus** and a couple of tatty **Chalkhill Blues**."



Adonis Blue male
Photo © Simon Fenner



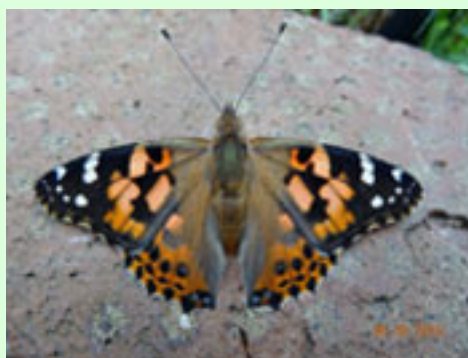
Adonis Blue female
Photo © Simon Fenner

Chris Lamsdell saw a **Painted Lady** in [Iver Heath, Bucks](#) (garden) on [27th August](#).

~ 27th August 2016 ~

Michael McNeill reported the following on 26th August: "A brief visit to [The Holies in West Berkshire](#) was rewarded with sightings of 3 (possibly 4) male **Adonis Blue**, all partially worn and 1 female in pristine condition. At one point a **Clouded Yellow** passed swiftly across the site, keenly watched by 2 juvenile Wheatear. Other sightings included at least 100 **Meadow Brown** and small numbers of **Common Blue** and **Speckled Wood**."

Dennis Dell sent this update: "On [25th August](#) 15 **Small Tortoiseshells** in my garden in [Aylesbury, Bucks](#) were joined by a pristine **Painted Lady**, all on the Beijing Buddleia."



Painted Lady
Photo © Dennis Dell

Chris Lamsdell saw a single **Clouded Yellow** at **Wraysbury Gravel Pit** on **25th August**.

Helen Hyre reports seeing another **Clouded Yellow** on **25th August** while out for a walk at **Bierton, Bucks**.

Terry and Judy Wood sent the following: "On the **22nd August** we had a **Silver-washed Fritillary** in our **Little Chalfont, Bucks** garden – first one for several years. Other sightings that day were 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Large White**, 3 **Green-veined White**, 1 **Small White** and 1 **Holly Blue**.

On the **24th August** we visited **Otmoor, Oxon** and observed 1 **Clouded Yellow**, 2 **Brown Hairstreak** (1 in car park, 1 along Roman Road), 1 **Small Copper**, 7 **Common Blue**, 10 **Large White**, 11 **Green-veined White**, 5 **Small White**, 9 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Meadow Brown** and 16 **Small Tortoiseshell**. Photo of Small Copper below – only the 2nd one we have seen this year!"



Small Copper
Photo © Terry Wood

Chris Brown sent this update on 26th August:

"06/08/16 - Millennium Green Sonning Common, Oxon SU 713 794: **Small Skipper** 3, **Small White** 1, **Brown Argus** 1, **Common Blue** 2, **Peacock** 1, **Gatekeeper** 16, **Meadow Brown** 7, **Ringlet** 1, **Dusky Sallow moth** 1

12/08/16 - Crowsley Wood Sonning Common, Oxon SU 735 795: **Small Skipper** 1, **Brimstone** 1, **Small White** 2, **Holly Blue** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Peacock** 1, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 6 (3M 1F 2U), **Speckled Wood** 5, **Gatekeeper** 1, **Meadow Brown** 10, **Ringlet** 2

15/08/16 - Millennium Green Sonning Common, Oxon SU 713 794: **Small White** 1, **Small Copper** 1, **Brown Argus** 1, **Common Blue** 1, **Gatekeeper** 7, **Meadow Brown** 1

23/08/16 - Crowsley Wood Sonning Common, Oxon SU 735 795: **Brimstone** 2, **Small White** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Comma** 1, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 3 (1M 1F 1U), **Speckled Wood** 8, **Meadow Brown** 4.

My last 3 visits to **Millennium Green** since 15/08/16 have only produced a single **Gatekeeper** today, so a rapid decline in numbers. Still hoping for Small Coppers which often emerge here late summer."

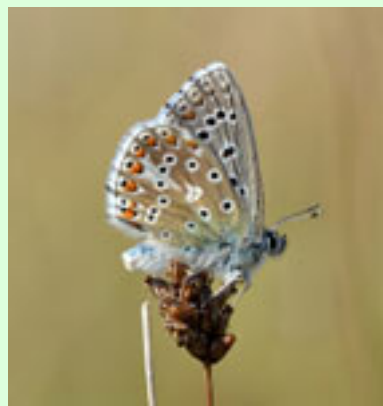
~ 24th August 2016 ~

This report came from Nick Bowles: "I visited **Bacombe Hill, near Wendover Bucks** on **24th August** to check the weak **Chalkhill Blue** colony there. This my third visit in 2016 and still no sign of any **Chalkies** on the **Horseshoe Vetch** patches. I learnt that **Steve**, who was also up there and who walks the transect there, saw a male on the 23rd; but well away from the **Horseshoe Vetch**. It certainly seems that this weak colony, along with several others, has collapsed and failed after the poor weather in 2015 and again this year. Anyone who has any sightings of **Chalk Hill Blue** this season and didn't already email them through to nick.bowles@ntlworld.com please do. Anyhow, in the glorious weather there were two mated pairs of **Common Blue** and 17 singletons, a good number for this season. And very excitingly a **Clouded Yellow** at the base of the hill (**Wendover side**) and presumably another on the plateau (unless it flew very fast). There were also **Brimstone** 1, **Small White** 5, **Green-veined White** 1, **Purple Hairstreak** 1, **Brown Argus** 2, **Small Tortoiseshell** 1, **Peacock** 1, **Speckled Wood** 4, **Gatekeeper** 1, **Meadow Brown** 6 and **Small Heath** 2."

Helen Hyre sent these belated sightings today: "On 17th August I saw 2 **Clouded Yellow** at Ellesborough, Bucks, chasing round in circles. On 18th August we saw 1 (or possibly 2) **Clouded Yellow** at Pitstone former quarry, Bucks."

This news came from Dennis Dell on the 24th August: "It is good to see the **Small Tortoiseshell** in good numbers again in my garden in **Aylesbury, Bucks**. They started to arrive as a crowd on my Buddleias yesterday. As I look out of the window this morning, I can count 11 on the Beijing buddleia, and I have probably missed some. What is particularly interesting is their behaviour towards the evening on hot days like yesterday. From about 6.30pm they started to settle on the rear wall of the house, which faces west and catches the late afternoon and evening sun. The wall becomes very warm to the touch. At one point there were 10 on this wall, mostly with their wings open. They started to leave for their evening roost at about 8pm when the sun had disappeared behind the houses opposite. One remained and was still there at 8am this morning."

Peter Law sent the following report: "24th Aug: Today I paid a much later than usual visit to **Aston Rowant NNR (N), Oxon** for late summer butterflies. Plenty of, mostly tatty, **Chalkhill Blue** were still on the wing, together with abundant **Brown Argus** and fading **Meadow Brown**. Good numbers of **Adonis Blue**, **Silver-spotted Skipper** and **Small Heath** were also seen, with fewer **Common Blue**, some Whites, **Small Tortoiseshell** and a few **Speckled Wood** near the car park. Last but by no means least what was probably the same **Clouded Yellow** on different parts of the noisy hillside above the M40. A day earlier at **Oven Bottom SSSI on the South Oxon Downs** there were plenty of **Common Blue** and **Brown Argus** but surprisingly no **Chalkhill Blue**. A walk from there up to **Lowbury Hill** then back to West Way farm above Blewbury produced **Small Heath** in clusters but it was quite windy at the Small Blue hot spot and I didn't see any."

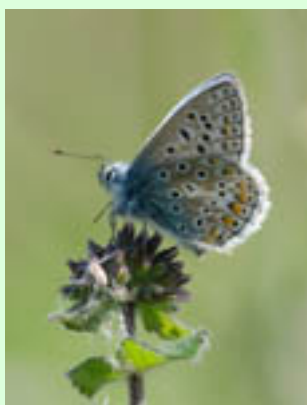


Adonis Blue
Photo © Peter Law



Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Peter Law

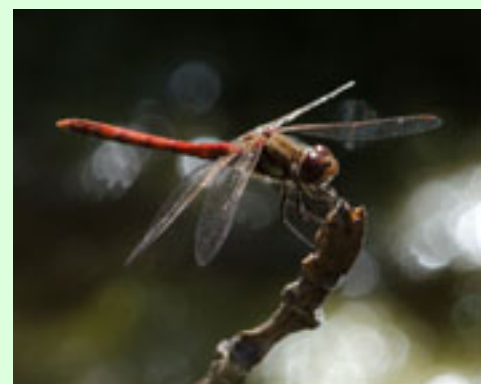
Nicholl Williams sent this report on 24th August: "I went to the **Spade Oak lake (Bourne End, Bucks)** today and there is an area which looked like a new road, but is instead a new area of Nature Reserve. It probably needs advice for management. It is an area with a stream running through the centre and has new growth of many different species of plants. I noticed several different dragonflies. Lots of **Common Blues**, various Whites and many **Speckled Woods**."



Common Blue
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Migrant Hawker
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Red Dragonfly
Photo © Nicholl Williams

Dave Cleal visited [Little Marlow Gravel Pit, Bucks](#) on the morning of [23/08/2016](#). "Certainly 5, possibly 8 **Clouded Yellows** and one **Common Blue** (male) noted."

Dennis Dell sent the following observation on [23rd August](#): "The first **Silver-washed Fritillary** was seen in [Homefield Wood](#) on [26th June](#). I saw one in a [private mid Bucks wood](#) on [August 21st](#) and Mick Campbell and I saw another in [Oakley Wood, Bucks](#) on the [22nd](#); both were very worn of course. This makes a flight season of 8 weeks and I suspect more will be reported."

~ 21st August 2016 ~

David Hastings visited [Hackpen Hill, Oxon](#) on the afternoon of 21st August: "The weather had improved from the morning, and there was some sunshine although it was still quite windy. **Meadow Browns** were quite numerous, with about 30 seen in an hour. I saw about 13 **Common Blues** (including one very blue female), six **Small Heath**, four **Small Tortoiseshell**, and one each of **Brown Argus**, **Gatekeeper**, **Red Admiral** and **Brimstone**. Also three **Chalk Carpet** moths."



Common Blue, Hackpen Hill, 21-Aug-2016 (© David Hastings)

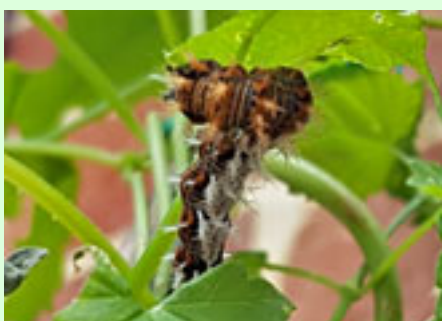
Common Blue
Photo © David Hastings



Small Heath, 21-Aug-2016 (© David Hastings)

Small Heath
Photo © David Hastings

Vicky Robson sent this news: "I just wanted to let you know that we have had 5 **Comma** caterpillars on our hop plant in [Woodley, Berks](#). We watched them form pupae and now two of them have emerged this morning (21st August)."



Comma larva, Woodley, 09-Aug-2016 (© Vicky Robson)

Comma larva
Photo © Vicky Robson



Comma, Woodley, 21-Aug-2016 (© Vicky Robson)

Comma
Photo © Vicky Robson

Maureen Cross sent this field trip report: "Five of us turned up for the Adonis Field Meeting on [Lardon Chase, Berks](#) today (20th August), not expecting much success because of the forecast of rain, gales and storms but as it turned out there was little rain and some good sunny breaks in the clouds when the butterflies flew. We did see **Adonis Blues** but only 2, one male and one female although there were plenty of **Common** and **Chalk Hill Blues**. The Common Blues were mostly fresh but the Chalkhills were very faded having been at their peak in July when on one visit to the Hill I counted 215. Other butterflies seen today were **Meadow Browns** 43, **Small Blue** 1, **Small Copper** 1, **Gatekeeper** 2 and **Brimstone** 1. Please email me any Adonis sightings now they are out and about."

Ched George sent these sightings: "Managed an excursion to [Lodge Hill, Bucks](#) this afternoon (20th August). Found 3 male and 1 female **Chalk Hill Blue** on the top. A casual circuit gave 12 **Small Heath**, 5 **Brown Argus**, a few **Common Blue**, 5 **Speckled Wood**, a female **Brimstone**, a **Gatekeeper**, 1 **Peacock** and several **Meadow Browns**."

~ 18th August 2016 ~

Colin Williams sent these sightings: "On a site visit to [Yeosden Bank, Bucks](#) today (18th Aug) a group of BBOWT staff saw 6+ freshly emerged **Adonis Blue** in intermittent sunshine. Also seen were 2 **Small Copper**, 1 late **Marbled White**, 16 **Chalk Hill Blue**, 3 **Small Heath**, 4 **Brown Argus** and lots of **Common Blue**. No Small Blues were seen."

Michael McNeill sent this report: "A hot sunny day on August 17th prompted a cycle ride on [Greenham Common, West Berkshire](#). At one point I set up both a Wheatear and a **Clouded Yellow**, 50 meters to the east of the large tarmac area close to the control tower. On the way home a brief visit to [Lardon Chase, West Berkshire](#), found a pristine condition female **Adonis Blue** (or possibly a newly hatched female Chalk Hill Blue, if they hatch this late in the season; difficult for me to differentiate as wings never opened). A couple I spoke to had seen a male **Adonis Blue** the previous day. Other species in good numbers mainly **Chalk Hill Blue**, **Common Blue**, **Meadow Brown**, with very small numbers of **Small Copper**, **Brown Argus**, **Gatekeeper** and **Brimstone**. Garden butterflies in [Upper Basildon, West Berkshire](#), continue to delight over the past two weeks with occasional sightings of **Silver-washed Fritillery** and **Painted Lady**."

Richard Wheeler sent this news: "I visited [Yeosden Bank, Bucks](#) at lunchtime today (17/08/16) with my children. Weather fine and sunny (20-25°C). The highlights were 7 **Adonis Blue**, mostly fresh, among large numbers of **Common Blue** and **Chalk Hill Blue** (a good antidote to a summer alarmingly bereft of 'blues'!) Full count in 2½ hours: 7 **Adonis Blue** (incl. 1F), 97 **Common Blue** (incl. 12F), 59 **Chalk Hill Blue** (incl. 9F), 4 **Small Copper**, 8 **Brown Argus**, 159 **Meadow Brown**, 6 **Gatekeeper**, 1 **Large Skipper**, 3 **Small Skipper**, 1 **Marbled White**, 4 **Large White**, 3 **Small White**, 1 **Green-veined White**, 4 **Brimstone** (incl. 2F), 1 **Painted Lady** and 3 **Speckled Wood**. Several moths also seen, including **Silver Y** and **Common Carpet**."



Adonis Blue, Yeosden Bank, 17-Aug-2016 (© Richard Wheeler)

Adonis Blue
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Adonis Blue, Yeosden Bank, 17-Aug-2016 (© Richard Wheeler)

Adonis Blue
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Brimstone, Yeosden Bank, 17-Aug-2016 (© Richard Wheeler)

Brimstone
Photo © Richard Wheeler

Margaret Bolton sent this report: "I recorded just one male **Chalk Hill Blue** at [Strawberry Bank, Bucks](#) on 31st July, then just one female on 7th August. However, on the visit there [SU819900] on 13th Aug members of Frieth Nat Hist Soc saw 4+ **Chalk Hill Blue** and 8+ **Common Blue** butterflies, along with other species recorded, though not counted. Whilst few sightings of **Common Blue** were reported elsewhere in south Bucks by early August, I did record 8+ male and 1 female on 6th Aug at [Fingest Lane](#) roadside verges [SU787914], with a note that there were lots in that area. This was corroborated by Alan Gudge."

Maureen Cross sent this news: "First second brood **Adonis Blue** on [The Holies, Berks](#) seen on 11th August, followed by a second single sighting on the 13th. None so far on Lardon Chase but

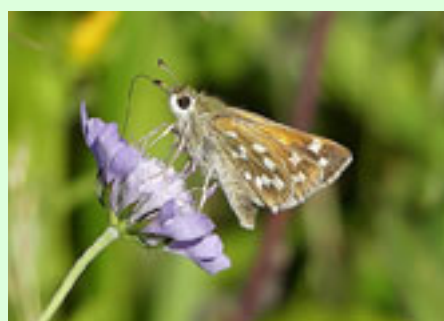
there is still time for someto emerge there before the Adonis Field Meeting on Saturday 20th August."

Dave Gower sent this news: "Walked along and around the Ridgeway on August 14th from **Aldbury Nowers, Northants** to opposite windmill and noted 2 x **Brown Argus**, 49 x **Meadow Brown**, 6 x **Common Blue**, 1 x **Gatekeeper**, 1 x **Small Heath**, 9 x **Chalk Hill Blue** (2 females), 1 x **Large White**, 1 x **Painted Lady**."

~ 16th August 2016 ~

Dave Cleal sent these sightings: "**Dorney Lake, Bucks**, 15th Aug : 7 **Common Blues** (2 females). **Lilley Lee Farm Lane, Wooburn Common, Bucks** : **Clouded Yellow**."

Judy and Terry Woods sent this news: "On the 12th August we visited **Grangelands, Bucks** for 2 hours during late afternoon and despite very windy conditions we saw 1 **Dark-green Fritillary**, 6 **Silver-spotted Skipper**, 1 **Essex Skipper**, 3 further unidentified "small" Skipper, 3 **Small Heath**, 2 **Speckled Wood**, 9 **Meadow Brown**, 34 **Chalk Hill Blue**, 19 **Common Blue**, 2 **Large White** and 1 **Green-veined White**."



Silver-spotted Skipper,
Grangelands, 12-Aug-
2016 (© Judy Wood)

Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Judy Wood



Small Heath,
Grangelands, 11-Aug-
2016 (© Judy Wood)

Small Heath
Photo © Judy Wood

Barry Stickland sent this sighting: "We had a female **Silver-Washed Fritillary** in our garden in **Finchampstead, Berks** at about 6pm on 14th August."

Judith Barnard sent this sighting: "Spotted around 5 **Brown Hairstreak** (male and female) on 15th August at **Otmoor, Oxon**."

~ 14th August 2016 ~

Jan Haseler sent this meeting report: "10 members met at **Mortimer, Berks** on the cloudy morning of 13 August for a walk through the conifer plantations which straddle the Hampshire / Berkshire border. Target species was the **Grayling** and the count slowly increased by ones and twos to 29. Most were on the stony tracks and demonstrated their camouflage skills, but the photographers were delighted to see a few on heather flowers on the banks of a sheltered ditch. Other species seen were **Painted Lady**, **Red Admiral**, **Peacock**, **Common Blue**, **Small Skipper**, **Large White**, **Green-veined White**, **Gatekeeper**, **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet** and **Speckled Wood**."

Jon Mercer sent this news: "I made my annual foray to **Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon** on August 11th in sunny, warm and breezy weather. I counted 7 **Silver-spotted Skippers** in 30 mins at Linkey Down, and 20+ in 45 mins at the main reserve N of the motorway, on the slopes below the car park. Also 70+ **Chalk Hill Blues**, 4 **Brown Argus**, 10 **Common Blues** and 2 **Brimstones**."



Silver-spotted Skipper,
Aston Rowant, 11-Aug-
2016 (© Jon Mercer)

Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Jon Mercer



Silver-spotted Skipper,
Aston Rowant, 11-Aug-
2016 (© Jon Mercer)

Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Jon Mercer

Dave Cleal sent these sightings: "Wed 10th Aug [Dorney Lakes, Bucks](#): just 3 Butterflies seen. 1 **Common Blue** by the clubhouse. A pristine **Painted Lady** and a female **Brimstone** along the causeway. Fri 12th Aug. [Jubilee River, Marsh lane to M4](#), Bucks, 4 **Common Blues** all males, **Red Admiral**, 2 **Speckled Woods** and a **Large White**."

~ 12th August 2016 ~

Dave Cleal sent this news: "At [Little Marlow, Bucks](#) gravel pit today (10th August) were up to five **Common Blues** in the area of the flower-strewn spit. Seem to be scarce in South Bucks this year."



Common Blue, Little Marlow, 10-Aug-2016 (©
Dave Cleal)

Common Blue
Photo © Dave Cleal

~ 9th August 2016 ~

Andy Bolton sent these sightings: "[Aston Rowant, Oxon](#) south side (SU726964) 5th August : **Marbled White** 3, **Small Skipper** 7, **Silver-spotted Skipper** 1, **Brimstone** 4, **Small White** 5, **Large White** 1, **Green-veined White** 1, **Peacock** 3, **Red Admiral** 1, **Chalk Hill Blue** 32, **Dark Green Fritillary** 1.

[Yoesden Bank, Bucks](#) (SU788984) 5th August : **Chalk Hill Blue** 25+, **Large Skipper** 2, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 1 female, **Dark Green Fritillary** 1, **Holly Blue** 1".

Tim Watts sent this news: "On 4th August I visited [Gallows Bridge, Bucks](#), and the hedgerow adjacent to the path to the bird hides was alive with butterflies, mostly **Gatekeeper** and **Meadow Brown** but also 3 **Red Admiral** and 2 **Painted Lady**. At [Calvert Jubilee reserve, Bucks](#), whilst looking for **Brown Hairstreak** I spotted a **Valezina** form of **Silver-washed Fritillary**. Getting a bit faded/worn it looks like a giant **Speckled Wood** in flight! It nectared for long time on **Brambles** at top of steps on the railway bank walk, also **Comma**, **Red Admiral** and **Painted Lady** on same flowering clump. Tried [Rushbeds Meadows, Bucks](#) for the 4th time recently, looking for **Brown Hairstreak**. I got one possible sighting high up in **Ash** trees, 2 **Purple Hairstreak** also up in **Ash** but just glimpsed orange."



Painted Lady, Calvert Jubilee, 04-Aug-2016 (© Tim Watts)

Painted Lady
Photo © Tim Watts



Silver-washed Fritillary, Calvert Jubilee, 04-Aug-2016 (© Tim Watts)

Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Tim Watts

Robert Norris sent these sightings: "An afternoon visit to [Stoke Goldington Wood, Bucks](#) on 8th August yielded 2 **White-letter Hairstreaks**, one of which was sitting on a bramble bush. The only Elms here are less than 3 metres high so they are probably easier to see here than most other places. Also one **Silver washed Fritillary**, **Green veined Whites**, **Gatekeepers**, **Meadow Browns**, **Red Admirals**, **Speckled Woods** and a few tired looking **Ringlets**".

Judith Barnard sent this news: "Today (8th August) at [RSPB Otmoor, Oxon](#) (SP570127) we spotted one **Brown Hairstreak**. Other notable species were a **Painted Lady** and **Red Admiral**. Also at [Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon](#) (SP598147) on the 8th we spotted a **Brown Hairstreak** along with a female **Silver-washed Fritillary** and about 5 **Purple Hairstreak**".



Brown Hairstreak, Otmoor, 08-Aug-2016 (© Judith Barnard)

Brown Hairstreak
Photo © Judith Barnard

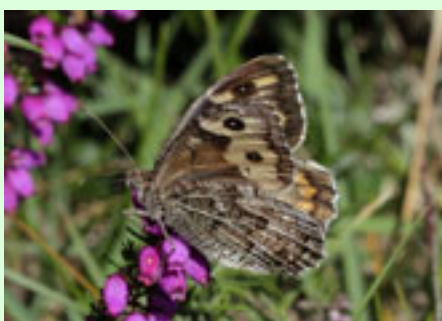


Brown Hairstreak, Whitecross Green Wood, 08-Aug-2016 (© Judith Barnard)

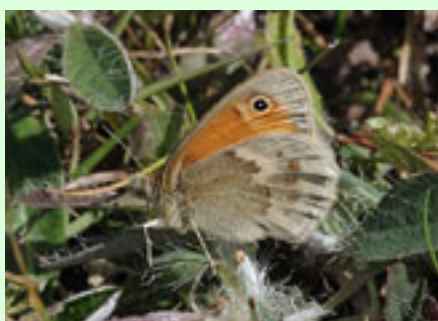
Brown Hairstreak
Photo © Judith Barnard

~ 8th August 2016 ~

David Hastings visited [Greenham Common, Berks](#) on 6th August. "The target species was the **Grayling**, of which I saw a dozen in a 2-hour period. There were also good numbers of **Common Blues** and **Gatekeepers**, a couple of **Small Coppers** and a **Small Heath**. I also visited [Fence Wood, Berks](#) on the same day. Notable sightings here were seven or eight **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, two **Painted Ladies** and at least fourteen **Peacocks**."



Grayling, Greenham



Small Heath, Greenham

Common, 06-Aug-2016
(© David Hastings)

Grayling
Photo © David Hastings

Common, 06-Aug-2016
(© David Hastings)

Small Heath
Photo © David Hastings

~ 7th August 2016 ~

Martin Kincaid sent this news: "I made a couple of butterfly trips over the weekend and was pleased to note that the White-letter Hairstreak is still on the wing in [Milton Keynes, North Bucks](#). On Saturday [6th August](#) I visited [Blue Lagoon Nature Reserve in Bletchley](#). 3 **White-letter Hairstreaks** were quickly found atop a large elm tree on the western boundary of the reserve. Five fresh **Holly Blues**, about a dozen **Common Blues** and a single **Brown Argus** were the other highlights.

On Sunday [7th August](#), I paid a brief visit to what is probably the hot spot for woodland butterflies in Milton Keynes – the clearing at the junction of the [North Bucks Way and Swan's Way](#) (adjacent to Oakhill Wood). In this clearing I saw 3 **White-letter Hairstreaks** and the males were still busy sparring in the tops of the wych elms. I was amazed at how high and far from the trees they would travel as they sparred. Unfortunately they are still not coming down to flowers, after 4 weeks of following this colony. One late, slightly worn **White Admiral** was visiting the flowers of hogweed and two **Silver-washed Fritillaries** were also seen. Other species seen included **Holly Blue** (3), **Red Admiral** (3) and a single **Peacock**. Not bad considering the gale force winds at the time!"

~ 6th August 2016 ~

Mark Jones sent this report: "6th August. Simply wonderful morning at [Bald Hill, Oxon](#). Just within 25m of the gate on the path at the bottom of the hill 16 species were seen - plenty of lovely flowers and moths too. **Meadow Brown, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Silver-spotted Skipper** (probably the most common butterfly higher up the hill), **Marbled White, Dark Green Fritillary, Large White, Small Skipper, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Small Copper, Red Admiral, Gatekeeper, Small White, Chalkhill Blue and Brimstone**. If I can count the **Green-veined White** and **Speckled Wood** I saw near the car park, that's 18. I've done the 59 this year and I can honestly say one of the best sites."

Melanie Pond sent the following: "We had an enjoyable visit to [Aston Rowant, Oxon](#) today ([4th August](#)) despite the overcast and rather blowy conditions. We were very excited to see our first ever **Silver-spotted Skippers**. A pristine **Brown Argus** was another highlight. (PS: We found a large lens cap in the top wild flower meadow. Am happy to post it to the owner.)"



Silver Spotted Skipper, Aston Rowant NNR, 04-Aug-2016 (© David Hastings)

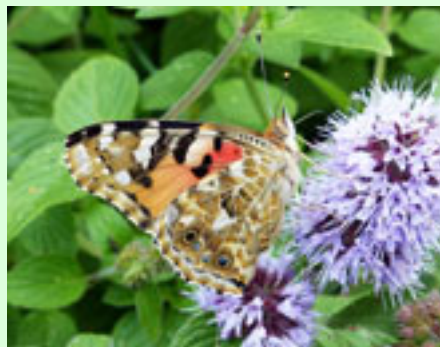
Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Melanie Pond

Malcolm Brownsword saw 13 species on transect at [Homefield Wood, Bucks](#) on [3rd August](#) including 28 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, which he remarks was 10 more than **Gatekeeper** and **Meadow Brown!**"

~ 3rd August 2016 ~

Judith Barnard sent the following: "At [Rushbeds Wood, Bucks](#) today (3rd August) we saw the following noteworthy species: 1 **Marbled White**, 3 **Painted Lady** (at SP666154), 8 **Red Admiral**, 5 **Peacock**, 1 **Purple Hairstreak** (at SP666154), 8 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 4 **Speckled Wood**, 1 **Comma**, 1 **Silver Y Moth** as well as **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet**, **Whites**, **Brimstone**, **Skippers**. At [Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon](#) the noteworthy species were 3 **Purple Hairstreak**, 6 **Brimstone** but no **Brown Hairstreak**!"

David Hastings found a fresh summer-brood **Painted Lady** in the [University Parks, Oxford, Oxon](#) at lunchtime on **3rd August**.



Painted Lady, Oxford, 03-Aug-2016 (© David Hastings)

Painted Lady

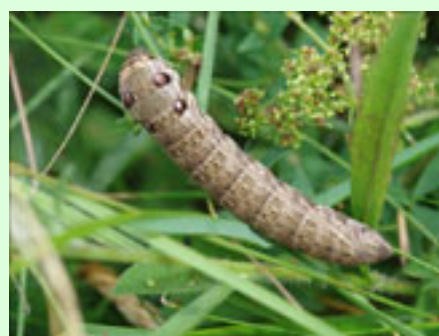
Photo © David Hastings

Chris Brown sent these reports:

"[31/07/16 Millennium Green Sonning Common, Oxfordshire SU 713 794](#): **Small Skipper** 21, **Large White** 1, **Small Copper** 1, **Brown Argus** 1, **Common Blue** 4, **Holly Blue** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Painted Lady** 1, **Marbled White** 2, **Gatekeeper** 47, **Meadow Brown** 10, **Dusky Sallow moth** 1.

[03/08/16 Crowsley Wood Sonning Common, Oxfordshire SU 735 795](#): **Large Skipper** 1, **Brimstone** 2, **Small White** 1, **Red Admiral** 2, **Peacock** 5, **Comma** 2, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 8 (3M 2F 3U), **Speckled Wood** 2, **Meadow Brown** 7 and **Ringlet** 8."

Malcolm Brownsword reports on the field trip to Oven Bottom, Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon on 31st July: "On a sunny morning, 21 members enjoyed the experience of seeing about 20 species of butterfly as well as a few moth species during a three and a half hour walk from the grain drier building. We walked towards the foot of Juniper valley, forked right uphill to the dew pond, then turned right and walked half a mile along Icknield Way to the SSSI Oven Bottom on the right. Species I recorded here and on the rest of the walk numbered 19, but in such a large party I am sure I missed a few - I know I missed a **Dark Green Fritillary** which is on Jim Asher's more thorough list. In addition to the butterfly species listed below we saw the following moths: 2 **Silver 'Y'**, a **Barred Straw**, a **Shaded Broad-bar** and an **Elephant Hawk moth caterpillar**. Several **Roesel's Bush Crickets** (the relatively rare green form, I believe) and numerous **Saddle-back Harvesters** were also seen. Butterflies seen were: about 10 **Marbled Whites**, a similar number of **Meadow Browns**, 2 **Ringlets**, 3 **Gatekeepers**, 5 **Brown Argus**, one **Common Blue**, 3 **Small Coppers**, about 12 **Chalk Hill Blues**, a single **Holly Blue**, two **Red Admirals**, one **Small Heath** a single **Small Tortoiseshell**, ten **Large Whites**, smaller numbers of **Green-veined** and **Small Whites**, two **Brimstones** and about 20 **Small/Essex' Skippers** (several positively identified as either Small or Essex). A single **Comma** on the way back to the grain dryer brought my own total to 19 species."





Chalk Hill Blue, Aston Upthorpe, 31-Jul-2016 (© Malcolm Brownsword)

Chalk Hill Blue
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

Elephant Hawkmoth larva, Aston Upthorpe, 31-Jul-2016 (© Malcolm Brownsword)

Elephant Hawkmoth caterpillar
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

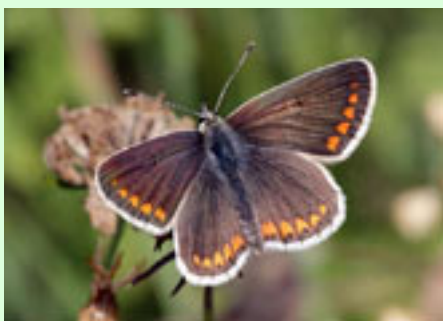
~ 31st July 2016 ~

Shelagh Harlow reported the following: "I went to [Otmoor, Oxon](#) at 4.30pm on [31st July](#) to catch some of the sunny snatches before Monday's forecast rain and lo and behold, just as I got into the Roman Road a group from Northamptonshire were photographing a **Brown Hairstreak**. On vegetation under one of the big oaks on the right. It was the only one I saw despite hanging around for another hour and a half with several sunny patches, but it was definitely there!"

The following came from John Lindley on 31st July: "I visited [Aston Rowant \(south side\), Oxon](#) today to look for **Silver-spotted Skippers**. I saw 10+, mostly males. Also 50+ **Small/Essex Skippers**, 20+ **Small Whites**, 5 **Green-veined Whites**, 1 male **Large White**, 1 female **Brimstone**, 1 male **Chalk Hill Blue**, 1 **Dark Green Fritillary**, 100+ **Meadow Brown**, 100+ **Gatekeeper**, 20+ **Ringlet**, 2 **Small Heath** and a handful of **Marbled White**. **Burnet Moths** were everywhere, I saw at least 200."

David Hastings sent this report: "I visited both sides of [Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon](#), on [30th July](#). I saw a total of 21 species. **Meadow Browns** were the most numerous with over 120 seen. **Chalk Hill Blues** were a close second with over a hundred counted, mostly on Beacon Hill. There were also good number of **Gatekeeper**, **Small Skipper**, **Small Heath**, **Marbled White**, **Brimstone** and **Large White**. On Bald Hill I found at least twenty **Silver-spotted Skippers** and a similar number of **Six-spot Burnets**. I found some fresh-looking **Common Blues** and **Brown Argus** and a single rather worn **Small Copper**.

On 31st July I visited Otmoor, Oxon. The weather suppressed butterfly activity but I still saw fourteen species. The target species was the Brown Hairstreak, but nobody found one while I was there (one had been seen yesterday). I saw a **Purple Hairstreak** and at least five **Red Admirals** along the old roman road."



Brown Argus
Photo © David Hastings



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © David Hastings



Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © David Hastings

Richard Wheeler sent the following news today, 31st July: "Just back after a couple of nights camping with my family near [Uffington, Oxon](#) (below the White Horse). The weather was warm and sunny with intermittent cloud, c.20-25°C. Plenty of butterflies seen, including – I'm happy to

say, after alarmingly few blues' of any type this year – good numbers of **Chalkhill Blue**. This morning (31/7/16), a 1hr walk up to the White Horse and back via the 'Shepherd's Steps' drovers' track yielded 50+ Chalkhill Blue (including 6F – see pic). Other butterflies seen included a solitary **Small Blue** (the first I've seen here), good numbers of **Marbled White**, **Gatekeeper** and **Meadow Brown**, fewer **Large Skipper**, **Small/ Essex Skipper** and **Ringlet**, together with several **Large White**, 1 **Green-veined White**, 2 **Red Admiral**, 2 **Peacock** and 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**."



Chalkhill Blue f.
Photo © Richard Wheeler

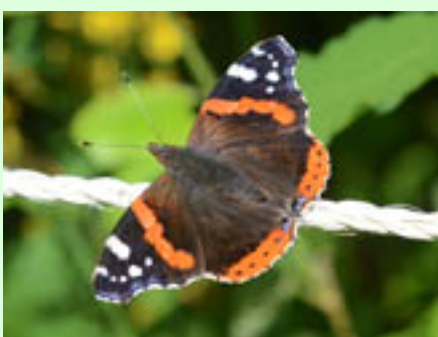
~ 29th July 2016 ~

Mick Jones sent the following: "Whilst walking through Bittams Wood at [Dancersend Reserve, Bucks](#) today (29th July), I saw three **Purple Hairstreaks** on an oak tree at the side of the ride. Two were the usual small splodges high in the canopy, but this one explored lower branches just long enough for me to get a half-decent shot!"



Purple Hairstreak
Photo © Mick Jones

Richard Wheeler visited [Rushbeds Wood, Bucks](#) on 27th July with his two children. "The weather was warm with some cloud, c.22°C. In 1.5 hours along the main ride and in the newly-mown meadow, we saw: 26 **Ringlet**, 156 **Meadow Brown**, 4 **Gatekeeper**, 3 **Marbled White**, 12 **Large Skipper**, 5 **Green-veined White**, 2 **Large White**, 31 **Silver-washed Fritillary** (20M, 11F), 2 **Peacock**, 1 M **Brimstone**, 1 **White Admiral**, 2 **Red Admiral**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 1 **Silver Y moth**, 1 **Shaded Broad-bar**, 1 **Spotted Longhorn Beetle** and 1 frog in the stream that winds through the wood."



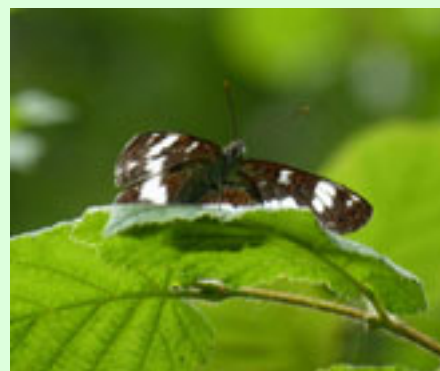
Red Admiral
Photo © Richard Wheeler

Tim Watts sent the following: "On 24/7/16 myself and Colleen visited [Finemere Wood, Bucks](#). We had 2 flight views of **Purple Emperor** including my first well away from the main ride on North side of wood. We walked on to [Romer Wood, Bucks](#) and sat and watched a spot where I'd seen **Purple Emperor** last week from 12-2:30 p.m. Over this period we had a definite 3 **Purple**

Emperor. First one flying around tops of Ash/Oak/big Sallows was very worn and I think male. Later we had a large pristine one flying amongst Sallows regularly and later still 2 pristine females together in the same line of Sallows. They would land on a leaf for a while then move to another leaf, which I took to be egg-laying. We also saw 5-6 **Silver-washed Fritillary** including a *Valezina* form, many **Purple Hairstreak** and 2 worn **White Admiral**. On 27/7/16 there were 2 **White-letter Hairstreak** battling above Elms next to the reserve car park at [Calvert jubilee, Bucks.](#)"



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Tim Watts



White Admiral
Photo © Tim Watts

Chris Brown sent these two reports:

"22/07/16 [Crowsley Wood, Sonning Common, Oxon SU 735 795](#) - **Large Skipper** 1, **Brimstone** 2, **Red Admiral** 3, **Small Tortoiseshell** 2, **Comma** 3, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 5 (1M 1F 3U), **Meadow Brown** 4, **Ringlet** 58, **White Admiral** 1.

24/07/16 [Millennium Green, Sonning Common, Oxon SU 713 794](#) - **Small Skipper** 41, **Large White** 1, **Marbled White** 7, **Gatekeeper** 58, **Meadow Brown** 9, **Ringlet** 3."

~ 26th July 2016 ~

Derek Brown sent this news: "The **Grayling** seems to be doing well this year at [Greenham Common \(Berks\)](#), with 13 seen in 30 mins this morning (26th July) in the area between SU494648 and SU503647. Part of this area has been cleared of Gorse over the last few years and it seems to be helping. Numerous **Gatekeeper** and **Meadow Brown** also in this area but little else."



Grayling
Photo © Derek Brown

Robert Norris visited [Stoke Goldington Wood, Bucks](#) on 25/7/16: "Several **Silver-washed Fritillaries** along the main ride today. Hard to count as they were very active. Stacks of **Green-veined Whites**, **Ringlets**, **Meadow Browns** and **Gatekeepers**. Also **Small Skippers**, **Large Skippers**, **Large Whites**, **Red Admirals**, **Peacocks**, **Comma**, **Speckled Wood**, **Marbled White** and a few freshly emerged **Brimstones**."

Margaret Bolton sent this report: "Following requests from Nick Bowles for sightings of **Chalkhill Blue**, I went to [Strawberry Bank, Bucks](#) [SU 819 900] on 18th July and again today, 24th July. I expected to see a few there at some point this summer, as in previous years. However I saw no sign of them on the 18th, and only this single worn female today, upper and under side of same individual (I judge her to be Chalkhill largely by the remaining "broken" fringes as well as the underside spots, and the fact that I think the possible look-alike Adonis Blue would be an unlikely find at this site). I had seen the male Chalkies at Aston Rowant yesterday, so knew exactly what to

look for."

Nick Bowles responded: "It certainly is a female Chalkie (and not Adonis where the tiny white areas visible in the upperside hind wing ocelli would be blue-ish). You are precisely right about the chequered fringes and the greater likelihood of Chalkie over Adonis."



Chalkhill Blue f. underside
Photo © Margaret Bolton



Chalkhill Blue f. upperside
Photo © Margaret Bolton

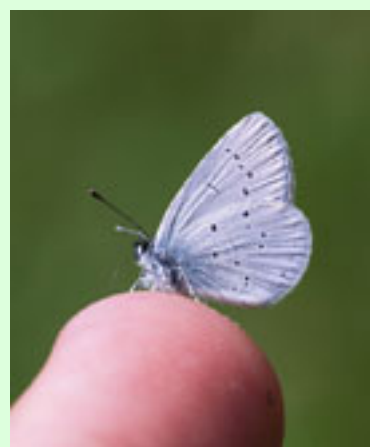
~ 24th July 2016 ~

From Charlie Jackson: "I counted around 20 second brood **Small Blue** on a quick visit to **Pitstone Church End, Bucks** on Saturday morning (23rd July). Plenty of **Gatekeepers** there but only a single **Common Blue**. At **Ivinghoe Beacon** there were impressive numbers of **Chalk Hill Blues** with several pairs mating. I counted over 50 individuals on a small bank off the chalk track leading up from the bus stop on the B489 on the North side of the Beacon."



Chalk Hill Blue, Ivinghoe Beacon, 23-Jul-2016 (© Charlie Jackson)

Chalk Hill Blue
Photo © Charlie Jackson



Small Blue, Pitstone, 23-Jul-2016 (© Charlie Jackson)

Small Blue
Photo © Charlie Jackson

From Peter Kendall: "Went to **Wishmoor Bottom, Berks** this morning (24th July), around 18°C and mostly cloudy (at least 7/10ths) but intermittent sun. Saw two **Grayling** (in Berkshire) and not much else - a few **Gatekeepers**, **Meadow Browns** and distant Whites."



Grayling, Wishmoor Bottom, 24-Jul-2016 (© Peter Kendall)

Grayling
Photo © Peter Kendall

~ 23rd July 2016 ~

From Ewan Urquhart: "Bernwood Forest, Bucks, 23rd July, 0830-1100hrs. Sunny and hot. Seen were **Purple Emperor** 1, **Silver washed Fritillary** 11, **White Admiral** 3, **Red Admiral** 8, **Purple Hairstreak** 13, **Comma** 1, **Large White** 9. Reasonable numbers of **Ringlet**, **Meadow Brown** and **Large Skipper** though not so many as in past days. "



Purple Hairstreak,
Bernwood, 23-Jul-2016
(© Ewan Urquhart)

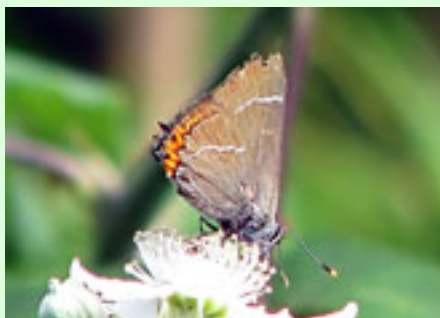
Purple Hairstreak
Photo © Ewan Urquhart



Purple Emperor,
Bernwood, 23-Jul-2016
(© Ewan Urquhart)

Purple Emperor
Photo © Ewan Urquhart

From Dave Wilton: "Nice to see a little bit of activity at last in the garden here at [Westcott, Bucks](#). 13 species were recorded today (Saturday 23rd July), comprising **Essex Skipper**, **Brimstone**, **Large White**, **Small White**, **Green-veined White**, **White-letter Hairstreak**, **Holly Blue**, **Red Admiral**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock**, **Marbled White**, **Gatekeeper** and **Meadow Brown**. Two White-letter Hairstreaks were seen at the same time (they've been active on our elms since the 16th) and one of them came down briefly to nectar on brambles, permitting a half-decent close-up photograph instead of the usual long-range shot of a silhouette sat at the top of an elm!"



White-letter Hairstreak, Westcott, 23-Jul-2016 (©
Dave Wilton)

White-letter Hairstreak
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ 22nd July 2016 ~

From Wendy Wilson: "Early this morning, July 22nd, I went to the urban area between Slough and Heathrow expecting to record just a few common species. My first stop was [Crown Meadow, Colnbrook, Berks](#), where I was pleased to see 14 species including many fresh-looking second brood ones. I was admiring a newly emerged male **Common Blue** when I was distracted by a pristine **Brown Argus** nearby, both species I haven't seen for a while. A brilliant **Small Copper ab. caeruleopunctata**, the first in my square this year, glinting in the sun was a very welcome sight. Also there were **Large**, **Small** and **Green-veined Whites**, **Peacock**, **Comma**, **Meadow Brown**, **Gatekeeper**, **Ringlet**, **Speckled Wood** and **Essex Skippers** which outnumbered the **Small Skippers**. After a while, four or five **Emperor Dragonflies** arrived and flew back and forth low down over the vegetation. They paid particular attention to the clumps of knapweed, knowing just where to seek breakfast! Most of the butterflies sensibly went into hiding except the Whites and the Meadow Browns who didn't seem too bothered. There were also good numbers of common species in nearby [Horton](#) and [Poyle](#), just east of Slough, Berks, including two **Red Admirals**

beside the M25 at Poyle."



Brown Argus,
Colnbrook, 22-Jul-2016
(© Wendy Wilson)

Brown Argus
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Essex Skipper,
Colnbrook, 22-Jul-2016
(© Wendy Wilson)

Essex Skipper
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Small Copper,
Colnbrook, 22-Jul-2016
(© Wendy Wilson)

Small Copper
Photo © Wendy Wilson

From Ewan Urquhart: "Seen at [Bernwood Forest, Bucks](#), 22 July, 1100-1230hrs, in and around the car park during sunny intervals: **Purple Emperor 1, White Admiral 2, Red Admiral 1, Purple Hairstreak 3, Silver-washed Fritillary 6**, usual good numbers of **Ringlet, Meadow Brown and Large Skipper.** "

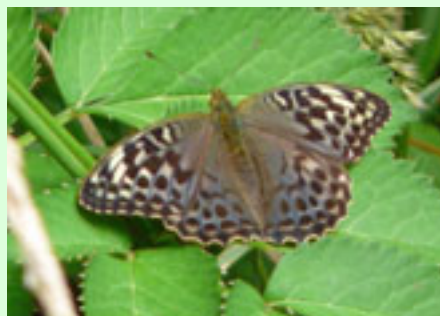
From Mick Jones: "This afternoon (22 July) whilst surveying at BBOWT [Dancersend Reserve, Bucks](#) I saw two **White-letter Hairstreaks** along the boundary of Dancersend Waterworks with Northhill Wood. They were high in the canopy, flying between Wych Elms and Ash trees. In the same area there were a number of **Silver-washed Fritillaries.** "

From Peter Cuss: "I recorded a single **White-letter Hairstreak** at [Hose Hill Lake, Berkshire](#) (SU647694) on 19th July. "

From John Holdbrook: "On Tuesday July 19th I walked round [Brasenose Wood, Oxford, Oxon.](#) There were a lot of **Green-veined Whites** fluttering low in the vegetation on the paths, which I assumed were females laying eggs. I saw **Meadow Browns, Ringlets**, a single **Speckled Wood** and about 10 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** flying very actively. I also saw 2 **White Admirals** flying around the oaks. "

~ 21st July 2016 ~

From Tony Croft: "At [Rushbeds Wood, Bucks](#) today July 21st, among the many **Silver-washed Fritillaries** flying along the rides was this lovely female of the *valezina* form. "



Silver-washed Fritillary, Rushbeds Wood, 21-Jul-2016 (© Tony Croft)

Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Tony Croft

From Katy Dunn: "We saw this lovely **Lime Hawk** caterpillar at [Hambleton, Bucks](#) today (21st

July). "



Lime Hawk larva, Hambleton, 21-Jul-2016 (© Katy Dunn)

Lime Hawk larva
Photo © Katy Dunn

From Harry Appleyard: "This afternoon (21st July) I paid another visit to the [North Bucks Way](#). Sadly I did not manage to spot the Purple Emperors I saw there last week but it was not a bad day for butterflies by any means. I came across lots of the usual suspects for this area including several **Speckled Woods**, two **Commas**, two **Red Admirals**, several **Large Skippers** and plenty of **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets**. I also spotted at least five **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, most of which were hanging around the large bramble bushes on the edge of the nearby woodland, along with a fresh **Peacock**. A little later on I decided to walk down to [Whaddon, Bucks](#) and spotted a large number of **Large Whites** from a public footpath on farmland, one of which I was able to photograph laying eggs on the crops nearby. "



Silver-washed Fritillary, North Bucks Way, 21-Jul-2016 (© Harry Appleyard)

Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Harry Appleyard



Peacock, North Bucks Way, 21-Jul-2016 (© Harry Appleyard)

Peacock
Photo © Harry Appleyard



Large White, Whaddon, 21-Jul-2016 (© Harry Appleyard)

Large White
Photo © Harry Appleyard

~ 20th July 2016 ~

From Michael Hunt: "[Romer Wood, Bucks](#) 17th July. Today's visit found in 15 mins for the count I submitted for the Big Count: 7 **Large White**, 1 **Small White**, 1 **Green-veined White**, 5 **Marbled White**, 5 **Meadow Brown**, 17 **Ringlet**, 5 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 2 **White Admiral**, 2 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Large Skipper**, 4 **Black Hairstreak**, 1 **Gatekeeper**, 3 **Small Skipper**, 1 **Purple Emperor**, 1 **Brimstone**."

From Michael McNeill: "A hot sunny day on 18th July prompted a walk around [Moor Copse, West Berkshire](#) where a good number of butterflies were spotted. 12 species were recorded including one **Six-spot Burnet**. There were large numbers of Skippers, **Small Skippers** (75+), **Large Skippers** (25+), **Meadow Brown** (25+), **Ringlet** (50+), **Marbled White** (50+). In addition there

were 5 Red Admiral, 1 Brimstone, 5 Large White, 5 Small White, 1 Comma and 7 Silver-washed Fritillary in 3 different locations, all very active and difficult to photograph."



Silver-washed Fritillary,
Moor Copse, 18-Jul-2016
(© Michael McNeill)

Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Michael McNeill



Red Admiral, Moor
Copse, 18-Jul-2016 (©
Michael McNeill)

Red Admiral
Photo © Michael McNeill



Marbled White, Moor
Copse, 18-Jul-2016 (©
Michael McNeill)

Marbled White
Photo © Michael McNeill

From Michael McNeill: "I received a brief visit from a **White Admiral** in my garden in [Upper Basildon, West Berkshire](#) (SU590767) on 12th July. Unfortunately, it did not stay long enough for a photograph."

From Chris Brown: "14th July, [Crowsley Wood, Sonning Common, Oxon](#) (SU735795): **Large Skipper** 7, **Small White** 1, **Comma** 5, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 8 (5M 3U), **Speckled Wood** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Meadow Brown** 11, **Ringlet** 112+ (I gave up counting), **White Admiral** 1." 17th July, [Millennium Green, Sonning Common, Oxon](#) (SU713794): **Small Skipper** 45, **Essex Skipper** 2, **Small White** 1, **Small Tortoiseshell** 2, **Comma** 1, **Marbled White** 14, **Meadow Brown** 20, **Ringlet** 1, **Gatekeeper** 16. 19th July, [Millennium Green, Sonning Common, Oxon](#) (SU713794): **Small Skipper** 83, **Essex Skipper** 3, **Small White** 1, **Small Tortoiseshell** 5, **Marbled White** 8, **Meadow Brown** 7, **Gatekeeper** 14.

From Ewan Urquhart: "19th July, [Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon](#) scarp slope on north side of M40, 1200-1430hrs. Full sun with fairly strong southeast wind. **Dark Green Fritillary** 1, **Chalk Hill Blue** 70+ (only one female), **Marbled White** 40+, **Meadow Brown** 30+, **Small Skipper** 30+, **Gatekeeper** 5, **Small Tortoiseshell** 4, **Peacock** 1, **Brimstone** 1."



Dark Green Fritillary,
Aston Rowant, 19-Jul-
2016 (© Ewan Urquhart)

Dark Green Fritillary
Photo © Ewan Urquhart

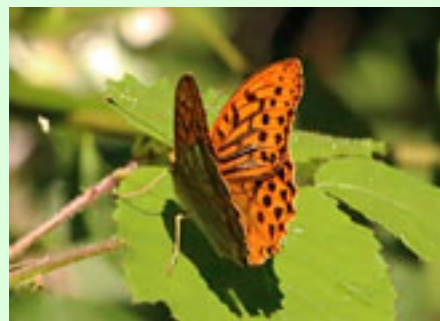


Chalk Hill Blue, Aston
Rowant, 19-Jul-2016 (©
Ewan Urquhart)

Chalk Hill Blue
Photo © Ewan Urquhart

From Michael McNeill: "From Nick Bowles's request to hunt down **Chalk Hill Blue** butterflies, I visited [Lardon Chase, West Berkshire](#) on a hot and sunny day (19th July) and counted 95, including 3 females. Apart from the females, all were on the move, making photography difficult. Other species included good numbers of **Marbled White** and **Meadow Brown** with **Brimstone**, **Red Admiral** and **Ringlet** in single figures."

From Alan Adkins: "I can report a number of butterflies today (18th July) seen at the [Chiltern Open Air Museum, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks](#): **Meadow Brown** (dozens), **Marbled White** (many), **Ringlet** (many), **Essex/Small Skipper** (many), **Painted Lady** (1), **Red Admiral** (2) **Silver-washed Fritillary** (10), **Comma** (4), **Speckled Wood** (1). Highlights were the relative abundance of SWF, and the Marbled Whites."



Silver-washed Fritillary, Chalfont St Giles, 18-Jul-2016 (© Alan Adkins)

Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Alan Adkins

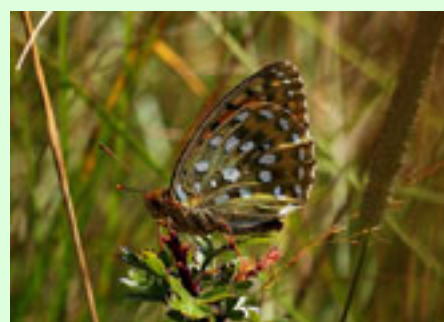
From Andy Bolton: "Seen today 18th July at [Shalford Bridge former gravel pit, nr Woolhampton, Berks](#) (SU566651): **Large Skipper** 3, **Small Skipper** 3, **Marbled White** 7, **Gatekeeper** 6, **Meadow Brown** 14, **Ringlet** 22, **Small White** 4, **Large White** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Comma** 1."

From Peter Cuss: "A few more **White-letter Hairstreak** sightings all from Oxon, on the 17th July. 1 on elm at [Park Wood, Mapledurham](#), SU672770, and 2 on elms in [Jacksons Lane](#), SU693763. Then today (18th July) 1 on elm at [Constitution Hill, Mongewell](#), SU611877 and 2 on elm on the footpath that runs from [Mongewell to Wallingford](#) at SU610883."

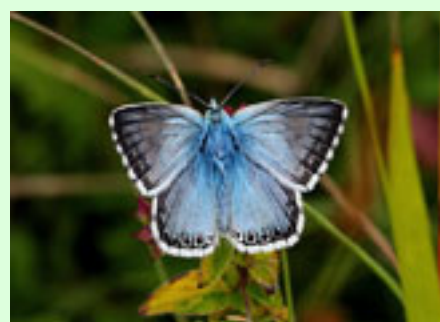
From Chris Lamsdell: "Black Park, Bucks 17 July: 2 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, quite a few **Gatekeepers**, **Meadow Browns** and **Large Skippers**."

~ 18th July 2016 ~

From John Lindley: "I walked a section of the Ridgeway at the end of Rectory Road, just west of [Streatley, Berks](#) in the morning of 17th July, and I saw around 10 each of **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet**, **Marbled White** and **Gatekeeper**. Also 5 **Comma** (all *Hutchinsoni*), and singles of **Red Admiral**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Peacock**. Disappointing numbers of whites, only 2 **Small Whites** seen. I had a much better afternoon in the wildflower meadow just off the bridle path from [Mapledurham to Whitchurch Hill, Oxon](#) where the footpath leaves the bridle path and heads north towards Bottom Wood. **Marbled Whites**, **Meadow Browns** and **Gatekeepers** were out in huge numbers, at least 100 of each. I also saw about 20 **Small/Essex Skippers** and 30 small whites. Both my target species were present - I saw 8 **Dark Green Fritillaries**, mostly very active, and around 20 **Chalk Hill Blues** (all male). The latter were concentrated into a small area along the hedge just to the east of the gate. Then, on the way back to Mapledurham, 5 **Red Admiral**, 5 **Comma**, 2 **Peacock** and 2 **Small Tortioseshell**."



Dark Green Fritillary,
Bottom Wood, 17-Jul-2016 (© John Lindley)



Chalk Hill Blue, Lardon
Chase, 16-Jul-2016 (©
John Lindley)

From Nick Bowles: "Report on field trip to [Bacombe Hill, Wendover, Bucks](#) on 17th July. Four members set out from the Shoulder Of Mutton in Wendover (who had kindly agreed to let us park in their car park) and wandered up the hill, to one of BBOWTs newest reserves. Cloudy skies gradually cleared and despite the strong wind it became warm. We saw 15 species including the rather wonderful **Dark Green** and **Silver-washed Fritillaries** but without seeing a single one of the 'Blue' family. The information board at the entrance promises glorious views and soaring Red Kites. We couldn't argue with those. However, it also says that, *...on warm sunny days there are Chalk Hill Blue butterflies among the colourful wild flowers.* There were not! Other summer species such as **Gatekeeper** and 'new' **Brimstone** and **Comma**, were on the wing, so the lack of all the 'blue' species was both odd and sad; and shows that we were a little unlucky. It is a lovely hillside and worthy of exploration but the site is slightly later than many others, as it faces north and is open to the wind sweeping across the Vale. Parking is awkward but the Shoulder of Mutton does good lunches. Other hostelries are available."

From Malcolm & Valerie Brownsword: "This afternoon (17th July) we went to [Hackpen Hill, near Wantage, Oxon](#) and saw our first 5 **Chalk Hill Blues** of the year. We also saw courtship of a pair of **Dark Green Fritillaries** as well as an additional two in flight. There were approximately 50 **Marbled Whites**, 25 **Small Heaths**, 5 **Small/Essex Skippers**, 8 **Ringlets**, 12 **Meadow Browns** and 6 **Chalk Carpet** moths."



Dark Green Fritillaries,
Hackpen Hill, 17-Jul-
2016 (© Malcolm
Brownsword)



Chalk Carpet, Hackpen
Hill, 17-Jul-2016 (©
Malcolm Brownsword)

Dark Green Fritillaries
Chalk Carpet
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

From Richard Wheeler: "Visited [Waterperry Wood, Bucks](#) with my family between 4pm and 5pm today (17th July). Weather hot and breezy (c.25°C). Plenty of butterflies seen, including: 14 **Large Skipper**, 5 **Large White**, 5 **Meadow Brown**, 51 **Ringlet**, 1 **Comma**, 7 **Marbled White**, 5 **Silver-washed Fritillary** (3M, 2F), 7 **Purple Hairstreak** (including a female perched on grass), 1 **White Admiral** and 1 **Purple Emperor**."



Purple Hairstreak, Waterperry Wood, 17-Jul-2016 (©
Richard Wheeler)

Purple Hairstreak
Photo © Richard Wheeler

From Ewan Urquhart: "In sunny conditions at [Bernwood Forest \(Oakley Wood\), Bucks](#) on 17th

July 2016 (1120-1300hrs) we saw 5 **Purple Emperor** - with 3 males coming down to the main track beyond the first crossroads, one of which attached itself to a person's boot and remained in situ for twenty minutes. Briefly joined by another before both flew back into the trees. Fourth one in the car park and a fifth cruising the Oaks up a ride off the main track. Also 2 **White Admiral**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 22 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 1 **Purple Hairstreak**, 2 **Comma**, 6 **Marbled White**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 12 **Large White**, 1 **Small White** as well as good numbers of **Ringlet** and **Large Skipper**. Another 2 **Scarlet Tiger** moths on the wing also."

~ 17th July 2016 ~

Request from Nick Bowles : *Perhaps some of you that have been looking for Purple Emperor and Silver-washed might try your hand at something which is proving harder this year? Can you find a Chalk Hill Blue? I would love to hear that someone, anyone, has found them.*

Karen Saxl sent these sightings: "On the [SUSTRANS route from Didcot to Upton, Oxon](#), this morning (17th July) I had my first sightings of second brood **Small Blues** - last sightings of first brood were last weekend so not much of a gap this year. Wetter weather means that there is more kidney vetch in flower so may be a good year for second brood - at least for my little colonies. The **Marbled Whites** have definitely gone past their peaks - still seeing over 50 quite easily - but not getting up into the hundreds. This year I've seen virtually no spread out of the colony so suspect that it's not going to have a good year in terms of the butterfly count. Numbers of whites - mainly **Large** and **Green-veined** - are picking up so starting to get a little less excited now when I see one. **Small Skippers** are starting to pick up and still a few **Large Skippers** around. **Gatekeepers**, **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets** all doing well. Not seeing as many **Six-spot Burnets** as usual, though noticing a few unhatched cases among the long grass - so may see a few more over the next week or so."

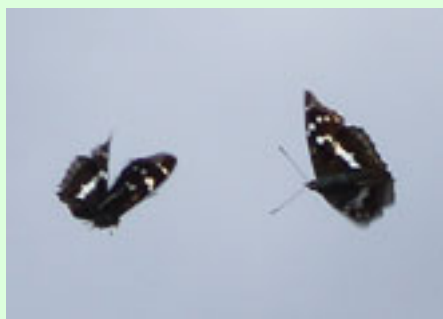
These sightings were sent by Dave Cleal: "Yesterday (16th July) I went to [Hodgemoor Woods, Bucks](#) (between Beaconsfield and Amersham). The weather was warm and humid. **Ringlet** were common around the grassy edges of the wood and far outnumbered **Meadow Brown & Marbled White**. In the wood butterflies were scarce with just half a dozen **Speckled Wood**, a dozen **Green-veined Whites** & 5 **Comma**. Not one White Admiral was seen, disappointing given that I saw several here a couple of years ago. Best sighting was a **Silver-washed Fritillary** in the car park interacting with a **Comma**. I then went to [Beacon Lane opposite Wycombe Airpark, Bucks](#) and walked west along the permitted path, there was a stiff south westerly wind. 1 **Large Skipper**, 3 **Essex Skipper**, 14 Whites, the ones identified were all **Green-veined Whites**, 60 odd **Ringlet**, 20 **Marbled Whites** & 4 **Small Tortoiseshell**. This morning (17th July) I found a **Painted Lady** sunning itself in the grounds of our house just north of [Burnham, Bucks](#). Our resident **Purple Hairstreaks** have been shy of late but I got a maximum of 5, three nights ago."

Karen Saxl sent this news: "A couple of nights ago (14th July) I got home quite late from work but it had been a good day and wind had been quite low so even though it was around 20.30 I decided to go out (to the [SUSTRANS route from Didcot to Upton, Oxon](#)) and see what was going on with the local **Marbled White** population - managed to see about 90 butterflies in all in - perching in grass and a few in flight - mainly the **Meadow Browns** doing their last flutter as the sun went down over the horizon and the light changed. Anyway the moon was starting to shine as I headed back which made me think about trying to see if I could find anything by moonlight so resolved to let the moon get a bit fuller and if it was clear go out for a run and see what I could spot so this evening - not quite full moon - but peering through clouds - a bit more wind than I would have liked so 22.15 I set off. Arrived at a good spot around 22.30 and had a look - found 3 without much of a problem - still perched on flower heads amid the grass in a sheltered spot. Moon was slightly obscured by cloud so waited a few minutes for cloud to blow over and looked again - much easier to spot in the moonlight this time round and so found a 4th. 2 were actually perched inside a head of yarrow that hasn't quite opened up yet - and think I must have brushed some grass across the

head as one fluttered out as I was watching ... and as the moonlight got a little stronger one perched in some knapweed did a little flutter as I watched. Bit of me that would have liked to stay and see if and when they finally went to bed - so warm and with plenty of moonlight I suspect they might have stayed up all night."

John Lindley sent these sightings: "I visited [Lardon Chase, Berks](#) this afternoon (16th July). **Chalk Hill Blues** were about, but in lower numbers than I've seen here in previous years. I saw around 30, all males. I looked hard for females but didn't see any. Also about 50 **Meadow Browns**, 20+ **Marbled Whites** (starting to look a bit tatty now), 2 **Gatekeepers** (both male), 1 **Small Tortoiseshell** and a handful of small whites. Overall, there seemed to be far fewer butterflies than in previous years, hopefully numbers will pick up soon."

Harry Appleyard sent this news: "Earlier today (16th July) I joined a local expert and several other people on a butterfly walk along the [North Bucks Way](#) between 11am and 1pm, starting from Shenley Wood. In the end we counted 17 species. The highlight of the walk was seeing at least four **Purple Emperors** flying above the canopy. We saw one chasing another on several occasions and they were settling regularly at the tops of the ash and oak trees above us. Despite it being a little windy at times, we also had good views of two **Purple Hairstreaks**, one of which was basking on a nearby oak and two **White-letter Hairstreaks** on a small elm. **Silver-Washed Fritillaries** were also patrolling, occasionally feeding on hogweed and basking in various trees, three appearing together at one point. Many other common butterflies for this particular area were also seen including **Meadow Browns**, **Ringlets** and **Large Skippers**. There were a few spread around our route in small numbers too, including several summer brood **Commas**, five **Marbled Whites** (one pair mating), two **Gatekeepers**, one **White Admiral** and one **Essex Skipper**."



Purple Emperors, North Bucks Way, 16-Jul-2016
(© Harry Appleyard)

Purple Emperors
Photo © Harry Appleyard



White-letter Hairstreak, North Bucks Way, 16-Jul-2016 (© Harry Appleyard)

White-letter Hairstreak
Photo © Harry Appleyard



Marbled Whites, North Bucks Way, 16-Jul-2016
(© Harry Appleyard)

Marbled Whites
Photo © Harry Appleyard

Dave Cleal sent this report: "I went to [Holtspur Bottom, Bucks](#) this afternoon (14th July), at times it was very hot and sunny. **Marbled Whites** in good numbers, 2 **Small Tortiseshell**, **Comma**, and several Whites (which were more noticeable everywhere today). Couldn't find any Blues of any persuasion but 5 **Essex Skippers** provided my first photos of them."

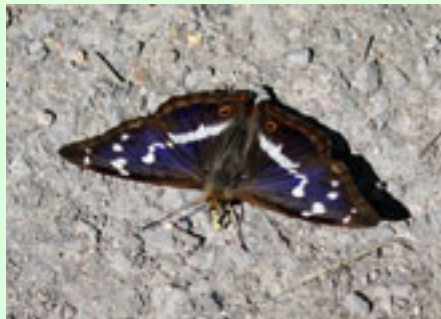


Essex Skipper, Holtspur Bottom, 14-Jul-2016 (© Dave Cleal)

Essex Skipper
Photo © Dave Cleal

Ewan Urquhart sent this news: "At [Oakley Wood, Bernwood Forest, Bucks](#) on 14th July between the car park and the pond I saw the following from 0900-1300hrs in virtually continuous sunshine: **Purple Emperor** 4, with one feeding on the ground for forty minutes, **White Admiral** 2, **Red Admiral** 2, **Purple Hairstreak** 5, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 15+, **Gatekeeper** 1, **Marbled White** 1, **Small White** 2, **Large White** 4, as well as good numbers of **Ringlet**, **Meadow Brown** and **Large Skipper**.

At [Waterperry Wood, Bucks](#) from 1400-1630 I saw the following: **Purple Emperor** 1, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 28, **Purple Hairstreak** 3, **Marbled White** 1, **Meadow Brown** 11, **Ringlet** 90+, **Large White** 21, **Small White** 2, **Large Skipper** 50+. Also 2 **Scarlet Tiger** moths there."



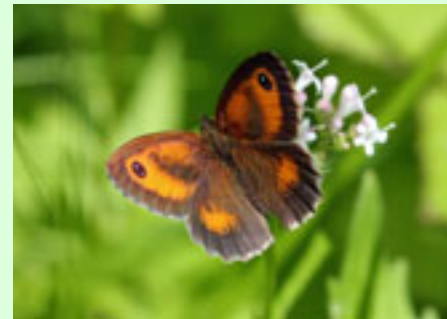
Purple Emperor,
Bernwood, 14-Jul-2016
(© Ewan Urquhart)

Purple Emperor ♂
Photo © Ewan Urquhart



Silver-washed Fritillary,
Bernwood, 14-Jul-2016
(© Ewan Urquhart)

Silver-washed Fritillary ♂
Photo © Ewan Urquhart



Gatekeeper, Bernwood,
14-Jul-2016 (© Ewan
Urquhart)

Gatekeeper ♂
Photo © Ewan Urquhart

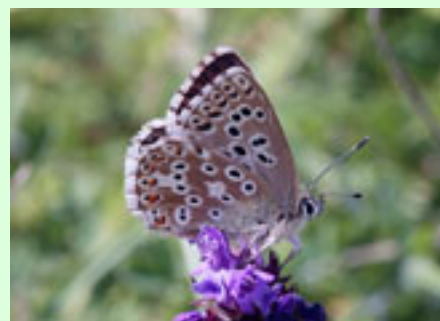
~ 14th July 2016 ~

David Hastings visited [Chazey Heath, Oxon](#) on 14th July: "I managed to spot at least five **White-letter Hairstreaks** in the elms behind the pub. None of them came down to flowers, though. Then at [Lardon Chase, Bucks](#) I saw at least thirty **Chalk Hill Blues** (25+ males, 5 females) and one **Dark Green Fritillary**, as well as the commoner species. One Chalkie was happy to sit on my hand. I also saw a **Holly Blue** in my garden in north [Abingdon, Oxon](#)."



Chalk Hill Blue, Lardon
Chase, 14-Jul-2016 (©
David Hastings)

Chalk Hill Blue ♂
Photo © David Hastings



Chalk Hill Blue, Lardon
Chase, 14-Jul-2016 (©
David Hastings)

Chalk Hill Blue ♀
Photo © David Hastings

Tim Watts sent this news: "On 14th July I visited [Finemere wood, Bucks](#), unlike previous trips recently there was plenty of **Purple Emperor** activity. At 10 a.m one landed in car park, the flew up main ride, landing now and again. At 11 a.m I sat on the pile of stones in the car park to scan the tops of Oaks, glanced to my left and a male Emperor was on stone pile next to me ! It stayed feeding on Fox dung for half an hour, giving many visitors point blank views. At 11:30 two seen together low over car park then high over Oaks. At [Charndon, Bucks](#) there was a **White-letter Hairstreak** nectaring on bramble by the roadside speed limit signs outside the village hall at 12:30. Also 2-3 battling above small Elms next to [Calvert Jubilee, Oxon](#) car park. I then tried a field just outside [Oving, Bucks](#) that noted had tallish Elm hedgeline border, tried last year and recently with no success but today delighted to find 3-4 **White-letter Hairstreaks**, a new colony. Also following up a tip from Adrian Cadman, I checked a roadside Elm near [Botolph Claydon, Bucks](#)

and saw 2 **White-letter Hairstreak** there too."



Purple Emperor,
Finemere Wood, 14-Jul-
2016 (© Tim Watts)

Purple Emperor
Photo © Tim Watts

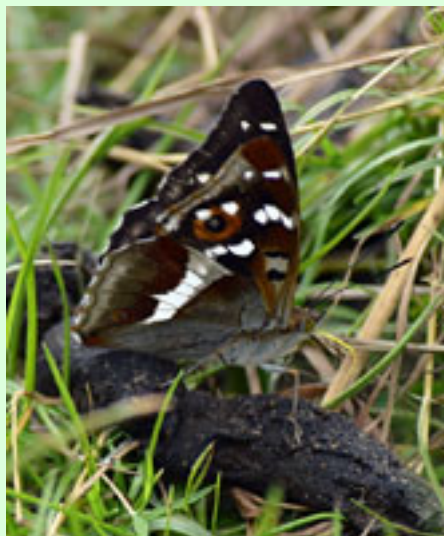


White-letter Hairstreak,
Charndon, 14-Jul-2016
(© Tim Watts)

White-letter Hairstreak
Photo © Tim Watts

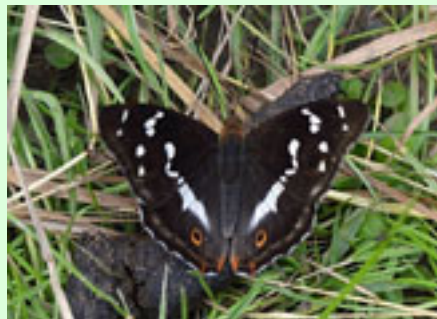
Peter Cuss sent this report: "Searching for **White-letter Hairstreak** today (14th July) on elms along the A4 between [Maidenhead and Reading, Berks](#) and can report the following sightings: 2 at SU811783, Kiln Green. 1 at SU795777 and 2 at SU792775, just before Hare Hatch."

This was received from Steve Johnson: "Stroll through [Bernwood Meadows and into Bernwood Forest, Bucks](#) today (14th July) between 11am and 1pm. Here is a list of sightings: Many **Ringlets**, **Meadow Browns**, **Marbled Whites**, and **Large Skippers**. Also 3 **Small Heaths**, 3 **Gatekeepers**, 2 **Large White**, 1 **Comma**, 5 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, and 3 **Purple Emperors** (1 female, 2 male) flying and settled on faeces and wet mud on the main ride in the centre of the forest."



Purple Emperor,
Bernwood Forest, 14-Jul-
2016 (© Steve Johnson)

Purple Emperor
Photo © Steve Johnson



Purple Emperor,
Bernwood Forest, 14-Jul-
2016 (© Steve Johnson)

Purple Emperor
Photo © Steve Johnson

Neil Holman sent this news: "A trip out of area on Wednesday 13th July to [Silchester Common, Hants](#) to successfully find the **Silver-studded Blue** was followed by a quick afternoon visit to [Bald Hill, Aston Rowant South, Oxon](#) on the way home. This proved to be very successful despite the inclement weather as between heavy showers I managed to spot a lot of **Marbled White**, 4 x **Dark Green Fritillary**, 6 x **Small Heath**, 3 x **Small Skipper** and to my surprise 1 x **Siver-spotted Skipper**."



Silver-studded Blue,
Silcester Common, 13-
Jul-2016 (© Neil
Holman)

Silver-studded Blue ♂
Photo © Neil Holman



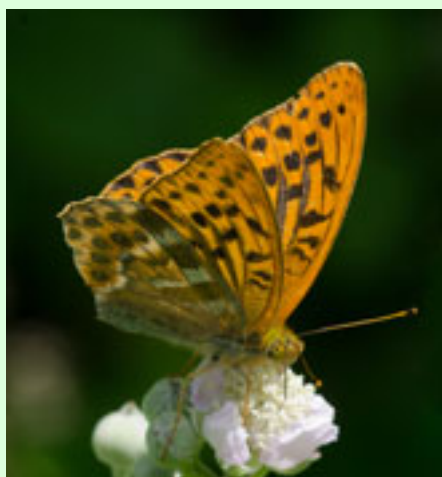
Silver-spotted Skipper,
Aston Rowant, 13-Jul-
2016 (© Neil Holman)

Silver-spotted Skipper ♂
Photo © Neil Holman

Nick Bowles sent this trip report: "As the habitat at the [Chiltern Forest Golf Club, Bucks](#) is so wonderful I visit a few times each year (by invitation) and agreed to lead a walk for the club members. Sadly, though 11th July seemed a sensible date to provide sightings of about 15 species, on the day many of the anticipated species seemed to be between broods. It was certainly the case that many species which I normally see there in the summer were absent. We saw **Large, Small and Essex Skipper; Small Tortoiseshell, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Ringlet**. There were many flowers including four orchid species, plus Red legged Partridge and a Roe deer (in full daylight wandering across the course) among many other diverse forms of wildlife."

Nick Bowles sent this news: "The first UTB Chalkhill Blue was seen 11 days ago; and it was a female which normally emerge about 7-10 days behind the males. So why is no-one seeing any? I tried again today (13th July) and had about 45 minutes of good weather at [Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks](#) and the adjoining [Stepps Hill, Bucks](#). I saw **Large and Small Skipper, Small White, Common Blue, Small Tortoiseshell** (3rd commonest species), **Dark Green Fritillary, Speckled Wood, Marbled White, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Small Heath**. There were no Chalkies in evidence and no burnet moths either, which is equally odd."

Nicholl Williams sent this report: "I went down today (13th June) to the area of woodland around [Lane End, Bucks](#). I saw a mass of **Large Whites** (almost as if an invasion has happened). Also my first few **Gatekeepers**, more **Small Tortoiseshells**, dozens of **Ringlets, Marbled Whites** and a few **Red Admirals**. I counted 12 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**. I saw 4 **Large Skippers**."



Silver-washed Fritillary,
Lane End, 13-Jul-2016
(© Nicholl Williams)

Silver-washed Fritillary ♂
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Large Skipper, Lane End,
13-Jul-2016 (© Nicholl
Williams)

Large Skipper ♂
Photo © Nicholl Williams

John Chapman sent this news: "Widmer End, Bucks, 10th July: Thought I should report that my wife and I saw in excess of 50 **Meadow Brown** butterflies, in fact we saw so many in the space of

2 fields, we finally lost count. Most seemed to be enjoying the rain drops on the long grass. Conditions sunny, but quite windy. Also saw 4 **Comma** butterflies, one **Small Tortoiseshell** and a **Large White**."

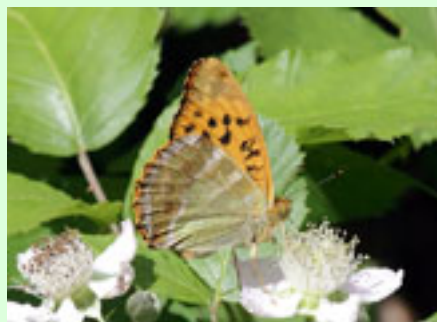
~ 12th July 2016 ~

David Hastings visited [Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon](#) on 11th July: "Conditions were not great, with a fairly brisk NW wind, but there was some sunshine. There were many **Ringlets**, **Meadow Browns**, **Marbled Whites** and **Large Skippers** about. I had a brief glimpse of a **White Admiral**, and found just one each of **Small** and **Essex Skippers**, **Gatekeeper** and **Purple Hairstreak**. However, **Silver-washed Fritillaries** were quite numerous, with at least ten being seen. I also saw three **Commas** and six **Large Whites**."



Gatekeeper, Whitecross Green Wood, 11-Jul-2016
(© David Hastings)

Gatekeeper ♂
Photo © David Hastings



Silver-washed Fritillary, Whitecross Green Wood, 11-Jul-2016 (© David Hastings)

Silver-washed Fritillary ♂
Photo © David Hastings

Ewan Urquhart sent these sightings: "[Bernwood Forest \(Oakley Wood\), Bucks](#) today 11th July 1115-1330hrs: **Purple Emperor** 2 (possibly 3), **Silver-washed Fritillary** 6+, **Comma** 1, **Purple Hairstreak** 4, **Large White** 2."

Julia Huggins sent this report: The field trip for White Admiral and other butterflies took place on Saturday 9th July under grey skies and in windy conditions. Despite this nine people joined me for a walk around [Bowdown Wood, Berks](#). Unfortunately the conditions were not good for **White Admirals** and the best we achieved was a couple of silhouettes against the grey sky! However we did see numerous **Ringlets** and **Meadow Browns**, and many other things including a **Clouded Border** moth and Earthstar fungi."

~ 10th July 2016 ~

Ewan Urquhart sent the following: [Bernwood Forest \(Oakley Wood\), Bucks](#) today 10 July 1130-1400hrs: Intermittent sunshine from 1200 onwards. **Purple Emperor** 2, 1 briefly in Car Park @ 1132 but flew off into surrounding Oaks without settling. Another just beyond the first crossroads feeding on dog faeces by track from 1320-1354. Also **Silver-washed Fritillary** 7, **Comma** 1, **Purple Hairstreak** 2, **Large White** 1, usual complement of **Ringlets**, **Meadow Browns** and **Large Skippers**."



Chris Brown sent this report: "10/07/16 Millennium Green Sonning Common , Oxfordshire (SU713794): **Small Skipper** 52, **Large Skipper** 1, **Marbled White** 61, **Meadow Brown** 6, **Ringlet** 3, **Gatekeeper** 2, **Small Tortoiseshell** 2, **Forester Moth** 6 and **Six-spot Burnet** 2."



Forester Moth
Photo © Chris Brown

~ 9th July 2016 ~

Karen Saxl sent this update: "This coming Wednesday (13th July) sees the last planned evening walk along the Didcot-Upton Railway line - last Wednesday, **6th July** there were a few of us - myself and a few locals including a family that I see walking regularly. The weather was good and had been all day so everything was still quite active and flying up in response to vibrations as we went past. Numbers of **Marbled White**, **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets** and **Large Skippers** are good - still seeing the odd **Small Blue** - though we didn't actually see one that evening. Still not much by way of Whites but now seeing a few **Small Tortoiseshells**. On the 13th July we meet at the carpark at the village hall in East Hagbourne - aiming to leave at 1800. **If you are planning to come then let me know - Karen Saxl 01235-812574.**"

Dave Cleal sent this news: "I went to **Springfield landfill, Bucks** this afternoon (**9th July**) just south of Beaconsfield. 5 **Small Skippers**, 5 **Marbled Whites**, **Meadow Brown** & **Ringlet** were common but not prolific. 2 **Small Tortoiseshell** & one **Green-veined White**."



Small Skipper
Photo © Dave Cleal

David Fuller went to **Knowl Hill Common, Berks** on **9th July**. "Although it was overcast and breezy it was 20 degrees and I saw the following: **Marbled White** 43, **Meadow Brown** 28, **Ringlet** 20, **Small Skipper** 9 and **Large White** 1, so not bad for no sun!"

Ewan Urquhart sent these sightings on 9th July:

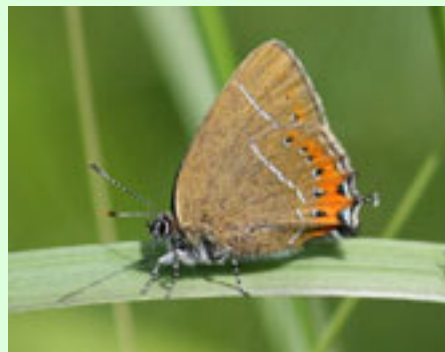
05 July Bernwood Forest Bucks, from 1400-1600hrs - **Black Hairstreak** 1, **White Admiral** 2, **Emperor Moth larva** 1 crossing the track also **Ringlet**, **Meadow Brown**, **Marbled White** and **Large Skipper** in good numbers.

06 July Finemere Wood Bucks, from 1000-1200hrs - **Purple Emperor** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **White Admiral** 2, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 15+, also **Marbled White**, **Ringlet**, **Meadow Brown** and **Large Skipper** in good numbers.

07 July Chazey Heath Oxon, late afternoon - **White-letter Hairstreak** 4, mainly flying above elms

but one nectaring on brambles.

08 July Bernwood Forest Bucks, in one hour of intermittent sunshine from 1200-1300 - **Purple Emperor** 2 possibly 3, **White Admiral** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 3 including a valezina, **Purple Hairstreak** 2, also many **Ringlets** and **Meadow Browns**."



Black Hairstreak
Photo © Ewan Urquhart

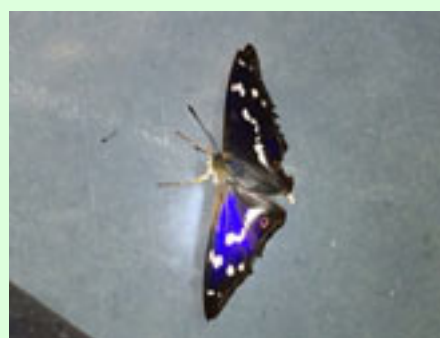


White-letter Hairstreak
Photo © Ewan Urquhart



White Admiral
Photo © Ewan Urquhart

Alan Gudge passed on this news: "I am pleased to report that a **Purple Emperor** was recorded on **8th July** in a polytunnel in the garden of Mike and Helen Hall which is adjacent to the South Meadow on **Moorend Common in Bucks**. It was obliging in revealing both the upper and lower wing surfaces. In the subdued light in the polytunnel the male purple sheen was only revealed by shining a torch on it. This will encourage locals to look out for more sightings of Purple Emperor on the common."



Purple Emperor
Photo © Helen Hall

Wendy Wilson sent this report: "On the **7th July** a sunny morning at **Langley Park in Bucks** yielded 60 **Ringlet**, 57 **Meadow Brown**, 8 **Large Skipper**, 6 **Small Skipper**, 5 **Small White**, 3 **Large White**, 3 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Green-veined White**, 1 each of my first **Purple Hairstreak** and **Essex Skipper** of the year. Several of the usual grassland species were disappointingly absent however. On a brief visit to nearby **Black Park** in the afternoon I was pleased to see a **Silver-washed Fritillary** and 3 **White Admirals**, both my first of the year. Also seen were 5 **Ringlet**, 4 **Meadow Brown**, 2 **Purple Hairstreak**, 2 **Large Skipper**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 1 **Large White**, 1 **Comma** and (surprisingly for this wooded site) a **Marbled White**."

Peter Cuss sent this update: "Saw 4 **White-letter Hairstreak** on elm at the Earth Trust, **Little Wittenham, Oxon, SU 558 928 (7/7/16)**."

Nick Bowles sent the following on 7th July: "I went to **Grangelands, Pulpit Hill and the Kimble Rifle Range (Bucks)** today and searched hard for Chalkhill Blues. None. Nor any Dark Green Fritillary. In fact there were few butterflies of any type. Most numerous were **Marbled White** and **Ringlet** with a few **Meadow Brown** and **Small Heath** and one or two **Brimstones** (old brood) and single **Large White** and **Speckled Wood**. I think I saw one **Large Skipper**. Considering that I was on these sites for over an hour I was disappointed to see so few butterflies. The flowers were looking very good though - with about 20 Musk Orchid in the masses of Fragrant and Pyramidal."

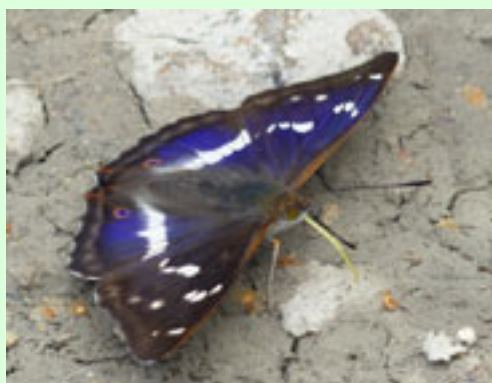
This report came from Graham and Bridget Elcombe: "6th July: **Chenies, Bucks**: On the path along the River Chess, West of Chenies (on the frontier with Hertfordshire!): no rarities, but for the

record we saw seven species: **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Speckled Wood**, **Large White**, **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet**, **Small Skipper** and **Marbled White**."

~ 6th July 2016 ~

Nick Bowles sent the following: "Today, **6th July**, I was looking for **Black Hairstreak** and **White-letter Hairstreak** in new locations in the morning and then for **Dark Green Fritillary** and **Chalkhill Blue** in the afternoon at one of their better sites. I walked most of the fields of 2 farms just outside **Quinton, Bucks** this morning in sunshine and light winds and despite one tantalising 'is it isn't it' moment saw no hairstreaks (neither **Black** nor **White-letter**) that I can confirm. They were the target of the hunt. Both farms had **Small Heath** though and better numbers of **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet** and **Large Skipper** than I would find at **Ivinghoe Beacon** later. In the afternoon I went to **Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks** and saw three **Dark Green Fritillary**, one in **Inchcombe Hole** and two on the NW face of **Stepps Hill**. There were no **Chalkies** though there were some late **Common Blue** and good numbers of **Marbled White**. I walked all around the SW and West faces of the **Beacon Hill** too, but no joy with either target species there. Pleasing numbers of **Small Tortoiseshell** at all locations today and at home in my garden there are at least three - but that's in **Herts**."

Chris Bottrell sent this sighting: "I was in **Bernwood, Bucks** at 08:00 this morning, **6th July**, and walked an awful lot of it. No luck on seeing **Purple Emperor** until I got back to the car park at 13:30 only to be greeted by one nectaring on mud!"



Purple Emperor
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Phil Foxon sent this update on 6th July: "**White-letter Hairstreaks** are still there. A disappointing evening at **Charndon, Bucks** (SP6725 2485) yesterday. Situation much improved between 10:30 and 11:30 this morning. Numerous sightings of **White-letter Hairstreak** on the West side of the road. Positive identification through binoculars. Minimum number present - 3, probable total - 5. Hopefully numbers will increase."

Peter Cuss was looking for **White-letter Hairstreak** again today, **6/7/16** and saw 3 at **Nunhide Lane, Sulham, Berks** SU 647 735 (thank you **Jan Haseler** for pointing me in the direction of those superb elms)."

The following report came from Trish Glenn on 6th July: "Just to say I saw a **Purple Emperor** male on **5th July** around 12 o'clock at **Bernwood Forest, Bucks** and then today around the same time same place another **Purple Emperor** danced around me, landed on my foot and gave me a great view of the underside of its wing. Photos were taken on my iPhone as I am not really an avid butterflyer just a person who walks my dogs there every day and loves nature!"



Purple Emperor male
Photo © Trish Glenn



Purple Emperor female
Photo © Trish Glenn



Purple Emperor female
Photo © Trish Glenn

Chris Brown sent this report: "Crowsley Wood, Sonning Common, Oxon SU 735 795. 5/07/16: Small Skipper 2, Large Skipper 1, Comma 2, Silver-washed Fritillary 3 (1M 2U), Speckled Wood 2, Marbled White 1, Meadow Brown 11, Ringlet 54 and White Admiral 2."

Rob Thomas sent the following: "In an update to my report of 30 April of two **Orange-tips** pairing in my garden in **Combe, Oxfordshire**, I was delighted to find a **chrysalis** on **5 July**. As you can see from the photo it is only attached to a flimsy plant at the top having come loose at the base, so I am concerned for its welfare. **Any suggestions on what I can do to help would be welcome.**"



Orange-tip pupa
Photo © Rob Thomas

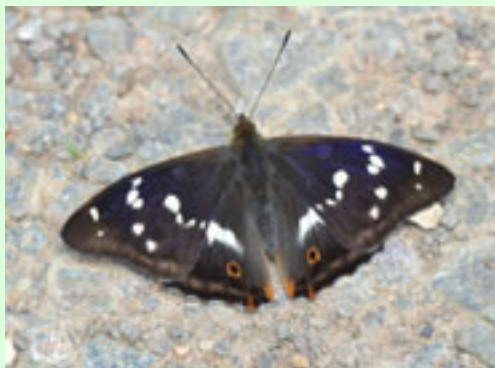
David Fuller reports seeing about 35 **Meadow Browns** at **Odney Island, Cookham, Berks** on **5th July**.

Karen Saxl sent this update on 5th July: "Didcot-Upton Sustrans route (Oxon). Well, it's a bit of a strange state of affairs when seeing a **Green-veined White** is the highlight of a walk but whites seem to be few and far behind so ... also saw over 200 **Marbled Whites**, a couple of dozen **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets**, **Large Skippers**, **Small Skippers**, a **Small Blue** (pretty sure it was on the same piece of grass as the last one I saw!) some **Small Tortoiseshells** and **Gatekeepers** ... and a **Red Admiral** just as I left the house. The warm weather for a few days seems to have brought them all out in larger numbers though still not seeing Common Blues and Brown Argus ... and a long time since I saw a Peacock.

On Sunday 3rd July I went up to the **Devil's Punchbowl at Letcombe Bassett near Wantage (Oxon)** - dozens of **Small Heath** - lots of **Marbled White** - **Meadow Browns**, **Ringlets**, a **Garden Tiger Moth** and a couple of Fritillaries - didn't stay put long enough to be sure but probably Dark Green - also saw a **Chalkhill Blue** as I walked from the car park."

Peter Law sent the following: "5th July: This male **Purple Emperor** was found by dog walkers just before noon today on the main track through **Oakley Wood, Bucks** near the car park. I was called across but the butterfly then took flight. After the other people moved on I relocated what I assumed was the same individual about 300 metres further down the track. It was at first very flighty moving restlessly back towards the first spot. But it then settled down and allowed a very

close approach. Other butterflies seen here by me today were 4 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, many **Ringlet**, a few each of **Meadow Brown** and **Large Skipper** and a single **Speckled Wood**."



Purple Emperor
Photo © Peter Law



Purple Emperor
Photo © Peter Law

Peter Cuss sent this update: "Still on the hunt for White-letter Hairstreak on [4/07/16](#), tried looking in [Swains Wood](#) as it has been recorded here in the past, but no luck. Dropped in at [Homefield Wood, Bucks](#) which also drew a blank then on to [New Farm near Henley, Oxon](#), 735 835 and saw 2 **White-letter Hairstreak**. On [5/07/16](#) I can report 2 seen on the elm at [Whittles Farm lane, Oxon](#), SU 672 784 and a new site, 2 on elm at [Widmore pond, Sonning Common, Oxon](#), SU 712 805."

Phil Foxon reported the following: "Enjoyed a pleasant hour beside [Great Moor Sailing Club, Bucks](#) this morning, [4th July](#). **Dark Green Fritillaries** in flight whenever the sun was not obscured by cloud. Butterflies nectaring on thistle. Activity is centred at [SP679 253](#)."

Peter Cuss sent this report: "[Maidenhead Thicket, Berks](#) field trip, [3rd July](#): started out at 13.00 pm; 13 participants. 20 degrees and cloudy to start with, with increasing sunshine. Target species: White-letter Hairstreak. We went to the spot where I had seen two a few days ago: a solitary elm, next to an ash. Between 14.00 and 14.30, two **White-letter Hairstreaks** seen on hornbeam opposite that elm, on the other side of the track. Two additional specimens seen further down the track, flying swiftly along. One returned to the elm and ash later. [SP8498880860](#). Other species: **Marbled White** [4], **Ringlet** [>50], **Meadow Brown** [5], **Silver-washed Fritillary** [5], **White Admiral** [3], **Large White** [2], **Large Skipper** [3], **Red Admiral** [1], **Small White** [1], **Small Tortoiseshell** [2], **Comma** [2]."

David White sent this news: "Came across a colony of at least 5 **Purple Hairstreaks** at the top of an oak in [Peppard Common, Oxon](#) [SU705818](#) on [July 3rd](#) late afternoon."

~ 3rd July 2016 ~

This news came from Dave Cleal: "A new garden tick for me, **Purple Hairstreak** today, [3rd July](#), in the tops of Oaks at the back of our abode just north of [Burnham, Bucks](#)."

Richard Wheeler sent this update: "I stopped at [Bernwood Forest, Bucks](#) with my family today ([03/07/16](#)) – walking the main ride up to the pond and back between 4:30pm and 6pm. Despite good weather (c.20°C, sunny with passing cloud), we didn't see as many butterflies as I'd hoped. However, at [SP612113](#) my 10-year old son exclaimed that a **Black Hairstreak** had settled on the track, and he was right! It was quite worn and fluttery and spent some time flying and landing near ground level, perching or nectaring half-heartedly, before moving on (even crawling onto my hand at one point). It's the first time I've seen this butterfly at Bernwood, and not at all where I would have expected to find it. In terms of other butterflies seen, only **Ringlet** and **Large Skipper** were present in good numbers; also seen: 1 **White Admiral**, 1 **Marbled White**, 1 **Meadow Brown**."



Black Hairstreak
Photo © Richard Wheeler

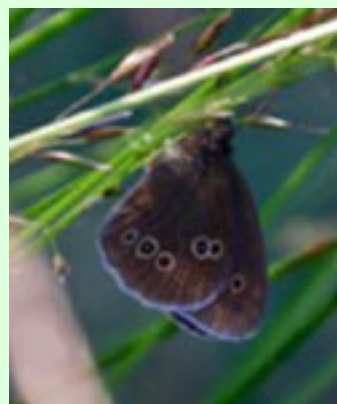


Black Hairstreak
Photo © Richard Wheeler

Colin Mather sent this news on 3rd July: "In my garden **Scarlet Tiger** moths pairing. Down at my local common at **Sonning Common, Oxon** three **Meadow Brown**, one **Ringlet**, one **Marbled White** and three **Small Skippers**. Hoping there will be more soon."



Scarlet Tiger moths
Photo © Colin Mather



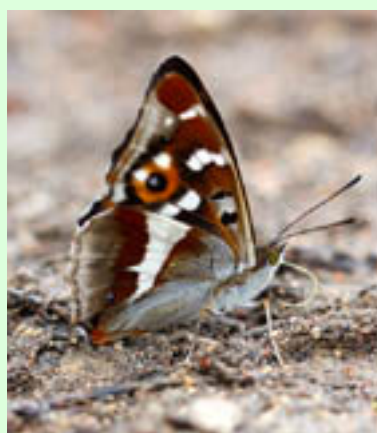
Ringlet
Photo © Colin Mather

Wendy & Mick Campbell reported as follows: "We went to **Waterperry Wood, Oxon** this morning (3rd July). There was no sign of Purple Emperor but we did see a **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 2 **White Admirals** and reasonable numbers of **Large Skippers** and **Ringlets**. Then we went to **Little Wood, Oxon** and in ideal conditions we saw 3 **Purple Emperors** in 10 minutes, two in the main ash tree territory seen in a slow chase. The third was in a smaller ash tree and then flew across to the oaks on the edge of the field where it remained until we left. On our way back through neighbouring **Piddington Wood** we were very pleased to find a **Black Hairstreak** nectaring on bramble flowers, the only one we've seen in Piddington Wood this year."

Charlie Jackson reported the following: "In the warm sunshine at **Finmere Wood, Bucks** today, 3rd July, I saw my first **Purple Emperor** of the year along with 4 **White Admirals** and 6 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**. Also good numbers of **Marbled Whites** and **Large Skippers**. A few **Red Admirals** and 3 **Small Tortoiseshells**."



Purple Emperor
Photo © Charlie Jackson



Purple Emperor
Photo © Charlie Jackson

Peter Cuss sent this news: "On 2/07/16, I saw 3 **White-letter Hairstreak** on an elm at the edge of woodland at **Caversham Park Road, Berkshire** SU 733 763. Not aware of any previous sightings here so a nice find! Looking for **White-letter Hairstreak** today (3/07/16) in the morning at

[Purley Rise, Berks](#) I saw 2 at SU 6554 7624 and a further 9 starting at SU 6517 7615. These are both in the hedgerow that runs along the Oxford Road/Purley Rise that runs between Reading and Pangebourne, a fairly long way with a lot of elm in various stages of tall/dying/regenerating. I will be going back soon to walk the whole length to see how far the White-letter Hairstreak have colonised but had a limited amount of time today. Potentially a very good site despite being a major road. In the afternoon it was off to the UTB field trip at [Maidenhead Thicket, Berks](#) where we managed to see 4 **White-letter Hairstreak** in weather that was much better than originally forecast!"

Wendy Wilson sent this field trip report on 2nd July: "There was a cool breeze and little sunshine for our field trip to [Iver in Bucks](#) today, so few butterflies were showing themselves. However, after training our binoculars on each of the three groups of elm trees along the walk, we were delighted when Ray Goodearl eventually spotted two **White-letter Hairstreaks** - our target species for the day. Also seen were **Comma, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Large Skipper, Brimstone** and a **Silver-washed Fritillary** (a first for the site as far as I know). Carol Gibson of Iver Parish Council kindly joined us on the walk and told us about the disease-resistant elms the council is planting at Swan Meadow near the start of our walk. The butterflies will appreciate these in years to come."

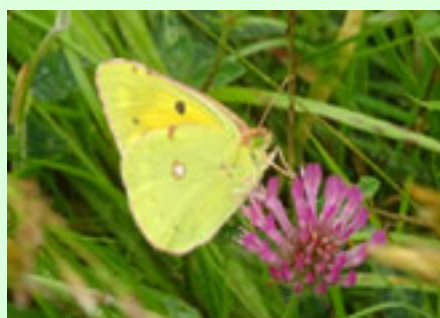
The following came from Phil & Frances Skinner: "Thanks to Peter Cuss' earlier report, we visited the elms behind the [Packsaddle pub, Chazey Heath, Oxon](#) on [2nd July](#). In cool breezy conditions, with sunny intervals, we had two sightings of **White-letter Hairstreak**, one low down in an elm on the golf course side. A first for both of us, celebrated with lunch in the pub."



White-letter Hairstreak
Photo © Phil Skinner

Judith Barnard sent this report: "At [Rushbeds Meadows, Bucks](#) today ([1st July](#)) there were good numbers of **Meadow Brown, Ringlet** and **Marbled Whites** along with 3 **Common Blue**, 1 **Small Heath**, 3 **Large Skipper** & 3 **Five-spot Burnet Moths**."

John Holdbrook sent the following: "Yesterday [June 30th](#). I walked round the fields next to [Brasenose Wood in Shotover \[Oxford\]](#). I saw the expected **Meadow Browns, Ringlets** a **Large Skipper** and **Marbled Whites** which were only in the field near the Ring Road. While I was in the field at the bottom of the hill a **Clouded Yellow** flew in and settled for a few minutes on a clover."



Clouded Yellow
Photo © John Holdbrook

~ 30th June 2016 ~

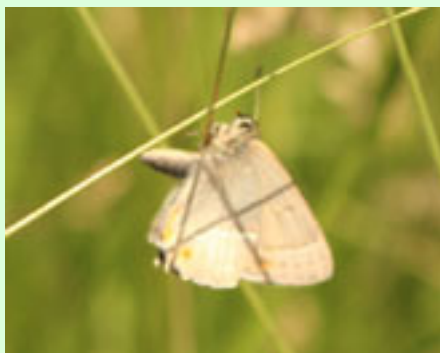
Tim Watts sent this news: "On [30/6/16](#) I visited [Finemere Wood, Bucks](#). At 10:30 glimpsed one

of my target species in tops of Oaks, it landed and with binoculars confirmed it was a **White Admiral**. Later I saw my first **Silver-washed Fritillary** sunning itself on edge of main ride before nectaring on thistles and my first **Gatekeeper** of the year. The biggest surprise was a small probable hairstreak that flew across main ride ahead of me. It landed and stayed on a Hazel leaf for some time giving good views - it was a pristine **Black Hairstreak**. No Blackthorn along this bit and first one I've seen along the main ride."



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Tim Watts

Dominic Mackenzie sent this report: "An afternoon visit to the wild flower meadow at [Edmund's Green, Warfield, Berks](#) today, [30th June](#), was rewarded with my first **Purple Hairstreak** - apologies for poor photo. Also 1 **Large Skipper**, 5 **Ringlet**, **Comma** and 6 **Meadow Brown**."



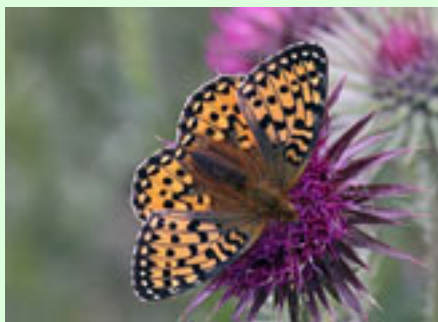
Purple Hairstreak
Photo © Dominic Mackenzie

Graham Elcombe visited [Homefield Wood, Bucks](#) on [30th June](#) and saw: **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 2 (or possibly 1 X 2); **Ringlets**, too many to count, and all pristine: **Red Admiral** 1, **Large Skipper** 3 or 4; **Marbled White** 1."

David Hastings sent this update: "I visited [Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon](#) (north side) this morning ([30th June](#)). Weather conditions weren't all that good. I saw six **Dark Green Fritillaries** (four males, two females), which were nectaring on thistles. Other species seen were **Speckled Wood**, **Meadow Brown**, **Large Skipper**, **Marbled White**, **Ringlet** and **Common Blue**."



Dark Green Fritillary male
Photo © David Hastings



Dark Green Fritillary female
Photo © David Hastings

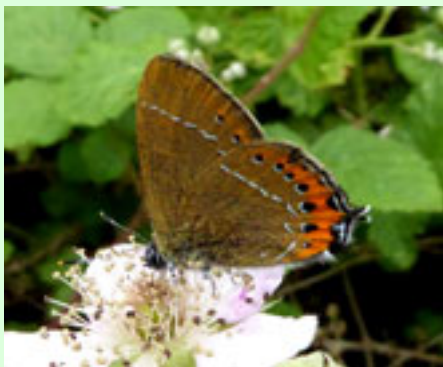
Nicholl Williams reported the following: "I had a little free time today, [30th June](#), and went down to the downland area near [Lane End, Bucks](#). I saw many **Ringlets**, **Marbled Whites**, **Meadow Browns**, **Speckled Woods**. A few **Common Blues**, **Small Heaths**, 1 **Large White**. No Fritillaries or Purple Emperors yet."



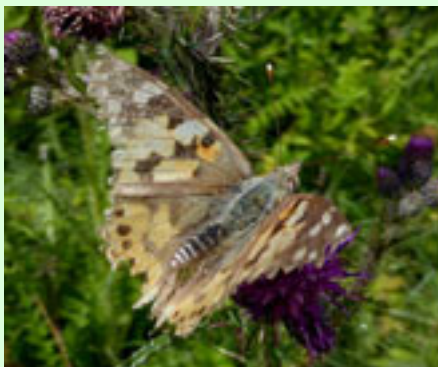
Marbled White
Photo © Nicholl Williams

The following came from Peter Cuss: "I went to [Maidenhead Thicket, Berks SU 850 807](#) today (30/6/16). Managed to see 2 **White-letter Hairstreak** in the brief bit of sunshine as well as **Silver-washed Fritillary, Marbled white, Ringlet and Meadow Brown.**"

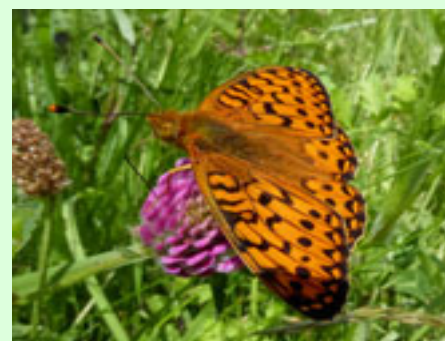
Tim Watts sent this news: "Between [27/6/16](#) and [28/6/16](#) at [Calvert sailing lake, Bucks](#) I searched for **Black Hairstreak** and found individuals in 2 new spots making a total of 5 areas where they have been found, over a 400 metre section of grounds. Interestingly, despite looking none spotted in flight over/amongst the Blackthorn but all found by scrutinising the Bramble flowers and finding them nectaring. Most sightings between 11:30am-1pm. On [28/6/16](#) there were 3-4 **Dark Green Fritillary**, 3 seen together, all nectaring on Creeping Thistle, and a very worn **Painted Lady**. Although it's nice to get a photo in pristine condition fascinating just how worn and battered they do get, makes you wonder how long it's been here, what journey it's been through and how many predators it's managed to avoid! Numerous **Marbled White** and 2 **Scarlet Tiger Moths** also seen. On the same day our first **Hummingbird Hawk moth** of the year visited our [Whitchurch, Bucks](#) garden."



Black Hairstreak
Photo © Tim Watts



Painted Lady
Photo © Tim Watts



Dark Green Fritillary
Photo © Tim Watts

David Hastings sent the following: "I visited [Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon](#) today (28th June). I recorded **Meadow Brown, Large Skipper, Marbled White, Ringlet, Small Heath**, a fresh **Comma** of form 'hutchinsoni', and a male **Brimstone**. The latter was flying around as though it was searching for females, which seems unusual for a summer brood individual. I saw another **Comma** in my garden in north [Abingdon, Oxon.](#)"



Comma
Photo © David Hastings



Marbled White
Photo © David Hastings

Simon Fenner sent the following: "I spent yesterday (Mon 27th) down in Oxfordshire, starting with a very wet (to knee level) walk along the paths of [Whitecross Green Wood](#) towards the pond area, but was rewarded with sighting of 1, possibly 2 **Black Hairstreaks**, eventually visible at rest high in blackthorn. Lots of fresh **Marbled Whites** and **Ringlets** active in the damp grass as well. I then went on to [Bernwood, Bucks](#) and walked down to the M40 compensation area. After about an hour of searching and as I was about to rejoin the main wood, I spotted a **Black Hairstreak** which after a brief sit on an open leaf, flew in amongst the branches and walked up and down the area for 15 minutes making it very hard to photograph in spite of relative proximity. As I reentered the wood (near the turning circle), I glanced up into the canopy of an oak and saw a large black and white butterfly gliding around, though sadly it came to rest out of view and didn't move for the 10 minutes that I remained. So it was either a White Admiral or a Purple Emperor, but I can't confirm which!"



Black Hairstreak
Photo © Simon Fenner

Chris Brown sent these sightings: "[Crowsley Wood, Sonning Common, Oxfordshire, SU 735 795, 27/06/16](#): **Small Tortoiseshell** 1, **Large Skipper** 1, **White Admiral** 2, **Meadow Brown** 2, **Small White** 1 and **Ringlet** 1."

Karen Saxl sent this update from Didcot, Oxon on 27th June: "Had a pleasant evening walk last week - best bit of the day - just a small stretch - lots of **Marbled Whites** just hanging around - a few fluttering - some **Meadow Browns**, **Large Skippers**, **Common Blue** and a **Small Tortoiseshell** (seem to be few and far between this year) - also had a good look at the 3 different species of orchid growing along the stretch we walked. Went out this evening after work - so started about 20.00 - saw over 70 **Marbled Whites** perched in the grass - a number of **Meadow Browns** in flight (seem to take off when the sun goes down for a short burst and it was getting quite dull), a **Ringlet** and a few **Large Skippers** ... in a stretch about half the length of last week's walk."

Ched George reported the following: "Visited [Bradenham, Bucks](#) today (27th June) in good sunshine. Found only one **Dark Green Fritillary**, a handful of **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet** and **Marbled Whites**. There were a few **Small Blues** and a **Large Skipper**. A distinct lack of nectar flowers in bloom but dogwood finished flowering."

Steve Croxford sent this news: "At a private wood in [north Bucks](#) there was quite a lot of **Black Hairstreak** activity on 27th June. I saw about a dozen adults in the 45 minutes I was there. Also of interest I saw my first **White Admiral** of the year."

This report came from John Holdbrook: "On Sunday [June 26th](#) I went to the meadow in [Sydling's Copse Nature Reserve](#) near Oxford. There were enough sunny spells to see a lot of **Ringlets** and **Meadow Browns**, 10+ **Marbled Whites**, a **Large Skipper**, 2 **Speckled Woods** and a **Silver Y moth**. [Meadow Lane Nature Park in Oxford](#) has an area of long uncut grass where on Monday 27th June there were a large number of **Marbled Whites** flying as well as **Ringlets** and **Meadow Browns**."

Peter Cuss reports seeing his first **White-letter Hairstreak** of the season on 26th June. "Two were seen in the elm near the [Packsaddle pub, Chazey Heath, Oxon. SU 695 770](#)."

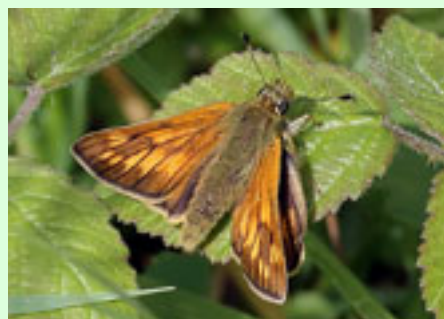
Richard Wheeler sent the following: "I visited a couple of Black Hairstreak sites in [north Bucks](#) between 4pm and 5pm on [25/06/16](#). Weather was intermittent sun with showers, c.19°C when the sun was out, and saw a total of 5 **Black Hairstreaks**. Other butterflies seen included several **Meadow Brown**, 1 **Marbled White** and 1 **Ringlet**."



Black Hairstreak
Photo © Richard Wheeler

~ 26th June 2016 ~

David Hastings visited [Bernwood Forest, Bucks](#) on 26th June: "I walked all the way down to the M40 comp area, but only managed two brief sightings of a Black Hairstreak. Other species seen were Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Marbled White and Speckled Wood."



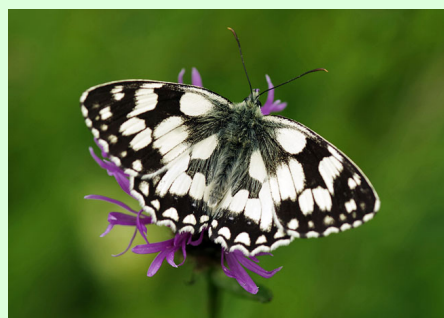
Large Skipper ♀
Photo © David Hastings



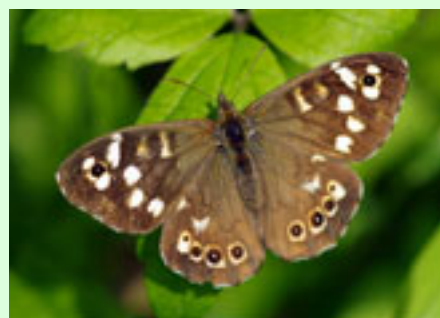
Meadow Brown ♂
Photo © David Hastings

John Williams sent these sightings: "3 Black Hairstreaks spotted near the pond in [Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon](#) on 26th June - camera shy so poor images, but definite sightings. Also 21 Marbled White, 2 Large Skippers, 4 Speckled Wood, 17 Meadow Browns and 2 Ringlets. Nice weather with some sunshine – at last! "

This news was sent by Malcolm and Valerie Brownsword: "Having abandoned our [Homefield Wood, Bucks](#) BBOWT transect after 30 minutes on 24 June due to heavy rain, we returned on the 26th 'fingers crossed' regarding the weather. We were rewarded by seeing our first **Silver-washed Fritillary** of the year. We also saw 6 Large Skippers, 1 Large White, 5 Speckled Woods, 5 Marbled Whites, 18 Meadow Browns and 28 Ringlets."



Marbled White
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword



Speckled Wood
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

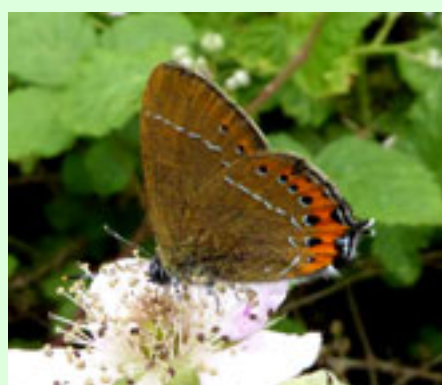
Brenda Mobbs sent this report: "We had a very successful walk at [Holtspur Bottom, Bucks](#) on 25th June. There were 10 of us. We saw Marbled Whites and Meadow Browns in large numbers. Other species seen were Small Blues, Small Tortoiseshells, Ringlets, Common Blues, Large

Skippers, Small Skippers, Speckled Woods, **Gatekeeper** and Brown Argus. A couple of moths were identified as Yellow Shell and Common Plume."

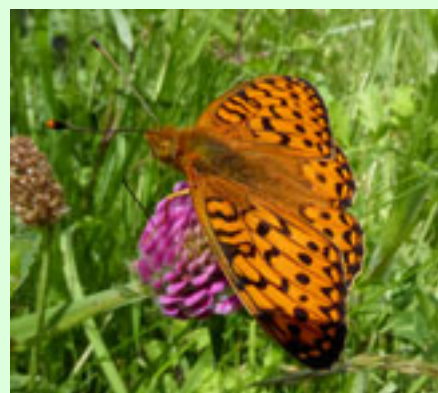
Christopher Brown sent these sightings: "Millennium Green, Sonning Common, Oxon (SU713794) on 19th June: **Small Skipper** 2, Large Skipper 2, Small Tortoiseshell 1. On 26th June: Small Skipper 1, Large Skipper 1, Marbled White 3, Meadow Brown 2, Ringlet 2, Small Heath 1, Forester Moth 2."

~ 25th June 2016 ~

Tim Watts sent this news: "Today (24th June) I visited [Calvert Jubilee BBOWT reserve, Bucks](#) for the 3rd time looking for Black Hairstreak near the S/E corner entrance gate. At 10:45 one came out of Blackthorn to nectar on the pathside wild Privet. On the adjacent sailing club grounds (where we'd had our first Black Hairstreak record last year) I found 4 individuals. The first one really took me by surprise, spotted flying over the out of water boats by car park, it nectared on Bramble. 3 others seen a long way from here all nectaring, in overcast conditions on Bramble, near to old Blackthorn clumps. 2 seen close together nectaring but know at least 3 as these 2 were immaculate and had just photographed one in the same spot with a chunk out of its left wing. Also seen were 1 Dark Green Fritillary, 3 Marbled White, Grizzled Skipper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and a Scarlet Tiger Moth. On 23rd June I saw 3-4 Black Hairstreaks at the [Hewin's wood drain](#) area, active in very overcast conditions but only fleeting views high in Blackthorn and small Oaks. Take wellies if you go! Tried 2 areas both days for White Letter Hairstreak but no joy yet. "



Black Hairstreak
Photo © Tim Watts



Dark Green Fritillary
Photo © Tim Watts

~ 22nd June 2016 ~

Tony Croft sent this report: "During an optimistic visit to [Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon](#) on June 22nd in very dull weather I was delighted to see my first Ringlets of the season. Also flying were several Black Hairstreaks, Marbled Whites and a Common Blue."

Brenda Mobbs sent this sighting: "I saw a couple of Ringlets in [Penn Wood, Bucks](#) this afternoon (22nd June)."

This news was sent by George Warner: "Tuesday 21st June about 3 pm: the sun came out briefly during a 30 minute search by a small patch of trees with grass, scrub and wild flowers beside the footpath leading towards the Ridgeway just west of [West Ilsley, Berks](#). I saw 3 **Ringlets**, 5 Small Heaths, and one each of Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, and Large Skipper. "



Ringlet

Photo © George Warner

Dave Wilton sent this news: "During a search for Forester Moth at BBOWT's [Lapland Farm, Bucks](#) over lunchtime today (Tuesday 21st June) I stumbled across this fresh **Dark Green Fritillary** in the eastern meadow, not something I'd expected to find there! Despite the overcast conditions there was plenty of activity from Common Blues and Meadow Browns, along with a handful of Marbled Whites and a single fresh Small Tortoiseshell. Noteworthy amongst several moth species recorded were five Foresters and a single Marsh Pug."



Dark Green Fritillary

Photo © Dave Wilton

Nick Board sent this report: "Spent an hour or so at [Oak Tree Farm, Bucks](#) this morning (21st June). It was overcast, temp 18c and I was not full of optimism but it turned out to be a very worthwhile visit. Met Adrian Cadnam and we managed to see minimum of 4 Black Hairstreaks, active and nectaring on wild rose blossom, all within about a 10 metre area. They looked to be newly emerged."



Black Hairstreak

Photo © Nick Board

Chris Hilling sent these sightings: "[College Lake, Bucks](#) on 19th June: Common Blue (1), Marbled White (2), Meadow Brown (4), Small Heath (3), Small White (1), Speckled Wood (2)."

Tony Croft sent this report: "While carrying out my weekly transect survey at Rushbeds Wood, Bucks on June 19th I came across a Black Hairstreak feeding in an oak tree. I also saw my first Marbled White and Meadow Browns of the season in Lapland Farm meadows, which incidentally are looking stunning at the moment."

~ 19th June 2016 ~

Karen Saxl sent this news: "Well, saw my first Marbled White of the year on 15th June along the [Didcot-Upton Sustrans Route, Oxon](#). The walk in the evening didn't happen as it was teeming down come 18.00. Looks like weather should be more favourable this Wednesday - and the

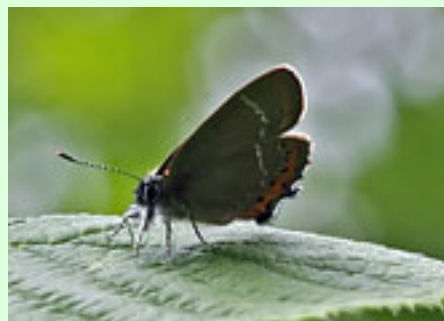
numbers of Marbled Whites are starting to build up - saw well over 40 today (19th June) despite the weather being quite dull and blowy - also some beautiful Large Skippers and some Small Blues around. Not seeing much of whites at the moment ... and saw my first Small Tortoiseshell for a few weeks this morning. Also seeing Meadow Browns - though not seen a Ringlet yet ... a small number of orchids around as well (lesser spotted, bee and pyramid) - wildflowers do seem to be doing well - wetter weather later suiting them after a few years of dry periods around this time. So, for anyone who wants to see how butterflies prepare for bed I'll be waiting at Hagbourne village hall at 18.00 this coming Wednesday. "

This news was sent by Ian Stevenson: "Saw my first **Silver-studded Blue** for 2016 at [Wildmoor Heath, Berks](#) today (19th). It was too cloudy and cold for a timed count but its good to know they are on the wing. Unusually the first one was an immaculate female rather than a male as in previous years. Fingers crossed for an improvement in the appalling weather. "



Silver-studded Blue
Photo © Ian Stevenson

David Hastings visited [Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon](#) on 19th June: "Species seen were Large Skipper (4+), Large White (1), Green-veined White (1), Black Hairstreak (2), Common Blue (1), Speckled Wood (7+), Meadow Brown (2), and Marbled White (1). These are pretty low numbers for the second half of June - no doubt due to the awful weather experienced last week. At least the sun came out for a bit today."

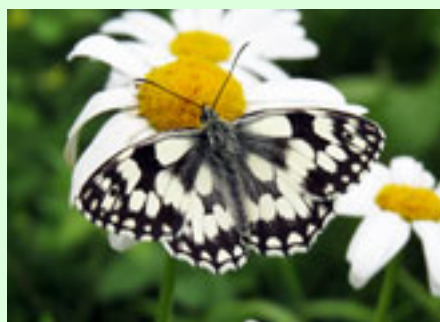


Black Hairstreak
Photo © David Hastings



Marbled White
Photo © David Hastings

John Friendship-Taylor sent this news: "I paid a visit in between the showers to [Ardley Quarry, Oxon](#) today (16th June) between 1pm - 2pm. Sightings included a single Marbled White, 2 Ringlet, Small Heath & 2 Large Skipper at SP53692715 around the slopes by the railway. "



Marbled White
Photo © John Friendship-Taylor

Judy and Terry Wood sent this report: "Despite the weather conditions at [Bradenham, Bucks](#) on

the 15th June with a stiff breeze and heavy rain threatening we were pleased to see 37 Small Blues which varied from very tatty to very fresh and we observed mating activity. As we kept to the paths and only visited the 1st field there must have been many more on site. Also seen were 3 Common Blues, 8 Meadow Browns, a Large Skipper, 3 Burnet Companion and a rather tired Peacock. "



Large Skipper
Photo © Judy & Terry Wood



Meadow Brown
Photo © Photo Judy & Terry Wood

Martin Kincaid sent this news: "I was pleasantly surprised to see a **Clouded Yellow** flying rapidly at [Stonepit Field, Milton Keynes, Bucks](#) (SP845422) on 15th June. Seems a slightly unusual time of year to see one? I gave chase but it was too quick for me and my camera. The only other butterflies seen in hazy sunshine were two Small Blues but I was able to find some eggs of the latter on the flowers of Kidney Vetch. "

~ 15th June 2016 ~

Mick Campbell sent the following report: "I visited [Drovers Lane at Rushbeds, Bucks](#) this morning, 15th June, as there were some reasonably sunny spells. After a short time watching the blackthorn I saw my first **Black Hairstreak** of the season. It flew up to a large oak tree and disappeared into the canopy. A further two made an appearance later on. There was quite a bit of activity between these two until the sky clouded over and I left before the rain started."

David Fuller sent this sighting: "[Odney Island, Cookham, Berks](#) today (15th May) my first Meadow Brown of the year: a male."

~ 14th June 2016 ~

Karen Saxl sent this news: "Well, saw my first Large Skipper yesterday morning (11th June) on the [Didcot-Upton Sustrans Route, Oxon](#) and saw a second one this evening but butterflies seem to be few and far between so may be a question of showing people where to look this Wednesday - possible that a few Marbled Whites might be about by then as the knapweed (which seems to co-incide with their emergence) is just starting to come out. Did see a Small Blue this evening (12th June) - but it was an egg - which may not be a bad thing as it's unlikely it will have moved before Wednesday so should be able to show people what to look for - think there were actually two on the kidney vetch head. I came back home the long way round via Harwell and calling on a friend and was amazed to see a Meadow Brown perched in the middle of the patio doors."

Dave Miller sent this report: "I visited [Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon](#) during the middle part of the day on Sunday 5th June. It was quite warm and sunny, with a bit of a breeze, but I saw very little: Brimstone - 2; Small Heath - 2; Brown Argus 2; Common Blue - 1; Painted Lady - 1; Green Hairstreak - 1"



Painted Lady
Photo © Dave Miller



Green Hairstreak
Photo © Dave Miller

~ 12th June 2016 ~

Nick Board sent this report: "I visited the [Blue Lagoon near Milton Keynes, Bucks](#) today (12th June) in search of the Small Blue colony. Didn't find them in the time I had available, but some pristine **Common Blues** and a fresh **Painted Lady**. When I was editing the photo of the Painted Lady, I noticed a small lizard right in front of it!"



Common Blue
Photo © Nick Board



Painted Lady
Photo © Nick Board

~ 10th June 2016 ~

Dominic Mackenzie sent this report: "Really pleased to find **Marbled Whites** on the wing at [Hartslock NR, Oxon](#). Three present on [09/06](#) also 3 **Large Skipper** and 2 **Common Blues**."



Marbled White
Photo © Dominic Mackenzie

David Fuller reports another **Painted Lady** in his garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#) on 9th June.

Chris Carter sent the following report on 9th June: "A fine **Painted Lady** spent an hour and a half in our garden at [Alvescot, west Oxfordshire](#) on Thursday 2 June, feeding on the last of our wallflowers and basking. Since then I have casually seen at least one on almost every day, mostly flying fast and purposefully northwards, so it looks as if there is a distinct wave of immigrants and the likelihood of a good number of home-grown ones later. My photo shows our garden visitor of 2 June."



Painted Lady
Photo © Chris Carter

~ 8th June 2016 ~

David Fuller reports seeing another **Painted Lady** in his garden in **Maidenhead, Berks** on 7th June.

Tim & Colleen Watts sent the following news on 7th June: "On 29/5/16 myself and Colleen visited **Yoesden Bank, Radnage, Bucks**. We saw many **Small Blue**, 10+ **Adonis Blue** including 2 females and a **Green Hairstreak** on a sunny afternoon following a misty morning."



Small Blues
Photo © Tim Watts



Small Blue
Photo © Tim Watts



Adonis Blue
Photo © Tim Watts

~ 6th June 2016 ~

Martin Kincaid sent the following: "On 6th June I decided to check the two known Milton Keynes sites for Small Blue, as numbers have been very poor in recent years. Firstly I visited **Stonepit Field, Great Linford, Bucks** (SP844423). I was pleased to see a dozen **Small Blues** here in around 20 minutes, very active on the limestone scrape and even saw one ovipositing. This was encouraging as I have only seen them in two's and three's in the last couple of seasons. Other species seen were **Common Blue** (6), **Orange Tip**, **Small White**, **Speckled Wood** and **Painted Lady**. Earlier, I had seen 1 **Painted Lady** and 3 **Large Skippers** at **Linford Lakes Nature Reserve** (SP843427). Later I visited **Blue Lagoon Local Nature Reserve in Bletchley, Bucks** (SP867325), which in the past has supported a strong colony. In an hour I was able to count 28 **Small Blues** which was a good total. Also seen were **Grizzled Skipper** (2), **Dingy Skipper** (2), **Green Hairstreak** (1), **Holly Blue** (1) and numerous **Common Blues**."

Judith Barnard sent this news: "There were 3 **Wood White** in **Stoke Goldington wood (Bucks)** today, 6th June."



Wood White

Photo © Judith Barnard

David Fuller sent these sightings: "Sunday 5th June my garden in Maidenhead, Berks: **Painted Lady** from 11.00 until 18.40 seen at least 15 times nectaring - fourth sighting in the garden this year. Monday 6th June Towpath River Thames Maidenhead: **Speckled Wood** 3, **Holly Blue** female and **Small Tortoiseshell** 3."

Colin Mather sent this report: "On Sunday 5th June at the local green in Sonning Common, Oxon I saw five **Small Heath**, two male **Orange Tips**, one **Peacock** very damaged and one **Small White**."

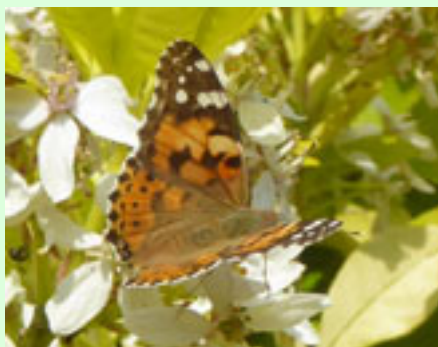


Small Heath

Photo © Colin Mather

Paul Fisher (Cams and Essex Branch) reported the following: "I paid a visit to Pitstone Quarry in Bucks on 5th June. **Small Blues** were everywhere and in numbers I have not seen here before (last five years). Even before entering the fields there must have been thirty on the roadside verge. One or two exposed, bare damp patches on the ground supported so many, they were like flies fluttering about them. **Small Heaths** were seen in good numbers together with **Common Blues** and **Dingy Skippers**. 1x **Painted Lady** that looked 'fresh' also seen. I was surprised not to locate any Grizzled Skippers though."

This report came from Wendy Wilson: "On 5th June, I saw five **Painted Ladies** and a **Red Admiral** in various parts of the Chalfonts in Bucks, so I am wondering if the southerly air-flow is bringing in the migrants. At the Chiltern Open Air Museum in Chalfont St Giles, I spotted 2 **Painted Lady**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 5 **Small White**, 2 **Large White**, 2 **Green-veined White**, 1 **Brimstone**, 4 **Orange-tip**, 5 **Holly Blue**, 2 **Common Blue** and 1 **Peacock**. I arrived home to see two more **Painted Ladies** in my Chalfont St Peter garden nectaring on sweet rockets."



Painted Lady

Photo © Wendy Wilson

David Gower sent the following: "I decided to visit [Pitstone, Bucks](#) on [5th June](#) to check on the Small Blues and I wasn't disappointed. Totals seen were 204 x **Small Blues**, 1 x **Brimstone** male, 25 x **Common Blue** (3 females), 39 x **Small Heath**, 1 x **Painted Lady**, 1 x **Peacock**, 4 x **Small White**, 1 x **Large White**, 18 x **Burnet Companion**, 2 x **Cinnabar**, 2 x **Silver Y**. Also at least 7 x small white moths with faint patterns which I was unable to identify."

~ 4th June 2016 ~

Cliff Buckton reported the following: "A **Painted Lady** in our garden in [Denham, Bucks](#) today ([4th June](#)). Very active nectaring on various flowers. Unfortunately a big chunk missing from a hind wing."



Painted Lady
Photo © Cliff Buckton



Painted Lady
Photo © Cliff Buckton

Maureen Cross, Adonis Blue Species Champion, sent this report: "On Saturday [28th May](#) 21 people met on [Lardon Chase, Berks](#) for the first Adonis Blue Field Meeting of 2016. Although the sun shone there was a cold NE wind blowing through The Gap onto the hill and the Adonis failed to make an appearance even though they had been seen on other more sheltered sites nearby. Other butterflies were braver and included **Common, Small and Holly Blues, Green Hairstreak, Brimstones, Dingy Skippers** and a lone **Meadow Brown**, possibly the first sighting in UTB this year? Moths included: **Mother Shipton, Yellow Shell** and unknown grass moths."

~ 31st May 2016 ~

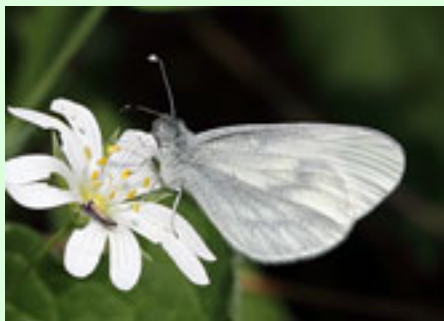
Karen Saxl sent this update to her sightings at the old Didcot-Newbury line, Oxon: "[30th May](#): Lots of kidney vetch out now - was a bit slow starting because of the cold - first sightings of **Small Blues** - after a week or more of searching the odd kidney vetch head - was 4 eggs on 15/5 - followed about 5 minutes later by sighting four adults perched in grass - have seen Small Blues now at both the main colonies - [Upton](#) and the ramps between the Hagbournes - plenty of eggs at Upton but too much kidney vetch to realistically look through at the ramps so haven't managed to find the right head yet. **Holly Blues** seem to be doing well - especially along one of the paths out to [West Hagbourne](#). Have also spotted **Common Blues** perched in grass - including some sightings after 7pm on one sunny evening last week. Wind really not helping - grass doesn't seem as high as I'd expect it to be at this point - and although the common vetch is doing really, really well, kidney vetch is doing well and birdsfoot trefoil is doing okay the knapweed that is the usual mark for the Marbled Whites appearing is a bit retarded - so guessing they may be a bit late this year - unless the weather warms up a bit ... my tomatoes are all stunted by the cold as well!

I had a report today of 60 **Small Blues** seen in nettles (sounds very much like the sort of thing they do) at [Pishill Bottom, Oxon](#) over Watlington way - on the Chiltern Way. If anyone is in the area - looking back through records past sightings seem to have been a little further north and west."

~ 29th May 2016 ~

David Hastings visited [Wicken Wood, Bucks](#) and [Ardley Quarry, Oxon](#) on 28th May: "Species seen at Wicken Wood were Wood White (7), Green-veined White (3), Orange-tip (1), Large White

(1), Common Blue (2) and Speckled Wood (4). Species seen at Ardley Quarry were Brimstone (3), Large White (1), Green Hairstreak (2), Common Blue (10), Holly Blue (1) and Speckled Wood (1)"



Wood White ♂
Photo © David Hastings



Holly Blue ♂
Photo © David Hastings

John Holdbrook sent this news: "On Friday May 27th I went to the area at the bottom of the Bald Hill side of the [Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon](#). There were quite a lot of warm sunny intervals between clouds and I was a bit surprised at how few butterflies I saw in nearly 2 hours. These were: maybe 15 Common Blues, 4 or 5 Brown Argus, a few Brimstones and eventually an Adonis Blue which was flying in hazy sunshine and settling quite frequently."

David Gantzel sent this sightings: "I saw a Painted Lady at [Hazlemere Recreation ground, Berks](#) on Saturday May 28th."

Bryan Williams sent this report: "I visited the Millennium Arboretum in [Wokingham, Berks](#) on Friday 27th, little butterfly activity, three whites that didn't stop flying and one [Large Skipper](#) which momentarily landed on some Lady Smock."

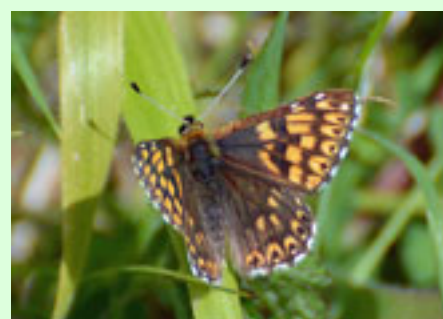


Large Skipper ♂
Photo © Bryan Williams

John Holdbrook sent this (belated) news: "On Saturday May 14th I went to [Hartslock Nature Reserve, Oxon](#) and saw a number of Dingy Skippers, 4 Green Hairstreaks, 2 Small Heaths, a Common Blue and a Red Admiral. On Monday 16th at the [Bradenham, Bucks](#), I saw 10 or 12 Duke of Burgundys, 3 Dingy Skippers a female Small Blue and several Brimstones."



Small Blue ♂
Photo © John Holdbrook



Duke Of Burgundy ♂
Photo © John Holdbrook

~ 27th May 2016 ~

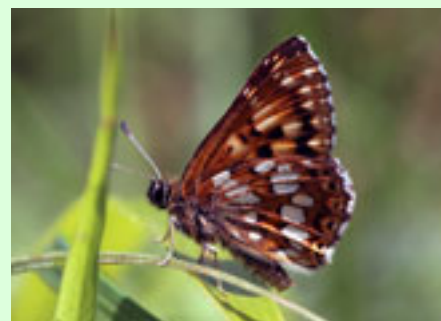
Andy Bolton sent these sightings: "Seen on 26th May on the A34 N/bound embankment near Chieveley Services, Berks (grid ref SU478726) were Common Blue 6 (inc. 2 female), Green Hairstreak 2, Orange Tip 1."

This news was received from Judith Barnard: "6 Wood White and 2 Common Blue were noteworthy at Wicken Wood, Bucks today (27th May)."

Charles James sent this report: "A pilgrimage to [Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks](#) on 23rd May was rewarded with 4+ Duke of Burgundy males and female at SP960159 (National Trust volunteers had counted 8+), and 5+ at SP961171 (parking down by the cattle grid). Also Small Heath (3) and Grizzled Skipper (4)."



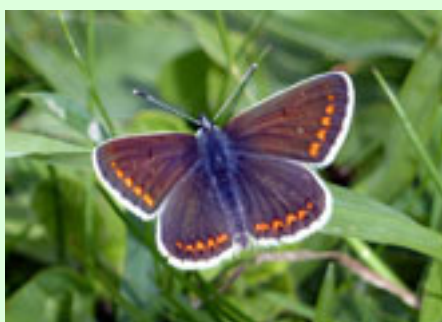
Duke Of Burgundy ♂
Photo © Charles James



Duke Of Burgundy ♂
Photo © Charles James

David Gantzel sent these sightings: "Holly Blue and Orange-tip in garden in [Hazlemere, Bucks](#) on 24th May. One Holly Blue in garden at [Hawkslade, Aylesbury, Bucks](#) on 24th May."

Phil & Frances Skinner sent this news: "We went to [Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks](#) on Sunday 22nd May, 12-3. Weather sunny intervals, light winds, up to 17 C. We saw Duke of Burgundy (6) at two spots along the lower western path. We also had pristine Brown Argus (2), several Green Hairstreaks close to the cattle grid (including 6 flying together), Grizzled Skippers (2), several Dingy Skippers, Small Heath (4), Orange Tips, many Brimstones, Common Blue (1) and Holly Blue (1)."



Brown Argus ♂
Photo © Phil Skinner



Duke Of Burgundy ♂
Photo © Phil Skinner

~ 25th May 2016 ~

Nicholl Williams sent this report: "Today (24th May) after work I went to [Yeosden Bank, Bucks](#) and saw a few butterflies: 2 Small Blues, 3 Common Blues, 5 Brimstones, 2 Orange-tips, 2 Peacocks and a couple of Dingy Skippers."



Brimstone ♂
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Small Blue
Photo © Nicholl Williams

These sightings came from David Fuller: "Seen in my garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#) on 22nd May was a Painted Lady. A visit to the private site at [Cookham, Berks](#) on the 23rd produced Speckled Wood 5, Peacock 3, Orange Tip 3, Small White 1, Red Admiral 1 Green-veined White 3 and Holly Blue 3. In my garden on the 24th I saw Holly Blue 2, Orange Tip (male), Green-veined White 3 and Small White 1."

Ian Johnston sent this report: "A visit to the [Blue Lagoon, Milton Keynes, Bucks](#) this morning (24th May), yielded 3 x Small Blue (2M+1F), 1 x Grizzled Skipper, 2 x Common Blue (both female), 15 x Dingy Skipper, and 1 x male Orange-tip."

This report was sent by Mick Jones: "I checked [Salden Railway Cutting, Bucks](#) on May 20th in the hope that scrub clearance prior to work to reopen the line might be restoring the fortunes of butterflies on the site. No Grizzled Skipper yet, but saw Orange-tip (15), Green-veined White (4), Brimstone (2), Small Copper (2), Common Blue, Peacock and Speckled Wood."

Nick Board sent this news: "I took a trip to the private wood near [Wicken, Bucks](#) today (23rd May) to look for Wood Whites of which I only saw two. There appears to have been a large amount of "clearing" taking place along the rides in the area. I hope that their food plants have not been destroyed in the process and that the Purple Emperors will appear later this year."



Orange-tip ♂ & ♀
Photo © Nick Board

Gerry Kendall sent this report about the field trip at [Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon](#) on 22nd May: "Eight enthusiasts attended the field meeting. We succeeded in finding our main targets, Dingy and Grizzled Skipper and Green Hairstreak. However, Small Blue was elusive, with only one possible sighting. Nevertheless, a total of 14 species was very reasonable. These were: Dingy Skipper, Grizzled Skipper, Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Orange Tip, Green Hairstreak, Small Copper, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Speckled Wood and Small Heath."

Nick Bowles sent this report about the field trip at [Pitstone, Bucks](#) on 21st May: "4 members turned out to walk around the disused quarry by Pitstone Church. Early rain had given way to thick clouds, scuttling past in a strong wind. None the less we set out to see if we could find any

roosting butterflies. After the first 25 minutes we were beginning to think we would draw a blank. However, we started to find small groups of Small Blues wherever the bushes and longer turf gave shelter. By the end of a walk of just over an hour and a quarter we had seen well over 50 Small Blues, almost all motionless but latterly one actually flying and a few basking with wings apart. The only other Lepidoptera was a Mint moth, or *Pyrausta aurata*."

Neil Holman sent this report: "With a positive weather forecast we decided today, Monday 23rd May, to venture south to [Yoesden Bank, Radnage, Bucks](#) and were handsomely rewarded. In bright sunshine the bank looked stunning when viewed from the treeline at the top of the site and although there were not too many butterflies on view we did manage to spot the following: 4 x Dingy Skipper, 4 x Brimstone, 4 x Large White, 3 x Common Blue, 1 x Peacock, 4 x Small Heath and 4 x Adonis Blue."



Adonis Blue ♂
Photo © Neil Holman

~ 23rd May 2016 ~

David Hastings visited [Lardon Chase, Berks](#) on 22nd May: "Species seen were Dingy Skipper (2), Brimstone (3), Orange-tip (1), Large White (1), Common Blue (7 males, 2 females), and at least seven Small Blues (6+ males, 1 female)."



Small Blue ♂
Photo © David Hastings



Common Blue ♀
Photo © David Hastings

Tim & Colleen Watts reported the following: "On 22nd May myself and Colleen went to the largest wood near [Leckhampstead, Bucks](#) following up Neil Holman's report of Wood White. We haven't looked for one for about 10 years! We weren't sure if we were in the right wood as there are quite a few in this area, walking the central ride we spotted a flimsy 'white' fluttering just above path level ahead of us, luckily we saw where it landed and got excellent views of a Wood White. It was collecting nutrients from a flattened patch of Horse dung. Colleen took these photos then it flew and perched on grass then Sallow. Then lost it in the bushes and not seen again despite hanging around waiting at the same area on return walk."



Wood White
Photo © Colleen Watts

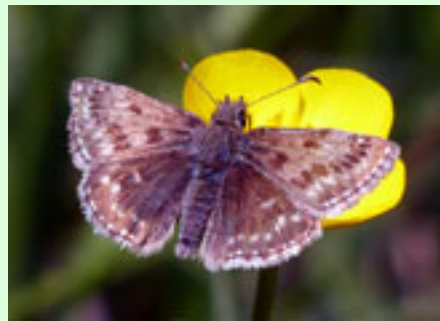


Wood White
Photo © Colleen Watts

Harry Appleyard sent this news: "While visiting [Howe Park Wood, Milton Keynes, Bucks](#) this afternoon (22nd May), I paid a visit to spot where I saw two Dingy Skippers last week (SP 83220 34612). It wasn't long until I found not only two, possibly three Dingy Skippers but also my first Brown Argus of the year, along with a lone male Common Blue and a Holly Blue. A little later on I found another Brown Argus feeding on daisies just outside Water Spinney (SP 83171 33402), a small area of woodland not far from Howe Park. "



Brown Argus
Photo © Harry Appleyard



Dingy Skipper
Photo © Harry Appleyard

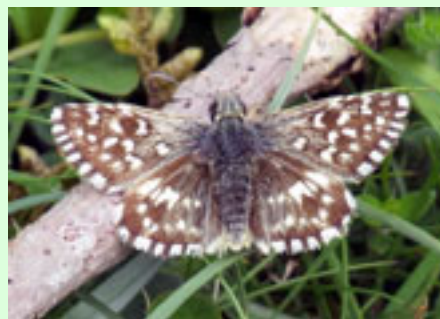


Holly Blue
Photo © Harry Appleyard

This news was received from Michael & Diane Hunt: "Noted while nest box checking at [Calvert Jubilee reserve, Bucks](#) on 22nd May were Dingy Skipper 1, Grizzled Skipper 2, Common Blue 6"

Jan Haseler sent this news: "I spotted an **Adonis Blue** at [The Holies, Streatley, Berks](#) (SU594798) on Saturday 21st May, roosting on a flower head of Salad Burnet in the wind and rain."

This was sent by Frances Skinner: "I visited [Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon](#) on an overcast day (20th May) and saw 2 x Grizzled Skipper, Orange-tips, Brimstones and 1 x Red Admiral."



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © Frances Skinner

~ 20th May 2016 ~

Tim Watts reported the following: "On 17th May I visited [Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks](#) to try and see my first ever Duke of Burgundy, after traversing Eastern side with no joy tried a lower path on Western side, was about to give up when spotted one, it was smaller than I'd expected and resting on a Hawthorn bush. Then found a sheltered spot and 4 seen here, including 3 battling together,

they regularly rested on ground and low in bushes giving superb views. Also seen were 2 Green Hairstreak, 2 Small Heath and many Dingy Skipper."



Duke Of Burgundy
Photo © Tim Watts

Dave Miller sent this news: "I visited [Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon](#), on 15th May for the first time this year. I saw six or seven Green Hairstreaks along the bottom of the slope in the shelter, plus a few Dingy Skippers, Orange Tips, Brimstones and a single Common Blue."

This news was received from Martin Wainwright: "I was interested to see a Red Admiral in the woods at [Hughenden Manor, Bucks](#) yesterday (May 17th). We have had Brimstone, Small White, Orange-tip, Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Holly Blue in good numbers every sunny day in the last fortnight at [Thrupp, Kidlington, Oxon](#), plus more modest numbers of Speckled Woods."

Harry Appleyard sent this news: "I found two Dingy Skippers and a Small Copper during the early afternoon today (16th May) in a meadow at the north west region of [Howe Park Wood, Milton Keynes, Bucks](#) (SP834344). I've seen Dingy Skippers in Milton Keynes a few times before but never at Howe Park Wood, so they were a very nice surprise."

David Fuller sent this report: "Seen in garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#) on 9th May: Painted Lady 1, Orange-tip 2, Holly Blue 2, Peacock 2 and Small White 1. On May 15th: Speckled Wood 1 (my first in the garden), Holly Blue (male and female), Small White 1, Green-veined White 1 and Orange-tip 2. On May 16th: Brimstone, Holly Blue (male and female), Orange-tip (male and female), Green-veined White and Small White."

~ 16th May 2016 ~

Andy Bolton sent this news: "I saw the following at [Paices Wood Country Park, Aldermaston, Berks](#) on 13th May (grid ref SU587637): Orange Tip 2, Green-veined White 3, Brimstone 1, Red Admiral 1, Green Hairstreak 1, Peacock 1."

John Lindley sent this observation: "Holly Blues are clearly having a good 2016 - I've seen about 20 today (16th May) in various gardens in [Goring \(Oxon\)](#), [Streatley \(Berks\)](#) and [South Stoke \(Oxon\)](#). Several seemed to be strongly attracted to my mower - I spotted three settled around the petrol filler cap at one garden. I've never seen this behaviour before with this species."

This report came from David Ferguson: "A visit to [Springfield Farm Landfill near Beaconsfield, Bucks](#) on 15th May produced 1 **Painted Lady**, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Peacocks, 7 Orange tips, 1 Green-veined White, 2 Common Blues, 1 Holly Blue and 2 Small Coppers."

John Lindley sent this report: "I took a walk up [Juniper Valley at Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon](#) today (15th May) - 10 species but all in low numbers. 3 Grizzled Skippers, 2 Brimstones (1 Male, 1 Female), 1 male Orange Tip, 1 Small White, 1 Green Veined White, 1 Small Copper (very small so probably a male), 1 Green Hairstreak, 1 Comma, 2 Peacock, and 2 Small tortoiseshell (both very tatty). The Green Hairstreak was on what I think must be a favoured spot - the same Elder bush

that I've seen them on many times over the years. It was in feisty mood, chasing away flies and bees before returning to the same spot each time."

Neil Holman sent this news: "A quick trip late morning on Sunday 15th May, in bright sunshine, to the main ride that separates [Wicken and Leckhampsted Woods in North Bucks](#) produced the following sightings: 2 x Small White, 1 x Large White, 4 x Green veined White, 6 x Orange-tip, 1 x Holly Blue, 2 x Peacock, 6 x Speckled Wood and surprisingly 2 x **Wood White**."



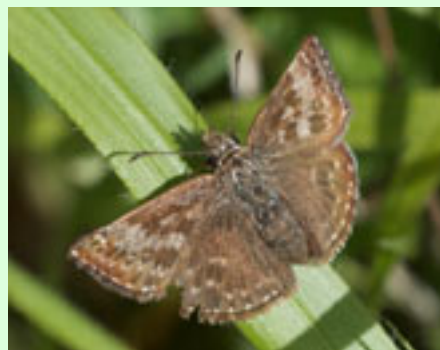
Wood White
Photo © Neil Holman

~ 14th May 2016 ~

Nils Beaven sent this report: "I went for an evening visit (5.45-6.30pm) with my brother Lars, to the [Homefield Wood meadow, Bucks](#) and saw a couple of **Dingy Skippers** taking in the last evening sun. I was surprised to see a fresh **Grizzled Skipper** female appear to do the same. I think it was too late in the day for the Green Hairstreaks. However just as we were about to leave I saw my first **Common Blue** of the season which had perched itself ready for, I imagine, it's first roost."



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © Nils Beaven



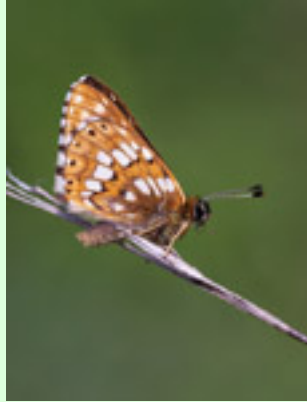
Dingy Skipper
Photo © Nils Beaven



Common Blue
Photo © Nils Beaven

Robin Carr reports on the UTB Field Trip to Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks on 14th May: "Ten people turned up on a cold windy morning which steadily improved. We recorded the following species: **Duke of Burgundy** 9, **Dingy Skipper** 15, **Grizzled Skipper** 4, **Orange Tip** 3, **Speckled Wood** 3, **Holly Blue** 3, **Green Hairstreak** 1, **Brimstone** 1, **Peacock** 1, **Green-veined White** 1, **Small White** 1, **Large White** 1 and **Small Heath** 1."

This report came from Charlie Jackson: "Despite a cold wind there was plenty of sun today, **14th May**, so I made a mid-morning visit to [Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks](#). In sheltered spots a found 5 **Dukes of Burgundy**, a **Holly Blue** and a single **Green Hairstreak** as well as plenty of **Dingy Skippers**. I also found a **Small Heath**, my first of the year. At [Pitstone Church End, Bucks](#) I came across a single **Common Blue** and several **Dingy Skippers**. **Small Blue** numbers have risen dramatically since last weekend - I counted 38 including 14 on one clump of Wild Clematis. No Green Hairstreaks there unusually, numbers being quite low this year."



Duke of Burgundy
Photo © Charlie Jackson

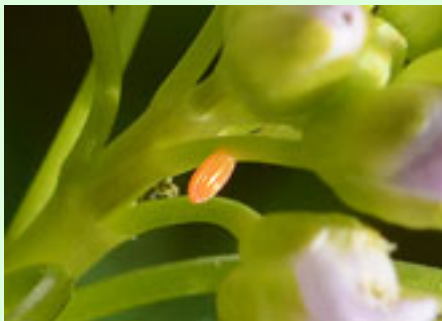


Green Hairstreak
Photo © Charlie Jackson



Small Blue
Photo © Charlie Jackson

Richard Wheeler reported the following: "While bicycling with my children in Spiceball Park in the centre of [Banbury, Oxon](#) this afternoon (14/05/16, intermittent sun, c.13°C), we saw: 1 **Red Admiral**, 1 **Orange Tip**, 1 **Large White**, 1 **Green-veined White** and 3 **Holly Blue**."



Orange-tip egg
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Large White
Photo © Richard Wheeler

~ 13th May 2016 ~

Neil Holman sent this sightings report: "A quick trip to [Calvert Jubilee Reserve, Bucks](#) today, [Friday 13th May](#) in bright but windy conditions proved surprisingly rewarding. I spotted 4 x **Green Hairsreak**, 12 x **Dingy Skipper**, 5 x **Grizzled Skipper**, 1 x **Small Copper** and 1 x **Common Blue**."



Dingy Skippers
Photo © Neil Holman



Common Blue
Photo © Neil Holman

Malcolm & Valerie Brownsword reported as follows: "On our second transect of the year at [Hartslock, Oxon](#) this afternoon, [13th May](#), we were fortunate to see our first Common Blues (later than average, I would say) and also our first Small Heaths. Our complete list was 19 **Dingy Skippers**, 8 **Brimstones**, 2 **Orange Tips**, 2 **Green Hairstreaks**, 3 **Common Blues**, a **Red Admiral** and 16 **Small Heaths**. In addition we saw 2 **Mother Shipton Moths**."

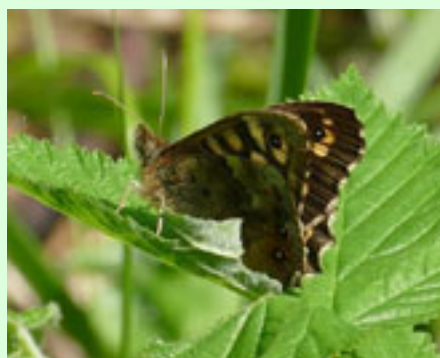


Mother Shipton Moth
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

Judith Barnard sent the following: "May 12th: Spotted **Orange-tip** eggs at **Howe Park Wood** in **Milton Keynes, Bucks** along with **Speckled Woods**."



Orange-tip egg
Photo © Judith Barnard



Speckled Wood
Photo © Judith Barnard

Dennis Dell sent this report: "12th May - slopes below **Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks**. Mixed cloud and sun; 21 degrees, stiff breeze, 13.35 to 15.35. **Duke of Burgundy**, 10, all males, widely distributed. **Orange Tip** 7; **Brimstone** 16; **Green-veined White** 4; **Holly Blue** 4; **Dingy Skipper** 12; **Speckled Wood** 1; **Peacock** 5; **Grizzled Skipper** 2; **Small Heath** 1.

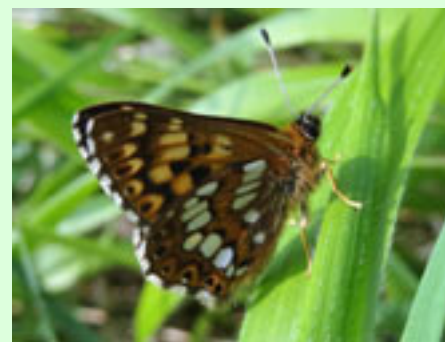
May 13th - Pitstone Quarry, Bucks. 14.30 to 15.30. 14-15 degrees, north wind, only partly sunny. Non- ideal conditions. **Small Blue**, 31, nearly all seen on the steep chalk face at the north end of the quarry, where the foodplant [kidney vetch] is common; **Dingy Skipper** 14; **Small Heath**, 1; **Common Blue**, 2; **Large White**, 1."



Small Blue
Photo © Dennis Dell



Small Blue
Photo © Dennis Dell



Duke of Burgundy
Photo © Dennis Dell

Mick & Wendy Campbell visited BBOWT's beautiful **Warren Bank Reserve near Wallingford, Oxon** on **12th May**. "Sunny, but a cool wind was blowing, however, once on the reserve we found plenty of warm corners and recorded the following: 1 **Peacock**, 12 **Dingy Skipper**, 1 **Green Hairstreak**, 3 **Small Heath**, 5 **Grizzled Skipper**, 2 **Brimstone**, 2 **Common Blue**, 1 **Brown Argus**, 1 **Orange-tip** and 1 **Holly Blue**. Other species seen on the way to the reserve were: 1 **Green-veined White**, 2 **Small White**, 1 **Large White** and 2 **Red Admiral**."

James Ford sent the following: "Butterfly transect walked at **Buttlers Hangings, Nr West Wycombe, Bucks** on **12th May** - nice warm day, a little windy, the following butterflies were recorded: 47 **Dingy Skippers**, 2 **Grizzled Skippers** – hard to come by until one landed on my shoe - 28 **Brimstones**, 3 **Holly Blue**, 7 **Green Hairstreaks** and an **Orange Tip**. A walk on the **6th**

May offered up 3 Dingy skippers and 14 Green Hairstreaks – so an influx in Dingies over the warm period."



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © James Ford

Chris Carter sent the following: "We have been following the fortunes of this male **Large White** since he pupated on the outside of our conservatory at [Alvescot, west Oxfordshire](#), last autumn having evaded my defence of our sprouting broccoli. He emerged yesterday ([11th May](#)) but did not fly until this morning. Two of his compatriots are still to emerge, one having lost the silk girdle and so hanging like a Tortoiseshell; a fourth evidently came to grief leaving a cluster of yellow parasite cocoons."



Large White
Photo © Chris Carter

~ 9th May 2016 ~

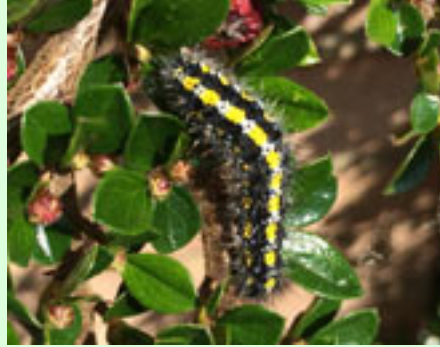
David Gower sent these sightings: "8th May: After visiting Aldbury Nowers I headed to [Incombe Hole, Bucks](#) seeing 1 x **Brimstone**, 1 x **Burnet Companion Moth** on the way. At Incombe I recorded 6 x **Brimstone** (4 male), 5 x **Orange Tip** (4 male), 8 x **Dingy Skipper**, 1 x **Grizzled Skipper**. I headed to [Ivinghoe Beacon](#) and on the way noticed 1 x **Holly Blue**, 3 x **Peacock**, 8 x **Orange Tip** (5 male), 4 **Brimstone** (males), 5 x **Dingy Skippers**, 1 x **Small Tortoiseshell**. Lastly at [Ivinghoe Beacon](#) there was no sign of Dukes of Burgundy, but I did see 9 x **Brimstone** (7 males), 3 x **Peacock**, 9 x **Dingy Skippers**, 3 x **Holly Blues**, 3 x **Orange Tip** (males) and 1 x **Speckled Wood**."

Ben Pateman sent this report: "A single **Small Heath** at [Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks](#) at the widening of the path, about 200 yards along the hedge-lined path that begins just above the road that enters the beacon - where **Dukes of Burgundy**, **Grizzled** and **Dingy Skippers** and **Green Hairstreaks** are generally seen and were seen and photographed this morning ([Sunday 8 May](#)). Unfortunately, I couldn't photograph the Small Heath, but saw both the topside (in slow 'winking' flight) and the underside for a couple of seconds."

The following came from Andy Hoskins: "I visited the lower path below [Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks](#) today, [8th May](#), between 11.45 13.00, in hot sunny conditions. I saw 2 **Dukes of Burgundy** battling for territory, plus 3 **Holly Blue**, 1 **Orange Tip**, 1 **Dingy Skipper**, 2 **Grizzled Skipper** and 4 **Brimstone**. Back at home in [Winslow, Bucks](#) I found a **Scarlet Tiger moth caterpillar** on a cotoneaster bush by my front door."



Duke of Burgundy
Photo © Andy Hoskins

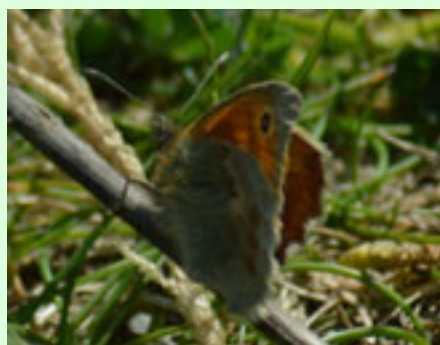


Scarlet Tiger Moth caterpillar
Photo © Andy Hoskins

Wendy & Mick Campbell visited BBOWT's [Watts Bank reserve near Lambourn, Berks](#) on Sunday **8th May**. "It's the first time we've been to this chalk grassland slope and it was well worth the effort. We recorded **Brimstone** (6), **Orange-tip** (4), **Peacock** (1), **Red Admiral** (1), **Green Hairstreak** (4), **Dingy Skipper** (6) and finally a nice surprise of **Small Blue** (3) flying along the track edge leading to the reserve."

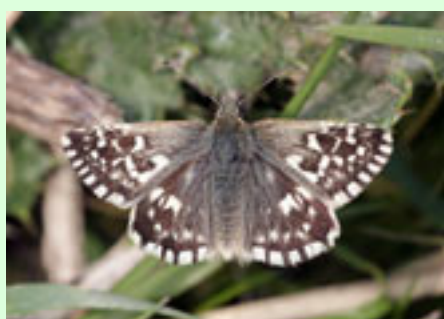
Paul Bowyer reports on the field meeting to Homefield Wood on 8th May: "Ten members attended our first field trip of the season. It was the hottest day of the year so far and the sun shone throughout our walk. Butterfly species seen while walking the woodland rides were **Orange Tip**, **Green-veined White**, **Large White**, **Brimstone**, **Peacock**, **Red Admiral**, **Holly Blue**, **Speckled Wood**. On the small flower-filled downland clearing **Small Heath**, **Green Hairstreak** and **Dingy Skipper** were spotted by some hawk eyed butterflies. Small Tortoiseshell and Comma were surprisingly missing."

Steve Johnson reported the following: "Sunday morning, **8 May - Aston Upthorpe, Oxon** I recorded 2 **Green Hairstreaks**, 2 **Dingy Skippers**, 1 **Small Heath** (with a mishapen wing), 2 **Mother Shipton moths**, 10 **Brimstones**, 5 **Orange Tips**, 2 **Peacock**, 1 **Holly Blue**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**."

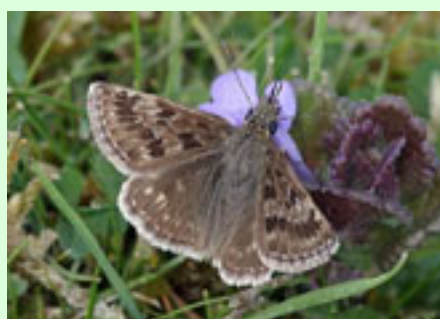


Small Heath
Photo © Steve Johnson

David Hastings reported the following: "I saw the following at [Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon](#) on **7th May**: four **Grizzled Skippers**, four **Dingy Skippers**, at least fourteen **Brimstones**, four **Red Admirals**, two **Peacocks** and one **Small Tortoiseshell**."



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © David Hastings



Dingy Skipper
Photo © David Hastings

Richard Wheeler sent this update: "I went back to [Ardley Quarry \(Oxon\)](#) again yesterday (**07/05/16**) with my family. The weather was warm and sunny (though clouded over later)."

Temperature c.20°C. We saw: 16 **Brimstone**, 2 **Green Hairstreak**, 4 **Orange Tip** (incl. 1F), 3 **Green-veined White**, 3 **Peacock**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 6 **Grizzled Skipper**, 1 **Large White** and 12 further unidentified 'whites'."



Green-veined White
Photo © Richard Wheeler

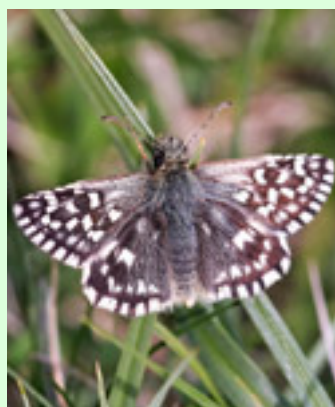
Nick Bowles sent this news: "I was out with the Bucks Invertebrate Group this morning, **7th May**, and saw my first **Small Copper** at Road Farm near **Gt Missenden, Bucks** along with several **Brimstones**, **Small Tortoiseshells** and **Orange Tip**."

Michael Hunt reports seeing: 4 **Green Hairstreaks**, 3 **Dingy Skippers** and 1 **Grizzled Skipper** while on his nest box checking round on Saturday afternoon, **7th May** at the BBOWT **Calvert Jubilee** site, Bucks.

Charlie Jackson sent the following report: "On Friday **6th May** I made a trip to **Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks** where butterfly numbers were still low despite a run of hot days. I saw a single **Duke of Burgundy** plus 1 **Green Hairstreak** and a **Grizzled Skipper**. There were a few **Dingy Skippers** about but little else. **Pitstone Church End, Bucks** had around 10 **Dingy Skippers**. On Saturday (7th) I visited **Ivinghoe** again and found 2 **Dukes of Burgundy** as well as a few **Dingy Skippers** and a **Grizzled Skipper**. At least 4 male **Orange-tips** there. **Pitstone** had really come alive with at least 3 **Small Blues** and 3 **Grizzled Skippers** along with a couple of **Green Hairstreaks** and a few **Dingy Skippers**."



Small Blue
Photo © Charlie Jackson



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © Charlie Jackson



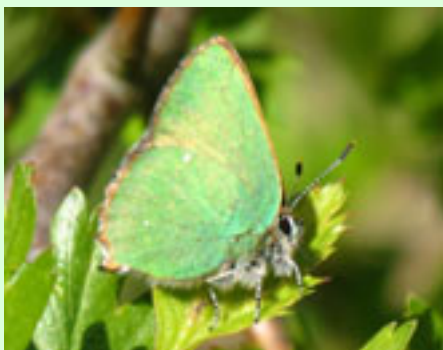
Duke of Burgundy
Photo © Charlie Jackson

~ 6th May 2016 ~

David Fearneyhough sent the following: "When I took the dog for a walk this afternoon, **6th May**, I saw 3 different male **Orange Tip** butterflies on the Ladygrove Estate in **Didcot, Oxon** which in 22 years is a first for me!"

This report came from Neil Holman: "5th May - On a lovely day I had very successful trips today to **Pitstone Quarry and Incombe Hole, Pitstone, Bucks**. At **Pitstone Quarry** I managed to spot 5 x **Dingy Skipper**, 3 x **Grizzled Skipper**, 3 x **Brimstone**, 2 x **Orange-Tip**, 1 x **Holly Blue**, 1 x **Small Tortoiseshell**, 2 x **Peacock** and 4 x **Green Hairstreak**. The climb down into **Incombe Hole** was even more rewarding with the tally including 20+ **Dingy Skipper**, 20+ **Grizzled Skipper**, 4 x

Brimstone, 4 x Orange-Tip, 6 x Green Hairstreak, 6 x Peacock, 1 x Comma, 1x Speckled Wood and 2 x Duke of Burgundy (with the assistance of another butterfly spotter)."



Green Hairstreak
Photo © Neil Holman

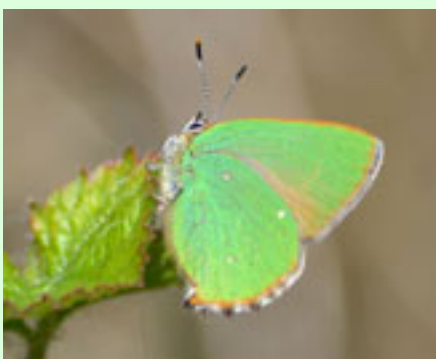


Duke of Burgundy
Photo © Neil Holman

David Hastings sent this news: "This morning (5th May) at [Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon](#), I saw sixteen **Brimstones**, nine **Orange-tips**, one **Holly Blue**, one **Green-veined White**, one **Comma** and two **Peacocks**."

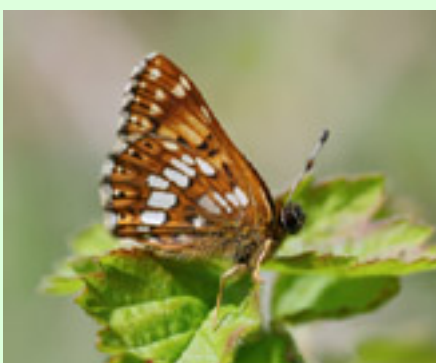
David Gantzel reported these sightings: "**Orange Tip** 3rd, 4th & 5th May males in gardens in [Hazlemere, Bucks](#). **Holly Blue** in garden in [Hazlemere May 5th](#). [Gomm Valley Nature Reserve, Bucks May 5th](#) - 2 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 1 **Orange Tip** male, 1 **Holly Blue**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 1 **Green Hairstreak**. Lots of **Brimstones**, mainly male but a good smattering of females as well."

Peter Law sent this update: "Further to yesterday's post, I returned to [Aston Rowant NNR \(N\), Oxon](#) this morning (5th May) and had 3 **Green Hairstreak** sightings, though whether these were three individuals I could not tell."



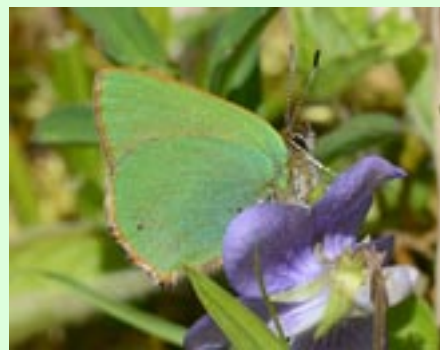
Green Hairstreak
Photo © Peter Law

Lucy Flower reported the following: "I don't usually report my Buckinghamshire butterfly sightings (I live and monitor wildlife in [Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire](#)). However, I thought it worth sending these through. I visited the [Pitstone, Bucks](#) Small Blue butterfly site this afternoon, 5th May (area around SP943147). No sign of Small Blues yet but I did see one **Dingy Skipper**, **Peacock** & **Brimstone** (2). On the west slope of [Ivinghoe Beacon](#) (SP958168), I came across a single male **Duke of Burgundy** (found initially by another observer). Also 2 **Orange-tips** (m), **Green-veined White**, **Brimstone** (3) and **Peacock**."



Duke of Burgundy
Photo © Lucy Flower

Richard Wheeler sent the following: "I visited [Ardley Quarry, Oxon](#) on [4th May](#) in some much overdue sunshine and warmth (temperature c.16°C). Butterflies seen included: 7 **Brimstone** (incl. 1F), 3 **Peacock**, 2 **Green Hairstreak**, 4 **Orange Tip** and 2 **Grizzled Skipper**."



Green Hairstreak
Photo © Richard Wheeler

David Fuller sent this update: "4th May [Odney Club Cookham, Berks](#): My second visit and I recorded **Peacock** 3, **Holly Blue** 2, **Small White** 1, **Green-veined White** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Speckled Wood** 5, **Orange Tip** 6 and **Brimstone** 9. In my garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#): **Holly Blue** male and female, **Brimstone** 2, **Green-veined White** 1, **Small White** 1, **Peacock** 1 and **Orange-tip** male and female."

Nick Bowles sent this news: "At [Ivinghoe, Bucks](#) on [3rd May](#) a largish team of National Trust surveyors scoured the hillsides and coombes looking primarily for Duke of Burgundy, but all we saw was **Dingy Skipper** 1, **Brimstone** 3, **Orange Tip** 1, **Holly Blue** 1, **Peacock** 2 and **Small Tortoiseshell** 3."

~ 5th May 2016 ~

Judith Barnard sent the following: "Today ([4th May](#)) at the [Blue Lagoon in Bletchley, Bucks](#) we spotted one **Grizzled Skipper** (see photo - it's resting on some plastic!). The exact location was Latitude: 51.986026° N, Longitude: 0.738614° W. Also saw about 5 **Orange-tips**."



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © Judith Barnard



Orange-tip
Photo © Judith Barnard

Peter Law reported these sightings: "3rd May: This afternoon I found a season's first **Green Hairstreak** at [Aston Rowant NNR \(N\), Oxon](#) on the noisy hillside above the M40. It was my fourth attempt at the site that I have been checking out on sunny days since mid April. When the butterfly didn't re-appear after around 30 minutes I crossed the motorway to Linky Down to see if I could find any more Green Hairstreak there, but without success. I had also checked that site on those previous three occasions. At both sites today a few **Brimstone** and **Orange-tip** were also flying."

This news came from Tim Watts: "Today, [3rd May](#) at [Calvert BBOWT reserve in Bucks](#) there were 3 **Green Hairstreaks** showing well, perched on Gorse. One was very freshly emerged with wings still a bit droopy."



Green Hairstreaks
Photo © Tim Watts

Colin Mather sent this report: "This afternoon [2nd May](#) in my garden in [Sonning Common, Oxon](#) two **Holly Blue**, one **Small White** and **Orange-tips** pairing."



Orange-tips
Photo © Colin Mather

In David Fuller's garden in Maidenhead, Berks on 1st May: "My first **Green-veined White** a male, **Peacock**, **Holly Blue** a female, **Orange-tip** both male and female on Honesty and **Brimstone** male & female again on Honesty."

Rob Thomas reported the following: "Having spotted first a male **Orange-tip** in the morning sunshine in my garden at [Combe, near Woodstock, Oxon](#) then a female, I noticed a few minutes later they were mating. Saturday [30th April](#). Will now be hoping for eggs on the Garlic Mustard I am allowing to grow."



Orange-tips
Photo © Rob Thomas

~ **28th April 2016** ~

Neil Holman sent this report: "I went for a walk around [Pitstone Quarry, Bucks](#) during one of the warmer interludes this afternoon ([Wed 27th April](#)) and managed to spot a **Dingy Skipper** but just as I was about to take the photograph he decided to fly off, never to be seen again!"

Michael Hunt reports seeing his first **Orange-tips** of the year in [Buckingham, Bucks](#) on [23rd April](#). Also seen were several **Brimstone**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Peacocks**.

~ **22nd April 2016** ~

Peter Kent reported the following: "A **Holly Blue** visited my garden in [Wantage, Oxfordshire](#) again on [21st April 2016](#). It settled long enough on some ivy for me to get a photograph."

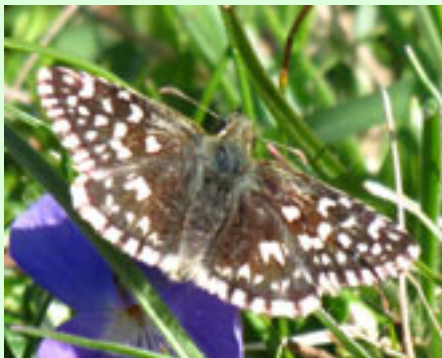


Holly Blue
Photo © Peter Kent

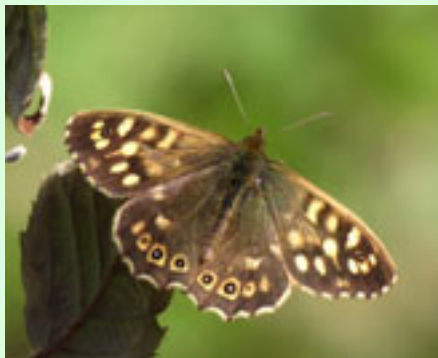
These sightings came from Judy and Terry Wood: "We were very pleased to see 7 species of butterfly in our [Little Chalfont, Bucks](#) garden on the [20th April](#) – **Peacock**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Comma**, **Brimstone** (male), 2 x **Orange-tip** (male and female) and our 1st **Holly Blue** and **Green-veined White** of the year. We also saw 2 Holly Blues flying around a large Holly near Flaunden Church (Hertfordshire) later in the day."

David Fuller sent this update: "Today [20/04/16](#) in my garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#): my first **Holly Blue**, a male. Still present: **Brimstone**, **Peacock** and male and female **Orange-tip**, the female is roosting on Bowle's Mauve this evening. [Odney Club Cookham, Berks](#): this is the private club of the John Lewis partnership PRIVATE SITE and I have permission to count the butterflies there. **Holly Blue** male, **Peacock**, **Brimstone** male and female, **Comma**, **Orange-tip** male and a **Small White**."

This report came from Neil Holman: "A trip today ([20th April](#)) to [Incombe Hole, Pitstone in Bucks](#) did not produce a great quantity of butterflies in the bright sunshine but we did manage to spot two **Peacocks**, one **Speckled Wood**, one **Orange-Tip**, five **Brimstone** and a lovely **Grizzled Skipper**. Well worth the trip!"



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © Neil Holman



Speckled Wood
Photo © Neil Holman

Malcolm Brownsword reported the following: "This morning ([20th April](#)) Val and I visited BBOWT's [Moor Copse reserve, Berks](#) where we saw 11 **Orange-tips** (all male) and three **Peacocks** amongst the bluebells. After lunch we did our transect at BBOWT's [Hartslock reserve, Oxon](#) and saw our first **Green Hairstreak** of the season, also one **Brimstone**, one **Peacock** and one **Small Tortoiseshell**."

Peter Kent sent this news: "**Holly Blue** sighted three times in my garden in [Wantage, Oxfordshire](#) on [20th April 2016](#)."

John Holdbrook sent this report: "Yesterday [[April 19th](#)], I saw 3 **Commas**, several **Brimstones**, a **Peacock**, 3 **Speckled Woods**, 4 male and a female **Orange-tip** and a **Holly Blue**. This was while walking on a track beside the [Oxford Ring-road at Heyford Hill](#)."

Tim Hearn sent the following: "[19/04/16](#) - Just seen my first **Holly Blue** of this year fluttering round the ivy in a garden in [Amersham, Bucks](#)."

~ 18th April 2016 ~

David Hastings sent this news on 16th April: "I saw a pristine male **Large White** in my garden in north **Abingdon, Oxon** this afternoon. Rather unexpected considering the recent cold & wet weather."



Large White
Photo © David Hastings

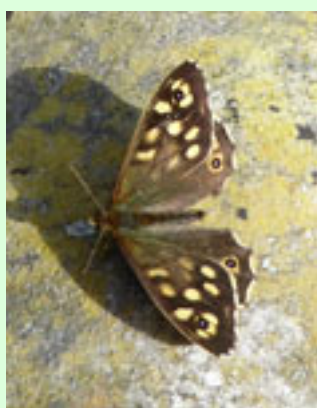
The following sighting came from Paul Bowyer: "On Wednesday 13th April I saw my first **Holly Blue** of the year in our back garden in **Flackwell Heath, Bucks.**"

Mike Flemming sent this report: "My first sighting this year of a **Holly Blue** in my **Abingdon, Oxon** garden, at lunchtime on Wednesday, 13th April. Afterwards, the same afternoon, I visited **Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon**, where several male **Brimstones** were on the wing and feeding at Bugle flowers. 2-3 male **Orange-tips** patrolling the quarry face, several **Peacocks** and a few **Commas.**"



Orange-tip
Photo © Mike Flemming

This update came from Wendy Wilson: "St Mary's churchyard in **Langley, Bucks** is a delightful oasis in an urban area and is always good for spring butterflies. It certainly didn't disappoint today, 13th April. A **Peacock** greeted me as I arrived, then as I walked past an old yew tree I disturbed a flock of seven Ring-necked Parakeets which in turn disturbed 2 **Holly Blues**. Also there were at least 5 **Speckled Woods**, 2 **Commas** and a **Brimstone.**"



Speckled Wood
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Comma
Photo © Wendy Wilson

Derek Brown reported this sighting: "We had our first **Holly Blue** for the season in our garden at **Beenham, Berks** this morning (13th April)."

David Fuller sent the following news: "Today, 12th April, in my garden in **Maidenhead, Berks** I had a male and female **Brimstone**, **Comma 2**, **Peacock 1**, **Small White** male first of the year,

both male and female **Orange-tip** first of the year and first time I have seen the female before the male!"

Wendy Wilson reported the following: "My heart sank as I entered the parish churchyard at [Iver, Bucks](#) on [April 12th](#) as three men from Iver Parish Council were mowing the grass. However, all was not lost; one of the men told me he had just seen 'two tiny little blue butterflies zooming round a holly tree' and a bigger butterfly which 'was a very bright yellow'. These excellent descriptions were enough for me to record 2 **Holly Blues** and a male **Brimstone**. I also saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** there and across the road in Swan Meadow were 2 **Peacocks**."

~ 7th April 2016 ~

David Fuller sent the following: "My garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#) today, [6th April](#), **Brimstone** 1 male, **Peacock** 2 together chasing each other, **Comma** 2 chasing each other and **Small Tortoiseshell** 1 first of the year for me."

Graham Elcombe sent these reports: "5th April - West of Latimer, Bucks, on the footpath above the Chess Valley (995 988), 5 **Peacocks**, 2 **Small Tortoiseshells**, 1 **Brimstone** and (seen fleetingly, but 95% certain), 1 **Comma**.

[3rd April - Homefield Wood \(nr Marlow, Bucks\)](#), at least 5 **Brimstones** - two on the track, and three in the 'Meadow'."

David Hastings sent this news: "I managed a lunchtime visit to [Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon](#) today, [5th April](#), where I saw 3+ **Brimstones**, 1 male **Orange-tip**, 3 **Commas** and 4+ **Peacocks**. The Orange-tip was small - only about three-quarters normal size."



Orange-tip
Photo © David Hastings



Peacock
Photo © David Hastings

This report from Brian & Uli Wright came via Jim Asher: "Thought you may like to know we saw our first **Orange-tip** today , [4th April](#) at [HP7 9EZ Amersham, Bucks](#) at 1340!"

~ 2nd April 2016 ~

David Fuller saw the following: "Sightings today, [2nd April](#), in my garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#): 2 male **Brimstone** plus a **Peacock**; towpath along the [River Thames, Berks](#) [SU907836](#) 5 different male **Brimstone**; [Cores End, Bucks](#) [SU876880](#) male **Brimstone**."

The following report came from Mike Flemming: "During a visit to [Dry Sandford Pit BBOWT reserve, Cothill, Oxon](#) today ([2nd April](#)), I saw five species: **Brimstone**, male (several), **Orange-tip**, male (1), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1), **Comma** (~4), **Peacock** (~4). The Orange-tip was a surprise, flying near the entrance gate but he rapidly disappeared into shrubbery and did not re-appear. Hopefully there will be loads more soon!"

John Lindley reported the following: "A lovely spring day today, [2nd April](#), in the gardens and footpaths around [South Stoke, Oxon](#) yielded six species: 5 **Brimstones** (all male), 5 **Small Tortoiseshells**, 2 **Peacocks** and singles of **Red Admiral**, **Comma** and **Speckled Wood**."

David Hastings sent this news: "In the [University Parks, Oxford, Oxon](#) today, [31st March](#), I saw

three **Brimstones** and two **Small Tortoiseshells**."



Brimstone

Photo © David Hastings

Robert Norris reported the following: "The warm weather today, **31st March**, brought out a few butterflies with **Peacock**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Brimstone** and **Small White** all seen at **Lathbury** near **Newport Pagnell, Bucks**."

This report came from Wendy Wilson on 30th March: "My first **Orange-tip** of the year flew out of the wild bit at the end of my **Chalfont St Peter, Bucks** garden this morning, surprisingly it was a female. I had spotted eggs and larvae on some garlic mustard there last year but never managed to find a pupa. I think it had just emerged as its flight was weak and erratic with frequent brief stops before disappearing over the fence as I went to get my camera."

Peter Kent sent this sighting: "A **Brimstone** flew round my garden in **Wantage, Oxon** several times on **25th March** without settling."

Bob Tunnicliffe sent the following on 2nd April: "On **March 17th** Trish and I saw our first butterflies of the year: a **Green-veined White** (on **Vinca**) in our (sun-trap) front garden in **Stony Stratford, Bucks** and 2 **Brimstones**, also in **Stony Stratford**."

~ **26th March 2016** ~

John Holdbrook sent the following: "On Monday **March 21st** I saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** on a bank at **South Hinksey, Oxon**. I also saw a **Brimstone** at the top of **Shotover Hill, Oxford** on the **25th March**."

Judy and Terry Wood sent this report: "The sun and warmth on the **25th March** brought out the butterflies in the garden at **Little Chalfont, Bucks** for our 1st sightings of the year with 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 2 male **Brimstones** and 2 **Commas** with the latter tussling and spiralling."



Comma

Photo © Judy and Terry Wood

Peter Thompson reported the following: "On **25th March** (Good Friday), the weather seemed good enough to chance my arm at an early 'Week 0' transect at **Lardon Chase, Berkshire**, at least partly to see if there were any management changes since last summer. While there was nothing moving actually on the transect, I saw my first **Brimstone** and **Comma** of the year, and also a **Peacock**, 'off transect'. There were very few nectar sources visible, just a few daisies and the odd violet, plus a clump of primroses beneath some hawthorn bushes, so I'm not surprised there was

little to be seen; any sensible butterfly on the wing would have been much better off in one of the nearby gardens!"

David Gantzel sent this news: "Friday March 25th - male **Brimstone** in my garden in [Hazlemere, Bucks.](#)"

David Fuller saw the following: "In my garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#) today, [25th March](#), I had a male **Brimstone**, a **Comma** (1st of the year for me) and a **Peacock** (also 1st of the year for me)."

This report came from Wendy Wilson: "[March 25th](#) - I saw my first butterflies this morning, all in [Chalfont St Peter, Bucks](#). They were: a **Small Tortoiseshell** and a **Brimstone** in my garden, two **Small Tortoiseshells** in the allotments, a **Comma** in Millennium Wood and a **Peacock** on wild plum blossom on Austenwood Common. March 25th is the latest date for my first butterfly sighting since 2008."

Ian Johnston visited the [Blue Lagoon Nature Reserve, Milton Keynes, Bucks](#) on [25th March](#): "I spotted 5 x **Brimstone** - all males. No other species seen."

~ 24th March 2016 ~

Don Stone reports seeing a **Brimstone** in his garden at [Lee Common, Bucks](#) on [22nd March](#).

Nicholl Williams sent this news: "I haven't been able to go out spotting butterflies recently, but I saw a **Brimstone** flying over the roundabout outside Tesco on the Junction 3 ([Loudwater, Bucks](#)) of the M40 today, [22nd March](#). Looking forward to the season getting going well!"

David Fuller reported the following: "[Maidenhead, Berks](#) I had a male **Brimstone** in my garden in today, [22nd March](#). First for the year for me."

David Hastings spent half an hour in the [Oxford University Parks, Oxon](#) at lunchtime on [21st March](#), where he saw at least three **Small Tortoiseshells** and a **Peacock**."

Michael Hunt reported the following: "On [21st March](#) in the morning, first sightings of **Brimstone** and **Comma** here in [Buckingham, Bucks](#)."

~ 19th March 2016 ~

Bryan Williams sent this news on 17th March: "I visited the [Virginia Water](#) heather garden, just inside the Berkshire border with Surrey and saw one **Comma**, my first butterfly of the year, it was cool, but sunny. Also there were several queen bumblebees, Buff-tailed, White-tailed and Early bumblebees all seen."



Comma

Photo © Bryan Williams

Clare Harvey reported this sighting: "[Monday 14th March](#) - a **Comma** in our horse paddock near [Denchworth Wantage \(Oxon\)](#). Warm sunny dry day."

Malcolm Brownword reported the following: "At 11.45 this morning (17 March) I saw my first butterfly of the year, a **Small Tortoiseshell**, in my [West Hagbourne, Oxon](#) garden."

Nicholl Williams sent these two Bucks sightings: "The season is about to start. I saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** at [Lane End](#) on 14th March and then saw another one at [Spade Oak Lake](#)."

Michael Hunt had his first sighting of **Small Tortoiseshell** on 11th March in his garden in Buckingham, Bucks.

Mick & Wendy Campbell saw their first butterfly of the season on 11th March - a **Small Tortoiseshell** flying in a warm, sheltered field corner in [Ibstone, Bucks](#).

~ 14th February 2016 ~

Richard Wheeler reported the following on 11th February: "I was driving through [Banbury, Oxon](#) at lunchtime today (11/02/16) when a **Small Tortoiseshell** gamely bobbed past overhead – yes, the sun was shining, but the car thermometer was reading 6.5°C!"

~ 5th February 2016 ~

Chris Carter sent the following: "I had a brief but unmistakable sighting of a male **Brimstone** in our garden at [Alvescot, west Oxfordshire](#) on Thursday 4th February, our first butterfly of the year. Pleasant sunshine but not overly warm at the time. The very mild winter has meant that a lot of the nectar-bearing winter shrubs that might have sustained our Brimstone have already been and gone. *Crocus tommasinianus* is out now in profusion but produces mainly pollen, great for bees but it's too early and there are almost none of them around either. I guess it will all work out somehow."

~ 31st January 2016 ~

David Hastings reported his first butterfly sighting of the year: "I saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** at my allotment in [NW Abingdon, Oxon](#) on 30th January. It was nectaring on a daisy flower. The air temperature was about 9C. I took the picture with the camera in my mobile phone."



Small Tortoiseshell
Photo © David Hastings

~ 29th January 2016 ~

Pete Thompson saw his first butterfly of the year on 28th January: "After a frosty and sunny start, and before the clouds gathered, I saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** in my garden this afternoon (28th January) at [Wyfold, S Oxfordshire](#)."

~ 24th January 2016 ~

Derek Brown reported the following: "We saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** on Saturday 23rd January. However this was indoors at [Berkshire Auction Rooms in Midgham](#) and must have been disturbed from hibernation, so I guess this doesn't really count as a first sighting."

~ 13th January 2016 ~

Ched George sent this butterfly report to start the new year off: "I was sawing wood in my back garden in Radnage, Bucks on 8th January when a **Peacock** fluttered around me and disappeared into the tall leylandii behind me."