

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Purple Emperor (*A. iris*) Report for 2008

Dennis Dell



Purple Emperor m.
Photo © David Dennis

Acknowledgements

I'm very grateful to all of you [not all UTB members] who submitted reports: see Appendix for details of participants. I would also like to express my appreciation to those who told me about people who had informed them of sightings, in other words, second hand reports. In this way, over these last 5 years, we have built up a large network of observers. I apologise if I've left anyone out.

1. Introduction

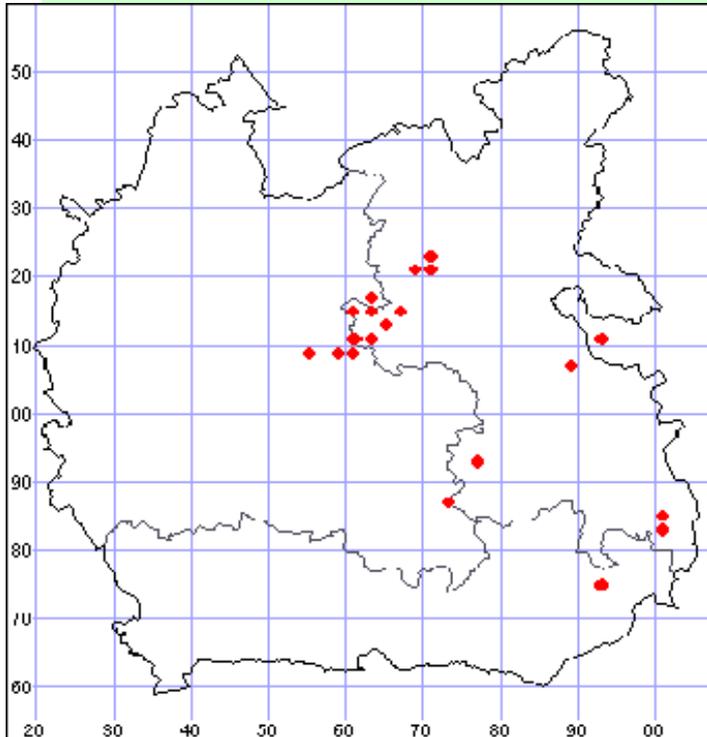
As in previous reports, the observations in detail may be found in the Appendix (see end of report). Also, as mentioned in previous years, it is almost impossible to be able to register the number of individuals seen. Therefore, I have used, mainly, the concept of 'sightings' together with periods of activity, or 'flight events'. In addition, I have not included, in the Appendix, the additional visits people made to woods when they made no sightings.

2. Summary

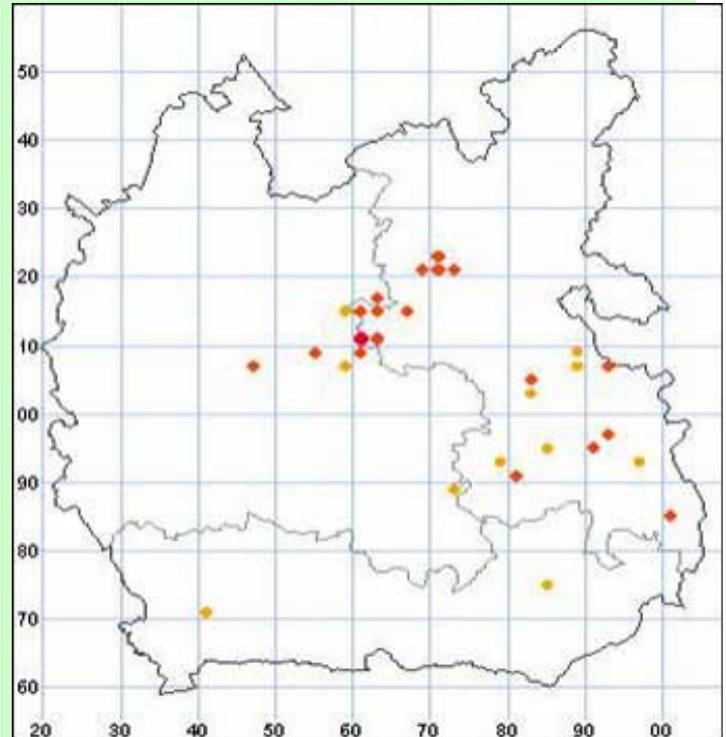
- About 82 **sightings** were made [last year it was 55]. Sightings were made at 22 localities. Last year, the figure was 17, although I do not know how many of these places were actually visited without sightings having been made. One sighting [Lower Earley] was in an Asda car park in a built-up area about 1 km from the nearest woods. Two of the 22 localities were in the Chilterns [three last year]. I do not count Moor End Common; although it is in the Chilterns, it is not a typical downland wooded area.
- There were also several '**new**' habitats ['new' habitats means, simply, that we do not have records from these places from recent years]: Ham/Home Wood, Arncott Wood, Bagley Wood, Watlington Hill and Ashridge Park [there was an unconfirmed report from Ashridge last year]. I do not count the Asda Car Park sighting as a new locality [made, incidentally, by a very experienced Hants observer, Ashley Whitlock]!
- Several localities which produced sightings in previous years were **negative** this season. Most notable is Piddington Wood, where what appeared to be an excellent territory [a glade bounded by Oaks and Ashes near the south-eastern high point edge] was deserted this season.
- **Territories**/male assembly points. Apart from Piddington, mentioned above, and Greatsea Wood

high point, all the territories described in previous reports were occupied. Worth singling out is the south-eastern edge of Little Wood where a very large Ash and several big Oaks stand at a ride junction. Five visits were made from 29.6 to 18.7, and 12 sightings were recorded around the same group of trees. It was gratifying to note that sightings were made at the Boarstall Wood territory again.

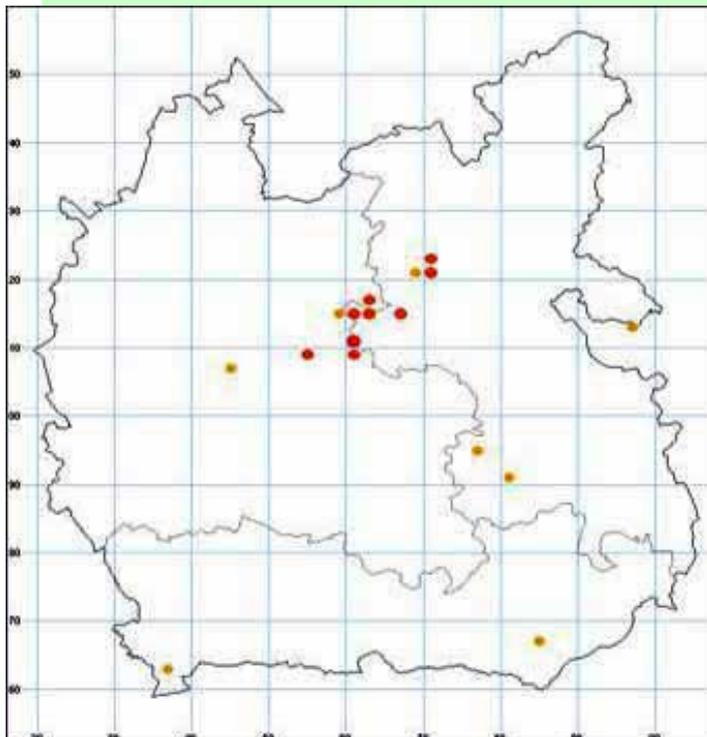
- **First specimens** seen on June 29th, the last on July 27th, a somewhat shorter season than usual.
- We still lack observers in **Berkshire**. David White did a splendid job in Windsor Forest, but, apart from the 'rogue' sighting in Lower Earley and a sighting by Andrew Bolton in the extreme south west corner of Berkshire in Combe Wood, we had nothing else from that county.



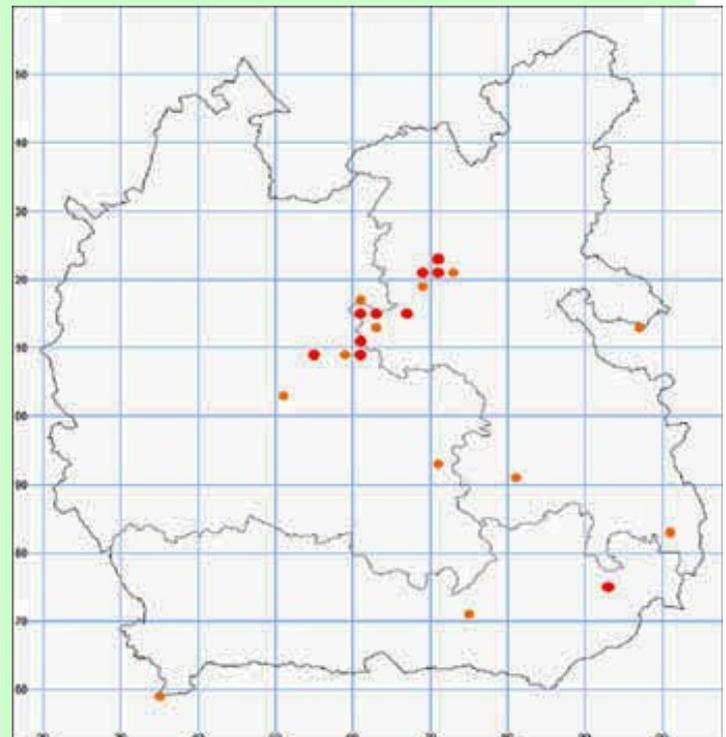
A. iris observations 2005 (data from Levana)



A. iris observations 2006 (data from Levana)



A. iris observations 2007 (data from Levana)



A. iris observations 2008 (data from Levana)

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Weather

I'm grateful again to Matthew Oates who kindly supplied me with his weather diary for the critical period, as follows:

June 2008 was unmemorable, for neither good nor bad reasons. After a poor first three days (the 3rd was vile) it was reasonably dry and produced a good scatter of fairly pleasant summer days, though nothing special. The second half was unusually windy and saw a lot of cool nights, though with several quite sunny days. The whole month was fairly dry, bar heavy rain on the 3rd and 22nd, which produced an autumnal gale.

July 2008 started promisingly but fell from grace spectacularly, and was excommunicated early. The month had twice the average rainfall and would have been unusually cold had it not been for the nice weather of the 3rd week. July 1st was sublime and suggested a great month. A deep depression edged over on the 5th producing an autumn gale on the 6th, which undoubtedly decimated in sensus hodierni arboreal butterflies, notably His Imperial Majesty (something similar happened in 2004). 1" of rain fell on the 6th, another on the 7th, and yet another on the 9th. The weather then went into cool and cloudy mode, with cool clear nights and convective cloud bubbling up in early morning, allowing only a few random sunny breaks. There was a nice day on the 13th, but the 3rd week of July was again dominated by cloud, though with only a little rain. Cold nights were again a feature. All this effectively terminated the Purple Emperor season - and the weather immediately improved: a good anticyclone came over for the 4th week, giving temps in the high 20s and almost breaking the 30dC barrier. A massive thundery breakdown occurred on the 28th, producing localised heavy thunderstorms (1" of precipitation in 30 mins at Culkerton) and the month ended poorly. July: you owe us.

3.2 Sightings

Although the weather was generally poor, the sightings were up on last year, but still well below the excellent 2006. I intend to look more closely at the data and try to normalise the number of sightings for each year with respect to the factors which have an influence, i.e.: number of observers, number of different localities visited, number of visits. Clearly, we cannot draw any sound conclusions about 'good' and 'bad' years unless we take these factors into account. The first observation was on 29th June, which is a few days later than average; perhaps due to the poor June. The season was undoubtedly affected negatively by the relatively poor weather at the height of the season: the middle two weeks of July. This was reflected by the sightings: from June 29th until July 5th [good weather], there were 37 sightings in 17 visits [=2.2 sightings/visit]; on July 6th and 7th the weather was awful, I had no reports from these two days; July 8th till 14th [moderate to poor weather], 27 sightings in 17 visits [=1.6 sightings/visit]; July 15th till the 27th [weather moderate to poor], 18 sightings in 12 visits [=1.5 sightings/visit].

3.3 Distribution

See maps above. We are still suffering from too few observers in Berks. Oxfordshire was as good as Bucks this year.

3.4 Territories [male assembly areas]

- **Oakley Wood Car Park.** Very poor; only one report [5th July] when 4 sightings were made in the car park area, i.e. none around the trees near the entrance, which was so good two years ago. Most of the sightings in this forest were spread over Shabbington Wood, Yorks Wood, and Hell Coppice, with no obvious territory being identified.

- **Piddington Wood.** The 'vista', or glade, discovered by the Campbells two years ago, was surprisingly deserted. There is no obvious reason, apart from a tree in the middle which has grown considerably, possibly obscuring the general view.
- **Little Wood.** At the point where the path along the south-eastern edge meets the top of the central ride going down through the wood, there is a very large Ash and several Oaks. This was very good [again] this year [see summary], and seems to be the main territory in this area.
- **Finemere Wood.** The Ashes at the northern end were again not as good as two years ago; some activity, with just a couple of individuals on two separate occasions. The 'central territory', namely the stretch of ride [about 200m] running south of the turning circle to the next ride junction was quite good, with a number of people making sightings along this stretch. Seven sightings were made on four different occasions.
- **Greatsea Wood.** Nothing at the high point.
- **Rushbeds.** Sightings again on the Ashes just inside the wood along the main ride just before it exits into Lapland's Farm meadow. We never see many here, but it is regularly used, every year.
- **Boarstall Wood.** Sightings were made again, after an absence of a couple of years, above the Ashes behind the cottage from the eastern end of the path skirting along the northern edge, by the road.

3.5 'New' habitats

This was a good year for 'new' habitats; no less than five were noted. Perhaps the most gratifying of all was a private wood which is part of the Bernwood remnants in Bucks. The owners are very keen and were always disappointed that they had never seen *iris* in their well-managed wood. They were not satisfied that they have one the best *pruni* woods of all! We too, were always 'unhappy' about the lack of HM here, because only about 1km to the north there is a good population in a private wood in the Grendon area and, a bit further to the south, we also see them regularly in Rushbeds Wood, so there is no obvious reason why *iris* should not inhabit this wood: there is plenty of Sallow and mature Oak and Ash. Well, the owners, finally, had a bitter/sweet experience; they told Dave Wilton that they had run over a male on fox droppings while driving down a main ride in the wood [4th July]! On 11th July, Dave had a sighting in a different part of the wood. This is great news, because, apart from Tittershall [which we can't enter], we now have the records to show that *iris* inhabits all the woods comprising the 'Bernwood remnants' from Waterperry/Holton running along a north-east axis to Claydon Woods.

Dave Wilton and Stuart Hodges saw a female in a clearing in **Arcott Wood**, which is on MOD land, quite late on in the season. Arcott Wood, together with Little Wood, Oldhouse Spinney, Piddington Wood, and the area between Little and Arcott Woods [no name on the OS map, but also on MOD land] form quite a large woodland complex, and it highly likely that *iris* flies from one wood to another. There is a vast amount of Sallow in these woods.

David Redhead, while exploring the grounds of the Westwood Country Hotel at the northern end of the privately owned **Bagley Wood**, observed activity at the tree tops from the hotel's grounds. There are past records from this big wood, but nothing recently.

On the same day, David also had a sighting on **Watlington Hill**, demonstrating, again, how widespread *iris* is in the Chilterns, although we hardly ever see more than one or two per visit.

In recent years, we have had unconfirmed reports from **Ashridge Park**, in the area of the monument. This season, we had a definite sighting there by Dave Maunder on July 27th. A friend of Ched George also told him about a sighting at the same spot on July 19th. Whereas Dave's sighting was definitely [just] in Bucks [SP972131], the July 19th sighting was in Herts [SP975129]. This then is another new Chilterns site.

3.6 Observations away from woodland

Only one this year, with a possible second. Asda Car Park at Lower Earley [SU743701]. Looking at the OS map, you can see small woods or copses about 1km away from this spot. One to 1.5 km to the south, between the River Loddon and the M4 motorway there are several copses close together; *iris* would have to negotiate the M4 and a built up area to reach the Tesco car park; no mean feat!

The second possible site is intriguing. It is a group of Oaks at the edge of a school field, not part of a wood but quite close to a large wood on the edge of Burghfield Common, Berks. The observer could, from his garden, see 'large butterflies' flying around these Oaks throughout July from late afternoon onwards. We have been invited to visit this spot next season.

3.7 General

Apart from the 'usual habitats', sightings were made by the Campbells in woods which are not frequented by many of us: Sydlings Copse, Holton Wood, Boarstall Wood, and Stanton Great Wood [the latter only from the edge; it seems that access is not permitted]. Dave Wilton also covered a lot of ground and was rewarded with two new habitats [Ham/Home Wood - access by permit only - and Arncott Wood]. Our chairman, having complained in the past about 'rarely seeing *iris*', had a good year. In particular, on July 21st, he made sightings in two 'new' habitats, quite far apart, Bagley Wood and Watlington Hill. In addition, during the field meeting on July 5th in Bernwood, he returned to the Oakley car park before the rest of us and made 3 sightings! David White, 'our man in Berkshire', has visited Windsor Forest over a long period, and first saw HM there in the nineties. This year, he spent a lot of time during several visits trying to understand better the lay of the land in the territory he had discovered years ago. The territory is a ridge in the northern part of the forest, whereby a view of the tops of the trees at this high point is mainly obscured, resulting in only brief sightings. Due to some felling, this ridge has become more exposed, so he investigated more sheltered areas lower down, and was successful [see Appendix for details]. Access to this royal forest is severely restricted, by the way: you need a permit.

Richard Soulsby had, probably, the best experience of all; during a visit to Finemere, late in the season, he was privileged to watch three specimens at sap on an Oak branch in the main territory just south of the turning circle for about 30 minutes. However, I subtracted any brownie points he had earned, because he did not have a camera with a zoom with him, so he failed to record this experience!

4. Conclusions and plans

- A reasonable season, considering how poor the weather was.
- Most positive result was the discovery of 5 new habitats.
- Disappointing, but intriguing, was the lack of sightings in previous territories.

We should continue to study behaviour on territory, and look in previously unexplored woods. I reproduce here part of a table I used for the 2004 report; this shows woods from which I've had no reports since 2004.

Wood	English Nature Site records (Year)	Levana (Year)
Baynes and Bowdown reserve		1989, 1990, 1994, 1996
Blackmore Wood		Ched George 1995
Blackwater and Stanton Little Wood	1982	
Brasenose and Shotover Hill	1986	
Burnham Beeches		1991

Bussock Woods btwn Newbury and M4		1991
Coombe & Buttermere (s. of Bagshot)		1991
Crowell wood		2002
Denford Park		1998
Greenfield Wood		Ched George post 1996
Hatchet Wood		1997
Holly	1985	1985
Home	Pre-1905	
Howbery Park		2001
Howe Park	1959	
Kingwood Common nr Sonning		1991
Leckhampstead and Wicken (N .Bucks)	1986	
Leckhampstead Thicket (W. Berks)		1987
Nettlebed		1989
Queen Wood nr Watlington		1990

It would also be useful to continue to explore the Chilterns, the most fruitful area seems to be the large expanse of forest to the east and south-east of Risborough [sightings by Ian Kelloway and Francis Gomme a few years ago]. I spent time exploring some of the high points here last summer without success, but it is a 'needle in a haystack' job. I'm sure they are there. David Redhead showed that we always have a chance of seeing HM anywhere in the Chilterns.

The Milton Keynes Natural History Society has been looking in the considerable expanse of woodland straddling the Bucks/Northants border, but no luck so far.

Here is some useful literature:

- 'The Ecology and Conservation of the Purple Emperor', published in 1987 by Ken Willmott, which was a project supported by the WWF. Ken has continued to study *iris* ecology in his wood [Bookham Common, Surrey] since then, and has accumulated a wealth of ecological information.
- Matthew Oates has coordinated a national *iris* project during the last few years and has published reports on the findings. He himself has accumulated an enormous amount of knowledge from his observations over many years, mainly, but not only, in Alice Holt Forest.
- Elizabeth Goodyear and Andrew Middleton have coordinated *iris* observations for the Herts/Middx section of BC during the last few years and have also published excellent annual reports.

Dennis Dell
October 2008

APPENDIX: Details of Purple Emperor Sightings in the UTB area during 2008

DATE	OBSERVER	LOCATION ^a grid reference	MICRO-LOCATION ^b grid reference	NUMBER SEEN AND SEX ^c	TIME ^d	WEATHER CONDITIONS	BEHAVIOUR ^e and comments
29.6	Mick & Wendy Campbell	Little Wood SP624157	Territory: Oaks and Ashes at high point south-eastern edge	1		good	Flying around and settling on sheltered Ash next to Oak; still on territory one hour later
29.6	R Hewitt	Whitecross Green Wood		2			Entered into visitor's book; no more information
30.6	Mick & Wendy Campbell	Waterperry Wood SP605095	Spaced out along main N-S track through middle of wood	3M, 1F	From 1.15, 4 hrs altogether	good	3 males in different territories; one male flew low, as did the female, which also settled briefly on small Sallow. Walked this main track twice and got repeat sightings
1.7	Mick & Wendy Campbell	Moor End Common SU803905	Oak tree territory, viewed from Common	1 M	3pm, 90 minutes spent here	good	Perching on Oak; large Sallow below this Oak.
1.7	Mick & Wendy Campbell	Bernwood Forest SP6111	Main track running NW to SE through middle of wood ['Piccadilly']	2, one definite M	1st seen at 12 midday, 2nd at 12.15	good	1 st flying above trees at 'Piccadilly Circus, 2 nd flying low along track towards the Circus from the direction of the M40 compensation area.
1.7	Dave Wilton	Little Wood SP624157	Territory: Oaks and Ashes at high point south-eastern edge	2M	3.35 to 3.50	good	Flying and skirmishing around the big Ash; then, one disappeared and the other perched on Ash in sheltered position. Stayed there in full sun.
1.7	David Dennis	Finemere Wood	1 st over blackthorn in transect section B; 2 nd about	2 [1 definite	2.30 to 3 pm	Very good	1 st flew rapidly above blackthorn [ca 8m].

		SP718218	200m into section C	male]			2 nd found resting on grass stem on ground [probably newly emerged]; took onto finger where it imbibed sweat; placed onto thistle flower where it stayed for more than 30 mins before flying up into the trees
1.7	Dennis Dell	Waterperry Wood SP605095	Spaced out along main N-S track through middle of wood	4 [1 definite M and 1 F]	From 11.20	Very good	All seen skimming low and landing briefly on main ride; female settled briefly on a Sallow; seen at: [SP] 607097, 607094, and at northern entrance, flying low out of wood and then returning
3.7	Mick & Wendy Campbell	Rushbeds Wood	Ashes at northern edge SP664157	1[2]	12pm to 23 pm	Poor; short spells of sun	One, possibly two, seen at Ash territory near northern edge. Flying above the trees.
4.7	Owners of the wood	Private wood in Bucks		1M			They were driving down the ride and ran over a male, which was on fox droppings! First time <i>iris</i> has been seen in this wood [see also 11.7]
4.7	Dave Wilton	Little Wood SP624157	Territory: Oaks and Ashes at high point south-eastern edge	4M	2.20 to 2.35		2 males fighting around big Ash for about 30 seconds before spiralling upwards and out of sight; about 1 min. later they descended to different parts of the Ash, where one landed on the same branch as during the previous visit. Three trees are used, on either side of the ride leading down into the wood from the public footpath; the big Ash is on the left, and there is a middle and right Oak. Two more seen fighting behind the right Oak; seen for 15 seconds before they disappeared behind the tree.
4.7	David White	Windsor Forest	High Standinghill [HSH]	2	11.00 to 13.30	good	Visited the 'master tree ridge' at HSH and Sallow stands. One seen at 11.20 high in the canopy at SU936742, about 250m south of the original master tree. The second seen at 12.15 in Forbe's Fields [SU936742] about 1km west of above area, around the top of an Oak and landing briefly on young Ash about 20' up. Not an obvious territory.
4.7	Ashley Whitlock	Lower Earley	Asda car park !! SU743701	1F	11 am	good	While loading the shopping in the car park, Mr and Mrs Whitlock were 'buzzed' by a female which then disappeared into a thicket. The nearest woods are about 1 km distant.
4.7	Dennis Dell	Finemere Wood SP718218	Northern end high point territory SP716222	2	12.57 to 13.32	good	12 short flights during this 30 min period [never more than about 5 seconds each] between Ash sprigs across short canopy gaps. Large Oak at corner ignored.

5.7	Reported to Dave Wilton	Greatsea/Romer Wood	Along main public track, near big ride between Greatsea and Romer SP714230	1	Mid-afternoon		
5.7	Matthew May, Park Ranger, Black Park	Black Park	TQ006829. Front garden of house by visitor's centre	1M	11-12	good	On pile of wood chips used for urination by his dog; was there for 3 minutes before taking off and disappearing over trees
5.7	Dennis Dell	Bernwood forest, field meeting, 4 people present	Oakley car park; along Piccadilly ride to the Circus; along ride through York's Wood to Hell coppice	6	4 hours, from 10 am until 2 pm	18 degrees, partially sunny, strong westerly breeze	1 in car park, one at beginning of visit. One in Hell Coppice at SP61151027, 12.20 to 12.25, gliding around small Oaks at side of ride, and another a few hundred metres further north along that ride [York's Wood]. David Redhead returned alone to the Oakley car park: Just as I got level with the car park entrance off the main ride there was a short flight out from the top of the triangle of trees, out over the main ride and back in - time 13:18 - scanned the top of the trees with binocs but could not see anything settled up there. Went into car park and there was another similar flight out over the car park - time 13:21 - again could not see anything settled in the top of the trees. Started to get into the car when I became aware of a male rapidly flying around the cars in the car park. It did this for about two minutes before disappearing - time 13:25 - 13:27. You and rest of party arrived back a couple of minutes later. I could have seen 3 separate individuals or they could all have been one and the same.
8.7	David White	Windsor Forest	High Standinghill [HSH]	3 or 4 [2M, 2F]	13.00 to 14.30	18 degrees, blustery NW wind	A ridge has become more exposed as a result of some conifer felling, which may have resulted in a movement away from former 'master trees'. Sightings today seemed to have confirmed this. Female around a Sallow, and male not far away around the top of a sheltered beech. He remained on this beech, somewhat wind buffeted. Sightings at [SU] 93627414, 93647411[M&F], 93557412
8.7	Dave Wilton	Finemere Wood	Along main ride through middle, exclusively the 100m stretch south of the turning circle.	2	pm	18 degrees, partially sunny, strong westerly breeze	Between 2 and 2.30; a series of short flights [longest was 60 seconds], mainly on and around sallows. A second appeared from an Oak on the opposite side of the ride and had a brief skirmish with the first, before disappearing back over the Oak. The first returned to its Sallow leaf. No activity at high point Ashes or in Greatsea Wood. Another female seen near here.
8.7	Mick & Wendy Campbell	Little Wood SP624157	Territory: Oaks and Ashes at high point south-eastern edge	3	3.20, observed for 40 mins	Weather as above	Aerial battles on sheltered sides. As well as oak & ash, they perched in central birch and in a short nut tree to the right and the rear.

8.7	Stuart Hodges	Private wood in Grendon area.	Possible master oak.	3	30 minutes		Six brief flight sessions, 2 individuals chasing on sheltered side of oak; very high [ca 60 ft]; did not see any settling. Another in section F of transect, close by, also did not settle
10.7	Mick & Wendy Campbell	Sydlings Copse SP559096	Ash tree territory viewed from meadow	3	11.50, 12.00, and 12.15	Moderate, sunny spells	1 st flying across meadow and into ashes; other two were brief flights out from ashes and back.
10.7	Wilton, George, and Dell	Rushbeds Wood	Ash territory SP668158	1M	12.30 to 12.45	moderate	Several short flights in canopy gap [not more than 30 secs] followed by long period of perching high up in Ash
10.7	Dave Wilton	Private wood in Grendon area.	No definite territory established, but the middle area of the wood seems to be most frequented	3	15.30 to 16.00	moderate	Two at southern end of main ride around Oaks: at 15.30, one about 200 yards from southern end of main ride, flying north at high level. Five minutes later, another at southern end of main ride, low down then climbing northwards over Oaks. Five minutes later, third at ride crossroads above Oak. Short flights at canopy level, and then worked its way eastwards along ride H of transect
11.7	Dave Wilton	Private wood in Bucks	Oaks to east of ride by cleared area	1	13.05	Moderate; brief spells of sunshine between showers	Flying in canopy gap between Oaks for about 20 seconds before disappearing from view. Confirmation of 1st ever sighting in these woods [see 4.7]
11.7	Becky Woodell and Tony Croft	Whitecross Green Wood	Central clearing SP601146	1	16.00	poor	Just as a substantial rainfall started, one flew out of the trees and across the clearing
11.7	David Redhead	Hell Coppice	SP612105; edge of large clearing; large Oaks here	1M	13.20	poor	Seen just before rain; flying around them, crawled on ground and then flew into large Ashes.
12.7	Ted Green	Windsor Forest	High Standinghill SU93657430	1			Around top of a wild pear tree
12.7	Jim Asher	Finemere	Established territory just south of turning circle, SP 718218	1F		poor	On track; two BBOWT members lifted it onto a flower head to avoid it being trampled by 3 approaching Labradors!
13.7	Mick & Wendy Campbell	Stanton Great Wood	Ash trees along south-western edge [SP587090]	1	11.45 to 13.15	ideal	Flying over tall ashes at 1 pm; several brief sightings. Probably perching on the side of the trees facing into the wood.
13.7	Mick & Wendy Campbell	Holton Wood	Along public footpath thru' wood [sightings by the Campbells here in previous years]	1 [2], probably F from size	14.45 to 16.00	ideal	Two sightings; flew out of tall willow along main ride into next willow; 5 minutes later it flew out again disappearing over trees.

14.7	Dave Ferguson	Finemere Wood	Near to southern end of main ride about 100m up from wood entrance	1			Flying around top of Sallow at side of track
14.7	Mick & Wendy Campbell	Boarstall Wood	Ashes behind cottage at SP627125	1	1.05 to 1.30	Cloudy but warm [23]	3 sightings in 10 minutes: short flights at top of ashes.
15.7	Mick & Wendy Campbell	Bernwood Forest	Piccadilly Circus SP616112	1	16.00		2 sightings, flying above head height and along track
16.7	Dennis Dell	Private wood in Grendon area.	Central area, around Oaks and Ashes	3	12.55 to 13.05	Cloudy, 19 degrees	1 st above Oak, 2 nd on and around big Ash, 3 rd just a little further north than 2 nd , flying around corner of ride junction
18.7	Dave Wilton	Little Wood	South-eastern edge territory [see 8.7]	2 [probably M]	1.20 to 1.50 pm		One definite male flying around sheltered side of the big Ash, before perching. In the air for more than 1 minute: unusual. The second, 2 minutes later, seen for about 15 seconds flying around back of the northern of the 2 big Oaks: quite worn.
21.7	David White	Windsor Forest	High Standinghill [see 8.7]	1M	12.00 to 15.00		New master tree at top did not yield a sighting this time. Went to bottom of slope on leeward side [20m lower than crest of ridge] where it is more sheltered; here, 3 sightings between 13.00 and 13.30 high in the canopy of a large Oak at the edge of a small glade [SU93787431]
21.7	Dave Wilton & Stuart Hodges	Arcott Wood	Small clearing in centre of wood SP615170; Oaks, Ashes, Sallows	1F	12.12	Sunny, 19 degrees, northerly breeze	Flew around clearing for 1 minute and settled on Sallow for about 30 seconds before taking off and disappearing over the trees. This is a new locality
21.7	David Redhead	Grounds of Westwood Country Hotel at northern end of Bagley Wood (private)	High point of wood, SP505027. Trees surrounding the hotel grounds	1M	12.30		Flying high from tree to tree
21.7	David Redhead	Watlington Hill	SU704935	1F	15.30		Southern slope, flying leisurely along tops of trees before disappearing over the top.
21.7	Dennis Dell,	Finemere Wood	Northern Ash high point territory [see 4.7];	1	15.10 to 15.23	Sunny, 20 degrees, breezy	Three very brief flights across the northern Ash canopy gap in this 13 minute period; stayed till 15.35: no further activity.
23.7	Andrew Bolton	Combe Wood	SU359596		12.53		Seen flying overhead near Sallows
23.7	Dennis Dell, Mark Vallance and Giles Strother	Finemere Wood	Southern end of main ride, about 200m from wood entrance; SP718217	3	11.05-12.27	23 degrees, muggy,	Flying above trees. Met BBOWT workers; they also had a sighting at southern edge along the meadow, and then one near to the turning circle

			[southern edge]; Established territory just south of turning circle, SP 718218			no sun or wind	
25.7	Richard Soulsby	Finemere Wood	Established territory just south of turning circle, SP 718218	3 [2F and 1M]	15.20 to 15.40	23 degrees, sunny intervals, light wind	Male and female on branch of Oak, about 15' up, close to one another. Observed for about 15 mins; F sometimes opened wings, and the M responded by rapid beating of his wings. A second F appeared, flew around and landed on a sprig of Oak leaves a few ft away from the pair and stayed for 5 min. Then flew back into canopy. Eventually the 1 st F flew across the ride to settle on a birch. Richard then saw that the M was taking sap from a split in the bark. After another 5 mins, the M flew off.
27.7	Dave Maunder	Ashridge	Near monument at SP972131	1F			Flying over parked cars along the main driveway, towards the monument. First confirmed sighting at Ashridge by a member