

# Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch

## Butterfly Sightings Archive - January to December 2010

**Wednesday 29th December 2010**

**Wendy Wilson reported the following on 12th December:** "Today I was in *Langley Park* where some young oaks have been cut as they were crowding the ancient oaks that are a feature of the park. The twiggy bits have been piled up on the bramble alongside the path at TQ 0151 8207. I examined some and found five **Purple Hairstreak eggs** which I have brought home to rear and hopefully return in the summer as adults. There must be dozens more eggs there so, if the cut material hasn't been removed yet, members may want to rescue some: walk about 100yds south down the Wellingtonia avenue from the car-park, turn right at a huge mature oak into a grassy ride and go along there for about 50 yds where you'll see all the cut material piled up just next to another large mature oak. The eggs are doomed if they remain there. I see Purple Hairstreaks regularly in this part of the park in summer."

**Wednesday 24th November 2010**

**Mike Wilkins sent the following today:** "At lunchtime today, *24 November*, I spotted a butterfly fluttering outside my conservatory window. When I investigated I could see it was a **Red Admiral** in very good condition. It settled briefly in the sun before flying off strongly. The temperature was 4C in the shade."

**Friday 12th November 2010**

**This sighting came from Judith Barnard on 8th November:** "Red Admiral spotted in *Willen, Milton Keynes* last Tuesday (*2nd November*)."

**Monday 8th November 2010**

**Richard Soulsby reported the following on Sunday 7th November:** "My wife spotted this **Red Admiral** basking in the sun and nectaring on the flowers of a viburnum in our garden in *Benson, Oxon* at lunchtime today (*7th Nov*). It was in very good condition. There was full sun, but the temperature was only 7 deg C."

**3rd Nov - Steve Croxford provided this update on the work being carried out in Finemere Wood, Bucks:** "Finemere Wood has now been closed for four weeks to clear the conifers from this mixed wood. It is hoped this will allow it to return to a more natural state. Progress appears to have been good no doubt helped by the good weather. The area between the central meadow and the western meadows has nearly been completely cleared of all trees. This area of several acres was almost exclusively planted with conifers and was very shady, mostly unsuitable for butterflies. The area North of this main clearance, towards Finemere House, was a mixture of hardwood and softwood. The softwood has now been felled to reveal an open woodland with many mature stag horn Oaks. Fortunately the main track up to the turning circle and the area East of the main track do not appear to be significantly affected by the harvesting operation. The wood may take a couple of years to recover but in the long run this work should improve the butterfly potential of this already excellent wood."

## Tuesday 2nd November 2010

**Dave Maunder sent this news today, 2nd November:** "The only butterfly I've seen recently was a single late **Small White** on my allotment in *Aylesbury, Bucks* on *25th October*."

**Steve Croxford sent this news on 1st November:** "I have managed a few butterflies in Bucks over the last few days. Today, *1st November*, I saw a **Red Admiral** on the *Waddesdon Estate* and another couple on Saturday in my parents' back garden in *Chinnor*. I also had a male **Brimstone** in my front garden in *Westcott* at the end of last week."

**Helen Hyre sent these sightings yesterday:** "*1st November* - 1 **Speckled Wood** in *Bierton churchyard, Bucks*, SP836153 - very surprised to see it in this location so late. Also, on *30th October* - 1 **Comma** and 1 **Red Admiral** in our Bierton garden."

**John Rust reported the following yesterday:** "I've just seen a male **Brimstone** today, the *1st November*, in St Helens Way, *Benson (Oxon)*."

## Saturday 30th October 2010

**At 11am on Monday 25th October Ched George saw** a Nymphalid butterfly flying in Sprigs Holly in *Radnage, Bucks*. "My car thermometer read 5 degrees centigrade! It was very sunny."

**On 24th October Dave Ferguson had** 2 **Red Admiral** sightings, one in his garden and one near Lilyfee Farm near *Beaconsfield, Bucks*.

## Wednesday 20th October 2010

**Helen Hyre sent this sighting today:** "On *19th October* I was surprised to see a **Large White** while gardening. It is the first I have seen since 22nd September. There were sunny periods and a gusty wind. We have had few butterflies in *Bierton (Bucks)* in October."

**The following report was received via David Redhead:** On *Sunday 17th October* Phil Penson visited *Chilswell Valley* just to the west of Oxford and was delighted to come across two **Red Admiral**, two **Small Copper** and a male **Common Blue**. Meanwhile David Redhead at *Heyford Hill* just to the south of Oxford had to make do with a single **Red Admiral** and a single **Comma**. All three Red Admirals were nectaring on ivy flowers.

## Tuesday 12th October 2010

**David Redhead sent this news today:** "About midday yesterday, *11th October*, I did a check on my local patch in *Littlemore, Oxon* and found 3 **Red Admirals** - one on some wild Michaelmas Daisies and two on my neighbour's ivy flowers. I then spent 3 hours in *Bernwood Meadows and Hell Coppice (Bucks)* for 2 **Commas** (feeding on blackberries), 1 **Red Admiral** (being blown along by the wind) and 3 **Speckled Woods** (one on blackberries, the other two flying about). No adult Brown Hairstreak, although a **Vapourer moth** did momentarily raise my excitement levels, and a disappointing 7 **Brown Hairstreak eggs**. When I got home Wendy told me the garden had become more active in my absence with 3 **Red Admirals** on our ivy flowers and a fourth appearing to be looking for somewhere to hibernate in our lean-to. Also 2 **Commas** surprisingly on some recently emerged Marjoram flowers and a **Speckled Wood**."

**Steve Croxford reported the following today:** "Yesterday, the *11th October*, I visited *Finemere Wood, Bucks*. Timber harvesting work was just starting and the wood will now be closed for the next 2 or 3 months. During the walk I saw 3 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Red Admiral**, 2 **Small Copper**, a male **Brimstone** and a **Small White**. A later walk around *Waddesdon Manor* turned up another 2 Red Admiral and 7 **Comma**. The Commas were all on the same sheltered patch of Blackberries. This was an encouraging sight as Comma appear to have had a poor year locally."

**This came from Jan Haseler today, 12th October:** "I was surprised to see a **Holly Blue** at *Emmbrook Park, Wokingham (Berks)* yesterday lunchtime (11th), while I was watching **Red Admirals** on some sheltered ivy blossom."

**Mark Griffiths sent this news on October 10th:** "Today on a walk around *Garsington village, Oxon* we saw the occasional **Red Admiral** but I was surprised to see a beautifully shining and pristine **Small Copper** in the rough fields just below Garsington Church."

**Phil Coles saw the following on October 10th:** "1 male **Brimstone** (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) and 1 **Red Admiral** (*Vanessa atalanta*) in the Thame Valley at *Shabington, Bucks*."

**Chris & Pat Dennis sent the following report on 10th October:** "I took this picture of a **Small Copper** this afternoon at *Lodge Hill, Bucks*. There were at least four of them and we also spotted **Red Admiral**, **Large White** and **Brimstone**. What a beautiful day to be out and about."

#### Thursday 7th October 2010

**Peter Law reported the following on 6th October:** "I've just returned from a few days away, during which I saw 4 **Speckled Wood** around *Theale (Berks)* gravel pits main pit on *4th October*."

**David Redhead sent this report on 6th October:** "**Red Admirals** and **Commas** can still be seen in good numbers especially if you can find some sheltered ivy flowers in the sun. About midday today, *6th October*, there were two **Commas** and a **Speckled Wood** nectaring on the ivy flowers in our garden in *Littlemore, Oxon* and a **Red Admiral** on the fading Michaelmas Daisies. The bank of ivy in our neighbours' field supported an amazing eight Red Admirals and five Commas."

**Tony Croft sent the following report on 4th October:** "As the weather was so warm on Monday afternoon, *4th October* ( 17C ) I went to *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon* to try for a late season sighting of a **Brown Hairstreak**. I saw this female gliding and perching at the top of an ash tree. It then flew across the ride and settled on blackthorn affording good sightings and this photo. Also on the wing were 1 male **Brimstone**, 2 **Comma**, 3 **Speckled Wood** and 3 **Peacock**."

#### Sunday 3rd October 2010

**Dave Maunder sent this news on 3rd October:** "Not too many butterflies to report from *Aylesbury, Bucks* over the last week, just **Red Admirals** (6); **Commas** (5), and one **Peacock** which I saw yesterday in Fairford Leys, tempted out of hibernation no doubt by the warm morning sun! Incidentally, I read in the latest UTB Newsletter that other people noted very low numbers of Peacocks this summer, which is exactly what I've seen in Aylesbury since August - maybe *Sturmia bella* is affecting this species now?"

**David Redhead sent this report on 1st October: "Brown Hairstreak Update:** The latest reported adult sighting has come from Chris Bottrell who saw a female basking in the sun at 12C in the [Otmoor Roman Road Bridleway, Oxon](#) where it runs between the RSPB Reserve and the MoD Rifle Range on [Saturday 25th September](#). Still just time for you to spot one, assuming some decent weather, as we usually manage one or more first week of October sightings. The official egg hunting season does not start until 1st November by which time the majority of the obscuring foliage should have fallen. However, some keen souls have already been having a go and three extensions of range have already been achieved in September! The first by Tony Croft in [Wytham Woods, Oxon](#) the second by Dave Wilton just west of [Waddesdon, Bucks](#) and the third by Wendy Wilson at the Woodland Trust's [Stratfield Brake](#) near Kidlington, Oxon. Wendy's find was something of a milestone in local Brown Hairstreak history as it added the **300th kilometre square** to the known range (see distribution map above). On the 13th March 2005 I was able to report the addition of the 150th kilometre square. So one could say the range has doubled in five years but obviously it is not as simple as that. If you want to learn more come along to the Upper Thames Branch Members' Day on 30th October (see Events). Yesterday morning ([30th September](#)) the sun shone and the temperature reached 15C. Sadly I was otherwise engaged for most of the time but, just after midday, I did manage to check out the ivy flowers in our garden and my neighbour's nearby field. Between them they produced 4 **Red Admirals** and 8 **Commas**. By 3pm, by when the sun had been absent for a couple of hours, no butterflies were to be seen except one **Speckled Wood** desperately looking for a sunny spot. Meanwhile Gerry Kendall had taken full advantage of the sun by visiting [Aston Upthorpe Downs, south Oxon](#) where he achieved more variety but not quite so many butterflies with 3 **Peacocks**, 3 **Commas**, 3 **Meadow Browns**, 1 **Small Heath** and 1 **Red Admiral**."

**Pete Eeles reports from his house in Thatcham, Berks on 30th September:** Although the adult butterfly season is over, there's still plenty to be seen if you look closely enough - and have time! I was sitting in my study today - but looked out of the window at the ivy that's right outside and noticed an abnormal amount of ant activity. Looking more closely, I could see some large dark "blobs" on the ivy flower heads against the sky. A quick look outside and I found exactly what I expected - a **Holly Blue larva**. Then another and another. All in all, 7 larvae on a single cluster, with none found anywhere else. Quite diverse in colouring - some were green all over, others with pink streaks down their length. But this was the first time I'd seen ants in attendance (with every larva), especially since the branches are a good 8 or 9 feet from the ground. Absolutely fascinating to watch. Some photos below. In the last shot you can just make out the remains of an egg from which a larva has emerged.

### Sunday 26th September 2010

**Becky Woodell reported the following:** "This morning, [22nd September](#), in perfect sunny and still weather I did the [Oakley Wood \(Bernwood, Bucks\)](#) transect: **Speckled Wood** - 8; **Red Admiral** - 3; **Comma** - 21; **Peacock** - 2; **Common Blue** - 1; **Small White** - 1; **Brimstone** - 4, all females. In the garden in Oakley were **Red Admiral** - 5; **Comma** - 3; **Small White** - 1; **Small Copper** - 1, probably a first for the garden!"

### Monday 21st September 2010

**Dennis Dell sent this news from Aylesbury, Bucks on 19th September:** "I had a **Red Admiral** on my white ice plant this afternoon - that's a first! The beijing buddleia is being used by the **Red Admirals** and **Commas**."

**Becky Woodell did two transects on 18th September:** "At [Rushbeds/Lapland, Bucks](#) in the morning: **Speckled Wood** - 14; **Meadow Brown** - 2; **Comma** - 3, **Brimstone** - 1F; **Brown Hairstreak** - 1F in the hedge at the railway end of Rushbeds Meadow and **Common Blue** - 1. At [Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon](#) in the afternoon: **Speckled Wood** - 9; **Small**

**White - 1; Green-veined White - 1; Large White - 1; Common Blue - 3; Small Copper - 1; Silver Y moth - 1."**

**Jim Asher sent this report on 18th September:** "Denise and I took a walk at [Bernwood, Bucks](#) this morning - Oakley Wood car park, down to the meadows, up to the far (N) end, back to the meadows (E) entrance, up the dark ride to the Shabbington ride, north to Piccadilly Circus and back to the car park. We saw 4 **Commas**, 5 **Red Admirals**, 10 **Speckled Wood**, 3 **Green-veined White**, 1 **Small White**, 1 **Common Blue** and 1 **Small Copper**. Rather cool breeze, although warmer in the sun. On the way back along the footpath on the north side of the main (E) meadow, we saw one female **Brown Hairstreak** just the other side of the fence, with the occasional flutter and bask, but mainly seeking egg-laying sites. The season is not over yet!"

**Dave Maunder reported the following on 18th September:** "It seems like a very poor late summer/autumn here in [Aylesbury](#) for Vanessa butterflies - I've only seen a few **Commas** (6), all feeding on Blackberries on 12th. Today I saw two fresh **Red Admirals**, one on Ivy-bloom, one on my garden Michaelmas daisies."

### **Tuesday 14th September 2010**

**David Redhead reported the following on 11th September:** "Today's welcome sunshine in the second half of the afternoon brought a reasonable number of Vanessa to my local patch in [Littlemore, Oxon](#) for the first time this summer with 7 **Commas** and 2 **Red Admirals** - all very fresh looking bar one of the Commas which was a bit faded. Two of the Commas were on a garden buddleia with another two on the garden Michaelmas Daisies along with one of the Red Admirals. The faded Comma was on the nearby feral buddleias and the remaining two Commas were feasting on the local blackberries along with the second Red Admiral and a pair of **Speckled Woods**. The ivy flowers were attracting other insects but not butterflies although their musky scent was quite noticeable."

**On 10th September Chris Brown reported his recent sightings for Crowsley Wood, Berks:** "Sightings from [11th August to 9th September](#) include: **Silver-washed Fritillary, Holly Blue, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Green-veined White, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Comma, Gatekeeper, Green-veined White** and **Red Admiral**. I think the Silver-washed Fritillary season has ended at Crowsley Wood with my last sighting on 2nd September."

### **Sunday 5th September 2010**

**Jack Peeters sent the following:** "It's been an excellent year for some butterflies but has anyone seen a Wall Brown? I'm the Species Champion for the Wall but there's virtually no activity now. Also, I've noticed a sharp drop in **Small** and **Essex Skipper** this year, they've been very sparse on my mini-reserve in [Oving, Bucks](#). **Common Blues**, however, have been extremely numerous this year nearly doubling the previous record on my site."

**Peter Law reported the following today:** "This afternoon, [5th September](#), I checked out what is still flying at the [Aston Upthorpe Downs and Oven Bottom SSSIs](#) in South Oxon. In lightly overcast, occasionally brightening conditions I walked up the left fork from the grain dryer, across to the top of the right fork, into and back out of the upper part of Juniper Valley, along Grim's Ditch to Oven Bottom, then back to where I started. Along this route I saw 3 **Speckled Wood**, approx 16 **Meadow Brown**, 24+ **Small Heath**, 3 **Small White** and 7 fresh looking **Small Copper** (5 in Juniper Valley, 2 in Oven Bottom). Oven Bottom was the busiest patch, and on the slope opposite the gate from Grim's Ditch I found 2 male and 1 rather sluggish female **Chalkhill Blue** still on the wing."

*This news came from Peter Kyle on 3rd September:* "A **Clouded Yellow** seen in flight at *Letcombe Bassett, Oxon* on *30th August*. They are usually about, on or near the Ridgeway, at this time of year and I usually see one or two a year there. Last year we had a battered female Silver-washed Fritillary in the garden (Letcombe Regis) hovering around a large clump of violets."

*Helen Hyre sent this report on 3rd September:* "*Weds 1st September* – in hazy sun at *Wendover Arm* (Buckland Wharf to Drayton Beauchamp church, Bucks) I saw 45 **Common Blue** (22 male, 22 female). Also, **Brown Argus**, **Large White** 2, **Small White** 9, **Green-veined White** 1 (very worn), **Brimstone** 1, **Speckled Wood** 2, **Small Tortoiseshell** 1 and **Comma** 2.

*Sat 28th August* in a strong wind at Wendover Arm we saw 41 **Common Blue** plus **Large White** 4, **Small White** 8, **Green-veined White** 1, **Speckled Wood** 3, **Small Tortoiseshell** 1, **Comma** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Painted Lady** 1, **Gatekeeper** 1, **Meadow Brown** 2, **Small Copper** 1 and **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** 1. Common Blue have done well at this site this year."

*Malcolm Brownsword reported the following on 3rd September:* "I saw the following on *Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon* on *2nd September*: 35 **Small Heath**, 18 **Meadow Brown**, two **Chalkhill Blues**, both in good condition for so late in the season, 3 pristine **Small Coppers** (3rd brood?), 2 **Common Blues** and a single **Red Admiral**."

*Peter Law sent the following on 2nd September:* "Since my last report, I saw 2 tatty female **Brown Hairstreaks** at *Otmoor RSPB, Oxon* and one more pristine female at *Bernwood Meadows, Bucks*, both on *22 August*."

## Tuesday 31st August 2010

*Jeremy Soane (from Staines) sent this report today:* "I and my wife and children (plus dog) visited the *Warburg reserve, Oxon* on *Monday 30th August*. It was generally overcast and rather chilly, however we did see a number of butterfly species including **Meadow Brown** (4), **Common Blue** (5+), **Small White** (2), **Speckled Wood** (1), **Small Heath** (1) and at least one **Silver-washed Fritillary**, looking worn as would be expected. There was plenty of other wildlife to admire including the chiltern gentian."

*Becky Woodell sent this report on 30th August:* "The following are records of my **Brown Hairstreak** sightings over the Bank Holiday weekend at *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon*: *28-08-10* - one female seen on transect (see photo); *30-08-10* - one female together with a **Purple Hairstreak** in a large ash tree."

*Stuart Hodges did his Finemere transect on Monday afternoon, 30th August:* "I saw a **Silver-washed Fritillary**, but it was looking a bit tired and tatty!"

*Paul Furtek visited Lardon Chase on Bank Holiday Monday afternoon, 30th August:* "I wanted to try and photograph the last of this year's **Adonis Blues**. I saw around a dozen of them and although most of them were well worn with damaged wings I did find two males and a female that were in reasonably good condition. As you will see from the photos, the males looked dazzling on the occasions that the sun came out. Also seen at Lardon Chase were 3 **Brown Argus**, 2 **Chalkhill Blue**, 5 **Common Blue**, 1 **Peacock** and 1 **Small Heath**."

*Mick & Wendy Campbell went for a circular walk from Aston Rowant NNR, returning along the Ridgeway, on Monday 30th August:* "The weather was a bit mixed with a few sunny spells but quite warm. On the reserve to the south of the M40 there were quite a few butterflies but the sun didn't stay out long enough to get them flying properly. We managed to find one **Silver-spotted Skipper** and a couple of **Chalkhill Blues**, plus **Meadow Brown**

(10), **Small Heath** (11), **Brown Argus** (3), **Small White** (1), **Common Blue** (9). Other species seen on the walk were **Speckled Wood** (1 - very fresh) and a **Green-veined White**."

*Tim Watts sent this sighting on 30th March:* "**Painted Lady** sunning itself on our patio in *Whitchurch, Bucks* yesterday, *29th*, our first garden sighting this year."

### Sunday 29th August 2010

*David Redhead sent this news on 27th August:* "On *27th August* I spent the day trying to tidy up our unruly garden in *Littlemore, Oxon*, before going on a week's holiday. During one of the first sunny intervals, our garden buddleias got quite busy, well for 2010, with one **Red Admiral** (fresh), two **Green-veined White** and a **Small White** all in attendance at the same time. A **Holly Blue** (nectaring on Hemp Agrimony), **Large White** and **Meadow Brown** were also seen. A dog walk in the sun about tea-time to the nearby grassland and scrub produced nine **Common Blues** in spite of our garden residents having totally disappeared. Surprisingly six of the nine were males and only three were females and most were nectaring on Ragwort although one of the females was on a wild Michaelmas Daisy. Also seen up there were another **Small White**, a **Speckled Wood**, a **Small Copper** (faded and also on Ragwort) and a **Gatekeeper** plus two **Lesser Treble-bar** moths. 11 lepidopteral species without too much effort (except for the gardening) - not bad. Back home I examined the pupae that have resulted from my backyard Comma caterpillars (see report for 17th August below) to find another had proved to be parasitised. I now have four viable pupae, four defunct pupae and one I expect, from its appearance, to prove parasitised before tomorrow morning, plus six puparia. I have sent Chris Raper a photo of the first five puparia and he says they are down to a Tachinid Fly - which one only time will tell. I have attached two photos taken yesterday - one of the first **five puparia** and the three **Comma pupae** that produced them and the other showing the six remaining pupae - one of the two on the right proved to be parasitised today. (The ruled lines are 5mm apart). I have also attached a photo of the **Red Admiral pupa** - much bigger than the Commas' ones and much more reactive to being touched - thrashing its tail around at the slightest interference."

*Dave Turnbull reported the following on 26th August:* "*Tuesday 24th August, Pitstone, Bucks*. Although bright and sunny there was a very strong wind, but I took the opportunity to go and look for any remaining second brood **Small Blues**. Having found two on the 18th which I thought was late, I was surprised to find a single male, wing edges perfect, scales a bit worn but generally in pretty good condition. This is late indeed."

### Wednesday 25th August 2010

*Clive Burrows sent this news on 24th August:* "In an hour and a half on Sunday *22nd August* at *Lardon Chase* I saw 11 **Adonis Blues**, 2 **Small Coppers** and 4 **Chalkhill Blues** amongst the butterflies."

*David Redhead diverted from the Shabbington Wood transect on 22nd August into Bernwood Meadows in search of a Brown Hairstreak:* "I was helped in my task by Michael Field from Wales who already had his camera lined up on a gorgeous female **Brown Hairstreak**. After a time she proceeded to lay an egg which was green at first but turned white as we examined it. This was the second Michael had found but he was much happier with it than the first, which had part of one of her wings missing. Back on the transect I recorded a total of 8 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** most of which were nectaring on the ride side devil's-bit scabious. However, the **Common Blue** count at 43 was less than half the all-time record of 114 set the previous week - so at last they do appear to be on the wane."

*Andrew Bolton sent these sightings on 22nd August:* "I saw the following at the *BBOWT*

*Hartslock Reserve*, nr. Goring on *Saturday 21st August*, during occasional brighter spells of the afternoon. These were found in the more sheltered parts of the site, as it became extremely windy as the afternoon continued. Grid ref. SU 616794. **Common Blue** 46, **Meadow Brown** 42, **Small Heath** 12, **Green-veined White** 5, **Gatekeeper** 4, **Brown Argus** 6, **Chalkhill Blue** 3, **Small Copper** 1, **Holly Blue** 1, **Small White** 1. Moths: **Six-spot Burnets** 7, **Common Carpet** 1."

*Becky Woodell sent this report on 22nd August*: "Feeling that I really had to see more than two **Brown Hairstreaks** this year I went to *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon*, this morning (22nd). About 120m from the car park I saw a male which soon flew off and I then went on to the green lane where I came across a very lively female which totally ignored the huge quantity of angelica flowers and instead flew onto a variety of vegetation before settling close in front of me where she crawled into some blackthorn partly covered by sedges and there she laid an egg."

*This news came from Dave Wilton on 22nd August*: "Further to Dennis Dell's report from yesterday, I walked the *Finemere Wood, Bucks* transect in today's pleasant sunshine (*Sunday 22nd August*) and recorded four rather faded but very active **Silver-washed Fritillaries**. A fifth was found in the adjacent meadows but that one was definitely on its last legs. I wonder if we'll have any September records this year? It was also pleasing to see good numbers of **Small Heath** present in the meadows with more than 50 recorded, a much better total than I've achieved there for several years. Apart from the ubiquitous **Common Blue** there was little else to be seen within the wood or meadows. The only other species recorded were **Brimstone**, **Large White**, **Small White**, **Green-veined White**, **Small Copper**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock**, **Comma**, **Speckled Wood**, **Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper**, with only the Whites and Speckled Woods getting into double figures. I managed to see ten species in my *Westcott* garden, including **Red Admiral** and **Painted Lady** which I didn't record at Finemere."

*Tony & Ro Rayner reported the following on 22nd August*: "We have closely monitored the butterflies at our home site in *Cholsey, Oxon* for 24 years. In this time we have never seen a **Silver-washed Fritillary**. Imagine our surprise therefore at finding three nectaring on our garden buddleias this morning (22nd)!"

### Saturday 21st August 2010

*Martin Lenney sent his first report for the website on 19th August*: "In my garden in *Crowthorne, Berks* I had a **Purple Hairstreak** nectaring on Hemp agrimony and a **Brimstone** flying through on the *8th of August*. This is the first time I have observed Purple Hairstreak in the area but there are good mature oaks close by. There has been a **Holly Blue** or blues in the garden every day for the last couple of weeks now. The maximum I have seen is two together, again on the 8th of August. The first **Red Admiral** I have seen in the area flew through the garden on the *18th*. At *Wellington college bog, Berks* on the *17th August*, grid reference: SU838629, 2 male **Common Blues** and 1 **Grayling**."

*Dennis Dell reports seeing a* faded but intact **Silver-washed Fritillary** in *Finemere Wood on 18th August*. "Also, yesterday (*19th August*) showed that even if there is no sunshine whatsoever, provided it is reasonably warm, we can still have a productive time. Below Ivinghoe Beacon, on *Steps Hill and in Incombe Hole*, it was 20 degrees, cloudy, with a stiffish south-westerly blowing. Many of the Blues were in perching mode. **Large White** [1], **Small White** [14], **Common Blue** [44], **Small Heath** [14], **Gatekeeper** [6], **Chalkhill Blue** [45], **Meadow Brown** [13], **Brown Argus** [3], **Small Copper** [1]."

*Tony Croft sent this update on 19th August*: "I have been able to observe a female **Brown Hairstreak** in our garden ash tree in *Easington, Bucks* for the last two days. It has

spent most of its time near the top of the tree being blown about in the fresh winds but seemingly unconcerned. At some point either this one or another unseen one has made its way to the blackthorn immediately below the tree and laid two **eggs**, one of which is shown in the photo below."

**Peter Law reported the following on 18th August:** "I visited the *Aston Upthorpe Downs* and *Oven Bottom* SSSIs in South Oxon on *18th August*, which seem a little under-reported on this page. My aim was to compare high summer species, particularly Chalkhill Blue numbers, with what I regard as my other home sites of Aston Rowant NNR and Watlington Hill. In lightly overcast conditions I saw one **Chalkhill Blue** on the path from the grain dryer up to Juniper Valley, but once in that SSSI the only butterflies I saw were five **Meadow Browns** until reaching the highest parts. Then suddenly there were good numbers of **Common Blue** and **Small Heath**, three or four each of **Brown Argus** and **Small Copper**, and one more Chalkhill Blue. I then took the footpath along Grims Ditch to the gate into Oven Bottom. I saw one Adonis Blue on the slope opposite this gate last 12 June, but did not report it here. No such luck today, but I stopped counting Chalkhill Blue once I reached 30. The density here certainly matched what I saw at Aston Rowant on 25 July, but was in complete contrast to Watlington Hill where I didn't see any a week ago on 11 August. Another butterfly I didn't see that day was Small Heath, but there were plenty along the various downland farm tracks today. Throughout my walk I also saw similar numbers of Brown Argus and Small Copper to Aston Rowant and Watlington Hill. After leaving Oven Bottom I trudged up to the **Small Blue** spot between Juniper Valley and Lowbury Hill, of which I became aware on this year's 30 May field trip. Today I saw just one rather worn individual here. I saw no Skippers of any variety today."

**An addition to David Redhead's report for 17th August (see below):** "I missed out my most interesting sighting on the *Shabbington Wood* transect - a male **Chalkhill Blue** in good condition. It should not have been there - wrong habitat and a long, long way to the nearest colony - but it was in exactly the same place as the one I saw in August 2008, again whilst walking the transect. Also, here's a photo of the collection of **Comma and Red Admiral caterpillars** from the garden nettles I was clearing."

### Tuesday 17th August 2010

**David Redhead sent this update today, 17th August from Littlemore, Oxon:** "I have just realised it is nearly three weeks since I submitted a butterfly report but not because I have not seen many butterflies except on our garden buddleias where the attendance has been extremely poor - the apogee occurred on *9th August* when 3 **Small White** plus singletons of **Brimstone, Comma, Peacock** and **Red Admiral** deigned to make an appearance on the same day. However this lack of buddleia activity has been offset by our garden **Common Blue** family which seemed to maximise on *11th August* at ten - five males and five females, including a mating pair. Even better was the female **Brown Argus** to be found amongst them - this was an all-time first for our garden and she took up residence for nearly a fortnight but now seems to have disappeared. However, the biggest surprise in our garden occurred yesterday when I decided it was about time I pulled up a large nettle growing in our small walled backyard which is a bit of a sun trap. As I gingerly approached it I noticed a **Comma caterpillar** on one of the leaves and by the time I had carefully pulled the nettle up and dismembered it leaf by leaf I had a collection of nine Comma and one **Red Admiral caterpillars!**

**The annual Upper Thames Branch foray to Whitecross Green Wood on 12th August** to try and see the first egg laying female **Brown Hairstreak** of the year was not helped by the indifferent weather but thanks to Tony Croft one was eventually spotted perched near the top of Ash Tree A (it has only ever let me down once). It was still there after the main party left and Michael McNeill's photo shows how good Tony is at spotting these beasts. Although we did not see an egg-laying female, Una Fenton proved we were just there at the wrong time

as she found a pair of newly laid eggs for us.

*My last venture to Bernwood Forest on 15th August* to walk the Shabbington Wood transect was a great success. I was delighted to set an all-time record for the transect (walked since 1995) when I counted 114 **Common Blues**. Before week 20 the **Silver-washed Fritillaries** had already set an all-time record for their annual total by breaking the half century. I managed to add 8 more and saw another 2 off-transect. This year, to date, they have been the sixth most numerous butterfly on the transect and they obviously have very catholic tastes when it comes to nectaring as 3 were on Ragwort and one each on Bramble, Devil's-bit Scabious, Fleabane, Knapweed & Thistle. Of course all this joy has to be tempered as I only recorded 3 **Meadow Browns** which currently look determined to set an all-time low count for their annual total."

*Steve Croxford visited Yoesden Bank near Radnage, Bucks yesterday morning, 16th August:* "200+ **Chalkhill Blue** were active alongside the hundreds of **Common Blue**. I also found two pristine male **Adonis Blue**. Also seen flying were **Small Copper, Brown Argus, Small Heath, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Peacock, Small White** and **Brimstone**."

*Ched George sent this news:* "There was a fresh male **Silver-washed Fritillary** at *Turville (Cobstone) Hill, Oxon* today, feeding on marjoram right next to the road. The hillside has at least 20 **Chalkhill Blue** too, a good count for this neglected site."

*Tony Croft sent this report on 16th August:* "I went over to *Wytham Woods, Oxon (permit required)* this afternoon to search for Brown Hairstreaks in an area where eggs were found in the winters of 2008-9 and 2009-10. After nearly an hour of searching I saw one **Brown Hairstreak** in the upper part of an ash tree. It was accompanied by **Purple Hairstreak** activity which served absolutely to confirm the identification but unfortunately I couldn't determine the gender."

### Monday 16th August 2010

*Mick Jones sent this news on 15th August:* "I visited *Dancersend, Bucks* yesterday afternoon, *14th August* and in some brief sunny periods between rain showers I saw over 70 **Common Blues**, 10 **Small Coppers**, 2 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, a handful each of **Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Small Whites, Green-veined Whites** and **Small Skippers** and just one each of **Large Skipper, Ringlet, Small Heath** and **Peacock**."

*Ben Miller sent this report on 15th August:* "Late morning at *Lardon Chase, West Berks*, a handful of male **Adonis Blues** were seen on the south-facing slope, along with many **Common Blue**, a couple of **Chalkhill Blue** and 3 **Small Copper**. A quick visit to *Greenham Common, Berks*, produced a **Grayling** on the heath south of the car park, plus a couple of **Small Heath**."

*Phil Coles reported the following on 15th August:* "The following butterflies were seen at Aston Rowant NNR (South) on *15th August* - **Meadow Brown** (*Maniola jurtina*); **Common Blue** (*Polyommatus icarus*); **Large White** (*Pieris brassicae*); **Small White** (*Pieris rapae*); **Green-veined White** (*Pieris napi*); **Brown Argus** (*Plebeius agestis*); **Small Heath** (*Coenonympha pamphilus*); **Gatekeeper** (*Pyronia tithonus*); **Silver-spotted Skipper** (*Hesperia comma*); **Brimstone** (*Gonepteryx rhamni*); **Chalkhill Blue** (*Polyommatus coridon*); **Silver-washed Fritillary** (*Argynnis paphia*) – possible sighting only. Large Fritillary seen flying in a glade in the small copse at the foot of Bald Hill. I have almost zero experience with this species but just did not think the insect I saw was a Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*)!"

**Alan & Juliet Gudge visited Watlington Hill, Oxon on the afternoon of 12th August:** "In spite of the sun scarcely shining we saw 100+ **Common Blue** along the path which runs from the car park down the southern edge of the site. Patches of marjoram were particular hot spots. On one of these we were delighted to see a male **Adonis Blue**. Its brilliant colour and the presence of black lines to the edge of the wing were definitive. We are not sure what the status of Adonis is on this site. We also saw a single **Silver-spotted Skipper** in roughly the same area. By the time we got to the western side of the hill rain was threatening and we saw no further butterflies and we got quite wet!"

**Dave Miller reported the following on 12th August:** "As I was passing on the M40 today, I felt I had to drop in on **Aston Rowant!** In bright and breezy conditions, the north side of the reserve produced good numbers of **Silver-spotted Skippers** (at least 30 were disturbed in one crossing of the slope), plus about 20 **Chalkhill Blues**, mostly males. There were two groups of **Common Blues**, a couple of **Brown Argus** and a **Small Copper**, plus **Meadow Browns**, a few **Small Heaths** and a solitary **Gatekeeper**. Considering the sun was not fully out once during my stay, not a bad selection at all."

### Wednesday 11th August 2010

**Dave Wilton sent this news today:** "On **8th August** the butterfly species count in our garden at **Westcott, Bucks** came to twelve: **Brimstone** (2), **Large White** (2), **Small White** (2), **Green-veined White** (1), **Common Blue** (4), **Brown Argus** (1), **Red Admiral** (3), **Small Tortoiseshell** (7), **Peacock** (6), **Comma** (1), **Meadow Brown** (2) & **Gatekeeper** (2). This was the first day on which the buddleias had attracted a reasonable total and, in suitable weather, the vanessid numbers have been maintained or bettered subsequently. At least one **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** has visited the garden every day since 25th July, even in the rain."

**Prem Roy reported the following on 10th August:** "**Monday 9th August** 4 to 5pm. **Round Wood**, near Preston Bissett, Bucks. Warm and cloudy. 3 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 2 males one female. Well worn. Courtship behaviour seen but pairing not seen. Dozens of **Common Blue**, dozens of **Brown Argus**, one **Purple Hairstreak** and a few **Small Coppers**. **Gatekeepers**, **Meadow Browns** and one **Ringlet**."

**Walter Allan sent this sighting on 9th August:** "I'm not really sure how interested people are about aberrations but thought I'd let you know that I saw this **Common Blue** aberration in a wood in north Bucks on the evening of the 08/08. I also saw 3 **Silver-washed fritillaries**."

**Chris Brown's recent sightings for Crowsley Wood, Berks are as follows:** "**Silver-washed Fritillary** (**28th July** - 3F, 6M and **2nd August** 5F, 7M, 15 unidentified gender). Other butterflies identified on 2nd August: 2 **Brimstone**, 1 **Small White**, 2 **Green-veined White**, 1 **Holly Blue**, 1 **Comma**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 10 **Gatekeeper**, 4 **Meadow Brown**, 12 **Ringlet**. I also visited BBOWT's **Moor Copse** reserve in Berkshire on **3rd August** and this has confirmed to me that this is a good Silver-washed Fritillary year as numbers there were also high with 28 counted as I walked the entire loop of the reserve. Most were along the first riverside section from the car park. Other butterflies identified were: 1 **Small Skipper**, 1 **Small White**, 3 **Green-veined White**, 2 **Small Copper**, 2 **Brown Argus**, 16 **Common Blue**, 2 **Peacock**, 3 **Comma**, 5 **Speckled Wood**, 11 **Gatekeeper**, 16 **Meadow Brown**, 12 **Ringlet**."

**Andrew Bolton sent this report:** "I've a few more sightings for you from a corner of Berkshire at the BBOWT reserve called **Decoy Heath** and its surrounding rough pasture. Date **09-08-10**, Grid ref. SU611633. Species seen: **Gatekeeper** 66, **Meadow Brown** 16, **Common Blue** 46, **Green-veined White** 4, **Speckled Wood** 3, **Small White** 2, **Brown**

**Argus 3, Ringlet 1, Small Skipper 1, Small Heath 1, Small Copper 1, Grayling 1.** Moths: **Shaded Broad-bar 2, Pyrausta Purpuralis 1, Yellow Shell 1.** I've only visited this reserve once before, which is shameful as it's just 4 miles from home. I set out looking for Grayling, more in hope than expectation, however only a few minutes in I found what appeared to be the only one on the reserve, and it posed for a photo. Mission accomplished by 10.20am! Later I met the voluntary warden, Ann Booth, at the car park. She had just finished the transect and not seen the Grayling, nor ever had one on transect apparently so I could at least share a photo with her and hopefully this will prove motivational for winter workparties. After this I spent most of the day just over the Hampshire border in and around Benyon's Inclosure & Padworth Common, where I was delighted to find the Grayling quite numerous with three separate counts totalling over 60. Way better than I had dreamt of when setting out this morning."

**Rob Hill sent this news on 9th August:** "Another update from *Little Linford Wood, Bucks*. We visited on *8th August* and yet again failed to see the White-letter Hairstreaks. However, there was some compensation in the form of a very tattered **Silver-washed Fritillary**, my first at this site. Other butterflies included 3 **Brimstone**, 2 **Red Admiral**, 2 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 7 **Peacock**, 2 **Speckled Wood**, 3 **Ringlet**, 10+ **Gatekeeper**, 10+ **Common Blue**, 2-3 **Brown Argus** and c4 second brood **Small Blue** (also a first for me at this site). The blues were on a largish patch of set-aside on the wood's eastern boundary."

**Tony Croft reported the following:** "The garden buddleia was being well used on *Sunday 8th August*. At various times of the day it hosted all three **Whites, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady, Gatekeeper, Common Blue, Small Copper** and another **Silver-washed Fritillary** which was chasing everything the slightest bit orange. Also **Holly Blue** has been present in the garden for the last week or so."

**Dennis Dell sent this report on 9th August:** "In our tiny garden in *Aylesbury, Bucks*, in the middle of a concrete jungle, we recorded 11 species during the last week - **Large, Small, & Green-veined Whites, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown**, mainly on the dark purple davidii form of buddleias, with some on the new miniature 'jazz' [magenta and lilac] which are happy in pots; the Beijing is just beginning to break into flower, so that should bring them in in clouds!"

### **Sunday 8th August 2010**

**Wendy Wilson reports on the joint meeting with Bucks Country Parks at Langley Park for beginners today, Sunday 8th August:** "Forty-four people including families with children, each of whom was given an ID sheet of photos of likely butterflies, turned up and were thrilled to see thirteen species. There was plenty of space to spread out in the long grass among the heather and gorse on the sunny side of the woodland and there were good numbers of each species, so everyone had the opportunity to see them clearly. Most of the participants were beginners, but they soon became impressively good at spotting and identifying butterflies and pointing them out to the leaders and each other. The species seen were **Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Purple Hairstreak, Holly Blue, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Small Copper, Comma, Red Admiral, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown** and **Speckled Wood**. The many pristine Small Coppers and Brown Argus were particularly enjoyed and more plentiful than expected. I would like to thank Amanda Outen of Bucks Country Parks for her organisation, knowledge of the park and her enthusiasm. UTB member Mark Duckworth's help as co-leader was invaluable and contributed greatly to the success of the event. It was also good to have the support of members Peter, Tess and Nicole. The sun shone all the morning and everyone enjoyed themselves enormously. We shall definitely do it again next year!"

**Ben Miller sent this update today:** "A few sightings from today, *Sunday 8th August*. Firstly, mid-morning at *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon* a female **Brown Hairstreak** was seen well around the canopy of an Ash and two Oaks along the ride leading from the car park. 5+ **Purple Hairstreaks** were in the same area along with 100+ **Common Blues**, a worn **White Admiral**, a **Silver-washed Fritillary** amongst others. Later, at *Aston Rowant NR, Oxon* many **Silver-spotted Skippers** were seen along with (amongst others) several **Chalkhill Blues**, a **Small Copper**, **Brown Argus**, 4 **Brimstone**."

**Steve Croxford reported the following today:** "I recorded a **Brown Hairstreak** around 2pm today, *8th*, at *Span Green, Bucks*. It was a male feeding on Thistle and was a little damaged, see photo below. Earlier this morning I did a walk through the Great Moor area, Sheephouse Wood and the perimeter of the land fill site at Calvert. There was no sign of Brown Hairstreak, at best these areas are on the edge of its range. There were however plenty of **Common Blue** in all locations and still one or two **Marbled Whites**. At Sheephouse Wood there were still quite a few **Silver-washed Fritillary** active including a *Valezina*. This is the fourth local wood where I have seen *Valezina* this Summer."

**Nick Bowles sent this news today:** "There were two **Painted Ladies** at *Aston Clinton Ragpits (Bucks)* today, along with two **Silver-washed Fritillaries** (1 male and 1 female), 3 **Small Copper** – but try as I might, among hundreds of **Common Blue** and 5 **Chalkhill Blue** there, I could not see a single Brown Argus. 3 **Large Skippers** (2 male) outnumbered the solitary **Small Skipper**. There was what could well be the last **Ringlet** at this dry site and a single **Holly Blue** among 16 species."

**Peter Law sent the following today:** "Following my first **Brown Hairstreak** at Asham Meads three days ago, I visited *Bernwood Meadows, Bucks* this morning, *8th August* where I saw two males and a female in various parts of the reserve. Several other people were also searching here. I then went back to *Asham Meads* where I located a male, again in the hedge on the NW side of Lower Marsh. I watched this individual nectaring on the same bramble bloom, about 12 - 16 feet up in the hedge, for a good 20 minutes. In that time a **Comma**, a **Meadow Brown**, two **Common Blues** and various bees and wasps all landed on the flower as well, but nothing would dislodge my butterfly. I was then joined by Robert Lewis who photographed the Brown Hairstreak. After another five minutes or so I left him to it."

**In a continuation of the Purple Emperor survey at Little Wood, Oxon, Mick & Wendy Campbell visited the site yesterday, 7th August:** "There was just one **Purple Emperor** active in the oak tree territory at the top of Little Wood but there had been some heavy rain earlier and it was still very cloudy. This individual was rather tatty but still flew quite strongly during a couple of short sunny intervals. Today, *8th*, we went to *Waterperry Wood* to look for **Purple Emperor eggs/larvae**. We managed to find two larvae (photo of one below). Other species seen included an extremely small **White Admiral** and a pristine male **Silver-washed Fritillary**."

**Leanne Wall sent this report on 7th August:** "During my latest butterfly survey at the *Living Rainforest, Hampstead Norreys* in Berks I saw 6 **Large Whites**, 6 **Small Whites**, 1 **Meadow Brown**, 4 **Gatekeepers** (2 of which were looking very old) and 3 **Common Blues**. Again, they were mainly in the wild flower area, an area which was also rich with a wide variety of species of hoverfly!"

**Jon Mercer (Wilts BC) sent the following report:** "I spent about 45 minutes at *Aston Rowant, Oxon* on Thursday morning, *5th August* - fairly cloudy and breezy, but 8+ **Silver-spotted Skippers** seen, 30+ **Chalkhill Blues**, also **Common Blue**, **Marbled White**, **Painted Lady**, **Gatekeeper** and **Meadow Brown**."

Thursday 5th August 2010

**David Redhead sent the following message:** "**HAIRSTREAK ALERT!** This year many of the early flight period **Brown Hairstreaks** are behaving aberrantly by coming down to thistles especially and brambles to nectar and, of the 24 individuals reported as at 3rd August, only 2 have been seen up in ash trees. At least a couple of females have also been seen - again both at low level. So a walk at the moment in the known local range (see distribution map accessible from this page) could be very productive without developing neck ache. Dave Wilton achieved 9 in this way on the 2nd (see report below). Nectaring **Purple Hairstreaks** and **White-letter Hairstreaks** also seem more common this year and Steve Croxford saw 7 nectaring White-letters on the edge of *Chinkwell Wood* on the 2nd. Presumably all these nectaring Hairstreaks reflect a lack of honeydew in the ash, elm and oak trees. A walk in this area will also be accompanied by record sightings of **Common Blue** and possibly **Brown Argus & Small Copper**. Quite why these species are having such a good year is another debate but there is some evidence that they are doing relatively better in damper areas than in their more traditional strongholds of the drier downlands. Get out there and enjoy it and besides reporting your experiences to this website **please let the relevant Species Champion know what you have seen: Brown Hairstreak - David Redhead on red.admiral@virgin.net and White-letter Hairstreak - Nigel Parsons on nigelrparsons@o2.co.uk.**"

**Maureen Cross reported the following:** "Adonis are back! While taking an evening stroll I saw my first second-brood **Adonis Blue** on *Lardon Chase, West Berks* at 7.15 this evening. **Chalkhills** and **Common Blues** were also still flying, so with the **Small Blues** and **Holly Blue** I saw earlier in the week there are now 5 Blues to be seen on Lardon. Keep a look out for Adonis when out on Chalk grassland for if the weather holds I'm hoping for good numbers and don't forget to report sightings to me: Maureen Cross, Adonis Champion."

**This report came from Dave Ferguson today:** "There were incredible numbers of **Common Blues** at *Otmoor, Oxon* today. I think there were 2000+ between the two screens. Here is a picture of some of them."

**Ian Brazier sent this report today:** "Just to confirm that my daughter and I saw **White-letter Hairstreaks** on thistles at *Little Linford Wood* on *August 1st* as reported by Rob Hill (see below)."

**Steve Croxford sent this update:** "I have another male **Brown Hairstreak** to report from the edge of *Piddington Wood, Oxon* at 3.30pm today, *5th August*. It was nectaring on Thistle in the top corner of the meadow near the wood. Nearby a fresh **Painted Lady** was also nectaring on the Thistles. Over at *Little Wood* I saw a single **Purple Emperor** shortly before 4pm. It was holding territory on the large Ash at the top of the wood. With the sun out it was quite active chasing off any intruders."

**Tony Croft sent this news today:** "I visited *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon* this afternoon briefly to look for **Brown Hairstreaks**. I found only one but it was this gorgeous female sitting on rideside blackthorn at SP 597146."

**Peter Law reported as follows today:** "After a fruitless hour searching for **Brown Hairstreak** at *Whitecross Green Wood* today, I switched to nearby *Asham Meads* where I saw a pristine female at around 1pm. As I walked from the car park along the hedge on the NW side of Lower Marsh, this butterfly settled close to me in full sun on a buckthorn about 50 yards from the corner of the field. Then she opened her wings and basked, affording perfect views before disappearing into the hedge. This was the 42nd of 42 species which I targeted and have now seen in the three counties this season since joining Butterfly Conservation. Cheers Brenda, and thanks to all the other members who helped me in that aim with their

tips about various locations."

**Graham Elcombe sent this report:** "5th August: *Waterperry Gardens (Oxon)*. This afternoon, within the space of just a few minutes, we saw **Small Tortoiseshell** (1); **Comma** (4 or 5); **Peacock** (2); **Painted Lady** (1 or 2) and **Red Admiral** (4 or 5). Most of these butterflies looked in pristine condition. Also **Common Blues** (too many to count), **Small Copper** (1) and large numbers of Whites and Browns."

**Dave Wilton reported the following:** "A wander around half a dozen grassland sites in the *Bucks/Oxon border region* east and south of Bicester on *2nd August* produced an interesting selection of butterflies from 22 species. Perhaps the most significant thing to report was my **Common Blue** tally for the day which came to 985 individuals (... and if I'd realised how close to the thousand I was, I would have continued searching for another ten minutes!). However, no-one can have failed to notice how well the second brood of that species is doing just now. The second most significant thing was to find nine **Brown Hairstreak** males nectaring on thistles and brambles during the course of the day, five of them together in a single field within a few feet of the busy traffic on the A41. Other species seen included **Small Skipper**, **Essex Skipper**, **Brimstone**, **Large White**, **Small White**, **Green-veined White**, **Purple Hairstreak**, **Small Copper** (in good numbers), **Brown Argus**, **Red Admiral**, **Painted Lady**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock** (just a handful - where are they all?), **Comma**, **Marbled White**, **Speckled Wood**, **Meadow Brown**, **Gatekeeper**, **Ringlet** and **Small Heath**. On *3rd August* I added **Large Skipper**, **White-letter Hairstreak** and **Silver-washed Fritillary** to the list, the first and last during a transect at *Finemere Wood*. The White-letter Hairstreaks were five rather battered individuals found on thistles and ragwort along the southern edge of *Chinkwell Wood* near Brill, thanks to a tip-off from Steve Croxford."

**Chris Coppock sent the following on 3rd August:** "Sunday *1st August* - at least a dozen **Silver-washed Fritillary** on the main ride at *Finemere Wood, Bucks* including both sexes."

### Monday 2nd August 2010

**Rob Hill sent this news today:** "A visit to *Little Linford Wood, Bucks* on a warm but overcast day (*1st August*) turned up the following butterflies: **Meadow Brown**, **Small, Large & Green-veined Whites**, 30+ **Ringlet**, most rather tatty by now (and numbers of this species at this site seem well down on 2009), 15+ **Gatekeeper**, 4 **Common Blue**, 1 **Purple Hairstreak**, 3 **Comma**, 1 **Small Copper** and 9 **Peacock**. We bumped into someone who, earlier in the day, had seen the White-letter Hairstreaks there, but we were unsuccessful."

**Dave Turnbull sent the following today:** "Just to report that on a one hour visit to the *Pitstone* area of Bucks I managed to count 45 second brood **Small Blues**. Also of note were many **Common Blues**, **Small Heath** and **Brown Argus**. The area has been cut and the Small Blues were favouring Common Birds foot trefoil for nectaring. I was pleased to see that an egg that I saw laid on a remaining scrap of Kidney vetch 13 days ago had hatched."

**John and Cilla Gosnell sent this report today:** "We are puzzled about the identity of the small butterfly shown in the attached photographs, seen at *Moor End Common, Bucks*, a few days ago. The markings - and size, wing-shape and antennae - seem very similar to the **Small Copper** (which we also saw there), but this butterfly is dark brown with cream-coloured markings and blackish spots. We saw several of these, flying with **Small Coppers**, **Common Blues** etc and settling on Fleabane flowers. Also at Moor End we saw a **Comma** and a **Marbled White**."

**Prem Roy reported the following today:** "Some sightings from *Lenborough*, near Buckingham, Bucks on Sunday *1st August*. Pleasantly warm with sunny spells, little or no wind. Six **Common Blues** of both sexes, a few **Brown Argus**, a few **Small Coppers**, some

**Gatekeepers** but less than usual, a few **Meadow Browns** and a late **Ringlet**. Lots of **Peacocks** and **Commas**, at least a dozen **Small Tortoiseshell caterpillar** batches and the occasional adult. **Red Admiral** female seen looking for suitable nettle. **Large, Small** and **Green-veined Whites** all common, **Brimstone** adults now flying."

**Richard Soulsby sent this report:** "The field meeting at *Watlington Hill* on the Bucks/Oxon border on *31st July* attracted 22 people, some from as far away as North London and Stratford. Although the sky was largely overcast, the target species, **Silver-spotted Skipper**, was seen in good numbers. There were certainly more than 30, found in all parts of the site except the wooded areas. But perhaps the most memorable sight was the huge number of **Common Blues**, mainly males, sitting on every available plant on the path back up beside the wood. Other species included **Chalkhill Blue** (but only two), **Meadow Brown**, **Speckled Wood**, **Holly Blue**, **Green-veined White**, **Small White**, **Large White**, **Brown Argus**, **Ringlet**, **Small Heath**, **Red Admiral**, **Brimstone**, **Small Copper**, **Gatekeeper**, **Large Skipper** and **Painted Lady**. Right at the end some of us had a tantalising glimpse of a large Fritillary flying through - although Watlington Hill is noted for Dark-green Fritillaries, its behaviour looked more like Silver-washed – giving a creditable total for the morning of 19 species, albeit with an element of doubt over the identity of the 19th."

**Tony Croft sent this news yesterday:** "I decided to investigate some local ash trees this afternoon, *1st August*, and headed off along the bridleway which is a continuation of *Easington Lane, Bucks*. About 300 metres from home at SP 682102 I came across this male **Brown Hairstreak** on bramble. I had foolishly left my camera at home so hurried back and on my arrival second time round found that it was obligingly waiting to be photographed. I didn't see any ash tree activity this afternoon but yesterday evening saw two **Purple Hairstreaks** in the garden ash tree."

### Sunday 1st August 2010

**Jeremy Soane sent the following on 31st July:** "I am a nature enthusiast from Staines and I and my wife toured the Thames Valley area on *Friday 30th July* and *Saturday 31st*. Here is a summary of what we saw Lepidoptera-wise. *Moor Copse, near Theale, Berks:* about 7 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, mainly in the patch of woodland nearest the car park, and nectaring on the river bank plants: numerous **Gatekeepers** and about 5 **Meadow Browns** in the grassy areas: 3+ **Ringlets**: 2+ **Speckled Woods**: also several **Small Whites** and **Green-veined Whites** and at least one **Comma**. *Hartslock Down, near Goring:* 10+ **Common Blues**, 3+ **Chalkhill Blues**, 1 early **Adonis Blue** which remained in a basking position for about ten minutes, 2+ **Small Coppers**, 10+ **Gatekeepers**, 5+ **Small Whites**. *Chimney Meadows, near Bampton:* 10+ **Common Blues** along the bank of the Thames: 10+ **Gatekeepers**: 10+ **Meadow Browns** in the meadow areas: 2 **Painted Lady**: 1 **Red Admiral**: **Small Whites** also. *College Lake, near Tring (but in Bucks):* 50+ **Common Blues** and 50+ **Gatekeepers**: both species were ubiquitous on the reserve, especially the meadow at the back: **Brown Argus** were also present (one definite identification) but I am uncertain about how many: **Small Skipper** (2), **Small Heath** (1, early 2nd brood?), **Marbled White** (1), **Speckled Wood** (1): **Brimstone** in the wildlife garden area (4). *Granglands, near P Risborough:* 50+ **Common Blues**: 50+ **Gatekeeper**: 5+ **Chalkhill Blues**: 5+ **Small Copper**: 2+ **Ringlets**: 1 **Small White**: 1 **Large Skipper**. We did see **Large Whites**, but I forget exactly where!"

**Becky Woodell sent this report on 31st July:** "I have been doubtful if **Silver-washed Fritillary** breed at *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon* because I see few there compared with Bernwood and Rushbeds and the woodland is very dense, but it seems I was wrong. This pair flew across the ride in front of me and landed in a rideside blackthorn. They moved about several times and eventually flew off, the female doing the flying."

**Wendy Wilson sent this news on 31st July:** "Yesterday, *Friday 30th July*, I went to *Langley Park* between Slough and Iver and recorded 15 species, so there should be plenty of activity at next Sunday's field event (see Events page) provided the weather is fine. They were **Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Purple Hairstreak, Small Copper, Brown Argus, Common Blue, Peacock, Red Admiral, Comma, Silver-washed Fritillary, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet** and **Small Skipper**. Most of them were in the long grass on the sunny sides of the woodland areas and around the heather, so I have implored the rangers not to cut the grass there before next Sunday. There were several Purple Hairstreaks flying around the smaller oaks, but the only one which came within range of my camera was this rather worn female. Sadly I have not seen a Purple Emperor in the park this year. There are now toilets and a snack bar beside the main car-park, but the parking fee has gone up to £2.50. One of the meadow browns (see photo) was very white, with large patches of white on both sides of its fore and hind wings, and I am wondering if this is an aberration rather than just a faded female. The white patches were particularly noticeable as it flew and there was hardly any orange colouring. The sky was overcast and it was just starting to rain so there was no glare from the sun. I only managed a couple of poor photos of its underside before the rain got heavier and it disappeared into the vegetation."

**Dave Ferguson reported the following on 30th July:** "15 minutes staring at a group of buddleias at the base of *Boddington Hill, Wendover Woods, Bucks* for the Big Butterfly Count produced 3 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 2 **Red Admirals**, 4 **Commas**, 1 **Peacock**, 1 **Brimstone**, 4 **Large Whites**, 2 **Small Whites**, 1 **Green-veined White**, 7 **Meadow Browns**, 3 **Gatekeepers** and a **Holly Blue**. Elsewhere on Boddington Hill I saw 9 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, including one egg-laying on an oak log, 7 **Common Blues**, 2 **Large Skippers**, 1 **Speckled Wood** and a very worn **White Admiral** - the first I have seen in these woods. A brief visit to the Hale clearing produced 2 **Marbled Whites**."

**Malcolm Brownsword sent the following:** "On my monthly BBOWT transect at *Hartslock, Oxon* on *29 July* I found 13 species of butterfly. Particularly noteworthy was the presence of large numbers of **Common Blues**. There must have been many hundreds on the whole reserve. I saw 42 on transect (including the extension), 29 **Chalkhill Blues**, one **Small Copper**, one **Small Skipper**, 6 **Brown Argus**, only 3 **Marbled Whites**, 31 **Gatekeepers**, 45 **Meadow Browns**, only 2 **Ringlets**, 9 **Small Heaths**, 2 **Large Whites**, 1 **Small White** and 3 **Brimstones**. In addition to the large number of micro moths that I could not identify, there were 36 **Six-spot Burnet** and 2 **Silver Y** moths."

#### Thursday 29th July 2010

**Dennis Dell, Steve Croxford and Mick & Wendy Campbell have been visiting Little Wood, Oxon regularly to check on the Purple Emperor colony:** "This colony has been active since 28th June and we're still getting sightings of **Purple Emperors** most days, even in poor weather. On *27th July* 4 were seen altogether, 2 probable males in the ash tree territory at the top of the wood, one female seen over the willows at the bottom of the wood and another individual (very worn) was seen flying and then landing low down in a hawthorn bush. This individual had a large chunk missing from its wings, probably a bird strike. On *28th July* two Purple Emperors were active, one flying over the ash tree territory and a large female was observed flying in and out of an oak tree at 4.10pm in very dull weather, 19-20C. Today, *29th July*, after a few minutes scanning the tree tops, a hornet disturbed a Purple Emperor from a high perch on one of the silver birches next to the ash at the top of the wood. It stayed there for the 10 minutes it was observed."

**David Redhead reported the following today, 29th July:** "A visit to *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon* today didn't reveal any Brown Hairstreaks, however **Purple Hairstreaks** were in evidence and my **Common Blue** count was amazing with a total of 64 seen. 3 **White Admirals**, two in reasonable condition and one extremely tatty, but no Purple Emperors or

Silver-washed Fritillaries. Other species seen were **Small Skipper**, **Essex Skipper**, **Large Skipper**, **Large White**, **Small White**, **Green-veined White**, **Comma**, **Peacock**, **Speckled Wood**, **Marbled White**, **Gatekeeper**, **Meadow Brown** and **Ringlet**. Moths were **Straw Dot**, **Shaded Broad-bar**, and **Silver Y**. My day total finished at 18 as I saw a **Red Admiral** in our lane in [Littlemore, Oxon](#), on the way to taking the dog for a walk. The setaside field had been cut whilst we were on holiday but I still saw more Meadow Brown (17) than before it was cut plus a **Small Copper** nectaring on some edge of the field ragwort missed by the mower. To my surprise they had left the two buddleias in the middle of the field alone but neither (one pale mauve, the other dark mauve) sported a single butterfly."

**Tony Croft sent these two reports:** "This rather worn but nevertheless welcome **Silver-washed Fritillary** arrived in our garden at [Easington, Bucks](#) on [28th July](#). It spent some time on the buddleia and the raspberries before departing. We are in a rather woodland-free area so it must have travelled a fair distance to get here. Then this morning, [29th](#), I saw this **Brown Hairstreak**, which I'm pretty sure is a male, opposite our house. The thistles are within a bank of bramble adjacent to an ash tree. The weather was overcast with a temperature of 17C but it was very active."

**Tom Stevenson sent this news on 28th July:** "Nothing unusual but an indication of what you can see around the field margins of arable fields when they have well kept 10m wide environmental strips - shame the Marbled Whites had finished! These were recorded during a bird survey at [Battle Farm, Preston Crowmarsh, Oxon](#) - generally private access but incorporates a permissive path. **Small Skipper** (3), **Essex Skipper** (2), **Large Skipper** (2), **Brimstone** (1), **Large White** (30), **Small White** (17), **Green-veined White** (43), **Brown Argus** (10), **Common Blue** (110), **Peacock** (2), **Comma** (2), **Speckled Wood** (1), **Gatekeeper** (44), **Meadow Brown** (59), **Ringlet** (12), **Small Heath** (2)."

**Dave Miller reported the following on 27th July:** "I was meeting a friend for lunch in an obscure corner of Oxfordshire on [Friday 23rd: Caulcott](#) (SP508244). I arrived 15 minutes before the pub opened, so had a quick scan of the roadside verge and field edge opposite. I managed to see nine species of butterfly in ten minutes: **Holly Blue** (1), **Brown Argus** (1), **Gatekeeper** (5), **Meadow Brown** (2), **Ringlet** (1), **Small Skipper** (2), **Small White** (1), **Large White** (1), **Green-veined White** (1)."

**Malcolm Brownsword sent this report on 27th July:** "On the cloudy but bright afternoon of [27th July](#), I visited [Bowdown Woods, Berks](#) after a picnic lunch by the control tower at [Greenham Common](#), where 6 **Common Blues** and a **Small Copper** were seen. About 12 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** were seen, including a female on a mossy tree stump at the foot of which violets were growing. Also seen were 15 **Common Blues**, 10 **Ringlets**, a **Green-veined White**, several **Large Whites**, 6 **Gatekeepers** and over 20 **Speckled Woods**."

**Tony Croft sent the following on 27th July:** "I saw my first **Brown Hairstreak** of the season this afternoon, 27th, from the railway bridge on the Lapland Farm side of [Rushbeds Wood, Bucks](#) at SP 666161. It was a male and was feeding in the top of an ash tree. It was in the company of a **Purple Hairstreak** which served to really emphasise the difference in appearance between the two."

**Mick & Wendy Campbell saw** their first **Brown Hairstreak** of the season at [Asham Meads, Oxon](#) on [Sunday 25th July](#). "It was a pristine female sitting on a bramble leaf in the far corner of the field next to the car park. It stopped long enough for a few quick photos before flying off over the hedge. On [26th July](#) we tried [Smith's Lane](#) (near Waterperry Wood, Oxon) and had good views through binoculars of a male **Brown Hairstreak** flying and landing in an Ash tree."

**This report from Gillian Eastmond came via Jim Asher:** "I live in *Chesham Bois, Bucks* backing onto the woods and for some years have seen several butterflies in my garden at this time of year on shasta daisies and other flowers in sunny weather which I thought were hairstreak butterflies but was not sure which one. This year I managed to take a photograph and confirmed they are **White-letter Hairstreaks.**"

**Malcolm Brownsword visited a West Berkshire site on 25th July:** "Between 11.30am and 12.30pm I saw: 30+ **Chalkhill Blues**, 6 newly-hatched **Brown Argus**, 12 **Marbled Whites**, 8 **Common Blues**, 2 very late first brood **Small Blues**, 7 **Green-veined Whites**, 2 **Large Whites**, 3 second brood **Small Coppers**, 1 **Brimstone**, 1 **Small Skipper**, 1 **Holly Blue**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 1 **Small Heath**, 10 **Gatekeepers**, 15 **Meadow Browns** and 25+ **Silver Y moths.**"

## Tuesday 27th July 2010

**Paul Bowyer reported on the field meeting to Greenham Common on Saturday 24th July:** "A pleasing field trip apart from the number of people attending. We saw 15 **Grayling** which was our target. They gave us lots of photographic opportunities, posing for minutes on end, a few feet from the camera. Also of note was a **Small Copper** aberration which was also photographed (*see below*). Other butterflies seen were **Common Blue** (30+), **Gatekeeper** (30+), **Red Admiral** (5), **Large White** (5), **Peacock** (6), **Small White** (1), **Brimstone** (2), **Speckled Wood** (2), **Comma** (3), **Silver-washed Fritillary** (5), **Brown Argus** (1), **Meadow Brown** (6) and **Ringlet** (2)."

**Derek Haynes sent this report on 25th July:** "The following all relate to visits on *Saturday 24th July*, when the weather was predominantly sunny and warm (albeit with variable cloud). We went to *Homefield Wood, Bucks* (SU813868), arriving at 09.45, and were greeted by 2 **Holly Blues** hopping back and forth along the path at the entrance to the Reserve! In all we recorded 18 species in about 1¾ hours, viz. **Small/Essex Skipper** (1), **Large Skipper** (1), **Brimstone** (1), **Large White** (>10), **Small White** (>10), **Green-veined White** (>3), **White-letter Hairstreak** (6, five of which were feeding on wild marjoram - in fact, many species were very attracted to this plant, which I believe has only started to flower quite recently), **Small Copper** (3), **Brown Argus** (2), **Common Blue** (>10), **Holly Blue** (3), **Peacock** (1), **Comma** (4), **Silver-washed Fritillary** (>20), **Marbled White** (3), **Gatekeeper** (>15), **Meadow Brown** (>20) & **Ringlet** (3). We then went on to *Warburg Nature Reserve, Oxon* (SU720878), hoping to see Purple Hairstreak, Purple Emperor and Dark Green Fritillary. Alas, not a single specimen! However, we recorded 15 other species in a little over 2 hours around lunchtime, including **Brimstone** (2), **Small Copper** (2), **Silver-washed Fritillary** (10, including a courting pair in flight in typical style over a distance of some 10 or so metres - very impressive!), **Common Blue** (>10), **Comma** (3) & **Peacock** (4). We finished up at *Hartslock, Oxon* (SU616795), with **Chalkhill Blue** in mind. We felt initially disappointed to discover very little there at all, but eventually stumbled across some activity in one corner of the hill at its lowest point, and recorded 9 species between 4 and 5pm, including **Chalkhill Blue** (3, all male), **Common Blue** (>10) & **Brown Argus** (1). Not a **Speckled Wood** all day! (But I did catch a **Small White** laying eggs on my **Cleomes** in the back garden, despite more familiar brassicas such as cabbage & cauliflower nearby.)"

**Steve Croxford reported the following:** "A visit to *Aston Rowant Bald Hill, Oxon* on the *24th July* produced several dozen **Chalkhill Blues** congregated at the base of the hill. Flying along side them were a large number of **Common Blue** and **Brown Argus**. Near the top of the hill 20+ **Silver-spotted Skipper** were very active. Also seen around the hill were **Marbled White**, **Small Heath**, **Gatekeeper**, **Meadow Brown**, **Speckled Wood**, **Small Copper**, **Brimstone**, **Large White**, **Small White**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Comma**, **Peacock**, **Red Admiral** and **Small Skipper.**"

**Leanne Wall sent this report on 24th July:** "I have begun carrying out regular butterfly surveys at the *Living Rainforest, Hampstead Norris, Berks*. Here are today's sightings: 7 **Large Whites**, 4 **Small Whites**, 1 **Small Copper**, 30+ **Common Blues**, 3 **Commas**, 6 **Gatekeepers**, 30+ **Meadow Browns** and 1 **Ringlet**. All spotted in their wild flower area."

### Friday 23rd July 2010

**Dave Ferguson sent this news:** "A visit to *Finemere Wood* on *19th July* produced 20 species. Highlights were 3 or 4 **Purple Emperors**, a female flying near a willow on the track to the right just past the entrance, a male on the same track, a worn male which flew round me while I was sitting on the bench at the turning circle while I was eating lunch and another (or the same) flying over the nearby meadow. Also seen were 2 **White Admirals** and many **Silver-washed Fritillaries**. On the morning of the *21st July* I visited *Homefield Wood*. The highlight was 6 **White-letter Hairstreaks** (2 on hemp agrimony, 2 on bramble, 1 on parsnip, 1 on marjoram). Also seen were 20+ **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 4 **Peacocks**, 2 **Holly Blues**, 6 **Common Blues**, 4 **Brown Argus** and 10 **Small Coppers**. A **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** briefly hovered in front of a rosebay willowherb and a **Striped Lychnis larva** was found."

**Chris Brown sent this update on 23rd July:** "Recent sightings for *Crowsley Wood, Berks* certainly highlight this is a good year for the **Silver-washed Fritillary**: *12th July* - 20 (8 female, 9 male, 3 unidentified), *16th July* - 31 (10f, 19m, 2u), *20th July* - 16 (4f, 8m, 4u). I've been visiting late afternoon as the sun is lower and the shading is better; this increases the chance that the Silver-washed Fritillary settle for longer, are less active and generally feeding on nectar sources. On 20th July I witnessed on three occasions what I assume is courting behaviour. A pair were flying in a slow graceful manner with one of them slightly bobbing up and down with the other flying around it in a loop about 12 inches diameter, taking about a second each time to complete the vertical orbit. Other butterflies identified on 20th July were: 1 **Small Skipper**, 1 **Large Skipper**, 1 **Brimstone**, 1 **Large White**, 1 **Small White**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 1 **Peacock**, 7 **Comma**, 9 **Gatekeeper**, 9 **Meadow Brown**, 17 **Ringlet**."

**Brenda Mobbs sent this sighting on 22nd July:** "Thought I would let you know that there were at least 8 **Dark Green Fritillaries** at *Bradenham, Bucks* in the region of SU977827. I saw them on *Sunday 18th July* around 2.30 settling in Scabious and Knapweed."

**Jan Haseler sent the following:** "It has seemed to be an outstanding year for woodland butterflies in Mid-Berks. New sites which I have found recently include:  
*Limmerhill Woods, Wokingham* - 1 **White Admiral**  
*Vermont Woods, Finchampstead* - 1 **White Admiral**  
*Shepperlands Copse, Finchampstead* - 1 **White Admiral**, 1 **Silver-washed Fritillary**  
*Shinfield Park* - 2 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** - this is a site which I have been monitoring for some years, but this is the first year that I have found **Silver-washed Fritillary**.  
The **Silver-washed Fritillaries** at *Moor Copse* appear to be doing exceptionally well. At the joint BBOWT / Reading and District Natural History Society field trip to the far south-west of the region on *10th July*, sightings included 3 **Dark Green Fritillaries** at *Walbury Hill* and about a dozen **Silver-washed Fritillaries** at *Coombe Wood*."

**Tony Croft sent this report:** "I went to *Rushbeds Wood, Bucks* on Wednesday afternoon, *21st July*, to search for **Brown Hairstreaks**. I had no luck in that department but was delighted to see a **White-letter Hairstreak** (at SP667161). This is certainly the first time I have ever seen one there. Adjacent to the railway bridge on the Lapland Farm side of the reserve there is an ash tree whose top is level with the bridge. I could see a butterfly actively feeding in the tree and initially assumed it to be a **Purple Hairstreak** but through binoculars it was clearly a **White-letter**. There are plenty of elms in and around the reserve so no reason why it should not be there, but I don't recall any records in the last few years."

**Malcolm Brownsword reported the following:** "At 11am on *21st July*, my wife and I went to *Hackpen Hill, Crow Hole Bottom and Devil's Punchbowl*, close to the Ridgeway, west of Wantage, Oxon. Despite a strong wind, in an hour and twenty minutes, we managed to see 42 **Chalkhill Blues** and 34 **Small Heaths**. Also seen were 6 **Small Tortoiseshells**, 11 **Common Blues**, 15 **Marbled Whites**, 2 **Ringlets**, 14 **Meadow Browns**, 2 **Small Coppers**, 2 **Peacocks**, 2 **Green-veined Whites** and 3 **Large Whites**. Walking back along the Ridgeway to Sparsholt Firs, we saw 2 **Red Admirals** and 2 **Peacocks**."

**Tuesday 20th July 2010**

**Richard Soulsby sent the following request:** "Silver-spotted **Skippers** are out and about! I saw several this afternoon, *19th July*, at a site in *South Oxon* looking pretty fresh. Please report any sightings within Berks, Bucks & Oxon to the UTB website." Richard Soulsby, Silver-spotted Skipper Champion, Upper Thames Branch of Butterfly Conservation.

**Dave Turnbull visited a Small Blue site in the Pitstone area today, 20th July:** "I saw about a dozen second brood **Small Blues** and a worn female egg-laying on a small piece of Kidney Vetch left after the annual grass cut. There were also 4 or 5 second brood **Common Blues**."

**Peter Cuss had a late afternoon walk at Burnt Hill and Ashamstead Common (Berks) today, 20th July, su580751:** "Not an area I have walked before but very nice. Butterflies seen included **Silver-washed Fritillary**, **White Admiral**, **Common Blue**, **Brown Argus**, **Comma**, **Peacock**, **Gatekeeper**, **Meadow Brown**, **Large White**, **Green-Veined White**, **Small White**, **Marbled White** and **Small Skipper**."

**Andrew Swann sent the following report today, 20th:** "A female **Purple Emperor** rescued from the surface of my swimming pool in *Beamond End, Bucks* (SU9160 9705) on *18th July*. Several hundred meters from the nearest substantial wood (Penn Wood) but large number of mature beech trees in my garden and those of neighbours. From your website it would seem that **Purple Emperors** are not common in this part of the Chilterns but I would be interested to know whether or not this is the case. I have certainly never noticed one in my garden before."

**Dennis Dell and Mick & Wendy Campbell visited Hodgemoor Wood, Bucks on 19th July:** "We thought we would have a look in Hodgemoor Wood for **Purple Emperor**. It has some nice big oaks and sallows near the car park at the top of the wood and after walking a short distance from the car park we saw a **Purple Emperor** flying above a big willow. It circled round twice then shot off out of sight. That was our only sighting of **Purple Emperor** but Dennis also spotted two **White-letter Hairstreaks** nectaring on an umbellifer and thistle. Other species seen were **Red Admiral**, **Comma**, **Ringlet**, **Gatekeeper**, **Meadow Brown**, **White Admiral** (2), **Purple Hairstreak** (5+), **Speckled Wood**, **Holly Blue** (2), **Common Blue**, **Brown Argus**, **Small White**, **Peacock**, **Small Skipper** and **Large Skipper**. Later on at the *Dancersend Reserve in Bucks* **Brimstone**, **Silver-washed Fritillary** and a **Marbled White** were added to the tally for the day as well as a second **Purple Emperor**. Then on *20th July* Mick & Wendy re-visited *Little Wood, Oxon*, to see if the **Purple Emperors** were still on the wing and were surprised to find 3 very fresh-looking males in the usual Ash & oak tree territories at the top of the wood. They were flying strongly and frequently in ideal weather conditions and even clashed at one point, with the encroaching male being chased out of the territory. Also, what looked to be a large female was seen flying low down around the ash tree. On the way back to the car, another one was seen on the edge of *Piddington Wood* near the meadow.

**Chris and Pat Dennis sent this report on Monday 19th July:** "We have been to [Granglands, Bucks](#) today and there were quite a few **Chalkhill Blues** mostly on the areas with shorter grass around the old rifle butts, but there were no Dark Green Fritillaries, we have not managed to see any yet this year."

**Malcolm Brownsword visited Homefield Wood on the 18th and 19th July:** "On the 18th July I was leading a party from West Oxfordshire Field Club and the visit on the 19th was my monthly transect for BBOWT. Fourteen species were seen on the [18th July](#): **Silver-washed Fritillary** 30+ sightings, 4 **Marbled Whites**, 2 **Large Whites**, 5 **Gatekeepers**, 2 **Common Blues**, several **Large** and **Small Skippers**, numerous **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets**, 4 **Commas**, one each of **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock** and **Red Admiral** and several **Green-veined Whites**. Most of the Silver-washed Fritillaries were on the main ride. Most were either flying at low altitude or nectaring on bramble blossom. Since they were flying up and down the ride, it was difficult to estimate the true number, since some could have been counted more than once. Broadly speaking, similar species were seen on the second visit on the [19th July](#), but with the notable addition of 6 **White-letter Hairstreaks** (all close to the ground) and also **Small White** and three pristine **Brown Argus**, making a total of 17 species. A total of 38 Silver-washed Fritillaries were seen, in 9 of the 11 sections of the transect, of which 25 were on the main ride outside the main reserve. One mating pair was flying and being pursued by a male. A well-camouflaged **Silver-Y** moth was also spotted (see photo)."

**Derek Haynes sent this report on 19th July:** "We went to the [Strawberry Wood](#) part of Black Park Country Park, Bucks (northern edge of the Park) on the afternoon of [Sunday 18th July](#) and, despite the generally overcast conditions, were fortunate enough to see at least 10 **White Admiral**, at least 10 **Silver-washed Fritillary** (including a very obliging *valezina* female, skulking - as the books tell you they do - in the more shady/sheltered parts of the ride) and quite good numbers of the more 'usual suspects', plus 2 **Red Admiral** (pretending to be Purple Emperors: perching some way up an oak tree!) and a **Comma**."

**Pete Eeles reported the following yesterday:** "I decided to pop in to [Aston Rowant, Oxon](#) on the way to work this morning ([19th July](#)) - the first time I've visited this extraordinary site. Being "on show" right next to the M40 feels very strange - there's no way you could hear any bird song with the constant rumble of traffic! I wonder what the many Red Kites make of it all? It was very breezy during the time I was there, and the sun didn't come out until I was leaving, so quite difficult finding anything. **Six-spot Burnet moths** were everywhere, with females emerging en-masse, resulting in many mating pairs - some having just emerged from their cocoon and some still pumping their wings up. I saw around 30 **Chalkhill Blues** (including a few females), 7 **Small Copper**, 3 **Common Blue**, 1 fresh male **Brimstone**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 3 **Meadow Brown**, a single **Ringlet**, 5 **Marbled White**, 5 **Small Skipper** and what I was hoping to find - 9 **Silver-spotted Skipper**, my first for the year."

**Steve Pash sent this unusual report on 19th July:** "You might be interested in the following sighting. I was posing for photographs at my son's wedding on [Saturday 17th July](#) when at approx 2pm I was distracted by a **Silver-washed Fritillary** settling on the window sill of the [Pinewood Hotel](#). I tried to get the wedding photographer to take a few shots but he was more interested in the family shots ... where is his priority??? The Pinewood Hotel is in Wexham Park Lane, George Green, Bucks, SL3 6AP. It is not far from Black Park where they do regularly occur."

**Nigel Cleere sent this report on 19th July:** "On [17th July](#), I visited the [Seven Barrows BBOWT reserve](#) at Lambourne, Berks. Amongst the commoner species I found 2 **Brown Argus** and, in one corner, there were over 30 male **Chalkhill Blues**. Also seen were 1 **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** and a very distinctive moth which I think was a **Dusky Sallow**."

**Rob Hill reported the following on 18th July:** "Whilst doing a BTO bird survey at *Gayhurst Quarry* (Newport Pagnell, Bucks) on *16th July* I also managed to see a few butterflies, despite the windy and overcast conditions: 40+ **Meadow Brown**, 5 **Common Blue**, 15+ **Large White**, c10 **Small White**, 3 **Gatekeeper**, 4 **Comma**, 2 **Red Admiral**, 2 **Ringlet**, 1 **Brown Argus** and 6 **Holly Blue**."

**David, Jonathan and Mike Wright from Gloucester sent this report:** "We had an excellent trip to *Bernwood Forest (Bucks)* on *18th July* despite the weather starting rather cool and cloudy before picking up in the afternoon. We saw the following butterflies:- **Large White** (2), **Green-veined White** (1), **Marbled White** (6), **Purple Hairstreak** (4), **Small Skipper** (6), **Ringlet** (20), **Gatekeeper** (6), **Silver-washed Fritillary** (3), **Speckled Wood** (1), **Meadow Brown** (8), **Common Blue** (1), **White Admiral** (2) and without doubt the highlight **Purple Emperor** (1). The Emperor was a male and was perched low down on a sloe bush along track down to the BBOWT meadow before flying around us and up into a neighbouring oak. Later it returned to his perch!"

**Peter Cuss went for a walk on the footpath between Chazey Heath and Blagrave Farm (Berks, os 693 765) on 18th July:** "I found a colony of **Purple Hairstreak** on an Oak at the Chazey Heath end of the path (3 was the most I saw at any one time but suspect there were a fair few more). Also saw **Small Copper**, **Common Blue**, **Brown Argus**, **Green-veined White**, **Small White**, **Large White**, **Comma**, **Red Admiral**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Gatekeeper**, **Meadow Brown**, **Marbled White**, **Small Skipper**, **Small Heath**, **Brimstone** as well as a **Silver-Y moth**."

### Saturday 17th July 2010

**This report came from Chris and Pat Dennis today:** "Below are some pictures we took this afternoon, we thought it was going to be a poor day today (17th July) for butterflies as it was so cloudy earlier on, but when it started to brighten up this afternoon we decided to have a trip out to *Homefield Wood, Bucks* such a peaceful place and always a surprise or two in store. When we arrived it was still quite grey but it soon brightened up and the butterflies started to appear. There were a lot (20+) of fresh **Small Coppers**, **Silver-washed Fritillaries** seemed to be everywhere, quite a few **Common Blues**, a few very fresh **Brown Argus** and for us a first, **White-letter Hairstreaks**. We saw four feeding along the main ride this enabled me to get the best pictures I have of them as usually I am craning my neck to see them at the top of elm trees and almost impossible to get a picture."

**David Redhead sent this news today:** "This afternoon, *17th July*, I went to the setaside field and meadows south of Westhill Farmhouse at *Shotover, Oxon* where I picked up a couple of **Small Tortoiseshells** on the eastern edge of the setaside field while the field margin in the meadow to the north produced **Common Blues**. I managed to get a **Small Copper** on the western side of the setaside field when I went to inspect the SE face of *Brasenose Woods* and here I found a couple of **Purple Hairstreaks**. Next I went to *Radley Wood* where I recorded a bright **Comma** then on to *Kennington Memorial Field* where to my surprise I could not find a single Common Blue. A single **Brown Argus** compensated along with my second Small Copper of the day sunning itself on a dried out cow pat. On the edge of setaside field west of *Radley Wood* I saw my third Small Copper and first **Large Skipper** of the day when I noticed something sitting on a thistle - a **White-letter Hairstreak**. Quite a surprise as there's almost no elm here. My species count at the end of this excursion was 17 - the others being **Small Skipper**, **Brimstone**, **Large White**, **Green-veined White**, **Peacock**, **Marbled White**, **Meadow Brown**, **Gatekeeper** & **Ringlet**."

**Nick Bowles reported the following:** "On *17th July* I started my day at *Aston Clinton Ragpits, Bucks* where I found 2 **Chalkhill Blues**. Then on to *Coombe Hill, Wendover in Bucks* - no Dark Green Fritillary but there was a **Silver-washed Fritillary** in the second

clearing of my transect. No Chalkhill Blues seen but they are often higher on the slope than the transect climbs and it was very windy here - so they were probably keeping their heads down."

**Andrew Bolton sent this report today, 17th July:** "The following were seen in *Wasing Wood, near Brimpton Common, Berks* on *5th July* grid ref. SU 574632. **Silver-washed Fritillary** 4, **White Admiral** 1, **Large Skipper** 2, **Comma** 1, **Ringlet** 12, **Red Admiral** 1."

**Judith Barnard sent these sightings today, 17th:** "We went to *Rushbeds Wood, Bucks* and the meadows today and saw 15 species: **Silver-washed Fritillary**, **White Admiral**, **Ringlets**, **Marbled White**, **Meadow Brown**, **Gatekeeper**, **Large Skipper**, **Small Skipper**, **Common Blue**, **Speckled Wood**, **Comma**, **Peacock**, **Green-veined white**, **Large White** and an **Elephant Hawkmoth** - see photo below."

**Dave Ferguson sent this news today:** "This morning (*17th July*), on the buddleias at the base of *Boddington Hill* (Wendover Woods, Bucks) there were 2 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 4 **Commas**, a **Red Admiral**, **Meadow Browns** and **Gatekeepers**. Elsewhere in the woods were 7 more Silver-washed Fritillaries."

**Dave Maunder reported the following today, 17th:** ""I saw my first **Red Admirals** of the year here in *Aylesbury, Bucks* on *Thursday 15th* - two different specimens, one of which spent a couple of days in or near our garden - very late sightings, I thought - had they just arrived from the continent?"

**Dennis Dell forwarded this photo:** "The photo is of a female **Purple Emperor** on oak sap taken by Dr Peter Gasson who was on the field trip with us on *Sunday 11th July* (see report below)."

**Mick & Wendy Campbell went to several woods on 16th and 17th July looking for Purple Emperor:** "In *Chinkwell Wood* on the *16th July* we managed to see 6 **Purple Emperors**. There's been a lot of tree felling carried out in the wood recently but so far at least it doesn't seem to have had a negative impact on the Purple Emperor with numbers being similar to last year. On the outside of the northern edge of the wood a large female flew along the wood edge and landed in the grass near us where she probed for moisture long enough to allow photos. On the way back to the car in a field corner we had the very unusual sighting of a Purple Emperor settling in blackthorn and then gliding around the top of the blackthorn stand. This was quite some distance from the nearest wood (Rushbeds) and it continued backwards and forwards for some minutes until we carried on back to the car. Then on *17th July* we visited *Boarstall Wood* and *Stanton Great Wood* where we counted another 10 Purple Emperors in various locations along the wood edges."

**Steve Croxford reported the following:** "I saw a couple of **Purple Emperors** on *16th July* in *Finemere Wood*. Despite the howling wind I watched a large female just float in and out of the lower branches of an Oak for several minutes. She settled on the trunk a couple of times. In all of this time she barely beat her wings at all, it was amazing how she held position and yet dodged the waving leaves in the blustery wind. It was also very noticeable that the **Purple Hairstreaks** had abandoned the canopy and were occupying the lower branches of the trees. I also saw a lot of fresh looking **Common Blue**."

**Ched George reported seeing a Silver-washed Fritillary** at *Bacombe Hill, Wendover* on *14th July*.

**Tuesday 13th July 2010**

***Dennis Dell reported on the very successful Purple Emperor weekend, 10th & 11th July:***

*"10th July - 12 participants, all from our region, except one gentleman from Staffordshire, with quite a few who had not yet seen a Purple Emperor.* Again, the Oakley Wood car park, from 9.30 to about 11 was not very productive, with only one **Purple Emperor** seen flying rapidly through. Then, two around the shallows and low down [one definite female] between one and two hundred metres on the main track down from the car park. As last year, the majority of the sightings were along the track and in and around the trees from about 400 metres west of the Shabbington turning circle, to the turning circle. A male landed on fresh, very pungent, dog faeces about 100 metres down from the turning circle and remained there for a full 50 minutes! This was a great photo opportunity for everybody. Another two engaged in low level flights here but ignored the feast. Only one sighting was made near the tops of the Oaks from the turning circle. On the way back, another two sightings, along the track, and finally a very good time was had by all when a female 'flopped' into an Oak at Piccadilly Circus and remained there for quite a while, before flying lazily into a neighbouring Sallow. We arrived back at Oakley Car Park at about 14.15. A total of 10 individual specimens had been seen.

*11th July - 26 participants, including one lady from Gloucestershire, and the rest from our region.* This was an even more productive day, possibly because of having double the number of eyes looking upwards, although like yesterday, nearly all of the sightings were 'low down', with hardly any tree top territorial behaviour or oak edging. The Purple Emperor is a veritable enigma: he rarely behaves according to the textbooks, quite unpredictable, God bless him and all who fly with him. Again, few in Oakley car park at the beginning [2]. Jim Asher reported seeing one in Hell Coppice car park at 9.40. Two males landed briefly in the dip between Piccadilly Circus and the car park. The sixth sighting was perhaps the best; a large female settled on an Oak at Piccadilly Circus for quite a while; she then made for the middle of the tree and was seen taking sap from a branch about 3 metres up. Once again, the 400 metre stretch from the Shabbington turning circle westwards produced the most sightings [6], at least three of which were females. Only one was seen Oak edging, the rest were all low down. One female remained on a Sallow for 15 minutes. Four more definite individuals were seen: two, 100 to 200 metres north of Hell Coppice, one at Piccadilly Circus, and one seen at low level in the car park. People had started to leave at different times, so I received reports of sightings from the car park later from different individuals. A definite 16 individual specimens had been seen and a total of about 22 sightings. Other species on both days: **Large and Small Skipper, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown, Common Blue, Marbled White, Large, Small and Green-veined White, Brimstone, Gatekeeper, Purple Hairstreak, Speckled Wood, Red Admiral and Holly Blue.**"

***Don Otter sent this report on 13th July: "Silver-washed Fritillaries* being seen now at *Ashridge* in both Bucks and Herts. One of our volunteers saw a male **Purple Emperor** in the Bucks section a few days ago."**

***Nigel Cleere reported the following on 13th July:*** "Two late morning pit-stops to *Bowdown Wood BBOWT reserve, Berks* on *9th & 11th July* revealed the following:- **Purple Emperor 1; Purple Hairstreak 2; Red Admiral; White Admiral 2; Comma 5+; Brimstone; Silver-washed Fritillary 50+; Ringlet; Meadow Brown; Gatekeeper; Common Blue; Brown Argus 2; Small White; Marbled White; Large Skipper; Speckled Wood** and a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth**. Most of the butterflies were seen in the central part of Bowdown/Baines woods. I believe the site is called the old bomb dump. The Purple Emperor was walking about on the ground near bramble/mixed flowers in a sunny ride. After 30 secs or more, it flew off strongly and disappeared. In recent years, Purple Emperors have occasionally been seen immediately to the south of Bowdown on Greenham Common and to the north at Thatcham Marsh LNR. I saw the latter as it settled amongst a group of bird

ringers and searched for minerals on damp stones."

**Graham Smith reported the following on 12th July:** "On *Monday 12th July* I went to the butterfly meadow in *Bradenham, Bucks* and saw one **Dark Green Fritillary** favouring knapweed but elusive, numerous **Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Marbled white, Small Skipper, Meadow Brown** and **Small White**."

**Steve Croxford sent this report on 12th July:** "On Sunday afternoon, *11th July*, I decided to take a walk along the bridal way through *Ham Home Wood* near Kingswood, Bucks. I was delighted to see a very large female **Purple Emperor** egg laying on a shady Sallow near the small pond in the wood. I watched her searching for suitable egg laying sites in the heart of the Sallow for some time alighting at least a dozen times. Good numbers of **White Admiral, Silver Washed Fritillary** and **Purple Hairstreak** were also very active within the wood."

**Mick Jones reported the following news:** "We had one of our regular work parties at *Dancersend, Bucks* on *Sunday 11th July*. After working the volunteers hard all morning we took the afternoon off to search for **Duke of Burgundy larval damage** (not much joy) and then look for butterflies in the ride through Bittams Wood. We saw 12 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** through the day and confirmed **White-letter Hairstreaks** and **Purple Hairstreaks** in the same areas where they were recorded last year. However, the best was yet to come. I was telling people that it was almost exactly a year to the day last year when a Purple Emperor glided in briefly during a Bucks Invertebrate Group event. Just after I said this a **Purple Emperor** suddenly appeared and made a couple of passes around the edge of one of the clearings where we were watching fritillaries. After this brief excitement we spent some neck-aching time checking out oak trees and wych elm areas for hairstreaks before finishing our walk at the car park off the Chivery road, at the highest point on the reserve. As we entered the car park I spotted two butterflies circling around a group of tall larches. We were viewing them against the light, but the strong white markings were clear. We watched them dancing and gliding around the two tallest larches before settling on a short branch just below the top of one of them and mating. They were about 60-70 feet up and the tree was swaying in the wind, making it difficult to get a clear view through binoculars. In the end I waited two and a quarter hours before the sun moved round and I could see clearly they were Purple Emperors! A third Purple Emperor spent some time circling around them, but they were not put off and were still coupled when I had to leave. There is a large sallow close to these larches and I had hoped to observe egg laying as well - maybe I'll manage that next year!"

**Tim Hearn and Anna Devereux Baker sent this report:** "We went to *Bernwood Forest, Bucks* on *11th July*, from midday to 2pm. Counted 12 **White Admiral**, 8 very fresh **Silver-washed Fritillary** and 1 immaculate male **Purple Emperor** which was feeding on some damp earth near the entrance to Bernwood Meadow. Also seen: numerous **Meadow Brown** and **Ringlet, Marbled White** and **Small and Large Skipper**."

**Sunday 11th July 2010**

**Alan and Juliet Gudge went to Moorend Common, Bucks on 10th July:** "After an excellent morning at Bernwood on the Purple Emperor field meeting, we went to Moorend Common where we saw 2 male **Purple Emperor** chasing up into the canopy along the Bridleway under the power lines at 4.00pm."

**Alan Gardiner sent this report on 10th July:** "Around 4 **Dark Green Fritillaries** on *Steps Hill, Bucks* at SP960158 by the Ridgeway path on the *6th of July*. I think the flower is Greater Knapweed (*Centaurea Scabiosa*). Also plenty of **Marbled Whites** all along the Ridgeway with **Meadow Brown, Ringlets** and **Small Skippers** also about."

**Steve Croxford visited Rushbeds Wood on 10th July:** "The weather was intermittent sun and very warm. I was looking for **Purple Emperor** and managed to record 10 sightings of them. They were mostly patrolling trees and chasing each other around the junction of the main rides."

**David Redhead sent this news on 10th July:** "An early morning dog walk up our lane and round the setaside field in *Littlemore, Oxon* produced 8 species before 8.15am and all active under their own right - in order of abundance they were **Ringlet, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Large White** and singletons of **Comma, Gatekeeper, Large Skipper** and **Small Skipper**. The *Shabbington Wood (Bernwood, Bucks)* transect walked the previous afternoon in the heat of the day set a record with 18 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** recorded - this alone beats the previous record annual total of 15 set last year. I am now in my ninth year of walking this transect and have never before managed to include a **Purple Emperor** on the report form - yesterday afternoon I managed two ticks - a female in York's Wood (the transect would best be called Bernwood Forest SW) and a male in the ride dropping down to the entrance to Bernwood Meadows. **White Admirals** with 9 equalled the previous record. I am sure other visitors, not constrained by a transect route, could beat these counts without too much trouble. I returned home delighted but exhausted from 2 hours in the blazing sun with the temperature 28C at the end."

**Mick & Wendy Campbell have been out looking for Purple Emperors:** "On *Thursday 8th July* we went to *Waterperry Wood, Oxon* where we met up with Dennis Dell carrying out his transect. We saw 12 **Purple Emperors**, with most of the sightings being from the main track running through the wood. They were very active flying above the trees, and not perching at all, apart from two sightings of individuals low down. We also recorded 18 **White Admiral** here, one of which was an almost all-black aberration, either *ab. semi-nigrina* or *ab. oblitterae*. Unfortunately none of us was quick enough with our cameras to get a photo of it! *Then on Saturday 10th July we visited Penley Wood in the Chilterns.* The weather was hot and sunny, 28C. This is a very pretty wood but it's difficult to find the Purple Emperors in here as the footpath runs through the low point of the wood and you have to look up through the canopy rather than stand back and look for individuals breaking the skyline. However, we managed to see 3 **Purple Emperors** and also recorded a staggering 33 **Silver-washed Fritillary** - up until last year we had only ever recorded 2 or 3 at a time in this wood. Other butterflies seen were **Comma (9), Brimstone (2), Large Skipper (43), Ringlet (60+), Green-veined White, Red Admiral, Speckled Wood (2), Small White** and **Meadow Brown.**"

**Dave Wilton and Richard Ness visited Finemere Wood, Bucks on 8th July:** "We were looking for **Purple Emperor** and at least a dozen different individuals were seen (including six in flight together at one stage). A species count of 20 was reached in 90 minutes, the others comprising **Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Purple Hairstreak, Common Blue, Red Admiral, White Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Silver-washed Fritillary, Marbled Fritillary** (two along the main ride), **Marbled White, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper & Ringlet.**"

**Derek Haynes visited Stanton Great Wood in Oxon on 9th July:** "Thanks to directions from Mick Campbell we were able to locate a fine spot for **Silver-washed Fritillaries** though, alas, no *Valezina* females (despite Mick having seen at least one earlier in the day). I think the female Silver-washed Fritillaries were keeping themselves cool somewhere in the wood, as I didn't manage to positively id any female of the species! We then moved onto *Piddington & Little Woods, Oxon* but I think the searing mid-afternoon heat (3pm-ish) didn't produce much in the way of **Purple Emperor** activity. However, there were a couple of sparring males high above an oak tree one of which - having won the aerial battle! - returned time and time again to the same several branches of the same tree, high up in the canopy, and I managed to get a few long-distance shots.

**Dave Miller visited Black Park on Friday morning, 9th July:** "I wandered for a while in the Strawberry Wood area at the North end. As the morning progressed, out came the **White Admirals** and the **Silver-washed Fritillaries**. Altogether along various paths, a count of 15 of the former and 10 of the latter would not be unreasonable. I even saw two White Admirals within a few hundred metres of the cafe. There were also abundant **Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers** and **Large and Small Skippers**, plus several **Purple Hairstreak** occasionally flitting around the oaks. I saw one of these at the cafe too. There was a **Red Admiral**, the first new season **Brimstone** I've seen, and a **Comma** laying eggs on nettles. I met a lovely lady - I think this must have been Wendy Wilson - who told me of a **White-letter Hairstreak** site near Iver. She will be pleased to know I went there on my way back, and despite the 30 degree heat managed to glimpse a couple in the exact spot she mentioned. I managed one rather distant photo of an individual peeping over the top of a leaf."

**Mick Jones sent this report on 9th July:** "I managed to squeeze in a visit to **College Wood, near Nash** in Bucks, after work today, **9th**. I've just moved to the area and this was my first visit to this Woodland Trust site. It was 6.45pm by the time I arrived, but there were still a few areas of ride edge getting some late sun. I saw 5 **White Admirals** and 2 **Purple Hairstreaks** as well as a few **Large Skippers, Small and Large Whites, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Commas, a Small Tortoiseshell** and a **Red Admiral**. Towards the end of my walk, at around 7.25, there was just one shaft of sunlight reaching a section of the ride and I witnessed a lengthy aerial sparring match between a Red Admiral and White Admiral - quite magical!"

**Richard Soulsby wrote the following:** "The **Benson (Oxon)** tally climbed one higher today (**9th July**) with a nice fresh **Peacock** on a buddleia in my garden, taking the two-day total for Benson to 17 species."

**Ched George reported the following on 9th July:** "At last I have turned up with a **Dark Green Fritillary** record from the **Gomm Valley, Bucks** today. Just one. I believe that this is the first record since the 2 recorded by Alan and Juliet Gudge on 21/6/2004. Hopefully this sighting will encourage more recorders to visit. It was not on the BBOWT reserve. Also seen were my first 3 **Gatekeepers** for 2010, **Marbled Whites, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Small / Essex Skippers, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Comma, 1 Speckled Wood** and 1 **Small White**. Only a couple of **6-Spot Burnet** moths."

**Becky Woodell carried out her transect at Whitecross Green Wood in Oxon on 8th July:** "A male **Purple Emperor** landed on my shoe, causing me to stop, motionless until it flew off after about 30 seconds. It was not as brilliantly purple as the one on my sleeve last week. So far these are the only Emperors I have seen at Whitecross. Other butterflies were **Silver-washed Fritillary** - 1 which flew into the wood car park as I started the transect (I wonder if the conifer wood is too dark for them and perhaps the thinning this winter will improve conditions); **White Admiral** - 6 well down from the 12 last week; **Ringlet** - 397; **Marbled White** - 145; **Meadow Brown** - 45 which is very low for this site; **Holly Blue** - 3, first of the year; **Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Speckled Wood, Large White, Green-veined White, Comma** and a **Red Admiral**."

### Saturday 10th July 2010

**Nick Board sent this report on 8th July:** "I went for a walk along a bridal path close to a private wood in North Bucks this morning and was amazed to find up to eight male/female **Purple Emperors** on the wing along a stretch of 150 yds. They were mostly flying at hedgerow level and then resting on the path itself or feeding on horse dung. After half an hour, most disappeared with only an occasional flypast. I know a colony existed in this wood some years ago but I don't think there have been any observations reported for several years so this is good news. On driving away after the walk, I spotted a further two which

rested on the roadside close to the car so quite an exciting visit!"

**David and Wendy Redhead visited Sydlings Copse on 8th July:** "We saw our first **Gatekeepers & Essex Skipper** of the year. Very few of the Small/Essex wanted to be identified but of the three I got a good look at 2 were **Small Skippers** & 1 Essex. Our real find of the day was outside the reserve in the field margin alongside the track back to the car - a **Small Blue**. When I got home to *Littlemore, Oxon*, I went to my local hunting ground to check for Gatekeeper & Essex - found both - netted 5 Small/Essex but only 1 was Essex. I'm now convinced that **Marbled White** are having a poor year - Sydlings Copse only produced 15. The max count for my local colony over the last few years has been in the 30's and even managed to get into the 40's one year. This year my max has been 17 and today it was 12. I didn't see a Common Blue today but further along the track back to the car we came across a pristine pair of **Brown Argus**."

**Richard Soulsby sent this report on 8th July:** "I was rather pleased to see a total of 16 butterfly species today, within half a mile of my home in *Benson (Oxon)*. A short walk from the river via footpaths to home yielded 13 species, with 15 **Ringlets** and 23 **Marbled Whites** heavily out-numbering 5 **Meadow Browns**, and 14 **Small Skippers** marginally outnumbering 11 **Essex Skippers** (plus numerous unidentified Small/Essex), together with 3 **Large Whites**, 2 **Small Whites**, 2 **Small Tortoiseshells** and one each of **Speckled Wood**, **Gatekeeper** and **Comma**. But most pleasing were three fresh **Brown Argus** (1M + 2F) and two equally fresh **Common Blues** (1M + 1F) – it looks like the 2nd broods are early this year. Many of the above were seen on the verges of the busy A4074 road. Add to that the 11 species seen in my garden, many of which repeated the above list (including 4 Small Tortoiseshells and a Comma all nectaring at once on a buddleia), but additionally 3 **Holly Blues**, 2 **Green-veined Whites** and a **Red Admiral**. It's particularly nice to see decent numbers of Small Tortoiseshells again in the garden."

**Malcolm Brownsword went to Oven Bottom (close to Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon) on the afternoon of 8th July:** "I saw 150+ **Marbled Whites**, 150+ **Meadow Browns**, 20 **Large Skippers**, about 12 **Small Skippers**, 1 **Small Copper**, my first **Chalkhill Blue** of the year, a very faded first brood **Common Blue**, 6 **Small Tortoiseshells**, 3 **Speckled Woods**, 6 **Ringlets** and 14 **Small Heaths**. On my return to *West Hagbourne*, I saw another **Scarlet Tiger moth** - I have seen one or two every day over the past 2 weeks - and my first **Gatekeeper** of the year. The latter species seems to emerge each year on the day that the first bramble blossom in my hedge opens."

**Chris Lamsdell reported the following on 7th July:** "A probable **Purple Emperor** seen in *Black Park* on 3rd July - it seemed larger than the **White Admirals** I was seeing in the same area. It was flying low along the path but a little distance ahead."

**Chris Brown sent the following report:** "The new season for the **Silver-washed Fritillary** is now well under way with a sudden bountiful emergence, in fact too many to try and identify male or female with their reluctance to settle. Emergence date this year in *Crowsley Wood, Berks* was between 23 to 25 June with maximum numbers so far being 9 on 5th July. Other butterflies identified on 5 July were: 1 **Large Skipper**, 1 **Brimstone**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 6 **Comma**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 4 **Marbled White**, 6 **Meadow Brown**, 22 **Ringlet**."

**Nicholl Williams sent this report on 6th July:** "I have been back to *Burghfield, Berks*, but the foliage has now completely changed with the season. However, I saw plenty of **Marbled Whites** and dragonflies chasing them and eating them. Also a photo of **Small Skippers** below."

**Tuesday 6th July 2010**

**Paul Furtek reported the following:** "Just sending you a couple of pictures I took this morning, *6th July*, in *Black Park*. The first is of a male and female **Silver-washed Fritillary** performing their courtship ritual on bramble. The other (where my patience finally paid off) is of the normally-elusive underside of of a **White Admiral**. While I was there I bumped into Wendy Wilson so I am sure she will let you know the detailed figures, but suffice to say that there were White Admirals and Silver-washed Fritillaries by the dozen. I was also at Black Park between 5.30 and 6.30 yesterday and I must have seen around 50 **Purple Hairstreaks** flying around the upper branches of the Oak Trees."

**Peter Cuss sent this news:** "On the footpath next to the *Packsaddle Pub, in Berks* (just!!) on *5th July* I found a **White-Letter Hairstreak**. Unfortunately it was dead, probably a victim of the busy A4074, but as it is normally a butterfly of distinct colonies I will see if I can find any more. There are some fairly large hedgerow elms behind the pub and a lot of suckering elm on the nearby footpath.

*Today, 6th July, I went back to the Pack Saddle Pub* and I can confirm there is a colony of **White-letter Hairstreak** in the hedgerow between the pub and Mapledurham Club. I saw at least 5 together high up in an elm plus a couple nectering lower down on bramble."

**Dave Turnbull managed to visit Finemere on Sunday 4th July:** "Sightings were 30+ **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 20+ **White Admirals**, 1-2 **Marbled Fritillaries**, 1 **Purple Hairstreak**, 1 **Purple Emperor**, **Commas**, **Small Skippers**.....most enjoyable!"

**Ched George visited the Holtspur reserves today in Bucks:** "I was hoping to see a Dark Green Fritillary but without success. I did see a fresh female **Brimstone**, a fresh female **Brown Argus**, a **Small Tortoiseshell**, many **Ringlets**, fewer **Marbled Whites** and **Meadow Browns**, at least 1 **Large Skipper** and verified 1 **Small Skipper** amongst the others. There were hundreds of **6-Spot Burnets** including 1 of the variety having confluent spots. It would be helpful to know when others visit Holtspur this month whether seeing Dark Green Fritillary or not."

**Derek Brown sent the following on 5th July:** "We had the first of what must be the second generation **Holly Blues** in the garden in *Beenham, Berks* today (*5th*)."

**Richard Noble reported on the field meeting to Paices Wood, Aldermaston on Saturday 3rd July:** "It was a warm sunny day with occasional clouds for the walk through Paices Wood Country Parkland. In total nine species were identified in the two hour walk starting at 11.00am through woodland of various deciduous trees with sunny clearings and in one section lakes and ponds for dragonflies. **White Admirals** were flying in all the clearings with a pair courting in the canopy in one particularly fine location where we were treated to many gliding demonstrations. In all there were about ten sightings in four distinct locations. Other species in large numbers were **Silver-washed Fritillary**, **Meadow Brown** and **Ringlet**. There were occasional sightings of **Speckled Woods**, **Large Whites** and **Large Skippers** and the walk ended with a single **Small Heath** and a **Red Admiral**."

**Prem Roy sent this report on 5th July:** "*3rd July*, pleasantly warm and sunny. 8.30 to 12.00. *Whitfield Wood* near Biddlesden, North Bucks (near Silverstone). 2 **Purple Emperors**, one at the Eastern Entrance and one in the central crossroads of the rides. The first was at 8.30 and settled low down for a really good view. 10 **White Admirals**. **Small Tortoiseshells** were very common. **Peacock larvae**, quite a few **Commas**. **Ringlet** was extremely common, some **Meadow Brown** and one **Marbled White**. Two **Wood Whites** both females looking to lay eggs (I had visited this wood two weeks earlier and there were none but the weather was poor and there was almost nothing flying) a few **White-letter Hairstreaks** on Elm along the road into Biddlesden. **Large Skipper** common. A few **Small**

**Skippers."**

**Ched George reported the following on 4th July:** "*Bradenham* in Bucks produced 2 - 4 **Dark Green Fritillary** today, 4th July, along with 1 **White-letter Hairstreak** and 1 **Painted Lady**. *Buttlers Hangings* also produced 1 male **Dark Green Fritillary**. **Small Tortoiseshell** seen at both sites."

**Chris Hazell sent this report on 4th July:** "*Homefield Wood 4th July* - a very successful meeting led by Paul Bowyer. 5+ **White-letter Hairstreaks** on several Elms. 25+ **Silver-washed Fritillary** along the rides, plus numerous **Ringlet**, **Large** and **Small Skippers** and 2 **Small Coppers**, along with a few **Marbled Whites**."

**Dave Miller visited Bernwood Meadows on 4th July and did a circular walk anticlockwise in the Woods:** "The Meadows are currently astonishing, full of wild flowers and **Marbled Whites**. There were probably hundreds of them, with good numbers of **Ringlets** and **Meadow Browns**. A hopeful look at the **Bläck Hairstreak** spot by the gate revealed nothing (it was very windy), but having turned right along the ride, after a couple of hundred metres, I found a rather worn **Bläck Hairstreak** right down on the grass. It was sipping honeydew that had dripped from the trees above and eventually flew up into a hazel to continue its lunch there. The rest of the circuit produced more **Marbled Whites** and **Ringlets**, plus 7 **White Admirals**, 3 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** and 2 **Commas**. As I strolled along the last path, the sunny one from the main Forest car park to the meadow gate, I was accosted by a **Purple Emperor**. It flew around me several times before disappearing into the trees. I saw it again briefly, but it showed no signs of stopping. On the way home, I stopped briefly at *Aston Rowant*. Hardly anything was flying in the strong wind and diminishing sunshine, but I saw 12 **Marbled Whites**, 10 **Meadow Browns**, 5 **Small Heaths**, 2 **Large Skippers** and one each of **Small Skipper**, **Gatekeeper** and **Small Tortoiseshell**."

**Margaret Price sent this news on 4th July:** "I can't tell you the excitement here yesterday morning (3rd July), Malcolm even wondered why I was running! The reason being that I decided to have a break from picking yet more old Broadbeans to have a look at my 'wild' patch in the veg. garden. I wanted to see how many **Meadow Browns** there were. Out of the corner of my eye I saw something bright orange and turned thinking that it was a **Comma** so imagine my amazement when it turned out to be a **Silver-washed Fritillary**! I raced indoors to get my camera and was able to take masses of photos of both underside and upper. I never ever thought I would have one in my garden in *Woodstock, Oxon*. However, they are not far away as I have recorded them at **Bladon Heath** so with the strong wind perhaps one was blown here. It was very happily nectaring on **Knapweed**."

**Nick Bowles reported the following:** "On my transect on *3rd July* at *Coombe Hill, Wendover*, at least two and possibly 3 or even 4 **Dark Green Fritillaries**."

**Saturday 3rd July 2010**

**Chris Lamsdell visited Black Park today and recorded Silver-washed Fritillary (5) and White Admiral (6).**

**Ben Miller reported the following:** "Mid-morning today I visited the **White-letter Hairstreak** site on the eastern side of *Iver Heath, Bucks*. I was able to see two males dueling above the canopy of the elms. Also here I saw a very fresh **Gatekeeper**, my first of the year, plus **Large Skipper** and **Ringlet** amongst regular species. On the way home I drove past the north end of *Black Park*, where a **White Admiral** was resting on a roadside hedge."

**Jim Asher visited Finemere Wood this morning:** "I saw two **Purple Emperors** - one in strong flight along the main ride, one on the ground very briefly about 3/4 of the way up the

main ride (definite male). Also, at least 9 **White Admiral**, >12 **Silver-Washed Fritillary**, 2-3 **Marbled Fritillaries** with a total butterfly species count of 16. Spent 15 minutes in the hot spot but no Black Hairstreak, although not much else flying either. This afternoon, I did my 1km square N of Drayton. The most numerous species was **Small Tortoiseshell** (count of 57)!"

**Peter Cuss reported the following:** "I walked the path between [Chazey Heath and Blagrave Farm](#) in Berks again today (3/7/10 os 693 765) and saw my first **Gatekeepers** of the season (4). Also **Meadow Browns** (30+), **Ringlets** (30+), **Marbled White** (21), **Large Skipper** (6), **Small Skipper** (4), **Comma** (3), **Small Tortoiseshell** (4). Also a fair number of **Cinnabar** caterpillars feeding on Ragwort."

**Judith Barnard sent this news:** "We went to [Rushbeds nature reserve](#) in Bucks on [July 2nd](#) and saw the following: around 5 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 4 **White Admirals**, numerous **Marbled Whites**, **Ringlets**, **Large Skippers**, **Meadow Brown** in the meadows."

**Tony Rayner reported the following:** "We had our first **Gatekeeper** of the year at [Cholsey, Oxon](#) this morning, [July 3rd](#). This as always the last of our regular species to appear."

**Wendy Wilson sent this report today:** "At last! I have seen a **Purple Emperor** at [Black Park](#). It was at the 1st crossroads down the ride which goes south from the Convent at TQ01228445. It was 9.00am, warm and sunny about 21C. with a light breeze. It flew diagonally across the crossroads from SE to NW where it settled on an oak tree in full sun. I had an excellent view through binoculars and could see it was a male, but it was too high to photo. Later it did a couple of low passes over the brambles and the ride but didn't settle there, even though I had emptied the contents of my water bottle on the path to tempt it. At 9.30 I met Dave Ferguson looking at **White Admirals**, I counted at least 5 of those nearby, and we spent some time there and walking along the ride to the west. We didn't see the Purple Emperor again but a **Silver-washed Fritillary** made several low passes near us. Later I photographed a different one at TQ01228446, see below."

**Chris and Pat Dennis sent this report on 2nd July:** "Had a wonderful day today ([2nd July](#)) despite the cloudy weather. The **Purple Hairstreak** was at [Piddington Wood, Oxon](#) and the **White Admiral** and **Purple Emperor** were at [Bernwood Forest Oakley Wood, Bucks](#) next to Bernwood Meadows on the main path from the car park. These are the first photos I have taken of all three of them this year, I really went out to try and photograph the White-letter Hairstreak at Piddington Wood but I think it was too cloudy for them today."

**Steve Croxford reported the following on 2nd July:** "The **Black Hairstreak** were still active at the [Finemere, Bucks](#) hot spot this afternoon, [2nd July](#). I saw 4 in 5 minutes around 2pm this afternoon. This was despite the rather cloudy conditions. The weather brightened up a little while I was in the wood. **Silver-washed Fritillary** were very active as were the **White Admiral** again. Both appear to be having a good year. I also managed to catch up with one of the **Marbled Fritillaries**. See photo below. Still no sign of Purple Emperor at the wood. I don't think the weather is helping for the past couple of days."

**Dave Ferguson spent a couple of hours in Waterperry Wood, Oxon on Thursday morning, 1st July:** "My visit produced 17 **White Admirals**, 2 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 1 **Comma**, 27 **Large Skippers**, **Ringlets**, **Meadow Browns**, **Speckled Woods**, 3 **Green-veined Whites** and a male **Orange Moth** which I nearly trod on."

**Helen Hyre sent these reports:** "On [29th June](#) I walked along the NE bank of [Wilstone reservoir](#) (just into Herts) and saw "silly quantities" of damselfly (approx 100) and counted 60 **Small Tortoiseshell**. Both were by the path and down the bank; there were probably many more. In a previous year I also saw large numbers of Small Tortoiseshell at Wilstone

reservoir. Then on *30th June* I surveyed at *Slapton churchyard* in Bucks. It has been "tidied up", so I saw just 2 **Meadow Brown** and 1 **Red Admiral**. However, a public footpath leads out of the churchyard into a large field at SP936208 so I surveyed it instead and found butterflies everywhere! 21 Meadow Brown, 36 **Ringlet**, 1 **Large Skipper**, 13 **Marbled White**, 33 **Small Skipper**, 4 **Small Tortoiseshell** and 1 **Small White**. There were probably 10 times as many in the whole field, but I ran out of time.

*Tony & Ro Rayner reported the following:* "Amongst all the **Small Skippers** our first **Essex Skipper** in our *Cholsey (Oxon)* meadow on *1st July*."

*Dennis Dell sent this report for 30th June:* Due to the conifer clearing work at the southern end of *Finemere Wood* I had to enter the wood from the southern edge bordering Finemere Meadows. This detour proved to have benefits because I stumbled upon a beautiful secluded glade at the northern end where a lone **Marbled Fritillary** was very active, flying extremely rapidly and never landing. Along the main ride, **Silver-washed Fritillaries** were seen, as well as **Marbled Whites**, **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets**, together with several **White Admirals**. A possible Purple Emperor was seen around the Sallows at the southern end of the main ride. One female Silver-washed Fritillary was seen in the north western part where the sun hardly penetrates, flying low around the closely spaced tree trunks, possibly on an egg laying mission. Small butterflies darting around the tops of the Oaks indicated that **Purple Hairstreaks** have begun to make an appearance in the wood."

*Wendy Wilson says the wild flowers at Crabtree Plantation, Ley Hill, Chesham were teeming with butterflies on Wednesday 30th June:* "I recorded 80+ **Meadow Brown**, 150+ **Ringlet**, 18 **Marbled White**, 3 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 8 **Large Skipper**, 6 **Small Skipper** and my first **Essex Skipper** of the year. I'm finding **Marbled Whites** in all sorts of funny places I haven't seen them before like the M25 embankment!"

*Karen Saxl sent this report on 30th June:* "I saw 1 **Gatekeeper**, 1 **Meadow Brown** and 1 **Large Skipper** on the wildflower meadow at *Mowbray Fields Nature Reserve*, Oxon on *30th June*."

*Dennis Dell decided to get his 'first Iris fix' of 2010 by visiting Piddington Wood:*

"There was a fair bit of cloud on *29th June* [3.30 to 5 pm], but it was hot [25] with enough sunny spells. There were two male **Purple Emperors** clashing high above the trees in the 'vista' along the footpath in Piddington Wood and 3 at the usual places at the track along the top of Little Wood: one alternating between the big ash and a neighbouring silver birch and then two by the central ride entrance, mainly on one of the silver birches there [see photos below]."

### Wednesday 30th June 2010

*Derek Haynes sent a couple of reports and some accompanying photographs today:* "I went to *Homefield Wood (Bucks)* on *Sunday 27th June*, and saw **Silver-washed Fritillary** (8) and **White-letter Hairstreak** (2), as well as 'some of the more usual suspects'! On *Tuesday 29th June* I went to the *Broadmoor Bottom* BBOWT Nature Reserve (Sandhurst, Berks) with a view to finding **Silver-studded Blue** and, although the weather was decidedly unsettled, saw 2 males & 1 female (all in tip-top condition). Having run for cover following a rain-shower, we returned to where a male and female had been roosting several yards apart from each other, to find they had lost no time and were well and truly coupled!"

*Mick & Wendy Campbell went to Piddington Wood, Oxon on Monday 28th June:* "We were walking along the footpath through Piddington Wood when we disturbed a large, dark butterfly from a muddy puddle. It flew up and landed in a tiny ash tree only a few feet away from us enabling a close-up view of a pristine male **Purple Emperor**. We carried on along

the footpath to the top of Little Wood and saw 3 more gliding and perching in the top of the ash and oak trees. Other butterflies seen included **White-letter Hairstreak** (2), **Small Tortoiseshells** (4), **Speckled Woods**, **Meadow Browns**, **Large Skippers**, **Ringlets** and **Marbled Whites**."

*John Ward-Smith sent the following on 29th June:* "Yesterday, *28th June at Broadmoor Bottom, Berks*, I counted 10 male **Silver-studded Blues**. A count of 10 was the largest I have ever had at this site."

*Rob Hill sent this report on 28th June:* "In north Bucks, at *Linford nature reserve on 27th*, my first **Ringlets** of the year (15+ total), 20+ **Large Skipper**, a few **Small Skipper**, 2 **Meadow Brown** and 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**."

*Phil Coles sent the following news on 28th June:* "During my WCBS survey on SP7402 at *Emmington in Buckinghamshire* the following were recorded: **Meadow Brown** (*Maniola jurtina*); 83, **Red Admiral** (*Vanessa atalanta*); 1, **Small Tortoiseshell** (*Aglais urticae*); 28, **Peacock** (*Inachis io*); 1, **Large Skipper** (*Ochlodes sylvanus*); 32, **Speckled Wood** (*Pararge aegeria*); 2, **Marbled White** (*Melanargia galathea*); 1 and **Ringlet** (*Aphantopus hyperantus*); 13. Only one additional adult butterfly species was observed outside of the survey period: **Common Blue** (*Polyommatus icarus*); 1. Also some **Peacock caterpillars** (9) in one of the many Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) patches on the survey route."

*Francis Gomme reported the following on 28th June:* "I quickly lost count of the numerous **Ringlets**, **Marbled Whites**, **Meadow Browns**, **Small & Large Skippers**, **Small Heaths**, **Whites** and **Speckled Woods** on a walk around *Lodge Hill, Bucks* on Sunday morning, *27th June*. Many rather tired **Common Blues** and **Brown Argus** still on the wing too. I did count over 20 fresh **Small Tortoiseshells** on the hill and along surrounding hedgerows plus two **Painted Ladies** but the highlight was probably a **Dark Green Fritillary** on the upper slopes. On *28th June*, during a walk around a surprisingly breezy *Aston Rowant NNR in Oxon* I watched **Dark Green Fritillaries** flying in 7 different areas around the reserve."

*Malcolm Brownsword reported as follows on 28th June:* "In the morning of *25 June* I visited Bernwood Meadows and Oakley Wood (*Bernwood Forest, Bucks*). In the Meadows I saw 22 **Large Skippers**, one **Small Copper**, 4 **Common Blues** - see image (1st brood), 2 **Small Tortoiseshells**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Ringlets**, 20+ **Meadow Browns** and 20+ **Marbled Whites**. At the end of the second meadow, I entered Oakley Wood by the BBOWT sign and within minutes saw about 6 **Bläck Hairstreaks** (sorry, too high up to photograph!). A couple I met had seen them at this spot many times in the last 20 years. Nearby was an **Orange Moth** (see image). As I moved from this spot, 2 **White Admirals** flew over the blackthorn. Further into Oakley Wood I saw 6 **Marbled Whites**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 10 **Large Skippers**, 8 **Speckled Woods**, 10 **Meadow Browns** and 2 **Ringlets**. In the evening, one hour before sunset, I saw about 100 **Scarlet Tiger Moths** (see image) circling a mature Yew tree in *West Hagbourne, Oxon*. They were about 30 metres from the spot where I saw about 70-80 last year around a Lawson Cypruss. I have now discovered that a nearby resident released some adults from captivity 2 or 3 years ago, so these are likely to be a relic population from this release. I see, on average, one a day in my West Hagbourne garden about 150 metres away from the yew tree."

*Allen Beechey sent this report on 28th June:* "I spent an enjoyable few hours walking through *Ashridge Woods* (avoiding the football!) on *Sunday 27th June*. Walking North from Bridgewater monument through the woods I saw, **Ringlet**, **Speckled Wood**, **Large Skipper** and **Meadow Brown**. In the meadows just south of Incombe Hole I encountered numerous **Small Skippers**, **Marbled White**, a fresh looking **Brimstone** and one solitary **Dark Green Fritillary** flying north towards Ivinghoe Beacon. No **Purple Hairstreak** or **Purple Emperor**

however. Maybe next time?"

### Monday 28th June 2010

**Phil Coles went to Rushbeds Wood & Lapland Farm in Bucks on June 27th:** "Butterfly sightings were: **Meadow Brown** (*Maniola jurtina*); 10+, **Small Heath** (*Coenonympha pamphilus*); 1, **Small Tortoiseshell** (*Aglais urticae*); 1, **Common Blue** (*Polyommatus icarus*); 1, **Large Skipper** (*Ochlodes sylvanus*); 10+, **Speckled Wood** (*Pararge aegeria*); 10+, **Marbled White** (*Melanargia galathea*); 20+ all at Lapland Farm, **Ringlet** (*Aphantopus hyperantus*); 20+ and **Green-veined White** (*Pieris napi*); 1."

**Chris Lamsdell visited Black Park on the 27th June and saw White Admiral 6 + Silver-washed Fritillary 1.**

**Walter Allan sent this report on 27th June:** "Today, 27/06/10 I took photos of what appears to be a **Marbled Fritillary** at *Finemere Wood, Bucks*. Photos below."

**Nick Bowles sent this news on 27th June:** "I was somewhat surprised to see a pristine **Grizzled Skipper** flying with **Small Skipper** at *Coombe Hill, Bucks* on transect *Saturday 26th*. Also a **Dark Green Fritillary** which was a male and very actively searching for females. Otherwise the transect there and at *Aston Clinton Ragpits* was relatively empty, I saw 12 species but all in small numbers. Several **Small Tortoiseshells** which would make those in parts of Surrey jealous, no whites aside from a single **Brimstone** and no **Marbled Whites** at Coombe Hill. Is it just me that is finding numbers to be down? Today I searched for White Letter hairstreak near Tring garden centre and outside College Lake reserve - both locations in Herts by a few hundred metres. No joy and precious little Elm still in leaf. Bad attack of DED in both these locations. On Friday I spent 40 mins searching on the road from Aylesbury to Stoke Mandeville (Bucks) where there is very healthy elm mostly 3-4 m high but with some saplings/trees making 5m; and again no sign of any WLH butterflies. Small Tortoiseshells commonest species along this roadside. If anyone has to go to Stoke Mandeville hospital they might try their luck with these extensive roadside elms. They stretch from the hospital to the edge of Stoke Mandeville village."

**Phil Coles recorded the following at Shirburn Hill, Oxfordshire on June 26th:** **Meadow Brown** (*Maniola jurtina*); 20+, **Small Heath** (*Coenonympha pamphilus*); 20+, **Small Tortoiseshell** (*Aglais urticae*); 3, **Common Blue** (*Polyommatus icarus*); 2, **Large Skipper** (*Ochlodes sylvanus*); 2, **Small Skipper** (*Thymelicus sylvestris*); 1, **Speckled Wood** (*Pararge aegeria*); 3, **Marbled White** (*Melanargia galathea*); 6, **Ringlet** (*Aphantopus hyperantus*); 2.

**Mick Jones reported contrasting walks in the heat over the weekend:** "*Saturday 26th Salden railway cutting*. Absolutely alive with butterflies: 60+ **Marbled Whites**, at least 12 **Chimney Sweeper moths**, a few **5-spot Burnet sp.**, many **Large Skippers**, **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets**, **Speckled Woods**, **Small Tortoiseshells**, one **Red Admiral** and a few **Common Blues** still flying. *Sunday 27th Dancersend Nature Reserve*. My first **Silver-washed Fritillary**, many **Large Skippers**, **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets**, just 10 **Marbled Whites**, 6+ **5-spot Burnets sp.**, **Speckled Woods**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Brimstone**. No **Common Blues** seen. Checked areas for Purple Hairstreak and White Letter Hairstreak, but none showing yet."

**Jan Haseler sent this report on 27th June:** "We saw 3 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** and 1 **White Admiral** at *Simm's Copse, Mortimer* in Berks today (Sun 27th June)."

**Wendy Wilson reported on the field trip to Black Park on 26th June:** "Ten members gathered at *Black Park* near Iver Heath on a very hot Saturday morning to target the White Admiral and, possibly, the Silver-washed Fritillary. As we headed north from the car-park,

resisting the temptation to defect to the new ice cream kiosk and "Go Ape" aerial ropeways, we saw more species of dragonfly (7) than butterflies (6). Luckily we had Dave Ferguson with us who identified them as large red, azure and common blue damselflies, emperor, downy emerald, broad-bodied chaser and keeled skimmer dragonflies. Dave thinks the keeled skimmer may be a first for Black Park which is exciting. We only saw two butterflies, a **Comma** and a **Large White**, during the half hour walk up to Strawberry Wood in the north of the park. Our reward when we got there was to be greeted by at least 13 **White Admirals**. They were very lively, gliding fast among the oak trees and the honeysuckle and rarely settling on the bramble for more than a split second. They all looked in mint condition and we had good views of them, but none of us managed a photo. Also there were 8 **Large Skipper**, 6 **Meadow Brown** and 1 **Ringlet**. Moths seen were **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet** and **Brown Silver-lines**. Early next morning, thinking the White Admirals would be more static before it warmed up, I went back to try and get a photo. They started to appear at 7.45am but were just as lively, mostly preferring the honeydew high in the trees to the bramble blossom low down. All I could manage were the attached (*see below*). However I was not disappointed as I got a lovely sighting of my first **Silver-washed Fritillary** of the year. It sailed past me low over the brambles looking huge beside the White Admirals. It's just a pity it was a day late."

**Peter Law reported the following on 27th June:** "I saw at least 6 **Silver-Washed Fritillary** in four locations in Shabbington Wood this morning. I set out from the Bernwood Meadows (which were alive with **Marbled White**) car park, and turned right on entering the woods. At the junction of that path and the main N/S track through the woods there were 2 possibly 3 SWF's. I then walked north-east to the cross-roads (with information board) and turned right. I saw another SWF several times along that path and another in the area near the M40. On the way back, at least four **White Admirals** and a **Comma**. I then turned left along a bridle path some distance before the crossroads where I saw another pair of SWFs and 2 more White Admirals. Making my way back to the location where I first saw SWFs, possibly the same pair were engaged in a courtship dance on the path back to the gate into Bernwood Meadows. There I met three men (and an other half reading her book in the shade) one of whom pointed out two **Bläck Hairstreaks** to me in what I overheard to be the usual spot for what appears to be this A-list celebrity species. At any rate these people didn't seem over-interested in my SWFs or White Admirals, though another 1 possibly 2 of the last named was flying here. Other sightings: abundant **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet**, **Speckled Wood**, **Small Skipper** (as confirmed by a second butterfly spotter on the path from the cross-roads to M40); and occasional **Large Skipper**, **Common Blue**, **Large** and **Small White**."

**Karen Saxl sent the following on 26th June:** "Today, *26th June*, on the Sustrans route – *old Didcot Newbury Railway line* we added **Ringlets** and a **Cinnabar Moth** (again not noticed before - see report for 24th June below) and a number of **Cinnabar larvae** so should be some more in flight at some point."

### Saturday 26th June 2010

**Nigel Parsons sent this update today:** "I've been out and about early this morning, *Saturday 26th*, in the *Iver Heath* area of South Bucks, mainly looking for new White-letter Hairstreak sites. I managed to find only one new site, so far. Whilst at Iver Heath Fields I checked out the usual hot spot for **Purple Hairstreak** and was pleased to have good views of at least 3 individuals on small oaks and nearby bramble. Having seen **Bläck Hairstreak** (3 individuals, including one really close up view) at *Finemere Wood* on Wednesday lunchtime (23rd June), White-letter Hairstreak in Iver Heath on Thursday morning before going to work (*see report below*), I have managed to see 3 hairstreak species in 4 days."

**Francis Gomme sent this news from Bucks on 25th June:** "**Dark Green Fritillaries** seen today at *Whiteleaf and Bradenham, Bucks*. Numerous very fresh **Small Tortoiseshells** seen

throughout the week in and around *Princes Risborough* and on my allotment at *Meadle*. Fresh **Painted Ladies** too in *Saunderton Gap*."

**Peter Cuss reported the following on 25th June:** "Walked the footpath that runs between *Chazey Heath and Blagrave farm, Berks* (OS 175 693765) on *25/06/10* and can report **Small Tortoiseshell** 7, **Small Skipper** 8, **Large Skipper** 5, **Meadow Brown** 17, **Marbled White** 10, **Ringlet** 7, **Small Heath** 2, several groups of **Peacock caterpillars** and a **Cinnabar moth**."

**Andy King sent the following on 25th June:** "I was at that part of the *Bernwood Forest* complex in Bucks which I think is called Oaken/ Oakley Wood and walked down to the M40 Compensation Area. I saw a number of **Meadow Browns** (not all that many, perhaps fewer than a dozen in well over 2 hours), dozens of **Large Skippers**, one **Green-veined White** (flying so wearily I did a double-take thinking it was a Wood White - it wasn't) and one rather worn **Comma**. Also my first **Ringlets** of the year (about half a dozen) and, catching me a little bit by surprise, my first **White Admirals** of the year (three definite and pristine and beautiful and a fourth possible at a distance). Also 2/3 **Common Blues** hanging on, including one aged female laying eggs on black medick - the tiny straggling bits trailing onto the sunny track. Also 3 **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnets**. Most surprising to me is I saw no Black Hairstreaks (and I spent an hour and a quarter looking in the Compensation Area). With one possible exception the three or four might-have-been possibles were almost certainly **Speckled Woods** - there were dozens of those throughout the woodland behind the Area."

**Mick & Wendy Campbell visited Homefield Wood, Bucks, on 25th June looking for early season Silver-washed Fritillaries:** "We were pleased to find that the **Silver-washed Fritillaries** had started to emerge and saw 1 male and 2 females. Also on the wing were **White-letter Hairstreak** (3 flying in elm), **Large Skipper** (8), **Meadow Brown** (4), **Ringlet** (5), **Speckled Wood** (17), **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Red Admiral** and **Comma**. Also, on a walk near *Stanton Great Wood* on *21st June* it was good to see 35 **Small Tortoiseshells** all very active along a field edged with nettles."

**Tony Rayner sent this news on 24th June:** "5 **Small Skippers** at *Cholsey, Oxon* today, *June 24th* - our first of the year."

**Karen Saxl sent the following on 24th June:** "Sustrans route- *old Didcot Newbury Railway line* - South of Hagbourne Cemetery South East to Upton. SU522883 to SU513873 (ish). Species currently in flight - **Marbled White** (well established colony so out in large numbers just South of cemetery), **Large Skipper**, **Meadow Brown**, **Common Blue** (most prevalent towards Upton End) and **Small Blue** (first year I've noticed small blue though given the amount of kidney vetch - the entries and exits cut into the old embankment are just walls of kidney vetch at the moment - it was only a matter of time - observed one small blue laying on kidney vetch 22/6) and **Small Tortoiseshell** plus **Five-spot** and **Six-Spot Burnet**."

**John Ward-Smith sent this report on 24th June:** "On *24th June* David Lloyd reported **Silver-studded Blue** on the wing at BBOWT's *Broadmoor Bottom reserve* in Berks. There were 2/3 males and a mating pair. On *23rd June*, I saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** near *Broadmoor Hospital*, a rare sight hereabouts in recent years."

**Steve Croxford reported as follows on 24th June:** "After a couple of fairly quiet days I managed a more productive walk this morning, *24th June*. Setting off early, to beat the forecast cloud at mid day, I started at *Stanton Little Wood* where I saw a single **Bläck Hairstreak** high up in one of the Oaks. Two more were seen from the track on the Western edge of *Holly Wood*. My final visit of the day was to *Stanton Great Wood*. Along the south-west edge I saw a Hairstreak on the field edge ahead of me. When I caught up with it I found it to be a **Purple Hairstreak**, by the look of it newly emerged and still hardening its wings. On

the way back on the main road at the top of Stanton Great Wood I saw a **Silver-washed Fritillary**, my first for the year."

**Nigel Parsons sent the following report on 24th June:** "I went to a known local colony in *Iver Heath, South Bucks* on Thursday morning, *24th June* at 7.15am and was very pleased to see at least a pair of male **White-letter Hairstreaks** (possibly two pairs) duelling above the elm trees. I didn't have time to stay more than 15 minutes but they were active intermittently for most of that period. Then I had to go to work!"

**Paul Bowyer reports on the Asham Meads Field Trip held on June 20th:** "The event started in somewhat cool and breezy weather but ended hot and sunny. Nine of us started out to scan the blackthorn hedges of this quiet reserve but it was not until we reached the central blackthorn thicket and after a long wait did we see the **Bläck Hairstreak**. We counted 2 here in what seems like the ideal conditions for a colony. A third was spotted on one of the few brambles to be in full flower. Lots of other moths and butterflies were seen. **Orange-tip** (1), **Meadow Brown** (12), **Small Copper** (3), **Common Blue** (20+) **Large Skipper** (12), **Speckled Wood** (1), **Painted Lady** (1) and moths **Silver-ground Carpet**, **Straw Dot** (3), **Yellow Shell** (1), **Bloodvein** (3), **Silver Y** (1) and **Large Yellow Underwing** (1)."

### Wednesday 23rd June 2010

**Prem Roy sent this news today:** "*Saturday 19th June*. Cool, cloudy and windy with a few spells of weak sunshine. *Round Wood and Tingewick meadows* near Buckingham, Bucks. A few **Large Whites**. Sadly no Wood Whites, but looks promising and I have been looking here for a few years. One male **Orange-tip**. Still a few **Brimstones** of both sexes. Lots of **Large Skippers**. One old male **Common Blue**. One fresh **Marbled White**, a few **Ringlets** and a few male **Meadow Browns**. Still no **Bläck Hairstreak**, but the area especially *Tingewick meadows* look good with lots of south facing overgrown blackthorns, I have been looking for 6 years, but always been plagued by bad weather. One **Painted Lady** and one **Red Admiral**. In my garden near Buckingham there are very many freshly emerged **Small Tortoiseshells**. I have just scythed down the nettles and should get good numbers of second brood caterpillars, it has worked every year so far. Almost every buckthorn that I have planted in the hedge has a few **Brimstone caterpillars**. One year the buckthorn had lots of **Holly Blue caterpillars** but it has not happened again. A few baby **Puss Moth caterpillars** on *Aspen*."

**Nicholl Williams sent this interesting report today:** "I saw this **Glanville Fritillary** butterfly on the *2nd and 3rd of June* near the *Burghfield Boating centre* on the *Burghfield gravel pit in Berks*."

**David Redhead sent this news today, 23rd:** "During my early dog walk this morning we came across a **Speckled Wood** fluttering around in the ash trees, in full sun, in *Rivermead Nature Park, Oxford* at 07:08 hours. We then progressed to the grassland by my house in *Littlemore* and inspected the scabious flowers where we found 9 **Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnet moths** - 4 still snoozing, 3 nectaring and 2 mating. Shortly afterwards a **Large Skipper** was in flight at 07:25 hours without any encouragement from me or the dog. Five minutes later another was seen flying in a glade in the nearby scrub - previously I had the **Skippers** down as late risers but then again the **Large** is having a very good year. On the way back to the house making our way through the nettle patch we put up a couple of **Snouts**. Not a bad haul of 4 lepidopteral species by 07:40 hours but then again the shade temperature in our garden was 15C."

**Helen Hyre sent the following report on 21st June:** "I was walking across a field south of Church Street, *Wingrave, Bucks* on *21st June* and saw 9 **Large Skipper** and one **Mother Shipton moth**."

*John Benford reported seeing the first Silver-washed Fritillary* of the season near *Kingswood, Bucks* on *21st June*.

*On Monday 21st June Steve Croxford reported seeing* his first **White Admiral** of the year at *Drunkards Corner in Waterperry Wood, Oxon*.

*Ched George saw* a fresh **Small Tortoiseshell** nectaring on Dogwood blossom at *Bradenham* in Bucks on *20th June*.

### Sunday 20th June 2010

*Ben Miller visited College Lake (Bucks) today, 20th June:* "Late afternoon today, butterflies seen included 4 **Small Blues**, 6 **Large Skippers**, 3+ **Ringlets**, 2 **Common Blue** and 2 **Meadow Browns**."

*Jon Mercer, Wilts BC, sent this report today, 20th June:* "8+ **Bläck Hairstreaks** at *Whitecross Green Wood* today. Also **Large Skippers** and **Common Blues**."

*Nick Board visited Wicken Wood on the Bucks border near Buckingham on the 17th June:* "I was hoping to spot a **Bläck Hairstreak**. No **Hairstreaks** but I was pleasantly surprised to see approximately 20 **Wood Whites** along the main ride all looking in good condition. Not sure whether this is a late hatch or an early second brood. Otherwise, disappointed to see only an occasional **Meadow Brown** and **Large Skipper** although this wood seems to have an increasing number of dog walkers and I wonder if this is affecting the environment."

*Ched George sent this sighting on 18th June:* "1 **Small Skipper** at *Bradenham, Bucks* today (*18th*) along with a female **Brimstone**, **Large Skippers**, **Common Blues** and 8 **Small Blue**."

*Tom Stevenson sent this report on 18th June:* "The attached was photographed this afternoon, *18th*, in the *Millbrook Mead nature reserve*, Benson in Oxon (SU615913)."

*David Redhead reported the following:* "At 5pm on *Thursday 17th June* there were at least 10 **Large Skippers** on the 0.5ha of unimproved grassland near my house in *Littlemore, Oxon* - in my 20+ years of monitoring this site it is an all-time record. Their favourite preoccupation is nectaring on the flowers of Yellow Meadow Vetchling which is currently growing there in profusion. Yellow Meadow Vetchling is a larval foodplant for the common **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet Moth** which is found on the site (3 mating pairs and 5 singletons in evidence yesterday at 5pm) and the rare Wood White Butterfly which sadly is not found on the site. I also saw a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** at *Otmoor on the 17th*. On *Saturday 19th June*, on an unseasonally cool day for June without much sun, a walk up to the grassland near my house produced my first **Ringlet** of the year. A pristine specimen that was not about the previous day."

*Derek Brown sent the following news:* "We've recently had some new sightings for the year in the garden at *Beenham, Berks*. **13/6 Hummingbird Hawk Moth**; **15/6 Meadow Brown** and **16/6 Painted Lady** (eventually - not like last year!). Also on *17th June* we tried *Finemere* for the **Bläck Hairstreak**. We saw 3-4 around the entrance gate but they weren't playing ball photo-wise. So we tried *Waterperry Wood* and saw at least 6-12 in continuous flight just beside the entrance gate (again!). Many were coming down quite low and posing nicely. This is the most I've ever seen in any one place. (Please also note a pair of Blue Tits have nested inside the top bar of the entrance gate just behind the padlock. If people visit could they make sure they don't move the padlock accidentally as they squeeze past, otherwise the adults will lose access to the chicks.)"

## Wednesday 16th June 2010

**Dave Wilton sent this update today:** "Peter Hall and I went to *Ivinghoe, Bucks* today, *Wednesday 16th June*. Butterflies seen included **Dark Green Fritillary** (1) and **Ringlet** (2). Both species were observed in Incombe Hole."

**Dave Turnbull sent this sighting today:** "I went to *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon* today (*Wed 16th*). **Large Skippers, Meadow Browns, Large Skippers, a Painted Lady, Bläck Hairstreaks** and one for the list, a pristine and early, **White Admiral**."

**Tony Speight sent this report today:** "Today, *16th June*, on *Sands Bank LNR in High Wycombe, Bucks* I saw my first **Marbled White** and **Ringlets** (2), also seen were **Common Blue** (4), **Large Skipper** (4), **Speckled Wood, Green Hairstreak** and **Meadow Brown**. After having a very good spring with record numbers of both Common Blue and Dingy Skipper, hopefully this will be the start of a great summer!"

**Derek Haynes sent the following report on 15th June:** "I took a good look at *Yoesden Bank, Bucks*, for a couple of hours or so on Sunday lunchtime, *13th June* (weather fair, but quite windy), and can report the following sightings: 4 **Large Skippers**, 3 female **Brimstones**, 2 male **Orange-tips**, 2 **Green Hairstreaks**, 1 **Small Blue**, 30+ **Common Blues** (predominantly male, and mostly well-worn), 10+ **Meadow Browns** & 10+ **Small Heaths**."

**Colin Williams reported that whilst doing the butterfly transect at Sydlings Copse on Monday 14th June he recorded** a single **Marbled White**.

**David Redhead reported that on the afternoon of Monday 14th June there was a** pristine **Small Tortoiseshell** flying in the setaside field at the top of Heyford Hill Lane, *Littlemore, Oxon* indicating the second brood are emerging.

## Sunday 13th June 2010

**Jim Asher reported the following today:** "I went to a site in *north Bucks* this morning, *13th June* and saw six **Bläck Hairstreaks** flying around the tops of the blackthorn in the occasional sunny spell. I followed this with a short trip to *Finemere* and saw another four or five **Bläck Hairstreaks**. I also saw two **Meadow Browns** (my first of the season) and three male **Orange-tips** (rather late in their season). Lots of **Large Skippers**."

**Chris and Pat Dennis sent this report today:** "This picture of a **Bläck Hairstreak** was taken today, *13th June* at 1-30pm when we saw two at *Bernwood Meadows, Bucks*. They were quite low down on the dog roses and the Sloe bushes flying from one side of the path to the other, trying to keep out of the strong wind I expect."

**Steve Croxford sent this report today:** "I met Tom Dunbar at *Finemere Wood* in Bucks today, *13th June*. Between us we saw 9 **Bläck Hairstreak** at the hot spot including 5 individuals on the wing at the same time. I then saw a further 3 individuals, all on the wing at the same time, on the hedge leading down to the fishing lake."

**David Redhead reported the following on 12th June:** "I visited the *M40 Compensation Area, Bucks* today, *12th June*, and in an hour and a half saw at least 13 **Bläck Hairstreaks**. When I came across the female in the photo below she was being courted by a slightly smaller and darker male who was circling her with his abdomen bent towards her as she sat on a blackthorn leaf at eye level. She appeared totally dis-interested and after a bit the male flew to the top of the blackthorn while the female stayed where she was allowing me to take my photo."

**David Hastings sent this update on 12th June:** "I recorded another dozen or so **Large Skippers** at *Farmoor, Oxon* today (*12th June*) as well as about 20 **Common Blues** and one **Speckled Wood**. I also recorded Large Skipper (10) at *Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon* as well as **Small Tortoiseshell** (1), **Speckled Wood** (1), **Brimstone** (1) and **Common Blue** (10)."

**Tony & Ro Rayner sent the following report on 12th June:** "A mint **Painted Lady** in our *Cholsey (Oxon)* patch and our first **Red Admiral** of the year plus 42 **Common Blues**, just one **Small Copper**, 5 **Large Skippers** and singles of **Green-veined White**, **Small White** and **Speckled Wood**. Yesterday, *11th June*, we had our first **Meadow Brown** of the year."

### Friday 11th June 2010

**Nick Bowles reported the following from just over the border in Tring:** "I was somewhat astonished to arrive home at 4.40pm and see a **Painted Lady** feeding on Dames Violet in the front garden. Weather had been poor all day but brightened about 3pm. Also in attendance: **Brimstone**, **Small White**, **Common Blue**."

**Dennis Dell went for a walk around Aylesbury Park Golf Course, from 14.10 to 15.20 today:** "Weather mainly cloudy, about 17 degrees. **Small Tortoiseshell** [1], **Common Blue** [8], **Speckled Wood** [2], **Large Skipper** [17], **Meadow Brown** [1], **Dingy Skipper** [1]. Butterflies seem to like landing on our *Choisya* ... maybe the reflection from the bright yellow leaves makes them feel warmer! In any case, it always makes a nice picture - this photo of a **Large Skipper** was taken this afternoon in my garden in Aylesbury."

**David Redhead reported the following today:** "At *Slade Camp South, Shotover, Oxford* this afternoon I recorded 3 **Bläck Hairstreak**. My final species counts for the afternoon after visiting a couple of other sites were butterflies 8 (**Common Blue** 11, **Large Skipper** 7, **Speckled Wood** 7, **Bläck Hairstreak** 3, **Large White** 2, **Green-veined White** 1, **Small Copper** 1, **Meadow Brown** 1) and macro-moths 5 (**Burnet Companion** 2, **Silver-ground Carpet** 2, **Latticed Heath** 1, **Cinnabar** 1, **Straw Dot** 1)."

**Becky Woodell was in Whitecross Green Wood this afternoon, 11th:** "At least 5 **Bläck Hairstreak** in youngish blackthorn. Very active. Three seen at once around a small oak surrounded by blackthorn."

**Dave Wilton sent this report today, 11th June:** "I managed to see two active **Bläck Hairstreaks** during some brief sunny interludes at *Finemere Wood, Bucks* at lunchtime today."

**Francis Gomme reported the following today:** "Walking around an overcast *Saunderton* and *Bledlow* in Bucks this morning the highlights were my first **Meadow Browns** of the year and an extremely fresh **Painted Lady** on a field path south of the Bledlow village. **Large Skippers**, **Small** and **Green-veined Whites** in local meadows."

**Paul Warham sent this news today:** "I've been away for the whole of May so am trying to catch up with a few spring butterflies. I found a couple of worn **Dukes of Burgundy** on *6th June* at *Ivinghoe Beacon*, before their flight period comes to an end."

**David Hastings sent the following report today:** "This is a bit late but I recorded two **Large Skippers** at *Farmoor Reservoir, Oxon*, on *June 6th*."

Thursday 10th June 2010

**Derek Haynes sent this report today:** "Not sure whether an influx of **Painted Ladies** is just about to start, but I saw a good specimen today (*10th June*) sunning itself on someone's driveway in urban *Totteridge (High Wycombe, Bucks)*. I can't see any other recent sightings on the Upper Thames webpage, so thought it was worth mentioning."

**Bob and Trish Tunnicliffe sent the following today, 10th June:** "We saw 1 male **Meadow Brown** (and 2 male **Large Skippers**) by the road between *Whaddon and Nash, Bucks* on *9th June*."

**Allen Beechey went to Yoesden Bank, Bucks on 9th June:** "I took a very quick tour around the main meadow site at lunchtime in warm, humid but cloudy conditions and saw the following: 30+ **Common Blue**, 1 female **Adonis Blue** (looking a bit worn but still with the black bands around the wing fringes) 4 **Meadow Brown** (all very fresh and unusually approachable!), 6 **Small Heath**, 1 **Large Skipper**, 2 **Speckled Wood** and 1 **Large White**."

**Dave Ferguson sent this report on 9th June:** "I saw a single male **Meadow Brown** this morning (*9th June*) near *Godington, Oxon*."

Tuesday 8th June 2010

**Prem Roy sent this news today, 8th June:** "I am just emailing some sightings from the northern end of Buckinghamshire. *Sunday 6th June*. A warm but cloudy day with some spells of hazy sunshine. We walked from Tilehouse Wood (between Stowe and Silverstone) past Home Wood, through Hatch Hill Wood, Lillingstone Dayrell to Wicken Wood. Generally along the way, good numbers of **Common Blue**, a few **Small coppers**, 8 **Brown Argus** including one female showing interest in Geranium on edge of wheat field. **Small Whites** and **Green-veined Whites** common as were male and female **Brimstone**. Old and faded **Small Tortoiseshells** and **Peacocks** were still fairly common. Several batches of **caterpillars of Small Tortoiseshell** were found. Good numbers of **Speckled Wood** and a few **Large Skippers**."

**Dave Turnbull reported the following on 7th June:** "With the **Small Blues** peaking around now, I asked a friend and experienced transect man, Brian Jessop, to check the colony in *Pitstone, Bucks* for me while I was away on holiday. His results were as follows: **Small Blue** 416, **Common Blue** 132, **Peacock** 1, **Brimstone** (f) 1, **Small Heath** 16, **Dingy Skipper** 1, **Large White** 1. His transect was on the *4th June* between 11.30 and 12.43, 100% sun with temp. between 22C and 24C and virtually no wind. He added that there were also hundreds in the field area which was not part of his walk. Now for the bad news. While on a visit to the area on Sunday a local man told me that two men had been seen collecting butterflies and placing them in a container. **If anyone sees similar activity then please take note of the car make and registration number and inform me.**"

**Phil Coles recorded the following on June 6th:** "Butterflies seen along the *River Thame valley near Chearsley Bucks*: **Small White** (*Pieris rapae*); 2, **Green-veined White** (*Pieris napi*); 2, **Orange-tip** (*Anthocharis cardamines*); 1, **Common Blue** (*Polyommatus icarus*); 6 and **Large Skipper** (*Ochlodes sylvanus*); 4."

**Richard Soulsby sent the following on 5th June:** "I had a brief sighting of a **Small Blue** in my garden in *Benson (Oxon)* yesterday *4th June*, a first ever for my garden. Last year, Tom Stevenson saw one on his allotment, a few hundred yards from my garden. We wonder where they're coming from – the nearest colony I am aware of is over 5km away."

**Tony Rayner sent this report on 5th June:** "The first **Large Skipper** of the year today, *June 5th*, in our *Cholsey* meadow in Oxon."

**David Redhead reported the following on 4th June:** "I managed my first **Large Skippers** today - 3 of them on the new *Chilswell Valley* transect in Oxon along with 33 **Common Blue**, 3 **Small Copper**, 2 **Brown Argus** and singletons of **Speckled Wood**, **Orange-tip** and **Large White**, also 4 **Common Heath** and a **Silver-Y**."

**Phil Coles sent this report on 4th June:** "The weather was so good today, *4th June*, that I took an hour or so out over lunch to complete my first **Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey** (<http://www.ukbms.org/wcbs.htm>) of the year. I am conducting the survey on the same 1km Grid Square (SP7402 - Emmington in Oxfordshire) I survey for the BTO Breeding Bird Survey and will attempt to do 6 WCBS visits between now and the end of August. Butterflies seen and then recorded on the WCBS website: **Large White** (*Pieris brassicae*), 4; **Small White** (*Pieris rapae*), 6; **Green-veined White** (*Pieris napi*), 5; **Orange-tip** (*Anthocharis cardamines*), 5; **Small Copper** (*Lycaena phlaeas*), 4; **Common Blue** (*Polyommatus icarus*), a mating pair; **Peacock** (*Inachis io*), 1 and **Speckled Wood** (*Pararge aegeria*), 3."

**John Hemmings reported the following on 4th June:** "I made a fleeting visit to *Flowers Bottom, Speen (Bucks)* this lunchtime (*4th June*) and recorded: **Large Skipper** (3), **Common Blue** (50+), **Orange-tip** (3), **Green-veined White** (1), **Burnet Companion moth**(10+) and evidence of a forthcoming army of Burnet moths!

*Also: Gomm Valley, Wycombe on 3rd June:* **Brimstone** (3), **Common Blue** (2), **Peacock** (1), **Green-veined White** (1) and **Burnet Companion** (10+)."

#### Thursday 3rd June 2010

**Dave Wilton reported the following on 2nd June:** "A visit to BBOWT's *Bernwood Meadows* reserve adjacent to Bernwood Forest, Bucks this afternoon produced my first **Large Skipper** of the year, so I take that as a sign that Summer has finally arrived! Apart from 50+ **Common Blues** there were few other butterflies to be seen, the tally being **Large White** (1), **Green-veined White** (2), **Orange-tip** (2) & **Small Copper** (1). However, the main reason for the visit was to search for day-flying moths and that mission was particularly successful. As well as numerous examples of **Opsibotys fuscalis**, **Grass Rivulet** and **Silver Y** which were disturbed with every few steps through the grass, five **Foresters** were seen. Bernwood Meadows is one of just a few known sites in our region for this metallic green relative of the burnet moths. It is now a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species and we would appreciate being informed about any sightings if you happen to encounter the moth while out looking for butterflies. A picture of one of today's sightings appears below."

**Dave Ferguson sent this report on 2nd June:** "A walk at *Bradenham* in Bucks this morning (*2nd June*) produced **Small Blue** (4), **Common Blue** (73), **Holly Blue** (1), **Green Hairstreak** (6), **Orange-tip** (2), **Green-veined White** (5), **Brimstone** (2), **Small Heath** (3), **Dingy Skipper** (1) and moths: **Burnet Companion** (8), **Mother Shipton** (3), **Cinnabar** (6), **Silver-Y** (1)."

**Mick & Wendy Campbell visited Yoesden Bank, Bucks on 2nd June:** "The weather was hot and sunny and there were plenty of butterflies about, **Common Blue** (100+) being the most numerous species. Also seen were **Brown Argus** (3), **Orange-tip** (2), **Peacock** (3), **Brimstone** (3), **Small Copper** (2), **Large Skipper** (2), **Dingy Skipper** (4), **Grizzled Skipper** (1), **Green Hairstreak** (1), **Large White** (1), **Small White** (3), **Small Blue** (1), **Small Heath** (15) and **Speckled Wood** (1). Moths were: **Burnet Companion** (15), **Silver-Y** (3) and **Mother Shipton** (1)."

**On Sunday 30th May Helen and Nigel Hyre went to the art exhibition at Pitstone, Bucks:** "While we were there, and despite a cool, gusty wind, we counted the following in the churchyard: 5 **Small Blue**, 7 **Common Blue**, 3 **Orange-tip**, 1 **Green-veined White**, 1 **Brimstone**, 1 **Brown Argus** and 1 **Burnet Companion moth** (*Euclidia Glyphica*)."

**Jim Asher sent this news on 31st May:** "I visited a site in *west Berkshire* on *30th May* and despite windy and mostly overcast conditions I saw one **Large Skipper**, my first for the year. Also several **Brown Argus**, **Dingy Skipper**, **Small Heath**, two **Small Copper** and one **Brimstone**. Hard work in the wind!"

**Gerry Kendall writes that the weather was not ideal for the Field Trip at Aston Upthorpe downs on 30th May:** "Nevertheless, the party saw the three main Spring Specialities: **Dingy Skipper**, **Grizzled Skipper** and **Green Hairstreak**. Other butterflies were **Brimstone**, **Orange-tip**, **Small Copper**, **Small Blue**, **Brown Argus**, **Common Blue**, **Red Admiral**, **Peacock**, **Speckled Wood** and **Small Heath**. Last year we found a remarkable hot spot for Small Blues on the Fairmile. This year, or at least on this particular day, numbers were down but everybody saw at least a couple."

**Phil Coles reported the following on 30th May:** "Butterfly sightings *May 28th 2010* - River Thames & its valley at *Starveall Farm, Buckinghamshire* **Orange-tip** (*Anthocharis cardamines*); 7, **Green-veined White** (*Pieris napi*); 2, Whites (*Pieris* sp.); 3 and **Peacock** (*Inachis io*); 1."

### Sunday 30th May 2010

**Dave Wilton sent this report on 28th May:** "A visit this afternoon to the area around *Greatmoor, Bucks*, adjacent to the southern end of the Calvert land-fill site, produced **Dingy Skipper** (49), **Grizzled Skipper** (12), **Brimstone** (2), **Small White** (4), **Green-veined White** (2), **Orange-tip** (1), **Green Hairstreak** (6), **Small Copper** (1), **Common Blue** (335), **Brown Argus** (2), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1), **Peacock** (3), **Speckled Wood** (1) & **Small Heath** (16). Day-flying moths included **Pyrausta purpuralis** (4), **Five-spot Burnet** (1), **Cinnabar** (1), **Burnet Companion** (24), **Mother Shipton** (2) & **Silver Y** (1). The small Green Hairstreak colony here is another that normally produces one sighting at best, so to see six was very pleasing indeed. The species seems to be doing rather well this year."

### Wednesday 27th May 2010

**Tony & Ro Rayner reported the following:** "You have had several reports of **Dingy Skipper** from known sites. Today, *27th May*, we had one in our *Cholsey, Oxon* meadow for the second successive year."

**Ian Gamble sent the following report on 24th May:** "I visited *Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks* and recorded **Dingy Skipper** 12+, **Grizzled Skipper** 2, **Green Hairstreak** 6, **Common Blue** 20+, **Brown Argus** 12, **Duke of Burgundy** 15, **Orange-tip** 2, **Brimstone** 6, **Small Heath** 20+. Several day-flying moths were also recorded, **Burnet Companion** 3, **Cinnabar** 6 and the local **Small Purple-barred** 2. At the Small Blue site at *Pitstone, Bucks*, there were in excess of 100 **Small Blues** flying, also **Common Blue** 20+, **Small Copper** 1, **Green Hairstreak** 1, **Dingy Skipper** 12, **Small Heath** 12 and a single **Brimstone**. Day-flying moths included 20 **Cinnabar** and a single **Burnet Companion**."

**This news came from Don Otter on 24th May:** "On Wednesday *19th May* I saw 4 **Small Blue** at *Church End, Pitstone* in Bucks."

**Nick Board sent this report on 20th May:** "I visited *Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks* on 19th May and whilst watching the **Dukes of Burgundy** saw this one. Sorry about the poor quality ... any idea what it is? I didn't think there were aberrations of the Duke, it was a fairly new specimen, not worn."

**Dennis Dell visited 7 Barrows on 24th May:** "I saw 10 **Marsh Fritillaries** in fine weather on 24th May."

**Malcolm Brownsword went to 7 Barrows on 24th May:** "I was pleasantly surprised to see at least 15 **Marsh Fritillaries**, at least 15 **Small Heaths**, 10 **Brown Argus**, 8 **Common Blues**, two **Small Blues**, 9 **Dingy Skippers**, one **Orange-tip** and one **Brimstone**. Another visitor said he had seen **Grizzled Skipper** also."

**Tony Rayner visited 7 Barrows on 24th May:** "There were plenty of **Marsh Fritillaries** plus **Dingy Skippers**, **Grizzled Skippers**, **Common Blues**, **Brown Argus** and **Small Heath**."

**Jim Asher visited 7 Barrows on 23rd May:** "I'm happy to say that I saw 12 **Marsh Fritillaries** (all males) in a very active state (not surprising given the heat), along with lots of **Dingy Skippers**, no **Grizzled Skippers**, many **Brown Argus**, two **Small Copper**, a few **Common Blue**, one **Peacock** and a few **Small Heath**."

**David & Wendy Redhead sent this report:** "We stopped off for about 15 minutes at *Seven Barrows* at about 2pm today, 21st May. We saw at least 4 **Marsh Fritillaries**, several **Dingy Skippers**, only one **Grizzled Skipper**, some **Small Heath** and quite a few **Common Blue** and some **Brown Argus**."

**Don Otter reported the following:** "On Friday 21st May I had 3 or 4 **Marsh Fritillaries** at *Seven Barrows*. Also **Common Blue**, **Dingy Skipper**, **Small Heath** and **Small Copper**."

**Peter Cuss sent the following report:** "I spent a couple of hours at *Seven Barrows* reserve on 21st May and can report **Marsh Fritillary** (6), **Dingy Skipper**, **Brimstone**, **Small Heath**, **Orange-tip**, **Common Blue** and **Brown Argus**."

**Derek Brown visited Seven Barrows on 19th May:** "I saw a single male **Marsh Fritillary** today, 19th May."

### Sunday 23rd May 2010

**Dave Wilton visited the site of his local Dingy Skipper colony in Westcott, Bucks this afternoon, Sunday 23rd May:** "I was pleased to find 26 **Dingy Skippers** present, including a mated pair even though they are probably past their peak now. Also seen were **Grizzled Skipper** (15), **Brimstone** (1), **Large White** (1), **Small White** (1), **Green-veined White** (3), **Orange-tip** (3), **Green Hairstreak** (3, including a female egg-laying on bird's-foot trefoil), **Small Copper** (1), **Brown Argus** (2), **Common Blue** (219, including four mated pairs), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1), **Peacock** (1), **Speckled Wood** (4) & **Small Heath** (9). There is only a very small **Green Hairstreak** colony here and three is the most I've ever seen at one time. At the opposite end of the spectrum, the **Common Blue** colony seems to have bounced back very well to its normal size after several years in the doldrums. 219 was a conservative count!"

**Phil Coles sent these butterfly sightings for Bucks:** "May 21st - *Swains Wood (BBOWT Permit Only Reserve)*: I saw the following on the grassland bank - **Orange-tip** (*Anthocharis cardamines*), 2; **Common Blue** (*Polyommatus icarus*), at least 30 individuals and a mating pair; **Dingy Skipper** (*Erynnis tages*), at least 10 individuals; **Green Hairstreak** (*Callophrys rubi*), 5; **Small Heath** (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), 5 and **Peacock** (*Inachis io*), 2. May 23rd -

*Rushbeds Wood & Lapland Farm*: **Orange-tip** (*Anthocharis cardamines*), 12; **Green-veined White** (*Pieris napi*), 2; **Common Blue** (*Polyommatus icarus*), 7; **Dingy Skipper** (*Erynnis tages*), 1; **Small Heath** (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), 3; **Speckled Wood** (*Pararge aegeria*), 4; **Large White** (*Pieris brassicae*), 2 and **Small Copper** (*Lycaena phlaeas*), 2."

*Mike Wilkins walked the Lardon Chase transect in Berks on 23rd May*: "Common Blues were everywhere, right from the start of section 1. I counted 67 on transect. Otherwise, only one **Small Blue** (plus 1 off transect & I met someone who had seen 4) and one **Brimstone**. Then, at the very end of S6 were a **Small Heath** and **Dingy Skipper** together on the track."

*Karen Saxl sent the following report on 22nd May*: "I saw my first ever **Green Hairstreak** today while walking along the old *Didcot-Newbury railway line*, now sustrans route, just south of the Hagbourne cemetery in Oxon. I have lived in the area all my life and frequently walked along that stretch of the old railway line over the last 40 years but I have never seen this species in the area before."

*Ben Carpenter sent this report on 21st May*: "I took a trip to *the Holies* in Berks today and encountered the following species; **Adonis Blue**, **Common Blue**, **Brimstone**, **Dingy Skipper**, **Grizzled Skipper**, **Orange-tip** and **Small Heath**. I have attached a couple of photos."

*David Gantzel wrote the following on 21st May*: "I thoroughly enjoyed the Ivinghoe Beacon walk, so on *Thursday May 20th* I returned to photograph the **Duke of Burgundy**. I counted over 20 **Dingy Skippers** during a relatively short time there. Also 3 **Green Hairstreak**, plus 1 **Small Copper**, **Small Heath**, 2 **Brimstone**, **Holly Blue** and **Orange-tips**. Also Orange-tips in the garden at *Hazlemere, Bucks*."

*Dennis Dell sent this news on 21st May*: "At *Steps Hill*, below Ivinghoe Beacon in Bucks this afternoon, 21st May it was a sunny 23 to 24 degrees and I recorded: **Small Heath** [9], **Brimstone** [6], **Green-veined White** [3], **Orange-tip** [9], **Dingy Skipper** [4], **Duke of Burgundy** (10 - equal mixture of fresh and worn), **Common Blue** [9], **Brown Argus** [3], **Green Hairstreak** [2], **Peacock** [2], **Speckled Wood** [3]. On the way back, I stopped at the **Small Blue** site in *Pitstone* where I saw about 6."

*Jason Ball sent this report on 21st May*: "Yesterday (*20th May*) at *Sheepdrove* in Berks I saw my first **Common Blue** (1) and **Cinnabar moth**(1) of the season at SU358819. Then at SU362820 I saw 2 **Small Copper**, 2 **Brimstone** (male) and 1 **Peacock**. On *21st May* another **Small Copper** and 1 **Common Blue** (male) at SU362820."

*Dave Ferguson reported the following on 20th May*: "This afternoon on *Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks* I saw 10 **Dukes of Burgundy**, 15 **Dingy Skippers**, 10 **Small Heaths**, 2 **Green Hairstreaks** and a **Common Blue**."

### Wednesday 19th May 2010

*Peter Cuss sent this report today, 19th May*: "I enjoyed a walk at *Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon* yesterday (*18/5*). This is a really lovely site. I managed to see **Green Hairstreak**, **Brown Argus**, **Common Blue**, **Grizzled Skipper**, **Dingy Skipper**, **Comma**, **Peacock**, **Orange-tip**, **Large White**, **Small White**, **Brimstone** also lots of **Cinnabar moths** and a **Mother Shipton**."

*Helen Hyre sent the following on 18th May*: "I was at *Pitstone churchyard* in Bucks at 4pm this afternoon, *18th*, and saw a **Small Blue**. It was flying low around churchyard flowers, but didn't settle anywhere for long. It was "buzzed" by a bumblebee and disappeared."

**Graham Elcombe visited the College Lake Nature Reserve in Bucks:** "One female **Small Blue** this morning, *18th May*."

**Tony & Ro Rayner wrote the following on 18th May:** "Yesterday, *May 17th*, we had our first **Brown Argus** of the year in our *Cholsey (Oxon)* meadow, plus at least 20 **Small Coppers**. Day flying moths included **Burnet Companions** and **Small Yellow Underwings**. In our adjoining garden there was another male **Common Blue**."

**Don Otter went to Steps Hill in Bucks on Monday 17th May:** "I saw at least 8 **Grizzled Skippers** along with a few **Dingy Skippers**, **Brown Argus**, **Small Heath** and one **Green Hairstreak**."

**Robert Lewis sent this report on 17th May:** "At the disused railway *near Winslow, Bucks* on *17th May* I recorded a **Wood White** (single male), **Common Blue**, Orange-tip (2, male), **Peacock** (3), **Small Copper** and **Green-veined White**."

**Dave Turnbull reported as follows on 17th May:** "I went to *Pitstone, Bucks* between 5 & 6pm on *Saturday 15th* to see if the Small Blues had hatched but drew a blank but saw 10+ **Dingy Skippers** and 3 **Small Heaths**. Today (*17th*) I went to Bison (Beds) where I met a Mike Campbell from Cheddington. In conversation he mentioned that he had seen **Small Blue** at Pitstone - yes, on Saturday 15th! As it clouded over at Bison I went home via Pitstone and even though it was spitting with rain and the clouds were dark I managed in 15 minutes to find two."

**Dave Wilton sent the following report on 17th May:** "A pit-stop at *Pitstone, Bucks* this morning produced **Dingy Skipper** (11), **Small Blue** (2), **Common Blue** (1) and **Small Heath** (1), as well as **Cinnabar moths** (2) and a **Burnet caterpillar** looking for somewhere to pupate (see picture - a case of "Oi, I was here first!"). Unfortunately the weather deteriorated by the time I got to nearby *Ivinghoe Beacon* but one **Duke of Burgundy** was still willing to pose for the camera."

**Steve Croxford had a productive walk along the disused railway line near Westcott, Bucks on 17th May:** "At about 11am the cutting was buzzing with skippers including 40+ **Grizzled Skippers** and 20+ **Dingy Skippers**. I also saw 8 **Common Blue**, 2 **Small Heath**, 1 **Brown Argus**, 1 **Small Copper** and 2 **Orange-tips**."

**Paul Bowyer sent this report on 17th May:** "*Saturday 15th May*: After the Ivinghoe field trip, two of us went to *Pitstone* in Bucks and recorded **Small Blue**(2), **Brimstone**(2), **Dingy Skipper**(20+) **Grizzled Skipper**(1) and **Cinnabar moth**. *Sunday 16th May*: In *Mundaydean, Bucks*, my first **Common Blue** of the year with a **Burnet Companion**."

**Jan Haseler reported the following on 16th May:** "Seen at *Lardon Chase, Berks* on 15/5: **Small Blue**."

### Saturday 15th May 2010

**Nick Bowles sent the following:** "Seen today *15th May*, in Bucks, **Dingy Skipper** x2 at *Aston Clinton Ragpits* and **Dingy Skipper** x4; **Grizzled Skipper** x2; **Green Hairstreak** x2; **Small Coppers** x5 & **Small Heath** x2 at *Coombe Hill*."

**Robin Carr reports on the Duke of Burgundy walk at Ivinghoe Beacon on Saturday morning, 15th:** "There were 16 of us on the walk with sunny spells this morning. We saw about 20 **Duke of Burgundy** around the Beacon area. Other butterflies seen were **Small Copper** 1, **Peacock** 2, **Speckled Wood** 3, **Holly Blue** 2, **Orange-tips** 4, **Grizzled Skippers** 2, **Brimstone** 5, **Small White** 1, **Green Hairstreak** 3, **Small Heath** 3 and **Dingy Skipper**

14."

**Tony Rayner reported the following today:** "There were three **Small Heaths** at the *Hartslock reserve, Oxon* on *10th May* and a single male **Common Blue** in our *Cholsey meadow* in Oxon at 11.30 today *15th May*."

**Thursday 13th May 2010**

**Chris and Pat Dennis sent this report today, 13th:** "Here are a couple of pictures taken today *13-5-2010* at the BBOWT reserve *Dancersend* in Bucks. We only saw two today, the first **Dukes of Burgundy** we have seen this year. Weather quite warm but mostly cloudy with a few short sunny spells."

**Dave Wilton reported the following on 13th May:** "While carrying out a transect near *Grendon Underwood, Bucks* late this morning I saw **Small Copper** and **Small Heath** (both new to me for the year) in addition to the usual suspects."

**Saturday 8th May 2010**

**David Redhead reported on his recent transect results today:** "Realising that opportunities later in the week for doing the *Swyncombe (Oxfordshire)* transect were not good owing to the forecast weather and other commitments I began to fret yesterday lunchtime (*7th May*) as the temperature neared 13C and the sun made fitful appearances. Come 2pm I decided to make a desperate attempt as my garden thermometer said the promised 13C had just arrived. The sun shone most of the way there and by halfway round the transect I had just achieved 60% sunshine - thereafter the sun refused to be present, hiding just behind some thickish mottled cloud with several patches of blue sky around but annoyingly none in the right place (of course on the way home the sun reappeared!). However, I did manage to see my first **Small Coppers** of the year and my first **Cinnabar moth** of the year. From their appearance all the Small Coppers had just emerged."

**Dave Wilton sent the following report on 7th May:** "With a temperature of 11C and a bitter north-easterly breeze, I thought that a visit to the site of my local skipper colonies in *Westcott, Bucks* at lunchtime today was probably going to be a wild goose chase. However, I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of activity there, most of which took place during the very occasional sunny interludes. I managed to record the following over 90 minutes: **Grizzled Skipper** (35), **Dingy Skipper** (6), **Green-veined White** (1), **Orange-tip** (2), **Brown Argus** (1, looking freshly emerged) & **Speckled Wood** (1), along with day-flying moths **Grapholita jungiella** (2), **Pyrausta purpuralis** (5) & **Burnet Companion** (1)."

**Phil Coles visited Asham Meads (Murcott Meadows SSSI) in Oxon on May 6th:** "I saw 4 **Orange-tip** (*Anthocharis cardamines*) and 1 **Small White** (*Pieris rapae*)."

**Monday 3rd May 2010**

**The following news came from Ched George:** "Duke of Burgundy was seen at 11am on *May 1st* at a site *near Lodge Hill, Bucks*."

**Saturday 1st May 2010**

**Tony Rayner reported the following today:** "I thought you might be interested to know that we had **Small Coppers** all over our *Cholsey (Oxon)* meadow today, *1st May*. I counted 16 all evenly spread out on the ground and there were undoubtedly others not seen."

*Dave Turnbull visited Ivinghoe Beacon today:* "I saw several **Duke of Burgundy** at *Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks* today, *Saturday 1st May.*"

**Friday 30th April 2010**

*Pete Eeles sent this report today:* "I had an hour or so this morning to get out - and returned to *Midgham Lakes* in West Berks. Although the weather was turning, I decided to venture out anyway. As it happened, there were prolonged periods of sun! I managed to get my first sightings of both **Speckled Wood** (12 seen) and **Holly Blue** (1 male seen) for the year. One Speckled Wood, in particular, was extremely territorial, launching itself from its perch at every passing insect before returning back to its "patch"; the intersection of two paths and in full sun. The handful of **Green-veined Whites** seen were all male and one was extremely small and clearly the result of an under-developed larva. But the highlight was seeing a ridiculous number of **Orange-tip**. I saw over 30 males, along with 4 females, confirming this particular site as a real hotspot for this species. At one point I just waited next to the nearest Garlic Mustard plant and waited for them to come to me! I also managed to find quite a few **Orange-tip eggs** and one particular patch of foodplant had an egg on just about every flowerhead. On occasion, I found 2 eggs on the same flowerhead, so removed one to breed through at home (and release next year), given that the larvae are cannibalistic. Some patches of foodplant also had a large number of eggs laid on the leaves just below the flowerhead, presumably because the seed pods weren't developed enough for the female to lay there."

*Phil Barnett reported the following today:* "One **Painted Lady** on the bridleway between *Toot Baldon and Marsh Baldon (Oxon)* yesterday, *29th April.*"

**Tuesday 27th April 2010**

*Allen Beechey says he popped up to Yoesden Bank in Bucks at lunchtime today, 27th April and had a scout around for spring butterflies:* "I saw 1 **Orange-tip**, 12 **Brimstone**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 1 **Green-Veined White**, 8 **Dingy Skipper** and 3 **Green Hairstreak** including two jousting for perching rights on a hawthorn bush. I was a little disappointed not to see **Grizzled Skipper**, but time (or lack of it) prevented me from doing a thorough search of the bank. Maybe next time!"

*Phil Coles spent an interesting 2 hours in the field on 26th April on the Thame Valley Walk just south of Shabbington, Bucks:* "The path hugs the River Thame throughout the section I walked. Unfortunately, it was a poor day for obtaining confirmed IDs! The butterflies were mostly on the move and I am not that good at obtaining an ID in these situations. Unidentified whites (Pieridae) - 15, Unidentified Nymphalidae - 5. However, the following insects were confirmed: **Small Tortoiseshell** (*Aglais urticae*) - 7, **Orange-tip** (*Anthocharis cardamines*) - 1 and **Peacock** (*Inachis io*) - 1."

*Trevor Sawyer was travelling from Cambridge to Hampshire on Saturday 24th April:* "I stopped off at *Aston Upthorpe Downs* in Oxfordshire hoping to see **Grizzled Skippers**. After much searching, I finally found three (all near the Northern end at the bottom of the slope). Also found 1 **Small Copper**, numbers of **Peacocks** a couple of **Small Tortoiseshells** (and 1 **Burnet Companion** moth and a few **Pyrausta nigrata** moths). **Orange-tips** in the wooded section near the grainstore carpark."

*Dennis Dell visited Beacon Hill, Steps Hill, Incombe Hole and Pitstone Hill on 23rd April:* "It was 15 to 17 degrees, 100% sun, light southerly breeze and I saw **Brimstone** [13], **Peacock** [14], **Speckled Wood** [1], **Small White** [4], **Green Hairstreak** [5], **Grizzled Skipper** [3], **Comma** [2], **Orange-tip** [2]. Two years ago, Dave Wilton and I counted 36 **Green Hairstreaks** on Pitstone Hill on 7th May, so perhaps they haven't yet reached their

peak. The bottom of Incombe Hole is a nice sheltered spot; this is where the Grizzled Skippers were seen and 4 of the Green Hairstreaks. In high summer, Dark Green Fritillaries may be found here too."

**Derek Haynes sent this report on 24th April:** "A friend and I spent 3 hours (starting at around 12.30pm) on a figure-of-8 walk around *Ivinghoe Beacon (Bucks)* today, *Saturday 24th April*. The weather was sunny and quite warm in the sheltered parts, with just some high cloud, and we recorded 8 species: 1 **Grizzled Skipper**, at least 16 **Brimstone** (at least three quarters male), 1 male **Large White**, 1 **Green-veined White**, at least 7 **Orange-tip** (all male), 2 **Green Hairstreak**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell** and at least 7 **Peacock**. All in all a very worthwhile visit."

**Mike Flemming reported the following on 24th April:** "I had another good day at *Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon* today (*Saturday 24th*). Species included **Brimstone**, **Orange-tip** (both of these very active in their seemingly endless patrols seeking mates), **Green-veined White**, **Small White**, **Comma**, **Peacock** and **Speckled Wood**. I've attached a couple of photos, showing how well the Comma underside matches the dead leaf on which it is standing, and a pair of Brimstones 'in chase'."

**Helen Hyre sent this news on 24th April:** "I saw my first female **Brimstone** on *18th April*. For a short time it appeared to bask horizontally on a tulip leaf. I wondered if it had died, but then it flew away!"

#### Friday 23rd April 2010

**Phil Coles sent the following report on Friday 23rd:** "Site: *Lea Park, Thame, Oxon* - There was 1 **Holly Blue** (*Celastrina argiolus*) in the back garden of our house this afternoon; my first for 2010!"

**Pete Eeles sent this report today, 23rd:** "I spent a couple of hours relaxing at the *Hartslock reserve* near Goring, Oxon today, a site known for its orchids. The mild breeze meant that most butterflies were found in sheltered areas, but I managed to notch up 2 **Green Hairstreak**, 12 **Grizzled Skipper**, 6 **Dingy Skipper** (my first of the year), 2 **Peacock** (both very worn), a single **Small Tortoiseshell** that had set up its territory in a section of the main path, 7 **Orange-tip** (all male), 5 **Brimstone** (2 male, 3 female), a **Green-veined White** and, most surprising of all, a single **Painted Lady!** All in all, a worthwhile trip for sure!"

**Paul Warham reported the following:** "Butterflies I saw flying at *Sands Bank LNR, Bucks* today *23rd April* were **Grizzled Skipper**(2), **Dingy Skipper**(3), **Green Hairstreak**(2), along with several **Orange-tip**, **Peacock** and **Brimstone**."

**Tony Speight sent this sighting today:** "Today, *23rd April*, while replacing some of my transect marker posts that somebody had decided to pull out or break I saw one **Dingy Skipper**, 3 **Green Hairstreak**, 2 **Peacock** and a **Small White** at *Sands Bank LNR, High Wycombe, Bucks*."

**Trevor Coe sent the following report on 23rd April:** "Wendy Wilson suggested that I forward this photo of a pair of **Orange-tips** to you. It was taken on *21st April* in *Cliveden Wood* (near the Woodland Car Park) to the south of Cliveden House, Bucks."

#### Thursday 22nd April 2010

**Phil Coles sent this news on 22nd April:** "Site: around *Emmington in Oxfordshire* (SP7402 & SP7403) on *April 22nd* - butterflies seen were **Brimstone**, 1; **Small Tortoiseshell**, 11; **Peacock**, 16; **Orange-tip**, 4 and **Small White**, 1."

**Alan Gudge sent this report on 21st April:** "Juliet and I visited *Lodge Hill, Bucks* this afternoon (21/4/10) and saw our first **Small Copper** of the year. We also saw **Peacocks** and a male **Brimstone** but the cold wind was not too butterfly-friendly. Yesterday (20th) we saw our first **Speckled Wood** of the year in *Hill's Wood, Frieth, Bucks.*"

**David Redhead reported the following recent butterfly sightings:** "On *Thursday 15th April* Wendy photographed a pair of **Small Whites** mating in her vegetable garden (*Littlemore, Oxon*). On *Saturday 17th* we walked the new *Chilswell Valley (Oxon)* transect when just over half the butterflies counted were **Small Tortoiseshells** with 12 being seen altogether, 9 of them were in one section - a 450 metre long arable field margin rich in nettles. On *Monday 19th* I found my first **Orange-tip egg** of the year on a garlic mustard plant whose presence is tolerated in the aforementioned vegetable garden - this is the third year in a row I have found an egg before knowingly seeing a female. A few minutes later my first **Holly Blue** of the year flew past me and half an hour later I saw my first **Green-veined White** of the year on the grassland near my house, making my 2010 species count to date equal to 10. A dog walk today, *20th April*, to *Kennington Meadows* alongside the River Thames produced my second Orange-tip egg of the year, this time laid on Cuckoo Flower. This evening I found my first **hatched Brown Hairstreak egg** at *Slade Camp, Shotover* but it was not the first of the eggs being monitored this year to have hatched as Shelagh Harlow, Wendy Wilson and Stuart Jenkins have already found hatched eggs at the Otmoor RSPB Reserve & Bullingdon Prison. In the eight years we have been monitoring hatching this is the second latest year hatching has commenced - in 2006 we had to wait until 24th April."

**David Roy reported the following:** "I was surprised to see a **Painted Lady** on *Lardon Chase* today, *18th April* - near Streatley, Berkshire."

### Tuesday 20th April 2010

**Ched George sent this update today:** "*Yoesden Bank (Bucks)* on *Sunday 18th April* produced 2 male **Green Hairstreak**. Sue and I also had a **Peacock**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, male **Orange-tip** and a male and female **Brimstone**."

**Dave Ferguson sent the following today:** "An **Orange-tip** resting on an honesty in our garden in *Beaconsfield, Bucks* yesterday (*19th*) evening was a surprise - photo below."

**Tony Speight sent this news today:** "I thought that you may like to know that I have seen my first **Green Hairstreak** of the season this morning, *20th April*, on *Sands Bank LNR, High Wycombe, Bucks*. The only other species seen were **Peacock** (3) and an **Orange-tip**."

**Tony & Ro Rayner reported this sighting today:** "Our first **Small Copper** of the year in our *Cholsey (Oxon)* garden today, *20th April*."

**David Gantzel sent this report:** *Saturday April 17th, Bletchley Park, Bucks* - Singles **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock**, **Brimstone**.

*Sunday April 18th, Hazlemere, Bucks* - Ladies Mile walk (Grange farm/ Terriers farm) produced several **Peacocks**, one **Large White**, one **Brimstone**, one **Small Tortoiseshell**."

**Andrew Bolton reported as follows on 19th April:** "I'm delighted to report excellent numbers of Small Tortoiseshells, more than 've seen together for some years, at the following location: SU 362822 *Nutwood Down*, (just over Oxfordshire border) Sheepdrove Organic Farm, nr. Lambourn, Berks. **Small Tortoiseshell** 17, today *19/04/10*. Threes and fours all actively flying and sparring over two patches of nettles - the recovery appears to be continuing."

**Mary Payne sent these sightings for her garden in Stoke Mandeville, Bucks:** "On *18th*

*April* we had **Peacock**, **Holly Blue**, **Brimstone**, **Small White**, **Orange-tip** and **Small Tortoiseshell** in our garden."

*Paul Bowyer reported the following: "Sunday 18th April at Sands Bank, High Wycombe (Bucks). Species seen Peacock 3, Brimstone 5, Orange-tip 2, Small Tortoiseshell 3, Comma 3, Green Hairstreak 2, Grizzled Skipper 1. Grizzled Skipper was a new species for this site for me. I recorded it in the late 80s but was persuaded it wasn't correct."*

*This update came from Francis Gomme on 18th April: "We had our first **Green Hairstreak** at Grangelands, Bucks on Saturday 17th April. The glacial folds that run down from Pulpit Hill to the Cadsden valley create great hotspots that have been sheltered this spring from the untypical northerly winds! What great weather, let's hope it continues well into next week. I see that Dukes have already been seen in Hampshire so will be checking locally if the warm spell continues!"*

### **Saturday 17th April 2010**

*Dave Wilton's transect at Finemere Wood, Bucks followed by visits to a couple of other nearby sites, all in today's (17th) glorious sunshine, produced double-digit counts of **Brimstone**, **Small Tortoiseshell** & **Peacock**. "Other species seen were **Green-veined White**, **Orange-tip**, **Comma** and my first **Speckled Wood** of the year."*

*Dave Maunder saw a nice selection of eight butterfly species on an afternoon cycle ride around Fairford Leys, Aylesbury, this afternoon, 17th: "It included:- **Peacocks** (15); **Commas** (2); **Small Tortoiseshells** (25); **Brimstones** (11); **Orange-tips** (2); **Green-veined Whites** (6); **Small Whites** (4), and **Large Whites** (2). It seems the Small Tortoiseshell is still around in good numbers on the local Nettle-beds, which is good to see!"*

*Richard Soulsby says that today's (17th) wonderful weather livened up the butterfly count in his garden in Benson (Oxon): "I had one each of **Speckled Wood**, **Holly Blue**, female **Orange-tip**, male **Small White** and **Brimstone**, plus two **Peacocks**. In other parts of Benson village I saw two more **Peacocks** and a **Small Tortoiseshell** and in neighbouring Ewelme, a further two **Small Tortoiseshells**."*

*Mick & Wendy Campbell visited BBOWT's Ardley Quarry in Oxon today, 17th April: "It was warm and sunny, 18C. We recorded 6 butterfly species there - **Brimstone** (5), **Small Tortoiseshell** (7 - several of them looking to lay eggs on a large patch of young nettles), **Peacock** (9), **Orange-tip** (4), **Comma** (1) and finally, our target for the day, a **Grizzled Skipper**. Back at home in our Bucks garden, our first **Holly Blue** of the year."*

*Tony Croft sent this report today, 17th April: "I've just completed the **Rushbeds Wood (Bucks)** transect for this week and saw 22 **Peacocks**; 6 **Brimstones**; 4 **Commas**; 4 **Orange-tips**, both male and female; 2 **Small Tortoiseshells**; 1 **Small White** and 1 **Grizzled Skipper**. The **Grizzled Skipper** was in the Tramway meadow which is a place I have not seen them before."*

*Francis Gomme reported the following today: "Seen at Grangelands in Bucks on 16th April - **Comma**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock**, **Brimstone**, **Orange-tip**, **Speckled Wood**, **Green-veined White** and **Grizzled Skipper** (8)."*

**Friday 16th April 2010**

**Dennis Dell sent this report today:** "*Aylesbury Park Golf course* in Bucks today, *16th*. About 15 degrees, sunny. **Small Tortoiseshell** [10], **Peacock** [3], **Brimstone** [1], **Orange-tip** [1]. Looking at the sightings on this page, it looks as if the Small Tortoiseshell might be making a comeback."

**Derek Brown reported the following on 15th April:** "We had our first **Holly Blue** (male) in the garden at *Beenham, Berks* today (*15th April*), taking the garden list for the year up to 7 species. Hopefully the population is bouncing back - we only had a single garden sighting for the whole of last year."

**Wednesday 14th April 2010**

**Paul Warham saw these butterflies at Little Marlow GP in Bucks on 13th April:** **Comma**(1), **Brimstone**(2), **Peacock**(6) & **Small Tortoiseshell**(2).

**Dave Ferguson sent this news on 13th April:** "While bird atlasing near *Hollington, Bucks* today (*13th April*) I encountered 1 **Holly Blue** and 3 **Small Tortoiseshells** in an area sheltered from the wind."

**On 13th April Pete Eeles reported the following:** "At last! A proper trip out. Despite the cool breeze, I thought I'd take the dogs out to a local site today, *13th April*, not expecting very much at all. However, the sheltered conditions around *Midgham Lakes, West Berks* (SU561658) provided spots that were noticeably warmer than their surroundings. The result - 11 **Orange-tip** (10 male, 1 female), 2 **Green-veined White**, 1 **Small White**, 1 ovipositing **Brimstone**, 11 **Peacock** (most feeding on willow flowers), 2 **Comma** and 1 **Red Admiral**. Spring has sprung!"

**Ched George reported these sightings on 11th April:** "On *11th April* Sue and I tried walk number 6 from the "10 walks around the 5 ends" published by the Lane End Youth and Community Centre. At *Moorend Common (Bucks)* we recorded 3 **Peacocks** and a female **Brimstone** and just north of Moor Common 6 **Small Tortoiseshells**."

**David Gantzel says that spring has come a bit late in Hazlemere, Bucks:** "*Saturday April 10th* one male **Brimstone**, one **Peacock**, one **Small Tortoiseshell** in garden. A male **Brimstone** at *Widmer End Tuesday April 6th* and *Banbury (Oxon)* railway station *Thursday April 8th*."

**David Redhead sent this report on 11th April:** "Late yesterday afternoon, *10th April*, having fitted a new dog guard in the car for the new dog, Wendy & I decided to give it a trial run. We arrived at the setaside field south of Westhill Farm at *Shotover, Oxon* at a quarter to five and walked up its eastern edge which was benefitting from the remnants of the late afternoon sun. By the time we reached the top of the field, 500 metres later, our butterfly count was an amazing 23 of which 16 were **Small Tortoiseshells** and 7 were **Peacocks**. Nearly half of the Small Tortoiseshells were courting pairs except for one which was being courted by a Peacock. We then walked round the meadow to the north, which is superior to the setaside field both in its floral diversity and the quality of its field margins, and recorded just 10 butterflies - 7 **Peacocks**, 2 **Commas** and a **Small Tortoiseshell**. At midday in full sun I was at *Swyncombe Downs, Oxon*, (SSSI) where I struggled to see 5 butterflies - 2 **Brimstones**, 2 **Peacocks** and a **Comma**."

**Judith Barnard reported the following on 11th April:**

"Thursday April 8th - Willen, Milton Keynes (SP882414) - 3 **Peacocks** and 1 **Brimstone**.  
Saturday 10th April - North Crawley (Bucks) garden (SP899435) - 1 **Holly Blue** on a laurel bush."

**Jez Elkin sent the following sightings on 10th April:** "Butterfly records for *Maid's Moreton, Bucks*: **Brimstone** -male, **Comma** x2, **Orange-tip** – male and **Peacock** x3."

### Saturday 10th April 2010

**Tony Rayner sent this email yesterday:** "Another first for our *Cholsey, Oxon* garden this year. One **Small White** on 8th April and another today (9th)."

**Dave Wilton sent the following report on 9th April:** "While doing a transect in a private wood near *Grendon Underwood, Bucks* at lunchtime today, 9th April, I saw my first **Green-veined White** of the year. The only other butterfly species recorded there were **Brimstone**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock** and **Comma**."

**John Parsons reported the following on 9th April:** "First **Orange-tip** of the year for me 09/04/10, west of *Newbury, Berks* on the canal path."

### Thursday 8th April 2010

**David Redhead sent this news from Littlemore, Oxon:** "By 12.30pm today, 8th April, six species of butterfly had visited our garden - **Brimstone**, **Comma**, **Peacock**, a male **Orange-tip**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Small White**. The blossom on our cherry plum tree was proving a real magnet and at one time there were four Peacocks, a Comma and a Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on it. In the afternoon a two mile walk to Iffley Church added a **Speckled Wood**, in *Rivermead Nature Park*, to our species list for the day and the year. Two of the fourteen Peacocks seen during the day were behaving bizzarely. One was relentlessly paying court to a Small Tortoiseshell and the other was pursuing a bumblebee around *Iffley Churchyard*. Back home two whites were chasing each other round the vegetable garden, one noticeably larger than the other. Definite identification needed a net and I amazed myself by catching both simultaneously - one turned out to be a pristine male Small White and the other a pristine female **Large White**. A total of 29 butterflies from 8 species was extremely pleasing especially as the second most numerous was the Small Tortoiseshell with six being seen."

**Graham Elcombe was in Homefield Wood (near Medenham, Bucks) on Thursday morning, 8th April:** "There were two male **Orange-tips** plus numerous **Brimstones** of both sexes and two or three **Peacocks** but nothing else."

**Paul Bowyer reports on the UTB field trip to Finemere Wood held on Monday 5th April:** "The field trip attracted 7 hardy members in search of Orange Underwing moths. The skies were leaden and there was a strong southerly wind blowing. We saw no moths and no butterflies. We did see a stoat near the entrance to the reserve and two of us spotted a hare. The walk did generate some interest in the 2 species of Orange Underwing. Then on *Tuesday 6th April* at *Common Wood near Penn, Bucks*, I saw 6 **Orange Underwing sp.** as well as 4 **Peacocks** and a **Brimstone**. The wood has mixed areas of Silver Birch and Aspen so it was not possible to determine whether they were Orange Underwings or Light Orange Underwings. I believe similar sightings were made at Finemere and at Whitecross Green the same day."

### Wednesday 7th April 2010

**Tony Rayner sent the following today:** "At least 5 **Peacocks** in our *Cholsey, Oxon* garden on *6th April* - our first 2010 record for this species."

**Helen Hyre reported the following sightings in Bucks:** "On *Tuesday 6th April* - Nigel saw a **Comma** in Westfield Road, *Pitstone*. It was heading into a building site at Tunnel Way. Also on 6th April I visited *Wendover churchyard* at 2pm (see the [Churchyard Photo Gallery](#) for a photograph). Despite a cool and very gusty wind, I saw a male **Brimstone** nectaring on primroses."

**Judith Barnard sent these sightings on 6th April:** "A **Peacock** in *Neath Hill* car park, MK (SP859409), *6th April* and also two male **Brimstones** on the wing."

**Tom Stevenson reported the following on 6th April:** "**Small White** today, *6th April*, during my first transect survey of 2010 at *Ewelme Watercress Beds, Oxon*."

### Sunday 4th April 2010

**Phil Coles went to Rushbeds Wood in Bucks today, Sunday April 4th and saw** 1 male **Brimstone** (*Gonepteryx rhamni*).

**Peter Cuss reported the following on 4th April:** "I had a walk at *Hungerford Marsh, Berks* today (os 174 SU333687) *4/4/10* and saw **Small Tortoiseshell** (4), **Peacock** (1) and a **Drinker Moth caterpillar** (see *photo on Moth Sightings page*), as well as a Little Grebe and a Water Vole!!."

**David Redhead, Brown Hairstreak Species Champion, reported this news on 29th March:** "On *Saturday 27th March* Judy Webb found six **Brown Hairstreak eggs** in the garden of another member of the New Marston Wildlife Group in *New Marston, Oxford*. Besides their location the other unusual thing about them was that they were not laid on the usual larval foodplant, blackthorn. They were on growth suckering from another prunus species tree situated in the corner of the garden - the exact species of tree has yet to be identified. There is growing evidence that in an urban context the Brown Hairstreak becomes less fussy about where it lays its eggs and will use species related to blackthorn - this is presumably out of necessity. So if you live in or near Oxford, Kidlington, Bicester, Brill, Long Crendon, Wheatley or the intervening area you might get a nice surprise by searching any prunus species in your garden and become a member of an elite group who can say they have a Red List butterfly breeding in their garden. See the [Appeal](#) above for further guidance."

### Sunday 28th March 2010

**Peter Holland sent this report today:** "I've seen several **Comma** butterflies in the Wallingford area during the past week but today, *Sunday 28 March*, was surprised to see an early **Speckled Wood** just outside *Cholsey, Oxon*. I was able to watch it for several minutes and confirm the identification."

**Nick Board reported the following sightings on 27th March:** "I saw 3 male **Brimstones** today, *27th*, in my garden at *Chackmore, North Bucks*."

## Friday 26th March 2010

**Thomas Knowles reported the following sightings:** "Living in Eccleshall, Staffordshire I am still waiting to see my first butterfly sighting of the year. However, on *24th March* I was in *Oxfordshire* and made four sightings which may be of interest for record purposes: in the hedgerow just north west of Stanton St John on the B4027 a **Brimstone** (my first sighting of the year). On the old A40 (now declassified) that skirts Wheatley another **Brimstone**. At Great Milton in the grounds of Le Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons a **Brimstone** and a **Small Tortoiseshell**."

**Dave Wilton reported as follows on 25th March:** "A wander around *Finemere Wood, Bucks* in this morning's partial sunshine produced **Brimstone** (3), **Peacock** (3) and **Comma** (6). However, the **Small Tortoiseshell** that has spent the winter hibernating in our loft at *Westcott* was still there this afternoon, showing no signs yet of wanting to venture forth."

**Judith Barnard sent this report from Milton Keynes on 24th March:** "Sightings today, *24th March*, in *Willen* (SP8841): 4 male **Brimstones**."

## Wednesday 24th March 2010

**John Ward-Smith reported the following today:** "In our *Bracknell (Berks)* garden this afternoon, *24 March*, we had a **Comma** followed by a **Holly Blue**. I was delighted to see the latter because they did poorly in our garden last year despite the presence of plenty of holly and ivy."

**Mick & Wendy Campbell had five butterfly species in their garden in Bucks today, 24th March:** "We recorded one each of **Red Admiral**, **Comma**, **Brimstone**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Peacock**. The **Brimstone** nectared on a daffodil while the **Small Tortoiseshell** chose a nearby aubretia."

**Phil Coles sent this report on 22nd March:** "*Sunday March 21st* – 1 **Peacock** (*Inachis io*) *Lea Park, Thame, Oxon*."

**Tony Rayner sent this news on 21st March:** "Two **Small Tortoiseshells** in our *Cholsey, Oxon* garden today (*21st*)."

**Dave Miller reported the following on 21st March:** "A **Red Admiral** spotted basking near the church in *Colnbrook, Berks* on *Wednesday 17th March*."

## Sunday 21st March 2010

**David Redhead sent this update today:** "This morning our garden in *Littlemore, Oxon*, exhibited the most daytime insect activity to date in 2010. A short visit by a **Peacock** was followed by two **Brimstones**. One of the **Brimstones** settled near the lungwort where a *Bombus terrestris* and two bee flies were nectaring. In the afternoon I went to the meadow south of *Westhill Farmhouse at Shotover* to finish the last section of the **Brown Hairstreak egg** transect. Although I only found one more egg, the transect total, as for *Marston Meadows* (see report for 14th March) was a record at 94, comfortably beating the previous record, also last winter, of 64. Whilst there I saw no adult butterflies but I did see two more bumblebees - however, my 2010 bumblebee count of five remains two less than my butterfly count of seven, which is very unusual for this time of year."

**Dave Maunder reported the following sightings today:** "On a beautiful spring day I found 4 **Small Tortoiseshells** on a walk through *Fairford Leys, Aylesbury* this morning, then in the afternoon on my town-centre allotment I found:- **Peacock** (1), **Comma** (1); **Small**

**Tortoiseshells** (3) and a **Brimstone** - we need more days like these! Incidentally, two of the Tortoiseshells were `courting`, but I didn't see them actually mating - see photo below."

**Jo Harkness sent her first report to the website yesterday:** "Spotted a **Brimstone** on the River Thames at *Cookham, Berks*, NGR SU902855 on *Thursday 18th March*. Also a **Peacock** at Boveney on River Thames, NGR: SU934771 also on Thursday."

**Richard Barker reports seeing** a pair of **Brimstones** flying on *Friday 19th March* in *Great Shefford, Berks*.

### Friday 19th March 2010

**Richard Barker sent his first report to the website today:** "Jason Ball has asked me to email you with my first sighting of the year. I was so amazed to see a **Red Admiral** flying on *Wednesday 17th March* and two **Brimstones** chasing each other the next day (in *Great Shefford near Hungerford, Berks*) that I had to ask Jason if this was normal."

**Alan Brampton reported the following today:** "**Brimstone** on *Thursday 18th March* in my garden off Blacklands Road in *Benson, Oxon*."

**Ched George reported the following today, 19th:** "2 **Brimstones** seen in Bucks today, 1 in *Princes Risborough* and 1 in *Wendover*."

**This report came from Malcolm Brownsword today:** "I saw my first butterfly of the year, a **Brimstone**, in my garden in *West Hagbourne, Oxon*, on *Tuesday 16th March* and on *Thursday 18th* I saw a further two and a **Comma** at *Homefield Wood, Bucks*."

**Mike Flemming sent this report on 18th March:** "On a walk round *Dry Sandford Pit, Cothill, Oxon*, this morning (*Thursday 18th*), I recorded five different species on the wing! Most were too active for photography but I found a **Comma** basking in the sunshine on a stone at the foot of the sandstone cliffs. The records were: **Red Admiral** (1) - very small specimen, **Small Tortoiseshell** (1), **Peacock** (3 or more), **Brimstone** (3 or more) and **Comma** (1) - photograph below. I can confirm that the butterfly season has begun!"

**Richard O'Dare sent the following on 18th March:** "I saw a **Brimstone** flying across scrubland near *Little Marlow Gravel Pits, Bucks*, today, *18th*."

**David Redhead sent this sighting on 18th March:** "*Littlemore (Oxon)* was "alive" with **Brimstones** today - two seen flying together in our garden about midday and another pair seen in the Hospital grounds."

**Peter Hall reports seeing a Brimstone** butterfly in *Ballinger, Bucks* on *18th March*.

**Helen Hyre says she noticed a Brimstone** in her *Bierton (Bucks)* garden at 11.10 on *18th March*, hotly pursued by a **Small Tortoiseshell**. "At 12.30 the same thing happened. On both occasions the Brimstone decided discretion was the better part of valour and exited the garden."

**John Ward-Smith says there were no butterflies to be seen at Crowthorne Wood, Berks on 18th March.** "However, as I returned home just after midday, I saw two male **Brimstone** butterflies. They were about 100 yards apart, flying along the roadside verge between Crowthorne and Bracknell. This is a good patch for them as they have been recorded there in past years."

**Derek Brown sent this news yesterday:** "They're really coming out today, *18th*. Before

lunch we saw 3x **Brimstone**, 2x **Comma** and 1x **Peacock** in a wood near [Beenham, Berks](#). After lunch we had a single Brimstone and Peacock in the garden itself. New telephoto lens is working quite well!"

### Wednesday 17th March 2010

*This report came from Derek Brown today:* "My first butterfly of 2010, a **Comma** in a wood near [Beenham, Berks](#) on [Monday 15th](#)."

*Dave Maunder reported the following today:* "At last, I've a few butterfly sightings for you from [Aylesbury](#) - my first **Peacock** of the year on [Saturday 13th](#), then yesterday, [16th March](#), my first two **Small Tortoiseshells** sunning themselves on the warm, dry soil on my allotment at Ardenham lane. Spring is here at last!"

*Adam Bassett sent this news from Bucks today:* "I had my first butterfly sightings of 2010 on [March 16th](#) (apart from a hibernating **Peacock** in my shed). First, a **Red Admiral** traversing [Little Marlow GP](#) - a Black-headed Gull took a passing interest before flying off. Second, a male **Brimstone** flying near [Bourne End High St](#)."

*Jason Ball sent this report today:* "**Small Tortoiseshell** seen on [Monday 15 March](#) at [Sheepdrove Organic Farm](#), not far from Fawley in Berks. Grid ref: SU374807."

*Richard Soulsby sent these sightings on 16th March:* "A walk in the warm sunny weather this morning, [16th](#), gave me my first butterfly sightings of the year. First, two **Commas** sunning themselves a few feet apart in a sheltered corner of a field near [Berrick Salome](#), then a **Brimstone** flying in a garden in [Roke](#) (both near Benson, Oxon). A great, if late, start to the year!"

*Alan Brampton reported the following:* "1 **Small Tortoiseshell** in [Bridge End, Dorchester, Oxon](#) this morning ([16th March](#)) at about 11am. It was basking/nectaring."

*Phil Coles spotted his first butterfly of 2010 on Monday March 15th:* "It was a **Brimstone** flying the hedge line along the B489 in Buckinghamshire beyond [Gallows Hill](#) (near Ivinghoe Beacon at c. SP 972 174)."

### Monday 15th March 2010

*David Redhead reported the following on 14th March:* "Today ([Sunday March 14th](#)) I managed to see my first butterflies of 2010. This morning a **Peacock** was to be seen for a short while in our garden immediately south of [Oxford](#) - surprisingly only 3 days later than our first garden sighting last year. This afternoon a mixed group of Upper Thames Branch and New Marston Wildlife Group members were welcomed by a **Small Tortoiseshell** before finishing off the Marston Meadows Brown Hairstreak egg transect. The final **Brown Hairstreak egg** count for the transect was 59 - a significant increase on last year's count of 35 which was the previous record."

### Sunday 14th March 2010

*Helen Hyre saw her first butterfly of the season today in Berton, Bucks:* "On [14th March](#) I was gardening when I suddenly noticed a **Small Tortoiseshell** basking on plants at 11.50. It wasn't ideal weather (sunny periods but gusty wind) but my camera was handy and I was able to take photos before it flew off."

*John Ward-Smith sent the following today:* "First spotted by my wife Barbara, a **Red Admiral** was sunning itself in our [Bracknell](#) garden in Berks this morning, before it flew off."

**Pete Eeles reports seeing a Red Admiral** at 11am on *13th March*, flying slowly across his garden in *Thattham, Berks*.

### Friday 12th March 2010

**Peter Eeles sent this report on 11th March:** "I had a great start to the day - seeing my first butterfly of the year - a **Small Tortoiseshell** flying frantically across my driveway in *Thattham, Berks*. I was very surprised that it was a Small Tortoiseshell, since they've not done that well in my local patch over the last few years. Hopefully things are picking up for them. After my disappointment at failing to find any Purple Hairstreak eggs at my two favourite sites this winter, I'd just about given up. I took the dogs for a walk this morning and we found a field that is on the opposite side of the road from a housing estate, and 200 yards from my house. A line of oaks border the field and one had partially collapsed, giving easy access to the south-facing branches that were still very much alive and had wonderfully-plump buds! After 30 minutes I'd found 7 **Purple Hairstreak eggs** and confirms my suspicion (in my mind, anyway!), that I've seen hairstreaks flitting around the tops of oaks in the middle of the estate."

### Saturday 6th March 2010

**These two reports came via Jim Asher on 4th March:**

"I saw my first butterfly of 2010 on *1st March* at approx 11am - a **Small Tortoiseshell** - obviously awoken by the sun's warmth, flying around gardens in *Hook Norton, Oxon*. Steve Woods."

"We thought you might be interested in a report of our first sighting of a butterfly this year: *02-03-10 Inkpen Crocus Field, Berks* (SU370640) at 2.50pm, one **Small Tortoiseshell** feeding on the crocus flowers in this unimproved BBOWT meadow. Alan and Jenny Wilcockson."

### Tuesday 2nd March 2010

**Welcome to the website new contributor Peter Stronach who sent the following sighting:** "I saw a **Brimstone** flying today, *2nd March*, at *Brightwell-cum-Sotwell* in Oxon at SU585911."

**Alan Gudge sent this news today:** "Just after lunch today (*Tuesday 2nd March*), Juliet spotted a **Comma** basking in the sun on the wall of our house near *Frieth, Bucks*. It then flitted around the garden a bit including alighting on *Daphnia odorata*."

**Steve Croxford reported the following today:** "I thought I would report my first butterfly sighting of the year. A **Small Tortoiseshell** flying in my back garden in *Westcott, Bucks*. It was seen around 11am today (*2nd March*) in bright sunshine."

**Richard O'dare sent this sighting today:** "I have just seen a **Peacock** in my garden at *Little Marlow, Bucks*. Sadly it had a badly broken wing, therefore I didn't include a photograph."

### Monday 1st March 2010

**Nick Bowles sent the following update on the progress of the conservation work parties at our Holtspur Bottom Reserve:** "On 21st February the work party had no sightings of any butterflies but the effect of the clearance work on the Triangle Bank can now clearly be seen. The full report with photos is on the [Conservation page](#). We have one last work party there this winter, on **March 7th**, and could do with a few new faces to swell the ranks - **please come and help for an hour or two if you can!**"

**Mick & Wendy Campbell walked from Stonor to BBOWT's Warburg Nature Reserve in the Bix valley near Henley-on-Thames in Oxon on Monday, 1st March:** "We had some warm, sunny weather (10C) for our walk and thought we might be lucky enough to see a butterfly in a sheltered hot-spot somewhere along the way. We had to wait until we reached the *Warburg Reserve* before we glimpsed something flying in a coppiced area along the Nature Trail path. We managed to catch up with it when it landed on the ground and confirmed it was a female **Brimstone**. Our first butterfly of the season. Well worth a visit to this lovely reserve, there were many birds at the feeders near the hide by the car park, including two striking Great Spotted Woodpeckers."

**Martin Harvey sent this interesting report on 28th February:** "A brief walk in *Bernwood Forest, Bucks*, on *14th February* produced an unusual butterfly sighting: a **Speckled Wood**, albeit still in its **chrysalis**. The photo shows the location, just next to the main car park, in case anyone else wants to go and see it! According to the books *Speckled Wood* is supposed to pupate in low vegetation rather than half-way up a tree trunk, so I wondered whether this one might in fact have been parasitised, which sometimes causes caterpillars to choose odd locations for pupation."

### Tuesday 23rd February 2010

**Tim Watts reported the following from Whitchurch, Bucks on 21st February:** "I didn't expect to send in a record this early but today, *21/02/10* Colleen spotted a **Small Tortoiseshell** dormant on our front door, which is inside a porch, although I guess it was disturbed from hibernation? It wasn't there yesterday."

### Saturday 20th February 2010

**Nigel Partridge reported the following today:** "My first butterfly sighting of the year today (*20/02/10*). A **Peacock** trying to catch any warmth in the sun on our garage wall in *Loosley Row, Bucks*."

**Richard Soulsby sent this sighting yesterday:** "A friend of mine, Alan Brampton, reports seeing a **Red Admiral** flying in *Benson village (Oxon)* in the mild weather on *Wednesday 17th February*."

### Wednesday 17th February 2010

**Dennis Dell sent this interesting news on 14th February:** "Not a current sighting, of course, but last summer in *Waterperry Wood, Oxon*, I saw a curious aberration of a **Common Blue** which I could not identify. Eventually, I was put in touch with a genetics expert, Piers Vigus, who provided this identification for me: 'The female Common Blue is a gorgeous example of ab. *anticoelunata-thetis*. In this aberration the wings of the female are bright blue, with a broad black/brown margin to the forewings (including the costa) and lunules on the hindwings only. I know little of this aberration except that it appears to be infrequently met with and only occurring at some sites (implying certainly that it is a genetic aberration of some type, possibly with more than one gene involved).'"

### Saturday 6th February 2010

**Dave Wilton reported the first 'wild' butterfly sighting of the year yesterday:** "Following a very successful group search for **Brown Hairstreak eggs** at *Burgess Field Nature Park* in Oxford this morning, *Friday 5th February*, Wendy Wilson and I managed to see an active **Peacock** which had been tempted out of hibernation by the midday sunshine. The temperature was a pleasantly mild 11C at the time."

**Sunday 24th January 2010**

**Tom Stevenson sent this news today, 24th January:** "For the second time this winter, the **Red Admiral** hibernating in my conservatory woke up and had a stretch."

**Friday 1st January 2010**

**Martin Harvey kicked off the New Year with the following report:** "The New Year is off to a good start - a **Small Tortoiseshell** decided to wake up and fly round my hall in **Great Kimble, Bucks** today, **1st January**, at 11.40am. No idea why it should choose today to wake up from wherever it had been hibernating, but a very welcome sight and hopefully an encouraging omen for the rest of the year."

[This butterfly was undoubtedly disturbed from hibernation as it was seen indoors on a sunny but very cold day. It won't, therefore, appear on the First Sightings table.]