

Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch

Butterfly Sightings Archive - January to December 2012

~ Wednesday 26th December 2012 ~

Ian Elphick sent the following report on Saturday 23rd December: "Had a text message from my daughter in [Bracknell, Berks](#) asking if butterflies should be flying at this time of year. On questioning, she described a **Red Admiral** she had just seen flying across the road outside her house."

~ Tuesday 4th December 2012 ~

Richard O'Dare reported the following: "I was at [Little Marlow gravel pit \(Bucks\)](#) today, [4th December](#), and this **Peacock** was enjoying the sunshine. Hopefully it will find somewhere to shelter from the cold nights."



Peacock
Photo © Richard O'Dare

~ Tuesday 19th November 2012 ~

Dave Wilton reported the following: "Our first organised **Brown Hairstreak egg hunt** of the season went off successfully on [Sunday 18th November at Slade Camp, Shotover](#) on the east side of Oxford. The ten participants found 25 eggs, numbers having almost returned to "normal" for the site after last winter's very low count of just 9 eggs. An early-instar **Drinker Moth caterpillar** was also seen, having crawled out of the grass (its foodplant) to hibernate on a blackthorn stem - they are encountered quite regularly while looking for Brown Hairstreak eggs. Our next egg hunt will be on Shotover Plain this coming Friday morning, 23rd November ([see link above](#))."

Dave Maunder sent the following sighting: "Last [Wednesday, 14th November](#), I saw a male **Brimstone** fly past me while cycling to work along the A41 [Aston Clinton road \(Bucks\)](#) in the morning sun."

~ Wednesday 14th November 2012 ~

Chris Griffiths reported the following: "I thought you might be interested to know that I saw a **Brimstone** in my garden in west [Reading, Berks](#) at 12.15 this afternoon ([14th November](#))."

Dave Ferguson reports seeing a Red Admiral flying around his garden in *Beaconsfield, Bucks* yesterday, *13th November*.

Paul Warham sent the following report: "Just two butterflies to report recently: a **Red Admiral** regularly visiting a flowering Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*) in a *Marlow, Bucks* garden from *24th October* up to today (*11th November*) and on *8th November* a **Brimstone** (female) flying around Ivy in a hedgerow near *Fingest, Bucks*."

Dave Maunder sent this news: "Just thought I would let you know I found a **Peacock** sunning itself at 2.00pm on *11th November* on the wall of a house here on the Willows, *Aylesbury, Bucks* - should have been hibernating!"

Mick & Wendy Campbell recorded a **Red Admiral** and a **Comma** during a walk along the Ridgeway near *Wantage, Oxon* on *11th November*.

~ **Friday 9th November 2012** ~

Karen Roberts sent this news today: "I had a **Red Admiral** flying around some ivy on *7th November* in my garden in *Flackwell Heath, Bucks*."

Dave Wilton reported this unexpected sighting: "I thought the sunny and mild conditions this morning, *Thursday 8th November*, might perhaps prompt the appearance of a Red Admiral here at *Westcott, Bucks* but instead I was surprised to find a pair of **Commas** feeding away on the ivy. I've not had November records for Comma in the garden before."



Comma
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ **Saturday 3rd November 2012** ~

David Fuller reported the following: "Although a white ground frost this morning, a near pristine **Red Admiral** nectaring on Michaelmas Daisy in my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* today (*3rd November*). Not sure of the temperature but windy and chilly."

~ **Friday 19th October 2012** ~

David Gantzel sent these North Bucks sightings today: "**Large White:** one seen in *Buckingham* on *October 17th* and **caterpillars** still feeding on brussels on *October 19th Hazlemere*; **Red Admiral:** one on Buddleia in *Adstock* on *October 17th*."

~ **Thursday 18th October 2012** ~

Terry and Judy Wood reported the following: "Despite a very breezy day at *Waterperry Gardens, Oxfordshire* on *Tuesday 16/10/12*, there were 3 species on the wing (mainly settled!) – 1 **Red Admiral**, 2 **Small Tortoiseshell** and 3 **Comma**."



Small Tortoiseshell
Photo © Terry Wood

~ Sunday 14th October 2012 ~

Dave Maunder sent the following: "Below is a photo of two **Large White pupae** found in my garden in *Aylesbury, Bucks* on *14th October*, one shows green colour as it was spun-up on a leaf, the other under a window-sill - quite an interesting comparison!"



Large White pupae
Photo © Dave Maunder

Mark Griffiths reported the following sightings today: "I visited *Waterperry Gardens, Oxon* on *14th October*. There were about a dozen or more **Red Admirals** on michealmas daisies, in the orchard, on Arbutus (Strawberry tree), probably ten **Commas** and two, possibly three, **Small Tortoiseshells**. Also there was what I took to be a female **Brimstone** playing hide and seek, having seen a male on the way from Garsington."

Keith O'Hagen sent this report today: "Below is a picture of a **Comma** which was flying around my garden in *Milton Keynes* this morning. How on earth do they survive such a cold, frosty night!"



Comma
Photo © Keith O'Hagen

Nicholl Williams reported the following: "Recently I have been about around the back of my dwelling in *Lane End, Bucks*. At the back there is a field and a patch of about 3 metre square ivy. There have been many **Red Admirals** feeding, I counted 15 together on *Friday 12th* and 3 **Commas**. Also on the *10th* I saw a single **Brimstone** flying and a single **Speckled Wood**."



Red Admiral
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Comma
Photo © Nicholl Williams

David Redhead sent this report for 12th October: "The return of the sun after two dreary days resulted in some noticeable butterfly activity in our garden in *Littlemore, Oxon* comprising 4 **Commas**, 2 **Red Admirals** and singletons of **Large White**, **Small White** and **Brimstone**. The vanessids were nectaring on both Ivy and Michaelmas Daisy flowers but the Whites, which were all males, confined their attention to the Michaelmas Daisies. Every sunny day in October has produced a crop of garden Commas and Red Admirals with the maximum count being last Saturday (6th) with 10 Commas and 3 Red Admirals. Locally this count was bettered on the 1st when there were 15 Red Admirals and 8 Commas on my neighbours Ivy bank. The 2nd produced a first for me, butterflies nectaring on buddleia davidii flowers in October when I came across a Red Admiral and Comma nectaring on the nearby feral buddleias - in the past the problem has not been a lack of butterflies but a lack of buddleia flowers. The next day this was repeated when a garden Red Admiral diverted from the ivy flowers to one of the few remaining flowers on our garden buddleias - unfortunaely by the time I got back out with a camera it had gone back to the ivy flowers. By contrast my garden moth trap last night produced my worst ever result for October - just 2 Red-green Carpets!"



Comma
Photo © David Redhead



Large White
Photo © David Redhead

~ Thursday 11th October 2012 ~

Dave Cleal sent the following report on 10th October: "Just thought I'd mention seeing 2 **Commas** (both fresh) and a **Speckled Wood** on *Tuesday 9th October in Hitcham Park* on the North side of Burnham, Bucks. And today I've had a **Large White** settle on my grapevine over our garden patio in Burnham."

~ Friday 5th October 2012 ~

Dave Ferguson sent the following news: "On Thursday morning, *4th October*, on a walk in fields on the edge of *Beaconsfield, Bucks* I saw 5 **Red Admirals**, 1 **Comma** and a **Small Copper**. All were fresh."

Tony Croft sent this report: "I went over to *Rushbeds Wood, Bucks on 1st October* to do another Comma count. In the Rushbeds Tramway meadow I came upon a **Brown Hairstreak**. The result at the reserve as well as the Brown Hairstreak was: **Brimstone** 1; **Speckled Wood** 2; **Red Admiral** 3 and **Comma** 53. When I got home (*Easington, Bucks*) I took a snapshot of the garden activity and saw 1 **Comma**; 4 **Small Tortoiseshell** and 6 **Red Admiral**."

Chris Lamsdell reported seeing a very fresh **Painted Lady** and an old **Meadow Brown** at *Wraysbury Gravel Pits, Berks* on *29th September*.

~ Thursday 27th September 2012 ~

Tony Croft sent this report: "I carried out the final transect of the season at *Rushbeds Wood, Bucks* on Thursday morning, *27th September*. I was delighted to see a female **Brown Hairstreak** in the drovers' road adjacent to Lapland Farm meadows. This is only my second sighting of the year. She alighted on a bramble leaf and then after a few seconds flew into an adjacent oak. Also on the transect were 1 **Red Admiral**, 2 **Green-veined White**, 9 **Speckled Wood** and an amazing 46 **Comma**! The Commas were almost exclusively on blackberries and bramble leaves and the main concentration was along the length of the Tramway meadow hedge which does have a lot of bramble."

David Redhead sent the following from Littlemore, Oxon: "*25th September*. In spite of prolonged and torrential rain the day before, by 9am there was a **Red Admiral**, in excellent condition, and a **Speckled Wood** active in the vicinity of the only feral buddleias near my house in the sun at this time in the morning. This year these feral buddleia davidii are amazing - in spite of no dead-heading they are still covered in flowers and even producing a few new ones. I have never seen them in this state this late in the year before and I now have hopes of recording my first ever "nectaring on buddleia in October" record. At 9.15 with the temperature still only 10C I visited my neighbour's ivy bank to find three good condition Red Admirals already nectaring on the flowers and a fourth along with a **Comma** basking on the overhead Horse Chestnut tree.

Then on 27th September I managed a rather pleasing 52 butterflies of 7 species, gathered as follows: my garden (just after noon) = 16 with 8 **Comma** and 1 **Red Admiral** on our ivy flowers and 4 Comma and 1 Red Admiral on our Michaelmas Daisies. I had just finished counting these when two jousting whites flew in. One proved to be a **Large White**, the other a **Small White** when they landed to nectar on Michaelmas Daisy and Buddleia davidii respectively. I then went to my neighbour's ivy bank where the count was 8 Red Admiral & 6 Comma. On the nearby feral Buddleia davidii there were two further Red Admirals and a Comma and I also came across a basking Comma. I then did the *Chilswell Valley* transect for 18 butterflies with 9 Small White, 3 **Speckled Wood**, 2 Comma, 2 Red Admiral and singleton **Small Copper** and **Common Blue**."



Red Admiral
Photo © David Redhead



Comma
Photo © David Redhead

~ Friday 21st September 2012 ~

Peter Cuss sent this report: "A couple of sightings to report from where I work (*Bradfield College, Berks*). On the *18/09/12* a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** was feeding on Buddleia and on *19th September* a **Red Underwing moth** was sitting on a wall. Also around the college gardens there have been a lot of **Red Admirals** and more **Small Tortoiseshells** than I have seen in a while - at one point seven at once feeding on sedum."

Dave Wilton sent the following: "On Tuesday *18th September* in my garden at *Westcott, Bucks* (1.15pm, partly sunny but only 13C with a brisk NW breeze), I had 2 **Red Admirals** on rotting apples, **Large White** x 1, **Small Tortoiseshell** x 6, Red Admiral x 3, **Comma** x 1 on Buddleia davidii (blue), Comma x 1 on Buddleia x weyeriana (yellow) and Comma x 1 and **Small Heath** x 1 on Rudbekia. The Large White also attempted to feed from cat-mint but the stems kept bending over and he gave up. Nothing on Michaelmas Daisies or Ice Plant apart from bees and hoverflies. Ivy not in flower here yet."



Red Admiral on apple
Photo © Dave Wilton



Small Heath
Photo © Dave Wilton



Comma
Photo © Dave Wilton

David Redhead sent these sightings for his garden in Littlemore, Oxon: "Whilst out in the garden on Tuesday morning, *18th September*, my accumulated butterfly total by 10:15 am, when the temperature was 12.5C, was 8 with 3 **Red Admiral**, 2 **Comma**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 1 **Small White** & 1 **Speckled Wood**. The Red Admirals and Commas were splitting their time about 50:50 between ivy and buddleia flowers whereas the Small Tortoiseshell was only interested in the buddleia and the Small White in the Michaelmas Daisies. Also a Green Woodpecker spent some time on the lawn picking up ants. 2012 has been our best year in 26 for garden birds both in number and variety - Green and Gold Finch numbers especially have been notable."

Dennis Dell sent this garden report from Aylesbury, Bucks on 18th September: "At 9.15 the first **Red Admiral** arrived onto my Beijing buddleia, followed by 4 more as it warmed up. Two **Small Tortoiseshells** and a **Comma** were seen subsequently. My Ivy is completely hidden by part of the Beijing and I'm struggling with the decision as to whether to sacrifice some of the buddleia by cutting it away to expose the Ivy to the sun. However, as the day wore on the ice plant became more popular than the Beijing!"



Red Admiral, Commas and
Small Tortoiseshells on Sedum
Photo © Dennis Dell

~ Sunday 16th September 2012 ~

David Hastings reported the following: "I visited *Aston Rowant NNR (Beacon Hill), Oxon* on *15th September* looking for Adonis Blues, but I couldn't find any. However I did see twelve species: **Silver-spotted Skipper** (1), **Large White** (2), **Small White** (10), **Common Blue** (10), **Chalkhill Blue** (1), **Brown Argus** (13), **Small Copper** (5), **Comma** (1), **Small Tortoiseshell** (4), **Painted Lady** (1), **Meadow Brown** (23+) and **Small Heath** (2). Most of them were showing signs of wear, with the exception of the Small Tortoiseshells and one or two of the Meadow Browns, which looked quite fresh."

~ Saturday 15th September 2012 ~

Dennis Dell sent this report: "*14th September*, sunny and very windy. The high wind did not deter the **Red Admirals** and **Tortoiseshells** from appearing in my garden in *Aylesbury, Bucks* from about 9am. As usual, the main attraction was the Beijing Buddleia which still has plenty of blooms. During the middle of the day, about six of each of these two species were nectaring on the Beijing, with only one or two at a time on the ice plant. Occasionally, they sunned themselves on the choysia.



Red Admirals on Choysia
Photo © Dennis Dell

Then on [September 15th](#) we went to [Waterperry Gardens, Oxon](#) - weather fine and sunny. Exactly this time last year we visited these gardens because of their magnificent variety of Asters which are in full bloom now. I reported what appeared to me to be a strange phenomenon: namely, in spite of the huge number of different Asters, I only saw butterflies on one particular variety: 'Aster amellus violet queen'. I bought one and brought it home, but it died! Today, we returned, and I had exactly the same experience: the butterflies [the usual Nymphalid suspects] were present on only one particular variety. However, I had made a mistake last year: the Aster which attracts all the butterflies is, in fact, 'Amellus King George'. This garden centre allowed me to take one of these free of charge!"

[In David & Wendy Redhead's garden in Littlemore, Oxon on 14th September were:](#) "1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 2 **Comma**, 2 **Small White**, 2 **Large White** - all nectaring on the Michaelmas Daisies and ignoring the remaining Buddleia flowers. The ivy flowers are swarming with hoverflies but I have only noticed a Comma pay a very short visit to date."

[Becky Woodell sent these sightings:](#) "My garden in [Oakley, Bucks](#) on [13th September](#) - 10.30am, temp 10C, sunny: **Comma** - 4; **Small Tortoiseshell** - 6; **Red Admiral** - 11; **Small White** - 4; **Large White** - 2; **Meadow Brown** - 2 all on one tall pink Michaelmas Daisy with only brief excursions to anything else."

[Steve Croxford sent the following:](#) "On [Wednesday 12th September](#) I saw a female **Silver-washed Fritillary** at [Rushbeds Wood, Bucks](#). She was happily feeding upon Devil's Bit Scabious at the junction of the main rides. Although she had lost a lot of the colour from her wings the actual wing structure was still good suggesting she had a few more days of activity left in her. Then on Friday morning, [14th September](#), I saw a **Clouded Yellow** on the edge of [Waddesdon Manor, Bucks](#). It settled briefly on a couple of flowers, allowing me a good view, before heading off in the direction of Westcott. Also present nearby were 4 **Large White** and 2 very fresh looking **Red Admirals** feeding on Bramble flowers."

[Richard Wheeler visited the disused railway line at Westcott, Bucks on Thursday 13th September:](#) "The weather was intermittently sunny and warm (c.18°C). There were plenty of **Common Blue** enjoying the scabious on the sunny cutting banks beyond the bridge (30+). I also saw 8 **Speckled Wood**, 3 **Comma**, 2 **Red Admiral**, 2 **Small Heath**, 1 **Meadow Brown** and 1 **Large White**."



Common Blue
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Comma
Photo © Richard Wheeler

~ Monday 10th September 2012 ~

Dave Ferguson sent these sightings: "On Sunday afternoon (*9th September*) at *Aston Rowant, Oxon* I saw 1 **Painted Lady** (my first of the year), 1 **Silver-spotted Skipper**, 1 **Speckled Wood** and 20 **Meadow Browns**. The previous day (*8th September*) at 11:00 at *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* a very pale primrose yellow butterfly with black borders flew down the slope, crossed the field at the bottom and disappeared through the trees towards the church. It came within 25m (seen through binoculars). A search of the churchyard was unsuccessful. It had a fast but rather erratic flight. It wasn't yellow enough for a Clouded Yellow or white enough for a helice female Clouded Yellow. I have seen Pale and Berger's **Clouded Yellow** in Europe and it looked right for one of these. On the bank were 2 **Adonis Blues**, 2 female **Chalkhill/Adonis Blues** (too worn to identify), 1 **Common Blue**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 30 **Meadow Browns** and 4 **Silver-Ys**. In the churchyard were 2 Meadow Browns and 2 Silver-Ys."



Painted Lady
Photo © Dave Ferguson

Mick & Wendy Campbell walked a circular route from Watlington, Oxon on Sunday 9th September: "The walk took in Shirburn Hill. Weather started off hot and sunny but turned into a cooler, hazy sun during the afternoon. However, we managed to record over 150 butterflies of 13 species: **Meadow Brown, Holly Blue, Small Heath, Common Blue, Red Admiral, Brimstone, Small White, Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Peacock, Brown Argus** and **Small Copper**. Most numerous was Meadow Brown (58), followed by Red Admiral (28) and Common Blue (21 - m. & f. - some looking very fresh). 26 of the Red Admirals were counted on 3 large buddleias outside the Timber Yard on Pyrton Hill, along with 5 Commas and 2 Small Tortoiseshells."

Peter Law reported the following: "*September 8th:* At *Aston Rowant NNR (N), Oxon* there were 7/8 fresh-looking male **Adonis Blue** on the hillside above the M40, the first I have ever seen at this site. I also noted similar numbers of **Common Blue** and **Silver-spotted Skipper**. **Brown Argus** and **Chalkhill Blue** were both flying in good numbers, as were **Silver Y moths**. Crossing the motorway to *Linky Down*, I added **Small Heath** (2) to the day's sightings, as well as male and female **Brimstone** and another **Silver-spotted Skipper**. **Meadow Brown** were still plentiful at both sites. A day earlier (*Sep 7th*) I saw a **Brown Hairstreak** flying along the southern edge of *Hell Coppice, Bernwood Forest, Bucks* (viewed from the road). Over the previous 4 weeks I had made repeated visits to Bernwood Meadows, Asham Meads and Whitecross Green Wood without finding this species, though I did speak to out-of-area observers at each of those sites who had been more fortunate."



Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Peter Law



Adonis Blue
Photo © Peter Law

This news came from Nick Bowles: "I didn't expect to see my second ever September **Silver-washed Fritillary** on transect, but there it was at [Coombe Hill, Wendover, Bucks](#) on [3rd September](#) looking like a very fresh male. It flew around me in a large circle and I 'transected' on past it without seeing it settle to confirm sex. Pointy forewings clearly seen!"

~ Friday 7th September 2012 ~

Richard Wheeler sent this report: "I spent an hour at [Finemere Wood, Bucks](#) lunchtime on [6th September](#). The weather was warm (c.18°C), slightly breezy and hazy. I saw 8 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Small Heath**, 2 **Green-veined White** and one each of **Meadow Brown**, **Common Blue**, **Red Admiral**, **Peacock** and **Comma**."



Speckled Wood
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Speckled Wood
Photo © Richard Wheeler

Andrew & Nicola Cornick reported the following: "We visited [Aston Rowant, Oxon](#) on [3rd September](#). Warm, sunny and windless weather. **Chalkhill Blue** (5), **Brown Argus** (12), **Common Blue** (8), **Small Copper** (2), **Peacock** (1), **Small Tortoiseshell** (2), **Speckled Wood** (3), **Meadow Brown** (many), **Small Heath** (1), **Brimstone** (2), **Large White** (1), **Small White** (2) and **Silver-spotted Skippers** (10, including a couple of fresh individuals). Then on to [Yoesden Bank, Bucks](#) in similar weather conditions. **Chalkhill Blue** (11, 7F, 4M including one very fresh M), **Brown Argus** (15), **Common Blue** (12), **Adonis Blue** (3, all fresh M), **Small Copper** (1), **Red Admiral** (1), **Small Tortoiseshell** (4) **Meadow Brown** (6), **Brimstone** (6)."



Small Tortoiseshell
Photo © Andrew Cornick



Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Andrew Cornick



Adonis Blue
Photo © Andrew Cornick

Adam Hartley sent this report: "*Monday September 3rd*: "On a gorgeous sunny and calm day I decided to pay a visit to *Otmoor, Oxon* to look for **Brown Hairstreaks**. Along the Roman Road in the tallest Ash tree I managed to find one high up in the branches though it never came lower. There was also a rather tatty female laying eggs in the Blackthorn along the path from the car park to the Bridleway which was pointed out to me by a couple of female butterfly enthusiasts. Whilst watching it another one flew over us and landed on the far side of the hedge. In summary a total of three were seen along with plenty of **Speckled Woods**. *Tuesday September 4th*: Quite a few butterflies in my garden in central *Oxford* this morning enjoying the sunshine and the buddleia. There were two **Red Admirals**, a **Comma** and two **Small Tortoiseshells** as well as a **Holly Blue** high up in the Holly tree."



Brown Hairstreak f.
Photo © Adam Hartley



Brown Hairstreak f.
Photo © Adam Hartley

Rob Solomon sent the following: "On *September 3rd* I saw this slightly tired female **Brown Hairstreak** at the *RSPB Otmoor (Oxon)* reserve. It was basking on bramble about 50 yards into the reserve from the car park."



Brown Hairstreak f.
Photo © Rob Solomon

~ Sunday 2nd September 2012 ~

Dennis Dell reported the following from Aylesbury, Bucks: "The ice plant in my garden is just coming into flower and it is now competing strongly with the Beijing Buddleia for the attentions of the Nymphalidae. The photos show a **Red Admiral** sunning itself on the Choysia and a **Peacock** and Red Admiral sharing a Beijing Buddleia bloom. There were 10 **Small Tortoiseshells** on **31st August**, together with a few Red admirals, Peacocks and one **Gatekeeper**. Then yesterday, **1st September**, there were 13 **Tortoiseshells** altogether: 6 on the ice plant and another 7 on the Beijing Buddleia."



Red Admiral
Photo © Dennis Dell



Peacock & Red Admiral
Photo © Dennis Dell



Small Tortoiseshells on sedum
Photo © Dennis Dell

Michael McNeill sent this report: "**31st August**. A warm sunny afternoon in my garden in **Upper Basildon, West Berkshire** on **31st August** produced some good sightings on the buddleia bush. 8 **Red Admirals**, 5 **Small Tortoiseshells** and 2 **Peacocks** were seen at one time."



Small Tortoiseshell & Red
Admiral
Photo © Michael McNeill



Red Admiral, Peacock &
Small Tortoiseshell
Photo © Michael McNeill

Richard Wheeler sent this report: "I stopped briefly at **White Horse Hill near Uffington, Oxon** on **31st August**. It was breezy and a little cool, which may explain why I only saw 6 butterflies – all of them **Chalkhill Blues** and mostly tatty. I also came across this **Green-veined White** recently (pic. below), which obligingly sat with wings open. When I looked at the images on my computer, I noticed that the hairs on its thorax are actually tinged a lovely dark blue – something I'd not previously registered (but then they do usually keep their wings closed!)"



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Green-veined White
Photo © Richard Wheeler

~ Wednesday 29th August 2012 ~

This report came from Wendy Wilson today: "On **6th August** I happened upon four nests of **Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars** close together on the sunny side of a large nettle patch at **Asheridge Farm near Chesham, Bucks**. There must have been at least 100 larvae altogether. I took five of them home as they were too small to identify definitely. They grew at different rates and the first pupated on 15th and the fifth on the 20th. Two adults emerged after 7 days and three after 8 days, the weather being warm and sunny during this time. All five were perfect specimens - so no parasites there. Four of them have been feeding on my buddleia all week together with 2 **Red Admirals** and a **Peacock**."



Small Tortoiseshell larvae
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Small Tortoiseshell larva & pupa
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Small Tortoiseshell
Photo © Wendy Wilson

Les Purnell sent this report on 29th August: "As a member of E.Midlands BC branch I am only an occasional visitor to **Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon** but I did visit on **23rd August**. I met one of your members in the wood who told me that Brown Hairstreaks had been sparse this year and that any sightings would be welcomed, hence this note. Two female **Brown Hairstreak** were seen in the side track near the far end of the main ride, one appearing very fresh (*see photo*)."



Brown Hairstreak f.
Photo © Les Purnell

Dennis Dell sent the following: "Not having looked properly yet for **Brown Hairstreak** I thought I'd better make the effort. Yesterday afternoon, **28th August** breezy and sunny, 21-22 degrees: **Piddington Railway Bridge, Oxon** between 2.20 and 2.40, four brief flights from one individual in and around the top of the smaller of the two Ashes [landed so I could make positive id thru' bins]. **Widnell Lane**, low [cut back last year?] blackthorn at side of road by football pitch: female which landed briefly so I could see her clearly, fluttering deep in the middle of this blackthorn, possibly ovipositing in the fresh growth."

Ched George sent these sightings: "I visited **Yoesden Bank, Bucks on 28th August** from about 3pm - 4.30pm and had a careful look round. I counted 17m and 21f **Chalkhill Blue** but there were more lower down when I had stopped counting so suspect 80ish. I also saw 1 fresh male **Adonis Blue**, many **Meadow Browns**, 1 fresh **Painted Lady**, 1 **Small Copper**, 1 **Small / Essex Skipper**. There were numbers of **Silver Y**. The clearing produced 1 worn female **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 1 **Small White** and 2 **Red Admiral**."

Dave Ferguson sent this report: "A walk along the base of **Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks** on the morning of **28th August** produced 22 **Chalkhill Blue**, 2 **Common Blue**, 3 **Brown Argus**, 3 **Green-veined White**, 2 **Brimstone**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 6 **Speckled Wood**, 3 **Gatekeeper**, 1 **Meadow Brown** and 1 **Small Heath**."

Mick & Wendy Campbell visited Waterperry Wood, Oxon on 26th August: "We went to see how the conifer thinning was coming along and were a bit surprised to see how extensive it is. However, the main ride looks unchanged and most of the Sallows are still standing so the prime Purple Emperor breeding territory hopefully won't have been affected. Butterflies seen were **Speckled Wood** (6), **Silver-washed Fritillary** (2 - 1 very tatty), **Purple Hairstreak** (5), **Peacock** (2), **Red Admiral** (2), **Comma** (1). We then walked down **Smith's Lane** to look for **Brown Hairstreak** and found one female patrolling the Ash tree-tops, presumably looking for a male. She paused for a while to sunbathe, wings fully open, before continuing along the Ashes. **Meadow Brown** (3) and a singleton **Gatekeeper** also seen here."

David Hastings sent these sightings: "As the weather was reasonable on **26th August** I visited Greenham Common and Lardon Chase in Berks. I saw the following:
Greenham Common: **Common Blue** (22), **Small Copper** (2), **Peacock** (1), **Gatekeeper** (3), **Grayling** (1), **Meadow Brown** (4) and **Small Heath** (2).
Lardon Chase: **Brimstone** (2), **Adonis Blue** (5), **Chalkhill Blue** (7), **Common Blue** (10), **Brown Argus** (3), **Small Copper** (2), **Painted Lady** (1), **Peacock** (1), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1), **Gatekeeper** (2), **Meadow Brown** (30+) and **Small Heath** (5)."



Painted Lady
Photo © David Hastings



Adonis Blue
Photo © David Hastings

Terry Lewis sent the following report: "1 **Painted Lady** seen on *25th August at Ivinghoe Hills* above Incombe Hole, Bucks."

Dave Wilton sent the following: "While checking the buddleias here at *Westcott, Bucks* during the morning of *25th August* I was amazed to find a female **Brown Hairstreak** wandering around at chest height on blackthorn growing in a hedge in the middle of our garden. I watched her for thirty seconds or so, decided she wasn't going anywhere and so nipped indoors to grab my camera. Needless to say, by the time I re-emerged she had disappeared but I found an egg had been laid very close to where I'd seen her. Unfortunately she'd been daft enough to lay it on a sloe which will undoubtedly become food for a blackbird in a week or two!"



Brown Hairstreak egg
Photo © Dave Wilton

Malcolm Brownsword sent this report: "A delayed report as it didn't send properly first time: on Saturday afternoon, *18th August* I visited *Watlington Hill, Oxon*. From the car park, walking down the shaded track on the left, in the open area just before the 'sunken path' there was considerable activity from about 20 **Brimstones**, about 15 **Brown Argus** and a similar number of **Common Blues**. On walking to the top of the hill, a total of about 15 **Silver-spotted Skippers** were seen, some pairing and one egg-laying. About 20 **Meadow Browns** were also seen."



Brown Argus

Photo © Malcolm Brownsword



Silver-spotted Skipper

Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

~ Saturday 25th August 2012 ~

Richard Wheeler sent this report: "I went for a walk at [Ardley Quarry](#) (nr Bicester, Oxon) this afternoon, [23rd August](#). The weather was warm-ish (c.18°C) and cloudy. I saw 14 **Meadow Brown**, 3 **Gatekeeper**, 2 **Brown Argus**, 7 **Peacock** (see pic), 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 3 **Common Blue** (incl. 1 F), 1 **Speckled Wood** and 5 unidentified whites."



Peacock

Photo © Richard Wheeler

Dave Wilton sent the following report: "The adult **Brown Hairstreak** seems to be particularly difficult to find locally this year. I managed my only confirmed sighting so far at [Bernwood Meadows, Bucks](#) this morning [Thursday 23rd August](#), when a worn male flew from oak to ash in the northern spur of the western meadow and after a minute or two of walking around moved to an ash leaf for some sun-bathing. The meadows have now been cut, meaning that the few butterflies which survive are concentrated in the hedgerows. Seen were **Small Copper** (4), **Common Blue** (2), **Comma** (1), **Silver-washed Fritillary** (1, on the hedge by the entrance from Bernwood Forest), **Speckled Wood** (1) and a few handfuls of **Meadow Brown** and **Gatekeeper**. Back in the garden at [Westcott, Bucks](#) there has been a reduction in the number of **Peacock** sightings on the buddleia, presumably as they think about hibernation. Nine were recorded this morning and it was nice to see them outnumbered for once by **Small Tortoiseshell** (13), the also-rans being **Brimstone** (2), **Red Admiral** (7), **Comma** (1) and an assortment of whites."

Dave Miller sent the following: "[20th August](#): A trip up the M40 allowed a couple of sidetrips on the return leg. First was to [Whitecross Green Wood](#) for possible Brown Hairstreaks. After all, I saw my first ever Brown Hairstreak at the top of an ash tree here. I'm afraid it was disappointing - I saw hardly any butterflies at all, merely a few **Meadow Browns**, a single **Small Copper** and one **Purple Hairstreak** on an oak. There was only one "might be" Brown Hairstreak, quite high and languidly flapping between trees - the silhouette looked right, but who knows? One **Holly Blue** in the car park brought the visit to a disappointing end. There was still time, however, for an hour at [Aston Rowant \(N\), Oxon](#). The

weather was as it always is when I visit - windy with a mix of sunny intervals and cloud but reasonably warm. The profusion of flowers was such a contrast to Whitecross Green and butterflies were numerous. Plenty of **Chalkhill Blues** remained, with courtship and mating taking place everywhere. **Silver-spotted Skippers** were easy to find, too, settled everywhere on the paths and bare patches and including a good proportion of fresh individuals. Again, a couple of mating pairs and some courtship behaviour was seen. Also out today were **Meadow Browns**, **Brown Argus**, a few **Common Blues**, a **Peacock** and a **Brimstone**. However, I didn't have time to venture far along the slopes."



Brown Argus
Photo © Dave Miller



Silver-spotted Skippers
pairing
Photo © Dave Miller

~ Wednesday 22nd August 2012 ~

Michael McNeill reported the following sightings: "Lardon Chase and Moor Copse, West Berkshire 22nd August: A warm sunny day with a good breeze on *Lardon Chase* produced 8 male **Adonis Blue** (3 or 4 were probably repeat sightings), good numbers of **Chalkhill Blue**, **Common Blue** and **Meadow Brown** plus 2 **Small Copper**, 1 **Painted Lady**, 1 **Brown Argus** and a **Silver Y moth**. A visit to *Moor Copse*, where the meadows had been partially cut, produced very little, apart from some **Meadow Brown** and the remnants of a **Silver-Washed Fritillary** colony, 4 females, but very faded and battered."



Adonis Blue
Photo © Michael McNeill



Painted Lady
Photo © Michael McNeill



Common Blue
Photo © Michael McNeill

Keith O'Hagen says he had a good morning walking round Little Linford Wood, Bucks on 22nd August: "I saw the following butterflies: 1 **Small White**, 1 **White Admiral** (very tatty looking individual), numerous **Peacocks** - they seemed to be everywhere, 1 **Red Admiral** in pristine condition, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell** again in pristine condition, 1 **Silver-washed Fritillary** - a very tatty looking individual, 2 **Meadow Brown**, 4 **Gatekeeper** and 6 **Speckled Wood**."

John Woolmer sent the following: "Visiting Oxford on *21st August* to see a new granddaughter I called in to *Bernwood, Bucks* and saw one **Brown Hairstreak** flying and settled about 8ft up on sloe. I found no sign of eggs in the usual places."

Dave Turnbull sent this report: "I visited the Small Blue site at *Pitstone, Bucks on 20th August* which sadly hasn't been cut for the second year now. However a few second brood **Small Blues** were seen, in good condition too, together with good numbers of second brood **Small Heaths** looking very fresh. **Common Blues**, a worn **Marbled White**, the odd **Small Skipper** and a **Small Copper** added to the interest among the tired looking **Meadow Browns**."

David Hastings visited Otmoor, Oxon on 19th August: "I found several **Brown Hairstreaks** on and around the master Ash tree along the Roman road. There may have been up to five individuals but I never saw more than two at once. Other species seen were **Brimstone** (1), **Green-veined White** (2), **Common Blue** (2), **Peacock** (1), **Speckled Wood** (3), **Meadow Brown** (24+) and **Gatekeeper** (6)."

Nicholl Williams reported the following: "I spent some time over a better weekend (*18th/19th August*) going down through the woods to *Strawberry Bank, Bucks*. I saw many more **Brimstones**, **Peacocks**, **Red Admirals**, **Common Blues** and **Holly Blues**. Also saw my first female **Chalkhill Blues**. I saw only one **Silver-washed Fritillary** which was on the Buddleia at the top of the wood and also one **Small Heath** in the field by the Buddleia. I also saw one male **Large Skipper** in a very large glade in the centre of the wood."



Small Heath
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Large Skipper
Photo © Nicholl Williams

Maureen Cross reports on the Lardon Chase Field Meeting held on 18th August: "After the poor spring weather when only one first brood Adonis Blue was seen during the Lardon Chase field meeting I was anxious to discover if there would be a second brood. With near perfect conditions a group of 10 set out on an Adonis hunt. After some searching we finally identified 2 **Adonis Blue** females but had to search across the hillside before 2 males were seen and photographed. I was fortunate in seeing 3 more males just before leaving, bringing our total to 7. So I'm pleased to conclude that Adonis Blue are still breeding on Lardon Chase. 15 other species of butterfly were seen with **Chalkhill Blues** and **Meadow Browns** in large numbers. Other Blues included **Common Blue** and **Holly Blue** with a possible Small Blue. **Small Heaths** and **Brimstones** were plentiful with 1's and 2's of **Small Skipper**, **Peacock**, **Gatekeeper**, **Brown Argus**, **Large & Green-veined Whites**, **Small Copper** and **Small Tortoiseshell**. Other insects of interest were 2 **Great Green Bush Crickets**."

Jeremy Soane sent this update on 19th August: "I have some more sightings to report. This email did not originally send and then I went on holiday. However the sightings do confirm that Silver-washed Fritillaries and Marbled Whites are both surviving in the area between Windsor and Bracknell, so I thought it was still worth sending even it is 4 weeks late!

On 22nd July at Chawridge Bank (a BBOWT reserve in Berks, grid reference 893 738) I saw a good range of browns including literally dozens of **Meadow Browns**, at least 10 **Ringlets**, 10+ **Marbled Whites** and several **Gatekeepers**. I also observed at least 5 **Small Skippers**, 3 **Red Admirals** and a **Small White**. The Marbled Whites looked fresh: perhaps the poor weather had delayed their emergence. About 3 miles away, on the edge of **Windsor Forest** (Orchard Lea Gate, grid reference SU923741, I watched at least 4 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, plenty of **Meadow Browns** and a **Comma**. The Fritillaries were noticeably less plentiful than last year, there again the weather has only just started to brighten up! I have explored other parts of Windsor Great Park and this complex of woodland close by to Legoland seems to be the most productive for butterflies, although I am sure there are other locations waiting to be explored! I ought to mention as well that this particular site is restricted access."

~ Saturday 18th August 2012 ~

Wendy Wilson sent the following: "Yesterday, **17th August**, Brenda Mobbs alerted me to a probable sighting of a female **Chalkhill Blue** on the original scrape of our UTB **Holtspur Bottom Reserve** in Bucks. Today I was there from 9.30-11.30 and saw a very tatty female Chalkhill on the scrape basking low down on a marjoram. After a while she moved into the Horseshoe Vetch and spent the next hour going deep into the vetch exhibiting egg-laying behaviour, curving her abdomen down into the vetch. I didn't find any eggs, but didn't want to disturb her and I had forgotten to take a hand-lens. Whilst there, I saw 10 other butterfly species including about 6 **Common Blues** and a **Brown Argus**, also a **Striped Lychnis larva**."



Chalkhill Blue f.
Photo © Wendy Wilson

Ched George sent these sightings: "**17/08/12:** I paid an evening visit to **Lodge Hill, Bucks** 4.30 - 5.30pm, warm but no sunshine. Intent on looking for Chalkhills where the foodplant is but only found 2 **Small Coppers**, 3 **Brown Argus** and 1 **Small Heath** besides 1 **Peacock** and the **Gatekeepers** plus **Meadow Browns**. Left via quick look at NW slope and found a female **Silver-washed Fritillary**, old but not worn; on way down amongst dogwood scrub at 5.30pm."

Jan Haseler sent this report: "At [Lough Down, Berks](#) on Friday afternoon **17th August**: 2 male **Adonis Blue** (I haven't seen them there before, but I'm not sure if I've ever looked at the right time), 43 **Chalkhill Blue**, 5 **Common Blue**, 1 **Brown Argus**, 2 **Small Heath**, 1 **Small Copper**, 1 **Brimstone**, 1 **Peacock**, 150+ **Meadow Brown**. On [Lardon Chase, Berks](#): 3 **Adonis Blue**, including a mating pair."

Dave Wilton reported as follows on 17th August: "**Peacock** numbers here in the garden at [Westcott, Bucks](#) have at last begun to build this week and I managed to count 19 individuals (there were probably more) battling the strong winds around our buddleias on [Friday 17th August](#). They were accompanied by **Brimstone** (1), **Red Admiral** (3), **Painted Lady** (1, my first of the year), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1), **Comma** (2), **Meadow Brown** (4) and plenty of assorted whites."

Richard Wheeler sent the following: "I spent a lovely hour at [Aston Rowant, Oxon](#) (N side) on Thursday afternoon (**16/08/12**). Weather was breezy but warm 20°C+ with some cloud. The hillside was teeming with flowers and butterflies, including 50+ **Chalkhill Blue** (incl. plenty of females – 10+), 5 **Brown Argus** (incl. one parked up next to a Chalkhill Blue), 7 **Silver-spotted Skipper**, large numbers of **Meadow Brown**, 4 **Gatekeeper**, 1 tatty **Ringlet**, 4 **Small Skipper**, 2 **Brimstone**, 2 **Small Copper**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 1 **Large White** and 1 **Peacock**."



Brown Argus
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Brown Argus & Chalkhill Blue
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Richard Wheeler

~ Wednesday 15th August 2012 ~

This update came from Nick Board: "The Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells are still going strong in [Chackmore, North Bucks](#). On Tuesday (**14th August**) I counted 15 **Peacocks** and 6 **Small Tortoiseshells** on the Buddleia."



Peacock & Small Tortoiseshell
Photo © Nick Board

Malcolm Brownsword sent this report:

"On Saturday 11th August on a West Oxfordshire Field Club field trip to [Oven Bottom and Juniper Hill](#) (Aston Upthorpe Downs) we saw 50+ **Chalkhill Blues** (including about 6 females), 3 **Marbled Whites**, 6 **Small Heaths**, 50+ **Meadow Browns**, 6 **Gatekeepers**, 3 **Brimstones**, 3 **Brown Argus**, 2 **Peacocks** and a possible Dark Green Fritillary.



Brown Argus

Photo © Malcolm Brownsword



Chalkhill Blue f.

Photo © Malcolm Brownsword



Chalkhill Blue f.

Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

[On Sunday 12th August at Hackpen Hill](#) (near Childrey, Wantage) I saw 60+ **Chalkhill Blues**, again including a significant number of females, 70+ **Meadow Browns**, 6 **Small Heaths**, 5 **Gatekeepers**, 2 **Common Blues**. On successive visits to 3 Chalkhill Blue sites in August 2012, I have now seen higher ratios of female to male Chalkhill Blues than I have ever seen before. Could this be related to this year's adverse weather conditions?

[On Tuesday 14th August I went to Homefield Wood, Bucks](#) and on my BBOWT transect saw 3 **Large Skippers**, 5 **Brimstones**, 1 **Large White**, 2 **Small Whites**, 2 **Green-veined Whites**, 1 **Holly Blue**, 1 **Peacock**, 1 **Comma**, 8 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 10 **Gatekeepers**, 14 **Meadow Browns** and 1 **Ringlet**."

Nigel Partridge reported the following: "We had four **Peacocks** on our Buddleia on Tuesday afternoon (14-08-12, [Loosley Row, Bucks](#)). I only saw one here last year and one earlier this year."



Peacocks

Photo © Nigel Partridge

Malcolm Richardson reported these sightings: "I visited [Aston Rowant NR, Oxon](#) on 9th August where good numbers of **Chalkhill Blues** were present along with **Silver-spotted Skippers**, 3 **Peacocks** and several **Large White**. I didn't see any Brown Argus. At [Yoesden Bank, Bucks](#) I saw huge numbers of **Chalkhill Blues** including some attracted to a canine deposit, along with one **Holly Blue** and more **Large Whites**. I did not see any Small or Adonis Blues however."



Large White f.

Photo © Malcolm Richardson



Chalkhill Blues

Photo © Malcolm Richardson



Silver-spotted Skipper

Photo © Malcolm Richardson

~ Monday 13th August 2012 ~

Juliet and Alan Gudge sent this report: "We took a walk with the dog on [Turville Hill, Bucks on 11th August](#) and saw at least 12 male **Chalkhill Blues** all on the western end of the open access land. We walked in more or less a straight horizontal line so there could have easily been many more in the areas we did not traverse. Once we crossed the fence to the eastern part there were none but there were many more wildflowers in the latter area. This may be telling us something about the habitat management of the two parts of the hill. I am not sure what grazing is done in each part. There were also a fair number of **Meadow Browns** and **Gatekeepers** across the whole hill but we did not see much else."

Mick & Wendy Campbell went to Little Wood, Oxon on 12th August: "Purple Emperors were still active in the main Ash tree territory at the top of the wood and also in a nearby Oak. We were there from 4pm to 5pm and saw 2 males, one of which still looked very fresh when viewed through binoculars. This male was patrolling his territory every 5 to 10 minutes and even chased after a bird that got too close."

David Hastings sent the following report: "I attended the Brown Hairstreak field meeting on [10th August](#). Around 20 people were there and 17 species were seen, unfortunately not including the Brown Hairstreak! The main species of note were several **Peacocks**, a **White Admiral**, three **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, at least six **Purple Hairstreaks** and at least eight **Brimstones**. Then on [August 11th](#) I visited [Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon](#) where I saw an **Essex Skipper**, three **Brimstones**, over forty **Chalkhill Blues**, around 10 **Common Blues**, six **Small Coppers**, one **Brown Argus**, five **Peacocks**, seven **Small Heaths**, over 50 **Meadow Browns** and ten **Gatekeepers**."

~ Saturday 11th August 2012 ~

Jim Asher sent this report: "Return of a stranger...I have seen six **Peacocks** today, *11th August*, in various places in *the Vale of White Horse, Oxon* and in the garden (*Marcham, Oxon*) plus a few **Red Admirals**."



Peacock
Photo © Jim Asher

Michael McNeill sent these sightings today, 11th August: "A warm sunny morning with light winds on *Lardon Chase, West Berkshire* produced large numbers of, mainly male, **Chalkhill Blues** (50+) and good numbers of **Meadow Brown** plus 4 **Brimstone** and small numbers of **Common Blue**. Also, much to my delight, 4 **Adonis Blue** inc. 1 female, all in pristine condition. A visit to *Hartslock*, just on the other side of the River Thames in South Oxfordshire, was disappointing with only 1 **Chalkhill Blue** and very little else, apart from good numbers of Burnets. Acknowledgement to Jim Asher for identifying a **Dark Green Fritillary** seen by me two 2 days earlier, also at *Lardon Chase*. My garden in *Upper Basildon, Berks* has suddenly come to life today with 8 **Peacock** on the Buddleia, 1 **Large Skipper**, 2 **Brimstone**, 1 **Painted Lady**, 1 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 1 **Gatekeeper**, 1 **Comma** and, much to the relief of my cabbages, very few Whites this year."

Dave Ferguson sent this update on 11th August: "On and around buddleias on the west side of *Hodgemoor Woods, Bucks* today were 30+ **Peacocks** and 2 **Commas**."



Peacock
Photo © Dave Ferguson

Jon Mercer sent the following: "I visited *Linkey Down, Aston Rowant, Oxon* at lughtime today, *10th August*. 20+ **Chalkhill Blue** and 4 **Silver-spotted Skipper** seen in a 20-min walk - also **Brown Argus**, **Small Skipper**, **Marbled White**, **Meadow Brown**."



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © Jon Mercer



Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Jon Mercer

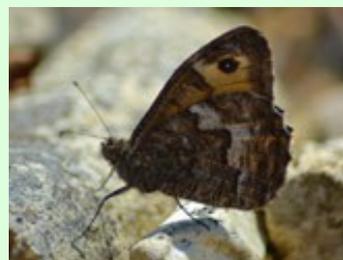
Dave Ferguson went to Black Park, Bucks on Friday morning (10th August): "I saw one each of **Silver-washed Fritillary**, **White Admiral**, **Comma**, **Brimstone**, **Large White**, **Purple Hairstreak**, **Holly Blue** and **Speckled Wood** plus 4 each of **Gatekeeper** and **Meadow Brown**."

Ched George visited Cobstone Hill, Bucks late afternoon on 10th August at 4.30pm for an hour: "There were hundreds of **Meadow Browns** which I did not try to count. There were no Silver-spotted Skipper and a disappointing 9 male **Chalkhill Blues**, but I did have 2 sightings of **Dark Green Fritillary**, my first for the site. Others seen beside many **6-spot Burnets** moths were: **Gatekeeper** 1, **Small White** 6, **Marbled White** 3, **Common Blue** 1m 1f, **Small Heath** 6, and **Small/Essex Skipper** 6. Also 2 **Shaded Broad-bar** moths. The adjacent slope to the west yielded a further 12m 1f and 1pr in cop **Chalkhill Blue** and 2 **Marbled White** besides the **Meadow Browns**."

Peter Law sent this news: "10th August: This morning I visited **Greenham Common, Berks** concentrating on the area between the missile silos and New Greenham Park. I found 3 **Grayling** engaged in a territorial contest around a small Buddleia near the rusty "plane in a pond" sculpture. The winner then flew around posing for the camera until I left at 12:30. Walking back to my car, I saw another Grayling on Buddleia beside the track by the silo enclosure, but it was chased away by **Meadow Browns**. Other butterflies seen were **Brimstone** (3), **Peacock** (2), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1), **Silver-washed Fritillary** (1), **Meadow Brown** (25-30), **Gatekeeper** (5), **Small Heath** (1), **Small Copper** (1), **Holly Blue** (1), **Common Blue** (4) and **Small Skipper** (2)."



Grayling
Photo © Peter Law



Grayling
Photo © Peter Law

Marc Botham reported the following: "On **10th August** I got **White-letter Hairstreak** in **Little Wittenham, Oxon** during a butterfly transect – the first on record at this site. Also, good numbers of **Peacock** compared to previous year and **Meadow Brown** numbers still high compared to last 3 years on same site."

Francis Gomme sent this report: "I walked along the Chiltern escarpment from [Cadsden to Ellesborough \(Bucks\)](#) on Friday morning, **10th August**. Very good numbers of **Chalkhill Blues** at all appropriate sites, numerous **Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Ringlets, Small and Large Skippers, Small Heath, Small Whites** plus 6 **Brimstones**, 2 late **Marbled Whites**, 2 **Common Blues**, 6 **Small Coppers**, 5 **Brown Argus**, 1 **Comma**, 1 **Silver-washed Fritillary**. I found **Silver-spotted Skippers** in good numbers at three sites along the route including the Rifle Range."

~ **Friday 10th August 2012** ~

Nick Board sent this report: "Haven't seen many reports of sightings of **Small Tortoiseshells** this year so I'm pleased to report seeing four today in my garden in [Chackmore, North Bucks](#) on the buddleia plus five **Peacocks**, a **Comma** and a few Whites."

David Gantzel sent these sightings: "On **August 9th** I visited [Hawbushes Farm, Widmer End, Bucks](#) as I had been told there were quite a number of butterflies there. However the meadows had just been cut for hay, and the only butterflies seen were c25 **Meadow Browns**. [Hazlemere, Bucks](#): one **Comma** on buddleia. My own huge buddleia has not attracted a single butterfly."

This report came from Peter Law: "**9th August:** On my first ever visit to [Swyncombe Down, Oxon](#) today I finally added **Brown Argus** (2) to my year list. In around two and a half hours I also recorded 13 other species: **Large White** (4), other Whites (4), **Brimstone** (1), **Marbled White** (3), countless **Meadow Brown**, 1 very worn **Ringlet, Gatekeeper** (7), **Small Heath** (2), **Small Copper** (4), **Small Blue** (1), **Chalkhill Blue** (25+ male, 2 female), **Small Skipper** (7) and **Silver-spotted Skipper** (17). From there I went on to [Chazey Heath, Oxon](#) on the A4074 to look belatedly for **White-letter Hairstreak**. I located 1 rather faded individual in an Elm tree opposite the entrance to the rear car park of the Pack Saddle pub. There were also 3-4 **Holly Blue** flying around the same tree. On **6th August** at the [Hagbourne Sustrans track, Oxon](#), I found 7 **Small Blue** at the recently reported location, including a mating pair."



Small Copper
Photo © Peter Law



Brimstone
Photo © Peter Law

Adam Hartley sent the following: "In calm, bright and sunny conditions there were plenty of butterflies for my visit to [Aston Rowant, Oxon](#). **Meadows Browns** everywhere, lots of **Chalkhill Blues** and quite a few **Silver-spotted Skippers** with a few **Small Skippers** thrown in. One **Brown Argus**, one **Brimstone** and one **Peacock** also seen as well as some **Gatekeepers** near the car park and a few **Small Heaths**. Also plenty of **Six-spot Burnet Moths**."



Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Adam Hartley



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © Adam Hartley

David Hastings sent this report: On *8th August* I went to *Radley Lakes, Oxon* between 4 and 6pm where I saw two **Brimstones**, six **Green-veined Whites**, one **Holly Blue**, one **Red Admiral**, one **Comma**, one **Speckled Wood**, nine **Gatekeepers** and four **Meadow Browns**. On *9th August* I visited *Greenham Common, Berks* where I saw four **Grayling**. I also saw one **Essex Skipper**, one **Large White**, around a dozen **Common Blues**, twenty or more **Gatekeepers**, nine **Meadow Browns** and one **Red Admiral**. I also stopped at *Bowdown Wood, Berks* where I saw two **Brimstones**, five **Green-veined Whites**, one **Purple Hairstreak**, one **Red Admiral**, one **Peacock**, three **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, six **Speckled Woods**, one **Marbled White**, one **Ringlet**, five **Meadow Browns** and eight **Gatekeepers**. Finally there have been **Holly Blues** in my garden in north *Abingdon, Oxon* all week."



Grayling
Photo © David Hastings

John Ward-Smith reported the following: "While carrying out a dragonfly survey at *Swinley Brick Pits, Berkshire* on *9th August* I came across 4 **Grayling**, a lovely fresh **Brimstone**, as well as various other species."

~ Wednesday 8th August 2012 ~

Mick & Wendy Campbell revisited Span Green, Bucks on 8th August: "The weather this time was ideal for Hairstreaks - hot, still and sunny. We arrived at Span Green mid-late afternoon and walked along the footpath into the middle of the wooded area where it was particularly humid. After about 10 minutes of watching one of the big Ash trees we saw a Hairstreak flying and then landing in the Ash. As it walked around in the foliage we managed to get a good view of it to confirm that it was our first **Brown Hairstreak** of the season. We then walked through to *Boarstall Wood* and part way along the footpath we stood watching the ash trees where we've seen Purple Emperors in the past. After a few minutes we saw a large female **Purple Emperor** flying slowly around some conifers and then disappearing into the distance. Other species seen during our walk were: **Purple Hairstreak** (3), **Red Admiral** (1), **Speckled Wood** (1 - very fresh), **Brimstone** (1M), **Peacock** (2), **Meadow Brown** (4), **Gatekeeper** (9), **Small Skipper** (3, inc. a mating pair), **Comma** (1) and **Small White** (1).

David Redhead reported the following: "I've managed to get round my local patch this week in [Littlemore, Oxon](#). The **Peacocks** have been interesting: [Monday 6th](#) - none. [Tuesday 7th](#) - I put 7 up - all down in the vegetation. I'm pretty certain it was not 7 individuals probably 3 or 4 as they seemed to have a habit of, after being disturbed, going back to ground in a trackway through the vegetation. [Wednesday 8th](#) - definitely at least 7 with 5 nectaring on teasel flowers (never seen so many teasels in my local patch before), sixth nectaring on field scabious (which are also doing well) and seventh on a feral buddleia. There was an eighth in the garden on a buddleia for a short while. All those seen at close quarters were pristine. These observations were made late afternoon in reasonable weather, so I suspect there was a major local emergence on 7/8th. Surprising as I did not see any caterpillars on the local nettles but better late than never! Also about, at least half a dozen **Gatekeepers**, a couple of **Speckled Wood**, a few **Small/Essex Skippers**, several **Meadow Browns**, a couple of **Comma** (in the garden/lane only), a **Red Admiral** and a few unidentified **Whites**. I managed to get a close-up view of two of the Smessex on Tuesday and one was **Small Skipper** and the other **Essex Skipper**. A tired **Ringlet** seen on the Monday but not since. Still not seen a second brood Common Blue or Brown Argus."

David Hastings sent these sightings for 6th August: "At [Cothill Fen/Parsonage Moor, Oxon](#): **Large White** (1), **Small White** (1), **Green-veined White** (4), **Small Copper** (1), **Meadow Brown** (1), **Gatekeeper** (1), **Peacock** (1). At [Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon](#): **Essex Skipper** (2), **Small Skipper** (1), **Large Skipper** (1), **Small White** (2), **Green-veined White** (10), **Common Blue** (10), **Brown Argus** (5), **Small Copper** (1), **Meadow Brown** (48+), **Gatekeeper** (35+), **Ringlet** (2), **Marbled White** (1)."



Common Blue
Photo © David Hastings



Brown Argus
Photo © David Hastings

Bryan Williams sent this report: "On Monday [6th August](#) I visited [Greenham Common, Berks](#) in the hope of seeing Graylings. I saw 20+ **Gatekeepers**, 15 **Meadow Browns**, singles of **Common Blue** and **Essex Skipper** and two unidentified Whites, but after two hours I could find no Graylings."

Marc Botham reported the following: "I did the butterfly transect at [Buttlers Hangings, Bucks](#) on Saturday [4th August](#) and recorded: **Small Skipper** - 9, **Large Skipper** - 4, **Silver-spotted Skipper** - 1, **Green-veined White** - 1, **Small Copper** - 1, **Holly Blue** - 1, **Chalkhill Blue** - 1 (male), **Dark Green Fritillary** - 2, **Marbled White** - 9, **Gatekeeper** - 27, **Meadow Brown** - 158 and **Ringlet** - 3. Off the transect I also had **Peacock**, **Common Blue** and **Brown Argus**, just one of each, the latter being the only one I've seen there all year, only the 2nd I've had on any transect in 2012, and only the 3rd I've seen all year! There were also a couple more Dark Green Fritillaries on the margin leading down alongside the public footpath nectaring on knapweed and looking very worn."

David Fuller reports seeing his first second brood **Holly Blue** (a male) in his garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#) on [5th August](#).

Nicholl Williams sent this news: "Another weekend of miserable weather. On Sunday **5th August** I went down to **Hawks Wood** and **Strawberry Bank, Bucks** between showers. The **Chalkhill Blues** have at last come out. There were a few **Silver-washed Fritillaries**. I counted 3 males in flight at once. It is very difficult to work the over all numbers. A **Dark Green Fritillary** was moving about the bank. Obviously the **Marbled Whites** were everywhere. I saw 1 newly hatched **Small Tortoiseshell** and a single **Red Admiral** at the top of Hawks Wood."



Small Tortoiseshell
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Red Admiral
Photo © Nicholl Williams

~ Sunday 5th August 2012 ~

Richard Soulsby sent the following report on 5th August: "A group of nine UTB members visited **Shirburn Hill (Oxon)** for this morning's field meeting. We were fortunate to avoid the worst of the heavy showers nearby and even had some sunshine! The target species (**Silver-spotted Skipper**) was quickly found and we saw at least a dozen, both males and females, basking and nectaring. Also 1 or 2 **Ringlets**, 2 or 3 **Gatekeepers**, 1 **Marbled White**, 9+ **Small Heaths** and many **Meadow Browns**, as well as a few **Six-spot Burnet moths**, various **Pyrausta species**, and several **Cinnabar larvae**."

Mick & Wendy Campbell visited Span Green, Bucks on Sunday 5th August: "Our target was Brown Hairstreak (none seen sadly) but after only 15 minutes of sun the black clouds rolled in and we had to beat a hasty retreat to the car, just in time to avoid a huge storm! However, during the 15 minutes we were there we managed to record **Green-veined White** 1, **Red Admiral** 2, **Gatekeeper** 3, **Meadow Brown** 2, **Small Skipper** 4, **Small Copper** 1, **Ringlet** 1 (very tatty!) and **Holly Blue** 1."

David Fuller reported the following: "**Waddesdon Manor, Bucks 04/08/12 - Small Tortoiseshell** 1, **Large White** 3, **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** 1 - my first of the year."

Steve Croxford sent the following: "I visited **Yoesden Bank, Bucks** on Saturday afternoon, **4th August**. A stiff breeze was blowing directly onto the bank leaving all butterflies keeping their heads down so as not to get blown away. However it was clear there were a great number of **Chalkhill Blues** present. I also saw a second generation **Holly Blue**. Apart from that it was just the usual **Meadow Browns** etc."

Brenda Mobbs sent this report: "On a walk with the Frieth Natural History Society on **4th August** I recorded the following: **Moor Wood, Bucks - Meadow Brown** 14, **Marbled White** 1, **Small Skipper** 1, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 5, **Large Skipper** 5, **Gatekeeper** 1 and **Ringlet** 1. **Strawberry Bank, Bucks - Large Skipper** 3, **Meadow Brown** 30+, **Small Skipper** 10, **Common Blue** 2, **Ringlet** 4, **Dark Green Fritillary** 1, **Gatekeeper** 8, **Peacock** 2, **Large White** 1, **Small White** 1, **Chalkhill Blue** 6, **Small Heath** 2 and **Marbled White** 5. We also saw **Six-spot Burnet**, **Silver Y** and **Shaded Broad Bar** moths."

Also, I saw a **White Admiral** in [Hodgemoor Wood, Bucks](#) (SU966933) on [Friday 3rd August](#). On [5th August](#) I popped into [Penn Wood, Bucks](#) and saw 4 **Purple Hairstreaks** in a quick visit but no White Admiral though. At [Holtspur Bottom, Bucks](#) among the "usual suspects" - **Meadow Brown, Marbled White, Gatekeeper, Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Brimstone**, I saw 1 **Common Blue** (male) and a **Small Tortoiseshell**."



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © Wendy Wilson

[Dave Cleal sent the following on 3rd August](#): "Just a quick note to mention that I had a **Purple Emperor** at some height over my head at [Homefield Wood, Bucks](#). From the main entrance I followed the main path right round until it splits and the right hand fork meets an electrified pheasant pen. It flew backwards and forwards over the wood edge here. Initially I wasn't sure if it was a Purple Emperor or a White Admiral but after some expert help I was able to confirm it was the former. Also 9 **Silver-washed Fritillary** along the main ride including 2 mating in flight. Commoner species in good numbers and especially so along the footpath back to Marlow opposite the Woods main entrance, just past the 2nd stile. 3 **Brimstones**, 3 **Peacocks** 4 **Commas** and I lost count of the **Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns & Ringlets**."

~ Friday 3rd August 2012 ~

[David Hastings sent these sightings](#): "I visited [Otmoor, Oxon](#) again today ([3rd August](#)) and saw the following: three **Large Skippers**, seven **Green-veined Whites**, one **Red Admiral**, at least nine **Commas**, 35+ **Meadow Browns**, 25+ **Gatekeepers** and three **Ringlets**. Then at [Bernwood Meadows, Bucks](#) I saw five **Small Skippers**, six **Green-veined Whites**, one **Comma**, three **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, a huge number of **Meadow Browns** (100+), fifty or so **Gatekeepers**, two **Ringlets** and five **Marbled Whites**. I was looking for **Brown Hairstreaks**, but couldn't find any."

[Ched George reported the following on 3rd August](#): "I went to [Buttlers Hangings, Bucks](#) today, visiting the south paddock from 3.45pm to 4.20pm and the north paddock from 4.20pm to 4.55pm. There were many **Meadow Browns** and **6-spot Burnet Moths**. The conditions were rather windy but mostly sunny. I gave the site a good look-over but did not search hard to distinguish or count the Browns, so I did not note any Ringlets. The south paddock yielded 2 **Dark Green Fritillary** sightings, one of which was a fairly fresh female, the other sighting was a flying individual. I distinguished 2 **Gatekeepers**, 2 **Small/Essex Skippers**, 1 **Silver-spotted Skipper**, 1 **Silver Y**, 0 **Chalkhill Blue**, 1 male **Common Blue** (admittedly in the set-a-side leading to the reserve), about 6 **Marbled White**, male and female fresh **Brimstones**, 8 medium to large and 2 small larvae of **Striped Lychnis moth** (and lots of well-eaten **Dark Mullein** plants). I also saw a **Great Green Bush cricket**. The north paddock yielded 3 **Marbled White**, 1 **Large Skipper**, 1 **Dark Green Fritillary** (definitely a 2nd individual), 2 **Small Skipper**, 1 **Small/Essex Skipper**, 1 **Chalkhill Blue** male where the foodplant grows and 2 more males at the foot of the slope, 1 **Silver Y**, 1 **Small White** and 2 **Gatekeepers**. I walked back along the set-a-side below the paddocks searching all the **Mullein** plants for **Striped Lychnis** larvae and found 15 large and 14 small

larvae although there was an even spread in sizes. I did not see any full grown larvae on the entire site but feeding damage seemed heavy."

This report came from Malcolm Brownsword: "On my *Hartslock, Oxon* BBOWT transect (including the extension) this afternoon (*3rd August*), despite a brisk wind, I saw the following: 1 **Small Skipper**, 1 **Brimstone** (newly emerged), 1 **Small White**, 6 **Common Blues** (all newly-emerged) one of which had a red parasitic mite on its head (see below), 1 **Chalkhill Blue**, 2 **Marbled Whites**, 13 **Gatekeepers**, 51 **Meadow Browns**, 3 **Ringlets**, 4 **Small Heaths** (all in the extension), 72 **Six-spot Burnet moths** (one with a red mite on its head) and 1 **Silver Y moth**. I have seen these mites before on Meadow Brown, Marbled White and Common Blue, but never before on any moth."



Common Blue with red mite
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

John Shaw sent this report: "A mid-morning visit to *Grangelands, Princes Risborough, Bucks* today, *3rd August*, was rewarded with 8 **Chalkhill Blues** plus a few **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets**. Plus a pile of 15 empty and intact Roman snail shells – perhaps someone was peckish?"

Tony Rayner sent the following: "I was surprised to find a **Painted Lady** in our *Cholsey (Oxon)* garden this morning, *2nd August* - the first for at least 2 years."

David Hastings sent this report: "Below is a photo of an aberrant **Small Copper** (ab 'radiata' I believe) which I took at *Aston Rowant on 28th July.*"



Small Copper
Photo © David Hastings

Dave Wilton reported the following on 1st August: "For a change, the brief spell of warm sunshine on Wednesday afternoon actually brought out some butterflies in my *Westcott, Bucks* garden, with **Small Skipper**, **Large White**, **Small White**, **Holly Blue**, **Red Admiral**, **Comma**, **Marbled White**, **Meadow Brown** & **Gatekeeper** all putting in appearances along with a **Hummingbird Hawk-moth**. However, there's still no sign of a Peacock here (or anywhere else locally for that matter) and they're usually reaching peak numbers on the buddleia around now. I noted a fresh **Small Copper** at *Greatmoor* two days ago and saw a

single **Common Blue** at [Calvert](#) today, so the second broods of those two species are only just beginning to emerge out here in the Vale of Aylesbury."

~ Tuesday 31st July 2012 ~

Dave Miller says he stopped at Beaconsfield Services (Bucks) on the M40 yesterday (30th July) late afternoon: "They have a little landscaped area out the back with large pond/small lake and a children's playground. Beyond the fence by the playground are a number of medium-sized oak trees and when watched for a few minutes they revealed a small colony of **Purple Hairstreaks** - around 6-8 individuals were seen. By the waterside, I also found a roosting male **Common Blue**."

Peter Law sent this update: "30th July: This afternoon I made a season's first visit to [Watlington Hill, Oxon](#). In the sheltered gully below the hill's southern edge the highlights were male and female **Brimstone**, the first I have seen anywhere since early July, and 2 **Silver-spotted Skipper**, one of which landed rather obligingly on the path right in front of me. Also here were small numbers of **Ringlet** and **Gatekeeper** and many **Meadow Brown**. In intermittent sunshine with a strong, cool breeze the only butterflies seen on the open west facing slopes were more Meadow Brown, a few **Small Heath** and 1 **Large White**. I also found a few **Silver-spotted Skipper** the previous evening (29th) on nearby [Bald Hill](#). On [Saturday 28th](#), I walked the [Hagbourne to Upton Sustrans track in South Oxon](#), where I saw various difficult-to-differentiate brown **Skippers**, 1 **Small Blue** in the recently reported location, a pristine **Red Admiral** near Upton and a **Comma** in Hagbourne cemetery. The profusion of wild plants along the old railway embankment, supporting large numbers of **Marbled White**, **Meadow Brown** and **Gatekeeper**, was a wonder to behold. I also looked for **Small Blue** in the disused chalk pits above [Blewbury](#) recreation ground for a second weekend running, but have not found any at that location."



Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Peter Law



Small Blue
Photo © Peter Law



Red Admiral
Photo © Peter Law

Ched George sent this news: "I found a batch of **Small Tortoiseshell** larvae in [Radnage, Bucks](#) on 30th July. They were all under an inch long. 2 adults seen too. No sign of Peacocks yet."

Abby Fettes reported the following: "On 26th July I visited [Foxholes nature reserve \(BBOWT\) Bruern, Oxon](#) between 12 and 1pm and saw 50+ each of **Ringlets**, **Meadow Browns** and **Gatekeepers** flitting around the verges and hedgerows, a **Large Skipper** sunbathing on brambles and 4 **Green-veined Whites** sitting on the access track. There were also 5 or so **Marbled Whites** skipping across the meadow. Unfortunately no **White Admirals** seen this visit."

Dave Miller sent this report: "I did two trips on *28th July*:

Bernwood, Bucks: Today was probably my only opportunity to see Purple Emperors this year (having taken the first week of July off work for this purpose many months in advance). I chose to go north as the roads to the south were disrupted somewhat by Olympic cyclists and ended up at Bernwood. After a good deal of walking and neck cricking, I and a number of others were rewarded with the sight of at least two different **Purple Emperors** circling and swooping to the right of the main ride not far down from the car park. Eventually, one settled for a while high in an oak and I fear that distance shots will be all I shall have as souvenirs of the 2012 PE season. Also seen were six **Silver-washed Fritillaries** (four females - one settled on my trousers briefly), a few **Purple Hairstreaks**, a couple of **White Admirals**, lots of **Ringlets** and **Large and Small Skippers** and **Marbled Whites** straying in from the nearby meadows.

Aston Rowant (north), Oxon: The other advantage of Bernwood is that on the way back I stopped off at Aston Rowant and walked across the slopes of the side north of The M40. It was pretty breezy (as it often is) and the sun was intermittent at best. However, it wasn't long before I saw the first **Silver-spotted Skipper** settled on a bit of bare path. After a little practice, I got my eye in, and by watching for the patches of bare earth it became relatively easy to spy the little orange dots amongst the chalky lumps. The **Chalkhill Blues** were also freshly emerged (there were none last weekend), and in my judgment (backed by another "regular" to the site who I bumped into) there are more here than for a number of years. There were a few females amongst the male majority, showing a good deal of variety in markings. As the sun emerged after around four, the flowery slopes came alive and it was clear that there were good numbers of Silver-spotted Skippers out - also mostly males at the present. As well as the two main species, **Large and Small Skippers** were present, some rather worn **Marbled Whites**, **Meadow Browns**, **Gatekeepers** and **Small Heaths**, plus singletons of **Small Copper** and **Small Tortoiseshell**. The second brood Common Blue and Brown Argus were not yet in evidence."



Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Dave Miller



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © Dave Miller



Chalkhill Blue f.
Photo © Dave Miller

David Hastings sent these sightings: "*Otmoor, Oxon on July 26th*: **Large Skipper** (2), **Comma** (1), **Gatekeeper** (50+), **Meadow Brown** (30) and **Ringlet** (4). I would have expected more than 5 species at this time of year.

Bernwood Forest, Bucks on July 26th: **Small Skipper** (5), **Purple Hairstreak** (1), **Purple Emperor** (1 male, on the track just south of the car park), **Silver-washed Fritillary** (7+), **Gatekeeper** (1), **Ringlet** (15), **Meadow Brown** (1) and **Marbled White** (1)

My garden, north Abingdon, Oxon on July 26th: **Holly Blue** (1), **Gatekeeper** (1).

Aston Rowant, Oxon on July 28th: **Silver-spotted Skipper** (c.14, all males. Most were on the south-facing slope of Bald Hill, with just two seen on Beacon Hill), **Small Skipper** (8), **Essex Skipper** (1), **Small White** (2), **Chalkhill Blues** (35+; the majority were males), **Small Copper** (2), **Red Admiral** (2), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1), **Dark Green Fritillary** (1), **Gatekeeper** (9), **Ringlet** (12), **Marbled White** (14), **Meadow Brown** (50+) and **Small Heath** (30+). No sign of Common Blue, Peacock or Brimstone."

Nicholl Williams reported the following: On Saturday *28th July* I walked the ride in *Hawks Wood, Bucks* and saw 13 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**. On *29th July* I saw one **Chalkhill Blue** again and also managed to get a photo of a **Dark Green Fritillary** on *Strawberry Bank, Bucks.*"



Dark Green Fritillary
Photo © Nicholl Williams

~ Sunday 29th July 2012 ~

Trudi Barnsley sent this report: "Good numbers of male **Chalkhill Blues** and a handful of females at *Aston Rowant* (north) in Oxon on *26th July*. Around 15 **Silver-spotted Skipper** seen along the central sheep track on the first field."



Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Trudi Barnsley

Karen Saxl reported these sightings: "I managed to get out on Saturday morning (*28th July*) to look for **Small Blues** at *Upton, Oxon* and saw 2 (and 3 by the Hagbourne ramp), so looks like second brood has started at both locations. Also, all the Skippers I've managed to get close to identify along the route in the last few days have been **Essex Skippers**. Also seeing quite a few **Commas** and **Green-veined Whites** in the areas where there is more wooded growth – particularly at the South Didcot start of the section – a large buddleia which is also a favourite halt for **Red Admirals** (one even landed on my count sheet on one occasion!). Not seeing many **Peacocks** and **Speckled Woods** though there are usually a few in the area."

Andy Hoskins sent the following: "*Saturday 28th July*. I visited *Finemere Wood, Bucks* between 9.00 and 10.45am and saw 20+ **Meadow Browns**, 4 **Gatekeepers**, 1 **Marbled White**, 3 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 1 **Large White**. In the afternoon I visited *Aston Rowant, Oxon*, north side of M40 between 1.30 and 3.30pm. I would estimate I saw over 50 **Chalkhill Blues** (all male), 20+ **Meadow Brown**, 2 **Marbled White**, 4 **Small Heath**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 4 **Small Coppers**, 9 **Silver-spotted Skippers** including a female laying eggs, 5 **Large Skippers** and 2 **Small Skippers**. Apart from the egg layer, all the SS Skippers were seen in bare earth/chalk scrapings (sheltering from the cool wind?)."



Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Andy Hoskins



Small Copper
Photo © Andy Hoskins



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © Andy Hoskins

Wendy Wilson sent the following: "We had a lovely sunny morning for the [Langley Park, Bucks](#) event on [28th July](#). Twenty people turned up including some enthusiastic young families. We saw good numbers of **Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small Copper and Small Skipper**, one of which sat and basked on a little girl's pink hat. Also spotted were **Large White, Holly Blue, Purple Hairstreak, Red Admiral, Ringlet, Speckled Wood** and a **Six-spot Burnet Moth**. We had an excellent sighting of a mating pair of Gatekeepers. Many thanks to Bucks Country Parks, who organised the event, to Park Ranger Craig and Park Volunteer Maureen, who accompanied us on the walk, and to UTB members Peter and Tess who helped people identify and enjoy the butterflies."



Meadow Browns
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Gatekeeper
Photo © Wendy Wilson

Dave Ferguson visited [Blue Close Wood, Seer Green, Bucks](#) on the morning of [28th July](#): "I saw a **White Admiral**, a **Comma** and a **Red Admiral**. This is the first time I have seen a White Admiral at this site."

~ **Friday 27th July 2012** ~

Graham Taylor reported the following: "Walking in [Wytham Woods, Oxon](#) on [Wednesday 25 July](#), I saw good numbers of **Silver-washed Fritillary** along the upper part of the Singing Way and 1 **Purple Emperor** at a puddle, also on the Singing Way, at 11:50am."

Nicholl Williams sent this report: "I went to [Strawberry Bank, Bucks](#) last night ([26th](#)) rather too late, but I saw my first **Chalkhill Blue** of the season and also a **Small Copper** on Tuesday night late again. The other butterflies were much the same although I was too late for the Fritillaries."



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Comma
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Large Skipper
Photo © Nicholl Williams

Andy Hoskins reported the following: "On Thursday evening *26th July* I visited *Finemere Wood, Bucks* between 6pm and 7.30pm and saw 2 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 1 **White Admiral**, 5 **Commas**, 1 **Marbled White**, 1 **Gatekeeper**, 4 **Large Skipper**, 2 **Small Skipper**, 2 **Small White**, 3 **Ringlets** and 15+ **Meadow Brown**."

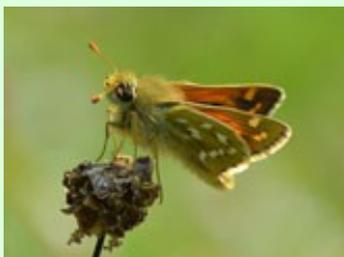


White Admiral
Photo © Andy Hoskins



Gatekeeper
Photo © Andy Hoskins

Peter Law sent this news: "*26 July*: This afternoon I paid another visit to *Aston Rowant NNR (N), Oxon* to photograph **Silver-spotted Skipper**. I estimate there were a minimum 12 and maximum 20 in the middle part of the hillside above the M40. As others have reported, **Chalkhill Blue** are now flying in good numbers and I saw several females today. There was 1 **Dark Green Fritillary** in the usual area at the foot of the hill and singles of **Small Copper** and **Small Tortoiseshell**. **Meadow Brown**, **Marbled White** and **Small Skipper** were all abundant, with lesser numbers of **Small Heath** and various Whites. I spoke to a visiting observer from Leicestershire who reported 2 Brown Argus, but I didn't see any myself."



Silver-spotted Skipper
Photo © Peter Law



Small Copper
Photo © Peter Law



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © Peter Law

The following sightings came from Richard Wheeler: "On *24/07/12*, I stopped briefly at *Westwell Gorse* (a small BBOWT site near Burford, Oxon). To the sound of gorse seed cases popping in the heat, I saw good numbers of **Meadow Brown, Ringlet** and **Marbled White**, 4 **Large Skipper**, 3 **Gatekeeper**, 1 **Green-veined White** and 2 **Large White** (and a couple of deer). Later on in the day I passed *White Horse Hill* (nr. Uffington, Oxon) and stopped very briefly there – just long enough to find a couple of **Chalkhill Blue** (among other things). On *25/07/12*, I spent a couple of hours at *Bernwood Forest, Bucks* and saw 2 **Purple Emperor** (1 M landed briefly on the main track), 3 **Purple Hairstreak**, 12 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, and good numbers of **Ringlet, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Small Skipper** and **Large Skipper** – together with several **Gatekeeper**. On *26/07/12*, I visited *Rushbeds Wood, Bucks* and saw: 2/3 **White Admiral** (one flickering and gliding for a lovely minute or so beneath a mature oak), 9 **Silver-washed Fritillary** (including a mating pair), 2 **Comma** (one apparently engaged in a ferocious dogfight with a Silver-washed Fritillary), good numbers of **Meadow Brown, Ringlet** and **Marbled White**, a handful of **Small and Large Skipper**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 1 **Brimstone** (F), 2 **Large White**, 1 **Green-veined White**, 1 **Small White** (among numerous otherwise unidentified 'whites')."

Paul Warham sent this report: "This morning (*26th July*) along a footpath between *Henley Rd and Marlow Common, Bucks* most of the Skippers that settled revealed themselves to be **Essex Skipper**. Later on at *Homefield Wood, Bucks* a **White-Letter Hairstreak** descended to the lower branches of the elm, close enough to be photographed."

Karen Saxl reported the following: "The second brood of **Small Blues** is definitely starting along the *Hagbourne Sustrans, Oxon*. I saw 3 around 14.00 on the afternoon of *25th July* at the ramp at the mid-point between Didcot and Upton and one in the evening, roosting on grass just a little NE. If the weather is still sunny at the weekend I'll take a trip up to the ramp at Upton and see if the second brood has started there as well."

Dave Ferguson sent this update: "I photographed this **Purple Emperor** in *Strawberry Wood, Black Park, Bucks* on *25th July*. It was c20 feet up in an oak and c70m West of where I saw a female on 24th July. As I think this is a female it may well be the same individual."



Purple Emperor
Photo © Dave Ferguson

Francis Gomme sent the following: "At *Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks* on Wednesday morning *25th July* 15 + **Dark Green Fritillaries** were flying on the south side of the hill below the road. Considerable numbers of **Chalkhill Blues** across the site plus **Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Marbled Whites, Small Heaths** and **Small Skippers**. In the afternoon I watched **Silver-spotted Skippers** at various points around *Bald Hill* (20+) and later found 2 at *Linky Down*. Again, huge numbers of **Chalkhill Blues**. Surprisingly, no **Dark Green Fritillaries** in meadows above *Linky Down* and *Bald Hill*. The EN management that is returning these fields to a traditional chalk sward has reduced the taller grasses that they favour so maybe they are losers on this occasion?"

David Fearn sent these sightings for 23rd-25th July:

23/07: Bernwood Forest, 9am-12pm: Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Small Skipper, Gatekeeper, Large Skipper, Marbled White, Silver-washed Fritillary, Speckled Wood, Purple Emperor (4), Large White, Red Admiral, White Admiral (1), Purple Hairstreak (1). Male Purple Emperors feeding on ground, c. 10-11am; Hairstreak on grass by main track opposite car park path. **Aston Rowant (South side - rather windy):** Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Dark Green Fritillary (1), Large White, Marbled White. **Back Garden, Bodicote, Oxon:** Small White.

24/07: Bernwood Forest, 10-11am: Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Large Skipper, Silver-washed Fritillary, Speckled Wood, Purple Emperor (1), Purple Hairstreak (1). Male Purple Emperor on log pile near 1st crossroads, but not showing topside (too hot); Hairstreak in oak tree opposite car park path.

25/07: Bernwood Forest, 08:45-11am: White Admiral (2), Meadow Brown, Purple Emperor (1), Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Large Skipper, Large White, Marbled White, Silver-washed Fritillary, Small Skipper, Purple Hairstreak (1). Male Purple Emperor on ground down main track few yards past 1st crossroads, seen 9am (feeding earlier than usual because of hot conditions?, c. 20C at 9am); Hairstreak in grass at 1st crossroads; 1 White Admiral seen on brambles in car park at 9am. **Aston Rowant (North side), lunchtime:** Meadow Brown, Marbled White, Chalkhill Blue (lots, inc. some females), Silver-spotted Skipper (good numbers), Small Skipper, Ringlet, Dark Green Fritillary (1), Small Heath. **Back Garden, Bodicote:** Green-veined White.

Also, if anyone's interested, I've posted an extensive trip report for my visit to Greece at the start of July over on ukbutterflies: <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/viewtopic.php?f=20&t=6384> "



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © David Fearn



Marbled White
Photo © David Fearn

~ Tuesday 24th July 2012 ~

This report came from Michael McNeill: Tuesday 24 July. 27C. The sunny and warmer weather prompted a walk in two areas in **West Berkshire, Moor Copse and Lardon Chase**. Moor Copse produced large numbers (100+) of **Meadow Browns** and **Large and Small Skippers** (50+), as well as 8 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 1 **Peacock**, some **Gatekeepers**, 10 **Marbled White**, 10 **Ringlet** and a number of **6-Spot Burnet Moths**. **Lardon Chase** seemed awash with **Chalkhill Blues**, mainly male, and certainly many more than I reported this time last year, when I counted 200+. Also, there were good numbers of **Meadow Brown** (50+), **Large and Small Skippers** (10), 2 **Marbled White**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 1 **Small Copper**, 1 **Small Heath** and a number of **6 Spot Burnets**."



Chalkhill Blues pairing
Photo © Michael McNeill

Martin Kincaid reported the following: "Having spent much time over the last week looking at various sites for **White-letter Hairstreak** I had almost given up hope. However, at 13.45 on Tuesday *24th July* I finally found some at *Manor Farm, Old Wolverton, Milton Keynes* SP809417. There are some fine Huntingdon elm trees as the road to the farm bends and Hairstreaks were seen here a few years back. Within a few minutes of waiting I saw two engaged in a combat flight! They were very active in the tops of the elms but none of them came down to ground level. My maximum count was 4. Earlier in the day, I walked my transect route from *Shenley Wood to the North Bucks Way* in the west of MK. Highlights were a single **Silver-washed Fritillary**, a single **Purple Hairstreak** and 4 **White Admiral**. The other species observed were: **Large Skipper**, **Small Skipper**, **Large**, **Small** and **Green-veined Whites**, **Common Blue**, **Comma**, **Marbled White**, **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet** and **Gatekeeper**. Gatekeepers are very late this year and my count of 7 was pitifully low".

Jonathan Crouch says he had a very enjoyable morning today (24th July) along the main path in Shabbington Wood (Bernwood), Bucks: "Sightings included - 5 **Purple Emperors** (all male), 6 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 2 **White Admirals**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 4 **Purple Hairstreaks**. Also in good numbers were **Large & Small Skippers**, **Ringlets**, and **Gatekeepers**."



Purple Emperor male
Photo © Jonathan Crouch

Dave Ferguson sent these sightings: "At *Strawberry Wood, Black Park, Bucks* this morning (*24th July*) I saw 1 female **Purple Emperor**, 3 **White Admirals**, including one that was quite fresh, and 12 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** including a mated pair. Having sat on the seat on the S edge of Strawberry Wood for 10 minutes I got up to go home. I glanced upwards while doing so and saw an Empress flying around the willow whose branches were immediately above my head. It flew into the centre of the tree and I didn't see it again."



Silver-washed Fritillaries
pairing
Photo © Dave Ferguson

Karen Saxl sent this update on 24th July: "Hagbourne, Oxon Sustrans – the last few days I haven't managed a day time count so have been going out at dusk. One big advantage is that at this time the Skippers start to get lethargic so I've actually managed to get close enough to identify them properly – looks like a pretty even mixture of **Essex Skippers** and **Small Skippers**. **Marbled Whites** still doing quite well – last night's count was 96, **Meadow Browns** also doing well – easily get up into the 30s ... and if it has been a sunny day then they seem to do a last minute flurry just as the sun goes down. I've definitely got a reputation with the local dog walkers who now ask me how the butterfly count is going. I haven't managed to see another **Small Blue** (yet)."

Andy Hoskins sent the following sightings today:

Saturday 21st: I visited *Finemere Wood, Bucks* between 9am and 10.30 am and saw 4 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 2 **Comma**, 2 **Marbled White**, 6 **Ringlet**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 15+ **Meadow Brown**. In the afternoon 4pm to 5.30pm I went to *Oakley Wood, Bernwood, Bucks* and saw 1 **Purple Hairstreak**, 1 female **Silver-Washed Fritillary**, 5 **Marbled White**, 7 **Large Skipper**, 1 **Comma**.

Sunday 22nd July Judging by other reports, a Purple Emperor day! Visited Oakley Wood between 10.30 and 11.30. Counted 6 **Purple Emperor** (may well be duplicates from other reports as there were many spotters out), 1 **Red Admiral**, 3 **Small Skipper**, 4 **Large Skipper**, 20+ **Meadow Brown**. Called at *Finemere* on my way home and saw 3 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 3 **Comma**, 10+ **Small/Green-veined White**, 1 **Gatekeeper**, 4 **Large Skipper**, 1 **Hummingbird Hawkmoth**.

Monday 23rd July: Called at *College Wood, Bucks* 6pm - 6.45pm and saw 3 **Meadow Brown** and 1 **Comma**.

Tuesday 24th July: Stopped at *Finemere Wood* 6pm-6.45pm and saw 3 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 4 **Marbled White**, 3 **Large White**, 2 **Comma**, 2 **Gatekeeper**, 2 **Large Skipper**."



Small Tortoiseshell
Photo © Andy Hoskins



Silver-washed Fritillary f.
Photo © Andy Hoskins

Richard Wheeler sent this report: "Just back after an enjoyable couple of nights camping below the [White Horse near Uffington, Oxon \(20-22/07/12\)](#). The weather was excellent (20°+ and sunny). While there, I saw numerous **Marbled White**, **Ringlet** and **Meadow Brown** (see pics); good numbers of **Large Skipper** and **Small Skipper**; 3 **Gatekeeper**, 1 **Red Admiral** and 1 **Dark Green Fritillary** – all of them on the grassy slopes below and to the left of the White Horse itself (as you look up the hill) - sadly no Chalkhill Blues as yet."



Marbled White
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Meadow Brown
Photo © Richard Wheeler

Bryan Williams sent the following: "[Monday 23rd July](#) - I visited [Homefield Wood, Bucks](#) and saw **Silver-washed Fritillaries** (12), **Red Admirals** (4), **Comma** (1), **Meadow Browns** (13), **Ringlets** (40+), **Speckled Wood** (2) one **Small Heath**, several Whites of which three were **Green-veined Whites**, one was a **Small White** and one was a **Large White**. I then went on to [Aston Rowant, Oxon](#) to look for **Chalkhill Blues**; they were very active at the bottom of the hill and in the ditch area, I saw 25 of which one was a female. Also at the bottom of the hill were four **Dark Green Fritillaries**. In addition there were 50+ **Meadow Browns**, **Small Heaths** (21), **Marbled Whites** (17), **Ringlets** (5), **Small/ Essex Skippers** (16), **Gatekeepers** (2) one **Red Admiral** and several unidentified Whites."



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © Bryan Williams



Dark Green Fritillary
Photo © Bryan Williams

This report came from Mick Jones: "At [Dancersend, Bucks on Sunday 22nd July](#) I did two 15 minute observations for the Big Butterfly Count. In Bittams Wood ride I saw 2 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 6 **Meadow Browns**, 10 **Ringlets**, 3 **Marbled Whites** and 2 **Large Skippers**. In the more open part of Round Spring Wood I saw 4 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** (two of them mating whilst being buzzed by another male), 2 **Commas**, 6 **Marbled Whites**, 4 **Meadow Browns**, 5 **Ringlets** and 2 **Large Skippers**."



Silver-washed Fritillaries
mating
Photo © Photographer

Neil Manthorpe reported these sightings: "A walk around *Keep Hill Wood in High Wycombe, Bucks* on Sunday *22nd July* in the late afternoon found many **Ringlets** and one each of **Speckled Wood** and an unidentified Fritillary in the margin between the woods and the fields to the north. In the open 'picnic' area were more Ringlets, a few **Small Whites** and **Meadow Browns** and one **Large Skipper**."

Nicholl Williams sent this news: "At last the weather has been improving. I went to the *Burford Gravel Pit near Reading* after work on Friday *20th July* and there were several **Gatekeepers** showing up at last. Still many **Marbled Whites**, **Small Skippers** a single **Six-spot Burnet Moth**, a couple of **Commas** and **Red Admirals**. Also still lots of Demoiselle flies. On Saturday *21st July* I went to *Moor Wood and Strawberry Bank, Bucks*. I noted 12 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, a single **Small Tortoiseshell**, several **Gatekeepers**, **Small Skippers**, a few **Large Skippers**. The bank is still covered with **Marbled Whites**. At present there were no Blues of any sort visible."



Small Skipper
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Gatekeeper
Photo © Nicholl Williams

Jeremy Soane sent the following report: "On *18th July*, I decided to explore *Bray Pit, Berks* for its butterfly potential. This is an attractive BBOWT reserve centred on a small filled gravel pit next to Bray Lake. I spotted several **Meadow Browns** in the wildflower margins surrounding the lake, along with 2 **Large Whites**. I saw nothing else, maybe due to cool weather conditions, but the wildflowers looked spectacular, especially the betony. Conditions brightened up for my visit to the neighbouring lake on the other side of the path (and the Cut stream). I saw at least 10 **Meadow Browns**, 3 **Ringlets**, 2 fresh **Gatekeepers**, 1 **Marbled White** (looking incongruous among rampaging bindweed and hogweed), 5 **Small Skippers** and 3 **Commas**. Marbled whites must breed locally."

~ Sunday 22nd July 2012 ~

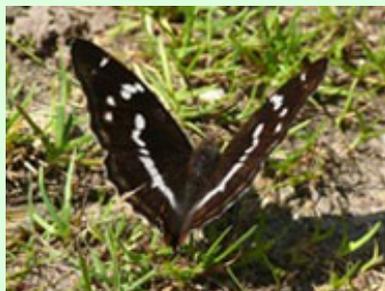
This report came from Colin Williams: "With the improved weather I tried to get out this weekend as much as possible. On Saturday (21st July) I started with a three hour visit to [Homefield Wood, Bucks](#). The main ride from the car park produced 6+ **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, my first **Painted Lady** of the year but still no Hairstreaks. I then moved on to [Yoesden Bank, Bucks](#) where I stayed until dusk. It was great to see so many **Chalkhill Blues**. At dusk I counted 48 males at roost in just one traverse across the slope and most of them were in immaculate condition. There was no sign of any females. I also spotted three **Great Green Bush-crickets**, all showing the distinctive brown streak down the back. On Sunday (22nd July) I spent 6 hours at [Bernwood Forest, Bucks](#) (0900-1500) and counted a definite eight male **Purple Emperors** along the main ride."

Richard Soulsby reported the following: "Silver-spotted Skippers are on the wing! I saw two today (22nd July) at [Swyncombe Downs \(Oxon\)](#), a fresh male nectaring on scabious, and another flying around. And these are not the first - one was seen by Paul Huckle yesterday at Aston Rowant NNR (see report below). If you see any in the coming weeks please could you report them via this website! In fact, it was a good day all round with other species at Swyncombe including 5 male **Chalkhill Blues**, a fresh female **Dark Green Fritillary** probing diligently around violet plants (though I couldn't find any eggs), as well as **Gatekeepers**, **Small Heaths**, **Small Whites**, **Large Skippers**, **Small Skippers**, **Brimstone**, **Ringlets**, 2 **Red Admirals**, plenty of **Meadow Browns** and **Marbled Whites**, a **Small Copper** and a **Green-veined White**. Add to that garden sightings of a **Small Tortoiseshell** and a **Large White** gives a day's total of 17 species. It must really be summer!"

Chris Lamsdell sent this report for 22nd July: "At [Black Park, Bucks](#), **Purple Emperor** 1, **White Admiral** 3 and **Silver-washed Fritillary** 6; at [Bradenham, Bucks](#), **Dark Green Fritillary** 8 and at [Yoesden Bank, Bucks](#), **Chalkhill Blue** 8, **Brimstone** 1."



Dark Green Fritillary
Photo © Chris Lamsdell



Purple Emperor
Photo © Chris Lamsdell



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © Chris Lamsdell

Dave Cleal reported the following: "I saw a **Painted Lady** flying across a small hay field at Springfield Landfill site just off Lilley Lee lane south of [Beaconsfield, Bucks](#) on 20th July. It took refuge in a hedge allowing me to get some photos. I also had a **Small Tortoiseshell** here the week before along with 3 **Small Skippers**."



Painted Lady
Photo © Dave Cleal



Painted Lady
Photo © Dave Cleal

Paul Huckle sent this report: "Seen *21st July at Aston Rowant, Beacon Hill, Oxon* 1 fresh male **Silver-spotted Skipper**, although I only had 15% sun during my visit."

~ Friday 20th July 2012 ~

Malcolm Richardson visited Homefield Wood, Bucks on 19th July: "I saw several **Silver-washed Fritillaries** including a *Valezina* form feeding on bramble along the main ride. Also seen were **Small and Large Skippers, Red Admiral, Ringlet, Marbled White, Green-veined White** and a **Six-spot Burnet Moth**."



Red Admiral
Photo © Malcolm Richardson



Silver-washed Fritillary f. valezina
Photo © Malcolm Richardson

Chris Dennis sent this news: "Pat and I went to *Yeosden Bank, Bucks on 19th July*, weather not too good and quite windy but despite the weather during the few short sunny spells we managed to see at least 12 **Chalkhill Blues**. Also we saw 3 giant **Crickets**, it's quite a few years since I have seen one of these. Also on the *15th July* we saw 2 **Purple Emperors** at *Bernwood, Bucks* both on the main ride, one before the stream and the other just past the crossroads where the seat is."



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © Chris Dennis



Great Green Bush-cricket
Photo © Chris Dennis

Penny Hogevoid sent this report on 18th July: "We had 2 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** on our land which is close to Moore Copse Nature reserve, Berks."

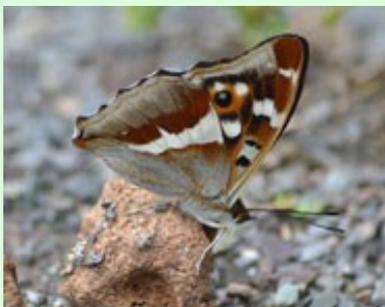


Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Penny Hogevoid

Malcolm Brownsword reported the following: "The Upper Thames Branch field meeting to *Homefield Wood, Bucks on 18th July* can be summed up in one word: wet! However, we did see 14 **Ringlets** and 4 **Meadow Browns** plus 4 **Slow-worms!**"

This report came from Andy Hoskins: "I visited *Finemere Wood, Bucks* between 6.15pm and 7.00pm on *17th July* and saw 3 **Commas**, 7 **Meadow Brown**, 3 **Ringlet**, 1 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 2 **White Admiral**, 3 **Marbled White** and 2 **Purple Hairstreak**, all on the main ride."

Peter Law sent this report: "*17 July: At Aston Rowant NNR (N), Oxon* - this morning I found and photographed my first **Chalkhill Blue** of the year on the hillside above the M40. Other sightings were 2 **Gatekeeper** and good numbers of **Small Heath** and **Small Skipper**; while **Meadow Brown** and **Marbled White** were abundant. There were still 2 **Dark Green Fritillary** at the foot of the hill, in an area around a gate at the end of the sunken path, but one of these is now very worn. I also saw 1 **Small Tortoiseshell** and 1 **Ringlet** at that location. Walking back up the hill I came across 2 more very fresh and still slightly crumpled Chalkhill Blue, one of which looked like its wings were still drying. In the afternoon I stopped at *Oakley Wood, Bernwood, Bucks* again where I met Sheila Harlow. We found 2 male **Purple Emperor** on the main track by the log stacks at 3:30pm. One of them (pictured) was still feeding on the same dog faeces, in by then overcast conditions, when we walked back 70 minutes later."



Purple Emperor
Photo © Peter Law



Dark Green Fritillary
Photo © Peter Law



Chalkhill Blue
Photo © Peter Law

Ched George sent this news: "2 male **Silver-washed Fritillary** at *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* on 17th July, plus 1 **Dark Green Fritillary**. At *Bradenham, Bucks* there were at least 20 Dark Green Fritillary flying, including a melanic female busy ovipositing. Saw 2 **Gatekeepers** today, 2 f **Brimstone** (1 worn so suspect both were last year's) and a second brood **Comma**; as well as many **Meadow Browns** and **Marbled Whites** at both sites. A few **Ringlets**, **Small Heaths**, **Large Skippers** and **Small / Essex Skippers**. 2 male **Chalkhill Blues** at Yoesden Bank."



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Ched George

David Fuller sent the following: "17th July - On a dull afternoon we took the dog along the tow path towards Cookham, Berks SU909846 and saw: **Red Admiral** 1, **Small Tortoiseshell** 1, **Marbled White** 2, **Ringlet** 3, **Meadow Brown** 3, **Green-veined White** 2 and **Large Skipper** 1."

~ Wednesday 18th July 2012 ~

Malcolm Brownsword sent the following: "On my BBOWT transect this morning, 17th July, I witnessed by far my highest count of butterflies for this year so far. The most significant sighting was of my first **Purple Emperor** on the *Homefield Wood, Bucks* transect in the 5 years I have been doing it. Almost as exciting was the return of significant numbers of **Silver-washed Fritillaries** - a total of 20. Also seen were 3 **Small Skippers**, 4 **Large Skippers**, 3 **Red Admirals**, 6 **Marbled Whites** (all in the meadow), 6 **Gatekeepers** - my first of the year, 22 **Meadow Browns** and 41 **Ringlets**. I also saw 1 **Silver Y moth** and one **Six Spot Burnet**."



Large Skipper
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

Dave Ferguson went to Black Park, Bucks on Tuesday morning, 17th July: "I saw 2 **White Admirals**, 1 **Comma**, 6 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 4 **Purple Hairstreaks**, 7 **Meadow Browns** and 3 **Ringlets**."

Adam Hartley sent this report: "Sunny for once though with a bit of a breeze on [17th July](#). There were plenty of butterflies in [Burgess Field NR, Oxon](#) with 1 **Marbled White**, dozens of **Ringlets**, several **Small Heath**, several **Small Skipper**, a couple of **Gatekeepers** and few **Meadow Brown**. There were also quite a few **Shaded Broad-bar moths** around.

Karen Saxl reported the following: "This morning, [17th July](#), included a surprise appearance by a **Small Blue** along the disused railway near [Hagbourne, Oxon](#). It was a lovely specimen – wings more charcoal than brown so I guess it must have been a male ... and probably a scout for the second brood brought out by the sunshine. I also saw the first **Green-veined White** in a long time."

Paul Warham reports seeing a fresh male **Holly Blue**. "I saw it in my [Marlow, Bucks](#) garden on [17th July](#). Presumably it's a second generation individual."

David Redhead reported the following from Littlemore, Oxon: "My first buddleia sightings of this "summer" were made on Sunday morning, [15th July](#), in some welcome sunshine - 08:45 **Red Admiral** nectaring on a feral buddleia near my house; 09:00 **Large Skipper** nectaring on garden buddleia; 09:10 **Red Admiral** nectaring on garden buddleia. By the time I returned with a camera ten minutes later grey clouds had arrived and both butterflies had disappeared.

On Tuesday morning, 17th July, I saw the **Red Admiral** on the buddleia again but it defied Wendy's efforts to get a photo. Also on the 17th I managed to get into double figures for butterfly species - an achievement for the summer of 2012. At [Swyncombe Down, Oxon](#) I recorded, in order of abundance, **Meadow Brown**, **Marbled White**, **Ringlet**, **Small Heath**, **Small Skipper**, **Dark Green Fritillary**, **Large White** & **Small Blue**. Back home on my local patch at [Heyford Hill](#) I was able to add **Large Skipper**, **Red Admiral**, **Comma**, **Speckled Wood** & **Gatekeeper** making 13 species in all."

~ Monday 16th July 2012 ~

Chris Lamsdell sent the following: "At [Black Park, Bucks 15/7](#) I saw **Silver-washed Fritillary** 7, **Meadow Brown** 5 + **Gatekeeper** 2, possible **White Admiral** but only limited sunny periods. After that - nothing!"



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Chris Lamsdell

Karen Saxl sent this news on 16th July: "I've had a little bit more time recently to pay attention to the butterflies along the old railway line near [Upton, Oxon](#) – **Marbled Whites** are doing quite well with my highest count being 207 plus numerous **Ringlets** and **Meadow Browns** – mainly in a length of about 300m between Hagbourne Cemetery and the next bridge. Quite a few **Gatekeepers** and a few **Skippers** (Small and Large) as well over a sunny lunch time. Evening counts are around the 60+ mark – though yesterday evening I saw 135, all perched (so I wasn't double counting!) and so sleepy that it was possible to encourage them on to a finger and watch them perched there for a few minutes. I've also

seen **Commas** (hedge area near the cemetery), **Small Tortoiseshells** – up to 5, though mainly in what I would regard as the barren area north of the cemetery and heading back towards Didcot – this is also where I'm seeing most **Whites** – mainly Small. I think I've only seen one Green-veined White this year. Have also seen a few **Red Admirals** at the Upton end. Not seeing any Speckled Woods at the moment or **Holly Blues** (though I did see one in Reading on Saturday). This morning's count, in the rain was 31 **Marbled Whites**, 4 **Ringlet** and one each of a **Skipper** and **Gatekeeper**."

David Hastings visited Aston Rowant, Oxon on July 15th: "I saw four **Large Skippers**, three **Small Skippers**, one **Red Admiral**, 30+ **Ringlets**, 30+ **Meadow Browns**, 20+ **Marbled Whites** and at least eleven **Small Heaths**. But there was no sign of any Chalkhill Blues. I also visited **Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon** where I saw eleven **Large Skippers**, one **Small Skipper**, at least fifty each of **Ringlet**, **Marbled White** and **Meadow Brown**, one **Silver-washed Fritillary**, one **White Admiral** and one **Comma**."

Helen Hyre reports: "Sunday 15th July - Despite a cool breeze and few sunny periods in the afternoon, we saw 3 **Marbled White**, 6 **Meadow Brown**, 4 **Ringlet** and 1 **Red Admiral** at **Ellesborough** churchyard in Bucks."

Nicholl Williams went to Moor Wood, Bucks on 15th July: "I saw 6 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, a **Comma**, a **Red Admiral**, a **Small Heath**, several **Speckled Woods** and many **Small Skippers**."



3 Silver-washed Fritillaries
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Small Skipper
Photo © Nicholl Williams

Ched George sent these sightings: "I made a brief visit to **Stoke Common, Bucks** on **15th July**. Cloudy conditions meant little activity but I did see half-a-dozen **Meadow Browns** and a **Small Skipper**."

Gerry and Penny Kendall visited Bernwood Forest on Sunday 15th July: "It wasn't raining so the weather counted as good for 2012. We saw lots of **Meadow Brown** and **Ringlet** and a smattering of **Large Skippers**. In the meadows there were several **Marbled Whites**. But we were feeling a bit let down until we reached Picadilly Circus where a large butterfly was circling at speed. It eventually settled on the track and we could confirm male **Purple Emperor**. Nearby we found **Silver-washed Fritillary**. A good day after all!"

This report came from Peter Law: "15th July: At **Otmoor RSPB Reserve, Oxon** this morning the survey group that I sometimes join turned up a single **Gatekeeper**, my first of the season. Afterwards, some of us went to **Oakley Wood, Bernwood, Bucks** where I obtained this digiscoped image of a **Purple Hairstreak**. The latter was one of 5 seen in the vicinity of the car park while I was there."



Gatekeeper
Photo © Peter Law



Purple Hairstreak
Photo © Peter Law

Nigel Cleere reported the following: "During sunny spells on the morning of **15th July**, I noted the following in **Bowdown Wood, Berks:-** 10+ **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 1 **Purple Hairstreak**, 50+ **Ringlet**, 20+ **Meadow Brown** and 1 **Marbled White**. Sadly, still no Purple Emperors or White Admiral yet. However, the real highlight was a single **Dark Green Fritillary** flying amongst Thistles in one of the woodland rides. This is possibly the first record from this location, although the species was recorded last year at the neighbouring Greenham Common."

Jonathan Wright from Gloucester sent this report: "We had a pleasant visit to **Bernwood, Bucks on 15th July** with some warm intermittent sunshine. Managed to see **Large White** (2), **Green-veined White** (1), **Marbled White** (5), **Large Skipper** (3), **Gatekeeper** (1), **Ringlet** (20), **Comma** (1), **Purple Hairstreak** (4), **White Admiral** (2), **Silver-washed Fritillary** (5), **Purple Emperor** (2 flying - seen around oak tree at east end of main ride) and **Meadow Brown** (20) including ab. transformis in Bernwood meadow."

Steve Croxford sent the following: "I had a fantastic sighting of **Purple Emperor** at **Finemere Wood, Bucks** on Sunday morning, "**15th July** - . A large male had taken up residence in the new coppice area at the top of the main track shortly before the turning circle. It made frequent gliding flights around the clearing settling either on the trunks of the pine trees or on the piles of cut logs. I watched it for the best part of half an hour between 10.30am and 11am. It occasionally showed some interest in me but never actually settled on me."



Purple Emperor
Photo © Steve Croxford

David Redhead sent this report: "**14th July** - the sun did break through here for getting on for an hour! I took the opportunity to do a Big Butterfly Count using the **Heyford Hill (Oxon)** grassland & scrub as my location. In my 15 minutes I recorded my first **Gatekeeper** and **Small Skipper** of the year. Both were males and whilst the Gatekeeper was beautifully pristine the Skipper looked as though it might have had a stressful emergence. Another six species were recorded - **Ringlet** (34), **Marbled White** (15), **Large Skipper** (5), **Meadow**

Brown (4), **Comma** (3) and a **Red Admiral**. Also some moths (one of which is an addition to the UTB 2012 list) - **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet** (10), **Shaded Broad-bar** (2) and singletons of **Yellow Shell & Nemophora metallica** - the latter a slightly bedraggled specimen doing what the books say it should be doing, resting on the flowerhead of one of its foodplants, Field Scabious. The Ringlet count was outdone by the 38 Pyramidal Orchids - never seen so many in this area in over 20 years of observing."

Brenda Mobbs sent the following report of the Field Meeting at Holtspur Bottom on Saturday July 14th: "On a cloudy and damp afternoon five intrepid souls met at Holtspur Bottom Reserve. Although it looked unpromising we decided to walk around the reserve and look at the wonderful wild flowers, including a good number of Pyramidal Orchids. The Horseshoe Vetch is doing well as is the Kidney Vetch. We were rewarded with a reasonable number of butterflies! Frank Banyard was very pleased with the butterfly numbers and the good mix of wild flowers in both meadows. It did not rain until we were returning to the cars. The species seen were: **Ringlets, Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns, Small Skippers, an Essex Skipper, a Gatekeeper** and a few **Six-spot Burnet Moths**. It was the first Gatekeeper and Essex Skipper of the year for the members of the group."

Andy Hoskins visited Finemere, Bucks on Saturday 14th July: "In a brief period of sun at 5pm I saw 2 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 2 **Commas**, 15 **Meadow Brown** and 6 **Ringlets**, all on the main ride. One of the SWF and Commas briefly shared a branch until the Comma 'flicked' and drove off the SWF."



Meadow Brown
Photo © Andy Hoskins



Silver-washed Fritillary &
Comma
Photo © Andy Hoskins

~ Friday 13th July 2012 ~

Andy Hoskins stopped briefly at College Wood, Bucks at 5.00pm today (13th July): "In the warm sunshine I saw 2 **Red Admirals** and 2 **White Admirals** all competing for the same patch of brambles. The White Admirals were driven off to another patch."



Red Admiral
Photo © Andy Hoskins



White Admiral
Photo © Andy Hoskins

David Fuller sent this update: "Today 13/07/12 [Braywick Country park near Maidenhead, Berks](#) SU915786 **Meadow Brown** 35, **Marbled White** 25, **Small Skipper** 6 and **Red Admiral** 1. Then at [Maidenhead Moor, Maidenhead](#) SU894815 **Meadow Brown** 4 and **Comma** 1 in mint condition."

John Shaw sent the following on 13th July: "Friday the 13th proved lucky for us today. Whilst inspecting [Keep Hill Wood in High Wycombe, Bucks](#) a male **Silver-washed Fritillary** (a first for the site) was seen in an area coppiced during winter 2010/11. Also hundreds of **Peacock caterpillars** on the nettles which have sprung up in the same area. Other species included **Large Skipper**, **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet**, **Comma** and **Large White**. Also a **Silver-washed Fritillary** was sighted today at [Gomm's Wood LNR](#) also in High Wycombe."

This report came from Richard Soulsby: "Yesterday morning (12th July) a visit to [Bernwood Forest, Bucks](#) in sunny weather produced two fresh-looking **Purple Emperors**: one male settled at the turning circle at the far end of the main ride, the other flying around on the main ride near the Oakley Wood car park. In addition, plenty of sightings of **Silver-washed Fritillaries** and **White Admirals**, plus **Large Skippers**, **Marbled Whites**, **Purple Hairstreaks** in the tree-tops, **Speckled Woods**, 2 fresh **Commas**, 1 **Small Skipper** and 1 **Red Admiral**. **Ringlets** were easily the commonest butterfly, with a few **Meadow Browns** and a single flying **White - Small or Green-veined**. A pleasure to see so many interesting butterflies despite the wash-out summer."

Peter Law sent this report: "12th July: In this morning's fine weather window, Adam Hartley and myself went to [Bernwood Forest, Bucks](#) to look for **Purple Emperor**. We found this fine specimen on the main track through Oakley Wood, close to some log stacks; the same spot where another observer I met yesterday saw one. Afterwards, I walked around the Shabbington and York's Wood areas seeing **Silver-washed Fritillary** a-plenty, several **White Admiral**, good numbers of **Marbled White** and **Skippers**, and singles of **Comma** and **Red Admiral**. I didn't count butterflies today, but the most numerous species was **Ringlet**, while Meadow Brown seemed less in evidence than on recent visits to the more southern area of these woodlands."



Purple Emperor m.
Photo © Peter Law



Purple Emperor m.
Photo © Peter Law



Purple Emperor m.
Photo © Peter Law

Ched George sent this news: "Free time and sunny conditions finally coincided for me on 12th July. In one and three-quarter hours this morning at [Buttlers Hangings, Bucks](#) I saw 1 **Burnet Companion**, 29 **Ringlet**, 87 **Meadow Brown**, 93 **Marbled White**, 4 **Small Heath**, 5 **Large Skipper**, 2 **Small Skipper**, 3 **Small/Essex Skipper** and 20 sightings of **Dark Green Fritillary**. I conclude that there must have been at least 6 - 8 **Dark Green Fritillary** present on site. The best DGF count for some years. A **Red Admiral** was seen on the way back to Radnage."

Dave Wilton reported the following: "This morning (12th July) my second attempt this week at braving the mud to track down Purple Emperor in *Finemere, Greatsea or Romer Woods in Bucks* ended in failure, just like the first one! However, good numbers of **Silver-washed Fritillary** in each of the woods - into double figures in Romer/Greatsea where a mating pair was seen - made up for the lack of sightings of His Imperial Majesty. Other species seen included **Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Purple Hairstreak, Small Tortoiseshell, White Admiral, Marbled White, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper** (a single example in Finemere Meadows), **Ringlet** and **Small Heath** (50+ in Finemere Meadows), along with moths **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet** (many along the track leading to Finemere) and **Six-spot Burnet** (a singleton at the Finemere turning circle)."

Nick Bowles reported the following: "As it wasn't raining for once, I went out to check the habitat at a few **Chalkhill Blue** sites on Thursday (12th July) including *Pulpit Hill, Bucks* where I saw a lone male. The habitat looks excellent with masses of Horseshoe Vetch at most sites (has the weather suited it or is it that rabbit numbers are down?). Virtually nothing else there apart from a few **Meadow Brown** and **Ringlet**, but it might have been better in the morning when the sun was out."

Richard Wheeler spent an hour at Finemere Wood, Bucks on Thursday afternoon (12/07/12): "It was hot-ish (c.19°C with some cloud). I saw: 5/6 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 40+ **Ringlet**, 30+ **Meadow Brown**, 6 **Large Skipper**, 3 **Comma** and one each of **Green-veined White, Peacock** (battered and worn) and **Small Tortoiseshell**. Alas no Purple Emperor – or even White Admiral."

Michael McNeill sent the following: "10th July 2012, 10.30 am - I took advantage of a rare warm sunny morning and spent 90 minutes at *Moor Copse in West Berkshire* to see what was around. There were large numbers, (I stopped counting at 100) of **Meadow Brown**, 31 **Marbled White** (inc. 1 mating pair), 30+ **Skippers** (mainly small), 5 **Ringlet**, 8 **Silver-Washed Fritillary** and 7 **Burnet moths**. The weather then moved in, so I departed."



Silver-washed Fritillary m.
Photo © Michael McNeill



Silver-washed Fritillary f.
Photo © Michael McNeill



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Michael McNeill

~ Wednesday 11th July 2012 ~

Dave Parmenter reported the following: "On 11th July I saw 2 **Silver-washed Fritillary** and two **White Admiral** in *Strawberry Wood, Black Parks, Bucks*."



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Dave Parmenter

Francis Gomme sent this sighting: "Silver-washed Fritillary in *Hampden Woods, Bucks* this morning (11th) during a brief sunny spell."

This report came from Andy Hoskins: "Tuesday 10th July, 5.50pm I visited in *College Wood, Bucks* in overcast, cool conditions, and saw 1 **Red Admiral** that flew up from the main gravel path to the top of a tall Ash.

Wednesday 11th July, 6.00pm, Finemere Wood, Bucks bright sun then torrential rain. On the main ride I saw 5 **Meadow Browns**, 1 **Ringlet** and, sheltering in brambles from what became a thoroughly soaking downpour, a female **Broad-bodied Chaser** and an **Large Skipper**."



Large Skipper
Photo © Andy Hoskins



Broad-bodied Chaser
Photo © Andy Hoskins

Jan Haseler reported the following: "John Lerpiniere and I saw 69 **Silver-studded Blues** at *Wishmoor Bottom, Berks* this afternoon."

Chris and Pat Dennis visited Bernwood Forest, Bucks today, 11th July: "We found this grounded male **Purple Emperor** on the main track from the car park and managed to get some photos. We then went to *Finemere Wood (Bucks)* but did not see much there as it clouded over and rained so we decided to go back to Bernwood on our way home and, as luck would have it, we saw the Purple Emperor again (probably the same one as it was in the same place), so we saw it at 11.25am and again at 2.25pm. We also saw this **Small Skipper** at Bernwood - it's the first one we've seen this year."



Purple Emperor male
Photo © Chris Dennis



Purple Emperor male
Photo © Chris Dennis



Small Skipper
Photo © Chris Dennis

Richard Wheeler sent the following: "I made a dash through heavy showers to [Rushbeds Wood, Bucks](#) today (11/07/12) and enjoyed one of the shortest but happiest (not to mention luckiest!) butterfly excursions of the year. My arrival coincided with a generous patch of blue sky and sun, so I hurried into the woods, where I found 9+ **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 20+ **Ringlet**, 10+ **Meadow Brown**, 6 **Large Skipper**, 3 **Speckled Wood** and 1 **Marbled White** - and all this in no more than 20 minutes along perhaps a third of the main ride, before thunder, black clouds and a prolonged and drenching shower sent me slithering and dashing for my car. The Silver-washed Fritillaries were mainly nectaring on thistles and sunning themselves in the brief warmth.

Other recent sightings include dozens of **Ringlet** in the churchyard of [Bloxham church, Oxon](#) this morning and the following sightings at [Hook Norton railway cutting \(Oxon\)](#) on 05/07/12 (a quick visit – c.17°C, cloudy & breezy): 10+ **Ringlet**, 4 **Meadow Brown** and one each of **Marbled White** and **Common Blue**. Is it just me or are there a disproportionate number of Ringlet about at the moment?"



Common Blue
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Large Skipper
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Richard Wheeler

David Fuller sent this report: "At [Odney Island Cookham, Berkshire](#) SU905885 yesterday 10/07/12 **Meadow Brown** 51 counted but I am sure there were many more and **Ringlet** 6."

~ Tuesday 10th July 2012 ~

Jan Haseler sent the following report: "Dodging the showers this afternoon (Tue 10th July), I saw 2 **White Admirals** at [Sulhamstead Bannister, Berks](#) and 2 at [Wokefield Common, Berks](#) where there were also 2 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**. On 5th July, I saw a single **White Admiral** at [Limmerhill Woods, Wokingham, Berks](#)."

Dave Wilton sent this report: "A visit to the *Ivinghoe Hills, Bucks* this afternoon, *10th July*, produced good numbers of **Dark Green Fritillary**, both on the Beacon itself and in the usual area towards the bottom of the western slopes of Steps Hill where they were making good use of thistles in the adjacent cornfield. There was very little activity from other butterflies, though. **Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet** and **Small Heath** were recorded in small numbers along with a solitary **Small Tortoiseshell** and two **Chimney Sweeper** moths."



Dark Green Fritillary
Photo © Dave Wilton



Dark Green Fritillary
Photo © Dave Wilton

Adrian Cadman sent the following: "I checked out a couple of good elm sites in *North Milton Keynes* this morning, *10th July*; at least 3 **White-letter Hairstreak** very active just before midday at *New Bradwell*, but none evident in Great Linford."

~ Monday 9th July 2012 ~

David Hastings sent this news: "I visited *Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon* on Sunday afternoon (*8th July*) while the rain held off! I saw one **Large Skipper**, one **Small Skipper**, one **Red Admiral**, two **Commas**, nine **Ringlets**, at least eighteen **Meadow Browns**, six **Small Heaths**, and at least sixteen **Marbled Whites**."

On 8th July Mick & Wendy Campbell went to Little Wood, Oxon: "This was our third trip to Little Wood looking for Purple Emperor. Weather conditions were surprisingly good (for this year), about 21C and full sun when we reached the Purple Emperor territory along the footpath at the top of the wood. We were there for about 30 minutes before we saw our first **Purple Emperor** gliding around the top of the main ash tree territory. Over the next hour and a half the numbers built and we counted four individuals. We were treated to several spiralling battle flights and a number of extended gliding displays over the ashes and silver birches. We also had good views of them through binoculars when they perched high up in the trees."

This report came from Adam Bassett: "A few butterflies were actually flying in my garden in *Marlow Bottom, Bucks* around midday on Sunday (*8th July*). My wife alerted me to this **Silver-washed Fritillary** that had apparently been tussling with a **Ringlet**. I found it perched up on a shrub and it didn't seem too keen to fly off. It is a very fresh looking male and I wondered if it had just emerged from somewhere nearby – it quivered its wings a few times once opened, which I haven't seen before – is this a sign of fresh emergence, or being cold or feeling threatened? The wings look to be slightly crumpled from some angles. Anyway, a couple of record shots attached and continuing the annual occurrence of this species in the garden, so presumably a breeding species in adjacent woodland."



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Adam Bassett



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Adam Bassett

Nigel Cleere reported the following: "On Sunday morning (*8th July*) during a brief bout of sunshine, I saw at *Bowdown Wood BBOWT Reserve, Berkshire* 1 **Silver-washed Fritillary** and 1 **Purple Hairstreak**."

Bryan Williams sent the following: "Thursday *5th July*: In the *Homefield Wood Nature Reserve (Bucks)* (SU 812868) – **Marbled White** (20+), **Meadow Brown** (20+), **Ringlets** (40+), **Large Skipper** (20) and **Silver-washed Fritillary** (2) flying in from the wood. Also lots of common spotted and pyramidal orchids. I then walked along the main forest track and saw more Silver-washed Fritillaries (5) feeding on bramble flowers, **Speckled Wood** (3), **Red Admirals** (3) and two **Commas**."



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Bryan Williams



Meadow Brown
Photo © Bryan Williams

~ Sunday 8th July 2012 ~

Nicholl Williams sent this report: "After work on *5th July* I walked about the *Burford Gravel Pit* near Reading. There was a sprinkling of **Marbled Whites**, **Meadow Browns**, **Ringlets** and a single **Small Skipper**. Also, last Saturday I saw a Ringlet just after it had emerged from it's pupa. Not a good Summer."



Small Skipper
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Ringlet - newly emerged
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Ringlet
Photo © Nicholl Williams

Andy Hoskins reported the following: "I visited [Finemere Wood, Bucks](#) in humid sun on Thursday evening ([5th July](#)) 6-7pm. I saw 6 **Ringlets**, 10-12 **Meadow Brown**, 2 **Marbled White** and 2 **Small Skipper**, all in the turning circle at the top of the main ride."

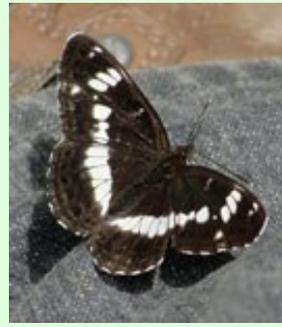


Small Skipper
Photo © Andy Hoskins

This report came from Dave Miller on 5th July: "A bright start with a hint of better, perhaps. I set off for [Black Park \(Strawberry Wood\), Bucks](#) with the aim of seeing **White Admirals** and **Silver-washed Fritillaries**. The initial lack of proper sunshine made them slow to appear, but I did glimpse several of the latter within a short while (mostly high up), and then eventually a couple of the former too. Blue sky was sighted on the horizon, so I waited... Out came the sun and with it the butterflies. I saw at least half a dozen SWF, probably a few more, including one splendid individual that just kept coming back to the same patch of tall thistles. Of White Admirals, I saw at most five, but none obliged by coming down to the brambles to nectar. However, one came down instead to hover over the damp path; it then approached closer and closer before eventually settling on my lower trouser leg to take on salts - in the manner of a certain close relative (of whom there was no sign today). As well as the main attractions, I saw a lot of **Ringlets** (15+), plus **Meadow Browns** (10+), **Speckled Woods** (5), **Large Skippers** (5) and one **Red Admiral**. Finally, I disturbed a small grey butterfly that made its way laboriously up into a birch tree, and then an oak. At its brief stop, I identified it as a male **Purple Hairstreak**."



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Dave Miller



White Admiral
Photo © Dave Miller

Dave Ferguson sent the following: "On Thursday morning *5th July* in *Strawberry Wood, Black Park, Bucks* I saw 2 male **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, a **Red Admiral**, **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets**. No White Admirals."

Peter Law sent this report: "On the afternoon of *5th July* I visited *Aston Rowant NNR (N), Oxon* to look for **Dark Green Fritillary**, seeing 2 butterflies. The first was just through the gate where the upper path from the main car park goes onto the hillside. From there I walked diagonally downhill to where the lower path goes through a gate, and saw the second butterfly there. Other species on the hillside were **Meadow Brown** (50+), **Marbled White** (30+), **Small Heath** (35+), **Ringlet** (9), **Large Skipper** (3), **Small Skipper** (4), **Common Blue** (1), **Brimstone** (1) and a very fresh looking **Small Tortoiseshell**, the first I have seen anywhere since March."



Marbled White
Photo © Peter Law



Small Skipper
Photo © Peter Law

Peter Hall reported the following: "I walked much of *Incombe Hole/Steps Hill/Ivinghoe Hills, Bucks* on the afternoon of *5th July* and I saw the following **Dark Green Fritillaries**: 7 at Incombe Hole feeding on thistle; 5 at Steps Hill on thistle/in flight; 5 at Ivinghoe Hills on thistle and a number of others flying fast in between."

Tony Croft completed his transect at Rushbeds Wood, Bucks on 5th July: "The highlight was two **Silver-Washed Fritillaries** nectaring on the marsh thistles along the north-south ride. Other butterflies recorded were **Meadow Brown** 216; **Ringlet** 103; **Marbled White** 88; **Large Skipper** 35; **Speckled Wood** 8; **Small Heath** 6; **Large White** 1; **Green-veined White** 1."



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Tony Croft

~ Wednesday 4th July 2012 ~

Dennis Dell, Mick & Wendy Campbell joined a meeting of the Friends of Naphill Common in Bucks on 4th July: "The poor weather meant that there were very few butterflies to be seen between the heavy rain showers. However, during a short sunny interval Dennis and Wendy spotted a **Purple Emperor** high up in Birch trees at the spot where Wendy and Mick had discovered this species for the first time at this location last year. It made a couple of brief sorties around the birches before flying across the ride and settling in a large Oak. We waited about 20 minutes but it did not reappear. The only other species seen were singletons of **Speckled Wood, Ringlet** and **Meadow Brown.**" Later on in the afternoon Dennis went to [Aylesbury Park Golf Course, Bucks](#) which he always finds is good for the Satyrids: 20 degrees, 50% sun, slight breeze: **Ringlet 59, Meadow Brown 90, Marbled White 75, Large Skipper 10, Red Admiral 1, Common Blue 1, Large White 1.**"

~ Tuesday 3rd July 2012 ~

Tony Croft sent this report: "Some local **White Admirals** to report: I saw my first of the season at [Rushbeds Wood, Bucks](#) on Saturday [June 30th](#) during yet another abandoned transect attempt. The following morning I saw two at [Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon](#) gliding around near the pond before the early sun disappeared."

David Hastings reported the following: "On [June 30th](#) I saw two **Large Skippers**, five **Brimstones**, about twelve **Meadow Browns**, two **Commas**, ten **Small Heaths** and about eight **Marbled Whites** at [Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon](#). On [July 1st](#) I saw about eighteen **Large Skippers**, three **Ringlets**, one **Speckled Wood** and about ten **Meadow Browns** in [Bernwood Forest, Bucks](#) then two **Large Skippers**, two **Ringlets**, three **Meadow Browns**, two **Commas** and a **Red Admiral** on [Otmoor, Oxon.](#)"

Jeremy Soane sent this news: "On Sunday morning ([1st July](#)) I visited [Chawridge Bank](#), a lovely, peaceful nature reserve in East Berkshire. Despite intermittent rain, I saw 4 **Small Heaths** and 5 **Meadow Browns** flitting over the numerous ant hills, plus a pristine **Ringlet** in the marshy area."

The following came from David Gower: "I walked along the Ridgeway towards [Pitstone Hill, Bucks](#) on [1st July](#) and noticed 1 x **Ringlet**, 10 x **Small Heath**, 1 x **Marbled White**, 1 x **Large Skipper** & 1 x **Meadow Brown.**"

Andy Hoskins reported these sightings: "I visited [Finemere Wood, Bucks](#) on [1st July](#) between 2.30 and 5.00pm, sunny spells, cool breeze. I saw plenty (15+ each) **Ringlets** and **Meadow Browns**, 1x **5-Spot Burnet moth**, 3 **Large Skipper**, 1 x **Comma** and a very fresh looking **Common Blue**. I was just leaving when I caught site of a **Bläck Hairstreak** high up on a hazel bush on the main ride."



Common Blue
Photo © Andy Hoskins



Black Hairstreak
Photo © Andy Hoskins

Malcolm Richardson sent this report: "I attach photos taken on *1st July at Prestwood NR, Bucks*. There were numerous **Marbled Whites, Ringlets, Large Skippers** and **Meadow Browns**."



Marbled White
Photo © Malcolm Richardson



Ringlet
Photo © Malcolm Richardson



Large Skipper
Photo © Malcolm Richardson

Dave Maunder sent the following: "I had an unusual find on Sunday morning, *1st July* - a female **Dark Green Fritillary** in *Hartwell cemetery, Bucks!* It was sitting in the sun releasing pheromones!"



Dark Green Fritillary f.
Photo © Dave Maunder

Andy Hoskins visited Finemere Wood, Bucks on Friday 29th June at 6pm: "The weather was sunny but with cool gusty wind. I saw my first **Ringlet** this year, 7 **Meadow Brown**, a **Speckled Wood** and 2 **Large Skipper**. *Then on Saturday 30th June, Bernwood Forest:* I missed the Purple Emperor session, but went to Oakley Wood and Bernwood Meadows at 3pm. I saw 3 **Large Skipper**, 1 **Ringlet** and a **Longhorn Beetle Strangalia melanura** in the woods, and 8-10 **Meadow Brown** and 1 **Marbled White** in the meadow.



Large Skipper
Photo © Andy Hoskins



Longhorn Beetle
Photo © Andy Hoskins

~ Friday 29th June 2012 ~

Michael Darby visited Bernwood Forest on 29th June: "I saw 5 **Marbled Whites** in the meadow grass of the M40 Compensation Area of Bernwood making the most of some patchy sun in the mid afternoon. Alas no **Black Hairstreaks** but 1 **White Admiral** in the oak trees of Bernwood Forest and a few clumps of **Peacock caterpillars**."



Marbled White
Photo © Michael Darby



Peacock caterpillars
Photo © Michael Darby

Nicholl Williams sent this report: "I went to the field between **Lane End and Marlow (Bucks)** opposite Widmere Lane late yesterday (**28th June**) after work. I saw as hoped for about 10 **Marbled Whites** and many **Meadow Browns**. There was one **Common Blue** but I arrived rather late in the day for them."



Marbled White
Photo © Nicholl Williams

This report came from Wendy Wilson: "At last **White Admirals** have emerged in the Strawberry Wood area of **Black Park, Bucks** - more than three weeks later than last year when they were unusually early. I saw two this morning (**28th June**) gliding energetically along the ride, pausing occasionally to nectar on bramble blossom. Also around the park, I have seen **Brimstone, Common Blue, Peacock, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Speckled Wood** and **Large Skipper** in the last few days."



White Admiral
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Ringlet
Photo © Wendy Wilson

Jack Peeters sent the following: "I spotted a **Grizzled Skipper** on **28th June** in an area where it has not been recorded to my knowledge. I look after a small private reserve at **Oving, Bucks** and so far this brings to 28 the number of species recorded at the site since I persuaded the farmer to let me fence it off and manage it 17 years ago."

Peter Cuss sent this update on 28th June: "I had walk in the meadow in the grounds of **Bradfield College, Berks** where I work (SU605726). **Meadow Browns** in good numbers plus **Marbled White 2, Small Skipper 2, Small Tortoiseshell 1** and also a **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet moth**. I then went down to the small nature reserve we have by the River Pang (still in the college grounds) and saw a second **Small Tortoiseshell, Speckled Wood** another **Small Skipper** and a **Scarlet Tiger moth**."

Tony Croft visited Wytham Woods, Oxon (permit required) on 28th June: "After a fruitless search for Bläck Hairstreaks at Wytham Woods this morning, I was cheered by the sight of a **Dark Green Fritillary** flying up in front of me. It settled briefly before speeding away across a meadow."

Dave Wilton sent the following: "A transect in private woodland in the **Grendon area (Bucks)** this morning, **28th June** produced **Silver-washed Fritillaries** but little else. The only other species seen were **Large Skipper, Speckled Wood, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet & Small Heath**, of which Meadow Brown was the only one to make double figures."

Dave Ferguson reported these sightings: "On a hot, humid morning (**28th June**) at **Homefield Wood, Bucks** I saw 1 male **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 1 **Marbled White**, 12 **Meadow Browns**, 11 **Ringlets**, 6 **Speckled Woods**, 1 **Green-veined White** and a **Large Skipper**."



Silver-washed Fritillary
Photo © Dave Ferguson



Large Skipper
Photo © Dave Ferguson

Michael McNeill sent this news: "A rather negative report on my own garden sightings in [Upper Basildon, West Berkshire](#). At this time last year I was able to report 18 species including Large Skipper, Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Red Admiral, Meadow Brown, Orange-tip, Small Copper, White Admiral (1), Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Silver-washed Fritillary, Holly Blue, Peacock, Speckled Wood and Small Heath. This year only 10 species of which only **Orange-tip** and **Holly Blue** were regular. Others included **Brimstone, Large White, Green-veined White, Red Admiral, Peacock, Speckled Wood** and **Comma**, all in very small numbers. No White Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell or Silver-washed Fritillary yet, but 1 **Painted Lady** was observed on [19th June](#)."

Helen Hyre sent this report: "On Wednesday [27th June](#) at [Ascott House, Wing \(Bucks\)](#) I had my first **Meadow Brown** sighting (16th June in 2011) and also my first **Large Skipper** sighting (6th July in 2011)."

Richard Wheeler sent the following: "I had a brief (45 min) walk at [Ardley Quarry, Oxon](#) after lunch on [27th June](#). The weather was muggy and overcast, c.19°C. I saw 2 **Small Heath**, 2 **Ringlet** (1 freshly emerged), 1 **Meadow Brown**, 2 **Marbled White**, 1 **Common Blue**, 2 **Brimstone** and 1 **Mullein moth caterpillar**."



Meadow Brown
Photo © Richard Wheeler

Adam Hartley reported the following: "[Tuesday 26th June Burgess Field NR, Oxon](#): the weather was very overcast and showery though with not much wind to speak of. I didn't hold out much hope on my afternoon visit so I was pleased to find 3 **Marbled White** and 2 **Ringlets**, both the first of the season for this site. In addition there was 1 **Large Skipper** and 1 **Common Blue**."

~ Tuesday 26th June 2012 ~

Paul Huckle sent the following today: "I saw 2 **Dark Green Fritillary** at *Aston Rowant Beacon Hill, Oxon* this morning (26th June). It's not often that I see them at Aston Rowant, but do see them sporadically."

Dave Ferguson reported the following: "This morning, 26th June at *Black Park, Bucks* in sunny warm conditions I saw 4 **White Admirals**, 6 **Speckled Woods**, 5 **Meadow Browns** and 1 **Ringlet**. All the White Admirals were very lively, flying around trees and rarely coming down. Only one landed - and then briefly - photo below."



White Admiral
Photo © Dave Ferguson

Adam Hartley sent this report: "*M40 Compensation Area Bernwood, Bucks 25th June:* weather warm and calm with frequent sunny spells. I managed to get four or five sightings of **Black Hairstreaks** flying around the tops of the Blackthorn though none settled long enough for a photo. Also seen were 1 **Large White**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 2 **Marbled White**, 4 **Meadow Brown** including one mating pair, 6 **Large Skipper**, 2 **Small Skipper**, 2 **Common Blue** and a female **Beautiful Demoiselle** damselfly."



Meadow Browns pairing
Photo © Adam Hartley



Common Blue
Photo © Adam Hartley

David Redhead sent this news: "I had one of my best 2012 butterfly days on 25th June with 8 species recorded. It started in the company of the dog at 8.15 with a **Small Tortoiseshell** nectaring on bramble flowers in *Rivermead Nature Park in Oxford*. Almost immediately afterwards a pair of **Speckled Wood** spiraled by. By 9am we had added a pair of **Meadow Brown** and a **Large Skipper** in *Heyford Hill (Oxon)* grassland and our first **Ringlet** of the year in the nearby scrub. The rest of the morning was otherwise occupied but in the afternoon I headed to *Bernwood Forest* to do the Shabbington Wood transect for a disappointing 4 Large Skipper, 4 Speckled Wood and 3 Meadow Brown. A short diversion into Bernwood Meadows in an unsuccessful search for Black Hairstreak did produce my first **Marbled Whites** (2) of the year, a pair of Meadows Browns and a faded female **Common**

Blue. Finally back home Wendy & I revisited the Heyford Hill grassland where we lost count of the Large Skippers & Meadow Browns (best estimate 10 & 5 respectively) and saw a singleton Marbled White & Speckled Wood and a very faded **Brown Argus.**"

Steve Croxford sent this report: "I found a single **Black Hairstreak** by the side gate into *Finemere Wood* from the meadows on **25th June** and also my first **Marbled White** of the year and a couple of nice bright **Small Tortoiseshells.**"



Black Hairstreak
Photo © Steve Croxford



Small Tortoiseshell
Photo © Steve Croxford

Dave Wilton sent the following: "I visited the disused railway cutting near *Winslow, Bucks* on **25th June** and found a single **Wood White** near the bridge. Also active were **Large Skipper** (4), **Brimstone** (3), **Green-veined White** (1), **Orange-tip** (one fresh-looking male, trying hard to get it together with a female Marbled White!), **Common Blue** (5), **Peacock** (4, very tatty specimens), **Marbled White** (6), **Speckled Wood** (2), **Meadow Brown** (10), **Ringlet** (4), **Small Heath** (2) and an assortment of moths, including **Chimney Sweeper** (21)."



Wood White
Photo © Dave Wilton

Andrew & Nicola Cornick (BC members in Wiltshire) reported the following: "We visited the *Bernwood forest* area on **24th June** searching for Black Hairstreaks. We parked at Bernwood Meadows so had two visits to the likely looking blackthorn hedges but unfortunately found nothing, despite the warm sunny conditions; we even had our flask of tea there! However having walked through the woods to the M40 Compensation area we did find two **Black Hairstreak** sharing a patch of blossom with a **Painted Lady**. We were pleased to meet Peter Law on a similar quest! On the walk through the woods we also saw **Large Skipper**, **Common Blue**, **Ringlet**, **Meadow Brown**, **Marbled White**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Speckled Wood.**"

Peter Law sent this report: "I joined the steady trickle of observers to the *Bernwood* M40 compensation area on *24th June* where I saw and photographed a **Black Hairstreak** at the far end from the entrance. Whilst there I also saw a **Marbled White**, my first of this season. The afternoon's **Large Skipper** count was 12, including the walk through Shabbington Wood. The only other butterflies I saw in the woods were 1 **Speckled Wood** and 1 **Peacock**."



Black Hairstreak
Photo © Peter Law

David Hastings sent the following: "I visited *Bernwood Forest* on the on 23rd June and found the M40 compensation area. I saw three **Black Hairstreaks** here. There wasn't much else about though: three **Large Skippers**, one **Red Admiral** and about a dozen **Speckled Woods** was all I saw."

~ Wednesday 20th June 2012 ~

Peter Law visited Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon today, 20th June: "I walked a route through Oven Bottom SSSI, along Grim's Ditch and then N-S through Juniper Valler, I recorded (in order of appearance): 20 **Meadow Brown**, 26 **Small Heath**, 9 **Common Blue**, 6 **Large Skipper**, 3 **Large White** and 2 **Brimstone**. On the walk back, there was a solitary **Small Blue** on the higher track to the west of Juniper Valley. This was my third visit to this area in 2012, and I have not seen either Brown Argus or Adonis Blue."



Small Heath
Photo © Peter Law



Large Skipper
Photo © Peter Law

Richard Wheeler spent a couple of hours at the M40 compensation area (Bernwood, Bucks) this afternoon (20/06/12): "Conditions were warm (c.20°C) with some cloud. I saw 6/7 **Black Hairstreaks**, including 3 fairly active around the lower branches of an ash tree. Other than these sightings I saw very little else: just one **Large Skipper** on the site itself (though my eyes were generally turned skywards!) together with just 2 **Large White** and 2 **Speckled Wood** in the half-hour walk from car park to site. Below is a photo cropped from a grabbed long shot (about 10 feet) – hence the lack of sharpness."



Black Hairstreak
Photo © Richard Wheeler

This report came from John Edwards: "I visited *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon* this morning (*20th June*) 10-12 am and located 1, possibly 2, **Black Hairstreaks** along the central ride near the pond. It/they were flying around the top of Blackthorn scrub on both sides of the ride in hot sunny weather. My wife and I were joined by 3 other visitors and we had 4 separate sightings, although all were flight views only. Also recorded were 2 **Speckled Wood**, 1 **Green-veined White**, 1 **Brimstone** and several **Meadow Browns** and **Large Skippers**."

Nicholl Williams sent this report: "I have been having (like all the others) a rather disappointing Summer for butterflies. However, in the last couple of days I have been out to a local field between *Lane End and Marlow* in Bucks. This field is opposite Widmere Lane and has been left fallow for several years. It is grazed by wild deer. Last year I saw **Green Hairstreaks** there and one sighting this year. I have seen recently a single **Small Tortoiseshell**, several **Common Blues**, **Meadow Browns**, various **Skippers** and **Cinnabar Moths**."



Small Tortoiseshell
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Large Skipper
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Common Blue
Photo © Nicholl Williams

Adam Hartley sent the following: "*Monday 18th June: Burgess Field NR, Oxon* - Sunny and warm with little wind: 2 **Large Skippers** and at least a dozen **Small Heath**; also 1 **Burnet Companion** and several **Common Heath moths**."



Large Skipper
Photo © Adam Hartley



Small Heath
Photo © Adam Hartley

~ Sunday 17th June 2012 ~

Chris Coppock sent this report: "In two hours searching [Wicken Wood](#) ride-sides today (17th June) I found 32 **Wood Whites** - mostly roosting. The Bucks-Northants boundary wanders through the wood, but they were seen in both counties. All seen looked quite fresh, so emergence is probably continuing. The only other butterfly was a single **Green-veined White**."

Andy Hoskins sent the following: "Today, Sunday 17th June, I visited [Finemere Wood, Bucks](#) between 11.00am and 2.00pm, in the hope of seeing Black Hairstreak, but no sign of them in any of the usual spots. However, on the main ride I saw 7 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Large White**, 1 **Small White**, 2 **Orange Tip**, 1 **Small Heath**, 1 **Brimstone**. I also saw what I believe to be a **Black-Tailed Skimmer Dragonfly**. On the eastern path in Finemere I saw 2 **Meadow Brown** and a **Large Skipper** and also a **Light Emerald moth**."

David Hastings visited [Otmoor & Whitecross Green Wood in Oxon and Bernwood Meadows, Bucks](#) today (17th): "I was looking for Black Hairstreaks, but I couldn't find any. However, I did see the following: three **Brimstones**, one **Speckled Wood**, two **Red Admirals**, one **Peacock** and one **Meadow Brown** at [Otmoor](#); one **Large Skipper**, one **Large White**, one **Small White**, two **Common Blues**, two **Speckled Woods**, one **Meadow Brown** and two **Small Heaths** at [Whitecross Green Wood](#); two **Common Blues** and one **Speckled Wood** at [Bernwood Meadows](#)."

Steve Croxford reported the following: "At last I have a **Black Hairstreak** sighting near [Kingswood, Bucks](#). It made three brief flights above the tall Blackthorn between 11.05am and 11.20am today (17th June). It was not very active but this may be because of the still blustery wind and intermittent sun. Hopefully it's just the first of many!"

Richard Wheeler sent this report: "I spent a couple of hours at [Yoesden Bank, Bucks](#) this lunchtime (17/06/12). It was warmish, breezy, with the sun occasionally appearing between the clouds. I saw: 20+ **Meadow Brown**; 30+ **Small Heath**; 14 **Common Blue** (incl. 6 F); 7 **Adonis Blue** (incl. 2 F) – mostly tatty; 6 **Brimstone** (incl. 3 F); 3 **Small Blue**; 1 **Marbled White**; 1 **Ringlelet**; 1 very tatty **Peacock**; and various moths, including 5 **Burnet Companion**, 1 **Silver Y** and 1 **Mother Shipton**. With the breeze, quite a few of the butterflies I saw were hunkering down into the foliage close to the ground for shelter."



Adonis Blue
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Marbled White
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Small Blue
Photo © Richard Wheeler

~ Saturday 16th June 2012 ~

Adam Hartley reported the following: "Friday 15th June at Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon: sunny intervals, rather breezy though reasonably sheltered in the wood. 1 **Large Skipper**, 1 **Common Blue** and 8 **Speckled Wood** though no sign of any Black Hairstreaks."

Prem Roy sent this update on 15th June: "A bit of a late report. I visited *Whitfield Wood, near Biddlesden North Bucks* on 25th May in the morning. Two **Wood Whites** at the crossroads of the rides (almost exactly where I had seen them two years ago). Around *Buckingham* a dramatic drop in **Small Tortoiseshell**. Some **Peacocks** and **Brimstones** are still out but no caterpillars at all. Fair numbers of **Orange-tips** and all 3 of the **Whites**. **Red Admiral** have been seen and young caterpillars found. Occasional **Holly Blue**. I am quite worried about Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell; I have noticed in the past that wet, cold, windy weather kills off the young batches of caterpillars and in previous years at this time of year I would have easily found a dozen or more batches - this year there are none. But they are both tough and although this may be the worst Spring I can remember I am sure our butterflies have been there before!"

~ Friday 15th June 2012 ~

Marek Szczepanek sent the following report: "I often use the UTB website so today I'm reporting my sightings from *Yoesden Bank, Bucks*. On 13th June during a few hours I saw **Adonis Blue** 20+, **Small Heath** 20+, **Common Blue** 5+, **Meadow Brown** 10+, **Brimstone** 1, **Green Hairstreak** 1, **Dingy Skipper** 1, **Small Blue** 10+ and a **Cinnabar Moth**."



Meadow Brown
Photo © Marek Szczepanek



Dingy Skipper
Photo © Marek Szczepanek

Dave Maunder sent this news: "Last Sunday *10th June*, I saw a female **Brimstone** ovipositing on Buckthorn along Eythrope Lane near *Aylesbury, Bucks* and also a male Brimstone nearby - very late, I think?"

~ Wednesday 13th June 2012 ~

David Redhead sent this report: "I went to *Swyncombe Down, Oxon* this afternoon (*13th June*) and saw good numbers of **Small Blue** & **Small Heath** but not much else about besides several **Brimstones** and singletons of **Brown Argus**, **Common Blue** and **Meadow Brown** - my first of 2012."

Karen Saxl sent this report: "I saw my first **Marbled White** of the year today, *13th June*, and my first **Large Skipper** c 18.00 just south of *Hagbourne Cemetery, Oxon*, Grid ref SU511881. Also saw at least 5 **Small Blue** and 3 **Common Blue** at the Upton end SU514872 – on the top where the Small Blues seem to move to once the sun has gone over to the west. I saw them flying at gone 20.00 on a sunny evening – not that there have been too many of those of late. There are also Small Blue at SU518876 – saw about 20 during one morning in the sunny spell in May, but there isn't really anywhere for them to go when the sun moves over to the west side of the track so didn't see any this evening. Looking forward to being able to walk through clouds of Marbled Whites on sunny evenings in a few week's time. Well, I can dream!"

Richard Wheeler reported the following: "I stopped briefly at *Finemere Wood* at lunchtime today (*13/06/12*). The weather was warm and cloudy and I saw: 1 **Small White**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 1 **Meadow Brown** and 3 **Small Heaths**. I attach a photo of what I understand to be the caterpillar of a **Lackey moth** (*Malacosoma neustria*) spotted by my 4 yr old son!"

~ Tuesday 12th June 2012 ~

This report came from Andrew Bolton on 12th June: "*Seven Barrows reserve near Lambourn Berks, 6th June*: **Small Blue** 26, **Small Heath** 20, **Marsh Fritillary** 3, **Dingy Skipper** 3, **Common Blue** 2, **Small Copper** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Small White** 1, **Orange Tip** male 1, **Brown Argus** 2, micro moth - *Scoparia pyraella* 1. A very dark Marsh Frit was encountered, Pete Eeles believes it to be an aberration, see photo."



Marsh Fritillary
Photo © Andrew Bolton

~ Monday 11th June 2012 ~

Colin Williams sent this news: "On *Saturday 9th June* I saw only two butterflies on my transect route at *Oakley Hill BBOWT NR, Oxon* but one of them was a fresh-looking male **Small Blue** which is an unusual record for the reserve. In the evening, on *Yoesden Bank* near Bledlow Ridge, Bucks I saw the following: 12 **Adonis Blue**, 5 **Small Blue**, 7 **Small Heath**, 9 **Meadow Brown** and 1 **Brimstone**."

Dave Ferguson sent the following: "Two hours on *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* yesterday (*10th June*) in cloudy, warm and near windless conditions produced 27 **Adonis Blues** (19m, 8f including 2 blue form), 12 **Common Blues**, 4 **Small Blues**, 15 **Small Heaths**, 6 **Meadow Browns** and 1 **Dingy Skipper**. The Adonis Blues were in condition varying from very fresh to fairly worn."

Peter Law sent this report: "*10th June*: This morning at *Otmoor RSPB reserve, Oxon* during a conversation on whether butterflies lie low or die in unseasonable weather periods, a late **Orange-tip** duly flew along. Other butterflies putting in an appearance during the morning's birding were 2 **Green-veined White**, 1 **Common Blue** and 1 **Red Admiral**. Also 1 **Burnet Companion Moth**."

David Hastings reported the following: "I visited *Wicken Wood, North Bucks* on Saturday morning, *9th June*, and although it was cool and cloudy I managed to find three **Wood Whites**. I then visited *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon* where I saw three **Common Blues**, five **Speckled Woods** and a **Large White**. Finally at *Bernwood Meadows, Bucks* I saw three **Common Blues**, one **Speckled Wood** and two **Small Coppers**."

~ Saturday 9th June 2012 ~

David Redhead visited two sites today, 9th June: "Conditions this morning at *Gavray Drive Meadows, Oxon* were poor (13/14C, no sun) but I did manage to find a two-thirds grown **Brown Hairstreak larva**. At the *M40 Compensation area, Bucks* this afternoon (16C, 60% sun) there were very few butterflies about. However, I did see my first **Large Skipper** of the year. Other species seen today were **Dingy Skippers**, **Small White**, **Speckled Wood** and a single **Common Blue**."

This report came from Tony Rayner: "Just to report the first **Large Skipper** of the year today (*9th June*) at our *Cholsey, Oxon* site."

Malcolm Brownsword sent this news: "After waiting almost a week for an appropriate day weather-wise to do my monthly BBOWT transect at *Hartslock, Oxon* I finally managed to complete it today (*9th June*). I saw 29 **Small Heaths**, 1 **Common Blue**, 1 **Small Copper**, 1 **Dingy Skipper** and 2 **Small Skippers** (and also 2 fox cubs and Bee and Pyramidal Orchids)."

Peter Cuss reported the following: "After recent reports of **Wood Whites** at *Wicken Wood, North Bucks* I thought I would have a look today. Despite the weather not being as good as the BBC promised, I did manage to see two and one **Common Blue**."



Wood White
Photo © Peter Cuss

Mick & Wendy Campbell went for a short walk near Lane End, Bucks today, 9th June: "It was quite windy and very cloudy but the sun did eventually break through and we managed to record 3 **Common Blue**, 2 **Meadow Brown**, 2 **Small Heath**, plus singletons of **Small White**, **Speckled Wood** and a very fresh-looking **Painted Lady**."

~ Thursday 7th June 2012 ~

This report came from Malcolm Richardson: "On **6th June** I saw my first **Meadow Browns** (2) of the year in the field adjacent to Saint Mary's Church, **Radnage, Bucks** whilst on the way to Yoesden Bank."

Garth Clarke from Northampton Branch sent the following: "I made a 1 hour morning visit to **Yoesden Bank, Bucks on the 6th June** and had the following sightings. 20 + **Adonis Blues** (including this rather blue female which I thought interesting - see photo) most of which were quite worn. Also 4 **Small Heaths**, a **Red Admiral** and 5+ **Common Blues**. I visited your area to get photos of the Adonis Blue so I have to say I concentrated on them so may well have missed others in what was a rather cloudy morning with only the occasional bright patch."



Adonis Blue f.
Photo © Garth Clarke

Adam Hartley sent this report: "A late morning visit to **Burgess Field NR** next to Port Meadow in Oxford on **4th June**: warm and sunny with no wind. There were several dozen **Small Heath** flying around as well as a similar number of **Common Heath Moths**."

Andy King reported the following: "Walking around **College Lake Nature Reserve on 1st June**, while it was still sunny, I spotted **Red Admiral**, **Small Blue**, **Common Blue** and **Small Heath**."

~ Saturday 2nd June 2012 ~

Chris Pickford sent this report on 1st June: "An extremely good year here (South Oxon) for **Small Blues**. Wednesday morning this week at *Upton*, I saw at least 30 and more likely 40+ in a 50 yard stretch of kidney vetch (very luxuriant growth this year). There was something of a mating frenzy going on with many pairs and some threesomes both on flowers and flying. Today I looked at an old site at *Chilton* where I used to see them up to 6 years ago and, even though it was cloudy, immediately saw three flying. Again, the vetch was much more extensive this year than for many years."



Small Blue
Photo © Chris Pickford

Malcolm Richardson visited Yoesden Bank, Bucks on 29th May: "A large number of **Adonis Blues** had seemingly freshly emerged. Also present were **Small Blue**, **Common Blue** and **Green Hairstreak**. *On 31st May at Prestwood Picnic Site, Bucks* there was a pristine looking **Grizzled Skipper** along with **Small Copper** and a few **Common Blues**."



Adonis Blue
Photo © Malcolm Richardson



Green Hairstreak
Photo © Malcolm Richardson



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © Malcolm Richardson

~ Thursday 31st May 2012 ~

May Webber sent this update on 30th May: "The majority of the Orange-tip eggs in my garden in *Witney, Oxon* have hatched now (see report below for 22nd May). A slightly blurry photo of the most mature **Orange-tip caterpillar** is attached."



Orange-tip caterpillar
Photo © May Webber

Adam Hartley sent the following: "30th May Bradenham Wood NT Reserve, Bucks - Warm and sunny with little wind to speak of. 1 **Green Hairstreak**, 1 **Small Blue**, **Dingy & Grizzled Skippers**, **Burnet Companions**."



Green Hairstreak
Photo © Adam Hartley

Brian Jessop sent this report: "On the **29th May** I recorded one **Small Blue**, a mint female, along the unused canal between **Drayton Beauchamp bridge and the A41 bypass bridge**. Map Ref: SP904-119 to SP896-115. It looked like it had just hatched and was not flying as fast as usual. Not seen them at this site before (though someone else may have) - I've been scattering Kidney Vetch seeds here for the past 3 years. On **30th May**, I went back again and saw FIVE, all males."

David Fearn sent this news: "Some sightings from North Oxfordshire for a change: **Hook Norton Cutting Meadow, 29th May am**, 3 **Common Blue** and 1 **Small Copper**."



Common Blue
Photo © David Fearn

This report came from Wendy Wilson: "On *29th May* on a roadside verge at *Pednor, Chesham (Bucks)*, a **Peacock** butterfly was hanging from the underside of a nettle leaf motionless, but pulsating slightly. She was ovipositing. To observe what was happening without disturbing her, I had to climb down into a nettle-filled ditch alongside and crouch down. How we suffer for our hobby! She had indeed laid a batch of about 30 eggs which I hope you can see in the photo below. Back home, a **Holly Blue** had been busy in my *Gerrards Cross, Bucks* garden too. I found three eggs on the flower buds of my cotoneaster bush."



Peacock ovipositing
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Peacock eggs
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Holly Blue eggs on cotoneaster
Photo © Wendy Wilson

Peter Law sent this report for 29th May: "Walking east along the Ridgeway from the *Sparsholt Firs, Oxon* car park, there were 7 **Small Blue**. Once in the *Devil's Punchbowl* with conditions becoming lightly overcast, my experience was similar to other recent observers. Along the line that I walked I counted 30+ **Common Blue** (all male), 25+ **Small Heath**, 8+ **Dingy Skipper**, 2 **Small White** and 1 **Small Copper**. Surprisingly, I saw just 2 **Green Hairstreak**, quite a contrast to the hundreds of two years ago. But far outnumbering any butterfly species were the **Wood Tiger moths**, which flew up from wherever I walked in the valley bottom. Also seen was a **Burnet Companion moth**."



Dingy Skipper
Photo © Peter Law



Green Hairstreak
Photo © Peter Law

Malcolm Brownsword reported the following: "On *28th May* I saw the following on *Hackpen Hill, Devil's Punchbowl* and *Crowhole Bottom* (near Childrey, Wantage in Oxon): 70+ **Small Heaths**, 70+ **Common Blues**, 50+ **Dingy Skippers**, 5 **Green Hairstreaks**, 2 **Orange Tips**, 2 **Brimstones**, 2 **Green-veined Whites** and 50+ **Wood Tiger Moths**. Most of the Small Heaths and Common Blues were at the top of the valley, about 200 metres from the entrance on the north side of the Ridgeway around patches of nettles. At one point a mixed group of about 15 Common Blues and Small Heaths were seen flying around in circles chasing each other. Green Hairstreak numbers were well down from 2010 and 2011 levels."



Dingy Skipper
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

Chris & Pat Dennis sent the following: "We went to *Wicken Wood, North Bucks* on 27th May. We saw at least 12 **Wood Whites**, the first ones as early as 9-30am - a lovely morning."

~ Monday 28th May 2012 ~

Bob and Trish Tunnicliffe visited Stonepit reserve in North Milton Keynes today, 28th May: "We saw 1 **Small Blue** and 2 **Common Blues** and a few **Orange Tips**, but overall very few butterflies. We then went to *Linford reserve* nearby where similarly there were few, just one **Speckled Wood**, one **Brimstone** and a few **Orange Tips** and unidentified Whites. On 22nd and 23rd May we saw 1 **Holly Blue** in *Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes*."

Paul Furtek visited Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks yesterday, Sunday 27th May: "I managed to view 6 **Dukes of Burgundy** on a hot and windy day. All bar one of them were in pristine condition. I was even fortunate to photograph a mating pair. DoB's aside, there was not much else on the wing apart from a couple of **Brimstones** and a couple of dozen **Small Heath**."



Duke of Burgundy
Photo © Paul Furtek



Duke of Burgundy pairing
Photo © Paul Furtek

Colin Williams reported the following: "*Devil's Punchbowl, Oxon* Sunday 27th May - very impressive sight of 'hundreds' of **Wood Tiger Moth** on the wing low to the ground amongst the Upright Brome. 7 **Green Hairstreak**, lots of **Common Blue** and **Small Heath**."

David Redhead reported on the Field Meeting to Greenham Common, Berks on 27th May: "A small party of five excelled themselves by recording 10 butterfly species and 4 day flying moths. On the butterfly front it was a battle royal between the **Small Heaths** and **Dingy Skippers** with the final score in my notebook being 27-23. Whilst, in my experience, the Small Heath numbers were not exceptional for this site the Dingy Skippers numbers were as

I have never got into double figures here before. We just managed the target species, **Small Blue**, with a couple surprisingly in an area of Wild Strawberry rather than Kidney Vetch but we were obviously at least a week early for peak numbers. Less surprising in the Wild Strawberry area were half a dozen **Grizzled Skippers**. A couple of **Green Hairstreaks**, four **Small Coppers**, four **Brown Argus** and a dozen **Common Blues**, of which 2 were females, added to our delight. A **Holly Blue** flew across our path to give us our ninth species and finally, back near the car park, a female **Orange-tip** took us into double figures - she was near some Hedge Mustard and a short inspection showed it bore at least 3 **Orange-tip eggs**. The highest score of the meeting belonged to a micro-moth, **Cydia ulicetana**, flying in uncountable numbers around the gorse. Potentially we recorded over 30 **Lesser Treble-bar moth** but only 6 were distinguished from the very similar Treble-bar, the rest were far too flighty to be chased down on a hot day. The lepidopteral sighting of the day had to be two **Yellow Belles**, this moth species is normally found on the coast but Greenham Common is one of its few inland sites. The fourth day flying moth was the **Cinnabar**, with 2 in total. (Thanks go to Dave Wilton for pointing us in the right direction to identify the micro-moth)."

During a 2 hour visit to Lardon Chase, West Berks on Sunday 27th, Clive Burrows saw 2 Adonis Blues and three Small Blues among the butterflies.



Adonis Blue
Photo © Clive Burrows



Adonis Blues
Photo © Clive Burrows



Small Blue
Photo © Clive Burrows

Andy Hoskins sent these weekend sightings: "I visited ***Wicken Wood, North Bucks*** again on Friday evening, ***25th May***, and saw a bedraggled **Peacock**, a **Large White** and 7 **Wood White**, including a courting pair. The Wood White all appeared in the same 50 yards or so of a damp bridleway off the main footpath. This spot was also visited by a female **Broad-Bodied Chaser**. On ***Saturday 26th*** I joined the field visit to ***Lardon Chase, West Berks***. I saw 10 species in total, with a lot of help from the collective pairs of eyes on the visit. I'm sure other reports will convey the numbers, which were being carefully recorded, but I saw **Brimstone, Small White, Large White, Small Blue, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Adonis Blue, Green Hairstreak, Dingy Skipper, Orange Tip**. After much waiting one **Adonis Blue** did spread its wings for a photo and I include a photo of a Dingy Skipper ready to take flight as it was being regularly harassed by 2 male Common Blues. On ***Sunday 27th*** I visited ***Finemere Wood, Bucks*** at 1pm and saw 7 **Orange Tip**, a **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Large White** and 3 **Small White**."



Adonis Blue
Photo © Andy Hoskins



Dingy Skipper
Photo © Andy Hoskins

Alan Gudge sent this report: "Juliet took a look today at one of her favourite local sites: the roadside verges between *Frieth and Fingest, Bucks* (a BCC roadside verges nature reserve) and recorded a **Common Blue**, several **Small Heaths**, a **Grizzled Skipper** and two **Large Skippers**."

David Hastings reported the following: "On Saturday *26th May* I went to *Lardon Chase, West Berks*. No sign of any Adonis Blues but I did see **Small Heath** (3), **Dingy Skipper** (3), **Grizzled Skipper** (3), **Small Blue** (4), **Common Blue** (15+), **Small White** (1) and **Brimstone** (1). At *Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon* I saw **Small Heath** (14), **Grizzled Skipper** (13), **Dingy Skipper** (7), **Common Blue** (3), **Brimstone** (8), **Peacock** (4), **Orange Tip** (12), **Small Copper** (1) and **Large White** (2). Also three **Cinnabar** moths, but no Adonis Blues here either. Finally, late afternoon I visited *Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon*: **Common Blue** (3), **Brimstone** (4), **Peacock** (2), **Orange Tip** (1), **Small Copper** (1), **Green-veined White** (4), **Comma** (4), **Speckled Wood** (1) and **Brown Argus** (1). On a return visit to Dry Sandford Pit on the *27th May* I saw **Common Blue** (1), **Brimstone** (1), **Peacock** (1), **Orange Tip** (2), **Green-veined White** (1), **Small Heath** (4), **Speckled Wood** (1) and **Large White** (1)."

Richard Wheeler went to Ardley Quarry, Oxon on Sunday afternoon, 27th May: "I saw: 6 **Grizzled Skipper**, 6 **Small Heath**, 4 **Common Blue**, 2 **Brimstone**, 1 **Peacock**, 1 **Orange Tip** and 1 **Large White**."

Colin Williams sent this report on 28th May: "Butterfly news for *Sunday 27th May: Seven Barrows BBOWT NR* 1 **Marsh Fritillary** – landing frequently on the flowering buttercups. Also, 8 **Small Blue** which appeared to like the forget-me-knot on the barrows, 6 **Dingy Skipper** and good numbers of **Small Heath**."

~ **Sunday 27th May** ~

Jon Mercer (Wilts BC) sent this report on 27th May: "3 **Marsh Fritillaries** seen at *Seven Barrows, Lambourn*, in a half hour walk this afternoon (27th May), also 4 **Dingy Skippers**, 2 **Small Coppers**, 5 + **Brown Argus** and 20+ **Small Heath**."



Marsh Fritillary
Photo © Jon Mercer

~ Saturday 26th May 2012 ~

Malcolm Richardson sent this report: "I visited *Aston Rowant NR, Oxon* on 22nd May and saw just one mating pair of **Dingy Skippers**. On 26th May at *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* one **Small Blue**, one **Green Hairstreak**, one **Dingy Skipper**, several **Small Heaths** and **Common Blues** including two mating pairs."



Dingy Skippers
Photo © Malcolm Richardson



Small Blue
Photo © Malcolm Richardson



Common Blues
Photo © Malcolm Richardson

Peter Cuss went for a walk at Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks today (26/05/12): "I spotted the following: **Brimstone, Painted Lady, Wood Tiger moth**. Also a **Duke of Burgundy** which we watched laying eggs, but it was laying them on Dandelion! Has anyone heard of this before or was she just a bit confused?"



Duke of Burgundy eggs on
dandelion
Photo © Peter Cuss

Peter Law made a season's first visit to Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon this afternoon, 26th May: "At the Small Blue site between Juniper valley and Lowbury Hill I found just 4 butterflies. On the walk up from the grain dryer and through Juniper Valley, I listed 8 **Grizzled Skipper**, 6 **Dingy Skipper**, 10 **Small Heath**, 3 **Common Blue**, 6 **Orange Tip**, 4 **Brimstone**, 3 rather faded **Peacock**, 2 **Large White** and several other whites that didn't settle. I then walked on to Oven Bottom SSSI to look for Adonis Blue but without success, though I did see a **Painted Lady** there and 4 more **Small Heath**."



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © Peter Law



Small Blue
Photo © Peter Law

David Fearn visited Hartslock, Oxon on Thursday 24th May: "I went to look for Green Hairstreaks as well as to see the beautiful orchids. Butterflies were quite plentiful on a hot morning and I saw the following: **Brimstone**, **Orange Tip**, **Small Heath**, **Holly Blue** (egg-laying female), **Green Hairstreak** (at least 7), **Common Blue**, **Dingy Skipper**. On my way back I stopped off at [Ardley Quarry, Oxon](#) to see what was about here, and recorded: **Peacock**, **Speckled Wood**, **Grizzled Skipper** (2) and **Small White**. To end an excellent day I had another **Holly Blue** in the back garden ([Bodicote, Oxon](#))."



Green Hairstreak
Photo © David Fearn



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © David Fearn



Holly Blue
Photo © David Fearn

This report came from Richard Wheeler: "Following the recent dispatches from [Wicken Wood, North Bucks](#) I spent an hour there this afternoon (26/05/12). The weather was hot and breezy, and I saw 8-10 **Wood Whites** (including three spiralling together like blown confetti). They were on both the main ride and a couple of the 'tributaries' branching off it. I lost track of how long I had to follow the example in the photo below before it paused – it felt like miles! I also saw 4 **Small White**, 2 **Large White** and one each of **Orange Tip** and **Peacock**."



Wood White
Photo © Richard Wheeler

Adam Bassett sent the following: "A **Green Hairstreak** appeared in my garden in *Marlow Bottom, Bucks* on the morning of Thursday *24th May*, becoming the 22nd butterfly species to be recorded here. Not really what I think of as Green Hairstreak habitat, it was frequenting a sunny woodland edge, resting on Beech and Forsythia about 10 – 15 feet up. Whilst attempting to grab a record shot, an interaction with a **Holly Blue** caused it to disappear."

Dave Ferguson sent this report: "On Friday afternoon, *25th May*, I went to *Strawberry Bank, Bucks* and saw 17 **Dingy Skippers**, 2 **Grizzled Skippers**, 7 **Common Blues**, 1 **Green-veined White**, 1 **Peacock** and 6 **Small Heaths**. Moths seen were 2 **Mother Shiptons** and a **Cinnabar**. On the walk there through the wood I saw 3 **Green-veined Whites**, 1 **Orange Tip** and a **Dingy Skipper**. Also the micro moth **Pyrausta nigrata**."

Adam Hartley reported these sightings: "*Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon 25th May* - hot, but with a reasonable breeze. 10+ **Dingy Skipper**, 10+ **Grizzled Skipper**, 1 **Small Copper**, 2 **Small Heath**, 1 **Common Blue**, plenty of **Brimstones**, 1 **Peacock** & quite a few **Cinnabar Moths**."

~ Thursday 24th May 2012 ~

David Redhead reported the following today: "At least **Holly Blues** seem to be having a reasonable year with one regularly in our garden in *Littlemore, Oxon* and two on the *Chilswell Valley transect* on the 13th. Yesterday (*23rd*) morning I saw 3 in the centre of Oxford - one flying over Folly Bridge, one half way down the High St and one at the Worcester College end of Beaumont St. Owing to Phil Penson's efforts in making sure he arrives at just the right time we have amazingly managed a qualifying walk for each of the first 7 weeks at Chilswell Valley with a total of 42 butterflies recorded - last year at the same time it was 202! **Anybody wishing to help with the Chilswell Valley transect near the Wyevale Garden Centre to the east of the A34 as it skirts Oxford or the Shabbington Wood transect in Bernwood Forest please contact David Redhead on red.admiral@virgin.net.**"

Keith Lugg reported the following: "Following Nick Board's sighting of a Wood White at *Wicken Wood* on the Bucks/Northants border on the 22nd, my wife & I visited the site today, 24/05/2012. We saw 10-12 **Wood Whites**, 4 **Large Whites**, 2 **Orange-tips**, 2 **Peacock** & 1 **Speckled Wood** all on the main path. I had watched the female Wood White ovipositing on another plant (see photo) and she then flew to the grass in the second photo. The male soon joined her, but despite his best efforts, she was not interested and he flew off. Many thanks to Nick for the initial report."



Wood White (female)
Photo © Keith Lugg



Wood Whites
Photo © Keith Lugg

Andy Hoskins sent this report: "Wednesday *23rd May* I visited *Wicken Wood* at around 6pm, and saw only 1 **Orange-Tip** and 1 **Comma**, both at the side of the road where I had parked my car. This evening (*24th*) at 6pm, I visited Wicken Wood again, and saw my first **Wood White** on the bridleway that forms the boundary between Wicken and Leckhampstead woods. I followed it for around 10 minutes but it settled briefly only once, hence the less than perfect photo."



Wood White
Photo © Andy Hoskins

~ Wednesday 23rd May 2012 ~

Steve Croxford sent this report: "I saw my first **Adonis Blues** of the year at *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* this morning, 23rd May. Three or four were present about half way up the bank. Also present were **Small Heath**, **Dingy Skipper**, **Grizzled Skipper**, **Peacock**, **Orange-tip**, **Brimstone** and a **Mother Shipton moth**. I didn't see any Small Blue."



Adonis Blue
Photo © Steve Croxford

Richard Wheeler reported the following: "A blissful and hot early afternoon spent at *Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks* yesterday (22/05/12) yielded: 6 **Duke of Burgundy**, 3 **Green Hairstreak**, 8 **Dingy Skipper**, 2 **Grizzled Skipper**, 3 **Brimstone** (1 F), 2 **Orange-tip** and 1 **Holly Blue**. Lunchtime at *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* today (23/05/12) yielded: 5 **Dingy Skipper**, 7 **Common Blue**, 1 **Holly Blue**, 6 **Small Heath**, 4 **Brimstone**, 3 **Peacock**, 3 **Orange-tip** and several moths, including 1 each of **Lesser Treble-bar**, **Cinnabar** and **Mother Shipton**."



Common Blue
Photo © Richard Wheeler



Duke of Burgundy
Photo © Richard Wheeler

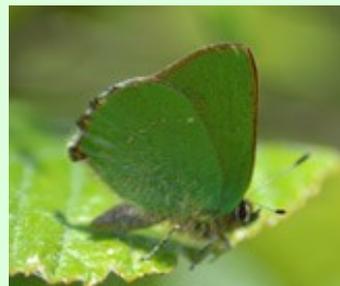
~ Tuesday 22nd May 2012 ~

David Gantzel sent this news today: "At last some butterflies in my garden in *Hazlemere, Bucks*: two **Holly Blue**, one male **Orange-tip**, one male **Brimstone** and one **Brimstone Moth**."

The following sightings came from Peter Law on 22nd May: "Before and after today's Bradenham field meeting I checked out the Linky Down area of *Aston Rowant NNR (S), Oxon* finding just 5 **Green Hairstreak**, 6 **Small Heath** and 1 **Small White**. I then switched to the north side of the M40 and in a brief walk around the slope nearest to the car park saw only 2 more **Small Heath** and 1 **Brimstone**."



Small Heath
Photo © Peter Law



Green Hairstreak
Photo © Peter Law

Nick Board reported the following: "I managed a visit to *Wicken Wood, Bucks/Northants border* today, 22nd May. The weather was warm and sunny although a cool breeze in places. I found a solitary **Wood White** on the main path. Also an occasional **Peacock** but no other sightings."

Mick & Wendy Campbell visited the Devil's Punchbowl, Oxon on 22nd May: "It was hot and sunny, 25C, on the steep slopes of the site and there were a lot of butterflies and moths active. Our main targets were **Green Hairstreak** (37) and **Wood Tiger moth** (75 including a mating pair). There's also a good colony of **Dingy Skipper** here (a conservative 51 counted including a mating pair). Other species seen were **Common Blue** (12), **Brimstone** (1), **Small Heath** (15), **Brown Argus** (1 - our first of the season), **Orange-tip** (1), **Peacock** (2), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1), **Large White** (1) and a **Garden Tiger Moth caterpillar**."

David Gower sent these sightings today, 22nd May: "Around the path between **Aldbury Nowers, Herts & Pitstone Hill, Bucks**: 2 x **Green Hairstreak**, 1 x **Peacock**, 1 x **Orange-tip**, 2 x **Grizzled Skipper**, 2 x **Small Heath** & 1 x **Dingy Skipper**. At bottom of **Incombe Hole, Bucks** were 16 x **Dingy Skippers**, 6 x **Small Heath**, 1 x **Small Copper**, 9 x **Grizzled Skipper**, 2 x **Orange-tip**, 1 x **Brown Argus** & 1 x **Peacock**. Below **Ivinghoe Beacon** 3 x **Brimstone** (2 female), 8 x **Dingy Skippers**, 1 x **Duke of Burgundy**, 1 x **Common Carpet Moth**, 1 x **Common Blue**, 1 x **Green Hairstreak**, 1 x **Orange-tip** & 1 x **Speckled Wood**. On **Steps Hill** 1 x **Grizzled Skipper**, 2 x **Brimstone** (male), 4 x **Orange-tip**, 2 x **Dingy Skippers** & 1 x **Small Heath**. Onto **Pitstone, Bucks** (as I was desperate for a drink!) 1 x **Brimstone** (male) & 1 x **Orange-tip** in the village. At the nature reserve from 5 p.m. I counted 13 x **Dingy Skippers**, 7 x **Small Blue**, 3 x **Grizzled Skippers**, 1 x **Orange-tip** & 1 **Brimstone** (male). I would have liked to have seen more Dukes!"

May Webber sent this report: "I went round all of the garlic mustard plants in my garden near **Witney, Oxon today (22nd May)** and managed to count 10 **Orange-tip eggs!** Unfortunately no eggs on the Honesty plants."



Orange-tip eggs
Photo © May Webber

This report from Andrew Snell came via Jim Asher: "We had a female **Orange-tip** in our garden at **Didcot, Oxon** on Monday evening, **21st May**."

Gerry Kendall reported that a dozen optimists took part in the Aston Upthorpe Field Meeting on 19th May: "They were rewarded with sightings of two of the target species, **Dingy Skipper** and **Grizzled Skipper** and near the end of the walk there was a brief glimpse of a **Green Hairstreak**. But there was only one blue, a **Holly**, and no sighting of **Adonis** or **Small Blue** which we had almost come to expect. However, the total of ten species wasn't bad for such an overcast day. The full list was: **Dingy Skipper**, **Grizzled Skipper**, **Brimstone**, **Small White**, **Orange-tip**, **Green Hairstreak**, **Small Copper**, **Holly Blue**, **Peacock**, **Small Heath**."

Chris Lamsdell reported the following: "I went to **Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks** on **19th May** and recorded: **Duke of Burgundy** 5, **Holly Blue** 1, **Grizzled Skipper** 1 and **Dingy Skipper** 4. Then at **Pitstone, Bucks**: **Small Blue** 1, **Small Heath** 1, **Small Copper** 1 and **Dingy Skipper** 2."



Duke of Burgundy
Photo © Chris Lamsdell



Small Blue
Photo © Chris Lamsdell

~ Friday 18th May 2012 ~

Malcolm Richardson reported the following: "I visited [Prestwood Nature Reserve near High Wycombe, Bucks](#) on [16th May](#) and saw **Orange-tip, Brimstone, Dingy Skipper** and, surprisingly, a **Duke of Burgundy**."



Duke of Burgundy
Photo © Malcolm Richardson



Duke of Burgundy
Photo © Malcolm Richardson

David Fuller sent this report: "In my garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#) on [16th May](#): female **Holly Blue**, male **Orange-tip** and a **Green-veined White**."

Nigel Cleere sent this news: "On [16th May](#), at a site near [Lambourn, Berkshire](#), I saw 5 very fresh **Duke of Burgundy**. This is the highest number I have seen at this particular site."

Nigel Parsons sent the following report: "On [Sunday 13th May](#) I visited [Iver Heath Fields, Bucks](#). I recorded 5 **Peacock**, 5 male and 1 female **Orange-tip**, 3 **Holly Blue** and 1 each of **Speckled Wood, Green-veined White** and **Small Copper** - my first for the year. On the way to Iver Heath I called in at a small site at [Chandler's Hill](#) where I saw 3 male **Orange-tip**, 1 **Small White**, 1 **Green-veined White** and 1 **Comma**."

~ Wednesday 16th May 2012 ~

Wendy Wilson sent this update today: "I had almost given up on the **Purple Hairstreak** eggs I collected from a fallen oak branch last autumn. All four hatched in early April but I didn't see a caterpillar until this week when I found the one pictured. Today, [16th May](#), I went butterflying around [Wraysbury, Bucks](#) and, after a fruitless hour when all I saw was one **Orange-tip** egg, things improved and I recorded 9 **Orange-tip**, 5 **Holly Blue**, 3 **Brimstone**, 2 **Peacock**, 1 **Small White** and 1 **Comma**. Two Orange-tips were mating on a red campion beside a Brimstone basking on a nearby leaf (see photo). The Brimstone kept getting up and buzzing the Orange-tips aggressively, but they took no notice."



Purple Hairstreak larva
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Orange-tips & Brimstone
Photo © Wendy Wilson

Richard Wheeler sent this report: "I paid an enjoyable (first) visit to the disused railway line near [Westcott, Bucks](#) today (16/05/12) and saw 8 **Dingy Skipper**, 4 **Grizzled Skipper**, 1 **Small Heath** and 4 **Orange-tip** in early afternoon (intermittent) sunshine."

Malcolm Brownsword carried out his BBOWT transect at Hartslock, Oxon on 12th May: "I saw 5 **Dingy Skippers**, 2 **Brimstones**, 1 **Large White**, 1 **Orange-tip**, 1 **Peacock** and 17 **Small Heaths**, 14 of which were in the reserve extension. In the afternoon, with a party from West Oxfordshire Field Club, I went to [Homefield Wood, Bucks](#) where I saw 1 **Comma**, 1 **Grizzled Skipper**, 1 **Brimstone**, 1 **Peacock** and 5 **Orange-tips**."



Comma
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

Clive Burrows joined the Field Meeting to see the Dukes at Ivinghoe Beacon on 12th May: "I recorded 9 **Dukes of Burgundy**, 3 **Green Hairstreaks**, 3 **Grizzled Skippers** and 7 **Dingy Skippers**."



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © Clive Burrows



Green Hairstreak
Photo © Clive Burrows



Dingy Skipper
Photo © Clive Burrows

David Redhead sent the following report: "13th May - several **Burnet Companions** and **Common Heath** (male & female) seen whilst walking the [Chilswell Valley](#) (to immediate west of Oxford) butterfly transect. Butterflies recorded were: 4 **Green-veined White**, 3 **Orange-tip** (all male), 3 **Peacock**, 2 **Brimstone** (male & female) & 2 **Holly Blue**. A disappointing total of 14 considering the conditions and that the 2010 & 2011 totals for the same week were 42 & 37 respectively."

Keith Lugg sent these sightings: "On a visit to [Decoy Heath BBOWT reserve, Berks](#) on [Sunday 13/05/2012](#) I saw 2 **Dingy Skipper**, 1 male **Brimstone**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Holly Blue**, 1 **Large White** & 2 **Peacock**. For anyone interested in dragonflies the **Downy Emeralds** have just started emerging with 3 seen - one in flight, an immature male resting & a general female."

David Hastings sent this report: "I recorded the following at [Otmoor, Oxon](#) on [12th May](#): two male and one female **Orange-tips**, five **Peacocks**, one **Small Copper**, two male **Brimstones**, one **Small Tortoiseshell** and one **Comma**. I also saw one **Holly Blue** in my garden ([north Abingdon, Oxon](#))."

David Fearn also went along to the Ivinghoe Beacon Field Meeting on Saturday 12th May: "I got some stunning views of the mating Dukes - a couple of the shots are attached. I also saw the following species there on Saturday: **Dingy Skipper**, **Grizzled Skipper**, **Brimstone**, **Small White**, **Large White**, **Orange-tip**. I also had a **Holly Blue** back home in [Bodicote, Oxon](#). On [Sunday 13th May](#) I saw **Peacock**, **Large White**, **Brimstone** and **Orange-tip** in [Bodicote](#)."



Duke of Burgundy
Photo © David Fearn



Duke of Burgundy pairing
Photo © David Fearn

Chris Griffiths sent this news: "Although my garden isn't large it backs onto a railway embankment in [Reading, Berks](#) and whilst we've stocked the garden with plants which attract (we hope) wildlife, at the moment it's the embankment which seems to attract the butterflies. The railway embankment has on it a couple of small oaks, brambles, hawthorn, wild rose and numerous other plants and shrubs which birds and butterflies seem to like. There is obviously something to attract butterflies as, on [13th May](#), we saw **Small White** (3), **Holly Blue** (possibly the same one twice), **Brimstone**, **Orange-tip** and **Peacock**."

This report for sites around Bucks came from Dave Wilton: "The only place that I'm seeing reasonable numbers of butterflies at present is in the disused railway cutting close to where I live in [Westcott](#). Another visit there for an hour on [12th May](#), mainly to search for micro-moths, produced just over sixty individuals. Most of the sightings were of **Dingy Skipper** (26) and **Grizzled Skipper** (25), the other species comprising **Brimstone**, **Green-veined White**, **Orange-tip**, **Small Copper**, **Peacock** & **Small Heath**. On [13th May](#), I carried out a transect in private woodland [near Grendon Underwood](#) which produced only 23 butterflies of six species but it was good to see **Grizzled Skipper** (3) there because both **Grizzled** and **Dingy** have all but disappeared from woodland locally. I then went to look at

three adjacent scrubby sites in the [Calvert area](#) where **Dingy Skipper** (28) proved to be the most abundant butterfly."

Andy Hoskins sent the following: "Here are my sightings on [Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th May](#). I was too late to join the branch meeting at [Ivinghoe, Bucks](#) but still managed to see 5 **Dukes of Burgundy** (2 mating), 4 **Green Hairstreak**, 1 **Holly Blue**, 1 **Dingy Skipper** and 1 **Grizzled Skipper** on Saturday. From Ivinghoe I moved onto [College Lake](#) and saw just one **Orange-tip**. On Sunday morning I visited [Ivinghoe](#) again and saw 2 **Dukes**, 2 **Dingy Skipper** and a **Green Hairstreak** at around 11 am, but then nothing more for an hour. I moved on to a site near [Pitstone Church, Bucks](#) and saw roughly 20 **Dingy Skipper** and my first 2 **Small Blues**."



Dingy Skipper
Photo © Andy Hoskins



Green Hairstreak
Photo © Andy Hoskins



Small Blue
Photo © Andy Hoskins

Karen Saxl sent this report: "On [13th May](#) at about 11.00am on the Sustrans route (the old railway line just before [Upton, Oxon](#)) I saw a **Small Blue** (SU514872). Also seen along the old railway line were a **Common Blue**, **Orange-tips**, **Peacocks**, **Brimstone** and **Green-veined White** – not many butterflies around so only 1 or 2 of each species."

Tony Rayner reported this news: "Following my last report (see [11th May below](#)), on [13th May](#) it was the turn of the **Green Hairstreak** when we saw a singleton here at our [Cholsey, Oxon](#) site."

Tony Speight sent the following: "On the [8th May](#), at [Sands Bank, High Wycombe, Bucks](#) during the afternoon with the sun making a rare appearance I saw 34 **Dingy Skippers**, an **Orange-tip**, a **Peacock** and a **Grizzled Skipper** (a first for me on the site although I have seen records from other people on the website). A little later in [Castlefield Wood, High Wycombe](#) I saw 13 **Orange-tip**, 5 **Brimstone**, 2 **Comma** and another **Peacock**."

~ **Saturday 12th May 2012** ~

Richard Wheeler sent this report: "Spent lunchtime on [Saturday 12th May at Hartslock, Oxon](#). Plenty of butterflies about, including 1 **Holly Blue**, 1 **Common Blue**, 2 **Peacock**, 2 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 10+ **Dingy Skipper**, 20+ **Small Heath**, 10+ **Orange-tip** (1F), 10+ **Brimstone** (3F) and 2 **Large White**."

Michael McNeill joined Robin Carr's Ivinghoe Field Meeting today, 12th May (see [report below](#)): I joined Robin's walk today to look for **Duke of Burgundy** and came across 5 including a mating pair. I am sure Robin will put in his own report, so I will leave the detail to him, but thought you might like to see this photo."



Duke of Burgundy pairing
Photo © Michael McNeill

Chris Lamsdell sent these sightings: "At *Aston Upthorpe, Oxon, today (12th May)*: **Dingy Skipper** - 4, **Grizzled Skipper** - 2 all new, **Orange-tip** - 2, **Brimstone** - 7, **Peacock** - 3, **Comma** - 1 and **Holly Blue** - 1. No Dukes seen."

Steve Croxford paid a visit to a site in South Bucks this afternoon, Saturday 12th May: "I was hoping to see **Duke of Burgundy** and, despite being mostly cloudy, I saw at least two male Dukes. One looked very fresh, the other looked like it had been on the wing for a few days. Also seen were **Orange-tip**, **Brimstone** and **Peacock**."



Duke of Burgundy
Photo © Steve Croxford

Robin Carr sent this report of the Field Meeting held at Ivinghoe, Bucks on 12th May: "A mating pair of **Dingy Skippers** were the first butterflies seen, followed in the gully alongside the Beacon by a mating pair of **Dukes of Burgundy** found by seeing two photographers crouched over them. Three further Dukes were seen along the north side of the Beacon. Other butterflies seen were 6 **Dingy Skippers**, 2 **Grizzled Skippers**, 3 **Brimstones**, 1 **Holly Blue**, 4 **Orange-tips**, 1 **Small White** and 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**. 20 people took part in the walk. 4 people extended the walk alongside and up Steps Hill but no Dukes were seen there, just 3 **Peacocks**, 1 **Holly Blue** and 1 **Orange-tip**."

David Redhead sent this report: "*Friday 11th May* - at last some decent weather and some butterflies to be seen in our garden in *Littlemore, Oxon* - male **Brimstone**, **Holly Blue**, **Green-veined White**, **Large White**, male & female **Orange-tip**, **Speckled Wood** and a pair of good condition **Peacocks**. The female Orange-tip laid at least two eggs whilst I watched her - she seemed to lay an egg on about every tenth Garlic Mustard flowerhead she visited, spending most of her time just nectaring. Some of the Garlic Mustard flowerheads also bore about half a dozen of the long-horned micro-moth, **Adela rufimitrella** including a mating pair."

Tony Rayner reported the following: "Just to say we had our first 3 **Dingy Skippers** of the year today, *11th May*, at our *Cholsey, Oxon* site. This is now an important event for us as this is our latest addition as a regular resident species."

Ched George spent a midday hour at Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks on 10th May: "I was looking for Duke of Burgundy in most of the known hotspots. Windy conditions, but some hot sunny intervals. No signs of life other than 1 flying white and a disturbed **Speckled Wood**. Let's hope the season is late rather than dead!"

David Fuller had 2 male **Orange-tip** in his garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* on *7th & 8th May* and at *Dungrove Hill Lane Pinkneys Green* on 8th May, 3 male **Orange-tip**.

The following report came from Gaynor Cooper via Jim Asher: "**Orange-tip** seen in my garden in *Bampton, Oxon* on *22nd April*, resting on a galanthus. Then 3 individual **Orange-tips** seen on a cycle ride between Cote and Bampton on *Sun 6 May*."

David Hastings sent the following: "This is what I saw around Oxfordshire during 5th-7th May. Pretty slim pickings for the beginning of May:

Saturday 5th: Two **Speckled Woods** in *Bagley Wood* and two **Green-veined Whites**, two **Orange-tips** (a mating pair) and a **Small White** at *Dry Sandford Pit*.

Sunday 6th: One **Speckled Wood** in the garden (*north Abingdon*) and two male and one female **Orange-tips**, two **Peacocks** and one male **Green-veined White** at *Farmoor*.

Monday 7th: One **Small Copper** at *Aston Upthorpe Downs*."

This report from Chris Griffiths came via Jim Asher: "On *30th April*, I saw the following in my garden in *Reading Berks*: 1 **Brimstone**, 5 **Small White**, 1 **Orange-tip**, 1 **Peacock** and 1 **Comma**."

~ **Sunday 6th May 2012** ~

Mick & Wendy Campbell visited Strawberry Bank, Bucks on Saturday 5th May:

"Despite the somewhat unfavourable weather outlook, we decided to try our luck at Strawberry Bank, our target being the Skippers and Green Hairstreak. Unfortunately the temperature only reached 12C while we were there and remained mostly cloudy. However, during one short spell of sun we managed to spot a single **Dingy Skipper**. A couple of moths were seen, a **Pyrausta sp.** (probably *Purpuralis* but it disappeared before a positive id could be made) and **Adela Reaumurella**."

David Fuller sent this news from Maidenhead, Berks: "*Thursday 3rd May* - found roosting on a geranium in my greenhouse, a male **Orange-tip**. It was still there the next day."

~ **Wednesday 2nd May 2012** ~

Tony Speight sent this report today: "Having only been able to walk my transect officially once so far and starting to get withdrawal symptoms I decided to walk my *Sands Bank, High Wycombe, Bucks* transect anyway on the *1st May*. It was 14 degrees and threatening rain (with no sun!) but I did see a total of 9 **Dingy Skippers** and a **Peacock**, complemented by 3 **Common Lizards** and 2 **Wood Mice** found under a piece of corrugated iron."

Nicholl Williams reported the following: "Yesterday evening *01/05/2012* I stopped at a field between *Lane End and Marlow, Bucks*. This field has been left fallow for several years. As I was getting out of the car I saw a **Green Hairstreak**. I then walked into the field and saw a **Comma**, **Small White** and a **Peacock**. I only saw one of each. I saw Green Hairstreaks there last year."

David Fuller sent this update: "My garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#) on [30/04/12](#) - female **Holly Blue** and male **Orange-tip** and on [01/05/12](#) a male **Holly Blue** and male **Orange-tip**.
[Odney Island Cookham, Berks](#) [01/05/12](#) - male and female **Orange-tip**.
[Queen Mother Reservoir Slough/Langley, Berks](#) [01/05/12](#) - 2 male **Orange-tip** with 11 **Northern Wheatears**."

David Fearn sent this report: "An excellent warm if at times windy morning/lunchtime on [30th April at Hartslock, Oxon](#) produced the following: **Small Heath** - at least 7 seen, **Dingy Skipper** - at least 3 seen, **Brimstone** - lots, **Grizzled Skipper** - at least 3 seen, **Orange-tip** - lots, **Green-veined White** - 2, **Peacock** - 1, also 1 **Ruby Tiger Moth**. Skippers and other butterflies frequenting Ground-ivy patches at top end of fields 4 & 5."



Dingy Skipper
Photo © David Fearn



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © David Fearn

The following report came from Steve Croxford: "On Monday morning, [30th April](#), I visited [Ivinghoe \(Bucks\)](#) hoping to see some Dukes. None were seen but I did find several **Grizzled Skipper**, **Brimstone**, **Orange-tip** and a couple of **Peacocks**. I also dropped into the disused railway line near [Westcott, Bucks](#) on the way home. There were a dozen **Grizzled Skipper** present as well as my first **Small Heath** and **Small Copper** of the year. Also present were **Brimstone**, **Orange-tip** and a **Speckled Wood**."



Small Heath
Photo © Steve Croxford



Small Copper
Photo © Steve Croxford

John Shaw sent this report: "At a work-party on Monday morning, [30th April](#), at [Castlefield Wood, High Wycombe, Bucks](#) the species seen included: **Holly Blue**, **Orange-tips** (male & female), **Speckled Wood** and **Brimstone**. Our efforts at thinning, scalloping & path widening seem to be paying off!"

Francis Gomme reported the following on Monday 30th April: "During occasional sunny spells, **Small White, Orange-tip, Green-veined White, Brimstone, Holly Blue, Comma, Peacock, Speckled Wood, Dingy Skipper** and **Grizzled Skipper** at *Holtspur Bank, Bucks*. **Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper, Orange-tips, Small White, Peacock** and **Comma** at *Lodge Hill, Bucks*. **Grizzled Skipper** and 1 **Duke of Burgundy** (fresh male) at a site in *South Bucks*."

Ched George reported as follows: "Singleton male **Dukes of Burgundy** seen at 2 *South Bucks* sites on *30th April*, one of them being the introduction site. Singleton **Grizzled Skippers** were also seen at 2 sites, one being *Lodge Hill, Bucks* where a **Small Copper** also showed along with a male **Brimstone, Orange-tip** and **Peacock**."

~ **Saturday 28th April 2012** ~

John Shaw reported the following: "Dodging the downpours on *Friday morning 27th April* at *Brush Hill LNR*, Princes Risborough in Bucks after putting up some bat boxes, I saw a solitary male **Orange-tip** patrolling the conservation area. Then it poured. Again."

David Fuller sent this update from Maidenhead, Berks: "In my garden today, *28th April*, my first **Small White** of the year. Also a male **Orange -tip**."

~ **Thursday 26th April 2012** ~

Jean-Paul Brouard sent the following report on 25th April: "Just to inform you that on the morning of *Saturday 21st April* I visited *Hartslock, Oxon*. Butterflies seen: 1 **Small Copper**, 1 **Peacock**, 8 **Dingy Skippers**, 4 **Grizzled Skippers** and 5 **Small Heath**."



Small Copper
Photo © Jean-Paul Brouard

This report came from David Redhead on 25th April: "About 4pm yesterday afternoon, *24th April*, the sun shone continuously for nearly 20 minutes and the temperature in our garden in *Littlemore, Oxon* reached a balmy 14C. During that time there were at least six **Orange-tips** flying in our garden of which only one was a female. A **Comma** also made a brief appearance. There are now at least 40 Orange-tip eggs to be found in our garden, nearly half of them have turned orange and they are laid on four separate foodplants - Honesty (28), Woad (5), Garlic Mustard (5) & Hairy Bittercress (3). The last is an addition to the 11 foodplants identified by UTB members last season and published in the Autumn 2011 Newsletter. It is a rather insignificant plant with very small white flowers and I don't think the rather insubstantial seed pods, already forming, will be capable of supporting an Orange-tip caterpillar throughout its entire life either nutritionally or physically. When the sun disappeared I visited the marsh land near our house and two of the nine Cuckoo Flower plants I was able to find in flower each sported a single white egg. Needless to say I got damp on the way home. Also heard my first **Cuckoo** of the year about midday."

Francis Gomme sent the following sightings: "I disturbed two **Dingy Skippers** on very breezy slopes of *Hartslock, Oxon* this morning, *24th April* plus a windblown **Small Tortoiseshell**. 8 degrees where sheltered! Earlier **Green-veined White, Orange-tips** (3) and **Peacock** at equally cool gravel pits east of *Theale, Berks.*"

David Fuller reported the following: "A friend of mine had a **Holly Blue** in his garden in *Cookham, Berks* on *12th April*. In my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* I had a male **Orange-tip** on *23rd April* and at *Odney Island Cookham* on *24th April*, 2 male **Orange-tip** butterflies together."

~ **Monday 23rd April 2012** ~

Ched George sent the following news: "A short visit to *Bradenham, Bucks* on *22nd April* found a male **Brimstone** and a female **Orange-tip** struggling in the cool wind in the sun. Temperature was 14 degrees."

David Fuller had a male **Orange-tip** in his garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* on *20th April*.

~ **Tuesday 17th April 2012** ~

David Fuller reported the following today: "Along the Towpath of the *River Thames in Berks - Speckled Wood* yesterday *16/04/12*. Today, *17th April*, in my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* a female **Orange-tip** and a male **Brimstone**."

~ **Sunday 15th April 2012** ~

Jim Asher sent this report: "I made a trip, more in hope than confidence, to try to walk the transect at *Aston Upthorpe, Oxon* today, *15th April*. It would have been fine, apart from the low temperature (9C), the high wind (4-5) and the lack of sun (<50%)..oh, and the lack of butterflies, so I had to give up. However, I did see one **Bee-fly (Bombylius major)** and precisely two butterflies - both **Grizzled Skippers**, one in the main valley and one at Oven Bottom. It was so cold it did not open its wings fully!"



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © Jim Asher

~ **Friday 13th April 2012** ~

Malcolm Brownsword reported the following today: "The conditions were only just favourable enough to do my first BBOWT transect at *Hartslock, Oxon* this morning (*13th April* - 13 C, but sunny) and I was rewarded by seeing my first **Green Hairstreak, Small Heath** and **Speckled Wood** of the season. Totals were 1 **Peacock**, 1 Small Heath, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 2 **Speckled Woods**, 3 **Orange-tips**, 1 **Green Hairstreak** and 1 **Brimstone**."

Steve Croxford sent the following report: "I walked over to the disused railway cutting near *Westcott, Bucks* this morning, *Friday 13th April*. While there I saw several **Orange-tip** (4M, 1F) and my first **Grizzled Skipper** of the year."



Grizzled Skipper
Photo © Steve Croxford

~ Thursday 12th April 2012 ~

John Ward-Smith sent this report: "Yesterday afternoon (*11th April*) we had **Orange-tip** and **Holly Blue** on the wing in our *Bracknell (Berks)* garden."

Tony Speight reported the following: "On my first transect of the year today *11th April* (after managing to miss the first week), on *Sands Bank (High Wycombe, Bucks)* I was very surprised to find a **Dingy Skipper** and it was the only butterfly I saw on the site! I haven't checked my records yet but I think it is easily the earliest I have seen one."

~ Tuesday 3rd April 2012 ~

This update came from David Fuller: "*Sunday 1st April Summerleaze G.P. fields in Berkshire*, **Small Tortoiseshell** my first of the year. During a walk at *Maidenhead Thicket, Berks* on *2nd April* helping to create a new transect for the National Trust we had 2 **Comma**, **Peacock**, 2 **Red Admiral** my first of the year and male and female **Orange-tip**. In my garden in *Maidenhead*, also on the 2nd, a **Holly Blue**."

Dave Morris reported the following: "A few sightings from a walk through *RSPB Church Wood in Hedgerley, Bucks* on *2nd April*: **Green-veined White** - 1, **Orange-tip** - 5, **Speckled Wood** - 1 and **Small White** - 1."

David Hastings sent the following sightings from around Oxfordshire: "On *1st April* I saw one male **Orange-tip** in my garden (*north Abingdon*), one male **Orange-tip** and two **Small Whites** on my allotment (in *Abingdon*), three **Peacocks** and two **Small Tortoiseshells** at *Parsonage Moor*, and two **Peacocks**, two **Commas** and four male **Orange-tips** at *Dry Sandford Pit*."

Derek Sawyer sent this report: "I have just seen a **Speckled Wood** in *Gomms Wood, High Wycombe* plus an **Orange-tip** and a **Holly Blue**. I saw a **Orange-tip** on the *25th March* in *Kings Wood (near Tylers Green, Bucks)* as well."

Nicholl Williams reported the following: "I went for a walk after work on *Friday 30th March* around the *Burghfield Gravel Pits, Berks*. I noticed plenty of **Orange-tip** butterflies, also a few **Commas**, **Peacocks** and one **Small White**."



Orange-tip
Photo © Nicholl Williams

~ Friday 30th March 2012 ~

David Fuller reported the following sightings around Berkshire: "I thought that I would get some butterflying in as it will be cooler tomorrow:

My garden in Maidenhead - **Large White** seen today, *30th March*.

Maidenhead Thicket - **Green-veined White**, male **Holly Blue**, **Speckled Wood**, 4 male and 1 female **Orange-tip**.

Odney Island Cookham - **Comma** and **Peacock**."

Adam Bassett sent the following report: "Along with everyone else, I'm seeing lots of butterflies in the current warm spell. Wednesday *28th March* I saw my first 2 **Holly Blues** in the garden (*Marlow Bottom, Bucks*) along with **Brimstone**, **Peacock**, **Red Admiral**, **Comma** and **Green-veined White** – a nice selection this early in the season."

~ Thursday 29th March 2012 ~

This report came from David Redhead: "*Wednesday 28th March* added **Green-veined White** to our 2012 garden (*Littlemore, Oxford*) list and today **Speckled Wood**, bringing the total to 8 species. The absentees from the current UTB list of 10 being Small Tortoiseshell & Red Admiral."

Michael McNeill sent these sightings today: "From my garden in *Upper Basildon, West Berkshire*, my first male **Orange-tip** of the year, first sighted on *25th March* with two others. Other first sighted visitors included 2 **Brimstone** *11th March*, 1 **Peacock** also *11th March* and 1 **Comma** on *4th March*. No Red Admirals since that first sighting on 10th January this year."



Orange-tip
Photo © Michael McNeill

David Fuller sent this update: "I had a male **Orange-tip** in my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* today."

Dave Morris sent the following report today: "My first garden species of the year here in *Seer Green, Bucks* was an **Orange-tip**. Also, I saw a White whilst driving along Welders Lane; not able to determine exact species, but it looked too large for a Small White."

The following report came from Chris Pickford today: "My first male **Orange-tip** of the year this pm here in *Chilton, Bucks!*"

Dave Ferguson sent this report: "At *Stoke Common, Bucks* today I saw an **Orange Underwing sp. moth** on a patch of bare earth by a pond. It flew up, caught the breeze and vanished before I could photograph it. I also saw a female **Orange-tip**."

Steve Croxford reported the following today: "Thursday morning, *29th March*, I had a walk around *Yoesden Bank, Bucks*. I saw **Peacock** (5), **Brimstone** (3), **Comma** (2), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1) and a male **Orange-tip**. Shortly before leaving I came across this **Green Hairstreak** in the top corner of the main bank. This is easily the earliest I have ever seen a Green Hairstreak."



Orange-tip
Photo © Steve Croxford



Green Hairstreak
Photo © Steve Croxford



Green Hairstreak
Photo © Steve Croxford

~ Wednesday 28th March 2012 ~

David Fuller sent this report on 28th March: "In my *Maidenhead, Berks* garden today: **Peacock**; *Braywick Park Maidenhead* 2 male **Brimstone** and a **Peacock** and at *Cookham, Berks* a male **Orange-tip**."

Mick & Wendy Campbell visited Sydlings Copse, Oxon today, 28th March: "A beautiful sunny day and it was a nice walk into the Reserve. We managed 7 species of butterfly: **Orange-tip** (3), **Brimstone** (1 male), **Peacock** (3), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1), **Comma** (2), **Small White** (1) and finally **Red Admiral** (2). Also seen were 2 **Orange Underwing sp. moths** and 5 **Common Lizards** sunning themselves on dead logs around the reserve. Also, in our Bucks garden this morning we recorded an Orange-Tip and our first **Holly Blue** of the season."

This report came from Richard Wheeler: "Enjoyable hour spent at a very warm *Finemere Wood, Bucks* this afternoon (*28/03/12*) - plenty of butterflies about: 15+ **Peacock**, 8 **Comma**, 8 **Brimstone**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell** and 1 **Red Admiral** (although I saw no Orange-tips or Whites). Yesterday lunchtime, outside the council offices in *Witney, Oxon* I saw 2 **Brimstone**, 2 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 1 **Holly Blue** and 1 **Orange-tip**."



Comma
Photo © Richard Wheeler

Wendy Wilson sent the following: "Today, *Wednesday 28th March*, on a south-facing oak tree at *Northmoor Hill Wood, Higher Denham (Bucks)*, I found three **Purple Hairstreak** eggs on one cluster of buds. Examining them with a lens I was delighted to see that one of them had hatched already and there beside it was a **Purple Hairstreak larva**. I have never seen one before but it was instantly recognisable from Richard Lewington's lovely paintings. Sadly, by the time I had got out my camera, it had disappeared. I just hope it is in a bud and had not dropped to the ground as caterpillars sometimes do when disturbed. In the photo below, the hatched egg is on the right. When I got home I found that the first of my three **Orange-tip** pupae had produced a female butterfly while another is showing orange so will be a male ."



Purple Hairstreak eggs
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Orange-tip pupa (male)
Photo © Wendy Wilson

David Hastings reported the following on 28th March: "I saw a female **Orange-tip** in the *Oxford University Parks* at lunchtime today. I haven't see a male so far this year."

~ **Tuesday 27th March 2012** ~

David Fuller sent this latest update: "Sightings today *27/03/12* - my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* - **Peacock** and male **Brimstone**. *Maidenhead Thicket* - **Comma**, 2 male **Orange-tip** my earliest ever; *Bourne End, Bucks* - **Peacock**, female **Brimstone** and male **Orange-tip**."

Chris Lamsdell saw a Holly Blue in Slough on *26th March*, along the Bath Road near *Montem, Berks*.

Alan Strawn reported the following: "I observed a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** today, *27th March*, feeding on a clump of aubretia in a garden I was working in at *Cholesbury, Bucks* near Tring today. Earliest I have ever seen one. On an adjacent bergenia was a **Peacock** butterfly."

Sighted on Tuesday 27th March by Richard Noble during a walk in the woods in Barkham, Berks: **Brimstone, Peacock** and male **Orange-tip**.

Malcolm Brownsword sent this report on 27th March: "Having seen a distant 'Small White or female Orange Tip' in my [West Hagbourne, Oxon](#) garden yesterday, I was not surprised this morning to see my first male **Orange-tip** of the year. Also seen yesterday where 2 **Small Tortoiseshells**, 3 **Brimstones** and a **Peacock**."

~ **Monday 26th March 2012** ~

Tom Stevenson reported the following: "**Brimstones**, **Green-veined Whites** and a **Small Tortoiseshell** at [Ewelme Watercress beds LNR, Oxon](#) today, *26th March*".

The following report came from Keith Lugg: "On my first visit to [Decoy Heath BBOWT reserve Berks](#) on *Monday 26/03/2012* after a couple of weeks away, I saw one **Comma** around the car park, two **Peacocks** near the end of the access path & one **Brimstone** at the back of one of the ponds. **Bee flies**, **Common Groundhoppers** & **Gorse Shieldbugs** were all active too."

Tony Rayner sent the following report: "Astonishing to report a male **Orange-tip** in our [Cholsey, Oxon](#) garden today - easily our earliest ever record AND have heard from friends in the Peak District that they too had an Orange-tip in their garden today!"

This report came from Wendy Wilson today: "Having logged 100 **Purple Hairstreak** eggs on oaks around south-east Bucks over the winter months, I was interested to see Jim Asher's report on 24th March. I have usually found only one or two widely-spaced eggs on branches I can reach but, like Jim, I have found many more on branches which have fallen from higher up. On a large fallen branch in Black Park I found seven eggs within five minutes. It was the same story on twigs blown down at Latimer and Lee Common. I feel that for every egg I find within reach there must be dozens up in the canopy. I have also noticed that oak twigs are particularly brittle this year, because of the drought perhaps? Of the eight butterfly species I've seen so far, **Peacocks** have been the commonest so maybe they are doing better than last year. Figures are: **Peacock** 9, **Brimstone** 7, **Comma** 6, **Red Admiral** 4, **Small Tortoiseshell** 4, **Orange-tip** 3, **Small White** 2, **Holly Blue** 1."

David Fuller sent this update: "**Peacock** again in my garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#) today *26/03/12* and then another 3 **Peacock** on [Romney Island nr Windsor](#)."

John Ward-Smith reported the following sightings in Berkshire today: "Two **Holly Blue** in my [Bracknell](#) garden today, followed by two each of **Brimstone**, **Peacock** and **Comma**, plus one **Small White** at BBOWT's [Wildmoor Heath Reserve](#)."

David Redhead sent this news today: "For the last two days our garden in [Littlemore, Oxon](#) has been adorned by a pair of male **Orange-tips**, a pair of **Peacocks** and up to three each of **Brimstones** and **Commas**. This afternoon they were joined by our first **Holly Blue** of the year and a revisit of the **Small White** seen last Thursday. **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Red Admiral** and **Speckled Wood** still awaited."

Dave Morris went for a walk in Seer Green, Bucks, today: "I'm absolutely convinced I saw a **Small Copper** sunning itself on a roadside grass verge. Unfortunately, as I disturbed it, it flew off into some trees across the road and I was unable to follow for a definite confirmation. I realise this is very early for a sighting, but I had no doubt until I came back to check the flight times! I also saw 2 **Commas**, 3 **Peacocks** and 2 **Small Tortoiseshells** in fields surrounding the village."

Michael Sprague sent the following report today: "I saw two **Commas** and a **Small Tortoiseshell** on *Wednesday March 21st* near *Parson's Pleasure, Oxford* (Lat. 51.75987, Long. -1.24640). Today, *26th March*, on a wonderful lunchtime stroll, I saw four **Peacocks** and a **Brimstone** at the *Merton Sports grounds, Oxford* (Lat. 51.75841, Long. -1.24370)."

~ **Sunday 25th March 2012** ~

Mick Jones sent the following: "I was starting a new vascular plants survey at *Dancersend* (Bucks) today (*Sunday 25th March*) but was distracted by butterflies. I saw 6 **Peacocks**, 2 **Brimstones**, 2 **Orange-tips**, a **Small Tortoiseshell** and a **Comma**. The Peacocks were mostly nectaring on Lesser Celandine."

This report came from Jim Asher today: "*On Saturday 24th March:* I saw two **Small Tortoiseshells** at *Crog Hill* (north of Lambourn, Berks). Nothing else was flying. Denise saw two **Brimstones** in *Marcham, Oxon*.

On Sunday 25th March, we saw two/three **Red Admirals**, two **Peacocks**, a **Comma** and a **Speckled Wood** at *Hitchcose Pit* (near Cothill, Oxon). We also came across an oak tree which had fallen over during the winter; a five-minute search of twigs part way 'up' the fallen tree revealed two **Purple Hairstreak eggs**. It was a rare opportunity to look for PH eggs nearer the 'top' of an oak! So altogether we saw seven species (six adult and one egg)."



Speckled Wood
Photo © Jim Asher



Purple Hairstreak egg
Photo © Jim Asher



Fallen Oak at Hitchcose
Photo © Jim Asher

Ben Miller sent the following report on 25th March: "At *Dancersend, Bucks*, today I saw my first **Orange-tip** of the year, a fresh male. Other butterflies were two **Peacocks** and three **Brimstones**."

David Hastings sent this report today: "*24th March:* I saw two **Red Admirals**, at least six **Peacocks** and a **Comma** on the banks of the Thames at *Farmoor Reservoir, Oxon* and four **Brimstones**, four **Peacocks** and five **Commas** at *Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon*.

25th March: I saw a **Speckled Wood** in my garden in north *Abingdon, Oxon* and two **Commas**, two **Peacocks** and a **Green-veined White** at *Radley Lakes, Oxon*."



Green-veined White
Photo © David Hastings

David Fuller reported the following: "My first **Peacock** in my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* today Sunday *25th March*."

This news came from Steve Croxford: "The warm sunny weather of the last week has really got the butterfly season into gear. On Saturday afternoon, *24th March*, a walk around *Waddesdon Manor* in Bucks turned up several each of **Brimstone**, **Peacock**, **Comma** and **Small Tortoiseshell**. I also saw a single **Small White**, my first of the year. Today, *25th March*, I saw both a male and a female **Orange-tip** while watching my son play football at *Chesterton, Bucks*. The boundary of the playing field there has a large flush of hedge garlic growing from disturbed ground. Back at home in *Westcott, Bucks* I then saw a further 2 **Small White**."

Wendy Wilson sent the following: "Today, *Sunday 25th March*, I saw my first **Orange-tip** in the most unlikely spot imaginable. It was a male patrolling along the M25 embankment at *Gerrards Cross, Bucks* underneath the Chiltern Railway viaduct which crosses the motorway and the River Misbourne at this point. I was walking along a footpath, not driving along the M25 at the time! Yesterday at *Denham Country Park, Bucks* I spotted 2 **Commas**, 1 **Peacock** and 1 **Small White**."

David Gantzel reports seeing a Small White in his garden in *Hazlemere on Sunday March 25th*.

This report came from Peter Law on 25th March: "I have just been surprised to see my first **Orange-tip** of the year from my car in *Cowley, Oxford*. Earlier on *Otmoor*, I completed my set of the usual March butterflies with a **Red Admiral** near Noke Farm. Yesterday, *24th March*, on *Lollingdon and Blewburton Hills* near Cholsey, Oxon I had 5 **Peacock** sightings."

Mary Payne sent these sightings today: "Seen in the fields behind our house *Stoke Mandeville, Bucks on 23/03/12* - 1 **Holly Blue**, 3 **Brimstone**, 2 **Small White**, 3 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 4 **Peacock**. Most of the butterflies were in a field of brassica, warming up on the earth between the plants. Strangely, despite the warm weather, we didn't observe any butterflies in the garden."

Dave Maunder reported the following: "On *Saturday 24th March* I saw a few butterflies near the *Oxford road, Aylesbury* which included:- **Brimstone** (1); **Peacock** (1); **Red Admiral** (1) and **Small Tortoiseshells** (6). I also found two **Orange-tip pupae** on Honesty twigs in my garden, one of which is getting orange colouring on its wing-cases - soon to hatch!"

~ **Saturday 24th March 2012** ~

This report came from Nicholl Williams: "I had these sightings at The Spade Oak in *Bourne End, Bucks* today - 1 **Small White**, 8 plus **Commas**, 5 plus **Peacocks** and 2 **Brimstones**."



Comma
Photo © Nicholl Williams



Peacock
Photo © Nicholl Williams

John & Louise Shaw reported the following sightings: "This afternoon, enjoying the lovely sunshine in the garden (Bowerdean in [High Wycombe, Bucks](#)) with my 3 year old daughter called Holly, we were briefly joined by 2 **Commas** and a **Holly Blue**."

This report came from Tony Croft: "At [Rushbeds Wood, Bucks](#) this afternoon there was quite a lot of butterfly activity with several **Peacocks** and **Commas** seen; also a **Brimstone**, two **Small Tortoiseshells** and a handsome male **Orange-tip**, my first of the season."

Paul Bowyer sent this report: "[Saturday 24th March](#) - 1 **Brimstone** and 1 **Holly Blue** in my garden in [Flackwell Heath, Bucks](#). Previously the earliest Holly Blue in my garden was April 1st."

Mike Flemming sent the following: "I had two **Holly Blue** sightings in my garden in [Abingdon, Oxon](#) yesterday ([23rd](#)) and one on the previous Tuesday ([20th March](#)). There is plenty of both Holly and Ivy in the garden, so they are usually plentiful here. Also three **Brimstones** flying through yesterday."

~ **Friday 23rd March 2012** ~

David Hastings saw two each of **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock** and **Brimstone** in the [Oxford University Parks](#) today, [23rd March](#).

Dennis Dell sent this report: "Sightings today ([23rd March](#)) - walking back through the forest after the Brown Hairstreak egg hunt in [Bernwood, Bucks](#) today, I spotted a **Peacock** nectaring on the male flowers of Sallow; this is quite a popular nectar source in March. **Commas** and **Brimstones** along the rides, which are extremely dry and cracking up. Then on rough grassland between [Fairford Leys and Aylesbury Park Golf Course](#) - the sheltered south-west facing edge is a **Small Tortoiseshell** hotspot; five seen along here. One pair seemed to be engaged in a courtship ritual and I wonder if any members have noticed this behaviour: the male [I assume] was sitting behind the female and stroking the edges of her hind wings with his legs. His wings were vibrating with excitement!"



Courting Small Tortoiseshells
Photo © Dennis Dell

David Fuller reported these recent sightings from Berkshire: "On *22nd March*: male **Brimstone** in my garden in *Maidenhead*; male **Brimstone** *Sheffield Bottom*; male **Brimstone** *Hosehill Pit Theale*; male **Brimstone** *Amners Farm, Theale* and male **Brimstone** *Burghfield Bridge*, Berks. On *23rd March*: another male **Brimstone** in my garden. It would be nice to see a few other species but with warm weather arriving that should not be long."

Peter Cuss sent the following: "I had a rather early **Speckled Wood** in my garden in *Caversham, Berks* today, *22nd March*".



Speckled Wood
Photo © Peter Cuss

David Redhead reports seeing a Small White in his garden in *Littlemore, Oxon* on Thursday afternoon, *22nd March*.

Paul Bowyer reported the following: "*Thursday 22nd March* I walked the disused railway line from *Cores End to Wooburn Green, Bucks*. I saw 4 butterflies and they were 4 different species: **Brimstone**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock** and **Red Admiral**."

David and Pippa Lloyd reported these sightings for 22nd March: At Lavells Lake, Sandford Lane, *Hurst (Berks)*: 1 **Small Tortoiseshell** on the wing on grass towards R Loddon from Lavells Lake and 1 **Brimstone** on the wing in the field next to the car park at Lavells Lake. Also, in Crowthorne Rd, *Bracknell (Berks)*, between Gt Hollands & Hanworth, 1 **Brimstone** on the wing."

Colin Williams sent this news: "*Thus 22nd March* – **Orange-tip** seen from the BBOWT *Woolley Firs* office window (in Berks near Maidenhead) by my colleague, Ian Stevenson. *Wed 21st March* – whilst bird surveying at *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon* I saw 7 **Brimstone**, 6 **Comma** and 3 **Peacock**."

David Gantzel reported the following: "Male **Brimstone** at *Bassetsbury, Bucks* on Wednesday *March 21st*."

On 21st March Judith Barnard saw a male **Brimstone** in *Kiln Farm, Milton Keynes*.

Dave Ferguson sent the following report: "I saw a male **Small White** in *Little Marlow, Bucks* on Tuesday afternoon, *20th March*. It settled quite close to me so I had a good look at it. It had a piece missing from one wing and did not look particularly fresh."

David Fuller reports seeing another male **Brimstone** in his garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* on *19/03/12*.

~ **Sunday 18th March 2012** ~

Chris and Mary Payne sent the following report today: "*Thursday 15th March, 1300*: One **Brimstone** at Bletcham Way, *Milton Keynes*, MK 10, Lat 52.007479, Long -0.711976 – on the slip road coming off the A5. SP 8850635121. One **Brimstone** at Mandeville Drive, *Milton Keynes*, MK 10, Lat 52.041677, Long -0.688333 – at roundabout. SP 9006138954."

~ **Friday 16th March 2012** ~

Becky Woodell reported the following: "In my garden in *Oakley, Bucks* on *15th March* in sunshine I saw one **Small Tortoiseshell** on a violet."

Judith Barnard, Beds & Northants branch, sent this news: "A **Comma** was spotted at lunchtime today (*15th March*) in *Linford Wood, Milton Keynes*."

~ **Wednesday 14th March 2012** ~

Derek Brown sent the following on 13th March: "We finally had some butterflies in the garden at *Beenham, Berks* at the weekend with **Brimstone** (Sat 10th), **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Comma** (Sun 11th) appearing."

~ **Sunday 11th March 2012** ~

The following report came from Tony Rayner: "Easily the year's best day so far for butterflies. We saw 4 species in our *Cholsey, Oxon* garden today, *March 11th*, i.e. **Brimstone**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Comma** and **Peacock**. The last two were new for the year."

Dave Maunder reported the following: "I finally saw my first butterflies of the year today! 2 **Brimstones** in Aylesbury, Bucks, male and female; also in **Finemere Woods (Bucks)** I came across 3 **Commas** and 5 **Brimstones** (all male)."

BC member Richard Wheeler sent this report: "Greatly encouraged by my first sightings of the year this morning (in the field at the back of my house and in my back garden, in *Kings Sutton* just outside Banbury, Oxon) - 4 **Brimstones**, 2 **Small Tortoiseshells** and a **Peacock** - I visited *Ardley Quarry, Oxon* in the afternoon and was delighted to come across 4 **Commas** and a further **Brimstone**. 3 of the **Commas** were flying around the sheltered cutting bank at the bridge end of the quarry (near the parking area) occasionally settling to sun themselves (see photo)."



Comma
Photo © Richard Wheeler

David Fuller sent this news: "Yesterday, *10th March*, was my first sighting at *Wallingford Bridge, Oxon* of a male **Brimstone** with a Kingfisher for good luck (SU610895). Today in my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* 2 male **Brimstone** and a **Comma**. Let us hope the warm weather continues."

Mick & Wendy Campbell did a circular walk near Stonor, Oxon today: "We saw our first butterflies of the year on this beautifully warm and sunny day - 11 **Brimstones** (all male) and a **Comma**."

David Hastings reported the following: "On *10th March* I saw two **Brimstones** in north *Abingdon, Oxon*. On *11th March* I saw two **Commas**, one **Brimstone** and one **Small Tortoiseshell** on *Otmoor, Oxon*. The Commas were seen along the old roman road, and the other two species near the bird feeders."



Comma
Photo © David Hastings

Richard Soulsby sent these sightings: "Today's beautiful weather brought out 4 **Brimstones** and my first **Comma** of the year (see photo) in my *Benson (Oxon)* garden, as well as another 4 or 5 **Brimstones** and a **Peacock** in the general *Benson/Ewelme/Swyncombe* area."



Comma
Photo © Richard Soulsby

This report came from Steve Croxford: "The warm sunshine today resulted in a mass awakening of the **Comma** at *Finemere Wood, Bucks*. I saw eleven today mostly along the main track but also a few scattered around other areas of the wood. Three male **Brimstone** were also patrolling the main ride."

Dave Wilton sent this report: "I'm finally off the mark for this year with no less than three butterfly species active today in our *Westcott, Bucks* garden. **Brimstone, Red Admiral** and **Comma** (presumably just singles of each, although I saw the Brimstone many times) were out enjoying the sunshine."

Peter Law reported the following: "My morning's birding around Oxford today, *11th March*, got my butterfly year off to a start with a first **Small Tortoiseshell** at *Finchampstead*. That was closely followed by a first **Brimstone** on *Boar's Hill*, then 10 more (all males) around *Bagley Wood*. In the spring sunshine, I also saw a **Comma** in Bagley Wood which so often produces my earliest sightings. It goes without saying that my heart is gladdened!"

~ Tuesday 6th March 2012 ~

David Hastings reported the following: "I saw my first butterflies of the year today, *6th March* - two **Small Tortoiseshells** in the *Oxford University Parks*."

Peter Hutchins sent the following sighting: "While birding at *Freeman's Marsh, Hungerford* this afternoon (*6th March*) I came across a **Small Tortoiseshell**, the first I've encountered this year. It was on the wing north of the 'canal', south of the River Dun, east of the two green footbridges and seen from 15:00."

This report came via Keith Balmer, BC Beds: 26/02/2012 a male **Brimstone** seen in *Rushmere Country park* SP9128, just over the border into Bucks, by Judith Knight and Bob Hook.

~ Friday 2nd March 2012 ~

Steve Croxford sent the following report: "I came across this **Small Tortoiseshell** on *Thursday, 1st March*. It was sunning itself at the base of a hedge on the edge of *Westcott, Bucks*."



Small Tortoiseshell
Photo © Steve Croxford

~ Wednesday 29th February 2012 ~

This sighting came via Chris Pickford: "My neighbour - a moth enthusiast - spotted a **Small White** flying round his garden in *Chilton (S. Oxon)* on Sunday afternoon, *26th February*. A very early sighting for this species, although I gather it does appear in February sometimes after a very mild winter. He is an accurate observer, so I'm sure he didn't mis-identify a Brimstone."

Jim Asher reported the following: "I saw a **Peacock** flying along a footpath near *Marcham, Oxon* on Sunday *26th February* at 12:30pm."

~ Monday 27th February 2012 ~

Richard Soulsby sent the following: "My first butterfly sightings of the year at last, in today's mild sunny weather (*26th February*): a **Brimstone** and a **Small Tortoiseshell** in my garden in *Benson, Oxon*."

Mark Griffiths sent this report: "My first male **Brimstone** flying around ivy in a hedge on *25th February* in *Garsington, Oxford*."

~ Friday 24th February 2012 ~

Tom Stevenson sent the following report: "At last my first butterfly of the year - a male **Brimstone** glowing in the sunshine yesterday, *23rd February*, over a *Benson (Oxon)* allotment."

John Gibbings sent these sightings: "Male **Brimstone** on ivy and a **Red Admiral** on the snowdrops, both in my garden in *Bourne End, Bucks* on *23rd February*."

Pete Thomsson reported the following: "I saw a definite **Peacock** yesterday (*Thursday 23rd Feb*) at home in *Wyfold, Oxon*."

~ Thursday 23rd February 2012 ~

Tony Rayner sent this news today: "Just to report a **Small Tortoiseshell** and a male **Brimstone** on the wing today, *23rd February*, in our *Cholsey* garden in Oxon."

Chris Cooper reported the following today: "I have just seen a **Brimstone** in a field off Rignall Rd, *Great Missenden, Bucks*."

~ Saturday 28th January 2012 ~

Paul Bowyer reported the following: "On *Friday 27th January* I saw a **Red Admiral** in my front garden in *Flackwell Heath Bucks* on winter flowering heather in full sunlight at 12.00pm."

~ Wednesday 25th January 2012 ~

Colin Williams sent the following report: "A **Brimstone** was seen at BBOWT's *Homefield Wood NR, Bucks* on *Saturday 21st January* by Pim Young from BBOWT."

~ Saturday 21st January 2012 ~

Mary Payne sent this sighting: "I saw a butterfly in my garden in [Stoke Mandeville, Bucks](#) this morning, [21st January](#), but it was only a fleeting glimpse and I was unable to tell if it was a Peacock or a Red Admiral."

Bob Tunnicliffe sent this report on 18th January: "To add one more - belatedly - to your flush of early sightings of **Red Admiral**:- Trish and I saw a fresh-looking individual in [Milton Keynes](#) (Emerson Valley park) on [11th January](#)."

Wendy Wilson reported the following: "I haven't yet seen a butterfly or moth in 2012, but I have found 20 Purple Hairstreak eggs in the Chalfonts area. Nearly all have been at head-height or above on the sunny side of oak trees, laid singly among the buds on the tips of small twigs. On [Wednesday 11th January](#) whilst reaching up to a branch near [Gerrards Cross, Bucks](#) a twig accidentally snapped off in my hand. I examined it closely and found a **Purple Hairstreak egg** (the white one in the picture below) and touching it was another egg with completely different markings. The second egg is smaller and more conical, grey with nine white ridges radiating from the centre. This egg slightly overlaps the Purple Hairstreak one so must have been laid at a later date. Dave Wilton has confirmed that it is a moth egg but, as so many moth larvae feed on oak, I have not yet been able to identify it. I would be delighted if someone out there can recognise it and let us know. I've taken the twig home to look after the larvae when they hatch."



Purple Hairstreak egg (left)
and unidentified moth egg
(right)
Photo © Wendy Wilson

~ Tuesday 10th January 2012 ~

Michael McNeill sent this report from Upper Basildon, West Berkshire: "First sighting of the year was a **Red Admiral** on my Flowering Cherry tree today. It didn't stop for long, thus avoiding being photographed, but then spent the next few minutes flying furiously around the garden before disappearing."

~ Monday 9th January 2012 ~

The following news came from Tony Croft: "At [Rushbeds Wood \(Bucks\)](#) tramway meadow on [8th January](#) the work party were delighted to see a **Red Admiral** flying in the sunshine before alighting on a fence post giving us some lovely views."

Steve Croxford sent this news: "On [Saturday 7th January](#) I found this frail looking **Red Admiral** very active in my parents garden in [Chinnor, Oxon](#). My personal last sighting from this location was the 3rd December 2011. However my parents report having seen other Red Admirals active in sunny periods between these dates."



Red Admiral
Photo © Steve Croxford

~ Friday 6th January 2012 ~

Jackie Newcombe sent the following report: "I saw a **Red Admiral** on *6th January in Little Marlow, Bucks* basking on some bramble leaves in the sunshine at around 1pm."

The first butterfly sighting of the new year came via Jim Asher from Barry Stickland who had a **Red Admiral** in his garden in *Finchampstead, Berks* at 11.00 am on *2nd January*.



Red Admiral
Photo © Beryl Skinner