

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Purple Emperor (*A. iris*) Report for 2009

Dennis Dell



Purple Emperor
Photo © Chris Dennis

Acknowledgements

I'm very grateful to all of you [not all UTB members] who submitted reports: see Appendix for details of participants. I would also like to express my appreciation to those who told me about people who had informed them of sightings, in other words, second hand reports. In this way, over these last 6 years, we have built up a large network of observers. I apologise if I've left anyone out in the Appendix.

1. Introduction

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

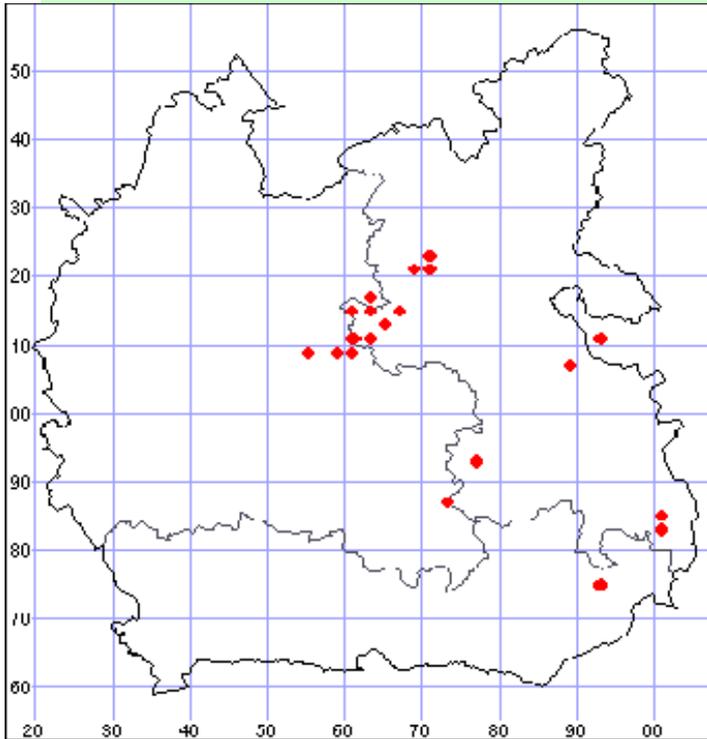
2. Summary

We have a prophet in our midst: David Redhead. On July 2nd he sent an e-mail to members to remind them of the *A. iris* field meeting on the following weekend. His first words were: "*In years to come people may well ask: 'In 2009 were you in Bernwood Forest on 4th July...?'*"

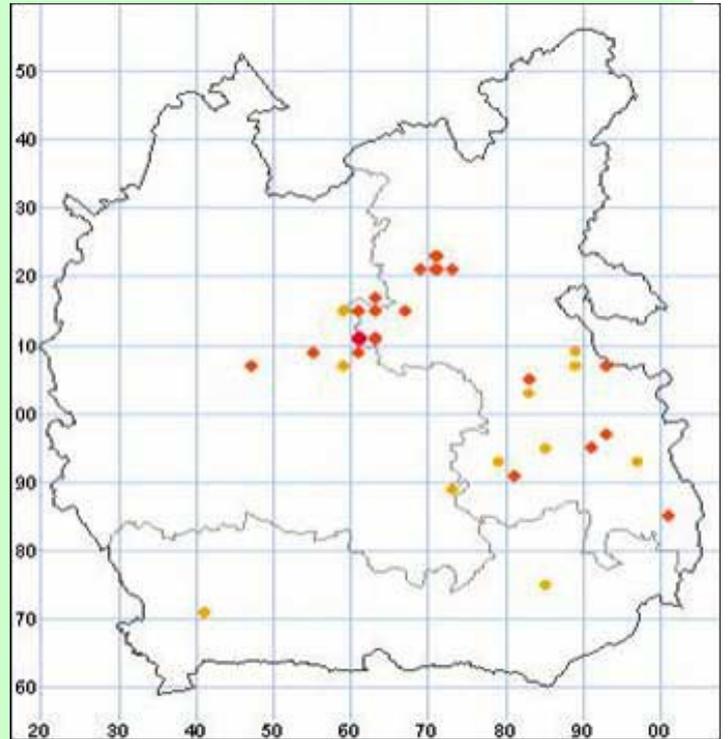
Indeed, this was an extraordinary day ... I've never experienced anything like it in our region [details later].

- 2009 was by far the best season for the Purple Emperor in our region since I've been back in the UK [from 2003].
- **About 222** sightings were recorded [last year it was 82], at **29** localities.

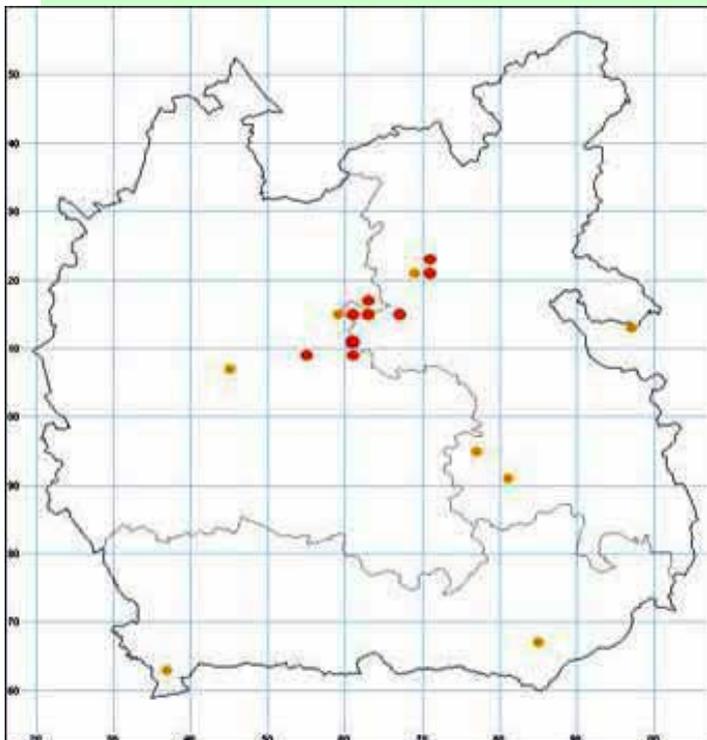
- **8 'new' habitats** were found ['new' habitats means, simply, that we do not have records from these places from recent years].
- **Territories**/male assembly points. Established territories in Little, Oakley, Rushbeds, Finemere, Boarstall, Piddington Woods and Sydlings Copse were occupied again. Possible new territories at Piddington and Shabbington Woods and Shotover Country Park were noted.
- **First specimens** seen on June 25th, the last on July 31st.



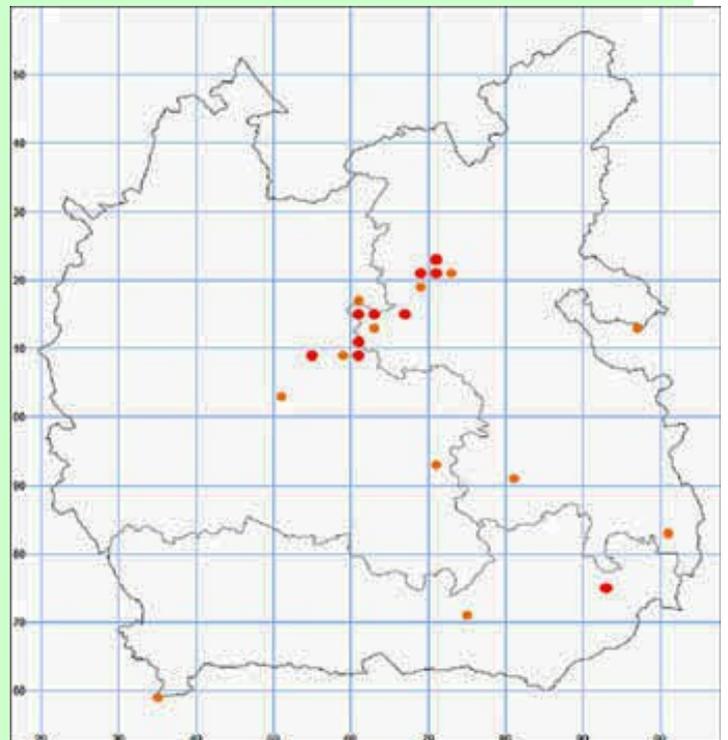
A. iris observations 2005 (data from Levana)



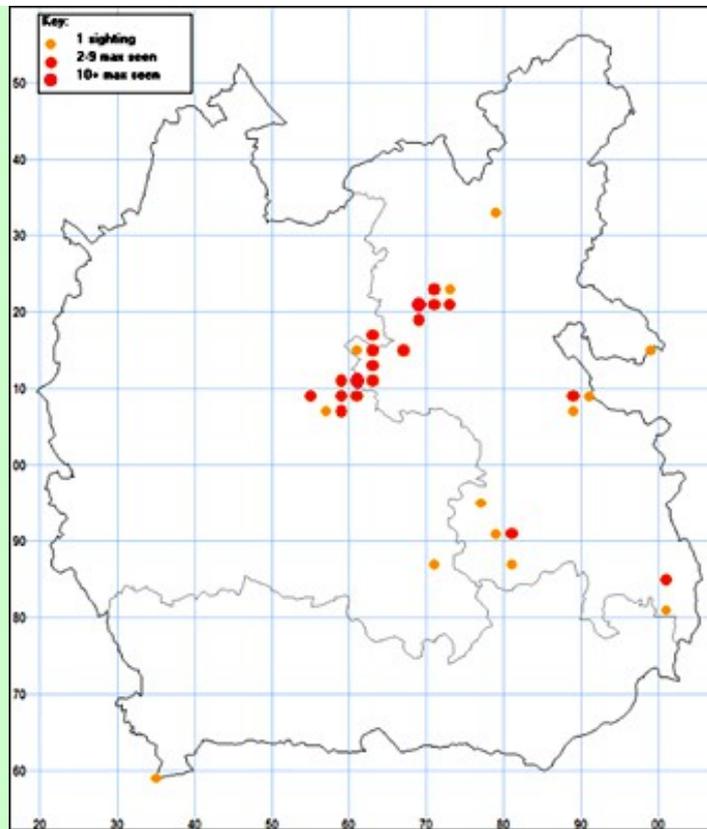
A. iris observations 2006 (data from Levana)



A. iris observations 2007 (data from Levana)



A. iris observations 2008 (data from Levana)



A. iris observations 2009 (data from Levana)

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Weather

I'm grateful again to Matthew Oates who kindly supplied me with his weather diary for the critical period, as follows [I have not edited this, because I want you all to enjoy Matthew's inimitable style]:

February 2009 was interesting. No rain fell all month (apart from sleety stuff intermingled with snow). The first 12 days were very cold with five snow falls, notably on the nights of the 4th and 6th, and frosts every night. Then mild weather slowly edged in from the 13th, bringing a slow melt. From the 15th it was very dry and fairly mild.

March 2009 was remarkably dry, with <1" of rain all month, falling on only four days (and mainly on the 3rd). It began with a two day anticyclone, which I regard as a sign of a good March. Both the Azores and Scandinavian high pressure areas were active all month, producing four fine spells, the best of which was a lovely week from the 14th to 21st, which saw butterflies properly active for the first time in the year. Prior to then temperatures had been just a bit too cool. Nights were often frosty, and there was a cold spell towards the end (27th and 28th), before the month ended mild and grey. Apart from a windy spell late on, it was a remarkably calm month.

April 2009 was good, notable for a lovely first three days and a sublime spell between the 19th and 24th, and a scatter of other good days and part-days. It wasn't particularly dry, with some spells of heavy rain (6th, 10th, 18th and 27th), and there were quite a few cold nights, especially the night of the 27th). Cold nights probably hindered butterfly emergence and day temps were never high (the month's max was 19C) and often only moderate (lots of days of 13-14C tops).

May 2009 got excommunicated for the usual reasons, though it ended well. It started reasonably, but then fell apart on the May Day bank holiday, Mon 4th. The middle two weeks were cool, cloudy and windy, though without the precipitous rains of recent Mays. Things started to improve on the 21st, mainly because I bundled the foul & abusive weather into the boot of my car, and transported it back to Wales, from whence it had escaped. I locked it in the Black Mountains, where it belongs. The last week was good, and we even had a good Whitsun bank holiday Monday, but that was too late for the early spring spp. like Green Hairstreak, Dingy Skipper and Duke of Burgundy Fritillary, which had been blasted away. Marsh Fritillary and Pearl-bordered Fritillary held back and made the most of the late May anticyclone. I'm not having May next year, it's banned; instead I'm having 31 days of 31st June, from 1953 to 1984.

June 2009 was mixed. It started and ended superbly. The first four days were great but there was then a cold dull spell from 7th-12th, followed by some mixed weather. The 16th was good and from the 21st the weather became increasingly hot and sunny, and June ended wondrously. Rainfall was probably average at best. The daily maximum temperatures ranged from 30C (30th) to 12C on the 8th and 13C on the 6th. It may be this cold spell that triggered aberrations in *paphia*, *c-album* and *iris*.

July 2009 fell spectacularly from grace. The first two days were sublime but the jet stream jumped south on the 6th and the rest of the month was, in a word, vile. After the 5th we had only three good days (10th, 16th and 25th), though some others were workable (e.g. 12th, 14th, 23rd, 27th, 28th & 31st). It was a very wet July in most districts, though not the extreme SE. Bristol had its wettest July since 1888.

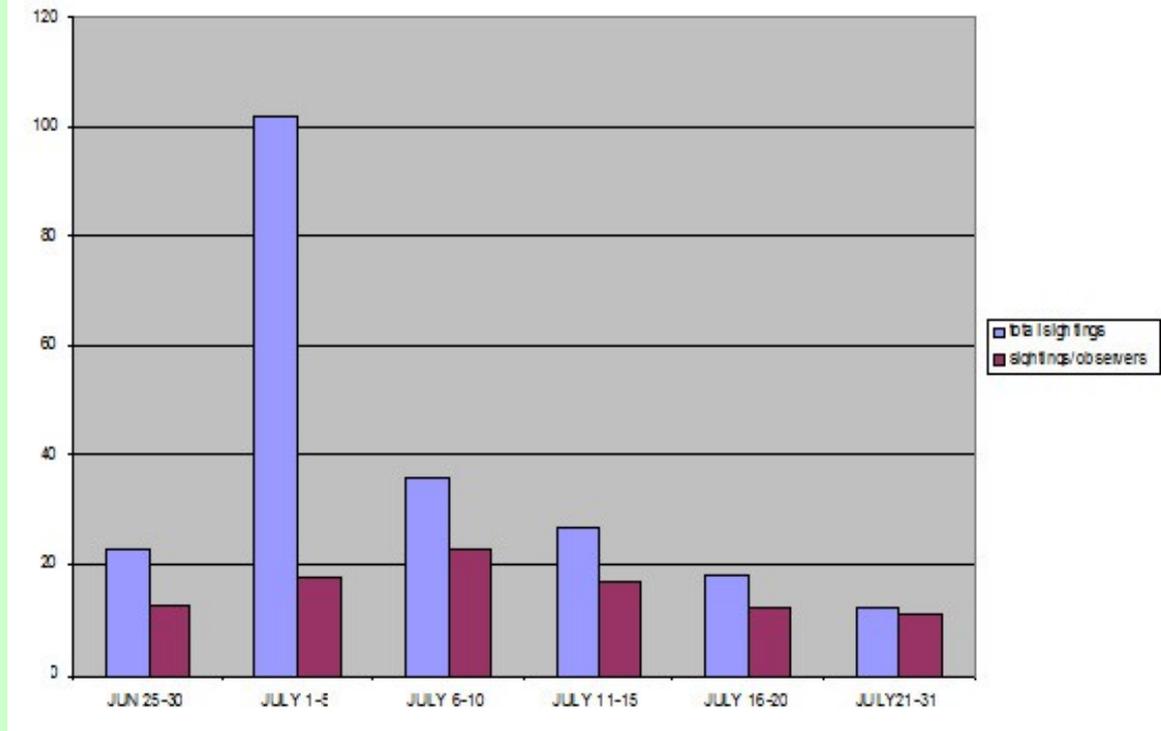
3.2 Sightings

We recorded over twice the number of sightings [220] compared with any of the previous six years. I asked our colleagues in the other good *A. iris* counties [Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Wiltshire] and they tell me that their season was maybe a little better than average. Northamptonshire was better than average, with sightings made [Doug Goddard] in seven woods other than Fermyn Forest [where Matthew Oates observed very large numbers]. Hertfordshire was about average.

The good season in UTB cannot be due to the weather during the critical months for larval development to maturity, namely April and May, since, although April was good, May was poor on average. The fine weather during the last week in June and the first five days of July was almost certainly an important factor for the high number of sightings then, even during the rest of July when the weather disappointed, the numbers seen were still better than in previous years.

June 25th for the first sightings is 'normal', as is end of July for the last sightings, although I'm surprised that we saw none at all in August.

2009 sightings



This chart has to be interpreted with caution. Obviously the number of sightings depends on many factors, e.g. the number of observers, the suitability of the habitats, the weather, the date, time of day. The total number of sightings [blue, y axis] was divided by the number observers. The latter ratio [purple] gives a different picture and does not change what we already know: namely, that the first two weeks of July are the best time to look for *A. iris*. The very fine weather at the end of June encouraged people to go out and look, with the result that 18 people made 23 sightings, certainly better than average for the last week in June. The fine weather continued into the first 4-5 days of July, but this did not last for the rest of the month, apart from a few days. However, experience has shown that *A. iris* will fly, even when it is not particularly sunny, as long as the temperature is in the late teens and it will even fly in quite a strong breeze.

From the 1st until the 5th of July 57 people recorded 102 sightings in 18 different localities.

July 4th

During the *iris* field meeting in Bernwood Forest on 4th July, 18 participants made 18 sightings. About half of these were along a few hundred metres of the main track leading up to the Shabbington turning circle. The party had, as usual, divided into two, with half going up to the turning circle and the others parting company at Piccadilly Circus and going to Hell Coppice via Yorks Wood. In previous years the latter route had always produced the most sightings but this year only one was seen along this way - a complete reversal. This experience emphasises the importance of observers exploring as many different habitats in a wood during a visit as possible. Most remarkable, though, were Dave Wilton's experiences on the same day in Kingswood and private woods in the Grendon area: before midday, he saw 3 in Kingswood; from 2 until 4 pm in woods in Grendon he made 16 sightings, including three on one Oak leaf. Before 2009, no more than 5 in one day had been seen in these woods. In the same wood, before midday on this day, Nick Bowles had seen 5 along just one ride. **So, on July 4th, 42 sightings were recorded by 21 people.**

July 5th

The second day of the Bernwood field meeting on 5th July, in poorer weather than on the first day, produced 10 sightings by 10 observers, giving the same ratio sightings/observers as for Bernwood on July 4th.

Other noteworthy results:

5th July: the Campbells had 9 sightings in Piddington Wood, 4 at a new habitat [see below]. On the 10th July, they made 12 observations, equally split between Stanton Great and Stanton Little Woods. On the 14th July, in Chinkwell Wood, they saw 9, spread throughout the wood. In view of the rather poor weather on that day, this is extraordinary, especially as never more than 2/3 had been seen here previously. On the next day, I saw only one here!

20th July: Although nothing was seen at the Greatsea high point territory this year, lower down 2 were seen between Greatsea and Romer and 2 between Greatsea and Balmore Woods. Together with the two sightings on separate occasions in Sheephouse and one in Runts, this makes it the best year on record for Claydon Woods.

22nd July: I accompanied the Campbells and we saw 5 in Waterperry Wood - rather good for so late in the season.

28th July: A very worn female was seen by Don Otter of the National Trust at Ringshall. This is noteworthy because it is at the northern end of Ashridge park and, previously, all the sightings had been near the monument to the south, some distance away.

3.3 Territories [male assembly areas]

- **Oakley Wood Car Park.** Occupied on most good days, although not more than 2/3 per day. Most of the activity was confined to the car park itself where the cars proved, as usual, to be irresistible. I received no records of long term activity in the tree tops there.
- **Piddington Wood.** The 'vista', or glade, discovered by the Campbells, was again occupied after an absence of two years. A possible new territory was found at the south-eastern corner where sightings were made on three separate days [4 on the first day].
- **Little Wood.** The established territory along the south-east facing edge was again occupied, with the same big Ash and Oaks being used.
- **Finemere Wood.** The area around the turning circle and the Ashes at the northern edge were again occupied on several occasions. A possible new territory was discovered around the big Oaks along C section of the transect [SP721216]; several observations were made here on different days.
- **Greatsea Wood.** Nothing at the high point again this year, although several sightings were made lower down [see above].
- **Rushbeds.** Sightings again on the Ashes just inside the wood along the main ride just before it exits into Lapland's Farm meadow. We never see many here, but it is regularly used, every year.
- **Boarstall Wood.** Four sightings here: the best ever, with two above the Ashes behind the gamekeeper's cottage.
- **Sydlings Copse.** The line of trees, mainly Ashes, along a ridge above a steep drop into the valley is still a favoured spot.
- **Shotover Country Park [new].** Sighting early in the morning above the Oaks at the northern end at the top of a steep slope.
- **Hell coppice old car park.** One male was seen in this old territory.

3.4 'New' habitats

- **Langley Park.** Although sightings are regularly made in Black Park, this is the first time *iris* has been recorded from this habitat adjoining Black Park to the south.
- **College Wood.** This is very exciting because this group of woods, Whaddon Chase, straddling the Bletchley to Buckingham Road, was the missing link in the chain from the northernmost habitat of the Bernwood Forest remnants, Claydon Woods, to the big woods straddling the Bucks/Northants border. It is Woodland Trust property and the warden has been alerted and is aware how important the Sallows are for *iris*.
- **Dancersend BBOWT reserve.** The first time *iris* has been seen in this Duke of Burgundy habitat and it represents another spot in the Chilterns to add to our records.
- **Stanton Little Wood.** In this small wood 6 were seen on one occasion and then 4, six days later. It is probable that *iris* flies freely between several woods close together here: Waterperry, Stanton Gt., Stanton Little and Holton Woods.
- **Sheephouse Wood.** Singletons were seen, 5 days apart.
- **Runt's Wood.** One female seen on Sallow at the western edge.
- **Homefield Wood [BBOWT].** This is a fine habitat, and it is gratifying that *iris* was seen here for the first time.

4. Plans

I reproduce last year's table, showing [red] woods where observations were made in 2009. I feel sure that we would find *iris* in many of these other woods next year.

Again, not enough of us are searching woods in Berkshire. The lack of dots there in the distribution map points more to 'lack of observers' than 'lack of *iris*', I'm sure.

Wood	English Nature Site records (Year)	Levana (Year)
Baynes and Bowdown reserve		1989, 1990, 1994, 1996
Blackmore Wood		Ched George 1995
Blackwater and Stanton Little Wood	1982	
Brasenose and Shotover Hill	1986	
Burnham Beeches		1991
Bussock Woods btwn Newbury and M4		1991
Coombe & Buttermere (s. of Bagshot)		1991
Crowell wood		2002
Denford Park		1998
Greenfield Wood		Ched George post 1996
Hatchet Wood		1997
Holly	1985	1985

Home	Pre-1905	
Howbery Park		2001
Howe Park	1959	
Kingwood Common nr Sonning		1991
Leckhampstead and Wicken (N .Bucks)	1986	
Leckhampstead Thicket (W. Berks)		1987
Nettlebed		1989
Queen Wood nr Watlington		1990

Dennis Dell
October 2009

APPENDIX: Details of Purple Emperor Sightings in the UTB area during 2009

DATE	OBSERVER	LOCATION ^a	MICRO-LOCATION ^b grid reference	NUMBER SEEN AND SEX ^c	TIME ^d	WEATHER CONDITIONS	BEHAVIOUR ^e and comments
25.6	Wendy Wilson	Langley Park TQ015819	About 200m south of the main car-park in Billet Lane along a mown grass section of the Colne Valley Trail (known here as the Wellingtonia Avenue) at its junction with a path called Bennett Walk near a wooden sign saying Bennett Walk.	1M	midday	Hot and sunny	It flew low over the grass ride, did a couple of slow circuits and settled on a bare patch of ground for a minute. (Excellent sighting through binoculars.) Then a noisy helicopter flew over and it shot up to the oak trees behind the Wellingtonias on the Billet Lane side.
25.6	Chris and Pat Dennis	Oakley Wood		1M	12-00 noon	Hazy sunshine	Settled on main track down from car park
27.6	Mick and Wendy Campbell	Moorend Common	Oak tree territory SU8014790503	1M	13.55		Exhibiting typical territorial behaviour, chasing birds etc
28.6	Mick and Wendy Campbell	Waterperry Wood	Along main track and surrounding trees. SP6063309289 and SP6058609137	2M 1F		Hot and sunny	Two males flying around trees by the track, for about 5 mins. Before disappearing. Onere-appeared, landed on birch, and then resumed flights at lowish trajectory. Female seen being pursued by a Meadow Brown or Ringlet before landing on Sallow, staying there for 15 mins with its wings open
28.6	Jim Asher	Finemere Wood	Down on main track	1M			Hind wing with a chunk out of it: bird attack?
28.6	Dennis Dell	Little Wood	Large Ash tree at top edge of wood; SP625157; established master tree	1	16.20 to 16.30, then 16.50 to 16.02	Hazy sunshine, hot	Several very brief flights around and close to the top of this Ash, which has been seen to be used for the last few years
28.6	Chris & Pat Dennis	Oakley wood	Start of main track and footpath entrance to car park.	1M	10-45am	Bright sun	Came from the tall oaks bordering the car park flew close to the ground up and down the main track then Settled for very short time.
29.6	Mick and Wendy Campbell and Tony	Rushbeds Wood	1. Ash edge territory SP6663115863	3 [2 on territory, 1 by railway]	14.50 to 16.45	27 deg., sunny then	1. Two in the 'territory' ashes near the gate into

	Croft		2. Railway SP6727715453			overcast	the meadow. Lots of flights of one PE commencing at 2.50pm in ideal conditions, 27C, then joined briefly by a 2nd PE which flew off over the trees. 2. seen flying over the trees along the railway line edge
29.6	Dennis Dell	Finemere Wood	1. Oaks at southern end: SP721216 and 720215 2. northern edge territory SP714222	4/5	14.30 to 17.05	27 deg., sunny then overcast	1. Saw briefly flying around two large Oaks [2] 2. from 15.32 to 15.45, two males clashing, and very brief flights in the canopy. Back at 16.19 until 16.40; no canopy activity, but one male low down on small Ash under Oak at top corner
29.6	Malcolm Brownsword	Oakley Wood	Beneath oaks close to car park	2 M	12.50-13.05	27C Hazy sun	The first dived from the oak trees and flew along the verge on the west side of the path at a height of approx. 4 feet. It then alighted on the path several times. The second one, minutes later also flew along the path at an altitude of approx. 4 feet and alighted on dog faeces close to the red bin for depositing such material! It then flew along the path, alighting briefly twice before flying off. The two males were seen simultaneously for approx. 1 minute.
30.6	Mick and Wendy Campbell	Stanton Gt Wood	Ash territory at south-west edge	2	15.30	Cloudy but hot	This territory was discovered previously by the Campbells. Aerial combat was observed at 5 to 10 minute intervals
30.6	Dave Ferguson	Black Park	Strawberry Wood TQ01228449, TQ01418447, and TQ01298446; Heathland TQ01158420	1 M, 2 F	10.55 to 12.30	Hot and sunny	TQ01228449: at 10.55; male, settled repeatedly on path, staying up to 1 minute TQ01298446: at 11.10, female, settled repeatedly on path, staying only a few seconds TQ01158420: at 11.40, female, flying around willows 5m up TQ01418447: at 12.30; as 2 above, almost certainly the same individual
1.7	Dave Wilton	Finemere Wood	Territory nr turning circle [1]; big oak at southern end SP72142161 [2]	3	pm	Hot and sunny	SP72142161: between 13.50 and 14.10, one circled gap above ride between oaks and willows and pines, 50% perching; twice it was joined by a second, in the same area, but there was no interaction. The third was seen at 14.25, in the territory along the ride about 50m from the turning circle

1.7	Dennis Dell	Waterperry Wood	Along main north-south track	5	10.30 to 11.15	Hot and sunny	SP607097: two seen briefly, 5 minutes apart, flying low around the small oaks at the edge of the ride before making off above the trees. SP607094: one flew rapidly low along ride and then away SP606092; one [male] grounded; a second flew above the Oaks and away
1.7	Chris Dennis	Finemere Wood	1] Turning circle in middle of wood SP718219 2] Oak at SP721422	1] 2F, 4 M 2] 1	14.00	Hot and sunny	1] one female possibly ovipositing; one female flying with four males in pursuit 2] one around Oak [see Wilton 1 st July]
1.7	Becky Woodell	Oakley Wood	SP602112	1M	10.45	Hot and sunny	On dog faeces on ride near entrance gate, in shade. Flew into willow then returned to ride
1.7	Becky Woodell	Oakley Wood	SP604114	1M	11.00	Hot and sunny	On ride, then flew into trees
1.7	Mick and Wendy Campbell	Holton Wood	Public footpath through wood SP599079	2	15.45	Hot and sunny	One seen flying through big Oak, then up and over; the second was flying at tree top height across the gap in the canopy where the footpath runs through
2.7	Mick and Wendy Campbell, Dennis Dell	Sydblings Copse	1] Ash trees at far end of meadow SP545095 2] field below high point	1M, 1F	1] 13.10 2] 14.40	Hot and sunny	1] gliding backwards and forwards over tops of Ashes 2] flying near Sallows, then flew up to Oaks and disappeared
2.7	David Redhead	Shabbington Wood	Turning circle SP627106	1M		Hot and sunny	Grounded, taking minerals from moss on the surface;
2.7	Mick Campbell	Oakley Wood	Car park	1	11.00	Hot and sunny	Flying rapidly over tops of trees
3.7	Becky Woodell	Whitecross Green Wood	SP600145	1	p.m.		Flew slowly along ride, at about 3'; dropped into grass for several minutes before flying a few metres to a low shrub: ca 4m high; stayed for about 1 min before flying off slowly into the trees nearby
3.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Boarstall Wood	High point territory by cottage SP635134	2M, 2F	16.05 to 16.45	Hot & sunny	Males chasing in Ashes behind cottage; females in Sallows
4.7	Dave Wilton	Ham home & Hamgreen woods	1] SP69461885 2] SP69721923	1] 1 2] 2	10.45 to 12.00	Started sunny, became cloudy	1] circling an oak by small pond, brief sighting at 11.10 2] above ride, circle of ashes and oaks; 11.26, landed on oak and stayed until at least 11.50; the second flew

							around the territory several times
4.7	Nick Bowles	Private woods in Grendon area.	Main north - ride	5	10 to 11	sunny	At least 4 seen all along this long ride; one seen in the ride separating two woods.
4.7	Dave Wilton	Private woods in Grendon area.	Many locations: see 'behaviour & comments'	16	13.55 to 16.00	Mainly overcast	a) 13.56 flew from road up into poplars b) 14.45: flight round top of oak where it alighted c) Between 14.55 and 15.15, saw 8 in tops of oaks; at least two females along willows d) At 15.16: flying around small ash e) Flew across ride at 15.20 f) One g) Three [2M one F], all on one oak leaf at one point, 3.23; all fell off into a willow.
4.7	Field meeting, 18 participants	Bernwood forest	Oakley car park, main [Piccadilly] track to turning circle; track to York's wood and Hell Coppice	18	10.30 to 14.00	Fair, cloudy and sun, ca 20 to 23 degrees	Cannot write details in full. Seen mainly in car park and along Piccadilly; in particular, between SP6229010845 and turning circle, 8 seen, gliding between trees, perching and clashing' Dave Redhead's separate group saw one at SP612103
5.7	Monica Jones	College Wood	SP790330	1F			grounded
5.7	Chris Hazell	Black Park	Strawberry Wood	1M	9.30 to 11.00	Partly overcast, warm, sunny periods	Gliding around large oak, seen for about 20 seconds
5.7	Field meeting, 10 participants	Bernwood forest	Oakley car park, then track [Piccadilly] to turning circle	10	10.30 to 14.00	Not so good as yesterday; a lot of cloud, rain for 15 mins, sunny at end [20 degrees]	One seen on dog faeces in car park at 9.30; 11.00: two sheltering low in trees [oak and wild service] at SP612113; a 3 rd flew over. 11.40: flying over oaks at SP6213910906; 11.50, two clashing at SP6231410823; 12.10: one flying in the rain at top of oak at SP6264310657; on return: two clashing at SP6204311022 at 12.45; at 13.00. one flew low across low part of Piccadilly track at SP6139611226; back in car park, a male put on a fine display, landing on fingers, cars giving plenty of photo opportunities

5.7	Mick Jones	Dancer's End reserve	Anthill SP90020939	1F			In duke of burgundy habitat; flying low around scrub for 2 mins, before flying further away out of sight; appeared again shortly after, flying at about 20' following the ash, field maple and willow contours at the western edge of the clearing
5.7	Penny and Gerry Kendall	Oakley Wood	On track 50m down from car park	1	p.m.	Fair: about 20 degrees	Circling oak
5.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Little Wood	Territory at high point edge	5	13.00 to 13.10	Hot & sunny	SP6232015811: one flying along tops of oaks SP6245515768: two on big ash, chasing SP6247915798: two on oak, chasing
5.7	Cathy Harris	Warburg reserve	Canopy near car park SU717878	1	Late pm	Hot & sunny	Flying in mixed deciduous canopy
5.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Moor End Common	1]South meadow 2]middle meadow 3]near power lines & road	3	15.10 to 16.15	Late afternoon	1] SU8030790349: flew from willow then over an oak 2]SU SU8013190731: flying over large oak in new area across the road from middle meadow 3]SU99490514: perching & flying in oak near power lines & road
5.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Piddington Wood	1] wood edge SP6304416305 2]'vista' SP6284816025 3]footpath by meadow SP6295116152	1] 4 2] 4 3] 1	1] midday and 13.55 2] 13.25 3] 13.45	Hot & sunny	1] flying around willows, oak and ash 2] all ash trees occupied; very active, chasing 3] flying and perching on oak
7.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Piddington Wood	Wood edge SP6304416305	3		poor	Activity during short sunny spells
7.7	Colin Williams	Finemere Wood	Turning circle	2/3	12.00-13.00	Between showers	
9.7	Dave Wilton	Waterperry Wood	Along main north-south ride	4	13.10 to 15.00		Female at northern end, flying around willows and settling; one about halfway along, and another two males a bit further along
9.7	Dennis Dell	Private wood in Grendon area.	Southern half of wood	5	14.00 to 16.00	Mixed cloud and sun, about 19 degrees	Three near southern end of long main north-south ride, one female further north, and the fifth along ride to the east

9.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Penley Wood	SU764294014	1	12.20 to 13.00		Same territory as in previous years. Tall Ashes encircling 2 large sallows. 3 sightings in this period
9.7	Becky Woodell	Rushbeds Wood	Above car park SP673154	1	13.25		Brief flight at tops of trees above car park before settling
10.7	David Redhead	Bernwood forest	1] SP627106 2] SP629102	2	p.m.		1] female flying along rideside trees 2] female flying in N-W direction in M\$0 compensation area
10.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Stanton Little Wood	SSE edge of wood	6	12.00 to 12.45 and back at 16.50	Sunny intervals	Four patrolling above tree line between SP589871220 and 5891511144. One flew away from wood. One at 16.50 at SP5848211039 ; flew out of Sallow
10.7	Dennis Dell & Richard Soulsby	Finemere Wood	Eastern ride, whole of main north-south ride and at northern edge Ash territory	5	14.25 to 16.45	Mixed cloud and sunshine, about 19 degrees	SP721216; flying around large oaks. One in turning circle, briefly One, maybe two, typical very brief flights in ash canopy at northern end 200m further east along edge, one flew from meadow low towards trees Between turning circle and ride junction, flying around tops of small oaks
10.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Stanton Gt wood	Along eastern edge	6	From 14.00		This edge is the lowest point of the wood; flying over ash/oak; one at SP59070, one at 5912709504, four at 5921609355; two flew across field towards waterperry
10.7	Colin Bell	Moorend Common	Garden in cottage by south meadow SU802902	1			Resting on winter flowering viburnum about 5m from ground for about 15 mins
12.7	Linda & Stuart Hodges	Finemere Wood	Main central ride at SP719216	1M	16.45		Landed in Oak about 15' up for about one minute then flew towards turning circle
12.7	David Redhead	Hell Coppice	SP610101	1M	2.22 to 2.34		Old car park; 4 short flights in tree tops
12.7	Chris Dennis	Whitecross Green Wood	Central ride crossroads SP602146	1F	12.45	sunny	Flew past up to Ash; landed near top; flew twice in and out of this Ash

12.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Homefield Wood	High point SU8103487310	1	14.40	Cloudy, little sun	Patrolling high up in canopy
12.7	Chris Dennis	Finemere Wood	Just south of the turning circle	1M, 1F	14.00	sunny	Flew down from oaks and then back up over the other side
13.7	Rob Hill	Finemere Wood	Main ride	1			
13.7	Steve Croxford	Sheephouse Wood	Centre of wood at rides x-roads	1	noon	Mixed sunshine and showers	Flying high in the oaks near x-roads; seen during a sunny spell
14.7	Dennis Dell	Runt's Wood	SP7242623185	1F	14.05 & 15.45	Cloudy, 19 degrees	On large sallow at edge of public bridleway; seen again [or a different one] nearly two hours later on different sallow a few metres away
14.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Chinkwell Wood	Several places within and at edge of wood: see behaviour	9	12.25 to 14.50	Poor; heavy rain at first, then cool & cloudy with a few sunny spells	SP6676814398: two flying above ashes overlooking <i>salix caprea</i> along main ride. SP6678314450: two flying over & perching on conifers behind stand of <i>salix caprea</i> Same spot: one female flying low over sallow; all three flying together at one point SP6677714696: one flying over top of conifers at high point [410'] overlooking <i>salix caprea</i> SP6664114506: two flying over tall conifers SP66825914535: one 'wood-edging
14.7	Steve Croxford	Finemere Wood	Along main ride about 100m from entrance	3	17.10	Bright with gusty wind	Flying around tops of oaks on either side of the track; the gusty wind was making them fly hard in short bursts
14.7	Andrew Bolton	Combe Wood	SU359596	1			Exactly the same spot as last year
14.7	David Redhead	Shotover Park	Tree line on shotover plain SP567061	1	9.00 am		highest oak trees at 08:58am; male Purple Emperor flew from out of the left hand oak, along the front of the two oaks and disappeared around the back of them. Stayed for nearly another 10 minutes without a further sighting
15.7	Dennis Dell	Chinkwell Wood	main track	1	15.00	Very windy, some sun	Flying high across ride through middle of wood

15.7	Dave Wilton	Finemere Wood	1]SP719216 2]SP719217 3]SP720215	1] 1 2] 1 3] 2	1]15.04 2]15.40 3]15.45		1] along section D of transect, flying along oaks and willows 2] along main ride, G, flying at mid-height around oak 3] also along main ride G, low level chase, lasting about 30 secs; then female settled on hazel, and other flew off
16.7	Dennis Dell	Private wood in Grendon area.	In central area where most observations are made	2	12.35	19 degrees, 30% sunshine	One circling willows, one at corner of sections G/H.
16.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Stanton Little Wood	Outside of wood: see behaviour	3 F, 1M	12.45 to 13.40	Mostly cloudy with short sunny spells	SP5860110962: one female flying low near <i>salix caprea</i> SP5851311014: one male flying over top of oak; one female flying low by small willow SP5877811055: one female flying halfway up oaks, 50m from <i>salix caprea</i>
16.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Piddington Wood	SP6304716306; south-east corner	1M, 1F	15.00	Sun only for 5 mins	Male flying over top of oak territory, female flying in <i>salix caprea</i>
16.7	Dave Ferguson	Finemere Wood	Main track, 250 m from entrance, SP72012164	1F	14.00	Warm, cloudy	Flying around willow to west of track, about 4m up
16.7	Alan & Juliet Gudge	Moorend Common	Bridleway under power lines	1	16.15		Flew at high and low level over bridleway
18.7	Chris Dennis	Whitecross Green Wood	Car park	1	13.50		On oak at edge of car park
18.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Sheephouse Wood	Northern end, rides x-roads SP7015423626	1F	noon	Warm with sunny intervals	Flew out of <i>salix caprea</i> and perched in nearby birch
19.7	Dennis Dell & Matthew Oates	Finemere Wood	Turning circle	2F	14.00 to 16.30	Very poor; 17 degrees; raining with just one 20 minute sunny interval	The two were busy in and around the willows; ovipositing was definitely taking place, in both a big broad leaved willow and also in a small narrow leaved willow.
20.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Between Romer & Woods and between Greatsea & Balmore Woods	1]SP7120722555, bottom of wide ride 2]SP7143123044, trees on either side of main track	2 M, 2 F	11.30 to 15.30	Mainly cloudy with sunny intervals	1] one seen flying out of <i>salix caprea</i> , 2 nd flying above oaks above willow; brief interaction before they flew off; probable male seen again above oaks before it settled in small oak 20' up, probing for sap; watched for 10mins 2] 1 st seen flying along main track, over top of conifers above willow; 2 nd was female; flew out of willow and perched low on conifer; at 12.30; male seen again above

							conifers at 15.30
21.7	Loren Eldred, Gary Roberts	Penn Wood	SU923962 large car park adjacent to penn st village church	1F	10.30	Damp, overcast	Resting on surface of car park with closed wings; after 1 minute it flew off into the trees surrounding the car park; looked quite worn.
22.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Waterperry Wood	SP6009	5		Moderate, sunny, quite windy	Seen at SP6062609241, SP6037708994, SP6030709026, SP606092, SP6093909951. The locations at SP603 are the first along this ride
22.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Piddington Wood	SP6284816038	1		Strong gusty wind	This is the 'vista' territory
23.7	Dave Ferguson	Waterperry Wood		1F		Sun and showers	Female flying around a willow by the main ride.
23.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Wendover Wood	SP8864207968 & SP8963407911	2		Moderate, some sun and then rain	These two localities are far apart, indicating how widespread iris is in this wood
25.7	David Redhead	Whitecross Green Wood		1F			Flew across car park at half tree height and disappeared into trees
25.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Chinkwell Wood	SP6667814180	1M, 1F		Warm, sunny spells, light breeze	
28.7	Don Otter	Ashridge Park	SP984143 Ringshall	1F			Very worn, flying around Willow
31.7	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Stanton Little Wood	SP5902311318	1F		Warm and sunny, but very windy	Very worn