

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

White Admiral Report 2013

Julia Huggins



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I was very concerned over the likely state of our White Admiral population given the low numbers recorded in 2012 and the generally cold and wet spring in 2013 leading to a cool early summer but, as it transpired, I needn't have worried. Reported numbers for 2013 were significantly improved.

The cool early summer weather impacted on the start of the season for the White Admiral, with **the first sighting being reported on 5th July** - this is the first time the season didn't begin in June for some years. The season continued with some warm weather although locally the warmth was constantly tempered by cooling winds. The season lasted well into August with **the last sighting reported for 23 August**, but throughout the season there were only five instances of sightings in double figures.

Overall I received 129 individual reports of sightings covering 42 sites over our area; inevitably the **Bernwood Forest, Whitecross Green Wood** and **Black Park** areas came in tops for the highest number of separate sightings reported.

Three reports were of particular interest. One takes the prize for the most obscure (and seemingly unlikely) sighting - an embankment on the M25. The other two came from back gardens; one in Witney, Oxfordshire, and the other in Finchampstead, Berkshire. This is unusual but, as noted earlier, it was a reasonably windy summer so it may be that these individuals were carried some distance away from their usual feeding grounds.

My thanks as always to everyone who has contributed with reported sightings this year.

Julia Huggins
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