

# Butterfly Sightings 2003 Archive - Upper Thames Branch

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## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November

### *Some late sightings news just received from Dennis Dell for October:*

10<sup>th</sup> October: several Speckled Woods seen in Ham Green Wood. Obviously a good Clouded Yellow year - one seen at Stowe Park on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November

*Jan Haseler* reports seeing a Red Admiral on 06/11/03 in Shinfield Park, Reading.

## Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

*A lone Red Admiral* seen flying in Mick & Wendy Campbell's garden today.

## Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October

### *Butterflies Dave Maunder saw around Aylesbury last week included:-*

Painted Lady, Red Admiral (7), Large White and a Small White. Nothing seen after the weather turned colder from Wednesday.

*And on a rather cold day*, a single Large White nectaring on lavender was all that was seen in a UTB member's garden in Bucks yesterday.

## Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October

### *Three reports received from Paul Bowyer of butterflies seen during the last week:*

Monday 13<sup>th</sup>: In a back garden in Longstreet near Hanslope, I saw 1 Small Tortoiseshell

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>: In my back garden in Flackwell Heath I saw 1 Small White.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>: At Thame United Football Club in the afternoon, the weather was warm and I saw 3 Small Whites and a Small Tortoiseshell.

## Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October

*Butterflies seen by Dave Maunder at Eythrope Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> were:-* Small Copper (1), Small Tortoiseshell (1) and 3 Red Admirals;

*and on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at Waterperry Gardens he saw:-* Painted Ladies (4) - all fresh specimens, Red Admirals (4), Small Tortoiseshells (4), Large Whites (2), Small White (1) and 3 Speckled Woods - all very worn!

## Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October

### *The following message received today from Michael Robinson:*

11 October - between Ibstone and Northend 1 male **Clouded Yellow** and 1 pale winged female Clouded Yellow. Had a good look at the female but not sure if it was just a Clouded Yellow or a rarer one.

I don't know if sightings of **Small Heath** are of interest but I saw two at Broadwater Farm, South Bucks on 25 August and 6 Sept. Also there on 25 August was a Black-tailed Skimmer and a Red-eyed Damselfly on 6 Sept.

*During a walk near Cuddington yesterday*, Wendy & Mick Campbell recorded 4 **Red Admirals** feeding on ivy flowers.

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October

A tatty **Clouded Yellow** was spotted today at the Calvert landfill by *Tim and Colleen Watts*.

## Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October

**Tom Dunbar went to Hewins Wood in Bucks 2.00 to 3.45 pm today Saturday and had considerable success with the following 8 species:**

Brimstone 1; Small White 1; **Clouded Yellow 6; Common Blue 4; Brown Argus 2; Small Copper 5;** Small Tortoiseshell 2; Speckled Wood 1.

I had a 'maybe' GV White but surprisingly no Comma or Red Admiral and I thought there might have been an outside chance of a Wall Brown as they are still being seen in Sussex. Also Large Skipper might have been on, this being an excellent site for them. I have seen third brood, a singleton, at Somerford Common but that was three weeks ago.

I was very conservative in counting the Clouded Yellows - I probably saw 8 or 9 in total and wonder if there has been a recent emergence?

**On a warm October day, UTB members in Holmer Green report** 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Large Whites and 2 Small Whites in their garden today, feeding mainly on lavender and everlasting-wallflowers.

## Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October

**Christine Hoskins saw two butterflies in her back garden in Bourne End on Sunday:**

One was a **Small White** and the other was a **Peacock** feeding on Caryopteris. Luckily there are still plenty of things in flower in the garden providing nectar sources for them!

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October

**Butterfly species seen in Aylesbury last week by Dave Maunder were:-**

**Painted Ladies(3),** Red Admirals(24), Large Whites(2), Small Whites(10) and Speckled Woods(2).

and **Paul Bowyer** reports seeing just a solitary butterfly in his Flackwell Heath garden this weekend. It was a Small White, sunning itself on bamboo.

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October

**Tom Dunbar visited Whitecross Green Wood in the afternoon and saw the following:**

Comma x 3; **Small Copper x 1, Brown Hairstreak eggs x 41** + 8 eggs hatched from previous year. The air temperature was probably about 14 deg C but the site was bathed in glorious sunshine.

**During a circular walk today which started near North Marsden and took in Quanton Hill, Runt's Wood and Finemere Wood,** Wendy & Mick Campbell saw 7 species of butterflies. The weather was sunny all day with the temperature ranging between 8-15 degrees, but with a cold wind blowing. All the butterflies were seen along south-facing field or woodland edges where they were sheltered by trees or hedges:

Speckled Wood (4), **Small Copper (5),** Small Tortoiseshell (4), Small White (3), Red Admiral (1), **Painted Lady (1** - very fresh) and in the Churchyard in Quanton a very surprising **2 male Common Blues,** one of which was a very large specimen in perfect condition and the other just slightly faded!

Also seen were 2 Hornets and many dragonflies.

*[It's worth noting the long flight season this year for the Common Blue, with the First Sightings record on the UTB website showing a start date of 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2003.]*

## Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

**In Mick Campbell's garden today,** a Painted Lady (disturbed from a Birch tree) and 3 Large Whites were the only butterflies to be seen in the cool and overcast conditions.

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September

**Rosaleen and Tom Dunbar visited Rushbeds Wood and Laplands Farm in the afternoon and saw the following:** Comma x1; Red Admiral x3; Common Blue x1; **Small Copper x23**; Speckled Wood x3.

Also seen were 2 Brown Hairstreak eggs, 1 in Laplands and the other in the Rushbeds 'Tramway' adjacent to the railway bridge.

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

**With the weather rather cloudy and a cooler temperature than of late of just 18 degrees, Wendy & Mick Campbell went to Chinkwell Wood hoping to see the White Admiral again. They were disappointed, but still saw 4 other species of butterfly:** Speckled Wood (4), **Small Copper (1)**, Red Admiral (2) and Small White (1).

**With the season nearing an end, Dave Maunder noticed butterfly numbers diminishing this week**, except for **Red Admirals (60+)** - all on ivy bloom everywhere around town. He also saw Painted ladies (7), Comma (1), Large whites (2), Small whites (9), and Speckled wood (5). Also in his in-laws' garden in Adstock he saw a Painted lady, Red admiral, Small white and **Small Copper (2)** on Sat. 27th.

### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

**The following butterflies were seen by Mick Campbell in his garden today:**

Red Admiral, Large White (3), Small White and a Peacock.

### **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

**Just a few species seen at Finemere on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>:-**

**Small Copper (6)**, Common Blue (7), Small White (12), Green-veined White (2), Speckled Wood (5), and a Comma. It clouded over after a while, but still warm. **Dave Maunder.**

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

**Whilst exploring the Brill / Dorton area, Tom and Ros Dunbar and Mick Campbell** located 1 Brown Hairstreak egg on the railway line near Dorton - reputedly the most easterly yet recorded!

Other species seen on the day were Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Common Blue, Small White, Comma, Painted Lady and **20 Small Copper**, but on the day these sightings were eclipsed by Ros's staggering sighting of a pristine **White Admiral** on the edge of Chinkwell Wood. This must be a second brood specimen?

### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

**Paul Bowyer recorded 12 species of butterflies on a visit to Greenham Common today with Mick and Wendy Campbell:**

Small White (4), **Small Copper (29)**, Common Blue (19), Small Tortoiseshell (6), Painted Lady (3), Brimstone (3), Comma (5), Red Admiral (4), Small Heath (13), Speckled Wood (5), **Clouded Yellow (1)**, Brown Argus (2).

**These 2 reports received today from Tom Dunbar:**

Tom visited the Woodham to Wooton disused railway and saw the following 12 species:

Small White x1; Brimstone x1; **Clouded Yellow x2**; Red Admiral x4; Small Tortoiseshell x4; Comma x3; Painted Lady x3; **Small Copper x13**; Common Blue x16; Brown Argus x8; Speckled Wood x1; Small Heath x2  
Unfortunately no Brown Hairstreaks at this site today.

**Tom also reports the following Brown Hairstreak egg sightings today:**

Vicinity of Ludgershall railway bridge: no adults; 4 eggs.

Vicinity of Piddington railway bridge - no adults; 2 eggs

Vicinity of Cows Leys railway bridge - 1 hatched egg (last year?)

**Butterflies seen in Aylesbury over the last week by Dave Maunder are:-**

Painted Lady (7), Red Admiral (35), Comma (2), Sm. Tortoiseshell (15), Large White (19), Small White (50+), Green-veined White (1), Speckled Wood (9), **Small Copper (1)**, and Common Blue (1 - female).

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September

**Dave Maunder noted the following butterflies in Aylesbury last week:**

Painted Ladies (7), **Red Admirals (33)**, Commas (4), Sm. Tortoiseshells (5), Large Whites (11), Small Whites (50+), Green-veined White (1), and Speckled Woods (4). The Red Admirals were mainly feeding on Buddleia and Ivy bloom in St. Mary's churchyard - a good autumnal favourite!

### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September

**Tim & Colleen Watts** saw a **Clouded Yellow** on 13/9/03 when they visited the Calvert BBOWT reserve and another on 14/9/03 at the Calvert landfill site.

**A UTB Member spotted a Small Copper** nectaring on Sedum in his garden today. Also Small White (3), Speckled Wood and Small Tortoiseshell.

### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September

**The Shabbington Wood Butterfly Monitoring Scheme transect today** produced **15 Painted Ladies** with over 10 of them in a short stretch alongside the main ride from the Oakley Wood car park as it drops down after the first intersection. Mainly nectaring on Devil's-bit Scabious. Also two Small Coppers - but the real numbers of Small Coppers were to be seen in BBOWT's Bernwood Meadows Reserve when I diverted off transect to look (unsuccessfully) for **Brown Hairstreaks**.

**Small Coppers were widespread, often in highly active groups of 2 to 4 making an exact count impossible. I saw at least two dozen and estimated the total population for the whole of the Meadows must have run well into 3 figures.**

**David Redhead.**

**Two interesting notes received from Dennis Dell today:**

On 1st September, not a particularly sunny day, I was in Balmore Wood, which is part of the Claydon Estate, when I came across a small clearing in the wood which was a mass of Devil's Bit Scabious in flower. I don't think I have ever seen so many Commas and Red Admirals in such a small area together, all nectaring on the Devil's Bit. This is clearly a nectar plant to rival Buddleia!

Since this is my 1st summer back in the UK after 22 years abroad, I am in no position to make comparisons with previous years. In Switzerland, it had become a rare event to see a **Small Copper** in the last 10 years or so. I have seen quite a number here this summer, even in my garden. Has this year seen a revival for this species?

**On Sunday afternoon at about 2 p.m. Paul Bowyer went to Watlington Hill.** Most of the hill was devoid of butterflies but at the furthest area from the car park, numbers were quite good. He saw 8 species. These were Meadow Brown (6), Speckled Wood (1), Small Heath (10+), Common Blue (6), **Small Copper (4)**, Painted Lady (1), Small White (3) and Large White (2).

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September

**Dave Maunder and his family spent a day out at Quanton railway centre and saw the following 9 species:-**

**Small Copper (15+)**, Painted Lady (1), Red Admirals (3), Sm. Tortoiseshells (4), Common Blues (4-all female), Large Whites (6), Small Whites (30+), Green-veined White (1), and Speckled Wood (1). I also saw my 5th Hummingbird hawk moth of the year feeding on Buddleia here, also a Silver y and a Vapourer moth. The railway line is probably a good breeding ground for the Small Copper, maybe all along its length - especially this year, anyway.

**Wendy & Mick Campbell decided to do a walk today which started in Chilton and took in the surrounding area. Another very warm day and they recorded the following 10 species of butterflies:**

Red Admiral (14), Small White (4), **Small Copper (17)**, Speckled Wood (2), Peacock (2), Painted Lady (4), Comma, Small Tortoiseshell (2), **Clouded Yellow**, Brown Argus (2).

**Paul Bowyer sent this report in today:** On Saturday 13th September at about 11 a.m. I made a brief visit to Sands Bank High Wycombe to find out how much was left of our summer. The weather was fine and warm but a little windy. I saw 8 species of butterflies and 2 macro-moths. These were:- Common Blue (6), Small White (10+), Large White (2), Comma (1), Red Admiral (1), Painted Lady (2), Brown Argus (1), **Small Copper (1)**, Silver-Y Moth (1) and Hummingbird Hawk moth. There were also good views of a Red Kite especially when I was above the level at which it was flying.

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

**Tom & Ros Dunbar and Mick & Wendy Campbell went to Whitecross Green Wood today and saw the following:**

**3 female Brown Hairstreaks**, one of which of which was seen egg-laying. They also recorded **Small Copper (5)**, Red Admiral (3), Comma (7), Brimstone (2 – male & female), Common Blue (3 – one very fresh), Large White, Small White (3), Small Tortoiseshell, Speckled Wood (2) and a Brown Argus.

**This takes Tom's Brown Hairstreak count for the season to 53.**

### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

**A UTB member reports seeing the following in his garden near Amersham today:**

Red Admiral, Small White (3), Large White and **Small Copper**.

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

**Tom Dunbar hits his 50<sup>th</sup>! This report just in from Tom today:**

A good day despite the gloomy weather forecast. I set out determined to find adult **Brown Hairstreaks** in locations where only eggs had been previously found. My intended focus was Piddington Wood and Span Green, near Oakley. I stopped at several roadside spots to check out likely blackthorn. Initial attempts proved fruitless but allowed me to note potential combinations of ash and blackthorn for next year.

Revisiting a site near **Piddington village** (where I found eggs last season) came up trumps - one female looking to lay! Also an ash which will be a must for next season. Piddington Woods came up with another zero count of adults but skirting a nearby field came up with two eggs.

**Span Green** is one of my least favourite butterfly sites, but 'needs must' they say. By now the weather was hazy sunshine at best with dodgy temperature to boot. Unsurprisingly no adults but 6 eggs found on the busy roadside on my 300 metre walk back to the car.

**A very successful day which takes my adult Brown Hairstreak count to 50 for this season.**

Have a look at my 'field notes':

**Dave Maunder sent in these 2 reports today: On a visit to Waterperry Gardens today I noted the following species:-**

**Small Copper (6)**, Speckled Wood (3), Peacock (1), Red Admiral (6), Painted Lady (3), Comma (1), Sm. Tortoiseshell (7), Large White (15+), Small White (30+) and Green-veined White (6). **Definitely a good year for the Small Copper!**

**Butterflies I saw around Aylesbury during last week were:-**

Painted Ladies(13), Red Admirals(15), Commas(5), Sm. Tortoiseshells(14), Large Whites(30+), Small Whites(90+), Green-veined Whites(4), Common Blues (2- both female), and Speckled Woods(7). Most of the Vanessaids were seen on Buddleias in the town centre.

**On a fairly cloudy and somewhat cooler day of about 18 degrees, Mick and Wendy Campbell went to Shirburn Hill in the Chilterns today and recorded the following:**

Red Admiral (4), Speckled Wood (8), Comma (7), **Small Copper (3)**, Meadow Brown (7), Painted Lady (2 – 1 of these in very good condition), Large White (2), Small Heath (12).

**They then went on to Pyrton Hill where it was slightly warmer:**



Red Admiral (8), Speckled Wood (9), Small Heath (9), Meadow Brown (10), Green-veined White (2), Painted Lady (2) and Comma (4).

### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September

**A group of 3 UTB members saw the following at Laplands Farm and Rushbeds Wood today:**

3 Small White, 2 GV White, 2 Clouded Yellow, 22 Small Copper, 4 Common Blue, 1 Brown Hairstreak, 3 Red Admiral, 8 Comma, 5 Speckled Wood, 2 Meadow Brown, 1 Small Heath

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September

**Tom Dunbar sent in this report today :**

I visited Coombe Hill, Wendover, on my way home from work today Thursday. I arrived at 3.45 and in the following 90 minutes saw 15 species:

L White x3; Small white x3; GV White x3; Brimstone x1; Common Blue x2; Brown Argus x3; Chalkhill Blue x3; Small Copper x10; Red Admiral x8; Comma x 18; Painted Lady x 12; Small Tortoiseshell x 8; Speckled wood x1; Meadow Brown x12; Small Heath x10.

Unfortunately no Silver Spotted Skipper or Clouded Yellow.

### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

**This interesting email has just been received from Bethan Hopkins of Emmer Green in Reading:**

I have just been to your web site for the first time and was interested to see that Small Coppers may be having a good year. I got into butterflies only a few years ago and have never seen one before last Sunday, when I had 2 in the garden. One was fluttering at the other, presumably to try to impress. I thought they were really lovely little butterflies. I also confirmed Green-veined Whites had laid eggs on the water cress in the pond when I saw laying taking place (caterpillars present of various sizes but all green so I wasn't sure).

I have planted many buddleia in the last year but they are quite new so it was the established lavender hedge all the butterflies loved throughout the flowering period. I hope some will stay around for the sedums - we will have to see.

### Sunday 31st August

**From about 400m across the Bucks border in Tring, UTB member Nick Bowles reports the following:**

Despite chilly air and some gloomy skies, there are still Large and Small White, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell and Speckled Wood in the garden.

**2 UTB members visited Lapland's Farm today. The sun managed to break through the clouds for reasonable periods and the following 12 species of butterfly were seen:**

Brown Hairstreak (4), Speckled Wood (6), Common Blue (8), Small Copper (7), Red Admiral (3), Small White, Small Heath (5), Comma (14), Peacock, Green-veined White, Painted Lady, Clouded Yellow (2).

*The Small Copper seems to be having a good year?*

### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August

**Tom Dunbar sent in this report of a visit to the Greater Bernwood district today:**

Two female Brown Hairstreaks were observed in the Worminghall area, adjacent to the M40 bridge. Three eggs were also found. In excess of twenty eggs were seen at this location last winter. It will be interesting to monitor the adjacent ash trees early next season. One female was then located at the Drunkards Corner end of Bernwood Forest. Again eggs have been found at this location in the past. A further female was found on the roadside near Holly Wood. Eggs have also been found here in recent years.

David Redhead was then located on the BBOWT Meadow in the process of photographing a female Brown Hairstreak. Tom was very pleased to record this as his 5th specimen of the day and his 48th of the season (so far!). He hoped to achieve his half century on a visit to Grafton Wood in Worcestershire the following day.

**Wendy & Mick Campbell saw the following in their Holmer Green garden today:**

Red Admiral, Speckled Wood (2), Small Tortoiseshell (2), Small White (10), Large White (2). They've noticed the numbers are now declining and less species are visiting their garden.

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August

**Peter Hall**, whose regular moth reports are listed on the [moth sightings](#) page, reports seeing a solitary Red Admiral in his garden in Ballinger today, despite the inclement weather!

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August

**Tom Dunbar went to Laplands Farm this afternoon:**

He reported 2 female **Brown Hairstreak** which he watched egg laying 30 cm from the ground. Other butterflies seen were: Small White 1; GV White 1; **Clouded Yellow** 4; Common Blue 10; Small Copper 3; Red Admiral 3; Comma 4; Small Tortoiseshell 3; Speckled Wood 9; Small Heath 2.

*(This takes Tom's Brown Hairstreak sightings to an impressive 43 so far this season.)*

**Also received today was another report from our first junior spotter, Harriet Wilson. [Junior Spotters page](#)**

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August

**Junior spotter, and new to the site, Harriet Wilson age 10, sent in the following sighting tonight:**

I saw a Small White butterfly in my back garden in Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire on 25/08/03.

*Many thanks to Harriet for sending in her report.*

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August

**Reported today by Tim & Colleen Watts, sightings from 23/8/03 at the Calvert landfill:**

**3 clouded yellow, 1 wall brown**, 6 painted lady, small heath (large numbers), red admiral, common blue, brimstone, large + small white, small tortoiseshell, speckled wood, small copper(2), meadow brown. *(and [click here](#) to see their moth report.)*

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August

**Tom Dunbar and Ali Latham went in search of the holy grail at Grangelands today** and came up with some goodies. They saw 13 species in all, the highlights being: **Silver Spotted Skipper x1**; 3 Brimstones; **Clouded Yellow x1**; Common Blues x13; Chalkhill Blues x 22; Brown Argus x3; Small Heath x 40.

It was great to see the Silver Spotted Skipper which has only been present in these parts of the Chilterns in recent years. A success story!

**Dave Maunder sent this report in today of a sighting at Coombe Hill:**

Last saturday(16th) I saw 2 specimens of the Silver spotted skipper butterfly - an excellent sighting! I hope this is of interest, best regards from Dave Maunder.

*(Dave also sent in a sighting of a number of moth species – see the [Moth Sightings](#) page.)*

**Wendy & Mick Campbell visited a chalk downland site near Goring Station today and saw 13 butterfly species:**

Brown Argus (5), Small Heath (15), Meadow Brown (17), Common Blue (26), Speckled Wood (4), Chalkhill Blue (25), Large White (2), Small White (6), Red Admiral (1), Painted Lady (2), Small Tortoiseshell (6), **Clouded Yellow (2)**, Small Copper (3). Also one possible second brood Large Skipper in fresh condition (unable to get positive id)?

### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

**A party of UTB members saw a total of 9 Brown Hairstreaks at Whitecross Green Wood on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August.** Only 3 of these showed evidence of egg laying. All but one was at low level with the exception being on the ash canopy. Eight were confirmed to be female. Is this evidence that the females are not yet at the peak of

their egg laying period?

A solitary Purple Hairstreak was identified on the ash canopy flying with the Brown Hairstreak as mentioned above. This sighting points to the need to positively identify all individuals and not to assume that canopy flying hairstreaks are all Brown.

### Wednesday 20th August

*This report just received from Dennis Dell:*

The first reported sighting of a purple hairstreak in the UTB area this year was on June 18<sup>th</sup> and I saw one low down, and fairly fresh looking, in Finemere Wood today. I think we all realise that this species has a long flight period: this suggests that it is about two months!

### Tuesday 19th August

*Mick & Wendy Campbell took a trip to Ardley Quarry in Oxon on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>. This site is an old quarry and railway cutting.* They recorded Speckled Wood (9), Meadow Brown (4), Comma (2), Small White (4), Common Blue (28+), **Clouded Yellow (4)**, Small Heath (7), Painted Lady (1), Essex Skipper (1), Gatekeeper (3) and a Small Tortoiseshell.

### Monday 18th August

*UTB Member Paul Bowyer went to Sand's Bank local nature reserve on Saturday 16th.* He reported large numbers of Common Blue butterflies and Silver Y moths. Of note were at least **4 Clouded Yellow** butterflies, 2 of which were together on the Wycombe Wanderers' car park. Other species seen were Small White, Large White, Brimstone, Small Skipper, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady and Red Admiral.

He then made a late afternoon visit to the *Butler's Hangings Nature Reserve* near West Wycombe and was pleased to see at least **3 Silver Spotted Skippers** as well as Small White, Large White, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown, Small Heath and Gatekeeper.

### Saturday 16th August

*On 09.08.03, Nick Bowles' visit to reserves and private land (5 sites) near Kimble, Bucks, produced* a total of **7 Silver Spotted Skipper** and about **70 Chalkhill Blue**. Also Common Blue, Brown Argus, Small Copper, Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Painted Lady and many Small Tortoiseshell and Small Heath, in addition to 'the usual suspects'.

*and on 08.08.03 Nick recorded:* 2 **Clouded Yellow** at Coombe Hill, Wendover along with many **Chalkhill Blue** (found around the base of the hill not on the dog-walkers paradise at the top). A very old **Large skipper** here seemed to be a late emerger, though I have heard of records of such smart Large Skipper this week that some are suspicious of a second brood.

### Friday 15th August

*A UTB Member* was interested to see a Small Tortoiseshell, presumably starting its hibernation, in a cool, dark corner of a High Wycombe building today. He had noticed butterfly numbers diminishing in his garden with only sightings of Small Whites during the last few days.

*Thanks to Colleen Watts for sending in the following scanned image of one of her butterfly paintings:*

### Tuesday 12th August

*Nick Bowles* reported seeing a **second brood Dingy Skipper** at College Lake today and also ovipositing **Clouded Yellows**. He also searched several locales within SP 9214 9414, 9614 and found both Chalkhill colonies



and stray males but no sign of any new colonies or of a single Silver-spotted Skipper, though several sites looked ideal.

### Monday 11th August

Having attended the open day at Ellesborough Church on Sunday I was able to enjoy the panoramic views across Happy Valley. It inspired me to explore the area despite the projected record temperatures for that day. Were those temperatures achieved? Does anybody know?

To my astonishment and delight I located small numbers of Silver Spotted Skippers in three areas, namely Happy Valley, The Rifle Range and even Grangelands. What a delight to see this species in this area. Friends in more southern locations tell me that the Silver Spotted Skipper is indeed extending its range. Has it been seen before in this area of Bucks? How can I keep up to date with such new and exciting developments?

I do know the butterfly well at its stronghold in the southern Chilterns. [UTB member](#).

### Friday 8th August

***Alan Wingrove and Tom Dunbar visited the Greatmoor area west of Finemere Wood late afternoon today Friday 8th August. In approximately 2 hours they saw:***

Essex Skipper x4; Large White x4; Small White x10; [Clouded Yellow](#) x8; Comma x1; [Small Tortoiseshell](#) x103; Painted Lady x4; Small Copper x1; Common Blue x45; Gatekeeper x14; Meadow Brown x8; [Wall Brown](#) x2; Speckled Wood x1; Small Heath x15.

It was absolutely wonderful to see such massive numbers of Small Tortoiseshell again. They seem well on the way back to their former abundance across a range of habitats following their enormous decline of recent years.

The above visit was light relief for Alan and Tom having spent most of the week craning their necks into tree canopies in search of Brown Hairstreak. **One of the company has so far totalled 26 adult [Brown Hairstreaks](#).**

### Thursday 7th August

***Sydlings Copse is an unusual mixed woodland near Wheatley, Oxon, with a number of large Oak trees. It has an area of flower-rich grassland and an interesting fen area in the middle.*** 3 UTB members went to the wood today looking for Purple Hairstreaks in the hope of seeing better numbers than they had seen elsewhere. They were slightly disappointed to record only 5, but were very impressed with the site otherwise. They recorded 17 species including Common Blue (58), Brown Argus (9) and Small Copper (4).

***Tim and Colleen Watts went to Aston Clinton Ragpits*** yesterday looking for Chalkhill Blues and were rewarded with brilliant views of high numbers of them.

***Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup> I went to Whitecross Green Wood*** for a late afternoon walk. I started at about 3.30PM. I saw 19 species. There were many species of which I saw only one each. Among these were Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, White Admiral, [Brown Hairstreak](#), Small Skipper, Brimstone. Other more numerous species were Large Skipper, Large White, Green Veined White, Small White, Common Blue, Small Copper, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Speckled Wood, Purple Hairstreak. I had especially good views of [second brood Wood Whites](#). One was sitting quietly on some clover along the main ride. ***Paul Bowyer***.

### Wednesday 6th August

***Report from Alan Wingrove (CPFC and Surrey BC) and Tom Dunbar:***

Alan Wingrove (CPFC and Surrey BC) and Tom Dunbar had a glorious [Brown Hairstreak](#) day in Bucks / Oxon borders today Wednesday. They made great progress in determining at least 2 areas where the butterfly is currently congregating prior to mating. Each site consists of a group of medium sized ash trees. One site had a minimum of 6 individuals visible while the other site was smaller. The latter site has had adults present for at least the last 3 years.

It will be fascinating to observe these sites in coming weeks and years to discover if these trees continue to be regularly used.

If you know of any other similar sites in the area please let us know.

Also seen today: **3 Clouded Yellows**.

**David Ferguson** reports yet another sighting of a male **Clouded Yellow**, this time at Fulmer, Bucks this morning.

**Mick & Wendy Campbell continued their survey of local sites in Bucks today and reported the following sightings**

- **Mop End Wildlife Centre:** Very good numbers reported at this small site, with Common Blue topping the list at 65, and a very welcome sighting of a **Clouded Yellow**. Also recorded were Gatekeeper (5), Small Copper, Meadow Brown (10), Painted Lady (9), Essex Skipper, Small Skipper, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Ringlelet, Comma, Green-veined White.

- **Prestwood Picnic Area:** Common Blue (29), Meadow Brown (9), Gatekeeper (4), Painted Lady (2). Also Silver-Y and Yellow Shell moths. Disappointingly, there were no Chalkhill Blues.

- **Yeosden Bank:** Again, very good numbers of Common Blue (42) and Small Copper (5). Also pleased to see a Brown Argus. Species count totalling 11, but no Chalkhills. **Hummingbird Hawk** moth was a bonus.

### **Tuesday 5th August**

**Tom Dunbar sent in the following report after a visit to Grangelands in Bucks on Monday:**

The downland was at its splendid best with a magnificent display of downland flora. The National Trust must be highly complemented on the excellent management carried out on this site in recent years.

Large Skipper x3; Small Skipper x2; Large White x1; Small White x2; G.V. White x3; Brimstone x4; Painted Lady x5; Peacock x3; Comma x1; Small Tortoiseshell x18; **Chalkhill Blue x150**; Common Blue x22; Hedge Brown x35; Meadow Brown x45; Small Heath x29.

**Mick & Wendy Campbell also recorded good numbers of Chalkhill Blue (x26) at the Ragpits site on Monday 4th:**

16 species were seen altogether, including Essex Skipper (x2), Small Copper and Common Blue (x34).

### **Monday 4th August**

**Paul Bowyer recorded the following species on Saturday 2nd August at Longstreet near Hanslope in North Bucks:**

Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Large White, Small White, Brimstone, **Holly Blue**, Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown in a garden in Hartwell Road.

**Also in Longstreet along a bridal way known locally as Scroggry Lane he saw the following :-**

Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Large White, Small White, Brimstone, Common Blue, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Small Skipper.

**On Saturday 2nd August Derek and Cathy Brown went to Whitecross Green Wood and reported:**

**3 Wood whites (second brood)**, 4 Purple Hairstreaks and 3 White Admirals among other commoner species, but unfortunately no Brown Hairstreaks.

### **Sunday 3rd August**

**Several UTB Members visited Greenham Common on what turned out to be an extremely hot day. This is an excellent site and the following species were recorded, although these numbers are undoubtedly far lower than the actual number of butterflies inhabiting this large site:**

Clouded Yellow (3), Gatekeeper(50+), Small Tortoiseshell (60+), Common Blue (19), Small Heath (25), Painted Lady (36), Essex Skipper (1), Meadow Brown(5), Small Skipper (2), Red Admiral (5), **Grayling (25)**, Large White (2), Small Copper (1), Ringlelet (3), Brown Argus (3), Brimstone (4), Peacock (65+), Small White (1), Speckled Wood (4).

In addition, Tom Dunbar and Paul Bowyer struck gold on seeing a **second brood Dingy Skipper** – has anyone else recorded second brood Dingies?

**They then went across the road for a short time to Bowdown Wood and, despite it being a bit late in the**

**afternoon, saw the following:**

Comma (1), Meadow Brown (2), Green-veined White (1), Purple Hairstreak (2), Gatekeeper (2), Grayling (2), Red Admiral (1), Brimstone (1), Speckled Wood (1).

**Saturday 2nd August**

**UTB Members visited the Asham Meads site, where they recorded 18 species of butterfly:**

Holly Blue, Small Copper, Green-veined white, Peacock, Meadow Brown, Small Skipper, Common Blue, Ringlet, Large White, Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell, Purple Hairstreak, Red Admiral, Small White, Large Skipper, Comma and Brown Hairstreak (single male on Elm!). The whole party ended up with stiff necks and sunburnt chins as a result of their endeavours. It was surprising to see Brown Hairstreak on Elm and Purple on Blackthorn!

**and then went on to Whitecross Green Wood in the afternoon where they recorded the following:**

Purple Hairstreak, Painted Lady, Peacock, Small White, Large White, Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Brimstone, Essex Skipper, Common Blue, White Admiral (2), Clouded Yellow, Marbled White, Brown Hairstreak, Comma, Large Skipper, Red Admiral, Small Skipper, Speckled Wood, Small Copper.

**Thursday 31st July**

**Dave Ferguson** spotted a male **Clouded Yellow** at Jubilee River, Bucks this afternoon.

**C. Carwell sent in the following:**

The morning rain gave me the opportunity to complete the 'Circular Walk' in the Brill area of Buckinghamshire and note the butterfly species that were willing to tackle the inclement conditions. The Browns were well represented, namely Hedge Brown x5; Meadow Brown x10; Ringlets x2. The Whites failed to show except in a sunny spell and then Large White x5 and a singleton Small White. It was a pleasure to see both Small Skipper (x5) and their cousins from Essex (x3). The stars of the show were undoubtedly the Vanessids with Peacock x1; Small Tortoiseshell x6; Red Admiral x2 and Painted Lady x11.

**Mick & Wendy Campbell** visited Penn Wood in Bucks in search of Purple Hairstreaks and, although it was quite late in the day and rather overcast, were pleased to see 4. More surprisingly they also saw Common Blue x 3 – is this a first sighting of Common Blues in Penn Wood? Also seen were Gatekeeper (24), Meadow Brown (6), Red Admiral (1), Comma (2), Small Copper (1), Peacock (1), Small Tort (1), Small Skipper (5), Essex Skipper (2), Ringlet (1), Marbled White (2).

**Wednesday 30th July**

**Paul Bowyer sent in the following report:**

On the way home from work I stopped to look at a Buddleia bush in Yeovil Road on Slough Trading Estate. I counted 18 Small Tortoiseshell butterflies perched and there were more flying around. I also stopped at a piece of waste ground at the top of Juniper Lane in Flackwell Heath where there are a lot of teasles. I was hoping to see Peacock butterflies on these. Perhaps it was too late in the day because I saw none. However I did see Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Small Whites, Large Whites, a Small Skipper and a Small Copper. I hadn't seen the Small Copper at this site before.

At home in Flackwell Heath in my garden I saw a Large White, a Small White, a Red Admiral, a Painted Lady and a Holly Blue.

**27th July**

**UTB Members visited Bald Hill (Aston Rowant) and saw:**

Essex Skipper, Meadow Brown, Small Skipper, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, **Chalkhill Blue (40)**, Peacock, Small White, Common Blue (25), Large White, Brimstone, Marbled White, Small Tortoiseshell, **Dark Green Fritillary** (very worn!), Red Admiral, Small Copper, Small Heath, **Silver-spotted Skipper (16)**, Painted Lady.

**21st July**

**Mick & Wendy Campbell visited Bowdown Wood, near Newbury on a very warm, although rather breezy, day. The following butterflies were recorded:**

White Admiral x3, Red Admiral x21, Purple Hairstreak x2, Comma x7, Peacock x6, Painted Lady x3, **Grayling x4**, Small Skipper, Brimstone, Common Blue x 4, Small Copper x3 and good numbers of the browns, fewer numbers of the whites.

**16th July**

*Mick Campbell went to Hodgemoor Wood in Bucks* where he found a **White Admiral**. He also saw Red Admiral x5, Gatekeeper x6, Meadow Brown x10, Ringlet x7, Small Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell, Large White x3, Common Blue, Marbled White, Gn-veined White x3, Speckled Wood, Peacock and Purple Hairstreak x3.

**\*\* End of 2003 archive \*\***