

# Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch

## Butterfly Sightings Archive - January to December 2011

**Monday 26th December 2011**

**Bob Tunnicliffe sent the following on 24th December:** "A couple of surprise sightings on a mild and sunny day - *22nd December*. Walking along the road from *Whaddon to Nash, Bucks*, Trish and I saw a **Brimstone** and a **Peacock** - both flying actively."

**Friday 9th December 2011**

**Nigel Cleere reports seeing** a fresh, active **Red Admiral** at *Freemans Marsh, Berks* on *3rd December*.

**Monday 28th November 2011**

**Mark Griffiths sent this news:** "The **Red Admiral** was back today, *27th November*, on the yellow buddleia (B. x weyeriana I think) in my garden at *Garsington, Oxfordshire*."

**Tony Speight reported the following:** "I saw a **Brimstone** at *Sands Bank LNR* in High Wycombe, Bucks on *25th November*."

**Saturday 19th November 2011**

**Mark Griffiths reported this sighting:** "I saw a **Red Admiral** on Friday *18th November* flying around in my garden in *Garsington* just outside of Oxford."

**Richard Noble sent the following report:** "This **Red Admiral** was on my fence at *Barkham, Berks* at 1.00pm on *18th November*."

**Dave Ferguson reports seeing** a fresh-looking **Red Admiral** in his garden in *Beaconsfield, Bucks* on Tuesday morning, *15th November*.

**Andrew Kershaw sent this report on 15th November:** "A **Large White** flew through my *Longwick, Bucks* garden on *Saturday 12th November*. As it passed the window I could see the extensive black on the wings. I have never seen one this late before!"

**Monday 14th November 2011**

**Mick Jones sent this news:** "We had a **Peacock** fluttering around us at our work party at *Dancersend, Bucks* on *Sunday 13th November*."

**Graham Smith reported the following:** "There was a **Brimstone** on the wing on *12th November* at 13:30 at *Gallows Bridge farm* (BBOWT) in Bucks."

**Jan Haseler sent this news:** "We disturbed 2 **Commas** in the coppice patch at *Moor Copse, Berks* on *13th November*."

**Nigel Cleere reported the following:** "I had a single **Red Admiral** heading south at *Lower Farm G.P., west Berks* (near Newbury Racecourse) on *13th November 2011*."

**David Fuller sent this news:** "*Maidenhead, Berks* towpath *12/11/11* **Red Admiral** and in my garden in *Maidenhead* on *13/11/11* a **Red Admiral** and male **Brimstone**."

**Paul Warham sent these sightings:** "While out walking near *Hambledon, Bucks* on *12 November* I had 2 sightings of single **Red Admirals** settling on late bramble flowers. Also one on *13 November* in my *Marlow, Bucks* garden on abelia flowers."

**Nigel Partridge sent this report:** "We had a **Red Admiral**, in pristine condition, basking in the sun on our garage wall in *Loosley Row, Bucks* on the morning of *13th November*."

**Jez Elkin sent the following report:** "I saw a **Red Admiral** on the morning of *Sunday November 6th* at *New Yatt, nr Witney, Oxfordshire*."

### Saturday 5th November 2011

**Gill Bennett sent the following report:** "I saw a **Red Admiral** flying about in my garden in *Newbury, Berks* on *1st November* and thought it might be of interest, being so late in the year."

**Dennis Dell reports seeing another Brimstone** in his garden in *Aylesbury, Bucks* on *1st November*. "It landed on the *Choysia* and 'did a Hairstreak', inclining its wings parallel to the leaves, soaking up the sunshine, but making it almost undetectable against the yellow foliage."

### Saturday 29th October 2011

**Tony Croft sent this report:** "Whilst out for a walk in *Rushbeds Wood, Bucks* I came upon this **Black Hairstreak** egg."

**David Redhead sent these recent sightings:** "My neighbour's bank of ivy in *Littlemore, Oxford* seemed to have settled down to a daily return of 2 **Red Admirals** until *Saturday 23rd October* when it had 1 **Comma** (in good condition and the first seen in this vicinity since 11th October), 1 **Red Admiral** (slightly faded) and 1 **Speckled Wood** (so faded it was almost unrecognisable). The other Red Admiral was flying round our garden. On the following day the count had returned to "normal" - 2 **Red Admirals** on my neighbour's ivy and no butterflies in our garden. Then on *28th October* at midday in bright sunshine, 10.5 degrees C - I saw one slightly battered **Red Admiral** nectaring on my neighbour's ivy."

**Richard Harding reported the following on 26th October:** "Not so surprising in view of the sunny weather: I saw a **Red Admiral**, a **Peacock** and a **Speckled Wood** butterfly flying in a woodland glade in *Waterperry Wood SSSI* on *Sunday 23rd October*. Also, on *Friday 21st October*, two **Red Admiral** on flowering ivy at my house in *Wolvercote, Oxford*."

**Dennis Dell sent this report on 24th October:** "Rotting apples can be added to the list of autumn attractants. On the *24th October in my garden in Aylesbury, Bucks* as a few days ago, a **Red Admiral** spent a considerable time imbibing the fermenting juices, at least one hour. I hope he'll have sobered up sufficiently in order to be able to fly back to North Africa. He was replaced later by a **Comma**, who then rested on the *Choysia*. A pristine male **Brimstone** also paid a visit."

**David Fuller reported the following:** "On *24th October* I had 2 **Red Admirals** in my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks*."

## Friday 21st October 2011

**Helen Hyre writes:** "There were 3 **Red Admirals** in our garden in *Bierton, Bucks on 20th October*. At *Claydon House, Bucks on 18th October* we saw 10 **Red Admirals** nectaring on fallen fruit in the walled garden and basking on tree trunks in the sunshine. *17th October* was cloudy and cool and I was very surprised to see a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** in Bierton."

## Wednesday 19th October 2011

**Paul Furtek sent this report today:** "Just a quick email to let you know that I was extremely surprised to see a **Holly Blue** along the towpath of the *Grand Union Canal near Iver, Bucks on Friday 14th October*. Even though it was a warm and sunny afternoon I don't think I have ever seen one so late in the year!"

## Tuesday 18th October 2011

**Andy Hoskins sent the following news today:** "Just to report that on *Saturday 15th October* I saw a single **Red Admiral** on sedum plants in the gardens of *Basildon Park near Pangbourne, Berks.*"

**David Redhead sent this report today:** "Noticing Dennis Dell cites my name regarding butterfly nectar plants in his 24th September report I thought I had better respond. Wendy, who is in charge of our garden records (in *Littlemore, Oxon*) has declared 2011 as the worst ever year for butterflies in our garden and that is going back over 20 years. A quick examination of her notebooks over the last four years tends to support her claim. Adding the maximums recorded of the 17/18 species seen each year in our garden arrives at the following figures 2008 = 56, 2009 = 87, 2010 = 49 & 2011 = 45. The high total in 2009 is down to the Painted Lady invasion but knocking out the 22 they added still leaves 65. To us both garden Peacocks and Commas are in severe decline and if things keep going this way in a few years time we shall be grateful for the occasional sighting of both as we are now with the Small Tortoiseshell. The performance of all the nectar plants in our garden this year has been disappointing but I don't think it has anything to do with the plants themselves, rather it just reflects the paucity of garden butterflies and especially the vannesids, amongst whom the only bright spot has been the Red Admirals who nearly reached double figures on our buddleias in the second half of July. Even the numbers of late Commas and Red Admirals seen on my neighbours bank of ivy have been a bit disappointing and my report of the 16th September represents the maximum seen here rather than a lead up to better things, which was the aspiration I expressed at the time. By the time the very hot weather arrived at the end of September numbers here had dwindled to zero. During the hot weather the only place I could find butterflies was at *Lardon Chase, Berks* where on *3rd October* I put up 6 **Meadow Browns** and 2 **Small Coppers** and a **Red Admiral** flew past heading resolutely south. With the return of cooler weather the butterflies have returned to my neighbour's ivy. The last sighting of **Comma** there was 2 on *7th October* but between 2 and 4 **Red Admirals** persist to the time of writing. These were augmented by a pristine male **Brimstone** on *12th October* and a faded **Peacock** on *17th October*. Meanwhile back in the garden our only October sightings have been a **Small White & Green-veined White** on the *6th*, a **Comma** and **Small White** on the *11th* and a lonely **Small White** on the *15th.*"

## Sunday 16th October 2011

**David Fuller sent this report on 16th October:** "I saw three species in Berkshire yesterday: **Speckled Wood** at *Remenham*, a **Peacock** near *Henley Bridge*, Berkshire side and a **Red Admiral** at *Stubbings Nursery near Maidenhead.*"

**During a walk to Waterperry Wood, Oxon on Saturday 15th October Mick & Wendy**

**Campbell saw the following:** "In beautiful, sunny weather we watched two **Red Admirals** flying around a bramble patch in a hedge on the way to the wood and a **Speckled Wood** flying and then sunning itself near a bramble patch in the middle of the wood. Also seen was a **Hornet** feeding on a blackberry fruit."

**Friday 14th October 2011**

**Peter Law sent this sighting:** "*13th October:* On my mail order delivery rounds today, I came across a cluster of 7 **Red Admirals** nectaring on a wall covered in Red Valerian at *Little Baldon, Oxon*. One of the butterflies was very tatty, but the rest were all in pristine condition - a lovely sight in the autumn sunshine!"

**Dennis Dell sent the following on 13th October:** "About 10 days ago I put out some bruised apples in the garden (*Aylesbury, Bucks*) but only today [*13th October*] did they attract a **Red Admiral**."

**Tuesday 11th October 2011**

**Andy Hoskins sent the following sightings on 9th October:** "Last Saturday *1st October* I visited *Lardon Chase, Berks* in very warm sunshine from 2.30pm through to 4pm and saw 10 **Meadow Browns**, mostly towards the top of the hill. Driving home a **Red Admiral** just missed flying into the car at *Longwick*, nr Princes Risborough, Bucks. On Sunday *2nd October* (12-2pm, very warm and sunny) I walked around *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon* and saw 4 **Speckled Wood**, 2 almost transparent, and saw a very strong looking **Comma** on a low patch of nettles between the two drive gates."

**Wednesday 5th October 2011**

**This report came via Helen Hyre, Churchyard Recording Co-ordinator (see Churchyards section of this website):** "Michael Pitt-Payne sent me these 2 photos of **Red Admirals** seen recently on the ivy at *St John's Church, Stone, Bucks*."

**Michael McNeill sent these sightings from Berkshire on 3rd October:** "All in my garden in *Upper Basildon* – a **Brimstone**, a late **Holly Blue** and a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** (1st October), plus 2 each of **Large White**, **Green-Veined White**, **Red Admiral** and **Comma**, but no sightings of Peacock or Small Tortoiseshell. Good numbers of **Red Admiral**, speedily heading South, from *Dinton Pastures, Bracknell Forest* and near *Aston Tirrold*. The occasional **Speckled Wood** in all areas."

**Mick & Wendy Campbell went for a walk in the Bledlow, Bucks area on 3rd October:** "Our goal was to see how many **Red Admirals** we could find on flowering ivy and we weren't disappointed - 14 altogether, 12 on ivy plus one on some late blackberry fruits and one on horse droppings. Also seen were 5 **Speckled Woods**. Then in our Bucks garden on *4th October* we counted another 10 Red Admirals on our ivy amongst the many hover flies, bees and wasps and a Chiffchaff hiding in the ivy, leaping out to pick off an insect every so often!"

**Sunday 2nd October 2011**

**David Fuller reports seeing a Red Admiral** on the outskirts of *Wokingham, Berks* on *2nd October*.

**David Hastings sent the following:** "Looks as though there's a third generation of **Holly Blues** about. I saw one in my *Abingdon, Oxon* garden on *1st October*. Seen at *Otmoor, Oxon* today (*2nd October*): ten **Red Admirals** (all but one flying strongly south), three **Speckled Woods** and two **Small Coppers**."



**Thursday 29th September 2011**

**David Hastings sent this news on 28th September:** "I saw a few late butterflies in [Oxford University Park](#) at lunchtime on 28th Sept: two **Red Admirals**, two **Speckled Woods**, one **Peacock** and one **Comma**."

**Dennis Dell reported the following on 27th September:** "Still on the theme of autumn nectar plants: we visited [Waterperry Gardens, Oxon](#) yesterday. At this time of the year their display of Asters is magnificent; the species variety is the largest I've ever seen anywhere. I looked forward to seeing lots of butterflies on this sunny afternoon, however, as we passed the first massed banks of Asters we saw only three **Commas**. Further on and separated from this display there is another long stretch of the same mixture. On one particular row [about 3 metres long and 50cm wide], and only here, we saw 6 **Red Admirals**, 4 **Commas** and 3 **Small Tortoiseshells**. This was Aster amellus 'Violet Queen'. Curiously, this variety is represented in several places in the gardens, but we only saw butterflies at this spot. Everywhere else, we saw only singletons, mainly **Commas**. Of course, I purchased a pot of this variety! Then today (27th) in my garden in [Aylesbury, Bucks](#) there was little activity, but notably a **Small Copper** on the pale pink Sedum and a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** on the Verbena Bonariensis."

**David Fuller sent the following sightings:** "In my garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#) on 17th and 18th September a **Painted Lady** both days. Along the [River Thames towpath](#) 2 **Speckled Wood** on 19th September."

**Andy Hoskins sent this report:** "Further to your request regarding garden sightings, last [Sunday 18th September](#) I disturbed a solitary **Red Admiral** on my apple tree (my garden is a typical suburban garden in [Winslow, N Bucks](#)). Yesterday [24th September](#) I visited the north side of [Aston Rowant, Oxon](#) (more for the purpose of exercise than in expectation of seeing anything). I did see one rather bedraggled **Small Heath** and a very tatty **Small Copper** both still strong enough to avoid being photographed and I saw 2 large caterpillars which I believe to be **Fox Moth larvae** moving rapidly through the undergrowth at the top of the hill. This afternoon [Sunday 25th](#) I visited [College Lake near Pitstone, Bucks](#) for 2 hours and also stopped for half an hour at [Aston Clinton Ragpits, Bucks](#) and saw nothing."

**Helen Hyre reported the following on 25th September:** "We have lots of flowers in our garden in [Bierton, Bucks](#) at present. Verbena bonariensis and verbena "Homestead purple" attracted **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** until mid September. We also have buddleia, valerian, Michaelmas daisy, cosmos, sedum and coreopsis. Origanum has bloomed all summer but has attracted few butterflies, in contrast to a few years ago when multiple Small Tortoiseshell nectared there. We have had **Small** and **Large White, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell** and **Comma**, but no Peacock since July. These are usually in single numbers; mid to late August was much better."

**Saturday 24th September 2011**

**Dennis Dell reported the following:** "Nectar plants in the autumn is an interesting subject, initiated by David Redhead a few years ago. My Beijing Buddleia has finished, so the butterflies in my garden have to content themselves with a long-flowering yellow hybrid buddleia, michaelmas daisies [obtained from David a few years ago, which were an amazing attractant in his garden, but not in mine!], 3 different types of sedum, ivy, a white scabious and verbena bonariensis. The latter has an extraordinarily long flowering period; it started in July and is still going strong. A few years ago, I was persuaded to buy a sedum variety [sorry, forgotten the name] which has two-tone flowers: pink in the middle and white on the periphery. This year, for the first time, the **Commas** seem to prefer it [see photo] to the usual favourite which is the pale pink variety. On [22nd September](#), a **Peacock** visited the pale pink

form, briefly. Then today, *23rd September*, I watched a **Comma** start feeding at about 10am on the pink/white sedum. We were out for about one hour from then and it was still there when we returned. For the rest of the day, in bright sunshine, it was on this sedum whenever I looked and did not disappear permanently until 4.50pm when this plant was in the shade. So, that's about 6 hours almost continuous nectaring on the same plant."

*Chris Brown sent this report on 21st September:* "How many butterflies have people seen this year on their buddleias? I reckon on it being a small number. I have 8 bushes and only a couple of whites did I see. The whole of my village was the same and even on travels through neighbouring villages it seemed likewise. The following is an update on my latest visits to *Crowsley Wood, Oxon*. On *12th September* with some sun and a light breeze produced **Green-veined White** 2, **Comma** 7, **Speckled Wood** 9, **Meadow Brown** 2. No more Silver-washed Fritillary despite a thorough search and "wait in the sunny spots" trick. The Commas were looking very fresh and all were feeding on blackberries. The Speckled Woods were making use of the occasional bright patches if the sun came out but otherwise were also feeding off the blackberries it seemed. Both the Meadow Browns were extremely worn. On my next visit on *16th September* there were **Comma** 6, **Speckled Wood** 10."

### Tuesday 20th September 2011

*Tom Stevenson sent these sightings today:* "I was just thinking of putting my notebook away for the year but have decided to delay it after the following turned up at the *Ewelme Watercress Beds LNR, Oxon* on *16th September*: **Large White** (4), **Green-veined White** (5) **Small Copper**, **Comma** (7), **Red Admiral** (8) and **Peacock**. Also several **Speckled Woods** and a late **Meadow Brown** at *Dorchester (Oxon)* yesterday, *19th September*."

### Saturday 17th September 2011

*David Redhead reported the following on 16th September:* "The numbers of vanessids on my neighbour's ivy bank in *Littlemore, Oxon* are increasing nicely. Tuesday afternoon's, already reported (see 13th September below), 3 Red Admirals and 1 Comma had increased to 4 **Red Admirals** and 2 **Commas** by Wednesday afternoon and 5 **Red Admirals** and 7 **Commas** by Thursday afternoon. They are also now beginning to show an interest in the less advanced ivy in our garden. Also about yesterday were a **Holly Blue**, **Large White** & **Speckled Wood**."

### Thursday 15th September 2011

*Dave Turnbull visited Pitstone, Bucks today:* "I visited the Small Blue site at Pitstone today (*15th*) and had an astonishing sighting. **Small Heaths** in double figures, **Meadow Browns**, **Common Blues**, two pairs of mating **Gatekeepers**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Small White**.... but just as I was leaving I caught site of a freshly emerged **Small Blue** male. This is a third brood individual, the second brood having expired around the 22nd Aug (when I last saw a solitary Small Blue). Sadly, and unusually, I didn't take my camera! I went back late afternoon with camera but failed to find it, but if the weather is reasonable tomorrow I will try again."

*This report came from Steve Croxford on 14th September:* "A walk across to the disused railway cutting near *Westcott, Bucks* today (*14th*) was rewarded with a good variety of butterflies attracted to the abundant nectar sources still available at the site. The highlight was my first **Painted Lady** of the season. Also seen were **Common Blue**, **Brown Argus**, **Small Copper**, **Small Heath**, **Speckled Wood**, **Brimstone**, **Large White**, **Small White**, **Green-veined White**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Comma**, **Peacock** and **Red Admiral**. A respectable 14 species for mid September."

**David Redhead sent this news on 13th September:** "Despite yesterday's hurricane, this morning (13th) I was greeted by 4 active **Speckled Woods** on the sunlit ashes in [Rivermead Nature Park, Oxon](#) at 8.30am where I had seen 5 on Monday. During the day a **Large White** paid our garden ([Littlemore, Oxon](#)) Michaelmas Daisies some attention and a **Green-veined White** was also in evidence. Our garden ivy is still proving unattractive but a visit at 4pm, by when our ivy has lost the sun, to my neighbour's ivy produced three pristine **Red Admirals** and a pristine **Comma** nectaring on the flowers. Here the air was redolent with the rather sickly scent of ivy flowers whereas a couple of days ago it was unnoticeable as were the butterflies."

**Tony Croft reported the following on 13th September:** "After a fortnight's hiatus my personal **Brown Hairstreak** season resumed Tuesday afternoon, 13th, with a sighting of a female in [Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon](#). She was in good condition and was flitting along the ride edge stopping intermittently on various bushes before being chased away by a **Speckled Wood**."

### Monday 12th September 2011

**David Redhead reported the following on 11th September:** "My morning dog walk today produced 6 **Speckled Woods** and 2 **Commas** by 9am. Later there were two **Red Admirals**, a **Speckled Wood** and a **Small White** in the garden (in [Littlemore, Oxon](#)) for a short while. I then did the [M40 Compensation Area Transect, Bucks](#) (17C, 55% sun) for 8 **Small White**, 7 **Speckled Wood**, 4 **Common Blue**, 1 **Small Copper** and 1 **Red Admiral**. A visit to [Slade Camp, Shotover, Oxon](#) in the afternoon however produced zero butterflies and I had to be content with a couple of **Brown Hairstreak** eggs. On Friday afternoon, 9th September, at 20C but against my better judgement owing to the total lack of sun I did the [Swyncombe Down transect, Oxon](#) and to my surprise scored 50 butterflies which, looking at previous years (going back to 2002), ranks equal first for week 24. The stars were a late **Silver-spotted Skipper** and a female **Chalkhill Blue**. With some additional off transect wandering my butterfly total rose to 67 comprising 52 **Meadow Brown**, 5 **Speckled Wood**, 3 **Small Copper**, 2 **Small Heath**, 2 **Small White** & 1 **Common Blue** in addition to those already mentioned."

**Jim Asher sent this report on 11th September:** "Despite today's interesting weather, I saw three **Painted Ladies** (two in our garden in [Marcham, Oxon](#)) and a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** plus 4 **Red Admirals** in the garden and 5 **Speckled Woods** further afield. The season is not over yet!"

**Ched George reported the following on 11th September:** "I did a circuit of [Yoesden Bank \(Bucks\)](#) and the wood clearing today. Warm and sunny and fairly windy. The bank produced 22 **Meadow Brown**, a fresh and a worn **Painted Lady**, a male and female **Common Blue**, a **Small Heath** and 4 **Chalkhill Blues** of which 3 were definite males. Alas, no Adonis Blues. Hard to judge if much was missed because of the wind, as the Meadow Browns seemed well dispersed over the bank. The woodland clearing produced 2 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Green-veined White**, a male **Brimstone**, a **Red Admiral** and 2 **Commas**."

**On Saturday 10th September Dave Maunder reports seeing** a male **Brimstone** nectaring on the Michaelmas Daisies in his garden in [Aylesbury](#) on a dull but very warm day.



### Wednesday 7th September 2011

**John Warren sent the following report on 6th September:** "3rd September, *Pinkeys Green National Trust, Berks* SU859829. A **Clouded Yellow** seen in flight and settled. Seen for about 5 minutes at approximately 14:15. Good visibility and seen down to 1 metre as I was able to creep up on it while it was perched. I have seen Clouded Yellows before but never this close."

**Chris Brown sent this update on his recent visits to Crowsley Wood in Oxon:**

"26th August, just a solitary **Green-veined White**.

1st September, **Brimstone** 1M, **Green-veined White** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Comma** 1, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 1M, **Speckled Wood** 12, **Meadow Brown** 2. I was surprised to find a surviving male SWF. I presumed the recent wet cold weather would have taken its toll. It had a characteristic notch in the top of the right front wing so I might be able to track its survival. Also a very fresh Comma and the late summer peak of Speckled Wood has started.

2nd September, **Brimstone** 1M, **Green-veined White** 2, **Comma** 2, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 1M (the same individual as on 1st), **Speckled Wood** 15, **Meadow Brown** 2.

5th September, **Small White** 2, **Green-veined White** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Speckled Wood** 5, **Meadow Brown** 2."

### Sunday 4th September 2011

**Helen Hyre sent the following today:** "I have had some surprises recently. Having seen no **Painted Lady** all year, I saw one at *Ascott House, Bucks* on 31st August, then on 1st and 2nd September we had a Painted Lady in *Bierton*. My photos show they were 3 different butterflies. Also during a circular walk at Ascott House on 25th August I saw 14 **Speckled Wood** and 10 on 31st August."

**Peter Law sent this news today:** "4th September: This weekend I visited some of my more regular Oxfordshire downland haunts in search of September sightings. The highlight was a male **Adonis Blue** this afternoon at *Oven Bottom SSSI*, where I also found 3 worn female **Chalkhill Blue**. There were still good numbers of **Meadow Brown** and **Small Heath** flying here, 10-12 **Common Blue**, 2 **Small Copper** and various whites. Yesterday afternoon (3rd) at *Aston Rowant NNR (N)*, a few **Silver-spotted Skipper** were still active. I saw 3 myself and spoke to 2 other people who had seen 3 each. Other species on the wing there were small numbers of **Brown Argus**, **Common Blue** and **Small Copper** and many more **Meadow Brown** and **Small Heath**. I also spoke to a couple from Cambridgeshire who had seen and photographed a Painted Lady."

**Dave Ferguson sent this report:** "On a sunny, breezy afternoon on the 2nd September I spent 90 minutes in the north section of *Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon*. I saw 1 fresh **Painted Lady** (my first of the year), 2 **Small Tortoiseshells**, 13 **Silver-spotted Skippers**, 40 **Meadow Browns**, 10 **Small Heaths**, 1 female **Adonis Blue**, 4 **Common Blues**, 2 **Brown Arguses**, 3 **Small Coppers**, 2 **Brimstones** and 7 **Small Whites**."

**Malcolm Brownsword reported the following:** "Friday afternoon, 2nd September, I went to *Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon*. On the south side of the M40 I saw the following: approx. 40 **Meadow Browns**, 10 **Small Heaths**, 3 **Common Blues** (see photo below of mating pair in very good condition for time of year), 1 **Brown Argus**, 1 **Brimstone** and 1 **Large White**. I did not reach the north side until 4 pm and consequently saw only a single Small Heath there."

### Saturday 3rd September 2011

**Bill Draper from Scaldwell, Northants sent this sighting:** "My wife and I visited *RSPB Otmoor (Oxon)* today, 2nd September and found our first **Brown Hairstreak**. It was on



blackberries in the Blackthorn hedge between the bird hide and the first viewing screen. I don't think that we have any closer to home but it was worth the trip."

**Mick & Wendy Campbell visited The Holies, Berks on 2nd September:** "In the afternoon's hot and sunny weather we saw 7 species: **Meadow Brown** (100+), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1), **Brown Argus** (1), **Gatekeeper** (2, worn), **Common Blue** (4 - 3 male 1 female), **Small White** (2) and a single **Small Heath**. The Meadow Browns were very active and varied from pristine to very tatty condition. Also, in our Bucks garden in the morning, we had singletons of **Red Admiral**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Large White**, **Small White** and **Comma**, making a total of ten species for the day."

**Dennis Dell reported the following:** "*Waterperry Wood, Oxon, 31st August.* One extremely worn **Purple Hairstreak** on its last legs - it could only be identified by the distinctive roundel at the bottom of the hind wings. I don't think I've ever seen one as late at this."

**Malcolm Brownsword sent this news:** "On Monday morning, *22nd August*, I went to *Lardon Chase, Berks* where I saw the following: about 50 **Meadow Browns**, 3 **Gatekeepers**, 3 **Common Blues**, 2 **Adonis Blues**, 1 rather battered female **Chalkhill Blue** (see photos of Adonis and Chalkhill below), 2 **Large Whites**, 3 **Small Heaths** and a single **Holly Blue** on bramble at the edge of the car park. Then on my monthly BBOWT transect at *Hartslock, Oxon* on *1st September* I saw the following 5 species: 1 **Brown Argus**, 1 **Chalkhill Blue** (in surprisingly good condition for early September), 1 (battered) **Gatekeeper**, 39 **Meadow Browns** and 75 **Small Heaths**. As in Colin Williams' report for 22 August, the majority of the Small Heaths were in the extension to the reserve, which has been grazed by sheep for the past 2 years. The extension has many anthills, most of which have been dug into by rabbits. Could this provide a more sheltered local environment for this low-flying species?"

**Tony Croft reported the following on 29th August:** "A female **Brown Hairstreak** visited my garden in *Easington, Bucks* this afternoon. It landed on the runner beans right in front of me and spent a couple of minutes basking in the weak sunshine, wings open, on a large flat skywards-facing leaf before flying away."

### Friday 26th August 2011

**This report came from Colin Williams on 25th August:** "**Small Heaths** continue to thrive at *Hartslock, Oxon*. 132 were counted on the transect survey on *22nd August*. The majority were in the new extension which has been heavily grazed the last few years to knock back the rank grasses and other vegetation."

**Dave Wilton reported the following:** "A pleasant surprise while carrying out a transect in private woodland near *Grendon Underwood, Bucks* on *24th August* was a single **Painted Lady**, a species that I was beginning to think I wouldn't see this year. Other butterflies recorded there were **Large Skipper**, **Brimstone**, **Large White**, **Small White**, **Green-veined White**, **Small Copper**, **Common Blue**, **Brown Argus**, **Red Admiral**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock**, **Comma**, **Gatekeeper**, **Meadow Brown** & **Small Heath**. Most of the woodland was in fact a butterfly-free zone despite the sunny conditions and those that were seen were almost exclusively in areas where ride-side devil's-bit scabious was in flower. Afterwards I had a wander around *BBOWT's Finemere Meadows, Bucks* where **Small Heath** was doing very well (102 counted) although there was little else to be seen."

**Dave Turnbull sent the following:** "Just to report that I have managed to find a single **Small Blue** on both the *17th* and *22nd August* at the *Pitstone* site in Bucks. There were large numbers of **Small Heaths** on both dates and on the 22nd a second brood **Dingy Skipper**."

**Chris Brown sent this update on 23rd August:** "My latest sightings are as follows:

*Visits to Crowsley Wood, Oxon during August* have shown numbers of **Silver-washed Fritillary** gradually decreasing from 15 on the 5th August to only 3 on the 22nd (although, surprisingly, there was still one female about). Lack of nectar sources becoming a problem and at the last two visits all were feeding on teasel. Other species seen in the wood were **Large Skipper, Small White, Comma, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Green-veined White, Red Admiral, Speckled Wood, Brimstone.**

*Millennium Green, Berks - 14th August:* **Small Tortoiseshell 1, Gatekeeper 10, Meadow Brown 6** (inc mating pair), **Small Heath 3.**"

*Chris Lamsdell visited Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon on 22nd August and saw:* **Silver-washed Fritillary - 1, Large Skipper - 1 and Brown Hairstreak - 5.**

*On 22nd August David Redhead says he managed to record 13 species:* "On my *M40 Compensation Area* transect I counted 13 **Common Blue**, 9 **Speckled Wood**, 8 **Small White**, 2 **Gatekeeper**, 2 **Green-veined White** and singletons of **Brown Argus, Large White, Peacock & Red Admiral**. Walking from the car to the entrance to the M40 Compensation Area took me past a patch of brambles with a few flowers in the sun which was attracting the attention of several **Speckled Woods**, a **Green-veined White** and 2 faded and somewhat tatty **Silver-washed Fritillaries**. Homeward bound I stopped at the turning circle in *Bernwood Forest* and for the first time in 6 years of trying managed to locate a male **Brown Hairstreak** in one of the ashes. Further on the two small ashes just before the stream produced a tatty **Purple Hairstreak**. My final stop was the ashes to the east of the *Menmarsh Guide Post* - no more **Brown Hairstreaks** but 3 **Speckled Wood** and a basking **Meadow Brown** half way up an ash tree."

### Monday 22nd August 2011

*Maureen Cross sent this report of the Adonis Blue Field Meeting at Lardon Chase on Saturday 20th August:* "The weather for the Field Meeting for Adonis wasn't ideal but 9 people turned up with the hope of seeing this beautiful butterfly. There was a little hazy sun which was just enough to tempt the butterflies out and eventually we saw 5 **Adonis Blue**, 2 of which were females and while their wings were open to gain heat from the hazy sun, we were able to see and photograph the blue surround of the orange spots on the hind wing which distinguishes female Adonis from female Chalkhill Blues. It was also the first Adonis ever seen by at least one member of the group. Altogether we saw 13 species of butterfly which wasn't bad for a far from perfect day."

*Ben Miller reported the following today, 22nd August:* "I visited *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon* yesterday, from mid-morning until early afternoon. Unlike late afternoon when the weather was glorious, it was overcast and rather cool at times. We therefore only saw one **Brown Hairstreak**, a very worn female insect low in vegetation beyond the usual Ash tree that is surrounded by two Oaks. See photos below. Other butterflies seen included a **Purple Hairstreak** (in the Ash), a **Small Copper**, a **Peacock**, 5+ **Common Blue**, 4 **Green-veined White**, a **Speckled Wood**, 7+ **Meadow Brown** and a **Gatekeeper.**"

*Richard Wheeler sent this report today:* "On 21/08/11 I grabbed an hour at *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* (the first time I had visited the site). I saw 30+ **Chalkhill Blue** (mainly towards the top of the slope and incl. several females) - some quite tatty; 4/5 **Adonis Blue** (including the pristine example in the photo below); 6 **Common Blue**; large numbers of **Meadow Brown** (30+) and **Small Heath** (30+) - the latter in greater numbers towards the bottom of the slope; several **Gatekeeper** (10+); 2 **Small Copper** (intent on 'having a go' at anything else that flew past!); 2 **Small Tortoiseshell** and possibly a 2nd brood **Dingy Skipper** (though it didn't settle for long enough to be certain). A great site - I wish I could have stayed longer."

*Dennis Dell sent this report from Aylesbury, Bucks:* "In August, from about 6pm onwards

on sunny evenings, **Red Admirals** and **Small Tortoiseshells** start to leave the Beijing Buddleia and land on the west facing wall of our house. It is clear that they are attracted to the warmth emanating from the brickwork if it has been exposed to the sun for most of the afternoon. Yesterday evening (*21st*) there were 5 Tortoiseshells on the wall together. I imagine that many of you have observed this. Then, to my delight, a **Painted Lady** landed on our buddleia this afternoon, *22nd*. Other species in the garden today: **Large and Small Whites, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma.**"

*Peter Law reported the following:* "Late afternoon on *20th August* I rounded off my butterfly year in species terms with a **Brown Hairstreak** sighting at *Otmoor, Oxon*. It has taken 4 weeks of searching 5 different sites this year for one of this species to oblige me by showing itself. This was a female on the Roman road path from the RSPB car park. On *21st August*, after a day out of area in Wiltshire for second brood Wall Brown, I stopped at *Greenham Common, Berks*. Parking in the woods by the missile silos (off the A339), I searched the area between that access point and New Greenham Park for **Grayling**, finding 3. There were a lot of **Small Heath** on the wing here, good numbers of **Common Blue**, the usual whites and browns for this time of year, and I also saw 1 **Small Copper.**"

### Saturday 20th August 2011

*Nicholl Williams sent the following sightings:* "I have been away from my Wifi recently but have seen some butterflies locally in the *Moor Wood area of Lane End, Bucks* in the last month. I saw a **Purple Emperor** on Saturday *2nd July* gliding down the glades in the early morning. Unfortunately not seen again. Also present for the last month there were: **Silver-washed Fritillary** (about 30 seen during a single walk), **Small Copper, Holly Blue, Common Blue, Chalkhill Blue, Gatekeeper, Peacock, Red Admiral, Large Skipper, Speckled Wood, Brimstone, Small White, Large White, Green-veined White, Small Tortoiseshell.**"

*After reading Nicholl's interesting report, Mick and I decided to visit the area yesterday, 19th August. We found 6 worn Silver-washed Fritillary in the wood and 9 Chalkhill Blue (7 male, 2 female) on an area of chalk downland next to the wood. Nick Bowles, Species Champion for the Chalkhill Blue, commented that Nicholl's newly discovered colony is very significant and probably explains the origin of most of the 'wanderers' seen around the 10K square. Wendy*

*Michael McNeill reported the following yesterday:* "An hour on *Lardon Chase, Berks* on a warm sunny morning on *19th August* produced the following. 3 male **Adonis Blue**, plus a pairing couple of the same, 25+ **Small Heath**, 3 **Small Tortoiseshell**, many **Meadow Brown**, 3 **Holly Blue** and very small numbers of **Common Blue, Chalkhill Blue** and **Gatekeeper.**"

*David Fuller sent this update on 17th August:* "A very cloudy, overcast day today - no sun and a chill on *Watlington Hill, Oxon* - however the following were seen: **Silver-spotted Skipper** 4, **Green-veined White** 2, **Common Blue** 4 males and 2 Blue/Brown females, **Small Heath** 4, **Speckled Wood** 3 and **Meadow Brown** 21."

*Nick Bowles sent the following news on 16th August:* "I recently walked the transect at *Coombe Hill, near Wendover in Bucks* and had a probable (90% reliable) sighting of a **Silver-spotted Skipper** feeding on marjoram. As I was creeping up to it to confirm the id, it flew off and I couldn't find it again even after searching the area for 45 minutes. However, a second brood **Dingy Skipper** was some compensation. I also found a female **Large Skipper** at Coombe Hill and a second very fresh looking female Large Skipper at Aston Clinton Ragpits. So if anyone is planning to go near Coombe Hill please check the Skippers carefully and also look out for second brood Dingy."



**Chris Bottrell sent this report on 16th August:** "First time visit to *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* last Sunday (14/8). I was in exploring mode so didn't do a detailed count, however on the bank a good number of 2nd generation **Adonis Blue** on the wing. Also **Chalkhill Blue**, although these now looking a little worn. **Small Heath** and **Meadow Brown** abundant on the lower slopes, **Brown Argus** present. In the small wood enclosed meadow, **Common Blue** and **Holly Blue** nectaring on Wild Marjoram. Even found a solitary **Silver-spotted Skipper**. **Gatekeeper**, **Red Admiral**, **Peacock**, **Brimstone** about. **Green-veined White** and **Speckled Wood** in and on the wood edges. A great site, well worth a visit, thanks to Tony Croft for recommending it."

**Colin Williams reported the following:** "Mon 15th August - *BBOWT Hartslock, Oxon* transect. We recorded 6 **Chalkhill Blue** and excellent numbers of **Small Heath** with 76 counted, only slightly fewer than **Meadow Brown!**"

### Monday 15th August 2011

**David Fuller sent this news today:** "I went to *Queen Mother reservoir (Horton, Berks)* to see two juvenile **Knot** as I have a permit for this members only site and saw my first **Painted Lady** of the year in mint condition. Also seen was **Small Heath**. Both species seem very scarce to me this year."

**Dave Miller made another trip to Aston Rowant, Oxon on 14th August:** "It was mostly cloudy and, as usual for this site, a stiff breeze was blowing. Nevertheless, there was enough intermittent sun and warmth for there to be lots of **Silver-spotted Skippers** about and several **Chalkhill Blues** - of which there seemed to be more females than males. I also saw **Meadow Browns**, a few **Gatekeepers**, **Speckled Woods** and **Brown Argus** and a couple of **Common Blues**. I spent a lot of time watching the Skippers. As soon as the sun came out they lifted off and suddenly you could find yourself in a melee of four or five whizzing about. In the cloudy bits, they settled back onto the many sheep paths and bare areas to bask in re-radiated warmth and were easy to spot as greeny-orange blobs against the background. I also came across several egg-laying females and managed a shot of a freshly laid egg. Despite the limitations of the camera, you can just about make out the depression in the top of the otherwise quite smooth-looking egg."

**David Hastings visited Aston Upthorpe, Oxon on 14th August:** "Sightings included: **Adonis Blue** (1), **Chalkhill Blue** (13+), **Common Blue** (18), **Brown Argus** (5), **Small Heath** (18+), **Meadow Brown** (30+). Also seen were **Gatekeeper**, **Comma**, **Brimstone**, **Red Admiral**, **Small Copper**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Large White**, **Green-veined White** and **Speckled Wood**."

**Dave Ferguson sent the following:** "At *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* this afternoon (14th August) in mostly dull breezy conditions I saw 3 male **Adonis Blues**, 150+ **Chalkhill Blues** including some fresh examples, 1 **Brown Argus**, 1 **Small Copper**, 1 **Marbled White**, 3 **Small Heaths** and **Meadow Browns**."

**David Redhead sent this note on 14th August:** "With apologies to Pete Seeger - Where have all the Peacocks gone? Short time passing. Even when they were about they were in very short supply in the *Heyford Hill, Oxford* area. The maximum count in our garden was 3 which is an all-time low!"



**Jim Asher walked the Aston Upthorpe, Oxon transect on 14th August:** "It was not too bad a day, cloud coming and going, but temperature OK. The highlights for me were an unusually coloured Chalkhill Blue female (see photo below) and a **Tawny Owl** which flew across section 6 about 10m in front of me. Numbers seemed still to be down - a general trend for the season, I suspect. Still no Silver-spotted Skippers: **Small Skipper** 1, **Brimstone** 1, **Large White** 4, **Small White** 16, **Green-veined White** 8, **Small Copper** 1, **Brown Argus** 8, **Common Blue** 26, **Chalkhill Blue** 23, **Small Tortoiseshell** 1, **Speckled Wood** 3, **Gatekeeper** 34, **Meadow Brown** 97, **Small Heath** 23."

**Peter Law reported the following sightings: "14th August: On the South Oxon Downs** today, I first checked the **Small Blue** site below Lowbury Hill (SU540826) for 2nd brood butterflies and during a burst of bright sunshine I saw 4. There was a cluster of **Small Heath** at the same spot and 1 female **Brown Argus**. From there I walked to Moulsoford Downs where I found a female **Adonis Blue** on the newly mown verge beside the drive to Well Barn House. There were a few other blue butterflies here (probably Common) which I couldn't identify and another female Brown Argus. Along the A417 north of that spot there were a lot of very fresh **Small White** on either side of the road, in contrast to the downland tracks where most of the whites were **Green-veined White**. Then, back where I had set out at the beginning of the Fair Mile, 3 **Holly Blue** were on the wing. Lastly I made a brief visit to Oven Bottom SSSI, where the many **Chalkhill Blue** (with a good proportion of females) completed the day's set of blue butterflies. I saw another cluster of Small Heath there and a few more Brown Argus. Other butterflies seen around today's route were abundant **Meadow Brown** and **Gatekeeper**; good numbers of **Large White**, **Speckled Wood** and **Common Blue** and a few **Red Admiral**."

**David Redhead sent this report of the Brown Hairstreak Field Meeting held on Thursday 11th August:** "Owing to the poor weather (overcast with rain in the air and very breezy) I travelled to lead the annual Brown Hairstreak Field Meeting at **Whitecross Green Wood** on Thursday 11th half in the hope that nobody would be waiting for me, only to find 8 optimistic souls in the car park. To my surprise we were to see three adult **Brown Hairstreaks**. The first sighting was made by Linda Atkinson in one of the oaks alongside the ever reliable Ash Tree A. It was on the sheltered side of the tree but was still getting a buffeting. However, it was not just hanging on for grim death as it kept changing position slightly and was obviously going about its business of feeding on honeydew. In spite of the apparent brightness of its wings it turned out to be a male when it momentarily flicked its wings open. The second had even brighter undersides (see photo) and was sitting in a much more sheltered oak in the second ride - I have never seen a Brown Hairstreak in this oak before. Unfortunately it never opened its wings but it was active and kept moving position slightly and again was apparently feeding on honeydew. Tony Croft and I spent a bit of time looking for eggs but without success until we came to a spot where Becky Woodell had seen a female in egg laying mode on the 5th and there were two bright white shiners (see photo). Tony then found a third nearby. The weather by now had actually deteriorated but our second sighting was still in the same place when we returned but the first was not. Instead there was a much duller individual (see photo) "puddling" on top of another leaf in the same tree which it continued to do through a short shower heavy enough to make the party take shelter. Thanks go to Roger Stockwell from Northants for the photos, all taken with a long range lens. Also seen (all in low numbers) - **Meadow Brown**, **Gatekeeper**, **Green-veined White**, **Speckled Wood** and singletons of **Large Skipper**, **Purple Hairstreak** and **Common Blue**. The Large Skipper was sitting in an oak (also something I have never seen before) about a foot to the left of our second Brown Hairstreak sighting. While the Brown Hairstreaks were all in oak the Purple Hairstreak was in ash - they can't have read the books!"

**Saturday 13th August 2011**

**David Hastings visited Whitecross Green Wood, Bernwood Meadows and Otmoor on 12th August:** "I was looking for **Brown Hairstreaks** and finally found three on *Otmoor, Oxon* at the eastern end of the bridleway. The female I found was just sitting on a thistle head, but the two males were busy nectaring on thistles. There were good numbers of **Meadow Browns** and **Gatekeepers** at all three locations. I found **Common Blues**, **Speckled Woods** and **Brown Argus** at all three as well, but in smaller numbers. There was one female **Silver-washed Fritillary** at *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon* and two at *Bernwood Meadows, Bucks* (all three were very tatty). Altogether I recorded 16 species during the day."

**Ched George reports finding** one male **Adonis Blue** at *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* on 12th August, amid many **Chalkhill Blues**.

**This report came from Tony Croft on 12th August:** "Following yesterday's egg finds at the Whitecross Green field meeting I went to *Rushbeds Wood, Bucks* this afternoon to try my luck there. I found one **Brown Hairstreak egg** in the tramway meadow on sucker growth and a further one in Lapland Farm east meadow in the hedge. I also came across this **Purple Hairstreak egg** in the middle of the wood."

**Richard Soulsby sent this report:** "The Field Meeting at *Aston Rowant Nature Reserve (North) on 7th August* attracted 18 members, despite the cloudy, windy weather. But we weren't disappointed: the two target species were seen in abundance, with at least 47 **Silver-spotted Skippers** and at least 20 **Chalkhill Blues** scattered across the hillside. In fact, these two species outnumbered everything else, perhaps even the **Meadow Browns** which were in smaller than usual numbers. Also seen were 7 **Gatekeepers**, 3 each of **Small Copper**, **Brown Argus**, **Small Heath** and **6-spot Burnet moth** and one each of **Small Skipper**, **Large Skipper** and **Large White**, plus one of the young members reported a **Small Blue**. Only 2 **Common Blues** were seen, in stark contrast to the huge number seen last year at a similar meeting on Watlington Hill. The sunny intervals early on gave way to dark clouds and eventually rain stopped play necessitating a shortcut back to the car park."

**Vandana Lake sent the following report on 10th August:** "I saw lots of **Small Coppers**, **Common Blues** and **Gatekeepers** at *Gallows Bridge Farm*, a BBOWT site in Bucks."

**Wendy Wilson reports on the Langley Park field event:** "Sixteen people of all ages turned up on *Saturday 6th August* for the *Langley Park* event for beginners organised by Amanda of Bucks Country Parks. It was a dull, overcast morning and the hoped-for sun never appeared, so we only spotted eight species. However, those that did show themselves allowed us to get close enough for everyone to get a good look and learn to identify them. Particularly admired were some bright, newly emerged, **Small Coppers** in the heathland area. Other species seen were **Gatekeeper**, **Meadow Brown**, **Small White**, **Common Blue**, **Speckled Wood** and numerous **Cinnabar caterpillars**. A nimble-fingered youngster called Josh managed to catch some interesting grasshoppers in his bug cage for us to examine. Many thanks to Park Ranger, Alaric, for his assistance and interest as he accompanied us on the walk and also to BC members Peter, Tess and Philip for helping the beginners."

## Monday 8th August 2011

**On 7th August Helen Hyre visited Beacon Hill, Ellesborough, Bucks:** "It was sunny with a very strong wind. We saw at least 10 male **Chalkhill Blues** and 2 females, including a mating pair. On **31st July** in the same location (weather cloudy and breezy) we saw 4 male **Chalkhill Blues**."

**Tim Walker sent the following:** "On **6th August** I took an image of a couple of **Comma caterpillars** on our hop plant. I believe they are from the 2nd generation. I have also sent an image of a **Harlequin Ladybird larva**. This year the hop plant has been infested by these larvae which has never happened in previous years. I wonder if the larvae have been feeding off the smaller 2nd generation Comma caterpillars over the past few weeks and whether this will have an impact on the Comma numbers for this year?"

**Chris Bottrell sent this report for Sunday 7th August:** "To add to the **Silver-washed Fritillary 'Valezina'** sightings: one at **Calvert Jubilee (Bucks)** today whilst attempting a butterfly survey (between the rain showers) for BBOWT. First time I have seen one there."

**Jonathan Crouch sent this report on 7th August:** "I had a pleasant walk around **Otmoor, Oxon** yesterday afternoon, **6th August**, arriving just as the cloud dispersed. Along the Roman road (back of the car park) the **Gatekeepers** seemed to outnumber the **Meadow Browns**. I also saw **Common Blues** (2), singletons of **Brimstone, Comma**, a badly nibbled male **Silver-washed Fritillary, Speckled Wood, Large** and **Small/Essex Skippers** and this rather obliging male **Brown Hairstreak**."

**Simon Fenner from Bristol sent the following on 6th August:** "I spent a very enjoyable day on the Bucks/Oxon border on **Friday 5th August** on the way to relatives in Aylesbury. I arrived at **Bernwood Meadows, Bucks** late morning and joined another Brown Hairstreak seeker spotting several males in an ash tree adjacent to the road, though none cared to descend. Nothing doing in the adjacent meadow, but another kind soul pointed me toward the western area between York's Wood and Hell Coppice, where I found a very compliant female **Brown Hairstreak** nectaring on thistles and brambles. And to my delight, she then perched on a grass stem and opened her wings (see below), before giving me the slip in the densest area of chest high thistles. I then went down to the Bald Hill section of **Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon** looking for **Silver-spotted Skippers** and found a good twenty or so whizzing around in a very small area, along with countless **Chalkhill Blues, Small Heaths** and a few **Small Skippers**. The Silver-spotted Skippers were very hard to photograph in the sunshine; the odd cloud seemed to slow them down just enough to zoom in. I think others have already done justice to SS Skippers on your website, but you may like the open wing female Brown Hairstreak attached."

## Friday 5th August 2011

**Wendy Wilson sent further news of the historic return of the Chalkhill Blue to UTB's Holtspur Reserve (see report below by Brenda Mobbs for 15th July):** "Today, **5th August**, I went to **Holtspur Bottom Reserve, Bucks** with Frank Banyard, David Redhead and Shirley Scrivener. We had a most successful morning. Not only did we see 3 male **Chalkhill Blues**, but we also saw one, possibly 2, females one of which was egg-laying on the Horseshoe Vetch in the scrape. I then pointed out the spot where I had seen a female egg-laying last week and David, being more agile than me, got down on his hands and knees and soon found an egg on the upper surface of a vetch leaf (see photo). It really is beginning to look as if they are here to stay after their 40-year absence. Only time will tell! Also seen were **Essex Skipper, Brown Argus, Common Blue, Small Copper, Small, Large** and **Green-veined Whites, Comma, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper** and **Meadow Brown**, plus moths: **Six-spot Burnet, Lesser Treble-bar** and **Silver-Y**. There were also several thousand



evacuated Six-spot Burnet cocoons on the fence."

**Jon Mercer from Wilts Branch sent this report today:** "8 **Silver-spotted Skippers** seen on a 45-min walk at *Linkey Down, Aston Rowant, Oxon* in sunshine late morning today (5th August). Also seen: 30+ **Chalkhill Blues**, 6 **Brown Argus**, 2 **Skipper sp** probably Essex, 4 **Small Heath**, 1 **Marbled White** and many **Meadow Browns**."

**Steve Croxford visited Yoesden Bank, Bucks on the morning of 5th August:** "Emerging at the top of the bank from the Bledlow Ridge side I was confronted with a shimmering mass of **Chalkhill Blues**. Picking a spot near the top of the bank I could count over 100 Chalkhill Blues without taking a step. I started with good intentions of trying to accurately count the numbers but these rapidly evaporated when confronted by the sheer numbers and size of the site. My conservative guess is that there were at least 500, as an absolute minimum, but I suspect the real figure is 1000 or more. I also had a look for Adonis Blue but did not find any yet. Other species seen at the site included **Common Blue, Brown Argus, Small Copper, Small Heath, Brimstone, Meadow Brown** and **Gatekeeper**. It was nice to visit a site with lots of butterflies, the woods around here are rapidly emptying."

**Peter Kitchener from Norfolk sent the following report on 5th August:**

*Aston Rowant (north side), Oxon 2nd August* - **Chalkhill Blue** 200+, **Silver-spotted Skipper** 100+, **Brown Argus** 5+, **Marbled White** 2, **Fritillary sp.** 1, (**Lesser?**) **Treble-bar moth** 2+. Many of the Silver-spotted Skippers were seen at 4pm when it had clouded over, sitting on the exposed chalk on the narrow tracks across the reserve.

*Watlington Hill, Oxon 2nd August* - **Chalkhill Blue** 2, **Brown Argus** 1, (**Lesser?**) **Treble-bar moth** 3+.

*Bernwood Forest, Bucks 3rd August* - **Silver-washed Fritillaries** 6+ (I think they were all Silver-washed although only two settled)

*Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon 3rd August* - **Brown Hairstreak** 1 perched obligingly on *Angelica*.

**Chris Brown sent this update on 3rd August:** "Visits to *Crowsley Wood, Oxon* SU735-795 during *25th July to 1st August* produced the following: **Large Skipper, Green-veined White, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, Silver-washed Fritillary** (maximum numbers on any one day were 15M 2U 9F inc. several courting flights), **Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Brimstone, Small White**.

*30th July, Millennium Green SU 713 794* - **Small Skipper** 1, **Small Copper** 5, **Gatekeeper** 21, **Meadow Brown** 2, **Small Heath** 1. Looks like the Small Skippers are nearly over.

*2nd August, Moore Copse BBOWT Reserve, Berks* - **Small Skipper** 1, **Large Skipper** 1, **Green-veined White** 2, **Small Copper** 2, **Common Blue** 2M, **Red Admiral** 1, **Peacock** 1, **Comma** 2, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 2M 1U 2F, **Speckled Wood** 1, **Gatekeeper** 15, **Meadow Brown** 65. The wildflowers were busy mostly with Meadow Browns and I gave up counting due to shortage of time.

*2nd August, Lardon Chase NT* - **Gatekeeper** 2, **Meadow Brown** 4, **Chalkhill Blue** 10M 8F (inc 1 Mating Pair). Hot and humid weather caused all the Chalkhill Blue to remain folded. Quite a contrast to my visit on 18th July when due to the cool cloudy and damp conditions the males were all resting open winged to catch any warmth. More females were noticed and 1 mating pair seen although they parted just before I clicked the camera shutter!"

**Michael McNeill reported the following:** "A repeat walk on *Lardon Chase, Berks* on *3rd August* specifically for **Chalkhill Blues**, in warm and sunny/bright conditions. 84 males, with a few females, in an hour. Individuals rather than small groups this time, but still a satisfying number. Also 3 male **Adonis Blues**."

**Dave Miller visited Aston Rowant (N) in Oxon late Saturday afternoon, 30th July:** "I found a single **Red Admiral**, good numbers of **Chalkhill Blues, Small Coppers, Small**



Heaths, **Brown Argus**, a couple of **Brimstones**, **Meadow Browns**, **Gatekeepers** and dozens of **Silver-spotted Skippers**. I failed to find any Common Blues at all, which was worrying."

### Monday 2nd August 2011

**Mark Griffiths sent this report today:** "Records for *Aston Rowant 31/7/2011*: **Chalkhill Blue** - lots, **Common Blue** - several, **Brown Argus** three, **Small Copper** two, large Fritillary - three or four - probably Dark Green Fritillary but unfortunately I couldn't get close enough when they landed. **Large Whites**, **Small Whites**, few **Brimstones**, few **Large Skippers**, at least two **Silver-spotted Skippers**, one old **Marbled White**, several **Small Heath**, lots of **Meadow Brown** and several **Gatekeepers**. Oddly no Commas, Small Torts, Red Admirals or Peacocks were about."

**Malcolm Brownsword visited Watlington Hill, Oxon today:** "I went principally to look for Silver-spotted Skippers. On 31 July 2010 I attended the BC Upper Thames Branch visit here, when I recall that we saw approaching a thousand Common Blues and about 20 Silver-spotted Skippers in addition to other species. This morning, *2nd August*, over a period of 2 hours, I saw only 5 species: 8 **Silver-spotted Skippers**, 6 **Common Blues**, 3 **Brown Argus**, 5 **Large Whites** and 5 **Meadow Browns**. Below is a photo of a pair of Silver-spotted Skippers on Autumn Gentian."

**Tony Croft reported the following today:** "Good news from *Easington (Bucks)*. Whilst scanning our garden ash tree at 0845 this morning, *2nd August*, a male **Brown Hairstreak** alighted on the adjacent walnut tree and stayed for about half a minute before transferring to the ash."

**Martin Kincaid sent this report today:** "On *Saturday 30th July* I visited the disused railway near *Salden, Bucks* hoping to see second brood Wood Whites (which have been reported in Northants). No luck unfortunately, but I had a pretty good consolation in seeing a **Dark Green Fritillary** which gave good views as it fed on the flowers of knapweed. It was quite a faded specimen and regrettably I didn't have my camera with me so just managed a fairly dodgy shot with my mobile phone. However, a second Fritillary appeared and flew swiftly past me. This one looked much brighter and bigger than the first so could even have been a Silver-washed, but it didn't settle. In addition I saw good numbers of **Common Blue** (30+), **Small Copper** (2), **Peacock** (2), **Red Admiral** (1), **Brimstone** (1), **Large** and **Small Whites**, **Gatekeepers**, **Meadow Browns**, **Ringlets** and **Speckled Woods**."

**Malcolm Brownsword carried out his BBOWT transect at Hartslock, Oxon on 1st August:** "It included the extension to the reserve, but I found only a meagre 9 species of butterfly, seeing 1 **Small Skipper**, 5 **Large Whites**, 2 **Brown Argus**, 18 **Common Blues**, 5 **Chalkhill Blues**, 1 **Comma**, 13 **Gatekeepers**, 40 **Meadow Browns** and an encouraging 24 **Small Heaths**. No Ringlets or Marbled Whites were seen - probably a consequence of their early emergence this year. Particularly disappointing was the sighting of only 5 Chalkhill Blues, after someone recently reported 200 at nearby Lardon Chase on the opposite bank of the Thames."

**Dave Turnbull sent this news on 31st July:** "I visited *Pitstone, Bucks* where the second brood **Small Blues** are in low numbers but in good condition. Very few **Common Blues** but then I haven't seen many all year. Second brood **Small Heaths** in good numbers and also the odd second brood **Dingy Skipper**. After travellers moved onto the site for a week the gates have been welded up, so the usual grass cut has not yet taken place and will be detrimental in the long term if this management has ended."

**Ewan Urquhart went to Whitecross Green Wood on 30th and 31st July to try and see**

**Brown Hairstreaks:** "I was successful on both days with Sunday being by far the more memorable with an individual allowing approach to within inches. It was nectaring on Angelica and was then disturbed by a bee and after briefly fluttering around rested on a willow before returning to the Angelica.

**Saturday 30/07/2011 Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon** approx 0900-1330. Warm with sunny intervals. **Brown Hairstreak** 1, **Purple Hairstreak** 10+, **White Admiral** 1 in very tatty condition, **Red Admiral** 2, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 1, **Peacock** 6+, **Marbled White** 3, **Brimstone** 1 male, **Speckled Wood** 5, present but not counted **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet**, **Large White**, **Small White**, **Large Skipper**, **Small Skipper** and **Gatekeeper**.

**Sunday 31/07/2011 Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon** approx 1400-1630. Warm and sunny. **Brown Hairstreak** (in pristine condition) at approx 1400 hours resting on willow sp. Also **Purple Hairstreak** 3+, **Common Blue** 3, **Painted Lady** 2, **Red Admiral** 1, **Peacock** 4, **Brimstone** 1 male, **Speckled Wood** 1, present but not counted: **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet**, **Gatekeeper**, **Large White**, **Small White** and **Large Skipper**."

**Derek Brown sent these reports on 31st July:** "On **28th July at Lardon Chase, Berks** I saw 50+ **Chalkhill Blues**. There were more females about than I'm used to, with the ratio being only about 3M:1F. Several tandem pairs were seen and I also saw a male and female land together and after some wing fluttering they mated and flew off in tandem. Interestingly the male landed facing the same way as the female and achieved coitus by bending his abdomen round to clasp the female. On the same day I tried **Decoy Heath in Berks** for the Grayling. I've been trying for 6 years but have yet to see a Grayling there. Although I managed **Meadow Brown**, **Small Heath**, **Gatekeeper**, **Speckled Wood**, **Small Copper**, **Small White**, **Brimstone**, **Ringlet**, **Common Blue** and **Silver-washed Fritillary** once again there was no sign of the Grayling. However a brief glimpse of a **Kingfisher** flying across the pond compensated to some degree!"

**Peter Law reported the following:** "This afternoon, **31st July at Paices Wood Country Park, Berks** I was pleased to find a female **Silver-studded Blue** along the track to the upper car park. Shortly afterwards I had a close-up view of a female **Common Blue** for comparison, so I am sure of my identification. There were a few other Blues on the wing here, which were not close enough to identify. I also saw 1 **Silver-washed Fritillary**."

**David Hastings sent the following report:** "Seen at **Aston Rowant (Bald Hill), Oxon on 30th July: Silver-spotted Skipper** (18), **Chalkhill Blue** (60+), **Dark Green Fritillary** (1 female), **Silver-washed Fritillary** (1 female), **Meadow Brown** (23), **Large White** (3), **Marbled White** (3), **Small Skipper** (3), **Essex Skipper** (2), **Gatekeeper** (4), **Brown Argus** (6), **Small White** (6), **Brimstone** (5), **Small Heath** (5), **Common Blue** (6), **Green-veined White** (2), **Peacock** (1) and **Red Admiral** (1). There was a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** in my garden in north **Abingdon, Oxon** on the afternoon of the 30th July. Seen at **Cothill Fen/Parsonage Moor, Oxon on 31st July: Speckled Wood** (11), **Meadow Brown** (7), **Ringlet** (1), **Red Admiral** (3), **Holly Blue** (2), **Green-veined White** (12), **Gatekeeper** (3) and **Small White** (1)."

### Saturday 30th July 2011

**Helen Hyre sent the following on 30th July:** "Michael Pitt-Payne sent me this photo of a **Small Copper** he recorded at **St John's Churchyard, Stone** recently."

**Mike Flemming reported the following:** "I had a walk along the Roman Road onto **Otmoor, Oxon** from the RSPB carpark near Beckley this afternoon (**28th July**). The very hot and sheltered lane had especially large numbers of **Gatekeepers** but I was delighted when, on approaching a thistle head, one of the brown butterflies turned out to be a **Brown Hairstreak**. I knew several had been seen on the wing already this year and this one was not in pristine condition, so was clearly not newly emerged. Other butterflies at the same

location included **Brimstone, Meadow Brown, Red Admiral, and Peacock.**"

***Dennis Dell went to Steps Hill and Incombe Hole, Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks on 28th July:*** "It was 22 degrees, mainly sunny. I saw **Large White 8, Green-veined White 2, Chalkhill Blue 112, Small White 18, Red Admiral 3, Meadow Brown 25, Small Heath 9, Gatekeeper 11, Peacock 3, Small Skipper 10, Dark Green Fritillary 12, Brimstone 1, Common Blue 8, Speckled Wood 3, Brown Argus 3, Comma 1, Ringlet 1.** All the Dark Green Fritillaries bar 1 were seen in Incombe Hole. At one point, there were 4 together in aerial combat."

***Malcolm Brownsword went to Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon on Thursday afternoon 28th July:*** "From the grain drier I walked past the left fork to Juniper Valley, continuing to Oven Bottom on the right, then continuing to the top of Juniper valley and descending back to the grain drier. I first went to Oven Bottom, an SSSI, about 5 years ago, with Mike Wilkins and we saw plenty of Marbled Whites, Small Heaths, Brown Argus and Chalkhill Blues. This visit revealed the following: over 80 **Chalkhill Blues**, including more than 12 females, all flying rather than 'sitting,' 3 **Small Heaths**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 3 **Small Skippers**, 8 **Brown Argus**, two of which were the smallest I have ever seen, 10 **Meadow Browns**, one **Small Copper**, one **Common Blue** and 2 **Brimstones**, 6 **Gatekeepers** and one **Comma** on the track from the grain drier. Surprisingly there were no Marbled Whites and no Ringlets. Descending *Juniper Valley*, I counted 32 **Chalkhill Blues**, all male, 2 **Common Blues**, 2 **Small Skippers**, one **Large White**, 2 **Brown Argus**, 3 **Meadow Browns** and 3 **Small Heaths**. As at Oven Bottom, there were no Marbled Whites or Ringlets."

***Dave Ferguson reported the following:*** "A walk along the main track of *Homefield Wood, Bucks* this morning (*28th July*) produced 9 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 3 **Peacocks**, 4 **Commas**, 2 **White-letter Hairstreaks** nectaring on ragwort, 4 **Brown Argus**, 3 **Holly Blues**, 6 **Brimstones** and 2 **Large Skippers**. A photo of one of the Hairstreaks is below. I think the hoverfly is *Sphaerophoria scripta*."

***Jonathan Crouch spent Thursday morning/early afternoon, 28th July at Aston Rowant nature reserve, Oxon:*** "On the western slope there were at least 50 **Chalkhill Blues** & 25 **Silver-spotted Skippers**. The other sighting of note was a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** at midday nectaring on thistles near the gate to the path leading to the car park, unfortunately it didn't hang about for a photo."

### Wednesday 27th July 2011

***Adam Hartley sent this report today:*** "At *Burgess Field NR*, next to Port Meadow, Oxford on *27th July* in the butterfly "hot spot" in Burgess Field between two copses there were good numbers of butterflies on the wing today despite the overcast conditions: 10 **Gatekeeper**, 4 **Meadow Brown**, 2 **Small Heath**, 2 **Brown Argus**, 2 **Essex Skipper**, 2 **Speckled Wood**."

***Andy Hoskins sent the following:*** "Herewith my sightings for the past week:  
*Tuesday 19th July Finemere Wood, Bucks*, 6-7.30pm Cool, Sunny Spells. Very little to note except 4 **Meadow Browns** on the eastern path.  
*Wednesday 20th July College Wood, nr Nash, Bucks*, 5.45-6.30pm Cool & Sunny. 1 **Small White**.

*Friday 22nd July Finemere Wood, Bucks*, 6-7 pm, Warm & Sunny. All on the main ride: 3 fresh looking **Speckled Woods**, 1 tatty **White Admiral**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 3 **Gatekeepers**.  
*Sunday 24th July, Aston Rowant North Side, Oxon* 11.30-1.30pm, Sunny and Warm. There were plenty of **Chalkhill Blues**, 30+ , 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 4 **Gatekeepers** aggressively chasing off anything that flew near, 3 **Brimstones**, 4 **Small Coppers**, 2 **Marbled White**, 2 **Small White**, 1 **Large White**, 5 **Small Skippers** (mostly very faded), 1 **Large Skipper**, 3 **Brown Argus**, including a mating pair, 10+ **Meadow Browns**, 1 **Peacock**, 2 **Small Heath**.



*Monday 25th July, College Wood, nr Nash, Bucks* 5.45pm-6.30pm, Sunny but cooler. No sign of Red Admirals that had been very active here 10 days ago and all I saw was 1 **Green-veined White** and 1 **Gatekeeper**, though there was a very active **Southern Hawker Dragonfly**."

*Tim Hearn went to Bernwood Forest, Bucks on Monday 26th July and saw:* **Brown Hairstreak** (3), **Purple Hairstreak** (5), **Silver-washed Fritillary** (11), **White Admiral** (1), **Ringlet** (14), **Gatekeeper** (16), **Meadow Brown** (30+), **Marbled White** (2), **Common Blue** (1), **Large Skipper** (18), **Small Skipper** (9), **Speckled Wood** (3), **Brimstone** (2), **Peacock** (3) **Small Tortoiseshell** (2), **Comma** (5), **Red Admiral** (2), **Green-veined White** (2), **Small White** (7), **Large White** (11).

*Colin Williams sent these recent sightings:*

*"Sat 23rd July -* At least 35 **Chalkhill Blues** on the wing at *Lardon Chase, West Berks.*

*Sun 24th July - Homefield Wood, Bucks -* 5+ **White-letter Hairstreak** nectaring on marjoram along the main ride up from the car park. Another one also seen on marjoram in the chalk grassland meadow on the BBOWT reserve. All were quite worn. 2 **Purple Hairstreak** in oaks on same ride. 20+ **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, including 2 'valezina' forms on ride and adjacent BBOWT reserve."

*Malcolm Brownsword sent this news on 26th July:* "On *Friday 22nd July* I visited *Hackpen Hill/Devil's Punchbowl* near Wantage, Oxon and saw the following: 50+ **Marbled White** (including one with a parasitic red mite - see photo), 10 **Peacocks**, 3 **Red Admirals**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 50+ **Chalkhill Blues**, 10 **Meadow Browns**, 3 **Ringlets**, 4 **Small Skippers**, 1 **Large Skipper**, 1 **Small Copper**, 2 **Common Blues** and 3 **Brown Argus** (see image of one on clustered bell flower). This site appears to be a stronghold of **Small Heath** - over 50 were seen."

*Chris Lamsdell paid another visit to Homefield Wood, Bucks on 25th July and recorded:* **Silver-washed Fritillary** 8 (inc. a valezina form), **White-letter Hairstreak** 1, **Holly Blue** 2 and **Brown Argus** 5.

*Mike Flemming sent this report:* "Following reports of early Silver-spotted Skippers on the wing, I went up to the 'earthwork' at *Sliding Hill* near Swyncombe, Oxon yesterday (*Monday, 25th July*) and was not disappointed! Although hard to spot at first, I saw several **Silver-spotted Skippers** flying on the slope - three together at one time. They were better at finding each other than I was at finding them! While I was working on the attached photo, a second arrived and an aerial tussle ensued! The most abundant lepidoptera were **Forester Moths**, with plenty of **6-spot Burnets** and tiny **Pyrausta** as well. There were good numbers of **Chalkhill Blues**, mostly in excellent condition. Other species seen included **Small Blue**, **Common Blue**, **Brown Argus**, **Small Copper** (including at least one ab. caeruleopunctata), **Large** and **Small Whites**, **Brimstone**, **Meadow Brown** (including an individual with one almost white wing), **Marbled White**, **Small Heath** and **Gatekeeper**. I also saw one **Silver-washed Fritillary** in the woods below the ridge and several **Speckled Wood** plus one **Comma**, but failed to find any Dark Green Fritillaries. The slopes were a carpet of wild flowers, a delightful place in the warm sunshine!"

*John Clough reports that there were a lot of Silver-washed Fritillaries at Homefield Wood near Marlow, Bucks on Sunday afternoon 24th July.* "I was especially pleased to see a valezina form, the first I have seen there, amongst many s-w fritillaries over the last 2 years. A quick look on the website told me that others have reported valezina this year as well, so not such a rarity, but I thought I would report it. There were also two **White-letter Hairstreaks**."

*Chris Brown sent the following update: "Lardon Chase NT, West Berks, 18th July -*



**Meadow Brown 4, Chalkhill Blue 12M.**

*Crowsley Wood, Oxon, SU 735 795, 19th July* - **Large Skipper 6, Brimstone 1, Green-veined White 1, Red Admiral 1, Peacock 1, Comma 5, Silver-washed Fritillary 22, Speckled Wood 1, Gatekeeper 2, Meadow Brown 2, Ringlet 11.**

*Crowsley Wood, 22nd July* - **Large Skipper 1, Green-veined White 1, Red Admiral 2, Peacock 1, Comma 3, Silver-washed Fritillary 22 (inc. mating pair), Speckled Wood 3, Gatekeeper 2, Meadow Brown 4, Ringlet 18.**

*Watlington Hill NT, Oxon, 24th July* - **Brimstone 4, Green-veined White 1, Brown Argus 3 (inc. mating pair), Common Blue 1M, Red Admiral 1, Peacock 3, Speckled Wood 3, Gatekeeper 11, Meadow Brown 9, Small Heath 1.** The target of Chalkhill Blue and Silver-spotted Skipper ... none seen."

*Andy Bolton sent this report: "Combe Wood, nr Linkenholt SU357596 on 24/07/11* - **Comma 3, Red Admiral 5, Silver-Washed Fritillary 23, Peacock 23, Large White 4, Green-veined White 4, Gatekeeper 4, Large Skipper 1, Small Skipper 5, Ringlet 25, Marbled White 1, Purple Hairstreak 5, Speckled Wood 4, Meadow Brown 10** and a **Light Emerald moth**. Two of the Silver-washed Fritillaries were of Valesina form. This species was also seen in cop on a bracken frond; after mating and separating the female remained still for a few minutes then the next time I looked up she was mating again! Whether the same male had come back for more, or it was a different male I couldn't tell.

*Chalk grassland section below Combe Wood SU354596 on 24/07/11* - **Red Admiral 1, Comma 1, Small Skipper 10, Small Heath 3, Marbled White 8, Peacock 1, Common Blue 2** and **Dark Green Fritillary 1**. Moths: **Shaded Broad-bar 1, Pyrausta purpuralis 1**. This is the first time I've seen Dark Green Fritillary here, in addition 2 were seen (inc. an egg laying female) just over the Wilts border at the foot of Sheepless Hill which is only a few hundred yards away.

*East end of Crookham Common SU532643 on 10/07/11* - **Purple Hairstreak 9, Marbled White 4, Small Heath 1, Comma 1, Silver-washed Fritillary 1, Red Admiral 3, Green-veined White 3."**

*John Ward-Smith says there were 3 Grayling* at *Swinley Brick Pits, Berkshire* on *25th July*. "I came across them while I was dragonfly recording."

*Peter Law sent this update: "On 25th July, at Aston Rowant NNR (N),* I saw 7 **Silver-spotted Skipper**. All but one of these were along a line walked about two-thirds of the way up the hillside above the M40. The last one which looked a bit crumpled, possibly newly emerged, was near the hedge above the sunken way walk. This compares with just 2 butterflies seen on my previous visit 6 days ago. I also saw 2 female **Chalkhill Blue** today and would say that males have doubled in density over those last 6 days."

*David Redhead sent this report on 25th July: "Bernwood Forest & Meadows, Bucks* seems to be the place to see Brown Hairstreaks this year with 5 of the 6 reported sightings to date from there. Jonathan Crouch's report of an amazingly early sighting on the 11th July (see below) inspired Marion & Tony Gillie to visit Bernwood Meadows the following day and to their delight they found a male **Brown Hairstreak** sitting on the hedge where they had helped to find eggs in February. Things then went quiet until yesterday, 24th July, which is our more traditional date for a first sighting, with 3 males being seen. The first I came across was initially on a bramble leaf and then it decided to nectar on some nearby thistles at the far eastern end of Bernwood Forest in what is known as the M40 Compensation Area. This was shortly followed by a second male flying in a nearby ash tree facing the M40. Meanwhile Michael Field, all the way from S Wales, was photographing a male sitting on the blackthorn near where the two Bernwood Meadows meet. After a while it decided to fly into the nearby oak. So in spite of their early start we still seem to have males emerging and the first local reports of a female or a flurry of excited males (both seen yesterday in N Wilts) are awaited. When examining ashes and oaks for Brown Hairstreaks you need to be aware that **Purple**

**Hairstreaks** are having a glorious season and, as Michael & I can attest to, yesterday the ashes and oaks of Bernwood Forest were alive with them. Michael also experienced a fly past by a female **Purple Emperor** whilst in Bernwood Meadows. Also **Silver-washed Fritillaries** are still abundant in the forest and Michael even came across a couple of **White Admirals**."

**Tuesday 26th July 2011**

**David Hastings sent this update:** "On *23rd July* **Meadow Browns** and **Gatekeepers** were abundant at *Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon* with around 50 of each seen. Other species of note were **Speckled Wood** (10) and **Brown Argus** (9). Also on 23rd July I joined the field meeting on *Greenham Common, Berks*. Personally I saw five **Grayling**. There were more **Common Blues** seen here (about 15) than I've seen elsewhere this summer. I then went on to *Bowdown Wood* where I saw two **Silver-washed Fritillaries** and also an aberrant **Meadow Brown** (see below) with no orange on its forewings.

On the *24th July* I visited *Sydlings Copse, Oxon*. The field edges along the bridleway down to it (SP560096) were very productive. I saw at least 16 **Brown Argus** here, including a mating pair and a **Painted Lady**. In Sydlings Copse itself I recorded many **Large, Small** and **Green-veined Whites** and more **Meadow Browns** and **Gatekeepers**. Also on the 24th I visited *Otmoor, Oxon* where again there were lots of Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers. I saw one **Silver-washed Fritillary** in the car park and a **Purple Hairstreak** along the bridleway."

**Rob Solomon sent these sightings:** "During a quick visit to *Aston Rowant, Oxon* on *24th July* I saw around half a dozen **Silver-spotted Skippers**, as well as an aberrant form of **Chalkhill Blue** (photo below)."

**Paul Furtek reported the following:** "I visited *Aston Rowant, Oxon* on *Sunday 24th July*. Observed during a couple of hours in more-or-less constant sunshine were 3 **Marbled Whites**, 4 **Dark Green Fritillaries**, 5 **Ringlet**, 5 **Peacock**, 8 **Small Heath**, 6 **Small Skipper**, 3 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 5 **Brimstone**, 1 **Comma**, 2 **Common Blue** and 1 **Brown Argus**. There were simply too many **Chalkhill Blues** to count, and predictably there were plenty of **Large Whites** and **Meadow Browns**. Surprisingly though I did not see a single Silver-spotted Skipper. Below are a few of the pictures I took today. I particularly like the one of the superbly camouflaged Brimstone."

**The following report came from Jeremy Soane:** "I'm reporting some interesting sightings from *Windsor Forest, Berks* in an area known as Winkfield Place, grid reference 923741, Orchard Lea Gate. This is an SSI owned by Crown estates and permit only, however there is parking space for several cars and you would be able to see most of the star species by standing there and waiting at the entrance! Last year I thought I had spotted a Silver-washed Fritillary here, flying over the beech/ hawthorn hedge which separates the forest from the main road between Cranbourne and Fifield. So I stopped to investigate today (*24th July*) as it was a sunny morning! I was not disappointed. I saw at the very least 10 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, mostly flying fast back and forth over the hedge, but several stopped to land including a mating couple. I also saw a **White Admiral** on bramble, two **Commas**, **Meadow Browns**, **Ringlets**, a **Common Blue**, a **Small Skipper**, **Small** and **Large Whites** (the latter were more plentiful) and a very fresh **Brown Argus**. This site is on quite a busy (and very fast) road and this, combined with restricted access, makes it relatively overlooked. The hedge and the strip of rough grassland behind it stretch for about 2 miles and seem to be an important local habitat for butterflies, also a very linear one which SWFs seem to prefer. The edge of the woodland itself has plenty of mature oaks, beeches and other deciduous trees, as well as the usual conifers. There were plenty of bramble and thistle plants, hopefully carrying enough nectar to satisfy all of those insects!"

**David Redhead sent these reports on 24th July:** "22nd July - A gloriously sunny morning and an earlier than usual start on the dog walk enabled me to make my earliest butterfly sighting of the year. Although our sunlit garden buddleia was bare at 7am, a few minutes spent examining the sun drenched ash trees in [Rivermead Nature Park, Oxon](#) produced our first active butterfly of the day at 7.16am - a **Speckled Wood**. Back in the garden ([Littlemore, Oxon](#)) at 7.29am the first **Red Admiral** had arrived at the buddleia and a **Comma** was basking in the Horse Chestnut tree behind. A quarter of an hour in the grassland between our house and the Oxford Ring Road added another 5 species - **Gatekeeper** (6), **Meadow Brown** (4) and singletons of **Common Blue, Ringlet & Small Skipper**. A nearby feral buddleia produced a **Peacock** along with three more Red Admirals and another Speckled Wood. 21 butterflies from 9 species by 7.45am seems quite good going to me. Later a visit to [Chilswell Valley](#) west of Oxford to do week 17 of the transect brought another 6 species and showed Gatekeepers and second brood Brown Argus were out in full force. The full return for the transect was Gatekeeper (79), **Small White** (27), **Brown Argus** (26), Small Skipper (23), Ringlet (12), **Peacock** (7), **Green-veined White** (5), Comma (3), Common Blue (3), Speckled Wood (3), **Brimstone** (2), **Large White** (2) & Red Admiral (2) plus two off-transect **Purple Hairstreaks**.

**23rd July - The "Beginners" Walk in Bernwood Forest and Meadows, Bucks** in mediocre weather conditions still produced 14 species - **Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Purple Hairstreak, Red Admiral, Peacock, Silver-washed Fritillary, Speckled Wood, Marbled White, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown & Ringlet.**"

**Peter Law reported the following:** "On **23rd July**, after much searching, I located just 1 **Grayling** at [Paices Wood Country Park](#) near Aldermaston, Berks. It was in the area behind the high vehicle car park, to the right of the track to the main car park. I searched the nearby [Decoy Heath BBOWT reserve](#) as well for this species, but without success, having also drawn a blank at both sites last Sunday 17th July. **Meadow Brown, Ringlet** and today (24th) **Gatekeeper** were flying in good numbers at both sites, despite the overcast conditions, so I have concluded that Grayling are not present in large numbers here. Other butterflies seen at Decoy Heath today were 1 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 1 **Marbled White**, 3 **Small Skipper** and various Whites. At Paices Wood I also came across a mating pair of **Common Blue** and 1 **Speckled Wood.**"

**At Homefield Wood, Bucks on 22nd July Chris Lamsdell saw:** Silver-washed Fritillary (9), **White-letter Hairstreak** (2), **Brown Argus** (2), **Peacock** and **Holly Blue**.

**Tony Speight reported the following:** "On the morning of **22nd July** while on [Sands Bank, High Wycombe, Bucks](#) I saw most of the usual suspects including **Small/Essex Skipper, Large Skipper, Common Blue, Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper** and **Speckled Wood** but also saw a second brood **Dingy Skipper**, the earliest I have seen them on the site."

**This report came from Brenda Mobbs:** "Mark Duckworth saw **Chalkhill Blues** at our UTB Reserve in [Holtspur Bottom, Bucks](#) on **15th July**. I then visited the site on Wednesday 20th July around 11.30am and Mark was also there. We both saw at least 4 males on that day and I went back again on the 22nd and there were at least 6 males."

**The return of the Chalkhill Blue to the Holtspur Valley is very exciting news. A group of UTB members have put in a lot of hard work over the years to help the re-establishment of the Chalkhill Blue at this site. Frank Banyard, in particular, has played a major role in restoring this area of chalk grassland and he is probably the last BC member who can recall seeing the last specimens of Chalkhill Blue there in the sixties. Frank commented that the team's efforts to re-establish the Horse-shoe Vetch food plants have been ongoing and that we now understand its requirements.**



**David Brown sent the following sightings:** "On *21st July* in my garden at *Stanton St John, Oxford (next to Stanton Gt. Wood)* I saw a **Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary (f. Valezina)** and a **Large Skipper**."

**David McBrien reported the following:** "I thought you might like to know that walking with friends on the edge of *Church Wood, Hedgerley, Bucks* on *Thurs 14th July* we saw two or possibly three **Purple Emperors** on and near the ground. They were all spotted from the path which runs just south of and adjacent to Church Wood with a large grassed field to the immediate south. We first saw one sitting on the bare earth of the path although it eventually flew over the nettles which fringed the wood and then disappeared into it. The other sightings were of the individuals flying, initially, from over the field. We saw two of them close enough to identify the eye-spots and, of course, for one of them to be photographed."

### Thursday 21st July 2011

**The following report from Keith Lugg came via Jim Asher:** "I saw a **Grayling** briefly at *Decoy Heath BBOWT reserve, nr Tadley, Berks* on the *6th July* at 3pm."

**Dave Turnbull went to Pitstone, Bucks on 19th July:** "I found the second brood **Small Blues** well under way. The larvae from the first brood are now well developed in the flower heads."

**Dave Ferguson sent this news on 20th July:** "In *Strawberry Wood, Black Park* yesterday (*19th July*) I had a brief view of a **Purple Emperor** flying around the top of an oak. Also seen were 5 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 4 **White Admirals**, 3 **Commas** and 2 **Holly Blues**."

**Michael McNeill spent an hour on 19th July at Lardon Chase in West Berkshire:** "The weather was cloudy, but with a few good bright spells. To my delight the area was alive with **Chalkhill Blues**. I counted over 200 in under an hour and then gave up the count, as I was then retracing my steps. Other varieties which attracted my attention were 25+ **Meadow Brown**, 6 **Gatekeeper**, 10 Whites, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 2 **Peacock**, 1 **Marbled White**, 1 **Red Admiral** and 1 **Holly Blue**. There were probably more of the latter, but I was concentrating on the Chalkhill Blues."

**Ched George sent the following on 19th July:** "At least 40 male **Chalkhill Blue** on *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* today. I had a great surprise at 5pm to find not one but two female **Silver-washed Fritillary** at the highest point in the clearing in Yoesden Wood, nectaring on marjoram."

**Peter Cuss went for a walk at Hosehill Lake, near Theale, Berks on 19th July:** "Despite not having the best weather, I managed to see the following: **Silver-washed Fritillary, Comma, Red Admiral, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Brown Argus, Holly Blue, Small White, Green-veined White, Small Skipper, Small Copper** and **Six-spot Burnet Moths** as well as lots of **Cinnabar caterpillars**."

**Malcolm Brownsword sent this report on 18th July:** "On *17th July*, whilst leading a party from Abingdon on a visit to *Homefield Wood, Bucks* I managed to dodge the rain and was rewarded with the sight of a **White-letter Hairstreak** - the only one I have seen this year. In mid-July in an average year I would have expected them to be in good condition, but this one was rather battered (see photo). I assume that like most species, it emerged early this year. A late emerger here this year is the **Gatekeeper**. We saw about 8, more than at the same site a few days earlier. Also seen were 10 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 3 **Small Skippers**, 10 **Large Skippers**, 5 **Large Whites**, 2 **Small Whites** and a single **Green-veined White**, 1 **Common Blue**, 1 **Peacock**, 2 **Speckled Woods**, **Meadow Brown** (10) and **Ringlets** (20+). This morning, (*18 July*) I saw my first **Gatekeeper** of the year for my garden, in *West*

*Hagbourne, Oxon."*

**Francis Gomme sent the following report on 18th July:** "We visited *Grangelands and Pulpit Hill, Bucks* on Friday afternoon (*16th July*) before the weather closed in. At least 20 **Chalkhill Blues** flying with **Common Blues** across the site and into the Rifle Range plus all good numbers of **Small** and **Large Skipper**, **Marbled White**, **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet**, **Small Heath**. **Large**, **Small** and **Green-veined Whites**, occasional **Brimstone**, 2 **Small Tortoiseshell** and 2 fresh **Small Coppers**. 2 **Commas** and at least 3 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** seen on our return across Grangelands."

**Chris Brown sent this update on 17th July:** "*11th July, Crowsley Wood, Oxon* SU 735 795, Mostly sunny some cloud with light breeze, 21°C - 25°C: **Large Skipper** 4, **Brimstone** 2, **Green-veined White** 1, **Red Admiral** 4, **Peacock** 1, **Comma** 2, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 6M 2U 1F, **Speckled Wood** 1, **Meadow Brown** 10, **Ringlet** 42.

*12th July, Peppard Golf Course, Oxon* SU 715 819: **Small Skipper** 10, **Green-veined White** 1, **Brown Argus** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Peacock** 1, **Comma** 1, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 1M, **Speckled Wood** 3, **Marbled White** 2, **Gatekeeper** 5, **Meadow Brown** 7, **Ringlet** 15.

*14th July, Crowsley Wood* SU 735 795, Mostly sunny some cloud with light breeze, 21-24°C: **Large Skipper** 3, **Brimstone** 2, **Green-veined White** 2, **Holly Blue** 1, **Red Admiral** 3, **Small Tortoiseshell** 2, **Peacock** 2, **Comma** 3, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 11M 2U 4F, **Speckled Wood** 1, **Gatekeeper** 2, **Meadow Brown** 15, **Ringlet** 37.

*15th July, Millennium Green, Berks* SU 713 794 **Small Skipper** 22, **Essex Skipper** 1, **Small White** 1, **Small Copper** 7, **Brown Argus** 2, **Common Blue** 1, **Small Tortoiseshell** 2, **Comma** 1, **Marbled White** 3, **Gatekeeper** 9, **Meadow Brown** 8. **Forester Moth** 1 (deceased)."

**Andy Hoskins reported these sightings on 17th July:** "*Friday 15th July*, 5.30pm to 6.15pm. *College Wood, Bucks*. Humid, sunny spells, 6 **Red Admirals** at various points along the main ride, 1 very bright looking **Peacock** at the low end of the main ride, 3 **Meadow Browns**, 1 **Green-veined White** and 3 **Small** and 2 **Large Skippers**. *Saturday 16th July*, 4.45pm to 6pm *Ashridge, Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks* windy, cool. Not much happening due to the October weather, but did see a **Dark-Green Fritillary** hunkered down in the undergrowth and a clutch of **Cinnabar Moth caterpillars**. *Sunday 17th July*, 11.30am -1.30pm, *Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon* North side, heavy showers sunny spells. Came to find Silver-spotted Skippers, but saw none, though saw 20+ **Small** and 3 **Large Skippers**. Also found 7 **Chalkhill Blues**, 2 **Gatekeepers**, 1 **Small Copper**, 6 **Small Heath**, 5-6 **Marbled Whites** and 5 **Meadow Browns**."

**Ben Hobbs sent the following:** "Just to confirm that the **White-letter Hairstreak** is being seen behind the Packsaddle pub on the 4074 just north of *Caversham*. We've seen up to 5 or 6 on the *15th July*."

**Buffy McClelland sent the following sightings on 17th July:** "We have two unusual butterfly sightings for our garden in *Bartholomew Road, Oxford* (1/2 acre garden with lots of trees, surrounded by allotments, 1/4 mile access lane with ancient hedge/trees): *Wednesday 29th June*: either Silver-washed Fritillary or Dark Green Fritillary (only got fleeting glimpse of upperside) and *Friday 1st July*: **White Admiral** - excellent view."

**Saturday 16th July 2011**

**John & Barbara Ward-Smith went on a group walk in Swinley Forest, Berkshire on 15th July:** "We had a male **Purple Emperor** at Bush Fields (Grid ref SU 888 645). It was initially put up from the damp soil beside the drainage ditch on the east side of the ride. It took to the wing and quickly lifted up to the canopy nearby and was then lost to view. I had two very clear views of the purple sheen on its wings as it climbed away. This is the first time

I have ever seen it in Swinley Forest. (This follows the sighting by Chris Gent of Purple Emperor near the Lower Star Post, Swinley Forest on 4 July). Today, we also had **Silver-washed Fritillary** on the ride near Rapley Lake."

**On Friday 15th July, Malcolm Brownsword saw 15 butterfly species at Homefield Wood, Bucks on his BBOWT transect:** "There were 5 **Large Skippers** (but surprisingly no Small Skippers), 2 **Brimstones**, 7 **Large Whites**, 3 **Small Whites**, 3 **Green-veined Whites**, 1 **Brown Argus**, 2 newly-emerged **Common Blues**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 2 **Peacocks**, 2 **Commas**, 12 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** (9 of which were seen on the main track), 4 **Marbled Whites**, 4 **Gatekeepers**, 20 **Meadow Browns** and 33 **Ringlets**. The Gatekeepers were the first I had seen anywhere this year. I have not seen any yet in my garden, normally a stronghold of this species."

**David Fuller sent the following update:** "In *Homefield Wood, Bucks on 15th July* I saw **Silver-washed Fritillary** 6 (4 males and 2 females), **Holly Blue** 2, **Brimstone** 5 males and 4 females, **Red Admiral** 1, **Green-veined White** 4, **Comma** 2, **Meadow Brown** 10, **Large White** 1, **Ringlet** 15, **Small Skipper** 1, **Large Skipper** 3, **Gatekeeper** 2 males, **Small White** 5. In my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks:* **Green-veined White** 2, **Gatekeeper** 1 male, **Peacock** 1 and **Brimstone** 1 male."

**Francis Gomme sent this news:** "During a circular walk on *Thursday 14th July* from the *Oakley Wood* car park (Bernwood, Bucks) out to the *Worminghall Road* and back we found **Commas**, **Ringlets**, **Meadow Browns**, **Speckled Woods**, **Large** and **Small Skippers**, **Marbled Whites**, **Large**, **Small** and **Green-veined Whites**, 11 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 10 **White Admirals**, 4 **Brimstones**, 4 **Red Admirals**, 2 fresh **Small Coppers** and 1 **Purple Emperor**. **Purple Hairstreaks** were seen frequently but none at eye level!"

**This report came from David Redhead:** "For the second time this year the Horse Chestnuts at the bottom of our garden in Littlemore, Oxon are swarming with the micro moth **Cameraria ohridella**. Hey come on guys - haven't they taken enough punishment already? These Horse Chestnuts have been home to this micro-moth for nearly a decade and seem to have suffered no long-term damage - as you can see they still produce the usual crop of conkers. However, the numbers of **Cameraria ohridella** seen this year seem to be much greater than in previous years and, according to the UK Moths website, another generation is still possible! Meanwhile, the nearby buddleia is proving very productive this year and at the time of taking the photographs (about 9:30am) was home to 5 **Red Admirals** and singletons of **Comma**, **Meadow Brown**, **Peacock** and **Small White**."

**Chris Lamsdell sent the following:** "*Aston Rowant (north), Oxon:* **Dark Green Fritillary** - 4, **Chalkhill Blue** - 3. *Bradenham, Bucks:* **Dark Green Fritillary** - 14, **Small Blue** -3 (newly emerged). Plus all the usual species."

**Richard Soulsby, Species Champion for the Silver-spotted Skipper, sent the following on 14th July:** "In the hope of finding an early Silver-spotted Skipper, I visited *Aston Rowant (North) NNR, Oxon* this afternoon in warm sunshine. In two hours of searching I found two **Silver-spotted Skipper**, both quite fresh, the first a male at the West end of the site found at 13:45, and the second a female at the East end at 15:00. Like so many other species this year, these are remarkably early and the female especially so as they normally emerge later than the males. The photos of the female (I didn't manage to get one of the male) are poor quality, but show the main i.d. marks on upper and underside of the wings. Just as well, because I also saw 5 **Large Skippers**, to confuse the eye. Also seen were two male **Chalkhill Blues** and three **Dark Green Fritillaries**, as well as lots of **Meadow Browns** and **Marbled Whites**, together with **Small Tortoiseshells**, **Large**, **Small** and **Green-veined Whites**, **Small** and **Essex Skippers**, **Brimstones**, **Small Heaths**, **Small Coppers** (7), **Ringlets** and a **Comma**. Then on to *Watlington Hill, Oxon* where half an hour revealed very



few butterflies on the main hill, but a **Red Admiral** and some repeats of the above species on the path through the woods from the car park.

***Please would anyone seeing Silver-spotted Skippers in Berks, Bucks or Oxon report them via this website!"***

***Andy Hoskins reported these sightings for last week:***

***"Ashridge, Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks Saturday 9th July, 10.00-11.30 am. windy, showers, sunny spells. Saw 3 Red Admirals basking on the path to the beacon from the carpark, along with 1 Large and 2 Small White and 3 Marbled White. On a path close to the beacon saw 1 Small Copper, pristine colour, basking on the path. I walked down to the corrie on the south side of the beacon to avoid the wind and drizzle and saw 1 Chalkhill Blue and, despite the gusting wind, 6 Dark Green Fritillary. I then called in at College Lake 11.45-12.30pm and saw 4 Small Skippers, close to the lake, and one very tatty Small Tortoiseshell on the upper path. Also visited Aston Clinton Ragpits 1-1.30pm and saw 30+ Marbled Whites in the far paddock.***

***Sunday 10th July. Attended the Purple Emperor meet at Bernwood Forest. Report as per Dennis Dell (below), delighted to see my first A. iris in the UK and 1st Essex Skipper and also saw a female Common Blue.***

***College Wood, Nash, Bucks Monday 11th July, 6-7pm Sunny & warm. 3 Red Admirals at the 2nd 'crossroads' on the central path, doing a lot of territorial chasing and very close tail chasing whilst gliding down from on high and also 1 White Admiral on the same section of the central path.***

***College Wood, Nash Tuesday 12th July, 6-7pm Sunny and warm. 2 Red Admirals on the 1st crossroads/clearing area on the main path. One of these also chased off a White Admiral on the same clump of blackberry flowers. Saw White Admiral again nectaring at the same spot a few minutes later, and another flew through the clearing at the same time.***

***College Wood, Nash Thursday 14th July 6-6.45pm, Sunny spells, warm. Saw 2 Small White, 1 Peacock, 1 Large White and 1 Red Admiral on the path running up to the wood's entrance, then a further 2 Red Admirals and a Small White at the first crossroads on the main path. Also saw 2-3 Purple Hairstreak at the top of an Oak further down the central path."***

***David Fuller sent these sightings on 14th July:*** "In a very short space of time I had 18 species in very warm but quite cloudy weather today:

***My garden in Maidenhead, Berks - Red Admiral.***

***Hurley Chalk Pit nr Maidenhead Berks: Gatekeeper 1 male, Speckled Wood 7, Large White 3, Marbled White 3, Essex Skipper 1, Meadow Brown 9, Small White 2, Common Blue 1, Green-veined White 2.***

***Maidenhead Thicket, Berks: Small Skipper 7, Peacock 1, Gatekeeper 2, Meadow Brown 8, Ringlet 7, Holly Blue 7, Comma 5, Silver-washed Fritillary 7 males, Small White 5, Large Skipper 1, Large White 1, Green-veined White 4, Brimstone male and female."***

***Paul Warham sent this report:*** "I came across this **White-letter Hairstreak** on the footpath near **Marlow Common, Bucks** on **14th July**. I couldn't see any Elm trees nearby but there was a massive Ash tree which I scanned and found 3 more White-letter Hairstreaks on. So I presume they had dispersed from an Elm somewhere in the vicinity. Continuing on to **Homefield Wood** I found a minimum of 2, and possibly 4, White-letter Hairstreak on the elm and brambles up from the SSSI."

***Emma Turnbull reported the following:*** "I regularly have **Silver-washed Fritillary** in my garden in **Windsor, Berks**. Recent sightings have included: **4th July** the first Silver-washed Fritillary flying round the garden and feeding on Buddleia; **6th July** my first *f. valezina*, interestingly feeding on Polemonium caeruleum before moving onto Verbena bonariensis."

***Adam Bassett reported this welcome garden sighting:*** "I thought I'd let you know about a

female **Silver-washed Fritillary** that was present in and around my garden in [Marlow Bottom, Bucks](#) most of Thursday morning ([14th July](#)) laying eggs - not something I have observed before here. It has been trying out most of the low lying vegetation in the borders (adjacent to wood) and also laying on the trunk of a beech about 2ft from the ground. There are lots of violets about, though the ones in the wood don't generally flower. Hopefully this will ensure we have more Silver-washed Fritillary sightings next year!

### Friday 15th July 2011

**Chris Lamsdell sent this update on 13th July:** "Another visit to [Bernwood, Bucks](#) for Purple Emperor was again unsuccessful but 10 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** were seen, along with four tatty **White Admirals** and a number of **Purple Hairstreaks** were coming down to bramble. During a visit to [Rushbed Woods, Bucks](#) afterwards two **Purple Emperors** came down, a male and female but neither alighted. Eight **Silver-washed Fritillaries** were seen including one *valesina*. On route home a quick visit to [Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks](#) where six **Dark Green Fritillaries** were seen, along with three male **Chalkhill Blues** and a **Brown Argus**."

#### **The following came from David Hastings:**

"On [July 9th](#) I joined the **Purple Emperor** field trip at [Bernwood Forest, Bucks](#). It was a good day, not for HIM (I only saw one), but for the **Silver-washed Fritillary** - I counted 14 of them. **Large Skippers** and **Ringlets** were abundant, with at least 50 of each seen. Also seen were **Purple Hairstreaks**, **Meadow Brown**, **Red Admiral**, **White Admiral**, **Essex Skipper**, **Marbled White**, **Green-veined White**, **Large White**, **Small Skipper**, **Comma** and **Peacock**. Later I visited [Bernwood Meadows](#), where there were dozens of **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets**, about 20 **Marbled Whites** and 10 **Green-veined Whites**. The highlight was a nice female **Silver-washed Fritillary**, as well as a male, which were both nectaring on bramble flowers. I also saw **Small Skipper**, **Comma**, **Large Skipper** and **Large White**."

"On [July 10th](#) I visited the [BBOWT Chimney Meadow reserve, Oxon](#). The number of **Meadow Browns** here was into three figures. There were lots of **Ringlets** as well. I counted about 15 **Gatekeepers**, 16 **Small Skippers**, 4 **Large Skippers**, 10 **Small Tortoiseshells**, 8 **Red Admirals**, 5 **Green-veined Whites**, 1 **Marbled White**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 1 **Common Blue**, 4 **Peacocks** and 2 **Large Whites**."

"On [July 11th](#) I visited [Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon](#) where I found one **Dark Green Fritillary** and three **Chalkhill Blues**. There was no sign of any Silver-spotted Skippers. Other species seen were **Red Admiral** (5), **Ringlet** (20+), **Peacock** (3), **Small Skipper** (50+), **Meadow Brown** (30+), **Marbled White** (20), **Large White** (10), **Small Heath** (15), **Large Skipper** (1), **Green-veined White** (4), **Small Copper** (2), **Gatekeeper** (2), **Brown Argus** (2), **Brimstone** (2), **Comma** (1), **Common Blue** (1), **Small White** (1) and **Small Tortoiseshell** (1)."

"Finally at [Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon](#): **Red Admiral** (1), **Ringlet** (15), **Small Skipper** (4), **Meadow Brown** (14), **Marbled White** (2), **Small Heath** (2), **Green-veined White** (4), **Small Copper** (1), **Gatekeeper** (7), **Brown Argus** (4), **Brimstone** (1), **Comma** (3), **Common Blue** (1) and **Small Tortoiseshell** (1)."

**Colin Williams reported the following:** "I visited [Asham Meads BBOWT NR, Oxon](#) for a few hours of butterfly photography in the afternoon on [Sunday 10th July](#). I managed to see 15 species: **Essex Skipper**, **Large Skipper**, **Large White**, **Small White**, **Green-veined White**, **Common Blue**, **Red Admiral**, **Painted Lady** (my first of the summer), **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock**, **Comma**, **Marbled White**, **Meadow Brown**, **Gatekeeper** and **Ringlet**. Also saw a single **Silver Y moth**. Most of the butterflies were swarming amongst the superb show of hay meadow flowers. On [Monday 11th July](#) I counted 80 freshly emerged **Small/Essex Skippers** in one section of the butterfly transect route at [Gomm Valley BBOWT NR, Bucks](#). Of those which I could examine closely, all were **Essex Skippers**."

**Chris Hazell visited Bradenham Butterfly Bank, Bucks on Sunday morning 11th July:**

"A two hour search between 9am-11am produced the following:- **Dark Green Fritillary** - 16+ possibly more including several mating pairs and at least two females egg laying. **Marbled White** - 100+, **Gatekeeper** 6, **Meadow Brown** 200+, **Small Copper** 2. In total 15 species seen."

**Monday 11th July 2011**

**Jonathan Crouch sent the following today:** "I thought you may be interested in a very early **Brown Hairstreak** seen along the butterfly walk at *Bernwood Forest (Shabbington Wood)*, *Bucks* this morning (*11th July*). I also saw this female **Purple Emperor** possibly egg laying?"

**Dennis Dell sent this summary of the Purple Emperor weekend in Bernwood (9th & 10th July):** "20 people turned up on both days, which was gratifying. The weather on Saturday was not good: showers, sometimes heavy, interspersed with sunny intervals. Only three, perhaps four, **Purple Emperors** were seen. At least two were females, in quite good condition. The better weather on Sunday, plenty of sunshine, no wind or rain, about 22 degrees, gave rise to a better result, but still nothing like the numbers seen at last year's event. Seven individuals were seen, of which five were males and two were females. Apart from one up in the trees in York's wood, all were seen on or around the main track running through Oakley and Shabbington Woods. Other species seen during the two days: **Purple Hairstreak** (including one interesting ab. with orange spots - photo to follow), **Silver-washed Fritillary**, **Meadow Brown**, **Speckled Wood**, **Large**, **Small** and **Essex Skippers**, **Large**, **Small** and **Green-veined Whites**, **Red Admiral**, **Marbled White**, **White Admiral**, **Gatekeeper**, **Comma**, **Brimstone**, **Brown Argus**, **Holly Blue**, **Peacock**, **Ringlet** [21 species]."

**David Redhead sent this news:** "Today (*11th July*) my butterfly day started at 8am when 5 **Red Admiral** and 2 **Comma** were to be found nectaring on our garden buddleias and a **Speckled Wood** was to be seen flying in the lane. A visit to *Brasenose Wood* near Oxford about 10.30 added **Gatekeeper**, **Green-veined White**, **Holly Blue**, **Large Skipper**, **Large White**, **Meadow Brown**, **Purple Hairstreak**, **Ringlet**, **Silver-washed Fritillary** & **Small Tortoiseshell** to my day list. Finally arriving at *Swyncombe Down* about midday brought my species count for the day to a very pleasing 23 with **Brimstone**, **Brown Argus**, **Chalkhill Blue**, **Dark Green Fritillary**, **Essex Skipper**, **Marbled White**, **Small Copper**, **Small Heath**, **Small Skipper** & **Small White**. Sadly a **White Admiral** and **Peacock** both seen yesterday afternoon, *10th*, at *Brasenose Wood* and a still awaited, in my case, second brood **Common Blue** eluded me."

**David Fuller reported these sightings today:** "At *Warburg Nature Reserve, Oxon* today, *11th July*: **Large White** 10, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 2 males, **Small White** 3, **Ringlet** 16, **Marbled White** 11, **Meadow Brown** 15, **Large Skipper** 2, **Green-veined White** 1. Both **White Admiral** and **Purple Emperor** have been seen by the warden in the last few days. Also, in my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* today: female **Holly Blue** 2nd brood, **Green-veined White** 1, **Small White** 2, **Large White** 1st this year in my garden, male and female **Gatekeeper** first this year for me, **Red Admiral**."

**This came from Ched George today:** "1 **Silver-washed Fritillary** at *Leygroves Wood, Bucks* today, *11th July*. I was surprised to see a worn **Painted Lady** too."

**Dave Ferguson reported the following:** On *9th July* at *Strawberry Wood, Black Park* I saw 9 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 4 **White Admirals**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 1 **Holly Blue** and 1 **Purple Hairstreak**. On *10th July* at *Bradenham, Bucks* I saw 8 **Dark Green Fritillaries**, 3 **Small Tortoiseshells**, 1 **Red Admiral** and 1 **Holly Blue**."



**Chris Brown sent this update:** "1st July, *Crowsley Wood, Oxon* SU 735 795 mostly cloudy with strong breeze, 18°C - 21°C : **Large Skipper** 3, **Brimstone** 1, **Small White** 1, **Green-veined White** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Comma** 4, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 4M, 1U, **Speckled Wood** 2, **Meadow Brown** 9, **Ringlet** 81.

**2nd July, Millennium Green, Berks**, SU 713 794 : **Small Skipper** 141, **Essex Skipper** 1, **Large Skipper** 1, **Small Copper** 10, **Brown Argus** 2, **Small Tortoiseshell** 2, **Comma** 1, **Marbled White** 71, **Meadow Brown** 12, **Ringlet** 4, **Forester Moth** 33.

**5th July, Millennium Green** : **Small Skipper** 47, **Essex Skipper** 1, **Large Skipper** 1, **Large White** 1, **Small Copper** 7, **Small Tortoiseshell** 2, **Marbled White** 61, **Meadow Brown** 12, **Ringlet** 1, **Forester Moth** 34.

**8th July, Crowsley Wood**, Cloudy with light breeze, 17°C. **Red Admiral** 1, **Comma** 1, **Ringlet** 4.

**10th July, Millennium Green** : **Small Skipper** 49, **Large Skipper** 1, **Small White** 1, **Small Copper** 8, **Red Admiral** 1, **Small Tortoiseshell** 3, **Comma** 1, **Marbled White** 21, **Gatekeeper** 3, **Meadow Brown** 14, **Ringlet** 3, **Forester Moth** 10."

**Peter Law sent this report:** "On **9th July**, for a third Saturday afternoon running I walked the *South Oxon Downs* above Blewbury. Today it was a long one around the west side of Churn Hill, over to and around Lowbury Hill and back via the Ridgeway and east side of Churn Hill. **Marbled White**, **Meadow Brown** and **Ringlet** were still in abundance everywhere. There was a cluster of 8 **Gatekeeper** at SU526824. **Small Heath** were mostly seen at one spot on the west side of Churn Hill, and above Aston Upton Downs. I located 2 more **Essex Skipper** at SU524825 and 526824, and 5 **Small Skipper**. **Small Tortoiseshell** were on the increase with 25-30 flying all around this walk; also 5 **Red Admiral** and 1 **Comma**. I would say **Large White** had doubled in density since last weekend, with one newly emerged individual encountered today, but **Small White** seemed past the peak of a week ago. Most notably, **Green-veined White** had tripled in density, with 21 fairly evenly distributed around today's walk. I have also seen several of this last-named species around Oxford in the last week, including a first ever record in my own garden at Garsington.

On **10th July**, after the Bernwood Forest field trip I went on to *Aston Rowant NNR (N), Oxon*. On the slope above the M40 I found 3 **Chalkhill Blue**, a mating pair of **Dark Green Fritillary**, 6 **Small Copper**, lots of brown **Skippers** that were too flighty to tell apart, and as a bonus sighting **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** in 4 locations. All the other butterflies listed yesterday were here too, except for **Gatekeeper**."

### Saturday 9th July 2011

**Will Atkinson reported the following on 9th July:** "This is my first posting to this site stimulated by seeing 13 or possibly 14 species during a half hour walk at *Aston Upton Down, Oxon*. The highlight was a couple of pristine **Brown Argus**, second brood I guess. The rest in descending order of abundance were **Meadow Brown**, **Marbled White**, **Ringlet**, **Small Heath**, **Comma**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Brimstone** (a couple of very fresh males), **Red Admiral**, **Peacock**, **Large White**, **Green-veined White**, **Small/Essex Skipper** and a Blue glimpsed too far off to identify."

**Steve Croxford sent this report today:** "This afternoon, **Saturday 9th**, I had a walk around *Aston Rowant nature reserve, Oxon*. There was a good variety of butterflies on offer, most were sheltering at the bottom of the slope getting out of the stiff breeze. The highlight was a **Dark Green Fritillary** found searching the undergrowth for violets to lay eggs upon. There were also fresh **Chalkhill Blues** as well as new second generation **Brown Argus** and **Common Blue**. Other butterflies seen included **Marbled Whites**, **Ringlets**, **Meadow Brown**, **Small Heath**, **Speckled Wood**, **Comma**, **Peacock**, **Red Admiral**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Brimstone**, **Large White**, **Small White**, **Large Skipper** and **Small Skipper**. There was also a **Hummingbird Hawk moth** busy nectaring. A respectable 18 butterfly species seen in under an hour."

**Nigel Cleere sent these sightings from this morning (9th July):** "Despite less than ideal conditions on the drive up, by the time I got to [Seven Barrows](#) BBOWT reserve in Berks, the sun was out and it became rather warm despite the strong breeze. Butterflies were extremely active and I noted the following:- **Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper (1), Small Tortoiseshell, Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Essex Skipper** (at least 3 but probably more), **Small Heath, Large White, Marbled White** (very common), **Small Blue** (1 rather tatty female), **Chalkhill Blue (5)** and **Dark Green Fritillary (2)**."

**May Webber reported the following today:** I saw this **Silver-washed Fritillary** nectaring on the Marjoram today ([9th July](#)) in my garden, near [Witney, Oxon](#). I also watched it lay an egg amongst some dead roots of bamboo!"

### Friday 8th July 2011

**Francis Gomme sent these sightings on 7th July:** "On [Wednesday 6th July](#) I visited [Sydlings Copse, Oxon](#) and found numerous **Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Large Whites, Small Heaths** and **Speckled Wood** in the flower rich set-aside alongside the track to the reserve, plus several **Red Admiral** and **Small Tortoiseshell**. On the limestone grassland inside the reserve were **Marbled Whites, Small and Large Skippers, Gatekeepers, Holly Blues** and **Small Coppers**.

At [Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon](#) were several more **Red Admirals** and **Small Tortoiseshells**. Later at [Aston Rowant, Oxon](#) I found **Dark Green Fritillaries** at three separate locations, struggling to stay aloft in a fairly fierce wind!

Today ([7th July](#)) on a guided walk around [Horsenden and Saunderton, Bucks](#) **Small Tortoiseshells** were frequently seen, some very faded and others quite fresh, plus **Red Admirals** and **Holly Blues**."

**This report came from David Fuller on 7th July:** "A friend of mine wanted so see Silver-washed Fritillary as he had not seen them before. He's a birder and not a butterfly man and today was his only opportunity so grey skies, drizzle with an odd shaft of sunlight we went back to [Ashley Hill, Berks](#) and I was keen to see if I could find any females as last time it was 8 males. At first not a single flying insect but after 5 minutes it warmed up with the following results: **Silver-washed Fritillary** male 3 female 2, **White Admiral** 1, **Red Admiral** 2 mint condition, **Meadow Brown** 20, **Ringlets** everywhere certainly 30 plus, **Large Skipper** 4, **Small White** 4, **Green-veined White** 1. Considering the weather a good count!"

**Thanks to Richard Noble for sending this White Admiral Field Meeting report: "July 2nd 2011 - Paices Wood, Berkshire.** The annual butterfly walk through this beautiful wood took place in warm sunshine with the occasional small cloud. The star of the day was without doubt the **Silver-washed Fritillary** who displayed for us throughout the walk. Numerous individuals were seen showing off their glorious flight patterns. The **White Admiral** was, on the other hand, most elusive this year with only 3 fleeting sightings, none of which were close enough to allow photographs. Other butterflies sighted: **Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Large Skippers, Large Whites, Green-veined White (1), Red Admiral (1), Small Tortoiseshell (1), Purple Hairstreak (1)**. Overall a very enjoyable walk in beautiful scenery with very pleasant company."

**Nick Bowles sent the following on 5th July:** "On Sunday ([3rd July](#)) - which turned out a lot less sunny than I expected - I visited [Coombe Hill, Bucks](#) and saw one **Dark Green Fritillary** on transect at 9.40am before the sun vanished. At [Aston Clinton Ragpits, Bucks](#) I saw no Fritillaries at all. In [Wendover Woods, Bucks](#) I saw a possible and a definite **Silver-washed Fritillary**. Today, [5th July](#), I went to [Aston Hill](#) and found one **Silver-washed Fritillary**."

**Nigel Cleere sent this news on 3rd July:** "Visits to the tiny [Watt's Bank](#) B.B.O.W.T. reserve near Lambourn, Berks during [1st-3rd July](#) produced the following:- **Large White, Small**

White, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Large Skipper, Red Admiral, Comma, Common Blue, Brimstone and Dark Green Fritillary (2). Also of note, one Hummingbird Hawkmoth."

**Nick Board sent the following news:** "I thought you might like this photo of a friendly Purple Emperor I met on *2nd July* in a private wood in *North Bucks*."

### Tuesday 5th July 2011

**Chris Lamsdell sent these sightings on 5th July:** "*Black Park, Bucks:* Silver-washed Fritillaries - 7, no White Admiral or Purple Emperor seen, Purple Hairstreak - 1. *Church Wood, Hedgerley, Bucks:* Silver-washed Fritillaries - 2, Purple Hairstreak - 1 Holly Blue -2.

*Iver Village, Bucks:* Holly Blue - 5, plus 1 in garden at home."

**On a survey for the bird atlas this morning (5th July) Dave Ferguson says he encountered 2 Silver-washed Fritillaries** in *Andrew Hill Wood*, Hedgerley, Bucks.

**Dave Miller sent this news:** "I went to *Bernwood, Bucks* this morning (*4th July*), parking at the Meadow entrance and walking through to the woods. The meadows were bright with colour and full of **Marbled Whites, Ringlets** and **Meadow Browns**. I watched a **Purple Hairstreak** fly out in a big circle over the meadow between two oaks, but saw none low down. At the car park in the woods, I encountered several folk all looking for **Purple Emperor** - indeed, one had been photographed down in the car park earlier. This individual made further passes down amongst us, but didn't settle again. The oaks held numerous Purple Hairstreaks, but they didn't venture down either - save one, which I managed to spook almost immediately. **Silver-washed Fritillary** and **White Admiral** were in evidence, but not in great numbers and not interested in nectaring on the brambles. A couple of us (the names have gone!) set off down the main path, really in search of more hairstreaks, and on the point of giving up we were surprised by a large butterfly pretty well falling out of a small oak. It regained its composure and its perch in the tree, about two metres up. It was a **female Purple Emperor**. This understandably made our day completely! On to *Aston Rowant, Oxon* (north side of the M40). I was greeted here by at least four **Dark Green Fritillaries** (one definite female), and plenty of **Marbled Whites**. Also noted were six or so **Small Tortoiseshells**, several **Red Admirals**, **Small Heaths**, **Meadow Browns**, **Small** and **Large Skippers** and two **Painted Ladies** heading rapidly NE along the line of the hills. Finally, I found one new male **Chalkhill Blue**. While taking its portrait, I was buzzed by a **Hummingbird Hawk Moth**. A welcome distraction!"

**This report came from Peter Cuss:** "On *3rd July* I thought I would check to see if the **White-letter Hairstreak** colony I found last year (behind the Pack Saddle pub on the A4074 near *Caversham, Berks*) was still there and happily I saw two flying around the top of the elm tree."

**Colin Williams reported the following on 4th July:** "Some recent butterfly news from BBOWT reserves: A single **Wood White** was seen on *4th & 25th June* at *Little Linford Wood, Bucks*. The sightings are confirmed and were supported by photos (*see below*). I think this is the first record of the species on the reserve since 2008, unless I am corrected otherwise. *Broadmoor Bottom, Berks* (adjacent to Wildmoor Heath): **Silver-studded Blues** are doing very well with up to 23 recorded in recent days. Clearance work adjacent to their core area appears to be doing the trick. The photo below was taken on *3rd July*. *Wildmoor Heath, Berks:* **Silver-studded Blues** seen again this year after the first records last year."



**Tim Hearn & Anna Devereux Baker visited Bernwood Forest, Bucks on Saturday 2nd July:** "We saw 1 **Purple Emperor** female, 4 **White Admiral**, 12 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 150+ **Ringlet**, 50+ **Meadow Brown**, 30+ **Large Skipper**, 50+ **Marbled White**, 9 **Purple Hairstreak** and a single **Gatekeeper**.

**Wendover Woods, Sunday 3rd July:** 6 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 3 **Speckled Wood**, 30+ **Ringlet**, 20+ **Meadow Brown**, 9 **Marbled White**, 1 **Dark Green Fritillary**."

**Chris Lamsdell reported the following on 4th July:** "Another visit to *Bernwood Forest* for **Purple Emperor** did produce one male but despite flying low over the path and nearly alighting, it did not and flew back into the canopy. Around 11 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** were seen, all fly-through, along with 2 **White Admirals** and up to 5 **Purple Hairstreaks** (without spending all the time getting neck ache looking at the top of Oaks!). Afterwards a visit to *Sydllings Copse, Oxon* another BBOWT reserve that has or had **Dark Green Fritillary** failed to produce any, though stopping off at *Bradenham, Bucks* on the way back produced a single **Dark Green Fritillary**, plus a couple of **Small Blues** and a few **Gatekeepers**, plus a newly emerged **Marbled White** was seen, along with a few older ones."

**David Fuller reports seeing** a mint condition second brood male **Holly Blue** in his garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* on *4th July*.

**Francis Gomme visited Grangelands, Bucks on Monday afternoon, 4th July:** "I found good numbers of **Marbled White**, **Ringlet**, **Meadow Brown**, **Hedge Brown**, **Large & Small Skipper**, **Large White** and **Speckled Wood**. A few faded **Common Blues**, **Brimstone**, fresh **Small Coppers**, 3 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 2 **Comma** and 2 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**."

**This report came from Malcolm Brownsword:** "This morning (*Monday 4 July*), on my BBOWT transect at *Homefield Wood*, I saw a total of 12 species: 4 **Small Skippers**, 6 **Large Skippers**, 4 **Brimstones**, 6 **Large Whites**, 3 **Small Whites**, 2 **Common Blues**, 5 **Red Admirals**, 3 **Commas**, a total of 15 **Silver-washed Fritillaries** (5 off transect), 26 **Marbled Whites**, 21 **Meadow Browns** and 118 **Ringlets**."

**Taking advantage of the first really sunny day in over a week, Michael McNeill visited Moor Corpse in West Berkshire on 4th July to see what a two hour search (10.30am – 12.30pm) would reveal:** "I recorded the following:- countless numbers of **Ringlet**, **Large Skipper** and **Meadow Brown**, 30+ **Marbled White**, 16 **Silver-Washed Fritillary**, 8 **Small Copper**, 10 **Large White**, 8 **Green-Veined White**, 2 **Comma**, 2 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Red Admiral**, but not a single **Blue** of any sort."

**David Hastings reported these sightings:** "There were large numbers of **Marbled Whites**, **Ringlets** and **Meadow Browns** (probably more than 100 of each) at *Whitecross Green Wood* on *2nd July*. **Large Skippers** were also well represented, with at least 40 recorded. Other species seen were **Silver-washed Fritillary** (5), **Green-veined White** (3), **Large White** (2), **White Admiral** (2), **Small Tortoiseshell** (2) and **Comma** (1). At *Bernwood Forest* on the 2nd there were also lots of **Marbled Whites**, **Ringlets** and **Large Skippers**, but hardly any **Meadow Browns**. I also saw five **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, five **Green-veined Whites**, two **Purple Hairstreaks**, two **White Admirals**, two **Small Skippers** and a probable **Purple Emperor** (but it was high in the trees so was not positively identified). At *Otmoor* on the 2nd **Ringlets** and **Meadow Browns** were seen in good numbers (but there were hardly any **Marbled Whites**). **Large Skipper** and **Green-veined White** numbers were in double figures. Also four **Small Tortoiseshells**, two **Commas** and a **Small White**.

On *3rd July* I visited *Parsonage Moor and Cothill Fen, Oxon* where I recorded **Green-veined White** (10+), **Ringlet** (6), **Meadow Brown** (10), **Marbled White** (2), **Small White** (2), **Brown Argus** (1), **Red Admiral** (1) and **Small Tortoiseshell** (1). On the moth side I saw about ten **Scarlet Tigers**. Also on 3rd July I saw the first second-generation **Holly Blue** in my garden in *Abingdon, Oxon*. That's a week earlier than in 2010."

**Ched George sent the following:** "Saturday *July 2nd* - 15 **Dark Green Fritillary** at *Bradenham* butterfly bank, Bucks, but none at *Small Dean Lane* or *Park Wood* (bank) Bradenham. 1 male **Silver-washed Fritillary** inside Park Wood Bradenham."

### Monday 4th July 2011

**Richard Harrington (Herts and Middx Branch) sent this report on 3rd July:** "Just back from a walk at *Ashridge/Pitstone, Bucks*. Along with loads of **Dark Green Fritillaries**, **Marbled Whites**, **Ringlets**, **Meadow Browns**, **Small Heaths**, **Large Skippers** and **Speckled Woods**, I saw a single **Clouded Yellow** going like the clappers over Pitstone Hill at 949142, only a couple of hundred yards from the Herts border. First I've seen round here for a few years."

**Robin Dryden reported the following:** On *Friday 1st July*, I visited the BBOWT reserve at *Broadmoor Bottom, Berks* and had a very successful search for **Silver-studded Blues**. I saw at least 12 including two mating pairs and a third female. Condition ranged from fairly tatty to pristine. These were at the top end of the cattle enclosure. On *Saturday 2nd July*, I led a walk at a private Chilterns site, *north of Woodcote*. Conditions were very good for butterflies and the species recorded were: **Meadow Brown** (too numerous to count), **Ringlet** (60+), **Marbled White** (30+), **Small Heath** (16), **Large Skipper** (8), **Small Skipper** (40+), a very tatty **Common Blue** and the highlight was **Dark Green Fritillary** (3)."

**Rob Hill sent another update from Little Linford Wood, Bucks on 3rd July:** "1 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 3 **White Admiral**, 5+ **Purple Hairstreak**, 70+ **Ringlet** (looks like another excellent year for this species at this site), 2 **Peacock**, 2 **Comma**, 5 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 9 **Large Skipper**, 3 **Small Skipper**, plus **Meadow Brown** and **Large, Small and Green-veined White**. One of my most productive visits to this site, but I still haven't managed to see the White-letter Hairstreaks here!"

**Peter Law sent this update:** "On *2nd July* I took a circular walk around *Lollington Hill*, near Cholsey, Oxon (SU570850). There are some good hedges and wild flower-rich field edges here, which yielded 10 species. The highlight was 4 lovely fresh **Gatekeeper**, my year's first sighting of this butterfly. Also: **Large White** (5), **Small White** (13), **Green-veined White** (1), **Brimstone** (1), **Small Tortoiseshell** (2), **Marbled White** (7), **Meadow Brown** (18), **Ringlet** (12), **Speckled Wood** (1), but no skippers. Then I re-visited nearby *Churn Hill*, where the most interesting development from a week ago was good numbers of **Green-veined White** amongst the many whites and browns flying along the track to Upper Chance Farm (SU 525843). I identified 6 perched individuals, but I suspect there were more at this spot which is just teeming with butterflies. **Small White** had increased 5-fold around Churn Hill since last weekend, as had **Ringlet**. Also seen were **Small Tortoiseshell** (10+), **Marbled White** (22) and 4 each of **Large** and **Small Skipper**. There were no blues today but I found another **Essex Skipper** at Churn Farm (SU513837).

On *3rd July* I made a late morning visit to *Piddington Wood* to look for White-letter Hairstreak. I located 3 hairstreaks flying above a large Ash on the woodland edge near the bottom of the first meadow from the lay-by. In lightly overcast conditions it took around 90 minutes to positively identify one of these as **White-letter Hairstreak** - oh my aching neck!"

**Steve Croxford visited Yoesden Bank, Bucks on Saturday afternoon, 2nd July:** "I saw my first couple of **Chalkhill Blues**, both were males. Photographing them was tricky as they were so active looking for females. Eventually I did manage to catch up with them, a couple of shots are below. Also seen flying were **Marbled White**, **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet**, **Small Skipper**, **Small Heath**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Red Admiral**. Earlier in the day in *Rushbeds Wood, Bucks* I had 15 sightings of **Purple Emperors** along the main ride in just under 3 hours."

**Mike Collard reported the following:** "Whilst twitching a Common Redstart in [Rowsham, Bucks](#) this morning, [2nd July](#), Rose and I located a **Purple Hairstreak**. It was feeding on the floor near a small puddle. I checked id with Dave Ferguson in the field, as I have only seen them high up before. There was an Oak nearby."

**Chris Hazell sent the following:** "I went to [Oakley Wood](#), part of the Bernwood complex in Bucks this morning, [2nd July](#). I arrived at 10am and over the next 3 hours my sightings were as follows:- **Purple Emperor** - 4 males, (2 feeding on the ground in the car park and another 2 further south along the main ride), **Silver-Washed Fritillary** - 30+, **White Admiral** - 12, **Purple Hairstreak** - 50+, **Marbled White** - 30+ and **Ringlet** - 100's (all over the place)."

**Chris Lamsdell visited Black Park, Bucks on 2nd July and saw:** **Silver-washed Fritillary** 10+, **White Admiral** 6+, **Purple Emperor** 2m and 1f and **Holly Blue** 2.

**Jon Mercer from Wilts Branch sent the following:** "A few butterflies on a (mainly birding) walk at [Otmoor RSPB, Oxon](#) on Friday [1st July](#) - **Large Skipper** 3, **Marbled White** 2, **Green-veined White** 1, **Ringlet** 30+, **Meadow Brown** 20+, **Peacock** 1, **Small Tortoiseshell** 2."

### Saturday 2nd July 2011

**Dave Miller spent the morning of 1st July at Black Park, Bucks:** "In the Strawberry Wood area, there were reasonable numbers of **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, **White Admirals**, **Commas**, **Ringlets** and the ubiquitous and abundant **Large Skippers**. I failed in my quest to see a Purple Emperor here, but I spoke to a chap who said he had seen both a male and a female on the ground in different spots during the morning. Both of us had also hoped to see early morning Purple Hairstreaks down at eye level, but here we both were unsuccessful. Sadly, most of the White Admirals were damaged or worn in some way - how do the Silver-washed Fritillary, with whom they share habitat and habits, manage to stay looking so neat and tidy in comparison? One White Admiral spent most of the time skulking in the undergrowth, and settling briefly on honeysuckle vines - could this have been a female checking out spots to lay? In all, I saw at least 10 White Admirals, 12 or more Silver-washed Fritillary, 20+ Ringlets, 7 Commas, 5 **Meadow Browns**, 4 **Green-veined Whites**, 3 **Red Admirals**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 1 **Speckled Wood**, 1 **Holly Blue** and too many Large Skippers to count. Outside the Strawberry wood area, all I encountered were a handful of Ringlets and Skippers, and one lost-looking White Admiral."

**Ched George sent this report on 1st July:** "I visited the [Holts spur Nature reserves](#) in Bucks today, [1st July](#), hoping to see Dark Green Fritillary. No luck on either reserve: Holts spur Bottom, 11am to 11.45pm. Not much sun but saw at least 12 **Marbled White**, 1 **Green-veined White**, 1 **Small White**, 2 **Small Tortoiseshell** (one fresh and one old), 2 fresh **Brown Argus**. There were a few **Small/Essex Skippers** as well as **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets**. I did not see any **Narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnet moths**, but there just over 1000 **hatched cocoons** on the fence-line above the gate to the top between the 2 fields. Also saw 1 **Hummingbird Hawkmoth**. 1 Meadow Brown carried a scale defect such that a hindwing looked white. Sorry, no photo. On the LNR I saw 1 **Large Skipper** as well as **Ringlets** and **Meadow Browns**, but no Gatekeepers. 11.55 - 1PM. Not much sun. I moved on to spend 30 mins at the [Gomm valley](#). In contrast to Holts spur there were dozens of **Small Skippers** and **Essex Skippers**. Most nectar-bearing flowers had skippers present. Also 1 male **Brimstone** as well as **Meadow Browns**, **Marbled Whites** and **Ringlets**. Again no Dark Green Fritillary. An Essex skipper may have been a variety. Photo included, along with Small/Essex Skippers on Knapweed."

**Andy Hoskins says he's been visiting Finemere, Bucks recently in the hope of seeing Purple Emperor:** "I went a few times but didn't see Purple Emperor!"



*Wednesday 29th June* 6pm-8pm, cool and sunny spells. Pretty quiet, saw nothing on the main ride. One **Marbled White** in the central meadow, 1 **Green-Veined white** beyond the Meadow, around 10 **Ringlets** and 5 **Meadow Brown** on the eastern permissive walk.

*Thursday 30th* 6-7.30pm, warm and sunny. Stayed on the main ride, saw 2 **Commas**, 1 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 3 pairs of **Purple Hairstreaks** dancing around the tree tops, 4 **Ringlets** and 3 **Large Skippers**.

*Friday 1st July* 7.10am-8.10am, cool and sunny. On the main ride again, saw only 1 **Large Skipper** and 2 **Ringlets**, and then 1 **Small Tortoiseshell** on the gravel path leading up to the woods.

*Friday 1st July* 6pm-7pm, warm and sunny spells. Saw 1 **White Admiral**, 3 **Large Skippers**, 1 **Comma**, **Purple Hairstreaks** were very active in the tree tops, saw 6-7 pairs. This was all on the main ride, and also saw 3-4 more Purple Hairstreaks and approximately 15 **Ringlets** on the eastern path."

*David Fuller reported the following on 1st July:* "Yesterday *30th June* at *Coldharbour, nr Hungerford, Berks* I saw **Marbled White** 21 and **Meadow Brown** 20+. Then at *Coombe Gibbet nr Hungerford*: **Small Tortoiseshell** 3, **Large Skipper** 3, **Meadow Brown** 30 and **Marbled White** 10."

*Jeremy Soane from Staines sent the following:* "Today, *1st July*, I explored the ancient woodland adjacent to *Cranbourne Gate* car park in Windsor Great Park, Berks (I believe it is sometimes called Lodge Wood). The areas of grass, bracken and bramble had good numbers of **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets** (at least 20+ of each), while in addition I saw several **Large Skippers**, 2 **Commas**, 2 **Small Whites** and a **Purple Hairstreak** on an oak. This is a superb ancient oak woodland, perhaps underwhelming in terms of butterfly diversity, but almost certainly excellent for moths, and I have seen both roe and muntjac deer here. I also heard a mewling buzzard."

#### Thursday 30th June 2011

*Dave Ferguson visited Strawberry Wood, Black Park this morning, 30th June:* "It produced 6 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 5 **White Admirals** and a **Purple Hairstreak**."

*Nigel Cleere sent this news today:* "During a visit to *Bowdown Wood B.B.O.W.T. reserve, Berks* this morning (*30th June*), I recorded the following:- **Green-veined White** (2), **Small White**, **Speckled Wood**, **Red Admiral** (1), **Painted Lady** (1), **Comma** (4), **Ringlet** (100+), **Meadow Brown**, **Large Skipper**, **Silver-washed Fritillary** (5), **Purple Hairstreak** (1) and **Purple Emperor** (male and female). Also seen were 2 **Hummingbird Hawkmoths**."

*Peter Law sent the following today:* "When I checked this log on 28 June there had been only 1 sighting of **Purple Emperor** from the *Bernwood Forest* area, so I thought it worth mentioning that 2 were reported there on the Oxford bird log on *26 June*. I myself have gone after June sightings of purple butterflies in these woods on each of the last three days.

*Tuesday 28th* (from 3pm) remained very overcast, and I only saw the usual browns and a few skippers. On *Wednesday 29th* (from 4pm) there was a probable Purple Emperor flying high around some Oaks just past the crossroad on the track towards the M40. The same tree contained 2 **Purple Hairstreak** and shortly afterwards I located 6 more battling above another nearby Oak and neighbouring Ash. Also seen that day were 3 **Silver-washed Fritillary** and 1 **White Admiral**. Today, a light workload allowed me an early start from 9am. Walking the main track from the Forestry Commission car park to near the motorway, I was rewarded with 8 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 3 **White Admiral**, 2 **Red Admiral**, 1 **Comma**, 2 more **Purple Hairstreak** in a different location to yesterday, but no Purple Emperors. The most numerous butterfly in the woods at present is **Ringlet**. Other butterflies seen but not counted were **Small White**, **Marbled White**, **Speckled Wood**, **Meadow Brown** and lots of **Large** and **Small Skippers**."

**Chris Lamsdell sent the following sightings for 29th June:** "*Finemere Wood, Bucks:* **Purple Emperor** 3, **White Admiral** 2 and **Silver-washed Fritillary** 3. I put up one of the Purple Emperors a few inches from my foot and it disappeared some distance but eventually came back and whilst down two others came down briefly on the re-laid track with exposed wet clay. **Green-veined White** also seen at Finemere. At *Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks* I recorded **Dark Green Fritillary** 3 and at *Black Park, Bucks* **White Admiral** 3 and **Silver-washed Fritillary** 3."

**Rob Hill sent these sightings:** "A trip to *Little Linford Wood, Bucks* on *26th June* turned up 1 **White Admiral**, 3 **Red Admiral**, 4 **Comma**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 20 + **Ringlet**, plus **Meadow Brown** and **Large** and **Small Skipper**."

**Andy Hoskins made his first trip to Piddington Wood, Oxon on the afternoon of Saturday 25th June at 4.15pm:** "I went primarily to see White-Letter Hairstreak, but to no avail. It was still cool, overcast and breezy and I saw nothing in the woods, though in the meadow before the woods I saw a **Marbled White**, dozens of **Ringlets**, 10 or so **Meadow Browns** and around 15 **Large Skippers**. On the way home the sun came out so I stopped at *Finemere Wood, Bucks* at around 6.15pm and saw, at the bottom end of the main path, a **Silver-Washed Fritillary**, a number of **Large Skippers** and 5 **White Admirals**, all feeding at the same time on the blackberry flowers. In the central meadow I counted 4 **Marbled Whites** and many **Ringlets**. I was also very pleased to see a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** flitting between the honeysuckle flowers on the eastern permissive path, but it was too quick to photograph. On Sunday morning, *26th June* at 11.30am I visited *Finemere* again as it was very hot and sunny. Saw 10-12 **Small Tortoiseshells** on the path before the wood, then on the main path saw 2 **Silver-washed Fritillary**. Met a chap who had come out specifically to see his first **Black Hairstreak** and as we were talking one dropped onto the blackberry flowers in front of us. A few other butterfly hunters stopped and chatted and as we were talking I spotted a **Wood White** fly down the middle of the path, just popping over our heads and on. We all gave chase but it lost us at the bottom end of the main path. We all saw several more Silver-washed, plenty of **Ringlets**, **Meadow Browns** and **Large skippers**." *[As there is no known colony of Wood White in Finemere at present Andy's sighting is most probably an individual which has been released locally. Wendy]*

**Nigel Cleere sent the following report:** "This morning (*27th June*) I found my first **Purple Emperor** of the year in *Bowdown Wood B.B.O.W.T reserve* in west Berks. It was a fresh male which repeatedly alighted on the ground allowing a very close approach. Also present in the same area were 1 **Purple Hairstreak**, 5 **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, 1 **White Admiral** and numerous **Ringlets**, **Meadow Browns** and **Large Skippers**. Fresh **Commas**, **Red Admirals** and **Brimstones** have been sighted in west Berks over the weekend."

**Danny Howard reported the following:** "A walk in *Bernwood Forest* and meadows today (*Sunday 26th June*) was very productive with the following species seen: 2 **Purple Emperors** (1 in the car park drinking from the ground and one flying around the top of a large oak at the edge of the meadow), 1 fleeting **White Admiral**, several **Silver-washed Fritillaries** patrolling the glades, plenty of **Large Skippers**, numerous **Marbled Whites** and **Ringlets**, a couple of **Gatekeepers** and one each of **Red Admiral**, **Comma**, **Large White** and **Speckled Wood**. In the car on the way home I also saw a **Scarlet Tiger moth** - my first of the year."

**Monday 27th June 2011**

**Chris Lamsdell visited Bernwood (Bucks) today, 27th June:** "I saw 9 **Silver-washed Fritillary**, 1 **White Admiral**, 1 **Purple Emperor** female. At *Chinnor Hill, Bucks* there were no **Dark Green Fritillary** seen, but at *Bradenham, Bucks* there were 2 **Dark Green Fritillary**, **Small Blue** - 10+ and **Small Skipper** - 5."

**David Hastings sent this news today:** "At a very warm *Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon* yesterday morning (*26th June*) I recorded good numbers of **Ringlet**, **Marbled White**, **Small Heath**, **Green-veined White** and **Meadow Brown**. Also seen were **Speckled Wood**, **Red Admiral**, **Large Skipper** and **Small Skipper**."

**Dennis Dell sent the following:** "Below is a photo of a **Purple Hairstreak** female that I saw in *Finemere Wood, Bucks* on *25th June*. It was low down in the grass with its wings open - an unusual shot."

**Ben Miller reported the following today:** "I made a brief stop in the lay-by off the B489 on the northern side of *Ivinghoe Beacon (Bucks)* while passing yesterday mid-morning, *26th June* (SP964171). The vegetation by the pull-in held 2 **Dark Green Fritillaries**, along with 5+ **Ringlets**, 10 **Marbled Whites**, 5+ **Meadow Browns** and a **Large Skipper**."

**Chris Lamsdell sent this update on 26th June:** "*Homefield Wood, Bucks* today, 26th, 14 **Silver-washed Fritillary** and 1 **Dark Green Fritillary**."

**Chris Brown sent this update on 26th June:** "My latest sightings are as follows:  
*Millennium Green, Berks, SU 713 794 - 21 June*, **Small Skipper** 10, **Large Skipper** 2, **Marbled White** 14, **Meadow Brown** 3, **Ringlet** 1, **Small Heath** 2, **Forester Moth** 4.  
*Crowsley Wood, Oxon SU 735 795 - 24 June*, **Large Skipper** 2, **Green-veined White** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Comma** 4, **Silver-washed Fritillary** 2 (Male), **Speckled Wood** 8, **Meadow Brown** 12, **Ringlet** 4.

*Millennium Green SU 713 794 - 26 June*, **Small Skipper** 20, **Large Skipper** 1, **Small Copper** 1, **Small Tortoiseshell** 1, **Marbled White** 33, **Meadow Brown** 15, **Ringlet** 1, **Forester Moth** 76.

So at last the **Silver-washed Fritillary** have emerged in *Crowsley Wood*. They were not seen on 20 June when I last checked but one of the Males already has a small section of wing missing. Both looked very fresh though otherwise. The **Marbled Whites** are nicely increasing at the *Millennium Green*, as usual and this year, at last, there is finally an indication that the **Forester Moths** are returning to their good numbers of about 5-10 years ago. The count of 76 was quite thorough today as I inspected all the flowering plants - **Knapweed**, **Blue Scabious** and the lavender hedge (where most were found)."

**Jeremy Soane from Staines visited Homefield Wood, Bucks on 26th June:** "I was anticipating a good show of butterflies on the sunniest day for several weeks and I was not disappointed. There were at least 10 **Marbled Whites** in the area of chalk grassland, along with **Meadow Browns**, **Ringlets** and a tattered **Common Blue** (presumably first brood). I saw 10+ **Silver-washed Fritillaries** in various parts of the woodland complex, particularly the bottom path. One was jostling with a pair of **Commas**. There were **Large Skippers** everywhere (and probably also some **Small Skippers** on the grassland). Other highlights included low-flying **Red Kites**, a **Muntjac** and some beautiful wildflowers for which the wood is also known. Later, I walked along the bridleway which runs through *Bowsey Hill Wood* (North of the A4 at Knowle Hill, several miles West of Maidenhead, Berks). There were **Speckled Woods**, **Meadow Browns** and **Commas** but the highlight was a **White Admiral** on bramble at the top of Bear Lane, opposite *Chissock Woodcraft*, evidence that they are still breeding in the area despite the large-scale quarrying activity. Then I saw a pristine **Red Admiral**. No photos I'm afraid: I will have to take the camera next time!"



**Chris Hazell reported the following on 26th June:** "I went to [Buttler's Hangings, Bucks](#) this afternoon, [26th June](#), after the heat had subsided a little. My sightings were as follows:- 4 **Dark Green Fritillary**, 50+ **Marbled White**, 3 **Essex Skipper**, 20+ **Ringlet**, 2 **Small Blue**, 2 **Small Tortoiseshell** plus lots of **Meadow Browns**."

**Peter Law sent this report on 26th June:** "A late afternoon walk around [Churn Hill](#) above Blewbury, Oxon on [25th June](#) yielded 14 species. I met a local man in the field recently who advised me to look for **Small Blue** here and I saw 2 today in the small open access area around a chalk pit at SU524852. There were also 4 **Common Blue** at that spot. Continuing on towards the Ridgeway, I then located 3 **Essex Skipper** and 3 convenient **Small Skipper** for comparison at SU 525843, along the track to Upper Chance Farm. There were 6 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 2 **Large White** and 10+ **Meadow Brown** in this second location, then a **Painted Lady** and a **Green-veined White** both put in an appearance. Other butterflies seen at and between the two grid references quoted were: **Small White** (6+), **Marbled White** (25+), **Ringlet** (12+), **Small Heath** (10+) and **Large Skipper** (5+). On my way out of area to Wiltshire on [Sunday 26th](#), I stopped for an hour from 8:30 to 9:30 at [Crowhole Bottom, Berks](#). It was interesting to note that **Small Heath** outnumbered most other species present by 10-1. I counted 90-100 butterflies just along the line that I walked through the valley bottom. Other species seen here were 15-20 **Meadow Brown**, around 10 each of **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Ringlet** and **Common Blue**, 4 **Marbled White** and a few **Large** and **Small Skipper**. The same species were present at all three downland sites that I visited in Wiltshire, but with nothing like the predominance of **Small Heath** that I noted at [Crowhole Bottom](#)."

**Chris Lamsdell visited Black Park on 24th June:** "I saw 2 **White Admiral** and 1 **Silver-washed Fritillary**. Also a small **Skipper** was seen, probably common."

**This report came from Dave Wilton:** "A quick walk around a couple of small disused fields near our house in [Westcott, Bucks](#) on the afternoon of [24th June](#) produced clouds of **Marbled Whites**. They are usually present there in reasonable numbers but there seems to have been an explosion this year and I counted over 100. **Ringlets** were also doing well, with about 40 seen (outnumbering the **Meadow Browns** by two to one). A third field now contains horses. In the middle of it was what used to be the best nettle and thistle patch in the village but this has now been strimmed. A very forlorn-looking newly-emerged **Small Tortoiseshell** was seen flying around what remained of its former home!"

#### Thursday 23rd June 2011

**Steve Croxford sent this report:** "This morning I went to [Finemere, Bucks](#) and [Romer Woods](#) but the sun was not out much so very little flying. Just as I was leaving a good spell of sun appeared so I tried the main track at Finemere Wood again. Within minutes I had seen 4 **White Admiral** and 2 **Silver-washed Fritillary** but no sign of *Iris*. A trip over to [Little Wood, Oxon](#) was productive this afternoon with two **Purple Emperor** on display around the large Ash tree. I think both were males fighting for territory."

**Ched George sent these sightings today:** "I managed 1 **Dark Green Fritillary** at [Buttlers Hangings, Bucks](#) today and was surprised to see 5 **Small Blue**. Also, at least 20 **Marbled White**, 4 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 1 **Essex Skipper**, a few **Large Skipper** plus **Meadow Browns** and **Ringlets**."

**Paul Warham reported the following:** "At [Homefield Wood](#) today ([23/6/11](#)) I saw up to 5 **Silver-Washed Fritillaries** including this mating pair and also encountered a **Meadow Brown** with two white 'pupils' - not sure how unusual this form is."

**David Redhead sent this update today:** "Over the last week the moth and butterfly activity

on the small patch of unimproved grassland near my house in [Littlemore, Oxon](#) has risen dramatically. The most numerous species is the **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet moth** with well over a hundred, most of which are nectaring on two dozen scabious flowers. The maximum count for a single flowerhead is nine but I have only managed to capture eight on camera. Adding to the red and black effect are the occasional **Scarlet Tiger** and **Cinnabar moth**. The most noticeable butterflies are the two dozen **Marbled Whites**, several of which are competing for space on the Scabious flowers. There are nearly as many **Ringlets**, half a dozen **Meadow Brown** and **Large Skipper** and the latest additions are a few **Small Skippers**."

**Wendy Wilson reported the following:** "Today, [23rd June](#) in the [Strawberry Wood](#) area of Black Park, Fulmer, I counted six **White Admirals**, 2 **Silver-washed Fritillary** and 3 **Purple Hairstreak**. They should still be around for the event there on Saturday 25th June (see events page) and I am hoping Purple Emperor will appear then too as they usually emerge soon after the White Admirals. I then drove on to a meadow at [Shreding Green](#) near Iver, Bucks where I saw my first **Essex Skipper** of the year amongst numerous **Large and Small Skippers**. **Small Tortoiseshells** seem to be doing better this year, I've seen lots of nice fresh ones recently including 14 around [Ley Hill](#) near Chesham."

**Mick & Wendy Campbell went to Little Wood, Oxon on 22nd June:** "We were treated to a wonderful aerial display of 3 **Purple Emperors** in a spiralling combat flight, returning to the ash trees and then chasing each other into the distance again before returning to their perches. A fourth Purple Emperor was flying at the top of a nearby oak."

**Chris and Pat Dennis sent this report:** "Below is a photo of **Dark Green Fritillary** taken on [22-6-2011](#) at [Speen in Bucks](#). It's a private field with a steep bank facing south-west."

**This news came via Martin Harvey:** "Report received of a **Purple Emperor** in [Bucklebury, West Berks](#). It was seen on [20th June](#) settled on a wall."

## Tuesday 21st June 2011

**Ched George reports seeing** a single **Gatekeeper** in [Radnage churchyard, Bucks](#) today, [21st June](#).

**Steve Croxford sent the following:** "On [Monday 20th June](#), I decided to take a walk through [Finemere](#) and [Romer Woods](#), Bucks looking for Purple Emperor. There was no sign of HIM but I did find a **Dark Green Fritillary** near Romer Wood. It's the first one I have seen in any of the woods in the area and a pleasant surprise. Also present at both woods were **White Admiral** and **Silver-washed Fritillary**. On [19th June](#) I also found an interesting **Small Tortoiseshell** aberration, ab *nigrita*, in the central meadow at [Finemere Wood](#)."

**Malcolm Brownsword went to Homefield Wood on the morning of 20th June:** "I saw the following on my BBOWT transect: 11 **Large Skippers**, 5 **Large Whites**, 2 **Red Admirals**, 1 **Comma**, 1 **Silver-washed Fritillary** (but 3 off-transect after I had completed the transect), 8 **Speckled Woods**, 3 **Marbled Whites** (see 2 images below of newly hatched one), 34 **Meadow Browns**, 17 **Ringlets** as well as a **Cinnabar Moth** and a **Treble-bar Moth**. Despite plenty of bramble blossom, the Silver-washed Fritillaries were spending most of their time flying fairly high up amongst the trees."

**John Ward-Smith sent this report:** "I counted 16 **Silver-studded Blues** at BBOWT's [Broadmoor Bottom](#) site in Berks on Monday morning ([20 June](#)), 14 male, 2 female, with 9 male and 2 female in the old cattle enclosure, and 5 outside. This is the highest number I have seen here for many years, so it looks as though the habitat management is working. (David Lloyd had reported 9/10 males at this site on 14 June)."

**Peter Law's latest walk around Shabbington and York's Woods, Bucks on Monday morning, 20th June produced his first Silver-washed Fritillary (2) of the year, one in each area. Interestingly, the York's Wood butterfly was in exactly the same spot as my first sighting last year, at the point where the track from Bernwood Meadows meets the main ride up from Hell's Coppice. Other highlights were a White Admiral and a slightly worn Black Hairstreak in the M40 compensation area. There were large numbers of Marbled White in that (last named) area, and several more in the woods. Meadow Brown and Large Skipper were everywhere. Other butterflies seen were several each of Small White, Speckled Wood and Ringlet, 2 Comma, and singles of Brimstone, Large White, Red Admiral and Common Blue."**

**Chris Bottrell reported the following on 20th June:** "My firsts this month. My first **Ringlet:** 14/6 St.Mary's Field (Oxon) lunchtime. My first **Marbled White:** 16/6 Stratfield Brake (Oxon) lunchtime. My first **Black Hairstreak** was seen end of last month mid-afternoon on the 29/5 at **Whitecross Green Wood (Bucks)** in the company of Becky Woodell and Tony Croft, although my peak sighting there was on the 4th June when I had 25 sightings of at least 13 individuals. Other than that the only other sightings of Black Hairstreak were 1 on 4/6 at Otmoor, Oxon on brambles near the feeders and 2 at Whitecross Green on the 11/6. It was noticeable that the individuals sighted at Whitecross on the 11th were less active than the ones seen the previous weekend. I suspect that they had done all their disputing and mating and are now down to just feeding and egg laying. In fact a gentleman I met, who had been there since 07:30, had actually got photos of one with an egg showing at the tip of its ovipositor. Finally I have scoured the Blackthorn for Black Hairstreaks at St.Mary's field 3/6 and 14/6 and Stratfield Brake 2/6, 8/6 and 16/6 sadly with no success."

**Andy Hoskins visited Dancers End, Bucks for the first time on 19th June:** "I saw three **Ringlets** near the Water Works and 10s of **Meadow Browns** at the top of the woods. Stopped at **Aston Clinton Ragpits** on my way home and saw a **Marbled White** (in the rain) and 3 **Large Skippers**. On a quick walk in **Finemere Wood, Bucks** in the afternoon I saw a solitary **Black Hairstreak**, about a dozen **Ringlets**, 20+ **Meadow Browns** and 2 **Large Skippers**."

**Dave Ferguson went for a walk in Homefield Wood on Sunday morning 19th June:** "The intermittent sun produced **Silver-washed Fritillary** (1), **Meadow Brown** (11), **Ringlet** (6), **Speckled Wood** (12) **Green-veined White** (1) and **Large Skipper** (5). There was a female **Beautiful Demoiselle** by the main ride near the western end. This may be a first record for the tetrad."

**Mark Calway sent the following:** "The first **Purple Hairstreak** reported to me was on 31st May in **Berkshire, near Finchamstead**. It was reported at the Berkshire Moth Group meeting in June. The recorder is Roger Haywood who has been recording, mostly moths, since the early 1950s."

**Friday 17th June 2011**

**Steve Croxford took a chance on the weather and ventured down to Rushbeds Wood, Bucks on Thursday afternoon, 16th June:** "For once my timing was good with mostly sun while I was there. There were more butterflies active throughout the wood and meadows than I have seen for some weeks. Hopefully we're getting past the June gap. They included my first two **White Admiral** in the larger of the two clearings as you enter the wood. I also saw my first three **Ringlets** again in the main wood along the main ride shortly before it comes out into the meadows. In the meadows the number of **Marbled Whites** are building nicely."



**David Redhead sent the following:** "I spent two and a half hours searching sites for the **Black Hairstreak** on the west of its range. Eventually I was successful but it was one of the tattiest specimens I have ever seen. My first **Ringlet** of the year was the highlight of the day and a final species count of 14 was very pleasing - the other 12 were **Meadow Brown** (~50), **Large Skipper** (13), **Small Tortoiseshell** (4), **Marbled White** (3), **Speckled Wood** (3), **Brimstone** (2), **Green-veined White** (2), **Red Admiral** (2), **Small Heath** (2), **Comma** (1), **Common Blue** (1) & **Small White** (1). Back home and walking the dog across **Heyford Hill marsh, Oxon** my first sighting of a cluster of **Peacock larvae**, all about 2cm long, made my 15th species of the day.

Meanwhile Phil Penson was walking the transect at **Chilswell Valley**, east of Oxford, where he got an amazing count of 133 butterflies - this is two and a half times the count for the corresponding week in 2010. He recorded 12 species as follows - 52 **Meadow Brown**, 25 **Large Skipper**, 22 **Marbled White**, 17 **Common Blue**, 6 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 3 **Brown Argus**, 3 **Small Skipper** and singletons of **Brimstone**, **Comma**, **Large White**, **Ringlet** & **Speckled Wood**.

On Wednesday morning (**15th June**) I achieved another early morning butterfly sighting, at 7:55 am there were 4 **Marbled Whites** flying over the grassland near my house in **Littlemore, Oxford**. This was without the sun shining but it was 16C. At the same time there were 10 **Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnet moths** actively nectaring on the few scabious flowers to be found there."

**Malcolm Brownsword sent the following report:** "On Tuesday afternoon, **June 14th**, I went to **Aston Clinton Rag Pits, Bucks** and saw my first **Marbled Whites** of the year (3), a pair of **Brimstones**, 4 **Large Skippers**, 12 **Common Blues**, 2 **Meadow Browns**, 1 **Ringlet**, 1 **Brown Argus** and and 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**. The last two of these were on Chalk Fragrant Orchids. Then on Wednesday afternoon (**15th June**), I saw a mating pair of **Scarlet Tiger moths** in my garden at **West Hagbourne, Oxon**."

**Dave Ferguson's walk in Strawberry Wood, Black Park in Bucks on 14th June produced 3 White Admirals.**

**On a Civic Society tour of Taplow House, Taplow, Bucks David Fuller saw the following on Saturday 11th June:** **Meadow Brown** 25, **Small White** 2. Then at **Warburg** near Henley, Oxon on **13/06/11** he recorded **Speckled Woods** 2, **Peacock** 1, **Meadow Brown** 3, **Large Skipper** male, **Small White** 1. Finally, at **Braywick Nature Reserve**, Maidenhead, Berks on **14th June:** **Marbled White** 56, **Meadow Brown** 51, **Small Skipper** 6, **Small White** 1 and **Speckled Wood** 1.

**Thursday 16th June 2011**

**Chris Lamsdell sent this update:** "I found one **Black Hairstreak** in the meadow at **Piddington Wood, Oxon** on **14th June**, rather worn. There was a **Marbled White** in the York Wood clearing in **Bernwood, Bucks** and one **White Admiral**, plus another 2 **Marbled Whites** at **Rushbeds Wood** field along with 3 **Small Tortoiseshells**."

**Francis Gomme sent this report:** "On **Monday 13th June** we walked across **Lapland Farm, Bucks**. Considerable numbers of **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet**, **Small Heath** and **Large Skipper** plus 4 **Common Blue**. Then into **Rushbeds Wood** with many more **Meadow Browns**, **Ringlets**, **Speckled Woods** and **Large Skippers**. Our first **White Admiral** in central ride. Then on **14th June** at **Finemere Wood** I found **Silver-washed Fritillaries** in three different areas. Certainly one male and one female. 2 **Black Hairstreak** but high up and very few flowers for them! 6 **Small Tortoiseshell**, 5 **Comma**, 2 **Large White**, a **Red Admiral** and a **Brimstone**."

**Peter Law reported the following:** "A four-hour stint from 3:30pm around [York's Wood and Bernwood Meadows, Bucks](#) this sunny afternoon, [13th June](#), produced: **Small White** (5), **Small Tortoiseshell** (3), **Marbled White** (1), **Meadow Brown** (37), **Ringlet** (2), **Speckled Wood** (4), **Common Blue** (1) and **Large Skipper** (13).

Then on [14th June](#) I covered the [Shabbington Wood](#) area of Bernwood Forest, walking the track from the Forestry Commission car park to the M40 compensation area. Butterflies seen were: **Small White** (3), **Comma** (3), **Marbled White** (2), **Speckled Wood** (20+), **Common Blue** (1), **Large Skipper** (15+) and a pleasing June **Orange-tip**. Interestingly there were no Meadow Browns in this area of the woods. On the way back I took a detour into the [York's Wood](#) area again. There, in addition to the species seen yesterday, I was rewarded with a stunning fresh **White Admiral** (my first of the year) and at last a **Black Hairstreak** which flew across the track in front of me just above head height. I then moved on to the [BBOWT Rushbeds Wood reserve](#), where mostly in and around the superb wild flower meadows I saw: **Small White** (2), **Small Tortoiseshell** (2), **Marbled White** (9), **Meadow Brown** (30+), **Ringlet** (6), **Speckled Wood** (3), **Common Blue** (4) and **Large Skipper** (10+)."

### Sunday 12th June 2011

**David Redhead sent this news today:** "**Black Hairstreaks** were still present in reasonable numbers in the [M40 Compensation Area, Bernwood, Bucks](#) on [Saturday 11th June](#) when I managed to count 23. Most of them were nectaring on privet flowers but one of the exceptions preferred Pepper Saxifrage. Also nectaring on the privet were **Comma** (3), **Large Skipper** (2) and a **Small Tortoiseshell**."

**Chris and Pat Dennis went to Bernwood Forest (Oakley Wood), Bucks yesterday afternoon, 11th June:** "It became too dull, windy and cloudy for many butterflies although we did see our first **White Admiral** of the year."

**David Hastings sent these sightings today:** "I visited [Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon](#) on [June 11th](#), looking for **Black Hairstreaks**. I only managed to find one and that was high up in a blackthorn bush on the main east-west ride. I also saw a probable Silver-washed Fritillary, **Large Skipper** (15+), **Speckled Wood** (7+), **Common Blue** (5), **Meadow Brown** (20+), **Small Tortoiseshell** (2) and a **Grizzled Skipper**. In the field adjacent to [Piddington Wood, Oxon](#) I saw **Large Skipper** (4), **Common Blue** (1), **Meadow Brown** (1) and **Small Copper** (1). Then at [Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon](#) I saw **Large Skipper** (4) and **Meadow Brown** (6)."

**Wendy Wilson reported the following:** "On [Saturday 11th June](#) on a patch of waste ground in [Gerrards Cross, Bucks](#) I happened upon this pair of cheeky-faced **Large Skippers** concealing their immodesty behind a blade of grass. They remained attached to each other, totally unconcerned, when I moved them carefully out of harm's way and off the path. I left them to enjoy the sunshine and each other's company safe among the flowers."

**Peter Law sent this report on 11th June:** "After going just out of area today to see Silver-studded Blue at Silchester Common, Hants I drove past BBOWT's [Decoy Heath near Tadley, Berks](#) (SU614635). Not being aware of this reserve previously, I stopped for a quick look around and what a fascinating place it was. I saw **Small Tortoiseshell** (2), **Comma** (1), **Meadow Brown** (7), **Small Heath** (5), **Speckled Wood** (1), **Grizzled Skipper** (1) and **Large Skipper** (4). I will definitely go back here for a proper look in July when the information boards say Grayling and Silver-studded Blue are on the wing. Also excellent for Damsel and Dragonflies, snakes and heathland birds, this reserve must be BBOWT's best kept secret!"

**Dennis Dell sent the following reports:** [10th June, Aylesbury Park Golf Course, Bucks](#) 4.40 to 5.45. Sunny, warm, no wind. If it goes ahead, this very nice grassland habitat will be severely affected by the HS2 line which will cut across the western edge, upsetting both golfers and butterflies. **Small Tortoiseshell** [4], **Meadow Brown** [19], **Common Blue** [5],

**Marbled White** [2], **Large Skipper** [7].

*11th June, Finemere Wood and Meadows, Bucks* 13.30 to 15.40; Sunny and warm [18 degrees] until 3 pm, then black clouds came over and the temperature dropped to 13 degrees. Wood [sunny the whole time]: **Large Skipper** [7], **Meadow Brown** [9], **Small Tortoiseshell** [1], **White Admiral** [1], **Speckled Wood** [18], **Common Blue** [4], **Comma** [1]. Meadow [cloudy and cool]: **Small Heath** [9], **Meadow Brown** [14], **Large Skipper** [2], **Black Hairstreak** [2]. Extensive felling took place during the winter in the wood; mainly conifers were removed. This should improve the habitat in the coming years."

*Brenda Mobbs popped into Penn Wood, Bucks for about half an hour at lunchtime on Saturday 11th June:* "I saw 2 **Ringlets**. These are the first ones I have seen in the wood this year. I also saw 12 **Meadow Browns**, 14 **Large Skippers**, 2 **Speckled Woods** and a **Small Tortoiseshell**. Unfortunately I didn't see the **White Admiral** which is why I popped in."

### Friday 10th June 2011

*This report came from Becky Woodell:* "Today, *10th June*, just two **Black Hairstreak** by the pond at *Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon* while on transect. I also saw my first **White Admiral** also while on transect, otherwise fairly quiet; 10 **Meadow Browns** but no **Marbled Whites** yet."

*Rob Hill reported the following today:* "During a visit to a rather cloudy *Finemere Wood, Bucks* late afternoon today (*10th*), myself and Lucy saw the following butterflies during a welcome (but brief) sunny spell: 1 **White Admiral** gliding up and down a ride, 5-6 **Meadow Brown**, 2 **Ringlet**, 5+ **Large Skipper**, 1 **Speckled Wood** and 2 **Small Tortoiseshell**."

*Ched George paid a brief visit to Bradenham, Bucks late afternoon today, 10th June:* "I had the impression that there were many **Large Skipper**, a few **Meadow Browns** and 1 **Marbled White**."

*Chris Brown sent this report today:*

*"The Millennium Field, Sonning Common, Berks* at OS SU 713 794: *Sat 4th Jun*, **Small Heath** 2, **Common Blue** 2, **Brown Argus** 1, **Small Skipper** 2 and **Forester Moth** 3. *Thur 9th Jun*, **Small Heath** 2, **Meadow Brown** 2, **Small Skipper** 4 and **Forester Moth** 2. The site is usually good for the **Marbled Whites** too so keeping my eyes alert for the show!  
*Crowsley Wood* at OS SU 735 795. *Thur 2nd Jun*, **Speckled Wood** 15, **Comma** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Orange-tip** 2, **Brimstone** 1, **Large Skipper** 1. *Thur 9th Jun*, **Meadow Brown** 4, **Speckled Wood** 11.

*Francis Gomme sent the following today:* "Between showers at *Granglands, Bucks* on *Wednesday 8th June* I found my first **Marbled White** flying with very worn **Dingy Skippers**, **Orange-tips** and **Large Skippers** .. very bizarre! Again at *Granglands* yesterday (*9th June*) I had my first and rather early **Silver-washed Fritillary** along with **Brown Argus**, **Common Blue**, **Small Copper**, **Meadow Brown**, **Small Heath**, **Large Skipper**, **Orange-tip** and **Brimstone**, but no **Dingy Skipper** today!."

### Thursday 9th June 2011

*Tony Croft sent this report today:* "A forty five minute visit this afternoon to the *Rushbeds Wood Tramway meadow* in Bucks offered up one **Black Hairstreak** on a bramble twig during a brief sunny interval."

*David Redhead walked the Chilswell Valley, Oxon transect today:* "The weather was not looking promising, but by noon things had improved slightly with intermittent hazy sunshine and the temperature back up to 14C. So I set off more in hope than expectation. After 6 of 10



sections with just 2 Meadow Brown, 1 Large Skipper and 1 Speckled Wood to my name I was inclined to abandon it when complete cloud cover returned. But I tarried for 15 minutes and wandered off course on the chalk bank reserve to find my first Marbled White of the year, a few Meadow Brown and a roosting Common Blue and Brown Argus. Then the return of intermittent hazy sun encouraged me to complete S7. As I started S8, the first of the two field margins, the sun came fully out and stayed that way for the last three sections. By the time I left site at 13.55 I had seen 86 butterflies and 7 moths. The butterflies were as follows - **33 Meadow Brown, 20 Large Skipper, 18 Common Blue, 8 Marbled White, 3 Brown Argus, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Speckled Wood.**"

***Mick & Wendy Campbell went to Piddington Wood, Oxon today, 9th June:*** "We found two **Black Hairstreaks** nectaring on dogwood and then saw two more Hairstreaks flying in an ash tree which, when viewed through binoculars, turned out to be our first **White-letter Hairstreaks** of the season. On our way back down the footpath later on we met Chris Lamsdell and found a freshly emerged Black Hairstreak on the footpath, only inches away from being stepped on! We moved it off the path and Chris took a number of photos, one of which is below."

***Peter Law reported the following on 8th June:*** "This afternoon while walking the *Oxford Canal path* north of the city, I wandered into the area of meadows between Oxey Mead and Yarnton (SP483112) and was pleased to come across a **Small Copper**. Not recalling this location being reported on here, this seems worth mentioning. I also saw 10 **Meadow Brown** and 6 **Small Tortoiseshell** (3 pairs), but no butterflies at all along the canal path itself."

***Pete Lock sent the following report:*** "I went to *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* for the first time on *7th June*, but arrived as the sun went in and the wind got up. Saw no Blues at all, but one very new **Marbled White!** Some **Small Heath** and **Meadow Browns** still flying in the wind."

## **Tuesday 7th June 2011**

***Peter Law sent this sighting today:*** "At *Bernwood and York Wood Meadows, Bucks* this afternoon, *7th June*, Black Hairstreak eluded me again but I did see a first **Marbled White** of the year. Also: **Speckled Wood** (4), **Meadow Brown** (8), **Common Blue** (1) and **Large Skipper** (1). Cloud kept rolling in, including some very black stuff!"

***David Hastings visited Lardon Chase on Saturday 4th June:*** "It was a struggle to find anything! All I recorded were **Meadow Brown** (1), **Small Blue** (3), **Small Heath** (9), **Brimstone** (1), **Red Admiral** (1) and a **Burnet Companion moth**. I moved on to *Aston Upthorpe, Oxon* and that was much more productive. I recorded **Meadow Brown** (6), **Small Blue** (2), **Small Heath** (20+), **Brimstone** (9), **Large Skipper** (20+), **Orange-tip** (6), **Comma** (1), **Common Blue** (25+), **Small Copper** (1), **Brown Argus** (7), **Small Tortoiseshell** (2) and **Dingy Skipper** (1). I don't think that I have ever recorded Orange-tips and Meadow Browns at the same site on the same day before. This is a really unusual season to put it mildly. On *Sunday 5th June* I went to *Bernwood Meadows, Bucks* in the afternoon and managed to find one **Black Hairstreak** and one **Meadow Brown** before the rain got too heavy. Also on the 5th I found a newly-emerged **Scarlet Tiger moth** in my garden in *Abingdon, Oxfordshire.*"

***Sandra Parkinson reported the following via Jim Asher:*** "I saw a **Dark Green Fritillary** on *4th June* at *Boze Down Farm, Berks*, the earliest I have ever seen one here (I don't see many, say one or two every other year, though sightings seem to be getting more regular, ie every year). It was feeding on Red Clover, early afternoon. Very warm, sunny, windy."

***Colin Baker sent this report on 5th June:*** "A 150 mile dash from Hampshire today to beat the weather paid off on a site *near Finemere Wood* when I saw my first Black Hairstreak of the year. The intermittent hazy sunshine allowed me to locate six/seven individuals and on

one occasion a female came down to imbibe on wild rose before a bee with the same idea removed her to a nearby Laurel flower, much to my delight. Total butterflies seen: **Black Hairstreak** 6/7, **Large Skipper** 3, **Common Blue** 1 male, **Speckled Wood** 3, **Small White** 1 and **Red Admiral** 1."

*Tim Walker reported the following on 5th June:* "Back at the beginning of April I sent you an image of Comma butterfly eggs just after they had been laid on our hop plant in our garden in *Bletchley, Milton Keynes*. I noticed that the **Commas** are emerging from their chrysalis stage today (*5th June 2011*) and managed to get an image of one."

### Saturday 4th June 2011

*This report came from Wendy Wilson today:* "This really is a most surprising year! This afternoon, *4th June*, in the Strawberry Wood area of *Black Park, Fulmer in Bucks*, I was amazed to spot a **White Admiral** gliding low down among the oaks and brambles. I see them here every summer along with Purple Emperors and Silver-washed Fritillaries, but never as early as this before. Being a hot, sunny Saturday, the park was crowded with dog walkers and families, but it kept returning to the same place every time it was disturbed. It was about an hour before things quietened down and I was able to get close enough to take these photos as it basked in the late afternoon sun. Also seen nearby were **Large White, Green-veined White, Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood** and **Large Skipper**.

*Mick & Wendy Campbell went to York's Wood, Bernwood (Bucks) on Saturday afternoon, 4th June:* "We were looking for **Black Hairstreaks** and managed to find 17 altogether in York's wood meadow and Hell Coppice. However, the most surprising sighting of the day was our first **White Admiral** of the season, flying at speed up and down the edge of the wood. Not much else seen, a few **Large Skippers** and **Meadow Browns**, singletons of **Common Blue, Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell** and **Red Admiral**, plus 24 final instar **Peacock larvae**."

*Nick Bowles sent this report today:* "I went to a site in Bucks to see the **Adonis Blue** and found approx 5 males and 5 females among a horde of **Small Blue**. The density of Small Blue equals the colony in Pitstone, albeit on a smaller site. I estimate 30+ Small Blue seen but I wasn't counting accurately and it might well be 50+. There was also a single **Dingy Skipper** and a single **Green Hairstreak** here. **Small Tortoiseshells** here and at a private site near *Marlow, Bucks* were encouraging, as were huge numbers of **Meadow Brown** at this private site earmarked for arable conversion to wildflower meadows. Yesterday (*3rd June*) I went for a long walk in **Wendover Woods, Bucks** and saw a **Speckled Wood** or two. After lunch with my grandchildren, we called into *College Lake, Bucks* and saw **Small Blue** (8) and **Dingy Skipper** (2), the latter looking paper thin and I reckon unlikely to get through the weekend. Although there were few **Meadow Browns** here the numbers of them and of **Large Skipper** seem very good for so early in the season."

*David Fuller sent these sightings:* "At *Homefield Wood, Bucks* on *3rd June*: **Brown Argus** 3, **Common Blue** 3 male and 1 female, **Large Skipper** 4, **Speckled Wood** 5, **Meadow Brown** 3 and **Brimstone** 1 male.

On *4th June* at *Odney Island, Berks*: **Speckled Wood** and 4 **Meadow Brown**. Then at *Jubilee River/Slough Sewage Farm*: **Red Admiral** and **Meadow Brown** 19."

*David & Wendy Redhead went to Gavray Drive Meadows, Oxon on 3rd June:* "We found a fresh **Small Tortoiseshell** and about 8 **Large Skipper**. Late afternoon Wendy spotted a **Scarlet Tiger Moth** in our garden in *Littlemore, Oxon* and I have just seen the first **Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnet** on our local patch of grassland. Also a **Brimstone** and a tatty **Holly Blue** in the garden but the resident male Orange-tip seems to have disappeared."

**This report came from Tom Stevenson:** "Scarlet Tiger moths were out this morning in Benson, Oxon. I also had my first sightings of Meadow Brown and Large Skipper on the Millbrook Mead nature reserve in Benson."

**Chris Bottrell sent this update:** 2/6 - My first Meadow Brown of the year at Stratfield Brake (Oxon). Total butterflies seen during 60 mins lunchtime walk in sunshine (at last): Large Skipper (9); Common Blue (9); Speckled Wood (2); Meadow Brown (9). Also Silver-Y (1); Burnet Companion (1) moths."

**Maureen Cross sent this report for the Lardon Chase Field Meeting in West Berks held on 28th May:** "After nearly getting involved with competing hill climbing cyclists in Lardon Chase car park, 6 Field Meeting members braved the dull, cold, windy weather and ventured on to the hill in pursuit of butterflies. After searching for a full half hour we finally stumbled upon a roosting Common Blue. Four more eventually followed, also roosting, but the one lone Adonis Blue we disturbed immediately leapt for deeper cover. By then the sky was even darker so we decided to visit the Monkey and Lady orchids at Hartslock Reserve, Oxon, where we added Yellow Shell, Cinnabar Moth and an Orange-tip larva to our meagre list. Perhaps we should have gone cycling after all?"

**David Fuller sent this report from Maidenhead, Berks:** "In my garden this morning (2nd June) a Small Tortoiseshell at 08.20, the first for my garden this year and only the second specimen in 2011."

**Dave Wilton has been out looking for Black Hairstreaks:** "On 2nd June I counted five Black Hairstreaks in a private wood near Wotton Underwood, Bucks but there could have been more as they were in and out of a patch of knee-high bramble flowers all the time I was there - a photo of one of them is below."

**David Redhead sent the following on 2nd June:** "Having seen my first Black Hairstreaks a week earlier than ever before I am now struggling to find them and three visits to Slade Camp at Shotover, Oxon have gone unrewarded. However my last attempt on Tuesday 31st May, in near ideal conditions, did produce a pristine Small Tortoiseshell plus my fourth and fifth Large Skippers of the year. Otherwise all I saw were a tired Common Blue, just a single Speckled Wood and a Green-veined White. Back home in Littlemore, Oxon, our resident garden male Orange-tip made my species count for the day a meagre 6. This morning, Thursday 2nd June, did produce my "earliest" butterfly of the year as a Speckled Wood took flight from an ash tree in Rivermead Nature Park in Oxford at 07:32am just as the dog & I passed by."

**Dave Miller sent this report on 31st May:** "I popped into Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon on the afternoon of 31st May, on my way down the M40. Black Hairstreaks were there in their usual spot - I saw about half a dozen different individuals, all high over the sloes, hazels and ash on the north side of the east-west ride. Got talking to a like-minded fellow from only a few miles up the road from me near Heathrow - pointed him at this website which he had yet to discover. Not a lot of other interest - a handful of Speckled Woods, a couple of Large Skippers and Common Blues, plus one each of Orange-tip, Grizzled Skipper and Brimstone. The latter was very worn and feeble - though entitled to be at the end of his ten months or so! Most common of all were Burnet Companion moths - at least a dozen in various spots. One photo of a Black Hairstreak below - from some way off!"

**Ben Miller visited Seven Barrows on 4th June:** "The weather was far from perfect - more cloud than expected and a cooler wind. I found just one Marsh Fritillary, though other sightings included three Small Blues, two Meadow Browns, 15+ Small Heaths, 5+ Common Blues, 2 worn and faded Small Coppers, 10+ Large Skippers and one probable Small Skipper."



**Francis Gomme sent this report:** "Wednesday 25th May: An afternoon visit to the Berkshire Downs (Seven Barrows) on another breezy but sunny day produced numerous **Small Heath, Common Blue, Brown Argus** and **Dingy Skipper** plus 6 **Grizzled Skipper**, 5 **Small Copper**, 1 **Brimstone** plus my first **Large Skipper** and at least 8 **Marsh Fritillaries** of which at least 3 were males and 2 females."

**Michael McNeill reported the following on 25th May 2011:** "Seven Barrows 09.45 - 11.30 am Thin cloud with a good breeze. 4 **Marsh Fritillary** (male), 8 **Small Blue**, 15 **Common Blue**, 1 **Small Copper**, 1 **Green Hairstreak**, 2 **Brown Argus**, 1 **Peacock**, 25+ **Small Heath**. Lardon Chase 12.30 - 1.30 pm. Mostly sunny with good breeze. 3 **Adonis Blue**, 1 **Small Copper**, 2 **Dingy Skipper**, 1 **Grizzled Skipper**, 1 **Large White**, 1 **Brown Argus**, 10+ **Common Blue**, 2 **Small Blue**, 6 **Small Heath**, 1 **Speckled Wood**. I revisited Seven Barrows on 31st May and saw 5 **Marsh Fritillary**, probably all male, in 75 minutes but, having done the circuit twice, two may have been the same butterfly as they were within 20 yards of the first sightings."

**Jon Mercer, Wilts BC saw at least** 3 **Marsh Fritillaries** at Seven Barrows, Lambourn, on 24th May. Also, 20+ **Common Blue**, 5+ **Small Blue**, 1 **Dingy Skipper**, 30+ **Small Heath**, 2 **Small Copper**, 1 **Brimstone**."

**Malcolm Brownsword visited Seven Barrows, Berks on 19th May:** "In a 40 minute visit I saw 14 **Small Heaths**, one **Small copper**, 5 **Dingy Skippers**, 2 **Brown Argus**, three **Common Blues** and my first **Marsh Fritillary** (very newly hatched) of the year. At a nearby site on the way home, in addition to a **Dingy Skipper**, 2 **Brimstones** and 5 **Common Blues**, we were amazed to find many **Small Blues** engaged in strange behaviour. There were about 30, most congregating on dying (Brown-lipped?) snails on the very dry bridlepath. We assume they were dying from dehydration. The **Small Blues** were clearly taking fluid from the snails. As many as 5 were seen on a single snail."

### Wednesday 1st June 2011

**The following was reported by Judith Barnard:** "Today, *1st June*, in *Linford Wood, Milton Keynes* we spotted many **Speckled Woods**, one **Small White**, one **Large Skipper** and a **Meadow Brown**."

**David Fuller reported the following today:** "Yesterday, *31st May*, I saw three new species for me this year in the *Winkfield area, Berkshire*: **Common Blue** male, **Meadow Brown** male, **Large Skipper** male. Also seen **Green-veined White**. Today of interest in my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks*: **Cinnabar moth** (first for the garden) and **Hummingbird Hawkmoth**."

**Francis Gomme visited Yoesden Bank at midday on 1st June:** "Before the cloud cover arrived I recorded at least 20 **Adonis Blue**. Some including 3 females very frail but others still relatively intact. Also **Small Blue** x12, **Brown Argus** x3, **Common Blue** x 5, **Orange-tip** x2, **Brimstone** and numerous **Meadow Browns** and **Small Heath**. No **Dingy** or **Grizzled Skippers**."

**This report came from Peter Law on 31st May:** "Prompted by the first reports of **Black Hairstreak**, I tried for a May record myself at *Bernwood Meadows, Bucks* on *28th* and *31st May*, but without success. Butterflies actually seen this afternoon (the sunnier of the two days) were **Small White** (2), **Speckled Wood** (3), **Common Blue** (18+) and my first **Meadow Brown** of the year."

**Gerry Kendall sent the following Field Meeting report:** "The weather was not ideal for the Field Trip at *Aston Upthorpe downs, Oxon* on *29 May*. We saw reasonable numbers of **Small**

**Blues** and there was one sighting of a **Grizzled Skipper** in flight, otherwise the target species were elusive. However, we had good views of **Adonis Blue** (three individuals in total) and our total of nine species was not bad for such an unpromising day: Grizzled Skipper, **Small Copper**, Small Blue, **Brown Argus**, **Common Blue**, Adonis Blue, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Speckled Wood** and **Small Heath**."

*David Hastings visited Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon on Saturday afternoon, 28th May:* "It was very windy but I managed to find a **Large Skipper** and two **Common Blues**."

*Steve Croxford sent this unusual report on 27th May:* "I was very surprised to find a **Black Hairstreak** this morning, not only that but a newly emerged female. It happened while walking the dog over to the disused railway line near *Westcott, Bucks*. With a leaden sky, and feeling cold, I had no expectation of seeing any butterflies. As it happened this Black Hairstreak was the only butterfly seen. Just as surprising was the location - it was not in the railway cutting but in the meadow between the cutting and the A41. While there is some Blackthorn in the surrounding hedge it is not what I would think of as ideal and I would not give it a second look normally for Hairstreaks. While crawling in the grass it opened its wings a couple of times and I could clearly see the orange flush on its top wing. Thus I am sure it was a female. After a few minutes it very feebly flew up into the Ash tree. I suspect it had only emerged this morning."

*Francis Gomme reported the following: "Tuesday 24th May -* A circular walk into the hills immediately south of *Princes Risborough, Bucks* on a bright but breezy afternoon produced numerous **Common Blue**, **Small Heath** and **Dingy Skipper**, 4 **Speckled Wood**, 2 **Peacock**, 3 **Brimstone**, 6 **Grizzled Skipper**, 3 **Small Copper**, 4 **Small Blue** and 1 rather tatty **Duke of Burgundy**."

### Wednesday 25th May 2011

*Ched George sent this sighting report today, 25th May:* "A quick look at *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* this evening produced a single **Meadow Brown**. It was breezy and rather cloudy so I did not stay long. I did see 2 **Large Skipper**, 1 **Peacock**, 2 **Common Blue**, a female and 4 male **Adonis Blue**, 1 **Green-veined White** and 5 **Burnet Companion moths**."

*Michael McNeill visited Lardon Chase in West Berks on 25th May:* "12.30 –1.30 pm. Mostly sunny with good breeze. 3 **Adonis Blue**, 1 **Small Copper**, 2 **Dingy Skipper**, 1 **Grizzled Skipper**, 1 **Large White**, 1 **Brown Argus**, 10+ **Common Blue**, 2 **Small Blue**, 6 **Small Heath**, 1 **Speckled Wood**."

*Steve Croxford sent this report:* "I had a walk around *Ham Home Wood, Bucks* on the afternoon of the *24th May* and saw my first **Black Hairstreak** of the year. Apart from the Black Hairstreak the only other butterflies on show were a lot of fresh **Speckled Woods** and a few unidentified whites. We appear to be moving into the doldrums period for butterflies where Spring butterflies are winding down and Summer butterflies are yet to emerge."

*David Redhead sent the following report:* "I visited the *M40 Compensation Area, Bucks* on Tuesday afternoon, *24th May*, to do the transect and got a rather poor return of 21 butterflies - **Common Blue** 8, **Speckled Wood** 5, **Green-veined White** 2, **Brown Argus** 1, **Comma** 1, **Large Skipper** 1 (my second of the year), **Large White** 1, **Peacock** 1 & **Small Copper** 1. Afterwards, I decided to check out the blackthorn and privet, just coming into flower, more in hope than expectation. To my surprise I almost immediately sighted a **Black Hairstreak** nectaring on the privet. By the time I left just over half an hour later my count had risen to an amazing 3. Pushing my luck I tried the bridleway between the *Otmoor (Oxon)* Rifle Range and RSPB Reserve but could not add to my Black Hairstreak total. However I did add two more species to my day total with a male **Orange-tip** and a **Red**

**Admiral** which paid me the honour of alighting on my arm.

Also, a couple of early morning/dog walking sightings made in glorious sunshine this week: [Monday 23rd May 07:45am](#) - a **Speckled Wood** basking on bramble leaves in [Rivermead Nature Park, Oxford](#) and [Wednesday 25th May 08:00am](#) - a **Red Admiral** basking on nettle leaves in [Heyford Hill Marsh, Oxon](#) alongside the River Thames."

## Tuesday 24th May 2011

**Tim Hearn sent this report:** "I visited [Yoesden Bank, Bucks](#) on [Monday 23rd May](#), 1pm. Despite strong blustery winds and patchy sun, I managed to see 12 **Adonis Blue**, all high up on the slope of the bank, and 50+ **Common Blue** lower down, sheltering from the wind in the Bird's foot trefoil. Also a single, very worn, **Small Copper** nectaring on knapweed."

**David Gower visited these sites on 23rd May:** "At [Pitstone, Bucks](#) I counted 155 x **Small Blues**, 7 x **Brimstones**, 10 x **Small Heath**, 22 x **Common Blue**, 4 x **Speckled Wood**, 1 x **Orange-tip**, 1 x **Large White**. At [Incombe Hole](#) I counted 5 x **Small Heath**, 7 x **Brimstone** (1 was female), 15 x **Common Blue**, 1 x **Green Hairstreak**, 1 x **Brown Argus**. [Ivinghoe Beacon](#) (bottom area) 5 x **Small Heath**, 3 x **Common Blue**, 1 x **Peacock**, 1 x **Brimstone**."

**Tony & Ro Rayner sent the following:** "Just to report our first **Large Skipper** of the year, seen on [23rd May](#). Over a week earlier than any previous record and the 19th species on our [Cholsey, Oxon](#) site this year."

**Dave Wilton sent this report on 22nd May:** "In our garden here at [Westcott, Bucks](#) we have a miniscule (3ft x 3ft) patch of lawn which is allowed to "do its own thing" and is made up of grasses, Buttercup, Field Scabious, Common Vetch and Bird's-foot Trefoil. Last summer I found 14 **Common Blue** eggs on the Bird's-foot Trefoil and today discovered that at least one had made it through to maturity with this pristine male **Common Blue** found drying its wings. It just goes to show that even the tiniest amount of wildlife-friendly gardening can have benefits!"

**Mick Jones reported the following:** "Some butterflies seen whilst plant surveying at [Dancersend, Bucks](#) on [Saturday 21st May](#). Saw my first **Large Skipper** of the year and was extremely pleased to see two **Small Blues** at the Waterworks - getting this species back was one objective of the clearance work we've carried out recently. Also seen: **Dingy Skipper**, **Brimstone**, **Large White**, **Small White**, **Orange-tip**, **Green Hairstreak**, **Small Copper**, **Brown Argus**, **Common Blue**, **Comma**, **Speckled Wood**. Still no **Duke of Burgundy**, though one was reported by a visitor about a week ago."

**Steve Croxford made a quick visit to Yoesden Bank on 21st May:** "I would estimate that I saw at least a couple of dozen **Adonis Blue** and maybe as many as three dozen. Males were most prevalent but there were also quite a few females to be seen. Curiously there were not many **Common Blue** on the bank, **Adonis Blue** easily outnumbered them. My guess is that the **Common Blues** had moved to more sheltered areas of the bank. I also saw a single **Small Blue** struggling with the strong breeze. It seems to be quite a small population here, probably due to the limited amounts of **Kidney Vetch** on the bank."

**David Fuller visited Cliveden National Trust house, Bucks on 21st May:** "**Peacock**, **Speckled Wood**, **Small White** and **Holly Blue** were seen. This is a new site for me to record."



**Friday 20th May 2011**

**Steve Croxford reported the following:** "At lunch time on *Thursday 19th May* I took a walk over to the disused railway line near *Westcott, Bucks*. The numbers of **Grizzled** and **Dingy Skipper** appear to be on the wane but there are still plenty to be seen. I also saw my first **Large Skipper** of the year. Also seen were **Green Hairstreak**, **Small Copper**, **Common Blue**, **Brown Argus**, **Small Heath**, **Comma**, **Speckled Wood**, **Orange-tip**, **Brimstone**, **Small White**, **Large White** and **Green-veined White**."

**Peter Law visited the Aston Upthorpe Downs SSSI, Oxon on Thursday afternoon, 19th May:** "I went to check out my favourite **Small Blue** site. Walking W-E along the hedgerow above Juniper Valley and below Lowbury Hill (SU540826 on OS Explorer Map 170), I counted 51 butterflies. I also saw one **Small Blue** on the track up from the grain dryer, near the gate into Juniper Valley. Other butterflies seen on the walk up and back were **Large White** (2), **Small White** (3), **Orange-tip** (2), **Brimstone** (8), **Peacock** (2), **Small Heath** (16+), **Green Hairstreak** (1 in the highest part of Juniper Valley), **Small Copper** (2), **Holly Blue** (1), **Brown Argus** (15+), **Common Blue** (35+) and **Dingy Skipper** (2). On my way back I made a detour to the nearby *Oven Bottom SSSI* to look for **Adonis Blue**, having seen but not reported one there on 12 June last year. There was plenty of Horseshoe Vetch blooming on the slope to the left of the gate in from Grims Ditch (SU537834), but again I found just one stray male. In the early evening sunlight it was visible from 30 yards, perched on a tall grass stem when I first spotted it. The only other butterflies I saw here were **Small Heath** (2), **Brown Argus** (1) and **Common Blue** (1)."

**The following report came via Dave Turnbull:** "Brian Jessop carried out a transect for me in *Pitstone, Bucks* on *Monday 16th May* as I felt the **Small Blue** numbers would be peaking. Although the conditions were not as good as last year when there was no wind, 22-24C and continuous sunshine, the **Small Blue** numbers were remarkable. In hazy sun, 16.5-17C and a wind, the numbers were as follows, with last year's in brackets: **Common Blue** 17 (132), **Small Heath** 18 (16), **Brown Argus** 2, **Dingy Skipper** 1 and **Small Blue** 894 (416). Brian commented on the clouds of **Small Blues** that were rising up in front of him and he assured me that in difficult counting situations like that, he underestimated and speculated that there are probably thousands in the colony. This has to be one of, if not the, biggest colonies in the country. It appears to have reached saturation point as they are spreading along the road and Helen Hyre has seen unprecedented numbers in the local churchyard."

**Sunday 15th May 2011**

**This report came from David Redhead:** "A check on *Sunday 15th May* of my local patch in *Littlemore, Oxon* before disappearing for a week's holiday proved interesting. **Orange-tip caterpillars** are now to be found, in order of abundance on Garlic Mustard, Woad, Cuckooflower, Hedge Mustard & Horseradish. Unhatched eggs can also be found on Dame's Violet & Charlock. Those on Woad, now numbering 8, have fared best and a couple are now 3cm long, which makes them full grown but they are still feeding. I counted 99 viable and completed **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet moth cocoons** on the grassland near our house. The hundredth has already been predated plus 3 caterpillars were also beginning the task of cocoon-making alongside 3 roosting **Common Blue/Brown Argus** - it is hard to be certain when they are fully closed down. I lost count of the number of **Silver-ground Carpet moths** the dog & I put up on this morning's walk."

**Robin Carr reports on Saturday's Field Meeting to Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks:** "*Saturday 14th May* - we saw 6 **Duke of Burgundy** all on the north side of the Beacon. We also saw 3 **Small Heaths**, 3 **Grizzled Skippers**, 5 **Common Blues**, 3 **Dingy Skippers**, 2 **Speckled Woods** and 3 **Brown Argus**. A few stragglers going up the hill returning to the cars saw a **Brimstone** laying an egg on a young buckthorn shoot. No Dukes were seen in a very windy

and not very sunny gully."

**David Gower visited Pitstone today, 15th May:** "I found 26 x **Small Blue**, 1 x **Brown Argus**, 1 x **Cinnabar moth**."

**Chris Bottrell reported the following:** "14/5 - Despite windy conditions an afternoon walk (1500-1545) around **Merton Wood (Oxon, SP5817)** gave my first **Large Skipper** (4). Plus **Large White** (1); **Orange-tip** (3); **Common Blue** (1); **Red Admiral** (1); **Speckled Wood** (1); **Small Heath** (2). Also **Burnet Companion** (4) and **Common Heath** (1) moths."

**Dave Wilton sent the following news:** "A surprise first-time visitor to our **Westcott, Bucks** garden on **Saturday 14th May** was this worn-out **Grizzled Skipper**. It has the honour of being the 27th butterfly species to be recorded here."

**Phil Coles reports seeing 2 Speckled Wood** in **Rushbeds Wood, Bucks** on **14th May**.

**Peter Law sent the following:** "On **14th May** I went back to **Lodge Hill SSSI, Bucks** for a proper look after getting there rather late in the day on my previous 30th April visit. With the addition of **Small Heath** (5), my sightings in the changeable cloud and sun conditions were similar to 2 weeks ago: **Orange-tip** (9), **Large White** (2), **Brimstone** (8), **Grizzled Skipper** (10), **Dingy Skipper** (1), **Small Copper** (3), **Holly Blue** (2) and one Vanessa that moved too quickly to identify. Most of these butterflies were again seen on the more sheltered SE slopes of the hill."

### Friday 13th May 2011

**David Redhead reported the following from Littlemore, Oxon on 11th May:** "On the afternoon of **Saturday 7th May** Wendy & I were extremely surprised to come across a **Grizzled Skipper** on the grassland near our house. No idea how it got there as the nearest known extant colony is some 15km away. It was not in evidence the next day but it was compensated for by 5 **Brown Argus** - this is an unprecedented number to be seen on this small piece of grassland in 20 years of monitoring it - we look forward to seeing what sort of numbers the second brood brings. Also seen were a mating pair of **Common Blues** and today (**Wednesday 11th May**) I found a **Common Blue egg** laid on the back of a Black Meddock leaf. Meanwhile the **Orange-tip eggs** we saw being laid on some Woad in our garden (see report for 11th April) have produced six thriving caterpillars - as you can see they lead an adventurous life whilst eating the hanging seed pods!"

**Chris Bottrell sent the following report:**

**05/5 Woodland Trust, Stratfield Brake, Oxon (1230-1330):** **Brimstone** (1); **Small White** (3); **Green-veined White** (2); Unidentified White (1); **Peacock** (1); **Comma** (1); **Speckled Wood** (3); **Burnet Companion moth** (2).

**07/5 RSPB, Otmoor, Oxon (0730):** Following early morning rain, the sun eventually broke through enough to put a few leps on the wing for the transect between the car park and the second screen (1130-1230): **Green-veined White** (2); **Orange-tip** (5); **Brown Argus** (2); **Common Blue** (10). Moths were: **Burnet Companion** (7); **Mother Shipton** (1) and a few **Silver-ground Carpets** disturbed earlier from the undergrowth.

**BBOWT, Sydlings Copse, Oxon (1255-1410):** Despite some sunshine the strong cold wind tempered numbers on my butterfly survey there. Total counts including access track: **Brimstone** (1); **Large White** (6); **Small White** (18); **Green-veined White** (2); **Orange-tip** (6); **Common Blue** (2); **Speckled Wood** (1). Moths: **Common Heath Moth** (6); **Burnet Companion** (1); **Treble Bar** (1); **Crambus sp** (prob lathoniellus, 2); **Grass Rivulet** (1); **Mother Shipton** (1).

*08/5 BBOWT, Oxey Mead, Oxon (1200-1300).* Another butterfly survey and again although being mostly sunny the temperature was being kept down by a strong wind. Despite this an apparent outbreak of Burnet Companions. Total count: **Small White** (1); **Green-veined White** (4); **Orange-tip** (1); **Small Copper** (1); **Brown Argus** (1); **Common Blue** (3); **Red Admiral** (1). Moths: **Common Heath Moth** (7); **Burnet Companion** (26). Lots of 'blue' damselflies and **Banded Demoiselle** (5M, 2F) on the wing down by the river."

*Dave Turnbull made a quick visit to Pitstone, Bucks on 9th May:* "I went to check on the **Small Blues** and I am certain that the numbers will exceed last year as there were hundreds and they haven't peaked yet. It would not be difficult to imagine numbers in four figures at the weekend. I took a photo of a particularly small one which was perfectly formed and able to fly but without doubt the smallest butterfly that I have ever seen!"

### Sunday 8th May 2011

*David Gower sent the following report:* "Yesterday (*Saturday 7th May*) I walked around the bottom of *Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks* and came across 2 x **Duke of Burgundy**, 4 x **Common Blue**, 8 x **Dingy Skippers**, 3 x **Brimstone**, 1 x **Small Heath**. At *Steps Hill* : 1 x **Speckled Wood**, 4 x **Brimstone**, 1 x **Common Blue**, 1 x **Green-veined White**, 1 x **Red Admiral**, 2 x **Orange-tip**, 1 x **Small Heath**. At *Incombe hole* : 18 x **Common Blue**, 1 x **Speckled Wood**, 2 x **Green Hairstreaks**, 6 x **Brimstone**, 8 x **Dingy Skippers**, 4 x **Grizzled Skippers** and 2 x **Small Heath**."

*Chris and Pat Dennis went to Bradenham Bank, Bucks today, 8th May:* "We saw **Small Blue**, **Orange-tips**, **Common Blues**, **Dingy Skippers**, **Grizzled Skippers**, **Green Hairstreaks**, **Green-veined Whites**, **Brimstones** and a **Small Tortoiseshell**. There were also a lot of moths on the site."

*David Hastings visited Seven Barrows, Berks on the afternoon of 7th May:* "Conditions were a bit marginal, being humid with only hazy sunshine at best and it was quite breezy at times. It was a bit slow to start with, but eventually I saw about twenty **Dingy Skippers** and ten **Small Heaths** on the reserve itself. Going up the side of Pit Down I found half a dozen **Small Blues**, a few **Green-veined Whites**, a couple of **Dingy Skippers** and a **Peacock**."

*Steve Croxford visited Yoesden Bank, Bucks on Saturday afternoon, 7th May:* "Despite the thundery weather and weak sunshine the butterflies were still quite active. The highlights were a pair of new **Adonis Blue** (male and female) and a **Small Blue** both of which are firsts for me this year. The top corner of the bank was covered in flowering Horseshoe vetch. Also seen were **Green Hairstreak**, **Grizzled Skipper**, **Dingy Skipper**, **Common Blue**, **Brimstone**, **Orange-tip** and **Small White**."

### Saturday 7th May 2011

*Richard O'Dare visited Ivinghoe Beacon on 6th May:* "Just off the footpath I came across this **Duke of Burgundy** settled in the scrub."

*Dave Ferguson went to Yoesden Bank, Bucks on 6th May:* "I found **Adonis Blue** (2m, 1f), **Small Blue** (3), **Common Blue** (15), **Brown Argus** (2), **Green Hairstreak** (1), **Green-veined White** (3), **Orange-tip** (1), **Brimstone** (5), **Peacock** (1), **Small Heath** (3), **Dingy Skipper** (17), **Grizzled Skipper** (1) and moths included **Burnet Companion** (3), **Mother Shipton** (2) and **Treble-bar** (1)."

*Dennis Dell visited Pitstone, Bucks on 6th May:* "2.50 pm to 3.45, 24 degrees, 100% sun, breezy. **Small Copper** [1], **Small Blue** [72], **Small Heath** [12], **Dingy Skipper** [17], **Common Blue** [11], **Brimstone** [2], **Red Admiral**." [1]



**Francis Gomme sent this report:** "I led a Risborough Countryside Group walk around the *Bradenham* estate in Bucks on Friday morning, *6th May*. Very warm and little breeze. **Dingy & Grizzled Skippers** and **Small Heath** in considerable numbers plus a strong colony of **Small Blues** on a recently restored grass bank that was mixed woodland three years ago! **Brown Argus**, **Green Hairstreak** and **Common Blue** too plus **Brimstone**, **Orange-tip**, **Small and Large White**, **Green-veined White**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Comma**, **Speckled Wood**, **Peacock** and **Red Admiral**. Another wildlife highlight were a dozen or more **Hare** in fields below the woods."

**On 4th May Helen Hyre was on a field path east of Aylesbury, Bucks when she came across** 3 **Small Copper** in a sheltered spot. "They were soon joined by two others. A display of aerobatics followed, then a chase through the grass. After more aerobatics, two Coppers settled and the others flew off. A minute later and none were to be seen."

**Ben Carpenter sent these butterfly records:** "I visited *The Holies, West Berks* on *4th May* and encountered the following: **Adonis Blue** (6), **Dingy Skipper** (23), **Green Hairstreak** (2), **Brown Argus** (1), **Small Heath** (1), **Common Blue** (11), **Large White** (2), **Orange-tip** (1), **Brimstone** (1) and **Small Copper** (1). I also visited *Lardon Chase* and found the following: **Common Blue** (26), **Dingy Skipper** (4), **Brown Argus** (1), **Brimstone** (6) and **Small White** (1). And a quick scout around *Lough Down* yielded: **Small Copper** (1), **Brown Argus** (1), **Grizzled Skipper** (1), **Orange-tip**, **Brimstone** and **Green Hairstreak** (2)."

**Graham Elcombe sent the following report:** "*4th May 2011* - On a brief visit to *Homefield Wood* (near Medmenham, Bucks) I saw **Green Hairstreak**, **Dingy Skipper**, **Grizzled Skipper**, **Brimstone**, **Small Heath**, **Small Copper**, **Brown Argus**, **Common Blue** (a lot), **Large White**, **Orange-tip** (male and female), **Green-veined White**, **Speckled Wood** and almost certainly, a **Comma** - all within a small area."

**Michael & Gillian Taylor visited the Devil's Punchbowl/Hackpen Hill on 3rd May:** "A good selection of butterflies and day-flying moths: **Duke of Burgundy**, **Green Hairstreak** (many), **Small Heath**, **Common Blue**, **Small Blue**, **Brown Argus**, **Dingy Skipper**, **Small Copper**, **Orange-tip**, **Peacock**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Painted Lady**. **Wood Tiger** moth (dozens), **Common Heath**."

**Chris Bottrell sent this report on 4th May:**

*25/4 - Fields to the back of the village (Merton, Oxon: SP5718 and SP5818)* whilst doing an evening breeding waders survey for RSPB (1830-2000): **Orange-tip** (4); **Red Admiral** (1); **Small Tortoiseshell** (1); **Peacock** (2); **Small Heath** (2); **Common Heath Moth** (1).

*27/4 - Stratfield Brake (Oxon), lunchtime walk (1230-1330):* **Large White** (2); **Small White** (1); **Green-veined White** (1); **Orange-tip** (4); Unidentified White (2); **Small Tortoiseshell** (1); **Peacock** (2); **Speckled Wood** (3). (Also **Large Red Damselfly**, **4-spot Chaser** and **Broad-bodied Chaser**).

*28/4 - St. Mary's Fields (Kidlington, Oxon), lunchtime walk (1230-1330):* **Large White** (2); **Green-veined White** (17); **Orange-tip** (6); Unidentified White (1); **Speckled Wood** (10).

*02/5 - A butterfly survey for BBOWT at Calvert Jubilee, Bucks (1100-1300).* Clear skies, 16C, but windy. But despite the wind a fantastic number of Skippers: **Dingy Skipper** (44); **Grizzled Skipper** (31); **Brimstone** (2); **Large White** (3); **Small White** (2); **Green-veined White** (15); **Orange-tip** (6); **Green Hairstreak** (2); **Brown Argus** (1); **Common Blue** (10); **Red Admiral** (1); **Small Tortoiseshell** (1); **Peacock** (1); **Speckled Wood** (14); **Small Heath** (1); **Pyrausta purpuralis** (1) and **Adela reaumurella** swarms in sheltered sunny spots. (Also **4-spot Chasers** and **Hornets**).

*Gallows Bridge, Bucks* 1330 - 1430. Exposed, so windy. Between the car park and the bird hides: **Small Copper** (1), **Brimstone Moth** (1).

*Whitecross Green Woods (Bucks)* 1500 - 1700. 16-17C, mostly clear but starting to cloud over, quite windy: **Large White** (1); **Green-veined White** (5); **Orange-tip** (5); Unidentified White (2); **Common Blue** (1); **Red Admiral** (1); **Peacock** (2); **Comma** (1); **Speckled Wood** (9); **Pyrausta purpuralis** (1); **Mother Shipton** (3);

*04/5 - St. Swithun's, Merton, Oxon:* Got back from work early enough (1630) to catch up with Chris Mason from the Cherwell Swift Group with his colleagues who have been installing a Swift Box in our village church. Whilst talking in the church yard: **Holly Blue** (2), **Orange-tip** (1), **Peacock** (1), Unidentified White (2)."

*Jan Haseler reported the following:* "I was pleased to find a **Green Hairstreak** in a scrubby field next to the M4, south of *Reading, Berks* on *4th May*. Motorways can be good places for butterflies!"

*Chris and Pat Dennis went to Ivinghoe Beacon on the 1st May:* "Although we saw **Dingy Skippers**, **Grizzled Skippers**, **Green-veined White**, **Orange-tip**, **Green Hairstreaks**, **Red Admiral**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Small Heath**, **Brown Argus**, **Common Blue**, **Peacock**, **Speckled Wood** and **Small Copper** (all of these were on the Steps Hill side of the road), we didn't manage to find any Dukes of Burgundy. I have also included a photo taken at a site in Bucks on 24th April of a **Green Hairstreak** with very bold white markings."

*Note: Since posting the above report it has been established that the Green Hairstreak (see photo) is in fact an, as yet, undescribed aberration. It will be named "Callophrys rubi ab. dennisorum." An article will appear on the 'News & Introduction' page of this website in due course. Wendy*

*Martin Mitchell visited The Holies, West Berks on 2nd May:* "I saw 20+ **Dingy Skippers**, 2 **Green Hairstreaks**, 2 **Small Heaths**, 1 **Holly Blue**. I also saw a single **Club-tailed dragonfly** which must have very recently emerged from the Thames below."

*David Hastings sent the following report on 3rd May:* "On *April 30th* I visited *Otmoor, Oxon* and although it was windy the old Roman road was sheltered so that's where most of the butterflies were. **Orange-tips** were still much in evidence, with at least 25 males recorded. Other species seen were **Peacock**, **Green-veined White**, **Speckled Wood**, **Brimstone**, **Red Admiral**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Small Copper** and **Comma**. I also found a **White Ermine moth** down by the new hide. On *May 2nd* I went to *Farmoor, Oxon* where the areas around the Pinkhill and Shrike Meadow scrapes were fairly sheltered. I saw my first **Common Blue** of the year, as well as more **Orange-tips**, **Green-veined Whites**, **Brimstones**, **Speckled Woods**, **Red Admirals** and **Brown Argus**. The Common Blue was my 19th species of the year - pretty good going for the beginning of May!"

*This news came via Liz Wilkinson:* "On *2nd May* David Gower saw 1 x **Green Hairstreak** between *Aldbury & Pitstone Hill, Bucks* as well as 13 **Small Heath** and **Dingy Skipper** x5 and **Grizzled Skippers** x 7 at *Incombe Hole*."

*Francis Gomme reported as follows:* "On *Sunday 1st May* a circular walk around *Bradenham, Bucks* produced a **Red Admiral**, **Peacocks**, **Commas**, **Small Tortoiseshells**, **Green-veined Whites**, **Large Whites**, **Small Whites**, **Orange-tips**, **Brimstones**, **Small Heath**, **Grizzled** and **Dingy Skippers**, **Green Hairstreaks**, **Small Copper**, **Common Blue** and **Holly Blues** and my first **Small Blue** of the year."

*Michael Swaine sent the following report:* "I should be feeling positive and upbeat after a day at the wonderful *Dancersend* reserve in Bucks on *2nd May* - I stopped counting at 7 **Brimstone**, 6 **Orange-tip**, 5 **Green-veined White**, 5 **Speckled Wood**, 3 **Holly Blue**, 4 **Green Hairstreak**, 5 **Dingy Skipper**, 4 **Grizzled Skipper**, 1 **Peacock**, 1 **Red Admiral** - but Jahan and I were left feeling flat and disappointed having failed to see any Dukes of

Burgundy (1 vague possibility, but it was too fleeting to be sure of anything). Going on to [Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks](#) should have fixed the problem, but alas no Dukes there either (although admittedly we don't know the site and were relying on our own knowledge and instincts) - and not even a Small Heath or our first Common Blue of the year cheered us up!"

**[Dave Maunder visited Calvert Jubilee Nature Reserve, Bucks on 2nd May:](#)** "A lot of butterflies were seen, which included **Grizzled Skippers** (6); **Dingy Skippers** (25+); **Green Hairstreaks** (3); **Common Blues** (4); **Brown Argus** (2); **Peacock** (1); **Brimstone** (1, female); **Large White** (1); **Green-veined Whites** (9); **Orange-tips** (6). Also heard but not seen was a **Cuckoo**, which I heard while talking to Chris Bottrell who was there doing his butterfly transect!"

**[Danny Howard went for a walk around Blewbury Downs, South Oxon on May 2nd:](#)** "I saw my first **Small Copper** of the year, along with **Peacocks**, **Brimstones**, **Orange-tips** and a solitary **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Red Admiral**. For me the highlight of the walk though was the **Woolly Bear** we saw traversing the road (*see photo on the Moth Sightings page*). This is the first Garden Tiger I have seen since moving to Oxfordshire, in fact the first since I was first bitten by the lepidoptera bug in my early teens, so over 25 years ago!"

### Tuesday 3rd May 2011

**[Jim Asher sent the following on 2nd May:](#)** "Despite the atrocious wind conditions today, I found **Duke of Burgundy** on two [Lambourn Downs sites](#), one site with 10 (all males I think) and the other a singleton male, exactly where I saw one last year, but nearly a month earlier! I also saw my first **Brown Argus**, **Small Blue**, **Small Copper**, **Small Heath** of this year, plus **Dingy Skipper** and several common species. I also saw a **Slow Worm** basking on the track. These butterfly sightings bring my total for this year to 21 species - not bad going for 2nd May!"

**[Martin Harvey sent this update on 2nd May:](#)** "Two more **Dingy Skippers** to report from Bucks today, *2nd May*: one at BBOWT's [Aston Clinton Ragpits reserve](#), and one within [Wendover Woods](#), at the Aston Hill end, in a clearing that is scrubbing over (grid ref SP884101). Also saw a tiny **Orange-tip caterpillar**, spotted by my son Dominic, see photo."

**[Wendy Wilson went to Ivinghoe Beacon on Sunday May 1st:](#)** "I parked at the bottom of Ivinghoe Beacon at 9.15am and, though the temperature was still only 12C. and there was a stiff east wind, Dukes of Burgundy, Green Hairstreaks, Dingy and Grizzled Skippers were already on the wing. My count for the morning was **Dingy Skipper** 25, **Green Hairstreak** 14, **Duke of Burgundy** 8, **Grizzled Skipper** 4, **Speckled Wood** 4, **Brimstone** 4, **Orange-tip** 3, **Small White** 2, **Small Tortoiseshell** 1, **Green-veined White** 1, **Holly Blue** 1."

**[Brenda Mobbs sent this news on 1st May:](#)** "I've just been to [Aston Clinton Ragpits, Bucks](#) and saw two male **Common Blues**."

**[Peter Law says that while birding on Port Meadow, Oxford on 1st May he saw](#)** a pristine **Red Admiral** (his first this year) in [Burgess Field Nature Park](#).

**[Mick Jones visited Dancersend Reserve in Bucks on 30th April:](#)** "A good range of butterflies seen, despite the high winds. Sadly still no Duke of Burgundy and I'm beginning to fear the worst after the poor showing last year. To make up for it: **Dingy Skipper** (9), **Grizzled Skipper** (3), **Brimstone** (18), **Large White** (2), **Green-veined White** (2), unidentified whites (5), **Orange-tip** (12), **Green Hairstreak** (2), **Small Copper** (3), **Brown Argus** (2), **Common Blue** (5), **Holly Blue** (6), **Red Admiral** (1), **Comma** (1), **Speckled Wood** (2). I'm particularly pleased to be seeing Grizzled Skippers as they dropped to low numbers at the reserve over the last few years. I also managed a snatched photo of a rather



impressive large flying insect that I thought must be some sort of clearwing moth. I later found out it was a **Birch sawfly, Cimbex femoratus** - this may be a new record for the reserve. Thanks to Martin Harvey for help with the id. Martin commented that it seems to be quite a widespread species but not often observed, at least as an adult."

**Wendy & David Redhead reported the following:** "On *Friday 29th April* - An **Orange-tip** laid an egg on Dame's Violet (Sweet Rocket) in our garden in *Littlemore, Oxon* - this brings to 5 the plants being used by the Orange-tip in our garden, the others being, in order of abundance, Garlic Mustard, Woad, Cuckooflower (Lady's Smock) & Honesty. On wasteland nearby there are also eggs on Hedge Mustard. A half grown **Brimstone caterpillar** was in evidence on the buckthorn bush in our garden. On *Saturday 30th April* - Our first **Brown Argus** of the year at *Chilswell Valley* west of Oxford - at least three. A **Holly Blue** egg-laying in our garden on a Photinia fraseri shrub more commonly known as Red Robin because some of its leaves are red. It is often sold as an ornamental hedging plant. A momentary visit by a **Small Tortoiseshell** to our garden - the first we have seen there this year."

**This report came from Martin Harvey on 30th April:** "Having been rather horrified to realise that I hadn't recorded a **Green Hairstreak** since 2002, I went up to *Grangelands, Bucks* today (*30 April*) in the hope of putting this right. Fortunately my wife was with me, and she was much better at seeing them than I was. But even so, we couldn't get close to any. However, we did eventually get views of a mating pair, even if they were quite high up in a Yew tree and at the limit of the zoom on my camera! Also at Grangelands were four **Dingy Skipper** and two **Grizzled Skipper**."

**Martin Mitchell sent the following on 30th April:** "10 **Dingy Skippers**, 3 **Grizzled Skippers**, 3 **Common Blues**, 1 **Small Copper** on the southern edge of *Crookham Common, Berks*. Also 4 **Speckled Yellow moths**."

**Peter Law sent this report:** "Today, *30th April*, I visited one of my favourite spots, on the south side of the M40 cutting at *Aston Rowant NNR, Oxon*. I had checked out this site for **Green Hairstreak** twice previously in April without success. Today I found 11 on the footpath from the "lay-by" down to Hill Farm; then 9 more on the hill between Linky Down and the motorway where I also saw 6 **Dingy Skipper** and my first **Green-veined White** of the year. On returning to the footpath I ran into another member, Wendy Wilson, sitting on the bench with a friend, and between us we found 1 **Grizzled Skipper** and another 2 **Dingy Skipper** at that spot. Other species seen were **Small White** (3), **Orange-tip** (2), **Brimstone** (5) and **Speckled Wood** (1). Wendy had also seen a **Grizzled Skipper** on the Bald Hill part of the reserve."

I then went on to *Chinnor Hill* and walked from the BBOWT reserve car park, via a bridleway and then the Ridgeway path, to *Lodge Hill, Bucks*. That walk produced **Small White** (10), **Orange-tip** (4), **Brimstone** (3) and **Speckled Wood** (5). At Lodge Hill itself there were only garden butterflies again until I came across some sunny, sheltered clearings on the hill's south-east slope (approx SU797998 on OS Explorer Map 171). Here there were **Grizzled Skipper** (8+), **Dingy Skipper** (2) and **Small Copper** (1). Other species on or around Lodge Hill were **Small White** (2), **Orange-tip** (4), **Brimstone** (16) and **Holly Blue** (5)."

**Dave Ferguson reported the following:** "Among the many **Dukes of Burgundy** on the *Ivinghoe Hills (Bucks)* this afternoon (*30th April*) was this pale individual. Also seen were **Brown Argus** (15), **Common Blue** (1), **Green Hairstreak** (10), **Small Copper** (1), **Grizzled Skipper** (20), **Dingy Skipper** (40) and **Small Heath** (1)."

**Tony Rayner sent this update on 30th April:** "Yet another early species - a male **Common Blue** today at *Cholsey, Oxon* - 17 species without leaving home and it's still April!"

**Dave Wilton sent the following:** "A very brief stop at *Pitstone, Bucks* today, *Saturday 30th*

April, produced six **Small Blues** and a more comprehensive search would undoubtedly have increased that total. This is the 20th different species I've seen in the county so far this year, the first time I've achieved that total before the end of April."

**Dave Turnbull visited Pitstone, Bucks on the morning of Saturday 30th April:** "I found 15+ **Small Blues**, 20+ **Dingy Skippers**, 5 **Small Heaths** and 3 **Grizzled Skippers** (this was a new species for me at the site)."

**Nicholl Williams went to the Burghfield Gravel Pit, Berks over the Easter Weekend:** "I saw all the usual butterflies: **Orange-tips**, **Red Admirals**, **Holly Blues**, **Brimstones**, **Speckled Woods**, **Small Tortoiseshells**."

**Stuart Hodges sent the following on 29th April:** "I thought it might be worth reporting that we have **Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars** in our paddock here at **Steeple Claydon, Bucks**. I checked the nettles on **28th April** and we have 14 groups of first instar caterpillars on 28 patches of Nettles. Last year they were checked on 6/5/10, none to be seen, the first being found on 11/5/10. At present we are one group of caterpillars down on last year's total, but there may still be more to hatch. Just one group is second instar, all the others are first."

**Steve Croxford sent this report on 28th April:** "Despite the cool and blustery conditions butterflies were quite active at the disused railway cutting near **Westcott, Bucks** this lunch time. There were several dozen each of **Grizzled** and **Dingy Skippers**. I also saw 6 **Common Blue**, my first of the year. Also seen were **Green Hairstreak** (2), **Small Copper** (1), **Orange-tip**, **Brimstone**, **Speckled Wood**, **Red Admiral** and **Small White**."

**On the afternoon of 27th April David Hastings went to Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon:** "I managed to record 10 species in my brief visit: **Orange-tip** (6m), **Brimstone** (5m), **Large White** (2), **Green-veined White** (6), **Peacock** (1), **Comma** (1), **Small Copper** (3), **Brown Argus** (1), **Green Hairstreak** (1) and **Speckled Wood** (2)."

**Tony Rayner reported the following on 27th April:** "On **27th April** we had our first **Brown Argus** at home in **Cholsey, Oxon**, yet another early appearance almost a week ahead of our previous earliest record!"

## Tuesday 26th April 2011

**Dave Maunder sent this news today, 26th:** "I've seen my first two **Red Admirals** of the year recently - one in **Winslow, Bucks** on **Sunday 24th April**, the other up in woods near **St. Leonards** in the Chilterns yesterday - both looked in pretty good condition - new immigrants, perhaps, after all the hot weather recently?"

**Mick Jones sent the following report on 25th April:** "I had my first longish walk around **Dancersend Reserve, Bucks** today (out of action, moving house over the last week). No **Duke of Burgundy** seen, but it was rewarding for other butterflies with 11 species recorded. The highlight was the highest count I've ever had for **Small Copper** (14). Also **Orange-tip** (11), **Speckled Wood** (5), **Brimstone** (12), **Holly Blue** (5), **Dingy Skipper** (7), **Green Hairstreak** (2), **Comma** (2), **Green-Veined White** (1), **Peacock** (1), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1). Moths seen were **Mother Shipton** (3), **Burnet Companion** (1)."

**Jim Asher reported the following on 25th April:** I saw my first **Common Blue** male today, on **Watts Reserve** south of Lambourn, Berks. It seems we really do have an exceptional spring this year!"

**Dave Turnbull went to Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks on Saturday 23rd April:** "I went to photograph the **Dukes of Burgundy** and saw about 20 and about 12 **Green Hairstreaks**. Witnessed several `dog fights` between Green Hairstreaks, Dukes of Burgundy and **Grizzled Skippers**. The Dukes were sometimes spiralling 30ft into the air before plummeting back down, quite a spectacular sight. Also saw a pair mating but just failed to get a picture.  
**Monday 25th April** I went to **Pitstone, Bucks**. 5 **Green Hairstreaks** and 14 **Dingy Skippers** were the more notable sightings."

**Tony & Ro Rayner reported these sightings:** "We were delighted to find a **Dingy Skipper** at our home in **Cholsey, Oxon** on **23rd April** - this is easily our earliest record ever and is the third year in a row for this species. We also saw at least 5 **Small Coppers**. Then on **25th April** we could scarcely believe our eyes. Whilst watching the antics of Dingy Skippers (and never before have we seen more than one) we were astonished to see a **Grizzled Skipper** shortly followed by a **Green Hairstreak**. Bearing in mind that we have closely monitored our patch for 25 years - to have two new species for the site on the same day hardly seems real!"

**David Fuller visited Watlington Hill, Oxon on 25th April:** "I saw **Grizzled Skipper** 6, **Green Hairstreak** 6, **Holly Blue** 3, **Brimstone** 3, **Small White** 4, **Large White** 1. Moths were: **Burnet Companion**, **Mother Shipton**, probable **Treble-bar** (not staying still long enough to get positive I.D.) and **Cinnabar Moth**."

**Tony Speight sent the following report:** "On transect today (**25th April**) at **Sands Bank, High Wycombe, Bucks** I picked up very good numbers of **Dingy Skipper** (41) and **Green Hairstreak** (11) as well as **Orange-tip** (3), **Brimstone** (3) and my first **Common Blue** (2)."

**Dennis Dell sent this report on 25th April:** "**Steps Hill, Ivinghoe, Bucks** today; 14.00 to 15.40, 20 to 22 degrees, 100% sun, breezy in exposed places. **Dingy Skipper** 17, **Duke of Burgundy** [all looking fresh] 19, **Brimstone** 8, **Green Hairstreak** 11, **Grizzled Skipper** 2, **Orange-tip** 3, **Small Copper** 1, **Speckled Wood** 2, **Small White** 3, **Small Tortoiseshell** 1, **Brown Argus** 1, **Red Admiral** 1, **Silver Y moth** 1."

**Paul Fisher from Northants branch was also looking for Dukes at Ivinghoe, Bucks on 25th April and recorded:** 30x **Dingy Skippers**, 8x **Duke of Burgundy**, 13x **Green Hairstreak**, 12x **Brimstone**, 2x **Peacocks**, 1x **Speckled Wood**, 2x **Small Tortoiseshells**, 2x **Brown Argus**, 2x **Orange-tips**, 13x **Grizzled Skippers**, 1x **Green-veined White** and 4x **Small Heaths**.

**Peter Law sent the following report:** "While birding at **Otmoor RSPB, Oxon** on the morning of **25th April** I came across a **Painted Lady** on the bridleway between Ashgrave and Big Otmoor. On Easter **Saturday 23rd April**, en route to two sites in Hampshire, I paid a brief visit to **Crowhole Bottom, Berks** to look for **Green Hairstreak**. I found 5 along the Ridgeway from the Sparsholt Firs car park and there were large numbers in the valley itself around the nettle patches, where I also picked out 2 **Dingy Skipper**. Other species seen here were 4 **Peacock**, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell** and 3 **Small White**."

**Monday 25th April 2011**

**Clive Burrows reports seeing lots of butterflies at Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks on 24th April:** "14 **Dukes of Burgundy**, 6 **Grizzled Skippers**, 16 **Dingy Skippers**, 3 **Brimstones**, 17 **Green Hairstreaks** and a single **Peacock** recorded in a 2 hour morning period."

**David Hastings reported the following sightings:** "**Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon, 22nd April:** **Peacock** (3), **Green-veined White** (6), **Large White** (1), **Speckled Wood** (2), **Orange-tip** (2m), **Brimstone** (1f).



*Bagley Wood, Oxon, 23rd April:* **Holly Blue** (1m, 1f), **Orange-tip** (4m, 1f), **Speckled Wood** (12+), **Red Admiral** (1), **Large White** (several), **Green-veined White** (several).

*Aston Upthorpe Down, Oxon, 23th April:* My first visit to this site produced **Orange-tip** (6m), **Peacock** (4), **Small Copper** (11), **Brimstone** (6m, 2f), **Dingy Skipper** (2), **Grizzled Skipper** (26+), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1) and **Holly Blue** (1).

Also three **Cinnabar Moths**.

*Michael & Jahan Swaine had a great morning at Dry Sandford Pit on 24th April:* "We enjoyed various mining bees, a hornet and a female banded demoiselle. Also, various **Small, Large** and **Green-veined Whites**, 2 **Orange-tips**, 1 **Red Admiral**, 3 **Speckled Wood**, 3 **Brimstone**, 1 **Holly Blue**. Best of all was what we thought at first was a pair of Green Hairstreaks, but then realised what we were watching was a **Green Hairstreak** and a **Brown Argus**. Alas, the Brown Argus only stayed around long enough for this one hasty photo. The Green Hairstreak was later joined by a second one - and we watched their courtship display. It made great entertainment for our picnic lunch."

*Chris Bottrell sent the following on 23rd April: 20/4* - Total counts for BBOWT Butterfly Survey at *Oxey Mead* (Oxon SP 478 106). (11:30-12:30, 18C, 100% Sun, Wind 1-2): **Brimstone** (5); **Green-veined White** (15); **Orange-tip** (21); **Small Tortoiseshell** (1); **Peacock** (3); **Speckled Wood** (1); **Comma** (1). My weekly walk around Woodland Trust, *Stratfield Brake (Oxon)* (13:00-14:00, temperature up to 22C): **Brimstone** (2); **Orange-tip** (8); **Holly Blue** (2); **Peacock** (1); **Speckled Wood** (1).

*22/4* - A trip to *BBOWT Dancersend (Bucks)* and a good explore (08:00-12:15, 13C to 21C, 100% sun, Wind 0-1): **Brimstone** (13); **Small White** (1); **Green-veined White** (5); Unidentified White (3); **Orange-tip** (35); **Green Hairstreak** (5 at 'Ant Hills', and 1 also along the track through 'Round Spring Wood'); **Small Copper** (5); **Holly Blue** (3); **Red Admiral** (1); **Small Tortoiseshell** (2); **Comma** (2); **Speckled Wood** (6). Sadly couldn't connect with any Duke of Burgundys. Superb reserve. A stop off at *Aston Clinton Ragpits (Bucks)* on the way back (13:30-14:15, temperature up to 22C). A little gem: **Brimstone** (11); **Orange-tip** (6); Unidentified Blue (1). Final Stop, *BBOWT Calvert Jubilee (Bucks)* with the thermometer giving 23-24C. 3 **Dingy Skippers** found amongst 19 **Grizzled Skippers** in the impoverished area between the concrete path to the top bird hide and the woods.

*23/4* - Total counts for BBOWT Butterfly Survey at *Sydlings Copse (Oxon)* plus sightings on the access track to the reserve. (11:35-13:20, 22-23C, 100% Sun, Wind 0-1): **Brimstone** (1); **Large White** (2); **Small White** (23); **Green-veined White** (8); **Orange-tip** (44); **Holly Blue** (1); **Small Tortoiseshell** (1); **Peacock** (1); **Speckled Wood** (9). 14:00-16:00, a circuit of *BBOWT Whitecross Green Wood* using the main rides and the boundary path: **Grizzled Skipper** (2); **Brimstone** (3); **Large White** (1); **Small White** (4); **Green-veined White** (2); Unidentified White (4); **Orange-tip** (10); **Peacock** (3); **Speckled Wood** (12)."

*Danny Howard reported the following on 23rd April:* "Lots of **Holly Blues** and **Speckled Woods** in my garden in *Cowley, Oxon* at the moment and I have spotted two **Orange-tip** eggs on some Hedge Garlic I planted in the garden last year."

### Friday 22nd April 2011

*Along the River Thames towpath today, 22nd, David Fuller saw Orange-tip* 5 males, **Green-veined White** and **Speckled Wood**.

*The following report came from Dave Wilton today, 22nd:* "Active along the disused railway cutting west of *Westcott Venture Park, Bucks* this morning were **Grizzled Skipper** (19) and **Dingy Skipper** (4), so I then went to check three other sites for these species around *Calvert, Bucks*. The sailing lake (a private site) produced **Grizzled Skipper** (8), the Jubilee Reserve managed **Grizzled Skipper** (13) and **Green Hairstreak** (1), while on waste ground at Calvert Green I found **Grizzled Skipper** (9). There was no sign yet of **Dingy Skipper**

at these sites although it should appear at all of them shortly."

**Tony & Ro Rayner had their first Small Copper** of the year at *Cholsey, Oxon* on *21st April*. "It was a particularly small individual found on a Cowslip."

**David Redhead sent this unusual sighting from Littlemore, Oxon on 21st April:** "On *Tuesday afternoon, 19th April* I went out into the garden to try and sort out the few whites flying about. However, my attention was diverted by a **Speckled Wood** fluttering low over an area of rough grassland and well away from the nearest tree. She proceeded to lay two eggs on blades of a fairly coarse grass. This brings to ten the number of species which the last twentyish years have produced evidence for attempted breeding in various parts of the gardens belonging to Heyford Hill Cottages in Littlemore. The others, in order of observed frequency, being - Orange-tip, Large White, Brimstone, Comma, Green-veined White, Small White, Holly Blue, Red Admiral & Meadow Brown. However, in most cases I cannot prove they successfully bred right through to the adult stage and already one of the Speckled Wood eggs has disappeared - I suspect the blade of grass was eaten by some of the other wildlife visiting our garden."

**Bob Tunnicliffe sent the following report:** "On *Wednesday 20th April* Trish and I saw a **Wood White** at a site near *Winslow, Bucks*. Very early - but it has been exceptionally warm! Otherwise, reasonable numbers of **Brimstone, Orange-tip** (male and female), **Speckled Wood, Peacock** and **Small White**, with the odd **Green-veined White** and **Holly Blue**."

### Wednesday 20th April 2011

**Derek & Cathy Brown had a very productive day at Hartslock (Berks) this morning (20th):** "We saw **Green Hairstreak** (5), **Brimstone** (2), **Grizzled Skipper** (6), **Orange-tip** (4), **Small White** (1), **Holly Blue** (4), **Green-veined White** (1) and our first of the year **Dingy Skipper** (20), **Red Admiral** (1), and **Small Heath** (1). Back home in *Beenham, Berks* we added **Small Tortoiseshell** (1) and **Speckled Wood** (1). So a good day (12 species) all in all."

**David Fuller visited Homefield Wood in Marlow, Bucks today 20/04/11:** "I saw **Grizzled Skipper** 5, **Small Copper** 1, **Orange-tip** 10+ males plus a further 6 males on journey from Marlow Common, **Small White** 2, **Speckled Wood** 1 and **Brimstone** 3 males + 1 female."

**Chris Bottrell sent this update today:**

*16/4 - Otmoor, Oxon*. Total numbers whilst doing a Butterfly Survey for RSPB (1130-1230, 19C, 60% Sun, wind 6mph): **Brimstone** (3) **Small White** (2); **Green-veined White** (1); **Orange-tip** (8); **Peacock** (3); **Comma** (1); **Speckled Wood** (4). Also earlier (0845-1015) off transect along the bridleway through the reserve between the gate into Sally's Field (SP 55152 13416) and the start of the Screens Trail (SP56116 12935): **Brimstone** (1); **Orange Tip** (10); **Speckled Wood** (2); **Small Tortoiseshell** (1); **Peacock** (1); **Common Heath Moth** (1). Also my first Odonata, a **Large Red Damselfly** at SP 56001 13402.

*19/4 - BBOWT College Lake, Bucks* (0930-1300). A circuit of the lake using the prescribed trails (100% Sun, 19-20C, light breeze 1-2). **Brimstone** (2); **Orange-tip** (11); **Speckled Wood** (4); **Comma** (1); **Green-veined White** (2); **Green Hairstreak** (4 - colony around SP 92686 14638, well worth the walk as about the furthest point from the car park).

*19/4 - BBOWT - Calvert Jubilee, Bucks* (1430-1500). Despite spotting 3 *Pyrausta* sp. I still haven't managed to confirm the id. Nice though to find 7 **Grizzled Skipper** whilst trying and another **Large Red Damselfly**.

*19/4 - Merton Wood, Oxon* (SP5817) (1600). A three quarter of an hour stroll around the now 12 year old wood. **Brimstone** (7); **Green-veined White** (4); **Peacock** (3); **Orange-tip** (4); **Speckled Wood** (1)."

**Steve Croxford sent this report today:** "This morning I decided to visit a scrub site in *Bucks* to look for Duke of Burgundy. There was no sign of any Dukes but I did see my first **Dingy Skipper** of the year. Also seen at the site were **Grizzled Skipper, Comma, Red Admiral, Orange-tip, Brimstone, Peacock, Speckled Wood** and **Holly Blue**. I then called in at *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* where there appears to have been a large hatch of **Dingy Skipper**. It was by far the most numerous butterfly at this site with at least three dozen individuals seen. Also seen at Yoesden were **Green Hairstreak, Brimstone, Orange-tip, Peacock, Holly Blue** and **Speckled Wood**."

**Dave Turnbull sent the following report today:** "My feeling that the season is about ten days earlier than average led me to *Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks* to look for **Duke of Burgundy**. I wasn't disappointed! Also there were **Green Hairstreaks, Grizzled Skippers, Peacock, Orange-tip, Large White, Brimstone**."

**Dave Ferguson saw** a fresh **Red Admiral** at *Grangelands, Bucks* today, *20th April*.

**Dave Wilton sent this report:** "I walked the *Greatmoor drains (Bucks)* on *19th April* and saw **Grizzled Skipper** (4) there, along with another pair on the disused railway near *Finemere*, and they were my first of the year. No sign of **Dingy Skipper** over this way yet."

**Mick & Wendy Campbell walked from Burntwood Cemetery near Goring to the Hartslock Nature Reserve on 19th April:** "It was hot and sunny and there were plenty of butterflies around. At *Hartslock* we saw our first **Dingy Skipper** (4) and **Grizzled Skipper** (1) of the year. Other butterflies recorded on the walk were: **Holly Blue** (8), **Peacock** (2), **Orange-tip** (5), **Brimstone** (5), **Large White** (1), **Small White** (3), **Green-veined White** (3), **Small Tortoiseshell** (4) and **Green Hairstreak** (13). Moths included: **Adela reaumurella** (many), **Pyrausta nigrata** (1), **Small Purple-barred** (1)."

**Ben Miller reported the following on 19th April:** "I was birding on *Steps Hill, Bucks* this morning, but even by 9am butterflies were active, including my first **Grizzled Skipper** of the year. Also on the wing at this hour were a **Speckled Wood** and numbers of **Orange-tip** and **Brimstone**."

**This news came via Ched George:** "A **Duke of Burgundy** was seen at a private site in *Bucks* on *18th April*."

### Sunday 17th April 2011

**Jim Asher visited Aston Upthorpe on 17th April:** "10 species today, including 10 **Grizzled Skipper** and two **Green Hairstreak** at *Aston Upthorpe*. Also **Small White, Green-veined White**, many **Brimstone**, many **Orange-tip, Holly Blue, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock** and **Speckled Wood**. Also, lots of Fritillaries (only they were Snakeshead, not the lepidoptera kind!)."

**Paul Warham reported the following:** "Early spring butterflies seen at midday today (*17/4/11*) at *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* included **Green Hairstreak** (at least 10) and **Grizzled Skipper** (3), plus a single **Small Copper** in *Radnage Churchyard*."

**Rob Solomon sent this sighting on 16th April:** "Today (*16/04/11*) at *Wildmoor Heath, Berks* I saw my first **Green Hairstreak** of the year on a patch of gorse near the electrical pylon next to the small boardwalk section in the reserve."



**During a walk from Sparsholt Firs, Oxon on the Ridgeway Trail, Mick & Wendy Campbell saw the following:** "Our walk on *Saturday 16th April* took in the *Devil's Punchbowl* where there's a good colony of Green Hairstreaks. Despite being warm it was wall-to-wall cloud, however we managed to count 20 **Green Hairstreak** in brief flights above the elderberry shrubs. There were also many (144 counted) almost full-grown **Wood Tiger moth larvae** on the slopes, a **Glowworm larva** eating a snail and a **Cinnabar moth**. Other butterfly species seen on the walk were **Peacock** (3), **Small Tortoiseshell** (5), **Orange-tip** (2) and our first **Red Admirals** (2) of the year."

**Chris Bottrell sent this report on 15th April:** "15/4 - Total counts for BBOWT Butterfly Survey at *Calvert Jubilee, Bucks*. 12:40-14:10 90% Sun, 16-17C, Wind 1-2. **Grizzled Skipper** (1); **Brimstone** (4); **Green-veined White** (4); **Orange-tip** (4); **Peacock** (5); **Comma** (3); **Speckled Wood** (12); *Pyraustra purpuralis* (2)."

**David Fuller saw the following in his garden in Maidenhead, Berks:** "In my garden today, *15th April*, **Green-veined White** (my tenth species for the year), **Small White**, male and female **Orange-tip**, male and female **Holly Blue** and **Comma**."

**Steve Croxford sent this report on 15th April:** "This morning I saw my first **Grizzled Skippers** of the year at the disused railway line near *Westcott, Bucks*. At least two were present basking in the weak sun. Also seen were **Orange-tip**, **Brimstone**, **Small White**, **Comma** and **Peacock**."

**Wendy Wilson reported the following on 13th May:** "Last year in May I found the first Green Hairstreaks to be seen in the south-east Bucks area for over fifty years. I was keen to see if they were still in the area, so arranged to visit a private site in *Higher Denham* on *Tuesday 12th April*. The weather had worsened, but Andy King and I duly set off unhelpfully in a stiff easterly breeze with the thermometer registering 9C. We were delighted to find a lovely fresh **Green Hairstreak** (see photos) basking in the sun on gorse bushes in a sheltered spot. We assumed it was a male establishing his territory as he kept jumping up aggressively to chase away the many micromoths which were annoying him. Andy photographed the moths and is busy identifying them. There was plenty of good habitat on the site, so we are hopeful that many more will appear when the weather warms up again. Also there were 15 **Orange-tips**, 5 **Holly Blues**, 5 **Small Whites**, 2 **Commas** and 3 **Orange-tip Eggs** on jack-by-the-hedge. If you live anywhere in this area, it would be well worth looking out for Green Hairstreaks in sunny spots where there are gorse, broom or bramble bushes. Do let us know if you see any."

### Tuesday 12th April 2011

**This report came from David Redhead:** "Yesterday (*11th April*) Wendy & I were surprised to spot a female **Orange-tip** egg-laying on a flowerhead of one of the Woad plants growing in our garden in *Littlemore, Oxon*. Subsequent inspection showed two other flowerheads similarly annotated plus a fourth egg in the more traditional position just beneath a flowerhead. None of our books or the websites visited mention Woad as a possible foodplant but its use is perhaps not surprising as it is a crucifer. It will be interesting to see if any more eggs are laid on it and how the emergent caterpillars fare. This brings the total number of Orange-tip eggs in our garden to 17 with 11 on Garlic Mustard and 2 on Honesty."

**David Fuller sent these sightings on 11th April:**  
"Maidenhead (Berks) River Thames towpath SU903833 - male **Holly Blue**.  
Maidenhead River Thames towpath SU904828 another male **Holly Blue** and a **Peacock**."

**Kath Randall sent this report on 11th April:** "As well as sightings of good numbers of **Orange-tip**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock**, **Whites** and some **Holly Blues**, it was a

surprise to see a pristine **Painted Lady** basking on a bramble in *Sibford Ferris, Oxon.*"

**Chris Bottrell sent this update on 11th April:**

*7/4 - Stratfield Brake, Oxon.* (1230-1330, 18C, 5% cloud, wind 9mph NW): **Peacock** (6); **Small Tortoiseshell** (5); **Brimstone** (3); **Comma** (1); **Holly Blue** (1 on Ivy).

*8/4 - Kidlington, Oxon.* Six Bells pub garden at 1630: **Holly Blue** (1 - again on Ivy).

*9/4 - Otmoor, Oxon.* Total numbers whilst doing a Butterfly Survey for RSPB (1130-1230, 18C, 0% Cloud, wind 9mph): **Orange-tip** (3); **Brimstone** (1). Also earlier (0930-1030) off transect along the bridleway through the reserve between the gate into Sally's Field (SP 55152 13416) and the start of the Screens Trail (SP56116 12935): **Orange-tip** (2), **Brimstone** (1) and **Peacock** (2).

*Sydlings Copse, Oxon.* Total numbers whilst doing a Butterfly Survey for BBOWT (1245-1415): **Orange-tip** (10); **Brimstone** (4); **Peacock** (2); **Speckled Wood** (2). And off transect on the track leading down to the reserve: **Orange-tip** (2); **Brimstone** (1); **Small Tortoiseshell** (3).

*10/4 - Late morning:* an **Orange-tip** in the front garden (*Merton, Oxon*); lunchtime: 2 **Holly Blue** in back garden, afternoon: a hibernating **Peacock** liberated from the garage and a **Small Tortoiseshell** (might have been the one from the spare room) released from the front room. The Peacock just flew off over the fence, but the Small Tortoiseshell dropped onto the lawn and drank for several minutes from the damp grass where I'd been washing the garden furniture before shunning my nettle patch and flying straight up to about 30ft and then off into the wind."

**Richard Harrington, Hertfordshire Branch, reported the following on 10th April:** "Green Hairstreak today at *Pitstone Hill, Bucks* SP948144. Earliest I've ever seen it, but I see it's not the first record."

**David Hastings had a bumper day for Orange-tips on Otmoor on Saturday 9th April:** "I lost count of how many **Orange-tips** I saw, but it was around 40. Nearly all were males, I only saw one female. **Green-veined Whites** were also present - I saw around a dozen. I also saw two **Large Whites**, three **Small Tortoiseshells**, one **Brimstone** and two **Speckled Woods**. In the garden at home (*north Abingdon*) I saw one **Holly Blue**, a couple of Large Whites and an Orange-tip.

*At Dry Sandford Pit this morning, 10th*, Orange-tips were again much in evidence, with over a dozen recorded. This time I also found two females which were ovipositing on Garlic Mustard. Again there were Green-veined Whites (about 10), Brimstones (6m, 2f) and one each of Speckled Wood, Holly Blue, **Comma** and **Peacock**. I also saw six Holly Blues in the garden."

**On Sunday 10th April Jim Asher recorded nine butterfly species:** "**Brimstone** (5), **Large White** (1), **Small White** (3), **Green-veined White** (5), **Orange-tip** (38 - predominantly male, but I did see a few females and found one newly-laid OT egg, photo below), **Small Tortoiseshell** (14 - including one egg-laying, just after midday - see photo!), **Peacock** (7), **Speckled Wood** (3). All seen on extended walks around *Marcham, Oxon* (5km) and *Abingdon* (out to and beyond the lock - about 3km); nowhere special! The ninth species was **Holly Blue** - 5 out and about plus two in the garden."

**Saturday 9th April 2011**

**David Redhead sent this report today:** "*Swyncombe Downs* proved to be a **Brimstone** day today, *9th April*. Wendy & I arrived about midday and when we left an hour and a half later our count was 45. Nearly a third were females and four were obviously egg laying on the numerous buckthorn bushes to be found there. We found four eggs, three laid before our very eyes, and three were laid on the edge of unfurling leaves but the fourth was on a less developed bush without any leaves and the egg had been laid on a twig close to a leaf bud.

In one area the main activity was nectaring on dandelions. Also seen **Orange-tip** (all male) 3, **Peacock** 3, **Speckled Wood** 2 and a single **Small Tortoiseshell** also nectaring on a dandelion."

**Catherine Lawson visited Warburg today, Saturday 9th April:** "I saw at least 6 male **Brimstones**, probably more, 4 male **Orange-tips** and 2 female, again probably more. I also saw this Peacock (see photo below - it did *not* want to open its wings for me though). At home - which is *Emmer Green, near Reading* - I have also seen Orange-tips today and a **Holly Blue**. Just to say these are the first Orange-tips I have ever realised I have seen (if that makes sense), until last year when I joined Butterfly Conservation I probably just noticed them as a 'white butterfly' - here's to a much less ignorant year!"

**Steve Croxford sent this update today:** "I was passing close to *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* this Saturday afternoon so called in for the second day running. Greater warmth than my visit yesterday morning resulted in far greater butterfly activity. On show were **Green Hairstreak** (12), **Brimstone** (12), **Peacock** (10), **Orange-tip** (10), **Holly Blue** (6), **Large White** (2), **Comma** (2), **Small Tortoiseshell** (1), **Speckled Wood** (1), **Green-veined White** (1). Either there has been a large hatch of Green Hairstreak in the last day or the extra warmth made them much more active and hence easier to spot, I suspect a bit of both. My first female Orange-tip was busy ovipositing, the photo below shows a very fresh egg. A little later in my parents garden in *Chinnor, Bucks* I saw Holly Blue (6) and a **Red Admiral** (see below). I am fairly confident that the Red Admirals are both over wintering and breeding in the area. For at least the last ten years two or three can be seen every Autumn in the garden well into November. One or two then reappear in the early Spring the following year like clockwork."

**Nick Bowles saw the following on his transect walks today:** "On my transects today, *9th April*, I saw 10 species (if we include a **Small White** in my garden in Tring - the only one I have seen so far this year - and a **Brown Hairstreak** egg!). Probably I join a queue of persons seeing these species but I had 2 **Grizzled Skipper** among the usual hibernators and **Orange-tips** at *Coombe Hill, Wendover (Bucks)* and **Speckled Wood** and **Green-veined White** in a private wood north of Aylesbury."

**Tim Walker reported the following today:** "I wondered if you would be interested in this image of **Comma** eggs. Many years ago we bought a hop plant and since then it has always produced a healthy crop of Comma butterflies each year. However, this is the first time that I have managed to 'catch' a Comma laying her eggs. This image was taken today (*9th April*) at home in *Bletchley, Milton Keynes*."

### Friday 8th April 2011

**David Redhead sent the following report today:** "Today in *Oxford (8th April)* was a **Holly Blue** day. My final tally for the day was twenty - 12 in Florence Park, 4 in Iffley Churchyard, 2 in Heyford Hill Lane, 1 in our garden in Littlemore and 1 in Rivermead Nature Park, Rose Hill. My total butterfly count for these four locations was 58 with also 11 **Orange-tip**, 7 **Peacock**, 6 **Speckled Wood**, 5 **Comma**, 4 **Small White**, 3 **Brimstone**, 1 **Large White** (first of the year) and 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**. Also, on examining a number of Garlic Mustard & Cuckoo-flower plants for eggs I was surprised to find 2 **Orange-tip** eggs on cuckoo-flower and three similar eggs on the back of Garlic Mustard leaves. According to the books these latter should be Green-veined White eggs but I have occasionally in the past found Orange-tip eggs on the back of leaves rather than the flower stem. Also I have not seen hide nor hair of a Green-veined White yet this year! Meanwhile Wendy found an Orange-tip egg on an Honesty plant in our garden. For about the last five years I have looked for Orange-tip eggs starting in early April but today's finds beat my previous record by exactly a week. Finally, this evening I was checking the **Brown Hairstreak** eggs in *Slade Camp, Shotover* for hatching and found several already hatched. Hatching is early this year and at our main monitoring site at the



RSPB Reserve on Otmoor records are being broken with the first hatched egg found on the 4th April and 56% of the eggs hatched by today when in most previous years the first eggs had not even hatched by now."

**David Fuller reported these sightings today:** "In my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* on *8th April* were male **Holly Blue**, male **Brimstone**. At *Aston Rowant Nature reserve* I saw **Small Tortoiseshell** - my first this year - and 2 more **Brimstone**."

**Tony Speight reported the following today, 8th April:** "Today while visiting sites in High Wycombe, Bucks, I saw the following: *Sands Bank* had 2 **Small White**, 4 **Peacock**, 2 **Brimstone** and 2 **Green Hairstreak** (the earliest I have recorded them on the site) and *Castlefield Wood* had 4 **Brimstone**, 4 **Orange-tip**, 2 **Peacock**, a **Small White** and a **Comma**."

**Steve Croxford sent this news today:** "On the *8th April* I made a visit to *Yoesden Bank, Bucks*. Arriving shortly before 10am it was still quite cool and there was not much butterfly activity. However as the morning warmed up I did manage **Peacock** (4), **Brimstone** (1), **Speckled Wood** (1) and a fresh **Green Hairstreak**. See photo below of the Green Hairstreak which was very obliging for the camera. On the way home I called into *Grangelands*. With the additional warmth there were a few more butterflies active. These included **Peacock** (4), **Brimstone** (3), **Orange-tip** (2), **Comma** (2) and a **Green-veined White** (my first of the year)."

#### Thursday 7th April 2011

**Dave Wilton took a walk along the disused railway line north of Woodham, Bucks at lunchtime today (Thursday 7th April):** "I was pleased to record 30 butterflies of eight species. The most numerous were **Brimstone** and **Orange-tip** (males and females of both), but also seen were **Holly Blue**, **Red Admiral**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock**, **Speckled Wood** and a single **unidentified White** (either Small or Green-veined). The two Red Admirals were the biggest surprise as I rarely get to see the species before the influx in May and June. I know that some immigration has been reported on the southerly winds of the past couple of weeks but these two looked very tired and battered which is usually more suggestive of over-wintering."

**David Fuller sent these sightings on 7th April:** "In my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* today : male and female **Holly Blue**, male and female **Brimstone**, **Small White** both yesterday and today, male **Orange-tip**, **Peacock** and **Comma**.

*Today at Romney Walk/Romney Island, nr Windsor, Berks:* **Holly Blue** 7 (3 male and 4 female), **Comma** 2, **Brimstone** male, **Small White** 2, **Peacock** 2, **Speckled Wood** 1, 2 **Chiffchaffs**. 2 **Green Woodpeckers** and **Ring-necked Parakeet**."

**Colin Everett sent this report today:** "A few butterfly records gathered in the *Chesham, Bucks* area on Wednesday *6th April* during Timed Tetrad Visits for the BTO Bird Atlas, as follows (1-km grid square refs provided): *Botley* SP 98 02 - male **Brimstone**; *Orchard Leigh* SP 98 03 - **Peacock** and **Comma**; *Chesham* SP 96 01 - male **Brimstone** at S end of Victoria Road. In nearby parts of Hertfordshire around Bovingdon, several **Small Tortoiseshells** were seen."

**Francis Gomme reported the following sighting today:** "**Clouded Yellow** seen at *Lodge Hill, Bucks* this morning, *7th April*. I can recall early sightings in the 1960s and 1970s but it is some years since I have come across one this early!"

**Cathy Clarke sent this report today:** "I saw a male **Orange-tip** today at [Sheffield Lock, Theale \(Berks\)](#). He was rushing around patrolling his territory. I also saw my first female **Brimstone** sunning herself. The male was flying nearby. These were on the verge of the road between Theale Station and Sheffield Lock."

**Ched George visited Yoesden Bank, Bucks yesterday:** "1 **Large White** on [Yoesden Bank](#) on [6th April](#) along with a **Comma**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock** and several male **Brimstones**."

**Michael Swaine sent this report on 6th April:** "**Orange-tip**, **Brimstone**, **Peacock**, **Red Admiral**, **Large White** - and male **Holly Blue** all seen today at [Great Milton, Oxon](#)."

**Steve Croxford reported the following on 6th April:** "In warm sunshine on the morning of the [6th April](#) I undertook a circular walk in the [north Bucks](#) area, taking in several woods including Sheephouse Wood. Good numbers of **Brimstone**, **Comma**, **Peacock** and **Small Tortoiseshell** were active around the woods. However the highlight for me were my first emergent butterflies of the year. 11 **Orange-tip**, all males, and a single **Speckled Wood**."

**Richard Soulsby sent the following transect report on 6th April:** "My transect walk at [Howbery Park \(Oxon\)](#) at lunchtime today produced my first **Green-veined White** of the year and two male **Orange-tips**, as well as 4 **Peacocks**, 1 **Comma**, 1 **Brimstone** and 2 probable (flying) **Small Whites**, in a very warm 18C with wall-to-wall sunshine. All this in addition to a flock of 18 **Waxwings** in my garden in Benson this morning!"

**Peter Law reported the following on Wednesday 6th April:** "My Oxford delivery rounds today produced my first **Holly Blue** of the year in Chapel Lane, [Littlemore](#); then my first **Orange-tips** on the roadside verge through [Bagley Wood](#) (2), The Croft in [Marsh Baldon](#) (1) and the lane down hill from [Garsington to Denton](#) (1). Last year I did not see a **Holly Blue** in Oxford until 21 May."

**Tony Rayner sent this report on 6th April:** "A really fine day at last, so no surprise to see lots of butterflies. In our [Cholsey, Oxon](#) garden today we had 3 **Orange-tips** including a female, a **Small White**, 2 **Holly Blues** - all of which were firsts for the year, plus 4 **Brimstone** incl. a female, a **Comma**, a **Peacock** and a **Small Tortoiseshell**. All numbers quoted are the minimum seen."

**Mary Payne says she saw** a **Comma** sunning itself and two **Orange-tips** chasing each other across her garden in [Stoke Mandeville, Bucks](#) on the morning of [6th April](#).

**David Lloyd reports that on Monday 4th April he saw a** male **Orange-tip** in a woodland glade at [Farley Copse, Bracknell \(Berks\)](#) SU849697.

### Monday 4th April 2011

**David Hastings reported the following today:** "On [2nd April](#) I saw one **Orange-tip**, three **Brimstones**, three **Peacocks** and three **Commas** at [Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon](#)."

**Wendy Wilson sent this update today:** "On Saturday, [2nd April](#), I examined the eight **Purple Hairstreak** eggs I rescued from felled oaks in [Langley Park](#) last December (see archived sightings report for 29th December 2010). To my surprise, two had already hatched. There was no sign of caterpillars so I hoped these had found their way into the buds, which were not too dried up as I had kept the twigs damp in a cold shed. I took four of them back to where I found them and tied them on to the sunny side of oak trees, making sure the buds on the dead twigs were close to those on the living tree (*the first photo shows a dead twig tied on to a living twig which has bigger buds*). I am keeping the other four for the moment

attached to freshly picked live twigs standing in a covered jar of water in my insect cage. I will let you know if I see any larvae. While I was there I was interested to see if any eggs in the wild had also hatched as oak buds are just beginning to open. I searched some likely looking trees in a different part of the park and found three, one of which had hatched. On the way home I dropped in to [Black Park, Iwer Heath](#), to look at an egg I had marked last November. It was still there and it had hatched (see *second photo*), so that's another one to keep an eye on. Many thanks to those members who have been giving me advice, especially Dave Turnbull and Andy King."

**David Fuller sent this report:** "On *3rd April* our dog disturbed a female **Holly Blue** in our garden in [Maidenhead, Berks](#). Other garden sightings have been: male **Brimstone** 12/03/11 and weekly since - up to 3; **Peacock** 2 together in my garden 25/03/11 and **Comma** 2 on 13/03/11."

**Nicholl Williams reports seeing** an **Orange-tip** and a **Small White** on *2nd April* at the [Spade Oak Reserve, Bucks](#).

**Dave Wilton sent this report on 3rd April:** "I finally got off the mark with an emergent butterfly species on *2nd April* when a female **Orange-tip** visited our [Westcott, Bucks](#) garden. The sighting of two male Orange-tips in the garden the following morning prompted me to complete the first transect of the year at [Finemere Wood](#) before the weather deteriorated. Eleven butterflies of five species were recorded there (**Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma** and **Speckled Wood**)."

**Note:** *Dave points out that Finemere Wood is still closed to the public because Forestry Commission contractors are currently clearing and burning brash left over from the conifer felling. When that work has been completed there will have to be major repairs made to the main ride. BBOWT hopes that the wood will be re-opened on 16th April but don't be surprised if there's a delay!*

**Dave Maunder reported the following on 3rd April:** "I've just seen my first **Orange-tip** of the year in my back garden in [Aylesbury, Bucks](#), freshly emerged from a pupa that originally fed on our Honesty plants last summer! Saw one **Brimstone** near my front garden yesterday, and a **Small Tortoiseshell** on *28th March*. By the way, last Sunday (*27th*) I found **Small Tortoiseshells** (29); **Peacocks** (2); **Comma** (1) and **Brimstone** (1) on a cycle-ride around Fairford leys, Aylesbury on a sunny, warm afternoon - not too many Peacocks in my area so far this Spring, it seems, but Tortoiseshells are doing well again!"

**On 2nd April Chris Bottrell sent these sightings:**

*29/3 - Lunchtime walk (1230-1330) Stratfield Brake (Oxon), 14-15C, 95% Cloud, 8mph Southerly. Disappointed with only a single, albeit fresh, Peacock.*

*02/4 - 0930 in Finemere Woods, Bucks. A single Comma at SP 71841 21880 whilst doing a Breeding Bird Survey for BBOWT.*

*02/4 - Calvert Jubilee, Bucks. Total butterflies during a Butterfly Survey for BBOWT (1330-1500, 15C 60% Sunshine): Brimstone (5), Comma (1) and Peacock (1)."*

### Friday 1st April 2011

**Peter Law reported the following today:** "This is a late report because my phone and broadband were cut off during roadworks and only restored today! Last *Sunday 27th March*, I walked the Thames path between [Cholsey Marsh and Wallingford, Oxon](#) seeing a **Comma** in very good condition, 2 **Peacocks** and a **Small Tortoiseshell**."

**Nicholl Williams sent this news on 31st March:** "On *Sunday 27th March* I walked around [Spade Oak near Marlow, Bucks](#). I saw a **Brimstone** again and several **Commas**, also a few **Peacocks**. They were feeding on Pussy Willow and Blackthorn Blossom."



**Tim Walker sent the following report on 29th March:** "I thought that you might be interested in the following sighting of a **Comma** butterfly at *Caldecote Lake in Milton Keynes* on *Monday 28th March*. The butterfly very obligingly opened its wings long enough for me to get an image. I think it's a male."

### Monday 28th March 2011

**David Redhead sent this report from Littlemore, Oxon yesterday:** "Butterfly-wise our garden list is up to 6 species for 2011 as a **Small White** has made an appearance for each of the last three days but we have not seen any more Orange-tips since those first reported on 24th."

**Chris Bottrell sent this news on 27th March:** "*Saturday 25/3*. A cooler day than of late so not much on the wing. However a **Comma** not stopping over the reeds in front of the hide at *Foxcote (Bucks)* SP 71210 36204 and a **Small Tortoiseshell** on the path from the car park at *Gallows Bridge (Bucks)* SP 66902 20011."

**Alan Woodgate reported the following via Jim Asher:** "I took this photo of an **Orange-tip** in *Woburn Sands, Buckinghamshire* on *27th March*."

**Jim Asher sent the following sightings:** "We saw one **Peacock** and one **Comma** yesterday, *27th March*, near the *Cothill/Hitchcopse reserves* in Oxon. Photo of the Peacock below.

I also had a report from Jenny and Michael Kelsey who saw the following 5 species on the *27th* at *Dry Sandford Pit, Oxon*: **Comma**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock**, **Red Admiral** and a male **Orange-tip**."

**Peter Cuss reports seeing a Speckled Wood** in his garden in *Caversham, Berks* on *Sunday 27th March*.

**Phil Penson sent the following report:** "I saw a male **Large White** at close quarters in my front garden in *Dry Sandford, Oxon* (SP468009) at 10:30 a.m. on *Wednesday 23rd March*. The weather was clear and sunny, temperature 18°C with a light easterly breeze. It was up and away before I could fetch my camera so no picture!"

### Saturday 26th March 2011

**This report came from David Redhead on 24th March:** This morning Stuart Hodges led the now annual expedition to look for **Black Hairstreak eggs** along the southern edge of *Finemere Wood, Bucks*. It was gloriously unsuccessful. For the first time in six years not one Black Hairstreak egg was found - this was a bit surprising considering the Black Hairstreak had its best summer on record in 2010. The glory came from the finding of **3 Brown Hairstreak eggs** by Dave Wilton, Tony Croft & Phil Penson. In the previous five winters Brown Hairstreak eggs have never been found at this location. Another addition to the mounting evidence that our local Brown Hairstreak is currently truly expanding its range. Phil's egg actually added the 102nd tetrad to the inventory (at the start of this century it was only known to occupy 11 tetrads) and our local population can now claim to be the fourth largest in England only bettered by Devon, South Wales and West Sussex. **Brimstone**, **Comma**, **Peacock** & **Small Tortoiseshell** butterflies were also on the wing.

**Bob and Trish Tunnicliffe sent the following report: Thursday 24th March** - A short walk in *Whaddon (Bucks)* produced 6 **Small Tortoiseshells** (including 2 pairs mating) as well as **Peacock**, **Comma** and 2 **Brimstones**."

**David Redhead visited Gavray Drive Meadows, Bicester on 24th March and saw 9**

**Peacock** and his first **Small Tortoiseshell** of the year. Wendy Redhead saw her first **Holly Blue** of the year flying around the Holly Tree on the edge of her garden in [Littlemore, Oxford](#). She also saw **Brimstone** and **Peacock** but strangely yesterday's Orange-tips and Commas were not in evidence.

**Helen Hyre says she's had some good sightings in the warm and pleasant weather we've been having:** "At [Hulcott churchyard \(Bucks\) on 24th March](#), I was about to go home when a **Holly Blue** fluttered out of a yew. While taking its photo, a **Brimstone** settled on primroses behind it. Wildlife knows how to be annoying!

**On 23rd March at Ascott House, Bucks** I saw 5 **Peacock**, 3 **Brimstone** and 2 **Comma**. One Comma, perched on a daffodil, chased off a Brimstone every time it came close. The Peacock in the same area basked without interference."

**Jan Haseler sent the following sightings:** "My daughter Claire Haseler saw a **Holly Blue** in [Coley, Reading \(Berks\)](#) on Wednesday **23rd March**.

On Thursday **24th March** I saw 7 **Small Tortoiseshells** on [University of Reading farmland](#) between Shinfield and Arborfield.

On Friday **25th March**, I saw 4 **Small Tortoiseshells** at Valley Produce in [Swallowfield, Berks](#).

Almost all of these have been in the margins of arable fields. In the previous 5 years of monitoring in mid-Berks, I have been pleased to see 1 Small Tortoiseshell and have never seen more than 3 at a site."

**Chris Bottrell sent these sightings:** "**Wednesday 23/3**. My weekly lunchtime walk around [Woodland Trust Stratfield Brake \(Oxon\)](#) SP4911 and SP4912. Unfortunately the ASNW portion is still closed due to Acute Oak Decline, however the tracks along its border, through the new plantations and down to the scrapes and canal are open. 15C, 95% Sun, 4mph Easterly: **Comma** (5), **Small Tortoiseshell** (4), **Brimstone** (3), **Peacock** (2). **Thursday 24/3** - Too nice to stay in the office during lunchtime (Temp 16C, 100% Sun, 5mph Easterly). So a 45min stroll around [St.Mary's Fields, Kidlington \(Oxon\)](#) SP4914 - SP4915: **Comma** (5), **Brimstone** (3)."

**During a 5km walk around Marcham, Oxon in bright sunshine last Saturday (19th March) Jim & Denise Asher saw** 5 **Small Tortoiseshells** and one **Comma**.

### Wednesday 23rd March 2011

**Becky Woodell saw the following:** "4 **Peacock**, 4 **Brimstone**, 2 **Comma** at [Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon](#) today."

**Judith Barnard went to Linford Wood, Milton Keynes today:** "I saw 3 male **Brimstones** (one landing on Primrose), one female **Brimstone**, 1 **Comma** and 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**. Map reference SP847403."

**Frank Banyard reported the following today, 23rd March:** "**Comma** and **Brimstone** (m & f) in my garden in [Beaconsfield, Bucks](#); only male **Brimstone** and **Comma** at [Holtspur](#). Sadly no Speckled Wood there yet."

**Wendy & David Redhead sent this sighting today from Littlemore, Oxon:** "Flying in and around our veggie garden at 13:45pm today were 2 **Orange-tip** (both male), 2 **Peacock**, 2 **Comma** & 1 **Brimstone**. The Orange-tip appears to be the earliest ever report to the UTB website (see [First Sightings table](#))."

**Dave Ferguson sent this report today, 23rd March:** "A visit to [Holtspur, Bucks](#) this morning produced 6+ **Brimstones**, 2 **Small Tortoiseshells** and a **Peacock**."

**During a walk from Lower Cadsden, Bucks today, Mick & Wendy Campbell recorded Brimstone** (12 - male and female), **Comma** (3) and **Peacock** (3).

**Chris Bottrell visited RSPB Otmoor, Oxon on Saturday 19th March:** "A cold start, -5C at 0630, but temperatures eventually getting into double figures by mid-day which coaxed out two **Brimstone** and two **Comma** in the 'Roman Road', SP 57166 12966 to SP 57024 12631. Then on **22nd March** returning from escaping work for 5 minutes to get a sandwich at the patisserie on the main road, two **Commas** were hammering around the Leylandii to the side of the work's entrance in **Kidlington** (SP 49763 12932)."

### **Saturday 19th March 2011**

**Pete Eeles reports from his home in Thatcham, Berks:** "I saw my first butterfly of the year at 10am on the **19th March**, a **Small Tortoiseshell**, sunning itself on the lawn."

**David Hastings reports seeing** two **Commas** and two **Small Tortoiseshells** on **Otmoor, Oxon** today, **19th March** (grid ref SP570126).

**Paul Bowyer reported the following today:** "Some butterfly sightings:  
**Saturday March 19th Haymill Reserve, Slough, Berks** - 1 **Comma**, 1 **Small White**.  
**Saturday March 19th Cocksherd Wood LNR Britwell, Slough, Berks** - 1 **Comma**."

### **Thursday 17th March 2011**

**Nicholl Williams saw the following:** "I have another sighting, of 3 **Commas** on the **12th March at Spade Oak, Bucks**. There were 3 there, although I expect that there are lots of sightings coming on board now."

**Chris Bottrell sent this report today:** "**Saturday 12/3:** With the sun out, a **Brimstone** disturbed from the bridleway running through **RSPB Otmoor, Oxon** at 10:25. Grid ref SP55708 12876."

**Jonathan Wallace from Newcastle upon Tyne reported the following on 16th March:** "I was visiting **Reading** on business yesterday and the fine Spring weather resulted in my first butterfly sighting of the year – a **Brimstone** that was flying along next to Pincents Lane close to Junction 12 of the M4."

**Tom Stevenson sent the following on 15th March:** "The warm weather has started things moving in Oxon. My first **Comma** of the year, at **Dorchester**, nectaring on Willow blossom then 2 **Brimstones** and 2 **Small Tortoiseshells** at **Ewelme Watercress Beds**."

### **Tuesday 15th March 2011**

**Jim Asher says he had his first flying butterflies of 2011 in Oxon today, 15th March:** "Two **Brimstones** at **Dorchester-on-Thames** and Denise also saw one in **Marcham**. Spring has sprung!"

**Tony Hall sent the following today, 15th March:** "Hazel has just seen a **Comma** in good condition in our garden in **Chearsley, Bucks**."

**Tom Stevenson reported these sightings on 14th March:** "Doubled my list for the year today with a **Small Tortoiseshell** at the **Ewelme Watercress Beds in Oxon** and indeed the first butterfly for the beds. The only other species was a **Brimstone** which has passed through my **Benson** garden on each of about the last 4 days."



**Tony Rayner sent this news:** "We had our first **Comma** in our *Cholsey, Oxon* garden on *14th March* - very active. Also repeat sightings of **Small Tortoiseshell** (first seen on the 13th March) and **Brimstones**."

**During a walk through Flowers Bottom in Speen, Bucks on 14th March, Wendy & Mick Campbell recorded** seven **Brimstones** and a **Comma** which was basking in a sunny woodland clearing.

**Robin Dryden reported the following:** "On *Saturday 12th March* I was in *Chipping Norton, Oxon* (failing to see an Oriental Turtle Dove) but I did see 2 **Brimstones** and an obliging **Small Tortoiseshell**. A couple of other 'dark' butterflies were too distant to identify."

**David Redhead saw the following:** "On *Saturday 12th March* in the sunshine there were 3 **Brimstones** active in our garden in *Littlemore, Oxon* for quite some time and a **Peacock** made a short appearance."

**Jan Haseler sent this report on 13th March:** "On *Sat 12th March*, a **Brimstone**, a **Peacock** and a **Small Tortoiseshell** were on the wing while Reading and District Natural History Society were investigating the lichens of *Newtown Road Cemetery, Newbury*."

### Sunday 13th March 2011

**Peter Law reported the following on 12th March:** "My mail order delivery rounds in villages around *Oxford* this morning produced my first butterflies of the year: 2 **Brimstones** in Wooton Village, Boars Hill, where a person I called on also reported a **Small Tortoiseshell** in her garden. Later there were single **Brimstones** in Pettitwell, Garsington and Cuddesdon where I also came across a battered **Peacock** on Denton Hill."

### Tuesday 8th March 2011

**David Hastings sent this sighting:** "I saw my first butterfly of the year today (*8th March*) - a **Peacock** in the *University Parks in Oxford*."

**Cathy Clarke reported the following:** "Yesterday (*7th March*) I saw my first butterfly of the year at *Theale, Berks*. This was a male **Brimstone** which was sunning itself in front of a bramble patch by the side of Station Rd, about half way between the Theale train station and Sheffield Lock. It was there again today."

**Ched George sent this news today:** "A male **Brimstone** on *Yoesden Bank* yesterday, *March 7th*."

### Monday 7th March 2011

**Catherine Lawson sent this report today, 7th March:** "My first butterfly of 2011 was this male **Brimstone**, seen today flying and then sunning itself at the *Warburg Nature Reserve, Bix Bottom, Oxon*."

### Saturday 5th March 2011

**Louise Print-Lyons reported the following sighting on 4th March:** "I thought you would like to know that I saw a **Brimstone** flying in my garden in *Wallingford, Oxon* on *03.02.11*."

## Sunday 27th February 2011

**These two reports came via Jim Asher:**

*Nicholl Williams* saw a **Brimstone** at Spade Oak outside *Marlow, Bucks* on *24/02/2011*.

*Anna Marett* reported seeing a **Brimstone** in *Wendover, Bucks* SP869079 on *24th February*.

**This sighting came from Derek Brown on 25th February:** "I saw my first butterflies of the year yesterday, *24th Feb* - 2 male **Brimstone** in a wood near *Beenham, Berks*."

**Helen Hyre sent the following on 24th February:** "I saw my first butterfly of 2011 today in *Bierton, Bucks* - a **Brimstone**."

**Richard Soulsby sent this sighting on 24th February:** "At last, my first butterfly of 2011! A **Red Admiral** nectaring on a viburnum bush in my garden in *Benson (Oxon)* at 1pm today. Sunny, mild, about 12C."

## Thursday 17th February 2011

**David Redhead sent this news on 15th February:** "A post-operative Wendy Redhead reported seeing a **Peacock** flying in the sunshine outside the sixth floor windows of the *John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford* on the morning of *Monday, 14th February* (which puts her one up on me for 2011!)."

**David Fuller reported the following on 14th February:** "A **Red Admiral** in my garden in *Maidenhead, Berks* today in worn condition so perhaps a hibernator, I do not usually see this species until later in the year so perhaps a good omen."

**This news came via Nick Bowles:** "Shelagh Harry left me a message that she saw a **Brimstone** on *9th February* flying at *Otmoor, Oxon*."

## Wednesday 9th February 2011

**Tim Walker sent his first report to the website today:** "I have just joined Butterfly Conservation and am based in *Bletchley, Milton Keynes*. Yesterday, *8th Feb* I saw my first butterfly of the year in our back garden. It was a **Brimstone** and just passed through. The weather was very sunny, and also warm which no doubt encouraged the butterfly to venture out!"

**Gillian Taylor sent this sighting from Childrey in Wantage:** "Yesterday, *8th February* was warm and sunny. A **Small Tortoiseshell**, which has been hibernating in our back porch, became active and was let out. A bit later, a Small Tortoiseshell, which is likely to have been the same individual, was basking and nectaring on a Mahonia bush in company with several flies and many honeybees."

**Graham Anderson reported the following:** "I thought you would be interested to know of an early sighting. It was of a **Red Admiral** at SU846914, just south of Cressex Business Park, *High Wycombe, Bucks* during late morning today, Tues *8/02/2011*. I realise it's not the first this year but certainly it was very good to see."

**Martin Rowland sent this news on 8th February:** "I'm pleased to say I saw a solitary **Brimstone** today at College Pond, on the *Sydllings Copse BBOWT reserve, Oxon*, showing interest in some ivy in the sun. Quite a bit earlier than I've seen one in previous years."

**Tony Croft reported the following:** "I have just seen my first butterfly of the year today, *8th February*, which was a **Comma**. It was sleepily basking in the 7C sunshine near home at

*Easington, Bucks."*

**Chris Bottrell sent this sighting on the 8th February:** "My first free flying butterfly of the year (I have an overwintering **Small Tortoiseshell** in the spare room). A **Brimstone** this lunchtime (8/2 at 13:30) at SP49771 14157, the pub garden of the Six Bells in *Kidlington, Oxon.*"

### **Friday 4th February 2011**

**Robin Dryden reports seeing his first butterfly of 2011:** "I had a walk around *Thames Valley Park in Reading, Berks* in my lunch break today, *3rd February*, and was surprised and delighted to see a **Peacock** butterfly flying over one of the ponds. The sunshine today must have drawn both of us out!"

**Jan Haseler started off the butterfly season on Thursday 3rd February:** "I have just seen my first butterfly of 2011 - a **Red Admiral** at *Shinfield Park, Berks.*

### **Sunday 30th January 2011**

**Dave Wilton reported the following:** "A visit to the loft here at *Westcott, Bucks* on *26th January* to check on over-wintering insects produced 24 **Harlequin Ladybirds** (a reduction on last year's total) as well as "our" hibernating **Small Tortoiseshell** which has been there since last October. It is still alive and well, despite all the spiders that are keeping it company!"