BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Purple Emperor (A. iris) Report for 2010

Dennis Dell



Photo © Nick Board

Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

Acknowledgements

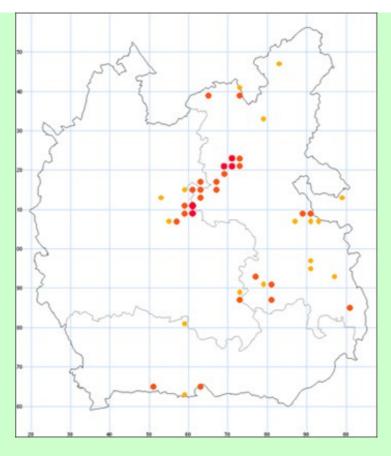
I'm very grateful to all of you [not all UTB members] who submitted reports: see the <u>Appendix</u> for details of participants. I would also like to express my appreciation to those who told me about people who had informed them of sightings, in other words, second hand reports. In this way, over these last 7 years, we have built up a large network of observers. I apologise if I've left anyone out in the Appendix.

1. Introduction

As in previous reports, the observations in detail may be found in the Appendix (see end of report). Also, as mentioned in previous years, it is almost impossible to be able to register the number of individuals seen. Therefore I have used, mainly, the concept of 'sightings'.

2. Summary

- 2009 was by far the best season for the Purple Emperor in our region since I've been back in the UK [from 2003], with about 222 sightings.
- Astonishingly, 2010 was even better ... much better ... with **393** sightings in **46 [45 2km squares]** localities, from **45** recorders.
- **12 'new' habitats** were found ['new' habitats means, simply, that we do not have records from these places from recent years].
- **Territories**/male assembly points. Established territories in Little, Oakley, Rushbeds, Finemere, Boarstall, Piddington Woods were occupied again. It remains to be seen whether the 'new' localities exhibit territories.
- **First specimens** seen on June 28th, the last on August 8th, later than last season and lasting about 5 days longer [6 week flight period].



A. iris observations 2010 (data from Levana)

Distribution 2010:

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Weather

Only the weather during the flight season is reported.

June. 1st to 5th: high pressure dominated with warm, dry and fairly sunny conditions; 6th to 13th: unsettled with rain on most days; 14th to 17th: high pressure returned to give dry days with a good deal of sunshine; 18th to 20th: changeable with rain and high winds, but mainly dry; 21st to 27th: high pressure, plenty of sunshine, with temperatures exceeding 25 degrees from 22nd; 28th to 30th: more unsettled but still very warm.

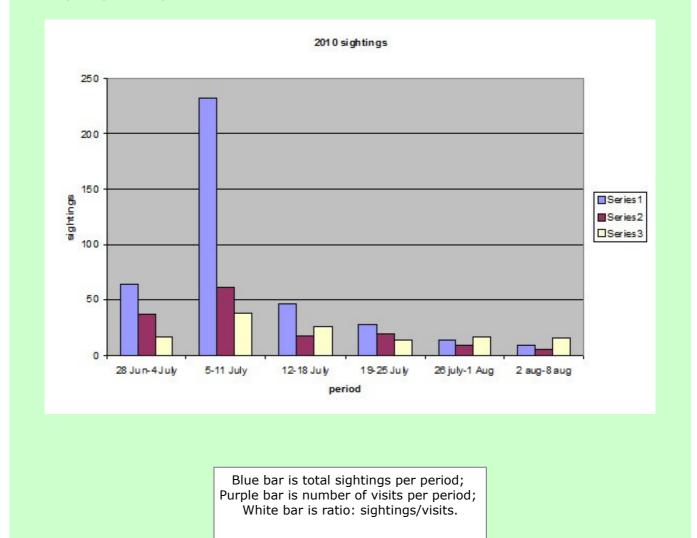
July. 1st to 8th: Mostly dry and warm in our region; 9th to 11th: dry, warm weather continued; 12th to 16th: Finally, some rain reached our region bringing lower temperatures, although still quite warm; thunderstorms on the 14th; an unusually low pressure system brought strong winds from the 15th continuing to the 17th; 17th to 22nd: high pressure re-established itself keeping the weather here dry and relatively warm; 23rd to 31st: eastward moving fronts brought cloud and some showers at times, but still largely dry in the south-east; temperatures just above normal.

August. 1st to 4th: a few showers with temperature close to or above normal; rain moved in on the 3rd; 5th to 11th: changeable with bands of rain from the west, with some bright interludes; temperatures close to or above normal.

3.2 Sightings

We recorded 77% more sightings than in 2009, which itself was a record year compared with any of the previous six years.

The flight season [6 weeks] was a bit longer than usual, not finishing until August 8th; we had more sightings in August than ever before.



Instead of normalising the number of sightings to the number of observers, I have divided the sightings by the number of visits, because I believe this is more sensible; the number of visits is simply the number of habitats visited [not the number of different habitats necessarily: e.g. from 28.6 to 30.6 eleven visits were made - see Appendix]. Why not use the number of observers? Well, take the extreme example of July 11th, when 27 people participated in the field visit to Bernwood. I am quite sure that these 27 persons did not make 27 times more sightings than one observer would have made.

However, whichever way this is interpreted, it is clear, again, that the 2nd week in July is the most productive. Interestingly, the period 19th July until 8th August gave the same sightings/visits ratio, indicating a very gradual tailing off in the number of sightings. A particular weather phenomenon this year played an important role: from about 13th July until about the 18th, very strong winds persisted in our region which resulted in a more rapid reduction in the sightings than normal. An interesting result was a decrease in the number of eggs/larvae found, not only by me, but by Matthew Oates too. Matthew believes that the strong winds had a deleterious effect on the egg laying females. He searched his woods thoroughly and found the most eggs/larvae along the eastern/south-eastern edges. He hypothesises that the strong westerlies in mid-July blew the females towards the more sheltered eastern edges of woods where they oviposited. Many females were probably

decimated by these gales.

Probably not many of you will look at the Appendix in detail. To make it more interesting, I have highlighted **in red** some of the more unusual observations, which are worth reading. Among these: garden sightings; landing on persons; on golf course; rescued from swimming pool [it survived!]; copulation observed in tree top; strange female behaviour in strong wind; female flying purposefully from one wood to another across open country and, finally, on 8th August, Phil Bernard found a tattered specimen alive on the spare wheel of his Landrover: the followed day it had perished!

3.3 Territories [male assembly areas]

- **Oakley Wood Car Park.** As last year, although several were seen flying through on most days, no sedentary activity was observed in the crowns here.
- **Piddington Wood.** The 'vista', or glade, discovered by the Campbells, was again occupied. The possible new territory at the south-eastern corner was confirmed.
- Little Wood. The established territory along the south-east facing edge was again occupied, with the same big Ash and Oaks being used. This is an excellent spot for 'beginners' to observe territorial behaviour, which continued well into the 1st week in August.
- **Finemere Wood.** The area around the turning circle and the Ashes at the northern edge [sparse this year] were again occupied.
- **Greatsea Wood.** The high point, especially the conifers, was occupied again.
- **Rushbeds.** Sightings again on the Ashes just inside the wood along the main ride just before it exits into Lapland's Farm meadow. However, more sightings were made in the interior.
- **Boarstall Wood.** Above the Ashes behind the gamekeeper's cottage was occupied again.
- **Sydlings Copse.** No sightings this year.
- Shotover Country Park. None seen at the same high point as in 2009.
- Hell coppice old car park. Again, one sighting in this old territory.
- **Homefield Wood.** This is a new territory. It's a high ridge running east-west through the wood; the Campbells made several sightings at this spot.

3.4 'New' habitats

- A private wood in north Bucks. This is not surprising since this wood is very close to existing habitats.
- Whitfield Wood. This is another new north-Bucks wood and sightings were made here on 3 separate occasions.
- Padworth, Berks. Two separate sightings in open country completely surrounded by woodland.
- Woodeaton. Single sighting close to Prattle Wood.
- Gayhurst Wood. This wood is north of Milton Keynes straddling the M1.
- **Paices Wood.** This is part of a big woodland complex just south-west of Aldermaston.
- **Leckhampstead Wood.** Another new north Bucks wood and a real gem [has Wood White and Black Hairstreak colonies]; between and 8 and 10 *Iris* individuals were seen on two separate occasions.
- **Goring & Streatley golf course.** Two separate sightings. The nearest wood is Common Wood about half a kilometre to the south.
- **Bowdown Woods.** Not surprising that two separate sightings were made here, but we have had no records in the last 8 years at least.
- Common Wood, Penn. This wood is very close to a known habitat, Penn Wood.
- Wicken Wood. A third new north-Bucks wood; it adjoins Leckhampstead Wood.
- Bacombe Warren near Wendover. A new Chilterns habitat.

4. Plans

We are doing very well, especially having increased the number of squares occupied to 45. There are still woods in Berkshire, south of and a few miles north-west of Reading and north-west Oxfordshire not yet covered.

Dennis Dell November 2010

APPENDIX: Details of Purple Emperor Sightings in the UTB area during 2010

DATE	OBSERVER	LOCATION ^a	MICRO-LOCATION ^b grid reference	NUMBER SEEN AND SEX ^c	TIME ^d	WEATHER CONDITIONS	BEHAVIOUR ^e and comments
		grid reference					
28 th June	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Little & Piddington Woods	Piddington: on path just beyond 'the vista'. SP62831598 Little: high point territory. SP62451577	1 M 3	2.55 and 3.05		Piddington: flew up from muddy puddle, landed in a small Ash for about 30 secs before flying off out of sight. Little: Ash tree territory at top of wood and in nearby Oak, gliding and perching; observed for 20 mins
28 th June	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Boarstall Wood	SP63451333	0	4.30 for 10 minutes		
28 th June	Steve Croxford	Private wood in north bucks	Bridleway just north of wood	1		Hot & sunny	Probable sighting as it flew rapidly southwards
29 th June	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Stanton Little & Great Woods, Holly Wood		0	11.30 to 5 pm	Hot & sunny	
29 th June	Dennis Dell	Little & Piddington Woods	Piddington Vista. Little: high point territory	2	3.40 to 4.45		Piddington: males clashing high above vista; gliding around Ashes at back of vista. Little: perching on Birches, gliding around big Ash
30 th June	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Moor End Common		0		Hot & sunny, some cloud	
30 th June	Dennis Dell	Finemere Wood	Main ride and northern edge high point	1	11.30 to 12.30		Probable sighting around Sallows at southern end of main ride. None at northen edge territory

1 st July	Becky Woodell	Whitecross Green Wood	Near car park	1 M			Landed on arm
1 st July	Dave Wilton	Whitfield Wood	SP64153905	1F			Leaving Sallow or Birch, flying lazily northwards up main ride
2 nd July	Mick Campbell	Piddington Wood	SP63041630	1	17.45		At edge of wood, seem from the meadow
2 nd July	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	SP624157	4M, 1F	18.00		Probable F which sat in ash tree low down and didn't move. Males clashing and chasing above ashes.
2 nd July	Graham Sumner	Padworth SU627654	Office in Silver Lane, runs thru' large expanse of forest	1M			On carpet at office entrance, then on concrete outside
2 nd July	John Benford	Ham Home Wood	Just in field to east of Oxford Lane SP696186	1	a.m.		On a cow-pat in the field to the east of Oxford Lane that is closest to the A41.
2 nd July	Friends of Margaret Price	Woodeaton SP538124 near Prattle Wood	On concrete by farm buildings	1M			Settled on the ground after rain; this spot is near Prattle Wood
3 rd July	Becky Woodell	Rushbeds Wood	High in the trees near SP667166	2			
3 rd July	Wendy Wilson	Strawberry Wood, Black Park	TQ012844	1	9 am	Sunny, light breeze 21 degrees	Flew across ride crossroads and settled on Oak, flew around brambles before disappearing
3 rd July	Steve Croxford	Rushbeds Wood	near SP667166	2F 1M			At head height, gliding along ride
3 rd July	Wendy and Mick Campbell	Stanton Little Wood	SP5865910993 edge of wood between SP5893411178 and SP5902411316, edge of wood	3	12 midday to 2 pm	Warm, sunny intervals	2 flying low along hedgeline, 1 grounded on concrete track on dog faeces 4 at various points along the wood edge, all flying above oaks between SP5893411178 and SP5902411316
3 rd July	Steve Croxford	Little Wood		3			One flew about 30m out into the corn field and then returned to the wood; all were very active, not

							gliding very much
3 rd July	Jim Asher	Finemere Wood	Along main ride	2	11 to 11.30		One in strong flight, the other [M] grounded briefly
3 rd July	Prem Roy	Whitfield Wood	East Entrance at 08.30 Central Xroads of rides at 12.00	2	8.30 12.00	Fair, sunny intervals	This morning one flew down from edge of wood and settled low down. The lunchtime one flew between trees Both were male
3 July	Ian Wilson	Gayhurst Wood	Glade next to ride SP 837464	1	Early pm	Hot & Sunny	
3 rd July	Chris & Pat Dennis	Oakley wood	Main Ride	1F 1M	4-00 to 5 00	Warm cloudy	Female high above car park Male on ground further down main ride past stream.
3 rd July	Peter & Jane Bramall	Bernwood	Main ride near opening to a field.	1M	1.08	Hot & sunny	Settled on the main path for 5 minutes sunbathing, only gravel on the ground then flew up into the trees.
3 rd July	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Stanton Gt Wood	SP587090	1	3pm	Warm, sunny intervals, breezy	flying above ashes in corner territory.
3 rd July	Derek McEwen	Paices Wood	SU583634	1			
3 rd July	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Holly Wood	SP586098 roadside	1	4pm		flying low along hedge next to road, near a big sallow
4 th July	Jane & Peter Bramall	Finemere	Top of main ride 500mm from turning circle.	1	12.30	Hot & Sunny	1 Male, attempted to land on one the back of one of my two brown Labradors. Flew up into a tree, came down again and after a little while landed on my wife's hand. Stayed there for 15 minutes + so I and a number of others with cameras could take pictures. <u>She put on Coconut butter oil on her skin</u> before we left home and it seemed to be licking it off with its proboscis. We then transferred it to the sign post and it sat there happily for 10 minutes so we could take pictures with its wings open and closed before we left. What an amazing experience!

4 th July	Nick Board	Road bordering leckhampstead wood		1F	3 pm		Swooped down from treetop level and rested on tarmac road for 15 secs and then swooped back into wood
	Andy King & Robert Lewis	Finemere Wood		3	13.12 and for several minutes		2 distant over- fliers seen from main track; 1 male on main track near turning circle. Male on man's wrist for some time; then flew into neighbouring hazel bush
4 th July	Mick Campbell & Dennis Dell	Stanton Little Wood	SP589112 SP590113 SP595113	1 2 1	2 to 3.30 pm	Cloudy with sunny intervals, breezy	Gliding around Oaks & Ashes
4 th July	Steve Croxford	Rushbeds Wood		5	12 midday		All were very high up in the Ash trees along the same North-South ride where I saw them yesterday. One female on the ground at the second glade as you enter the wood from the car park by the railway line. I have tried to estimate the grid ref as SP 66921548
4 th July	David Redhead	Oakley Wood	SP61171162	1M		20C	As soon as I walked out of the Oakley Wood car park today there was one swooping up and down the ride. It eventually settled for a moment on a white clover to show itself off as a pristine male.
5 th July	Dave Ferguson	Black Park	TQ012845 Medium sized oaks	1M	11.45	Hot, sunny	Flying around top of largest oak in the vicinity then landed near top
5 th July	Steve Croxford	Finemere Wood Chinkwell Wood	SP72482176 SP72252168	3			Two high up in the trees near the construction work (SP72482176) and a definite male that buzzed me on the main track (SP72252168). Gliding around the top of the very large Ash tree on the SW corner of the wood (SP66411405). I hung around for a further ten minutes but did not see it again. I think it was a male but could not be certain.
			SP66411405	1			
5 th July	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Moor End Common	SU802905	2	17.45	sunny	Flying above oaks in usual territory

5 th July	Wendy & Mick	Mandanton Manda	SP5311-SP5411	0			See 2 nd July
J.	Campbell	Woodeaton Wood					
6 th July	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Romer Wood	SP711236	2	12.30 12.40	Warm & sunny, then hazy and cloudy later	Near entrance gate, flying above oaks & conifers Flying above oak & tall conifer
			SP712234	1	13.00		Flying above ashes & poplars. 3 seen flying in a chain, probable 2M & 1F
							1M grounded on hardcore track, flew up into sallow, 2nd one was flying above conifer 1 in conifer overlooking sallow, 2nd one flying in
			SP713232	4			sallow 50 yds further up track Flying in conifer, ash and oak
							Above conifers
			SP714232	2			On wood edge near gate flying over conifers
							Interior of wood along wide green ride, flying above conifers
			SP714230	2			6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
			SP715230	1			Seen at same spot as Steve on 8.7
		Sheephouse Wood					
			SP715228	1			
			SP715228	2	13.40		
			SP713229	1			
			SP704234	1	14.30		
6 th July	Matthew Oates, Dennis Dell,	Private wood in north	SP698214	1		Hot and sunny	'buzzing' us before flying into trees

				L.	b	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	Christopher prideaux	Bucks	SP698203	1	Between 10.10 and		flying just above hedge height along ride
	c		SP698203	1	12.25, but		on oak trunk about 3 metres high
					only one seen between 10		
			SP699203	1	and 11		sallow searching
			SP701205	1			oak edging
			SP700206	1			flying low and rapidly along ride
			SP699207	2			low flight, buzzing vehicle
			SP698205	3			low flights, landing briefly, also on car
			SP698205	1			ditto above, 5 minutes later
			SP698203	1			tops of oaks
				15 [sightings]			seen by Matthew alone after 13.00, along main N-S ride in Dodds
6 th July	Mike Kempton	Warburg Reserve	Maidensgrove Hollow SU72088804	1M		Hot & sunny 28 degrees	Basking on ground in brackeny grass/scrub area
6 th July	Steve Croxford	Finemere Wood	SP723217	1	11.00		Near the Ash trees about 2/3 of the way down the grass ride off the main track to the right near the new construction area.
6 th July	Dave Wilton	Finemere Wood		1 2	11.55 12.25 & 12.34	Sunny, 21 degrees	Southern end of main track, buzzed and made off. About half way up main track, at canopy height in transit between two oaks (about 10 seconds). while the other was at 12.34 on 'C' section a few yards west of the territory we discovered there a year or two ago. This was another confirmed male and it landed on a leaf next to me for about 20 seconds. It then shot up towards the assembly area.
6.7	Mr Goble	Nt Shotover Park		1			In back garden in Kiln Lane, Risinghurst - grid ref SP561067.
7 th July	Steve Croxford	Rushbeds Wood	Mainly in centre of wood	5		Hazy sunshine, strong breeze	1 x PE SP66721551 By the cross roads of the two main tracks. It swooped down to about ten feet from ground level circled the cross roads twice before flying off into the wood. Almost certainly a

							female as the individual was very large and no hint of Purple. 1 x PE SP66711554 Flying around the top of an Ash and Oak growing together. Gender unkown. 2 x PE SP66701558 Flying around the top of trees where two Ashes and an Oak are growing together. At least one was a male. 1 x PE SP66621572 Patrolling the tops of large Ashes. Too far away to assess gender.
7 th July		Garden near shotover park and Brasenose wood	SP558062	1 M	16.30	Cloudy, breezy, warm	In garden on lawn for about two minutes
7 th July	Mick Campbell	Piddington Wood	North-east facing edge	4	6.30 to 7 pm		2 males chasing in large oak on left, 1 female sitting in small ash, 1 unknown gender in ash on right.
	for part of the time	Waterperry Wood		12			 2 SP6062109219 flying above trees along main track @ 1.20pm 1 SP6064309290 on main track @ 1.30pm near sallow, low down, probable female 1 SP6068409408 flying above trees main track @ 2.00pm 1 SP6077409712 flew around our heads and shot off over trees at turning circle on main track @ 2.15pm 3 SP6044109001 seen at southern end of track where it curves sharply; 1 female flew along track & landed, 1 female in sallow and one flew over oaks & Scots pines, 2 SP6025809047 in open area flying above conifers @ 3.30pm 1 SP6049208843 above tall conifers and oaks in the ride labelled 'closed' @ 4.15pm 1 SP6094208570 above oak trees at Drunkard's Corner! Checked poplar trees on our way in and again on our way out, but no PE there.
8 th July	Steve Croxford	Finemere Wood		4		21C light breeze some sun	SP72032161 12.05pm Probable male about 50m up the main track from the entrance.

				SP72242168 12.15pm Definite male flying around smallish Ash trees before settling on Hazel.
				SP71392221 12.45pm Male flying very low around edge of field by gate below Finemere
				House. It circled the old farm machine twice.
				SP71492223 12.50pm High up in the Ash trees.
				2 x PE SP71472280 13.00pm Patrolling tops of the pines.
				1 X PE SP71462286 13.07pm Male that settled on Ash tree above track.
				1 x PE SP71332323 13.15pm Flying above large Ash beside stream.
				1 x PE SP71072356 13.22pm Definite male flying low outside of wood about 30m from gate entering the wood. It was heading North away from the wood towards edge of Home Wood in the distance.
		5		1 x PE SP70392339 14.20pm About half way up the first ride upon entering the wood (It was patrolling the smaller trees. There is quite a lot of
	Romer Wood and Greatsea woods			Sallow in this area. Another 60 minutes spent searching today on top of the 90 minutes a couple of days ago. There appears to be quite a lot of Sallow present even if its not as prolific as other
				woods in the area. Its a mystery why numbers appear to be so low in this wood.

		Sheephouse		1		
8 th July	Jill Wennberg	Moorend Common	House SU798908	1		Came into house in morning
8 th July	Nick Board	Pasture on edge of whitfield wood Footpath crossroads in centre of wood	SP646395	1M	15.30	Feeding on cowpat within 10m of wood; flew back into canopy Gliding in treetop
			SP644394	1	15.45	
	Dave Wilton	Finemere Wood				Six individuals were counted at once (three separate male-female tail-chases around the same tree!). Most of the activity took place on 'G' (the main ride) and was spread along the entire track between the first crossroads and the turning circle, but most of it was concentrated around the second crossroads. The six were seen around the top of an Aspen at SP 7191 2173, but another favoured tree was a Norway Spruce a little further north at SP 7188 2176 (both trees on the west side of the main ride. There was a lot of "patrolling" activity in the area between these two trees, some of it at low level. One individual perched next to us at eye-level on a hazel leaf for a few seconds . We also saw activity along 'C' (east from the first ride cross-roads) with at least two individuals associated with the known territory there, although they seemed to be on general patrol rather than using the "master oaks". We saw one PE-SWF- Comma threesome chase, so that presumably involved a male PE as he brought up the rear, while a probable female was showing great interest in the sallow immediately behind the signboard at the ride crossroads.
8 th July		Streatley& Goring golf club		1	11.30	In Oak tree canopy beyond the 10th green and also

							settling on a rubber pathway by the 11th tee. Also present yesterday. About 300 yards from nearest wood.
8 th July	Nick Board	Leckhampstead Wood SP727393	Bridal path on eastern edge, and road skirting western edge	8-10	11.30	,	They were mostly flying at hedgerow level and then resting on the path itself or feeding on horse dung. After half an hour, most disappeared with only an occasional flypast. On driving away [12 noon] walk,spotted a further two which rested on the roadside close to the car after soaring flight
8 th July	Becky Woodell	Whitecross Green Wood	SP5978814706	1M	12.00-13.45		Landed on my shoe, causing me to stop, motionless until it flew off after about 30 seconds. It was not as brilliantly purple as the one on my sleeve last week.
9 th July	Andy King	Finemere Wood		2	From 15.00	Hot & sunny	Wings spread wide in dappled shade, probably female; another in bushes by main track
9 th July	Alan and Jenny Wilcockson	BBOWT Bowdown Woods Nature Reserve	About 200yds from the bombsite reserve car park SU 507654		11.30	sunny	About 12ft off the ground in an oak tree
9 th July	Steve Croxford	Chinkwell Wood Rushbeds Wood	Centred on SP66721551	0 4	10.10 to 10.35	21 degrees, sunny 26 degrees, sunny	A great deal of clearing has taken place in Chinkwell 1 x PE 10.20am female, mud puddling by the second grove in wood. 80m East of main junction. 2 x PE 10.30am males patrolling by Ash/Oak pair 50m North of main junction.
					12.10 to 12.45	26 degrees & sunny	1 x PE 10.35am male mud puddling at second grove 80m East of main junction.
				7			1 x PE 12.15pm female flying very low just before main N-S ride. 1 x PE 12.17pm male settled on Oak at junction of

							the main rides, then went on patrol.
		Finemere Wood		5	14.10-14.40	28 degrees & sunny	 2 x PE 12.30pm probably both males patrolling Oak/Ash combination 50m North of main junction. 1 x PE 12.35pm male patrolling then settled on Ash 80m South of main junction. 1 x PE 12.40pm patrolling the trees around the main junction. 1 x PE 12.45pm Female mud puddling 40m East of junction. It settled 2 feet from my feet. 2 x PE 2.15pm By the ride management sign half way up the main track. Both were patrolling the trees in this area. 2 X PE 2.30pm Patrolling around the Sallows about 100m up the grass ride off to the right on entering the wood.
							1 x PE 2.40pm Male patrolling near the turning circle on main track.
9 th July	Giles Alder	Warburg Reserve	Maidensgrove Scrubs SU72168792	1	19.05		Flying about 10m height across glade
9 th July	Dennis Dell	Runt's Wood	SP7248223044	1	12.15	27 C	Male flying rapidly close to the ground westwards towards edge of wood; only one seen in 90 minutes. This is the highest wood of the Claydon estate
9 th July	David Redhead	York's Wood		1M, 1F	14.20	27C 28C	SP61421058: female flew from behind some birch saplings, circled over a bramble bush and disappeared the way it had come. Then as I was going down the ride from the York's Wood intersection to the Bernwood Meadows entrance a male dropped out of the trees and disappeared into their partial shade for a few seconds where I thought he was going to land on the underlying brash. He thought better of it and returned the way he had come. About 10metres further on I had an

							exact repeat performance - I have assumed these were the same individual. Grid ref SP61241085.
9 th July	Derek Haynes	Between Piddington & Little Woods	Southern edge of Clue Hills Farm SP626159	2M	14.45 to 15.00	Hot & sunny	Sparring males high above an Oak tree one of which, having won the arial battle, returned time and time again to the same several branches of the same tree, high up in the canopy
9 th July	Mick Campbell	Boarstall Wood		0	11-12	Ideal weather	
		Stanton Gt Wood	North face	0	12.30 –13.30		
		Holly Wood	SP590099	1	13.45		
10 th July	Giles Alder	Warburg Reserve	East end of rifle range SU72068793	1M	16.00		Flying low around scrub
10 th July	Unknown visitor	Warburg Reserve	East end of rifle range SU72068793	1			Landed on her foot [wearing sandals!]
10 th July	Steve Croxford	Finemere Wood Rushbeds Wood		3 10 sightings, about 5 individuals	9.30	Sunny & warm Intermittent sun, v. warm	 x PE patrolling the trees just inside the wood entrance. x PE patrolling the trees around the glade half way up the main track. x PE patrolling the trees around the ride management sign towards top of main track. x PE 10.40am patrolling trees around the junction of the main rides. x PE 10.48am South of the ride junction by 60m. Patrolling the trees high up. x PE 10.52am at the junction of main rides. Two were chasing each other while one was patrolling. x PE 11.10am Male patrolling the trees at the largest grove 60m East of main ride junction. x PE 11.16am at junction of main rides. All three were chasing each other.
10 th July	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Penley Wood	Along main track	3	12-15.30	28C ideal	All seen along main track: 1 @ 12.30pm SU7644793780 above conifers 1 @ 3.21pm SU7645393984 above ashes near 2

								large sallows	
								1 @ 3.30pm SU7647293902 in extended flight over ashes, conifers and sallows	
10 th July	Nick Board	Leckhampstead Wood	Bridleway & southe wood, interior	ern end of	9	8.30 to 10.00		Where bridleway splits from public footpath, I turned left into the wood proper (Private sign & large trunk across the access point), straight ahead past Deer viewing platform on left, 20yds on rht oak tree with hanging branch with forked end (1 female leaf hopping in the sun, 1 male soaring around tree top. Continued walk towards road and followed path to the left - 2 more seperate sightings in canopy. Continued through wood back towards Deer viewing point-2 more sightings in canopy Back along bridleway - 2 f and 1 m feeding on dog muck on path-easy to get close to	
10 th July	Ivan Wright	Shotover plain	Car park SP564062		1			Stayed for 15 minutes on car	
10 th July	Philip Hale	Ashridge Forest	SP982135	1M	•	15.46	Warm, overcast	Flying along ride at head height, landed on ground/ approximately a minute then flew off, again at about)r
10 th July	Mike Warner	Mays Lane, Padworth	SU622653	1	2M			displaying	
10 th July	Juliet and Alan Gudge	Moorend Common	SU801906		2M	16.00		On low vegetation, then spiralling under power lines then chased each other into canopy	
10 th July	Dennis Dell + 12	Bernwood Forest	Oakley, Shabbingto Woods	n and York	10	9.30 to 14.30	Warm and sunny	Field trip. 12 participants The Oakley Wood car park, from 9.30 to about 11 was not very productive, with only one seen flying rapidly through. Then, two around the sallows and low down [one definite female] between one and two hundred metres on the main track down from the car park. As last year, the majority of the sightings were along the track and in and around the trees from about 400 metres west of the Shabbington turning circle, to the turning circle. A male landed on fresh, very pungent, dog faeces about 100 metres down from the turning circle and remained there for a full 50 minutes. Another two engaged in low level flights here but ignored the feast. Only one sighting was made near the tops of the Oaks from the turning circle. On the way back, another two sightings, along the track, and finally,	

							a female 'flopped' into an Oak at Piccadilly Circus and remained there for quite a while, before flying lazily into a neighbouring Sallow. We arrived back at Oakley Car Park at about 14.15.
11 th July	Nigel Cleere		Along eastern side of central fenced in part of wood SU505655	1	11.30	Hot, sunny spells	Walking on ground near bramble and mixed flowers in sunny ride. Allowed very close approach before flying off strongly along woodland ride.
11 th July	Dennis Dell + 26 people	Bernwood Forest	Dakley, Shabbington and York Woods	16	10.00 to 15.30	Warm and sunny	Field trip. 26 participants This was an even more productive day, possibly because of having double the number of eyes looking upwards, although like yesterday, nearly all of the sightings were 'low down', with hardly any tree top territorial behaviour or oak edging. Again, few in Oakley car park at the beginning [2]. Jim Asher reported seeing one in Hell Coppice car park at 9.40. Two males landed briefly in the dip between Piccadilly Circus and the car park. The sixth sighting was perhaps the best; a large female settled on an Oak at Piccadilly Circus for quite a while; she then made for the middle of the tree and was seen taking sap from a branch about 3 metres up. Once again, the 400 metre stretch from the Shabbington turning circle westwards produced the most sightings [6], at least three of which were females. Only one was seen Oak edging, the rest were all low down. One female remained on a Sallow for 15 minutes. Four more definite individuals were seen: two, 100 to 200 metres north of Hell Coppice, one at Piccadilly Circus, and one seen at low level in the car park. People had started to leave at different times, so I received reports of sightings from the car park later from different individuals. A definite 16 individual specimens had been seen and a total of about 22 sightings.
11 th July	Loren Eldred	College Wood, Nash	SP793332	1 M	10am	V hot and sunny	Flew directly in front of me at approximately chest height giving me an excellent view of the wing markings, then it flew off quickly out of sight.
11.7	Jim Asher	Rushbeds Wood		1F	13.30		A female half way along the track from the car park to the main ride. She was on the ground for just long enough to grab a quick shot.

11 th July	Mick Campbell	Holton Wood	SP599081	1		Very hot	Flying over sallow (at low point of wood, seen from footpath running through wood)
							flying near sallow (seen from footpath in middle of wood).
			SP599079	2			
				n			
		Sydlings Copse		0			
11 th July	Steve Croxford	Rushbeds Wood		4	9.50 to 10.10		Rushbeds: All seen patrolling at the main junction of the rides. There were all seen separately, I dont know if it was the same individual or 4 different individuals.
		HamHome			14.30		HamHome: 1 x PE 2.40pm SP69421890 Flying very high in the trees just before the path runs past the pub.
		Wood		2			1 x PE 2.45pm SP69481888 Egg laying female on the Sallow just past the pond. It was very large and I watched it alight on the shady interior of the Sallow at least a dozen times.
							Greatsea: 3.40pm Swooped down out of the pine trees by the entrance to the wood at SP71472279
							3.45pm I saw it high up and watched as it came close to ground. A definite female. About 100m from the wood entrance.
		Romer and Greatsea			15.40 to 15.50	Sunny and warm	3.50pm Male flying low to ground at the junction of the grassy ride into Romer Wood.
		Woods		3			Home: This looks like a terrific wood but there are no public paths through it and only a small part of the edge that is accessible. From what I have seen the rides look very wide, open and grassy. There is lots of good looking Blackthorn around the edges.
							Finemere: Probable female resting on Oak about half way up the main ride.

				14.20	Intormittort	
		Home Wood Finemere Wood	0		Intermittent sun Sunny and warm	
(also Toml BBO	Richard lin and other	Reserve – <i>Bittams</i> Wood			light breeze Hot and sunny with strengthening breeze	Appeared at the NW end of the clearing, flying around 25 ft high and proceeded to glide along the south-facing woodland edge then returned to make a similar flight. Observed for no longer than 15 secs. <i>Two large, dark butterflies circling around the top</i> of a group of five larches on the SE side of the clearing– just about the highest trees in the area We could see white markings on them and one looked a little larger than the other. They spent just a couple of minutes dancing and gliding around the two tallest larches before settling on a short horizontal branch just below the top of one of them – about 60-70 feet up. They were in cop and there seemed to be a clear size difference. Watched for the next 75 mins; almost all that time they were positioned with their wings pointing towards us. A few times they were buzzed by a bee and opened their wings briefly – we were almost certain they were Purple Emperors, but a combination of poor light and the swaying of the tree made it impossible to get a really clear view. A third butterfly appeared, gliding around the tops of the larches and I could see from the size and white markings it must be a Purple Emperor. It passed near to the mating couple, but did not bother them. Left then returned at 16.45. I carried on watching as the sun started to light up the side of the tree they were on. Finally, at 17.00 there was a period when they adjusted position to be more upright. They were definitely Purple Emperors.

1 oth T I	Steve Croxford	Î		b	Early	1	One at main ride crossroads in middle of wood;
12 th July	Steve Cloxiola	Rushbeds Wood		5	afternoon		two more about 100m from laplands farm meadow gate patrolling the ashes
12 th July	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Wendover Woods	SP889086	2		Cloudy, little sun, 22C	 3.30pm after a minute of sunshine, seen flying high up above line of conifers (80' tall) bordering both sides of the hardcore track. Very near good quality sallows. This could be a PE territory, so needs checking again next year. 4.15pm; first one flying around the top of a big sallow then flew off over the trees, second one flew across the clearing and disappeared off over the trees. Altitude 810 feet.
			SP892084	2			
14 th July	Steve Croxford	Ham Home Wood	SP69331925	1	18.05	Gusty wind	Patrolling the very tall Oak and Ash trees near the northern entrance. It was very high up and I did not see it for long in the gusty wind. The time was 6.05pm and the grid reference was SP69331925.
14 th July	Mrs Scatley	Beamond End [near Penn Wood]	SU915976	1			When out surveying for another purpose I visited a group of houses in Beamond Wood - just on the bend of Penfold Lane at SU915976, just outside Holmer Green. Last weekend they had a purple emperor come down in their orchard, apparently rather exhausted. They provided water and it eventually left in the evening after staying for several hours.
15 th July	Dennis Dell	Rushbeds Wood	SP6663015771	1	16.25	Sunny, v. windy	Floated across new glade about 50m before the gate into laplands meadow
15 th July	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Homefield Wood	See comments	6		18C, strong wind, mostly cloudy	 at SU80978734, 3.00pm at high point of wood, seen flying above tall conifer overlooking big sallow, then flew off further along the trees out of sight. at SU81008736, 3.10pm seen during a brief sunny period, flying & perching on tall conifers and ash and then clashing briefly. at SU81088717, 4.40pm, flying above tall conifers heading eastwards along ridge, altitude 468'.
							1 at SU80898717, 4.50pm, flying above oaks near

							sallow, altitude 450' along a green track.
15 th July	Dave Wilton	Hamgreen Wood	See comments	2	13.00 to 14.30	27C	The first was at the "territory" along the main ride discovered last year (SP 6979 1920), just a brief glimpse in transit from one oak to another. The second was in Oxford Lane (SP 6975 1886) where I saw one lazily flying around for about 30 seconds before it disappeared.
16 th July	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Chinkwell Wood	See comments	7	12.50 to 16.20	21C strong wind, some sunshine	 1 at SP66601420 12.50pm flying above line of tall conifers in side ride, near sallows. 3 at SP66241452 1.30pm seen from the outside of the northern edge of the wood; 1 seen flying above big ash tree; 2 seen wood-edging and one of these was a big female which landed on the grass probing the damp soil for about five minutes (see photos). 1 at SP66651451 2.55pm seen flying above tall conifers near sallows after short sunny spell. 1 at SP66681416 3.30pm during sunny interval, flying in sallow then disappeared across clearing in main ride. Probable female. 1 at SP67431518 at 4.20pm, during sunny interval, flying over blackthorn (is this a first Dennis??) near entrance to house alongside railway track.
l6 th July	Dennis Dell	Hamgreen wood	Oxford lane SP697618909	1	16.30	20C breezy little sun	Flying low down in and around Oak before disappearing into Oak interior
16 th July	Steve Croxford	Finemere Wood	See comments	2	13.00 to 14.00	Strong wind	I only have a couple of sightings to report today from Finemere Wood. However the second from near the turning circle was superb. Despite the howling wind I watched a large female just float in and out of the lower branches of an Oak for several minutes. She settled on the trunk a couple of times. In all of this time she barely beat her wings at all, it was amazing how she held position and yet dogged the waving leaves in the blustery wind. 1 x PE 1.35pm SP71962168 Flying over the grove half way up the track. 1 x PE 1.45pm SP71862183 Gliding around an Oak at head height then settled on trunk a couple of times.

17 th July	Wendy & Mick	Boarstall Wood	SP635134 high point by cottage	4	15.00	Warm & sunny, 20	Flying above ashes in the high point territory near
17° July	Campbell	Boarstall Wood	or oborto- mgn point by contage	T	15.00	degrees, but v. windy	the cottage; one settled low down in a fir tree in the cottage garden. Definite male, wings quite thin and 'see-through'. Flying low along the road next to the hedge
			SP59010989			21-22 deg.	bordering Holly Wood, then it turned sharp right into the Bridleway and we lost sight of it.
		Holly Wood					2 x PE 3.55pm at SP59130948 flying around a big oak and along the tops of the neighbouring trees.
			See behaviour	1	15.30	ditto	2 x PE 4.00pm at SP59190939 flying above oaks, then one flew out across the field above our heads, looped round and flew back into the wood.
		Stanton Gt Wood					1 x PE 4.20pm at SP59260918 flying over ashes and oaks.
				5	15.55 to 16.20		
17 th July	NickBowles	Private wood in north Bucks	SP 698 205 fem east of track SP 698 205 75% probability male west of track SP 698 203 fem east of track	4	2 - 2.45pm	as sun re-appeared after a lengthy period of thick cloud with light rain	Female 1 landing on and testing sallow leaves. Then resting/basking in weak sun. presumed male flying strongly around top of oak in circle and then away from track/behind vegetation. Both other females flying along track and through the gaps in ride-side trees to enter the compartments behind.
			SP 700 203 fem north of track			22C	These two 'sexed' by size.
18 th July	Steve Croxford	Chinkwell Wood	SP66671411	2	15.40	Overcast	Weaving in and out of the pine trees near the WLH hotspot.
			SP66781470		16.10		Only a possible sighting near the log loading area. It was seen at distance heading away from me.
							Patrolling high up in canopy
		Ham Home Wood	SP69351916	1	18.05	Sunny	
18 th	Mike , David & Jonathan Wright	Bernwood Forest	Pathway along edge of wood heading down to BBOWT	1M	13.15pm for 5 minutes	Cloudy	Seen perched at low level on sloe bush before circling around us and flying into the crown of oak

July		/	meadow from main carpark.				tree. Later it returned to same perch.	
18 th July	Andrew Swann	[SP91609705]	Surface of swimming pool in large garden some 400m from Penn Wood	1		Warm and light cloud	Rescued from water with a net. Recovered quickly and flew off towards small wood to south.	
19 th July		Shabbington and Oakley		2?			Was told iris was about by a gent walking back along the main drag as I headed towards the Compensation Area. He attended one of Dennis's iris days. He had seen one in the car park and one flying in the sweet chestnuts at the Yorks Wood intersection - presumably he will submit a report.	
19 th July	Steve Croxford	Rushbeds Wood	SP66651573	1	12.20	Sunny & hot	Patrolling around edge of glade	
		Finemere Wood	SP71912174	1	13.45		Settled on tree briefly before moving off on patrol Flying in and out of depths of a Sallow. Settled on Sallow at least three times.	
			SP71782190	1	14.30			
5	Wendy & Mick Campbell, & Dennis D	Hodgemoor Wood	SU96699388	1	11.45	Hot & sunny	Circling over sallow	
		Dancers End car park area	SP899090	1	mid-late p.m.	Hot & sunny	Flying above conifers briefly	
19 th July	Dave Ferguson		SP722216 ride lined with oaks and sallows	1F	10.00 for 30 seconds	Hot, sunny	Flew 5m up around an oak and then behind a sallow	
Ditto above			SP718217 clearing [long meadow]	1M	11.30 for 5 mins	ditto	Flew around me and then landed in nearby blackthorn; orange	possibly attracted by r

			SP717217	hM	10 AE for 1E	ditto	Elaw 4m above head, possibly the same engeimen as above	
			pr/1/21/	1M	12.45 for 15 sec	ditto	Flew 4m above head; possibly the same specimen as above	
			SP723216	1M	13.45 for 15 sec	ditto	Flew west along ride 4m up	
20 th July	Dennis Dell	Finemere Wood	SP717222	1	15.03 very briefly		Short flight in high spot territory	
20 th July	Dennis Dell	Romer/Greatsea Woods	SP712225	1	15.55		Female floating down ride between Romer and Greatsea	
20 th July	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Piddington Wood	Edge, seen from meadow	1	15.00 & 16.15	Warm & sunny	Briefly flying around ash tree at 3.00pm and again when we returned to the car at approx 4.15pm - assumed to be the same individual).	
20 th July	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Little Wood		4	15.30 to 16.00	Warm & sunny	 2 x PE seen flying and chasing to right-hand-side of main ash. One was holding the territory and chased the second one away, then continued to fly and perch in the smaller ashes. These two individuals looked remarkably fresh and were acting as though they hadn't been on the wing for very long. We assume these are late emergers. One was a definite male (seen through bins). 1 x PE seen flying low down round the front edge of the big ash tree - large butterfly, probable female. 1 x PE seen circling over top of large oak near the grown-in' ride. 	
20 th July	Roy and Carole Bowler	Commonwood, Penn	Deadman Dene bottom SU9072695333	1F	13.45		Rresting on bracken at knee height on edge of wood. Flew off after watching it for a few seconds but very good view and about 1 yard away from Roy.	
21 st July	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Sydlings Copse		0		Hot & sunny	This is the 3 rd visit to this site in 2010; it looks very dry and a lot of clearance work has been carried out in the meadow. Three hours were spent here.	
21 st July	Bob Ellisdon	Shabbington Wood	SP6116 1038	1 female	13.20-13.25	Warm and humid but a thin cloud layer was obscuring the sun.	The butterfly was very tattered and was lying in the trackside grass in a very moribund state. It probably did not have long to live.	
21 st July	Steve Croxford	Rushbeds Wood		1F	13.20		Single sighting about 60m North of the ride junctions at 1.20pm. From the large size of the	

							individual I would guess that it was a female. She settled on a couple of bushes before heading off into the wood.
22 nd July	Steve Croxford	Rushbeds & Finemere Woods		0			
23 rd July	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	On territory	1	18.00 to 18.40	Sunny spells	In the usual place flying over the big oak from 6.00-6.40pm during late evening sun. He couldn't check the big ash tree as the sun was too low and hitting him full in the eyes.
3 rd July	Steve Croxford	Rushbeds Wood	60m north of main crossroads in centre	1F	15.50		It settled a couple of times deep in a Sallow before moving off out of sight into the wood. I think it was almost certainly seeking egg laying sites.
4 th July	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Homefield Wood	SP812872	1F	15.40	Windy with few sunny intervals	In good condition - in sheltered clearing near scout hut; egg laying high up on large sallow
4 th July	Mr Bull	Whitecross Green Wood		1F			Flying around the tree tops in the small glade next to the car park
5 th July	David and Sally Irven	Greatsea and Balmore wood top edge	SP714227	1F	15.10 and 15.30	Sunny intervals, warm	At the forest edge, flying and settling in 2 sallows, and also flying around us at waist height.
25 th July	David and Sally Irven	Finemere hill	SP716226 track between finemere hill house and balmore wood	1F	14.00	Sunny intervals, warm	Female flying low along the track from Finemere hill to Balmore wood
25 th july	David and Sally Irven	Finemere wood	SP719218 main ride	1	13.20	Sunny intervals, warm	Flew over at treetop height, in warm sun.
27 th July	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	3 different places	3M, 1F	15.30	Hazy sun, cloud and rain later	2 males in high point territory SP62451577; 1 female over sallow at bottom of wood; 1 worn male landing low on hawthorn along main ride
28 th July	Wendy & Mick Campbell, Dennis Dell	Little Wood	High point territory and bottom of wood	1M, 1F	16.10	cloudy	Male in large Ash at the high point; female gliding in and out of Oak at bottom [SP62191592]
28 th July	Steve Croxford	Rushbeds Wood		0	1		

28 th July	David Dennis	St Leonards	Garden SP912072	1F			
29 th July	David Dennis	Bellingdon	Meadow near woods SP938062	1			
29 th July	Steve Croxford	Little Wood	SP62431576	1	16.40	Overcast, 20 degrees	Probable male, settled on a high perch near top of Silver Birch.
31 st July	Nick Board	Wicken Wood	SP731405	1 F	2.30	Overcast, gusty, humid	Glided down and settled on sallow bush. Very tattered and tired
31 st July	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	High point territory and in central ride	3			One in Oak territory, and two down central ride flying over tall birches
1 st August	Steve Croxford	Little Wood	High point territory SP62431578	1	15.30	Overcast 20 degrees	Perching in Silver Birch
2 nd August	Wendy & Mick Campbell, Dennis Dell	Little Wood	High point territory	2, and one egg			
4 th August	Mick Campbell	Little Wood	High point territory and nearby	4, possibly 5	16.30 to 18.15		Lots of activity after short spell of heavy rain. One seen in oak tree next to 'overgrown' ride. One landed in small nut tree between oak & ash. One flying over a smaller ash tree behind the big main ash. Then 2 males chasing above conifer and ash nearest main ride. One male seen chasing a bird out of its territory. One female flew over Mick's head and then back into the wood. Finally, 2 PE, one larger (assumed female) being followed by a smaller one.
5 th August	Steve Croxford	Little Wood	High point territory	1	16.00		On big Ash, chasing off intruders in sunny intervals
5 th August	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Romer Wood		0	mid-afternoon	cloudy	No eggs found
7 th August	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Little Wood	High point territory	1	16.15		Seen in sunny spell after heavy rain. In oak tree territory near 'grown-in' ride. Seen during sunny spell after heavy rain. Flew around the top of the oak tree then perched in top of hazelnut tree for about 20 minutes. In next very brief sunny spell it took off again, landing briefly

							in the oak tree then flew off and disappeared round the back of the oak.
8 th August		bacombe marten	On old landrover in courtyard SP861068		1.30 to 4.30 then died	Hot & sunny	Settled on spare wheel and died the following day
8 th August	Wendy & Mick Campbell	Waterperry Wood		0	16.15 to 18.15		2 second instar larvae at SP6020709055