



**Butterfly Conservation**  
40 years of saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

**Hampshire and  
Isle of Wight Branch**

HOME ABOUT US EVENTS CONSERVATION HANTS & IOW SPECIES SIGHTINGS PUBLICATIONS LINKS

## Saturday 30th August

Rupert Broadway writes: "I saw a fresh male Adonis Blue today at St Catherines Hill, Winchester. Other species seen in the warm sunshine: a single Silver-spotted Skipper, a couple of Small Heath, a few Chalkhill Blue, Brown Argus and Brimstone and good numbers of Common Blue and Meadow Brown.

Ashley Whitlock writes: "I spent up to 2 hours wandering around Old Winchester Hill in very warm temperatures this body hasn't been used to this year! Species noted were as follows, and at times there were so many butterflies flying it was hard to note what I had seen: Speckled Wood (1) Gatekeeper (6) Meadow Brown in excess of 1000 at least! Small Heath (15) Red Admiral (1) Peacock (1) Brimstone (60) one of the highest counts I've ever had! Large White (9) Small White (50) Common Blue (75) Chalkhill Blue (100+) this is the only site I've encountered good counts of this species. Adonis Blue (6) Probably still emerging, but still struggling at this site, probably due to poor weather in the spring and wetter summers, and the grass sward being a lot taller than it should be. Brown Argus (5) Small Skipper (8) Large Skipper (1) Silver-Spotted Skipper (75) probably a modest number, but at least its in the realms of the figures it should be at this time of year. Several sad looking Six spotted Burnet Moths and Silver Y's and several macro moths as well. Lots of Kestrels floating on the up drafts, hunting the abundant grasshoppers in the grasses."

Donald Morris of the Dorset Branch of BC reports from Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes Reserve (SZ-318-923) (1, 35, 38, 84) Comma 1, Red Admiral 14, Meadow Brown 36, Gatekeeper 1, Small Copper 1, Small Heath 18, Wall Brown 2, Green Veined White 3, Small White 6, Large White 2, Common Blue 15, Holly Blue 2, Peacock 1, Speckled Wood 26. "Timing 09.30-13.48 Bright, hazy, humid, breeze", and from Needs Ore Point, Beaulieu Estate (SZ-423-974) (1) Grayling 1, Holly Blue 1, Gatekeeper 1, Marbled White 1, Common Blue 4, Speckled Wood 25, Small White 24, Large White 4, Small Heath 7, Brimstone Female 1, Green Veined White 9, Small Copper 4, Meadow Brown 6 "Timing 13.55-17.18 Bright, windy."

Gary Palmer in the new forest: "Yesterday I had my long awaited first Hampshire record for small tortoiseshell this year, well they must be like buses, you wait for ages then three come along. I walked out of my house this morning to the local shop and in a neighbours garden on a buddleja was one butterfly, a small tortoiseshell (sz 247 965). At mid day i went out on a short trip to holmsley bog and on the way back stopped of at the now empty shrike cottage by holmsley lodge (su 221 010). in the garden are a couple of buddleja, and were seemingly a magnet for the butterflys around. i counted 14 red admirals (mostly fresh), 1 comma, 3 peacock, 4 brimstone, 3 small white and last but not least 1 small tortoiseshell, my 3rd in 24 hours."



Red Admiral



Red Admiral



Small Tortoiseshell

Geoff Jones writes: "John Wise and I spent an enjoyable 'summer' afternoon today at Noar Hill, which provided a marked change from the recent 'november weather'. As well as enjoying such species as Peacock, Red Admiral; Brimstone; Common Blue; Brown Argus; Meadow Brown; Large and Small White; Speckled Wood we were both delighted to find a Small Tortoiseshell - certainly a rare sighting for me this year. Prior to our arrival at the 'triangle' 2 female Brown Hairstreaks had been seen egg laying. Although disappointed at not seeing the species we were shown the eggs which we were able to photograph. Two visitors reported seeing a further two Brown Hairstreaks in another area of the site. Later in the afternoon we called in briefly at Beacon Hill where we found 2 Silver-spotted Skippers and had the pleasure of watching a Red Kite soaring overhead."



Brown Hairstreak ova



Peacock



Comma larva

Patrick Spence writes: "Reference Matthew Oates comment of a few days ago we saw 3 Small Tortoiseshells on Old Winchester Hill on 30th August between 3 & 5 pm. We also saw Peacock 1, Large White several, Small White several, Green veined White 1, Brimstone 5, Small Skipper 1, Small Heath 2, Small Copper 1, Silver Spotted Skipper several, Meadow Brown many, Gatekeeper few, Chalk Hill Blue many, Common Blue many, Speckled Wood few. Unfortunately I do not think we saw an Adonis Blue which we were hoping to see!"

Andrew Bolton reports from Beacon Hill, Old Burghclere (SU 457573) (34) Speckled Wood 15, Small White 9, Large White 2, Brimstone 19, Meadow Brown 53, Small Heath 2, Gatekeeper 1, Essex Skipper 1, Peacock 2, Red Admiral 3, Holly Blue 1, Common Blue 14, Small Copper 2. Moths included Silver Y 3, Shaded Broad Bar 1, & Yellow Shell 1. "Brimstones doing notably well, & very fresh."; and from Old Burghclere Lime Quarry (SU 472574) (89) Common Blue 18, Brimstone 8, Peacock 2, Meadow Brown 13, Brown Argus 2, Small White 4, Speckled Wood 1.

"Common Blues reliably found here; Brown Argus quite tatty."



Small Copper



Common Blue - female



Silver Y

## Friday 29th August

Gary Palmer in a garden at Shirley Holms (sz 296984). delighted to report my first Hampshire small tortoiseshell this year, and in glorious mint condition to. also present on this once again cloudy day were several large white, 4 small white, 2 brimstone( 1 male 1 female), 1 red admiral, 10 meadow brown, 1 gate keeper, 2 speckled wood, 1 holly blue and 1 common blue (male).



Meadow Brown



Small Tortoiseshell

Alan Thornbury visited Shipton Bellinger this afternoon in warm but completely overcast conditions. Sightings of 2 male Brown Hairstreaks high in the ash trees along the main track west of the village, followed by a brief low level encounter with a somewhat faded female in the blackthorn scrub, more than exceeded his expectations. In addition to common species (Brimstones, Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods, Large Whites and Common Blues), the surprising discovery of solitary male Adonis Blue along the subsidiary track back to the village completed a good afternoon. He presumes this is most likely to be a stray from a downland colony on nearby Salisbury Plain?



Brown Hairstreak



Adonis Blue

## Thursday 28th August

Andrew Bolton reports from Browning Hill, Baughurst (SU 585602) (84) Speckled Wood 8, Meadow Brown 3, Small White 3, Large White 1. "This concludes my roundup of miscellaneous minor sightings during August."

## Monday 25th August

Ashley Whitlock writes: "My by- annual pilgrimage over to the Isle of Wight was spoilt by the awful weather which having spent 15 quid on the ferry and train fare was only just saved by a ten minute interlude whilst waiting for the train at Shanklin Station to come home. In the brief 10 minute respite of sunny weather I was thrilled to see a Wall Brown basking on Platform 2 which incidently is a garden looked after by the county council, and here it stayed settled on the wall which gives it its name. Also seen was (10) Speckled Woods (1) Large White (2) Small Whites and a Red Admiral. The temptation was too great to go over too the Island, but Im glad I went in the end."

Gary Palmer on an afternoon trip to Stockbridge down with Paul Brock "Under heavy cloud, butterflies present were, silver spotted skipper female 1, common blue 10, chalk hill blue 50+(mostly well worn), brown argus 1, still abundant numbers of meadow brown(some very fresh), small heath 3, red admiral 1 and peacock 1."



Chalkhill Blue - female    Meadow Brown - female    Silver-spotted Skipper

## Sunday 24th August

Richard Hughes reports from Hill Head road (85) 2 red admiral 1 painted lady 3 small white 2 large white "On buddleia bush outside my kitchen window."

Ashley Whitlock reports from his Portsdown Hill Transect. "Species seen were as follows Small Skipper (1) Brimstone (5) Large White (2) Small White (12) Green Veined White (1) Small Blue (2) these were very fresh looking specimens, and the Brown Argus was again in evidence (2) seen which was great to see even though the Rock Rose patch is no bigger than a frying pan in size! Common Blue (28) Chalkhill Blue (7) Red Admiral (1) Speckled Wood (14) Gatekeeper (2) Meadow Brown (67)"

## Saturday 23rd August

Ashley Whitlock writes from Bramshott Common: "I decided to day to visit a new site and see how the Grayling was faring, and the blunt answer to this was it wasn't. It must have been the awful August weather which must have curtailed the butterflies flight period, as I only encountered (2). The other species seen were Speckled Wood (2) Meadow Brown (35) Gatekeeper (25) Small Heath (16) Brimstone (1) which I found roosting inside some Ivy leaves, yes it must be that cold at night! Large White (2) Small Copper (2) Holly Blue (1) a female which was laying her eggs on Bell Heather of which I've seen this several times before. Small Skipper (1)." And also from Beacon Hill: "The weather by now was very cloudy and very cold in the windy conditions, such a contrast from a few hours before. Species seen were Speckled Wood (3) Meadow Brown literally hundreds probably thousands, Small Heath (11) Red Admiral (1) Peacock (1) Brimstone (6) Large White (2) Small White (2) Common Blue (20) Chalkhill Blue (6) very poor numbers, Brown Argus (20) which does very well at this site and the Silver-Spotted Skipper (4) having a terrible time!"



Common Blues



Small Copper

Roger Buchanan writes: "Andy Barker led an excellent walk today at Shipton Bellinger - attended by some branch members and locals from the village - very successful. Saw several species, very large numbers of Brimstones and a few of the 'target' species - Brown Hairstreak. The first had a classic wedge-shaped mark on its hind-wings with the tails missing testifying to a bird attack. One was seen laying, several were noted high in ash trees and one seen low down nectaring."



Brown Hairstreak

Ian Pratt writes: "These two beautiful butterflies were seen this morning in the thistles opposite my house at Branstone near Sandown Isle of Wight as I took my labrador Max out for a walk . They were really fresh and very cooperative for the photo-shoot!"



Small Tortoiseshells

## Friday 22nd August

Thelma Smalley reports from Magdalen Hill Down Extension DBrimstone 8. Large white 7. Small white 2. Brown Argus 3. Common blue 34. Chalkhill blue 1. Holly blue 1. Peacock 2. Meadow Brown 138. Small Heath 1. and a Privet Hawkmoth caterpillar feeding on Privet! "While walking the transect I met a couple who said that they were 'bird people' and knew little about butterflies. However they recently went on one of Lynn's walks and enjoyed it so much they have now become members."

Andrew Brookes writes: "Members of the South East Area Group visited the Brown Hairstreak site at Shalfleet on the Isle of Wight on Friday last. Alas the insect didn't oblige on the day, but a pleasing variety of other species were seen, including Small Copper and Brown Argus. The biggest surprise was the discovery of three large colonies of Peacock larvae (second brood?), ranging in age from second to final instar, on fresh

young nettles in a cow pasture. After lunch, the group adjourned to Rew Down above Ventnor, where some tired and tatty Adonis (3) and Chalkhill Blues (24) obliged."



Peacock larvae

Donald Morris of the Dorset Branch of BC reports from Park Shore, Beaulieu Estate (SU-406-966) (1) Small White 8, Speckled Wood 6, Green Veined White 2, Large White 4. Large White 1 x courting pair. "Timing 12.30-13.30 Cloud, breeze, sun breaking through regularly."

### Thursday 21st August

Paul Brock reports: "My 15th garden butterfly species of the year turned up at Brockenhurst, New Forest today [SU303023], a very welcome Painted Lady, amongst the Large Whites."

Mike Wildish reports from Thruxton (SU295450) (84) Small White - 2 Large White - 3 Green-veined White - 9 Brimstone - 1 Meadow Brown - 7 Gatekeeper - 1 Speckled Wood - 7. "Chestnut leaf-miner decimating Horse Chestnut at Thruxton Manor and alongside A303 - hundreds of adults flying around the trees. Some conkers developing, but at this rate ye kiddies will be saving on the vinegar and string in years to come. On a lacklustre day good to see 2 Little Egret at Mullenspond and plenty of House Martins once again."

Ashley Whitlock writes: "I had a look up at Oxenbourne Down after work, and with the warm sunshine at times came the following species: Speckled Wood (1) Gatekeeper (6) Meadow Brown (100+) Small Heath (6) Peacock (2) Brimstone (2) Large White (2) Small White (3) Green Veined White (1) Common Blue (12) Chalkhill Blue (10) This count is at least 90% down on figures I have for the last 10 seasons, the count should be in triple figures, and I do not understand why there has been a sudden crash at this site for this specie. There has been a very large influx of Oxford Ragwort at the site, in fact the site is infested with it and I dont know whether this has any impact on the species. I would be interested in any feedback from readers please. It may be having an impact on the Silver-Spotted Skipper as well as I only saw (10) here as well."



Small Heath



Large White



Silver-spotted Skipper

Gary Palmer at Shirley Holms new forest, in a private garden (sz296984). I have been visiting this garden for over 10 years on a weekly basis and note the species i find here and its the first brown argus ive seen here today in all that time. also present today were large and small white, speckled wood ,meadow brown, gatekeeper, red admiral, small copper and common blue.



Brown Argus



Small Copper



Common Blue

### Wednesday 20th August

Paul Brock writes "visited Noar Hill today in rather cloudy conditions. However, during a short, bright spell, 1 Brown Hairstreak was seen, flying in and around Ash trees. Also noted: 5 Speckled Wood, 3 Gatekeeper, 40+ Meadow Brown, 6 Small Heath, 1 Dark Green Fritillary (worn), 2 Red Admiral, 1 Brimstone, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Large Skipper and 12 Common Blue. Went on to Old Winchester Hill mid afternoon for a quick look around the meadow at the bottom of the car park slope. In totally cloudy conditions, still managed to see: 4 Gatekeeper, 50+ Meadow Brown, 6 Small Heath, 1 Peacock, 1 Brimstone, 2 Large White, 1 Small White, 3 Adonis Blue, 40+ Chalkhill Blue, 12 Common Blue, 1 Small Skipper and 10 Silver-Spotted Skipper, the latter rather docile and again easy to photograph. Had the sun been out, I'm sure there would have been good numbers to record"



Adonis Blue



Adonis Blue



Silver-spotted Skipper

Andrew Bolton reports from edge of Wormley Copse, nr. Hare Warren Farm. (SU 481538) (87) Silver-washed Fritillary 1, Common Blue 1, Peacock 1, Green-veined White 4, Meadow Brown 3, Gatekeeper 2, Large White 1.

### Monday 18th August

Matthew Oates writes: "Given the paucity of records of our hitherto taken for granted Small Tortoiseshell on the branch website I wonder how many people have seen more than 10 ST in southern England this year? My own tally for S England is currently 20 (S Eng = south of Birmingham to The Wash). Of these 5 were in Norfolk. I have yet to see one in my beloved Hampshire..... My previous poorest mid Aug tally was ca 230-250 in the rotten summer of 1988."

Ian Pratt writes: "To answer Matthew's question I have seen six ST's this year, one in France and 5 on the IOW. The best one is attached and was 20 metres from my house in Branstone near Sandown. Hope the picture helps as it is one of the most beautiful UK butterflies."



Small Tortoiseshell

### Sunday 17th August

Paul Brock reports the following from Normandy Marshes: "Having seen 10 Wall in a small part of Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes on 10th August, decided to check further along the coast at Normandy Marshes on the afternoon of 17th. In mainly cloudy weather saw relatively few butterflies, but good to see several species: 2 Wall, 4 Speckled Wood, 5 Meadow Brown, 1 Small Heath, 1 Small Copper, 2 Common Blue, 2 Small White, 1 Green-Veined White, 1 Red Admiral."

Ashley Whitlock writes: "Noar Hill today again was very breezy which doesn't aid the butterfly counts and viewing the Brown Hairstreak territory trees. However (2) Brown Hairstreak were seen with the naked eye, flying in and around the Ash tree's. Also seen were as follows: Speckled Wood (5) Gatekeeper (30) Meadow Brown (60) Small Heath (5) Silver-Washed Fritillary (1) probably my last for 2008. Red Admiral (1) Comma (1) Brimstone (3) Large White (1) Small White (3) Common Blue (38) very common in and around the chalk pits. Holly Blue (1) Brown Argus (3) Small Skipper (2)

Old Winchester Hill, had to hold onto my hat at this site, however the species count wasn't too bad, as follows: Gatekeeper (30) Meadow Brown (500+) Small Heath (7) Peacock (3) Comma (1) Brimstone (3) Large White (1) Small White (5) Small Copper (1) Common Blue (31) Chalkhill Blue (500) very common with many now looking very tatty. Adonis Blue (1) just hatched out, and had very distinct brown spots on its forewings, and did not want to fly. Brown Argus (7) quite common in the meadow right at the bottom of the car-park slope, no foodplant is around there though. Small Skipper (7) one of these was a newly hatched specimen! Silver-Spotted Skipper (7) very windy conditions did not help in the counts of this species. Many Six-Spotted Burnet Moths, one Common Carpet, and some Silver-Y Moths,



Red Admiral



Brown Argus



Adonis Blue

Barry and Margaret Collins report from Oxenbourne Down (SU717183) Species of note included 23 Silver-spotted Skippers and 35 Chalkhill Blue. There was also 1 Marbled White still on the wing at Stansted Forest.

### Saturday 16th August

Andrew Brookes writes: "Excellent summer brood of Common Blues emerging at Horsea Island, over 20 counted in one small area, together with 2 fresh Small Heath and 30 Meadow Browns. 6 very jaded Gatekeepers and 3 G V Whites completed the tally."

Ian Pratt reports: "Plenty of second brood adonis blues on Bonchurch Down today - at least 30 plus 4 chalkhill blues and 1 common blue. 3

meadow browns as well."



Adonis Blue



Adonis Blue



Chalkhill Blue

## Friday 15th August

Mike Wildish reports from Over Wallop ( SU285385) (84) Holly Blue - 2 Small White - 5 Large White - 2 Green-veined White - 3 Meadow Brown - 20 Gatekeeper - 3 Speckled Wood - 8.

Paul Brock reports from a sunny Stockbridge Down, primary aim to obtain better Silver-spotted Skipper photographs. After saying hello to Mike Duffy who had just finished a recording stint, he observed that butterflies were much more spread out over the site than on his 11th August visit - concentrating on lower meadows, he saw 8 Silver-Spotted Skippers, unusually easy to photograph, either uppersides or undersides (possibly because a few females may have just emerged), 100+ Chalkhill Blue, 15 Common Blue, 2 Brown Argus, 5 Small Copper, 10 Brimstone, 10 Large White, 2 Small White, 1 Green-Veined White, 1 Small Skipper, 1 Essex Skipper, 7 Silver-washed Fritillary (very worn), 2 Dark Green Fritillary (worn), 2 Comma, 22 Peacock, 2 Small Heath, 6 Gatekeeper and numerous Meadow Brown. Also checked out Broughton Down, but rather late in the afternoon, hence maybe why no Silver-Spotted Skippers seen - only saw 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Red Admiral, 7 Common Blue, 2 Chalkhill Blue, 1 Brown Argus, 4 Small Heath, 3 Small White, 1 Green-veined White, 4 Large White and several Meadow Brown.



Silver-spotted Skipper - female      Silver-spotted Skipper - male

Matthew Oates writes: "Excellent visit to Shipton Bellinger Roughs (the MOD-owned scrub land W of Shipton Bellinger) v Brown Hairstreak. I saw ca 25 individuals in 4 hrs, of which 5 were definitely female and the majority were worn males. I would have seen more had it not clouded up too much. I saw about 20 on sheltered ash trees amongst the scrub - the better the shelter from the west, the more BH were present. The best ash had at least 4 males and 1 female, and seldom a minute past without at least 1 being seen. Lots of squabbling males, and great to see 2 males pursue a crow - iris-style. None at nectar and none remotely within camera range. 1 male looked fresh, as did the girls. Nb my best tally here was ca 36 on 5:9:2004. Also, over 40 Brimstone on basil along the edge of an abandoned field. Searched the short turf areas for SSS without success. Ghastly August, but at least I've had 1 good day."

Andrew Bolton reports from edge of Well's Copse, East Oakley (SU 586505) (87) Common Blue 2, Gatekeeper 2, one each of Red Admiral, Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Large White & Silver Y.

## Thursday 14th August

Tim Norriss writes: "I have attached a picture of the mines of the Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner *Cameraria ohridella* that has had a huge increase in the county this year. The photo shows a typical leaf with two mines each with an empty pupal case protruding from the upper surface of the mine from which the moth has emerged. It was taken just outside Andover but all the trees I see are infested with the mines and many trees now look completely brown because of them. Many leaves have fifty mines per leaf and so I am sure some trees must have tens of thousands of mines. A picture of the adult can be seen on Mike Wall's Hantsmoth website at <http://www.hantsmoths.org.uk/> by typing *ohridella* into the Search box in the top left corner. The moth itself is tiny, only about 3-4mm long and I have caught several in my trap in the last three weeks. Recently I had to go to our office in Slough and I parked my car below a badly affected Horse Chestnut tree. When I came to leave at lunch-time it was covered in about a dozen of the adult moths. Interestingly there was still one clinging to the windscreen as I drove all through the town, and when I got to my destination twenty miles later having driven along the M25 at 70mph I noticed there was still one on the outside of the car! They clearly have remarkable powers of suction - and dispersal. I have seen them several times inside underground trains in central London."



*Cameraria ohridella* -  
leafmines and pupal cases

Lynn Fomison Reserves Officer Hampshire & Isle of Wight Branch writes "whilst working at Magdalen Hill Down on Monday Patrick Fleet saw 10

Small Blues. We are particularly pleased about this as we have been putting great efforts into creating suitable habitat for a number of years."

On Sunday 3rd August Lynn Fomison saw two Painted Ladies nectaring on buddleias at the National collection at Longstock Park Nursery nr Stockbridge Hampshire. I have put these on BC map of national sightings 244 seen nationally so far. Have you added your sightings? Lynn wonders.

Ashley Whitlock reports from Fort Widley "A quick look up at my local patch after work with some fine weather which is in very short supply this summer. Species seen were Speckled Wood (2) Gatekeeper (10) Meadow Brown (65) Red Admiral (2) Peacock (2) Brimstone (1) Large White (1) Small White (31) Green -Veined White (12) Small Copper (1) Common Blue (13) Holly Blue (2). Strangely there were no Chalkhill Blues noted and no second generation Small Blues either. A Magpie Moth was seen on some Bramble along with many six-Spotted Burnet Moths. And certainly no Wall Browns."

## Tuesday 12th August

Mike Wildish reports from Netherton Bottom S (SU385555) (84) Small Skipper - 2 Essex Skipper - 2 Large White - 3 Small White - 11 Green-veined White - 2 Brimstone - 1 Common Blue - 4 Meadow Brown - 10 Gatekeeper - 19 Small Copper - 1 Silver-washed Frit - 1, and from Netherton Bottom N (SU378565) (84) Small Skipper - 1 Essex Skipper - 8 Small White - 6 Large White - 3 Green-veined White - 9 Meadow Brown - 24 Gatekeeper - 6 Speckled Wood - 1 Marbled White - 1 Red Admiral - 3 Peacock - 1 Silver-washed Frit - 1, and finally from Faccombe Wood (SU385565) (84) Large White - 6 Green-veined White - 1 Brimstone - 8 Meadow Brown - 10 Gatekeeper - 5 Speckled Wood - 1 Comma - 2 Silver-washed Frit - 8. "With Mervyn Grist. We correctly worked out that on a breezy, showery day, this valley would attract the insects. Also seen here were 1 Southern Hawker, and, incredibly for this location, a golden-ringed!!! At least 40 house martins had also worked out the insect potential of this valley."

Lynn Fomison received news (& a photograph) of an exciting find at Yew Hill on 12th August from David Thelwell) David had reported that when he was doing his transect at Yew Hill he came across this beast. "I thought it was a hornet, when I first saw it at a distance. It's a very large hoverfly, that I've not seen before." He then added in a later email.. It's the size of a Hornet, which they mimic and lay their eggs in the Hornet's nest! It's the largest British hoverfly and a relative newcomer to the country. Scientific name *Volucella zonaria*"



*Volucella zonaria*

## Monday 11th August

Paul Brock reports from Stockbridge Down, where he saw (in brief hazy sun) 2 Silver-Spotted Skippers, 80+ Chalkhill Blue (at least 25% females), 8 Common Blue, 2 Small Copper, 2 Brimstone, 8 Large White, 2 Small White, 2 Green-Veined White, 1 Small Skipper, 2 Silver-washed Fritillary (both very worn, one a female f. valezina), 2 Comma, 7 Red Admiral, 2 Ringlet, 9 Peacock, numerous Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown.



Silver-spotted Skipper



Common Blue - female

## Sunday 10th August

Colin Baker writes: "Thurs 7th August- Having visited Litchett Plain(SU 801566) looking for Grayling butterflies for some weeks now I was delighted to find the first 3 individuals had at last emerged. Sadly this number has not increased and I only saw 2 on view today-10th August Moths seen included Wood Carpet 1; Lesser Treble-bar 1. Sunday 10 August-Today on a very windy and showery day at Noar Hill it was indeed the weather that dictated numbers of butterflies to be seen. During the consolation sunny intervals reasonable numbers of Common Blue were on the wing with some females showing good variations in colour. After a great time searching the quarry that everyone was looking for, I finally bumped into Adrian Hoskins and Steve Meredith for the second time just as the latter saw a Brown Hairstreak male nectaring on Hemp-agrimony. What good timing, as we all enjoyed the photographic opportunity. I would estimate numbers seen as :-Common Blue 20;Meadow Brown 20;Gatekeeper 15; Red Admiral 1; Brown Hairstreak (Male) 1; Comma 1; Speckled Wood 1; Silver-washed Fritillaries 4; Brimstone 2; Small Copper 1;Small Skipper 4; & various whites.



Common Blue - female



Brown Hairstreak



Red Admiral

Richard Symonds writes: "This morning I visited Noar Hill (SU656065) for two hours in total, arriving at 10am. There was a strong wind and overcast skies but when the clouds moved the sunny spells were warm. Just before I left the reserve between 11:45 and 12:00 there were two heavy showers. Many Meadow Browns were present but I managed to see a good selection of species despite the weather conditions. I saw two Small Heaths of the second brood which were being chased by Common Blues, a single Small Copper landed on a thistle and looked a little faded and I saw my first Brown Argus of the year followed later by another specimen. The the corner of the far pit four Red Admirals were feeding on hemp agrimony, all being in perfect bright condition. I met Ashley Whitlock who showed me several tall Ash trees in an area where the rare second brood Duke of Burgundy Fritillary was spotted last year (including by myself). It was here that we saw albeit from a distance two Brown Hairstreaks flying around the top of one of the Ash trees. With binoculars the small tail on the wings were visible. My count: Large White (4), Small White (2), Green Veined White (2), Meadow Brown (60), Gatekeeper (11), Small Heath (2), Speckled Wood (1), Red Admiral (4), Peacock (1), Common Blue (2F 13M), Brown Argus (2), Brown Hairstreak (2), Small Copper (1), Small Skipper (1F 1M) and Six Spot Burnet moth (3).



Small Skipper



Brown Argus



Common Blue - female

Gary Palmer on Barton common 10.8.08, sadly at some point in the last week the local New Milton town council supposedly but doubtfully, in conjunction with the Hampshire heathlands projects, metered out its totally untimely blanket mowing of this site. decimating all nectaring flora and as a result a total collapse in the butterfly population. So my count for the whole site was 6 gatekeeper, 1 meadow brown, 1 small heath and 1 speckled wood. but I think the biggest loss as a result of this untimely scalping on an annual basis is the loss of the grayling colony, as this year i have to date not found one and if any do finally hatch they have nothing to nector on. i have contacted Hampshire heathlands projects over this issue and expect some sort of reasonable explanation for the councils so called "management" of this site."

## Friday 8th August

Mike Wildish reports from South Tidworth (SU237475) (84) Common Blue - 1 Holly Blue - 1 Meadow Brown - 75 Gatekeeper - 10 Small White - 1 Large White - 1 Green-veined White - 2.

Andy Barker writes: "As the weather brightened up mid afternoon I took the opportunity to do the Sparsholt 'shelter belt' butterfly transect. Amongst my tally I saw 2 Small Blues, so I thought I should let people know that the second brood for this species is on the wing. A decent number of Peacocks were seen (34), but not as good as the 48 recorded last week. They were mostly nectaring on teasel, knapweed and burdock. Plenty of Meadow Browns (141), but Gatekeepers are tailing off (38). Brimstones have been good over the last couple of weeks, with 18 seen today. No Painted Ladies or Small Tortoiseshells, but 6 Commas and 2 beautifully fresh Red Admirals. Odds and ends of various other species."

Mark Swann reports from Testwood lakes. "8 common blues found a small copper, singles of red admiral, peacock, 4 commas, 3 green veined whites a few meadow browns hanging on, 10 +gatekeepers. Got home to find another purple hairstreak in the garden this time enjoying something on a silver birch also an oak bush cricket."

Mike Duffy writes: "An early afternoon visit to Stockbridge Down, had me see 1 Silver Spotted Skipper, 1 Small Skipper, 12 + Small Heath, numbers of Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers, 80 + Chalkhill Blue, 3 + Small White, 1 + Green Veined White, 1 Silver Y, 3 + Common Carpets, 1 Lesser Treble-bar and 3 speci of Pyrausta moths."



Silver-spotted Skipper

## Thursday 7th August

Mark Swann reports from St catherines hill Winchester "A single fresh male silver spot skipper seen on monday 4th aug. Today at least 8 seen , 6 peacocks, 7 red admirals, 4 commas, purple hairstreak, 20 + common blues, 10+ brown argus, 1 small heath, lots of small and large whites , 8 speckled woods, meadow browns and gatekeepers but worryingly only single figure counts of chalkhill blues 8 and 9 for the two days. weather was good on both trips ? best spot was the replanted hockley road which was looking great."

## Wednesday 6th August

Richard Symonds writes: "This morning I visited Chalton Down (SU736156) where the temperature was 21 degrees. As usual many Chalkhill Blues and Meadow Browns were flying and I noted five separate mating pairs of Chalkhill Blues including one female who had an absence of some black spots on her underside. While watching closely a female Chalkhill Blue she flew a short distance off the ground then landed perfectly on my hand! I was able to get a photo. I saw a single worn male Small Skipper and a perfect second brood Small Heath. Count: Green Veined White (2), Chalkhill Blue (100+), Common Blue (3F 10M), Meadow Brown (100+), Gatekeeper (4), Small Heath (1), Small Skipper (1M) and Six Spot Burnet (3)."



Chalkhill Blue - female



Chalkhill Blue pair



Small Heath

Tony Baines writes: "A strange but delightful day of late sightings to report from Odiham. Firstly, a rather tatty female Silver-Washed Fritillary on the buddelia near the garden which was followed later in the day by a very active and fresh looking male. Also a male Purple Hairstreak alighted on a plum tree where others had been spotted about three weeks ago. Then, to cap it all, a female Purple Emperor appeared at eye level in front of me above the Basingstoke Canal towpath. She circled around a nearby willow bush nearly, but not quite, landing before disappearing from view around the back of it. She looked to be in relatively good condition given that it's so late in the season."

### Monday 4th August

Mike Wildish reports from Stockbridge Down E tetrad (SU385345) (34) Small Copper - 1 Common Blue - 1 Chalkhill Blue - 260 Meadow Brown - 150 Gatekeeper - 8 Ringlet - 1 Large White - 10 Small White - 7 Green-veined White - 1 Brimstone - 5 Red Admiral - 2 Comma - 1 Peacock - 15 Silver-washed Frit - 4, and from Stockbridge Down W tetrad (SU375350) (34) Essex Skipper - 2 Small Copper - 1 Chalkhill Blue - 70 Meadow Brown - 37 Gatekeeper - 13 Marbled White - 1 Large White - 6 Small White - 4 Brimstone - 1 Peacock - 6. "With Mervyn Grist. Rather breezy and coming showery in the exposed parts. Also Round-headed Rampion and Lesser Centaury in flower, and a pair of Turtle Doves that appeared to be nestbuilding!"

### Sunday 3rd August

Paul Brock reports the following from Pennington/Keyhaven Marshes: "In permanently cloudy, windy weather (I was, of course, hoping the sun would make an appearance), a possible fast-flying Painted Lady (cannot be 100% certain) led me to a small, sheltered nectar rich area where I saw Wall (5, including 2 females) beyond the barbed wire fence. Whereas I did obtain photographs when one visited flowers over the edge of the fence, it was tantalising to see them, wings wide open, on the ground. Rather surprising behaviour in poor weather, even the Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns kept a low profile."



Wall

Gary Palmer writes: "On another Sunday afternoon visit to the inclosed pond in the little wooton inclosure. In between the showers I worked my way around the pond through the brambles and bracken into the small flower rich meadow, As I went disturbing plenty of grass moth species as well as several brown china moth, 6 common carpet, 3 straw dot and a lot of pyrausta aurata, one of which I found egg laying on the flower heads of the abundant water mint. Butterflies present were several meadow brown, 30+ gatekeeper and 1 large white. After nearly stepping on a lethargic grass snake with a large digesting bulge in its stomach (more than likely a frog), I made a hasty retreat in the rain."



Common Carpet



Brown China-mark

*Pyrausta aurata*

Richard Symonds writes: "This afternoon I visited Chalton Down (SU736156). The weather was overcast but very humid with the odd shower of drizzle. Meadow Browns and Chalkhill Blues were flying although only short distances, however the conditions enabled me to get some good underside views and record some aberrations of Chalkhill Blues: Male underside with most of black spots absent form of ab. obsoleta. Male underside upper margin of hindwing showing slight merging aberration. Male underside forewing lack of black spots in segments, hindwing showing extended orange lunules. Male upperside showing striking aberration of underside margin spots on border. Count: Meadow Brown (50+), Chalkhill Blue (50+), Common Blue (2) and Gatekeeper (6)."



Chalkhill Blue ab obsoleta



Chalkhill Blue aberration



Chalkhill Blue aberration

## Saturday 2nd August

Ashley Whitlock writes: "Despite the cloudy weather and very mild conditions I decided to do my transect walk over Portsdown Hill, and I was lucky at times the sun did come out all be it very occasionally. Species registered are as follows: Speckled Wood (23) very common on most parts of the downland, where small pockets of woody scrub occur, Marbled White (1) my final one of the year probably, Gatekeeper (39) Meadow Brown (143) Red Admiral (1) Peacock (2) Brimstone (3) Large White (2) Small White (24) Green-Veined White (18) Common Blue (13) Chalkhill Blue (12) not as common as I thought it would be. Holly Blue (3) Small Skipper (2) Several Six-Spotted Burnet Moths and Silver-Y, plus many micro and macro moths."

Gary Palmer writes: "On a mid afternoon walk around Barton Common 2.8.08. first checking out the Buddlia bushes behind the car park I found 1 peacock, 1 comma, 1 red admiral, 3 large white and 1 small white. after a hour or so break with the rain I resumed my walk on the common to find 2 speckled wood, good numbers of meadow brown, abundant gate keeper, 3 small heath, 3 marbled white, 1 painted lady, 7 male common blue, 3 small copper, 2 Essex skipper, 1 small skipper and 2 silver y moth. As yet I've encountered no grayling on this site this year, I'm hoping this small coastal heathland site has not lost its colony."



Peacock



Marbled White



Painted Lady

Purple Emperor - damaged female

Copyright Butterfly Conservation © 2005-2008 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch

[Privacy and Copyright Statement](#)

Butterfly Conservation is a registered charity and non-profit-making company, limited by guarantee.

Registered in England No.2206468. Registered Charity No.254937.

Register office is Butterfly Conservation Manor Yard East Lulworth Wareham Dorset BH20 5QP