



Butterfly Conservation
Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

**Hampshire and
Isle of Wight Branch**

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Saturday 28th February

Chris Cowell writes; "At last. Seen my first butterflies of the year today (28 Feb) ! 2 x Brimstone, in my garden. Grid reference SU 851 582 (Hawley, Hants). I know they are not exactly rare but, given the harsh winter, I was rather pleased finally, at the very end of February, to see some.

Friday 27th February

Tim Norriss writes; "On the mothing front, the warmer night-time temperatures since mid-month have made quite a difference and those venturing to put their traps out have been handsomely rewarded especially if they live in or near woodland. One species that is doing remarkably well this year is the tortrix moth *Tortricodes alternella*. This species is widespread in oak woodland but the numbers this year are unprecedented and several people have reported it recently attracted to house lights. Richard Coomber and Juliet Bloss ventured out to Matley, New Forest last night and trapped Small Brindled Beauty (14), Yellow Horned (1), Dotted Border (6), Spring Usher (9), Pale Brindled Beauty (5), Oak Beauty (1), Satellite (5), Chestnut (3), Common Quaker (2), Small Quaker (1), *Tortricodes alternella* (10). Richard also flushed a Woodcock at dusk as he was working out where to put the lamp. A picture of *Tortricodes alternella* can be seen on the Hantsmoths website at <http://www.hantsmoths.org.uk/> by typing alternella in the top left Search box.

Terry Hotten writes; "I disturbed a small white plume-moth whilst tidying my garden in Farnborough yesterday. I would tentatively suggest it was an over-wintering *Emmelina monodactyla* but no doubt Tim will correct me!"

Dr David Tinling reports; "At last my first sightings of the start of the Great Awakening: four Commas and five male Brimstones basking and flying in Gosport as follows: Comma on the Kingfisher Path by the River Alver (SZ586993); Comma in Stanley Park(SZ592989); Comma 2 basking on the gravestones in Ann's Hill Cemetery (east)(SU602001); Brimstone 2 in Carters Copse(SU585001); Brimstone at Browndown North(small oakwood)(SZ582999); Brimstone in Sandhill Lane(east) (SU581001); Brimstone taking Colt's Foot nectar in Sandhill Lane(central)(SU579001)."

Sunday 22nd February

A Red Admiral was seen in my garden at Ropley on Saturday & I saw one today, writes Lynn Fomison. It seems to have been a long wait through January & February for the first butterfly sightings this weekend.

Saturday 21st February

Tim Norriss writes: "Lynn and I went out into Harwood Forest for a walk this morning and saw our first Brimstone of the year."



Brimstone

Alison Harper reports from Littleton, nr Winchester (SU 458 322) (85) **Comma**, one. "Seen during a very brief stroll round my garden, basking on some dead grass in full sun. It flew around as I approached then returned to the grass where it stayed for a couple of minutes before flying off. Lovely fresh specimen."

Mike Duffy writes: "My first butterfly of 2009, a Brimstone, one of two seen at lunchtime on Stockbridge Down, it was flying in very bright sunshine. Also seen a Bumble Bee, White Rumped.???"



Brimstone

Paul Brock reports: "Kept an eye open for butterflies in open places in the New Forest without any success, but saw a Red Admiral flying around Lyndhurst car park, parking occasionally on car bonnets; possibly the same individual seen in January 2009."

Peter Vaughan writes: "I saw two male Brimstone butterflies chasing each other at mid-day on Saturday 21 February in Hook, NE Hants. This was my first Hampshire butterfly sighting of the year. Nearby I had my first 2009 sighting of an Adder out basking."

Richard Coomber reports: "A Brimstone flew across the Milford Road on the southern side of Pennington dodging the Saturday afternoon traffic - my first of the year."

Monday 16th February

Peter Thompson reports seeing two male **Brimstones** flying today at Fordingbridge.

Colin Baker writes: "After such a cold winter at least the spirits were lifted again today, when as the cat flew out the back door, a Small Magpie moth *Eurrhynx hortulata* must have flown in. (SU 799553) Possibly another success from the Mint I left in the garden for the moths last year. With my first sighting this year at least I know we are now closer to another exciting season."



Small Magpie

Saturday 14th February

Michael Skelton writes: "A Red Admiral was window shopping outside Smiths in the centre of Bournemouth in pleasant sunshine this morning."

Friday 6th February

Lynn Fomison writes: "Here is a view of a bit of the butterfly garden at home! As you will see no chance of any sightings at the moment. I am just one of the many who has yet to see a butterfly in 2009!

But if anyone is feeling a bit desperate to see something of lepidopteral interest (is lepidopteral a word - if it isn't it ought to be!) then winter can be a good time to see pupa.

Although many pupa are in the ground & thus only found accidentally others can be found on twigs and other vegetation. Last year Patrick Fleet found the hard wooden cases of Puss Moth & Sallow Kitten on a tree stake at Magdalen Hill Down. I have found the pupa of Large Whites hanging under window ledges and Paul Warings book suggests those of moths might be found in telephone kiosks and cold public toilets.

It would be interesting in the winter months to get some records on the web site of pupa & where they have been found.



Lynn's garden

Another non-sighting from Lynn Fomison who reports that there are no Peacocks this year in the shed where normally 2 or 3 are found and she asks "Has anyone else seen butterflies hibernating?"

Wednesday 4th February

Tim Norriss writes: "James Halsey reports seeing a [Peacock](#) in his garden in Bonchurch, Isle of Wight on 5th January, settled on the south facing wall of the house in a little sunshine. Extraordinary to think this time last year we were inundated with [Euchromius ocella](#) from Southern Europe and this year it is snow!"

Saturday 24th January

Jan Haseler reports from Shirley, Southampton (SU395138) (86) 1 Red Admiral "Flying in a sunny street in Shirley."

Saturday 17th January

Dr David Tinling reports: "Red Admiral basking and flying at Ann's Hill Cemetery (west) (SU598002); almost certainly the same butterfly seen by me at the same place on 10th Dec and by Anne McCue on the 17th Dec."

Ashley Whitlock reports: "One Red Admiral seen flying down my road in Fratton Also on Wednesday 21 Red Admiral sighted in Southsea on a particularly cold day."

Wednesday 14th January

Michael Skelton writes: "A Red Admiral was basking on a wall at Boscombe Crescent early afternoon. The shade temperature could not have been higher than 7degrees. Buff-tailed bumblebees were enjoying the blooms of an unidentified white flowered honeysuckle. A dung fly was sitting on a sub-fossil dog deposit. Can spring be far behind? Probably."

Tuesday 13th January

Congratulations to Paul Brock for the first butterfly sighting of 2009. He reports: "After the cold spell, good to see a [Red Admiral](#) flying around Lyndhurst car park (SU300082)."

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