



**Butterfly Conservation**  
Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

**Hampshire and  
Isle of Wight Branch**

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## Monday 30th March

Richard Symonds writes: "On Sunday afternoon (29th), I walked along a footpath near my home on North Hayling (SU729023) where I saw my first Comma of the year (sorry no Brimstones to report!) which settled a few times but was too active for me to get a photo. I also saw a nocturid moth on the ground which I have identified as a male Lead-coloured Drab (*Orthosia populeti*). On Monday (30th) I visited Old Winchester Hill (SU640203), arriving at 10am. The sun was still quite weak but got a lot stronger as I walked back from the hill fort. The temperature on arrival was 7.5°C which had increased to 12°C when I left at 12:30am. I saw four Brimstones (one on the fort with three on the path leading towards the fort) and a single Comma near to the limit of the picnic area.



Lead-coloured Drab

Mike Wildish reports from Rooksbury Mill (SU 355 445) (84) Brimstone - 6 all males.

Dan Hoare writes: "Scarlet Tiger larvae are out of hibernation and voraciously munching through Forget-me-not in my Winchester garden. They're more usually found on Comfrey and Nettles in the river valleys here."



Scarlet Tiger larvae

Ashley Whitlock writes: "Decided to go to my 'local' rough patch in Portsmouth known as Milton Common, after work as it was such a lovely day, this is an area opposite Hayling Island, and is covered with rough grasses, and large tracts of Brambles, and reedbeds next to two large man made lakes and is surrounded on one side by part of the University of Portsmouth and a large housing estate. However it's a goldmine for our more 'commoner' species, with many patches of Nettles, and here I saw again a Small Tortoiseshell, which is good going as I've managed to see one every time I've ventured out so far. I also noted [1] Speckled Wood, [4] Comma [4] Peacock [2] Red Admirals, which were feeding on the many Catkins, and other blossom on the trees at the moment, and last but not least [1] Small White."

Martin Hampton reports from Hayling Island (SU7170333) (84) Small Tortoiseshell 1 "I've now seen more Small Tortoiseshells this year than I saw in total in the previous three years!"; and from Sinah Common, Hayling Island (SZ696996) (31) Brimstone 1.

Dr David Tinling reports from Gosport Mon 30th March: Brimstone(male) 2, Small White(male) 7, Small Copper 1, Red Admiral 2, Small Tortoiseshell 3, Peacock 14, Comma 17, Total 46 at Gosport including the following. Small Copper at Fort Gilkicker (SZ607975). Small White(male), Peacock & Comma at Gilkicker(north-west)(SZ602981). Brim(male) 2(one taking dandelion nectar), Small White(male) 3, Small Tortoiseshell 3, Peacock 3, Comma 5(one taking Alexanders nectar & one taking dandelion nectar) at Carters Copse(SU585001). Red Admiral 1, Peacock 5 & Comma 3(one taking red dead-nettle nectar) at Alver Meadow (SZ586998).

Gary Palmer in a garden in Highcliffe 30.3.09 (sz 208 946) mid day and found my first green veined white of the year 1 male plus 2 male brimstone.

## Saturday 28th March

Sarah Starsmore reports from Rookley, Isle of Wight (SZ5085) (43) "Have today found many Red Admiral larvae in their "tents" amongst the nettles. In past week have seen a couple of Peacocks, a Comma and several Red Admirals. Thrilled to bits to see so much activity this year after practically no sightings last year. Let's hope they thrive!"

## Thursday 26th March

Peter Scott reports from Gosport Thurs 26th March: Red Admiral in my Garden at Old Road, Gosport(SZ612993). Tues 24th March: Small Tortoiseshell at Gosport & Stokes Bay Golf Course(south-west)(SZ606977).

## Wednesday 25th March

One of the joys of wildlife & the countryside in the UK is following the changing seasons. And it is particularly exciting in Spring. Last year I saw my first bluebell in flower on the 17th March. The south facing edge of a local wood is a favourable spot. I looked this year - none were blooming. I checked again today. Not only was there not a trace of blue but hardly any flower spikes were showing. This year we have had a colder than usual winter and there have only been a few really favourable Spring days so the lateness of the bluebells is no surprise. But what was a surprise was a report from Patrick Fleet that he had seen *Pyrausta depicata* at Magdalen Hill Down on Monday 23rd March. Patrick does not usually see any until May. The moth has not been recorded in Hampshire in March before (the previous earliest sighting being 3rd April). Indeed on [www.hantsmoths.org.uk](http://www.hantsmoths.org.uk) April sightings are described as very occasional, May & June as irregular, July as off peak but not unusual with August being the main flight time.

Ian Pratt has sent in another photo of the Large Tortoiseshell seen again at Woodhouse Copse (SZ527928).



Large Tortoiseshell

## Tuesday 24th March

Lynn Fomison passed on a report from Patrick Fleet of what seems to be the first Small Tortoiseshell of the season at Magdalen Hill Down. Colin Beyer saw it on Friday 20th on the North section of the reserve.

Gary Palmer in a garden in Shirley Holms (sz 296 984) mid morning found 2 comma and 1 male small white.

Andrew Bolton reports from Little Ham Farm, Axmansford, Tadley. (SU 568607) (38) on 19/03/09 Peacock 3, Comma 2. "These were mainly basking on a sheltered s.w. facing bank, & flying occasional sorties, one claiming a perch on a water trough. I would have to agree with Ashley Whitlock on the sad lack of Brimstones. I've only seen 2 during numerous sunny suitable days over the past couple of weeks +. In fact on a 16 mile cycle ride in very pleasant conditions through the countryside to Greenham Common and back, last Friday morning, I didn't see a single butterfly of any kind. Let's hope there is an improvement for the start of the transect season next week."

Anne McCue reports Tues 24th March: Red Admiral & Comma in Ann's Hill Cemetery(east)(SU602001). Comma in Ann's Hill Cemetery(west)(SU598002). Sun 22nd: Peacock 3 & Comma 2 at Botley Wood(SU545104). Pk 2 & Com 2 at Whiteley Pastures (SU535098). Sat 21st: Brim(male) 3, Small White(male) 2, Small Tortoiseshell 3, Peacock 5, Comma 4 at Carters Copse, Gosport (SU585001). Frid 20th: Small Copper at Fort Gilkicker, Gosport(SZ607975). Thurs 19th: Peacock in my garden in Privett Place, Gosport(SZ594999).

Dr David Tinling reports from Gosport Tues 24th March: Small White 4 males & 1 female, Small Tortoiseshell 7, Peacock 4, Comma 5 at Gosport, including the following. Small White(male) & Peacock at Gosport & Stokes Bay Golf Course(north-east) (SZ612981). Small Tortoiseshell at Fort Gilkicker(SZ607975). ST at Gilkicker(south-east)(SZ608975). ST 3 at Stokes Bay (SZ595986). Small White 1 male & 1 female, Small Tortoiseshell 2, Peacock 2, Comma 3 at Carters Copse(SU585001). Mon 23rd March: Comma 3 at Haslar(north-west)(SZ613986), one taking nectar from winter-flowering honeysuckle in my garden and a courting couple in the adjacent field; also a red-tailed bumblebee in my garden.

Geoff Jones reports from Stokes Bay: "I saw Comma 1; Small Tortoiseshell 1; Peacock 1 and a Small White in my garden. On Sunday 22nd at 'MoD Frater', Gosport there were Brimstone 3 and Small White 1."

## Monday 23rd March

Lynn Fomison writes...Driving around these last few days of lovely weather I have noticed how easy it is to see Brimstones, especially the males. Because the butterfly is common I am thinking that maybe people do not bother to send in casual

records of these roadside sightings. This is illustrated by the fact that in 2008 Brimstone was only recorded in 316 out of about 1180 2-km squares. There are few records from Hayling Island, where this species has always been quite scarce. There was a lack of records in 2008 south of Basinstoke towards Alresford and both east & west of Alton. The west of the New Forest could do with a few more records too. But wherever you see the Brimstones your records will be welcomed. If you have not been recording butterflies in the past Brimstone is a good one to start with.

#### How to record them

Well you can send in the [Sightings Form](#) or use the [Casual Form](#) also from this web site- print off a copy and write on it (Branch members - or with your April newsletter ) or you can use an excel spread sheet which simplifies data entry in the branch. It will hopefully be available from here shortly.

## Sunday 22nd March

Ashley Whitlock writes: "I visited several Primrose areas on Saturday, East Tisted and Barnetts Copse near QECP, and looked at areas of farmland where set aside had been left over the years. Despite the weather the counts were very poor indeed. At East Tisted there was just [2] Peacocks and [3] Commas, and at Barnetts Copse there were [15] Commas which is the best count for this specie in the early spring. At the areas where the sun was very concentrated there were several Commas meeting and spiralling into the heavens, and then back down on their perches again, and if a stray Peacock happened to pass then they were of chasing it out of their territory. I cant put my finger on it but there was a sad lack of Brimstones. On Sunday I visited a farmstead in the Clanfield area and counted [1] Small Tortoiseshell [1] Peacock [7] Comma's really doing well. [1] Brimstone passing in front of me as I drove home and a Small White made up the numbers.

Tim Norris writes: "Here in Anna Valley I have only caught one March Moth before, in 2005, but this year I have already caught several already including this one last night. Andrew Bolton's mystery moth from last Monday is a Yellow Horned. Colin Beyer and Patrick Fleet ran a moth lamp at Cheriton last week and caught a Red Swordgrass, the first I have heard of this year, and a new 10km square record.



March Moth

Gary Palmer in barton-on-sea 22.3.09 mid afternoon walk across barton common down into the bunny and back through long meadow came up with 4 peacock and 5 comma on the common, 2 peacock in the bunny, and 1peacock,1 comma and 1 small tortoiseshell in long meadow.



Comma



Peacock



Small Tortoiseshell

Dr David Tinling reports from Gosport Sun 22nd March: Brimstone(male) 9, Red Admiral 2, Small Tortoiseshell 8, Peacock 12, Comma 12, Total 43 at Gosport, including the following. Peacock taking aubretia and primrose nectar at St Mark's Churchyard, Alverstoke (SZ605985). Brim(male) 5 & ST 4 at Stokes Bay (SZ595985). Brim(male) 3, RA 2, ST 3 (including a courting couple), Pk 12, Com 12 at Carters Copse (SU585001). Sat 21st March: Brimstone 1 male & 1 female, Large White(male) 2, Small White(male) 3, Small Tortoiseshell 6, Peacock 7, Comma 15, **Speckled Wood** 1, Total 36 at Gosport, including the following. Brim(male) (taking nectar from forget-me-not and blue hyacinth) & Pk (taking nectar from blue & lilac hyacinths) in my garden at Haslar (north-west) (SZ613986). Large White(male) 2, Small White(male) 2, Comma 1 & Red-tailed Bumblebee at Ann's Hill Cemetery (east) (SU602001). Pk 2 (taking lesser celandine nectar) & Speckled Wood at Ann's Hill Cemetery (west) (SU598002). ST 3 (including a courting couple), Pk 4, Com 11 at Carters Copse (SU585001). ST 3 at Stokes Bay (SZ595986). Brim (female) at Old Railwayline, Alverstoke (SZ607988).

Stuart Ball reports from Milton Lock reserve, Portsmouth (SZ 677998) (84) 2 x adult Speckled Wood Narrative: On a visit on Sunday afternoon to Milton Lock, I was rewarded with the sight of several Commas, a Peacock, a Small White and 2 Speckled Wood.

Michael Scoggins reports from Overton Churchyard ((SU514500) (85) Small Tortoiseshell (1) "A nice specimen basking in the morning sunshine."

Jo Thornton reports from Garden, Eastleigh, (SU45271807) (85) Comma (1)

## Saturday 21st March

Richard Symonds writes: "I saw three Peacocks and Comma today (all my firsts of the year). In addition this morning I found one female Large White had emerged from its pupa from eight pupa which have been overwintering in a glass tank in my kitchen. Three other female Large Whites had emerged in October.

Clare Dell reports from Lakeside NR Near Ash on Hants/ Surrey border (31) 2 Comma's, 2 Peacock's and 1 Orange Underwing Moth also 2 Grass Snakes.

Ian Pratt reports from Woodhouse Copse (SZ527928) (41) At least 6 commas and one (possibly two) Large Tortoiseshell. "See by John Rowell first then Ian Pratt and John Rowell over a period of two hours."

Webmaster's Note: I have had a second-hand report of a Large Tortoiseshell from a few days earlier and am waiting for first-hand confirmation. So this record may not stand as a 2009 first sighting. I have now had confirmation of the earlier sighting on 16th March by John Ruppertsbery in New Copse.



Large Tortoiseshell

Stuart Ball reports from Farlington Marshes (SU 687051) (54) 1 x adult male **Orange Tip** "Whilst walking around Peter's Pond I was amazed to see an unmistakable male Orange Tip fly past me and then disappear just as quick !"

## Friday 20th March

Lynn Fomison writes: "Yesterday 19th March Janet Lamb was visiting a friend in Chandler's Ford (Hiltingbury - just past the lake) and was pleased to see a Small Tortoiseshell in the garden there."

Dr David Tinling reports from Gosport: Frid 20th March: Small Tortoiseshell 7, Peacock 5, Comma 12, Total 24 at Gosport, including the following. Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma engaging in aerial combat around a nettle patch at Browndown North (south-west) (SZ579005). ST 3 & Pk 1 at Stokes Bay (SZ595985). ST at Rectory Allotments (SZ605988). ST at Gilkicker (south-west) (SZ603978). Thurs 19th March: Brimstone (male) 2, Small White (male) 1, Small Tortoiseshell 3, Peacock 18, Comma 23, Total 47 at Gosport, including the following. Comma at Gilkicker (south-east) (SZ608975). Brimstone (male), Small White (male), Peacock & Comma at Stokes Bay (SZ595986). Peacock in Stanley Park (SZ592989). Peacock 3 & Comma 3 at Browndown North (SZ579005). ST 2 (COURTING COUPLE, also seen by Anne McCue) at Carters Copse (SU585001). Pk 4, Com 3 at Alver Meadow (SZ586998). ST, Pk 2, Com at Rectory Allotments (SZ605988). Wed 18th March: Brim (male) 2, ST 2, Pk 8, Com 18, Total 29 at Gosport including the following. Pk taking Red Dead-nettle nectar and Red-tailed Bumble-bee at Stokes Bay (SZ595986). Comma 3 at Wildgrounds (west) (SU579012). Brim (male) 1, Peacock 2 & Comma 3 at Wildgrounds (east) (SU583997)

## Thursday 19th March

Mike Wildish reports from Stockbridge Down East (SU 381 346) (34) Brimstone - 4 Comma - 1, and from Stockbridge Down West (SU 378 350) (34) Brimstone - 1. "Not much activity up on the downs yet - none of the little jobs seen. Hairy violet coming into bloom. Lots of buff-tailed bumbles and singing chiff-chaffs."

Dan Hoare writes: "A lunchtime walk at Queen Elizabeth Country Park (SU720177) today produced nearly 50 butterflies! 18 Peacock ; 14 Comma ; 13 Brimstone (11 males, 2 females, one just emerging from hibernation in a log pile); 2 Small Tortoiseshell & 1 Small White; as well as an Orange Underwing moth."

Mark Swann reports from testwood lakes 5 species on the wing comma 3, red admiral, peacock, brimstone and a small tortoiseshell. also saw a small white in the forest am.

Anne McCue reports Carters Copse, Gosport (SU585001): Brimstone (male) 3; Small White 1 male & 1 female; Red Admiral 2; Small Tortoiseshell 2 (courting couple, also seen by David Tinling); Peacock 3; Comma 4. Wed 18th March: Piper's Wait, New Forest, Hampshire, (SU547164): Red Admiral & male **Large White**.

## Wednesday 18th March

Lynn Fomison reports that Patrick Fleet informed her of recent sightings at Magdalen Hill Down 11th March Two Brimstone. 16th March 3 Brimstone, 5 Peacock, 1 Red Admiral 1 Comma. 18th March About the same again plus Small White. Colin Beyer

also saw Small White at Kingsworthy.

## Tuesday 17th March

Anne McCue reports: Tues 17th March: Brimstone(male) 2, Small White(male) 2, Comma at Portchester Crematorium (SU606061); Brimstone(male) 4, Comma 3 at The Gillies, Fareham (SU575059); Peacock at the Salterns, Fareham (SU581051). Sun 15th March: Brimstone 12 males & 1 female, **Small White** 1 male, **Green-veined White** 1 male, Peacock 6, Comma 10, Total 31 in Gosport as follows. Brimstone(male) 2, Green-veined White(male) 1, Comma 1 in Ann's Hill Cemetery (east) (SU602001); Brimstone(male) 1 and Small White(male) 1 in Privett Gardens (SZ595994); Brimstone 4 males & 1 female, Peacock 2, Comma 2 in Carters Copse (SU585001); Brimstone(male) 3, Peacock 4, Comma 6 at Browdown North (SZ583997); Brimstone 2, Comma 1 at Browdown North (south-west) (SZ579005).

Dr David Tinling reports: Tues 17th March: Brimstone 4, Small Tortoiseshell 3, Peacock 12, Comma 12, Total 31, in Gosport, including the following. Brimstone(male), Small Tortoiseshell (taking lesser celandine nectar), Peacock 3 at Stokes Bay (SZ595986); Brimstone(male), Peacock, Comma at Browdown South (west) (SZ575994); Brimstone(male) 2 at Browdown Field (SZ572995); Small Tortoiseshell 2, Peacock 3, Comma 4 at Carters Copse (SU585001). Mon 16th March: Brimstone(male) 4, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Peacock 9, Comma 19, Total 33 at Gosport, including the following. Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock 3, Comma at Alver Meadow (SZ586998); Brimstone(male) 2, Peacock, Comma 7 at Carters Copse (SU585001); Brimstone (male), Peacock 3, Comma 6 at Browdown North (SZ583997); Brimstone(male), Peacock, Comma at Browdown North (south-west) (SZ579005); Peacock, Comma West of the River Alver (west) (SU579001); Comma West of the River Alver (east) (SU581002). Sun 15th March: Brimstone(male) 5, **Small White** (male) 3, Peacock 3, Comma 16, Total 27, including the following Brimstone(male) at Gosport War Memorial Hospital (SZ602996); Brimstone(male) 2, Comma 3 (taking box nectar) at Ann's Hill Cemetery (east) (SU602001); Comma 2 (taking lesser celandine nectar) at the Hermitage Garden (SU597004); Small White(male) 2 at Middlecroft Allotments (SU596005); Brimstone(male) 2, Small White(male), Peacock (taking wild cherry nectar), Comma 5 at Carters Copse (SU585001).

Michael Skelton writes: "My first non-hibernated butterfly today: a **Small Copper** on the Southbourne cliffs (SZ 1491).

Gary Palmer in a garden in Shirley Holms new forest (sz 296 984) mid morning in the warm sun found 2 comma and 1 peacock nectaring on a flowering pieris and later 1 flyby male brimstone.

John Woodson reports: "My front garden in Winnall, Small White - single specimen

## Monday 16th March

Robin Turner reports: "Due to light winds in the garden I was struggling to photograph an Engrailed that had been attracted to the lounge window last night, when a shadow crossed my field of vision. [On looking up I saw 2 Comma, 1 Peacock and 1 Brimstone flying in the garden.](#)



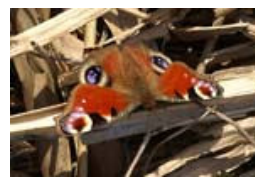
Engrailed

David Holt reports from Blashford Lakes (SU151080) (41) Small Tortoiseshell (1) Peacock (1). "Close to the Woodland Hide on Goat Willow catkins."

Paul Brock reports: "After failing to spot butterflies on the coast at Barton and Hordle Undercliffs on my main walk in the afternoon, saw a Comma, Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Peacocks on or near nettles, slightly inland at Milford-on-Sea (SZ293917), also 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Brockenhurst."



Comma



Peacock

Robert Bryant reports from Abbotstone Down (SU583361) (43) Brimstone 1 Comma 1. "In bright sunshine, the brimstone was meandering through the woodland; the comma was sunbathing on a grassy verge."

Gary Palmer, in a garden in highcliffe (sz 208 946) 16.3.09 1 male brimstone and i comma nectaring for ages on pieris flowers.



Comma

Andrew Bolton reports from Axmansford, Tadley (SU 566607) (85) Brimstone 1, Comma 1, Engrailed moth 1, plus a mystery moth. "Butterfly season getting of the mark at last; the moths are keen on coming indoors at the moment. Can anyone id the mystery moth?"



Mystery moth

Seeing a Comma in my garden on Monday 16th March takes my species seen to a grand total of 3, writes Lynn Fomison, adding "Those new to butterfly watching might like to do what I do. At the back of my diary I give each butterfly species first seen that year a sequential number and also list the date & place seen. Its just a nice easy way of keeping track of the progress of the butterfly season. Other fun things to do are to keep an ongoing list of the species seen in your garden, this time listing the full date a species is first seen & adding on new ones as they arise. Twenty five years has seen me reach 30".

John Ruppensbery reports the sighting of a [Large Tortoiseshell](#) at New Copse.

## Sunday 15th March

Terry Hotten writes from Farnborough; "My first Hants butterfly this year: a male Brimstone cruised through my garden early this afternoon. I am sure that this wonderful spring weather will bring out many more hibernators."

Paul Brock reports: "In little over an hour in the New Forest saw a Red Admiral, Comma and 7 Brimstones (all males) at Blackwater (SU265048), another 4 Brimstones at Brockenhurst (one female). Spring has arrived!"

Mike Duffy writes: "A worthwhile visit to Basing Forest in the early afternoon, in warm pleasant weather, had me see 1 + Peacock, 22+ Brimstones (m) and 9 + Comma."



Comma

Colin Baker writes: "A stroll around Pamber Forest (SU 616607) at noon today in beautiful spring sunshine resulted in the following butterflies being observed. Brimstone (M) 20; Comma 13; & Peacock 1. The Comma & Peacock butterflies were quite happy along the rides soaking up the sunshine on leaf litter whilst the Brimstone never landed, tirelessly searching for females.



Comma

Gary Palmer in Barton-on-sea, in a garden near the front (sz 933 244), mid morning 1 male brimstone and 1 comma, then a short walk away into barton common and 1 peacock.

Ashley Whitlock reports from Havant Thicket: "On a perfect day I saw well over (20) male Brimstones, probably a conservative count, with (1) Peacock, (2) Comma's and (1) **Small Tortoiseshell**. I also saw a moth which was grey o top in colour with little red spots at the bottom of its wings, and when it flew off it was very orange in colour. I've seen this moth here before, but I'm at a loss as to its name. Can any readers help?"

Things are looking up, writes Lynn Fomison. On Sunday morning 15th March she was driving from Winchester to Ropley. Near the Intech site close to Magdalen Hill Down she saw a male Brimstone flying by the roadside. On the Alresford bypass (SU 570 317 to 620317 i.e. it passes through 3 grid squares and takes about 6 minutes to drive along) six male Brimstones were seen. Lynn adds the bypass has a lovely south facing bank where there are primroses blooming. HCC planted a nice array of shrubs which provide sheltered conditions. During the rest of the day in the garden Lynn saw Brimstone on four occasions - at least two individuals. One was investigating a Skimmia japonica but the flowers are not open enough to provide nectar, another was taking nectar from Lungwort Pulmonaria Officianalis ( a lovely blue or blue & pink flower - easy to grow and a worthwhile addition to the Spring garden). Another sighting was one nectaring on the yellow catkins of Goat Willow Salix caprea or Pussy Willow. Again a good one for gardens as the dwarf form Kilmarnock Willow. These sightings inspired Lynn to visit a neighbour to see what was on her large Goat Willow. Nothing! And there was nothing on Julia's hyacinths Splendid Cornelia where Lynn saw a Peacock the previous year. A Brimstone was seen flying in another part of the garden.

Pat and Robin Turner report: "On a beautiful sunny day we walked from Old Winchester Hill to Exton and on the way saw 11 Brimstones (just 1 female amongst them), 1 Comma and 1 **Small Tortoiseshell**. Strangely they were all seen on the way to Exton, we saw none on the way back."

Andrew Brookes writes: "Disappointingly no butterflies on the wing at Stockbridge Down on Sunday, just one very large Fox Moth (?) larva strolling across one of the footpaths. One Peacock seen basking at Longstock Gardens."

Mike Wildish reports from Andover Newtown Area (SU 354 459) (85) Brimstone - 5 (m) **Small Tortoiseshell** - 1 "First small tort in my garden for 3 years. Spent quite some time on the heathers."

Richard Symonds writes; "On my travels today (15th March) I saw my first sightings of the year. At Durrants Road near Rowlands Castle (SU72640967) a male Brimstone was flying around a hedgerow with much ivy. In the afternoon at Havant Park (SU71700644) a male Brimstone was flying around horse chestnut trees."

Martin Hampton reports from Havant (SU721060) (85) 4 Brimstone 1 Comma "In two different gardens in south Havant; the Comma nectaring on Lesser Celandines."

Stephen Jones reports from Brownsea Island Comma 1 Brimstone 2 Red Admiral 1

Michael Hess reports: "Charlton Lakes SU347 468GB Brimstone x 15 male and 1 female and from my garden SU369 473GB 1 Peacock."

## Thursday 12th March

Richard Symonds writes; "I am pleased to report my father's first sighting this year - a Peacock in our garden at Stoke, Hayling Island (SU7224902186) seen at 13:30 yesterday (11th March)."

## Wednesday 11th March

Lynn Fomison writes from her Ropley garden..."Yet another day with intervals of warm sunshine has passed by without me seeing butterflies in my garden. I find this very disappointing as I really do think that the garden is very good habitat. There are lots of suitable hibernation spots to help the hibernating species through the winter, like ivy & brambles for Brimstones, log piles & sheds for Peacocks, drifts of dead leaves for Commas and a house for Small Tortoiseshells, which is only partially centrally heated. In the garden early sources of nectar are evident - wild plum blossom, the first of the golden catkins of goat willow, primroses and the hyacinth Splendid Cornelia that proved so attractive to butterflies, particularly Brimstones last year. And oh yes, the larval foodplants are there too - purging buckthorns for the Brimstones and plenty of nettles for the others. I am writing this report of nil sightings so that other people who try to garden for butterflies are not discouraged. With numbers of butterflies inevitably low after the poor summers of 2007 & 2008 really butterflies and moths need all the help they can get. So don't give up even if like me you are not seeing any butterflies yet this Spring."

Jo Thornton reports from Capitol House, Andover Road, Winchester, SO23 7BS (86) Brimstone (1) "Flying around outside of

building."

## Sunday 8th March

Martin Hampton reports from River Rother E of Petersfield (SU772232) (82) 1 Red Admiral. "In a rough field boundary."

Tim Norris writes: "Several branch members attended the work party arranged by Kate Dent at Frenchmoor Copse near West Tytherley in Hampshire (part of the Bentley Wood complex). A substantial amount of volunteer effort was provided by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the Salisbury group of BTCV. The main work undertaken was clearing smaller trees alongside the ride so that a contractor can easily fell larger trees. A lot of this ride widening work has been completed already as the photograph shows. Other work was clearing bramble, hazel & branches from some of the already felled trees to create a sunny corner at the junction of two rides. It will be interesting to visit in subsequent spring & summers to see how the ride gets colonised by flowers, butterflies and moths. There is great potential."



## Saturday 7th March

Anne McCue reports: Fri 6th & Sat 7th March: Red Admiral west of Ann's Hill Cemetery Gosport along the path to Military Road, Gosport(SU594001), probably the one seen in the cemetery in Dec and Jan. Fri. 27th Feb: Comma in Carter's Copse, Gosport (SU585001) and male Brimstone in Ann's Hill Cemetery(east),Gosport(SU602001).

Dr David Tinling reports: Sat 7th March: Comma in Alverstoke, Gosport, flying across the Old Railway Line(SZ607987). Fri 6th March: Comma in Ann's Hill Cemetery(east),Gosport(SU602001). Mon 2nd March: Comma at Browndown North(small oakwood)(SZ582999).

## Friday 6th March

Mike Wildish reports from River Anton S of Andover (SU 361 450) (84) Comma - 1

## Thursday 5th March

Richard Coomber writes; "I saw Peacock near the police station in Lymington last Friday (27th Feb) morning."

## Monday 2nd March

Gary Palmer: " in a garden in highcliffe (sz 208 946) late morning, 1 male brimstone my first butterfly sighting of the year."

Lynn Fomison saw a male Brimstone in Ropley on Friday 27th February but was disappointed not to see anymore butterflies in the warm sunshine on Monday 2nd March.

Andrew Bolton reports from Mulford's Hill, Tadley (SU 598622) (86) 1 Brimstone "My 1st butterfly of the year."

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