



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

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## Sunday 28th March

Dr David Tinling writes: "Brimstone(male)(my first at last) at Ann's Hill Cemetery,Gosport;Small Tortoiseshell & Red-tailed Bumblebee(*Bombus lapidarius*) at Stokes Bay,Gosport.

## Friday 26th March

Dr David Tinling reports from Gosport: Red Admiral in St Mark's Churchyard;Red Admiral,Peacock & Comma 3 in Ann's Hill Cemetery.

## Wednesday 24th March

Janet Jones writes: "I had been wondering if I would see *any* butterflies in my garden this spring, until Wednesday (24th). Around lunchtime I was thinking it was such a lovely day that surely there must be a Brimstone somewhere in the garden - and then one flew passed my kitchen window! Shortly after this a Peacock, 2 Red Admiral and a Comma were seen, and then a Small Tortoiseshell was added to my list! It was such a lovely day and everywhere in the garden was full of life. The most unexpected creature to see was a Long-eared Bat which was resting on a canvass bag on the ground under a Holly tree. (Isn't wildlife just wonderful?).



Long-eared Bat

Geoff Jones writes: "Today in the garden I saw my first Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock butterflies of the year. While I was toiling, Brenda was out dog-walking in Gosport; she was delighted to inform me via numerous calls from her mobile 'phone that she had seen along the 'moat' / Stanley Park area a female Small White; a Comma; a Peacock; plus a male Brimstone. Some people have all the luck!"

Gary Palmer writes: ""In Lymington ( sz 317 963 ) new forest, saw 1 brimstone male."

Dr David Tinling reports from Gosport: Comma 4 at Ann's Hill Cemetery;Peacock & Comma 3 at the Hermitage Garden;Small Tortoiseshell,Peacock & Comma 2 at Carters Copse;Comma at Alver Meadow;Red Admiral & Comma 3 at Browdown North.

Mick Langridge reports from Gosport: Brimstone(male) & Comma 3 in aerial combat along the Old Railwayline,Alverstoke;Brimstone(male)at Fort Road/Monckton Road;Small Tortoiseshell at Fort Gilkicker;Red Admiral at Stanley Park.

Anne McCue reports from Gosport: Brimstone(male)at Stokes Bay;Red Admiral in my garden at Privett Place Gosport.

## Monday 22nd March

Lynn Fomison writes...This wonderful Oak Beauty was one of six species in my moth trap on the morning of 22nd March. The list on the web site of what is flying this month helped in identifying who they were. I photographed this Oak beauty on an oak log. Although it is pretty obvious in the picture in "real life" it was amazingly well camouflaged.

In the same way as it is a challenge to photograph butterflies on their larval foodplant or in some other way that says something about their habitat I think the same is true of moths. At the moth conference one good example of this was Maurice Pugh's picture of Pine Beauty on a pine twig - where it looked very much like an unfurling bud. Obviously for identification purposes pictures showing moths clearly are important & they need not have a thoughtful background, but when it comes to inspiring people to take an interest in the beauty & clever markings of moths the "perch" is important.



Oak Beauty

## Sunday 21st March

Mike Gwilliam has sent in this photo taken in August last year with the comment: "Whoops!! Not the ideal spot for a romantic liaison?"



Large Whites

Geoff Jones writes: "While I was out taking bird photographs Brenda 'phoned me to say she had seen and 'snapped' a Small Tortoiseshell in the garden perched on heather (that's the butterfly, not Brenda)."

Dr David Tinling writes: "Comma in my Haslar garden; Chiffchaff calling & 2 Commas at Browdown North; Small Tortoiseshell at Carters Copse. Spring at last, but only just: many daffodils & buff-tailed bumblebees (*Bombus terrestris*), but still no Brimstone or Peacock."

Charles Cuthbert writes: "One Peacock butterfly out in warm sunshine early afternoon at South Hayling Island on Sunday 21st March, my first of the year."



Peacock

## Tuesday 16th March

Mike Wildish reports from Thruxton (SU 295 455) (85): Brimstone(M) - 2 Small Tortoiseshell - 1

Greame Davis reports from Anton Lakes LNR (SU356466) (34): Small Tortoiseshell 5 Brimstone 2

Roger Pendell reports from Noar Hill (SU745320) (43): 1 Comma "Only butterfly seen."

K L Jones reports from Stevens Drove, Houghton (SU 330 325) (84): Single Peacock butterfly. "Sunny, Breezy day, butterfly very active."

Chris Hall reports from Church Crookham (SU 81 53) (31, 43, 85): Brimstone (3), Peacock (2), Red Admiral (1) "Mainly on margin of Crookham Common, Brimstone in the garden. Also several bumble bees seen and wood ants emerging. "

Andrew Bolton reports from Axmansford, Tadley (SU 566607) (85): One each of Red Admiral, Brimstone, Comma & Small Tortoiseshell. "Also seen on soil in a herbaceous border was this caterpillar - does anyone know what kind it is?"



Unknown larva

Dr David Tinling writes: "Small Tortoiseshell at Carters Copse;Comma at the Hermitage Garden;Red Admiral & Comma at Ann's Hill Cemerery. At last Spring is trying to push Winter off its throne."

David Shute writes: "With a distinct lack of wild nectaring sources available at the moment I saw an enterprising Small Tortoiseshell feeding on flowers outside the florists in West Street, New Alresford on Monday 15th. A Brimstone seen at Bramdean Common 16/3/10."

Anne McCue reports from Gosport: Brimstone(male)at Ann's Hill Cemetery;Peacock in my garden at Privett Place Gosport.

## Monday 15th March

Mike Wildish reports from Rooksbury Mill (SU 355 445) (8): Brimstone(M) - 1, and from Andover Town Centre parks (SU 365 455) (85): Brimstone(M) - 4, and finally from Andover Newtown Area (SU 355 455) (85): Brimstone(M) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell - 1. "At last - some butterflies!"

Matthew Oates writes from Straits Inclosure, Alice Holt: "Friends of the Straits be warned! The FC has just felled most of the sallows in the main ride, which hosted a spectacular flight of Purple Emperor last summer. Then, there were 210 large sallows - I counted and graded them - yesterday, I counted 61, most of which are too exposed for Purple Emperor.

The felled sallows lie in pieces below. If anyone wants to look for Purple Emperor larvae, for any purpose, then please help yourself: look on the buds and in forks, especially on the south side of the ride. For some years now the FC has been wanting to resurface this ride, to facilitate extraction of valuable timber from the wood's west end. Most of the sallows were rooted in the ride edge ditch system, which provided a bare clay seed bed when the ride was cut out in 1987. Sallows set in the ride-side ditches are a major issue for the FC, but why so many had to be felled here I cannot say, nor can I say why they chose not to talk the matter through with me. The really sad thing is that few of the retained sallows are suitable for iris, and other ride-side sallows elsewhere in the wood have been removed too. Further changes are happening as a forest harvester is extracting mature oak from the wood's southern edge. The message is simple: look elsewhere for your Purple Emperors this summer. The wood will get good again for iris, perhaps in 10 years time. On the credit side, I saw my first Comma of the year, and a fully-built long-tailed tit's nest."

Dr David Tinling reports a Small White male flying at Ann's Hill Cemetery,Gosport.

Mark Swann writes from Neverton Bottom : "A lovely day in north hampshire brought out a comma, brimstone(male) and a small tortoiseshell."

Lynn Fomison reports seeing a male Brimstone at MHD North. Patrick Fleet saw one in the South west corner of Extension. Patrick & Colin Beyer saw two Small Tortoiseshells in the same area. It must be said the whole reserve is looking very dry & lacking in nectar sources.

Andrew Bolton reports from Freefolk Priors, Witchurch. (SU 478485) (2): Brimstone 1 "Seen in a sunny sheltered hollow beside the river Test."

Gary Palmer writes: "In walkford( sz 217945) and highcliffe ( sz 206946 ) found 2 male brimstone in the mid morning sun, my first butterflies this year and long awaited."

Sue Bailey writes from 87 Hobb Lane, Hedge End (SU497124) (85): 1 Brimstone 1 Peacock 1 Comma "First butterflies of the year in my garden, all appeared within seconds of one another."

Anne McCue reports from Gosport: Brimstone(male)at Carters Copse,Gosport and another at Browndown North.

## Sunday 14th March

Steve Mansfield reports from East Worldham SU7438) (85): Brimstone 1. Also from Kingsley Common (SU789377) (41): Dotted Border 1 male "Picking about or sunning itself in the leaf litter."

Peter Vaughan writes: "First butterfly sightings of the year for me here in Hook, NE Hants - a couple of male Brimstones on the wing. Also my Grass Snake sighting of 2010." Dr David Tinling writes: "Red Admiral basking & flying at St Mark's Churchyard, Gosport. This is only my sixth sighting of the year, even though the summer half of the year is only a week away. Although we have at last had a few frost-free mornings and the temperature has reached 10/11 Celsius, the wind is still cold and winter refuses to release its grip."

Nina Parker reports from the Winchester road, just outside Stockbridge (Winchester side) (90): 1 x Brimstone Butterfly "In flight. Midday. Sunny. Temp 13 degrees Celcius."

Dave Pearson reports from Alresford Pond (SU588331) (84): Comma "Slightly worn so obviously emerging from hibernation."

Andrew Bolton reports from Axmansford, Tadley (SU 566607) (85): Brimstone 1 "The butterfly season began at 12.15 on Sunday with a Brimstone powering up the garden."

John Watch saw a Small White flying in Stanley Park, Gosport (SZ592989).

Anne McCue reports from Gosport: Peacock at Ann' Hill Cemerery,Gosport.

## Wednesday 10th March

Dr David Tinling writes from Gosport: "Red Admiral basking & flying at Browndown North. On the first ten days of March there has been a frost in my Gosport garden, even though it is only 400m from the Haslar Sea Wall. Coastal winds have been very cold and penetrating, mostly from ENE to NNE. March has come in like a Polar Bear, giving no encouragement to butterflies to emerge from hibernation or chrysalis. Two male blackcaps have been fighting over my garden fat-feeders; one has been visiting since 28th Feb."

## Monday 8th March

Dr David Tinling reports from Gosport: Small Tortoiseshell basking & flying at Carters Copse, Gosport.

## Friday 5th March

Paul Ritchie reports from Holiday Hills Inclosure, Bolderwood, New Forest: **Painted Lady** x 1 "Appeared to be very healthy with a strong flight, so much so that I was unable to get a photograph."

Geoff Rapley reports from Flexford Reserve (SU 424216) (84): 1x Brimstone, a fresh male. "In the sun - the first of the year for me!"

Brian Fletcher reports from Harestock, Winchester (SU471313) (86): Red Admiral, 1. "Seen from a bus whilst it was at a bus stop!"

## Wednesday 3rd March

Richard Symonds writes: "While attending a rehearsal for my forthcoming wedding at St Peters Church, Northney, Hayling Island (SU730032) tonight, I was pleasantly surprised when the vicar pointed out a single Peacock on the altar carpet. It had its wings closed but a gentle touch caused it to flash its "eyes". From its slow movements I believe that it had in fact been awoken from hibernation within the church. What a wonderful early wedding present! "

## Tuesday 2nd March

Dr David Tinling reports from Portsmouth: Red Admiral & Buff-tailed Bumble-bees, *Bombus terrestris*, taking crocus nectar at Portsmouth Cathedral, where two new bells were installed today and my parents were married 70 years ago.

Charles Cuthbert writes: "May I report a male Brimstone butterfly flying around my garden in Alresford for at least 40 minutes at noon today."

Alan Green reports from Swanmore (SU573165) (85): Brimstone 1 "My first of the year."

Nick Walford reports from Staunton Country Park (85): One Brimstone "First butterfly I've seen this year!"

## Monday 1st March

Martin Hampton writes: "A Red Admiral raced past a cafe window in Portsmouth City Centre."

Chris Hall reports from Crookham Common (SU 82252) (43): Red Admiral "Woodland track on edge of Crookham Common, Church Crookham. Short flight then basking in sunny patch, temperature 7 C. Several trees with dense ivy growth adjacent."

Simon Wooley reports from Winchester College (81): **Small Tortoiseshell**. "1 ragged individual."

Lynn Fomison writes that Patrick Fleet reports seeing a **Peacock** at MHD original. It is our first butterfly of the year at our reserves.

PS A request to all of you who visit the reserves please report your sightings. We love to know what butterflies, moths and caterpillars you are enjoying seeing.

Dr David Tinling reports from Gosport: Red Admiral basking & flying at Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport.

Mark Swann reports from testwood lakes: "My first butterfly of the year **small tortoiseshell** at the lakes with another seen today in a garden in butlocks heath"

Mike Gibbons writes: "My wife Melanie saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** in Christchurch on Monday 1st March."

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