



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

**Hampshire and
Isle of Wight Branch**

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Friday 31st October

Gary Palmer at Shirley Holms in the New Forest (sz 296 984) After yet another cold start, by mid morning there were 2 speckled wood and 1 red admiral present in the garden, but sadly now no sign of the small coppers.



Speckled Wood

Dr David Tinling reports Fri 31st Oct: Wildgrounds Nature Reserve(east)(closed until 1st March 2009),Gosport(SU581006):Red Admiral 2(one taking ivy nectar);Speckled Wood; Common Darter 11;Shoveler 8. Stanley Park, Gosport(SZ592989):Speckled Wood. Stokes Bay, Gosport (SZ595986):Red Admiral 6(5 taking ivy nectar,1 basking on nettles). Gilkicker(north-west),Gosport(SZ602981):Red Admiral 2 taking Ivy nectar. Wed 29th Oct: Stanley Park, Gosport(SZ592989):Large White male 2 taking Choysia nectar; Red Admiral. Browndown South(west) (SZ575994):Red Admiral flying rapidly south. Stokes Bay, Gosport(SZ595986):Large White male taking dandelion nectar;Red Admiral 6(3 taking ivy nectar).Those at Stokes Bay also seen by Anne McCue.

Wednesday 29th October

Gary Palmer in the new forest at lower pennington(sz 320 943). After another frost first off, the sun was strong and warm and soon brought out 3 red admiral to nectar on both ivy and abelia grandiflora in a garden off ridgeway lane.



Red Admiral

Tuesday 28th October

Mike Wildish reports from Over Wallop (SU 285 383) (84) Red Admiral - 2. "Like me, enjoying the late morning sunshine after a frosty start."

Lyn Fomison writes: "So what's happened? Are people not seeing much or thinking that seeing an odd butterfly is not worth reporting... On Wednesday 22nd I had two lovely Red Admirals nectaring on a clump of very wild straggly pale Michelmas daisy, which is also attracting loads of bumble bees. On Monday 27th we had a Management meeting at Yew Hill & the five of us saw a number of Red Admirals nectaring on ivy flowers."

Gary Palmer reports from Shirley Holms, New Forest. "After a very cold frosty start was surprised to find in the sun, 2 small copper one being form caeruleopunctata, both in not bad nick, basking."

Dr David Tinling reports from Fort Gilkicker, Gosport(SZ607975): Frid 24th Oct: Small White male taking yarrow nectar; Mon 27th Oct: Red Admiral 3 taking ivy nectar; Tues 28th Oct: Small Copper and Speckled Wood; Wed 29th Oct: Large White male, Common Blue(very old blue female),Red Admiral 2 taking ivy nectar, and Speckled Wood. Those on 29th were also seen by Anne McCue. Ann's Hill Cemetery(east) (SU602001):Mon 27th Oct: Red Admiral 9 and Comma seen by Anne McCue in the morning, and Speckled Wood 3 seen by David Tinling in the afternoon; Tues 28th Oct: Red Admiral 5 and Speckled Wood seen by David Tinling.

Andrew Bolton reports from car park in Hartley Wintney (SU 768569) (86) One Red Admiral "Sunning itself on the bottle bank in the car park."

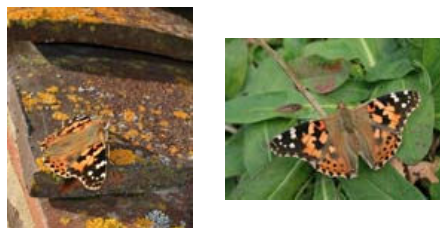
Wednesday 22nd October

Dr David Tinling sends the following reports: "Wed 22nd Oct: CLOUDED YELLOW female at Stokes Bay, Gosport (SZ595986). At last my first of 2008,but hopefully not my last! Common Blue (fresh blue female) at Gilkicker (south-east),Gosport (SZ608975). Tues 20th Oct: Silver Y Moth basking and flying in St Mark's Churchyard, Alverstoke, Gosport(SZ604984). Sat 18th Oct: PAINTED LADY seen by Anne McCue at Stokes Bay, Gosport(SZ595986). Fri 17th Oct: Green-veined White (fresh male) in Stanley Park, Gosport(SZ592989). Thurs 16th Oct: Small Copper at Gilkicker (south-west) (SZ603978). Two Holly Blues basking on a wall and a Red Admiral seen by Fred Harman at Haslar (north-west), Gosport

(SZ613986)."

Tuesday 21st October

Gary Palmer in the New Forest at Shirley Holms (sz 296984). In the warm sun early afternoon was delighted to find 1 fresh painted lady which nectared for a short while on Verbena, then sat basking for a good time. Also seen 1 speckled wood and 1 small copper.



Painted Lady

Sunday 19th October

An autumn bonus! writes Lynn Fomison, after seeing a Hummingbird Hawkmoth on Michaelmas daisies in her Ropley garden on Friday 17th October at 4.30pm.

Mike Wildish reports from Stockbridge Down East (SU 385 347) (34) Red Admiral - 3 Meadow Brown - 3, and from Stockbridge Down West (SU 378 350) (34) Red Admiral - 3 Meadow Brown - 3 Small Heath - 1 Small Copper - 2. "With Mervyn Grist."

Friday 17th October

Lynn Fomison writes: "Bit late but still nice to note.. Thursday 9th October, Had a Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on Michaelmas daisies in the garden at Ropley."

Tony Baines reports: "Pleased to report the first Small Copper of the year in our Odiham garden today. We often get them at this time of the year but I was beginning to give up until today's very fresh looking specimen appeared. It was joined by 4 Commas and a Red Admiral. The late Commas appear to be doing very well around here but sadly I haven't seen a Small Tortoiseshell all year in this corner of North Hampshire, which is the first time that's happened in about twelve years."

Monday 13th October

Andrew Brookes reports Small Tortoiseshell (2), Comma (2), Red Admiral (5) at Longstock Garden Nursery. "The Tortoiseshells were nectaring on *Buddleja auriculata*, the others on a dwarf flowered Aster. Kay Boyes reports seeing a Clouded Yellow at Chichester."

Sunday 12th October

Ashley Whitlock writes: "A look around Oxenbourne Down in the 'barmy' sunshine brought out 5 species, these being Speckled Wood (3) One Red Admiral and the Comma was on the wing over the down as well with (5) being counted. Brimstones all male were looking for roosting sites, as I found several looking deep inside Bramble Bushes I can only assume to hide from the up and coming frost of the night. The last species noted was a Large White."

Wednesday 8th October

Mike Wildish reports from Rooksbury Mill (SU355445) (84) Comma - 3 Red Admiral - 1. "On ivy flowers."

Friday 3rd October

Dan Hoare writes: "On Friday 3rd October Martin Warren and I completed the Silver-spotted Skipper egg counts that have been carried out at Beacon Hill, Warnford, for the last 23 years (!). This standardised count on set routes provides a terrific time-series to help measure population changes. The bad news is that the egg count was the lowest ever, following two very wet summers with strong grass growth closing up the sward and reducing the amount of breeding habitat. We'll be looking at adult counts as well and making recommendations to try and improve the habitat for next year. But it was a big surprise to find an adult Silver-spotted Skipper still about - a crippled female that couldn't fly, and could not have emerged more than a day or two earlier. Another unusual record was a tiny Dingy Skipper larva - 4mm long - feeding actively on young Bird's-foot-trefoil, presumably the offspring of a second brood adult. It was feeding outside the small spinning it had made on the foodplant. Also seen: 3 Small Heath, 3 Red Admiral and 6 Meadow Brown."



Silver-spotted Skipper

Thursday 2nd October

Dr David Tinling reports: "Brown Argus(old male) at Fort Gilkicker, Gosport(SZ607975). Also seen by Anne McCue. Wed 1st Oct: Painted Lady basking on my house wall at Haslar(north-west), Gosport(SZ613986).

Mark Swann reports from Testwood lakes: "North side of lakes on a better than forecast day 21 + commas, 5 small coppers, 7 red admirals and a few speckled woods, large and small whites. Predation - on this subject there have been 3/4 long staying spotted flycatchers at the lakes , one in particular was very settled allowing me to get very close in less than 30mins it had managed to gobble up a ruby tiger moth and 3 commas . It basically ate anything that flew past except the white butterflies. even though good numbers flew past it didnt even try for one. This behaviour was observed over at least a week and it never ate a white. thank fully they have gone now and left a few commas for next year !"

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