



**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](#)

## Monday 29th September

Dr David Tinling sends in the following sightings: "Mon 29th Sept: WALL BROWN male photographed basking at Fort Gilkicker, Gosport (SZ607975). It was vigorously chasing off Large Whites, Small Copper and Common Darters. This is the first sighting here for two years! During the very windy summers of 2007 & 2008 Wall Browns have presumably been sheltering and just surviving inside the fort. Today's light N/NW winds made the south-facing grassy bank a warm refuge on a day when neighbouring Lee-on-the-Solent recorded the highest UK temperature of 17.6 C. Recently submitted plans to remove most of the banks and convert the fort into 26 dwellings again threaten the survival of this precious very small colony. Sat 13th Sept: CLOUDED YELLOW seen flying eastwards very low and fast along the beach at Gilkicker(south-west) (SZ603976) by Ian Julian, Phil Budd, Richard Carpenter and other members of the Southampton Natural History Society. I was in the right place about 10 minutes too soon to see it but I haven't given up hope of seeing one this year!"

Andrew Bolton reports from Wildmoor, Sherfield-on-Loddon (SU 695568) (84,38) Comma 5, Speckled Wood 3, Small White 1. "More Commas around than I've seen for a while, feeding and basking beside the river Loddon."

## Sunday 28th September

Ashley Whitlock writes: "A quick visit to my local patch and a variation on my transect route produced the following species: Speckled Wood (9) two probably a male and female were furiously flying around each other in a for what seemed like ages, I was hoping they were going to stop and then mate, but they just kept on flying around each other, and I gave up in the end watching them. Meadow Brown (6) Red Admiral (3) Comma (3) feeding off of brambles at the moment, Brimstone (3) Large White (15) lots of these magnificent butterflies about, and many look as if they are just hatched out, Small White (33) and Common Blue (1)."

## Saturday 27th September

Paul Brock reports: "Little wind on the coast today, with a reversal of fortunes for some Butterflies at Barton-on-Sea: fewer Whites than yesterday (more than 50% down), better numbers of some other species, 6 Red Admiral, 1 Comma, 3 Speckled Wood, 13 Small Copper; and at Keyhaven / Pennington Marshes, 4 Large White, 2 Small White, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Wall, 1 Comma, 8 Red Admiral, 1 Common Blue, 13 Small Copper."

## Friday 26th September

Lynn Fomison writes: "Re the sighting of a caterpillar by Janet Budd - I am interested to know if she has potato plants in her garden - or indeed any other plants in the solanum family. If so it might be worth checking these for other caterpillars. And I would love to see one!"

Paul Brock reports: "In Brockenhurst 6 Red Admirals on one buddleia bush, also 1 Comma, 3 Large White (Small Tortoiseshells not seen for a few days). Butterflies obviously still showing well on the coast: at Barton-on-Sea, saw 4 Red Admiral, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Comma, 1 Small Copper, 1 Common Blue and over 100 Whites (c. 70+ Large and 30+ Small White); and at Hordle Undercliff, fewer Whites (c. 35 Large and 15 Small White), also 1 Comma, 1 Red Admiral and 13 Small Copper, well spread."

Robert Bryant reports from Swarraton watermeadows (SU566373) (81) Small Tortoiseshell, just one. "It's the first I've seen this season. It was sunbathing on a thistle near a clump of nettles."

## Thursday 25th September

Lynn Fomison writes "Andy Barker & I walked around Magdalen Hill Down with a party of students from Sparsholt today. When the sun eventually came out butterflies started appearing. Quite a few Meadow Browns, an occasional Red Admiral and pleasingly Chalkhill Blue, Brown Argus and Common Blue were all seen. Flowering ivy is abundant at MHD and the Red Admirals should be easy to see & photograph as there are many low clumps. Our last public walk of the season is Sunday 5th October so hope we might see some of you then. Wasp spiders have now gone!"

## Wednesday 25th September

Andrew Brookes reports finding a Pine Hawk larva at the base of a Monterey Pine *Pinus radiata* in Portchester today.



Pine Hawkmoth Larva

## Monday 22nd September

Andrew Brookes writes: Vanessa census at Longstock Gardens today found Commas in the ascendancy (8), Red Admirals (3); Small Tortoiseshells have completely disappeared. Most popular nectar source was Verbena bonariensis; secondary inflorescences on the buddlejas attracting just one Red Admiral.

S Sibbick reports from Hanover Garden, George Street, Ryde, IOW Back garden. Red Admirals "For the last few sunny days we have noticed anything between 10 and 20 of these butterflies at a time, they enjoy a very large Ivy that is growing on a telegraph pole in our garden. They

stay landed on other garden flowers for quite a long period of time. I haven't seen so many butterflies in one place for years."

Andrew Bolton reports from Goodworth Clatford, Andover (SU 367425) (85) Red Admiral 2, Comma 1, Brimstone 1, Small White 2.

## Saturday 20th September

Ashley Whitlock writes: "A visit to Old Winchester Hill just a walk at the bottom of the car-park slope revealed the following species today on such a beautiful butterfly day: Speckled Wood (2) Meadow Brown (100+) Small Heath (20) Small Tortoiseshell (1) so nice to see nectaring on the many small scabious plants that adorn the slopes at the moment, Brimstone (4) Large White (4) several of these were in perfect condition, and the females looked absolutely huge! Small White (4) Common Blue (5) Chalkhill Blue (12) Adonis Blue (2) one male and a female, and by the entrance where there are many thistles and Knapweed plants I saw this what I thought was a large fly but as cautiously approached it it turned out to be a Silver-Spotted Skipper, but it wasn't having its picture taken any time soon, so I let it be, but just glad to chalk one up in September!"



Small Tortoiseshell



Chalkhill Blue



Brimstone

Lynn Fomison writes: "At MHD yesterday (Friday 19th September) Patrick Fleet encountered 14 species of butterflies whilst he was working. These included 2 new Small Coppers & several rather old Chalkhill Blues. The wasp spiders are still there."

Lisa Baker-Richardson reports from Stockbridge Downs - 15 Brimstone, 4 Speckled Wood, 4 Peacock, 8 Small Heath, 20+ Meadow Brown, 7 Small Copper, 2 Small White, 3 Common Blue, 3 Red Admiral, 2 Chalkhill Blue and 2 Comma.

Steve Mansfield writes: "At Wether Down/Small Down/East Meon: Speckled Wood (10) with a further 20 along the North Downs footpath/back of Hen Wood/Chappetts Copse. Small Tortoiseshell (8 - yes eight) on Creeping Thistle in an area of flower-rich game cover. Comma (2), Red Admiral (6), Silver-Y (3)."

## Friday 19th September

Janet Budd writes: "Just to let you know I found a death's head caterpillar in my garden yesterday. I live in Winchester & the garden is south facing and walled. Very sheltered. Sadly it was inadvertently squashed but not beyond recognition. I have kept the body. I did not see the picture in the Times until later in the day otherwise I would have treasured it!"

Paul Brock reports: "Visited Testwood Lakes again, buddleia flowers almost finished, a few butterflies finding other nectar sources such as sedum, or over-ripe blackberries. Saw 7 Comma, 4 Red Admiral, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Brimstone, several Large and Small White, 2 Small Copper. Still two Small Tortoiseshell in local gardens in Brockenhurst, probably present since 9.00am."

Andrew Bolton reports from Oakley, Basingstoke (SU 577503) (85) Red Admiral 1, Brimstone 2, Small White 2, Large White 1.

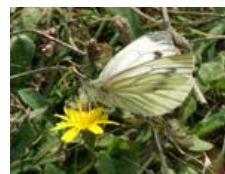
## Thursday 18th September

Ashley Whitlock writes: "Whilst walking into town from work in Portsmouth around mid-day, I espied (4) Red Admirals (1) Large White (1) Small White, and a Painted Lady on a buddleia bush which is growing out of the side of the local 'Kentucky Fried Chicken' shack. The Painted Lady was only the second one I have seen this year, but so nice to see again! The buddleia is facing south and is in a wide open space, and is a great sun-trap. I don't know what the shoppers in Portsmouth thought of me gazing up at this bush in the middle of town!"

Paul Brock reports a good day for Red Admirals: "In Brockenhurst butterflies still hanging around buddleias most of the day, with 2 Comma, 3 Red Admiral and 2 Small Tortoiseshell which avoided birds trying to catch them on a bungalow roof. Still several Small and Large White. Took a coastal drive to Barton-on-Sea, saw 4 Red Admiral, 1 Speckled Wood and numerous Large and Small White. At nearby Hordle Undercliff, Large and Small Whites were again very common, also noticed 1 Green-Veined White, 1 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 12 Red Admiral, 6 Small Copper and 1 fresh Common Blue. Driving along I thought I spotted a Clouded Yellow at one stage, probably wishful thinking, no sign of any amongst all the Whites. At Milford-on-Sea saw 1 Speckled Wood, 4 Red Admiral and several Large and Small White"



Common Blue



Green-veined White

Steve Graham, visiting Lancs & Yorks BC Member writes: "Please find a summary of records for the Magdalen Hill Down : 11:30 - 13:00 original reserve in sunny conditions Speckled Wood - 1 Small White - 1 Large White - 19 G V White - single egg laying Red Admiral -11

Comma - 5 Brimstone - 3 Common Blue - 13 Chalkhill Blue - 6 Brown Argus - 6 Meadow Brown - 39 Small Heath - 6 Also a single Silver Y noted, passage Wheatear and around 30 Meadow Pipits over, all flying N. 13:00 - 14:30 New extension land in cooler/cloudier conditions Large White - 8 Small White - 2 G V White - 1 Brimstone - 2 Meadow Brown - 28 Red Admiral - 6 Comma - 9 Small Copper - 1 Common Blue - 5 Chalkhill Blue - 3 Also single Peacock and Painted Lady recorded but not seen by myself. Single Silver Y noted also."

Martin Hampton reports from South Moor, NE Langstone Harbour, 1 Meadow Brown 1 Speckled Wood 2 Red Admiral.

Lynn Fomison writes: "At Last! Summer has arrived in my Ropley garden. The buddleias are being visited by at least 4 Brimstones, several Red Admirals, couple of Commas & numerous whites. And that rarest of butterflies in 2008 a Small Tortoiseshell. In more shady bits if the garden several Speckled Woods are flying. They also seem to like the sedum flowers too."

Sharon Perrett reports from Lumley Road, Emsworth (SU751061) (85) 7 Large whites, 2 commas, 2 red admirals, 1 male brimstone, 1 speckled woo. "Mostly seen feeding on ice plants in a garden on Lumley Road, Emsworth."

## Monday 15th September

Richard Hart reports: "Today a new Small Tortoiseshell on our Buddleia: the first in our garden for several years. Warsash SU494054."

Paul Brock reports: "One of the best days in 2008 for butterflies on buddleia in Brockenhurst village today. Just looking around a few local gardens, including mine [SU303023], plenty of nectaring; even buddleias devoid of butterflies all year suddenly found themselves attracting up to four species. Saw 9 Red Admiral, 3 Small Tortoiseshell (two side by side for a while), 1 Meadow Brown, 12 Large White, 8 Small White. Only a Comma sampled a wide range of nectar plants."



Small Tortoiseshell

Ian Pratt writes: "Many large whites around over the last three days but at Bonchurch Down near Ventnor yesterday I saw about 6 Adonis blues, 1 small heath, 6 large whites, 2 small whites and 3 red admirals. Also on Saturday at Branstone in my garden, 2 large white, 1 small white, 1 wall brown, 1 speckled wood and 2 red admirals."

Andrew Bolton reports from Magdalen Hill Down, Original Reserve (SU 504293) (34,84) Common Blue 19, Chalkhill Blue 18, Red Admiral 12, Brimstone 3, Small Heath 3, Speckled Wood 2, Small Copper 1, Large White 2, Small White 4, Comma 1, Brown Argus 1, Painted Lady 1, Meadow Brown 38, Silver Y 2. "Small Copper and Painted Lady were the beautiful highlights in the warm sun. A good number of Admirals nectaring on the Ivy blooms too."

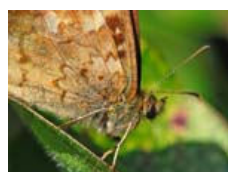
## Sunday 14th September

Rachel Remnant reports from Home Farm, Mill Lane, Hawkey (SU752 304) (85) 2 small tortoiseshells "Nectaring on buddleia in garden. Garden is in pasture farmland on greensand hangers."

## Saturday 13th September

It is pleasing to report that yesterday & today, writes Lynn Fomison, that a very fresh Painted Lady has been marauding around my Ropley Garden. It is spending most of its time on a buddleia. Also seen today Comma also on buddleia, female Brimstone on perennial sweet pea and Red Admiral on sedum. Speckled Wood just hanging around!

Ashley Whitlock writes: "Went to Oxenbourne Down for an hour to see how the species had been faring in the dismal weather, how many had been washed away. Well I was actually surprised to find (14) species still on the wing. These were Speckled Wood (7) Meadow Brown (50) still the most numerous of species, Small Heath (6) Red Admiral (3) Small Tortoiseshell (2) what a lovely surprise! I have to go back to the 14 April 2007 since I saw two at the same site! Peacock (4) Comma (1) new autumnal version. Brimstone (15) Large White (5) Small White (27) Green-Veined White (1) Common Blue (36) still some in very good condition, Chalkhill Blue (3) I will be interested to see how this specie fares in 2009, after its dismal showing here in 2008. And bringing up the rear Brown Argus (1) with no Silver Spotted Skippers, which is no surprise really after the count here was very low. Moths Silver-Y's still on the wing."



Speckled Wood



Common Blue



Chalkhill Blue

Paul Brock reports: "Looked for Small Tortoiseshells at Testwood Lakes without success today, but pleasing to see 15 Comma, 4 Red Admiral, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Brimstone, 2 Large White, 5 Small White, 1 Green-Veined White. Returning home to Brockenhurst, New Forest today

[SU303023], needless to say spotted a Small Tortoiseshell in the garden, along with a Large White and Red Admiral. The Small Tortoiseshell wasn't the brightest specimen, but a welcome visitor."



Comma



Small Tortoiseshell

Andrew Bolton reports from Axmansford, Tadley (SU 566607) (85) One each of Red Admiral, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Speckled Wood, Large White, plus Small White 3, Brimstone 2. "At last there are butterflies using the Sedum in my garden, it has taken 3 summers for it to happen. Even better that one of them is a Small Tortoiseshell."



Small Tortoiseshell



Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral

Peter Vaughan writes: "At last some decent weather! The find of the day was a single Small Tortoiseshell butterfly on the wing at Bartley Heath. That is only one I've seen anywhere in Hampshire this season. My other sightings at Bartley Heath today were 2 Small White, 3 Peacock, 1 Comma and 4 Speckled Wood butterflies, 1 Silver Y moth and 2 Fox Moth caterpillars. It was an excellent morning for Common Lizard sightings as well - numerous of this year's hatchlings were basking on tree stumps. I also saw a Dor Beetle on the wing - a striking sight with its large black body and purple wings. It settled, affording a few seconds view on the ground before it disappeared under a pile of fresh horse dung. Each to their own niche..."

Geoff Jones writes: "I enjoyed two local walks today; a morning stroll along the MOD area of South Browdown hoping for a Clouded Yellow but none appeared. Species seen included: Small Copper 3; Small Heath 1; Meadow Brown 1; Red Admiral 1; Speckled Wood 1; Large White 4 plus numerous Small Whites. In the afternoon I decided that the Gilkicker Fort area of Gosport might come up with something different. There I managed to see a Holly Blue 1; Common Blue 1; Red Admiral 1; Small White 6; Large White 3; Small Copper 1. I met members of the Southampton Natural History Group who reported seeing a Clouded Yellow - not seen by me however .My only sightings of CY this year were 3 at Durlston CP."

Ian Melrose reports from Harewood Forest, Andover (43) Speckled Wood.

Martin Hampton reports from Havant (SU719059) (85) 2 Small Tortoiseshell. "First this year! very pleased."

Andrew Brookes writes: "5 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Comma, and 20 + Red Admirals at Longstock Garden Nursery, most nectaring on tall purplish Asters, and Verbena bonariensis."

## Friday 12th September

Mark Swann reports from Testwood lakes: "Had a superb morning over the lakes with 35+ commas ,9 red admirals, 8 speckled woods seen round the small lake (south) all gorging on blackberries and very approachable. On north part a further 25+ commas seen, 7 red admirals , 3 small coppers , 3 gv whites ( 2 were mint ), a common blue, 15 small whites. Well worth a trip as am sure these were only a small part of whats on the wing at the moment at the lakes."

## Wednesday 10th September

Lynn Fomison writes: "12 species of butterfly were seen at Magdalen Hill Down on Wednesday 10th September. Most numerous were Meadow Brown. Others seen were Small Heath, Speckled Wood, Large White, Small White Green-veined White, Brimstone, Common Blue, Chalkhill Blue, Brown Argus, Red Admiral and Small Skipper. Not bad for a day of mixed weather. We were having a work party with a corporate group. See Reserves section for more news of that event. Many eyes were successful in finding 4 wasp spiders."

## Monday 8th September

Mike Wildish reports from South Tidworth (SU237475) (84) Meadow Brown - 17 Speckled Wood - 2. "And that's all folks! The birds were not a lot better. This week I 'av mostly been finding fungi."

Mark Swann reports from Testwood lakes "Had a midday walk at the lakes to see if the small tortoiseshells have emerged did see a fresh one but it didnt hang about. A few were seen the previous weekend so they are about. Also seen 5 small coppers tucked away in a sheltered corner, 5 speckled woods, 5 fresh commas, 4 red admirals, small, large and g. v whites still about. Angle shades and straw dot moths seen."

## Sunday 7th September

Gary Palmer On a brief visit to Barton common whilst the sun just peeked through, on buddleja near the car park were 7 red admiral and 3 tatty speckled wood.



Red Admiral

### Wednesday 3rd September

Graham Birkett (E. Midlands BC) reports: "Visited Stockbridge Down on a very windy, cool, but often sunny day. Meadow Browns very common, otherwise 7 Small White, 1 Speckled Wood, 9 Common Blue, 7 Brimstone, 10 Chalkhill Blue, 10 Small Heath, 2 Brown Argus, and 1 Painted Lady."

### Monday 1st September

Mike Wildish reports from Broughton Down (SU295325) (34) Common Blue - 10 Chalkhill Blue - 2 Brown Argus - 3 Small White - 5 Large White - 1 Green-veined White - 2 Meadow Brown - 85 Speckled Wood - 8 Small Heath - 6 Red Admiral - 1. "Mervyn Grist. Rather windy and showers."

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