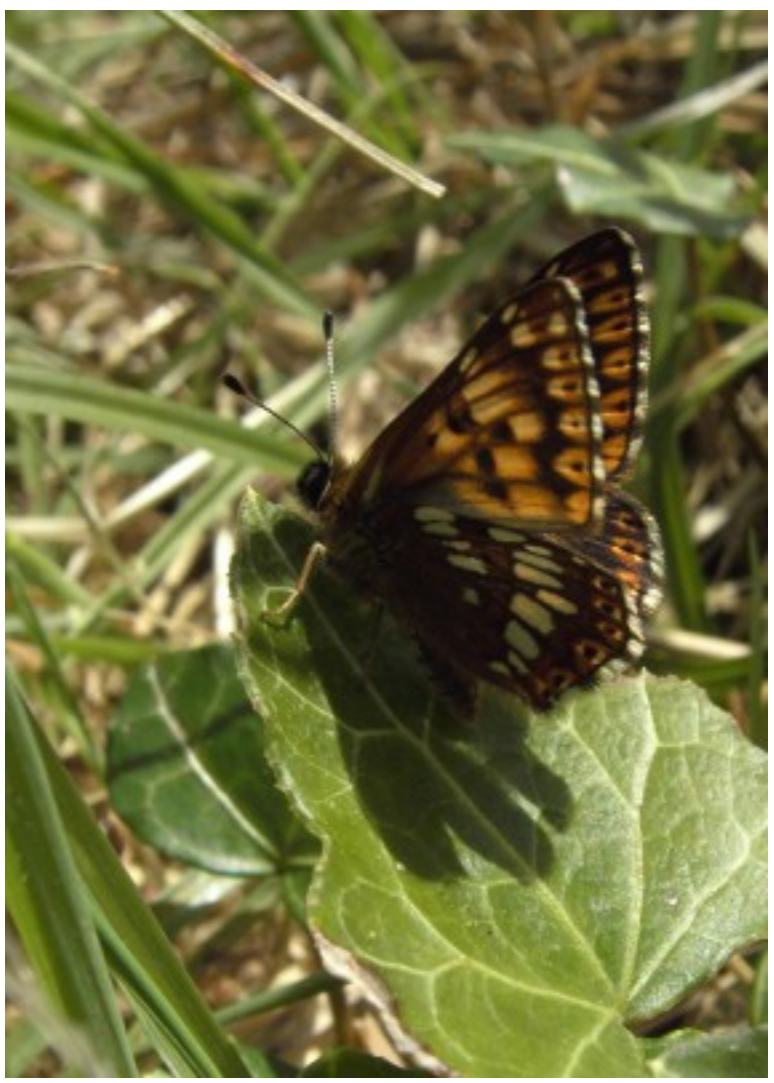


M_galathea

by m_galathea, 28-Apr-10 04:28 AM GMT

27th April 2010:

Had an excellent walk today through the woods and downs around Arundel. 12 species were noted for the new *Sussex Butterfly Atlas* including three separate colonies of **Grizzled Skipper** and one each of **Dingy Skipper** and **Duke of Burgundy**. Once I have got to grips with my new camera I hope to get the photos back up to my old standard!





This female **Holly Blue** had not yet finished drying her wings after emerging – note the wet look to the outer half of the wings.

Re: **M_galathea**

by m_galathea, 18-May-10 06:44 AM GMT

17th May 2010:

This will be my last day of Sussex butterfly watching for a while, but oh what a day! Walking over the Downs taking in some little visited sections, 13 species were seen. This included freshly emerged **Small** and **Adonis Blues**, a **Duke** and **Dingy Skippers** everywhere on the warm side of the downland valleys. Flora included **Fly Honeysuckle** and an uncommon form of the **Early Purple Orchid**.



Male Common Blue



Male Common Blue



Male Small Blue



Male Duke of Burgundy



Male Duke of Burgundy



Fly Honeysuckle, rarely seen as a native plant.



Pale form of Early Purple Orchid – note the purple spots.

Re: M_galathea

by m_galathea, 27-Oct-10 03:34 PM GMT

21st May 2010:

A trip to the Wyre Forest. This is a large area of woodland with a number of woodland types within in. The more open and rough parts were the most butterfly rich with species such as *Dingy Skipper*, and *Green Hairstreak* seen in low numbers. In a northern part of the woods I found a few nectaring *Wood Whites* on Vetch rich banks and *Pearl-bordered Fritillaries* were scattered throughout but were concentrated in Longdon Orchard. In this area the concentration was about on a par with what I've seen in Devon which is pretty good for the Midlands!

One of the most remarkable aspects of the wood was the number of calling Cuckoos. At one point I could hear three at once.



Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Wood White



Mother Shipton

Re: M_galathea

by m_galathea, 27-Oct-10 03:41 PM GMT

12th June 2010:

I decided to visit Cannock Chase for the first time today. There were good numbers of *Green Hairstreaks* seen, although all were losing their scales. They were mainly seen around Bilberry which is quite possibly their foodplant here although many other plants were in evidence that might be utilised including: Cowberry, Bilberry x Cowberry, Broom, Gorse, Bramble and Heather.

Re: M_galathea

by m_galathea, 27-Oct-10 03:47 PM GMT

25th June 2010:

After work I took an hour to enjoy a walk on the Malvern Hills. There were not many butterflies in evidence, although this *Ringlet* posed nicely for a photograph on the side of North Hill.



Ringlet

Re: M_galathea

by m_galathea, 28-Oct-10 03:33 PM GMT

26th June 2010:

A failed attempt to locate *Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries* on Cannock Chase recently led to trying again. It's now post-optimum viewing time for these and only one out of the handful that I saw had good colour left in it. They were flightly, as one would expect in good weather and photography opportunities lasted just a few seconds. An SLR is definitely an advantage in these conditions but I managed a few half decent shots.

In a sandy area of heath I found a *Meadow Brown* with deformed wings which could not fly. I watched it for around 20 minutes but could not see any noticeable improvement in this time. Whether or not it would have completed the wing development process I do not know.



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries nectaring on Cross-leaved Heath.



Developing Meadow Brown.

Re: M_galathea

by m_galatea, 28-Oct-10 03:49 PM GMT

3rd July 2010:

A trip back down to the South and I decided to visit Botany Bay in Chiddingfold Forest. It's a well known spot, but one which I hadn't been to before. My aim was to see male *iris* on the ground, which I succeeded in doing, previously I had only seen them up high or on sap runs. There was a really good show of butterflies including good numbers of *White Admirals* and a few 1st brood *Wood Whites*.



Purple Emperor (male)



Silver-washed Fritillary (male)

Re: M_galatea

by m_galatea, 03-Nov-10 03:48 PM GMT

4th July 2010:

I was pleased to get a number of records down on paper for the Sussex butterfly atlas today in Binsted Wood and the start of the downs north of Arundel. The woods held loads of *White Admirals* and photographing these is something I've never done particularly well. I was pleased with the photos I got, but my dream WA photo (ie brand spanking new, on honeysuckle) remains one for the future!



White Admiral in Binsted Wood.

Re: M_galathea

by m_galathea, 03-Nov-10 04:06 PM GMT

11th July 2010:

A very hot day and I found myself at Broadway, Worcestershire. With no particular plan I had a look at the hill behind the village which turned out to be rather rich downland. Notable finds were *Bee Orchid* var. *trolli*, *Prickly Restharrow* and *Pyramidal Orchids* with a large variety of lip forms.



Six-spot Burnet and Pyramidal Orchid

Re: M_galathea

by m_galathea, 03-Nov-10 04:12 PM GMT

23rd July 2010:

White-letter Hairstreaks only seem to turn up when I am least expecting them and this one was no exception. Found after work nectaring on Malvern Common, Worcestershire. I have seen scattered Elm in the area, but none on the common itself. It may well be there though.



White-letter Hairstreak

Re: M_galathea

by m_galathea, 08-Nov-10 03:30 PM GMT

28th August 2010:

In search of *Brown Hairstreaks* I had a look around Grafton Wood in Worcestershire. The Orchard appeared Hairstreak free due to the direction of the wind but the sheltered side of the woods allowed brilliant views of the females. At one point I had three together on a bramble bush and observed a few eggs being laid for the first time. All of the eggs were laid between about 1' and 1.5' from the ground after the adult had 'done the hairstreak walk' and tested potential sites. I also found two females which were crawling around deep in the brown grasses almost out of sight. I'm not sure what they were up to. A good accompanying cast was present too, with *Common Blues*, *Brown Argus* and a lone and battered *Silver-washed Fritillary* still on the wing.



Brown Hairstreak female



