

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Jan-16 10:33 AM GMT

At this quiet time of year for Butterflies, I hope I may be forgiven for going right off topic. I am probably not the only person on UKB to have interests other than Butterflies. But one of my main interests that kept me away from Butterflies for many years was a lifelong love of historic railway carriages.

Two examples of restoration projects that I led, over a period of 21 years, are shown below. Both were complete wrecks when found and required a major rebuild. 7598 took ten years, and 3363 eleven. Both coaches may be seen on the Bluebell Railway in Sussex. 7598 is currently appearing in a TV commercial for 'Go Compare' car insurance.



London Brighton & South Coast Railway 1st 7598



South Eastern & Chatham Railway 'Birdcage' Brake 3rd 3363

Re: Trevor

by John W, 01-Jan-16 11:13 AM GMT

trevor wrote:

Happy new year to all on UKB 😊.

Happy New Year to you too Trevor 😊 Look forward to meeting up with you out in the field sometime.

Cheers
John W

Re: Trevor

by Jack Harrison, 01-Jan-16 05:37 PM GMT

Trevor: [quote] I am probably not the only person on UKB to have interests other than Butterflies I have yet to meet a butterfly enthusiast who is dull and boring. We all have other interests.

One of mine was sadly unfulfilled at 2 am when I woke to look for the forecast aurora.....only to find there was high cloud 🙄

And, I have to admit that tomorrow I am going to see Star Wars 😞

Jack

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 01-Jan-16 07:11 PM GMT

Jack Harrison wrote:

And, I have to admit that tomorrow I am going to see Star Wars 😊

Jack

Already seen it twice and may go and watch it again next week!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Jan-16 10:30 PM GMT

Happy New Year to you to Trevor, here's hoping for plenty of Purple in 2016 😊

Have a goodun, 2016 that is!

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 03-Jan-16 04:41 PM GMT

Happy New Year Trevor, and that's just what I want for this year a lovely shot of the Emperor 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Jan-16 12:10 PM GMT

It could be Easter, but it's only January 12th, and what's more these Daffodils have been in bloom for nearly two weeks.

Location: South road car park, Hailsham.



Re: Trevor

by David M, 12-Jan-16 05:18 PM GMT

It's crazy, isn't it, Trevor? I noticed a similar patch on a roundabout near Tesco's in Llansamlet yesterday. Hopefully this forthcoming cold snap will prevent more flora and fauna emerging early.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 12-Jan-16 08:15 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Not much in bloom around my patch of the midlands, it may have been mild but it has been bl**dy miserable mostly with gusting winds and lashing rain for weeks now.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Feb-16 02:21 PM GMT

Firstly, my apologies for the poor quality of this image.

Out in my garden this morning I was aware of this tiny bird flitting around some of my shrubs. I went and grabbed my camera and the best image I could obtain was this one.

I'm after an ID. My bet is either for a Firecrest or Goldcrest.

Your help, as always, would be appreciated.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by dilettante, 03-Feb-16 03:44 PM GMT

From what I've read (I'm no expert), it's far more likely to be a Goldcrest than a Firecrest, but the main distinguishing characteristics are around the eyes, so not visible in your picture. I had Goldcrests in my garden before Christmas and was pleased to get this photo (heavily cropped) <http://www.pbase.com/dilettante/image/161901567/original.jpg>. Lovely little birds!

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 03-Feb-16 05:14 PM GMT

Like Dilettante says, it's far more likely to be a Goldcrest but you are in the right place of the UK not to rule out a Firecrest. We do get a huge influx from the continent during the winter and they are rather bold little things when busy feeding. When you get your ear in they are easy to hear from their high pitched call as well.

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide/name/g/goldcrest/index.aspx>

Re: Trevor

by Mark Colvin, 03-Feb-16 06:03 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Hope all's well?

Definitely a Goldcrest.

Kind regards. Mark

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Feb-16 06:12 PM GMT

Many thanks Guy's for the ID. A Goldcrest it is then.

Dilettante, your superb image sums up nicely what I saw. When I first glimpsed this tiny bird my first thought was for a Wren, then I noticed the green back.

Many thanks Buggy for your input, which helps to confirm the ID. Hope to bump into you again this coming season.

Many thanks again,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-Feb-16 10:10 PM GMT

I thought Goldcrest when I saw it earlier but as I was at work I couldn't comment – still looks like you got your answer Trevor 😊 Keep your eyes open and you might get a Firecrest 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 05-Feb-16 07:29 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, seems I saw a Gold Crest at Penn Flash, like you I wasn't sure it's a first for me. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 05-Feb-16 08:14 PM GMT

Hi Trevor, nice one with the Goldcrest. I sometimes get these in my garden but they are so small and quick that I rarely manage to get a photo.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Feb-16 09:32 AM GMT

Hi All,

The optimist in me tells me that although we are still in Winter, some things are on the mend. If the three months of Winter are looked at logically, then December carries on from the last Autumn month (remember those November Butterflies) and January is the mid Winter month. January has now passed and February leads into the first Spring month.

Sunset around here is at 17.00 today, that's well over an hour gained since the shortest day. So bearing the above in mind, my glass is half full, it's certainly half empty at the start of December !.

The new season awaits, and it's not too far away ! 😊.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 08-Feb-16 10:48 AM GMT

Indeed it isn't Trevor, my Daff's are nearly out inspite of the storms we've had, it feels like Spring already when I look into the Garden, I've even got a Grape Hyacinth in flower. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 08-Feb-16 09:16 PM GMT

Things are certainly starting to move now; if only the wind and rain would abate we could get out and take a closer look. Surely these storms can't continue indefinitely?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Feb-16 07:25 PM GMT

With the start of Spring just around the corner, one of my species Daffodils has come into Bloom.

This one is of the unusual N. Cyclamineus, a native of Portugal and Northern Spain.

This species, with it's fully reflexed petals is one parent of many of our garden varieties.

Despite it's tiny size, and countries of origin, it grows quite well in the UK Provided the soil is acid and damp.

Don't however, look for it in garden centres, as it strongly resents being lifted and bulbs will die if stored. I grow mine from seed and put up with some losses !.

Despite the very early flowering of some garden Daffodils this year, Cyclamineus is bang on time.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 14-Feb-16 10:40 PM GMT

If your Cyclamineus is bang on time then it can't be long now til the season kicks off – the end of Feb is normally the time to visit my 'early' site. 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Feb-16 09:40 AM GMT

Hi Wurzel,

Now that's a mouthwatering prospect !. In fact iv'e just started dribbling !. 😊

Seriously though the long wait is almost over. my first Butterfly last year was on Feb. 17th, A Red Admiral basking on the front of my house.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Feb-16 07:35 PM GMT

This morning we had the most intense red dawn sky. As the sun rose above the horizon it cast a bright, fire like glow onto the Oak tree at the bottom of my garden.

This only lasted for a very short time and by the time I had found my camera the best was over.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 23-Feb-16 04:35 PM GMT

Still looks fantastic Trevor, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 24-Feb-16 09:35 PM GMT

An unusual effect Trevor – it reminds me of the old farmers weather rhyme "Red sky at night Shepherds delight, red sky in the morning Shepherds hut is on fire 🤔 " 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Feb-16 02:48 PM GMT

Hi Goldie & Wurzel,

You should have seen the effect a few minutes earlier, the redness was so intense that the tree looked as though it had been on fire, and I was seeing the glowing embers. Unfortunately by the time i had found my camera the best was over. The camera is out of hibernation now, and ready to go !, ready for my first Butterfly of the year. Spring start's in five day's time !! 😊 .

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 25-Feb-16 03:54 PM GMT

Your glass isn't just half full Trevor – it's positively overflowing! 😊🤔 5 days til Spring???? Everything is frozen solid here so I reckon it's more like 5 weeks 😊 Still, no harm in hoping.....

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Feb-16 10:30 AM GMT

I'm not sure when Spring start's for you Pauline. The optimists Spring starts on 1st March. The pessimists Spring on or about 21st March. But if this cold wind keep's up the pessimists may win this year 😊 .

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 29-Feb-16 11:36 AM GMT

What ya doing sat in front of a pc on a gorgeous day like this Trevor? Don't y'know Spring has arrived! 😊🤔 Better make the most of it cos it'll probably be winter again next week! 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Mar-16 08:47 AM GMT

A morning of bright sunshine, yesterday, coupled with a cloudless sky, was all the encouragement I needed to get out and hunt for my first Butterfly of the year. Sadly, the wind had an icy bite to it and this alone put paid to any sighting.

As I sat taking in the view from my hill top vantage point, a male Chaffinch, with the brightest pink breast, landed about 50ft away and provided an excuse to use the zoom.

I also had the opportunity to take a view of a distant Windover Hill, an East Sussex Butterfly hot spot, from where I sitting. My image shows the track, which starts from the road on the left of the image, meandering it's way to the top.

The area of scrub visible in the top RHC of the image is a particularly good spot for Butterflies.

Happy hunting,
Trevor



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 06-Mar-16 04:21 PM GMT

Take heart Trevor, the weather's to get warmer by the weekend (hope fully) Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Mar-16 10:38 PM GMT

Stunning looking country Trevor - almost as good as Dorset 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Mar-16 12:56 PM GMT

The ever present icy breeze put paid to any Butterflies this morning. However, it was not an entirely wasted hour or two, as I watched a pair of Long Tailed Tits flitting about in an Ash tree. They proved very difficult to photograph as they never stopped fidgeting about, but I did manage one reasonable shot. A nearby Robin proved much easier however !.

Trevor.



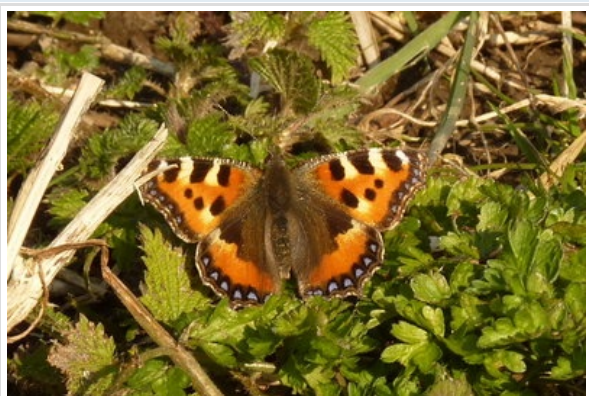
Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 16-Mar-16 05:47 PM GMT

Love the Bird shots Trevor especially the Robin 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Mar-16 06:37 PM GMT



JUST LIKE WAITING FOR A BUS !!

I have been keeping my eye open for my first Butterfly of 2016 for several weeks and until today, nothing !.

The BBC local weather forecast said that the biting easterly wind would ease in late morning, which it duly did. In an instant a Small Tortoiseshell appeared and flew over one of the farm buildings and out of sight.

I ran to the car and grabbed my camera, to search for this first sighting, and quickly found a basking Small Tort, and then another and another. Three were later seen spiraling in the air together.

In all I counted eleven Small Tortoiseshells , there were possibly more but the risk of duplicate counting was possible.



Note the Female? playing dead





Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 17-Mar-16 07:54 PM GMT

Very envious of your 'torrent' of Tortoiseshells Trevor. I have yet to see an actual butterfly and it's almost April 😞. The weather here next week will be cold and cloudy – apparently 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Mar-16 09:21 PM GMT

Hi Pauline,

No one was more surprised than me to see so many. As soon as that horrible cold wind dropped, out they came. The temperature was 13c. I counted eleven, but it was possible that nearer twenty were present.

Hence it was like waiting for a bus, wait for an hour then eleven turn up at once !.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by ingleslenobel, 17-Mar-16 09:52 PM GMT

I envy you folks that arn't stuck in an office during the week!

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 17-Mar-16 11:18 PM GMT

Brilliant, Trevor, a splendid set of Tortoiseshells. 😊 Yes, it was a lovely day as seen through the office window... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-Mar-16 12:06 AM GMT

A cracking collection of Small Torts Trevor 🍷 I just hope that this year isn't going to be like last year with the weather never quite right 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Mar-16 10:35 AM GMT

Hi Wurzel, Dave and Johan,

My deepest sympathy if you were stuck in an office or classroom yesterday. Those Small Tort's. were hard won as I have been looking in vein since the end of Feb. I seem to remember we had the cold easterly's at the start of last season. A lull in the wind yesterday was all it took to produce the goods 😊 .

Wishing you all a great new season.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Mar-16 03:52 PM GMT

A cloudless sky, and sunshine without the cold wind meant there was only one thing on the agenda today, a Butterfly hunt.
A slow walk along the old railway, with eyes everywhere, produced two male Brimstones, my first of the year. This was a very late first sighting for this species as usually some are seen in February.
The usual patience was required as males at this time of year rarely seem to settle. Indeed it took an hour from first sighting to my less than perfect image. Please enjoy it as it took some getting!.



Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-Mar-16 07:17 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

...The usual patience was required as males at this time of year rarely seem to settle. Indeed it took an hour from first sighting to my less than perfect image. Please enjoy it as it took some getting!.

I feel your pain, Trevor!! 😊

Fair play for having the patience to watch it till it finally came to earth!

Re: Trevor

by Jack Harrison, 22-Mar-16 07:35 PM GMT

Trevor. compared to a recent record shot I took, your Brimstone is superb.



I knew it was a Grey Wagtail but a photo – however bad – saves a lot of description and keeps the county bird recorder happy.

Jack

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Mar-16 07:52 PM GMT

Many thanks David and Jack.

Unlike you David I still await the full set of hibernators, we've had few days of Butterfly friendly weather. I have plenty of Bird images just as good as that one, Jack!.

Keep up the good work,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 22-Mar-16 07:52 PM GMT

Nice one Trevor, better than anything I managed today!

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 23-Mar-16 12:25 AM GMT

Well done with the Brimstone, Trevor. Really tricky to follow to ground.

I am really envious of your Tortoiseshells, though... 🐢 😊 The dandelions are coming out here and are waiting for them.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Mar-16 04:03 PM GMT

A walk through a local woods today produced a most unexpected, and I should imagine, rare sight. An Adder and a Grass Snake cosy up together !. I am not the world's greatest fan of Snakes, nor am I particularly scared of them, But they do produce a shock when unexpectedly stumbled upon.



Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 23-Mar-16 04:47 PM GMT

What a great find Trevor and a fine photo too 🍷 . If I didn't know how much legwork and effort you put in I might accuse you of just being lucky 😊😄

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Mar-16 11:25 PM GMT

That is a cracking shot Trevor, I'm not sure of the chances of seeing that, but they must have been on a serious diet, the chances that is not the snakes! 🍷😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 25-Mar-16 11:23 AM GMT

Amazing photo! Great find Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Matsukaze, 25-Mar-16 03:11 PM GMT

Excellent find and lovely photo!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Mar-16 08:28 PM GMT



GOOD FRIDAY ?...VERY GOOD !

In my wildest dreams , I could not have imagined what a cracking day lay ahead !.

By mutual agreement my weekly day at work was switched to today, the Guy I work for is a genius !. For the farm where I am based has many outbuildings from which Small Tortoiseshells were emerging as the Sun's warmth strengthened., and they were all over the same meadow as the other day. A rough estimate of numbers seen would be thirty to forty. Also seen, a male Brimstone and a Peacock.

On the way home I called in at Eartham Wood where I found a basking Comma, and another Peacock.







Re: Trevor

by Paul Harfield, 26-Mar-16 01:08 AM GMT

Hi Trevor

That's a superb crop of Small Tortoiseshells 😊

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 26-Mar-16 12:59 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Trevor, love the Comma on the sign, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Mar-16 02:24 PM GMT

Bird ID confirmation required.

This distant image was taken yesterday. I am pretty sure it's a Buzzard. It is because of that forked tail that I have some doubt.

Can you help ?
Many thanks in advance'
Trevor.

PS. Click on image twice for a better view.



Re: Trevor

by Mark Colvin, 26-Mar-16 02:30 PM GMT

Hi Trevor.

Glad to see you are getting out. Your bird is a Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*).

Good hunting.

Kind regards. Mark

Re: Trevor

by Jack Harrison, 26-Mar-16 04:06 PM GMT

Only last week I made a similar wrong i/d but my circumstance were excusable (well, I would say that). I came over the brow of a hill and saw a raptor on a road kill. Being Scottish moorland, I assumed it was a Buzzard eating a Red Grouse. The raptor took off at my approach and as I slowed, I could indeed confirm the dead bird was a Red Grouse. I couldn't park safely for another couple of hundred metres by which time the raptor was a long way off. I aimed the camera but dismissed the bird as just another Buzzard.

When later I looked at my photos, I saw this:



This was not traditional Kite country nor was it near any know colonies.

On a nearby Loch, I had just found two Black-throated Divers but it seems you don't advertise potential breeding localites of BT Divers.

Jack

Re: Trevor

by MikeOxon, 26-Mar-16 04:47 PM GMT

The way that Red Kites have spread, since their various re-introductions, is remarkable. A few years ago, I would never have dreamt of hearing their calls over my (Oxon) garden and watching multiple birds from my window. Other raptors have spread too - I was watching a Buzzard being mobbed by Gulls immediately above my house the other day - it used to need a trip West to see Buzzards. Marsh Harriers have returned to Otmoor, and Ospreys call in at Abingdon Lock on passage.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Mar-16 05:11 PM GMT

Many thanks Mark, Jack and Mike,

I have seen many Buzzards over the years, but a closer look at the image on my computer set the seeds of doubt. Interestingly the Bird in my image was one of

a pair, both circling in a thermal, very Buzzard like.
The location of the sighting was about 4 miles north of Chichester.

Mike, I have seen Red Kites along the M40 near you, and at the Oxford services.

Thanks again,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Jack Harrison, 26-Mar-16 05:17 PM GMT

Last summer soon after arriving here, I realised that Ospreys are regulars over my house as they commute between fishing in the Findhorn estuary and inland breeding sites. The highlight was two in view at the same time. Other good garden ticks have been Whooper Swans not to mention Pinkfoot Geese in hundreds with the occasional skein of 1,000 plus

Mind you, last week I got excited when I saw *TWO* Magpies on the same day. As for Jays, just two in the past nine months. Jays are so scarce in these parts that they even feature on the local [reports] website.

Jack

Re: Trevor

by Jack Harrison, 26-Mar-16 05:22 PM GMT

Four years ago when visiting my old [now closed] base of RAF Little Rissington near Bourton-on-the-Water, I was delighted to see that Red Kites – in quite decent numbers – have replaced the aircraft.

Jack

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-Mar-16 10:56 PM GMT

A great haul of Small Torts Trevor and a nice Red Kite too! I saw one of those on Friday as well it was hassling an Osprey 🙄🙄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 27-Mar-16 08:19 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

A great haul of Small Torts Trevor and a nice Red Kite too! I saw one of those on Friday as well it was hassling an Osprey 🙄🙄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

👍 A kite hassling an Osprey..... now thats just showing off!!! 🍻🍻🍻

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Mar-16 05:00 PM GMT

An hours butterfly searching this afternoon produced half a dozen Small Tortoiseshells (all very skittish) and a single basking Comma.



Re: Red Kites

by jenks, 30-Mar-16 08:51 PM GMT

"Wurzel wrote:

....and a nice Red Kite too! I saw one of those on Friday as well it was hassling an Osprey 😲".

On my way down to Bentley Wood in late May/early June in each of the last 4 years, I've seen Red Kites near the village of Burbage, just south of Marlborough on the A346. No longer exclusive to Wales, but I'm quite happy for that to be the case. They are a marvelous sight to see.

Good luck, Wurzel, in your quest for 50 species this year! Might see you in Bentleys again.

Jenks.

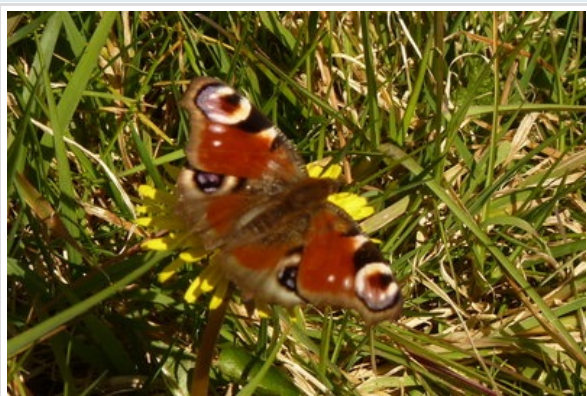
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Mar-16 06:42 PM GMT

Another Small Tortrest again today, but not as many as in previous visits. I think many have now dispersed to new areas.

Also I saw my first Small White today, no photo unfortunately. For a little variety Peacock put in an appearance, as did a particularly large Bumble Bee. 😊

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 31-Mar-16 07:52 PM GMT

All these Torts are really making me 🙄. Got a week off starting Saturday so I might actually be able to start my season off at last, 2 Comma flybys by April just ain't good enough!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Mar-16 09:17 PM GMT

Hi Buggy,

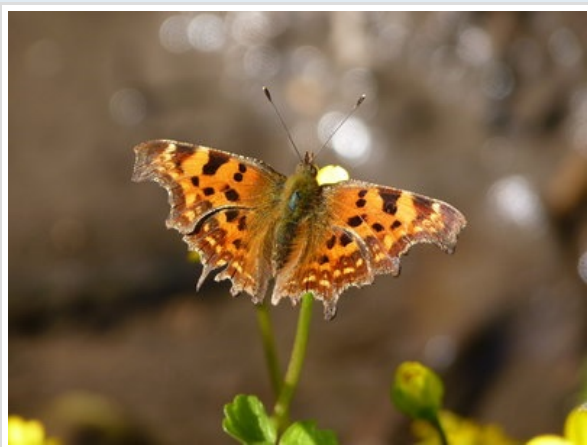
Don't worry, according to the Met.office things are set to warm up this weekend. We will then be in April so things should start to liven up 😊.

I have seen more Small Tortoiseshells so far this year than I saw in the whole of last year!.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Apr-16 02:09 PM GMT



A fabulous Spring morning led to some plentiful Butterfly sightings today. In fact the Butterflies were almost flaunting themselves before my camera !. The location was the old railway in Hailsham, with four species seen, including a non stop male Brimstone. Commas were plentiful and were mainly nectaring on Celendine. I also managed a snatch shot of my second Small White of the year. I was particularly pleased with one Comma's pose which afforded me an almost Hulmesque type shot ! 😊 . One real disappointment so far this year is the total absence of a Red Admiral sighting. The flora along the old line was looking excellent for the arrival of the Orange Tips in a few weeks time.

Happy days,
Trevor





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-Apr-16 05:16 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor – I missed out yesterday and today so your shots were particularly envy inducing 😊📷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Apr-16 11:47 AM GMT

A walk along the old Railway in Hailsham this morning produced my first Speckled Wood of the season. Nothing much else on offer except for a distant Small White.



Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 05-Apr-16 06:25 PM GMT

Good to see the old railway line is serving you well Trevor. I expect it's a bit of a heat trap and quite sheltered from the wind? You should see some Orange Tips there quite soon. 😊

ATB

James

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Apr-16 07:23 PM GMT

With a lousy weather forecast for the next few days, I thought I had better make the most of today. So I paid a return visit to the old railway this afternoon. My first Speckled Wood of the season was still there, as well as another Small White, which after posing for it's photo flew off and flushed another from the vegetation. Both then danced away into the distance and out of sight. A total of three Commas were found basking, as was a very down at heel Peacock.

Not a bad day.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Apr-16 10:02 PM GMT

Cracking stuff Trevor 🍷🍷 I can't seem to catch a break at the moment, when the weather is good I'm stuck sorting out something for the house and like tomorrow when the weather is bad I've got nowt to do 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 07-Apr-16 05:21 PM GMT

Your Specklies and Small Whites are making me yearn to get out. Sadly, this weekend is not particularly butterfly friendly.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Apr-16 05:45 PM GMT

Hi David and Wurzel,

Sorry to read that the weather is scuppering your Butterfly expeditions 😞 .
I made the most of Tuesday because of the weather forecast. But don't despair, give it another three weeks and we should be into the more exciting Spring species. 😊 .

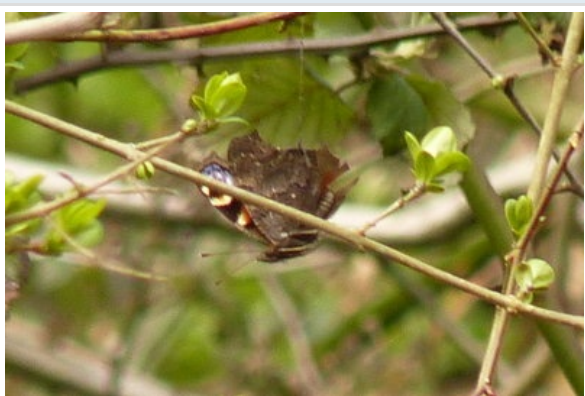
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Apr-16 04:41 PM GMT

A cloudless blue sky early this morning tempted a visit to the old railway. Unfortunately the temperature there was much colder than on my sheltered patio. So I walked into town for a breakfast, and allow the sun to do it's work. It was noticeable that the earlier blue sky was giving way to increasing cloud, which meant fewer Butterflies than hoped for.

My first sighting was an unfortunate Peacock caught up in a Spiders web, as this was on the other side of a water filled ditch I could not intervene . My second Speckled Wood was found later, along with a Small White. Not a bad morning, and not the best !.



A Spiders breakfast !.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Apr-16 05:38 PM GMT

How things can change in a few short weeks.

Today I returned to the site where there were many Small Tortoiseshells a few weeks back. But today, in similar conditions, there were none at all. Later in the morning the wind got up to near gale force which put paid to any Butterfly sightings.

But I was rewarded with a good view of a Red Kite, which at one point flew within yards of where I was standing. The image below was taken a few seconds later.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-16 08:08 PM GMT

I know how you feel Trevor – it's like we've rewound the clock and headed back into Autumn/winter, the strong wind was biting today and Five Rivers didn't yield a single butterfly 😞 Knowing my luck things will start getting much better about Wednesday and then deteriorate again by the weekend.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Apr-16 08:58 PM GMT

Quite right Wurzel. What we need are the sort of temperatures we had at Christmas. If you are still on your hols. things don't look too bad for Tuesday.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 11-Apr-16 12:29 AM GMT

I share your frustration, Trevor. What's been particularly irritating lately has been the inaccuracy of weather forecasts local to me.

For once, I just wish they'd UNDERSTATE the potential for sunshine, so when we only get 10 minutes per hour we wouldn't get so angry. 😡

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 11-Apr-16 03:55 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, it's supposed to be 15c today here but the wind is so strong even the birds are struggling. Goldie 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Apr-16 02:08 PM GMT

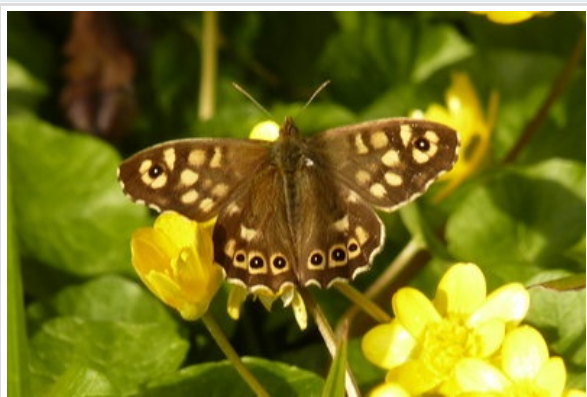


A morning of spectacular Spring sunshine certainly brought out the Butterflies.

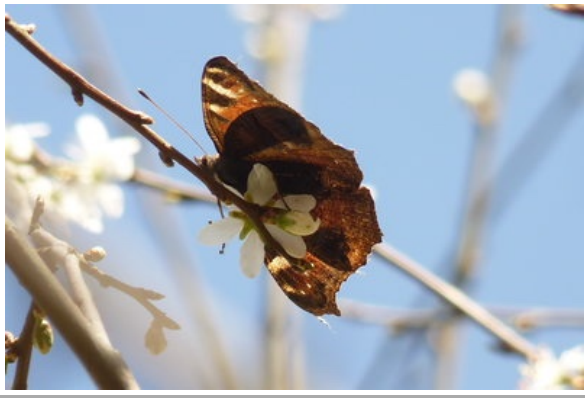
First on the scene was a Speckled Wood, then two new species of the season for me, a Green Veined White, and a Holly Blue flypast. Peacocks and Commas were plentiful and were obliging enough to nectar in some photogenic poses.

Hope your day was as rewarding !
Trevor,

PS. Is the little Bird a Blackcap ?.







Blackcap ?

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 12-Apr-16 03:23 PM GMT

Trevor, your so lucky, 🍀 Lovely shots as well, hope fully we'll see Spring eventually up our way. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 12-Apr-16 07:22 PM GMT

Nice selection of pictures Trevor and yes that is indeed a Blackcap, a male, the females have a gingery brown cap. The males are extremely noisy at this time of year!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Apr-16 07:32 PM GMT

Many thanks Buggy, My gut feeling was for Blackcap. believe it or not that was my first positive sighting of one, as you say it was quite noisy. It was the song that made me look in it's direction. I've heard the song many times in the past.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 12-Apr-16 09:50 PM GMT

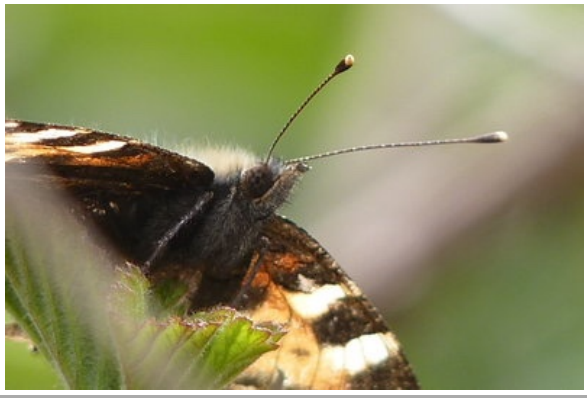
That's a great selection, Trevor. Stuck in the office all day today, I am very envious and just waiting for that first Holly Blue...

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Apr-16 02:36 PM GMT



For a change of location today I travelled to Mill Hill, near Shoreham, West Sussex. I didn't find any of the sites specialities but I did stumble upon a small group of Small Tortoiseshells, all of which were in good condition. This species does seem to have overwintered very successfully. I have yet to find a Red Admiral this year though.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-Apr-16 10:25 PM GMT

Great photos Trevor especially the Blackcap and the watching Small Tort 🤔🐌

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 13-Apr-16 11:39 PM GMT

Glad that you saw several Tortoiseshells, Trevor. They seem to be seriously on the wane in my part of the world.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Apr-16 06:46 AM GMT

That is certainly not the case here in Sussex, David.
I have witnessed more Small Tortoiseshells this Spring, than in the whole of last year.
Having said that I have yet to see a single Red Admiral.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 14-Apr-16 01:09 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor, we usually have loads of Tort's here but I've only seen about four or five so far and that was mid March. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Apr-16 01:27 PM GMT

A bright sunny morning, but with a chilly breeze meant that the Butterflies were slow to appear. But two firsts for the season made an appearance.
A superb Large White landed nearby, allowing a close up shot, followed by a Holly Blue which I tracked until it landed. I am not sure if it was a very fresh specimen, or weather it was deformed but the wings were crumpled on one side.
Speckled Wood numbers are building, with about twelve seen.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 18-Apr-16 02:59 PM GMT

Nice shots Trevor, nothing like that here yet. Goldie 😊

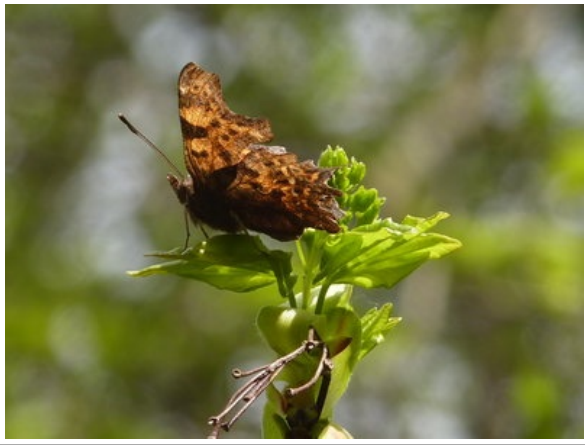
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Apr-16 08:04 PM GMT

With improving temperatures this afternoon I decided that another trip to the old railway might be worthwhile.

A particularly fine Peacock put in an appearance, as did a Comma, neither species being seen in abundance today. Although there was a good choice of Speckled Woods to photograph.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-Apr-16 10:45 PM GMT

Still to see Specklie, Large White and Holly Blue so pretty envious of your recent postings Trevor 🌱

Have a goodun

Wurzel

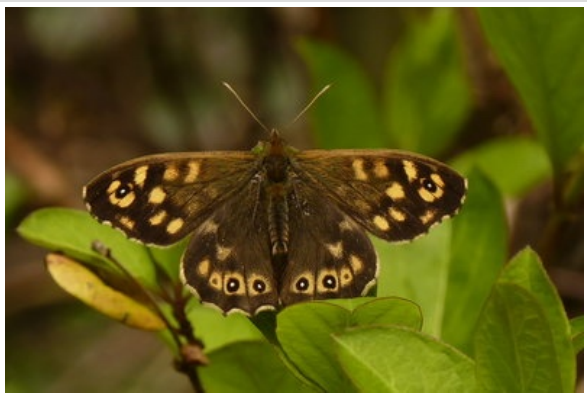
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Apr-16 05:06 PM GMT

If Speckled Woods are your favourite Butterflies, please enjoy.
If not please endure !.

Numbers of Speckled Wood have built spectacularly this week.
Whilst aiming my camera at one, there were three pairs in aerial
combat/courtship, they were everywhere !.

The prize of the day went to my first Red Admiral of this year.
Frustratingly it would not settle in a position for a decent shot.
The frustration continued as three Holly Blues chased each other
high up in an Ivy clad tree.
Another basking Peacock could not be resisted.





Re: Trevor

by David M, 19-Apr-16 05:35 PM GMT

A Red Admiral along with three Holly Blues simultaneously ain't bad going for mid-April, Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 19-Apr-16 10:01 PM GMT

Brilliant – Red Admiral! 😊 I reckon none of last Autumn's survived the curious and somewhat prolonged winter round here... You have more Specklies that I do as well... 🍷

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Apr-16 07:34 AM GMT

Hi Dave,

I think you're right, my first Red Admiral last year was Feb.17th. Also very few have been reported on UKB so far. They were quite plentiful around here last Autumn.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Apr-16 02:42 PM GMT



This morning I arranged to meet Butterflying friend Doug. Neve at the old railway. As he arrived I was photographing the first of five Holly Blues seen. We were later joined by B.Saurus Rex. With the Butterflies performing well our cameras were kept occupied. Then what we had hoped would turn up, did !. A first Orange Tip of the year, for the three of us, a female!.

Other highlights were a pair of Speckled Woods, with the female playing dead, and a Peacock and Speckled Wood sharing a perch. In all a brilliant morning spent in good company.





Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 20-Apr-16 04:06 PM GMT

Some nice shots there Trevor! I've seen that behaviour before with the Speckled Wood but never managed to get a shot that portrayed the behaviour so clearly - Well done 😊👍

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Apr-16 04:53 PM GMT

Thank's Pauline, Guess what !, I went back this afternoon and it got even better 😊 .

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Apr-16 05:24 PM GMT

Having said farewell to Doug and B Saurus Rex I went home for lunch. But I just had to go back this Afternoon for another fix. This time the Holly Blues were properly up and about. I can dispel any fears that there numbers may have crashed this Spring.

It was hard to estimate numbers, as regular chases were taking place, confusing the eye. Mostly males were seen, but there are at least two females in my images. Photography was difficult however owing to the very bright sunshine.





Re: Trevor

by David M, 20-Apr-16 05:28 PM GMT

Lovely audience with those Holly Blues, Trevor. Nice to see the females are out and about as they're usually a bit more approachable.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 20-Apr-16 06:06 PM GMT

Lovely photos Trevor of the Holly Blue and Hope fully Orange Tips will come soon to Hall-Lee-Brook where I live. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 20-Apr-16 08:50 PM GMT

Nice Holly Blues, Trevor. 😊 Better numbers than I've seen round here so far too. 🍷

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 20-Apr-16 08:56 PM GMT

You're having a very good spring so far..... but I hope you haven't stowed away all your woolly jumpers just yet, getting colder again very soon!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Apr-16 10:07 PM GMT

Many thanks folks.

I am very fortunate to have such a fabulous site so close to home, about .75 of a mile.

So far this year I think that every Spring species has now been seen there, except of course for the specialities which require their own particular habitat.

Talking of those, Pearl Bordered Fritillaries next week ?.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-Apr-16 10:02 PM GMT

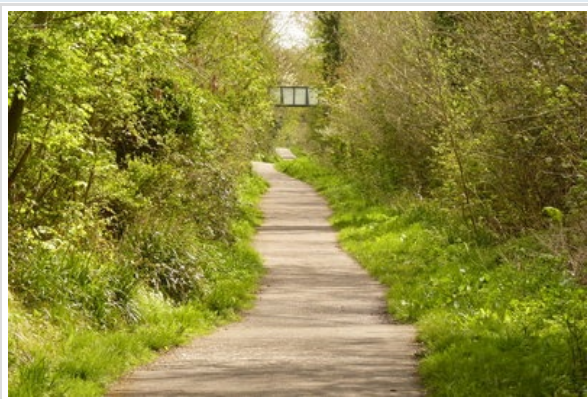
Lovely OTs and HBs Trevor 😊 🍷 Not heard a whiff about PBF yet and what with the late start to spring I'm not sure when they'll turn up? Ideally they'll start emerging next Tuesday so by the time the Bank Holiday weekend arrives (and with favourable weather) they'll be out proper - mind you that's a hell of a lot of hope 😊 😊 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Apr-16 03:24 PM GMT



As this awful Spring continues, I take every opportunity to get out with the camera. Today we had beautiful Spring sunshine accompanied by a biting Arctic wind, never the less I paid a visit to the old railway, the cutting providing some respite from the worst of the wind. As soon as I arrived I could see a white Butterfly land in the distance, and it was in no hurry to take off again, allowing several images to be taken, By this time ominous dark clouds were approaching, which later produced a heavy sleet shower. Nothing else seen unsurprisingly !.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 29-Apr-16 10:07 PM GMT

I've had a few trips like that this week Trevor – in fact I had every intention of getting out during my lunch break this week but every day (until today) the weather always turned for the worst 😞 It's got to change for the better soon, surely...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-May-16 08:10 PM GMT



Today I had a wonderful day with the Butterflies, but it didn't start well. After a cool bright start I headed over to Abbots Wood to look for Pearl Bordered Fritillaries. In the whole two hours spent there all I saw was three Peacocks, and a fascinating little Moth which flew very much like a Butterfly (ID please).

With the sun now warming up nicely I drove over to the old railway, which I was sure would provide some action. Non stop action started as soon as I arrived !, First on the scene (just like a re-aquaintance with an old friend) a male Orange Tip, then a female, shortly followed by an open winged male Holly Blue. The sun went in very briefly just as another Orange Tip appeared and it thoughtfully landed with closed wings for an underside shot. Several more Holly Blues landed nearby together with a beautifully marked Speckled Wood, one of many seen.

After all the pessimism of the last week, today was a real tonic. 😊





Re: Trevor

by Gary.N, 01-May-16 09:08 PM GMT

Nice Shoots Trevor.

You shouldn't have given up so quickly for the Pearls, there were at least two there today. Surprised I didn't see you.

The Speckled Wood looks like an abb to me. Hope someone can clarify that for you. 😊

Gary

Re: Trevor

by Pete Eeles, 01-May-16 09:24 PM GMT

Very nice find, Trevor; definitely an ab! The full list is at:

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/aberrations.php?species=aegeria>

A cursory glance hasn't resulted in a match, so it might be "ab. nov." 😊

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Trevor

by badgerbob, 01-May-16 09:59 PM GMT

That Specklie is really smart Trevor, and very fresh!!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-May-16 10:21 PM GMT

Cheers for that Pete & Bob, I must admit that this Speckled Wood stood out from all others seen this year.

Gary N. i had left Abbots by 10.15, as I was leaving I met a Hailsham couple who had never considered the old railway for Butterflies. They later joined me and had quite a surprise. Pearls are on my radar this coming week.

Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 02-May-16 06:37 PM GMT

I love that Speckled Wood Trevor – what a great find 😊. Looks like you're off to a good start and heading towards another great season 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-May-16 07:04 PM GMT

Beautifully marked Speckled Wood there, Trevor (and the supporting cast ain't bad either). 😊

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 02-May-16 07:43 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Not sure if that Speckled Wood is an ab. but it is a beautifully marked, fresh out of the box, early brood female 🍷😊 Really jealous, particularly as I have yet to see a Specklie so far this year.

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by Buchan Boy, 02-May-16 07:45 PM GMT

That Speckled Wood is lovely.. 🍷

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 02-May-16 08:30 PM GMT

A great day out, Trevor, and I agree with everyone else, that's a lovely Speckled Wood ab. 😊 nice shots of the Orange tips too, still not many about around here. Perhaps the weather forecast for later this week will help!

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-May-16 09:00 PM GMT

Many thanks everyone for the kind comments. 😊

Here is another zoomed in image for your (hopefully) enjoyment.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 02-May-16 09:26 PM GMT

That's a lovely Speckled Wood, Trevor. 😊📷

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-May-16 09:28 PM GMT

Interesting.

I had an e-mail today via the UKB site from someone who had seen a Speckled Wood with a 'V' shape in precisely the same place as yours has one (albeit, your Speckled Wood's marking isn't as pronounced as the one my correspondent described).

I replied telling him that it was unusual and that he should go back and try to trace the insect (given the species' territorial nature) and, if possible, capture it on camera.

Just goes to show how feasible it is for something very odd to suddenly turn up in a common species.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 02-May-16 10:02 PM GMT

David M wrote:

...I replied telling him that it was unusual and that he should go back and try to trace the insect (given the species' territorial nature) and, if possible, capture it on camera.

If it was as brightly marked a Trevor's example then it was likely to be a female given that the spring brood tend to be brighter than later broods and females are usually bigger and brighter than males. Females are wanderers, not territorial like males.

Not taking anything away from Trevor's photo, it is a lovely image of a beautiful butterfly, however I am not seeing anything to make it an ab. I feel that it is at the brighter end of normal variation for a spring brood female. I have seen a few females like this myself over the past few years, always early in the season.

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-May-16 10:06 PM GMT

You see more than most, Neil, so I will take your comments on board.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-May-16 06:57 AM GMT

Now that Orange Tips are on the wing. I would like to pass on a personal observation for those of you trying to photograph a non-stop, patrolling OT.

If there is any Herb Robert flowering where you are, wait near it, they will often pause on it for a moment. Of course you may prefer to keep fit! 😊 .



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-May-16 03:42 PM GMT



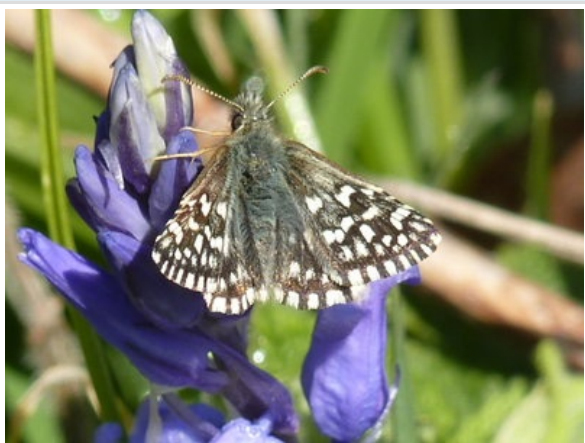
I had to play the waiting game this morning.

An early visit to Abbots Wood in glorious sunshine did not find any grounded Pearl's warming up. After an hour or so I spotted my first Grizzled Skipper of the year, flying nearby. I have great trouble ' keeping my eye in ' with this species (small and fast !) but luck was on my side as it landed on a Bluebell, not too far from me. To get a good shot I had lay prostrate, Emperor style, and gradually crawl ever closer for a proper audience, getting soaked by the wet foliage in the process. But it was worth the effort as this was by far the best view of a Grizzled Skipper I have ever had.

With little else on offer I made my way back to the car. after a short distance a Pearl Bordered Fritillary flew from nowhere and landed twice briefly in a ditch. Running towards it, it landed just long enough for a quick snatch shot. By now it was getting warm, too warm for Pearl photo's !.

Nearer to the car I came across a beautiful Peacock nectaring on Bluebells. I then drove to the old railway, where several Orange Tips were on the wing. On cue they paused on Herb Robert flowers for some quick shots. Also seen there a grounded Holly Blue, and a splendid Green Veined White.

It was also a Pleasure to bump into Bugboy once again.







Re: Trevor

by David M, 03-May-16 05:24 PM GMT

Lovely selection of spring species there, Trevor. Things seem to be kicking off nicely in your area of the country.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-May-16 06:01 PM GMT

If the weather forecasters have got it right, David, most of the country should kick off this week. Make hay whilst the sun shines !.

Re: Trevor

by Jack Harrison, 03-May-16 06:28 PM GMT

Neil Freeman^[quote]...not seeing anything to make it an ab. I feel that it is at the brighter end of normal variation for a spring brood female. As best I recall, E.B. Ford in his classic "Butterflies" distinguished between spring Speckled Woods that had overwintered as pupae from those that had overwintered as larvae.

I think he used some terminology as Gen1, part 1 and Gen 1 part 2.

Sadly my copy of "Ford" is so tatty (but well loved) that I dare not attempt to open a page to check.

Jack

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-May-16 06:49 PM GMT

Many thanks, Jack.

I am not knowledgeable enough to name that particular variant.

But as soon as I saw that particular Butterfly it stood out from the crowd.

A memorable sighting !.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 03-May-16 09:22 PM GMT

You did well there Trevor, all I got were a few long distance shots of a Pearl, no sign of a Grizzlie or a Green Hairstreak that was also lurking about. Still early days though, I think we're still suffering from the chilly April, this time next week we should be over run with the things if this warm spell holds 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 03-May-16 09:50 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

If the weather forecasters have got it right, David, most of the country should kick off this week. Make hay whilst the sun shines !.

Sadly, the sun shines far more infrequently in my part of the country than yours 😞

Still, I shall be out looking regardless.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-May-16 10:16 PM GMT

Great collection of shots there Trevor - I'm pinning my hopes on this weekend and hoping that the Pearls in Wiltshire take the hint and emerge! When it comes to OTs I like to keep fit 😊😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-May-16 11:42 PM GMT

You can't have it both ways, Wurzel, wait by a Herb Robert and have a mid-rift bulge. Or chase them hoping for a Manly figure (or cardiac arrest). I know which method I prefer.

Re: Trevor

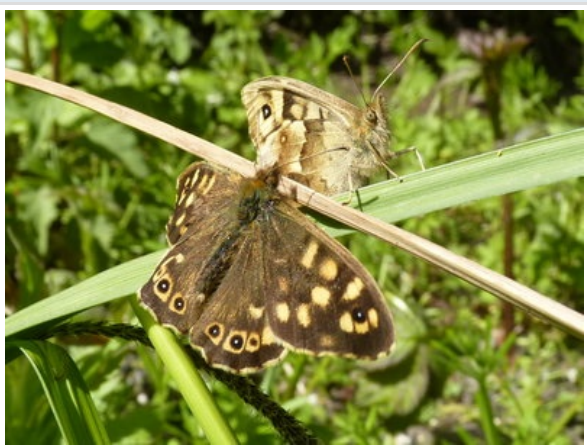
by trevor, 04-May-16 01:36 PM GMT



The fine weather this morning coaxed me out of the house early. An eventful morning lay ahead. One reason for an early start was to catch the Orange Tips before they warmed up. Quite a few males were seen, but no females. As the temperature rose it produced some amorous Speckled Woods, many spiralling pairs. One pair landed on a bramble leaf and instantly coupled. A little later another pair landed and began a wing flapping session. Holly Blues were seen in good numbers, both in the air and settled, including a female with open wings.



Female Holly BLUE.



Wing flapping pair.



Mating Specklies.



Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 04-May-16 08:59 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

...If there is any Herb Robert flowering where you are, wait near it, they will often pause on it for a moment...

This stuff self seeds all over my garden and I reckon is second only to Forget-me-nots in tempting Orange-tips to linger around, especially later in the afternoon when they will often re-fuel more regularly. I am all for staking out and waiting for butterflies to come to me, I am not one for chasing after butterflies, particularly as they usually move quicker than I can these days.

Some great reports and photos in your recent posts Trevor 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-May-16 09:48 PM GMT

Hi Neil,
Funny you should say that !. I noticed this morning that the OT's weren't pausing on Herb Robert. As you and I have observed they do so in the afternoon.

Glad you are seeing some action at last !
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 04-May-16 10:16 PM GMT

You're having all the luck with the Holly Blues this year, Trevor... 🍀 And much better Specklies too - I've still to see more than a couple. nice photos.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-May-16 05:45 PM GMT

Yesterday afternoon I visited Abbots Wood and chose to explore a new (for me) route to the main Pearl Bordered Fritillary site. Once at the site I immediately observed a Pearl in flight and this one flushed out two more. This sequence happened again within seconds making six Pearls in an aerial chase, a few seconds later I saw a single male flying solo, making seven. At this point counting was impossible as the first sightings had split up and all were flying around at high speed. For serious Pearl photography you don't go in the heat of the day, but I did manage a few snatch shots.

After consulting with a higher authority about the amount of trampling of habitat this early in their flight season, with pupae still to emerge. It was agreed that a note be posted on the Sussex BC site asking visitors to keep to the fairly well defined tracks on the site, and tread carefully elsewhere.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 06-May-16 08:27 AM GMT

Fantastic find Trevor, it's great to know the Pearl's are on they're way out, may be here next 😊
I also love your photo of the open winged Holly Blue 🍀🍀 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-May-16 12:51 PM GMT

SPRING EPITOMISED !.

A Peacock on a Bluebell.





Re: Trevor

by dilettante, 06-May-16 01:50 PM GMT

Very nice – and a perfect specimen too!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-May-16 04:11 PM GMT



With a warm day forecast, an early morning visit to Abbots Wood was planned to catch the Pearl Bordered Fritillaries before they had warmed up and become supercharged !.

On arrival at 08.10 the sun had already warmed the perimeter of the site that I usually visit, and a few Pearls were already active. But enough grounded specimens were found for a few reasonable shots.

To me it would seem that this species is going to have a better season this year than 2014/15.

Two other highlights of the morning were my first Green Hairstreak of the year, and the Peacock in the posting above.





Re: Trevor

by Paul Harfield, 06-May-16 05:07 PM GMT

Hi Trevor

Love that Peacock on Bluebell 😊. Very nice indeed.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 06-May-16 05:43 PM GMT

I think another Abbots Wood outing beckons next week, Pearls here I come!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-May-16 08:41 PM GMT



I decided to stay local today and spent a hour or two at the old railway. As usual there was a lot of Butterfly activity, with male Orange Tips putting on a good show; Prize of the morning was my second Red Admiral of the year, but he subscribed to a certain law and refused to settle anywhere near me, and always chose the inside of a bush. My apologies for the resulting image.

A large Raptor flying overhead caused great alarm in the local bird population, and mass panic.

Finally I make no apologies for posting another image of that beautiful Peacock from yesterday.

I hope everyone had a successful day.





Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 07-May-16 08:48 PM GMT

Beautiful Peacock photo! 🌱

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-May-16 10:08 PM GMT

I agree with Katrina Trevor that is a gurt lush photo 😊🌿 Your underwing view previously was a cracker too – and reminded me of Batman for some reason 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 07-May-16 10:58 PM GMT

Yep that sure is a nice Peacock photo there Trevor, those Greenies look very fresh too.

ATB

James

Re: Trevor

by kevlng, 08-May-16 09:36 AM GMT

Trevor,

Still catching up with the diaries. Love your photographs of the PBF and GH.

Regards Kev

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-May-16 08:39 PM GMT



Doug Neve and myself had planned a trip to Chantry Hill, and later on to Botany Bay, for today.

But with some reports of Duke of Burgundy at Kithurst Hill we decided to omit Chantry Hill and head straight to Kithurst. What a brilliant decision !.

On arrival at about 08.30 the weather was absolutely perfect, and we soon saw the first of quite a few Dingy Skippers. Dingy skipper duels were frequent, but I soon noticed that some duels also contained a Duke !.

My first Duke was located perched on a Cowslip, allowing me an image of this combination which thus far had eluded me.

Next, came the first of two exciting moments the morning had in store for us.

Doug observed a pair of Orange Tips heading for a corner of the field, he called me over and in the few seconds it took me to get there they had landed and coupled !. Talk about quick work !.

The best was yet to come, when I spotted a Duke and Duchess wing flapping at each other, these then coupled.

Two mating pairs in one morning, and images of both. Does it get any better than this ?! 😊 .

It was also a pleasure to meet Mark Colvin and Colin Knight once again.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-May-16 08:00 AM GMT

Many thanks folks for the kind comments.
I hope everyone made the most of the weekend weather.
Love the hat Katrina !.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-May-16 03:23 PM GMT



First mating pair

High cloud this morning, allowing only weak sunshine, would probably mean that the Pearl Bordered Fritillaries would be less active, and be warming up on the ground.

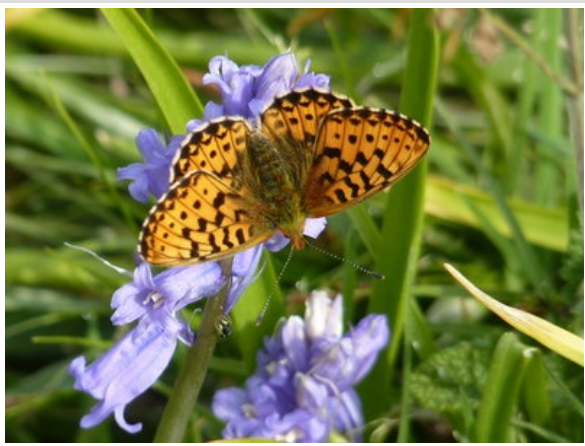
That was the coffee time theory, all I had to do was put it in to practice.

The Pearl site is a 15 to 20 min. walk from the road and at 09.15 I saw my fist Butterfly of the morning.

For the first hour they were fairly placid, even allowing close up shots, and all were in lovely condition.

I then noticed some wing flapping action on a Bluebell, and hey presto they paired up and mated. This was the first of two mating pairs seen and photographed.

That's what I call a pretty good morning ! 😊.





Second mating pair

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 09-May-16 03:49 PM GMT

Lovely Fritillaries, Trevor. The hazy sunshine was perfect for them, and you got some wonderful shots. 🍷🍷 PBF is next on my list!

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 09-May-16 06:14 PM GMT

Hazy, early morning sunshine is a Godsend, and by God you made the most of it, Trevor. Well done (once again)!

Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 09-May-16 06:44 PM GMT

I don't know if it's your after shave Trevor but you really seem to be getting the butterflies 'in the mood' at the moment. Mating Dukes, Orange Tips, and 2 pairs of PBF's pairing up all in the space of a few days! Go on you can tell us - is it Hai Karate or Old Spice?

Seriously though fantastic finds and photos.

ATB

James

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-May-16 08:43 PM GMT

No special potions, James, just good luck and right place, right time 😊 .
Enjoy your trip to see the Pearls, David, nice Duke images too.

Don't leave it too long Dave, Abbots PBF are in lovely condition at the moment.

Wishing you all success,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 09-May-16 08:56 PM GMT

Butterflysaurus rex wrote:
...Hai Karate...James

Hee hee! that takes me back a bit...to those old ads with Valerie Leon 😊

Great reports and photos Trevor, you certainly look like you have been making the most of the recent upturn in the weather.

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 10-May-16 10:05 AM GMT

Fantastic shots Trevor, love the mating pairs, no sign of the Dukes here yet or the Pearls except at Warton where the Pearls have been seen, yesterday was too windy on the top of the Craig so only one seen and not by me 😞 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 10-May-16 10:22 AM GMT

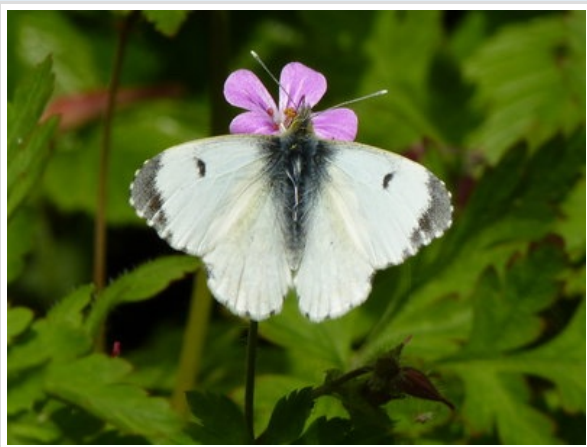
You're certainly having a good run of things, all those matings, although I think I've cornered the market with mating Green-veined Whites this year 😊!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-May-16 04:45 PM GMT

Today turned out to be a ' White ' day, as everything that stopped for long enough for an image was white.

It rained here all morning, but we had some hot sunshine this afternoon. So I with limited time for Butterfly watching I headed for the old railway. Lots of Holly Blues were seen , but these were too involved in aerial combat to come within range. So here is a selection of ' Whites ', including a female Orange Tip.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 10-May-16 08:13 PM GMT

More lovely images Trevor, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-May-16 10:12 PM GMT

Brilliant Pearls Trevor, and not just one but two mating pairs 🍷🍷😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-May-16 05:44 PM GMT

Every Thursday I have to pass the turning for Kithurst Hill, and with the Dukes flying at the moment I thought I'd pop in this morning, but the misty cloud was preventing the sun from warming the site

up properly. Consequently nothing was seen.
On the way home the opposite was true, and the very hot sun meant hardly any Butterflies.
But I did manage the best Dingy Skipper image obtained so far this year.



Re: Trevor

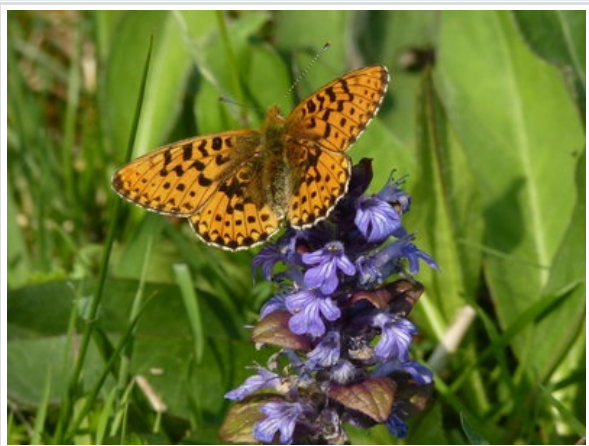
by trevor, 13-May-16 02:10 PM GMT

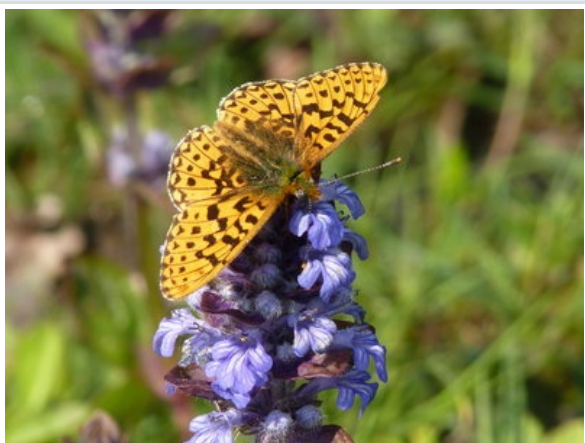
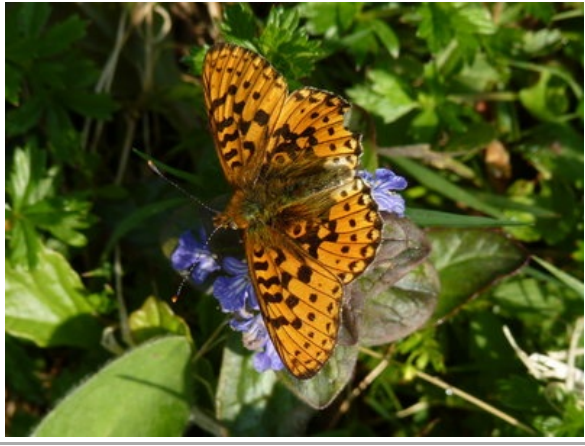


The solitary Pearl. Was I pleased to see this one !.
This morning I went back to Abbots Wood to see the Pearl Bordered Fritillaries.
But this was a visit with a difference. This time I walked along two rides, where once PBF. were abundant. The first ride was last visited in 2014, and then none were seen.
But today there was a good population, due it would seem to habitat restoration where Bugle and Bluebells now grow in profusion, and scrub has been cleared.

The next ride I walked today, was the one I use every time I enter the Wood. In 2011 this area was alive with Pearls, but in 2014 I spotted two here and none last year. Today one solitary Pearl was resident, probably from a neighbouring colony, and seeing it made my day !. If a few more can find this area then it's re population is a possibility.

There is no doubt in my mind, the Abbots Wood Pearls are having a fabulous year.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-May-16 10:24 PM GMT

Good to hear some good news for this species Trevor! 😊

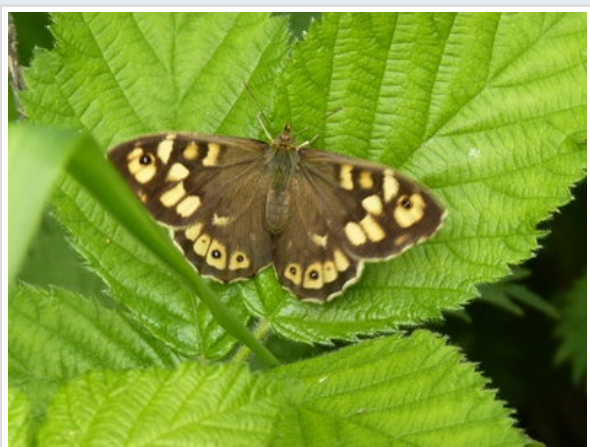
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-May-16 06:28 PM GMT

Not a good day for Butterflying, cool wind, lots of cloud and occasional harsh sunshine. Never the less I managed to find two new species for the year, a Brown Argus, and later a very flighty male Wall Brown. Also seen a very attractive Speckled Wood, and a Green veined White.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 14-May-16 09:16 PM GMT

Nice to see the Brown Argus, Trevor – wonderfully chocolate brown when new like that. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-May-16 09:31 PM GMT

Thanks Dave, I turned round and there was that Brown Argus on a leaf, most unexpected. I'm heading to a hill in Wiltshire as soon as I think I can trust the weather. Last year drizzle and mist welcomed me, and at 125 miles each way, I want it perfect.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 15-May-16 01:16 PM GMT

Great find Trevor and nice shots, nothing like that here yet . Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 15-May-16 01:23 PM GMT

Nice shots throughout, Trevor, especially the lovely Pearls, great shot of the mating pair on the Bluebell 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-May-16 07:54 PM GMT

Many thanks Goldie, your turn will come. Good to hear from you Mike, I was in your area today.

A detour on the way home this afternoon took me to Chiddingfold forest, to look for Spring brood Wood Whites. On the way to my favourite area for the target species, I was amazed at the large number of Brimstones on the wing. Among the Brimstones fluttering around the abundant Bugle I spotted my first Wood White delicately going about its business. It soon settled when the Sun went in, allowing me to get very close.

An hour later I saw another one in the same area as the first, it is possible that the same Butterfly was seen twice.

For added interest I have included an image of a Green Longhorn Moth, and a Buttercup full of micro Moths, which someone pointed out to me. I have not a clue as to what they are.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 15-May-16 08:13 PM GMT

Lovely Wood Whites Trevor 😊 .

Your longhorn moth is *Adela reaumurella* and the cluster in the buttercup are *Micropterix calthelia*. If you happen upon the [Field Guide to the Micro Moths of Britain and Ireland](#) there's an almost identical picture of *M. calthelia* on page 46 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-May-16 10:18 PM GMT

Lovely Wood Whites Trevor 🍷🇬🇧 I wonder if it's feasible to swing in there after a trip to HB? 😊 Mind you it could mean to 'loss of Brownie points for extracting the urine' if Mrs Wurzel finds out 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-May-16 03:15 PM GMT



This morning I made the long trek up to Windover Hill to look for Wall Browns. No Butterflies were seen on the long climb from the road, but once at the top a Green Hairstreak presented itself on a Buttercup, shortly followed by a Grizzled Skipper which settled on my hand. Several Walls later became active, stopping frequently to bask. All Walls seen were male, and they demonstrated how risky Butterfly counting can be, for I saw them flying in lots of locations in a given area, over a period of about three hours. When examining my images it became clear that one Wall had been photographed many times in different places. A small nick in its right hand hindwing gave the game away. Also seen were several bright, fresh Small Coppers, my first of the year, another Green Hairstreak and a fair few Dingy Skippers.

Looking across the valley from Windover the freshly restored White Horse at High and over was visible, with the morning Newhaven- Dieppe ferry passing above it !.







Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 16-May-16 04:08 PM GMT

Lovely photos Trevor, love the Skipper on your hand especially 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 16-May-16 05:31 PM GMT

Well done with the butterflies again, Trevor, and ten out of ten for the first image – we don't see many context shots that include ocean going vessels! 😊

Re: Trevor

by keving, 16-May-16 05:48 PM GMT

Trevor,

Lovely shots of the Wall Brown, a species that I see so very rarely.

Regards Kev

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 16-May-16 05:51 PM GMT

Likewise – I would love to get some shots of Wall Browns as good as those, Trevor... 🌿 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-May-16 07:56 PM GMT

Hi Kev and Dave,

You too can get Wall Brown images like these (and probably better).
But they do come at a price, a long hard slog to the top of the hill !.
But the reward, in my experience, are some easy going, approachable Walls.

Best of luck,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

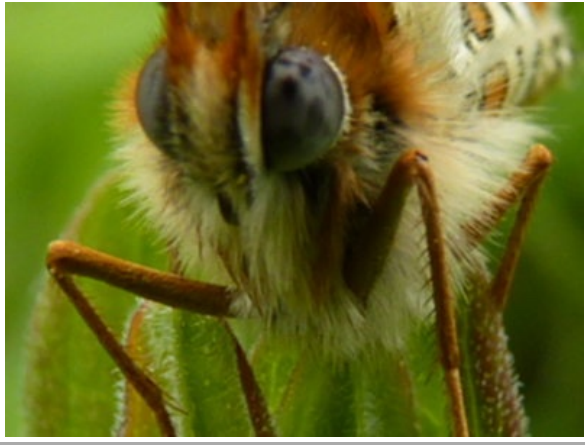
by trevor, 17-May-16 05:35 PM GMT

A fault keeps wiping my work so please enjoy the images.









Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-May-16 06:00 PM GMT

Google Chrome has gone down on my computer, something to do with windows.
The method I have to use to get to UKB varies in success.

Today I went to Hutchinson's bank, and eventually found five Glanvilles, all were very fresh. My sincere thanks to Martin for the directions from the tram terminus.

Anyone visiting, find the earth track at the base of the reserve. All five Butterflies were found basking on this track.
Sorry to be so brief,

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by MrSpOck, 17-May-16 06:33 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Today I went to Hutchinson's bank, and eventually found five Glanvilles, all were very fresh. My sincere thanks to Martin for the directions from the tram terminus.

Anyone visiting, find the earth track at the base of the reserve. All five Butterflies were found basking on this track.

Sorry to be so brief,

Trevor.

We were all up in the cutting all day, where most of the Glanvilles are at the moment, we had 15 at the same time when the sun was out this morning, in the area between the seat and the end of the scrape on the bend.

The cutting is a continuation of the Farleigh Dean Crescent road, and walk along from the gate at the end of it, you can see the open area of the cutting from this gate.



The Cutting is on the middle level, the Bridleway muddy track is on the lowest level.

The pictures are looking up the slope, from Featherbed Lane.

The bend in the cutting is in a low spot at that level so it warm and sheltered. [middle right edge]

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 17-May-16 06:44 PM GMT

Lovely Glanvilles, Trevor, brilliant shots 😊 I feel a strong urge to see some soon 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-May-16 07:05 PM GMT

Hi Martin,

I found Farleigh Dean Crescent, but the area I found was devoid of people all day.

On that track I mentioned, I did briefly have a chat with some people from the wildlife trust when their pickup truck entered from the road.

Being a stranger to the site, and with limited time, I made the most of the Glanville's I did find. Also noted was the large amount of Plantain on the reserve.

I had a very enjoyable day, many thanks for everything.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by MrSpOck, 17-May-16 07:18 PM GMT

I dont think you found the cutting, as we saw the LWT people arrive on the lower track, they walked upto the cutting and were step building at the end all day. There were 6 or 7 people in the cutting photographing various Glanvilles, a larva was also still around. The LWT car did drive up as well.

The Small and Chalkhill Blues are mainly in the cutting, so if you visit again its the first spot to head for, and then drop down to the lower areas.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-May-16 11:01 PM GMT

Lovely images Trevor 😊👍 Computers eh, I thought they were supposed to make life easier? 😊

Have a goodun
Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-May-16 04:14 PM GMT

An accident on the A27 caused a 7 mile tail back, I joined the end of the queue at 08.15. The traffic report on the radio told of jams on all surrounding roads, so I abandoned my journey to work, and came home.

Well in circumstances like this you have to go Butterflying, don't you ?.

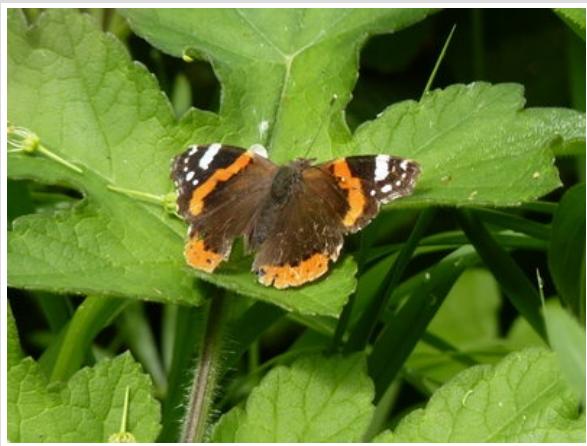
With no hope of getting anywhere by car, I went to the old railway in Hailsham.

It was alive with Butterflies. My first sighting was a very battered, but very welcome

Red Admiral, followed by several Green veined Whites, and a male Orange Tip.

When the sun went in briefly, the OT landed on Cow Parsley, which provided perfect camouflage for it's underside.

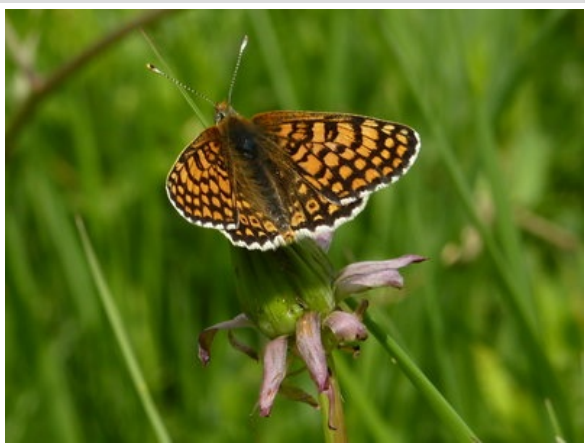
In all very enjoyable compensation for a wasted journey.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-May-16 07:07 PM GMT



After Tuesdays brief(ish) visit to Hutchinson's Bank I went back today with Doug.Neve, who was keen to see the Glanvilles for himself.

The map Martin kindly posted in my diary guided us to the correct area ,where the Glanvilles are most prolific. When we arrived it was cloudy but a male and female had been located by Martin who was only too keen to show us where they were.

Several people left early, convinced that the sun would not re-appear, but it did and Glanvilles seemed to appear from nowhere and many were seen both in ' the cutting ' and later, on the bare earth track that runs parallel to the road.

Many thanks, Martin, for your hospitality and for making our visit so enjoyable.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-May-16 07:45 PM GMT



Another notable sighting today, at Hutchinson's Bank, occurred when I walked the bare earth track that runs parallel to Featherbed Lane. I noticed two female Holly Blues flying low amongst some vegetation. when they settled with wings open I could hardly believe my eyes. It also became obvious what they were up to. One of them was ovipositing on Dogwood flower buds. Hopefully the images obtained are of some interest.



Re: Trevor

by MrSp0ck, 20-May-16 07:53 PM GMT

Im glad you both enjoyed your visit today, a very busy day for us all, I finished at 6pm.

The Glanvilles were still active until 6pm, but in fewer numbers.

Hopefully the weekend weather will be better than forecast, like this afternoon was.

Wurzel will need to worship more Glanville Gods for his visit for some nice sun.

Im working this weekend so visitors wont have the benefit of any help.

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 20-May-16 08:36 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Some great Glanville images there and followed up with that first open wing female Holly Blue 🦋🦋🦋

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 20-May-16 10:31 PM GMT

Fantastic Glannies Trevor 😊 I've had a look at the map but can't make head nor tail of it so hopefully (if the weather plays ball) there will be a 'regular' about on Sunday to pint a lost Wurzel to the nearest Glannie! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-May-16 08:45 AM GMT

Another image from yesterday which I overlooked.
This Comma, which looked to be very fresh, might be an early example of hibernators offspring. Certainly a lovely Butterfly.



Re: Trevor

by peterc, 21-May-16 09:38 AM GMT

trevor wrote:

Another image from yesterday which I overlooked.
This Comma, which looked to be very fresh, might be an early example of hibernators offspring. Certainly a lovely Butterfly.

Nice one, Trevor. To me, it doesn't appear pale enough to be the *hutchinsoni* form. What do others think?

ATB

Peter

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-May-16 02:27 PM GMT

The weather forecast for today, in this area, was not good. So any long distance expeditions were out of the question, but a bright spell of milky sunshine made a short trip to the Downs worth risking. The only species found in any quantity were Small Heaths, and numbers were probably in the hundreds. In these numbers they are very good at distracting the eye whilst watching something more exotic, which then escapes !.

The finds today consisted of male Common Blues, Small Coppers, an old Grizzled Skipper and many fresh Small Heaths as already mentioned.





Re: Trevor

by David M, 21-May-16 07:53 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

The only species found in any quantity were Small Heaths, and numbers were probably in the hundreds.

That's a result in itself these days, Trevor. I'm getting progressively worried about this species, as it is rapidly going from distractingly commonplace to relatively thin on the ground.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 21-May-16 08:02 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the Glanville's and the Holly Blue Trevor, It's good to see so many Butterflies posted as we're still waiting up here for most of them. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-May-16 06:31 PM GMT

No sun, no Butterflies this afternoon. I did however find a Yellow Speckle Moth, which unusually perched for long enough to allow it's portrait to be taken. It didn't allow me a second shot however.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-May-16 10:05 PM GMT

A shot of Speckled Yellow is not to be sniffed at Trevor they are one of the flightiest moths around! 😊😄 Lovely marked Small Heath, the 'eyes' rally show up 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-May-16 06:23 PM GMT



One species I was planning to see again this year, was the Marsh Fritillary. So I set forth at 5am for Wurzel country, arriving about 07.30. Far too early for the Butterflies but infinitely preferable to a later start and traffic jams.

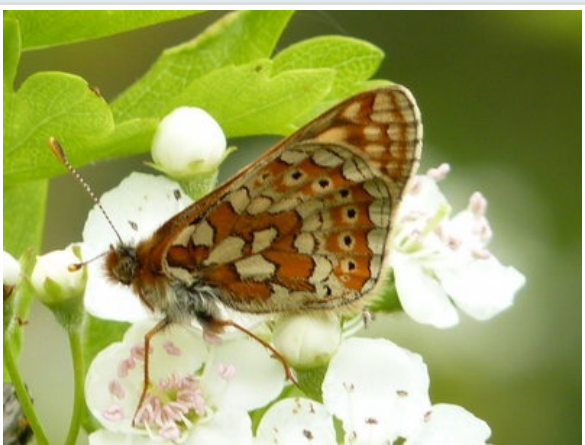
The first Marshie was spotted by another visitor, who had travelled from Essex, at about 9.00. As the sun increased in strength more Butterflies became active, Marsh Fritillaries in particular were frequently seen. Including one specimen that might qualify as an AB.

I will post today's activities in three parts, the other species seen, and Chiddingfold forest on the way home.

It was also a pleasure to bump into UKB's Susie, who was arriving as I was leaving (hope you had a wonderful visit).



Possible AB , an interesting specimen.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 23-May-16 06:27 PM GMT

No possibly, thats definately an ab. No idea what type but definately ab! 🇹🇲

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 23-May-16 06:29 PM GMT

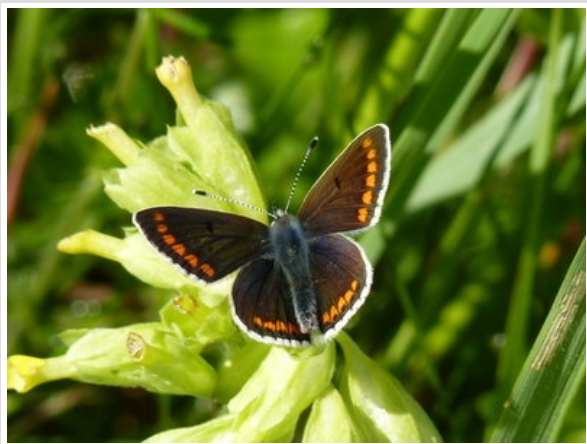
Yes, Trevor - very unusually marked. Nice one! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-May-16 08:42 PM GMT

In between photographing the Marsh Fritillaries there were many other species on the wing. Most prolific were Dingy and Grizzled Skippers, followed by Green Hairstreaks. Quite a few, very fresh, Brown Argus were present including a mating pair. All the Small Blues seen were manic and refused to settle for the camera. But some Six Spot Burnet moths were just emerging, and did settle for a few shots.







Re: Trevor

by Susie, 23-May-16 09:18 PM GMT

It was nice to see you too. Oh I wish I'd got there earlier, I envy your ab! Great shots! 📷

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 23-May-16 09:43 PM GMT

Good work Trevor - Wiltshire and Chiddingfold in the same day! 📷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-May-16 10:31 PM GMT

On the return journey this afternoon I was mulling over what to do with the rest of the afternoon. There were two possibilities, Kithurst Meadow, or Chiddingfold Forest. As I left the Portsmouth area I had to make the decision A27 or A3. A3 it was, then the pretty route to Plaistow. My primary aim was to see some more Wood Whites, and a total of four were found. Also the Brimstones attracted attention, with one female being pursued by three males. All four were involved in a long drawn out chase. When they landed I managed a shot of two of them, it is not a good image unfortunately.

Today was a bit of a marathon of 280 miles, but very rewarding.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-May-16 04:29 PM GMT

With very little sun today, I made the most of a brighter spell this afternoon.
A further visit to Abbots wood found the Pearl Bordered Fritillaries fading away for another year.
Only one was in anything like good condition, and most were losing their colour.
In all about a dozen were seen in less than ideal conditions.
This season I have seen three species of Fritillary in the space of five days. At least the Pearls are local.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 25-May-16 09:58 PM GMT

Glad the Hill paid off Trevor and an ab. to boot! 😊 I saw a similar one there a couple of years back so it could be genetic. I'll keep my eyes peeled tomorrow if my planned recce comes off!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-May-16 08:55 PM GMT



This afternoon and early evening I had my best ever session with the Wood White. Doug and myself left home after lunch with the aim of getting to Chiddingfold forest for some more relaxed Wood Whites, even the weather was just right, It was warm with some cloud and milky sunshine. On arrival we met Mark Colvin and his Son, who had see quite a few Wood Whites. We were soon treated to some classic Wood White behaviour, with many ' head to head ' pairings, and even a three up on one occasion.

We estimated that about twenty to thirty were seen along the various rides.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-May-16 10:28 PM GMT

Great Wood Whites Trevor 😊 – did you see any Bee Hawk Moths on your wanderings?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 27-May-16 11:39 PM GMT

That's a real feast of Wood Whites, Trevor. 😊 It's great watching their curious head-to-head behaviour. I must find time for another trip down there before they disappear, though I have to say last year's second brood here was excellent so here's hoping for the same again.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-May-16 01:05 PM GMT

This morning I set out to look for the Adonis Blue.
At home the conditions looked ideal, sun breaking through murky cloud, and not too warm. Mill Hill near Shoreham seemed the best place to head for. But on arrival I was met by a cool breeze and an evil looking sky. In the event only one Butterfly was seen, which happened to be an Adonis Blue male. Further searching was curtailed by light rain, which by the time I reached the car turned into a rain storm of monsoon intensity. Anyway I did get what I went for !.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Jun-16 06:37 PM GMT



After a week of weather enforced idleness on the butterfly front, today I made an unplanned visit to a Tropical Butterfly house. I had promised two of my young grandchildren a trip to London, to visit the Science Museum. Unfortunately the railway company (Southern) organised the chaos to perfection. Needless to say our time in London was restricted to about three hours. Walking past the Natural History Museum (with queue's around the block) I noticed that the Tropical Butterfly house was less busy, so in we went. Many of the species seen were new to me, so I am unable to name them, so please enjoy the images (taken on my ancient pocket camera). I like the one on Tom's head, ' bang on trend' don't you think. 😊

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Jun-16 06:51 PM GMT



So far this season I've not had the opportunity to photograph the Small Blue.
Those that I have seen have been too quick for the camera, mainly owing to the wrong time of day.
However this morning I had to pass the turning for Kithurst Hill, so I thought I would try my luck.
My luck was in ! , and I was greeted by many Small Blues and as the time was a little after 09.00
I found them active, but not hyperactive, on a perfect Summer's morning.
The Small Blues outnumbered all other species by a considerable margin, including the Common Blue.
I also found a solitary, faded, Dingy Skipper.
It would seem that the Small Blue is another species that's having a good year.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 05-Jun-16 08:00 PM GMT

Hi Trevor, that was a great looking Marsh Frit ab. you saw at the hill 😊😄👍 I never got there this year which is a shame as it's a brilliant site. Great Wood White behavioural shots, they're lovely little butterflies, will have to try to see some second brood as I've missed the first. Nice Small Blues too, they do seem to be having a good year, we saw plenty on the Isle of Wight.

Mike

Re: Trevor

by Padfield, 05-Jun-16 08:19 PM GMT

Hi Trevor. Your exotica are: Emerald swallowtail (*Papilio palinurus*), from South-East Asia, common morpho (*Morpho peleides*), from Middle and South America, autumn leafwing (*Doleschalia bisaltide*), from South Asia and Australia, lime swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus*), also from Asia and Australia, and the common mormon (*Papilio polytes*), again from Asia.

None of them can hold a candle to a little blue, though, in my opinion! 😊

Guy

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Jun-16 12:15 PM GMT

Early this morning I witnessed the changeover from Spring to Summer species. Within moments of arriving at Friston Gallops I spotted a very fresh Large Skipper, and within a few minutes the first of two Grizzled Skippers, both in good condition. I was very surprised to find these two species together in one day. Common Blues were conspicuous by their absence, only about a dozen seen, and no Adonis at all. However a blue badge Small Copper was a very welcome sight, and once again many Small Heaths were present.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 06-Jun-16 09:48 PM GMT

Lovely photos Trevor, I'm glad you found some Grizzled Skippers, I hope that means I may still find some next week when I'm down South. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Jun-16 12:39 PM GMT

Seldom do I go out to look for certain species, not see any, and come with two surprise finds. This happened this morning, when a trip to look for species of Blue failed, but instead it was several freshly emerged Cinnabar Moths and a very fresh and feisty male Wall Brown that greeted me. Both worthy substitutes for the lack of Blues!. 😊





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-Jun-16 08:12 PM GMT

Cracking Wall shots Trevor 📷 I've finally seen one but still no photos...yet 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jun-16 02:07 PM GMT



MYSTRY WILD ROSE (new to me anyway !)

Today was actually better than forecast, the high cloud allowing some weak sunshine through. To make the most of this I headed to Birling Gap and Horseshoe Plantation, where the wild flowers were magnificent. It was here that I found a pure white wild rose of a type I have never seen before. It was a small plant with formidable thorns, and was alone in the acres of grassland.

On the Butterfly front, a few Common Blue males were seen (they don't seem to be as common this year) and in a favoured spot, about six Large Skippers were relaxing between chases.







Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Jun-16 08:25 PM GMT

On my way home this evening I called in at Kithurst meadow, in less than ideal conditions. But as I was passing it was worth the risk. Only three Butterflies were found, but one female Common Blue alone was worth the visit. For she was the bluest example I've ever found. Unfortunately I only managed a poor open wing shot before the cloud sent her into roosting mode, never to open up again. Also seen, a very old, worn Small Blue.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Jun-16 08:04 AM GMT

Recent reports, and images of Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries, have reminded me that once this species could be seen here in East Sussex, where they are now extinct.

Early one morning in June 2012 I called in at Park Corner Heath for a brief visit whilst on my way to Horsted Keynes. I only stopped off because the weather that morning was perfect, the hope was that the Small Pearls could be found warming up, and indeed they were doing just that. From memory about eight were seen that morning.

I hope the following images will serve as a reminder to us all that no Butterfly colony can be taken for granted.



Re: Trevor

by peterc, 13-Jun-16 08:48 AM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Yes, sorry to hear of the demise of the Small Pearls in East Sussex. If memory serves me right, I saw quite a few, maybe a dozen, about 20 years ago at Park Corner Heath –certainly after it was designated a NR.

Nice shots of the blues by the way.

ATB

Peter

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 13-Jun-16 11:13 AM GMT

Hi Trevor, it's crazy that SPB Fritillaries were flying in Sussex as late as 2012 but are now lost, and that's in this enlightened age. If we want to see them, Bentley is the nearest site. However, reading between the lines they may also be struggling there! Nice shots from 2012 by the way.

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Jun-16 06:39 PM GMT

Luck was on my side this morning when this Grayling landed on a branch near to where I standing. A most fortunate find !.

**Re: Trevor**

by Goldie M, 22-Jun-16 07:05 PM GMT

That Grayling looks very bright and unusual Trevor, I don't know too much about these things so maybe other's will comment, great shot. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 22-Jun-16 08:31 PM GMT

Well done Trevor! I haven't seen any on the Sussex website yet, I wonder if it is a first.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-Jun-16 10:04 PM GMT

That's notably early for Grayling, Trevor. Great find!

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 22-Jun-16 10:41 PM GMT

Very unusual, Trevor. In fact, to me that doesn't look like a standard British Grayling at all. The white spots on the forewing underside look completely wrong, and the hindwing patterning just doesn't look right either. Compare this one from last year:



Is it one of the European species? Can you post your photo again, so we can see them on the same page to compare them better?

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-Jun-16 11:18 PM GMT

That looks like a Great Banded Grayling Trevor 🤪 There's a photo of a mating pair taken by Pete in Bulgaria in the 'Butterflies of Europe' App that is a dead spit of that 🤪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Jun-16 11:38 PM GMT

Hi again everyone,

After an absence of over a week it's good to be back.

I have also been a little bit naughty. The Grayling image was indeed taken this morning (10.50am our time) on the way to Montpellier Airport, after a Butterfly holiday to the Cevennes region of France.

I will report some of the highlights of the week over the next few days, but for now here is an image of some of the truly spectacular terrain the area has to offer.

(You're spot on Wurzel !)



Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-Jun-16 11:42 PM GMT

You charlatan, Trevor!!!

I **thought** it was unduly early!!!

That'll teach me not to scrutinise images more carefully! I shall be watching you with suspicion in future! 🤪

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 23-Jun-16 06:26 AM GMT

Me too! Have a good holiday and well done Dave for noticing!

Re: Trevor

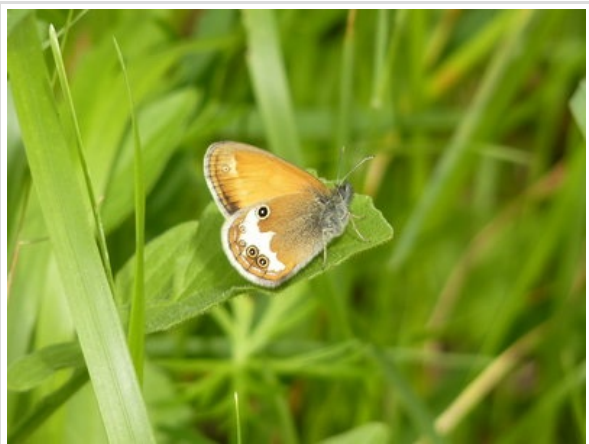
by trevor, 23-Jun-16 05:47 PM GMT



The small Town of Florac, near the Village of Cocures, our base for the week.
THE CEVENNES Part 1.

Each day we were taken to various sites and habitats by mini bus. At most sites visited, just like over here, Small Heaths were found in large numbers, but unlike here there were Pearly Heaths sometimes flying among them. This meant that much time was spent keeping an eye on the Small Heaths, looking for their more exotic cousins.

Here are a few images of the Pearly Heath.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Jun-16 06:27 PM GMT

One of the more unusual critters we encountered was the bizarre but beautiful Ascalaphid. Usually found in areas of long grass, where they would normally rest, they took on the appearance of a Moth like Dragon Fly in the air. In many areas we visited the Ascalaphid could be found.





Re: Trevor

by badgerbob, 23-Jun-16 09:02 PM GMT

Hi Trevor. Me and Matt also went to the Cevennes and stayed in Florac a few weeks ago. Like here the season was running late and we didn't see too many butterflies. Fortunately we were also looking for birds and orchids. Looks like you had a good trip. Beautiful area!!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Jun-16 10:36 PM GMT

If Small Heaths looked like Pearly Heath I wouldn't mind their annoying habits quite so much 😊 Cracking shots Trevor, looking forward to some more 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Jun-16 07:09 AM GMT

THE CEVENNES Part 2.

The Blues.

If the Heaths needed close examination to determine species, then the Blues were a minefield. Common Blues were found in large numbers, alongside a few exotics, and I am sure that many exotics were missed whilst we chased after a Common. Also naming an unfamiliar type of Blue was often done by consensus of opinion or by consulting books over dinner, so I do apologise if any 'names' are incorrect.



The view from my hotel balcony.



Mudpuddling with friend !.



Mud puddling Blues



Underside of Green Underside Blue.



Green Underside Blues, mud puddling.



Chapmans Blue female



Chequered Blue



Mazarine underside



Mazarine Blue

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 24-Jun-16 03:19 PM GMT

Love the Blues Trevor and I thought that Grayling looked Different 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Jun-16 05:19 PM GMT

For my first Butterfly trip since arriving home from France I thought I had better go over to Iping Common before the Silver Studded Blues fade away, having missed them last year. My first one was found fairly close to the car park, but all others were further into the Common. Some males were quite worn, but there were enough fresh Butterflies to keep the camera happy. Many females were present, but were difficult to photograph, preferring to stay low down in the Heather. Also seen , a very pale, and slightly larger than normal, Small Tortoiseshell (see what you think). On the way back to the car I spotted a Beautiful Demoiselle posing between flights.

PS. I made a mistake with my earlier posting, the ' view from my balcony ' is in fact a view of the South Downs in Sussex..... Silly Boy !!!







Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 24-Jun-16 07:58 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Just seen your Grayling...You little tinker 😊😄

I love those images of the Blues from France, great stuff.

I had a few pale Tortoiseshells like that one last year, they didn't look faded as such, just pale.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 24-Jun-16 10:23 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

The Chapmans blue on you finger is actually Adonis blue--see the chequered wing fringe?

Love the Chequered blue. I've been there myself and we saw them. Did you see the Scarce swallowtails? They were everywhere on our trip, a few years ago.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Jun-16 10:54 PM GMT

Our tour leader was emphatic about the Chapmans Blue.

The 'Blues', many of which looked similar to each other, caused much discussion throughout the holiday.

Yes I did see the Scarce Swallowtail. One image of this species turned out to be the best shot I have ever taken. Watch this space !.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 24-Jun-16 11:04 PM GMT

essexbuzzard wrote:

Hi Trevor,

The Chapmans blue on you finger is actually Adonis blue—see the chequered wing fringe?

That was my first thought when I saw that picture as well...

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Jun-16 08:20 PM GMT

THE CEVENNES Part 3.

No Butterfly holiday would be complete without a sighting of one of the spectaculars. Owing to the very variable weather over the week, only one species of Swallowtail appeared. Just four Scarce Swallowtails put in an appearance, of which two settled. The specimen on the endemic Valerian was in perfect condition, but very fidgety. The second Swallowtail gave me an exhibition of it's flying skills, gliding and swooping, almost disappearing into the distance then returning for more close encounters. On several occasions it almost touched my neck and head as it glided past, possibly attracted to my sweet smelling sun block. One of it's chosen landing spots was in a Pine tree, allowing me my most satisfying Butterfly image to date !.

Hope you enjoy it too.





Re: Trevor

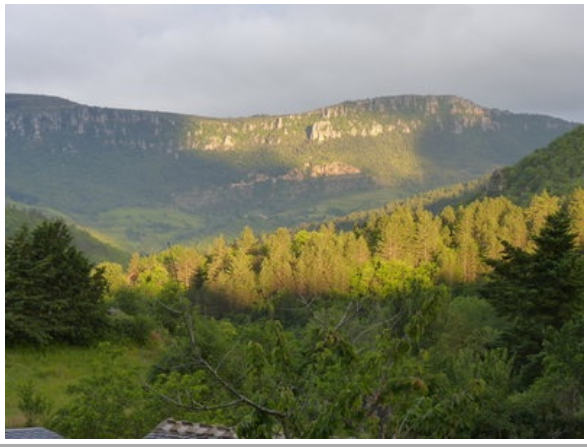
by badgerbob, 26-Jun-16 09:25 PM GMT

That view from your balcony is surely Le Col de Windover!!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Jun-16 09:36 PM GMT

Yes Bob it is deepest East Sussex. I posted an apology for the error further back in my diary. Here is the correct image.....



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-Jun-16 10:14 PM GMT

Great shots of the Scarce Swallowtail Trevor – hopefully I'll see one of those in Lisbon this summer 😊🇵🇹 Looking to seeing some more of your foreign shots hopefully...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Jun-16 10:19 PM GMT

THE CEVENNES Part 4.

One species on my ' must see' list was the Black Veined White, especially as they were once resident in the UK. Fortunately most sites we visited held a population, and they proved easy prey for our cameras, going to ground as soon as the sun went in. In flight they appeared much larger than I had imagined and a very beautiful sight.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 26-Jun-16 10:23 PM GMT

Wow 🤩🤩 I want one! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Jun-16 11:30 PM GMT

THE CEVENNES Part 5.

On the Tuesday of last week we were taken to the highest peak in the Cevennes region, Mont Aigoul. Up to that moment our tour leader had been very matter of fact about the species seen, obviously all had been seen, by him, many times before.

But as I walked ahead of the others in our party to get to three 'Black Veined Whites' I could see further up the road, I heard cries of pure excitement from our leader, beckoning me to come back. This is impossible, he said. Looking into his specimen pot I could see a large white Butterfly.

He had found his very first Clouded Apollo. A very rare find for the area apparently !.

After a few bad photo's, I returned to the three 'Black Veined Whites' up the road only to discover, on arrival, that in fact it was three more Clouded Apollo's I had been watching from afar !

Here is the evidence.....



The view from the top of Mont Aigoul (click image twice).



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Jun-16 05:56 PM GMT

For the first time ever, a visit to the old railway in Hailsham produced not a single Butterfly. This time last year there were plenty of Red Admirals to be seen there. I then moved on to Horseshoe Plantation, near Birling Gap. A stiff breeze welcomed me, but it was mostly sunny. I was delighted to see my first male Dark Green Fritillary, nectaring on knapweed followed by several Marbled Whites. Meadow Browns numbers are building at this site, many seen fighting the breeze. Also good numbers of Large Skipper were present.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Jun-16 02:12 PM GMT

All I saw for my troubles today was a solitary Speckled Wood, at a site where SWF and WA should be found, still plenty of time for those.

Here is an image of today's Speckled Wood, in comparison with an example from the Cevennes where the cream coloured markings, on UK specimens, are quite orange on the Cevennes population. (a sub species ?.)



Orange markings on Cevennes Speckled Wood.

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 28-Jun-16 04:23 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Here is an image of today's Speckled Wood, in comparison with an example from the Cevennes where the cream coloured markings, on UK specimens, are quite orange on the Cevennes population. (a sub species ?.)

The orange form is common in S France. I read that the orange form is *aegeria* the white form is the subspecies *tircis*. Source: Roger Gibbons's website butterflies of France

Nice pic btw. :-)

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Jul-16 08:00 PM GMT

We had a short break in the weather, here in the south east, today. So with blue sky all the way (with building cloud) I headed over to Chiddingfold forest, more in hope than expectation. No sign of H.I.M. yet, but I was entertained by five White Admirals, and in addition two male Silver Washed Fritillaries put in an appearance. As the sun was quite strong, neither species settled long enough for a good shot, and in the case of the White Admirals full zoom had to be used to get any sort of image.

Other Butterflies seen were lots of Ringlets bobbing around in the grass, a few Meadow Browns and Large Skippers.

As I was about a mile from the car I beat a hasty retreat just before a shower that threatened in the distance.



Image quality poor, taken from some distance.





Re: Trevor

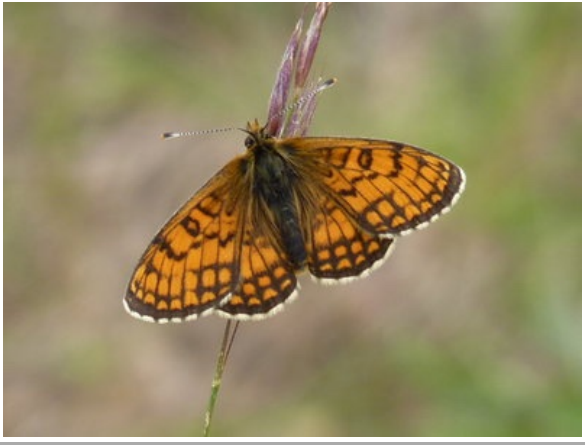
by trevor, 03-Jul-16 10:00 PM GMT

THE CEVENNES Part 6.

At nearly all the sites we visited Fritillaries could be found, some causing great confusion when it came to identification. Several times a butterfly identified on site would cause controversy when images were examined back at our hotel !. I must admit that I was unable to add very much to the debate, as all except a single Pearl Bordered Fritillary, were new to me.

However, two species every one agreed upon were the Meadow and Knapweed Fritillaries. So here are some images of said species, which I hope are correctly named.

Trevor.



Meadow Fritillary.



Meadow Fritillary.



Meadow Fritillary.



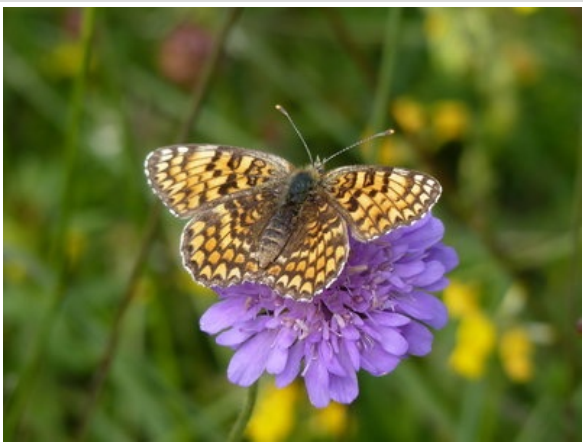
Meadow Fritillary underside



Knapweed Fritillary



Knapweed Fritillary



Knapweed Fritillary.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Jul-16 04:05 PM GMT

On my way out this morning I popped into my local convenience store to get some sandwiches to sustain me while out looking for the Purple Emperor. Nothing lost, nothing gained I also purchased a tin of their own brand of Tuna in brine. I sometimes treat the cat to a tin, so I knew the liquid in the tin was quite potent !.

On arrival at Chiddingfold forest I punctured the tin and poured the liquid on the track, meanwhile I met P.J.Underwood, who was also looking for Emperors, we were pretty certain of a fly past, but it was very fleeting.

As the cloud cover increased P.J.U said cheerio, that's it for the day. About ten minutes after his departure, another Guy and myself spotted an Emperor flying erratically nearby, he was obviously trying to pin point where the fishy smell was coming from, and then landed right on top of my offering. Amazingly this beautiful Emperor stayed put for over an hour, and displayed lots of purple 😊 .



BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT !





Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 04-Jul-16 05:00 PM GMT

A great start to your PE vigil Trevor. It certainly pays to ignore the weather sometimes – a lesson I learned whilst watching PE's fighting in a thunderstorm in 2012!

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 04-Jul-16 05:11 PM GMT

I must take a tin of tuna with me when I go to Fermyn Woods Trevor 😊 Lovely shots of the PE, 🍷🍷 hope I get to see him this year. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Jul-16 06:02 PM GMT

Many thanks Pauline and Goldie.

If you take a can of Tuna, get a can with a ring pull or take a can opener.

I also added another liquid, but we won't go into that. 😊 .

Good luck to all this Emperor season.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by P.J.Underwood, 04-Jul-16 06:16 PM GMT

Oh dear Trevor,I should have stayed another 10 mins.I will try again tomorrow.
P.J.U.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 04-Jul-16 07:10 PM GMT

I gazed out of the office window this morning, knowing where I should be – I was right! Lovely Emperor, and I hope you see many more. Stonking double purple pictures too! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Jul-16 10:49 PM GMT

Yes Dave you should have been there. I nearly filled a memory card with one Butterfly.
Might see you there sometime, as I intend to go every day there's a decent weather forecast.

Something I forgot to mention in my last post. There are now some Turtle Doves in the wood.
Their ' purring ' seems to carry some distance.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 04-Jul-16 10:50 PM GMT

just 🐞🐞🐞 that is all I have!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Jul-16 10:09 AM GMT

bugboy wrote:

just 🐞🐞🐞 that is all I have!

Your Large blues had the same effect on me.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Jul-16 04:33 PM GMT

When I arrived a Chiddingfold Forest yesterday, the sun was beginning to warm up, and the Ringlets were already active. A short distance into the wood I heard my first Turtle Dove of the morning, invisible, but quite close by. According to P.J Underwood, they have been absent in recent years.

After laying my Emperor attractant I went to look for some White Admirals, which always seem to prefer to nectar on the other side of a ditch !, as did the only pausing Silver Washed Fritillary of the day.
So the following images were obtained with great difficulty, and this is reflected in their quality.

I have also sneaked in another Purple image, as yesterday, after years of trying I managed all wings purple.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 05-Jul-16 07:21 PM GMT

Your having a fantastic time Trevor 🍀 and what lovely shots I'm green with envy Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 05-Jul-16 08:34 PM GMT

You're just showing off now Trevor 😊🍷🍷🍷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Jul-16 04:41 PM GMT

I arrived at Chiddingfold forest, early, this morning full of expectation. But it soon became clear that not much was flying, despite sunshine. The air was very cool early on, and even later on any slight breeze had a chill to it. Humidity was minimal. All Butterfly species were slow to respond. The second person to arrive was UKB's own millerd, good to meet you Dave, and put a face to the name. Before Dave arrived I had enhanced Monday's bait, which had proved successful, and we waited. We were convinced fortunes would improve when Neil Hulme appeared over the horizon, wealding a bottle of his patent elixir. I thought we might have a contest on our hands (which powder washes whitest type contest), Hulme or Tesco Tuna brine. But to the disappointment of us all no Emperor came down to adjudicate. Although we didn't see any grounded Emperor's today, we were entertained by the building numbers of Silver Washed Fritillaries, and the elegant flight of the White Admirals.

I hope Katrina saw some action after we had left, as it seems usual for an Emperor to descend when most have gone home.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 06-Jul-16 04:57 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, it looks like Pauline had the right Idea going out at 6.30pm Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 06-Jul-16 10:07 PM GMT

Sorry to hear Hid Nibbs didn't perform today – He is a fickle beastie! At least you had a SWF to see you through. 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Jul-16 05:37 PM GMT

A DAY OF PURPLE

After Mondays success, and nothing yesterday, I entered Chiddingfold forest with renewed optimism. The day did however get off to a very slow start, with a lot of cloud, but some blue sky in the distance. But the air was warmer than yesterday, and a new day is full of promise.

P.J. Underwood was the next person to arrive, and we stood and chatted, with little in the way of Butterfly action. The piece and quiet was shattered at 11.04am when a Butterfly mistaken for a White Admiral landed in a nearby Hazel. It was the first of five Purple Emperors that I would see today !. This first Emperor eventually settled on my refreshed bait from Monday, which was smelling very fishy. This Butterfly had a damaged/deformed left forewing, but was otherwise a lovely specimen.

Two Ladies spotted Emperor No.2 indulging on Horse dung, and this was a very large Emperor indeed and very fresh. With many photo's taken, I noticed another Emperor flying towards the location of my bait, it was No.3, and again a very fine specimen. No.4 again came down onto my Tesco Tuna, this Butterfly was enjoyed by two Lad's who had come up from South Wales and left with images of two Emperors.

I was the sole observer of Emperor No.5, which was a bit skittish and departed my bait at 13.13. and so ended a glorious day.



ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF 4 OUT OF 5 EMPERORS TODAY.



Our first glimpse of Emperor No.1



No.1 With damaged wing.



No.1



No.2 Enjoying Horse dung.



No.2



No.2



No.3



No.3



No.4



No.4



NO4



No.5



EMPEROR No.5 having departed my bait.

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 07-Jul-16 06:37 PM GMT

Great result! Looks like I should have come. Emperor 1 seems to be the second one I saw yesterday possibly – a particularly sociable one!

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 07-Jul-16 06:42 PM GMT

I'm gonna have to stop looking at your diary at this rate Trevor, too much 🍷🍷🍷

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 07-Jul-16 09:47 PM GMT

And I definitely came on the wrong day! I wonder if there's truth in your theory that higher humidity brings them down. It was certainly muggier today than yesterday when it was much fresher... Lovely shots, Trevor, and there are more in them there woods than we thought! I'll try again at the weekend if the weather obliges.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Jul-16 10:03 PM GMT

I think you're right Katrina, the wing damage on your Emperor does look the same as my first one today. I've examined some of the other images taken, and there is a slight tear on that wing.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 07-Jul-16 11:06 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, do you think a tin of anchovies will do any thing 😊 I bought one today in mistake for Tuna 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Jul-16 08:39 PM GMT

Looking at my damp garden early this morning, and with cloud and a breeze blowing, I was in two minds weather or not to risk a trip to Chiddingfold forest. But as the weather forecast predicted a sunny afternoon, I went with crossed fingers. On arrival, there was no sign of sun, but as the morning wore on some avid Emperor hopefuls began to arrive. P.J.Underwood with Malcom, Mark Colvin and Nick Broomer and later the two Lads from South Wales. By late lunch time the cloud began to break, but P.J. and Malcom had to leave, and just like Monday, an Emperor came down about ten minutes after their departure. This specimen, the only one of the day, had wing loss on the left hind wing, and just would not settle in one place for very long, he had a preference for Horse dung. Other sightings included a nectaring White Admiral, and a very fresh Comma.





Re: Trevor

by P.J.Underwood, 08-Jul-16 08:59 PM GMT

May I suggest it? A new way to attract Purple Emperors-me to leave.It has worked twice now.
P.J.U.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Jul-16 09:18 PM GMT

Sorry you missed H.I.M. a second time P.J. it must be your companion from Emsworth
who is kicking himself !.

Might see you next week,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Jul-16 07:26 PM GMT

I was not planning a Butterfly expedition today, having swapped my day at work from Thursday to today.

This was fortunate on two fronts, for on Thursday I had my best day ever with the Purple Emperor, and this morning the weather was atrocious.

But as I had my camera in the car, and the weather had improved, I stopped off to visit Eartham woods on the way home, and the Butterflies came out to play!

Red Admirals were almost into double figures. Also seen two lovely fresh Commas, several Marbled Whites, Large Whites, and my first Gate Keeper of the year.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Jul-16 09:05 PM GMT

After several days of atrocious weather, ie. high winds and torrential downpours I thought the weather forecast for today was just about good enough to risk a trip to Chiddingfold forest.

I was anxious for the welfare of the Purple Emperors there, as the seven I saw last week could have succumbed to the weather without having had a chance to find a mate. Unfortunately none were seen, not even in the air. Time will tell.

On the positive side. many fresh Silver Washed Fritillaries were seen nectaring, both male and female, in equal numbers. White admirals also put in an appearance.

My visit was cut short by a torrential shower, so my coat and bag to put my camera in were a good investment.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by P.J.Underwood, 14-Jul-16 07:48 PM GMT

Trevor,

At Chiddingfold yesterday we had two nasty hailstorms plus serious rain. I told Malc not to come up as it would be a waste of time. Instead he went to Havant thicket, where he had a good photo of a P.E. on the ground and saw two in flight. They did not have the storms we had.

Philip

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Jul-16 08:26 PM GMT

As today was a day of two halves, I will post in two parts.

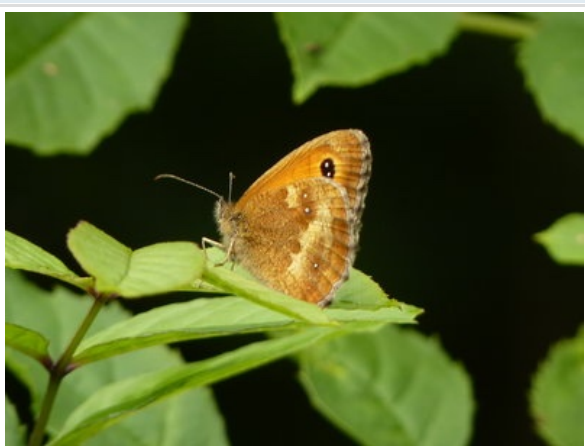
Part 1.

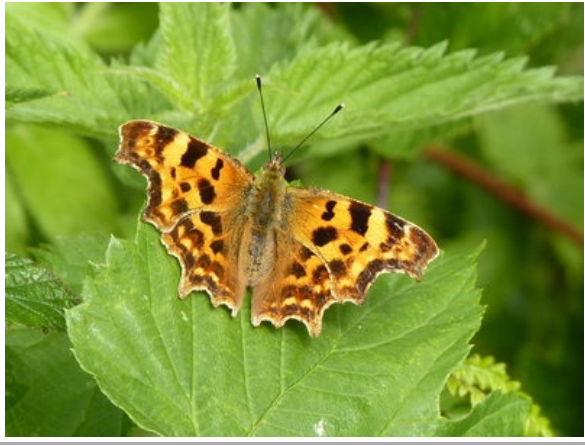
Doug and I had planned a day at Chiddingfold forest, it was a treat to be in the passenger seat.

We arrived at 08.30 to a cool but promising morning, within a few minutes we found some fresh Gate Keepers warming up, and a frisky Comma. Further into the wood, and now getting warmer the first of several White Admirals came down to nectar on bramble, and weren't too difficult to approach.

Ringlets were by now everywhere, and getting tatty. Doug found one middle aged couple of Ringlets mating.

The warm sun had by now been replaced by cloud, and we decided to move on.....







Emperors

by trevor, 15-Jul-16 09:17 PM GMT

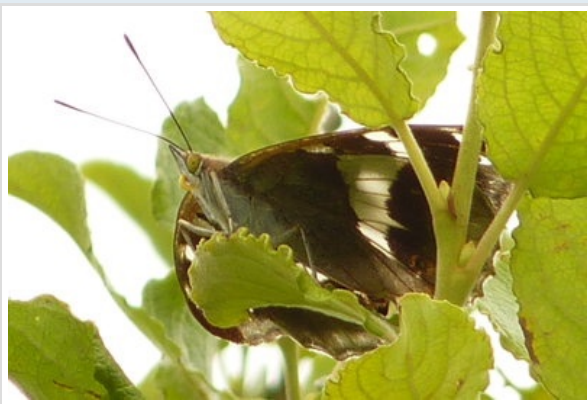
Part 2.

On leaving Chiddingfold forest we had two options for the next destination, Southwater woods or Knepp. We opted for the Knepp estate. We arrived to find Neil Hulme parked just down the road, the ensuing conversation with Neil obviously included the Purple Emperor, I mentioned that I had never knowingly had a decent view of a female PE. Neil kindly offered to find us some.

Only a couple of minutes after entering the site a huge female PE flew past us. With many Sallows to choose from the females were out in some numbers. We spotted one land in a Sallow and she stayed just long enough for a few underside shots as she was several feet above our heads.

Neil then spotted another female land at shoulder height and deposit an egg on a Sallow leaf. Unfortunately I don't have a macro lens, so the image below is the best I could manage.

In all a brilliant afternoon, with several more sightings before heading for home.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Jul-16 07:08 PM GMT

A lifetime first for me today. The only discernible Purple Hairstreak image I've ever managed. I just happened to see this PH flying fairly low around an Oak, it then settled about 8ft above my head.

So my image was taken on full zoom, then heavily cropped.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Jul-16 10:35 PM GMT

BATS.....

I have just returned from my Daughters house. We all had a meal in the garden. At dusk she asked me if I would like to see the Bats emerge from the roof. Her house in an immaculate ten year old end of terrace, and at the apex of the roof there is a very small gap on the underside of the roof. She took a pen and writing pad to record the number of Bats as they took flight.

Estimated numbers from a previous rough count suggested about 100 were resident in the loft. To night we counted 522, and could still hear some chattering from inside suggesting that there were still more to emerge. What a fantastic sight !.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Jul-16 10:36 PM GMT

It seems that you've been really busy Trevor - I'm breathless after trying to catch-up! 🤔😄 Great Purp shots of and congrats on the Hairstreak - they're one of those species that you just have to be lucky with 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Jul-16 12:12 PM GMT

A short visit to the old railway in Hailsham produced two ground searching male Holly Blues this morning. Right on cue, the first one, after indulging, flew onto nearby vegetation and partially opened its wings.

Back at home a fresh looking Comma flitted around the garden, allowing a couple of shots.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Jul-16 06:02 PM GMT

Through no fault of my own, I realised that I had left the search for White Letter Hairstreak a bit late. The co-incidence of time and good weather only merged this afternoon. But after much searching I managed to find three WLH, the most patient of which was quite worn. The best specimen settled on a bramble leaf for a few seconds, allowing two lousy shots !.

Also a lovely Red Admiral landed on the shirt of a well known Sussex Butterflier, who was hoping for a WLH sighting.





Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 22-Jul-16 08:34 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Great reports and photos recently 😊

White letter Hairstreak is one of those species that I have seen often enough but usually fluttering around high up. I really must make the effort to get some decent photos sometime.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-Jul-16 10:40 PM GMT

Whitters are a tricky one Trevor – they seem to come down lower only then they're past their best! 😊 Those are all in pretty good nick though 🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 23-Jul-16 10:25 AM GMT

Oh! for the sight of just one Trevor, I don't care what condition it's in 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Jul-16 03:51 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, Neil and Goldie.

I left things a bit late this year. Last year was fabulous, I even found one in my home town. The site near Brighton has Thistles and Brambles beneath the Elms. This combination seems to bring them down. This is an afternoon site owing to the position of the trees relative to the Sun.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 24-Jul-16 01:12 AM GMT

You did really well with the Emperors, Trevor, your lovely shots all show that brilliant full purple sheen, Emperor No. 4 is really stunning 😊

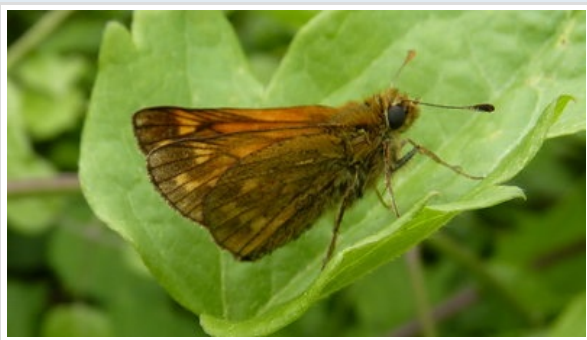
Nice shots of the White letter Hairstreaks too, these are a species I've not yet seen at close range. You seem to be blessed with good populations of WLH in your neck of the woods!

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Jul-16 09:21 PM GMT

My brief visit to Eartham woods this afternoon found few active Butterflies, despite a temperature of 22c. A particular Red Admiral, basking on the track, allowed a close up shot to be taken. I am very pleased with the resulting image ie. the Butterfly is posing perfectly and that gorgeous red has been captured. A nearby Peacock was not so obliging, taking off many times and landing for a split second each time. Also present were several Large Skippers, and a few worn Ringlets.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Jul-16 04:35 PM GMT



QUANTITY, QUALITY, DIVERSITY and ABUNDANCE.

Those four words just about sum up today.

Doug. and myself decided to visit Chiddingfold forest on a hunch that the summer brood Wood Whites might be on the wing. Indeed they were !, but not in concentration, and were widely scattered. 15 to 20 would be a rough estimate.

I was indeed fortunate to see one egg laying, on what I am sure was Bird's foot trefoil. After she had flown off I turned the leaf over and there was a small clutch of eggs (see my poor image).

The other highlight of the morning was the sheer numbers of Butterflies seen, and the diversity of species present. Apart from the Wood Whites there was nothing rare on offer, but it was a joy to see so many.

None of them need naming on here, so here are the images from a truly memorable day.

Hope you enjoy,
Trevor.

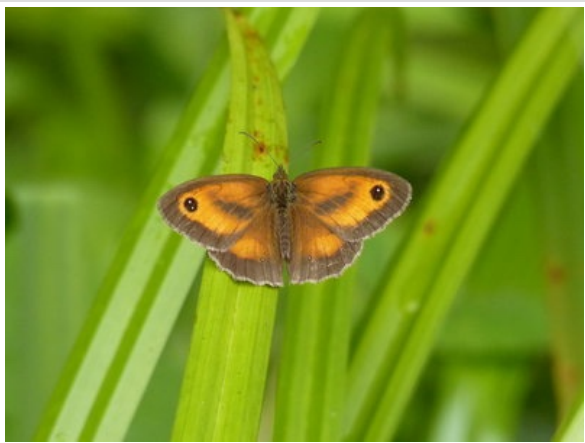






Wood White eggs (sorry no macro lens)





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 25-Jul-16 10:54 PM GMT

I'm glad there are some butterflies in abundance somewhere Trevor – things over this way are still a bit tricky 😊 hopefully things will buck up and the late summer species will ramp up 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Jul-16 06:47 AM GMT

It was a fabulous visit Wurzel, maybe I should have mentioned the species seen but not photographed yesterday.
They were; Comma, Red Admiral, Large/Small White, Large/Small Skipper, Ringlet, Holly Blue and one Purple Emperor (seen in the air, by another visitor).

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Jul-16 12:18 PM GMT

I was fortunate, this morning to find this male Holly Blue basking with open wings, probably taking a break from ground searching.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 26-Jul-16 08:42 PM GMT

Most envious of the Holly Blue, Trevor. 🍷 And the WLH as well, something I always struggle to find. 😊 A local spot has had the elms succumb unfortunately and they don't seem to have relocated anywhere nearby. 😞

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 26-Jul-16 08:47 PM GMT

Lovely photos of the Wood Whites Trevor and your Holly Blues are great too. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Jul-16 05:51 PM GMT

My neighbour has a Buddleia bush which partially overhangs my garden fence. Needless to say I am getting quite a few visitors to my garden. This evening at 17.28, this pristine Red Admiral took a break from the Buddleia and rested on my back fence.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 27-Jul-16 10:51 PM GMT

Cracking Holly Blue Trevor 🍷 They're one of those species that I seem to miss out on, I just don;t get time to put the effort into them 😊
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Jul-16 08:41 PM GMT

As I was running a little late this morning I had to restrict my visit to Eartham wood to about 10 mins. In this time I managed to see many Red Admirals and a few Peacocks nectaring on Thistles and Hemp Agrimony. Once at work the action continued, with Red Admirals flying erratically around the yard, one of them chose to bask on one of the restored vintage buses.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 28-Jul-16 10:27 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor, I'd love to see the peacocks but their not moving here yet ,Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Jul-16 06:49 PM GMT

This afternoon I spent over an hour at the old railway line in Hailsham. At least it was sheltered from the wind. My main target was the Holly Blue, there were many flying, but none settled low down.

However, Speckled Woods were also out in good numbers and I was fortunate to witness a male having his advances rejected by the female 'playing dead'. He persevered for about a 30 secs, and immediately after his departure the female composed herself and promptly flew off.

Also present were many Commas, Red Admirals, Whites large and small.

Back at home a Red Admiral settled with wings closed on one of my garden lights and allowed close approach.



Male Speckled Wood with female playing dead.



The 'dead' female .





Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 29-Jul-16 08:54 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Nice shot of the female Speckle rejecting the male. I have watched this behaviour quite a few times now and find it fascinating, especially when the male doesn't take the hint and the female will just do a little flick and drop down out of sight. I have never seen another species do this in the same way.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Jul-16 09:04 PM GMT

Cheers Neil, This is the second time I have seen that rejection behaviour, the first was just yards away from today's, back in the Spring.
Hope things pick up in your area soon.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 29-Jul-16 11:16 PM GMT

Lovely Large White shot Trevor, the males are a nightmare to get like that 🤔😬

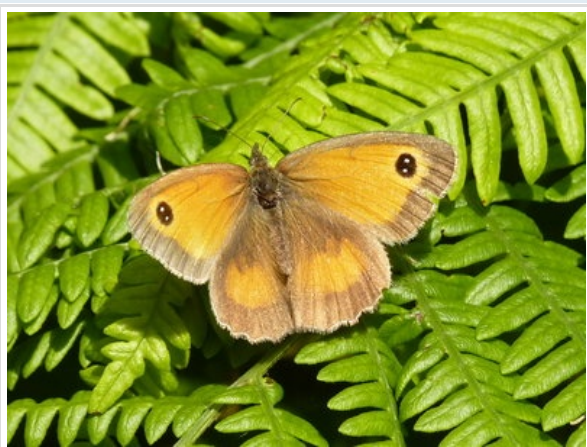
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Jul-16 10:01 PM GMT

I could only spare a ridiculously short time at Eartham woods this morning.
All the usual's were present, including a very worn White Admiral, my first at this site.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Aug-16 05:27 PM GMT

Early this morning Doug. and myself set out to visit a site at Pirbright, in Surrey, to look for Grayling.
Thanks to information from Dave (millerd) I found the location straight away, arriving at 09.30.
The site has undergone what might be termed as ' brutal ' scrub clearance, complete with the use of weedkiller.
This may have been to the detriment (temporarily I hope) of the Grayling, as we only found five.
But as I was keen to see Grayling on Heather, it was a worthwhile trip.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 01-Aug-16 08:22 PM GMT

Glad you found the site, and the Grayling, Trevor. You did well - I only found one on Sunday! Maybe there are more on the way... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 02-Aug-16 08:55 PM GMT

Great camouflage, as ever with Graylings.

This is another butterfly that seems to be getting more scarce. 😞

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 02-Aug-16 11:13 PM GMT

Great Graylings Trevor and an nice looking Moth – any idea on the species? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 03-Aug-16 09:59 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor, I love the Grayling on the Heather, I think it takes a colour Back ground to really show the Grayling at it's best. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Aug-16 06:02 PM GMT

Many thanks folks. Yes Goldie, that was why we went to that site, to see them on Heather. Our local site is difficult for good Grayling images as they always seem to land in the grass or a Rabbit scrape, which renders them almost invisible.

Our Grayling expedition involved a round trip of over 150 miles, but this afternoon my back garden was host to the Butterflies, courtesy of my neighbours Buddleia.

Here are some of the beauties resting in my garden, between visits to the Buddleia.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-Aug-16 10:37 PM GMT

Great images Trevor but they make me a little sad as it means the end is in sight 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 04-Aug-16 06:16 AM GMT

I know exactly what you mean, Wurzel. I always get that feeling when the Brownies come on stream. (a few have been seen already).

The rare and elusive Butterflies, as each appears in a season, fill me with anticipation, and satisfy the hunting instinct when found and photographed successfully. The Brown Hairstreak is the last Butterfly of the season to do this for me. Unless Neil can locate some Long Tailed Blues.....!.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-Aug-16 10:40 PM GMT

Fingers crossed that he does Trevor as this is the first year in recorded history when I've still got plenty of Brownie points in the bank 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Aug-16 08:33 AM GMT

Use them wisely, Wurzel !

Re: Trevor

by downland boy, 06-Aug-16 09:10 AM GMT

Trevor,

I have just come across your moth entry dated 1st August. It is a Bordered Grey (*Selidosema brunnearia*) (male) which is a nationally scarce species.

It is worth sending details of when and where it was found to Colin Pratt, the county recorder for Sussex. A nice find.

Downland boy

Re: Trevor

by downland boy, 06-Aug-16 09:12 AM GMT

.....or the Surrey recorder if you saw it in Surrey!! Downland boy.

Re: Trevor

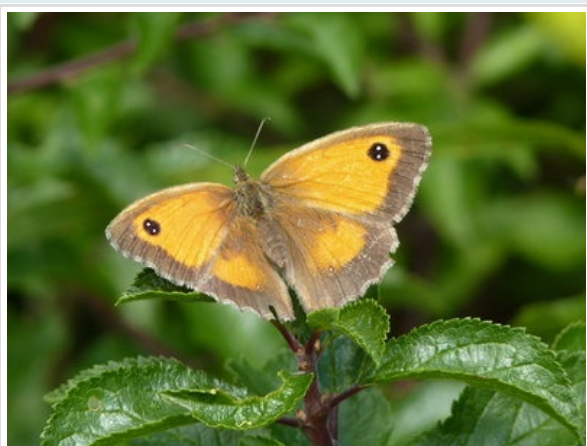
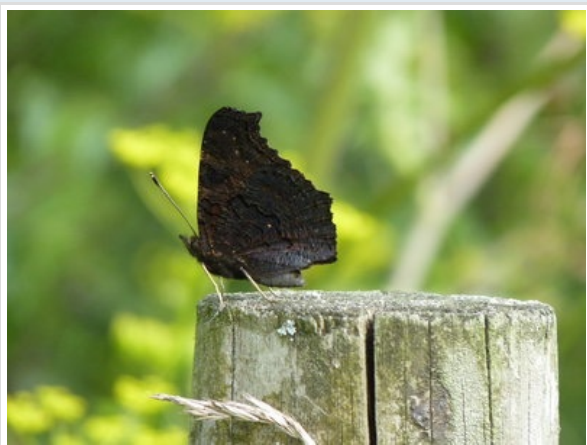
by trevor, 06-Aug-16 07:26 PM GMT

This morning, with perfect weather promised, I thought it would be a good idea to drive over to Steyning to see if the Brown Hairstreak was up and about yet.

UKBers Katrina, Neil Hulme, John W, and B.saurus Rex all thought the same, and today was probably the first of the final of the seasons gatherings, as the Brown Hairstreak is the final new species of the season to emerge (did I hear someone mutter Long Tailed Blue).

Personally I did not see any Brown Hairstreaks today, but I understand that B.saurus did see one. However, The Gate Keepers and Meadow Browns were out in some numbers and a Peacock resting on a fence post was worth a shot or two.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 07-Aug-16 10:33 PM GMT

Lovely double spot Meadow Brown Trevor 😊 You should of tried Shipton Bellinger – I saw 6 males today, all down low and one with wings wide open 😊
Mind you by the time I get round to posting the shots they'll be 'nothing new' 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Aug-16 04:36 PM GMT



Early this morning I thought it was about time for a visit to Windover Hill, to look mainly for Wall Browns. Although many other species were seen, more of those in a following post.
Having tackled the long climb from the road I usually find somewhere to sit and take in the view.
This morning however the Walls were up and about as soon as I arrived, so it was straight into action.
For some reason the Windover Walls defy normal behaviour, being quite approachable. Only a couple of miles away at High and Over, they are tricky to get near and justify their infuriating reputation.
In all about eight males obliged for my camera. 😊





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Aug-16 05:56 PM GMT

The rest of my visit to Windover was rewarded with a good selection of species. The most numerous being the Chalkhill Blue, these were seen all the way up from the road and at the top of the hill, a large number of which were females. Two mating pairs were seen.

No visit to Windover Hill would be complete without a search for Grayling, at this time of year. I actually wore two Grayling during my visit, one on my jeans, and another on my shoe !. About six were seen including a wing flapping session with very brief open wings. Unfortunately I was too slow to capture the open wings, but David M. has shots of this behaviour in his diary, taken at the weekend.

Silver spotted Skippers were plentiful on the Grayling site, but very quick and easy to lose in the strong breeze. Also seen in low numbers Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone, Small Copper, Common Blue, Red Admiral and Burnet Moth.



Once again I was in time for the early morning Dieppe ferry sailing.



Mating Chalkhills



Open wings missed by a split second !





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Aug-16 06:06 PM GMT

There was a bit of a brown theme to the Butterflies seen today.

The weather looked excellent for Brown Hairstreak hunt, so I set off for Steyning.

As I arrived too early for the BH. I had plenty of time to explore new areas of the site (for me).

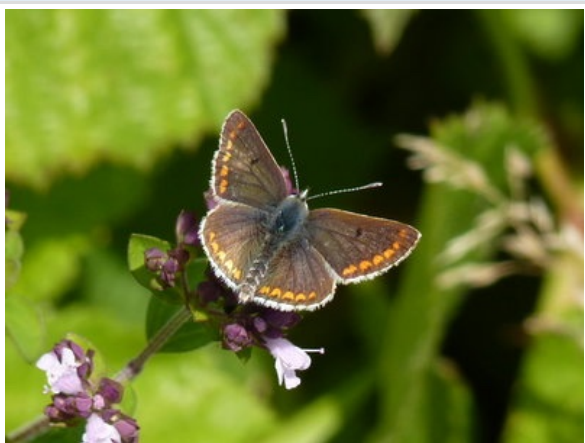
I met one of the Steyning regulars, Gary, at the top of the site, who was also looking for BH.

For about an hour some Wall Brown males (see also my previous diary page), and a few Brown Argus provided ample entertainment, and a few reasonable images.

By now it was time to head down to the fenced area to seriously scan the area for Brown Hairstreak.

After about an hour of fruitless searching I sat down on the style, in the fence for a rest. I saw Gary approaching and stood up to let him over the style and there was a female Brown Hairstreak right under my nose !, or more correctly perched on top of a wild Parsnip seed head, a couple of feet away. She moved location a couple of times, allowing plenty of photo opportunities.

Trevor





Re: Trevor

by kevlng, 09-Aug-16 08:06 PM GMT

Trevor,

Nice shots of the Brown Hairstreak. Blimey is it that time of year already.

Regards Kev

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 09-Aug-16 10:44 PM GMT

Lovely to see a fresh female Brown Hairstreak, Trevor, even though it heralds the waning of the season. Great shots (and of the Walls as well – now's the time to head for Steyning, clearly, to see both!) 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by David M, 09-Aug-16 11:03 PM GMT

What would we do without Brown Hairstreaks?

Yes, a sign that the season is nearing its end, but with a glorious conclusion!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Aug-16 02:30 PM GMT

If I had to choose a Butterfly for my top 10 best finds this year, then this Beautiful female Common Blue would surely be worthy of a place.
Taken at High and Over this morning.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Aug-16 07:16 AM GMT

Many thanks Kev, David and Dave (millerd)

At Steyning rifle range there is another reminder of the time of year !.

Anyone visiting PLEASE BE AWARE there is an under ground Wasp nest just inside the fenced area, right by the stile (which is the only access to the area at the moment.)

Have a safe visit,
Trevor. P

Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 11-Aug-16 07:57 PM GMT

Hi Trevor, it's lovely to see such a beautiful fresh female Brown Hairstreak, yes August came round much too fast – again! Your post with all those Wall Browns is amazing.. actually behaving themselves 😊
Your post showing the Pirbright Grayling is interesting as the site is not too far from us. This pic shows the site in mid March, Martian springs to mind. It's amazing that SS Blues or Grayling survived in any numbers!
Hope it recovers? You can get the photo deleted, sorry to clutter your diary 😊

Mike



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Aug-16 08:47 PM GMT

Hi Mike,

Your image can stay in my diary as a reminder of what a nature reserve shouldn't look like !.
I am sure the Grayling and SSB population must have suffered with the loss of breeding habitat.
However there was still some very fine Heather to be found. Finding the Grayling was hard work.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Aug-16 08:29 PM GMT

This morning I visited Noar Hil, I near Selbourne, in Hampshire for the very first time. With Doug driving, I had the luxury of the passenger seat. We arrived at about 10.30 and soon met Pauline who very kindly gave us a guided tour, not only of the site, but also some of the Brown Hairstreak hot spots.

We had only just started searching for BH when I spotted a female nectaring on Hemp Agrimony. This combination posed a problem I hadn't foreseen. The nature of the Hemp Agrimony flower head is such that only part of the Brown Hairstreak is visible at any time!

This early sighting bode well for the rest of the visit, but no more were seen low down.

I did however come home with images of Brown Argus, Brimstone, Common Blue.

Red Admirals and Peacocks were in the hundreds over the site.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Aug-16 06:38 PM GMT

On the way home late this afternoon, I spent a very worthwhile hour at Eartham Woods. Two surprises awaited me. First, a male Silver Washed Fritillary in very good condition, this was surprising as five weeks ago I was seeing tatty ones. The next surprise was a pristine Painted Lady, only my third sighting of the year (so far). Other Butterflies seen, many fresh Peacocks, Red Admirals, and particularly Brimstones. The season may be on the wane but this afternoon was a real treat.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Aug-16 07:52 PM GMT

We went to Steyning today to look for Brown Hairstreak. I didn't see any low down, but B.Saurus Rex found one, and Doug and another visitor had a BH land briefly, it had gone by the time I got there. My lucky moment came when I spotted a pair of mating Meadow Browns on the tip of a branch.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Maximus, 16-Aug-16 01:03 AM GMT

Hi Trevor, shame we missed you at Noar hill on Friday, nice shots of the female BH on the Hemp Agrimony. We arrived late but the site was still heaving with Red Admirals and Peacocks and Brimstone numbers were pretty good too.

Mike

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Aug-16 07:19 PM GMT

This morning I set out hoping to track down two species, and had some success. Firstly I stopped off at High and Over, hoping to find some female Wall Browns. Two were seen but refused to settle for the camera, however one male Wall did pose nicely. A very fresh Small Tortoiseshell was also found basking, numbers of these seem to be building.

Then it was time to move on to Tide Mills, near Newhaven, one of the best places to find Clouded Yellows. On arrival, near the beach the first of seven Clouded Yellows seen, flew past and disappeared into the distance. In the heat they were very lively, but one was seen to settle in some short grass, but unfortunately was in a very bad position for photography. My apologies for the poor image. Common Blues were seen in good numbers, mostly males were seen.

On arrival at home, a Painted Lady was found resting in my garden.

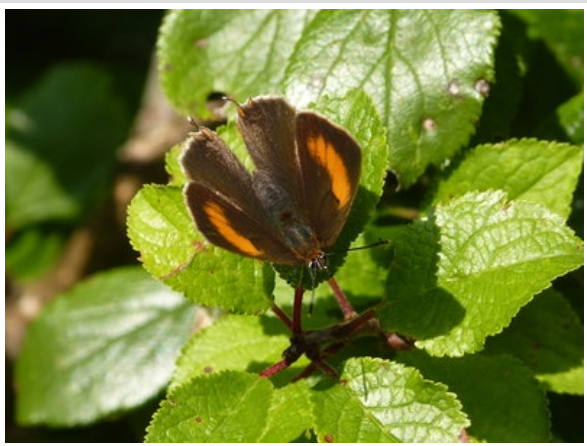
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

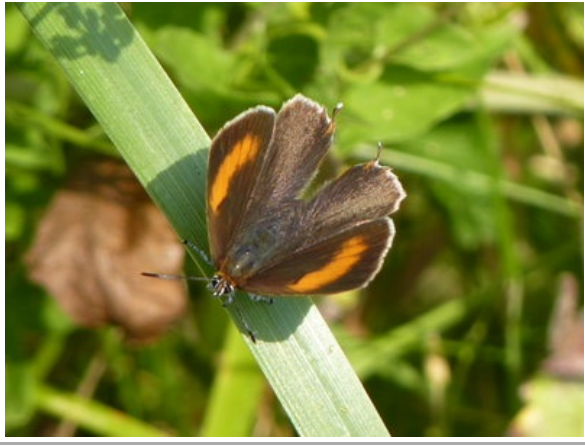
by trevor, 17-Aug-16 06:29 PM GMT



With the weather set to deteriorate, according to the forecasts, over the next few days, I decided that today offered the best chance of finding some Brown Hairstreaks. I arrived at Steyning at 09.45, and settled in for what seemed a long drawn out day, certainly the first Butterfly took a long while to appear, and was very much the worse for wear. From my vantage point under a shady tree, I spotted the next two BH on the small Blackthorn bushes in the meadow, both were almost perfect with minimal wing damage. I then went for a wander to search for more BH, as I returned to the main area the fourth and final Butterfly had been found by fellow enthusiasts, just inside the fenced area. This particular BH flew several times to nearby vegetation giving her audience some fine views at times. So ended a very good day !.







Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 17-Aug-16 08:41 PM GMT

Glad someone got some action today... 😊 🍷

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Aug-16 10:05 PM GMT

Great to see your Brostreaks Trevor 😊 - hopefully the weather won't be as bad as all that - they seem to be showing an ever improving picture on the Met App, fingers crossed 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 18-Aug-16 08:08 PM GMT

Great BH photos, Trevor. Perfect tails - which is not easy to find... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

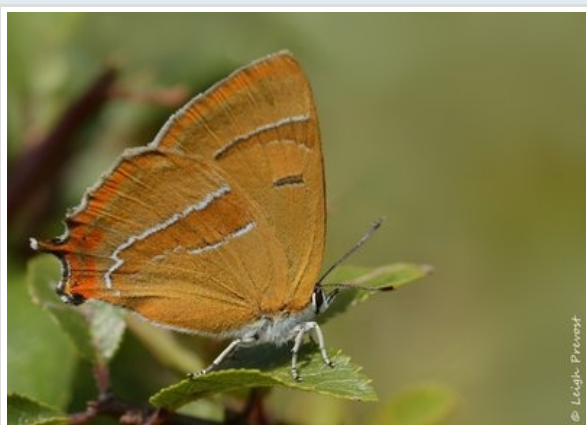
by David M, 18-Aug-16 11:14 PM GMT

Impressive stuff, Trevor. Lots of yellow (both Brimstone and Clouded) along with, of course, immaculate Brown Hairstreaks! 😊

Re: Trevor

by mud-puddling, 19-Aug-16 08:46 PM GMT

Nice meeting you Trevor; you got some excellent shots. Here are a couple of mine.



Female Brown Hairstreak



Female Brown Hairstreak

And one from the previous week.



Female Brown Hairstreak

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Aug-16 07:58 AM GMT

Many thanks everyone for your comments.

Good to meet you also, Leigh. Another face to a name. Not a bad day's work at Steyning.
David M, I hope the yellow theme will continue. Last year a pair of Clouded Yellows provided my last Butterfly images for the year,.... on Nov. 2nd !.

Have a great remaining season,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Allan.W., 20-Aug-16 12:53 PM GMT

Hello Trevor,
Just catching up with the UK. Butterfly ,posts,good to meet you,(and Leigh,Jim and Dawn),at Steyning on Wednesday,looks like the Brown Hairs really came out to play
when we,d left,still that said was still very pleased ,to see the one female at close quarters(unfortunately tatty),and a couple of individuals at distance,my 41st species for the season,didn,t have time for Newhaven tide mills,for Clouded yellows,but a few have started appearing in my neck of the woods (Kent),so hopefully if the weather improves a trip to Lydden (near Dover) will be in order ! Regards Allan.W.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Aug-16 07:07 AM GMT

Many thanks Allan, good to meet you.
I am afraid I have a history of that this year ie. people leaving early, then I see the best of the action!.

Just seen the BBC weather forecast for next week.
Tues. and Weds. Hot Sun with warm air from the Continent.
More migrants to extend the season ?.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 21-Aug-16 09:35 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Just seen the BBC weather forecast for next week.
Tues. and Weds. Hot Sun with warm air from the Continent.
More migrants to extend the season ?

I've seen this too, Trevor. I hope you're right. Bad though 2016 has been, there's still time for things to come good even though it's late.
Fingers crossed.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 21-Aug-16 10:22 PM GMT

Yes, a few Clouded Yellows wouldn't go amiss. Let's hope there are some on the other side of the Channel which fancy a trip north... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Aug-16 10:44 PM GMT

Hi David m & Dave,
Some Clouded Yellows are already here, I counted 7 near Newhaven last week.
But there's still hope for more, and who knows what else may be tempted to channel hop !.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 22-Aug-16 10:41 AM GMT

Catching up on some posts Trevor and your shots of the Brown Hair Streaks are super 🍷 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Aug-16 05:53 PM GMT



It is very rare for me to out for Butterflies after lunch, the weather this morning prevented an earlier start. My main aim was the Clouded Yellow, so my destination was Tide Mills. Just like last Tuesday they weren't difficult to find, but very difficult to keep an eye on !. They are strong fliers anyway and even faster with the help of a strong breeze, however I was fortunate to see one land on the path some distance away, and have time for a few shots.

Within a few minutes of the Clouded Yellow came the surprise of the afternoon. A Humming Bird Hawk Moth. This was the only occasion that I have seen one in mid air as opposed to nectaring. Even better it landed on the beach !.

Now one for the Birders. This very tall Bird was a very considerable distance from me, so the only hope of an image was to rest the camera on a low wall, crouch down and use full zoom. I think it is an Egret, my first though was Heron except this Bird was white.



Re: Trevor

by jenks, 22-Aug-16 06:43 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Love the photos. Dare we hope that the promised warmer weather spreading up from the continent by mid week will bring with it more Clouded Yellow, Hummingbird Hawk moths and even, perhaps, something blue with tails ?! It would be a great end to the season.

The bird by the way is a Little Egret. It`s out of breeding plumage, hence it`s lost its plumes. It`s always difficult with photos to gauge size, but if you blow up the picture you can make out in the water its yellow feet (Great Egret has black legs and black feet). Also that it has a ring on its right leg. Pity we can`t see the number on it, it would tell us where it was ringed.

Jenks.

Re: Trevor

by Jack Harrison, 22-Aug-16 07:03 PM GMT

Little Egret is a recent (in last 25 years or so) colonist in Britain but is now quite common in coastal southern England and East Anglia. Less common in north and in this part of Scotland scarce enough to be a twitcher's bird.

Jack

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 22-Aug-16 08:13 PM GMT

Also you were right with your first guess at it being a Heron, Egrets are just types of Heron that (mostly) happen to be white 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-Aug-16 10:11 PM GMT

Great shots of the Hummingbird Hawkmoth – they rarely pose in such a fashion 😊 Hopefully the Cloudies are a taste of things to come – if you hear of any LTB's give us a holler 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Aug-16 09:13 PM GMT



Back to Steyning again this morning.
I arrived on site at about 10.30, by 10.40 a perfect female Brown Hairstreak had been located by what I assume was a Husband and Wife team. They very kindly beckoned me over for what was the best behaved BH so far this year. Neil Hulme arrived, and soon pronounced her to be a 'real stunna', we agreed the this Butterfly was a 'super model' and that tabloid terminology was appropriate 😊.
On his scale of 1 to 10, this one was a 10





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 23-Aug-16 09:25 PM GMT

Yup, she wouldn't look out of place on page 3 of the BC quarterly! 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Aug-16 07:37 AM GMT

Many thanks Jenks, Jack and Paul for the Bird ID. It's good to have confirmation.

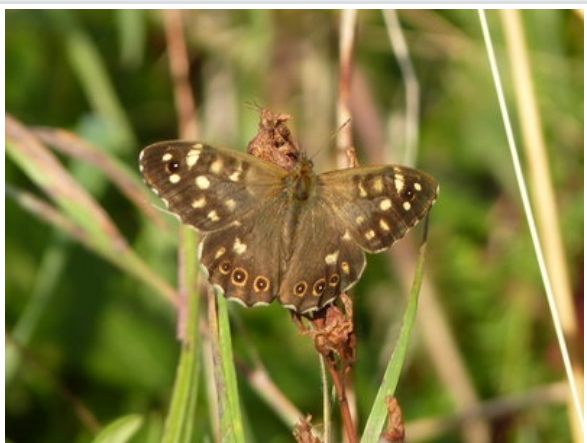
Trevor.

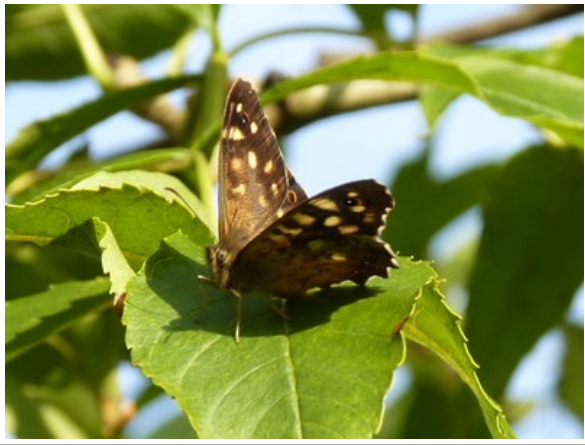
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Aug-16 09:35 PM GMT

I set out early this morning in order to stop off at Kithurst meadow, before continuing my journey. On arrival the Sun was behind milky cloud and the grass very wet. Not surprisingly not too many Butterflies were on the wing, nor were those I did find particularly keen to fly !. First find was a very tired old Chalkhill Blue, followed by several fresh Brown Argus, a few Common Blues were up and about, as was a very lively Speckled Wood. The Flora in the meadow has transformed since my last visit in May. The Cowslips and Orchids have given way to Hemp Agrimony, Scabious , Wild Marjoram and Harebells to name a few.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 25-Aug-16 10:57 PM GMT

Specklies seem to be having something of a resurgence Trevor – they're all over the place down here at the moment 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Aug-16 01:38 PM GMT



My target species for today was the Clouded Yellow.

On a hunch I went to the BC reserve at Park Corner, here in East Sussex. There is a large patch of Fleabane on the site, and this has proved to be attractive to Clouded Yellows in past years. At least three Clouded Yellows were seen, two of which landed for photo's. There was little else to be seen except a Brimstone and some Common Blues.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Pauline, 27-Aug-16 07:06 PM GMT

Very nice Clouded Yellow shots Trevor. I'm seeing plenty on the move but struggling to find one that will stay still long enough for a single shot 🤔📷

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Aug-16 07:24 PM GMT

Many thanks Pauline.

One 'trick' worth a try with Clouded Yellows is to find a site which is fairly confined, with a plentiful nectar source, They usually favour yellow flowers (Fleabane is excellent).

Yes they will spend much time on the wing, but the chances of one landing nearby are improved.

Just as happened yesterday.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 27-Aug-16 08:52 PM GMT

Nice set of yellows there. Looking like quite a good year for them this year 😊

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 27-Aug-16 09:16 PM GMT

Very nice Clouded Yellows, Trevor. 😊 I shall be tempted down to Sussex soon unless they get a move on northwards soon! I've only seen the one hereabouts this year! 📷

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Aug-16 11:02 PM GMT

Hi Dave and Paul,

Clouded Yellows are reasonably easy to photograph at Park Corner.

If directions are required please PM me.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Aug-16 07:50 AM GMT

On BBC Breakfast this morning it was reported that there has been a sharp decline in the numbers of Small Coppers.

They thought that an image of a Small Tortoiseshell would do, to show what a Small Copper looked like.

Oh dear!! : 🤔🤔

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 29-Aug-16 10:34 AM GMT

Hi! Trevor, it was okay on Sky New's, they showed a Small Tortoiseshell and said it was these that were scarce 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 29-Aug-16 05:23 PM GMT

That's nothing, in the Daily Mail for the same story they have a picture of a Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Aug-16 09:04 PM GMT



After Friday's success with the Clouded Yellows, I thought a return visit could be worthwhile. Indeed it was!, I arrived quite early, just as the cloud cover was clearing. The Fleabane was already quite busy with Butterflies, many offering good photo opportunities. It was the Clouded Yellows that I had come to see, but I could not ignore a fresh Green Veined White or the Common Blues , Small Heaths etc.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by millerd, 29-Aug-16 09:53 PM GMT

Lovely Yellows, Trevor. They love that fleabane! 😊 I'm not quite so 🍷 today as I found some up at Aston Rowant this afternoon! 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 29-Aug-16 11:38 PM GMT

Cracking Cloudies Trevor 🍷 A really good looking specimen too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Aug-16 07:08 PM GMT

Yesterday afternoon I visited Mill Hill, near Shoreham in West Sussex. This site has a good population of Adonis Blues. We found them OK, but in the heat they were lively and to make matters worse they were flying over a very steep hillside. Lots of patience was required and a few images were obtained, the best of which shows two pristine females basking close together. The best male, has unfortunately, a nick out of one wing. Also seen, a basking Meadow Brown, some Common Blues, and a Small Tortoiseshell with very vibrant colours.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Aug-16 07:51 PM GMT

This morning I went to Steyning for the addictive Brown Hairstreak. The wait for one to show was painfully slow, just one put in an appearance, and afforded me my favourite underside image to date.

Neil Hulme came along, and I showed him the image, and said " she looks like a 9 out of 10 ", he initially agreed; then shock horror he demoted the Butterfly to an 8. I was deflated and demoralised at such a savage appraisal !, so much so I asked him if his weekend went OK 😊 .

In fact the above was just a bit of jolly banter. 😊 .

On the way back to the car I found a beautiful female Brimstone.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 30-Aug-16 08:17 PM GMT

Nice Small T !

Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 30-Aug-16 08:38 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Some great Clouded Yellow photos there 🍷😊, I've not seen any up here yet.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Art Frames, 31-Aug-16 10:29 AM GMT

Trevor,

Very nice Brown Hairstreak. Mine are from Dorset and are either above head height with a long lens or just one butterfly at knee height but it had wing damage.

So I'd give your at least a nine.

Peter

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Aug-16 09:23 PM GMT

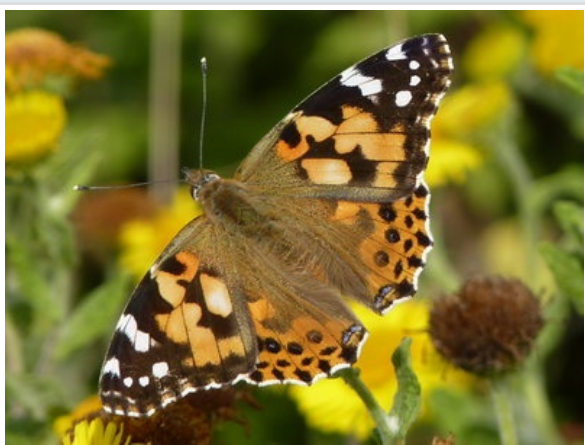
Many thanks for your comments folks. It looks as though Clouded Yellows might be heading up the M40 Neil.

I returned to Rowland Wood this morning to see if any more Clouded Yellows had arrived.

Unfortunately the reverse was true, as I witnessed one take off from the ground and fly off into distance, over the tall trees and not seen again.

However a very bright male Common Blue caught my eye, it's colour was the deepest, richest blue I have ever seen. As is always the case, it hopped to another flower as I was preparing the camera, then nectared with wings closed.

I did manage a shot of wings partially open, which gives a glimpse of the rich blue.
The next treat was in the form of a very mobile Painted Lady. for many minutes this Butterfly would only settle in the most inaccessible places, but patience won the day and some shots were obtained.
Finally as I was about to head home I noticed a Clouded Yellow on the Fleabane, looking at previous images this was a new specimen , I had not previously seen.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 01-Sep-16 05:15 PM GMT

Trevor, great shots of the Butterflies, I can't believe it when I see all the lovely Butterflies posted that we're not seeing any thing in the North, I hope they keep coming up the M40. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Sep-16 09:43 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor 😊 I can see why you rated the Brostroke so highly although I like the three quarter open shot slightly more 🍷 Nice Painted Lady as well – you can see the blue spots inside the black spots on the hind wing, I still haven't seen on of those 🍷 😊
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 01-Sep-16 10:26 PM GMT

That's quite an array of species you've seen lately, Trevor. Things have become rather 'dead' in my part of the UK, but it's nice that some people are still seeing reasonably fresh Meadow Browns and, of course, Clouded Yellows.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Sep-16 06:52 PM GMT

I did not deliberately set out this morning to look for Meadow Browns, however a visit to Downland above Lewes produced many hundreds. Amazingly all those present, without exception, were female. Where were the males ?. Identification was easy as many were basking, or nectaring on the abundant Scabious, with open wings. Many have said that this year has been poor for Meadow Browns, but today I stumbled upon a hotspot.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Sep-16 04:48 PM GMT

A few unexpected breaks in the cloud this morning was all the encouragement I needed for a Butterfly hunt. Unfortunately, as I approached the coast, a dense sea mist had rolled in. The damp, muggy air did not stop the 'Whites' from flying, indeed the flying Whites did not stop!. However I did find some very fresh Small Heaths and a very late Gatekeeper.

Trevor.



Note the tiny eyespot.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 06-Sep-16 06:54 PM GMT

That's a very unusual Small Heath, Trevor – it must be verging on the aberrant. The eyespot is almost non-existent and there are no spots at all on the hindwing. A nice variation to find. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 06-Sep-16 10:43 PM GMT

Great photos Trevor, I don't know why but there is something very soothing about the first one, and the second one is indeed interesting 😊😊
Where were you on the coast?

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Sep-16 11:14 PM GMT

Many thanks Dave and Katrina,

The specimen with the small eyespot caused great frustration, as it occasionally flicked its wings open whilst nectaring, almost fully open at one stage. Unfortunately my camera is not fast enough to catch that sort of action.

If you had been there Katrina I am sure, with your camera, that you would have obtained something of a Small Heath upperside. I was at Tide Mills.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Mark Colvin, 07-Sep-16 07:37 AM GMT

Good morning, Trevor.

I'd suggest your Small Heath with the reduced eyespots on the underside of the forewings is referable to ab. *antiparvipuncta* (Leeds, 1950). This is probably also a female as there is a tendency for reduced spotting in this sex.

Keep up the good work.

LTB next !!!

Kind regards. Mark

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Sep-16 08:14 PM GMT

This morning I decided that another visit to Rowland Wood was in order to check up on the Clouded Yellows. Whilst there I remembered that I had an appointment in Brighton at 11.00, having forgotten all about this, I snatched a quick shot of the only Clouded seen, and another shot of a Dragon Fly which was perched in an irresistible pose.

I then dashed over to Brighton, found a parking space, and locked the car at 10.59, I had only walked a few yards when I spotted a Spider, apparently stationary in mid air, so I dashed back to the car and grabbed my camera. A shot of this Spider was too good to miss.

This ingenious Spider had spun a web about 6ft above the pavement (so unlikely to be disturbed by pedestrians) and attached the web to a lamp post and a wall on the inside of the pavement.

So please enjoy my first ever image of a Spider (apart from a Wasp Spider last year).

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 09-Sep-16 08:09 PM GMT

Just two images from what was a very windy day.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 09-Sep-16 08:57 PM GMT

Good to see you still amongst em Trevor, I've hung my camera up for this season (unless something exceptional occurs) Very nice Small Tortoiseshell photo there.

I hope we have a decent (colder) winter and a much better year for butterflies in 2017.

See you in the spring.

ATB

James

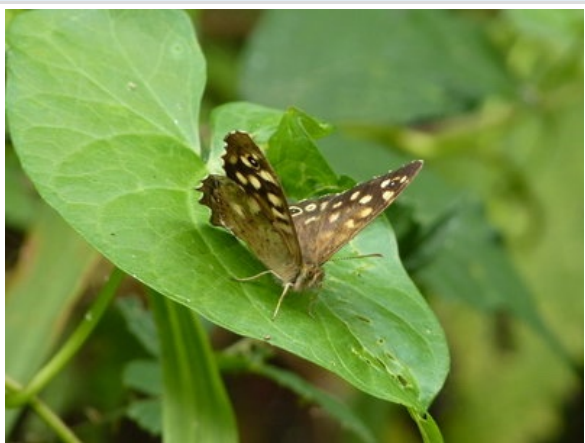
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Sep-16 04:29 PM GMT

With more exotic fare on offer over the past few weeks, I have neglected the old railway, in Hailsham. Rain has been forecast for most of the day (at 4pm, it's only just started), but this morning the weather looked OK for a local trip. So it was off to the old Railway.

Apart from one White, the only species seen was the Speckled Wood, and these were found in good numbers. They were mostly basking, but I saw about four areal duels. Some shots convey the season quite well, Specklies on ripening Blackberries and fallen leaves. Judging by their condition and if the weather stays mild, these Butterflies should last well into October, by which time the shops will be full of Christmas goodies ! 😊😄

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 10-Sep-16 05:04 PM GMT

Well done for going out Trevor. Nice shots.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Sep-16 05:50 PM GMT

Many thanks Katrina. The seasons not quite over yet.
It would be nice to see you once again before it ends.
Last year we had the Long Tailed Blue to keep us going a bit longer.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 10-Sep-16 08:01 PM GMT

Nice Specklies, had to double check I hadn't accidentally clicked on Neil Freemans page though!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 10-Sep-16 11:21 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor 😊 Let's hope they last until October – we're owed some butterfly extra time after the late, late start to the season 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 11-Sep-16 09:48 AM GMT

Love the Speckie's in the Blackberries Trevor, I've tried to get similar shot's but they won't stay put. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Sep-16 06:04 PM GMT

Many thanks Paul, Wurzel and Goldie. The season is hanging on around here, and with the hot weather forecast for next week, we may get some more visitors from ' over there '.
So I shall visit Tide Mills on Tues. and Weds just in case.

Today was not a Butterflying day, but when a beautiful Red Admiral lands a few yards from the car, and the camera is in the car, it would be rude to ignore it. It spent about half an hour taking moisture.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 11-Sep-16 09:50 PM GMT

Nice Red Admiral, Trevor – you've captured the purplish sheen they sometimes have when very fresh. I agree with Goldie as well about the Specklies: the one in amongst the blackberries is a great shot. 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Sep-16 09:14 PM GMT



With a sunny day in prospect I pondered, over my morning coffee, where to go today. I fancied somewhere new, but at this time of year the choice is pretty narrow, and a gamble. Then I had a great idea, Dungeness !. I have never been Butterflying there, and at about 45 miles, not too far. The attraction of this location was a Butterfly that is quite hard to find locally, the Small Copper. I had read somewhere that they were quite abundant at this location ! 😊
On arrival I drove around the area looking for a suitable area and was surprised at how brown the grass and flora was. I finally chose a spot on the main road, near to the gantry where nuclear waste is loaded onto rail wagons. I was particularly looking for Ragwort still in bloom, and when located hey presto! Small Coppers on almost every plant. Unfortunately I found very few fresh Coopers, but at least they were plentiful, as were faded Common Blues. I will return next year, and earlier in the season.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Hoggers, 13-Sep-16 04:16 PM GMT

I'm so glad you managed to find plenty of Coppers, Trevor! Lovely photos, as always!

Did you also visit the central part of the estate, i.e., near the old lighthouse? From that location you can walk along the power station fence and down to the Observatory moat. I counted 11 fresh Coppers there on Sunday (all female bar one male)

Best wishes

Hoggers

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Sep-16 04:36 PM GMT

WALL TO WALL SUNSHINE !

With such a super weather forecast for today (well most of it, too hot for me PM) I set out with Tide Mills as my ultimate destination. The route I take passes High and Over, so I called in.

This is a good place for Red Admirals at this time of year, with a lot of flowering Ivy by the car park.

Had I found some Red Admirals on the Ivy, I would have ventured no further and returned to the car.

But it was probably too early in the day for them, so I walked down to the view point, in doing so I

spooked a Wall Brown, basking by the path. I saw it land further on and managed several shots. It was a pristine female !, my only one this year. Over the next hour or two, four more fresh males were found, several allowing their portrait to be taken. It would seem that there has been a successful third brood at this location, and only the second time I have ever witnessed a third brood. So this year I have photographed all three broods. After all this excitement it was time to head home. I never reached Tide Mills.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 13-Sep-16 05:12 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor, 🍷 the only Wall I've got on record this year has lost part of it's wings, I still count it has a find though. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 13-Sep-16 07:28 PM GMT

Hope this warm spell lasts long enough for their offspring to make it through the winter!

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 13-Sep-16 08:55 PM GMT

Brilliant find Trevor, I thought the supply of fresh butterflies had probably run out for the year so glad there are still some surprises.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 13-Sep-16 10:46 PM GMT

I wondered whether there might be third brood Walls out, and you've gone and found some lovely ones in a good haunt of theirs, Trevor. 😊 🍷
Splendid stuff. I ought to go down to see them if I can, since I've missed this species so far this year (as often happens).

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Sep-16 11:46 PM GMT

Many thanks Goldie, Paul, Katrina and Dave.

It is the odd find that comes like a bolt out of the blue that makes this hobby so fascinating. Just seeing fresh Walls in September took me by complete surprise.

Talking of surprises, Katrina, a Long Tailed Blue has been found in Warnham, just north of Horsham, a long way in land. Fancy searching some pea tomorrow ?. I will make Tide Mills in the morning.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Sep-16 06:52 PM GMT



MORE WALLS and a LONG TAILED BLUE.

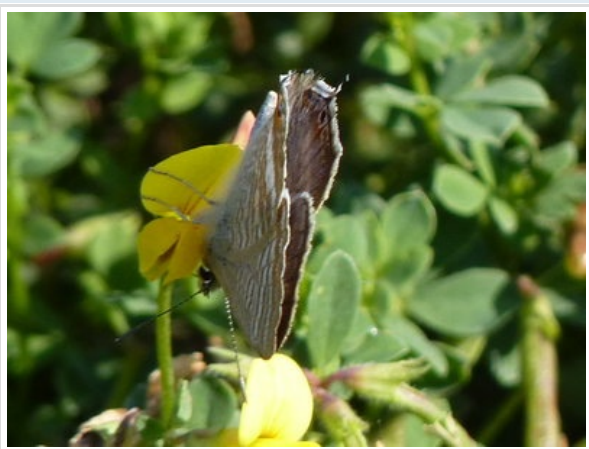
I made plans for today, yesterday, to make the most of the current weather. Leaving home with a clear blue sky, I soon saw distant, but high up sea mist, At High and Over the mist was obscuring the Sun and it was very breezy, At least one male Wall Brown was trying to bask but took off in typical Wall fashion. As the Sun broke through the cloud the Walls responded to the increasing heat. There were many more seen today, than yesterday and included an areal battle consisting of four individuals.

It was now time to continue on to Tide Mills, where on arrival I soon met up with Katrina and James (B. Rex). We had not been walking for very long when a small, blue Butterfly drew our attention. James and Katrina quickly identified it as a Long Tailed Blue. Unfortunately it was not in the mood for settling and flew rapidly, between Horseshoe Vetch flowers, pausing only briefly on each flower. At least all three of us obtained some sort of record shot before the LTB got embroiled in a skirmish with a Common Blue and was lost.

A superb day, in great company.

Trevor.

Trevor.



My only, feeble, shot of the Long Tailed Blue.



Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 14-Sep-16 07:55 PM GMT

Oh I think your LTB photo is definitely better than mine and very good in the circumstances. Love the Wall on a log photo too! Thanks again for inviting me along. 😊

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 15-Sep-16 09:16 AM GMT

Great' Wall' shots Trevor, and you can see the Tail's quite well of the LTB 🇬🇧 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Sep-16 09:04 AM GMT

On the visit to Tide Mills on Wednesday with Katrina and B. Saurus we were fortunate to have quite a close view of this Little Egret. Not a Bird I've seen very often.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Sep-16 09:40 AM GMT

In the two years of my UKB diary, one location mentioned many times is the old railway, which runs through Hailsham town centre. Not only is it a superb location for, particularly, Spring Butterflies, it is only three quarters of a mile from my home.

So it is a place I have got to know very well, and I was amazed to find an image of a train in exactly the same spot where Butterflies now flourish.

The bridge the train has just passed under still survives, as seen in my recent image.

At least Dr. Beeching created a Butterfly haven when he robbed the town of what would now be a very useful facility.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 17-Sep-16 08:05 PM GMT

Brilliant Walls Trevor and an LTB – my turn for lots of these 'bad boys' 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 17-Sep-16 09:36 PM GMT

That's a beautifully evocative image of the old railway, Trevor. These disused lines do indeed often provide superb habitat for butterflies. The one that springs to my mind is the linear path at Smardale Gill in the Lake District, which is now home to serious numbers of Scotch Argus!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Sep-16 09:08 PM GMT



It would have been a crime to waste today's fine weather, so I headed off to High and Over. The third brood Wall Browns welcomed me, and were performing very well. I was soon joined by our own Badgerbob who attempted the skilled job of counting Walls, no science involved 😊. Katrina was the next to arrive, and there were quite a few Wall Browns to entertain her, and a sprinkling of other species as well including a Small Copper, a nice Female Common Blue, some Red Admirals, a Meadow Brown and the resident Speckled Woods. My prize of the morning was an image of a male and female Wall sharing a Teasel.

We then left High and Over for Tide Mills. On almost reaching the beach we both saw a darker blue Butterfly. Was it or wasn't it, we will never know. I would say possible not probable. anyway we promptly lost sight of it. Butterflies here were quite thin on the ground, a reminder of the time of year. However we did see several Clouded Yellows, Common Blues and Small Heaths. Plus I managed a shot of a magnificent Dragon Fly. On the way back to our cars we were very surprised when a Weasel shot across the path.

Many thanks for the wonderful company today,
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 18-Sep-16 09:14 PM GMT

What you have there is a male Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*, a very nice shot too 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 18-Sep-16 09:39 PM GMT

Many thanks for the ID Paul, good to see you again today.

Re: Trevor

by badgerbob, 18-Sep-16 11:27 PM GMT

Good to see you and Katrina today Trevor. I never did manage an accurate count but with 10 one side and more the other side it was simply over 20!! A total also of at least 5 different females. A few Clouded Yellows as well including one helice.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Sep-16 04:48 PM GMT



On two consecutive days I have met Badgerbob at High and Over. On the south facing slope the Wall Browns were a little less active than yesterday, mainly due to the hazy sunshine. A selection of slightly worn and newly emerged males were seen.

The best Butterfly of today must go to one of the finest Red Admirals I have ever seen, the colours were amazing. Bob then suggested a walk over the road to Frog Firl, another known area for Walls. Several more were found along the fence line, these were quite scattered and it was a case of quality over quantity.

Many thanks for your time this morning, Bob, a very enjoyable visit.
Trevor.





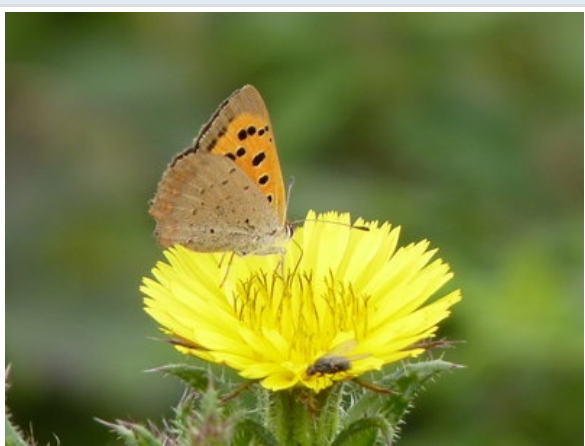
Re: Trevor

by badgerbob, 19-Sep-16 09:41 PM GMT

That one across the road was a class ahead of the others. Great to see so many over the last couple of days!!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Sep-16 03:57 PM GMT



Since I discovered the third brood Wall Browns last Tuesday I have spent quite some time at High and Over. For change of scene this morning I thought about a hike up to Windover Hill to see if there was a third brood there. My first sighting was of a basking Small Copper, and then another, and so on. A little more searching revealed a very strong Small Copper colony, over a very large area of the hill, and most were in good condition or quite fresh. I was having a Hoggers moment, and thoroughly enjoying it !. I had seen very few Small Coppers until recently, this year, but today made up for it. I could only make a wild guess at numbers, as there must have many Coppers that I didn't see, so I would have thought they ran easily into three figures. As for Wall Browns, none were seen in their usual haunts, but I did spot a lone female opposite the SE water facility on the way down the hill. Other species seen were a flyby Clouded Yellow, two Meadow Browns and two Speckled Woods.

A fabulous morning !.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Neil Freeman, 20-Sep-16 10:14 PM GMT

Hi Trevor, really jealous of all your Wall Browns 🍷 😊

Good to see that Small Coppers seem to be having a good third brood at a number of places 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 21-Sep-16 01:03 PM GMT

Great Wall Browns Trevor, 🍷 wish I'd seen one specimen in tact this year 😞 Goldie 😊

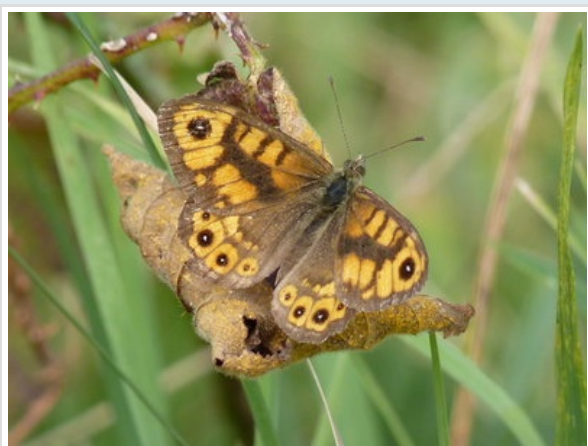
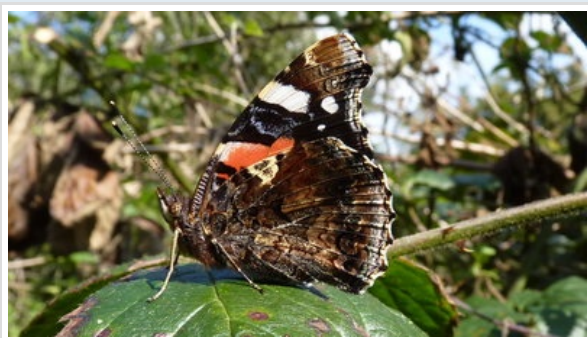
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 21-Sep-16 07:10 PM GMT

Many thanks Neil and Goldie, It is very fortunate to be able to see Wall Browns at this time of year, and fairly close to home.

Today I re-visited High and Over. Within minutes I encountered territorial disputes between male Wall Browns, many now showing signs of wear, as were other species. A freshly emerged Red Admiral was the star of the morning, and was probably only hours old. There was also a good showing of Speckled Woods.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 23-Sep-16 10:15 PM GMT

Absolutely cracking Walls Trevor 😊 I saw only one of these all year and it didn't stop for a photo 📷 Great set of Small Coppers showing a nice range of variation – there's one of the blue badgers there with very slight markings that I'm sure has to be a named aberrant?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 23-Sep-16 10:59 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, we've had a very fortunate and entertaining couple of weeks around here. Fresh Walls and a good crop of Small Coppers, even a very brief LTB sighting. Let's hope the season lingers into November again.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 24-Sep-16 05:43 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

Nice to see you on High and Over the other day, Bob and I were just coming over to you but you suddenly vanished! You must have been taking lessons from the Wall Browns! Glad to see you had a good day up there.

All the best

James

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Sep-16 06:00 PM GMT

Cheers James, I was spending quality time with a freshly emerged Red Admiral, We need all those Birders at Tide Mills to trample around and send up any LTB's lurking. Shrike well found.

Only one Butterfly, a Small White on my Verbina in the back garden.



Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 25-Sep-16 09:45 AM GMT

Lovely pictures of the third generation Walls recently, Trevor. Glad you have been able to take advantage of the good weather , too. Looks like we are all getting plenty of Coppers in, but that LTB sighting, however brief, is fantastic .

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Sep-16 06:54 PM GMT

Many thanks, Essex.

Quite a surprise at this end of the season to find a newly emerged species, ie. the Walls.

My last Butterflies last year were on Nov. 2nd, hope I can beat that this year if the weather stays fine.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Sep-16 07:52 PM GMT



Today I visited Scotney castle with my Daughter and family, a day tinged with some sadness as this weekend they move from Hailsham to a village in Wiltshire. So as I will soon be dividing my time between Sussex and Wiltshire, some useful tips for good Butterfly sites in the Wilts. area would be very welcome for next season.

Anyway back to Scotney castle. The weather was perfect for our visit. Despite the plentiful nectar sources on offer and the warm sunshine, very few Butterflies were seen. Those that did show were all singles of, Clouded Yellow, Small Copper and Peacock. A few very scattered Whites were also seen.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 28-Sep-16 10:55 PM GMT

Well Trevor you've come to the right place 😊 PM me nearer the time and I can give you some great tips – also if you go to the Wiltshire Branch there's a guide book with the 50 best sites in the county, see you out in the field next year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 29-Sep-16 06:39 AM GMT

Many thanks, Wurzel. I know one site very well, but I will be consulting with you for some of the others.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Sep-16 08:05 PM GMT

BUGGY'S BIRD.

This morning I went over to Tide Mills to look for Clouded Yellows. Walking from the car it soon became apparent that something special was on the site. The clue was many men with long lenses wandering about.

I was quite surprised to learn that the Red Backed Shrike was still resident. Once located, I found myself standing in a small crowd of ' Twitchers '. I felt a little inferior with my little FZ38, as all around me was a lot of hi tec, hi spec camera equipment, long lenses and tripods. But the Shrike was most obliging and allowed me many photo opportunities, some of which below.

We also got a good soaking from a short, sharp shower, and when the Shrike reappeared afterwards it too looked rather bedraggled.

A rather special day.
Trevor.



The downpour approaching in the near distance.



After the shower.



I almost forgot, one Small Copper was seen.

Re: Trevor

by badgerbob, 01-Oct-16 11:25 AM GMT

Trevor the Twitcher has a certain ring to it!! With a bird like that one you don't need all the gear. Nice shots of a bird species you are probably not going to be seeing again.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Oct-16 04:18 PM GMT

Firstly the bad news. The Red backed Shrike at Tide Mills has flown. Opinion amongst the 'Birders' present was that the Bird left last evening or early this morning.

The good news is that plenty of Butterflies were making the most of the glorious weather. My main quarry was the Clouded Yellow, about six were seen, including an in flight duel. All were fresh, suggesting that those seen were home bred specimens. Red Admirals were numerous but none stopped for the camera, nor did a solitary Brimstone. Finally, on the way home I stopped off at High and Over. More Red Admirals here but too far away for any shots, a single male Wall Brown was almost non stop, but allowed itself to be identified. The prize, however, was a huge, fresh Large White. I have never seen one quite that size before.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 03-Oct-16 07:28 PM GMT

Nice Clouded Yelows, Trevor. Hopefully the August arrivals will also have bred elsewhere and with a bit of sunshine there'll be a yellow end to the season. And that looks like a Huge White as well... 😊

Dave

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 03-Oct-16 08:22 PM GMT

Farewell Sid the Shrike, safe journey 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Oct-16 08:51 PM GMT

As a tribute to Sid, here is the last image I took on Friday. Just after the heavy shower.

PS. I read up on the Red backed Shrike, they have some pretty nasty habits!.



Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 03-Oct-16 09:09 PM GMT

Nice shot there Trevor, who needs a 3 foot long lens eh 😊 Yes Shrikes do have some rather gruesome habits don't they! Yesterday he was seen stashing at least 2 lizards and a Shrew amongst gobbling up anything else that crawled or flew near him!

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 03-Oct-16 10:16 PM GMT

Great shot of the Butcher Bird Trevor 😊👍 I don't know why they're so uncommon over here as on the continent they can be almost 10 a penny 😊

Have a goodun
Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Oct-16 11:02 PM GMT

It's just as well the Shrike is rare over here, Wurzel, for the sake of our insect population. What this Bird couldn't eat there and then, it caught and spiked for later. Even Lizards. Bumble Bees were a favourite.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Oct-16 04:49 PM GMT



Despite the very strong breeze this morning I had a fabulous time (for this stage in the season) at Shoreham harbour, a site not visited since 2013.

A surprising variety of species were on the wing, including about eight Clouded Yellows, a Comma, two male Common Blues, a Small Copper, many Large Whites and non stop Red Admirals.

It was also a pleasure to meet Lindsay Morris, who unknowingly provided the inspiration for the visit.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 05-Oct-16 06:51 PM GMT

Not too shabby at all Trevor 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 05-Oct-16 09:16 PM GMT

Great stuff Trevor, especially the Cloudies 🤔👍 Is the first 'colour marked/tagged' or has it lost the hairs on it's head as instead of the usual pinky barnet it looks much darker, almost black?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Paul Harfield, 05-Oct-16 10:28 PM GMT

Hi Trevor

Looks like you had a decent result at Shoreham with those Clouded Yellows 😊. I was there last year looking for Long Tailed Blues on the day everyone else was at Brighton Racecourse 😞😞. I don't think I saw a single butterfly there that day.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Oct-16 07:11 AM GMT

Good to read your comments Gentlemen.

There does seem to be a good Clouded Yellow population along the South coast at the moment.

Wurzel; Click on that image twice, and make up your own mind, it does seem to have a black head.

There is a lot of 'Pea' at Shoreham, so those Common Blues were chased and watched with anticipation until they landed, then examined closely. Although their colour was wrong in even in flight.

Hope everyone is making the most of the fine weather.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Oct-16 04:39 PM GMT



A VERY CLOUDIE DAY !.

I decided on a return visit to Shoreham Harbour for today.

When I got into the car the thermometer only read 12c., but as the cloud was breaking up nicely, I thought the trip was worth the risk. On arrival the temp. was only 13c. Despite this a Small Copper was spotted almost immediately, within five minutes a male, and a beautiful female Common Blue were in the bag.

I had really come for Clouded Yellows and they didn't disappoint , with about ten in residence.

It was a pleasure to meet Dave Cook with his two Dogs. It was very appropriate for him to spot a Painted Lady, as he featured in the BBC FOUR film about this species earlier in the week.

With so much action today I had to remind myself that it was October and not August !.

Trevor.









Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 13-Oct-16 07:01 PM GMT

Nice to see you had a good day Trevor, looks like all your CY's are males, maybe most of the females have already flown to lay their eggs in warmer climes? It was a bit breezy today, not easy for photography, two CY's in the same shot is nice to see. 😊

ATB

James

Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 13-Oct-16 07:40 PM GMT

A pretty decent haul there Trevor and very nice Cloudies 🍷

Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 13-Oct-16 08:22 PM GMT

Great work Trevor, lovely to see so many butterflies still out there.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Oct-16 10:17 AM GMT

Many thanks James, Katrina and Paul.

The variety of species seen yesterday was almost unbelievable given the time of year.

If anyone wishes to visit the site for Clouded Yellows (they are quite easy going here), turn left at the bottom of the concrete steps, and head for the distant fuel tank enclosure. The CL's have confined themselves to a small area between the sub station, on the left, and the spiked fence on the right. With the temperature now quite cool they regularly settle to bask or nectar.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 14-Oct-16 08:33 PM GMT

Most impressed with your cloudie haul, Trev. I've only seen two in Essex this year, the south coast seem to be providing most of the sightings this year. So enjoy them if you can!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Oct-16 05:33 PM GMT



I couldn't resist another visit to Shoreham Harbour today. I am only too aware that October 15th is half way through the month, and the season can't last too much longer. The Clouded Yellows were in their usual place, and as the temperature was warmer than Thursday they were a little more active. On this visit some were showing slight wear, with a few nicks here and there. Quite a few tatty male Common Blues were seen, some 'Whites' and a non stop Red Admiral. I left the site in bright sunshine, but arrived home to a torrential downpour.

PS. You should have come today Dave !.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by millerd, 15-Oct-16 07:48 PM GMT

So I should, Trevor, by the look of those lovely Cloudies! 😊🍷 I left it too late to travel, unfortunately... 😞

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 15-Oct-16 10:05 PM GMT

Beautiful Cloudies Trevor – I don't think I've ever seen any as yellow as that 😊🍷

Have a goodun

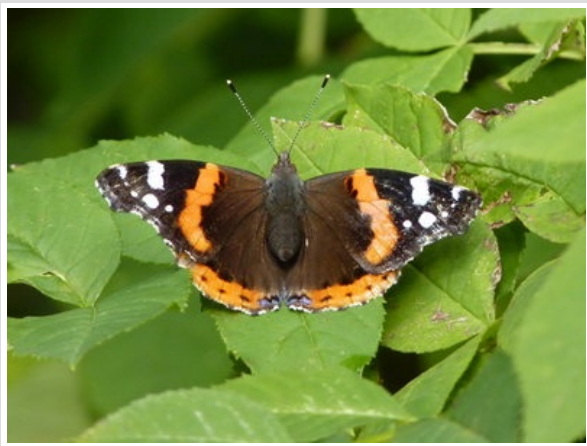
Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 17-Oct-16 05:51 PM GMT

A day of very blustery showers here, but when the sun shone it was very warm. During one of the sunny periods I headed for the old railway, which, owing to the low sun was largely in shade. One small area in full sun produced a basking Red Admiral, and quite a few ageing Speckled Woods.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Oct-16 07:19 PM GMT

The weather this morning was just about good enough to risk a trip to Shoreham Harbour. Solid cloud cover was gradually breaking up, later, large areas of blue sky appeared in the distance as I drove towards Shoreham.

On arrival only one Clouded Yellow was found, sheltering low down, waiting for the sun's warmth. It was not too long before more CL's were active, with no fewer than four seen in the air together.

Common Blues were doing their best to find somewhere in full sun to warm up.

Surprise of the day came in the form of an immaculate Speckled Wood, not a species usually found in a coastal environment. It did however manage to evade my camera.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by David M, 19-Oct-16 08:32 PM GMT

Much as I enjoy reading about your site visits, Trevor, I can't escape from the sadness of the ever diminishing returns you are reporting.

We are now right at the end of the period where we can reasonably expect to see butterflies. Ahead of us lies a four month void before it all starts again in late February. 😞

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 19-Oct-16 10:49 PM GMT

Good to see the Cloudies continue, Trevor. 😊 If the weather doesn't get significantly worse, they may well persist into November – they seem quite resilient, especially on the mild south coast.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 20-Oct-16 08:55 AM GMT

Many thanks Essex Buzzard. As you can see, I have continued to enjoy the Cloudies.
David M, The season's not over' until the fat lady sings ' ie. a hard frost !.But it is very much on the wane now.
Dave (millerd), as you can see they're still performing, and well worth a visit.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Catriona, 22-Oct-16 11:18 AM GMT

Fabulous photos of Clouded Yellows.

Iona

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Oct-16 03:24 PM GMT

Many thanks Catriona, If you like Clouded Yellows, read on. I went out again today !.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 22-Oct-16 03:52 PM GMT



A perfectly cloudless blue sky tempted me over to Tide Mills this morning. As often happens, my Sun drenched patio lulls me into thinking that it is a lovely warm day. The shock came when I got into the car, which is always parked in the shade. Only 8c !. This temperature remained constant until I reached Alfriston, when it went up to 10c. On arrival at Tide Mills I was very surprised to see my first Clouded Yellow actually flying. It would seem that this species responds to sunshine rather than temperature, as on milder days with little sun, I have seen none at all. Today a rough guess would be about eight Cloudies on the wing, maybe more, not less. The real surprise Butterfly of the morning, however was a very fresh Small Copper, I only managed two shots, before it was lost, the resulting image is slightly out of focus. Two non stop Red Admirals were also seen, as was a worn Small White.

Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 22-Oct-16 09:54 PM GMT

Cracking Small Copper Trevor 😊 The Cloudies are looking a little more tired though 😞 so the end is in sight...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 22-Oct-16 10:13 PM GMT

Nothing wrong with that return on a late October day, Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 25-Oct-16 10:27 PM GMT

I spent the weekend in Yorkshire or I'd have been down there. Brilliant to see those Clouded Yellows persisting. 🌍 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 26-Oct-16 05:31 PM GMT



Anyone at Shoreham Harbour today could be forgiven for not realising that we are now in the midst of Autumn. When I arrived, Dave Cook was already on site. He told me of the Helice seen earlier, and of the mating pair of which the Helice was one partner, he observed and photographed yesterday. Indeed the failure to relocate the Helice was to be my only disappointment of the day. The real highlights today, given the time of year, were two really fine, female Common Blues, one of which was the most beautifully marked 'blue' females I have ever seen. Unfortunately, when the next visitor, our very own Vince Massimo, arrived the two female Blues could not be found again. However the Clouded Yellows kept us entertained, with about five seen.

On my way back to the car a Kestrel flew past me complete with prey, luckily it chose to devour it's kill on a trawler, berthed on the far side of the water. Hence the long distance shot.

A very good day.
Trevor.





A few fresh Whites were seen.







Kestrel on a fishing trawler.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 27-Oct-16 07:38 PM GMT



The primary reason for visiting Shoreham Harbour today was to meet Dave Cook, who very kindly supplied a close-up lens and extension tube for my camera, as my camera has now been discontinued these items are very difficult to obtain.

The new lens soon had to be removed from my camera, however, as we watched a female Clouded Yellow resting on a distant clump of grass, near the top of a steep bank, she attracted the attention of a passing male. Coupling and mating was instant, no courtship was apparent. To capture an image of the pairing required all the zoom available. So whilst not perfect I did manage something that is just passable.

Butterfly numbers are definitely on the decline at Shoreham, but we did see two Red Admirals, and some very worn Common Blues in addition to about six Clouded Yellows, some of which were recognisable as the same one seen yesterday.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Oct-16 02:52 PM GMT



Who would have thought that on the last day of October, it would be possible to see fresh Butterflies. This was the case at Tide Mills this morning.

I was expecting to see a few tatty Clouded Yellows at best, indeed it was some while before I found my first one. To my surprise this specimen was unmarked, with all wing fringe hairs intact, a sure sign that it was almost brand new.

Another CY was basking in the grass, and revealing an almost indecent amount of upper wing !. As the morning wore on and the temperature reached 18c, the Butterflies became too active to chase around, but having seen at least six mostly fresh CY's this late in the year, I went home very happy, 😊

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by millerd, 31-Oct-16 05:11 PM GMT

Another splendid set of Cloudies, Trevor. 😊 I am very envious that you can get there so easily. 🇵🇸 Unfortunately I couldn't escape work early enough on what has been probably the last really good day of the year.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Oct-16 05:29 PM GMT

Yes Dave, a fine day indeed. I went out this afternoon and the car registered 19c !. 😊
Even if the weather cools down a bit, the Cloudies should still fly if it's sunny.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 01-Nov-16 03:16 PM GMT



NOVEMBER BLUES

The weather this morning started off exactly the same as yesterday ie. thick fog, quickly lifting to reveal a warm, sunny morning. But the BBC weather forecast was showing a cold front heading south, which would start to reach the south-east by lunch time, with the possibility of our first over night frost. Bearing the above in mind, I quickly headed off to Shoreham Harbour, for what might be my last visit this year.

On arrival, my first Butterfly was a Clouded Yellow nectaring on thistle, my attention was diverted, however by a near pristine male Common Blue, the first of a possible three. On previous visits all male Common Blues have been tatty and on their last legs, so it was a complete surprise to stumble upon some fresh ones. Also seen , three Clouded Yellows and a Red Admiral.

As the promised cloud cover arrived, the air cooled rapidly bringing a premature end to the day.





Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 01-Nov-16 07:15 PM GMT

Congrats Trev! That looks like the one I saw there on Sunday, a picture of it is in the October sightings thread. But a November blue is better than an October one!

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 01-Nov-16 10:02 PM GMT

Those Common Blues are even more exceptional than the Holly Blues I've been seeing. Amazing. 😊 The worry must be that there may be a whole series of pupae down there which will now be killed off by much cooler weather. Common Blues are supposed to hibernate as caterpillars, and won't survive as pupae. Maybe this is what reduced numbers so markedly this year, especially early on – last year's warm autumn took them a stage too far... Maybe this is happening to other species too.

Dave

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Nov-16 11:03 PM GMT

Beautiful Common Blues Trevor 😊 But like Dave says hopefully there won't be many more and instead they'll stay in diapause and emerge next year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Nov-16 10:15 AM GMT

The image below comes to you almost 'live' !.

Taken at 08.55 when this Red Admiral chose to bask on one of my bedroom window frames. 😊



Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Nov-16 05:37 PM GMT

A little later this morning I travelled over to Tide Mills.

On arrival the temperature was only 9c. I was particularly keen to see if the Clouded Yellows would fly in such cool conditions. Just two were seen, one flying along the seaward side of the bank, which caused another to take to the air.

On the way back to the car I found a Red Admiral basking on a fence, right by the foot crossing over the railway. Close inspection revealed it as ab. bialbata, with the extra white spot in the forewing red band. A most satisfying find on what was a very chilly day.

Today marks the anniversary of my last Butterflies of 2015. Will I see any more this year ?.

Trevor.



Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 02-Nov-16 09:12 PM GMT

Good stuff Trevor, like me your wringing out the butterfly year as much as is humanly possible! 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 02-Nov-16 09:34 PM GMT

Exactly Paul, we are about to enter the season of enforced idleness. I can still remember how the winter dragged last year 😞 .

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 03-Nov-16 04:38 PM GMT



The thought that the Butterfly season could end at any time now, sent me scurrying off to Shoreham Harbour again. The cool air, despite the sunshine, meant that nothing was flying. The only chance of finding anything was to thoroughly search the tall grass and shrubbery. My first find was an immaculate Clouded Yellow, possibly a November emergence. Then came three male Common Blues, two of which were fresh. Only one of the fresh males was found basking open wing. The final Clouded Yellow was found by Dave Cook, and was photographed with a passing ship as a backdrop.

A very satisfactory day considering the cool weather and time of year.
Trevor.







Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 04-Nov-16 10:57 PM GMT

You're making every last day count Trevor 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by Butterflysaurus rex, 05-Nov-16 01:22 PM GMT

Keep going Trevor it's nearly Christmas 😊 sadly the cold weather looks like things might well be over until the spring.

Best Wishes

James

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Nov-16 02:00 PM GMT

Hi James and Wurzel,

I will keep going as long as possible, but even Shoreham is producing less and less. I am in Wiltshire as I write this, no sightings here at all.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 05-Nov-16 09:07 PM GMT

That last *icarus* male is positively gleaming. You're having a better end of season than anyone I know.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 05-Nov-16 10:57 PM GMT

I think we are almost down to the last few sites in Sussex now, David. What is unique about Shoreham and Tide Mills are the south facing embankments, right by the sea. These locations offer Sun, shelter, relative warmth and remain frost free for longer.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Chris Jackson, 06-Nov-16 10:43 AM GMT

Hello Trevor,
I'm just so amazed at your late sightings of *icarus*, and in good condition. I had my last sighting of one down here in the South of France during the last week of October (4 + weeks ago 😲).
Chris.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 06-Nov-16 04:58 PM GMT

Many thanks Chris,
If anyone is interested there are more images from visitors to Shoreham at....
Sussex BC, sightings page.

What an end to the season.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 07-Nov-16 09:27 AM GMT

As the 2016 Butterfly season comes to an end, perhaps over the coming months it would be good to keep ourselves entertained by posting any magic moments of 2016.
I know I have had a few.
Also everyone must have some favourite images from this year, let's see them !.

One of my favourite images was taken back in May, in Abbots Wood. I had been there to see the Pearl Bordered Fritillary and was on my way back to the car, when I spotted a Peacock nectaring on a Bluebell. Just to think that I almost didn't bother to photograph this Butterfly because the grass was wet, and to get an image meant laying prostrate on the ground !. But I think a pair of wet jeans and shirt was a small price to pay. It was only when I got home and looked more carefully at the image that I realised that this Peacock was in pristine and unmarked condition.



Click on image to enlarge.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Nov-16 02:58 PM GMT

The car went in for a service this morning. When I collected it the frost had just about gone, and it was wall to wall Sunshine. So more in hope than expectation I made my way to Shoreham Harbour. Unfortunately as I approached the Brighton area, a front was visible in the distance, grey cloud as far as the eye could see.

On arrival the cloud had reached the Butterfly site, a good search revealed nothing. I did however spot a hole in the cloud that would shortly be overhead, so I made my way to the area where most fresh Common Blues have been seen recently, and waited.

Sure enough just after the Sun appeared I saw a flash of blue in the long grass, a pristine male !. The Butterfly basked while the Sun shone, then flew several times, and finally closed up once the cloud returned, and that was it, game over. Back at the car the temperature read 8c.

I came home very pleased to have seen this species, as this may turn out to be my final Butterfly of 2016. I did use the word ' may ' carefully .



Re: Trevor

by Katrina, 08-Nov-16 08:35 PM GMT

Amazing sighting, well done for checking!

Re: Trevor

by millerd, 08-Nov-16 09:35 PM GMT

Quite extraordinary, Trevor. 😊 You have to feel sorry for the poor little thing – how they survive the cold nights at the moment, even down on the coast, is beyond me. I really don't expect to see any more Holly Blues round here now, despite their resilience...

Dave

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Nov-16 10:20 PM GMT

Many thanks Katrina and Dave,

With the very low temperature today I realised that finding anything at all was a long shot.

I agree Dave. The Common Blues that have emerged recently are in for a pretty miserable existence, cold, windy with rain and little chance of finding a mate. All this on a day when snow is forecast for parts of the Country.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 08-Nov-16 10:31 PM GMT

That first Common Blue shot is an absolute cracker Trevor 😊🍷 The Favourites are on week five this week so around February we'll get to the overall favourite 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 08-Nov-16 10:54 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel,

Today's Common Blue will always be one of my favourites, if only because it was taken on Nov. 8th !.

Re: Trevor

by essexbuzzard, 09-Nov-16 06:58 PM GMT

Amazing Trev! I just wish I lived a bit nearer!

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 10-Nov-16 03:48 PM GMT

A near perfect weather forecast (for the time of year) ie. sunshine and 11c, was much better than that of Tuesday. So it was another trip to Shoreham Harbour. I found a male Common Blue straight away, very near to the one on Tuesday. I have a suspicion that it may be the same specimen. No other Butterflies were found.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 11-Nov-16 01:00 PM GMT

Lucky you Trevor, the Butterflies are lovely and so late too. Much too cold here now, we've not seen any thing here for a while and we just missed the Snow which landed in the next town to us with a good covering, time yet though. Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Nov-16 02:09 PM GMT

This morning I travelled over to Tide Mills to see if any Clouded Yellows were still in residence. Not a single Butterfly was found, despite almost perfect weather. Little did I know that within 10 minutes of thinking it's time to give up, I would take one of my most satisfying images of all time. Walking back to the car, I saw from a distance, a Bird perched on the extreme tip of bare tree. I aimed my camera, on full zoom, and took a distant shot. Taking a look on play back I could see it was a Bird of prey. Such was the distance between me and the Bird it was necessary to get closer. I could make out a route to the tree which would cause little disturbance. As I gently approached, taking ever closer shots, I eventually got very close indeed and managed six close up shots before the Bird had had enough of my intrusion and flew. Whilst the Bird was perched, I was convinced it was a Kestrel, but when it flew it looked larger. I still think it's a Kestrel, if you know different please let me know. What a privilege to get so close for a lifetime first encounter with a Bird of prey.



Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 11-Nov-16 05:28 PM GMT

Very nice picture Trevor. It is indeed a Kestrel, probably a juvenile from this year. Maybe, like Sid the Shrike, its yet to learn to fear humans.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 11-Nov-16 06:14 PM GMT

Pretty decent compensation for the lack of butterflies, Trevor. It's not often you can get close to a raptor like that.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 11-Nov-16 07:03 PM GMT

Many thanks, Buggy and David, and for the positive ID.
Usually Kestrels are only seen hovering at some height. When this Bird took flight it looked larger than I would have expected, and thus setting the seeds of doubt.

Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 12-Nov-16 02:50 PM GMT

Fantastic shot of the Kestrel Trevor, I bet you were pleased 😊 I'd another Wood Pigeon taken from the garden last week by a Sparrow Hawk, no Magpies chased this one off this time like last time, I love to see the birds of prey but I don't like to see them kill other birds 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 13-Nov-16 06:13 PM GMT

Great shot of Kes Trevor 😊 Birds do have an annoying habit of 'changing size' depending on the light and also their gender (females are generally larger) 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 13-Nov-16 06:58 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel. It's not often the opportunity arises to get a shot like that, without a long lens. Hence most of my Bird images are rubbish.
But we all deserve a break !.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 14-Nov-16 12:17 PM GMT

On this damp, drizzly, dreary Monday morning, I have been looking through some memory cards from this year. It's amazing how looking at a certain images the memory comes to the fore, and that moment is instantly relived (It's nice to be back at Chiddingfold forest, on a sunny July day, when the Emperor's came out to play !.)
One card contains many images of one particular Purple Emperor, and this morning I discovered that I had taken a sequence that shows a handsome brown and white Butterfly gradually turning purple, with very little movement of camera or Butterfly.

Trevor,

PS. Images taken on 4th July.





Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 14-Nov-16 07:24 PM GMT

Great shots Trevor, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by David M, 14-Nov-16 08:45 PM GMT

Nice sequence, Trevor. Just shows how a male Emperor can change its appearance dependent on one's perspective.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 16-Nov-16 04:14 PM GMT

After reading reports of several Butterfly sightings at Shoreham Harbour yesterday, I thought I would take a look today. Unfortunately a keen steady breeze was blowing, and despite a temperature of 15c nothing was flying. I did however find a very worn Clouded Yellow braving the elements. Remarkable for November 16th. Also a Red Admiral fluttered over my garage roof this morning.

Trevor.



Quite a depressing image. Roll on Spring !.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-Nov-16 08:29 PM GMT

They're certainly clinging on Trevor – not for much longer though surely?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-Nov-16 09:40 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

...I did however find a very worn Clouded Yellow braving the elements. Remarkable for November 16th.

I doubt it'll be here after the storms arrive on Saturday night! 😞

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Nov-16 06:32 PM GMT

Many thanks David and Wurzel, Quite right David, I think tonight's storm (now named Angus) will finally polish things off around here. I did however beat last seasons final Butterfly sighting by a full fortnight, unless the odd Red Admiral makes an appearance.

So that's it for this year, here's to next Spring !.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 24-Nov-16 12:30 PM GMT

CEVENNES GRIZZLIES.

Now the ' closed ' season is upon us, I thought perhaps now is the time to post some more images from that trip, back in June.

One species that gave many of us trouble with identification, were the various Grizzled Skipper lookalikes we encountered.

Possibly some on UKB are more familiar with the genre, and could maybe name them.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by bugboy, 24-Nov-16 05:50 PM GMT

Hi Trevor, I wouldn't even dare to try and suggest what species they are but what I have learned from watching the experts on here do their stuff on here is knowing whether any images are of the same animal, in particular an upperside and underside of the same one seems to be of great assistance in getting it down to species. 😊

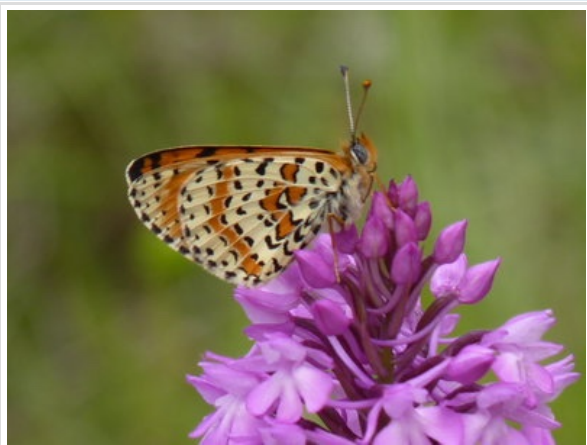
Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Nov-16 08:39 AM GMT

The Cevennes region of France is absolutely brilliant for Fritillaries. Unfortunately only one of the species we found can be seen in the UK, the Pearl Bordered Fritillary. And yet most of them would not look out of place in our countryside. One species that did breed over here one year, and caused a sensation at the time, was the Queen of Spain Fritillary, at a site near Chichester. As I only found out about this after the event, I became very keen to see a QoS for myself. Just two were seen on one of our excursions, I found the first one by almost stepping on it !

The prize for the brightest Fritillary must go to the Spotted Fritillary, all those we saw were very fresh and looked particularly spectacular when basking on Orchids.

Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Chris Jackson, 25-Nov-16 11:06 AM GMT

Hi Trevor,

I don't have any reference books with me at work, but out of your 7 photos of Skippers posted on 24th Nov., photo No. 6 is definitely not of the *Pyrgus* genus and to me is a male Red-underwing Skipper (*Spialia sertorius*).

For the others, which are *Pyrgus*, I reckon that simply knowing the flight period and distribution (and given that in the Cevennes there is a relatively low altitude ceiling), we can whittle the ID possibilities down to no more than 4 *Pyrgus* species.

Cheers, Chris

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Nov-16 01:33 PM GMT

Many thanks Buggy and Chris.

Our trip to the Cevennes was in mid June, and yes we did see some Red Underwing Skippers.

With so many Skipper variants observed over the week it was difficult to keep track of their names.

Baring in mind that for myself I was seeing up to 10 'lifers' per day, it's no wonder that I suffered from mental indigestion frequently over the week! 😊

I have many more images from the Cevennes to post, and hope if any are wrongly named I will be forgiven.

Many thanks, once again.

Trevor.

'

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Nov-16 03:07 PM GMT



The Cevennes is also an excellent destination for the Botanist. At virtually every site visited Orchids abounded, and for me, all were seen for the first time. They even made Butterfly photography difficult because to get ' that shot ' would mean treading on an Orchid. Even in France some were incredibly rare. The whole area is sparsely populated, ie. there is not the pressure on the land that there is over here. In such a rocky area, there is no intensive farming, no huge fields of Corn etc. We did find several fields of Barley with bright red Poppies and (not seen here any more) blue Corn Flowers. Although not on our itinerary , we did persuade our tour leader to stop so we could admire one of the flower rich Corn fields.



Greater Butterfly Orchid



Bee Orchid



Buffalo Orchid ?



Bee Orchid





Lizard Orchid



Butterfly Orchid

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 25-Nov-16 09:07 PM GMT

Wonders never cease. Dave Cook, a Guy I have often met at Shoreham Harbour, photographed a Small Tortoiseshell and a Brimstone there today. I would have gone there if I'd known.

Images on the Sussex BC sightings page.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 28-Nov-16 10:51 PM GMT

Great shots from France Trevor – especially the Spotted Frit – what a cracking looking butterfly 🐛🐛🐛 Wouldn't have a clue about those Grizzlies though... 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 29-Nov-16 12:25 PM GMT

Beautiful flower images, Trevor. I haven't been to the Cevennes since 2011 but I would very much like to do so again.

Re: Trevor

by Catriona, 29-Nov-16 06:48 PM GMT

What gorgeous photographs, Trevor. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Nov-16 09:55 AM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, David and Catriona.

As we seem to be in the midst of Winter here right now (to some Winter starts tomorrow) I hope some more images of my Butterfly year will cheer things up, while we wait out the next three months.

It is noticeable how quiet these diaries have become recently. Surely now is the time to sort through those files and memory cards and show off the best of 2016.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Nov-16 11:23 AM GMT

Another lovely little Butterfly from the Cevennes, the Mazarine Blue.
These were often found near water, or on damp ground, mud puddling.

Hope you enjoy.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Chris Jackson, 30-Nov-16 06:25 PM GMT

Nice set of male *C. semiargus* photos Trevor. Did you get a female ? I find they are more elusive.
Chris

Re: Trevor

by badgerbob, 30-Nov-16 06:34 PM GMT

I stand to be corrected but I think the Orchid you have put as a Buffalo Orchid is a Woodcock Orchid.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 30-Nov-16 07:01 PM GMT

Hi Chris, to the best of my knowledge no females were seen.

You may well be right, Bob. With so many Orchids seen that week for the first time, it was difficult to keep up with their names.

Re: Trevor

by Padfield, 30-Nov-16 08:31 PM GMT

Hi Trevor. I saw your *Pyrgus* pics while I was on the bus to school the other day, forgot to reply later, then couldn't remember what post they had appeared in. Sorry!

In the order you posted them, I think the first six are *armoricanus*, *malvoides*, *armoricanus*, *malvoides*, *malvoides* and *sertorius* (*Spialia*). I'm not confident with the last one without an underside but *alveus* is a possibility from the upperside.

Lovely mazarine blue shots.

Guy

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 01-Dec-16 01:35 PM GMT

Stunning Mazarines Trevor – a species I'd love to see 😊🇧🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

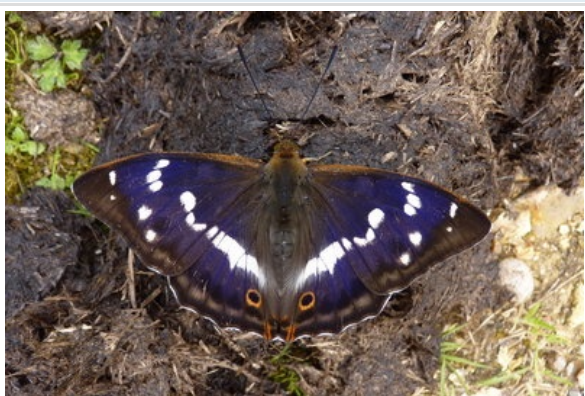
by trevor, 10-Dec-16 12:59 PM GMT

On this grey and miserable day, I have been searching through my images from the summer. Among them I have discovered another sequence of a Purple Emperor gradually revealing full purple glory.

This particular Butterfly chose Horse dung in preference to my aromatic Tesco tuna in brine. At least the brine was for the Emperors, and the meat for the Cat !.

Hope this sequence cheers everyone up !.
Trevor.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 11-Dec-16 06:22 PM GMT

Once I'd gotten over the Green-eyed monster they did cheer me up Trevor 😊👍👍👍 This is one of the one's you mentioned the other afternoon?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 12-Dec-16 03:16 PM GMT

We were treated to a stunning sunrise, here, this morning. 😊
Unfortunately it was all down hill after that !. 😞



Re: Trevor

by Goldie M, 12-Dec-16 06:21 PM GMT

Stunning shot as well Trevor, Goldie 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 15-Dec-16 08:34 PM GMT

REVIEW OF MY YEAR----SPRING 2016

Many people have commented on how bad 2016 has been for Butterflies.
My own experience would only partially support the above. Two local sites, Abbots Wood, and the Cuckoo Trail (the proper name of the old railway) were brilliant for Spring species. One particular highlight was the Pearl Bordered Fritillary population in Abbots Wood, which had really bounced back from the very poor years of 2014/5.
Most of the images I have chosen were taken locally, and only two outside of Sussex.



27-5-2016 Chiddingfold Forest.



23-5-2016 Cotley Hill.



16-5-2016 Windover Hill.



16-5-2016 Windover Hill.



8-5-2016 Kithurst meadow.



12-5-2016 Kithurst Meadow.



13-5-2016 Abbots Wood.



13-5-2016 Abbots Wood.



9-5-2016 Abbots Wood.



7-5-2016 Old railway Hailsham.



7-5-2016 Old railway Hailsham.



6-5-2016 Abbots Wood.



4-5-2016 Old railway Hailsham.

Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 18-Dec-16 05:37 PM GMT

Absolutely cracking shots Trevor 😊 They've certainly cheered me up on this dark and cold winters evening 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by David M, 18-Dec-16 07:41 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

One particular highlight was the Pearl Bordered Fritillary population in Abbots Wood, which had really bounced back from the very poor years of 2014/5.

Must say, Trevor, that Pearl Bordered Frits were about in better numbers than normal in May at my local site for them. One of the few species to have had a decent year.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 19-Dec-16 10:16 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel and David.

Eagerly awaiting the new season, even though last season only ended about five weeks ago in Sussex.

There are a few landmarks to tick off coming up ie., shortest day tomorrow, new years day, then lighter evenings.

Still I do have other interests to stop me from going silly in the interim !.

Wishing you both, and everyone on here, a very good Christmas and a brilliant 2017, 😊

Trevor.

PS. My FZ38 met with an accident on my last expedition, but the good news is I now have another one !. 😊

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 28-Dec-16 10:55 PM GMT

On our way back to Montpellier airport after our fabulous week in the Cevennes we stopped off for lunch at a very hot, dry piece of scrubland in the South of France.

We were assured that the unpromising terrain was a Butterfly hot spot.

As we ate our lunch we were entertained with flypasts of Great Banded Graylings and Cleopatra's , a Southern White Admiral briefly joined us for lunch, and only one of our party managed a shot of it.

A highlight find for me was a Blue spot Hairstreak, which refused to pose nicely. Unfortunately we had too little time at this site, but I did manage shots of a Great Banded Grayling and another Grayling which looks remarkably like our own Grayling.

Finally I managed a snatch shot of courting Cleopatra's. It was amazing how much larger the Cleopatra is compared to the similar Brimstone.





Re: Trevor

by Wurzel, 30-Dec-16 10:48 PM GMT

Some cracking species there Trevor 😊🍷 That Blue Spot Hairstreak is a cracker 😊

Have a goodun (New Year that is)

Wurzel

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Dec-16 08:28 AM GMT

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL ON UKB.

Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by David M, 31-Dec-16 12:24 PM GMT

Happy New Year to you too, Trevor. Hope to see more of your images and reports in 2017.

I can't think your Grayling is anything other than *semele*, although I'm surprised at your bad luck with Blue-Spot Hairstreak – they're normally pretty accommodating.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Dec-16 03:18 PM GMT

Hi David,

Perhaps I should have explained, the Blue Spot Hairstreak was one of many Butterflies flying at the time, and we only had about 15 mins Butterflying after lunch before heading for the airport. A little more time to get a better pose was not possible.

Have a great 2017,
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Dec-16 04:18 PM GMT

SUMMER/AUTUMN 2016

Our trip to the Cevennes coincided nicely with the ' June gap ' over here.

On our return, my first outing was to Iping Common for the Silver Studded Blue, which were around in reasonable numbers.

The next target was the Purple Emperor at Chiddingfold forest. Over the three days, out of five, seven Emperors came down to ground, and all except one spent a considerable time imbibing either on my bait or Horse dung. My real achievement in 2016 was ' all wings purple ' for the first time.

The Chiddingfold forest complex is also excellent for other Summer species, including the second brood Wood White, which appear just after the Emperor has past his best. White Admirals proved a challenge in 2016 being both lively, and choosing to land out of reach.

Also seen at Chiddingfold, Silver Washed Fritillary, Hedge Brown, Ringlet, Marbled White, Large/Small Skipper.

For the first time, I was able to witness all three Wall Brown broods, the images below are of the second brood. Of course after July's Excitement, August must be devoted to the Brown Hairstreak. The image below is of the first specimen to appear for me.

After the BH. the season starts to slowly wind down (usually), but 2016 still had some surprises in store !.

Best of which was a brief siting of a Long tailed Blue, when out with James (B. Saurus) and Katrina.

Next , but not last, was a fine showing of home bred Clouded Yellows, which took us right into November.

Most surprisingly it was a few fresh Common Blues, in November, that ended my season.

Here's to 2017, cheers.
Trevor.

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Dec-16 04:31 PM GMT

Now the images for the above posting.



Silver Washed Fritillary, Chiddingfold forest, 27.7.2016



Purple Emperor , Chiddingfold forest 7.7.2016



Purple Emperor Chiddingfold forest 4.7.2016



Male Silver Studded Blue, Iping Common. 24.6 .2016

Re: Trevor

by trevor, 31-Dec-16 05:17 PM GMT

More Summer images from 2016.



Common Blue, Shoreham harbour, 3.11.2016.



Clouded Yellow, Shoreham harbour, 27.10.2016



Female Brown Hairstreak, Steyning, 9,8,2016



2nd brood Wall Brown, Steyning 9.8.2016



2nd brood, Wall Brown, Windover hill, 8.8.2016



Small Tortoiseshell, Windover hill, 8.8.2016



Chalkhill Blue, Windover hill 8.8.2016



Grayling, Dawney's Hill, Pirbright. 1.8.2016



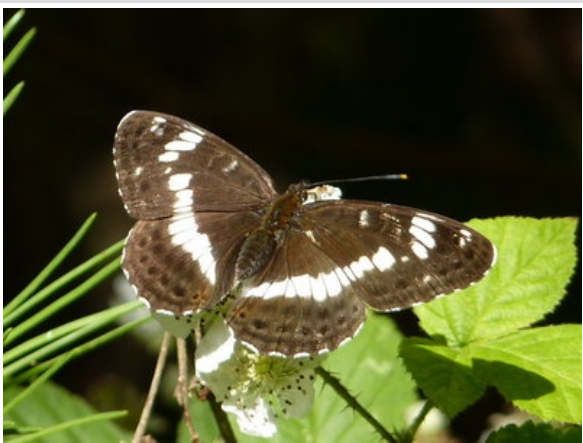
Peacock, My garden, 3.8.2016



Brimstone, Chiddingfold forest, 25.7.2016



Summer brood Wood White, Chiddingfold forest, 25.7.2016



White Admiral, Chiddingfold forest, 15.7.2016



Hedge Brown, Chiddingfold forest, 27.7.2016.