

## Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 12-Apr-17 02:47 PM GMT

### SPRING 2017

A bit of a quiet start here in East Sussex with dissapointing numbers of Orange Tips and Green Veined Whites, the Green Hairstreaks & Grizzled Skippers being slow to emerge in good numbers locally.

By far the most numerous spring emergent has been the Speckled Wood, Giving me an opportunity to photograph my first newly emerged butterflies of the year.



Getting a bit fed up waiting for things to get going here in the East Bob and I travelled west to Devil's Dyke to see some Green Hairstreaks.





After that we ventured into West Sussex and found a few Orange Tips to round off the trip.



A very nice end to a great day in great company.

Thanks for looking

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 12-Apr-17 04:05 PM GMT

Good to see you on here again, James.

Great Green Hairstreak shots, haven't been to any locations for them yet.

You say things are quiet where you are, I recommend the old railway, plenty of the usual species there. Except the Green veined White, I've yet to see one.

Keep well,  
Trevor.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 12-Apr-17 06:21 PM GMT

Indeed Rex good to see you back 😊 and somehow you're ahead of me with your PD 🤔 now there's a surprise 😊 Great set of shots, especially the Greenstreaks – tantalizingly revealing a hint of the brown upper wing 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 12-Apr-17 10:23 PM GMT

#### trevor wrote:

Good to see you on here again, James.

Great Green Hairstreak shots, haven't been to any locations for them yet.

You say things are quiet where you are, I recommend the old railway, plenty of the usual species there.

Except the Green veined White, I've yet to see one.

Keep well,  
Trevor.

Hello Trevor, thank you very much for the warm welcome. I'm pleased to see you're having such a good time at the old railway. To be honest I've seen more butterflies than my post above would suggest. I just haven't seen all that many freshly emerged butterflies and I haven't taken many photos so far this year. I have seen a few Green Veined, Small and Large Whites. I saw my first hibernators back in early February and had the whole set by early March. I've yet to see my first Grizzled Skipper, Small Copper and if I'm not quick I'll have to add Dingy Skipper, Pearl Boardered Fritillary and Duke of Burgundy to the list as well!

I must compliment you on your photos this year, you've taken some very nice images.

See you around soon.

#### Wurzel wrote:

Indeed Rex good to see you back 😊 and somehow you're ahead of me with your PD 😊 now there's a surprise 😊 Great set of shots, especially the Greenstreaks – tantalizingly revealing a hint of the brown upper wing 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Many thanks Wurzel 😊 believe me I'm more surprised than anyone, what am I ahead of again? There was me thinking I was behind everyone else, this being my first post of the year and all.

I think these might be my first Greenstreak photos to show a bit of upperside forewing!

Maybe this year we'll both keep up to date with our PD's, or Pink Porkerstreaks might fly! 😊

Best wishes

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 13-Apr-17 01:21 AM GMT

Welcome back, James. You've been missed and it's good to catch up with your exploits again, even though I'm a little envious of your Green Hairstreak encounter!

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Apr-17 08:51 PM GMT

#### David M wrote:

Welcome back, James. You've been missed and it's good to catch up with your exploits again, even though I'm a little envious of your Green Hairstreak encounter!

Thank you David you're most kind 😊 it's nice to have a few photos to post up, until the other day I didn't have any! We had to travel a bit to see the Green Hairstreaks but of course it was well worth it. I hope my local Greenies will start appearing soon.

ATB

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Pauline, 13-Apr-17 08:58 PM GMT

Smashing shots of the Green Hairstreaks esp the 1st 😊 Welcome back

## Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 13-Apr-17 09:38 PM GMT

### Pauline wrote:

Smashing shots of the Green Hairstreaks esp the 1st 😊 Welcome back

Many thanks Pauline, I'm very lucky that Green Hairstreaks are such little posers. They can be difficult to photograph when they angle themselves towards the sun. Avoiding my own shadow is often a real challenge!

ATB

James

## Re: Butterfysaurus rex

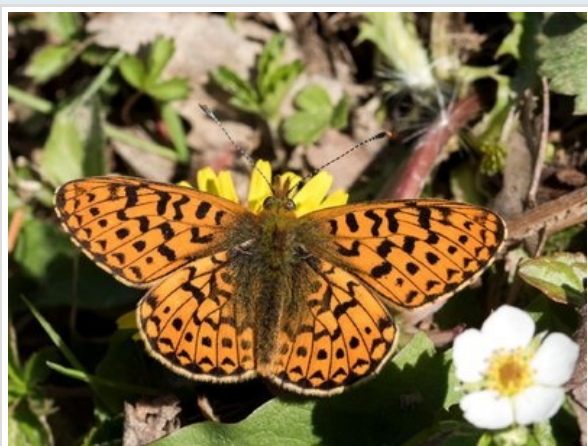
by Butterfysaurus rex, 19-Apr-17 05:20 PM GMT

### Precious Pearl's

With the possibility that I won't be able to get out again this week I decided to go and see what I could find in my local woods. As it turned out the first thing I saw was not a Butterfly at all but Trevor! (a first for me this spring) the next thing we saw was to be another first for me this year, my first Pearl Bordered Fritillaries of 2017.

In all we saw (a rough estimate of 7) all showing some small signs of wear, meaning they had probably been out for a couple of days.

The highlight of the morning was undoubtedly when I spotted an ab which showed beautifully for us despite the strong and chilly breeze.



Whilst admiring the Pearls a female Orange Tip landed briefly for a second or two.



And it was nice to see the numbers of Green Veined Whites increasing locally at last.



I think Trevor would agree with me if I said we both had a very pleasant morning.

Thanks for looking,

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 19-Apr-17 05:44 PM GMT

What a way to get your PBF season going, James! There were quite a few PBF aberrations posted last year. Looks like we might see a few more.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 19-Apr-17 08:02 PM GMT

Hi James,

Beautiful image of the PBF ab 🍷 😊 and that is a lovely photo of the GVW too 😊

Cheers,

Neil

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 19-Apr-17 08:44 PM GMT

Lovely pictures James, looks like I shall be making my annual pilgrimage to Abotts Wood soon 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 20-Apr-17 04:43 PM GMT

Yes we had a great morning. Early signs are that the Pearls are shaping up for a bumper year. My only fear is this exceptionally dry April. Knowing how our weather has a habit of evening

itself out, are we in for a period of deluge after deluge ?. Very much hope not.

Hope to see you before the Long tailed Blue season !.  
Trevor.

## Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 20-Apr-17 07:31 PM GMT

### David M wrote:

What a way to get your PBF season going, James! There were quite a few PBF aberrations posted last year. Looks like we might see a few more.

Thanks David 😊 Oddly enough I found a similar but less heavily marked PBF ab on my very first visit last year! I'm sure we will see some more aberrations before long, there are so many eyes on the lookout that if any do emerge they are likely to be spotted quickly.

### Neil Freeman wrote:

Hi James,

Beautiful image of the PBF ab 🍷 😊 and that is a lovely photo of the GVV too 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Good to hear from you Neil, it was an unexpectedly good day. I got lucky with the ab, the weather was not the best for photographing Pearls. I just managed to snatch that GVV shot on the way back to the car. As you know some nice photos can happen that way.

### bugboy wrote:

Lovely pictures James, looks like I shall be making my annual pilgrimage to Abotts Wood soon 😊

Cheers Paul, probably still a little bit early to travel just yet, we only saw between 5 and 7. When the numbers build up a bit more you'll be able to maximize your photo oportunities. I know it's not the easiest place to get to from the train station – hope this helps.

### trevor wrote:

Yes we had a great morning. Early signs are that the Pearls are shaping up for a bumper year.  
My only fear is this exceptionally dry April. Knowing how our weather has a habit of evening itself out, are we in for a period of deluge after deluge ?. Very much hope not.

Hope to see you before the Long tailed Blue season !.  
Trevor.

It was rather good wasn't it Trevor 😊 Shame we didn't locate that Green Hairstreak but as you said the conditions were not ideal for Greenies. I hope the weather holds, I'm concerned by the reports of a cold snap with night frosts next week! I hope this will not cause too much harm if the forecast is correct.  
We shall meet again long before the LTB season arrives, hopefully many more lovely days in the sunshine to enjoy before then.

My best wishes all.

### The tale of the lonely Grizzled Skipper:

After the delivery I was waiting for arrived earlier than expected I decided to dash out and see if my local Grizzled Skipper spot had started up yet. This tiny site can be highly productive but the Grizzled Skippers always start emerging a bit later than most other sites. It did not look hopeful when I arrived, I watched and waited for about 20 miutes before I saw that familiar whirring flight we all know so well. for the next two hours I tried to keep track of this Skipper all the while hoping I would spot another. From time to time I would loose sight of it and whenever I thought I saw another one it always turned out to be the same little chap! I was just about to give up and go home when on my way out of the tiny little Grizzly Grotto (as I call it) I saw a Grizzled Skipper at roost, on closer inspection 'you guessed it' it was the same lonely little Skipper. The odd thing is he was relatively worn, obviously he had been out for several days – maybe even a week. Where were all the others? I can only hope this lonely little chap is joined by some more friends soon.

On the way home I saw quite a few Comma's they appear to be doing well after a dismal few years locally, very nice to see.

Thanks for looking  
James

## Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by millerd, 20-Apr-17 08:29 PM GMT

Those PBF are splendid, James. I particularly like the ab., which is more extreme than some.

Cheers,

Dave

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Goldie M, 20-Apr-17 08:56 PM GMT

I second that James and especially like the 2nd photo of the Grizzled Skipper Goldie 😊

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Wurzel, 21-Apr-17 06:51 PM GMT

Absolutely brilliant Rex – what a beauty of an ab. Pearl 😊🍀🍀 With the change in the weather it might be a while until I manage to catch up with this species.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 23-Apr-17 12:44 PM GMT

**millerd wrote:**

Those PBF are splendid, James. I particularly like the ab., which is more extreme than some.

Cheers,

Dave

Thanks Dave, when I found it I thought it was very similar to the ab I saw there last year. When I got home and compared the two I was quite surprised to see that this one was even more heavily marked and the pattern is prettier on this one as well. A very nice specimen indeed.

**Goldie M wrote:**

I second that James and especially like the 2nd photo of the Grizzled Skipper Goldie 😊

Hello Goldie, thank you for the kind comments, I do love the underside of a Grizzled Skipper I hope to see some more Grizzlies soon 1 is never enough.

**Wurzel wrote:**

Absolutely brilliant Rex – what a beauty of an ab. Pearl 😊🍀🍀 With the change in the weather it might be a while until I manage to catch up with this species.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel, yes the weather does look pretty awful this coming week. Hopefully you'll see your first Pearl soon, a big highlight of every spring I'm sure you'll agree.

Many thanks all.

**A variable day.**

Yesterday I met up with Badgerbob for a walk around our home patch. The day started off unexpectedly with clear blue skies, that wasn't in the forecast! By the time we met at High and Over thick clouds were overhead and we could see rain falling over the hills further inland. Despite the deteriorating conditions I saw my first Wall Browns of the year, and quite a few beautifully fresh Cinnabar Moths were emerging.



Despite the temperature falling with some drizzle in the breeze we continued onward hoping the weather would improve. Just as it was starting to look a bit bleak I saw my first Small Copper of the year, it wasn't in great condition but under these circumstances it was a very welcome sight.



By this stage nothing was flying as it was feeling rather cold in the north easterly breeze, just as we were starting to wonder if this excursion of ours was a good idea I spotted a slightly worn but still lovely Green Veined White sitting on a dandelion clock.



By now we were past the point of no return so it was a relief to see some blue sky on the horizon. Soon the sun had returned bringing some very welcome warmth to both us and the butterflies. Reaching the furthest point of our walk Bob spotted a very fresh looking Small Copper, I spotted another close by and then another! Now that the sun was shining the Coppers were so active we couldn't get close enough for a photo. I still hadn't seen a Dingy Skipper this year so we decided to look for those instead. It wasn't long before Bob spotted one flying past, we followed and watched it land close by in the grass.





By now it was late afternoon and the Dingy was starting to look for places to roost.



At this point it was approaching dinner time so we decided to call it a day, as we started on the walk back Bob saw a Small Copper going to roost. We couldn't resist one last phot of this gorgeous little butterfly.



Yet another great day in great company.

Thanks for looking

James

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by Pauline, 23-Apr-17 01:45 PM GMT

Having seen that last shot of the Dingy Skipper James how could I not comment – amazing composition from a great photographer. I shall be embarrassed to post my Dingy now 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 23-Apr-17 07:14 PM GMT

Lovely shots Rex especially the Small Copper 😊🌿 The weekend weather didn't turn out anywhere near as bad as forecast so i did get my Pearl 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 23-Apr-17 09:57 PM GMT

#### Pauline wrote:

Having seen that last shot of the Dingy Skipper James how could I not comment – amazing composition from a great photographer. I shall be embarrassed to post my Dingy now 😊

Goodness me Pauline, you've gone and made me blush! I bet your Dingy Skipper photo is great. I still have much to learn, it can be very frustrating at times but when you get a nice photo it makes the effort feel worthwhile. Many thanks for your very generous comment. 😊

#### Wurzel wrote:

Lovely shots Rex especially the Small Copper 😊🌿 The weekend weather didn't turn out anywhere near as bad as forecast so i did get my Pearl 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Many thanks Wurzel 😊 I'm really pleased with the Small Copper, all thanks to Bob's keen eyesight. The weather here on Saturday did get pretty grim for a while! Really glad to know you got your PBF, I look forward to seeing your photos. Seems the weather is going down hill this week, I hope it improves again soon.

Best wishes.

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 23-Apr-17 11:52 PM GMT

Some great images there, James, including some species that haven't emerged yet where I live.

Thankfully, the season is just beginning, so I hope to catch up with them soon.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 24-Apr-17 03:15 PM GMT

Lovely shot's James of the Dingy and love that last Copper shot, nothing like that here yet but hope fully we'll catch up. Goldie 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 24-Apr-17 05:07 PM GMT

#### David M wrote:

Some great images there, James, including some species that haven't emerged yet where I live.

Thankfully, the season is just beginning, so I hope to catch up with them soon.

Thank you David 😊 shouldn't be long before you see these now, they are still in low numbers here. I think after this cold snap has passed things should really take off.

#### Goldie M wrote:

Lovely shot's James of the Dingy and love that last Copper shot, nothing like that here yet but hope fully we'll catch up. Goldie 😊

It's a shame the weather this week is set to be a bit grim Goldie. On the other hand I suppose we some rain, it hasn't rained properly for

weeks now. Hopefully it makes the spring last a little bit longer.

All the best

### **A breezy afternoon with the Pearls.**

Late yesterday afternoon I decided to go and see how the Pearls were doing since my last visit earlier on last week. With a chilly breeze blowing it was difficult to work out how many were flying. After I'd spoken to a few others I guessed there had been a modest increase with an estimate of 10 – perhaps a few more.

As I entered the forest the Bluebells were looking wonderful I couldn't resist a quick shot.



On the way to see the Pearls I saw a male Orange Tip.



And then another, when I got home and looked closer at the photos I counted 5 Orange Tip eggs and a spider lurking on the Garlic Mustard.



And then finally I managed a few shots of a stunningly fresh Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, it proved to be very difficult getting a decent photograph as the strong and chilly breeze was blowing the poor Pearl all over the place. All things considered I was lucky and pleased with what I took in the end. Hopefully this will be a really good year for this stunning butterfly.



Thanks for looking,

James



### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 04-May-17 07:47 PM GMT

#### Slim pickings:

With a brief spell of better weather last Monday morning I popped over to my local patch to see if the Grizzled Skippers were doing any better. The whole thing turned out to be a bit depressing, the Wall Browns that used to be plentiful there have all gone, I didn't find a single Speckled Wood. And to my dismay I only found 2 Grizzled Skippers there, one tatty and another reasonably fresh one. I can only hope they are later than usual and more will emerge soon, this can be a late site for Grizzlies anyway so I've not given up all hope.

On the plus side I saw a few more Dingy Skippers than usual, and the welcome sight of a few fresh Red Admirals cheered me up.





This Dingy looked very fresh!



One of only 2 Grizzled Skippers seen.





And lastly I saw a few Crab Spiders about, hopefully they're not putting too big a dent in the local Skipper population.



Here's hoping for improved weather and a lot more butterflies soon.

Thanks for looking,

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Gary.N, 04-May-17 08:49 PM GMT

Hi James.

You may have had slim picking but you found that lovely Red Admiral and a great shot of it. 😊

Gary

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 04-May-17 08:53 PM GMT

**Gary.N wrote:**

Hi James.

You may have had slim picking but you found that lovely Red Admiral and a great shot of it. 😊

Gary

Agreed and she looks to be bursting with eggs!

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 04-May-17 09:32 PM GMT

**Gary.N wrote:**

Hi James.

You may have had slim picking but you found that lovely Red Admiral and a great shot of it. 😊

Gary

Hi Gary, thank you for the compliment 😊 Red Admirals look so smart when they are freshly emerged it's always a joy to see. Luckily this lovely female posed for me when the sun went in.

**bugboy wrote:**

**Gary.N wrote:**

Hi James.

You may have had slim picking but you found that lovely Red Admiral and a great shot of it. 😊

Gary

Agreed and she looks to be bursting with eggs!

Hi Paul, yes you certainly couldn't mistake this one for a male!

Thank you both for your comments. 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 04-May-17 10:05 PM GMT

I agree the others - that Red Admiral is particularly resplendent 😊🌿  
Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 05-May-17 12:24 PM GMT

That female is as gravid as gravid gets! Must say I'm noticing increasing numbers of Red Admirals lately. Hopefully we'll see a bumper emergence later in the year.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 14-May-17 11:22 AM GMT

Many thanks for the comments Wurzel and David.

**A bit behind.**

Due to my family suffering with a nasty virus I've not been able to update my diary for a while. I still managed to get out either on my own or in the company of Badgerbob. Going back almost two weeks I popped into my local woods to see what I could find.

Thanks for looking

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 14-May-17 10:10 PM GMT

Lovely shots as always Rex, that first one in particular is a cracker, it looks like sit just hanging in mid air 😊😊🌿 Hope the family are on the mend - the viruses around at the moment seem to have a nasty habit of lingering 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by David M, 14-May-17 11:18 PM GMT

Sorry to hear about the virus, James. Let's hope it's behind you all and that normal butterflying can be resumed! After all, it's probably the second most important time of the season....after the first half of July!

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Goldie M, 15-May-17 09:56 AM GMT

Lovely images rex, 🍷🍷 i'm still searching for Pearls, Goldie 😊

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 17-May-17 10:02 AM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Lovely shots as always Rex, that first one in particular is a cracker, it looks like sit just hanging in mid air 😊😊🍷 Hope the family are on the mend – the viruses around at the moment seem to have a nasty habit of lingering 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Very kind of you Wurzel, yes they are still suffering from the effects of the virus almost 2 weeks after is started. Somehow I managed to escape this one, fingers crossed it still wont get me. I hope you and your family are well.

**David M wrote:**

Sorry to hear about the virus, James. Let's hope it's behind you all and that normal butterflying can be resumed! After all, it's probably the second most important time of the season....after the first half of July!

Hi David, many thanks, I think I might have had this virus before because amazingly I didn't catch it! I hate getting a virus during the spring, as you say it's one of the best times of the year and the last thing you need is to be stuck indoors with a nasty bug.

**Goldie M wrote:**

Lovely images rex, 🍷🍷 i'm still searching for Pearls, Goldie 😊

Most kind of you Goldie, I hope you get in amongst the Pearls soon. Most are past their best down this way, Perhaps a few more fresh ones will emerge as this protracted cool weather has slowed things up a lot.

Best wishes all.

**Skipper-de-doo-da.**

Last thursday I made another visit to my local Skipper hotspot. The number of Grizzled Skippers were still very disapointing but there were a few more fresh Dingies about and one decided to take a little nectar from hawthorn blossom.

And a very modest improvement over the single male Grizzly I saw there last time 2 fresh female Grizzled Skippers raised my hopes a little.

Thanks for looking

James

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Wurzel, 18-May-17 10:17 PM GMT

Beautiful Skipper shots Rex especially the last one, the colours on the under wing are just gorgeous 🍷🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by David M, 19-May-17 05:28 PM GMT



Excellent sequence, James. I like the Grizzlies for all the technical reasons, but most intriguing of all is the Dinky nectaring from the hawthorn blossom. I don't think I've ever seen one settled above knee height, so you stumbled upon something unusual there.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 20-May-17 01:20 PM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

Beautiful Skipper shots Rex especially the last one, the colours on the under wing are just gorgeous 😊👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Many thanks Wurzel 😊 when the sun hits the underside of a female Grizzled Skipper it really reveals that beautiful rusty red colour. I had to be quick as the sun soon made her open her wings.

#### David M wrote:

Excellent sequence, James. I like the Grizzlies for all the technical reasons, but most intriguing of all is the Dinky nectaring from the hawthorn blossom. I don't think I've ever seen one settled above knee height, so you stumbled upon something unusual there.

Thank you David, yes I've only ever seen this once before. Maybe like us they get a bit bored with the same old food and try something a little more exotic.

Best wishes to you both.

#### James and the Brown Argusnauts.

Just over a week ago on the 12th of May I met up with Badgerbob on our local patch to look for some Brown Argus – and anything else of interest. As usual it was very breezy and challenging for macro photography. We saw plenty of Brown Argus quite a few Wall Browns and I saw my first Adonis Blue of the year too!

We also came across two instars of Brown-tailed moth larvae.

And to round of the afternoon a Dinky Skipper, another great day in great company.

Thanks for looking

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 22-May-17 10:04 PM GMT

Lovely Brown Argus Rex 😊 I've not seen a Dinky like that one before, it seems to have a really dark 'fringe', nicely sets off the 'carpet-esque' markings 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 22-May-17 10:06 PM GMT

Great array of specimens again, James. What is it with Dinkies and flowerheads? They seem to be drawn to them by magnetism!

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 23-May-17 05:56 PM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

Lovely Brown Argus Rex 😊 I've not seen a Dinky like that one before, it seems to have a really dark 'fringe', nicely sets off the 'carpet-esque' markings 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks Wurzel 😊 I must admit I hadn't really noticed that but now you mention it I think it is a bit darker than usual, I think it was very fresh indeed, maybe that's the reason?

**David M wrote:**

Great array of specimens again, James. What is it with Dingies and flowerheads? They seem to be drawn to them by magnetism!

I believe it's the camouflage of the Dingy David, they really blend in with their favoured roosting spot – ie deadheads. I've probably overlooked lots of roosting Dingy Skippers over the years.

Many thanks for the comments. 😊

**Close to home.**

On May the 13th I stayed local except for a very brief morning stop in Abbots Wood where I didn't have time to photograph much. I did see an obliging Speckled Yellow moth that let me get unusually close for a change!

Then later in the afternoon I met up with Badgerbob to check my local Grizzled Skipper spot. Sadly we could only find one female, at least she was in nice condition, unfortunately it's been a very poor year for Grizzlies there this year.

On the way back I spotted a very fresh Common Blue, I couldn't resist a shot – even though I was now late for dinner.

Thanks for looking.

James

**Re: Butterfysaurus rex**

by Butterfysaurus rex, 28-May-17 06:57 PM GMT

**Déjà vu.**

On May the 13th I had a very similar day to my previous one, I started with a very brief trip to Abbots wood where I saw another Speckled Yellow moth posing nicely and a few worn Pearl-bordered Fritillaries.

And then onto Friston Gallops where I saw modest numbers of Grizzled Skippers, Brown Argus, and building numbers of Common Blue.

Other species seen but not photographed were, Small Heath, Dingy Skipper and Small Copper. Not a bad afternoon despite the unforecast showers making me a little soggy.

Thanks for looking

James

**Re: Butterfysaurus rex**

by Wurzel, 29-May-17 09:53 PM GMT

Loving the shot showing the interaction of the Gizzlies Rex 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterfysaurus rex**

by Butterfysaurus rex, 01-Jun-17 07:24 PM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Loving the shot showing the interaction of the Gizzlies Rex 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks Wurzel, I don't often see Grizzled Skippers shaing a perch together. These were male and female – a married couple perhaps?

Best wishes

James

**Memory Lane.**

Years ago I used to frequent a local spot called Hope Gap, it used to be an absolutely fantastic spot for Green Hairstreaks, about 4 years ago a large amount of clearance work took place. I vividly remember a very depressing visit the following spring, I was unable to find even a single GHS. Seeing as I'd not visited the area for a few years I decided to return hoping that some GHS's had re-colonised the site. By now it was the 25th of May and after an early spring I only expected to find worn and tired specimens. To my dismay the area did not show any signs of re-gaining it's former glory, after 2 hours of searching I only found one solitary (and very worn) GHS peering down at me from it's lofty vantage point.

It's a bit of a mystery because the clearance work looks to have generally improved the habitat for butterflies. However the numbers of all species there were very low, baffling to say the least. Anyway there was one surprise of the day, a freshly emerged Dingy Skipper, quite late for my local area.

Apart from one Wall, a couple of elderly Grizzled Skippers and a pair of Small Coppers the most numerous butterfly there was the Common Blue. Oh and I found one solitary Comma as well.

It was nice to visit Hope Gap again but sadly after a long gap my hopes were dashed, at least I still have some wonderful memories of this now lost Green Hairstreak paradise.

Thanks for looking

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 01-Jun-17 09:47 PM GMT

It's horrible when good sites go to the bad Rex 😞 Could it be too late in the season so things have merged, done the deed as it were and passed on? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 05-Jun-17 08:14 PM GMT

Hi James,

Sad to hear of the demise of your old site.

I have to say, those Speckled Yellow on bluebells shots, not once but twice 🍷😄 These are lovely moths but a right pain to get a decent shot of, well done.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 19-Jun-17 04:24 PM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

It's horrible when good sites go to the bad Rex 😞 Could it be too late in the season so things have merged, done the deed as it were and passed on? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

It sure is Wurzel, although it was a bit late reasonably fresh ones were still being seen so I thought I had a chance of finding more than one. Apologies for the late reply loads of family stuff going on at the moment!

#### Neil Freeman wrote:

Hi James,

Sad to hear of the demise of your old site.

I have to say, those Speckled Yellow on bluebells shots, not once but twice 🍷😄 These are lovely moths but a right pain to get a decent shot of, well done.

Cheers,

Neil.

Thanks Neil, I couldn't believe my luck having 2 Speckled Yellows staying put for me, I've been trying to get a decent photo of one for years and then suddenly I get two! Sadly it appears my old GHS site will never regain its former glory but never is a very long time so I live in hope. Apologies for the late reply.

#### A whirl of pearls!

After a hectic couple of weeks full of family birthdays and other forms of craziness it is time to try and catch up on my diary. As has been reported elsewhere Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries are now back in Sussex. It's been absolutely fantastic to see these wonderful butterflies back where they belong. Like everybody else I am hugely grateful to the 'Fritillaries for the future' team for their enormous efforts and great dedication to this endeavour, it is a real privilege to know them all and enjoy their company in the field.

Here is a small selection of both Pearl and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary photos I took over the course of the spring.

#### Small Pearls.

**Pearls.**

I'm reliably informed by Neil Hulme that this PBF (below) is *ab.transversa* when the small group we were in photographed it I forgot to mention that I'd seen this striking female earlier on being courted by an amorous male. I tried to capture the action in a sequence of photos some of which (to my surprise) were not just a blur!

**The courtship.**

And finally communal roost.

Thanks for looking,  
James

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by David M, 19-Jun-17 05:48 PM GMT

Lovely selection there, James, and well done with the PBF in-flight shots. That's not something you see every day.

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Neil Hulme, 19-Jun-17 10:37 PM GMT

I just love that last shot – it just screams "spring!"  
BWs, Neil

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by bugboy, 19-Jun-17 10:41 PM GMT

**Neil Hulme wrote:**

I just love that last shot – it just screams "spring!"  
BWs, Neil

and using your tip on eye size, would I be right on saying male left, female right?

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Neil Hulme, 19-Jun-17 11:17 PM GMT

Yes. All the better to see you with!  
BWs, Neil

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Goldie M, 20-Jun-17 03:01 PM GMT

Really great shots 🍷🍷 Goldie 😊

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by badgerbob, 20-Jun-17 06:16 PM GMT

Those butterflies not only scream 'Spring, they featured on Springwatch!!

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 20-Jun-17 09:32 PM GMT

**David M wrote:**

Lovely selection there, James, and well done with the PBF in-flight shots. That's not something you see every day.

Thank you David, I've tried to capture this behaviour before but always ended up with disappointing results. These are the best I've managed so far, I'll give it another go next year. 😊

**Neil Hulme wrote:**

I just love that last shot – it just screams "spring!"  
BWs, Neil

Many thanks Neil, it was really wonderful to see the Pearl-bordered Fritillaries having another great year. Long may it continue.

**Goldie M wrote:**  
Really great shots 🍷🍷 Goldie 😊

Thank's for your generous comment Goldie, We have been spoiled with the Pearls this year. 😊

**badgerbob wrote:**  
Those butterflies not only scream 'Spring, they featured on Springwatch!!

I was delighted when I saw they had used your photo from that day on Springwatch. We were very fortunate to find those 3 roosting Pearls, as we both know they are usually very difficult to find!

Many thanks to all for your comments, they're most appreciated.

ATB

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 21-Jun-17 06:25 PM GMT

Great sequence of shots Rex – especially the in flight shots and the double header 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 03-Jul-17 05:16 PM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**  
Great sequence of shots Rex – especially the in flight shots and the double header 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks very much indeed Wurzel, I sometimes wish I could fly and have 2 heads so I could get more done!

### Time machine wanted!

Well here is yet another diary entry from the past, I am now running about a month behind, I had better try and catch up or the season will be all over.

Part of the reason I'm all over the place is that I thought there might be something called – the June gap! If there was one it only lasted about a week and I just wasn't prepared for that at all. In an attempt to dig myself out of a hole I'm abandoning exact time frames and putting up a selection of photos taken around the very end of May into early June as spring literally ran into the back of summer with a bump.

All photos taken locally except for the Small Blue, that was taken during a failed attempt to find a Glanville Fritillary at Hutchinsons Bank where I bumped into Philzoid who also failed to find any Glanvilles. I hope we have better luck next time Phil.

Thanks for looking

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Philzoid, 04-Jul-17 01:08 PM GMT

**Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:**  
I hope we have better luck next time Phil.

Yep, Glanvilles escaped me this year. I tried Wrecclisham also too but to no avail 😞 (partly due to early emergences catching me out). Hopefully the numbers at Hutchinson's will be back to the levels seen in 2016.

That Small Blue is real beaut James 😊 ..also the picture of the Cucumber spider 🍷

Phil

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 06-Jul-17 02:16 PM GMT

**Philzoid wrote:**

Yep, Glanvilles escaped me this year. I tried Wrecclesham also too but to no avail 😞 (partly due to early emergences catching me out). Hopefully the numbers at Hutchinson's will be back to the levels seen in 2016.

That Small Blue is real beaut James 😊 ..also the picture of the Cucumber spider 🕸

Phil

Cheers Phil, at least there was no shortage of Small Blues at Hutchinson's, they were everywhere but so 'charged up' under the hot sun it was difficult to get a half decent photo. These early emergences have been catching me out as well. Here's to lots of Glanvilles in 2018. 😊

**Summer came early!**

With a heatwave in mid July I suddenly found my plans had all gone awry, I had scheduled some time to see Purple Emperors at the end of the month, they had been regular as clockwork over the past few years – but 2017 had different plans. The bulk of the Purple Emperor action coincided with the heatwave and unfortunately I was unable to travel far from home that week. So I had to make the best of it and see what was about close to home, on the 16th of June I went to my local woods where Ringlets were appearing in good numbers.

On the 17th and 18th a short walk from home put me into Marbled White country.

On the 26th of June I managed to spend one day looking for Purple Emperors, having missed the bulk of the action during the two weeks previously I knew my chances weren't as good and so it proved with just one female PE coming within range of my lens all day.

Despite the heat Purple Hairstreaks were tantalisingly close even during the middle of the day.

I was pleased to see my first summer Brimstone of the year.

Thanks to meeting up with some friends I still had a very enjoyable day despite the lack of Purple Emperors.

Thanks for looking

James

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by trevor, 06-Jul-17 04:13 PM GMT

Sorry you missed out on the Purple Emperor this year James. Your female is pretty good compensation, as is the Purple Hairstreak. Chiddingfold performed quite well, but not on the hottest days.

Hope to see you around.  
Trevor.

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by badgerbob, 06-Jul-17 05:30 PM GMT

Very nice James. Looking forward to seeing another bit of Purple and a pretty special bit of Silver!!

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by bugboy, 06-Jul-17 06:41 PM GMT

You weren't the only person to be caught out this year. It was only because I was off 'sick' from work that I managed to get a decent dose!

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by Wurzel, 06-Jul-17 09:50 PM GMT

Cracking set of images Rex, an Empress is some compensation 🕸 Guttered I didn't make it to HB this year when Philzoid went as we would have finally caught up, oh well there's next year maybe, unless you can produce a Long-tailed Blue? 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 08-Jul-17 10:40 AM GMT

**trevor wrote:**

Sorry you missed out on the Purple Emperor this year James.  
Your female is pretty good compensation , as is the Purple Hairstreak.  
Chiddingfold performed quite well, but not on the hottest days.

Hope to see you around.  
Trevor.

Thanks Trevor, yes life got the better of me this year, Hopefully next year I'll manage to see some Emperor's although I could be caught out again if they are early.

**badgerbob wrote:**

Very nice James. Looking forward to seeing another bit of Purple and a pretty special bit of Silver!!

Cheers Bob, we both had a great couple of days, a big highlight was when we both saw that silver beauty gliding across the ride!

**bugboy wrote:**

You weren't the only person to be caught out this year. It was only because I was off 'sick' from work that I managed to get a decent dose!

I'm sorry to hear you've been unwell, although I wouldn't know it looking at your diary! As ever loads of great reports and photos to enjoy.

**Wurzel wrote:**

Cracking set of images Rex, an Empress is some compensation 🍷 Gutted I didn't make it to HB this year when Philzoid went as we would have finally caught up, oh well there's next year maybe, unless you can produce a Long-tailed Blue? 😊 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel, it was great to see the female Emperor. It was a shame we didn't meet at HB but at least you didn't miss out on the Glanvilles. I'm certain we'll meet one day and who knows if the LTB's invade it could be sooner than we imagine. 😊

Thanks all for your kind comments.

**Woodland surprise!**

Having missed out on the Purple Emperors I thought I'd concentrate my efforts on the woods closer to home. This proved to be a good move as I had a couple of terrific days over the 30th of June & 1st of July. I knew that Purple Hairstreaks were having an exceptional year so I decided to wonder about and see if I could get lucky?

After seeing that (along with some male Purple Hairstreaks in less good condition) I didn't think things could get any better! It seems I was wrong!!

A wonderful couple of days that will live long in my memory.

Thanks for looking

James

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Maximus, 08-Jul-17 01:23 PM GMT

Stunning photos, James 😊

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Pauline, 08-Jul-17 02:53 PM GMT

Wow!!! A phenomenal set of images James, especially the Hairstreaks 🍷 🍷 😊

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by jenks, 08-Jul-17 05:13 PM GMT

Absolutely stunning photos, especially of that valezina SWF. To my way of thinking the valezina form is more spectacular than Purple Emperor ( and more obliging ).

I had an amazing sighting last Sunday, 2 July. I popped into my local Tesco near Pontypridd just before they closed at 4 pm. When I got back to the car I found a White letter Hairstreak sitting on the windscreen ! I looked around the edge of the car park but couldn't see any Elms. There were a line of Elms alongside the River Taff, less than 500 yards away as the butterfly flies but these are now almost completely dead. I used to see WLH in those trees but not this year. I suppose this was an individual looking for a nectar source. Sunday was very hot so the windscreen provided some heat but sadly no nectar ! I gently removed it and it flew off. I hope a colony remains in existence somewhere locally.

Jenks.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 08-Jul-17 07:02 PM GMT

What a couple of beauties!

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 09-Jul-17 11:41 AM GMT

#### Maximus wrote:

Stunning photos, James 😊

Many thanks Mike, Didn't think I would ever get 'that' close to a fresh Purple Hairstreak!

#### Pauline wrote:

Wow!!! A phenomenal set of images James, especially the Hairstreaks 🍷🍷🍷😊

Very kind of you Pauline, I was very lucky to come across such a pristine female PHS, definitely one of the biggest highlights of my butterflying life so far!

#### jenks wrote:

Absolutely stunning photos, especially of that valezina SWF. To my way of thinking the valezina form is more spectacular than Purple Emperor ( and more obliging ).

I had an amazing sighting last Sunday, 2 July. I popped into my local Tesco near Pontypridd just before they closed at 4 pm. When I got back to the car I found a White letter Hairstreak sitting on the windscreen ! I looked around the edge of the car park but couldn't see any Elms. There were a line of Elms alongside the River Taff, less than 500 yards away as the butterfly flies but these are now almost completely dead. I used to see WLH in those trees but not this year. I suppose this was an individual looking for a nectar source. Sunday was very hot so the windscreen provided some heat but sadly no nectar ! I gently removed it and it flew off. I hope a colony remains in existence somewhere locally.

Jenks.

Hi Jenks, unbelievably I've now seen a Valezina SWF two years on the trot! It is a spectacular butterfly, this particular example looked lighter in colour than the last one I saw.

It's always a treat to see White-letter Hairstreaks, fortunately they do appear able survive on Elm suckers. If you check the area near the dead Elms you might find some scrub Elm nearby. Dutch Elm Disease has been decimating my local WLH colonies. It's now getting very difficult to find WLH's where only a few years ago they were reasonably plentiful. That makes an unexpected sighting like yours all the more delightful.

#### bugboy wrote:

What a couple of beauties!

Errm I hope you're referring to my photos there Paul! 🤪😊 Seriously - I was incredibly lucky to see both a pristine PHS and a Valezina SWF!!

Thank you very much for your kind comments, they are most appreciated.

Best wishes

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 09-Jul-17 10:55 PM GMT

Those Purple Hairstreak shots are amazing Rex 🍷🍷🍷🍷😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 10-Jul-17 12:42 PM GMT

Lovely set of shots I can't pick out which I like the best they all look fantastic. 😊🍷😊 Goldie 😊



**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 10-Jul-17 01:31 PM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Those Purple Hairstreak shots are amazing Rex 🍷🍷🍷🍷😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Many thanks Wurzel 😊 I loved your SSB photos and your Heath Frit shots are great too.

**Goldie M wrote:**

Lovely set of shots I can't pick out which I like the best they all look fantastic. 😊🍷 Goldie 😊

So kind of you Goldie, I could say the same about your splendid White-letter Hairstreak shots! They're one of my favourite butterflies.

Best regards to you both.

James

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Goldie M, 10-Jul-17 01:36 PM GMT

Many thanks rex, it was my favourite day out to date, Goldie 😊

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 10-Jul-17 06:54 PM GMT

**Goldie M wrote:**

Many thanks rex, it was my favourite day out to date, Goldie 😊

I'm not surprised Goldie! It's a real joy to be in amongst some lovely White-letter Hairstreaks!!

**Woodland Surprise addendum.**

Whilst going through my photos of those two fantastic days spent over the 30th June and 1st of July I came across a photo that I'd forgotten I'd taken, after all there had been a lot of excitement! I thought I'd post it up in case anyone was interested as I've never personally seen another one quite like it. The only one I can think of is Downland Boy's wonderful mating pair of Purple Hairstreaks. Anyway I don't think having a pair of Purple hairstreaks in one photo is a very common occurrence so I here it is.

Before I could decide which one to try and photograph the uppermost Hairstreak flew away so I tried to get a photo of the lower one, it was clear that this one had only just hatched as it was still expelling a little bit of meconium.

Thanks for looking

James

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by bugboy, 10-Jul-17 07:29 PM GMT

**Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:**

Before I could decide which one to try and photograph.....

James

That's not something said very often about that species 🍷

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Neil Freeman, 10-Jul-17 08:19 PM GMT

Hi James,

I have managed to get two Purple Hairstreaks in one shot a couple of years back but have never come close to getting any photos like your stunning topsides in your previous post. Beautiful images 🍷🍷😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 11-Jul-17 02:51 PM GMT

**bugboy wrote:**

**Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:**

Before I could decide which one to try and photograph.....

James

That's not something said very often about that species 🍷

Absolutely! It wasn't a situation I'd ever been confronted with before! And to think, it was only last year that I had my very first close encounter with a PH. That only resulted in a record shot and I was thrilled to bit's with that! As you can imagine I was slightly bewildered.

**Neil Freeman wrote:**

Hi James,

I have managed to get two Purple Hairstreaks in one shot a couple of years back but have never come close to getting any photos like your stunning topsides in your previous post. Beautiful images 🍷🍷😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Very kind of you Neil, of course it was all down to timing and good luck, I'm extremely relieved that I didn't fluff the shot at the critical moment. I think if I'd had this encounter several years ago the outcome would have been quite different. I had to draw on all of my experience as the lighting and conditions were less than ideal. When I checked the back of the camera I couldn't believe what I saw! As we know things can look very different when loaded onto the computer back home. I can't tell you how relieved I was when I saw it in all it's glory on the big screen. It is a truly stunning 'almost gothic' looking butterfly!

BW's

James

### Independence day.

On the 4th of July I visited my local patch, as an Englishman I decided it would be awfully splendid (spiffing even!) to celebrate with some butterflies instead of watching fireworks. Another species that is having an excellent year (at least around here) is the Essex Skipper, they are easily outnumbering the usually more numerous Small Skippers.

And it's been delightful to see Commas in greater numbers than usual around here too!

As I made for home I noticed a huge patch of thistle attracting lots of Marbled Whites, Skippers, Comma's and best of all a couple of very fresh Painted Ladies. By now I was late home for dinner so I took a quick shot and vowed to return there as soon as possible.

Thanks for looking – toodle pip.

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by peterc, 11-Jul-17 03:12 PM GMT

A good selection of photos, James.

That Essex Skipper looks incredibly dark 😊

ATB

Peter

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 11-Jul-17 10:42 PM GMT

Two PHs in one shot 🤩👍👍 Lovely set of Smessex and that Essex is lovely and dark – sometimes that's a useful way of distinguishing them in the field 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 15-Jul-17 06:26 PM GMT

#### **peterc wrote:**

A good selection of photos, James.

That Essex Skipper looks incredibly dark 😊

ATB

Peter

Many thanks Peter 🤩 yes I've noticed quite a few dark Essex Skippers about, perhaps they were 'lightly toasted' during that heatwave we had the other week!

#### **Wurzel wrote:**

Two PHs in one shot 🤩👍👍 Lovely set of Smessex and that Essex is lovely and dark – sometimes that's a useful way of distinguishing them in the field 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Hi Wurzel, only yes last year I thought I was lucky to see one but this year! It's been crazy!! The dark topside and slightly paler underside are a bit easier to spot than the tip of the antennae, thankfully it's been made easier this year thanks to the explosion in Essex numbers.

Best Wishes 😊

#### **Hopping about.**

On the 5th of July Badgerbob and I went to a few different local places to see what we could find, then on the 6th of June I went out alone returning to the large thistle patch hoping to meet some Painted Ladies.

On our first stop Bob and I went searching for some White-letter Hairstreaks, sadly our local area has been devastated by Dutch Elm Disease so they have become very difficult to find. Thankfully Bob had seen a couple the day before – so after blanking at 2 spots we ventured the place where he'd seen one previously. Soon Bob spotted the first WLH high up on some Bramble.

I then spotted a second one flying from another bramble bush nearby, I quickly lost sight of it, but then we saw a different and much fresher WLH on the same bush, we both agreed it was probably the one I saw only a moment before.

unfortunately they both remained up high so we could only manage a couple of distant record shots, not that we cared it was just great to see some.

We then hopped over to the woods hoping to see some Scarlet Tiger Moths, by now the day was so hot and the moths were wisely staying in the shade but I still managed a reasonable record shot.

With a few fresh Small Whites about I tried to grab a half decent shot of one, never an easy species to photograph this is probably the best I'll manage all year.

Then it was on to the downs where I hoped to see my first Chalk-hill Blues of the year, however when we arrived there we were surprised to see unusually high numbers of Forester Moths. They seemed to love nectaring on Scabious with up to four sharing a flower head at once! It had been a very enjoyable day, and tomorrow I had a date with those Painted Ladies at the large thistle patch! These were so fresh it was obvious they had only just emerged, probably from the same patch of thistles they were now nectaring on. They were so active and tricky to photograph I was late for dinner YET AGAIN! But as I was about to leave I saw a lovely fresh comma nectaring, I simply couldn't resist.

On the path back home I had noticed some fresh speckled Woods about, I stopped briefly to put my camera away when I had the strangest feeling – like I was being watched. I quickly turned around and there! I found the culprit!

Thanks for Looking

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 15-Jul-17 08:02 PM GMT

Well done with those WLH and nice shots of the Foresters, I've never seen them in the UK 🤩👍

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 15-Jul-17 09:32 PM GMT

**bugboy wrote:**

Well done with those WLH and nice shots of the Foresters, I've never seen them in the UK 🤔🇬🇧

Thank you Paul 😊 the WLH photos are about a million miles away from my best but I'm still thrilled to have seen some, especially under the circumstances. I think it's a bit of a stronghold for the Forester moths around here but I can't ever remember seeing this many before! It was so remarkable Bob and I returned there for a count. Every year throws up a few surprises, Purple Hairstreaks and now Foresters. I wonder if there will be any more?

All the best

James

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Wurzel, 15-Jul-17 10:05 PM GMT

Some of those Painted Lady shots really leap out of the screen 😊🇬🇧 and in my book any photo of a Whitter is a good one 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 15-Jul-17 11:37 PM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Some of those Painted Lady shots really leap out of the screen 😊🇬🇧 and in my book any photo of a Whitter is a good one 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel, I certainly did a lot of leaping about trying to photograph them, something that can cross a continent with ease had no trouble out manoeuvring me!!  
Yes it's a privilege to get any photo of a WLH I'm sorry to say.

James

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by trevor, 17-Jul-17 09:37 AM GMT

Just seen your images of a female Purple Hairstreak, on the previous page.  
A mrgreen is in order, they don't pose better than that! 🇬🇧.

What a year !,  
Trevor.

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 17-Jul-17 03:46 PM GMT

**trevor wrote:**

Just seen your images of a female Purple Hairstreak, on the previous page.  
A mrgreen is in order, they don't pose better than that! 🇬🇧.

What a year !,  
Trevor.

Thanks Trevor, it's been a remarkable year for Purple Hairstreaks, I hoped to see some but never dreamed that I'd get as close as I did! Glad to see you saw some yourself. Hopefully next year will be just as good.

Best wishes

James

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by kevling, 17-Jul-17 08:49 PM GMT

Rex,

Playing catch up with your diary. Your 'Woodland Surprise' photos of the Purple Hairstreak are amazing. The wing open shots couldn't be much better. Had a similar encounter last week but a s stiff breeze and poor light meant a slightly blurred finish. I'll take one of yours for sure. Also like the Painted Lady shots, very striking.

Regards Kev

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 17-Jul-17 09:25 PM GMT

Excellent efforts with the Hairstreaks, Rex. I envy you.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 18-Jul-17 08:36 PM GMT

#### kevling wrote:

Rex,

Playing catch up with your diary. Your 'Woodland Surprise' photos of the Purple Hairstreak are amazing. The wing open shots couldn't be much better. Had a similar encounter last week but a s stiff breeze and poor light meant a slightly blurred finish. I'll take one of yours for sure.

Also like the Painted Lady shots, very striking.

Regards Kev

Hi Kev, thank you for the kind words, like you I had to contend with poor light and a breeze but thankfully there was an occasional lull that allowed me to grab a few 'relatively' still moments. I was extremely relieved when I got home and realised that I'd taken what was for me a dream shot of a Purple Hairstreak! I think I'd really have to go some to get a better one!! The Painted Lady session was the exact opposite, no wind bright sunshine and very active & fidgety butterflies. No holding my breath and being as stealthy as possible this time, they had me running all over the place.

#### David M wrote:

Excellent efforts with the Hairstreaks, Rex. I envy you.

Most kind of you David, it was a special moment. Times like those are very rare and require all of your experience to make the best of them. Even then we can easily mess it up, I certainly have lots of times.

Best wishes to you both.

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Janet Turnbull, 18-Jul-17 10:51 PM GMT

Just catching up on your diary! Wonderful Purple Hairstreak shots, I clearly have a lot to learn about taking pictures of them! 🍷

Love the Forester moths. Time I made a trip to the Downs 😊

Janet

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 21-Jul-17 09:59 PM GMT

#### Janet Turnbull wrote:

Just catching up on your diary! Wonderful Purple Hairstreak shots, I clearly have a lot to learn about taking pictures of them! 🍷

Love the Forester moths. Time I made a trip to the Downs 😊

Janet

Many thanks Janet 😊 the Purple Hairstreaks, Valezina – Silver Washed Fritillary and the unusually high numbers of Forester moths have all been personal highlights of my year so far.

Best wishes

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 06-Aug-17 02:53 PM GMT

#### Mosquitoes dinner!

On the 7th of July I had dinner early and went for a wonder over the downs. It was still quite hot after a scorching day, there were a lot of butterflies on the wing and unfortunately it also brought out the mosquitoes who made an early dinner of me! I had been eaten alive by the time I got home!!

I'm now a month behind on my diary, hopefully I can catch up over the coming week.

Thanks for looking

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 06-Aug-17 09:43 PM GMT

More lovely shots Rex 😊 The trick I've used is tell the boos that you'll be back an hour later than you intend and then you earn brownie points for getting home early OR if something catches your attention just as you're about to leave (which is often the case 😊) then you'll be home on time 😊 It does work sometimes...honest 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Aug-17 07:28 PM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

More lovely shots Rex 😊 The trick I've used is tell the boos that you'll be back an hour later than you intend and then you earn brownie points for getting home early OR if something catches your attention just as you're about to leave (which is often the case 😊) then you'll be home on time 😊 It does work sometimes...honest 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel, having dinner "before" you go out really helps me to stay out of trouble!

#### Friston fun.

On the 14th of July I went to Friston Gallops in a strong wind to see if I could find any sheltered spots (not an easy task) but it turned out to be a reasonably productive day. I saw all of the usual species you expect to find there but the highlight of the day was the freshly emerged Small Coppers – most were sheltering from the wind.

As I sat down to have a drink and a snack I felt something tickling my left hand I looked down and to my surprise I saw a freshly emerged Chalkhill Blue had crawled onto it!

Despite there being good numbers of Small Coppers they spent most of their time sheltering from the wind, this meant getting a good photo was impossible, this was the best I could manage.

I don't know the name of this fly but I see them every year and their head always reminds me of a skull.

The field margins were alive with Gatekeepers, this year has provided the best showing of this butterfly I've seen for quite a while.

In a few sheltered bays I saw both Common Blue and Brown Argus trying to avoid the worst of the weather.

Finally there were plenty of Burnett's about including loads of mating pairs.

It was a very enjoyable day despite the howling wind.

Thanks for looking

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 13-Aug-17 07:42 PM GMT

What a stroke of luck with that male Chalkhill, James! The female you photographed is lovely too.....and nice to see a Brown Argus, a butterfly I haven't seen much of this year. 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 14-Aug-17 10:21 PM GMT

Fantastic set of shots Rex, and to have a Chalkhill just emerge before you is mighty impressive 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 19-Aug-17 06:12 PM GMT

**David M wrote:**

What a stroke of luck with that male Chalkhill, James! The female you photographed is lovely too.....and nice to see a Brown Argus, a butterfly I haven't seen much of this year. 😊

It certainly was David! Brown Argus have had a really good year down this way, hopefully you'll see more next year.

**Wurzel wrote:**

Fantastic set of shots Rex, and to have a Chalkhill just emerge before you is mighty impressive 🤔👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Many thanks, It's was a first for me Wurzel! Perhaps on such a cool and windy day I was a convenient source of warmth?

Thanks both for your kind comments.

**Wild and windy. Or the end of a long quest.**

After my stroll around Friston Gallops I was unable to get out for a while, I did manage one single brief visit to Steyning on the 17th where one pristine female Brown Hairstreak stayed well out of reach. In the end I made the best of things with a very nice female Brimstone.

My next opportunity to look for Brown Hairstreaks didn't arise until the 27th. The weather was absolutely terrible and despite the bulk of fresh male Brown Hairstreaks being over it was too tempting not to go there and have a look. Despite the awful conditions we stumbled on an area where some male BHS's were clinging onto thistle heads for dear life in the strong and blustery wind. Now the challenge was to try and get some half decent photos under very dark leaden skies with the Hairstreaks being constantly blown about. In spite of everything we had an amazingly successful trip with about 9 males seen plus a bonus pair of mating Small Heaths. Frustratingly a pristine male BHS did make an appearance but stayed well out of reach grrr.

Having missed out on the fresh males I decided to try and make up for it by finding a fresh female. Not an easy task if you only manage to make a handful of trips into BHS country each year. I thought for the best chance a return to Knepp would probably be my best bet. So on the 1st of August the mission was on! After wondering about for most of the day with only one single very tatty male on view I was starting to give up hope until....

And then!

With that last shot I finally achieved a long held personal ambition – to get a photo of a BHS that I am really happy with. It has taken me many years to accomplish. Now if only I could get a similar topside shot to go along with it! And it almost happened too, but thanks to the wind every time this pristine hairstreak attempted to open her wings a big gust slammed them shut again. can't have it all I suppose.

Thanks for looking

James

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by millerd, 19-Aug-17 10:18 PM GMT

Lovely Hairstreak shots, James and well done on achieving a long-held ambition – very satisfying! 😊👍 She is rather a splendid butterfly. 🤔

Dave

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Wurzel, 20-Aug-17 08:53 AM GMT

I can see why that one allowed you to meet your ambition, cracking shot that is 🤔👍 A just reward for perseverance 🤔

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by David M, 20-Aug-17 12:00 PM GMT

Nice selection of Brown Hairstreaks, James, particularly the males which never descend from the trees at the Welsh site I visit. 🤔

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 21-Aug-17 05:21 PM GMT

**millerd wrote:**

Lovely Hairstreak shots, James and well done on achieving a long-held ambition – very satisfying! 😊 She is rather a splendid butterfly. 🍷

Dave

Hello Dave, thank you – it was certainly a long time coming, I've had a wonderfully satisfying year in general with the Hairstreaks. I hope next year is another good one. 😊

**Wurzel wrote:**

I can see why that one allowed you to meet your ambition, cracking shot that is 😊🍷 A just reward for perseverance 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

I was beginning to think it would never happen! Finding such a fresh and undamaged butterfly I mean. I was incredibly lucky, the shot came out a lot better than I expected. to photograph a Brown Hairstreak with such a clean background was more than I'd hoped for. I'm a long way from getting as many great shots as you though. 😊

**David M wrote:**

Nice selection of Brown Hairstreaks, James, particularly the males which never descend from the trees at the Welsh site I visit. 😊

Many thanks David, well this was a first for me!! It was a remarkable sight, I never thought I'd witness it here in the south east. I suppose you need to be in the right place and have just the right conditions for these unusual things to happen.

Thank you all for your kind and generous comments.

James

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 27-Aug-17 07:30 PM GMT

**Wonderful Wood Whites.**

On the 7th of August I joined Badgerbob on a trip out west with the intention of looking for Brown Hairstreaks. It soon became obvious that the weather was not on our side, it was very overcast with occasional light rain – not good weather for Hairstreak hunting! Thinking on the fly Bob suggested we try for Wood Whites. Upon arrival it didn't take very long to spot one and we spent a very enjoyable few hours with these lovely and dainty little butterflies.

Thanks to Bob an unpromising start to the day turned out to be a very memorable one.

Thanks for looking.

James

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by David M, 27-Aug-17 08:50 PM GMT

That's an unusually marked Wood White, James. Very smudgy black markings on the hindwing.

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 28-Aug-17 12:07 AM GMT

**David M wrote:**

That's an unusually marked Wood White, James. Very smudgy black markings on the hindwing.

Hi David, I think it might have happened when I reduced the image size, on the full Rez images you can see all of the scales. But you're right it does look a bit smudged!

Best wishes

James

**Re: Butterflysaurus rex**



by Wurzel, 28-Aug-17 09:51 PM GMT

Cracking set of Wood Whites Rex 🤔🇩🇪 I missed them this year, twice 😞 which site did you visit for them if you don't mind me asking?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 29-Aug-17 04:20 PM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

Cracking set of Wood Whites Rex 🤔🇩🇪 I missed them this year, twice 😞 which site did you visit for them if you don't mind me asking?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thank you Wurzel 😊 Hopefully you'll catch up with them next year. We saw the Wood Whites at Chiddingfold Forest Just inside Surrey. PM me if you plan on visiting and I'll put you on the right path. I send my apologies to you and others that I've not had enough time to comment on your personal diaries as much as I would like. I'm so pushed for time these days I'm finding it very difficult to post anything here at all!

Best Wishes

James

#### Blue is the magic colour.

With so little time on my hands these days it's just as well there is a small colony of Adonis Blues not far from home. This means I can pop out when I get the chance and enjoy the most dazzling of the Blues.

On the 13th of August the weather made a very welcome return to something more like summer. I spent the morning on my local patch with the intention of seeing my first 2nd brood Adonis. It seemed I was right on time with several very fresh males on the wing.

It appears that this male Adonis was desperate to take some minerals on board, he decided to hop onto my hand for a bit! This has never happened to me before!!

On the way home I saw a few Migrant Hawker dragonflies, one landed right in front of me so I decided to take it's portrait.

It was a very enjoyable morning and seeing as I didn't manage to get the open wing shot I was after I vowed to return as soon as possible for another go. So only a couple of days later on the 15th I set out again, this time in the afternoon to see if I could do any better.

Silver Spotted Skippers are having a tremendous year, most were so active getting a half decent photo was impossible, I only managed one reasonable shot. If only it had been a fresh one!

And finally the sheer number of Wasp Spiders about locally must be a total nightmare – particularly if you're a grasshopper!!

Thanks for looking

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 29-Aug-17 06:40 PM GMT

Lovely Adonis James, your Dragon fly looks quite evil, cracking shot though 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 29-Aug-17 08:34 PM GMT

#### Goldie M wrote:

Lovely Adonis James, your Dragon fly looks quite evil, cracking shot though 😊 Goldie 😊

Thank you Goldie, 😊 I think most day flying insects would agree with you, but I love dragonflies, in fact I like most wildlife except for mosquitoes and ticks. I wish the Dragonflies would eat most of those!

BWs

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 30-Aug-17 12:36 PM GMT

Fantastic set of shots Rex, especially the glowing Adonis, they pop out of the screen 😊 I think I'm looking forward to your QoS shot...at least I think so 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 30-Aug-17 06:34 PM GMT

First class effort, James. That first open winged Adonis is a real beauty with its array of hindwing submarginal spots.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 30-Aug-17 08:05 PM GMT

#### Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:

...I spent the morning on my local patch with the intention of seeing my first 2nd brood Adonis...  
James

Oh! to have Adonis Blues on my local patch 🍷

Beautiful photos James 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 30-Aug-17 08:50 PM GMT

Magnificent Adonis James 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 31-Aug-17 05:40 PM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

Fantastic set of shots Rex, especially the glowing Adonis, they pop out of the screen 😊 I think I'm looking forward to your QoS shot...at least I think so 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Many thanks Wurzel, Well it was practically on my doorstep, be rude not too – seeing as they came all this way. 😊

#### David M wrote:

First class effort, James. That first open winged Adonis is a real beauty with its array of hindwing submarginal spots.

Most kind of you David, I was lucky that the Adonis opened his wings and stayed there just long enough to get a shot. It was getting quite hot by that point and the other Adonis were extremely hyperactive!

#### Neil Freeman wrote:

##### Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:

...I spent the morning on my local patch with the intention of seeing my first 2nd brood Adonis...  
James

Oh! to have Adonis Blues on my local patch 🍷

Beautiful photos James 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Living here on the south downs definitely has some advantages Neil, There are still a lot of 'UK' butterflies I need to travel quite some distance to see. I am lucky to live in one of the best counties for butterflies. And sometimes we are lucky enough to get a few visitors from across the sea, when they do it can get even more exciting. 😊

**bugboy wrote:**

Magnificent Adonis James 😊

Very kind of you Paul, I really enjoyed spending some time with these gorgeous blues.

#### From odd to amazing!

On the 26th of August I joined Badgerbob to see if we could locate some Wartbiter crickets, although there were probably hundreds of them about they were highly elusive. We soon decided to split up so we could cover more ground when I came across a unusual looking female Adonis. I called to Bob 'who was now some distance away' that I'd found an 'interesting' ab. As he made his way over I tried to keep track of her as she flitted about feeding predominantly on Vetch.

At first look her left underside definitely resembled ab Krodeli, Bob and I had seen male (Krodeli) Adonis before and we knew they usually came with one damaged wing. Again this was the case here – but strangely the damaged side looked quite different, her right hand hind wing had a patch of bright blue scales on top, and the underside looks quite different to the opposite (Krodeli) side.

Personally I have never come across such an asymmetrical butterfly before!

Then on the 27th of August I received the amazing news (thanks Neil) that some Queen of Spain Fritillaries had been found by Dave Harris whilst on his transect! So the next morning I went over to see if I could re-locate them. When I arrived I was very surprised to see that I was completely on my own!! It was a while before I saw another enthusiast approaching, he turned up at just at the right time because I was about to spot my first (male) QOS of the day. To my bewilderment my new companion took a couple of record shots and left – so I found myself alone once again! I then spent the next hour or so chasing the QOS Fritillary around as it nattered on dandelion. It was so active that it difficult to get a decent shot, but as the heat of the day increased it settled into 'territorial mode' sticking mainly to one small area. It was then I saw the second male QOS enter the scene, he was quickly driven off and I was a delighted to witness sparring QOS Fritillaries spiralling high into the sky.

The first male QOS holding his territory.

The second male.

Then finally just as I was beginning to wonder if I'd see anyone else?! Lots of familiar faces started to arrive and things soon got very busy. As others enjoyed taking photos of the star attraction my eye was drawn to a couple of very shiny and new Small Coppers. By now I was so hungry I thought it was probably sensible to head for home.

What a terrific day!

Thanks for looking

James

#### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by bugboy, 31-Aug-17 06:04 PM GMT

Could that Adonis ab be a partial gynandromoph?

[quote]...To my bewilderment my new companion took a couple of record shots and left... how very bizarre 😊 If it wasn't for running out of liquids I might still be there!

You were a very lucky man to get them to yourself for so long, great shots as well! 😊

#### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 31-Aug-17 06:24 PM GMT

**bugboy wrote:**

Could that Adonis ab be a partial gynandromoph?

The thought had crossed my mind, but I have no idea if it's possible to get partial gynandromorphism?

[quote]...To my bewilderment my new companion took a couple of record shots and left...how very bizarre 😊 If it wasn't for running out of liquids I might still be there!

You were a very lucky man to get them to yourself for so long, great shots as well! 😊 Cheers Paul, I see you got some great shots as well. 😊 I was sure there would be at least a few others when I arrived! It was great to have some time alone though.

#### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by David M, 31-Aug-17 06:26 PM GMT

I've never seen anything like that female Adonis, James. It's most peculiar.

Nice shots of the Queens too. It must have been a great feeling to see those on UK soil?

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by bugboy, 31-Aug-17 06:44 PM GMT

**Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:**

**bugboy wrote:**

Could that Adonis ab be a partial gynandromorph?

The thought had crossed my mind, but I have no idea if it's possible to get partial gynandromorphism?

There are various terms for partial gynandromorphism, 'moziac gynandromorphism' being one that springs to mind. A complete bilateral gynandromorph is the rarest form of this aberration. There was a Silver-studded Blue last year with 3 female wings and one male wing. Having said all that I'm not going to pretend to be an expert on them by any stretch of the imagination!

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 31-Aug-17 06:56 PM GMT

**bugboy wrote:**

**Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:**

**bugboy wrote:**

Could that Adonis ab be a partial gynandromorph?

The thought had crossed my mind, but I have no idea if it's possible to get partial gynandromorphism?

There are various terms for partial gynandromorphism, 'moziac gynandromorphism' being one that springs to mind. A complete bilateral gynandromorph is the rarest form of this aberration. There was a Silver-studded Blue last year with 3 female wings and one male wing. Having said all that I'm not going to pretend to be an expert on them by any stretch of the imagination!

Many thanks for the info, I am not at all knowledgeable about this. The photos have been sent off to an expert so I'll post an update if it turns out to be anything of interest. Even if it is a partial gynandromorph it is still a good match for Krodeli on one side. Quite an odd butterfly but still quite beautiful.

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Pete Eeles, 31-Aug-17 07:13 PM GMT

It's a VERY rare combination of an aberration (ab. krodeli) and a "mixed gynandromorph" (see <http://www.dispar.org/reference.php?id=17>) - "The extent to which a gynandromorph exhibits aspects of each sex is dependent on the point at which the abnormality occurs. If late in the development of the individual, then there will be very little of the "opposite" sex since much of the cell division will already have happened."

Cheers,

- Pete

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 31-Aug-17 08:02 PM GMT

**Pete Eeles wrote:**

It's a VERY rare combination of an aberration (ab. krodeli) and a "mixed gynandromorph" (see <http://www.dispar.org/reference.php?id=17>) - "The extent to which a gynandromorph exhibits aspects of each sex is dependent on the point at which the abnormality occurs. If late in the development of the individual, then there will be very little of the "opposite" sex since much of the cell division will already have happened."

Cheers,

- Pete

Goodness me Pete! I knew it looked very unusual but what are the odds of being both ab. krodeli and a partial gynandromorph! Astonishing!! Thanks very much for your help here, this genetically confused butterfly certainly managed to confuse me!

Best wishes

James

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Wurzel, 31-Aug-17 08:27 PM GMT

Very interesting aberrant Rex, one could even suggest that it is even rarer than a QoS on British soil 🤪 Or is that just the green eyed monster venting 🤪🤪🤪🤪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 31-Aug-17 08:40 PM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Very interesting aberrant Rex, one could even suggest that it is even rarer than a QoS on British soil 🤪 Or is that just the green eyed monster venting 🤪🤪🤪🤪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

I've just been to the world of Wurzel! Brilliant, I hope to do something similar one day, if I ever get enough time. Yes indeed like the (ab.brunnea) Green Hairstreak I found I believe this is another 'once in a lifetime' sighting. I also had good views of a Hoopoe not far from home last week, I'm ending my season on a high! 🤪

BWs

James

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Wurzel, 31-Aug-17 10:40 PM GMT

Aw schucks Rex 🤪 I reckon your ending the season on a high is good karma for the time missed earlier in the season 🤪 Good to see things are back on track 🤪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by John W, 01-Sep-17 05:34 PM GMT

**Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:**

As others enjoyed taking photos of the star attraction my eye was drawn to a couple of very shiny and new Small Coppers.

Hi James, it's always good to see a fresh Small Copper! Were they in a particular part of the field?

Cheers  
John

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Pauline, 01-Sep-17 06:23 PM GMT

That's one stunning butterfly James – well spotted 😊

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by trevor, 01-Sep-17 07:34 PM GMT

I agree with others, James, you are ending the season in style.  
A few Long Tailed Blues would end it nicely, ( remember last year when we were with Katrina ? ).  
Or maybe the Queen of Spain Frit. was our end of season treat for this year.

Hope to see you around,  
Trevor.

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Gary.N, 02-Sep-17 09:05 PM GMT

Stunning Ab. James and thanks for telling me about the QoS. You got some great shots of them. 😊

Gary

### Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 03-Sep-17 05:50 PM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

Aw schucks Rex 😊 I reckon your ending the season on a high is good karma for the time missed earlier in the season 😊 Good to see things are back on track 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel, I had a pretty good year and didn't miss much. My only real disappointments were missing the Dukes and Silver Studs yet again. And although I saw some Purple Emperors I failed to get a decent photo. Hopefully I'll catch up with those next year. 😊

#### John W wrote:

##### Butterfysaurus rex wrote:

As others enjoyed taking photos of the star attraction my eye was drawn to a couple of very shiny and new Small Coppers.

Hi James, it's always good to see a fresh Small Copper! Were they in a particular part of the field?

Cheers  
John

Hi John, great to see you made it for over the QoS, I really liked your photos as well. Yes the fresh Coppers were in the same area near the bonfire. As you say it's always good to see a fresh Small Copper and not try and get a photo. 😊

#### Pauline wrote:

That's one stunning butterfly James – well spotted 😊

Hi Pauline, You're most kind I guess you're referring to the Adonis ab? Yes it was so unusual and beautiful I tried very hard to get a decent photo. I'm quite pleased with what I got, and very surprised to learn it was not only an ab. Krodeli but also a partial gynandromorph!

#### trevor wrote:

I agree with others, James, you are ending the season in style.  
A few Long Tailed Blues would end it nicely, ( remember last year when we were with Katrina ? ).  
Or maybe the Queen of Spain Frit. was our end of season treat for this year.

Hope to see you around,  
Trevor.

Hello Trevor, thank you, yes I've had a really great couple of weeks. How could I forget our fabulous time at Tidemills last year, it's always great to have a shared sighting like that with friends. If the QoS is to be our last treat of the year then that's a fabulous way to finish. Although I'm thinking there could easily be a few more surprises before it really is all over.

**Gary.N wrote:**

Stunning Ab. James and thanks for telling me about the QoS. You got some great shots of them. 😊

Gary

Thank you Gary 😊 It was a bit special! I am so pleased that you made it over to Piddinghoe for the QoS, knowing you I'm sure that you took a few great shots yourself. 😊

#### **Wasp Spiders and Wart-biters.**

With many butterflies now looking past their best I joined Badgerbob yesterday to continue our quest to find Britain's rarest and most spectacular Cricket – the amazing Wart-biter. Upon arrival we were impressed yet again by the huge number of Wasp Spiders.

After failing to locate any Wart-biters on our previous trip (we were rather distracted by a rather special Adonis ab!) we didn't know if we would do any better this time. With so many Wasp Spiders about I couldn't resist taking a shot or two, while I was busy with that Bob started to look for the main target.

It only took him about of 20 seconds before he disturbed one and he called me over. We then had a fantastic encounter with this amazing insect with possibly the best camouflage I've ever seen! Once in the grass it becomes all but invisible.

I've been wanting to see a Wart-biter Cricket for decades but I never expected my first encounter to be so amazing. Thank you for the invite Bob!

Thanks for looking

James

#### **Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by millerd, 03-Sep-17 07:07 PM GMT

That's an impressive insect, James. It would be great to come across one of those. 😊 The spider is a magnificent beastie too – are they spreading? I found one locally for the first time round here this year and it was huge.

Great shots of the QoS too – definitely the same two as I saw on Friday. The Adonis ab. is also a striking butterfly. 😊

Dave

#### **Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Wurzel, 03-Sep-17 10:27 PM GMT

Cracking stuff again Rex, those Wartbiters are impressively named and impressive to look at 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

#### **Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 04-Sep-17 10:23 PM GMT

**millerd wrote:**

That's an impressive insect, James. It would be great to come across one of those. 😊 The spider is a magnificent beastie too – are they spreading? I found one locally for the first time round here this year and it was huge.

Great shots of the QoS too – definitely the same two as I saw on Friday. The Adonis ab. is also a striking butterfly. 😊

Dave

Hi Dave, well there's a lot of great conservation work going on and that is helping the Wartbiters increase their range. Their preferred habitat is chalk downland so I'm in just the right area to look for them. As for the Wasp Spiders I have never seen so many about before! I wouldn't be at all surprised if they are increasing their range. Perhaps they'll spread further northwards from their strongholds here in the south.

**Wurzel wrote:**

Cracking stuff again Rex, those Wartbiters are impressively named and impressive to look at 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

They certainly are Wurzel, they are just as impressive as I imagined they would be. Their camouflage is absolutely superb. When they stay motionless amongst the grass they are incredibly difficult to see. I hope to see them again in the future.

Many thanks for your comments.

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 05-Sep-17 08:31 AM GMT

That's a mightily impressive cricket, James, and the wasp spiders are amazing too. I usually see quite a few of the latter in my neck of the woods so I will keep a sharp eye out for them over the next few weeks.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Sep-17 05:29 PM GMT

#### David M wrote:

That's a mightily impressive cricket, James, and the wasp spiders are amazing too. I usually see quite a few of the latter in my neck of the woods so I will keep a sharp eye out for them over the next few weeks.

Thank you David, Yes I was delighted to see one at last and to get a few photos of one was a real treat. I doubt you'll have much trouble finding Wasp Spiders this year!

#### Long distance bird and then back to the wall.

With the weather of late being on the wet and windy side of Autumnal my butterflying activities have been very limited. So upon learning that a Baird's Sandpiper had been blown all the way over from the U.S.A and was giving great views locally I was keen to see the little fellow for myself.

It wasn't until yesterday morning that a brief window of reasonable weather gave me the opportunity to go looking for 3rd brood Wall Browns. I didn't have to look very hard before I saw my first one on the path ahead. I spent a very pleasant morning watching and photographing these males. The female I was after didn't materialise but I suspect it won't be long before some begin to emerge.

Thanks for looking

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 13-Sep-17 08:23 PM GMT

Lovely Walls James, were they at High & Over?

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 13-Sep-17 08:30 PM GMT

Great set of photos James, we don't see many Wall's round here so when we do it's fantastic, but they're always so quick, your Wall's looked to have posed for you. 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Sep-17 08:34 PM GMT

#### bugboy wrote:

Lovely Walls James, were they at High & Over?

Thank you Paul 😊 indeed they were, with better weather forecast for next week I'm hoping there's more to come.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Sep-17 08:40 PM GMT

#### Goldie M wrote:

Great set of photos James, we don't see many Wall's round here so when we do it's fantastic, but they're always so quick, your Wall's looked to have posed for you. 😊 Goldie 😊

Hello Goldie, they are without doubt one of the trickiest butterflies to photograph. So sensitive to both noise and movement they can



quickly have you tearing your hair out. Lots of patience seems to be the only way, especially if you're using a macro lens like me!

Thanks for the kind comment 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 13-Sep-17 08:45 PM GMT

**Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:**

**bugboy wrote:**

Lovely Walls James, were they at High & Over?

Thank you Paul 😊 indeed they were, with better weather forecast for next week I'm hoping there's more to come.

I keep hearing about (and seeing pictures from) that place from you Trevor and Badger but I've never explored myself. I have loosely pencilled in a visit this coming weekend but the weather looks decidedly iffy at the moment, so if that fails perhaps next week. As luck would have it I have 3 days off next week, fingers crossed we get a good week of weather 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Sep-17 09:09 PM GMT

**bugboy wrote:**

**Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:**

**bugboy wrote:**

Lovely Walls James, were they at High & Over?

Thank you Paul 😊 indeed they were, with better weather forecast for next week I'm hoping there's more to come.

I keep hearing about (and seeing pictures from) that place from you Trevor and Badger but I've never explored myself. I have loosely pencilled in a visit this coming weekend but the weather looks decidedly iffy at the moment, so if that fails perhaps next week. As luck would have it I have 3 days off next week, fingers crossed we get a good week of weather 😊

It is a very long walk from the train station though. It would probably be worth getting the bus from there. I'll PM you some details before the weekend.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 13-Sep-17 09:32 PM GMT

**Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:**

**bugboy wrote:**

**Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:**

Thank you Paul 😊 indeed they were, with better weather forecast for next week I'm hoping there's more to come.

I keep hearing about (and seeing pictures from) that place from you Trevor and Badger but I've never explored myself. I have loosely pencilled in a visit this coming weekend but the weather looks decidedly iffy at the moment, so if that fails perhaps next week. As luck would have it I have 3 days off next week, fingers crossed we get a good week of weather 😊

It is a very long walk from the train station though. It would probably be worth getting the bus from there. I'll PM you some details before the weekend.

Thanks James. Yes I had noticed a bus stop at the car park and that was going to be my intended method 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Sep-17 09:36 PM GMT

**bugboy wrote:**

**Butterflysauros rex wrote:**

**bugboy wrote:**

I keep hearing about (and seeing pictures from) that place from you Trevor and Badger but I've never explored myself. I have loosely pencilled in a visit this coming weekend but the weather looks decidedly iffy at the moment, so if that fails perhaps next week. As luck would have it I have 3 days off next week, fingers crossed we get a good week of weather 😊

It is a very long walk from the train station though. It would probably be worth getting the bus from there. I'll PM you some details before the weekend.

Thanks James. Yes I had noticed a bus stop at the car park and that was going to be my intended method 😊

There is another way that might be easier, I'll send the details and you can decide from there. 😊

### **Re: Butterflysauros rex**

by Wurzel, 14-Sep-17 08:45 PM GMT

Lovely Walls but they kinda got overshadowed by the Baird's – what a cracking wader 😊👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Butterflysauros rex**

by Butterflysauros rex, 20-Sep-17 06:12 PM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Lovely Walls but they kinda got overshadowed by the Baird's – what a cracking wader 😊👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel, it was a cracking little bird and a real long distance traveller!

#### **The call of the Wall.**

Although I enjoyed watching the antics of some 3rd brood male Wall last week I failed to see any females – so I vowed to return in a few days in the hope that some had emerged. Luck was on my side as an unexpected gap in my diary popped up yesterday, with the weather looking decent I took my chance and went looking. It turned out to be a very enjoyable day, I'd not been there for long when I saw bugboy approaching. It was already getting very warm and the Wall responded by being almost impossible to approach, however with huge reserves of patience/insanity and sheer luck (especially on my part) we both managed to get some shots. I saw about 7 females and the males were well into double figures – with quite a few fresh ones showing that both male and female Wall are still emerging. It was also really nice of Badgerbob to drop by and show Paul and I a Wall egg he had been monitoring – cheers Bob.

Females and egg

Males

We also saw a few Peacocks busily feeding up for hibernation.

Another great day in great company.

Thanks for looking

James

### **Re: Butterflysauros rex**

by trevor, 20-Sep-17 06:59 PM GMT

Well done with the female Wall, James. I'll be back at H&O on Friday !.  
Glad that Bugboy had a worthwhile trip.

All the best,  
Trevor.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 20-Sep-17 10:38 PM GMT

The Walls were nowhere near being overshadowed today Rex – that female is a beaut, so fresh – I haven't seen a female Wall this year 🤩🍷😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 21-Sep-17 10:42 AM GMT

You DID get the day posted before me 😊 Thanks for the tour, I can see the attraction now 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 21-Sep-17 05:52 PM GMT

You were rewarded for your admirable perseverance, James. That's a beautiful female Wall Brown and I suppose with Badger Bob around, the likelihood of finding an early stage was approaching 100%!!

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 21-Sep-17 09:12 PM GMT

#### trevor wrote:

Well done with the female Wall, James. I'll be back at H&O on Friday !.  
Glad that Bugboy had a worthwhile trip.

All the best,  
Trevor.

Thank you Trevor, I hope you have a good day tomorrow the weather looks very nice. Bugboy and I had a really enjoyable day. Plenty of butterflies about so it was definitely worth the trip.

#### bugboy wrote:

You DID get the day posted before me 😊 Thanks for the tour, I can see the attraction now 😊

I was sure your post would appear before mine! I had half an hour to spare before dinner so I thought I'd post something on time for a change. Those female Wall were gorgeous weren't they!!

#### Wurzel wrote:

The Walls were nowhere near being overshadowed today Rex – that female is a beaut, so fresh – I haven't seen a female Wall this year 🤩🍷😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

There were some stunning and very fresh female Wall's about, still a few fresh males too. Hopefully you'll catch up with a female Wall next spring, they are a beautifully marked butterfly.

#### David M wrote:

You were rewarded for your admirable perseverance, James. That's a beautiful female Wall Brown and I suppose with Badger Bob around, the likelihood of finding an early stage was approaching 100%!!

Thanks David, you really need perseverance with Wall, their reputation is well deserved! When you get a decent shot of a wall it does feel rewarding because most of the time they have you tearing your hair out! Bob is just excellent all round especially when it comes to Wall Browns.

Many thanks for your kind comments.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by millerd, 21-Sep-17 10:07 PM GMT

Just caught up with your set of Walls, James. A lovely selection with a couple of cracking underside shots. 😊 It's a shame I couldn't get down there too – it sounds like a good time was had by all. 😊 Maybe Sunday...

Dave

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 23-Sep-17 07:18 PM GMT

**millerd wrote:**

Just caught up with your set of Walls, James. A lovely selection with a couple of cracking underside shots. 😊 It's a shame I couldn't get down there too – it sounds like a good time was had by all. 😊 Maybe Sunday...

Dave

Thank you Dave 😊 you should be fine for tomorrow if you're still thinking of going (weather permitting) If you do I hope you have great day.

**Sparkling autumnal Coppers!**

Yesterday afternoon I took a break from the Wall Browns to look for some 3rd brood Small Coppers. They have had a pretty good year around my home patch so I hoped to see a few fresh ones. Thanks to a few beautifully fresh individuals a few photo opportunities eventually presented themselves.

Thanks for looking

James

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Wurzel, 23-Sep-17 10:46 PM GMT

Coppers are great aren't Rex, just as things are waning they pop up and brighten the day 😊 Fine couple their, especially the first which is really well marked 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by badgerbob, 24-Sep-17 02:04 PM GMT

Well worth hanging around for that smart Copper James. Good to see you managed some good shots of it, a pretty good afternoon!!

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 24-Sep-17 09:13 PM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Coppers are great aren't Rex, just as things are waning they pop up and brighten the day 😊 Fine couple their, especially the first which is really well marked 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

They certainly are Wurzel, Small Coppers Have been struggling down this way over the past few years, thankfully they've begun to bounce back this year. Long may it continue.

**badgerbob wrote:**

Well worth hanging around for that smart Copper James. Good to see you managed some good shots of it, a pretty good afternoon!!

Thank you Bob, it was a very enjoyable afternoon, I think we both got some nice shots – despite the strong breeze!

Thanks both for the kind comments.

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by millerd, 24-Sep-17 09:14 PM GMT

Very nice Coppers, James – as Wurzel says, they brighten the day! 😊 There are a few around at the moment – including a handful at Mill Hill today.

Dave

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 24-Sep-17 09:21 PM GMT

#### millerd wrote:

Very nice Coppers, James – as Wurzel says, they brighten the day! 😊 There are a few around at the moment – including a handful at Mill Hill today.

Dave

Thanks very much Dave, as I just commented in your diary – I hope you caught up with some Wall Browns today. Yes indeed Small Coppers never fail to make me smile, and when they are fresh they are quite stunning.

Best wishes

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 26-Sep-17 06:02 PM GMT

#### In Autumns pale light.

I managed to pop out for a wonder on the downs close to home last Sunday afternoon where I hoped to find some fresh Commas and Red Admirals. It was quite warm with a weak sun failing to penetrate the thick haze, initially things looked rather bleak, a once great place for 3rd brood Wall was utterly devoid of life. All I saw were a few Large and Small Whites flying over the recently ploughed fields, determined to find something more I pushed on further into the downs than I'd initially intended. Along the way I saw the first of a few male Wall Browns all on private land making photography impossible. Finally some other species started to appear and I enjoyed a pretty good hour or so before the light became too poor to continue and I made for home.

Red Admirals were easily the most numerous butterfly with individuals lining the route as they basked on top of the hedgerows.

Considering that Commas had a great start to the year and were quite numerous during the summer, I expected to see more than two, I suspect there are more to come if the weather stays mild. They certainly do a splendid job blending in with the autumn leaves.

Finally just before I was about to make my way home a beautiful female Wall landed nearby, the flash of orange had me thinking it was another Comma at first so I'm glad that I went in for a closer look.

Thanks for looking

James

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 27-Sep-17 01:49 PM GMT

What a beautifully marked female Wall 😊👍 That second Red Admiral shot is a cracker too – those red,evil eyes watching you 😲😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 27-Sep-17 04:51 PM GMT

Great shot of the Wall rex, 👍 Can't seem to find any here. weather permitting I might try Southport tomorrow 😊 Goldie 😊

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 27-Sep-17 08:09 PM GMT

Great shots as usual but my favourite is that Comma on the Blackberries, that would make a great picture framed on the wall.

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 27-Sep-17 10:24 PM GMT

I love that first image in your post from 23rd September, James. That is a highly attractive Small Copper with its smaller than usual forewing spots, not to mention the 'blue badge' on the hindwings!

### Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 01-Oct-17 08:49 PM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

What a beautifully marked female Wall 😊👍 That second Red Admiral shot is a cracker too – those red,evil eyes watching you 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

She was a cracking specimen Wurzel 😊 those red eyes you pointed out are one of the reasons I liked the shot from that angle. 😊

**Goldie M wrote:**

Great shot of the Wall rex, 👍 Can't seem to find any here. weather permitting I might try Southport tomorrow 😊 Goldie 😊

Thank you Goldie 😊 Wall have done quite well locally despite the very unsettled weather. Nearly all the 3rd brood Wall reports appear to have been from here in the south. If there are any in your area I hope you find some.

**bugboy wrote:**

Great shots as usual but my favourite is that Comma on the Blackberries, that would make a great picture framed on the wall.

Very kind of you Paul – thank you 😊 it does look very autumnal, hard to believe how different the weather is compared to this time last year!

**David M wrote:**

I love that first image in your post from 23rd September, James. That is a highly attractive Small Copper with its smaller than usual forewing spots, not to mention the 'blue badge' on the hindwings!

Thanks David I really appreciate your kind and generous comment, I was very pleased with that image, it's not very often they sit up high like that and pose so beautifully!

Many thanks to everyone for your comments, it's looking like this might possibly be my last illustrated post of 2017. Then again who knows what might happen, I always have my camera handy – just in case. 😊

**Re: Butterfysaurus rex**

by Butterfysaurus rex, 20-Dec-17 05:13 PM GMT

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

Every spring I look forward to meeting up with my friend Bob on our first foray into the Sussex countryside, and this year would prove to be a rather special and memorable start to the season when we had a wonderful encounter with these beautiful creatures.

It was a real delight to see both male and female Emperor moths – and eventually a mating pair! (something I had never seen before) even as I took these photos I thought to myself "if they come out OK I'll save these for my Christmas diary entry".

So here they are – a very happy Christmas to everyone here on UKB!

Best Wishes

James

**Re: Butterfysaurus rex**

by badgerbob, 21-Dec-17 10:26 AM GMT

That was a pretty special day James. You could even call it an 'Emperor of a day'!!

All the best to you all and see you on the other side!!

**Re: Butterfysaurus rex**

by Butterfysaurus rex, 21-Dec-17 07:04 PM GMT

**badgerbob wrote:**

That was a pretty special day James. You could even call it an 'Emperor of a day'!!

All the best to you all and see you on the other side!!

Indeed it was Bob! Can't get a better start to the season than having an Emperor of a day!!

My best Xmas wishes to you, see you soon – not long to wait now.

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by John W, 21-Dec-17 08:07 PM GMT

**Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:**

It was a real delight to see both male and female Emperor moths – and eventually a mating pair!

Very nice James! Where did you find the Emperor moths?

Happy Christmas to you too 😊

Cheers  
John

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Wurzel, 21-Dec-17 08:42 PM GMT

Stunning shots as ever James 😊👍

Happy Solstice and a very Merry Christmas to you and yours James 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by David M, 21-Dec-17 09:55 PM GMT

Great to see you back, James, and what a stunning re-entrance with that divine and impossibly rare shot of a mating pair of Emperor moths!!

I'd willingly go to £250 to witness such a phenomenon.

Well done and thanks for sharing!

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by bugboy, 21-Dec-17 10:08 PM GMT

It's been many a year since I've seen one of those beauties, I quite often come across caterpillars but I was a young lad the last time I saw an adult one in the flesh!

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by trevor, 22-Dec-17 07:18 AM GMT

A rare encounter indeed !. One of those right place, right time occasions.  
I have only seen an Emperor Moth once, drying it's wings on a wall at work, about ten years ago.

Once again, have a great Christmas. 😊 .  
Trevor.

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Neil Freeman, 22-Dec-17 07:55 PM GMT

Hi James,

Superb Emperor Moths, it has been a while since I have seen any in the wild. Great find and beautiful images 😊👍

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: Butterfliesaurus rex**

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 22-Dec-17 08:55 PM GMT

**John W wrote:**

Very nice James! Where did you find the Emperor moths?

Happy Christmas to you too 😊

Cheers  
John

Cheers John, you can find Emperor Moths all along the South coast, these particular ones were quite local – on the outskirts of Seaford. Having said that they are not easy to find we just got very lucky indeed!

**Wurzel wrote:**

Stunning shots as ever James 😊👍

Happy Solstice and a very Merry Christmas to you and yours James 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Very kind of you Wurzel, yep with the shortest day now behind us we're marching towards spring. I hope you and your family have a fabulous Christmas. 😊 have the goodest of gooduns. 😊

**David M wrote:**

Great to see you back, James, and what a stunning re-entrance with that divine and impossibly rare shot of a mating pair of Emperor moths!!

I'd willingly go to £250 to witness such a phenomenon.

Well done and thanks for sharing!

Many thanks David, I usually wake from hibernation for Christmas, don't want to miss all the fun. The mating pair of Emperor moths was something I'd always wanted to see, as you say it's far from a common sight!

**bugboy wrote:**

It's been many a year since I've seen one of those beauties, I quite often come across caterpillars but I was a young lad the last time I saw an adult one in the flesh!

Hi Paul, I too had seen the caterpillars before but the adults are very elusive indeed! They are truly spectacular and fully deserve the title of Emperor. Seeing a mating pair was a dream come true for me.

**trevor wrote:**

A rare encounter indeed !. One of those right place, right time occasions.  
I have only seen an Emperor Moth once, drying it's wings on a wall at work,  
about ten years ago.

Once again, have a great Christmas. 😊.  
Trevor.

You never forget an encounter with these beauties Trevor, I was very lucky to have shared the experience with Bob.

**Neil Freeman wrote:**

Hi James,

Superb Emperor Moths, it has been a while since I have seen any in the wild. Great find and beautiful images 😊👍

Cheers,

Neil.

Thank you Neil, it seems surprising that such a large insect can remain so inconspicuous! Their camouflage is hugely effective, it has to be, they would be a veritable feast for a hungry predator. They are certainly a feast for the eyes that's for sure!

Thanks to you all for your very kind comments and best Yuletide wishes, have a wonderful Christmas everyone.

James