

Re: Kip

by Kip, 04-Apr-17 11:40 PM GMT

My first home pics of the year... female *cardamines* yesterday....



Also Comma and Peacock in the garden up here in North Yorkshire. 😊

Re: Kip

by Wurzel, 05-Apr-17 12:09 AM GMT

Good to see you back and off the mark Kip 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kip

by David M, 05-Apr-17 11:57 AM GMT

Interesting to see females so far north when males are still scarce in many places further south.

Re: Kip

by Goldie M, 05-Apr-17 03:46 PM GMT

Hi! Kip, can you send those Orange Tips please to South Lancashire 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Kip

by Kip, 12-Apr-17 04:54 PM GMT

I'm pretty sure everyone is seeing a selection of seasonal beauties now!
A couple more from me.....

a rather pleasant and seldom seen by me, male *argiolus* snapped in Northampton,



and a male *cardamines* this aft in my own garden...



Re: Kip

by Wurzel, 12-Apr-17 06:23 PM GMT

Great shots Kip, you're giving Dave Miller a run for his money with the Holly Blue whispering in order to get that one 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kip

by Kip, 12-Apr-17 10:19 PM GMT

Haha... I sat for 2 days on & off waiting for the right moment... culminating in an open wing male, probably same one, which shot off way before camera picked up. 😊

This evening, found two groups of 3 male *cardamines* each, roosting on pale narcissi in the garden!! 😊

Re: Kip

by David M, 13-Apr-17 01:20 AM GMT

I've deliberately planted *Erysimum Bowles Mauve* to attract Orange Tips but have yet to have any success. Nice to see your own have tempted this species.

Re: Kip

by Kip, 13-Apr-17 12:01 PM GMT

I find this plant difficult up here.... it soon gets leggy and dies back, though we have some cuttings rooted... maybe that's the way to go! ... it also feels like photographing a butterfly on Buddleia, grates a bit!! The orange and purple works though 😊

Here's one of my roosting *cardamines* today...



Re: Kip

by Kip, 13-Apr-17 04:30 PM GMT

There are other reasons *cardamines* haunt my garden.... it is well in the countryside, and I have lots of Lady's Smock...



and Garlic Mustard 😊😊😊

Re: Kip

by Kip, 15-Apr-17 10:07 PM GMT

Emergences continue, with my first *napi* (x4), *brassicae* (x1) and *aegeria* (x2) at home yesterday...
– these two were just a few inches apart early this (very cold) morning at home...



I was surprised on 20th April last year by a mating pair of *brassicae* – well this female is even earlier.... maybe some of these odd early Peirids pupated in a hot spot such as a greenhouse????



My local moorland *rubi* population has yet to appear though.

Re: Kip

by Wurzel, 16-Apr-17 08:19 AM GMT

Fantastic looking selection there Kip both plants and butterflies 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kip

by Goldie M, 16-Apr-17 11:09 AM GMT

Love the Orange Tip shots Kip Goldie 😊

Re: Kip

by Neil Freeman, 16-Apr-17 11:15 AM GMT

Kip wrote:

I find this plant difficult up here.... it soon gets leggy and dies back, though we have some cuttings rooted... maybe that's the way to go! ... it also feels like photographing a butterfly on Buddleia, grates a bit!! The orange and purple works though 😊

Yes, I believe it is a short lived perennial...only lives a few years before dying so keeping it going through cuttings is the usual thing.

Great photos 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Kip

by Kip, 20-Apr-17 06:16 PM GMT

Interesting butterfly behaviour, I wonder if everyone notices the same.... communal roosting of *cardamines* ??
i-phone shot at about 5pm this afternoon, on Quamash in the garden, one mid air!.....



Still no local *rubi* 😊

Re: Kip

by millerd, 20-Apr-17 08:32 PM GMT

Very interesting observation. I have seen two on the same flower head a few times, and three or four in the same general area, but not so many so close together.

Dave

Re: Kip

by Goldie M, 20-Apr-17 09:00 PM GMT

That's a great shot Kip! Goldie 😊

Re: Kip

by Wurzel, 21-Apr-17 06:53 PM GMT

I've not seen that number of OT's in one place like that before Kip 😊 It's quite a shot 📷 Could it be that they've all been attracted to the scent of a female?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kip

by David M, 21-Apr-17 08:24 PM GMT

I love images like this, Kip! Quite a few people on here have been investigating roosting butterflies and I have seen enough to try the same tactic myself.

Re: Kip

by Kip, 22-Apr-17 08:11 PM GMT

I did look for a female as I suspected the same Wurzel, but none to be seen, of course, she may well have been well hidden! Generally at this time of year, these butterflies and *napi*, and evidently *brassicae* favour white Narcissi on which to roost, often in twos, so why *Cammasia* in this case, though several have roosted on the latter recently, maybe it is the scent of the plant (????? 🤔 😊)
I do like *napi*...



Little else to photograph here I'm afraid, you Southerners are fortunate by comparison! 🍷

Re: Kip

by Kip, 23-Apr-17 03:42 PM GMT

Five species in the garden today, as much as I could expect up here. (Peacock, Small Tort, Speckled Wood, Orange Tip and Green-veined White. This Lady settled by her own volition in a rather photogenic way on my *Spiraea*....



Re: Kip

by Kip, 04-May-17 04:51 PM GMT

At last, after several fruitless visits through April, the *rubri* are now out in Swaledale, about seven seen, some at a nearby but previously barren site. Not

only that, but a single *phlaeas* also showed up...



This is our local context...



Re: Kip

by Pete Eeles, 04-May-17 05:34 PM GMT

Kip wrote:

Interesting butterfly behaviour, I wonder if everyone notices the same.... communal roosting of *cardamines* ??
i-phone shot at about 5pm this afternoon, on Quamash in the garden, one mid air!.....
IMG_2860.JPG

Still no local *rubi* 😞

Not sure how I missed this! Very interesting, Paul! I've not come across anything like this before, myself.

Cheers,

- Pete

Re: Kip

by Kip, 04-May-17 08:10 PM GMT

Glad it sparked some interest 😊

Every year the males seem to roost on white Narcissi, often in twos, occasionally in threes but i've never watched four interacting so closely.... the final result was three roosting at the same spot. Other white flowers don't seem as attractive, that is, until Garlic Mustard flowers, as it is doing now. That appears to be a *napi* and *cardamines* magnet, more than the Cuckoo Flowers..

Although *napi* similarly chooses white Narcissi, as soon as my variegated Dogwood comes into leaf, and the Apple blossoms, they prefer the latter roosts.

Re: Kip

by bugboy, 04-May-17 08:45 PM GMT

Pete Eeles wrote:**Kip wrote:**

Interesting butterfly behaviour, I wonder if everyone notices the same.... communal roosting of *cardamines* ??
i-phone shot at about 5pm this afternoon, on Quamash in the garden, one mid air!.....
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Still no local *rubi* 😞

Not sure how I missed this! Very interesting, Paul! I've not come across anything like this before, myself.

Cheers,

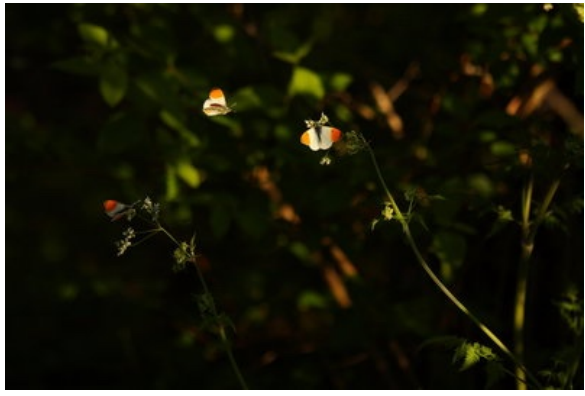
- Pete

a few weeks ago on one of my visits to Aldbury Nowers Nature Reserve a friend and I were watching Orange-tips going to roost at the end of the day. I watched one male flap around another male on some Bramble and then settle a few leaves away. When we moved in to take a few pictures we accidentally disturbed the new one who flew off only to return about 30 seconds later and do exactly the same thing. If I could put words in the mouths of them it looked as though the second one was saying " Oh you think it's safe to sleep here, I'll join you then". It did look to be very deliberate behaviour.

Re: Kip

by William, 04-May-17 09:01 PM GMT

I've noticed this too from time to time, especially last year in the garden, an area of Cow Parsley that caught the evening sun was particularly favoured by male Orange Tips (shown in the photos below, there was another just out of shot alongside the 6 circled) with at least 3 each night for a week (max 7). What was particularly remarkable was that peak day counts in the garden were generally never higher than 3 males, they seemed to be seeking out this patch.



Cheers,

Will

Re: Kip

by Kip, 09-May-17 09:51 PM GMT

So it seems they do tend to roost together in small numbers, thanks for the input. 😊 I saw four *napi* settling down in the sun bathed Horse Chestnut in the garden this evening.

The sun finally came out at home today, after a miserably cold dull few days under the east coast harr... time to venture back into the Dale, back to *rubi* country, and not to be disappointed, eight seen in all...



Also four *phlaeas*...



and the seemingly customary Ring Ouzels at this time of year, (so customary lousy photo) with Wheatears and Stonechats as well.... rather blissful, as not a soul else was around. 😊



Re: Kip

by millerd, 09-May-17 10:05 PM GMT

Now that is a proper Hairstreak, Kip! 😊 Most of the ones I see have a few half-hearted spots, but yours has an almost continuous white line. I wouldn't be surprised if this is a named form. 🍷

Dave

Re: Kip

by Kip, 09-May-17 10:12 PM GMT

Glad you appreciated her...She was rather gorgeous 😊 – I see everything from almost spotless, to this, at this site... a very variable butterfly... I would love to see a real aberration up there, but nothing yet 😊😊

Re: Kip

by David M, 09-May-17 10:15 PM GMT

That is quite the most amazingly marked Green Hairstreak I've ever seen, Kip!!

We get a few that are 'joined up' here in south Wales, but never any like that.

Tremendous find.

Re: Kip

by bugboy, 09-May-17 11:47 PM GMT

Agree about that Green Hairstreak. It is probably the most extreme ab. *punctata* I've seen and there's quite a few photo's of that ab on this very website!



Re: Kip

by trevor, 10-May-17 05:46 AM GMT

Several people on here have found Green Hairstreaks with a complete arc of white spots, this year. But yours is extreme, and a very enviable find.

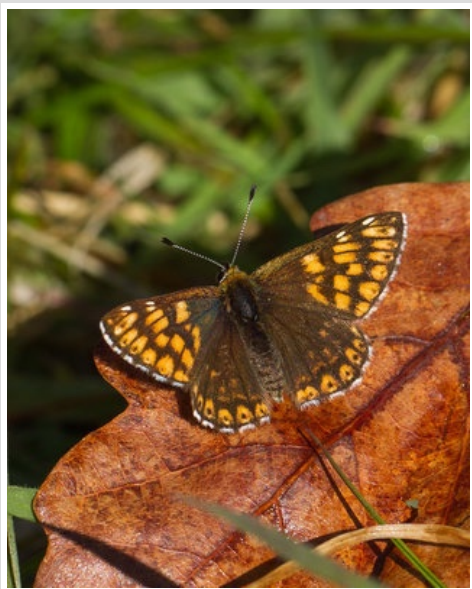
Brilliant stuff !
Trevor.

Re: Kip

by Kip, 10-May-17 07:43 PM GMT

Thank you for your very pleasing comments all 😊

Today I could plan due to the fine weather... time to see if the Yorkshire *lucina* and *euphrosyne* colonies had emerged. My first venue was in shade when I arrived at half eight this morning, but as the sun crept round it became apparent the Dukes were indeed active, although I suspect not peaking yet..



A further few miles bought me to my second venue, as both these species do not fly together anywhere I know of here (I stand to be corrected), and after a barren first half hour, a few PBFs did show themselves...



A rather enjoyable day and what we all think about through those dark winter months 😊

Re: Kip

by Pauline, 11-May-17 06:04 AM GMT

Apologies for belated comment but I have only just seen your stunning Hairstreak. Gorgeous! What a great find and lovely image.

Re: Kip

by Kip, 11-May-17 08:37 AM GMT

Thank you Pauline, I'm delighted her image has been so well appreciated, I hadn't even considered she might be in any way unusual!!

Re: Kip

by Kip, 12-May-17 10:52 PM GMT

No photo, but walking in the garden at twilight this eve, spotted a "looper" catty on our Elm..... well guess what... turned out to be WLH larva. Saw adults on the tree last year, looks like they may be here to stay 😊😊

Re: Kip

by Kip, 13-May-17 04:43 PM GMT

so here he/she is...



Re: Kip

by Kip, 14-May-17 06:23 PM GMT

First Wall Brown in the garden this year today. No photo!.. but did find this sleepy beauty this evening in a sunny corner...



f9 1/500s Canon 7D + 100mm macro IS, no flash

Re: Kip

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

A Wall Brown in your garden 🤪 those were the days 🇩🇪 Cracking OT shot BTW 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Kip

by millerd, 14-May-17 10:34 PM GMT

And not only Walls in the Garden, but WLH as well... Great shot of the larva. 😊

Dave

Re: Kip

by David M, 14-May-17 10:52 PM GMT

A White Letter Hairstreak larva and an adult Wall Brown in your garden is worthy of major applause, Kip. I sincerely hope that any larvae will visit again as imagoes in a few weeks. Good luck!

Re: Kip

by Kip, 15-May-17 12:08 AM GMT

Thank you guys, I am rather lucky!.. but I do try and create the best possible habitat. I also have Purple Hairstreaks atop an old oak at the bottom of my patch – relatively uncommon up here. Having said that, I cannot hope to see as much as you who live in the south do.... Brown Hairstreaks, white admirals etc in the garden, as I've read of in the past.... in my dreams 😊 Even Holly Blues and Brimstones are exceptional rare visitors.

I live in an old railway house on an abandoned line, which acts as a bit of a species corridor, with me at one end. Small numbers of Walls have bred along the line for the 20+ years I have lived here, they don't seem to have suffered such declines as other places have seen. . They occasionally, but regularly mooch through the garden 😊

My desire is to have Common Blues breeding in the garden, hence loads of BFT being nurtured and an ongoing wannabe "calcareous grassland" meadow in it's infancy (still) 😊 !! So far, I still only see one or two a year, and no suggestion of breeding.

I think my idea of using weed-proof membrane to occlude nettles and creeping thistle has backfired, in that it seems to discourage ants.. presumably a barrier to their nests. I suspect this in turn discourages Lycaenids (????)

If only I could trundle the whole lot a couple of hundred miles south!!!!

I think I will miss the WLH adult stage this year, though my trees had at least two adults on their crowns last year; likely to be away for most of their flight time, but junior was still on his branch today, munching happily. I haven't seen another one yet though.

Re: Kip

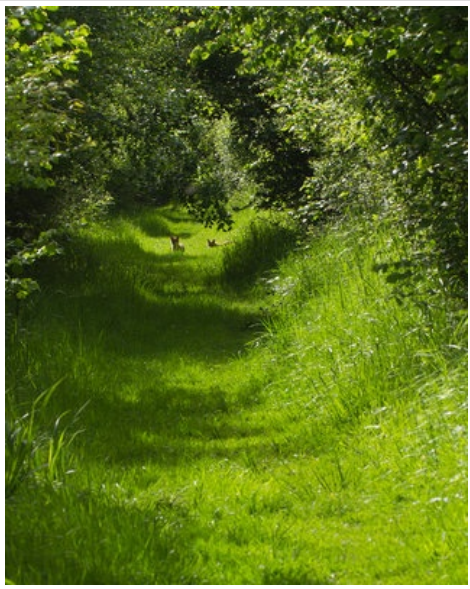
by Kip, 22-May-17 07:13 PM GMT

Managed to visit Salcey Forest a couple of times last week, and was rewarded with my first ever views of Wood White in the UK, though familiar from the continent, it is great to find them in the UK. Even on such hallowed turf for the species, they were not easy to come by, but eventually I saw a few. On my last visit I met David James, the Northants recorder, who felt they were only just on the wing, and very early in their local flight season.





Lovely venue, if a little crowded on a weekend, it wasn't difficult to find lonely sanctuary 😊



Re: Kip

by Kip, 05-Jul-17 07:07 PM GMT

Sharpenhoe looks wonderful at present. I was surprised to see a few fresh male *coridon* and delighted to see some wonderful female *aglaja*





She wasn't in the best of focus, but boy, were they active!! 😊

Re: Kip

by Kip, 11-Jul-17 09:50 PM GMT

Another morning with a fleeting visit to Sharpenhoe... many more *coridon* this time, but it was brewing rain so I didn't hang around long..



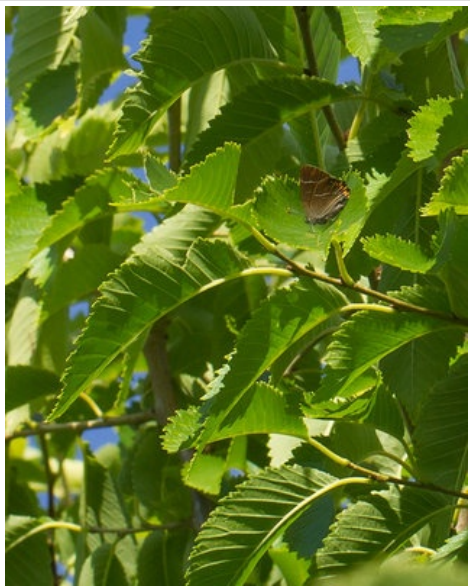
Don't see many Gatekeepers up my way, only Gamekeepers!



Re: Kip

by Kip, 18-Jul-17 06:31 PM GMT

The White-letter Hairstreak catty photo previously may well have matured into imagothood!! Seen today, high up, so hence only record shot, but I'm really pleased to see them at home, I just hope there are more lurking in the tree-tops. Another local site I visited today up here in northernmost North Yorkshire had about half a dozen, but all impossibly high to photograph.



Other garden varieties today... 3x Meadow Brown, 1x Small Skipper, 2x Ringlet, 1x Green-veined, 1x Small White, 3x Small Tort, 1x Peacock, 1x Comma, 8x Red Admiral, 1x Speckled Wood, 1x Small Copper and at least 1x Purple Hairstreak, high in old Oak. At 14 species, that's the most so far this year!

Re: Kip

by Pete Eeles, 21-Jul-17 09:20 PM GMT

Just catching up with your posts Paul; I should have responded back in May! Anyway, all I can say is that I wish I had a garden like yours!

Some excellent species there! I've had stupid numbers of Holly Blue, Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown in my suburban garden of late; the latter are almost a pest; I have to rescue a few every day from our modest conservatory! Still, it's better than rescuing the occasional Wood Pigeon, that always seem do some damage, given their size!

Cheers,

- Pete

Re: Kip

by Kip, 22-Jul-17 01:02 PM GMT

Thanks Pete... I would love Holly Blues to be regular, I see 1 per year here if I am lucky. I can imagine a woodpigeon in a greenhouse to be a bit like a

bull in a china shop... might swap for that simile in the future!!! 😊

Re: Kip

by David M, 24-Jul-17 08:54 PM GMT

{quote}...but all impossibly high to photograph

Well, Kip, you did pretty well given those circumstances. That is unambiguously a good image of a treetop White Letter Hairstreak. I wish I could get similarly close to this frustrating species (in the UK at least).

Re: Kip

by Kip, 25-Jul-17 09:19 PM GMT

Well.... if you come visit me one mid to late June, we will see what we can do.. haven't seen one for a few days now, so guess virtually over for another year. 😊