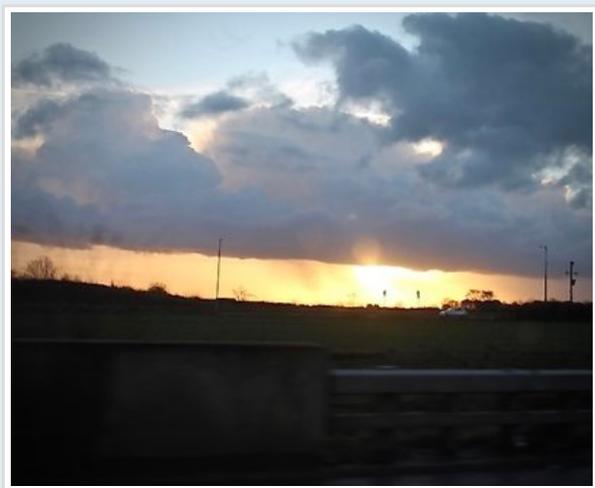


Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Jan-18 09:52 AM GMT

It's quite a while since I posted in my diary, (still getting over Christmas and New Year) 😊
We had a very happy time with our family and on our way back home we managed to miss the bad weather by staying an extra day, thank goodness we did, we passed through the day after and in the Midlands it was still piled up there.
We arrived home to a lovely Sunset which I just managed to get a shot of. So far we seem to have been on the edge of any snow falls missing the worst of the weather here with just the scattering of snow which soon melted but we've certainly had the storms of rain and sleet not being able to get out much for walks etc, hence not many shots, even the birds seem to have been sheltering it's been so wet for them.
These last couple of days have been cold so hope fully a journey out should be on the cards.
I heard the weather forecast yesterday for here and Cumbria which said the weather was the coldest since 2012, up in Cumbria especially (lots of snow there) I picked my ears up at this because it was in 2012 that I saw the SPBF ab at Gait Barrow at the beginning of June,(I'll be up there again hunting a round for sure this June) 😊
I've just put some shots in my posts of the weather we drove through on our way home from Kent, including an unexpected one of a plane in a field on the edge of the motorway 😊 Maybe father Christmas was using it 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 09-Jan-18 06:12 PM GMT

Happy new year to you too Goldie.
Glad you liked the storm images, I could hardly stand up, and my ears hurt with the cold wind !.

Roll on Spring,

Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 10-Jan-18 07:41 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, glad you had nice time with your family, same here. 😊
All the best for 2018.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Jan-18 10:04 AM GMT

Thanks for your post Trevor and Andrew, lets hope we have a good Spring we've certainly had a rough Winter up to now. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Jan-18 08:34 PM GMT

This afternoon we finally got out for a walk, we went to Penn Flash, it was foggy and cold but nothing like it had been over the last few day's when Temps here got no higher than -2 because of the bitter wind.

I've started my year off well, I finally got some shots of a Wren 😊 I've tried for years to pin this little bird down and today I did it 😊 The first hide we went in had put loads of things out for the Birds and they were taking full advantage, hence the shots! 😊

The second Hide we went to had mostly Ducks , I think one's a Shovel Duck, but I'm not sure of the group shot, (could they be Pintail) I've checked my bird book and one looks like a Pintail the other one has a very pointed beak, hooked shape, I'd be glad if any one knows has I like to put names to my shots 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 10-Jan-18 09:14 PM GMT

Hello Goldie,

Some nice shots there Goldie ! Reckon you've got Shoveller ,group shot of Goosanders and Willow Tit (Wow !!) the lasts a real rarity in Kent ,extinct down here as a breeding bird ! think the last I saw were 30 years ago ! nice find !
Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 10-Jan-18 11:41 PM GMT

Andrews right on the IDs; Shoveler, Goosanders (great shots BTW 🍷) and a Willow Tit, I was a bit unsure about that one to start with but the paler area on the wings sold it to me as a Willow Tit, an ID feature I'd not been aware of before 😊🍷🍷 Great Bullfinch as well 😊
Glad you had a good New Year, fingers crossed that it turns into a cracking one! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Jan-18 08:49 AM GMT

Thanks very much Allan and Wurzel for the ID's, I didn't think I'd got a Willow Tit shot, I thought it was a Coal Tit 😊 I took another shot of it which I've now posted, I thought the other shot seemed better 😊 I was more pleased with my shots of the Wren 😊
Has soon as I can I'll be going back there to see what else I can catch a shot of 😊 I just missed a Water Rail I believe, come Spring Penn Flash gets loads of Spring birds. Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 11-Jan-18 09:39 AM GMT

Very nice bird shots, Goldie. Those Goosanders are part of a group known as 'Sawbills'. If you look at their beaks, you can see that they are a different shape from Ducks, with serrated edges to hold a fish well.

Willow and Marsh Tits are very similar, but Willow Tits are now thriving much better in the North and becoming scarce in the South. I was at a ringing session, a few years ago, when we caught both species and a friend took the attached photo.



Willow/Marsh Tits Compared
Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Jan-18 05:33 PM GMT

Thanks for your post Mike, but i shall probably still get mixed up with them 😊
I've looked closely at the photo and the only difference I see is the Willow slightly smaller than the Marsh Tit 😊
I've seen them in the Garden and was convinced they were Coal Tits, I'm going to see if I can sort them out by taking what shots I can, when the opportunity arrises, they're so quick ,I was lucky really to catch those shots when I did, I just happened to have my sights on the array of Blue Tit's when suddenly this one flew into the cage. 😊
I noticed the beaks on the the Goosander's were slightly hooked but they were too far a way to see any thing else, I won't for get their names next time I see them. 😊 Thanks for the photo, I can use it for comparison next time I manage a shot of either 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 11-Jan-18 06:35 PM GMT

Hello again Goldie ,

I think your Willow Tit shots (particularly the first one) show the fine id points of a Willow Tit really clearly,ie. the Black crown showing a "matt" finish ,as opposed to being Glossy in a Marsh Tit ,the very "Bull" neck of the Willow Tit ,a Marshes being more pinched,but the clincher and very well shown in your shots (the first particularly) the very pale wing panel . Also Willow tits do have a tendency to prefer damp overgrown marshy areas such as Alder/Willow Carr ,Lake edges and suchlike,wheras a Marsh is(curiously) more of a mixed woodland species, the last Willows that I saw were in Kent ,you probably know Stodmarsh near Canterbury and that was about 30 years ago . Nice find !
Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Jan-18 10:34 AM GMT

Hi! Allan, I think I see what you mean looking at the photo Mike sent but if I see the Birds again I think I may still need help with Id's 😊 At Penn Flash the area is quite large with lots of small and large lakes plus reed beds, you can walk in a circle a round these with Hides at nearly all of them, they are ideal for bird watching, this one hide i went too is enclosed in the trees but next to the lake it's great to see the smaller birds from, most of the others cover the lakes where the Geese / Ducks/ Heron's etc can be seen, the area was used for coal mining at one time but of course that's all finished and the biggest lake came from the flooding area where the mine was. There's also a Canal along side the lakes.
I'm thinking may be we've so many area's near to us for wild life to thrive now that's why we're seeing so much Bird life, off the top of my head I can think of at least six or seven just near to us, all the mills and chimneys have gone now even the River Irwell has Trout where at one time when I was younger it ran black. Plus the Lakes are near to us as well which makes it a great place now 😊 We just need more rare Butterflies 😊 Take care Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 12-Jan-18 10:58 AM GMT

Nice shots Goldie 😊
And good to learn more from those who know.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Jan-18 01:11 PM GMT

That's what's so good about UK butterflies Andrew, there's always some one to help you with things your not sure about and people with lots of Knowledge to help 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 12-Jan-18 04:44 PM GMT

Allan.W. wrote:

Hello again Goldie ,

I think your Willow Tit shots (particularly the first one) show the fine id points of a Willow Tit really clearly,ie. the Black crown showing a "matt"

finish ,as opposed to being Glossy in a Marsh Tit ,the very "Bull" neck of the Willow Tit ,a Marshes being more pinched,but the clincher and very well shown in your shots (the first particularly) the very pale wing panel . Also Willow tits do have a tendency to prefer damp overgrown marshy areas such as Alder/Willow Carr ,Lake edges and suchlike,wheras a Marsh is(curiously) more of a mixed woodland species, the last Willows that I saw were in Kent ,you probably know Stodmarsh near Canterbury and that was about 30 years ago . Nice find !

Regards Allan.W.

It's probably worth mentioning here that a lot of these 'in the field' diagnostic features are now known to be not particularly reliable when looking at Marsh/Willow Tits, only the calls and songs can be used to be 100% sure of separating the two for anyone except real hardcore birders!

<https://www.bto.org/about-birds/bird-id/telling-apart-marsh-and-willow-tits>

There's always a lot of 'ptchooing' going on at the ones I see at Bookham so they're all Marshies, but one I was watching today did look to have a very obvious 'Willowesque' pale wing panel so there is indeed some cross over with these other features.

Nice Goosanders btw Goldie, we are indeed seeing a lot of the same 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 12-Jan-18 08:10 PM GMT

Not been to Pennington Flash for many years, but it's undoubtedly a great spot for birds. Well done photographing the Willow Tit. Lovely specimen.

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 12-Jan-18 11:36 PM GMT

Congratulations from me on the willow tit. What you have there is a major rarity these days, and it is almost extinct as a breeder in the south, and declining everywhere. Well done, that earns you a 🏆

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Jan-18 01:32 PM GMT

Thanks Bugboy, that was an interesting video, I never realised it was so difficult to tell these birds a part, knowing about their different songs will help if I see them again. 😊

Again a thank you David, Pennington Flash is very important to Bird photographers, when you visit in spring especially, the huge cameras they have put mine to shame 😊 The hides are usually full of them, one hide in particular looks over the larger lake and gets lots of different species I prefer the small one where the smaller birds are not having the huge lens it's easier for me. You say you've been to Penn Flash david so you'll know the one I mean. 😊

Your Green will make me swelled headed if I'm not careful Essex, 😊 considering I didn't know what I'd got a shot of however brings me back to earth 😊 I can't wait to visit there again to see what other surprises a waits 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Jan-18 02:09 PM GMT

Last year when we visited Gait Barrow I noticed this odd looking plant not yet in flower, I wonder if any one knows what it's called?

I also noticed a lot more Orchids than usual in the different places I visited, I'm not too familiar with plants other than the ones the Butterflies like 😊 but to my surprise before they cut the grass at Hall-lee-Brook I saw this Orchid, I hope I've got the names right (not guilty, I was told they were Orchids if I'm wrong) 😊 Goldie 😊



Plant GB 20th August



Orchid Arnside Knot



Orchids South Port Dunes



Orchid HLB

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 15-Jan-18 05:32 PM GMT

Hi Goldie. Your first plant is a Great Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), which I recall seeing myself in the car-park at Gait Barrows. The others are all orchids. I think the first is probably one of the Fragrant Orchids (there are three similar species), while the other, darker ones, look like Northern Marsh Orchids.

Although I like to photograph <http://home.btconnect.com/mike.flemming/orchidshome.htm>, I do find them quite difficult to identify, without having the chance to examine the whole plant. They are very variable in colour and markings, and also hybridise freely.

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Jan-18 02:29 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, thanks for your post, it seemed a very strange plant growing out of the rocks at Gait Barrow so I'm glad to know it's name I'll look it up now. I love the Orchids but you don't see many Butterflies on them which is surprising. I like to take shots of them and look out for any unusual ones. The best group I've seen up to now was in Blean Woods (not East Blean woods) but the entrance to the woods in Blean village itself. It's a fair way in but once there, there's a carpet of them. If I manage to see them this year I'll post a shot of them. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 16-Jan-18 05:46 PM GMT

Orchids are amongst the most sophisticated of all plants and many have developed extraordinarily close relationships with other species. For example, several of the British species depend on certain fungi being present in the roots, to supply them with essential nutrients. The Bird's Nest Orchid (*Neottia nidus-avis*) gets all its food this way and has no chlorophyll to enable it to use energy from the sun. Even stranger, the Ghost Orchid (*Epipogium*

aphyllum) spends most of its life underground and only very occasionally sends up a flower spike – usually just after the plant has been declared extinct in Britain 😊

I have occasionally seen Spring butterflies visit Orchids but most Orchid species have very specific insect pollinators. The most famous case is 'Darwin's Orchid' (*Angraecum sesquipedale*) This species has a very long spur, which led Darwin to speculate that the flower was pollinated by an undiscovered moth with an exceptionally long proboscis. The moth was eventually discovered after Darwin's death and is regarded as a remarkable prediction from Darwin's theory of evolution.

Re: Goldie M

by bailey1409, 16-Jan-18 07:07 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, Mike

I think that your first orchid is a Common Spotted Orchid.

Thanks

Maurice

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 17-Jan-18 11:30 AM GMT

bailey1409 wrote:

Hi Goldie, Mike I think that your first orchid is a Common Spotted Orchid. Thanks Maurice

I think you may well be right, Maurice. The flower spike is probably too dense for a Fragrant. I looked at the photo for a while and thought that, if it was an individual flower at that location then Fragrant deemed a likely candidate. It'd be nice to see the leaves.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jan-18 12:53 PM GMT

Thanks Maurice , I must admit I like photographing Butterflies more than flowers and yet It's the flowers that attract them and when they land on a flower this is more interesting to me than say, just seeing a Butterfly on a stalk of some kind or a leaf. 😊

I've just been viewing your shots of the Orchids Mike and the shot of a field full of them will take some beating, i've never seen so many together before. Usually they're just odd one's in the fields . In the Dunes at Southport there seems to be more and more appearing, I'll take some shots of them this year and it will be interesting to check them from the list you've sent. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 17-Jan-18 12:58 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the Orchids Goldie 😊 I'm not really up on my Botany being a Zoologist by trade so I won't put my tuppence worth in on the ID, I'd only as far as 'Plant', 'Orchid' and other 'Orchids' 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jan-18 01:17 PM GMT

Me too Wurzel, 😊 but when I take photos of flowers I'm curious to know what their called, just call me Nosy ! 😊 Goldie 😊

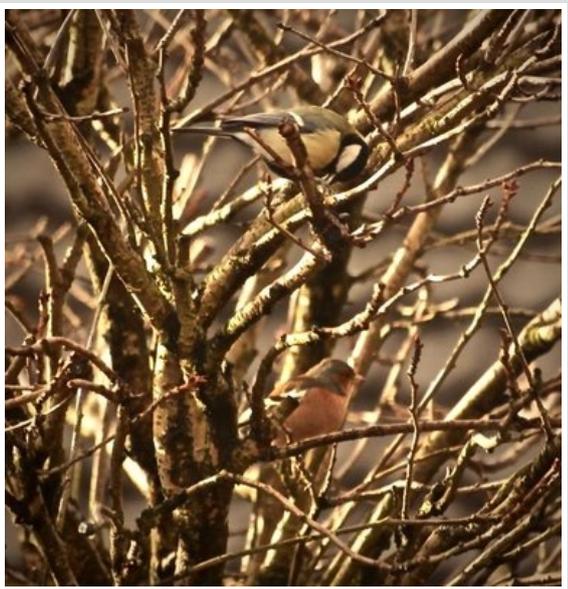
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Jan-18 02:27 PM GMT

Totally miserable weather lately, rain ,sleet, snow, but the birds are still visiting the garden, flying in quickly and out again at the same speed, no wonder!

This morning I spotted another Tit, whether it's Willow, Marsh or Coal I'm not sure, it was cloudy and wet at the time so the shots were taken through the Kitchen window , the weather did brighten up later and I put some grapes out for the Black Birds who visit every day for them and have become a favourite of mine with the exception of course of the Robin 😊 (I managed a quick shot of a Black Bird taking a Grape 😊)

Also visiting the garden were Chaffinch, Great Tit's, and Long Tailed Tit's, we're back in the rain/sleet again now so it's time for an Hot Chocolate 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 19-Jan-18 07:17 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...This morning I spotted another Tit, whether it's Willow, Marsh or Coal I'm not sure...

Hi Goldie,

If that's the one in the last two shots, it is a Coal Tit.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Jan-18 11:43 AM GMT

Thanks Neil, it's the Coal Tit that visits us regularly then, I wasn't sure after seeing the Willow Tit at Penn Flash, I'll figure them out hope fully one day 😊
Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 20-Jan-18 03:50 PM GMT

Hi Goldie. Like you, I'm not great at bird identification but do enjoy photographing them. I think it is one of those things that you can develop a 'feel' for when you're young but, I'm afraid, I didn't. Coal Tit's are easy if you see the back of the head, with its white stripe, but at the angle of your photos, the most obvious marks to me are the two white bars across the wings, which Willow and Marsh Tits do not have. I expect there are loads of other things that provide instant ID to the experts 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Jan-18 11:27 AM GMT

Thanks Mike, that description helps a lot, it's the white bar I'll look for on the wings and the back of the head when I'm photographing them from now on 😊

I've been more interested in taking shots of birds since we came to live here on the out skirts of Bolton and Manchester, we're near the West Pennine

Moors and see plenty of wild life, especially in Winter ,(talking of Winter it's snowing hard at present) I must admit to loosing interest in Summer because of the Butterflies unless it's some thing unusual { like Sparrow Hawks in my Garden 😊 } Roll on Spring 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Jan-18 11:52 AM GMT

Yesterday was a lovely day, very little breeze, Winter Sunshine, great for a walk and another visit to Pennington Flash 😊

After all the bad weather the paths in there were certainly wet and muddy, huge puddles every where, any way after wading through them we arrived at the first hide, lots of people in there all glad of the nice weather and chatting quietly whilst watching the birds.

There were Chaffinch, Robins,(I didn't see the Willow Tit's,) Reed Buntings the list goes on. In one cage was a small bird with yellow under it's wings, I christened this one has a Female Gold Finch after thinking it might be a Serin, I thought Female GF to bit much greyer, so I'm not sure!!

After this we moved to the next Hide but we were stopped in our tracks when we spotted this large bird at the top of these tall tree's. I waded through some very wet flattened grass to get a better look and fixed my camera lens on the tree, my camera is not really for long distance but although I couldn't distinguish the birds identity from where I was, I knew my computer would help with that 😊 Any way I think it's a Kestrel!!!! The Sun was shining on it and from the distance it looked almost orange, Lovely!

At the next Hide we saw the Goosanders again and then to my surprise a Small Egret appeared out of the Reeds near to a Grey Heron, also there in another inlet was another Heron with some Geese I couldn't ID, the water was simply shimmering which didn't help with ID's , I took shots of what I think are Golden Eye but again not sure 😊 Any way it was a great day out. Goldie 😊



Golden Eye ?



Small Egret/Heron

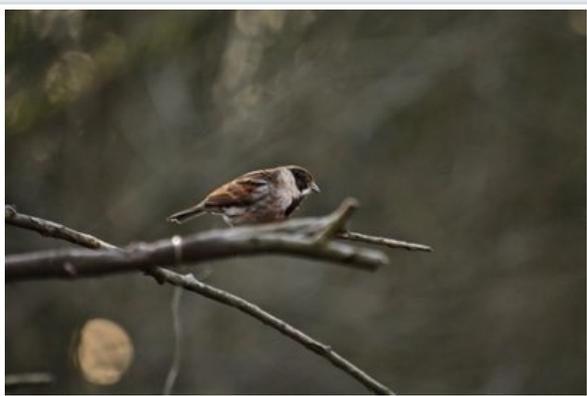


Glebe

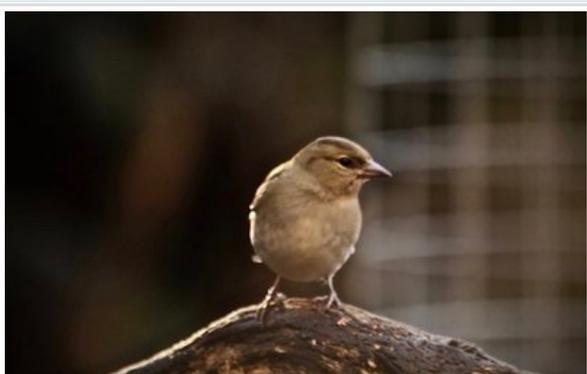


Kestrel





Reed Bunting



Chaffinch ?



Female Gold Finch ?

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 28-Jan-18 06:46 PM GMT

Great shots of the Kestrel and Grebe in particular Goldie 😊 Spot on with the Chaffinch 😊 your unknown geese are Canadian, your Goldeneye are Teal and your Goldfinch is a Greenfinch, sexing a Goldfinch(😳😳😳) is difficult as they wear the same plumage. Hope these help 😊 Soon you won't notice the birds, you'll be too busy with the butterflies 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Jan-18 01:21 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I suppose three out of six isn't too bad 😊😊 We could do with some more sunshine though, so the Birds will have to do for now. 😊 I never thought of a green Finch although I've seen them in the Garden loads of times. 😊

I forgot to put a shot I took of a Robin in my last post, it came right onto a bough of a tree right in front of us, stayed for a while, even gave us a short song 😊 I think people must have been feeding it because it came onto the window ledge of the Hide, next time I go I'll take some suet pellets with me. 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by David M, 30-Jan-18 02:05 PM GMT

You may not get all the butterflies up there, Goldie, but you're certainly in one of the best spots for birds, as that sequence illustrates!

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 30-Jan-18 07:07 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I have been making the most of the birds lately as well...although in my case its lazy birding watching them in the garden from the comfort of my back room 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 01-Feb-18 02:03 PM GMT

Very nice Goldie. That Kestrel looks great in the sun. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Feb-18 07:16 PM GMT

Sorry for the delay in replying but my broad band was down for over 24 hrs, not bad for me but I feel sorry for people who work from home 😊

Hi! David, I was at the Flash again on Tuesday 😊 As soon as the weather brightens up we're out and about, Butterflies next I hope, It's great to see the nights getting lighter too, roll on. 😊

Hi! Neil, the birds a round us have been busy trying to get mates especially the Wood Pigeons, so Spring can't be too far a way now even the Black Birds are in the chase looking for mates. 😊 I'm keeping an eye on the Garden just in case I see some thing different arriving. 😊

Thank's Andrew, I thought so too, the photo doesn't do it justice , I was so far a way but he looked great in the Sun, I took a chance and took the shot, so glad I did. 😊

I've just posted a few shots from Tuesday, has I said the birds are starting to pair off now the Green Finch were together most of the time. I took a shot of this Swan has it flew passed, it looked so regal. The Sea Gull was in the middle of the lake, I think it's a Great Black Backed Gull but I'll leave it to the experts to say 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 01-Feb-18 10:26 PM GMT

More cracking bird shots Goldie 😊 The aerial swan shots are brill 😊👍 You were really close with the gull ID, Great Black-backed Gulls are really stand out black and white, your gull is more slatey so I reckon it's a Lesser Black-backed 😊 I'm starting to get the equivalent of cabin fever now so I really appreciate your posts keeping me going during the week by allowing me to do some birding vicariously 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Feb-18 05:16 PM GMT

Thanks for that Wurzel, at least I'm getting nearer with the ID's 😊

I took some shots in the Garden over the last couple of days and I thought both the birds were Dunocks looking at the beaks I'm not too sure now 😊

Help needed again I think 😊

Also when I was in the Garden today I was astounded to see an Aneomne in flower, it made my day 😊

My little Coal Tit was back in the garden has well and a Lady Black Bird was telling a male BB off. 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 02-Feb-18 05:30 PM GMT

Spot on Goldie, both Dunnocks ! Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 03-Feb-18 01:58 PM GMT

Hi Goldie. It's the beak that shows that, although sometimes called Hedge Sparrows, these Dunnocks really are not Sparrows! The House Sparrow's deep, short beak is typical of seed feeders, whereas the Dunnock has a thin pointed beak, better for insects.

We've not had many different species in our garden this Winter, although one welcome visitor has been a Grey Wagtail, which likes our pond.
Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Feb-18 02:57 PM GMT

Many thanks Allan, they're a lovely little bird. 😊

Hi! Mike, I always usually look for the Grey chest of the Dunnock but the one on the fence seemed different so I wasn't sure, mind you it was side ways on 😊😊

We get lots of Birds in the Garden, the Starlings come and take the place over 😊 but at least they don't bother the other birds, they feed mostly on the those large round fat balls, the smaller birds seem to like the suet pellets and nuts, we're also near to a few country parks which helps. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 05-Feb-18 10:29 PM GMT

Spot on with the Dunnock/Hedge Sparrow/Hedge Accentor ID Goldie 😊 Don't be misled by the cuteness of size or the drabness of colour as they are one of the most depraved and promiscuous species found in the garden 😊😊 Great shot of the Coal Tit, it seems to be admonishing you for spending so much time with the Dunnocks 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Feb-18 03:27 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, more Birds in the Garden, plus Snow! plus !!!!! I'm not sure of ID's 😊

It's been snowing most of the day today but only really stuck on the tree's and bushes, it was enough to bring the birds though, quite a collection them and some I'm once again not too sure of 😊

It started off with the Robin who puts in an appearance and a position under the tree where we've placed suet balls 😊 and so every time the Starlings arrive so does he, that also applies to the Black Bird. 😊

The birds I'm not too sure about which I think one could be a Black Cap, maybe the other Green finch or Chaffinch. My photos were taken through the window whilst the snow was at it's heaviest so I hope that doesn't hamper ID 😊 Goldie 😊



Starlings



Wood Pigeons keeping warm



Long Tailed Tit



Robin



?



?



Gold Finch



?



?

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 06-Feb-18 03:39 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, those are lovely photos of the robin and goldfinch! The one after the robin looks like a chaffinch to me, but I could be wrong. Janet

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-Feb-18 06:34 PM GMT

More great bird shots Goldie 😊 Your four '?' are all Chaffinches so Janet was spot on. Keep em coming 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 06-Feb-18 07:13 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Some light snow flurries here today and it's coming down quiet heavy now as I write this...not much sign of spring around here yet.

Nice selection of bird photos, you seem to be getting a similar mix of species in your garden as I do 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 06-Feb-18 11:29 PM GMT

I **sense** the yearning for butterflies in you, Goldie!

Seems like everybody is seeing Goldfinches right now. Maybe it's the sign of a cold snap. Long may it continue! Beautiful birds.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Feb-18 07:18 PM GMT

Thanks everyone for your posts, I would have replied earlier but in my area the broadband has been down for two days seems somebody cut the cable 😞 I felt sorry for the people who work from home, any way we're back again 😊

Glad you like the photos Janet, the Gold Finch are so cute we've just put a new cage out in the garden to hope fully see more birds.

Thanks Wurzel, I'll keep them coming 😊 I saw this Coal Tit in the garden and just as I was taking a photo of it it flew off. 😊

Hi! Neil, the weather was really cold yesterday but what a contrast to today, pouring with rain at present UGH! even the Birds are hiding. 😊

Thanks David, your right, I keep thinking just a few more Butterflies to enter in Favourites and then we're nearly there 😊

Before the Internet went down I managed to see my little Coal Tit a gain a couple of days before, so I've decided to post some shots. Goldie 😊



Coal Tit taking off



Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 09-Feb-18 09:46 AM GMT

Great garden selections Goldie. I like the little Coal Tit. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-Feb-18 01:37 PM GMT

Thanks Andrew, it arrives every day, I look forward to seeing it, it makes my day. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 10-Feb-18 03:46 PM GMT

Great shots of the Coal Tit Goldie, especially the second one where you can see one of the defining features – the white stripe down the back of the black cap 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 10-Feb-18 08:20 PM GMT

Enchanting little birds aren't they, Goldie? We all seem to have done well on the ornithological front this winter. I don't quite know why that is, because it hasn't exactly been Baltic, has it?

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Feb-18 08:39 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I like to photograph this little bird he's so cute and visits every day 😊

Hi! David, Yes, they are great little Birds, I think we've seen more because the weather has been really cold and the ground very hard, nothing much for them to dig up. we'd snow again this morning but when the Sun came out it quickly melted. Roll on Spring
😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Feb-18 01:21 PM GMT

Yesterday was a cold miserable day but at least it was fine but with an icy wind that seemed to go through to the bones UGH!

Our Daughter was visiting us from Kent and she never seemed to warm up. 😊 Any way we decided on the Garden Centre for a visit, I'd just put on my coat when I noticed this Lady Black Bird watching the Suet Balls hanging on the Tree, (I was feeling sorry for her knowing Black Birds are ground feeding Birds) when she flew up to the Suet Balls wings flapping and pecked at the balls knocking bits onto the ground, then, flying down ate them up and proceeded to do this again 😊

I grabbed the Camera and tried to capture some of the action in-between the Stream from the central heating system getting in the way 😊 I did manage a few shots and whilst doing this captured a shot of yet another Robin 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 14-Feb-18 03:29 PM GMT

Great set of action shots Goldie 😊 Your Blackbird looked pretty grey rather than the usual brown which makes it interesting as well 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Feb-18 07:36 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, the Black bird is a Female (i think) she's really nicely marked and a regular visitor to the garden, I've taken a few shots of her because she's so nicely marked, I thought at first she was a thrush because of her speckled chest but I saw the Black Bird (Male) being bossed by her so came to the conclusion she must be one 🤔 Goldie 🤔 PS I've added a few shots of her.



Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 16-Feb-18 07:10 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

... but with an icy wind that seemed to go through to the bones UGH! ...

I Know exactly what you mean Goldie, it was bl**dy cold here earlier in the week.

Funnily enough I have recently been watching Blackbirds doing a similar thing at my feeders, sometimes a group of 4 or 5 males and females taking turns to fly up and knock bits off the fat block...clever birds 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 16-Feb-18 08:42 PM GMT

She's a cracker indeed Goldie 😊 Finally managed to get out today no butterflies at Five Rivers so did a bit of birding and saw a pair of Bullfinches 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Feb-18 08:13 PM GMT

Thanks for your post's Wurzel and Neil, the weather's been better these last couple of day's we've even had a couple of nice Sunsets but it's still been cold at night with frosts ; I've noticed the birds are coupling up now, today a couple of Gold Finch were together ,I'm not too sure about the Coal Tit's but two were in a tree in the back garden but certainly the Wood Pigeon's are, lots of bowing going on 😊 Spring is definitely in the air.Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Feb-18 01:15 PM GMT

I've just come across an Head Line in our local free paper that says the White Letter Hair Streak eggs have been found in Scotland by two amateur naturalists from Bolton, it says, "A rare find has the Butterfly hasn't been breeding there for 130 years" the place mentioned is Lennel by the River Tweed in East Scotland, both naturalists are members of a Wild Life Charity, the President of which is David Attenborough.

I just thought this may be of interest to some UK Butterfly members. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 18-Feb-18 03:10 PM GMT

Cheers for the tip off Goldie 😊 Great shot of the finches - I'd watch out though, they look like they're conspiring, the Greenfinch is definitely having a quiet word with the Goldfinch 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 18-Feb-18 06:51 PM GMT

You're right, Goldie, spring is in the air and the birds know it! This last week I have heard the beautiful calls of Chaffinches which always signal the end of winter for me.

Give it two or three weeks and we'll be in a different world entirely! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Feb-18 11:49 AM GMT

Wurzel, you've caught me out again 😊 my only excuse is I took the shot from my kitchen window and the birds were at the bottom of the garden 😊 Also it was the morning after the night before if you get my meaning 😊

Hi! Dave, I hope so, it's been a pretty grim Winter here, I've read peoples posts talking about 10/12 c, I think we're about 9c here today and it's miserable and that's the highest C we've had. So roll on Spring, one consolation, the Snow Drops and Crocus showing their heads 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 19-Feb-18 03:03 PM GMT

You caught some great moments there with these shots Goldie, nice one. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Feb-18 06:57 PM GMT

Many thanks Andrew, Butterflies next I hope 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Feb-18 01:10 PM GMT

Bitter cold out side today but that didn't stop the small birds, that is, until the Hawk arrived , I can't distinguish between Male or Female but this Hawk

was a beauty and landed on our fence near the kitchen window, luckily I'd my camera near by watching for the smaller birds when the Hawk arrived so i managed quite a few shots, he stared right at me at one point I was certainly glad I wasn't on his menu 😊
He swooped down into next doors garden I don't know what happened after that I just hope the birds got out of it's way.Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 24-Feb-18 04:10 PM GMT

Wow Goldie! 😄 , that must have been an exciting moment!, he/she is beautiful. 😄

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 24-Feb-18 10:39 PM GMT

Great shots of that Sparrowhawk. The orangy barring visible on his underparts and his face distinguish him from his mate which has black barring. She is also about a third larger in size meaning she preys on larger birds like Thrushes. I had a female zoom past me, about 2 inches of the ground, on my local patch a couple of months ago. The action all happened far to quick for me to capture on camera but, in a puff of feathers, a Blackbird never made it into 2018 😄

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Feb-18 10:01 AM GMT

Hi! Andrew, it certainly was but the Hawks pay regular visits to the garden, I've only seen them capture a couple of birds, the birds seem to have got wise to them because they come very early and I've got loads of Ever Green bushes which they always head for first. 😄

Thanks for that info bugboy, I've been looking back at my shots of the Sparrow Hawk, I took a shot in 2015 which I think from what you've said is a Female , it's the only one of a Female I've got and was also taken on the fence in the back garden, they've been coming each year, all Male 's by the look of my shots but I must say the one I took yesterday was the most handsome.

I've posted the Female shot because like you said she does look much bigger. Goldie 😄



Sparrow Hawk 2015

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-Feb-18 01:19 PM GMT

Great set of Sparrowhawk shots Goldie, you've really captured the pinky orange 'blusher' that the male wears 😄👍😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Feb-18 01:54 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, he was a really handsome Bird, I've got into the habit now of having the camera with me when in the kitchen just in case some thing unusual arrives in the garden, this time it paid off. 😄 Butterflies next I hope. Goldie 😄

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Feb-18 06:44 PM GMT

Well! we got some snow but not too bad, we thought we'd see lots more , we'll see what happens in the rest of the week. 😄

I took a shot of my crocus , they still looked good even in the snow 😄 My Tulips also could be affected with the severe cold I hope not but they're well on their way up so I'll have to cover them tonight 😄

I also saw lots of Bird's in the garden, I couldn't help but include a couple of shots , soon be Spring , 😄 Goldie 😄





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 28-Feb-18 11:22 AM GMT

Good to your Blackbird back Goldie 😊 This crazy weather is set to last on into next week as well so get the fleece out for your bulbs as Spring is most definitely on hold 😊 Mind you the wait will be worth it 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Feb-18 01:44 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, we've been lucky so far with the Snow , it's not been has bad in Lancashire has in Cumbria , they've had it really bad, last time it was a Winter like this I saw the Small Pearl BF ab in early June at Gait Barrow, they think the cause was caused by the cold in it's early stages , I'll be up there again in early June 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 01-Mar-18 01:45 PM GMT

Thanks for keeping our spirits up with the variety of birds visiting you, Goldie. Although it's officially spring today, it feels more like a particularly bad January day. It's hard to believe butterflies will be on the wing quite soon. Let's hope they can ride this Siberian spell out!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Mar-18 10:06 AM GMT

Hi! David, I'm hoping the Butterflies won't suffer and will do better by leaving it later to appear, I was just thinking how bad it would have been for them to have put in an appearance earlier. 😊

In my garden this morning I spotted this Thrush which was hiding under my Fir Tree , it made a quick appearance then went quickly back under the tree. The wind was so bad we'd to use the window door to go into the garden to break the ice so the birds could get some water , the wind took my door right out of my hand when I tried to use the side door and I see some fencing as gone, Wow! what a Winter! Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 02-Mar-18 11:05 AM GMT

Nice stuff Goldie. 😊 The wind has been giving me trouble as well, exploiting the smallest weakness in my window seals. 😞

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Mar-18 04:34 PM GMT

Thanks Andrew, I just hope this wind will drop and we'll get a bit warmer the poor birds are really being hit hard here with tree's down and car's off the road and some parts of the motorways closed UGH! Where has Spring gone !!! 😞 Goldie 😞

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 02-Mar-18 07:18 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Just caught up with your Sparrowhawk photos, love the second shot with his golden eyes looking straight at you 😊

Up until today we had missed the worst of the snow here in my bit of the midlands but we are copping it now.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Mar-18 11:08 AM GMT

Thanks Neil, he was certainly an handsome Hawk, 😊 We've had awful winds here and the Snow funnily enough was blown off the road where we live onto the Gardens so cars were able to move but if you did it was risky. We went shopping last Monday and we've not moved since 😊 Hope fully it will get better soon, can't belong now Neil we're in March 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 04-Mar-18 05:27 PM GMT

Greta shots of the Song Thrush Goldie 😊 The snows almost gone from round my way so hopefully it'll be full steam ahead to Spring 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 04-Mar-18 10:12 PM GMT

Lovely to see Thrushes thriving, Goldie. This species was common when I was a kid, and although I saw precious few in my thirties, since I have lived in the Gower countryside (since 2014) I'm pleased to say I see plenty and long may that continue.

Here's hoping the wintry weather will disappear and we can all concentrate on our winged invertebrate friends!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Mar-18 03:42 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel and David, I'm always excited to see the Thrush as we don't seem to see many until Spring arrives, so when we spotted this one it was like a message saying Spring won't be long now. 😊 To confirm this, today we've had showers and Sunshine and the Snow has all gone 😊 also Mr and Mrs Chaffinch arrived, she watched him safely from the tree whilst he checked out the Garden 😊 and the Robin kept an eye on them both, 😊 Won't be long now! Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 08-Mar-18 12:19 PM GMT

Great shots of Mr and Mrs Goldie, though I reckon Mr looks less pleased at being 'papped' 😊😄
Not long now surely...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Mar-18 03:44 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, just when I thought we were okay weather wise the Snow arrived again 😞 It's afternoon now and most of it as gone but with freezing fog forecast for tonight we're still in it for a while, surely it can't last much longer now 😞 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Mar-18 10:25 AM GMT

At last we can see the light of day 😊 (Some Sunshine) 😊 No Butterflies yet , but I've got my Camera primed and ready 😊

The birds have definitely got going, quite a lot of Gold finch in my tree yesterday and I found an unusual discovery of one of my nesting box's with the makings of a nest not inside the box but on top of it 😊 has i watched Blue Tit's were checking it out so I can only think it could be them, it does seem rather large for Blue Tit's though.

Anyway it does look like Springs arrived I've even got daffodils nearly ready for opening out in a sheltered part of the garden, just waiting for the Butterflies now but lots to do in the garden first. Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 11-Mar-18 03:31 PM GMT

Charming charm of Goldfinches Goldie (I've always wanted to write that) 😊 Hopefully a delayed will pay dividends in the end but I've had enough waiting now! 😊 Come on Spring get sprung!
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Mar-18 04:36 PM GMT

I agree Wurzel, where is Spring! having said that I made a move in the garden yesterday to get rid of loads of Moss, i've never seen as much before, it also looks like my Boul's Mouve has been frozen out, I'll have to wait on that one, good news is, we'll be visiting Kent over Easter so we should see some thing if the temp's down there are better than here. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 13-Mar-18 05:27 PM GMT

A 'charm' of Goldfinches ? 😊 I didn't know that, very nice Goldie. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 14-Mar-18 12:46 AM GMT

Those garden birds sure are keeping you sane, Goldie!!

Here's wishing you best of luck with the invertebrates over the next week or two....I'm sure there will be a butterfly passing your way very soon. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Mar-18 12:17 PM GMT

Thanks for your posts David and Andrew, with the prospect of more Snow forecast for here in the North this weekend I can't see any Butterflies here for

another week, so I'm hoping for Kent, I'll have to rely on the Birds till then 😊

A visit to Denge Woods in Canterbury may be too soon for Grizzled Skipper though, so I'll have to look in Blean Woods for Comma's etc, roll on!!! Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Mar-18 09:01 PM GMT

Well we're in the grip of Winter once again but I was fascinated with the sky at teatime tonight, the wind was bitter cold so no way was I attempting to go out side but we've been let off with the Snow here, just dustings certainly nothing like Devon or Yorkshire have had . Manchester Airport must have been busy because the Sun going down gave the jet streams a lovely golden colour, I couldn't resist taking a couple of shots, may be Butterflies next! 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 20-Mar-18 11:56 AM GMT

A reasonable amount of snow for me in the south east Goldie, but the roads were ok so I was able to go about my business with no issues. Roll on the warmer weather. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 21-Mar-18 10:49 AM GMT

All good things come to those that wait Goldie 😊 But that doesn't make the waiting any easier 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 22-Mar-18 02:51 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...may be Butterflies next!

Hear, hear! This cold spell is proving to be most tiresome, Goldie, even though there HAS been the odd decent day down here in S. Wales.

You'll get your wish soon enough, I'm sure.

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 22-Mar-18 10:24 PM GMT

Looks like you will get your wish very soon, Goldie. I've just watched the weather forecast and it said NW England should be in for a particularly pleasant, sunny Saturday this weekend with light winds and lots of sunshine! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Mar-18 10:17 AM GMT

Thanks for your post Wurzel, Andrew and David, I've not given up totally on seeing the Butterflies but I don't think it will be up here it will probably be when I get back from the South. It's much too cold for them yet here 😊 Hope fully I'll see some down there 😊
I was looking back yesterday on the photos I took of the Garden last year and comparing them to this year, the contrast is really stark, Flowers every where last year, this year, nothing close and snow is forecast for next week 😊 Any way I've been in the garden in spite of the weather and put lots of Bone Meal and tieded up by chopping and cutting down bushes etc ,whilst my Husband has been repairing the fences damaged by the wind, We've been absolutely frozen at times 😊 but at least we're ready for off now on Sunday and the garden is ready for Spring, (when it finally arrives 😊) Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Mar-18 05:20 PM GMT

I'm not seeing Butterflies yet but the Birds are certainly getting with it 😊 I was thrilled this afternoon when I was watching that nest I posted ,(a few posts back) I'd not seen any thing going into it yet so assumed we'd disturbed them, then suddenly this Coal Tit arrived and sat for a while before entering a nest it'd made higher up in the Climber, then a couple of Back Birds were flying in and out of the climber with twigs so it's all go now. 😊 We're off on Sunday South bound hope fully the Butterflies will be out down there where it's a bit warmer than here. Goldie 😊



Tucked into the nest



Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 23-Mar-18 08:05 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I have been trying to get a few things done in my garden too but so far most weekends have been too cold or wet or even snowy. I reckon most of the plants are on average nearly 3 weeks behind where they usually would be by now.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 23-Mar-18 09:53 PM GMT

Still non for me either yet despite several rather nice springlike days down here recently (always while i'm at work though). This time last year I was up to 5 species already, but then we were spoilt last spring.

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 23-Mar-18 11:57 PM GMT

Hear hear. We really were spoilt last spring. This, in reality, is probably just a 'normal' spring, if such a thing exists . Won't be long now 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Mar-18 05:25 PM GMT

Many thanks for your posts Neil, bugboy and essex, it was a lovely Spring day today so I went for the first time this year to my local haunt Hall-Lee-Brook, What a shock, flower wise nothing there, not even a Dandelion, buds on the tree's were just starting to appear,so like we've all said we're really three weeks at least behind with Spring this year, having said that it could be a good thing in one way, may be we'll get a better Summer, than again unless the flowers appear soon the Butterflies won't have much nectar so I've put a big Question mark to the Spring a round here.

There was one bird who was happy though and we listened to him for a while singing his little heart out 😊 he certainly made us feel better about the day 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 24-Mar-18 09:55 PM GMT

There are few things more cheerful than a Robin singing its heart out, Goldie, and nice that you captured him in full voice. While you were basking in Spring sunshine, Oxford has been really dull and gloomy today. We do have Spring flowers, though, and plenty of catkins on the trees.

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 24-Mar-18 11:47 PM GMT

Same in East Anglia. Very gloomy. You certainly had the best weather up north today! Good luck when you come to Kent, Goldie. If we get a bit of sunshine, there will certainly be a few butterflies about.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-Mar-18 09:13 AM GMT

Lovely Coal Tit and spring like Robin Goldie – even if it doesn't feel like spring 😞 They say everything comes in threes so after the final Beast blast hopefully we can move into Spring 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Mar-18 05:17 PM GMT

Thanks for your posts, Mike, essex and Wurzel, we've arrived in Kent, we'd a good journey down but the hour we lost knocked us on the head a bit and we feel tired. When we set off the Sun was shining and was lovely burning off the mist has we drove but when we arrived here it was dull and felt cold, hope fully we'll see the Sun at some point before we leave, it's still great to see our family though 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 25-Mar-18 07:24 PM GMT

It been a poor March down here this year. Goldie. Often cold, but even on the milder days, the sun had been conspicuous by its absence, even by British standards. However, there should be some sun tomorrow morning, so that could be your best chance. Good luck!

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 26-Mar-18 09:45 PM GMT

Good luck whilst down in Kent, Goldie. So long as you get a short break in the weather, I'm sure you'll see some butterflies. Quite a few UKB members have had sightings today in the south east so fingers crossed!

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 27-Mar-18 07:47 AM GMT

Yes good luck Goldie. 😊 I had my first sighting, a Comma, yesterday. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Mar-18 11:09 AM GMT

Hi! Essex, David and Andrew, I did take advantage of the Sun yesterday, we went to Blean Woods and I thought our place (HLB) was desolate but Blean Woods looked like a Bomb had hit it UGH! trees that had been felled were heaped here and there and the only bit of green came from the Holly bushes, no flowers except for one spot where the bushes looked like they were gold in the desolation 😞
My daughter said a lot of clearing had been going on so that added to the look I think, the worst part was driving our car in, at East Blean Woods when you turn in your practically in the car park, at Blean you've to drive a good 800metres into the Woods before you get to the car park and this road was full of huge pot holes and I mean huge 😞 So if any one's planning to visit there be careful. 😞

We saw no Butterflies at all in there, however on our way back we saw our first butterfly sighting, a Brimstone flying in the hedges 😊 that made my day 😊 but i'd promised to go into Canterbury in the afternoon so i'll have to be patient and hope the weather returns to normal later in the week, at least i've seen one and I'm glad everyone's getting some sightings now. 😊
I did spot this Moth tucked up into the corner of the door way when I got back, sorry if the shot is slightly blurred but I had a wrestle with my Daughters welcoming back Dog who is quite huge 😊 I've not named the Moth by the way. Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 27-Mar-18 12:57 PM GMT

Glad you've gotten off the mark Goldie 😊 Your moth looks kind of similar to an Oak Beauty on Neil's recent post – if it's not that then it probably in the same group as an Oak Beauty 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Mar-18 04:39 PM GMT

I've just looked at Neil's Moths and I think your right Wurzel, the Moth is still there in the same place, it was raining last night so I suppose it'll wait for better weather at night.

No Butterflies seen today too wet and not enough Sun when things dried up, rain forecast for tomorrow but at least we won't get the Beast again 😊
Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 27-Mar-18 07:25 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Your moth is indeed an Oak Beauty...well spotted 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Mar-18 11:20 AM GMT

Thanks Neil, noted and named 😊

Yesterday morning before the rain arrived (which it did at about 3pm) we took the dog for a long walk in " Clowes Wood" the Sun was warm although there was a cool breeze . Dried leaves were blowing every where off the the tree's so it wasn't easy spotting any thing on the wing until this flash of red caught our eye and a Red Admiral landed on some dried leaves near to us, my first shot of a Butterfly this year 😊 We saw two on our walk but only managed a shot of one, It looks like we won't get any more shots if the weather people are right. At least i've made a start 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 30-Mar-18 06:49 PM GMT

Great to see that you got of the mark Goldie and two butterflies as well 😊 Keep your camera with you from now on as any break in the cloud/rain could mean a sighting 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 30-Mar-18 08:52 PM GMT

Well done with the Red Admiral, Goldie. I still haven't seen one so far this year. Looks like it might be a while before I next get the opportunity as well. 😞

Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 31-Mar-18 12:18 AM GMT

Well done with the Red Admiral shots, Goldie 😊 Looking at the weather forecast it may be a while before conditions will be favourable for any more sightings.

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Apr-18 10:13 AM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, David and Mike, Happy Easter! like we expected yesterday was okay here in the morning we even managed a walk in Blean woods but the paths were flooded every where and what we managed to do was a marvel really 😊

In the afternoon it rained again on and off so we settled in for the afternoon and sent for Chinese later that night 😊

Forecast today, Dry, will we see any Sun 😊 hope so . Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 01-Apr-18 09:50 PM GMT

How long are you down here for, Goldie? After Monday's rain, the temperature should increase a little so if there is any sunshine, you should be in luck.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Apr-18 10:24 AM GMT

Hi! Essex, we've decided to stay here until this coming weekend, it's even milder today and hope fully later in the week we'll see some thing 😊

Yesterday although the weather was dry it was cloudy all day, we took the dog to Betteshanger CP, it's near Sandwich, no Butterflies, it was too cold really and with the cloud no chance, it's a great place for a walk though and if you like cycling they hire bikes and have good hard paths for them, a plus is the fact these cycle paths run a long side the nature paths which criss cross each other at certain points, we'll definitely go back there if the weather takes up, it should be good there for Butterflies plenty of fresh flower buds etc and shelter from the wind. (Also a very good dog friendly cafe) 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 03-Apr-18 02:03 PM GMT

Well done on your RA sighting Goldie. 😊

I fell foul of the flooding on Saturday, when the path I was on was blocked by a newly formed river!

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 03-Apr-18 07:27 PM GMT

Well done with the Red Admiral Goldie 😊

I have still never seen a Red Admiral around here before June and I don't reckon this year will change that.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Apr-18 04:33 PM GMT

Thanks for your posts Andrew and Neil, hope you were okay Andrew, and didn't get too wet 😊

It's been a real boring Winter and Spring so far, may be that's not the right words for it but people I speak to are fed up with the weather now. One thing's sure, you can't control the weather so you've to make the best of it if when you can, I thought coming here we'd certainly see Butterflies, I have, just two 😊 At least I got a shot of an Admiral 😊

Neil I think we were very lucky to see that Admiral amidst all the flying leaves 😊

Today was warm sunshine but a really strong wind here, we went to Reculver to the place I'd seen the Holly Blues last year, it's a very sheltered lane so I was hopeful I'd see some thing but still nothing here, still it's supposed to be a better day tomorrow so fingers crossed 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Apr-18 05:35 PM GMT

At last! my second Butterfly 😊 We went to Dover today we saw nothing there but the weather was great but cool, I say nothing Butterfly wise but I did get a shot of the Ponies 😊

Then we went back to Betteshanger where I'd seen all the blossom at the weekend and there sure enough I saw my first Peacocks of the year 😊 a total of six in all, some had wear and tear others were in good condition, it felt great just watching them soaring about, none landed on the Blossom but at least I got the ground shots. 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by David M, 05-Apr-18 06:25 PM GMT

Well done, Goldie! That's something else you've achieved that I haven't so far this year – getting a picture of a Peacock!

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 05-Apr-18 09:02 PM GMT

Some great Peacock shots, Goldie, and that was a nice Red Admiral last week too – I haven't seen one yet in 2018.

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 06-Apr-18 03:03 PM GMT

Beautiful, well done Goldie. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Apr-18 04:07 PM GMT

Many thanks every one, it's great to finally see some Butterflies and be able to take some shots 😊

Today we waited until after lunch before we ventured forth because of the high cloud, I'm so glad we did and that we decided on Clowes Wood again where I saw the Red Admiral's before, we didn't see them again but my luck was in with the Brimstones five seen, but we left about 2.30pm, it seems all the walking has knocked me back a bit and after walking about a mile (there and back) I was glad to get back for Coffee and cake 😊 (Age is certainly telling this year 😊) So no Comma's but hope fully I'll see them next week when I get back 😊

We did see this moth I've not seen before, it was rather weathered and I've not looked it up yet or looked to see if any ones put one up in a post before, I thought at first it was a Grizzled Skipper because it was so dark, until it landed and I saw it's unusual colour, I know one of you will know what it is has soon as you see it. It's nearly time to be getting ready for setting off North on Sunday, just a pity this weather didn't come a bit sooner. Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 06-Apr-18 06:31 PM GMT

Well done with the Brimstones, Goldie 😊 they weren't stopping today for us!

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Gary.N, 06-Apr-18 07:01 PM GMT

Nice Brimstone Goldie. 😊 I think the moth is an orange underwing.

Gary

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 06-Apr-18 07:10 PM GMT

Gary's right it is an Orange Underwing *Archiearis sp* although there are two very similar species *A. parthenias* & *A. notha*. They feed on different trees so if only one of those are present you can have a safe stab at knowing which one: *parthenias* feeds on Birches and *notha* feeds on Aspen 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 06-Apr-18 07:11 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Glad to see you are seeing some butterflies down there, great Brimstone shots, I haven't seen one stop still yet 😊

Gary is right, your moth is an Orange Underwing...a great find, they are day flyers but usually fly up high around the treetops.

Edit: looks like bugboy beat me to it with more info 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Apr-18 07:37 PM GMT

Thanks Neil, I saw it fly down in front of us and was pleased when it landed so I could get a shot, I'd never seen one before so that's another for the list 😊 Not a Grizzled Skipper though 😊

Thanks Bugboy, I've looked at my photos of Moths and I see I've got one called Yellow Under Wing, I suppose it's from the same Group 🤔 Didn't take much notice of the Tree's , only the fact they were very tall. 😊

Thanks Mike, quite a few flew past us , then two Landed on the Dandelions so my luck was in 😊

Thanks Gary, looks like you were spot on with the naming 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 06-Apr-18 10:17 PM GMT

I was going to jump in and say that this is one of those moths that, if you guessed the name, you'd probably get it right 😊

Then I looked on the web and saw, as Bugboy pointed out, that there are two similar species! So, I thought I'd hold back in case a real expert could say which it was 😊

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 06-Apr-18 11:13 PM GMT

Well done with the Brimstone, Goldie - I've seen quite a few round here now, but not one has stopped for a second! 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Apr-18 10:58 AM GMT

Hi! Mike, I don't know too much about Moths and has for the tree's, I was too busy looking for Butterflies to notice which was which 😊 When we're down here again in the Summer (hope fully) I'll go to Clowes Wood again I'm sure they'll be loads of Butterflies and I'll take a note of the near by trees 😊

Hi! Dave, in the part of the woods we were in there wasn't too many flowers on the grass verges, just an odd Dandelion until we reached nearly to the car park after walking a mile then turning around to walk back again, we'd seen Brimstone fly by not stopping, Irony is, if we'd stayed near the car park there was a large patch of the Dandies and that's where the Butterflies were landing and where I finally got a shot 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 07-Apr-18 07:52 PM GMT

Just catching up Goldie – you've been busy with the butterflies 😊 Great shots of the Peacock and Brimstones 😊 Hopefully we'll start getting more good butterfly days than bad now 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 07-Apr-18 09:15 PM GMT

Great to see you've dusted the cobwebs away, Goldie. I'm sure those Brimstones provided you with a great deal of pleasure.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-Apr-18 05:17 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and David, you were right about the Butterflies and warmer days Wurzel today was lovely, hot Sun no Breeze, I couldn't wait to get the washing out of the way and get over to Hall-Lee-Brook. 😊

That's right David and today was even better 😊

I went to HLB and didn't get properly through the gate when a Comma flew past me, it landed onto a stalk which was rather awkward so I couldn't get a really good shot, more of an outline really but I'll claim it as a shot 😊 Further round the walk I spotted two more Small Tort's, I thought they were the same sex until they suddenly flew to the ground and I watched as the rather weathered Male touched the Female with his antenna, she never opened her wings at that point but after a while decided to.

I saw two more ST's after that in different area's all feeding on Dandelions but no more Comma's.

When we got home I went to check the clothes on the line in my back Garden and was surprised to find a Small Tort on my Grape Hyacinth 's then it flew onto the Daffodils, then onto a garden Hyacinth, it was great to see it and it felt like old times had arrived again because over the last couple of years I've missed the Small Tort's in the Garden in Spring 😊 It feels good for the summer but I think the Butterflies will be much later this year 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 09-Apr-18 07:02 PM GMT

Spring has finally reached you, Goldie. Lovely shots. 😊
Dandelions seem to be a favourite with ex. hibernating Small Torts.

Glad you've had some decent weather,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 09-Apr-18 08:11 PM GMT

Glad my weather premonitions came good Goldie 😊😊 Great set of shots especially the Comma 😊 Good to see some Small Tort action as they seemed down in numbers during the autumn of 2017 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 09-Apr-18 08:30 PM GMT

Well done Goldie. Tomorrow afternoon's not looking to bad for me, fingers crossed I end up with a similar looking haul 😊

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 09-Apr-18 10:58 PM GMT

Good to see you having Tortoiseshells too, Goldie. The North had the sunshine today! I don't think I've ever seen one perched on a daffodil before. 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 10-Apr-18 08:54 AM GMT

Lovely Torts Goldie 😊 On a variety of flowers as well, great stuff. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 10-Apr-18 11:22 AM GMT

Hi Goldie, just catching up with you. Love your Brimstones – and great to have them land! 😊 You are several days ahead of me and further north too. Lovely pics of the Small Torts 😊😊
Janet

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Apr-18 02:08 PM GMT

Many thanks everybody, yesterday was great, today we're back with the cold winds and rain, unbelievable when you think I was sat outside watching that little Tort flying from flower to flower 😊 At least we got a taste of things to come 😊

Yesterday I got a shot of the lady Blackbird building her nest, I've only to look at the shot and it makes me laugh 😊 being has the weather's bad today I thought I'd share it 😊 Also at Hall-Lee-Brook this little bird was watching us and gave us a song, I thought it was a Wren but you know me and Birds 😊

Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-18 06:07 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the Wren Goldie (you getting good at this bird IDing malarky 😊)...hopefully you'll be back to butterfly photography soon 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Apr-18 08:11 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, it's going to be a few days before we see Spring again up here, next week looks good though. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 12-Apr-18 05:56 PM GMT

Great to see things are moving up in the North West, Goldie. Like you say, next week looks like a totally different proposition....and not before time! Roll

on real spring!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Apr-18 01:31 PM GMT

Hi! David, yes, it's time to look for the Orange Tips 😊 It's really Spring when they arrive 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Apr-18 04:44 PM GMT

After a morning of mist and rain the afternoon turned out to be quite nice a few high clouds but mainly Sunny, with rain forecast for tomorrow we decided to pay a visit to Hall-Lee-Brook, it was really muddy but we managed to make our way through it and that's when we saw the Brimstone, I took a step towards it to get a shot and that's when this insect landed on top of the Brimstone, I expected the Butterfly to fly a way but it never moved and after a while the insect moved a way with a little help from me 😊 I then managed a shot of the Brimstone without a passenger 😊 We moved a round the site after that and we saw another Tortoiseshell, it was in the same area we saw a couple in the other day and This one looked like the same Male but I could be wrong 😊 We then went looking for the Comma and although I found it, again I couldn't get a full shot, it stuck to the stalk with the Sun behind it, not too good for photos, but at least it stayed still for a while so I could get a shot. hope fully next week we'll see more Butterflies. Goldie 😊



Thrush HLB





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 14-Apr-18 05:41 PM GMT

Great stuff Goldie 😊 The Comma shot came out well and the Drone fly and Brimstone is a cracker 😊 Looking forward to next week when things are expected to actually get better 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 15-Apr-18 01:37 AM GMT

It's always welcome when you get to see a grounded male Brimstone in the spring, Goldie, even more so when it is so rudely interrupted by another insect! Like you, I'm amazed it stayed put.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Apr-18 10:17 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I've never heard of a Drone Fly 🐝 could it have done any harm to the Brimstone 🐝 I really didn't fancy it when I saw it land on the Butterfly and not sure what it was I picked up a broken bit of dried stick and touched it so that it flew off 🤔

Hi! David, I was surprised myself when the Butterfly didn't fly off when the fly landed on it, I've watched them before when Bee's etc get too near and they usually flap their wings to move them, or, move on themselves, this one didn't move at all even when the fly flew off. I've wondered since if it hadn't been out very long, although I did see a very slight bit of damage to the lower wing, It was a strange encounter and one I've not witnessed before but the Butterfly did fly off okay although it circled a round first and I thought it was landing back again, we decided because of the mornings rain and the heavy rain we've had recently that it was soaking up the Sun and renewing it's energy 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 15-Apr-18 10:03 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Hi! David, I was surprised myself when the Butterfly didn't fly off when the fly landed on it, I've watched them before when Bee's etc get too near and they usually flap their wings to move them, or, move on themselves, this one didn't move at all even when the fly flew off.

I've wondered since if it hadn't been out very long, although I did see a very slight bit of damage to the lower wing, It was a strange encounter and one I've not witnessed before but the Butterfly did fly off okay although it circled a round first and I thought it was landing back again, we decided because of the mornings rain and the heavy rain we've had recently that it was soaking up the Sun and renewing it's energy 😊 Goldie 😊

You may be right, Goldie. I've seen smaller insects alight on butterflies without causing flight, but that one probably weighed heavier than the Brimstone itself, so the fact that it remained in situ was very surprising.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Apr-18 09:49 AM GMT

Hi! David, that's Butterflying for you, you never know what your going to come across next 🐝 that's why it's so interesting and keeps you doing it. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 16-Apr-18 10:40 AM GMT

Nice shots Goldie. 😊 I too am amazed there was no reaction from the Brimstone. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Apr-18 01:07 PM GMT

Hi! Andrew, I thought at first the Butterfly was stuck in a webb, especially when the fly landed on it and it didn't move, I was more amazed when I gave the fly a push that the Butterfly still didn't move, when it finally took off I was relieved. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Apr-18 04:43 PM GMT

This morning I was getting the garden furniture out when this Large White Butterfly suddenly flew into the garden, I'd just time to take some shots before it took off again. it never opened it's wings until it flew off so I'd to be satisfied with a closed wing shot. It was a surprise though. I'd expected may be a Small White certainly not a Large 🐝 Yesterday and today it was mostly Small Tort's, I saw about five at HLB yesterday and two in the garden today, hope fully tomorrow when we go for a drive we'll see more species. Goldie 😊



Back Garden 19th April



Back Garden 19th April



Back Garden 19th April



HLB 18th April

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 19-Apr-18 10:27 PM GMT

Great stuff Goldie 😊 Hopefully the good weather will last into the weekend so you can add to your tally 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 20-Apr-18 01:10 PM GMT

It may have been a surprise to see a Large White in your garden, Goldie, but what's more surprising is what it appears to be nectaring from. Is that an ornamental daffodil?

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 20-Apr-18 08:53 PM GMT

A very unusual choice of flower, certainly. You're one up on me there, Goldie 😊 – no Large Whites have appeared near me yet.

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Apr-18 03:43 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I certainly added to my tally yesterday. 😊

Hi! Dave, I keep having Large Whites visiting the Garden since I saw that one but I can't manage a shot before they fly off. 😊

David, the flower is a type of Daffodil, I can't remember what it's called but there in the Garden Centre's, I like them because of their perfume and it seems, so do the Butterflies. 😊

Yesterday was one of those days that you remember, not having gone any where the day before because the weather was so hot we decided Friday was perfect, temp's 19/20c so we set off for Brockholes CP near Preston.

The weather was decidedly cloudy and cool but with the promise of the clouds lifting in the afternoon we were optimistic 😊

We made our way to Bolton Wood where last year I'd seen the White LHS, I didn't go into the woods last year because most of the Hair Streaks were on the Bramble at the entrance and this same Bramble proved to be a favourite also with the Orange Tips 😊

Before we saw them (it was still very cloudy) we walked through the woods, I can't describe the beauty of those woods in words but if I say we saw a small Deer, a Weasel, and so many different kinds of birds all chattering a way, added to that carpets of Blue bells you'll get the picture 😊

In the woods I got a shot of a Comma, this time a full shot, by this time the Sun was out and I saw my very first OT on a Blue Bell 😊 We left the Woods then and just at the entrance there were loads of OT's, plus a Peacock and Tortoiseshell, I caught sight of a Small White but my camera was in the Sun so the shot wasn't too good but I'll call it a first for the year 😊 Goldie 😊









Re: Goldie M

by David M, 21-Apr-18 10:07 PM GMT

Great sequence, Goldie! North and south have all but equalised themselves over the past week or so. You did far better than me with your Orange Tips. I must have seen 40+ but such was the heat that they were turbo-charged and impossible to photograph.

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 21-Apr-18 10:24 PM GMT

Lovely Orange Tip photos, Goldie. The weather's been a bit hot for them further south, but yours seem to be much happier! 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 21-Apr-18 11:43 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the Orange-tips Goldie – you had a really good day! I'm impressed with your Blackcaps too – I spent ages today without success trying to photograph one, it was so shy.

Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 22-Apr-18 07:09 AM GMT

You're having a lovely time, at last ,Goldie.
Great Orange Tips, and a mrgreen for the female OT. 🍷

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Apr-18 10:26 AM GMT

Thanks everyone for your posts, the orange tips will be sheltering from the rain this morning 😊 I can't believe the London Marathon is being held in all that Sunshine when it's pouring down here. Still, that's Spring for you 😊

Hi! David, I met lots of people at Brockholes, taking shots of the OT's and they asked me if I'd seen any Holly Blues, GWW, seems in the Woods there they must be late in coming outs but the OT's were certainly happy. 😊

Hi! Dave, Yes the weather was perfect for them and when I saw the Female OT that was icing on the cake 😊

Thanks Janet, you really must visit Brockholes, it costs a fiver to park all day, it seems expensive but there's loads to see and do there. Those Black Caps were every where and all near the entrance to the Wood, you really couldn't miss them, I couldn't believe at first just how many there was. 😊

Hi! Trevor, I waited a round for a while to see if a Male OT would meet up with the Female OT but it didn't happen, a man told me the reason they get so many there is the fact the flower the female lays her eggs on is so plentiful a long the edges of the woods. 😊
I forgot to mention before, there's a field full of Cow Slips before you arrive at the wood I've just added a couple of shots I took of them and one of a Black Cap making it's presence known 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 22-Apr-18 08:14 PM GMT

Cracking set of OT shots Goldie 😊🍀 I've tried with them but they've been sooooo active they're proving to be a nightmare 😞 At least you've had some luck with them 😊 Things are moving along nicely now 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Apr-18 10:53 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, thanks for that, knowing you when you do get shots of the OT's they'll be worth waiting for 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 23-Apr-18 02:12 PM GMT

Looks and sounds like a fantastic day out Goldie. 😊
Great shots, well done on the open wing OT's. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Apr-18 04:27 PM GMT

Thanks for that Andrew, the weather here's taken a turn for the worst now so it may be some time before we're so lucky again 😞 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Art Frames, 23-Apr-18 05:46 PM GMT

Goldie

Some very nice posing Orange Tips. Especially pleasing to see the female as I am not seeing any females yet, I hope to get some action shots but with the dip in the weather that may not be so easy. But I will keep trying.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Apr-18 01:33 PM GMT

Hi! Art, yes keep trying, there's plenty of time yet we're still in April we've all May to go yet 😊

It's rained here since lunch time and been dark and cloudy over the weekend so although I managed a visit to my local patch I saw only one Peacock which didn't open it's wings at all 😞 I'm cheering myself up though by posting a few more shots I took of the OT's. WHY NOT! 😊 GOLDIE 😊



Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 24-Apr-18 01:36 PM GMT

Why not indeed! They are around for such a short time we should all make the most of them. 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 24-Apr-18 06:09 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...I'm cheering myself up though by posting a few more shots I took of the OT's. WHY NOT! 😊 GOLDIE 😊

Absolutely! We don't have their company for long, so every opportunity is a precious one! Keep at it, Goldie! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 24-Apr-18 08:23 PM GMT

I can almost hear the slurping form the second OT shot Goldie 😊😊 Hopefully we'll have some more 'normal' weather...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Apr-18 09:50 AM GMT

Thanks for your posts Dave, David and Wurzel, since my last posting I've seen nothing, I've been to Hall-Lee-Brook my local Haunt and not a single Butterfly appeared. 😞

The weather here has been really cold, when it's not been raining the wind was strong and bitter, needless to say no Holly Blues, Small Whites, or Green Veined W's have been seen, the strangest thing though is the lack of sighting of the Speckie, I know it won't belong and there should be loads eventually 😊 but I've really missed seeing them. 😞

I told one man at HLB (I've got a rep there now 😊) the lady with the camera looking for Butterflies 😊 People stop me now to ask about them and even tell me when they've walked their dogs where they've seen them 😊)

He was asking me about them and I told him they were hiding from the wind. 😊 He lives on the edge of HLB and he said even when the weather was good he'd seen Nothing! I thought well!! at least I've got people interested 😊

I believe Green Hair Streaks have been seen at Foulshaw Moss in the Lakes so weather permitting that's my next port of call 😊
Goldie 😊 Won't be this Week-end though!! 😞

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Apr-18 08:28 PM GMT

Today I went back to Brockholes, I was looking for Holly Blues, they're supposed to be round the same area has the Orange Tips, no luck I'm afraid, it felt good to be out though after the awful weather we've had.

The wind was freezing and the Temp only 9c but the woods gave us shelter from the winds and when the Temperature rose to 13c and the Sun got much brighter the Orange Tip's were out in large numbers on the Blue Bells and Cuckoo flowers, I really enjoyed myself 😊

We didn't see the Deer but I did get a quick shot of a Pheasant before it took to the Woods and a cute little Wren. I was again surprised that no Speckies showed themselves, things are way behind here in the North but may be that's not a bad thing for the weather we've had has been really cold and wet. Hope fully we'll get some nice weather for the Bank Holiday. Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 30-Apr-18 10:02 PM GMT

You can't beat a day surrounded by Orange-tips can you Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-May-18 09:12 AM GMT

You certainly can't Bugboy 😊 Now I want to go to Loggerhead's CP NW to see the Grizzled Skipper, seeing this Butterfly for the first time will really make my day,(Just hope it's out when we get there.) 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 01-May-18 01:05 PM GMT

Very nice Goldie, one can never have too many Orange-tips. 😊
Good luck with the Grizzled!

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 01-May-18 05:38 PM GMT

Looks like the wait was worthwhile Goldie with some (more) great OT action 😊 Good luck with the Grizzlies 😊 I've still not seen a report of them from Wiltshire 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-May-18 09:44 AM GMT

Thanks for your posts Andrew and Wurzel, it was another lovely day out 😊 Next week looks good according to the weather people but the Dukes could be late coming out this year, the Speckies aren't out here yet so I'll keep watching for sighting being reported before I venture forth 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 02-May-18 10:59 AM GMT

Things are really going slow round my way as well Goldie 😊 Good idea to check the local Butterfly Conservation sightings page so your trip is productive 😊 Hope things pick up soon and quickly 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 02-May-18 05:45 PM GMT

You seem to finally be catching up, Goldie, but I'm surprised you haven't encountered Specklies yet. I've been falling over these within the last 10 days

or so and south Wales isn't exactly the warmest spot in the UK!!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-May-18 09:26 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel and David, the weather here has been bitter, cold winds every day, even when the Sun was shining the Temp's never got above 9c because of them, certainly not Butterfly weather 😞 Although on Monday the temp actually reached 13c when we were in the Woods and we saw the OT's ,it was sheltered there and plenty of them were flying but nothing else except one Peacock which never landed 😊

I've checked the weather for Mold NW and it seems good for next week but I'm still hesitant about setting off, still if you don't try !!! Cumbria is cloudy all next week according to the forecast so I'll definitely wait for things to be reported on before going there." Every thing comes to those who wait," the saying goes, Let's hope so! 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-May-18 06:39 PM GMT

Just a Quick post for me for now, I'm in the middle of making our tea but I just must post. 😊

Today was cloudy until about 3.30pm and then the Sun arrived and so did my first GVW of this year in my back garden 😊

So I just had to post this shots 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 04-May-18 06:42 PM GMT

That plant certainly brings them all in, doesn't it Goldie? and you forgot to show me how to take cuttings!!!! 😊😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 05-May-18 07:34 AM GMT

Aah! The trusty Bowles Mauve! I bought some more myself last month but I haven't recorded any visitors yet. Maybe this weekend?

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 05-May-18 09:02 AM GMT

It's great when that happens Goldie – nothing and then as soon as the sun comes out so to do the butterflies 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 05-May-18 02:23 PM GMT

That is a real butterfly magnet, Goldie! round here it's the dandelions that do the trick... not so attractive. 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-May-18 08:02 PM GMT

Thanks everyone for your posts,

Hi! Pauline, I thought I'd told you, 😊 just take a small shoot from the plant, get a small pot and place the shoot in the pot with compost, better to do it September, because you don't need to water it too much in Winter that's usually when I take all my cuttings, all should go well!!!! 😊

You should get plenty of visitors David shortly 😊

Hi! Wurzel, your right it's it's great 😊 I even got a Female Orange Tip today 😊

Dandelions Dave, not in your Garden I hope!!!! 😊

Today we went to Southport Butterflies were every where but not landing so when I saw this Speckie land in front of me I was well chuffed although it didn't open it's wings I managed a shot before it flew off, I can call it my 10th species now having picked up one or two whilst in Kent. I also got a shot of another Peacock which landed and opened it's wings just has I took the shot 😊

When we got home (it was about 3pm) we'd set off early morning to miss the traffic and having not got shots of too many Butterflies I couldn't wait to get back to the Garden to see if any thing else had visited, that's when I spotted this small white Butterfly which turned out to be a Female OT, great, and actually in my Garden 😊 I tried to take quick shots has the Butterfly never seemed to stop long enough on any of the Rock flowers for a truly good shot 😊

(I usually keep a few things in pots to replenish any gaps etc.) Anyway it turned out to be a decent day after all.Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 05-May-18 08:34 PM GMT

Love the action shots of the female OT. My camera would struggle with that one.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-May-18 08:44 PM GMT

Thanks Trevor, I deleted quite a few has well that were unprintable 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 05-May-18 08:58 PM GMT

Good to see you're enjoying sunshine too. Our garden is full of Holly Blues and Orange Tips but I've not seen any female OTs yet. I admire your in-flight shots, especially your 3rd one showing the underside as she approaches the flower. Let's hope for more fine weather to encourage more sightings over the next few days.

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 05-May-18 11:03 PM GMT

Great set of shots Goldie 🍷, nicely caught flight shots my mate Ronniethepoo would be chuffed with those 😊 Good luck with your outings this weekend 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 06-May-18 02:22 PM GMT

Goldie, I can **feel** your joy. Those are lovely, evocative images of the female OT going about her daily business. Let's hope for a few more opportunities with this species before they fade away and disappear again later this month.

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 06-May-18 05:44 PM GMT

Great sequence of shots of the female Orange-tip in flight Goldie 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-May-18 08:06 AM GMT

Many thanks everyone for your posts, they're much appreciated 😊 Sadly my Husband has not been too well so plans for trips at present are on hold but we've got the rest of May to go yet and hope fully we'll get there eventually. 😊

I decided yesterday to pop a cross to my local haunt, it's only two Avenues a way so not much effort needed, 😊 I decided to go after seeing a Holly Blue fly a round the Garden and out again, (once again I waited for it to land and it didn't, if I didn't know better I'd swear it was the same one from previous years 😊)

When I arrived at HLB it felt like a different place from the one I'd visited just a few days before, OT's were flying by me, LW's/SW's,GVW, Speckies, and HB's but it seemed not one was landing , until I saw deep in the Green Leaves two GVV's mating,

these two were much smaller than the one I'd seen previously in my garden and quite out standingly Green veined 😊

I carried on along the path hoping some thing would land but the Speckies were keeping to the tree's and the Whites were too busy looking for partners, then I rounded a corner and a speck of Blue was in in a muddy patch left by the rain , I expected it to fly a way but it stayed there and I was able to get some shots of my first Holly Blue of the year. 😊

When I returned home and relaxed in the Garden I was treated to bird song and the sight of my Cherry tree heavy with Blossom, May! what a fantastic month 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 07-May-18 08:19 AM GMT

Brilliant shot of the GVW mating Goldie 🍷 Re OT in garden - I have one of those plants in my garden and OT's have laid eggs on it in the past so keep your eyes open. Naturally, I don't know what it is 😊 but doesn't it look similar to the cuckoo flower which they frequently lay eggs on? Thanks for tip on cuttings - it was the seed collecting we talked about last time. I doubt you'll make a gardener out of me but I'll give it a try! Get well soon to Jim.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-May-18 08:34 AM GMT

Thank's Pauline, you should do okay with the plants, it's pretty easy really , soil in pot, put your finger in the soil, make an hole, stick the cutting in, water it, bingo 😊

I'll keep my eye's on that plant from now on but that FOT was not settling for too long on the plant but buzzing a round it all the time, (sounds more like a Bee doesn't it 😊) Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 07-May-18 10:07 PM GMT

A very nice little Holly Blue, Goldie. 😊 Once they are down on a patch of damp ground like that, they keep coming back - except for the odd bit of perching nearby for a rest. If you're lucky and the weather is cooler than it was today, they then open up to warm up. They are attracted to white things as well, like the first shot of yours sitting on a pebble. I hope you see many more.

Good shot of the GVW too! 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 07-May-18 10:50 PM GMT

Greta shots of the Green-veined Whites in cop Goldie 😊 And a mud puddling Holly Blue too 🍷 I hope your husband gets well soon...so you can get out butterflying 😊😊

Have a goodun

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-May-18 08:32 AM GMT

Thanks Dave and Wurzel, I waited ages with that Holly Blue to see if it would open it's wings but it just wouldn't 😊 I was pleased to see the GVW's though after seeing nothing at HLB for such a long time. 😊

Well Wurzel, I got a real surprise yesterday morning, I was up and about at 6.30am looking at the Sunshine and thinking there'll be other days to go out and about, when my Husband got up a couple of hour's later saying he felt much better and was ready to go out if I wanted to. 😊

We set off for the Lakes an hour later heading for Foulshaw Moss, picnic basket on hand 😊 We picked the Moss because the Ospreys are nesting there and once you've parked your car there's a boardwalk which means very little walking except in a circle a round the Moss. (It's the same place I went to last year for the Large Heath) and with Jim not having been too well, Ideal!!

I was looking for Green Hair Streaks and any thing else interesting. I must mention the traffic, we set off fairly early and we still hit traffic, not too bad we kept moving but I believe it was backed up nearly all morning on the M6 later.

I got my next surprise when I saw the Hair Streaks , we passed the tree's where I thought they'd be and went onto the open Moss to see the Osprey and there amongst the Moss's mud and water were loads of Hair Streaks, flying from the Mud to small tree sprigs and back again 😊 they were also on the board walk 😊

We walked round and saw lots of OT's, Peacock, and White's and a little Moth I took some shots of, also an Adder which there was quite a lot of but we just saw the one (that was enough for me) 😊 and a tiny Lizard. When I returned home it was to find a Large White in the Back Garden 😊

So my day turned out to be great after all Goldie 😊











Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 08-May-18 08:50 AM GMT

Nice one Goldie 😊 Your husband sounds like a proper Trooper 😊 Great shots of the Adder and Greenstreaks, your last two show the aberration 'punctata' as the white spots carry on over the forewings 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-May-18 09:08 AM GMT

Thanks for that Wurzel, the last two shots are of the same Butterfly, the Sun caught the wings has the Butterfly moved, they were hard to get shots because you can't leave the Board walk and this one just landed but people were passing all the time and I'd to ask them to wait while I took it, most had come to see the Ospreys through the telescope there. most of the other HS's were well into the Moss. I don't like having to ask them to wait but needs must some times 😊 At least I saw an ab and Jim is much better and ready to go into is garage working again, (it's his man cave) 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Hulme, 08-May-18 09:20 AM GMT

Hi Goldie

I'm glad to hear your husband is feeling better. What better medicine than sunshine, Green Hairstreaks and Ospreys? Lovely Adder. 😊
BWs, Neil

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-May-18 09:25 AM GMT

Thanks Neil, I agree, Jim hates sitting about (lucky for me) so has soon as he feels better he's out and about 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-May-18 04:12 PM GMT

Well we've got the rain at present but it was a lovely morning, bright Sunshine, cooler, but very little breeze, so I thought, " why waste it" 😊 I went across to Hall-Lee-Brook on the off chance I'd see a few more Butterflies and I finally got some decent shots of the Speckie, for once they weren't hiding from the Sun 😊 I walked along the path by the houses and was confronted by a Holly Blue that was low on the ground searching for some thing, it wasn't flying very fast which makes a change so I followed it to see if it would settle and it did so i took some shots , I thought at one time it might open it's wings has it flew onto a leaf , it did partially but that was it. 😊 After that I saw a very nice GVW and has i made my way through a field (not yet mown) 😊 I came across some cuckoo flowers and to my surprise a female OT paid them a visit just has I was passing 😊 Not a bad morning at all!!! 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 08-May-18 07:09 PM GMT

Goldie

I particularly like your pic of the female O Tip with its wings very wide open.

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 08-May-18 09:00 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Good news about your husband and a great report from Foulshaw Moss 😊

You may have already seen it but I see that Pearl-bordered Fritillaries have been reported from Warton Crag.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-May-18 10:09 AM GMT

Hi! ernie, yes I liked that one too 😊 she was flying about so much and I just caught her as she settled. thanks very much for your post 😊 Goldie 😊

Hi! Neil, Yes I've seen the report on the PBF at Warton Craig but I find the steep slopes a bit too much to tattle 😊 So I usually go to Gait Barrow where it's much flatter or Arnside Knot, some times I'm lucky by going a bit later in the month I get both PB/SPB at GB and the Duke, hope fully this will happen this year 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 09-May-18 11:46 AM GMT

Great that you got an audience with Holly Blue, Goldie. I also like the female Orange Tip pose – you caught that just right!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-May-18 03:37 PM GMT

Hi! David, thanks for your post 😊 the Holly Blues and Orange Tips just seem to be coming out since we had the nice weather over the week-end, I hope we get some more Sun, I'd love to see an opened winged HB 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 09-May-18 05:57 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

....I'd love to to see an opened winged HB

Wouldn't we all, Goldie? Especially the females.

Maybe we should all contact millerd for tips? 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 10-May-18 02:33 PM GMT

A very nice selection Goldie, the open wing OT is great. 😊
I like your garden shots too. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 10-May-18 06:47 PM GMT

Great of OT shots Goldie, the 'wide open winged one' is particularly cracking 😊 Fingers crossed for some good butterflying this weekend 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-May-18 08:20 AM GMT

Thanks very much David, Andrew, Wurzel for your posts, I've been pretty lucky so far this year in finding the butterflies, I hope I can keep it up 😊
The weather lately has been too cold even when it's been dry, we don't seem to be able to get rid of the cold wind, it was very misty this morning but the Sun is out now burning it off so Hope fully I'll see some thing at HLB before the cloud returns has it's suppose to do this afternoon. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-May-18 04:59 PM GMT

I went over to Hall-Lee-brook today, I couldn't go in the morning I was busy and by the time I got there the skies were cloudy, I did manage to get a few shots of GVW's , in fact they seemed to be the only thing flying besides the Speckies 😊 Any way at least it didn't rain 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 13-May-18 10:18 PM GMT

Yep Saturday wasn't exactly what the weathermen forecast down here either Goldie, the promised sunny intervals were scheduled arrive at ever alter hours throughout the course of the day 😊 Mind you as you showed if you get out you can always find something – nice shots of the GWV 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-May-18 08:03 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, at least the weather's improved now 😊

Well today we were going to set off for Wales when the travel forecast said the roads were blocked (the M62 is murder at present) so we set off for Gait Burrows instead , I thought we might see some thing but there were no Dukes, one man said he'd seen one so we waited and waited and waited, nothing! We did see a Dinky which quickly disappeared before we could get a shot, not a good day for Butterflies 😊

When we decided to leave I did find one Green Hair Streak, which I was thankful for 😊 We called at Warton Crag on the way back, we just went to the parking part and not to the steep crag, some times you can see some thing there other times like today nothing! 😊 Pearl BF have been seen but that's mostly on the steep South slopes which unfortunately are too steep for me 😊

The Man we'd spoken to at GB who said he'd seen the One Duke was also at WC and he said he'd not seen any more Dukes after we'd left, I'm thinking maybe another week before they're out, may be the Pearls will show then has well they always seem to be a week behind at GB.

When I got home I found a Green Veined White in the back garden nearly disappearing inside a Blue Bell which brightened my day no end 😊 Goldie 😊 Oh! I took a shot of this Bird in the Garden not sure of it's name, I thought a Sparrow but not sure which. 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Art Frames, 14-May-18 10:09 PM GMT

Hi Goldie

I've had my share of days like that. I tend to only mention the good ones, which is why my posts are quite infrequent 😊

I love the GVW up the bluebell. It was only last year I took my first butterfly on a bluebell shot. I'd always assumed they were set up by photographers. But now I appreciate they are butterfly magnets and I keep an eye on them and managed a few myself today as well..

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-May-18 09:07 AM GMT

Hi! Art, I must admit it's the first time I've seen a GVW on a Blue Bell, 😊 I usually try to find the Orange Tip on them which I'm pleased to say I did this Spring 😊 I'll have to start looking more closely at Blue Bells from now on. 😊

I'm glad I'm not the only one who has days like yesterday, it just shows the best laid plans can go array 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-May-18 05:36 PM GMT

After shopping today I popped over to HLB, I decided to walk by the stream and look at the Garlic Flowers I'm so glad I did the flowers were lovely and has I watched a Butterfly flew down onto the flowers, it was a lovely sight 😊

I walked round the field there and saw lots more GVW's and a Speckie flew onto a leaf near me, I liked the unusual stance he took so I had to take a shot of him 😊 My big surprise was a Comma that flew down just as I was leaving through the gate drawing me back to take one more shot. I hope this weather keeps going 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 15-May-18 10:42 PM GMT

I've not seen a Comma for a while now Goldie so good stuff 😊 Nice Greenstreak – it's a 'punctata' as well 😊 Good luck with the Pearls and Dukes 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-May-18 10:05 AM GMT

That makes two Punctata ab's now Wurzel, 😊 considering it was the only GHS I saw that day, I was lucky!! 😊

Hope fully we're off to look for Grizzles this week-end, I'll leave the Dukes and Pearls until next week, I noticed whilst at GB that the Ferns the Dukes like to sit on top of were half their normal size, also the Slipper Orchids were no where near ready, not even roped off, so maybe lots of time yet to see them. (Hope fully) 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 16-May-18 10:11 PM GMT

Yes, it's great to see a Green Hairstreak that actually has a proper "hairstreak"! Almost all those I see down here have one dot, or maybe two or three very faint ones. And you have Holly Blues now as well! Good to see things picking up a bit with you. 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-May-18 03:19 PM GMT

Thanks Dave for your post, things are picking up here, seems I missed the Dukes by a day 😊 also looks like I might be missing a few more Butterflies, I did my back in it seems and the Doctor says rest for a few days, thats life I suppose!! 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 19-May-18 09:59 AM GMT

Nice line of 'streaks' on that GH, Goldie. How frustrating to have to rest when the weather is so good? Hopefully your back pain will ease soon and you can get out again.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-May-18 08:50 AM GMT

Many thanks Dave, I felt I was just getting into my stride and bang, I did too much gardening I think, now I'm stuck in it 😊 I must get answering some posts even if they make me depressed! 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 20-May-18 09:14 AM GMT

I was sorry to read about your back Goldie but don't get too down. You have loads of stuff in your garden so get a comfy chair out there and a nice cuppa and keep your camera by your side 😊 Have you ever thought about doing Pilates? Liked your shot of the White on garlic btw 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 20-May-18 10:30 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I hope that your back improves very soon. I put mine out recently digging our allotment and it took a few days to 'ease up' again. As others have said, that's a very nice Punctata Green Hairstreak 😊 I also like the White on the wild Garlic 😊

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 20-May-18 04:20 PM GMT

Great shots Goldie, I do like a butterfly on or surrounded by flowers. 😊
Hope you feel better soon!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-May-18 08:27 AM GMT

Thanks for all your posts, Pauline, I wouldn't know where to start 😊 I did sit in my garden though and did get a shot of an allusive Small White 😊
Many thanks Andrew, the Garlic flowers have an over powering perfume and were attracting lots of Butterflies that day, never the ones you want though 😊

Thanks Max, I bet you did a lot of swearing that day 😊 I know I did 😊

Well after a few days of shuffling about and living on Co-Codamol, 😊 I decided enough was enough, so yesterday we thought we'd have a ride to Southport, my Husband said if we parked near the Dunes I wouldn't have too far to walk and if I felt rough could easily get back to the car. 😊
When we arrived in South Port it was evident there was some kind of road race going on, all the main promenade was closed to traffic, so we were stuck in traffic for over an hour, we finally got to the Dunes and had our sandwiches before setting off into the Dunes.
The sky was cloudy but the weather was warm, we came across a man who said he'd been in the Dunes for a couple of hours and seen nothing except

for a dead Rabbit!! That was very encouraging 😊 I'd heard things like that before so we just carried on into the Dunes smiling 😊
We saw nothing at first then a slight flurry caught my eye and to my delight saw it was a Small Heath, I was unable to chase but encouraged we walked on and another one landed in the long grass just in front of me and I got a shot. 😊
I'm afraid that's what happened to most of my shots all except one was taken in the grass 😊
We walked on and were rewarded with two or three Common Blues and when I saw the Wall it made my day 😊 It landed just the once then took off but I managed a quick shot. 😊
Has we went hobbling back to the car we saw this lovely moth and two live Bunnies, so it shows, (never go off what other people say 😊) Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 21-May-18 08:44 AM GMT

I agree with you Goldie about never taking what other people say as absolute truth. I was over Old Winchester Hill once and met the assistant ranger in the car park. I asked him there had been any sightings of the Adonis Blue and he said none whatsoever. Still, unperturbed, I walked on and what do you know, one of the first butterflies I saw (after a Small Heath) was an Adonis. Then another, and another.

This person I asked is there quite a lot but of course I don't ask him anymore 😊

Glad you managed to get out and about and hope you get better soon. It was worth it for the Wall Butterfly. This is not a species that I ever expect to see near where I live in NE Hants.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-May-18 08:53 AM GMT

Thanks very much ernie, has you say it's always great to see a Wall I'm very pleased about that and couldn't believe it when I did because they usually love the Sun and yesterday was hazy not full Sun, I hope you manage to see one this Summer 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by CallumMac, 21-May-18 09:06 AM GMT

ernie f wrote:

I agree with you Goldie about never taking what other people say as absolute truth

And me! You never know if the other person has been looking in the right places. At Hawnby Hill on Saturday we estimated there must have been 40 or more Dukes flying. Towards the end of the day I walked into the next field over and met a slightly glum chap who said "seems to be more Dingies than Dukes around today". I hadn't seen a single Dinky up to that point - but his statement turned out to be spot on in that second field. He was probably only 25 m from the main concentration of Dukes!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-May-18 09:57 AM GMT

Typical! that Callum, you don't stay put and take note of other people but wander about 😊 I can't stand it when people stay in one spot hoping to see a Butterfly that some one else has seen in that vicinity, chances are it could come back (Common Blue seem to do this) on the other hand, I usually walk about and say " if you see any thing give me a shout' 😊 and carry on walking 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 21-May-18 08:40 PM GMT

Never listen to the nay-sayers Goldie 😊😊 Good to see your persistence paying off with a lovely set of shots, that Small Heath is mighty fine 😊 You also got what is becoming a rarity - a Rabbit, at least that's what they talked about on Costing the Earth I think it was last week? I think 😊 the Moff is a Common Heath 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-May-18 07:26 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel for your post 😊 The rabbits were quite big we thought and there still seems to be quite a lot in the Dunes, the two we saw were oblivious to us, carrying on what they were doing, one spotted us and jumped off but the other one had it's back to us so i managed the shot 😊 Thanks for the ID on the Moth, I've taken a few shots of moth's lately and thought I'd save them up and get ID's later, so that's one I can cross off 😊 if the back holds out I hope to go to GB some time this week I've heard the Northern Brown are out up there, fingers crossed! 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 24-May-18 10:17 PM GMT

Glad you managed to get out after your setback the other day, Goldie. I hope the Wall Brown was fair reward for going through the pain barrier.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-May-18 09:11 AM GMT

Thanks David, I'm still trying to build up my walking strength, I've even got a mileage stick 😊😊

Yesterday we went to Fleetwood, it was cool at first and windy but in the afternoon it got quite hot and we were glad of the breeze. Before you get into the town it's self, there're some long walk's behind the promenade and most are sandy and sheltered from the sea, great if you want to beat the many Bikes and mobile chairs as there's only room for one person at a time, also, Common Blues and Wall's (i've not see any Wall's yet) are there .

Yesterday it was full of Large White's and I tried to take some shots of mating pairs, (I must say I saw some strange going's on there) : I saw a couple of CB's and managed a few shots but it was definitely a LW coming out day, 😊

I'm not sure the Female wasn't approached by quite different males, she seemed to be willing at first and then changed her mind a few times, even hiding in the grass so she couldn't be seen 😊 there were so many large Whites it was confusing 😊

Hope fully this week-end I'll get out and see some Fritillaries, Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 25-May-18 11:54 AM GMT

Amazing sequence of Large White shots, Goldie. Both the male and female are obviously trying to connect but for some reason failing. I wonder why?

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 25-May-18 12:27 PM GMT

ernie f wrote:

Amazing sequence of Large White shots, Goldie. Both the male and female are obviously trying to connect but for some reason failing. I wonder why?

That raised abdomen posture by the female is the classic 'bugger off, I've already been mated' sign, she definitely not interested in the males advances! You see this behaviour with most of the Whites. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-May-18 01:28 PM GMT

Hi! Bugboy, I've just had a good laugh at your post 😊 I thought has much when she disappeared in the grass a couple of times:lol: I've always thought the Female raised her abdomen in order to mate, until yesterday when I saw her hiding 😊 The Male butterfly wasn't the only one chasing her, at one time she'd about three or four round her 😊

Thanks for your comments ernie, I must admit too not knowing that about Large Whites, you live and learn 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-May-18 06:18 PM GMT

When I went to Fleetwood on Thursday, disaster struck , I found my zoom lens wouldn't work, I luckily had my 18 - 55mm lens with me but what a difference, the large Whites were every where and I couldn't get close to them, when I got home I'd to enlarge all the shots with the Computer and I was lucky i'd some that weren't too bad, I tried to fix it and thought I had done, so when we went up to Gait Barrow today the flaming thing did the same again, I pressed the button half way as usual to bring it into focus, It wouldn't focus but took the picture right a way. 😊

If you've ever tried to take shots of a Dinging Skipper when it wouldn't stop for more than a few seconds you'll know what I mean, I couldn't get close to it so I've had to enlarge some shots again. 😊

I went to look for the Dukes with other people also looking for them, No Dukes!!! I think only one or two have been seen in the last few days and only sighted one or two in all. Also no Small Pearls seen although one or two have been reported, I'm really wondering what's happening to the Dukes at Gait Barrow ?

Any way the Dingy were my first for this year so not a totally lost day, just disappointing. 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 27-May-18 10:58 PM GMT

Sorry to hear about the lens problems Goldie 😊 I've had that once or twice (when I was on White-letter Hairstreaks of all things 😊) but it seemed to

pass – perhaps see if your local camera shop offer a service? I've been 'off line' the last couple of days so catching up – the raised 'bugger off' abdomen is quiet a common thing – it's like the female raising her middle finger to the male 😊😊 Hope you get onto a Duke and Small Pearl soon 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 27-May-18 11:14 PM GMT

That's a lovely Green HStreak Goldie – I haven't seen one with a proper streak this year in fact I've only seen one GHStr!
Hope your back gets better soon and that you find your Dukes and SPBFs 😊. I must get up to Gait Barrows next sunny day.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-May-18 08:08 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and Janet for your posts,
I'm going to find a camera shop near me Wurzel , it means waiting for repairs though and with the weather being so nice I decided it was time to get a spare, I decided to look on the internet and see what was on offer and I found a lens compatible with my camera for half price so I've sent for that, it's got a three year guarantee so should be okay and Cannon make it.
I don't think I'll be going up to the Lakes again until mid June Wurzel, it was packed on the motor way so I think I may have to pass on the Dukes and Frit's for this year, to tell you the truth both Jim and myself or feeling age creeping up at present 😊

Hi! Janet, I took most of my shots of GHS's this year at Foulshaw Moss, it's a great place for GHS's also for Large Heath. I'm going up there again mid June to look for the Heath, hope fully we'll get nice weather then.
I've been up to GB twice now and been disappointed with the place, I felt sorry for the people that were there some had come from the Borders to see the Dukes and were very disappointed. It's a bit hit and miss up there at present there's so few of them about,
Although my back is much better it's a bit of a walk to the Duke site and I certainly felt it when I got back in the car 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 28-May-18 03:59 PM GMT

Disappointing to hear about the lack of Dukes at GB, Goldie, especially since they appear to be around in good numbers in north Yorkshire.

Hope you get your lens problems sorted soon. There are few things more frustrating than being out in the field with equipment that won't work. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-May-18 06:22 PM GMT

Hi! David, Hope fully it won't be long before the new lens arrives and I can get going again I just hope the weather keeps up we've been really lucky here, one day of rain and Storm's which gave us rain but no thunder or lightning just skirting us. 😊
Gait Barrow has had loads of work done ,Tree's chopped, bushes cleared, piles of logs every where, all well and good but no Dukes to talk about so far has I could see, usually when the Slipper Orchids are out the Dukes can also be seen, lets hope it's just a poor year for them. Goldie 😊
I've just read Lanc's sightings and some one saw three Dukes yesterday at GB, we were there 3 hours on Saturday and saw none 😊😊

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 29-May-18 10:01 PM GMT

It seems the Dukes are in low numbers at most of their sites Goldie – except for North Yorkshire.

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 30-May-18 02:08 PM GMT

Great Large White sequence Goldie, I've seen a few rejections recently, never LW though. 😊
Sorry about your Duke shortage. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-May-18 07:35 PM GMT

Thanks for your posts Janet , hope fully the Dukes will come back , with all the clearing that's been done up there, there's always a chance. 😊
Glad you liked the Whites Sequence Andrew , I find the Female refusals fascinating , the funniest I've seen is the Speckled Wood playing Dead, waiting for my new lens to arrive although I did take those shots with a lens that's more suited for Land Scapes, any port in a storm 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-May-18 11:21 AM GMT

Not seen many Butterflies in the garden lately but this morning before the clouds appeared I spotted this GVW on the Boules Mauve, it looked so nice in there amongst the Fox Gloves and BM I just left the shot 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-May-18 04:51 PM GMT

This afternoon we expected a storm, 4.45pm, so far nothing's arrived but this rather battered Small Tortoiseshell arrived in the Garden took some lunch and shot off again 😊 The last one I saw was in April. 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 01-Jun-18 12:49 PM GMT

A Small Tort in any state is always a welcome sight Goldie 😊🍷 Interesting that they seem to age like us humans as not only do they lose their scales ('hair'), look a bit more tatty but they their markings also go from blonde to white 😊

Have a goodun

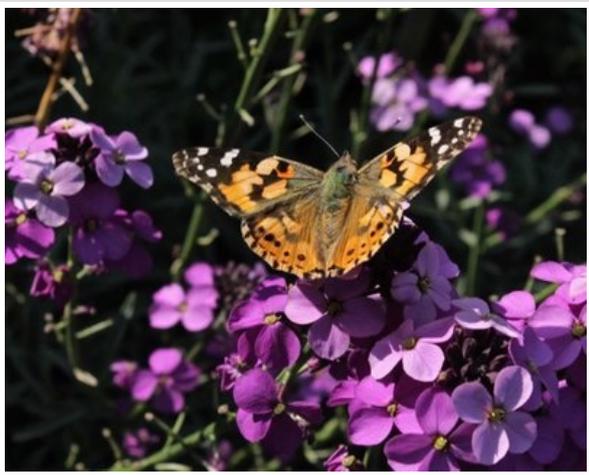
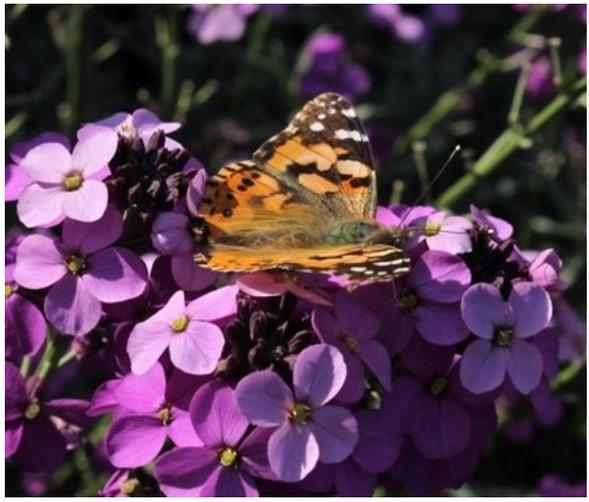
Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Jun-18 09:01 PM GMT

Thanks for your post Wurzel, I love to see the Small Torts what ever state they're in 😊 I think they're a lovely little Butterfly, I'd love to see a Large Tort but the small will take some beating 😊

I got a nice surprise today, weather wise it was dull until about 2pm then it changed to being very hot and humid, a Small White arrived in the Garden then a Large White but the big surprise was the Painted Lady who didn't arrive until about 5.45 pm, a very welcome sight 😊 I've not got my new lens yet but I was still pleased with the shots and my first PL this year 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 02-Jun-18 11:00 PM GMT

Cracking stuff Goldie a Painted Lady is always a welcome sight as well 🤗🌱 I only saw my first today as a fly-by so not shots 🙄 Plus I was in the car so definitely no shots 🙄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 03-Jun-18 05:53 AM GMT

Cracking shots of the Painted Lady Goldie 🤗 There have been reports of a few round here but I haven't seen one yet. A really lovely butterfly.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Jun-18 10:54 AM GMT

Thanks for your posts Wurzel and Pauline, yes it was a nice surprise when it arrived in the garden 😊 I thought at first was a STS, I was so pleased when I saw it was PL 😊

Although the weather here has been great not too many Butterflies about, we plan to go to Witherslack this week all being well NBA have been seen there also SPF, so fingers crossed the weather keeps nice, in the mean time we've been entertained with a batch of young Starlings who arrive every day to feed, drink, and wash 😊 (thought you might enjoy these shots Pauline) Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 04-Jun-18 01:15 PM GMT

Great shots from your garden Goldie, love the Painted Lady. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Jun-18 03:46 PM GMT

Thank you Andrew, I got a great surprise when she flew in 😊 (not quite sure if it's Male or Female) but I'll say she 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 04-Jun-18 11:43 PM GMT

Wonderful that you had an early Painted Lady visit your garden, Goldie, but with a double whammy of scabious and bowles mauve it's not surprising that it homed in on your patch! Hopefully there'll be more to follow later in the year.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 04-Jun-18 11:47 PM GMT

Great sequence showing the bathing Starlings Goldie 😊 Good luck with the Small Pearls and NBAs 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 05-Jun-18 12:27 PM GMT

I reckon you see more Painted Ladies than I do Goldie – your garden is a magnet for them! 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 05-Jun-18 07:37 PM GMT

millerd wrote:

I reckon you see more Painted Ladies than I do Goldie – your garden is a magnet for them! 😊 Dave

Ditto,

Its been a few years since I have seen one in my garden.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Jun-18 09:11 AM GMT

Many thanks everyone for your comments, it's funny really, I'm usually out looking for Butterflies but with my hip and back having been a bit sore I've had to choose where and when, so i've been spending more time in the Garden, if I'd been out that day I would have missed the Painted Lady 😊

Yesterday was my Husbands birthday so we decided to go to Brockholes CP and have lunch at the floating restaurant there, Brockholes has been built on a flood plain of the River Ribble and if the River floods it has a Draw Bridge that can be pulled up. It also has a few shops and you feel like your on a boat', chairs and tables or inside and out of the Restaurant where it's great to sit and watch the birds swim by 😊

We had our lunch there and then walked to where the fields surround the Wet lands, the fields were full of wild flowers and I was thrilled to find the Large Skipper in numerous amounts also the Common Blue. 😊

In the first shot I took I'm thinking there could be two LS's, there seems to be two many legs in there 😊

In the third shot I didn't notice the aphids until I looked at it on my computer 😊

I'd received my new lens the day before so i was in a hurry to try it out and was pleased with the results 😊

We also saw loads of Dragon fly's and I took a couple of shots of them, I've no Idea what they're called but one in particular I'm not too sure about, (whether it's a DF or a Fly of some description) It was certainly impressive 😊

Damsel Fly's were every where and you felt like you were treading on them, it was a good day out and we enjoyed it, hope fully we'll get to Witherslack and Foulshaw this week, the NBA and Large Heath have been seen there. Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 06-Jun-18 01:30 PM GMT

There are times when the garden is the best place to be 😊 – it's very good that you had a visit from a Painted Lady and the young Starlings are always amusing to watch.

Looking at your latest photos, I feel that your new lens has a sharpness that was sometimes lacking in your older one. I look forward to seeing more of your results when using it.

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 06-Jun-18 01:37 PM GMT

Smashing shots of the Starling family Goldie – but don't they just make a racket! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by jenks, 06-Jun-18 03:56 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I agree with Mike, great photos. I believe the damsels and dragons are 1. Common Blue Damselfly; 2. male Banded Demoiselle; 3. female Black tailed Skimmer.

I was in west Wales on Sunday, walking the coast path. Firstly, the Ceredigion coast from Cwmtudu to Cwm Soden, which I haven't visited before (about a 3 mile walk), in the morning. Common Blue 30 plus, Small Heath 20 plus, Green veined White 20 plus, Small Copper 5, Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary 5, on the bracken clad slopes (the reason I came here), Speckled Wood 6, Large White 4, Peacock, 1 very tatty individual and Orange Tip, 1 male (late I thought). Moving down to Pembrokeshire in the afternoon and evening, at Stack Rocks, Castlemartin, I had a Painted Lady flying in off the sea at about 5 p.m. Between 8 and 9 p.m. I was watching and counting the Manx Shearwaters milling about offshore from the Deer Park, Marloes, before returning to their burrows on the island of Skokholm under cover of darkness. And suddenly another Painted Lady flew in off the sea, 8.46 p.m. Now that is late for a butterfly! I stopped counting Manxies once I'd reached 2000 as my clicker finger was getting sore. IMHO, being born and bred in Pembs, I have to say this coastal path equals that of Dorset although I have to concede that Dorset's weather is probably kinder on a yearly basis.

Jenks.

Re: Goldie M

by CallumMac, 06-Jun-18 11:01 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, great set of pics – looks like you've got to grips with your new lens very quickly!

jenks wrote:

I believe the damsels and dragons are 1. Common Blue Damselfly; 2. male Banded Demoiselle; 3. female Black tailed Skimmer.

I agree with jenks on 1 & 2 but pic 3 definitely shows a Four-spotted Chaser – I would lean towards a female.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-Jun-18 11:38 PM GMT

Great set of Large Skippers Goldie 😊 Especially like the last one as it looks like he's getting every last drop 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by jenks, 07-Jun-18 09:34 AM GMT

Agreed Callum ! 4 spotted Chaser it is. I should have looked more closely at the wings and I would have seen the dark wing spot on the right hand side upper wing.

A request for info please. Does anyone have any news of Glanville Frits at Hutchinsons Bank or Heath Frits at Haddon Hill?

Jenks.

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 07-Jun-18 12:49 PM GMT

Glanvilles at HB are having another lean season. Only a handful seen, mostly flybys. They're having a wonderful season on the loW by all accounts though.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Jun-18 07:55 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, this new lens has a stabiliser which I think makes all the difference, I've sent my other lens to be repaired they say the motor has gone (never heard of that before) it's worth getting it repaired though it's good for distance.

Don't they just Pauline, they're annoying with their constant noise. 😊

Thanks for the info on the Dragonflies jenks, I've not got a clue when it comes to them, it sounds like you'd a good day out with the amount of Butterflies you saw and I've got another one for you to name 😊

Thanks Callum, also thanks for the ID's, like I've said to jerk's there's another one for you to name 😊

Hi! Wurzel, I like that one too, it looks rather tipsy I thought 😊

We got a phone call this morning from my cousin to say she couldn't go out today, we made a quick decision to go up to Foulshaw Moss, I'd heard the Large Heath were out there and also nip across to Latter Barrow for the Northern Brown.

It was a mixture of a great day but also a bit disappointing.

At Foulshaw the Heath were everywhere, everywhere you didn't want them 😊 If I'd have had a long-distance lens i'd have been fine as it was they stayed a good distance a way so my shots were very much hit and miss 😊 At least I got some thing besides the Butterfly (part of the Bog) 😊 the weather was very hot with no breeze so they went to ground quickly.

After we lunched we went a cross the road to Latter Barrow, it's only a small NR so after we walked around and had seen nothing we decided to sit and watch 😊 It was then I saw a flash go passed so we followed it, it flew down a path and out into some tall Ferns , I recognised it has my first NBA for years 😊 Least I hope it is!! 😊

It was then out of the Ferns flew a flash of Orange it was so quick landing only once and folding it's wings, had a quick nectar drink before disappearing back into the Ferns, I'd just time for two quick clicks 😊 It was a great day out! 😊 Goldie 😊









Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 07-Jun-18 08:11 PM GMT

Well done with your Large Heath and NBA, Goldie 😊 We were hoping to travel up there in a week or so, but the weather that's forecast for then may rule out our trip 😞

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Jun-18 08:26 PM GMT

Hi! Max, it's a pity you can't get up here next week, we've been so lucky with the weather up here, it rained one full day, we had the tale end of somebody's storm and that's all the rain we've had since the first BH .We've had to water the Garden twice the Sun has been so hot and at Foulshaw Moss where the Heath are it's pretty dry, so when the Heath are out their looking for shade all the time, (As well as partners) 😊 Hope you manage to come and the weather's okay for you 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 07-Jun-18 09:51 PM GMT

Large Heath, NBA and then a SPBF all in one day, Goldie! Not something us Southerners can easily go out and do... 😊 The first two species I have yet to see – ever! – so that's worth a few 🍷 for certain. Brilliant. 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 07-Jun-18 10:28 PM GMT

Glad you had a cracking day Goldie Large Heath AND an NBA 🤩🍷🍷 Fantastic stuff! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by jenks, 07-Jun-18 10:48 PM GMT

More excellent photos, Goldie ! Your first photo is of a Large Red Damselfly. Seeing your photos of Large Heath make me think I need to get to Cors Caron (Tregaron Bog) for my annual sightings of this. It`s the most southerly site for LH and so the nearest to me. I certainly don`t expect to see the numbers that you saw though, this site has a fairly small population.

Thanks Buggie for the info re Glanville Fritillary. The Isle of Wight certainly has good numbers but getting there and the cost of the ferry is prohibitive.

Jenks.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Jun-18 10:15 AM GMT

Hi! Dave, it was a great day out and the Large Heath were just coming out so plenty of time yet for any one to see them.

It's been so hot in the North over the last few weeks with very little rain, talking to the Ranger there they were quite worried at one time for them but there was loads flying but because of the heat they were seeking out mostly the middle area's of the Moss.

The Northern Brown were at Latter barrow NR which is just a bit further down the road from the Moss , I'd never been there before but decided to give it try so I was really pleased when we managed to see them, also the SPBF 😊

Hi! Wurzel, it was a great day out and we'll be going back to both places, we were a bit fed up with Gait Barrow not having seen much there so when I saw the NBA and the LH had been seen we went there instead, Latter Barrow is lovely, full of wild flowers and just across the road a bit further down the road from the Moss so easy to do both on the same day. (Also there's a Pub right on the corner just a walk a way from LatterBarrow) 😊

Thanks again Jenks, you would have a great time at the Moss I've never seen so many Dragon Flies, I managed the one but most of the people there had come just for the Dragon Flies not for the Butterflies and of course to see the Osprey's which by the way had three new Chicks. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 08-Jun-18 08:33 PM GMT

Large Heath so early is highly notable, Goldie. You did well to follow your instincts.

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 08-Jun-18 08:54 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

A good decision to go and see the Large Heath.

I have seen Large Heath at Meathop Moss in early June a couple of times but never been to Foulshaw Moss despite it being close. This is a species that soon starts to look tired and worn so early June is a good time to see them in good condition.

Latterbarrow is a lovely little reserve, I always try to make the time to pay a visit when I am up that way. I have seen NBAs and Small Pearls there every time I have visited 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-Jun-18 11:36 AM GMT

Hi! Dave, they were just coming out and were looking for mates so pretty hard to get shots of, it was so hot as well and we've had so little rain that even the bog didn't look very boggy and where it was boggy the Dragon Flies had taken over and were mating like mad even landing on people 😊 (Ideal day for the Dragon Fly lovers) Goldie 😊

Hi! Neil, I much prefer Foulshaw Moss over Meathop, There's a toilet there a Ranger Station a good Car Park and the Board Walk is just beside the car Park,(not that I need one yet) 😊 but lots of people there in wheel chairs when I've been there.also there's a couple of picnic benches which we made good use of 😊

The Osprey nest is in the Moss and in the Small Ranger Station they've placed a screen where you can watch the Birds , the ranger is very helpful has well with info, we always put some thing in the box there towards the up keep.

Latterbarrow, is great and now we've an idea where to look for the Butterflies we'll definately go back there, I was so pleased to see the NBA not having seen it for a few years, it was very hot though and it never opened it's wings fully which was a shame but plenty of time now I know where to find it. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 09-Jun-18 12:29 PM GMT

Well done with your Large Heath and Northern Brown Argus.
I've heard that LH can be tricky to photograph, with vegetation getting in the way.

Cracking images in the circumstances,
Trevor

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Jun-18 08:58 AM GMT

Many thanks Trevor, we were at the Moss for quite awhile just waiting for one to come reasonably near for a shot 😊

I also took a shot of this lovely little Moth which I forgot to post before and also this view of the hill taken from Foulshaw Moss , which is just across from the Moss on the A590. Latterbarrow NR is not too far a way also just off the A590.

I took a photo of this lovely Orchid at Latterbarrow, the hillside was full of different orchids , It was just slightly worn but worth a shot I thought 😊
Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Jun-18 10:06 PM GMT

Today we went to Southport and in the Dunes we saw loads of Small Heath, we lost count there were so many, it's the first time I'd actually got close enough to get lot's of shots some of which ,(two in particular were unusual to say the least) 😊😊

Also we saw a Five Spot Burnett and a few Common Blue but all seemed well worn, I was looking for the Dark Green Fritillary but it didn't put in an appearance today.

Again the weather was hot but we've had some rain tonight, I never thought I'd be so pleased to see the rain 😊 After weeks of dry weather and having to water the garden it was very welcome. 😊 May be more Butterflies will come out of hiding now 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 10-Jun-18 10:24 PM GMT

What is going on there, Goldie – is it just emerging from its pupa?

I saw a comment from you yesterday about the Large Heath so I went chasing it today! BTW Fernilee Reservoir is a good place to see Dark Green Frits according to BC Cheshire's website 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Jun-18 08:21 AM GMT

Hi! Janet, you should get some shots of the Large Heath, I believe they've had some rain up there which should help them, it was so hot when we were there, good luck! 😊

I've looked at the two shots I took and I'm thinking there's another Small Heath in there some where, I'm sure that's another antenna in there. 😊 I'll have to leave it to the experts 😊 Goldie 😊

Thanks for the info on the DGF's, I was thinking I'd try Arnside Knott , it's looking like the weather may be breaking down mid week so we'll have to wait a while. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 11-Jun-18 09:13 AM GMT

Great stuff Goldie there are indeed another pair of antenna in there as you've captured a pair in mid cop 😊 That looks like quite an advanced position from the butterfly karma sutra 🤔🤔🤔

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Jun-18 06:20 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I couldn't believe it when I saw the shots 😊😊 I didn't know wether to post them or not 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 12-Jun-18 11:12 PM GMT

Great you saw so many Small Heaths, Goldie. It's a species seemingly very much on the decline.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Jun-18 09:46 AM GMT

Hi! David thanks for your post, I've been to the Dunes loads of times and seen the Small Heath but never so many, they were every where, I nearly stood on one at one point, it was great to see them. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 13-Jun-18 02:46 PM GMT

Well done with those spots and shots of the LH and NBA Goldie. 🍷😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Jun-18 07:35 PM GMT

Thanks Andrew, it was one of those good days 😊

I'd an hour to spare today,(I've been trying to catch up gardening and house work) 😊 so i thought I'd pop over to Hall-Lee-Brook just in case the LS and MB had finally arrived, the Large Skipper was there but no meadow Brown, mind you another field had been cut so that wasn't too surprising 😊

I saw the Speckled Wood first, it looked in good condition to the ones I'd seen before so i couldn't resist a shot of it 😊

I saw the Male Skipper has well as the Female, one Skipper was very dark compared to the others but with very bright markings, so I think this one was very fresh .

Tonight we're expecting a storm so no more Butterflies for a while 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 13-Jun-18 10:57 PM GMT

Great Large Skipper shots Goldie 😊 The Meadow Browns won't be far behind 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Jun-18 08:30 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I hope the grass cutting hasn't affected the Meadow Brown too much 😊
It's wild outside at present, the wind's blowing the tree's like mad and we're just on the edge of the Storm, hope fully the Butterflies are hiding 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 14-Jun-18 09:45 PM GMT

Great to see female Large Skippers out and about, Goldie. I've not come across one in my neck of the woods yet, but I hope it won't be long!

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 16-Jun-18 11:44 AM GMT

I love that dark female LS Goldie – she's really beautiful. 😊 The storm has certainly put the tin hat on butterflies this weekend hasn't it.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Jun-18 06:54 PM GMT

Hi! David, it shouldn't be too long before you see them 😊
Hi! Janet, thanks for your post, we'd a real storm today didn't we 😊 But the forecast for Tuesday seems okay, I'm going to make a Bee line (hope fully) for NE Ainsdale Dunes has many as 30 DGF were seen there a couple of days ago, the weather is poor for the Lakes so I'm glad we went when we did 😊
Maybe the Grayling will be out has well. 😊
I liked the Dark LS as well, she certainly stood out against the others, no meadow Browns yet but hope fully get this awful weather out of the way and they'll be out. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 16-Jun-18 07:03 PM GMT

Yes, that's an attractive female Large Skipper, Goldie – I've only seen males so far this year, and the female is a nice contrast. 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Jun-18 07:21 PM GMT

Thanks Dave, she was certainly a lovely Butterfly, really standing out against the others with her darkness and really gold markings
Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 16-Jun-18 07:42 PM GMT

That female Large Skipper certainly is well marked, Goldie 😊

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jun-18 11:03 AM GMT

Hi! Mike, I thought so too 😊 the weather forecast for today was not very good but I'm looking at Sunshine outside now so I think I'll pop out and see if I can find her again. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 20-Jun-18 08:52 AM GMT

Great shots Goldie!, I too love the female Skipper. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Jun-18 06:27 AM GMT

Thanks Andrew for your post and I'm sorry it's taken so long to reply but I've been at sixes and sevens this last week so I'm just catching up.

We've not had the best of weather until Thursday when we went to Fleetwood and even then the wind was so strong it took the car door right out of my

hand and blew it open, luckily no one was near. 😊

Yesterday we decided to Visit Brockholes NR at Preston, I was looking to see if the WLH was out there, the Sun was really hot, the breeze at first on the cool side but in the afternoon it soon warmed up.

We didn't see any HS's and other people thought may be it was too soon for them although they had been seen in the Elm tree's in Preston town centre of all places 😊 I'll have to go back again later in the week, the forecast is good for the rest of the week.

I did how ever get shots of my first of this year's Small Skipper's , Meadow Brown's and Ringlet, so it wasn't too bad.

I also saw this Small White Moth, again I don't know it's name 😊 also loads of Burnett Moths, the Sun making them shine and stand out colour wise,It was quite a lovely day. Goldie 😊



Sea Front Fleetwood Thursday



Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 23-Jun-18 09:09 PM GMT

That's a lovely shot of the Ringlet, Goldie – and I see your Meadow Brown has a double eye spot. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 23-Jun-18 10:50 PM GMT

As Janet says a lovely shot of the Ringlet and double eyed Meadow Brown 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Jun-18 10:00 AM GMT

Thanks Janet and Wurzel, this new lens is terrific , the stabiliser has made a big difference , although I've had my other lens repaired I'm sticking with this one at present 😊

I was lucky with the double eyed MB, most of them were very hard to find hiding in the Grass most of the time, in fact I came back with just two or three decent shots 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Jun-18 08:22 AM GMT

We made a bad choice yesterday, we decided to go to Southport Dunes instead of the Lakes, thinking, really, with the Weather forecast so good for the rest of the week it was a good choice and we could go to the Lakes another day. 😊

Dark Green Fritillaries had been seen at Ainsdale Dunes, 30 at one point, what we didn't know was that Traveller's had taken over the Car Parks 😞 The Rangers were there in force has were the Police!! Car's or not encouraged to park on the roads around the Dunes, so that was that.

We went back into Southport and went round Jubilee Walk instead, the heat was getting to us in the end, I did get shot's of a Small Skipper, Meadow Brown's mating (I'd to follow them about bit 😊) and a Small Heath just landing which kept it's wings open momentarily, (not such a good shot) 😊 but that was it, still the weather was great and there's always anther day. 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 26-Jun-18 10:46 PM GMT

Small Heath can be teased can't they Goldie 😊😊 Nice set of shots particularly the mating pair 😊 I've used to see the Travelers every year around the Solstice and they were always friendly and pointed out Small and Adonis Blue but I think they were more hippy's than the other type of traveler 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Jun-18 10:12 PM GMT

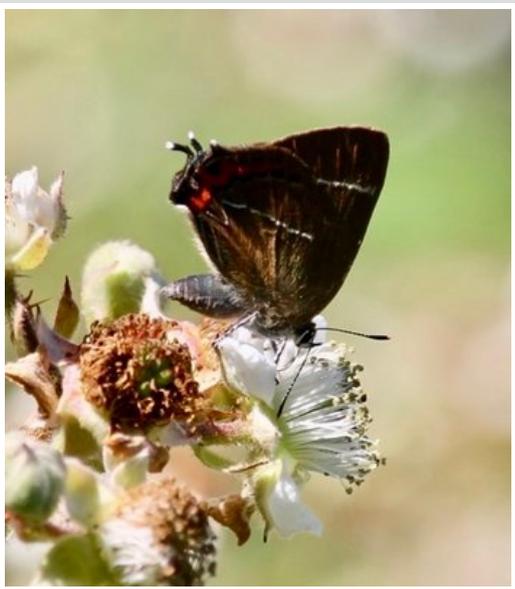
Once again Wurzel ,thanks for your post, the Travellers we've seen so far have had the police there, so it's best to keep out of their way and today made up for that day 😊

Glad you liked the Meadow Brown's 😊

We decided on Brockholes today because at last White Letter Hair Streaks had been seen there, with the weather being so hot it fitted into our plans good.

We set off about 3pm because last year it was 4pm when we saw them. The air was hazy and you couldn't see the hills properly because of the haze caused by the smoke from the fire on the Moors which was being put out.

On arrival we went straight to the entrance to the Woods and sure enough there they were feasting on the Briers 😊 Also on the Briers was a Comma , Small White, Meadow Brown, and Skipper's, it turned out to be quite a good evening, Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 27-Jun-18 11:03 PM GMT

Gorgeous photos of the WLHs Goldie – surely made up for the travellers! 😊
It looks like you found a Small Skipper too – I haven't seen any of those yet. I'll have to get up to Brockholes!

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 27-Jun-18 11:42 PM GMT

Brill Whitters Goldie 😊 It's great when a species keeps to the program and turn up when and where it's expected too 😊🇮🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 28-Jun-18 05:41 AM GMT

You must be thrilled with those shots of the WLH Goldie, especially the last couple, but my personal favourite is the GVW – fabulous 😊

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 28-Jun-18 07:20 AM GMT

I'm currently wading through a weeks worth of posts on here after a week of long distance butterflying. You got some great shots, that new lens is certainly paying dividends 😊

Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 28-Jun-18 08:39 AM GMT

Goldie – Your WLH shots are the ones I am trying and failing to get. You should be chuffed. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Jun-18 08:54 AM GMT

Hi! Janet, thanks very much 😊 If you go to Brockholes take Five pounds in change with you, you used to be able to use your card to pay now it's change only, you can pay in the cafe, but that closes at 5pm so not very convenient if you go like we did late in the day 😊 It's worth the money though!!! 😊

Many thanks Wurzel, they were a treat to see but boy was it hot 😊 They were even on the part of the Brier's that were just out of the Sun 😊 I don't know about you but I find that most of the Butterflies I've seen and photographed have nearly all had their wings closed because of the heat.

Hi! Pauline, glad you like the shots 😊 It was worth fighting the heat to get them 😊 the Hair Streaks never stopped long on any flower, they were in competition with Bee's, MB, all sorts of flies 😊 I got bitten by one, stung by Nettles, but it was worth it 😊

Hi! Bugboy, thanks for your post, the new lens is great, the stabiliser has made all the difference to my shots although I did keep changing it and putting my other lens back on for the longer shots (my Husband was on stand by 😊) It's great he just enjoys being out in the country 😊

Just got your posts ernie, 😊 I really am chuffed like you say, I hope you meet up with the WHS and get your shots soon. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 28-Jun-18 10:24 AM GMT

Some great WLH photos there, Goldie. Though they can be very approachable, when it's very sunny they seem to always be at the wrong angle to get good shots, but your second-to-last one is just spot-on. 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Jun-18 11:33 AM GMT

Thanks Dave, I've never seen so many in one go, last year there was just one and I was lucky to catch it, this year they weren't stopping very long, they were on the part that was partly in the shade as well 😊 I don't blame them it was still very hot even in the evening. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 29-Jun-18 11:50 AM GMT

Great WLH's Goldie, glad that worked out for you. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Jun-18 03:35 PM GMT

Thanks Andrew, lets hope the weather keeps up and the Butterflies 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 29-Jun-18 06:56 PM GMT

Just seen your WLH photos Goldie, great stuff 😊 That is one species that I seriously lack decent photos of.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Jun-18 07:22 PM GMT

Many thanks Neil, I'm not surprised, they dodge about so much 😊

It's been so hot (as it is everywhere) but we're not used to 30c here 😊 We've had hardly any Butterflies in the Garden, when I've seen them it's been a case of in-and-out quickly, today however I spotted this Small White on the Boulds Mauve, so I just had to post it, others I saw and didn't get shots of were, Comma, Large White, Small Skipper and (Meadow Brown, which is a real surprise, I've not seen one in the Garden before.) Hope fully off to the lakes this week-end 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 29-Jun-18 08:59 PM GMT

Lovely, crumpled Small White Goldie 😊 Looks how I feel, a bit disheveled by all this heat 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Jun-18 06:55 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, that's just what I thought when I first saw it 😊

Well we set off this morning for the Lakes and got stuck in a Traffic jam on the M61 which went down to one lane to get onto the M6, Murder!!! Before that we saw the fire on Winter Hill which some one had started deliberately, He's since been arrested but the smoke can be seen from the Lake District ,(also from our Bungalow !!)

We'd decided to go back to Foulshaw Moss just in case the Heaths were still there/ they weren't, I did get a shot of a Dragon fly though 😊 just one.

We went a cross the road then to Latterbarrow, guess what, MB's, SK's, a few whites all of which didn't stop 😊

We had lunch and set off to Arnside Knott, If I tell you I saw SK's and MB's again,(you won't be surprised) I think every thing was hiding in the bush's out of the Sun 😊 We were just about to leave and go to the Car Park when this DGF flew up from the Ferns

and landed in front of me, Guess what, your right! off it flew before I got a shot 😊

That was our day, must say though the weather was good, too hot, but how often do we see the Sun so much, we still enjoyed it but I hope we see more next week at Ferymn Woods 😊 Goldie 😊



Fire on the Moors



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 30-Jun-18 10:22 PM GMT

That's often the way with DGFs 😊 but hang on in there as once you've seen one they become progressively easier to capture on film 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 30-Jun-18 11:37 PM GMT

That sounds a frustrating day Goldie! The heat seems to have supercharged all the butterflies 😊

We can smell the smoke from the fires even here in Sale, I guess the wind must have been in the right direction. Some of our Conservation Volunteers were supposed to be working at Stalybridge on Wednesday but had to give up on account of the smoke.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Jul-18 10:23 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, no such luck about going back 😊 We're off to Kent first thing this coming Sat, calling at Ferymn first, staying over night, then onto Kent, you win some, then lose some, that's Butterflying 😊 If I see the Emperor, a WA, or a SWF, and a PHS, (wishful thinking) I'll be happy, 😊 Goldie 😊

Hi! Janet, We can see the smoke from our Bungalow but we've been lucky so far because we've not been in it's path but yesterday was really bad, two fires came together causing panic for the woods at Rivington, because of house's and farms on that side of the Moor and the wind yesterday was quite strong, which didn't help, I think the Army or helping out today. We could do with that Storm moving up a-bit 😊 I never thought I'd say that! 😊 It's a worry for the wild life 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Jul-18 11:04 PM GMT

We stayed at home today and went into the Garden doing odd jobs until it got too hot, sitting down enjoying the weather and having our lunch we saw, (has we did two days ago a Meadow Brown) it flew into our Bushes and not wanting to disturb it we left it alone, it wasn't long before another two arrived, one disappeared but the other one climbed onto a very worn Rose, because of this I took a photo quickly of it, I'm not too sure this one is a MB it seems a-bit ragged , but the others definitely were .

Not long after this a Comma arrived, then a Small Tort, lots of Whites, a Small Skipper, we realised this was unusual, Meadow Brown's especially have never been in our garden before. 😊

We soon realised they must have come from Winter Hill which some one has set on fire, I don't think the Whites have but I'm not sure.

It's a real mess up on the Moors at present and the Butterflies and other wild life are suffering because of it, I'm hoping the MB will be alright in the Garden but it's not really an environment that fits them but it's better than being burnt.

Rivington Pike and Woods are not far a way and we can see the smoke from the fire in the distance, the Army are there now i think helping, so hope fully it won't get into the Woods are the Village of Belmont. 😊

Maybe the crumpled Butterfly I posted earlier had also come from there. Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 01-Jul-18 11:14 PM GMT

Great H.Comma Goldie 😊 Fingers crossed they can get the fire under control 😊 What sort of muppet would start a fire on purpose just for the sake of it 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

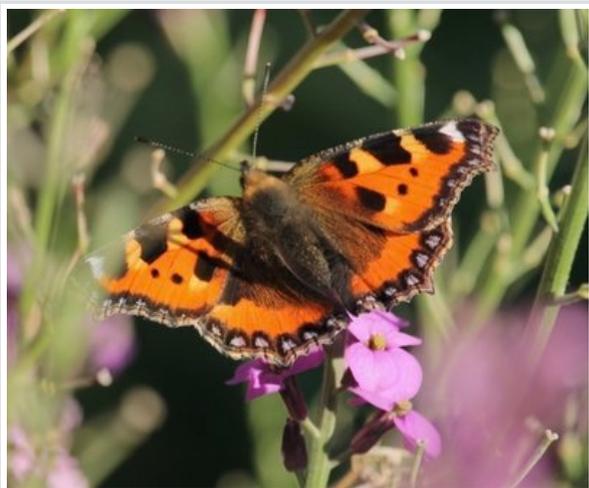
by Goldie M, 02-Jul-18 07:22 AM GMT

I don't know Wurzel, I think now they've got him I'd put him on the hill battling out the fire, instead he'll probably just get a fine 😏 and guess what!! the Police Helicopter saw two men actually starting another fire with matches ten miles a way from that one 🤔 Goldie 🤔

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Jul-18 08:36 PM GMT

I'm counting down now for our trip South on Saturday , hope fully Fermyn first. 😊 but just had to add this lovely Small Tort from today in the Garden because it looks so fresh.(I took the shots at 7pm.) Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 02-Jul-18 08:55 PM GMT

Great Small Tort Goldie 😊 Good luck for your trip down South 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Jul-18 09:01 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, with all the shots of Fermyn I've seen so far I could be lucky 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 04-Jul-18 12:23 AM GMT

Lovely Small Tort Goldie – I haven't seen many of them yet. Good luck with the PEs at Fermyn! I'm off to Brockholes tomorrow for the WLH 😊

Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 04-Jul-18 07:01 AM GMT

It is horrendous those fires. But nature gets its way eventually. Some years ago some crazy person purposefully set fire to Thursley Heath a few miles from where I live. It ripped through the reserve – you could see the smoke miles away. It appeared devastated. But slowly, year by year, the heath regenerated and then the animals started to come back. Now, only a few years later you would never know it had happened. Indeed there were some specialists that required the fire to happen, for example the Pine Fire Fungus!



Pine Fire Fungus

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Jul-18 10:09 AM GMT

Thanks Janet, they were in the Garden again today hiding from the Sun, then flying back on the flowers. 😊

That's great ernie, hope fully things will get back to normal here but the fires are still raging on the moors here, it's strange though this always seems to happen here when the weather is hot, I think the heat affects strange people 😊

Last year at Heysham nr Morcambe some one set fire to the nature reserve there, they'd just introduced Large Heath back to the reserve and were devastated but this year the Large Heath were back to every ones surprise 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 04-Jul-18 10:28 AM GMT

Lovely Small Tort Goldie, wishing you luck with your trip. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 04-Jul-18 04:58 PM GMT

Hi Goldie – trying to catch up on a few diaries as this heat has caused so much extra work with the animals 😞 . Anyway, just don't believe Wurzel when he tells you DGF get easier after the first one – they don't!!!! 😞😞 I've been trying to get a decent shot for years!!! Some lovely photos recently and I'm wishing you both all the best for your trip to Feryn and Kent – looking forward to seeing your shots 😊

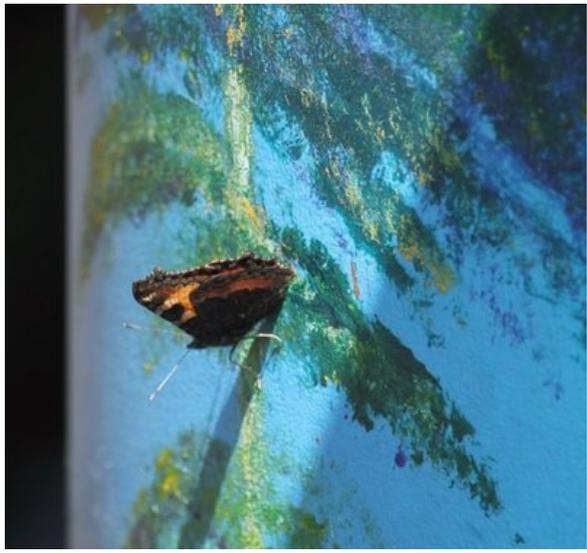
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Jul-18 11:55 AM GMT

Thanks Andrew and Pauline, we're looking forward to the trip but trying to work out how we can work watching the the Football match into the Journey. 😊

I just put a few more shots in, loads of Whites in the Garden, second shot is a Small Tort on my stone seat sheltering from the Sun, Third shot one on my water Barrel which I decided to paint ages ago to jazz things up a bit, 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by David M, 08-Jul-18 10:35 PM GMT

Those Tortoiseshells get into some funny places, Goldie. 😊

Hope you are making the most of the warm weather.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 09-Jul-18 12:57 PM GMT

Great stuff Goldie 😊 That Small Tort is a bit rubbish at hiding, it doesn't look anything like a nose 🤪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 11-Jul-18 10:38 PM GMT

Hi Goldie – I missed you up at Arnside by a day! I was there on 1st and 2nd July and my goodness it was hot. The butterflies were really difficult to approach they were zooming around so much. 😊

I like your Tortoiseshell poses – not always an easy butterfly to get close to especially when it's very sunny. 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Jul-18 11:14 AM GMT

Hi!, David,Wurzel and Dave, Many thanks for your posts, we've been so busy since we arrived in Kent, we thought we'd try to get out each day while the weather stays good, today though, we feel like catching our breath, so calling it a rest day although we'll pay East Blean Woods another visit tonight to see if I can get the PHS with open wings 😊

We stayed over night on Saturday after visiting Fermyn Woods and got B&B before setting off for Kent on the Sunday. Sunday was spent later watching my Grandson play cricket. 😊 So Monday we set off to look in BW ,I'll just put a few shots in because I've been really lucky since arriving here, unfortunately I missed the Emperor's ,in Fermyn Woods, it was such a hot day they didn't come down from the tree's, I did get the SWF though so had to be happy with that at the time 😊

What I found in East Blean Woods on Tuesday though really cheered me up, Wurzel, I actually found some Heath Frits 😊 I also found a WA in both EBW and the Woods near my Daughter's, which is still Blean, on the Monday, also I found a PHS 😊

Yesterday, Wednesday, after a very cloudy start we went to Temple Ewell, I was so pleased to see the Marbled Whites and Chalkhill's , so we spent some time there before catching our breath for back to the house 😊 Goldie 😊











Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 12-Jul-18 09:10 PM GMT

I'm surprised, but delighted, you got your Heath Fritillaries, they are long gone from the Essex woods. Well done on your Marbled Whites and Chalkhill Blues at Lydden, you've seen Chalkhills before me this year!

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 12-Jul-18 09:15 PM GMT

Great shots there Goldie, like Essex says, that seems really late for Heath Frits 🤔

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 12-Jul-18 10:31 PM GMT

Brill news Goldie 😊 Great to see the trip get off to such a great start 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 13-Jul-18 06:35 AM GMT

I too am quite surprised to see Heath Fritillaries still on the wing. Glad you caught up with them, Goldie, along with the other delights that you don't get up north.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Jul-18 10:17 AM GMT

Thanks everybody for your posts 😊 as you can see I'm having a great time here and out nearly every day 😊

I was surprised to see the Heath Fritillaries has well, so yesterday we planned to go to Reculver first then onto East Blean Woods afterwards, i wanted to see if the Purple Hair Streaks would show me some Purple 😊 Of course another sight of the Heath wouldn't go a miss 😊

It was quite cloudy when we arrived at Reculver and I didn't expect to see many butterflies but in-spite of that the Gate Keepers were there in abundance, then I spotted the Skippers and have been told by Essex that they're Essex 😊 There were a few rather shabby Red Admiral's and once again loads of Whites.

We decided a sandwich would go down well and knew from past experience that the small cafe there did a belting Bacon Butty, say no more! 😊 We set off afterwards for EBW.

On arrival, we thought it was too soon to check out the PHS so went to look for the Heath again. Where we saw them before was now in the shade and only one or two were flying so having already got some shots I wasn't too adventurous of the Brambles they were on and carried on down the path further into the woods, that's when we were stopped in our tracks by the sight of this HF in the middle of the path on a flower 😊

We'd never seen them so deep in the woods before and in such good condition, has we watched another joined the first and I thought they were going to mate, (still not sure this didn't happen) I'll let you judge. 😊 After quite a lot of shots the Butterflies flew off and we carried on to look for the HS. I did see them but no Purple colour to show for my shots, still it was another great day out 😊 Goldie 😊









Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 14-Jul-18 11:27 AM GMT

I didn't get to East Blean this year, so it's good to see your shots.
I share your frustration with the Purple Hairstreaks, they can be so near, yet too far away !.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Jul-18 10:30 PM GMT

Hi! Trevor, Your right about the PHS, you no sooner get them in your sights when they hop onto another leaf 😊 I'll have another try I think before I call it a day 😊
Glad you liked the shots,I was so pleased when I saw the Heath's because I was sure I'd missed them.Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 15-Jul-18 06:01 PM GMT

Cracking stuff Goldie 😊👍 I didn't get to see Heaths this year either like Trevor so I'll enjoy yours all the more 😊👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 15-Jul-18 10:09 PM GMT

It must almost be like going abroad for you, Goldie, with these 'exotics' suddenly available on your doorstep.

Hope you make the most out of the rest of your trip.

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 16-Jul-18 12:13 AM GMT

Well done with both the Heath Frits and the Purple Hairstreaks, Goldie. Those Heaths have been out since before my visit, which was back on 6th June!
😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 16-Jul-18 06:08 AM GMT

Seems like you're having a marvelous time Goldie 😊 Nice shots of the Heath Frits and lovely Marbled White 😊

Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 16-Jul-18 07:15 AM GMT

Love those Heath Frit pics, Goldie. Especially the "two-for-one" special offer and the one in flight.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Jul-18 08:00 PM GMT

Thanks for all your posts, finding the Heath's was icing on the cake for me after not seeing them for quite a while, I look forward to coming to Kent every year, it helps when your family lives here. 😊

I'll need some help today though with some ID's , I didn't bring my book on Butterflies with me and today it was so hot the blue butterflies never opened their wings, I'm not too bad with the Chalkhill's but the others 😊

I think I got the Brown Argus but how many times 😊

Today we packed off home at mid -day it was so hot, not before we'd seen a Brimstone , Marble White, loads of Chalkhill Blues, even a Skipper landed in front of me, I hoped it was a Sliver Spotted but the markings weren't White, still they could have been Sun Burnt 😊 I'll let the photo's tell the tale and try to get the names right. 😊 Goldie 😊









Chalkhill Blue



not sure



Brown Argus



Brown Argus

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 16-Jul-18 08:58 PM GMT

Happy to see how successful your trip has been Goldie. 😊 A lovely selection, your Heaths are great. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 16-Jul-18 10:40 PM GMT

I'm glad you got your Chalkhills and the Brown Argus as well Goldie 😊 Where there any other target species?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 17-Jul-18 07:31 AM GMT

Looks like you had a good time Goldie 😊. Your 'not sure' blue is a male Common Blue and your first B. Argus is actually a female Common Blue 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jul-18 09:35 AM GMT

Thanks for that Bugboy, I did wonder about the black spots on the first one being lower than on my other shot but gave up on both 😊 My eyes were going into one another in the end 😊

Thanks Andrew for your post it was great to see the Heaths again 😊

Thanks Wurzel, I've yet to see a Small Copper this year but I can't persuade my Husband to go to Dungeness 😊 also I'd love to see a Clouded Yellow before I go home, the only one's I really want don't come out till later is the Adonis, I've not see it for years and just missed it last year, the Silver Spotted Skipper would be okay too 😊 I've never seen a Brown Hair Streak at all but will have to wait and try my luck at Gait Barrow for that one I think. 😊

I for got to mention before that I'd a fantastic experience at Fermyn Woods, not with the Butterflies but when I saw my first Red Kite flying just above me in the sky there, I never realised they were so big and when it was just soaring I was able to get a couple of shots of it. 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 17-Jul-18 02:21 PM GMT

Lovely shot of the Red Kite Goldie 😊 Good luck with the Brostreak 😊 not long now til they emerge 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 17-Jul-18 07:49 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Sorry to hear you missed out on Purple Emperor at Fermyn but it looks like you made up for it with plenty of other stuff down in Kent.

That is a great selection of Heath Fritillary shots 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 17-Jul-18 09:34 PM GMT

The B.Argus shots are great – and I love your photos of the kites! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jul-18 10:50 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel , it was great to see it for the first time, I hope I see the Brostreak , I need a first for this year Wurzel 😊

Hi! Neil, I was disappointed at the time but you can't win them all 😞 that's Butterflying for you 😊 Like you say I've been lucky in Kent 😊

Thanks Janet, it was thrilling seeing the Kites 😊 Lets hope we see the Brostreaks at Gait Barrow 😊 that will be anther thrill for me 😊

I seem to have seen lots of coupling since I came to Kent 😊 Butterflies I mean 😊 Today we were both tired so decided to have a day off just messing about in my Daughter's garden with her dog, my attention was drawn to a bush by a white Butterfly which flew there quite a lot landing and taking off again, when I looked yet another coupling was taking place 😊 It's certainly all happening in Kent 😊 Goldie 😊



Small Whites Garden today



Marble Whites Temple Ewell



Gate Keepers Dover

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 17-Jul-18 11:00 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

I seem to have seen lots of coupling since I came to Kent 😊 Butterflies I mean 😊 Today we were both tired so decided to have a day off just messing about in my Daughter's garden with her dog, my attention was drawn to a bush by a white Butterfly which flew there quite a lot landing and taking off again, when I looked yet another coupling was taking place 😊 It's certainly all happening in Kent 😊 Goldie 😊

I'm sure Kent wasn't like that when I lived in Dover, Goldie! Three sets of mating pairs, one after the other... 🙄😞😞

Terrific Red Kites, too – they fly over here quite often, but I can never get a camera on them like that. By the way, your spotty Skipper looks like a Large Skipper I think. There are still a few around.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 17-Jul-18 11:22 PM GMT

I was reading your PD and watching a documentary at the same time and the words that stood out were 'coupling', 'bush' and 'Kent', for a moment I wondered if someone had hacked your account 😞😞 Three sets of in cop shots one after the other is extraordinary, there must be something in the nectar 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jul-18 11:30 PM GMT

Hi! Dave, it seems every time I go out i've seen a coupling, 😊 I'm Going to look for SSS at Temple Ewell before I go home, I was sure that Large Skipper was one at first 😊 Hope fully I'll find one and an Adonis. 😊

I was lucky with the Red Kite it was so hot that day it didn't move it's wings much just soared with the elements, quite regal I thought 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Jul-18 11:45 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, Believe me, it's every time I go looking for Butterflies I seem to find a couple like that, when we found the Whites in the garden we both had a good laugh 😊

The Hillside at Temple Ewell has to be seen to be believed it's absolutely covered in Butterflies, loads of species, just to stand there and watch them fly is a treat in it's self , to capture them so free and happy, greeting , chasing, etc is great 😊 We don't see them in such great numbers and so many species together in the North that's why I love coming South . 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Jul-18 06:23 PM GMT

This morning was rather dull, lot's of cloud but still very warm when the Sun came through.

We decided to visit Seasalter nr Whitstable, I'd seen Clouded Yellow there in the past so thought It may be a good Idea to try my luck there.

When we arrived the Sun was still hiding behind the clouds but the Butterflies were glad of this and I finally got my Brown Argus with open wings 😊

In Seasalter there's a raised path between the sea and a field full of different wild flowers which grow along the slopes, the path beneath the slopes is the one we usually take because the CY's come down the field and along the path, rather than going along the upper path facing the sea which can some times be very windy, we didn't have long to wait, three Cloudies headed our way, two took off along the path but one landed on a flower on the slopes just in front of me, I took three quick shots before it was off again 😊 A fourth advanced towards us but never stopped so I hoped I'd got a shot okay of the other one 😊

My photo is the best I could do in the time the Butterfly landed, at least I got it. 😊

Other Butterflies there were Small Heath, Common Blue, a few, very faded Skippers, lots of Meadow Brown and two I really want to find they were dark in colour and took off before we could get any shots, they didn't fly like MB's , kind of side ways on but quite powerful, they weren't Admirals, or Peacocks so my curiosity is not satisfied 😊 I'm going back tomorrow to look for more 😊

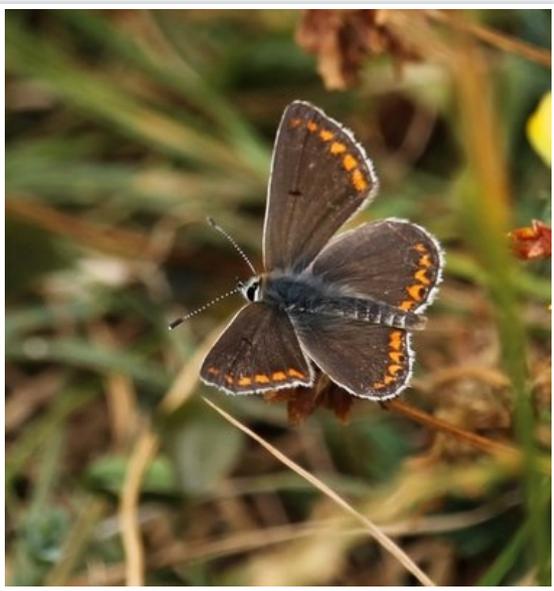
I also took a photo of a what I think is a Silver Y moth Goldie 😊



Seasalter Meadow path







Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 18-Jul-18 06:42 PM GMT

Can you send a couple of those Clouded Yellow this way please? 🍷 Interesting shot of the Silver y moth – I've not often seen them nectaring and even then they are a difficult subject! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Old Wolf, 18-Jul-18 07:54 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the Red Kite. We have lots of them where I live (as well as Buzzards) and it is always a treat to see them flying low overhead. In fact I saw one pass above my garden on Monday this week.

I saw two of them whilst on Dunstable downs on a recent trip and two of them glided past me lower than I was. I tried a pic or two from above them but it didn't happen.

I have only ever seen a clouded yellow once so hopefully I will get lucky again at some point.

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 18-Jul-18 08:45 PM GMT

Well found with the Clouded Yellows Goldie ,none reported yet in my part of Kent maybe these could be the start , theres usually been a few at Dungeness ,but haven,t seen any as yet ,visited Lydden/Temple Ewell a few Days back and as you say ,alive with Chalkhills ,I,ll be back shortly for the Silver -Spotted Skips (hopefully !) and 2nd brood Adonis.

The Small Blues are out at Samphire Ho! now and also some 2nd Brood Dingysdon.t think the Adonis Blues there will be too long now either !
Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Jul-18 09:53 PM GMT

Hi! Pauline, Wish I could Pauline, 😊 That Silver Y was too busy nectaring to bother about us, like you say though it's the first I've really seen that's stayed put long enough for a shot 😊

Hi! Old Wolf, they really are some thing those Red Kites, beautiful birds 😊 I'm sure you'll get a chance with the Clouded Yellow, I was lucky today, I've been to Seasalter before and seen them but never got a shot, so I was pleased 😊 I usually get a photo at Temple Ewell or Samphire Ho! but not every year. 😊

Hi! Alan, thanks so much for your info about the Small Blues I'll head there when I can, it's been a while since I've seen them 😊 It's great the Clouded Yellows have arrived and the Sun wasn't shining it was quite cloudy but they still flew in 😊 I also want the SSS's and Adonis if possible so i'll be paying another visit before I leave to Temple Ewell 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 19-Jul-18 02:26 PM GMT

Brilliant shots of the Cloudy Goldie 🍷🍷 Fingers crossed they're the vanguard and the summer really does become 'all yellow' 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Jul-18 02:59 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, I did go back this morning and my count was over eight Cloudies but not one landed 😊 I decided when one more came along I'd try to take a quick shot, one came and I shot at it like mad, only got one recognisable photo 😊😊 So i've called it the one that got a way 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 19-Jul-18 04:39 PM GMT

Goldie ,

For the Small Blues at Samphire Ho! Follow the main path along the railway line (towards Folkestone) , the path declines quite steeply to the beach ,keep your eyes on the right hand side (tunnel bank !) the path stops at a metal fence ,hop through that and the path is now raised a bit above the beach ,walk to the end of the concrete ,onto the beach ,keep your eyes on the sheltered scrubby area along the base of the cliffs, I saw 3 Small Blues in the first area and two or three more close by ,incredibly this is also an excellent area for Adonis Blue and Wall ,you,Il probably find 2nd brood Dingys and if you're lucky Clouded Yellow .

Good luck ! Regards Allan.W. PS; You may also get lucky with Peregrine here.

Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 19-Jul-18 04:57 PM GMT

Goldie - fantastic shot of the upperside of a Clouded Yellow.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Jul-18 08:41 PM GMT

Thanks Alan so much for that description of where to find them, I did wonder and I meant to ask you later , my daughters been on holiday for a week and we've been dog minding so our hours a way have been numbered 😊 He's a big dog, too big for us to take out, so our Grandson has been taking him when not working and we've done the rest, plus we didn't like to leave him too long because of the heat.

I know where you mean, I think we've been there once or twice , the family are back Sat and we've another week so will get there eventually, after Cricket on Sat/Sun 😊 It's the only time my Husband gets to see his grandson's play when we come down so hope fully it won't rain this coming week-end 😊 (my Daughter and I show face then disappear for a couple of hours) 😊
Thanks again, I'm looking forward to going there and hope fully I'll see them all, (not greedy really) 😊

Thanks ernie, I was glad I'd got some thing to show for chasing them down and seemingly getting no where 😊😊😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 19-Jul-18 09:17 PM GMT

Hello again Goldie ,
I forgot to mention you should get Small Copper and Common Blues (poss Brown Args) there as well.....weather permitting ,if you're going through Dover there is another Good Small Blue site ,before you reach Samphire Ho ! at Western Heights ,right by the road ,I could give you a grid ref; if it would help .
Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 19-Jul-18 09:17 PM GMT

Hello again Goldie ,
I forgot to mention you should get Small Copper and Common Blues (poss Brown Args) there as well.....weather permitting ,if you're going through Dover there is another Good Small Blue site ,before you reach Samphire Ho ! at Western Heights ,right by the road ,I could give you a grid ref; if it would help .
Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 19-Jul-18 10:25 PM GMT

Greta grab shot Goldie, you can clearly see that it was a male Cloudy 🐣🌿 I've not seen one in almost two years now, fingers crossed for this year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 19-Jul-18 11:58 PM GMT

Fabulous stuff, Goldie. Glad to see you're making the most of your trip south.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Jul-18 12:20 PM GMT

Thanks so much again Alan, a grid reference would be great, our daughter could be driving us there and she knows her way around better than us, so hope fully we'll find it 😊 The Small Copper's have eluded me up to now so hope fully I'll find them has well. 😊

Hi! Wurzel, it was maddening yesterday when I saw so many and they didn't settle, so I was pleased to get a shadow of one at all 😊 I hope you find one Wurzel and it poses for you 😊 looks like there coming in fast now in Kent. 😊

Thanks David, weather permitting now, I hope to see more before I go home , it was great to see the Cloudies, lets hope there's lots more coming. 😊
Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 20-Jul-18 02:04 PM GMT

Hi Goldie .

Right the car park for the Western heights site is found at TR.313411 , if you come up from the docks to this point its on a bend ,and you pass through a metal arch to park.you should have a chalk bank on one side and a view across Clarendon(Dover) on the other side the bank on the Clarendon side I believe is Known as Whinless Down ,and its rumoured that Silver Spotted Skips are (or were !) present ,never walked it myself ,so can.t help there,anyway from the car park walk out to the road ,opposite you,Il notice a gate leading up to the drop redoubt ,Small Blues on the bank up the slope ,also on the road bank opposite. You may get lucky with Wall as well. Hope this helps ! Good luck. !

Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Jul-18 08:59 AM GMT

Thanks for that Allan, I'll let you know what happens 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 21-Jul-18 02:46 PM GMT

Like the Kite shots Goldie, and sounds like you have found a great Clouded Yellow site. 😊

I saw Silver-spotted Skipper in late July last year at Queendown Warren, which is between Sittingbourne and Chatham/Gillingham. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Jul-18 05:59 PM GMT

Thanks Andrew, I'm hoping to find them next week , I'll try Temple Ewell, only because I've seen them there before and it's nearer I think, I want to also go where Allan said , Just a week now so fingers crossed 😊 Goldie 😊

Today we were waiting for our Daughter to come back from holiday , so we decided a quick visit to Blean Wood would have to do, it seems the Cricket was too far a way today so it's on the cards for tomorrow 😊

It was lovely and cool in the Woods and with the Rain we had, although not heavy, it was good for the Butterflies, so much so we'd only just got out of the car when we saw this White Admiral on the path in front of us , it was trying it's luck with a pile of dog pooh, 😊 It wasn't in great condition, part of it's wings were missing but I can't resist taking a shot of one what ever it's condition when I see one 😊

It seems a lot of the Butterflies were passed their best.

Next we saw Purple Hair Streaks at two different spots,Comma, Peacock, Brimstone, Gate Keeper, Ringlet , Meadow Brown and a Brown Argus not bad for a short walk 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by David M, 21-Jul-18 10:01 PM GMT

You seem to be having a great trip, Goldie, with lots of the south-centric species finding their way into your lens range! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 21-Jul-18 11:40 PM GMT

A splendid Kentish selection, Goldie. 😊 Those hairstreaks are down everywhere it seems. The Silver-spts are out on the Chilterns now, so it can't be long before they appear at Temple Ewell – I saw lots last year there, but it was a bit later on. Still, it's now an early year! 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 22-Jul-18 08:06 AM GMT

Great to see you capture the White Admiral and Purp Goldie 😊 Good luck with the Silver Spots 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Jul-18 10:01 AM GMT

Hi! David, your right, it's been the best trip I've had down here so far and the thought I may see even more species is Great 😊, hope fully Adonis and Silver Spotted Skippers will be added also Small Blue. (fingers crossed) 😊

Hi! Dave, I've had a great time up to now, it's very rarely you can go out and see the species your looking for right a way , Emperor's being the exception this year, so hope fully SSS to follow 😊

Hi! Wurzel, the White Admiral wasn't in the same condition as the one's I saw earlier at East Blean and at Blean Woods but I can't resist taking shots of them 😊 The big difference this time was the fact I saw Purple HS in Blean Wood near to where my Daughter lives for the first time, now I know where to look when I come again instead of chasing off to EBW 😊 I forgot to mention I saw Silver Washed Fritillary at EBW, last time I was there but couldn't get a shot of them they were too quick, that was another first sighting of them for me there. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 22-Jul-18 10:37 AM GMT

Good luck with seeing the Silver Spotted Skippers before you go, Goldie. They should be starting any day now, if they haven't started already. I know Lydden Temple Ewell well, having been visiting for many years, and have found SSS are much more common at the Lydden end.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Jul-18 10:46 AM GMT

Thanks for that tip essex, `i know where you mean and will look there, next week , 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 22-Jul-18 12:03 PM GMT

Hello Goldie ,

I was at Temple Ewell this morning for a couple of hours, and as you know hundreds ,possibly thousands of Chalkhills on the wing between 6.45 –8.45 , Just 2 Common Blues ,no Brown Args ,a few Marbles and plenty of browns ,but just the one possible fly-bye SSS, and no Adonis (excepting a possible female, need to go through my pics),there was so much about ,that I never made it as far as Lydden enddefinitely worth a go .

regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Jul-18 09:52 PM GMT

We'll certainly be going to Temple Ewell Allan 😊 Lets hope this next week brings them all out 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 23-Jul-18 07:44 PM GMT

I wonder whether the warm weather will have improved prospects back your way, Goldie? I noticed that the NW of England has at least had some rain lately so it'll be interesting to learn what's about when you return.

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 23-Jul-18 11:27 PM GMT

Particularly envious of your Purple Hairstreaks, Goldie! 🍷🍷
The showers have brought a few more butterflies out up here.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Jul-18 10:23 PM GMT

Hi! David, I'm looking forward to seeing a few Butterflies on my Butterfly bushes when I get back but I'll have to do a good bit of gardening first 😊 I think the rain will have done the Butterflies good, yesterday my Son-in-law watered his lawn for a short time and this morning I was taking shots of Brown Argus and a Comma plus numerous white Butterflies in the garden. 😊

Hi! Janet, that's good news, I've seen very few Red Admirals here so hope fully they'll be in the garden when I get home 😊
Purple Hair Streaks are also at Brockholes Janet, same place where the WLH are but just inside the gate in the Oak Tree's there if your interested. 😊
Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 25-Jul-18 10:07 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Hi! David, I'm looking forward to seeing a few Butterflies on my Butterfly bushes when I get back....

I think there'll be plenty for you, Goldie. Round my way, Whites seem to be everywhere and I'm sure there'll be a few Torties/Peacocks/Red Admirals/Commas too.

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 25-Jul-18 10:50 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Hi! Janet, that's good news, I've seen very few Red Admirals here so hope fully they'll be in the garden when I get home 😊
Purple Hair Streaks are also at Brockholes Janet, same place where the WLH are but just inside the gate in the Oak Tree's there if your interested. 😊 Goldie 😊

Thanks Goldie - I'll take a trip up there! 😊

Re: Goldie M

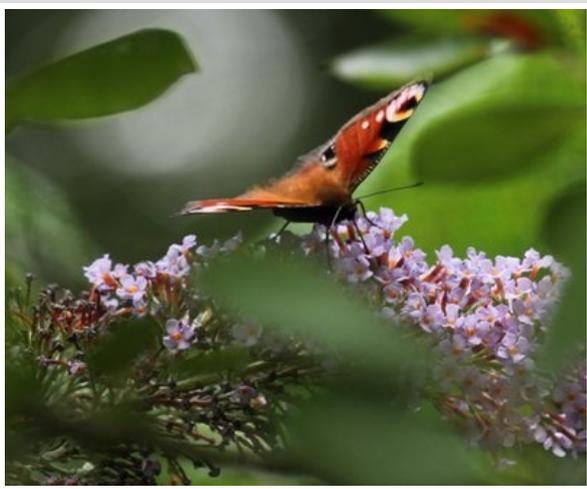
by Goldie M, 29-Jul-18 12:21 PM GMT

Well what a week it's been!!!! the last time I posted was just over a week ago, on Sunday the 22nd we went to watch Cricket, and it was so hot we felt we couldn't breathe and I had a lucky escape, during the tea break I'd walked down a road looking for Butterflies, it was so dry every where and meadow Browns were flitting about, I decided to head back to the Cricket, I'd only just sat down when we heard a huge crack and bang, where I'd been standing not long ago a huge branch from an Oak tree had fallen 😊 Was I lucky that day!!!!

Monday the 23rd was very hot so we decided going to Temple Ewell was out, we needed cooler sea air so we decided on Reculver, needless to say we got the cool air but very few butterflies were there, so after another very good Bacon butty at the local cafe 😊 we headed for East Blean Wood. What a difference there, I took a shot of a Gate Keeper, a Peacock and a Small White and that was it, after my experience with the Tree on the Sunday I didn't really want to wander in the wood. 😊

On Tuesday the 24th we went to Samphire Oh, again seeking shelter from the heat with the sea breeze 😊 I'm sorry though Allan I can't say I saw any Small Blue or Adonis ,which was disappointing never the less we did see Butterflies 😊
Common Blue, Brown Argus, a Small White which was very milky White, a brief glimpse of a Marbled White and that was it, it just felt like we were walking in a desert, so much so we were out of the heat for the next few days staying home 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Jul-18 01:39 PM GMT

The next few days were spent in my daughters garden in the mornings where we saw lots of Butterflies, Meadow Browns, Brown Argus, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Comma, GV White, L&S Whites, Common Blue but it was the Holly Blue which landed when we were filling slightly the Dogs pool to cool him down which was the best, it landed next to the pool and didn't move to fly a way even when the dog was jumping in and out of the pool, just shows their need for water was getting hard for them. 😊

One of the Meadow Browns that landed although slightly damaged had two spots like the one I showed in an earlier post, so we had our moments 😊 After the bad weather had moved through we decided to go at last to Temple Ewell on the Saturday, there was a strong wind but in the sheltered areas the Chalkhills were more abundant and some even opened their wings 😊 although we searched the top hill looking for Adonis and hoping the SSS were out we saw none until we saw the female which really stood out amongst the others but it was not to be 😊 looks like i'll have to go home with out them once again 😊

I can't grumble, I've seen loads of Butterflies I wouldn't see at home, it's time to go now and look for some Northern species if the weather doesn't get too wet or too hot. 😊 Goldie 😊

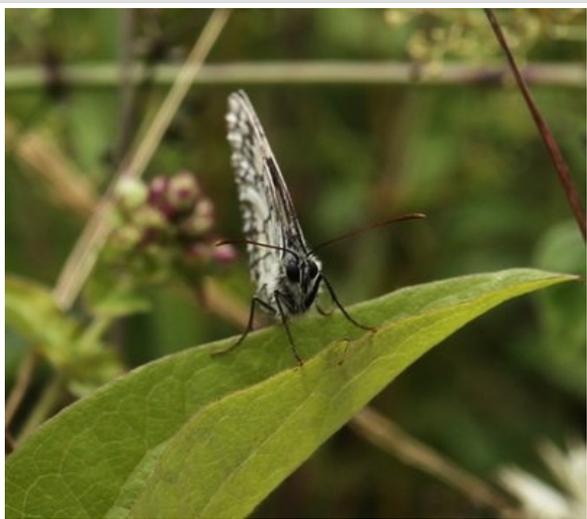




Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Jul-18 04:28 PM GMT

Some shots from Temple Ewell yesterday and then I'm off home tomorrow, 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 29-Jul-18 07:26 PM GMT

Great set of reports Goldie 😊 Sorry you didn't get the Adonis but you've got to leave something for next time 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-Jul-18 07:58 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, Thanks for your post 😊 I'm home now and the weather is much cooler, last night we'd rain but today it's been okay and we've been in the garden (working) 😊 It's amazing how quickly the weeds grow, we've seen loads of whites today but they didn't hang round for long 😊 Done the front garden , now for the back 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 01-Aug-18 08:40 PM GMT

Hello Goldie ,

The 6 Adonis I mentioned in the tiny butterflies thread wern,t from Lydden ,but a closer site (to me) near Wye ,I was going back to Lydden ,Sunday last ,but the weather wasn,t up to much ,so I didn,t bother ,but hopefully will this coming Sunday (weather permitting !)
I reckon there should be a few Adonis out there now and fingers crossed ,one or two Silver -Spots.
Glad you had some joy down in Kent ,,,,,,,, shame you missed the Small Bluesstill,theres always next year !!
Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Aug-18 11:25 AM GMT

Hi! Allan, I hope you got the Adonis and SSS, I keep saying may be next year but I never seem to be in Kent in August 😊 Still I did see the Heath Frits so it's not all bad. 😊

Since we've been home we've been busy in the garden and sorting out the suit cases etc 😊 we finished the garden front and back after aching back's, legs, you name it 😊 so I went across to Hall-Lee-Brook yesterday just to see if that Small Copper I'd seen there before at this time of year was still there.

No guessing how ever to the fact they'd once again cut the grass and this time gone closer into the edges 😊

Hence no Copper! Still I managed to get a couple of shots of Speckled Woods and I was amazed at the Black Berries bing so ripe, if I go again I'll definitely take some thing to carry some back in 😊

The Speckies were in very nice condition, considering they were on the BB I know why 😊 I also saw Holly Blue's but got no shots, there were loads of White's which I've seen also in my garden so they've had a great year, I expect with being White that's helped them a lot against the Sun's rays.

I was surprised yesterday when an Admiral flew into my Sunshade and stayed there for quite a while I took a shot of it but had to twist the photo to show the Admiral's better side you might say 😊 It's started to rain today so I suppose that's it for a while. Goldie 😊





In my garden

Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 03-Aug-18 11:35 AM GMT

Oh Wow Goldie. What a smashing shot of the Speckled Wood on the blackberry – so very Autumnal 😊 I can't believe I'm saying that and it's only the start of August!!! 🤩

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 03-Aug-18 12:37 PM GMT

I agree, a great shot of the Speckle Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 03-Aug-18 01:12 PM GMT

I agree with Pauline – a super photo – but I might have thought it was taken a month later 😊

What an unusual year we've been having – I was looking back and remembering the cold, snowy Spring and now it seems to be Autumn already after the heat wave.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Aug-18 04:25 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline, coming from you that's great 😊 I couldn't believe it myself when I saw all the Blackberries, it's been an up-side year for Butterflies, I wondered about it when I saw those Heath Frits in Blean Woods, by the time I get to Kent they're usually gone, I just hope I get to see the Brown Hair Streaks before the seasons out. 😊

Many thanks Bugboy, let's hope we see more before the seasons out. 😊

Hi! Mike, glad you liked my Speckie, 😊 Like you say it's been a funny year, I don't know about you but I can't stand the heat when it gets to over 30c , it was really hot in Kent and we'd to for go some outings, let's hope the Autumnn isn't spoiled too much by being early, I've noticed the leaves are falling already off my Cherry Tree.Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 03-Aug-18 07:35 PM GMT

I echo, somewhat belatedly, everyone's opinions on the Speckle shots 😊 Cracking stuff 😊🍷 Fingers crossed that there are still some butterflies left by the end of the month 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 03-Aug-18 08:05 PM GMT

I've been picking blackberries for a month now, Goldie, but none of the butterflies have started to suck up the juices yet, and only that tiny Brown Argus has posed on one – certainly not as photogenically as your Specklie did! Lovely shot. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 03-Aug-18 08:12 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Funnily enough, I took some photos of Specklies on blackberries this afternoon...don't know when I will post them though as I have some catching up to do.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Aug-18 10:23 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, many thanks for your post, i was surprised to see so many Berries and so many Speckies in good condition eating them 😊 Usually round here I find the Admirals and Small Tort's seem to arrive in September /October, that's when I usually get my shots of them in the garden, it will be interesting to see what happens this Autumn, I hope this heat has not been to disruptive. 😊

Thanks Dave, I thought your shot was great , 😊 I've wanted to get a shot like that for ages of a Speckies on a Berry, so when I looked through the Berries and saw that Speckie Posing like that I couldn't believe my luck 😊

Hi! Neil, I'll look forward to seeing your shots of the Speckies, 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Aug-18 09:55 AM GMT

We went to Gait Barrow on Sunday,

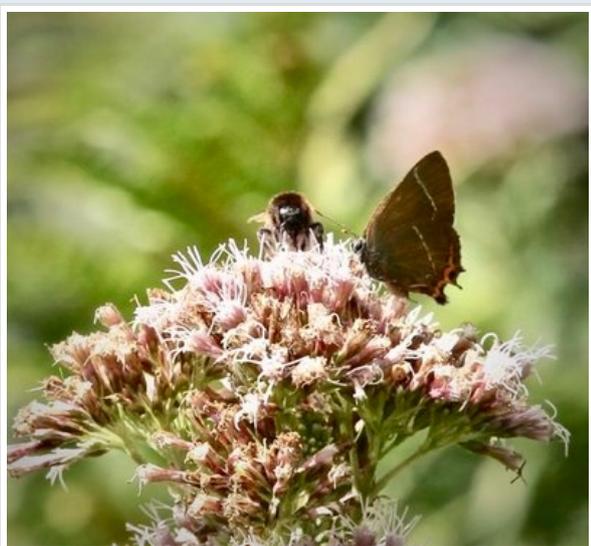
We set off from home about 8.25 am and missed any heavy traffic and arrived there about 9.45am.

For the first time I joined a group looking for Brown Hair Streaks, it's not that I don't enjoy being in groups of people, it's just that I get impatient and wander off . 😊 any way I learn't a lot about BHS egg's and what to look for etc, we found quite a lot and two Hair Streaks were seen but not photographed 😊

The morning was quite pleasant but the afternoon was very hot and GB began to feel like a desert. 😊 I began to feel my legs and seemed to be plagued by small fly's UGH! I was for ever pulling off my hat to swipe at them , enough , is enough!!! 😊

Every thing seemed dried up and some of the Black Thorn bushes were brittle to the touch and just broke in your fingers, we did find some Northern Brown Argus that were very worn ,a White Letter Hair Streak also rather worn which shared a flower with a Bee 😊 a Ringlet that considering the conditions wasn't in too bad a shape and some Common Blue's that were in peak condition, one shot I took of the Common Blue reminded me(because it landed on the rope which was still there from when the Dukes were present and was there to protect them and stop people going into their space) that I'd also missed out on them this year as well 😊

Things weren't a total loss, it was disappointing though has I'd gone there specifically for the Bros Streak , still has they say (there's always another year,) In my case though having to leave because I was tired and the heat got to me also the fly's means the ageing process is catching me out. 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 06-Aug-18 04:29 PM GMT

Hello Goldie ,

Thought you may be interested to know ,that the SSS are now out in force at Temple Ewell/Lydden ,I reckon I saw 50 + early Sunday morning particularly at the Lydden end . Chalkhills still in very large numbers ,but surprisingly no Adonis (yet !). Also saw a couple of Wall along the top path ,between the reserves,i know this does,nt help you much now ,but as you said in your diaryTheres always next year !

Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 06-Aug-18 04:50 PM GMT

Good that you at least saw a couple of Brown Hairstreaks – and the eggs as well. I haven't seen one anywhere yet in this hot spell. That WLH was a bonus, though – they seem to turn up anywhere! 😊 I sympathise with your view of organised groups too – I could never join a ramblers club as I'd be off down an interesting side path in no time! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Aug-18 05:00 PM GMT

Thanks for that Allan, 😊 One of these years I'll get down there in August but I've to go with the swing of things if you know what I mean 😊 I'd love a week-end in the South again, may be I'd get the Bros Streak as well then 😊 Trouble is once your home after three weeks a way your not too ready to set off again 😊 I usually get at least one or two first's in a year but this year none 😊 I must organise better next year 😊 Goldie 😊

Hi! Dave , just got your post, I didn't see the Bros Streaks 😊 by the time somebody shouted I was hurrying to get back to the group 😊 I would have been in time to take a shot if the Butterfly had actually stayed put, as it happened nobody got a photograph so I didn't feel too bad about wandering 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-Aug-18 08:32 PM GMT

A trip with NBA and a Whitter isn't to be sniffed at Goldie 🍷 😊 There might still be some time for Brostreaks if you can get back to GB? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 07-Aug-18 04:00 PM GMT

Some great reports and shots Goldie, I too love the Speckled. 😊 And I'm very glad you didn't get a branch on the head!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Aug-18 04:52 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, I thought that at the time 😊

I was pleased to see the NB and the Whitter, especially when the NB's although worn had their wings open. 😊 I don't think we'll be going back to GB this year, it's a huge place and although we now know where the BHS are situated we don't fancy trailing round again 😊 The weather also is changing with rain forecast for the week-end.

I wanted to go to Arnside for the Scotch Argus but we'd both had enough and being has I'd seen them each year, we'd leave it for this year, we also think that making an effort to see the BHS in the South on a planned journey next year was better than trailing about getting no where, especially when we know people who can point us in the right direction, also there's more of a chance to see them down there.

We enjoyed meeting people at GB and seeing the eggs for the first time was great, knowing where to look for the eggs on the Black thorn etc, it's given us an insight 😊

Hi! Andrew, thanks for your posts, it's been a good year so far, especially missing the branch on my head 😊 Hope we'll see more Butterflies before the Autumn sets in and get more shots 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 08-Aug-18 06:42 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...Things weren't a total loss..

Quite the opposite, I'd say, Goldie, with sightings of Northern Brown Argus, White Letter Hairstreak & Brown Hairstreak!

Things look set to be a little cooler going forward which will give us all some relief.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Aug-18 03:20 PM GMT

Hi! David , looks like you were right about the weather being cooler, much better for seeing the Butterflies opening their wings. Goldie 😊

Yesterday was a lovely day and with the promise of rain in the next few days we decided this was the day to go 😊

We decided on Southport because of the Dunes and the easier option for us travel wise, we are still suffering from bites obtained at Gait Barrow 😞

We arrived first at Banks just on the out skirts of SP, where we have our favourite Fish&Chip shop 😊 Taking our Fish and Chips we went to Marsh Side which over looks the Sea to eat them, usually we take a walk along the Marsh afterwards to look for Wall's but nothing was spotted there so we moved on down Marine Drive to the Dunes.

First thing we saw after parking the car was flashes of Blue and we spent the next hour looking a round at the Common Blue, I've never seen so many small female CB's , I thought at first they were Northern Brown Argus, I'm still not convinced there's not one in there some where 😊

I was looking mainly for Grayling having seen them there before but it wasn't to be so we moved on to the next Dunes, here we found some Meadow Brown , Small Heath, more Common Blues, not has small as before and more Males this time.

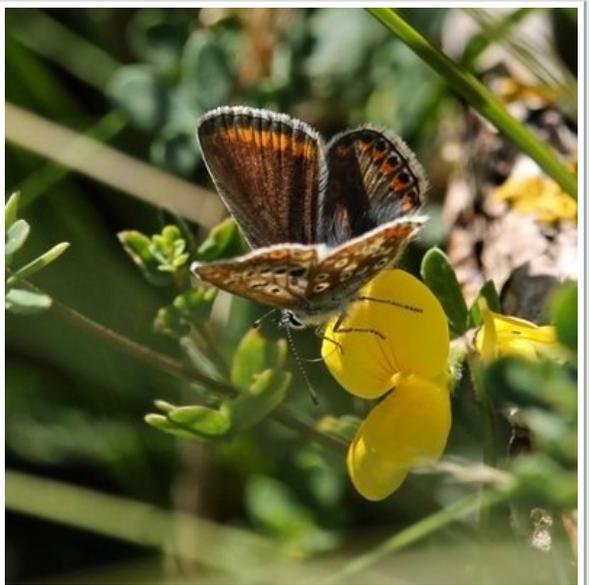
We decided to go up some of the Dunes has I knew the Graylings liked the tops of Sandy Dunes, this time we were lucky and I found one but what a dance it gave me 😊 I slid down quite a few times before I finally got shots but once again the shots were not too good 😊 Still i was happy I'd got some thing and I'd seen the Grayling. 😊

I also saw two Wall BF there but they took off before I could get any shot's , some you win, some you lose, 😊 Goldie 😊



My only open winged White this year









Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 10-Aug-18 07:37 PM GMT

Sounds like the Grayling did their usual party piece Goldie 😊 Thye do like to make you work for your shots 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 10-Aug-18 08:27 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Just caught up with your visit to Gait Barrows, I know what you mean about how dried up it looked. You did much better than I did when I popped in there on the previous Tuesday when it was quite cool and cloudy.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 10-Aug-18 08:30 PM GMT

Sounds like you had a lovely sunny day with lots of interest, Goldie – it poured down nearly all day in London yesterday (and a fair bit of today as well). Some good shots there too – well done with those Graylings especially. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Aug-18 12:48 PM GMT

Thanks for your post Wurzel, I was slipping and sliding thank goodness my Husband was there to catch me 😊

Hi! Neil, the weather was great but too hot at GB, some times it pays to be in a group(lots of eyes) 😊 Most of the Butterflies we saw were near the Duke site and we were surprised to see that WLHS down on the flower. 😊

Hi! Dave, It was good to finally get a shot of the Grayling, I'd chased it from the bottom of a Sand Dune to the top 😊 The weather's been up and down here since but in-between the showers the Whites have been out, sadly no Small Tortois and no in flux like last year of Red Admirals in the Garden.

I did decide to post a couple of shots of Whites from the Garden taken between the Showers, they've had a fantastic year so far coming into the garden every few seconds since I got home, I'm afraid my Boules Mauve has really suffered in the heat and I've had to prune it down but the Whites have still found the odd flower 😊 Now they're revisiting the Lavender 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 12-Aug-18 03:17 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, I was planning to go to Gait Barrows but in the end couldn't make it – it would have been nice to meet you at last! As you say, at least you know where to look next year for the Brostreaks and the eggs.
Those pics of the Common Blues in your previous post are lovely – and well done to catch the Grayling!

Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 12-Aug-18 05:08 PM GMT

Goldie – I am in catch-up mode. I had to step back quite a long way in your diary to do this and found you had got a WL hairstreak pic better than any I was able to get this year. And, right at the end of the last page, a pic of a white and you can see its markings through the wing. Love it.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 12-Aug-18 05:51 PM GMT

Lovely couple of white shots Goldie 😊 The female Brostreaks are appearing so if you can head out, there's still life in the ole season yet 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Aug-18 11:12 AM GMT

Hi! Janet, it would have been great to finally meet you 😊 You didn't really miss much at GB , two BH's were seen not by me I'm afraid, just one man saw one on a flower, when we all rushed back it had gone 😊 Another was seen flying passed, I saw this out of the corner of my eye, not clearly, just a

shape. The eggs prove they're there I suppose but I'll wait another year I think before going again . 😊
I've been on the Lanc's Butterfly WS and somebody saw one up there at the week-end if your interested. 😊

Hi! ernie, your too kind 😊 The Whites are the only thing popping in and out of the Garden at present, I think they look great when they land on Lavender. 😊

Hi! Wurzel, I know I should pop back to GB living so near the Lakes but nothing would drag my Husband back there 😊 You should see the bites he got UGH! It's the first time we've ever been bitten at GB but they certainly went to town this time 😊 At least I know where the Bros Streaks are now egg wise, so may be I'll get him back there next year 😊😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 13-Aug-18 06:51 PM GMT

Opps 😊 Forget I said anything 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 13-Aug-18 10:42 PM GMT

Sad to hear about the biting insects, Goldie. If it's any consolation, my forearms look like they've been hit by snipers since my visit to Spain! One of the pitfalls of butterflying, sadly. 😊

At least you're immune in your own garden, and it's good to see you still have regular visitors.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Aug-18 02:47 PM GMT

Seems ages since I logged in but nothing much to report, the weather's been very wet and chilly, yesterday' wasn't too bad but a cold wind so we've not been out looking for the last few days. I did get a surprise one day when I looked out into the front garden and saw this Small White clinging to the Boules Mauve waiting for the rain to stop 😊

The Butterflies never cease to surprise me, they're so delicate, yet so tough. 😊

The wet weather's given the bite marks time to cool down Wurzel and David 😊

David hope your's are much better 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Aug-18 11:44 AM GMT

The weather here has been awful lately, we needed the rain but it's gone from one extreme to the other, I managed to get a few shots on Monday and Tuesday in between the showers of yet another White and to my a surprise a Red Admiral, I thought "great" there actually arriving here, then we were back into the rain again 😊

Today's not too bad so hope fully some thing will pop into the Garden 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 25-Aug-18 07:49 PM GMT

Cracking in flight shot of the White Goldie 😊 Also really like the imperious way the Red Admiral is looking down on us mere mortals 😏😏

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Old Wolf, 25-Aug-18 08:35 PM GMT

Hello Goldie, the weather has been awful where I am too. I take my dogs on a lengthy walk every day but between the rain and chilly wind that has appeared I haven't seen very much activity at all!

I do love a garden visitor and much like yourself have only had the odd White lately. I haven't had a single Admiral visit me this year and actually have seen far fewer out than I normally would.

Hopefully the weather improves for us soon 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Aug-18 09:20 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, many thanks, 😊 I agree with you about the Admiral, I've always thought they'd suited the name Emperor better 😊

Hi! Old Wolf, I think the Admiral's have suffered a lot this Summer, when I visited the South this year I saw them but always they flew into the bushes or tree's to keep out of the Sun, this one is only the third one I've seen in My Garden this year which is very unusual. Let's hope the weather takes a turn for the better like it did yesterday, back in it today though. 😊

Well yesterday I decided to go once more to Hall-Lee-Brook, I'd seen all the lovely shots of the Small Copper's in peoples posts and I thought " you never know" 😊 I'm so glad I did, has we walked a round looking at the three fields two of which had been cut with just one being left uncut and without any flowers in it apart from a few Buttercups I was about to return home when Jim pointed to a small thistle in the field which had been cut before we went on holiday and there to my delight was a Small Copper 😊

Talk about jump for joy! 😊 I'd looked all year for this little Butterfly so I was in a rush to take a shot of it but approached it very gingerly in case it flew a way 😊 It didn't and was clinging to the flower in even though blown about by the wind.

What can I say! It's made my year! 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by David M, 26-Aug-18 12:54 PM GMT

It's quite odd how Hoggers is reporting a dearth of Small Coppers at his local site in Dungeness, whereas many of us are seeing plenty of them elsewhere (myself included).

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 26-Aug-18 03:39 PM GMT

That's a lovely Copper, Goldie, complete with blue spots too. 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 26-Aug-18 06:11 PM GMT

Yes, that's a cracker, Goldie!

Re: Goldie M

by Old Wolf, 26-Aug-18 08:45 PM GMT

Mission accomplished I'd say.

Great shots Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Aug-18 07:07 PM GMT

Hi! David, I was so lucky to find that Copper, I'd been over to HLB a few times and seen only Whites and Speckies, I think they're late coming out here and that's the reason, I'd seen them in early Aug over there before so this is quite late for them, Hogger's could be right and their delayed because of the weather. 😊

Thanks Dave, the blue spots are an added bonus 😊

Thanks a lot Essex, it certainly made my day 😊

Your so right Old Dog 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 27-Aug-18 08:30 PM GMT

Great stuff Goldie and a Blue badger to boot (*ab.caeruleopunctata*) 😊🍷 Beautiful and fresh looking 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Aug-18 07:40 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel, I went back there today but saw nothing so I was very lucky seeing that one, I say I, it was my Husband spotted it 😊

Short sunny periods of Sun today and a cool breeze, even so at Hall-Lee- Brook I managed to find a mating pair of Whites and saw lot's of Speckies, I'm more curious of a little green Bug I took a shot of, if any body knows what it's called I'd be interested I'm wondering if it's an Aphid of some kind. Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 29-Aug-18 06:40 PM GMT

Great shots of the 'at it' Whites Goldie 😊😊 Your mystery bug looks like an early instar Shieldbug 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 31-Aug-18 10:45 AM GMT

Great shots of the Small Copper Goldie, a lovely specimen. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-Aug-18 07:44 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I seem to have seen loads of these get-together's this year 😊 Thanks also for the name of the Bug, I'd never seen one like it before, it's so Green. 😊

Thanks very much Andrew, I found some more yesterday much to my surprise 😊

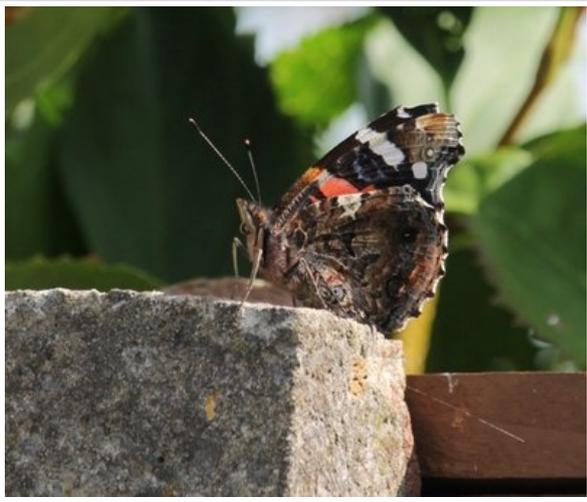
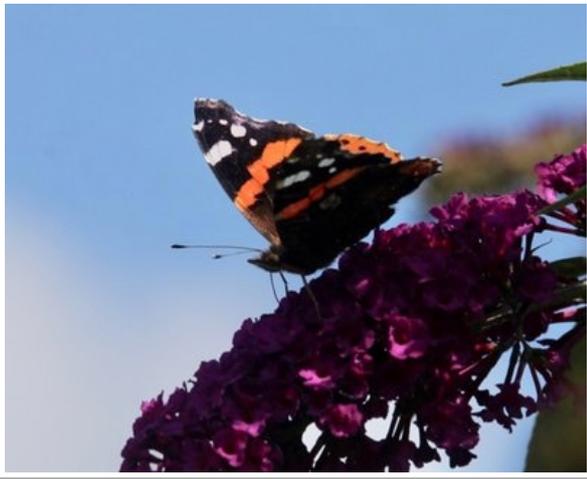
These last three days have been great for me, just when I thought my Summer was over the Butterflies have started to arrive 😊 On Wednesday I saw two Red Admirals again in the Garden but yesterday ,Thursday, when we went to Fleetwood I saw loads of Small Copper's they were every where on the RagWort 😊 The weather was perfect , very little wind and although chilly in the morning it was lovely and hot in the afternoon.

We went first to the Nature Park and really except for a few Speckies we saw nothing, so after our lunch we went to the sea front and it was there i was just over whelmed with the Copper's 😊 I also saw two Meadow Browns and a very weary looking Common Blue, the Copper's were lovely and fresh and I saw yet another Blue Badge to add to my collection 😊

Today was another lovely day ,not as hot as yesterday but still Sunny and warm enough to sit out in the Garden, which I did ! 😊

The Red Admiral's were back and to my delight the Small Tortoiseshell's arrived, one was very frayed on one wing but the other one was really fresh looking. I hope this weather keeps up, then maybe a Peacock will arrive 😊 Goldie 😊





Friday 31st August







Thursday 30th Aug



Wednesday 29th August

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 31-Aug-18 08:55 PM GMT

Good to see Small Tortoiseshells, Goldie – I haven't seen one round here for months... And very few Red Admirals or Peacocks either. And you seem to have no shortage of Coppers either! 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 31-Aug-18 10:06 PM GMT

I agree with Dave, it is great to see Small Torts 😊🍷 – they've been notable by their absence round this way – hopefully it'll just be a slight blip 😊
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 01-Sep-18 07:57 AM GMT

Hi, Goldie – great recent selection of butterfly pics. I never tire of the Coppers.

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 01-Sep-18 09:43 AM GMT

Great stuff, Goldie! Small Coppers are unusually plentiful by me right now as well (not quite sure why).

Red Admirals, however, have been pretty scarce for me this summer, so good to see you've a few further north.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Sep-18 03:58 PM GMT

Many thank's everybody for your posts it's been a great few days in the North lately 😊

Today has been very cloudy but quite warm, I didn't see the Tortoiseshell because of the cloud but the Admiral was here again 😊
We hope to have a ride to Southport tomorrow to look for Wall, fingers crossed 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 01-Sep-18 04:49 PM GMT

Nice to see Small Tortoiseshells again, Goldie 😊 lovely Small Coppers and a Red Admiral on your buddleia, lovely 😊

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Hoggars, 01-Sep-18 04:55 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, I'm just catching up on your diary and delighted to see your Small Coppers!

Looks like you hit the Copper Jack Pot!

All the best

Hoggars

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 01-Sep-18 05:41 PM GMT

Another cracking and imperious Red Admiral shot Goldie 😊 Good luck on the Wall hunt 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 01-Sep-18 07:14 PM GMT

Hi Goldie ,

I,m glad you, re finding a few Small Coppers where you are ,the third brood are emerging down here in Kent ,and I,ve found a few third brooders in my local wood (Orlestone forest) ,and found 3 today at Lydden ,theres still high numbers of Adonis out there and I found 4 mating pairs,also huge numbers of Small Heath, a few Chalkhills ,loads of pretty worn Brown Args and Common Blues although I did see a couple of fresh third brood male Common Blue and a few Meadow Browns ,off to Reculver tomorrow ,hoping for a Cloudy !!

Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 02-Sep-18 07:46 PM GMT

Well done with your Red Admiral, Goldie. There are precious few round my way. 😞😞

Hope you find your Wall Browns.

Re: Goldie M

by Old Wolf, 02-Sep-18 08:40 PM GMT

Hello Goldie,

Glad to see the garden visitors coming in thick and fast especially the Small Tort which along with the Admirals have really been lacking in my area as I mentioned previously.

Love the Small Copper shots and another blue bager 🍷

Best of luck Wall hunting 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Sep-18 10:07 AM GMT

Thanks very much Mike 😊 It was great to see the Small Tortoiseshell's back in the Garden, it's been a bit cloudy since then and today it's raining UGH! so they won't be back for a while. 😞

Many thanks Hogger's, when I first saw them I just couldn't take it in, I'd never seen so many, I took loads of shots then just stood back watching them flying up in the air defending there territory 😊 I never saw any mating which was a shame 😞

Thanks Wurzel, I'm sure the same one keeps coming back each day 😊 I saw it again yesterday even though it was cloudy. 😊

Hi! Allan, I hope you got your Cloudy 😊 I saw mine at Seasalter, in fact it was the only place I saw them whilst in Kent, I really envy your adventures, especially seeing all those Adonis, thanks for trying to help whilst I was down there but I was bit too early for them I think. 😊

Thanks David, I saw him/her yesterday , I'm useless in telling the sex of Red Admirals 😊 I've put another shot in today 😊

Hi! Old Wolf, thanks vey much, we never got to Southport for the Wall's yesterday, it was a lovely morning but it turned out very heavy cloud so we decided to wait until the Sun comes back 😊 Glad you liked the shots of the Copper's. I've just looked back over my post's and I see I called you Old Dog at one point 😊 Sorry! you'll get use to my scatty ways, I hope 😊

Yesterday was very cloudy after a lovely early morning, has I've said to Old Wolf, the cloud was thick and heavy so we put the wall trip on hold, inspite of the cloud I managed to get a shot of the Admiral in the back Garden and a Large White in the front, the White was bit weary looking but I couldn't resist when I saw the Bee in line with it. 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 03-Sep-18 08:28 PM GMT

That explains the same 'I'm so much better than you peasants' look 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 03-Sep-18 09:15 PM GMT

You're not alone with your difficulty in telling male and female Red Admirals apart, Goldie. Usually, the only reliable guides are a good, long look at the abdomen and/or behaviour.

Hope your weather clears up sufficiently for your Wall Brown hunt.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Sep-18 09:10 PM GMT

Thanks for your post's Wurzel and David, I did manage to get to Southport yesterday, we've had two days of rain here but yesterday was a lovely day so off we went. 😊

It was a surprising day really because we saw things that were unexpected, I have four places I love to visit at Southport and the Dunes is always a must, we decided to go straight down to the end of the esplanade before the road carries on to Liverpool, (it's the same spot we saw the Gipsies at) but they'd been moved on without much trouble so we were able to wander the Dunes there.

The first Butterfly we saw was a Small Copper, it was also the last at that spot! 😊 We moved to our second spot which was just down from there near the Pontins Holiday Camp, we walked down by the side of the large pond and the ducks swam round expecting some bread 😊 when we came to the Dunes the first thing we saw again was yet another Copper and also a Common Blue which was in good condition except for a small chip out of one wing, we carried on and saw lots more Coppers but nothing else, so having got my fill of the Coppers we set off for our next spot.

This was by Victoria Park which we passed ending up by the Caravan Park where we had lunch in the car before venturing forth again into the Dunes, as we entered this dark Butterfly flew towards me and over my head, I quickly turned and there was a Wall, just what I'd hoped to find but not in too good a condition, I was just pleased to find one 😊

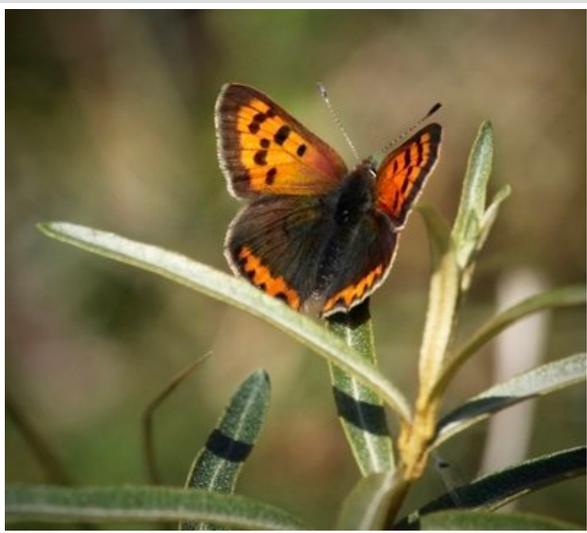
After that we saw even more Coppers and a really lovely female Common Blue and my surprise was a Brimstone that couldn't have looked any better when it landed on a Blue Daisy. 😊

Our fourth spot was at Marshside CP the only thing we spotted there was yet another female CB which was also in good condition.

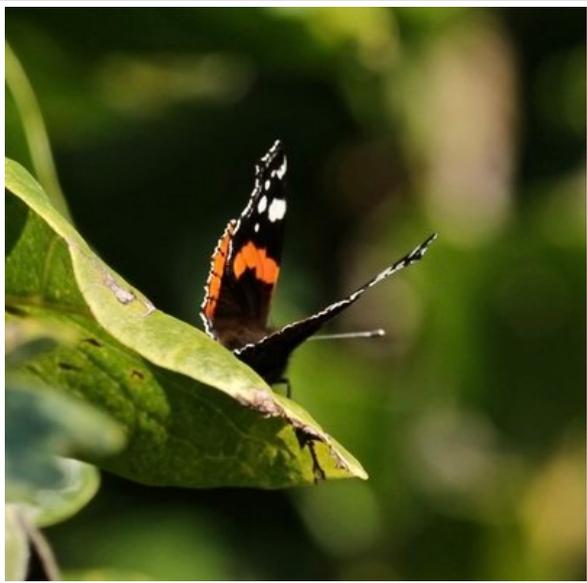
We set off for home after that and on arriving I saw my friend the Admiral who turned his ?her back to me this time 😊

Also a pair of whites in the back garden doing a bit of courting 😊 A great day yet a gain. Goldie 😊











Re: Goldie M

by CallumMac, 06-Sep-18 09:23 PM GMT

Nice set of pics Goldie, and that female Common Blue is a stunner! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 06-Sep-18 10:15 PM GMT

Callum has said exactly what I was thinking there, Goldie – great female Common Blues! 😊 And you are seeing lots of Small Coppers too – they are everywhere at the moment. 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-Sep-18 10:49 PM GMT

That Common Blue should really be given another name – she is a stunner 😊 Brilliantly lush shots of the Coppers as well – even got a sneaky Blue badger in there 😊🐾

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 07-Sep-18 11:17 AM GMT

You have seen some lovely stuff recently Goldie. Very nice. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Sep-18 12:28 PM GMT

Many thanks Callum, I've just enjoyed looking at your Small Copper's 😊

Many thanks Dave, I was surprised to see the Common Blues, I'd got the idea they were finished so I was pleased to see them 😊

Thanks a lot Wurzel, each time I've seen the Copper's there's been a Blue Badge amongst them, lucky, or is this unusual? 😊 😊

Thanks Andrew, it's been an unexpected surprise to see them after the weather we've had up here lately.

When i posted last time I couldn't remember the name of the flower's I saw the Brimstone on, (Micklemas Daises) I hope I've spelt it right 😊 Any way with it raining out side I'm cheering myself up by posting some pic's of the Butterfly on them 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 08-Sep-18 01:53 PM GMT

A great selection of late Summer species, Goldie.
The prize has to go to that female Wall Brown,
lets hope she has entertained the gentlemen,
and there is a strong brood for next year.
Fresh Small Coppers and Common Blues up your way too.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 08-Sep-18 04:27 PM GMT

Lovely to see a Brimstone, Goldie, and on Michaelmas a Daisy too 😊 also some stunning Small Coppers and lovely Common Blues, especially that female 😊

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 08-Sep-18 05:16 PM GMT

Hi Goldie, good to see you are seeing some nice butterflies up there, lovely looking female Common Blue 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 08-Sep-18 09:38 PM GMT

A yellow Brimstone on a blue flower! Not much trumps that, Goldie, so 10/10 for capturing it.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 08-Sep-18 10:36 PM GMT

Great shots of the Brimstone Goldie 😊 Hoggers has reported that Blue badgers seem more prevalent in the later brood 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Sep-18 09:23 AM GMT

Thanks Trevor, I hope the lady Wall had a good Summer, 😊 I'll be back there next year to find out 😊

Many Thanks Mike, i just stood there at first when I saw the Brimstone on the Daises it looked so perfect 😊

Hi! Neil, thanks for that, the weather's gone down hill since then, we've had nothing but heavy rain , hope fully they'll still be some Butterflies a round. 😊

Thanks David, I hope the weather we've had lately hasn't done too much damage to the Brimstone 😊

Thanks for that Wurzel, I did wonder about seeing all the Blue Badges 😊

Well! because of the weather we've seen no Butterflies for a couple of days but the Spiders have started to come inside from the Garden, I don't mind the small ones but I give the large ones a wide birth 😊 Of course this means the weather is now definitely Autumnal, so I wasn't surprised when I looked out yesterday morning and saw the Woodies having a feast on my Neighbours edge 😊 I just had to take this shot 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Sep-18 10:16 AM GMT

Very windy yesterday but much warmer with a little Sun, the Red Admiral returned but it was high up in my neighbours garden, so trying to get a shot

was a bit awkward 😊 It's the first glimpse of a Butterfly since the 5th of Sept so I was determined to get some thing 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 12-Sep-18 10:43 AM GMT

Just going back through your last page of posts, Goldie. Love the Brimstone on the Michelmas Daisy (I had to look up the spelling!).

Also you managed to get the Red Ad showing both wings' undersides at the same time. Love it.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Sep-18 04:03 PM GMT

At least you got the spelling right ernie 😊 I put a k in there 😊 I thought the Brimstone looked great too even before I took it's photo and the Admiral didn't come back today, we'd lots of rain again over night and although it's been sunny we've had a very cold wind. The Whites were here, they've had a great season 😊

Today was a mixture of wind and sunshine, the wind was cold, the Sun was hot, if you could find a sheltered spot it was was great, trouble is there's not too many sheltered spots a round us, in spite of this I still got a Small White in the Garden, the rain on the flowers was still wet when this little Butterfly flew in onto my Yellow flowers, it's the very first Butterfly I've seen on those flowers this year, which is unusual having seen posts I've entered from previous years, so I couldn't resist posting it, I just hope it's not the last I'll see on the flowers 😊

This afternoon we had a walk to Hall-Lee-Brook , we'd to put our coats on because it was too chilly without them but they only BF I saw was a Speckled Wood which was in very good condition considering the weather we've had and a White Fungus which under -lined the fact it's Autumn, I don't know any thing about Fungus so I'm not sure what it's called, I hope the weather goes a bit warmer before the season ends 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 12-Sep-18 10:24 PM GMT

Your mushroom is a Shaggy Ink Cap, Goldie.

Good to see your Bowles Mauve Wallflower is still getting visitors...

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 12-Sep-18 10:49 PM GMT

Good to see you're still in the butterflies Goldie 😊 Autumn is indeed on the march and there are more and more fungi around now 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 13-Sep-18 10:31 AM GMT

Encouraging to see you're still getting winged visitors, Goldie. Your garden clearly holds lots of appeal for butterflies.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Sep-18 01:17 PM GMT

Thanks for ID Essex, that's about all we've had to photo lately 😊 The weather's been awful here loads of rain and cold winds since I last posted: My Boules Mauve took a beating with the hot weather and when I came back off holiday I thought I'd lost it, I cut it way down and with all the wet we've had it's sprung back 😊 now we just need a few more Butterflies 😊

Hi! Wurzel, we were in the Butterflies for a short while in-between showers 😊 Some have been seen at Brockholes CP but it looks like we could be in for a storm next week so I'll have to wait and see what the weather has in store 😊

Hi! David, I've had to cut the Buddeia down because the rain and the wind have spoiled the flowers, but I've tried to cut them to where a new bud might produce more flowers, I've still got one in the front garden which is defining the odds so hope fully if the weather does take up I'll venture there 😊 Also my Boules Mauve has come back better than I thought on the back so there's still hope 😊

That's all I can say at present unless by some miracle we get a bit more Sun today. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 16-Sep-18 11:51 AM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Hi! David, I've had to cut the Buddeia down because the rain and the wind have spoiled the flowers, but I've tried to cut them to where a new bud might produce more flowers...

I've been doing the same to mine, Goldie. I pruned it late (early April) but it had still largely gone over by mid-August. I'm finding that the new flowers are much smaller though, and even they are now on their way out. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Sep-18 01:27 PM GMT

Hi! again David, 😊 I find that the Butterflies will still go for the small flowers, I've got two or three Miniature Buddeia and they land on those, so with luck you should get some on yours, it would be good if we could see even a white here at present. 😊
Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 16-Sep-18 07:12 PM GMT

It's going to be stormy for much of next week, Goldie, so it's best to remain philosophical. There's no chance of any new flowers on my buddleia, but like you, my bowles mauve is still going strong so hopefully it'll attract more visitors when the bad weather has passed.

Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 17-Sep-18 10:42 AM GMT

Nice Shaggy Inkcap, Goldie. We had one in our garden last year but so far none this year.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Sep-18 10:25 AM GMT

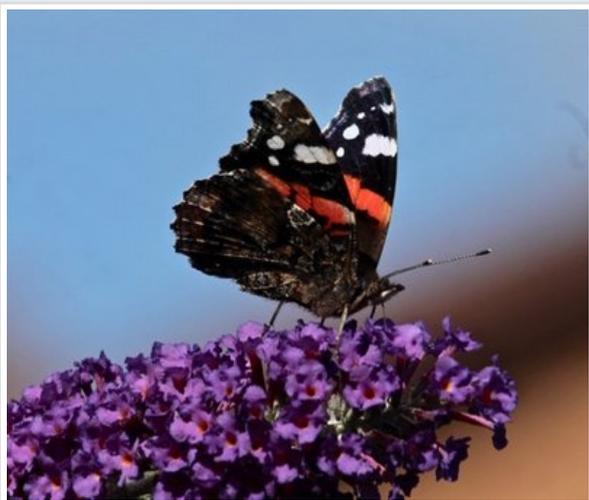
Hi! David, we went to Penn Flash yesterday morning, we actually saw the Sun before the rain moved in again in the evening, even though the weather was okay we saw just two Whites which were in no mood for posing 😊 So I'm not holding much hope for more Butterflies to arrive here 😊 I've not seen a Peacock in the garden this year which is very unusual. 😊

Hi! ernie, not too well up on Fungus, 😊 you post some interesting shots, keep them coming. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Sep-18 02:54 PM GMT

Since I posted this morning the weather changed, although still very windy the rain stopped, the Sun came out and so did the Red Admiral's 😊 I'd been out doing the weekly shop and on arriving back was greeted by the Red Admiral on my front garden Buddleia (actually my one and only Buddleia still remaining with flowers on) 😊 After that I saw one in my Neighbours garden and another one flew off into the back garden, with the weather we're having and the fact the Bushes were blow all over the place, I was really surprised to see the Butterflies 😊 One found the quietest spot it could on the Bush and I was lucky and managed some shots 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 18-Sep-18 10:24 PM GMT

That's the thing with this time of year Goldie, you have to keep the camera warmed up and ready to go to take advantage of the slightest break in the weather 😊 Brill set of Red Admirals, especially the final shot 🙄👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 19-Sep-18 08:23 AM GMT

That's a very welcome Red Admiral, Goldie. Not many of those around here at the moment. The whole Vanessa family is rather scarce this Autumn.

Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 19-Sep-18 03:44 PM GMT

Nice to see your garden RA goldie. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 20-Sep-18 04:51 PM GMT

You look to have some buddleia flowers still to emerge, Goldie. If this weather would settle down I suspect the RAs will stick around for a while.

Re: Goldie M

by Janet Turnbull, 20-Sep-18 10:20 PM GMT

That's a lovely Red Admiral Goldie – I haven't seen any for a while now.
Janet

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Sep-18 09:43 AM GMT

Many thanks everybody for your post's, it looks like we're stuck with this weather for quite a while, thunder and hail showers right now, UGH! Yesterday was dry in the morning but very windy, we decided to do some gardening, as we went into the front garden a Red Admiral flew passed us and into my Neighbours bushes, a minute later the rain arrived and that's been it for two days now 😊
I'm positive the Butterflies have a built in warning system for bad weather 🙄 the Red Admiral certainly did. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 21-Sep-18 10:44 AM GMT

There are certainly more Red Admirals around with you than down with me, Goldie. That one looks a lot fresher too! 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Art Frames, 21-Sep-18 11:04 AM GMT

I've been noticing few singleton RAs around here lately but numbers have been low compared to last year. That is to add to my low single figure Peacock total for the entire year. So I'd take delight in seeing three RAs at once again. Perhaps the wind will deliver me some too. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 21-Sep-18 10:40 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Many thanks everybody for your post's, it looks like we're stuck with this weather for quite a while...

Not so, Goldie. The whole of next week looks positively benign so prepare yourself! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Sep-18 10:37 AM GMT

Hi! Dave, I'm sure if the Sun comes out today one Red Admiral will appear 😊 It's been in and out of that Buddleia bush on and off for a few days now but the weather has been awful I just hope it survived the Hail yesterday. 😊

Hi! Art, this Autumn has been rough for the Admirals so far, last year I'd loads in the garden but like you say single ones so far this year. My biggest disappointment has been the lack of Peacock's not one so far in the garden, 😊 I'm hoping next week might change that 😊

I've just seen the forecast David for next week and I'll be ready with my camera 😊

The Sun is trying very hard to appear this morning, even so the Bee's are out buzzing around the Buddleia hope fully the Admiral may be back to join them, so it's camera ready just in case. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Sep-18 04:10 PM GMT

Looks like we finally had some good weather in the North the wind was cold though, you still needed a coat but the Sun was lovely 😊 We had a visit from two Admiral's in the Garden this morning, much to my surprise because the wind was cold and a Small White payed us a visit and shared a flower with a Bee 😊

I was taking shots of both, when from above I heard a familiar noise for this time of year and looking up I spotted the Geese on the move that really means Autumn's here 😊 Not sure if they were coming into Martin Mere or taking off from Penn Flash 😊

Later I decided to throw a few Grapes out for the Black Birds , what I didn't expect to see was the little Mouse tucking in to one 😊 I went out thinking it would run a way but it's eyes were closed so I got a shot and when it did see me it ran off 😊 I'm hoping it was a mouse and not a rat 😊 No more Grapes I think! 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 23-Sep-18 11:19 PM GMT

Great set of shots Goldie especially the Bee-Small White combo 🍷🍷 Also how old were the grapes as the mouse looks like it's a little inebriated 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 24-Sep-18 07:19 AM GMT

Fabulous, Goldie! Love the image of the mouse as well as your very welcome butterfly visitors after this week of dire weather.

Things changing for the better from today fortunately. 😊

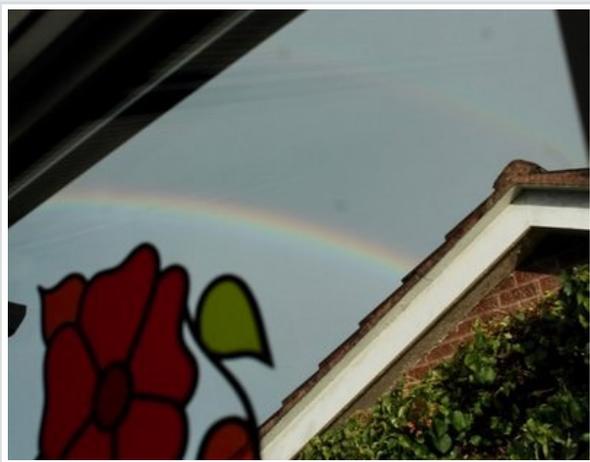
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Sep-18 09:30 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, many thanks, I think the Mouse was sucking the grape and must have been drunk 🍷 either that or it was Sun bathing after all the rain we've been having 🍷 It was certainly in some kind of coma to let me get so close 🍷

Again many thanks David, I was certainly pleased to see those Butterflies 🍷 Not so much the Mouse 🍷 we all have to live together though, he lives in the Rockery wall and I've got quite used to it popping in and out now 🍷 Just so long as it doesn't start a family. 🍷

We had lovely weather yesterday up to about 5pm and then the heavens opened the Sun was still shining so I knew there must be a rainbow somewhere, I quickly grabbed my camera and managed to get a quick shot from my Sun room window, I think there was a chance that I'd missed a double Rainbow 🍷 I managed to get my Red Rose in there though as well:lol: Goldie 🍷



Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 24-Sep-18 09:54 AM GMT

You've captured that double bow nicely, Goldie. The second ones are often so faint the camera doesn't pick them up as well as your eye can.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 24-Sep-18 09:04 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Again many thanks David, I was certainly pleased to see those Butterflies 🍷 Not so much the Mouse 🍷 we all have to live together though, he lives in the Rockery wall and I've got quite used to it popping in and out now 🍷 Just so long as it doesn't start a family.

I fear the 'family' element is unavoidable, Goldie. That said, if it remains outside in your rockery wall then surely that's not a hardship?

Like the rainbow photo. I expect we won't see too many of those over the next few days. Dry weather is forecast meaning we can all get out and enjoy the last few days of September.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 24-Sep-18 10:50 PM GMT

Great work catching the double Bow Goldie 😊 as Dave said that's a tricky thing, nice composition with the Rose in frame as well 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Sep-18 08:03 PM GMT

Thanks for your post Dave, I was kicking myself about the rainbow's, thinking ,if I'd gone out a bit sooner I'd have caught it better both of them together:D

Hi! David the Mouse is no problem, if any thing it make's us laugh, especially when it runs up the tree to take some nuts :lol:You were right about the weather, we went out today and the weather was great 😊

Hi! Wurzel, that's my Lancashire Rose, made especially for my window 😊

Today was great, I made a good start catching the Red Admiral early morning, In the afternoon we went to Brockholes CP, I didn't know what to expect but on arrival we were surprised to find all the grass had been cut down and there wasn't many flowers to speak of, I resigned myself to the fact it was well into Autumn and the Sun was shining and although it was hot we still had the cold wind we would just enjoy being out 😊
We decided to walk through the tree's and go to where we'd seen most of the Butterflies this year (it's very sheltered from the wind and catches the Sun) Has we walked in this area we saw Ragwort and others flowers which had not been touched and to my surprise and delight Small Copper's 😊
I decided I'd taken lots of shots of Coppers before and I'd like to take some from a distance on the flowers, which I did, Until, we walked by the lake and I found the Blue Badge 😊 I just had to have shots of those spots 😊
I was taking my shots when a Comma flew by and landed near me, also a Speckled Wood , Just to make my day 😊 Both Butterflies were slightly worn but still a welcome sight.Goldie 😊



River Ribble Brockholes CP







Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 25-Sep-18 09:59 PM GMT

Very nice Coppers, Goldie – they really are doing well everywhere at the moment it seems. 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 26-Sep-18 12:07 PM GMT

Glad you got out and saw a few butterflies, Goldie. I see Small Coppers are prominent just about everywhere right now.

Hopefully it'll stay decent through the weekend so we can all see a few.

Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 26-Sep-18 06:12 PM GMT

It's nice to see that you still have Red Admirals, Goldie 😊 and that's a nice blue badge Small Copper too, plus the Comma 😊

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Sep-18 07:23 PM GMT

Thanks so much for your posts Dave, David and Mike, it's great to see Butterflies again even it is the same ones visiting 😊 yesterday was great seeing the Small Copper's lets hope this weather lasts much longer. 😊

Today after the mist lifted I had another Red Admiral visit, this one was ab biababa so of course I was thrilled to see it and add yet another one to my list of ab's 😊

When I went to my side garden where I've loads of Autumn Glory I found a lovely fresh looking Comma, I'm hoping it's the form Hutchinson's, the Sun is certainly bringing out more Butterflies, I'm hoping I'll see a Peacock, not having one in my Garden will be the first year ever from moving into the house years ago. I hope this isn't a sign their in danger. I have seen them this year but only in odd ones, mostly when I was down South, gone are the

days it seems, when you could see a field full of them 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 26-Sep-18 08:11 PM GMT

Love the Coppers Goldie !!..... Nice One!
Regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 26-Sep-18 08:28 PM GMT

That's a great Comma, Goldie! 😊

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 26-Sep-18 11:00 PM GMT

That was a brilliantly posed Red Admiral Goldie 😊 And a great array of Coppers and Commas 😊🌱

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 27-Sep-18 05:57 PM GMT

I think your Comma is one of the overwintering types, Goldie, rather than a *hutchinsonii*. That said, I haven't seen one of either for weeks now so it's great that you have one visiting your lovely looking sedums.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Sep-18 08:53 AM GMT

Many thanks for your comments Allan, Dave, Wurzel, and David, It was great seeing the Comm's, I was going off the very pail yellow colouring for the

Comma David , most I've seen are very dark 😊 I'm no expert though, it was just a guess 😊

Yesterday I saw three Comma's in my Garden, One again on the Sedum's the other two in the back Garden on the Boules Mauve, Of course it could have been the same one 😊 One did seem darker than the others though.

The Admiral's were back and one gave me a surprise, I've got a large pot just out side my sun lounge door which is filled with Begonia's, I know Butterflies seem to ignore these flowers but I find they're great when I go on holiday for not needing too much watering if put in the shade (and every year I take them out after flowering ,dry them off and store them in news paper for the following year.) Anyway, when I looked yesterday there was an Admiral sat on the edge of one of their Petals catching the Sun 😊 First time I've seen that happen, last year it was the roses they chose 😊 But it was the look it gave me when I slowly moved round the side of the pot to get a shot that made me laugh.

(" Oh it's her again ") 😊 Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 28-Sep-18 10:51 AM GMT

Goldie – lovely selection of butterflies you have had recently. I especially liked your garden Admirals. I hadn't seen and for ages until yesterday – two on a garden centre Buddleia.

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 28-Sep-18 07:24 PM GMT

Nice Red Admirals and Commas Goldie 😊

I have not seen a Red Admiral in my garden at all this year, in fact I have not seem many at all this year.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Old Wolf, 28-Sep-18 08:13 PM GMT

Hello Goldie, how brilliant that your garden seems to be still bustling with visitors and I love your little mouse friend.

More great Copper shots and a freat shot of the double rainbow, always a delight to see 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 28-Sep-18 10:21 PM GMT

Cracking stuff Goldie 😊 Red Admirals are quite snotty butterflies 😞 I'm probably going to be wrong BUT I reckon that your Comma could be an aberrant as the 'comma' on the underside doesn't look like a Comma it looks more like a straight line? 😊 (👍 if it is 😊)

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 28-Sep-18 10:29 PM GMT

Now I know where all the Admirals and Commas have gone! Precious few down here this autumn. Good to see them in your garden, too. My garden is rather shady now, as the low sun doesn't get above the trees at the back, so now butterflies for me. 😞

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Sep-18 11:15 AM GMT

Thank you ernie, 😊 I didn't see any yesterday so may be my one on the Begonia was saying goodbye 😞😞

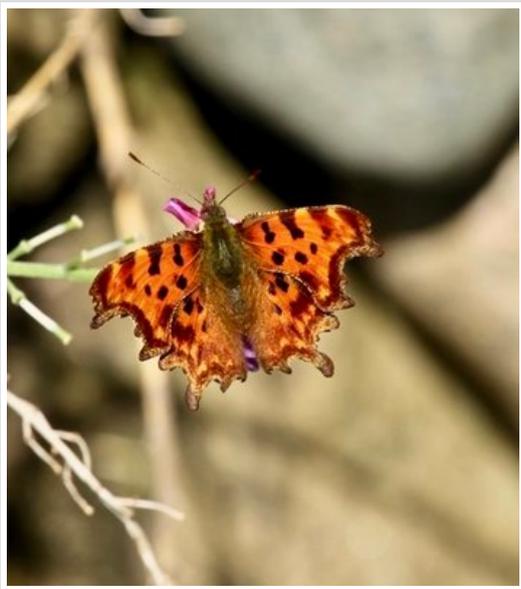
Hi! Neil, I didn't see many when I was down South and the ones I saw were hiding from the heat, they do seem to come North in Sept/Oct there's certainly not as many as Last year worst luck.

Many thanks old Wolf, I try to keep plants that flower through the year so I've always got colour, the fact is when there's no flowers in the fields the Butterflies tend to move into gardens Sept/Oct round here. Glad you liked the Rainbow's 😊

Thanks Wurzel, I did wonder about that Comma but I thought it was just darker down it's edge, I've got a couple of closer shots of it, they were taken on the same day but I'm not sure it's the same Comma 😊 You know me by now 😊 Hope your right though 😊

Sorry to hear that Essex, I didn't see the Admiral yesterday so maybe their heading South, they say if your in the Sand Dunes at Southport in October you can see them taking off for the South, I've never seen this but I hope they head your way 😊

I'll put a couple of shots in of that Comma Wurzel, from the 27th Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Sep-18 11:28 AM GMT

I didn't want to get things mixed up so started a new post 😊

Yesterday was a lovely day, a Red Admiral was seen but took off before I got any shots and never returned, so I'm not sure if it was too hot for it or it's gone South 😊

The Comma's were back though and a lovely Large White which didn't clear off has usual so I was able to get some shots, I decided to try and get some under shots of the Comma because I've always liked their shape, they're a bit dark though 😊

Lot's of mist this morning so I hope the weather picks up I'm still hoping for my first Peacock in the Garden for the year 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 29-Sep-18 04:00 PM GMT

Goldie - I like to try to get underneath a butterfly to get its picture if I can and you've done the Comma proud in this respect. The second and third from last shots are brilliant.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 29-Sep-18 06:18 PM GMT

Great Comma and Large White shots Goldie 😊 I see no-one else has mentioned the possible ab, but still nice to see 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 30-Sep-18 10:39 AM GMT

That Bowles Mauve is doing you proud, Goldie! Well done with the Large White. I don't think I've seen a single one in September. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 30-Sep-18 11:42 AM GMT

That's much appreciated ernie, I was lucky I think with those shots, I must admit the Comma's shape really interests me it's so unusual, not that I tell if ones an ab or not though 😊

Hi! Wurzel, maybe they're like me and don't know until somebody in the know tells them 😊 Thanks any way Wurzel, I'll call it an ab until some one says other wise 😊 I'll add to my list of not known 😊

Hi! David, that's the first I've seen for a while and with the weather on the turn now possibly the last 😊 I don't think I could do without the Bowles Mauve in my garden, I've never known a plant draw the Butterflies has they do. 😊

Well, although Sunny yesterday Morning and warm in the Sun the afternoon was disappointing, a really cold wind kept the Butterflies a way, it was good I spotted the Admirals in the morning, the day before was really hot and none had shown so I thought they'd moved on, observing them yesterday on my front garden Buddiela I could only think they don't like the weather too hot. 😊 They both had bits taken out of them and were not in good condition like the ones before, in fact one was quite tatty, I don't think many will be a round today the weather's dull and cold, you never know though with Butterflies 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 30-Sep-18 10:34 PM GMT

Two Red Admirals is one better than I found today Goldie and you got them in the comfort of your own garden 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 30-Sep-18 11:27 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

...I don't think I could do without the Bowles Mauve in my garden, I've never known a plant draw the Butterflies has they do.

Me neither, Goldie. Whilst buddleia is great it only flowers for a few weeks, whereas Bowles Mauve seems to go on forever. Imagine planting a farmer's field full of it? It'd be littered with butterflies. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Oct-18 11:59 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, it's been a surprise to see the Butterflies in the Garden because when I was out there on warmer days I didn't see much, unfortunately my Husband had a bad fall last week and cracked some ribs, he's okay and getting there, we'd both been out that day to Brockholes and seen the SC's, since then it's been home and garden 😊 It's surprised us both when the Butterflies kept coming 😊 "Jim" 's convinced they're feeling sorry for him 😊

Hi! David, I love that Bowles Mauve, I've even taken cuttings from them for the following year and they do well, talking about Gardens, I took a photo of a Speckled Wood in the Garden on 27th Sept, I didn't post it because it wasn't on a flower but with a shortage of Butterflies at present I'll post it today 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 01-Oct-18 07:56 PM GMT

That's a great shot of the Speckle, Goldie – well worth posting. 😊 The Red Admirals, too – you could be right about the hot weather, as I often see them very late in the day when it's cooled off and they frequently fly in the shade.

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 01-Oct-18 08:00 PM GMT

Great looking Speckle Goldie 😊 I hope your husbands ribs are on the mend 🙏 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 01-Oct-18 08:37 PM GMT

We'll take it, Goldie! 😊

In any case, you rarely see Speckled Woods nectaring. Apart from those early specimens that get the last of the bramble flowers, I can't think of much (ragwort apart) that Specklies are particularly partial to.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Oct-18 09:07 AM GMT

Thanks every one for your posts, Yesterday Dave we'd one hour I think of Sun and it was chilly, the Admiral arrived has I was looking out of my window so I picked up the camera and out I went, so that was my 1st of Oct shot. 😊 they really do like the cooler weather 😊

Hi! Wurzel, my Husbands had a rough time but he's on the mend thank you, I've taken over the driving which I've not do for a while and I've never seen so many idiots on the road, they even ignore the red light signs ,I'll be glad to hand the driving back to him. 😊 I saw another Admiral yesterday, this one was in good condition, they seem to be enjoying the nectar before moving on 😊

Hi! Dave, I think Speckies enjoy the Black Berries more than flowers at the end of the year, that's when I like to get shots of them but there's nothing in my Garden for them really, having said that I've seen them on my yellow flowers before today and this one was on the leaves near them, it was great to see it any way. 😊

Yesterday an Admiral was back on my Buddleia in the front garden, it was blown about a bit by the wind but didn't bother too much and went with the flow 😊 The Bin men were emptying the bins at the time when I was taking my shots of it and I got some funny looks 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 02-Oct-18 10:10 PM GMT

The Binmen probably thought that you were taking photos of them so I reckon you might have got a very clean bin yesterday 😊😊 Great Red Admiral shot - so worth the stares 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 03-Oct-18 11:54 AM GMT

Lovely colourful shots from your garden recently Goldie. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Oct-18 12:46 PM GMT

Many thanks Wurzel and Andrew, seems the weather's turned against us here ,drizzly rain ,UGH! but at least it's warmer 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 05-Oct-18 10:44 PM GMT

LOL! I shudder to think what was going through the minds of those binmen, Goldie! 😊

Nice Red Admiral though, and especially welcome this autumn given their relative scarcity compared to most other years.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Oct-18 01:04 PM GMT

Thanks for your posts David, this year for me was disappointing Garden wise for Butterflies, I've had very few compared to last year with the exception being the white's, so when I've seen one I've rushed out with the Camera 😊

I don't think the Butterflies we get in the North enjoyed the hot weather too much, most of the ones I saw were either hiding or had their wings closed, any way that's the weather for you, I'd like to see at least one more before this year closes, let's hope if I do it's not on a Bin day 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Oct-18 02:41 PM GMT

It was very cold this morning but later the Sun came out for about an hour, that's when I spotted the Red Admiral through my kitchen window and I picked up the camera and shot outside.

I managed some shots before the clouds came back seeming for the rest of the day, it was great to see the Butterfly and I followed it as it flew onto the Buddleia and a pot of Autumn Sedum (I always keep some plants in pot's just in case) the Sedum is on the patio just in front of my little white elephant which is lit from the Sun during the day (it's eyes and trunk light up at night, (one of my whims 😊) The Admiral flew onto the Sedum and the elephants eye looks to be un- a-proving 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 07-Oct-18 05:41 PM GMT

Cracking shots Goldie 😊👍 I don't know about you but on a chilly day a butterfly sighting is just what you need to warm you up 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Oct-18 02:01 PM GMT

That's true Wurzel given the past week 😊 Mid week is suppose to be warm, lets hope some more Butterflies appear, I'll have the camera ready just in case. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 09-Oct-18 09:54 PM GMT

I'm rather envious, Goldie. It took me 25 minutes to drive to the Gower coast early last Sunday afternoon plus another 40 minutes walking around to see precisely the same number of Red Admirals (i.e. one) that you saw without leaving your house!

Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 14-Oct-18 03:12 PM GMT

I read of your sad loss on Wurzel's page, Goldie.
I am sure you will be in all our thoughts at this difficult time.

Very best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 14-Oct-18 03:27 PM GMT

We also read of your sad loss, Goldie.
Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time for you.

Very best wishes,
Mike and Cathy.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 14-Oct-18 07:56 PM GMT

After reading your comment I've been trying to work out what to type but I'm still at a loss, I just don't know what to say. You're in my thoughts and have all of my condolences; take care.

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Katrina, 14-Oct-18 08:49 PM GMT

Sorry to hear of your loss Goldie.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Oct-18 09:18 PM GMT

Thanks everyone, the consolation I have is that we spent a fantastic life together, Jim's job building Flour Mills took us around the world to many countries,(together) and when we settled back in England again we were still on the go 😊
I will admit to age now, being in our eighties we'd been married 60 years and in February we 'd celebrated Our Diamond Wedding and even got a card from the Queen 😊 At least we managed that. 😊
So maybe it was time to slow down a little which Jim didn't want to do, so I'll keep on has much has I can, after all they say age is just a number, some thing he proved time and time again Goldie 😊



I took these two photos last week

Re: Goldie M

by Allan.W., 15-Oct-18 09:44 PM GMT

I,d like to send you my condolences as well Goldie ,you,ve obviously enjoyed many happy years together , and my thoughts are also with you at this sad time. Kind regards Allan.W.

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 15-Oct-18 10:08 PM GMT

Your post following this tragic event is both uplifting and heartwarming, Goldie. Please accept my sincere condolences and I wish you peace and comfort during this upsetting time.

I hope you will remain part of the community on here as you are a very popular asset to these forums.

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 15-Oct-18 10:49 PM GMT

Really sorry to hear of your very sad loss, Goldie. Your description of your life together is inspirational and lovely to hear about. Thinking about you.

Look after yourself,

Many best wishes,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Hulme, 16-Oct-18 07:55 PM GMT

Hi Goldie

"the consolation I have is that we spent a fantastic life together". Nobody can ask for more than that, so even at such a sad time as this, I'm sure you have a great deal to celebrate. And I'm sure that Jim will be with you on every walk in the future.

Best Wishes, Neil

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 16-Oct-18 10:16 PM GMT

So sorry for your loss, Goldie. Our thoughts are with you at this time.

I hope a few late butterflies manage to lift your spirits.

With best wishes, Mark and Esther X

Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 16-Oct-18 10:22 PM GMT

Very sorry to hear of your loss Goldie

Wishing you all the best

Paul

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Oct-18 10:05 AM GMT

Thanks so much every one, a bit over whelming at present but will always remember your great posts, I've been amazed at the amount of flowers we've been sent, plus cards, simply no place to put them all, Jim was so well liked. Thanks again.Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 19-Oct-18 07:39 PM GMT

Just caught up with your very sad news Goldie, so sorry to hear of your loss and my heartfelt condolences.

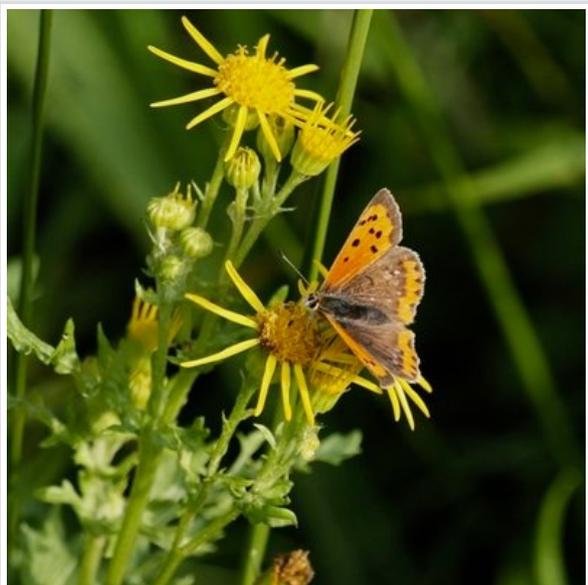
My best wishes to you at this sad time.

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Oct-18 05:18 PM GMT

Thanks so much Neil, I'm coming round now after two weeks of horror. I felt Mechanical not human but I'm coming to terms now thanks to my family . My Daughters stayed on with me and decided I needed a Butterfly run 😊 She took me to Brockholes CP, it was a lovely day and I could feel myself coming back to life, (my Husband used to say " Half Human" 😊 I was also pleased to see a Speckie and Small Copper, one of the Copper's was quite faded , the other two were okay it was great to see them and I feel up lifted. 😊 I've been out today driving having the car put into my name, so it's all Systems go. Hope fully!!!! Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Katrina, 20-Oct-18 06:03 PM GMT

Well done finding the Small Coppers! I went looking for some myself this afternoon and didn't spot any although found some other species.

Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 21-Oct-18 12:48 PM GMT

It's nice to see that you got out and saw some lovely butterflies, Goldie 😊

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 21-Oct-18 10:43 PM GMT

Great to see that you were able to get out and find some butterflies Goldie, I'm glad they offered something to feel cheerful about. 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 22-Oct-18 09:47 AM GMT

I'm so sorry Goldie. My thoughts are with you and your family.

Andrew

Re: Goldie M

by CallumMac, 22-Oct-18 09:59 AM GMT

Goldie - I've not posted my condolences yet because I simply couldn't find the right words. But, it's good to hear that you were able to get our and find some solace in the Small Coppers. When we lost my grandfather, a family friend told us that she believes the people we lose stay with us, making themselves known through unexpected encounters with wildlife. Not necessarily something I subscribe to completely, but a comforting thought nonetheless!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Oct-18 11:55 AM GMT

Thanks so much everybody for your posts, I know Jim wouldn't want me moping about so I was out in the Garden this morning chopping down the Buddleia on the front, before that I fed the birds, some thing Jim did every day so I'm determined to keep it up, I was putting some cheese on the fence when this little Robin landed right by the side of me it didn't take any thing until I went in but it gave me a great feeling, i was not alone 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 23-Oct-18 09:34 PM GMT

Good for you, Goldie. Butterflies (and nature in general) can be positive influences at times like these. Let no-one underestimate this.

Your attitude in this time of adversity is admirable and I hope those visitors to your garden will continue to provide uplifting moments.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Oct-18 10:42 AM GMT

Thanks so much David, my family have been great , it helps when you've got family, they want me to go down to Kent in a fortnight just for a break but my home is here and I've lots to arrange, Garden for instance , getting some trees trimmed is a priority.(The garden seems enormous at present) although not really 😊 thanks again for your kind thoughts, Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by ernie f, 24-Oct-18 04:49 PM GMT

I am sorry I have not been keeping up with other people's diaries for some time and I don't know why but today I thought I'd look at one. That one was yours!

I am stunned by your news. I know its a bit belated but I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I am happy to know that you are bearing up though.

I lost my mother to pneumonia a couple of years ago and I was walking around in a daze for some time, then after a while I felt a bit better, then a month or so later it hit me again and I was almost back to square one. My family was a boon during this time as I know yours will be.

And then – one day I looked back with fond memories of her life without any of the sadness.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Oct-18 06:40 PM GMT

Thanks so much ernie, for your kind thoughts, Jim had been ill for some time with his chest and was gradually going worse, so it was expected but still a shock when it finally caught up with him. He was one in a million and will be sorely missed.Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Nov-18 10:07 AM GMT

Quite a while since I posted but this morning through the kitchen window I spotted the Gold Finch having a good tuck into the seeds 😊 also the young Starlings seemed to be every where showing off their new feathers 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 16-Nov-18 08:46 PM GMT

When I see the young Starlings in the garden, I find it quite easy to accept that birds are descendants of dinosaurs.

It's always a pleasure to see Goldfinches in the garden and they bring such a delightful twittering as well. It's often surprising what turns up in gardens during the winter. We have had Blackcaps with us, for several years in succession, and one year there were lots of Siskins but I haven't seen them here again, since then. One surprise visitor for the last couple of years was a Grey Wagtail, with its splendid bright yellow underside. It appreciates the pond in the garden so I hope it will come back this year.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Nov-18 12:54 PM GMT

Hi! Mike, I've taken over feeding the birds in the Garden now, I've been surprised how they come every day looking at the kitchen window has much to say, "when are you coming out" 😊 A Robin in particular stands an arm's length away on the fence until I put the food out 😊 I even get some nice bird noises at times 😊

Your right about the Winter, that's when the different ones arrive, I'll have to get handy with the camera especially when the Snow arrives 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 17-Nov-18 03:43 PM GMT

Keep an eye on those Starlings Goldie, blooming teenagers nothing but trouble 😊 I know I now have one with another in the offing! 😊😊😊

Have a goodun
Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Nov-18 07:10 PM GMT

Hi! Wurzel, watch out when they start pruning their feather's 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Maximus, 19-Nov-18 12:33 AM GMT

Glad the Goldfinches are starting to come to your feeders, Goldie 😊 We've only had one so far, but I think more will begin to arrive with the cold weather that's forecast.

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 19-Nov-18 06:26 PM GMT

Thanks Max, I'm wondering if we'll get an early snow fall, it's certainly turned colder here. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 22-Nov-18 08:15 AM GMT

No wonder the birds are starting to turn up at your feeders, Goldie. I saw the pictures of the snow in the Peak District. I guess the Pennines further north got a dusting as well, along with the Cumbrian fells?

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Nov-18 10:51 AM GMT

Hi! David, the Pennines definately got some snow, we just got a mixture, (sleet) today though we had Frost 😬
The Black Birds are usually waiting for me, I give them some Grapes 🍇 The Robin likes a bit of cheese 🧀 They all get suet pellets,
so it's no wonder they gather like they do 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 22-Nov-18 12:10 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Hi! David, the Pennines definately got some snow, we just got a mixture, (sleet) today though we had Frost 😬
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so it's no wonder they gather like they do 😊 Goldie 😊

You sure spoil them, Goldie. It was a shock for me to see all the bad weather given that my area remained fairly mild. Reading today's papers, it looks like there may be more cold weather on the way so I'd stock up on those suet pellets if I were you. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Nov-18 04:21 PM GMT

On my way to the shops tomorrow David 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Dec-18 11:05 AM GMT

I was just about to go into the garden to feed the birds this morning and I was checking the feeders to see if any thing was needed through the kitchen window, when I spotted the Sparrow Hawk sitting in the Tree at the bottom of the garden, I dashed back into the living room for my camera and managed two quit shots thinking it would fly a way, it didn't, so I managed another couple before it did 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by bugboy, 01-Dec-18 12:26 PM GMT

He looks like a handsome devil Goldie. I bet the rest of the garden was empty of birds though with him sitting up there, bold as brass!

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 01-Dec-18 06:48 PM GMT

I agree with Bugboy: that's a very handsome male. You might want to check the flight-lines between that tree and your feeders, so that you don't make it too easy for him. We put some netting across the direct path, to deter the Sprawks from using our feeders as a fast-food outlet.

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by trevor, 02-Dec-18 05:34 AM GMT

What a surprise, Goldie. Great shots too.
My Cat caught a Sparrow Hawk, which had been plucking it's prey, in my garden.
Fortunately the Bird escaped, though clearly injured.

Have a great Christmas,
Trevor.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Dec-18 11:28 AM GMT

Hi! Bugboy, the garden was certainly empty 😊 It's the first time I've seen a Sparrow Hawk with such good colours and in my Tree ,they usually land on the fence, I'm thinking he's very young. 😊

Hi! Mike, he was in the very tree where the bird seeds are , I've two feeders in there!!! I've only Two big trees in the garden the other's are mostly Butterfly bushes. I'd just had the tree's cut and shaped for Spring, Jim did it every year but of course couldn't this year so I was set on having them cut!!! May be they've given the bird too much room to spread his wings 😊

Hi! Trevor, I bet that Hawk will think twice before coming back to your Garden 😊

It hasn't deterred the birds , this morning I'd a Robin, a Blackbird, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Dunnock, Woodies, Gold Finch, Chaffinch, it's great to see them each day 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 02-Dec-18 06:01 PM GMT

Cracking Sparrowhawk shots Goldie – very envious as that's one of the species I dearly love to get some shots of and especially one in such fine dress 📷 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Dec-18 06:47 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel 😊 He was a proud Bird, handsome and knew it the way he stuck is chest out 😊 I didn't want to shoo him a way the other Birds always seem to know when the birds of pray are about. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 04-Dec-18 12:10 AM GMT

Those are rare clear shots of a garden Sparrowhawk, Goldie. Well done (although I daresay your 'regulars' were less than enthused by its presence).

Re: Goldie M

by Andrew555, 04-Dec-18 01:41 PM GMT

Great shots of the Sparrow Hawk Goldie. 😊 I don't think I've ever seen one.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Dec-18 04:09 PM GMT

Hi! David, the birds seem to know when there's a Hawk about, I've seen the Hawk's lots of time in my Garden but only once did I see one with a small Bird, I think the Starlings act has a warning for the other birds has they seem to wait for the Starlings to arrive before they venture out then the garden seems full of birds. 😊

Hi! Andrew, we seem to get the Sparrow Hawk's more in the Winter and Spring here, they're an awesome looking bird but I'm always glad when they fly off, I don't like to think of them finding my little birds 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 07-Dec-18 07:29 PM GMT

Great shots of the Sparrowhawk Goldie 😊

A few years ago one used to sit in a tree opposite my parents house and watch for birds on their feeders through the gap between the houses. I was round there one afternoon and it came flashing through the gap and took a Sparrow off the fence right in front of us and dropped down into their neighbours garden with it. An amazing thing to see.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Goldie M

by False Apollo, 08-Dec-18 12:00 AM GMT

I've been feeding the birds since September and just like you I have had Sparrowhawks visiting the garden. This female took what I thought was a Collared Dove and proceeded to eat it on the lawn. She did not come back, but yesterday a male darted in and caught something in the blink of an eye. Today I went outside and flushed a male hiding in a tree near the feeding station. It flew off, but I was a bit wary in case it came back. We have been getting good numbers of Greenfinches, Goldfinches, Chaffinches and today my first male Blackcap so I hope it does not make a habit of it.



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 09-Dec-18 01:01 PM GMT

Hi! Neil, we get sightings of the Sparrow hawk in the garden quite a lot, last year one landed on the fence with a small bird and started to eat it, Needless to say (not very pleasant) that's the only one I've seen with a bird I managed a shot of it before I chased it off 😊

That's a good shot False Apollo, I know they like Collard Doves the best if they can get them, our local vet told me that, after I tried to catch a Wood Pigeon that one had injured, I didn't see it happen, my Husband did, I never managed to catch the Pigeon, but the Vet said I'd be lucky if I did. 😊 It won't be so easy for them to catch the birds now all the leaves have fallen so that gives the birds more of a chance 😊 Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by False Apollo, 10-Dec-18 10:26 PM GMT

I do feel a bit guilty about feeding the birds when there is a Sparrowhawk about. The problem seems to be if they realise it is a place they can visit to get an easy meal. Overall I think I should carry on feeding them, especially when food is short. I am certainly doing well for species coming in with Stock Doves (4), 2 Pheasants, Jackdaws, 13 Greenfinches, Goldfinches and the Blackcap being regulars. Luckily the feeding station is on an apple tree with dense cover behind it, so most can hide, but it is the element of surprise. Hopefully it will just be now and then, but I have to say though Sparrowhawks are very impressive birds and we are privileged to see them so close. Nice to see your photos of a very colourful male.

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Dec-18 10:25 AM GMT

Hi! Mike you sound to be living in a lovely area having Pheasants visit your Garden 😊 I only see them if I visit Brockholes CP 😊
We live near the Moors but it's pretty built up before you get to the Moors even though I can see them from house.
At present I'm seeing mostly Starlings , they seem to stuff themselves before flying off, there's loads of them this year, it would be good if they did one of their famous flight's for the the food they get 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Dec-18 09:50 AM GMT

A couple of days ago the Sparrow Hawk was back but didn't stay long enough for any shots but has soon has he left some birds suddenly appeared, I can only think they were hiding in my Evergreens 😊
The Blackbird, Starling,(which I think was on the outlook for the others) Great Tit, Blue Tit all appeared 😊

This next week I'm away for Christmas, so I'd like to wish everyone on UK Butterflies a MERRY CHRISTMAS

I bought myself a 2019 Calendar yesterday and the empty squares stared back at me!
I intend to fill them all has best I can with friends and Family
Happy New Year to every one Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 16-Dec-18 10:55 AM GMT

Those bird shots have a really wintry feel to them, Goldie. I particularly like the blackbird and starling.

Looking forward to more from your garden in the New Year,

Best wishes for Christmas,

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 16-Dec-18 05:49 PM GMT

Cracking Starling shot Goldie 😊

"I bought myself a 2019 Calendar yesterday and the empty squares stared back at me!

I intend to fill them all has best I can with friends and Family"... Sounds like a perfect plan – don't forget to squeeze in a few butterfly trips 😊
Happy Christmas and New Year to you too!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Dec-18 10:15 AM GMT

Many thanks Dave and Wurzel, I think the the Starlings when up close can look great and they seem to change colours has well, that one posed good for me 😊

I won't be doing as many Butterfly trips Wurzel but I'll still try to get what I can 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 19-Dec-18 07:27 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

This next week I'm away for Christmas, so I'd like to wish everyone on UK Butterflies a MERRY CHRISTMAS

All the best to you too, Goldie. I hope you have as good a Christmas as can be expected under the circumstances.

I look forward to catching up with your reports in the New Year.

Best wishes.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Dec-18 11:39 AM GMT

Thanks so much for that David, I'm now in Kent with family, I've bought myself a pocket camera for the next year so where ever I wander I won't have to carry the big ones all the time, all the best Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-Dec-18 11:27 AM GMT

After traveling down to Kent last Thursday, I was treated to this lovely sight of my Daughter's Dog with his best mate, enough I think to cheer anybody up 😊

Wishing every one on UK Butterflies a Happy New Year Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by David M, 31-Dec-18 09:08 PM GMT

Certainly made **me** smile, Goldie! 😊

Have a good NYE, and by the amount of drinks visible in that image I'm pretty confident you will! 😊