

## Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 02-May-19 09:27 PM GMT

I thought I should resurrect my personal diary. It has been over two years since I posted anything and it has been a particularly busy two years. I thought I should start off by summarising how butterflies did in East Lothian in 2018. I collate the records from the Countryside Rangers and a number of volunteers and it is interesting to see how each species has fared over the years.

2018 was a fantastic year for butterflies. The long, warm summer was a great help, although the poor previous summer probably impacted on some species. It was a bit of a slow start to the year, with cold weather continuing throughout March, including the "Beast from the East" and then a cold start to April. The warm weather arrived in mid-April, resulting a sudden explosion of butterflies! Spring populations were about average, but the later summer populations were considerably larger than we have seen for a number of years.

We had the same number of people contributing records in 2018 as we had in 2017, so it is interesting to compare the number of butterflies seen. In 2017 I received 2,119 ad hoc records, totalling 7,527 butterflies. The 2017 transects recorded 2,008 butterflies. In 2018 I received 2,608 ad hoc records, totalling 12,646 butterflies and the transects added another 4,229. A considerable increase in the number of butterflies seen, which we can be pretty confident was a result of the great weather we had in 2018.

### Small Tortoiseshell, *Aglais urticae*

The first butterfly to be seen in 2018 was a Small Tortoiseshell, which was seen on 22nd February at Torness. I didn't receive any more Small Tortoiseshell records until April. After that they were seen regularly, but not in any great numbers. The number seen in 2018 wasn't far below the average over the last few years, but they are certainly declining in numbers. When so many other species did so well in 2018, we would have expected them to do better. Interestingly, despite the good weather some Small Tortoiseshells were found to be hibernating as early as the 4th August.



### Peacock, *Aglais io*

The first Peacock to be seen was on 8th March. There were very high numbers seen towards the end of April once the weather warmed up. These were the butterflies that had overwintered from 2017. After the usual lull in numbers the 2018 generation was seen in enormous numbers from the end of July with Peacocks being seen right through into November.



### Green-veined White, *Pieris napi*

The first Green-veined White was seen on 17th April. I had thought that there didn't appear to be very many about in 2018, but other people saw plenty. There was an enormous spike in population in late July and they were recorded in higher numbers than in any of the previous five years. I suspect that a lot of Green-veined Whites go unrecorded because of their similarity to Small Whites, often being noted as fly-by whites.

### Small White, *Pieris rapae*

Small Whites had an amazing year. The first one recorded in East Lothian was on 18th April and the spring population was as we would normally expect. However, in late July there was a mass emergence. I remember driving from Haddington to Macmerry and seeing hundreds of Small Whites drifting across the road. I received several other similar reports that day. We ended up with records of almost 3,500 Small Whites in 2018, nearly five times the number of the previous best year.



**Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta***

The 18th April was also the day the first Red Admiral was recorded in East Lothian. They had done fantastically well in 2017 and hopes were high that they would manage to survive the winter and be seen early in the year. However, very few were recorded until July, which is when we often get an influx of migrants. Those migrants clearly enjoyed the sunny summer and went on to produce a good summer generation. Nothing like the previous year, but still a lot more than we would normally see.



**Large White, *Pieris brassicae***

As with the previous two white species, the Large White had a fairly average spring generation, but then an enormous summer generation. The first record I received was on the 19th April and towards the end of July there was a huge spike in numbers. We ended up with about three times the number of records that we would normally receive.



**Comma, *Polyommatus icarus***

The Comma has gradually been building up in numbers since it was first recorded in East Lothian in 2001. However, the poor summers of 2016 and 2017 did them no favours and their numbers were very low for a couple of years. It was encouraging to see numbers pick up again in 2018 and with a bit of luck they will continue to do well. The first Comma was seen on 19th April, they peaked in numbers in the middle of August and were seen through until 15th November.



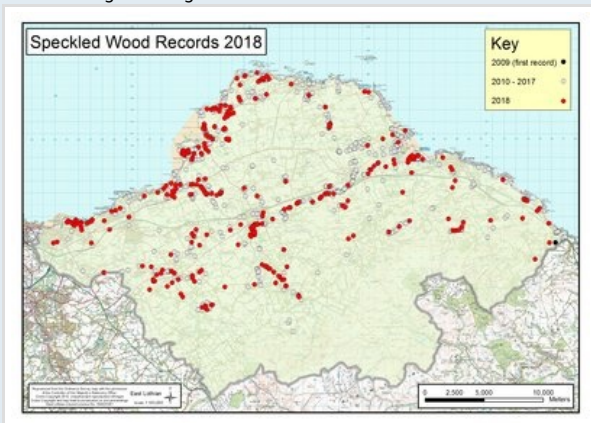
**Orange Tip, *Anthocharis cardamines***

The Orange Tip is usually seen in reasonably consistent numbers. However, in 2018 we had more than double the usual number of records. The first record was on 20th April and they were seen until the middle of June. However, there was one very late record on 22nd July. It is interesting to speculate why that individual emerged at that time. Presumably it was a late emerger, rather than a second generation.



**Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria***

2018 marked the tenth year of the Speckled Wood being recorded in East Lothian. During that time it has expanded its range to almost the entire county. 2018 was its best year yet and interestingly it was the spring population that did particularly well. The first record was on 24th April and they were seen right through until 25th October.





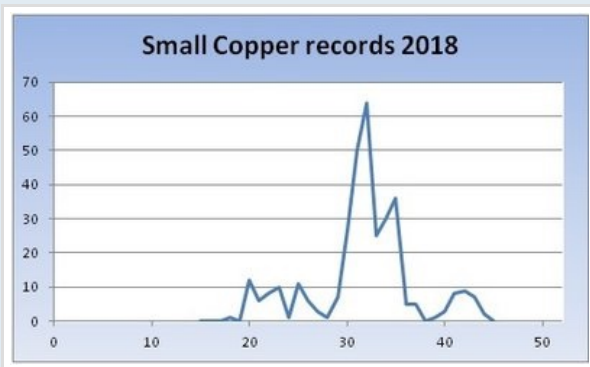
**Green Hairstreak, *Callophrys rubi***

Green Hairstreaks live in a few scattered colonies around East Lothian. It is difficult to know how well they did overall in East Lothian in 2018, as many of the colonies are in remote locations in the Lammermuir Hills which were not checked. The regularly recorded site at Saltoun Wood had suffered a fire sometime in the preceding months, which impacted considerably on that colony. The exciting news, though, was that Green Hairstreaks were rediscovered at Hopes. This is the first time they have been recorded there since the 1980s.



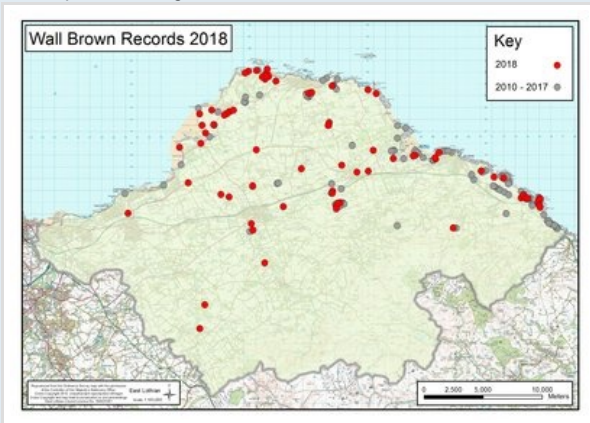
**Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas***

The Small Copper isn't a butterfly that is normally seen in large numbers, most often being seen individually, as males aggressively defend their territory or chase after females. In 2018 there were regular records of more than ten being seen. It was certainly the best year I can remember for Small Coppers. The first record was on 8th May and they were seen through to 2nd November. The most exciting news is that that we had a very obvious third generation in 2018, which we haven't previously seen here.



**Wall Brown, *Lasiommata megera***

The first record of a Wall Brown in 2018 was on 11th May. The Wall Brown has continued to increase in numbers year on year since it was first recorded here in 2010. As with many other species, the spring population did pretty well, but it was the second generation that did particularly well. In previous years we have found the odd pioneering individual exploring further afield, but this year there did appear to be an expansion of the range of this butterfly with it being found in numbers at various sites where it hasn't previously been recorded.



Distribution of Wall Browns in 2018 compared to previous years.



**Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus***

The Small Heath seems to have two overlapping generations a year, although it is not really possible to separate the two generations. There also seems to be quite marked differences between different sites, and in my experience those in John Muir Country Park appear to finish quite a few weeks before those found in Aberlady and Yellowcraig. Most years there are also a few quite fresh-looking individuals later in the season making us question if there could be a partial third generation. 2018 wasn't particularly different from previous years, with the first record being on the 18th May and the last hanger-on being seen on 23rd September.



**Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus***

As with most other species, the Common Blue did very well in 2018. Numbers weren't dramatically higher than normal and it is interesting to speculate why some species did so much better than others. Possibly it may be to do with how their food plants coped with the hot, dry summer. The first Common Blue was seen on the 29th May and the last one was seen on the 7th September.



**Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui***

Painted Ladies were quite late to arrive in East Lothian in 2018. There were a couple of records in early June, but it wasn't until later in July that they were seen in any numbers. 2018 turned out to be one of the best years we have had recently for Painted Ladies.



**Meadow Brown, *Maniola jurtina***

Meadow Browns were the only butterflies that didn't do particularly well in 2018. I think that they suffered from the poor weather the previous summer. Although numbers were higher than last year, they were lower than we would normally see. The first record in 2018 was on the 12th June and they were seen through until the 29th August.

**Ringlet, *Aphantopus hyperantus***

Ringlets did reasonably well in 2018, but not as well as many other species. I think they may also have been a victim of the previous poor summer. The first Ringlet was recorded on the 18th June and their short flight period lasted until the 5th August. It will be interesting to see if the great weather of 2018 will allow numbers to bounce back in 2019.



**Dark Green Fritillary, *Argynnis aglaja***

We don't tend to see a lot of Dark Green Fritillaries and they are generally limited to coastal sites and one or two valleys in the Lammermuir Hills. Numbers in 2018 were about average, but they had a terrible year the previous year, so it was good to see them bouncing back.



**Northern Brown Argus, *Aricia artaxeres***

I am only aware of four places in East Lothian where Northern Brown Argus occur. Three of those sites are very small and vulnerable. Because of this I don't receive many records of Northern Brown Argus, so it is difficult to assess how they are doing. However, at one site near Dunbar, despite several visits only one Northern Brown Argus was recorded. Maybe this is a butterfly that we need to look at a bit more closely in the future.



#### **Small Skipper, *Thymelicus sylvestris***

The Small Skipper has been increasing in number year on year, since it was first discovered in East Lothian in 2011. Unsurprisingly, 2018 was its best year yet. They were initially found along the coast in the Aberlady and Gullane area, but in more recent years have been found in the Lammermuir Hills, lowland woodlands and various areas of rough grassland across the county. The first record in East Lothian was on 21st June and they were seen through to 27th August.

#### **Grayling, *Hypparchia semele***

I am only aware of three sites where Grayling are found in East Lothian. One of these is very remote and I didn't receive any records from there this year. The other two sites are close to Prestonpans and one of these colonies is about to be lost to a housing development. There is an exciting project currently underway to create a new habitat to try to relocate one of these colonies. The first Grayling was recorded on 27th June and they were seen through to 21st August.



I didn't receive any records for **Large Skippers** in 2018, but I suspect they will be out there somewhere, unlike **Holly Blues**, which I fear have died out in East Lothian, having not been recorded here in the last two years. I didn't receive any records of **Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries** from East Lothian, either, but I am sure they would have been out and about somewhere in the Lammermuir Hills. Given the prolonged period of great weather I was surprised that we didn't receive any records of **Clouded Yellows** or any other unusual migrants.

Many species were late to appear because of the cold weather, which lasted into April. It was interesting to note that the hot weather didn't result in prolonged emergence and may have shortened the time that each generation was around because they all emerged quite close together. In contrast, poor weather can extend the flight period, because butterflies have to spend time sitting out the rain, rather than flying around, potentially damaging their wings.

I would like to extend a big than you to everyone who sent in records last year. We have a great mix of recorders in East Lothian, some of whom record butterflies while they are out walking or going about their work, and others who go out specifically to look for butterflies. It all adds up to a great lot of records and there was hardly a day between April and October when I didn't receive a record.

#### **Re: Nick Morgan**

by Wurzel, 03-May-19 09:25 AM GMT

Interesting report Nick and echoes of some of the trends I saw and that were reported from my end of the country 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

#### **Re: Nick Morgan**

by Neil Freeman, 03-May-19 07:43 PM GMT

Fantastic return to your diary Nick with some interesting information and great photos 😊

**NickMorgan wrote:**



...Interestingly, despite the good weather some Small Tortoiseshells were found to be hibernating as early as the 4th August...

Here in the midlands it appears that Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks went into hibernation early because of the hot summer. Both species were scarce in the summer broods but have appeared in good numbers this spring.

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 04-May-19 03:54 PM GMT

I'm so glad you returned to posting on your diary, Nick, because that was a wonderful, informative read.

The area where you keep records is one of the most interesting in the country, with the gradual northwards dispersion of several species due (it is supposed) to climate change.

2018 seemed to have predominantly good news, although reports of the absence of Holly Blue is a little concerning.

PS - that image of the Peacock is as good as it gets!

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 06-May-19 09:23 PM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Interesting report Nick and echoes of some of the trends I saw and that were reported from my end of the country 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thank you Wurzel. It would be interesting to hear how butterflies have done up and down the country.

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 06-May-19 09:31 PM GMT

**Neil Freeman wrote:**

Here in the midlands it appears that Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks went into hibernation early because of the hot summer. Both species were scarce in the summer broods but have appeared in good numbers this spring.

Cheers,

Neil.

That is interesting Neil. I hadn't really given it that much thought, but this spring I have seen more Small Tortoiseshells than I have for a few years. So, they probably did a lot better last year than I realise. I wonder what drives them to hibernate so early? I could understand it if the weather was really poor, but it seems like a wasted opportunity to feed up for the winter!

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 06-May-19 09:40 PM GMT

**David M wrote:**

I'm so glad you returned to posting on your diary, Nick, because that was a wonderful, informative read.

The area where you keep records is one of the most interesting in the country, with the gradual northwards dispersion of several species due (it is supposed) to climate change.

2018 seemed to have predominantly good news, although reports of the absence of Holly Blue is a little concerning.

PS - that image of the Peacock is as good as it gets!

Thank you David. Don't worry a Holly Blue has been seen this year, so that elusive colony may still be there! We have had one or two records most years along an area of coast about six miles long. We suspect that there may be a colony of Holly Blues in a large private garden that has gone unnoticed. We are slowly homing in on it!

### Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 07-May-19 09:50 PM GMT

**NickMorgan wrote:**

...Don't worry a Holly Blue has been seen this year, so that elusive colony may still be there! We have had one or two records most years along an area of coast about six miles long. We suspect that there may be a colony of Holly Blues in a large private garden that has gone unnoticed. We are slowly homing in on it!

Good to know, Nick. 😊

It's not the most conspicuous of species but I'd be surprised if it had withered away given how well it's been doing in other parts of the UK lately.

**Re: Nick Morgan**

by NickMorgan, 11-May-19 10:16 PM GMT

Since 2012 we have spent four summer holidays in a villa near Alora, 45 kilometres north west of Malaga. Each time we have been there it has been early July and very hot! The roads were lined with dried up wild flowers and grasses and everything was brown, other than the orange groves and a few private gardens. We would often say that it would be interesting to see the area in the spring, when everything would be green.

So, this year my wife and I found ourselves able to go away by ourselves now that the children have moved out and we decided to return to Alora in April. This time we stayed in an apartment in the village, so it wasn't quite so easy to pop out and look for butterflies.

Unfortunately, we didn't choose the best week to go away. Firstly, the village was the middle of incredible Easter celebrations, meaning most businesses were closed and it was almost impossible to move at times. Also, while the UK was basking unseasonably hot weather, southern Spain was suffering from unseasonable cloud and showers!

When we arrived the village was in complete gridlock, so it was a good excuse for me to take a quick trip to my old butterfly spot near the villa we used to rent. This was an area where I saw numerous Southern Gatekeepers and Dusky Heaths in the summer months, but I was too early for them this year. Interestingly, Spanish Gatekeepers, *Pyronia bathseba*, took the place of the Southern Gatekeepers and I wondered why I had not seen them on my four previous visits to this spot.



Although it was relatively cool and there were only occasional sunny spells there were still a reasonable number of butterflies flying, including Small Whites, *Pieris rapae*, Southern Blues, *Polyommatus celina*, Meadow Browns, *Maniola jurtina*



and Clouded Yellows, *Colias croceus*.



As in previous visits I saw a few Geranium Bronzes, *Cacyreus marshalli*, which seemed a little out of place in this natural environment.



There was also a faded Long-tailed Blue, a Small Copper, a Southern Brown Argus and a Large White. Not bad for an hour on a cloudy day.

In the summer this area is full of flowering Thyme, Lavender and Rosemary, but in April there were a lot of annual flowering plants but the more woody herbs were not yet in flower.

The following day I decided to check out my other favourite spot down by the Rio de Guadalhorce. In the summer there is a great patch of mint in flower, which attracts a lot of butterflies. Of course it wasn't yet in flower, but there were plenty of other wild flowers there.



I was frustrated that it clouded over before I arrived and there was quite a strong wind blowing. After about 15 minutes there was a bit of a break in the clouds and a Painted Lady was the first butterfly to brave the conditions. It didn't hang about, but at least it proved that it was warm enough for butterflies.

Not long afterwards I spotted a lovely Long-tailed Blue, *Lampides boeticus*, in some grass and it slowly opened its wings to absorb a few of the sun's rays.



As I watched it a Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*, landed on a stem close by.



I walked further down stream and found a Southern Brown Argus, *Aricia cramera*.



While I was watching it, I disturbed a Bath White, *Pontia daplidice*, which landed on the ground and once warmed up a bit flew to a flower for a feed.



Although it was frustrating that there was so much cloud, at least the cooler weather meant that the butterflies were easier to photograph. I had specifically gone to this area, as I have always found African Grass Blues here in the summer, but despite extensive searching I didn't see any on this visit. However, the sun came out and after a while the place was alive with butterflies. Mostly Small Coppers, which looked beautiful glinting in the sun.



There were also a number of Southern Brown Argus flying with them and by far the most numerous, Clouded Yellows were everywhere I looked. There were the occasional Wall Brown and Meadow Brown, some more Bath Whites, a few small whites and one Southern Blue, *Polyommatus celina*. And then, as if they had had too much sun they all appeared to disappear!

The following day I decided to walk up a track above the cemetery. This ran between olive groves and what appeared to be fallow fields.



There were plenty of wild flowers and a number of butterflies flitting from flower to flower. They were all white or yellow, being Small Whites, Large Whites, Clouded Yellows





... and what I assumed were more Bath Whites. However, when I examined my photographs back at the apartment I saw that they were all Western Dappled Whites, *Euchloe crameri*.



I found it interesting that there were no Bath Whites amongst them. Presumably, just a little change in habitat meant that this area was more favourable to Dappled Whites and the flowers down by the river suited Bath Whites.

I had been keeping an eye on the forecast, which had been pretty accurate. Monday looked like it was going to be sunny in the morning and so I planned to go to a area of limestone mountains about 30 miles north. I will report on what I saw there next. Sadly, however, that was to be the only other day with sufficient sun for me to look for butterflies. Typically, the weather improved considerably from the day we left!

The day before we left I drove past the area near the river where I had seen so many butterflies to discover that it had been completely grazed to the ground by a large herd of goats. Although this was rather frustrating, I was pleased that I had been able to visit the area before this had happened. I did wonder where all of the butterflies would go, though!

### Re: Nick Morgan

by Wurzel, 11-May-19 10:41 PM GMT

Cracking shot of the WD40 😊 I didn't think that the underside of whites could come any better than our Orange-tip but it looks like I was wrong 😊👍 I'm trying not to think about the Spanish Gatekeeper 🇪🇸🇪🇸 : 😊 mrgreen:

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 12-May-19 07:53 AM GMT

Lovely images, Nick. That last one of *crameri* is particularly nice (not a butterfly prone to sitting still normally!)

I shall look forward to further instalments.

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 12-May-19 09:18 AM GMT

Thank you Wurzel and David,

The advantage of the cloudy weather was that the butterflies regularly stopped. The Dappled White behaved much like an Orange Tip and would only fly when the sun was out.

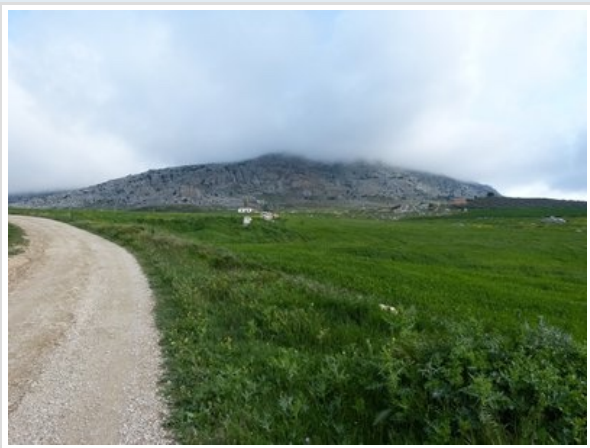
Are you not going abroad soon Wurzel?

## Re: Nick Morgan

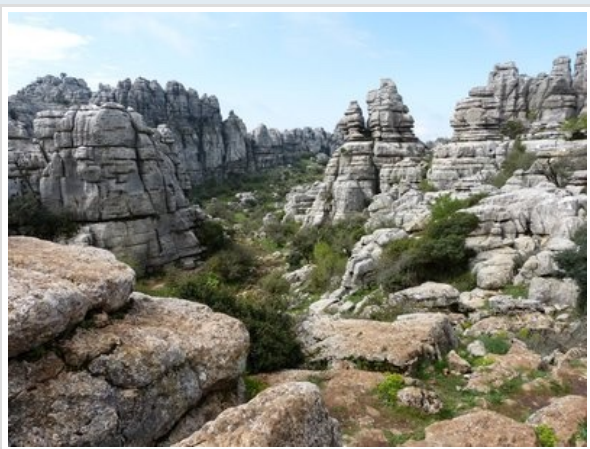
by NickMorgan, 18-May-19 08:42 PM GMT

On Monday 29th April I went on my planned trip to El Torcal de Antequera. This is an area of amazing limestone formations and the pictures I had seen of the Natural Park looked very promising, with valleys of wild flowers and weathered rock formations. I decided to leave early as the forecast promised sun in the morning, until about 11am and then it was to cloud over before rain later in the afternoon.

Before any such visit I normally spend some time looking at Google Earth and Streetview to see if I can spot any promising locations. My first planned destination was on the south side of the mountains, but when I arrived at the track I was intending to walk along it was completely cloudy, 9 degrees and there was a strong wind blowing. There was some blue sky around, so I decided to press on regardless. I was very pleased to have a cheap fleece top, that we had each bought on arrival in the village! As I walked, I grew more frustrated at the weather. I thought that even if the sun did come out, the cold wind would still mean that butterflies were unlikely to fly. After a while, it dawned on me that the clouds were being formed over the mountains and just sitting there. As one area of clouds blew away more rolled in behind. I therefore decided to give up on this site, thinking that maybe I could try again in the afternoon when the sun would have swung round away from the mountains.



So I drove to the El Torcal Natural Park. My intention had been to park at the bottom of the entrance road and then walk up to the visitor centre, but the weather was so miserable that I just drove up to the main car park, which was surprisingly busy. Everyone else was dressed as if they were going on an arctic expedition and I felt quite self conscious in my thin fleece. It was 7 degrees up at the car park, still cloudy and windy.



I decided to walk the Yellow Route, which promised panoramic views and I noticed that there appeared to be more sun on the north side of the mountains. So, after my 2.5 kilometre loop of very interesting rock formations, mostly dotted with people climbing up them, I jumped back in the car and drove around to the north. It did appear that the mountains were holding the clouds, and as I rounded a corner the sun came out.

I stopped at a likely looking area, and started to follow a track that appeared to head west, parallel with the mountains. It was interesting to see that there was a fence running next to the path and goats were grazing the lower slopes of the mountain. Luckily they were not on my side of the fence and I was treated to a fantastic display of wild flowers. Initially, not many butterflies, though.



The track turned a corner that then went through some fields of wheat. I was beginning to wonder if this wasn't going to be such a good spot, after all, but I saw a distant white butterfly so decided to continue. I caught up with it and saw that it was a Small White, *Pieris rapae*. At least it meant that it was warm enough for butterflies, though.



The track then went back into another lovely area of wild flowers and scrub and I was delighted to see a Spanish Marbled White, *Melanargia ines*, which I watched for some time.



A couple of Clouded Yellows, *Colias crocea*, and more Small Whites appeared in this section.





Continuing further along the track the vegetation became shorter and then it followed the edge of some arable fields. When the track joined another track I decided that I really needed to turn around in order to get back to my wife when I said I would.

I followed a little butterfly and saw that it was a Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*, then this Dappled White, which I am still not 100% sure if it is Western or Portuguese.



The Small Whites and Clouded Yellows were out in force now and I saw the occasional unidentified white or blue butterfly. The sun kindly went behind a cloud for a while, which was enough for one of the smaller whites to stop flying. It turned out to be a Green-striped White, *Euchloe belemia*, – one of my favourites.



I was now off-piste, so I looped back to join the track, spotting a small blue butterfly in the process. After much following, it stopped for long enough for a picture and an ID of Southern Blue, *Polyommatus celina*.



I was now very off-piste and struggling to locate the track. As I pushed through some Lavender bushes a small insect flew away, which, when it landed I saw was a little blue butterfly – Panoptes Blue, *Pseudophilotes panoptes*. I found myself saying, "Oh yes, brilliant!" out loud and then hoped there was no one anywhere near!



The first I saw was a male and then it magically turned into a female as I tried to follow this diminutive little butterfly. They were both very obliging, staying in one spot for long enough for me to manage to photograph them. This was the first time I have ever seen this species and it is a butterfly that I have long wanted to see.



What a difference from a few hours ago when I was cursing the weather! I managed to relocate the track and started to walk back towards the car. However, it was as if someone had switched on the butterfly switch and they were everywhere. Mostly more Small Whites, Clouded Yellows and Spanish Marbled Whites. But then the occasional blue, some Black-eyed Blues, *Glaucopsyche melanops*.

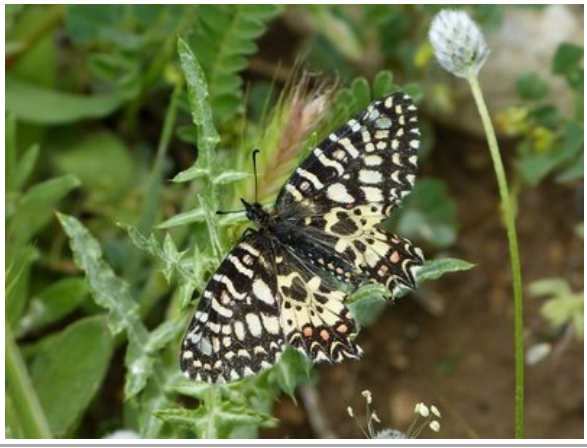




And then another really small blue, which turned out to Lorquin's Blue, *Cupido lorquini*.



As I was photographing them I thought that I saw a couple of large moths flying nearby, but they turned out to be quite faded Spanish Festoons, *Zerynthia rumina*!



I dragged myself away from this magical spot and back through the wheat fields towards the car, only to discover that the area of short vegetation around the car was attractive to more Panoptes Blues. I saw at least six there, along with some Small Coppers and Southern Brown Argus, *Aricia cramera*.





I returned to the apartment feeling very satisfied with my day out looking for butterflies. When I arrived back in Alora, I parked in the main car park and walked past a very overgrown rose bed. And there was an African Grass Blue, *Zizeeria knysna*, flitting about. As I was running a little late, I decided not to photograph it, but to leave it for another day. Sadly that was the last sunny day of our holiday, so I didn't get a chance.

Never mind, my wife has just booked the apartment again for September!!

### Re: Nick Morgan

by Padfield, 18-May-19 10:03 PM GMT

Very interesting, Nick. As you know, I was very near where you were – on a different part of the massif – just a couple of weeks earlier, and saw only false baton blue, not Panoptes. Yours are all definitely *panoptes*. Next year I will try very hard to get both!

Guy

### Re: Nick Morgan

by essexbuzzard, 18-May-19 10:16 PM GMT

Great report, Nick. Some very desirable spring species there. Just shows what a bit of sunshine can do. Who could have known you would have Panoptes Blues in next to the car park, having trekked across a mountain side to find it!

### Re: Nick Morgan

by Wurzel, 19-May-19 06:32 PM GMT

Fantastic Blues Nick 🤔👍 I wouldn't worry about the exclamations out loud – yours sound quite reasonable compared to some I've heard (mainly the ones coming from my mouth 😅😅😅😅😅)

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 19-May-19 09:55 PM GMT

That looks to be an extremely interesting area, Nick, from a scenery, geological AND butterfly perspective!

I absolutely have to get myself to southern Spain in early spring very soon.

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 19-May-19 11:31 PM GMT

Thank you Guy for confirming my IDs. It is interesting how different species like subtly different habitats. I suppose that even at home I see Small Whites in Sections 1 and 2 of my transect and then Green-veined Whites along much of the rest of the route, closer to the river. I certainly want to return again in the spring to look for False Baton Blues and all of these lovely species again.

Thank you everyone else for the comments. I am a great fan of Southern Spain. I am slowly learning good places to look for butterflies. I would also love to visit other parts of Spain, such as the Picos de Europa and the Pyrenees. There is just so much to see there.

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 25-May-19 10:32 PM GMT

After my two-year sabbatical from my Personal Diary, I thought I should fill in some highlights from that period.

Last May, when I was walking my transect, I saw a male Orange Tip, which I thought had lost the tip of one of its wings. It was struggling slightly to fly and just looked odd. On my way back, I saw the same butterfly and it kindly landed to give me a better look. It turned out to be a gynandromorph, which was quite a surprise. Sadly, I didn't have my camera with me, but I had my new phone. Sadly, by the time I had figured out how to use the camera the Orange Tip had almost closed its wings, having previously posed beautifully.





At least I had a couple of fuzzy pictures to prove that I had seen it.

Then in August, on my way back from walking my transect again, I was watching some Small Coppers on a patch of Mint. I almost ignored a little moth that was flying with them, but luckily I took a closer look and saw it was an aberrant – *schmidtii*



Again, I didn't have my camera, but luckily it was there a couple of days later when I went back to look for it.

### Re: Nick Morgan

by essexbuzzard, 25-May-19 10:41 PM GMT

I too love Southern Spain in spring, having been a couple of times. It's a great way to start the season and, being early, it doesn't interfere with our spring species, so you're not going to miss much at home. Great diversity of butterflies there, including several still on my wish list !

### Re: Nick Morgan

by Wurzel, 26-May-19 03:39 PM GMT

Cricky Nick - I'd love to see an ab.schmidtii - it's a stunning looking butterfly 🥰🌱🌱

Have a goodun

Wurzel



### Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 26-May-19 05:03 PM GMT

That must have been a heart-stopping moment when you realised what that Orange Tip actually was, Nick?

I've seen a *polonus* hybrid, which was exciting enough, but never a gynandromorph.

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 26-May-19 11:45 PM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Crickley Nick – I'd love to see an ab.schmidtii – it's a stunning looking butterfly 🦋🇧🇪🇮🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Wurzel, it was stunning, because it was different from the norm, but I have to admit that it was a little dull! I thought to myself, "imagine if *schmidtii* was the normal form, how stunning the copper aberration would be!"

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 26-May-19 11:46 PM GMT

**David M wrote:**

I've seen a *polonus* hybrid, which was exciting enough, but never a gynandromorph.

What is this David? I can't even find anything on Google!!

### Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 27-May-19 05:08 PM GMT

**NickMorgan wrote:**

**David M wrote:**

I've seen a *polonus* hybrid, which was exciting enough, but never a gynandromorph.

What is this David? I can't even find anything on Google!!

A hybrid, *bellargus x coridon*.

<https://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/aberrations.php?species=bellargus>

### Re: Nick Morgan

by Padfield, 27-May-19 06:08 PM GMT

With the amazing numbers of small coppers around near Woodbridge, I must keep my eyes peeled for a *schmidtii* – something I've never seen.

On 1st April 2008 I posted a photo of a gynandrous orange tip (here: <http://www.guypadfield.com/images2008/cardaminesgynandromorph4.jpg>) and was soon contacted by a world expert on gynandromorphs asking if he could reproduce it in his latest book. Sadly, I had to point out the date and admit to photoshopping the image. Yours is for real – congratulations! What a shame you didn't have your camera with you.

Guy

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 28-May-19 12:22 PM GMT

**David M wrote:**

A hybrid, *bellargus x coridon*.

<https://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/aberrations.php?species=bellargus>

Ah, that is very exciting. I haven't seen either species, let alone a hybrid between them!

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 28-May-19 02:48 PM GMT

#### Padfield wrote:

With the amazing numbers of small coppers around near Woodbridge, I must keep my eyes peeled for a *schmidtii* – something I've never seen.

On 1st April 2008 I posted a photo of a gynandrous orange tip (here: <http://www.guypadfield.com/images2008/cardaminesgynandromorph4.jpg>) and was soon contacted by a world expert on gynandromorphs asking if he could reproduce it in his latest book. Sadly, I had to point out the date and admit to photoshopping the image. Yours is for real – congratulations! What a shame you didn't have your camera with you.

Guy

Two exciting sightings and they were less than 100 metres apart, albeit on different dates. I was extremely frustrated that I didn't have my camera, and if I had my old phone with me I would have managed better pictures, but at least I had some form of evidence. The best thing was that a lady saw me taking the pictures and remarked "Orange Tip". So, I told her what I had seen and later I met a dog walker I regularly see when I walk my transect. She usually stops for a chat, so I had to tell her too. The next time I saw them, they had each seen this same butterfly and when I quizzed them they said, "yes, definitely orange tip on one side and not the other." So, it was good to have inspired others to pay attention to the butterflies and it was also good to learn that it had stayed within 300 metres of where I had seen it for the next few days.

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 08-Jun-19 04:27 PM GMT

I was looking through my pictures from my morning near Antequera and I discovered that some of my Spanish Marbled Whites were actually Western Marbled Whites, *Melanargia occitanica*.

Even though the pictures are not very good, they are sufficient to identify the butterfly. So, that was a second lifer for me that day. Now I wonder what proportion of the ten or so I saw were Spanish or Western!



### Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 09-Jun-19 06:21 PM GMT

Those rust-coloured veins give it away, Nick. Mind you, I'd have been happy with Spanish Marbled White, given that I've never yet seen one. 🇬🇧

### Re: Nick Morgan

by Wurzel, 09-Jun-19 08:13 PM GMT

Crickey Nick I've only ever seen one type of Marbled White 😊🇮🇪 so to try and differentiate between the two species I wouldntt know where to begin – better get back to some study of Tolman 🤔😓

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 09-Jun-19 09:35 PM GMT

Just as a matter of interest, Nick, how commonplace were Spanish Marbled Whites in that area when you visited?

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 11-Jun-19 12:36 PM GMT

**David M wrote:**

Just as a matter of interest, Nick, how commonplace were Spanish Marbled Whites in that area when you visited?

That is a good question David. I counted more than ten on that walk, but that was before I realised that there were also Western Marbled Whites there! On previous visits to Southern Spain and Portugal in April and May I have usually only spotted one or two Spanish Marbled Whites.

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 11-Jun-19 12:39 PM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Crickey Nick I've only ever seen one type of Marbled White 😊🇮🇪 so to try and differentiate between the two species I wouldntt know where to begin – better get back to some study of Tolman 🤔😓

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Wurzel,

I have been lucky to have seen Iberian, Spanish, Balkan and now Western Marbled Whites. The one that I haven't seen is the Marbled White, *Melanargia galathea*, that we get in the UK. They haven't made their way up to Scotland yet and I haven't managed to see one when I have been down south!

### Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 13-Jun-19 05:15 PM GMT

Thanks, Nick. Haven't managed to see Spanish Marbled White yet....but it's on my list!!

Funnily enough, we were discussing only today how much longer would it be before Marbled Whites hit SE Scotland. I reckon two more heatwave summers are all that's required!! 😊

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 14-Jun-19 12:25 PM GMT

**David M wrote:**

Thanks, Nick. Haven't managed to see Spanish Marbled White yet....but it's on my list!!

Funnily enough, we were discussing only today how much longer would it be before Marbled Whites hit SE Scotland. I reckon two more heatwave summers are all that's required!! 😊

David,

That would be very exciting. I think they are up as far as Yorkshire? I don't know anything about their movement, but I guess from what you are saying they may be expanding their range northwards. It is interesting that there appears to be no movement in Gatekeepers and I can't think why. We get the occasional Brimstone making it into the Scottish Borders, but I think that the lack of food plants is why they are not a permanent feature. I have planted some Alder Buckthorn in my new hedge just in case!!

### Re: Nick Morgan

by millerd, 14-Jun-19 08:27 PM GMT

Hi Nick – Marbled Whites can be found in decent numbers on the chalk of the Yorkshire Wolds. To make it further north, they are going to have to find a

few suitable corridors of habitat. You'd think that with their fairly catholic taste in grassland (including roadside verges) they might just manage to creep your way... 😊

Cheers,

Dave

## Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 23-Jun-19 10:36 AM GMT

On 5th June A friend and I drove down to the coast in Berwickshire near Burnmouth in search of Small Blues. I picked Abbie up in Haddington in fog and drizzle and we questioned whether we were mad to look for butterflies in such weather. However, it brightened up on the drive down and by the time we arrived the sun was shining. We saw about 15 Red Admirals on the road down to where we parked along with a lot of Green-veined Whites. I have previously wondered why I hadn't seen any butterflies along this track despite what appeared like great habitat for them.

We had a morning of sunshine and grey clouds and the first Small Blue we found was sitting next to the path. By this time I thought that we may not see any more sun, but I was pleased to have seen a Small Blue.

However, the sun returned and we had a good couple of hours watching butterflies. Iain Cowe phoned me and said that he had heard that there was a mass arrival of Red Admirals along the coast, which we confirmed!

Over the morning we must have seen close to 100 Small Blues, about 25 or 30 Red Admirals, about 60 Green-veined Whites, two Small Coppers, a Common Blue, a Large Skipper, 8 Wall Browns, a Small White and about 50 Small Heaths.

We returned back to East Lothian to be greeted by a monsoon! My wife told me that the weather had been very grey and cloudy up here all the time we were away!







### Re: Nick Morgan

by Wurzel, 23-Jun-19 10:56 PM GMT

It must have been great to have seen the irruption of Red Admirals Nick 😊 Lovely st of shots – that Small blue on the finger really lives up to it's name, a very Diminutive Blue 🤔🤔🤔

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 24-Jun-19 06:00 AM GMT

Great to see the Small Blues, Nick, as well as hearing about the influx of Red Admirals (brace yourself now for Painted Ladies!)

The female Green Veined White is stunning. It's so well marked I could probably mistake it for Mountain Green Veined White.

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 24-Jun-19 12:31 PM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

It must have been great to have seen the irruption of Red Admirals Nick 😊 Lovely st of shots – that Small blue on the finger really lives up to it's name, a very Diminutive Blue 🤔🤔🤔

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Wurzel, I remember a mass arrival of Red Admirals a few years ago on a typical dreich Scottish July day. It was misty and drizzling with a strong wind and as I walked along the coastal path a Red Admiral kept flying across the front of me. I wondered why it was circling around me like that and then realised that it was several different Red Admirals arriving from over the North Sea. I guess they set off in glorious sunshine in Holland or Belgium, or who knows where and once on their way had to keep flying until they hit land. A friend was at North Berwick that same day and she reported several Red Admirals coming in from the sea there, too.

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 24-Jun-19 12:34 PM GMT

#### David M wrote:

Great to see the Small Blues, Nick, as well as hearing about the influx of Red Admirals (brace yourself now for Painted Ladies!)

The female Green Veined White is stunning. It's so well marked I could probably mistake it for Mountain Green Veined White.

David,

The Painted Lady invasion started two days later and it was in far greater numbers. They were still seen arriving on the coast last week and have since dispersed inland. I would love to know where the Red Admirals and Painted Ladies set out from and if it was on different days.

Our Green-veined Whites are quite variable. The females tend to be particularly dark, whereas the males can have almost no markings at all. I noticed yesterday that the second generation females had a tremendous amount of marking on the upper wings. I also had to look at a male for ages to determine if it was a Green-veined or Small White. I don't think I had seen such a pale one before.

## Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 24-Jun-19 11:25 PM GMT

### NickMorgan wrote:

..The Painted Lady invasion started two days later and it was in far greater numbers. They were still seen arriving on the coast last week and have since dispersed inland...

There are more crossing continental Europe right now, Nick. Many more.

Towards the end of the week, warm SE winds will direct them towards the UK.

I expect they will arrive in serious numbers where they will find a green, damp and verdant Britain after several dull, damp & cloudy weeks over here.

Looks like a 'perfect storm'.

## Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 24-Jun-19 11:51 PM GMT

### David M wrote:

#### NickMorgan wrote:

..The Painted Lady invasion started two days later and it was in far greater numbers. They were still seen arriving on the coast last week and have since dispersed inland...

There are more crossing continental Europe right now, Nick. Many more.

Towards the end of the week, warm SE winds will direct them towards the UK.

I expect they will arrive in serious numbers where they will find a green, damp and verdant Britain after several dull, damp & cloudy weeks over here.

Looks like a 'perfect storm'.

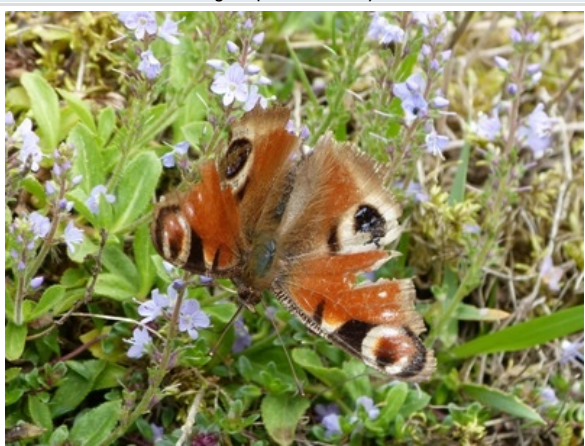
That could be very exciting David. On my transect two weeks ago I had 35 Painted Ladies in just one section. I received many reports from around the coast of people seeing 20 or 30 in one location. Imagine if we get even more later this week and then our Ringlets, Meadow Browns and Small Skippers will all soon be out in numbers! We won't be able to move for butterflies!!

## Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 11-Jul-19 08:04 PM GMT

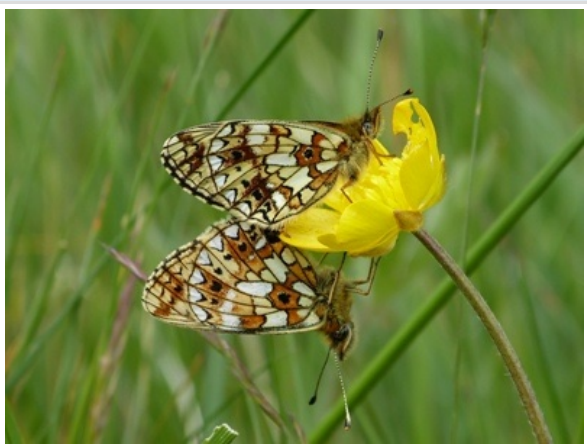
On 15th June I quickly visited the valley above our house near Selkirk. It was 14 degrees and cloudy, but I was hoping that I may find some roosting Northern Brown Argus. My dad told me that he visited this spot one morning and found several Northern Brown Argus roosting on grass stems, so I thought it was worth a try. However, I am aware that things tend to happen down here a couple of weeks later than up in East Lothian, so I wasn't sure if there would be any NBA out yet.

There wasn't much happening when I first arrived there, but I did see a Green-veined White flying down by the stream, which at least suggested it was warm enough for butterflies to fly. After a while I disturbed a Small Heath and then another. I walked up and down the path several times seeing more Small Heaths and an Orange Tip. Then a very tattered Peacock.





There were a lot of moths flying and I followed one particularly interesting one along the path until it dropped down and I lost it. However, while I was looking for it I found a pair of Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries. I have seen one there on two previous occasions. They seemed very vulnerable, right at the side of the path, but I don't suppose anyone else walked there that day. While I was lying down in the grass trying to get a picture another Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary flew past.







I thought to myself that despite not seeing any Northern Brown Argus, it had still been a successful visit, so I turned for home. Then a little dark butterfly crashed into the grass in front of me. I assumed it was going to be a Chimney Sweeper moth, but it turned out to be a Northern Brown Argus.



So, a very successful visit!  
There was also a Common Lizard, which was a nice surprise.



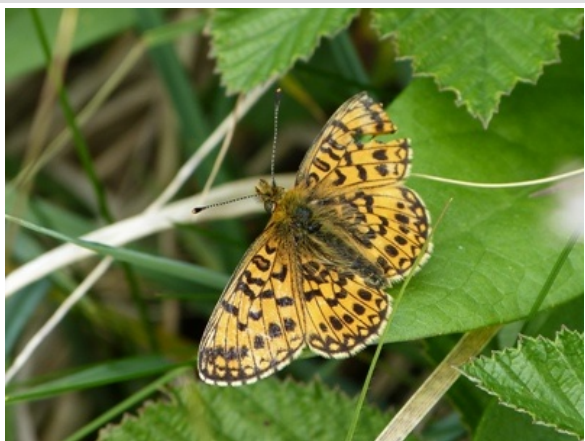
## Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 11-Jul-19 08:47 PM GMT

It is interesting to see the difference a week can make. I visited the little valley above our house near Yarrowford again on the 23rd June. The weather had been sunny in the morning, but was a bit overcast when I arrived there (of course!). This time I saw 40 Northern Brown Argus on my first walk up the valley, along with 25 Small Heather and a Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary.



As I walked back and followed a few Northern Brown Argus trying to get some pictures I estimate that there must have been more than 100 of them there. The Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary patrolled up and down along the valley when the sun came out and there must have been more than six there. Those that stopped were all looking rather worn out.





I also disturbed a Dark Green Fritillary, which was a surprise. Sadly, it dashed off up over the heather never to be seen again. There were also a few Small Coppers and only one Green-veined White.



On the way back I saw a Peacock in lovely condition. I think it must have just looked after itself well over the winter, as I can't believe that it could be one of this year's generation yet.

Back at the house there were just a few tattered Green-veined Whites and Orange Tips flying around.



## Re: Nick Morgan

by Wurzel, 12-Jul-19 12:16 PM GMT

Those NBAs are really stand out with the white spots on the fore wing 😊🌿 I also need to give you a couple of 🌿🌿 for the Small Pearls in cop – I need those to complete my 'Fritillaries in cop' set 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 13-Jul-19 06:29 AM GMT

### NickMorgan wrote:

...As I walked back and followed a few Northern Brown Argus trying to get some pictures I estimate that there must have been more than 100 of them there..

Those are excellent numbers, Nick, and you have an impressive range of species in that last report. Are NBAs having a particularly good year or do you regularly see lots of them?

## Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 04-Aug-19 10:18 AM GMT

### David M wrote:

#### NickMorgan wrote:

...As I walked back and followed a few Northern Brown Argus trying to get some pictures I estimate that there must have been more than 100 of them there..

Those are excellent numbers, Nick, and you have an impressive range of species in that last report. Are NBAs having a particularly good year or do you regularly see lots of them?

Sorry David, I haven't been on line in a while. It isn't unusual to see over 100 Northern Brown Argus in the little valley directly above our house. It is the best location I have ever been for them. There is an area containing Rockrose, which is far bigger than I have seen elsewhere. More often than not, in other locations I know you would be lucky to see 10 or 20 NBAs. I know of one colony, on the edge of a golf course, where there is very sparse Rockrose in an area smaller than my sitting room. Last year I only saw one NBA there and I haven't received any reports of them being seen there this year. My concern with the valley above our house is that this area used to be grazed, but about ten years ago the valley was planted with trees. The trees themselves are not a threat, but the ground isn't grazed and I think that long-term the bracken and heather may swamp out the Rockrose.

## Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 08-Aug-19 09:07 PM GMT

### NickMorgan wrote:

Sorry David, I haven't been on line in a while. It isn't unusual to see over 100 Northern Brown Argus in the little valley directly above our house. It is the best location I have ever been for them. There is an area containing Rockrose, which is far bigger than I have seen elsewhere. More often than not, in other locations I know you would be lucky to see 10 or 20 NBAs. I know of one colony, on the edge of a golf course, where there is very sparse Rockrose in an area smaller than my sitting room. Last year I only saw one NBA there and I haven't received any reports of them being seen there this year.

My concern with the valley above our house is that this area used to be grazed, but about ten years ago the valley was planted with trees. The trees themselves are not a threat, but the ground isn't grazed and I think that long-term the bracken and heather may swamp out the Rockrose.

Thanks for the response, Nick. Good to know that in certain places this species is thriving. 100+ is very healthy in such a small area.

## Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 08-Sep-19 12:09 AM GMT

Last month I looked at a few locations along the Yarrow Valley as part of the Northern Brown Argus survey. One of the surveys I did was along Lewinshope Rig and the Lewinshope Burn. There I had met a lady who lived two miles further up the valley, who said that there were loads of butterflies along there.



So, on 17th August I set off from our house, over the hill and down into the Lewinshope Valley. Although I was a little late in the season for many species, I remembered that I had seen an old record for Scotch Argus on there, so I thought it worth a look. Sadly I didn't manage to find any Scotch Argus, but it was a beautiful walk and I saw over 200 Peacocks. Many of the other species were rather worn out such as a Meadow Brown, Dark Green Fritillary, Small Skippers and a few Painted Ladies. I saw about ten Small Tortoiseshells and a couple of Red Admirals, a few Commas and about 15 Small Whites.



I stopped at a pond and tried to photograph a female Common Hawker that was laying eggs amongst the submerged grasses. As my boots slowly sank

below the water I was amazed to see an otter swim along the opposite bank. There were another three male Common Hawkers and as it flew off, I realise that there was another female resting on some grass that was touching my arm! Close by there were Large Red Damselflies and Emerald Damselflies.



At the end of the valley I had a steep climb up to Lewinshope Rig. On the way up I walked right next to a young Adder that wasn't in any hurry to leave. There was also a rather worn Common Blue. Up along the side of the Rig there were Peacocks all along the track, despite the strong wind. On the more sheltered side of the hill there were a number of Painted Ladies, mostly looking as though they had flown a long way to get there! Back down into the Hangingshaw Valley above our house I saw faded Dark Green Fritillary, some very tatty Meadow Browns, more Commas, Small Coppers, Small Skippers, Small Heaths, Green-veined Whites and a whole load more Peacocks!



Re: Nick Morgan

by Wurzel, 08-Sep-19 07:10 PM GMT

Great report Nick – stunning looking scenery 😊 The butterflies don't look half bad either 😊 apart from that Meadow Brown that is – it should be renamed a Meadow Grey 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 08-Sep-19 10:48 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel. Many of the butterflies I saw that day were very worn. I think they were the lucky ones, though. We had a lot of very heavy showers this summer, which finished off many butterflies. The survivors were mostly a bit worse for wear!

### Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 09-Sep-19 06:43 PM GMT

#### NickMorgan wrote:

...It was a beautiful walk and I saw over 200 Peacocks.



I don't think I've ever seen even approaching that many, Nick! Must have been a phenomenal sight?

That **does** look to be rather attractive habitat too. A lovely part of the UK it seems.

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 09-Sep-19 11:13 PM GMT

David,

It was rather surreal. The weather could have been better. It was really windy, so apart from the Peacocks there were not a lot of butterflies around. It seemed strange that there were so many Peacocks when there were so few other species flying.

It was a beautiful walk, ranging from a lovely sheltered track, to a more open track and then a climb up the hill to a forestry track. I am so lucky to have that right on my doorstep and I look forward to going there at different times of the year in the future.

What was even more of a thrill was two weeks later. I was in our garden in the Yarrow Valley, when I noticed a small, dark butterfly in the grass next to me. I dropped everything I was holding and ran down to the house for my glasses and camera. I was astonished to discover that it was a Scotch Argus. The reason I had done the walk in the Lewinshope Valley was that I had found a record of Scotch Argus from ten years ago from there, but now here was a Scotch Argus in my garden. I am now at a loss as to whether this individual has flown over from Lewinshope, if there is another colony somewhere, or if they have been living undiscovered in the grass close to our house. I think this is unlikely, as my father, who used to live there was a biologist and kept detailed records of the plants and animals he had seen there.



I followed the Scotch Argus to try to get a picture of the upper side of the wings to ensure I wasn't mistaken with its identity. I was even more amazed to see it laying eggs. Now I won't be able to cut the grass there and I excitedly await for next summer to see if any of its offspring survive. I will also be checking the Lewinshope Valley again and any other likely areas to see if there is a colony close by.





Re: Nick Morgan

by Wurzel, 10-Sep-19 08:18 PM GMT

Brilliant stuff Nick – despite the south having a greater range of species to have a Scotch Argus as a garden tick is incredible 🤩😄👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Nick Morgan

by NickMorgan, 10-Sep-19 09:48 PM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Brilliant stuff Nick – despite the south having a greater range of species to have a Scotch Argus as a garden tick is incredible 🤩😄👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks Wurzel.

Yes, you have to wonder how many people in the UK have Scotch Argus in their gardens!

### Re: Nick Morgan

by bugboy, 10-Sep-19 09:58 PM GMT

**NickMorgan wrote:**

**Wurzel wrote:**

Brilliant stuff Nick – despite the south having a greater range of species to have a Scotch Argus as a garden tick is incredible 🤩😄👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks Wurzel.

Yes, you have to wonder how many people in the UK have Scotch Argus in their gardens!

pretty safe to say they will be limited to north of the border!

### Re: Nick Morgan

by millerd, 11-Sep-19 12:02 AM GMT

Terrific shots of the egg-laying Scotch Argus, Nick. Unusual to capture anywhere, but in your back garden... 😊

Cheers,

Dave

### Re: Nick Morgan

by David M, 11-Sep-19 09:47 PM GMT

**NickMorgan wrote:**

..What was even more of a thrill was two weeks later. I was in our garden in the Yarrow Valley, when I noticed a small, dark butterfly in the grass next to me. I dropped everything I was holding and ran down to the house for my glasses and camera. I was astonished to discover that it was a Scotch Argus

That's fabulous, Nick. What a moment that must have been for you. As garden ticks go, that one is hard to beat.