

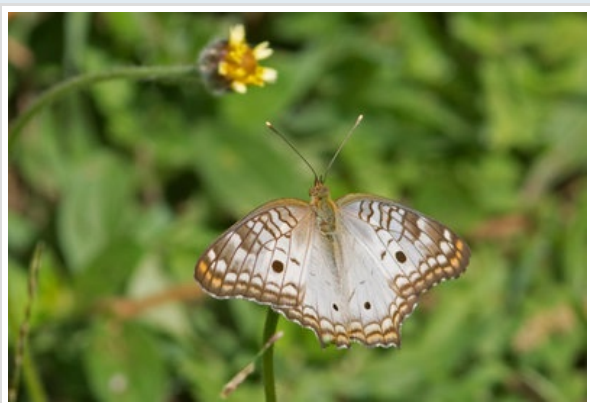
Tobago

by Tony Moore, 27-Jan-19 05:32 PM GMT

Just back from two weeks in Tobago - an interesting country, butterflywise. Although it only boasts a fifth of the Trinidad species (150 to 670+), it is very little researched and new species are still found. The only available book is Barcant 1970, which concerns itself mainly with rarity and collecting, and is now hopelessly out of date. I am indebted to Dr Malcolm Cock for his seminal work in *Insecta Mundi* (April 2017) on the butterflies of Tobago, in which he unravels the mis-identifications and omissions of past collectors and updates the taxonomy. He was also very kind in helping me with some IDs.

I was staying in the south of the island, near the capital, Scarborough and was very fortunate in there being a small area of hillside (about 100 x 50 mtrs) close to the hotel, which had been cleared a couple of years back and was now covered in light secondary growth. It was heaving with butterflies! I visited it twelve times and saw new species at every visit! I managed photographs of 27 species and must have seen half a dozen more. There were large Yellows, Whites and Apricots zooming about and several Skippers that I missed.

The commonest species was probably the White Peacock (*Anartia jatrophae*). An elegant butterfly with a rapid flight:



This was followed by the Hermes Satyr (*Hermeuptychia hermes*), a Gatekeeper-sized Satyrid, which had an odd habit of shrugging its shoulders quickly as it settled. It often sat open-winged, but closed up at any movement or sound:





I was reminded of Sylvie's excellent report from Arizona on the first morning, when I watched a Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*) eclose. It was very windy and this was the best I managed:



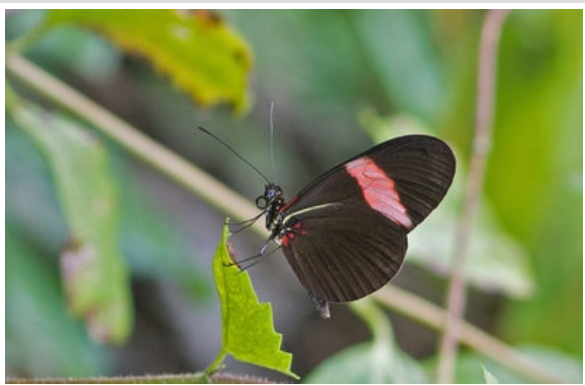
Whilst watching the Sulphur expand its wings, I had failed to notice a tiny 'hairstreak' on a flower head right in front of me . It was the only Suzanna's Groundstreak (*Calycopsis origo*) that I saw:



Red Peacocks (*Anartia amathia*) were common along roadside verges:



Small Postmen (mans? persons??) (*Heliconius erato tobagoensis*) patrolled the forest edge most days. This subspecies lacks the yellowish under hw band of the nominate examples:



More tomorrow...

Tony M.

Re: Tony Moore

by Wurzel, 27-Jan-19 06:04 PM GMT

Wow, wow, wow 🤩🤩🤩🤩 It must be amazing to be somewhere which such a range of different species – cracking shots one and all as well 😊🤩🤩
I might have to stop reading this to to a case of extreme envy 😊🤩

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 27-Jan-19 08:53 PM GMT

Nice work, Tony. Tobago may only have 150 or so species but when one takes a look at its size on a map.....

I look forward to seeing the rest of your report.

Re: Tony Moore

by Padfield, 27-Jan-19 10:58 PM GMT

Fascinating, Tony. I look forward to the rest of your pictures and commentary. I have Barcant but as you imply, it's of very limited use as a field guide, especially given how out of date it is.

For anyone interested, that Insecta Mundi document is online here: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2048&context=insectamundi>.

Keep them coming - I'm missing butterflies!

Guy

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 28-Jan-19 05:04 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, David and Guy for your kind remarks.

I do feel very fortunate to have the opportunities to see these exotic species, mainly due to the kind offices of my lovely wife, who is keeper of the purse strings in our house 🍷🍷. I only wish I'd started 40 years ago...

Tobago. 2.

A shot of the coast from Fort King George:



There were several 'longtail' Skippers seen, the Dorantes Longtail (*Urbanus dorantes*) looked very black in flight:



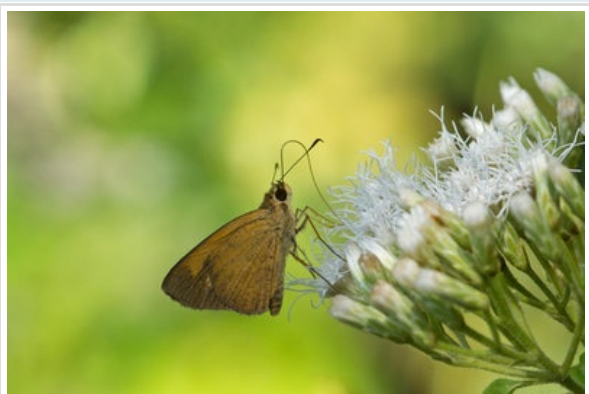
Tanna Longtail (*U. tanna*):



and White-striped Longtail (*Chioides catillus*) were also occasional visitors:



I only saw one Malicious Skipper (*Synapte malitiosa*), which seemed quite placid to me...



The Tropical Buckeye (*Junonia zonalis*) was seen in several places on the island, usually on dusty roadside verges, but they were difficult to approach:



The White Sailor (*Dynamine theseus*) is a delightful little butterfly, which hangs about its foodplant (a shrub not yet identified), and chases off any intruders:



I include this poor shot of a battered Cyan Greatstreak (*Pseudocaena marsyas*) – the only example I saw as it shows the amazing upper wing colour. It flashed away in a dazzle of electric blue:



Another poor shot, I'm afraid – one of only three specimens of the Least Heliconian (*Eueides aliphera*) seen. Mr Sod invoked his law when a stunning fresh one was seen near King Georges Fort, when I was cameraless – ggrrr!



During the two weeks, I only had one opportunity at any of the large Whites and Yellows which were whizzing around. It turned out to be the Great Southern White (*Ascia monuste*):



TBC...

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 28-Jan-19 09:36 PM GMT

Beautiful, Tony. That Cyan Greatstreak makes a Purple Emperor seem dull in comparison!

Re: Tobago

by Tony Moore, 29-Jan-19 07:05 PM GMT

Tobago 3

The Tobagan national bird is the indigenous Mot-mot, which I was pleased to see on a visit to the central ridge:



There had been several whitish, slow flying butterflies near the forest edge of my site, which were all very worn and resisted identification. Near where the Mot-mot was seen, I came across a freshly emerged example:



This was finally ID'ed as the South American Mestra (*Mestra hersilia*). The Common Mestra (*M. anymone*) - which does not occur in Tobago - has a wide apricot border to the hw and was the only one pictured in my Swift guide to Central America.

The Cassius Blue (*Leptotes cassius*) is common in the region, but apparently gets less blue the further East it is found:



Another delicate little white butterfly (Large Blue sized) was the Ghost Yellow (*Eurema albula*):



In one very small area I found a Fridericus Spreadwing (*Ouleus fridericus sheldoni*):



I watched it on five mornings, patrolling its one sq mtr area. On the sixth morning, a couple of fresh ones appeared and it was vanquished. In contest, the males spin in tiny circles at astonishing speed appearing to be black and white; in this Tobagan subspecies, the back half of the hw underside is pure white. They were very difficult to photograph as they sat in dark vegetation and if flash was attempted, the pre-flash frightened them off.

In this part of the world, I hoped to see some riodinids.

I took pix of a couple of dull looking little butterflies and it was not until I processed the shots that I realised that there were two species, and both Riodinidae (d'oh!).

Common Theope (*Theope virgilius*):

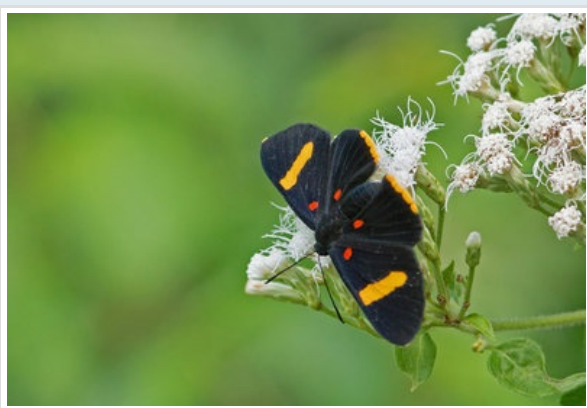


And Orange-and-blue Theope (*Theope eudocia*):



The first has bright blue uppers and the second is mainly bright orange. A bit unfair of them to keep these beautiful colours hidden...

My prize metalmark was the Orange-banded Pixie (*Melanis electron*):



I saw several of these, only on one small bush and always between 0800 and 0900. Although supposedly common, they were a neotropical highlight for yours truly.

The most spectacular species seen was, as Sylvie thought in Arizona, the magnificent Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*):



Not a fritillary at all, but a heliconian. I saw several every day and they were in sparkling condition.

Hope these species have brightened some Januaries and please can I go back again....

Tony M.

Re: Tony Moore

by bugboy, 29-Jan-19 09:07 PM GMT

You really do get about don't you tony! Love the Motmot and that *Mestra* is very beautiful. I'd not come across that genus before which prompted me to google it. What fabulous larvae they have!

http://www.butterfliesofamerica.com/L/t/Mestra_a.htm

It's worth noting that the larger Fritillaries are actually in the Heliconiinae subfamily, so the Gulf Fritillary is closer to them than you may think 😊

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 29-Jan-19 09:50 PM GMT

Thanks for the link, Bugboy.

A very unusual larva indeed. The adults flap about like Wood Whites and it was odd that of many dozens that I saw in my bit of hillside, none was in pristine condition.

Tony M.

Re: Tobago

by David M, 31-Jan-19 01:04 PM GMT

Tony Moore wrote:

...Hope these species have brightened some Januaries and please can I go back again....

They sure have, Tony, particularly Gulf Fritillary and that delectable Cassius Blue. 😊

Re: Tony Moore

by Wurzel, 31-Jan-19 08:31 PM GMT

A fantastic array again – the Orange-barred Pixie doesn't look real, it looks like something that's been handed to a toddler with a paint set 😄😄 Are the Long-tails related to the Skippers as they have a Skippeish look about them? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 01-Feb-19 04:46 PM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel,

Yes, the longtails are Skippers (mainly neotropical, I think) of various genera. If you google 'Longtail Skippers' you'll have enough to keep you going for the rest of the Winter 🍷.

My favourite – not a true longtail – is the Two-barred Flasher (*Astraptes fulgerator*), which was common in Costa Rica, but sadly, not found in Tobago.



Tony M.

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 02-Feb-19 09:52 PM GMT

Tony Moore wrote:

My favourite – not a true longtail – is the Two-barred Flasher (*Astraptes fulgerator*), which was common in Costa Rica, but sadly, not found in Tobago.

I can see why, Tony. The vivid blue colour extends even to the body!

Northern Greece

by Tony Moore, 18-Apr-19 07:00 PM GMT

A serious life tick in Northern Greece, thanks to the kind offices of Greenwings and Martin Warren (no prizes for guessing what!). We had a week of dreadful weather with only one full day of sunshine and a couple of dull/occasionally bright days. Typical:



Despite the inclemency, there was an enormous influx of Painted Ladies. They were everywhere, even flying in the rain. I found several larvae, including this one, unusually on Mallow:



An advantage of the cold, overcast conditions was that when we found something roosting or resting, it tended not to move, and made photography comparatively easy.

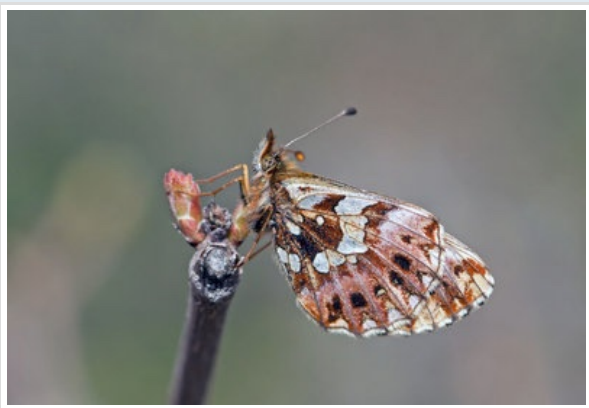
Good numbers of Grecian Coppers (*Heodes ottomanus*) and Sooty Coppers (*H. tityrus*) about:



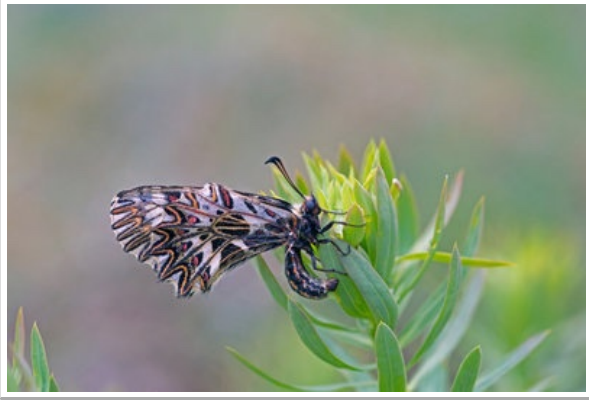
And Green-underside Blue (*Glaucopsyche alexis*), surely one of the most beautiful 'blue' uppers :



This smart, fresh Weaver's Fritillary (*Clossiana dia*) was particularly cooperative:



We found a rather bedraggled Southern Festoon (*Zerynthia polyxena*):



Which brightened spectacularly when the sun suddenly appeared:



Gruner's Orange-tip (*Anthocharis gruneri*) was a new one for most of the company:



Eastern Dappled White (*Euchloe ausonia*) was very common along with SW, LW, GVW and Wood White:



...but I was delighted when one of the WWs turned out to be Eastern Wood White (*Leptidea duponcheli*), which I had not seen before. It showed the diagnostic white hindwing patch. :



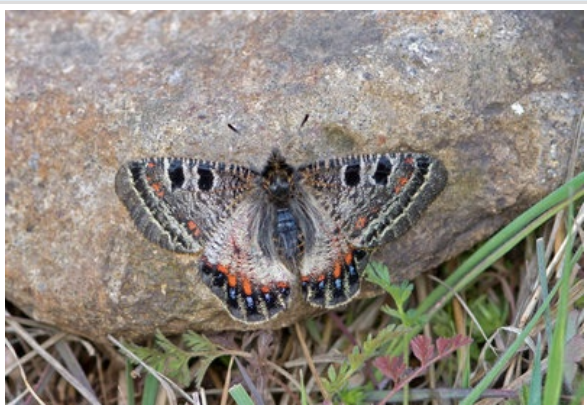
There was some good 'other stuff' including this Field Cricket, coaxed from its burrow:



There were several of these 'holes', which were a couple of centimetres across. I assumed they were spiders of some sort (Tarantulas??), but was unable to coax anything therefrom... Any ideas, anyone?



The highlight and ultimate purpose of the holiday appeared on the only sunny day, much to the relief of all of us. It was, of course the iconic False Apollo (*Archon apollinus*). We saw several, of both sexes, but I was only able to photograph this stunning fresh female:



We had excellent company, good crack and plenty of beer – a brilliant holiday. Thank you Greenwings.

Re: Tony Moore

by Wurzel, 18-Apr-19 10:36 PM GMT

Some cracking specimens there despite the poor weather Tony, delightful Coppers and Blues, gorgeous fresh Weavers Frit – you can see why it was the Violet Frit from that shot 😊 The star though is spectacular – what a butterfly 😊😊👍👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

ps plenty of beers sounds great too 😊

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 18-Apr-19 11:40 PM GMT

The weather may not have been kind, Tony, but you certainly saw some seriously good stuff. The male and female Sooty Copper image is superb, given the sexual dimorphism in this species.

Your False Apollo is the icing on the cake though; a beautiful specimen.

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 19-Apr-19 11:32 AM GMT

Wurzel and David, many thanks for your kind comments. Tough we missed the Small Bath White, which was seen in the area.

T.

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 20-Apr-19 10:43 PM GMT

Tony Moore wrote:

Tough we missed the Small Bath White, which was seen in the area.

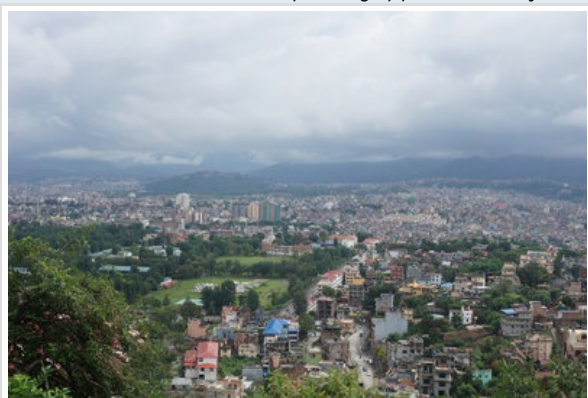
Not possible to get everything, Tony. One must always leave something in reserve for the next time...

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 13-Sep-19 01:32 PM GMT

I spent most of July in Nepal and Bhutan (where I caught up with UKB member Sonam Dorji – of which more later).

We flew into Kathmandu – a 250 sq mile highly polluted traffic jam:



When it's dry it's a dust storm and when wet the puddles disguise the potholes. It is said that in the UK we drive on the left of the road and in Nepal you drive on what's left of the road – which most of the time is not a lot:



My wife and I were supposed to be on a tour, but it was monsoon, low season, and we were fortunate to be the only punters. This was perfect as we were able to quiet the drone of info from the guide and avoid the pre-arranged dreary succession of temples and palaces. One temple a day in that dust is more than enough! Our guide and driver were excellent and quickly realised that their tips would be enhanced if they found us a bit of nature. Right in the middle of the city there is an area of forest, which had been earmarked for a motorway. An initial trial track had been cut and the project abandoned due to eco protest. We were able to walk along the track, which was bordered by Castor-oil plants and our first butterflies, Common Castors (*Ariadne merione*) were plentiful:



A little further along one of the 'flats' was taking salts from the sand. It was a Sikkim Pied Flat (*Pseudocaladenia fatua*):



A 'white', flying in the distance, became more colourful as we approached and proved to be a Painted Jezebel (*Delias hyparete*) a first for me and surely the most beautiful of the Delias:



TBC.

Not bad for the first full day...

Re: Tony Moore

by Wurzel, 13-Sep-19 08:01 PM GMT

Fantastic looking butterflies Tony 🤩🇮🇳 Especially like the Painted Jezebel 😊 I think that they fly in Australia as well... 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 14-Sep-19 10:00 PM GMT

I had been tipped off that you had visited this area, Tony. 😊

Seriously though, I hope you had a great time (in spite of the monsoon) and will look forward to seeing more of your trip to this under-explored region.

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 15-Sep-19 11:59 AM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel - more to come...

David, I heard that you had been looking at the area. I'd give Nepal a miss, but Bhutan is certainly worth a visit.

We had expected rain most days and, the next morning, were not disappointed as it was tipping down! We used the time for a bit of mandatory culture and the sun was shining when we left the museum. A bit of forest by the side of the main road yielded a Banded Treebrown (*Lethe confusa*), which was all we saw:

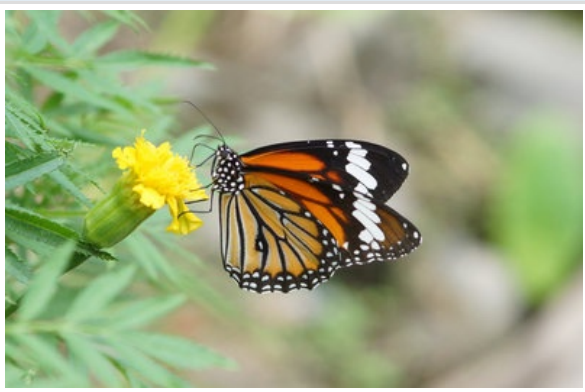


Interminable drive down to Chitwan National Park the next day where we were greeted by a tame elephant and not a lot else :



Day five was listed as a jeep safari into the park, but the river was too high to cross and the skies opened with a downpour of biblical proportions. There was no cover on the jeep and we all got completely soaked. We barely made it back to our accommodation, where I had to use my wife's hairdryer to dry out my camera points. Butterflies nil!

Bright sunshine the next morning and we set off for Pokhara in good spirits. First stop was a roadhouse with plenty of flowers. A Striped Tiger (*Danaus genutia*) was lazing around the flowers:



I finally caught up with a Lemon Emigrant (*Catopsilia pyranthe*):



We next stopped by a small waterfall right by the side of the road. A little inlet had been used as a pissoir by the locals I think as a very persistent Common Mormon (*Papilio polytes*) was determined to land there:



It was eventually displaced by my first (super-tick!) Paris Peacock (*Papilio paris*). It sadly only stayed for one shot, but a truly stunning insect:



On to Pokhara, a pleasant little town on a big lake, the end of another excellent day.

Walked around Pokhara in pleasant sunshine where we added Common Small Flat (*Sarangesa dasahara*) :



and a lovely fresh Common Pierrot (*Castalius rosimon*) and we were able to see the blue flush near the body on the uppers:



Long drive back to Kathmandu – zzzz! We did manage a stop by a little path through a tiny village. More wet sand, but this time with a lovely Yellow Helen (*Papilio nephelus*) partaking of salts :



and a female Chocolate Albatross (*Appias lycida*) intent upon rejecting the attentions of a persistent yellow male:



Couple of nights in the mountains at Nagarcot for some R&R away from the pollution and traffic. Mainly forest treks accompanied by a million screaming cicadas:



However, we were very lucky to find a freshly emerged Bronze Duke (*Euthalia nara*).

Back to Kathmandu for an early flight to Bhutan.



Re: Tony Moore

by Wurzel, 16-Sep-19 10:10 PM GMT

More fantastic butterflies Tony – the Pierrot is absolutely fantastic looking 🤩😄🌍🌍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 16-Sep-19 10:36 PM GMT

Yes it is, Wurzel. I'd seen it before, but never with open wings. I do thank you for your comments – they make the posting worthwhile.

Tony.

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 17-Sep-19 11:05 PM GMT

Some impressive sights in that mini report, Tony, especially the Paris Peacock – it almost looks unnatural!

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 18-Sep-19 02:49 PM GMT

Thanks, David, *P. parisa* fabulous butterfly, which was high on my list of 'hopes'.
Report continued:

Due to the persistent cloud, we had been unable to see the big Himalayan peaks, but at least on the flight to Paro in Bhutan we had good views of Everest:



It was a very hairy descent into Paro with a curved approach through the mountains to the runway, but we landed safely in a very different country! The small airport was a sharp modern building in traditional style; the arrivals hall had a beautiful model of the King's Palace. Everywhere was clean and litter free – a delight after the squalor of Nepal. We were quickly through immigration and our new guide and driver were waiting for us, where again, we were the only two on the 'trip'. We drove up a pretty valley to Thimphu, the capital, a pleasant little town surrounded by hills and overlooked by an enormous Buddha (90 metres tall):



We met Sonam in our hotel that evening and arranged to go out together the next day. We were lucky with the weather and he took us to an area alongside a mountain stream which was alive with butterflies (and leeches...):

Western Courtier (*Sephis dichroa*:



Chocolate Tiger (*Parantica melaneus*:



Himalayan Sergeant (*Athyma opalina*:



Bronze Duke (*Euthalia nara*:



Indian Cabbage White (*Pieris canidia*)



Bicolour Commodore (*Parasarpa zayla*):



Golden Emperor (*Dilipa morgiana*)



Pale Jezebel (*Delias sanaca* :



Commodore (*Auzakia danava*):



Common Map (*Cyrestis thyodamas*):



The next day Sonam took us to another area where he regularly sees Dull Green Hairstreak (*Esakiozephyrus icana*) but it was not to be. Our guide and driver got quite keen and at one stage we had five of us looking for butterflies! Sonam is a delightful chap and runs a very small travel business, which specialises in group butterfly and bird tours (6/7 max. all lead by him) . He certainly knows where to find stuff and I'm sure if a few UKB members liked to make up a party, he would give them a much better deal than the 'big boys' He can be pm'ed from the site or contacted on bhutanreality@yahoo.com. I'm sure folk would have a brilliant time and see some very exotic species.

TBC.

Re: Tony Moore

by Padfield, 18-Sep-19 06:19 PM GMT

I'm thoroughly enjoying your latest adventure, Tony, and looking forward to the next instalment!

Guy

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 18-Sep-19 06:39 PM GMT

Many thanks, Guy. Only a little bit left, I'm afraid (tomorrow), but it was a real adventure...

Tony.

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 18-Sep-19 07:11 PM GMT

Some incredible species there, Tony. Bhutan really **does** seem a quite idyllic country.

I look forward with interest to what is to follow.

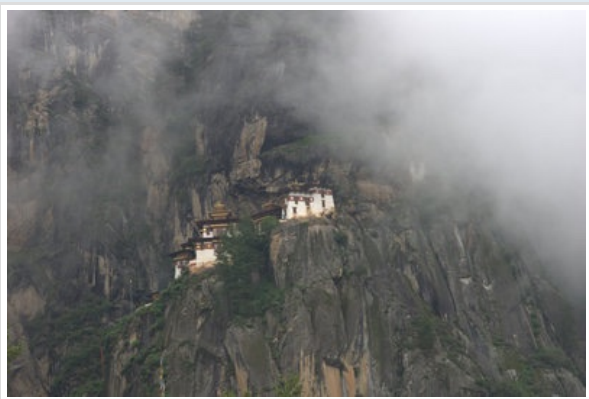
Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 19-Sep-19 11:06 AM GMT

The next morning we parted company with Sonam and took off towards Paro. We visited the amazing 17th cent Punaka Dzong (fortress) at the confluence of two rivers. There were many original wall paintings – an amazing survival:



From Paro we were to visit the fabled Tiger's Nest Monastery the next day:



This involved a climb of about 5 km. At 1:4, not to be undertaken lightly. We set off in good weather and made it to the cafe about 2/3rds of the way up. I then thought discretion the better part of valour and decided that that was enough. The Monastery had been rebuilt in the 70's after a fire and I didn't think it was worth a coronary arrest to see a reproduction (well, that's my excuse...).

I left my wife, who is much younger and fitter than me, to go on to the top with the guide while I descended slowly with Oom, our driver, who had become a very good butterfly spotter. On the way down there were several Himalayan Five-rings (*Ypthima sakra*):



Near the base camp we found a large flowery meadow and Oom immediately spotted a Yellow Pansy (*Junonia hierta*):



and a sprinkling of Large Hedge Blues (*Celastrina huegeli*):



I found one that had been taken by a crab spider, which excited much interest for Oom, who was fascinated and practically had to be dragged away. The highlight, however, was dozens of beautiful Azure Sapphires (*Heliophorus moorei*): They were all over the place and often with open wings. The male forewing blue is constant, but the hindwing blue only shows when the light is in a certain direction. A truly stunning insect:





Home the next day, but the sapphires linger in my memory and were a fitting end to a brilliant butterfly experience - I'd go back tomorrow...

Re: Tony Moore

by trevor, 19-Sep-19 12:19 PM GMT

If only we had some Hairstreaks like that over here!
The first one bears a close resemblance to our female Brown Hairstreak, but the rest WOW!. Stunning hardly does them justice.
I should imagine, on a holiday like that, you just don't know what to expect next.

Brilliant images,
Trevor.

Re: Tony Moore

by Pauline, 19-Sep-19 02:39 PM GMT

Oh Wow! What an amazing butterfly Tony! I was just about to post some Clouded Yellow stuff but it pales into insignificance compared to your shots!!!

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 19-Sep-19 05:30 PM GMT

Hi Trevor,

You are quite right with ' don't know what to expect next. As I was watching a Common Mormon taking salts, a Paris Peacock pushed in and tried to move it on...

And many thanks, Pauline for your comments, although you mustn't disparage the British species - they are all beautiful in their own right. I think that there a few butts on the planet that can compare with a fresh summer brood Red Admiral!

Tony.

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 19-Sep-19 11:40 PM GMT

Wow! Some of these butterflies seem almost unreal, Tony. I particularly like the exotic one doing its best to resemble a Brown Hairstreak....what a stunner that is.

The Azure Hairstreak is, if anything, even finer.

Is Bhutan really part of planet earth at all? I sometimes wonder whether it's been annexed by heaven.

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 20-Sep-19 01:58 PM GMT

{quote} Is Bhutan really part of planet earth at all?

You are quite right, David. Stunning country, few people, few cars, free healthcare (funded by wealthy visitors), little crime and fabulous butterflies. Imagine what one might see up in Jigme Dorgi National Park – all those high altitude Apollos, Bhutan Glory..... Go there! Mind you, the food is pretty terrible except in the few westernised hotels. I'm usually pretty keen on local cuisine, but draw the line at a mixture of rancid Yak's cheese and very hot green chillis.

ps – one that I missed from my post, which had been discounted as 'just another Banded Tree Brown' turned out to be Dark Judy (*Abisara fylla*). Another life tick for me:



Tony.

Re: Tony Moore

by Neil Freeman, 20-Sep-19 08:19 PM GMT

Hi Tony,

I must admit that I don't usually follow many diaries that are not mostly UK focused, I have enough trouble keeping up as it is, but I have found your reports from Nepal and Bhutan fascinating with some superb photos of beautiful butterflies.

Great stuff,

Neil.

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 20-Sep-19 11:03 PM GMT

Many thanks, Neil – much appreciated,

Tony.

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 22-Sep-19 09:26 PM GMT

Tony Moore wrote:

You are quite right, David. Stunning country, few people, few cars, free healthcare (funded by wealthy visitors), little crime and fabulous butterflies. Imagine what one might see up in Jigme Dorgi National Park – all those high altitude Apollos, Bhutan Glory..... Go there! Mind you, the food is pretty terrible except in the few westernised hotels. I'm usually pretty keen on local cuisine, but draw the line at a mixture of rancid Yak's cheese and very hot green chillis.

You are really starting to tempt me, Tony, irrespective of standards of cuisine!!

Mind you, any kind of chilli usually makes my mouth water, though I, like you, will be leaving the rancid cheese to the locals. 😊

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 23-Sep-19 12:03 PM GMT

{quote} You are really starting to tempt me, Tony,

Do go, David, you can give the local restaurants a miss and most eateries do a respectable chicken curry. Bhutan is like nowhere else on the planet and a holiday there should not be too expensive if you choose your flights carefully (Air India to Delhi and on from there). Mail Sonam and see what he can do. You would be blown away by the butterfly variety.

Carpe diem...

Tony.

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 24-Sep-19 11:07 PM GMT

Tony Moore wrote:

Do go, David, you can give the local restaurants a miss and most eateries do a respectable chicken curry. Bhutan is like nowhere else on the planet and a holiday there should not be too expensive if you choose your flights carefully (Air India to Delhi and on from there). Mail Sonam and see what he can do. You would be blown away by the butterfly variety.
Carpe diem...

Message received and understood, Tony. Many thanks for your illuminating reports from this part of the world.

Re: Tony Moore

by Sonam Dorji, 01-Oct-19 04:32 PM GMT

Hi Tony,

Thanks for the kind words that you have put in for me and my country. We just had two days otherwise we could have gone further down and encountered more butterflies. July is a good season but rain does play a havoc!!!

As for food, I do agree. Being a mountainous country, not much food variety is available as found elsewhere. But compared to few years back, many things have improved and there are remarkable changes. I do hope things improves for better in future and hopefully you can make it again to Bhutan!!!

rgds,
Sonam

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 03-Oct-19 08:52 PM GMT

Sonam Dorji wrote:

...We just had two days otherwise we could have gone further down and encountered more butterflies. July is a good season but rain does play a havoc!!

When I visited western India a few years ago, Sonam, the monsoon rains were only expected to end in late October. What is the extent of the 'wet' season in Bhutan?

Re: Tony Moore

by Sonam Dorji, 09-Oct-19 12:30 PM GMT

Hi David,

The wet season starts from June and ends in Oct. But somehow the weather has become erratic here and is defficult to say so. However, Mid June and August end, the rain seems to be heavy but again these are best months for butterflies as well!!!!

rgds,
Sonam

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 10-Oct-19 12:20 PM GMT

Sonam Dorji wrote:

The wet season starts from June and ends in Oct. But somehow the weather has become erratic here and is defficult to say so. However, Mid June and August end, the rain seems to be heavy but again these are best months for butterflies as well!!!!

Thanks for the information, Sonam. Yours isn't the only country where the weather has become "erratic". 😞