

My first of the year

by Katrina, 19-Jan-20 09:04 PM GMT

Unexpectedly I saw my first butterfly of 2020 yesterday in Scotland. A Peacock basking by the path round the Swan Pond at Culzean. Also seen were snowdrops and distant Goldeneyes. A very pleasant start. I also saw llamas at Culzean.

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 21-Jan-20 08:58 PM GMT

Glad to hear you're off the mark Katrina 😊 Not long now til things start going properly 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: My first of the year

by David M, 22-Jan-20 12:31 PM GMT

[quote=Katrina post_id=150340 time=1579467870 user_id=13159]Unexpectedly I saw my first butterfly of 2020 yesterday in Scotland. A Peacock basking by the path round the Swan Pond at Culzean..

Wow! That's three notable things in one, Katrina - a January butterfly (unusual enough), a northerly latitude (Scotland) and a Peacock (usually the 'laziest' of the adult overwinterers).

What a way to kick your year off. 😊

Re: Katrina

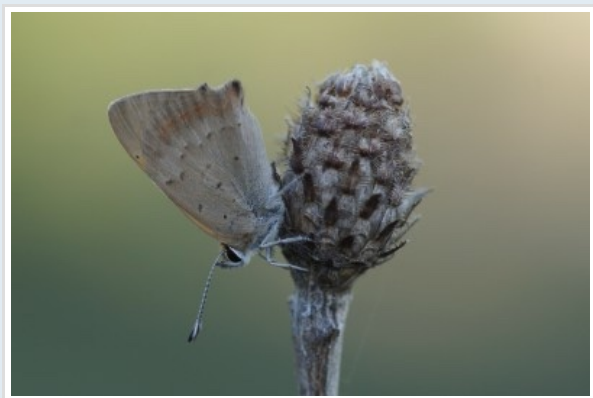
by Katrina, 23-Jan-20 10:23 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and David I was pleased and surprised.

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 02-May-20 09:12 PM GMT

A Small Copper roosting at Whitehawk Hill. Also seen was a Grizzled Skipper.



Re: Katrina

by trevor, 03-May-20 08:05 AM GMT

One of your specialities, Katrina, the atmospheric shot, lovely 😊.

It would be interesting to see what Whitehawk hill has to offer this Summer.

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 03-May-20 08:06 PM GMT

As Trevor said – a really atmospheric shot – gurt lush in my parlance 😊😄🌿

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 03-May-20 10:13 PM GMT

Thanks Trevor and Wurzel. I was super pleased to find it. One of silver linings to the lockdown has been exploring Whitehawk Hill a bit more.

Re: Katrina

by David M, 05-May-20 08:34 PM GMT

That's quite an evocative shot of the Small Copper, Katrina. Was it early morning/early evening/just a cloudy day?

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 05-May-20 10:09 PM GMT

It was early evening – better to reduce the number of people I have to pass to walk there. Was looking for Grizzlies but found this (and one Grizzly)

Re: Katrina

by Pauline, 10-May-20 05:34 PM GMT

I struggle to keep up with the diaries Katrina but that's a real nice shot – like it a lot. Seems to have lovely soft lighting and complimentary colours – like many of your other images which are very artistic.

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 21-Jun-20 05:34 PM GMT

Thank you Pauline. I was lucky to find it only one I have seen up there so far.

Chiddingfold

by Katrina, 21-Jun-20 05:40 PM GMT

I went to Chiddingfold today. No Purples on the deck but did have 2 nice flybys. Also seen were WAs, SWFs, Wood Whites, Small Skippers, Commas and a Red Admiral.





Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 21-Jun-20 06:42 PM GMT

Love the Mr and Mrs shot - brilliant! 😄😁👍

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 21-Jun-20 06:44 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel. There are plenty of distractions at Chiddingfold

Re: Katrina

by millerd, 21-Jun-20 07:23 PM GMT

That's a great shot of those two Large Skippers, Katrina. 😊 There are certainly plenty flying down there. The one thing there were very few of the day before was Ringlets - normally filling the verges while you wait for the Emperors to appear. Did you come across any? Shame you didn't have a full Imperial audience today, though...

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 21-Jun-20 07:31 PM GMT

Thanks Dave,
yes I think I saw Ringlets too. I did arrive quite late about 11.30 so not surprising didn't get the full works but still very pleasant.

Re: Katrina

by Chris L, 22-Jun-20 07:41 AM GMT

The Large Skippers photo is brilliant Katrina.

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 22-Jun-20 08:05 PM GMT

Thanks Otep They were very obliging. Andrew555 was with me when I spotted them so they may make a further appearance later

Re: Katrina

by David M, 23-Jun-20 08:35 PM GMT

Love the male and female Large Skippers side by side, Katrina. That'd make a nice comparison in a guidebook... 😊

Re: Katrina

by Chris L, 25-Jun-20 08:46 PM GMT

David M wrote:

Love the male and female Large Skippers side by side, Katrina. That'd make a nice comparison in a guidebook... 😊

That would be laminated, in a frame and on my wall in next to no time.

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 25-Jun-20 10:49 PM GMT

Thank you Otep. That comment put a smile on my face.

Re: Katrina

by Chris L, 26-Jun-20 06:45 PM GMT

It was also a little bit flexible with the truth in one respect Katrina. My DIY skills are atrocious and the getting it on the wall 'in next to no time' aspect would be challenging. Anyway, after the punctured water pipe or severed electrical cable had been fixed and the masonry dust had settled, it would be on my wall.

Re: Katrina

by Goldie M, 26-Jun-20 09:44 PM GMT

Hi! Katrina, love your shot from the 2nd of May, really soft lighting 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Katrina

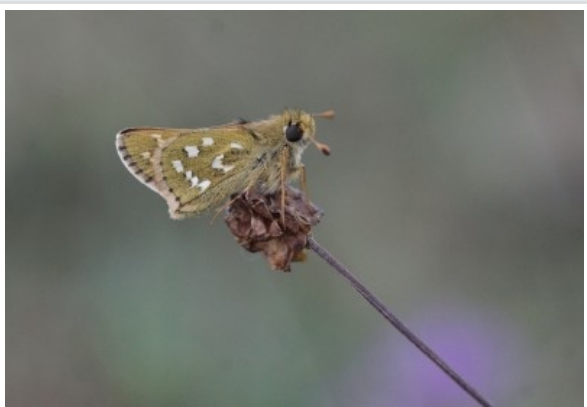
by Katrina, 27-Jun-20 06:08 PM GMT

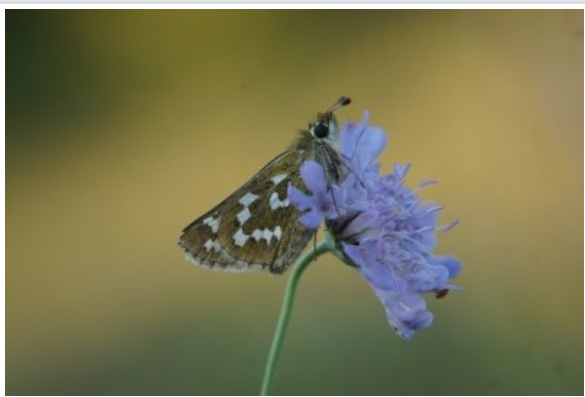
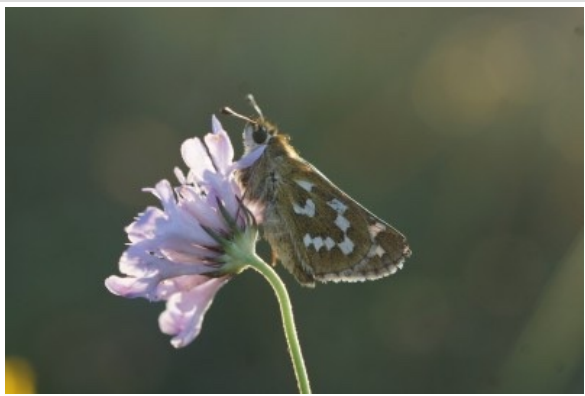
Thanks Goldie,
I was over the moon to find the small copper. It is not so easy to find butterflies in walking distance from where I live

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 16-Aug-20 10:26 PM GMT

I wander to Chantry Hill this evening yielded roosting Silver-spotted skippers. Also seen were Meadow Browns, Small Heaths and Chalkhill Blues.





Re: Katrina

by David M, 18-Aug-20 10:22 AM GMT

Nice images, Katrina. Sweet little things those SSS's, aren't they? 😊

Re: Katrina

by trevor, 18-Aug-20 06:51 PM GMT

More, great, moody shots. Love the way the light has lit up the Scabious flowers. Shots like these seem to be your trade mark!

Stay safe and well,
Trevor.

PS. Looks as though Whitehawk hill could take us into October!, weather permitting.

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 18-Aug-20 07:29 PM GMT

Lovely set of ethereal shots Katrina 🤔🤔🤔 Somehow it makes the Silver Spots even more cute 😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by bugboy, 18-Aug-20 08:38 PM GMT

Great shots Katrina, a million times easier to pin down the speedy little buggers when they're roosting I would imagine 😊

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 18-Aug-20 10:56 PM GMT

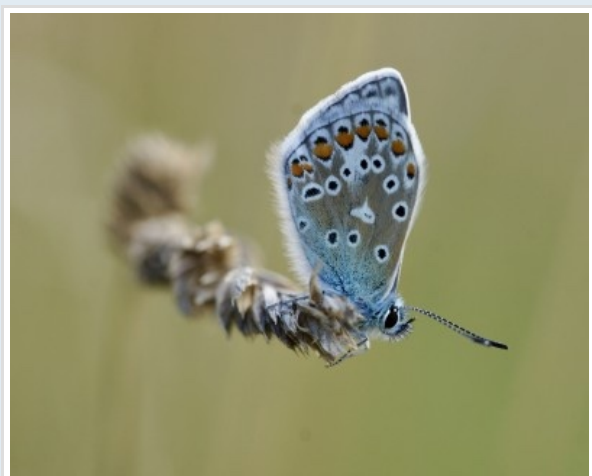
Thanks bugboy there did seem to be more around than usual and pretty easy to photograph when they are roosting. I was interested to read Paulines observation of roosting in tees so I will need to watch out for that too. I also managed to show some interested passers by their first SSS. Thanks Wurzel. I was pleased with the shots. Trips out have been thin on the ground this year. Thanks Trevor Whitehawk will definitely be worth a whirl later in the year. Thanks David they definitely are cute butterflies.

This weekend

by Katrina, 06-Sep-20 02:39 PM GMT

Yesterday I went to Mill Hill with a friend. Unfortunately it clouded over soon after we got there but we still saw 1 a single distant Clouded Yellow, Meadow Browns, Small heaths, Small Whites and Common Blues with the highlight being 3 fresh Common Blues.

Today, at lunchtime, I went to Whitehawk Hill. There I saw Kirsty who had seen 6 Long-tailed blues over the morning. I saw one Long-tailed blue but it did start to drizzle about half an hour after I arrived.



Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 06-Sep-20 07:45 PM GMT

A cracking find Katrina 🤔🤔 Obviously the reward for sticking with it and not heading home early 😊🤔

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by David M, 09-Sep-20 06:41 PM GMT

Love the way you went nonchalantly under the radar with that Long Tailed Blue, Katrina. 🍷

This species seems to have become almost a regular, annual visitor over the past 8 years or so.

Long may it continue!

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 09-Sep-20 08:13 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and David . I went back again today for another go.

I had a wonderful and memorable day today. The weather was much better than predicted and there were plenty of long-tailed blues to be seen.

The weather held and the action kept going with photos of pristine LTBs up for grabs. Equally enjoyable was the good humoured company coming and going including Ben, Max, Colin, Neil and many others. The pinnacle of the day was Neil finding a mating pair but there were many highlights





Bonus photos

by Katrina, 09-Sep-20 08:21 PM GMT

some bonus photos





Re: Katrina

by trevor, 09-Sep-20 08:54 PM GMT

Well done with the mating pair. 🍷 I've heard that a fresh female was seen today, I wonder if it is the same one in your image of the pair. The LTB's have certainly given good value up there this year, and not at all hard to find.

Lovely shots, stay safe.
Trevor.

PS There is an image on the Sussex site with Neil on the left, and I think you on the right.

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 09-Sep-20 09:09 PM GMT

Thanks Trevor but it was really well done to Neil for finding them. I think it is me on the sussex website.

Re: Katrina

by essexbuzzard, 09-Sep-20 11:12 PM GMT

Well done, Katrina. Let's hope this weather is a bit better than last year, allowing a few more to emerge, and keep the season going.

Re: Katrina

by ernie f, 10-Sep-20 07:08 PM GMT

Katrina

WOW. Just saw your mating pair of LT Blues. I have never even seen one, let alone a pair in cop. Not something I expect I will ever see. I bet you are over-the-moon about that.

I am normally a bit stingy with my Mr Greens but you get 5 out of 5 for that shot. 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 10-Sep-20 09:16 PM GMT

Thanks Essex, fingers crossed for the weather.

Thanks Ernie was lucky I was in the right place at the right time and that others generously shared their find.

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 11-Sep-20 07:53 PM GMT

Fantastic reports Katrina - I'd dearly love the LTB in my 'In cop' collection 🤩🍷🍷🍷 Great to see such a range of shots - really like the in flight one 🍷
😊😊 I think if many more people post from this site I might run out of 🍷😊

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by millerd, 12-Sep-20 07:52 PM GMT

Good to see you up at Whitehawk on Friday, Katrina - there were certainly a few LTB to choose from... Great shot of the pairing on Wednesday, though - not something you're going to see every day. 😊🍷

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 13-Sep-20 04:17 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel,

Not quite sure how I got the in-flight shot, I wasn't aiming for it so pure luck I think.

Thanks Dave, lovely to see you too. Did you find anything at Southwick?

Re: Katrina

by David M, 13-Sep-20 06:20 PM GMT

You certainly **did** have a wonderful day, Katrina, and you also got some wonderful images to offer up to us.

I don't think I've seen this species in cop even on the continent where it can often be very common, so good on you for capturing that! 🍷

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 13-Sep-20 08:58 PM GMT

Thanks David - felt very lucky.

I went back for some more LTB action on Friday. It is within walking distance for me.

Some more males in good condition.

The LTBs later developed a taste for Neil's walking stick.

Mating large whites I think were found by Ben - thanks Ben.

A common blue just to mix it up.





Re: Katrina

by trevor, 13-Sep-20 10:14 PM GMT

Love your shot of the male LTB on the grass blade 🍷 , the best I've seen.
I'm going up there early tomorrow, to beat the heat, hope there's some females about.

Stay well,
Trevor.

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 13-Sep-20 10:31 PM GMT

That is very kind of you Trevor, thank you
Could have done with a nicer background but I like the way the colour has come out.
Good luck tomorrow. Wednesday will be my next chance!

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 15-Sep-20 08:12 PM GMT

Another cracking set of shots Katrina – that second LTB is sublime 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by David M, 16-Sep-20 09:07 AM GMT

{quote=Katrina-post_id=158191-time=1600027089-user_id=13159}.The LTBs later developed a taste for Neil's walking stick.

It's usually his moleskin trousers that possess butterfly-attracting alchemy! 😊

Looks like a real spectacle at that site right now. I wish I didn't live so far away otherwise I'd be paying a visit myself.

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 16-Sep-20 10:51 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, it is nicely coloured.
It has been a spectacle David, I am lucky I live close.

I spent another morning there today. It was a bit blustery at times but the LTBs are still going strong. Only males seen this morning as far as I know.
Good company again.



Re: Katrina

by trevor, 17-Sep-20 07:14 AM GMT

Great detail in your LTB underside shot.
This Autumn has certainly made up for the washout of last year.

And yes, our shots do look similar!.

Stay well,
Trevor.

Re: Katrina

by Wurzel, 17-Sep-20 08:14 PM GMT

Love the metallic silver sheen on the hind wing eye Katrina 🤩👍👍 Brilliant shot 🤩

Have a goodun and stay safe

Wurzel

Re: Katrina

by David M, 20-Sep-20 06:03 PM GMT

Lovely underside image of the LTB, Katrina. Nice to notch up a Clouded Yellow too. They seem to be around in greater numbers than Painted Ladies in the south of the country this year.

Re: Katrina

by millerd, 23-Sep-20 08:50 AM GMT

Some more great shots of the LTBs, Katrina. 😊 I suffer a good deal of 🍷 for you living so close to this spot! 😊 (By the way, I didn't answer your question from a few posts back – I didn't find any down at Southwick on 11th.)

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 23-Sep-20 10:48 AM GMT

Thanks Trevor, it was very sedate which helped.

Thanks David, Painted Ladies do seem scarce this year, although I haven't been out as much as usual.

Thanks millerd, it is hard work to walk up the hill and a fairly long walk if that makes you feel better.

Thanks Wurzel, I appreciate your always positive comments.

Re: Katrina

by Katrina, 10-Oct-20 12:17 PM GMT

Yesterday I went to Pulborough Brooks and saw 2 Speckled Woods and a Common Blue. One of the Speckled Woods seemed to have a W in its wing. I then had a short stop at Mill Hill where I saw mating Wall Browns – didn't manage a photo. There were a few other Wall Browns and still some Common Blues. I also saw a fresh Green-Veined White.



Re: Katrina

by David M, 16-Oct-20 10:04 PM GMT

{quote=Katrina post_id=158774 time=1602328649 user_id=13159}.One of the Speckled Woods seemed to have a W in its wing. I then had a short stop at Mill Hill where I saw mating Wall Browns – didn't manage a photo. There were a few other Wall Browns and still some Common Blues. I also saw a fresh Green-Veined White.

Good going for October, Katrina, especially the mating Wall Browns.

Looks like the 'W' pattern in your Speckled Wood's wings is part of the wider damage that has caused it to lose part of its forewing.