

Paul

by Paul, 09-Mar-10 06:44 AM GMT

This diary is a continuation of my original blog which can be found at: blog.php?u=1281

Re: Paul

by Paul, 29-Mar-10 02:35 PM GMT

Well, here we go, just when I thought this trip would be dismal for butterflies, I had better luck today in the Sandia Heights of Albuquerque NM..... something I really hoped to see.... an uncommon early spring species, with a close affinity to Texas Bear Grass (clinging to on 3rd photo) ... the appropriately named Sandia Hairstreak.... 😊

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Re: Paul

Not much around here, but today in San Diego...

I think Behr's Metalmark...

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Likewise not 100% certain Funereal Duskywing...

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and ??? Silvery Blue... worn to bits 😞

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Also seen but not managed a shot of... American Lady, Californian Orange Tip, Cloudless sulphur, a different Green Hairstreak and Anise Swallowtail. 🙄

Re: Paul

by Dave McCormick, 03-Apr-10 06:05 AM GMT

Paul, I agree that does look like Behr's Metalmark, lovely shot btw, looks like a very nice butterfly. I looked at shots of Funereal Duskywing and yours does look like a worn one. You can see a comparison I made of your shot and a shot of a confirmed funereal duskywing:



funereal duskywing

Re: Paul

by Paul, 07-Apr-10 06:23 AM GMT

trip wound up with little else of note... Fiery Skipper being the only other notable butterfly seen...

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Re: Paul

by Padfield, 13-Apr-10 09:20 PM GMT

Great shots, Paul! I've had so much to do since getting back from my own trip I haven't read the posts I missed yet (I got back on Sunday night and had to teach at 8.00am on the Monday morning).

One of the things I really love about these exotica from foreign climes is relating them to our own butterflies – seeing how the same groups spread out and diversified over the face of the planet during the course of evolutionary history. The process took millions of years, but we can undo all that work in such a short time if we don't look after this wonderful inheritance.

Guy

Re: Paul

by Paul, 14-Apr-10 03:50 AM GMT

agreed totally, and with respect to inheritance.... on reflection the attitude in the US is quite "foreign" to me... seems a mix of ultra-protectiveness and total insensitivity I cannot get my head around... very different culture (IMHO). Insensitivity I can rationalize, but when I did manage to explore one of their "reserves", the keep out signs made it a very tarmac exercise indeed. It's like they have a huge, I mean HUGE country, but have already decided which bits they will turn into natural "museums", & b****r the rest of it. 🤔

I am too, endlessly fascinated by the contrast/ comparisons between different continental species.... I'm no butterfly Palaentologist, but there must have been a significant number of diverse groups already in existence before Pangea strode of in all directions, giving rise to, for example the Leptotes look-alikes worldwide, and the rest!

I love those Indian examples 😊

Comma, Peacock and Small Torts just showing up here in the arctic north yorks.. 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 18-Apr-10 01:01 AM GMT

A couple of sunny days have bought out the Peirids now... OT, Small & GV Whites, as well as Comma, ST & Peacocks now celebrating Spring chez moi 😊, albeit with a high volcanic haze overhead!! 😊

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A trip to see if the Green H's were out failed last week... may try again tomorrow. 😞

Also a new moth for me overnight... Oak Beauty... and it is!

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Re: Paul

by Zonda, 18-Apr-10 01:18 AM GMT

As Robin Williams might say... "Shot my first butterfly today,,, it's on the wall between my moose, and my white tailed deer." He's a lovely man Robin.

Re: Paul

by Paul, 18-Apr-10 05:44 AM GMT



Re: Paul

by Dave McCormick, 18-Apr-10 05:55 AM GMT

Lovley OTs Paul and nice Oak Beauty, Oak beauties are somewhat a rarity in Co Down, only recorded so far at one location here and a few other places in Northern Ireland, been looking for them with no avail.

Re: Paul

by Paul, 18-Apr-10 06:02 AM GMT

Well you never know, I didn't see one at all last year.... hope you see one... would be a much bigger coup than mine here 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 22-Apr-10 04:20 AM GMT

Another OT today, having come in on the dry washing by mistake yesterday and overnighed inside..... 😊

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 24-Apr-10 03:38 AM GMT

The obligatory GVW photo in the garden today... this one was quite a diminutive individual..

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Green Hairstreaks not flying here either of the last two weekends.... more luck this weekend???? 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 25-Apr-10 05:48 AM GMT

Still no GHs today. Probably still to come, but the bilberry at the site was burnt off at some stage last year, so beginning to feel they might have come to some harm.... remains to be seen, and I know the burning is not meant to harm them.

7 species at home, and my first garden Speckled Wood of the year

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 26-Apr-10 02:36 AM GMT

Saw my first female OT today, no photo..... and a couple of whites...

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 29-Apr-10 06:20 AM GMT

Another lovely spring day here. A couple more photos worth sharing...

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 07-May-10 06:25 PM GMT

Thwarted lately by work and weather, found this female OT in the garden today..

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Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 07-May-10 08:08 PM GMT

Paul

I notice that your Speckled Wood has damage to a hind wing. I too have seen similar damage.



Presumably it is caused by contact with stiff grass. Any other suggestions?

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 08-May-10 04:39 AM GMT

Yeah totally agreed.... that would do it Jack.... and they have taken a liking to the semi dead Pampas grass winter has left us!!! – it's sharply serrated!!!

Today managed to do my local GH pilgrimage... 14 seen, most fresh, some less so, and a variety of spottedness.....

I like the way the sun reflected off some of the small golden "hairs" on this first one.....

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and whiter than normal fringes on this one... 😊

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So burning doesn't seem to harm them, they're as strong as usual, just late! 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 14-May-10 10:57 PM GMT

Dull day.... another GVW..

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Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 14-May-10 11:12 PM GMT

Paul

That's an excellent photo with superb resolution. But how do you post so that it appears that size? If I try to post a picture, it is reduced to circa 500 pixels wide (that's no big deal) but more to the point, the resolution looks dreadful. Even if I upload at 500 pixels, it still looks has poor resolution even though not resized. Because of that, I added a note on my blog to the effect that to in order to see a picture with decent resolution, it is necessary to click on that image. But you seem to have overcome that difficulty. How?

Jack

Re: Paul

by Padfield, 14-May-10 11:19 PM GMT

You upload pictures, Jack, while Paul links to images already on the net using the lmg tag.

I do the same, but always at lower resolution, because I store my web images smaller (I have many thousands on the web, at my own expense!).

Since you have your own website, you could do likewise if you wished. You should limit pictures to 800 pixels across, though, as otherwise they will be cropped on many browsers.

Guy

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 14-May-10 11:53 PM GMT

...while Paul links to images already on the net using the Img tag

I know how to link to a picture on my own website but don't understand this Img tag that makes it appear on ukb.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Zonda, 15-May-10 01:17 AM GMT

That's the best GVW shot i've seen this year. Tripod and tubes, i bet. 😊

Re: Paul

by Padfield, 15-May-10 02:36 AM GMT

I've sent you instructions for embedding pictures via PM, Jack.

GUy

Re: Paul

by Paul, 15-May-10 02:43 AM GMT

Hi all,

Jack, I use photobucket to host my photos, uploading them there with one dimension at 800px, then copying & pasting the available img code, as Guy says. no tubes, bellows or tripods, just a trusty FZ50 and a steady hand!! – must do it properly one day 😊

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 15-May-10 03:40 AM GMT

Thanks Guy and Paul. Here's my test:

viewtopic.php?f=29&t=4056&p=32302#p32302

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 15-May-10 06:00 AM GMT

Looking very good Jack 😊

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 15-May-10 03:04 PM GMT

Thanks Paul and Guy. I have now registered with Photobucket and am much happier with the way pictures appear on ukb. You can see my Photobucket uploads in my diary.

I had discussed with Pete in the past the fact that direct uploads to ukb never seems to do justice to the pictures. Pete is aware of this but is apparently something to do with the resizing algorithm over which he has little control.

Incidentally Paul, you'd love the Lumix FZ38 successor to the FZ50. Much lighter weight and 12 mp (for constructive cropping, etc). Neil Hulme and I – to name but two – are FZ38 enthusiasts. Costs about £240.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Pete Eeles, 15-May-10 03:28 PM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

I had discussed with Pete in the past the fact that direct uploads to ukb never seems to do justice to the pictures. Pete is aware of this but is apparently something to do with the resizing algorithm over which he has little control.

The trick is to resize your images to 800 x 800 before uploading, rather than letting the UKB mechanism do it for you 😊

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 15-May-10 03:55 PM GMT

OK, here goes (I take it Pete that you mean 800 wide or 800 high rather than a square picture). The ones on Photobucket were in fact 800s so I'll repeat here using ukb direct upload rather than Photobucket.

Now, that 800 x 600 has been resized to something like 500 x 375 but has lost its bite and looks far less clear until I click on the image and see it full size



That is why perhaps many good pictures taken by others are dismissed as being – well, “iffy”. It’s a bit of a fag to click on every photo to see just how good it really is.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Pete Eeles, 15-May-10 04:10 PM GMT

Hi Jack – I've replied here:

viewtopic.php?f=11&t=4111&p=32317#p32317

to get this discussion out of Paul's personal diary!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Paul

by Paul, 16-May-10 05:02 AM GMT

OK.... back to my diary 😊 pilgrimage to PBF country today, with the following results... 😊



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Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 16-May-10 05:13 AM GMT

Superb pictures Paul - and taken with a much derided Box Brownie. Morecambe Bay area I presume?

You just can't beat decent image quality of a larger photo. After today's discussions, I will be uploading my pictures from a third party such as PhotoBucket. It is perfectly easy to compress 800 pixel images to around 100 kb with no noticeable loss of quality, so even those unfortunates with miserable internet speeds shouldn't suffer too much.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 16-May-10 05:26 AM GMT

actually a much more sensitive site in Yorkshire.... tiny and fragile, so very secret!! and thereby hangs another can of moral worms!!! 😞 Yep, Box Brownie hanging on in there well presently 😊 must have a look at the other FZ you mentioned, but I really want to join the Canonista 😊

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 16-May-10 05:37 AM GMT

Paul wrote:

actually a much more sensitive site in Yorkshire.... tiny and fragile, so very secret!!

Ah you must mean that place near.....

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 16-May-10 05:51 AM GMT

Near to that place called oblivion 😞

Re: Paul

by Paul, 17-May-10 04:58 AM GMT

Saw a Comma in the garden today, otherwise just OTs & GVWs..... this visitor dropped in overnight (National Moth Night)...

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 22-May-10 04:54 AM GMT

Best day of the year for weather so far.... and I wasn't at work 😊 – annual homage to the Duke today, and lost count of numbers, magic to see a colony thriving when they are so threatened... hope it long continues. I find them difficult to photograph, somehow my poor camera finds it hard to auto-focus well on dark wings, today's heat didn't help, boy they were fidgety! These were some of my best –

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 24-May-10 04:16 AM GMT

A beautiful day today, I crossed the A66 to Cumbria for two of my favorite butterflies, and some good results... early, fresh Marsh Frits and very blue Small Blues...

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Re: Paul

by IAC, 24-May-10 04:59 AM GMT

Hi Paul,

Those Small Blues are stunning. I have never seen any so blue. And I am so green. Is this a localised trait for this particular Small Blue colony. I have not seen it before. The Small Blues in South East Scotland emerged in ones and twos on the 18th of the month....very early. There are maybe a dozen or so now.

Simply inspiring photos Paul. Well done.

IAC.

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 24-May-10 05:01 AM GMT

That upperside of a Marsh is lovely and remarkably reminiscent of a North America Checkerspot:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bay_C..._pot_f1.JPG

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 24-May-10 06:06 AM GMT

Hi, and thanks chaps.....

The blues varied enormously just like everywhere else, but there were quite a lot of blue ones 😊 I don't think I've seen one that blue before, and the lighting/ angle helped lots – and I didn't mess the photos around much... some were fresh, some not so.... I guess they emerged at similar times to their Scottish cousins 😊

Jack, I totally agree, though I haven't actually seen a Checkerspot of any sort yet, some are in the euphrodryas family ... don't know if they have similar habits, but as Guy said earlier in this diary, it IS fascinating to compare what are obviously some way related species from different continents. Anyhow, they're all precious.

Re: Paul

by Paul, 27-May-10 09:08 PM GMT

Seen Wall butterflies around for last few days... this was the best shot I managed this lunchtime...



Re: Paul

by Paul, 28-May-10 05:44 AM GMT

and later, this GVW...



Re: Paul

by Paul, 31-May-10 05:33 AM GMT

A weekend on the north east coast of Scotland, and the Bullars of Buchan, no other butterflies, but a ? thomsoni subspecies GVW...

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Probably my best sight of the weekend, as I've never seen them before, tho' my camera isn't equipped for zoom shots (sigh).... were...

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 01-Jun-10 03:06 AM GMT

Back home, and good counts of Small Copper on the local moors, as well as x10 Green Hairstreaks, all tatty now, but including x3 mating pairs! A rather nice caeruleopunctata female....

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and a Wall, at home....

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 03-Jun-10 02:57 AM GMT

another lovely day, a snatched lunchtime walk round the garden and a tiny gem of a moth in my wildflower patch.... never seen small yellow underwing before, said to be a "local" dayflying species fond of flowery meadows.... Yesssss!! 😊 (do you want one on the moth gallery Pete?).still doesn't attract butterflies much though 😞 - Large, Small, GVW whites, OTs, Wall and an aged Peacock were around.

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This is said wildflower patch today... BFTrefoil, Kidney vetch, thrift, forget-me-not, self-heal, mallow, harebells, wild strawberry, marjoram, fescues & others all jostling for position.

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Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 03-Jun-10 03:15 AM GMT

That's *your* wildflower garden Paul? It's stunning and better than anything I have seen a Wisley and other "professional" gardens.

You must write something about how you have achieved such a superb result.

Incidentally Paul, your butterfly photos with their great depth of field shows that an expensive DSLR isn't necessarily always best. Size isn't everything!

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 03-Jun-10 05:54 AM GMT

Thanks Jack

I think I wrote before in the "your gardens" thread – but it's very simple... weedproof membrane over the grass, covered with 2–3 inches of the poorest quality sandy stoney subsoil you can find, not so easy if you have clay though!.... one afternoons co-incident seed collection on a Cotswold hillside whilst photographing chalkhills, stuck in a seed tray and left to the elements for one winter provided some starter plants, and studious eradication of dandelion seedlings etc has resulted in what you see. Now they produce massive amounts of seed for me.... and your sanfoin are still going, tho' rabbits razed them to the ground last autumn. In fact, I have to have chicken wire round it to stop them having parties on it!

Re: Paul

by Paul, 06-Jun-10 06:30 AM GMT

Well, another beautiful day not to be working!.. a visit to the Scottish Borders produced a few fine and fresh artaxerxes, the best photos I obtained were these.. 😊😊



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and a second individual...



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and another thank you to IAC, for his help last year! 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 09-Jun-10 03:42 AM GMT

no butterflies today, just leaden skies and rain.... but didn't prevent these two magnificent beasts turning up to light last night... Elephant Hawk...

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and Poplar Hawk...

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I know they're not butterflies, but their beauty is undeniable 😊

Re: Paul

by IAC, 09-Jun-10 05:30 PM GMT

Hi Paul,

Well done on the Artaxexes NBA....I have just seen your photos this morning! And I can tell you that it has rained constantly since Sunday and I have not had the chance to visit the site. I had a chance to visit on the Saturday, but opted instead to venture inland to a Small Pearl site. I was very lucky seeing 6 beautifully fresh Small Pearls flitting around constantly over the grass heads.

I was though still anxious to know if more NBA had emerged at the other side of the county....I clean ran out of time on the Saturday...and since then....well rain and more rain. I can also tell you as I sit here with rain hitting the window that these pictures have put my mind at rest...you really have made my day.

Cheers mate!! 😊

IAC.

Re: Paul

by Paul, 10-Jun-10 02:54 AM GMT

believe me, the pleasure was all mine 😊 mind you, I haven't seen any SPBFs yet 🍷
the S. E. Scotland SBs were a bit worn, but I reckon there were approx 15, and virtually every suitable flowerhead exhibited at least one egg, including some hatched ones 😊

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 13-Jun-10 05:33 AM GMT

My only opportunity this year to see Black Hairstreaks came today with a long trip down to Glapthorn, where, although coy, we saw at least 4 different individuals, two of which presented themselves very sportingly for photos....

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At the same place, there was a very blue female Common Blue..

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On the way back we decided to have a look at Crowle in North Lincolnshire for the Large Heath. Again, some present but they were not so sporting with photo opportunities..

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Re: Paul

by selbypaul, 13-Jun-10 06:21 PM GMT

Hi Paul

I wasn't expecting the Large Heath's to be out yet at Crowle. I take it that they must just have emerged? How long do you think they'll be around for?
Paul

Re: Paul

by Paul, 14-Jun-10 01:39 AM GMT

I don't know, there were enough there to suggest it wasn't day 1.... so around for 3 weeks or so? 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 21-Jun-10 10:46 PM GMT

Yesterday decided to make day of it, always wanted to see the Great Orme subspecies Silver Studded Blue.... so early start and some great results, including the Grayling subspecies (unless the normal one flies there as well)... one fresh male emergee has it's attendant ant still fauning over it.... and the blue females are very blue!!

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Decided to wander back towards home via the Lake District and my Mountain Ringlet location.... 3 mile uppish hike into the fells, rewarded with lots of butterflies which are still very difficult to photograph!! They always seem to sit with grass across them... but eventually...

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one of those days that keeps you going through the winter!! 😊😊😊

Re: Paul

by Padfield, 21-Jun-10 10:50 PM GMT

Great ant picture, Paul!! And isn't that a very early grayling?

Guy

Re: Paul

by Paul, 22-Jun-10 02:49 AM GMT

Hi Guy, thanks... the ant thing was fascinating to watch in the light of the Thomas & Lewington book observations....

the Grayling, according to Adrian Riley's book on British and Irish Butterflies suggests the "Great Orme Grayling" ssp thylene, flies "significantly earlier" than the other subspecies, peaking about now! - in the same book the hindwing is said to be "paler and more uniform, less contrasting" 😊😊 so not actually sure what I've photographed 😊 (except it is indeed semele) 😊

Re: Paul

by selbypaul, 22-Jun-10 04:17 PM GMT

Great pics of the Mountain Ringlet. Was thinking of popping up that way myself this weekend. Don't suppose you could let me know the location?
Cheers

Re: Paul

by Paul, 23-Jun-10 04:09 AM GMT

They're very "off piste" and getting there is the problem, hell of a hike, and Honister is maybe a better bet... 😊 When I found them I just took a wander to Red Screens and scrambled until I reached a suitable place, altitude being all important and they do not venture lower!!!.... the Adrian Riley book of British & Irish butterflies has never let me down with sites. 😊

Re: Paul

by selbypaul, 23-Jun-10 06:42 AM GMT

Ok, thanks for that info. I'm probably better trying Honister as there is bound to be various other people looking at the same time. The more pairs of eyes the better!

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 23-Jun-10 02:51 PM GMT

I once slogged up from Honister as a sprightly 37 year-old and found them easily once above about 1,800 feet (550 metres). Now, at nearly twice that age, I can't attempt the climb; my annual "tick-list" will always be at least one short.

So far this year, 37 species and counting – I'm on course for the target Five-O. The only miss so far from those attempted was Glanville Fritillary on the mainland. It would seem I was just a few days too early in the season. I didn't go to the Isle of Wight but probably will next year.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Pete Eeles, 23-Jun-10 03:52 PM GMT

Superb finds this year, Paul – I think you've managed to get quite a few of the items on my personal "wish list" 🎁

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Paul

by Trev Sawyer, 23-Jun-10 03:56 PM GMT

Living (and probably dying) in the Fens – where 10ft above sea level constitutes a mountain – I get vertigo if I have more than two pairs of *socks* on... I know, what a *sap!* 😊

Mountain Ringlets will probably be the last species I need to see and I will have to bite the bullet and do it. Trouble is, if I have my eyes closed, it won't be very easy to take photos 😊😊😊

Trev

Re: Paul

by Paul, 24-Jun-10 02:55 AM GMT

I think you'd love it really 😊

Jack.... do you think if we got a sedan chair, and a few healthy volunteers we could..... 😊😊😊

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 24-Jun-10 03:40 AM GMT

Paul:

Jack.... do you think if we got a sedan chair, and a few healthy volunteers we could..... 😊😊😊

Yes please.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 02-Jul-10 05:02 AM GMT

Two rather different special things about today... my first ever discovery of a Small Blue larva, and a kingfisher on our pond at home... turns up sporadically usually in or shortly after heavy rain, but we are only 30 yards from the river Swale!!

Both sightings painfully show up my poor camera's limitations... the small, and the distant 😊 . but anyway... proof shots here... 😊



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Re: Paul

by Padfield, 02-Jul-10 05:25 AM GMT

I think they're great pictures, both! Nice finds, Paul!

Guy

Re: Paul

by Paul, 02-Jul-10 06:28 AM GMT

Thanks Guy, can't wait for next week! 😊

Re: Paul

by Dave McCormick, 02-Jul-10 06:00 PM GMT

Great pics Paul, personally would love to see a Kingfisher, but they are anything but common where I live, nearest place I know there are some is a river 20 miles from house (or thereabouts) great you found it in your garden.

Like the small blue cat, those things to me are not easy to find

Re: Paul

by Paul, 02-Jul-10 09:45 PM GMT

Thanks Dave, the Kingfisher has been by about 6 times over 15 years here!!! They are brilliant from all points of view, and I'm sure you'll see them sometime! 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 04-Jul-10 01:32 AM GMT

It's about White Letter Hairstreak time up here now... and I thought I'd pay a visit to a new site I found ovae this January... sure enough, 3 adults counted, at least that's all that were ever in the air at once... one was eventually within camera range... 😊

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Re: Paul

by Padfield, 04-Jul-10 02:06 AM GMT

Amazing how clear that male sex brand is from the underside! I've just checked my own pictures and discovered that is a good way of sexing them even when the tails are worn down. Excellent!

Guy

Re: Paul

by Paul, 04-Jul-10 03:15 AM GMT

I wondered what that was... thought it might have had trouble drying it's wings 😞😄😄

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 05-Jul-10 05:07 PM GMT

Paul in action at Fermyn on Sunday.

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The strange lighting is a result of my inappropriate and unintentional use of flash 😞

jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 06-Jul-10 06:05 AM GMT

Thanks Jack.... the rest of me is fatter and uglier than the pinkies!!! 😞

Now.... you will be gutted you did not stay with me rather than doing the driving lesson.... see following... from someone who saw his first male emperor on Sat am... to someone who has pics of iole (edit... lugenda) 😞 in the afternoon... who's a lucky boy then!! 😄😄😄 I can hear the shriek

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Re: Paul

by Padfield, 06-Jul-10 06:16 AM GMT

I'm speechless, Paul! What a find! And great pictures too.

Guy

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 06-Jul-10 09:01 AM GMT

Paul:

Now.... you will be gutted you did not stay with me rather than doing the driving lesson [for my 17 year-old daughter Polly]

Yes, missed the *irole* but pleased to be able to say that Polly passed her Driving Test next morning – first attempt.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Lee Hurrell, 06-Jul-10 04:36 PM GMT

Stunning Paul!

Lee

Re: Paul

by Pete Eeles, 06-Jul-10 05:15 PM GMT

"Paul" wrote:

Thanks Jack.... the rest of me is fatter and uglier than the pinkies!!! 😊

Now.... you will be gutted you did not stay with me rather than doing the driving lesson.... see following... from someone who saw his first male emperor on Sat am... to someone who has pics of *irole* 🤩 in the afternoon... who's a lucky boy then!! 😊😊😊 I can hear the shriek from here 😊😊

Incredible shots, Paul – well done! I also think your 2nd male shot may also be an aberration, if you look at the amount of orange/red on the costa (leading edge of the forewing).

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Paul

by Piers, 07-Jul-10 12:11 AM GMT

Remarkable photographs Paul,

The second ab. is certainly *lugenda*, the first is *very* unusual and (to me) even more interesting with that bright ochre band on the costa. I shall do some digging...

Felix.

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 07-Jul-10 01:19 AM GMT

Now the challenge must surely be ab *lugenda* + *irole* in one individual. It must exist in theory but....

Well done Paul. Enjoy Switzerland.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Piers, 07-Jul-10 03:20 AM GMT

I might have confused the first and second photographs 🤔

Ab. *lugenda* is the one with three little white spots on the fore wings (and no white band on the hind wings). ab. *irole* is bereft of white markings, particularly on the underside. *irole* is the most extreme expression of the lack of white markings caused by temperature shock; and as such it is as rare as a nature reserve without and dog poop all around the car park. Most pupae would probably at the extreme of temperature required to produce this aberration.

The one the stumps me is the super-attractive specimen with the orange band along the leading (costa) edge of the fore wing. Quite beautiful.

Felix

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 07-Jul-10 04:41 PM GMT

Felix wrote:

iole is the most extreme expression of the lack of white markings caused by temperature shock

I had heard about the effect of temperature shock (presumably, usually a low temperature) but didn't know this is what causes *iole* (and presumably *obliteratae*, etc).

Fascinating subject. Can you give us more details please Felix? Sounds as if it could make some good captive breeding experiments.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 14-Jul-10 05:04 AM GMT

Thanks ever so much for the comments, sort of knew it wasn't real iole but didn't know the true name... I hadn't noticed the orange bordered one!!.... I evidently have no experience!!

I'm back now on the internet, having been out of connection for a while. Roger and Nick have already put up some stunning pics from our jaunt on the "Overseas", "Last of the summer wine" thread... I shall put bits up in due course. 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 24-Jul-10 03:23 AM GMT

Two good things about today...

First, and happily, the Purple Hairstreaks have re-appeared on the top of the Oak tree at the bottom of our garden.... this is after none last year and possibly one the year before..... there were a minimum of four males this evening enjoying the first still, sunny evening for some time.... not a hope of anything photographable.

Secondly, the Commas are emerging, and this afternoon I had the pleasure of both Hutchinsoni...



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... and the usual form...



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in the garden together.

Re: Paul

by Paul, 25-Jul-10 03:48 AM GMT

Twelve species in and around the garden today, Large, Small & GV Whites, Meadow Browns & tatty Ringlet & Speckled Wood, Peacock, Small Tort, Red Admiral and Comma, and welcome returns of Common Blue and Small Copper.... would have been 13 with Purple Hairstreak, but as early evening came, so did low, cold cloud and drizzle.... nothing ventured out in it at all.

A couple of pics...



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Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 25-Jul-10 04:01 AM GMT

Excellent pictures Paul. The power of the Box Brownie. Who needs an expensive, heavy DSLR?

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 25-Jul-10 04:09 AM GMT

Funny, I was just reading the FZ38 bit in the photography section.. I didn't know Sussex K used Lumix.... interesting!.. also that bit about noise reduction... must look into that... thanks for the compliments, since you've altered the way you upload your pics I think they knock mine into a cocked hat.... ps... I'm really glad the driving test was passed, - actually I rather wish you had been there in Lady Wood with me, the three other people who happened by didn't seem to know what they were seeing.. 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 26-Jul-10 07:04 AM GMT

Not a promising afternoon, but on Pete's good advice of "if in doubt, GO", we went to Kirby Stephen to see whether the Scotch Argus have emerged... saw only one, but really fresh male, very amenable but still I cannot get good focus.... best of a bad lot were...



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A couple of other amenable creatures to round it off...

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Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 26-Jul-10 02:35 PM GMT

Paul commented:

....but still I cannot get good focus....

Paul

We have similar (but not identical) Lumix cameras.

I have carried out lots of experiments. In spite of marginal theoretical loss of resolution (diffraction effects) at small apertures, I now routinely use F/8 to get large depth of field when required (*as in an angled wing shot*). Bigger apertures such as F/4 are not affected by diffraction issues but have the disadvantage of less depth of field. These large apertures are useful if the aim is to get a blurred background.

Note: the term large aperture means a smaller number so F/4 is a larger aperture than F/8

This very good website is technical (*so far too difficult for you Neil* 😊)

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials.htm>

Jack

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 26-Jul-10 03:12 PM GMT

I should have added some advice I got from Tim Munsey who clearly is a superb wildlife photographer:

<http://www.wildphotolife.co.uk/>

He pointed out that for even greater depth of field, don't fill the frame when taking the picture. I do just that *if needing maximum depth of field*. So wing-tip to wing-tip might only occupy half or even one third of the screen.

There is logic behind this. Using only part of the frame in effect means you are using a smaller sensor; all other things being equal, the smaller the sensor, the greater depth of field. This advice wouldn't be appropriate if aiming to print a poster size photo, but many of us don't want to do that. On ukb, (direct upload) there is in any case a size limit of 800 pixels; anything much bigger even for personal use is of limited value.

I am talking here about photos of butterflies. Landscapes, portraits and so on require different approaches.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 26-Jul-10 08:31 PM GMT

Thanks Jack.... I will have to have a play around 😊

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 26-Jul-10 09:03 PM GMT

I'm sure you knew that already Paul but it might be useful to other people. Hope so.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 02-Aug-10 04:08 AM GMT

Not the greatest weekend's weather, was considering a long distance forage for Brown Hairstreak, but gave up on that one, ended up wandering back to our nearest Scotch Argus colony to play about a bit with the camera.... still failed!!! seems my camera's internal flash is broke.... never mind... this one was a very well behaved butterfly model....



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Re: Paul

by Paul, 08-Aug-10 06:58 AM GMT

A little trip out today between the showers, have never had many good photos of agestis....

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and a Gatekeeper...

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 09-Aug-10 04:11 AM GMT

Lovely gardening day today.... 11 species in the garden, nil interesting, but there were 3 second gen. Walls, and the Peacock emergence is in early full swing.

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 15-Aug-10 04:27 AM GMT

I went down to Chambers Wood again this pm to see if I could find a Brown Hairstreak. I did see some, but only high in the ash trees and nothing photographable. However.... I wasn't aware there were Silver Washed there.... but this tired old man turned up....

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The best of the rest were....

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Re: Paul

by selbypaul, 15-Aug-10 06:12 PM GMT

Hi Paul

I went to Chambers Farm wood this exact weekend last year. Was lucky to see one Brown Hairstreak halfway up a Hawthorn Bush. With a bit of zoom on a very basic camera I managed to get an ok photo. Intend to go back again in two weeks time. Do you think the Brown Hairstreak will still be out and around then?

About the Silver Washed Fritillary, I too didn't know it was a Chambers Farm Wood. However, there have been quite a few introductions there, so maybe its a result of one.

Paul

Re: Paul

by Paul, 16-Aug-10 04:24 AM GMT

yep.. I sort of thought as much...

You were much luckier than I have been!!.... I went last week and saw zilch, and this week some high up ones, unless they were aged PHs... I didn't have bins with me... I think they will be around for a couple of weeks yet at least.

Re: Paul

by Paul, 16-Aug-10 04:45 AM GMT

My Purple Hairstreaks are there again!!! I thought they had faded away, haven't seen them for over a week. 2 spiralling males at the top of the Oak earlier this evening....

My wildflower bit has changed again with the seasons....

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and a Peacock posed nicely in the evening sun...

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They are at their maximum now, with absolutely loads of them in the garden 😊😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 26-Aug-10 04:05 AM GMT

Well, finally took the plunge, and now am proud if somewhat nervous owner of a Canon D7 and Canon 100mm IS macro lens 😊 now all I have to do is learn how to use them.. gulp 😊 . Watch this space.. 😂😂

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 26-Aug-10 04:30 AM GMT

For the same cost as that outfit, we are about to get a wood burning stove (fully installed). I wanted the camera but..... 😊

I guess that's why we are still married 25+years down the road 🙄

Jack

Re: Paul

by Michaeljf, 26-Aug-10 04:51 AM GMT

"Paul" wrote:

Well, finally took the plunge, and now am proud if somewhat nervous owner of a Canon D7

Paul,
I presume you mean the Canon 7D? I got one before I went on holiday to Andalucia, to go with my 50D so I could keep a 'bird' lens on one body and not miss the butterflies at the same time. The first photos I took were of the White-Letter Hairstreaks at Forest Farm in Whitchurch, Cardiff in reasonably low-light.

I'm sorry to report that my first impression of the 7D is that it wasn't as good for butterflies and macro-photography as I was hoping. With a bit of time I've found that the butterfly shots seem better using Liveview rather than taking photos while looking through the viewfinder (which is my normal process): maybe there's less problem with shutter-shake that way. Anyway, your photos are always superb so I don't suppose you'll have any problems with using the new Canon Body.

Michael

Re: Paul

by Paul, 26-Aug-10 05:23 PM GMT

I appreciate the warnings chaps 😊 – I think it will take a lot of practise!!.... I agree live view is the best way, I've never used a viewfinder yet!!! 😊 at least I will know what the photos would be like on DSLR now... I'm not expecting good results to start with, so shan't be trying it out on rare stuff for a while. 😊 won't have much of a chance to practise this season 😊

Re: Paul

by Padfield, 27-Aug-10 01:40 AM GMT

Can I have your old camera, Paul? 😊

Guy

Re: Paul

by Pete Eeles, 27-Aug-10 02:30 AM GMT

"padfield" wrote:

Can I have your old camera, Paul? 😊

Guy

Yeah – Paul's photos have been truly awful to date 😊 So – why did you feel the need to change from your current setup, Paul?

I have to say, if I were to change anything, I'd probably get rid of my current equipment and get a microscope and video camera; I feel I'm missing something in terms of ultra-macro photography and behaviour. I wonder how much an electron microscope costs? 😊

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 27-Aug-10 02:55 AM GMT

Pete:

I wonder how much an electron microscope costs?

You are quite right Pete about the quality of the results from an electron microscope. The latest edition of National Geographic has some stunning photos including an amazingly beautiful one of an Adonis Blue egg. But it's such a pity that National Geographic follows the modern trend of displaying many of its pictures over two pages. I simply cannot understand this policy as the middle gets lost in the fold of the magazine and – to my eyes at least – ruins the photos. Newspapers and books are just as guilty and spoil many superb photographs.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 27-Aug-10 02:58 AM GMT

😞😞 aaaargh... don't tell me that!! and Guy.... it depends on the results.... you may get the bl*%\$y **new** one if I can't cope 😞😞

I lay the blame at Roger Gibbons feet, since he achieves such sparkling results, I lust after emulating them, and would never know the possibilities if I didn't do this... also if it works out I won't be as antisocial to be with, as at the moment I keep scaring things away by going so close 😞 – I figure I'll be able to stay about a foot away in the future. 😞 – and I want blurry backgrounds!!!

Easy to say, doubt it will be as easy to do 😞

and yes, I'm seriously smarting from the thought I could have had a whole butterflying holiday for the same £ 😞

Pete, intriguing, I wonder if a butterfly is recognisable at quantum level 😞😞😞 but ultra-macro is probably further than I will ever go!

hmmm – never saw that Jack, wish I had. 😞

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 27-Aug-10 03:17 AM GMT

Not quite the electron microscope we were discussing, but an interesting selection of "toys" here: <http://www.brunelmicroscopessecure.co.uk/gital.html>

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 27-Aug-10 06:28 AM GMT

no excuses now for not having the ultimate ovae photos!!! 😞

and on behaviour 😞 I will not forget, **but have no record of**, the intricate courtship of Geranium Bronzes in the undergrowth, or the x-rated grappling of the Apollos... but I believe the 7D will do "movies"... may try that out at some stage 😞 So Pete, I totally see your point. 😞

Re: Paul

by Michaeljf, 27-Aug-10 06:34 AM GMT

"Paul" wrote:

you may get the bl*%\$y **new** one if I can't cope 😞😞

Paul,
I'm sure you'll be able to cope, but if you fancy half a day down in South Wales, I'll gladly help you with getting use out of the 7D. Or feel free to PM me with any questions on using the camera. Apart from using it in the video mode – I have a good camcorder for that if necessary 😞

I did wonder how you felt you could improve your images anyway 😞 but you will get closer to your butterflies with less effort using the Liveview on the 7D.

Bye the way, I think we're all envious of Roger Gibbons photographs. Once you forget his eye for a picture, the hard work, his immense knowledge and fieldwork necessary, I think the fact that he uses a Tripod all the time (?) may be part of the reason why his photographs are so good. I'd add that I use a tripod for all my landscape panoramas, so hand-holding a camera is a welcome change for me which is why I'm loathed to start going tripodding with my macro shots too. Having said that, you may already be using a tripod.

Faded backgrounds are mostly due to aperture value, but you can lose definition of the whole of the butterflies wings with a big aperture, especially when hand-holding shots. Please stop me if I am teaching Granny to suck eggs!

Michael

Re: Paul

by Michaeljf, 27-Aug-10 06:39 AM GMT

"Michaeljf" wrote:

Faded backgrounds are mostly due to aperture value, but you can lose definition of the whole of the butterflies wings with a big aperture, especially when hand-holding shots. Please stop me if I am teaching Granny to suck eggs!

Looks like this discussion point came in a page or so back, so I'll get me coat 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 27-Aug-10 06:45 AM GMT

No, that's great, thanks, and I truly am a novice with this stuff....

I always have hand held.... can't see a tripod working at all.... but we'll see. and the f-stop, well I need to play... I realize the DOF of the Lumix is so nearly right.... and for many angle wing shots I may have to compromise on the OOF backgrounds etc... seems it depends how quickfingered you can be with the myriad of buttons/ dials 😊 – as I said, unless I did this and tried, I would never know...

and many thanks for the offer of assistance, expect a PM maybe sometime next spring – I suppose I might even make the pilgrimage to the next UKB photo workshop, but I've never gotten away with it yet 😊 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 02-Sep-10 05:55 AM GMT

First go.... Canon 7D with Canon 100mm macro IS fifty photos... all out of focus 😡 (nothing more than a Small Tort shot lost) 😊 😊

Re: Paul

by Michaeljf, 02-Sep-10 03:27 PM GMT

"Paul" wrote:

First go.... Canon 7D with Canon 100mm macro IS fifty photos... all out of focus

Paul,
first of all – do you mean slightly out of focus in bits (i.e. you're a perfectionist) or completely out of focus? Even as a novice with the 7D you shouldn't really be having that much trouble.

Is the macro lens still set on MF rather than AF? (should be a button to the side of the lens) or alternatively set on a distance setting on the macro that isn't correct (i.e.0.31m, 0.48m) – second button on the side of the macro.

Are you currently shooting on the fully automatic setting (i.e. green square on dial) in which case the camera is in charge completely. I would try going to Av (Aperture value) where you can dictate settings more. The camera as standard will tend to shoot on ISO 100, which means in lower light it will always shoot slightly slower speeds if the butterfly is hoping about – which may not be helping. On AV you can always bump up the ISO to, say ISO 400 (small black 'ISO' dial on right top of camera). Then you have a better option of changing the Av from a wide aperture (3.2) to something smaller (5.6 or 10) which means you'll get more of the butterfly in focus. As stated, as you go from wider to smaller aperture the camera shutter speed will slow down, so this is better either in good sunlight or with the ISO set higher. In the Canon's you can't really see the grain at higher ISO's for quite a while (i.e. past 1000 ISO) so this a good 'equalizer'.

Alternatively the focus point of the camera screen could be set anywhere rather than where the butterfly is (see checkboard button on top right edge of back of camera body, press checkboard button and move buttons as you look through the viewfinder to see the spot focus change on the screen).

Don't know if this helps. But then, if you're talking about stacking images already, you must know what you are doing 😊 😊

Michael

Re: Paul

by Paul, 03-Sep-10 05:42 AM GMT

Hi... thanks...

will experiment as you suggest... and thanks for the tips... I really appreciate it.... floundering away in short bursts today.... found my main problem....

I'd read I need a polarizing filter up front... so did so.... took it off and bingo... focus!!!.... NOW I can start taking bits of advice!! 😊

Here is a try out this evening with one of those infernal lazy buzzing blighters that seem to arrive in droves out of nowhere & squat in our kitchens just annoying everyone....

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.... mind you.... it did sit still.... could have tried to get lots of images focussing on different bits... here we go stacking.... (didn't though 😊)

Re: Paul

by Michaeljf, 03-Sep-10 06:18 AM GMT

"Paul" wrote:

found my main problem.... I'd read I need a polarizing filter up front

Blimey - some odd advice there! Nice picture of your compound-eyed friend. All you need to do now is stick a pin through it and he'd be ready for your first stacking experiment, and just remove the pin in photoshop later... 😊
Michael

Re: Paul

by Paul, 03-Sep-10 06:46 PM GMT

ooowwwch 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 05-Sep-10 08:53 AM GMT

Well, I'm getting in some practise... wandered up the Dale where I knew the Small Coppers would still be around.... didn't bargain on this little beauty, I believe a female Black Darter (*Sympetrum danae*).... 😊

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will follow up with some Coppers when I have a moment.

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I'm still working on the resolution, graininess etc... obviously some way to go! 😞

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 05-Sep-10 03:46 PM GMT

I'm an addict for buying camera averaging a new one every 18 months (And yes my wife does know!) I reckon that it takes the best part of six months each time to get the best out of the new one. Numerous experiments are carried out on things like best operating mode, optimum aperture, ISO value, use of flash or otherwise, filling or not filling frame – the list goes on. As I have said before, I find all this experimentation is almost as much fun as the actual pictures. At least Paul you had anticipated all this when you got the new camera.

You mentioned "grain" (noise by any other name). I now swear by a product called **Noiseware**.

<http://www.imagenomic.com/>

My FZ38 is noise-free at ISOs of 80 and 100 but noise does begin to creep in at ISO 200 and becomes quite obtrusive at 400. The use of *Noiseware* can make ISO 400 almost as usable as the lower ISOs so is valuable when light levels are poor and flash is not an option. The "Community" version is free but I very quickly upgraded to the pay-version which enables amongst other things, batch processing.

Not sure Paul that's a Black Darter (although the underside is intriguing). Possibly immature or female Common Darter but don't quote me.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Rogerdodge, 05-Sep-10 04:01 PM GMT

Paul

The LACK of grain (noise) is extraordinary, considering you have the ISO at 3200 (at least on the smopper)

This gives 1/1600 sec shutter speed!!!

1/250 would be good enough to hand hold your combination

I suggest knocking it back to 400 – then you will be grain (noise) free.

I know we had discussed the steepness of the learning curve!

Good luck – good results so far all things considered.

Are you using a mono/tripod?

Re: Paul

by Michaeljf, 05-Sep-10 06:12 PM GMT

"Rogerdodge" wrote:

Paul The LACK of grain (noise) is extraordinary, considering you have the ISO at 3200 (at least on the smopper)

Hmm...mind if I step in as a fellow Canon user? 🍷 😊

I thought the first shot was a bit grainy, so I think you must have upped the ISO a bit much by accident!! Having used Canon's since I was a nipper (🙄), I think you'll find with the newer EOS bodies you can go up to 1000 ISO without the grain showing much at all, unless you start doing some post-production that might bring it out. As to hand-holding, I would suggest you can easily try it at 400 or 500 without much of a quality problem. I have met folks at reserves who shudder at the thought, but I can't see a difference and I guess until you start blowing up the images past A2 you're not going to see anything. I only use ISO 100 if I am using a tripod with landscape photography, and then I am using a very small aperture (F22 as opposed to nearer say, F8 with butterfly shots).

To change the ISO just press the ISO button on the top right of the 7D body, and using the top right dial, shift the ISO number by turning the button to the left (less ISO = less grain) or to the right (higher ISO, more grain but more speed to pay with) presuming you are off the automatic 'green square' option!

However, I freely admit I have seen a lot of photos on here recently that are gently persuading me to think about using a tripod for my butterfly photos next year... 😞 😞 😞 😞 😞 😞 🍷

Re: Paul

by Michaeljf, 05-Sep-10 06:15 PM GMT

Nice pics by the way – I told you it should be easier than your 'early' Small Tortoiseshell shots!! 😄

Michael

Re: Paul

by Paul, 05-Sep-10 06:29 PM GMT

Right, thanks for all that excellent advice and I will try those settings now.... 😊

I went out yesterday without the monopod I've been trying – and missed it enormously, even though I find it extraordinarily difficult to handle... another story 😊 – so I'm already thinking tripod. The lack of resolution was beaten by the fast shutter speed, ie shake was the issue, but the high iso was the trade off (had the iso on auto). I have spent so much time wondering what settings other people find best – so I really appreciate the above advice.

The fast stuff was OK in yesterdays strong sun, but the dragonfly (I would like someone to change/ confirm ID – Jack.. I know nothing!!!) was in the more watery early evening light.... but there you go..

I've got it set on M and use the Q button to set everything – as it all seems there together... really quite fast and user friendly (pleasant suprise) – will be trying 1/400, iso640 and f8.0 next 😊 – with something to stand it on....

have a hunch when I next venture to unknown territory for never seen before species, I will take both cameras.... use the Lumix to get record shots as scale perfect as I can, then switch to see what Canon shots I can get as they begin to settle out towards roosting... cannot ever see a high brown behaving.... so respect to those who I've seen submit them!!!! 😲 (and all the other wildly energetic species) 😄😄😄

PS Jack– have just downloaded free version of noiseware... thanks for the tip.

PPS You all produce fantastic shots 🍷 – I'm looking at them with new eyes now!!

Re: Paul

by Rogerdodge, 05-Sep-10 06:59 PM GMT

Paul

The biggest mistake people seem to make with a monopod is the choice of head.

You really need a simple one – after all, most of the camera placement is manual.

A good ball-head is adequate (but can result in the body crashing down onto the monopod if it isn't tightened enough when in transit).

Personally I favour (and so do many others on this list) the Manfrotto monopod head – the 234RC.

The RC relates to the quick release plate – very handy.

There is only one plane of movement – removing complication.

On the matter of exposure–

All cameras offer either Shutter Speed Priority or Aperture Priority – in these you tell the camera what ISO and either Shutter Speed or Aperture you want to use – and it then alters the Aperture or Shutter Speed to achieve the average grey picture.

I would love to have another mode – where I tell it the Aperture AND Shutter Speed I want, and it then sets the appropriate ISO.

Do any cameras offer this option? I would have mine set to f8 and 1/500 for most of the time I reckon.

HTH



Re: Paul

by Paul, 05-Sep-10 07:05 PM GMT

Thanks... that's definitely on my list then... I've a ball head, but it keeps falling apart 😲😄

I like the noiseware..... I think these are now better

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Re: Paul

by Michaeljf, 05-Sep-10 07:58 PM GMT

"Rogerdodge" wrote:

All cameras offer either Shutter Speed Priority or Aperture Priority – in these you tell the camera what ISO and either Shutter Speed or Aperture you want to use – and it then alters the Aperture or Shutter Speed to achieve the average grey picture. I would love to have another mode – where I tell it the Aperture AND Shutter Speed I want, and it then sets the appropriate ISO.

The DSLR on most of the EOS Canon bodies also have an M button – where you set everything manually, i.e. Aperture, ISO, Shutter speed (and you have to have a look therefore at what the light reading comes out as!!). But I guess Roger is after something slightly different?

In general, when shooting butterflies I shoot in Av (Aperture Value), when shooting fast moving birds or sports photography I will shoot on Tv (Time Value), when I'm shooting landscape I alternate between Av and M (Manual) – if I'm shooting a digital panorama, for example, I should be using Manual. When using Av and Tv I'll adjust the ISO according to the conditions (low light higher ISO, faster object higher ISO, good light lower ISO). With butterflies I'll often shoot between 400 and 800 ISO. If you're using a bigger Aperture (3.5) you won't need a higher ISO, because the camera will automatically be shooting faster. I tend to shoot nearer 800 ISO in changeable weather and if I want the whole of the butterflies wings in focus. Again, with a tripod you can shoot in lower ISO.

Regarding some of my sports photography – I normally want a Time Value of between 1250 and 2000 per second. Shooting Red Kites feeding and Golf Swings – for example – you need that sort of speed, otherwise you are going to end up with motion blur when you don't want it. Unless you want motion blur... 😊

Michael

Re: Paul

by Michaeljf, 05-Sep-10 07:59 PM GMT

Roger,
useful tip for the Monopod head though! 😊
Michael

Re: Paul

by Rogerdodge, 05-Sep-10 08:36 PM GMT

Michael

Present exposure modes are a throw back to the days of film.

In the old days of film we were stuck with the ISO of the roll of film we had just wound onto the reel.

The exception to this was when you were happy to fiddle about in the darkroom "pushing" or "pulling" a deliberately under/over exposed reel – but any change was restricted to the whole roll – not just a frame or two.

In those days, and today, we "fix" 2 of the three variables (Always the ISO and either A or T) and let the camera set the third.

Because, with film, we could only vary 2 of the 3 (ISO being effectively fixed) we only had 2 auto-exposure modes.

This has been maintained into digital cameras, despite the ISO being variable at the flick of a button.

My suggestion is that we should be able to set BOTH the aperture and shutter speed we want, thus getting both the DoF and motion blur (or lack of it)

that we want. The camera would then select the ISO required for accurate exposure.

I am, incidentally, well aware of Manual mode, and how to find it on my 2 Canon bodies. Indeed I use it frequently for photographing "whites" or the darker "browns" which both fool the exposure meter into giving an over or under exposed result.

Metering from grass and under-exposing by 1/2 a stop is ideal I find. It is also invaluable when photographing in snow (not many butterflies about then though!).

Re: Paul

by Paul, 05-Sep-10 08:49 PM GMT

Ok - now you've lost me... will have to read this all again over & over again 😊

Re: Paul

by Michaeljf, 05-Sep-10 09:16 PM GMT

"Rogerdodge" wrote:

I am, incidentally, well aware of Manual mode, and how to find it on my 2 Canon bodies.

Sorry Roger... 😊

I did used to have a film camera (in fact, I still have two under the stairs, and one gave me fantastic results: the other was a medium-format I bought off Ebay, and I still haven't gone through the first roll of film) and I frequently bought different speed films for golf photography. In fact, even in multiple-shot mode these were a lot more silent than the current Canon brutes. As you mention, now we can effectively change the equivalent 'speed of film' or ISO half way through the day. No wonder photography has boomed since digital SLR's came down in price.

I have found though that the curve of learning on a digital SLR is a lot quicker than an old film camera where, if you didn't have a darkroom, you waited several weeks for a film to be returned via post, at which point you couldn't remember half of your settings or the ideas you had when taking the photo in the first place. 😊😊

The good news for Paul is that he should be able to learn quickly with the DSLR (even if he doesn't think so at the moment) 🍷

Re: Paul

by Paul, 06-Sep-10 05:56 AM GMT

More photographing, processing and general mucking around gave me these today....

all taken with.. 1/250 f8.0 iso640.... (I think)



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Re: Paul

by Michaeljf, 06-Sep-10 06:10 AM GMT

Paul,

I don't know why you've got the 😞 face, unless it's because you're not sure what settings you've been using! Excellent progress. Lovely shots. I especially like the design of the last shot with the Small Copper, even if the Small Copper could be showing a bit more wing for you! 😊
Michael

Re: Paul

by Paul, 06-Sep-10 07:30 AM GMT

Thanks very much 😊 – I liked the whitish highlights on one of them.

I have really appreciated your help in all of this

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 06-Sep-10 06:15 PM GMT

Paul

You have a width of over 5,000 pixels compared with your old Lumix under 4,000 pixels. Moreover you now have a massive sensor size of 22.3 x 14.9 mm. I have done the sums and it works out that each individual pixel on the new camera is more than 2.5 times the linear size of a pixel on the Lumix. This is what gives a DSLR the advantage, bigger dynamic range, and so on.

Now with so many pixels to play with – far more than are needed for web use – I'd love to see the results from that experiment I suggested of only filling part of the frame. It should mean, amongst other things, that hitting the *exact* focus is less critical and the failure percentage lower.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 06-Sep-10 08:39 PM GMT

Will try in due course Jack.... still working on scale sharp focus presently, haven't done anything remotely artistic yet 😊 (how true 😞)

Re: Paul

by Lee Hurrell, 06-Sep-10 10:18 PM GMT

Cracking photos Paul!

What lens set up are using there?

Thanks

Lee

Re: Paul

by Rogerdodge, 07-Sep-10 01:49 AM GMT

Lee

Paul has always been one of my favourite photographers (and a bloody good bloke too).
I am just delighted that–

a/ He has moved to DSLR.

b/ He is already getting great results.

Re: Paul

by Paul, 07-Sep-10 03:14 AM GMT

High Lee... I'm the proud new father of a Canon EF 100mm f2.8L Macro IS USM Lens fronting a Canon EOS 7D Digital SLR Camera – I've drooled for years over this and that, and being very fortunate enough, have now plunged in.... enjoying the learning curve as it were!! 😊 – mind you... cost as much as a small car 😞 and am only just still married 😊😊😊

Roger... just preening my feathers... ahh that's better 😊 you are really kind but I'm not sure about your judgement 😊 I haven't actually met too many site users here so far, but those I have seem to be natural immediate friends... excellent... few & far between in normal life.

actually glad I didn't have this equipment in Helvetia, would have come back with about 3 photos I think, 😊 – after seeing how proper photographers do it, I jumped as soon as I could.....

mind you... used Camerabox to buy the stuff, then read some cripplingly bad reviews **after** 😊 waited for an excruciating week feeling they would just pocket my money... but the full order duly arrived and I have to say they were absolutely true to their word. no worries 😊

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 07-Sep-10 03:16 AM GMT

I – as a non-DSLR user –am following this with great interest. I have to say that at the moment, Paul is not replicating the excellent images he produced with his old Lumix (and Paul knows this). But I'm sure that in due course, his pics will make us all jealous. If I were able to cart around all that kit, I would certainly be going for a Canon EOS 7D. Short of getting a 60 megapixel Hasselblad H4D-60, I'm sure you can't do better.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Michaeljf, 07-Sep-10 04:31 AM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

Paul is not replicating the excellent images he produced with his old Lumix (and Paul know this). Jack

Go on Jack, rub it in 😊 At least Paul has plenty of time over winter to brush up on his skills.

I did wonder why Paul switched to a DSLR, considering his old results. I blame it on his so-called friends! Peer pressure, it's a dreadful thing! 😊

I wish I'd had either a good SLR or Bridge camera when I was young (before teens). Instead I had an instamatic that gave crap results and made a clunky noise when you pressed the shutter. I have the evidence to prove it too, though you can't take away from those first memories of seeing a Scarce Swallowtail for the first time. 😊

Michael

Re: Paul

by Paul, 07-Sep-10 05:11 AM GMT



Re: Paul

by Paul, 11-Sep-10 01:50 AM GMT

Another forage round the garden today, playing with new toy...

s1/1000 f8.0 iso500.....

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and finally got this chap who's been buzzing the garden for days now...

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 12-Sep-10 12:02 AM GMT

Definitely autumnal now...

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and this Common Darter...

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 14-Sep-10 06:27 AM GMT

I have a few more images from Switzerland in the summer I think are worth sharing... firstly from the forest south west of Geneva, after we picked up the hire-car.. deep woodland generally reminiscent of Fermyn or Bentley, but with added interest!! 😊 It was very hot, and the butterflies were very animated indeed.

All these are Lesser Purple Emperors, nominate form, as opposed to the orange clytie form I had seen several years ago in the Dordogne

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The next day brought us to a dusty riverside walk, below a steep hillside... dazzling light with white stone paths made photography tough exposure wise... lots of species zapping around, presenting few opportunities much of which produced less than perfect results...

Knapweed Fritillary female..

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Great Sooty Satyr, female...

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Provençal Short-tailed Blue..

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Red Underwing Skipper...

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Later that day we drove, then walked high into a mountain pass to eventually see Cynthia's Fritillary.. sadly I didn't manage a great photo... blame it on the dehydration/ hangover..

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Lastly, another Heath photo more Alpine than Darwin's but not real true-blood...

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 15-Sep-10 04:26 AM GMT

A comparison of maculinae species from Switzerland in 2010....
Mountain Alcon... rather worn male and underside...



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Scarce Large, female and underside...



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and Dusky Large, sadly no upperside...

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 17-Sep-10 05:24 AM GMT

Here are a few more photos from Switzerland..
A Glandon Blue...

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An Eros Blue...

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A Damon Blue...

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and an unidentified Blue.....(edit) likely Zephyr Blue ssp. trappi...

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and lastly , probably a Shepherd's Fritillary...

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 22-Sep-10 06:49 AM GMT

Three more experimental and autumnal pics of common species today.... s1/640, f8.0, iso 400, filtered, tripod used.

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Re: Paul

by Padfield, 22-Sep-10 02:29 PM GMT

You have some really amazing shots in all that lot, Paul! Your patience and persistence in the field certainly pays off!

Guy

Re: Paul

by Paul, 23-Sep-10 03:02 AM GMT

Thanks Guy.... hope the helle survived my patience & persistence (cringe) 😊 😊

Re: Paul

by Michaeljf, 23-Sep-10 03:23 AM GMT

Paul,
good shot especially of the Red Admiral. I find the SLR's sometimes have a problem with them, not just because of the tone (obviously one can bring that down to match the dark butterfly) but also with the focus. I like the sharpness of the Sedum flowers as well. Hmm...makes me think I should be investing in a new tripod and ball-and-socket head (be still my poor wallet) 🙄
Michael

Re: Paul

by Paul, 23-Sep-10 03:32 AM GMT

I reckon the tripod makes a difference, but only worth even trying if one has an engrosed butterfly nectaring or sleeping, – I'm practicing the rapid wheeling around of long bits of metal.... bit like some very odd sort of Ninja really... 😊 nothing much left to practice on up here 😞 roll on next year

Re: Paul

by Paul, 27-Sep-10 03:54 AM GMT

Little left to practise on in what is really the frozen north....bitterly cold..... today in the garden...

1:250 f8.0 iso500....

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1:100 f8.0 iso500...

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Thought I'd have a count up.... at the end of this season I have photos of 161 European Butterfly Species. Hope to add to that tally next year, tho' it's getting more difficult to see new ones. 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 05-Oct-10 04:33 AM GMT

sunny break in the latest monsoon, Red Admirals, Small Tortoiseshells, Commas, Speckled Woods all about....

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1:320 f8.0 iso200 3/10/10 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 09-Oct-10 08:41 AM GMT

Butterflies are thin on the ground just now, but some of the moths in flight at the moment are just as beautiful.... such as the Merveille du Jour....

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😊😊😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 11-Oct-10 01:51 AM GMT

Some fungi from the garden today, no idea what they're called 🤔 ...
all 1:40 f8.0 iso 400 filtered.

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😁 tho' still struggling to control "the beast" 🤔

Re: Paul

by traplican, 11-Oct-10 04:18 AM GMT

"Paul" wrote:

Some fungi from the garden today, no idea what they're called 🤔 ...
all 1:40 f8.0 iso 400 filtered.

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Devil's Snuffbox – *Lycoperdon perlatum*. Edible and delicate as long as it is **clearly white and compact inside**. Appropriate to meat, sauces or as "false brain".

Re: Paul

by Paul, 11-Oct-10 04:30 AM GMT

Ohhh K..... not sure I dare try it.. 😊 ... but I might 😊😊 or should it be 🍄 thans Traplican... any ideas about the other bright green/blue one??

Re: Paul

by traplican, 11-Oct-10 04:45 AM GMT

"Paul" wrote:

Ohhh K..... not sure I dare try it.. 😊 ... but I might 😊😊 or should it be 🍄 thans Traplican... any ideas about the other bright green/blue one??

Sorry, I don't other mushrooms from your photos. 😞

Re: Paul

by traplican, 11-Oct-10 04:51 AM GMT

[quote="Paul"]A comparison of maculinae species from Switzerland in 2010.... Mountain Alcon... rather worn male and underside...



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.. But this photo has taken me. ... Seems like Mazarine Blue – *Cyaniris semiargus* for me.

Re: Paul

by Padfield, 11-Oct-10 05:02 AM GMT

I agree – those are perfectly edible (if bland) – but I think a *very wise policy* is never to eat mushrooms on the basis of advice from people you might never have met, based on a photograph you post on the internet! 😊 That way lies tragedy!!

If you don't have a good book, Roger Philips's mushroom guide is completely free and online (and has been for some years). It is here:

<http://www.rogersmushrooms.com/>

Type *Lycoperdon* into the search box and you'll get all the info on *perlatum* and related species.

Guy

EDIT – just noticed Traplican's comment on the *rebeli*. Mazarine blue does fly at that site but the picture is definitely of mountain alcon. Apart from the wingshape, the submarginal markings on the underside give it away. They are very noticeable on the hindwing, towards the anal angle.

Re: Paul

by traplican, 11-Oct-10 05:44 AM GMT

Thank you, Guy. I can beside warn before confusion between *Lycoperdon sp.* and *Scleroderma sp.* ⚠

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 11-Oct-10 06:19 PM GMT

Paul:

...no idea what they're called....

Obviously one of the phalloid group of species.

Jack

Re: Paul

by traplican, 11-Oct-10 07:04 PM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

Paul:

...no idea what they're called....

Obviously one of the phalloid group of species.

Jack

You exaggerate. In fact there is no hazard in eating *Lycoperdon sp.*. I eat in a aprox. 40 years. There is a risk in confusion of button mushroom with phalloid group of species (The Death Cap – *Amanita phalloides*, The Destroying Angel – *Amanita virosa*, *Amanita verna*) if you don't give enough consideration to the shape of mushroom stalk bottom (phalloid *Amanitas* grow from semi-free sheath or "egg") and color of leaves.

But never eat no mushrooms if you don't know risk their potential doubles! I think by *Lycoperdon* is no if you know also *Scleroderma sp.* – but this mushroom is hard and blackens inside soon than softens.

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 11-Oct-10 07:12 PM GMT

I was alluding to the shapes of the objects when I "invented" the word *phalloid*. I hadn't realised that there is a real group of species called *phalloid*. I wonder why they are so called? 😊

I'd better shut up before I cause further misunderstandings.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Padfield, 11-Oct-10 07:46 PM GMT

There is even a genus of mushrooms called *Phallus*, Jack! This includes the common stinkhorn, *Phallus impudicus*. You don't need to be a classical scholar to know what that means!

Amanita phalloides is not particularly phallic in appearance compared to some other mushrooms. The name might mean 'like a phallus' or maybe 'like *Phallus*', referring to the stinkhorn. Among the (very unpleasant) toxins it contains are members of the phallotoxin group, named after *phalloides*.

Guy

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 11-Oct-10 08:35 PM GMT

Padfield:

....This includes the common stinkhorn, *Phallus impudicus*....

impudicus sounds a most useful term of abuse as in: "You nasty little *impudicus*". Must remember that.....

But as before, it seems that someone got the idea before me, ie the Greeks and the Romans: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finger_%28gesture%29

Jack

Re: Paul

by traplican, 11-Oct-10 08:53 PM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

I was alluding to the shapes of the objects when I "invented" the word *phalloid*. I hadn't realised that there is a real group of species called *phalloid*. I wonder why they are so called? 😊

I'd better shut up before I cause further misunderstandings.

Jack

Phalloid group of *Amanitas*, phalloid group of intoxication (see [url=http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amanitine:17zolnqo]alpha-amanitin[/url:17zolnqo]). But more latin names in mycology relate to genitalia, e.g. [url=http://www.biolib.cz/en/taxon/id60480/:17zolnqo]The Grisette[/url:17zolnqo] or [url=http://www.biolib.cz/en/taxon/id60806/:17zolnqo]Stinkhorn[/url:17zolnqo] so it seems that mycologist had some obsession.

Re: Paul

by Paul, 12-Oct-10 03:04 AM GMT

Hey Jack.... if your's resembles the photos, I;d go see your GP 😂😂 wonderful conversation, I too had no idea there were phallic names like that.... but I do wonder why there is an *Erebia pharte*.... does it squeak or something.... duuuuur 😊

Re: Paul

by Padfield, 12-Oct-10 03:45 AM GMT

And I thought Paul would be upset his wonderful diary had been sabotaged...

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

"You nasty little *impudicus*". Must remember that...

O homuncule impudice! would carry real contempt.

I don't know the etymology of *pharte*. Most *Erebia* species are Greek mythological characters and many have a connection with the underworld. But it is an unfortunate name, I admit.

If mycologists have a thing about phalli it's sort of understandable. What I've never understood is all the sexual innuendo surrounding orchids (*orchis* is Greek for the male part that gets inflamed when you suffer from orchitis).

Guy

Re: Paul

by Paul, 17-Oct-10 06:36 AM GMT

Moths dwindling now, but still some interesting ones...

Figure of Eight

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Angle Shades

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Green Brindled Crescent ab. capucina

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Re: Paul

by Paul, 18-Oct-10 12:59 AM GMT

2Speckled Wood, 2 Comma and a Small Tort enjoying some of the last sunshine of the year in the garden....

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Re: Paul

by Zonda, 18-Oct-10 03:08 PM GMT

Tiny bit of confusion happening fungi-wise in this thread, regarding the specific epithet *phalloides*. The *Amanita* genus contains some of the most poisonous species in the world. *Amanita phalloides* 'The Death Cap' pictured below is the most common in these isles, and along with *Amanita virosa* 'The Destroying Angel', causes most fatal, or near fatal poisonings. Within the *Amanita* genus the sub-section Phalloideae contains the poisonous species. *Phallus impudicus* 'The Common Stinkhorn' is of a completely separate genus, and is shaped as described. Stinkhorns are not poisonous, but smell like rotten flesh to attract flies which then spread their spores. Some people eat them at the egg stage, before they have expanded. The Victorians, being victorian, would only allow them to be illustrated upside-down. Most puffballs are edible when young, and still have a white interior.



Common Stinkhorn



Re: Paul

by traplican, 18-Oct-10 05:46 PM GMT

Classification of Fly Agaric among the "deadly" in <http://www.rogersmushrooms.com/> seems exorbitant for me. Fly Agaric is poisonous mushroom and causes various pictures of poisonings related to environment where the mushroom has originated (from mountain areas soon hallucinations and neurotoxic syndroms, from lowlands soon muscarine type of intoxication) but doesn't cause deadly poisonings and is easily recognizable.

Panther Cap (*Amanita pantherina*) contains the same poisons but in approx. 4x higher concentration and may cause heavy (exceptionally deadly) poisonings if it is mistaken for edible (and tasty 😊) Blusher – *Amanita rubescens*. But confusion asks considerable inattention because markings of *A. rubescens* are clear: Presence of pink on the pileus skin and on the lesions (the bottom of the stalk is often infested by insects) and vertically mild grooved ring.

Inocybe rubescens (= *patouillardii*) contains allegedly 1000x higher concentration of muscarine than Fly Agaric.

Galerina autumnalis = [url=http://www.biolib.cz/en/taxon/id60684/:25hictse]Galerina marginata[/url:25hictse] – Deadly Galerina or Funeral Bell contains similar poisons like *A. phalloides* and may be mistaken with edible and tasty [url=http://www.biolib.cz/en/taxonimages/id60624/:25hictse]Sheathed Woodtuft – *Kuehneromyces mutabilis*[/url:25hictse].

Boletus satanas causes heavy and painful convulsions of digestive tract if it is eaten raw or few heat treated. In literature is alleged that it is harmless after 30 min boil but it isn't recommended to test it.

Cortinarius orellanus or *C. speciosissimus* is really deadly and insidiously poisonous and causes kidney failure after 4 days to a number of weeks after eating. These mushrooms cause poisonings with the longest time of latency (if we don't include mushrooms containing mutagenous agents like White Domecap – *Lyophyllum connatum*).

Re: Paul

by Zonda, 19-Oct-10 12:10 AM GMT

Traplican said:

Classification of Fly Agaric among the "deadly" in <http://www.rogersmushrooms.com/> seems exorbitant for me. Fly Agaric is poisonous mushroom and causes various pictures of poisonings related to environment where the mushroom has originated (from mountain areas soon hallucinations and neurotoxic syndroms, from lowlands soon muscarine type of intoxication) but doesn't cause deadly poisonings and is easily recognizable.

Yes,,, i can see your point, but maybe if my heart wasn't so good, or i was maybe on medication of another sort. Or maybe frail or whatever. I can see why Roger Phillips has labeled it 'deadly', mainly to cover himself. I think i would have done the same. Also i think maybe the amount eaten may come into the equation. Drugs of any sort are taken for the 'high', but take too much, and its 'Goodnight Kate'. It maybe capable of causing death in very extreme cases, and like Phillips i don't really think we should be encouraging people to ingest it.

I must say Traplican,,, i agree with most of what you say, on the other species mentioned. 😊

Re: Paul

by Zonda, 19-Oct-10 01:28 AM GMT

My apologies to Paul for infiltrating his diary with our fungi rubbish. Feel free to edit it all. 😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 19-Oct-10 03:48 AM GMT

No worries, it's interesting, and I'm learning stuff.. 😊 – I don't think any of it can be edited/ removed by anyone, even Pete, so it's there to stay 😊

I don't think that was the original intention of creating the diaries in this form, but hey, who cares 😊😊

Re: Paul

by Paul, 01-Nov-10 12:36 AM GMT

This was an unusual visitor to our garden today.... don't often see Tree Sparrows here...

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Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 01-Nov-10 02:20 AM GMT

That's a very good picture of a (now) rare bird.

Jack

Re: Paul

by traplican, 01-Nov-10 03:30 AM GMT

Moment, Sparrow is a rare bird in UK? 😊

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 01-Nov-10 03:37 AM GMT

House Sparrow isn't rare, but sadly Tree Sparrow is quite scarce nowadays.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 01-Nov-10 04:07 AM GMT

It's only the third time I've seen them here in 15 years!....but I do remember going to a BC meeting at Fairburn Ings and watching loads of them just outside the window there 😊

Thanks Jack.... I'm no bird photographer and the light was lousy!! more of a record shot really.... took several more..

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Re: Paul

by Lee Hurrell, 01-Nov-10 04:35 AM GMT

Lovely photos Paul 😊

Cheers

Lee

Re: Paul

by Paul, 09-Dec-10 05:16 AM GMT

Oh God... this winter is going to be sooooo long! 😊

Anyway... playing indoors with new toys, finally got the focus stacker to produce something, albeit very inanimate....



If I'm going to get any butterflies that still, it will have to be a very cool and early morning!! 😊

and hmmm... cattles.... they might be better stacked 😊😊 (not like the world, turtles all the way down 😊)

Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 09-Dec-10 05:34 AM GMT

That stacking is impressive. Is that your father's medal, or of another relative?

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 09-Dec-10 07:00 AM GMT

Yep, Dad's, he died in 1980, taking some stories to the grave which should have survived.... those guy's lived through hell some of us have never had to. The focus stacking I think missed a bit in the middle, but it took me 3 attempts to get that! May try again soon.

Re: Paul

by Paul, 12-Dec-10 01:29 AM GMT

No butterflies, but another interesting visitor to the garden this pm.... poor light and taken through a closed window, so "record shots" only... but Bramblings don't often turn up here...



Re: Paul

by Jack Harrison, 13-Dec-10 12:41 AM GMT

Brambling is a very good garden bird – and of course quite spectacular.

My best garden birds over the past 15 years have been one Waxwing and one Brambling. My wife once saw a Firecrest: "Just like a Goldcrest but with a white eye-stripe". Best over-flying sightings have been Red Kite and Hobby, but neither are really scarce in this part of the world. Buzzards breed nearby so are regular – once had a flock of eight. Buzzards are more often heard than seen.

Jack

Re: Paul

by Paul, 13-Dec-10 01:09 AM GMT

Hi, yes... seen them only twice before... Never had Waxwings though.. we don't get much more than the usual stuff... and NO Greenfinches recently... viral genocide I think. The other thing we should see, but seldom do is Siskins.

Once had a Night Heron by the pond overnight, – first sighting in this part of the world, there was also one seen in Macclesfield the same week... lost or what!!.. I believe there are some near Edinburgh, and a colony in the Netherlands. So had come some way at least.

Today this was taking advantage of the birdfood...



Re: Paul

by ashley, 13-Dec-10 05:23 AM GMT

Hi,

Couple of things I hope you can help with.

1. We had a butterfly appear in our kitchen on Friday and is now living in the bathroom, its a Red Admiral. Reading around I see we don't really need to feed it, just make sure there is water. Is this correct, and is this a bit wierd having one now with the weather we have had?
2. Love the pictures and was wondering what camera you are using (please forgive me if you have already answered this but I have not looked at every page).

Cheers

Re: Paul

by Paul, 13-Dec-10 06:47 AM GMT

Hi Ashley, amazing!... what I would do with a Red Admiral just now is to put it somewhere cool, dark , dry and protected from spiders if possible. They hibernate, but will rouse if somehow warmed up so it does happen at any time of winter. It is only recently that any Red Admirals have been known to survive our winter, so the critter warrants lots of respect for trying 😊 Anywhere indoors is likely to be too warm. It also needs access to the outdoors unless you plan on checking it every day.. if it becomes active too often it will die.

I have graduated on from an initial Nikon coolpix 4500 🤩 to a Lumix FZ50 which was brilliant with a close up lens for butterflies and I still intend to use it.... to this autumn when I spoil myself with a Canon 7D and the new 100mm canon macro IS lens... that's what the bird photos are with but I'm not yet able to produce the sort of shots I want. It's the first time I have had to deal with shutter speed, aperture, iso etc etc etc, and I am suffering from frustration 😊 – still, all in all, having fun!

If you keep looking at the site, and post about anything you see of interest, you will find it a wonderful forum to be part of.... glad to have you along. 😊