

## **Paul Wetton**

by Paul Wetton, 09-Jan-11 07:31 AM GMT

I'm going to actually have a personal diary this year.

I'm starting off with some more video footage from 2010. This time of a butterfly that was completely new to me.

The Chequered Skipper at Glasdrum Wood. A fantastic spot if you get decent weather and don't mind the midges.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BDeYdVhKls>

Hope you enjoy this video footage.

All my video footage is on my new film "A Butterfly Year". Please take a look at my website.

## **Re: Paul Wetton**

by David M, 09-Jan-11 08:25 PM GMT

Nice stuff, Paul. This is a species I intend to observe this spring. I have already booked time off towards the end of May in order to do so. When was it that you visited Glasdrum?

## **Re: Paul Wetton**

by Paul Wetton, 09-Jan-11 08:30 PM GMT

Hi David

We went at the end of May 29th and 30th. There were a couple of fresh females about and a single fresh looking male. Most of the males were showing signs of wear and tear when we visited.

The butterflies may be in better condition a little earlier. It could vary though from year to year depending on the weather. I would just keep your fingers crossed for a bit of sunshine on the days you are there.

## **Re: Paul Wetton**

by Rogerdodge, 09-Jan-11 08:43 PM GMT

Paul

Thanks for that video.

It bought back some excellent memories.

I have visited Glasdrum twice. Firstly about seven years ago, and then again the year before last. Both times at the end May/early June.

I met locals there both times, and was told I was bang on time the first time, but just a bit early the second (only a few, very fresh, individuals seen all day).

It is, as you say, a lovely area. I spent the night in the car park there in my campervan, and was delighted to have a curious Pine Marten scuttling around the van in the early morning. As soon as I opened a window he scarpered – thus no photograph.

## **Re: Paul Wetton**

by Goldie M, 09-Jan-11 11:35 PM GMT

Where is Glasdrum Wood situated Paul.? I live in the North of England, but plan on visiting Norfolk this summer and other places in a caravan, it helps to know and then plan, it looks great on your video. Goldie M 😊

## **Re: Paul Wetton**

by Paul Wetton, 10-Jan-11 01:21 AM GMT

Hi Roger

Pine Marten. Fantastic. Saw one and captured some video at the Speyside Wildlife Hide up near Aviemore a few years ago. I went back the following year but had no luck.

Hi Goldie M

Glasdrum Wood is on the west coast of Scotland between Oban and Fort William if I remember correctly. I think it's on this site if you look up places for Chequered Skipper.

I envy you with campervans. I hate putting the tent up.

## **Re: Paul Wetton**

by Goldie M, 10-Jan-11 10:36 PM GMT

Thanks Paul I'll look it up. 😊 Goldie

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 11-Jan-11 05:18 AM GMT

Hi Goldie

It's not too hard to find and there's a sign at the side of the road where the car park is.

If you go, just head uphill from the car park through the woods to the break in the trees under the power lines. That's where you'll find the Chequered Skippers and Small Pearl-bordered Frits.

Take some sturdy boots as it's quite damp and uneven on the ground.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Gibster, 11-Jan-11 05:57 AM GMT

"Paul Wetton" wrote:

I envy you with campervans. I hate putting the tent up.

I find that the Highland Midge can be very bothersome in peak Chequered Skipper season. They seem particularly hungry at tent-putting-up time. The solution is simple, cover your arms, legs and face in thick black nylon stockings, work fast and have a near-naked helper standing close by, preferably daubed in fresh warm blood. If nothing else it'll give the locals something to talk about! 😊

Seriously though, Killiechonate Woods by Spean Bridge train station is an excellent site for the species, they abound within 20 minutes walk of the train platform for anybody who relies upon public transport. My website has details (see Seth's Diary Jan – Jun)

Cheers,

Gibster.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Rogerdodge, 11-Jan-11 06:07 AM GMT

Avon Skin-so-Soft hand lotion/moisturiser works really well as a midge repellent (you also get luvverly soft skin!).

They are also attracted by large dark objects, so your black stockings should be white Gibster.

So light coloured clothing is a good idea.

They are also attracted to CO<sub>2</sub> – so hold your breath (only kidding).

They are also put off by cigarette smoke. Sadly I gave up smoking 10 years ago.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Gibster, 11-Jan-11 06:11 AM GMT

I'd never even heard of Skin-so-Soft until last summer. The Highlanders absolutely swear by it. We tried it and yep it really does work. The midges land in it and die. Sweet! And, of course, it leaves your skin ever so...er...soft! 😊 😊

PS – I look 'orrific in white stockings, black brings out the ninja in me 😊 And who you calling a 'large dark object' anyway?!?!? 😊

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 11-Jan-11 06:55 AM GMT

Hi guys

So your really sayin take a large dark naked woman daubed in blood who has extremely soft skin whilst you should be wearin white silk stockings and smokin like a steam train. 😳 😳

Wow forget the butterflies. 😳 😳

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Gibster, 11-Jan-11 07:00 AM GMT

Butterflies??? Huh, Paul? 😳 😳

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Neil Hulme, 11-Jan-11 07:16 AM GMT

Hi all,

I prefer nude hold-ups by Wolford, matched with a nice heel by Manola Blahnik and accessorised with an animal print bag from Guess. The outfit is

finished with a dab of Chanel No.5 – and I'm good to go. See you there last week in May chaps 😊 .

Neil

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 11-Jan-11 04:33 PM GMT

Yeah Seth, butterflies, those things with pretty wings and stuff.

Can't wait Neil. Must remember to bring the video camera. Never tried blackmail before though.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Neil Hulme, 11-Jan-11 05:04 PM GMT

Hi Paul,

I'll definitely be there – perhaps we should arrange the first UKB meet-up in 'drag' 😊

Neil

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 11-Jan-11 05:47 PM GMT

Not sure about high heels and stockings on those hillsides.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Rogerdodge, 12-Jan-11 01:19 AM GMT

Well.....

I was going to take the marathon trip up north for Cheqs this year.

However – the idea of bumping into Neil wearing flesh coloured "hold-ups" and stiletto heels is just a bit off putting.

p.s. A good thing I checked this post before sending.

I had missed the "p" out of bumping – and that completely changed the mood of the sentence!



## Re: Paul Wetton

by Gibster, 12-Jan-11 05:53 AM GMT

Shucks, looks as though I'll be very busy at the end of May else I'd gladly join you chaps (not sure what it is that I'll be very busy doing yet, but it sure as hell doesn't include traipsing the Highlands with Ms Neli Kipper!!!) 😅 😊

PS: I probably shouldn't mention this, but I won a medieval-themed fancy dress party a few years ago...dressed as a rather gorgeous damsel with huge fake bosoms, a figure-hugging gauzy outfit, tall pointy hat with veil and long flowing blonde hair, all perfectly complemented by a rather scruffy beard and my big hairy knees.

Aaah, those were the days...

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 12-Jan-11 06:23 AM GMT

Well my 2011 personal diary hasn't started off quite how I planned it but things can only get better as they say.

Although I think things could still go down hill a bit from here.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Denise, 12-Jan-11 05:41 PM GMT

Hi Paul.

I thought that footage was excellent 😊 I have never seen Chequered Skipper, well not in this country and then only a fleeting glimpse.

I am thinking of going up to Glasdrum at the end of May as my birthday treat. Might run into some of you guys there, that is if I recognise any of you in drag, or worse!

Denise

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 12-Jan-11 07:45 PM GMT

Hi Denise

Many thanks for the kind comment.

What could possibly be worse than myself, Seth and Neil prancing about the Scottish hillsides in drag. Can't think of anything myself. 😂 😂

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Denise, 12-Jan-11 11:31 PM GMT

Oh! I can't get this image out of my head 😱 😱

So your really sayin take a large dark naked woman daubed in blood who has extremely soft skin whilst you should be wearin white silk stockings and smokin like a steam train

No naked people please 😊

Denise

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 13-Jan-11 12:07 AM GMT

OK less of the naked, drag queens of UKB.

Maybe I should put another video on to put some more pleasant images into everyone mind.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Gibster, 14-Jan-11 01:44 AM GMT

"Paul Wetton" wrote:

Maybe I should put another video on to put some more pleasant images into everyone mind

How about Painted Lady-boys? 😊

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Piers, 14-Jan-11 04:15 AM GMT

This garment works very well against midges.

[http://www.fifecountry.co.uk/PRODUCT\\_DE...106&cid=52](http://www.fifecountry.co.uk/PRODUCT_DE...106&cid=52)

Felix.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 14-Jan-11 07:12 AM GMT

Nice one Seth. I may have to have a play in photo shop over the weekend if I can't get out anywhere.

Felix that looks like a great item of clothing for anyone planning to spend time in the midge infested regions north of the border.

One thing that does work with midges is to keep moving. Trouble is then you can't look at anything in detail and as soon as you stop they're back.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Gibster, 14-Jan-11 09:23 AM GMT

To misquote a famous film slogan, "In The Highlands no-one can hear you scream" 😱 😱 😱

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Susie, 15-Jan-11 02:33 AM GMT

Forget the butterflies, this thread has made me laugh my head off. 😊

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 15-Jan-11 03:00 AM GMT

We're only here to please 😊

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 21-Jan-11 11:50 PM GMT

Time for some more butterfly video.

Here's some footage of Large Blue at Collard Hill taken in the second week of June last year.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzfT7NSUYKU>

Hope this spurs some of you to go and have a look at Collard Hill this year.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Gibster, 06-Feb-11 04:30 AM GMT

Hey Wetton!

Wot's happened to UKB's most surreal blog?

Not in hibernation are you, mate??? 😊

Gibster.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 22-Mar-11 06:25 AM GMT

Hey Gibbo

Time for an update.

Had a trip to Broadsands in Devon on Sunday looking for Cirl Buntings. Found several and had a couple of Shags in the sea. Two Cormorant like birds for the non birders.

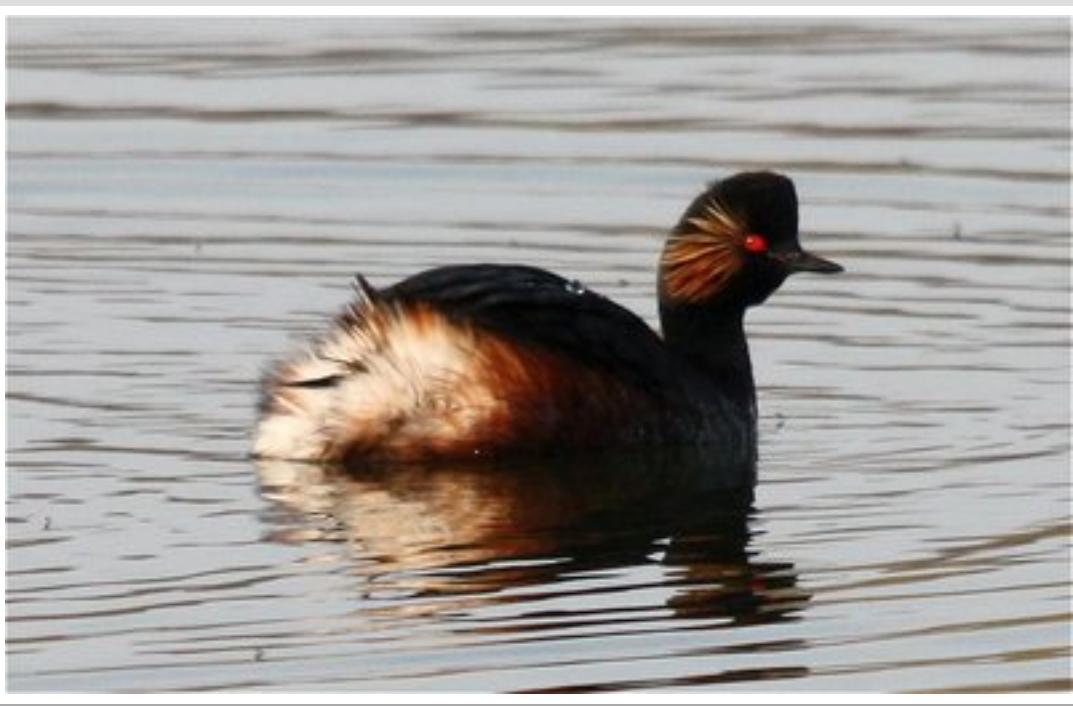


Female perched amongst Bramble



Male eating seeds

Stopped off at Woolhampton Gravel Pits near Reading on the way home to take a look at the three Black-necked Grebes.



Here's one of the three

Had my first butterflies at Broadsands in Devon whilst sat in the car park watching the Cirl Buntings. Two Small Tortoiseshells were feeding on the Willow flowers along the edge of the car park.

I've broken my vow of long distance travel already and probably did £100 on petrol. Off down the slippery slope again.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Gibster, 24-Mar-11 05:58 AM GMT

Yo, Wetton!

Glad to see you're still alive, and getting in the shag-gags...I'd never stoop that low. Of course, if we're talking *Parus major* then I'm listening... 😊

That Cirl site is great, isn't it? Not as scenic as Prawle, but Broadsands car park does offer fantastic photography opportunities. The warden has been seeding the top corner for few years now. We had 13 on our visit, including young birds, all in the grit alongside Dunnocks.

I've had Small Tort, Peacock, Comma, Brimstone (as adults), Small Copper (a larva), Purple Hairstreak & Brown Hairstreak (eggs). How's your yearlist going so far??? 😊

All the best,

Gibster.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 24-Mar-11 06:09 PM GMT

Hiya Seth

Had a funeral yesterday unfortunately but managed my second and third species of the year at the crematorium. Peacock and Red Admiral.

Yep, Broadsands car park was a great spot for photos of the birds but not very scenic and full of dog walkers and kids. Can't have everything.

Nice pair of *P. Major* always goes down well.

I've been watching news about the Large Torts with interest as it's a species I've never seen before.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Gibster, 25-Mar-11 02:09 AM GMT

Yeah, I know what you mean about the IOW Large Torts, the temptation is strong. But the money in my pocket is weak. And we've a week in southern Spain with friends in a couple of weeks time which won't be cheap. I've seen a couple of Large Torts before (one is probably a bit iffy, in mid-Surrey in 90s. The other at Portland which I'm claiming as 100% genuine...ish!)

Sam's just started a new job and has her rota till the end of the year, which strikes me as mind-boggling. I never know my rota from one week to the next (!) Tonight we can settle down and work out our day trips/overnighters/mini-breaks for the summer. Mountain Ringlet and Real's Wood White are the main targets this season. Plus Small Heath *rhoumensis*. Of course, it always helps to get off at the correct island...doh! We shall pay better attention this year...

Gibster.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 25-Mar-11 05:27 PM GMT

Never been to Rhum. Just looked over the sea at it.

I'd be interested in a spot of Mountain Ringlet spotting. I can get up there in less than 3 hours from Notts.

I'm an 8-30 til 16-30 5 days a week sort of bloke so it's easy to plan trips. Just don't get enough holes in a year. 😕

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 23-May-11 12:13 AM GMT

Time for an update as I've been quietly skulking around at my local nature reserve until now.

Had a trip to Goring on the Thames to find the Club-tailed Dragonfly.



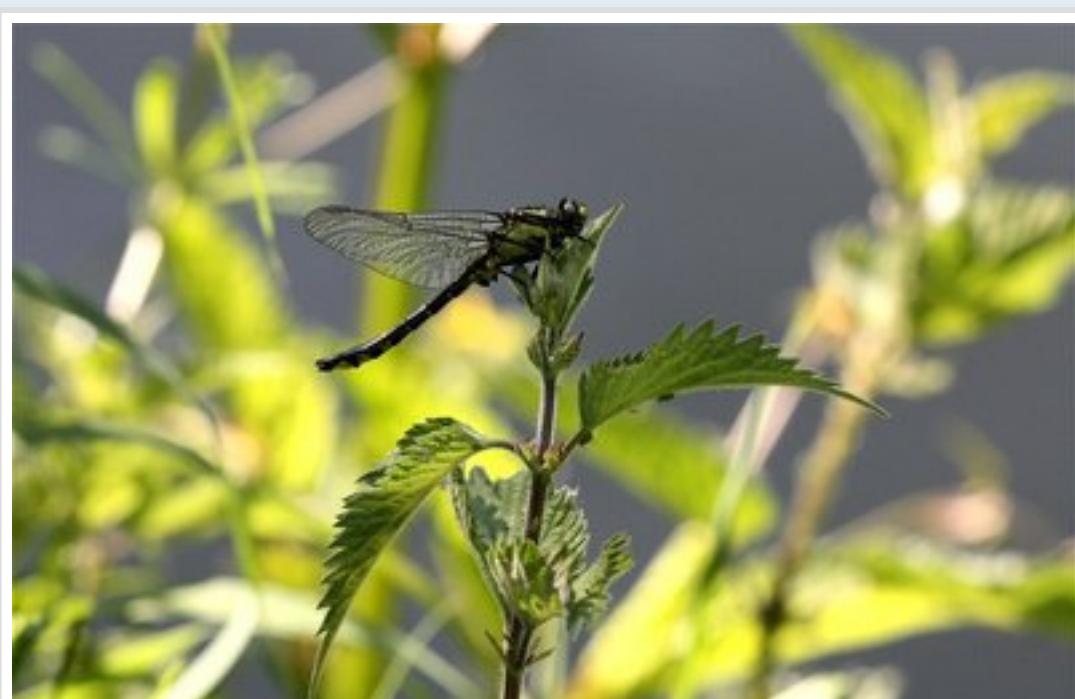
*Shot along the Thames south of Goring*

Found plenty of exuviae on the concrete edge of the bridge but didn't find any hatching out. Guess we were too late in the year or it was the wrong day. We did find a couple of adults warming up in the riverside vegetation. I love these dragonflies.



*First Club Tail*

This was the second found by two wildlife enthusiasts we met at Bentley Wood last year. Good to meet up again.



*Second Club Tail*



*Second Club Tail*

We visited the nearby Hartslock Nature Reserve famous for its Orchids.



*Hillside at Hartslock Nature Reserve*

The Lady Orchids were over due to the hot spring but Monkey Orchids were beginning to flower.



*Monkey Orchid in flower*

There were some splendid Monkey x Lady Orchid hybrids showing quite tall spikes on the hillside.



*Lady x Monkey Orchid hybrid*

I'm not sure if the individual flowers actually look like a cross between a lady and a monkey though.



Lady x Monkey flowers

Helen found a rather worn Green Hairstreak that I missed whilst I was filming.

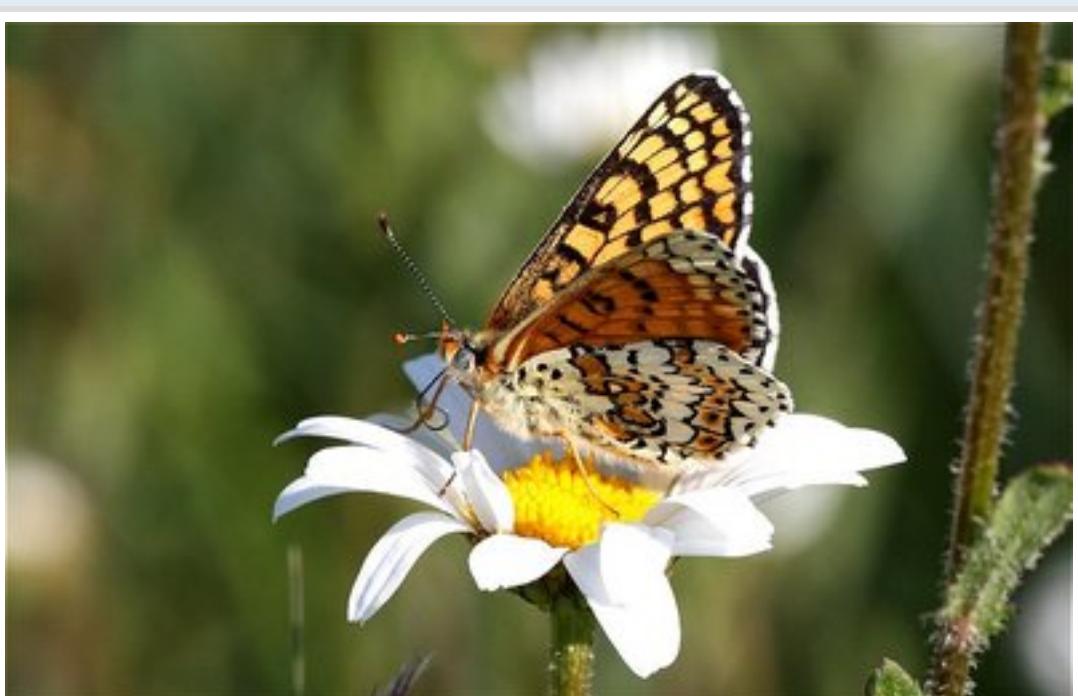


Green Hairstreak

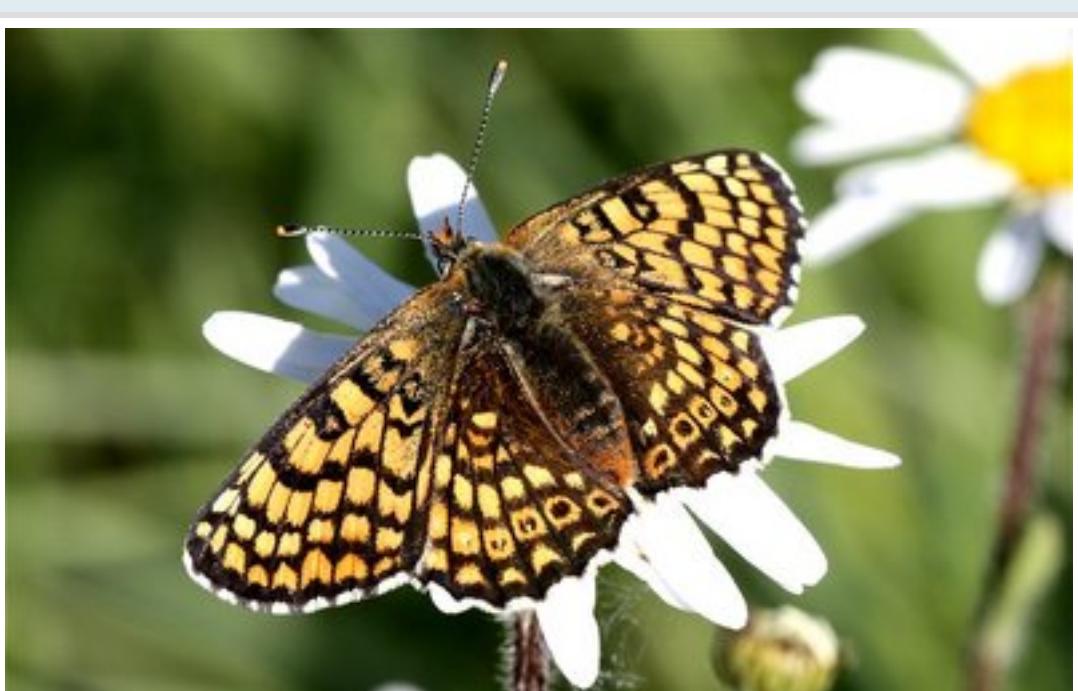
As we were not a million miles away from Wreclesham we headed off for some Glanvilles. I took about 30 minutes of video then had a play with the DSLR while Helen had a kip amongst the Ox-eye Daisy's.

I took some what I call scientific shots attempting the underside upperside and males and females.

Here are some female shots.



Female underside



Female

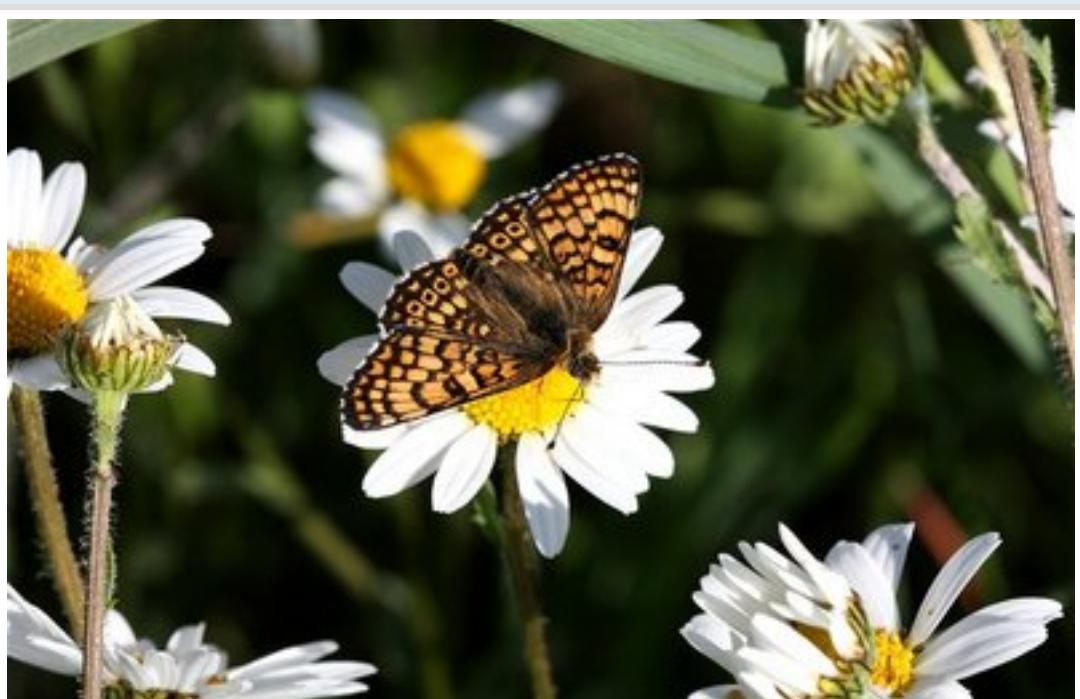


Nectaring Female

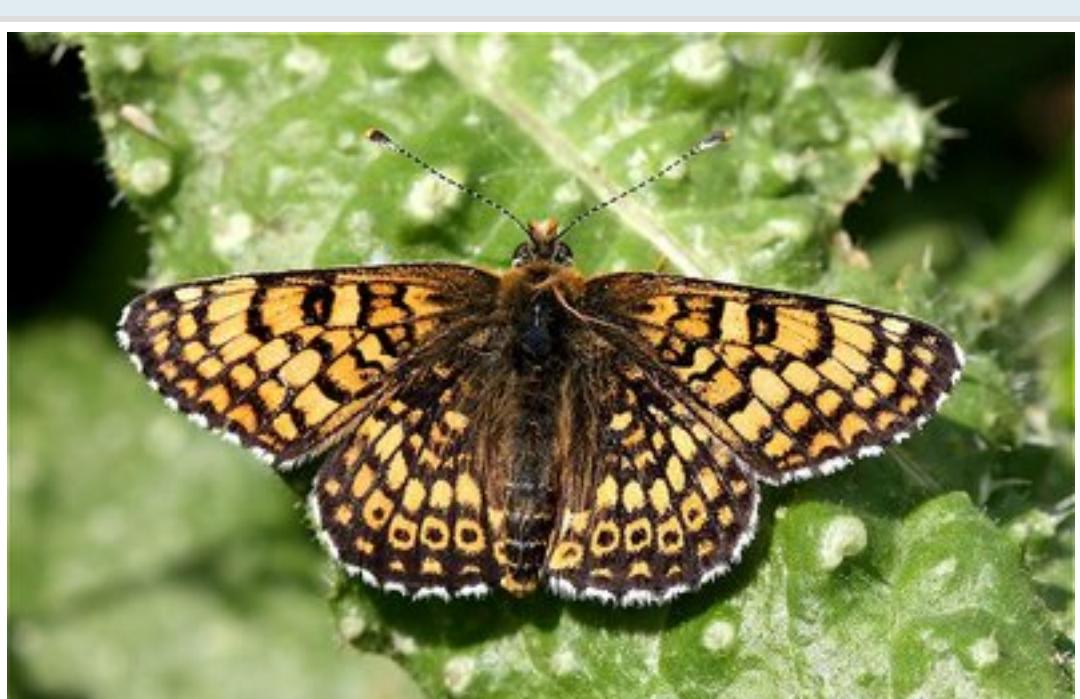


Arty shot of a Female

Here's a few of the males.

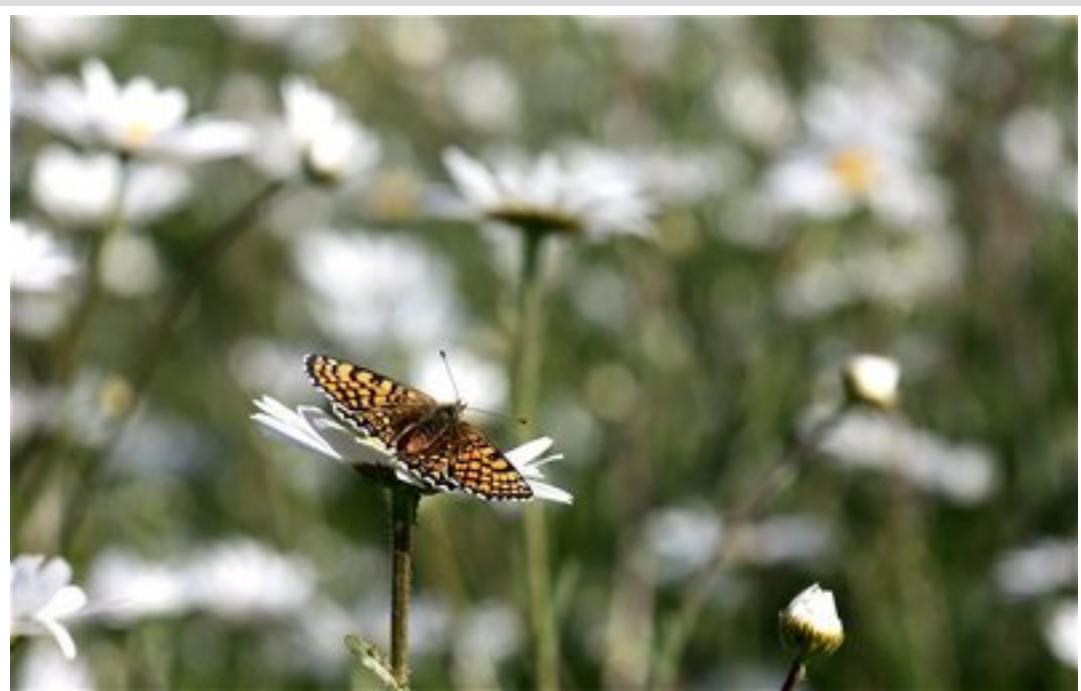


Nectaring Male

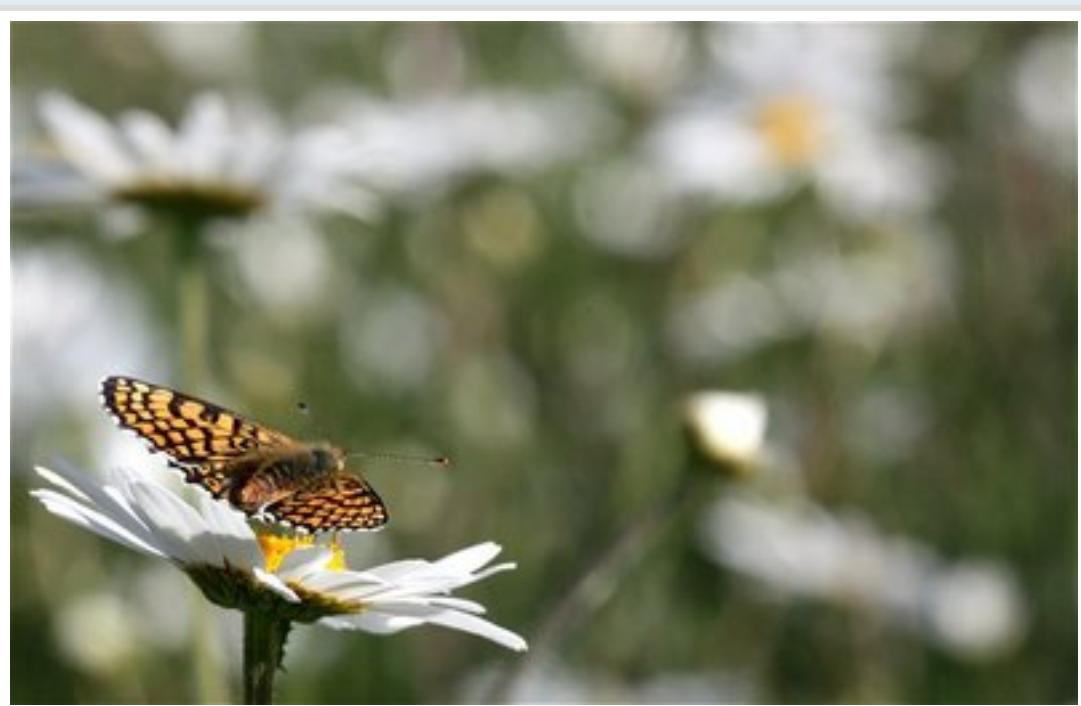


Male

And now some more arty shots.



Female Glanville surveys the daisies



Female riding an Ox-eye Daisy in the wind

Hello to John who started the thread on Wreclesham. Thanks for the information posted here and good to meet you at the site.

All in all a good day out catching up with all the target species we had hoped for. The only down side was a detour to Homefield Wood a suggestion from someone we met at Hartslock. We couldn't find the site and spent over an hour getting through reading.

### Re: Paul Wetton

by Michaeljf, 23-May-11 05:18 AM GMT

Hi Paul,  
a smashing range of images and a lovely description of your trips to Goring, Hartslock and Wreclesham. I love the combination of the scenic shots and the diversity of the orchids, butterflies and dragonflies. You can't beat getting out and about, eh?! 😊 Keep up the good work!!  
Michael

### Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 23-May-11 06:50 AM GMT

Hi Michael

I thought you might enjoy the scenic shots. It was a great day out with some interesting observations and lovely weather. You're right you can't beat it.  
I took many more photos and plenty of video and could have added plenty more text but I don't want to bore folks.  
All the best.

### Re: Paul Wetton

by Susie, 23-May-11 11:34 PM GMT

Really lovely shots, Paul.

### Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 23-May-11 11:50 PM GMT

Thanks Susie.  
I need to get out in the countryside a bit more.  
Roll on holidays, 5 weeks and counting. Hurrah.

### Re: Paul Wetton

"Paul Wetton" wrote:

Hello to John who started the thread on Wreclesham. Thanks for the information posted here and good to meet you at the site.

Hi Paul, nice to meet you too – I presume you were the chap with the tripod and other serious photographic equipment. When you said you'd been to Goring I thought you meant Goring on the Sussex coast, near Worthing!

**Re: Paul Wetton**

by Paul Wetton, 30-May-11 07:59 PM GMT

Hi John. Yep that was me with the gear and no just Goring in Oxon on the Thames.

Just wanted to post these photos from the weekend and say a huge thanks to Kath Robson for helping me up in Silverdale.

A great weekend for orchids and my Mum found and photographed Wall Brown in a quarry in the Peak District in Derbyshire. Unfortunately I missed it.

Here's a few orchid shots.



Common Twayblade



Fly Orchid



Fly Orchid



Frog Orchid



Frog Orchid



Lady's Slipper Orchid





Thanks again to Kath and the two Daves who passed on information to me regarding the Lady's Slippers.

### Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 18-Jun-11 05:45 PM GMT

Thought I'd post some photos from last weekend as the weather is naff at the moment.

I went to Sherwood Forest and Gamston & Eaton Woods in Notts initially trying to find Clearwing moths using pheromones but no luck. Here's some photos of what we did find.



Bee Orchid



Bee Orchid



Greater Butterfly Orchid



Greater Butterfly Orchid



Herb Paris



Scorpion Fly female



Robber Fly



Robber Fly

Just to show I still have an interest in butterflies here's my first Ringlet of the year.



Ringlet

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Michaeljf, 18-Jun-11 08:09 PM GMT

Hi Paul,

Lovely photographs, but especially nice to see the orchids. I bet you have to do some travelling for those. I know very little about orchids, but I'm betting those are all either pretty rare or grow in very specialised spots. Or both. 😊

Michael

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 18-Jun-11 08:42 PM GMT

Hi Michael

All of the Orchids pictured above were photographed in Derbyshire (Frog, Fly and Twayblade) or Nottinghamshire (Bee and Greater Butterfly) except for the Lady's Slipper Orchid. For this one I asked for help in finding it as there is one on Silverdale Golf Course in Cumbria plus a re-introduction scheme at Gait Barrows in that area.

We found Common Spotted Orchids locally plus Southern Marsh. Northern Marsh were found (well one) at Gait Barrows and Early Marsh at Castor Hanglands which is in Cambs I think. We tried Barnack Hills & Holes (Great name) for Man Orchid but the site is way too dry this year and there were only some early Fragrant Orchids plus Knapweed Broomrape (not an orchid but interesting and parasitic on Knapweed). This site is being hit hard by human use. I guess mainly local dog walkers and kids on bikes etc but not sure what effect it will have on the butterfly populations including the Chalkhill Blue there. Only saw Common Blue and Small Heath during our 3 hour visit.

The Monkey Orchids and Lady x MonkeyOrchid Hybrids were further afield in Oxon but we went to Goring for the Club-tailed Dragonflies and the orchid site is within walking distance.

Have a great holiday and no doubt we'll be in contact after our return from the Alps.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 11-Aug-11 04:51 AM GMT

I'm adding my trip report from Switzerland to my Personal Diary as I've not placed much on here this year.

Due to the large amount of photos and lengthy text I've added it to my website with a link here, as it would have taken forever to upload it onto both websites.

Please have a look at the following link:

<http://www.ibirdz.co.uk/switzerland2011.html>

Thanks for looking.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Gibster, 11-Aug-11 06:57 AM GMT

You saw *HOW MANY SPECIES...*and pics of **WALLCREEPER?????** I'm very very (yes, VERY) jealous!!!! 😊

Good hit, mate. Impressive write up (and he got Nutcrackers too...sigh... 😞)

Gibster (who's never been to Central Europe...yet!)

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Mark Colvin, 11-Aug-11 07:17 AM GMT

145 species AND you "would love to re-visit the area in spring to find some of the earlier flying butterflies"!

Just how many butterfly species are there in Switzerland?

Great trip report.

Keep up the good work.

Kind regards. Mark

## Re: Paul Wetton

by David M, 11-Aug-11 07:18 AM GMT

Have read your trip report, Paul.

Excellent stuff and some superb photography.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 11-Aug-11 08:15 AM GMT

Thanks for the comments folks.

You'd love it out there. Yep Seth, Wallcreeper has been my bogey bird for a few years now. I've looked for it at several places but this year, hit the jackpot. They're absolute beauts.

Have a look at Guys website for species of butterflies in Switzerland at <http://www.guypadfield.com/> plus the rest of Europe as well. There's loads out there.

Well seriously folks, the scenery is breath taking, the birds are bang on Seth, not loads, but quality birds and butterflies are everywhere. Even the plants are pretty special and I'm not even a real plant person.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Gibster, 11-Aug-11 09:00 AM GMT

**"Paul Wetton" wrote:**

and I'm not even a real plant person

What, you mean you're some sort of fake plastic tree? (Sorry, but Radiohead are AWESOME!!!)

I seriously need to get my arse up some mountains someday soon. I need ALL the specialities – Alpine Chough, Alpine Accentor, Lammergeier, Snowfinch, Citril Finch, Wallcreeper, Hazelhen, Nutcracker, Eagle Owl. I think that's all though, lol. 😊

And the sheer number of lookalikee butterfly species is massively daunting. Dozens of Erebia and Pyrgus and all those assorted blues. Not forgetting the Clouded Yellows, fritillaries and Graylings... I don't think I'm ready for that lot just yet! Maybe start somewhere easier. Like Iceland. Or Madeira.

Cheers for whetting the appetite though! 😊

Gibster.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 11-Aug-11 05:12 PM GMT

Hi Gibster

You could actually do that list of birds in Switzerland plus Black Woody and Pygmy Owl, maybe even Tengmalm's Owl as well but further east for that one. I've never seen the two Owls or Hazelhen. I've seen Citril Finch in the Val d'Herens before, just not this year but we spent more time hunting down butterflies rather than birds. Had to get Wallcreeper though.

Mountains are just awesome any way.

All the best from the fake plastic fish tank plant.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Gibster, 11-Aug-11 06:39 PM GMT

Pygmy and Tengmalm's too huh? Seems like me and central Europe have a long overdue date together. Managed Black Woody already, but Grey-headed eluded me in France. Hmm... rich hunting grounds by the sound of it. I think Picos d'Europa may be a more sensible starting point – got most of the birds I've still to see but probably a more limited diversity of scary type butterflies? Plus I could get the boat there and hopefully claw back Risso's Dolphin (Sam found one for herself in Aug whilst heading Penzance to Scilly...and has the pics to prove it. Grrrrr.)

Cheers matey,

Seth.

Picos has wolves too! Sam stayed there for a week and had Alpine Chough flocks AND heard wolves howling at night. So that's THREE species she's got up on me 😊 Dammit, lol.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 11-Aug-11 07:11 PM GMT

I was thinking of the Picos myself at some point. Wolves would be great to see or even hear.

I reckon there'll still be plenty of difficult to ID butterflies over in Spain. You could possibly fit in a trip for Dupont's Lark in Spain. I visited an area a few years ago that had Duponts, Thekla, Crested, Short-toed, Skylark, Wood Lark and Calandra Lark along the same stretch of road. A seven Lark day not bad.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Gibster, 11-Aug-11 07:37 PM GMT

That reminds me of a car bumper-sticker that was popular in the early 90s..."Twitchers do it for a Lark" 😊

Need Dupont's too. They're slowly spreading westwards/northwards but I doubt they'd ever make it to Picos! Apart from Marbled Teal, Ruppell's Vulture, Moustached Warbler and a few odd weavers/waxbills I think that pretty much sums up my mainland Spanish birding hitlist, not including the couple of dodgy Lesser Flamingos. Oh, and Andulasian Hemipode (yeah riiight!)

Gibster.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Paul Wetton, 11-Aug-11 08:00 PM GMT

There's a few on that list I've not seen. Did get bald Ibis and Long-legged Buzzard when I was in Extremadura but that was sheer luck.

Ruppell's I've never seen (the warbler yeah but not the vulture) and the Button Quail would be a tricky one.

It's possible to get a guide in the south who no doubt knows where these things are.

## Re: Paul Wetton

by Vince Massimo, 11-Aug-11 08:50 PM GMT

Great report and photos Paul, with a nice mix of scary species and landscapes 📸. I particularly like the way you interspersed the report with wide-screen and panoramic views. I would have been content to just look at the landscape shots but, aside from those, my favourite images were the female Scarce Copper (day 13) and the Marmots on days 11 and 19..... Not forgetting the Mountain Fritillaries of course.

Cheers,  
Vince

## **Re: Paul Wetton**

by Michaeljf, 11-Aug-11 09:07 PM GMT

Hi Paul,

the photographs are simply fabulous – looks like the trip of a lifetime to me 😍😍. As Vince said, the landscapes are simply gorgeous and probably some of my favourite images on there, though all of the photographs are of a superb quality (the Fritillaries on the ground is particularly lovely: I like the use of the wideangle cropping for some of the butterfly shots too).

The fact that you went out for 3 weeks (give or take) was obviously a big bonus, plus the knowledge and help from Guy. I look forward to seeing the DVD – though no doubt it will just make me even more envious (the green-eyed monster always appears when I see such a great trip). I don't know how many of the photos are yours and how many are Helens, but you should consider producing a Blurb book of the images even if you do it just for yourself. 😊

I'll have a closer look tonight, as there's so many great images to see 😊.

Michael

## **Re: Paul Wetton**

by Lee Hurrell, 11-Aug-11 09:22 PM GMT

Just to add similar views, Paul.

Great report and some stunning photos. I also particularly like the landscapes, it really adds to the report and makes me feel like I was there!

Impressive species tally too!

Cheers

Lee

## **Re: Paul Wetton**

by Paul Wetton, 11-Aug-11 10:54 PM GMT

Thanks for the kind comments guys.

All the photos are Helens bar a couple when I nicked the camera whilst filming in awkward positions that only one of us could fit into. I had over 3000 to pick and choose from. There's a bit of sharpening on some but she did a brilliant job whilst I was lugging the video camera around.

Michael, I'll be preparing a DVD of the photos just for us, using my video editing software as its quite good with low res photos for the TV and its possible to add titles and sound if required.

You can't beat a great mountain landscape. We didn't take as many photos of all the landscapes we saw as Helen was so busy with the macro lens but I'm sure we'll go back for more in years to come.

Thanks again