

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Jan-12 11:22 PM GMT

We've had terrible weather lately seems like every thing as been thrown at us. The Gales blew our fences down, my husband repaired one, I tried to help him put it back," Back "is the right word, I nearly did mine in, lucky for us we have good neighbours who helped. I hope to go up to Lancaster in the next 2 weeks, they have a Butterfly House in Williamson Park thats open all year round . I believe it's quite good, for anyone interested they open 10am to 4pm, Oct to April Goldie M 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 09-Jan-12 01:04 AM GMT

"Goldie M" wrote:

I hope to go up to Lancaster in the next 2 weeks, they have a Butterfly House in Williamson Park thats open all year round . I believe it's quite good, for anyone interested they open 10am to 4pm, Oct to April Goldie M 😊

I've been there once, though it was many years ago. There was a stairway which ascended into the tree canopy from where you could watch all the tropical species going about their business. It was fantastic though this was before I had laser surgery and my glasses kept steaming up which was irritating.

Now you've put the idea into my head, I may trek down to the Wye Valley Butterfly Zoo near Monmouth before January is out. I need a butterfly fix desperately!!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Jan-12 04:50 AM GMT

We went up to Lancaster on Monday, it was a lovely day for once. We went up the motor way going but came back through the Trough-of-Bowland. The moors were a sight to see, earlier it had rained and there were rainbows here and there 😊

In Williamson's Park there were great views over Lancaster and the Lake District in the distance. The Butterfly House was a treat, it was just great to watch the Butterflies flying and feeding I've put some Photo's in to share I thought others might like to look. They have a Banana tree in BH it's full of fruit, I bet the BF have a great time when their ripe 😊

One Butterfly in particular took my interest, i think it's called a" Glass Wing " I could see right through it's wings they were transparent. Another one was called "White Tree Nymph" it came from Indo- Austrilian . Some I'd not seen before and I don't know what their called.

Three glass cases were full of Chrysalis, Large ones in one case smaller chrysalis in the other two, I was fascinated, I'd love to be there when they started to emerge.

It was a great day out , it helps to get out and about if you can, it makes January pass quicker 😊

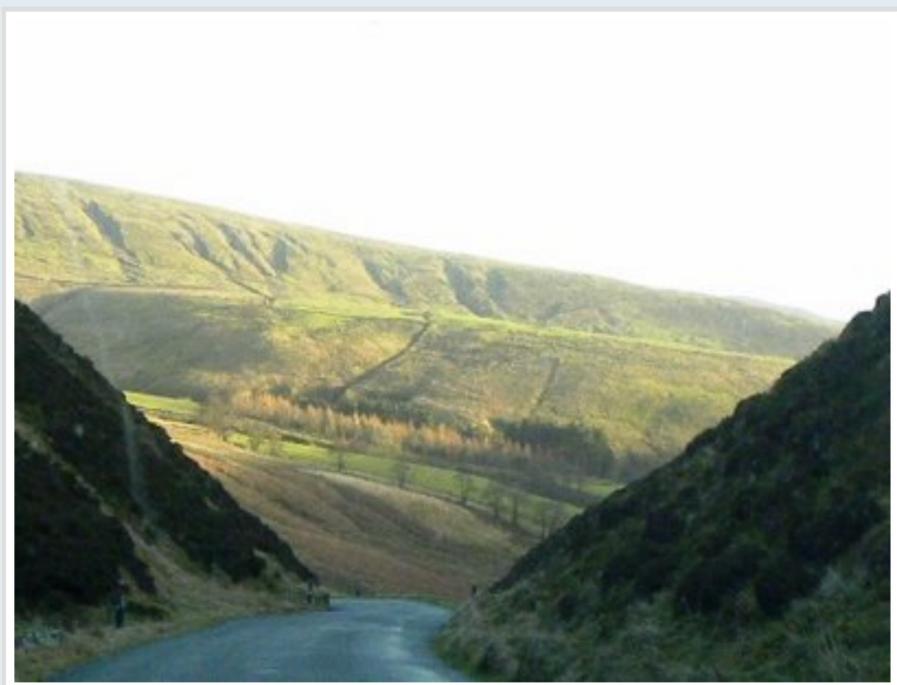
The 1st Photo is the Trough-of-Bowland

The 2nd a view of the LD and Lacaster

The 1st Butterfly I don't know, it looks abit like a White Admiral but I'm sure it's not 😊

I don't know the 2nd and 3ard BF either

The 4th and 5th are the White Tree Nymph And I think the Glass Wings.Goldie M 😊







Re: Goldie M

by marmari, 12-Jan-12 03:52 PM GMT

The 1st butterfly pic looks like a Common Glider to me, from SE Europe.

Re: Goldie M

by Vince Massimo, 13-Jan-12 01:48 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

My best guesses are:-

1. Common Sergeant/Glider (*Pantoporia perius*)
2. Great Eggfly (*Hypolimnus bolina*)
3. Probably one of the many sub-species of Common Mormon (*Papilio polytes*)
4. One of the Tree Nymphs (*Idea leuconoe*)?
5. One of the many species of Glasswing (*Greta oto*)?

Vince

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Jan-12 08:50 PM GMT

Only got back to the computer today, with the weather being reasonable we decided to tidy up abit.

Thanks Marmari and Vince, I knew the White Tree Nymph was from Australia I wasn't too sure about the other's. I just presumed the other was a Glass Wing I didn't realise there was so many different ones. I like looking at tropical Butterflies, I must admit though I love the fact I have to go searching for Butterflies, this adds to the attraction for me.

The most annoying thing is, I've visited Tropical countries, I wasn't interested in Butterflies then, now I realise just what I've missed. Thanks again Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Jan-12 11:43 PM GMT

I went back to Pennington Flash on Monday, it was a cold day but ideal for walking. The Hides around the lake were full of bird watchers, they were taking photo's of the Willow Tit I'd seen earlier in the month.

I didn't get a photo this time and the ones I did get , I'd to struggle for 😊 The list was long " Long Tailed Tit", Bull Finch, Black Cap, Dunnock, Blue&Great Tits, Green Finch, Robin's, etc,etc. Even saw a Pheasant 🗨️
It was another great day out 🗨️ Goldie M 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Jan-12 10:09 PM GMT

On Monday 23rd we went back once more to Pennington Flash CP. It'd just started to rain but we sheltered inside the hides as we went along. I sat next to a very ardent Bird watcher who pointed out different ones to me, I found it hard to keep up to his commentary and fix my camera to take photo's at the same time, needless to say I think I got the names wrong, plus my pic's are abit rubbishy 😊 The man was very interesting though, by the time he'd finished I knew what kind of food they liked, their habitat, I just couldn't remember their names 🗨️ 😊 Anyway if anyone can help out 🗨️ Goldie M Incidentally I do know the LTT the first pic, just thought i'd add that so you wouldn't think I was totally dumb 😊





Re: Goldie M

by FISHiEE, 28-Jan-12 01:57 AM GMT

Pic 2 has what looks like a Male reed bunting in the foreground, female chaffinch top right, wood pidgeon bottom right.

Pic 3 Male reed bunting again.

Pic 4 Male reed bunting and possibly greenfinch in the foreground.

Pic 5 female chaffinch.

I never knew reed bunting came to bird tables!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Jan-12 08:58 PM GMT

Thanks Fishiee, I don't know much about birds really, i do like to go in the Winter months and watch them and Pen-Flash seems to get quite a few unusual ones. The man also mentioned a Linnet ("i think, my husband said it could have been Pipet) he said it had some red under it's chin ,if thats any help, I must have missed that though, I think I got the Female Chaffinch instead 😊 The Reed Bunting is quite an handsome bird I think. Thanks for answering I won't forget that name or the bird now, i must go back to pf again and see if i can find the other bird or discover others I don't know. If I get some good photo's I'll put them in my diary and hopefully I'll get some better pic's of the RB.

Oh! before I forget, PenFlash was formed when the waters rose after the coal mines closed, it's now a lovely area with lots of off shoots for wild life, (Reed beds etc) lots of hides too and Otter's. Thanks again Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by FISHiEE, 30-Jan-12 07:03 AM GMT

I wouldn't claim to be an expert myself!

A Siskin does look similar to a Greenfinch in a lot of ways, so it could well be a Siskin rather than a Greenfinch in that image. Can't see the area that would be red if it were though.

Re: Goldie M

by Paul Wetton, 30-Jan-12 08:20 PM GMT

FISHiEE all correct except female chaffinch with its back to us on the bird table.

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 30-Jan-12 10:20 PM GMT

Goldie,

I can recommend 'The Birdwatcher's Pocket Guide to Britain and Europe' by Rob Hume (Author), Peter Hayman(illustrator). It's an easily pocketable size and draws attention to key i.d. features on the birds you see. (£6.99 from Amazon).

Small birds, especially females, can be quite tricky but you eventually get to know the key characteristics of each species, if you keep looking. Once you know the common ones, you have a chance of spotting the rarities! Pennington Flash is a good place and has some remarkable records over many years. Good luck!

Mike

p.s. I agree that Reed Buntings are very handsome

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Feb-12 01:14 AM GMT

Thanks Mike for your recommendation but my husband bought me a book this weekend. I'll certainly take a look at the one you said though. This one is "Collins Nature Guide", I've been back to PF twice this week, the weather was cold, the Sun warm though. I saw lots of birds I'd never seen before like the Red Wing and the Red Poll. One I thought was a Willow Tit, I heard someone call it a Coal Tit, so I'm not sure about that, I've included it to see what other's think 😊

I still get mixed up with the Green Finches and the Siskins, I'll get it sorted eventually 😊 Also like you said the females. (I've written all this before and lost it for some reason when I tried to download my Photo's so here goes once again 😊)Goldie M 😊



Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 05-Feb-12 12:19 AM GMT

You seem to be getting the birding 'bug', Goldie!

I believe your latest set of photos show:

1. lesser redpoll (the commonest member of the group in UK)
2. marsh/willow tit and bullfinch (marsh/willow tits are both at PF and your photo can't separate them)
3. long-tailed tit and marsh/willow tit



(C)Barry Hudson,2009 - Marsh.Willow comparison

Coal tit has a distinctive white patch on the back of the head. There are photos of both Coal and Marsh tits on my website at <http://home.btconnect.com/mike.flemming/birds2.htm>

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Feb-12 11:20 PM GMT

Mike, your photo's are brilliant, you put my efforts to shame 🙄 Thanks for your info . I've been taking photo's today of the garden birds. It's good to know the differences, I've put your photo's into my favorites(if thats ok) so I can study them more closely. I have a photo I took at PF, the sun was shining very brightly, and this bird was very yellow, it seemed in every way. I was a good distance away from it, I'm curious to know what it's called, sorry my pic's aren't better 😞 The 1st pic is the Red Wing, I took today (hopefully) the 2 is the Yellow Bird . Also I have a pic of a Coal Tit I took yesterday in the BG, after reading what you said about the differences, between that and the Marsh Tit/Willow with it's white flash on the back of it's black head, It's got to be. I'm just sorry It was too quick for me and the Photo blurred so i've not put it in. At least I'm getting to know more by asking. Thanks again Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 05-Feb-12 11:51 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comments on my website, Goldie – I'm glad you enjoyed the photos.

My instinct is that your lower photo is a female Chaffinch, looking golden in the Winter sun. The beak is a finch beak, not a warbler, and it's the wrong time of year for those.

I see from the EXIF data attached to your photos that you used a Coolpix P90 in 'normal' exposure mode. A lot of compact cameras tend to over-expose a bit and, therefore, I usually set exposure compensation to -2/3 stop. Try it and see if it helps. You could also try the 'vivid' colour setting. I noticed too that you used 1.4X digital zoom. It doesn't help – yes, the image is a bit bigger but there is no more detail so, for best quality, keep digital zoom 'off'. Practice getting closer to the birds – always better than a long zoom – you can use bushes and so on for cover, as you creep up quietly.

Main thing is to keep shooting and try different settings – nothing beats experience!

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Feb-12 12:50 AM GMT

Thanks Mike, I'll try that with my camera and see what happens. Do you think i should try this when taking pics of Butterflies, I may be able to sneak up on them better 🤔😊 With birds i'm usually in a Hide or take their pic through the garden window. I have tried the Vivid mode with Butterflies, to tell you the truth i have a small samsung camera with no zoom and if i get up close it takes better photos than the Nikon, the only trouble with that camera is the fact you can't see in bright sunlight what your taking. I've given it to my Husband 😂 I'm not mean, he's just not into photography, he goes every where I go and just enjoys the countryside and fresh air. 😊 Goldie 😊 PS If you don't mind me asking what type of Camera do you use 🤔 If you were buying new, What would you recommend 🤔

Re: Goldie M

by Gibster, 07-Feb-12 02:52 AM GMT

Hi Goldie M,

Pennington Flash is well-known for it's bird table visiting Willow Tits. Thankfully for visiting birders, Marsh Tits don't occur anywhere near Manchester so that species can be merrily ruled out! 😊

If you want to read up on differences between Marsh and Willow Tit, and visit a helpful and (for you) local website have a peek at <http://www.manchesterbirding.com/mysterybirdsjanuary2011.htm> A second key feature on Coal Tit, other than the white nape patch, is the presence of two white wingbars on each wing – a unique feature in the British tit family and handy to know if the bird is above you and resolutely NOT showing it's nape!! (But beware Goldcrests which also have 2 wingbars and often frequent similar habitats – *sigh* and just when you thought it was getting easier 😊)

Also, regards your Redwings, listen out for their quiet subsong, given most frequently during warm sunny spells as the winter progresses. Have a listen at http://www.xeno-canto.org/europe/browse.php?query=Redwing+%28Turdus+iliacus%29+56&species_nr=bkjjwi You could also tap in Willow Tit and Marsh Tit for samples of their calls and songs?

Cheers, keep up the birding! 😊

Gibster.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Feb-12 05:10 AM GMT

Thanks Gibster, I'm just hoarding lots of information on birds from everywhere at present. I've added yours to my Favorites so I can read them at my leisure 😊 I thought certain Butterflies were hard to identify ,I must admit Birds are harder 😂 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Feb-12 05:37 AM GMT

Great day out last Wed 15th Feb, we went to Martin Mere Bird Sanc. We saw 1900 Whooping Swans being fed, what a sight and what a sound that was. It was truly amazing. One half of MM is for wild fowl, the other half is for birds on the danger list , these birds have their wings clipped. We walked round and saw, White Headed Ducks, diving . A couple of Cranes the Male in particular delighted us all with his courting dance 😊 At the bottom end of the reserve you can watch the Marsh Harrier, a special hide over looks all the Marsh, we didn't see any ,although some were there. The rangers said there's alot more in Summer time. Beavers have also been introduced, they come out alot at night the ranger said. Otters also frequent the reserve, they were keeping quiet when we were there 😊 I think these were on the Tele in Spring Watch LY.

We saw lots of differant birds like the Red Breasted Goose, Wigeon, to name a few, I asked about Butterflies in Spring and Summer, (I felt foolish with all these fantastic birds around) but seemingly they have planted lots of wild flowers to attract them and made certain walks for this pursuit so ,we 'll certainly go back in Spring.

The Ranger said the Whooper Swans only stay here until the middle of March, i'm glad we didn't miss them. Goldie M 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 24-Feb-12 04:29 AM GMT

Another great day out today, the Sun helps of course 😊 We went to Mere Sands near Southport where I hoped to get some pics of King Fisher's, no luck ,I did manage to get picture' s of a Bittern though. There were so many people in the hide all wanting to take pics, there was no room so I had to

squeeze my camera in to get anything no one was for moving 😊 I hoped the weather might entice something to fly, no Butterflies only birds 😊 Goldie



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Mar-12 05:53 AM GMT

Yesterday in my garden while clearing up, I found a small green caterpillar on my Rose trees. I chased a couple of Blackbirds away and decided the Caterpillar might stand a better chance of surviving if I took it inside and put it in a box with some greens. I'm not sure what it is but suspect a White of some kind or a Speckled Wood. Time will tell!

It's green in colour but abit too small yet to get a good shot of. I've loads of For-get-me-knots on the BG and some Purple Violets on the FGarden, the Small Tortoiseshells like these in Spring, also my Crocus. I've had to put plastic mash down to keep the cats off, it's proved great, however, we still get some damage on occasions. Today the the Crocus looked great, yesterday they seemed distressed, it's supprising what abit of Sun and dry weather can do. Goldie M 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Padfield, 01-Mar-12 06:12 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Unless you know what the caterpillar is it would be far better for it to go back on the rose tree where it came from! Many are extremely fussy about what they eat and will die of starvation unless they get the right plant species to feed on. Most greens are toxic to most butterflies.

I'm very jealous of your bittern! What a lovely bird!

Guy

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 03-Mar-12 09:47 PM GMT

Guy, I've given the Caterpillar some green cabbage leaves, I don't mean the dark kind, their called "Sweet Heart" cabbage, it seems to be doing ok. At first I gave it Lettuce, then I thought (after reading a book about White Butterflies) that maybe the cabbage was better. It certainly seems to be from this origin because all the other BF except the "Speckled Wood" have coloured caterpillars. It's certainly eating well! I'll keep an eye on it though. Thanks for telling me I thought I was doing it a favour.

Has for the Bittern, we were very lucky to be in the right place at the right time 😊 We'd never seen one before so it was very exciting. I also found these bird watchers to be very helpful to an amature photographer, they pointed it out , then showed me the best way to take the pic with my camera. But it was a very tight queeze in the hide. so many people wanted to take pic's, it was still click and hope for the best 😊
In the garden today a Bumble Bee flew over my head, it was great to hear the Bee's again, even the Blackbirds have started to build their nests. Talking about Bee's, I took a photo last year of two Bee's, I'm still puzzled with it, any Idea's 🤔 Goldie



Re: Goldie M

by Mikhail, 03-Mar-12 10:31 PM GMT

What an interesting picture! The "bee" on the top, to judge by what I can see of the eyes and antennae, appears to be the hoverfly *Volucella bombylans* in the form that mimics the bumblebee *Bombus hortorum*. The other insect is probably the bumblebee *B.hortorum*. I don't know why it's lying on its side.

Re: Goldie M

by Nick Broomer, 03-Mar-12 11:36 PM GMT

Hi Goldie M,

I don`t know i thing about Bees, but the photo is excellent 😊

Nick.

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 03-Mar-12 11:52 PM GMT

I agree with **hideandseek** - the hoverfly photo is excellent - you have really got the hang of that P90 now!

Mike

EDIT changed bee to hoverfly - thanks Mark 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Mark Colvin, 04-Mar-12 01:11 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

"Goldie M" wrote:

Talking about Bee's, I took a photo last year of two Bee's, I'm still puzzled with it, any Idea's?

This is actually a pair of the hoverfly *Volucella bombylans*. Fly genitalia are often twisted, hence the funny angle!

Lovely photo.

Kind regards. Mark

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Mar-12 12:44 AM GMT

Thanks everybody, your compliments have made my day, although i did think they were Bee's 😄 I took the Photo in Spring Wood Walley "Ribble Valley" in June of last year, I must admit to being fed up at the time. I'd tried to get a photo of an "Orange Tip", which, I messed up, so when I saw these two and took their photo I wasn't in such a good mood. May be thats my answer to photoghaphy, just relax and shoot. 😄 Thanks for solving my riddle Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 05-Mar-12 07:12 AM GMT

"Goldie M" wrote:

my answer to photoghaphy, just relax

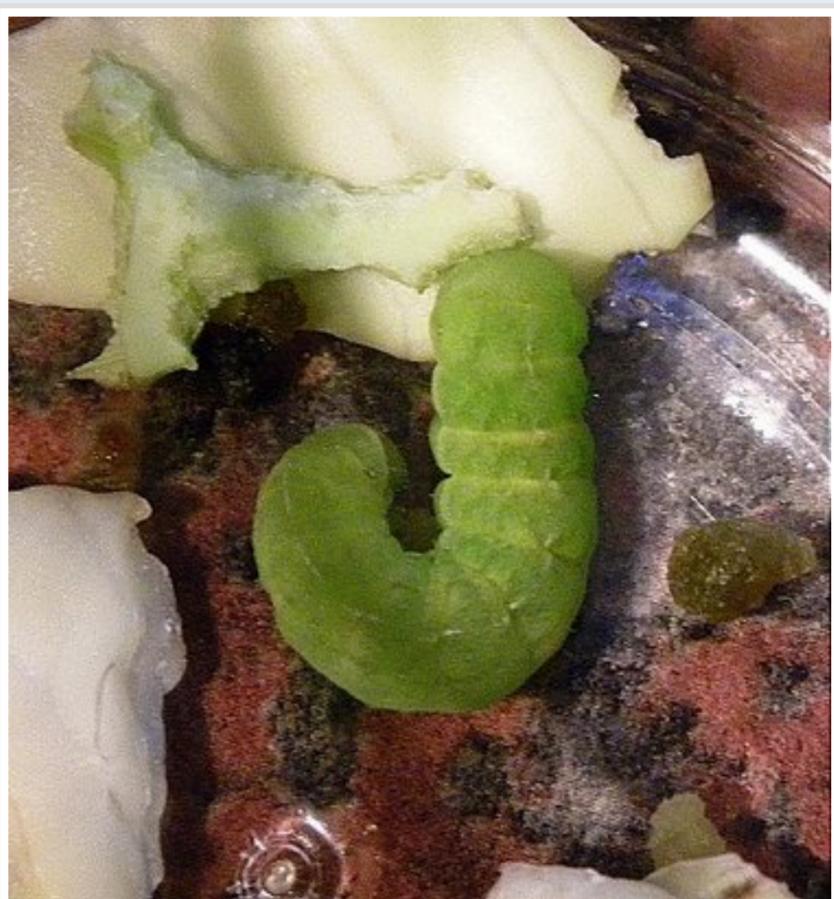
You've discovered the secret to life, the universe,and everything!

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 07-Mar-12 05:32 AM GMT

Thanks Mike, I think I'm also watching a secret of life 😄 My Green Caterpillar seems to have got much bigger, I'm still not too sure what it is, but it's eating well. The first pic I took of it was on the 2nd of March , I took the 3rd pic today the 6th , I'll just have to keep an eye on it and hope it goes through each stage ok. Anybody any ideas as to what it is ? Goldie 😊
PS photo's not as good as my other one 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Mar-12 05:01 AM GMT

Today I went to Mere Sands near Southport, i didn't see the Bittern this time, but I saw alot of spooning going on Male and Female Heron's, Swans, etc , Spring is certainly in the air. We went on to Southport afterwards and had a walk in the Dunes. At the entrance to the Dunes there were loads of tiny flowers, like a Dandelion but smaller, I've yet to look up their name, in amongst them I spotted my 1st Butterfly of 2012 a "Tortoiseshell", It was too quick for me to take a photo of but at least i can chalk one up for this year. Before I set off this morning I took this photo, I think it's a Siskin, I was actually taking a pic of a Gold Finch when this one landed right next to it. What a day, weather great , every thing says go,go, go,Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Nick Broomer, 21-Mar-12 06:18 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

It certainly is a Siskin, a female.

All the best,

Nick.

Re: Goldie M

by Mikhail, 21-Mar-12 03:52 PM GMT

Your caterpillar looks like the Angle Shades moth.

M.

Re: Goldie M

by Lee Hurrell, 21-Mar-12 10:22 PM GMT

"Mikhail" wrote:

Your caterpillar looks like the Angle Shades moth. M.

Yes, it does! I thought it looked familiar but couldn't quite place it. I bred these when I was a kid and I have to agree with Mikhail.

Lee

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 22-Mar-12 02:43 AM GMT

Haven't seen a Siskin since we had them in our garden during that freezing February in 1986.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 27-Mar-12 04:05 AM GMT

Hi! everyone, I don't suppose I'll know what the Caterpillar was I decided with the weather being so good, I'd put it back where I found it, I thought it stood a better chance in the garden. 😊 I've been so busy this week building a rockery, I've had no time for computering and just when I was finishing the Butterflies started to come, so every day I've been in the garden with my camera. 😊 It's been great! I also went to "Hall Lee Brook" and saw a Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, and Comma. I've had all 3 Kinds in my garden every day since I saw my 1st last Thursday. 22nd March, that's the first time I've seen a Butterfly so early round here.

They really like my Heather also the Grape Hyacinths of which I have Many, Funny how they seem to land on the Hyacinths and go down the Flower stems. The Comma on the other hand preferred the Pieris (not sure how you spell this). Sure everyone knows it though. (I thought Spring was in the air when I saw the Siskin 😊) That's also a 1st in my Garden to my knowledge. I've put some of my Photos in my Diary. I'm looking forward to seeing the Green Veined Whites now and Sp Wood Goldie M 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-Mar-12 12:51 AM GMT

Well in the last few days we seemed to have Butterflies everywhere, Comma's, were at Hall -Lee- Brook and gave me quite a Surprise, I didn't Know they were parial to excrement. I took a photo of this one, then I realized what it had it's proboscis stuck into, Ugh! 😬 On Wed's 28th I was at Hall-Lee-Brook again and saw my first Small White, at least I hope it is 🤔 😊 I was taken by suprise and had to wait ages for it to settle, just as it did another one came along and they'd fly around merrily then one would land so the photo is a quick one I'm afraid.

One thing I've noticed and wondered about though, the first few days I've seen the butterflies they were all over the flowers, this I can understand, but the last 2 too 3 days, they've been just sitting about in the dried up soil, so still , you could take some decent photo's, the exception being the Small Whites. I've wondered why. No sign yet of Holly Blues, Speckled Wood, or Orange Tip, I'll have to keep going back to look. The weather is going colder, grey skies today I'm afraid so don't expect many will fly today.

Yesterday we set off for the lakes, it was lovely. On our way back I managed to get a photo of a Peregrine Falcon. I did this, or rather this very nice man with a telescope, let us look through his telescope at the bird and also at a Ravens nest with young birds in. I couldn't find the Falcon at all with my camera, the bird blended so well with it's back ground, the man said he'd put my camera up to his lense and see if it would take a photo, it did! much to my delight, it may not be that good but you can see the Falcon ok which is all I wanted, It's got it's beak open calling:D

Two people who were there went every day early and stayed most of the day, they were keeping an eye on the nest site. I don't think the birds had actually started to nest yet, the couple said thy did it later than most other birds. Butterflies were also there I got photo's of Peacock, Comma's so we'll go back later and have another look.Goldie M 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Lee Hurrell, 01-Apr-12 05:46 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Yours is a Small White, a female too.

Lovely to see the Peregrine - it's looking right at you!

Best wishes,

Lee

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 01-Apr-12 10:45 PM GMT

That's a splendid view of the Peregrine, Goldie! You may already know that attaching a compact camera to a spotting 'scope is quite popular with birders (known as 'digiscoping') and, as you have found, can give excellent results. If you enjoy birding, a spotting scope is a tremendous asset – especially with water birds that don't move around too quickly. I used to think that people who could identify ducks at a distance were supermen until I realised how much detail you see through a 'scope.

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Apr-12 12:31 AM GMT

Thanks Lee and Mike, I didn't know you could do that, fit a lense like that to a scope. It was very interesting, we'd never seen a Falcon before, we get lots of Sparrow hawks and Kestrels around here, but nothing like that. We plan to go up again in a few weeks time to see if the've got young, hopefully some one will let us take a look through their scope again 😊 The Spring Butterflies may also be flying by then. We hope to see the Duke-of-Burgandy whilst we're there(fingers crossed).

I'm glad I was right for once about the Small White Lee, but how can you tell it's Female 🤔 We went up again today to Hall-Lee-Brook we only saw 3 Tortoiseshells, the temperature was only 12c but the sun did come out at times and they were mating, no whites to be seen though. April is here now so what ever happens weather wise it won't be long before we see some more BF.Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Lee Hurrell, 02-Apr-12 12:46 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

The female Small White has two black spots on the forewing, as do female Green Veined Whites, while the male only has one in both species. The lack of green veining on the underside rules out Green Veined though.

You can see two spots on the left forewing in your shot.

Just to confuse matters, female Large Whites also have two black spots on the forewing, whereas with this species the male lacks any spots.

Hope this helps a bit.

Kind Regards

Lee

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Apr-12 01:21 AM GMT

It does Lee thanks, but I'll have to keep looking at this posting. I'm not too bad with the GWW it's the Large and small Whites and the Female Orange Tip that get me 😊 I get all three mixed up at times 😊 Goldie

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Apr-12 09:13 PM GMT

I should get awake up call these days, I seem to be in such a hurry I'm not checking what I'm doing properly 😊 I keep trying to take advantage of any bright weather we do get by dashing out with my Camera looking for Spring Butterflies 😊 So much so I put my last post up in the wrong place AH! Well! No butterflies yet except the Speckled Wood which I did manage to take but the Orange Tip I saw at Ainsdale, Southport was too quick for me. It's rained here quite alot, we have had some sun, though it's stayed rather cool. The birds are enjoying the weather, I took this pic of a Gold Finch in my back garden, I just had to put it in my post 😊 with my Speckled Wood of course Goldie M 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Apr-12 10:19 PM GMT

Yesterday I went to Fleetwood, the weather has been really bad here nothing but rain ,it's been a case of dodging the Showers. My daughter was visiting from Kent, so there was no sitting about inside she wanted to catch up on the places she'd known, so we took a picnic to the Wyre country park Fleetwood. I also took my camera (of course) we were lucky the weather took a turn for the better, the sun came out and whilst we were walking I caught sight of my 1st Green Veined White of the year, also a Speckled Wood . Then it started to rain again so we moved on to Blackpool where we saw the New Trams and that, was that for the day. I've not been able to take any photos of Orange Tips yet, I really envy you lot 🍷 I'll just have to keep looking . I've only seen the one at Ainsdale which didn't settle up to now, if the Suns out tomorrow no matter how brief , I will be too 😊 Goldie

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Apr-12 01:14 AM GMT

The weather has been awful here, not content with rain wev'e had wind and hale storms. Monday the 23rd was still cold ,we did how ever get some sun, so we decided to have a run up to Gaits Barrow. Nothing to report except 3 Peacocks who were dodging in and out of the bracken. No Dukes but the Primroses were lovely and ready for them to emerge (i don't think they will until this horrible weather settles down)
We went to look for the Perigrin Falcon to see if it was nesting, It was but one of the men there said it would be another week at least before any chicks were hatched. We saw it's nest but could only see tail feathers. next time we go to GB we'll take anther look. It's a good job people are looking out for the birds , two climbers had just been chased off, even though there's a sign there to say "No Climbing " and why. 🤪

Yesterday Friday 27th we had the Sun but also an easterly wind, (what we call a lazy wind, it goes through you not around you.)
Still we set off for Southport and the Dunes. Nothing! not even an Orange Tip like I saw last time. Tomorrow is going to be even worse than today so I'm going nowhere until the Temperature is warmer 😞 Fed -up now) 😞

I went to check on Hall-Lee-Brook yesterday as well Nothing! At least I saw the Peacocks on Monday Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-May-12 01:35 AM GMT

Yesterday the sun was out and the temps were high 17c, we went to Hall-Lee-Brook where I at last saw Orange Tips, Green Veined Whites, Small Whites, no Speckled Wood though, I hope the rain and wind didn't affect them, Oh! not to forget the Peacocks we saw as well 😊 Then like the Adventures we are we carried on to Yarrow Valley Park, even more Orange Tips.

I also saw a Grey Wagtail ,I've never seen one before so that was a bonus has was the Coot with her babies 😊 I must admit though that I thought some of the pics I took were OT, until I checked with your Website (Similar) they turned out to be Male Small White , so thank you very much, it's very helpful. My female Orange Tips are disapointing, at least i'm still in there learning 😊 Goldie M

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-May-12 10:00 PM GMT

I've had two good days! May 2nd/3rd. My first was at Hall-Lee-Brook where I took Pics of Orange Tips, (for the first timethis year) Speckled Wood, Tortoise Shell, Peacocks, Green Veined White ,SmallWhite, the sunshine had brought them all out it seemed. There were very few female OT which seemed odd, I suppose they're some where there but I didn't see them.

Then May 3rd we went to Whalley Abbey. The Abbey are part of it is in ruins thanks to Henry the 8th who had it burnt to the ground. Not content he took the lead from the roof which is now on Hampton Court roof (Cheek) Anyway it was a lovely day bwith a cold easterly wind , the Abbey's gardens are sheltered, thats why the Orange Tips like it there. I again saw the Peacock Butterfly, there seems to be alot this year around our area far more than last year and the weather last year was lovely in April. Anyway I'm off now to see if I can find the female OT and GV female. Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-May-12 05:48 AM GMT

I went to Southport on Monday of this week. In Ainsdale Dunes there were only Green Veined White, Small White , no Common Blue, I thought this very Strange, I just hope their waiting for the warmer weather and they've not got washed away 🤔 Goldie



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-May-12 01:20 AM GMT

I went to Gaits Barrow yesterday the 12th May. I managed to see one Duke-Of-Burgandy. Lots of people were there all rather disappointed. The weather wasn't warm, there was a very cold wind, and at one time we thought it may rain. The sky's cleared after lunch and we had a walk. I'd seen the one butterfly so felt better for the journey. When we went back after the walk, one man said he'd seen one, no one else had. I'd managed to get a long distance picture, I didn't have time to zoom in, the butterfly would fly out and disappear in the grass, so I just pointed the camera and hoped for the best, which, I'm afraid isn't very good, but I did get a distant image, so I'll chalk that one up until I go back beginning of June. Goldie M 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Jun-12 04:47 AM GMT

I've just come back from two weeks holiday, has you can guess i'm pretty busy now sorting out my Pic's etc, today however I went up to Gates Barrow because the weather was so nice and to my amazement i took these Photo's of a "White Pearl Bordered Fritillary". A man at the car park said there was a Latin name for it and I should find it out right away. I don't know if any one else as seen one up there, I've not had a chance to check everybody's posts this week with being away, I just couldn't wait to get it in my Diary 😊 I think there were two of them, besides my husband and myself another man saw it and even pointed it out to me, he said he just liked to look at Butterflies he had binoculars, (think that's how you spell it) I also took photos of the DOB, Normal PB and Small PB also there was a Large Skipper and a Dingy Skipper. Anyway here's the photo's I took of the WPBF Goldie. 😊 I've loads of Questions about different things to ask but I'll have to get sorted out first 😊



Re: Goldie M

by ChrisC, 05-Jun-12 04:57 AM GMT

stunner!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Jun-12 05:01 AM GMT

Thanks Chris, any Idea of it's Latin name Goldie 🤔 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Padfield, 05-Jun-12 05:13 AM GMT

Wow and wow!

I think that's a small pearl-bordered fritillary, ab. *alba*.

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/research/projects/cockayne/database/image.dsm?filename=500109X&includeInfraSubspecific=on&nametype=scientific&searchtype=taxon&sort=taxon-euro&taxonname=boloria+selene&sex=Male&side=upper&provenance=native&recLimit=20&format=gallery&taxonID=8717>

Guy

AND you have two different individuals there! That is just fantastic Goldie!! 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Reverdin, 05-Jun-12 05:26 AM GMT

You very lucky thing... what a beauty, and well caught on camera 🍷🍷

Re: Goldie M

by Nick Broomer, 05-Jun-12 05:26 AM GMT

Well done on you `re aberration SPB Goldie, what a beauty.

All the best,

nICK.

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 05-Jun-12 05:31 AM GMT

This is proving a good year for images of abs on here.

Excellent find, Goldie.

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 05-Jun-12 05:38 AM GMT

Lovely looking butterflies Goldie, simply stunning, and 2 different individuals as well.

Well done,

Neil F.

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 05-Jun-12 05:44 AM GMT

"padfield" wrote:

AND you have two different individuals there!

'Guy's Eyes' see things other folks' eyes cannot.

How can you tell those two SPBFs are different individuals?

Re: Goldie M

by Padfield, 05-Jun-12 05:49 AM GMT

😊 I think Neil's eyes spotted it too...

There are lots of small differences but one which certainly can't be accounted for by different lighting, exposure &c. is the shape of the hollow oval in the forewing cell.

Very impressed!

Guy

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 05-Jun-12 05:52 AM GMT

Guy has covered it, to me the markings on the individual in the centre photo look different to those in the other two shots.

Cheers,

Neil F.

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 05-Jun-12 06:00 AM GMT

What a great day for you, Goldie, and very well photographed too! It would be interesting to know the sequence of the photos as the middle one is clearly very different – less pale and different markings.

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by millerd, 05-Jun-12 06:35 AM GMT

What a lovely find – has to be the butterfly of the year for me.

Congratulations!

Dave

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 05-Jun-12 06:49 AM GMT

"nfreem" wrote:

Guy has covered it, to me the markings on the individual in the centre photo look different to those in the other two shots.

Cheers,

Neil F.

I thought we were just comparing the first and third? I didn't realise number 2 was *alba* as well?

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Hulme, 05-Jun-12 05:21 PM GMT

2012 Butterfly Of The Year. One per lifetime is lucky. Two is just greedy. Congratulations Goldie. 😊

Neil

Re: Goldie M

by Debbie, 05-Jun-12 05:33 PM GMT

Well done, and how lovely for us to be able to see the photographs – very interesting. Thank You. 😊

Debbie

Re: Goldie M

by Vince Massimo, 05-Jun-12 07:56 PM GMT

Great find, Goldie 🍷. I have never seen pictures of this aberration outside of a museum database.

I have sent you a PM regarding loading them onto the Species-Specific Album.

Vince

Re: Goldie M

by Pete Eeles, 05-Jun-12 08:56 PM GMT

"Goldie M" wrote:

I went up to Gates Barrow because the weather was so nice and to my amazement i took these Photo's of a "White Pearl Bordered Fritillary"

What an amazing find – well done! Did you mean Gait Barrows? If not, where is "Gates Barrow"?

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Jun-12 09:50 PM GMT

I meant Gait Barrows Pete, I was so excited when I saw the Butterfly I couldn't wait to get it into my Diary, so I spelt it wrong 😊 I can tell you exactly where it was flying if you wish ? I'm not much good at Maps etc, but if you know GB well you'll know exactly where I mean Ehwn I describe it. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Pete Eeles, 05-Jun-12 09:54 PM GMT

Thx! No worries - I just wanted to make sure that I "tweeted" this incredible find for the correct site without being too specific, for obvious reasons.

Cheers,

- Pete

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 05-Jun-12 10:19 PM GMT

Cheers everybody, it's strange isn't it when you actually see something like this you just don't believe it. I thought at first it was a white Butterfly, it was the man who was there before us with his Binoculars that said it was a PBF, I said no such thing (to my shame) He said, "it will come back it's been around a few times." Image my delight when it posed for me 😊 then we saw this other one which I thought had slightly more colour and that landed right in front of me. So that was the sequence really, off they'd fly then back again, I felt very privileged to just be there with them. Goldie M 😊

Re: Goldie M

by IAC, 05-Jun-12 11:53 PM GMT

Hi Goldie,

I have not posted on here for a while but those WPBFs....incredible!!! Congrats....you must have been jumping through hoops!!... 😊

Iain.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Jun-12 01:10 AM GMT

I was, jumping through Hoops Iain, 😊 I've just posted them all in Species section Vince, hope I've done it right, You know me 😊 😊 also hope there's not too many, I do like to do the same pics at different distances. Goldie

Re: Goldie M

by Vince Massimo, 06-Jun-12 02:01 AM GMT

Thanks Goldie 😊 . I have thinned them out a little and will have another edit later. You definitely posted the best ones in your personal diary. I was hoping there might be an underside shot lurking in there somewhere, but alas no.

Just to avoid any confusion, these are Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries (*ab.alba*).

Vince

Re: Goldie M

by Pauline, 06-Jun-12 03:51 AM GMT

Just picked this up. Amazing find Goldie and well photographed too. My hands would have been shaking too much to get any sort of photo! Congratulations.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Jun-12 04:33 AM GMT

Thank you Pauline, if I said I knew what the Butterfly was when I was taking my Pics I would have been shaking, I just didn't realise it's significance, until a man in the car park said to get it down loaded to Butterfly Conservation when I got home, that made me really excited. I just enjoyed watching them fly, I knew one was slightly different but I'll be honest, I thought it was the colour more than anything. I'm still not sure, I'll have to study them further. Sorry Vince about the undersides but as you can see, when it landed its wings were hidden at times with the vegetation I just got the one good shot in. It spread its wings out nearly as soon as it landed. I'm going to sit back now and have a shandy to celebrate 😊 Goldie M

Re: Goldie M

by Willow, 06-Jun-12 06:31 AM GMT

Absolutely thrilled to see such wonderful aberrations, and you managed some very pleasing images too Goldie, a tremendous find, very well done. You've caused some great excitement on **UK Butterflies**.

I can see Gait Barrows being swamped by 'butterfly twitchers' now 🤪

Bill 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 06-Jun-12 06:49 AM GMT

Absolutely stunning images – that had to be the most impressive butterfly this year/for ages:D 🍷🤪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 06-Jun-12 07:27 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and Willow, when we got to Gait Barrow the car park was full then and some one had left the gate open which i don't think your supposed to,(because of the Deer). Every one had come to take Pic's of the Duke and the Slipper Orchids. The sun was in and out and the breeze cold, thats when we decided to give the Sun time to get everything warmed up, it was about 11.30 then, no sign of the Duke. We took our time, taking pic's of the Dingy Skipper on the way. Then we saw them along with normal SPBF and PBF, I just started to take pics of them all 😊 We went back to the car for lunch, it was hot by then, then we went looking for the Duke and this time he was there. They've opened up another area for him, got rid of bushes etc, this one is also cordoned off and to come away from the Whites for awhile, I took this pic of him. Thanks for all your comments but I think I was lucky, right Place ,right time ,as they say 😊 Goldie



Re: Goldie M

by Rosalyn, 07-Jun-12 05:56 AM GMT

How happy you must be. Well done 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 07-Jun-12 06:02 AM GMT

"Vince Massimo" wrote:

Great find, Goldie 🍷 . I have never seen pictures of this aberration outside of a museum database.

I'm surprised Piers hasn't commented on this. He's often on the active users' board but he hasn't posted for a while.

I'm sure this type of thing would be right up his street.

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 07-Jun-12 06:14 AM GMT

A truly stunning find Goldie, the find of the year so far! SPBF are fairly common in Cornwall but i've never seen anything remotely like this! I've never been to Gait Barrows, i'm jealous and i really must get up there. I still have sooo much to do, so many places to go!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 08-Jun-12 07:48 PM GMT

Thanks again everybody, I feel like a balloon at present that's been deflated, I was so excited I couldn't wait to get the pictures on my computer, now it's house work and back to normal 😊 Sunday is going to be a bright day here they say, if I can nudge my husband into going again I will 😊 I've still got all my photo's to do from my two weeks holiday in Dorset and Devon yet, it must be my lucky year because I got Pictures of the Small Blue and the Marsh Fritillary, Butterflies I'd never seen before, the latter on the last day of my holiday 😊 Goldie

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Jun-12 06:01 AM GMT

I went to Spring Wood Whalley on Sunday it was a lovely day. We were too busy to go back to GB we'd to clean our Caravan and store it again a job we kept putting off 😊 Whilst there I took these photo's of a Large White which was being rather put on by GVW, either that, or it was a case of miss Identity 😊 Goldie



Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Jun-12 03:39 AM GMT

Well I've finally sorted out my holiday photo's. We went first to Dorset the third week in May the fourth week we spent in Devon. After all the tales I'd heard about the BF along the Dorset coast I couldn't wait to get going 😊 We were near Lulworth Cove and that's where I found my first of the year Small Heath, Dingy Skipper, Brown Argus, Holly Blue, Adonis, Pics not too good of this one it wouldn't keep still for me 😊 Oh! and I chased a Wall for the week as well no luck, (I hit a brick Wall) with that one you might say 😊 We went to Portland and in the Quarry there, "Broadcroft" it was called I saw my first Small Blue, that really put the icing on the cake for the first week. The second week in North Devon, I was lucky if I caught sight of a white never mind a Marsh Fritillary, I took a picture of what I hope was a Common Blue, very pale colour so I'm not sure of that. That was at "Braunton Burrows" I've included it with my Pics. We were due to leave on the Friday so thought we'd give a place called "Knowstone" a visit, it's on the 361 which leads right onto the M5 MW. To my delight we spotted two or three and I managed another first, it couldn't get any better I thought but it did when I got back and saw the SPBW, what a great three weeks I've had. When I was up at Gaits Barrow 4th July, the same time as I took the SPBW I also saw this one, it's body is green compared to the others, not sure if it's a PBF, don't think it's a SPBF any Ideas Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 14-Jun-12 03:29 AM GMT

Went back to Gaits Barrow, the weather was cloudy all the time, it looked good when we set off but when we arrived it was very dull and stayed so all day. We saw a large Skipper and one SPBF but nothing it seemed was keen to fly so we moved on to find "Myers Allotment "a new place opened recently for High Brown Fritillary and Dark Green Frits also PBF, SPBF. We'd never been before so had to find it which we did eventually. 😊 It's too soon for the HBF and DGF, and with nothing flying,we were happy to note our find to visit another day.

I've still been looking for Green Hair streaks which have aluded me up to now, a man we met said they were finished now, according to my book they can go on until August, so I'll assume they can and keep looking 😊 May be he means the first batch. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Jun-12 05:23 AM GMT

The Sun started to shine this afternoon so I went to Hall-Lee-Wood, nothing was flying except a small moth, i got a real shock though when I saw what They'd done to the field there. Last year it was left for the butterflies and there was loads of them. It was full of wild flowers the BF were laying eggs, it was full of May flowers, Buttercups,Dandelions etc. Now It looked like a Barbers Nightmare it wasn't even cut well. 😞 To make matters worse, the big area that was left for the children to play on Hadn't been touched the grass was has High as the goal post (slight Exert) Needless to say when I got home I needed a strong drink, 😊 Goldie



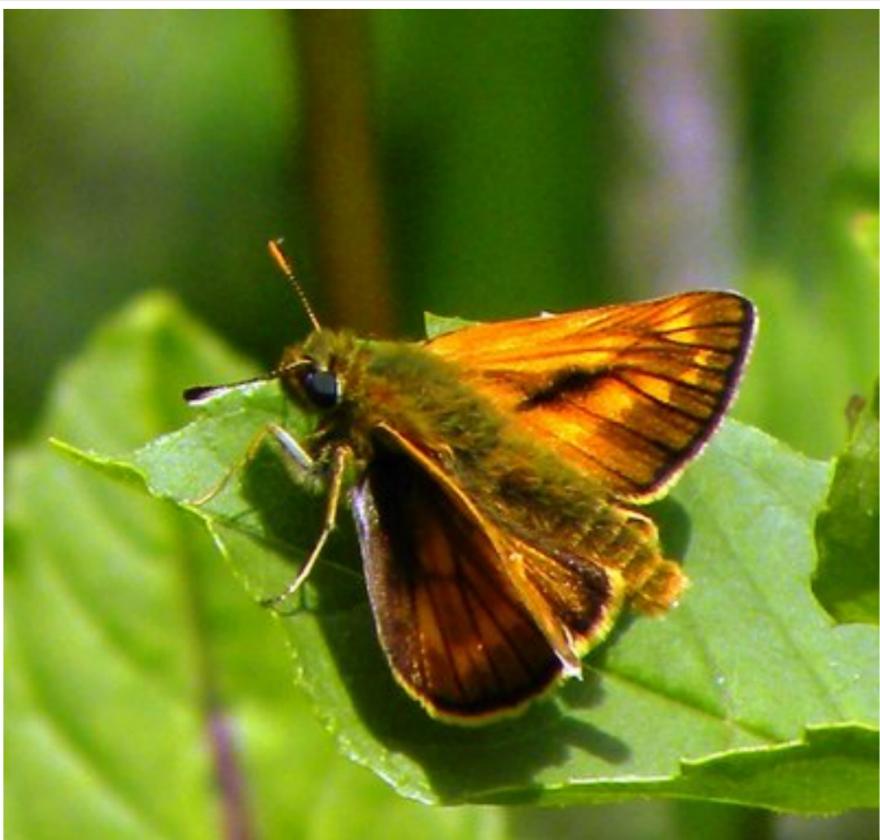
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Jun-12 01:38 AM GMT

I went up to Gaits Barrow again yesterday with my Husband the weather was perfect so we took a picnic. I went to the same place where I'd seen the SWPBF and took some more Photo's. I didn't see any more whites but the SPBF were there, some looked differant but it could be they were slightly faded, one was for sure.

I also took photo's of the Large Skipper, a Burnett moth and a Damsal Fly, one or two bigger BF flew over our heads, one was a Brimstone and the other I'm not sure, it didn't look like the HBF or the DGF were out yet (if they were we didn't see them) One of the Large Skippers was mating. We also saw a Buzzard and looks like someone had been observing it they'd

taken their own chair 🪑 Goldie







Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 20-Jun-12 03:50 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

Your Burnet Moth is a Cinnabar Moth, nice photo too, they always settle down in amongst the grass for me.

Cheers,

Neil F.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Jun-12 04:22 AM GMT

Thanks Neil, I never was any good at Moths 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Jun-12 05:07 AM GMT

I must enter into my diary today about the Small White Pearl Bordered Frit's I saw at Gaits Barrow on the 4th June because I'm so pleased, also because it probably won't happen to me again 😊 Butterfly conservation (Lancashire) have checked with the experts and the experts say they are called "Boloria selene ab Pallida" rare aberrations which of course Vince said they were. I reported seeing them to Lancs B and before they were recorded they wanted to make sure just what they were I'd seen.

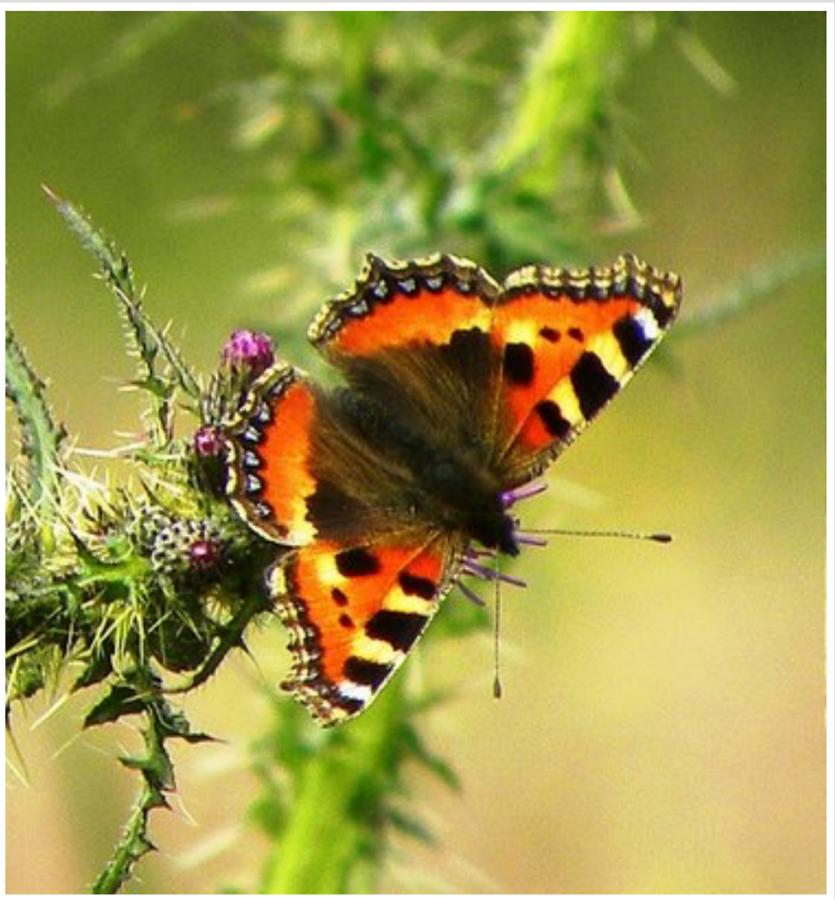
Now back to earth 😊 I went to Southport on weds 20th nothing much to report. We saw lots of Small Heath, they seem to be having a good year inspite of the weather, also Speckled Wood. Other wise considering it was so hot nothing else.

We had a great day though and ended it in Mac Donalds with a fillet of fish 😊 Goldie

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Jun-12 01:25 AM GMT

Tuesday 26th June we went to Yarrow Valley Park Chorley, after all the heavy rain the conditions were very soggy underfoot, so when we got to the field adjacent to the park we didn't really expect to see much. The field is quite big and so are the thistles, it's a known favorite with Peacock Butterflies, I've seen dozen's of them there at once, sadly not that day. No Large Skipper's either which is unusual. We were just about to give up when we spotted a Small Tortoiseshell. It was in perfect condition so we came home happy because we really thought all the rain may have done some damage. Where there's one there's usually more, is a happy thought 😊 I also saw this tiny moth never seen it before and the photo 's not too clear, I thought it unusual because it was black with white tips to it's wings, there were quite a few of those flying but trying to take a Photo was also,(trying)! Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 28-Jun-12 05:21 AM GMT

Great shots of the Small Tort – the first is nicely positioned and the second gives a great view of the hairiness 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 28-Jun-12 05:47 AM GMT

Your moth is a Chimney Sweeper (*Odezia atrata*). Unlike many moths, it flies in bright sunshine. They are very striking when fresh but tend to become browner with age.

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Jun-12 11:37 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzal and Mike, I'm glad you like my shots Wurzal, I must admit I get abit frustrated at times with my shots, I know it's me and not the camera 😊, but the photo's seem too bright even if I use the exposure compensation button, I seem to have to do this when the light is really bright even on the set menu's. Still learning I suppose 😊 I must admit though people have been a great help in the first place telling me that digital camera's tend to over compensate with the light when taking shots.

Thanks Mike for naming the Moth, it really suits it's name, thats another day moth I can add to my list, I'm getting more interested in Moths this year than i was before. When I go to my daughter's school, there's a teacher there who sett's a moth trap overnight, then he shows the children the morning after and tells them all about the moths before letting them go. I think this is great and the children love it .Goldie

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Jul-12 04:32 AM GMT

I've just had two weeks in Kent and although the weather was still wet at times, we did manage to miss the rain.

I found East Blean woods and the the Heath Fritillary are there in large numbers, too many to count , the ranger said he'd not seen has many as this ever.

We'd to be careful not to stand on them, they were every where and mating like mad 😊

I was lucky also to see White Admiral's, but with going down so late missed out on the Chalk Hill Blue and Adonis, I may go again in Sept so you never know maybe if their still around I'll see them then.

We also went to Temple Ewell nature reserve, there we found Marble White's, it was abit ,hit and miss really. When the sun shone out they'd pop and disapear again when it clouded over which of course happened alot. It wasn't too bad though if they stayed put because they were much easier to shoot.

We also saw Small Skipper, Meadow Browns and Ringlet. I must say though I only saw one Red Admiral which is very unusual for kent.

The forcast for the weekend seems good so we plan to go to Gaits Barrow and hope fully I'll see some High BF and DGF fingers crossed. I've put a photo in my diary of a real mad frenzy, it gives an idea to just what the HF were like.

I put the 1st one in because I Just loved to see the the Heath Fritillary in amongst all the thistles, and I was really on cloud nine when it went onto to my finger Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 21-Jul-12 06:24 AM GMT

Cracking shots Goldie- I better start saving the pennies and earning some brownie points with my wife so I can get to see them next year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Jul-12 10:18 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzal, it does help if you've got relatives living in Kent.Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 23-Jul-12 10:45 PM GMT

I went to Gaits Barrow last sat 21st and i was lucky. We decided we'd go to the same place we saw the WPBF or Alba. When we got there the Thistles had grown very high and we could see the Butterflies were enjoying them. On the path up the hill we were stopping in case we trod on the Meadow Brown's, I've never seen so many . We saw Small Skippers and Ringlets a Huge Dragon Fly, I've no idea about them but they were bigger than the Dark Green Fritillaries that were there. I kept taking shots at every thing that landed near me, it's only when I got home and it's taken me ages to sort them out that I discovered I'd also got the High Brown Fritillary. I must admit I've had to go and check for which was which and that's taken me ages 😊 so I hope I'm correct 😊

On the way back we went via the the Lime stones and we found the Grayling, so we had a pretty good afternoon Goldie 😊 I think the one on the thistle is DGF and the other one HBF, we all know the Grayling 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Paul Wetton, 24-Jul-12 12:26 AM GMT

Hi Goldie

You're quite correct with the ID's. The High Brown has the spots on the upper forewing forming a slightly sigmoid shape as the third smaller spot from the costa (front edge) is displaced inwards. The hind edge of the forewings on the HBF shows a slightly concave edge.

With the DGF on the thistle the spots are in more of a straight line and the hind edge of the wing is more of a straight line and can be slightly convex in some individuals.

Great shots and Gait Barrows is a wonderful spot. Well done on finding the SWPBF's as well, never seen them before.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 25-Jul-12 01:45 AM GMT

Thanks Paul, i'm learning at last 😊 also feel more at ease wth the camera.Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Jul-12 01:50 AM GMT

I went To Hall-Lee-Brook this last week, I've been concerned for the lack of Butterflies there. Again there were only a few Meadow Browns, I counted about six Whites, no large Whites, Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells or Red Admirals, last year we had loads. The Speckled Woods seemed to be doing ok, but I only counted one Comma and two skippers nothing really like we had last year and no sign of any Gate Keepers. This all seems very strange when I saw all these in large numbers, except the PC, RA, STs, at Gaits Barrow

I wonder if my fears of them cutting the grass and the shrubs at the beginning of the year at HLB had some thing to do with it. Peacocks, Red AD, Small Tor shells, may come later in August, although I did see a Sts before earlier in the month, nothing since. Dissapointing really because I started my diary with the Waste land, now HLB and had such high hopes for it, I suppose time will tell 😞 Anyway i've put a few shots in Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 13-Aug-12 11:21 PM GMT

Well I've been enjoying the hot weather it's been great, so have the birds in my garden all kinds have paid us a visit , including a Great Spotted Woodpecker, I think it was a Juvenile though because of it's red head.

We've also had Small Tortoiseshell Butterflies ,at last ! I was beginning to think they were a write off in my garden.

On Friday we went to Sefton Dunes, what a change there, Small Coppers, Common Blues, Grayling all were there even Brown Argus which I've not seen there before. I took a shot of a butterfly thats not very good i'm afraid but it looked so much like an Adonis I have to show it even though I know it's probaby a CB. It was so quick but very very blue, but like I said the photo is not too good.

I found one thing out for sure Butterflies love white. When I was in Kent I'd put a white blouse on to go to East Blean Woods

and to my alarm a White Admiral landed on me, I did'nt realise it was a WA or I'd have kept still it flew right onto my shoulder,i don't know who was more suprised me or it 😊 Then when I was up at Gaits Barrow A Dark Green Frit did the same on my white Fleece I didn't get Pics of them ,too slow, but

on Friday white Blouse again and a Grayling landed on me this time my husband got a shot of it, so forget all else and just wear White 😊 Goldie M 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 17-Aug-12 10:48 PM GMT

We went up to Gaits Barrow on Tuesday the 14th Aug this week and once again it didn't dissappoint us. My Husband and I decided we'd take a picnic the weather was so nice. When we arrived we decided to take the Purple pathway for a change instead of the White and take a look where the Duke-of-Burgandy was early in the Spring.

What a transformation! where all the Primroses had been the area was covered in wild Flowers and very tall grass. we had to come off the path slightly to get there but it was well worth it. Brimstone Butterflies were every where.

After that the first thing we saw was of course a Speckled Wood 😊 Then as if from no where this Large Dragon Fly landed right in front of us, I don't know anything at all about Dragon Flies but this one really looked like a dragon. It had a large Blue head that didn't seem to be part of it's body and it was watching us 😊 Then I saw my first Peacock of the new season it had very bright colours.

The next thing we saw was yet another Dragon Fly, this one was Brown and very big. It was actually the perfect day for anyone interested in Dragon Flies. I thought they looked great abit frightening though when up close. I would like to Know their names! must look them up .

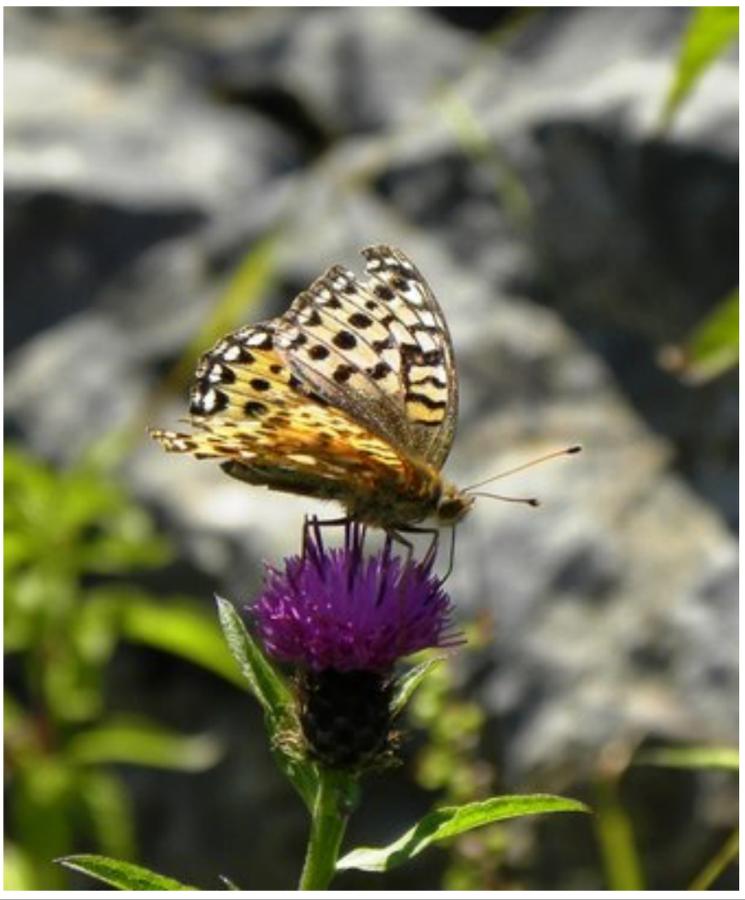
Our next encounter after we returned to the purple path way was very differant. On the slate Path were two Graylings and one was doing his courtship ritual. I'd read about this but not actually seen it. so we were fascinated has the male opened his wings to the Female and then suddenly hopped this way and that. It was great watching his wings open then close a real show off he was.

We finally arrived where the White path crosses the Purple and has we walked this Dark Green Fritillary who had seen much better days landed on a flower in front of us, of course I had to take his picture , he reminded me of the SPBF in the Spring

two colours, of course his were just wear and tear,we'd had a great day 😊 Goldie







Re: Goldie M

by Vince Massimo, 18-Aug-12 12:22 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

That second Grayling image is spectacular 🍷

I believe it to actually be the female carrying out a rejection display to the male. Could you add it to the Species-Specific Album when you get time

please.

Many thanks,

Vince

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Aug-12 08:32 PM GMT

Thanks Vince will do, I seem to be very lucky this year on my adventures 😄 Goldie 😊

I've added it to the species list , hope i've put it in the right one. It's in the Grayling part any way . I've also added what you said hope thats not wrong Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Pete Eeles, 18-Aug-12 08:56 PM GMT

"Vince Massimo" wrote:

I believe it to actually be the female carrying out a rejection display to the male

I may be wrong – but isn't the male on the left (with its sex brands visible) displaying to the female? In other words, I can't see any rejection going on there. From the species page:

"The male flies up to investigate any passing object and, if he encounters a female, the two will land on the ground. The male lands immediately behind her before moving around to face her head on. An unreceptive female will flutter her wings while a virgin female will remain still, encouraging the male to perform an elaborate courtship. He starts by flicking his wings upward to reveal the orange patches found on the underside of the forewings. He then flicks his wings open and shut for a short time before bowing to the female and slowly bringing his wings together, when the female's antennae are brought together over the sex brands found on the male's forewings, as the male returns to an upright position. The scent scales from the sex brands allows the male to seduce the female, allowing him to move behind the female who is then mated."

Edit: Definitely not sure about this! I think Vince might be right looking more closely at the wing patterns!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Aug-12 09:29 PM GMT

I've got a few more shots that may give us some clues, I just thought it was a male going through is courtship routine Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Padfield, 18-Aug-12 09:34 PM GMT

Pauline recently got upperside shots of graylings and recorded the mating afterwards. My recent observations of hermits (which sadly didn't produce any upperside photos) suggested that coupling is preceded by the two butterflies sitting face to face, almost intertwining their antennae, and some of Goldie's shots do show this positioning, though we don't know how long it lasted. For me, the jury's out on whether this shows mutual attraction or just a male trying his luck.

Yes, Goldie – you have certainly had your share of luck this year. But luck is something you make and I don't think it runs out! It's down to your being observant and catching the moment! I'm sure you'll have plenty more.

Guy

Re: Goldie M

by Vince Massimo, 18-Aug-12 10:07 PM GMT

Sorry to hijack your diary Goldie, but this is for science 😊

My reasoning is that both the wing colouration and abdominal size/shape indicate female and I cannot detect anything that look like male sex brands. They are supposed to be across the leading edge of the forewing, although I'm still unclear as to their actual appearance. In any event, the illustrations in Thomas/Lewington show the male having broad dark patches on the front of the forewing, which I am not seeing here. The individual shown here also seems to correspond very well to the confirmed female upperside images housed in the Species Identification section.

Just one word of caution.....

Exactly the same illustrations are shown in Tolman, but the sex notations have been transposed 😊

Do we have any Grayling experts out there?

Vince

Re: Goldie M

by Padfield, 18-Aug-12 10:18 PM GMT

I must admit, I hadn't turned back to look at Goldie's original photos when I posted and took Pete's word that a male was displaying there. However, I agree with Vince that all the open-winged shots show females. The male sex brand is along the lower edge of the cell, in much the same position as in wall, and is easily visible (in males!).

Guy

Re: Goldie M

by Neil Hulme, 19-Aug-12 12:22 AM GMT

Hi all,

I have no doubts at all in siding with Vince on this one. That's definitely the male on the right (original shot in question) and the female is rejecting him. It would be very rare indeed if an old girl like that was about to be mated (not just wooed) for a second time – and she's been around the block!

Neil

Re: Goldie M

by Pete Eeles, 19-Aug-12 02:32 AM GMT

Thanks all. I suppose my confusion is that I've rarely seen Grayling upperside, let alone had a chance to study the markings (other than from books). And I've only seen the courtship ritual once in my whole life! It's therefore less obvious to me which sex is which based on a still. But now I feel I'm "in the know"; what a great website 😊

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Aug-12 08:08 PM GMT

I second that Pete, it is a great web site. I think your theory of the female rejecting the Male could certainly be right Vince.

Although like I said, I thought it was a male wooing the Female, I couldn't tell the the difference between the two, I'm learning quickly though 😊 I think Sussex Skipper is right and she'd just mated. because when we got there another Grayling wasn't far away from her, I did take a photo of him, I must confess I was more interested in the Grayling with the open wings and when I saw the other one with her I jumped to conclusions ,they were mating. We didn't see them mating so I suppose thats another hint.

Thanks also Guy for your comments, I've been lucky so far and I hope your right and I do find more interesting Butterflies 😊

I've included the shot of the lone Male, I wish I'd got there abit sooner to see him perform 😊

Sat and Sunday were also good days for me it was the first time I'd had a Gate Keeper in my Garden both front and back Gardens, and a Speckled Wood arrived . Also my First of Summer Peacock arrived just before the Rain on Sunday morning so I'm looking forward now to the arrival of the Red Admiral and Tortoiseshell lets hope we get more Sunshine Goldie 😊 Hope the one in the shot is Male 😊 Still i'm Learning Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 21-Aug-12 05:48 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

An excellent series of Grayling photos, well done,

All the best,

Neil F.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 22-Aug-12 12:58 AM GMT

Thanks very much Neil, I've enjoyed all the comments, and the Praise 🙌 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Aug-12 01:20 AM GMT

Well this week I've not strayed very far from my garden, it really needed tidying up and i'm glad I didn't. For the first time I've seen a Gate Keeper in both the Front and the Back garden. Then the Peacocks arrived followed by Tortoiseshell, Speckled Wood, (one in particular who's living at the bottom of the back garden and I see every day, when it's fine that is.)

I know it's the same one, it has the same missing part of wing. It's a welcome sight I love watching it. I've also had some Green Veined Whites and Small Whites. So I feel I've missed nothing while doing my chores 😊

I did pay a visit across the way to Hall-Lee-Brook just to see what was there if any thing. The place is really coming on Peacocks were there also GK , I've not seen any Painted Ladies so far this year around my area or Red Admiral's which is unusual, this time last year in my garden they were plentiful, I wonder if it's just around here there scarce, I was taking shots of them well into October last year. Anyway I thought I'd put a few Photo's in My Diary of my visitors Goldie 😊







Re: Goldie M

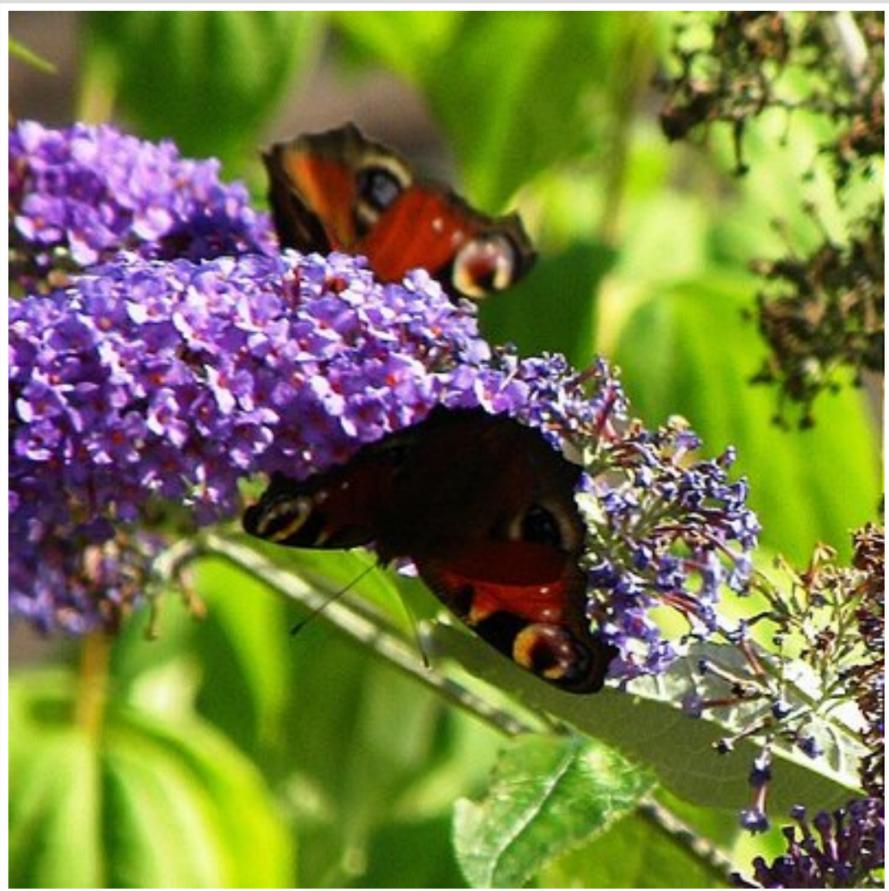
by Goldie M, 27-Aug-12 09:54 PM GMT

Yesterday Morning was miserable the afternoon turned out to be great though. I was in the Garden again messing about and talking with my neighbour who has a lovely budliea bush. I've got a couple but not the colour of her's. I was telling her this when the Peacocks arrived on her bush ,the flowers are so long on the bush that at one point there were five Peacocks there.

I ran in for my Camera and took a couple of shots but only two remained by then on one flower. The peacocks were every where. I've had some on my bushes but not to that extent.

Her bush is almost blueish , I've looked every where for a similar tye but can't find one and I don't know what it's called, my neighbour doesn't either, her husband put it in and he passed away ages ago. She said she gets loads of pleasure just watching the BF and I can go in anytime and take Shots.

(It's not like having your own bush though is it) 😊 Anyway I've put the shots up to see if any one knows what it's called. Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-Aug-12 05:24 PM GMT

Tuesday of this week I went to Sefton Dunes , the weather was great so we took a picnic. After lunch we went onto the board walk then into the Dunes the first thing we saw was this lovely female Common Blue which I thought at the time was a Male. After reading what Vince had to say about CB I'm thrilled to have found one like her. also got a side view of her.

I then took this shot of a Peacock . At first I thought he was damaged on a closer look I'm not sure , I think maybe his colours have some how gone wrong. Then I found these, what I think could be Pupa but I don't really know , they certainly look like some thing is trying to get out of them. It was Quite an interesting afternoon . We also saw Small Tortoiseshell's Grayling and Small Copper and Six Spot Burnett. Goldie 😊







by Vince Massimo, 31-Aug-12 07:17 PM GMT

"Goldie M" wrote:

Tuesday of this week I went to Sefton Dunes , the weather was great so we took a picnic. After lunch we went onto the board walk then into the Dunes the first thing we saw was this lovely female Common Blue which I thought at the time was a Male. After reading what Vince had to say about CB I'm thrilled to have found one like her. also got a side view of her. I then took this shot of a Peacock . At first I thought he was damaged on a closer look I'm not sure , I think maybe his colours have some how gone wrong. Then I found these, what I think could be Pupa but I don't really know , they certainly look like some thing is trying to get out of them. It was Quite an interesting afternoon . We also saw Small Tortoiseshell's Grayling and Small Copper and Six Spot Burnett. Goldie 😊

Hi Goldie,

That's a very striking Common Blue female 😊 . The cocoons you found belong to the Burnet moths. The Burnet caterpillar spins this shelter before pupating inside. What you can also see in some of them is the thin pupal case left by the moth as it emerged.

Vince

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-Aug-12 07:26 PM GMT

Thanks Vince, I wish I'd stayed there longer to watch but we had to try and miss the home rush on the motor way. What did you think about the Peacock? Is it just damaged? Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Vince Massimo, 31-Aug-12 08:22 PM GMT

"Goldie M" wrote:

..... What did you think about the Peacock? Is it just damaged? Goldie 😊

Hi Goldie,

The damage is very localised and the rest of the individual looks very fresh. My view is that it probably suffered some sort of problem while hatching. During the pupal stage, the upper surface of the forewing is in direct contact with the inner surface of the pupal case and it may not have seperated cleanly as the adult emerged, causing a lot of the wing scales to rub off.

The development of the pupa and hatching sequence is shown here viewtopic.php?f=37&t=6485

Vince

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 31-Aug-12 11:03 PM GMT

Thanks once again Vince, I think your report sorts things out for me. It's a great report.

The nearest I came to watching a Butterfly coming through this stage was when some Painted Ladies were bought for me.

I watched them every day from a very small Caterpillar to becoming Butterflies and it was amazing. I was very reluctant to let them go 😊 The Peacock I took a photo of was very quick so obviously it had no effect on him at all 😊 I hope to see some Red Admirals around here shortly or I'll be very worried, last year they were every where, I've not seen one this year around here, In fact I've seen only one all year and that was in Blean Woods Kent. Thanks again Vince Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 10-Sep-12 01:15 AM GMT

On Monday Sept 3rd I was at Birkdale Sands Southport,(Dunes) I was amazed at the amount of Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks I saw, too many to count and not forgetting my one and only Grayling 😊 Since than I've needed to go no where has my Back Gardens been full of Butterflies, mostly Peacocks and STS, but also I got a shot at last of a Red Admiral so maybe it's their turn to arrive on the scene, I do hope so. 😊

Yesterday I took a photo of an Holly Blue in the garden, I was suprised at it's size. I've taken shots before but I don't remember them being so small, I compared it to a Bee that was on the same flower and the Bee seems bigger than the Butterfly, Maybe it's just me 😊 , The weather as to turn bad tomorrow, (colder) I suppose thats just for the North again anyway than goodness for a lovely week. Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 10-Sep-12 02:44 AM GMT

Great shots Goldie and that Holly Blue does seem small compared to the bumble bee, could that be something to do with it's gender?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 11-Sep-12 02:40 AM GMT

Hi! Wurzal, thanks for the compliment, I'm not too good at telling Male from Female unless their a differant colour 😊

How ever I took other shots of it so maybe you can tell from them Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 11-Sep-12 03:28 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

That is a nice summer brood female Holly Blue, even if she does look a bit small 😊

Neil F.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Sep-12 04:41 AM GMT

Thanks Neil, I've looked for her in the garden but without luck, I suppose it's abit late for her now. It would be great if she'd left some eggs behind. My garden has no holly in it so I don't think she will have but my neighbour has a large Holly Bush, so hope fully I'll see some more HB next year. 😊 How can you tell it's a Female by the way ? 😊

The weather today has been awful we've had abit of every thing Hale, Rain, at one point I thought snow 😲 😊 During a break where we got abit of sun the Small Tortoise shell's were out but playing it safe on our garage roof, sitting in the Sun with a quick route into our Garage roof tiles when it rained 😊 That's what it looked like any way. 😊

Yesterday was much cooler but it didn't deter this Red Admiral (only My 2nd this year so far) from trying to feed. We went for a short walk and spotted it. Thats the only Butterfly we saw yesterday. Hope the weather picks up later this week it looks so nice down South Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Neil Freeman, 12-Sep-12 05:04 AM GMT

Hi Goldie,

You can tell your Holly Blue is female by the thick black borders to her wings, males don't have those.

And by the way, summer brood females usually lay their eggs on the flower heads of Ivy.....no idea why they are not called Ivy Blues 😊

Neil F.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 12-Sep-12 05:23 AM GMT

I'm learning all the time Neil I won't forget to look for that dark shading from now on. Incidentally you've got some fantastic photo's in your Dairy. I wish some of those Painted Ladies would come north 😊 I myself will be going South shortly but not until October 7th, I'm going to Kent again. I don't suppose many BF will be about then. 😞

We were in Dorset in May. I think it has to be my favorite County, can't wait to go back there Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 12-Sep-12 06:58 AM GMT

"I think it has to be my favourite County" You've just cheered this Dorsetian right up 😊

Love the shot of the Small Tort 😊

Have a goodun

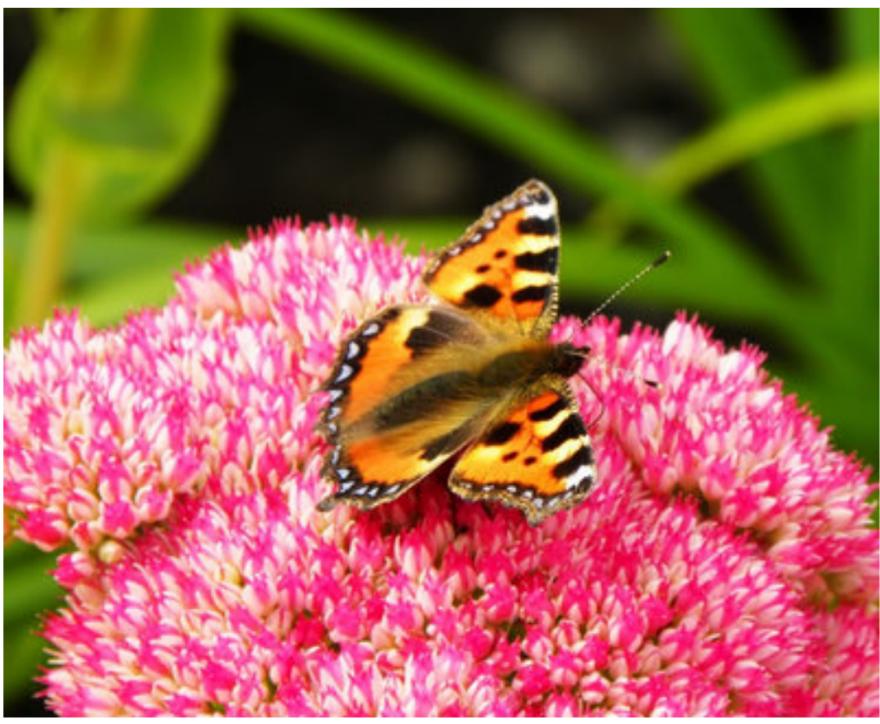
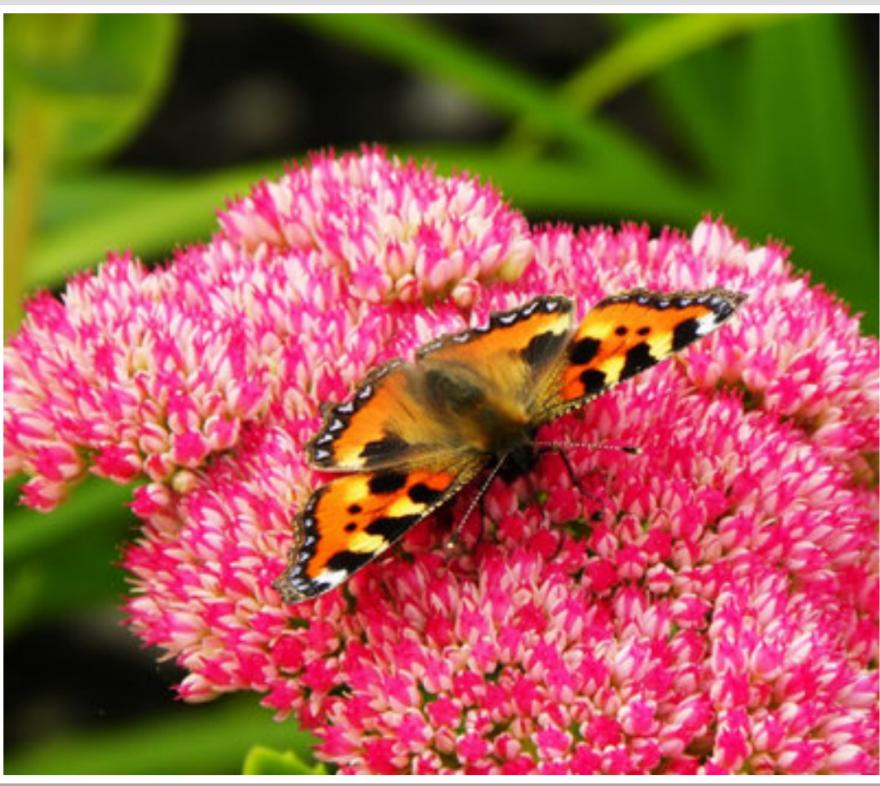
Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Sep-12 11:30 PM GMT

The weather as been awful here in Greater Man, the only nice day was yesterday when I managed to get a shot of a Small Tortoiseshell in the Back Garden. We've had Gale force winds, rain, and today promises to be no differant. I've seen no Red Admiral's since I took my last photo, can't wait to go South in October, just maybe I'll see some thing 😊

The weather man on the tele this morning nearly got a shoe thrown at him when he said, " Well I think it's the end of our Indian Summer," I don't think it even started up North 😞 Ah Well! we can't control the weather, thank goodness for my shot of the STS yesterday Goldie 😊 I took the shots with my Noise switch on this time hope they look better Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by David M, 17-Sep-12 02:19 AM GMT

"Goldie M" wrote:

The weather man on the tele this morning nearly got a shoe thrown at him when he said, " Well I think it's the end of our Indian Summer," I don't think it even started up North

You're not alone 'up north', Goldie.

This has been my first free weekend since July and I've been itching to get out. However, in south Wales all we saw yesterday was cloud and today it started raining like it does in November.

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 17-Sep-12 05:38 AM GMT

Gorgeous Tortoiseshells, Goldie. Isn't it strange how nature can get away with colour 'clashes' that we couldn't wear or use to decorate our houses!

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 17-Sep-12 06:01 AM GMT

Cracking shots of the Small Tort - Mikes' right Orange and Pink, what was it thinking someone call Gok 🤪 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 17-Sep-12 07:24 AM GMT

Take heart,Goldie! I think there will still be plenty of Commas and Red Admirals,plus a few others,when you arrive in October,given reasonable weather. Away from the downs,there are probably more butterflies around the countryside now,than there have been all summer!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Sep-12 07:59 PM GMT

Thanks everyone for your comments sorry I took so long to answer, I was out in the garden trying to get as close has I could to more STS.(I took your advice Mike) Yes the colour does clash, this next time they've gone with yellow 😊

Seems your weather is as bad has ours David, I'm just glad about Essexbuzzard saying the weather in Kent will be good in October I'm looking forward to that now and more Butterfly shots. Thanks again everyone for your comments, Wurzal, I always look forward to seeing your photo's Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 19-Sep-12 04:10 AM GMT

"Goldie M" wrote:

Seems your weather is as bad has ours David

It's brightened up now, Goldie, but the temperature's dropped to a mere 14c!!!

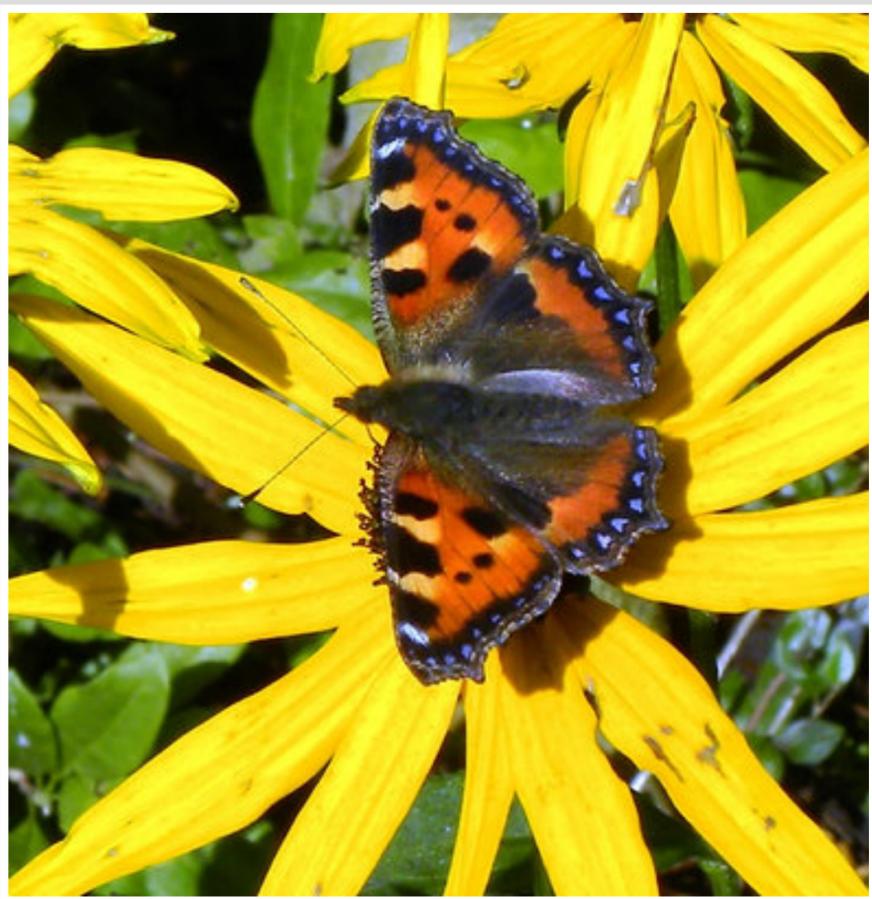
Summer is truly over. 😞

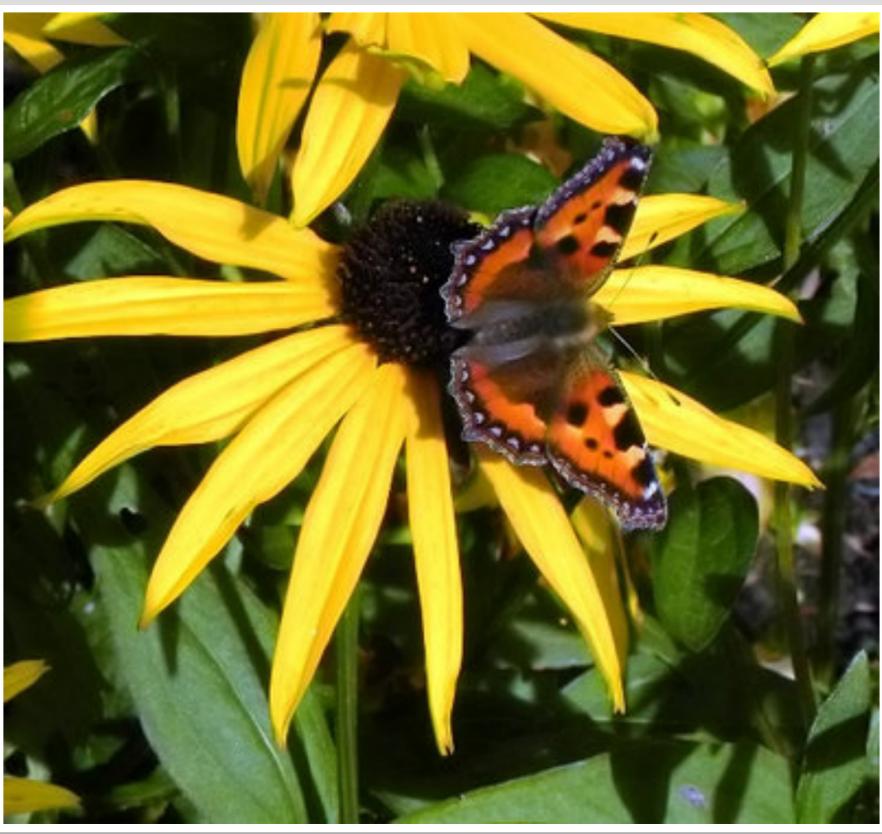
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Sep-12 09:37 PM GMT

It was yesterday 19th that we finally got some Sunshine and of course showers but like you said David only 14c.

We decided to go to Blackpool and I've put a couple of shots in of the sea, no good I thought for Butterflies but I'd my camera along just in case. We ended up in Fleetwood Country Park where it's more sheltered and to my suprise saw about six or seven STS feeding on Autumn Glory. The shots I took were close up shots. I thought they would look good but I'm abit dissapointed . The close or Micro has it's called is suposed to have noise built into it for close range shots but I think the photo's look less sharp than my others, at least I saw some STS Butterflies though, not sure what is the best photo's now though Goldie 😊 (I've put in a couple I took in My garden using P on my Camera (Programed Auto) this seems to have made them abit on the dark side, this also has noise built in, I give up 😞 Gloldie, The latter are on the yellow flowers. 😊







Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 21-Sep-12 05:08 AM GMT

Well we may have all the Commas and Red Admirals down south, but you folks seem to have most of the Small Torts! Although I have seen the odd one or two since late August, an improvement on before, they seem more abundant with you, so maybe things aren't so bad for you guys after all. Given the spring and summer we've had, that's got to be a bonus. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 21-Sep-12 09:36 PM GMT

It's certainly is a Bonus Essex Buzzard, it would be even better to see more Red Admiral's as well though (Greedy) 😊 I'm waiting for tomorrow the weather is supposed to be much better and I know if we've got any more just where they feed. I found this Ginnel between the houses last year, sheltered and full of Ivy, they were there right up to late October. I've got so many Photo's of STS even my Computers moaning. 😊 lets hope I can top up with RA Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 22-Sep-12 06:59 AM GMT

The Small Tort on the yellow flower looks great, the yellow really brings out the blue markings on the wing margins 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

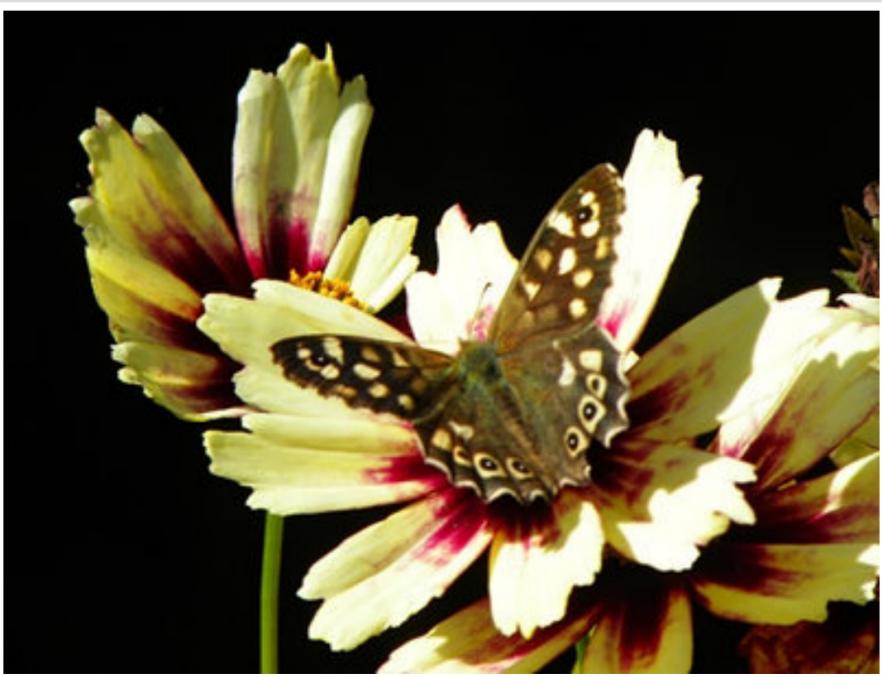
by Goldie M, 23-Sep-12 09:12 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I thought they looked too dark 😊 I keep using different ways camera wise to get a better effect, I took some yesterday which I've to sort yet, but I think the effect the flower makes with the Butterfly (in this case a Speckled wood) to me, it makes the photo, like the Yellow flower did for the STS. I'll put the shot up when I've taken it off the Memory card Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Sep-12 01:35 AM GMT

Finally done my photo's, they were all taken in my back garden,22nd Sept the best day we've had for a while. The Weather as gone slowly down hill since then, not too worry we could still get some nice days yet (I'm forever the optimist) 😊 Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Sep-12 11:30 PM GMT

I went to my local Garden centre yesterday, It was a suprise when I got there to see so many STS Butterflies, Whites also I should have taken my camera there 😊 The weather has been horrid I feel so sorry for the poor folk's living near to rivers who have got flooded, although we've had it bad here at least we've stayed fairly dry. I thought that most of the BF would have been washed away, so I was pleased to see so many yesterday, today so far I've only seen one STS I'll have to go back to the Garden Centre. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 28-Sep-12 11:45 PM GMT

"Goldie M" wrote:

I should have taken my camera there 😊

I often take my camera to the local garden centre 😊 I even photographed a White-letter Hairstreak there, once.

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 29-Sep-12 12:50 AM GMT

Taking a camera to a garden centre is a good idea at this time of year. Nectar sources are rapidly drying up in the wild so those on offer in these places are likely to be well frequented!

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Sep-12 09:01 PM GMT

I never thought of that before David, I'm definately going back to the garden centre and i'll take my camera every where I go now Mike 😊
I'm not too sure what to do when copying into my Diary what some one has said, so i took the comment of Davids copied it then pasted it, I'm probably wrong, (I've an excuse though, I'm a self taught computer user) 😞😞 Goldie 😊

I was wrong so will now have to find out where I went wrong and try again Goldie 😞😊

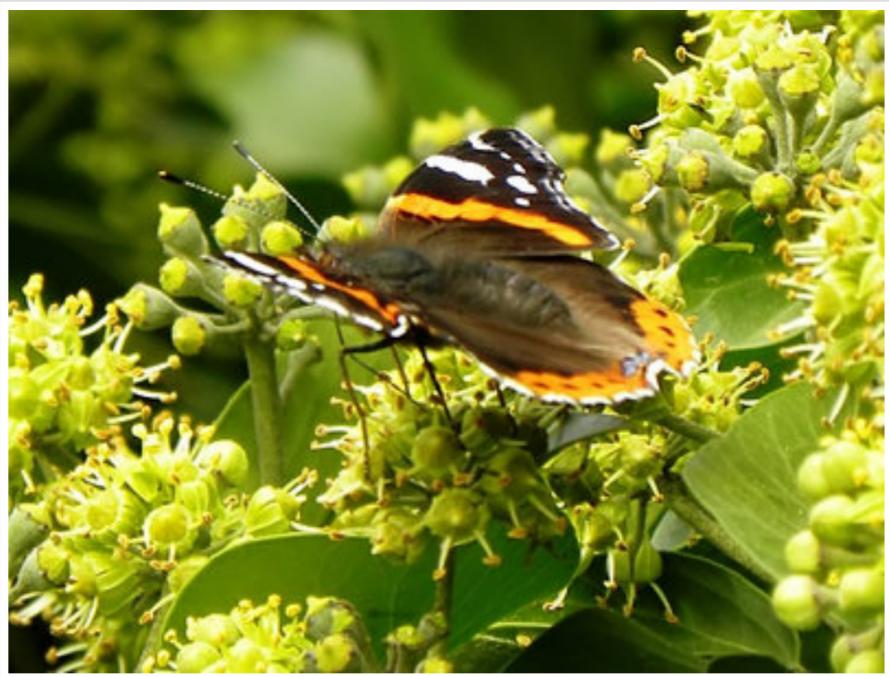
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Oct-12 06:14 PM GMT

Well! I've been back from Kent a week now, the weather wasn't much better than here except for being warmer.

We went to Sandwich one day, it was the best day as it turned out, I managed to get photo's of a Comma and a Red Admiral feeding on an Ivy and I'm afraid that's all. We did go to the Roman Museum and that was really interesting and the Heritage M, which if the weather had been nice we probably wouldn't have.

I went to all the places where I'd normally see BF at this time of year and it was In the gardens at Tankerton I spotted a couple of White BF, of course, any thing White catches my eye now since my near mistake with the Bolaria Selene so I took a couple of shots of them, I wonder though isn't it abit late for Whites, I know the books say October, we don't seem to get them so late up north, I suppose it was because we were in the South, I've not totally given up here yet the sun's shining so I'm off out looking for those illusive Red Admirals of the North Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 21-Oct-12 05:45 AM GMT

Great shots Goldie. I like the white in particular due to the eccentric view, makes it very interesting and almost alien 😊 Hopefully the 3 days of "Indian Summer" due next week will reach you up there and mean more butterflies.

Have a goodun

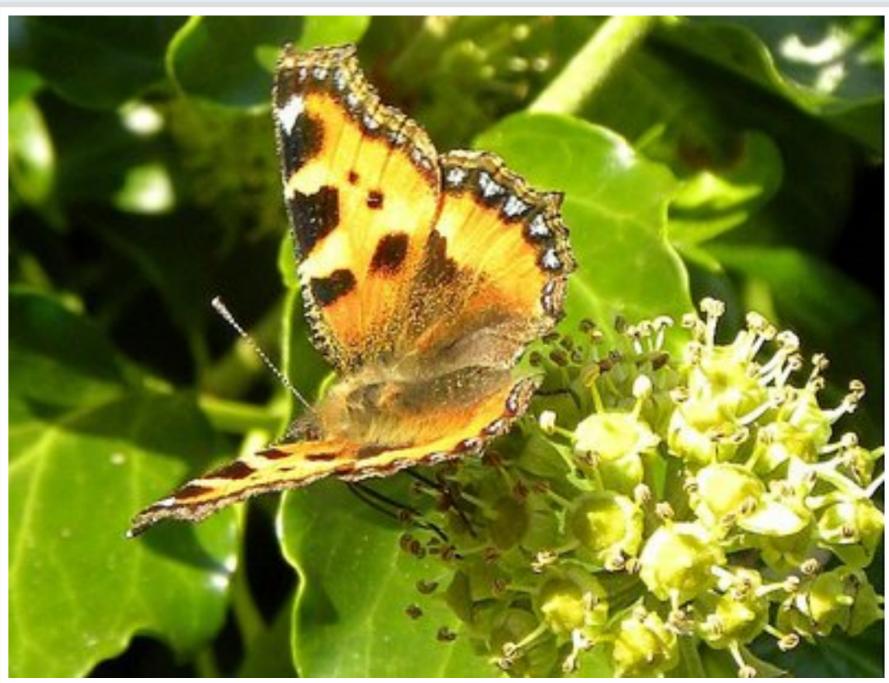
Wurzel

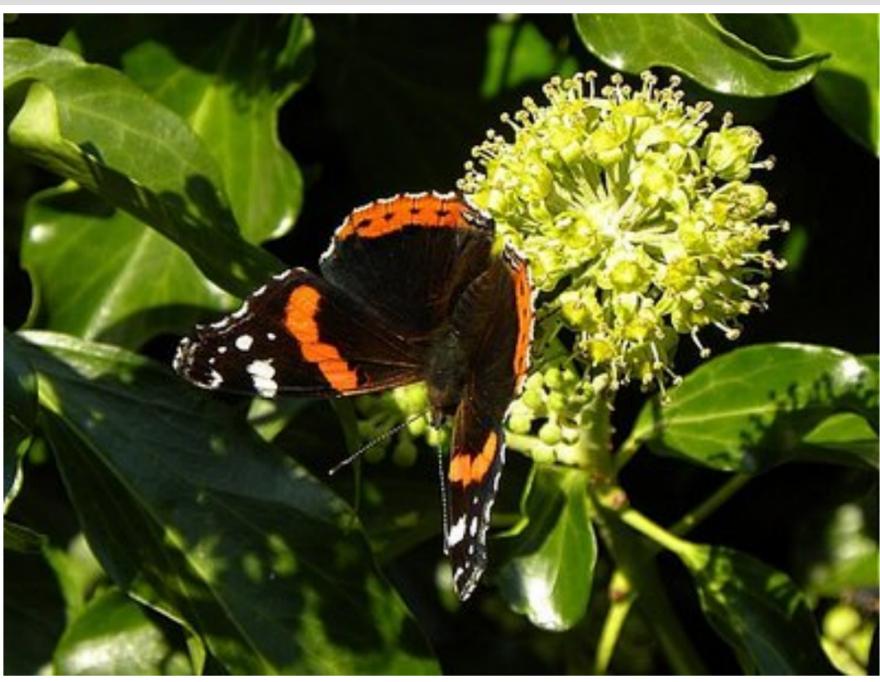
Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 26-Oct-12 09:51 PM GMT

Our Indian Summer didn't last that long did it Wurzel 😊 not up here any way. I did manage to get some more Photo's though. When I went up the Ginnel between the houses where I knew the Ivy grows,(can't think of it's name)but it was there last year and so were RA I just had to go and look there again 😊 First thing I saw was a Comma and low and behold my missing Red Admiral's, that was on the 21st of October, also there to my suprise was a Small Tortoiseshell. I was so pleased to see them I thought the bad weather had really done some damage.

To change the subject we had a huge Moth blown off course ending up on some ones window sill. Did anybody see it on the News ? It came all the way from the Phillipines, one of the biggest moths in the World. In 1990 I was in the Phillipines, my husband was working there and I went out out to him. I happened to be in this shop looking for some head wear when the Lady came out of a changing room in a hurry shouting, my curiosity got the better of me and I went to see what was wrong, there was this huge Moth on some of the dresses 😊 I of course thought it was fantastic , they looked at me as though I were mad 😊 I have to look it's name up yet but I won't forget it, I'm sure it must be in a Butterfly House over here some where Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by David M, 27-Oct-12 03:22 AM GMT

That Atlas moth was bloody huge:

http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/ne...ck_garden/

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 27-Oct-12 03:50 AM GMT

It looks like you had it a lot better up there than we did down here Goldie 🇮🇳 I was about to suggest that the weathermen got it wrong and then remembered that's a very dangerous thing to say on UKB 😊 Glad to see you made the most of it 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by essexbuzzard, 27-Oct-12 06:56 AM GMT

Well i will be brave—they did get it wrong—again! I don't think summers in India are dominated by fog,drizzle and gloom, though as i've never been,i could be wrong!

We havn't seen the sun at all in East Anglia for 8 DAYS! 🙄

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 29-Oct-12 10:57 PM GMT

Thanks David for telling me about where they've taken the Moth and it's name. I thought they closed the Butterfly House at the park in October. I'll have to go along there and see if it's open. I'll definately have to keep an eye on those Caterpillars.

We think we've got the bad weather here Wurzal and Essexbuzzard but my Brother-in-Law is stuck in New York in that Hurricane. I was in one once in Trinidad, Hurricane "Alma" that was called, they change the names, one year it's all girls names the next boys, I know it's not really funny but my in-law is also called Frank 😊 (their calling it Frankstorm) 😊 He'll certainly get his leg pulled when he gets home 😊
The Hurricane I was in did alot of damage and was very frightening this one is a super storm, more serious, looks like we're along way off that thank goodness. Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Nov-12 04:58 AM GMT

At last! what a week I've had. last Friday I lost all my work on the computer, lucky for me I back everything up when I put it in so that wasn't too bad. Putting all the soft ware back as been the problem. Then to cap it all I've to have an Operation on my eye next week , I won't have any excuses then for bad Photo's 😊

Before all this though a week ago I went to Pennington Flash for a walk, it was about the only nice day of the week. Since no Butterflies are around now I went looking for Birds.

I happened to see this one, I think it's a Nut Thacher, but there not supose to be in the North Of England. It flew very quickly from tree to nut and back, I got the best shot I could I hope I'm right, I've not had a chance to go back this week to see if it's still there Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by Padfield, 15-Nov-12 05:08 AM GMT

That's certainly a nuthatch. Allegedly, this is the only bird that can go down a tree head-first and it seems to be showing that trick off on your nut feeder! I can't comment on its distribution - I didn't know it was supposed to be restricted to the south. I wish you well with the eye operation.

Guy

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 15-Nov-12 05:21 AM GMT

Thanks Guy, I read in My bird book about it's rariety in the North. It was a First for me any way. I hope I see it again Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 15-Nov-12 05:32 AM GMT

I agree with Padfield. Although the Nuthatch is more common in the South, its range does extend up to the Scottish border and, occasionally further north. I have watched their entertaining way of descending trees head-first at Tatton Park, which I think is not so far from you. Although they are widely distributed, they are secretive birds and I always count it a good day when I see one!

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 15-Nov-12 05:34 AM GMT

The chest markings are very dark by Nuthatch standards. Normally, when I see them (and they're not uncommon in south Wales), they're a very faded weak orange.

Re: Goldie M

by Wurzel, 15-Nov-12 07:07 AM GMT

It's a great shot Goldie you've captured it mid head bang 😊 I was taught that Treecreepers work up the tree, fly to the bottom of the next and repeat, whereas Nuthatches go down – resource partitioning I think it's called. You can call them down using a technique called "pishing"...I can only ever get Goldcreasts but it's supposed to work on most woodland birds 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Goldie M

by Gibster, 15-Nov-12 02:54 PM GMT

Pishing can occasionally be a dangerous affair, though. I was pishing a dense clump of scrub in Cornwall next to a tall hedge in farmland. I was certain there was a good warbler in there. Mid-pish a Buzzard launched itself over the top of the hedge and very nearly took my head off!!!

Not sure who was the more surprised, me or the Buzzard homing in on a "wounded mammal in distress" 😊

Good to see you're sticking with the birding, Goldie. The smaller species get a bit easier to see around bird tables/feeding stations as winter approaches. Lots of photo opportunities coming your way, I feel!

Cheers,

Gibster.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 20-Nov-12 09:32 PM GMT

Thanks everyone for your input, I've not been back yet to Pen flash, get my eye seen to first 😊 I know I shouldn't say this but I'm looking forward to a bit of snow so I can watch the birds in the back garden, not too much snow mind you but they do help the winter to pass more quickly with their antics 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 28-Nov-12 08:03 PM GMT

Well I've had my operation and boy what a difference it's made. I don't like looking in the mirror now (too many wrinkles) 😊 Roll on Spring and the Butterflies D

I didn't have a lot of patience before, to answer mail and comment, so when I put some more Shots in today I found what you said Mike and Dave about the Gate Keeper Image I put into favourites. I'm afraid I'm not too sure about how you get what people have said up on to your computer so I'll just have to ask you, "do you think the Gate Keeper is an aberrant 🤔" I thought it just looked weathered 😊 But then, I'm still learning Goldie

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 28-Nov-12 09:16 PM GMT

It IS a faded specimen, but the 'eye-spots' on the forewing are usually much larger and have distinct white 'pupils'. Your Gatekeeper has only the tiniest glimpse of white and the spots themselves are probably less than a third of the normal size.

Do you have any underside shots of this butterfly?

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 01-Dec-12 04:30 AM GMT

No I don't think I have Dave, from what I remember it was a bit quick for me, but I'll go through my shots and take a look.

I put most of them on a disk in folders so this shouldn't be a problem. I've just to watch going on the computer for long periods since the eye op, so may take a couple of days Goldie. 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 02-Dec-12 07:30 PM GMT

Very cold today and they say we may get some snow. Plenty of birds in the garden but the water is frozen so we had to break it up a bit for them to drink.

I went through my folder on last years Gate Keepers and both these shots were taken at the same time at Hall-lee-Brook, Westhoughton 20th August . One I put into Favourite's(Gate Keeper butterflies) so this one is a side view if it helps at all Dave. Goldie 😊



Re: Goldie M

by David M, 03-Dec-12 04:19 AM GMT

Thanks for providing that image, Goldie.

As I suspected, the underside spots are equally as scanty as those on the uppersides.

Seems you happened upon quite an aberrant (not for the first time).

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Dec-12 04:16 AM GMT

Thanks Dave, I think it's been my year for aberrants, 😊 trouble is I don't realise they are until some one tells me 😊 I'm still not too sure even now looking at it.

I can see the dark spots and I know the side ways view is differant , I'll just have to take more notice of the butterflies make up etc,in future. There are so many

things to look out for, on second thoughts, I'll just keep on enjoying them and if one turns out to be differant that will just had to the pleasure. 😊 😊
Goldie

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 04-Dec-12 04:46 AM GMT

Just take a look at the 'regular' images for the male of this species, Goldie.

You'll find that yours is quite far removed from them.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 04-Dec-12 05:04 AM GMT

I will do David, I've just put the photo's into the species album, not sure if I should do, but I suppose if it's so different it should be there. Hope I've not jumped the gun 😞 I'll go through my shots of the GKs and look for the difference, that should be interesting I've got loads 😊 I'm hopeless when it comes to getting rid of Photo's, I keep them on disks etc 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 16-Dec-12 09:06 PM GMT

In my Garden recently we've enjoyed watching the Birds. I suppose everyone's getting a visit these days because of the cold weather. It's been mild here for a couple of days now but last week it was bitter, it down went to minus 6 and so the day after we got lots of visitors. I've just put three or four in which I took from inside the house. One shot is quite interesting because I think it's a Coal Tit, I only managed to catch the top of it's head though because it was so quick. On reflection looking at the shot of a Coal Tit from close up his head seems quite Black compared to the other one which has got a White flash across it's head, that's got me guessing now 😊 Anyone help Goldie 😊





Re: Goldie M

by David M, 17-Dec-12 03:39 AM GMT

Nice shot of the Goldfinches, Goldie. I see a fair few here but never in the garden. Oddly enough, we've had a Red Kite hovering overhead for the last couple of days but no finches.

I put some pastry out yesterday morning but the only birds that ate it were the crows.

Re: Goldie M

by MikeOxon, 17-Dec-12 03:54 AM GMT

Yes, that's a Coal Tit! The white strip is there in both pics – it's just the angle of the head that makes it look different. I do like the 'propeller' look of the Goldfinch wings 😊

Not a great variety of birds coming in to my Oxon garden yet but there is a Blackcap over-Wintering and a Song Thrush visited yesterday – an increasingly rare sight.

Mike

Re: Goldie M

by David M, 17-Dec-12 05:42 AM GMT

"MikeOxon" wrote:

...and a Song Thrush visited yesterday – an increasingly rare sight.

That's another species I regularly see in the fields but which never seems to appear in the garden.

Re: Goldie M

by Goldie M, 18-Dec-12 04:51 AM GMT

We had a song Thrush in the Garden yesterday but the Black Birds chased it away. We seem to get a good number of different species it must be because we're not too far away from Rivington and also Pennington Flash.

My Husband rescued a Black bird this morning in our Garden, a Kestrel had it pinned behind a bush, poor thing was terrified my Husband scared the Kestrel off and the BB flew off in the other direction 😊 It was my Husband's good deed of the day he said 😊 I said it was the Black Birds lucky day 😊

I took these of the Gold Finch looking for suet pellets with a Starling, no way could he frighten these little birds off 😊 Not too good a shot of the Great Tit although he did pose for me 😊 and of course my usual Blue Tits they come every day.

Could I just wish every one a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, let's hope the Sun shines for us all a little better in 2013. All the Best Goldie 😊

