

First pic of the year.

by Zonda, 08-Apr-10 03:28 PM GMT

Yesterday, the 8th of April 2010, i snapped my first butterfly pic of the year. Although i have had Brimstones and Small Torts in the garden on previous days. I caught this courting couple with my bird lens from the hide. 😊



Kingcombe Meadows nature reserve, Dorset.

by Zonda, 10-Apr-10 02:52 AM GMT

Had a stroll around this afternoon (only for 30 mins). Spotted a couple of Long-tailed Tits nest building, and a Reed Bunting,, only two butterflies,,, a Small Tort, and a Brimstone. Bit disappointed, as it seemed a bit quiet,, given the warm spring sunshine. 😞

Re: Kingcombe Meadows nature reserve, Dorset.

by traplican, 12-Apr-10 01:08 AM GMT

I wont only add a [url=http://www.eucan.org.uk/docs/200908Cz/Lucy_Shields.pdf:11esakeh]link[/url:11esakeh] to Kingcombe Center activity in the Ždánice, Czech Republic (it is close to me cca 31 km as the crow flies or 50 km by car[/url:11esakeh]).

Re: Kingcombe Meadows nature reserve, Dorset.

by Zonda, 12-Apr-10 04:57 AM GMT

Hmmm,,, strangely, i never left Dorset in England. When i do, i get terribly constipated. 😞

Re: Kingcombe Meadows nature reserve, Dorset.

by Pete Eeles, 14-Apr-10 01:11 AM GMT

Hi Zonda – if these entries are your personal diary, you need to create a topic called "Zonda" and post entries in that 😊

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Kingcombe Meadows nature reserve, Dorset.

by Zonda, 14-Apr-10 03:24 AM GMT

OK Pete

Zonda

by Zonda, 17-Apr-10 12:32 AM GMT

Today i spotted my first Orange Tip of the year. Didn't manage a pic, as it was gone like a shot. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 23-Apr-10 12:27 AM GMT

Today, i found a small piece of sheltered meadow, between a railway embankment and a river. This small piece of meadow was sprinkled with common rush and Cuckoo flowers. On closer inspection i observed 6–8 female Orange Tips, and 2 or 3 males quartering this small field. I managed to get some average shots of the two sexes in this field. My question to experts would be,,,,, where do they mate, and when? Although there was a lot of interaction between the sexes, i never witnessed mating.

Re: Zonda

by Neil Hulme, 23-Apr-10 03:39 AM GMT

Hi Zonda,

I wouldn't consider myself an expert on the love-life of the Orange Tip, but I have seen some rather fruity pictures of them 😊. All of the females you would have seen in the meadow will have been mated, and were probably being 'hassled' by males. As with all 'white family' butterflies, if a male becomes too persistent, she will land and raise her abdomen high in the air ("no thanks"), making a connection impossible.

Mating will occur at any time of the day, usually as soon as a virgin shows herself – which is very often late morning, once she's 'dried off' and is airborne for the first time. Mating usually occurs on low scrub or taller vegetation. The event occurs so rapidly after emergence (and is then well-camouflaged/concealed) that the act is only occasionally observed. Thereafter, females are far more elusive than males, only being seen while out on egg-laying runs.

Although all of the 'senses' are used to find mates, the males of different species rely upon different 'primary stimuli' – this being sight in the Orange Tip. Hence the males will often spend a lot of time fruitlessly chasing particularly Green-veined Whites. In species where scent is the 'primary stimulus', female butterflies will often get located and mated even before their wings are fully inflated.

Fritillaries are another group that use sight as the primary sense in mate-finding. A few years back I turned up at a meeting between BC and the RSPB to talk about a Pearl-bordered Fritillary re-introduction. My 'Acme PBF Lure' raised a few eyebrows, but the life-sized cut-out photographs of female PBFs soon brought the males swooping down to investigate – and occasionally settle on the Bugle cunningly placed in the centre of the bucket 😊.
Neil



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 23-Apr-10 03:46 PM GMT

Thanks for all that info Neil,, lures eh? What a novel idea. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 27-Apr-10 11:39 PM GMT

Well,, the lures didn't work as i had hoped. I scanned a female OT in a guidebook, cloned it nine times, printed them, and cut them out with a craft knife. Then i stuck a pin through each cutout and attached them to meadow plants. I'm glad i wasn't observed doing this... 😞😞😞
Needless to say, the males weren't in the least interested in the cutouts.

Today i managed to catch an OT male which dwelt on a cuckoo flower for more than two seconds. 😊



Re: Zonda

by Lee Hurrell, 28-Apr-10 04:40 AM GMT

Looks like it was worth the wait Zonda, great photo!

Cheers

Lee

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 30-Apr-10 11:10 PM GMT

Seen a few Speckled woods so far this season. They are skittish little butterflies. This is a shot from a week ago, and i know the head and antennae are out of focus, but the wings show well.



And this,,,, of an active, some would say stropky little creature.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 05-May-10 12:43 AM GMT

Well,, it seems to have returned to March, with a white frost, and a biting northerly breeze this morning. Saw a white or two, but generally too cold for an Orange tip even. Hopefully the wind will go back southerly soon. Must be really annoying if you've got spuds up. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 14-May-10 12:18 AM GMT

I humped the Zonda carcass over the hills around Cerne Abbas today. Loads of gorse, rough grass, with thorn and bramble. Again, (glutton for punishment) searching for the elusive Green Hairstreak. Nothing at all showing on these high gorse tops, only when i dropped down into the river valley did i get any insect joy. Think i've done both hips in rugging about on steep sheep tracks. This Orange Tip was one of the few highlights.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 22-May-10 01:05 AM GMT

Today i was sweating around Durlston again. At one point while i rested, red faced, and puffing on a south facing bank, i was surrounded by Adonis Blues. If you are into photography as well, these little Blues can run you ragged. Crikey,, they were busy. Most of the shots i got were flawed due to a technique problem i am having with the Nikon 100mm micro vr. This is a shot of another abb. taken today at Durlston, it seems to have similar markings to the last one i posted. Maybe there is a small colony of abbs there.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 22-May-10 02:52 PM GMT

Oops,,, got it wrong again. The butterfly above is not an abb. it's the true form. Sorry. 😞

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 04-Jun-10 02:47 AM GMT

At last a decent Dingy Skipper shot, taken at my local chalk pit.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 06-Jun-10 02:32 AM GMT

At Durlston Country Park in Dorset today, it clouded over as i arrived, some of the blues were quite tatty.

And some of the Blues were pristine.



And when the wind swayed the grasses, the Dingy's had to hold on.... I think the caption would be,,, 'Fred,,, get me off,,, my skirt's gonna blow up'.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 17-Jun-10 03:15 PM GMT

Saw my first Large Skippers this week. Proper little posers. I think this is a male. 😊



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 25-Jun-10 02:10 AM GMT

Had a great morning at Collard hill. Both the wardens were brilliant, and Sarah the warden who does the blog, even held steady a piece of thyme with an egg on it for a photographer with a macro lens. 80% cloud cover was much better for photographers than on my previous trip there on Tuesday, as the butterflies were not as active. Some females were laying eggs and showing their upper wings for a few seconds.



Re: Zonda

by Vince Massimo, 25-Jun-10 03:33 AM GMT

Zonda,

I was there all morning as well, so we must have passed like ships in the night. Thinking back, I did see a chap with a white shirt who may have you. I was the bloke showing people the mating pair at around 11.30. It really was a cracking day out and I also had a good chat with Sarah, the warden, and thanked her for her blog.

Cheers,
Vince

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 25-Jun-10 04:08 AM GMT

That wasn't me,,,,, look for a fat bloke in American dungarees. I had a good day Vince,,,, it was magic. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Piers, 25-Jun-10 09:07 PM GMT

"Zonda" wrote:

That wasn't me,,,,, look for a fat bloke in American dungarees. I had a good day Vince,,,, it was magic. 😊



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 26-Jun-10 12:58 AM GMT

What's he doing in my dungarees??? They do tend to make you look like a Jesse. 😂

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 26-Jun-10 01:14 AM GMT

Another LB from Collard hill on Thursday.



At Durlston this morning
Fresh Marbled Whites
Loads of Meadow browns
Small heath (a few)
Adonis are fewer now, although some are still in good knick.
Green Fritillary spotted in the gully recently, i didn't see it tho.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 05-Jul-10 11:50 PM GMT

Two from my Marbled White shoot at Abbotsbury beach road on Friday.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 07-Jul-10 12:40 AM GMT

At Kingcombe today there were hundreds of Meadow Browns, a few fresh Marbled Whites, and this GRD. 😊



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 11-Jul-10 11:47 PM GMT

Saw several SWFs at Kingcombe today. First two Gatekeepers of the season at Abbotbury. 😊



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 18-Jul-10 06:34 PM GMT

A really poor week spent largely indoors, with all the fine spells being taken up with other commitments. On certain days, strong winds, and grey skies stopped play. On the up-side, numbers of Small Tortoiseshells in the garden are rising, as the Marjoram comes into flower.

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 20-Jul-10 12:40 AM GMT

Me, and my better half Sue had a walk around Kingcombe Meadows Dorset this morning. We saw SW Fritillary (4 or 5), Meadow brown (hundreds), a few Marbled whites, fresh Peacock and Red Admiral, Skippers (probably large), Gatekeepers, Common Darter DF, Beautiful Demoiselle (male and fem), and Golden-ringed DF, some damsel species??? Loads of large oak trees here, but no Purple Hairstreaks that i could see. I may have to specialise to get a sighting of any Hairstreak. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Lee Hurrell, 20-Jul-10 12:41 AM GMT

That's a gorgeous Small Tort picture Zonda 😊

Cheers

Lee

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 20-Jul-10 12:47 AM GMT

Cheers Lee... 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 26-Jul-10 03:41 AM GMT

Three different Hairstreaks at Alners Gorse this afternoon. Purple, White letter, and two early Browns. Still a lot of Silver WFs there, along with all the usual suspects. Made a note to try and get there early morning next time.

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 27-Jul-10 12:08 AM GMT

Went back to Alners Gorse this very morning and shot pics of my first ever Brown Hairstreak, with a Purple HS thrown in. Great morning.



Unfortunately i couldn't procure a picture of the elusive White-letter HS. Along with the Green HS, these i fear are among my misses of the season. Well,,, maybe next season eh? Love to get some upper wing shots of these species.

Re: Zonda

by Neil Hulme, 27-Jul-10 02:42 AM GMT

Hi Zonda,
Congratulations on your first Brown Hairstreak shot – I imagine you're enjoying a warm and fuzzy moment. With a BH image like that I think you can afford to wait for a good W-I H 😊.

Neil

Re: Zonda

by Susie, 27-Jul-10 04:44 AM GMT

Beautiful bh photo Zonda! Love it 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 27-Jul-10 03:31 PM GMT

Thankyou both,,, i was very pleased because this was the only one i saw on the day. Loads of PHs at Alners now, and i should imagine in about a fortnight it'll be crawling with BHs. Yes Neil i've got that warm fuzzy feeling still. 😊

Re: Zonda

by thommo, 28-Jul-10 01:18 AM GMT

We live close to Alners Gorse. I saw your photo of the brown hairstreak and went to have a look in the evening. I didn't see one but saw 4 white letter hairstreaks and 4 purple hairstreaks. The white letters are always in the same stretch of hedge when I see them. Where was the brown hairstreak?

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 28-Jul-10 03:58 AM GMT

Hya Thommo, the BH was in the approach lane, very close to where someone has stuck an electric fence spike. When i snapped its picture it was around four feet from the ground. I didn't see a WLH maybe the evening is the best time for those. Which stretch of hedge did you see them on? 😊

Re: Zonda

by Piers, 28-Jul-10 04:31 AM GMT

That's interesting Zonda,

I have always found my best concentrations of ova just down the track from the road, before you enter the reserve proper. Is that where you saw the beast?

Felix.

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 28-Jul-10 05:40 AM GMT

Yes Felix, as you go down the lane, on the left, about 30yds from the lane end. Met an elderly couple later tho, and they told me that the main BH concentration was over on the left hand side and through a gate into a lane. I think i know the lane they meant.

Re: Zonda

by thommo, 28-Jul-10 06:39 AM GMT

Alners Gorse through the main gate ,go down the track, at the bottom of the hill just past where you saw the brown hairstreak turn left and along that hedge there are bramble bushes that is where you will find white letter and purple hair streaks .

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 28-Jul-10 02:38 PM GMT

That is the hedge i searched, and saw lots of PHs. I'm pretty sure that on the day i was there the WLHs were all keeping high. Thanks for the info Thommo. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 29-Jul-10 01:01 AM GMT

Flopped the flabby old body out to Alners Gorse again this morning. Still didn't see a WLH, but PHs are still showing nicely, and the BH sightings are building up daily.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 30-Jul-10 04:06 AM GMT

Today i had a little wander around DWT Higher Hyde Heath in Dorset. I noted these species:

Wall

Grayling

Brown Argus

Peacock

Red Admiral

Gatekeeper

Brimstone

Large and GV whites



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 08-Aug-10 04:08 AM GMT

Today was another first sighting for me. Thrilled to bits to be given a guided tour on Portland, and saw my first ever Chalkhill Blues. Not just several,,,,, hundreds.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 14-Aug-10 04:18 PM GMT

Had a couple of hours at Durlston yesterday. Largely clouded over, but a few periods of sunshine, when everything came to life. All the usual suspects present, with lots of fresh Adonis Blues, and some Lulworth Skippers. Didn't see a Graying, and just the one Wall Brown. It clouded over at 12.30pm and

it was all downhill from then on.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 15-Aug-10 04:21 AM GMT

Good day for me today,,, got my plaque from DWT.



and a male Wall in the wild bit.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 16-Aug-10 02:42 AM GMT

Saw my first Silver-spotted Skippers today on Fontmell Down, Dorset. Managed to get a male and a female. Many thanks to Paul Butter of the Dorset Branch BC, who was our guide.





Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 28-Aug-10 02:41 AM GMT

Back to Alners Gorse today. Lots of butterflies in evidence except the Brown Hairstreaks. Collared my first half decent shot of a Holly Blue,,,,, only one British blue to go. 😊



Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 28-Aug-10 03:44 AM GMT

I make the same mistake time and time again and visit localities TOO EARLY. I missed Glanville Fritillary on the mainland this year for exactly that reason. Your observations show that Wall Browns, Lulworth Skippers, and so on, are still around long after I would have expected them to be over.

Memo to self: Take note.

By the way, they are good piccies (But we tend to take that for granted nowadays. It's not the GOOD ones that stand out - it's the bad ones that stand out for the wrong reasons)

Jack

Re: Zonda

by Lee Hurrell, 28-Aug-10 04:54 AM GMT

What's the blue you have left to see Zonda?

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 28-Aug-10 03:11 PM GMT

Hya Jack.
I was thinking that maybe the BHs were all done and dusted, but perhaps not, and i just caught them hiding. Its puzzling, because conditions were pretty good, and most butterfly species were abundant and visible, but all i saw was 'flighty maybes'. Also, i arrived at 11.30 am, which is within the 11am to 3pm window that's recommended. After a while i was glad that i'd grabbed several good shots of them on the 27th and 28th of July.

PS, Been an admirer of your photographic efforts since i arrived on this site.

Lee,,,, I haven't seen a Silver-studded yet. I just missed them this season, so they'll have to wait until next year. Not done too bad tho', because last season i only had Common Blues in my album. My target list for 'lifers' is still quite long, with my biggest disappointment this year being the Green Hairstreak, which i put hours into. Gotta have something to do next year. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 28-Aug-10 10:50 PM GMT

My Garden Gates.

Not seen any abbs. among my wild garden Gatekeepers this season. Last years must have been a 'fly in'. I have enjoyed the company of 6-8 regulars.

**Re: Zonda**

by Lee Hurrell, 31-Aug-10 03:04 AM GMT

Hi Zonda,

I know you don't like travelling out of Dorset but I can recommend sites for both Green Hairstreak and Silver Studded Blue on the Chilterns and Surrey heaths respectively. I'd be happy to accompany you next season if you venture northwards!

Cheers

Lee

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 02-Sep-10 10:52 PM GMT

Thanks for that useful info Wurzel, i shall certainly check that sight for Green Hairstreaks next season. There are several sites near me in South Dorset where Silver-studded Blues and Green Hairstreaks occur, but this year i missed them largely because my priorities were focussed on other species. Your pics of GHs look great. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 02-Sep-10 11:11 PM GMT

Lee,,, thanks for that offer, i may take you up on it. I was only joking about getting constipated when i leave Dorset, but i may get the urge to go out of county for GHs. As far as i can gather from the Dorset BC sightings they usually occur as singles here. Whereas i was under the impression that they occurred as small colonies, or in groups of up to a dozen. I am but an amateur as regards butterflies. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 02-Sep-10 11:22 PM GMT

We seem to be in some sort of a 'quiet time' here in South Dorset. Recent visits to Alners Gorse, and Kingcombe Meadows have been ,,,, not total washouts,, but void of excitement. I noticed a lot of second brood Speckled Woods, and some Meadow browns, some tatty Small coppers, a few S Heaths, some really tatty SWFs, and not much else. I'm waiting for some Clouded Yellow sightings to manifest, and i'd quite like to see a nice pristine Comma.



Re: Zonda

by Lee Hurrell, 03-Sep-10 02:48 AM GMT

Cracking Speckled Wood 😊

The Green Hairstreak site I was at in May had at least 10, probably more. They were dancing around my feet at one point!

Cheers

Lee

Re: Zonda

by Susie, 03-Sep-10 03:45 AM GMT

Denbies Hillside in Surrey is a great place for Green Hairstreak at the right time of year too and some cracking photos, chaps.

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 03-Sep-10 03:32 PM GMT

Cheers both. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 09-Sep-10 02:18 AM GMT

Had a short trip out along the Dorset coast today,,,,initially looking for Clouded Yellows, and finding none. I found a few Small heaths and decided to shoot a few.

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 09-Sep-10 02:29 AM GMT

Later ,, , i photographed a Holly blue out on the heath. A good day for me. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 10-Sep-10 05:38 PM GMT

Friday morning, and i'm sitting looking out at the abysmal weather. It should have been fine, and sunny, with a gentle breeze. I should have been at Cheyne Weares on Portland,focusing the trusty 300mm on a certain long-tailed individual. I wonder where this individual is at the moment, under a leaf i hope. I wonder if more than one made landfall. It's a tough life. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 18-Sep-10 10:39 PM GMT

Had a tour around 3 Dorset nature reserves. Morden Bog, Kilwood, and Higher Hyde Heath. Saw Grayling, and got a couple of shots of a heathland Comma. No sign of a Clouded Yellow in these parts.

Just had a look at the exif data for this shot, and it was taken on 25th of Sept last year,,, near Abbotsbury.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 21-Sep-10 12:51 AM GMT

It's time my mum had a ride out, she is largely housebound, tho coping well in her mid 80's. Think i might give her a trip to the Boscombe/Southbourne undercliff later in the week. Ulterior motives,,,, hmmm,,,, maybe. 🤔

Re: Zonda

by Mikhail, 21-Sep-10 05:19 AM GMT

Zonda

In ideal conditions today I walked the Boscombe and Southbourne undercliff and saw NO CLOUDED YELLOWS.

Misha

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 22-Sep-10 03:57 PM GMT

Still on CY watch, saw nothing at Portland yesterday, but gorgeous day. Moved along the coast to Abbotsbury, still not much in the way of butterflies. Highlight of day was seeing good numbers of Small heath at NT Cogden on the coast road. Returned home, and there was a pristine Small Copper basking on my front steps. A first for Zonda acres. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 27-Sep-10 04:45 AM GMT

Several pristine Commas at Kingcombe Meadows today.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 08-Oct-10 11:09 PM GMT

Just Looking Back,,,,,

at an eventful season, and sorting through some of my less appealing butterfly shots. This Chalky male has a crumpled wing, which may mean he is freshly emerged, or deformed. I think he's quite fresh, but he has already been pecked (top right). Bird predators perhaps?



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Re: Zonda

by Neil Hulme, 09-Oct-10 02:04 AM GMT

Hi Zonda,
He's a freshman alright, but I suspect that's damage from crawling through vegetation, sustained in the first hour after emergence. I do wish they'd be more careful. 🙄
Neil

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 09-Oct-10 11:33 PM GMT

Thanks for that info Neil, i hadn't realised that after emerging they would then have to crawl awhile, but i see all now.

This is another of my rejects from Alners Gorse. A PH which i thought was gonna be good at the point of shooting, but on viewing large proved to have an unfortunate 'angle of light' problem, and a blurred proboscis.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 11-Oct-10 12:44 AM GMT

A lovely afternoon in south Dorset. Took a trip along the coast road to try out the Sigma 150-500 on the D300s for the first time. Really impressed with the combination for birds. Shooting from the car, because of a pulled knee tendon meant that no really close encounters could be achieved, so some really heavy cropping was necessary. When i can get a little bit closer, should get some great results.



Some really heavy cropping is no exaggeration. This is the original unworked.



Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 15-Dec-10 12:19 AM GMT

Well, i have been birding, and getting some top shots. Just wanted to wish you all a great Chrimbo and a butterfly rich New year.



Re: Zonda

by Neil Hulme, 15-Dec-10 12:23 AM GMT

Nice work Zonda – that's a Christmas cracker. 😊
Happy Crimbo, Neil

Re: Zonda

by Susie, 15-Dec-10 01:52 AM GMT

That's a beauty, Zonda, and season's greetings to you and yours too.

Re: Zonda

by Lee Hurrell, 15-Dec-10 10:10 PM GMT

Lovely image Zonda, happy holidays to you and your dear ones.

All the best for next year,

Lee

Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 15-Dec-10 11:54 PM GMT

That's very good and far better than my Christmas cards. Clever use of PhotoShop I presume?

Goldfinches are certainly spectacular birds with a lovely tinkling song and I can **ALMOST** understand why in some parts of the world they are kept in cages.

Jack

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 16-Dec-10 12:02 AM GMT

Jack said:

That's very good and far better than my Christmas cards. Clever use of PhotoShop I presume?

Surprisingly only a bit of manip. I had speared an apple on a bare twig, to try and entice the Fieldfares on to my feeding station, and a Goldfinch perched on it. I took the pic, and cloned out the twig. 😊

No,,,,, actually what happened was far more surreal. I was taking a picture of an apple on a tree, when a Goldfinch perched on it. The weight of the finch caused the apple to fall off the tree, and i managed (with a headlong dive) to capture the event three milliseconds later. No? 😊

Happy Chrimbo Jack.

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 20-Dec-10 11:27 PM GMT

This is the long crop of a female kestrel, taken over a week ago. I was pretty chuffed with her. 😊



Re: Zonda

by Lee Hurrell, 21-Dec-10 12:18 AM GMT

Beautiful Zonda! 😊

Cheers

Lee

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 23-Dec-10 12:41 AM GMT

Thanks Lee, much appreciated. Had an hour up the hide this morning, and snapped 'his Lordship' guarding his apples. He just eats apple constantly, and defecates every ten minutes. What comes out looks like stewed apple, not a lot different to what goes in. I suppose they must gain some sugars in the process.



Re: Zonda

by Lee Hurrell, 23-Dec-10 12:43 AM GMT

Blimey Zonda, equally stunning 🤩

I must get me a hide for my garden 😊

Cheers

Lee

Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 23-Dec-10 12:52 AM GMT

Goodness, what a fabulous picture.

Equipment and other technical details please Zonda.

To paraphrase a comment in another thread "There are plenty of them about". We certainly have Fieldfares by the hundred but surprisingly, very few Redwings.

Jack

Re: Zonda

by geniculata, 23-Dec-10 12:53 AM GMT

absolutely stunning pics zond,

love the kestrel !

gary. 😊

Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 23-Dec-10 03:26 PM GMT

Cheers Gary and Jack

Exif Data for the Fieldfare.
Camera Nikon D300S
Sigma 150-500mm
Exposure 0.002 sec (1/500)
Aperture f/8.0
Focal Length 254.0 mm
ISO Speed 400
Exposure Bias +1/3 EV

Taking distance, around 10feet (i really like to push a lens to its limit) 😊

Shot in JPEG (fine)

With small amount of (in camera) sharpening.

PP in Paint.Net. (free download)

Tiny increments of noise reduction and further localised sharpening.

Re: Zonda

by Gruditch, 23-Dec-10 11:57 PM GMT

Cracking Fieldfare Zonda. 🍷

Regards Gruditch

Re: Zonda

by Pete Eeles, 24-Dec-10 03:42 AM GMT

Wow – that's one awesome shot of the Fieldfare. Had two in the garden today, along with three Redwing.

Nice one – one of the best Fieldfare shots I've seen. Stunning colours!

Cheers,

– Pete