

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 12-Jan-11 08:46 PM GMT

Thanks for that glowing praise Pete and Grud. This is another first of the year, a male Blackcap has been visiting my feeding station. He has been gobbling back the apples, some of which are Tesco value ones. I just stab them onto any old tree, this is the method i used to get the Fieldfare shots a couple of weeks ago. Not the best of detail on this, as it was a huge crop.



### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 12-Jan-11 08:56 PM GMT

This is the shot of the same bird, that could have been a stunner, had it not been for the Field maple twig bokeh, and a nasty nape shadow. Makes you wanna get the loppers out, but the chances of him coming back to that same branch are a million to one, so i won't bother. Into another bad week of weather now, so any photography of birds is limited.



### Re: Zonda

by Lee Hurrell, 13-Jan-11 02:00 AM GMT

Gorgeous 😊

### Re: Zonda

by ChrisC, 13-Jan-11 05:34 AM GMT

lovely shots Zonda, keep your eyes peeled, the waxwings seem to be on the move. I had 4 outside work in Verwood today.

Chris

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 31-Jan-11 04:46 AM GMT

Still a few Redwings about in these parts. This one was competing with a Blackbird for mole hill domination. Softer than the surrounding frozen ground, and may contain worms. Still haven't spotted a Waxwing, i must be the only one in Dorset who's still a Waxy virgin. Visiting two local trees that are loaded with berries, on a daily basis.



**Re: Zonda**

by Jack Harrison, 31-Jan-11 05:24 AM GMT

Lovely Redwing picture. Thanks.

Jack

**Re: Zonda**

by Lee Hurrell, 31-Jan-11 05:26 AM GMT

Zonda, I have to say, your recent bird pics have been outstanding. Fabulous work!

Cheers

Lee

**Re: Zonda**

by Jack Harrison, 31-Jan-11 05:30 PM GMT

Zonda

You kindly gave us technical details a while ago. That was very interesting, but there was no mention how you get so close. Do you set up a mini-hide in your garden?

There is one problem from seeing your pictures. Very few others will match the quality you achieve so won't bother to try. My own feeble efforts.....well. I was for example trying to photograph a Long-tailed Tit just outside this window. The birds were on the move continually and I never even managed to get one in the viewfinder let alone take a picture!

Keep posting your bird pics. Most enjoyable.

Jack

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 31-Jan-11 11:55 PM GMT

Thanks Lee and Jack for the complimentary comments. Jack raised the question of concealment when photographing birds, and most of the time (unless its a Robin that you have been stuffing with mealworms for a week) you do need to hide, or at least be inconspicuous. The last post of a Redwing was photographed from the best hide of all,,, my car. I suppose i could have said that i stalked it for an hour, the last fifty feet on my belly, and had just two shots, but the truth is i made close to 90 exposures from my car window. I do have a permanent hide in my 'pocket handkerchief' wildlife garden, where shots like this Greenfinch are not that difficult. Of course in all these endeavours, i have to possess some degree of photographic nous, and not a little 'cunning'. You two could master it easily.

**Re: Zonda**

by Pete Eeles, 01-Feb-11 12:22 AM GMT

If you could post a truly awful photo, Zonda, we'd all feel a lot better 😊

Absolutely cracking shot. Again.

Cheers,

- Pete

**Re: Zonda**

by Jack Harrison, 01-Feb-11 12:24 AM GMT

You two could master it easily.

Thanks for the flattery but I don't think for one moment I could.

But I'm making a start. This sheep was easy enough this afternoon 😊

*My i/d skills are a little poor, so any help would be appreciated.*

Jack



### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 01-Feb-11 01:18 AM GMT

If you could post a truly awful photo, Zonda, we'd all feel a lot better 😊

Just wait till i have to start on butterflies,,, then you'll see some.

Its the same discipline tho,,,,, PATIENCE!

And the closer you can get,,,, the better. 😊

Ha Ha! Jack cant tell a sheep from a cow..... 😊

### Re: Zonda

by Lee Hurrell, 01-Feb-11 03:56 AM GMT

**"Zonda" wrote:**

shots like this Greenfinch are not that difficult.

👤 (again!) I too feel I would have some way to go to replicate shots of your avian beauty.

**"Jack Harrison" wrote:**

This sheep was easy enough this afternoon. My i/d skills are a little poor, so any help would be appreciated.

Moo.....

Cheers

Lee

### Re: Zonda

by ChrisC, 01-Feb-11 04:45 AM GMT

Lovely photo as usual Zonda.

at the weekend I was sitting in the lounge playing around with my new lumix and even this wood pigeon wasn't impressed with my efforts 😊



but it was good timing as i managed to catch this record short (just about) of a female Brambling



not bad from the sofa and 50ft+ away i thought 😊 now as well as getting a macro lens for it i'm considering a telephoto and see how i get on. and after visiting south Dorset for some lessons 😊

Chris

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 02-Feb-11 11:56 PM GMT

Taken on the winterbourne in the next village to mine. This was an exposing nightmare for a 'JPEG fine' shooter like myself. White bird, dark background, bright sun, and black legs. No wonder the near leg has disappeared into the background, and no,,, i wont be shooting RAW in the immediate future, i'm far too lazy, and don't possess 45 memory cards. 😊

PS I might try and pull that leg out of the darkness. 😊



**Re: Zonda**

by Paul Wetton, 03-Feb-11 12:24 AM GMT

Zonda

I'm truly impressed with your bird photos. That Greenfinch is absolutely stunning even if it is just a garden bird.

Quite right alot of patience is required for most wildlife subjects that move. Not so much for flowers or fungi.

Patience and a bit of luck always helps.

Keep up the good work. I'm looking forward to seeing some butterfly shots from you this year.

**Re: Zonda**

by Jack Harrison, 03-Feb-11 12:25 AM GMT

Zonda:

This was an exposing nightmare

Little Egrets should never have been allowed in the country in 1996. I blame the last Conservative Government.

Jack

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 03-Feb-11 12:42 AM GMT

I'll blame any conservative government, for most things. Even the worldwide recession, and credit crunch,,,,, even tho they were out of power. That's just me tho.

If you wanna make things worse than they are,,,,, here's David, and he's set on getting his own back for 15 years in the wilderness. I'm feeling the Maggie's children effect, and millions will too. People have very short memories, and gawd,,, i'm talking politics tut,, tut. 🤔

**Re: Zonda**

by Charles Nicol, 03-Feb-11 12:57 AM GMT

**"Jack Harrison" wrote:**  
Little Egrets should never have been allowed in the country in 1996.  
Jack

No, no Egrets

Charles



**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 03-Feb-11 01:00 AM GMT

Is that an Edith Piaf moment Charles? 🤔

**Re: Zonda**

by Lee Hurrell, 03-Feb-11 05:42 AM GMT

The Walker Brothers wasn't it....?

LH

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 04-Feb-11 01:48 AM GMT

Nah!..... The Johnny walker Brothers. 🤔

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 04-Feb-11 04:05 AM GMT

Zonda

I'm truly impressed with your bird photos. That Greenfinch is absolutely stunning even if it is just a garden bird.

Quite right alot of patience is required for most wildlife subjects that move. Not so much for flowers or fungi.

Patience and a bit of luck always helps.

Keep up the good work. I'm looking forward to seeing some butterfly shots from you this year.

Thankyou for the praise Paul, i'm doing my best.

**Re: Zonda**

by Paul Wetton, 04-Feb-11 07:15 AM GMT

You're doing an excellent job worthy of the praise.

**Re: Zonda**

by Jack Harrison, 04-Feb-11 03:53 PM GMT

No more of these common birds Zonda. How about showing us a Purple Heron or a Cattle Egret or if you want an *easy-peasy* bird, a Green-winged Teal?

Jack

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 04-Feb-11 06:51 PM GMT

So,,,, it's rarities you want. This one is very rare in the UK (in the wild). The Radipole Hoody chillin' in the sun yesterday.



**Re: Zonda**

by Jack Harrison, 04-Feb-11 07:05 PM GMT

Enter that picture in "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" or whatever it's called. That is a stunning photo.

*But as a personal preference I would have preferred a slightly **less tight** crop, but that's entirely a personal view.*

Jack

**Re: Zonda**

by Paul Wetton, 04-Feb-11 10:15 PM GMT

Saw this fella a couple of years ago. Unfortunately in eclipse plumage.

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 05-Feb-11 02:25 PM GMT

But as a personal preference I would have preferred a slightly less tight crop,

Me too Jack,,,, its a UKB crop.

He's a stunner alright Paul, and much photographed. They have a birthday party for him every year (two so far). He must get very lonely in the breeding

season. I was told there is one in Scotland, but that's a long way to go for a bit of nookie, and anyway imagine getting all the way there and being faced with another male..... In a Kilt. EW!! 😬

**Re: Zonda**

by Pete Eeles, 05-Feb-11 05:27 PM GMT

**"Zonda" wrote:**

But as a personal preference I would have preferred a slightly less tight crop,

Me too Jack,,,, its a UKB crop.

Actually, it's a browser crop. Some browsers will give you a horizontal scrollbar to see the full image. Otherwise, the full URL is:

[https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/\\_wGSRUg9JC5Q/TUvYq8ICsUI/AAAAAAAAJC4/6fo-8ukWNOY/s800/Hooded%20Merganser%20%28male%29%20001.jpg](https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/_wGSRUg9JC5Q/TUvYq8ICsUI/AAAAAAAAJC4/6fo-8ukWNOY/s800/Hooded%20Merganser%20%28male%29%20001.jpg)

Cheers,

- Pete

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 05-Feb-11 10:51 PM GMT

Actually, it's a browser crop.

Oops! Thats me told,,,,,,sorry young Peter, i just assumed,,, as usual. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 11-Feb-11 03:58 PM GMT

One taken from my garden hide. The out of focus birch sapling isn't too distracting.



**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 13-Feb-11 12:57 AM GMT

Spring is in the air.



**Re: Zonda**

by Jack Harrison, 13-Feb-11 01:10 AM GMT

That Goldfinch picture is magic.

Jack

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 13-Feb-11 02:03 AM GMT

That Goldfinch picture is magic.

Cheers Jack, that means a lot to me. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 15-Feb-11 04:19 AM GMT

Just like to say that despite our political, and other differences, i really admire Felix's knowledge of his chosen subject, which is beyond reproach. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Gruditch, 16-Feb-11 03:13 PM GMT

Wonderful Goldfinch shot Zonda.

Regards Gruditch

**Re: Zonda**

by Jack Harrison, 16-Feb-11 03:38 PM GMT

Stick to birds Zonda and don't annoy us with butterfly pictures to the same standard otherwise we might as well give up 🙄

Looking forward to a Dorset Scarce Swallowtail or a Long-tailed Blue later this year – maybe even one of the fabled Portland Short-tailed Blues. Nothing less will do.

Jack

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 17-Feb-11 01:29 AM GMT

Grud said:

Wonderful Goldfinch shot Zonda.

Thats a real compliment coming from you Gary.

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 17-Feb-11 01:48 AM GMT

Jack

Stick to birds Zonda and don't annoy us with butterfly pictures to the same standard

That thought has crossed my mind many times during the winter birding season. I am naturally drawn to birds, which were my first love as a teenager. I have no real 'in depth' knowledge of butterflies, and their habits. It is photography that draws me to the winged insects that adorn our summers. I may never have the passion that some of you obviously possess. I suppose that photography has always dominated my interests. That said, i do admire all of the stalwarts on this website, and their dedication to subject. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 26-Feb-11 11:26 PM GMT



Just had a thought, how about 'Unusual angles' for a competition theme.



### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 03-Mar-11 11:52 PM GMT

Just wondered what the photographers in the forum think about this practice.

BEFORE



AFTER



For myself, i'm not that enthralled, and not that good at it, preferring to take a similar shot in the first place (not always possible). I think it maybe common practice among those that do it for a living, but what do us amateurs think?

### Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 04-Mar-11 12:22 AM GMT

I have no great problem with that manipulation provided it is made clear it has been post-processed to blur the background. Obviously, the original has to be retained.

I'm not very clever myself with PhotoShop so couldn't do anything quite so clever. Is it that difficult to do – and how do you do it?

Jack

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 04-Mar-11 12:39 AM GMT

I'm not very clever myself with PhotoShop so couldn't do anything quite so clever. Is it that difficult to do – and how do you do it?

I have never possessed Photoshop, so cannot comment on anything photoshopish.

it is simple in any program that supports 'Layers'. You make or choose a background, load the background first, then the original on top. Using the 'erase' tool, paint out the clutter of branches, revealing the cleaner image beneath it. 😊

### Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 04-Mar-11 12:46 AM GMT

Thanks for the complement Zonda.

So if not PhotoShop, what is your secret?

Jack

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 04-Mar-11 01:02 AM GMT

Keep it simple, and use your camera to its fullest capabilities.

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 04-Mar-11 10:57 PM GMT



**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 05-Mar-11 01:07 AM GMT

Today is my Wedding Anniversary, not sure if its 38 or 39. She has made me a beef stew to warm up, and left for her work at a local hospital. Whatta woman! 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Jack Harrison, 05-Mar-11 01:24 AM GMT

Zonda had a little amnesia about his wedding anniversary:

...not sure if its 38 or 39...

I can remember how many I've had (no 26 just coming up) but I'm damned if I can remember the date. So I have to look at a calendar for April 1985 as I do recall that it was a Tuesday in the middle of the month.

Anyway, well done to you Zonda (and of course your wife) for surviving that long 😊

Jack

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 05-Mar-11 02:38 AM GMT

Anyway, well done to you Zonda (and of course your wife) for surviving that long 😊

I think that she is the survivor, any woman that stands by a man that long, has to be. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Lee Hurrell, 05-Mar-11 04:51 AM GMT

Congratulations Zonda 😊

Chuffing great Chaffinch too!

Cheers

Lee

### Re: Zonda

by David M, 05-Mar-11 05:37 AM GMT

Chaffinches are the bird equivalent of Peacock butterflies – indescribably attractive but neglected due to their relative ubiquity.

### Re: Zonda

by Gibster, 05-Mar-11 05:45 AM GMT

Congratulations Zonda! Am I right in assuming your good lady will turn a blind eye to your recent fascination with my Sami's 'flying' Glanville Frit lol!!!



PS – Sam's got a *real* thing for dungarees...remember your pic last year... 🤪

Not sure of our exact itinerary this year, but we're bound to be in Devon at some point. Be very nice to meet up – birder to birder to tattoo enthusiast!



### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 05-Mar-11 03:25 PM GMT

Congratulations Zonda! Am I right in assuming your good lady will turn a blind eye to your recent fascination with my Sami's 'flying' Glanville Frit lol!!! 🤪🤪🤪

PS – Sam's got a real thing for dungarees...remember your pic last year... 🤪

Not sure of our exact itinerary this year, but we're bound to be in Devon at some point. Be very nice to meet up – birder to birder to tattoo enthusiast! 🤪🤪

I'm allowed to drool, but not handle. About the dungarees,,,,, tell her to think 'Grandpa Walton'. 😊

Dorset mate, Dorset. I rarely venture west, usually preferring to go east (Hamps), or north (Somerset), and occasionally Wilts. Most of them on here know that i get terribly constipated if i go out of Dorset. 🤪

### Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 05-Mar-11 04:21 PM GMT

...not sure if its 38 or 39...

So long-service medal next year or the year after? Might be as well to get that one right.

Jack

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 05-Mar-11 11:46 PM GMT

Jack:

So long-service medal next year or the year after? Might be as well to get that one right.

It is actually 39 years this year. So next year is what 'ruby', or 'wax'? The fems on here will know.

I've known her since she was 15, and i was 20. We do our own things, but come together daily, with the same sense of humour, the same politics, and the same house. 🤪

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 06-Mar-11 01:44 AM GMT

MR JO BANGLES

He's been a member of my wild bird community for some weeks now, and eating up my mealworms and oats. He carries on him a lot of research data, that i am not really interested in passing on, to whoever put these shackles on him. If anyone can ID his rings from this one pic, so be it. 😊



### Re: Zonda

by Gibster, 06-Mar-11 03:04 AM GMT

Hi Zonda.

Try here <http://blx1.bto.org/euring/lang/pages/colourform.jsp?coord=colourringing@bto.org> although it could take a while for them to trace your bird. It's the British race of White Wagtail (ie Pied) so hopefully it won't take them too long to figure it. Doubtless someone's hoping to hear back from 'their' bird!

Cheers mate,

Gibster.

PS - I knew you were in Dorset, so where the heck did 'Devon' come from??? 😊

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 09-Mar-11 11:41 PM GMT

Some photos of Brimstones, tatty Red Admirals, and Small Torts appearing on Flickr this week. My time has been taken up with a debut photographic subject. Common to some people's feeders, but i have to go out in the woods to find it. This week, i had my first crack at photographing Nuthatches in the wild. What do you mean, 'Peanuts'? 😊 This was an enormous crop.



### Re: Zonda

by Piers, 09-Mar-11 11:55 PM GMT

I **love** that photo Zonda, Nutties are such enigmatic little characters. We have a pair on our feeders several times daily, but this photo of one in a wild setting is a cracker. I've got to say (from a total novice) that your bird photographs are simply excellent.

Felix.

### Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 10-Mar-11 12:58 AM GMT

Another superb photo Zonda but it's only what we have come to expect.

A web search for Nuthatch produced this gem:

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

Jack

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 10-Mar-11 01:06 AM GMT

Gosh,, praise indeed from you two. I shall probably have my butterfly kit up and running for the new season. (hopefully). May see you both around the prime spots. 😊

## Re: Zonda

by Gibster, 10-Mar-11 01:13 AM GMT

"Stockists of Fudge"? Useless stuff, I had my hair dyed a deep vibrant blue (probably best not to ask why...) and Fudge ruined it within days. Stay clear of The Fudge! Ha, that sounds like the slogan to a cheap 1960s B-movie.

Zonda, that really is a pretty cool pic. 😊😊 See if you can find the nest site and start a portfolio. It's the only British species where the female gets 'walled up' inside the nest cavity. Crazy stuff.

Cheers, mate

Gibster.

## Re: Zonda

by ChrisC, 10-Mar-11 02:49 AM GMT

whatever you do zonda do not stop posting these images. they are fantastic, somehow found your Flickr account again via a dorset one last week and that greater spotted woodpecker is a stunner.

Chris

## Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 10-Mar-11 02:54 PM GMT

Gibster:

"Stockists of Fudge"? Useless stuff, I had my hair dyed a deep vibrant blue (probably best not to ask why...) and Fudge ruined it within days. Stay clear of The Fudge! Ha, that sounds like the slogan to a cheap 1960s B-movie.

LOL, you sound like a real fashion victim mate. I saw that B movie, they sell it in high end sweet shops, and it roams the countryside, getting into women's mouths, causing them to become really fat.

With the Nuthatch males, they seem to realise that you have to hold the females prisoner, in order that they don't fly away with a young buck Nuthatch.

Thanks for the positives about my Flickr Chris. 😊

## Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 10-Mar-11 03:28 PM GMT

Nuthatch:

....the only British species where the female gets 'walled up' inside the nest cavity.

Would I be correct in assuming that if the male has an accident, she doesn't get fed and dies?

Jack

## Re: Zonda

by Gibster, 10-Mar-11 04:14 PM GMT

**"Jack Harrison" wrote:**

Would I be correct in assuming that if the male has an accident, she doesn't get fed and dies?

No, both sexes are quite capable of breaking through the 'cemented-up' opening. When the young are ready to fledge the female starts breaking through from the inside with the male sometimes helping from the outside. Just check the beak shape in Zonda's superb pic - I suspect sheet metal wouldn't be enough to contain a bird in its hole! 😊

It's believe that reducing the diameter of the nest cavity is just an anti-predator mechanism. Tree snakes, brood parasites, rodents and avian predators are doubtless commonly encountered threats across much of the nuthatch families' range. One American species goes so far as to daub sticky tree resin around the entrance hole and another sweeps around the hole with noxious, foul smelling insects. Yum...

## Re: Zonda

by Firecrest, 11-Mar-11 03:08 AM GMT

Hi Zonda

I was interested to see the photo of your colour-ringed Pied Wagtail and forwarded the photo to the bird ringer. He has sent me the following information about the bird:

BTO ring; X899992  
Age at ringing; first year (3)  
Date of ringing; 15th October 2009  
Place of ringing; Abbotsbury Swannery  
Wing length; 89mm  
Weight; 22.6g

The bird has, therefore, survived two winters. The maximum age recorded for a Pied Wagtail is 11 years and 3 months but most live just two years. Your bird is obviously feeding well in your garden and must have a good chance of surviving longer than the average age!

Here on the Isle of Wight, we have had records of Tufted Ducks that were colour-ringed at Radipole, of a Greylag Goose ringed in Norway and subsequently seen in the Netherlands and Spain, and of an Avocet ringed in SW France, but presumably this wagtail hasn't travelled that far. Would you mind telling me the name of the town/village where you live and giving me the first date you saw the wagtail in your garden so that I can pass the information on? Alternatively, perhaps you could contact the ringer directly at [steve\\_hales@btinternet.com](mailto:steve_hales@btinternet.com)?

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 11-Mar-11 02:37 PM GMT

Hya Firecrest. Very interesting, i have sent PM. I know little about bird movements myself. He's still with me, on a daily basis. 😊

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 11-Mar-11 10:40 PM GMT

The last pic from this location,,,shooting distance too far for quality shots.... I paced it out this morning, and checked the exif data,,,,, over 11m, which is 3X my usual working distance for a bird this size. Well,,, it was a Jay stakeout originally. 😊 Moreton, South Dorset.



### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 15-Mar-11 12:20 AM GMT

Why is it that all early butterflies do not settle. I had a Brimstone this morning, and another butterfly that passed me so fast, i couldn't ID it. To be fair,,, i was in the hide, with the wrong lens on, so i could not record either. This little chap did settle, and i was able to grab a few shots.



### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 18-Mar-11 12:18 AM GMT

Popped down to Portland in the week. The Hoopoe had disappeared of course, but did manage a couple of Meadow Pipit pics. Not too good with Larks and Pipits, so maybe some Gibster confirmation maybe called for. 😊



## Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 18-Mar-11 02:55 AM GMT

This is exactly the time last year, when i removed my bird lens, and went about looking for butterfly business. BIG MISTAKE. Apart from the hibernators its a wasteland. This year the 'bird lens' is staying on for another month. 😊

## Re: Zonda

by Gibster, 18-Mar-11 04:06 AM GMT

### "Zonda" wrote:

Not too good with Larks and Pipits, so maybe some Gibster confirmation maybe called for.

Well, assuming you really did take this pic at Portland, and it's not from an Indian trip or some such... 😊 – the rump rules out Red-throated. Head pattern rules out Rock, Water, Olive-backed, the mantle rules out Pechora, Buff-bellied and Tawny, bill is all wrong for Richard's and Blyth's. Which leaves the bothersome pair – Meadow and Tree Pipit. Tree Pipit tends to have larger, paler supercillium and darker eye-stripe, clean lores and less contrasty tertials (inners not as well demarcated from edges). Meadow tends to show more diffuse super, often being just a tapering 'raised' brow above eye, plus a clear contrast between dark inners to tertials and clean outer edges.

The length of the hindclaw and calls are completely diagnostic (but not so helpful here, eh?)

On balance I'd be happy to call your bird as Meadow Pipit. They're pretty common at Portland, which is on their return migration route anyway. Most Tree Pipits there just go straight over in springtime, plus they've yet to have their first one go through yet.

Now tell me it's a Long-billed Pipit from the Middle East, lol. 😊

EDIT – hope that didn't come across as cocky as my girlfriend says it does, lol. (She just ain't as great a birder as I am 😊)

DOUBLE EDIT – Zonda, that Long-tailed Tit image is SUPERB! No baloney!!

## Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 18-Mar-11 02:58 PM GMT

Thanks for that Gibster. Cocky? No mate, just expansively informative. Wonder what's on Sami's mind? 😊

## Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 18-Mar-11 05:03 PM GMT

Pity I didn't see the picture before Gibster had given a totally unnecessarily lengthy reply. I could have told Zonda in far more succinct language that his bird quite clearly is an:

**LBJ**

Jack

## Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 19-Mar-11 12:02 AM GMT

Jack:

Pity I didn't see the picture before Gibster had given a totally unnecessarily lengthy reply. I could have told Zonda in far more succinct language that his bird quite clearly is an:

LBJ

Strange,,, there is a mushroom with that name. No butterflies as far as i am aware, but maybe a few moths. 😊

## Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 19-Mar-11 02:37 AM GMT

Another puzzle for Gibster, and if he can get this one,,,, ultimate respect forthcoming. Taken at Portland on the same day as the Meadow Pipit. I may or may not have made up my mind on the ID, but one bird has been sealed in my mind. Have a go,,,, i shall not think any the worst of you if you cannot ID it, because i rate you as a great avian expert.

(RUBBISH PIC NOW DELETED)

**Re: Zonda**

by Gibster, 19-Mar-11 05:35 AM GMT

Tis a Chiff. 100% mate. 1st year female with IBS. (Ok, I made the last bit up....)

Cheers from a newly succinct Gibster. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Gibster, 19-Mar-11 06:14 AM GMT

Hey Zonda, according to the excellent Portland Bird Observatory website (check [http://www.portlandbirdobs.org.uk/aa\\_latestnews.htm](http://www.portlandbirdobs.org.uk/aa_latestnews.htm) they had just shy of 2000 Mipits go over in under 2 hours today! Still no Tree Pipits though...

Gibster.

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 19-Mar-11 03:20 PM GMT

Gibster:

Tis a Chiff. 100% mate. 1st year female with IBS.

LOL, shows what i know, i had it down as an early Garden Warbler. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Gibster, 20-Mar-11 01:20 AM GMT

I could go into the reasons why it's not a Garden Warbler, but I wouldn't want to impinge on Mr Harrison's valuable free time. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Jack Harrison, 20-Mar-11 01:41 AM GMT

Gibster:

...I wouldn't want to impinge on Mr Harrison's valuable free time. 😊

Most considerate. Thank you.

It is of course just another boring Little Brown Job but even I can tell that it is not the same as the previous equally boring LBJ.

I saw a non-LBJ today. It was black and white with some red patches. It kept tapping on a tree making a drumming noise. I don't think it was a duck. Suggestions please.

Jack

**Re: Zonda**

by Gibster, 20-Mar-11 02:00 AM GMT

Ha, the fish are biting early this season!!! 😊😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 20-Mar-11 03:45 AM GMT

It is boring, for sure, and a bl\*\*dy awful pic. I think i'll delete the rubbish. Nice to get an ID tho. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 22-Mar-11 12:11 AM GMT

Has anyone been watching Professor Brian Cox's 'Wonders of the Solar System'?

How irrelevant is 90% of that info to any human being? ....Gordon Bennet,,,,, i sometimes despair at the content of modern TV. I just wish they would get down to earth a bit. I blame 'Star Trek'. 😊

**Re: Zonda**



by Jack Harrison, 22-Mar-11 12:38 AM GMT

Zonda sadly made a couple of typos:

Has anyone been watching Professor Brian Cox's 'Wonders of the Solar System'?

The current series is 'Wonders of the Universe'.

How irrelevant is 90% of that info to any human being?()

You probably meant **relevant** not irrelevant.

Not obviously relevant but I offer just one possible future relevance.

We are all affected by the rising price and potential supply problems of oil. Nuclear power generation is currently coming under huge scrutiny.

We urgently need new sources of energy. Study of how the universe works and research at places like CERN might easily throw up some useful ideas. I'm no expert, but purely academic research in the past (eg electro-magnetism) in due course transformed our world. And don't forget that the internet wasn't originally developed to be the world wide communication system that we use today – that more-or-less happened incidentally.

Jack

### Re: Zonda

by Padfield, 22-Mar-11 12:55 AM GMT

Approximately every 30 million years the solar system passes through the star-dense plane of the galaxy and at approximately this interval there are major extinction events on earth due to collisions with asteroids (nudged out of their distant orbit by gravitational interactions). We're in the sensitive period now – and some serious scientists believe the greatest single threat facing human life is from outer space.

Earth is a relatively unprotected spaceship, zooming at very high speed through the great vacuum, very vulnerable to impacts. We ignore what goes on out there at our peril!

(But no, I haven't been watching the Prof.)

Guy

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 22-Mar-11 01:07 AM GMT

Guy,,, so sorry, but somewhat condescendingly you are telling me stuff i already know, and all Jack is doing, is pulling me up on my grammar, and other things. Is this the intellectual bullying of a perceived lesser mortal, i wonder? 😊 My initial statement of: 'How irrelevant is 90% of that info to any human being?' is a question.

Approximately every 30 million years the solar system passes through the star-dense plane of the galaxy and at approximately this interval there are major extinction events on earth due to collisions with asteroids (nudged out of their distant orbit by gravitational interactions). We're in the sensitive period now – and some serious scientists believe the greatest single threat facing human life is from outer space.

I don't think any human being is going to have to worry about that one. LOL

### Re: Zonda

by Padfield, 22-Mar-11 01:19 AM GMT

Sorry Zonda, I thought you were stupid and didn't know all that stuff. 😊😊😊

I think what really happened is that two space fans (Jack and me) took the bait when you implied, or seemed to imply, that studying the solar system was a waste of time.

To be honest, as I haven't watched the series and don't know what he was rattling on about, I don't know what you were implying.

Guy

### Re: Zonda

by Padfield, 22-Mar-11 01:27 AM GMT

**"Zonda" wrote:**

I don't think any human being is going to have to worry about that one. LOL

But they ARE worrying about it! A lot of money is being spent, mostly by America, on developing technology for detecting and dealing with potential collisions.

**Re: Zonda**

by Gibster, 22-Mar-11 01:38 AM GMT

A bloke on a tractor has just driven past me, waving his arms and yelling, "The end of the world is nigh!"

I think it was Farmer Geddon 😂😂

**Re: Zonda**

by Jack Harrison, 22-Mar-11 01:40 AM GMT

Ah, but there is a cunning plan to deal with rogue asteroids. Baldrick was on the right lines:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKRxX3s3JlM>

We simply name all the problem asteroids "Earth".

Jack

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 22-Mar-11 01:46 AM GMT

Gosh! Never mind 'The God Delusion', i think maybe 'The Science Delusion' could be getting a deal more serious. Me, i just look at life, and wonder.

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 22-Mar-11 01:59 AM GMT

Felix must be in the pub. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 23-Mar-11 11:40 PM GMT

Amazing condition,, and grace too. 😊



**Re: Zonda**

by Lee Hurrell, 24-Mar-11 12:54 AM GMT

Lovely shot Zonda. 😊

So have you changed that bird lens yet? 😊

Cheers

Lee

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 24-Mar-11 01:46 AM GMT

No Lee, my bird lens is still on. This pic was taken on an older camera, with my butterfly lens attached.

Soon i shall take this lens off, and attach it to my 'butterfly camera', a wicked combination. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 25-Mar-11 11:52 PM GMT

An uneventful bird stake-out on the Dorset heaths today resulted in not a shot being taken, 😞 although a Comma, and a Peacock flounced about in the area. On arriving home i discovered 2 Brimstones in the garden, but couldn't get closer than 10ft. Earlier this morning i checked a Holly Blue location in a very warm Abbotsbury, but no joy. So,,, no photos of anything, this may be a job for Holsten Pils. Again.

### Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 26-Mar-11 12:18 AM GMT

Zonda:

...be a job for Holsten Pils. Again.

Goodness me. Fancy admitting that 😞

Mine is Tesco's Cava (Champers substitute) at circa £4.40 per bottle. Now that shows that I have a *truly* sophisticated and mature palate 😏

Jack

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 26-Mar-11 03:35 PM GMT

Jack:

Mine is Tesco's Cava (Champers substitute) at circa £4.40 per bottle. Now that shows that I have a truly sophisticated and mature palate 😏

You most likely do have a sophisticated, and mature palate, but i'm still stuck with a 22yr old one. I once tried to trade it in for a Red Wine palate, but the stomach complained bitterly, something about 'dosing him up with vinegar'. In my youth i had a fad for rough Scrumpy cider, that lasted several years, until one day i noticed that an older guy who had been on it for years, had only two teeth left, and walked on his heels. Luckily i was put off spirits early, although Brandy used to pass the lips on occasion. This aversion to spirits came after watching my father brought down and later killed by Whisky. Isn't group therapy fun? 😏

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 30-Mar-11 11:52 PM GMT

I had to feed these hungry little devils the whole year round in 2010, and i suspect it might turn out the same during 2011. I think it's money well spent, well,,, better than a household pet,,, can't stand them. 😏



This feeder cost £2 from an RSPB outlet. I gave it a go, it was great, but the downside was that they emptied it in half a day. So needed a lot of attention. Good if only a couple of GFs visit you. 😏

### Re: Zonda

by Rogerdodge, 31-Mar-11 12:21 AM GMT

Jack

Mine is Tesco's Cava (Champers substitute) at circa £4.40 per bottle

Excellent stuff.  
Just before Christmas they had a deal where you could get it for about £3 a bottle.  
I bought a couple of cases.

I haven't any left now though 😏

### Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 31-Mar-11 12:54 AM GMT

Roger said:

Jack

Mine is Tesco's Cava (Champers substitute) at circa £4.40 per bottle

Excellent stuff.

Just before Christmas they had a deal where you could get it for about £3 a bottle.

I bought a couple of cases.

I haven't any left now though 😞

Do you think that we should contact Tesco and suggest they quote in an advert in return for free supplies?

Jack

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 31-Mar-11 12:55 AM GMT

Don't you just hate all these little shops that never have what you want. I use Tesco a lot, damn my soul.....Soul?

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 03-Apr-11 12:32 AM GMT

Truly Amazing.

Just to think that the two following pics were taken in the same month during 2010.



My garden bird hide, during the same month.



The Peacock was taken from the bird hide, using my 150-500mm Siggy bird lens. The month was November.

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 07-Apr-11 04:04 PM GMT

Butterflies are picking up now, with a male, and female Brimstone flopping around the garden yesterday. I haven't as yet seen an Orange Tip, nor any flowering Cuckoo flowers (Lady's Smock). My interest will build in the next couple of weeks, as i see more Leps. Couldn't resist bringing these two together yesterday.

GOLDFINCH ON RIBES



### Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 07-Apr-11 04:20 PM GMT

That Goldfinch picture is a prize winner. Absolutely gorgeous.

Jack

### Re: Zonda

by Trev Sawyer, 07-Apr-11 06:50 PM GMT

Yes Zonda – Your goldfinch shot is *superb*.

I think goldfinches are actually a *very* hard bird to get a good shot of as they are so "contrasty" (is that a real word?) – With the black, white and dark red patches, cameras can have trouble keeping everything within range... those pink flowers compliment the red on the bird's head perfectly and really set the picture on fire – it's a stunner! 😊

Trev

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 08-Apr-11 02:55 AM GMT

Thank you both for praising my bird pics. Today i spotted the first OTs of my year. I visited a sun trap meadow this afternoon, and there were 3 or 4 males patrolling. The Cardamines are just starting to appear here, and i saw several Brimstones, a couple of Peacocks, and what i think was a GVW. Bring it on!!!

### Re: Zonda

by 59 SPECIES, 08-Apr-11 03:06 AM GMT

Zonda,

I know what you mean about the Goldfinches. They have a voracious appetite for the old Niger seed. We have two feeders – cheapies from Wilkinsons. That's where the cheapness ends though. They have cost me over £100 this winter on seed. During the height of the second Ice Age in December we had 18 birds visit. Worth every penny as you say. 😊

Cracking pics too. Well done.

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 08-Apr-11 03:11 AM GMT

I know what you mean,,, and i feed Goldfinches all year round. How would i get pics like this otherwise.

Another pic from the same shoot.



However,,,, now the hunt is on,,, and i am driven with something of a heart condition all over the Dorset hills in search of bleeding butterflies. If i can't photograph a Green Hairstreak this year, i might never achieve this ambition. 😱😱😱

### Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 08-Apr-11 03:24 AM GMT

I prefer the second pic. I hadn't thought the first could be bettered, but...

Green Hairstreaks are easy but of course very local. The love to settle of fresh hawthorn leaves when the camouflage is superb. But they will come to ground level (eg to egg lay). Superb butterflies – my second favourite species after Orange Tip. My third favourite? Not sure. Marbled White probably.

Jack

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 08-Apr-11 03:30 AM GMT

Thanks Jack. 😊

### Re: Zonda

by Lee Hurrell, 08-Apr-11 09:42 PM GMT

Zonda those Goldfinches are just stunning, simply stunning.

If you can make it up to my way, well, J5 of the M40, I can (near as dammit) guarantee you some Green Hairstreaks 😊

I'll be going to check if they're out very soon.

Cheers

Lee

### Re: Zonda

by Pete Eeles, 09-Apr-11 06:36 AM GMT

#### "Zonda" wrote:

Another pic from the same shoot.

I think that has to be one of the loveliest photos I've ever seen. Composition, colour ... just awesome! Thanks for sharing!

Cheers,

– Pete

### Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 09-Apr-11 02:23 PM GMT

Pete:

I think that has to be one of the loveliest photos I've ever seen. Composition, colour ... just awesome!

Makes you want to give up doesn't it?

Zonda. That picture surely must be saleable. (*You might earn enough to be able to buy a better camera so you get it right next time*) 😊👍

Jack

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 09-Apr-11 03:31 PM GMT

Thanks Pete and Lee,,,, Lee i'll check the distance, but seems a long way to go for a GH pic. I shall probably go Hamps/ East Dorset. Thank you very much for that offer tho. 😊#

Jack:

Zonda. That picture surely must be saleable.

Nah, i doubt it. Unless its for a tabloid, i think agencies require 25mb images these days, and this one is not quite 1Mb. I went through all the selling pics malarky some years ago with slide film. Unless you place literally thousands of top notch shots with a good agency, it's a none starter,,,,, maybe if i was in my 30's. Think i'll preserve it as a satisfying hobby. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 11-Apr-11 03:40 AM GMT

Out on the Dorset heath this morning, and was lucky enough to get this chap sunning himself, in all his breeding colours.



Also,,, this more soberly attired gent was present.



**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 18-Apr-11 02:19 AM GMT

An Orange-tip female from Kingcombe yesterday.



**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 18-Apr-11 03:43 PM GMT

Another GH from Sunday.



**Re: Zonda**

by Bill S, 20-Apr-11 04:27 AM GMT

Very nice Zonda, thanks for sharing.

Cheers

Bill

## Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 21-Apr-11 02:21 AM GMT



I think i blew the whites in my excitement.

## Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 22-Apr-11 03:49 AM GMT

An absolutely delightful butterfly spectacle on the lower slopes of Giant's hill, Cerne Abbas this morning. Too 'gobsmacked' to take pics, i lowered the Zonda flab into a suitable depression on the hillside, and just looked. Green Hairstreaks in 'dogfights' with pristine Small Coppers. Holly Blues aggravating everything. Grizzled Skippers, and Dingy Skippers settling all around. With 'fly bys' of male Orange-tips. All this action took place in an area not 30ft long, and not 10ft wide. Of course in the end, and despite the blistering heat, i had to get a few shots.





## Re: Zonda

by ChrisC, 22-Apr-11 08:49 AM GMT

what can i say.... one minute it's your dying wish next minute you are flooding the forum with green hairstreak. not only that but your skipper has a corner missing... shoddy workmanship to say the least. keep them coming, they are a joy to see. 😊

## Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 22-Apr-11 09:20 PM GMT

Wurzel:

Fantastic images Zonda! How do you get the photos larger when you upload them?

Thanks for the praise. I use an intermediate web picture host Picasa (free) where i dump all of my pics. Picasa lets you choose from four different sizes when you upload to a site. I don't use the largest option, as it sometimes forces people to scroll left/right to read the post, which is a PITA. The sizes are thumbnail, small, medium, and large, and i nearly always use medium. I'm having a day of rest today, a haircut, and all. Can't get to Bentley tomorrow, but would love to see the PBFs. I expect the weather will change on Sunday/Monday. How long is the flight period? 😊

## Re: Zonda

by Bill S, 23-Apr-11 02:52 AM GMT

"Zonda" wrote:

Wurzel:

Fantastic images Zonda! How do you get the photos larger when you upload them?

Thanks for the praise. I use an intermediate web picture host Picasa (free) where i dump all of my pics. Picasa lets you choose from four different sizes when you upload to a site. I don't use the largest option, as it sometimes forces people to scroll left/right to read the post, which is a PITA. The sizes are thumbnail, small, medium, and large, and i nearly always use medium. I'm having a day of rest today, a haircut, and all. Can't get to Bentley tomorrow, but would love to see the PBFs. I expect the weather will change on Sunday/Monday. How long is the flight period? 😊

They are only just out in Bentley and normally last a couple of weeks, if not more.

Bill

## Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 23-Apr-11 01:55 PM GMT

Thanks Bill, and Wurzel. I'll try to give it a go. 😊

## Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 28-Apr-11 12:57 AM GMT

Grizzled Skipper nectaring on Speedwell.



## Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 01-May-11 06:01 AM GMT

Made my day, a fresh Marsh Frit. amongst the throng on the lower slopes of Giant's Hill, Cerne Abbas now. Loads of caterpillars still about.



**Re: Zonda**

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

A fresh Marsh Frit. from last weekend, getting some rays on a Cowslip.



And, a PBF from Bentley Wood last week.



A wider shot of a Cerne Abbas Duke previously posted.



**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 04-May-11 03:42 PM GMT

Found another small colony of Dukes at Cerne.



In the afternoon i slipped out to Kingcombe, where quite a few OTs were flying, and wonder of wonders, some of the males were settling (briefly). There was a lot of cursing involved.



**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 10-May-11 01:51 AM GMT

Another shot of a GF from Sand Point last Friday. Catching up with processing backlog. 😊



And a Small Copper from Cerne Abbas.



**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 11-May-11 06:13 AM GMT

Taken at Durlston this morning. Good numbers, some a bit worn. Lots of Dingy, and a few Grizzled Skippers. Also a Small Blue or two.



**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 15-May-11 12:06 AM GMT

A Small Pearl-bordered Frit. from Bentley Wood yesterday.



### Re: Zonda

by Wurzel, 15-May-11 01:06 AM GMT

Ace to see you got to Bentley Wood and another brill photo 📷 Did you see any Dukes there or have they all perished now? Bentley is great later in the year too – with White Admiral, Silver Washed Frit etc. Might see you there in July!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 15-May-11 02:01 AM GMT

The Dukes are just hanging on, in another part of the wood, but i suspect they are past their best. My next visit to Bentley Wood will be for 'you know what' later in the season. 😊

### Re: Zonda

by jonno, 15-May-11 03:42 AM GMT

Re Tuesday Durlston blue piccy

Could you help me with why this is an Adonis as the black doesn't seem to cut across the white margin. My inexperience here, so keen to learn!

Much appreciated

Jonno

### Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 15-May-11 03:48 AM GMT

jonno: Giving the help you want is a little difficult without a piccie.

Jack

### Re: Zonda

by Padfield, 15-May-11 04:01 AM GMT

It's the last piccie on the previous page. And it is quite unambiguously an Adonis blue. The fringes *are* crossed by black, though the lines are narrow, but the colour, the lustrous texture of the blue and the lack of a conspicuous pale leading edge to the forewing all speak on their own.

Guy

### Re: Zonda

by jonno, 15-May-11 05:29 AM GMT

Guy

Many thanks – got it!

Jonno

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 24-May-11 12:00 AM GMT

Another shot from last weekend's fantastic shoot with Chris and Dennis at Powerstock Common, and Kingcombe. As a matter of Odonata interest, the Beautiful Demoiselles are flying in their dozens at Kingcombe now. However, this is a Wood White. On our way out of Powerstock Common we encountered a lot of people with nets. In my opinion this is invasive, and hopefully they were only getting very worn Marsh Frits. I see no need for it,, generally.



### Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 24-May-11 12:21 AM GMT

On our way out of Powerstock Common we encountered a lot of people with nets.

Did you challenge them Frank? I always do and haven't been thumped yet. But I wear glasses 😊 (*Never hit a man wearing glasses*).

Jack

### Re: Zonda

by Zonda, 24-May-11 12:34 AM GMT

I wish you'd been there Jack. We just walked by them, saying nothing. As you know i'm very non-confrontational without lager. I don't think they were getting anything much, and i hope they didn't,, later discover the Wood Whites. 😊

### Re: Zonda

by Gibster, 24-May-11 02:00 AM GMT

Hiya Zonda,

I used to be part of a small (we felt 'select' was a good word 😊) group of chaps with nets, often on nature reserves too. We were netting for micro-moths which are generally either too small or too darn quick to identify confidently without popping them into a pot first. Most were shown around for the others to check before being released at the point of capture – usually within a minute or so of being netted...although some (worn/critical specimens) were kept for later examination.

All of this is perfectly legal, even on SSSIs/LNRs, as long as the site owners are aware, have given permission and the species list is later provided. Although wandering across MoD land when the flags are flying is not to be advised!

So my point was that people with nets may well be aiding the fate of a site, friendly and informed, keen to share and not to be worried about.

Although you do always get those clueless tw@ts who are just out to grab themselves a butterfly / dragonfly just to add to a non-labelled (and therefore scientifically pointless) collection because it's summertime and the birds are 'quiet' at this time of year.

Alternatively, just get tanked-up before you go out and challenge away!! 😊

All the best,

Gibster.

PS Even if they were "only getting worn Marsh Frits" they'd be breaking the law. Marsh Frits are fully protected at all stages. And I'm pretty sure that includes netting... 😡

### Re: Zonda

by Jack Harrison, 24-May-11 02:25 AM GMT

I should perhaps have made it clear that I challenge in a totally friendly way. I have not in recent years come across anyone who was up to no good. It was as suggested micro-moths, bug various or mark and recapture to estimate population sizes. I met a group of students last year at Totternhoe Quarry. They were marking/releasing Dingy skippers but at the time I met them, they hadn't caught a single previously marked individual 😊

So yes, nets are almost certainly being use in a benign manner. But I think it is worth checking every time.

Jack

### Re: Zonda

by Gibster, 24-May-11 02:30 AM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

or mark and recapture to estimate population sizes

I helped my friend for three days marking Gatekeepers at a local Surrey Wildlife Trust reserve many years back. I think he had 5 differently coloured Tippex pots. The net was a mess by the second day and we were high as kites from the fumes...never did find out the if the results actually proved anything...hmmmm.

Apologies Zonda, I'll get outta your Diary again 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 24-May-11 03:57 PM GMT

No sweat Gibster, an opinion aired is like a change of underpants. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 26-May-11 05:02 AM GMT

This year i have conquered my nemesis, and i'm happy to report that it has been a good year for the little green butterfly that has taken up so much of my time in previous years. Still, so fresh on the Dorset heaths, i am in awe of this little creature.



**Re: Zonda**

by Lee Hurrell, 26-May-11 05:13 AM GMT

He likes you too, Zonda.

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 26-May-11 05:19 AM GMT

And i like you mate. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Lee Hurrell, 26-May-11 06:52 AM GMT

Likewise 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 29-May-11 02:39 AM GMT

Another shot of a GF from Sand Point at the beginning of the month.



**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 05-Jun-11 03:21 PM GMT

My last blue is in the bag.



**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 12-Jun-11 04:29 AM GMT

Anyone know what Moff this is? Sorry to put a moff up, but this one is pretty.



**Re: Zonda**

by Jack Harrison, 12-Jun-11 04:38 AM GMT

Forester?

Jack

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 12-Jun-11 06:35 AM GMT

Cheers Jack.

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 20-Jun-11 10:59 PM GMT

A foray in dismal weather, of some north Dorset sites turned for the best, after we hit upon some really fresh Marbled Whites at Lydlinch. We did see the White Admirals at Piddles wood, but couldn't get near them for photography. 😞



But i'll be back.

**Re: Zonda**

by Jack Harrison, 20-Jun-11 11:15 PM GMT

Zonda said:

A foray in dismal weather,.....White Admirals at Piddles wood.....(

Piddles wood – I ask you! Surely it must ALWAYS rain there? 😊

Jack

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 20-Jun-11 11:19 PM GMT

That's a thought Jack. 😊 Great place for White Ads. on a nice day. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 30-Jun-11 04:17 AM GMT

Quite a productive day at Alners Gorse, but alas the White-letter HSs are still avoiding my lens, despite being on the site in good numbers. During a brief respite from our WLH vigil me and two others (Zebediah, and DJL Dorset) came across this freshly emerged moth. My thoughts after an internet search are inclined towards Scarce Silver-lines, but i do need confirmation. 😞



**Re: Zonda**

by ChrisC, 30-Jun-11 04:30 AM GMT

i concur 😊 great looking moths. i had it's relative Green silver lines to light at the weekend.

Chris

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 30-Jun-11 06:22 AM GMT

Thanks Chris. 😊

**Re: Zonda**

by Wurzel, 30-Jun-11 05:28 PM GMT

That Marbled White shot is simply lush 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 02-Jul-11 04:34 AM GMT

A great week at Alners Gorse, Dorset,,,,,, provided me with some butterfly gems.

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 02-Jul-11 04:45 AM GMT





**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 04-Jul-11 11:51 PM GMT

Secretive or what?



A shaft of sunlight picks out a beauty at Alners.

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 09-Jul-11 12:48 AM GMT

Cheers Wurzel. 😊

This is my first Gatekeeper of the 2011 season.



**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 12-Jul-11 05:15 AM GMT

Bentley Wood, Purple Em report.

Several photos of a mating pair, by a digiscoper was the highlight of a sweaty afternoon..... Boy ,,, where they high? Some sightings of PEs high in the trees. From a Togs point of view,,,,, terrible,,,,, but a first view for me was good... It seems its not a spectacular year at BW for PEs.

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 27-Jul-11 09:49 PM GMT

July the 26th is my day for seeing my season's first Brown Hairstreak. Although other people have spied one earlier this year, it was written that i should not see mine before the 26th July. This one, with it's head thrown back like a ballerina in 'Giselle' or 'The Firebird', feeds heartily on the flowers of Alder Buckthorn. This bush/tree has proved an invaluable source of food for the Purple Hairstreaks as well as the Browns at Alners Gorse, and also serves to feed the Brimstone larvae. A top bush, in my estimation.

**Re: Zonda**

by Paul Wetton, 27-Jul-11 10:39 PM GMT

A top bush amongst bushes indeed Zonda.

I saw my first female Brown Hairstreak on Alder Buckthorn at Alners Gorse. It was shortly joined by a male. They both opened up their wings before being joined by two Purple Hairstreaks.

Great bush.

**Re: Zonda**

by Zonda, 27-Jul-11 11:57 PM GMT

I wished for that, but it never happened.

**Re: Zonda**

by Michaeljf, 28-Jul-11 04:56 AM GMT

Zonda,  
your photography as always is never less than superb. As lovely as the Brown Hairstreak photos are (and yes, what a great bush!) I've only just seen your two previous Purple Hairstreak photos and can only look at your photos in wonder 😲. Well done, as always! 😊 p.s. I'm also a teensy-weensy bit jealous (as I'm still trying to get a half-descent PH shot), but I have no doubt you put in the hours to get those amazing shots! 🍷  
Michael