

Kithurst Hill

by mud-puddling, 21-Aug-13 09:01 PM GMT

Following some recent reports of Clouded Yellows across Sussex, I set off early to Kithurst Hill, with the plan to catch them before the temperature got to high. I arrived just after 7am and soon found plenty of roosting Common Blue, Brown Argus, and Chalkhill Blue; the latter were fairly worn and included this individual which I think looks like a good candidate for *ab. parallela* (but I am only speculating from a few pictures I have seen and a description in *Z. Wiss. Ins. Biol.* 1907.3. p36).

As well as the Chalkhills, there were good numbers of Brown Argus (all in pretty good condition too) and Common Blue, plus Small Tortoiseshell, Small Copper, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Large White, Small White, Small Skipper, and my target for the day 3 Clouded Yellows. I saw my first Sussex Clouded Yellow in 3 years around 09:15, the cloud cover was good so it was fairly docile and easy to photograph. However as soon as the sun appeared it was a different story! I saw another 1, possibly 2 individuals before I left just before 10am.

Later in the afternoon, I had another 6 separate sightings of Clouded Yellow at Pulborough Brooks, plus Peacock, Speckled Wood, and Brimstone to add to the day's tally.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/48896022@N08/>



Chalkhill Blue, Lysandra Coridon



Clouded Yellow, Colias croceus



Brown Argus, Aricia agestis



Brown Argus, Aricia agestis

Re: Kithurst Hill

by David M, 21-Aug-13 09:08 PM GMT

Nice shots, MP.

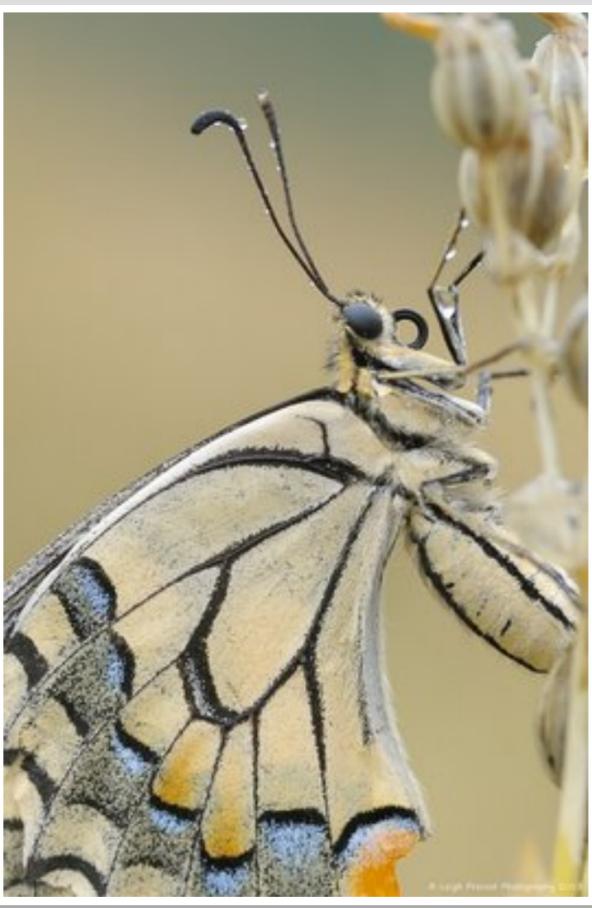
Glad you found your quarry.

mud-puddling

by mud-puddling, 25-Aug-13 08:21 PM GMT

Swallowtail East Sussex Still Present Sunday

Can it get any better? After seeing reports of a European Swallowtail in East Sussex (Windover Hill) on Friday and Saturday, and with the heavy rain and cold temperatures seemingly set in, I thought I'd chance my luck and see if it was still present this am. Arriving at just before 7, I met Gary (Faulkner) and we trudged up the very steep chalk path to the site. An hour later, after a seemingly fruitless search hiking up and down the slopes in the pouring rain, I'd all but given up. But luckily there were others searching and they eventually found it, just to the side of the main footpath. Oh how easy it could have been! It was seemingly in the same spot as it had been on Friday and Saturday, and wasn't moving fast! Lots of photos to process but here are a selection. Maybe a tad worn but I never thought I'd see a Swallowtail in Sussex so well chuffed:-)



01 European Swallowtail, *P.m.gorganus*



02 European Swallowtail, *P.m.gorganus*



03 European Swallowtail, *P.m.gorganus*

Re: mud-puddling

by David M, 25-Aug-13 09:03 PM GMT

Excellent stuff. I'm so pleased you got your reward.

Nice images too!

Re: mud-puddling

by Butterflysaurus rex, 25-Aug-13 09:46 PM GMT

Arghh I was going to go and see if it was still there today but I couldn't make it! I wonder if there's a chance it will still be there tomorrow.

Well done lovely shots 😊

Re: mud-puddling

by Paul Harfield, 28-Aug-13 10:15 PM GMT

Hi Leigh

Super pics. Once in a lifetime opportunity, perhaps 😊 It was a bit too far for me this weekend. I am still trying to find my first Brown Hairstreak 😞

Re: mud-puddling

by mud-puddling, 29-Aug-13 08:55 AM GMT

Hi Jack, no I doubt there be many opportunities like that 😊 was pretty amazing to see. I know what you mean re Brown Hairstreaks, hard to pin down even when you know where to go. Weather and time of day a key. Regards, Leigh