

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 02-Jan-13 10:55 PM GMT

Gran Canaria continued.

This is a South African form of the Bee-Wolf, a solitary Wasp, *Philanthus Triangulum*, [family, Crabronidae, sub family, Plilanthinae], which is totally different from its European cousin, but also of the same name. Both hunt and paralyse Honey Bees for their larva to feed on once they have hatched [hence their nickname, Bee Wolf] and, several Bees are placed with each egg. So as there are no Honey Bees on Gran Canaria and, very little in the way of other forms of Bees or Wasps in the habitat i observed this insect. Only Blue-Banded Bees, 3 seen, and just a single Cuckoo Bee, the breeding success of this Wasp must be very low, [only a 4 or 5 seen] unless they are feeding their larva with some other local delicacy. Their nest is burrowed into sandy and soft soils by the female, while the males busy themselves, marking their territory, leaves, twigs and other local vegetation with Pheromones, to warn off other males, hoping to steal its mate. Both male and female adults Wasps feed on nectar and pollen.[attachment=0:3d2kwv4i]23.11.2012 gran canaria 262-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:3d2kwv4i]

## Re: hideandseek

by Mikhail, 03-Jan-13 08:16 AM GMT

Although the Egyptian Grasshopper does occur on Gran Canaria, your beast is actually the Desert Locust *Schistocerca gregaria*. I attach a photo of *Anacridium* for comparison.

M.



## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 05-Jan-13 04:46 PM GMT

Thanks Mikhail, i had actually looked at the Desert Locust for an ID, but only found photos of mature adults or hoppers [immature Locust] but, have since your post on the correct ID, found a photo the same as mine and, some interesting info on the life cycle of the Desert Locust, which i new nothing about before but do now. I beleive my photo is of a solitarious Desert Locost, immature adult. Correct me if i`m wrong. Will edit my post. Thanks again, all the best ,Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 13-Jan-13 12:56 PM GMT

A high majority of plants around the world release their pollen passively but, a small percentage of flowers, including crops, such as Potatoes, Tomatoes and other fruits release their pollen when vigorously vibrated, [or blown strongly by the wind]. This process is called buzz pollination and, is mainly performed by Bumble-Bees and, solitary Bees, such as the Blue-Banded Bee [*Amegilla Cingulata*]. The plants normally having tubular flowers, such as the ones on this shrub this Blue-Banded Bee is nectaring on.[attachment=3:v2ltz3u5]23.11.2012 gran canaria 198-1\_2.jpg[/attachment:v2ltz3u5]While i was observing this particular Blue-Banded Bee, it started to act [in my opinion] erratically. Flying and hovering over the same small area, about 2ft. sq. [60cm. sq.].[attachment=2:v2ltz3u5]23.11.2012 gran canaria 250-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:v2ltz3u5]After watching this behaviour for a couple of minutes, i decided it might have a nest very close to where i was sitting. So i moved myself away a few feet and waited, sure enough, she landed by a large stone, before disappearing down into her nest.[attachment=1:v2ltz3u5]23.11.2012 gran canaria 246-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:v2ltz3u5]She spent about 20min. in her nest chamber on each occasion before emerging. The nest site was in a well sheltered spot, probably to keep the eggs or larva cool.[attachment=0:v2ltz3u5]23.11.2012 gran canaria 255-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:v2ltz3u5]I removed the stone covering the nest to take this photo but, placed it back carefully afterwards, and then i watched her return and, disappear down into the nest chamber, before leaving the Bee in peace.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 14-Jan-13 08:58 PM GMT

Gran Canaria, continued

This Wasp is of the Genus, *Bembix*, commonly known as a Sand Wasp and, sometimes the Digger Wasp, which should only apply to the female, as she does all the hard work, tunneling through the soil a metre or more down. The females having rake-like front legs in order to assist them burrow into the sand to make their nest chambers. This Genus consists of between 300-400 species worldwide, with a large percentage being found in Africa and Australia where the climate is warm, with large open habitats of sandy or soft soils.[attachment=0:3q31u4kq]23.11.2012 gran canaria 327sand wasp, bembix.jpg[/attachment:3q31u4kq]

## Re: hideandseek

by NickMorgan, 14-Jan-13 09:34 PM GMT

Blue-banded Bee. Thank you for the identification. I have seen these in Lanzarote and southern Spain, but didn't know what they were called!! They are lovely creatures.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 16-Jan-13 10:58 PM GMT

Glad to be of assistance Nick, even though by an indirect route.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 20-Jan-13 07:44 PM GMT

Gran Canaria continued

Painted Ladies were seen daily but, only out in the countryside, [if you can call it that] never in the resorts. By pure chance i found a small roost of these butterflies, way up on the top of hill.[attachment=3:383vmm5m]23.11.2012 gran canaria 259\_1.jpg[/attachment:383vmm5m]I visited this spot on a few occasions and, always found them in the same small area.[attachment=2:383vmm5m]23.11.2012 gran canaria 194\_1.jpg[/attachment:383vmm5m][attachment=1:383vmm5m]23.11.2012 gran canaria 196-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:383vmm5m]All these butterflies were in very good condition, except for this one,[attachment=0:383vmm5m]23.11.2012 gran canaria 012-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:383vmm5m]like this one they were lighter in colour, and did `nt have as much black on some of the markings you usually find on the back of the wings.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 21-Jan-13 09:03 PM GMT

Gran Canaria continued

I only saw a few birds on this trip but, managed one new species, with this pair of Monk Parakeets.[attachment=0:2ecnaen1]23.11.2012 gran canaria 314 monk parakeet.jpg[/attachment:2ecnaen1]Originally from South America, they seem to be doing well here in the Canaries, along side the Ring-Necked Parakeets.Screeching as they fly from one palm tree to another, giving themselves away every time.They seem to fly around in pairs, and the males seem to be quite affectionate towards its mate.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 21-Jan-13 10:40 PM GMT

That Blue-banded Bee is cracking 😊 With regards to the parakeets – are the Ring Necked native or is it a case of west being introduced to east?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by millerd, 21-Jan-13 10:49 PM GMT

The ring-necked parakeets so common round me west of London are believed to be the Indian sub-species (*Psittacula krameri manillensis*). Apparently this comes from the southern bit of the sub-continent, but has managed to naturalise itself all over Europe, in Australia and in the US. I wouldn't be surprised if the Canarian birds come from a similar source.

Dave

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 23-Jan-13 06:13 PM GMT

Thanks for your kind comment on the Blue-Banded Bee Wurzel. As for your question about the Ring-Necked Parakeet, Dave has answered it quite admirably. The only thing i would like to add, is that it was not either the subspecies, Borealis or Manillensis, that you would see in europe. The book on birds i have for that part of the world, [which is very good] does `nt list the particular subspecies of Ring-Necked Parakeet that i saw, so i should imagine its a fairly new addition to the wildlife on Gran Canaria. When i visited one of the other Canary islands a few years ago, i saw a number of Bulbuls, a bird, i believe normally associated with the Middle East. The White-Cheeked Bulbul was the only one my book listed out of the three species that i saw. So it looks like i will have to update my library. All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 25-Jan-13 11:53 PM GMT

Gran Canaria continued

The Pale Shoulder Moth, Acontia Lucida,[attachment=3:1i0nw8oe]23.11.2012 gran canaria 004-1pale shoulder\_1.jpg[/attachment:1i0nw8oe]which i came across on this island, is a rare migrant to the southern coastline of England. First recorded in the 19th century and, not recorded again until 1994, when two showed up, in Kent and Dorset. Since then only a handful of sightings have been recorded, all in the southern counties. It is normally found in India, North Africa and, central and southern Europe. It prefers hot, dry, open landscape and, in Europe is double brooded, flying in May and August. On

Gran Canaria i believe it flies 12 months of the year, due to the sunny, all year round climate. When i first saw this individual it`s antenna were stuck out, in front of the moth. When i had taken my first photo of it, the antenna had disappeared, when i looked more closely the antenna had been tucked away, underneath it`s wings.[attachment=2:1i0nw8oe]23.11.2012 gran canaria 018-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1i0nw8oe] I thought this to be unusual, [not knowing a great deal about moths]. So when i came across another one of these moths, i deliberately disturbed it and, watching it fly off, then land again only a few feet away, [they never seemed to fly more than a few feet at any time]. After it had landed i took this picture, [attachment=1:1i0nw8oe]23.11.2012 gran canaria 207-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1i0nw8oe]And as you can see it`s antenna are sticking out, in front, but as soon as the moth had settled, it tucked it`s antenna underneath it`s wings and out of sight.[attachment=0:1i0nw8oe]23.11.2012 gran canaria 212-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1i0nw8oe]So a habit well practised with this particular moth.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 27-Jan-13 06:00 PM GMT

The Gran Canaria Giant lizard, Gallotia Stehlini, [the largest lizard to be found on the Canary Islands] can be found throughout the island. Even though it is a common species, is protected by law, a small population of this lizard inhabits the island of Fuerteventura, which was introduced a few years ago. The males which grow up to 80cm in length, [the females being slightly smaller] are very territorial, and will fight to protect their patch, especially in the spring, when the females come into season. This species of lizard is oviparous, and reach sexual maturity at around 3-4 years of age, the females laying up to 16 eggs per clutch, [the eggs can vary in size, depending on the size of the female] taking 8-10 weeks to hatch, living up to the age of 11 years, sometimes older. The Gran Canaria Giant Lizard is also omnivorous, feeding mainly on vegetation, a small amount of fruit and, sometimes insects. Their habitat includes, shrubby, rocky, open, and mountainous landscapes. In the photo below, the lizard is an immature specimen, being only about 30cm in length.[attachment=0:trlk20ds]23.11.2012 gran canaria giant lizard 063.jpg[/attachment:trlk20ds][attachment=1:trlk20ds]23.11.2012 gran canaria giant lizard 061.jpg[/attachment:trlk20ds]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 29-Jan-13 08:24 PM GMT

Gran Canaria continued

This is a species of the Red-Winged Grasshopper, family Oedipoda. It is found on dry, stoney/rocky, open landscapes here on Gran Canaria, and is beautifully camouflaged within their surrounding habitat.[attachment=0:31i0cl68]23.11.2012 gran canaria 229-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:31i0cl68]Like many insects on this island they are to be found in very small numbers, this one being the only one i was fortunate to see, but hardly surprising, with their ability to conceal themselves within their environment. I disturbed this one, high up, on a flat topped hill, and when it flew, it was no longer invisible, with it`s short low flight over the stoney terrain, it became alive, a bright red flash of beauty before my eyes, and then gone again, blending into the landscape once again.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 30-Jan-13 07:19 PM GMT

Gran Canaria continued

The hunting wasp, of which many species can be found within the Canary Islands, [even though all species seem to be low in numbers]are aptly named, as they hunt for caterpillars for their larva to feed on. Before placing the caterpillar in a nest chamber on the side of a house, etc, [normally situated in flaking mortar, where a hole has appeared, or a mud, pot shaped nest might be built, depending on the species] it paralyses the caterpillar, then seals the entrance hole with mud.[attachment=0:10bz9y18]23.11.2012 gran canaria 311-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:10bz9y18]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-Feb-13 09:04 PM GMT

Gran Canaria continued

Apart from the local flies, the African Grass blue was the most common of all the insects in the area where i stayed.[attachment=2:1plvn7i0]23.11.2012 gran canaria 039-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1plvn7i0][attachment=1:1plvn7i0]23.11.2012 gran canaria 047-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1plvn7i0]These two i found in a very small park, [ the water feature, which was far to large, took up nearly half the area of the park, about 50ft sq.]and the one in the third photo was taken in the hotel grounds, the only one i saw there.[attachment=0:1plvn7i0]23.11.2012 gran canaria 068-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1plvn7i0]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 02-Feb-13 11:07 PM GMT

Back home...

I was going through my photos when i found this Comma , taken in October in my garden, lost in the depths of my computer.

[attachment=1:21of2wer]7.10.2012 garden 015 comma.jpg[/attachment:21of2wer]It is so different in colouration to this one taken in July at Chiddingfold Wood.[attachment=0:21of2wer]7.7.2012 C.W. 015\_1.jpg[/attachment:21of2wer]

## Re: hideandseek

by Mark Tutton, 03-Feb-13 06:11 PM GMT

Is it my imagination or does the October specimen have small silvery grey spots on the hindwings roughly where the 'comma' is underneath? - beautifully marked specimen 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 03-Feb-13 11:11 PM GMT

Hi Tuts, i believe the two silver spots on the hindwings to be damage. Probably caused by the hindwings sticking together when emerging from the chrysalis.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 05-Feb-13 07:02 PM GMT

At the end of March last year i found a small caterpillar on some nettles, [i was hoping it was the larva of the Red Admiral] which turned out to be the larva of a moth, [page 5 on my personal diary]. It had fully pupated by the 13-4-2012 and, emerged late evening on 30-4-2012. I was going to get an ID, but could`nt remember where i had stored the photos, then forgot all about it, until the other night when i was going through my photos i found these two photos.[attachment=1:1z7n4lvi]13.4.2012moth pupa 016\_1.jpg[/attachment:1z7n4lvi][attachment=0:1z7n4lvi]30.4.2012 moth 001-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1z7n4lvi] It was identified as the moth, Celypha Lacunana, very common throughout Britain, with a wingspan between 16-18mm, body length about 10mm. Its flight period being, May-August. Four weeks later i found a final-instar Red Admiral larva.....

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 08-Feb-13 05:51 PM GMT

After watching a female Red Admiral ovipositing on 25-3-2012 and, laying a couple of eggs, i continuously went back looking for its larva once the incubation period had lapsed. But with all the time and effort put in, all i found were the larva of the moth, Celypha Lacunana. Then late April the area where i found the R.A. ovipositing was completely flooded, up to two feet of water over the whole of the area, probably destroying any eggs or larva of the butterflies breeding here. Then whilst working in my garden, i was throwing some weeds etc. onto my compost heap, near a small patch of nettles, when something small grabbed my attention. I took a closer look, and to my surprise and delight, i had inadvertently found a final- instar Red Admiral larva constructing a tent. Within two days it had eaten away part of one of the leaves, leaving a large hole. When i looked in on it the following day it had constructed another tent, and i thought that would be it. Wrong, the larva had promptly ate away the side of the tent again,and another day later had disappeared.I searched for any evidence of a third tent at the top of the nettles and, found nothing. For two further days i searched.....[attachment=1:3ejcbl1]30.5.2012 garden 062\_1.jpg[/attachment:3ejcbl1][attachment=0:3ejcbl1]30.5.2012 garden 103\_2.jpg[/attachment:3ejcbl1]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 09-Feb-13 10:22 PM GMT

.....then finally i noticed a small nettle ,no higher than 62mm, on the edge of the nettle patch. It was unusual, which made me look again, the top leaves hanging down like that of an opened umbrella, so i carefully pulled one leaf slowly to one side, and there it was, just starting to pupate. No wonder i could`nt find it before, most unusual to be so low down. In order to take photographs, i had to do a slight bit of gardening, but nothing drastic. Was i pleased to have found it again, you bet i was, and this time i new it was going nowhere.[attachment=0:o2hsi1jx]3.6.2012 red admiral pupating, day 1.jpg[/attachment:o2hsi1jx]

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 09-Feb-13 10:53 PM GMT

Excellent stuff, hideandseek. Are there any more images to come?

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 10-Feb-13 11:26 AM GMT

Thank you for your very kind comment David, and to answer your question, yes. I was fortunate enough to get the rest of the sequence of photos, before going to work, and after work. So more to follow.

## Re: hideandseek

by NickMorgan, 10-Feb-13 03:33 PM GMT

Great pictures of the red admiral caterpillar. I look forward to seeing the rest of the pictures.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 10-Feb-13 08:54 PM GMT

Thank you Nick, much appreciated.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 11-Feb-13 05:44 PM GMT

The next photo was taken on 4.6.2012 at 5.37pm, nearly 25 hours after i found it on the small nettle, [picture 3] as you can see, there is very little change in its appearance, apart from one of the two green body segments has turned a light-brown in colour.[attachment=1:3ek01j7v]4.6.2012 red admiral pupating, day 2.jpg[/attachment:3ek01j7v] Later that day i was about to go out with the wife for the evening, when i decided to check on the Red Ammiral larva, [like a father would on his child] expecting to find no change, it was now about 8.40pm. Its always better to be safe than sorry, well am i glad that i did, the larva had changed quite considerably. So out came the camera, [and an apology to the wife] as the evening out had been delayed. Just short of three hours since the last photo, the change is pretty remarkable, as you can see in the following picture. [attachment=0:3ek01j7v]4.6.2012 red admiral pupa 055\_1.jpg[/attachment:3ek01j7v]

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 11-Feb-13 08:22 PM GMT

Vince Massimo would be proud of this.

Excellent shots....and all captured in a wild environment!

## Re: hideandseek

by Vince Massimo, 12-Feb-13 02:12 AM GMT

Very impressive images, Nick.

It's one thing to get them under controlled conditions, but quite another to do so in the wild.....

Judging by the colour of the pupa, it looks like pupation occurred less than 30 minutes earlier.

Looking forward to seeing what happened next 😊

Vince

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 12-Feb-13 10:28 PM GMT

Thank you again David, and thank you for your very kind praise Vince. Both your comments are really appreciated.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 13-Feb-13 07:50 PM GMT

The developing pupa continued to physically change during the night of the 4.6.2012, and by 7.25am on the 5.6.2012 had completely transformed itself once again as the next photo depicts.[attachment=1:ldy7kchb]5.6.2012 red admiral pupa 002\_1.jpg[/attachment:ldy7kchb]There was `nt any further change that day but, on the morning of the 6.6.2012, at 8.23.am, 25 hours later, the pupa had once again completely changed its appearance. [attachment=0:ldy7kchb]6.6.2012 red admiral pupa 002-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:ldy7kchb]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 14-Feb-13 05:42 PM GMT

The last two photos of the pupation, taken later the same day, [6.6.2012] shows a subtle change but, its the final one, with the green tinge nearly all but disappearing. the pupation having now been completed.[attachment=1:h6j21ou8]6.6.2012 red admiral pupa 081-2\_1\_1.jpg[/attachment:h6j21ou8] [attachment=0:h6j21ou8]6.6.2012 red admiral pupa 101\_1.jpg[/attachment:h6j21ou8]Now, all i had to do was wait for the wing colours of the butterfly to show through the thin membrane of the chrysalis to indicate that the butterfly was about to emerge.....so i waited,..... and waited.....

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 14-Feb-13 08:28 PM GMT

Superb stuff...and I'm sure you're in possession of the final pieces in the jigsaw.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 15-Feb-13 05:10 PM GMT

Thank you David, thats extremely kind of you and, i am pleased that you are enjoying this post. I have four photos, and two posts left to do, to complete the sequence, from final-instar larva, to butterfly.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 15-Feb-13 10:21 PM GMT

.....until, on the 23.6.2012, after checking on the chrysalis several times for any changes in colour, another check mid-afternoon finally produced the changes i was looking for. I was able to see clearly the pattern and colours of the wing through the membrane of the chrysalis and, new it should emerge any time now.[attachment=1:198hkofu]23.6.2012 C.W. 006\_1.jpg[/attachment:198hkofu] The only trouble was, the weather, being overcast, windy and, not that warm,[also the light was very poor for photography] so would it actually emerge. I did `nt think it would but, to make sure of this, i carefully placed a plant pot over the nettle,[i did `nt like doing this but, thought it best under the circumstances] on which the pupa was attached, so therefore stimulating nightfall and, prolonging the butterfly`s emergence.The following day brought improved weather and photography conditions, with frequent sunny spells, even though it was still rather windy. So i decided i had interfered enough, and would let nature take its course. I removed the plant pot, then set my camera up. Then it was a bit of gardening, as the chrysalis was so low to the ground, i dug away some of the soil directly below the pupa, to give the butterfly ample room to emerge without damaging it`s wings etc., and then quite quickly, the Red Admiral appeared.[attachment=0:198hkofu]24.6.2012 C.W. 003-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:198hkofu]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 16-Feb-13 11:06 PM GMT

Then 22 minutes later, just over half an hour after it`s emergence, the Red Admiral discharged it`s metabolic waste, leaving a red stain on the recently dug soil below it`s body.[attachment=1:o6owxv7]24.6.2012 Red Admiral, 024\_1.jpg[/attachment:o6owxv7]The final photo depicts the Red Admiral continuing to dry out in the warm afternoon sun, with this typical pose of a newly emerged butterfly.[attachment=0:o6owxv7]24.6.2012 C.W. 048\_1.jpg[/attachment:o6owxv7]With Vince Massimo`s kind permission, [thanks Vince] i have used the dates of his life cycle of a Red Admiral, from the larva adopting it`s attachment to the leaf in readiness to pupate and, from completed transition of the pupa to the emergence of the butterfly, so i could compare them with my dates covering the same transitional periods.

Vince`s from, final-instars attachment to leaf, to completion of pupation, 8 days, mine, 5 days.

Vince`s from, the completion of the pupa, to the butterfly emerging, 12 days, mine, 18 days.

I can understand why my butterfly took six days longer than Vince`s butterfly to emerge, putting that down to the combined, controlled conditions of Vince`s butterfly and, the poor weather conditions for my butterfly. But what i don`t understand, is why my butterfly only took five days to complete it`s pupation period and, Vince`s took a futher three days to complete this transition.

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 17-Feb-13 02:51 PM GMT

Fabulous stuff that. Thanks for sharing. One thing I've always wanted to see is a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis in the wild.

## Re: hideandseek

by Vince Massimo, 17-Feb-13 03:54 PM GMT

Hi Nick,

Excellent observations and recording 😊

I have just discovered some data from last year which I will throw into the mix.

On 20th June 2012 I found a Red Admiral larva completely in the open on a nettle and I took it home for further study.

Here is that data shown within the context of your report (with corrections):

### "hideandseek" wrote:

With Vince Massimo`s kind permission, [thanks Vince] I have used the dates of his life cycle of a Red Admiral, from the larva adopting it`s attachment to the leaf in readiness to pupate and, from completed transition of the pupa to the emergence of the butterfly, so I could compare them with my dates covering the same transitional periods.

Vince's (2011) from, final-instars attachment to leaf, to completion of pupation, 2 days, mine, 5 days.

Vince's (2012) from, final-instars attachment to leaf, to completion of pupation, 2 days.

Vince's (2011) from, the completion of the pupa, to the butterfly emerging, 17 days, mine, 18 days.

Vince's (2012) from, the completion of the pupa, to the butterfly emerging, 12 days.

The corrections to the dates quoted from my 2011 report now show the development times to be much less variable.

I don't profess to be an expert on such matters but know that there are several factors that can trigger pupation. These can range from temperature to the availability of food. I have also looked at the data from my Peacock and Comma rearing projects in 2012 and found that in all cases the larvae remained suspended for only 24 hours before pupation. The Peacocks all emerged from the pupa in 10 days while the Commas took between 11 and 20 days.

I have added all of this data to my Red Admiral (Early Stages) report, together with some extra photos, which can be found here: [viewtopic.php?f=37&t=5672](http://viewtopic.php?f=37&t=5672)

Vince

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 17-Feb-13 09:38 PM GMT

David and Vince, thank you both for you kind comments, its aways appreciated. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 18-Feb-13 09:37 PM GMT

Now that i have been through all of my photos from 2012, and sorted them out, i thought i would post a few of them. Some that i have already posted, some i have not, but all of them good memories no matter what the weather. At times i would have been better off being a hippo, wallowing about in all that mud and water and, if you think it was bad for the wildlife photographer, what about the poor butterflies, coming into the world, just to be greeted by wind and rain, and more rain. But a few of them did manage to capture a few rays of sun, even though it was `nt often enough.

Soaked to the skin[attachment=1:2e3kym1m]1.7.2012 C.W. 155\_1.jpg[/attachment:2e3kym1m]Injoying a fleeting glimpse of the sun[attachment=0:2e3kym1m]1.7.2012 C.W. 038\_1.jpg[/attachment:2e3kym1m]

## Re: hideandseek

by Mark Colvin, 18-Feb-13 10:29 PM GMT

Hi Nick,

Summer 2012, I remember it well ...

### "hideandseek" wrote:

wallowing about in all that mud and water

Lovely pictures and a highly observational report on the Red Admiral.

Great work.

Kind regards. Mark

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 19-Feb-13 07:27 PM GMT

thanks Mark, its always nice to get a compliment from a budding entomologist 😊 ....no really, thanks Mark, appreciated. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 20-Feb-13 05:32 PM GMT

With the vast numbers of Chalkhill Blues this year, the poor females could`nt move without being harassed by the marauding males.

Whats taking him so long.....?[attachment=1:qroqj8fb]30.7.2012 denbies 108-3\_1.jpg[/attachment:qroqj8fb]Alone.....peace at last.....[attachment=0:qroqj8fb]30.7.2012 denbies 155-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:qroqj8fb]

## Re: hideandseek

by Gibster, 20-Feb-13 08:24 PM GMT

Hiya Nick, just been going through your Diary, some great stuff seen (and very smartly captured too!)

Regards that Red Admiral pupa. Firstly congratulations on not only the pics but for keeping the suspense going! And secondly, no matter how many times I see the transition from larva to pupa to adult, it never fails to amaze me (and I don't think that's an exaggeration) just *HOW* the insect body can alter itself from one form to another (the second being entirely alien to the first) and get it right every time. That "fat caterpillar" rearranging various organs, developing into the pupa within itself, hardening, waiting, and then suddenly that winged, long-legged, antenna waving, compound eyed beast with a proboscis emerging...it fair takes my breath away trying to get my noggins 'round it all! How does that adult caterpillar learn to fly and co-ordinate its way from flower to flower without messing up? It's akin to saying, "OK, you are now celebrating your 18th birthday. Show us how you can pass through a solid brick wall". Admittedly there may be the occasional aberration, not enough hindwing spots or an extra pupil in a wingspot, but on the whole they perform this life-changing metamorphosis without pause or fuss. As I said, amazing.

I do enjoy your Diary, and I'm sure many others do too. So thankyou,

Gibster.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 21-Feb-13 09:19 PM GMT

Hi Seth,

First of all, i would like to thank you for your very kind comments on both my personal diary and, my sequence of photos, depicting the transition, from larva to butterfly of the Red Admiral, so thank you, very much appreciated. I can understand how the transition still amazes you after seeing it so many times, that was my first time, and found it, not just amazing but, also beautiful.

I have always been a keen amateur natualist, which started with me as a three year old seeing a Fox running across the lawn, i was gobbed-smacked and, enthralled by the whole experience. By the time i was five i had a deep infinity, love and, a fascination for bird`s eggs, often wandering the country lanes looking for and finding nests, such as Blackbirds, Song Thrush, Dunnock, finches and the like. Where is this going? Well going back to where you said "admittedly there maybe the occasional aberration", i think that butterflies in general have a high rate of aberrations compared to other insects, birds etc. Well, what surprised me was the different shapes, sizes and, the colouration of some of the eggs i used to find when i was younger. Like the all blue eggs of a Chaffinch, which is rather a rare find, also a Jackdaws nest containing five white eggs, and on two occasions, Great-Tits eggs that were twice as long as normal, [must of hurt laying those two] and just one more, otherwise i`d go on forever, a Blue-Tit`s egg that was so small it would never of hatched, about, half its normal size, no bigger, probably the first egg layed by that particular Blue-Tit. It just shows you how brilliant and unpredictable nature is across it`s whole spectrum.

Well thanks again Seth, give my best to Sami,

All the best,Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 23-Feb-13 07:49 PM GMT

Wood White numbers dropped quite considerably last year at Chiddingfold Wood, [2012] probably about half the numbers from the two previous years, but then the two previous years were quite exceptional. Walking from Oaken Wood to the triangle would produce [on a nice sunny day] at least eighty individuals for the first brood and, at least thirty for the partial second brood for the years 2010 and 2011. Last year on the same walk, the first brood would have only produced between about 30-40, and the second partial brood only a third of that number if you were lucky, but to me, that's a normal year for this species at Chiddingfold Wood.[attachment=1:386ocqux]13.5.2012 Wood White female, chiddingfold wood.jpg[/attachment:386ocqux]  
[attachment=0:386ocqux]5.8.2012 C.W. 004-3\_1.jpg[/attachment:386ocqux]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 24-Feb-13 03:33 PM GMT

[attachment=1:2ghak9hb]12.5.2012 Wood White 028\_1.jpg[/attachment:2ghak9hb][attachment=0:2ghak9hb]13. 7. 2011  
008\_1.jpg[/attachment:2ghak9hb]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 25-Feb-13 08:52 PM GMT

I know I have brought this subject up before but, I do find it to be an intriguing topic. Is this a courtship leading to the male and female copulating? well, my answer is still no. But, the ritual is certainly a form of bonding between the two sexes of this species, I'm certain of that. Maybe they had mated at an earlier date and, are now reacquainting themselves to one another, remembering a previous encounter, the two of them having played their part in the next generation, the future of this butterfly. The female is so submissive to the attentions of the male, never taking her eyes off him, he, lovingly stroking her with his proboscis.....or, am I reading too much into this act?.....or, am I just an old-fashioned romantic?  
[attachment=0:2ezbevxn]12.5.2012 Wood White 070\_1.jpg[/attachment:2ezbevxn]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 28-Feb-13 07:21 PM GMT

Two in a bush....[attachment=1:2cnplqc3]21.5.2012 C.W. 065-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2cnplqc3][attachment=0:2cnplqc3]21.5.2012 C.W. 176-  
1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2cnplqc3]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-Mar-13 05:10 PM GMT

Just emerged.....[attachment=1:2hgxaye5]15.7.2012 C.W. 036-1\_1\_2.jpg[/attachment:2hgxaye5][attachment=0:2hgxaye5]21.4.2012 Orange-Tips  
014\_1\_2.jpg[/attachment:2hgxaye5]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 02-Mar-13 01:20 PM GMT

The future...[attachment=1:pf5pv6wb]12.7.2012 C.W. 010\_1.jpg[/attachment:pf5pv6wb]Taking a well-deserved rest, before fling off to lay her eggs ...  
[attachment=0:pf5pv6wb]12.7.2012 C.W. 027\_1.jpg[/attachment:pf5pv6wb]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 03-Mar-13 11:40 AM GMT

A butterfly that fared quite well on my local patch....[attachment=1:16l6c3w9]1.5.2012 019\_1.jpg[/attachment:16l6c3w9]  
[attachment=0:16l6c3w9]10.6.2012 C.W. Dingy Skipper, Small Heath, caterpillar 163\_1.jpg[/attachment:16l6c3w9]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 04-Mar-13 06:15 PM GMT

A rarity for 2012....basking in the warmth of the sun...[attachment=1:29droe23]15.7.2012 Gatekeeper, male, Chiddingfold Wood,  
Surrey.jpg[/attachment:29droe23][attachment=0:29droe23]1.7.2012 Dark-Green fritillary, male, Chiddingfold Wood, Surrey.jpg[/attachment:29droe23]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 08-Mar-13 08:41 PM GMT

Males hanging out...[attachment=1:1s9mvo0h]15.7.2012 Small Skipper, male, Chiddingfold Wood, Surrey 081.jpg[/attachment:1s9mvo0h]  
[attachment=0:1s9mvo0h]1.7.2012 Dark-Green Fritillary, male, Chiddingfold Wood, Surrey 101.jpg[/attachment:1s9mvo0h]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 10-Mar-13 01:01 PM GMT

Another butterfly that was hampered by the wet summer of 2012 was the Marbled White, finding one, especially females in good condition proved to be difficult at the best of times.[attachment=1:382ex7we]15.7.2012 C.W. 085\_1.jpg[/attachment:382ex7we][attachment=0:382ex7we]12.7.2012 Marbled White, male, Chiddingfold Wood, Surrey 041.jpg[/attachment:382ex7we]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 12-Mar-13 06:20 PM GMT

On Hazel.....come rain.....or not.....[attachment=1:330i6o2r]1.7.2012 C.W. 277-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:330i6o2r]  
[attachment=0:330i6o2r]15.7.2012 C.W. 042-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:330i6o2r]

## Re: hideandseek

by Mark Colvin, 12-Mar-13 07:11 PM GMT

Nice work Nick.

Keep the pictures coming 😊😊😊

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 12-Mar-13 08:54 PM GMT

Superb images, Nick.

These are amongst the best posted on this site and I look forward to many more.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 13-Mar-13 10:36 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comments Mark, as always appreciated. 😊

Hi David, a big thank you for your very generous and kind comment on my photography, very much appreciated. 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 14-Apr-13 10:01 PM GMT

Today was my first outing this year foraging for butterflies. I went to my favourite spot for butterflies that have just emerged from hibernation and an excellent area for the Orange-tip, knowing i had no chance of seeing one, but to also see how well advanced the Cuckoo Flower was. Trying to find the flower proved difficult, but i did manage to find a few plants, mostly between 50-75mm high, well behind schedule. But whilst i was trying to photograph a Comma, and i was really trying, as the butterfly would `nt keep still, not like the one i photographed earlier which was so thoughtful, and posed for me forever, anyway as i was saying, i was trying to get a picture of this particular Comma when i noticed a single Cuckoo plant tucked right under some Blackthorn with two flower heads, and about 250mm in height, well protected from the cold weather we have been experiencing of late. [attachment=2:2aksegjs]14.4.2013 down by the river 068-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2aksegjs]Earlier on my excursion into the countryside i saw 3 male and one female Brimstone, 3 Peacock, 3 Comma, one Small White and one Small Tortoiseshell.[attachment=1:2aksegjs]14.4.2013 down by the river 014-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2aksegjs][attachment=0:2aksegjs]14.4.2013 down by the river 018-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2aksegjs]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 14-Apr-13 10:47 PM GMT

Nice to see a Peacock shot 😊🇩🇪 I saw my first today but it was gone in a flash 😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 18-Apr-13 08:59 PM GMT

You will get a photo sooner or later Wurzel, this is the only time of year i am likely to see a Peacock let alone photograph one. I have `nt seen a summer brood Peacock for a number of years now, so i have to take my chances when they are presented. I only photograpged to individuals last year, both in March, so i have had to wait until now for another photo. I have already taken pictures of two different Peacocks this year, so that looks like it for this year. But heres hoping for a lovely shot later this year of a summer Peacock in pristine condition, well i can always dream..... 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 20-Apr-13 10:25 PM GMT

This afternoon i visited Chiddingfold Wood for the first time this year hoping for a Wood White, but it was not to be. I still had a very enjoyable few hours here, photographing my 3rd and 4th Peacocks of the year , twice as many as last year and, seeing four in total for the day. Also seen were three Commas which were really obliging, and gave me a great end to the afternoon, and a further ten Brimstones, so now i have seen more in number of this

butterfly in two sorties into the countryside than the whole of last year, brilliant. Earlier in the day whilst working, two Small Tortoiseshell were also seen, so all in all a great day.[attachment=1:20jshaqd]20.4.2013 C.W. 004\_1.jpg[/attachment:20jshaqd][attachment=0:20jshaqd]20.4.2013 C.W. 040-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:20jshaqd]

## Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 20-Apr-13 10:30 PM GMT

Hi Nick,

Good to see you are seeing Peacocks. They were out in abundance around my neck of the woods in the Midlands today. I saw good numbers last year as well, it was Brimstones I struggling with last year, took ages to see my first last spring.

Neil F.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 21-Apr-13 10:15 PM GMT

Thanks Neil, the Peacocks are doing much better than normal this year in my neck of the woods, which is really pleasing, so i hope to get a picture of a summer brood Peacock this year, keeping fingers crossed, maybe one as good as yours and some of the others who posted some lovely shots last summer.

The Brimstones are also doing really well in my area, not like last year, when i only saw half a dozen in the spring, plus two in the summer on the North-downs. I have already exceeded that number,[16 seen so far] so i hope they do well in your neighbourhood, and everywhere else this year, as well as all our other native butterflies.

Oh yes, forgot to mention in my post yesterday that i saw my first Cuckoo and, Nightingales yesterday.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 21-Apr-13 10:57 PM GMT

I finally got some shots of a Peacock yesterday so now I can enjoy your photos without the side order of envy 😊 Geat news about the Nightingale – it's Blackcaps and Whitethroats round our way at the moment.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 22-Apr-13 09:27 PM GMT

Hi Wurzel, glad you finally got yourself a photo of a Peacock. I still have `nt seen a Whitethroat around here, and they are rather common in the area. Last year they did `nt turn up until May, just a few years ago i found a Whitethroat`s nest, fully built and ready for the laying of eggs by the 21st April. I know of a pair of Swallows that returned to their nest site by the 17th April, [this year] and also saw another Nightingale [sunday] at the back of my house, singing right out in the open, trying to drum up some business, which was lovely to see so close to home, also i managed to photograph my 5th Peacock of the year, but this time an aberration. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 22-Apr-13 10:47 PM GMT

You're smashing last years record Nick! 😎 When do we get to see the aberrant Peacock, was it "blind"?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 23-Apr-13 10:21 PM GMT

I am certainly breaking all my Peacock records for getting photos of this butterfly Wurzel, even though the numbers are small compared to a lot of other peoples. I think that this years quota beats all the previous years since i started butterfly photography put together. I hope to post the photo of the aberration tomorrow. I have so much trouble resizing for some reason, [distortion of the butterfly, flower stem etc, basically screwing up my photos] sometimes it can take hours to resize a picture. So thats why i don`t post a lot of photos until a much later date, i get so frustrated with the whole process, giving it a go for a couple of hours, then giving up and, trying again another night. Here are two photos from sat. 20th April, the Comma on the Honeysuckle stem was the photo i had all the trouble resizing, the other one on the branch took no time at all.

I found this Comma plus two more of his mates, and a couple of Peacocks fighting it out for the best sun spots, for a bit of sun bathing. So all i did was stand and wait for the best photo opportunity, [a couple of hours] i was actually standing three feet from the Honeysuckle stem when the Comma landed on it, posing beautifully, i could `nt of asked for more, [must have trod in something] and it just shows you that patience is a must in this game. [attachment=0:2ymj6nfz]20.4.2013 Comma, male, Chiddingfold Wood, Surrey.jpg[/attachment:2ymj6nfz][attachment=1:2ymj6nfz]20.4.2013 male Comma, Chiddingfold Wood, Surrey.jpg[/attachment:2ymj6nfz]

## Re: hideandseek

by Mark Colvin, 24-Apr-13 04:36 AM GMT

Great work Nick.

Have you purchased a Lumix? 😊

Must get together soon.

Kindest regards. Mark

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 25-Apr-13 12:53 PM GMT

Thanks Mark, appreciated. Did`nt you know i`m a secret Lumix user. 😄😄😄

Butterflies just seen, Large White, Small White, male Orange-tip, Comma.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 25-Apr-13 11:14 PM GMT

Last sunday afternoon i visited a small piece of waste-land close to my home to see what butterflies it would produce. Small Tortoiseshell were seen on arrival along with a couple of Comma and, then three Peacock, one of them in particular caught my eye with its beautiful colours, more so than usual, it was this one that i would focus my attention on. Seeing something unusual with its wing pattern, with closer inspection i saw that my suspicions were well founded, as it turned out to be an aberration. But getting a photo was`nt that easy, frequently patrolling his territory, being disturbed by other butterflies, and then there is always the intruding vegetation. So it was just a case of binding my time, and waiting for a opportunity, so wait i did. Eventually my patience paid off and, i got the three pictures i was after.....[attachment=1:af4km9i3]21.4.2013 down by the river 007-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:af4km9i3][attachment=0:af4km9i3]21.4.2013 down by the river 006-3\_3.jpg[/attachment:af4km9i3]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 26-Apr-13 09:18 PM GMT

The final photo of the aberration Peacock.

It was a pure privilege to have found and photographed this delightful butterfly and,the only way to show you the true beauty of this individual aberration Peacock was to put a photo of a normal Peacock along side it, and let the picture do the talking for me.The butterfly overall is more colourful, the eye-rings on the hindwings are much lighter and more pronounced, the blue on the eyes on the forewings much richer, the first small spots by these eyes are much larger than normal with a smudge of black on one end towards the wing margins. Plus the two extra spots on the hindwings just off to one side from the eyes, must make this Peacock unique.[attachment=0:30029hpo]21.4.2013 Aberration Peacock, male, Surrey 011.jpg[/attachment:30029hpo] [attachment=1:30029hpo]20.4.2013 C.W. 004\_3\_1.jpg[/attachment:30029hpo]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 26-Apr-13 09:51 PM GMT

So not "blind" but a "four eyes" 😊 Nice 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 27-Apr-13 11:04 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, it would have been nice if it was a Blind one, but not as beautiful.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 28-Apr-13 10:29 PM GMT

Saturday morning i ventured over to Chiddingfold Wood where i was to meet up with my good friend Mark Colvin at midday, but by the time Mark arrived i had had enough. The wind being bitterly cold for the first couple of hours, and seeing no butterflies at all, i thought i would return home for a spot of DIY. I stayed long enough to meet Mark, explaining it was pretty pointless staying any longer, so we both went our seperate ways. Within minutes of leaving the wet stuff came pouring down from the sky above. So a good decision. So once i got home, i got on with my work, and then out came the sun, typical. As i worked i kept looking out of the window, and the sun was still shining brightly. In the end it became to much, me indoors, the sun out doors, i had to go, and so cleaned up, got my camera and, disappeared into the countryside. The wind was still quite bitter, but warmer than it had been earlier in the day, but when i arrived at my chosen destination i thought maybe i should of stayed at home, no butterflies, "its going to be one of those disappointing days where i go home without a single sighting of a butterfly and no photos" i said to myself. Well, being one not to give up easily i plodded on, then i got my first sighting of the day, a Small Tortoiseshell, then a second one, which i soon lost sight of. I wandered off, my hopes higher, but nothing, so i returned to where i had seen the two S.T. and, this time i got lucky and, managed a few photos that i was pleased with.

So instead of going home all grumpy, i had a smile on my face. I have two photos taken today which are my favourites, this one below, and another which i will post when i manage to resize it. [attachment=0:18p2bjdq]27.4.2013 Small Tortoiseshell, male. Surrey 051.jpg[/attachment:18p2bjdq] P.S. i was using my Lumix 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 29-Apr-13 11:17 PM GMT

This is my other favourite photo from saturday afternoon, resized at last. I had to paint in the background, which is why its taken a bit longer to post, don't think much of my brush strokes though, could have been better but, it will have to do. 😊 [attachment=0:x6zg870d]27.4.2013 Small Tortoiseshell, male, Surrey 057..jpg[/attachment:x6zg870d]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-May-13 09:32 PM GMT

A short walk to and fro from work [under 20 min.] at lunchtime today produced two Orange-tip males [one in the garden], Comma, Small White, and two firsts for me this year, two male Holly Blues [one in the garden] and a Green-veined White. Things look to be picking up around here, lets hope it continues.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 05-May-13 08:54 PM GMT

Saturday, 4th May.

After working all morning i thought i would try my luck out at my favourite site for Orange-tips. The weather was warm, but cloudy, so i hoped to find one or two roosting. There are four small areas, each divided by thickets of Blackthorn, the first two conjured up a couple of Comma and, a Peacock, then moving on to area three i found my first Orange-tip, a female, and in area four my first Orange-tip egg of the year. Eventually with the sun making an appearance a few males showed themselves, plus another female, and it was the females i stuck with, giving me a very enjoyable three hours. [attachment=1:g811wiw9]4.5.2013 down by the river orange-tips,female 058-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:g811wiw9][attachment=0:g811wiw9]4.5.2013 down by the river orange-tips,female 086-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:g811wiw9]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 05-May-13 10:55 PM GMT

Cracking shots Nick 😊🇺🇰 Female Orange-tips are so much nicer than some of the other whites aren't they?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 06-May-13 07:57 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, appreciated. 😊 I'm glad you said "female Orange-tips are nicer than some of the whites" and not all, as the Wood White is one of my favourite butterflies, 😊 shame its not flying as yet, and probably won't be for at least another week. 😞

## Re: hideandseek

by Mark Colvin, 06-May-13 08:31 AM GMT

Nice work, Nick ...

I particularly like the second shot, which I assume is pictured on the blackthorn 😊😊😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 06-May-13 10:57 PM GMT

Thanks Mark, appreciated, and yes she is on the Blackthorn.

All the best, Nick.

Another picture from the same day, the same butterfly on Blackthorn again, where she seemed quite content to perch throughout much of the afternoon. [attachment=0:8svjs86j]4.5.2013 down by the river orange-tips,female 233-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:8svjs86j]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 07-May-13 10:17 PM GMT

Sunday, May 5th

My trip to Chiddingfold Wood today was solely to find a Wood White and, after an extensive search i came up with nothing, not a single Wood White. Normally i would have seen my first one around the 20th April, no earlier. Looking for the caterpillars food plant, which is mainly Bird`s-foot Trefoil

here in this wood, i found it just starting to show, about 5mm, and from my experience the plant needs to be 50mm in height to accomodate the egg laying female Wood White. Another plant well behind, is Dyer`s GreenWeed the main larval food plant of the Green Hairstreak in these parts. So i don`t expect to see a Wood White until this weekend coming, but not in great numbers and, the Green Hairstreak not until the 20th May or later. On the other hand some plants are doing much better this year in C.W., Cowslips and Cuckoo Flower along with Early Purple Orchid having all improved their numbers.[attachment=1:2yf038nc]5.5.2013 C.W. 037-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2yf038nc][attachment=0:2yf038nc]5.5.2013 C.W. 051-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2yf038nc]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 08-May-13 07:11 AM GMT

May 5th continued

Last breath, ..... of a Bee-fly.....[attachment=1:2l1uya0d]5.5.2013 C.W. 038-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2l1uya0d][attachment=0:2l1uya0d]5.5.2013 C.W. 040-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2l1uya0d]

### Re: hideandseek

by ChrisC, 08-May-13 06:36 PM GMT

if it's any consolation a few bees may have been saved by the spider by taking the bee-fly 😊 lovely coloured individual.

Chris

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 08-May-13 09:47 PM GMT

May 5th continued

Whilst the day was warm, the sun stayed away for the whole of my visit, and butterflies were really hard to come by. But this Willow Warbler caught my attention, with it`s beak full of feathers to line it`s nest.[attachment=2:1ddw0p2z]5.5.2013 C.W. 024\_1.jpg[/attachment:1ddw0p2z]I watched it at a distance fly down to the ground, and enter it`s nest. After it flew away i had a very quick look for the nest, and took this photograph showing the top of the domed shaped nest.[attachment=1:1ddw0p2z]5.5.2013 C.W. 044\_1.jpg[/attachment:1ddw0p2z]I only saw three butterflies all afternoon, one male Orange-tip on arrival, my first Speckled Wood of the year and, a single Peacock which obliged me with my only picture of a butterfly. [attachment=0:1ddw0p2z]5.5.2013 C.W. 001-1\_1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1ddw0p2z]

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 08-May-13 10:55 PM GMT

Hopefully it'll get better by the weekend Nick but at least you managed to get that great shot in the mean time:D

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 09-May-13 01:33 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, hopefully i will be posting a photo of a Wood White over the weekend, 😊 you have always got stay positive, looking on the bright side of life. 😊

Have a great weekend yourself.

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 09-May-13 05:28 PM GMT

Hi Nick,

With the fallen oak leaves, that is a deceptively autumnal looking Peacock photo, unusual shot for spring, I like it.

Cheers,

Neil F.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 09-May-13 11:17 PM GMT

Thanks Neil, appreciated, 😊 the photo was taken in an area where the vegetation has been cut back hard, and the new growth does not seem to have materialized as yet.

Denbies, May 6th. Just a quick post, until i have more time to do the trip justice.

I visited this location to photograph the Green Hairstreaks, seeing three individuals, my first this year, also saw my first Grizzled skippers of the year, six in number. Here are a couple of record shots.[attachment=1:1fbpemz1]6.5.2013 denbies 038-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1fbpemz1]

[attachment=0:1fbpemz1]6.5.2013 denbies 054-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1fbpemz1]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 11-May-13 11:59 AM GMT

Denbies, May 6th

My visit to this area of the North Downs was solely to photograph the Green Hairstreak. As soon as i arrived i found this individual sitting high up on this Hawthorn, could not of wished for a better start to the day.[attachment=0:29384l2d]6.5.2013 denbies 003-1\_1\_2.jpg[/attachment:29384l2d]Other butterflies seen. Speckled Wood, Peacock, Holly Blue, Orange-tip, Grizzled Skipper, Brimstone, Small, Large and Green-veined White. Also three Adders, one male adult and, two immature, probably last years young, and a Red Kite that flew just a few feet above my head. All in all, a well spent few hours.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 11-May-13 09:46 PM GMT

May 6th

Here are the two young Adders from my trip to Denbies, both females. The second photo showing a colouration in this species of snake that i have never seen before. [attachment=1:5zfc1jf7]6.5.2013 denbies 040-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:5zfc1jf7][attachment=0:5zfc1jf7]6.5.2013 denbies 044-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:5zfc1jf7]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 11-May-13 10:20 PM GMT

Really interesting shots Nick. I saw a male about 9 years ago at Martin Down that had a similar colouration to the second female - is it a form of Erythrism (reddening) although I've only seen that mentioned in hair and feathers - but scales are keratin based? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 12-May-13 08:23 PM GMT

Hi Wurzel,

the colour of the Adder in the second photo is apparently common in juveniles, [i`ll have to get out more]. As to how they vary in colouration, i have `nt a clue.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 12-May-13 11:53 PM GMT

Male Green-veined White taking in salts to replenish his energy levels, probably after copulating.[attachment=1:1fjcuo3h]6.5.2013 male Green-veined White 073.jpg[/attachment:1fjcuo3h]Having found over forty Orange-tip eggs on either Cuckoo Flower and Garlic Mustard, i have only come across two Green-veined White`s eggs.[attachment=0:1fjcuo3h]7.5.2013 Green-veined White`s ovum 024 .jpg[/attachment:1fjcuo3h]Green-veined White`s ovum on Garlic Mustard.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 14-May-13 10:33 PM GMT

Since photographing this female Orange-tip, i have tried when possible to get out, to get a couple of shots of a male, and failed on each occasion. I have seen them often enough, but not in the numbers i saw last year. I have also visited a local site that is normally very good for finding them roosting, but still nothing. Maybe i`ll get lucky next time.....[attachment=1:2oqtr854]4.5.2013 down by the river orange-tips,female 007-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2oqtr854]On one of these visits though, i did come across this rather attractive, even though tatty around the wing edges, male Comma.[attachment=0:2oqtr854]7.5.2013 down by the river male Comma 001.jpg[/attachment:2oqtr854]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 15-May-13 08:23 PM GMT

Last sunday [May 12th] i visited Chiddingfold Wood hoping that the Wood Whites had at last emerged, and after a couple of hours looking, not one was seen, thats three weeks late so far. So it looks like i will have to wait another week before i hope to see this beautiful little butterfly. But i did see my first Grizzled Skipper for this wood, plus two Speckled Woods and, three Brimstones. I also found some more Orange-tip`s eggs on some Cuckoo Flower, and four eggs on a single plant of Garlic Mustard, as depicted in the photo below.[attachment=0:8zgmcfln]12.5.2013 4 Orange-tips eggs on Garlic Mustard 029.jpg[/attachment:8zgmcfln]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 18-May-13 09:18 PM GMT

May 16th  
Today i met up with my good mate, Mark Colvin for a days butterflying. Arriving at Hayshott mid-morning, we soon found our first goal, the Duke of Burgundy and, what a good start to the day it was, with the butterfly behaving impeccably for the two of us. Later we were joined by a young fellow called Jake, who had never seen a duke before, so Mark set about finding one and, soon came up with a male, which made the young man`s day.  
[attachment=1:md6sgknh]16.5.2013 Duke of Burgundy, 080.jpg[/attachment:md6sgknh][attachment=0:md6sgknh]16.5.2013 Duke of Burgundy, male, 008-1.jpg[/attachment:md6sgknh]

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 18-May-13 09:55 PM GMT

Cracking shots Nick 😊 I wish someone would find me a Duke 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 19-May-13 10:02 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, your comments are always appreciated 😊 , and i`m sure you will be seeing this lovely little butterfly soon enough yourself. All the best, nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 19-May-13 08:11 PM GMT

May 16th continued, the Dukes.[attachment=1:1ftebgxy]16.5.2013 Duke of Burgundy, male, 068.jpg[/attachment:1ftebgxy]  
[attachment=0:1ftebgxy]16.5.2013 Duke of Burgundy, male, 060.jpg[/attachment:1ftebgxy]

### Re: hideandseek

by Mark Colvin, 19-May-13 08:28 PM GMT

Lovely work, Nick.

I particularly like the first underside shot.

I won't tell anyone you've ditched the DSLR and acquired a Lumix 😊

Now let's see your Pearls ...

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 20-May-13 07:06 AM GMT

Thanks Mark, your comments as always are appreciated, the first underside photo is my favourite, and i`m really pleased to hear that you are not telling the world that i have acquired a lumix and, that i have binned the DSLR. 😊 The pearls will hopefully be posted later today and tomorrow. All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by P.J.Underwood, 20-May-13 12:39 PM GMT

Nick,  
I have always thought your photo's with the DLSR were brilliant and could not be surpassed.I cannot believe you have throttled down,except the Lumix is a lot lighter and that perhaps is important as muscle fatigue creeps in with advancing years.Which Lumix are you using.? Perhaps it would be better for me travelling on aeroplanes now that Easyjet are reducing their cabin baggage allowance.  
I particularly liked your backgrounds out of focus,which might be harder with the Lumix.  
Philip

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 20-May-13 04:54 PM GMT

Thank you for the very kind comment on my photography Philip, but you have got the wrong end of the stick about me binning my DLSR, i still use it, and do not have a Lumix, the comments made on the subject by Mark and myself, is a on going, running joke. So i would`nt take any notice of it in the future, i don`t. 😊  
All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by P.J.Underwood, 20-May-13 06:01 PM GMT

Thank goodness for that!  
P.J.U.

## Re: hideandseek

by MikeOxon, 20-May-13 06:14 PM GMT

### "hideandseek" wrote:

do not have a Lumix, the comments made on the subject by Mark and myself, is a on going, running joke

I looked at the EXIF data, to see you're still using a EOS. I have both a Lumix and a DSLR and must admit that the image quality gap is closing quite remarkably in the newer compacts. As I get older, I appreciate the light weight of the Lumix and also find the 'intelligent auto' feature extremely useful for when I forget to check the camera settings (another hazard of getting older 😊) Next stage will be to drop using a camera altogether and just enjoy watching 😊

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 20-May-13 11:14 PM GMT

Hi Mike,

i totally agree with you on everything you said. The only regular Lumix users on this site that i know of, or i can think of at this hour, Sussex Skipper and Mark Colvin, are a true testament to this, with their fine portrayal of butterfly photography using this camera and, i`m sure there are many others.

Maybe in the distant future when a DSLR, tripod etc, etc, gets to heavy to lug about the countryside, i might just have to get one. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 21-May-13 08:30 PM GMT

May 16th continued.

After myself and Mark left Heyshott, the land of Dukes, we headed to a private wood in West Sussex, where Mark assured me we would find our second, and final target of the day, the beautiful Pearl-bordered Fritillary. On arriving at the location, the weather conditions were perfect for observing this butterfly, with both cloud cover, and periods of bright sunshine. But after about twenty five minutes i was beginning to doubt as to whether we would actually see one, with not a single one of these insects flying low over the ground when the sun sent rays of warmth over the area of anticipation. Then, as if by order, one appeared from beneath some dead Bracken, half flying, half scuttling across the low vegetation and landing near to my feet. On closer inspection, both myself and Mark realized it had just emerged and, had`nt quite dried out. Then within a further twenty minutes Mark had found another one, which had also just emerged, what perfect timing.....the beautiful fresh, bright colours of these butterflies glowing like precious stones.....what could be better than spending an afternoon with these Pearls?.....and in such good company.....and that includes Mark. 😊 .....thanks mate.[attachment=1:206vwdwu]16.5.2013 P.B.F. 124.jpg[/attachment:206vwdwu][attachment=0:206vwdwu]16.5.2013 P.B.F. 151.jpg[/attachment:206vwdwu]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 21-May-13 11:37 PM GMT

Cracking shots Nick - Pearls are great aren't they? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 22-May-13 01:13 PM GMT

Thanks again Wurzel, i totally agree with you about the Pearls being great. 😊 I was fortunate enough to have watched this particular butterfly emerge from the undergrowth, the colours on the underwings are quite spectacular and, it was wonderful to have captured these colours for the record before they faded. I am a great fan of the underwing shot, where, in my opinion the real beauty lies in most butterflies, if not all. Thanks again, all the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 22-May-13 10:24 PM GMT

Gems....[attachment=1:20ktzz5j]16.5.2013 P.B.F. 122.jpg[/attachment:20ktzz5j][attachment=0:20ktzz5j]16.5.2013 P.B.F. 170.jpg[/attachment:20ktzz5j]

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 22-May-13 10:53 PM GMT

Stunning.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 23-May-13 07:38 PM GMT

Thank you David, the two males that myself and Mark found were certainly stunning, and made photographing them that much easier and, very pleasing on the eye.

All the best, Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Neil Freeman, 23-May-13 09:03 PM GMT

Some beautiful images Nick.

Cheers,

Neil F.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 23-May-13 10:20 PM GMT

Thank you Neil, appreciated as always.

All the best, Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 24-May-13 01:02 PM GMT

Beauty and the Bug.....[attachment=0:2g6azf4r]16.5.2013 P.B.F. 139.jpg[/attachment:2g6azf4r]

### **Re: hideandseek**

by MikeOxon, 24-May-13 01:49 PM GMT

lovely atmospheric PB shot!

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 24-May-13 09:35 PM GMT

Thanks Mike, your a true gentleman.

All the best, Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Susie, 24-May-13 09:38 PM GMT

Truly beautiful shots, Nick 😊

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 25-May-13 11:45 AM GMT

Thanks Susie, appreciated. 😊 The beautiful deep red markings towards the lower regions of the wing undersides are rather like Small PBF than PBF, but thats nature for you.

All the best, Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 25-May-13 11:24 PM GMT

Last week when i was in Chiddingfold Wood on a gloomy afternoon, i decided to check on the four Orange-tip`s eggs i had found on a single plant of Mustard Garlic. As i approached the flower, now i know this is quite unbelievable, there was a very fresh female Orange-tip resting on top of the plant. Now what are the odds on that happening, a 1,000,000 to one, or more? But there it was.....[attachment=0:w5nsnw6a]18.5.2013 C.W. 034-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:w5nsnw6a]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 26-May-13 07:39 PM GMT

Nectaring female Orange-tips.....[attachment=0:249nhjjm]18.5.2013 C.W. 001-1\_1\_2.jpg[/attachment:249nhjjm]  
[attachment=1:249nhjjm]26.5.2013 C.W. wood white,etc 130-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:249nhjjm]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 26-May-13 10:31 PM GMT

Lovely shots Nick 😊 Is the final shot an aberrant – the spot on the fore wing looks huge in comparison others?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Pete Eeles, 26-May-13 11:25 PM GMT

Well spotted Wurzel! I think it is *ab.crassipuncta*: "the discoidal spot of the forewings very large".

Cheers,

– Pete

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 27-May-13 01:22 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comment on my two photos Wurzel, appreciated as always. 😊 As for the female Orange-tip, i noticed the large black markings on the wings as the butterfly flew past me, so i followed her hoping she would land, and got lucky. She was also ovipositing on some Garlic Mustard just to the left of the yellow flower between bouts of nectaring. After trying to find a name for this aberration, and failing, i posted the two pictures together, [the one on the Bluebells was taken a week earlier, the *ab.* was photographed the day i posted] making it quite obvious that the black spots on the butterfly in the second photo, were indeed a lot larger, and hoping someone would pick up on this. Thankfully you did Wurzel. 😊 Thanks again, and all the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 28-May-13 05:39 PM GMT

Wood Whites which emerged about three weeks late on my local patch are only being found in small numbers this year, counting only twelve on average on each visit i have made since their first appearance. Putting their numbers down by, between 50%–75% of last years count. Some parts of the wood only producing one or two individuals on a very good day, if you are lucky. So i would like to see how the second brood fairs, [which is only a partial brood] because normally you only see a third in number of the first brood average. So if only twelve were seen on average for the first brood, you are only going to see about four individuals for the second brood on any visit to this wood. I hope i am wrong. Below are two photos of a male and female. [attachment=1:1nvscrhz]20.5.2013 C.W. wood white male 001.jpg[/attachment:1nvscrhz][attachment=0:1nvscrhz]26.5.2013 C.W. wood white, female 019.jpg[/attachment:1nvscrhz]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 28-May-13 07:36 PM GMT

I hope you're wrong as well Nick as I was hoping to head over for the second brood 😊 I saw my first Wood Whites last year and they were first brood so it would nice to see some second brood individuals as they are supposed to have a slightly different appearance? Lovely shots of a lovely butterfly – forest foodies they are 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Ps no worries on the *ab* spot I'm surprised it was me that noticed it though ! 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 28-May-13 08:18 PM GMT

Hi Nick, some great photos, loving the Orange Tip *ab.* on the yellow flower, I'm not sure if Pete intended the pun but it is a 'well spotted' individual.

Cheers,

Neil F.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 29-May-13 07:09 PM GMT

Thanks for the kind comments Neil, appreciated as always. 😊 I did `nt notice the pun, so well spotted,..... i just could `nt resist. 😄😄

Thanks also Wurzel for you kind words, 😊 i will keep you posted regarding the 2nd brood Wood Whites, a butterfly i am quite passionate about. You mentioned the second brood WW`s being slightly different, they are Wurzel. For a start they are a lot cleaner, a lack of grey on the wing`s undersides, especially the males, as shown in the photo below.[attachment=2:1dbxw1fo]13. 7. 2011 008\_1.jpg[/attachment:1dbxw1fo]I have seen them whiter than this, and also a very light creamy colour, they also have a lack of hair in the upper leg region compared to the first brood. The black markings on the upperside wing-tips of the females are very faint, or absent, as in the next photo.[attachment=1:1dbxw1fo]26.5.2013 C.W. wood white,etc 024-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1dbxw1fo]This a first brood female, but the upper wings are very typical second brood WW, and the black markings on the male`s upper wings are darker than that of the first brood males.[attachment=0:1dbxw1fo]IMG\_2543-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:1dbxw1fo]Upperside of a second brood male.

All the best to you both, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Mark Colvin, 29-May-13 07:49 PM GMT

Hi Nick.

Some extremely useful observational comments about a species I know you are both passionate and knowledgable.

I particularly like the wing close-up in the last picture 😊

Great stuff.

Kind regards. Mark

### Re: hideandseek

by Goldie M, 29-May-13 08:28 PM GMT

Lovely photo's Nick, I've yet to see a Wood White, may be this year! We don't seem to get them up here, least ways I've not heard of any Goldie 😞

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 30-May-13 07:07 AM GMT

Thanks Mark, your comments are always appreciated. I am pleased that you liked the close-up of the male`s upper wing photo, as it is my favourite picture of a WW, its actually in the act of copulating, and changed the way i looked at butterflies photographically.

Thank you for your kind comment on the Wood White photos Goldie, if you ever decide to visit Chiddingfold Wood on your travels to see this beautiful butterfly, let me know and, i will be more than happy to show you around.

All the best to you both, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-Jun-13 01:18 AM GMT

I have got to hand it to you.....[attachment=0:30mdgem3]18.5.2013 C.W. 150\_1.jpg[/attachment:30mdgem3]On my way back to the car, after another visit to my local patch i found this little fellow roosting on this fistful of Bracken furls.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 02-Jun-13 02:36 AM GMT

The Dingy Skippers are, in this area doing well,  
But the wind was high and, strong, as it would blow,

So, the Skippers kept themselves.....so low,

Presenting the shot, that would `nt go down.....so well.[attachment=0:2t4eqc8t]25.5.2013 C.W. dingy skipper 003.jpg[/attachment:2t4eqc8t]

[attachment=1:2t4eqc8t]25.5.2013 C.W. wood white,etc 007-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2t4eqc8t]

### Re: hideandseek

by Goldie M, 02-Jun-13 04:47 PM GMT

Not sure where Chiddington Wood is Nick, must be South, I don't know a lot of places down south, I usually go to Kent alot to family. If I go to Dorset for instance I've to look things up before I set off 😊 I'll look it up on Maps, this way I'll be able to see it as well Goldie 😊

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 02-Jun-13 10:41 PM GMT

I have sent you a PM Goldie, on how to get to Chiddingfold Wood.

Lie-over.....[attachment=0:3rgejfrh]26.5.2013 C.W. wood white,etc 076-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:3rgejfrh]

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 02-Jun-13 11:09 PM GMT

Cracking shots Neil – how do you get Dingies to stay so still? Looking through your reports really makes me want to see Wood White again 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 03-Jun-13 05:39 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, the Dingies were `nt that easy, its just a game of patience. The wind was quite blowy, so they were keeping low, when i wanted them elevated, landing on the dead Hard Heads for a nice easy picture, would they play ball? no. But i persevered. By the way, i did `nt know i had changed my name. 😊😂

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 03-Jun-13 06:25 PM GMT

Sorry Nick 😊 One of the dangers of typing on an iPod – titchy keypad and rubbish predictive text 😊 For a time there it kept trying to change my name to Surely 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 03-Jun-13 09:12 PM GMT

As if there is not enough Neils on this forum already.... 😊😂

Cheers,

Neil F.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 04-Jun-13 02:33 PM GMT

Early to bed.....late to rise.....[attachment=0:1ceki47o]25.5.2013 Brimstone male, 006\_1.jpg[/attachment:1ceki47o]I watched this individual go to roost just before five on a sunny afternoon, other butterflies were still flying over an hour later. Going back early the following day i saw an early flying Wood White, shortly followed by Dinky Skippers and a Green Hairstreak. But this Brimstone and another one i found low in a small bush, were `nt in a hurry to get up.....

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 04-Jun-13 09:49 PM GMT

Springhead Hill, 1st June

A late afternoon visit to this small but beautiful butterfly site with my very good friend Mark Colvin, to photograph the Small blue, produced a good number of these tiny insects. Some in good condition, some not so good.....after a short time looking we soon found a couple high up on some grass stems and, in nice condition.....well worth the visit.....[attachment=0:2mbba9gu]1.6.2013 ww, s.blue 061-4\_1.jpg[/attachment:2mbba9gu]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 05-Jun-13 09:18 PM GMT

Here are a few photos depicting two stages of the Orange-tip larva, which i rescued from the council`s mowers. I did `nt ` do this to monitor the life cycle of this insect,[well i do have to look on it now and again, its only natural] but just to have the satisfaction of seeing it fly off into the countryside next spring, when really it would `nt have without my intervention. I had originally taken two eggs, but the second egg had a shadow in the middle of it and, eventually the caterpillar that survived ate it, along with the seed pod it was on.[attachment=2:2qc7dzoy]30.5.2013 OT larva, 003-1\_1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2qc7dzoy]This is the first photo i took,and it is about 15mm in length, and is about one-two weeks old. The larva is actually resting just above the empty egg membrane it emerged from, [pure luck that it was sitting just there when i took the picture].The next photos were taken on the same day, three days after the first picture.[attachment=1:2qc7dzoy]2.6.2013 Orange-tip larva 010-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2qc7dzoy] [attachment=0:2qc7dzoy]2.6.2013 Orange-tip larva 019-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2qc7dzoy] Today the caterpillar now about 25mm in length, left its Garlic Mustard stem to go walk-about, so now i have given him/her some sticks, which the larva is now inspecting, regularly going up and down, doing whatever they do to make sure that the stick is just right for them.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 11-Jun-13 10:13 PM GMT

Sunday, June 9th

I had decided to get up early today [5 o'clock] for my visit to Denbies, on the North Downs, Surrey, to photograph the Adonis and Common Blues roosting, and then later when the sun made a appearance get some open wing shots. I arrived at 6.40am and, was finding my first roosting butterfly a few minutes later. I thought i only had a couple of hours of cloud before the skies would clear and then sun would show itself. So i tried to find as many roosting Common and Adonis Blues as possible for the closed wing photo, hoping to find one or two in the right pose for my camera, well five hours later i was still photographing sleepy butterflies tucked away in the vegetation. The sun was `nt showing, and i had to visit family mid-afternoon, so it was of home, only slightly disapointed that i did `nt get any open wing shots, maybe next time. Below are two photos of a male and female Common Blue.[attachment=1:wcuuqewc]9.6.2013 denbies, adonis,common blues 036\_1.jpg[/attachment:wcuuqewc][attachment=0:wcuuqewc]9.6.2013 denbies, adonis,common blues 073\_2.jpg[/attachment:wcuuqewc]

## Re: hideandseek

by Mark Colvin, 12-Jun-13 06:42 AM GMT

Super Common Blue shots, Nick.

I do like a Lycaenid on a grass stem. The female is my favourite 😊😊😊

Good hunting.

Kindest regards. Mark

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 12-Jun-13 01:16 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comment Mark, a butterfly that i neglected last year, but that was mainly due to the poor showing of this beautiful insect locally with only a handful seen. This year i have `nt seen one on any of the local sites, so that was the reason for the Denbie trip, to put things right and, i`m sure another trip is on the cards in the next few days, weather permitting.

Thanks again, all the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 13-Jun-13 09:33 PM GMT

Denbies continued.

Having found a dozen or more male Adonis Blues, i was quite disappointed in the colour of the wing undersides, as the last time i photographed these insects it was the second brood in 2011 and, the males wing undersides were quite stunning. The difference in colouration of these first brood butterflies were quite staggering, or at least to me with my limited knowledge of this beautiful insect, as this was my first experience of capturing the first brood of this species on film. I have posted three photos below depicting three very fresh individual males, the 1st, a dirty looking butterfly, which looks as if it urgently requires a bath, the 2nd, is light brown in colour and, the 3rd, a darker brown to the underwings.

[attachment=2:kipgflxy]9.6.2013 denbies, adonis,common blues 098-1\_2.jpg[/attachment:kipgflxy][attachment=1:kipgflxy]9.6.2013 denbies, adonis,common blues 222\_3.jpg[/attachment:kipgflxy][attachment=0:kipgflxy]9.6.2013 denbies, adonis,common blues 151\_2.jpg[/attachment:kipgflxy]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 13-Jun-13 11:40 PM GMT

Lovely shots Nick 😊 I know what you mean about the difference in appearance between the first and second brood and I think that the second brood is also more "showy" on the topside to. 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 14-Jun-13 09:31 PM GMT

Thanks for the comments Wurzel, and the acknowledgement on the wing undersides of the Adonis Blue. 😊 I was expecting something more like this little fellow, such beauty, but i live and learn.[attachment=0:2h4x8sr9]6. 8. 2011 018\_1.jpg[/attachment:2h4x8sr9]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 15-Jun-13 11:22 PM GMT

Denbies.....female and male Adonis Blues.....

[attachment=1:14znvckl]9.6.2013 denbies, adonis,common blues 142\_1\_1.jpg[/attachment:14znvckl][attachment=0:14znvckl]9.6.2013 denbies, adonis,common blues 385\_2.jpg[/attachment:14znvckl]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 18-Jun-13 09:55 PM GMT

June 15th.....

On a very windy evening with the sun disappearing behind the trees, i came across a male Wood White trying to woo a female that had clearly been mated. With the normal ritual for this species, repeatedly recoiling, and then propelling his Proboscis towards the female, hitting the tops and sides of her wings, which i, and many of you have seen on many occasions. But, after flying off, the male decided to chance his luck for a second time with the same female. Landing unusually high, [even though not by much] and over the top of the female, the male proceeded to lash her with his Proboscis, only this time with a difference, or at least something i had never witnessed before. The second time round the male thrust his Proboscis at the female, moving his head and body from side to side, continuously, without recoiling his Proboscis even once, hitting her on one wing, then the other, only stopping for a breather, then repeating the process again, and again, until he finally gave up. The whole ritual lasting just over six minutes, but to me a fascinating and, worth while few moments spent watching a small part of the lives of these beautiful insects.[attachment=0:sel0hsb6]15.6.13 CW wood whites 066\_2.jpg[/attachment:sel0hsb6]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 23-Jun-13 10:26 PM GMT

Orange-tip 5th instar, a few minutes before completing it`s attachment to this stick.[attachment=1:328o9rn3]20.6.13 orange-tip larva 005-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:328o9rn3]Completion[attachment=0:328o9rn3]20.6.13 orange-tip larva, 071-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:328o9rn3]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 24-Jun-13 10:59 PM GMT

28 hours, 30 minutes later.....[attachment=0:3duyr5rp]21.6.13 orange-tip pupa 2 069\_1.jpg[/attachment:3duyr5rp]

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 24-Jun-13 11:07 PM GMT

This is going to be an incredible sequence Nick 😊 . What is going on with it's head? I can just about make it out in the "spike" but where did that come from? Looking forward to the next installment.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 25-Jun-13 03:25 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, your comments are always appreciated. As for the spike appearing like that is absolutely amazing, nature is never short of ways to take your breath away. 😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 25-Jun-13 09:10 PM GMT

A further 24 hours later, with a slight adjustment to the body, and the lovely green body colour of the pupa in the previous picture, now starting to fade.....[attachment=0:29sidye3]23.6.13 orange-tip pupa 003-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:29sidye3]

### Re: hideandseek

by David M, 25-Jun-13 09:47 PM GMT

This is fantastic stuff! I hope you'll be able to keep us updated throughout the next several months.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 26-Jun-13 01:18 PM GMT

Thank you David for your comments, much appreciated. 😊 I will try to keep you updated as the pupa develops, and hopefully a photograph of the butterfly next spring.

All the Best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 28-Jun-13 09:04 PM GMT

Going back.....

I was`nt intending on going down this road but, as a couple of you have shown a keen interest in my photos of the Orange-tip larva and pupa, i thought i would throw in some facts.

When the Orange-tip larva changes to the final instar it quite quickly becomes restless, and will climb all over what is left of it`s food plant, going up, down and across it until it finally goes on walk-about, in search of a stick or plant stem of it`s choice, to pupate. This he/she will do by inspecting several sticks/ plant stems, going up and down them, pausing now and again then moving on until it finds a suitable one, normally one that is slightly bent/bowed. Once the larva is in it`s resting place, it will stay there upside down, for anywhere between five and seven hours, then just before attaching itself to the stick/plant stem it will right itself, and position itself upright still on the same spot he had come to rest on, some five hours or so earlier. The process of attachment to the stick/plant stem takes about half an hour, and here the larva will stay for between 30/40 hours before pupating. All these facts were observed in a artificial setting.[attachment=0:wo9gna0t]19.6.13 orange-tip larva 5th instar, 2 004-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:wo9gna0t]Final instar Orange-tip larva upside down on a stick,where it will eventually pupate in exactly that spot.

## Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 28-Jun-13 09:24 PM GMT

Hi Nick, one of our Orange Tip larvae has pupated and the second is in the process of doing so. We also have two more still 'feeding up' on Garlic Mustard. The pupae do start a lovely shade of green but soon begin to fade to brown. Your photos show very well the different stages involved as we have also observed. We too are looking forward to seeing an emerging Orange Tip butterfly next spring!

Regards

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 29-Jun-13 02:03 PM GMT

Hi Maximus,

I`m pleased to hear your Orange-tip larva are doing well, watching them develop is quite fascinating. It seems i have a pupa of the green form as well as a couple of the normal ones. I was watching another larva attach itself to a stem last night, and realized that the reason for the larva to spend the first few hours upside down on the stem is to make a base of silken thread so that it can attach its abdomen to it before it continues to attach the middle of it`s body to the stem, wonderful to watch and learn the reasons behind certain behaviour.[attachment=0:oy0ldtfj]26.6.13 orange-tip pupa 010\_3.jpg[/attachment:oy0ldtfj]Good luck with your pupa, all the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 29-Jun-13 11:40 PM GMT

In the photo below which was taken today, depicting the two Orange-tip pupa, the green form of this species on the right is now just over eight days old, while the more commonly found pupa on the left is about thirty hours older.[attachment=0:2gvnre40]29.6.13 orange-tip pupa 004\_1.jpg[/attachment:2gvnre40]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-Jul-13 12:23 AM GMT

A couple of close-up shots of the Orange-tip pupa, after five days.[attachment=1:162fykmu]23.6.13 orange-tip pupa 083\_1\_1.jpg[/attachment:162fykmu]Wing and head[attachment=0:162fykmu]23.6.13 orange-tip pupa 120-1\_2.jpg[/attachment:162fykmu] From the top.View of the front, showing the antennae.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-Jul-13 10:09 AM GMT

June 30th

A quick trip to Dunsfold produced my first Marbled White of the year, a single male.[attachment=0:1kn8h3sg]30.6.13 091-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1kn8h3sg]

## Re: hideandseek

by Debbie, 01-Jul-13 11:17 AM GMT

What a wonderful picture of the Marbled White 🍷🍷

Along with all your other great pictures.

Wonderful....

Debbie 😊😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-Jul-13 06:11 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comments Debbie, appreciated. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 01-Jul-13 11:15 PM GMT

Indeed a cracking shots Nick 😊 There must be something in the air today as I too saw my first Marbled Whites of the year.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 02-Jul-13 01:57 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, it was so windy that day i never thought i would get a shot in focus. Then i went back the next day and could `nt even find one Marbled White, so it just shows you, when your lucks in, its in. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 03-Jul-13 09:57 PM GMT

I am behind again with my personal diary, but whats new? So here are a couple of photos taken on 25th June at Chiddingfold Wood. The first picture is of a butterfly you don `t often see me posting in my diary, but its one that normally eludes me and my camera no matter how long i take in creeping up on the thing. But today i managed this one shot, and with the high numbers of this species flying right now, it was about time i got a photo. 😊  
[attachment=1:gcn9ru0u]25.6.13 CW 006-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:gcn9ru0u]The second picture is of a butterfly that has been flying for nearly two weeks now and, are still emerging in good numbers, [saw some today] which is very reassuring.[attachment=0:gcn9ru0u]25.6.13 CW 035\_1.jpg[/attachment:gcn9ru0u]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 03-Jul-13 11:30 PM GMT

Lovely shots Nick – especially the Speckled Wood, I like the way it's hind wing is brushing against the leaf 😊 I know what you mean about getting behind with the PD – but think of it as a good thing, it's only because you're seeing so much 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 04-Jul-13 01:12 PM GMT

Thanks again Wurzel for your comments, appreciated. 😊 The Speckled Wood is one i liked the most, especially as its a rarity for me to get a shot of this butterfly, or at least a nice one. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Mark Colvin, 04-Jul-13 01:25 PM GMT

Hi Nick,

Just briefly signing in and catching up from a very hot and humid trip to Florida.

I thought your Orange-tip pupa close ups were really first class – excellent work. I'm pleased to see the Marbled White have started to show locally. I hope you get your first Emperor soon but make sure you save me a few ...

Good hunting.

Kindest regards. Mark

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 04-Jul-13 09:07 PM GMT

Thanks Mark for your comments on my close up shots of the Orange-tip pupa, appreciated. 😊 I`m sure the Purple Emperor will still be about when you get back, as well as the Marbled White which have `nt emerged in any number as yet. I hope you are enjoying yourself out in sunny Florida, but not too much. 😊 No sign at all so far, of DG/SWF and WA locally, so you `re not missing a lot.

All the best, nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 04-Jul-13 10:24 PM GMT

This green form of a Orange-tip pupa is deformed/damaged, the abdominal region of the body below the wing case should be straight, but is now bent/creased and, there could be untold damage within the pupa to the developing butterfly in the area of it`s abdomin, how this will effect the Orange-tip when it emerges in the spring, [if it does at all] is uncertain.[attachment=0:285svtud]23.6.13 orange-tip pupa 003-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:285svtud] Thanks Vince for your input, much appreciated.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 05-Jul-13 05:26 PM GMT

June 29th

A flying visit to my local patch produced nine Wood Whites, well worn, but still lovely to see these delightful little insects still on the wing. The most numerous butterflies seen were Speckled Woods, especially along the woodland rides, and a second brood Small Tortoiseshell was seen, which was a welcome surprise, a first for a couple of years. Also showing well were Large Skippers, but not in great numbers, one mating pair in particular caught my attention, copulating on the flower, Bird`s-foot Trefoil. The only trouble though, apart from the intruding wind, blowing the flower and the mating pair all over the place was the light, with a lot of shadow, with black areas within the bodies of the courting couple. So out came the camera`s built-in-flash, which i don`t really like to use, except when i have no other option. I only managed a few shots before they parted and, went their separate ways, the result is shown below.[attachment=0:2pd3maw5]29.6.13 CW Large Skipper 004-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2pd3maw5]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 06-Jul-13 04:22 PM GMT

July 3rd

Today i found my first Ringlets of the year and, also managed to photograph my second Speckled Wood. Another 2nd brood small Tortoiseshell was seen again, now all i need is a photo, i wish, but fingers crossed, you never know whats round the corner. On my way back to the car i found another first for the year, a Small Skipper which had recently emerged, but as i was taking a picture it started to beat it`s wings, and the next thing you know, its vanished, the little blighter. Mind you, earlier in the day some very fresh Large Skippers were really obliging, which, more than made up for it. 😊  
[attachment=1:13un76wn]3.7.2013 CW 009-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:13un76wn][attachment=0:13un76wn]3.7.2013 CW 002-3\_1.jpg[/attachment:13un76wn]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 07-Jul-13 07:44 AM GMT

This is the little blighter that did a vanishing trick on me, but obviously not before i managed this one shot.[attachment=0:17tytks1]3.7.2013 CW 078-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:17tytks1]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 08-Jul-13 01:12 PM GMT

And the really obliging Large Skippers.....[attachment=2:1zcajccn]3.7.2013 CW 055-1\_2.jpg[/attachment:1zcajccn]  
[attachment=1:1zcajccn]3.7.2013 CW 034-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1zcajccn][attachment=0:1zcajccn]3.7.2013 CW 075-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:1zcajccn]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 08-Jul-13 09:33 PM GMT

And early morning the following day, a lady-in-waiting.....[attachment=0:3ulkhzn4]7.7.2013 CW Large Skipper, female 065.jpg[/attachment:3ulkhzn4]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 08-Jul-13 11:08 PM GMT

Lovely shots Nick - especially the mating pair of Large Skippers 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 09-Jul-13 07:38 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, appreciated. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 09-Jul-13 11:00 PM GMT

Later that day,....sheltering from the heat of the day,.....[attachment=1:1h1k0fp]7.7.2013 CW 238-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1h1k0fp]In a shrub called Broom[attachment=0:1h1k0fp]7.7.2013 CW 146-1\_3.jpg[/attachment:1h1k0fp]Down in amongst the vegetation

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 11-Jul-13 05:30 PM GMT

Chiddingfold Wood, July 7th

One butterfly that i am seeing regularly this year, even when i`m not out butterflying, is the Small Tortoiseshell, albeit in very small numbers, a butterfly i only normally see in the spring. So it seems this lovely insect is doing a lot better this year in the area where i live in general. Sooner or later i will get an open wing shot, but for now this fellow will do for starters.[attachment=1:jeipi9fe]7.7.2013 CW 214\_2.jpg[/attachment:jeipi9fe]While i was wandering the woods on this occasion, a young Blackcap, which had just fledged the nest, made an appearance on the side of the track, staying long enough to pose for the following photo before scurrying to the other side, and disappearing into the vegetaion.[attachment=0:jeipi9fe]7.7.2013 CW 164-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:jeipi9fe]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 11-Jul-13 08:22 PM GMT

Cracking shots Nick 😊 One step closer to the open wing Small Tort, they're just teasing you now 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 11-Jul-13 11:24 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel thats very kind of you. 😊 You say that the Small Torts. "are just teasing me now". In my opinion, they`re taking the p..., as you would of noticed by the angle of the shot, the Small Tort. is higher up than i am tall. When he did open his wings to catch a spot of sun, all i could do was to stand and stare, so when i eventually got home, i went straight on to ebay and, ordered myself a pair of stilts, 😊 i will not be beaten. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 12-Jul-13 07:41 PM GMT

Chiddingfold Wood, July 7th, continued.

The butterfly i really wanted to capture on film this visit, was the beautiful Dark-green Fritillary, hopefully a closed wing photo on their favourite food source, the Thistle. After finding a male, i decided to stick with him and, just stood there and watched him going about his business, trying to locate a female in order to woo her, then mate. He searched mainly in one small area most of the time, where i had chosen to stand, occasionally flying off to search other areas, but always returning to the small patch of vegetation in front of me. My line of thought was, that in this heat, and it was very hot, he would either have to stop for a rest, or to refuel, or both and, thats when i would get my opportunity for a photo, so an hour and a half later and, after all the failed attempts.....[attachment=0:21pr7hcr]7.7.2013 Dark-green Fritillary, male 114.jpg[/attachment:21pr7hcr]i managed to capture this beautiful specimen of this species.....

## Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 12-Jul-13 07:46 PM GMT

Hi Nick,

Beautiful photo 😊 that is just the shot that I was after but failed to get during three days in the Heddon Valley 🇬🇧

Cheers,

Neil F.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 12-Jul-13 10:28 PM GMT

Thanks Neil, appreciated. 😊 There are very few of these delightful butterflies on my local patch, this was one of only two seen last weekend, so sometimes i have no choice but to stay with a particular butterfly that i find but, its something i do a lot, find a small area, and just stand there and watch to see what turns up. Sometimes it pays dividends, and its nice just to watch, relax and, maybe learn something new. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Pauline, 13-Jul-13 08:27 PM GMT

You have been taking some very good photos recently Nick (but then you already know that, don't you 😊). Anyway, I particularly like your DGF and the

cute little Blackcap. Hope you find your female this year.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 13-Jul-13 10:42 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline, appreciated, 😊 as for getting a photo of a female DGF, i have `nt even seen one so far this year, infact i have `nt even seen a DGF on my last two visits to my local patch, but who knows whats around the corner.

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 14-Jul-13 12:11 AM GMT

Fantastic DGF Nick 😊 Good luck with the stilts 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 14-Jul-13 02:11 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, the stilts arrived yesterday. The wife thinks i `m mad, and said, "i will probably fall over whilst using them and brake both my legs." 😞

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 15-Jul-13 10:59 AM GMT

July 9th. Dreams do come true.....Part one.

The start of the Purple Emperor season always brings with it, great anticipation. Expectations are high and, there is a real buzz in the atmosphere, old friends and new gather, standing around telling stories of old, everyone listening intently. The one that got away before you could fire off a few shots with your camera, the nearly ones, three wings covered in blue but, never the forth, maybe today will be the day, or i always seem to photograph them on a smelly pile of dog`s poo, or on a mountain of horse dung. Then there is the, who will get the photo they dream of, the one they turn up for, hoping for, year after year, will someone get lucky, will someone go home with the gold medal. The only trouble is, no one really knows...and if who...

Today was the only day i could wangle off work at such short notice, and when i arrived at my destination within Chiddingfold Wood Peter Farrant and Paul Day were already there, shortly followed by Neil Hulme, with his trusty bike and, his bag off magic tricks.

Just after 11am we were rewarded with our first sighting, the Purple Emperor flying majestically down and then circling low just above the ground before landing. Our hearts pounding, we let the butterfly settle, then our camera`s were let loose, clicking away freely and speedily, not wanting to miss the moment, getting as close as we dared. [attachment=0:a8oywgio]9.7.2013 CW 071-1\_5.jpg[/attachment:a8oywgio]But then, after a few minutes and, without warning, it was gone, flying up and into a Sallow tree, content to rest there, in the shade, out of reach of the scorching sun and, our camera`s lens.....Just before twelve i had to leave for an appointment.... The Purple Emperor still sitting restfully and quietly in the Sallow.....

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 15-Jul-13 10:15 PM GMT

Dreams do come true.....Part two

.....Three and a half hours later i had returned to the wood, and was slowly making my way back to where i had photographed the Purple Emperor in the morning, the sun by now was quite unbearable and, whilst i was sticking to the shade where possible, butterflies were still hurriedly flying amongst the vegetation and, sometimes risking the possibility of sunstroke to nectar in the full glow of the sun. Then around the corner came Neil on his bike doing the rounds, checking for PE on any given track, we spoke briefly, then he was gone. Two minutes later Neil was back, cycling past me, telling me he had recieved a message that the Purple Emperor that had flown up into the Sallow that morning was down again, all i could see of him and his bike, was the back wheel as he churned up the track leaving a cloud of dust behind him.

A few minutes later i had joined Neil and Paul at the scene of expectations, sure enough the male Purple Emperor was back, but sadly Peter had left. Again we let the butterfly settle, making sure his proboscis was still, so we new he was totally at ease with his surroundings. His wings were closed tight, up-right above it`s body. A few shots of the undersides were taken by all, [attachment=0:349jnpa6]9.7.2013 CW 083-5\_1.jpg[/attachment:349jnpa6]and then the three of us waited.....

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 15-Jul-13 10:24 PM GMT

Cracking shots and a cracking cliffhanger...though I reckon I know what's coming next 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 16-Jul-13 01:08 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, appreciated. 😊 So you think you know whats coming next, well i hope i don`t disappoint you. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Lee Hurrell, 16-Jul-13 09:48 PM GMT

Great to see you on Sunday, Nick.

Looking forward to the next instalment.

Best wishes,

Lee

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 16-Jul-13 11:47 PM GMT

Thanks Lee, it was also lovely to meet up with you again.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 17-Jul-13 05:29 PM GMT

Dreams do come true.....Part three

.....so while we waited,..... my mind returned to the butterflies i saw on my walk back here, Small and Large Skippers, Marbled Whites, Silver-washed Fritillaries, Speckled Woods, Brimstone, White Admiral, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, and a flighty Large White nectaring on Thistle, dashing from one plant to another, which i managed to grab a photo of before he disappeared around the corner, in the opposite direction that i was walking.[attachment=0:37ifgt24]9.7.2013 CW 047-1\_1\_1.jpg[/attachment:37ifgt24] Anyway back to the present. As the minutes ticked by, and with the sun slowly moving west, shadows from the backdrop of trees behind us, slowly but surely crept across the sun baked landscape. Then as the shadows reached and, then engulfed the male Purple Emperor, his wings started to part, millimetre by millimetre, our hearts were in our mouths, still the wings opened, wider and.....

[So is that what you thought was coming next Wurzel] 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 17-Jul-13 09:34 PM GMT

I reckon it might be eventually if you stop teasing us with these cliffhangers 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 17-Jul-13 09:37 PM GMT

### "Wurzel" wrote:

I reckon it might be eventually if you stop teasing us with these cliffhangers

Must confess, I'm beginning to wonder what the content of the next chapter is.... 😡

## Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 18-Jul-13 05:02 PM GMT

You're a real tease Nick. Very nice photos, so far...

All the best

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 18-Jul-13 07:29 PM GMT

Thank you for your comments Wurzel, David and Mike, appreciated. Sorry about the teasing, won't happen again. 😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 18-Jul-13 11:40 PM GMT

Dreams do come true..... Part four.

.....and wider, until the far tips of it`s wings touched the ground. Now it was the magic of nature taking it`s turn in the proceedings, the moment we had all been anticipating, waiting so patiently for, the glorious blue sheen to cross and cover the entirety of it`s out-stretched wings.....and there it was, a hint of blue starting to hide the blackness of it`wings, like the rich blue of the sky awakening at dawn,[attachment=0:3ptwl96f]9.7.2013 Purple Emperor, male CW 092.jpg[/attachment:3ptwl96f] becoming ever more present as the seconds past by..... it`s true beauty coming to the fore before our very eyes, our cameras catching it all on record, to reinforce our memories.....and then at last.....

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 19-Jul-13 06:46 PM GMT

Dreams do come true.

.....the transformation was complete....the majestic Purple Emperor, the king of the Oak woodlands, in all his finery, his glory. [attachment=0:wc0755dr]9.7.2013 Purple Emperor, male, Chiddingfold Wood, Surrey 114-2.jpg[/attachment:wc0755dr] Later that day i was pleased to meet Mike, [Maximus] and his lovely wife, who Neil had great pleasure in showing them, a dream come true. And i had my dream.... hidden within the depths of my camera.....Time to go home.....

### Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 19-Jul-13 07:42 PM GMT

Fantastic image of a beautiful creature, well done Nick.

Your patience (and ours 😊) was well rewarded 😊

Neil F.

### Re: hideandseek

by Pauline, 19-Jul-13 09:06 PM GMT

I'm sure you could have strung that out another couple of days Nick 😊😊 but nice shot in the end 😊

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 19-Jul-13 11:22 PM GMT

That was the image I was expecting 😊 but you've surpassed my expectations in the quality, lush, brill, stunning 🍷🍷 Totally worth the wait 😊 Who needs a magic paintbrush when you've got a DaVinci in your camera 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 20-Jul-13 06:35 PM GMT

Thank you Neil, Pauline and Wurzel for your very kind comments, greatly appreciated. 😊😊😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 20-Jul-13 09:04 PM GMT

Fantastic image Nick, well worth waiting for! 😊 Me and the Mrs are up at the crack of dawn tomorrow in search of.....

All the best,

Mike

### Re: hideandseek

by Mark Colvin, 20-Jul-13 09:14 PM GMT

Hi Nick.

A beautiful and well deserved image. They don't come fresher than that ...

Great work 😊😊😊

Kindest regards. Mark

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 21-Jul-13 11:23 AM GMT

Thank you Mike and Mark for your kind comments, 😊😊 it certainly was worth the wait. 😊

Mike i hope you get lucky.

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 23-Jul-13 09:13 PM GMT

July 20th

Sat. morning i decided to visit my local patch to see the PE one last time, where i bumped into Susie who was also hoping to see and photograph the same butterfly. By 9.15am i had found one, eleven days after photographing my first PE of the season i was about to get my last photo. Letting Susie take all the photos she wanted first, i then took a couple of record shots to add to my memories of a great season i have had with this butterfly in these woods this year.[attachment=0:znrle8j3]20.7.2013 CW 008-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:znrle8j3]

### Re: hideandseek

by millerd, 23-Jul-13 09:26 PM GMT

I have just seen the wonderful Emperor photo on the previous page of your diary. What a magnificent creature – congratulations on capturing its beauty for us all. 😊

Dave

### Re: hideandseek

by Susie, 23-Jul-13 09:44 PM GMT

Beautiful photo , Nick. Thank you again for your kindness. 😊

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 24-Jul-13 12:53 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comments Dave and Susie, greatly appreciated. 😊😊 Its been a very long wait in capturing this particular shot of a PE, but one i will never forget.

Susie, it was a pleasure.

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 24-Jul-13 10:12 PM GMT

July 20th continued.

After Susie had left to go home, i had a quick look around before heading home myself, so i could look after my sons eight week old puppy. I did`nt feel it right to leave her all alone for too long as we had just got her a couple of days earlier, and the rest of the family were out. The first butterfly i came across was this Comma which was to high to photograph,[attachment=2:2ys98umy]20.7.2013 CW 061-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2ys98umy] so out came my newly acquired stilts, 😊 and i still was`nt high enough, and could`nt get over the top of the butterfly to achieve the shot i required, [will have to get some extensions] 😊 As i got closer to the car i thought i would try and get some photos of something closer to the ground 😊 [forget the stilts] and, chose these female Small Skippers as my last subjects before getting into the car and, heading home for a spot of puppy sittting. [attachment=1:2ys98umy]20.7.2013 CW 046-1\_2.jpg[/attachment:2ys98umy][attachment=0:2ys98umy]20.7.2013 CW 076-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2ys98umy]

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 24-Jul-13 11:07 PM GMT

Stilts or no stilts they're still great shots Nick 😊 Do you have knee pads for the low shots? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 25-Jul-13 05:04 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comment Wurzel. 😊 As for the knee-pads, i was on full tip-toes for the lower shots. 😬 😊

All the best,Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 26-Jul-13 09:16 PM GMT

At lunch breaks from work i usually take a walk, taking the same route pass a common, then down onto the Downs Link, across a play area which leads to the road where i live. Most of the butterflies i encounter at this time of year, [or at least this year] are Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Small and Large Whites plus Meadow Browns, the odd gatekeeper, Green-veined White, Speckled Wood, Ringlet, Small and Large Skippers and, if i`m really lucky a Peacock and maybe a Red Admiral. On this particular day i saw a male Marbled White on the common, [which is a first for this area] just before i cut down onto the Downs Link, where there were a couple of Commas floating about, as there are nettles all along here, i stopped to watch the two Commas as i always do, nothing normally comes of this, but today was different. One of the Commas was a female and, she instantly flew down on to a nettle and oviposited, laying just the one egg before flying off, but, not on the edge of a nettle leaf which is the norm, but on, a cluster of female flowers hanging down from the Nettle stem, [right on the bottom one]. I have looked for a reference of this behaviour, laying eggs on the flowers of Nettles, and found none, so whether this is common practise or not i have no idea.[attachment=1:10zqrypt]23.7.2013 Comma egg 045-2\_1\_1.jpg[/attachment:10zqrypt][attachment=0:10zqrypt]23.7.2013 Comma egg 023-6\_1.jpg[/attachment:10zqrypt]

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Vince Massimo, 26-Jul-13 11:26 PM GMT

Hi Nick,

I've not see or heard of such behaviour. It's very odd indeed.

Could you add the close-up image to the Species-Specific Album please.

Regards,

Vince

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Pete Eeles, 27-Jul-13 09:34 PM GMT

Great observation Nick! Thx for reporting.

Cheers,

- Pete

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 28-Jul-13 10:48 PM GMT

Sat. July 27th.

On my way home from work at lunch time, taking the same route as always i watched another female Comma ovipositing, this time the egg being placed in the correct spot, on the edge of a Nettle leaf.[attachment=0:3rcvlaxp]28.7.2013 Comma egg on Nettle leaf, Surrey 006.jpg[/attachment:3rcvlaxp]

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Neil Freeman, 28-Jul-13 11:03 PM GMT

Excellent images of Comma eggs Nick.

I have seen a couple of female Commas ovipositing recently but too deep in beds of nettles to find any eggs.

Cheers,

Neil F.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Wurzel, 28-Jul-13 11:20 PM GMT

Brill shot Nick 😊 - what lens do you use as when I try for eggs I just can't seem to get close enough?

Cheers as well as your shots saved me from great embarassment - I was watching a Comma flutter around from leaf to leaf, bending it's abdomen

around so I thought it was ovipositing. I took some photos of something but when I compared them to your detailed shots I realised that they weren't eggs – probably just grains of dirt 😞 Got away with that cheers 😄😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 29-Jul-13 12:13 PM GMT

Thank you for your comments Neil, appreciated. 😄 I was very fortunate that both Commas i witnessed ovipositing were on the side of a path or track, the first one was on a mature Nettle right in the open just underneath a bridge, the second was on a small Nettle below some Bramble, right on the edge of the path, so both very easy to find. 😄 I hope you have better luck next time. 😄

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 29-Jul-13 08:07 PM GMT

Thank you for your comments Wurzel, appreciated. 😄 The lens i always use to photograph butterflies or their eggs is the same one, a sigma 150 macro. for the two eggs i photographed i used the macro switch on the lens, as all i wanted was a pretty decent image of the egg. If i want more of the foliage plus the egg in focus i just use the lens as if i were taking pictures of butterflies, but slightly closer. But this is easier said than done, it normally takes a lot of patience, a couple of hundred attempts and, a lot of b..... swearing, 😄 especially when its as windy as it has been the last few days, making it a nightmare to photograph something so small. [My wife is going to buy me some close-up tubes, so hopefully will make photographing small objects a lot easier] As for finding the eggs after the butterfly leaves, in this case the Comma`s egg, i look for a very small bright white spot on the edge of the leaf, [which has`nt failed me yet] the white spot being the light`s reflection on the egg, making it easier to find. I hope some of that helps.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 29-Jul-13 10:23 PM GMT

Cheers for the info Nick 😄 I'll have a go now I know what I'm looking with my 105 lens. I 'm thinking about buying some extension tubes to give me a further working distance. Keep up the excellent work 😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 30-Jul-13 08:33 PM GMT

These two pictures are a follow-up to the Comma`s ovum i found on Sat. 27th July and photographed. This is how it looks after three days. [attachment=1:1ael0ydd]30.7.2013 Comma egg after 3 days, Surrey 041.jpg[/attachment:1ael0ydd][attachment=0:1ael0ydd]30.7.2013 Comma egg after 3 days, Surrey 040.jpg[/attachment:1ael0ydd]

## Re: hideandseek

by Mark Colvin, 30-Jul-13 09:58 PM GMT

Hi Nick.

Super work. I particularly like the first of your latest two images and look forward to future instalments 😄😄😄

Good hunting.

Kindest regards. Mark

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 31-Jul-13 09:54 AM GMT

Thanks Mark, really appreciated as always. 😄

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 31-Jul-13 09:34 PM GMT

Sat. 27th July

After working until midday i thought i would check a wood for second brood Wood Whites and do a count as the conditions were just right, nice and

sunny. But on the way to the location where the first brood were seen, i came across a plant that was a magnet for Brimstones, nine individuals were happily nectaring on the flowers, the males ignoring the females, which i thought was rather unusual, and there were another three feeding on the surrounding Hardheads.[attachment=2:13s4tsn9]27.7.2013 033-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:13s4tsn9] I had never seen so many in one place at any one time, so i stopped here for a while making the most of this rare opportunity [only saw two 2nd brood Brimstones last year, both at Denbies]to photograph this lovely butterfly. By the time i had finished the sun had disappeared behind a blanket of cloud, so no counting of the second brood Wood Whites would be done today.....[attachment=1:13s4tsn9]27.7.2013 013-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:13s4tsn9]  
[attachment=0:13s4tsn9]27.7.2013 040-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:13s4tsn9]

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 31-Jul-13 09:56 PM GMT

### "hideandseek" wrote:

i came across a plant that was a magnet for Brimstones, nine individuals were happily nectaring on the flowers, the males ignoring the females, which i thought was rather unusual

I think that's what you might call 'genetic programming'.

The idea that you could see male and female Brimstones ignoring one another in March and April is preposterous.

However, like all the adult hibernators that's precisely what they do in late summer. It'd be nice to know what chemical(s) are suppressed in July/August that are activated so robustly the following spring, but it's true, male and female Brimstones are interested in only one thing at this time of year....nectaring.

They seek to build up reserves to get them through hibernation and they'll happily share a thistle head without any pretext for anything else.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-Aug-13 12:56 PM GMT

Thanks for your post David, you are quite right and, i fully understand their behaviour and the reasons behind it. But this was the first time i have seen so many Brimstones together, watching them feeding without one little squabble, the males totally ignoring other males as well as the females. After watching them for some length of time, i realised they were showing their counterparts a great deal of respect, two days later on the same plant i saw four Silver-washed Fritillaries nectaring, two males, two females and, they acted in exactly the same manner, not one little tiff between them, lovely to see such impeccable manners amongst these insects, also makes them a lot easier to photograph. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-Aug-13 11:14 PM GMT

Sat. 27th July, continued.

.....but earlier that afternoon i did find a female Wood white ovipositing on Bird`s foot Trefoil down in a ditch. I did try to get a picture of the egg, but found it very near impossible and gave up, telling myself i will give it another go another day. Today was that day. Arriving mid afternoon i set up my camera on it`s tripod and positioned both down in the ditch on one side and aimed the lens down towards the egg on the other side, but i found that the camera was just too high, i needed to be lying down with the camera just a few inches [or twice as many cm] off the bottom of the ditch, but i could`nt lie down facing the ovum. So i had to lie down along the ditch with the egg to my right, i put my rucksack and camera bag down side-by-side across the ditch, placed my left arm with the camera in my left hand on the two bags at a right angle around the side of my head, then tried looking through the viewfinder whilst trying to focus with my right hand down the other side of my head at a right angle, for the first time in my life i had become a contortionist, but i wanted the photo. After getting the egg in focus, or what i thought was in focus, i let go with my right hand hoping that my left hand would hold the camera steady and in position, then with my right hand i started, or at least with my index finger, pushing down on the shutter over and over again and, hoping i had got it right, even though perspiration was by now dripping down my forehead and into my left eye and, stinging like mad. So after fortyfive minutes of torture and, it being so hot, i decided i had had enough, and hoped that i had the photo i was after. [the viewing screen on the back of my camera is really poor and, i can never really know how well i`ve done, or not, until i get home] So then it was a quick walk around some of the wood to see what i could find that was actually not flying in all this heat.....[attachment=1:2k4ow7x5]27.7.2013 2nd brood Wood White, female 173.jpg[/attachment:2k4ow7x5] 2nd brood female Wood White photographed just to the right of the egg the same day it was laid. [attachment=0:2k4ow7x5]1.8.2013 Wood White ovum after 5 days 068.jpg[/attachment:2k4ow7x5]This is the Wood White`s ovum that i photographed five days after it was laid, now having turned yellow in colour, [was white when first laid] and should hatch in a further five days.

## Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 02-Aug-13 01:11 PM GMT

Nice images Nick, especially the Wood White egg, given your determination (and discomfort) in obtaining it!

All the best

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 02-Aug-13 10:11 PM GMT

Lovely Wood White photo 🍷😊 Unfortunately family duties called so I couldn't get over your way to enjoy them, still I did see some Lulworths as a

consolation – don't know how I sneaked that one past the wife 😬😬

Great shot of the egg as well, the contortionism certainly paid off 😊, my limbs are cramping just contemplating it 😬

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 03-Aug-13 04:02 PM GMT

Thank you Mike and Wurzel, your comments are always appreciated. 😊😊 I photographed another Wood White`s ovum today just after the female had laid it on some Bitter-vetch, i did`nt even have to get down on my hands and knees this time, 😊 it was high enough for me to stand and just point the camera, so no aches and pains this time, pure bliss. 😊 Well, it was`nt quite that easy, but could of been, if it was`nt for the wind blowing it all over the place. 😡

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 03-Aug-13 10:44 PM GMT

29th July

Another quick visit to my local patch in the afternoon was proving to be hard work, apart from some brief sunshine when i first arrived and managing a few photos on my favourite Brimstone plant.[attachment=2:24r90j47]29.7.2013 CW 018-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:24r90j47]  
[attachment=1:24r90j47]29.7.2013 CW 008-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:24r90j47] The weather now seemed to be against me, the sky clouding over and, heavy showers beckoning, butterflies had all but disappeared, bunkered down in the rich vegetation, even though it was still warm. Then a long chat with a fellow enthusiast, Jenny, who was here looking for her first Wood White, passed away some of the quieter moments. Then the sun reappeared, and i soon pointed out a Wood White for her that had come out of hiding, eventually seeing 3 or 4 before her departure a very happy person. It was late afternoon by now, so i made my way back to the car, stopping at the Brimstone plant as the sun was still shining, albeit weaker as it slid down beyond the tree line, to see if i could grab a couple more photos, and thats when my luck changed. Out of the corner of my eye i caught site of something small and white low down and to the left of the Brimstone plant, [as i call it] a quick look revealed a pair of Wood Whites copulating on some small white flowers.....[attachment=0:24r90j47]29.7.2013 CW 155-1\_2.jpg[/attachment:24r90j47]so i was`nt going home just yet.....

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 04-Aug-13 10:54 AM GMT

29th July continued.....White is beautiful.....

.....but 20mins earlier i had found another pair of copulating wood Whites but, unlike the pair on the white flowers which were in the shade, this pair were performing in full sun. They were also fresher with cleaner whiter wings, and being in the sun brought out the real beauty of these butterflies. I had only found them just a few minutes before they parted,..... but a few minutes was enough to capture the following photo,.....  
[attachment=0:2s6uusg6]29.7.2013 Copulating Wood Whites, Surrey 148.jpg[/attachment:2s6uusg6]

## Re: hideandseek

by ABerryman, 04-Aug-13 10:58 AM GMT

Absolutely stunning photographs! Where were these taken if you don't mind me asking?

All the best,

Alex

## Re: hideandseek

by MikeOxon, 04-Aug-13 12:01 PM GMT

### "hideandseek" wrote:

trying to focus with my right hand down the other side of my head at a right angle

I can recommend the Seagull right-angle finder for situations like this! Only £32 from Amazon (or find it on e-bay) and it comes with adapters to fit most SLR cameras.

The body shell is plastic but it is optically very good and, if you are lucky, you get a wonderful manual written in "Chinglish" with phrases such as : "do not use the organism melting agent cleaning absolutely"

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 04-Aug-13 08:06 PM GMT

Hi Nick, superb photos of the mating Wood Whites.

All the best,

Mike

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 04-Aug-13 11:27 PM GMT

Hi Alex, thank you for your kind comments, appreciated. 😊 They were photographed at Chiddingfold Wood, in the same area as you were looking for the Purple Emperor.

Thank you Mike for taking the time to inform me of such a useful gadget, really appreciated. 😊

And thank you Mike for your kind comments on my Wood White photos, [one of my favourite butterflies] again appreciated. 😊

All the best to you all, Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 06-Aug-13 01:10 PM GMT

Up close.....[attachment=0:fjq60h07]16.9.2011 BRIMSTONE 001-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:fjq60h07]Brimstone, male.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Wurzel, 06-Aug-13 05:14 PM GMT

That is up close 😲 cracking 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 06-Aug-13 10:34 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comment Wurzel, as always appreciated. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 07-Aug-13 01:22 PM GMT

Even closer.....[attachment=0:e6ih11ck]4.8.2013 191-1\_2.jpg[/attachment:e6ih11ck]Green-vained White[attachment=1:e6ih11ck]3.8.2013 346-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:e6ih11ck]Painted Lady

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Mark Colvin, 07-Aug-13 02:47 PM GMT

Brilliant work 😊😊😊

Keep it up ...

Kindest regards. Mark

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 07-Aug-13 10:56 PM GMT

Hi Mark,

thank you for your very kind comment, appreciated as always. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Susie, 07-Aug-13 11:18 PM GMT

Those are BEAUTIFUL Nick!

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 08-Aug-13 07:01 AM GMT

Thank you Susie, appreciated. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 08-Aug-13 01:15 PM GMT

31st July...

A golden gem.....[attachment=0:pnqi31w2]31.7.201 male Silver-spotted Skipper, Ranmore, Surrey 038.jpg[/attachment:pnqi31w2]

## Re: hideandseek

by Mark Colvin, 09-Aug-13 04:43 PM GMT

Hi Nick.

An unusual but very interesting composition. I like it ... 😊😊😊

Good hunting.

Kindest regards. Mark

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 09-Aug-13 07:53 PM GMT

Thanks Mark. Thats exactly what i was trying to achieve, something different, unusual to what i normally photograph, something you don`t always get to witness, so i`m glad you like it. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 09-Aug-13 09:45 PM GMT

Absolutely cracking, a blinder if a shot Nick 🍷 I have never seen a proboscis captured like that 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 10-Aug-13 12:22 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel. 😊 I was rather lucky in getting the photo, but you need luck now and again. 😊 Why this male was throwing his Proboscis up into the air in this manner i have no idea?, he only did it twice, so it was great to capture it on film for eternity, and also capturing the colours inbetween the wings, which is something that also does`nt happen all that often.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 10-Aug-13 02:03 PM GMT

31st July, continued.....After an early visit to Denbies the day before with my good friend Mark Colvin, it started to rain soon after arriving but undeterred we still had a look around for roosting butterflies. The Chalkhills were found in huge numbers, with a lot of them sitting on their sides,their wings flat, facing skywards and, even though the vegetation was soaked all around them, not one butterfly was wet, not a drop of water to be found anywhere on their tiny bodies, even after four hours of continuous rain. This really amused me, as we were both drenched..... but the following day told a different story, with the sun showing itself, the Chalkhill Blues were putting on a fabulous display.....[attachment=0:38ubwdwc]31.7.2013 Denbies 044-2\_2.jpg[/attachment:38ubwdwc]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 10-Aug-13 09:56 PM GMT

You're starting to tease us again Nick 😊 Looking forward to the delectable delights 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 10-Aug-13 11:11 PM GMT

Me a tease, Wurzel? must have the wrong fellow. 😊 No, really i`m still sorting through the photos, thats how far behind i am, and i can`t make my mind up on which ones to post. 😊

All the best, Nick.

31st July, continued.....[attachment=0:bw23aax4]31.7.2013 Denbies 194\_2.jpg[/attachment:bw23aax4]

## Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 11-Aug-13 10:07 AM GMT

Nice stuff Nick, and yes you are a bit of a tease. The close-ups are brilliant and love the SS Skipper with Proboscis outstretched, lovely shot.

All the best,

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 11-Aug-13 01:57 PM GMT

Thanks for your comments Mike, appreciated. 😊😊 A bit of a tease, i don`t know where all this is coming from. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 11-Aug-13 10:29 PM GMT

31st July, continued.....

What i really wanted to find on this trip was a very fresh male Chalkhill Blue, so fresh that it`s wings were still floppy and wet, so that i could photograph it as it dries, which only takes about twenty minutes with the males once they have found a nice resting place in the sun but, a lot longer when it comes to the females, normally over an hour. So it was a case of eyes down, looking into the grass hoping to spot one creeping up and out from the depths of the vegetation and, to my surprise found one quite quickly.....so from floppy, to nice and dry.....

[attachment=2:353uxjn7]31.7.2013 Denbies 093-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:353uxjn7][attachment=0:353uxjn7]31.7.2013 Denbies 134-1\_1\_2.jpg[/attachment:353uxjn7][attachment=1:353uxjn7]31.7.2013 Denbies 116-5\_6.jpg[/attachment:353uxjn7]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 13-Aug-13 09:31 PM GMT

2nd August...

This is a picture of the Comma`s ovum i photographed on Sat. 30th July after three days of it being laid.[attachment=0:3bufz4js]30.7.2013 Comma egg after 3 days, Surrey 041.jpg[/attachment:3bufz4js] Now a further three days on the young caterpillar has successfully emerged as shown in the next photo with the empty membrane of the egg to the top left of the picture, a tiny hairy thing no more than 2mm in length, less than twelve hours old and still not had it`s first meal.[attachment=2:3bufz4js]2.8.2013 053-10.jpg[/attachment:3bufz4js] On hatching the larva will head straight for the back of a leaf, where it uses the hairs on it`s body to attach itself to the leaf as depicted in the last photo.[attachment=1:3bufz4js]2.8.2013 054-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:3bufz4js] Even with a strong wind blowing, as it was when i was trying to capture this image, the young larva stayed put, just showing you how tough and resilient these little insects are.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 13-Aug-13 10:08 PM GMT

Absolutely cracking shots as usual Nick – you have certainly mastered high levels of quality control and consistency 🇩🇪 The life cycle shots tell a great story and the close up detail of the wing – fantastic 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 14-Aug-13 07:08 AM GMT

Thank you for your very kind comments Wurzel, really appreciated. 😊😊😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 14-Aug-13 07:41 PM GMT

Hi Nick,

Great images of the little Comma larva, fascinating stuff 😊

All the best,

Neil F.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Mark Colvin, 14-Aug-13 07:59 PM GMT

Great work, Nick.

I particularly like the first shot of the Comma egg; great composition and clarity.

Undoubtedly the best I've seen ...

Kindest regards. Mark

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 14-Aug-13 10:46 PM GMT

Thank you Neil and Mark for your kind comments on the Comma egg and larva, 😊😊 a subject that i find fascinating. 😊

All the best, Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 15-Aug-13 09:59 PM GMT

2nd August...

What was supposed to be a quick visit to the North Downs to hopefully photograph a female Silver-spotted Skipper, ended up being a five hour stint. The pure scale of the beauty of these hills is quite unique with tens of thousands of Chalkhill Blues flying, who would `nt want to just sit there and enjoy the spectacle. But i think i over did it a bit, nearly forgetting the reason for my visit.....but not quite.....[attachment=0:1jakhobw]2.8.2013 Silver-spotted Skipper, female, Denbies017,1.jpg[/attachment:1jakhobw]

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Wurzel, 15-Aug-13 10:38 PM GMT

Lovely shot Nick 😊 She certainly seems to have a heavy abdomen does this mean she's yet to lay?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 16-Aug-13 01:13 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, 😊 every time i looked at her i thought she might be expectant, or is it just the fact that the wings are slightly back showing more of the abdomen than usual, which are quite chubby on these lovely little insects. But if she is heavily laden with eggs, then i `m sure she is ready to lay, or was when i took the photo. 😊

All the best, Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 16-Aug-13 10:14 PM GMT

3rd August.....South Downs.....

Dew drops.....

[attachment=1:ewfo6ksn]3.8.2013 062\_4.jpg[/attachment:ewfo6ksn][attachment=2:ewfo6ksn]3.8.2013 058\_3.jpg[/attachment:ewfo6ksn]  
[attachment=0:ewfo6ksn]3.8.2013 062-13\_4.jpg[/attachment:ewfo6ksn]

### **Re: hideandseek**

by David M, 16-Aug-13 10:30 PM GMT

Nice sequence. Definitely haven't seen raindrop-bedecked Clouded Yellow images before.

Very imaginative.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 16-Aug-13 11:10 PM GMT

Hold the phone Nick that is an immense series of shots 🤩👍👍 I remember your very kind comments about my dew covered Marbled Whites and I will now return them to you 1000 fold, shot of the year in my book 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Pauline, 17-Aug-13 06:47 AM GMT

That's a great photo Nick and clearly a lot of effort has gone into it - I'm guessing perhaps even more than one visit. Wish I could get out that early in the morning more often as it really is the best time .....

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 17-Aug-13 05:38 PM GMT

Thank you David, Wurzel and Pauline for your very kind comments, really appreciated. 😊😊😊

Pauline, it was just the one visit to the South Downs, i found the Clouded Yellow within minutes of arriving that morning. 😊

David, i think the butterfly did everything for me, so i did`nt have to be all that imaginative. 😊

Wurzel, you did`nt have to return my comments 1000 fold, but it was extremely kind of you and, really appreciated, thank you. 😊😊😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 17-Aug-13 06:34 PM GMT

Stunning images Nick, they really stand out!

All the Best

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 17-Aug-13 08:16 PM GMT

Thank you Mike thats very kind of you. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 17-Aug-13 11:00 PM GMT

3rd August... South Downs.... continued.....

A lady painted...[attachment=1:2vhbh242]3.8.2013 251\_1.jpg[/attachment:2vhbh242][attachment=2:2vhbh242]3.8.2013 215-1\_3.jpg[/attachment:2vhbh242][attachment=0:2vhbh242]3.8.2013 218-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2vhbh242]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 18-Aug-13 01:40 PM GMT

4th August..

It was back to my local patch today and, it was one of my better decisions. The variety of butterflies on the wing, and in good numbers amazed me, with Silver-washed Fritillaries, [the females out numbering the males] White Admirals, a single Painted Lady, Wood Whites, peacocks, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Brimstones, Green-veined, Small and Large Whites, Gatekeepers, a single Small Tortoiseshell, a handful of Common blues, Comma, a Speckled Wood, plus Small and Large skippers making it a very memorable day.[attachment=1:394yvdnx]4.8.2013 155-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:394yvdnx]Finding another pair of Wood White in copulation was the highlight of the trip for me,[attachment=0:394yvdnx]4. 8. 2011 094-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:394yvdnx]plus getting up-close to this Ringlet for this photo.

Seeing eighteen species of butterfly on one visit is a record for me in this wood, sorry correction, and then it was nineteen, i spotted a butterfly i had`nt seen in this wood in many a year, and one i was really hoping to see today,.....

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 18-Aug-13 06:04 PM GMT

Great shots Nick – the Painted Lady sequence is great, now you see it now you don't 😊 The Wood Whites are hanging around, I'm gutted now that all my Brownie points got used up 😞 Still there's always next year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 18-Aug-13 08:17 PM GMT

Just catching up on your diary Nick, some great images in the last few posts 😊

The dew covered Clouded Yellow sequence is superb.

All the best,

Neil F.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 18-Aug-13 10:57 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel and Neil for your kind comments, as always appreciated. 😊😊

Wurzel you don't know what you have missed with the wood Whites, but lets hope next year is a good one for these lovely little butterflies and, you get to see them. 😊

Neil, the sequence of the dew covered Clouded Yellow photos has probably given me more pleasure than any other photo i've taken this year, well, apart from the PE. 😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 19-Aug-13 05:34 PM GMT

Very nice shots Nick, I see you're also playing spot the Painted Lady 😊 The Ringlet close-up is great 😊

All the best,

Mike

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 19-Aug-13 09:49 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comments Mike, as always appreciated. 😊😊 Playing spot the lady, you know how i love to play games. 😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 20-Aug-13 09:09 PM GMT

4th August, continued.....

.....my 19th species for the day was what i was hoping to see, a Clouded Yellow. It is always so much more satisfying to see such a butterfly on your local patch, rather than having to travel miles to see one, made the day a great one.....[attachment=0:1ysdemhu]4.8.2013 056-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1ysdemhu]

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 20-Aug-13 10:40 PM GMT

Cracking shot again Nick 🍷 I tried getting close to a Clouded Yellow or three on Monday but they were remarkably skittish – how do you manage it?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 21-Aug-13 07:18 PM GMT

Thank you for your very kind comment again Wurzel, really appreciated. 😊😊 As for your question, how do i get so close to the butterfly, i got up very early to get the photo of the dew covered Clouded Yellow and found it before it was warm enough for the butterfly to fly, the second one was just luck. I have tried on a few other occasions to photograph them in hot weather and failed. They land on a flower to nectar, you approach with caution, and then

you go to press the shutter down and, there gone, and they do this relentlessly totally frustrating you, 😡 well thats the polite way of putting it, i can think of a few other ways of putting it. 😏😏

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 22-Aug-13 09:45 PM GMT

Up date on the Comma larva. Now reaching the stage of 2nd instar, the body hairs of the newly emerged larva having been replaced by black and white spikes[attachment=0:2y1zy1a6]Comma larva 005-1\_2.jpg[/attachment:2y1zy1a6]it regularly feeds for a few minutes at a time throughout the day, [attachment=1:2y1zy1a6]Comma larva 010-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2y1zy1a6]before it curls-up for a quick siesta.....oh for an easy life.....i wish... 😊

### Re: hideandseek

by Pete Eeles, 22-Aug-13 09:54 PM GMT

Nice work Nick! These would make a good addition to the species-specific albums; I honestly didn't realise how different this instar was – good stuff!

Cheers,

– Pete

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 23-Aug-13 01:06 PM GMT

Thanks Pete, 😊 and will add to species-specific albums later.

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 23-Aug-13 09:43 PM GMT

At last.....

After a five year wait, i have actually seen a summer brood Peacock. 😊 Well, quite a few now, sometimes seeing up to five in one visit to my local patch. Today , the 10th August one of these beautiful butterflies sat still long enough for me to photograph it,.....at last..... 😊  
[attachment=0:1oj36kfh]10.8.2013 CW 035\_1\_2.jpg[/attachment:1oj36kfh]

### Re: hideandseek

by Pete Eeles, 23-Aug-13 10:30 PM GMT

Very nice Nick – and pin sharp!

Cheers,

– Pete

### Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 24-Aug-13 10:31 AM GMT

Great photo Nick, glad you got one at last 😊

I reckon you just made it in time. This seems to have been a good year for Peacocks with large numbers seen around most of the country but this past week numbers by me have dropped considerably as they have filled up their reserves and started tucking themselves away for hibernation.

All the best,

Neil F.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 24-Aug-13 02:24 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comments Pete and Neil. 😊😊 Well worth the wait, but i hope its not going to be another five year wait for my next photo. 😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by David M, 24-Aug-13 02:30 PM GMT

**"hideandseek" wrote:**

Well worth the wait, but i hope its not going to be another five year wait for my next photo.

I can't believe you've waited that long for a summer Peacock.

What part of the country are you in, Nick?

**Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 24-Aug-13 07:36 PM GMT

David, it has been five years since i last took a picture of a summer Peacock, i checked my diary, and i can also remember exactly where i photographed the butterfly. 😊 They are in very short supply where i live,[ close to the Surrey, Sussex border] in the spring i know a place very close to home where i can always see one or two, but then they seem to disappear into thin air, why i have no idea as there are large areas with Nettles all around here. This year has been an excellent one for these butterflies, and so i finally got my opportunity. The Peacock is what i call a wandering butterfly, one that can turn up anywhere at any given time, so thats what i was waiting for.....no rush..... 😊 😊

All the best, Nick.

**Re: hideandseek**

by David M, 24-Aug-13 08:19 PM GMT

Thanks for that, Nick. I thought at first you might live in a more butterfly-bereft area, but given your location I'm now even more surprised. I'm aware Small Tortoiseshells are scarce in some parts of the south east, but I'd always thought Peacocks were fairly common everywhere.

**Re: hideandseek**

by Wurzel, 24-Aug-13 08:54 PM GMT

Fantastic Nick really glad you got it 😊 And with that shot it was totally worth the wait

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 24-Aug-13 11:18 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel for your kind comments, 😊 now all i need is an opened wing shot of a Small Tortoiseshell, i still have my stilts just in case they are needed. 😊

All the best, Nick.

**Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 25-Aug-13 09:46 PM GMT

11th August

It was another visit to my local patch again today but, not to try for another photo of a Peacock, don` t like to push my luck, 😊 but just because i enjoy it and, love photographing the butterflies here. Its like a second home to me, and so peaceful, rarely seeing another sole, and you just don` t know what hidden surprises there are around any given corner, like this male Brimstone.....[attachment=1:1mcdlboi]11.8.2013 CW 046\_2.jpg[/attachment:1mcdlboi]...and then when i got home [my first home] i watched a female Small White lay this egg on one of my wife`s garden plants...[attachment=0:1mcdlboi]11.8.2013 Small White ovum, garden, 049.jpg[/attachment:1mcdlboi]...see even my wife is giving a helping hand towards nature, even though she does` nt realize it... 😊

**Re: hideandseek**

by Wurzel, 26-Aug-13 06:22 PM GMT

Great Brimstone shots, together they make a nice pairing, either end of the lifecycle 😊 If your wife wanted to help out a bit more she could always hold/steady your stilts 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 26-Aug-13 10:08 PM GMT

Thanks again for your kind comments Wurzel. 😊 😊 I needed those stilts today for a couple of high shots of some larva, but forgot to bring them with

me, so i asked a complete stranger if he would`nt mind if i got up on his shoulders to take a few pics, you can guess what his reply was, ..... ..

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 27-Aug-13 09:47 PM GMT

11th August, continued.....

A return trip to my local patch mid afternoon brought me three more Clouded Yellows, 😊 but they were not playing ball in the hot sunny conditions. Flying from one flower head to another at high speed, nectaring for a few seconds before flying off again to the next feeding post with me in hot pursuit, but failing to keep up. 😞 But i never give up.....and eventually i caught up, the butterfly probably seeing the state i was in, on my hands and knees, 😊 and feeling sorry for me reduced it`s speed and allowed me a couple of shots before taking to the wing at brakeneck speed once again.....  
[attachment=3:2qr2swyr]11.8.2013 CW 071-3\_1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2qr2swyr][attachment=2:2qr2swyr]11.8.2013 CW 071-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2qr2swyr][attachment=1:2qr2swyr]11.8.2013 CW 072-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:2qr2swyr][attachment=0:2qr2swyr]11.8.2013 CW 071-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:2qr2swyr]

### Re: hideandseek

by millerd, 27-Aug-13 09:56 PM GMT

That was well worth the effort, Nick – what a beautiful insect superbly captured.

Dave

### Re: hideandseek

by Mark Colvin, 27-Aug-13 10:50 PM GMT

She's a stunner, Nick.

Great work. I particularly like the first close up ...

Kindest regards. Mark

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 27-Aug-13 10:52 PM GMT

Fantastic detail Nick 🍷😊 I sometimes think that Butterflies do just toy with us 😊 ...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 28-Aug-13 08:52 PM GMT

Thank you Dave, Mark and Wurzel for your very kind and generous comments, really appreciated. 😊😊😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 28-Aug-13 08:58 PM GMT

Great photos of the Clouded Yellow Nick, and the Brimstone and egg in the earlier post, excellent stuff 😊

All the best,

Neil F.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 28-Aug-13 11:32 PM GMT

Thank you again for your very kind comments Neil, really appreciated. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 29-Aug-13 11:10 AM GMT

Some lovely Clouded Yellow shots Nick, they can be very hard work, you press the shutter release button and end up with a photo of an empty flower head 😞 and thats after spending ages getting into position 😱 😊

All the best,

Mike

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 29-Aug-13 05:41 PM GMT

Thank you Mike. 😊 😊 Photos of empty flower heads! I have a whole library full of them. 😊 😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 29-Aug-13 10:08 PM GMT

Up date on the Comma larva....

I went to photograph the 3rd instar larva and missed it, it had just shed it`s skin for the final time. [been really busy] So here are three photos of the Comma larva, now two days into the 4th instar stage[attachment=2:ji0amlfb]19.8.2013 005-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:ji0amlfb]  
[attachment=1:ji0amlfb]19.8.2013 003-3\_1.jpg[/attachment:ji0amlfb][attachment=0:ji0amlfb]19.8.2013 Comma 2 days into 4th instar 003.jpg[/attachment:ji0amlfb]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 31-Aug-13 12:26 PM GMT

18th August...

A different view....[attachment=0:2xm5pgez]18.8.2013 CW female Common Blue 059.jpg[/attachment:2xm5pgez]Common Blue, female

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 31-Aug-13 09:40 PM GMT

A different view...

[attachment=0:zw3nhbl1]25.8.13 Common Blue, male 039.jpg[/attachment:zw3nhbl1]Common Blue, male....

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-Sep-13 12:38 PM GMT

A different view..

Wood White, female...[attachment=1:k2d2lby3]18.8.2013 CW female Wood White 032.jpg[/attachment:k2d2lby3][attachment=0:k2d2lby3]18.8.2013 CW antennae, female Wood White 029.jpg[/attachment:k2d2lby3]

### Re: hideandseek

by Mark Colvin, 01-Sep-13 04:40 PM GMT

Hi Nick,

Great close-up work. I particularly like the detail of the Wood White wing and antennae 😊 😊 😊

Keep it up ...

Kindest regards. Mark

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 01-Sep-13 06:16 PM GMT

Stunning, stunning shots Nick 😊 😊 I wish I had the craft and the guts to do something so different and execute it so perfectly 🍷 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-Sep-13 11:55 PM GMT

Mark, thank you for your very kind words, appreciated as always. 😊😊 The photo of the antennae was extremely difficult to capture, so I am glad you particularly liked that shot, and the photo of the Wood White's wing, which was only a very small section of the hindwing.

Wurzel, thank you for your extremely kind comments, 😊😊 appreciated as always. I'm sure you will achieve the same standard of photo or better when you get your extension tubes as your photography is already excellent.

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 03-Sep-13 09:03 AM GMT

A late summer's wish.....

Clouded Yellow ovum.....[attachment=1:2jdhowk0]17.8.2013 Clouded Yellow ovum 003\_2.jpg[/attachment:2jdhowk0]  
[attachment=2:2jdhowk0]12.8.2013--Clouded-Yellow-ovum CW 023-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:2jdhowk0][attachment=0:2jdhowk0]16.8.2013 Clouded Yellow ovum 030-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2jdhowk0]

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 05-Sep-13 07:25 PM GMT

Up date on the Comma larva.....

The Comma larva attached itself to a Nettle leaf stem on the 22.8 at 10.45pm, so I took a few photos before setting off to work the following morning. [attachment=1:lgx9048i]23.8.13 Comma pupa 008-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:lgx9048i] And when I finished work this is how I found it. [attachment=0:lgx9048i]23.8.13 Comma pupa 078\_4.jpg[/attachment:lgx9048i]

### Re: hideandseek

by David M, 05-Sep-13 09:14 PM GMT

Superb stuff. Vince Massimo has competition! 😊

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 05-Sep-13 11:17 PM GMT

Fantastic close up shots Nick 🍷😊 It's great watching their progress, fingers crossed for the Clouded Yellow 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Vince Massimo, 06-Sep-13 12:18 AM GMT

Excellent work Nick 😊

Last year the pupal stages for my Commas lasted between 12 and 20 days. I reared 2 this year which took 13 and 16 days respectively to hatch.

Vince

### Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 06-Sep-13 08:46 PM GMT

Lovely stuff Nick, great close-ups as always 😊

Mike

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 07-Sep-13 05:12 PM GMT

Thank you David, Wurzel, Vince and Mike for your really kind comments, appreciated. 😊😊😊😊

Wurzel, I have everything crossed for the next generation of Clouded Yellows, so much so I fell on the floor when I tried to get up from my chair. 😊😊

Vince, it took my Comma nine and a half days to emerge, from the time the larva had attached itself to the Nettle leaf stem. Much quicker than anticipated, I was looking at about fourteen days.

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 08-Sep-13 04:22 PM GMT

26th August... Hanging on.....just....

Another visit to my local patch on this beautiful sunny afternoon produced so many Brimstones all feeding up for the long winter ahead of them. They did `nt bat an eyelid as i got in their face with my camera, some even landing closer to me than the one i was photographing, which was such a nice change from their normal behaviour of clearing off before you can get anywhere near them. A couple of Peacocks were also seen along with some tatty Silver-washed Fritillaries, all females, Common Blues, an egg laying Wood White, the lastest i have witnessed this, a few Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers plus Green-vained, Small and Large Whites, and just about hanging on was a male Large Skipper.[attachment=1:2sjn3waw]26.8.13 CW 117-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2sjn3waw] And for a different reason, a Small Copper, hanging on in these woods, just. As this was the first individual i have seen here for two years, so was a lovely surprise.....[attachment=0:2sjn3waw]26.8.13 CW 155-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2sjn3waw]

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 08-Sep-13 07:23 PM GMT

### "hideandseek" wrote:

26th August...and just about hanging on was a male Large Skipper.

Wow. He looks in decent nick too.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 08-Sep-13 10:09 PM GMT

Agreed that Small Copper looks great, must be using Revitalift 😊 That Large Skipper seems really late but then it's been a bit all over the place this year timing wise.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 09-Sep-13 08:56 PM GMT

Some great images in the past few posts Nick and some really interesting close ups 😊

All the best,

Neil F.

## Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 10-Sep-13 07:04 PM GMT

Have to agree with David and Wurzel about the great condition of the Large Skipper Nick 😊

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 11-Sep-13 05:06 PM GMT

Thanks David, Wurzel, Neil and Mike for your comments, appreciated as always. 😊😊😊😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 13-Sep-13 06:12 PM GMT

26th August, continued.....

As i mentioned earlier in my post the Brimstones were feeding up for their long winter ahead in hibernation, and were so approachable, being able to get my camera in their face. One individual decided to get in my face whilst i was photographing a female, which was my main objective, getting a nice picture of the fairer sex of this species. All i had to do was slightly turn the camera and press the shutter button down,

[attachment=0:2xb2u8na]26.8.13 CW 070-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2xb2u8na]and as you can see, she was certainly in my face..... 😊

Here are a couple of female Brimstones i managed to photograph....[attachment=2:2xb2u8na]26.8.13 CW 063-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2xb2u8na]

[attachment=1:2xb2u8na]26.8.13 CW 102-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2xb2u8na]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 14-Sep-13 09:23 AM GMT

26th August, continued...

And last of all a couple of male Brimstone to make the day complete.[attachment=1:34sscsp5]26.8.13 CW 080\_2.jpg[/attachment:34sscsp5]  
[attachment=0:34sscsp5]26.8.13 CW 129-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:34sscsp5]

### Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 14-Sep-13 06:16 PM GMT

Absolutely stunning photos Nick 😊 but at this rate you'll still be on the 26th August at Christmas 😊😊

Mike

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 14-Sep-13 10:32 PM GMT

Lush photos Nick 🍷😊 But the close up is just something else 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 15-Sep-13 01:13 PM GMT

Hi Nick, have just seen that as I was interrupted when posting my response to your Brimstone photos, I somehow managed to leave out the final part 😞 WHICH WOULD BE GREAT 😊😊 Not quite the same impact now I know!

All the best

Mike

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 15-Sep-13 11:00 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel and Mike [twice] 😊 for your kind comments, very much appreciated. 😊😊 But i should thank the Brimstones as well for making it so easy for me. 😊

So here goes Mike...just for you.... 😊

26th August, continued...

I mentioned earlier in my post that i saw a female Wood White ovipositing, the latest i have ever witnessed this. Here is a photo of that egg laid on Bird`s-foot Trefoil.[attachment=0:39azl2am]26.8.13 Wood White ovum CW 180\_2.jpg[/attachment:39azl2am]I kept an eye on this ovum over the coming days, the change of the colouring of the egg until it eventually.....But all that is in the future... over a weeks time.. or is that the past now.... 😊

### Re: hideandseek

by Goldie M, 16-Sep-13 01:53 PM GMT

Just love your close up Photo Nick, it's fantastic 😊 Goldie

### Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 16-Sep-13 07:21 PM GMT

Hi Nick,

Lovely Brimstone images and that close up looks incredibly cute 😊

All the best,

Neil F.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 16-Sep-13 10:52 PM GMT

Thank you Goldie and Neil for your lovely kind words. 😊😊 The close-up shot was handed to me on a plate, and as luck would have it i had the appropriate lens on my camera to make the shot. There is that rare occasion when everything goes right for you, and this was one of them. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 19-Sep-13 09:59 PM GMT

3rd September...

Another visit to my local patch on another glorious sunny day produced good numbers of butterflies old and new. The Speckled Wood just out numbering the Whites, and as i walked along the track this beautiful male Speckled Wood, dark form, landed in front of me, begging me to take it`s photograph.[attachment=1:widziaqn]CWSpeckled Wood, male, Dark form 011-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:widziaqn]Then on the way back to the car just slightly further up the track this one, probably the same one, offered itself up for a closed wing shot.[attachment=0:widziaqn]CW Speckled Wood, male 278-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:widziaqn]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 20-Sep-13 09:31 PM GMT

Great shots Nick, the second one has a lovely autumnal glow 😊  
Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 21-Sep-13 03:32 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel for your kind comments. 😊😊 Its not often i get to photograph them as they always see me coming and either disappear into the tree tops, or just move further down the track and when i approach them again, they double back on me. 😡

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 21-Sep-13 07:20 PM GMT

12th September...Long-tailed Blues..

I declined from posting these photos when i first found this beautiful but rare butterfly to our shores simply to to protect them from possible predation by butterfly collectors.Now other people have seen and photographed them i felt the time was right to post. They were found on the south coast whilst i was visiting family, and i will not be disclosing their where-abouts for their own safety, and to live their short lives as they should, in the countryside, not pinned to some board. Since finding a lovely female, photos below, i have photographed a male at the same site two days later. It was such a thrill to see them here and i hope others like yourselves will get the opportunity to enjoy this rare and beautiful insect.....[attachment=0:1nvggi0k]Long-tailed Blue, female 054\_28.jpg[/attachment:1nvggi0k][attachment=1:1nvggi0k]Long-tailed Blue, female 052-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:1nvggi0k]

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 21-Sep-13 07:44 PM GMT

Are there REALLY still people out there who wish to capture, kill and mount for purely cosmetic reasons?

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 22-Sep-13 01:35 PM GMT

Hi David,

People still collect eggs when all you have to do is photograph them for the record, but with some people a photograph is not enough they want the real thing, and the same thing applies with butterflies. It is a real shame that this kind of thing still goes on today, but it does and, probably always will.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 22-Sep-13 10:01 PM GMT

Absolutely cracking shots Nick 😊 And I'm enjoying them all the more as this could be as close as I get to them 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Butterflysaurus rex, 22-Sep-13 10:04 PM GMT

Lovely LTB shots there Nick, I hope I get a crack at one 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 22-Sep-13 10:08 PM GMT

### "Wurzel" wrote:

Absolutely cracking shots Nick 😊 And I'm enjoying them all the more as this could be as close as I get to them 📷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Totally agree 📷 😊

All the best,

Neil F.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 24-Sep-13 10:06 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel, Rex and Neil for all your kind comments, appreciated. 😊 😊 😊

On the butterfly front, i saw a male Brimstone, a Peacock plus a few Small Whites today on my lunch break.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Pauline, 25-Sep-13 01:31 PM GMT

Lovely shots of the LTB Nick – so pristine. I understand Mark has collected some eggs and they started hatching on 11th so I am looking forward to seeing his shots too – even if I have to buy the Sussex Mag!

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 25-Sep-13 06:07 PM GMT

Thank you Pauline, appreciated. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 26-Sep-13 04:53 PM GMT

3rd September, continued....

I found a Wood White`s ovum on the 26th August, this is the same ovum 5 days later, now having turned yellow, [was white when first layed].  
[attachment=1:3ni625c7]Wood White ovum after 5 days 008\_1.jpg[/attachment:3ni625c7] It should hatch after 7 days, and i was hoping to photograph the larva emerging, but i could`nt get back to the wood until the 8th day [3rd Sept.]i was just hoping hatching had been delayed. When i reached the location of the ovum and inspected it i could see i was still in luck, the egg was still intact, and now had reverted back to it`s original colour of white.  
[attachment=0:3ni625c7]CW Wood White ovum after 8 days 262-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:3ni625c7]

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 28-Sep-13 12:48 PM GMT

5th September...

Two days later i returned to the location of the Wood White`s ovum to find it had just hatched, third time lucky for me as i had found two other eggs this year and missed the emergence of the larva and failed to find any trace of the caterpillar. The light was very poor and it was blowing a slight wind, all the photos were taken at the following camera settings.Speed 1/40th of a second, aperture value 5-0 bar one that was taken at 1/60th sec. and AV 6-0, which are very poor settings especially for close-up photography and i was surprised to get any sort of photo. They are definitely not the best photos i have taken this year and not the sharpest but, are certainly my favourites, and between the four of them depicts just how beautiful and cute the first instar Wood White larva is.I did return to try and find it again but, found no sign of the larva, so will try again next year, and hopefully get some better photos.[attachment=3:2xu2e5vd]Wood White larva just hatched, Chiddingfold Wood, Surrey 033-5\_1.jpg[/attachment:2xu2e5vd]  
[attachment=2:2xu2e5vd]Wood White larva just hatched, Chiddingfold Wood, Surrey 023-6\_1.jpg[/attachment:2xu2e5vd]  
[attachment=1:2xu2e5vd]Wood White larva just hatched, Chiddingfold Wood, Surrey 036-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:2xu2e5vd]  
[attachment=0:2xu2e5vd]Wood White larva just hatched, Chiddingfold Wood, Surrey 032-2\_2.jpg[/attachment:2xu2e5vd]This larva is no longer than 3mm in length.

## Re: hideandseek

by Susie, 28-Sep-13 09:33 PM GMT

Astonishing photos once again. Marvellous!

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 29-Sep-13 02:26 PM GMT

I'm trying see the larva without anthropomorphising but all I can think is that it looks "cute". Brill shots despite your self critiquing 😊 Are the dark marks at the head end the forerunners to eyes or just pigmentation?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 29-Sep-13 07:50 PM GMT

Thank you both Susie and Wurzel for your very kind comments, appreciated. 😊😊

Wurzel, caterpillars have six pairs of eyes, and you were right the first time, the black spots are it`s eyes [Ocelli]. They can`t see like you and i, but can detect light intensity and, they feel, touch through the very small hairs that cover a caterpillars body. Hope that helps.

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 29-Sep-13 09:36 PM GMT

Cracking photos of the Wood White egg and caterpillar Nick, certainly is a cute looking little critter 😊

All the best,

Neil.

### Re: hideandseek

by Pauline, 30-Sep-13 08:48 AM GMT

Hi Nick, I'm sure I'm not the only one who would love to see your photo of the male LTB from the South coast – are you going to keep us waiting much longer?

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 30-Sep-13 07:57 PM GMT

I would love to see your photos from your resent trip to Kingsdown Leas too Pauline. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 30-Sep-13 08:00 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comments Neil, appreciated as always. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Pauline, 30-Sep-13 08:18 PM GMT

Sadly, my LTB pics were of quite worn individuals Nick, not pristine like yours, but they will be in my diary at the start of next year. Perhaps you could also treat us to some of the photos of the immature stages you took at Mark's house at the same time, as that is something many of us have never seen.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 30-Sep-13 10:08 PM GMT

Hi Pauline,

I do not intend to post any of the early stages i photographed at marks home, [which were not many] as i know he has some superb images, which he plans to use for a future project.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Pauline, 01-Oct-13 07:36 AM GMT

Fair enough Nick – there's still your male LTB from the south coast to look forward to seeing tho 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 05-Oct-13 12:11 PM GMT

Cracking photos in your last few posts Nick, great shots of the LTB's 😊

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 06-Oct-13 02:24 PM GMT

Thank you Mike, appreciated. 😊 I still have a few posts to catch up on and, maybe some early stages if i get the time to sort through all the photos, [hundreds] been really busy of late, but will try and post as soon as possible.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 11-Oct-13 08:23 PM GMT

3rd September Chiddingfold Wood...continued....

Just trying to catch up, as i have been very busy of late.....

There were a few whites about old and new...and you could `nt get much older and newer than these two Small Whites....[attachment=1:czynw4yi]CW 253\_1.jpg[/attachment:czynw4yi][attachment=0:czynw4yi]CW 225-1\_1\_1.jpg[/attachment:czynw4yi]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 11-Oct-13 09:30 PM GMT

The contrast in September is great isn't it with old and new visible in the same field of view 😊 The fresh Small White is a cracker 😊🍷 Although is White the correct name – has a Clouded Yellowgot a bit carried away 😊😳

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 12-Oct-13 05:45 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comments Wurzel. 😊 I sometimes forget how beautiful the Small Whites are, especially when they have just emerged, but i also thought Old Ragerty was just as beautiful in its own way and, as you said, was nice to see them both flying in early September together.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 13-Oct-13 02:10 PM GMT

3rd September..Chiddingfold Wood..continued..

Another two oldens seen were a Clouded Yellow, which had record numbers here this year, but on the other end of the scale a Holly Blue, which did rather poorly altogether locally. This was the only photograph i managed of a Holly Blue, but faired a lot better with the Clouded Yellows. [attachment=1:26ve5hwc]CW 143-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:26ve5hwc][attachment=0:26ve5hwc]CW 242-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:26ve5hwc]

## Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 13-Oct-13 04:53 PM GMT

Hi Nick,

A couple of great images there 😊

### "hideandseek" wrote:

.... but on the other end of the scale a Holly Blue, which did rather poorly altogether locally...

Holly Blues were also scarce around by me, the numbers through my garden were well down on last year.

All the best,

Neil.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 14-Oct-13 02:27 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comments Neil, appreciated. 😊 Hopefully the Holly Blues will pick up in numbers next year. Last year i did`nt see one 2nd brood Brimstone on my local patch, this year their numbers grew to great proportions seeing at least a hundred or more, what a difference a year can make. 😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 15-Oct-13 07:57 PM GMT

3rd September.. continued..

Its not often i get to photograph a Green-vained White as they seem to be quite scarce in these parts for reasons unbeknown to me as they used to be rather common until a couple of years ago. So i was pleased to say the least when this fresh female presented herself to me, (shame about the thistle) well, it was`nt that easy as she kept flying from one flower head to the next but, i got there in the end. 😊 [attachment=0:1m2w5s9b]CW 168\_1-2.jpg[/attachment:1m2w5s9b]

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 15-Oct-13 09:07 PM GMT

I like the contrast between the old flower and the fresh butterfly Nick 😊🍷 As you say they don't make it easy do they! Sometimes I reckon that they know that we want to photograph them so they purposefully play hard to get 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 19-Oct-13 01:20 PM GMT

Thank you for your comments Wurzel, as always appreciated. 😊 Butterflies in hot sunny conditions never make it easy for the photographer, but when you get the picture you are after the satisfaction and buzz you get is unequal to anything else. 😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 22-Oct-13 08:11 PM GMT

3rd September

And last but not least a couple of fresh Brimstones still fueling themselves up for their winter hibernation. As soon as the sun became hidden by passing clouds the Brimstones would go to cover and shelter within a small tree or bush.

[attachment=2:1f2jpdhy]CW 249\_1.jpg[/attachment:1f2jpdhy]And then as the sun reappeared, they would fly to the nearest nectaring post and continue to fatten themselves up.[attachment=1:1f2jpdhy]CW 072-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1f2jpdhy] Again the sun would disappear and, they would be straight back to roost, and so on..[attachment=0:1f2jpdhy]CW 137\_1.jpg[/attachment:1f2jpdhy]

### Re: hideandseek

by David M, 22-Oct-13 09:04 PM GMT

That last image shows the camouflage off beautifully.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 23-Oct-13 07:11 PM GMT

Thank you David. Brimstones certainly have the art of blending in with their surroundings when roosting. I have watched numerous Brimstones flying in to a small bush or tree, mainly Hazel, to roost this year, only for them to disappear before my eyes. After standing there looking for a while, i became aware that i had been looking at the butterfly all along with out actually being able to see it. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Susie, 23-Oct-13 08:43 PM GMT

The middle brimstone picture is one of my favourites ever! 😊

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 23-Oct-13 09:34 PM GMT

I agree with Susie an absolute cracker of a shot Nick:D 🍷 The camo shot is pretty sparky too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by David M, 23-Oct-13 09:49 PM GMT

### "hideandseek" wrote:

I have watched numerous Brimstones flying in to a small bush or tree, mainly Hazel, to roost this year, only for them to disappear before my eyes.

That's interesting if it is behaviour exhibited in the flight season. All butterflies have to roost somewhere, and maybe Hazel is Brimstones' shrub of choice in high summer.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 24-Oct-13 08:18 PM GMT

Hi David,

is Hazel the choice for roosting Brimstones or not? Hazel is rather common where i photographed these butterflies, so could be just coincidence. But just look at the leaves themselves. They are very large which gives excellent shelter, and then look at the undersides. The similarities of the shade of green and the veins of the leaf really are very similar to that of the Brimstone`s wings, perfect camouflage to keep the butterfly well hidden and safe from predators. So maybe its not coincidence....

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by millerd, 24-Oct-13 08:45 PM GMT

Lovely camouflaged butterfly, Nick!

Ivy is pretty good too – where they often hibernate.



Dave

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 25-Oct-13 01:32 PM GMT

Thank you Dave for your kind comment on my photo depicting the camouflage of the roosting Brimstone. 😊

I did`nt realise Brimstones sometimes hibernated within the depths of Ivy. But i can understand why with the thick cover of this plant giving the

butterfly perfect protection during the winter months. And also half a Ivy leaf is nearly identical to that of the Brimstone`s wings, (the leaf to the left of the butterfly) another example of perfect camouflage as your lovely photo depicts.

All the best, Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by David M, 25-Oct-13 09:23 PM GMT

In Spring, the males often seem obsessed by ivy. I suppose they instinctively know it's a good spot to find a female.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 26-Oct-13 09:11 PM GMT

Hi David,

Where i photograph Brimstones there is a lack of Ivy apart from a small amount on the odd tree, which is probably why i have never witnessed males Brimstones searching Ivy for females. There is a lot of Ivy where i live including at the bottom of my garden, but i rarely see brimstones here. I will keep a look out for them next year. 😊

Thank you Susie and Wurzel for your very kind comments on my Brimstone nectaring. Really appreciated. 😊😊

All the best, Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 29-Oct-13 09:56 PM GMT

On the 12th October i had a Comma and a Red Admiral on the Ivy at the end of my Garden but failed to get a shot of either one. It was the first Red Admiral i had seen in my garden this year, and the first i had seen since July. They have become such a rarity this year, i have seen more Clouded Yellows, including one that flew across my garden back in early August. But on the 15th October when i nipped home for some lunch i found another Red Admiral nectaring on some Choisya blossoms down the bottom of the garden and, managed to get a couple of photos this time before making myself a quick bite to eat and heading off again. 😊 [attachment=1:2w6cu45c]Red Admiral, garden 008-2\_1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2w6cu45c] [attachment=0:2w6cu45c]Red Admiral, garden 010-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2w6cu45c]

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Wurzel, 01-Nov-13 12:49 AM GMT

Lovely shots Nick 😊 Over the last couple of weeks I've seen more Red Admirals than I've seen over the rest of the year but nowhere near as many as last year. Still hopefully it'll all balance out in the end.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 05-Nov-13 08:22 PM GMT

Thank you Wurzel for your kind comments, appreciated as always. 😊 The only local loction i am seeing Red Admirals is my garden, for all the Ivy that grows around here, no other sightings of this butterfly, or any other for that matter have been made.

All the best Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Maximus, 05-Nov-13 08:41 PM GMT

Lovely Red Admiral photos Nick, not easy to get a good shot because of the variation of brown inner-wings with orange, white and black outside 😊

Mike

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 11-Nov-13 08:50 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comments Mike, appreciated. 😊 The only Red Admirals i am seeing around here are in my garden. Saves on the legs though. 😊

All the best, Nick.

### **Re: hideandseek**

by Nick Broomer, 17-Nov-13 01:39 PM GMT

27th October..

It was the eve of the storm that hit Southern England. The wind was already blowing a small gale so i was surprised to see a Red Admiral attached to the Choisya at the back of my garden, taking in as much nectar before the wind became too much and, it had to retire back to it`s chosen hidey-hole to hibernate.

I had already managed a few shots of the butterfly with it`s wings open, so all i needed was a couple of closed wing photos. The only trouble was the butterfly only closed it`s wings when it became too blustery, so proved rather difficult. But i perservered as did the butterfly, and eventually i managed one or two partial closed wing shots, but what i was really after was a complete closed wing photo. Eventually a Bee landed a bit to close for the Red Admiral`s liking, and as the butterfly took flight, it gave me the split second i needed to get a shot off, and capture the albeit slightly out of focus full closed wing photo that i wanted.[attachment=4:2r0fx1fk]Red Admiral, garden 017-5\_1.jpg[/attachment:2r0fx1fk][attachment=3:2r0fx1fk]Red Admiral, garden 086-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:2r0fx1fk][attachment=2:2r0fx1fk]Red Admiral, garden 096-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2r0fx1fk][attachment=1:2r0fx1fk]Red Admiral, garden 081-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:2r0fx1fk][attachment=0:2r0fx1fk]Red Admiral, garden 099-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:2r0fx1fk]

30th Oct. i saw another Red Admiral in my garden. Was it to be the last butterfly i would see this year in my garden? Time would only tell....

On 15th November i saw two more Red Admirals during my lunch hour, two weeks after i saw my last butterfly.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 17-Nov-13 04:49 PM GMT

Lovely shots Nick my favourite is the third one down – the subtlety of the markings and the cooled proboscis – brill 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 23-Nov-13 04:30 PM GMT

Hi Wurzel,

Thank you for your kind comments, as always appreciated. 😊 I`m glad you liked the 3rd photo of the Red Admiral with it`s wings closed most of all, as it was a particularly difficult shot to obtain thanks to the very blustery conditions, but well worth the effort and patience it took to get the picture.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 30-Nov-13 01:35 PM GMT

Life cycle of a Clouded Yellow

I was fortunate enough to have reared a Clouded Yellow this year and managed to capture the life cycle on film. The life cycle of any living creature is a subject i find fascinating and, being able to witness this spectacle and to learn from the experience from my own home was one of the highlights of the year for me.

The pale yellow/off white coloured eggs[attachment=1:1xb4i1gh]12.8.2013--Clouded-Yellow-ovum Surrey 023-2\_1.jpg[/attachment:1xb4i1gh]are laid on the either side of a leaf, commonly in this country on plants such as Bird`s-foot Trefoil and Red Clover. The eggs take seven days to hatch and, after four days the eggs turn a orange/red colour,[attachment=0:1xb4i1gh]16.8.2013 Clouded Yellow ovum Surrey 030-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1xb4i1gh]then twentyfour hours before the emergence of the larva it turns a bluey-grey.

## Re: hideandseek

by William, 30-Nov-13 03:53 PM GMT

Wonderful shots of the Clouded Yellow Ova – I look forward to the next instalment 😊.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 01-Dec-13 01:51 PM GMT

Hi William,

Thank you for your comments, appreciated. 😊 I will post more photos as and when i sort them out.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 01-Dec-13 10:09 PM GMT

Cracking shots again Nick, looking forward to a bluey/gray egg and then the various instars 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 02-Dec-13 06:10 PM GMT

Thank you for your comments Wurzel, appreciated. 😊 My next posting will be of the bluey/grey ova, plus the little lady that has just emerged from it, side by side.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 02-Dec-13 08:13 PM GMT

Great stuff Nick,

looking forward to the next installments.

All the best,

Neil.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 03-Dec-13 05:40 PM GMT

Thank you for your comments Neil, appreciated. 😊 I hope the forthcoming photos are up to scratch, but i do have one or two pictures that are not that clever. Thats the problem with having to work and, trying to do a project like this. Rushing home at lunch time or in the evening after work, hoping that the light is right and shooting off a few shots in a couple of minutes, hoping for the best that you can capture something different but interesting. But as you well know it does `nt always work like that.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 05-Dec-13 08:41 PM GMT

Life cycle of a clouded Yellow..... continued

It was now the 7th day since the ovum was first laid, so before i left for work i looked in on it, and found the ovum had turned a bluey-grey in colour overnight. I came home at lunch time to find the ovum still intact and, then when i returned home after work i checked it again to find there had still been no action. I looked at the egg again just over an hour later only to find it had started to hatch. To say i got excited would be an understatement, i was like a child that had been given a new toy on my birthday. The first thing i did was to run indoors and tell my wife, who has absolutely no interest in butterflies, or any form of wildlife for that matter, who turned round and said, "dinner will be ready in fifteen minutes" What wonderful timing. So keeping a close eye on the hatching egg whilst eating my dinner at the same time, [running in and out of the house between throwing large amounts of food down my throat]. To my relief a few minutes after finishing my dinner the tiny larva had eaten it`s way out of the egg and wiggled it`s way onto the leaf. Taking about fifty minutes to emerge.[attachment=2:1amvcy49]1st instar Clouded Yellow larva seconds after hatching 181-2.jpg[/attachment:1amvcy49]The tiny Clouded Yellow larva along side the empty bluey/grey egg.This photo was taken just seconds after the caterpillar [about 2mm in length] hatched. The next photo depicts the eating pattern commonly found amongst 1st instar Clouded Yellow larva, eating only the upper Epidermis of the leaf, this 1st instar being six days old.[attachment=0:1amvcy49]Clouded Yellow larva 1st instar 050-1\_2.jpg[/attachment:1amvcy49]When resting, which they did most of the time, the tiny larva were normally found either on the edge of their feeding leaf, or on the midrib.[attachment=1:1amvcy49]1st instar Clouded Yellow larva 060-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:1amvcy49]

## Re: hideandseek

by William, 05-Dec-13 09:15 PM GMT

Lovely shots Hideandseek – looking at your photos, I was reminded of some I took over the summer of some first instar larvae I found on white clover – they look very much like your Clouded Yellows – what do you reckon (sorry to hijack your diary)?



Possible Clouded Yellow Larva

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 06-Dec-13 12:18 PM GMT

Thank you for your comments William, appreciated. 😊

Your larva is definitely that of a 1st instar Clouded Yellow, slightly more advanced than mine. It has already lost the black to the rear of it`s body, as long as the larva of this species retain the black head it is a 1st instar. As far as i can tell, yours looks like it is in the transition of the body turning green, the last colouration of the 1st instar, shortly after this final process it will have it`s first moult and become a completely green 2nd instar larva.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 07-Dec-13 08:48 AM GMT

Fantastic shots and tale Nick, I eagerly await the next installment 😊 I can also imagine the look on your wife's face when you excitedly announced your news – my wife has a similar face which I'm sure she keeps in a drawer for just such occasions 😊😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by William, 07-Dec-13 11:38 AM GMT

Thanks for your informative reply Nick 😊 . I wish I'd tried harder to keep an eye on them!

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 08-Dec-13 02:18 PM GMT

Thank you for your comments again Wurzel, appreciated as always. 😊 The look on my wife`s face as i told her my good news, totally blank, and probably thinking along the lines, how can a caterpillar hatching out of an egg get one so excited, poor boy. but if it keeps him happy, and more so, from out from under my feet all the better, i just do not understand it, whilst shaking her head from side to side. 😊😊

William, you stated, i wished i had tried harder to keep an eye on them. Finding any 1st instar larva in the wild is an achievement in itself. A very high percentage of butterfly eggs and 1st instar larva are lost to predation. So keeping an eye on them in the wild is extremely difficult as i have found out for myself. You should pat yourself on the back for finding one in the first place, so well done. 😊

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 11-Dec-13 01:07 PM GMT

Life cycle of a Clouded Yellow, continued.

The 2nd instar Clouded Yellow developed very slowly, most of the time just sitting there, not really noticing any change in it`s size, especially for the first 2 or 3 days. I only caught the caterpillar feeding a couple of times, and only towards it`s final couple of days as a 2nd instar larva when i could see it was actually growing.[attachment=1:17j0xf85]Early 2nd instar Clouded Yellow larva 046-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:17j0xf85]Early 2nd instar Clouded Yellow larva.[attachment=0:17j0xf85]Late 2nd instar Clouded ellow larva 043-1\_1.jpg[/attachment:17j0xf85]Late 2nd instar Clouded Yellow larva just before it`s second moult.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 13-Dec-13 09:48 PM GMT

Life cycle of a Clouded Yellow, continued.

The next photo was taken five days after the picture of the late 2nd instar Clouded Yellow larva was taken. Once they reach the 3rd instar stage they grow rather rapidly, and the change in appearance is quite remarkable, actually looking like a caterpillar with some character, that we are more accustomed to seeing.[attachment=2:1iiii81x]3rd instar Clouded Yellow larva 140\_1.jpg[/attachment:1iiii81x] The next two photos depict the same larva going to the loo, most caterpillars i have observed normally just let the waste matter pass through them and, it drops to the ground. But this caterpillar likes to show off and, fires it through the air like a cannon ball with great velocity, and away from it`s` feeding leaf, probably to help conceal it`s whereabouts. Rather like that of a nesting bird which drops the broken egg shell of the newly hatched some distance from the nest site for the same reason.[attachment=1:1iiii81x]3rd instar Clouded Yellow larva 124-5\_1.jpg[/attachment:1iiii81x][attachment=0:1iiii81x]3rd instar Clouded Yellow larva 125-5\_1.jpg[/attachment:1iiii81x]

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 13-Dec-13 10:37 PM GMT

Those shots are just awesome 😊👍 The last one with the flying fecal matter is ace, I can't wait to show my girls tomorrow they'll think it's hilarious 😊 I wasn't aware that they did that, valid reason though.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 15-Dec-13 05:02 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comments Wurzel, appreciated. 😊 I was `nt aware that the caterpillar was capable of such a feat either, and it was quite a surprise. I was just glad to have been photographing the larva when it all happened and, was able to record the moment. I hope your girls enjoyed the photos. 😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 15-Dec-13 08:01 PM GMT

Hi Nick, great photos and fascinating stuff 😊

I remember reading something ages ago that there are a number of caterpillars that eject their frass away from themselves, can't remember where I read it or which particular species did it though.

Keep the good stuff coming,

Neil.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 16-Dec-13 08:41 PM GMT

Thank you Neil for your kind comments, appreciated. 😊 I have just learnt, that apparently there are some predatory insects that can detect their prey by the chemical scent of it`s frass. So this is why some insects/larva take the action of propelling it`s waste matter away from their feeding leaf/area to help prevent detection.

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 16-Dec-13 11:06 PM GMT

They loved the images Nick, my younger daughters eyes nearly popped out of her head when I told her that they fired their poo and my older daughter now wants to find one to watch it first hand 😳😳😳

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 17-Dec-13 09:53 PM GMT

Hi Wurzel,

I`m really pleased that your two daughters enjoyed the photos. 😊 They sound like a great couple of young ladies and, are obviously a credit to you and your wife. Now that your eldest daughter wants to see the propelling of the frass for herself, it seems that you will have to rear a couple of butterflies yourself, with the girls there to keep an eye on you, you can`t go wrong. 😊😳😳

All the best to you and your daughters, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 18-Dec-13 07:44 PM GMT

Life cycle of a Clouded Yellow, continued.

The 4th instar Clouded Yellow larva, now at it`s ` most attractive and colourful stage.It will now feed at an alarming rate, consuming very large amounts of it`s food plant daily in preparation for the next transformation of pupation.[attachment=1:3eu18eea]Clouded Yellow larva 4th instar 048-2\_1\_1.jpg[/attachment:3eu18eea][attachment=0:3eu18eea]4th instar Clouded Yellow larva 075\_2.jpg[/attachment:3eu18eea]

### Re: hideandseek

by William, 18-Dec-13 09:36 PM GMT

Once Again – brilliant photos – as you've probably guessed, Clouded Yellows are one of my favourite butterflies 😊 .

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 20-Dec-13 08:49 PM GMT

Thank you for your very kind comment William, really appreciated. 😊 I can fully appreciate why the Clouded Yellow is one of your favourite butterflies, such beauty. Not always so easy to photograph at times, but well worth the the time and effort one has to put in to capture this beautiful insect on film.

All the best, Nick.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 21-Dec-13 02:12 PM GMT

Life cycle of a Clouded Yellow, continued.

[attachment=1:wfr8u1q9]Clouded Yellow larva ready to pupate 058\_2.jpg[/attachment:wfr8u1q9]24 hours before starting to pupate.

[attachment=0:wfr8u1q9]Clouded Yellow larva ready to pupate 005-4\_2.jpg[/attachment:wfr8u1q9]3 hours before starting to pupate.

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 22-Dec-13 10:44 AM GMT

Life cycle of a Clouded Yellow, continued.

One hour into pupation, and it`s last moult.[attachment=0:2q4l6cej]Clouded Yellow pupa 092\_5.jpg[/attachment:2q4l6cej]

[attachment=1:2q4l6cej]Clouded Yellow pupa 088-10.jpg[/attachment:2q4l6cej]

## Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 22-Dec-13 05:41 PM GMT

Hi Nick, I've just read your diary entries showing the life cycle of a Clouded Yellow, brilliant stuff 😊 Fantastic photos to illustrate the story with too 😊

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by Wurzel, 22-Dec-13 06:43 PM GMT

Fantastic series of photos Nick, the level of detail is awesome, on the early stages of the pupation you can almost make out where the veins of the wings will be 😊 With the last two shots is the grey mass at the rear of the caterpillar/chrysalis the old moulted layer?

If I don't post again before have a brill Chrimble 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 23-Dec-13 01:59 PM GMT

Thank you for your kind comments Mike and Wurzel, appreciated. 😊 😊 Wurzel, you are quite right it is the larval skin that is still attached to the pupa in the last two photos, the last moult. What i would like to know is, how does it shed it`s larval skin in one piece with the silk thread attaching the pupa to the stick in the way?

May you and your families have a wonderful christmas.

All the best, Nick.

And a merry christmas to you all on ukbutterflies.

## Re: hideandseek

by Maximus, 23-Dec-13 04:52 PM GMT

Hi Nick, we were fortunate to watch one of our Orange Tip larva pupate. The larval skin is indeed shed in one piece and the pupa twists around a lot during this process. Although it was not clearly visible to us it would appear to detach itself from the silk pad (allowing the larval skin to fall away) and then reattach itself to the pad afterwards. This must happen very quickly, as its very hard to follow. I now wish that we had filmed the pupation process, oh well, maybe next year 😊

Hope you and your family have a great Christmas.

All the very best,

Mike

## Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 24-Dec-13 09:10 AM GMT

Thanks Mike, thats brilliant, and appreciated. 😊 Now all i have to do, is wait for you to capture the sequence on film. 😊😊😊

All the best, Nick.

### Re: hideandseek

by Neil Freeman, 24-Dec-13 09:52 AM GMT

Great sequence of photos Nick, looking forward to the conclusion 😊

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas

Neil.

### Re: hideandseek

by Vince Massimo, 24-Dec-13 12:59 PM GMT

Great images of Clouded Yellow early development Nick 😊 . I await downloads when you get the time.

To answer the questions about how the larval skin is shed at the final stage:

It is simply sloughed backwards, sliding under the silk strand that attaches the larva to the twig (as is illustrated here [viewtopic.php?f=37&t=5089](http://viewtopic.php?f=37&t=5089) for Orange Tip, here [viewtopic.php?f=37&t=4681](http://viewtopic.php?f=37&t=4681) for Small White and here [viewtopic.php?f=37&t=6245](http://viewtopic.php?f=37&t=6245) for Large White). During this process the larva is still anchored to a silk pad by its anal claspers, but the emerging pupa has a new structure at its posterior end. This is called the cremaster, which is a hooked or spine-like process covered with velcro-like hairs which will serve to anchor the new pupa to the silk pad. The pupa has to manoeuvre the cremaster out of the larval skin and make contact with the silk pad. There is a very good video here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umWwvylmI8> which shows how the Orange-tip manages the process. Once initial contact is made, the pupa twists vigorously for a few seconds in order for all of the cremastal hooks to embed into the silk. This is all very straightforward for the larvae which are attached to a substrate by a silk girdle as well as a pad, but those which are merely suspended by a rear pad (such as the Comma [viewtopic.php?f=37&t=6582](http://viewtopic.php?f=37&t=6582) ) have to be more careful. They have to manage to expose half of the cremaster and hook onto the pad before they can finally wriggle free of the old larval skin and complete the attachment.

One day, either Pete or myself will get round to producing a life-cycle report covering all of such details.

Cheers,  
Vince

### Re: hideandseek

by Nick Broomer, 31-Dec-13 01:15 PM GMT

Thank you Neil and Vince for your kind comments, appreciated as always. 😊

Vince. Thank you for taking the time to answer my question on how the larva manages to shed it`s final skin whilst still attached to the twig. Your early stages photos are just brilliant. 😊 I fully appreciate the time and dedication you put into obtaining all the photos required, not an easy task. And thank you also for finding the video, just amazing. 😊 Is`nt nature wonderful.  
. All the best, Nick.