

Alex Berryman

by ABerryman, 03-Aug-13 03:09 PM GMT

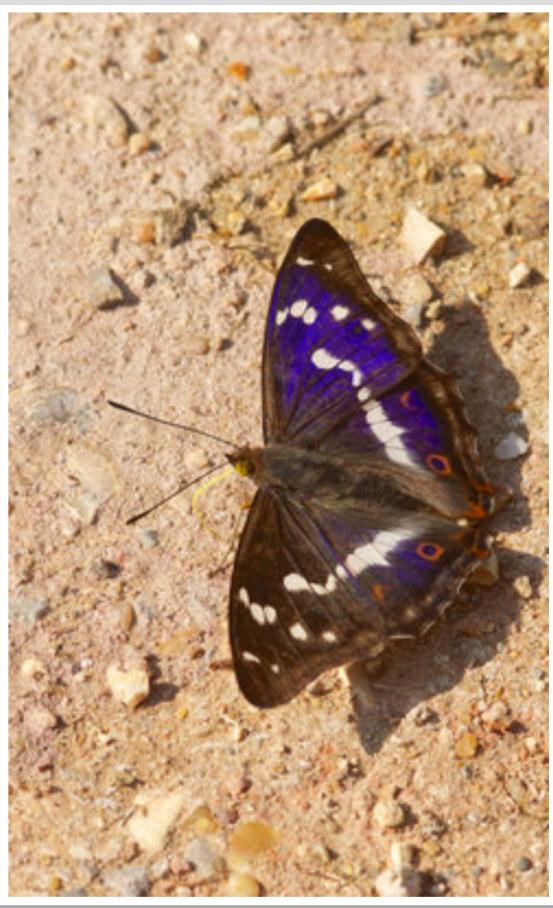
I'm not sure this diary will provide much interest to anyone (I'll try my best!) but at the very least it is a good record for me. This has been my first serious year of 'butterflying' and has been packed with a number of highlights. Being 16, transport's a little tricky, but this year I was lucky enough discovered a local colony of Dark Green Fritillary, a species that is incredibly hard to find in hants, as well as taking regular trips to Alice Holt Forest. To save going through the past two months, below are a few highlights and hereafter, I will try and post as and when I find things of interest:



Silver-studded Blue

After a brief glimpse of a Purple Emperor last year, I was keen to find a grounded individual this year. This meant a couple of trips to Alice Holt (a train ride + 2 mile walk each way required!). Thanks must go to Pauline for spotting this one...





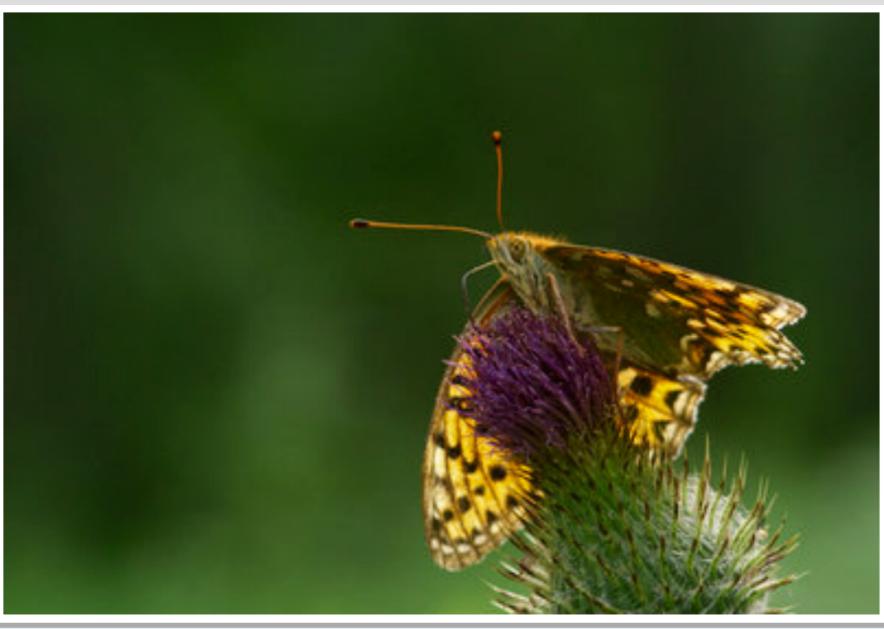
I am still after the right 'wings-open, both purple' shot, though will have to wait until I run into Neil someday for that!



Marbled White

Finally a couple of Dark Green Fritillaries...





Thanks for reading, expect the next post in the next couple of days, after I have sorted through my shots from Aston Rowant today!

Re: Alex Berryman

by millerd, 03-Aug-13 03:41 PM GMT

I drove past Aston Rowant twice today on the M40 (once at around 9 and then with heavy rain not far off at around 2). There were definitely one or two figures on the hill looking very much as if they were photographing butterflies – could this have been you? 😊 It was annoying not to be able to stop...

Looking forward to your shots from the hillside.

Dave

Re: Alex Berryman

by Neil Freeman, 03-Aug-13 04:10 PM GMT

"ABerryman" wrote:

.... but at the very lest it is a good record for me....

Hi Alex,

That is exactly why I keep my diary, I am not worried about producing the best photos from a technical or artistic point of view but in keeping a record of where I have been and what I have seen. If I manage to get some good photos whilst I am at it then so much the better and if others enjoy my diary then that gives me extra pleasure as well.

You have made a good start with some great photos. looking forward to seeing your Aston Rowant shots, I know what you mean about sorting through them 😊

Cheers,

Neil F.

Re: Alex Berryman

by ABerryman, 03-Aug-13 04:18 PM GMT

I was at Aston from 1030-1230 today ... couldn't stay much longer as it was just a stop off back from our holiday in Wales and the parents were getting impatient! Still a nice selection of butterflies seen including my first Silver-Spotted Skippers.

Re: Alex Berryman

by MikeOxon, 03-Aug-13 04:57 PM GMT

"ABerryman" wrote:

the parents were getting impatient!

Parents now Wives later. Nothing changes 😊

Mike

Re: Alex Berryman

by Maximus, 03-Aug-13 08:05 PM GMT

A nice start Alex, nice photos, you'll do fine.

Mike

Re: Alex Berryman

by Pauline, 03-Aug-13 08:32 PM GMT

It was a pleasure meeting you Alex and I'm so pleased you got a few PE shots. It is great to see that you are now posting – that way we can keep tabs on what you're doing 😊😊 Seriously though, the effort you put into just getting to the butterfly sites shows remarkable determination and your efforts definitely have paid off. I have been looking at some of the other wildlife photos you have taken – they are impressive, and you certainly deserve your awards. You really are too modest!

PS. Welcome to the site btw 😊

Re: Alex Berryman

by Wurzel, 03-Aug-13 10:11 PM GMT

Cracking start to your PD Alex with some great shots – my fave being the Marbled White "stained glass" 😊
Interesting that your parents were getting impatient – for me it's my kids that are the impatient ones 😊😊 Looking forward to the next installment.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Alex Berryman

by ABerryman, 04-Aug-13 10:35 AM GMT

Thanks Pauline 😊

Wurzel, my parents show no interest in butterflies at all – just me, and the Aston Rowant car park can only entertain for a limited period of time!

Aston Rowant – 03/08/2013

by ABerryman, 04-Aug-13 10:47 AM GMT

As promised, a little report on my trip to Aston Rowant! As I only had a couple of hours, I decided to focus almost entirely on Silver-Spotted Skippers, a species I had never seen.

I made the mistake of taking the left hand path, taking me down the hill, only to realise I had to climb right back up again! Never mind, en route there were clouds of Meadow Browns and the hillside was alive with Chalkhill Blues and my first Brown Argus of the year (I forgot just how tiny they were!). Trying to avoid getting distracted from my main quarry, I headed up the hill. At first no sign but once I got my eye-in several SS Skippers revealed themselves briefly, before darting out of view at an incredible speed!

The first skipper to settle for the camera was in absolutely hideous light and was far from the cleanest individual...



Eventually the sun went in and I located another skipper, allowing for the best shots of the day. Still quite a way from what I wanted but as a first effort not too bad!



With every new species I see I try and get an 'on me' photograph. With SS Skippers this was an absolute nightmare, not helped by the fact the wind was blowing a gale and I was there for the hottest part of the day; eventually one obliged...



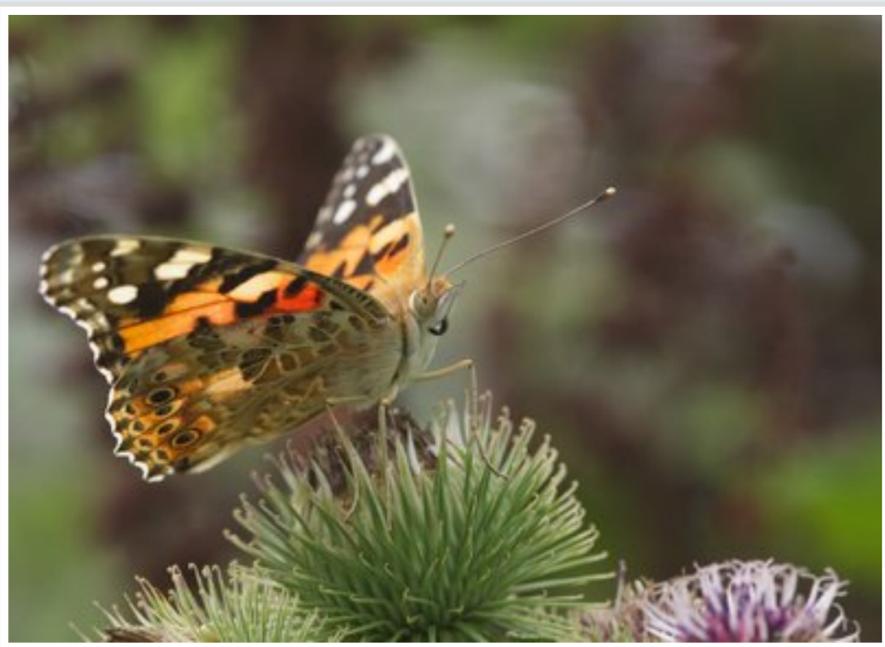
I will try and post a few photographs of the Brown Argus and Chalkhill Blues in due course!

Bye for now...

HLCP - 04/08/2013

by ABerryman, 04-Aug-13 07:55 PM GMT

A trip down to my local patch - usually a very poor site for lepidoptera but today revealed 18 species of butterfly which isn't a bad haul at all. Highlight was undoubtedly my first Painted Lady of the year:





Re: Alex Berryman

by ABerryman, 07-Aug-13 09:56 PM GMT

Whilst out for a bird of birding on the south coast (seeing a garganey for those interested!) I found a Clouded Yellow, my first ever! Hopefully as more of these beauties head north I will get the opportunity to photograph these well. Anyway – as the butterfly was distant I tried to capture it in flight. I failed... but it's a start!



Re: Alex Berryman

by Neil Hulme, 07-Aug-13 10:02 PM GMT

Hi Alex,
That's not a failure. That's a great image!
Best Wishes, Neil

Re: Alex Berryman

by MikeOxon, 07-Aug-13 10:12 PM GMT

I would be extremely pleased with that Clouded Yellow image! Not a failure in my book.

Mike

Re: Alex Berryman

by Susie, 07-Aug-13 10:44 PM GMT

That's a beautiful photograph. I'd be chuffed with it. I don't think I've ever seen the upper side of the wings before. 😊

Re: Alex Berryman

by Wurzel, 07-Aug-13 11:22 PM GMT

That photo is a right proper job and I would be chuffed to have taken it 🍷 How was the Garganey not in eclipse I hope 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Alex Berryman

by NickMorgan, 08-Aug-13 01:22 PM GMT

That's definitely not a fail. I have only ever managed a very blurred picture of a Clouded Yellow in flight.

Re: Alex Berryman

by Pauline, 08-Aug-13 01:55 PM GMT

I agree with all these comments Alex – I would be well pleased if I had managed that shot.

Re: Alex Berryman

by Neil Freeman, 08-Aug-13 09:31 PM GMT

Blimey Alex, I wish I could get some failures as good as that 🍷😄

A great image 😊

Cheers,

Neil F.

Re: Alex Berryman

by ABerryman, 09-Aug-13 04:46 PM GMT

Thank you for all the kind words peeps. As a photographer I have to be fussy! If any of you are interested my photography can be found here (only plug I promise!!)

www.alexberrymanphotography.co.uk

Rather shamefully there are currently no butterfly shots up – though this is being corrected as I write this!

Hopefully off to see some Brown Hairstreaks over the weekend,

Cheers,

Alex

Re: Alex Berryman

by ABerryman, 10-Aug-13 11:39 PM GMT

Butterfly Gallery added to my website 😊 <http://www.alexberrymanphotography.co.uk/p471224799>

Shipton Hairstreaks

by ABerryman, 11-Aug-13 07:11 PM GMT

Armed with directions from Pauline, tips from Neil and of course the willingness of the parents, I found myself leaving home at 10:15 this morning to go to Shipton Bellinger, in search of the elusive Brown Hairstreak. We arrived at about 11:00 – the weather was perfect, very little breeze, sun shining. I walked down the track towards the meadow area where I was told a lot of people had had success – on the walk down I saw no less than 4 (my first ever!) all high up and none settling apart from one individual that briefly alighted on the top of a tree.

The meadow was alive with butterflies with literally hundreds of 'cabbage whites' consisting mainly of large white. Also saw: Brimstone, Small White, Green-veined White, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Holly Blue.

After about an hour or so of patrolling 1 stretch of blackthorn and having nothing but brief glimpses of individuals, a female Brown Hairstreak landed at the top of the hedge, and proceeded to egg lay. The views through binoculars were fantastic but she was just too high up for any decent photographs. Another hour passed and I was beginning to think my luck was out when I was scanning a bramble hedge and caught the unmistakable 'golden' of a brown hairstreak. She stayed put for a minute or so before flying to another area of blackthorn where for a further 2–3 minutes or so she too egg layed, before flying off in the distance!

On my walk back to the car (via a different footpath – it's so easy to get lost in that place!) I saw another 2, which takes my tally up to 8 individuals for the day (though of course it is impossible to know if there was any overlap!).

It was surprising just how few people were there to enjoy them today, I saw just two other people on my trip and both commented on how quiet it was! One of the gentleman also expressed how he was surprised that we did not see more of the butterflies on the ground on what were supposedly ideal conditions.

But anyway I can't complain (apart from the fact she wouldn't open her wings properly! 😊)



Re: Alex Berryman

by ChrisC, 11-Aug-13 08:21 PM GMT

your photos on your website are excellent. the hummingbird hawk is stunning.

Chris

Re: Alex Berryman

by Wurzel, 11-Aug-13 09:43 PM GMT

Great news on the Brown Hairsteaks Alex 😊 I'm heading there this week so fingers crossed 🙏

Have a goodun

Wurzel