

Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 31-Aug-13 01:41 PM GMT

I only joined UKB last weekend after years of lurking so I thought it's probably a bit late in the season to start up a 'personal diary' then I had an idea 💡 Why not kick things off with a retrospective of my season this year in a "month by month" account. Then after that I could post some of my photos from the past few years.

Hopefully there will still be some excitement (re: migrants) to post about before the winter draws in, but for now here's my retrospective of 2013:

Retrospective Diary Pt 1, April 2013:

Last winter seemed to go on for ever, I was desperate to get out and feel some warm sunshine on my back, and hopefully reacquaint myself with some old friends.

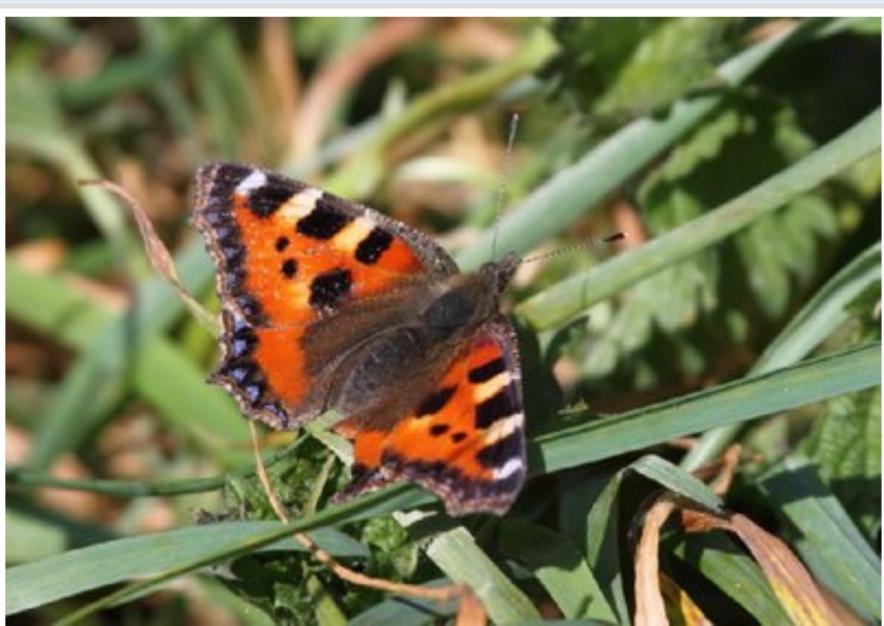
Even by late April the buds were still tightly shut on most of the trees allowing some great views of some spring birds that would normally be obscured by vegetation.



One of the first "old friends" I saw was a rather worn and sleepy looking Brimstone.



My first STS's and Peacock's of 2013.





The STS soon got to work pairing up, then egg laying began.



A slow start to 2013 but with May came some good weather and some warmth, then everything seemed to arrive at once here in Sussex! I could barely keep up with it all 😲

Comments always welcome 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 31-Aug-13 08:35 PM GMT

Before I continue with my "retrospective diary" for 2013 I thought I'd post a 'Clouded Yellow round up'. I've really loved every minute of seeing and photographing these beautiful visitors. In fact I had not seen a single Clouded Yellow since the last invasion during 2009! Frustratingly I did not manage to get a single decent photo of a Clouded Yellow that year!

This year with their 'very welcome' return I've tried to make up for it.

I am particularly fond of the 'back lit' photos, the Yellow colour is so intense and summery I can't get enough of it, so I must apologise in advance if I've posted too many of these.

Lastly another delight for me was seeing and photographing the Helice type of CY, it may not be a pale or Berger's but they were still a beautiful 'added extra' and to top it off most of the Helice I saw (5 in total) were in really great condition.

So here they are in no particular order.









Of course the season is not over yet and I hope to get some shots of of some home grown freshly emerged Clouded Yellows when they start to appear.
B,saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 31-Aug-13 08:53 PM GMT

I'm looking forward to this series of posts, Rex.

I feel you have a few things up your sleeve (like aberrant Green Hairstreaks) 😊

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 31-Aug-13 09:00 PM GMT

"David M" wrote:

I'm looking forward to this series of posts, Rex.

I feel you have a few things up your sleeve (like aberrant Green Hairstreaks) 😊

Well I just had a quick look up there David but nothing else fell out 😊 I think that the aberrant GHS would easily be the rarest sighting I've had to date.

Best

J

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 31-Aug-13 09:19 PM GMT

"Butterflysaurus rex" wrote:

"David M" wrote:

I'm looking forward to this series of posts, Rex.

I feel you have a few things up your sleeve (like aberrant Green Hairstreaks) 😊

Well I just had a quick look up there David but nothing else fell out 😊 I think that the aberrant GHS would easily be the rarest sighting I've had to date.

Best

J

Dunno. I have you down as a 'dark horse' 😊

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 31-Aug-13 09:24 PM GMT

I think I'm probably more of a small grey Pony David 😊

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 31-Aug-13 09:31 PM GMT

"Butterflysaurus rex" wrote:

I think I'm probably more of a small grey Pony David 😊

I'll respond to that when this diary of yours begins a fourth page!!

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Hoggers, 31-Aug-13 09:32 PM GMT

Beautiful photographs, 'saurus Rex- I particularly envy you the Helice : I've never seen one but since the CY invasion I've been checking EVERY White that's fluttered my way with no luck, so I've been kept very busy!

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 31-Aug-13 09:40 PM GMT

"Hoggers" wrote:

Beautiful photographs, 'saurus Rex- I particularly envy you the Helice : I've never seen one but since the CY invasion I've been checking EVERY White that's fluttered my way with no luck, so I've been kept very busy!

Thanks Hoggers, I was delighted to see the Helice this year, after I saw the first one at Rowland Wood I've been just like you, having a double take at every white in the vicinity 😊 I've even chased a couple of whites to double check! There are so many CY's over here that I hope you'll get to see one before the seasons over.

I wish you the very best of luck in your quest.

best

J

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Paul Harfield, 31-Aug-13 11:27 PM GMT

"Butterflysaurus rex" wrote:

I am particularly fond of the 'back lit' photos, the Yellow colour is so intense and summery I can't get enough of it, so I must apologise in advance if I've posted too many of these.

Hi

Great to see a new diary 😊 I do not think you can have too many Clouded Yellows, we should make the most of them whilst they are there 😊😊 I also like the backlit ones, I think the second one is my favourite:D

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 01-Sep-13 12:15 PM GMT

"jackz432r" wrote:

"Butterflysaurus rex" wrote:

I am particularly fond of the 'back lit' photos, the Yellow colour is so intense and summery I can't get enough of it, so I must apologise in advance if I've posted too many of these.

Hi

Great to see a new diary 😊 I do not think you can have too many Clouded Yellows, we should make the most of them whilst they are there 😊😊 I also like the backlit ones, I think the second one is my favourite:D

Hello Jack, thanks very much for the compliment, I've been following your adventures for quite some time and enjoying your lovely photos. It's nice to be able to join in the fun with you all.

Best

J

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 01-Sep-13 06:07 PM GMT

Looking forward to the next instalment Rex 😊 Cracking shots of the Cloudiest and that Helice us lush 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 01-Sep-13 06:57 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Looking forward to the next instalment Rex 😊 Cracking shots of the Cloudiest and that Helice us lush 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks Wurzel, I really appreciate your kind comments. I was thinking of posting one installment every week, does that sound like a good idea?

Best

J

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 01-Sep-13 07:17 PM GMT

Sounds good to me, 😊 just let me know which day you're going to post so we don't clash and then we can corner the market 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 01-Sep-13 07:23 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Sounds good to me, 😊 just let me know which day you're going to post so we don't clash and then we can corner the market 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

I think we should join forces and show em how it's really done 😊 really well done by you, and really badly done by me 😞

Best

J

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by NickMorgan, 02-Sep-13 12:29 PM GMT

Fantastic pictures of Clouded Yellows, Rex. I look forward to seeing more pictures of other butterflies. What part of the country are you from?

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 02-Sep-13 08:02 PM GMT

"NickMorgan" wrote:

Fantastic pictures of Clouded Yellows, Rex. I look forward to seeing more pictures of other butterflies. What part of the country are you from?

Thank you kindly Nick, I live in Sussex but I travel beyond it's borders on occasion 😊

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 02-Sep-13 08:30 PM GMT

Steining: Brown Hairstreaks

I took another trip to Steining Rifle Range (my 4th) in ideal conditions today after reading Neil Hulme's diary showing a lovely photo of a **very** fresh example.

In comparison to Neil's day yesterday things were a lot quieter with only 2 BHS's seen and within range of a camera. No sign of the 2 fresh ones Neil saw yesterday 😞 I met more lovely people there today some of which had travelled as far as Ashford in Kent! Unfortunately they 'and a few other people' arrived rather late in the day and had sadly missed all the action.

The best time to be there is between 11am and 2.30pm – so I'm reliably told.

I only managed to see and photograph one of the two Brownies, at least it was in better condition with the other one being in pretty poor shape.

A third BHS was seen and photographed at the back of the allotments on the path leading to the Rifle Range, this one was easily the best BHS seen today.

Other Species seen by me were:

X2 Adonis Blue

Several Common Blue

X2 Small Copper

X2 Clouded Yellow

X1 Brimstone

X1 Wall

Lots of Speckled wood

and a few Meadow Browns

A few of my pictures from the day.





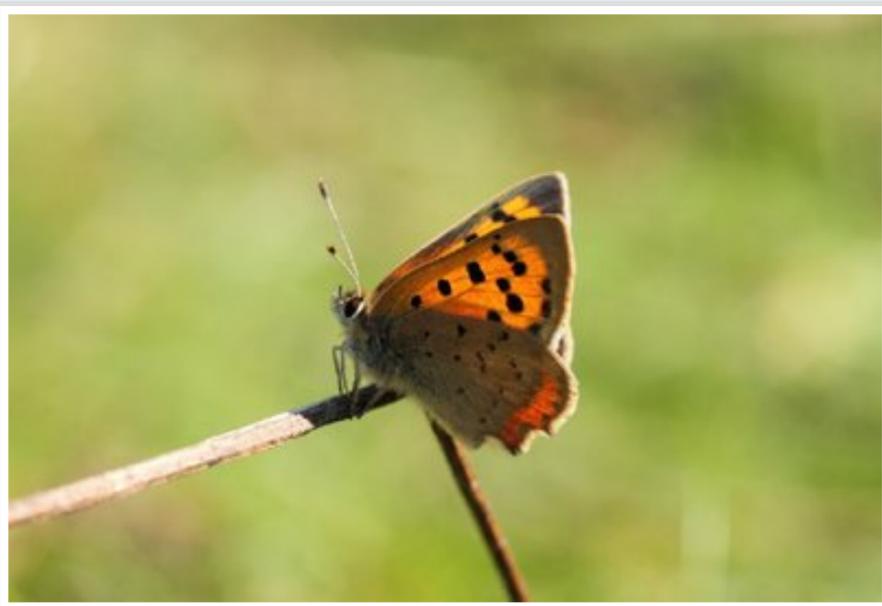
Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 04-Sep-13 09:27 PM GMT

Before I continue with my "retrospective diary" of this year I'm posting up a few of my "end of season" adventures.

Today I made a quick trip up to Cissbury Ring to look for Small Coppers, it didn't take long to find some and most were still in very good condition.

Numbers were not high but I saw at least 6 different individuals in one smallish area. I was especially delighted to see these little beauties because numbers seemed to have decreased dramatically over the past few years in and around my home patch.





B,saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 05-Sep-13 11:12 PM GMT

Great shots of Small Coppers Rex 😊 I can't remember if I had them in my top 10 list of favourites, but they should be there!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 06-Sep-13 03:17 PM GMT

Speckled Wood

Thank you Wurzel, they're one of my favourites too 😊

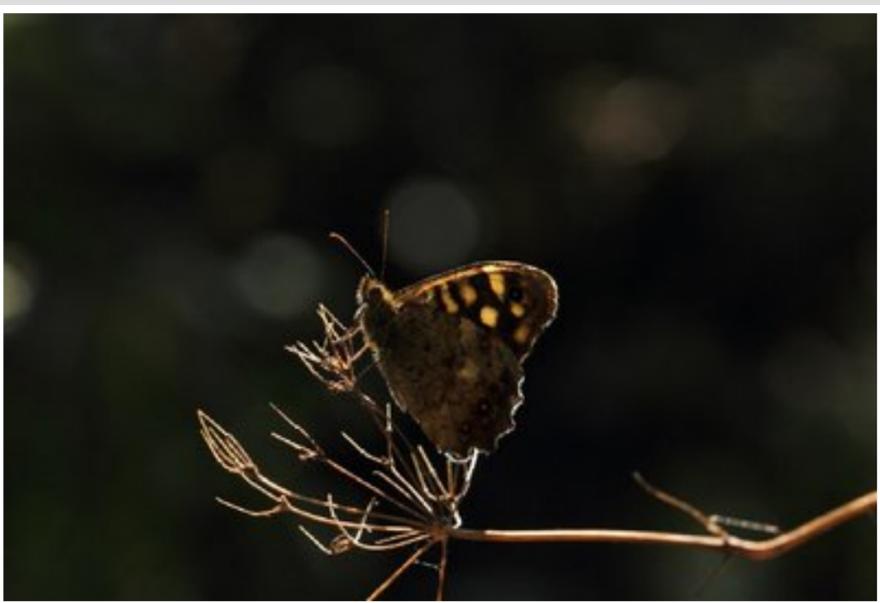
Yesterday I spent my lunch hour over at a local patch where I had seen plenty of Speklies the day before. I went there with the intention of trying to take a few artsy and atmospheric shots of this late season S W bounty.

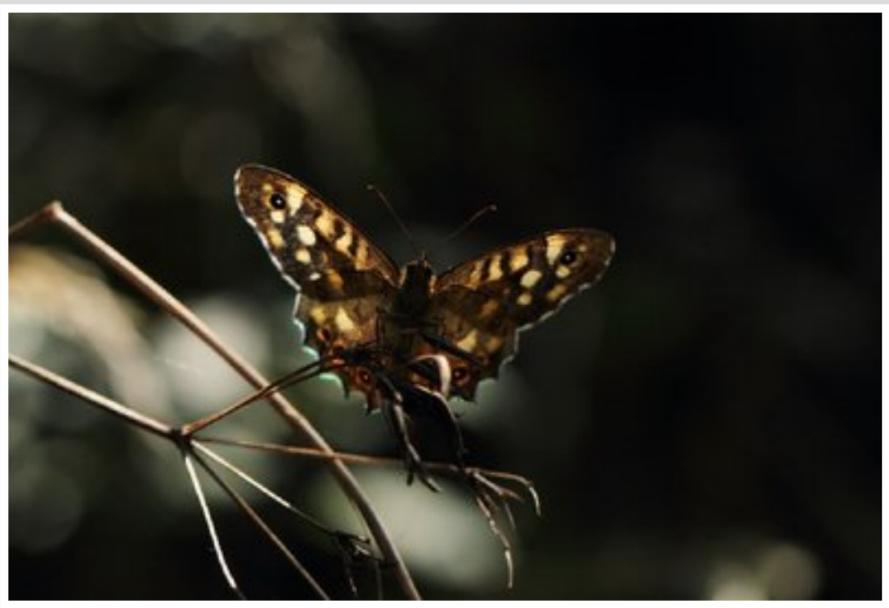
They are now one of the few fresh looking Butterflies still to be found in my local area.

I started with a standard side shot to get my eye in.



Then I waited for one to land in a suitable spot for my attempt to capture something a little more moody.





Just before I returned I saw a female SW being courted within an inch of her life by an extremely amorous male, it quickly became far too much for her and she swooned at her suitors feet. Then after all that hard work he suddenly gave up on her to go and fight another passing male 🤪 The female SW quickly regained her composure and flew off no doubt wondering what on earth had just happened!



If only all my lunch hours were this exciting 😄

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Maximus, 06-Sep-13 07:23 PM GMT

Nice photos Rex, amazing how she 'played dead' to get rid of him 😄

Mike

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 06-Sep-13 07:47 PM GMT

"Maximus" wrote:

Nice photos Rex, amazing how she 'played dead' to get rid of him 😄

Thanks Mike, yes it did make me chuckle. No "not tonight dear I've got a headache" for her. More like "get lost can't you see I'm dead!" 😄

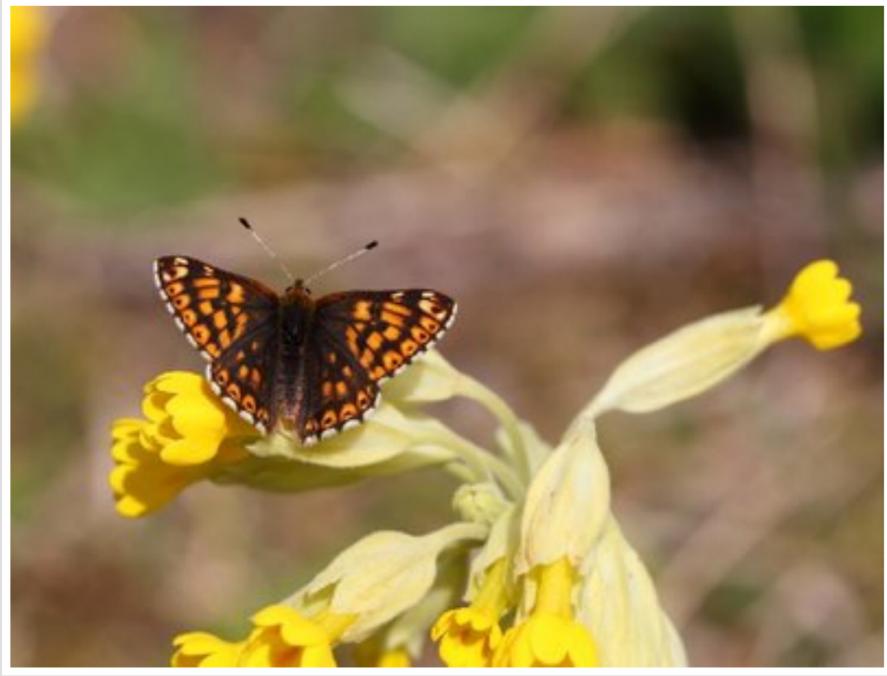
Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 08-Sep-13 01:32 PM GMT

Retrospective Diary part 2: MAY 2013

After this years cold and prolonged spring May proved to be rather hectic as the warmer weather arrived and everything seemed to emerge all at once. I admit that I couldn't really keep up with all the action and as a consequence I didn't manage to take as many photos this spring as I normally would have.

During the first week of May I managed to squeeze in a trip over to Hampshire to seek out the Duke of Burgundy at Noar Hill. The weather was absolutely perfect and the local people were very helpful and friendly. Some of us had travelled a considerable distance to get there and we were rewarded with pretty decent numbers of this cracking little butterfly.



The rest of the month was spent locally, but that was no bad thing, during one brief walk I managed to see 26 species! Possibly a new personal record for May.

Orange Tips and Green Hairstreaks are always high on my list in the spring time, there are some decent sites for Green Hairstreaks locally and most of the usual hotspots had decent numbers.



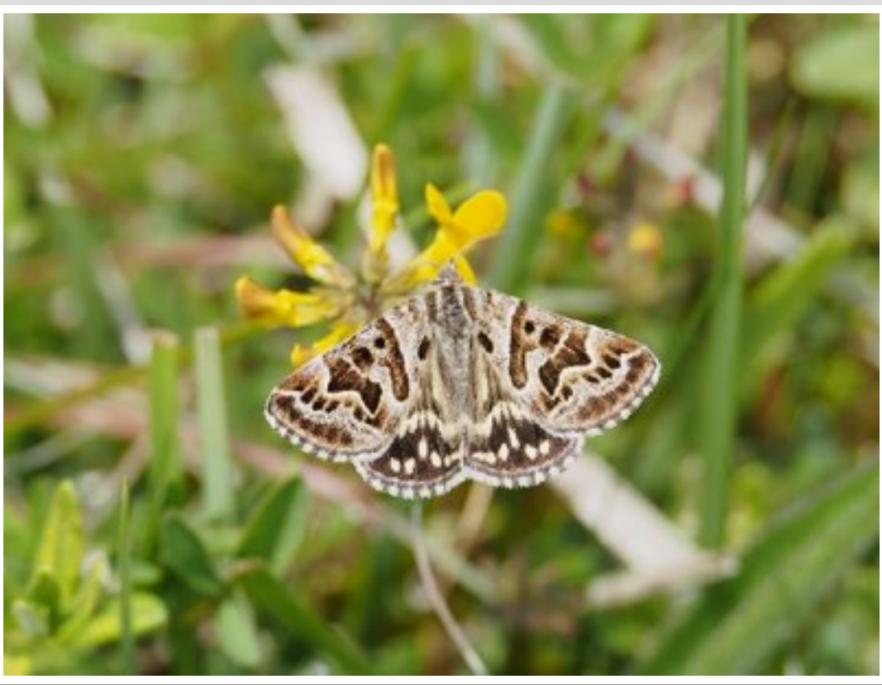
A few Hairstreaks were a little shy and decided to play a bit of peekaboo!



Despite Chasing the Orange tips around and realizing just how unfit I had become over the winter, I didn't manage to get a decent shot of an OT this year. This is about the best I could manage, I did enjoy running after them, they keep me in shape every spring 😊



I saw quite a few Mother Shipton Moths this year, at a distance they fooled me into thinking they were Dingy Skippers.



If you read the first instalment of my "retrospective diary" you may recall the picture of the Small Tort laying eggs on Nettle. I made a point of checking that spot as I passed by, sure enough after a short time the results of her labour were there happily munching away.



For years now I have awaited the spring arrival of the Holly Blue determined to get a decent photo of a fresh one. I've never managed to get a photograph of a Holly blue that I'm happy with, despite my best efforts I failed yet again! This is about the the best I could do, personally I find that even the notoriously difficult Wall Brown is easier to get a good photo of than these guys!



During late May I always try to get over to Abbots Wood for the Pearl Boardered Fritillary. In mid to late May we had some spells of cool and Cloudy weather that made macro photography a bit difficult. Numbers of PFB were definitely low at Abbots this year and they were mostly confined to one site. I did manage to get a couple of half decent shots, I really hope numbers improve there next year.



As well as The PBF I also saw my first fresh Peacocks of the year, there were also some Grizzled Skippers and Green Tiger Beetles at Abbots Wood.





And that's about it for May, it seemed to come and go in the blink of an eye but Spring had finally burst into life, and it was a big relief after that long cold winter.

B,saurus

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Maximus, 08-Sep-13 03:25 PM GMT

Very nice shots Rex, seeing your spring posting brings it all back to me, how time flies 😞 I agree with you that Holly Blues are hard work, especially if you want an open wing shot 😊

Mike

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 08-Sep-13 05:59 PM GMT

"Maximus" wrote:

Very nice shots Rex, seeing your spring posting brings it all back to me, how time flies 😞 I agree with you that Holly Blues are hard work, especially if you want an open wing shot 😊

Mike

Thank you Mike I couldn't agree more, looking back through my photos it feels like just weeks ago not months! I do have a couple of decent side shots of Holly blues but they are all quite worn and tired. In fact it was probably due to their advanced age that I managed to get any photos at all 😊 I shall keep working at it, maybe I'll get lucky next year with a fresh one. Or in an even more likely scenario they will manage to drive me mad all over again 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 08-Sep-13 10:05 PM GMT

Great reminisce Rex 😊 and the side on shot of the Duke is lush 😊🌿 I've just started compiling my Yearly Tally but first I've got about 7or 8 postings

to do in my PD before I can catch up 🤔 Looking forward to June 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 09-Sep-13 05:55 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Great reminisce Rex 😊 and the side on shot of the Duke is lush 😊🍷 I've just started compiling my Yearly Tally but first I've got about 7 or 8 postings to do in my PD before I can catch up 🤔 Looking forward to June 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thank you Wurzel 😊 it's been nice to look back and remember the optimism and excitement that a new season brings. I'd never thought of doing a 'yearly tally' what a great idea. I look forward to seeing those 7 or 8 postings in your diary.. that'll be a treat 😊

J

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 09-Sep-13 08:51 PM GMT

Hi Rex,

Some great photos there, certainly brings back memories of the season 😊

Like Wurzel, I have a few posts to go yet to bring my diary up to date before I start thinking about looking back. Last year I think it was November time before I started to do a couple of retrospective posts, it helps to make the darker nights more bearable.

Cheers,

Neil F.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Nick Broomer, 09-Sep-13 09:12 PM GMT

Lovely photos Rex, 😊😊 especially the female Speckled Wood flat on her side, never witnessed anything quite like it. Well done for capturing the moment. Great stuff.

All the best, Nick.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Paul Harfield, 09-Sep-13 10:54 PM GMT

"Butterfliesaurus rex" wrote:

I saw quite a few Mother Shipton Moths this year, at a distance they fooled me into thinking they were Dingy Skippers.

For years now I have awaited the spring arrival of the Holly Blue determined to get a decent photo of a fresh one. I've never managed to get a photograph of a Holly blue that I'm happy with, despite my best efforts I failed yet again! This is about the the best I could do, personally I find that even the notoriously difficult Wall Brown is easier to get a good photo of than these guys!

Hi

I am enjoying reading your *early* retrospective 😊 Although I am hoping that the butterfly year still has a few surprises in store 😊

I also seem to struggle with Holly Blue 😊 In fact, looking back, I have not managed a single Holly Blue photo 😊 They always seem to appear when I least expect them. When they do appear I am always unprepared. Mother Shiptons have had me fooled a few times this year as well.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 10-Sep-13 08:15 PM GMT

Hi Neil, Thank you for the kind complement 😊 I am looking forward to seeing your retrospective posts, it certainly will make all of our nights more bearable to read them and recall what has been a really nice summer.

I think holding some things back to post during the cold dark winter months is a really great idea, it certainly cheers me up to see it and remember

those warm summer days surrounded by the beauty of nature.

Hi Nick, I had never seen anything like it either, the whole show went on for what seemed like 4 or 5 minutes. She laid flat on the ground like that several times during the display. It was quite fascinating to watch, the male would bat her with his wings and they would occasionally be face to face before she would lie flat again. I think her behaviour was a definite rejection to his advances, he was a persistent little devil but all of his work were in vain on this occasion.

Hi Jack, I do hope we are in for a few nice end of season surprises. The weather has taken on a decidedly chilly and Autumnal feel here in the south east but I hope it will warm up a bit and maybe things will start to happen 😊 I don't think were alone when it comes to struggling with Holly Blues, (small consolation I know) but I hope with patience and a **lot** of persistence we'll both crack it one day. I guess if it were all too easy it wouldn't be as much fun.. although it is very frustrating I must admit 😊

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 22-Sep-13 09:47 PM GMT

Retrospective Diary Pt 3 JUNE 2013

This entry comes a little later than I intended due to ill health.

Considering the late spring I wondered if we would experience the "June gap" actually in the month of June or not! Looking back through my photos I can see that the answer was yes but with a few little surprises.

Every June I try to make a few trips to the BC Park Corner Heath / Rowland Wood reserve to try and find some Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaires. Unfortunately after last years dismal June the SPBF's were very thin on the ground and I worry if they'll be able to hang on there, I hope they can bounce back. The volunteers have done so much hard work improving this lovely reserve it would be a real tragedy if these great little butterflies were lost to Sussex once more.

As a result of this I did not manage to get a single photo of a PBF this year. Instead I had the consolation photos of an Adder and an Emperor Dragonfly.



June turned out to be great for bright and vibrant Poppy fields the like of which I have not seen in my area since my childhood.



This is all well and good but "where are the butterfly photos you ask?" Throughout the first half of June we had quite a few cool and cloudy days making things rather difficult. I found myself on more than one occasion 'wearing a jacket' braving the strong wind peering into the grass looking for sheltering Blues. On one such occasion I found a female Adonis sheltering from the inclement weather, I managed to get a photo or two without disturbing her.



And finally I reach the 'nice surprise' that I alluded to at the start of this entry, as the weather started to improve into what became the best period of summer weather for many a year I was delighted to find a local site with more Common Blues than I've seen for quite some time. I have heard some people say that CB's had not had a good year, well I'm pleased to say that no one told the very healthy population in my local area. Oddly the second brood of CB's didn't produce anything like the numbers I saw in June, in fact it was tiny in comparison. 😊 So to finish off this entry here are a couple of the Common Blue photos I took.



See you in July 😊

B,saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 22-Sep-13 10:07 PM GMT

Bit if a wait for your next post then Rex 😊 Lovely shots especially the hiding Adonis 😊 Wearing a jacket when looking for butterflies feels weird to me too, I reckon that if I'm comfortable with shirt sleeves rolled up then it's just about right for butterflies 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 23-Sep-13 09:25 AM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Bit if a wait for your next post then Rex 😊 Lovely shots especially the hiding Adonis 😊 Wearing a jacket when looking for butterflies feels weird to me too,I reckon that if I'm comfortable with shirt sleeves rolled up then it's just about right for butterflies 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

I will try and get the next one out on time Wurzel 😊 although I think I'll probably be a little preoccupied searching for LTB's this week so another delay is quite possible. Wish me luck – I think I'm going to need it 😊

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by David M, 23-Sep-13 04:42 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Wearing a jacket when looking for butterflies feels weird to me too,I reckon that if I'm comfortable with shirt sleeves rolled up then it's just about right for butterflies

Indeed. It feels quite wrong to be going out clad in a warm jacket in search of sun-worshipping insects!

Looks like we'll be able to cast the warm layers off for a few days (though this may prove the last time this year). 😊

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 23-Sep-13 04:56 PM GMT

No need for our jackets today David 😊 we spent many fruitless hours searching for LTB's despite there being at least 15 of us searching. Oh well.... the weather was glorious and it was nice to see so many familiar faces.

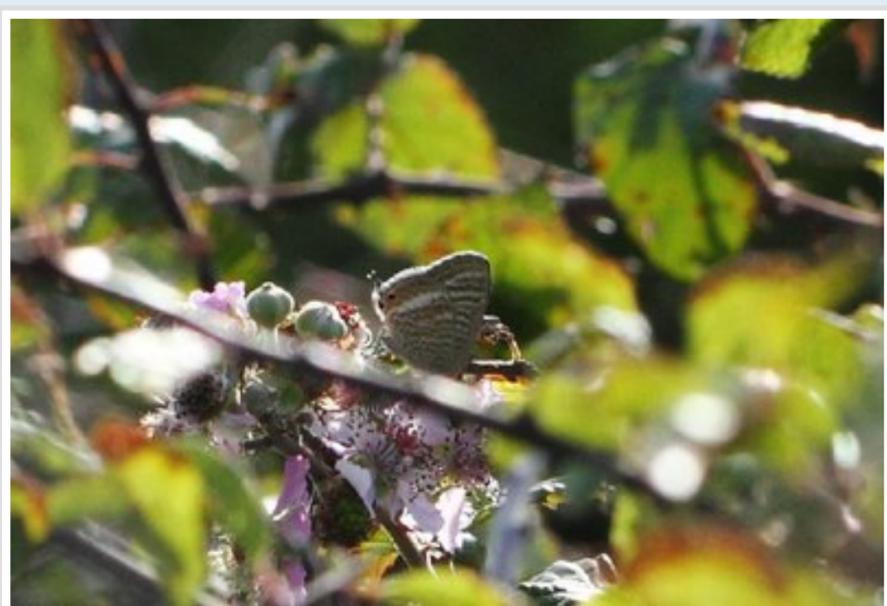
Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 24-Sep-13 06:51 PM GMT

AT LAST!

After several days searching, today I finally caught a glimpse of an extremely elusive (at least in Sussex) home grown Long tailed Blue. The encounter was very brief indeed and she (I think it's a female) was so active she quickly gave me the slip. All I could manage was a distant "record shot" but I'm still very chuffed to get a glimpse of one in my home county.

Apologies for the poor quality, it's been cropped at 100%



In the meantime my quest for a MUCH better shot continues.....

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by David M, 24-Sep-13 08:11 PM GMT

Great spot, Rex. How far away from the 'main' site are you?

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 24-Sep-13 08:27 PM GMT

"David M" wrote:

Great spot, Rex. How far away from the 'main' site are you?

Thanks David 😊 I would think I'm roughly between 60 or 70 miles away from the "main site" 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 24-Sep-13 08:35 PM GMT

Interesting stuff.

We have clearly been invaded on (at least) two fronts.

The early August Clouded Yellow progeny should be checking in any time now too.

Exciting stuff to light up an otherwise depressing time of year.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Nick Broomer, 24-Sep-13 09:44 PM GMT

Brilliant find Rex, well done, its nice to see all your hard work rewarded. 😊

And by the way, i love your photo of the Speckled Wood playing dead. Something i have never witnessed, so well done for capturing the moment. But my favourite has to be the first photo of the Poppies, just brilliant. 😊

All the best, Nick.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 24-Sep-13 10:07 PM GMT

Congrats on the Long-tailed Blue Rex 🍷😊 Now you've found that one you'll be tripping over them 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 24-Sep-13 10:25 PM GMT

"hideandseek" wrote:

Brilliant find Rex, well done, its nice to your hard work rewarded. 😊

And by the way, i love your photo of the Speckled Wood playing dead. Something i have never witnessed, so well done for capturing the moment. But my favourite has to be the first photo of the Poppies, just brilliant. 😊

All the best, Nick.

Thanks so much Nick, no match for your outstanding LTB photos of course but just seeing one was all the reward I could hope for. Perhaps I can find one thats a little less "turbo charged" for a photo oppertunity one day.

The Speckled Wood drama was facinating to watch, it was quite a performance and a privilege to observe.

I love Poppies they are so photogenic 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 24-Sep-13 10:28 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Congrats on the Long-tailed Blue Rex 🍷😊 Now you've found that one you'll be tripping over them 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

😄 If only that were true Wurzel, it was lovely to see one, I hope it won't be my last 😄

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Neil Hulme, 24-Sep-13 11:04 PM GMT

Congratulations B. rex. Top bombing. A self-found LTB away from the crowds is a great achievement.
BWs, Neil

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 25-Sep-13 12:02 AM GMT

"Sussex Kipper" wrote:

Congratulations B. rex. Top bombing. A self-found LTB away from the crowds is a great achievement.
BWs, Neil

Thank you Neil, very kind of you to say that, to say it made my day would be an understatement 😄

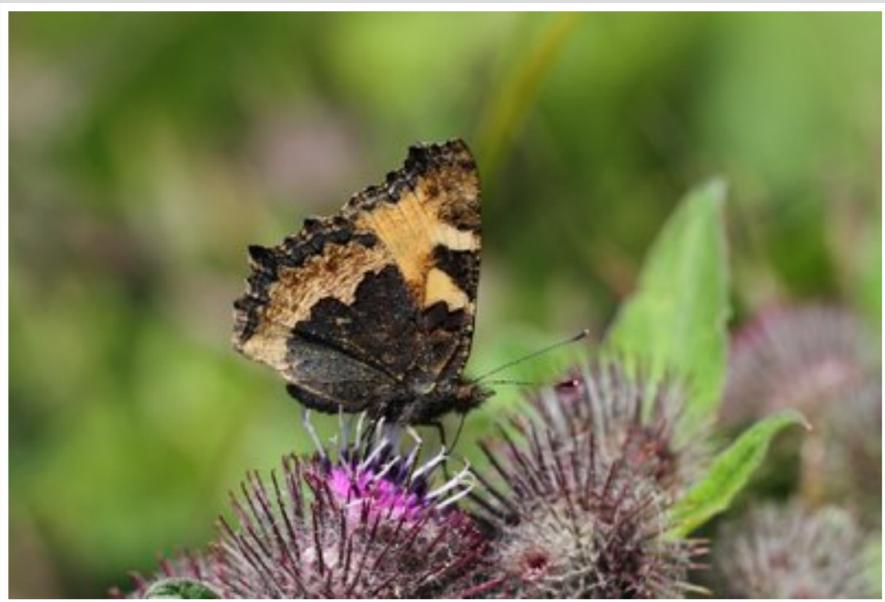
Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 29-Sep-13 09:35 AM GMT

Retrospective Diary Pt 4: JULY 2013

After the short June gap it was 5 4 3 2 1 BLAST OFF!! A veritable Butterfly explosion erupted having me running around like mad trying to keep up! It was so hectic I had to cancel my planned trip to Blean woods for the Heath Fritillary and Ashdown Forest for the Silver Studded Blue... ah well hopefully I'll make it next year.

Early in July Small Tortoiseshell's were everywhere, I'd not seen so many for a very long time, I think it's safe to say they have had a very good year.



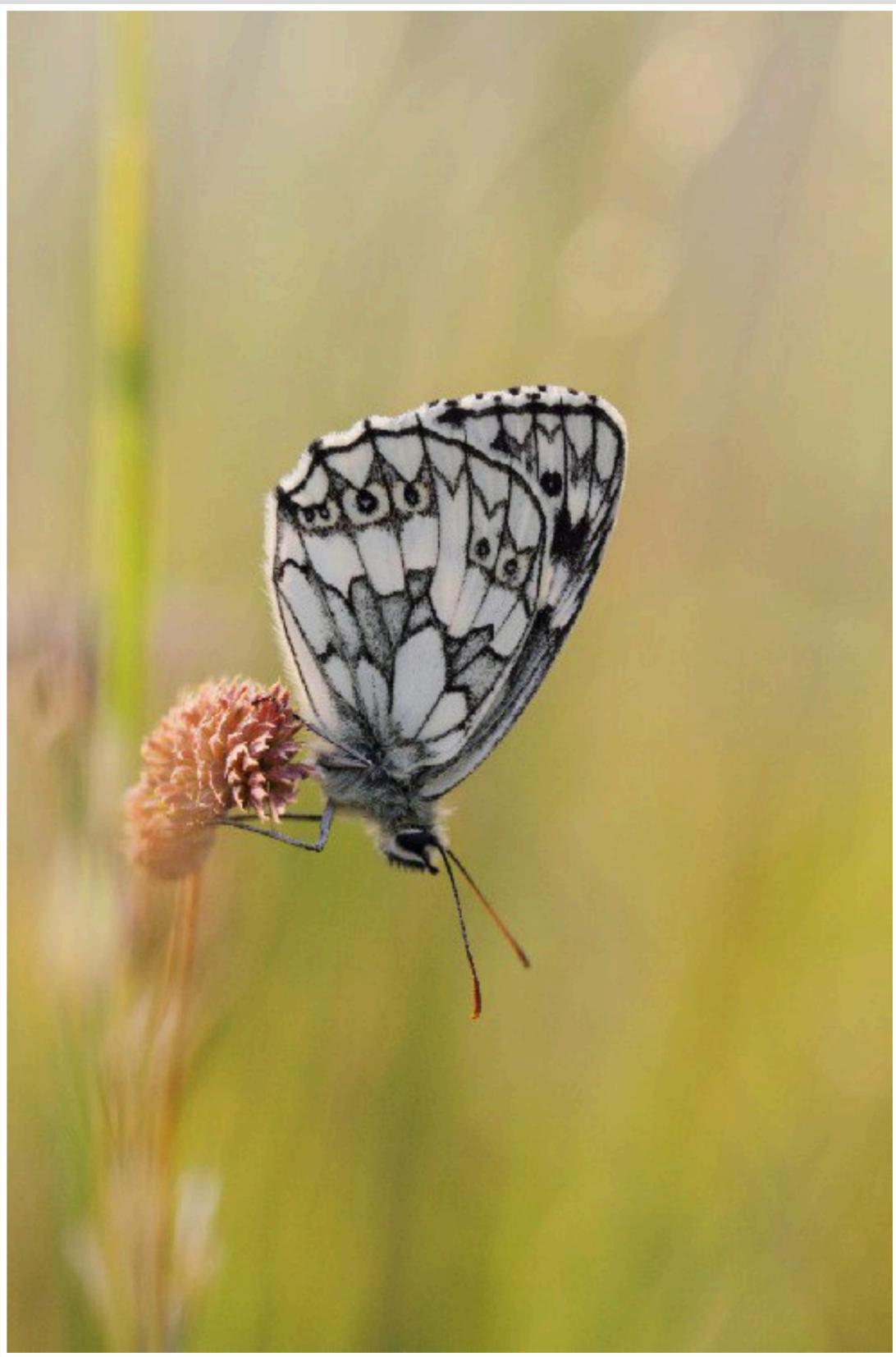
Gatekeepers also did quite well popping up in all sorts of places, not the best numbers I've ever seen but still very good indeed.



Next on my list was the Small Blue, our smallest Butterfly... I love these little guys 😄



I'd been eagerly awaiting the emergence of fresh Marbled Whites and this year didn't disappoint with really good numbers of this lovely (and hard to approach) Butterfly.



Meadow Browns are so ubiquitous that it's easy to take them for granted, out on the downs they are like a constant companion, it wouldn't feel like summer without these little chocolate coloured fellows.



In these parts it seemed to me that Small Skippers did a lot better than large, my photos bear this out with a lot more Small Skipper pictures and only a couple of the large.



If you recall my last entry June was great for poppies, well this carried on over into July and when I'm passing I can't resist taking a shot, maybe it's because red is one of my favourite colours!

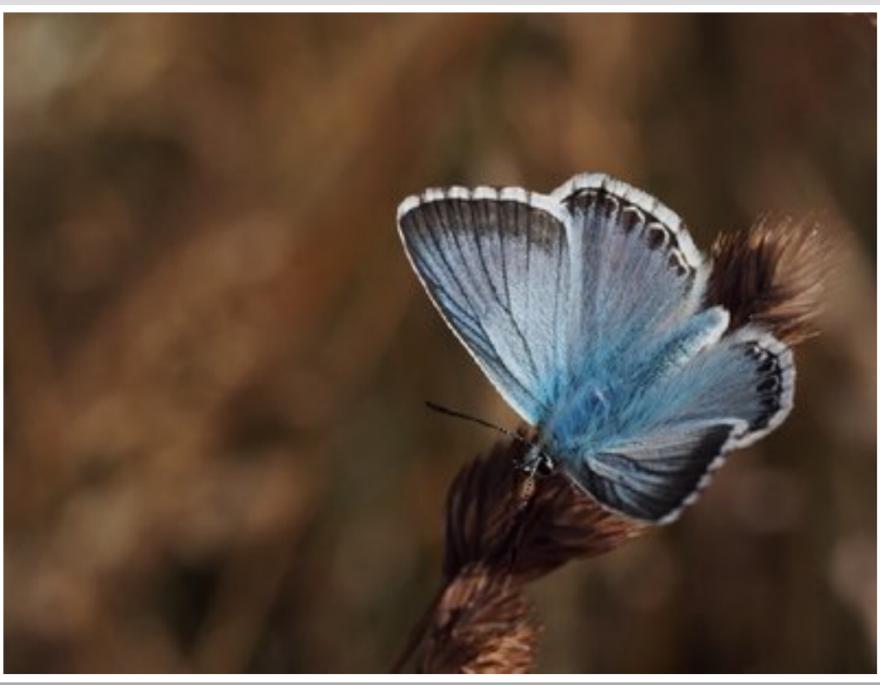


By now we all know what a fantastic year it's been for the Purple Emperor! Not wanting to miss out on his royal majesty I made a couple of trips to Southwater Woods and within 5 minutes of arriving he descended and we had an audience with his royal purple-ness. Unfortunately a nice open wing shot was denied, my camera had just managed to focus and he snapped his wings shut. I only managed to get a side shot this year, I hope to do better next time.



Of course it wouldn't be July without some Chalkhill Blues. There weren't quite as many over at Friston Gallops this year after last years Chalkhill explosion but numbers were very still high.





On my travels through various woodlands I saw plenty of Ringlets and Silver Washed Fritillaries this year.



As the month was drawing to a close it was time to look for the Silver Spotted Skipper once again, this year was a great one for the SSS they were popping up everywhere, even in some new places where I'd not seen them before.



June was so good for Butterflies that I have far too many photos to post here and some species have been omitted like the Dark Green Fritillary. So to bring this wonderful month to a close I tried to find a photo that would sum it all up. To my surprise the one I felt captured the feeling of this golden month the best was one of a humble Meadow brown.



See you in August 😊

B,saurus

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 29-Sep-13 02:41 PM GMT

It certainly was a hectic July everything seemed to come at once! Great shots throughout Rex and after much internal debate my second fave is the Small Skipper the fave being the awesome finale – that is an absolute cracker 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

PS If you want to get close to Marbled Whites try early in the morning on a grey day.

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Hoggers, 29-Sep-13 04:36 PM GMT

It's the Meadow Brown for me, B'Saurus:Wonderful! It's a butterfly so common as to be almost invisible and your photograph has given it centre stage. That photograph will brighten me up when Winter comes.

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 29-Sep-13 05:09 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

It certainly was a hectic July everything seemed to come at once! Great shots throughout Rex and after much internal debate my second fave is the Small Skipper the fave being the awesome finale – that is an absolute cracker 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

PS If you want to get close to Marbled Whites try early in the morning on a grey day.

I must admit that had a lot of help from the evening light Wurzel but thank you're most kind. I will certainly remember that evening for a long while. Everything did come at once didn't it! I honestly didn't know which location or species to try for next, in the end I just took it day by day throwing all of my plans out the window 😊

I'm far too lazy to get up early in the morning Wurzel 😊 my trick for Marbled Whites is to wait until they've gone to bed 😊 that's how I managed to get my MW picture above.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 29-Sep-13 05:15 PM GMT

"Hoggers" wrote:

It's the Meadow Brown for me, B'Saurus:Wonderful! It's a butterfly so common as to be almost invisible and your photograph has given it centre stage. That photograph will brighten me up when Winter comes.

I'm really pleased you like it Hoggers, it's not the tidiest picture with that seed head drooping towards the Meadow Brown but nature seldom is tidy. The evening light was just wonderful and I would highly recommend going out to photograph roosting summer butterflies (I'm sure you've done this too) the light can be great for photography at that time of the day.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 03-Oct-13 01:50 PM GMT

MY LUCK FINALLY IMPROVED!

As some of you know I've been searching at every possible opportunity for another Long-tailed Blue since my very brief sighting near Beachy Head last week. I not only wanted a closer view but I dearly hoped I would get a better photo too.

Well thanks to a friend of a friend I was permitted access into his private garden where there was a good amount of Everlasting Pea. Unfortunately I'm unable to divulge the location as the man understandably wants it to remain strictly private.

Well to say I got my wish of seeing a LTB at close quarters was granted would be a bit of an understatement! Although I didn't see any newly fresh examples I was still overjoyed with what I saw and the photos I took.

Anyway I think I'll let the pictures do the talking – it's an afternoon I shall never forget!







Some wishes do come true! 🤩

B,saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Pete Eeles, 03-Oct-13 02:20 PM GMT

Strewth – buy a lottery ticket right now! Possibly the first actual observation of a mating pair in the British Isles, and almost certainly the first photo of the event! Really well done 😊

Anyone on or near the south-east coast should check their everlasting peas!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Vince Massimo, 03-Oct-13 02:58 PM GMT

Well done James, excellent find 😊

These butterflies seem to have come through the recent spell of cool wet weather without any problem, so this sighting bodes well for the coming sunnier days in any location where the larval food plant is found.

Vince

(I have sent you a PM)

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Goldie M, 03-Oct-13 03:57 PM GMT

Who's got some great friends then 🤔 Great photo's 📷 Goldie 😊

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Nick Broomer, 03-Oct-13 05:15 PM GMT

Well done Rex, i`m really chuffed for you. Brilliant. 😊 😊

All the best, Nick.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 03-Oct-13 08:17 PM GMT

Rex, you are already a legend of this forum after a mere 90 posts!

I salute you. Tremendous images (again).

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by millerd, 03-Oct-13 08:26 PM GMT

History in the making. Utterly amazing. Congratulations – and thank you for the albeit vicarious thrill of sharing the experience! 😊

Dave

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 03-Oct-13 08:56 PM GMT

Simply stunning 🍷🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Testudo Man, 04-Oct-13 10:47 AM GMT

These pictures certainly do "do the talking"!!!

Fantastic experience for you, well done. The mating shot is superb.

I can see why the owner/location of where these beauties are, whants to keep it hush hush too.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by lee3764, 04-Oct-13 11:08 AM GMT

Hi there,

Hells teeth.....all these in just 1 garden too!! Definitely a day you won't forget! I shall not forget our trip to Kent last weekend either but to photograph all these in the comfort of a friend's garden! Just how many Long-tailed Blues migrated over here England) in total? 1000+ in my estimation as almost all would never have been noticed due to their size & confusion with other blues flying at the same time (mid-August). I wouldn't worry in the slightest that they are not quite perfect condition!

Well done!

Lee Slaughter (Cornwall).

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 04-Oct-13 11:09 AM GMT

Thank you all so much for your very kind comments, it really was a dream come true to see that, and I am of course EXTREMELY lucky... what a privilege 😊

As you can imagine this has been a massive highlight in an already incredible year.

Best of luck to everyone on their individual quests to find some Long-tailed Blues.

My very best wishes to you all.

B, rex

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 04-Oct-13 11:14 AM GMT

"lee3764" wrote:

Hi there,

Hells teeth.....all these in just 1 garden too!! Definitely a day you won't forget! I shall not forget our trip to Kent last weekend either but to photograph all these in the comfort of a friend's garden! Just how many Long-tailed Blues migrated over here England) in total? 1000+ in my estimation as almost all would never have been noticed due to their size & confusion with other blues flying at the same time (mid-August). I wouldn't worry in the slightest that they are not quite perfect condition!

Well done!

Lee Slaughter (Cornwall).

Hi Lee,

I read about your adventure to Kent – cracking stuff! Like everyone else I was so pleased (and relieved) that your mission was successful after travelling all that way. 😊

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Paul Harfield, 04-Oct-13 04:45 PM GMT

Hi

Your diary never ceases to amaze me 😊 Your Meadow Brown with the sun behind is stunning, but 3 LTB in one shot 😲 That is just greedy 😊😊 Lovely photos and a great diary. I will be happy with just one Long Tailed Blue 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 04-Oct-13 10:14 PM GMT

"jackz432r" wrote:

Hi

Your diary never ceases to amaze me 😊 Your Meadow Brown with the sun behind is stunning, but 3 LTB in one shot 😲 That is just greedy 😊😊
Lovely photos and a great diary. I will be happy with just one Long Tailed Blue 😊

I could say the same about your diary Jack 😊 It was more luck than greed 😊 I literally couldn't believe my eyes! I doubt I'll ever see anything like that again. I hope you get to see an LTB (or more) before it sadly comes to an end.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 04-Oct-13 10:20 PM GMT

Just caught up with your diary Rex.

Wow, what can I say that hasn't already been said other than to totally agree with all the comments, brilliant stuff and great photos 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Padfield, 04-Oct-13 10:30 PM GMT

Like Neil, I've only just caught up with your diary, B Rex. The picture with a mating pair of long-tailed blues and a second male in flight is just remarkable – and the fact you took it in the UK is, as others have said, historic.

Back up your originals!!

Guy

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Maximus, 04-Oct-13 11:12 PM GMT

Like Neil and Guy I've only just caught up with your diary Rex. I totally agree with all previous comments, brilliant photos and a first for the British Isles, great stuff!

Mike

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by walpolec, 04-Oct-13 11:40 PM GMT

"millerd" wrote:

History in the making...

Dave

Shouldn't that be "History in **mat**-ing"



[Loving the whole LTB story even though I can't be part of it]

Chris

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 05-Oct-13 10:06 AM GMT

Thank you so much Neil, Guy, Mike and Chris, don't worry Guy I've backed them all up 😊 I've only been a member of UKB for a short while and everyone has made me feel very welcome. I really do appreciate all of the kind and generous comments I've received, thank you everyone 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 07-Oct-13 09:05 AM GMT

I had a splendid day with Sussex Kipper and Brian Henham (great to meet you Brian 😊) yesterday. We managed to locate some male Long-tailed Blues, strangely not a female to be seen.

My wish to see a much fresher LTB was granted 🍀 Last week has been unforgettable.





B,saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 11-Oct-13 08:52 PM GMT

Retrospective Diary Pt 5: AUGUST 2013

THE INVASION!

After all of that wonderful Long-tailed Blue excitement it was time to return to my look back over what has been a wonderful season. For me August was about the invasion of the "other" migrants that periodically visit our shores namely Clouded Yellows and Painted Ladies. And what a welcome return it was, I'd not seen a Clouded Yellow since the last influx in 2009 and I was determined to try and make the most of it. Luckily this turned out to be the best year for Clouded Yellow and Painted Ladies since 2009.

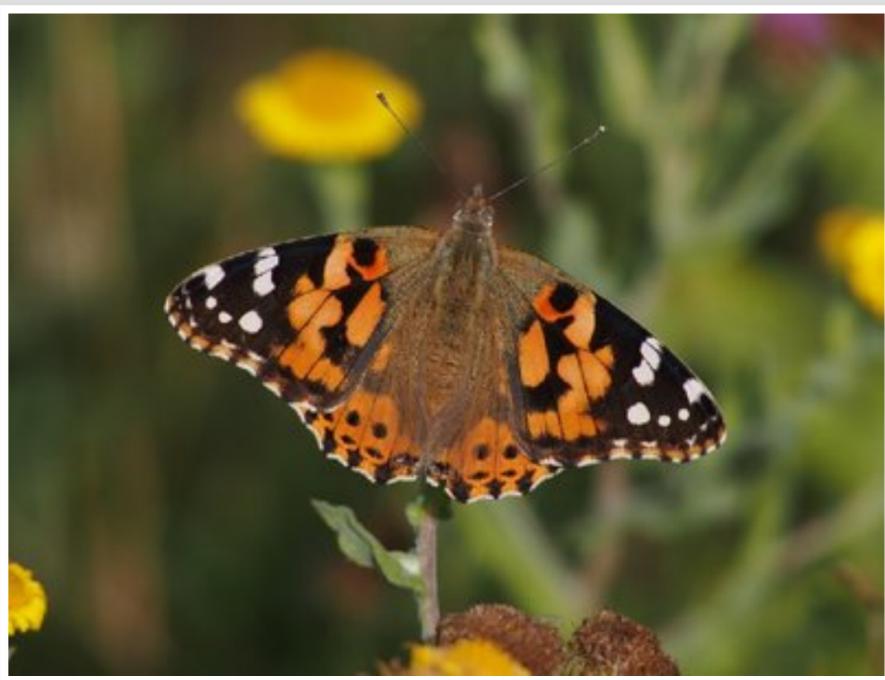
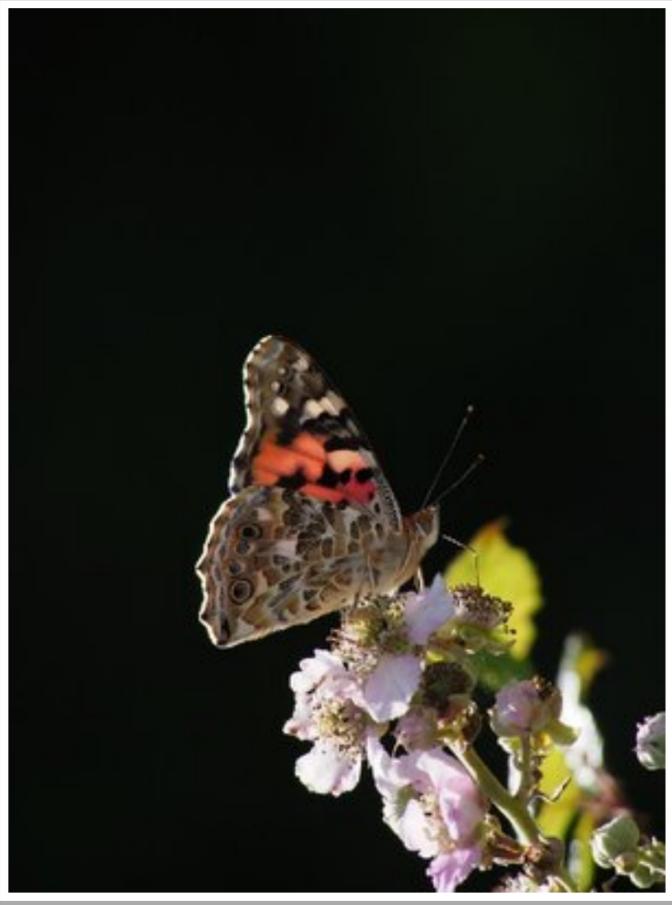
Not having seen a Helice CY in 2009 I was delighted to finally catch up to not only one – but by the end of August I'd had 7 sightings of this lovely variation on the theme of Yellow.



Some of the Clouded Yellows were still in tip top condition.



The other welcome visitor (the Painted Lady) did not occur in 2009 numbers but were a pretty regular feature on my travels.



I was very pleased to see Peacocks doing rather well this year too.



Almost on the opposite end of the scale for vibrancy and colour I sought out the cryptic master of disguise the Grayling doing what it does best.....blending right in 😊



Common Blues also did quite well in my local area.



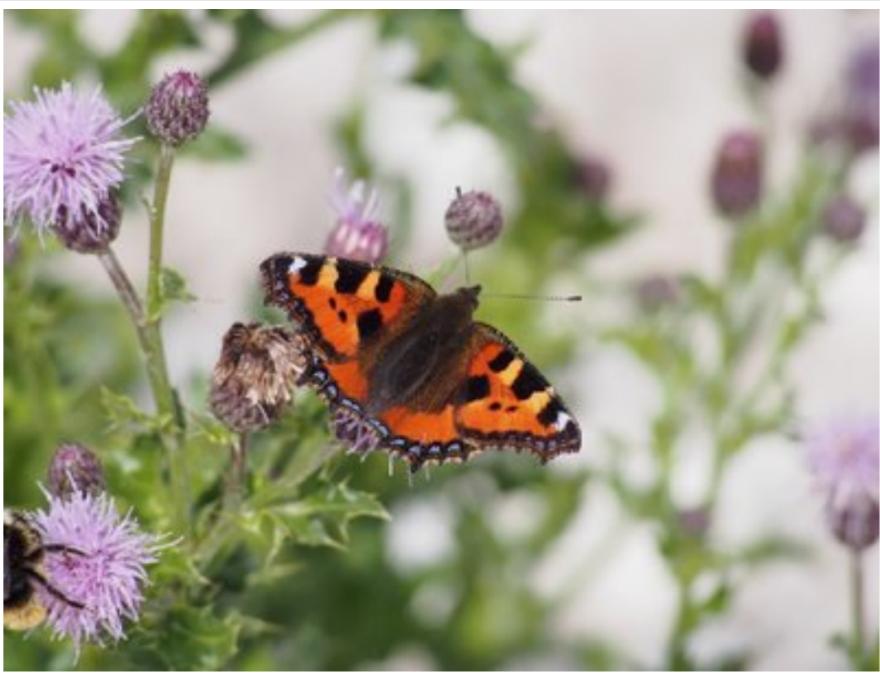
For some reason I didn't get to see many Brown Argus this year, probably because I didn't visit my usual spots much. I did still manage to get a few of photos along the way.



August is the time to start looking for Silver Spotted Skippers and this year was a bumper one, I don't think I've ever seen so many over such a wide area before, GREAT NEWS! 😊

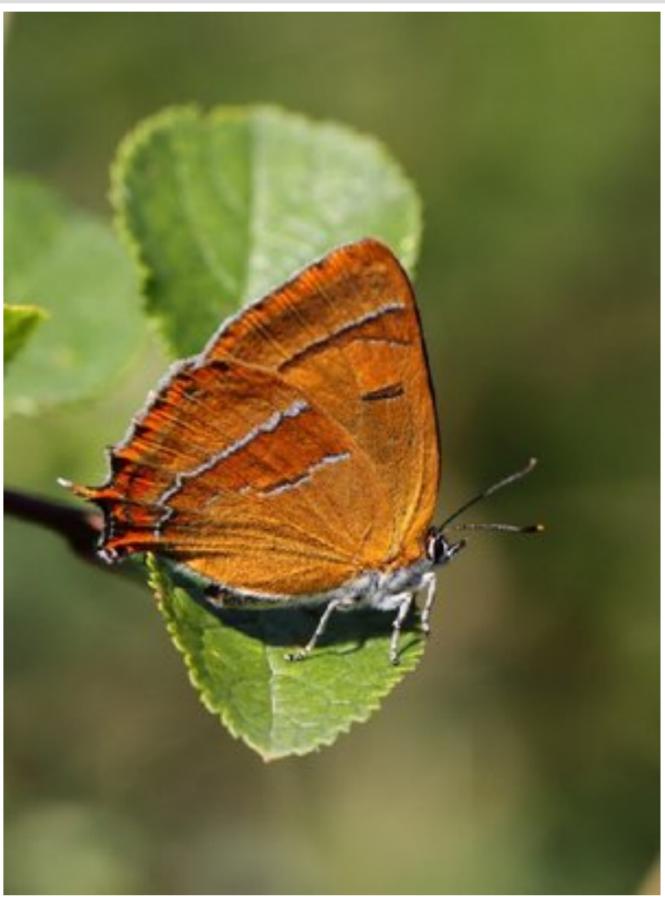


Small Tortoiseshell's also had a great year, I saw so many it reminded me of when I was a kid when they seemed to be everywhere.



A report on the month of August wouldn't be complete without mentioning the Brown Hairstreak. This lovely butterfly usually heralds the beginning of the end, however this season had some late surprises to spring upon us in the form of the Long-tailed Blue. At the time I thought that the Brownies would make a splendid end to one of the best years in ages.

Just when I thought it was safe to hang up my camera!..... Well you know the rest.



And that was August.

B,saurus

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 11-Oct-13 09:17 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Rex 😊🌱 that first Painted Lady is stunning 😎 You've brought back the memories of a brilliant month 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 11-Oct-13 09:45 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Fantastic shots Rex 😊🌿 that first Painted Lady is stunning 😎 You've brought back the memories of a brilliant month 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thank you Wurzel, that Painted Lady shot was pure luck, there was a dense row of trees and brambles behind giving me an 'almost' black background! August was just fantastic wasn't it 😊 I wish we could live it all over again.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Hoggers, 12-Oct-13 05:09 PM GMT

Amongst all of your wonderful photographs B'saurus, it's the helice Clouded Yellow that I admire the most. When I saw your earlier posting of a helice photo I so hoped that I'd find one too, I thought it was beautiful. It really inspired me to find one and in the end a helice found me (even though it was a rather odd looking helice!)

Great photographs

Best wishes

Hoggers

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Oct-13 06:51 PM GMT

"Hoggers" wrote:

Amongst all of your wonderful photographs B'saurus, it's the helice Clouded Yellow that I admire the most. When I saw your earlier posting of a helice photo I so hoped that I'd find one too, I thought it was beautiful. It really inspired me to find one and in the end a helice found me (even though it was a rather odd looking helice!)

Great photographs

Best wishes

Hoggers

Hoggers, I've been so lucky with the Helice CY's this year, after seeing the first one I didn't think I would find anymore. Imagine my surprise when I saw a further 5 in the space of two or three weeks! 😲 Two of them looked very fresh indeed and I was lucky enough to get a few photos. We've been a bit spoiled with migrants here in the southeast this year. I must commend you on your fantastic diary and wonderful photos, your set of Long-tailed Blue pictures were just amazing! Not to mention all the other stunning photos you've taken this year.

I'm really pleased that you managed to find a Helice CY and get some photos, what a great and memorable year it has been.

Praise from a phtograper as good as yourself is great praise indeed, thank you so much for all of your kind very and generous comments. 😊

ATB

B,saurus

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Nick Broomer, 14-Oct-13 07:46 PM GMT

Great assortment of photos Rex. 😊 My favourite being the Peacock on Fleabane, beautiful. 😊

All the best, Nick.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 15-Oct-13 08:14 PM GMT

Some really great photos there,

I really like the Painted Lady against the black background, nice one 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 15-Oct-13 09:28 PM GMT

Thank you very much indeed Nick and Neil 😊 You're most kind.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 23-Oct-13 10:07 PM GMT

Retrospective Diary Pt 6: September 2013

Winding Down

This is the last entry of my retrospective diary - 2013.

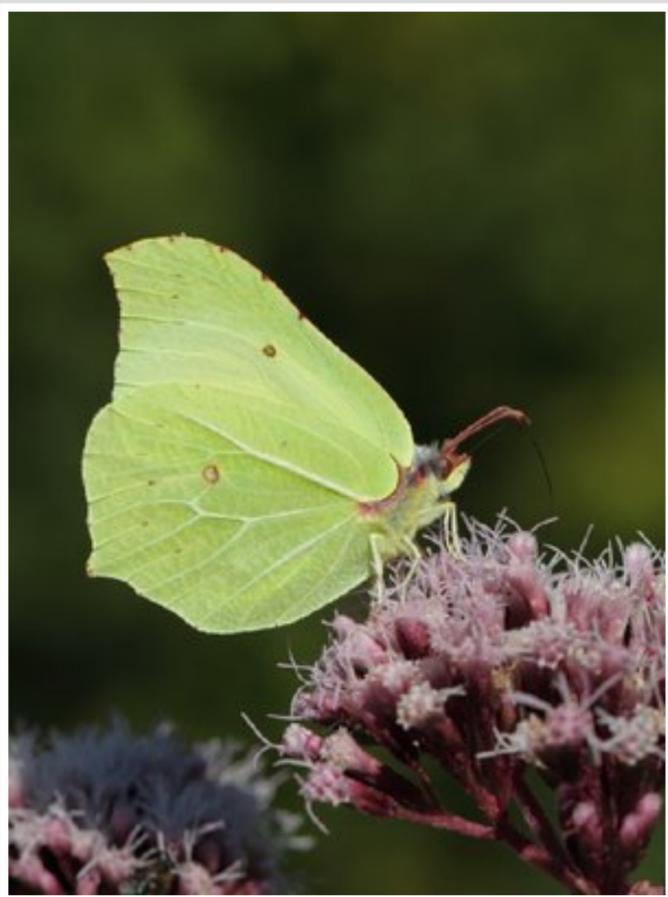
After the glorious months of July and August things we're still going strong but there was a definite feeling that things were beginning to wind down. Fresh butterflies were becoming less numerous and I tried to make the most of September as much as I could.

As it turned out I could not manage as many Butterflying trips as I would have liked but I still had some memorable times.

Even though Commas are around for the whole season I still feel they are synonymous with the end of the "Butterfly year" going into Autumn.



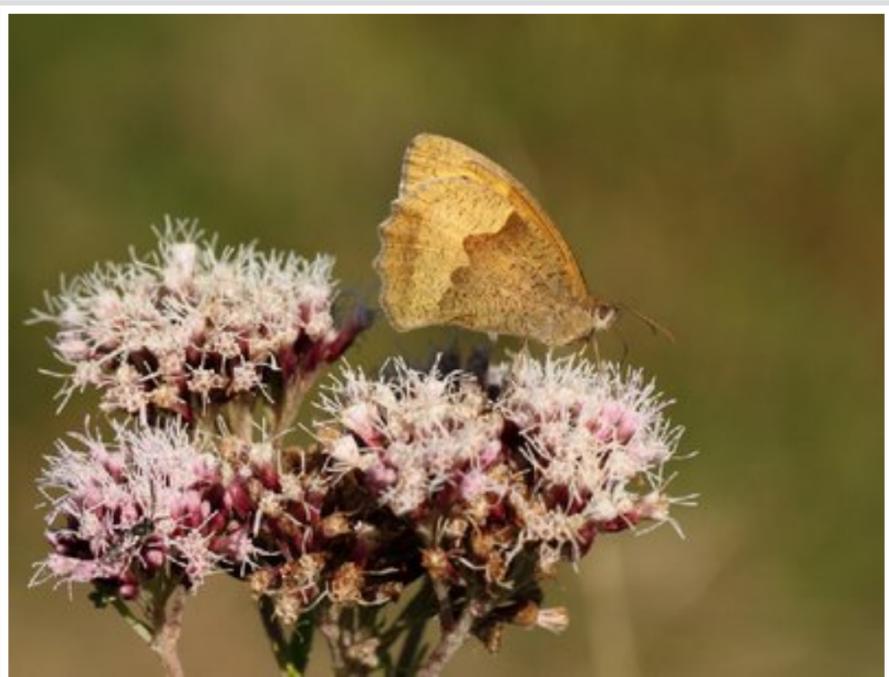
As the Brimstones start to nectar up for the winter they become much more approachable for photography. Many of them are in great condition and I just love taking pictures of them, they are one of my favourites.



Adonis Blues did rather well with their second brood and we're so active in the heat of the day that I didn't manage any great photos this year. These were the best I could manage, they really gave me the run around and I missed out on the really fresh ones this time.



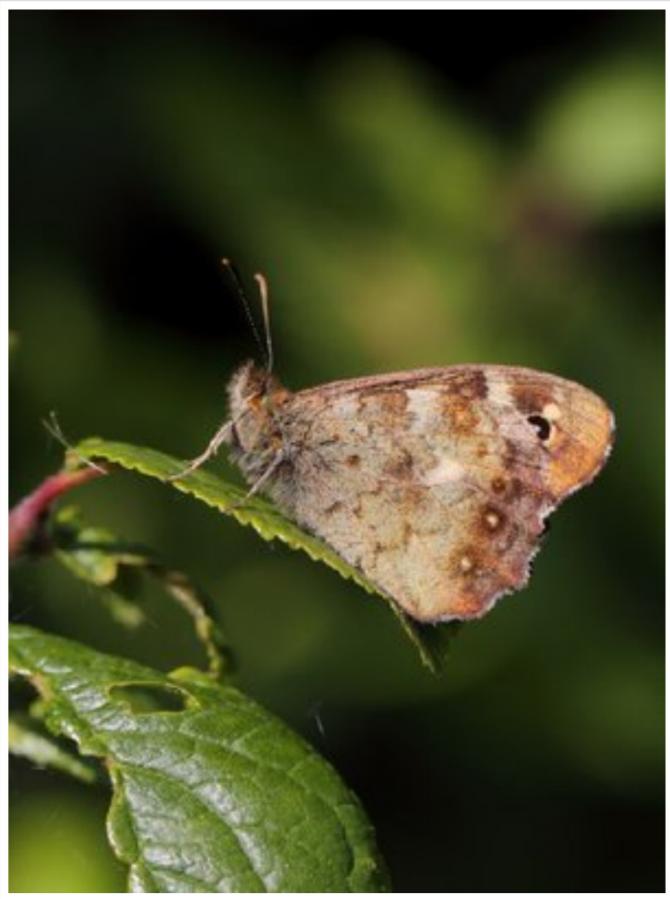
Meadow Browns had a great year and there were still a lot of fresh looking examples around.



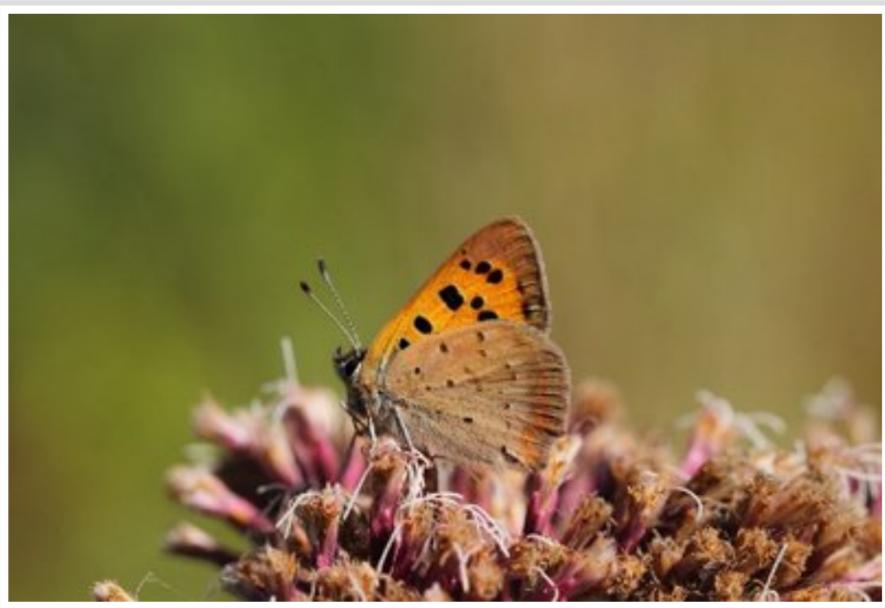
I still saw a few Painted Ladies around in great condition but numbers were dropping.



Speckled Woods had a very strong end to the year and seemed to be everywhere.



To finish off I have reserved this spot for the Small Copper. I was so pleased to see Small Coppers doing well after a quite a few dismal years where they seemed to be on a very steep decline. They continued right into October and I saw one only a few days ago. I hope that they will be able to sustain this recovery and do even better next year.





This year has been one of the best I can remember, I didn't manage to achieve all of my personal goals and see everything I wanted to see but that doesn't really matter. Some spring Butterflies struggled this year and I can only hope that if they get a good spring they will be able join their summer counterparts from this year that (in some cases) made a great resurgence.

Lastly I would like to extend HUGE thanks and best wishes to Sussex Kipper, Badgerbob, Downland Boy, Philzoid and everyone else that I met out there this year. Hope to see you all again next year sometime.

And thank you to everyone on UK Butterflies, you've made a new member feel very welcome, your photos, reports and diary entries are inspirational.

Best

B,saurus Rex

P.S During my winter hibernation I might post a few photos from years gone by 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by badgerbob, 24-Oct-13 06:28 PM GMT

Hey James. Good to see you and Claire during the LTB season. Thanks for trying to get me to the mating pair, just sorry I wasn't quick enough!! Maybe next year!!!! Will try to help you get your W.L.Hairstreak. Bob.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 24-Oct-13 08:25 PM GMT

"badgerbob" wrote:

Hey James. Good to see you and Claire during the LTB season. Thanks for trying to get me to the mating pair, just sorry I wasn't quick enough!! Maybe next year!!!! Will try to help you get your W.L.Hairstreak. Bob.

Thank you Bob, it was great fun wasn't it, with a fair amount of effort (and frustration) thrown in for good measure. It was such a shame that the mating pair of LTB's didn't stay horny for just a little while longer, you missed it by a whisker. You can blame that pesky male interloper in my threesome photo for splitting them up, he really was a determined little so and so!

With your help I hope I will get my first proper sight of a W.L.H next year, as you know I've only ever seen them high up in the trees!

I'm really looking forward to it 😊

All the best

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 24-Oct-13 09:52 PM GMT

Great reports and photos Rex 😊 I'm gutted that your retrospective is over 😞 but looking forward to your previous delights 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Hulme, 25-Oct-13 08:51 AM GMT

Good to meet you and Claire this summer. Only 5 months before we can start chasing Large Tortoiseshells ... but don't let her know that. 😊
BW's, Neil

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 25-Oct-13 08:35 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Great reports and photos Rex 😊 I'm gutted that your retrospective is over 😞 but looking forward to your previous delights 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thank you Wurzel 😊 I've enjoyed doing it. I'm really enjoying your diary, your photos and writings are first rate, I hope you've got a few more instalments left. I would have continued my diary into October if I hadn't spent the entire time searching high and low for Long-tailed Blues..... it was well worth it 😊

Best wishes,

B'saurus

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 25-Oct-13 08:44 PM GMT

"Sussex Kipper" wrote:

Good to meet you and Claire this summer. Only 5 months before we can start chasing Large Tortoiseshells ... but don't let her know that. 😊

BWs, Neil

And it was great meeting you again this year Neil. Only 5 months eh, I think I'll surprise her with that one 😊 she'll be absolutely delighted 🍷

We hope to see you again next year.

All the best,

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

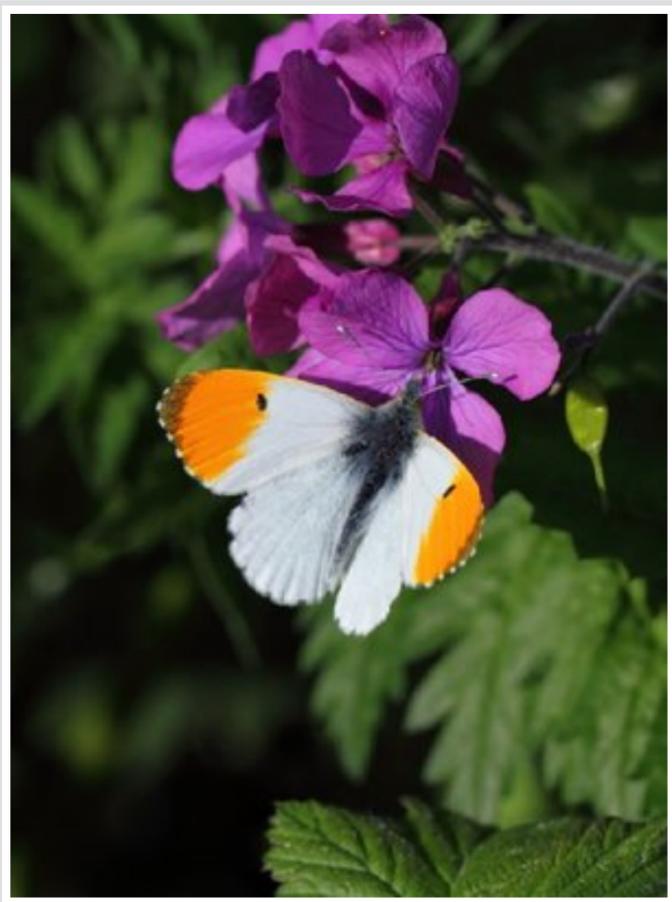
by Butterfliesaurus rex, 02-Nov-13 10:37 PM GMT

Having completed my retrospective diary for this year I decided it might be nice to post a few of my favourite photos from the past few years to help tide me over the winter.

My mind has already turned to thoughts of spring so I decided to start off with a few springtime Butterflies.

First up is the Orange Tip, I sure hope that next spring is a bumper one for these little beauties.

May 19/04/2011



May 21/04/2011



May 22/04/2012



B'saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 03-Nov-13 12:49 PM GMT

Lovely shots Rex especially the last one – that type of shot is on my wish list along with a mating pair 🍷 Here's hoping for next year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 03-Nov-13 01:01 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Lovely shots Rex especially the last one – that type of shot is on my wish list along with a mating pair 🍷 Here's hoping for next year 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thank you for the kind comment Wurzel 😊 I was really pleased with the lighting on the last one, that orange really glows. I hope that both of us manage to get a photo of a mating pair next spring, I've not seen that yet. I've seen males trying it on but so far they've all been rejected.

BW's

B'saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by millerd, 03-Nov-13 01:08 PM GMT

Those Orange Tips really make you want to wish away the next four months or so... Lovely pictures 😊 I've generally encountered mating pairs late afternoon, but I don't know if this is coincidence or a definitely favoured time of day.

Dave

Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Butterflysauros rex, 03-Nov-13 01:20 PM GMT

"millerd" wrote:

Those Orange Tips really make you want to wish away the next four months or so... Lovely pictures 😊 I've generally encountered mating pairs late afternoon, but I don't know if this is coincidence or a definitely favoured time of day.

Dave

Thanks for the 'tip' (no pun intended 😊) Millerd, I will make a note of that and see what I can find during the afternoons next spring. If we have a good year for Orange Tips my chances of seeing a mating pair should improve.... with any luck.

As you can see from my photos I seem to have most of my luck with Orange Tips during May here in Sussex.

BW's

B'saurus

Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Hoggers, 03-Nov-13 04:07 PM GMT

I'm with Millerd, B'Saurus: seeing those beautiful photos makes me want to hibernate until May!

Best wishes

Hoggers

Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Butterflysauros rex, 04-Nov-13 09:14 PM GMT

"Hoggers" wrote:

I'm with Millerd, B'Saurus: seeing those beautiful photos makes me want to hibernate until May!

Best wishes

Hoggers

I know how you feel Hoggers, the winter seems to go on and on while the summers always fly by.

Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Maximus, 05-Nov-13 06:00 PM GMT

Lovely Orange Tip photos Rex, I agree that spring can't come quick enough 😊 The only mating pair I have seen was in late afternoon!

Mike

Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Butterflysauros rex, 24-Nov-13 08:41 PM GMT

"Maximus" wrote:

Lovely Orange Tip photos Rex, I agree that spring can't come quick enough 😊 The only mating pair I have seen was in late afternoon!

Mike

Thanks Mike I agree, I will keep a look out during the afternoons, thank you for the tip 😊

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 24-Nov-13 08:49 PM GMT

Well here I am again dreaming of the spring and what it might bring. Hopefully some good numbers of these little beauties will fall within reach of my lens.

Taken in May 2011



Again in May 2011



Taken in May 2012



B'saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Nick Broomer, 24-Nov-13 08:55 PM GMT

Hi Rex,

Lovely photos. 😊

I think that when you go looking for mating Orange-tips you will have to make a day of it. As the only pair i have found copulating was at 9.45 in the morning, so you had better pack some lunch. 😊

All the best, Nick.

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 24-Nov-13 09:04 PM GMT

"hideandseek" wrote:

Hi Rex,

Lovely photos. 😊

I think that when you go looking for mating Orange-tips you will have to make a day of it. As the only pair i have found copulating was at 9.45 in the morning, so you had better pack some lunch. 😊

All the best, Nick.

Thanks Nick 😊 Knowing me I will be out there all day 'if I get half a chance' so I might as well start looking in the AM as well. Did you get a photo of them in cop Nick? I reckon that if I do ever see it I won't have my camera with ~ me such is life. 😊

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Nick Broomer, 24-Nov-13 09:45 PM GMT

I got a photo Rex, as shown below. It was taken five years ago, i think my second year of photographing butterflies.[attachment=0:72gz1txo]Copy of IMG_0041-2_1.jpg[/attachment:72gz1txo]

All the best, Nick.

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 24-Nov-13 10:26 PM GMT

Thats a cracking photo Nick, by the comments I've recieved here it's not a common sight so you did very well. It's odd that I should see a mating pair of Long-tailed Blues here in the UK before an Orange Tip, I must be doing it all wrong 😊

Regards

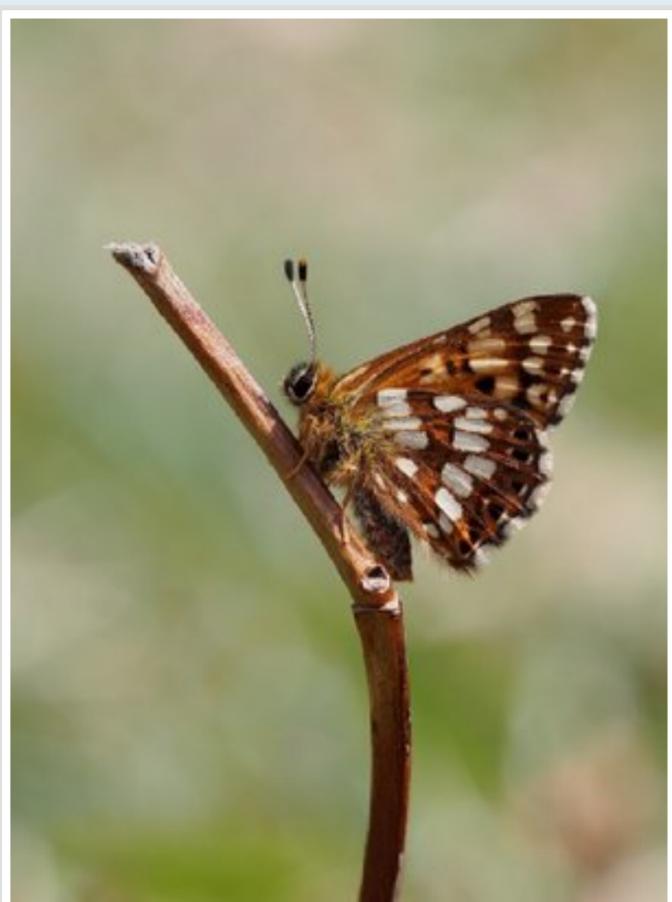
B'saurus

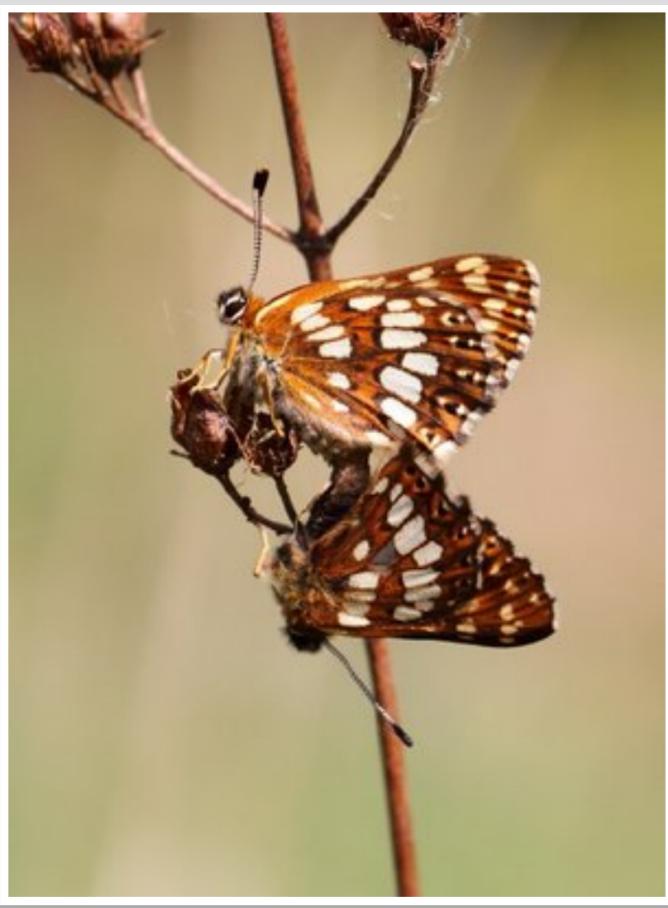
Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 07-Dec-13 03:48 PM GMT

Looking through some of my pictures from earlier this year I stumbled across a couple of 'Duke of Burgundy' photos from Noar Hill that I forgot to post in my diary.

I was lucky enough to see my first ever mating pair this year 😊





Thanks to all of the hard work done by the wonderful volunteers at Heyshott Down the habitat for Dukes will be even better! I can't wait to get over there and see some Dukes next spring.

B'saurus

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 07-Dec-13 09:52 PM GMT

Cracking shots Rex, the first one is gurt lush as some would say and the second is on my wish list for my "Butterflies Sex" book 📖 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by David M, 07-Dec-13 09:56 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

the second is on my wish list for my "Butterflies Sex" book

Now there's an idea!

Whoever bags Red Admiral gets to do it! 😊

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 08-Dec-13 08:33 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Cracking shots Rex, the first one is gurt lush as some would say and the second is on my wish list for my "Butterflies Sex" book 📖 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

What's that then Wurzel? Are you writing a Kama Sutra for Butterflies 🤔

As ever your kind comments are very much appreciated 😊

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 08-Dec-13 08:47 PM GMT

I can't help but wonder what kind of spring we will have next year, hopefully not a repeat of last spring, I'm a reasonable man but no warm weather until April AAAARRRRGGHHH!!!

With any luck it will be a little more "traditional" next time, Here's few photos (from seasons past) of the first Butterflies I see first every spring. They always manage to raise my spirits and put a smile back on my face.

Taken 27th of May 2010



Taken 25th of July 2011



Taken 9th of April 2011



Of course there should also be some Comma's here too but they are reserved for my next post.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 10-Dec-13 10:33 PM GMT

The long winter/slow spring was torturous and I heartily hope that we won't see one of those again 😡 That being said it did turn out all right in the end. I love the way the grasses are all 'action' and 'sway' whilst the Small Tort is so sharp you could almost cut yourself on it in the first shot, absolute cracker! 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Nick Broomer, 10-Dec-13 10:50 PM GMT

Lovely photos Rex. 😊 I especially like the female Brimstone, beautiful. 😊 Lets hope for a better spring next year. 😊

All the best, Nick.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Maximus, 11-Dec-13 12:18 AM GMT

Nice postings B'Rex, spring is the greatest season of all 😊 roll on spring 😊

Mike

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 18-Dec-13 05:13 PM GMT

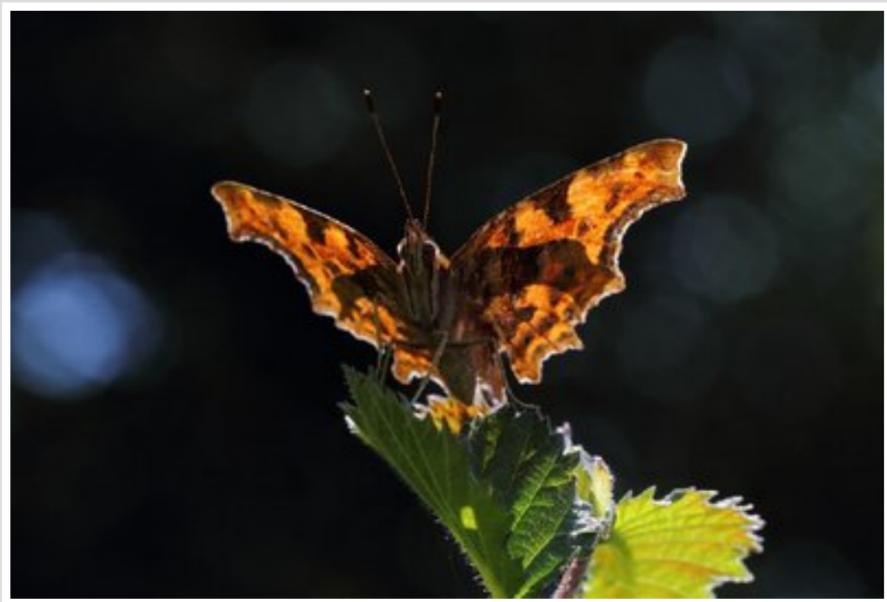
Thank you so much Wurzel, Nick and Mike 😊 at least we're almost half way through the winter ~ although January and February do tend to drag on for a bit.....roll on spring indeed.

Comma

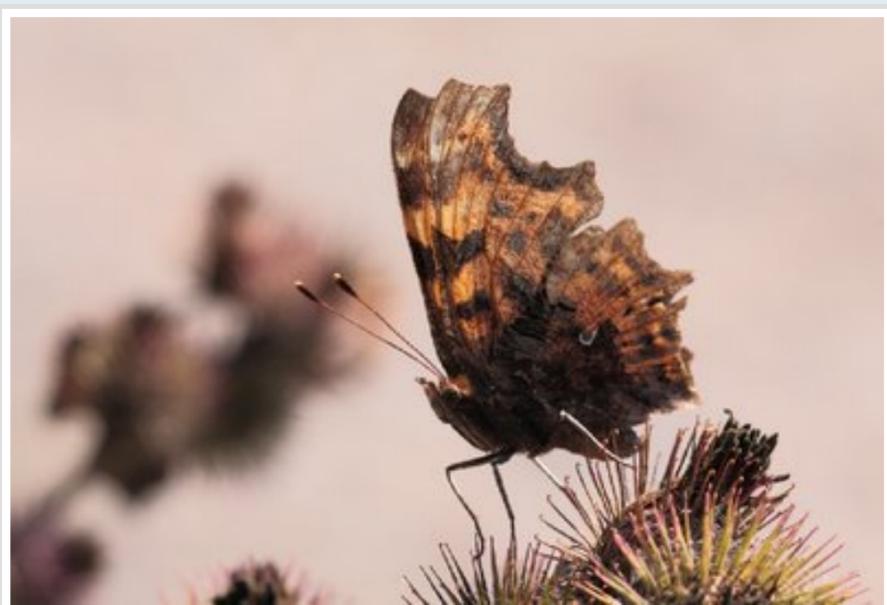
As promised here are a couple of my Comma photos from years gone by to complete my round up of our resident hibernators.

This time (just for a change) I decided to post a couple of my more unusual Comma photos, the first one reminds me of Batman for some reason 😊 The second one is of a Comma so worn that it's wings were almost transparent in places, there is something I like about the photo though, even in it's sorry state it still had a faded glory about it.

Taken on 2nd of July 2011



Taken on 16th of August 2010



My next "Xmas" post will be of a little something I've been holding back, Sussex Kipper sort of gave me the idea so some of the credit must go to him.

B'saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 22-Dec-13 11:43 AM GMT

Well here it is, I've been saving these up for quite a while intending to use them as my "Christmas entry" and last post of 2013.

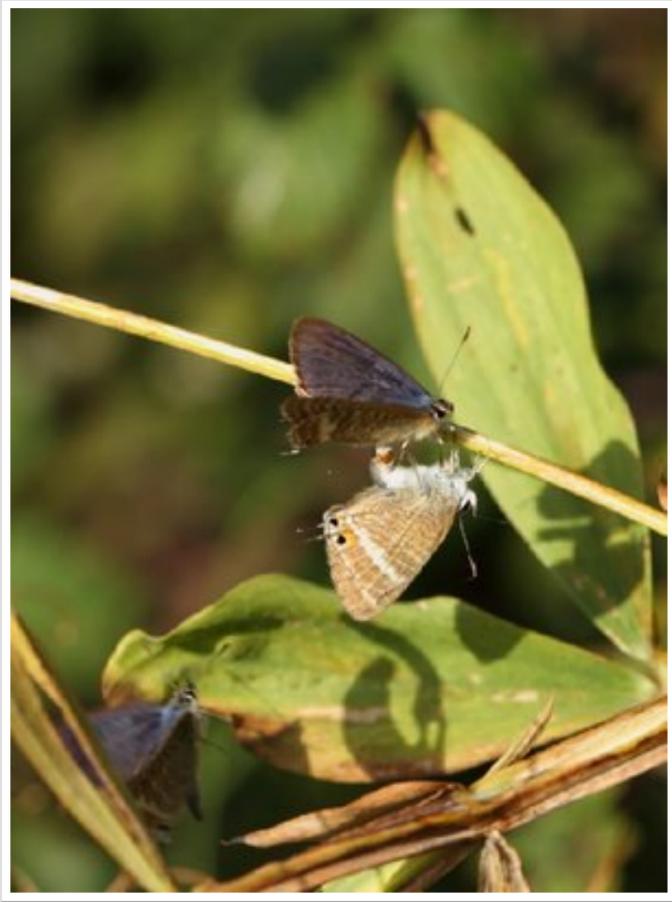
Not long after taking them I showed this set to Sussex Kipper on my camera screen, he said "you should post them up at Christmas" or something along those lines, What a great idea I thought – thanks Niel 😊 Of course I wasn't patient enough to save them all up until Christmas, it was all far too exciting at the time – so one of these photos has been posted before.

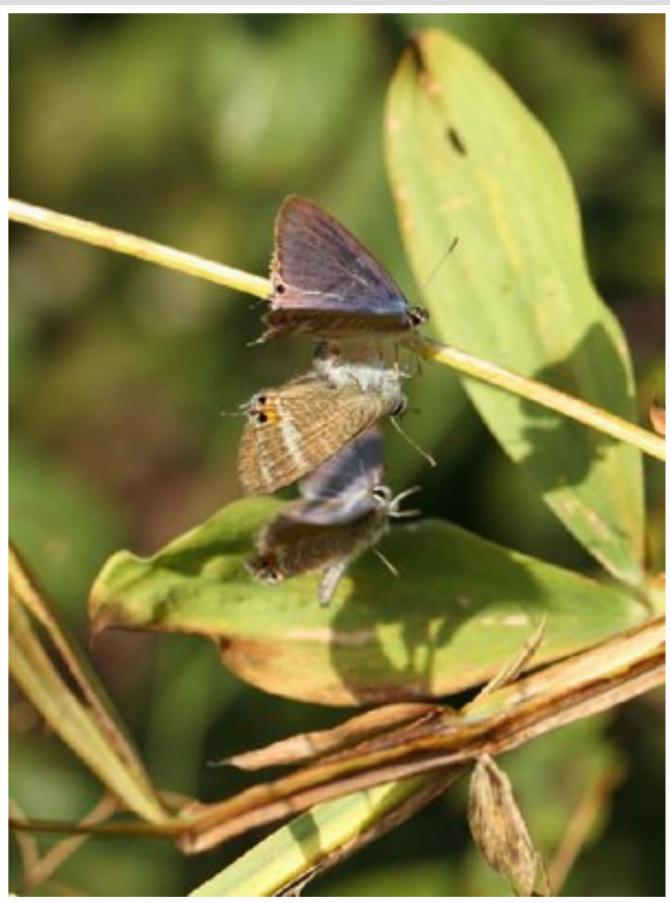
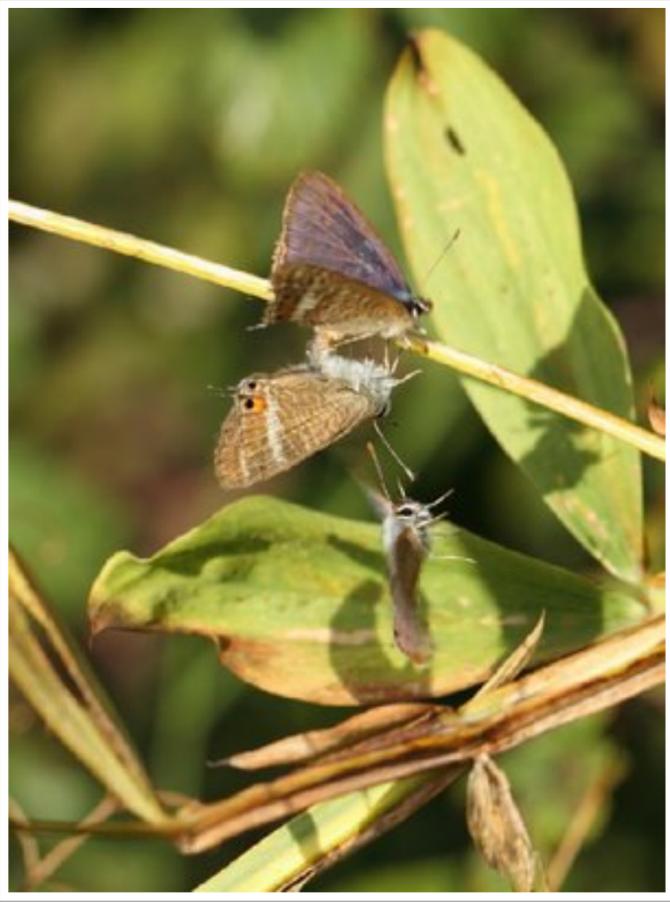
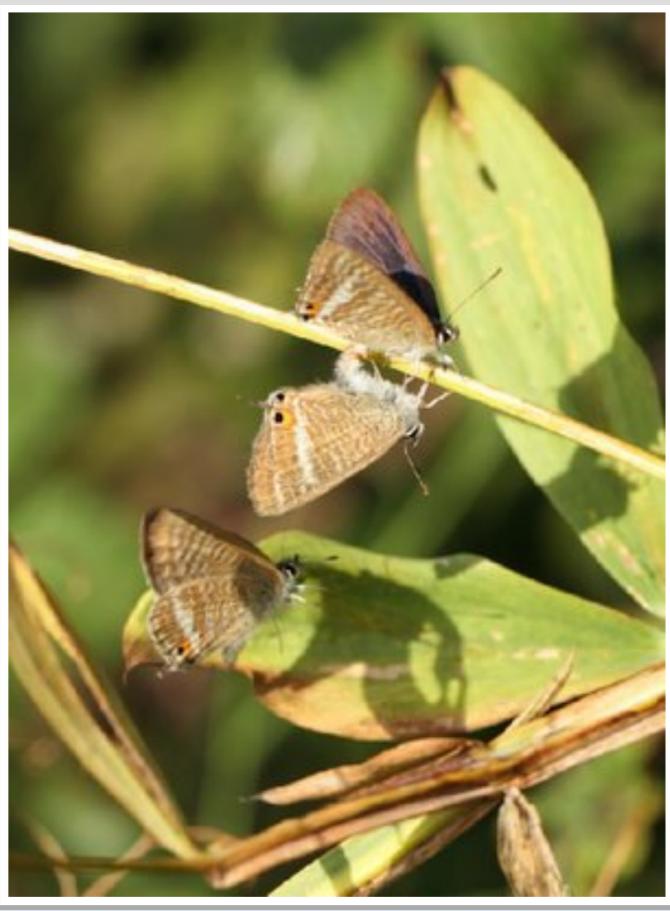
If you've been reading my diary up to this point you may remember that I had a very special encounter with some Long-tailed Blues this year, only a 5 minute walk from my front door! Nothing could have prepared me for the sight that greeted me when I arrived, after weeks of looking for another sighting 'after my very brief one at Birling Gap' I SERIOUSLY HIT THE JACKPOT!

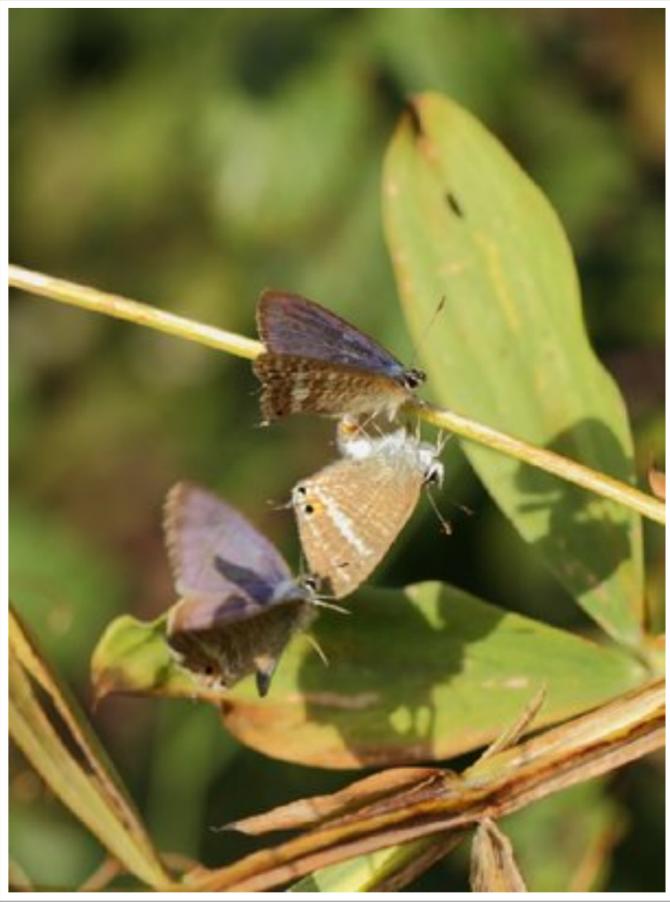
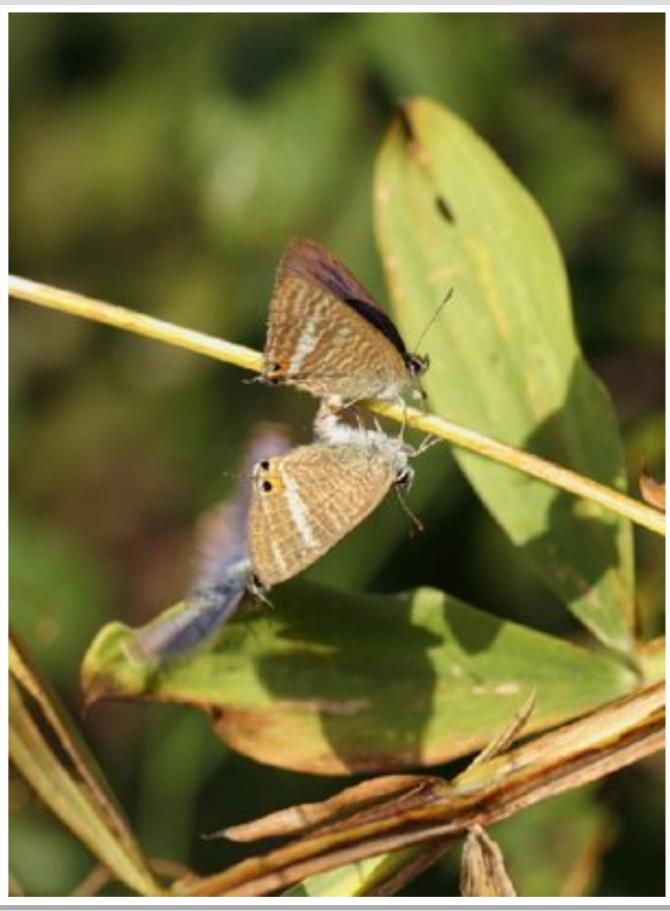
There were 'at least' 9 very active LTB's in one small area, as I'm sure you can imagine I did not know where to point my camera first!! 😳 I saw a female nectaring on a Pea flower and thought "I'll have a bit of that thank you very much" as I was busy taking a few photos of her something caught my eye just to the left hand side.... literally less than 1 foot away was a mating pair! 😳😳 (I have been told I am probably the first person to have seen this happen here on the British Isles!) Unaware of this at the time but knowing this was "pretty special" I tried hard not to mess it all up and get a half decent photo. By this point I was muttering a few expletives of disbelief under my breath 😊 Suddenly the pair took off and my heart sank, I thought the show was all over..... but I was wrong! They settled once more higher up on some Everlasting Pea, as they did so they attracted the attention of another male. What followed was a delightful display of jealousy as the interloper did his best to split the pair up. Thankfully I had my camera set on "rapid fire" and despite missing out on a few agonizing seconds (because my camera refused to focus AAGGHH) I managed to capture this little sequence of drama before they parted.

This encounter was without doubt the highlight of my year, I doubt I will ever top it. I had arrived at the spot at 4pm and by 5pm I'd seen a frenzy of 'Long-tailed Blue action' that I will never forget, I even managed to see a couple as they started to roost and finish of the day with a photo of a roosting male bathed in golden sunlight.

WHAT A YEAR!









I would like to wish everyone on UKB a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and **A VERY HAPPY 'BUTTERFLY FILLED' NEW YEAR**. With any luck I will bump into some of you out there somewhere in 2014 😊

Best Wishes

B'saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 22-Dec-13 11:59 AM GMT

Stunning sequence, Rex. It's hard to imagine that particular 'find' ever being bettered but I'm sure you'll keep trying.

Merry Christmas to you too and thanks for sharing.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by William, 22-Dec-13 12:08 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Butterflysaurus – I thought I'd done pretty well with a field of Clouded Yellows on my doorstep – but Long – Tailed Blues – crikey! I particularly like the last female – a beautiful photo 😊😊.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 22-Dec-13 12:39 PM GMT

"David M" wrote:

Stunning sequence, Rex. It's hard to imagine that particular 'find' ever being bettered but I'm sure you'll keep trying.

Merry Christmas to you too and thanks for sharing.

Thank you David, I've been really spoiled this year 😊 I agree with you – I doubt I will ever do any better than that.... but I will keep on trying 😊

It's been a very long time since I last visited Wales, maybe one day I'll be able to see your beautiful part of the world again.

I hope you have a great Christmas 😊

Cheers

B'saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 22-Dec-13 01:18 PM GMT

"William" wrote:

Fantastic shots Butterflysaurus – I thought I'd done pretty well with a field of Clouded Yellows on my doorstep – but Long – Tailed Blues – crikey! I particularly like the last female – a beautiful photo 😊😊.

Hi William, Clouded Yellows are one of my favourites as well. I wasn't able to get down to Kent for the Long-tailed Blues, I thought I would miss out on seeing any so this made my local encounter extra special. I still can't believe my luck, if we get another invasion I hope you will be able to get down to the south coast and see some, they are lovely little butterflies and a very rare treat on our shores. The Clouded Yellows were also a highlight, I really enjoyed seeing my first ever 'Helice' type of Clouded yellow this year, not just one but 6!

most were in great condition too.

Thank you for pointing out that the last LTB photo is of a female, I said "male" 😬 if I go back quickly and change it do you think anyone will notice 😊

I hope next season is another good one for migrants 😊

A very Merry Christmas too you, and keep on taking those stunning photos.

Cheers

B'saurus

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Pauline, 22-Dec-13 04:22 PM GMT

Wow! You have left me speechless – doesn't often happen 😊 Be good to bump into you in 2014. Have a great Xmas.

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by William, 22-Dec-13 04:28 PM GMT

"Butterfysaurus rex" wrote:

Thank you for pointing out that the last LTB photo is of a female, I said "male" 😬 if I go back quickly and change it do you think anyone will notice 😊

I was on auto-pilot there – and as I'm no expert on LTBs, I could well be wrong – my apologies. 😬

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 22-Dec-13 04:50 PM GMT

"William" wrote:

"Butterfysaurus rex" wrote:

Thank you for pointing out that the last LTB photo is of a female, I said "male" 😬 if I go back quickly and change it do you think anyone will notice 😊

I was on auto-pilot there – and as I'm no expert on LTBs, I could well be wrong – my apologies. 😬

That's OK William I'm no expert on LTB's either 😊 I could well be wrong but I thought it was a male when I took the photo. Be it Male or Female I still appreciate your very kind and generous comments. Anyway absolutely no apologies necessary, in fact if you or 'anyone else' notices that I've made a wrong ID then I would be most grateful if it's pointed out to me – it helps me to learn and get better at it. 😊

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Maximus, 22-Dec-13 05:27 PM GMT

Brilliant sequence of photos B'Rex, you certainly made the most of of the opportunity presented to you 😊 Have a great Christmas and I know you will have a fantastic 2014 😊 😊

Mike

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 22-Dec-13 06:36 PM GMT

Thank you for our early Xmas pressie Rex 😊 😊

Mind you to quote 'man hanging in dungeon from Life of Brian': "You lucky, lucky Bast**d" 🍷 🍷 🍷 😊

Be good to meet up in the field next year, maybe some of your luck will rub off 😊 Now get back to the Mince Pies.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 22-Dec-13 08:11 PM GMT

"Maximus" wrote:

Brilliant sequence of photos B'Rex, you certainly made the most of of the opportunity presented to you 😊 Have a great Christmas and I know you will have a fantastic 2014 😊😊

Mike

Thank you for the kind words Mike 😊 I hope you and your family have a great Christmas too. I think you're right, 2014 is going to be another special year for me 😊 I hope you have a wonderful time next year too.

My very best wishes to you 😊

B'saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 22-Dec-13 08:23 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Thank you for our early Xmas pressie Rex 😊😊

Mind you to quote 'man hanging in dungeon from Life of Brian': "You lucky, lucky Bast**d" 🍷🍷🍷😊

Be good to meet up in the field next year, maybe some of your luck will rub off 😊 Now get back to the Mince Pies.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

😊 The pleasure was definitely all mine Wurzel, if I knew where good luck came from I would be happy to share some with you. Anyway I can't argue with you this time I really was a lucky Bast**d.

It would be great to bump into you out in the field, always a pleasure to meet a fellow Monty Python fan 🍷 I won't have any trouble spotting you, you'll be the one banging two coconut halves together pretending your riding a horse, I'll be the one admiring some shrubbery saying NI 😊

Have a great Christmas 😊

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 22-Dec-13 09:16 PM GMT

And if anyone spots a Norwegian Blue whilst out and about 😊

Brilliant sequence of Photos, just goes to prove that you never know what will show up. Well done on capitalizing on the occasion and capturing them so well.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 22-Dec-13 09:34 PM GMT

"nfreem" wrote:

And if anyone spots a Norwegian Blue whilst out and about 😊

Brilliant sequence of Photos, just goes to prove that you never know what will shot up. Well done on capitalizing on the occasion and capturing them so well.

Cheers,

Neil.

Thanks Neil, I remember saying to myself "make the most of this you'll never see it again" so no pressure then 😊 I really did try hard to capitalize on it, I'm sure my camera nearly burst into flames the way I was going at it. Near panic would be a good description! I would love to see something like it in the UK again but I think that would be like pining for the fjords 😊

Have a great Christmas Neil,

All the best

B'saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 22-Dec-13 10:47 PM GMT

"Pauline" wrote:

Wow! You have left me speechless – doesn't often happen 😊 Be good to bump into you in 2014. Have a great Xmas.

My apologies, I almost missed your reply there Pauline! I think I need my eyes testing 😊 I was somewhat speechless when I saw it all unfold before me 😊

I only hope I've not used up all my good luck in one go 😊

B'saurus