

## Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 29-Mar-14 05:14 PM GMT

My first long butterfly walk for some time today and there was plenty of butterfly action. On stinging nettles an ovapositioning Small Tortoiseshell with 2 other Small Torts watching over the female. Other species included Brimstone, lots of Peacock, Comma and a Small White.



*Small Tortoiseshell ova*



<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

## Re: Badgerbob

by Vince Massimo, 29-Mar-14 06:56 PM GMT

Hi Bob,

Great to see that you have started a personal diary 😊

Those Small Tortoiseshell ova are very early this year and the different colouration of the two batches indicates that they were deposited by separate females. Definitely worth adding to the Species-Specific Album please.

Many thanks,

Vince

## Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 30-Mar-14 12:00 AM GMT

A great start to the PD Bob – looking forward to further posts 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Badgerbob

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 30-Mar-14 09:17 AM GMT

A great start to your PD Bob, I'm really going to enjoy looking at all of your wonderful photos & writings over this season 'and hopefully' many many more.....

Pleased to know you're out & about again after the "back incident" hope to see you sometime soon.

B'saurus

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 01-Apr-14 09:21 PM GMT

Thanks for your comments guys. Today I was pleased to see my first Holly Blue of the year as I was driving out the Close heading to Frog Firle. I was hoping to find a Wall pupa but once again I wasn't lucky. Eventually I did find a near fully grown larva. Before this I met briefly Downland Boy who found the wing of a female Emperor Moth. The moth had presumably been eaten by a bird. Several Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Red Admiral also seen. Earlier I had the moth trap out for the first time and I had a few gems in there including a Herald and Twenty-plume Moth.



*Wall Brown larva*



*Wing of female Emperor Moth*



*Twenty-plume Moth*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by David M, 01-Apr-14 10:18 PM GMT

Magnificent stuff, Bob.

You've got me even MORE keen to get out and about – hopefully the weather will allow me to indulge myself over the next fortnight in the same way that you have.

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Wurzel, 01-Apr-14 11:11 PM GMT

That 20 plume moth is a beaut Bob 😊 I had one in my bathroom last year but it wouldn't come out of the corner so I couldn't get a shot anywhere near as good as yours 🍷 Good luck with the Pupae hunt.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 02-Apr-14 08:47 PM GMT

Another day, and yes, once again the clouds gather. However, for an hour or so the sun was out and it was pretty warm. In this window I found a Slow Worm warming itself. I have also been hoping to improve my previous images of Orange Underwing moths which are a very frustrating moth as they are often on the ground, but very well camouflaged, and when disturbed they fly off zigzagging about and normally flying skywards!! Today I got lucky with the rarer Light Orange Underwing which when disturbed resettled on the ground and stayed just long enough for a quick shot, which really does show their camouflage when on the ground. Several Peacocks were also on the wing before the sun went along with a few Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma. Later in the day 2 Speckled Wood showed up. However, the hoped for Orange-tips didn't appear today.



*Slow Worm*



*Light Orange Underwing*



*Peacock*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 02-Apr-14 09:55 PM GMT

Excellent Orange Underwing photo Bob, I caught a glimpse of one there the other day but it whizzed past and out of sight only giving me a brief chance to ID it. I didn't know that they often settled on the ground. I must see if I can spot one the next time I go.

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 03-Apr-14 06:12 PM GMT

I had a very limited time today but with the sun shining for a while I quickly headed to what would be described by the majority as 'wasteland' to see what I could find. Stinging nettles were everywhere and so were the butterflies with Small Tortoiseshell and Comma very active. A couple of Peacock and a Brimstone also made up the numbers. The Torts were looking for small fresh nettles for egg laying in between basking in the sun. I now have that satisfying tingle up the arm where the nettles got me!! As usual at such times I started to run a little late so I was rushing back home when I became even later as a newly emerged female Holly Blue fluttered down by me. I managed a record underside shot, but with the wind blowing she would not open up her wings for me. As I was there another Holly Blue flew over my head.





<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

**Re: Badgerbob**

by jasonbirder, 04-Apr-14 09:02 AM GMT

Love the pic of the Holly Blue...hoping to get my first of the year over the next few days...weather permitting!

## Re: Badgerbob

by Goldie M, 04-Apr-14 02:45 PM GMT

I also love the shot of the Holly Blue, 🍄 hope they come out here soon Goldie 😊

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 04-Apr-14 07:11 PM GMT

Thanks for the comments about the Holly Blue. I just wish it had hung around a bit longer and opened its wings. Going by how many seen in the first 3 days of their emergence it may be a pretty good year for the Holly Blue this year. Lets hope!!

## Re: Badgerbob

by Neil Freeman, 04-Apr-14 08:42 PM GMT

Hi Bob,

Some great photos so far, really looking forward to further posts 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 05-Apr-14 07:18 PM GMT

Cheers for your comments Neil. It was a poor day down here once I was able to get out. A 4 mile walk in fantastic butterfly terrain without seeing a single butterfly. The sun decided to appear at 4.15 but it was too little, too late as there was also a coolish breeze blowing. The highlight was actually finding a large flock of around 100 birds of Corn Bunting. I did check out the nettles where I had lots of Small Tortoiseshell the other day and I found some newly hatched larvae. A poor record shot in very low light was all I got!!



*Small Tortoiseshell larvae*

## Re: Badgerbob

by Pauline, 05-Apr-14 08:25 PM GMT

Dismal day here too Bob but good shot of the ST larvae – haven't seen them yet.

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 06-Apr-14 05:23 PM GMT

Today was the day that shows that whatever the weather it's always worth getting out there, because, you never know what you might find!! With the chance of finding any butterflies today just about nil with the damp dull conditions I had yet another hunt for Wall Brown pupa. Yet again a dismal failure! However, I found a very small Wall larva as well as 2 tiny Emperor Moth larva. Once the back started aching too much I was thinking about the Emperor Moth wing from the other day and I decided to have a look around the bushes on the chance of finding my first ever Emperor Moth. Below is what I found!!



*female Emperor Moth*



Even with the little wing damage it was a fantastic sight.

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

**Re: Badgerbob**

by jasonbirder, 06-Apr-14 05:24 PM GMT

Awesome!

**Re: Badgerbob**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 06-Apr-14 06:11 PM GMT

Cor Bob what a cracking find! Seek and ye shall find 😊

B'saurus

**Re: Badgerbob**

by David M, 06-Apr-14 06:21 PM GMT

Spectacular stuff! It really is a lovely insect.

**Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 07-Apr-14 06:41 PM GMT

Thanks Jason, James and David. It was certainly the highlight of my insect year so far!!

**Re: Badgerbob**

by Wurzel, 07-Apr-14 10:01 PM GMT

Just catching up with things after a weekend in the loft 😊 and WOW 🍷🍷 That has got to be the most stunning Moth I've seen/not seen!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 08-Apr-14 07:27 PM GMT

Yes Wurzel. It was a WOW moment for me!! Today I was hoping to find another one, preferably a male, but not unexpectedly I failed!! I also once again failed on the Wall pupa hunt. The good thing about spending time doing these hunts though is that you never know what else you will turn up. On Sunday of course, I wouldn't have found the Emperor Moth if I hadn't been pupa hunting. In doing this over the last couple of years I have found a few scarce moths that were not known from this small area. Today I found yet another Wall larva which was just about fully grown, this gives me hope that there are still plenty of larva to turn into my quarry. I also found today what I am almost sure is a green form Marbled White larva, at first I thought it was a Speckled Wood but on looking on this site and also in the books the Specklie has a green head. I hope that Pete or Vince will confirm the id!! To waste a bit of time today I also attempted photographing one of the local Robins that I think have some chicks in a nest nearby.



*Green form Marbled White larva?*



*Robin*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 09-Apr-14 06:31 PM GMT

A sunny day with a cool breeze down here today. I managed a longer day out today and it was generally a hunt for the Orange-tip. Despite several now being seen I still hadn't seen any until today. To start the day I had my first Green Veined White, then it was mainly Small Tortoiseshell with lots of egg laying on the vast nettle banks. This included one group of 3 butterflies all laying on the same nettle!! At last there were several Orange-tips around some Cuckoo Flower but the stiff breeze and the bright sun made it difficult to get any good photos. It was also good to see my first Large Red Damsel fly of the year.



*A threesome of egg laying*



*More egg laying.*



*Large Red Damselfly*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

## Re: Badgerbob

by Butterflysaurus rex, 09-Apr-14 09:15 PM GMT

🤔 That threesome Small Tort egg laying party photo is amazing! I've never seen anything like it, oh and the other photo's aren't too bad either 😊 😊

## Re: Badgerbob

by Neil Freeman, 09-Apr-14 09:22 PM GMT

Hi Bob,

Great photo of the threesome. I also like the male Orange tip, great combination of colours 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

## Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-14 07:49 PM GMT

Fantastic shots of the OT's and egg laying Small Torts 😊 I saw a Comma showing the same posture the other day and now I know what it was up to. 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

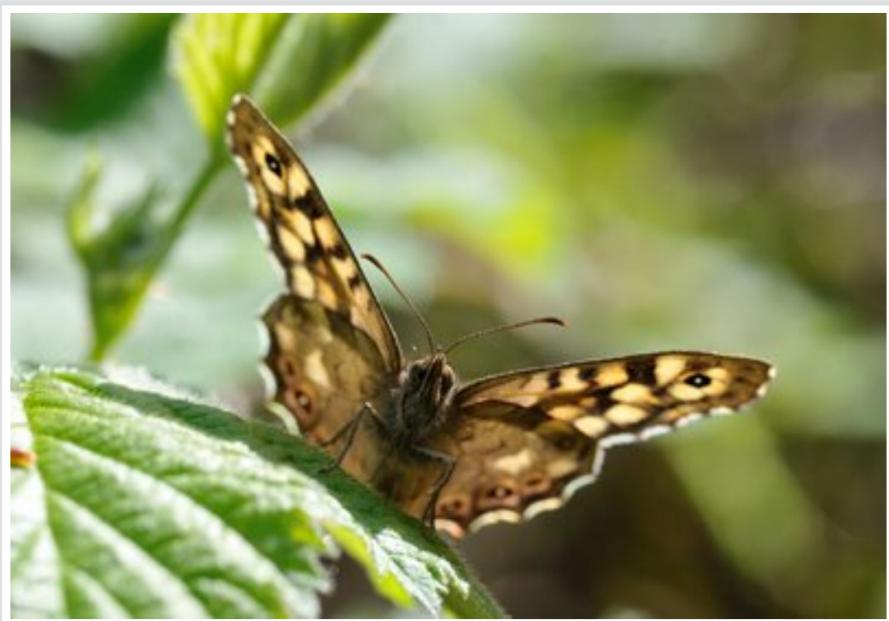
## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 10-Apr-14 09:32 PM GMT

This one is for Wurzel!! I know how much he likes Green Hairstreaks. A very long walk from home today in the sunshine. I met Neville and Janet Richardson and they told me they had seen a Green Hairstreak, I wasn't able to find that one but I did find 2 more. Unfortunately, all I could manage was a poor record shot before it flew and was lost. A smart Green Veined White was also seen along with around 15 Speckled Wood, Peacocks, Small Whites and Small Tortoiseshell. A rather tatty Red Admiral was near the start of the walk. Several Common Heath and a Chinese Character were the moths seen.



*Green Hairstreak*



*Speckled Wood*



*Speckled Wood*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 10-Apr-14 09:52 PM GMT

Excellent stuff Bob, great to know the Green Hairstreaks have started. I had a look for some Speckled wood today but it seems they were hanging out with you instead 😊

Best Wishes,

B'saurus

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Pete Eeles, 10-Apr-14 11:43 PM GMT

#### **"badgerbob" wrote:**

This included one group of 3 butterflies all laying on the same nettle!!

Just catching up after a week away from home, and I have to say that's one of the most incredible things I've ever seen!!! Absolutely amazing!

Cheers,

- Pete

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Wurzel, 10-Apr-14 11:46 PM GMT

Cheers Bob 😊 But they're up there with my favourites now that I know of three definite sites to see them 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 11-Apr-14 05:09 PM GMT

I'm amazed at the response to the three Small Tortoiseshells laying on the same nettle. Today I met up with Downland Boy who was hoping to see a Marbled White larva. He arrived before I could get there and as I was rushing to catch up with him I saw my first Wall Brown adult of the year, a pristine male. Once looking for the larva a near fully grown Wall larva was seen before I stumbled across the first Marbled White larva, once again the green form. Shortly after the 'Boy' found a brown form. Following this another 6 green form were found in a pretty quick time. All the Marbled White larva were not much bigger than 1 cm in length.



*Marbled White larva brown form.*



*top view of green form.*

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Pauline, 12-Apr-14 07:01 PM GMT

Well done finding those larva Bob - I have never seen Marbled White before and your shots have inspired me to look for some when opportunity permits.

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 12-Apr-14 07:36 PM GMT

Well, it had to happen eventually!! After countless hours over the last 2 years I managed to locate my 2nd Wall Brown pupa. 2 years ago I found one, then last year the only one I found was being eaten by ants, then today success at last. I was only about 10 minutes into the search today as well so the back hadn't even started to ache. After taking a few pictures I went to locate the larva that I've been following and it was feeding up and is probably near ready for pupation. Whether it will be found after that is doubtful though going by past experience. Before this I had a short walk to see what else I could find but with a cool breeze blowing and weak sunshine it wasn't much. A nest of Browntail moth larva and a reasonable condition Peacock.



*Browntail Moth larva*



*Peacock*



*Wall Brown pupa*



*Wall Brown larva feeding*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 13-Apr-14 05:37 PM GMT

I didn't have a lot of time this morning so it was just a quick dash around my little patch. I was very pleased however to see both male and female Wall Brown as well as the pupa and larva. I'm not quite sad enough to search for an egg to make up the full set!!! Well maybe when there are lots more females about! Yes I am actually quite sad.

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by robpartridge, 13-Apr-14 06:20 PM GMT

Some might call it sad but that sort of dedication puts me to shame! Respect!

Rob

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by William, 13-Apr-14 07:39 PM GMT

Superb stuff Badgerbob, that set of life stages is a testament to your hard work, and brilliant photos to boot 😊😊

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Pete Eeles, 13-Apr-14 07:42 PM GMT

#### **"William" wrote:**

Superb stuff Badgerbob, that set of life stages is a testament to your hard work, and brilliant photos to boot 😊😊

I completely agree with the posts above – incredible dedication and just rewards!

Cheers,

– Pete

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by David M, 13-Apr-14 09:26 PM GMT

That's a tremendous image of the Wall Brown pupa, Bob.

An A+ rating if ever I saw one.

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 13-Apr-14 10:24 PM GMT

Thanks to you all very much for the comments about the Wall immature stages. To think I was almost on the point of giving up on the pupa as there was so many other delights happening but that challenge of finding these immature stages in the wild is addictive. As I mentioned on an earlier post when looking for a particular target it is amazing what else turns up, like the Marbled White larvae and the Emperor Moth, totally unexpected and so rewarding. I now have the fun of following the pupa as it gradually changes and hopefully this one will complete the cycle unlike the one I found 2 years ago!!

## Re: Badgerbob

by Butterflysaurus rex, 13-Apr-14 10:37 PM GMT

Quite the opposite of sad Bob! Envy might be nearer the truth. I'm sure there are many interested people who would love to find something as cool as that pupa! I know I certainly would. After your generous demonstration you inspired me to look for my own Wall larva, it was more by luck than skill on my part that I stumbled across one so soon. I've looked there many times since my bit of good luck and I can't find another one. It really is very difficult indeed and as you say quite addictive. I hope you find that ova to complete the set, in fact I'm sure that you will 😊

All the best

B'saurus

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 22-Apr-14 08:52 PM GMT

With the computer being out of action, and still a bit suspect, I will try to catch up a bit from the last week. Last Monday, the 14th I met up with James, (B. Rex), to look out for some butterflies new for the year as well as Green Hairstreaks. I thought I had arrived before him and immediately I stumbled across a very fresh individual that was only flying short distances and keeping to ground foliage. I managed several pictures of this little beauty before it vanished and just before James appeared from the opposite direction to where I thought he would come from. As it happened he had beaten me there and seen a few other hairstreaks. While I was photographing my Greenie a Small Copper flew past and then Dingy Skippers appeared, both new for the year at that time. We spent a couple of hours enjoying the butterflies, scenery and the weather before some cloud cover cooled the day down a little too much.





<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

### Re: Badgerbob

by Butterfysaurus rex, 22-Apr-14 09:12 PM GMT

Good to see your computer is working again Bob 😊

Those photos were really worth the wait, I've been looking forward to seeing the GHS you told me about and just as I thought it's a real cracker! It was a great day spent in excellent company.

All the best

B'saurus

### Re: Badgerbob

by Pete Eeles, 22-Apr-14 09:46 PM GMT

#### "badgerbob" wrote:

I stumbled across a very fresh individual that was only flying short distances and keeping to ground foliage. I managed several pictures of this little beauty before it vanished

Nice shots Bob – and with the lack of underside markings is almost certainly an aberration!

Cheers,

– Pete

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 22-Apr-14 09:59 PM GMT

Thanks James and Pete. A little bonus if it is indeed an ab!!

### Re: Badgerbob

by Pete Eeles, 22-Apr-14 10:08 PM GMT

#### "badgerbob" wrote:

Thanks James and Pete. A little bonus if it is indeed an ab!!

It's at least an *ab. incompleta* : <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/aberrati...pecies=rubi>

Perhaps we need to christen it *ab. monopunctata* 😊

Cheers,

– Pete

### Re: Badgerbob

by David M, 22-Apr-14 10:29 PM GMT

Lovely images, Bob. I can't wait for a bit of Greenstreak action myself!

## Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 22-Apr-14 11:24 PM GMT

Good to see you're almost back to full speed Bob 😊 Great Greenstreak shots – I feel that I might have to leave Gatekeepers behind and move onto the number of spots on Greenstreaks 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 24-Apr-14 09:24 PM GMT

Last Tuesday I went over to the lanes around Arlington to try and watch and photograph the local Orange-tips. There were already 3 people checking out the Cuckoo Flower by the road so I kept walking as I was after a bit of peace and quiet. A bridle way nearby looked good and so it was with a few males flying up and down the lane and settling on and off as well as a bit of nectaring.



<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

## Re: Badgerbob

by David M, 24-Apr-14 09:45 PM GMT

You've done well to capture these images, Bob. Orange Tips are almost always very reluctant subjects.

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 24-Apr-14 10:28 PM GMT

Thanks David. It does help when the weather is a little cooler. This species is so special, I am particularly pleased with the middle picture.

### Re: Badgerbob

by Butterflysaurus rex, 24-Apr-14 10:42 PM GMT

That middle one is lovely Bob, I love it when the sunlight shines through the orange tips on the males wing.

Best Wishes

B'saurus

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 25-Apr-14 01:46 PM GMT

It was a very eventful week last week with too many pictures to sort out, so it was very frustrating for the computer to pick that week to go belly up!! Gradually sorting things now anyway. Every day I've been up to check on the Wall Brown pupa which has been changing daily, and by getting up there I've seen lots of other things as well. Last Wednesday I met up with Downland Boy to show him the pupa and to have a general walk in the area. Early on we were very lucky to come across a Grass Snake out in the open. We were careful not to panic the snake and it behaved nicely allowing some close up shots. I also saw my first Grizzled Skipper of the year, although pics had to wait until the next day.



On the Thursday I managed to get pictures of both Grizzled and Dingy Skippers as well as a Small Heath, the first for Sussex and only 2 days behind the British first in Surrey. On the way back to the car I spotted a smart Wall Brown, fantastic colour when newly emerged. This one also had an extra white spot on the forewing eye spot as well. A male Holly Blue was also a bonus, it was out of reach but I carefully pulled the foliage down and amazingly it didn't fly off.







<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 26-Apr-14 08:15 AM GMT

Absolutely brilliant shots Bob – the middle OT is a cracker, showing something different 😊 Small Heaths are out – things seem to be moving along but in fits and starts. The final shot, the Wall Brown – the best of the lot I reckon 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 26-Apr-14 01:09 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, I have managed several Wall Brown photos over the last few days, a few of which will be posted!!

### Re: Badgerbob

by Pauline, 26-Apr-14 04:03 PM GMT

Have to disagree with you on this one Wurzel – it's the snake that does it for me 😊🍷

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 26-Apr-14 05:47 PM GMT

Yes Pauline, The Grass Snake is the one I was most chuffed with there!!

My daily trip up the hill to check the pupa has resulted in so many sightings. Yet more Skippers seen over the next few days as well as adult Wall Brown. The Wall Brown are really smart at the moment as they are so fresh. Two mating pairs seen as well, as well as a fully grown larva standing out like a sore thumb on the grasses. Here are a few more pics I've managed to get over the last few days.





*male Wall Brown*



*roosting Dingy Skipper*



*female Wall Brown*



*mating Wall Brown*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Neil Freeman, 26-Apr-14 06:24 PM GMT

Hi Bob,

Some lovely photos in your past couple of posts, this time of year I always start thinking that I am living in the wrong part of the country 🇬🇧 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 27-Apr-14 09:54 AM GMT

Hi Neil and thanks for your message. I suppose in a couple of months time you will be much nearer than me to some stunners that we don't get down here!! Of course you do get the Wall Brown, hopefully not too far from you. Here are a few more shots I've got over the last 3 days. This includes an awful picture of a roosting individual showing why they are so hard to find once they go to roost. I have had them roosting in bushes as well but I believe that a good number crawl into these crevices and use their fantastic camouflage more often than not. Yesterday evening I saw 3 roost up this way.



*male Wall Brown 24/4/2014*



*male Wall Brown 24/4/2014*

The above Wall male unusually allowed a couple of quick pictures whilst it was nectaring. The top picture it was on a daisy that is not visible. Just after taking the 2nd picture another Wall flew over putting this one up. They then met in the air and after a very short bit of twisting and coming together they landed on the ground where they started mating straight away. They then got taken by the wind still attached and were lost to view.



*male Wall Brown 26/4/2014*



*roosting Wall Brown*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

## Re: Badgerbob

by Neil Freeman, 27-Apr-14 11:32 AM GMT

Hi Bob,

Good point about the stunners further north, the biggest advantage of living in the midlands is that a couple of hours in any direction covers a lot of the country 😊

Unfortunately Wall Brown has not been recorded in Warwickshire for some years now, I believe they may still be found in a couple of spots over on the Malvern Hills but they have pretty much disappeared from most of the midlands. This particularly saddens me as I remember them being common around Solihull back in the 1970s.

This is one of the reasons why I always look out for this species when I am on my family breaks around the coast and why I enjoy your reports and photos so much 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

## Re: Badgerbob

by Maximus, 27-Apr-14 07:21 PM GMT

Stunning Wall Brown photos Bob, great shot of the mating pair 😊

Mike

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 27-Apr-14 09:20 PM GMT

Thanks Mike, I'm beginning to think this should be a Wall Brown personal diary!! With it being really chilly this morning with a stiff breeze blowing and rain in the air I thought I would only see the larva and pupa. However, near the pupa a Wall took flight as I walked along a narrow path followed shortly by a female. Both were lost on the wind, I went and looked at the Small Tortoiseshell larvae which were all in a tight mass. Then a little sun came out and I spotted a female Wall Brown basking in the little bit of sun. It stayed long enough for me to get my best female shots to date. Suddenly another

Wall flew over and the female flew up to join it. Knowing the female was freshly emerged and probably a virgin I watched them both come to ground and virtually straight away they mated. They allowed some pictures to be taken and after 20 minutes, during which I sheltered them from a shower I left them to it, just after yet another fresh female was seen. 2 Dingy Skippers were also seen during the morning.



*Small Tortoiseshell larvae*



*female Wall Brown*



*Mating Wall Brown, female on left.*



*Mating Wall Brown.*

### Re: Badgerbob

by David M, 27-Apr-14 09:23 PM GMT

Great images, Bob. Sometimes, adverse weather conditions can play into your hands.

I now have a date fixed with Wall Browns for next weekend (assuming the weather plays fair).

### Re: Badgerbob

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 27-Apr-14 09:25 PM GMT

Great stuff once again Bob, I particularly like the photo of the very fresh female. I just can't seem to get out of the house at the moment, I hope to escape and join in on some of the fun soon.

All the best

B'saurus

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 29-Apr-14 05:37 PM GMT

Last week I got lucky with an invite by Downland Boy to go to his Wood and see the White Admiral larvae that he had found. The idea was also to try to find some more of these bizarre looking beasties on the honeysuckle. He had already found 3 the previous week, so he had a good idea of where to look and what to look for. The larvae he had found the previous week showed straight away and he soon found another 3. I however failed to find any, obviously I'm only any good at this sort of thing if I'm on my hands and knees!!!! Many thanks to the 'Boy' for the invite and allowing me to put these pictures up that I took of his larvae.



*White Admiral larva*



*White Admiral larva*



*White Admiral larva*

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by William, 29-Apr-14 07:02 PM GMT

They just get better and better 😊 – superb photos Bob, that last one is particularly well lit, just stunning 😊

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by David M, 29-Apr-14 11:20 PM GMT

It's one thing to take images of early stages you're breeding yourself, but to go out and find these same stages in the wild and capture them like you have done is creditworthy beyond applause.

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 30-Apr-14 05:52 PM GMT

Thanks for those great comments. Thanks again also to Downland Boy for taking me to see them. The great thing about hunting for these things is that you see so many more things although sometimes it can be disappointing, the Wall pupa that took me around 20 hours to find over the last 2 years looks as though it may have died. I have been monitoring it almost daily and it seems to have stopped changing. I am still slightly hopeful but confidence has gone down somewhat. It is one of the problems with them being in the wild that there is no control over them. This is the 2nd Wall pupa that I've found and the other one also perished whilst last year I found one being formed and was being eaten by ants. The many hazards that our butterflies and their immature stages face!!



*Wall pupa. 2 weeks after being found.*

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Pauline, 30-Apr-14 06:28 PM GMT

Your diary is inspiring Bob – it is adding a whole new dimension to and feeding my interest in the other stages. I am not sure how you can improve on what you have already posted but I can't wait to see more.

## Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 30-Apr-14 11:52 PM GMT

Fantastic shots recently Bob – those mating Walls are great 🍷 and the White Admirals are freaky looking things 😊 Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 01-May-14 08:16 PM GMT

Thanks again Pauline and Wurzel for your thoughts. A few images here from the last few days on the patch. A further search for Wall Brown pupa turned up a couple more Marbled White larva. Once again 2 different colours, the green form is the main one that I'm finding although one of these is a very pale form and heading toward the brown form. On top of this a few butterfly shots that I've managed to get. Interestingly, the main reliable area on the patch for Green Hairstreak still hasn't produced any yet despite good numbers a little further along the valley where they started to emerge some time ago now.



*Marbled White larva. Green form.*



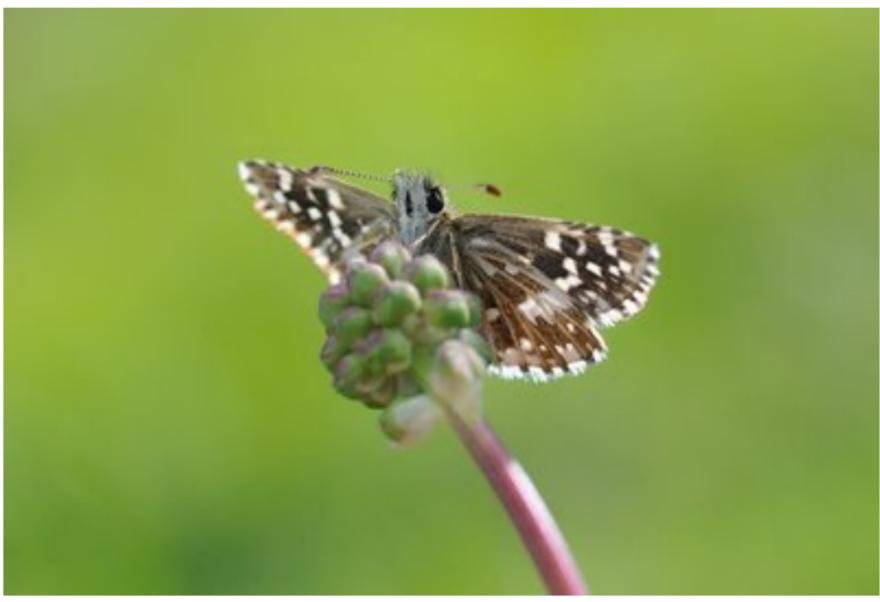
*Marbled White larva. Pale/brown form.*



*male Speckled Wood.*



*female Wall Brown*



*Grizzled Skipper.*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Butterflysaurus rex, 01-May-14 09:03 PM GMT

Still finding some Marbled White larva then Bob! Brilliant photos as always, I've had a look for more Wall and 'my first ever' MW larva myself and didn't see any - maybe next time 😊 Very sad if your Pupa has expired.

B'saurus

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by David M, 01-May-14 10:17 PM GMT

Bob, you really are a larva aficionado!

You must have a sixth sense.

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 02-May-14 11:02 AM GMT

Well David, My wife just thinks I have too much time on my hands!!!! I just think it's some sort of addiction. Vince contacted me about the Marbled White larva and has said that the green larva is just about to moult, shown by the small head, and the brownish one has just emerged from a moult, as shown by the large head!! Incidentally, the green one I found just as a crab spider had grabbed it. I felt a bit mean on denying the spider his lunch, but I hope the Marbled White rewards me for rescuing it by posing nicely when he becomes a butterfly!

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Wurzel, 03-May-14 08:58 AM GMT

Great stuff Bob - those two different forms are really interesting to see, and the Grizzlie (last shot) is a cracking image 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Badgerbob**

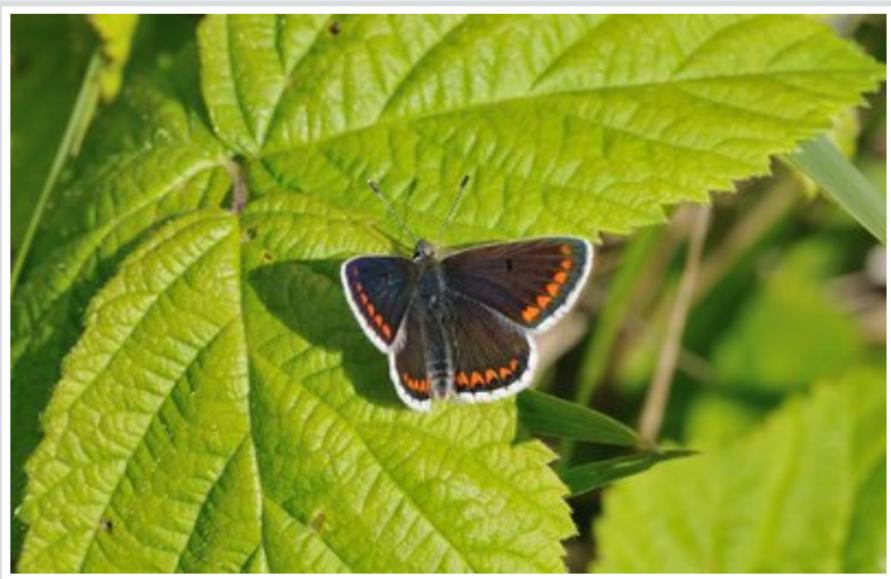
Today was a little different as I arrived on site for a short morning visit with the temperature being only 7 degrees. However, with the sun shining there were already 2 Wall Brown having a territorial fight. Later in the day I headed to the far end of my patch and I was lucky to get 2 Wall Brown posing well for a change including a very fresh female. I also found a brand new Brown Argus and a roosting Dingy Skipper as I was leaving the area. 2 Oak Eggar larvae also seen along with the odd Green Hairstreak, Grizzled Skipper, Orange-tip and Green Veined White. A very rewarding and enjoyable afternoon.



*Male Wall Brown.*



*Female Wall Brown.*



*Brown Argus.*



Oak Eggar Larva.



*Roosting Dingy Skipper.*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Katrina, 03-May-14 08:15 PM GMT

I really like the roosting Dingy shot!

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Pauline, 04-May-14 06:09 AM GMT

Morning Bob. Your diary is one of my favourite reads and I so envy you having Wall Browns close by. Your shots are beautiful and remind me of when these butterflies were a common sight in the industrial North East where I grew up. In those days we thought they were called 'Walls@ because they could always be found on walls 😊 - the walls of the brick council houses and the concrete walls around them (Wonder if they are still there?).

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 04-May-14 06:53 PM GMT

Thanks Katrina and Pauline for those great comments. I will have to try really hard to keep Pauline saying things like that!!

A little different today with no Wall Brown!! In fact not even a butterfly. I did see some but I could only get out before the sun had warmed things up to get things really moving. I did try to get close to a Wall Brown that seemed a bit darker than usual, but I didn't get a good enough view to be sure if it was a bit different. Probably not!!

Lots of damselflies now on the move, I managed a few shots of an Azure Damselfly. I then came across a very fresh *Pyrausta Nigrata*, one of those tiny moths found on the Downland. Moving on I then spotted my first Broad Bodied Chaser dragonfly of the year. This one was also in my favourite stage with it being an immature male in the stage of the colour change to maturity.



*Azure Damselfly.*



*Pyrausta Nigrata on speedwell.*



*Maturing male Broad Bodied Chaser.*

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 06-May-14 09:34 PM GMT

Once again I was out looking for more Wall Brown immature stages when I came across a different butterfly larva. This one was new to me but when on site I decided it was either Speckled Wood or Meadow Brown. Once home it was very easy to see it was a Meadow Brown larva, this one is hairier than the other Browns as well as having a white tail.



*Meadow Brown larva, top view.*



*Meadow Brown larva.*

Butterflies seen included my first Common Blue of the year, plenty of Dingy Skippers, Grizzled Skipper, a Green Hairstreak that was very fresh, unfortunately it looked like it had scratched its wings on the thorns in the bushes, Orange-tip and a couple of Red Admiral.



*Green Hairstreak.*



*Orange-tip.*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

## **Re: Badgerbob**

by Wurzel, 07-May-14 09:25 AM GMT

Great shots Bob – how do you manage to get so close to Walls 🐛? Have you spent years developing Zen meditation techniques or do you use an eau de cologne that Walls find intoxicating? 😊 They're probably the most unapproachable butterfly in the UK!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 07-May-14 06:27 PM GMT

Hi Wurzel. Thanks for your comments. I think the local Wall Brown are now getting so fed up with seeing me they are just holding their wings up and giving in!!! Strangely, I very rarely try to photograph Wall Brown for the reason you state, however, this year as I am going up nearly every morning to check the pupa so I am seeing several that have recently emerged and are in such good nick it is worth a try, also due to it being a bit cooler they probably haven't got going too much for the day. The exception to this was the last female that I took that was on the foliage. That was just a lot of luck and being in the right place at the right time.

Another picture here of the Meadow Brown larva from yesterday. This one shows what a hairy little cat it really is. I'm not sure what instar this is at but it was only about 1 cm. long.

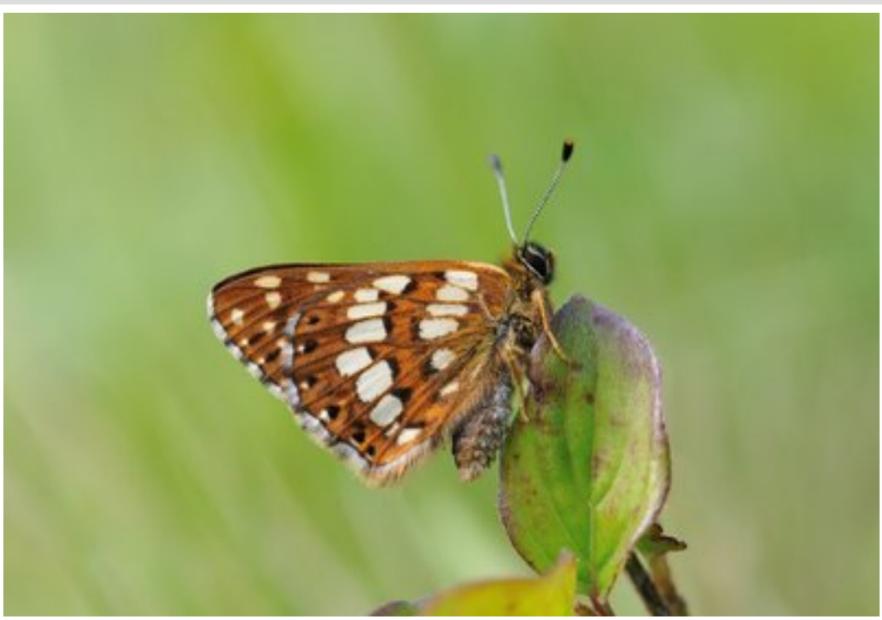


*Meadow Brown larva.*

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 10-May-14 05:49 PM GMT

Yesterday Downland Boy and myself ventured into Kent to look for Dukes and rare orchids. As well as seeing plenty of Dukes in Denge, including one along the ride halfway between the carpark and the main bank, we had 2 nationally scarce micro moths, 4 rare orchids and a great mating pair of Dingies. I will post a few pictures from the day over the next few days as the weather is meant to remain pretty awful. At Denge we also had a female Duke that had, as Neil H has explained, a pathological defect with one forewing being very pale. The underside photo of her shows the 6 legs being used.





*Duke with pathological defect.*



Just to make me feel at home, when we were looking at the Monkey Orchid there were a couple of Wall Brown fighting and they actually flew into me!!

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Wurzel, 11-May-14 08:34 AM GMT

The final shot is really interesting Bob, great composition showing the under wings like that 😊 When you say 'pathological' I take it that means the pigmentation differences are caused by a bacterial or viral infection?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 11-May-14 07:06 PM GMT

Hey Wurzel, I do not confess to being any type of expert. Neil H says that it's a pathological defect that has caused incomplete transmission of pigment over the wings.

More from the day in Kent with a few of the orchids, the rare and very attractive micro moths and the mating Dingy Skippers. As mentioned it was a combined day of looking for butterflies and orchids!!



*Rhagium Mordax*



*Fly Orchid*



*Monkey Orchid*



*Man Orchid*



*White-spotted Sable*



*Olethreutes Arcuella*



*Mating Dingy Skippers*

## Re: Badgerbob

by William, 11-May-14 08:54 PM GMT

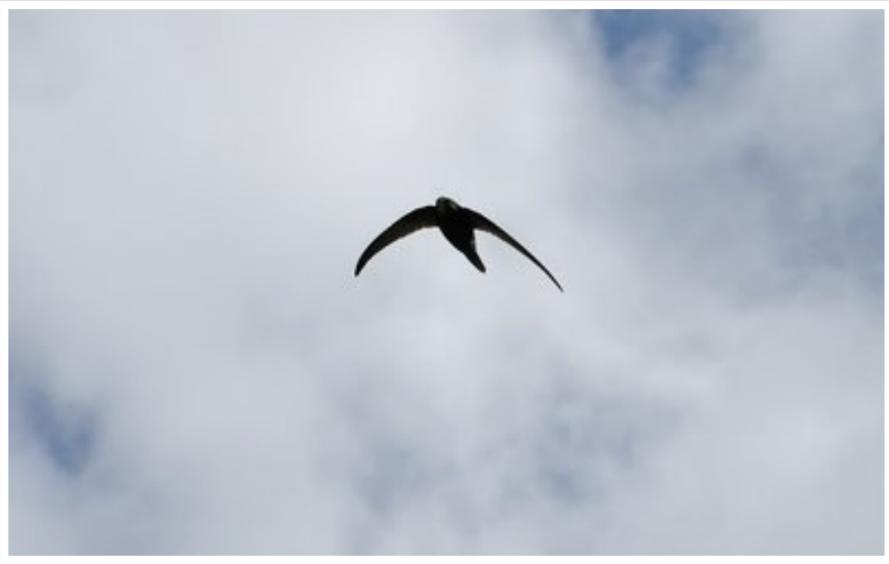
Those Orchids are superb bob 😊 – very jealous, most of them aren't found down here in Somerset 😞

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 12-May-14 06:30 PM GMT

Hi William. Yes, it is a bit of a trip over to Kent, which is a fabulous place for orchids, but mixing it in with the butterflies and moths makes it all worthwhile. Another good place for some of these extreme rarities is around Oxford, which should be within reach for you.

A short trip up to High and Over today coincided with the arrival of a large number of Swift. They were very noisy as I was looking for butterflies. I decided to sit on the slope and try to get some pictures of these fast moving birds. The only trouble was I only had a 70mm Macro lens!!!! Anyway, I managed to get a couple of acceptable shots with a bit of cropping!



### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 14-May-14 10:03 PM GMT

Yesterday I visited the local river looking for dragonflies. The Scarce Chaser I was hoping for didn't show. However, there were lots of Mayflies and Beautiful Demoiselles, both male and female that had recently emerged.



*Mayfly*



*female Beautiful Demoiselle*



*male Beautiful Demoiselle*

A surprise was a very fresh Brown Argus which arrived just after the rain came!!



More at <http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

## **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 17-May-14 07:38 PM GMT

Yesterday I went up to Bo Peep Bostal to do a Wall Brown count on a regular circuit. This slope is North facing and the butterflies are at least 2 weeks behind my normal patch at High and Over. In fact the High and Over first brood is now all but over already!! However, at Bo Peep Bostal almost all the Wall Browns were very fresh and there were lots of them with 69 counted.

The Common Blues on the Downs near me are looking really good at the moment. I've called up there both early and late in the day to try and get some better shots. The females here are very blue and are very attractive. 2 different females here from the last 2 days as well as a couple of shots of a male as he was going to roost tonight. I also had my first adonis of the year today.



*Female Common Blue*



*Female Common Blue*



*Male Common Blue*



Male Common Blue

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

### Re: Badgerbob

by Butterflysaurus rex, 18-May-14 12:38 PM GMT

Lovely common Blue's Bob, they seem to be doing quite well in these parts don't you think? I counted 20 in the space of 2 hours yesterday.

All the Best

B'saurus

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 18-May-14 07:13 PM GMT

Hi James, I was beginning to wonder where you were. Good to hear from you again. Yes, the Common Blue does appear to be having a good year around here and at the moment most are in fantastic condition. The male has always given me problems before regards photos so I was particularly pleased with these, especially as that was the main purpose of going out there. The only downer was seeing some b----- has done a bit of fly tipping at High and Over car park. Mainly garden waste by the look of it but complete with bright blue plastic sheeting!! No place is sacred it seems!!

### Re: Badgerbob

by David M, 18-May-14 07:21 PM GMT

Aah! Female *icarus* that are particularly suffused with blue are among the most attractive of our native species.

Good images, Bob.

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 19-May-14 09:08 AM GMT

Hi David, I could not agree more. At my local site every female seems to have a certain amount of blue and as you say, they are really beautiful. When I was a lad (a long time ago) I can't remember that many female Common Blues having any blue at all on them, so maybe this is evolution of the modern day!

### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 19-May-14 09:15 AM GMT

Lovely blue shots Bob 😊 I've only been butterflying for four or five years now and even in that time I've noticed a shift from Brown Argus like females to proper 'blue' blues – I wonder if it's a cyclical pattern?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Badgerbob

by Butterflysaurus rex, 19-May-14 08:40 PM GMT

#### "badgerbob" wrote:

Hi James, I was beginning to wonder where you were. Good to hear from you again. Yes, the Common Blue does appear to be having a good year around here and at the moment most are in fantastic condition. The male has always given me problems before regards photos so I was particularly pleased with these, especially as that was the main purpose of going out there. The only downer was seeing some b----- has done a bit of fly tipping at High and Over car park. Mainly garden waste by the look of it but complete with bright blue plastic sheeting!! No place is sacred it seems!!

Hi Bob, yep I'm still here, we must try and meet up again soon 😊 I heartily share your annoyance about the fly tippers. Common blues can be very tricky to photograph I've uttered many an expletive under my breath in my attempts to get some half decent photos. Those ones are very nice indeed. 😊

B'saurus

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 20-May-14 12:47 PM GMT

2 years ago I saved some Orange-tip eggs from the council mowers, I brought the Garlic Mustard they were on back home and watched the larva grow happily, whilst knowing that if I had left them they would have been chopped to bits a day later!!

Anyway, the Garlic Mustard came up again this year and although I never saw a female Orange-tip in the garden I found 6 eggs spread over the plants. They have now hatched and I just grabbed a couple of shots of the tiny larva feeding up. These shots seem to show 2 different ways of feeding with 1 eating from the top of the plant and the other eating into it. In all I can find 4 larva but they are so tiny there is a chance that there may be more.



*Orange-tip larva feeding.*



*Orange-tip larva feeding.*

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Pauline, 20-May-14 01:00 PM GMT

Hi Bob - great photos. I recently 'lost' 5 or 6 larva and Pete advised that they are cannibalistic so you might want to keep an eye on that 😬

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 20-May-14 01:45 PM GMT

Hi Pauline, and thanks. Yes, I was aware of their cannibalism!! They are hopefully far enough apart on the plant. Certainly last time they all survived okay as they were, like this time, on different parts of the plant. It's all the baby Blue Tits etc. as well to think about!

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 25-May-14 05:09 PM GMT

I haven't managed to do so much butterfly watching this week, mostly down to the weather but also I wanted to catch up on some rare orchids. I've never managed to catch up on the Military Orchid so with this in flower I called over to one of the 3 sites it is found in Britain. Other species seen on Friday included Monkey, The Lady/Monkey hybrid, Sword-leaved Helleborine and Bird's-nest Orchid. The weather on Friday was dismal with wet windy conditions making it tough to get any decent pictures, but it was really good seeing these rarities.



*Military Orchid.*



*Bird's-nest Orchid.*

Today, I had a couple of hours spare so I called up to my usual patch to see if I could catch up with the Small Blue. This butterfly is not too numerous on my patch and it was a relief to see one eventually. As is often the case with these it flew and I couldn't keep with it. I spotted another further on which was a bit worn. Then, on my return I found 3 or 4 fresh ones that once again I struggled to keep on. One eventually landed on a leaf which allowed a few shots that were quite pleasing.



*Male Small Blue.*

More pictures from the week on Orchids and Dragonflies on the blog <http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

## **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 29-May-14 08:59 AM GMT

Once again the weather has meant that butterflies have taken a back seat with the sun not being seen for several days. Fortunately there have been a few, and I mean a few dragons and damsels to keep the interest. A couple of pictures here but once again many more on the blog.

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>



*male Banded Demoiselle*



*emerging Azure Blue Damselfly*

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Wurzel, 29-May-14 09:45 AM GMT

Lovely Small Blue Bob and the emerging Damselfly shot is a cracker 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 29-May-14 06:19 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel. Good to see you got your Wall Brown the other day as well.

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Pauline, 30-May-14 06:14 AM GMT

Great shot of the emerging damselfly Bob – any change to the Wall pupa?

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 02-Jun-14 06:14 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline. Bad news again on the Wall Pupa unfortunately. Next time maybe!!

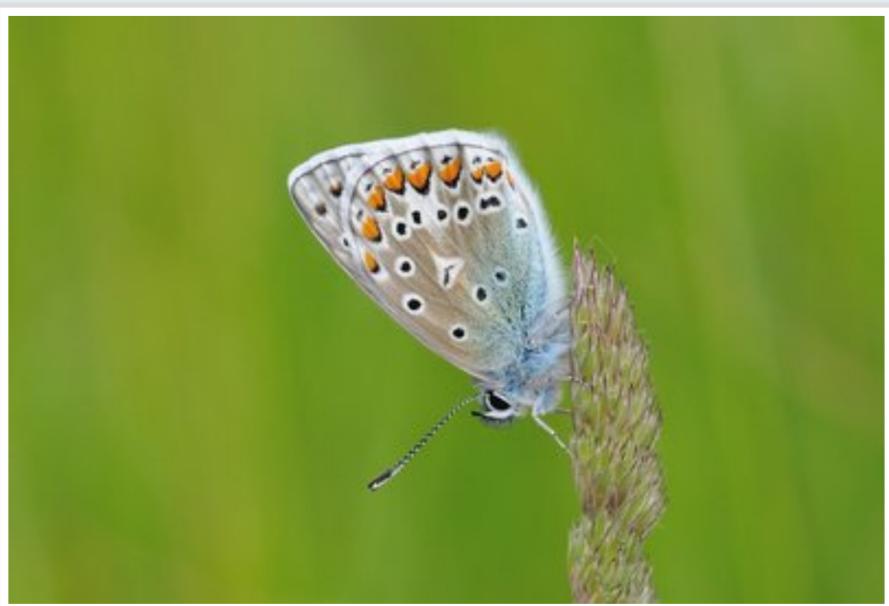
At last I managed a butterfly walk today from home. My first Large Skippers of the year seen along with several Red Admiral and a Painted Lady. A particularly nice 'blue' female Common Blue was good to see and nearly back home a roosting fresh male Common Blue was spotted in the long grass. The first brood Wall Brown now seems to be over and as is often the case here have been replaced by the 2nd brood Speckled Wood that were particularly numerous.



*male Large Skipper*



*a 'blue' female Common Blue*



*roosting male Common Blue.*

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Maximus, 02-Jun-14 09:27 PM GMT

Lovely 'blue' Common Blue Female Bob, they seem to be bluer than ever this year!

Mike

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by David M, 02-Jun-14 09:57 PM GMT

#### **"Maximus" wrote:**

Lovely 'blue' Common Blue Female Bob, they seem to be bluer than ever this year!

Mike

Yes, that's another corker! if only the weather would change then I could get out and see if I can find any for myself. 😞

## Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 02-Jun-14 11:31 PM GMT

Fabulously blue Blue Bob 😊 I seem to recall that the really blue ones like that have a form name or aberrant status – I think it was in the Adrian Riley book 😊 and again this year they seem bluer than last.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 03-Jun-14 09:48 AM GMT

Thanks all. Yes, the females are getting bluer!!!! This one was so blue that in flight I was sure it was a dark male of some sort (hoping for a rare migrant really) but when it landed she was so gorgeous I spent a few minutes trying to get a decent image.

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 03-Jun-14 08:41 PM GMT

With the weather being pretty poor today I was going through a few posts on the computer. I remembered that Guy had a Marbled White larva crossing the road and that I had mentioned that I should go and check out where I had found some earlier in the season. Anyway, the weather did improve a bit this afternoon so being on a bit of time restraint I headed up the hill to have a quick look. Most of the areas where I found them before were covered with no luck and I assumed that they had either pupated or were, as mentioned in the books, nocturnal in their later instars. I then went along to look at the pupa case of the Wall Brown that had presumably died, the case had gone, only the bit where the larva had attached itself to the grass stem still there, but beneath it was unbelievably a near fully grown Marbled White larva!! If the pupa was still attached it would have been touching the MW larva. The black stripe down the back was very interesting to watch as the stripe widened and narrowed all the time like a pulse going through it.



*Marbled White larva*



*Marbled White larva complete with smiley face!!*

Following this I managed another shot of a female Common Blue. This one was still very pretty but not as blue as the one from yesterday.



*female Common Blue*

Much more on the blog inc. moth trap and damselflies.

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Pauline, 05-Jun-14 10:01 PM GMT

Sorry to hear about the Wall Brown pupa Bob – you must be gutted after all that time and effort finding and monitoring. I have spent a fair bit of time looking for WA pupa – if I had found one only to have it die I think I would give up 😞 . Great shots of the cat tho' and interesting observation 😊

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 06-Jun-14 06:41 PM GMT

Thanks for the sympathy Pauline. Finding the pupa was one of the highlights of the year and finally giving up on it was one of the biggest downers. It will probably have to wait for next year as there is so much grass there now it will be even harder finding them on the 2nd brood, even though there will be a lot more of them.

With all this Swallowtail action not too far away it seems a bit weak putting up images of Meadow Brown and Small Tortoiseshell, but well, that's life. My first Meadow Brown of the year with quite a few seen and lots of very fresh Small Torts. A bit of dragonfly action as well which is on the blog.

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>



## Re: Badgerbob

by Willow, 07-Jun-14 04:00 PM GMT

Super images Bob, and I really like your **Marbled White** larvae, great detail!

Bill 😊

"When in doubt...venture out"

## Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 07-Jun-14 11:18 PM GMT

"With all this Swallowtail action not too far away it seems a bit weak putting up images of Meadow Brown"...But not when it's a cracking shot like that Bob 😊👍 Meadow Browns are out, first Dark Green – soon it'll be Hedge Browns 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Badgerbob

by David M, 07-Jun-14 11:25 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

...soon it'll be Hedge Browns..

Don't go wishing the season away yet, Wurzel.

For me, Hedge Browns mark the beginning of the end of summer. 😊

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 10-Jun-14 06:05 PM GMT

Thanks Bill, Wurzel and David. With too much happening at home I've only just seen your comments!!

On Sunday I managed 2 walks over the back checking to see what was about and was amazed to actually get a fresh Small Heath sitting at the top of a stem, even better it stayed long enough for a piccie!! Meadow Browns were freshly emerged and later in the day on the 2nd walk some fresh Common Blues were undecided whether to roost or not with the sun going in and out. The best thing however was a very fast flying Clouded Yellow, great to see even if it was a very brief view.



*Small Heath*



*Meadow Brown*



*Common Blue*

Last night I put the moth trap out and I caught 2 crowd pleasers in the shape of the Privet Hawk Moth.



*Privet Hawk Moth*

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Wurzel, 11-Jun-14 09:23 AM GMT

Cracking shots of the Small Heath and moff Bob 😊 There have been a few reports of Clouded Yellows so hopefully it'll be another good year for them 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Pauline, 11-Jun-14 04:52 PM GMT

I never thought I'd say this Bob but my favourite is the moth 🍷 .

### **Re: Badgerbob**

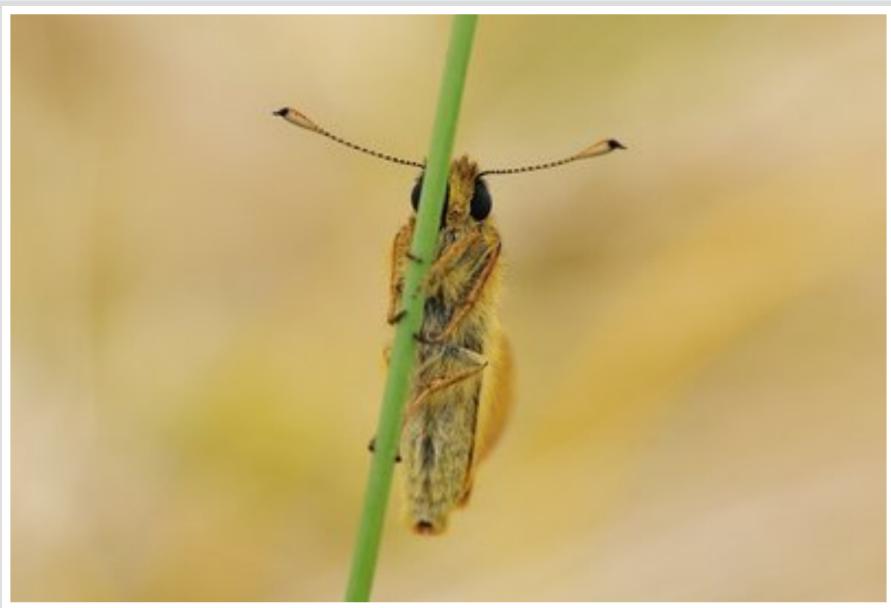
by badgerbob, 11-Jun-14 06:36 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel and Pauline. I remember Pauline liking the grass snake a couple of months ago!! The hawk moths are pretty spectacular although very easy to photograph once caught in the trap. Those Small Heath on the other hand are not normally very co-operative!!  
A Dark Green Fritt seen today near Eastbourne.

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 16-Jun-14 06:45 PM GMT

Another really dull old day here in Sussex today. In the end I decided to head for the River Cuckmere just to see if there was anything stirring. As it happens there wasn't much but a male Large Skipper did decide to perform for me allowing closed, open and head on shots. Several Banded Demoiselles also flying as well as Blue-tailed Damselflies. I also couldn't resist another few shots at the mayfly that continues to show well here. The increasingly rare Turtle Dove was also very nice to see.





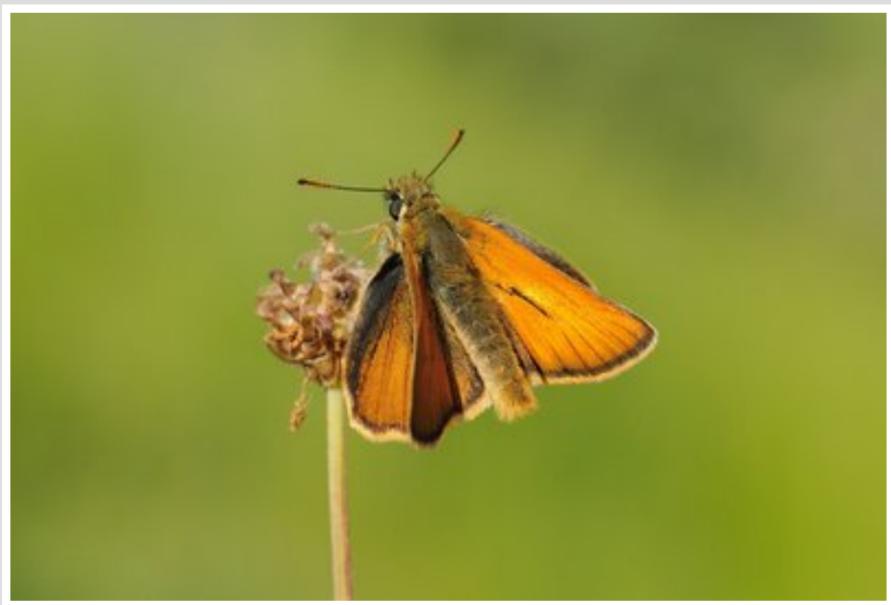
Mayfly

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 18-Jun-14 11:37 PM GMT

My first Small Skipper showed up today on Frog Firlle and I was fortunate that due to the weather it was roosting which allowed a few photos. The sun did eventually come out and at this point it flew a short distance before opening its wings. It was also clear why Marbled White larva were easy to find earlier in the year as there were huge numbers of this gorgeous butterfly on the wing.





### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 19-Jun-14 12:50 PM GMT

Its great when the Smessex Skippers arrive on the scene 😊 Thanks for your excellent shots of the Marbled White cat I think I managed to find my own at Larkhill back along 😊

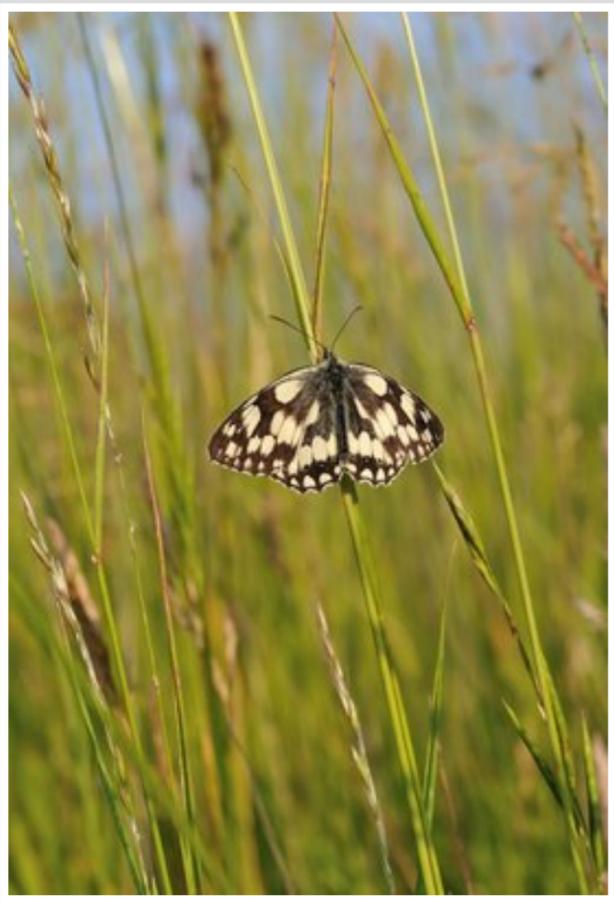
Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 24-Jun-14 11:45 AM GMT

'Summer'



### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 24-Jun-14 09:02 PM GMT

It was a very early start yesterday hoping to get the Marbled Whites before they woke up too much. Even at 6.15am they were moving along with a Red Admiral. I did however get a few shots I was quite pleased with. It was also great being out at that time of the day with just the butterflies for company!!



**Re: Badgerbob**

by David M, 24-Jun-14 10:57 PM GMT

Marbled Whites are such a joy to behold, Bob. I know they're essentially 'one month wonders' but the early, fresh specimens take some beating. Lovely underside shot in particular.

**Re: Badgerbob**

by William, 25-Jun-14 07:32 AM GMT

I've long tried to get something similar to that last one bob – superb 😊

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 25-Jun-14 04:41 PM GMT

Thanks David and William. I was particularly pleased with the underside shot. Different tactics yesterday as I went up to get them roosting in the evening. Unfortunately I could have done with another 30 minutes or so but I had to get home to feed the wife!! The Marbled Whites were so wary flying off when approached, I missed one opportunity stupidly but managed just one single shot. Will have to try again a little later when hopefully they would have slowed down, or another very early start.



Today I was doing a butterfly survey for BC in private woodland. I was amazed at the numbers of Ringlet. They were all over the place. Early on I spotted an ab. Ringlet. No rings on the underwing, just a few dots so possibly ab. arete. I tried to get some pictures but with the sun coming out it just didn't settle again and then fighting with lots of other Ringlet it was impossible to keep with it. Very frustrating. Many very active Silver-washed Fritillaries as well with 3 females appearing to be ovapositioning. Also a mating pair high in the trees being harassed by another male.



## Re: Badgerbob

by Willow, 25-Jun-14 08:38 PM GMT

You can never find enough time to do our wing friends justice can you Bob...and having to get home to feed wives is a real intrusion 😂😂

Bill 😊

"When in doubt...venture out"

### Re: Badgerbob

by David M, 25-Jun-14 09:38 PM GMT

#### "badgerbob" wrote:

Unfortunately I could have done with another 30 minutes or so but I had to get home to feed the wife!

C'est la vie, Bob. 😊

I think I'm going to have to try this early evening stuff myself. It opens up a whole new dimension into butterfly behaviour.

### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 25-Jun-14 11:35 PM GMT

The balance between butterflies and arriving home to the "that look on" it's a fine line Bob and getting home today to butterfly another day is a preferable outcome Bob 😊😊 Fantastic Marbled White shots. 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Badgerbob

by Pauline, 26-Jun-14 06:32 AM GMT

Lovely Ringlets Bob – I am sure many others including myself can understand your frustration about the ab. (a similar thing happened to Pete recently), tho' I don't suppose that makes you feel any better about it 😊

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 26-Jun-14 05:17 PM GMT

Thanks to you all with regards the photos and the wifey bits. Today I got up extra early again to try again for the MWs. A cooler morning so they were not so active, although the poor light and sea breeze didn't help. Perhaps another attempt is needed. Getting back in time to get 'er indoors a cuppa is a good plan!!



## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 28-Jun-14 04:35 PM GMT

Yesterday I had a few spare hours so I headed over to Southwater to hopefully see the Purple Emperor, a butterfly that I was unable to get to last year. On arrival 2 were battling in one of the usual places. A few minutes later another pair were also at it. There didn't seem to be as many Silver-washed Fritillaries as I expected but White Admirals seemed to be reasonably numerous. I came across a superb pair of mating Meadow Brown, which unusually were happy to 'perform' out in the open!! Even when they moved they were still 'out there'. I also managed a picture of a Fritillary from a worms eye view. Maybe I need to grow a bit!!



*A Bobs eye view!!*

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 29-Jun-14 05:54 PM GMT

Gatekeepers and Chalkhill Blues put in their first appearances locally yesterday and what a fantastic sight they are!! Just one day in the numbers of both had built up quite a bit further today. Two mornings now spent enjoying their beauty.



*male Gatekeeper.*



*male Chalkhill Blue*



I then looked very briefly in the area where I had the Wall Brown pupa earlier in the year just in case I could find a 2nd brood pupa. I very soon gave up on that one but a few minutes later a light green pupa caught my eye from about 10 feet away and I was amazed to find it was a Meadow Brown pupa!!



*Meadow Brown pupa.*

Just as I was about to leave today I came across my first Essex Skipper of the year.



*Essex Skipper.*

more at <http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Maximus, 29-Jun-14 08:21 PM GMT

Great shots there Bob, nice to see the Chalkhill Blues, everything is moving along at a fast pace now. Great front CU of the Essex, leaving no doubt 😊

Mike

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Wurzel, 29-Jun-14 11:33 PM GMT

I agree with Mike, great shots there 😊 The Chalkhills are lush but my favourite has to be the Hedge Brown 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 30-Jun-14 09:13 PM GMT

Thanks Mike and Wurzel. The first of the year of any species is special, but both Chalkhills and Hedge Browns are something else. Just going outside as I think I just heard a Hedge Sparrow calling!!

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 03-Jul-14 09:22 PM GMT

A few shots from the last couple of days from Friston Forest and the Cuckmere area.



*Dark Green Fritillary.*



*Essex Skipper*



*Essex Skipper*



*Gatekeeper*



*Gatekeeper*



*Chalkhill Blue*

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Wurzel, 03-Jul-14 11:15 PM GMT

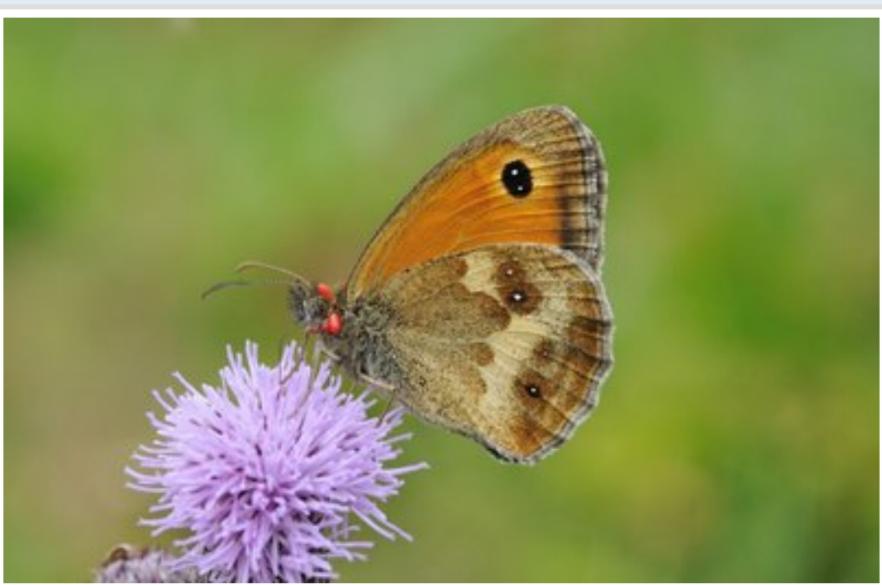
More brill shots Bob – the Dark Green is a right cracker 😊🍷

Have a goodun  
Wurzel

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 06-Jul-14 06:25 PM GMT

Thanks again Wurzel. I've been quite busy on the dragonfly front but today after all the rain I did just venture up to the Downs for a quick look around. There were masses of Gatekeeper as well as more Chalkhills. Females of both species also showed in reasonable numbers. I also wanted to check on the Meadow Brown pupa which I found last Sunday. After quite a bit of searching I refound it and see It has lost some of its brightness, but otherwise has not really changed. I think I found it only a short time after it was formed so I guess it is only just over a week old.



*Gatekeeper complete with passengers!*



*male Gatekeeper.*



*male Gatekeeper.*



*Meadow Brown pupa.*

## **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 08-Jul-14 07:19 PM GMT

I've been having great fun this summer getting up a bit earlier and going on the top of the Downs for butterflies. It was quite a bit cloudier this morning, but was still pretty warm and there were plenty of Chalkhill Blues about. One was sitting in some long grass holding on to 2 blades of grass which gave quite a different image. Another male was blowing about like mad in the breeze and eventually I got a female underside. A female Marbled White was found that had just emerged. Just as I was leaving I came across my first 2nd brood Wall Brown. 3 were seen including a mating pair.



**Re: Badgerbob**

by Pauline, 08-Jul-14 08:17 PM GMT

That first Chalkhill shot is lovely Bob and the style of the photograph is one I would now like to be able to create as it is so much more creative, picturesque and artistic than my usual plain background. Interested to hear about the 2nd brood Walls too as I haven't seen one yet this year so perhaps I should venture into E Sussex for a change.

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 08-Jul-14 09:09 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline, this is my favourite shot I've got this year of the Chalkhill. I missed you by not much last Monday at Botany. PM me if you head this way and we will try to meet up.

## Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 08-Jul-14 10:38 PM GMT

Somehow Bob I missed out your previous post but catching up now 😊 Love the Chalk Hill shots Bob still to see them emerging here 😊🇩🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

## Re: Badgerbob

by Willow, 10-Jul-14 07:36 PM GMT

Yes Bob, agree with the others those chalky shots certainly portrait them perfectly 😊

Bill 😊

"When in doubt...venture out"

## Re: Badgerbob

by Katrina, 10-Jul-14 09:17 PM GMT

I also think lovely Chalkhill shots, with a very serene feel to them.

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 11-Jul-14 09:52 AM GMT

Thanks to you all for the comments. It has quickly become one of my all time favourite shots, and like so often happens it was a quick grab shot as he only allowed 2 photos before he was off. It does give I think, a real feeling of that time of the butterfly in its natural environment. It was also my first trip out with a new camera!! This shot is the 1st I got before a slightly closer approach.



## Re: Badgerbob

by Colin Knight, 11-Jul-14 10:08 AM GMT

I see lots of good shots in the diaries but this one is exceptional. It is worthy of an entry in next year's Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit-us/wpy/index.html>. The last butterfly photo I recall in the exhibition was an Apollo a couple of years ago which had a similar ambience.

## Re: Badgerbob

by Neil Hulme, 11-Jul-14 10:27 AM GMT

Agreed. Superb shot. Personally I would shift the crop slightly, to avoid having the insect bang slap central. Rules are meant to be broken of course, but I think the shape of the subject and position of the grass stems provide sufficient symmetry. All matter of opinion, but an epic which ever way you look at it.

BWs, Neil

## Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 12-Jul-14 07:47 AM GMT

Picture perfect Bob 😊🇩🇪

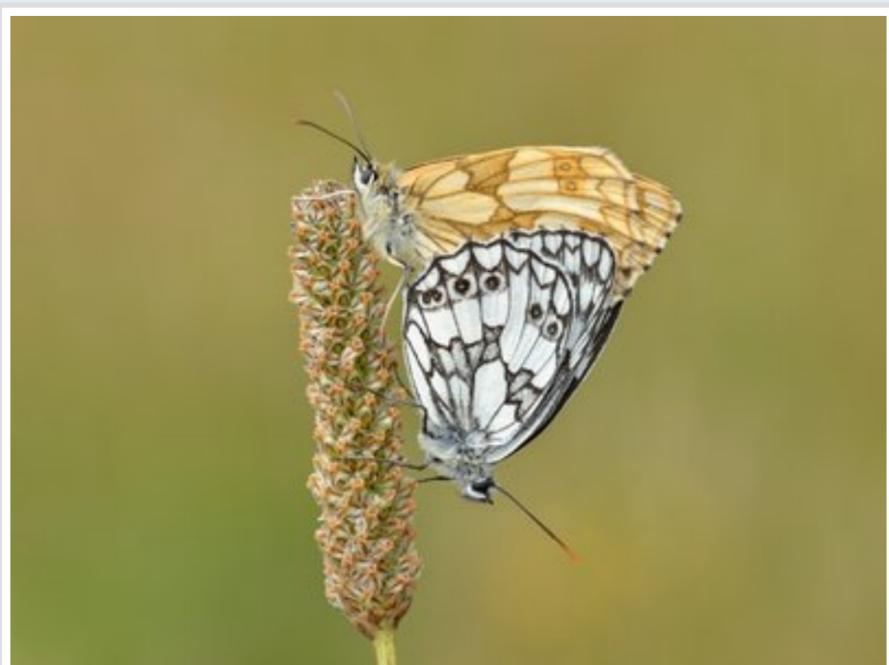
Have a goodun  
Wurzel

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 12-Jul-14 04:50 PM GMT

Once again a big thanks to you all for the comments regarding the Chalkhill Blue shot.

After 2 days of almost non stop rain it was good to get back up the hill once the heavy cloud had dispersed today. Lots of Marbled White and Chalkhill again. I noticed a pair of mating Marbled White and went to get a closer look and it immediately became apparent that the female was not normal. The brown tint that the females show was in this instance a deep orange-brown colour. It was hard to get a decent underside shot showing both forewing and hindwing and the one attached is a poor shot but it hopefully gives the idea how different it was. However, after a couple of minutes they climbed up a decent stem and then stayed put for the rest of the time they were still coupled which allowed several shots of them. Just before splitting up the female part opened her wings to show the brown on the leading edge. Once again this seemed a deeper brown than usual.





Several pairs of Chalkhill Blue were also mating, mostly deep in the grass but one pair once again were sitting high up.



I also managed a poor record shot of a Small Skipper ovipositing. It would have been fine except for the blade of grass going straight across the butterfly!!



**Re: Badgerbob**

by Katrina, 12-Jul-14 09:25 PM GMT

More beautiful photos – what is your new camera?

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 13-Jul-14 11:57 AM GMT

Hi Katrina and thanks for your comments. I changed the Nikon D300s to a D610.

Yesterday evening I decided to go back and see if I could refind the female Marbled White as she was particularly attractive. After some time and the weather going downhill quickly I was about to give up as she flew across. I followed her to her roosting site where I managed another picture. Due to the conditions it doesn't show her off to her full potential. As she was flying her orange/brown markings certainly stood out.



*Roosting Marbled Whites.*



*Female Marbled White.*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 15-Jul-14 03:37 PM GMT

With so many Elms going around these parts due to the dreaded Dutch Elm Disease it has become harder to find areas where the gorgeous White-letter Hairstreaks can be seen. I spent a bit of time showing Butterfliesaurus Rex a couple of weeks ago my best sites for seeing this butterfly at ground level. Although I haven't spent anything like as much time on this butterfly as usual I had only seen one high up until B Rex found some of his own. Thanks to him I managed a couple of shots yesterday of my favourite butterfly. A female nectaring on Creeping Thistles. The first one I saw had a nick out of a wing and whilst I was crouched down taking a photo of this one another flew up from a thistle head right by my ear!! I just hadn't seen her. This one was in better condition and it settled on another thistle head where I got a few shots including this one.



*female White-letter Hairstreak.*

### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 16-Jul-14 09:46 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Bob, beautiful. 😊🎁 And the colouration of the female Marbled White is astounding, it's like it's a different species from the male. 😲😊

Have a goodun

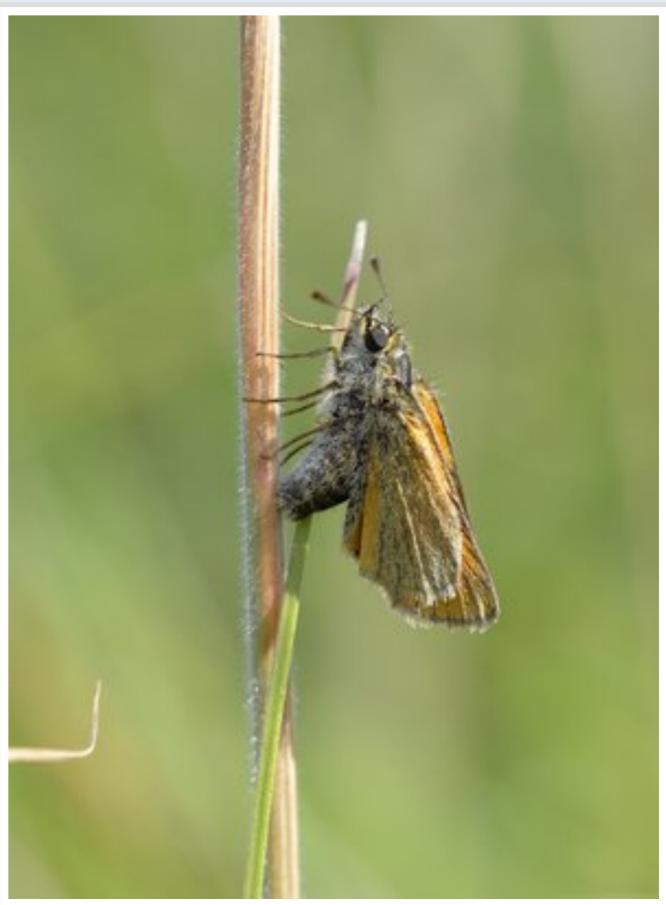
Wurzel

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 19-Jul-14 05:26 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, the colouration of her made her special!!

A few pictures from the last few days that may be of interest including another egg laying Small Skipper. I was amazed at the camouflage of the Red Admiral when roosting on a lichen covered twig. I daresay I wouldn't have spotted it if I hadn't seen it land there when I was on an evening walk.



*Small Skipper ovipositing.*



*Red Admiral on lichen.*



*Female Gatekeeper.*

Yesterday I called up to the local Downland site for Grayling. Good numbers flying and a bit of mating also going on!!



*Mating Grayling.*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Pauline, 20-Jul-14 06:37 AM GMT

You're taking some great photos Bob – the RA shot is really clever but I love the composition of the pair of Grayling. I am just waiting for you to post some Walls to tempt me down there 😊

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by Neil Freeman, 20-Jul-14 10:16 AM GMT

Hi Bob,

Some really nice photos in your recent reports, great stuff 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 20-Jul-14 04:00 PM GMT

Cheers Pauline and Neil, many thanks for your comments. As far as the Wall Brown goes Pauline, there are quite a few flying now although it looks like there is going to be less than the last few years. If this is the case its the first drop in numbers following 8 years of steady growth. As far as photographing them goes I rarely try to photograph Wall Brown now as I have too many pictures of them and they are SO frustrating and life is too short!!

Talking about life being too short I was on the Downs this morning admiring the Chalkhill Blues again when I stumbled across a small area with 3 mating pairs in it. One of the pairs seemed a bit odd as the female had her wings spread wide open and she didn't seem quite right. Looking harder she was having her life taken away from her by a spider that was firmly attached to her. Meanwhile the male was totally unaware of what her predicament was and was carrying on regardless!!



*A fatal threesome!!*

Another mating pair only a couple of feet away will hopefully have better luck at producing next years butterflies.



Yesterday I called up to see how the Meadow Brown pupa was doing and it seems it did okay as it had emerged and left an empty shell.



*Empty Meadow Brown pupa.*

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 21-Jul-14 09:59 PM GMT

Just for you Pauline. Not the best picture or the best specimen but at least it is a Wall Brown!!



### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 21-Jul-14 10:57 PM GMT

Some great reports recently Bob 😊 It's just a pity that the spider didn't feed on the male as at least he would have completed his Biological Imperative 😊 The camouflaged Red Admiral is a cracker too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 22-Jul-14 05:06 PM GMT

A walk today to count Wall Brown, info below!! If I had been counting Gatekeepers I would have run out of fingers and toes. They were everywhere!!

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 22-Jul-14 05:08 PM GMT

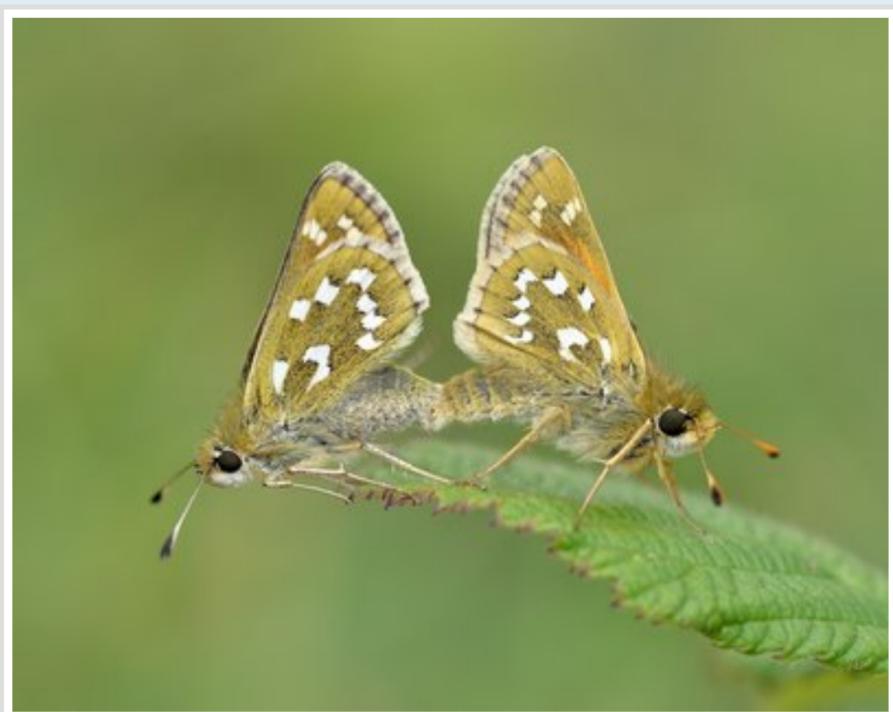
Today I did my Wall Brown count on a circuit from home. I have been doing this since 2009. The circuit is around 4 miles in length. It was possibly too hot today for doing this, it certainly was for me, so possibly it was for the butterflies too!! I had a feeling that the numbers were well down from the last 2 years and this it proved to be, whether this is from predation or due to the dryer conditions not being so good for the grass foodplant is difficult to say. I may get time to do another count in a few days time. As far as the 1st brood goes I failed to do a count on this route unfortunately but a count on another area was very good (69). Numbers today were back to more 'normal' figures.

2009 42  
2010 44  
2011 37  
2012 66  
2013 105  
2014 47

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 27-Jul-14 04:40 PM GMT

Two great mornings spent up on the Downs with the Silver-spotted Skippers. A Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow seen as well but it really was the SSS that was the star!! A mating pair were interesting in that when the female had decided she had had enough she tried in vain to push the fella away and the look on her face looked as though she really didn't want him anymore!! Great little characters.



*Giving him the big heave-ho!!*

## Re: Badgerbob

by William, 27-Jul-14 06:38 PM GMT

Superb Bob! 😊

BWs

William

## Re: Badgerbob

by Pauline, 27-Jul-14 06:49 PM GMT

That has to be the best SSS shot I have ever seen Bob – excellent! 🍷🍷

## Re: Badgerbob

by David M, 27-Jul-14 08:09 PM GMT

Agreed. Any species of Skipper mating is hard to come by so this one is special.

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 28-Jul-14 06:36 PM GMT

Thanks William, Pauline and David for your kind comments. It really was a great few hours spent over the weekend with these little characters. Another pic from the session shot into the light. I've found in the past that this can really bring out the olive green colour and the silver spots.



### Re: Badgerbob

by Neil Freeman, 28-Jul-14 10:40 PM GMT

Fantastic photos of the Silver-spotted Skippers in your last couple of posts Bob 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 29-Jul-14 03:54 PM GMT

Thanks very much Neil.

I have been trying to get some female Chalkhill Blues lately but they have generally kept low in the grass, however, yesterday a few were sitting higher and I managed a couple of shots.



*Female Chalkhill Blue.*



*Female Chalkhill Blue.*

Today I called up to High and Over where near the bottom of the steep scarp face I spotted a Small Heath. Nothing unusual here, except when it landed it would flick its wings open a couple of times, giving a show of its top wings. I have never seen a Small Heath behaving like this before but it only did it a couple of seconds after landing and not every time. I ended up following it all the way back up the scarp face to get a couple of poor grab shots and almost needing oxygen at the top!!



*Small Heath.*



*Small Heath.*



*Small Heath.*

### Re: Badgerbob

by David M, 29-Jul-14 07:14 PM GMT

Superbly captured, Bob. I've seen Small Heaths do this on a small number of occasions but usually only once or twice before they return to their normal mode.

### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 31-Jul-14 09:50 PM GMT

Fantastic stuff Bob 😊 First sublime Skippers and then open winged Small Heaths 🤩 Brill 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 01-Aug-14 09:46 PM GMT

The Fleabane is in flower and the butterflies love it. At last a Clouded Yellow has stopped for some photos!!





### Re: Badgerbob

by Neil Freeman, 02-Aug-14 10:23 AM GMT

Just seen your open wing Small Heath Bob, great stuff 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 05-Aug-14 01:58 PM GMT

A few shots from the last few days of various species. During a walk this morning I was doing a Wall Brown count, only partial due to the weather going downhill, but, at one point I saw a female Wall deep in the grass and she appeared to be ovapositioning. After she left I carefully looked in the grass and spotted a large ova carefully placed on some dead grass.



*Female Common Blue.*



*Chalkhill Blue.*



*Painted Lady.*



*Wood White.*



*Brown Hairstreak.*



*Wall Brown ova.*



*Male Wall Brown.*

### Re: Badgerbob

by Pauline, 05-Aug-14 03:49 PM GMT

I'm becoming addicted to your diary Bob. Not only do you consistently produce great shots there is always something out of the ordinary in there. Great Small Heath and Wall Brown egg 🍷🍷

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 05-Aug-14 05:28 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline. I hope its not a dangerous addiction!! Unfortunately this Wall Brown ova is a long walk away so I'm not sure if I will be able to get photos of it as it ages and before hatching. It was very pale being only about 2 minutes old so there was no detail showing. After a few days a thin black line develops which is a bit more interesting. The ones I had last year were much easier to get to and observe as they developed. I still do not really want to take them home as the challenge for me is to see it all in the wild wherever possible.

### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 05-Aug-14 11:27 PM GMT

Great set of shots Bob - loving the male Wall at the end 😊🍷

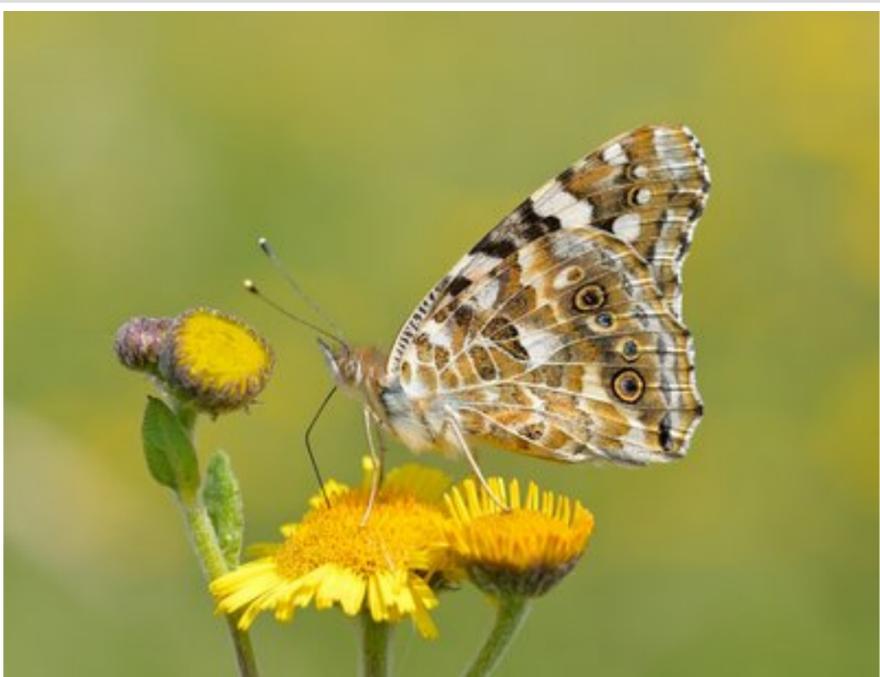
Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 06-Aug-14 06:03 PM GMT

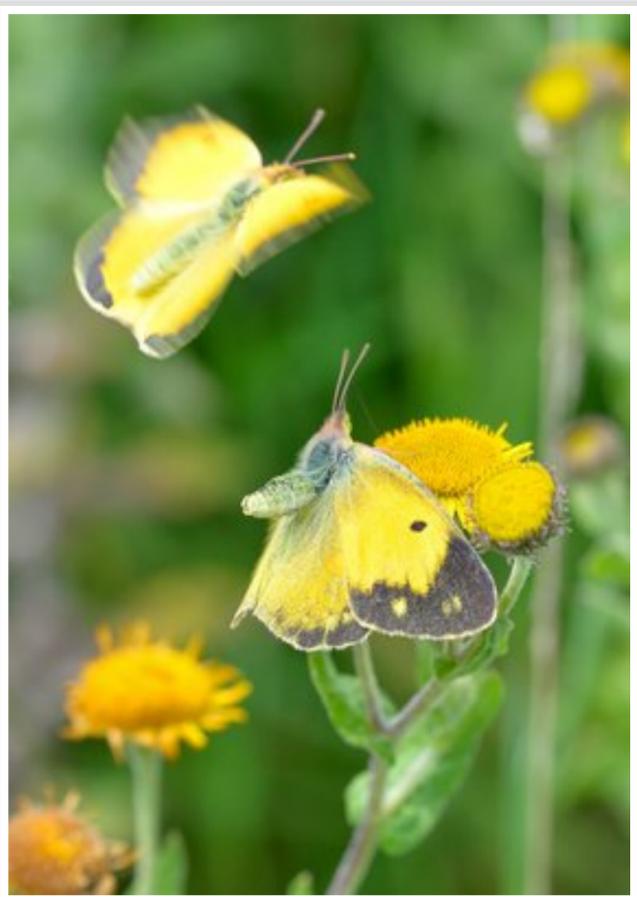
Thanks Wurzel again for your comments. It was a dragonfly trip today to try again for Brown Hawkers. On the butterfly front there was a mass of Fleabane that was once again attracting migrant butterflies. A very attractive Painted Lady showed off its hindwing pattern and at least 3 Clouded Yellow were there. When a male tried to approach a female it gave the rare glimpse of the top wings. She was not in the least interested though and gave him the hard shoulder. I know exactly how he feels!!



*Painted Lady*



*Clouded Yellow.*



For the dragonfly pictures see the blog: <http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.com>

**Re: Badgerbob**

by kevlng, 06-Aug-14 08:48 PM GMT

Wonderful shots of the Clouded Yellows Bob and I particularly like the Painted Lady profile shot too. Apart from a single fast flypast, I'm still searching out my first PL of the summer. Hope I don't have to wait much longer.

Kev

### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 06-Aug-14 10:29 PM GMT

Fantastic Clouded Yellow shots Bob 😊👍 Despite your epathy I bet you're glad the male got the cold shoulder treatment 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Badgerbob

by Pauline, 07-Aug-14 06:26 AM GMT

Stunning open winged shots Bob and lovely composition with PL.

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 07-Aug-14 12:58 PM GMT

Another early morning start today hoping for a nice Adonis Blue. Although they started to emerge here last Saturday numbers are still very low and I only saw the one. Chalkhill Blues continue however, and despite starting on the 28th June there are still a few fresh ones about. The Wall Brown are now looking tired and this one has I'm sure had a few battles over his lifetime!!



*Chalkhill Blue.*



*Half a Wall Brown male!!*

Yesterday, I had confirmation from Colin Pratt, the County Recorder, that the Marbled White female I had mating on 12 July was an ab. flava. When I came across it I was sure it was a bit special as the colour of the underside was very different to any M W female I had seen before.



Female Marbled White *ab. flava*.

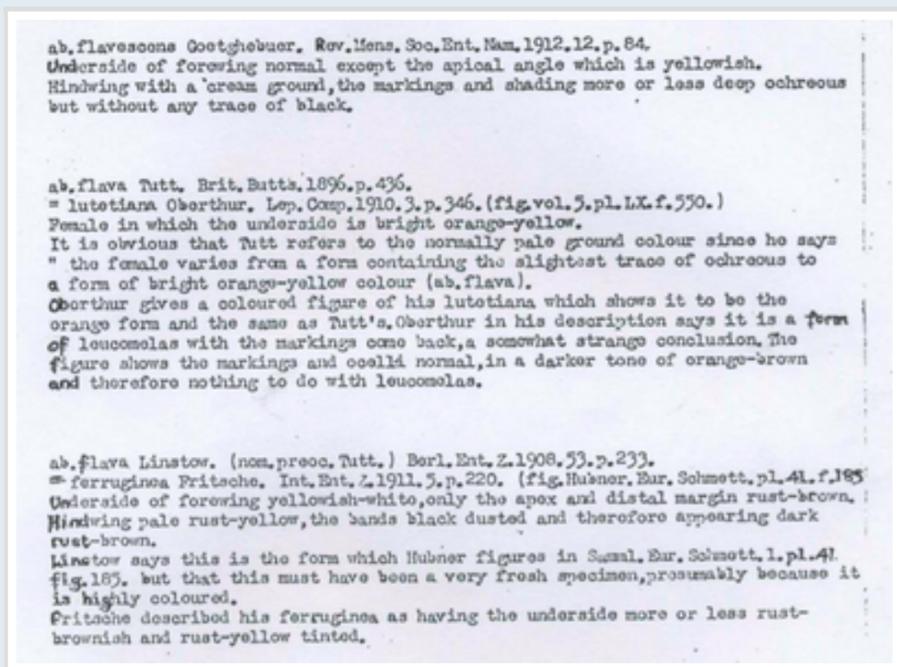
## Re: Badgerbob

by Pete Eeles, 07-Aug-14 01:06 PM GMT

### "badgerbob" wrote:

the Marbled White female I had mating on 12 July was an *ab. flava*.

The definitions aren't exactly clear – and I wonder if *ab. flavescens* is a candidate. I've attached the definitions below.



Cheers,

– Pete

## Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 10-Aug-14 12:10 PM GMT

Thanks for that info Pete. I am certainly far from an expert in this but fortunately the several images were forwarded from Colin Pratt to an expert in the *ab.* field and I assume he knows what he is on about. Having said that the 'orange' colour mentioned in the description of *flava* was obvious and mentioned in my original post on 12 July.

That aside, yesterday in odd weather, the lull before the storm perhaps, although it was still breezy, I walked the 2 miles to see how the Wall Brown ova I found last week was doing. Unfortunately it appeared to have been parasitized with what seemed to be another ova attached to it. It then fell off the dead grass root where it had been laid last week. Shortly after I came across a quite fresh female Wall Brown which looked as though it was on an egg laying mission. I saw it go into a rabbit scrape where it paused for a few seconds before moving on again. Looking again at the grass roots there was an ova neatly attached, this one had a slight green shade to it which I haven't noticed before.



*Wall Brown ova*

On the way to that area I came across a male Wall Brown trying to woo a female. She was not at all interested but the male kept at it and was very persistent until she went upside down in the grass. Immediately he lost interest and flew away.



*Female Wall rejecting male advances.*

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by William, 14-Aug-14 07:00 PM GMT

Lovely Stuff Bob – you might be interested in this beautifully marked female Wall...

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/onehandclap/14205523892/>

Not my photo, unfortunately!

BWs,

William

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 16-Aug-14 04:29 PM GMT

Hi William. Many thanks for that link. I have never come across a Wall ab. unfortunately. Just missed one that Downland Boy saw on my patch. I went for it but didn't locate it. The photo from your link is really good. I'm sure Vince would like a copy of it if you know the photographer.

### **Re: Badgerbob**

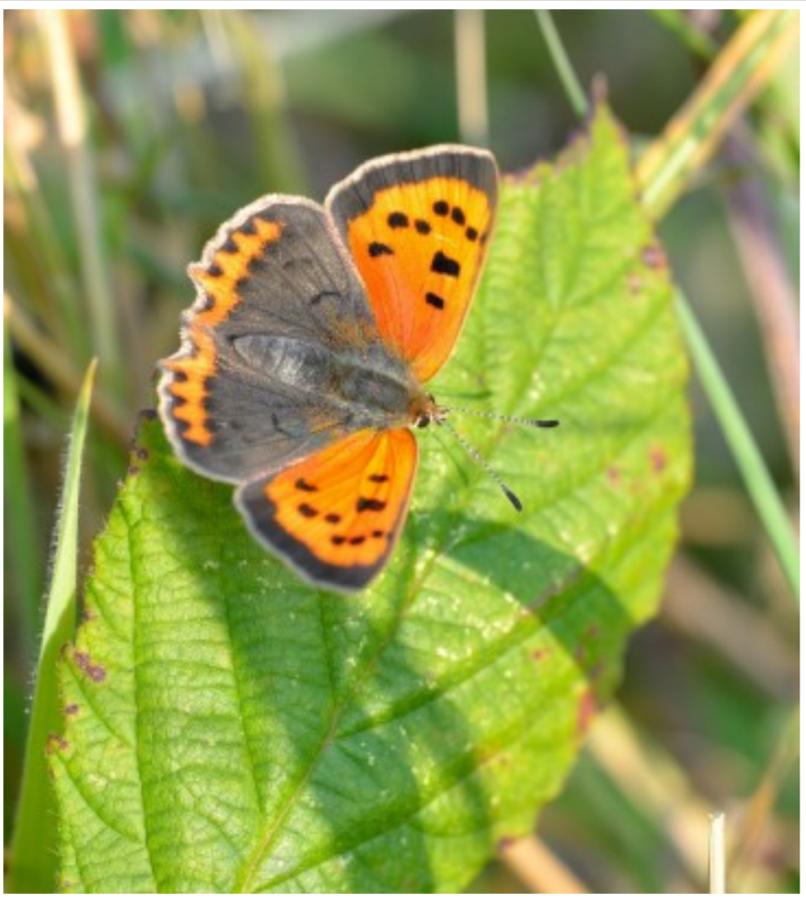
by badgerbob, 06-Sep-14 12:53 PM GMT

Over the last couple of weeks I seem to have been concentrating on dragonflies and a few other interesting things. Check out the blog for these non butterfly bits.

Over the last couple of days I've been trying to improve on my Small Copper shots. Although the weather has been mainly cloudy I have managed a few pleasing shots. A deformed, unfortunately, Adonis Blue also here. A shot from a couple of weeks ago.



*Male Adonis Blue.*



*Female Small Copper.*



*Small Copper roosting.*



*Small Copper.*

<http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.co.uk>

### Re: Badgerbob

by David M, 06-Sep-14 06:13 PM GMT

Stunning images of those last two Small Coppers, Bob.

### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 06-Sep-14 11:44 PM GMT

Indeed those last couple of images practically jump out of the screen 🤩 😊 🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Badgerbob

by nomad, 07-Sep-14 06:22 AM GMT

Super Small Copper images 😊

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 07-Sep-14 02:07 PM GMT

Many thanks David, Wurzel and Nomad for your encouraging comments. I am really pleased with the underwing shot but feel that the topside could have been a bit better all things considered. I'm hoping to have another go but I'm not so sure I will find one in such good condition again as this one must have been fresh out the box!! The Small Copper is a species that I've always struggled to get that shot that I am totally happy with but I am slowly getting there.

### Re: Badgerbob

by Pauline, 07-Sep-14 04:17 PM GMT

#### "badgerbob" wrote:

Over the last couple of days I've been trying to improve on my Small Copper shots.

Not sure you can Bob – lovely shots and as I have said before you have achieved some beautiful images of SC in the past.

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 07-Sep-14 08:04 PM GMT

Thanks Pauline. I have just had another go and I think this may be a little better as well as being a female, going by the shape of the abdomen.



*Female Small Copper.*

### **Re: Badgerbob**

by badgerbob, 19-Sep-14 08:48 PM GMT

The 3rd brood Wall Brown are doing very well this year around Seaford with over 12 seen today around Seaford Head and along the Cuckmere river. There was also one in the garden yesterday.

Meanwhile I couldn't resist another trip up Seaford Head looking for more Small Coppers and once again several fresh ones were seen. A very good season for this lovely little butterfly here.





### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 19-Sep-14 09:56 PM GMT

Beautiful Copper shots Bob 😊 I'm chuffed as I got my first Larkhill Copper the other day - it does seem to have been a reasonable year for them 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Badgerbob

by David M, 19-Sep-14 10:04 PM GMT

Must admit, all these ubiquitous Small Coppers on these diary pages are making me extremely envious.

I hope to see a handful myself before the year is out.

### Re: Badgerbob

by Goldie M, 20-Sep-14 12:39 PM GMT

Lovely Copper shots Bob, 🍷 none around here I'm a fraid they've all gone now. Goldie 😊

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 21-Sep-14 02:31 PM GMT

Thanks for you comments, much appreciated.

A walk yesterday from Woodingdean to Castle Hill NNR resulted in 13 species with the highlight being a very fresh Brown Argus. Other fresh species were Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Common Blue, Small Copper and Wall Brown. Apart from the butterflies there were several Whinchat catching insects to feed up for their migration.

### Re: Badgerbob

by Neil Freeman, 22-Sep-14 08:33 PM GMT

I must echo the other comments Bob, beautiful Small Coppers 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

### Re: Badgerbob

by Pauline, 24-Sep-14 07:52 AM GMT

You really excel with your S Copper shots Bob. That last one is lovely 😊

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 24-Sep-14 05:04 PM GMT

Thanks again Neil and Pauline. It was just wonderful getting a few pictures this late in the season of such colourful creatures!!

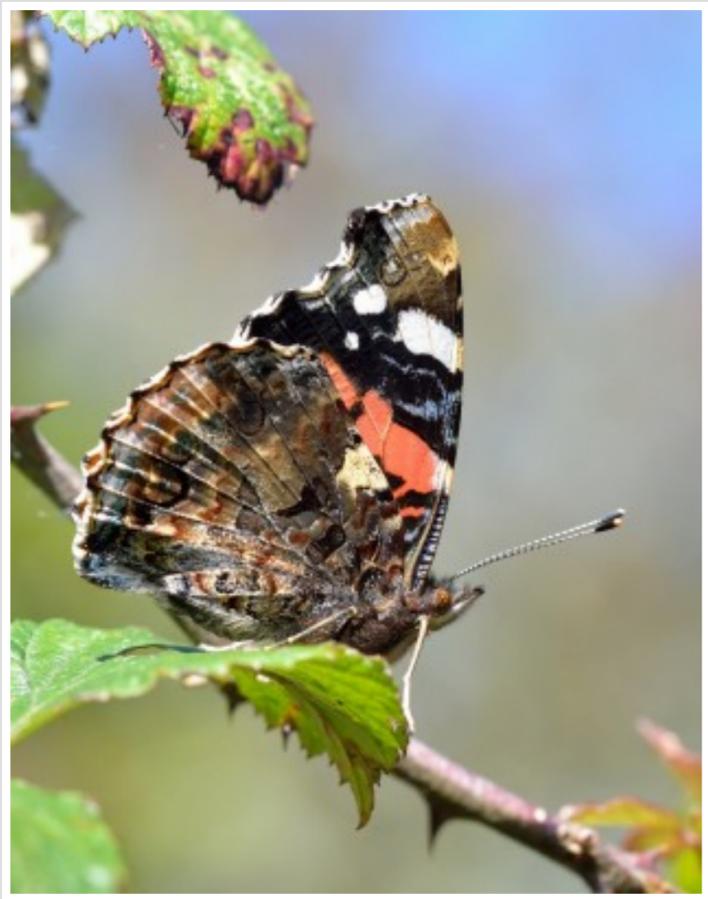
I managed another walk yesterday in some of my main Wall Brown areas to see how the 3rd brood is going. This year is the best I have known for the 3rd brood with butterflies showing up in areas that normally only has the first 2 broods. On the walk I saw 6 Wall including one female. I have now also had 2 in the garden, the first time I have had the 3rd brood show here. Also yesterday there were plenty of Small Coppers, a few Brown Argus and

Common Blue and a late Adonis Blue. Speckled Wood also put on a good show.

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 01-Oct-14 08:59 PM GMT

A walk down Pevensey Levels today for an outside chance of 3rd brood Wall Brown. This is not a traditional 3rd brood site but following a pretty good 2nd brood it was worth a look. Not only did Nigel and I find 4, all females with 2 egg laying, we had a total of 10 species. Not bad for October!! Fresh Small Tortoiseshell, Comma and a Clouded Yellow were the standout species. Plenty of Red Admirals were also about including the one below.



More at <http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.co.uk>

### Re: Badgerbob

by Butterflysaurus rex, 01-Oct-14 09:09 PM GMT

Lovely Red Ad photo Bob, I had a very fresh one sit on my shoulder for a good 10 minutes the other day. Glad you had a nice and productive day out there today.

B'saurus

### Re: Badgerbob

by Neil Hulme, 02-Oct-14 09:31 AM GMT

Hi Bob,  
I just love that Red Admiral shot. It's one of the best RA underside images I've seen, and just so evocative of a warm, sunny autumn day.  
BWs, Neil

### Re: Badgerbob

by badgerbob, 02-Oct-14 06:48 PM GMT

Thanks James and Neil. It was almost worth the pain of pulling a neck muscle as it was at a really odd angle. I really ought to get that Lumix!!

### Re: Badgerbob

by Wurzel, 02-Oct-14 09:59 PM GMT

Certainly is a lush Red Admiral Bob 😊 With Low Pressure returning I wonder if the promised Heatwave will happen and how the Walls will fair?

Have a goodun

Wurzel