

maverick

by maverick, 17-Jan-14 10:22 PM GMT

This is the first post of the year in my personal diary, not a butterfly in sight yet as i live in the North west. So i had a walk around Pennington Flash and i just had to try and get some sightings of the Willow tit that visits the feeders there and today they were happy to oblige



Re: maverick

by maverick, 17-Jan-14 10:47 PM GMT



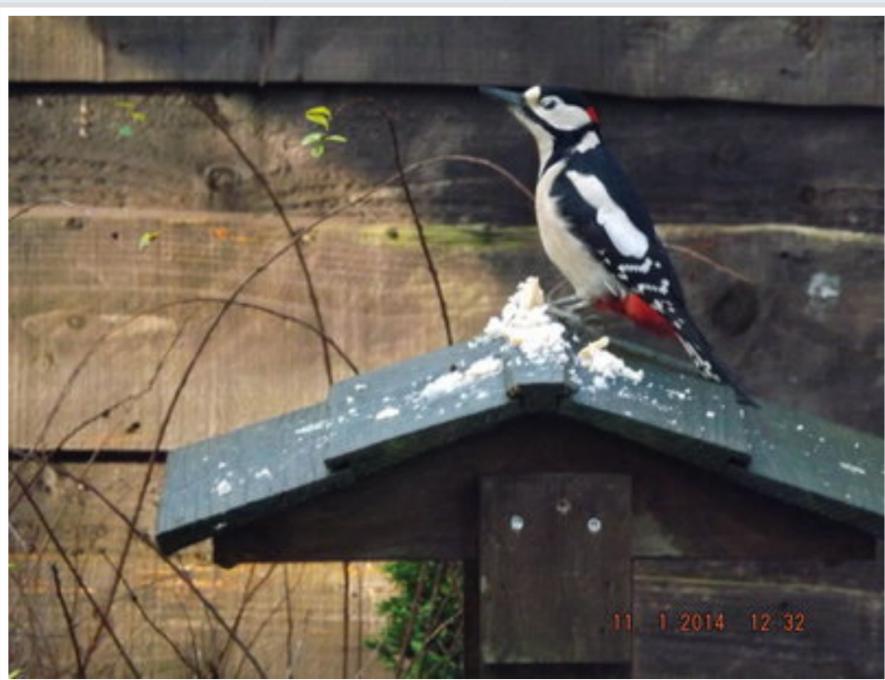


i also got some shots of the Nuthatch , reed bunting and the bull finch which was not very friendly , he wouldn't let any of the other birds eat in the same cage

Re: maverick

by maverick, 22-Jan-14 10:18 PM GMT

woody has been a regular visiter to my garden





Re: maverick

by maverick, 22-Jan-14 10:30 PM GMT

this is one of my other hobbies



Re: maverick

by Maximus, 24-Jan-14 07:36 PM GMT

Hi Maverick, nice Pike, looks to be a good double at least? You are also very lucky with the variety of birds visiting your feeders.

Mike

Re: maverick

by maverick, 24-Jan-14 08:01 PM GMT

Thanks mike, the pike was 15lb, as for the birds I'm at work most of the time so in the winter when they come into the garden I never really get enough time to watch them

Re: maverick

by maverick, 24-Jan-14 08:51 PM GMT

its a wonder that i get any birds in my garden , this chap is always in the local area. at least he dont eat butterflies



Re: maverick

by maverick, 05-Apr-14 09:05 PM GMT

just back from cuba today, and after spending up to an hour most nights taking photos of the various butterflies ,ive just found out that one of the memory cards is not with me any more(ive been kicking my self all day)

i had a great time and was impressed with the amount that where there, but and a big but they where so fast and getting a good picture was impossible at times. for example the large whites where flying out to sea in strong winds with no problem at all. they seemed to be the most common along with the large yellow butterflies

Re: maverick

by maverick, 05-Apr-14 10:18 PM GMT



this is one of the large white butterflies, always closing its wings when its landed {not for long} they where sometimes seen by myself far out to sea a little bigger than our large white with less markings of the small white in the uk

Re: maverick

by maverick, 05-Apr-14 10:46 PM GMT



i think i can safely say i found a female

Re: maverick

by Padfield, 06-Apr-14 11:41 AM GMT

How frustrating that you've lost that memory card! I suppose there 's a chance that if you changed cards in the hotel they might have found it and can send it.

The whites are great southern whites, *Ascia monuste*. Well done for getting those ovipositing shots! I look forward to seeing more of the piccies from the card you did bring home!

Guy

Re: maverick

by maverick, 06-Apr-14 06:28 PM GMT

Tell me about it,

I will try and contact them

The most frustrating thing is ,I had about eight different butterflies on it with a few very good close up shots

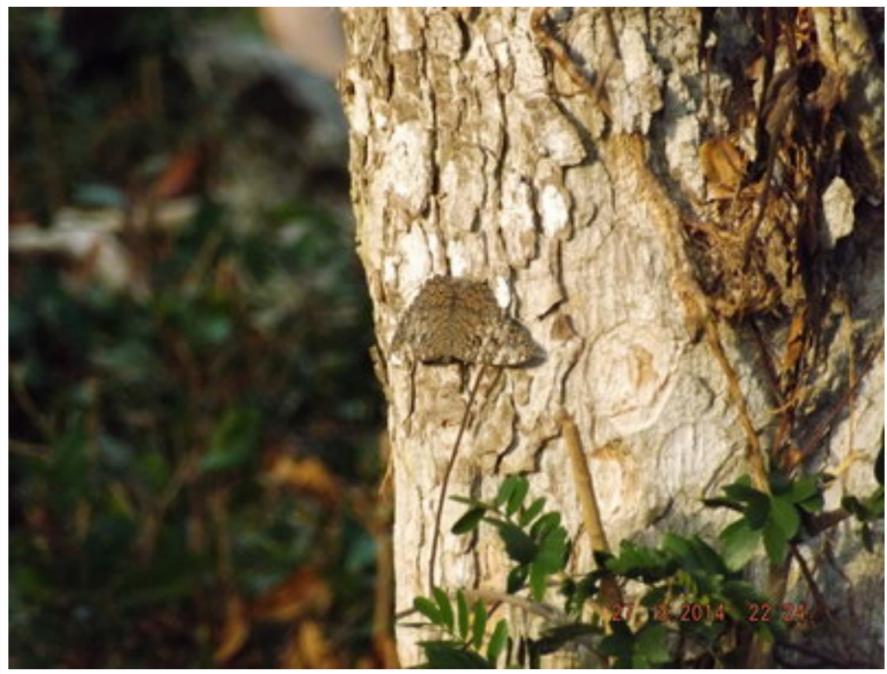
Re: maverick

by Pauline, 06-Apr-14 07:31 PM GMT

I really feel for you Maverick. I guess we've all been in a similar position one way or another at some time but that doesn't make it any better for you. I really hope it turns up.

Re: maverick

by maverick, 06-Apr-14 08:42 PM GMT



this is the first picture I have got of this butterfly a large pale colour in flight and not easy to get near it was hanging about at the front of the hotel ,I took a bit of time for it to get used to me.

Re: maverick

by maverick, 06-Apr-14 08:52 PM GMT





after a few days i could get close (sometimes)

Re: maverick

by Padfield, 06-Apr-14 09:08 PM GMT

Nice!

I don't know if you're looking for IDs in these postings, but if you are, this one is *Hamadryas amphichloe* – one of the 'crackers'. There's a picture here:

http://butterfliesofamerica.com/L/imagehtmls/Nymph/Hamadryas_amphichloe_diasia_M_DR_LA_VEGA_PROV_mtns_SW_Hotel_Nueva_Suiza_4000-4200_19_km_S_Constanza_23-VI-94-MGCL-8_i.htm

I do hope you get your other card back ...

Guy

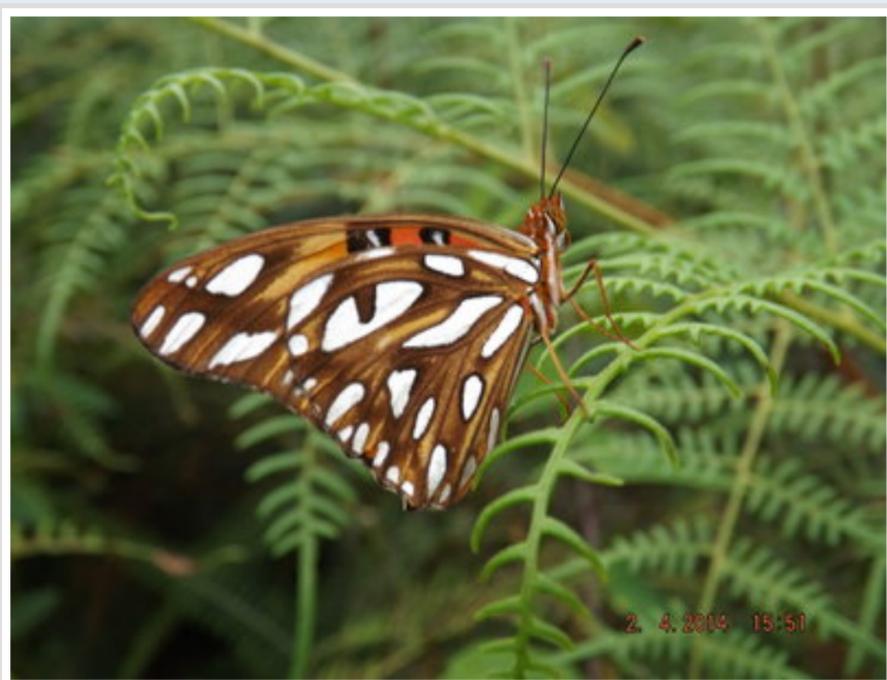
Re: maverick

by maverick, 06-Apr-14 09:19 PM GMT

yes please id them for me, i did enjoy just looking for the unknown, and i was surprised on the amount out there i have a few more up my sleeve and will post up soon 😊

Re: maverick

by maverick, 07-Apr-14 09:18 PM GMT





There were lots of fritillaries in Cuba, Here are some of the pictures I took. You will have to excuse some of the pictures as it was sometimes difficult getting them in focus before they decided to fly off



Re: maverick

by maverick, 07-Apr-14 09:36 PM GMT



Another fritillary at rest

Re: maverick

by Padfield, 07-Apr-14 10:47 PM GMT

That's a butterfly I'd love to see - the Gulf fritillary, *Agraulis vanillae*. And some of the pictures aren't at all bad for such a mobile creature!

Guy

Re: maverick

by maverick, 08-Apr-14 07:58 AM GMT

Glad you liked the snaps

This butterfly was really common and I was able to see it on the coast ,in the mangrove's and also in the mountain area I visited in the south east of the island.probly the most common butterfly there

Re: maverick

by maverick, 08-Apr-14 07:30 PM GMT

QUESTION ?

Is it getting old when you put something away that is important and forget the special safe place !!!!

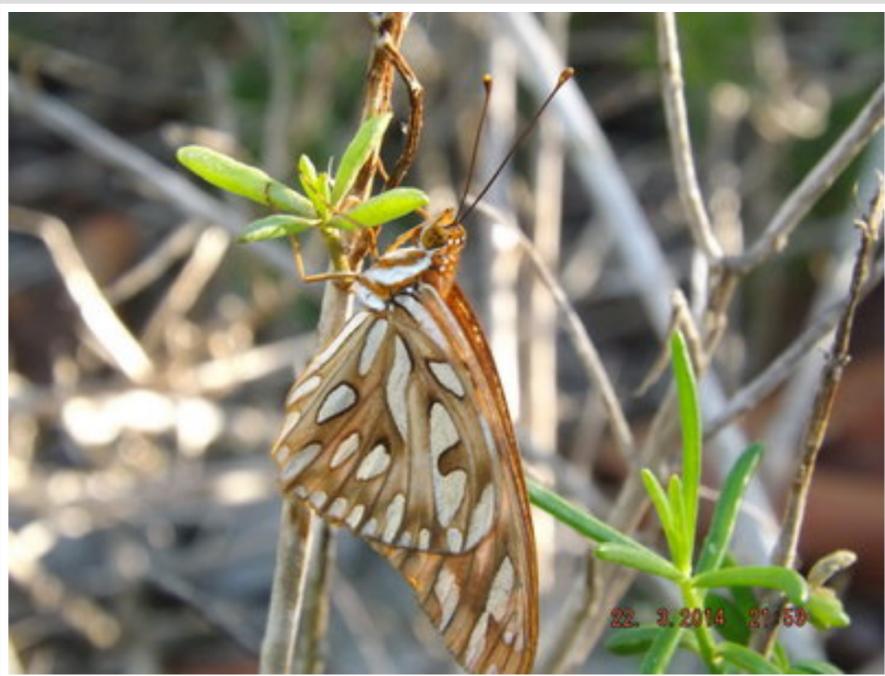
ive just found my memory card from my hols, it was in a special safe place that i forgot !!!!!!!!!!! 🙄🙄🙄

Re: maverick

by maverick, 08-Apr-14 07:59 PM GMT

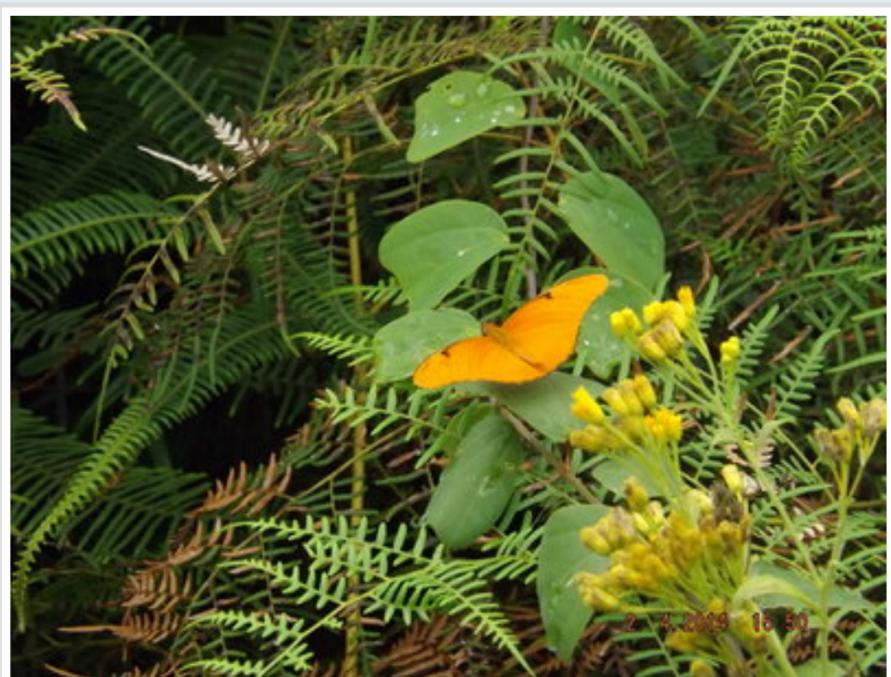


more fritilarys from Cuba



Re: maverick

by maverick, 08-Apr-14 08:11 PM GMT

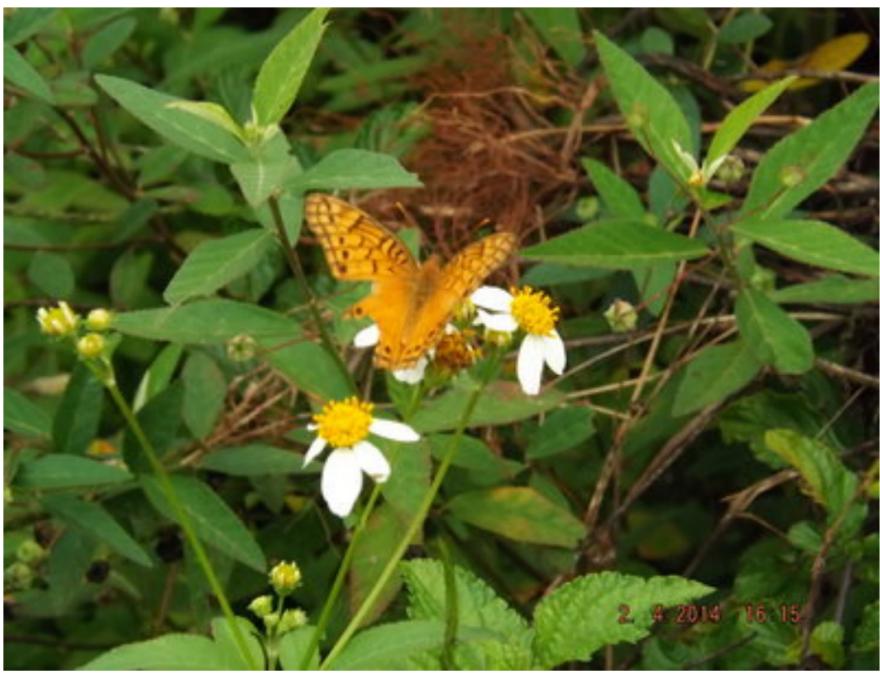




These specimens were taken in the south east of the country high up in the hills/mountains

Re: maverick

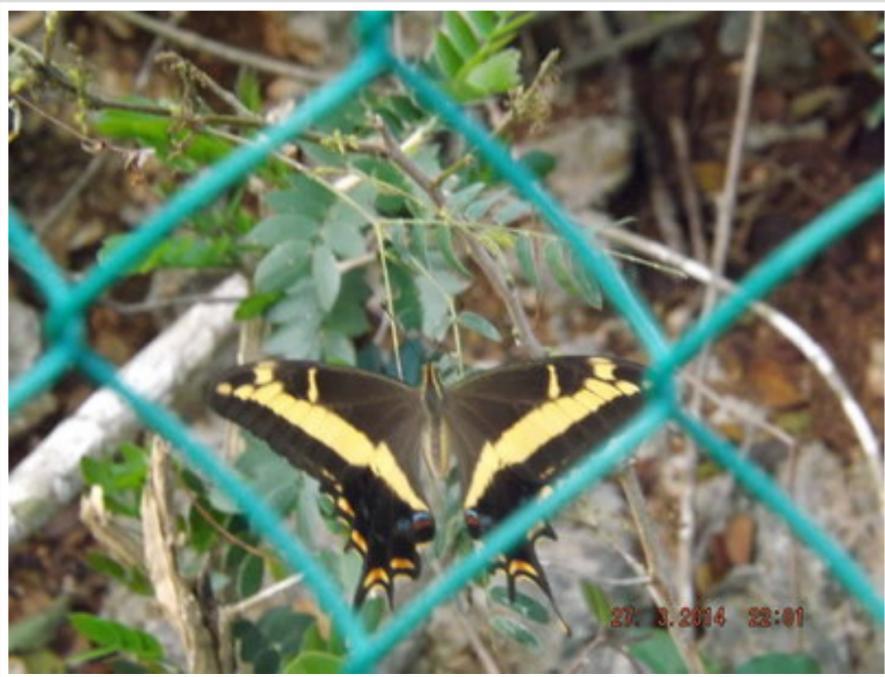
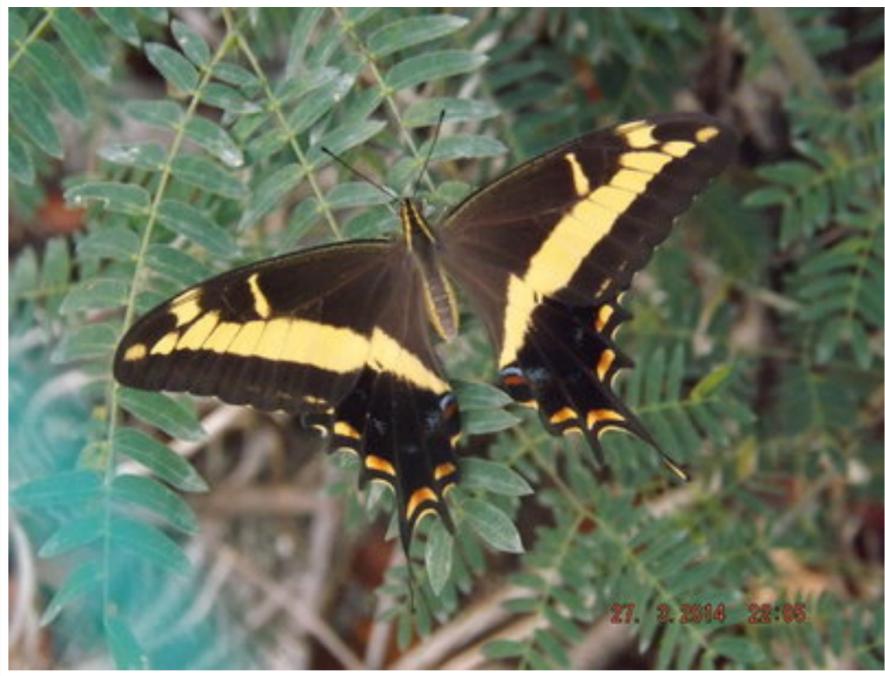
by maverick, 08-Apr-14 08:30 PM GMT



More butterflies which got me into trouble as the better half was getting tired of making excuses for me making the coach late 😊

Re: maverick

by maverick, 08-Apr-14 08:42 PM GMT



i was also pleased to see some swallow tails right out side the hotel

Re: maverick

by Padfield, 08-Apr-14 10:30 PM GMT

Yup, you're getting old, Maverick! But I'm very glad you found it.

More great species. The first, bright orange, one is the flame, *Dryas iulia*, and the second another Heliconid, the zebra longwing, *Heliconius charithonius* (or *charithonia*, according to some authorities). Next is the Mexican fritillary, *Euptoieta hegesia*, and finally the Bahaman swallowtail, *Papilio andraemon*.

Guy

Re: maverick

by maverick, 09-Apr-14 09:54 AM GMT

thanks for the info , i wouldnt have a clue where to start

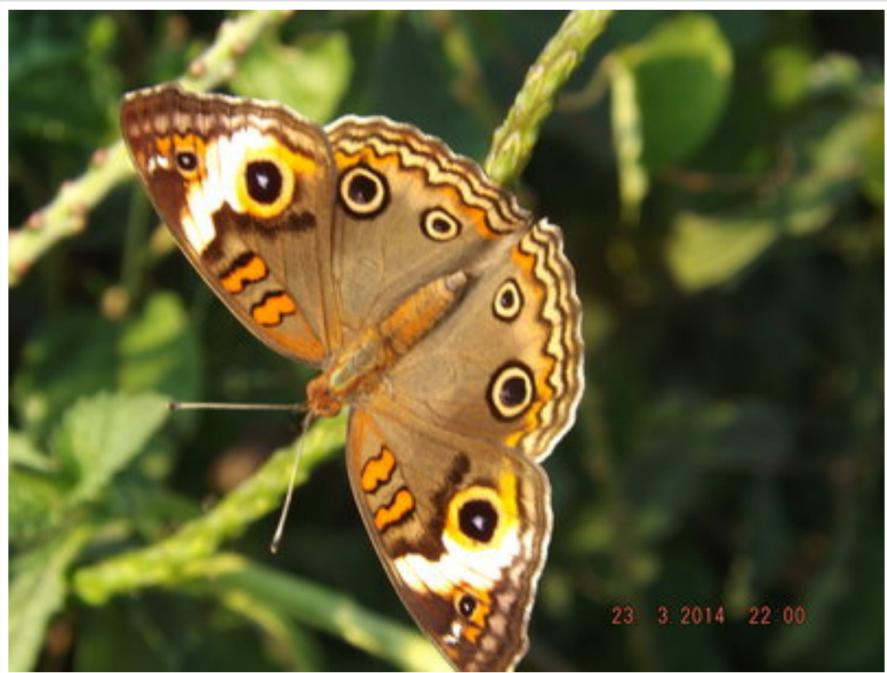
Re: maverick

by NickMorgan, 09-Apr-14 12:45 PM GMT

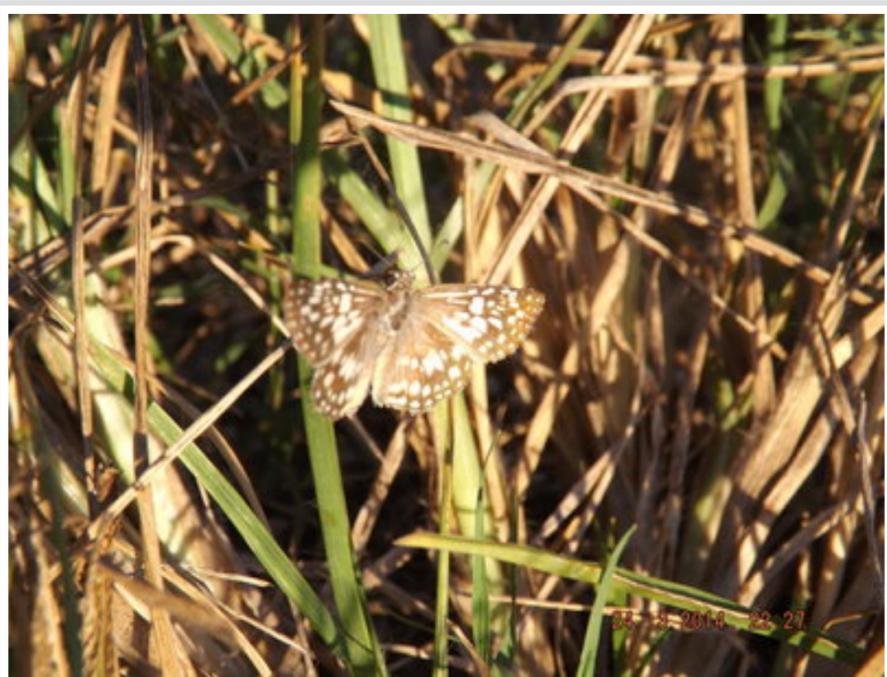
Yes, definitely a sign of getting old. Or maybe I am just jealous that I didn't manage to get any pictures of Gulf Fritillary, Julia Heliconian or Swallowtails when I was in St Lucia, despite them flying all around me!!
I am so pleased you found your memory card (if not your memory!!). I would be devastated if I lost a card full of pictures.

Re: maverick

by maverick, 09-Apr-14 07:57 PM GMT

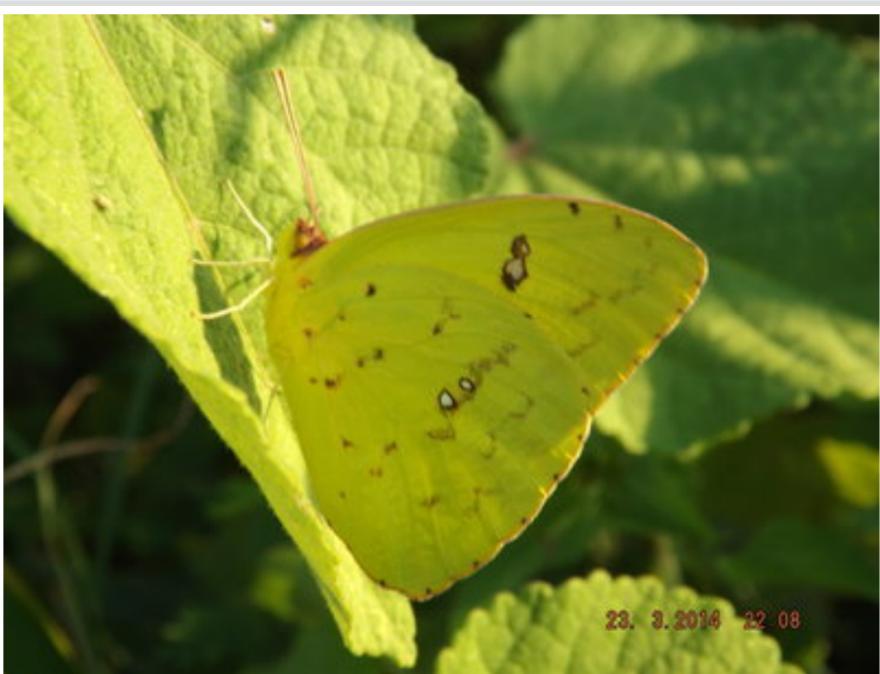


At the side of the hotel there was a large grass area where there was masses of butterflies hope im not being boring here



Re: maverick

by maverick, 09-Apr-14 08:10 PM GMT



there where also some large yellow butterflies hard to get close to but im not one for giving up

Re: maverick

by maverick, 09-Apr-14 08:24 PM GMT





The little blues have got me here, i think there is two types ,one variiey seems to be a long tail but ive looked at the photos a few times but im still not sure for a small butterfly they didnt half move about a lot

Re: maverick

by maverick, 09-Apr-14 08:36 PM GMT





My last Cuban post of butterflies
one of the skippers and what im calling a small brown job (for now)
just dont ask for me to post the toads ,land crabs, birds,and 5 types of lizzards

Re: maverick

by maverick, 09-Apr-14 09:06 PM GMT





Back to reality and i had a moan earlier saying that there wasnt much moving about in the cold Northwest well what a surprise i had at the back of my house, ive only gone and got my first brimstone on film along with 5 other butterflies



Re: maverick

by Padfield, 10-Apr-14 11:01 PM GMT

Hi Maverick. A few pointers to the IDs in your last sets of Cuban butterflies. I'm still in the UK, without books, so I'll leave some to check later if someone else (Nick Morgan?) doesn't give you the definite IDs.

The two Nymphalids are white peacock (*Anartia jatrophae*) and West Indian buckeye (*Junonia evarete*). The grizzly is the tropical chequered skipper, *Pyrgus oileus* (Americans call *Pyrgus* species 'chequered skippers'). The smaller yellows are *Eurema* sp. (grass yellows) – I need a book for those – and the large ones *Phoebis* sp – I also need a book. But you might be able to track them down on the internet. The tailless blue is *Hemiargus hanno* (I don't know the common name) and the tailed one actually a hairstreak, *Strymon istapa*, the mallow scrub hairstreak. The Satyrid with a bit of red is very interesting. It is one of the species in the genus *Calisto*. All the *Calisto* species found on Cuba are endemic to Cuba, I believe – so that is a really good thing to find. The orange skipper I definitely need the books for!

Nick Morgan has Smith's Butterflies of the West Indies, so he can probably narrow down the ones I've left vague.

Brillant stuff!

Guy

Re: maverick

by NickMorgan, 11-Apr-14 08:37 PM GMT

I saw your posts yesterday lunch time at work and thought I could check out the book at home, but I have only just remembered!

The first picture posted on 9th April is the White Peacock as Guy said.

The second picture – *Junonia evarete*? I suspect it could be *Junonia genoveva*. This used to be considered a subspecies of *evarete*, but is now thought to be a separate species. I find separating the two species very difficult and apparently the specimens were mixed up when they were first described and now various books show the wrong plates for each species. Certainly the pictures on the internet don't help. I believe that a view of the underside would be conclusive, but I never saw one with its wings closed. Your picture looks almost identical to those I saw, which I identified as *genoveva* using Smith's images. I would love to know for sure, though.

The third picture is the Tropical Chequered Skipper, *Pyrgus oileus*, as Guy said.

The fourth picture certainly looks like *Eurema*, but the forewing looks quite pointed, which confuses me! The best I can come up with is *Eurema lisa*, the Little Yellow.

The best I can come up with for the fifth picture is *Eurema nicippe*, The Sleepy Orange.

I am fairly confident that the sixth picture is *Eurema lisa*. The problem with the *Pieridae* in the Caribbean is, not only are there lots of them, but often they occur in wet season and dry season forms and they differ slightly between the islands!

The seventh picture is a male Cloudless Yellow, *Phoebis sennae*.

Guy has pictures eight and ten correct with *Hemiargus hanno*, the common name is Hanno's Blue!!

For Picture nine, I am not sure. *Strymon istafa* isn't shown in my books, but I have found it on the internet. I was thinking that they could be *Strymon columella*, Hewlitson's Hairstreak, although the dots on the forewing seem more pronounced than in the book, so Guy is most likely right (as always!!!).

Picture eleven is a good match for *Strymon columella*, but again could be *istafa* again.

I would say that your *Calisto* is *Calisto herophile* what a beautiful butterfly.

For the Skipper, how about *Choranthus radians*, The Rayed Skipper. I can't find anything else close that lives on Cuba.

I would be interested to hear what Guy thinks once he is home with his books! 😊

Re: maverick

by maverick, 11-Apr-14 10:23 PM GMT

I actually sore about three different types of skipper, the one in the picture was the largest that I have seen, I couldn't get good pictures of the others
Thanks for having a go at the ID

I was really impressed at the variety out there and I've been looking again at the whites there was difference's in the sizes of some of the picture s which now makes me think that they could be different. I'm no expert and have just stared to know to know the differences with UK butterflies, out there I had no chance

In a way it doesn't really matter, I had great fun hunting around finding different sorts at different locations and I would recomend Cuba to anybody

Thanks again I just hope you all enjoy the pictures

Re: maverick

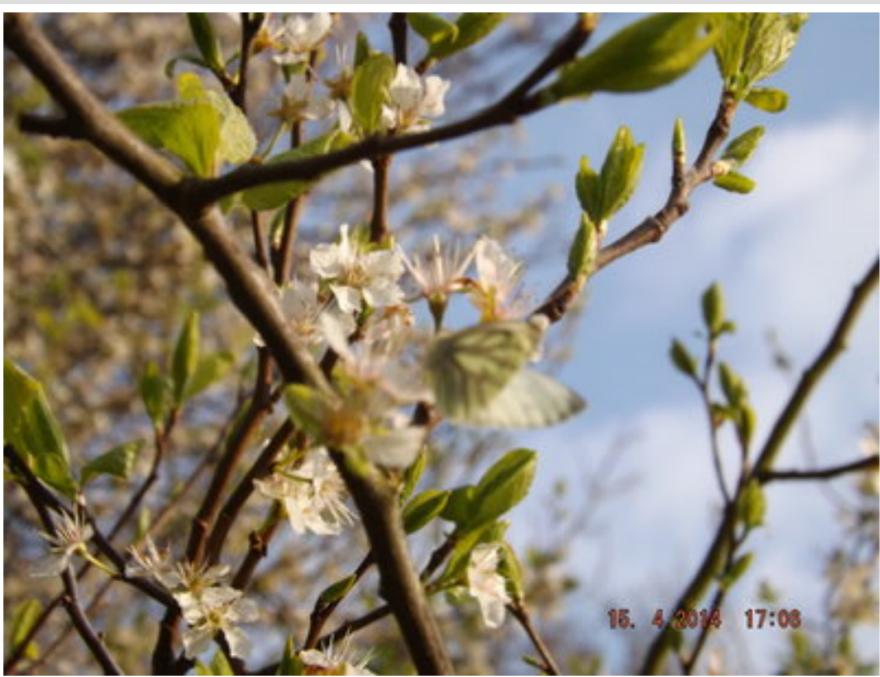
by maverick, 13-Apr-14 09:08 PM GMT



i ve been and had a look at Gait Barrows today and Arnside , fat chance of seeing any butterflies as the temprature did not go above 12c and was cloudy most of the day. Not to worry as i now have another site to go to when it warms up a little
What i did see was the wood anemones in the woods near by. The better half also likes the little village that we stopped in so it looks as if a return is on the cards

Re: maverick

by maverick, 15-Apr-14 09:39 PM GMT





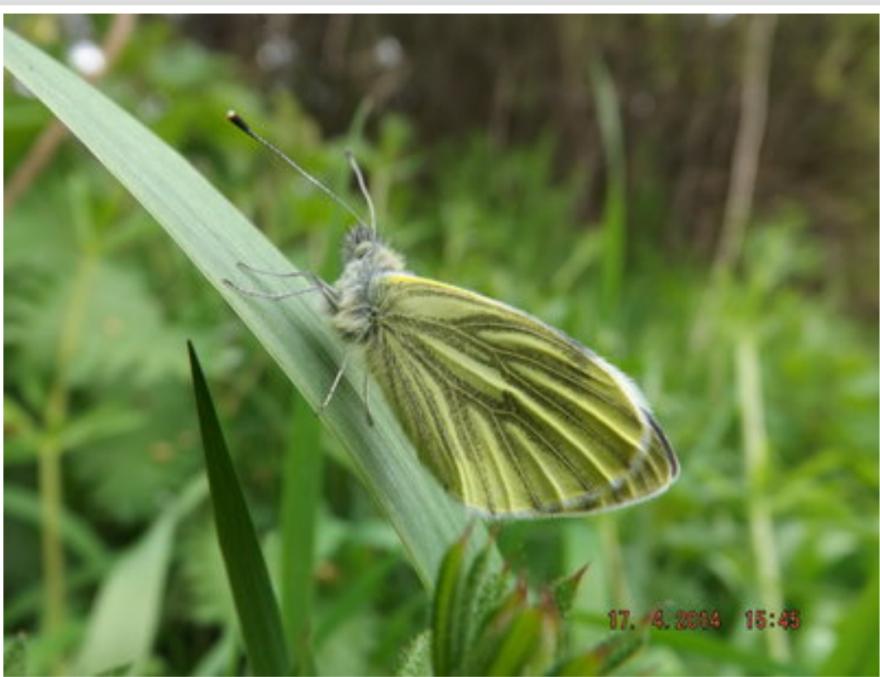
well the green veined whites are now out in force in Warrington, just counted about 6 at the back of my house tonight the speckled woods are getting more common also

Re: maverick

by maverick, 17-Apr-14 08:44 PM GMT



ive seen my first orange tip of the year on my local patch yesterday so im made up also i managed to get a better shot of the green veined white



Re: maverick

by Padfield, 18-Apr-14 07:45 PM GMT

A little belatedly, back with my books and onto those Cuban beauties!

I suspect Nick is right about *Junonia genoveva* but without an underside I'm not sure. Both fly in Cuba.

I'm sure the first *Eurema* is *Eurema lisa* and I also came independently to *nicippe* for the second.

There seems to be a bit of vacillation in the literature about the taxa *Strymon istapa* and *S. columella* but the more recent authors give *istapa* for Cuba (as well as for Florida &c., where the older authors give *columella*).

I also agree with *Choranthus radians* and *Calisto herophile*.

Now back to the remarkable UK spring of 2014!!

Guy

Re: maverick

by maverick, 22-Apr-14 10:10 PM GMT



a busy weekend for me in Wales, ive seen about 4 different holly blues but not a chance of a photo from any of them
i HAD to take my niece up Snowdon the hard way and at 8.30 in the morning at -2c not even the holly blues were going to turn up
Had a good day on the Sunday chasing holly blues at Cemlyn bird reserve but no joy again, although did get to see loads of birds
including my first mediterranean gull , along with ring plovers ,golden plovers, sandpipers dunlin, little egret, sandwich turns and lapwings



Re: maverick

by maverick, 22-Apr-14 10:18 PM GMT

[quote="Padfield"]A little belatedly, back with my books and onto those Cuban beauties!

I suspect Nick is right about *Junonia genoveva* but without an underside I'm not sure. Both fly in Cuba.

I'm sure the first *Eurema* is *Eurema lisa* and I also came independently to *nicippe* for the second.

There seems to be a bit of vacillation in the literature about the taxa *Strymon istapa* and *S. columella* but the more recent authors give *istapa* for Cuba (as well as for Florida &c., where the older authors give *columella*).

I also agree with *Choranthus radians* and *Calisto herophile*.

Now back to the remarkable UK spring of 2014!!

Guy[/quote]

thanks for the feedback

thinking about it i was a bit like a kid in a sweet shop and with the blues there where more than likely a few different species and also with the yellows but its not until i had the photos back and uploaded in the UK that it dawned on me

Re: maverick

by maverick, 23-Apr-14 09:12 PM GMT

there back , does this mean its summer now



?

Re: maverick

by David M, 23-Apr-14 09:46 PM GMT

"maverick" wrote:

there back , does this mean its summer now

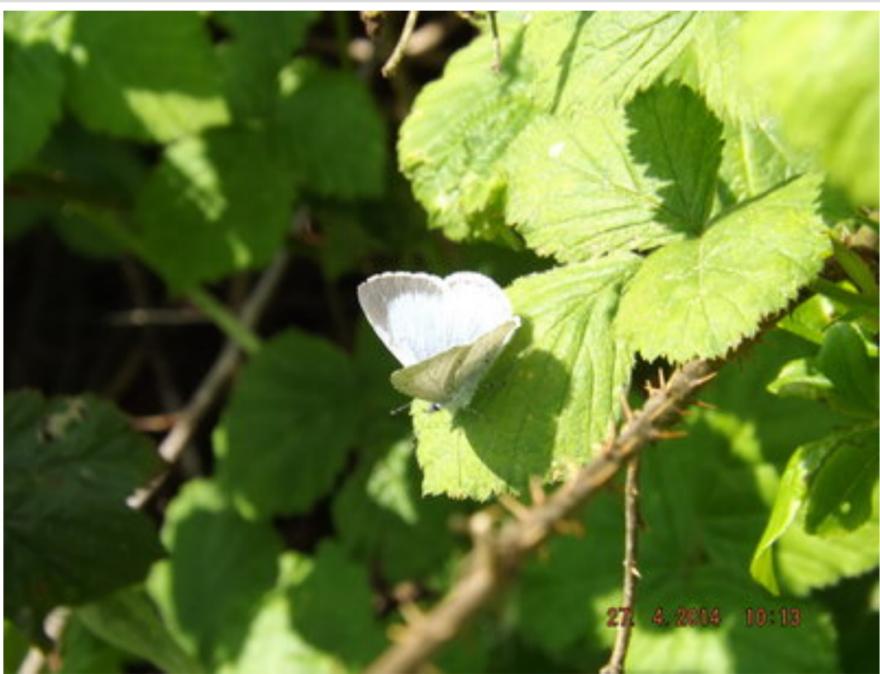
Absolutely, yes!!

What a wonderful sight in mid to late April.

Re: maverick

by maverick, 27-Apr-14 08:52 PM GMT





well thats it , ive finally got a shot of the holly blue, ive been to Abergele,Anglesey and the Great orm and seen them on the wing ,but couldnt get nere one .

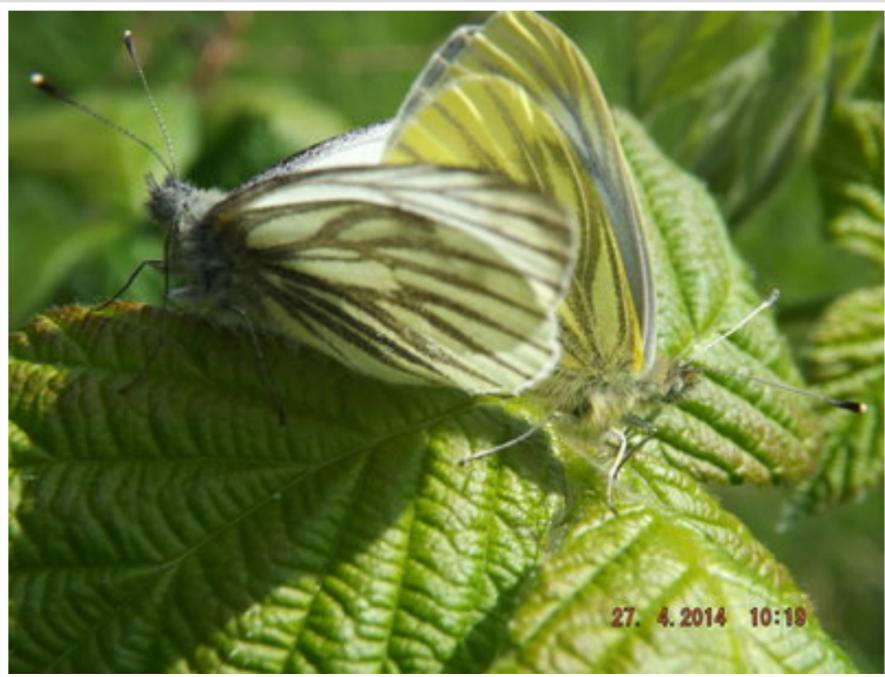
today at the back of my house one flew right in front of me and landed, i nearly fell over

ive also managed some reasonable pictures of the orange tips that are finally every where in the Sankey Valley

Re: maverick

by maverick, 27-Apr-14 09:13 PM GMT

Ive also came along this couple of mating green veined whites and after disturbing then i was surprised to see them fly off together, the males are really strong to be able fly with twice his weight !





Re: maverick

by David M, 27-Apr-14 09:20 PM GMT

I find it interesting how the female is so much more suffused with pale yellow on the underside hindwings. What is the purpose of this?

Re: maverick

by maverick, 28-Apr-14 07:58 PM GMT

Its looking good for the GV whites in my patch,
Today I've been on a bike ride along the trans pennine track to Runcorn

Re: maverick

by maverick, 11-May-14 10:08 PM GMT

Six years ago i spent three weeks in Goa India getting married, i was at the hotel Donna Syliva in the south of Goa
While i was at the hotel we had a visit from a local man who was well traveled and educated , he wrote wild life books and was a bit of a Steve Austin as he liked snakes (a lot) What he used to do was get calls from the local villages to rescue snakes from the locals as they would normally kill them. he would then set them free in a safe place
Some of the snakes he would bring into the hotels to show to the tourists , this is when i meet up with him and his corn snake that he had captured that morning (not for the faint hearted)
if any body on this site is interested he has his own facebook and web page , worth a look if you have the time. i just get regular up dates from his email every now and then rahulalvares@gmail.com

Re: maverick

by maverick, 15-May-14 09:32 PM GMT

Its Thursday and I've got the day off before a busy weekend in work. I've been looking at the weather forecast and its going to be great all weekend but today was not looking good at all. I would have liked to go to Gate barrows but my weather apps where all saying 13 c and cloudy, i went anyway.
Arriving just after 1.30 pm after an hours drive my worst fears were confirmed cloudy and not so warm but looking on the bright side the notice on the gate said that the slipper orchids where out in flower



flower



l r



Re: maverick

by maverick, 15-May-14 09:50 PM GMT

Just after i had seen the slipper orchids the sun started to come out and that meant only one thing and the dukes would be out



and not only the dukes , 4 different brimstone x1 peacock,x1speckled wood, small whites,orange tips and green veined whites all in all a good day



Re: maverick

by maverick, 15-May-14 10:03 PM GMT

A few moths from today, I D of the common names if possible[attachment=2]DSCF2291.JPG[/attachment]



Re: maverick

by maverick, 20-May-14 09:25 PM GMT

I've finally caught up with the holly blue that i've seen about a dozen times at the back of my house





it was a bit overcast this morning and as normal i was chasing another butterfly when i disturbed it

Re: maverick

by maverick, 20-May-14 09:33 PM GMT





Re: maverick

by Neil Hulme, 20-May-14 09:43 PM GMT

Hi maverick,

That's a male Common Blue. Holly Blues are quite rare this year, as they are currently at a low point in their relationship with the parasitoid wasp *Listrodomus nyctemerus*. The males of the two species are quite similar, but the Holly Blue male has slightly thickened black margins around the tips of its forewings. Your image also shows the typical Common Blue underside spotting pattern showing through the wings.

BWs, Neil

Re: maverick

by maverick, 20-May-14 10:24 PM GMT

Thanks for that

I was thinking it was a bit too big for a common blue

Thanks for putting me straight

Re: maverick

by maverick, 26-May-14 10:11 PM GMT

brimstone today from the Sankey Valley Warrington





just a short walk at the back of my house and the birmstone just could'nt be bothered about me snapping away

Re: maverick

by maverick, 26-May-14 10:19 PM GMT

I D please
have i got another comon blue, not the best of snaps
this butterfly was closing its wings when landing and the undersides were a silvery blue
sorry again about the quality of the photo



Re: maverick

by Lee Hurrell, 26-May-14 11:15 PM GMT

Hi Maverick,

I'd say you have a Holly Blue.

Best wishes,

Lee

Re: maverick

by maverick, 27-May-14 03:42 PM GMT

thanks for that lee

i was hoping that was the case

Re: maverick

by maverick, 27-May-14 08:22 PM GMT

looks like ive got a new pet, this little chap surprised me today, at first i thought i had an exotic bird in my my garden, but when i could get rather close to him/her i realised that it must be an escapee (ironic when i work in a prison)

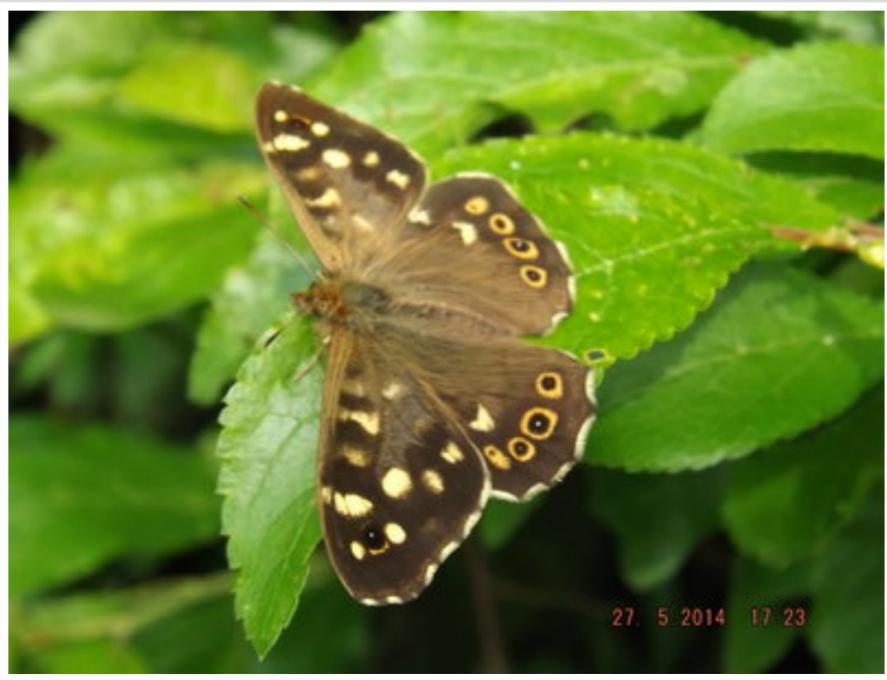


seems to like my bird seed !!!!

Re: maverick

by maverick, 27-May-14 08:38 PM GMT

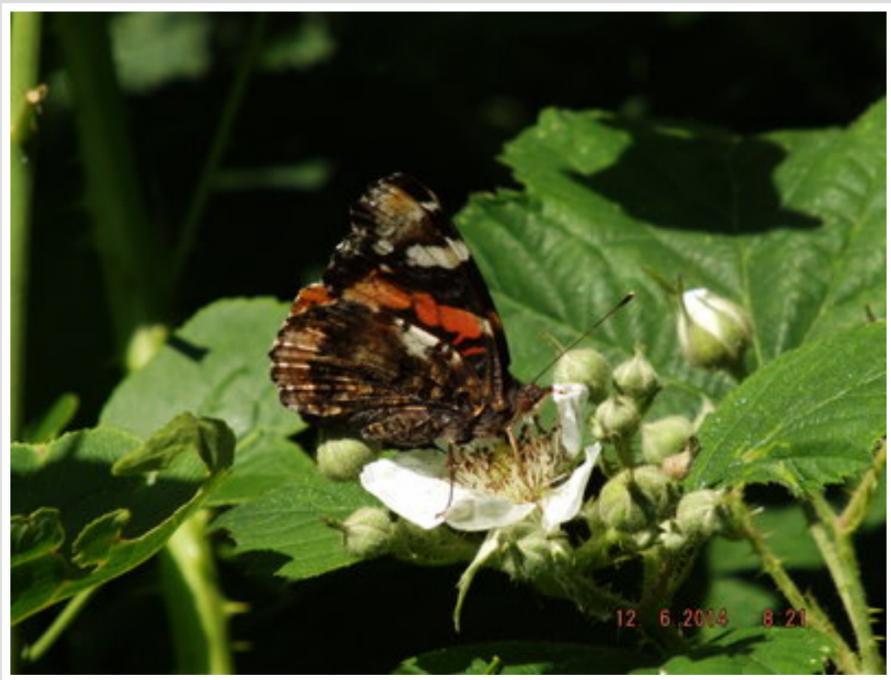
just a quick walk on my local patch, hoping to see another holy blue ,but only the reliable SW



Re: maverick

by maverick, 12-Jun-14 10:28 AM GMT

Sankey Vally in Warrington and the common blues are out in numbers now and today i spotted my first red admiral of the year





Re: maverick

by maverick, 12-Jun-14 08:45 PM GMT

ive been keen to spot my first meadow browns of the year and today ive seen plenty,there back in the same place as last year





Re: maverick

by maverick, 12-Jun-14 08:48 PM GMT

also plenty of large skippers are now present in the Sankey Vally



Re: maverick

by maverick, 12-Jun-14 09:18 PM GMT

the femail common blues have also been out today and unlike the mails they are better to get close up shots



Re: maverick

by maverick, 22-Jun-14 11:09 PM GMT



After a visit to the west of wales at moyfra Harlech i managed to find a D Green fritillary that was not camera shy ,it was getting late n the afternoon after a long walk through the sand dunes but it was well worth it also seen where common blues ,small heaths and ringlets, but no marsh frits for me

Re: maverick

by maverick, 22-Jun-14 11:15 PM GMT





i was not too sure of what the pics where off , i think im not to far wrong in thinking they where PBfrits, iders moere than welcome !!!!!!!!

Re: maverick

by maverick, 22-Jun-14 11:27 PM GMT



i forgot to mention that the place s stunning and is also got to see the red kites above the castell

Re: maverick

by millerd, 22-Jun-14 11:36 PM GMT

Hi Maverick – they look like Dark Green Fritillaries to me. The underside shot confirms it. I have no idea what the bright yellow cocoons are, mind! 😊

By the way I envy your recent trip to the Orme – an amazing place with lots of butterflies.

Dave

Re: maverick

by maverick, 23-Jun-14 08:27 AM GMT

Post now altered

Thanks Millard,I still get them mixed up

I just hope I get the Great Orm SS blues right latter 😊