

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 06-Feb-15 11:20 PM GMT

As you know I live Tobermory, **Isle of Mull**. Out house is unnecessarily large with two rooms that are never used except by the cats. So we are putting the **house on the market** and planning to downsize. Maybe going to the mainland. Who knows?

If anyone is interested in moving to Mull, send me a PM. Asking price available next week after estate agent has done his sums. (Significantly under a million. Sadly, significantly!)

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Pete Eeles, 07-Feb-15 01:28 AM GMT

**"Jack Harrison" wrote:**

Out house is unnecessarily large with two rooms that are never used except by the cats.

That's one heck of an outside loo. The kitties are clearly well looked-after 😊

Cheers,

- Pete

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 08-Feb-15 04:02 AM GMT

Here is the cat door in "night mode".



As you can see, our cats are literate but they NEVER wipe their feet.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 28-Feb-15 01:48 AM GMT

Well as you've all been rushing to buy our house on Mull, this one in **Bailieborough** (pop just under 4,000) co Cavan Republic of Ireland (owned by wife) is also for sale:



€50,000 (approx £37,000). Pretty much fully furnished.

Approx 60 miles to Dublin, just 1/4 mile to large Tesco (but they don't sell corned beef in Ireland!!!) 10 minutes leisurely walk to town centre.

To use the jargon:

**The property benefits from three toilets (yes three!), two large bedrooms (one en-suite), one lounge, one kitchen and one large bathroom with shower**

Note: it rains a lot in Ireland but Ringlet Butterflies love the climate 😊

PM to Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 20-Mar-15 06:48 PM GMT

Eclipse for the record. Cloudy.

I took a calibration photo before the eclipse started and then another at peak 0932 hrs.

Before the eclipse, exposure = 1/200 sec. At peak with seemingly identical cloud cover, 1/25 sec. It was certainly gloomy – just like a typical Mull winter's day.

After eclipse was nearly over, the clouds miraculously thinned.



I recall a partial eclipse on 9th July 1945 when I was six years old. I was of course just a little lad at the time and when the eclipse was over, I was in tears!!!

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 10-Apr-15 02:39 PM GMT

Reassuring headline on BBC page 😊

**Being overweight 'reduces dementia risk'**

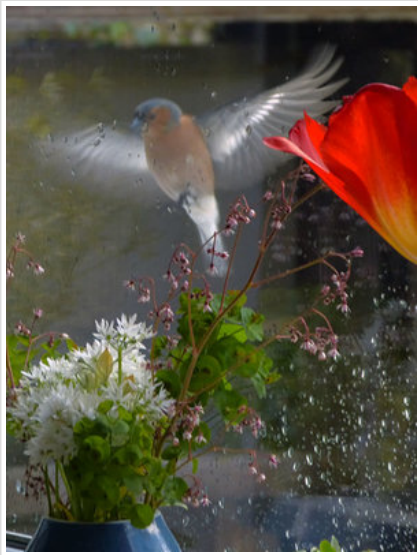
Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 29-May-15 03:24 AM GMT

Still very few butterflies - hardly surprising given the rain and low temperatures.

Instead, Bird Brain kept us amused.



This Chaffinch spent most of the day shouting his head off and fighting his rival. But the rival wasn't real. Picture taken from inside the kitchen as he repeatedly slammed into his reflection.

Here he is resting between rounds.



Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by David M, 29-May-15 03:27 AM GMT

We had the same in our works car park the other week, Jack.

A male Chaffinch had established a territory but seemed to think his principle rivals were car wing mirrors!

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 12-Jun-15 05:18 AM GMT



Home bred. The lady was fuelling before her first flight. My goodness, didn't she then fly strongly.

It was from a local egg but OTs are certainly not common here. Saw one (prior to this release) about 400 metres away a few days ago.

(Been working on the bokeh 😊)

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by MikeOxon, 12-Jun-15 05:44 AM GMT

I'm tempted to say – Great bokeh, pity about the pic. I like it, though 😊

Mike

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 21-Jun-15 05:48 PM GMT

I am embarrassed to say that this report comes from my native Norfolk:

[http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/unusual\\_bug...\\_1\\_4120236](http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/unusual_bug..._1_4120236)

We Norfolk natives aren't all quite that dim. (Vapourer Moth larva – very common).

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Pete Eeles, 23-Jun-15 01:01 AM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:



Home bred. The lady was fuelling before her first flight. My goodness, didn't she then fly strongly.

It was from a local egg but OTs are certainly not common here. Saw one (prior to this release) about 400 metres away a few days ago.

(Been working on the bokeh 😊)

Jack

You live in a unique part of the world, Jack, and my initial reaction was "that's an Irish Orange-tip, ssp. hibernica", given the yellowish tinge to the hindwings. So please take more photos and post them up – even of captive-bred individuals 😊

Cheers,

– Pete

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 23-Jun-15 01:18 AM GMT

No fiddle on the colour. It was very newly emerged from Mull stock. I had assumed that was why it had the yellowish tinge.

Here is an unprocessed cropped but not resized part of the original.



I do of course have connections with Ireland but haven't been there this year. Indeed, I have never been to Ireland during any Orange Tip season so have never seen them there. So no possibility of confusing where I took that photo.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Pete Eeles, 23-Jun-15 01:21 AM GMT

Thanks Jack – that still looks like a yellow flush extending across most of the hindwing to me.

I'll make a point of looking at the OT specimens in the OUMNH and BMNH the next time I visit (which will have to wait for this season to finish; I'm sure I'm not alone in





All things considered, I may move up to Nairn 😊  
Chris

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 26-Jun-15 02:51 AM GMT

What has motivated your desire to move to Nairn, Jack ?

Many things but the main one is the appalling service over the past 12 months by the ferry company. Apparently after some litigation by a passenger, in the past year the company has become very timid about sailing in more than the slightest breeze: amber alerts have almost become the norm. At my age, I have (sadly) more and more need of hospital visits, eg recent cataract operation. The uncertainty – will it sail or won't it? – has become too much. When I moved to Mull in 2012, I was of course aware of the potential problems. But these have become ridiculous lately.

It's an opportunity to "downsize" to a bungalow (better for the arthritic knees) and release some cash. New camera perhaps?

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by bugboy, 26-Jun-15 04:01 AM GMT

Good luck with the move, I'll miss your humour whilst you're away 😊

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Chris Jackson, 26-Jun-15 04:30 AM GMT

Your wisdom will pay off, Jack 😊

Chris

### Re: Jack Harrison

by David M, 26-Jun-15 06:23 AM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

Apparently after some litigation by a passenger, in the past year the company has become very timid about sailing in more than the slightest breeze: amber alerts have almost become the norm.

This country has gone soft.

We have no backbone anymore.

God help us if we need to defend ourselves again. We'd likely be beaten by the Liechtenstein army!

Good luck with your house move, Jack. At least your annual rainfall quotient should fall dramatically!

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 27-Jun-15 10:42 PM GMT

It was suggested (I think in jest) elsewhere on ukb that I should write my own book. Maybe one day I will – you never know.

Meanwhile I am in the process of sorting out the house move. Some strange things have happened which have amused (or frustrated) me so I will share.

The property I am selling has oil fired heating. I didn't want to appear penny pinching by leaving behind no more than a few dregs of oil so I asked the suppliers for a token 100 litres. I subsequently got a phone call citing "Health & Safety" (?) saying that the minimum order has to be 500 litres. Obviously I won't be giving the new owner some £250 of free oil so sadly I will seem to be penny pinching. *But I am leaving the light bulbs behind.*

We arranged Royal Mail forwarding in case we have missed informing some people. My wife has retained her former name but because there are two names on the mail forwarding, we have to pay double. *That would mean that a couple living together (unmarried as is the modern trend) would be discriminated against.*

Electricity stopping and starting in new place (meter readings) was interesting. There was an inquisition to establish my identity (including date of birth). I was then asked to spare 20 minutes to set up the new tariff; I declined saying I was happy with the existing one. On querying how to give the final meter reading, I was asked to send a text. I pointed out my date of birth and the young lady accepted that many of us oldies aren't always competent with text messaging (for a start, the screen is too small to read). She did see the irony. So it's back to snail mail. *Incidentally, the meter is situated high up on a wall and cannot be read from floor level. Climbing a ladder or onto a chair is not really ideal for a 76 year old. My solution: use a camera to take a photo of the meter.*

Internet/telephone transfer seemed to be fairly straightforward once I had got through the queue and listening to the repetitive message "Provider 4X is enjoying considerable success....". So why don't they employ more staff? But I'm still awaiting the allocation of my new telephone number, something that others want to know.

Value of new property. According the insurers, I am moving into a £1 million bungalow. If only 🙄 It seems that it is administratively cheaper to simply lump all properties up to a million in the same price band. I can actually see some logic of that.

I gave up after some 20 minutes queuing on the phone (can't remember who it was to) after repeatedly being told in a recorded message: "We thank you for your continued patience. We aim to give the best possible service to our customers." ( ? )

Finally: one on-line form needed updating with the new details – it already had my date of birth. I was invited to edit the date when I had been born 😊

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Pete Eeles, 28-Jun-15 01:33 AM GMT

On form, as ever, Jack 😊

Good luck with the move.

Cheers,

- Pete

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by MikeOxon, 28-Jun-15 02:04 AM GMT

**"Jack Harrison" wrote:**

But I am leaving the light bulbs behind.

So the newcomers will think you are wantonly profligate 😊

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 06-Jul-15 11:36 PM GMT

Nothing whatsoever to do with butterflies but worth sharing.

A new safety announcement on the ferry today had me (and other passengers) in stitches.

*".....in the event of the ship sinking....."*

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by MikeOxon, 07-Jul-15 01:23 AM GMT

**"Jack Harrison" wrote:**

*".....in the event of the ship sinking....."*

*..... passengers should note that prolonged immersion in water may cause drowning."*

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 23-Jul-15 01:23 AM GMT

Holding message from wifi in hotel.

No internet at home yet. Butterflies new garden Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown and Ringlet. GV White nearby.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by David M, 23-Jul-15 01:33 AM GMT

Good to see you back, Jack.

Haven't you got Small Blue colonies in the vicinity of your new abode?

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 04-Aug-15 05:57 PM GMT

Still no internet new home - awaiting satellites broadband.

Some butterfly news. Findhorn Dunes near Kinloss on Sunday. Very strong colonies Grayling and Common Blue. Also Meadow Brown and Small Heath.

Send from cafe in Nairn cove third coffee.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 18-Aug-15 08:49 PM GMT

Scotch Argus [almost] in garden in NE Scotland.





Singleton Scotch Argus on the grass verge just outside boundary, 16th August but had found strong colony a few miles into the hills earlier in the day after many previous abortive searches. Males only so far so presumably it's quite a late season. No doubt Scotch Argus will eventually be seen in garden once the "re-wilding" has made sufficient progress by next season.

Also seen in garden during the six weeks since I have lived here: Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Peacock (caterpillar), GV White with Ringlet not far away.

*Torties keep coming into the house to hibernate - one on ceiling above this computer as I write. It will get too warm indoors during the winter so eventually will transfer in a plastic container in an outhouse. When there is a really cold spell, the box will be moved into the fridge (temperature some 4 to 6C as this has worked well in the past and prevents them waking too early in the spring).*

Birds on feeders are the usual plus Coal Tit and Great Spotted Woodpecker. Buzzards nesting [noisily] in nearby woods. Osprey seen once (apparently breed not far away) and Swallow, Rooks and Starlings by the thousand. One Red Squirrel in coniferous woods and apparently Pine Marten locally but not yet seen.

The wildflower garden has a reasonable base having been neglected for many years. I am now working to decrease the fertility with sand and fine gravel. The excessive hawkweed and white clover is being reduced and reseeded in patches will begin soon. *Thanks to Paul for the Yellow Rattle seeds but later amazingly, just happened to come across a moorland roadside bank with an ample source of more seeds.*



It's good to be online at home after a six week wait. Satellite broadband is giving an adequate 6 megs speed but that might well increase.

Finally, a view from the back fence.

host. store. share.  
photobucket



Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by MikeOxon, 18-Aug-15 09:49 PM GMT

Good to see you are back on-line, Jack. Makes me wonder why the Govt is investing in cable to remote villages when satellite broadband is available at a respectable speed.

You are already beginning to tantalise us Southerners with tales of Scotch Argus in the garden and, no doubt, you will soon have Ospreys feeding in the garden pond, plus Crested Tits, Scottish Crossbills, etc., etc... 😊

Very nice clouds, too.

Mike

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Chris Jackson, 18-Aug-15 10:50 PM GMT

That looks nice and calm, Jack. You won't be having problems with noisy neighbours 😊

Chris

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by selbypaul, 20-Aug-15 06:08 AM GMT

Looks like an excellent spot to settle in Jack.

I look forward to hearing and seeing more about your "re-wilding" as the project progresses. Good luck!

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by David M, 20-Aug-15 06:16 AM GMT

Looks quite idyllic, Jack, and even better for having Scotch Argus on your doorstep (I doubt if anyone else on here can lay claim to that).

I shall look forward to future instalments.

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 24-Aug-15 03:53 AM GMT

Sunday 23rd August BURGHEAD (coast about 10 kms northwest of Elgin).

Fabulous cloudless weather temperature around 24C.

6 x Peacock, 2 x Meadow Brown, 1 x Tortoiseshell, several GV Whites and a rapid poorly observed fly-by of greyish brown nymphalid either Painted Lady or more likely Dark Green Fritillary. Many Gannets offshore, presumably from the colony at Troup Head to the east.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by MikeOxon, 24-Aug-15 05:37 AM GMT

and somewhere else, you wrote that there were only two types of butterfly locally - black and white 😊

Gannets always remind me of a visit to Ellin's Tower at South Stack, Anglesey, where I asked if Choughs were about. The response, delivered in a primary school teacher manner, worthy of Joyce Grenfell, was that "today, we are watching Gannets"



## Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 23-Nov-15 12:01 AM GMT

### Sunday 22nd November to Tomintoul

No butterflies of course, but I thought I'd share the day out.

Not really safe to stop on road between Grantown-on-Spey and Tomintoul so from passenger seat of moving car.



Stopped very briefly for this shot of **Red Grouse** out of passenger side window (shows about 2/3 of total flock)



Tomintoul itself was a bit quiet on a winter Sunday (most places closed but we got a very reasonable lunch in the Glen Avon).



All photos with Sony a6000 and standard 25-75 lens. A long lens would of course have been much better for the Grouse.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Chris Jackson, 23-Nov-15 02:15 AM GMT

In the French Alps they are worried about the skiing season being able to start on time. 😞

Your winter has started already, Jack !

If it is any consolation, this weekend on the South coast of France, temperatures have suddenly gone from Lo of 10° and Hi of 20°, to Lo of 2° and Hi of 9°.

It was bound to happen. Only 3 and a half months till the 2016 BF season 😊

Cheers, Chris

### Re: Jack Harrison

by David M, 23-Nov-15 05:29 AM GMT

Wow! You may as well be in Norway, Jack.

I knew snow had fallen in certain parts of the country but to see the evidence in photographs just reminds us of how different the climate is depending on where you live in these isles.

Thanks for sharing.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by jenks, 23-Nov-15 05:56 PM GMT

Your report reminds me of Easter 1992 when 10 intrepid birders from the Glamorgan Bird Club drove up to Scotland in a hired mini bus and toured the highlands staying in youth hostels. We drove along the Cockbridge to Tomintoul road in conditions much like those in your photo. Whenever I hear the BBC radio traffic report stating that the Cockbridge to Tomintoul road is closed due to snow I smile. Red Grouse everywhere, and it remains my one and only sighting of Ptarmigan on the summit of the Lecht. 19 April 1992, ye gods, where has the time gone ?

Jenks

### Re: Jack Harrison

by trevor, 27-Nov-15 02:26 AM GMT

Hi Jack;

Your tale of the Fermyn Purple Hairstreak has relevance to the same day that my Emperor images were taken. As i said in my posting I arrived very early, but then more people arrived as the morning wore on. One chap who i have met on many occasions whilst out Butterflying arrived and with glee showed me some images of a pristine male Purple Hairstreak, which he had found,open winged on the same track I had used earlier.

I managed not to blurt out the four letter words I was thinking. His image can be seen on the species specific page, under the name of John W.

I have had a colony of PH. in an Oak at the bottom of my garden, but i've never seen one low down.

All the best,  
Trevor.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 28-Nov-15 02:03 AM GMT

Apparently Skoda like publicity (???) shots of purchasers (optional).



I DID try to look happy but obviously failed. However that's hardly surprising when you've just forked out 12 grand.

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Pete Eeles, 28-Nov-15 04:21 AM GMT

**"Jack Harrison" wrote:**

Apparently Skoda like publicity (???) shots of purchasers (optional).

I hope you got a discount, Jack! And good to see you in fine fettle 😊

Cheers,

- Pete

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 28-Nov-15 02:21 PM GMT

I hope you got a discount

I may have a few creaky bones, but the brain certainly works. Yes, a reasonable discount plus some goodies thrown in. The real concession to my age is the colour: not that many yellow cars so easy to find in a crowded car park. We still - for the moment anyway - have kept the six year old Peugeot. That too is yellow!

Jack

**Re: Jack Harrison**

by Jack Harrison, 29-Nov-15 06:51 PM GMT

Sparrows 29th November on garden feeders

Numerous House Sparrows and what I believe to be Tree Sparrows.





Tree Sparrow?



House on left, Tree Sparrow on right.

Dull day, high ISO + slow shutter = dreadful photos. Confirmation please of i/d.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Padfield, 29-Nov-15 06:57 PM GMT

ID confirmed. Isn't it amazing how just recognising these as tree sparrows makes one perceive them quite differently? House sparrows are no less attractive birds.

You obviously don't have too many cats around if you can leave bird feeders on the ground like this!

Guy

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 30-Nov-15 05:19 PM GMT

Guy:

You obviously don't have too many cats around if you can leave bird feeders on the ground like this!

It works like this.

We get huge quantities of cheap bird food. The cats then catch lots of birds so we don't need to buy expensive cat food.

Simple innit 😊

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by MikeOxon, 01-Dec-15 12:25 AM GMT

The Tree Sparrow was the common 'sparrow' during my recent visit to Borneo. This species is easily distinguished from the House Sparrow by the black cheek patches and the white collar, extending round the back of the neck. Also, unlike the House Sparrow, both sexes are similar, with chestnut caps and neat black 'bibs'. They have become quite scarce locally, as a result of changes in farming practices and there is, currently, a feeding scheme in Oxfordshire, to help them through the winter.





Poring Hotsprings, Sabah - 29th September 2015 Olympus E-M5 with 40-150 mm lens - 1/1600s@f/11 ISO1000

One thing I noticed in the rainforest was that, although there are a great many *species*, the number of *individuals* in any one area is quite low. Apparently, this is because of the much high levels of predation in the 'natural' environment. One effect of man's influence in the British Isles has been to remove many bird predators, so we have unusually large numbers of many small bird species, compared with 'wilder' areas of the world. Domestic cats have become the major predator here but they tend to stay fairly close to their comfortable homes, fortunately. In the rainforest, there's a lot more than cats for birds to worry about!

Mike

### Re: Jack Harrison

by selbypaul, 03-Dec-15 02:26 AM GMT

Hi Jack

You're very lucky to have Tree Sparrows. They are pretty rare these days, although in some locations they can be locally common. They can be encouraged to breed in colonies in your garden if you put some boxes up for them.

Paul

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 03-Dec-15 03:40 AM GMT

They can be encouraged to breed in colonies in your garden if you put some boxes up for them.

Sounds a good idea so advice please on best type of nest box.

The Tree Sparrows probably come from the wooded stream (the delightfully named Muckle Burn) just across the road from the end of the garden. Red Squirrels occur locally but I haven't seen all that many. Apparently they do sometimes visit bird tables. Pine Martens are also said to be in this area but I have yet to see one. The bird is Pink-footed Geese by the thousands. Love them and still can't resist going outside to watch when I hear them going over.

And I might have mentioned earlier a large black cat seen crossing a country road while I was driving. Undoubtedly it was an ordinary moggie and the apparent size was illusory. But you never know. That sighting has prompted me to get an HD car camera. I cannot rate highly enough my mini 0806 which records at 2560 x 1080 pixels.

Here's a [resized] screen grab of our recent snow. The large black cat was seen just beyond that junction a couple of weeks ago.



Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 05-Dec-15 01:04 AM GMT

On a slip road to a dual carriageway near Inverness today, as I was accelerating in the inner lane, a car overtook me and cut in rather sharply before pulling out again - probably not deliberate but simply misjudged. I got an adequate dashcam image (crop shown). The registration tells an amusing story.



M10PE

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by David M, 05-Dec-15 06:33 AM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

The registration tells an amusing story.

LOL!

"*Myope comme une taupe*", as they say in France (blind as a mole....rather than our 'blind as a bat').

### Re: Jack Harrison

by selbypaul, 07-Dec-15 12:41 AM GMT

Hi Jack

Weblink below gives more details on what sorts of boxes suit Tree Sparrows <http://www.bto.org/about-birds/nnbw/nest-boxes-for-tree-sparrows>

Seems like its your bog standard box that you might use for Great Tits. Only extra info is to put three or four boxes up, because they like to nest in small colonies together.  
Paul

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 07-Dec-15 12:54 AM GMT

All this gloom and doom about weather. Fine Sunday in this part of the world.



That's a footbridge over the River Lossie at Lossiemouth. With my weight, I daren't cross too often as it might do a "Forth Bridge" 😊

And for lovers of William McGonagall, I have penned my own modern version of the Tay Bridge Disaster (groan)

The Forth Bridge Calamity

'Twas in the December of Twenty Fifteen

That cracks on the bridge for the first time were seen

'Neath the carriageway that heads to the North

On the mighty bridge o'er the Firth of the Forth.

The new bridge was late  
That was our fate  
Traffic got stuck  
Wee Nikki said "\*\*\*\*!"

But the route via Kincardine  
If you please beg my pardon  
Was an absolute farce  
A real pain in the \*\*\*\*  
For those heading north  
'cross the Firth of the Forth

Jack (sorry!)

### Re: Jack Harrison

by David M, 08-Dec-15 02:39 AM GMT

Just noticed on the Index page that it's your birthday today, Jack.

Many happy returns. 🎂

### Re: Jack Harrison

by jenks, 08-Dec-15 05:40 AM GMT

Such talent, Jack ! Hope you have a great birthday.

Jenks.

p.s I`m in no doubt that Wee Nikki was pointing to a "duck" flying past.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 12-Dec-15 03:16 PM GMT

**I have now been butterflying for 70 years!** Many first encounters are still fresh in my memory.

Starting with 21 species with which I was familiar as a seven year old living in the countryside to the west of Gorleston near Great Yarmouth. My childhood main butterflying area was (in those days) just into Suffolk.

- **Skippers** Large; Small
- **Whites** Large; Small; Green-veined; Orange tip; Brimstone
- **Nymphalids** Small Tortoiseshell; Peacock; Red Admiral; Painted Lady
- **Browns** Meadow; Ringlet; Gatekeeper; Wall; Grayling; Small Heath
- **Lycaenids** Common Blue; Holly Blue; Brown Argus; Small Copper

**Subsequently** over the next many years

#### Skippers

- Grizzled - Somerset (near Cheddar Gorge) circa 1952
- Dinky - Somerset (near Cheddar Gorge) circa 1952
- Silver-spotted - Watlington Hill Oxfordshire 1962
- Essex - Martlesham Heath after landing glider there circa 1968
- Lulworth - Winspit circa 1974
- Chequered - near Fort William 1977-----

#### Whites & Swallowtail

- Clouded Yellow - Bradwell [then in] Suffolk 1947
- Wood White - Haugh Wood Herefordshire circa 1974
- Swallowtail - Catfield Fen 1951 or 1952

#### Nymphalids

- Comma - Belton [then in Suffolk] 1947 or 48
- Large Tortoiseshell - Bradwell [then in] Suffolk 1948
- White Admiral - Rollesby Norfolk Broads 1951 (this is edit as have now tied down the date)
- Purple Emperor - Bernwood Forest, Oxfordshire circa 1974
- Camberwell Beauty - Titchwell Norfolk 2010

#### Fritillaries

- Silver washed Fritillary - Gorleston [then in] Suffolk 1947
- High Brown Fritillary - Pretty Corner near Sheringham, Norfolk circa 1952
- Pearl-bordered - Pretty Corner, Sheringham, Norfolk c 1952
- Dark Green Fritillary - Chilterns 1962
- Glanville - Isle of Wight Compton Bay c 1972
- Small PB - New Forest c 1972
- Marsh - Somerford Common, Wilts c 1973

#### Browns

- Speckled Wood - Somerset near Weston-super-Mare c 1952
- Marbled White - Watlington Hill, Chilterns 1962
- Large Heath - Whixall Moss, Staffs 1976
- Mountain Ringlet - above Honister Pass, Lake District 1976
- Scotch Argus - Arnside Knott 1976

#### Blues

- Chalkhill Blue - near Beachy Head 1946
- Silver-studded Blue - Suffolk Sanderlings near Blythburgh c 1953
- Small Blue - unsure but certainly at Anvil Point, Swanage c 1972 (if not earlier)
- Adonis Blue - Ballard Down, Swanage c 1972
- Northern Brown Argus - Muchalls Aberdeenshire 1982
- Large Blue - Daneway Banks Glos c 2002

#### Hairstreaks & Duke

- Purple Hairstreak - Gorleston Suffolk 1947

----- Green Hairstreak – Pretty Corner, Sheringham, Norfolk c 1952  
----- White-letter Hairstreak – Bookham Common c 1972  
----- Black Hairstreak – Bernwood Oxfordshire c 1973  
----- Brown Hairstreak – Bernwood Oxfordshire c 1973  
----- Duke of Burgundy – Bernwood Oxfordshire c 1973

I have seen 58 of the 59 regular British species exception being the [Irish] Cryptic Wood White plus two rarities, Large Tortoiseshell and Camberwell Beauty.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by David M, 12-Dec-15 09:13 PM GMT

Some interesting observations there, Jack. I found it sad that some butterfly species have obviously disappeared from old haunts (eg PBF) whereas others (eg Comma) are now more widespread.

I particularly agree with this comment:

Many first encounters are still fresh in my memory

Even though it's almost 40 years ago, I still strongly recollect many of my first encounters – Peacock in 1976 stands out as does Green Hairstreak and Brimstone in 1979. I also remember my first Clouded Yellow sighting in 1983. It's amazing how these moments remain so indelibly imprinted on the memory.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 12-Dec-15 10:25 PM GMT

You might have noticed in that list that the now almost-universal Speckled Wood wasn't seen until a holiday in Somerset.

PB and HB Frits in north Norfolk were no great surprise and we found them soon after dad got his first car. I am certain that the HB Frit in Pretty Corner woods was not a mis-identified DG. Amazingly, although familiar with Grayling along the dunes of NE Norfolk, I never saw DG Fritillary there. Maybe they weren't there in the 1950s. Indeed, in those far off days, it wouldn't surprise me if High Brown wasn't generally the more widespread and common of the two similar species.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s I would see the occasional but scarce Comma – hardly likely to be a misidentification. Not of course scarce these days

The single White Admiral sighting (and I admit, capture!) in the Broads remains a mystery. White Admirals are of course established in the Broads now so despite the perception that they spread in the second half of the 20th century, maybe they were in tiny numbers all the while.

**EDIT: I can now tie down the date to 1951. It was a well worn individual on a bramble flower so I took it home alive to see its legendary graceful flight in my bedroom. I can visualise that room now and it was in the house I lived prior to move in February 1952. It was early August (dad was not working) so was almost certainly the weekend of 4/5 August. Exact locality TG454149 which it can be seen is very close to woodland (the obvious origin) although what is mature woodland now was little more than scrub in the early 1950s.**

Silver-washed was caught in my garden, presumably a stray from woods not too far away (which without transport, I couldn't explore. They were mostly private in any case, eg Fritton Woods).

Many of my "firsts" were deliberate efforts, eg trips for Large Heath, Scotch Argus. But one of the accidental firsts was when I landed a glider at the disused Martlesham Heath airfield near Ipswich. I hadn't planned to land there when I had taken off – can't recall now where I was trying to go. But I ran out of luck (or skill) and much to my annoyance had to land. The old runways at Martlesham beckoned. Usually after landing a glider in an unusual spot you are immediately surrounded by hordes of kids who appear from nowhere but on this occasion all remained quite. Except..... the heather to the sides of the runway was alive with Silver-studded Blues and Skippers. I crawled on hands and knees and quickly identified the black undersides of the antennae of some of the skippers – Essex. I suppose it was just as well that nobody saw me on hands and knees beside a glider 😊 They might have wondered.....

I quickly forgot my irritation at having to land the glider where I had not originally intended.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 29-Dec-15 12:09 AM GMT

28th December

I got a little worried about the hibernating Tortoiseshell in my fridge as for the past 24 hours, it had its wings spread wide open.



I need not have worried. Soon after I had taken this picture, it slowly closed its wings.

Surprising behaviour but I suppose the equivalent of "tossing and turning in its sleep". It moves to a different location within its box once a week or so. I can only presume that this is some sort of anti-predation strategy.

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by Jack Harrison, 01-Jan-16 12:39 AM GMT

#### Butterflies and Capercaillie

I have been tipped off about a location not far from where I live where Capercaillie can be found. My source, the local blacksmith has proved reliable as regards other information he has given me so I don't have any doubts about his Capercaillie. Certainly the habitat at the location given would appear entirely suitable.

Now I have never encountered Capercaillie close up and I understand that they can be quite aggressive. One of the local birds apparently has a liking for orange car indicators!

Wiki has this interesting but dubious line:

They [Capercaillie chicks] seek food independently and prey mainly on insects, like butterfly caterpillars and pupae (there is a **specialised butterfly species** (*my emphasis*) whose caterpillars develop only on *Vaccinium myrtillus*), *ants*, *myriapodae*, *ground beetles* and the like.

Any idea what the so-called specialised butterfly might be?

Jack

### Re: Jack Harrison

by bugboy, 01-Jan-16 02:32 AM GMT

"Jack Harrison" wrote:

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Any idea what the so-called specialised butterfly might be?

Jack

Well it's certainly not a UK native species, *Vaccinium myrtillus* is Bilberry so maybe there is a continental species that feeds on it? One of my books states that the Moorland Clouded Yellow, which is found in Northern Europe, feeds on *V. uliginosum*.

### Re: Jack Harrison

by David M, 01-Jan-16 04:19 AM GMT



Green Hairstreak larvae feed on bilberry (amongst several other LHPs).