

Re: CFB

by CFB, 09-Mar-15 09:09 PM GMT

I'm starting my Personal Diary a bit late this year, but better late than never!

In January and February the only butterflies I saw were three or four (presumably) Red Admirals flying past at great speed.

My first identified sightings were on March 3 when I saw a male Cleopatra #1 ...

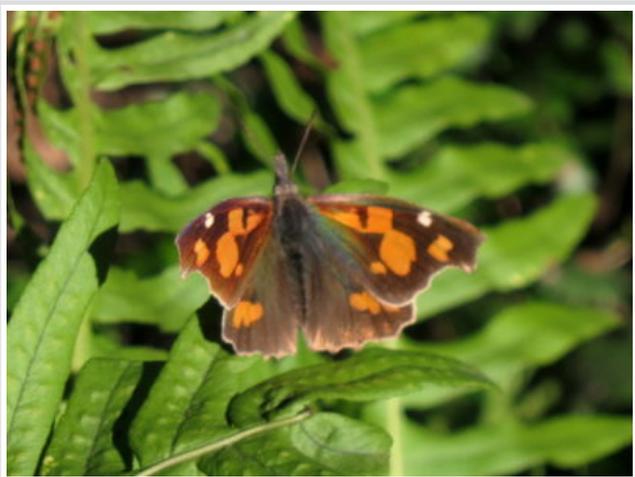


... then a male Brimstone #2 ...



There was also a White that I was unable to identify, and what was probably either a Speckled Wood or a Wall Brown.

This morning as I was nearly at the end of my walk during which I saw no butterflies at all even though it was sunny and warm, I saw a Nettle-tree Butterfly #3 on a Southern Polypodium fern (*Polypodium cambricum*). This was only the fifth time I'd seen one. Although it was very active, I did manage to get a poor photo of it.



Incidentally, Southern Polypodium has a distinct underside. This photo was taken a couple of years ago ...



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Colin

Re: CFB

by David M, 09-Mar-15 11:21 PM GMT

You got real lucky with that Nettle Tree Butterfly, Colin. I'd **love** to see one (or more) of those.

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 10-Mar-15 02:09 AM GMT

Hi Colin,

Well spotted for the Cleopatra – I have still yet to see my first this year, and I'm impressed by your differentiation with the Brimstone. I'm always stumped by the difference in underside ID. 😞

As for the Nettle-tree Butterfly, next week-end I must check out local haunts because I think the flight window for ex-hibernators is quite short, and mustn't miss the photo shoot. This could be a good sign because they are often in phase with Green Hairstreak. 😊

Cheers, Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 10-Mar-15 02:52 AM GMT

"cjackson" wrote:

I'm impressed by your differentiation with the Brimstone. I'm always stumped by the difference in underside ID.

Hello Chris,

In this case I did see the upper-side of both butterflies in flight quite close to me, so there was no ID problem 😊. But I agree, it can be difficult for us mere amateurs 😊.

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Best regards,
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 10-Mar-15 08:00 PM GMT

This morning in the Parc de la Brague it was sunny and cloudless and about 14 degrees C.

I saw one Clouded Yellow #4. There were not many flowers, but it had managed to find one ...



On the way back I found this Speckled Wood #5, lurking in the undergrowth ...



Also seen were two or three Brimstones, and an unidentified Blue.

And a couple of minutes ago, as I was typing this, there were three buzzards circling around above the garden. No photo 😞 .

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Colin

Re: CFB

by NickMorgan, 10-Mar-15 09:29 PM GMT

Great to read about butterflies flying in other parts of the world! I still haven't seen anything here, although one Peacock has been reported to me.

Re: CFB

by CFB, 10-Mar-15 09:54 PM GMT

Hello Nick,

Patience, patience, it won't be long now. I normally see butterflies down here in January and February, but this year I had to wait until March.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 13-Mar-15 07:45 PM GMT

I thought I would have seen more butterflies than I did this morning as it was sunny, around 12 degrees, with very little wind. But I only saw one Comma #6, one male Brimstone and two or three Speckled Woods. They all seemed much more interested in flying around rather than settling down and being photographed 😞 , as a result of which I only took one photo, and that was of the Comma from further away than I would have preferred. But as I see only one or two Commas each year, I can't complain 😊 .



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Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 14-Mar-15 02:13 AM GMT

Hi Colin,

The season seems slow starting off 😊 – perhaps that's because we had an early start last year.

Still, Comma and Brimstone, not bad – I'll be lucky if I see them at all. 🍀

For your unidentified blue higher up, I would expect to see Lang's STB at this time of year.

There is no hope for a real start to Spring this weekend in Marseille – let's see what next week brings. 😊

On Sunday, I'll be running the Marseille Marathon in the rain (well, the 10 km event), so I won't have regrets over butterfly hunting in bad conditions. 😊
Cheers, Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 14-Mar-15 02:41 AM GMT

Hello Chris,

My unidentified blue was certainly not a Lang's Short-tailed Blue, even though it was were they will be later on in the year. I think it was probably a Common Blue. My earliest encounter with a Common Blue was on 19/3/2012:



Je te souhaite bonne chance pour dimanche !!!

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 15-Mar-15 01:55 AM GMT

Hi Colin,

I also saw a "blue" today, which was definitely not a Lang's STB.

I cannot say exactly what it was, it flew by without stopping.

If it had been a Holly Blue, I think it would have been more sedentary and territorial.

Perhaps a Common Blue, *alors* ?

Rain tomorrow - *pluie demain* 😞
Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 18-Mar-15 07:37 PM GMT

This morning it was sunny with no clouds, a bit windy, and warm (about 15 degrees) so I thought I should see some butterflies. I did see some, but was disappointed because I didn't manage to get any photos 😞. Around the Pont des Dones I saw my first Green-veined White #7 of the year, an unidentified Blue, and a male Cleopatra. And altogether I saw a total of well over 15 Brimstones, mostly males, but one potential mating couple.

Perhaps I'll see some more butterflies in the garden this afternoon.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 19-Mar-15 09:19 PM GMT

The weather was similar to yesterday in the Parc de la Brague this morning. But still very few butterflies, and those that were around never seemed to stop flying for very long.

I saw several Brimstones, one male Cleopatra, a few Speckled Woods (the only photo of the day), ...



... yet another unidentified Blue, and my first Large Tortoiseshell #8 of the year.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 27-Mar-15 09:18 PM GMT

Yesterday morning I saw ten or twelve male Brimstones, one male Cleopatra, and that was all.

This morning I saw my first Wall Brown #9 of the year, in fact a mating couple ...



There were several Speckled Woods, including this one ...



and a few male Brimstones ...



This is a view taken this morning of some of the mountains in the Parc national du Mercantour, including the Cime du Gélas at the extreme left, the highest mountain (3143 m.) in the Alpes-Maritimes ...



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Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 28-Mar-15 02:21 AM GMT

Interesting sightings, Colin.

I won't be seeing any Brimstones over here, however Cleopatra sightings have become more common in the last few days.

I haven't seen a Holly Blue or Nettle-tree Butterfly yet this Spring - have you seen Holly Blue ?

Chris

Re: CFB

by Wurzel, 28-Mar-15 04:59 AM GMT

I really like the Specklie shot – the difference between the continental and British form is rally marked, I wasn't aware that they appear so different 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: CFB

by CFB, 28-Mar-15 07:17 PM GMT

Hello Chris,

I saw a solitary Nettle-tree Butterfly on March 9, see above. I am still waiting to see Holly Blues and Green Hairstreaks. But the good news is that Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is coming into flower at the Pont des Dones, so the Orange-tips should very soon appear.

Even though this morning was warm and sunny with little wind (T-shirt weather 😊) the only butterflies I saw were two unidentified Whites flying together 😞.

Hello Wurzel,

The Speckled Woods I see down here are ssp. *aegeria*, whereas those in Britain are ssp. *tircis*. There is quite a difference between the two.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 29-Mar-15 09:33 PM GMT

This morning I saw my first Green Hairstreaks #10 of the year. This one allowed me to take a few photos, but others were not as helpful ...



Apart from that there was one male Cleopatra and several Speckled Woods.

I also saw a *Gyrobroyeur mécanique* ...



This is used to clear the undergrowth including shrubs and small trees up to 10 metres or so on each side of the *pistes* in the forest as a preventive measure to avoid forest fires. During this process, no doubt many butterfly pupae are destroyed 😞.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 30-Mar-15 02:50 PM GMT

Nice Green Hairstreak, Colin.

And that's a mean bit of gardening kit in that photo – it would make short work of my weeds 😊.

This weekend I finally saw my first Nettle-tree Butterfly and Holly Blue of the year, despite a raging Mistral wind.
Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 01-Apr-15 07:40 PM GMT

This morning there were several Green Hairstreaks in the same place in the Parc de la Brague as on Sunday. If disturbed, they seem to come back to the same plant, which is very nice of them.



In the same spot I saw my first Holly Blue #11 of the year. In fact there were two of them together. No photos, as they were in the midst of dense, spiky undergrowth.

I also saw a few Speckled Woods.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 03-Apr-15 12:25 AM GMT

I saw no butterflies this morning even though it was sunny and warm with however a coolish breeze. But this afternoon there was a female Brimstone in the garden for quite a long time going from one Rock Rose (*Cistus albidus*) plant to another, and from one flower to another on the same plant.





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Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 03-Apr-15 03:33 AM GMT

Seeing that Rock Rose is quite amazing Colin.

Rock Rose is a long way off flowering over here in the Bouches du Rhone. 🙄

I hope the Mistral wind will soon calm down so that Orange Tips can venture out.

Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 03-Apr-15 10:04 PM GMT

It was sunny this morning but with some thin high cloud, which made it cooler than the last couple of days. As a result of which the only butterflies seen were two or three Speckled Woods. This one was in very good condition.



This afternoon in the garden we found this female Wall Brown. She was not very active, presumably due to the large piece missing on the starboard wing.



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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 09-Apr-15 03:01 AM GMT

Once again sun, no clouds, but a cool breeze, the latter still apparently retarding the butterflies. But I did see my first Orange-tip #12 of the year. It was the only one I saw, and it never stopped flying. There were also a few Green Hairstreaks hiding in prickly bushes or in the grass, a couple of Speckled Woods which also never stopped flying, and a Wall Brown.

So, no photos 😞😞😞.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 09-Apr-15 09:30 PM GMT

This morning was warm and sunny, but I saw no butterflies at all during the first 45 minutes. However on the way back, at and near the Pont des Dones there were several Orange-tips ...



... one Comma ...



... my first Wood White #13 of the year (I don't know what the brown mark on the wing is) ...



... and my first Small White #14 of the year ...



There was a good crop of Italian bluebells or Italian squills (*Hyacinthoides italica*) which make up a bit for the absence of "real" bluebells in my area ...



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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 11-Apr-15 12:08 AM GMT

Another sunny day, with a few small clouds in the afternoon. During my walk in the Parc de la Brague this morning I saw very few butterflies: two or three Wall Browns, two or three Green Hairstreaks ...



... and one Wood White ...



Close investigation reveals what looks like a mosquito on it left antenna 😊.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 11-Apr-15 07:34 PM GMT

Along the Brague this morning there were very few butterflies to be seen. There was however my first Small Heath #15 of the year. I didn't manage to get very close to it:



Nearby there were two Orange-tips taking advantage of the Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*):



I also saw one Wall Brown.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 12-Apr-15 11:35 PM GMT

I was very pleased this morning to encounter my first Spanish Festoon #16 of the year. It was at one of the two sites where I manage to see them every year.



I also saw a few Wood Whites, one male Cleopatra, several Brimstones and one or two Wall Browns. But the Orange-tips were the most numerous.
--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 13-Apr-15 05:56 PM GMT

Great shots Colin.

I will be keeping my eyes open for Spanish Festoon and Small Heath then. Neither are common over my way, but I'll know what to be looking out for. 😊
Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 13-Apr-15 10:26 PM GMT

Chris,

In my ignorance I assumed that Small Heaths were pretty common everywhere, but I see from my "Papillons de jour Atlas de PACA" that it's not very common even in the south of the Var.

Today, particularly this afternoon, has been very hot. This morning I managed zero photos even though there were very many male Orange-tips, many Wood Whites, one Wall Brown, one high-speed non-stop Scarce Swallowtail #17, and one tiny male Baton Blue #18.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 14-Apr-15 09:05 PM GMT

Another sunny, warm day 😊.

This morning I saw my first Small Copper #19 of the year, in fact there were two of them in close proximity of each other.



Other than that, there were several male Orange-tips, several Speckled Woods and an unidentified Blue, presumably a Holly Blue.

I had hoped to see some Western Dappled White, but didn't 😞.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 16-Apr-15 12:00 AM GMT

No photos today 😞😞😞 . But I did see my first Western Dappled White #20 of the year 😊 . In fact there were several of them. Also my first Provence Orange-tip #21 of the year 😊 . Also several Speckled Woods and a couple of Small Whites.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by Goldie M, 17-Apr-15 04:47 AM GMT

Just gone through your postings Colin and I think your photo's are great especially the Orange tip and the Brimstones which I've yet to see, it's been too cold here so they seem rather late this year compared to last when I'd got loads of photos by now.Goldie 😊🇬🇧

Re: CFB

by CFB, 17-Apr-15 04:48 PM GMT

Thanks Goldie. Things here also seem to be slow compared to last year, 21 species compared to 27 so far. And also, several of this year's sightings were of just one individual. And this morning it is cloudy and cool. Let's hope that things get better soon.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 18-Apr-15 02:57 AM GMT

Well things did get better in the afternoon. After rain in the night and clouds this morning, this afternoon it was sunny and warm around the Vallon des Dones.

I saw my first Painted Ladies #22 of the year (4 of them, but no photos 😞😞), 2 Spanish Festoons with photos of underside and upperside,



2 Small Heaths, 2 or 3 Speckled Woods, a few Wood Whites including this courting couple,



several Brimstones, a couple of male Cleopatras, including this one with lots of additional spots 😊😊😊 on all underside wings,



1 Western Dappled White,



many Orange-tips including this lovely female,



1 Baton Blue,



1 Comma, and, for the first time this year, several Berger's Clouded Yellows #23.



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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 18-Apr-15 06:47 PM GMT

Very few butterflies flying this morning, but there were a couple of Speckled Yellow moths (*Pseudopanthera macularia*).



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Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 19-Apr-15 12:08 AM GMT

Those Festoon photos are great, Colin.

Glad to see your tally is increasing progressively – a sign that Spring is getting into gear.

Your 'freckled' Cleopatra IS intriguing.

I have seen Painted Ladies over my way, on and off since the start of the year – they breeze on by and are never localized.

Cheers, Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 19-Apr-15 01:00 AM GMT

I'm glad you liked my Spanish Festoons, Chris. Have you not seen any yet this year? What is interesting as well is that there is at present absolutely no sign of their LHP *Aristolochia pistolochia*. But I suppose they know what they are doing 😊.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 20-Apr-15 09:29 PM GMT

This morning, which was sunny with some wind, I went via the Pont des Dones to Roche d'Ardy.

I saw 4 or 5 Painted Ladies who were very active, though one did eventually allow me to take several photos,



several Brimstones including this female which I think I probably woke-up,



one Speckled Wood,



and several Wood Whites, including this courting couple.





I also saw one Baton Blue, a couple of Wall Browns, a few Berger's Clouded Yellows, two Spanish Festoons (no photos today), several Orange-tips and one Small Heath.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 24-Apr-15 10:31 PM GMT

It was sunny and warm (about 19°C) but with a little wind this morning along the Piste du Collet des Espères.

I saw my first Black-eyed Blue #24 of the year, a male, a butterfly I don't often see. It didn't stay around for very long, but I did manage to get photos of the upperside and underside.



There were still plenty of Painted Ladies, around 6 or 7.



There were a couple of Baton Blues in the same place as the Black-eyed Blue, enjoying the thyme.



And of course 😊😄😁 there were several Spanish Festoons.



Other butterflies seen were several Orange-tips and Brimstones, a couple of Wall Browns, a couple of Green Hairstreaks, several Wood Whites and many Berger's Clouded Yellows.

I also found this *Libelloides coccajus*. I think it must have just emerged from pupation (if that is the word), as it showed no sign of flying away.



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Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 25-Apr-15 02:46 AM GMT

Nice Black-eyed Blue and Spanish Festoon, Colin. 😊
I dream of Spanish Festoons – how lucky you are to live in the *Alpes Maritimes*.
I saw a Black-eyed Blue today, but had to cross over into the *Var* to see it; it is as though butterflies recognise *départementale* boundaries. Wow 🤩.
Cheers, Chris

NB: It turns out my Black-eyed was a Green-underside, how disappointing 😞

Re: CFB

by trevor, 25-Apr-15 04:02 AM GMT

Hi Colin,
just seen your last posting , you have at least one envious UK Butterflyer.

All the best,
TREVOR.

Re: CFB

by David M, 25-Apr-15 07:11 AM GMT

Great images of the Black-Eyed Blue, Colin. Your specimen's uppersides are positively radiant!

Re: CFB

by CFB, 25-Apr-15 04:34 PM GMT

Hello Chris, Trevor and David,

I was really very lucky with the Black-eyed Blue. At first I thought that it was only another Baton Blue, then getting closer I thought it was a Green-underside Blue, then I realised that it was Black-eyed Blue. I just managed to get a couple of photos before it disappeared into the woods.

Here it has just started to rain so it looks like I won't be seeing many butterflies today 😞😞😞.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 28-Apr-15 09:33 PM GMT

After rain most of yesterday, this morning was sunny and cloudless.

On my walk towards the Roche d'Ardy I saw my first Common Blue #25 of the year, a very tatty female. Also my first Southern White Admiral #26 of the year.



The most frequently seen species was by far the Painted Lady.



I must have seen well over 20 of them, including four on the same Thyme plant. There were a few Baton Blues, including a female. This is a male.



There were several Orange-tips including this female,



one Small Heath and a few Wall Browns,



a few Berger's Clouded Yellows, several Wood Whites,



and just one Spanish Festoon.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 28-Apr-15 11:41 PM GMT

Hi Colin,

Wow Southern White Admiral ? 🤔

According to my records from 2014, here in the Bouches du Rhone, I saw my first Southern White Admiral:

=> 4 weeks after the 1st Spotted Fritillary,

=> and 3 weeks after the first Western Marbled White,

and so far I have seen neither Spotted Frit nor Western M White !!!

In 2013 there was only 1 week difference between the species though. Still ..., seems pretty early to me.

What do your records show, Colin ?

Apart from that, great photos 😊

Cheers, Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 29-Apr-15 12:17 AM GMT

Hello Chris,

I've never seen a Western Marbled White, though I believe there should be some around here, so I've given my data for a regular Marbled White:

Spotted Fritillary:

May 05 2011, May 07 2012, May 11 2013, May 17 2014

Marbled White:

Jun 07 2011, May 30 2012, Jun 18 2013, Jun 05 2014

Southern White Admiral:

May 07 2011, May 09 2012, May 09 2013, May 01 2014

So it looks as if the Southern White Admirals are a bit earlier than usual.

Today, and previous days, I've been astounded by the number of Painted Ladies I've seen. How many are you seeing *chez to?*

And I'm still waiting for my first Fritillary.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 29-Apr-15 04:18 PM GMT

I will keep my eyes peeled for Southern White Admirals then, this weekend.

(I see them at home on the outskirts of Marseille, but never here at work in Vitrolles (32 km away)).

As for Painted Ladies, I've had the odd sighting, no more than once a week, on and off since the beginning of the year – nothing stupendous. However we had bad weather last weekend and the Mistral was blowing a gale yesterday, so I should be getting out at lunchtime today with a bit of luck. I will be keeping an eye out for Painted Ladies.

Otherwise on my "expected" list I have:

Brown Argus (long over-due)

Spotted Frit

Western M White

Cheers, Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 29-Apr-15 09:37 PM GMT

This morning in the Parc de la Brague there were fewer butterflies than yesterday, perhaps due to a cool wind, with Orange-tips being the most numerous. There were also several Painted Ladies, though not as many as yesterday.



Also flying were several Berger's Clouded Yellows, a few Wall Browns, a few Green Hairstreaks,



a few Wood Whites, several Brimstones, and my first Adonis Blue #27 of the year.



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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 30-Apr-15 07:34 PM GMT

This morning was quite windy and I didn't see many butterflies.

What I did see were a couple of Wall Browns, several Berger's Clouded Yellows, a few Small Heaths, and a solitary Wood White that was not at all disturbed by my presence.



I didn't see any Painted Ladies, Spanish Festoons or Orange-tips 😞.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 01-May-15 09:11 PM GMT

This morning down near my local quarry, I saw one female Provence Orange-tip,



and one Green-veined White.



Also seen, but no photos, were one Scarce Swallowtail, one Small Copper, several Speckled Woods in the woods, two or three Green Hairstreaks and a Small Heath.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 02-May-15 09:08 PM GMT

Even though it was overcast this morning, I saw my first Fritillary of the year, a Weaver's Fritillary #28:



I also took photos of a Common Blue,



and a Small Copper:



Also seen, one Wood White, one Painted Lady, a few Berger's Clouded Yellows, a few Wall Browns and a couple of Speckled Woods.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 06-May-15 09:53 PM GMT

On the way down to my favourite quarry this morning I saw this female Provence Orange-tip,



and a bit later this courting couple.



Near the quarry I saw my first Mallow Skipper #29 of the year and my first Glanville Fritillary #30 of the year.



Also seen were a few Orange-tips, a couple of Small Coppers, one Wood White, a couple of Baton Blues, a couple of Wall Browns, several Speckled Woods, a female Brimstone, a Green Hairstreak, a male Clouded Yellow and a few Berger's Clouded Yellow.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by Nick Broomer, 06-May-15 10:45 PM GMT

Hi Colin,

I don't believe i have ever commented on your P.D. even though i always look forward to reading about your exploits. The photos of the butterflies you post are beautiful, and todays selection are again beautiful, especially the Provence Orange-tips. What a stunning insect.

All the best, Nick,

Re: CFB

by CFB, 07-May-15 12:09 AM GMT

Hello Nick,

Thank you for your kind comments.

I agree, Provence Orange-tips are gorgeous. I was very lucky with the courting couple this morning, as if they hadn't been courting they would have flown away before I could get my camera out of my pocket. And by the looks of things, they did get around to mating 😊😊😊 :



And the other day I was also lucky as it was cloudy and the female Provence Orange-tip was waiting for the sun before flying away.

Best regards,
Colin

Re: CFB

by William, 07-May-15 02:07 AM GMT

Great shots Colin, Provence Orange Tips are definitely on the wish list 😊

BWs,

William

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 07-May-15 03:41 AM GMT

Love that series of Provence OT photos, Colin.
Hope they will still be around in Marseilles next week when I get back home from hols.
Chris

Re: CFB

by David M, 07-May-15 06:07 AM GMT

You're making me envious, Colin.

I saw 60-90 POTs last month but none were indulging in courtship activities. Come to think of it, I don't think I've ever seen OTs in 'cop' either. 😞

Re: CFB

by CFB, 07-May-15 10:46 PM GMT

This morning, on a hill to the north of Biot, I saw my first Meadow Brown #31 of the year and there were many of them.



Also, at last, my first Red Admiral #32 of the year, but no photo. There were many Wall Browns,



one or two unidentified Whites, a possible Swallowtail, several Painted Ladies and a few Speckled Woods.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by Pauline, 07-May-15 11:40 PM GMT

Some great sightings and gorgeous photos recently Colin. I particularly like those Provence Orange Tips 🍷

Re: CFB

by CFB, 08-May-15 12:05 AM GMT

Thanks for your kind comments, Pauline. Everybody seems to like Provence Orange-tips. It's a pity they only appear here in the south 😊.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 08-May-15 10:38 PM GMT

"David M" wrote:

Come to think of it, I don't think I've ever seen OTs in 'cop' either. 😞

This couple, seen this morning, seem to be on the brink of doing it 🤪.



Also seen this morning, a Western Dappled White,



a Wood White,



10 or 12 Spanish Festoons,



and a few Glanville Fritillaries,



Seen, but no photos: a couple of Brimstones, a male Clouded Yellow, a few Wall Browns, several Small Heaths, one Painted Lady, a few Berger's Clouded Yellows and five or so male Adonis Blues.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by Pauline, 08-May-15 10:56 PM GMT

Some more smashing shots Colin - I love that Western Dappled White. Re Orange Tips, it looks like the female is giving the male the classic gesture to show she's not interested, probably already having been mated. Looking forward to more 😊

Re: CFB

by CFB, 09-May-15 01:31 AM GMT

Hello Pauline,

Thanks for clarifying the attitude of the female Orange-tip.

Best regards,
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 10-May-15 01:42 AM GMT

This morning in the Parc de la Brague I saw my first Provence Chalkhill Blues #33 of the year, two males. This is one of them.



There were a few small Heaths,



and one or two Common Blues.



I also saw a few Glanville Fritillaries, a Painted Lady, one Wood White, and a few Speckled Woods, Wall Browns and Orange-tips.
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Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 10-May-15 10:42 PM GMT

This morning, near the Vallon des Dones, I saw my first Knapweed Fritillary #34 of the year



and first Grizzled Skipper #35 of the year. I also saw 2 or 3 Painted Ladies, including this somewhat damaged specimen,



and about 10 Spanish Festoons, including this very worn individual.



There were many Glanville Fritillaries,



a few Wood Whites, a few Brimstones, one Scarce Swallowtail (still no photo this year), many Wall Browns, a few Orange-tips, several Small Heaths, many Berger's Clouded Yellows, one Red Admiral (still no photo this year), and one Southern White Admiral.

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Colin

Re: CFB

by Goldie M, 11-May-15 01:53 AM GMT

Colin your way in front of us with your Butterflies , lovely they are too , but I hope the Painted Ladies look a little better when they reach us 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: CFB

by CFB, 11-May-15 02:50 AM GMT

Hello Goldie,

If you send me some of your Dukes of Burgundy (or should that be Duke of Burgundys or even Duke of Burgundies 😊) then I'll send you some of my Painted Ladies 😊😊😊.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by David M, 11-May-15 06:23 AM GMT

Boy, those Spanish Festoons don't age well at all!

By the way, we saw Dukes of Burgundy at Isola in the Parc du Mercantour in July of last year, so they ARE around, it's just that you need to seek a bit of altitude.

Re: CFB

by CFB, 13-May-15 02:48 AM GMT

This afternoon, down by the quarry, I saw my first Brown Argus #36 of the year, a female (?). It spent most of its time chasing, or being chased by an unidentified blue.



I also saw two Western Dappled Whites, a mating couple. Half an hour later they were still there.



Also, one Grizzled Skipper, a couple of Meadow Browns, many Wall Browns, a couple of Small Heaths, many Speckled Woods, a few Orange-tips, a couple of Glanville Fritillaries and a Wood White.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 13-May-15 09:36 PM GMT

Even though it was quite cloudy this morning there was a reasonable selection of butterflies around. One of the first seen was a Scarce Swallowtail enjoying the thyme.



Another one indulging itself in the thyme was this Knapweed Fritillary.



The only other Fritillaries seen were many Glanville Fritillaries, including this one.



I saw several Spanish Festoons, some being rather worn, but this one was quite presentable.



Other butterflies seen were a couple of Wood Whites, several Adonis Blues and Provence Chalkhill Blues flying together as usual, one Painted Lady, a few Small Heaths, several Berger's Clouded Yellows, a few Orange-tips, some Wall Browns, and a very small Speckled Wood.

There are many Owlfly Sulfurs around these days. They seem to spend most of their time chasing butterflies.



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 13-May-15 10:46 PM GMT

Nice Knapweed Fritillary, Colin, we don't have those over in Marseilles. Generally I think we have a lot less fritillaries over here than in the Var or the Alpes Maritimes.

I am seeing Provence Chalk-hill Blues over here this season, which is rare and therefore a novelty. 😊

Those Owlflies are common here as well.

I would love to see festoons on a daily basis 🍷 .

Cheers, Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 15-May-15 11:39 PM GMT

Today there has been a very strong wind, as a result of which there were very few butterflies in flight. But I did see a couple of Southern White Admirals, this being one of them.



Also several Glanville Fritillaries, this one being on the road 😊 .



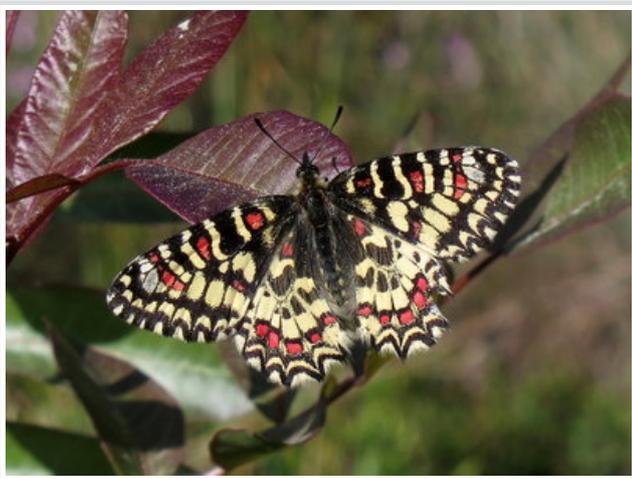
Also seen were a few Adonis and Provence Chalkhill Blues, one Wood White, two Scarce Swallowtails, a Small Heath or two, and several Wall Browns.
--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 17-May-15 02:49 AM GMT

Not much wind today, just lots of sun 😊 .

There are still some Spanish Festoons in prime condition. I photographed this one twice with 40 minutes between each sighting 😊 .



I saw two Scarce Swallowtails. This one was taking a rest from being chased by Spanish Festoons.



There were a few Western Dappled Whites. I saw this one this morning but later I saw one in the garden in the company of a Knapweed Fritillary on some Red valerian (*Centranthus ruber*) plants.



I was pleased to see this Baton Blue, as I hadn't seen one since the end of April.



I also saw a Painted Lady, several Wall Browns, Glanville Fritillaries, Adonis Blues and Provence Chalkhill Blues, and a few Orange-tips, Speckled Woods and Small Heaths.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 17-May-15 09:42 PM GMT

Even though it was hot this morning with very little wind, there were not many butterflies to be seen.

I did however see my first Swallowtail #37 of the year. I didn't manage any decent photos of it because it never stopped moving its wings even when feeding (?) on *Aphyllanthes monspeliensis*.

Another first of the year was a Blue-spot Hairstreak #38. I did get a quick photo of this before it disappeared.



Also seen were one Wood White, one Southern White Admiral, two Painted Ladies, a few Speckled Woods, a few Adonis Blues, several Wall Browns and many Provence Chalkhill Blues.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 17-May-15 11:25 PM GMT

"CFB" wrote:

... Another first of the year was a Blue-spot Hairstreak Colin

You are lucky, Colin. Today (the 17th) is my scheduled day for the arrival of Blue-spot and False Ilex, but I saw neither. However, the Curry Plant is in flower - it is their preferred nectaring plant around here. Ah well, perhaps next week end, because I don't see these at work in Vitrolles during the week.

Cheers, Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 18-May-15 03:06 AM GMT

Hello Chris,

The Curry Plant here is only just coming into flower both in the garden and in the wild. Perhaps that's why I only saw one of them (Blue-spot Hairstreak not Curry Plant 😊).

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Goldie M, 18-May-15 08:41 PM GMT

Lovely selection of Butterflies , the various colours are fantastic I love Swallow Tails, I hope to see them again this year all being well. Goldie 😊

Re: CFB

by CFB, 18-May-15 09:48 PM GMT

During my walk this morning along the Piste du Castelas in Roquefort les Pins I took this out-of-focus (or did I move?) photo of my first Pearly Heath #39 of the year.



There wasn't much flying at all but I did see four or so Swallowtails, although it could have been the same one seen four or so times. Other butterflies seen where a few Glanville Fritillaries, Meadow Browns and Provence Chalkhill Blues, and one Speckled Wood and one male Brimstone.

Goldie, thanks for your kind comments.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 19-May-15 09:27 PM GMT

This morning I saw my first Spotted Fritillary #40 of the year. Presumably I shall soon find them all over the place.



I saw a few Pearly Heaths, and this photo makes up for the poor one of yesterday.



There were some of its cousins, the Small Heaths, as well.



And similarly I saw Glanville Fritillaries



and their cousins the Knapweed Fritillaries. At least I assume this is a Knapweed Fritillaries, even though it seems to have fewer black markings than others I have seen.



There were more Provence Chalkhill Blues than anything else, also their cousins the Adonis Blues, one Spanish Festoon and several Wall Browns. I also encountered this female Pheasant with her chick. Unfortunately I didn't manage to photograph the baby 🙄.



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Goldie M, 19-May-15 11:38 PM GMT

It must be great to see lots of different species, I really envy you 🍷 Goldie 😊

Re: CFB

by CFB, 21-May-15 12:55 AM GMT

This morning in the Parc de la Brague I saw my first Heath Fritillary #41 of the year. At least I think it is a Heath Fritillary.



There were also many Provence Chalkhill Blues, a few Glanville Fritillaries, a couple of Meadow Browns, Southern White Admirals and Blue-spot Hairstreaks, a Painted Lady, a Pearly Heath and a Berger's Clouded Yellow.

And that was it.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 24-May-15 01:46 AM GMT

Even though it was cloudy and windy this morning I went to see if there were any Chequered Blues near a quarry the other side of Roquefort les Pins. I saw one Chequered Blue, my first of the year #42, and no other butterflies at all 😞😞😞. This is the best photo I managed to get. It's not easy with a nearly black butterfly on a nearly white stone. Then it flew away.



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 24-May-15 01:57 AM GMT

Nice one, Colin. I don't think I've ever seen a Chequered Blue round my way 🍷 .
Chris

Re: CFB

by David M, 24-May-15 06:21 AM GMT

You should always be prepared to sacrifice quality for a simple 'record' shot.
Nice find, especially considering the lack of other species flying.

Re: CFB

by CFB, 26-May-15 10:32 PM GMT

"David M" wrote:

You should always be prepared to sacrifice quality for a simple 'record' shot.

Thanks for those words of wisdom, David.

This morning I encountered my first Small Skipper #43 of the year. In fact there were several of them. Here's one on a *Aphyllanthes monspeliensis* flower.



An unexpected sighting was of a female Clouded Yellow, unexpected as I hadn't seen one for quite a time.



These last few days I had been looking for Spanish Fescue larvae, and today I found one on the same *Aristolochia pistolochia* plant as I had seen some on last year.



Just one Wood White,



and one Southern White Admiral.



Once again there were more Provence Chalkhill Blues than anything else, including this mating couple.



There were a few Heath Fritillaries around.



Also seen: several Pearly Heaths, a few Small Heaths, many Adonis Blues, a Glanville Fritillary and a Meadow Brown.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by trevor, 27-May-15 12:40 AM GMT

You French and Swiss types again !,posting images of Butterflies that we're never likely to see over here.
Don't you realise that we in the UK.are defenceless up against images like yours !.

(Lovely Southern White Admiral 🦋).

Best wishes,
TREVOR.

Re: CFB

by CFB, 27-May-15 01:03 AM GMT

Thanks for the kind comments, Trevor 😊😊😊😊😊 .

--

All the best
Colin

Re: CFB

by Padfield, 27-May-15 02:05 AM GMT

Lovely photos, especially of the Spanish festoon larva.

Trevor, I guess it's all about context. I got as much pleasure watching clouded yellows on the Suffolk coast a couple of years ago as I do from any of the exotica out here. Butterflies are butterflies! 😊

Guy

Re: CFB

by David M, 27-May-15 03:11 AM GMT

That's a very distinctive larva, Colin. Good spot.

Yes, Trevor, it's not quite all it seems – I've lost a bit of interest in some of the more 'desirable' UK species (e.g. Heath Fritillary, Wood White, Lulworth Skipper) simply because I'm used to seeing them in huge numbers in the south of France.

Conversely, I bet both Colin and Chris Jackson would be leaping for joy if they saw Peacocks in the numbers we do over here.

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 27-May-15 09:22 PM GMT

"David M" wrote:

... Conversely, I bet both Colin and Chris Jackson would be leaping for joy if they saw Peacocks in the numbers we do over here.

Even just 1 Peacock would be something to write home about 😊
Chris

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 27-May-15 09:32 PM GMT

"trevor" wrote:

You French and Swiss types again !,posting images of Butterflies that we're never likely to see over hereTREVOR.

Trevor, we are in fact working for the French and Swiss tourist boards, enticing UK butterfly enthusiasts to take their summer holidays on the continent 😊
Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 28-May-15 01:55 AM GMT

This morning I went out to see if the Spanish Festoon larva from yesterday was still there. He was 😊😊😊.



Today's mating couple were Adonis Blues:



Those were the only butterflies I photographed, but I did see a Green-veined White, a few Small Skippers, some Pearly and Small Heaths, and many Provence Chalkhill Blues.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 28-May-15 08:49 PM GMT

This morning, along the Piste de Peical, I saw my first Bath White #44 of the year, a male.





Not far away I found my first Ilex Hairstreaks #45 of the year,



which were squabbling for the Bramble flowers with a Blue-spot Hairstreak.



Also seen were one Heath Fritillary, a few male Spotted Fritillaries, a few Pearly Heaths, one or two Small Heaths, many Provence Chalkhill Blues, quite a lot of Adonis Blues, a Wall Brown or two, one Small Skipper, a couple of Clouded Yellows, one Wood White, and a very tatty Scarce Swallowtail.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Padfield, 28-May-15 09:16 PM GMT

Hi Colin. Wonderful pictures, as always – it's fantastic to check your diary and see what's happening down south.

I'd put good money on that being an ilex hairstreak, though, not false ilex ... 😊

Guy

Re: CFB

by CFB, 28-May-15 09:44 PM GMT

Guy, I must admit that I had some doubts about it.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 28-May-15 10:47 PM GMT

Hi Colin,

I'm surprised you've only just seen your first Bath White, as I've been seeing them regularly since mid-March 😊 .

Whereas you have the Blue-Spot and Ilex together at the moment, I've got the Blue-Spot and False Ilex (so I believe).

Keem 'em coming,
Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 29-May-15 09:33 PM GMT

This morning I saw my first Red-underwing Skipper #46 of the year. (If it is something else, I'm sure someone will tell me).



My kinkyest photo of the day is of these Blue-spot Hairstreaks.



Another mating couple was these Provence Chalkhill Blues.



I also saw one Wood White,



and several male Spotted Fritillaries.



Also seen were several Pearly Heaths and Adonis Blues, a few Glanville Fritillaries and Heath Fritillaries, a couple of Small Skippers, and what was probably a Large White.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by David M, 30-May-15 06:41 AM GMT

That last image is really vivid, Colin, and your mating Blue Spots are pretty good too!

Things seem to be moving nicely in your neck of the woods.

Re: CFB

by CFB, 31-May-15 09:37 PM GMT

This morning was more cloudy than sunny, but I did see two or three Small Coppers in very good condition:



I also saw several Meadow Browns, a couple of Speckled Woods, a few Provence Chalkhill Blues, and one Glanville Fritillary.

And in the garden I saw this Hummingbird Hawk-moth (?):



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 01-Jun-15 02:50 AM GMT

I like the photos of your mating Blue-spot Hairstreaks higher up, Colin. I've never witnessed that over in Marseilles. 🤔 They are more discrete *chez moi*.

Re: CFB

by CFB, 02-Jun-15 02:37 AM GMT

This morning along the Piste de Darbousson I saw my first Green-underside Blue #47 of the year



and my first Marbled Fritillary #48 of the year.



In addition I saw one very nice Green-veined White,



and many Provence Chalkhill Blues.



Also seen were a few Meadow Browns, Small Heaths, Pearly Heaths, Ilex Hairstreaks and Small Skippers, many Adonis Blues, one female Cleopatra (or possibly Brimstone), one Knapweed Fritillary and a possible Large White.

I also saw a Spanish Festoon larva on the same plant on which I had previously seen one, but I don't think that it was the same individual as before, as it seemed to be much smaller.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 02-Jun-15 03:12 PM GMT

That Marbled Fritillary shot is good, Colin. They don't seem to stay still for very long. 😊
Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 02-Jun-15 09:22 PM GMT

"cjackson" wrote:

They don't seem to stay still for very long. 😊

Chris, yes, they stay in place long enough for you to approach them, then fly away, but not very far away, just as you are about ready to take a photo 😊😊.

There weren't many butterflies flying in the Parc de la Brague this morning due to it being more or less overcast, though by no means cold.

My first sighting was of a Small Skipper.



On the way back there was another one, or perhaps the same one, at the same place but on a different flower.



I then encountered two Marbled Whites #49, my first of the year.



At the same place were one or two Spotted Fritillaries.



Also seen were one Heath Fritillary, a few Meadow Browns, and several Provence Chalkhill Blues.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 03-Jun-15 09:37 PM GMT

It was rather hot in the Parc de la Brague this morning, where I saw my first (confidently identified) Large White #50 of the year.



Also my first (hopefully correctly identified) Lulworth Skipper #51 of the year, a female.



Once again there were many Provence Chalkhill Blues, including this mating couple.



And one Southern White Admiral.



Also a few Painted Ladies. This one was in the Parc, but when I arrived home there were two in the garden.



Also seen were two brand-new male Cleopatras (alas no photos), several Meadow Browns, a few Heath Fritillaries, Adonis Blues, Blue-spot Hairstreaks and Marbled Whites, and one or two Wall Browns.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 04-Jun-15 10:50 PM GMT

It was very hot this morning along the Vallon des Dones.

I saw my first Marbled Skipper #52 of the year, but unfortunately no photographs.

There is still one Spanish Festoon larva on the same plant mentioned above.



There were many Heath Fritillaries,



and a couple of Knapweed Fritillaries.



Also seen were lots of Provence Chalkhill Blues, several Blue-spot Hairstreaks, Small Skippers, Spotted Fritillaries, Glanville Fritillaries, Pearly Heaths, Small Heaths, Adonis Blues, one Small Copper, one Clouded Yellow, one male Cleopatra, a couple of Wood Whites, Wall Browns and many Meadow Browns.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by keving, 05-Jun-15 03:52 AM GMT

Colin,

Enjoying your diary and with a trip to the South of France coming up in July, it's really wetting my appetite.

Regards Kev

Re: CFB

by David M, 05-Jun-15 03:57 AM GMT

"keving" wrote:

Colin,

Enjoying your diary and with a trip to the South of France coming up in July, it's really wetting my appetite.

Regards Kev

Seconded. I can't wait to get out there at the end of this month. We haven't seen 20 degrees since April here in Swansea. 😞

Re: CFB

by CFB, 05-Jun-15 09:52 PM GMT

Kev, I shall try to leave a few butterflies for you in July 😊 .

David, it's about 30 degrees here at present 😊 .

This morning I went to Terme Blanc, a hill to the north of Biot, that has the peculiarity of having a lightning conductor on the summit. I don't know why!

At the summit I saw my first Two-tailed Pashas #53 of the year. There were two of them, spending most of the time chasing each other. And when they weren't doing that they came to a nearby bush to have their photos taken. This one was somewhat tatty, and was missing the two tails on the right-hand wing.



But this one was in splendid condition.



There was also a Swallowtail that joined in the chasing a couple of times, but then found another Swallowtail to chase instead. No photos of the Swallowtails, they never seemed to stop flying.

On the way down I saw for the first time this year two Great Banded Graylings #54. As with the Two-tailed Pashas one can count on seeing this species at this time of the year on Terme Blanc.



And there was a mating couple of Meadow Browns.



Also seen were a couple of male Cleopatras and a Wall Brown.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 05-Jun-15 10:05 PM GMT

Great upperside shot of the Two-tailed Pasha, Colin – that is what I should be aiming for. 🍷

I also saw my first Great-banded Grayling of the season today, although I didn't get a photo.

We should be having our family holiday in Grasse in July this year, so I'm hoping to see some different species in the Alpes Maritimes. 😊

Cheers, Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 07-Jun-15 02:02 AM GMT

Today the temperature was around 32 degrees, which is rather hot! But it didn't stop me from seeing my first male Silver-washed Fritillary #55 of the year. I managed to get a photo even though it was quite far away.



There were a few Marbled Skippers,



and lots of Spotted Fritillaries.



Also seen: many Provence Chalkhill Blues, Heath Fritillaries and Meadow Browns; a few Adonis Blues and Wall Browns; a couple of Small Skippers, Pearly Heaths and Blue-spot Hairstreaks; one male Cleopatras.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Pauline, 07-Jun-15 02:48 PM GMT

Morning Colin, what an unusual creature that Spanish Festoon larva is – that Two-tailed Pasha is quite impressive too. Great shots 📷

Re: CFB

by CFB, 07-Jun-15 09:09 PM GMT

Thanks, Pauline. Yes, Two-tailed Pasha are very impressive, specially when coming directly towards you at great speed, then suddenly changing direction and flying around you a few times only a few feet away and then dashing off again.

What was notable today was the number of male Cleopatras. There must have been a good dozen of them.



And there was also a male Brimstone. These photos show how the pointed bit on the forewing is much more pronounced on the Brimstone than on the Cleopatra.



There were also many Marbled Whites. This morning I went to the site where I saw f. *leucomelas* last July, but I didn't see any. Perhaps it's too early.



I also saw a very worn Painted Lady, one Weaver's Fritillary, several Heath Fritillaries and Provence Chalkhill Blues, and a mating couple of Blue-spot Hairstreaks. And probably a few other species I've forgotten about.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by David M, 07-Jun-15 09:23 PM GMT

That's a great comparison between Cleopatra/Brimstone, Colin. I was trying to train my eyes to spot this whilst in the Var in April.

Re: CFB

by CFB, 09-Jun-15 02:29 AM GMT

This afternoon in the garden I saw my first False Ilex Hairstreak #56 of the year. (I hope I've got it right this time.)



This morning at the Pont des Dones on the brambles there were several Marbled Fritillaries



and a couple of male Silver-washed Fritillaries.



There were many Spotted Fritillaries including this female.



Once again I saw a few Marbled Skippers.



Also seen were several male Cleopatras, a couple of Marbled Whites, some Blue-spot Hairstreaks and some Pearly Heaths.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 09-Jun-15 02:46 PM GMT

Your False Ilex looks exactly like the False Ilexes I see over in the *Bouches du Rhone*, Colin.

I don't think it could be anything else.

I also saw my first Silver-Washed of the season, last weekend, although I had to pop over into the Var to see it, in Saint Zacharie.

Strange how they observe *départemental* boundaries. 😞

Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 10-Jun-15 09:30 PM GMT

In the Parc de la Brague this morning there were probably more male Cleopatras than anything else,



closely followed by Marbled Whites. This one had problems flying with its damaged right hand wings.



And Provence Chalkhill Blues take the third place.



There were also lots of Heath Fritillaries,



but only a couple of Knapweed Fritillaries.



There were many False Ilex Hairstreaks and Blue-spot Hairstreaks, this one enjoying the Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*) flowers,



and two Painted Ladies, this one allowing me to take several photos.



Also seen were Common Blues, one Small Copper, Wood Whites, a Lulworth Skipper, Spotted Fritillaries, two Two-tailed Pashas, Wall Browns, Meadow Browns and a few Pearly Heaths.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 12-Jun-15 12:21 AM GMT

Today I managed to get a photo for the first time this year of one of two Swallowtails that I saw. It wasn't easy as it was quite windy, and also the Swallowtail kept opening and closing its wings.



I also saw a Scarce Swallowtail, but didn't manage to get any good shots for the same reasons as above in addition to it being in the shade. Once again there were many Cleopatras, females



and males.



I also saw a Small Copper which stayed on top of its plant in spite of the wind and my presence.



There were also Spotted Fritillaries, Marbled Skippers, Wood Whites, Marbled Fritillaries, Blue-spot Hairstreaks, and so on.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 16-Jun-15 09:41 PM GMT

Yesterday near the Moulin des Gabres my good deed for the day was to rescue a Spotted Fritillary from the clutches of a spider. I gently took the butterfly by the wings, flicked off the spider and let the butterfly fly away, apparently unharmed. I assume the spider didn't consider this to be a good deed 😊 .



There were many Marbled Whites, but still no f. *leucomelas*,



and many Marbled Fritillaries in the Brambles.



Today on the way to La Roche d'Ardy there were many Silver-washed Fritillaries,



including two f. *valesina*,



a couple of Marbled Skippers,



and many Provence Chalkhill Blues.



Also seen were many Blue-spot, False Ilex,



and Ilex Hairstreaks, many Cleopatras, some Berger's Clouded Yellows, Meadow Heaths and Adonis blues.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by David M, 17-Jun-15 05:23 AM GMT

Great Marbled Skipper image, Colin. They have an almost 'gossamer' look to them when fresh.

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 17-Jun-15 04:30 PM GMT

That *valezina* is great, Colin. Marbled Skippers are lacking this year in the *[i]Bouches du Rhone[/i]*.
Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 19-Jun-15 07:57 PM GMT

June 17 2015:

A lovely Painted Lady. I hope the ones due to arrive in the UK are also in good condition.



June 18 2015:

Green-veined White. Second brood?



Silver-washed Fritillary,



and f. *valesina*.



The number of Cleopatras at the moment is incredible. Here's a backlit Cleopatra.



And I couldn't resist posting this.



My first Twin-spot Fritillary #57 of the year.



In the garden and around the geraniums I saw my first Geranium Bronze #58 of the year, but no photo.

June 19 2015:
A Marbled Fritillary.



A Painted Lady.



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 21-Jun-15 09:37 PM GMT

June 20 2015:

Cleopatras are still around in great quantities, as are the Hairstreaks (Blue-spot, Ilex and False Ilex). Also many Silver-washed Fritillaries, including these two females.





I saw a couple of Weaver's Fritillaries.



June 21 2015:

There was a Scarce Swallowtail enjoying the Scabious.



I managed to liberate a False Ilex Hairstreak held by a green spider.



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 22-Jun-15 04:32 AM GMT

Good rescue job, Colin.
What is your general 'grayling' situation ?
Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 22-Jun-15 09:32 PM GMT

"cjackson" wrote:

What is your general 'grayling' situation ?

Chris,
I don't see regular Graylings, they tend to be at higher altitudes.
I saw Great Banded Graylings at the beginning of the month, and expect to see Woodland Graylings from late July on.
I saw one False Grayling in 2012!!!
And that's it.

In the area around the Vallon des Dones this morning I saw many Cleopatras, male and female. This male is lacking a large chunk of a wing.



Also many *Satyrium* hairstreaks, these two being False Ilex Hairstreaks.



I saw two or three Clouded Yellow males



and a few Pearly Heaths.



Also some Berger's Clouded Yellows, one Southern White Admiral, a few Wood Whites, many Silver-washed, Heath and Spotted Fritillaries, one Knapweed Fritillary, and many Marbled Whites.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by David M, 23-Jun-15 06:47 AM GMT

Things look to be hotting up for you, Colin.

Your damaged Cleopatra is unusual. This species as well as Brimstone and Orange Tip rarely seem to lose wing parts in the same way as Satyrids, Swallowtails and Hairstreaks.

Re: CFB

by CFB, 27-Jun-15 06:51 PM GMT

"David M" wrote:

Things look to be hotting up for you, Colin.

Hello David,

From the weather point of view, it certainly is 😞.

I still see great quantities of Hairstreaks, Silver-washed Fritillaries, Spotted Fritillaries and Cleopatras. Yesterday I saw, amongst other things, four or five Painted Ladies and a couple of Southern White Admirals. Last Wednesday I saw a very helpful Scarce Swallowtail



and a few Wood Whites.



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 29-Jun-15 02:03 AM GMT

It's starting to get too hot for me, and perhaps also for the butterflies. And they are threatening us with temperatures around 40 degrees for the middle of the week 😞😞😞.

However this didn't stop me from seeing this morning my first Large Skipper #59 of the year. (Surely I can't be wrong about this one 😊.)



There was also a gorgeous Great Banded Grayling, most impressive in flight. What a pity they close their wings and go lurking in the undergrowth when not flying.



There were a few Clouded Yellows.



Also seen were Cleopatras, *Satyrion* Hairstreaks, Marbled Whites, Silver-washed Fritillaries, a couple of Painted Ladies, Wall Browns and Wood Whites. And from yesterday, a Southern White Admiral.



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by trevor, 29-Jun-15 03:11 AM GMT

Hi Colin,
Many thank for your continued posting of (to us stuck over here) images of the exotica on your doorstep. That Southern White Admiral, in particular, is absolutely beautiful. That Scarce Swallowtail looks positively tropical.

Keep up the good work,
TREVOR.

Re: CFB

by CFB, 29-Jun-15 03:24 AM GMT

Thanks, Trevor. I shall try to continue to post such images 😊😊😊 .

--
All the best,
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 30-Jun-15 03:19 AM GMT

This morning I went to the Vallon des Dones hoping to see Black-veined Whites or Marsh Fritillaries, but without success 😞 . But I did see my first Dingy Skipper #60 of the year.



It is rather dingy compared to this one seen last year which is, in my opinion, not at all dingy.



Once again I saw a Southern White Admiral,



and a Scarce Swallowtail (specially for Trevor 😊).



There were dozens of Blue-spot and False Ilex Hairstreaks, lots of Cleopatras and Marbled Whites and several Silver-washed and Spotted Fritillaries.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 06-Jul-15 09:30 PM GMT

First of all, from July 3, a female Meadow Brown



and a Common Blue,



and from July 5, a Scarce Swallowtail.



It is still very hot here, but I went out this morning to where the trees give a reasonable amount of shade.

There were hardly any Hairstreaks, whereas a few days ago they were everywhere. The most numerous species was Marbled White, including this *f. leucomelas*.



Also there were many Wall Browns.



There were also several Large Skippers,



Common Blues, Berger's Clouded Yellows and Cleopatras, and two Southern White Admirals.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 09-Jul-15 02:47 AM GMT

Yesterday near the Pont des Dones:
Many Marbled Whites,



a few Large Skippers,



several Berger's Clouded Yellows including this dead specimen apparently in the grips of a spider 😞 ,



and several Cleopatras.



Today in the Parc de la Brague:
My first Southern Small Whites #61 of the year,



a couple of Brimstones,



two Scarce Swallowtails, one Swallowtail and one or two Southern White Admirals and Silver-washed Fritillaries.

Today, dead in our bedroom 🙄, my first Lang's Short-tailed Blue #62 of the year,



some Cleopatras, Wall Browns and Meadow Browns.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 10-Jul-15 02:30 AM GMT

That Marbled White *f. leucomelas* is on my wish list, Colin. I've never seen one over my way. If I remember rightly, you saw many last year. However, Lang's Short-tail Blues can be common all year round over here !!

Keep up the good work.

Cheers, Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 11-Jul-15 03:04 AM GMT

Chris,

Last year I saw a few *f. leucomelas*. In previous years I hadn't seen any, perhaps because I didn't know that they existed, so I didn't look for any 😊.

Concerning Lang's Short-tail Blues, here I see them mostly in October, November and December, though I do see a small number in other months. Their appearance seems to coincide with the flowering of Rosemary.

Cheers,
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 14-Jul-15 01:21 AM GMT

There seem to be a new crop of Adonis Blues in the Parc de la Brague. Here's a female,



and here's a male, both with lovely wide fringes.



And a new crop of Glanville Fritillaries. These two were together. I'm a bit worried about the first one, as I've not seen such a variation of colour before.



There are still Common Blues flying. This one is a male.



Also seen were a few Green-veined Whites,



one Silver-washed Fritillary, a *f. valesina*,



Marbled Whites, a Southern White Admiral, Southern Small White and Large Skippers.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 14-Jul-15 02:48 AM GMT

Hi Colin,
I love that female Adonis Blue and the Glanville Fritillary.
In Marseilles, I don't think we have a late (or continued) brood of Glanvilles.
Cheers, Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 17-Jul-15 09:05 PM GMT

This morning I went to Terme Blanc where there are no trees to give some shade to escape from the heat 😞, but as this is an isolated hill, there was a slight breeze to cool things down a bit 😊.

I had expected to see some Southern Gatekeepers, but only saw one, my first of the year #63, but no photo.

But I did see two Two-tailed Pashas, one which was very battered and faded,



and the other which was in impeccable condition.



I suppose that the first one is a late first brood individual, and the second an early second brood individual 😊.

Apart from that I only saw a Swallowtail.

--

Colin.

Re: CFB

by CFB, 03-Aug-15 02:10 AM GMT

I see that my last contribution to my diary was on July 17, this being due mainly to the very high temperatures in my area, which affected me, and probably also the local butterflies. However I did manage to take some photos.

A few Red-underwing Skippers.



Many Scarce Swallowtails



including one or two which regularly appeared while I was watering the garden.

Several Holly Blues





on and around the one and only Purple Loosestrife plant, in the bed of a dried-up stream, as were several Lang's Short-tailed Blues (no photos) and several Green-veined Whites.



Several Large Skippers,



and, today, my first Silver-spotted Skippers #64 of the year.



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 03-Aug-15 09:28 PM GMT

There seemed to be many more butterflies flying this morning than in previous days even though it is still hot.

There were lots of Spotted Fritillaries, including this mating couple. The individual at the bottom (the male?) was in fact actively moving its legs, as if it had had enough 🤪.



There were also many Heath Fritillaries, this one sharing its Scabious (Cephalaria leucantha?) with two guests.



I only saw a few Common Blues, and was lucky to get this photo.



As yesterday, there were some Silver-spotted Skippers.



Also quite also a lot of Meadow Browns, this male having apparently lost its ocelli 😊.



Also seen: Wall Browns, Berger's Clouded Yellows, one male Cleopatra and Red-underwing Skippers.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 04-Aug-15 02:23 AM GMT

Great Silver-spotted Skipper, Colin. I have only just made acquaintance myself with this species. Well done for the Meadow Brown – I love those open-wing shots – one of my favourite challenges. Keep 'em coming.
Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 04-Aug-15 09:09 PM GMT

This morning in the Parc de la Brague it was cloudy at first but soon became sunny, just in time to see my first Tree Grayling #65 of the year.



I also saw a solitary Wood White,



a few Silver-spotted Skippers,



an Adonis Blue, several Spotted Fritillaries, a few Berger's Clouded Yellows and some Wall Browns and Meadow Browns.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 07-Aug-15 09:16 PM GMT

This morning along the Piste de Darbousson I saw my first Purple Hairstreak #66 of the year. In fact there were 10 or 12 of them at ground level in the same location. But they didn't stop flying very often, and never landed with their wings open.



This is a Tree Grayling from yesterday.



Also seen were two male Cleopatras,



one Berger's Clouded Yellow, a few Heath Fritillaries, two Scarce Swallowtails (in the garden), several Spotted Fritillaries, some Wall Browns and a few Adonis Blues.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 08-Aug-15 01:41 AM GMT

Hi Colin,

Its interesting to see that there are so many Purple Hairstreaks about. I will keep my eyes open across my way.

I'll be popping up to the Sainte Baume in the Var tomorrow.

Cheers, Chris

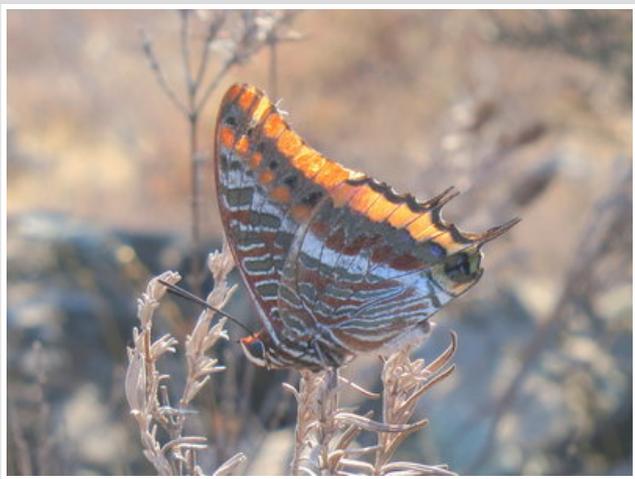
Re: CFB

by CFB, 14-Aug-15 10:32 PM GMT

Last Saturday I once again saw several Purple Hairstreaks at the start of the Piste du Darbousson. In fact there were two other individuals a couple of inches from these two. But I didn't manage to get a photo of all four 😞 .



The day before yesterday at Terme Blanc there were 5 or 6 Two-tailed Pashas dashing furiously around, so that I only managed one photo.



In the vicinity there were 3 or 4 Southern Gatekeepers.



Yesterday in the Vallon du Mardaric there were several Purple Hairstreaks.



Today near the Vallon des Dones I saw many Spotted Fritillaries. Here are three males,





and a female.



There were also several Silver-spotted Skippers.



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 23-Aug-15 05:27 PM GMT

A few photos taken during the last week or so.

Tree Grayling:



Wall Brown:



Male Common Blue:



Heath Fritillary:



Male Provence Chalkhill Blue (two different individuals):



A male (?) Spotted Fritillary with very lightly-marked hind wings:



Male Adonis Blue (the same individual):



Male Silver-washed Fritillary:



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 24-Aug-15 10:17 PM GMT

Even though it was very cloudy this morning, there were quite a few butterflies around including a few male Provence Chalkhill Blues,



a few female Berger's Clouded Yellows,



and two Southern White Admirals on the same plant.



There were also Meadow Browns, one Painted Lady and several Spotted Fritillaries.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by David M, 25-Aug-15 02:00 AM GMT

Interesting images of SWA, Colin. Looks like they're on some kind of *hedera*. I don't think I've ever seen them nectaring before.

Re: CFB

by CFB, 25-Aug-15 03:35 AM GMT

Hello David,

It's not a *Hedera* but an *Umbelliferae* or *Apiaceae* or whatever they are called these days, probably *Peucedanum officinale* (Hog's Fennel). But I have seen them on *Hedera helix*.

Cheers,
Colin

Re: CFB

by David M, 25-Aug-15 05:21 AM GMT

Thanks for the info, Colin.

Do you ever see them nectaring in their first brood?

Re: CFB

by CFB, 25-Aug-15 04:30 PM GMT

David,

I often see their first brood nectaring, for example on Thyme, *Centranthus ruber* (Red valerian) and *Euphorbia*, as in this photo taken in the merry month of May:



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 25-Aug-15 10:37 PM GMT

This morning there were two Southern White Admirals on the same plant as yesterday, but on looking closely at the photos they were two different individuals. This is one of them.



There was one Swallowtail, the first I've seen since the beginning of June. It was a long way away, so this photo is heavily cropped.



Many Provence Chalkhill Blues, mostly males.



Many Spotted Fritillaries.



One male Common Blue.



Also one Painted Lady, one Tree Grayling, a few Adonis Blues and some Wall Browns.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Goldie M, 25-Aug-15 10:51 PM GMT

Lovely shots Colin, the Swallow Tail reminds me of my holiday in the Broads this June, the Southern White Admiral stands out with it's blue cast more than our's, I think it's more impressive than our's, I wish we could have more Purple Hair Streaks over here, I got my first this year and that was more by accident than any thing 😊 (I nearly stood on it) I love your shots of it Goldie 😊

Re: CFB

by CFB, 25-Aug-15 11:44 PM GMT

Thanks, Goldie. I have never seen one of "your" White Admirals, so I would probably prefer it to "mine" 😊.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 05-Sep-15 01:28 AM GMT

A few photos from the last few days.

There are still a few Small Heaths around, this one having an unusual second *ocellus*:



There are many Silver-washed Fritillaries, this one being one of quite a few f. *valesina*:



Today there were many Southern White Admirals, in general sharing the Hog's Fennel with the Silver-washed Fritillaries though this one preferred *Herbe aux cerfs* (I haven't found its English name):



Here's a male Silver-washed Fritillary on Hog's Fennel:



And a lovely female Silver-washed Fritillary:



Also seen today were one Swallowtail, lots of Provence Chalkhill Blues, a couple of Adonis Blues, the inevitable Wall Browns, some Spotted Fritillaries, Meadow Browns, one or two Berger's Clouded Yellows, a Silver-spotted Skipper, and, in the garden a Geranium Bronze.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Goldie M, 05-Sep-15 04:05 AM GMT

Lovely Butterflies Colin your so lucky to be seeing them still in good condition Goldie 😊

Re: CFB

by CFB, 05-Sep-15 10:44 PM GMT

Thanks Goldie. They are not always in good condition, as shown by this Berger's Clouded Yellow seen this morning,



and this Southern White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary f. *valesina* photographed recently:



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 06-Sep-15 12:26 AM GMT

"CFB" wrote:

.... They are not always in good condition Colin

You're right Colin. At the moment, being the end of season, many individuals I see over my way seem to have chunks missing out of their wings too. Dragonflies are patrolling aggressively as well !!
Cheers, Chris

Re: CFB

by CFB, 10-Oct-15 07:17 PM GMT

This morning I was delighted and somewhat surprised to see three or four Painted Ladies all together in the Parc de la Brague. Here are two of them, the first being in excellent condition, the second being a bit faded and missing part of one wing.



At the same place there were also Lang's Short-tailed Blues, Wall Browns and a couple of Woodland Graylings, one of which came and tickled my left eyebrow 😊.

Some butterflies photographed recently include Provence Chalkhill Blues,



Lang's Short-tailed Blues,



and Clouded Yellows.



--
Colin

Re: CFB

by David M, 11-Oct-15 05:45 AM GMT

Given that it was the river Brague that burst its banks and contributed to the awful floods in your area the other day, Colin, how much has your part of the region suffered?

Re: CFB

by CFB, 11-Oct-15 07:37 PM GMT

David,

Where we are there was very heavy rain for a relatively short time but there were no problems *chez nous*. But down-stream towards Biot and towards the coast there was exceptionally heavy rain for a longer time. At Biot two or three people were drowned, and some shops and camping sites had a meter or so of water, and the Biot glass-blowing factory was severely damaged.

To come back to butterflies, this morning I saw the same Painted Lady as yesterday.



At the same place was this female Berger's Clouded Yellow,



as well as an Adonis Blue, a Woodland Grayling, Speckled Woods, a Red Admiral and Wall Browns.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by David M, 12-Oct-15 05:18 AM GMT

Cheers for the info, Colin. I'm so glad you escaped relatively unscathed.

Nice to see the butterflies weren't too badly affected either.

Re: CFB

by CFB, 14-Oct-15 12:06 AM GMT

This morning around breakfast time it was raining quite heavily and I resigned myself to not going out 😞. But a bit later on, *miracolo!*, there was a blue sky and sunshine 😊, so I went for my walk towards *Roche d'Ardy*.

There was one Small Copper in the company of some sort of fly,



two Berger's Clouded Yellows, this one being a male,



several male Provence Chalkhill Blues,



and many unphotographed Wall Browns.

--
Colin

Re: CFB

by CFB, 15-Oct-15 02:45 AM GMT

I don't know where they all were, but the only butterfly I saw today was this delightful Small Copper.



--
Colin