

Re: Nomad

by nomad, 08-Mar-15 05:39 PM GMT

My First Spring insects, a butterfly and a beetle.

I saw my first butterfly today, a rather tatty *Inachis io*. Perhaps a victim of a bird attack. Those useful and beautiful eye spots have enabled this butterfly to survive the long northern winter hidden away to emerge in the early Spring. I had a long walk yesterday over Downs, along a wooded green lane and through a large forest. Most of the hibernators have yet to emerge who like to time their awakening with the first Spring flowers and the Sallow (*Salix*) blossoms which these Nymphalidae love.



Inachis io.

I also found my first beetle species today on a high downland chalk slope and it is a real favourite of mine, the now scarce Black Oil Beetle, *Meloe proscarabaeus*. At this early date, the beetle would have just emerged from its host burrow. At this time, it is hard to sex these beetles, because as they feed up, their body shape can change dramatically. The one I disturbed was moving at some speed through the grass and over mole-hills. I have just heard about a good colony that occurs on a down on an Iron-age hillfort above the town where I live, so hopefully next month when they are more numerous, I will be able to study this species in more detail and take further images. This beetle has one really amazing life style, read more here.

<http://www.arkive.org/oil-beetle/meloe-proscarabaeus/>



Meloe proscarabaeus

Re: Nomad

by nomad, 13-Mar-15 12:16 AM GMT

My first Brimstone today. Resting after giving up on his battle with the wind.



Re: Nomad

by nomad, 13-Mar-15 12:22 AM GMT

Off to Holland in Mid July to spend a week at the De Weerribben National Park to photograph the Large Copper ssp batavus. 😊

I rather be off to the East Anglian Fens to photograph our own race but there you are. 🤔

Re: Nomad

by Wurzel, 13-Mar-15 07:22 AM GMT

You're off to a great start Nomad 🍷 with some great shots. Like the Oil Beetles too – I've found them later in the season when their abdomens can be huge!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Nomad

by nomad, 06-Apr-15 12:39 AM GMT

It has been quite a late Spring here in North Wilts. Further south in the coastal counties , already the Satyrids, Parage aegeria and Lasiommata megera have been seen. Yesterday, was cold and bleak on the Wiltshire Downs, with a cold north-east wind, neither beetle or butterfly were to be seen. Still there was that perfect thatched village set in the fold of the downs where there was a welcome hot meal in the Blue Boar washed down by a pint of Wadworth Wiltshire 6X beer.

Today, I awoke to blue skies, so I got out my old steed and rode out to the west and down in the clay vale to a oak wood that was once part of the fragmented Braydon Forest. The clouds were rolling in but before they did so, I found a couple of Peacock butterflies basking on the Woodland floor. Queen Bumble Bees were busy looking for nesting holes while Hover flies were busy at the Sallows.



The Wood.



Male Peacock.



Female Peacock.



The Hover Fly Eristalis pertinax covered in the pollen of Sallow flowers.



The Bee Fly Bombylius major



*The Bumble Bee *Bombus terrestris* looking for a nesting hole.*



Primroses

Re: Nomad

by nomad, 06-Apr-15 01:08 AM GMT

This full flowering of the Blackthorn has to yet happen here in North Wilts but there were some nice bushes in the town where I live, that I visited a couple of weeks ago. It is nice to see that the Small Tortoiseshells have made a comeback from their recent decline. The Small Torts were visiting the blackthorn flowers but were mostly courting the females. A male Small White, my first emerged butterfly of the year, also visited on the flowers but not to take nectar but in the hope of finding a female. Nearby a Comma enjoyed the sunshine. 😊





Small Tortoiseshells visiting Blackthorn.



A courting pair of Small Tortoiseshells





Male Small White.



Comma

Re: Nomad

by Hoggers, 06-Apr-15 02:36 AM GMT

Beautiful photographs, Nomad – a delight to see.

Best wishes,

Hoggers

Re: Nomad

by nomad, 06-Apr-15 02:56 AM GMT

Many thanks Hoggers.

Re: Nomad

by Goldie M, 07-Apr-15 02:47 AM GMT

Love the Small White on the flowers Nomad, it must have been that bit warmer down there than it's been here in the North, hope fully we'll get them soon Goldie 😊

Re: Nomad

by nomad, 26-Apr-15 03:17 PM GMT

A pleasant walk across the eastern fringe of Salisbury Plain yesterday. It was overcast in the morning with a strong wind blowing. In the afternoon, I found some sheltered Scrub, with a nice colony of fresh Grizzled Skippers. There were two Dingy skippers and Green Hairstreaks present. The Grizzled Skippers were visiting Ground Ivy and Dandelions.



Grizzled Skipper habitat Salisbury Plain.



Highland Cattle can be protective of their calves



Grizzled Skipper foodplant Wild Strawberry in flower.



Re: Nomad

by nomad, 27-Apr-15 03:28 AM GMT

A day up on the heights of Rodborough Common today. My first two Dukes, including a nice female shown here. The Green Hairstreaks were enjoying the Gorse. 😊



Re: Nomad

by trevor, 27-Apr-15 05:22 AM GMT

Lovely Dukes,well found/done !

TREVOR.

Re: Nomad

by Wurzel, 27-Apr-15 05:37 AM GMT

Cracking Dukes and Greenstreaks Nomad 🍀 Hopefully they'll stay looking nice until next weekend when I might be able to get out and at em 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Nomad

by Goldie M, 27-Apr-15 05:47 PM GMT

Lovely photos Nomad, no GS where I live unfortunately, I hope to look for the Dukes though next week Goldie 😊

Re: Nomad

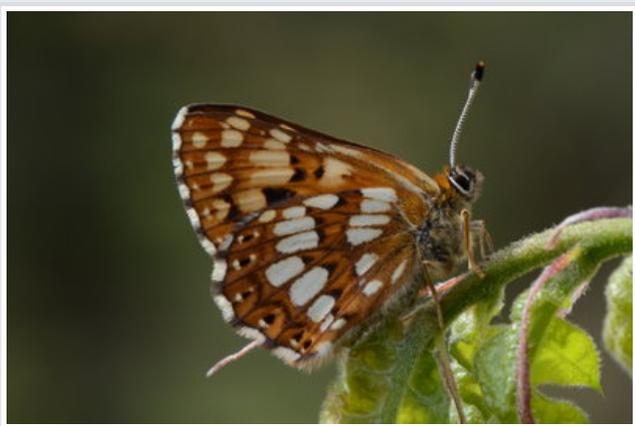
by nomad, 28-Apr-15 04:07 AM GMT

Many thanks for your kind comments. 😊 I hope you all enjoy and find this fine little species this year. They are just starting to appear at Rodborough. They appear here in three colonies throughout May.

Re: Nomad

by nomad, 05-May-15 02:22 PM GMT

Well what a wet and cool weekend it was. Thanks heavens for the lovely weather yesterday. I spent a nice day on the Cotswolds, here are some of my images.





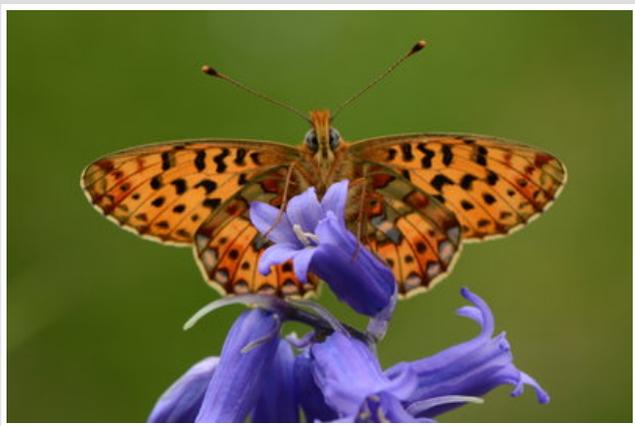


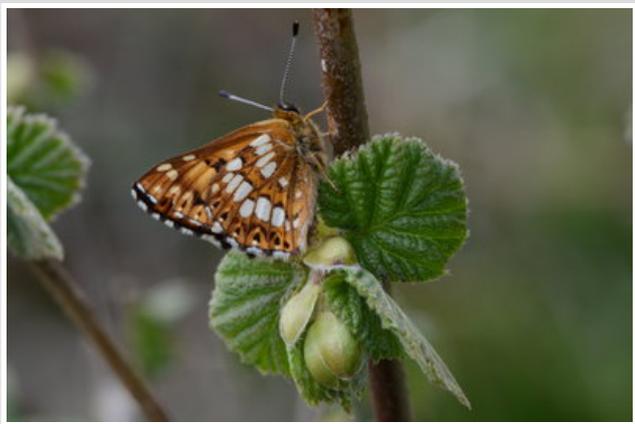
Re: Nomad

by nomad, 10-May-15 06:39 PM GMT

Cirencester Park in the Cotswolds is where future kings play polo. Beyond the Polo grounds are large areas of woodland where in certain clearings are some special butterflies. The Pearl-bordered Fritillary, *Boloria euphrosyne* used to be a common species in most British Woodlands but with a cession of coppicing this is now a rarity. *Hamearis lucina* was also a frequent butterfly in our woodlands where the larva fed upon Primroses . Now it is rarely found in this habitat and most colonies are to be found on limestone and chalk grassland. With the loss of its woodland habitat this little butterfly seems to have moved out onto the open grasslands. In Edwards Newman's fine book published in 1871, *An Illustrated Natural History of British Butterfly*, there is an gazetteer of localities provided by his correspondents for most counties of England and nearly all provide details of Woodland localities. All images are from Cirencester Park Woods yesterday.







Re: Nomad

by MikeOxon, 10-May-15 07:11 PM GMT

Lovely images of PBF on the bluebells!

Mike

Re: Nomad

by nomad, 10-May-15 11:01 PM GMT

Thanks Mike, i am pleased that you like the quintessential bluebell images with the Pearl -bordered Frit. 😊

Re: Nomad

by Goldie M, 11-May-15 01:56 AM GMT

Love your Photos of the PBF first time I've seen them on Blue Bells Goldie 😊

Re: Nomad

by David M, 11-May-15 06:29 AM GMT

Top quality images, Nomad.

Re: Nomad

by Butterflysaurus rex, 11-May-15 06:34 AM GMT

VERY nice PBF's there Nomad. 😊

All the best

James

Re: Nomad

by nomad, 11-May-15 02:01 PM GMT

Thank you 😊

Re: Nomad

by bugboy, 12-May-15 03:55 AM GMT

Picture perfect Pearls Nomad, very 🍷

Re: Nomad

by Willow, 13-May-15 12:23 AM GMT

Can only agree with the other posters above Nomad, lovely images and interesting commentary 😊

Kind Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"