

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 07-Jan-15 06:03 AM GMT

"Neil Freeman" wrote:

Good to see you posting again B'saurus and looking forward to see how you get on next year.

Hope you have a great Christmas and a New Year,

Cheers,

Neil.

Sorry I missed your post Neil, I knocked off early for Christmas 😊 – I hope you had a great one, oh and a very happy new year to you too. If I do half as well as you did last year I shall be VERY happy indeed.

All the best

B'saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 09-Mar-15 06:39 AM GMT

My season began this weekend, I saw at least 7 Brimstone on Saturday and one Small Tortoiseshell this morning. 😊



B'saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by trevor, 09-Mar-15 07:33 PM GMT

Hi B.saurus,
Your Brimstone image looks remarkably like mine, down amongst the leaf litter!
Hope to see you out and about.

Best wishes,
TREVOR.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 10-Mar-15 07:11 AM GMT

Cracking Brimstone Rex 😊 Looks like you're back in the game this season 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 13-Mar-15 05:12 AM GMT

"trevor" wrote:

Hi B.saurus,

Your Brimstone image looks remarkably like mine, down amongst the leaf litter!
Hope to see you out and about.

Best wishes,
TREVOR.

Hi Trevor, indeed it does, nearly all of my springtime Brimstone photos are like this one. I'm sure we'll meet when the Orange Tips and Pearls are out "possibly" in a few weeks time. 😊

Best Wishes

B'saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 13-Mar-15 05:17 AM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Cracking Brimstone Rex 😊 Looks like you're back in the game this season 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks Wurzel, I'm going to give it my best shot, I am busier than ever these days. It's been difficult getting out lately as we've all had a virus.

Not long before the season really starts to get going. 😊

ATB

B'saurus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 13-Mar-15 05:33 AM GMT

After seeing my first Brimstones of the year on the 7th, I popped out to see what else was flying close to home. On the 8th I saw my first Small Tortoiseshell of the year.



Then a little later, on the 10th of March I found a few more Small Torts, I usually see them flying with an occasional Peacock but this year 2 of them were cavorting with Red Admirals instead.



It was really good to see some Butterflies again. I hope to add a Peacock and Comma to the list soon.

Here's hoping for a cracking butterfly season.

All the best

B'sarus

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 13-Mar-15 07:26 AM GMT

Really like the Red Admiral Rex, nice composition 😊 Have you invested in the sling yet ready for later in the season?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 18-Apr-15 04:47 AM GMT

Unfortunately I've not been able to get out and visit my local haunts as much as I'd like so far this spring. This year I will only be able to post approximately once a month. Hopefully next year I'll be able to contribute a bit more often.

Spring really got going for me this week with my first Orange Tip of 2015 on Tuesday.



Followed by my first Speckled Wood of the year a day later.



Earlier on this week I was taking a stroll along a local bridleway when I noticed a Peacock on the path ahead. As I approached it did not move at all and appeared to be deceased. I don't usually get to admire a Peacock at very close quarters so I stopped to take a close up photo of it's wing. The very moment I finished taking the photo it moved! I can only guess it'd been stunned and was slowly recovering, so I gently picked it up and put it out of harms way, hoping it would make a full recovery.



On Thursday I managed to have a lunchtime stroll near a local village hoping to see my first Holly Blue of the year. I didn't manage that but I did see a couple of Small Tortoiseshell's egg laying.



I watched this particular female (pictured above) laying a good cluster of eggs before moving on. It was very windy here on the South coast yesterday and I didn't have the right lens on my camera but I decided to try and get a photo of the eggs anyway.

As I delicately turned the Nettle leaf to reveal the eggs I noticed a tiny parasitic wasp diligently going from ova to ova injecting an egg of it's own, dooming the poor Caterpillars to a short life and unpleasant end. I did my best to get a decent photo of this drama but the strong wind and fluctuating light levels coupled with the wrong lens made things VERY difficult.

This is the best I could manage.

Hopefully it won't be too long before I see my first Grizzled Skipper and Green Hairstreaks of the year.



Best Wishes

James

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 18-Apr-15 04:48 AM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Really like the Red Admiral Rex, nice composition 😊 Have you invested in the sling yet ready for later in the season?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

I sent you a PM the other week Wurzel, did you get it OK?

All the best

James

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

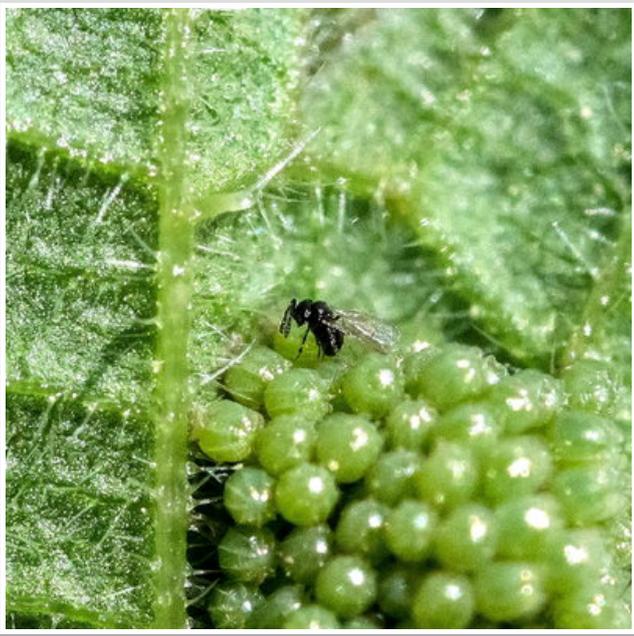
by Butterfysaurus rex, 19-Apr-15 02:37 AM GMT

Thanks to the brighter weather today I ventured back to the spot where I found the Small Tortoiseshell eggs being parasitized last Thursday. My goal was to try and get a better photo of the eggs (with the correct lens this time) Unfortunately the wind was 'if anything' even stronger than last Thursday making macro photography a bit tricky.

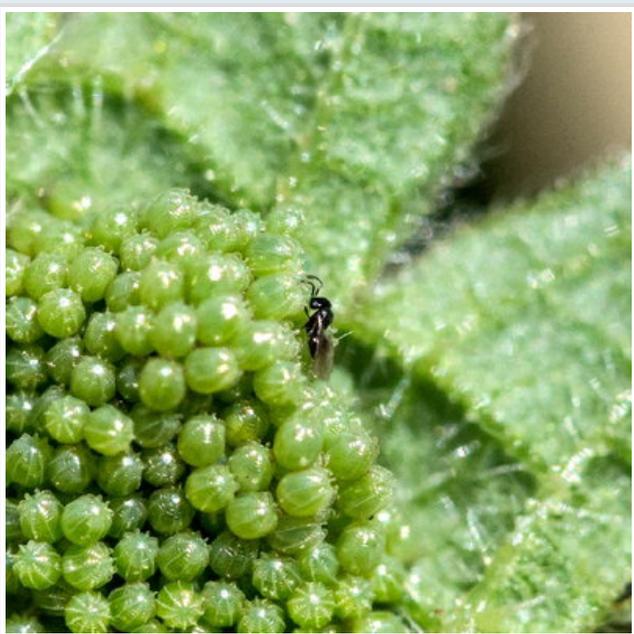
Much to my surprise the parasitic wasp was still in residence, I suppose it makes sense that she would guard her genetic investment by standing guard. It was fascinating to realise that she appeared to be living with the Tortoiseshell eggs. She was still busily parasitizing the eggs 2 days after I first found her! It made me wonder if the wasp infests an individual STS ova more than once. Or is it possible that this was a different wasp unaware that these eggs had already been infested? Somehow I think this scenario is unlikely "but I'm certainly no expert" so I would concede that it's possible. If not then I can only surmise that the wasp is using some kind of chemical marker to recognize where she's already been? If any of the experts here can shed some light on this I would love to hear from you.

The parasitic wasp in question was so tiny she was a real challenge to photograph. I have cropped in quite a lot so there is a bit of grain. I completely "maxed out" my lens. unable to get any closer. Perhaps I should invest in some extension tubes!

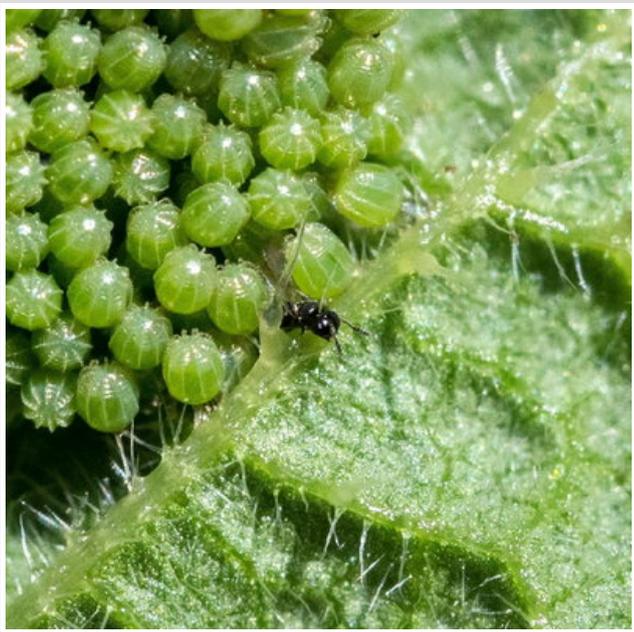
I'll begin with the photo that I found the most illustrative, here you can clearly see the wasp 'infecting' the STS ova with one of her own eggs.



The following sequence shows the wasp busily going about her grim task.







It's sad to think that virtually this entire cluster of eggs has been parasitized, you can certainly see how this life cycle inspired the film Alien. Finally here's the photo I went back there to get before I realised that the parasitic wasp was still there.



I hope some of you will find this interesting – I certainly did.

All the best

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 19-Apr-15 03:11 AM GMT

Extremely interesting, Rex. Thanks for posting.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Hoggers, 19-Apr-15 04:39 AM GMT

Fascinating Rex. When I used to rear Tortoiseshell and Peacock caterpillars as a boy I was always appalled at the number I'd lose to some very unpleasant parasites. I always thought the young caterpillars had been "stung" before I collected them but now I see from your photographs that even the eggs were not safe

Best wishes

Hoggers

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 19-Apr-15 06:10 AM GMT

I agree with Hoggers Rex, fascinating stuff if slightly grim viewing for a butterfly enthusiast 😊 I did get your PM and I will try and get a reply done soon but at the moment the house (preparing for Lime plastering) and work is taking up most of my time 😞 Still once the work is done and the plaster is drying then I can get out butterflying again just as the Dukes get going strong 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 19-Apr-15 07:32 PM GMT

Those really are some truly fascinating pictures Rex.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 20-Apr-15 06:05 AM GMT

Many thanks all, not a very pleasant subject, but I suppose it's all part of the life cycle of these beautiful creatures that we spend so much time chasing around.

It is pretty horrific to realise that the eggs can be under attack at the almost the instant they've been laid! I stood and watched this Small Tortoiseshell laying her eggs and in the VERY short time it took me to walk over and have a look the wasp was already there hard at work!! She must have begun even as (the totally oblivious) Small Tort continued to lay.

@ David, I see you're off to a good start over in Wales, I'm still waiting for our spring to really get going here in the South East. I remember it was quite

the opposite this time last year.

@ Hoggers, After observing this little parasitic wasp at work 'actually living amongst the eggs' I would be very surprised if any of these Small Tort's will survive. It will be 'boom time' for the parasites while the Small Tort's continue to be prolific. Of course the more the parasites prosper they will likely cause the STS population to crash and – then parasites will follow. An unpleasant business but I suppose it stops butterflies reaching plague proportions..... unfortunately. 😞

@ Wurzel, yes indeed Wurzel a very nasty end for a beautiful insect. I'm glad you received my PM OK, I didn't realize that the plasterers we're still at it! I remember you telling me that they were doing work at your house last year. You must have a very large house. 🏠 I hope we both see plenty of Dukes. I look forward to your reply.

@ bugboy, Thank you You're most kind, I had real fun trying to get some half decent images amongst the nettles. I was stung in "several places" but the effort was more than worth it. I'd never seen this before and I always feel it's a real privilege to witness a bit of the natural world that so many people never get to see.

My very best wishes to you.

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by keving, 20-Apr-15 07:39 PM GMT

James,

Just catching up with peoples PDs at the moment.

Great macro photographs and images that are not seen too often. It may appear grizzly to some butterfly lovers, but these are an important and much unseen side of what Butterflies have to contend with (not a straight forward journey that some might assume).

Keep em coming.

Regards Kev

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Paul Harfield, 21-Apr-15 07:55 AM GMT

Hi James

As others have said great series of pictures documenting the antics of the parasitic wasp 😊 I imagine that the eggs in the centre of this egg mass are somewhat protected from the attention of the wasp, so hopefully there will some some survivors at least.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 22-Apr-15 05:52 AM GMT

@keving, Thanks Kev, yes indeed Butterflies are under attack at every stage of their life cycle. Also they have to contend with highly unpredictable weather we get these days. 2 awful springs in a row helped to wipe out the Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries at the Park Corner BC reserve here in East Sussex.

It's certainly a tough life if you're a Butterfly.

@jackz432r, I hope some survive Jack, you would be amazed how this little wasp managed to squeeze herself through the tiniest of gaps. On the bright side I'm sure that the female Tort laid a few more batches of eggs and they can't all have parasitic wasps surely!

Thank you both very much for your kind 'and thoughtful' replies.

Best Wishes

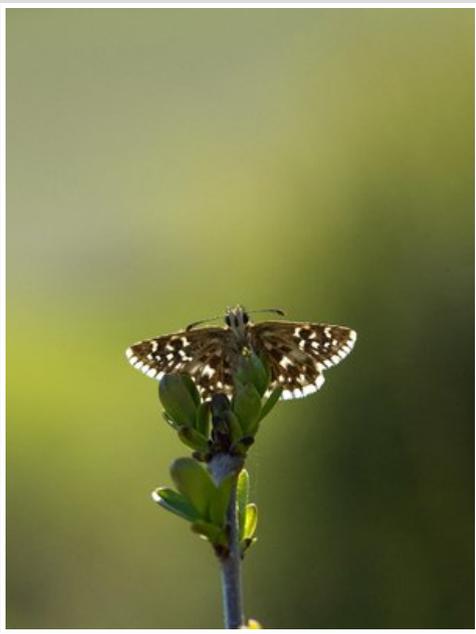
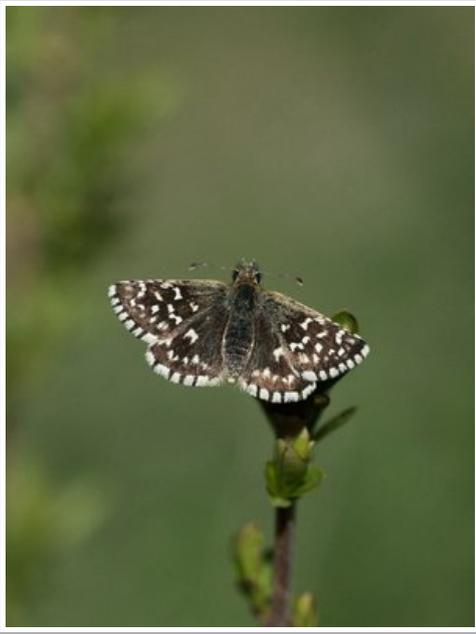
James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 28-Apr-15 06:14 AM GMT

FROM HILL TO HILL

On the 22nd I managed to grab a brief afternoon visit over at Mill Hill. The wind was howling that day but Mill Hill can provide some perfect shelter when a wild Easterly is blowing. As soon as I arrived on the lower slopes I was greeted by my first Green Hairstreak of the year, unfortunately it did not stick around for a photo. Soon after that disappointment I found my first Dingy and Grizzled Skippers of the year. The Dingies were VERY fresh and were easy to photograph, however my attention was soon taken by some splendid Grizzlies, seeing as time was short I decided to concentrate on those.



Today I ventured over to Chantry Hill to see if I could find any Green Hairstreaks. It was still quite cool when I arrived with a chilly breeze so it took a little while before they became active. Thankfully I did manage to get a photo of one in reasonable condition, I hope this will be the first of many.



The day became even more enjoyable when a familiar face appeared not long after I arrived.

All the best

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Goldie M, 29-Apr-15 12:26 AM GMT

Lovely photos of the Grizzlies James, we don't see them around here so I'm very envious 🍷🍷 It's on my to get list 😊 Also love your Green Hair Streak it 's a great shot Goldie 😊

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 29-Apr-15 06:15 AM GMT

Lovely Grizzlies Rex 😊🍷 Still on my 2015 wish list, along with The Green one! Still fingers crossed for the weekend!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 02-May-15 04:26 AM GMT

Thank you very much for your kind and generous comments Goldie & Wurzel 😊 I hope you both manage to find some Grizzlies. It was great to see some Green Hairstreaks again. Grizzled Skippers and Green Hairstreaks are so different from one another yet they both delight in their own special way, I love to seeing them again every spring.

Going Green!

After spending a wonderful day with Neil Hulme and Gary Phillpot over at Chantry Hill "where I managed to take my first Green Hairstreak photo of the year" I thought I'd go and see how my local Greenies were fairing.

Yet again there was a chilly, strong and gusty wind blowing, so I thought I'd seek out some of the more sheltered areas – hoping the butterflies would have the same idea.

I duly arrived at the GHS spot and started looking..... nothing! After an hour of searching I decided to move on to another GHS area I know. Still some way off from 'the usual GHS hotspot' I caught a glimpse of that familiar jerky flight pattern near the periphery of my vision. BINGO it was a Green Hairstreak all right 😊 and better still it was the freshest GHS I've ever managed to photograph. The day was starting to look up!



I spent a bit of time trying to get a decent photo of this 'beautifully flawless' butterfly before I moved on to my intended destination. It didn't take long to find about 5 more Green Hairstreaks all showing various stages of wear and tear. I was particularly pleased to find an attractive GHS with a nicely defined "streak" of spots and a lovely metallic gold flash to its fore wing.



After finding my fresh GHS I didn't think the day could get any better, as is so often the case **I was wrong**. Before I set off for home I thought I'd take a look at one last area thinking it would provide a bit of shelter from the cold wind. As I looked downwards towards the bottom of the scarp I was very pleased to see BadgerBob approaching. I recently asked Bob if he would kindly help me find my first Marbled White Larva, unfortunately I've been so busy we'd not been able to arrange anything. As Bob came closer I jokingly shouted "where are all these Marbled White Larva you promised to show me then! Expecting a witty reply - perhaps followed up by an arrangement to meet up for a MW Larva hunt at a later date. Bob had other ideas - he led me to the place where he had been monitoring a wild Wall Brown Pupa. Thanks to Bob I was able to take a photo of the Pupa. I'd never seen a wild WB Pupa before so I was thrilled to see this.



Bob's kind generosity didn't stop there, after a short search he even managed to find me a Marbled White Larva as well!!!





Thanks to Bob and a flawless Green Hairstreak I had a marvellous day yesterday. Thanks again for all your help Bob.

Best Wishes

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 02-May-15 04:35 AM GMT

Possibly your best sequence ever, Rex.

Keep 'em coming!

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 02-May-15 04:41 AM GMT

Some great reports and images recently B'rex, fantastic stuff 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by bugboy, 02-May-15 04:56 AM GMT

Thanks for your comments Rex, loving your Hairstreaks and those MW early stages are a real find. Looks like the first Marbled Whites are only a few weeks away if there are already pupae!

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 02-May-15 06:00 AM GMT

I agree with David, an absolutely cracking post Rex, those Greenstreak shots are lush 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by trevor, 02-May-15 07:18 AM GMT

Hi James,

I'm seeing scattered OTs here and there, but nothing like last year.

Hope you enjoyed your day out with Neil, I'm sure it was an enriching experience.

All the best,

TREVOR.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 03-May-15 05:45 AM GMT

@ David, VERY kind of you to say that David, thank you. 😊

@ Cheers Neil, I've been enjoying your diary, lot's of great photos to enjoy.

@ bugboy, it was a friend that found the MW larva for me to photograph, they are not pupating yet, the MW larva was still an early instar. The Wall Brown Pupa "also found by my aforementioned friend" should join the other adults soon. In fact just before I took the photo an adult Wall Brown landed just to the right of us. 😊

@ Wurzel, You're most kind, I don't doubt that we'll soon be seeing some lovely Greenstreaks appearing in your diary soon.

@ Trevor, It's good to see you're finding some more OT's, perhaps we'll see a second wave when the Garlic Mustard blooms. I didn't know Neil was going to be there so it was a very nice surprise to see him, it's always nice to meet Neil – he's a great bloke.

Thank you all for your kind comments, I really appreciate it, especially as I've really struggled to get out as much this spring, or take as many photos as usual.

All the best

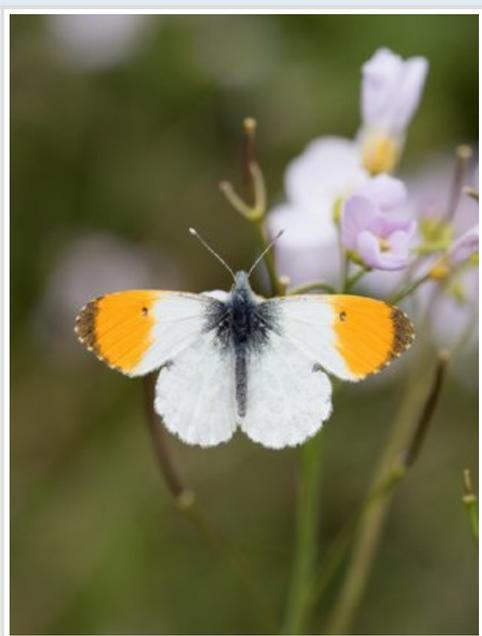
James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

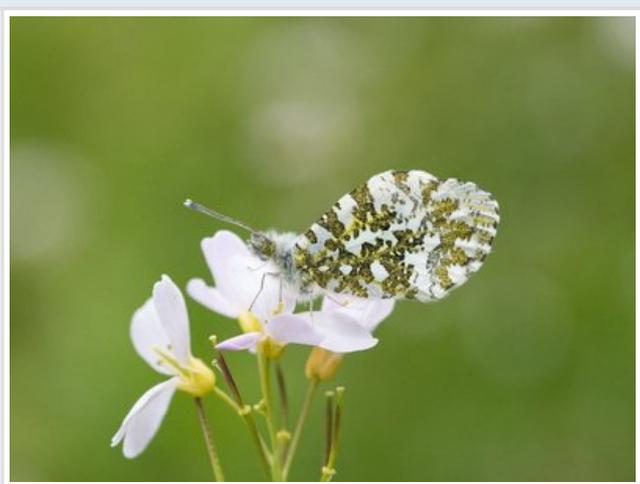
by Butterflysaurus rex, 06-May-15 01:28 AM GMT

Yesterday we were forced to abandon a family trip out thanks to the weather, the day started out fine and sunny but quickly deteriorated. So in the afternoon I quickly popped out to see if I could find a few butterflies.

I found one male Orange Tip,



one Female Orange Tip,



and a Female Green veined white.



Not too bad for the short time available to me, I would have stayed out a bit longer but the rain started to come down.

All the best

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 06-May-15 05:42 AM GMT

The quality of image you achieved is indicative of how poor conditions can sometimes (often, even) play into your hands.

Great stuff.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 06-May-15 05:55 AM GMT

"David M" wrote:

The quality of image you achieved is indicative of how poor conditions can sometimes (often, even) play into your hands.

Great stuff.

Thanks David, yes indeed cool overcast conditions can really help to slow some of our more frenetic butterflies down a tad. Giving me some more time to compose a shot and get a bit closer than usual. 😊

Best wishes

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 06-May-15 06:45 AM GMT

That first image is just great Rex 🍷 I have caught up with a few of the Green Ones but they were a bit tatty looking probably as they were hanging out on Bramble and Cypress 🤔😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 07-May-15 02:22 AM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

That first image is just great Rex 🍷 I have caught up with a few of the Green Ones but they were a bit tatty looking probably as they were hanging out on Bramble and Cypress 🤔😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel 😊 I'm looking forward to seeing your GHS photos, it can be **really** difficult to find one in undamaged condition. As you say the Brambles and (Gorse in these parts) quickly take their toll on those lovely emerald wings. I'm sure these gale force winds are not helping things too much either! 😊

Tomorrow looks a lot better but I'm not sure if I can get out. 😞

Best Wishes

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 07-May-15 04:03 AM GMT

Hi B'rex,

Some beautiful photos recently in you diary, great stuff 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 08-May-15 05:24 AM GMT

"Neil Freeman" wrote:

Hi B'rex,

Some beautiful photos recently in you diary, great stuff 😊

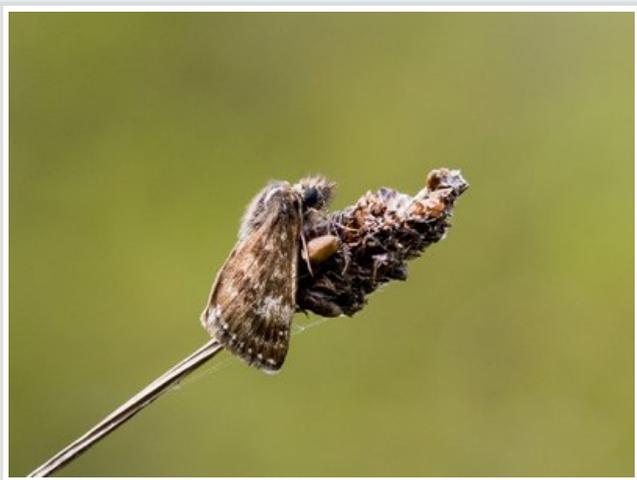
Cheers,

Neil.

Thank you Neil, I've really been enjoying your diary as well. You're doing a lot better than me this year. Things seem to be a bit slow around here at the moment!

A quick dash to my local Skipper spot late this afternoon yielded about 7 Grizzled and 5 Dingy Skippers. Not great for this particular site but I think more will emerge there over the next week or two.

I also saw my first brown Argus of the year but I didn't manage a photo. Oddly it appeared to be alone and a little worn, try as I might I couldn't locate another.





All the best
James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 08-May-15 06:21 AM GMT

Nice shots, Rex. I'm even more eager to catch up with Dingies having seen so many images over the past few days.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 08-May-15 07:14 AM GMT

Cracking shots Rex, it makes me want to get out there with my camera, but unfortunately it's a bit too late at present 🤖👁️

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 11-May-15 05:49 AM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Cracking shots Rex, it makes me want to get out there with my camera, but unfortunately it's a bit too late at present 🤖👁️

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks Wurzel, you could always take yyour camera to bed in case an interesting moff comes to visit 😊 I hope you got your Dukes this weekend.

"David M" wrote:

Nice shots, Rex. I'm even more eager to catch up with Dingies having seen so many images over the past few days.

Cheers David, I lost some of my best ever Dinky Skipper shots last week thanks to a faulty memory card. 😞 I hope you catch up with some and get some great photos.

A CHALLENGING DAY

This afternoon I made a visit to Abbots Wood to see my first PBF's of the year. By the time I made it to the main site it was very warm and sunny so I knew I'd be in for a hard time catching any pearls.

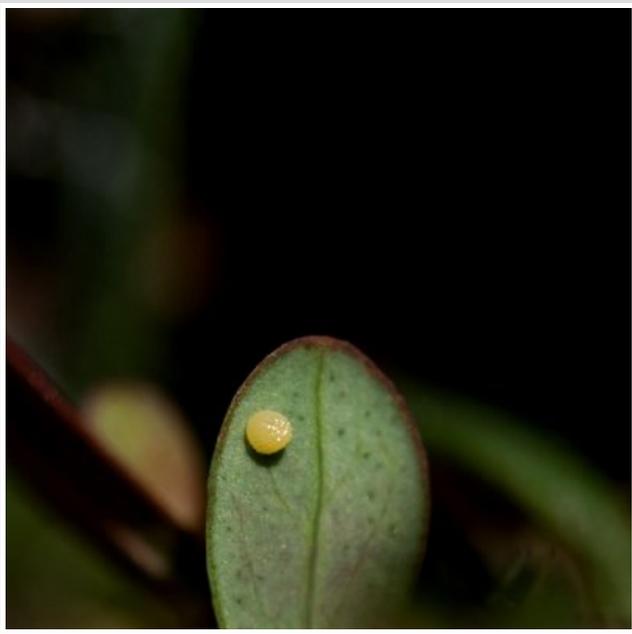
As expected they were whizzing around at break neck speed hardly ever landing. The best I could manage was this shot (below) after a lot of running around!



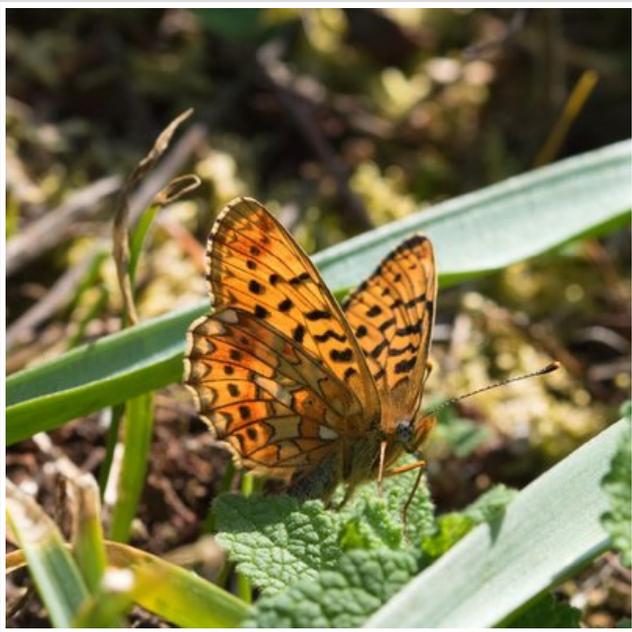
It wasn't long before I noticed that there were a few females laying eggs, so with the hope of a wonderful PBF shot unlikely I changed tack. I watched as this female found a good spot to deposit an OVA.



After she flew off I went over and very carefully turned over the leaf to reveal a beautifully fresh PBF egg, I took a couple of photos before turning the leaf safely back over.



Soon after I saw another female laying an egg.



It would have been nice to stay on until the evening and perhaps find some roosting pearls. Unfortunately I had to leave but very happy to have seen so much egg laying. Hopefully we'll see a bumper crop of PBF's at Abbots next year. In all I saw roughly 25 over about 3 hours and many of them appeared to be in great condition.

It's been a really good spring for Bluebells in Sussex this year, the vibrant colour has been a delight.



Best Wishes

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 11-May-15 06:53 AM GMT

Hi James,

I'm pleased that you saw some Pearls in Abbots Wood. The site you visited now has the main population (if it's the site I think it is). To me the number of Pearls this year is about the same as last year, so I'm hoping that they are at least holding their own.

It is interesting that neither of the Females in your images have laid their eggs on Violets (at least they don't look like Violets).

All the best,
TREVOR.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Pauline, 11-May-15 01:44 PM GMT

Morning James

I think the superb images you have captured are much more interesting and challenging than roosting Pearls. I would have loved to witness that so I am very envious 🍷 I believe that Pearls lay eggs in a variety of places including leaf litter close to the food plant but I would be happy to be corrected on that one.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 13-May-15 05:51 AM GMT

Interesting behaviour Rex and nice shots 😊 I really must get round to sorting my Pearl shots out...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 15-May-15 06:05 AM GMT

My apologies for the late replies everyone, I've had a very difficult week culminating with my mum being rushed into hospital – making an eagerly awaited and long planned visit to Heyshott for the Dukes impossible. Despite everything I have still managed a couple of local Butterflying excursions, reports to follow.

"trevor" wrote:

Hi James,

I'm pleased that you saw some Pearls in Abbots Wood. The site you visited now has the main population (if it's the site i think it is). To me the number of Pearls this year is about the same as last year, so i'm hoping that they are at least holding their own.

It is interesting that neither of the Females in your images have laid their eggs on Violets (at least they don't look like Violets).

All the best,
TREVOR.

Thanks Trevor, yes it was at the main site. I thought the number of Pearls was a little bit up on last year, it was certainly good to see some, still as difficult as ever to photograph though. 😊

"Pauline" wrote:

Morning James

I think the superb images you have captured are much more interesting and challenging than roosting Pearls. I would have loved to witness that so I am very envious 🙄 I believe that Pearls lay eggs in a variety of places including leaf litter close to the food plant but I would be happy to be corrected on that one.

Thank you Pauline you're very kind. I believe you are correct, Pearls do indeed lay their eggs either on or somewhere near their food plant. There are so many violets at Abbots that a newly hatched PBF larva wouldn't have far to walk for it's first meal.

"Wurzel" wrote:

Interesting behaviour Rex and nice shots 😊 I really must get round to sorting my Pearl shots out...

Have a goodun

Wurzel

I'm looking forward to seeing them Wurzel! 😊 I love your Holly Blue shots btw 🙄

This week – a two part entry. PART 1

After that hot day last Sunday chasing Pearl Bordered Fritillaries around Abbots Wood I managed to make a quick return visit on Monday in cooler weather. I didn't have a lot of time to spend there there but I did find a Pearl at rest.



Yesterday I popped over to a couple of my local spots, no substitute for my planned trip to Heyshott – but events conspired against me. The disappointment was compounded by it being a perfectly glorious and sunny day. So all I could do was make the best of it closer to home before visiting my mum in the hospital. Thankfully I had quite a productive day... so productive in fact that I will have to split this report up into two sections.

Holly Blues were everywhere, it was very warm so they didn't sit for long but I still managed to grab a quick shot – more by luck than skill.



I then came across my first Common Blues of the year. I saw 4 in total, the start of many more to come I hope.



Although these are not the first Wall Browns I've seen this year they are the first photos I've taken since last October. I'm very lucky to have a good population of Wall on my doorstep. They are one of my favourites. 😊



And that's all for part 1 – see you in part 2 😊

Best Wishes

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 15-May-15 06:37 AM GMT

Cracking stuff, bring on Part 2 soon please 😊

Smashing Wall 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 15-May-15 06:51 AM GMT

Hi James,

No, there had just been a duel! 😊

All the best,
TREVOR.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 16-May-15 04:55 AM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Cracking stuff, bring on Part 2 soon please 😊

Smashing Wall 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel, Most of my Wall photos seem to be males, I would like to add more females to my Wall folder. **IF** I can get close enough that is!

"trevor" wrote:

Hi James,

No, there had just been a duel!. 😊

All the best,
TREVOR.

By the looks of it they are about to begin round 2. 😊 Speaking of round 2.....

PART 2

Around 1pm I stopped off at a Green Hairstreak spot to eat my lunch, and hopefully observe any GHS activity going on at the same time. This proved to be a good idea because I did see quite a few active Greenies putting on a show. One GHS in particular caught my attention. She was busy laying her eggs roughly a meter away from me. At one point I stood up to have a drink moving a little closer for a better look, I took a mouthful from my water bottle and when I looked down again she actually flew between my legs! That's certainly another first for me! 😲 😊

I sat and ate my lunch expecting her to fly off at any moment and find another spot to lay some eggs. However she really seemed to favour this area – in the shelter of a small Hawthorn bush. For the whole 20 minutes (possibly half an hour) that I sat there as she busily laid what must have been a considerable number of eggs.

Here she is ready to deposit another Ova.



During my observation I could not help but notice that she was paying attention to one plant in particular, she returned to it several times. Now a couple of my reference books mention that Green Hairstreaks lay their eggs "singly; on tender shoot or flower bud" so when I carefully had a look I was rather surprised to see at least 3 Ova together.



Here's an attempt at a singling out an egg, not a great shot but these eggs are absolutely tiny!



Hopefully quite a few of her eggs will make it through to adulthood and we will see large numbers of these beauties next spring.



No Heyshott or Dukes for me (possibly this year) but I still had a really good day – all things considered.

Best Wishes

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 16-May-15 05:14 AM GMT

That last hairstreak is practically glittering out of my laptop screen! Stunning shot!

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Pauline, 17-May-15 02:52 AM GMT

Great shot of the eggs James 😊 I took a shot of one a couple of years back after watching it being laid on gorse and they are so tiny it is almost impossible to get a decent photograph of them – don't know how you managed it 🍷

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 17-May-15 06:18 AM GMT

Great shots Rex 🍷 😊 That last one is being a bit of a tease, almost showing the topside of the wing 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 17-May-15 06:52 AM GMT

Hi James,

Yes i'd go for that last shot, they are not an easy Butterfly to photograph in the sun. Looks as though this one was in the shade, lovely shade of green.

All the best ,
TREVOR.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Jun-15 07:32 PM GMT

Thank you Bugboy, Pauline, Wurzel and Trevor. Sorry I didn't reply earlier I've been ill and out of action for almost a month!

Just before I fell ill I was out looking for Wall Browns and I came across this lovely female, I took the photo on the 16th of May. Little did I suspect that this was to be my last butterflying trip for quite some time.



After a planned trip into Kent to see some Heath Fritillaries fell through I didn't think I would get to see any this year. Thankfully an unexpected opportunity came up to go on Wednesday. The weather was not great, it was VERY windy and sunshine was a rare commodity but I did manage to get some photos – phew!





It was so good to be outside again doing one of the things I love after such a long time. I also met some lovely people there which made the day even better.
Hopefully I won't be so unwell again for a very long time.

All the best

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Katrina, 13-Jun-15 07:58 PM GMT

Lovely photos, especially the first Heath Fritillary 😊

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by David M, 13-Jun-15 08:18 PM GMT

Excellent array of Heath Frit images. I bet it was an almost cathartic experience getting out after your earlier frustrations?

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 13-Jun-15 08:18 PM GMT

"Katrina" wrote:

Lovely photos, especially the first Heath Fritillary 😊

Thank you Katrina 😊 I really liked your last Silver Studded Blue photo. I've not seen SSB's before, I hope I manage to take a photo as good as yours when I see some.

B'W's

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Jun-15 08:24 PM GMT

"David M" wrote:

Excellent array of Heath Frit images. I bet it was an almost cathartic experience getting out after your earlier frustrations?

You're not wrong there David, it was thoroughly miserable being stuck indoors feeling awful for over 3 weeks! The lovely Heath Fritillaries made me feel so much better. This was a species I had not seen before too. 😊

ATB

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Willow, 13-Jun-15 10:56 PM GMT

Wonderful set of **Heath Fritillary** pics James, I just can't get enough of this lovely butterfly...thanks for sharing them 😊

Kind Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 14-Jun-15 02:47 AM GMT

Hi James,
Don't like the ill bit, hope the Heath Fritillaries provided the tonic !. Lovely images too.

Stay healthy,
TREVOR.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Pauline, 14-Jun-15 02:49 PM GMT

Sorry to hear you've been ill James. Those HF shots are fabulous. I love the colour combinations and the composition - very artistic and the kind of images I aspire to 🍷

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 15-Jun-15 12:36 AM GMT

"Willrow" wrote:

Wonderful set of **Heath Fritillary** pics James, I just can't get enough of this lovely butterfly...thanks for sharing them 😊

Kind Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt - venture out"

Cheers Bill, they really are lovely aren't they, I wish they weren't so scarce so we could all see them more often.

"trevor" wrote:

Hi James,
Don't like the ill bit, hope the Heath Fritillaries provided the tonic !. Lovely images too.

Stay healthy,
TREVOR.

Thanks Trevor, they certainly did, I was glad to see that you had a good day there too. I was only stay able to stay for a couple of hours but I enjoyed every minute of it. 😊

"Pauline" wrote:

Sorry to hear you've been ill James. Those HF shots are fabulous. I love the colour combinations and the composition - very

So kind of you to say that Pauline, it was one of the longest periods of illness from a virus I've ever had. it's so good to be out and about again.

Best wishes

James

Saturday Sun

Yesterday I had a wander around not too far from home. My hopes were not high, the wind was strong and gusty **yet again** 😞 and we're in the June gap. Anyway I thought I'd get some much needed exercise – if nothing else.

The wind was so strong that even the most sheltered places didn't provide much shelter. My expectations seemed to be confirmed when I reached one of my local hotspots and all seemed lifeless. So I sat down and waited for a bit. Then suddenly I caught a glimpse of something, to my surprise and delight a beautiful and fresh female Common Blue landed nearby! I quickly grabbed my camera and managed to get a few photos between gusts.



A bit further down the slope I found a second fresh looking female!



And then I noticed a few fresh and fluffy looking Small Heath's, one even posed for a rare photo op!!



Thanks to these sightings I easily exceeded my meagre expectations for the day, and I got my much needed exercise as well. 🧘

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 15-Jun-15 05:16 AM GMT

Hi James, glad to see you are out and about again after your recent illness 😊

Lovely Heath Fritillary images, particularly the second from last, love the background colour 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Maximus, 15-Jun-15 05:19 AM GMT

Simply stunning Heath Fritillary shots 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 16-Jun-15 05:32 AM GMT

"Neil Freeman" wrote:

Hi James, glad to see you are out and about again after your recent illness 😊

Lovely Heath Fritillary images, particularly the second from last, love the background colour 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Thank you very much indeed Neil, it was a lovely way to re-start my Butterflying activities. I was a bit out of practice with the camera so it was a relief to see some of my photos came out ok.

"Maximus" wrote:

Simply stunning Heath Fritillary shots 😊

Hello Mike, thank you for the kind and generous compliment. I have to say your photos have been wonderful, your also seeing a lot more species than I am down this way. Having said that I've not been out and about for very long, I did see my first Meadow Brown of the year today, summer really has begun!

Best wishes

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 16-Jun-15 07:14 AM GMT

It looks like you're back in fine form Rex – those Heaths are cracking and a lush female Common Blue 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 16-Jun-15 07:40 AM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

It looks like you're back in fine form Rex – those Heaths are cracking and a lush female Common Blue 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks Wurzel, I feel much better now, and just in time for the summer season too. I was really pleased to see that lovely female Common Blue, for some reason I only seem to get photos of damaged ones! It was nice to see one in mint condition for a change. In fact I saw several more fresh females, there was hardly a male to be seen.

Looking forward to your Heath Frit adventures, I'm glad you finally saw some – it was a first for me too. 😊

All the best

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Willrow, 17-Jun-15 08:59 PM GMT

Top of the form stuff James, nice to see things are back the way they should be for you 😊 looking forward to seeing lots more of your fine images and reports this summer 😊

Kind Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt – venture out"

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 18-Jun-15 03:47 AM GMT

Hi! Rex, glad your feeling better, your photos of the Heath are great, it's one species I shall probably miss this year but if I can see the Purple Emperor I'll be happy 😊 I'm just waiting now for some one to say they're out and about 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 18-Jun-15 06:04 AM GMT

"Willrow" wrote:

Top of the form stuff James, nice to see things are back the way they should be for you 😊 looking forward to seeing lots more of your fine images and reports this summer 😊

Kind Regards,

Bill 😊

"When in doubt – venture out"

Hi Bill, being unwell for so long means I've been really busy trying to catch up with just about everything. Thankfully I live quite close to some Sussex downland so I'm able to pop out in the morning or early evening for an hour or two. Hopefully when I've caught up I will be able to manage a few trips further afield for the less local species. Thank you for your kind words, I look forward to reading about your adventures too. 😊

"Goldie M" wrote:

Hi! Rex, glad your feeling better, your photos of the Heath are great, it's one species I shall probably miss this year but if I can

see the Purple Emperor I'll be happy 😊 I'm just waiting now for some one to say they're out and about 😊 Goldie 😊

Thank you Goldie, I've been trying to see some Heath Fritillaries for years now but it's like I've been cursed! It seemed like a mysterious force was trying to stop me seeing the Heath Fritillary. Finally this year I broke the spell – and what a relief it was too. I'm with you on the Purple Emperor front, I hope to see his royal purpleness this year. I hope both of us are granted an audience with his majesty – and we both get some good photos to remember the privilege. 😊

Home Turf.

On Sunday and Monday I went out for a stroll around my local area to see what was about. The answer was "not much" but we are in the middle of June and at least a couple of our Summer species are beginning to emerge close to home.

One of these being the Large Skipper.



And I've seen a few Meadow Browns.

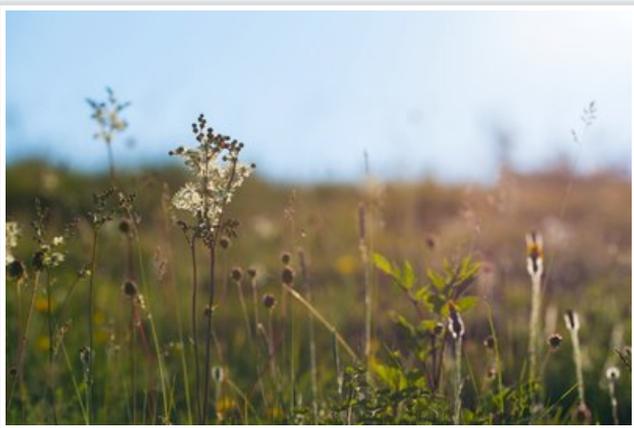


Other than that it's been all Common Blues and Small Heath's in my area.





Nothing terribly exciting but it's still early and we have so much more to look forward to during the next couple of months.



All the best,
James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 20-Jun-15 06:45 AM GMT

Some stunning images Rex, especially that last one – art that is 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 12-Jul-15 06:33 AM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Some stunning images Rex, especially that last one – art that is 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel, Sorry it's taken me so long to reply.

Sadly I don't seem to have enough time to update my diary as much this summer and it's been a while since my last update. I have still been chasing butterflies whenever I can though. Due to aforementioned time constraints I've decided to let my pictures do the talking. Probably just as well, writing is not my strongest suit anyway. 😊

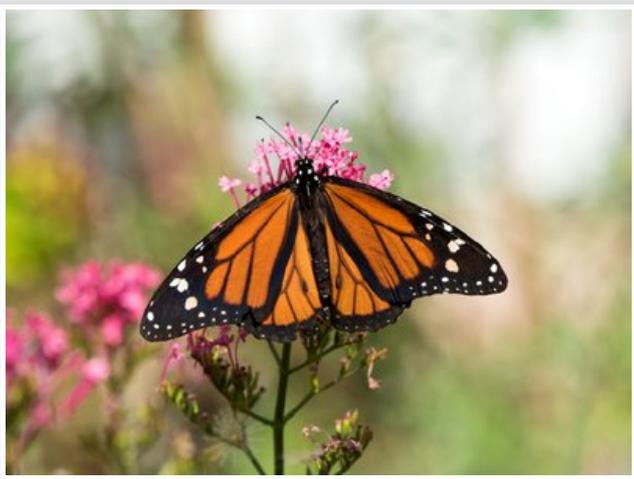
These were all taken during the past three weeks.

Silver studded Blues.





Brighton Monarch.





White-letter Hairstreak.







Purple Emperor.





Assorted.





That's all folks, untill the next time.

Best wishes

James

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Katrina, 12-Jul-15 06:40 AM GMT

Well done for seeing the Monarch and the Emperor! 😊

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 12-Jul-15 06:55 AM GMT

"Katrina" wrote:

Well done for seeing the Monarch and the Emperor! 😊

Thanks Katrina, yes I thought I was pushing my luck trying to see both on the same day. I just missed the main Purple Emperor action in the morning but luckily one came down late afternoon!

What with the Monarch in the morning and the Purple Emperor in the afternoon you could say that I had a pretty regal day. 😊

It was nice to meet you again btw.

All the best

James

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 12-Jul-15 06:36 PM GMT

Hi James,

A smashing selection of photos of a great range of species, bet there aren't many people who have seen Purple Emperor and Monarch on the same day



Cheers,

Neil

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Hoggers, 12-Jul-15 06:44 PM GMT

Monarchs and Purple Emperors in one day are all very well but a White Letter Hairstreak posing on your hand?! That's just showing off!!

Best wishes

Hoggers

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 12-Jul-15 07:11 PM GMT

"Neil Freeman" wrote:

Hi James,

A smashing selection of photos of a great range of species, bet there aren't many people who have seen Purple Emperor and Monarch on the same day 🌐 😄

Cheers,

Neil

Hi Neil, it was a pretty surreal day. Seeing the beautiful and enormous Monarch in the heart of Brighton, occasionally dodging the traffic as it crossed the road was an amazing sight! It looked stunning as it floated through the air just above our heads!! Most of the Purple emperor action seemed to be over by the time I got there. In fact most of the people there gave up soon after I arrived, this undoubtedly helped me get some photos of the PE unimpeded by the crowds. 😄 It was a lot of fun doing the double, I still can't believe I pulled it off!

ATB

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 12-Jul-15 07:15 PM GMT

"Hoggers" wrote:

Monarchs and Purple Emperors in one day are all very well but a White Letter Hairstreak posing on your hand?! That's just showing off!!

Best wishes

Hoggers

Yes Hoggers, I thought the White-letter Hairstreak was showing off too! Some Butterflies eh! 😄 😄 I was even more amazed to see that mating pair! I never thought I would witness that sight in my lifetime.

B'W's

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 12-Jul-15 07:48 PM GMT

Amazing range of species in your last few posts with great shots to illustrate them. 😄

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Willow, 12-Jul-15 11:00 PM GMT

You not only managed to see the **Monarch** (by Royal Appointment Rex 😄) but did it proud with some really cracking pics 😄

BW's

Bill 😊

"When in doubt – venture out"

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Jamie Burston, 13-Jul-15 12:39 AM GMT

Where were your White-letter Hairstreak photos taken ? Thanks, Jamie.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 13-Jul-15 01:23 AM GMT

Fantastic images Rex 🍷 😊 In terms of letting the pictures do the talking there's enough there for an entire evening of chatter at a WI meeting 🤔 😊 Like Jamie I'm intrigued where you found the Whitter?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by badgerbob, 13-Jul-15 01:59 AM GMT

Great images James and a fab spot for the mating WLH. I'm sure you now have your best ever shot of these gems.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 13-Jul-15 03:20 AM GMT

A Monarch and an Emperor in the same post is pretty much a Full House, Rex.

Well done!

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Jul-15 05:05 AM GMT

"bugboy" wrote:

Amazing range of species in your last few posts with great shots to illustrate them. 😊

Thank you very much buggo, Although I managed to see the Monarch and PE on the same day, the rest of my photos were taken over a three week period all over East and West Sussex.

"Willrow" wrote:

You not only managed to see the **Monarch** (by Royal Appointment Rex 😊) but did it proud with some really cracking pics 😊

BW's

Bill 😊

"When in doubt – venture out"

Hi Bill, the fact that the Monarch had taken up residence in the Royal Pavilion gardens only made the occasion seem even more appropriate. I'm relieved that I managed to get a few decent photos of the Monarch in the hour I was there.

"Jamie Burston" wrote:

Where were your White-letter Hairstreak photos taken ? Thanks, Jamie.

Hi Jamie.

This is not a straight forward question to answer. I've been spending the last few weeks looking all over Sussex for Elm's and possible sources of nectar to tempt them down within range of my lens. I managed to find some in Brighton and there are still some Elm trees out in the countryside but virtually all of them are showing signs Dutch Elm Disease. 😞 my photos were taken at any place I found a WLH in good condition. As ever the females were in better condition emerging later than the males. They also seem to **love** Creeping Thistle even more than Bramble flower – or so it would appear. So in answer to your question my photos were taken all over the place, even in my aunties back garden in Brighton. 😊

"Wurzel" wrote:

Fantastic images Rex 🍷🍷 In terms of letting the pictures do the talking there's enough there for an entire evening of chatter at a WI meeting 😊😊 Like Jamie I'm intrigued where you found the Whitter?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Hello Wurzel, I was kicked out of our local WI, something about having an extra appendage they didn't agree with, or not having a couple of thingamajigs. it was all very confusing! 😊 If I'd found all of those Whitters in one place I would have saved myself a lot of searching around!

"badgerbob" wrote:

Great images James and a fab spot for the mating WLH. I'm sure you now have your best ever shot of these gems.

Thank you so much Bob, it was your fantastic images of the WLH that inspired me to try and get something close to your achievement. I now know how hard you've worked to find these butterflies. It takes a lot of searching, persistence and patience to get photos as good as yours. And as for that mating pair! I feel like a right lucky so & so. 😊

"David M" wrote:

A Monarch and an Emperor in the same post is pretty much a Full House, Rex.

Well done!

Hi David,

It was one of those days when everything you hoped for actually happened. I thought the Monarch would be long gone, but thanks to Katrina's report about it being seen the night before I thought I'd risk a flying visit on my way to find some Purple Emperors. When I managed to see the Monarch I thought I'd used up all my luck for the day. Then only half an hour before I had to set off for home I was granted an audience with his purpleness. Two AWESOME butterflies in the same day, and I met some great people too. It was fantastic. 😊

Thank you all very much indeed for your extremely kind and generous comments, hopefully next year I will be able to update my diary properly – and keep up with everyone else's too.

My best wishes to you all

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 18-Jul-15 05:14 AM GMT

Wind Wind go away!

Down here on the south coast the strong and 'constant' wind is making butterfly photography rather difficult. It's also been a bit dull and cloudy for a good part of 'almost' every day here. Nonetheless I've been out & about trying to make the most of the wonderful WLH bounty we're having this year.

The vast majority of them are looking rather worn now – at least the ones I've seen. For a change I found some on bramble, but I'm definitely seeing more of them enjoying thistle. Hopefully I'm not overdoing the WLH photos – I'm rather fond of this little butterfly.





I've not been neglecting other species, Here's a small selection of some other "usual suspects" I've seen locally.
Essex Skipper.



Gatekeeper.



Small Skipper.



Marbled White.



All the best,
James

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by William, 18-Jul-15 05:32 AM GMT

Superb White-Letters, James – particularly that third one, one of those species I've only ever seen from below unfortunately 😊

BWs,

William

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 18-Jul-15 05:38 AM GMT

"William" wrote:

Superb White-Letters, James – particularly that third one, one of those species I've only ever seen from below unfortunately 😊

BWs,

William

Thank you William 😊 it took me several years to finally see some close up, they are great at being inconspicuous. Once you find them they can become quite addictive, well I'm hooked anyway! Now if only I could get some decent photos of the Purple Hairstreak. Like you I've only ever seen them from below.

ATB

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 19-Jul-15 05:48 AM GMT

Cracking Whitters Rex - I've seen some this year but none to photograph and none that close 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 19-Jul-15 06:23 PM GMT

Hi James, I get your frustration with the wind, either cloud or blustery breezes or both together have been almost constant features for me this year. The best weather is often frustratingly when I am at work.

Great photos recently, especially the WLH 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 04-Aug-15 11:49 PM GMT

Singing the Chalkhill Blues.

Thank you for your kind comments Wurzel and Neil, I'm sorry it's taken me so long to respond. 🙄

It would seem I'm a little behind with my diary so I'll have to "do a Wurzel" and play catch up.....

Last week the wind finally died down for a bit and luckily I had an afternoon free so I decided to scale Windover Hill to see what I could find. The Silver Spotted Skippers I was hoping to see didn't really materialise but there was plenty of other Butterflies to enjoy, like some fresh Chalkhill Blues. I took plenty of photos even before I made it to the top of the hill, including a few unusual ones of a Chalkhill Blue against a background of chalk. I thought that they looked a bit strange with an almost unearthly look to them.





Of course I saw more than some splendid looking Chalkies up there and my next post will include a few of them.

Thanks for looking. 😊

All the best

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 05-Aug-15 01:39 AM GMT

Hi James.

You beat me to Windover Hill by a week, and yes, it was windy. But the Butterflies were fabulous. Love your Chalkhill shots.

I will now look into my crystal ball and predict that i will bump into you in the next week or so 😊.

All the best to you and family,
TREVOR.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 05-Aug-15 04:42 AM GMT

Thank you kindly Trevor, I suspect we will meet again in the near future, there's still a good bit of the season left to go. 😊

All the best

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Hulme, 05-Aug-15 06:28 AM GMT

Hi James,

Lovely images all, but that first one is simply stunning!

BWs, Neil

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 06-Aug-15 12:45 AM GMT

Thank you very much Neil, I hope we'll be able to meet up again soon – it's been a while.

Take care

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 06-Aug-15 06:53 AM GMT

I agree with Neil Rex, that is a splendid Chalkhil shot 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 06-Aug-15 11:25 PM GMT

It seems we're all behind with our Diaries James, love your CHB's Goldie 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 09-Aug-15 02:03 AM GMT

"Goldie M" wrote:

It seems we're all behind with our Diaries James, love your CHB's Goldie 😊

Thanks Goldie 😊 better late than never I suppose. 😊

"Wurzel" wrote:

I agree with Neil Rex, that is a splendid Chalkhil shot 😊📷

Have a goodun

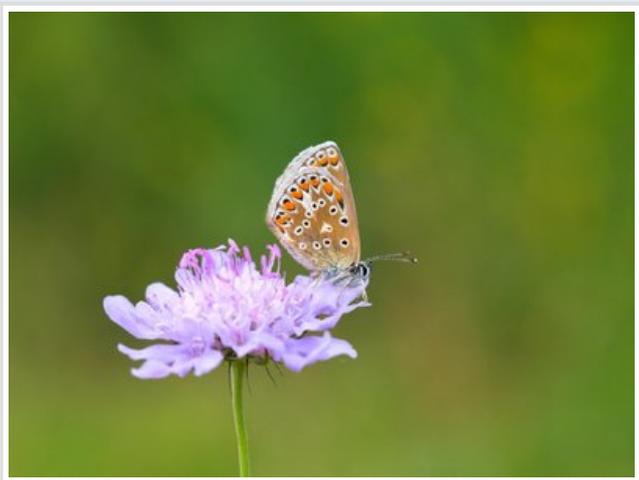
Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel, I hope you had a great time on your holiday. I can't wait to see your photos when you get back. 📷

Slightly UN-Common Blue.

Earlier last week I popped over to one of my local spots about 15 minutes walk away hoping to see a few fresh Common and Chalk Hill Blue's. It was a bit overcast and I was eaten alive by mosquitoes, I had roughly 7 or 8 bites on my back! At least the conditions slowed the 'usually frenetic' Blues down a tad.

After a good look about I came across this slightly unusual female Common Blue. She had some minor wing damage but she was still beautiful. She looked like she might be a bit of an ab to me, especially on the underside. See what you think.



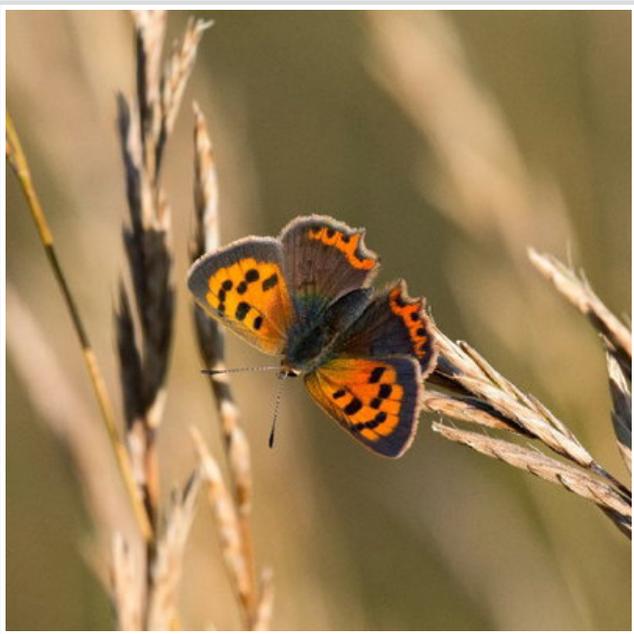
I also made a brief visit to Friston forest last week and saw this surprisingly fresh looking Ringlet!



Near Friston Forest I have my local Grayling spot, they were being as difficult as ever to get an attractive photo of but it was just a joy to watch them gliding up and down the scarp.



Whilst chasing the Grayling I was momentarily distracted by this lovely Small Copper.





I didn't get out a lot last week but when I did it was really productive 😊 and at least the wind had dropped off a bit... AT LAST.

Best Wishes

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by bugboy, 09-Aug-15 04:27 AM GMT

That is a nice common Blue with an eye catching upperside and underside! All the other pics are offcourse equally stunning and I'm glad other people are mentioning this years persistant wind, its not just following me around 😊 !

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 10-Aug-15 03:44 AM GMT

Thanks Buggy, the strong wind has been a real pain this year, thankfully we've just had a few calm days just to remind us what it's like.

The weather looks like it might be very unsettled again this week, and just when I was thinking about looking for some Brown Hairstreaks too. 😊

Your generous comments are most appreciated.

All the best

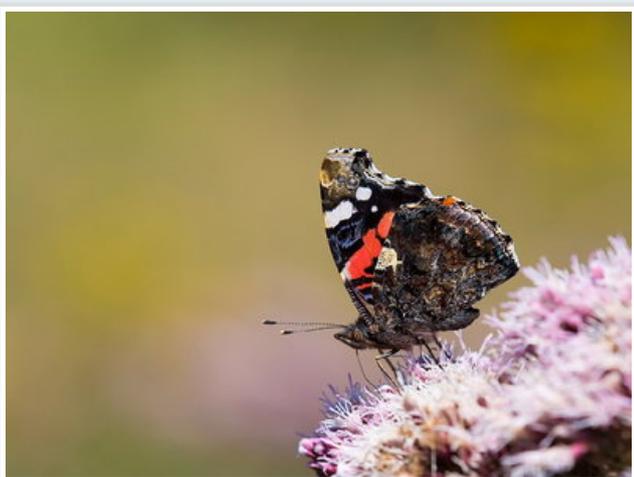
James

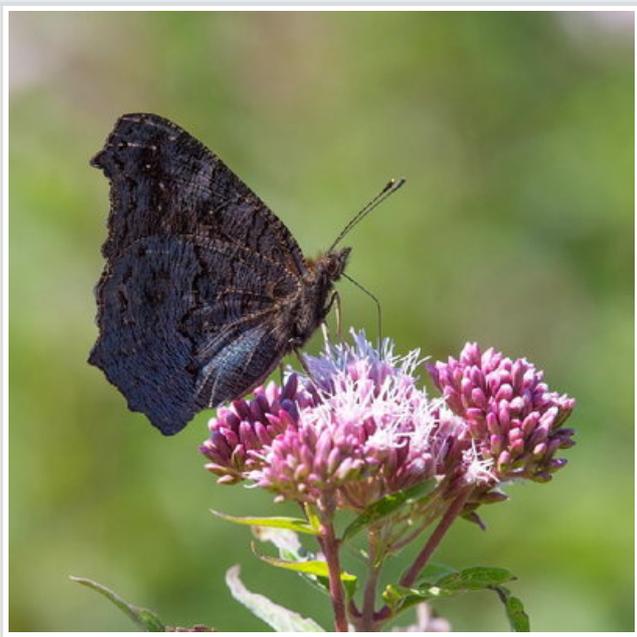
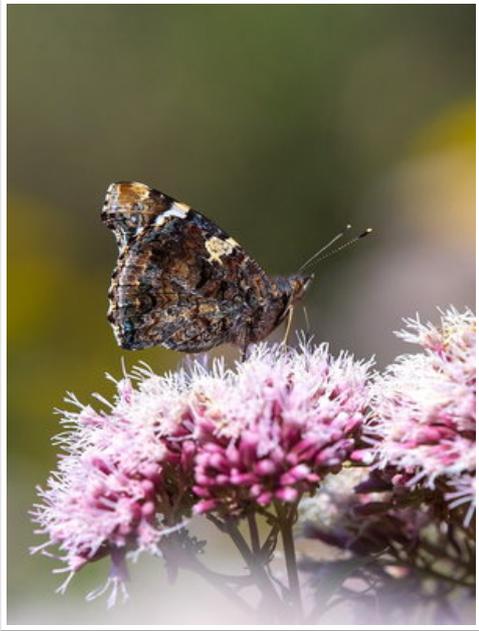
Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 11-Aug-15 01:46 AM GMT

A couple of Russian seamen and some bird from India!

I was back up on Windover Hill at the end of last week, unfortunately the return of the strong breeze scuppered my attempt to try for a better Grayling photo. However I found a sheltered corner where some very nice Red Admirals and Peacocks were busy nectering.





Best wishes

James

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Goldie M, 11-Aug-15 03:53 AM GMT

Nice shots of the Admirals and Peacock James, I always think they look very regal when their wings are closed Goldie 😊

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 11-Aug-15 04:47 AM GMT

"Butterfysaurus rex" wrote:
...A couple of Russian seamen...

I must be slowing down, it took me a minute to get that 😊😂

Lovely photos James.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Aug-15 02:25 AM GMT

"Goldie M" wrote:

Nice shots of the Admirals and Peacock James, I always think they look very regal when their wings are closed Goldie 😊

Thank you Goldie, they do don't they. It made for a nice change, I normally try and photograph their topsides but they were nectering too high up so I thought I'd attempt to get a photo of their (much neglected in my case) under sides.

"Neil Freeman" wrote:

"Butterfliesaurus rex" wrote:

...A couple of Russian seamen...

I must be slowing down, it took me a minute to get that 😊😊

Lovely photos James.

Cheers,

Neil.

Cheers Neil, I had real trouble thinking up a title for this entry and for some strange reason this popped into my head. Perhaps I ought to see a psychiatrist. 😊

All the best

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 13-Aug-15 06:02 AM GMT

Lovely selection of pictures in your past few posts James. It's often difficult to get the full beauty of a Red Admiral underside but you definately managed it 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by badgerbob, 13-Aug-15 07:29 PM GMT

Hey James.

Underside shots of Red Admirals don't come any better than that one!!

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 14-Aug-15 06:09 AM GMT

"bugboy" wrote:

Lovely selection of pictures in your past few posts James. It's often difficult to get the full beauty of a Red Admiral underside but you definately managed it 😊

Very nice of you to say that Buggy 😊 I was lucky that the light was in just the right place to illuminate the Red Admirals wing. Congratulations on seeing your first Brown Hairstreak, and what a beauty she was too!

"badgerbob" wrote:

Hey James.

Underside shots of Red Admirals don't come any better than that one!!

Hi Bob, thank you for your comment, especially considering all of the stunning photos you've taken this year! If you think it's good then I must be doing something right. 😊

All the best

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 19-Aug-15 04:05 AM GMT

A REAL SUMMERS EVENING AT LAST!

Last week we actually had a nice warm **"and calm"** evening for a change! So I ventured out after dinner to see what was about. By the time I reached my intended destination the sun was already low in the sky and I didn't have long before the sunset.

There were roosting butterflies all over the place but the trick was finding one or two in good condition before it got too dark! Thankfully I did find a couple of nice Silver Spotted Skippers at roost.



And this Cinnabar Caterpillar having some dinner in his rugby shirt.



By now the sun had almost gone but I just managed to grab a shot of this 'rather startled looking' Small Heath.



It was a lovely evening, the only drawback was that I came home covered in mosquito bites!

Thanks for looking.

ATB

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 19-Aug-15 06:28 AM GMT

Beautiful images Rex 🤔🇮🇪 Make the most of it now as it will soon be baths and bedtime routines eating into your evening butterflying 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 19-Aug-15 06:30 AM GMT

Love the Small Heath image. Haven't seen one for a few weeks and to be honest, they haven't been around in great numbers all year, sadly.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 19-Aug-15 08:11 AM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Beautiful images Rex 🤔🇮🇪 Make the most of it now as it will soon be baths and bedtime routines eating into your evening butterflying 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thank you very much indeed Wurzel, oh that all started a while back, I just managed to sneak out for a while, one of the grandparents did my bit. 😊😊

I hope you had a lovely time on Holiday, like everyone else I can't wait to see some of your more 'exotic' butterfly photos. 🇮🇪

"David M" wrote:

Love the Small Heath image. Haven't seen one for a few weeks and to be honest, they haven't been around in great numbers all year, sadly.

Well it's not as beautiful as your lovely Brown Hairstreak photo David but I think I earned a few "brownie points" 😊 for getting a photo of such a tricky butterfly. OK I'll get me coat.

Best wishes and 'happy Butterflying' to you both.

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Maximus, 19-Aug-15 08:32 AM GMT

Lovely photos in your PD James, Red Admiral, Silver-spotted Skipper and Small Heath 😊

Mike

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 19-Aug-15 11:33 PM GMT

Hi! James, I love all the shots especially the Silver Spotted Skipper 🍷🍷 Didn't get him this year, I like the way the evening Sunset behind him gives the photo a glow also for the Small Heath Goldie 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Sep-15 07:02 PM GMT

Huge apologies for my very late response Mike and Goldie. As ever thank you so much for your kind and generous comments.

EXCITING TIMES!

Well I can't really add anything to Neil Hulme's excellent report about the Long-tailed Blues in Sussex. What I can say is that after much searching over several weeks I was lucky enough to discover some Long-tailed Blues. And thankfully I was able to share some of these magic moments with a few friends. I can't believe I've now come across my second mating pair! If only I had such luck playing the lottery.



Courtship before coupling.





My second sighting on british soil! 🤩





Female on Boad leaved everlasting pea.



Female open wing.





Some males.



Apologies for the graininess on some of these images, the compression program I use seems to cause it, I must look into an alternative.

Thanks for looking.

All the best

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by badgerbob, 13-Sep-15 08:41 PM GMT

Hey James.

Well done to the Long-tailed Blue whisperer and thanks for helping me see a mating pair this time!! Great images and good to see the courtship on your images that I had missed.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Hulme, 13-Sep-15 08:51 PM GMT

Hi James,

Some epic images there! I'm glad that you were rewarded for putting so much time in. Not many people are determined enough to return to search sites following entirely fruitless days! Round Two should be much easier.

BWs, Neil

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 14-Sep-15 12:12 AM GMT

Excellent reportage, James. Wouldn't it be great if this insect became a regular visitor to the UK?

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Katrina, 14-Sep-15 01:07 AM GMT

Well done! Great photos too! 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Maximus, 14-Sep-15 02:14 AM GMT

Well done James, superb images, and well deserved after doing all that legwork 😊

Mike

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 14-Sep-15 04:38 AM GMT

"badgerbob" wrote:

Hey James.

Well done to the Long-tailed Blue whisperer and thanks for helping me see a mating pair this time!! Great images and good to see the courtship on your images that I had missed.

I'm just glad you were in the same area Bob, after only just missing out the last time it was a relief to see you arrive while they were still together. As you know I didn't see the courtship last time so that was a real delight to witness.

"Neil Hulme" wrote:

Hi James,

Some epic images there! I'm glad that you were rewarded for putting so much time in. Not many people are determined enough to return to search sites following entirely fruitless days! Round Two should be much easier.

BWs, Neil

As you know Neil persistence and effort do not always pay off, there's a huge amount of luck involved too. On this occasion my efforts were rewarded. Luck was on our side that day, you were coming to join me and the mating just happened out of the blue. No one was more surprised than me, I didn't think you got to see something this rare **twice!** The main thing is we all saw it and got some photos. What a day!!!

"David M" wrote:

Excellent reportage, James. Wouldn't it be great if this insect became a regular visitor to the UK?

It would indeed David, I know they are considered a pest on the continent but they are a real treat for us. They are stunning little butterflies.

"Katrina" wrote:

Well done! Great photos too! 😊

Thank you Katrina. The Monarch we saw in Brighton was pretty special too wasn't it! Even if it was probably an unauthorised release. No doubt I'll see you out there again somewhere. 😊

"Maximus" wrote:

Well done James, superb images, and well deserved after doing all that legwork 😊

Mike

Cheers Mike, It took a few weeks but my attempts to photograph a fresh Brown Hairstreak was going so badly I decided to chuck that in and look for Long-tailed Blues instead. I thought I was being a little crazy for doing that but thank heavens I struck gold, well blue anyway. 😊

Thank you all for your very kind comments.

Best wishes

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 14-Sep-15 04:54 AM GMT

Hi James,

I've got to award you 10 points for that lot, and not a few mrgreens !. Shame we didn't see any at Newhaven a few weeks back. Any more finds like that and i will have to fit a tracker to your car !.

Very, very well done,
Trevor.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 14-Sep-15 05:16 AM GMT

"trevor" wrote:

Hi James,

I've got to award you 10 points for that lot, and not a few mrgreens !. Shame we didn't see any at Newhaven a few weeks back. Any more finds like that and i will have to fit a tracker to your car !.

Very, very well done,
Trevor.

Thank you Trevor, I did have some extraordinary luck. We still had a nice time ambling about though didn't we. Chatting about your grand kids and my little one too. As you said one of the great things about all this is that it extends the season. If we have an early spring it might only be a few months before we're back out again. 😊

Your Large Tortoiseshell was a fantastic find, perhaps I will see one of those one day, well I can hope can't I. 😊

Best Wishes

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 14-Sep-15 05:52 AM GMT

A fabulous find 🍷, a fabulous series of shots 🍷 and it couldn't have happened to a nicer gent 😊. My only problem is that I could be here for the next hour adding 'Mr Greens' to the post to fully express my envy 😊😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 14-Sep-15 11:41 PM GMT

I second Wurzel 🍷🍷 I only wish I didn't live so far a way then I could be in on the search 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 15-Sep-15 04:10 AM GMT

Hi James, living in the midlands and having used up all my spare holiday from work for this year now it is unlikely that I will get to see this species any time soon, even if there is a large influx/emergence. I am however glad that people like yourself get to see them and post such great reports with fantastic accompanying photos 😊

Keep it up,

Neil.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by millerd, 15-Sep-15 04:49 AM GMT

Excellent LTB shots, James, and I join the others in explosions of 🍷🍷 Fingers crossed there will be some more...

Dave

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 15-Sep-15 05:05 AM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

A fabulous find 🍷, a fabulous series of shots 🍷 and it couldn't have happened to a nicer gent 😊. My only problem is that I could be here for the next hour adding 'Mr Greens' to the post to fully express my envy 😲😲😲

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Hi Wurzel, I've no doubt, if you lived down this way on the south coast you would definitely be in amongst the Long-tailed Blues. This first wave of migrants was probably more difficult to see, I didn't see any in 2013.

Anyway a Mr Green form you is always a very big compliment 😊. There's no doubt about it, I have been extremely lucky. As you know there are no guarantees, even if you put a lot of hours into it.

"Goldie M" wrote:

I second Wurzel 🍷🍷 I only wish I didn't live so far a way then I could be in on the search 😊 Goldie 😊

Hello Goldie, living on 'or near' the south coast does have it's perks 😊. Travelling long distances to see certain butterflies is a sad necessity these days. All we need is limitless time and lots of money, if you know how to acquire these please write your answer on a postcard and send it to Butterfliesaurus rex..... 😊

"Neil Freeman" wrote:

Hi James, living in the midlands and having used up all my spare holiday from work for this year now it is unlikely that I will get to see this species any time soon, even if there is a large influx/emergence. I am however glad that people like yourself get to see them and post such great reports with fantastic accompanying photos 😊

Keep it up,

Neil.

Thanks Neil, your diary has been so spectacular this year I would say that your spare holiday has been very well spent! My year has been so up and down that I've been living through your diary vicariously. I'm willing to bet that I've not been the only one either. So if you're getting the same kind of enjoyment out of my diary it's very nice to be able to pay you something back. 😊

"millerd" wrote:

Excellent LTB shots, James, and I join the others in explosions of 🍷🍷 Fingers crossed there will be some more...

Dave

Hi Dave, I'm keeping everything crossed too. I can't get enough of these little beauties. while the 'Pea growers of the world' stand united against the Pea Blue, I say please come over here, you are most welcome. 😊 In fact bring all your friends, the more the merrier. 😊

Thank you all for your very generous comments.

Best wishes

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 16-Sep-15 02:32 AM GMT

LTB mating in Britain X2 🍷🍷🍷 I think all the previous comments cover everything I might have to say 🍷. Just hope the weather improves in time for the british bred offspring!

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 17-Sep-15 05:43 AM GMT

"bugboy" wrote:

LTB mating in Britain X2 🍷🍷🍷 I think all the previous comments cover everything I might have to say 🍷. Just hope the weather improves in time for the british bred offspring!

Hi Buggy, well if good luck comes in threes I'm due another mating pair quite soon 😊. Seriously though no one was more surprised than me. I don't know what it is about me, but when I'm around the Long-tailed blues just seem to want to get it on! 😊 Maybe I've been eating too many peas.

All the best

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 19-Sep-15 05:42 AM GMT

Unusual Adonis day.

Even though I had already begun my search for 'immigrant's of the pea loving variety' I simply couldn't resist a day looking for some Adonis Blues with Badgerbob. Bob was already at our local Adonis hotspot and he'd already found a mating pair! This is a good start I thought! We'd not been there for long when Bob saw something unusual. Sure enough on closer inspection it was an *ab obsoleta*Tutt, I was delighted because it was my first ever sighting of an aberrant Adonis Blue. Thanks Bob 😊😊



Adonis Male, ab obsoletaTutt

We both chased this butterfly around trying to get some decent photos, Bob did better than me photographing this individual as you can see on his Blog here. <http://bobsbutterflies.blogspot.co.uk/search?updated-max=2015-09-01T21:30:00%2B01:00&max-results=7>

Despite our best efforts we lost him as he did the old 'vanishing trick' that butterflies are so adept at.

After that bit of excitement we had no choice but to resume our search for Adonis Blues of the more 'usual' kind. By now the weather was hot and humid and the butterflies were very active making photography difficult. Undeterred we widened our search to the lower slopes where we both spotted what appeared to be our aberrant friend once again. However we soon realised that this one was different, it appeared darker on the underside making it particularly visible in flight. To our surprise we'd found a second even more unusual ab!



Adonis Male, ab Krodeli Gillmer



Adonis Male, ab Krodeli Gillmer

This time 'with Bob's help' I managed to get some better photos. Thankfully this individual was more accommodating allowing us more time to photograph it.

It was a brilliant day in great company.

Many thanks to Colin Pratt and Rupert Barrington for the correct ID's.

ATB

James

Thanks for looking.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 19-Sep-15 06:50 AM GMT

Beautiful insect and a great find!

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 20-Sep-15 05:36 AM GMT

"David M" wrote:

Beautiful insect and a great find!

Thanks David, it was a real treat seeing those I can tell you, like having a double ice cream cone with two flakes! 😊

ATB

James

Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Wurzel, 20-Sep-15 06:15 AM GMT

Great finds Rex I've never found any aberrant Adonis despite looking 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysauros rex

by Butterflysauros rex, 20-Sep-15 04:47 PM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

Great finds Rex I've never found any aberrant Adonis despite looking 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel, it will happen one day, I'd never seen one before that day, but to see two in one day was a bit special. 😊

Many thanks Mr Hulme.

Yesterday I was lucky enough to be in the right area at the right time. Thanks to Neil I finally got my chance to photograph a newly emerged female Long-tailed Blue! Thankfully some other friends arrived to join in the fun. Another great day in great company.





All the best
James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 20-Sep-15 05:40 PM GMT

Hi James, nice Adonis ab. and great photos of it.

Great photos of the LTB too 🍷

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 20-Sep-15 08:18 PM GMT

Hi! James, I'm jealous of you lot down there 🍷🍷😄 your having all the fun with these unusual Butterflies, and lovely photos as well Goldie 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 20-Sep-15 10:24 PM GMT

Stunning specimen! Hopefully there'll be quite a few more before the end of the month. It's at times like this that I wish I didn't reside so far west!

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 21-Sep-15 03:22 AM GMT

Hi James,
Good to see you yesterday, and the others present. I have met all of them at different times but never all in one place. I think i can say a super day was had by all. It was one of my best experiences of the year. As for Mr.H. he is certainly right at the top of his game.
Lovely open wing shot too. 😊
All the best.
Trevor

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 21-Sep-15 05:49 AM GMT

It would seem this LTB was a very popular lady yesterday 🍷🍷🍷

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Maximus, 21-Sep-15 06:19 AM GMT

Great stuff and great photos, James, lovely LTB's 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 22-Sep-15 04:49 AM GMT

"Neil Freeman" wrote:

Hi James, nice Adonis ab. and great photos of it.

Great photos of the LTB too 🍷

Cheers,

Neil.

Cheers Neil, I've been a bit spoiled with my sightings recently, it's been great to end my season by seeing a few unusual butterflies. Anything that makes the winter feel shorter is fine by me. 😊😊

"Goldie M" wrote:

Hi! James, I'm jealous of you lot down there 🍷🍷😊 your having all the fun with these unusual Butterflies, and lovely photos as well Goldie 😊

Hello Goldie, it certainly is a fun way to end the season. Needles and haystacks spring to mind when looking for LTB's. 😊

"David M" wrote:

Stunning specimen! Hopefully there'll be quite a few more before the end of the month. It's at times like this that I wish I didn't reside so far west!

Thank you David, She was a stunning sight, I certainly would like to see another one before it's all over. You do live in a lovely part of the world though David, that must be more than a small consolation.

"trevor" wrote:

Hi James,
Good to see you yesterday, and the others present. I have met all of them at different times but never all in one place. I think i can say a super day was had by all. It was one of my best experiences of the year. As for Mr.H. he is certainly right at the top of his game.
Lovely open wing shot too. 😊
All the best.
Trevor

Thanks Trevor, it was a great day wasn't it. With all of the effort, time and research Neil puts into his butterflies I'm sure you'll agree that he really deserves what he finds out in the field. 😊

"bugboy" wrote:

It would seem this LTB was a very popular lady yesterday 🍃🍃🍃

Well when you look that good you're bound to grab all the attention. I don't think the others would disagree if I said that we could have watched her all day, inevitably she got fed up with us and gave us the slip. It was great while it lasted though. 😊

"Maximus" wrote:

Great stuff and great photos, James, lovely LTB's 😊

Very kind of you Mike 😊 I don't doubt that if you saw an LTB the resulting photos would be terrific. Your diary has been jam packed with fantastic photos this year, you must be very pleased with your achievement, I certainly would be.

My best wishes to you all.

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 22-Sep-15 06:20 AM GMT



Nuff said 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 23-Sep-15 06:05 AM GMT

"Wurzel" wrote:

:mrgreen: 🍃🍃🍃

Nuff said 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

I've collected so many mr greens from you Wurzel if I cash them all in do I get a prize? 😊 I need a nice new pair of binoculars "hint hint". 😊

ATB

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 25-Oct-15 11:50 PM GMT

Belting Blues at Beeding!

Since Neil Hulme's discovery of a Female Long-tailed Blue at Beeding on Friday the cool weather "thankfully" kept her sitting tight. This has been great news for me and lots of other UK LTB hunters because quite a few of us have now had the chance to see and photograph this beautiful 'and pristine' female. Despite the heavy rain on Saturday (at least where I was) I decided to chance my luck and head over to Beeding anyway. It turned out to be a very good decision (thanks Mark Colvin 😊) as I approached Shoreham the rain had stopped and it started to brighten up a little. I arrived to see a group of friends busy taking photos (always a good sign) and 'I suppose' thanks to the poor weather there were only six of us there! It gave all of us plenty of time to take some photos without the pressure of a large crowd.

Saturday 24th of October.



Sunday 25th of October.

Having left the Female at roost Bob and I decided to travel to Beeding the next morning. It was already quite busy by the time we arrived – it would soon get a lot busier! The promised sunshine was slow to appear making the female LTB reluctant to fully open her wings. This was the best shot I could manage but I was delighted to get a glimpse of the topside, this females wings were even more blue than the last UK born Female I saw.





Soon after these were taken it had warmed up enough for her to take flight, after spending a few more moments in the grass she ascended up into the bushes where we lost sight of her.

After this Bob and I decided to call it a day, this proved to be a poor decision. We were half the way home when my phone rang, it was my friend Gary telling me that "long distance enthusiast" Mark had spotted a pristine Male! So we rushed back just in time to see – and photograph it before it too flew out of our reach.



Thanks to this last photograph I am over the moon, I have now seen and photographed the full set of adult migrant and UK born Long-tailed Blues!

Since the first LTB invasion in 2013 – until now I have managed to see and photograph:

UK born mating LTB's 2013

Migrant mating LTB's 2015

I've also seen a large colony of LTB's in excess of 20 butterflies.

And finally thanks to the help of some friends I've photographed 2 newly emerged females and finally a fresh male! Thankfully I've managed to share all but one sighting with some friends making this all the more fantastic.

Thanks to a combination of good luck, hard work, and good friends I've achieved more than I ever thought possible with this species. I really must give special thanks to Neil Hulme and Bob Eade for their help enthusiasm and encouragement.

Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 26-Oct-15 02:12 AM GMT



Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 26-Oct-15 02:46 AM GMT

Thanks Trevor, it was a shame you had to leave early, that male was fantastic. Hope you got some nice photos today.

All the best

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 26-Oct-15 03:41 AM GMT

Great stuff James, very jealous but you certainly made the most of what you saw 🍷🍷🍷😄

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 26-Oct-15 04:34 AM GMT

Hard to see how it can get much better than this!

Some lovely images too which are a credit to you given the circumstances.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by badgerbob, 26-Oct-15 05:27 AM GMT

A terrific day James and thanks for grabbing hold of the steering wheel and making the car do a big U turn!! It was worth the effort. Glad you got some good results as well.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 26-Oct-15 05:55 AM GMT

"bugboy" wrote:

Great stuff James, very jealous but you certainly made the most of what you saw 🍷🍷🍷😄

Thank you Buggy, I'm sorry your attempts at Newhaven didn't pay off, hopefully if you try again it will be your lucky day.

"David M" wrote:

Hard to see how it can get much better than this!

Some lovely images too which are a credit to you given the circumstances.

Most kind of you David, I've just had a look at Neil's diary, it appears that it can get even better! What an end to the year!!

"badgerbob" wrote:

A terrific day James and thanks for grabbing hold of the steering wheel and making the car do a big U turn!! It was worth the effort. Glad you got some good results as well.

A really terrific day Bob, I'm so glad we went back! Thanks for everything today, I'm rather chuffed with that pristine male, I expect you could tell.

All the best

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Paul Harfield, 27-Oct-15 07:53 AM GMT

Hi James

Very nice indeed 😄😄 Your a lucky lot down there in Sussex 🍷

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 27-Oct-15 08:06 PM GMT

I'm so envious, 🍷🍷 lovely shots, Goldie 😄

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 28-Oct-15 02:53 AM GMT

I think the last time I saw your LTBs I gave it three well that is now on 🍷🍷🍷

Anymore and there won't be any left for anyone else 😬😬

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 28-Oct-15 05:33 AM GMT

"jackz432r" wrote:

Hi James

Very nice indeed 😊😊 Your a lucky lot down there in Sussex 🍷

Thank you Jack, it is making for an exciting end to the season down here. It does feel a bit weird seeing fresh blues at the end of October though!

"Goldie M" wrote:

I'm so envious, 🍷🍷 lovely shots, Goldie 😊

I hope you make it down to the south coast and manage to see one Goldie, they are not exactly abundant, perhaps there are quite a few more ready to emerge.... fingers crossed.

"Wurzel" wrote:

I think the last time I saw your LTBs I gave it three well that is now on 🍷🍷🍷

Anymore and there won't be any left for anyone else 😬😬

Have a goodun

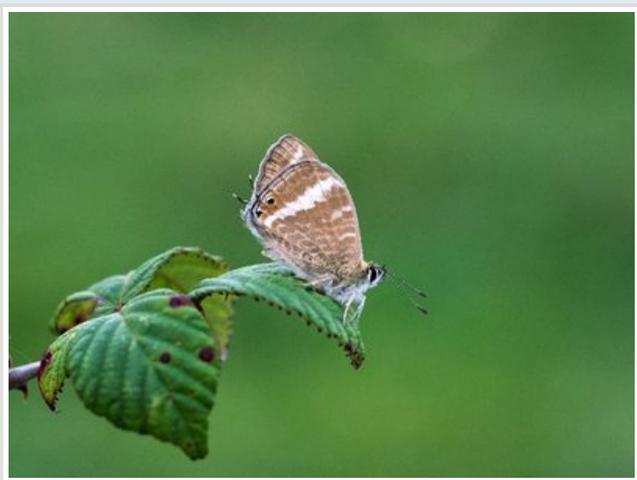
Wurzel

Hello Wurzel, a Mr Green from you is a badge of honour! I wear them with pride. 😊 Just for you here are a few more LTB photos from the past two days.

Thank you for your kind and generous comments all.

Long-tailed fireworks and spooky blues.

Thanks to Mark Colvin I was granted the rare privileged of seeing another 2 male LTB's over the last couple of days. I was too late to photograph the second male but I did see it briefly before it flew off. Many thanks to Mark and 'for co-finding the first Male' Downland Boy.





Also thanks Bob for helping me out today. 😊

Thanks for looking

ATB

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 29-Oct-15 04:56 AM GMT

Fantastic stuff, James. I only wish these beauties were similarly present in south Wales.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 31-Oct-15 06:08 AM GMT

This is getting ever more envy making Rex, if only it wasn't such a long drive away 😞🇬🇧 (Only one Mr Green , I have to leave some for others to use 😞)

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 31-Oct-15 08:17 PM GMT

Much too far for me to travel James, I'll just have to enjoy your shots and any other's that appear, 😞 I just hope when I'm in Kent next year the weather will be good enough for the butterfly to put in an appearance , until then, keep the photo's coming because although the weather has been nice here no sign of Butterflies lately so it's great to see yours 😊 I'm still 🇬🇧🇬🇧 though Goldie 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 02-Nov-15 06:56 AM GMT

"David M" wrote:

Fantastic stuff, James. I only wish these beauties were similarly present in south Wales.

Cheers David, yes I certainly wouldn't mind if these beauties became a regular feature over a large swathe of the UK. I'm not sure that the nations pea growers would be so hap-pea though. 😊

"Wurzel" wrote:

This is getting ever more envy making Rex, if only it wasn't such a long drive away 😞🇬🇧 (Only one Mr Green , I have to leave some for others to use 😞)

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks again Wurzel, during my LTB adventures I've seen people come from far and wide to see the Long-tailed Blue. Thankfully lots of them went home with a sighting and some photos. It's a risky trip to make, it's so easy to visit on the wrong day, miss one by a whisker. OR choose the wrong location. I felt the same about Kingsdown Leas in 2013 and that was a lot closer for me to get to than Sussex would be for you. Who knows hopefully we'll see a really huge influx cross the channel one year making such a long trip a dead cert. Would have been great to see you here though, maybe next time. 😊

"Goldie M" wrote:

Much too far for me to travel James, I'll just have to enjoy your shots and any other's that appear, 😞 I just hope when I'm in Kent next year the weather will be good enough for the butterfly to put in an appearance , until then, keep the photo's coming because although the weather has been nice here no sign of Butterflies lately so it's great to see yours 😊 I'm still 🇬🇧🇬🇧 though Goldie 😊

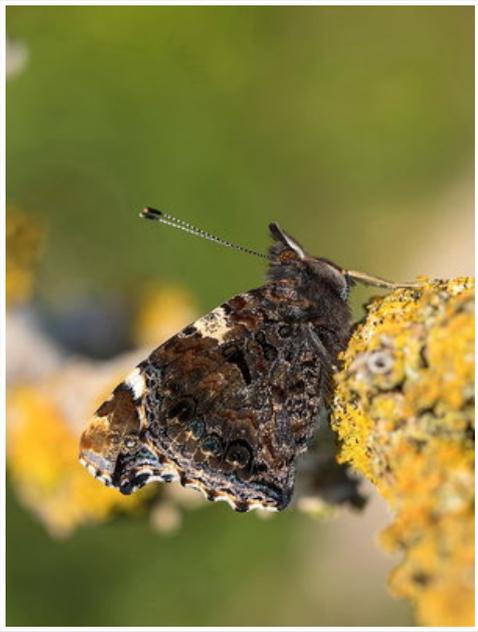
Like I iterated to Wurzel, I can completely understand why you didn't make the journey Goldie. I hope we get another wave of LTB's and you'll manage to see some, they really are beautiful butterflies.

Blue and red magic on old hallows eve! And a first for November in the UK!!

Thanks to a lack of frost this far into autumn the UK emergence of Long-tailed Blues has continued much longer than many had anticipated. If anyone had told me that I'd still be out chasing freshly emerged butterflies into November at the start of 2015 I wouldn't have believed it. BUT here we are, and what a lot fun it's been, not least because I've spent a lot of my time with some of the many friends I've made whilst chasing butterflies over the years.

So on a chilly 'Halloween' morning I found myself up on Brighton racecourse along with many other LTB hunters looking high and low (mostly low 😊) for some elusive and freshly emerged Long-tailed Blue's.

We all spread out and began searching the field where the everlasting pea grows close to the ground. During our search my friend Gary found a freshly emerged and stunning female Red Admiral. We couldn't resist taking a few photos of this lovely creature.



While we were busy taking photos of the Red Admiral my phone rang. A female Long-tailed Blue had been found by none other than Neil Hulme (no surprise there) so we rushed over to join the gathering throng. More can be seen over on Neil's diary.





Long-tailed Blue's in November!

Thanks to Neil a lot of people (me included) went home happy. As ever Neil has been very generous with his time, he has helped a lot of people to see UK born LTB's this year.

When I returned home I checked the forecast for Sunday, it said that thick fog would give way to some clear skies and unseasonably warm sunshine. I didn't need any more encouragement, I decided to ask Bob if he'd like to join me on the racecourse for 'possibly' one last bash at seeing one 'or hopefully more' LTB's. The lure of a UK first, a November Long-tailed Blue sighting was irresistible. So we arrived at about 10am to see Mark Colvin already at the site. Mark helped me to see a Male LTB on Monday, I was kind of hoping to repay the compliment by finding one for him. It wasn't to be though, whilst searching with Mark he managed to find a stunningly fresh male. We both shaded the male trying to keep it cool so it didn't fly off in the 'by now' soaring temperatures. We both got on our phones and put the call out for everyone to join us.





Thanks to Mark a lot of people saw and photographed this fantastic male before we lost sight of it. After it departed the search continued, I think about an hour past when my phone rang again, this time our very own Katrina had found yet another male! After a little bit of confusion we discovered that this was not the male from earlier on but a different individual. Well spotted Katrina! See more in her diary.

More and more people continued to arrive throughout the day, but apart from one brief fly past late in the afternoon no more LTB's were found disappointing the later attendees. On my way back to the car I spotted a very fresh looking Red Admiral basking in the strong November sun I just couldn't resist one last shot. A wonderful end to a brilliant day.



and wide facing straight at me! Not wanting to sound like a** kisser your photos have been excellent as usual.

"Goldie M" wrote:

I've just once again enjoyed all the LTB photos rex 🍷🍷 The weather here at present is depressing (FOG) 😞 never lifted all day so your photos are a breath of clean air Goldie 😊

You're very kind Goldie, we were VERY lucky that the thick fog cleared where we were on the south coast. We could see the fog further in land but thankfully it stayed away. It was unusually hot for the time of year but the grass was sodden with dew. My so called waterproof boots couldn't cope so I spent the day with very wet feet – all part of the fun. 😊

Many thanks for your kind comments all.

All the best

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Katrina, 03-Nov-15 04:49 AM GMT

Loving the first picture – a fantastic shot!

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 03-Nov-15 04:58 AM GMT

Hi James, I am really enjoying all these LTB reports and photos , of which yours are amongst the best. That first male is a stunner 😊🍷

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 03-Nov-15 06:55 AM GMT

Good to meet you too James.

I must join in with the rest and compliment you in the shots you managed to get. Aside from the LTB's I do also like the Red Admiral underside picture 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 03-Nov-15 06:56 AM GMT

"Katrina" wrote:

Loving the first picture – a fantastic shot!

Thank you Katrina 😊 it's the one I showed you and Vince on the back of my camera. A lucky shot I was surprised to get! Great to see you and your sister over the weekend. I'm sure she's gone home with some wonderful memories.

"Neil Freeman" wrote:

Hi James, I am really enjoying all these LTB reports and photos , of which yours are amongst the best. That first male is a stunner 😊🍷

Cheers,

Neil.

Hi Neil, I was really surprised to have got the shot! It's really kind of you to give me such a big compliment, there are so many lovely LTB shots on UKB and elsewhere. In all the excitement it can be difficult to concentrate. It's often been a worry if I'll have anything good enough to keep or post.

All the best

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 03-Nov-15 07:02 AM GMT

"bugboy" wrote:

Good to meet you too James.

I must join in with the rest and compliment you in the shots you managed to get. Aside from the LTB's I do also like the Red Admiral underside picture 😊

Cheers Paul, the Red Ad underside photo was all thanks to my friend Gary, he found it after it had just emerged! Of course while we were busy taking photos of it the shout went up "Neil's found a female LTB!" as you can imagine we just legged it. 😊

ATB

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 04-Nov-15 06:23 AM GMT

Sounds crazy even in mid-season! To have this happen so late in the year is exceptional.