

P.J.Underwood re Croatia

by P.J.Underwood, 25-Aug-16 09:37 AM GMT

Having visited Croatia some 3 years ago and produced an extensive list,I was happy to spend a week with the family enjoying a beach holiday at Trogir,near Split.The Scarce Swallowtail was very common as were the Long Tailed Blue and Geranium Bronze.I attach a few photo's of note.
P.J.U.



Woodland Grayling



Southern White Admiral



Long tailed blue



Geranium Bronze

P.J.Underwood – Denbies.

by P.J.Underwood, 26-Aug-16 04:04 PM GMT

On Wednesday, 17th Aug we firstly visited Denbies Hillside in search of "adonis". We were depressed when we saw the extreme growth of the vegetation compared with the past. It was very butterfly unfriendly. The Silver spotted skippers had moved to the field on the right and were easy to find. Chalkhill blues and Common Blues were also seen at the top of that field. My question is "what has happened with the grazing? Are there still rabbits around?" No Adonis were seen on this occasion, despite good weather.

We then moved on to Pewley Down, an excellent site with lower vegetation where the small blue is being encouraged. And then to Oaken Wood – another neglected site which is most depressing after the winter work we put in over past years. However, Botany Bay was much better, where we perhaps saw the last second brood Wood White of the season at 4.10pm.

Determined to find Adonis we returned to Denbies Hillside on Wed. 24th Aug. The weather was very hot, and we found just one (of the second brood) at the top of the field on the right. The good news was that there was a notice on the lower gate stating that Belted Galloways were being introduced, but it will need a good flock of sheep controlled by electric fencing to make much difference.

What do others think?

P.J.U.

Re: P.J.Underwood.

by bugboy, 26-Aug-16 06:00 PM GMT

The Galloways were there at the end of last year. I remember bumping into Susie and she commented that they were earlier than usual. My thinking is that the mild winter and wet spring has produced a glut of vegetation 🤔 Would a change in grazing regime be needed to compensate for a warming climate? I visited on the 21st and saw perhaps 6 or 7 males flying but I left just as the clouds were clearing so it probably reached the dizzy heights of double figures!

Re: P.J.Underwood.

by trevor, 26-Aug-16 07:24 PM GMT

Good to see you posting on here again PJ. I'll bet you have a lot of material we would like to see.

Next year at Chiddingfold I will leave early !! 😊

Very best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: P.J.Underwood.

by P.J.Underwood, 27-Aug-16 06:50 AM GMT

Trevor,

Thank you for those comments. I have not been able to do my usual butterfly trip to far off lands this year, due to the illness of my friend. However the future is looking bright. We saw two Valesina varieties in Botany Bay on Wed. 17th Aug.

P.J.U.



Silver washed frit.f.valesina

Re: P.J.Underwood.

by Mark Colvin, 27-Aug-16 07:30 AM GMT

Good morning, Philip.

In my opinion the image you have posted is of a 'normal' female *paphia* not the *valesina* form. The *valesina* form of the female is a deep olive-green instead of the usual orange-brown.

Good hunting.

Kind regards. Mark

Re: P.J.Underwood.

by P.J.Underwood, 27-Aug-16 07:35 PM GMT

Sorry Mark,It just appeared to have rather a lot of green on it-like a Cardinal.
Philip

Re: P.J.Underwood.

by millerd, 27-Aug-16 08:26 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

The Galloways were there at the end of last year. I remember bumping into Susie and she commented that they were earlier than usual. My thinking is that the mild winter and wet spring has produced a glut of vegetation 🤔 Would a change in grazing regime be needed to compensate for a warming climate? I visited on the 21st and saw perhaps 6 or 7 males flying but I left just as the clouds were clearing so it probably reached the dizzy heights of double figures!

I agree with Buggy that the weather this year is probably to blame. When I visited Denbies at the tail end of April, it looked relatively normal. I think the rampant grass growth has been since then, after the end of any winter grazing, so I don't think the regime is at fault. Denbies is not alone – Box Hill is much the same, and Aston Rowant. The grass is extremely tall. Even my local patch has dry grass stalks at eye level at the moment in the meadow areas – even the unfussy Meadow Browns don't seem happy with that.

Dave

Re: P.J.Underwood.

by Pete Eeles, 27-Aug-16 09:13 PM GMT

P.J.Underwood wrote:

Sorry Mark,It just appeared to have rather a lot of green on it-like a Cardinal.
Philip

Something to look forward to, P.J. ... when you see your first *valesina* your jaw will drop, your tongue fall out, etc. 😊 Happens to me every time ;)

Cheers,

– Pete