

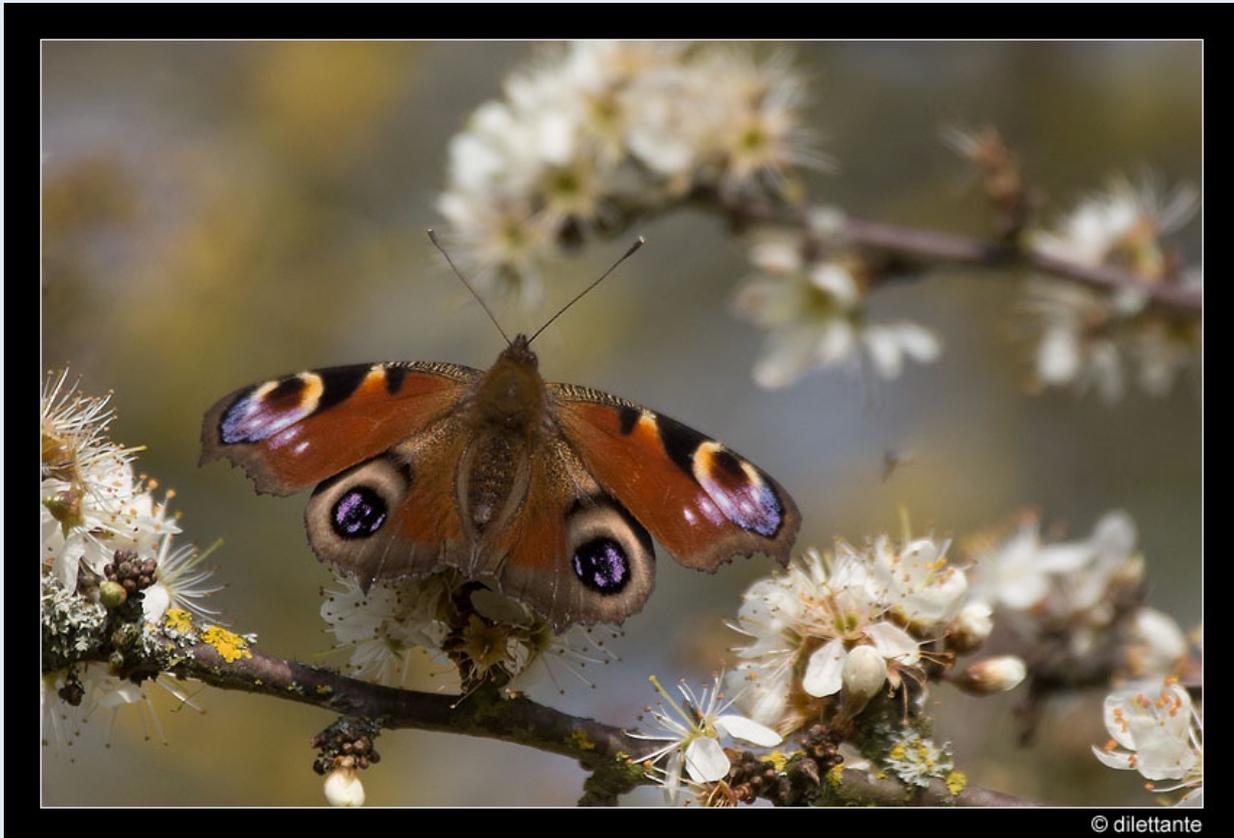
## dilettante

by dilettante, 03-Apr-16 06:08 PM GMT

It was a long time coming but my first butterfly of the year was a Brimstone on 25th March, then not much again until this weekend, with several Brimstones in the garden, and a Comma and Peacock seen round the village on Saturday. Also a possible Speckled Wood which I disturbed while out running, but didn't get a positive ID.

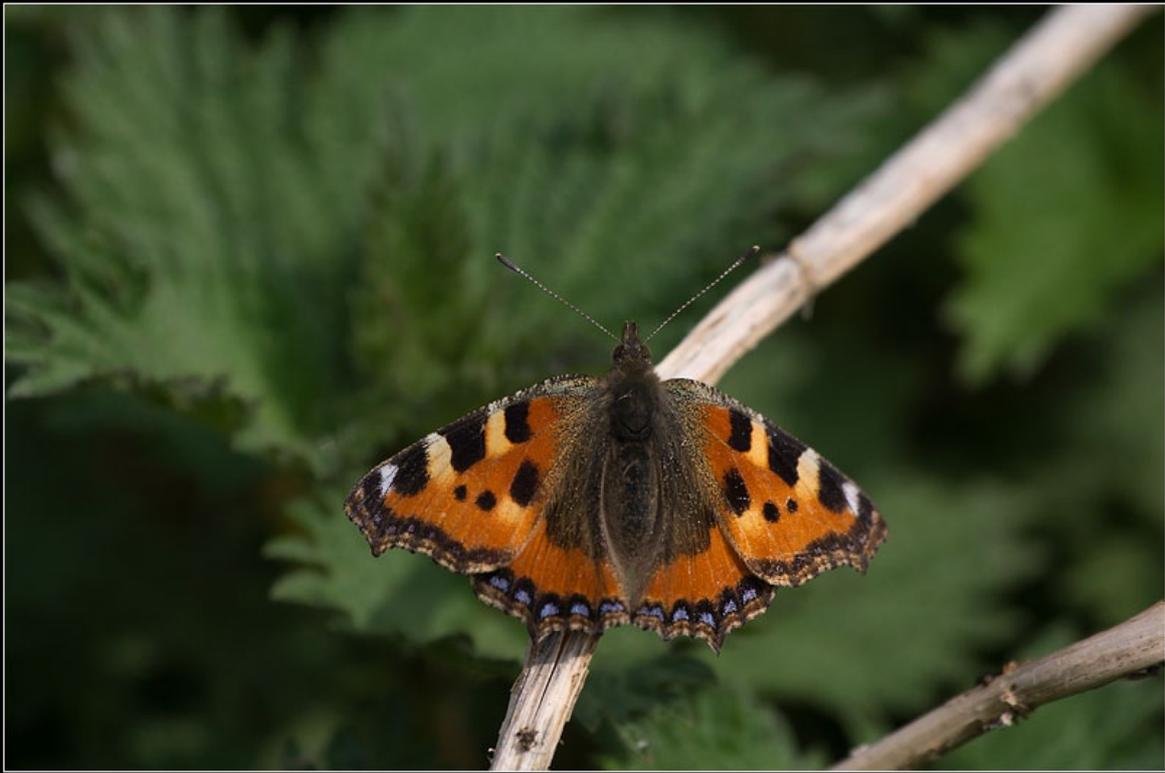
### Sunday 3rd April 2016

We took a trip to Fen Drayton RSPB reserve. Although it was a bit less sunny than yesterday, I saw a couple of Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells, and a single Comma. And managed to get my first butterfly photos of the year:



© dilettante

Peacock



© dilettante

*Small Tortoiseshell*

### Re: dilettante

by Wurzel, 04-Apr-16 10:58 AM GMT

Lovely shots of Dilettante – that Peacock is a peach 😊🇬🇧

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### dilettante

by dilettante, 02-May-16 03:07 PM GMT

**Monday 2nd May 2016**

A warmer but windy morning here in South Cambs. On a walk with my son, and no camera, I managed six species today:

- Brimstone
- Unidentified white, probably Small
- Comma
- Small Tortoiseshell
- Speckled Wood (first of the year)
- Holly Blue (f.o.y.)

The Holly Blue posed obligingly for me to get my phone camera to within a few centimetres to get this shot – not bad for a phone shot!



© dilettante

*Holly Blue female*

No Orange Tips today, although a saw a couple in Cambridge yesterday.

**Re: dilettante**

by Wurzel, 03-May-16 10:06 PM GMT

That's a mighty fine image whatever it was taken with Dilettante 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: dilettante**

by David M, 04-May-16 10:23 PM GMT

Beautiful Holly Blue female, Dilettante. Irrespective of the apparatus one uses to photograph them, they're all divine. I just wish one would pose like that for ME in spring. 😞

**dilettante**

by dilettante, 28-May-16 06:51 PM GMT

Out for a bike ride with my son, we were passing Over Cutting (Cams) so I stopped to look for grizzlies. There was a gentleman there who said he'd been looking for an hour and not seen any, but almost as soon as he walked off, I spotted one basking. It allowed me to get close enough with my phone camera, and I got a better shot than I've managed previously with my 'proper' gear.



© dilettante

*Grizzled Skipper*



© dilettante

*Grizzled Skipper*

**Re: dilettante**

by Trev Sawyer, 29-May-16 12:39 PM GMT

Let's hope she lays lots of eggs Paddy...

The site looked good this year after the undergrowth had been cut back – last year it was left and I feared for Little Grizz's future there (again!).

Trev

### Re: dilettante

by Wurzel, 29-May-16 09:55 PM GMT

Those are cracking images again Dilettante – do you mind me asking which phone you use? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: dilettante

by dilettante, 29-May-16 11:15 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel. It's a Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge.

### dilettante

by dilettante, 05-Jun-16 09:26 PM GMT

#### Sunday 6th June 2016

Sunshine at last, after a miserably cold, wet and windy week and an abandoned camping trip. After a cycle ride with my family in the morning, during which I saw 8 or more Painted Ladies, I went out on my own in the afternoon to a footpath between my village and one of its neighbouring villages. For some reason I've only taken this path one or two times in the nearly 20 years I've lived here – because it's not part of a circular walk, I guess – but today it was a delight. It passes through some arable fields but also a patch of managed young woodland with wide grassy meadow / rides.



Not only did I see 11 or 12 species – nothing particularly unusual but a good count after the poor weather recently – but there were good numbers of many of them. I don't recall ever seeing so many Holly Blues in one place (despite there being no holly or ivy apparent), Brimstones were everywhere, and Speckled Woods, which have been scarce so far this year, were plentiful too.

#### Species seen:

- Peacock (old and tatty)
- Small Tort (likewise)
- Painted Lady
- Red Admiral
- Green-veined White
- Brimstone
- Orange Tip
- Large White
- Holly Blue
- Common Blue
- Speckled Wood



© dilettante

*Painted Lady enjoying the hawkbit (?)*



© dilettante

*Common Blue*



© dilettante

*Speckled Wood, one of many seen*



© dilettante

*Small Tortoiseshell a little past its prime*



© dilettante

*Ghost Moth*



© dilettante

*This Orange Tip settled for about a microsecond!*



© dilettante

*Red Admiral, which was basking close to a Speckled Wood with whom it kept duelling*



© dilettante

*Orange Tip female, a bit more cooperative than her male counterpart*

**Re: dilettante**

by dilettante, 11-Jun-16 08:41 PM GMT

**Saturday 11th June 2016**

Therfield Heath, Herts in overcast but warm conditions. Initially no butterflies to be seen at all – a sign of being in that quiet period between the Spring butterflies and the later Summer emergers. We soon found a few Small Heaths and a colony of Brown Argus, all rather busy and hard to photograph. Then my first Large Skipper of the year. Nice to see the familiar orange blur:



© diletante

*Large Skipper male*

Later on the hillside we found the cluster of Bee Orchids I'd seen here for the first time last year:



© dilettante

*Bee Orchid*

and nearby a female Brown Argus



© dilettante

*Brown Argus female*

Towards the bottom of the hill I saw my first Meadow Brown of the year, but only managed a dull record shot. Nearby in a small hollow, this Common Blue was posing nicely, occasionally duelling with a nearby Brown Argus male who also put on a nice display:



© dilettante

*Common Blue male*



© dilettante

*Brown Argus male*

So generally pretty quiet – add a single Green-veined White and a Speckled Wood to the above – but some definite highlights.

**Re: dilettante**

by dilettante, 02-Jul-16 04:44 PM GMT

Saturday 2nd July 2016

Another trip to Royston Heath, Herts, more for a picnic and a walk than to look for butterflies. Despite a stiff breeze, there were a fair few Marbled Whites around, and Meadow Browns. No sign of Chalk-hill Blues yet though. This was the highlight, a single Dark Green Fritillary that stayed still long enough for a phone grab shot before blowing off down the wind.



Another nice sight was a 'cloud' of 5 Small Heaths all circling together – I normally think of them as pretty solitary.

**dilettante**

by dilettante, 16-Aug-16 11:08 PM GMT

Just back from a great couple of weeks in Devon and Cornwall for a family holiday.

This is the only Small Copper I've seen all year, rather sadly. This was near Sennen Cove / Land's End:



© dilettante

A rather tatty Grayling, one of two or three seen. This one was near <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C3%AAn-an-Tol>



© dilettante

I found Walls in a few places along the coast. This one was near Pendeen



© dilettante

Red Admirals were common everywhere. This rather fresh one was actually in the Cotswolds, where we'd stopped for a couple of nights to break the long journey home from Cornwall



© dilettante

**Re: dilettante**

by David M, 18-Aug-16 10:13 PM GMT

**dilettante wrote:**

This is the only Small Copper I've seen all year, rather sadly.

A frightening statistic. Sadly, I think I've seen more Small Coppers during a day trip to the Isle of Man than I have all year on the mainland. Worrying stuff.

**Re: dilettante**

by Wurzel, 18-Aug-16 10:59 PM GMT

I was worried too about the Small Coppers but I've seen them at four different sites recently so hopefully they're having a final surge – great shots as always dilettante 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: dilettante**

by dilettante, 19-Aug-16 02:01 PM GMT

I hardly ever see Small Coppers near me in Cambs, so I'm not sure I can say they've declined, but it's a shame they're so hard to find.

**dilettante**

by dilettante, 24-Aug-16 05:41 PM GMT

I went down to a local chalk pit reserve (Cherry Hinton East Pit) in the heat yesterday, hoping for a Clouded Yellow as they've turned up there before. No luck on that front, but I was pleased to see good numbers of Common Blues, which have been noticeably few and far between this year. Several active males, and females ovipositing. Some probable Brown Argus also, but I wasn't able to confirm.