

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 03-Apr-16 11:58 AM GMT

Spring 2016

After a terrible winter full of serious illness and a death in the family it was a real relief to finally get out for a bit and look for some butterflies 'and other assorted creatures' yesterday. It was a lovely spring day and the Butterflies were responding to it vigorously in the BC PCH reserve. The most numerous butterfly there were male Brimstones.



Followed by some Peacocks.



Commas were the least numerous butterfly with only 2 seen. I didn't see any Small Tortoiseshells but that's not unusual for this woodland reserve.

I did see a splendidly marked Adder to round off a wonderful couple of hours.



Thanks for looking

ATB

James

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by trevor, 03-Apr-16 05:10 PM GMT

That's a very fine Brimstone image, James. I went to the Cuckoo trail in Hailsham yesterday morning, that was rewarding too.

Sorry to hear about the ill health and death in the family.

Sure to see you around,
Trevor.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 03-Apr-16 05:23 PM GMT

Great shots Rex and I', really glad that things are getting better for you, I hope you have a fantastic 2016! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 03-Apr-16 07:06 PM GMT

Thats a great backlit Brimstone James. Sorry to hear about your winter, I hope things get better for you over the coming months.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 03-Apr-16 08:23 PM GMT

Hi James,

Sorry to hear about your terrible winter. I know from experience how therapeutic a spell outdoors can be and glad to see you managed a good session.

Love the Brimstone image.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 03-Apr-16 10:13 PM GMT

Neil Freeman wrote:

I know from experience how therapeutic a spell outdoors can be and glad to see you managed a good session.

Agreed.

Nature can uplift you at any time, and maybe never more than at the worst times.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Padfield, 03-Apr-16 10:42 PM GMT

My sympathies and condolences, James. I wish you a peaceful season 2016.

Guy

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 04-Apr-16 10:42 PM GMT

Thank you all so much for your kind words of support, I really do appreciate it. There are some wonderful people in our Butterfly community, it's a real delight to know so many of you in person, and on the forums here.

Indeed, getting out again to see nature waking from her winter sleep was just what I need after the awful events over the winter. As you all say just being out there seeing some butterflies and listening to the birdsong never fails to lift your spirits.

I hope everyone has a fantastic season, I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone's wonderful photos and reports this year.

My very best wishes to you all,

James

P.S see you around soon Trevor 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 05-Apr-16 06:19 PM GMT

A chilly breeze this afternoon failed to dampen the Small Tortoiseshell's ardour. It only took a very brief stroll close to home to see at least 5 pairs courting.

Still no sign of any Speckled Wood locally but I am close to the sea and they usually emerge a bit later here. Hopefully soon.



Still waiting to see a Red Admiral, and Commas are a bit thin on the ground around here as well.

Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 14-Apr-16 09:30 PM GMT

The difference between East and West

With things now kicking off next door in West Sussex with newly emerging Orange Tips GVW's and Grizzled Skippers I decided to venture out and see if I could find any activity here 'near the coast' in East Sussex. It felt nice and warm on Tuesday so my hopes were high even though we're usually a week or two behind West Sussex most years. I took a 3 mile route over some local downland that's usually pretty good for producing Green Hairstreaks and Grizzled Skippers.

Right from the start I could see that most of the plant life was too underdeveloped for supporting GHS. I knew that I would have to wait a little while longer for things to get going closer to home. I was more than compensated by really good numbers of Brimstones and by far the most numerous butterfly of the day - roughly 30 Peacocks counted along the way! At about the 2 mile mark I was pleased to see my first GV white of 2016 fly past me. The only other butterflies seen were a few Small Tortoiseshells on the homeward stretch.

In all I had a really good day, it was very pleasing to see Peacocks doing so well. And I think 'in a first for me' I started off my fresh spring butterfly tally with a GVW!



Who'd have thought that after such a mild winter spring would unfold later than it did last year!

Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Katrina, 14-Apr-16 11:14 PM GMT

Beautiful photo James, lovely and glittery Peacock.



Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 15-Apr-16 08:07 PM GMT

Katrina wrote:

Beautiful photo James, lovely and glittery Peacock.



Thank you Katrina, I think I enjoyed the sunshine as much as the Peacock did. It's a shame the weather is set to turn cold and unsettled, it looks like I'll have to wait to see some Orange Tips.

All the best

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 15-Apr-16 08:32 PM GMT

Hi James, lovely image of the Peacock on the blossom 😊

Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:

...Who'd have thought that after such a mild winter spring would unfold later than it did last year...

Not sure what it was like down your way but here in the midlands, after a mild first half to the winter, it turned colder from mid Feb onwards and we certainly had more frosts than last year. Now I just need a bit more decent weather at weekends instead of in the week when I am at work 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 15-Apr-16 08:50 PM GMT

Thank you very much Neil, it did turn colder here in February too but I think we were spared the worst of the frost. I guess I've been spoiled over the past couple of years by early spring emergences. This time it's a bit more traditional so I'll just have to be patient.

I hope we get some good weather at the weekends, I remember last year it seemed like most of the nice weather was during the week.

With luck after this cold period has passed we'll get plenty of warm spring sunshine to really get things moving. I look forward to your photos & reports to come.

ATB

James

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Goldie M, 18-Apr-16 10:29 AM GMT

Hi! James, love your Peacock shot, the white blossom certainly shows the lovely colours of the Peacock making them stand out, quite lovely. Goldie 😊

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 18-Apr-16 10:43 PM GMT

That Peacock shot is beautifully framed Rex 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 07-May-16 06:36 PM GMT

Thank you very much indeed Goldie and Wurzel. 😊

The Pearls of Abbot's Wood.

Thanks to a cold like virus and my camera deciding to mess me about I've not been out much or taken many photos yet this spring. Despite these setbacks I've still managed see most of the spring butterflies with the exception of the Duke and Duchess 'and until today' some Pearl Bordered Fritillaries.

So with this in mind I popped over to Abbots wood in search of some PBF's. To my surprise and delight there were a lot more Pearls on the wing than I had expected. The warm conditions ensured they were very active, even during the prolonged overcast spell mid morning. The highlights of the day included this heavily marked male, possibly an ab?



And thanks to eagle eyed Dave a mating pair.



It was a joy to see so many Pearl's, long may it continue.

Thanks for looking.

ATB, James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 07-May-16 07:00 PM GMT

Sorry to hear you've been unwell but glad you've been able to get out. Great shots of the Pearls, I'm already planning another trip to Abbots Wood to get a serious dose of them next week!

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 07-May-16 07:07 PM GMT

Thanks Paul, it was one of those bugs that just went on and on.... Try and get over to Abbot's Wood as soon as you're able, there are still a lot of very fresh looking ones about. As ever the problem is getting them to sit still long enough for a photo. I look forward to seeing your photos and reading your report.

ATB

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Maximus, 07-May-16 07:48 PM GMT

Glad you're feeling better, James, very nice PBF shots 😊

Mike

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Katrina, 07-May-16 07:50 PM GMT

Brilliant photos James!

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 07-May-16 08:11 PM GMT

Hi James,

I'd call that first image of the PBF a bread and butter shot, with a good layer of jam on it with the mating pair.

Seriously superb stuff. I've been to Abbots Wood quite regularly this year and to me the Pearls are having a better year than the last two.

Keep well,
Trevor.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 07-May-16 09:08 PM GMT

You have pulled off a duo of excellent images. Firstly, that PBF is surely sufficiently irregularly marked to qualify as an ab., and a mating pair is the icing on the cake.

Superb stuff!

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by badgerbob, 07-May-16 10:02 PM GMT

Excellent shots James. And there was you asking about how to get decent Pearl shots!! My turn now, how do you get decent Pearl shots????

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 07-May-16 10:45 PM GMT

Maximus wrote:

Glad you're feeling better, James, very nice PBF shots 😊

Mike

Thank you Mike, aren't kids are wonderful, they are particularly adept at picking up every bug going and giving it to you. My immune system needs a holiday!

Katrina wrote:

Brilliant photos James!

Very kind of you Katrina, I'm quite relieved to have taken something that didn't need putting in the bin. I've had a bit of camera trouble lately so that's where most of my photos have ended up.

trevor wrote:

Hi James,

I'd call that first image of the PBF a bread and butter shot, with a good layer of jam on it with the mating pair.

Seriously superb stuff. I've been to Abbots Wood quite regularly this year and to me the Pearls are having a better year than the last two.

Keep well,
Trevor.

I agree Trevor it was fantastic there today, I missed out on most of last years PBF's due to ill health. More than made up for it today though.

David M wrote:

You have pulled off a duo of excellent images. Firstly, that PBF is surely sufficiently irregularly marked to qualify as an ab., and a mating pair is the icing on the cake.

Superb stuff!

Thank you David, I've seen Pearl Bordered Fritillaries with pronounced markings before but this one really caught my attention. The large blocks on the forewings are a little bit asymmetrical. I didn't notice that until I got home. I was delighted to see the mating pair too of course.

badgerbob wrote:

Excellent shots James. And there was you asking about how to get decent Pearl shots!! My turn now, how do you get decent Pearl shots????

Well you get a large butterfly net and some superglue. Perish the thought! As you said it's all down to luck. I still want to know how you manage to be so lucky so often though. Your recent PBF photos have been fantastic.

Many thanks to you all.

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 07-May-16 11:12 PM GMT

Fantastic photos Rex – good to see you back on top form! I would definitely add that Pearl to my files as an aberrant. 😊🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by keving, 08-May-16 09:34 AM GMT

Lovely PBF photos James. Hope they are still about at the end of the month when I hit the sunny west country.

Regards Kev

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 09-May-16 06:30 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Fantastic photos Rex – good to see you back on top form! I would definitely add that Pearl to my files as an aberrant. 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel, I was very lucky to get a photo of it, I got there reasonably early and it was the first one I saw. Sometimes luck is on your side. 😊

keving wrote:

Lovely PBF photos James. Hope they are still about at the end of the month when I hit the sunny west country.

Regards Kev

Thanks very much Kev, I hear they are not started yet in a West Sussex location, so if they are later further west then I think you're in with a very good chance. Best of luck. 😊

Green Hotstreak!

Yesterday I stayed local in the hope of finding some Green Hairstreaks. I arrived at the usual **hotspot** and it really lived up to its title. Not for the number of Hairstreaks but because it was so warm, being the balmiest day of year so far. I started searching but there was no sign of a Greenie anywhere – I thought perhaps the GHS's were avoiding me this year, I ignored the paranoia and came to the more sensible conclusion that it was still a bit early. There was no denying that the butterflies were a bit thin on the ground, at least there were a few very fresh Dingy Skippers emerging. After an hour fruitless searching for Green Hairstreaks I saw the familiar figure of Badgerbob off in the distance photographing a Dingy Skipper. It's an odd 'but good' thing but whenever we meet up butterflies appear. We teamed up and started to look around, we hadn't been looking for very long when Bob spotted our first Brown Argus of the year!



After that we wondered about hoping for more surprises but it wasn't to be. Just after midday Bob had to leave, I thought about heading for home as well but it was lunchtime so I thought I'd have a final look for some Green Hairstreaks while I ate my sandwiches. As ever as soon as you try and eat the action starts. I saw a Greenie settle close by so I chucked my sarnie back in my bag and grabbed my camera.

By now it was so hot that the Hairstreaks were sensibly avoiding the sun making a decent side shot very difficult. these were the best I could manage.



Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 09-May-16 06:49 PM GMT

Hi James,

Glad to hear you are over your bout of illness. Great reports and photos, particularly those PBF images 🍵 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 10-May-16 09:46 PM GMT

Nice to see a BA finally! 😊 🍵 Love the way Greenstreaks perch on the end of the twigs 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 10-May-16 11:28 PM GMT

I wouldn't mind a couple of Green Hairstreak shots like that, James !.
To me they are the trickiest of all Butterflies to photograph 🍵 .

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 11-May-16 04:10 PM GMT

Great Butterfly Shots Love the Green Hair Streak 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 11-May-16 08:17 PM GMT

Neil Freeman wrote:

Hi James,

Glad to hear you are over your bout of illness. Great reports and photos, particularly those PBF images 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Thank you Neil, you are most kind. May I add my heartfelt congratulations on the arrival of your baby granddaughter. 😊

trevor wrote:

I wouldn't mind a couple of Green Hairstreak shots like that, James !.

To me they are the trickiest of all Butterflies to photograph 🍷 .

All the best,

Trevor.

I was really pleased to get a closer look at a couple of Green Hairstreaks Trevor, my previous 2 attempts had failed. They are lovely little things, I find they often sit still for their portrait but it can be tricky to capture their true beauty and iridescent sheen. And finding a fresh one can be tricky too of course.

Goldie M wrote:

Great Butterfly Shots Love the Green Hair Streak 😊 Goldie 😊

Hello Goldie, I loved your Green Hairstreaks too, I just hadn't gotten around to telling you yet. 😊 Glad to see you're in amongst the butterflies at last.

Thanks for the lovely comments everyone.

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 07-Sep-16 07:02 PM GMT

Just when you thought you'd got rid of me. 😊

Due to the combined vagaries of bad weather, a poorer than average butterfly season – and being very busy indeed I conceded that it was probably best to put my diary on ice for a while. I still went out as much as I could but I generally stayed close to home this year. Luckily I still saw some interesting things and I managed to take a few photos, so without further ado I'll start off roughly where I left off.

It was a struggle to find many Orange tips locally but I managed to find a few and I observed a bit of their life stages too.





Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 10-Sep-16 07:35 AM GMT

The act of hanging up your camera for what remains of this season, might allow a certain law to kick in. Especially if you go for a walk over at Tidemills sans camera !. Hope you will visit the old railway next Spring

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 10-Sep-16 11:05 PM GMT

Great shots and great to see your diary kicking off again 😊 – and not just because it's nice to see someone even further behind than me 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 11-Sep-16 09:59 AM GMT

Good to see you back, James.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 11-Sep-16 02:58 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

The act of hanging up your camera for what remains of this season, might allow a certain law to kick in. Especially if you go for a walk over at Tidemills sans camera !. Hope you will visit the old railway next Spring

Best wishes,
Trevor.

For a second I thought you meant "the law of diminishing returns there Trevor" but not to worry I always take a small camera around with me in case I see something unexpected. I just won't be taking my big camera out. To be honest after years of taking photos of old and faded specimens most of which end up in the bin to save on space, this time of year usually provides slim pickings unless we see a third brood of something.

I might just visit the old railway in the spring but I'm know we'll meet whatever happens.

Until the spring.... unless.....

Wurzel wrote:

Great shots and great to see your diary kicking off again 😊 – and not just because it's nice to see someone even further behind than me 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thank you Wurzel, it's nice to be back, at last it's nice to have a bit more time to post. Being behind is not so bad, it extends the memory of summer for a while longer. I still hope to meet you one fine day let me know if you're ever head over this way.

David M wrote:

Good to see you back, James.

Most kind of you David, I've missed chatting to you all.

Best wishes

James

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by bugboy, 11-Sep-16 06:59 PM GMT

Yes good to see you back posting lovely imagies. Orange-tip pictures at this time of year...making me yearn for spring all over again!

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 12-Sep-16 07:47 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

Yes good to see you back posting lovely imagies. Orange-tip pictures at this time of year...making me yearn for spring all over again!

It's great to hear from you buggy, thanks for the kind words. I must say your diary has been great this year. I've really enjoyed reading about all of your adventures Wonderfully illustrated with your photos. I'm looking forward to seeing what you get up to next year.

I know how you feel, Spring is such a wonderful time, I can't wait for it to begin all over again myself.

Best Wishes

James

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 12-Sep-16 07:48 PM GMT

Hi James, good to see you posting again...and with such a great reminder of what we can hopefully look forward to next spring.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by millerd, 12-Sep-16 07:58 PM GMT

Good to see you back, James. Posting six months adrift should see us all nicely through the winter months! 😊 I suppose we are roughly half way round to the first of 2017's Orange Tips...

Looking forward to some more photos!

Dave

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 12-Sep-16 08:12 PM GMT

millerd wrote:

Good to see you back, James. Posting six months adrift should see us all nicely through the winter months! 😊 I suppose we are roughly half way round to the first of 2017's Orange Tips...

Looking forward to some more photos!

Dave

Hello Dave, unfortunately I didn't do too well this year so I only have enough posts to see me roughly until mid November – if I post one a week that is. I'm usually a bit of a loner when I'm out butterflying but this year I spent more time in the company of some great friends. That made for some great times even though I under performed a bit this year.

Not too long before those Orange tips arrive, I hope we all have a great season next year.

All the best

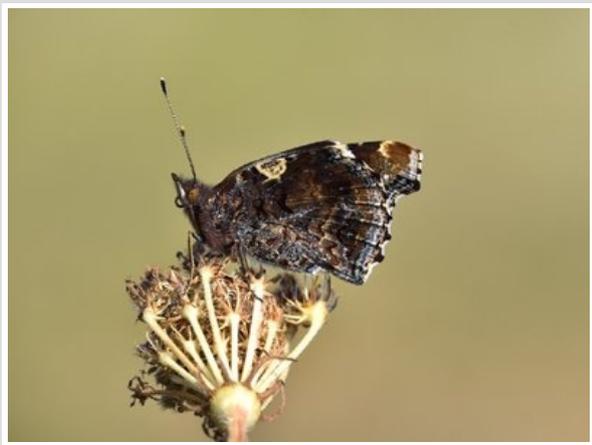
James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 14-Sep-16 05:15 PM GMT

I interrupt my PD for a special bulletin.

Having noticed that a few Long-tailed Blues had been sighted along the south coast I decided to visit Tide mills and see if I could get lucky. I arrived at about 9.30am and I immediately saw a Clouded Yellow followed by several more. When I arrived at the various clumps of Everlasting Pea there was no sign of any long-tailed Blues, I spent the next couple of hours searching until I decided to call it a day. On the way back I bumped into Katrina and Trevor. I told them I hadn't seen any LTB's but I wouldn't mind one last go. So we all made our way back into Tide mills and would you believe it we all Spotted a Long-tailed Blue almost immediately! It was a very active male and we all struggled to get a shot of it. This may not have been our first sighting of an LTB we were all delighted to have seen it, our first of 2016. I also found a freshly emerged and stunning female Red Admiral – a very good day in great company.





Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 14-Sep-16 07:37 PM GMT

Typical, I chose to go to Eastbourne today! 🍷🍷🍷

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 14-Sep-16 08:14 PM GMT

Hi James,

Good to see you and Katrina today, I think all three of us enjoyed ourselves. You win first prize for the best image of the LTB, at least it is readily identifiable. That leaves my effort and Katrina's vying for the booby prize. I will allow you to adjudicate.

Keep well,
Trevor.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 14-Sep-16 08:19 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

Typical, I chose to go to Eastbourne today! 🍷🍷🍷

Keep trying buggy, it's all you can do with LTB's. If we get another big influx of them one year it would make things easier for you. Unfortunately I don't think that's going to happen this year. When it does happen again I'll try my best to help you out. I do have the advantage of living on the coast so I can let you know what's going on in the area.

I'm sure you found some interesting things today, I look forward to your diary entry.

ATB

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 14-Sep-16 08:40 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Hi James,

Good to see you and Katrina today, I think all three of us enjoyed ourselves. You win first prize for the best image of the LTB, at least it is readily identifiable. That leaves my effort and Katrina's vying for the booby prize. I will allow you to adjudicate.

Keep well,
Trevor.

Yes Trevor it was fortuitous, serendipitous even! Of course it couldn't have happened to 3 nicer more good looking, intelligent, talented, and dare I say humble people than us. I'm afraid I'm all out of boobies right now so I'll just say top effort all round. 😊

Seriously though the LTB didn't give us much of a chance at a photo, I think we all did very well to get what we did. I get the feeling that even seeing one this year will be a rare treat.

My best wishes to you.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 14-Sep-16 09:43 PM GMT

Great stuff with the LTB, James. This migration is practically an annual event now, and with conditions still perfect, I suspect that there will be quite a few more prior to the late autumn frosts.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 15-Sep-16 08:54 AM GMT

Fantastic James, when it gets to September I always wish I lived in the South 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 15-Sep-16 09:34 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Fantastic James, when it gets to September I always wish I lived in the South 😊 Goldie 😊

Thanks Goldie, the next time we get a good summer with some southerly winds coupled with a few 'Spanish plumes' it might be prudent to book a little holiday to the South coast around early September or early October. And if it didn't work out at least there are some very nice places to visit down here. It would certainly be less drastic than moving down this way. 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 15-Sep-16 09:51 PM GMT

Butterfliesaurus rex wrote:

bugboy wrote:

Typical, I chose to go to Eastbourne today! 🇬🇧 🇬🇧 🇬🇧

Keep trying buggo, it's all you can do with LTB's. If we get another big influx of them one year it would make things easier for you. Unfortunately I don't think that's going to happen this year. When it does happen again I'll try my best to help you out. I do have the advantage of living on the coast so I can let you know what's going on in the area.

I'm sure you found some interesting things today, I look forward to your diary entry.

ATB

James

To be honest LTB hadn't even really crossed my mind when I made my plans. I shall be keeping a close eye on developments in the coming days/weeks to see if a venture down to tide mills is worthwhile for me!

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 15-Sep-16 10:19 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

To be honest LTB hadn't even really crossed my mind when I made my plans. I shall be keeping a close eye on developments in the coming days/weeks to see if a venture down to tide mills is worthwhile for me!

Yes you can't really plan for LTB's there's far too much luck involved for that. I think your approach is best, it's exactly what I would do. When you have to travel a fair distance it's good if there's at least a reasonable chance of success. I don't know if I will be able to go out looking very much but hopefully more LTB's will be seen and reported, in the unlikely event you're not doing it already I recommend keeping an eye on the Sussex BC sightings page.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by millerd, 15-Sep-16 11:36 PM GMT

Congratulations on that LTB, James, and I like your photo. A really natural pose. This species is one I have yet to photograph. 🍀 As long as a few females have come across on the hot southerly winds recently, and the weather remains reasonably kind, it is possible there might be some offspring in late October. Fingers crossed! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 17-Sep-16 07:24 PM GMT

You're not playing by the rules now Rex – you can't 'happen across' an LTB without catching your PD up, it's just not fair 😊😏🍀🍀🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 18-Sep-16 05:09 PM GMT

millerd wrote:

Congratulations on that LTB, James, and I like your photo. A really natural pose. This species is one I have yet to photograph. 🍀 As long as a few females have come across on the hot southerly winds recently, and the weather remains reasonably kind, it is possible there might be some offspring in late October. Fingers crossed! 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Most kind of you Dave, the pose is most definitely natural, it's what I look like when I'm going for the last biscuit in the tin. Try as I might I have not seen any female LTB's yet, this lone male with Katrina and Trevor has been the only one so far. The females are more attracted to the pea so I've been looking there as often as I can hoping to spot a female or even some eggs. It's seems like the numbers that have made it across so far have been very low. Perhaps there's still some more to come? If so some offspring might emerge before the weather turns too cold.

Wurzel wrote:

You're not playing by the rules now Rex – you can't 'happen across' an LTB without catching your PD up, it's just not fair 😊😏
🍀🍀🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

I simply can't seem to help being a rebel Wurzel, it's just the way I roll. 😊😏 I'm glad Katrina was there, with the two of us tracking it I might well have lost it if I'd been there alone. In fact if I'd not bumped into Katrina and Trevor I would have carried on home. So I must thank them or I wouldn't have seen it at all.

Best Wishes

Ghostly Dingies.

Unusually rather than seeing Grizzled Skippers first as I normally do each spring my first Skippers of this year were of the Dingy persuasion. And it made for a nice change that a couple of these were pale forms, the first one I found was quite pale but the second was positively ghostly in appearance. I saw it under heavy cloud and even in those dull conditions it really stood out, in bright sunshine it must have been quite dazzling.

I also saw a nice Green Hairstreak on the same day just before the sun went in.



Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 21-Sep-16 09:54 PM GMT

Good to catch up with you again today James, I do hope no LTB's showed up after my departure...

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 22-Sep-16 11:18 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

Good to catch up with you again today James, I do hope no LTB's showed up after my departure...

If any LTB's did show up after you left we were far too busy to notice! It was great to catch up with you again Yesterday, perhaps one day I'll meet you somewhere other than tidemills. Having said that if you keep on finding things like that at tidemills you really must visit here more often. 😊

I hope that fantastic Red Backed Shrike you found made up for the lack of LTB's. It was certainly no consolation prize, thank you very much for helping us re find it. I had a fantastic afternoon thanks to you.

I have no doubt that you'll find a Long-tailed Blue one day.

Best wishes

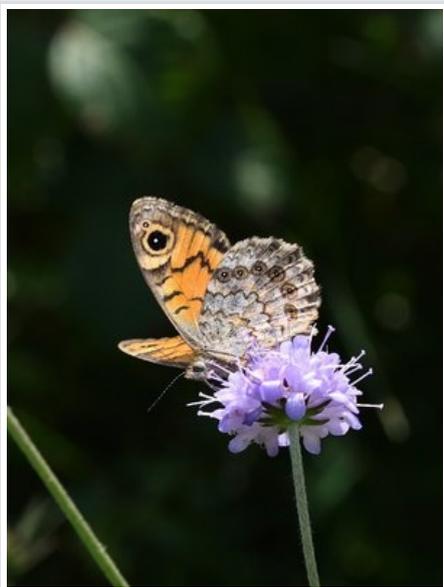
James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 23-Sep-16 10:51 PM GMT

Autumnal adventures

Before I carry on with my diary I thought I'd post up some of my recent adventures over this past week. On Tuesday I joined Badgerbob for a 3rd brood Wall Brown extravaganza! The day certainly didn't disappoint with plenty of male and female Wall's seen. Bob and I were both hoping to see an egg laying female. After following several likely candidates for a bit one female eventually obliged and laid us an egg.





After a very enjoyable mornig we decided to give Tide mills a try hoping we would get lucky and find a Long-tailed Blue. We arrived to find Bugboy who had already been searching for most of the day, he then told us he'd found a juvenile Red Backed Shrike! And that is was allowing unusually close views. So the three of us went to look for it, thanks to Bugboy's formidable spotting skills he relocated it for us. We spent the rest of the afternoon in the company of this splendid bird. We watched it hunt a variety of prey items and cough up an occasional pellet.

This morning a friend called to tell me he was going to Tide mills to see the Shrike so I joined him there (and the small crowd) for another look at this cracking bird. For now it seems to have taken up residence.

Wednesday



Today



Late yesterday afternoon I went on a Dragon hunt and was pleased to see quite a few Dragonflies including...
A Male Southern Hawker.



And a mating pair of Migrant Hawkers.



I'm still seeing a few Speckled Woods in reasonable condition.



And Some very fresh Commas.



And loads of fresh Red Admirals too.



It would seem Autumn still has a few surprises and treasures to yield up as we move towards the end of September. It will be interesting to see what October could surprise us with.

Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 23-Sep-16 10:57 PM GMT

Fantastic shot of the Wall on the flower James, love it. Goldie 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 23-Sep-16 10:59 PM GMT

Cracking series of shots Rex –I don't know where to start with the 🍷 RBS? Walls? But what really got me was the final Red Admiral – the blue on the hind wing is really eyecatching 😊🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 24-Sep-16 05:29 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Fantastic shot of the Wall on the flower James, love it. Goldie 😊

Thank you Goldie, it was so hot that it was a struggle to get any photos of a Wall so I was relieved when a couple came out ok. At least the eggs don't move. 😊

Wurzel wrote:

Cracking series of shots Rex – I don't know where to start with the 🍷 RBS? Walls? But what raelly got me was the final Red Admiral – the blue on the hind wing is really eyecatching 😊🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel, I have Bugboy to thank for the fantastic Red Backed Shrike, and it was my lady who told me there was a really nice Red Admiral on the tree in the garden. The morning sunlight really did bring out the blue didn't it. 😊

Thank you both for the very kind comments.

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 24-Sep-16 07:45 PM GMT

That Shrike really is doing the business isn't it, I did a google search for RBS tide mills and he's all over the internet 😊

You did well with those Walls in the heat, I love them and hate them in equal measures! Love those Dragons as well 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by millerd, 24-Sep-16 08:27 PM GMT

That Wall on the scabious is a smashing shot: it looks very fresh and to get a view of the underside of the forewing is really unusual. 😊 The ones I saw today were all quite tired and all males as well.

Dave

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Gary.N, 25-Sep-16 05:15 PM GMT

Great shots of the shrike, James. 😊😊😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 25-Sep-16 06:04 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

That Shrike really is doing the business isn't it, I did a google search for RBS tide mills and he's all over the internet 😊

You did well with those Walls in the heat, I love them and hate them in equal measures! Love those Dragons as well 😊

The Shrike certainly made a lot of people very happy! People came from far and wide to see it. When I returned there on Friday quite a few people had lenses that looked almost a meter long and then there was me snapping away with my macro! Has to be one of the tamest birds I've ever seen. Yes Wall's can be almost impossible when it's hot, such lovely butterflies though, especially the females. I've been waiting quite a while to get a Southern Hawker shot like that, as you know they invariably sit in amongst the most untidy locations possible.

Brilliant day with you last week, see you next year??

millerd wrote:

That Wall on the scabious is a smashing shot: it looks very fresh and to get a view of the underside of the forewing is really unusual. 😊 The ones I saw today were all quite tired and all males as well.

Dave

Most Kind of you Dave, it was a relief to see I actually got something when I looked at my photos on the computer. I rally wanted a female Wall to go with my egg photo.

Gary.N wrote:

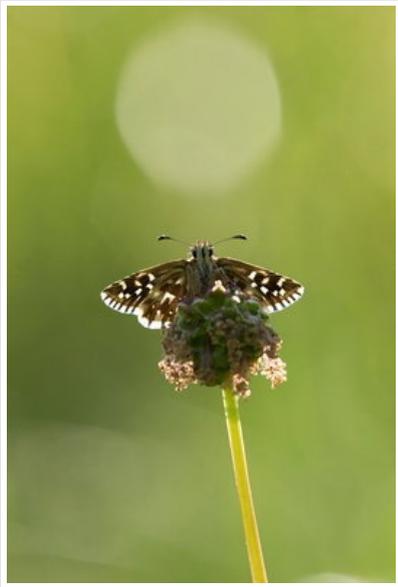
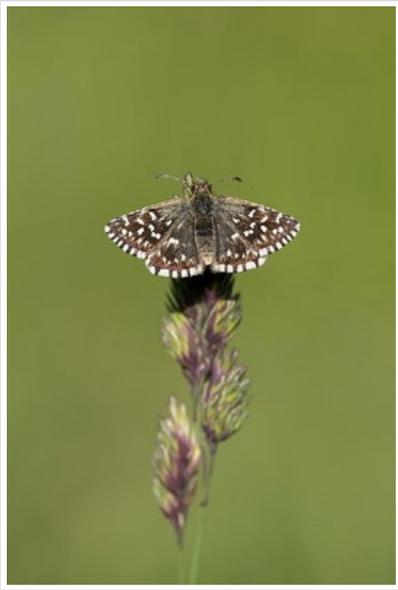
Great shots of the shrike, James. 😊😊😊

Cheers Gary, I feel obliged to the bird for letting me get so close. Glad you had a good weekend. 😊

Thanks for the great comments everyone 😊

Back to springtime

2016 was such a bad year for Grizzled skippers that even my local hotspot 'which can buck the trend when numbers are low elsewhere' really struggled to produce many this year. What is more they were unusually late, most years I expect to see Grizzled Skippers before the Dingies emerge but this year it was the other way around. When I eventually did find some Grizzlies I really appreciated my time with them. Here's hoping that next spring will see them thrive once again.



On my way to my Grizzled Skipper hotspot I couldn't resist a photo of this obliging female Broad Bodied Chaser Dragonfly, showing a little bit of wing damage probably caused to the dreadful weather we had this spring.



Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 25-Sep-16 10:16 PM GMT

Cracking shots of the Grizzlies Rex 😊 They did have a bad year and I like you saw a Dingy before Grizzlie – but only by about 5 minutes 😊 It would be nice if we could have a 'normal' season in 2017 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 01-Oct-16 02:50 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Cracking shots of the Grizzlies Rex 😊 They did have a bad year and I like you saw a Dingy before Grizzlie – but only by about 5 minutes 😊 It would be nice if we could have a 'normal' season in 2017 😊

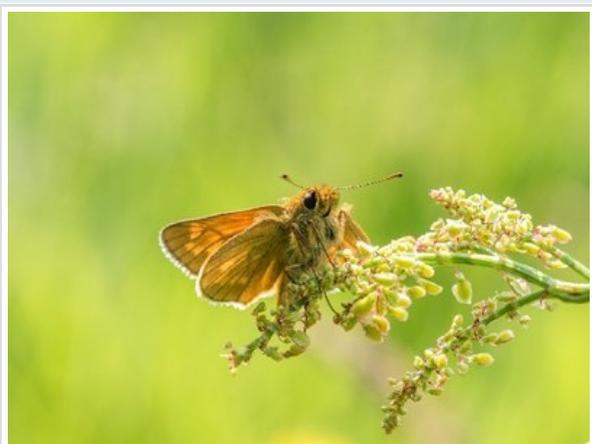
Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thank you Wurzel, I agree something resembling actual 'seasons' would be very helpful indeed. Fingers crossed for a much better year in 2017.

The Golden Skipper.

The butterfly that heralds the start of the summer season, when these appear you know it won't be long before we'll be seeing some of the other summer butterflies. At least by June 'after a chilly and unsettled spring' we started to get some reasonably good spells of weather.





During a local trip out in June I met up with Badgerbob who kindly showed me where he had found some Emperor Moth larvae.



As the disappointing summer continued I didn't take as many photos as usual but there were still a few surprises and high points to come.

Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by badgerbob, 01-Oct-16 05:28 PM GMT

Good to get some memories from a few of our trips out during the season James.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 01-Oct-16 07:34 PM GMT

badgerbob wrote:

Good to get some memories from a few of our trips out during the season James.

Indeed it is Bob, as you know I felt a bit down this year (for several reasons) and if it wasn't for you & a couple of other friends my year would have been a total write off.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 02-Oct-16 06:43 PM GMT

Another Autumnal adventure.

I had a very enjoyable time at Tidemills this morning with some friends. No Long-tailed Blues were seen while I was there unfortunately, but I did find a splendid male Clouded Yellow.



And Bugboy's Red Backed Shrike was still there! Today the Shrike caught a huge lizard but retired to the middle of a bush to eat or cash it. It would have made for a great photo but this bird likes to dine in private.



Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by bugboy, 02-Oct-16 09:00 PM GMT

Nice to bump into you and Bob again today and glad you got a good snap of that Cloudie before my blundering spooked it! There were at least 3 fresh Cloudies there today, I found another male (the underwing spotting is clearly different to your one) and a female as well 😊

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by badgerbob, 03-Oct-16 04:58 PM GMT

You certainly managed a great shot of the Yellow James. Good to see another final shot of the Shrike too.

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 03-Oct-16 08:55 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

Nice to bump into you and Bob again today and glad you got a good snap of that Cloudie before my blundering spooked it! There were at least 3 fresh Cloudies there today, I found another male (the underwing spotting is clearly different to your one) and a female as well 😊

It was good to see you there again, and to have a butterfly waiting for you as soon as you arrived! Clouded Yellows are fabulous creatures, just imagine if they were as rare as a Long-tailed Blue in the UK, we'd all be going berserk traveling around trying to see them. I always feel a bit disappointed when we don't have a Clouded Yellow year.

badgerbob wrote:

You certainly managed a great shot of the Yellow James. Good to see another final shot of the Shrike too.

Thanks very much indeed Bob, I'm glad you arrived just after I found it, made for a very nice start to the day. It appears that really will be my final shot of the Shrike as it looks like it's moved on to pastures new. All I can say is heaven help any small vertebrates or insect life wherever it turns up next!

Best wishes

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 03-Oct-16 10:14 PM GMT

Wow that Cloudy is a stand out specimen 🤩👍 Beautiful 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 03-Oct-16 11:01 PM GMT

Another great sequence, Rex! Things have gone quiet on my front so it's good that I can see others making the most of it elsewhere!

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 08-Oct-16 12:46 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Wow that Cloudy is a stand out specimen 🤩👍 Beautiful 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel 😊 I was really delighted to find such a fresh butterfly this late in the season, I couldn't agree more Clouded Yellows are very beautiful butterflies!

David M wrote:

Another great sequence, Rex! Things have gone quiet on my front so it's good that I can see others making the most of it elsewhere!

Very Kind of you David, yes it's that time of year again, the wait for spring has begun and hopefully things will be much better next year, our butterflies could certainly do with some decent spring weather.

Best Wishes

Pale but interesting.

After what turned out to be a dismal year for many species it was interesting to note how the common whites were bucking the trend, they were by far the most numerous butterfly locally. Much to the delight of the cabbage growing community I'm sure!

Due to the relative scarcity of other butterflies I spent a bit more time paying attention to whites than usual. For this reason I enjoyed some rather unusual (well for me at least) encounters. The most spectacular of these was when I saw 9 male Small Whites chasing after one female! I guess she'd put far too much perfume on that day!! The second photo shows them beginning to disperse as they got fed up with the smell of 'Essence of cabbage'.



I saw all three common whites mating this year, unfortunately I didn't manage a decent shot of the mating Large whites as they settled much too high up, so I'll just include a single LW photo instead.





And finally I came across a very fresh Small White that seemed quite happy to sit on my finger, not something I usually bother to attempt with a species renowned for being one of the most skittish.



Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by bugboy, 08-Oct-16 04:01 PM GMT

IHi James, I like your action shots. That female certainly looks very pestered but I think I can see why she was turning down all her suiters, wrong species! I'm on my phone so forgive if I'm mistaken but it looks like a female GVW they're all after 😊

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 08-Oct-16 04:51 PM GMT

I think you're probably right buggy, I thought the same when I looked closely but I wasn't 100% sure as the lighting on or through the wings can play tricks with the veins.

It definitely looks more like a GVW to me so I'm glad you thought so as well. 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 08-Oct-16 06:58 PM GMT

Home now on my laptop and I'm 100% certain its a GVW in the second picture. I captured a similar series of pictures last year except my female GV only had 2 Small Whites chasing her 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 08-Oct-16 07:32 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

Home now on my laptop and I'm 100% certain its a GVW in the second picture. I captured a similar series of pictures last year except my female GV only had 2 Small Whites chasing her 😊

It was an amazing sight, I've seen this kind of thing before but never involving so many butterflies! It goes to show how well the whites were doing this year. 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 09-Oct-16 06:33 PM GMT

Indeed Rex a cracking sight to behold – and you captured it really well, a diagonal line of whites bisecting the image 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 10-Oct-16 01:16 PM GMT

Hi James,

I've been away for a few days, so I am behind with the diaries.

Your action shots of the Whites are some of the more unusual images to appear for a while !.

Opportunities like that don't happen very often.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 10-Oct-16 11:00 PM GMT

James, I'm happy when I can get three or four butterflies in a single shot. To get nine like that is some achievement.

Excellent stuff!

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 13-Oct-16 06:46 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Indeed Rex a cracking sight to behold – and you captured it really well, a diagonal line of whites bisecting the image 😊

Hi Wurzel, being a fussy so and so I wish the background had been nicer, I did the best I could under the circumstances. I'm just happy I that managed to capture such a wonderful sight. Many thanks for your very kind comment. 😊

trevor wrote:

Hi James,

I've been away for a few days, so I am behind with the diaries.

Your action shots of the Whites are some of the more unusual images to appear for a while !.

Opportunities like that don't happen very often.

Thank you Trevor, yes I remember thinking "hello what on earth is going on here then!" when I saw this long undulating string of whites. I'd never seen anything quite like it before so I did my best to capture it at distance with my macro lens. As you say you don't see things like that too often, it was quite beautiful to watch.

David M wrote:

James, I'm happy when I can get three or four butterflies in a single shot. To get nine like that is some achievement.

Excellent stuff!

Very kind of you David 😊 there are actually ten butterflies! 9 males chasing 1 female!! Unusually it appears the males are all Small Whites and the female is almost certainly a GVW. Quite a sight, I doubt I'll ever see that again.

My best wishes to you all.

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 21-Oct-16 06:49 PM GMT

Having noticed that Badgerbob was still finding a few Clouded Yellows in fine condition I decided to go and see if I could locate any. After some searching I eventually found 3 male CY's. Only one of these was in reasonable condition so I concentrated on that one. Without any more Long-tailed Blue action to end the year it's nice that the Clouded Yellows and Red Admirals are providing us on the south coast with a last hurrah.



Thanks for looking

James

P.S I hope to resume my diary over this weekend.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by trevor, 21-Oct-16 07:17 PM GMT

That's a very fine Cloudy, James. They are still performing well at Shoreham too. Will they last into November ?.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by David M, 21-Oct-16 08:25 PM GMT

Nice shot, James. The sun has caught the insect at a good angle and I should add that I'm very envious you are seeing Clouded Yellows when all there seems to be around me is the odd Red Admiral.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 22-Oct-16 09:52 PM GMT

Great shot Rex 😊👍 I'm looking forward to some more retrospectives as they serve as a gentle prod to get my own PD in order and caught up before the next season starts 😊👀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 23-Oct-16 05:21 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

That's a very fine Cloudy, James. They are still performing well at Shoreham too.
Will they last into November ?.

All the best,
Trevor.

Very kind of you Trevor, It's looking likely there will be a few around in November, only a frost could scupper things now.

David M wrote:

Nice shot, James. The sun has caught the insect at a good angle and I should add that I'm very envious you are seeing Clouded Yellows when all there seems to be around me is the odd Red Admiral.

I was pleasantly surprised with how it came out David! I like it when you can see the vein structure in the wings, it makes the butterfly look more three dimensional. I'm still seeing some very fresh Red Admirals here too. They look fantastic when they are newly emerged.

Wurzel wrote:

Great shot Rex 😊👍 I'm looking forward to some more retrospectives as they serve as a gentle prod to get my own PD in order
an caught up before the next season starts 😊👀

Have a goodun

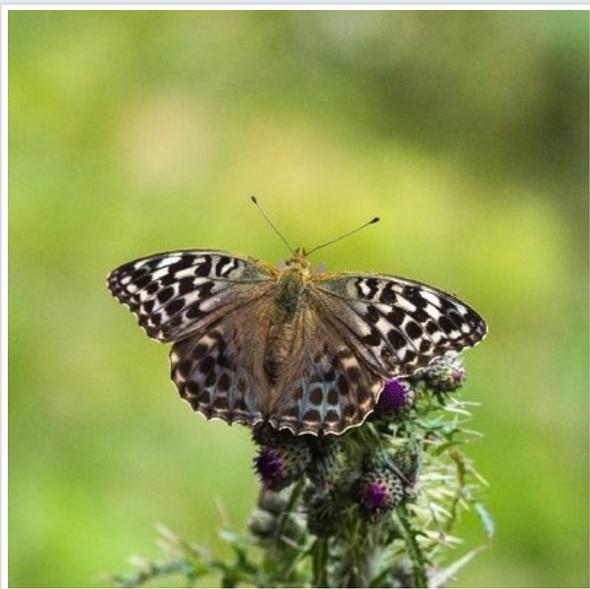
Wurzel

Most appreciated Wurzel 😊 I think I've gone slightly awry with my retrospective diary posts, I just found some photos from May that I forgot to put up. Oh well I suppose it's a free for all now!

My best to you all.

Silver Washed Fritillaries.

In June this year I spent a really nice day in Abbots Wood with my friend Gary.N. Along with some days out with Badgerbob this was another memorable day in what has been a rather difficult year. It was hot and humid making the woodland butterflies extremely active. Even though we had an early start it was getting quite hot by the time we reached our desired location. It turned out to be a good year for Silver Washed Fritillaries in Abbots this year. A few days earlier Gary found a lovely Valezina SWF, I'd never seen a Valezina before so I was delighted when we re found it in the same area Gary had first seen it.





The White Admirals were being as impossible as ever when it gets hot and the SWF's weren't much better! After hours of chasing them around I finally managed a few decent photos. By the end of the day I was shattered, thanks to Gary's help it was one of the most enjoyable days of the year.



We also found another butterfly that I'd never seen close up before, more about that in my next post.

Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 30-Oct-16 06:01 PM GMT

At long last.

Another big highlight of my day with Gary was my first ever close view of a Purple Hairstreak! This was my first serious attempt at looking for a Purple Hairstreaks, It was a butterfly that I had hoped stumble upon while looking for Purple Emperors and other woodland butterflies. I had seen them high up in the Oaks many times before but a proper close up view had always eluded me. After many years today my luck finally changed, I was standing talking to Gary when something very Hairstreaky caught my eye, I shouted Hairstreak! to Gary just as it flew behind me, I quickly turned but I didn't see where it had landed. Thankfully Gary did and we both got a very good view at ground level. Frustratingly the butterfly was in the shade and for me partially obscured. After a few seconds it took off again and flew into the low branches of an Oak. I wasn't able to get a good angle on the Butterfly but I was still delighted with my first decent views 'and photo' of a Purple Hairstreak. Thanks to some great teamwork Gary and I saw 2 more but we never managed another view as good as our first.



There were quite a few (well named) Beautiful Demoiselles in the wood this year as well.



After that highly enjoyable day at Abbots I was hardly able to get out for quite a while. Staying close to home I did see this beautifully fresh female Gatekeeper.



Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Philzoid, 01-Nov-16 02:16 PM GMT

Nice to see you got yourself a Purple hairstreak James and well worth shouting about 😊. Although a common butterfly it is as you say, very elusive when it comes to getting a decent photograph. Most of my own (few) pics are from distance, record shots that have to rely on the viewer's taking my word for it that the 'silhouetted triangular blob' is really a Purple Hairstreak.

Occasionally they go to more accessible places, and even to ground, just a matter of being in the right place at the right time so fingers crossed 😊

Phil

Re: Butterfysaurus rex

by Butterfysaurus rex, 01-Nov-16 10:13 PM GMT

Hi Phil, thanks for the comment 😊 I was really pleased to finally get a good view of a Purple Hairstreak. I was starting to wonder if it would ever happen! Having met you I know your word is to be trusted and I can personally vouch for any "silhouetted triangular blobs" they are definitely without

any shadow of doubt Purple Hairstreaks or so help me. 😊 seriously though until this photo I never even managed a photo of a distant PH. I'd only ever seen them through binoculars before.

You're absolutely right of course it was pretty much 100% pure luck. I don't know who was more surprised, me – or the Hairstreak seeing me close up looking so surprised. I think I'll put it down to a draw.

Best wishes,

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 01-Nov-16 11:04 PM GMT

Lovely view of the Purp Rex 😊 I find them even more frustrating then His Nibbs as I see them every year but rarely get any photos 😞😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 01-Nov-16 11:38 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Lovely view of the Purp Rex 😊 I find them even more frustrating then His Nibbs as I see them every year but rarely get any photos 😞😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Agh tell me about it Wurzel! Supposedly the most common butterfly in the U.K. As well!!! It's nice to know it's not personal, it was starting to feel like they had gotten wind of my reputation! 😞 And we're avoiding me on purpose.

I started to imagine I could hear tiny laughter wafting down from the Oak trees. Ah well it makes a change from the real laughter aimed at "silly daddy" when I'm at home. 😊

ATB

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 02-Nov-16 09:14 PM GMT

That is a very nice Purple Hairstreak. Like everyone says it is sheer luck to get them, the only close up I got this year was a dead one caught in a spiders web 😞

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 05-Nov-16 01:18 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

That is a very nice Purple Hairstreak. Like everyone says it is sheer luck to get them, the only close up I got this year was a dead one caught in a spiders web 😞

Thanks Buggy, I was very lucky in that our encounter was with a pristine Hairstreak as well. Hopefully with more good luck I might find and possibly photograph a few more, an open wing shot would be fantastic.

Grayling

Another fantastic morning in the company of Badgerbob had us ascending and descending the slopes in search of some Grayling. Numbers were quite low but with 2 pairs of eyes on the lookout we managed to find a few. Some of which posed beautifully for us, a couple did the usual Grayling trick of landing on various parts of our clothing.



I particularly like the striped eyes of the Grayling, they always seem to remind me of the Humbug sweets of my childhood, so when the opportunity arose I attempted to get a close up.



Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Wurzel, 05-Nov-16 05:53 PM GMT

Absolutely stunning close-up of the Grayling Rex 🤩👍 You're catching me up 🤩

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 05-Nov-16 06:30 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Absolutely stunning close-up of the Grayling Rex 🤩👍 You're catching me up 🤩

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Cheers Wurzel 😊 funny things Grayling, sometimes you can get really close and yet on most occasions they don't let you anywhere near them. I might be catching you up but I'm fast running out of photos to post.

Best wishes

James

Re: Butterflysaurus rex

by Butterflysaurus rex, 13-Nov-16 04:30 PM GMT

August - in two halves pt 1

For the next couple of entries I've decided to split August into two halves.

The month started off with some unseasonably windy weather but it was still dry and relatively sunny. That had me thinking about going to a more sheltered place, There are not many of those where I live up on the south downs, after some thought it was decided that Steyning would be a good bet. And if we were lucky we might even find a few early Brown Hairstreaks, so Badgerbob and I set off for West Sussex. It was still very windy even within the sheltered confines of the rifle range but we still saw some butterflies braving the strong gusts. We even spotted a couple of Brownies but they were not only out of reach but being buffeted too making photography impossible. The only Butterfly I got a half decent shot of was this sheltering Holly Blue.



It was still a good day so we vowed to return again as soon as the wind had died down. Our next couple of trips were more fruitful, it was still pretty early for Brown Hairstreaks but luck was on my side as I flushed a freshly emerged female, In fact she was so fresh that her wings were still soft and curled over at the tips.



Much closer to home a very good emergence of Common Blues started to get under way.



And in a place I'd never seen them before a few Wasp Spiders were found. Luckily I managed to get both upper and underside shots of one of the UK's most spectacular spiders.



More to follow....

Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 13-Nov-16 06:15 PM GMT

Great stuff Rex – lovely Brostreak and 'two cell spot' Common Blue 😊 If you're this far into August will there be a few more LTBs to come in the near future? If there I better stock up on 'Mr Greens' 😞😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by badgerbob, 16-Nov-16 04:43 PM GMT

Happy memories there James of a few of our trips.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 16-Nov-16 06:47 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Great stuff Rex – lovely Brostreak and 'two cell spot' Common Blue 😊 If you're this far into August will there be a few more LTBs to come in the near future? If there I better stock up on 'Mr Greens' 😞😞

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thank you for the kind comment Wurzel, your Mr Greens are quite safe 😊 sadly no more LTB's this year. I wouldn't have seen the one I did without bumping into Katrina and Trevor. So my thanks go to them, it means I've seen them every year they've been reported on the South Coast! Hopefully if we have another bumper 'LTB' year (it has to happen again sometime) you'll be able to make the trip down this way and find one. Let me know if you do and I will try and help you out if at all possible.

badgerbob wrote:

Happy memories there James of a few of our trips.

Very happy memories Bob, apart from the wonderful PBF's this spring my season did not start well. You pretty much saved it for me. I can't thank you enough for all of your help this year. Looking forward to next year, I hope the butterflies 'and us' have a great one in 2017. I'm sure some surprises await us.

Best wishes

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 20-Nov-16 01:43 PM GMT

AUGUST pt 2

Towards the end of August we started to see a welcome influx of migrants here on the south coast. this time instead of another round of Long-tailed Blues arriving we instead had Clouded Yellows and Painted Ladies.

The last really decent influx of Clouded Yellows was back in 2013 so I was keen to use this opportunity to try and improve on my photo's from that year. due to the haphazard nature of my diary this year I've already posted some of my better CY shots all except for my personal favourite. This was taken at Arlington on a very windy day making the shot even more remarkable. I only saw 3 Clouded Yellows while I was there but it was a Beautifully fresh Helice form that really caught my eye. The wind was strong and with lowering light levels 'due to encroaching hazy cloud' I didn't think I would be able to get a decent shot. To my amazement when I got home and checked my images I actually managed to fluke it! I think this is my best CY shot to date, and what is more if it had been an ordinary CY it wouldn't have worked out as well. The pale Helice stands out much more against the yellow background of Fleabane. A very lucky shot!!

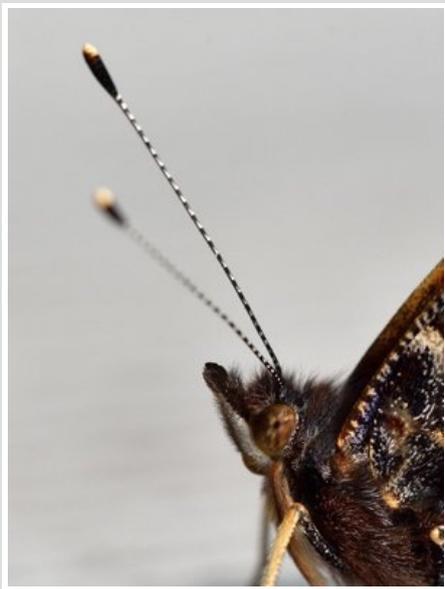


With increasing cloud cover at Arlington I decided to see if I could outrun the cloud and extend the trip by heading to BC Park Corner where I was bound to find a few more Clouded Yellows. The move probably only gave me about 20 minutes more sunshine and I did see a few more CY's there but with the sun gone I only managed a half decent shot of a Brimstone.



At the very end of August I found myself confined to home, frustratingly the weather was really nice so I made the best of it and went out into the garden. All of these photos were taken there and thanks to some very fresh Red Admirals, and a couple of Painted Ladies I had a relatively nice time.





My next post will possibly be my last of 2016 and it will consist of a few images that I forgot to post up earlier on.

Thanks for looking

James

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Goldie M, 20-Nov-16 04:37 PM GMT

Great close up shots James and I love the shots of the Helice, I'd love to see one, may be next year if I'm lucky. 😊 We'd no Snow today but in spite of a

lovely Sunny day it was still very cold, hope you get it more frosty down there instead of all the rain you've had today. Goldie 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Wurzel, 20-Nov-16 06:11 PM GMT

Absolutely cracking shot of the Helice Rex – a form I've still to encounter 😊👍 Looking forward to your next post but also sad that it's the last from 2016. Still hopefully 2017 will be better all round!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by bugboy, 20-Nov-16 07:52 PM GMT

That is a mighty fine *Helice*, saw my very first one this year at Tide Mills 😊. Those close ups are rather good as well. I've been extending my season this year by 'chasing' caterpillars again although a Small Copper on November 2nd was pretty good! Looking forward to what 2017 has in store for us, looks like we're gonna get a proper winter this year which will hopefully give most things a boost 😊

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Neil Freeman, 21-Nov-16 07:15 PM GMT

Hi James,

That is a cracking *helice* image, I love the complimentary colours of the butterfly, the flower and the background 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Butterfliesaurus rex

by Butterfliesaurus rex, 24-Nov-16 08:56 PM GMT

Goldie M wrote:

Great close up shots James and I love the shots of the Helice, I'd love to see one, may be next year if I'm lucky. 😊 We'd no Snow today but in spite of a lovely Sunny day it was still very cold, hope you get it more frosty down there instead of all the rain you've had today. Goldie 😊

Thank you Goldie, we are a bit spoiled with Helice Clouded Yellows here on the South coast. I wouldn't say they are common but if there's a good migration I usually see few mixed in with the norms. If the weather people are right we should be in for a spell of colder and settled weather soon. No sign of any snow down our way yet. 😊

Wurzel wrote:

Absolutely cracking shot of the Helice Rex – a form I've still to encounter 😊👍 Looking forward to your next post but also sad that it's the last from 2016. Still hopefully 2017 will be better all round!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Very kind of you Wurzel 😊 if we get a really big influx of Cloudies next time I'm sure your chances of finding a Helice locally will improve. This year was good for CY's but nothing like as big as it was in 2009 or 2013, I saw 3 Helice this year in 2 different locations. Out of the 3 I managed to photograph just 2. Yes I'm afraid My diary is almost done for this year 😊 'touch wood' 2017 will be much better than 2016 was.

bugboy wrote:

That is a mighty fine *Helice*, saw my very first one this year at Tide Mills 😊. Those close ups are rather good as well. I've been extending my season this year by 'chasing' caterpillars again although a Small Copper on November 2nd was pretty good! Looking forward to what 2017 has in store for us, looks like we're gonna get a proper winter this year which will hopefully give most things a boost 😊

Cheers Buggy 😊 your Small Copper cat photos are fantastic, what a great find! Not very easy to photograph when they are that tiny!! I really hope we do get a proper winter this time, I feel it's really needed for a lot of our native wildlife.

Neil Freeman wrote:

Hi James,

That is a cracking *helice* image, I love the complimentary colours of the butterfly, the flower and the background 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Hi Neil, many thanks 😊 yes I really was very lucky with that shot, I still think it would have been a nice photo if it had been a standard issue CY. However it would have been a bit lost in amongst the predominantly yellow background.

Thanks all for your very kind and generous comments.

Best wishes

James