

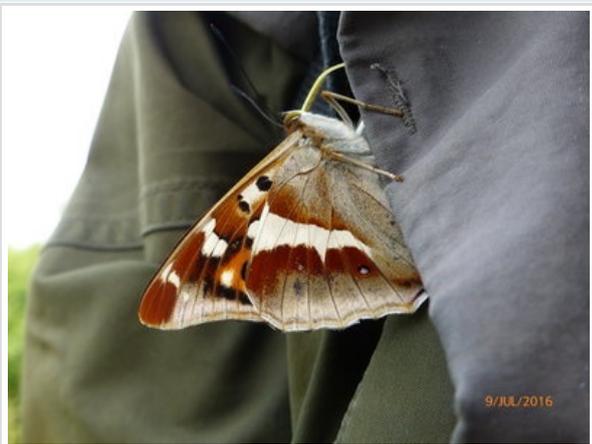
Re: False Apollo

by False Apollo, 10-Jul-16 05:45 PM GMT

From Thursday 7th to Saturday 9th July I made my pilgrimage to Fermyn Wood for Purple Emperors. The weather forecast did not look promising but Fermyn is always good, so I was optimistic. On Thursday I saw around 5 with 3 down as the weather improved. On Friday the count overall was in double figures 20+ at least. The highlight for me was 4 down together at once, (a little shrimp paste helped) . I also had a male land on my boot. Just as I thought Saturday couldn't get any better, it did, a male landed on my rucksack, then there were 2 and then one landed on my coat lapel. I only managed to get photos by twisting the viewing screen on my camera 180 degrees and hoping for the best, we were eyeball to eyeball as he flashed electric purple! I also saw my first female sailing over the tall sallows. Other butterflies were fresh Silver-washed Fritillaries and White Admirals, with a sprinkling of fresh Small Tortoiseshells, Commas and Red Admirals. Numbers of His Imperial seem to be building by the day.



Male flashing double purple



On me



On my rucksack



On my boot



2 male Purple Emperors together

Re: False Apollo

by False Apollo, 02-Nov-16 07:14 PM GMT

Visited Southbourne Undercliff near Bournemouth in my lunch break today. Fantastic day with warm sunny weather on the undercliff. Managed to see 3 Clouded Yellows, 4 Small Whites and the star butterfly a pristine male Common Blue. This is (I believe) the latest I have seen the species in the UK, but it is certainly the first time I have seen a third brood male. Unfortunately I did not have my camera with me at the time (a lesson to be learnt here). It posed it front of me with it's wings open, the blue shimmering in the sunshine. It was very active. When I got back to my office in Bournemouth I saw a Red Admiral. All in all an excellent hour.

Regards
Mike Gibbons

Re: False Apollo

by Wurzel, 04-Nov-16 10:45 PM GMT

Good to know that they're there – that seems like a reliable site for Cloudies but how will the colder weather affect them?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: False Apollo

by David M, 05-Nov-16 02:08 PM GMT

False Apollo wrote:

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Sounds idyllic, Mike. I guess that spot is one of the mildest in the UK during the winter so it's no surprise to see unseasonal butterflies, I suppose.

Re: False Apollo

by False Apollo, 06-Nov-16 05:16 PM GMT

The weather at Southbourne was sunny at times on Saturday 5th November, but no Clouded Yellows were seen by me. However I Did see one Small White and a Red Admiral. As you say David, the climate is mild here and even a northerly wind does not stop butterflies flying. Any other wind direction is another matter though!

I think some Clouded Yellows may yet be seen if the sun comes out during November.

Did see a Red Admiral in the garden on 6th November during the morning, cruising around outside our conservatory. Certainly getting colder though, but that won't put me off looking for Clouded Yellows if it's sunny!

Regards
Mike

Re: False Apollo

by Wurzel, 08-Nov-16 10:13 PM GMT

Is it the warmer temperatures or the presence of the sun that brings out the Cloudies Mike? If it's the later I might have to make my way back to Dorset 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: False Apollo

by millerd, 08-Nov-16 10:23 PM GMT

Is it right that they've been see down there in every month of the year except January? Is the colony still persisting throughout the year with larvae holding on through the winter? It is such a reliable spot for them.

Dave