

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 03-Apr-17 07:53 PM GMT

I seem to have been neglecting my personal diary 😊 . So here is a list of first sightings:

- Feb 16 2017: Red Admiral
- Feb 16 2017: Brimstone (Many of these were seen)
- Mar 07 2017: Clouded Yellow
- Mar 10 2017: Cleopatra (And many of these also)
- Mar 10 2017: Wall Brown
- Mar 10 2017: Holly Blue
- Mar 10 2017: Speckled Wood
- Mar 11 2017: Green Hairstreak
- Mar 11 2017: Large Tortoiseshell (I don't see many of these)
- Mar 14 2017: Large White
- Mar 18 2017: Peacock (And I don't see many of these either)
- Mar 28 2017: Green-veined White
- Mar 29 2017: Western Dappled White
- Mar 29 2017: Nettle-tree Butterfly (This is also rare in my area)
- Mar 30 2017: Orange-tip
- Mar 30 2017: Provence Orange-tip (No photos of this beautiful butterfly 😊 )

Unfortunately I haven't taken many photos worth sharing, but here are some of the better ones:



*Speckled Wood*



*Green Hairstreak*



*Green-veined White*



*Western Dappled White*



*Orange-tip*



*Unidentified moth*



*Mating Red Admirals in the garden this afternoon*



*Mating Red Admirals in the garden this afternoon*



*Mating Red Admirals in the garden this afternoon*

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 03-Apr-17 08:03 PM GMT

How can I edit the post I just sent?

For "garding" read "garden".

--

Colin

**Re: CFB**

by Allan.W., 03-Apr-17 08:48 PM GMT

Hello CFB,

Reckon your moth is a Lunar Double Stripe (*Minucia lunaris*), a real rarity in UK, but I'm sure a fairly normal insect where you are, they have in the past, taken up temporary residence in the UK, but seem to soon die out, one colony which survived for some years was in my local area ie; Hamstreet/Orlestone forest (Kent) Regards Allan.W.

**Re: CFB**

by Padfield, 03-Apr-17 09:21 PM GMT

**CFB wrote:**

How can I edit the post I just sent?

For "garding" read "garden".

--

Colin

If you're using a computer, click on the little picture of a pencil or crayon on the right, next to the cross and exclamation mark. On a mobile device like an iPhone, you need to expand the choices by tapping a little option box at the top right, then selecting 'edit'.

Congratulations on catching the red admirals at it! That's a great coup!

Guy

**Re: CFB**

by David M, 03-Apr-17 09:59 PM GMT

Colin, have you any idea how rare it is to find Red Admirals in cop?

I'm still getting over Neil Hulme's image of a coupled pair of Small Tortoiseshells.

If anyone can grab a photo of mating Peacocks within the next few days I may well have to see my doctor!!

Magnificent stuff!

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 04-Apr-17 10:57 AM GMT

Allan,

Thanks for the ID. It certainly looks like that in the various photos I looked at on the net.

Guy,

Thanks for your help. In fact I found out how to edit just after I sent my post.

David,

I thought it might be a rather rare sight. What I didn't say was that they were in the same place for well over two hours.

--

Colin

**Re: CFB**

by David M, 05-Apr-17 11:55 AM GMT

Well, that would tally with Neil Hulme's Small Tortoiseshell observations, i.e. that this family of butterflies likes to take a good deal of time over such matters!

Have you uploaded it to the species specific section? I'm pretty sure it's the first image of its kind on here.

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 05-Apr-17 01:28 PM GMT

Yes David, I was invited to upload it to the species specific section, which I so did.

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Colin

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 13-Apr-17 01:13 PM GMT

During the last week or so I saw the following firsts of the year:

Small Heath



Scarce Swallowtail (in the garden)



Comma (I don't see many of these)



Green-underside Blue



Also seen but no photos were Berger's Clouded Yellows, a Geranium Bronze (in the garden) and Lang's Short-tailed Blues.

--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by Chris Jackson, 13-Apr-17 06:35 PM GMT

Hi Colin,  
A nice array of seasonal species' photos. I'm sure there will be many others coming soon.  
Chris

**Re: CFB**

by David M, 13-Apr-17 10:12 PM GMT

Thanks for sharing, Colin. You are making me truly yearn for the Pyrenees in May I can tell you!

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 15-Apr-17 03:49 PM GMT

This morning along the Piste du Collet des Espères I saw several Baton Blues, including this female



and this male,



a couple of Wood Whites,



at least one Black-eyed Blue,



and, at last, two Spanish Fescues.



There were also many Brimstones and Wall Browns, a single Small Copper, several Speckled Woods and Orange-tips, and some Clouded Yellows and Green Hairstreaks.

--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by Chris Jackson, 15-Apr-17 05:50 PM GMT

Well done Colin.

Good photos. Now you're coming up with the goodies.

Chris

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 16-Apr-17 03:37 PM GMT

I finally got a photo of a Provence Orange-tip, which have been eluding my camera for two weeks or so. This female is on *Biscutella laevigata*, the larval food plant of this species.



Also seen were regular Orange-tips,



some Small Coppers,



a Green-veined White,



and several Brimstones, Clouded Yellows, Cleopatras, Wall Browns and Speckled Woods.

--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by David M, 16-Apr-17 10:15 PM GMT

That's a great image of the female Provence Orange Tip, Colin. I believe it deserves a place in the species specific albums, although Vince Massimo will be the ultimate judge of that!

**Re: CFB**

by Vince Massimo, 16-Apr-17 10:28 PM GMT

**David M wrote:**

That's a great image of the female Provence Orange Tip, Colin. I believe it deserves a place in the species specific albums, although Vince Massimo will be the ultimate judge of that!

I agree that it is a beautiful image of a stunning butterfly, but unfortunately this species has never been reported in the British Isles, so cannot be

included in the Species-Specific Album. Shame 😞 .....

Vince

**Re: CFB**

by David M, 16-Apr-17 10:30 PM GMT

Fair enough, Vince, it has never been a UK species, though given its difficulty to photograph, that image could well be a useful one to have on file.

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 17-Apr-17 10:46 AM GMT

Thanks, David and Vince.

This morning I saw at least three male and three female Provence Orange-tips, including this courting couple. Heavily cropped and a bit blurred due to the wind, their activity and my shaking hands, but beggars can't be choosers 😊 .



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Colin

**Re: CFB**

by David M, 17-Apr-17 11:27 AM GMT

You're rubbing it in now, Colin. 🍷

**Re: CFB**

by Pete Eeles, 17-Apr-17 05:15 PM GMT

**Vince Massimo wrote:**

**David M wrote:**

That's a great image of the female Provence Orange Tip, Colin.

I agree that it is a beautiful image of a stunning butterfly, but unfortunately this species has never been reported in the British Isles, so cannot be included in the Species-Specific Album. Shame 😞 .....

Vince

Agreed, on both counts!

Cheers,

- Pete

### Re: CFB

by Chris Jackson, 17-Apr-17 05:22 PM GMT

Excellent shots of the female Provence Orange Tip and of the courting pair.  
Chris

### Re: CFB

by CFB, 28-Apr-17 05:30 PM GMT

Thanks Chris.

There wasn't much activity this morning, presumably due to a cool wind.

I did however see and photograph a Dingy Skipper,



and a Brown Argus.



Other butterflies seen included a couple of Orange-tips, a few Wall Browns, a few Speckled Woods, two or three Berger's Clouded Yellows and a Southern White Admiral. Still no Painted Ladies though.

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Colin

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 29-Apr-17 10:57 AM GMT

Still not many butterflies due to a coolish breeze.

I saw my first Adonis Blue of the year, so summer can't be far away.



Also seen were a Green-underside Blue,



a Scarce Swallowtail, some Berger's Clouded Yellows, a couple of Orange-tips, Speckled Woods and Wall Browns.

--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by David M, 30-Apr-17 12:06 AM GMT

**CFB wrote:**

I saw my first Adonis Blue of the year, so summer can't be far away.

I wish summer over here was as mild as your spring, Colin!! Adonis Blues in late April? What a charmed life you lead! 🍷

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 02-May-17 12:56 PM GMT

Having seen Glanville Fritillaries during the last few days, this morning I at last managed to photograph one:



There were several male Provence Chalkhill Blues, the first of the year,



and a damaged female Green-underside Blue:



Also, but no photos, male Adonis Blues, male Orange-tips, Wall Browns, Speckled Woods and Berger's Clouded Yellows.

--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by Chris Jackson, 02-May-17 04:16 PM GMT

You are clearly the forerunner in the butterfly season, Colin.  
I am now on the look-out for Adonis and Provence Chalkhill. 😊  
Chris

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 02-May-17 04:51 PM GMT

**Chris Jackson wrote:**

You are clearly the forerunner in the butterfly season

Hello Chris,

I don't think so. I've seen 36 species so far. I bet you've seen a lot more.

--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 03-May-17 12:51 PM GMT

This morning I encountered this male Baton Blue, one of my favorite butterflies, who allowed me to photograph both upper-side and under-side, and to get very close.



There were a few Weaver's Fritillaries,



a couple of what I think are Grizzled Skippers,



and a large number of Owlfly Sulphurs.



Seen but not photographed were Provence Chalkhill Blues, Glanville Fritillaries, Small Heaths, Wall Browns and Speckled Woods.

--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 05-May-17 02:06 PM GMT

Yet another sunny day, but still not many different species. There were probably more Owlfly Sulphurs than the total number of butterflies.

But I did see one male Green-underside Blue (?),



many Glanville Fritillaries,



one impeccable Scarce Swallowtail,



one Spanish Fестoon, one Small Copper, one male Brimstone, a few male Adonis Blues, two or three Berger's Clouded Yellows, one or two Clouded Yellows, one or two Small Heaths, several Wall Browns and some Speckled Woods.

I also heard a cuckoo, which I don't often hear.

And this is an *Ophrys bertolonii* orchid from yesterday.



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Colin

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 07-May-17 01:21 PM GMT

This morning was nice and sunny after the heavy rain yesterday.

I saw several Painted Ladies, the first of the year.



Also seen were one Southern White Admiral, one Orange-tip, one Adonis Blue, one Spanish Festoon, several Small Heaths, several Wall Browns and a few Glanville Fritillaries.

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Colin

### Re: CFB

by Roger Gibbons, 07-May-17 02:22 PM GMT

I also had one this morning, very fresh. Hopefully its grandchildren will make it to England. Also a first Meadow Brown, bring the season's total to 48, although the weather has been terrible (by south of France standards) and I hadn't made any trips to see specific species such as Chapman's Green Hairstreak or Spring Ringlet. This compares to 56 by the end of April last year.

I haven't yet seen a (ex hibernating) Camberwell Beauty or a Large Tortoiseshell, which is the first time I have seen neither in twelve years. It is a very strange year with very good weather until about 20 April and cold and wet almost ever since. The early emergers seem to have done well, and the second generation of Dappled White is already on the wing.

Roger

### Re: CFB

by David M, 07-May-17 09:31 PM GMT

I'm surprised to hear this, Roger. Is the season particularly 'behind' in SE France at the moment?

Colin, love all your sightings, but the fresh Baton Blue stands out. A lovely specimen.

### Re: CFB

by CFB, 08-May-17 01:01 PM GMT

Roger, the one and only Large Tortoiseshell I've seen this year was on March 11, and I'll consider myself very lucky if I see a Camberwell Beauty. I agree with you concerning the strange weather. There also seems to have been more wind lately, which doesn't help.

David, thanks for your comments.

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Colin

### Re: CFB

by CFB, 09-May-17 02:13 PM GMT

Not many butterflies flying today even though it's sunny with no clouds anywhere. I suppose it's due to a cool breeze.

I saw two Spanish Festoons, including this very new-looking specimen,



several Glanville Fritillaries and Wall Browns, a few Berger's Clouded Yellows, one Southern White Admiral, one Adonis Blue, some Small Heaths and one female Orange-tip.

--  
Colin

### Re: CFB

by CFB, 10-May-17 04:32 PM GMT

Once again not much activity this morning except for this Burnet moth. My best guess is that it is a *Zygaena lavandulae*, also known as Broom Burnet or White Collared Burnet.



There was a Glanville Fritillary that allowed me to get quite close.



Otherwise there were Wall Browns, Small Heaths and not much else.

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Colin

### Re: CFB

by CFB, 14-May-17 05:25 PM GMT

Yesterday I encountered my first Red-underwing Skipper (?)



and Marsh Fritillary of the year.



I also saw a Grizzled Skipper, a couple of Spanish Festoons, a Southern Small White and a few Glanville Fritillaries.

Today I saw a Grizzled Skipper (?),



a Painted Lady,



some Glanville Fritillaries, Wall Browns and Speckled Woods.

--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 20-May-17 01:18 PM GMT

This morning in the Parc de la Brague I saw three or four Southern White Admirals,



a great number of Provence Chalkhill Blues, including this couple,



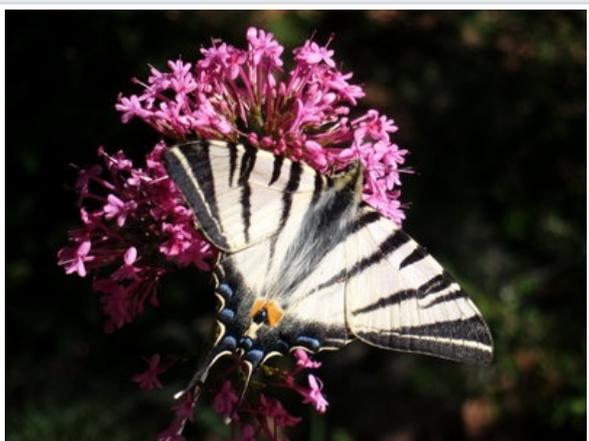
one or two Pearly Heaths, the first of the year,



two Large Whites,



and one Scarce Swallowtail.



Also Meadow Browns, Glanville Fritillaries, Clouded Yellows, Wall Browns and Speckled Woods.

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Colin

**Re: CFB**

by Chris Jackson, 20-May-17 07:16 PM GMT

Hi Colin,  
A nice array of seasonal photos.  
Thanks for the head-up on the Pearly Heaths, I hope I'll see my first round here very soon.  
Chris

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 21-May-17 02:33 PM GMT

This morning along the Piste du Collet des Espères I saw two first-of-the-year Fritillaries, a Knapweed Fritillary



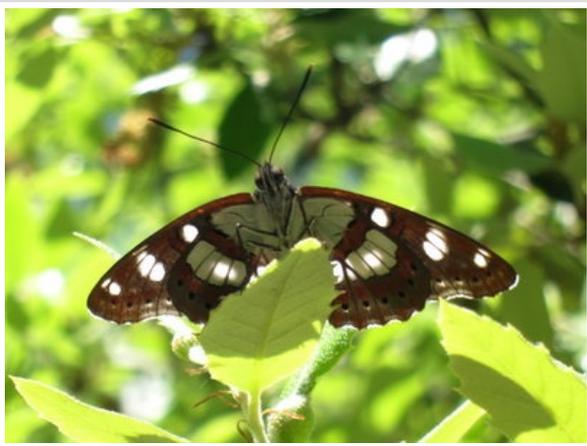
and a Spotted Fritillary.



Once again there were numerous Provence Chalkhill Blues, including this mating couple.



Two or three Southern White Admirals, including this unusual under-side shot.



A few Berger's Clouded Yellows, Adonis Blues and Small Heaths, and many Glanville Fritillaries.

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Colin

**Re: CFB**

by David M, 22-May-17 10:12 PM GMT

That Spotted Fritillary looks highly unusual, Colin.

Do you see many with such bold forewing spots?

**Re: CFB**

by Chris Jackson, 23-May-17 05:54 AM GMT

**David M wrote:**

That Spotted Fritillary looks highly unusual ...

That's what struck me too. I've never seen markings like that, could this be described as aberrant?  
Chris

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 23-May-17 01:24 PM GMT

Chris, David,

I agree that it looks a bit unusual. I found two similar ones in my "library", the second one in the process of being devoured 🤪.



--  
Colin



**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 28-May-17 11:41 AM GMT

Some photos taken during the last few days.

Southern White Admiral:



Pearly Heath:



Knapweed Fritillary:



Mating Provence Chalkhill Blues:



Another couple of Provence Chalkhill Blues:



Also seen: a male Cleopatra and a Scarce Swallowtail in the garden, one Small Skipper, Small Whites, Meadow Browns, Adonis Blues and one male Brimstone.

--

Colin

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 30-May-17 11:57 AM GMT

Yesterday there was a Green-veined White amongst the white Lobelias in the garden.



The only sightings of note this morning in the Parc de la Brague were the first Blue-spot Hairstreaks of the year.



Provençe Chalkhill Blues were the most numerous, followed by Adonis Blues.

--

Colin

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 01-Jun-17 01:16 PM GMT

A couple of photos from the sunny south of France.

A male Provençe Chalkhill Blue from yesterday,



and a Marbled White from this morning, the first of the year.



--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by David M, 02-Jun-17 12:35 PM GMT

Beautiful Marbled White, Colin....or should that be 'Marbled Black'?

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 02-Jun-17 05:50 PM GMT

Thanks David. A pity about the leaf covering a bit of the starboard wing though.

--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by Chris Jackson, 03-Jun-17 08:14 PM GMT

A nice shot of the Marbled White, Colin.  
I hope this means I'll also get my first yearly sighting soon.  
Chris

**Re: CFB**

by David M, 03-Jun-17 08:16 PM GMT

**Chris Jackson wrote:**

A nice shot of the Marbled White, Colin.  
I hope this means I'll also get my first yearly sighting soon.  
Chris

Surely any time now, Chris. Two fresh individuals were seen by us in the Pyrenees last week so they are definitely 'on the cusp'.

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 04-Jun-17 07:46 PM GMT

**Chris Jackson wrote:**

A nice shot of the Marbled White

Thanks Chris.

This morning I saw my first Two-tailed Pasha of the year. Alas, no photo. 😞

--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 07-Jun-17 03:23 PM GMT

The heat and the wind are presumably the reason for there being few butterflies in flight in my part of the world.

A male Adonis Blue a couple of days ago on some dried up mud.



A False Ilex Hairstreak, the first of the year, was on a *Helichrysum stoechas* plant in the garden for perhaps half an hour this morning.



This afternoon I saw many Cleopatras, both male and female, but no photos.

--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by David M, 08-Jun-17 12:14 PM GMT

So, you get False Ilex in your garden, Colin?



**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 08-Jun-17 02:11 PM GMT

Yes, if my identification is correct 😊.

--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 08-Jun-17 02:47 PM GMT

On my morning walk I saw a few Marbled Whites,



several Ilex Hairstreaks,



many Marbled Fritillaries, the first of the year, amidst the brambles to avoid my getting too close 😊,



many Heath Fritillaries,



and a few Spotted Fritillaries including this female.



Seen but no photos: many Cleopatras, a few Adonis Blues, several Provence Chalkhill Blues, a few Blue-spot Hairstreaks, Meadow Browns and Pearly Heaths.

--  
Colin

**Re: CFB**

by CFB, 11-Jun-17 02:13 PM GMT

It's very hot here at present, but I did see a few butterflies yesterday and today. Marbled Whites were probably the most numerous. Here's one, and a close-up of its wing.



There were also many Cleopatras and a few Brimstones.



--  
Colin