

## sonomoha

by sonomoha, 26-Mar-17 03:43 AM GMT

Hello world ! 😊

## Re: sonomoha

by David M, 26-Mar-17 07:35 PM GMT

Welcome, sonomoha.

## Re: sonomoha

by sonomoha, 28-Mar-17 03:16 AM GMT

Thank you David (-:

### March 26th 2017 – Stockwood open space, BS4

A short visit on this Sunday and I get to see these  
small tortoiseshell (+12)  
peacock (2)  
comma (2)

no brimstone at all, the one i really long to see.  
fortunately, it was hot warm enough for those above to be active in numbers. on the other hand, conditions were not good for macro because of the wind and also because for now they all still go to rest in their hideouts, under the spines, as sun goes down 😊  
with more flowers coming out, i hope to have some of these staying out at sunset.



*Peacock*



*Comma*

## Re: sonomoha

by millerd, 28-Mar-17 07:09 PM GMT

Welcome from me too, Sonomoha. Looking forward to more of your photos. 😊 Brimstones are morning butterflies and can often disappear in the

middle of the afternoon when everything else is still flying. Not easy to approach either.

Dave

**Re: sonomoha**

by Neil Freeman, 28-Mar-17 08:16 PM GMT

And a welcome from me too...looking forward to seeing your posts through the coming season.

Cheers,

Neil.

**Re: sonomoha**

by David M, 28-Mar-17 09:45 PM GMT

You'll get your Brimstone eventually, sonomoha...they fly well into May and are one of the most conspicuous UK species.

That Peacock wasn't bad compensation!

**Re: sonomoha**

by Mike Robinson, 29-Mar-17 10:23 AM GMT

A couple of days ago I watched a Brimstone Butterfly hurtling towards me. It settled on some Red Dead-Nettles just in front of me! That sort of thing seems to happen quite often.

**Re: sonomoha**

by Wurzel, 29-Mar-17 06:26 PM GMT

You were lucky with that Comma, I reckon another day and it would have been an ex-Comma 🤪🤪 The Brimstones should be fairly easy to get and if the Spring brood prove difficult the summer brood are often more approachable 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: sonomoha**

by sonomoha, 02-Apr-17 11:18 AM GMT

**millerd wrote:**

Welcome from me too, Sonomoha. Looking forward to more of your photos. 😊 Brimstones are morning butterflies and can often disappear in the middle of the afternoon when everything else is still flying. Not easy to approach either.

Dave

thank you Dave (-: I will try harder next week early morning.

**Neil Freeman wrote:**

And a welcome from me too...looking forward to seeing your posts through the coming season.  
Cheers,  
Neil.

Thank you Neil (-: really impressive diary, from first entry 😊

**David M wrote:**

You'll get your Brimstone eventually, sonomoha...they fly well into May and are one of the most conspicuous UK species.  
That Peacock wasn't bad compensation!

Thank you David (-: they are conspicuous and shy. none again this morning.

**Mike Robinson wrote:**

A couple of days ago I watched a Brimstone Butterfly hurtling towards me. It settled on some Red Dead-Nettles just in front of me! That sort of thing seems to happen quite often.

I wish they could settle for two minutes, even very low... I need to make use of this new tripod now 😊

**Wurzel wrote:**

You were lucky with that Comma, I reckon another day and it would have been an ex-Comma 🙄😁 The Brimstones should be fairly easy to get and if the Spring brood prove difficult the summer brood are often more approachable 😊  
Have a goodun  
Wurzel

Hej Wurzel (-:

most commas I see in Stockwood are quite on the ex-comma side yes 😊 same for peacocks, but I had fresh little commas yesterday in another place that is not really looked after. cheers.

**Re: sonomoha**

by sonomoha, 02-Apr-17 12:01 PM GMT

**April 1st 2017 - Nightingale Valley, BS4**

with a brighter sun, the winter people are out.

- comma (+10)

- peacock (3)

lots of commas but much less than last year (May 2016) when I first started looking for photography.

this is the first time i see a peacock in this area. also, the commas look smaller and "fresher" than those in Stockwood open space.

There are few other species I saw around in 2016 that I hope will show up again this year

*(pieris napi, pararge aegeria, anthocharis cardamines, pieris rapae)*



*comma. (Nightingale, 2017-04-01)*



*peacock and comma, sharing a spot. (Nightingale, 2016-04-01)*



*comma, part of a large colony. (Nightingale, 2016-05-16)*

### Re: sonomoha

by sonomoha, 05-Apr-17 12:29 AM GMT

**April 3rd 2017- Willsbridge valley reserve, BS30**

Not much at all as for butterflies. Just one comma having a tan and I saw it at the very exit by the bridge.

This site is to revisit as it may (or not) have brimstones around. Yes, I still look forward to the first brimstone 😊

Maybe, it is still early? Avon reserves look deserted by butterflies besides the three usual suspects (comma, peacock, small tortoiseshell).

In the afternoon, I spotted a very tiny "blue" by a neighbouring garden. I am not sure for the specie but it was flying quite high and its blue was very remarkable. I hope it will show up again, closer

### Re: sonomoha

by Wurzel, 05-Apr-17 08:24 AM GMT

A blue flying high at this time of year is a definitely a Holly Blue 😊 I've still yet to see one this year 🍀

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: sonomoha

by sonomoha, 08-Apr-17 10:57 PM GMT

@Wurzel I saw one last year by Leigh Woods but it was mid-summer. this one is quite early indeed.

**April 7th 2017 - Nightingale valley, BS4**

The place is full of ladybirds but no traces of winter butterflies at all. Too early in the morning. some bluebells blooming and desperately waiting for butterflies to come in for a good night. In the meantime, I was just lucky enough to see what looks like a mayfly to me. See photo bellow.



*mayfly (?)*

now, sorry again for this time. I really hope to see some butterflies around some time between next week and the end of summer 😊

### Re: sonomoha

by David M, 09-Apr-17 12:05 AM GMT

I'm sure if you find a good local spot tomorrow, Sonomoha, you will find plenty of butterflies.

It's still early April, so it takes until 11am before they're active in numbers, but the forecast for your part of the UK is excellent tomorrow, so all you need do is find the right location!

### Re: sonomoha

by sonomoha, 13-Apr-17 12:17 AM GMT

#### David M wrote:

I'm sure if you find a good local spot tomorrow, Sonomoha, you will find plenty of butterflies.

It's still early April, so it takes until 11am before they're active in numbers, but the forecast for your part of the UK is excellent tomorrow, so all you need do is find the right location!

Thanks David for encouraging words. Advice always much appreciated.

Although we do have an extraordinarily good weather, I am afraid Bristol is about the worst area for butterflies so far 😞 Even commas have become rare right after a massive awakening of Marsh. It looks like the places I walked through last year have been through some changes (no food plants for now) and the wait might be longer than expected for photography this year. I shall prepare for a trip to Gloucester 😞😞 Let's just keep on enjoying the amazing blooming as it's here 😊

### Re: sonomoha

by sonomoha, 14-Apr-17 06:00 PM GMT

#### April 14th 2017 – Eastwood Farm reserve, BS4

During a healthy slow walk in Eastwood farm, we spotted:

- speckled wood (in large numbers);
- green-veined white (1);
- small white (6).
- peacock (1)

All these are species I did not see in this area during my photography walks in summer 2016. There were quite a handfull of whites but I ca not quote without being sure which were they.





## Re: sonomoha

by sonomoha, 16-Apr-17 11:23 PM GMT

### April 16th 2017 - Eastwood farm, BS4

Early morning visit shows there is none in lower ground. But it took about an hour have in invasion of speckled woods. This species seems quite in large numbers again in this area. The surprise of the day is a tiny Orange Tip, very very tiny compared to those I saw in May 2016 by Nightingale valley (bs4), less two miles down the road, or the two I saw on Avon river banks in Saint Philip's Causeway (bs4) further down on April 15th 2017.



*speckled wood*  
(large numbers)



orange tip  
(one)

This area seems to host much more species than Stockwood, which is still slow to wake-up besides the winter beauties. I will go back to Eastwood to look out for those whites I saw on previous visit.

Back home, the number of Blues flying high in the neighbours' garden went up from one to three. Likely to be Holly Blue. To confirm

### Re: sonomoha

by Wurzel, 16-Apr-17 11:44 PM GMT

Great shots of the Specklies and OTs Sonomoha 😊 Your high flying blues are Holly Blues as that is an almost perfect description of their behaviour I hope you can get some shots of them too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: sonomoha

by sonomoha, 18-Apr-17 02:13 PM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

Great shots of the Specklies and OTs Sonomoha 😊 Your high flying blues are Holly Blues as that is an almost perfect description of their behaviour I hope you can get some shots of them too 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Thanks Wurzel (-: at the moment, these blues are down a private garden I don't have access to but their shine is quite noticeable. I can only enjoy from far. Maybe I should try and offer some cookies to the neighbours for access to the garden but then the Blues will probably disappear on me 😊

### Re: sonomoha

by sonomoha, 18-Apr-17 02:35 PM GMT

April 17th 2017 - Eastwood farm, BS4

Early morning visit. The usual, lots of Speckled woods. The reserve is really a nice place for them. also counting these in a small open space next by the entrance to the reserve's café.

- Orange Tips (3) //these here still look oddly smaller to me than last year's

- Green-veined white (2)

One very playful Speckled Wood came along and I made some shots.



*speckled wood*



*speckled wood*

Next time, if I make it earlier, I will probably have more luck with the orange tip and the whites. for now, I already gave up on the brimstone since it is nowhere close physically I guess 😊😊 ++

### **Re: sonomoha**

by sonomoha, 27-Apr-17 01:46 AM GMT

**April 27 – Palermo, Italy**

Finally took my Easter break to Sicily. It's been a great week with friend and birdwatching. As for butterflies, I am leaving the island quite disappointed. Even though, there were quite a lot of Pieris, I did not make it to photograph one. In the week-end, we happened with an excellent spot where to see *Colias croceus* in very large colonies (Santo Pietro, south of Caltagirone) and the plan is to come back here more prepared to explore more. I primarily came to Sicily for the Swallow tail but it was quite late (?) already, the other one I looked around for was the *Melitaea Didyma* but nowhere to be seen. Lots of moths is rather worth to mention.



### **Re: sonomoha**

by Wurzel, 27-Apr-17 11:53 AM GMT

Cracking close up of the Specklie sonohoma, the Brimstones in the summer are a lot more laid back and easier to approach 😊 Interesting looking moth as well.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: sonomoha

by Philzoid, 27-Apr-17 09:28 PM GMT

That moth looks like a Four-spotted *Tyta luctuosa*, a rarity in the UK 😊

### Re: sonomoha

by sonomoha, 29-Apr-17 07:53 PM GMT

#### Philzoid wrote:

That moth looks like a Four-spotted *Tyta luctuosa*, a rarity in the UK 😊

Hello,  
this moth was seen in south of Sicily, in the same little private field as some other colourful moths I was not able to make a photo of. I hope to bring back more stuff to share on the abroad forums 😊  
cheers

### Re: sonomoha

by sonomoha, 29-Apr-17 08:08 PM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

Cracking close up of the Specklie sonohoma, the Brimstones in the summer are a lot more laid back and easier to approach 😊  
Interesting looking moth as well.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Hello Wurzel,  
this was my first time shooting a speckled wood properly, most of time i find them active really early. this one was just laid back and seemed not to have much business to attend to. as for the moth, it is the closest thing to a butterfly I actually approached during my stay in Sicily recently and it flew away after some speedily shaking to dry off the dew. well done moth 😊😊

The brimstones... I think I will pass on those since they are nowhere around in Stockwood where they should be in numbers. I hope to have some tips from Bristol area fellows since I am still very new to butterfly watch. I could use some help 😊😊

### Re: sonomoha

by David M, 29-Apr-17 10:42 PM GMT

#### Philzoid wrote:

That moth looks like a Four-spotted *Tyta luctuosa*, a rarity in the UK 😊

I've certainly never seen that species before. Good find, sonomoha.

**Re: sonomoha**

by sonomoha, 03-May-17 12:09 PM GMT

**David M wrote:**

I've certainly never seen that species before. Good find, sonomoha.

Hello David,  
mind you, this one i had to go to Sicily to see it. It was in an area full of *Colias* butterfly. The place is called **Bosco di Santo Pietro** in the province of Catania. It takes a journey to get there from Bristol 😊😊😊 I am really happy you folks liked it.

Cheers.

**Re: sonomoha**

by sonomoha, 03-May-17 12:21 PM GMT

**May 3rd 2017 – Eastwood**

The temperatures have been generally low for a week now. Not much in field as for butterflies.

I feel sorry for this butterfly diary which has not much so far. Among today's findind on top entrance of the reserve, a roosting bumble bee. A massive one that I did not dare disturb for obvious reasons 😊

There was also one shield bug around, so I got the camera out to try and get used to my new lens that I hope to put to master as season comes up 😊



*eurydema oleracea*

cheers!

## Re: sonomoha

by sonomoha, 11-May-17 08:07 PM GMT

### May 10th 2017 - Stockwood

after a while going round on private farm land off the road, i get to see what seems like a small copper.  
the day before, one corner of the field was full of white/greenish butterflies. could not ID since they never settled and they were too tiny to be brimstones.

### May 11th

Back in stockwood to make some some photograph if any encounter on path. I found two small coppers but both left themselves fall into the grass with their dew. Also got to see a Green-veined white, but same old: jumped down the grass 😊😊

A later walk in Eastwood Farm I saw the following: Holly Blue x3, SW and OT by large numbers still... and finally two large green butterflies flew by: I guess these were Brimstones in a hurry.

In Arno's Vale Cemetery: an early small skipper flying very low, two holly blue with the usual odd flying pattern, three worn small tortoiseshell, Orange Tips and Speckled woods in numbers.

The biggest surprise of the day was the damselfly and the giant moths in Eastwood park though (what I actually got to approach.



*small copper*