

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 10-Jan-18 10:31 AM GMT

A couple from my festive break in Dorset.

We were treated to Starling murmuration over Weymouth, an amazing sight.
And a Kestrel hunting on Portland, on one of the very few sunny days!



Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 10-Jan-18 11:32 PM GMT

Great shots Andrew 😊 I've enjoyed staring at the Starling murmuration to see what beautiful shapes pop into view – so far I've seen a slightly deformed Snowy Owl and a turtle swimming towards me – though my imagination was working overtime making that one out 🤪😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 11-Jan-18 11:24 AM GMT

That's a magnificent shot of the kestrel, Andrew. You can see the intent in its eye.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 12-Jan-18 11:12 AM GMT

Cheers Wurzel 😊 The best my dull brain could manage was 'amorphous blob' 😊

Hi David and thanks 😊 I got lucky again. It was, as you say, intent on some potential prey quite close to me. It hung there in the air for a good 20 – 30 seconds before deciding it was nothing, and swooping off.

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 12-Jan-18 01:25 PM GMT

Hi! Andrew, Dorset is one of my favourite counties to visit, I love your shots of the Butterflies and that shot of the Flying Kestrel is fantastic, we hope to visit there all being well this year. Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 13-Jan-18 04:46 PM GMT

Thanks a lot Goldie. Hope you make it. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 16-Jan-18 10:03 AM GMT

Attempting to finish off 2017 before the new season begins.

April 2017

I saw my first butterfly in March, but didn't get a pic until early April, a Small Tortoiseshell at Penshurst in Kent.



Norbury Park in Surrey provided my next sightings, a female Orange-tip, Speckled Wood and Brimstone.



Down the paths and rides of Batt's Wood near Mayfield in East Sussex I found Speckled Wood, Small Copper and below, Green Veined White and Comma.



The Darent Valley didn't let me down, with visits to White Hill, Fackenden Down and Lullingstone Park all contributing.

Holly Blue, Dingy Skipper and Small Copper.



Green Carpet Moth and Green Hairstreak.



On a rather grey day this Grizzled Skipper stayed put on a Dandelion for quite some time, with wings folded. Only opening them slowly when a brief patch of brightness passed over.





Not a bad April at all. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 16-Jan-18 02:39 PM GMT

I really envy your Grizzled Skipper Andrew, 🇬🇧 we don't see them up here and this year not having seen one at all yet it's on the top of my list. They come out in April which is quite early but I'm thinking there's a place in Shrewsbury where I might be able to see one without traveling too far. Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 17-Jan-18 08:49 AM GMT

Thanks Goldie. 😊 Best of luck finding those Grizzled's this year, April will soon be here that's for sure! Put up some pics if you find them. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by trevor, 17-Jan-18 09:01 AM GMT

Some great images recently Andrew.

But for sheer luck / skill, right place / right time, that Kestrel shot has to take first place

I managed a passable shot of one perched, but an action shot like yours is beyond me or my camera !.

Great stuff,
Trevor.

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 17-Jan-18 12:55 PM GMT

Plenty of great stuff there Andrew but my favourite has to be the Greenstreak – a cracking shot which really puts the butterfly into context both scale and behaviour wise 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 18-Jan-18 01:14 PM GMT

Thanks Trevor, there was defiantly a large dollop of luck! 😊

Thanks a lot Wurzel. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Neil Freeman, 19-Jan-18 07:32 PM GMT

Some beautiful photos in your recent reports Andrew 😊

Great butterflies but like others have commented that Kestrel shot really stands out.

I also particularly like the fresh Green Carpet Moth, they soon fade to a more dull shade. I saw loads of these last year at a couple of moth nights at a local county park and had a few to my garden trap but saw none in the daytime.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 21-Jan-18 12:06 PM GMT

Thanks a lot Neil. 😊 I was very pleased to see that Green Carpet, having only seen one, as you say, faded individual before. More moths coming up! 😊 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 21-Jan-18 02:26 PM GMT

May 2017

At the beginning of May I was in Dorset again, which of course meant an obligatory visit to Portland.

I found a nice Small Copper.



This Common Lizard was happy for me to sit a few feet away as we both enjoyed the sun.



An Adela reaumurella moth.



My first Wall butterfly of the year was glad sight.





RSPB Lodmoor at Weymouth is obviously known for birds, but you can see one or two butterflies along it's paths.

Male Orange-tip.



A female Green-veined White.



This is the caterpillar of the Drinker Moth.



An older picture, but taken in the same area. We came across this female Drinker right next to the path. Isn't she a beauty ?



Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 21-Jan-18 06:17 PM GMT

More great Dorset shots Andrew those Walls are particularly lush 🌿🌿 Mind you Lodmoor isn't what it was – years ago you could get right out to the middle of it and there were proper Hides, not like the 'Magic roundabouts' they had last time I was there 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 22-Jan-18 06:57 AM GMT

Lovely images, Andrew, particularly the two Wall Brown males and the upperside female GVW shot.

With spring round the corner these reminders only increase my anticipation. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 22-Jan-18 09:24 AM GMT

Love the Wall shots Andrew, the Green Veined White on the blossom caught my eye though 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 24-Jan-18 11:10 AM GMT

Cheers Wurzel. 😊 Never saw it back then, it's just a perimeter path now, with the Magic Roundabout. 😊

Thanks David. Can't wait! 😊

Thanks a lot Goldie. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by essexbuzzard, 24-Jan-18 06:43 PM GMT

I agree with Goldie, the g v White on the Mayblosson is perhaps my favourite 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 31-Jan-18 10:05 AM GMT

Cheers Essex. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 11-Feb-18 05:57 PM GMT

May 2017 (cont)

Bit of a 'moth-fest' to finish off May.

From the Darent Valley, *Scorparia pyralella*, Straw Dot and Burnet Companion.



Not as good a shot as I would liked to have got of this micro moth. But I was glad to see it and it's distinctive colours made it easy to identify, *Commophila aeneana*.



One of the plume moths, but which one ? I'm thinking Brown Plume.



Nemorophora degeerella.

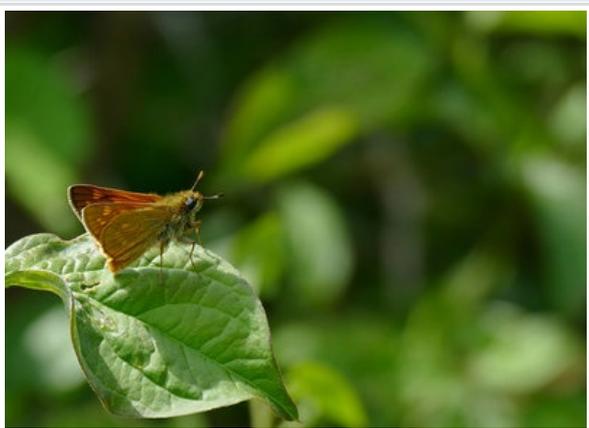


From a trip to Lullington Heath, Mother Shipton, Cinnabar and Clouded Silver.





There were various butterflies as well of course, but for this post I'll just show my first Large Skipper of 2017.



Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 14-Feb-18 03:16 PM GMT

Nowt wrong with Moffs 😊 Cracking shots again Andrew especially the Mother Shipton, they're a right bugger to get a 'grass free' shot of 🍷😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 16-Feb-18 07:41 AM GMT

Indeed! 😊 Thanks Wurzel. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Neil Freeman, 16-Feb-18 07:06 PM GMT

Some cracking Moths there Andrew, especially the Scoparia pyralella and Commophila aeneana, both of which I have not seen 🍷😄

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Andrew555

by essexbuzzard, 17-Feb-18 06:54 PM GMT

I like the large Skipper image, because it shows the insect in typical pose how we all see it—ready to dart out at anything that passes.

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 17-Feb-18 08:23 PM GMT

The varied colours in Moths never ceases to amaze me, I don't take many shots myself of moth's but that doesn't mean I don't appreciate lovely photos of them like your's 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 19-Feb-18 02:17 PM GMT

Thanks a lot Neil 😊, I'm glad to have some things of interest to an experienced moth trapper. 😊

Thanks Essex 😊, happily it refrained from any darting behavior long enough for me to get a shot. 😊

Hi Goldie, thank you. 😊 I see lots when I'm out and about, and try to get a shot & id for them all. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 19-Feb-18 11:29 PM GMT

Great sequence of mainly moth images, Andrew, especially that second one of the Mother Shipton, which shows very clearly the rationale behind its name!

Re: Andrew555

by Neil Freeman, 23-Feb-18 07:03 PM GMT

Andrew555 wrote:

...Thanks a lot Neil 😊, I'm glad to have some things of interest to an experienced moth trapper. 😊...

I would hardly call myself 'experienced' Andrew, only been trapping for a couple of years now and last year was my first full season of running the moth trap in the garden. I have the benefit of being a member of a couple of facebook moth groups which have been invaluable with advice and help with IDs.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 24-Feb-18 04:17 PM GMT

Thanks David 😊 , indeed!

Fair enough Neil. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 24-Feb-18 05:56 PM GMT

June 2017

A selection from some visits around Exmoor.

I had a Heath Fritillary site in mind, but not here, so I was very happy to see some on hills south of Minehead.



The swivel screen came in handy to capture this camera shy Common White Wave moth.



I saw something flutter behind a tree trunk but not emerge from the other side, must have landed I thought. It had, but with it's impressive camouflage it took me a while to locate!



A close up, Mottled Beauty moth I think.



From the Butterfly Conservation Haddon Moor reserve, located on the south east edge of Exmoor.



Ragged Robin.



A Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly.



Climbing up to the morning sunlight, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary.



A Large Skipper on Heath Spotted-orchid.



Heath Fritillary where I'd hoped to find them, a site near Porlock Hill. They loved these English Stonecrop flowers.





Nearby I saw this nice Light Emerald moth.



Only one butterfly encounter on this walk through an area of moorland known as The Chains.



The male was persistent, but the female was having none of it! Green-veined White.



A dragonfly I'd not seen before, Keeled Skimmer.



Last but not least, a butterfly we will be seeing soon(ish!), Small Tortoiseshell near Culbone.



Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 24-Feb-18 06:56 PM GMT

Some lovely shots from North West Somerset, Andrew. I lived for a while in that part of the world (many years ago!) and had no idea that those two Fritillaries were there. We did get Silver-washed in the garden fairly regularly though.

Dave

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 25-Feb-18 01:16 PM GMT

Absolutely cracking set of shots Andrew, 😊 they made me even more impatient for the season I get started 😊 Loved the Heaths 🌱 – are they easy to find on Exmoor? I've only ever seen them at East Blean.

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 25-Feb-18 03:22 PM GMT

Marvellous sequence, Andrew. I really like how you present such a range of subjects matter.

Hard to pick a favourite, but your Green Veined Whites brought a smile to my face. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 26-Feb-18 04:12 PM GMT

Thanks Dave 😊, Silver Washed in the garden ? Wow, lovely. 😊

Cheers Wurzel. 😊 If you go to the right places you have a good chance of seeing them. But in my more general wanderings I have very rarely encountered them.

Thanks a lot David 😊, I do like to take a variety of snaps. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 28-Feb-18 11:18 AM GMT

Cheers for the info Andrew – I'll have to have a closer look though the 'sites' section on here and do some internet trawling 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 28-Feb-18 02:32 PM GMT

Sent you a pm Wurzel. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 28-Feb-18 07:20 PM GMT

Cheers Andrew – off to read it now! 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 12-Mar-18 09:46 PM GMT

July 2017

A selection from Lullington Heath in Sussex. I wanted to more fully explore this area that I'd only walked through before.

On the way to the Heath, coming up the footpath from Litlington there was a patch of flowers with some Dark Green Fritillaries busy feeding, going round and round on the flowers.



Some grey cloud and light rain passed overhead which calmed them down.



More encounters further along the path, Marbled White and Small Skipper.



On the reserve now, there were a good number of Small Coppers.



A White Admiral came down close to me on the border of the Heath and Friston Forest. There were more along the rides of the forest.



Darker antennae on this Skipper than the previous, still a Small I think.



This Small Tortoiseshell gave me a nice underwing view.



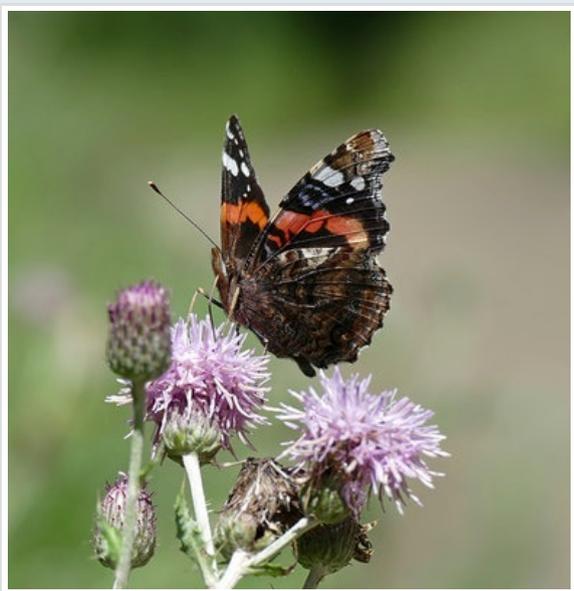
Up on the main hump of the Heath there were Silver-spotted Skippers.



Migrant Hawker Dragonflies drifted in a group above the path next to and into Friston Forest.



I found it well worth going down some paths of the nearby forest, where I found these Red Admirals.



There was more, this post could have been twice as long. A great place that's for sure.

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Paul Harfield, 12-Mar-18 10:12 PM GMT

Hi Andrew.

Just catching up on your diary. Lovely selection of shots 😊. I particularly like your Broad Bodied Chaser 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 13-Mar-18 11:31 PM GMT

Fantastic set of shots Andrew 😊 Especially like the Migrant Hawker and Silver Spots – just brill 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 14-Mar-18 12:49 AM GMT

Mouth-watering stuff, Andrew. I'm looking forward to what you can present to us during the course of the 2018 season.

Time to dust the camera down as I'm confident that butterflies are back amongst us!

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 14-Mar-18 11:40 AM GMT

Hi Paul, thanks a lot. 😊

Appreciate it Wurzel. 😊

Thanks David, I'm ready! Hoping to get out even more this year. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 15-Mar-18 12:38 PM GMT

Wow! Andrew, that was great walk 😊 Lovely shots of the Butterflies, Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 16-Mar-18 04:54 PM GMT

Thanks Goldie! 😊 There was lots to see for sure. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Neil Freeman, 16-Mar-18 08:59 PM GMT

Just catching up on your last couple of reports Andrew. A great selection of cracking photos and I love the Mottled Beauty on the tree trunk, brilliant camouflage 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 18-Mar-18 03:11 PM GMT

Cheers Neil. 😊 Absolutely, if I hadn't caught it flying behind the tree there is no chance I would have seen it, and I do keep half an eye on tree trunks. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 18-Mar-18 04:15 PM GMT

July 2017 (cont)

From my last summer visit to Dorset, starting as always with Portland. 😊

My usual modus operandi is to park up somewhere near the coastal path and then walk the circumference of the Isle. From fields near the Admiralty Quarries, Marbled White, Six-spot Burnet moth and Chalkhill Blue.



Into Grayling territory at Tout Quarry.



I tried some burst shots to see if I could catch the upper wing of any Graylings that flew away from me. Not the best quality (the fastest mode takes reduced MP count shots) but interesting nonetheless.



At their usual spot amongst these yellow flowers, Large and Small White.



There were a number of Painted Ladies along the south east coastal path section. A rest and fuel stop after a channel crossing perhaps ?



I'd argue there are few butterflies that look as good in the sunshine as a PL.



Completing Portland, Wall, one of those face in the dirt shots 😊, and a Dusky Sallow moth.



A couple of moths spotted at Lodmoor Country Park, Weymouth. Jersey Tiger and Dark or Grey Dagger (apparently they look the same).



Feed meh! Goldfinches at Lodmoor.



Lastly, Peacock take near Sherborne and Wall near Durdle Door, Lulworth.



One more post should finish off 2017 I reckon. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by trevor, 18-Mar-18 09:52 PM GMT

Great Grayling shot, I always end up with grass blades in the way.

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 18-Mar-18 10:29 PM GMT

Some great shots there and your 2017 review should finish just in time for the 2018 one to start properly...fingers crossed.

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 19-Mar-18 02:46 PM GMT

Another great report Andrew, looking forward to the final 2017 one and then some 2018 stuff 😊 Those Grayling shots are mighty fine, I wouldn't mind a few like that meself 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 19-Mar-18 08:48 PM GMT

Lovely shots Andrew, 🍷 I'm looking forward to your 2018 shots Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 20-Mar-18 10:45 AM GMT

Cheers Trevor, not a problem on Portland. You mostly see them on rocks or stony paths, and if you're lucky a flower. 😊

Thanks Bugboy, almost perfect timing! 😊 Although this year I will try to keep up. 😊

Cheers Wurzel, it's a great place to see them. 😊

Thanks a lot Goldie, not too long now hopefully. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 20-Mar-18 11:32 PM GMT

That Grayling upperside combo is mightily impressive, Andrew, and I also especially like the Peacock and Wall Brown shots. I hope you get the opportunity to put your camera work to good use very soon with 2018's line up!

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 22-Mar-18 09:08 AM GMT

Thanks David, I hope so too. 😊 Lets have no more nonsense from the east.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 26-Mar-18 11:09 AM GMT

Jul - Oct 2017

Some highlights from the remainder of 2017.

Dene Park, just north of Tonbridge in Kent, is my nearest Emperor site. No grounded individuals for me as yet but plenty of Purple Hairstreak activity on this day. Mostly up high, occasionally one or two would venture lower.



At nearby Shipbourne, this field with it's patches of Thistle was well worth checking. Small Copper, Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown.





I was walking through BC White Hill on a sunny afternoon when I saw a flash of yellow, there was a Clouded feeding on the Knapweed! Any thoughts of slowly approaching were quickly dismissed, this butterfly wasn't hanging around, spending 2 or 3 seconds on each flower before moving on to the next. But not the next door plant, one a good few meters further on. I was literally running to keep up, fumbling with my camera to get a few shots. 😊 Then it reached a high hedge, flew up and over and was gone. A handful of shots came out ok and revealed a lovely female. This was the 2nd Clouded Yellow I saw in north Kent last year, a short but sweet encounter, and my favourite of 2017. 😊



Finishing 2017 where my UKB 'career' began, at High and Over in Sussex where Trevor showed me the Wall's (thanks once more 😊).

The view north east over the Cuckmere River to Windover Hill, Friston Forest on the right.





Looking forward to this years sights. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 27-Mar-18 12:59 PM GMT

Fantastic shots Andrew 😊 Especially like the Walls and the back-lit Cloudy is just brill 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 27-Mar-18 01:21 PM GMT

A great selection, Andrew – I am looking forward to your adventures in 2018 too. 😊

Dave

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 27-Mar-18 04:53 PM GMT

Loving the Wall shots Andrew and the Cloudy Yellow ones, love their different shapes when on the flowers especially the Walls Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 27-Mar-18 09:22 PM GMT

Loving those summer images, Andrew. Won't be too long before those conditions return.

Well done with the part open wing Cloudie as well as the Wall Brown sequence.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 28-Mar-18 11:50 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel. I was well chuffed to see that Cloudy. 😊

Appreciate it Dave. 😊

Thanks a lot Goldie. I'm with you! Love the different angles and shapes you get when they are feeding. 😊

Thanks David. I was very happy to get that partial shot. But still couldn't help wishing I had both wings in view! 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by trevor, 28-Mar-18 12:24 PM GMT

Two Purple Hairstreaks together is definitely worth a mrgreen 🍷 .
Last year was incredible for them.

trevor.

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 28-Mar-18 09:24 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

Two Purple Hairstreaks together is definitely worth a mrgreen 🍷 .

Yes, I neglected to comment on that such was my admiration for the Cloudie and the Wall.

Getting one individual in shot is an effort but two is worth 6 of most other UK species. Well done.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 29-Mar-18 10:09 AM GMT

Thanks Trevor and David, Lady Luck smiled on me that day. 😊

You can't really tell from the pic but they had their proboscis in the same small acorn.

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 08-Apr-18 04:36 PM GMT

Despite the best attempts of my local weather to deny me, I managed to break my photographic duck for this year on Saturday at White Hill. At first, under gloomy skies, there was nothing. But I hung around and some brightness brought out a couple of male Brimstones.

After patrolling for a bit, one of them settled on some Ivy at the edge of the nearby wood, and it stayed put long enough for a few shots.

Feels good. 😊

Cheers





Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 08-Apr-18 10:34 PM GMT

Cloudy weather can sometimes be a good thing as it makes normally hyper butterflies settle down a bit 😊, great shots Andrew 😊 Is it just me or do Brimstones seem even more vivid in gloomy weather? 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 10-Apr-18 08:48 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel. 😊 True, though it was a bit too much on that day (and it was bloomin' windy!). Yes definitely! Particularly when they were flying about, like little fluorescent lights. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Janet Turnbull, 10-Apr-18 11:30 AM GMT

Just caught up with your review of 2017 Andrew – and what a lovely finish with the Clouded Yellow! Hope you have a similarly great summer this year.
Janet

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 10-Apr-18 02:22 PM GMT

That's a lovely Brimstone Andrew, it almost looks like it's on a swing enjoying it's self. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 12-Apr-18 01:02 PM GMT

Thank you Janet, good luck to you as well. 😊
I don't know how far north they can range, but I was very happy to see one local to me. 😊

Thanks Goldie. 😊 It was a bit windy so it probably felt like it!

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 12-Apr-18 10:04 PM GMT

Andrew555 wrote:

Despite the best attempts of my local weather to deny me, I managed to break my photographic duck for this year on Saturday at White Hill.

And what a way to do it, Andrew!

I've waited for weeks to get an image of a settled male Brimstone but it's way short of the quality of yours.

Well done!

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 13-Apr-18 11:28 AM GMT

Thanks a lot David. 😊

I was just thinking about leaving and turned around to head back to the car, when the Brimstone's appeared.
How many times does that happen ? 😊

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 14-Apr-18 09:19 PM GMT

Andrew555 wrote:

I was just thinking about leaving and turned around to head back to the car, when the Brimstone's appeared.
How many times does that happen ?

Those last few moments are akin to a football team looking for a winner in injury time, Andrew.

Your senses are heightened and you look for things more keenly than at the beginning of the excursion.

I've lost count of the number of times I've seen notable things in the final few minutes. It's always worth an extra glance!

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 16-Apr-18 10:20 AM GMT

Very true David, I like the analogy. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 23-Apr-18 08:45 PM GMT

Sunday 15th April

Not great weather but I popped by White Hill and found this male Brimstone.



This Bee Fly was also willing to pose for me.



Like a few people here, a lunchtime walk at work brings me some butterfly spotting opportunities. In fact I'll often get my first sighting of a species during one. This Speckled Wood seen on Friday, along with Holly Blue, is one such.



Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 23-Apr-18 09:36 PM GMT

A nice little selection, Andrew. A Holly Blue on holly as well! 😊

Dave

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 24-Apr-18 08:38 AM GMT

I'll trade you a Small Tort for a Speckle Andrew – still not seen one 😊 The butterflying lunch in my opinion is essential to a healthy lifestyle – I'm surprised there hasn't been a government initiative about it 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 24-Apr-18 02:58 PM GMT

Hi! Andrew, no Holly Blues or Speckies here yet, so well done with them, love the Brimstone . Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 24-Apr-18 07:36 PM GMT

Holly Blues are next on my hit list, seen a few but only had my phone on me so far to get any images. Hopefully on a lunchtime stroll in the next couple of days!

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 25-Apr-18 10:34 AM GMT

Cheers Dave. Yes, in it's proper place. 😊

😊 Wurzel, done!

There are a few desk jockeys here that would benefit from such a scheme! 😊

Thanks a lot Goldie. 😊

Best of luck Bugboy! 😊

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 25-Apr-18 06:03 PM GMT

Nice selection of spring species for a short lunchtime walk, Andrew. One hopes the good weather will return shortly to afford further opportunities.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 27-Apr-18 11:22 AM GMT

Thanks David. There were some good spells during the week, Orange-tips and Small White's now also seen. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Janet Turnbull, 27-Apr-18 01:48 PM GMT

That first Holly Blue is a lovely shot, Andrew. When I was at work I never thought about hunting butterflies at lunchtime. All those wasted opportunities! But since retiring and discovering the joys of butterflies at least I can go out anytime. If it would just stop raining...! 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 30-Apr-18 06:32 PM GMT

Thanks Janet. 😊 I count myself lucky there are some nice green areas close by, come sun or rain I'm out there. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 30-Apr-18 08:40 PM GMT

Saturday 21st April

I wanted to see some Orange-tips. So inspired by recent posts and using the excellent *The Butterflies of Sussex* as a guide I headed down to Five Oaks. Once there I plotted myself a meandering route to Billingshurst and back and set off.

I soon started to see OT's, along the edges of the fields and lanes, that first flash of colour in the morning sun made me very happy. 😊 Most were not stopping, males whizzed by, but there were some photo opportunities.

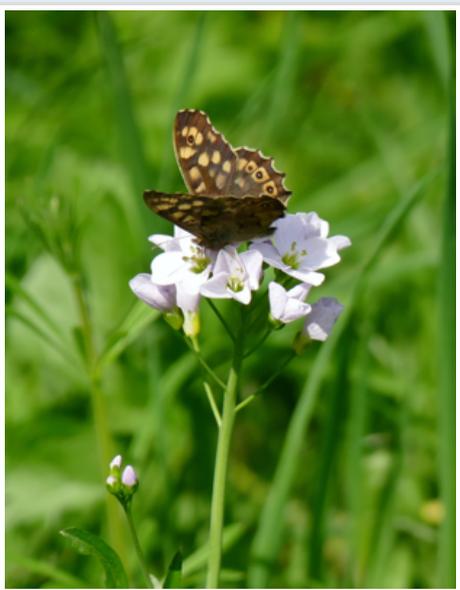




Thought this colourful chap deserved a pic.



There was a nice variety of other species to see.





I have to say it was really lovely walking through the meadows, cool shaded woodlands and quiet lanes of this landscape, with Orange-tips fluttering alongside. 😊

When I got back to the car I decided to return to one particular area for another look around, there it was a pleasure to meet fellow enthusiast and UKB member John W. 😊



Activity had died down a bit from my morning walkthrough but I found a resting female for us and John directed me to a subdued male.







After a while John announced he was going to Mill Hill to try and see some Grizzled Skippers, and would I like to come along ?

Erm... hell yes please?! 🍷

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 30-Apr-18 09:56 PM GMT

Wonderful stuff Andrew 🍷 😊

Re: Andrew555

by essexbuzzard, 30-Apr-18 10:00 PM GMT

Wonderfully evocative spring scenes there Andrew. I especially like the image with cuckoo flowers by the hedge, which looks very like the one in the book. I was hoping to get there myself, as it is very different to the habitat I normally see Orangetips in but, with the weather as it is, I think the cuckoo flowers will be gone before I get my chance...

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 01-May-18 09:22 AM GMT

Lovely shots Andrew, It's great to see them on Blue Bells and Cuckoo Flowers isn't it 😊 Unfortunately our Speckies and Holly Blues don't seem to have put in an appearance yet 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 01-May-18 12:02 PM GMT

Cheers Bugboy. 😊

Thanks Essex. 😊 I don't know m8, I was thinking of going back there myself. If you want the exact location, if you don't already know it, give me a shout.

Thanks Goldie. 😊 Yes it really is! This is the first time I have seen many of these butterflies on these flowers. Fingers crossed for you when the weather picks up this week. Any visits down here planned ? I'm starting to think about those Dukes. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 01-May-18 05:36 PM GMT

A lovely set of Spring time shots Andrew 😊 Looking forward to the Grizzlie shots that will probably/undoutably come in your next post 😊 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 02-May-18 11:53 AM GMT

Superb, uplifting spring images, Andrew. You've just about covered everything there.

That damp meadow looks positively delightful. No wonder there were Orange Tips flying around!

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 03-May-18 02:08 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel. 😊

Wurzel wrote:

Looking forward to the Grizzlie shots that will probably/undoutably come in your next post 😊🇬🇧

You 'may' be right... you are right. 🇬🇧

Thanks David. 😊

The meadow was really lovely, I spent some time there as you can imagine.

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 04-May-18 08:53 PM GMT

Saturday 21st April (cont)

So off we convoyed, heading south with John in the lead and me following.

It was very pleasant driving through the countryside, passing places familiar to Sussex regulars, Steyning, Beeding Cement Works and Wiston.

We stopped briefly at Wiston as John had spotted Neil Hulme in a meadow by the road. I thought about going over to shake his hand and thank him for his book, which was largely responsible for the great day I'd had around Five Oaks. But he was across the meadow in full 'seach and seek' mode, so another time. 😊😞

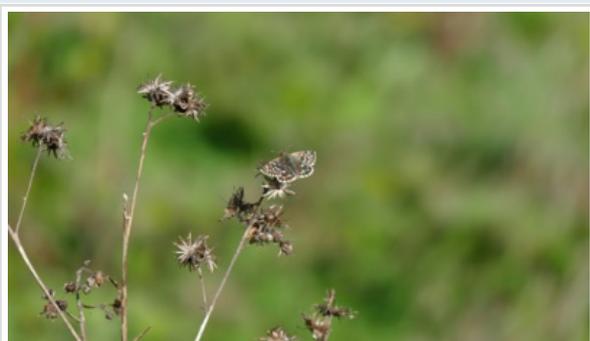
We continued, and arrived at Mill Hill around 16:40, parked in the lower car park and made our way along and down to the bottom of the hill, eyes peeled. It took a bit of persistence to find our first Grizzled but there it was, flitting low to the ground, sitting still every now and again or nectaring on small purple flowers.



Then I got distracted by a couple of micro moths. 😊 Wavy-barred Sable and Common Purple and Gold.

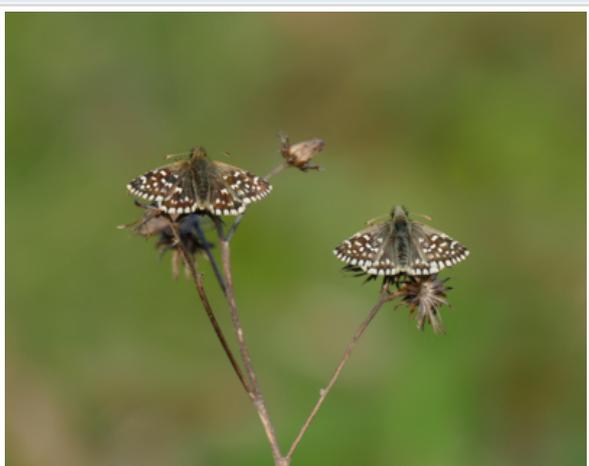


We lost the first Grizzled, then found another. And this one seemed interested in roosting on one of the dead flower heads that dotted the area.





Shortly it was joined by another, and after a bit of shuffling around they settled side by side.



After enjoying this sight for while, and getting our fill of pics, we departed Mill Hill more than satisfied.
Thus ended a long but immensely enjoyable day, and I have to give a massive thanks to John for his kind invite. 🇬🇧

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 05-May-18 07:46 AM GMT

I love that last shot, Andrew. Grizzlies can be tricky subjects to capture but you've done superbly.

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 05-May-18 09:11 AM GMT

Fantastic Grizzlie action – as I suspected Andrew 😊🇬🇧 The two side by side is a real cracking shot 😊🇬🇧 Hopefully I might join the Grizzlie club this weekend, fingers crossed 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 05-May-18 02:19 PM GMT

That pair of Grizzlies on neighbouring seedheads is just terrific, Andrew. One to aspire to, I think! 😊

Dave

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 05-May-18 08:23 PM GMT

What fantastic shots of the Grizzlies Andrew 🇬🇧🇬🇧 Especially the twins 😊 I've yet to even see them 😊🇬🇧 Goldie 🇬🇧

Re: Andrew555

by Pauline, 06-May-18 06:02 AM GMT

I agree with all the other comments Andrew and I think you've captured the underside well too (– one for Wurzel's album perhaps). Not something I've ever achieved as I'm not brave enough to lie down on the grass – had 6 ticks on me already this season 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Neil Freeman, 07-May-18 07:46 PM GMT

As other have commented on, that photo of the pair if Grizzlies is a belter 🇬🇧😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Andrew555

by John W, 07-May-18 11:29 PM GMT

Andrew555 wrote:

Saturday 21st April (cont)

After enjoying this sight for while, and getting our fill of pics, we departed Mill Hill more than satisfied.

Thus ended a long but immensely enjoyable day, and I have to give a massive thanks to John for his kind invite. 🇬🇧

Cheers

Hi Andrew, just to say that it was a pleasure to meet you and I hope we run into each other again sometime 😊

My version of the twin Grizzled Skipper shot won the "photo of the month" award on the Sussex Butterfly conservation web site!



Cheers
John

Re: Andrew555

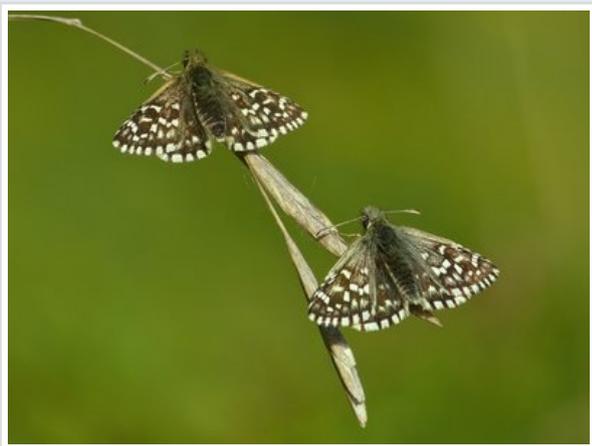
by Goldie M, 08-May-18 09:37 AM GMT

Well done, it was a fantastic shot 😄 Goldie 🤖👍

Re: Andrew555

by John W, 08-May-18 09:16 PM GMT

Just to say I got another "Twin Grizzlies" shot this evening !



Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 09-May-18 01:10 PM GMT

Thanks a lot John and I hope to see you out there too. 😄

Photo of the month ? That's fantastic! Well done. 🤖

But wait a second.. then you go and get an even better one! 🤖 Photo of the month for May ? 😄

Brilliant stuff.

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 09-May-18 01:28 PM GMT

Thanks David, we caught them at the right time I think. 😄

Cheers Wurzel, fingers crossed you did! 😄

Thanks a lot Dave. 😄

Thanks Goldie. 😄 I'm sorry 😞 I hope you get the opportunity to fix that! 😄

Thanks Pauline. 😄 You are absolutely right! I was fully reclined getting those shots. 😄😄

Blimey, 6 ticks ? I don't like the sound of that! 😬

Hi Neil and thanks a lot. 😊 Right time right place!

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 09-May-18 04:03 PM GMT

Another fantastic shot 📷📷 it's lovely!!! 😊 I must get a move on and find them 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 10-May-18 11:25 PM GMT

Seems Neil Hulme isn't alone when it comes to quality images of this species. Perhaps we need to set up a Grizzled Skipper competition? There have been some notably good photographs of this species thus far this year!

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 11-May-18 08:27 AM GMT

Your right David, there really have. 😊

Re: Andrew555

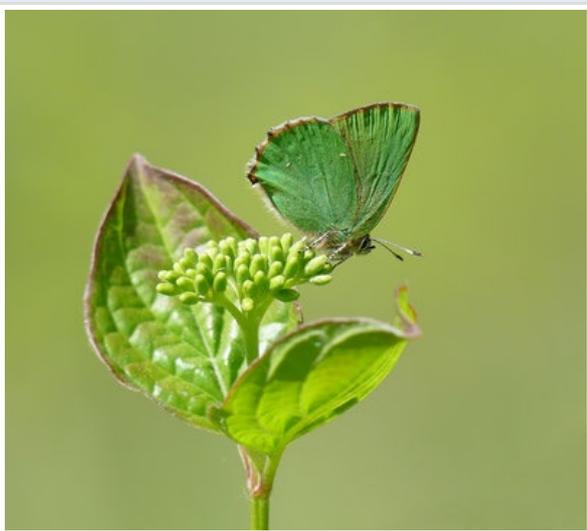
by Andrew555, 12-May-18 04:45 PM GMT

Monday 7th May

After a day at Denge Wood to see the Duke's (report at some point) I popped by White Hill on my way home. I wanted to see if Grizzled's, Dingy's or Green Hairstreak had appeared yet. Happily I found them all. 😊



This Greenstreak seemed to be laying eggs, but after she flew away I checked and couldn't see any.



Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 12-May-18 05:17 PM GMT

Lovely, lovely, shots Andrew 🍷 Where is White Hill, any where near Canterbury 🤔 I've been to Denge Wood that's near to my Daughter's but I've not heard of White Hill, so glad you got all three species because you don't always get what you go after. Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 12-May-18 05:24 PM GMT

Ooooh that final shot of the Haistreak is to die for!!!

Re: Andrew555

by trevor, 12-May-18 07:57 PM GMT

I'll go along with Bugboy on that one, very nice.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Andrew555

by Pauline, 12-May-18 08:02 PM GMT

Brilliant Hairstreak sequence Andrew 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 13-May-18 10:25 PM GMT

As others have said a great sequence of Hairstreak shots, the last one is a real corker 🤔👍 It's great when you bag all of your targets for the day on a trip out 😊

Have a goodun
Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 14-May-18 09:49 PM GMT

Thanks Goldie. 😊 I knew they all *should* have been there, but as you say that doesn't always work out. 😊
Not close to Canterbury, it's up my way at the Kent Shoreham.

Cheers Buggy and Trevor! 😊

Thanks a lot Pauline, it's always nice when they stay in the same place for a bit. 😊

Ta very much Wurzel! 😊 It is indeed, and this was just an afterthought really, after the main event of the day. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Neil Freeman, 15-May-18 07:54 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

Ooooh that final shot of the Haistreak is to die for!!!

It is indeed, a beautiful image there Andrew 🤔😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 16-May-18 06:31 PM GMT

Neil Freeman wrote:

bugboy wrote:

Ooooh that final shot of the Haistreak is to die for!!!

It is indeed, a beautiful image there Andrew 🤔😊

Cheers,

Neil.

It sure is! Green Hairstreak can be a tricky butterfly to photograph but you've nailed it there, Andrew! 😊

Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 16-May-18 09:57 PM GMT

Yes, a lovely Green Hairstreak, Andrew. It appears caught in contemplation having (apparently, but not actually) laid an egg in the previous shot. 😊

Dave

Re: Andrew555

by Katrina, 16-May-18 10:12 PM GMT

Beautiful photos 📷📷

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 18-May-18 07:49 PM GMT

Cheers Neil. 😊

Thanks a lot David. 😊

Thanks Dave. 😊 Yes I don't quite know what was going on there!

Thank you Katrina. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Pauline, 18-May-18 07:55 PM GMT

I've looked at those GH shots again Andrew (they certainly do fall into my category of 'wish I'd taken them') but having enlarged them it seems to me that there is a fresh GH egg on the underside of the leaf – the last shot. Can't be sure but definitely looks like one. What do others think?

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 18-May-18 08:21 PM GMT

22-04-18 Devils Dyke

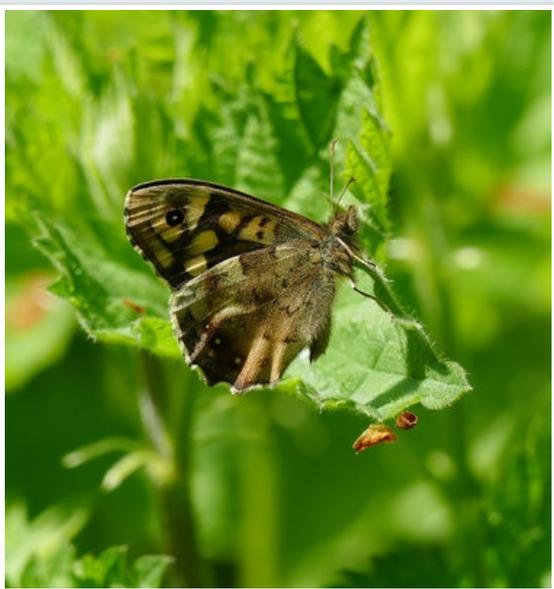
Once more consulting the Sussex butterfly atlas, with Green Hairstreak the target, I headed to Devil's Dyke on the South Down's. Working along the bottom of the valley it didn't take long to find my first, and more followed with a good half dozen or more seen by the end of my trip.



A variety of spots, or not, were on display.



Other sightings were Comma, Brimstone, Peacock, my first Red Admiral of the year and Speckled Wood.



A walk around the picturesque area finished off a successful and enjoyable day. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 18-May-18 08:47 PM GMT

Pauline wrote:

I've looked at those GH shots again Andrew (they certainly do fall into my category of 'wish I'd taken them') but having enlarged them it seems to me that there is a fresh GH egg on the underside of the leaf – the last shot. Can't be sure but definitely looks like one. What do others think?

I really don't know Pauline, my experience with butterfly eggs is pretty much zero! I'd be interested any opinion's out there. Thanks for your comment. 😊



Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 19-May-18 10:24 PM GMT

A cracking set of shots of the Green one Andrew 😊👍 I reckon you're onto a 'caecus' (no spotter) and a inferopunctata (line of spots on the hind wing) in the four in one shot, I'm sorry I have a thing about spots on butterflies 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 19-May-18 10:31 PM GMT

The "four-in-one" composite is excellent, Andrew – as Wurzel says, a splendid example of the variety in the "hairstreak" marking. 😊

Dave

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 20-May-18 05:11 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel. 😊 No need to be sorry! I like to know these things. 😊

Thanks Dave, it was good to see the variety. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 20-May-18 05:19 PM GMT

04-05-18 Work

Some of the usual suspects on this lunchtime walk, Speckled, Holly Blue and Bee Fly.



But also my first damselfly of the year, a female Large Red.



Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 21-May-18 09:36 AM GMT

Hi! Andrew looks like you found the Garlic Flowers as well 😊 I Think! I'm no expert on Flowers 😊 Nice Holly Blue, it's a lovely little Butterfly. Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 21-May-18 08:36 PM GMT

Lovely set of shots Andrew, the Holly Blue is especially ethereal 😊 Good luck at the Hill 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 22-May-18 09:03 PM GMT

Hi Goldie and thanks. 😊 Me neither! But yes I think you are right! 😊

Cheers Wurzel, the Hill was awesome! 🍷 😊
And your advice was very much appreciated! 🍷 😊

Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 22-May-18 09:20 PM GMT

I also like that Holly Blue – subtly atmospheric... 😊

Glad you had a good trip to Wurzel's Hill: it is quite a place!

Dave

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 24-May-18 03:11 PM GMT

Cheers Dave. Wurzel's Hill was indeed amazing! 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 24-May-18 04:20 PM GMT

05-05-18 Noar Hill

I decided to try somewhere new for my first Duke's of the year, and Noar Hill in Hampshire was the place. An interesting site, full of dips and depressions, a legacy of old chalk workings.

On my initial wander around I saw Orange-tip, GVW, Holly Blue and a nice Green Hairstreak.



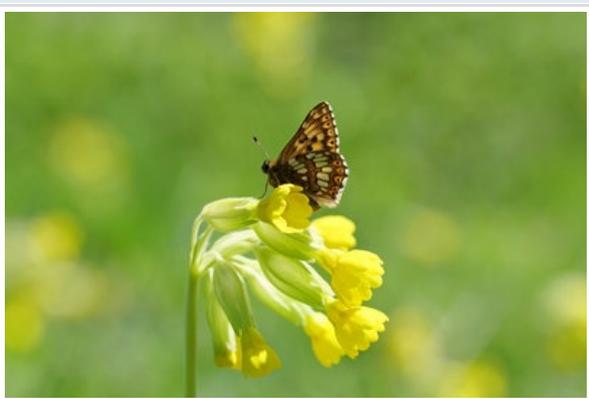
A few like minded individuals had started to arrive and one of them spotted some Duke's on the wing, and a pairing.



After that the sightings seemed to come easier, although open wings were rare.



Cowslips, of which there were many, made nice little perches.





These Adela reaumurella moths seemed to be having a good time.



With exploring a new area and seeing the Duke of Burgundy's again, it's safe to say I did too. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by trevor, 24-May-18 06:22 PM GMT

Great Duke pairing image, and Green Hairstreak, lovely colour.
How did you get on yesterday ?.

Trevor.

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 24-May-18 08:42 PM GMT

A great shot of the pair in cop Andrew and an great open wing shot 😊👍 I was there the next day but missed out on a pairing they were all really hyper so that open wing shot was something of a rarity 😊👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 24-May-18 09:37 PM GMT

Cheers Trevor, really good thanks!, loads of Wall on Portland. 😊



Thanks Wurzel. 😊 Damn, just missed you! 😞😞
Yeah I feel pretty lucky, too warm I guess.

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by ernie f, 24-May-18 10:21 PM GMT

Andrew - Good to see you had a great Duke day at my local reserve - Noar Hill.
Sorry I missed you by one day. I went the following day to you!

Re: Andrew555

by trevor, 25-May-18 04:38 PM GMT

That's a pretty rare Wall shot, male and female together, not up to anything !
It may be the male is trying to woo an uninterested female, who may have already mated.

Great stuff,
Trevor.

Re: Andrew555

by Neil Freeman, 25-May-18 07:24 PM GMT

Just catching up on your recent reports Andrew, some great photos to accompany them. I particularly like the pair of Wall Browns and the swarm of Adela reamurella 🐛😊. I have attempted to take photos of swarms of those little longhorn moths before and only succeeded in getting lots of little blurs.

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 26-May-18 08:03 PM GMT

Thanks Ernie, I enjoyed Noar Hill a lot. 😊
I've had both near misses and chance meetings with UKB'ers this year! 😊

Nothing seemed to come of it Trevor, they each flew off separately soon after, so I think you are right. 😊

Thanks Neil, focusing on the foliage with a fast shutter speed seemed to do the trick. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Janet Turnbull, 27-May-18 10:34 PM GMT

I'm very impressed with your Dukes, Andrew! 🐛🐛🐛 I have yet to see one!

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 27-May-18 11:12 PM GMT

We're like ships in the night Andrew 😊 Great non-pairing pair of Walls (that took some working out) I don't think I've ever seen two members of this species so close together when they haven't been courting or pairing, a field guide perfect picture 🐛🐛🐛

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 28-May-18 09:11 AM GMT

Fantastic shots Andrew of all the Butterflies 🦋🦋 especially the pairing Dukes, Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 28-May-18 04:32 PM GMT

trevor wrote:

That's a pretty rare Wall shot, male and female together, not up to anything !.
It may be the male is trying to woo an uninterested female, who may have already mated.

Very likely, Trevor, particularly given that the female looks older than the male (who seems mint fresh).

I agree it's a lovely image though.

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 29-May-18 07:35 AM GMT

I'm struggling to keep up with diaries even more than normal this year. It's good to catch up on some though especially with some fantastic images of those springtime species which are now looking decidedly worn when I see them in the field now.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 30-May-18 09:09 PM GMT

Thanks a lot Janet. 😊 I hope you get to fix that, my first was only a couple of years ago.

😊 One day it will happen, by chance or arrangement. 😊 Thanks Wurzel. 😊

Thank you Goldie. Credit to the chap that spotted them. 😊

Thanks David. I think they were the first male and female Wall I had seen together, it was a very exciting moment! 😊

Cheers Bugboy, I know what you mean! But you're right, there are some cracking images here. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 30-May-18 10:05 PM GMT

06-05-18 Lullington Heath

The word on the street was that Small Coppers were back, I headed down to Lullington Heath to investigate.

Stopping at Winchester's Pond, right next to the Heath, I found a swimming grass snake and recently emerged Broad-bodied Chaser.





Knowing from previous visits that Small Coppers could be found almost anywhere on the reserve I started a slow search. After 20 minutes or so something caught my eye, small, flying fast and low. Then it landed, and that beautiful colour hit my eyes, I'd found them! 🍷



There were around a half dozen in this small area. I spent some time watching (I'd forgotten how fast they fly in combat!) and saw several times the 'pole-dance'.



It was time to go, but what a joy it was to see the Small Coppers again, and I knew I had to come back again soon. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 01-Jun-18 12:38 PM GMT

A great set of images Andrew you've really managed to make the most of the light to capture the full range of colours on those cracking Coppers 😊👍
Looking forward to your return visit 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 03-Jun-18 12:42 AM GMT

Nice Coppers, Andrew, a species most of us only see in small numbers (those living near Dungeness are an exception).

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 04-Jun-18 09:03 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel. 😊

Thanks David, I think a trip to Dungeness later in the year is in order. 😊

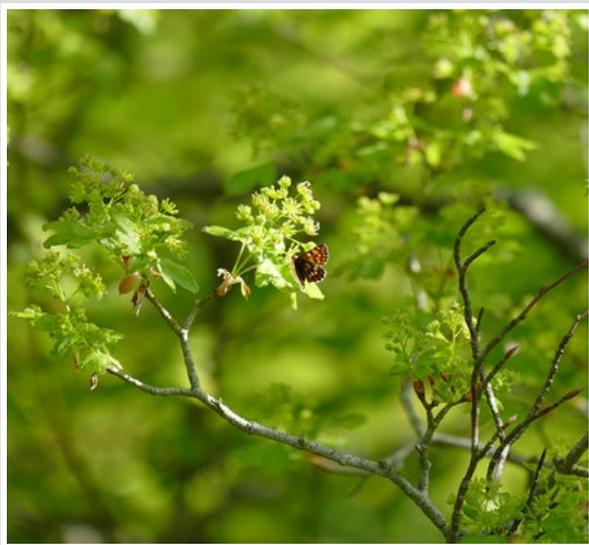
Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 04-Jun-18 09:42 PM GMT

07-05-18 Denge Wood

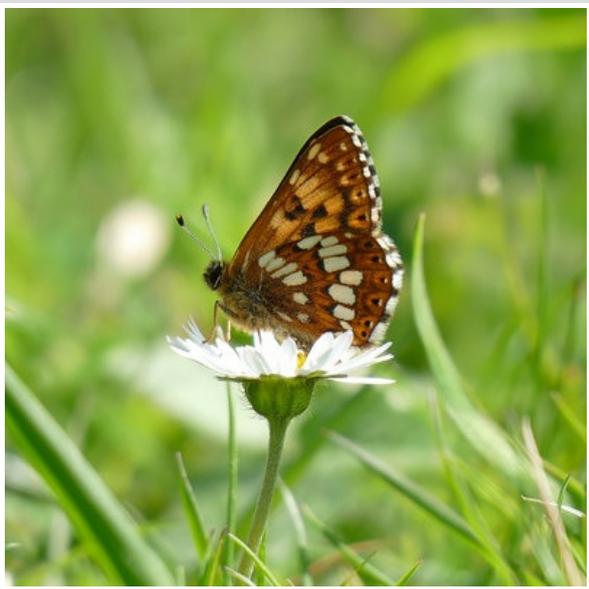
After Noar Hill wetted my appetite, I made a trip to Denge Wood to see some more Duke's, here are some highlights.

The first I saw was in a tree (Field Maple?).





The rest were in the more traditional low down positions.



Among other butterflies seen that day, Green Hairstreak, Brimstone and Orange-tip.



The Brimstone was tucking in heartily. I like the legs in the air. 😊



The Duke's of Denge did not disappoint, and I left with appetite sated, for a while. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 04-Jun-18 11:11 PM GMT

Fabulous shot of the Duke up high Andrew 🤔🤔🤔 That Brimstone seems to have gone all in, it looks like the flower is eating the butterfly 🤔🤔

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 04-Jun-18 11:28 PM GMT

Aah! Nice to still be seeing fresh Dukes, even if it was 4 weeks ago! Their season is over all too quickly....how I wish they had a regular second brood.
😞

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 05-Jun-18 08:04 AM GMT

Thanks Wurzel, never seen one in a tree before. 😊

It does! But rest assured there was no sneaky crab spider that had a hold of it, I watched it fly off safe and sound. 😊

Thanks a lot David. 😊 Yup, still trying to catch up! 😊😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by ernie f, 05-Jun-18 09:07 AM GMT

I like pics of butterflies in a setting and you have aced it with your Duke on a Field Maple.

Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 05-Jun-18 12:08 PM GMT

Dukes up trees is a new one on me as well – a great piece of behaviour to capture, Andrew. 😊

Dave

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 05-Jun-18 08:27 PM GMT

Cheers Ernie and Dave. 😊

Two Meadow Browns seen at Abbot's Wood on Saturday.





Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 05-Jun-18 10:38 PM GMT

Things are motoring along now Andrew 😊 , great shots of the Meadow Browns they can be quite tricky this early in the season 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 06-Jun-18 07:57 AM GMT

Some marvellous recent images Andrew, it's easy to forget how beautiful even common and ubiquitous species like Meadow Brown's can be when fresh 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 07-Jun-18 10:26 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, this one seemed pretty chill (some cloud helped me out). 😊

Thanks Bugboy, very true. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 07-Jun-18 10:54 PM GMT

13-05-18 Lullington Heath

A return to the Heath to see some more Coppers, but also for other spring species.

The others included Red Admiral, Large White, Green-veined White and my first Brown Argus.



A female Wall in Friston Forest. This was one of those times when your concentrating on something, then you turn around and there's a butterfly sat 10 feet away from you where there wasn't before. 😊



My best Small Copper encounter was this male on blossom.



As the sun got lower I finished off with Grizzled Skipper.



A very worthwhile return. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 08-Jun-18 08:09 PM GMT

It's great when butterflies just 'materialize' 😊 Definitely worth the return visit 😊 Must be getting close to the Marshie trip?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Neil Freeman, 08-Jun-18 08:15 PM GMT

A Duke up a tree and then a Copper on a hawthorn, great shots Andrew 😊

I wish I could turn around and find a Wall Brown behind me...in fact I wish I could find one within 50 miles of where I live.

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 09-Jun-18 08:52 PM GMT

That's an odd looking female Wall Brown, Andrew. The markings near the apex of the forewings are unusually faint.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 11-Jun-18 01:13 PM GMT

It really is! 😊 Luckily the act of turning around didn't scare it off. Yes, close-ish. 😊 Cheers Wurzel

Thanks a lot Neil. 😊 50 miles ? Damn! 😊

I don't really know David, I don't think I've seen enough to immediately notice that kind of thing. It does seem so, comparing with others.

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 14-Jun-18 10:43 PM GMT

14/05/18 - 19/05/18 East Sussex highlights

Not quite in the same league as Glanvilles and Black Hairstreaks, but here it is anyway. 😊

I was chuffed with this Large White at Abbot's Wood, a classic 'seen on the way out' number.



I crossed the road at High and Over for the first time, to explore west where I'd heard good things could be seen. I'd heard right, there was Large White, Green-veined White, Green Hairstreak, Speckled Wood, Brimstone, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, Dingy Skipper, Common Blue, Brown Argus and more Wall. But the star was a female Speckled.



Myself and this Dingy Skipper shared a moment on the way up Windover Hill. 😊



I continued to enjoy Lullington Heath and Friston Forest with another female Wall, Speckled Yellow moth and my first blue spot female Small Copper. 😊



Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 14-Jun-18 10:49 PM GMT

Great set of shots Andrew, especially like the Dingy on the hand 😊 I have one of those in my 'in the hand collection' but not as good as that one 😊👍
Cracking Small Copper, a proper 'Blue Badger' 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 14-Jun-18 10:53 PM GMT

I got a bit of a shock reading that until I saw the date of your sightings, Andrew!! It might only have been a month or so ago but with the warm spell things have changed out of all recognition.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 16-Jun-18 04:33 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel. 😊 I don't often try 'butterfly handling' , but that went well. She was, but flew out of sight far too quickly. 😞😞

Sorry about that David. 😞 My next post is up to date. 🙄😞

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 16-Jun-18 05:17 PM GMT

I took a trip to Ditchling Common on Friday to try and get my first sight of a Black Hairstreak. Only two seen during my 3 hour stay but one of them was feeding on Brambles right next to the path for a good 20 minutes or more.



There were many Meadow Browns, and Large Skippers were on guard.





I spent the rest of the day local, at Lullingstone Country Park with beautiful fresh Dark Green Fritillaries and Marbled Whites. Ringlets and Small Skippers were also out.





Fantastic to see the BS, my 3rd lifetime first this year. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 16-Jun-18 07:06 PM GMT

Hi! Andrew, love the shot of the Marbled White, 🍷 Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Maximus, 16-Jun-18 07:40 PM GMT

Great that you got to see your first ever Black Hairstreak at Ditchling, Andrew 😊

Mike

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 16-Jun-18 08:19 PM GMT

Brill set of images Andrew Blackstreak, Marbled Whites and then a DGF too 😊🍷 That would be a lifer and two FFY for me 🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 17-Jun-18 09:44 PM GMT

So glad you got your Black Hairstreak, Andrew. The DGF was a nice bonus too!

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 18-Jun-18 03:59 PM GMT

Thanks Goldie! 😊 I share your love of them. 😊

Thanks a lot Maximus. 😊

Cheers Wurzel, with the Ringlets and Small Skippers it was a 1/4 day! 😊

Thanks David, it was an awesome day all round! 😊

Re: Andrew555

by kevlng, 18-Jun-18 07:19 PM GMT

Andrew,

Nice shots of the Marbled White & DGF. Lullingstone CP looks a good place and less than 90 minutes from Suffolk too. Perhaps a visit is in order. Glad

you got your Black Hairstreak too.

Regards Kev

Re: Andrew555

by Gary.N, 18-Jun-18 07:27 PM GMT

Great set of shots Andrew. Specially love your shot of the Black Hairstreak and the side on shot of the Large Skipper. 😊

Gary

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 20-Jun-18 08:47 AM GMT

Cheers Kev, give a shout if you need more info. 😊

Hi Gary, thanks a lot. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 25-Jun-18 11:19 PM GMT

23/06/18 Chiddingfold

My first time Emperor hunting at Chiddingfold, and blimey it was brilliant! I saw half a dozen or more individuals on the ground, regulars there were saying it was a really good showing. Up close encounters, really close! What a stunning butterfly. 😊







Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Pauline, 26-Jun-18 06:46 AM GMT

Some fabulous shots there Andrew - you will never forget your first encounter! What on earth is it feeding on in that last shot - another grub?

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 26-Jun-18 10:48 PM GMT

Fantastic stuff Andrew 😊 I had t wait three years for my first grounded Emperor 🇩🇪🇩🇪

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 27-Jun-18 10:21 PM GMT

Thanks a lot Pauline, it was really special. 😊 I really don't know, and I'd like to.

Cheers Wurzel. 😊 Wow three years ? 🤔 That was pretty jammy for me then! 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 27-Jun-18 10:36 PM GMT

More from Chiddingfold, the support acts were pretty good! 😊
Comma, Wood White, Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral and Brimstone.





I couldn't resist another visit today, great to see Katrina and Trevor again. 😊 Star of the day was this Emperor ab.



Comparison shots, ab. on the left.



Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Janet Turnbull, 27-Jun-18 10:53 PM GMT

I'm glad you posted the comparison shots - I was going to ask why it was an ab! 😊 It looks like you had a fab day. Wood Whites and Emperors together! 🍷🍷

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 27-Jun-18 11:38 PM GMT

Brilliant comparison shots Andrew, captured those really well 😊🍷🍷 I'm hoping the Emperors over this way keep coming to the ground until I can get out next, fingers crossed 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 28-Jun-18 08:07 AM GMT

That ab seems to be cropping up in several posts recently.... 😊

Re: Andrew555

by ernie f, 28-Jun-18 08:20 AM GMT

Andrew - I've just been doing a "spot the difference" between the Purple ab and standard on Trevor's post but it appears you liked the idea too and put the shots side-by-side. Great.

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 28-Jun-18 09:33 AM GMT

Catching up on posts and so glad I did on yours Andrew, what fantastic shots of the Emperor 🍷🍷 and that ab is well shown. 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 28-Jun-18 10:15 AM GMT

Great shots of the Emperors, especially that ab, Andrew. 😊 It would be the day I didn't go down there!

Dave

Re: Andrew555

by Pauline, 28-Jun-18 03:46 PM GMT

C'mon Buggy - we can usually rely on you in these situations - what is that bug the PE is interested in? Apparently that is the second PE ab at Chiddingfold this week!

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 29-Jun-18 07:43 AM GMT

Pauline wrote:

C'mon Buggy - we can usually rely on you in these situations - what is that bug the PE is interested in? Apparently that is the second PE ab at Chiddingfold this week!

I've been away Pauline and can only really attempt to catch up on everyone's diaries on my phone whilst on the train on my way to look for butterflies.

I'm not sure what that blob is but don't think it's a grub. Gut feeling is it's some sort of fungus or perhaps a bird poo.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 29-Jun-18 08:17 AM GMT

I reckon it's this Pauline.

' Alcoholic flux is a stress-related disease that affects sweet gum, oak, elm and willow trees. It usually occurs after a period of very hot, dry weather. The disease is caused by a microorganism that ferments the sap that seeps or bleeds from cracks and wounds in the bark. The result is a white, frothy ooze that has a sweet, fermenting odor similar to beer. Alcoholic flux is sometimes called frothy flux or foamy canker because of the white ooze that looks and feels like melted marshmallows. Fortunately, this ooze only lasts for a short time in summer. '

It certainly looks frothy to me.

Re: Andrew555

by Pauline, 29-Jun-18 08:21 AM GMT

That certainly fits the bill Andrew and would explain why the PE was so interested in it 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 29-Jun-18 08:53 AM GMT

Hi Janet, glad you liked them. 😊 There was lots of good stuff to see! 😊

Cheers Wurzel. 😊 Fingers crossed for you! 😊

😊 Bugboy, and probably a few other places on the internets! 😊

Yes Ernie, I wanted to easily compare them, cheers. 😊

Hi Goldie, thank you very much. 😊

Thanks Dave, 😊 that's typical init!?

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 07-Jul-18 06:13 PM GMT

One of my targets this year was the Marsh Fritillary, which would be a first for me. With advice from some good folks on these boards I made my way to a Wiltshire hill in late May.

Arriving early I found Brown Argus and Grizzled Skipper waking up.



Then as the light cloud cleared and the sun warmed the hillside I spotted my very first Marshies! 😊 More appeared as the temperature rose, and became very active, bombing up and down the slopes. I enjoyed the show with Dave Cook, who I met there for the first time, and later Trevor. 😊

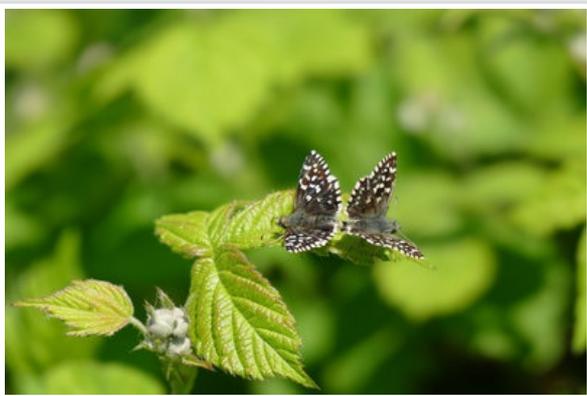




One of the few non-butterfly shots taken, Yellow Hammer and Stonechat.



After lunch I called it a day. Made my way back to the car and, as a final bonus, saw this Grizzled pairing.



Wanting a bit more I made a trip to Cerne Abbas a few days later. Sweeping the lower slopes I found Marshies on both the east and west sides.

Some of the variable markings and colouration.



Best find was this female, plump with eggs I think.



What a lovely butterfly, mission well and truly accomplished. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by ernie f, 08-Jul-18 07:25 AM GMT

Andrew – Of all the fantastic shots you took there, the one of the mating Grizzlies is the one I envy, never having seen this yet. 🇩🇪

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 08-Jul-18 07:49 AM GMT

Great stuff Andrew 😊 I'm glad the Hill trip paid off 😊 That final female is definitely very fecund, fit to burst! 🤪 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 09-Jul-18 02:58 PM GMT

Thanks Ernie, it was a first for me. 😊

Cheers Wurzel, and many thanks for your advice. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 09-Jul-18 03:18 PM GMT

A small roundup of work sightings over the past few weeks.

There always seems to be a moth or two to see. Small Magpie, Clouded Border and Yellow Shell.



I'd not seen one of these before, a *Phycita casta* moth larvae casing.



Beautiful Demoiselle female.



And a Painted Lady, almost right outside my place of work. 😊



Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by ernie f, 09-Jul-18 04:35 PM GMT

Andrew - that is a beautiful Painted Lady shot - the colour combination between the butterfly and the plant is excellent.

Re: Andrew555

by Neil Freeman, 09-Jul-18 07:06 PM GMT

ernie f wrote:

Andrew - that is a beautiful Painted Lady shot - the colour combination between the butterfly and the plant is excellent.

Agreed, a lovely image 🍷 😊

I also like the female Marsh Fritillary basking on the ground in your earlier post and the pair of Grizzled Skippers 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil

Re: Andrew555

by MikeOxon, 09-Jul-18 07:58 PM GMT

I agree with ernie f about that beautiful PL shot 😊 I've enjoyed following your findings of new species, not to mention the abs.

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 10-Jul-18 10:42 AM GMT

Yes that is a great PL shot, getting down to their level I think always improves a picture, softening the background really drawing out the butterfly 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 10-Jul-18 08:22 PM GMT

Cheers Ernie. 😊

Thanks a lot Neil. 😊

Thank you Mike. 😊

Cheers Bugboy. 😊 Agreed, I take a lot of shots crouching or kneeling. Can be a bit hard on the knee's though!

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 10-Jul-18 09:03 PM GMT

The last of Chiddingfold. On my final visit my companions were Katrina and her sister, and Mark Colvin. A big thanks to Mark for showing us a bit more of the woods. 😊

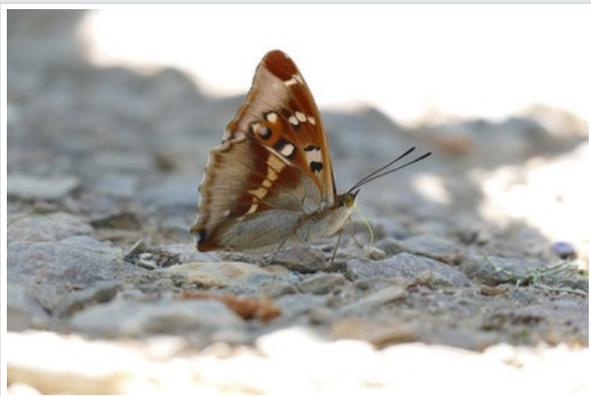
Once settled some of the Emperors let you get really close.



White Admirals and Silver-washed Fritillaries would also come down to the path. Missed a WA but got a SWF.



The old 'put it in shade to open the wings' ploy. (never worked 😞😞)



Ringlets and an elusive SWF pairing.





The next day I was in nearby woods. Here I saw my first Gatekeeper of the year.



There were lots of SWF's, I saw several times females flying low around tree trunks before landing and laying. Exactly the behaviour Mark was telling me about the day before. 😊 Couldn't see any eggs but it was a lot darker under the trees than the picture makes out!



And a nice Meadow Brown female on the way back to the car.



Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Mark Colvin, 10-Jul-18 09:12 PM GMT

Great work, Andrew.

You're getting some super clarity of detail with your FZ1000.

Hope to see you again.

Good hunting.

Kind regards. Mark

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 10-Jul-18 09:29 PM GMT

My word, that PE closeup is magnificent! Nice pic of the PE ab as well 🍷🍷

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 10-Jul-18 11:10 PM GMT

I can only add to the other comments how cracking the level of detail on that PE wing shot 🤩😄🍷 As Bugboy says too, nice PE ab 🍷🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by ernie f, 11-Jul-18 08:08 AM GMT

Andrew - It would be difficult to get a closer shot than that you took of the PE without using an Electron Microscope! 😄
Wonderfully crisp too.

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 11-Jul-18 10:00 PM GMT

Superb images, Andrew, and as others have said, that close up of the Emperor's hindwing is notably stunning.

Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 11-Jul-18 10:24 PM GMT

I love the close-up too, Andrew - the white looks as if it's been carefully painted on. The clarity is superb. 😄

Dave

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 14-Jul-18 03:36 PM GMT

Thanks a lot Mark. I see you got your sap run shots, and a beautiful Empress. 🍷😄 Cheers.

Many thanks Bugboy, Wurzel, Ernie, David and Dave. 😊 Cheers all.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 14-Jul-18 04:18 PM GMT

I'm in Dorset at the moment, so Portland visits are obligatory. Here are some Graylings from the past week, all seen at Tout Quarry.



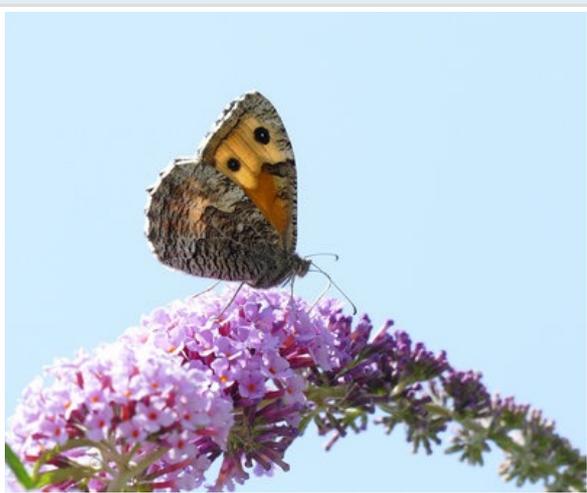
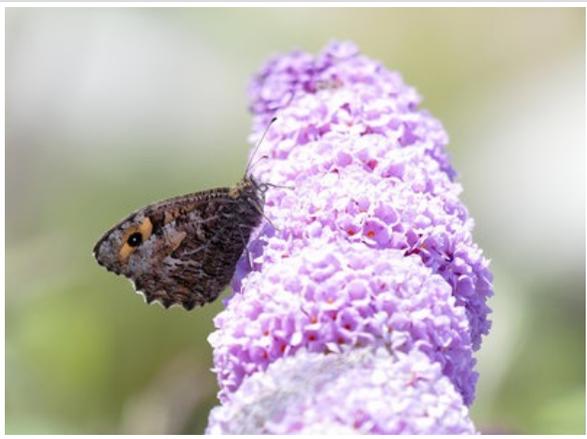
They would spring up to challenge each other, and anything flying that passed by. Before landing again on the path, boulders or rock face.





The Buddleia's were well visited, very handy for pics.

edit I sent the one below to British Butterfly Aberrations who replied, ' Yes it is actually quite an uncommon ab. of the Grayling with the extra small dot ab. tripuncta. I notice the extra one is very close to the main spot at the apex. so it could possibly be a new form. Nonetheless it is a very good find and thanks for sending me the photo. Without the actual specimen, it would be hard to define.'



A joy to be on Portland again. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by trevor, 14-Jul-18 04:50 PM GMT

Great Grayling shots, Andrew. All with a nice clear backdrop. 📷
The local Graylings on Windover hill use Rabbit scrapes surrounded by grass.
Decent shots are hard to get.

Great stuff,
Trevor.

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 15-Jul-18 05:45 PM GMT

Cracking set of Graylings Andrew including the ab 😊📷📷 That looks like a perfect site to see them because 1 – as Trevor says there are no obstructions and 2 – it's in Dorset 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by Pauline, 15-Jul-18 07:07 PM GMT

Some really lovely Grayling images there Andrew and well done with that ab – great find 😊📷

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 16-Jul-18 08:09 PM GMT

Cheers Trevor, yes I think I've been a bit spoilt with Portland Graylings! 😊

Cheers Wurzel, highly recommended. 😊

Thanks a lot Pauline. An ab is always a nice bonus. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 16-Jul-18 08:32 PM GMT

There are lots of Chalkhill Blues on Portland at the moment, and it's all very hectic in the hot weather. So early morning or evening viewing is best, I'm an early riser anyway so I chose the morning, catch 'em as they're waking up!







Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 16-Jul-18 10:49 PM GMT

Fabulous Chalkhills Andrew 🥰🍷 I saw my first for 2018 this afternoon but they refused to open up for like those one did, again proving how much better behaved Dorset butterflies are 😊😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 17-Jul-18 09:24 PM GMT

Lovely images of the Graylings and Chalkhill Blues, Andrew. I always find it amusing to see Graylings nectaring avidly from buddleia....it seems they are almost unique as most other satyrids tend not to frequent this shrub, apart from the occasional Meadow Brown.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 19-Jul-18 08:17 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel, nice one. Maybe! 😊😄

Thanks David. There are a lot of Buddleia on Portland and I did see the occasional Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Marbled White on them as well. Cheers 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 19-Jul-18 08:35 PM GMT

Some other sightings from Portland.

Found alongside the Chalkhills, a nicely marked female Meadow Brown, Marbled White and Small Copper.



A Hummingbird Hawk-moth, saw a few of these.



Portland always seems good for Painted Ladies.



Lots of Whites are on the wing, a Large here.



I also saw a Clouded Yellow twice, on different days in the same area, flyby's only so no pics. I got up early one day to try and find it warming up, no joy. 😊😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 19-Jul-18 09:44 PM GMT

Gorgeous Chalkhills Andrew, not to mention everything else on your recent trip to Portland 🤔👍👍

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 19-Jul-18 10:23 PM GMT

Fantastic crisp images Andrew 😊👍 The Marbled White almost jumps out of the screen 🤩😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 19-Jul-18 11:53 PM GMT

Some superb images in your latest sequences, Andrew. I particularly like the Graylings on buddleia, although the Marbled White and the beautifully marked female Meadow Brown are noteworthy too.

Re: Andrew555

by ernie f, 20-Jul-18 09:01 AM GMT

Andrew - Its the Hummingbird Hawkmoth pic for me. Its really difficult to get a shot of these and you have nailed it.

Cheers,

Re: Andrew555

by Neil Freeman, 20-Jul-18 07:40 PM GMT

A great series of reports and photos from Portland Andrew, love the Chalkhills, and the Marbled White, and that Meadow Brown, and the Hummingbird Hawk Moth.

Great stuff 🤔😊

Neil.

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 20-Jul-18 10:24 PM GMT

Is it just me or does that Large White have an abnormally large unf spot?

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 27-Jul-18 01:53 PM GMT

Thanks a lot Bugboy, Wurzel and David. 😊

Cheers Ernie, I basically mashed the shutter and hoped one shot would come out ok. 😊

Cheers Neil. 😊

David M wrote:

Is it just me or does that Large White have an abnormally large unf spot?

I'm not sure David, it looks broadly similar to some others I've compared it to.

Re: Andrew555

by Pauline, 27-Jul-18 05:13 PM GMT

Your diary is definitely one to watch Andrew! The shots of the Chalkhills are great and I certainly admire the Hummingbird Hawk moth. A difficult subject if ever there was one as I have recently found!

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 07-Aug-18 01:58 PM GMT

Thanks a lot Pauline. 😊 Yes they seem to always move just as your about to press the shutter!

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 16-Aug-18 07:38 PM GMT

While I was in Dorset one of my goals was to see some more Silver-washed Fritillary, with the hope of a valesina sighting. My chosen site, Butterfly Conservation's Alners Gorse reserve where a conversation with a helpful local led me to the best area's, which were indeed heaving with SWF's.

I love the dusky female.



Female underside, the green washed away (no pun intended!) by sunlight.



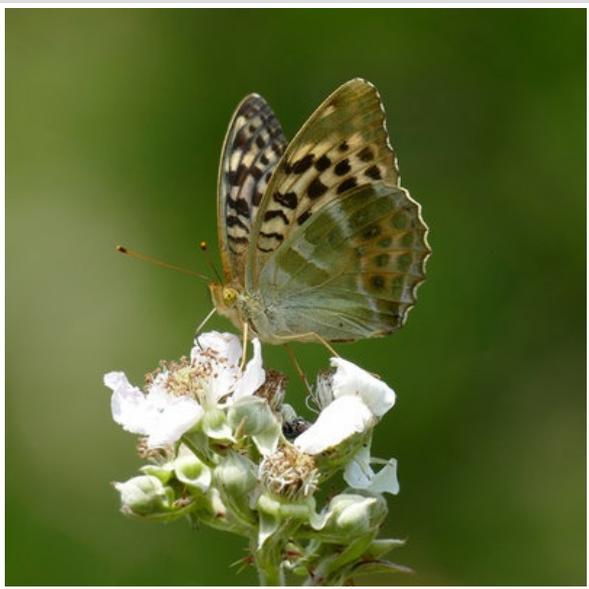


And praise the butterflying Gods, there was a valesina! After a short chase I got a quick shot before it flew away up and over some trees.



But the best was yet to come. In one particular area of Brambles I saw another, then another, and yet another. In fact myself and a fellow enthusiast counted at one point five valesina before us, pretty ridiculous! 🤪



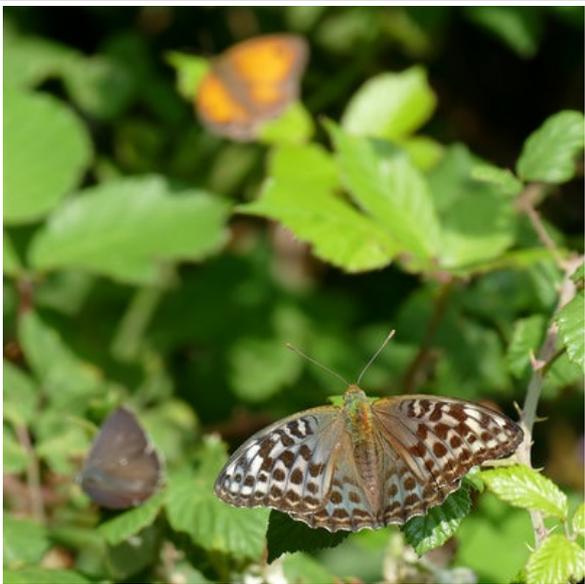




There were other species about but really I was totally absorbed by the SWF's. Two abs here, a Hedge Brown and a Purple Hairstreak.



The Hairstreak opened up, not much colour though.



A trip to remember, I'm already thinking about next year. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by trevor, 16-Aug-18 07:50 PM GMT

Great Valesinas, Andrew. Wish I'd been there !. 🍷
Especially as I've only ever seen one.

All the best,
Trevor.

Re: Andrew555

by Maximus, 16-Aug-18 07:59 PM GMT

Lovely valesinas, Andrew 🍷 one I've yet to see. What a fantastic first shot showing the underside 😊

Mike

Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 16-Aug-18 08:27 PM GMT

What an amazing visit that must have been, Andrew. Five *valesina* SWF is astonishing and you came away with some terrific shots as well. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 16-Aug-18 08:43 PM GMT

Wow, the butterfly Gods really were having a party for your benefit weren't they! One question though, you state you saw one point five valesina, suggesting you saw a male 🤔

Re: Andrew555

by MikeOxon, 16-Aug-18 10:13 PM GMT

A great experience for you and beautifully captured, for us to enjoy it as well 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 17-Aug-18 08:18 AM GMT

Cheers Trevor, maybe next year ? I'll definitely be going back. 😊

Thanks a lot Mike. 😊

It was Dave, I had to pinch myself, several times! 😊 Cheers

A taste of butterflying heaven Bugboy. No, probably a grammar fail on my part! 😊

Thank you Mike. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Lee Hurrell, 17-Aug-18 08:59 AM GMT

What a stunning set of photos Andrew. I've only ever seen one or two valesina – five at once is ridiculous!

Best wishes,
Lee

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 17-Aug-18 09:51 PM GMT

Beautiful *valezina* images, Andrew. It's lovely to be reminded of them when they were fresh. That's all behind us for another year now, but they'll be back in 2019 although that seems a long way away right now. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 21-Aug-18 11:48 AM GMT

Thanks Lee, it did feel pretty surreal! 😊

Cheers David. It does, and that visit also seems a distant memory to me now! 😊

Re: Andrew555

by NickMorgan, 21-Aug-18 12:21 PM GMT

Beautiful shots. I particularly like the first *valezina* picture. I wasn't aware that the underside was so different from the normal form.

Re: Andrew555

by Old Wolf, 21-Aug-18 01:42 PM GMT

I agree with everyone else Andrew, what beautiful pictures you have taken and a SWF in the same shot as a PHS 🍷🍷🍷

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 23-Aug-18 10:09 AM GMT

Hi Nick, thanks a lot. 😊

Cheers Old Wolf, yes that was pretty lucky! 😊 Alners Gorse has all the Hairstreaks except Black.

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 23-Aug-18 07:07 PM GMT

Absolutely cracking Valesina shots Andrew 😊👍 – they are a stunning form of butterfly with an interesting genetic story behind them 😊 To see so many in one sitting 🤩👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by trevor, 24-Aug-18 02:40 PM GMT

I'm sorry you missed out on the Brown Hairstreaks at Steyning, Andrew. There is one vital ingredient for them to show, there has to be some Sun. I went on a bright, very warm day with no wind or Sun and saw nothing.

They may be fickle, but they are worth the effort.
Trevor.

Re: Andrew555

by Neil Freeman, 24-Aug-18 07:11 PM GMT

I have just seen your SWF photos from Alners Gorse Andrew, some great shots and that first valesina underside image is especially good 🤩👍

Great stuff,

Neil.

Re: Andrew555

by Goldie M, 26-Aug-18 10:04 AM GMT

I'm still catching up on posts Andrew, fantastic shots of the SWF 🤩 your shots of the Valesina are lovely. Goldie 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 27-Aug-18 06:34 PM GMT

Thanks Trevor, I'll keep that in mind. 😊

Cheers Neil. 😊

Hi Goldie, thanks very much. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 27-Aug-18 07:12 PM GMT

A final selection from my July Portland visits.

Female and male Small Copper. One of the antennae of the male seems to be underdeveloped, rather than damaged ?



Part of Tout Quarry.



On the Buddleia within, alongside the Graylings, there were Peacocks and Red Admirals.





Some of the other butterflies I saw on Buddleia around Portland. Marbled White, Chalkhill Blue, Hedge and Meadow Brown.



Chesil Beach from Portland Heights, on a very calm day.



Other leisure pursuits, are available.



Fresh Wall had just started to emerge.



I was very happy to find these nicely posed Chalkhills.



After 20 minutes one of them decided it was warm enough to start basking. His mate followed suit after a bit of shuffling around.



Cheers. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 27-Aug-18 08:33 PM GMT

Cracking shot of the Blue badger Copper Andrew 😊👍 Then there's that brill Wall 🌟 And then you smash it out of the park with the final 2 Chalkhills shot 😊😄 brilliantly shows the range of variation in their upper sides 😊👍👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by essexbuzzard, 27-Aug-18 09:11 PM GMT

Excellent Chalkhill pictures there, Andrew. Looks like you have better weather than we did!

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 29-Aug-18 08:43 PM GMT

Magnificent sequence, Andrew! That panoramic of Chesil Beach is a view I haven't ever seen before (and a wonderful one at that).

Your last image of the Chalkhills takes top prize though. It'll be hard to improve on that one!

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 30-Aug-18 10:53 AM GMT

Thank you for your kind words Wurzel, Mark and David. 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Chris Jackson, 30-Aug-18 12:57 PM GMT

Great Chalkhill shots, Andrew.
Definitely prize winners.
Chris

Re: Andrew555

by trevor, 30-Aug-18 03:44 PM GMT

Love your first and last images in particular.
The Small Copper is in a beautiful pose, and the Chalkhills are rather Katrina-esque
I think many of us would like to have taken that shot! 🇮🇪.

Well done, Andrew.
Trevor.

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 30-Aug-18 04:05 PM GMT

A stonking set of shots there Andrew!

Re: Andrew555

by Maximus, 30-Aug-18 04:16 PM GMT

Fantastic sequence of shots, Andrew, from one of our favourite places 😊 I can't single one out as they're all stunning 😊🇮🇪

Mike

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 31-Aug-18 09:47 AM GMT

Hi Chris, thanks a lot. 😊

Cheers Trevor. 😊 The early morning tactics really paid off with the Chalkhills.

Thanks Bugboy. 😊

Thanks a lot Mike. 😊 I'm totally with you about Portland! 😊

Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 31-Aug-18 09:59 AM GMT

I've just caught up with your last set of Portland shots, Andrew. Those two Chalkhills are brilliant – what a great illustration that is of the variability there is in this species. 😊

Dave

Re: Andrew555

by ernie f, 01-Sep-18 07:37 AM GMT

Let me add my congrats on the Chalkhill shots. I thought at first you had a mated pair until I realised they were not connected and only then realised they were the same sex! Then the second shot showing one of them to have a faded-out appearance. Fantastic.

Re: Andrew555

by Allan.W., 01-Sep-18 07:02 PM GMT

That's a superb picture Andrew ! (the last one) of two male Chalkhills, shows nicely just how variable they can be !Nice one !!
Regards Allan.W.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 06-Sep-18 11:36 AM GMT

Thank you Dave, Ernie and Allan. 😊 Cheers guys.

Re: Andrew555

by Old Wolf, 13-Sep-18 04:05 PM GMT

Hello Andrew, I am catching up on diaries 😊

I can only but repeat what everyone else has already said, what a great set of shots and all pin sharp!

The Chalkhills back to back look like they are mirrored at first glance, I love this picture, and then they opened up for you to take that last stunner. Right place at the right time, great pictures 😊

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 21-Sep-18 11:48 AM GMT

Thanks a lot Old Wolf. 😊 Cheers.

Re: Andrew555

by Neil Freeman, 21-Sep-18 07:26 PM GMT

Just catching up on your diary Andrew, loving the photos from Portland having just been there a couple of weeks ago although there was less on offer at this time of year.

That male Small Copper has a lovely set of blue spots but the pair of Chalk Hill Blues are outstanding 🍷 😊

Cheers,

Neil.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 03-Oct-18 09:53 AM GMT

Thanks a lot Neil. 😊 Cheers.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 23-Oct-18 08:33 PM GMT

For one reason or another I never got a good look at the last round of Adonis Blues. So here are some shots from May/June that I didn't get around to posting at the time.

I noticed how some males have a row of black spots along the edge of the hindwing, and some don't. Like these from Mill Hill.



Anchor Bottom is a grassy valley to the north of Mill Hill and, after the report of the numbers of Adonis there, I decided to pay a visit. It was my first time at the site and it was brilliant!, with indeed lots of Adonis to be seen. It was also the first time I'd done some evening spotting, arriving at 5:30 and not leaving till 8:00.

This area of damp earth was very popular.



In the light of a setting sun, with the Adonis sitting up like jewels to catch the last rays, it was quite magical. 😊





Definitely on the list of places to return to next year. 😊

Cheers

Re: Andrew555

by Wurzel, 23-Oct-18 08:42 PM GMT

Fantastic images Andrew 😊👍👍 The early evening does have wonderful light for butterfly photography – female blues (especially Adonis and Silver-studded) seem to glisten more with an oily sheen when photographed at this time of day 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Andrew555

by millerd, 23-Oct-18 09:53 PM GMT

I'd heard good reports of Anchor Bottom this spring, but those shots of puddling Adonis are amazing – not a sight you see very often in the UK, and the brilliance of the Adonis colouration make it really special.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Andrew555

by MikeOxon, 23-Oct-18 11:44 PM GMT

A remarkable series of shots, Andrew – I've never seen Adonis Blues clustered like this; what an amazing sight. You have captured the iridescence which gives such a variety of shades of blue according to the angle of the wings.

Mike

Re: Andrew555

by Maximus, 24-Oct-18 12:12 AM GMT

Fantastic shots, Andrew, amazing to see the numbers of 'mud puddling' Adonis 😊 Great shot of the stunning female 😊

Mike

Re: Andrew555

by David M, 25-Oct-18 08:14 AM GMT

I too have noticed that a small minority of Adonis Blue males sport a row of black spots near the hindwing margins, Andrew. In north Africa, this is expressed in the form of Spotted Adonis Blue (*lysandra punctifera*), which has distinct species status. I often wonder what causes this phenomenon.

Re: Andrew555

by bugboy, 25-Oct-18 12:30 PM GMT

Just catching up on a few posts but I shall join in the chorus of wow 😲. I was there with Millerd during the second brood but it was a rare grey cloudy and rather dismal day by comparison but a few still came out when the cloud thinned, nothing like to the extent that you saw though!

Re: Andrew555

by trevor, 25-Oct-18 04:45 PM GMT

Absolutely fabulous shots, Andrew. Especially the crowds of Adonis. I've seen them en masse on a Doggie do, but they took flight as soon as I approached. You had better luck !.

Trevor.

Re: Andrew555

by Andrew555, 26-Oct-18 03:51 PM GMT

Cheers Wurzel. It does doesn't it ? A new experience for me this year. 😊

Thanks Dave, Mike & Mike. Still being a relative newbie, I don't think I quite appreciated how uncommon a sight it was! Cheers guys. 😊

Yes most seem not have them. Thanks David, very interesting. 😊

Cheers Bugboy, fingers crossed for strong numbers again next year. 😊

Thanks Trevor. That area must have been created by the cattle that were about, no doubt there were some smelly substances mixed in! Cheers. 😊