

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 24-Jul-18 01:53 AM GMT

School's out for summer..and I have my life back! Tome to catch up.

**June/July 2015 – Cyprus; part 2**

A selection of other butterflies seen around Limassol.



*Bath White, Limassol, 30th June 2015*



*Grass Jewel, Limassol, 7th July 2015*



*Swallowtail, Limassol, 30th June 2015*



*Pigmy Skipper, Limassol, 7th July 2015*



*Pigmy Skipper, Limassol, 7th July 2015*



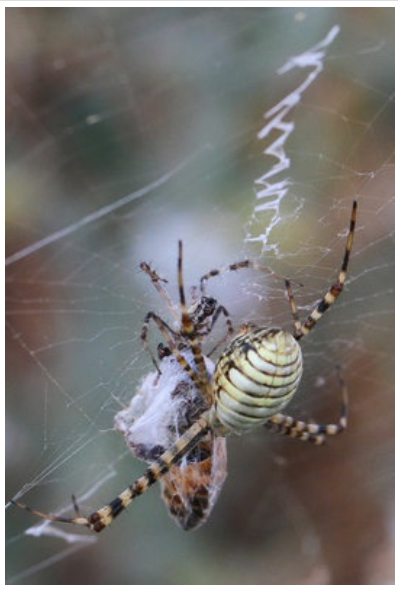
*Mallow Skipper, Limassol, 7th July 2015*

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

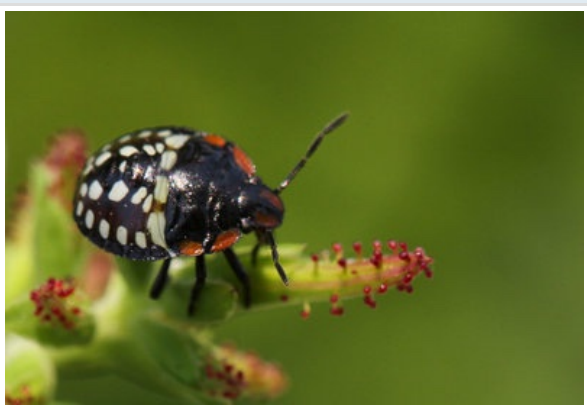
by Lee Hurrell, 24-Jul-18 09:17 AM GMT

June/July 2015 – Cyprus; part 3

Lastly, some of the other critters seen. The spider eating a cicada was a **beast** 🤩

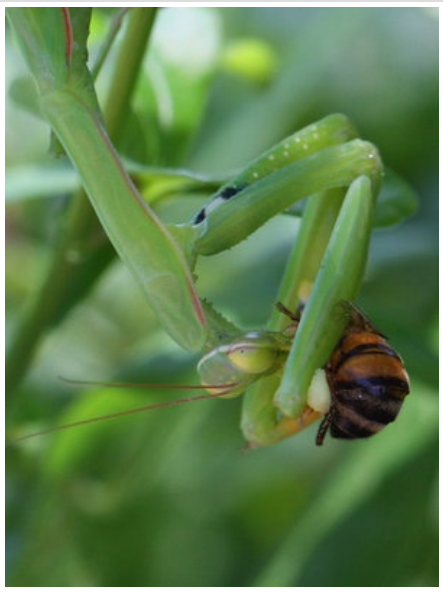
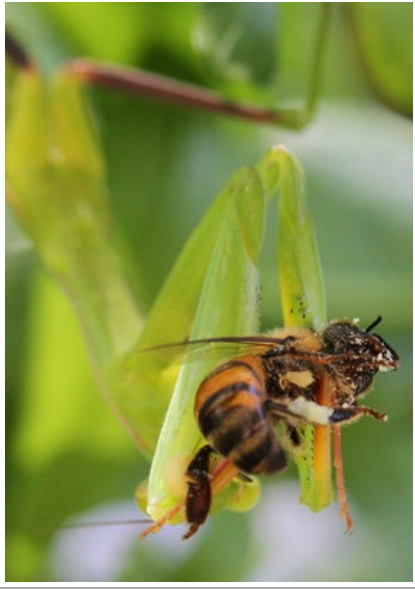








I was watching a bee on one of the plumbago bushes at one point. I watched it land and suddenly, out of nowhere – boom! This happened.





Certainly took me by surprise. The bee perhaps more so...

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 24-Jul-18 12:18 PM GMT

Back home, and into high summer. An evening trip to Denbies never disappoints 😊



*Marbled White, female, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 12th July 2015*



*Marbled White, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 12th July 2015*





*Marbled White, female, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 12th July 2015*



*Marbled White, female, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 12th July 2015*



*Marbled White, female, hind wing detail, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 12th July 2015*





*Marbled White, female, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 12th July 2015*



*Pyramidal orchid, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 12th July 2015*

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 24-Jul-18 12:36 PM GMT

**Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 18th July 2015**

It was time for Him...



*Wood White, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 18th July 2015*



*Brimstone, male, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 18th July 2015*



*Gatekeeper, male, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 18th July 2015*



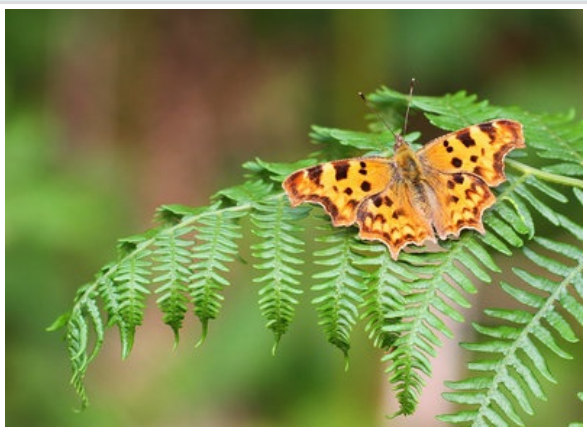
*Ringlet, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 18th July 2015*



*Ringlet, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 18th July 2015*



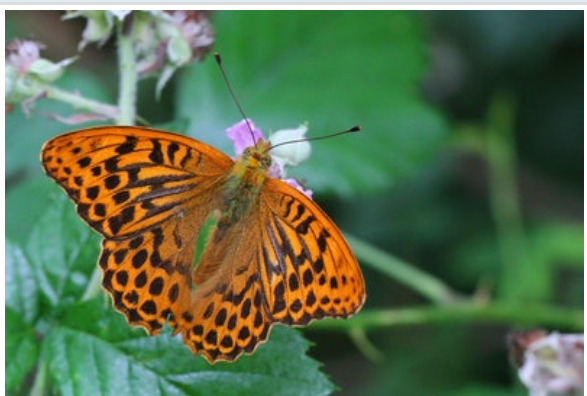
*Ringlet, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 18th July 2015*



*Comma, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 18th July 2015*



*Comma, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 18th July 2015*



*Silver-washed Fritillary, male, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 18th July 2015*



Silver-washed Fritillary, female, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 18th July 2015



Purple Emperor, male, Chiddingfold Forest, Surrey, 18th July 2015



### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 24-Jul-18 10:46 PM GMT

Brilliant reports Lee 😊 At this rate you'll have caught up in no time 😊 The one that really stood out for me was the male Silver-washed, so vivid 🤩🌈

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by millerd, 24-Jul-18 11:09 PM GMT

That's a great flashback to three years ago, Lee. It just shows the difference in the emergence dates for the Emperors between 2015 and 2018, though that fresh Wood White is either very late or about the same (depending on which brood it is). 😊😞

Dave

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 25-Jul-18 12:45 AM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel and Dave.

That PE had shown no quarter in a fair few dogfights, but was way behind this year!

Pretty sure it is a second brood Wood White; I usually see them at Chiddingfold at Emperor time.

Best wishes,  
Lee

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 25-Jul-18 03:47 PM GMT

**Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 1st August 2015**

When I lived in Epsom, this was my favourite place. It teemed with wildlife and I could easily spend hours there.

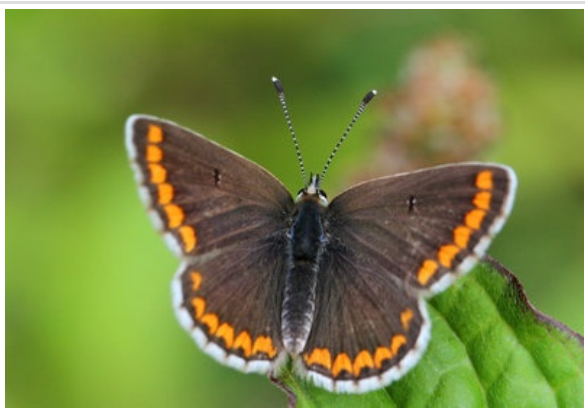




*Small Blue, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 1st August 2015*



*Brown Argus, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 1st August 2015*



*Brown Argus, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 1st August 2015*



*Common Blue, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 1st August 2015*



*Mating Common Blues, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 1st August 2015*



*Small Blue, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 1st August 2015*



*Gatekeeper, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 1st August 2015*



*Common Blue, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 1st August 2015*



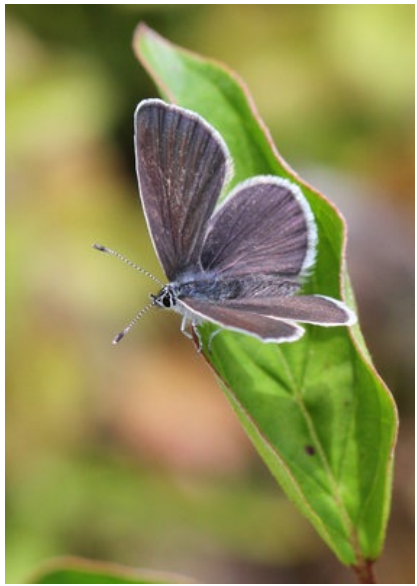
*Common Blue, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 1st August 2015*



*Common Blue, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 1st August 2015*



*Common Blue, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 1st August 2015*



*Small Blue, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 1st August 2015*

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 26-Jul-18 05:20 PM GMT

**More Howell Hill, 8th August 2015**

I returned a week later and the summer broods were coming along nicely.



*Small Copper, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 8th August 2015*



*Small Copper, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 8th August 2015*





*Common Blue, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 8th August 2015*



*Speckled Wood, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 8th August 2015*



*Speckled Wood, male, wing detail, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 8th August 2015*

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

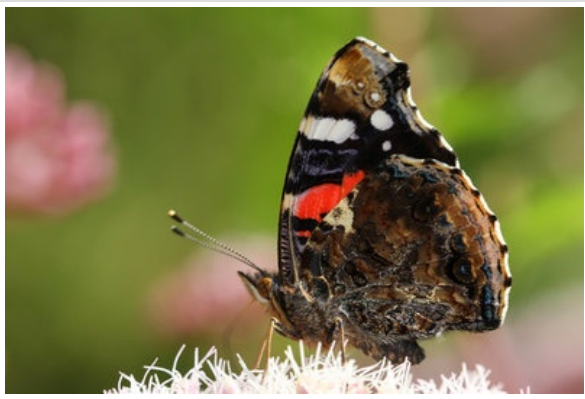
by Lee Hurrell, 26-Jul-18 05:23 PM GMT

RHS Wisley - 9th August 2015

Wisley is lovely at any time of year; summer is, of course, a riot of colour.



*Peacock, RHS Wisley, Surrey, 9th August 2015*



*Red Admiral, RHS Wisley, Surrey, 9th August 2015*

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 26-Jul-18 05:42 PM GMT

**Denbies Hillside, 9th August 2015**

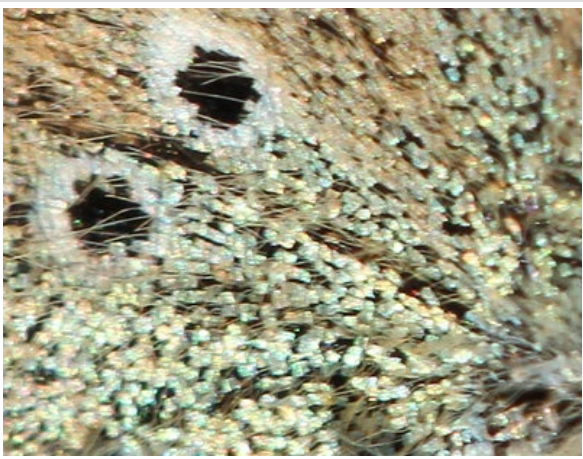
I always try and get to Denbies in the evening for roosting Chalkhills. This year was no exception.



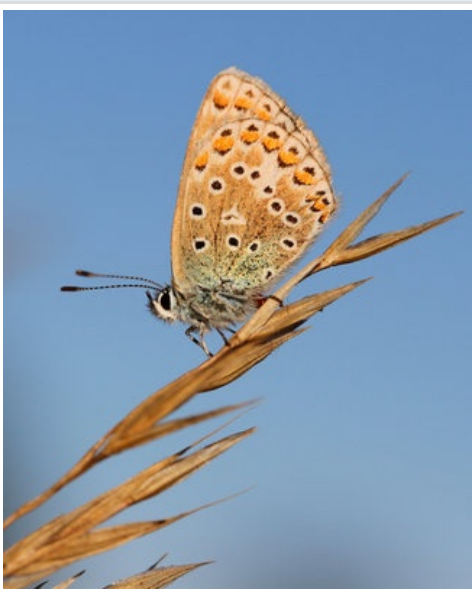
*Chalk Hill Blues, males, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*



*Common Blue, male wing detail, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*



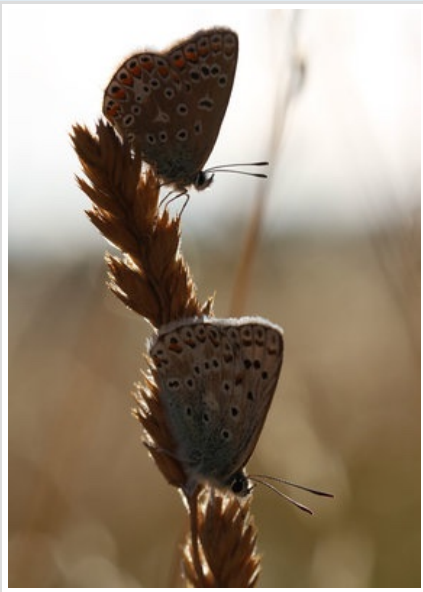
*Common Blue, male wing detail, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*  
I have a thing about butterflies against a blue sky...



*Common Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*



*Common Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*



*Common Blue (top) and Chalk Hill Blue (bottom), both male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*



*Adonis Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*





*Chalkhill Blues, all males, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*



*Chalk Hill Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*



*Chalk Hill Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*



*Chalk Hill Blues, all males, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*



*Chalk Hill Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*



*Chalk Hill Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*  
Even outside by the carpark there were more golden, sunlit Chalkhills.



*Chalk Hill Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*



*Chalk Hill Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*



*Chalk Hill Blue, male, Denbies Hillside, Surrey, 9th August 2015*

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Wurzel, 26-Jul-18 11:05 PM GMT

More lovely images Lee 😊 The first Small Copper is a bit special in my book as it looks really dusky 😊 Plus some really well marked Chalkhills 😊 🇬🇧

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by David M, 26-Jul-18 11:07 PM GMT

Good to see you resuming your diary, Lee.

I particularly like your Pygmy Skippers. Sadly, it's believed to be extinct in France now but I'd love to see it further east in Europe.

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 27-Jul-18 04:39 PM GMT

Thank you, Wurzel and David.

I have seen precious few Small Coppers this year. Pigmy Skippers I've only ever seen in Cyprus and Turkey. Their close relative, the Mediterranean Skipper is in Spain and I think, France though.

Best wishes,

Lee

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 27-Jul-18 08:51 PM GMT

**Sheeples, Surrey, 27th September 2015**

Sheeples, near West Horsley in Surrey, is another of my favourite places. It repays repeated visits throughout the year. It has a mosaic of different habitats from woodland to meadows, with each meadow having its own identity, flora and fauna.

The Nettle meadow (as the name implies) has vast swathes of nettles and thistles and is ideal for Vanessids. The adjacent Cowslip meadow hosts the flora you would associate with chalk or limestone and accordingly has a colony of Chalk Hill Blue.

This was a late season treat; as soon as I entered the Nettle Meadow, I had two surprises.



*Chalk Hill Blue, female, Sheeples Nettle Meadow, Surrey, 27th September 2015*  
Just further along the hedge line, I met another female.



*Brown Hairstreak, female, Sheeples Nettle Meadow, Surrey, 27th September 2015*



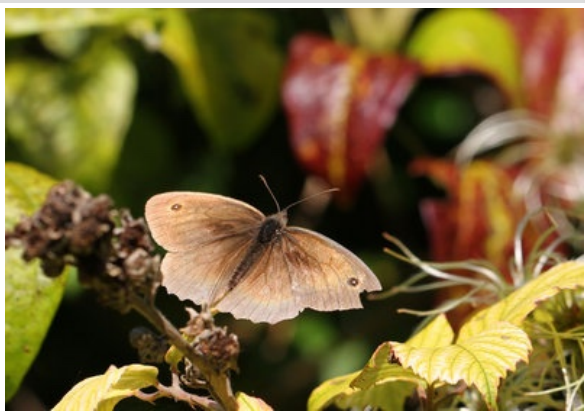


*Brown Hairstreak, female, Sheepleas Nettle Meadow, Surrey, 27th September 2015*

The Meadow Browns were looking a little faded. The length of the flight season amazes me; although I have seen fresh females at this time of year. I wonder if they manage to squeeze in an extra brood and we don't know.

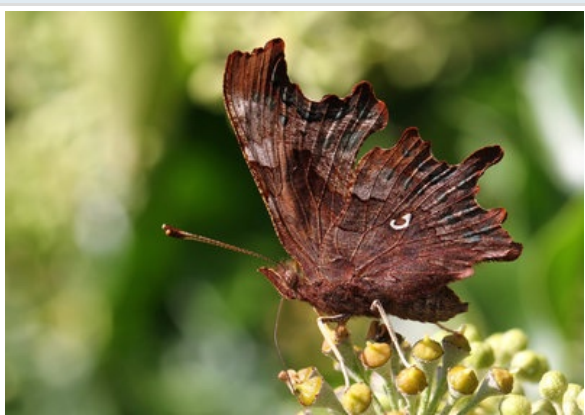


*Meadow Brown, male, Sheepleas Nettle Meadow, Surrey, 27th September 2015*



*Meadow Brown, male, Sheepleas Nettle Meadow, Surrey, 27th September 2015*

Not at all faded but fresh out of the box, was this rather majestic female Comma, stocking up for the winter months to come.



*Comma, female, Sheepleas Nettle Meadow, Surrey, 27th September 2015*



*Comma, female, Sheepleas Nettle Meadow, Surrey, 27th September 2015*



*Comma, female, hind-wing detail, Sheepleas Nettle Meadow, Surrey, 27th September 2015*  
I also saw what I think is a Marsh Tit.



*Marsh Tit? Sheepleas Nettle Meadow, Surrey, 27th September 2015*

### **Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Wurzel, 27-Jul-18 11:17 PM GMT

Cracking close-up of the Comma Lee, it makes the comma mark look like it's been painted on 🤩😄👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 28-Jul-18 12:42 AM GMT

#### **Cyprus – November 2015**

I returned to Cyprus in November and it was just as hot. I did see a few additional species although the Lang's Short-tailed Blues were in much shorter supply. This was due to the fact that the Plumbago had been cut to within an inch of its life.

In the same area though was a new species, The Cyprus Grayling *Hipparchia cypriensis*.



*Cyprus Grayling, Limassol, Cyprus, 3rd November 2015*



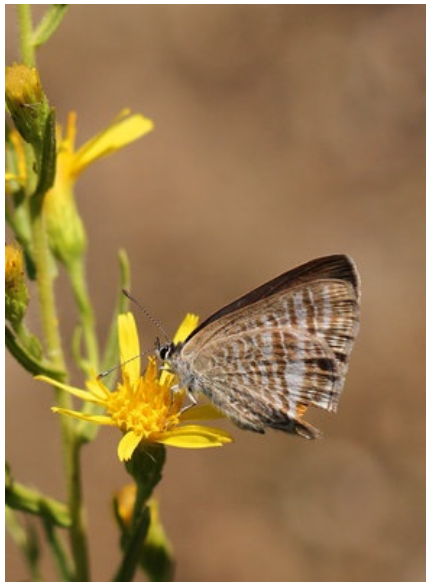
*Cyprus Grayling, Limassol, Cyprus, 3rd November 2015*



*Cyprus Grayling, Limassol, Cyprus, 3rd November 2015*

In place of Lang's I found Long-tailed Blue, this one showing how the tails and false eyes had helped it survive a probable bird attack.





*Long-tailed Blue, Limassol, Cyprus, 3rd November 2015*

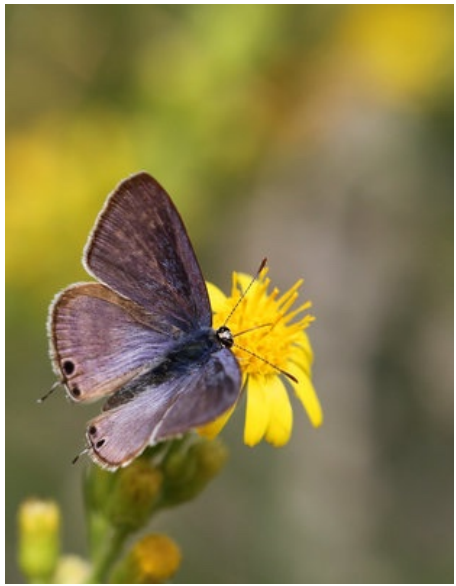


*Long-tailed Blue, Limassol, Cyprus, 5th November 2015*

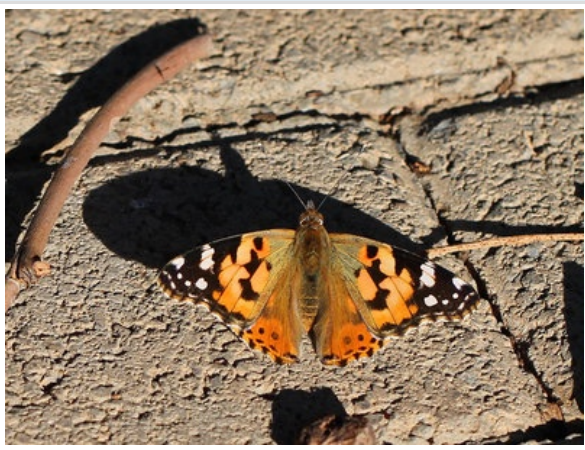


*Long-tailed Blue, Limassol, Cyprus, 5th November 2015*

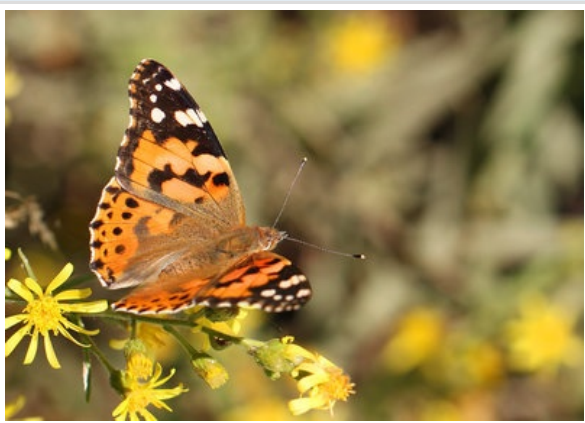




*Long-tailed Blue, Limassol, Cyprus, 5th November 2015*  
Painted Ladies were everywhere too.



*Painted Lady, Limassol, Cyprus, 3rd November 2015*



*Painted Lady, Limassol, Cyprus, 3rd November 2015*



*Painted Lady, Limassol, Cyprus, 5th November 2015*



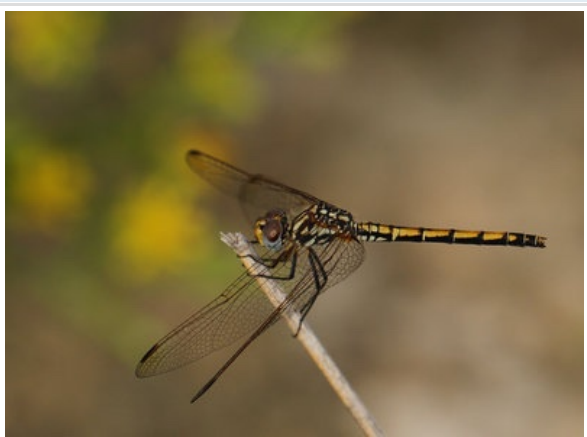
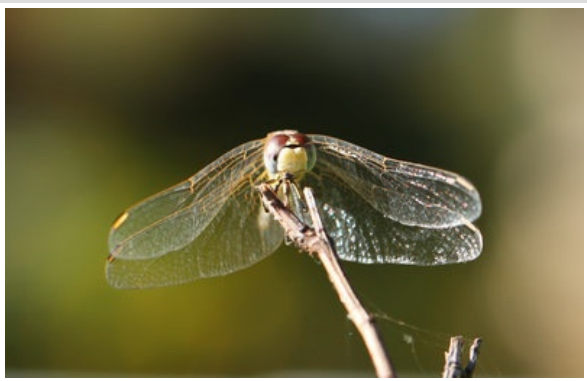
*Painted Lady, Limassol, Cyprus, 5th November 2015*  
There were more Pigmy Skippers.



*Pigmy Skipper, Limassol, Cyprus, 5th November 2015*



*Pigmy Skipper, Limassol, Cyprus, 5th November 2015*  
The dragonflies were stunning too!



**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 28-Jul-18 10:47 AM GMT

**Wurzel wrote:**

Cracking close-up of the Comma Lee, it makes the comma mark look like it's been painted on 🤩😄👍

Thanks, Wurzel. She really was a stunning butterfly 😊

It's quite lovely going through older photos – I remember all of these trips out and every butterfly.

Best wishes,

Lee

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

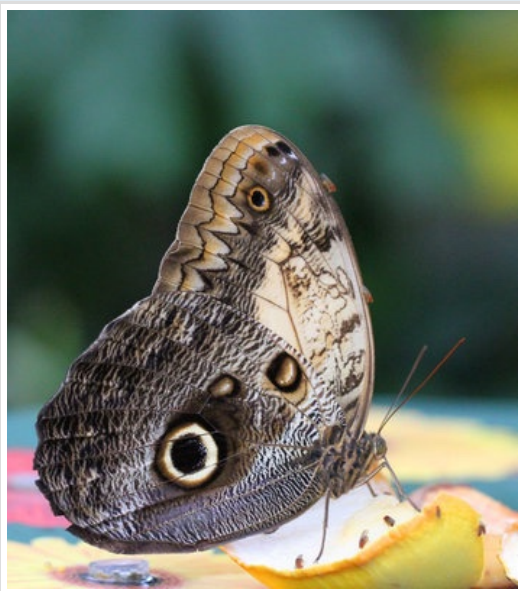
by Lee Hurrell, 28-Jul-18 02:24 PM GMT

**RHS Wisley, Surrey, 7th February 2016**

A winter visit to Wisley was only slightly let down by having the camera on the wrong setting 😞 This resulted in dark and grainy images for the main, although I have (just about) rescued the ones below. The butterflies were as gorgeous as ever of course 😊

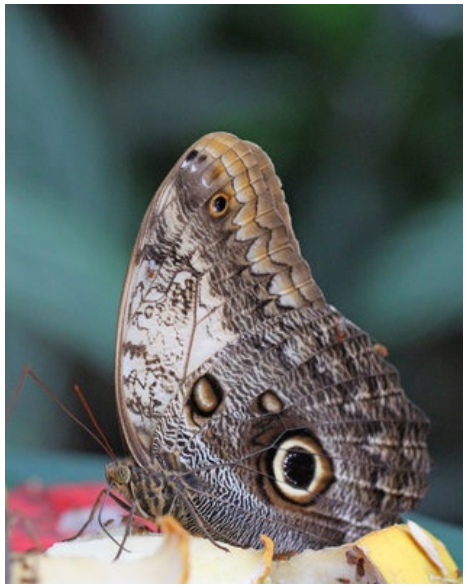


*RHS Wisley, Surrey, 7th February 2016*

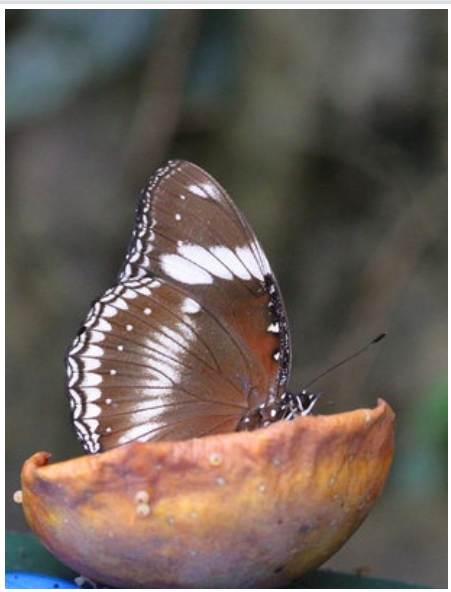


*RHS Wisley, Surrey, 7th February 2016*





*RHS Wisley, Surrey, 7th February 2016*



*RHS Wisley, Surrey, 7th February 2016*



*RHS Wisley, Surrey, 7th February 2016*



*RHS Wisley, Surrey, 7th February 2016*



*RHS Wisley, Surrey, 7th February 2016*  
There was an incredibly tame robin in the outer greenhouse.



*Robin, RHS Wisley, Surrey, 7th February 2016*



*Robin, RHS Wisley, Surrey, 7th February 2016*

### **Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 28-Jul-18 03:52 PM GMT

#### **Signs of Spring, Epsom, March 2016**

The big field behind where I lived in Epsom held my first of the year for 2016 on 12th March.



*Small Tortoiseshell, Epsom, Surrey, 12th March 2016*

A couple of weeks later I found a stunning Oak Beauty while walking to Ewell.



*Oak Beauty, Epsom, Surrey, 25th March 2016*

A couple of Small Tortoiseshells were also on the path.





*Small Tortoiseshell, Epsom, Surrey, 25th March 2016*



*Small Tortoiseshell, Epsom, Surrey, 25th March 2016*



*Small Tortoiseshell, Epsom, Surrey, 25th March 2016*



*Small Tortoiseshell, Epsom, Surrey, 25th March 2016*



**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Old Wolf, 28-Jul-18 07:00 PM GMT

Great pictures Lee.

I grew up in Sutton which is not a million miles away from where you are. I have very fond memories of the area.

I love the Robin shots as Robins are my favorite feathered friend 😊

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Allan.W., 28-Jul-18 08:23 PM GMT

Hello Lee ,

I reckon your Dragonfly from Cyprus is a female Red -veined Darter (sympetrum fonscolombii ),only seen one myself ,mine was at Dungeness (Kent )  
Regards Allan.W.

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 28-Jul-18 09:03 PM GMT

Thanks Old Wolf. I was living in Epsom for 3 or 4 years in total, but have moved a couple of times since! There are some lovely places to find butterflies near there.

Allan, thank you, I'm not great at dragonflies!

Best wishes,

Lee

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 28-Jul-18 10:09 PM GMT

**Howell Hill - 2nd April 2016**

On the 2nd April, I walked to Howell Hill from home. Hibernators were out and about:



*Comma, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 2nd April 2016*



*Peacock, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 2nd April 2016*



*Small Tortoiseshell, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 2nd April 2016*

However, on the way, I took a photo that has become one of my favourites of all time.

I watched her hunting then land atop a nearby tree. I carefully crept towards the tree until I was very nearly underneath it. She was watching me the whole time and then suddenly she flew. I managed two frames; this was the second.



*Kestrel, female, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 2nd April 2016*

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Wurzel, 29-Jul-18 09:45 AM GMT

Two frames was all you need Lee what a fantastic shot 🤩😄:The butterflies ones aren't too shabby either 😊😄👍

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 29-Jul-18 12:27 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel 😊

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by David M, 04-Aug-18 11:31 PM GMT

Beautiful view of the kestrel, Lee. keep 'em coming!

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 14-Aug-18 12:11 AM GMT

David, thank you.

A week in May spent in the mountains above Malaga coming up...

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by millerd, 14-Aug-18 05:55 PM GMT

Looking forward to that, Lee – friends of mine have just moved to that very area, and have extended an invitation once they have settled in. 😊

Dave

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 14-Aug-18 09:25 PM GMT

#### millerd wrote:

Looking forward to that, Lee – friends of mine have just moved to that very area, and have extended an invitation once they have settled in. 😊

If it's anywhere near Los Romanes, Dave, you're in for a real treat 😊

Best wishes,  
Lee

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 15-Aug-18 01:38 AM GMT

7th May 2016 – Howell Hill & Warren Farm

On the 7th, I went back to Howell Hill. Whites and Orange were nice and fresh 😊



Orange Tip, male, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 7th May 2016  
Lots of Nymphalids too of course.



Small Tortoiseshell, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 7th May 2016

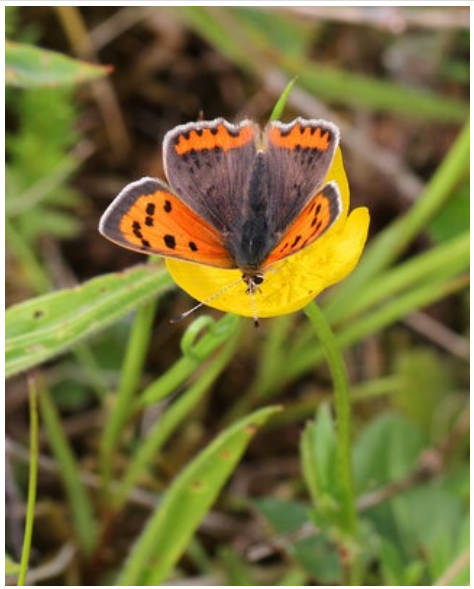


*Small Tortoiseshell, Hind-wing detail, Howell Hill, Ewell, Surrey, 7th May 2016*

I then popped over to Warren Farm, nearby, to see if the Small Coppers were out. They were 😊



*Small Copper, Warren Farm, Ewell, Surrey, 7th May 2016*



*Small Copper, Warren Farm, Ewell, Surrey, 7th May 2016*





*Comma, Warren Farm, Ewell, Surrey, 7th May 2016*



*Comma, Warren Farm, Ewell, Surrey, 7th May 2016*

## **Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 15-Aug-18 01:50 AM GMT

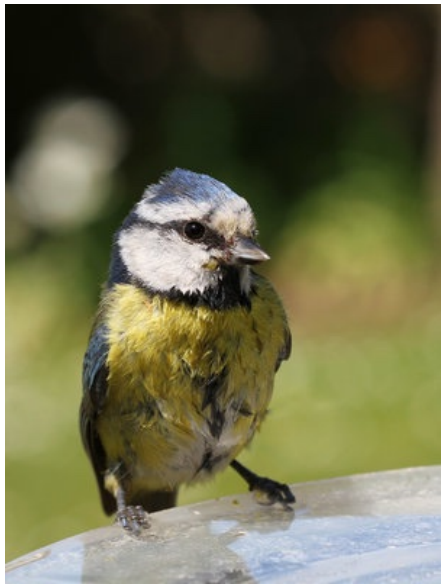
### **Birthday Blue Tit Rescue**

On my birthday, I found a very disoriented and dehydrated blue tit that had become trapped in the conservatory. I don't know how long it had been inside, but it was hot outside and the bird wasn't in a good way. I picked it up with the feet between my fingers and rushed to the sink, where I gave it some water.

Once it had perked up a bit, I took it outside and sat it on the water tray on the bird feeder, which allowed me to get the camera. Here he or she is, post-rescue, drink and a bath.



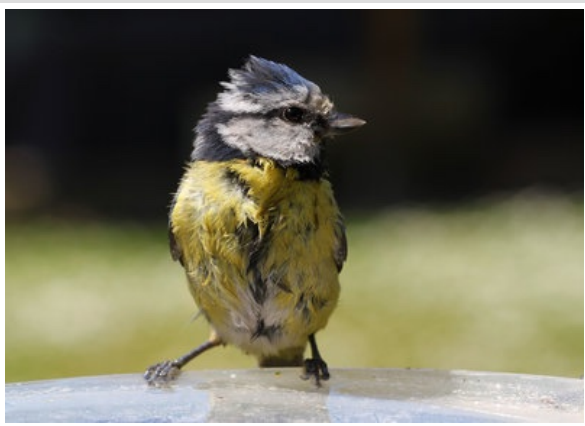
*Blue Tit, Epsom, Surrey, 8th May 2016*



*Blue Tit, Epsom, Surrey, 8th May 2016*



*Blue Tit, Epsom, Surrey, 8th May 2016*



*Blue Tit, Epsom, Surrey, 8th May 2016*

After a while, it flew up to a tree in the garden, where it sat for half an hour before flying off.

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by ernie f, 15-Aug-18 10:07 AM GMT

Lee – You saved a Blue Tit on your birthday, what a treat (or should that be tweet?) 😊

I also scrolled back and didn't realise I had not seen the post before it. Fantastic close-up of the Small Tort wing.

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 15-Aug-18 09:33 PM GMT

**ernie f wrote:**

I also scrolled back and didn't realise I had not seen the post before it. Fantastic close-up of the Small Tort wing.

Thanks, Ernie 😊

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Old Wolf, 15-Aug-18 10:08 PM GMT

Brilliant Pics Lee. Your close up wing shots are amazing 😊

Well done on saving the Blue Tit. I look around and see so many people who don't give a damn about all the nature around them and It warms my heart to hear stories like this.

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 15-Aug-18 10:55 PM GMT

**Old Wolf wrote:**

Brilliant Pics Lee. Your close up wing shots are amazing 😊

Well done on saving the Blue Tit. I look around and see so many people who don't give a damn about all the nature around them and It warms my heart to hear stories like this.

Thanks, Old Wolf, that's very kind of you.

Best wishes,  
Lee

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 15-Aug-18 11:42 PM GMT

**May Holly Blues**

A week later, I was watching Holly Blues in the garden. This female was egg laying.



*Holly Blue, female, Epsom, Surrey, 14th May 2016*



*Holly Blue, female, Epsom, Surrey, 14th May 2016*



*Holly Blue, male, Epsom, Surrey, 14th May 2016*  
It looked like someone had crumpled up this male's wings.



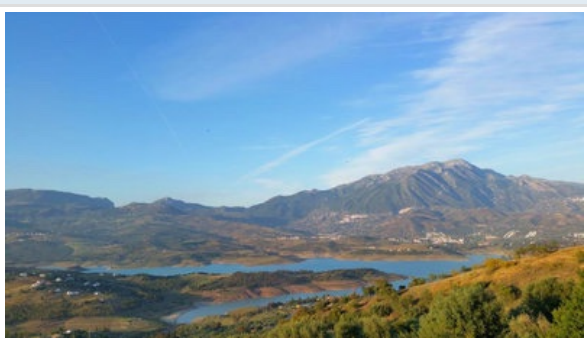
*Holly Blue, male, Epsom, Surrey, 14th May 2016*

## **Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 17-Aug-18 12:52 AM GMT

### **Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016**

Los Romanes is situated in the hills above Malaga, about 25km northeast as the crow flies and overlooks the Vinuela Reservoir (Embalse de la Vinuela) and the start of the Sierra Tejeda mountains. It's a small, sleepy place, perfect for relaxing. The view alone is worth coming for; this was from my hotel balcony.



### **Day one**

I didn't waste any time in getting out with the camera, anywhere that looked promising, I'd explore. First up was a track off from the road out of the village. Here I found some new species for me: Spanish Marbled White and Southern Gatekeeper.





*Spanish Marbled White, Los Romanes, Spain, 22nd May 2016*



*Southern Gatekeeper, male, Los Romanes, Spain, 22nd May 2016*



*View from first location*

There were also some whites that I knew were not from home, but they wouldn't stop and I couldn't get a clear view. Yet.

Further on, I found another track that led to some allotments and small patches of crops with a flowery meadow beyond. Here, Spanish Festoons, Clouded Yellows and more whites were flying, but not stopping. It was hot by now, and not much was. I did find these beauties though.



*Mallow Skipper, Los Romanes, Spain, 22nd May 2016*



*Mallow Skipper, Los Romanes, Spain, 22nd May 2016*



*Mallow Skipper, Los Romanes, Spain, 22nd May 2016*



*Speckled Wood (ssp. aegeria), Los Romanes, Spain, 22nd May 2016*



*Second location*



*Second location*

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Andrew555, 17-Aug-18 10:29 AM GMT

A lovely selection of shots in your recent posts Lee. The Kestrel is a cracker. 😊

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 17-Aug-18 05:35 PM GMT

**Andrew555 wrote:**

A lovely selection of shots in your recent posts Lee. The Kestrel is a cracker. 😊

Many thanks, Andrew 😊 I was rather happy with that one!

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by David M, 18-Aug-18 09:00 PM GMT

Fabulous, Lee. Having just returned from my first butterflying visit to Spain these images are of particular interest to me.

I'm looking forward to seeing more.

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by ernie f, 20-Aug-18 10:35 AM GMT

Great Spanish butterflies, Lee – especially the Mallow Skipper.

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 21-Aug-18 11:35 PM GMT

Thanks, David and Ernie 😊

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 21-Aug-18 11:58 PM GMT

**Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016**

**Day 2 – part 1**

Turns out the sunrise wasn't too shabby either 😊





This was a busy day on the butterfly front... I wanted to venture into the mountains I could see from my hotel. Which I did – but first stopped at a few other places. First up was another track starting at a picnic site on the road out of the village. Here, more of the as yet unidentified whites were seen only this time I managed to photograph one – a Western Dappled White! Also seen were Spanish Marbled White, Southern Gatekeeper and Wall.



*Western Dappled White, Los Romanes, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



*Western Dappled White, Los Romanes, Spain, 23rd May 2016*





*Southern Gatekeeper, Los Romanes, Spain, 23rd May 2016*

## Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 22-Aug-18 12:37 AM GMT

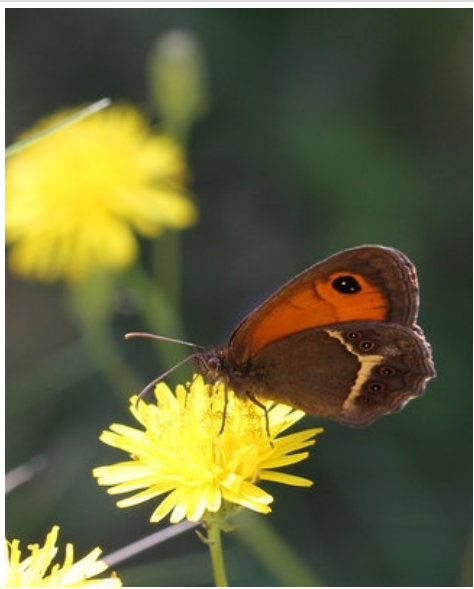
Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016

Day 2 – part 2

I then drove on to the pretty village of Alcaucin, which I could see nestled in the hills from my hotel. A couple of Southern Gatekeepers seen here, before I drove on in the direction of the mountains. This view from the A402 between Puente de Salia and Venta Baja prompted me to stop:



The walk up to the ruins was soundtracked by skylarks and there were plenty of butterflies. I saw Spanish Marbled Whites hilltopping at the top and generally being difficult to approach, Large White, Small White, Clouded Yellow, Small Tortoiseshell, Swallowtail, Lulworth Skipper, Meadow Brown, (*ssp hispulla*), Southern Gatekeeper and a new species for me – Spanish Gatekeeper.



*Spanish Gatekeeper, near Venta Baja, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



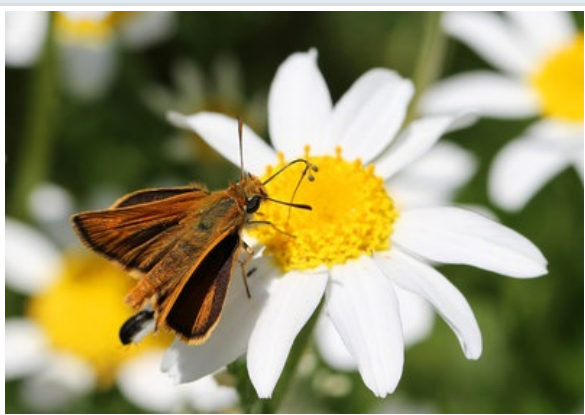
*Spanish Gatekeeper, near Venta Baja, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



*Small White, near Venta Baja, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



*Spanish Marbled White, near Venta Baja, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



Lulworth Skipper, near Venta Baja, Spain, 23rd May 2016



**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Wurzel, 22-Aug-18 08:07 PM GMT

Cracking stuff Lee 😊👍 - what with Essex's report and now yours I think I need to persuade Mrs Wurzel that's it's viva Espana next year 😊😄

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 22-Aug-18 10:53 PM GMT



Thanks, Wurzel 😊 Good luck... 😊

## Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 22-Aug-18 11:47 PM GMT

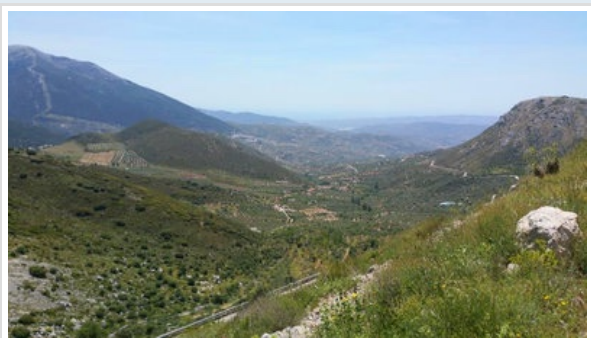
Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016

### Day 2 - Part 3

I carried on along the A402, in the direction of Ventas de Zafarraya. After half an hour or so, I got to the pass in the mountains I could see from my hotel. It was spectacular.



*The view south from Ventas de Zafarraya*



*The view south from Ventas de Zafarraya*

I started along the path shown in the first photo above. This led around the slope and to a short tunnel through the hillside. Either side of the tunnel, I found another new species for me: Lorquin's Blue, *Cupido lorquini*. This species is closely related to the Small Blue and Osiris Blue and restricted to the south of Iberia and North Africa.



*Lorquin's Blue, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*





*Lorquin's Blue, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*  
Also flying here were a few familiar species.



*Small Copper, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



*Small Copper, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



*Meadow Brown, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*

Seen here but not photographed were: Southern Gatekeeper (I had these and their Spanish cousins sussed by now), Wall, Clouded Yellow, Common Blue and Painted Lady.



*Looking back toward the tunnel*



*The view south from Ventas de Zafarraya*

By now I was hot and so retraced my steps back to the car. I drove on into the town (not much going on) and found a bar (very local, full of truckers) for a beer. Refreshed, I walked toward the opposite side of the pass to the tunnel side and found this very promising looking area...



*Ventas de Zafarraya*

by Wurzel, 23-Aug-18 07:04 PM GMT

A cracking find in the Lorquin's Lee and some stunning scenery 😊🌿

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 23-Aug-18 11:03 PM GMT

Fabulous, Lee. So green and verdant which isn't what one normally expects in Spain.

Those views are almost as mouth-watering as the butterflies.

I'm certainly going to devote some more time to Spain over the next few years.

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 26-Aug-18 11:16 PM GMT

Thank you both, Wurzel and David.

As much as I love France, I would also like to explore certain areas of Spain. If I remember correctly, it had been a wet spring that year and it was quite green where I was. I was also of course fairly early in the season and at times, at altitude, which does make a difference.

Best wishes,  
Lee

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 27-Aug-18 12:06 AM GMT

Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016

Day 2 – Part 4

I spent the rest of the afternoon exploring the landscape shown in the last photo above. There were many more butterflies here, with more nectar sources.

There were more Lorquin's Blue here, looking fresher than their family along the pass.



*Lorquin's Blue, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



*Lorquin's Blue, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



*Lorquin's Blue, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



*Lorquin's Blue, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*  
While Common Blues offered a familiar sight.



*Polyommatus celina, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*





*Common Blue, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



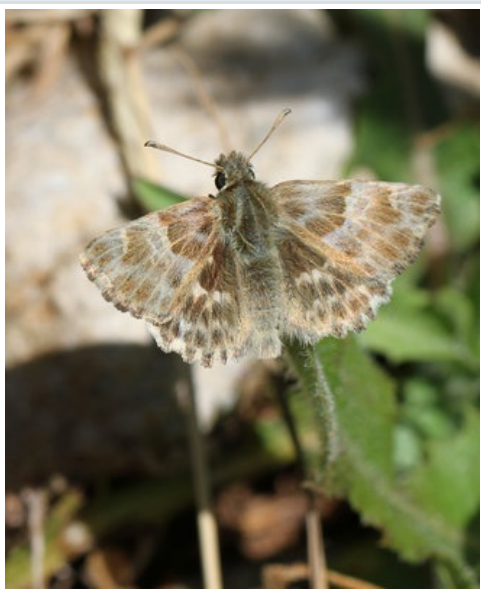
*Common Blue, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



*Common Blue, male, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



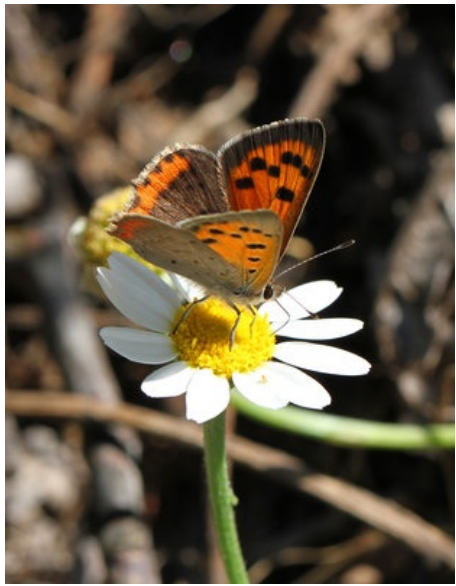
*Common Blue, mating pair, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*  
This Southern Marbled Skipper was just beautiful.



*Southern Marbled Skipper, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*  
Small Coppers were also present, including this exquisite *caeruleopunctata*



*Small Copper, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*



*Small Copper, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*

I followed this Fritillary for quite some distance before it finally stopped on a rocky outcrop, revealing it to be a Knapweed Fritillary. Getting close was tricky!



*Knapweed Fritillary, Ventas de Zafarraya, Spain, 23rd May 2016*

Other species seen, were: Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Spanish Festoon, Clouded Yellow, Large White, Small White, Large Wall and Meadow Brown.

As time ticked on it was time to head back to Los Romanes. I had a feeling I would be back here though!

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 27-Aug-18 04:08 PM GMT

This looks like a great spot indeed Lee, looking forward to the next report already...I see you mention Festoon hmmm 😊 How big are the Lorquin's - Small Blue size or Common Blue?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 29-Aug-18 08:30 PM GMT

Lovely to see those Lorquin's Blues, Lee. They look like some kind of hybrid between Osiris & Mazarine.

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 30-Aug-18 10:33 PM GMT

#### Wurzel wrote:

This looks like a great spot indeed Lee, looking forward to the next report already...I see you mention Festoon hmmm 😊 How big are the Lorquin's - Small Blue size or Common Blue?

It was a lovely place indeed, Wurzel. (I did go back 😊). Lorquin's are Small Blue size.

**David M wrote:**

Lovely to see those Lorquin's Blues, Lee. They look like some kind of hybrid between Osiris & Mazarine.

Thanks, David. They do, don't they!

Best wishes,  
Lee

## **Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 31-Aug-18 12:01 AM GMT

**Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016**

### **Day 3 - Part 1**

Today, I ventured south to the coast. After stopping at Nerja and seeing the sea, I drove back towards Los Romanes on smaller roads, stopping at the hilltop village of Frigiliana and heading towards Competa.

The first place I stopped at was a track that led from the road, past some olive groves, up to some houses.



Here, I saw Bath White, Large White, Small White, Clouded Yellow, Meadow Brown, Spanish Marbled White, Southern Gatekeeper, Wall and Lulworth Skipper.





*Lulworth Skipper, near Competa, Spain, 24th May 2016*



*Lulworth Skipper, near Competa, Spain, 24th May 2016*



*Small White, near Competa, Spain, 24th May 2016*



*Bath White, near Competa, Spain, 24th May 2016*



*Bath White, near Competa, Spain, 24th May 2016*

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Wurzel, 31-Aug-18 12:23 PM GMT

Cracking shots of the Bath White Lee – that's a species I'd love 🇬🇧 to see but I can never get away early enough in the year 😊 It does seem strange seeing a Lulworth in Spain and not on the Isle of Purbeck 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by ernie f, 01-Sep-18 08:08 AM GMT

Lee – I've never seen a Bath White, Great side-on shot.

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 01-Sep-18 05:40 PM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel and Ernie! 😊

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Lee Hurrell, 01-Sep-18 05:51 PM GMT

**Los Romanes, Spain, May 2016**

**Day 3 – Part 2**

I stopped again further along the same road and saw some similar species to before: Common Blue, Southern Brown Argus, Spanish Festoon, Southern Gatekeeper, Spanish Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood and Lulworth Skipper.



Back in Los Romanes, I went back to the patch where I had first seen the Festoons on day one. Here I found Geranium Bronze, Spanish Festoon (still refusing a photograph 😊), Small White, a mystery blue and a camouflaged Mallow Skipper.



*Mallow Skipper, Los Romanes, Spain, 24th May 2016*

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Maximus, 01-Sep-18 06:02 PM GMT

Lovely shots in your Spanish posts, Lee 😊 I agree with Wurzel on the Bath White shots 😊 that's one on my must see list!

Mike

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by David M, 02-Sep-18 10:05 AM GMT

Excellent continuation, Lee. I'm quite surprised at how green it is in May. I had thought this area would be parched from the beginning of April onwards to be honest.

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Lee Hurrell, 03-Sep-18 11:30 PM GMT

Thank you both, Mike and David 😊

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Padfield, 04-Sep-18 09:29 AM GMT

Great pictures, Lee. I missed out on a Spanish trip this year and am especially enjoying catching up through your posts.

Your first common blue in particular looks a very good candidate for *P. celina*, which certainly flies there. Common blues probably fly there too – they are not particularly closely related and can overlap. In my experience, first brood *celina* is the same size as common blue but has noticeably darker margins, and broader, especially towards the apex. But as I've never killed one to check, my experience could be wrong anyway.

Guy

### Re: Lee Hurrell

by Wurzel, 04-Sep-18 07:46 PM GMT

Alright there Lee – great shot of the Mallow Skipper 😊👍 – that was a species that I was hoping to get in France but didn't see one single one of the little blighters 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Andrew555, 07-Sep-18 11:30 AM GMT

Yup, I really like that Bath White as well. 😊 Great stuff Lee. 😊

**Re: Lee Hurrell**

by Old Wolf, 13-Sep-18 04:17 PM GMT

Hello Lee, I am catching up on diaries 😊

That looks like a great trip you had. Great shots of the beautiful landscape and of the butterflies too of course, especially the blue badger small copper.