



Butterfly Conservation
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

**Hampshire and
Isle of Wight Branch**



HOME ABOUT » EVENTS » CONSERVATION » SPECIES » SIGHTINGS » PUBLICATIONS » LINKS » ISLE OF WIGHT » MEMBERS »

Sunday 26th January

Paul Harfield reports from Straits Inclosure (SU8040) where the following observations were made: Purple Hairstreak (3 Egg). "All found on ground debris from wind damage or forestry operations".

Saturday 25th January

C Baker reports from Church Crookham (SU819523) where the following observations were made: Spring Usher *Agriopsis leucophae* (1). "No butterflies so far this year, but I did find this moth on a fence in Church Crookham today. A beautiful Spring Usher, my first ever, which makes it all the more special. It is my second moth of the year, the first being a rather worn Pale Brindled Beauty in Fleet at SU799533".



Agriopsis leucophae



Agriopsis leucophae

Wednesday 22nd January

Steve Boswell reports from Denny Wood (SU336051) where the following observations were made: Red Admiral (1 "Flying strongly on heath in bright sunshine").

Mark Russell reports from Corf Camp (SZ417900) where the following observations were made: Brimstone (1).

David Tinling reports from Christ Church Cemetery, Portsdown (SU669066) where the following observations were made: Red Admiral (1 "basking & flying"). "1345".

Monday 20th January

Geoff Jones reports from Lee on the Solent (SZ576997) where the following observations were made: Red Admiral (1 "Basking on choisya in the garden 12:50"). "My first butterfly of 2014".

Dve Ryves reports from Pitts Wood (SU195144) where the following observations were made: Speckled Wood (0 "Amazed to see a Speckled Wood take off from the path and fly off in front of me").

David Tinling reports from Portchester Common(west), Portsdown Hill (SZ619069) where the following observations were made: Peacock (1 "basking & flying"). "1330; also a Llama grazing on top of Fort Southwick".

Sunday 19th January

John Selborne reports from Temple Hanger, Selborne (SU761333) where the following observations were made: Brimstone (1 "On the wing").

Andrew Brookes reports from Dean Road, Cosham (SU660055) where the following observations were made: Red Admiral (1 "Nectaring on Daphne; air temp. 9 Celsius.").

Wednesday 15th January

p. thorne reports from st brelades place (SU379151) where the following observations were made: Red Admiral (1).

Saturday 11th January

Ian Pratt reports from Quarr Abbey (SZ565927) where the following observations were made: Red Admiral (1 "Basking in warm sunshine"), Small Tortoiseshell (1 "Escaping from Abbey buildings").

Steve Boswell reports from Longwater Lawn (SU3208) where the following observations were made: Peacock (1 "Flying around and then sunning itself on Silver Birch stump").

Peter Ridout reports from Millbrook, Southampton (SU378151) where the following observations were made: **Speckled Wood** (1 "Pristine Condition"). "2:15 pm On a warm, sunny afternoon. I saw what I expected to be a Small Tortoiseshell fluttering on a pale wall of a block of flats. Upon looking closer, (one foot away) it turned out to be a Speckled Wood. Unfortunately, only a photo with my 'phone camera.".



Speckled Wood

Lynn Fomison writes that further to her note on 7th January about the threat to woodlands it is now possible to sign a petition to Owen Paterson <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-our-ancient-woodlands> Although its winter and we can not see butterflies it is important to use the time to protect habitats and to show politicians that some of us do care very deeply about nature.

Mark Russell reports from Parkhurst Forest (SZ472898) where the following observations were made: Red Admiral (1).

Wednesday 8th January

Andy Barker provides us with some activity to help pass the winter months:

"Currently not good weather for butterflies, but given the number of branches that have been broken off from high in the crown of oak trees, it is a great

opportunity for people to search for Purple Hairstreak eggs. These appear as pin-head size pale grey discs at the base of oak bud clusters. Best to take a hand-lens or magnifier for confirmation. Attached image is a photo of one I took a few years back using a microscope. Once you get your eye-in they can be found quite easily if the habitat is right. After the great storm of 1987 I had a 50% success rate in oak branches searched around Southampton Common. All such records are very useful additions to the Branch database.

Can I also suggest that you check the roof underside and upper parts of walls in garages, garden sheds and barns, for hibernating butterflies. No need to do anything except record what you find. Attached is an image taken today of a Peacock hibernating in my garage. It's presumably been there since last August! Records of hibernating butterflies are quite scarce on our database, so it would be good if we could add to this."



Purple Hairstreak ova



Hibernating Peacock

Tuesday 7th January

mark hallett reports from dead man hill new forset (SU192164) where the following observations were made: [Comma](#) (1).

Lynn Fomison writes ...unfortunately as 2014 starts threats to butterflies, moths and indeed all wildlife continue. It is worth looking at this link to get a view of Owen Paterson's understanding of ecology! <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jan/04/ancient-woodland-cut-down-biodiversity-offsetting>

Monday 6th January

David Tinling reports from Solent Way, Gosport (SZ595991) where the following observations were made: Red Admiral (1 "basking on a fence post, sheltered from a severe gale, and flying in weak sunshine"). "1200".

Thursday 2nd January

Jean & Bob Annell reports from Exbury Village (SU428002) where the following observations were made: [Red Admiral](#) (1 "Basking on a gate in the noon-day sun near to Exbury Church").

David Holland reports from Southampton Common (SU412141) where the following observations were made: [Brimstone](#) (1 "On the wing").

David Holland reports from Southampton Common (SU412136) where the following observations were made: [Red Admiral](#) (1 "On the wing").

Rob Skinner reports from Bolderwood (SU249093) where the following observations were made: [Red Admiral](#) (1).

Andy Stocker reports from Whitehill (SU784344) where the following observations were made: [Red Admiral](#) (1 "Nectaring on Viburnum").

Lynn Fomison wrote of seeing her first butterfly of the year in her garden - a [Peacock](#) flying in the warm sunshine. It had not been disturbed but was simply enjoying a break from hibernation!

Andy Bolton reports from Axmansford, Tadley (SU565607) where the following observations were made: [Red Admiral](#) (1 "flying strongly on the woodland edge.").

Ben Carpenter reports from Puckpool Park, Isle of Wight (SZ616921) where the following observations were made: [Red Admiral](#) (1 "Sunning itself in a hollow along footpath").

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