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Notes and Views, Issue 9 - January to April 2017

Vince Massimo and Peter Eeles

Abstract: This edition of Notes and Views provides a summary of interesting items posted on UK Butterflies and other media between 1st January and 30th April 2017.

Early Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*) Sighting

22 January 2017 ([Source](#))

A reasonably cold winter has kept unseasonal sightings to a minimum so far. However an early Speckled Wood usually pops up somewhere in the southern or south-western counties at this time. On this occasion one was spotted in Paignton, Devon on 22nd January. Reported on Twitter [here](#).



Speckled Wood (male)

Photo © Neil Freeman (Library Photo)

Early Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*) Sighting

16 February 2017 ([Source](#))

An early Holly Blue was photographed near Porthcurno, Cornwall on 16th February by Jerry Dennis. Reported on Twitter [here](#).



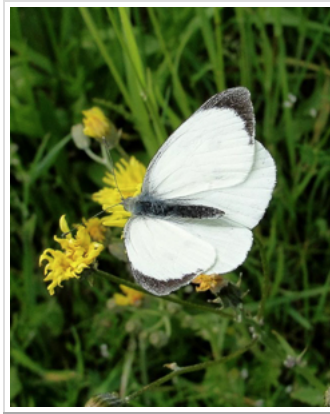
Holly Blue

Photo © Nick Ballard (Library Photo)

Early Large White (*Pieris brassicae*) Sightings

20 February 2017 ([Source](#))

There were several early sightings of Large White. One was seen in Kent on 16th February and the other in East London on 20th February. Reported on Twitter [here](#).



Large White (male)

Photo © Dave Miller (Library Photo)

2014 Scarce Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis xanthomelas*) Sighting

09 March 2014 ([Source](#))

A historic sighting of Scarce Tortoiseshell has now been discovered in old images. The report comes from Peter Willmott, who photographed a Scarce Tortoiseshell at Salcey Forest, Northants on 9th March 2014. This date implies that the butterfly overwintered here and must have arrived in the UK during the summer of 2013, thus pre-dating the observed main influx of this species into Britain in 2015.



Scarce Tortoiseshell

Photo © Peter Willmott

A Rare Sighting of Mating Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*)

13 March 2017 ([Source](#))

An unusual sighting of a mating pair of Small Tortoiseshells was made by Neil Hulme at Ferring Rife, Sussex on 13th March. This was reported on BC Sussex Twitter [here](#).



Mating Small Tortoiseshell

Photo © Neil Hulme

Large Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis polychloros*) Sightings

09 April 2017 ([Source](#))

A female Large Tortoiseshell was photographed by Neil Hulme at North Stoke (near Amberley), Sussex on 28th March, as reporting in his UKB personal diary [here](#). Another individual, this time a male, was photographed in the same location on 3rd April by Paul Atkin as reported in his UKB personal diary [here](#). Yet another male was spotted at North Stoke on 9th April by Paul Cox, as reported on the Sussex BC website [here](#). There must now be high hopes that this site will produce adults later in 2017.



Large Tortoiseshell (female)

Photo © Neil Hulme

Clouded Yellow (*Colias croceus*) Sightings

09 April 2017 ([Source](#))

Lee Slaughter posted a report of 14+ fresh Clouded Yellows at Seaton undercliff in South Cornwall on 9th April. All indications are that they are the result of larvae that have overwintered. An early Wall was also seen at the same time. Reported on UKB sightings forum [here](#).

Peacock (*Aglais io*) and Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) Ovipositing

11 April 2017 ([Source](#))

An interesting sight of a Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell simultaneously egg-laying on the same leaf. Photographed by Vince Massimo at North Stoke, Sussex on 11th April. Reported on the UKB sightings forum [here](#). There is only one other image of this occurrence in the UKB species albums [here](#), taken by "EssexBuzzard" in April 2014.



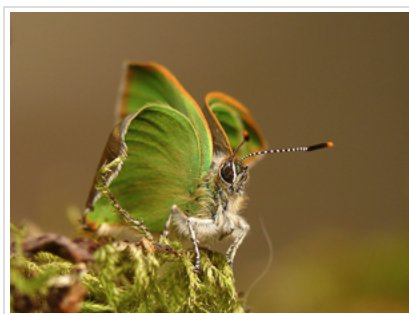
Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell

Photo © Vince Massimo

Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*) Emergence

20 April 2017 ([Source](#))

It is generally accepted that emerging adult butterflies hang suspended upside down or from a vertical surface in order to expand and dry their wings. This was called into question by a series of images posted by Pauline Richards on 20th April. One of the reared Green Hairstreaks that emerged that day successfully did it all standing on the ground. Reported in Pauline's UKB Personal Diary [here](#).



Green Hairstreak

Photo © Pauline Richards