

**LETTER TO THE TIMES**

Sent by email 27.9.12

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with the heading

**FLYING HIGH**

Sir

Your correspondent does not say when he saw fritillaries (letter 27 September), but it would be quite exceptional to see them at this time of year. However Small Tortoiseshells are on the wing this month. They have had a renaissance after suffering from a predatory wasp in recent years, and are now common. Because they hibernate throughout the winter, they will continue to be seen for another week or two before they take refuge in a garden shed or somewhere similar. My local church usually provides a winter home for two or three of them.

David Newland  
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