

European Butterflies

Issue Three: Spring 2020



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Charaxes Publications

Butterfly Holidays 2020



VERCORS WITH RICHARD LEWINGTON

This June we invite you to join the talented and highly acclaimed natural history illustrator Richard Lewington, on a new and exciting holiday in the Vercors, in southeast France.

The Vercors Massif is a predominantly limestone mountain range, famed for its rugged plateaus and vertiginous slopes. Its mountains and gorges straddle the départements of Isère and Drôme in the Prealps and the area is protected as a National Park.

Our week will be shared between two bases; first in the village of Chichilliane, in the shadow of the iconic Mont Aiguille. For the second half of the week we relocate to the small town of La Chapelle en Vercors. From here we will explore several Cols and high plateau areas.



We should see around 100 butterfly species, including Apollo, Clouded Apollo, Almond-eyed Ringlet, Scarce Copper, Mountain Alcon Blue, Glandon Blue, Reverdin's

Blue, Poplar Admiral, Lesser Marbled Fritillary, Woodland Brown, and many more!

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Every summer we head to Bulgaria for this popular tour, where we usually record 110+ species of butterfly.

The southwestern region of Bulgaria is one of the most diverse and rich in flora and fauna on the Balkan Peninsula. The first half of the tour takes place in the famous Rhodope Mountains in southern Bulgaria, close to the country's border with Greece. As we enter the mountains the rolling landscape gradually becomes rugged and occasionally cut



by translucent streams winding through deep gorges. One of them is the magnificent Trigrad Gorge – a spectacular crevasse of sheer limestone cliffs, surrounded by old pine forests and lovely flowery meadows.

The second half is spent in Pirin Mountain and the surrounding river valleys of Mesta and Struma. Pirin is the second highest mountain in Bulgaria with Mount Vihren ascending to 2,916m. The rich biological diversity of the mountain is protected with the designation of Pirin National Park, Pirin is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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enquiries@greenwings.co.uk | +44 (0)1473 254658

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Publishers Address:

Charaxes Publications

17 Muirfield Park

Kingston-upon-Hull

East Yorkshire

England

www.jasonsargerson.uk

Contributors:

Andy Adcock: Russia

andyadcock@ntlworld.com

Tom Brereton: France

tom@naturetrek.co.uk

Dan Danahar: Corfu

dan@bignature.co.uk

James Gibbs: France

www.jamesgibbs6929.zenfolio.com

Mario Langourov: Armenia

info@wildechotours.com

Gyorgy Liptovszky: Hungary

gliptovs@yahoo.com

Dave Maertens: Turkey

dave.maertens@gmail.com

David Moore: Italy

david@ukbutterflies.co.uk

Nick Morgan: Cyprus

Nick.tr3@hotmail.co.uk

Mike Prentice: Spain

mike.prentice7@gmail.com

Jason Sargerson: Switzerland

Jasonsargerson88@gmail.com

Design and Printing: GKD Commercial Printers, Hull.

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Cover: **Scarce Copper**, Yarrow, Champsaur Valley, France, 30.06.17 by James Gibbs.

Introduction

Welcome to the third issue of European Butterflies. I would like to thank all the contributors for their articles and photographs. If you are reading the magazine for the first time and would like to contribute to the next issue of the magazine, please contact me by September 30th 2020. I am happy to receive contributions from individuals and societies as well as organisations with a commercial interest. Recently there has been consternation about the loss of huge areas of the Amazon rainforest, principally in Brazil. Tropical rainforest needs to be protected and sustained in South East Asia, India and Central Africa as well, along with temperate forests in Russia, China, Canada, USA and Europe. These forests are an essential part of the biosphere, sustaining the planet. Every country must have a plan for forestation. For many butterflies, mixed forests with suitable clearings are a key part of their lifecycle. All the serious man-made problems, such as population growth, emissions and plastics, have to be tackled by all countries in the next 10 years.

A very interesting paper by Dr Nanfang Yu and Dr Naomi Pierce published in *Nature Communication* has demonstrated the butterfly wing is a living structure. They have found sensory cells in the wing able to detect both heat and pressure. The veins in the wings also appear to have haemolymph flowing through them, connecting the sensors in the wings. Another discovery established that different types of scales on the wing also play a part in regulating heat in the wings.

Jason Sargerson



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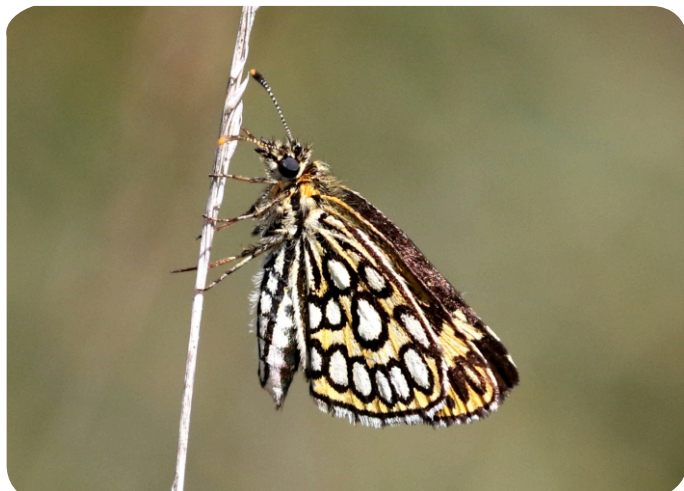
Normandy meadow, Tom Brereton



Alcon Blue, Tom Brereton



Knapweed Fritillary, Shutterstock



Large Chequered Skipper, Tom Brereton

Butterflies of Normandy

Normandy is the most north westerly region of France. It extends over 30,000 square kilometres, making it almost as big as Wales and Northern Ireland combined! The region has a pastoral landscape, often likened to southern England, though generally much more unspoiled. Small, flower-rich meadows grazed by Normandy cattle dominate the rolling landscape, and there are numerous arable fields, orchards, marshes, heaths, peat bogs, meandering rivers and ponds. To the south and east lie some vast woodlands, whilst in the north a beautiful coastline, rugged in places, supports extensive areas of coastal grassland, interspersed by picturesque fishing ports. Normandy supports a rich butterfly fauna with 98 species recorded in recent decades, not too far off double the number regularly occurring in Britain! Testimony to the richness, is evidenced through my own experience of leading 'long weekend' butterfly tours to Normandy for Naturetrek since 2003. The trips involve only three full days in the field, yet over 40 species are usually recorded on each tour (56 species across all years), with the maximum being 47 in 2017.

Normandy is easily accessible by ferry and a popular destination for British holiday makers visiting such iconic tourist destinations as Mont St Michel, the Bayeux Tapestry, Honfleur, Rouen and the D Day landing beaches. However, it is surprisingly little visited by British or indeed any other naturalists and the number of active butterfly recorders is low. In spite of this, due to the dedicated efforts of a small group of Lepidopterists led by Bernard Dardenne a very good book exists. "Papillons de Normandie et des Iles Anglo-Normandes: Atlas des Rhopaloceres et des Zygenes" published in 2008 maps the distribution of all the butterflies and the 14 species of Burnet Moth known to have occurred in Normandy and the Channel Islands. The book is 200 pages in length, with many colour photographs.

Normandy comprises five departments - Calvados, Eure, Manche, Orne and Seine-Maritime. The further east and south you go, the richer the butterfly fauna is, with Department Eure, for example supporting 106 species. The Forêt de St Evrault is a particular hotspot in this department, supporting the only colony of **Camberwell Beauty** in Normandy, along with **Poplar Admiral**, **Large Tortoiseshell** and **Lesser Purple Emperor**. Other noteworthy butterflies occurring in the department include **Large Wall Brown**, **Green-underside Blue**, **Meadow Fritillary**, **False Heath Fritillary**, **Idas Blue**, **False Grayling**, **Lesser Marbled Fritillary** and **Mazarine Blue**.

To the north of Eure is Seine-Maritime Department which can be reached by ferry to Dieppe or Le Havre. The area boasts some extensive area of chalk grassland in association with the white sea cliffs on the north coast and above the beautiful upper reaches of the Seine Valley, with **Berger's Clouded Yellow**, **Weaver's Fritillary**, **Marsh Fritillary**, **Small Blue**, **Chalk-hill Blue** and **Adonis Blue** locally common. A number of other interesting species occur in this department among them **Scarce Swallowtail**, **Black Hairstreak**, **Large Wall Brown**, **High Brown Fritillary**, **Lesser Marbled Fritillary**, **Southern White Admiral**, **Knapweed Fritillary**, **Nickerl's Fritillary** and **Meadow Fritillary**. In addition, there is an isolated population of the rare **Cranberry Fritillary** in the Le Pays De Bray.

La Manche Department can be reached in as little as three hours by ferry from Poole to Cherbourg. At the base of the Cherbourg Peninsula, the undoubted standout area is the network of wet heaths, bogs and pine forests around Lessay. **Large Chequered Skippers** are common, and **Silver-studded Blue** abundant here,

along with several colonies of the rare **Alcon Blue**. Other species present include **Idas Blue**, **Sooty Copper**, **Ilex Hairstreak** and **Purple Emperor**. The west coast of the Cherbourg Peninsula is wild, windswept and beautiful and has extensive sand dunes, where **Lulworth Skipper**, **Grayling** and **Glanville Fritillary** are numerous together with **Sooty Copper**, **Swallowtail** and **Red-underwing Skipper**. Cherbourg itself should not be overlooked. The woodlands above the town support **Ilex Hairstreak**, whilst pastures along the coast have colonies of **Sooty Copper**.

Calvados is easily accessible by ferry from Portsmouth to Caen. A must-visit site here is Les Monts d'Eraines near Falaise. This orchid-rich chalk hill supports **Berger's Clouded Yellow**, **Black-veined White**, **Weavers Fritillary**, **Mallow Skipper**, **Swallowtail** and several rare Burnet moths including the beautiful Faust's Burnet at its most northerly locality in France. In the east of the department, the Pays d'Auge is a lovely, rolling landscape replete with pear and apple orchards, hidden chateaux's, thick hedgerows and flower-rich pastures grazed by horses and Normandy cattle. It has some outstanding patches of chalk grassland tucked away where **Marsh Fritillary**, **Adonis Blue**, **Silver-studded Blue**, **Chequered Skipper** and **Red-underwing Skipper** can be found.

To the south of Calvados is the Department of Orne. Here the outstanding site is the Foret de Gouffern near Argentan, with a remarkable 54 species recorded on Naturetrek holidays including 48 in July, plus a further six in May. Species present include **Map**, **Provencal Short-tailed Blue**, **Lesser Marbled Fritillary**, both **Chequered** and **Large Chequered Skipper**, **Lesser Purple Emperor**, **Poplar Admiral** and **Heath Fritillary**. Orne is an important Department for butterflies and a stronghold for regionally scarce species such as **Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper**, **Southern White Admiral**, **Mountain Alcon Blue**, **Alcon Blue**, **Large Blue**, **Idas Blue**, **Pearl-bordered Fritillary** and **Knapweed Fritillary**.

Having visited Normandy in search of butterflies almost every year since the late 1990s, it has been interesting to see the changes over the period. **Queen of Spain Fritillary** and **Large Tortoiseshell** seem to come and go, with influxes in some years and a total absence in others. At Les Monts d'Eraines, **Weaver's Fritillary** suddenly appeared in reasonable numbers in 2017 and has been seen every year subsequently. The colonisation coincided with a decline in the only other violet-feeding grassland fritillary at the site, **Dark Green Fritillary**. In 2016, **Provencal Short-tailed Blue** colonised the Foret de Gouffern. Perhaps not unexpectedly, as it has been spreading rapidly northwards through France in recent years.

I have also been lucky enough to make a number of valuable discoveries over the years, with the highlight being finding one rich site which has since been designated as a nature reserve. No doubt many more interesting discoveries can be expected, especially in Calvados Department, which is particularly under-recorded. Making the short journey over there by ferry should be a serious consideration for any keen recorder, whilst an introduction to Normandy butterflies can be gained by joining one of the Naturetrek butterfly tours.

Join Professor Tom Brereton on Naturetrek's 5-day 'Butterflies in Normandy' tour: 1st - 5th July 2020.
Cost: £995 (including ferry). Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk or call 01962 733051



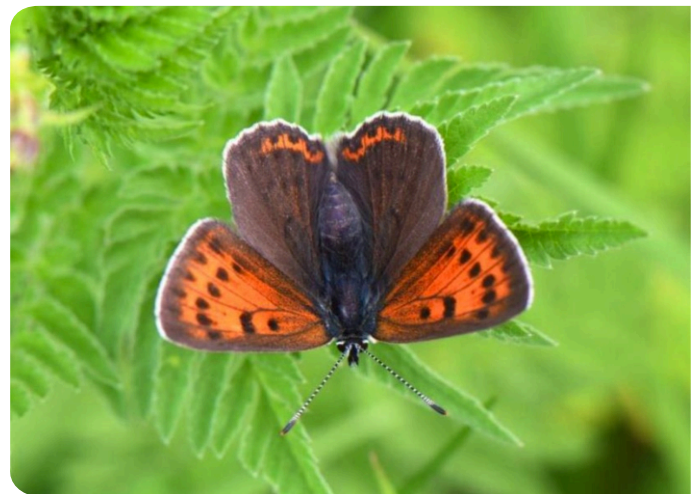
Tom Brereton



Map, Shutterstock



Scarce Swallowtail, Shutterstock



Sooty Copper, David Morris



Southern White Admiral, Shutterstock



Brown Argus aberrant, 17.04.17



Eastern Orange Tip, 19.04.19



Glanville Fritillary aberrant, 13.04.19



Green-underside Blue, 12.04.19

Corfiots Butterflies - a contemporary perspective and global context

On the 10th February 2019 an unprecedented story made the front page of the Guardian newspaper concerning the devastating loss of insect numbers 'threatening a global collapse of nature'. The article reported on the first planetary wide scientific review, which found that "more than 40% of insect species are declining and a third are endangered". The review also found that Lepidoptera (butterflies & moths), Hymenoptera (ants, bees & wasps) and dung beetles (representatives of the order Coleoptera) were the groups most affected. This report followed an earlier article which described a more than 75% decline of flying insect in 63 German nature protection areas, over a 27 year period. This was reported in the press as 'Insectageddon'.

Since 1976, the distribution of butterflies has been monitored in the United Kingdom using a standardised methodology. The most recent UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme annual report (2017) states: that since 1976, either habitat specialists or wider countryside butterfly species show apparent declines of 74% and 46% respectively. Similar trends have been seen in the abundances of larger moths across the UK, showing a 28% decline during the 40-year period from 1968 to 2007. Furthermore, trends from the southern half of Britain show total counts of larger moths decreased by 40%⁽⁷⁾.

These studies underline a serious and chronic depletion of insect species and their abundances, a phenomenon that has been particularly acute during the last 30 to 40 years (although no reliable surveys were conducted before this period). The main drivers of these changes are habitat loss because of the conversion to intensive agriculture, agro-chemical pollutants, invasive species and climate change.

Apart from its aesthetic appeal, nature also provides us with a variety of essential ecosystem services and the decline of biodiversity globally is now endangering these vital amenities. At its most fundamental the world's food supply is under severe threat from biodiversity loss.

Butterflies and moths are a crucial part of our wildlife heritage and are valuable as sensitive indicators of the health of our environment. So, given that declines in insect abundance and diversity are now to be seen at both the regional and global level, it begs the questions; are similar trends to be found in the Corfiot butterfly communities? And if so, are these butterfly assemblages of Corfu endangered?

What do we know about the status of the Corfiot butterfly fauna?

Before the turn of the century, most of what we knew about the butterfly fauna of Corfu was found in a few short and obscure scientific articles written by entomologists, visiting on family holidays to the island. To date only one study has attempted an island wide survey. This assessed the Corfiot butterfly diversity during a 7-year period at 47 sites, which were broadly distributed throughout the island. The results of this work classified butterflies as either widespread species or habitat specialists. Unfortunately, as an identification guide it was lacking and unreliable but was redeemed by the author's aims to encourage both the residents of Corfu and its visitors, to value the island's butterfly fauna and more comprehensively its biodiversity as a whole.

Recently, there have been two butterfly species' reviews for Corfu, the first checklist recorded 85 species, whilst the more recent recorded 78 species. To date the scientific literature contains no significant records of changes in species abundance and no comprehensive mapping of the island's different butterfly species. Thus, we cannot say with any certainty that the butterfly communities or their population sizes, have changed in any meaningful way.

What is the origin of the Corfu Butterfly Survey?

To foster an interest in the butterflies of Corfu a facebook discussion page (Corfu Butterfly Conservation) was set up in April 2014¹. As the page grew in membership (currently 447 members) it created a passionate community of butterfly enthusiasts and their contributions have greatly enhanced our understanding of the Corfiot butterfly fauna.

Although facebook had helped form our community it became increasingly obvious that we needed a portal that was independent of this third party. This was our chance to design a website that had the capacity to become a far more powerful tool, one that could map and explore the ecology of the Corfiot butterflies.

We needed to know the current status of each butterfly species on the island, so that we would be able to detect changes if and when they occurred in the future. Consequently, the Corfu Butterfly Survey (CBS) is intended to be a collaborative effort to record and map the distribution and seasonal abundances of all Corfiot butterfly species. We aim to carry out this survey over a five year period and ultimately publish the first comprehensive Corfu Butterfly Atlas based on the information we gather.

Why Corfu Butterfly Conservation?

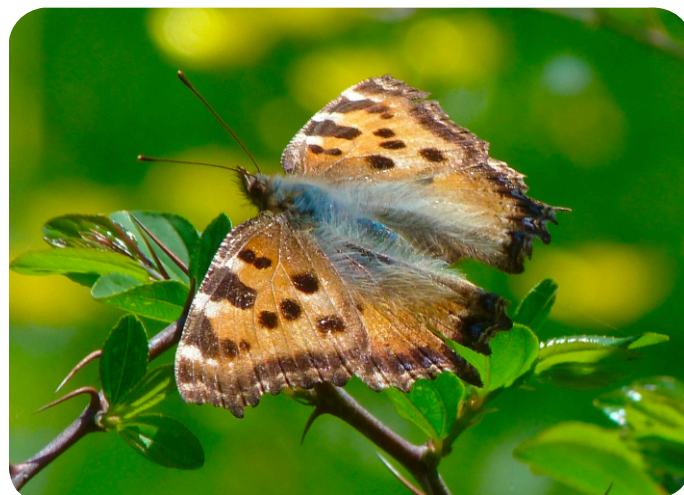
As the rationale for the Corfu Butterfly Atlas became increasingly apparent so did a mechanism by which this work could be delivered and hence the Corfu Butterfly Conservation (CBC) project came into being. To date we have five core aims:

- Surveying the butterflies of Corfu to determine the number of species present on the island, their distribution and flight periods.
- Publishing the butterfly survey results as a Corfu Butterfly Atlas.
- Identifying potential habitat losses and ascertaining how the island's butterfly communities might be indicators of habitat quality for other wildlife on Corfu.
- Informing the Greek and Corfiot authorities of which habitats and species need protecting.
- Inform and advise Corfiots of their rich natural heritage and encourage eco-tourism outside the main tourist season bringing extra revenue to Corfu.

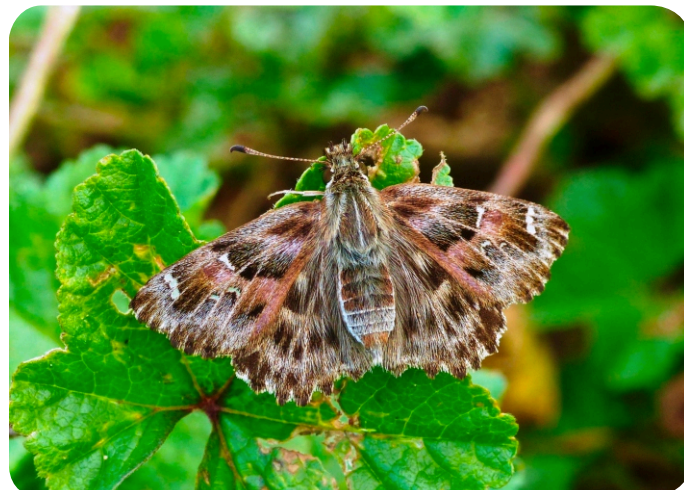
Our 5 year survey launches when Gerald Durrell would have been 95 years old (7th January 2020) and it will end when he would have been 100 years old (7th January 2025). Please help us by contributing your Corfu butterfly records to corfubutterflies.org.uk so that we have something very special for Corfu to celebrate on the centenary of Gerald Durrell's birth!



Dan Danahar
Photographs: Dan Danahar



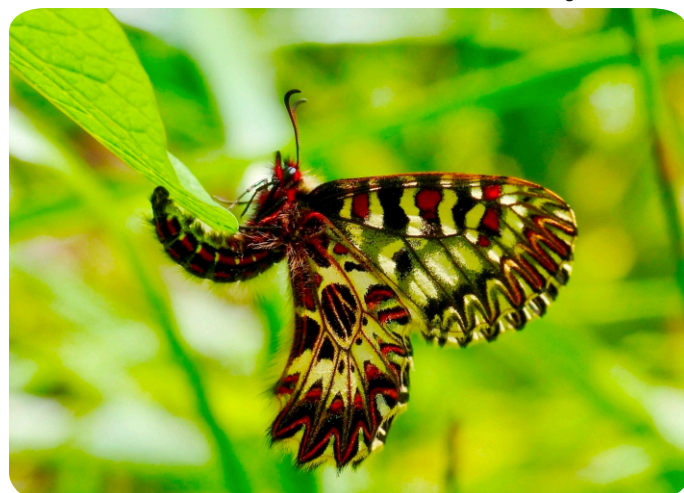
Large Tortoiseshell, 20.04.19



Mallow Skipper, 12.04.19



Plain Tiger, 21.10.18



Southern Festoon ovipositing, 14.04.19



Balkan Zephyr Blue, Fót, 20.05.18



Purple Emperor, Jósvaló, 10.06.18



Lesser Purple Emperor, Örség, 02.06.18



Freyer's Purple Emperor, Csámpa, 10.08.19

Butterflies in North-East Hungary

I was born in the Northeast of Hungary. This part of the country has always been a little down on its luck. There were not many successful and wealthy settlements, and it was always slightly abandoned, which is bad for humans, but great for butterflies!

Travelling east outside of Budapest, the first village, the very first hill, is an interesting place for butterfly enthusiasts. It is called Fót and Somlyó hill and is located 15 minutes from Budapest. How our ancestors loved to sit here in the shade of a pub, chatting and drinking „fröccs”! („Fröccs” is one of the Hungary's favorite drinks, a little wine combined with lots of bubbling mineral water.) Even today, butterfly-watching trips start out on the hill next to the famous old pub. This location is very rich in butterflies, with practically half of the Hungarian species found on this small hill. Among lepidopterans, the hill is known for the **Balkan Zephyr Blue** (*Kretania sephirus*). Generations of lepidopterans have made pilgrimage to this place where the nutrient plant (*Astragalus exscapus*) grows. During May and the beginning of June one is likely to see the beautiful **Clouded Apollos** (*Parnassius mnemosyne*) in plenty here, as they slowly drift along the edge of the forest, like huge snowflakes.

Heading further east, in under an hour's drive is the Mátra. This is a much larger mountain than the Somlyó, and the highest point in Hungary is also here. The forest, riverside and sunny paths in the mountains provide an excellent habitat for the **Purple Emperor** (*Apatura iris*) and the **Lesser Purple Emperor** (*Apatura ilia*). There are no **Freyer's Purple Emperors** (*Apatura metis*) in north-eastern Hungary, but this beautiful *Apatura* species can be found south of Budapest. In the Mátra, **White Admiral** (*Limenitis camilla*), **Peacock** (*Aglais io*), **Silver-washed Fritillary** (*Argynnis paphia*) and **Dark Green Fritillary** (*Argynnis aglaja*) are common.

On Galyatető, where the perennial honesty (*Lunaria rediviva*) blooms in large areas among the trees in summer, one can certainly find the **Dark-veined White** (*Pieris bryoniae*). A common sight is the **Hungarian Glider** (*Neptis rivularis*) which, interestingly, flies above the planted Spiraea bushes on the edge of the villages. One needs to arrive early in the morning, so that the Hungarian Glider can be relatively calm for photos. **Alcon Blue** (*Phengaris alcon*), **Purple-edged Copper** (*Lycaena hippothoe*) live in the mountain pastures, and rarely seen species such as the Hornet Clearwing (*Sesia apiformis*) can also be found. The next location is the Tarna region, known to butterfly lovers because it is the westernmost point where the **Pallas's Fritillary** (*Argynnis laodice*) can be found in Europe. This beautiful butterfly prefers wild, remote locations away from human-inhabited areas. As we can see in the picture, the female has a small arrowhead-shaped white spot at the end of her wings, which makes the two sexes clearly distinguishable.

Map Butterfly (*Araschnia levana*), **Lesser Purple Emperor (*Apatura ilia*)**, **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (*Boloria selene*)** and **Grayling (*Hipparchia semele*)** are also present in this area. Some years the **Marbled White (*Melanargia galathea*)** appears in the *f. leucomelas* form, in which the back of the lower wing is almost completely white with no pattern.

Close to the Slovak border we find the Aggtelek region, under which lies one of the biggest stalactite cave systems in Europe. The cave (which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site) can be visited for walks up to 15 km. This magnificent and almost untouched area is one of Hungary's finest butterfly watching sites. **Lesser Purple Emperor (*Apatura ilia*)**, **Purple Emperor (*Apatura iris*)**, **Comma (*Polygonia c-album*)**, **Map Butterfly (*Araschnia levana*)**, **Peacock (*Aglais io*)**, **Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)** are common, as well as **White Admiral (*Limenitis camilla*)**, **Hungarian Glider (*Neptis rivularis*)**, **Large Copper (*Lycaena dispar*)**, **Scarce Copper (*Lycaena virgaureae*)**, and **Purple Shot Copper (*Lycaena alciphron*)**. My favourite species here is the **Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis xantomelas*)**, which appears to be expanding from the east to the west of Europe. Occasionally, atypical variants such as those shown in the picture may occur. It can be observed that, unlike the **Large Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis polychloros*)**, the legs of the Yellow-legged tortoiseshell, as its name suggests, are lighter, 'yellowish'. The Large Tortoiseshell flies alongside the Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell, but their colour makes them easily distinguishable.

If one arrives at the right time and is fortunate enough, one may see the largest, and most extraordinary butterfly of these mountains, the **Poplar Admiral (*Limenitis populi*)**. Usually the males are seen sucking on the ground and are particularly fond of the aroma of fox faeces! Almost at the same time as the Poplar Admiral appears the **Woodland Brown (*Lopinga achine*)**. The chances are good for spotting **Geranium Argus (*Aricia eumedon*)**, **Twin-spot Fritillary (*Brenthis hecate*)**, and **Lesser Marbled Fritillary (*Brenthis ino*)**. **Silver-washed Fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*)** is sometimes frequent, as can be seen on the small road sign in the photograph. This region also provides an opportunity to observe the **Eastern Knapweed Fritillary (*Melitaea ornata*)**, in some countries known as ***Melitaea telona***, which is very similar to the **Knapweed Fritillary (*Melitaea phoebe*)** but slightly paler. Although species classification is controversial, most researchers in Eastern Europe today treat it as a separate species.

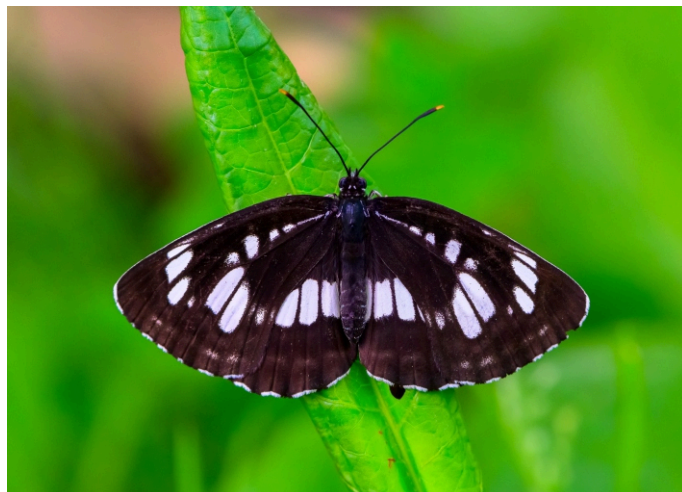
Hungary is a relatively small country, so the areas I mention above are accessible from Budapest on one-day tours. A stay in Budapest can be included in the itinerary with pleasant evening programs to supplement a full day's butterfly watching. Another great starting point is Tokaj, where in the evenings you can taste the "wine of kings", the Tokaji Aszú.



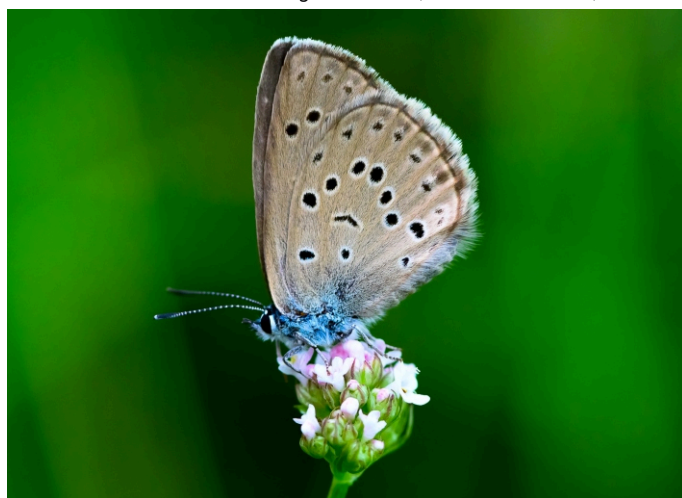
Gyorgy Liptovszky
Photographs Gyorgy Liptovszky



Dark-veined White, Galyatető, 26.05.19



Hungarian Glider, Mátraszentistván, 30.06.19



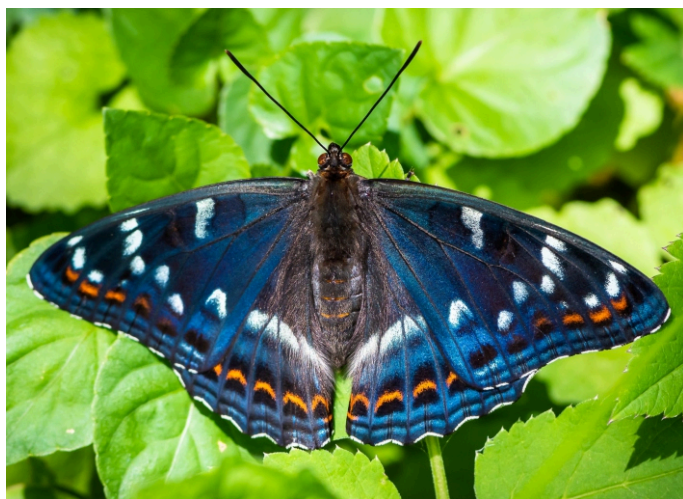
Alcon Blue, Mátraszentistván, 30.06.19



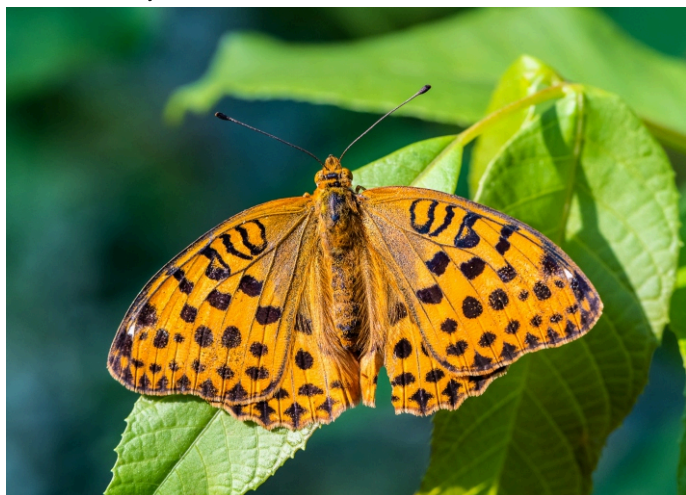
Clearwing Hornet, Mátraszentistván, 30.06.19



Pallas's Fritillary, Tarnalelesz, 15.07.18



Poplar Admiral, Jósvalő, 26.05.18



Pallas's Fritillary female, Tarnalelesz, 15.07.18



Woodland Brown, Jósvalő, 06.06.18



Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell, Jósvalő, 09.06.18



Geranium Argus, Jósvalő, 06.06.18



Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell, Jósvalő, 09.06.18



Silver-washed Fritillaries, Jósvalő, 09.06.18

European Butterflies Group

The European Butterflies group is a branch of Butterfly Conservation for members with a particular interest in European butterflies and moths. As well as enjoying two (electronic) Newsletters each year members also have the opportunity to help on butterfly projects in Europe. These projects tend to involve helping local lepidopterists with survey work and over the past 12 years we have worked on 48 projects in 18 countries. I personally have helped on projects in France, Italy, Greece and Romania and Spain and I am currently working with others on a project in Spain which is an extension of a project started nearly 8 years ago. In 2012 MAVA, a Swiss charitable foundation, funded a project on four Spanish endemic butterflies – the **Sierra Nevada Blue** (*Plebicula golgus*), **Zullich's Blue** (*Agriades zullichii*), **Andalusian Anomalous Blue** (*Polyommatus violetae*) and **Spanish Greenish Black-tip** (*Euchloe bazae*). EBG volunteers, including myself, were some of the many people who visited the Sierra Nevada mountains and nearby areas to help with survey work to establish the population size and distribution of these four endangered butterflies. The results of this work were published by Butterfly Conservation Europe in four Species Recovery Plans in 2015.

The **Spanish Greenish Black-tip** flies in a semi-desert area about 80 km north of the Sierra Nevada mountains and it also has a separate population in semi-desert areas in the Ebro Valley in northern Spain. It is an interesting species in that although the two populations represent the entire world distribution they are recognised as two distinct subspecies and even use different larval host-plants: the widespread species of Rocket *Eruca versicaria* in the south and *Vella aspera* (until recently known as *Boleum asperum*) in the north, the latter itself a very local Ebro Valley endemic. Earlier this year the **Spanish Greenish Black-tip** gained legal protection from the Spanish government as it was recognised as a species in danger of extinction. The species has a very restricted range and is threatened by conversion of the habitat to arable, by overgrazing and to some extent by abandonment. Our ongoing involvement with this species has been principally with the northern population where we have been visiting the area for the past two years looking for foodplant which itself also has a very restricted range. At present the butterfly is mainly found in two very small areas one of approximately 1.5 sq km and the other of about 4 sq km. with all the records to date limited to just 13 x 1km squares. Although there are some small areas of foodplant outside the butterfly's currently known range these are almost certainly not large enough to sustain a butterfly population. On our most recent trip we found an area of foodplant potentially capable of supporting the butterfly but since the weather was cold and wet in Spring 2019 we are not yet certain whether the species is present here. A further trip is planned for 2020.

At a recent meeting of Butterfly Conservation Europe's partner organisations I sought further invitations for our members to help local lepidopterists with their projects and was offered numerous opportunities from southern Spain to Sweden and as far east as Armenia and Moldova. For British butterfly enthusiasts, with only 59 native butterfly species in UK but some 484 in Europe, the opportunity to travel to see new species and make a practical difference to species conservation makes the European Butterflies Group a natural choice.

For further information about European Butterflies Group and the projects we are supporting, see our website: www.european-butterflies.org.uk



Mike Prentice



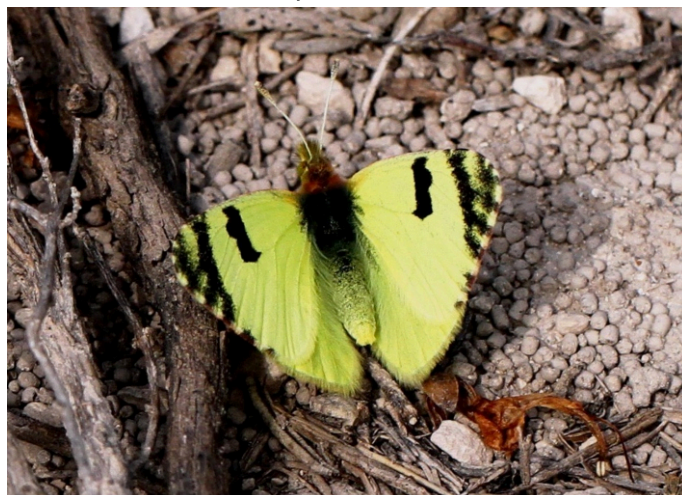
Gypsum hills, 07.04.13, Martin Davies



Spanish Greenish Black-tip, 07.04.13, Martin Davies



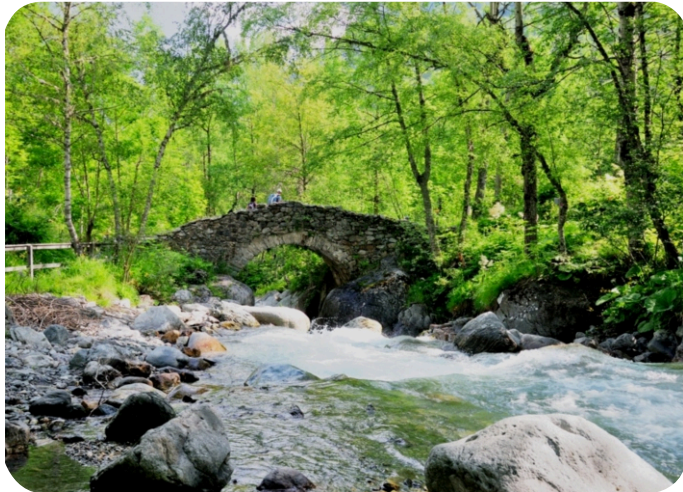
Ebro Valley, bazae habitat, 02.04.19, Kevin Tolhurst



Spanish Greenish Black-tip, 02.04.19, Kevin Tolhurst



La Chapelle en Valgaudemar, 13.07.07



Pack bridge, 13.07.07



Waterfall, 13.07.07

La Chapelle en Valgaudemar, France.

My interest in butterflies started at a young age, the memory of seeing **Meadow Browns** take to the air in large numbers whilst on walks with my Father though the local hay meadows remains with me, now silage has largely replaced traditional haymaking and the butterflies have gone, my fascination lasted until other interests took over in mid-teens but everyone knows that story, my interest was rekindled when my wife and I made a chance visit in 2007 to La Chapelle en Valgaudemar a mountain village situated in the Parc national des Ecrins, between Grenoble and Gap, it awakened me to a whole new and exciting range of butterfly species including my first encounter with an **Apollo** was, an unforgettable experience. Since then, I have often returned to Valgaudemar to admire these magnificent insects and relive that moment.

Valgaudemar is a quiet sleepy valley, popular with walkers, steep sided with tumbling waterfalls the most visited being the Bridal veil at Gioberney (1643m). This mountain refuge / guesthouse lies at the top of the valley, meadows, woodland, and the alpine environment make it a good location for seeing butterflies in France.

Our first walk from the village was to visit the intriguingly named Ourlys de Diable, a steep road out of the village lined with flowers, butterflies were so numerous it reminded me of my childhood interest, we arrived at a very picturesque pack bridge where I saw my first **Scotch Argus** sat on the parapet of the bridge. The Oulles de Diable proved to be a narrow canyon worn by centuries of rushing water, not the place to fall into. Continuing up the valley I then saw my first **High Brown** and **Silver-washed Fritillaries**, a magical moment, I was amazed, never having seen such large and colourful butterflies, we finally reached our journey's end by a high waterfall, had our picnic and then returned to our campsite.

The following day we explored further up the valley and found a small bank covered in flowers it was here I met my first **Apollo**, as we continued our walk many others species added to my growing excitement. Returning though the village at the entrance to the campsite another surprise was waiting, a **Swallowtail**, I had only ever seen pictures of this species in my Observers book of Butterflies, so many years ago now.

A day to celebrate, a day to remember.

Other butterflies to be seen in the area include:

Purple-edged Copper, Knapweed Fritillary, Marbled White, Almond-eyed Ringlet, False Heath Fritillary, Dark Green Fritillary, Geranium Argus, Black-veined White, Spotted Fritillary and Safflower Skipper.



James Gibbs

Photographs: James Gibbs



Apollo, 13.07.07



Niobe Fritillary, 01.07.16



Blue-spot Hairstreak, 19.07.14



Scarce Copper, 21.07.14



Large Grizzled Skipper, 19.07.14



Silver-washed Fritillary, 21.07.14



Marbled Fritillary, 21.07.14



Silvery Argus, 18.07.14



Caucasian Turan Copper, 28.05.19



Diana Blue



Eastern Brown Argus, 07.07.14



Eastern Orange Tip, 05.06.18

Aglimpse of the butterfly fauna of Armenia

Armenia lies in the southern part of Caucasus Mts (known also as Transcaucasus) and has a varied relief dominated by the mountain ridges – semi-deserts, sand complexes, large river valleys, narrow gorges and high mountains. The altitude here ranges from about 380 m in Arax river valley up to the alpine zone in the highest mountains. Mount Ararat - an isolated volcano massif with its 4,090 m above sea level represents the highest point of the Lesser Caucasus and Armenia. The specific features of the country are determined by the impact of several bio climates, respectively the presence of transitional climatic conditions. All that, together with long and diverse geological history, led to the formation of very rich and specific flora and fauna.

With the latest two new records of butterfly species found in the country on Wild Echo tours – **Southern Small White** and especially the **Persian Blue**, the butterflies of Armenia currently include 238 species and offer a unique mixture of European and Near East butterfly species and here occur healthy populations of some very rare and otherwise decreasing species.

The forest zone lies in the northeast, where the humidity is considerable, and also in the southeast of Armenia. The northeastern forests are largely beech but oak forests predominate in the southeastern regions, where the climate is drier. The northern part of the country shows species typical for the European temperate continental climate with **Queen of Spain**, **Pearl-bordered Fritillary** and **Weaver's Fritillary**, **White Admiral**, **Holly Blue**, **Brimstone**, **Speckled Wood**, **Comma**, **Glanville Fritillary**, **Spotted Fritillary** and **Scotch Argus**.

Continuing to the south the largest Armenian lake is reached - Sevan, where the attention will be grabbed by the brightly colored coppers as **Purple-shot**, **Balkan**, **Lesser Fiery**, together with **Aegean Skipper**, **Olive Skipper**, **Yellow-banded Skipper**, **Eastern Orange Tip**, **Bosnian Blue**, **Pontic Blue**. Here you can find also relatively rare **Large Blue** and **Alcon Blue**.

One of the butterfly best hotspots in Armenia is Khosrov Forest State Reserve, where more than 120 species have been recorded, including very colorful **Anatolian Fiery Copper**, **Turkish Fiery Copper**, **Romanoff's Vernal Copper**, **Sooty Orange Tip**, **Orange-banded Hairstreak** and six different species of **Anomalous Blue** - **Forster's**, **Firdussi's**, **Hubert's**, **Surakov's**, **Persian**, **Phyllis** plus **Christoph's Blue**.



Firdussi's Blue, 28.06.14



Loew's Blue, 07.07.14



Freyer's Fritillary, 03.06.18



Odd-spot Blue, 28.06.14



Hyrcanium Black Hairstreak, 01.06.18



Persian Blue, 03.06.18



Ionian Emperor, 08.07.14



Pontic Blue, 03.06.18



Noravank, 31.05.19



Romanoff Vernal Copper, 31.05.19



Saadis Heath, 29.05.18



White-bordered Grayling, 08.07.14

Further south is situated perhaps the most popular butterfly spot in Armenia – Noravank and Arpa river valley with hardly accessible Arpa Gorge. In these biotopes can be found **Ionian Emperor, Inky Skipper, Small Bath White, Krueper's Small White, Southern Swallowtail, Eastern Brown Argus, Odd-spot Blue, Esper's** and **Balkan Marbled White, Persian Fritillary, Freyer's Fritillary**. Another very interesting, but still underexplored area is the mountain ridge near the border with Nakhchivan (Zangezur Mts). Some of the most spectacular species here are the elusive and declining in other parts of their range **Dalmatian Ringlet, Bavius Blue, Christoph's Clouded Yellow, Lesser Lattice Brown**. Here, in 2018 we discovered a new species for Armenian butterfly fauna – extremely local **Persian Blue**.

Continuing to the extreme south of the country, near Iranian border, one will reach Arax River Valley and Meghri Mts, not only typical for semi-deserts of southern Armenia, but also include some species that can be found only here in Armenia. This area is reminiscent of vast Iran also, including number of species as **Saadi's Heath, Caucasian Turan Copper, Reverdin's Marbled Skipper, Hyrcanian Black Hairstreak, Little Tiger Blue, Alcedo Blue, Amasian Satyr, White-bordered Grayling, Thelephassa Grayling, Orange Hermit**. Here is the only place in Armenia where you can find also extremely rare **Grass Jewel, Damonides Blue, Iolas Blue** and **Mediterranean Skipper**.

Two tours have been run by Wild Echo in the last two years where 116 and 126 species respectively have been seen. Armenia is the oldest Christian country and has a rich history with many medieval monuments and monasteries, most of them situated in a dramatically beautiful landscape. The people are exceptionally friendly and hospitable, and the local food is very delicious. Therefore, the Wild Echo tour in 2020 which is guaranteed already, will allow us to not only admire the butterflies, but also birds, flowers and other natural wonders and scenery as well as also enjoy the extraordinary Armenian hospitality and cuisine and all round experience to a country that is not yet visited by so many people.



Mario Langourov
Photographs: Wild Echo Tours

See websites: www.wildechotours.com and www.butterfly-conservation-armenia.org

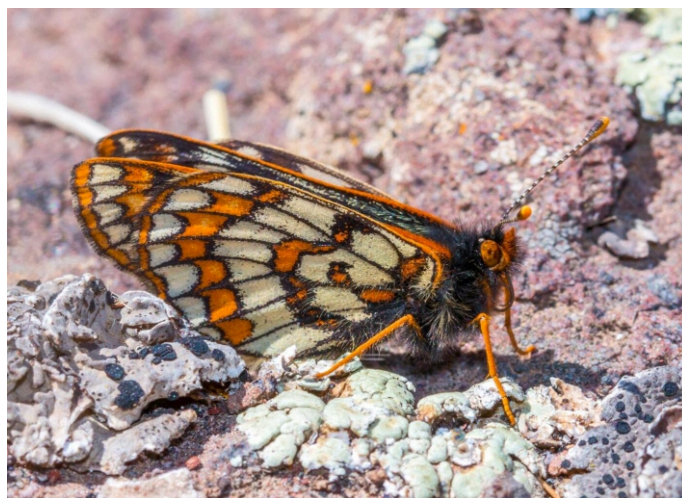
Lapland Fritillary on Mt Ararat, Turkey

During a three day trip up Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey two naturalists, Suleyman Eksioglu and Emin Yogurtcuoglu rediscovered the **Lapland Fritillary** (*Euphydryas iduna*). This was last seen on Mount Ararat (Mount Agir) in August 1970 almost 50 years previously. On the 7th August 2019 their expedition to find the Lapland Fritillary found the butterfly at an altitude between 3800 and 4000m.

This is an interesting butterfly because it appears to occupy two different habitats and altitudes. At high altitude in the mountains of Asia it occupies areas with sparse vegetation. This habitat is fast disappearing with climate change, even on Mount Ararat. At lower altitudes it is only found in the far north in Europe in Lapland (Northern Norway, Sweden and Finland). Here it is found in boggy and wet areas with heathers and dwarf birch (*Betula nana*). It only has a short flight period from end of June to the middle of July in northern Europe. Populations appear to fluctuate from year to year, suggesting a two year life cycle. The caterpillars feed on *Veronica* and *Vaccinium*.



Photographs by Suleyman
Eksioglu and Emin Yogurtcuoglu.
Jason Sargerson



Lapland Fritillary, Mount Ararat, 07.08.19



Lapland Fritillary, Mount Ararat, 07.08.19

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Rhone Valley near Martigny, 11.08.19



Cardinal female, 07.06.19



Cardinal female, 07.06.19



Cardinal male, 07.06.19

Cardinals in the Rhone Valley: Valais, Switzerland

Guy Padfield first saw a **Cardinal** near Martigny in the Rhone Valley in Valais in Switzerland on 29th May 2005. At the time he thought it was probably just a rare migrant. The previous sightings in the valley were as long ago as 1947. However, visiting the same area again, eight years later, on 10th August 2013, Guy found several **Cardinals**. On further visits in August, many Cardinals were found, including both male and female. The following year in 2014, in both May and August the Cardinals were observed again, it was a colony.

Although the location of the colony is supposed to be a secret, many butterfly enthusiasts have now discovered their whereabouts. The Cardinals are regularly seen in May/June and August/September. This may indicate that they are double brooded, but mating and eggs or larvae have yet to be seen. It is possible that it is a single brood and the butterflies seek nectar sources in May (the favourite is Red Clover) and again in August (Buddleia). In the high summer, the butterflies are not visible, although this is a southern European species, well used to the heat found in the Rhone Valley. Textbooks indicate the Cardinal is possibly double brooded, but most likely single brooded.

I have found the **Cardinal** in the spring, mainly by looking out for Red Clover. In May it is not likely to be confused with **Silver-washed Fritillary**, as they emerge later in June. In August, the walk up to the Buddleia site defeated me, so I will have to be content with visiting in May/June. Other rare species in this area in the spring include **Iolas Blue**, feeding on Bladder Senna (*Colutea*) and the spring brood of **Southern White Admiral**.

On the hillsides can be found: **Queen of Spain Fritillary**, **Violet Fritillary**, **Bath White**, **Common Blue**, **Adonis Blue**, **Turquoise Blue**, **Green-underside Blue**, **Red-underwing Skipper** and **Safflower Skipper**. Earlier in the year (March/April) butterflies such as **Large Tortoiseshell** and **Camberwell Beauty** can be found. In the valley **Baton Blue**, **Chequered Blue**, **Berger's Clouded Yellow**, **Purple-shot Copper** and **Knapweed Fritillary** may be found. Later in the summer the valley is home to **Tree Grayling**, **Dryad**, **Clouded Yellow**, **Wall Brown** and a range of Fritillaries including **Silver-washed Fritillary**, **High Brown Fritillary** and **Marbled Fritillary**.



Jason Sargerson

Photographs: Jason Sargerson



Cardinal female, 07.06.19



Chequered Blue, 28.06.13



Bath White, 05.06.18



Iolas Blue, 28.06.13



Baton Blue, 25.07.15



Knapweed Fritillary, 13.06.17



Berger's Clouded Yellow, 25.07.15



Purple-shot Copper female, 28.06.13



Vallone del Gesso della Valletta, 13.06.19



Scarce Fritillary, 17.06.19



Scarce Fritillary, 16.06.19



Alcon Blue male, 21.06.19

Piedmont Alps, Italy, mid-June 2019

Piedmont means, literally, *foot of the mountain*, and this becomes apparent the moment one arrives as the lowland plains suddenly appear almost encircled by the Alpine massif beyond. Cuneo province is the most southerly of the Piedmont region and its south west border is shared with the Alpes Maritimes department of France.

The area is cheaper than neighbouring France, and yet it retains a considerable French influence, with the language being widely spoken and understood. It somehow feels like a little alpine *Shangri-la* of its own, with lots of traditional customs one would not find elsewhere in Italy.

The Stura Valley is notable for its isolated population of **Scarce Fritillary** (*Euphydryas maturna*), which was only discovered in the early part of this century, and this was the principle reason for visiting the area.

Maturna is a species which is fairly widespread, though localised, in eastern Europe and is present in parts of northern and central France, but is absent from the rest of Europe, west of southern Germany.

So, in June 2019, a Greenwings trip was undertaken with the aim of not only allowing a group of guests to see this beautiful part of alpine Europe at one of the best times of year, but to also assist the Italian conservation authorities in the Parco Naturale delle Alpi Marittimi in monitoring this population in the Valle Stura and its environs.

It's hard to know how the butterfly's presence in this small area went unnoticed for so long, although one only needed to travel approximately 20km in any direction away from its epicentre to see it suddenly disappear. Perhaps it thrives due to the old-fashioned means by which local hay meadows are successionally cut, with this work often being done via fairly antiquated means and staggered over an extended period rather than being cut at roughly the same time.

This species has a strong fondness for damp spots, and many were seen lazily puddling wherever there was moisture on the tracks or at the roadside, although many males were observed holding territory in the wonderfully florid meadows nearby. Besides being an extremely attractive butterfly, it also endears itself via its behaviour, being extremely approachable and regularly alighting on human beings in search of salts, as well as any associated possessions such as rucksacks, camera bags and hats.

I'm pleased to report that there was no shortage in terms of numbers of this species in the area it inhabits; certainly upwards of 100 were seen at a range of sites, with the best ones supporting up to three dozen.

The wider area is comprised of largely excellent butterfly habitat, with many valleys cutting through the precipitous peaks, providing sufficient water to keep the lower altitude meadows very green.

Plenty of damp meadows between 1,000m and 1,500m were visited, with the bulk of them very productive for a range of butterflies. Two interesting species were **Nickerl's** and **Lesser Spotted Fritillary**, both of which were seen in low numbers and, in the case of the former, at just one site.

Mid-June is a delightful period of the year, with plant growth reaching its zenith and many summer butterfly species just emerging. Two particularly lovely and welcome such species were **Scarce** and **Purple-shot Copper**, which popped up in small numbers here and there and were always impeccably fresh and radiant. In fact, five Copper species were seen in all, with **Small**, **Sooty** and **Purple-edged Copper** all putting in an appearance.

Apart from *maturna*, probably the most exciting find was a single meadow which harboured a colony of **Alcon Blues**, (*Phengaris alcon*). One solitary male had been seen on the penultimate day of the trip, yet a return visit the following day to the same site saw approaching double figures, with females recorded alongside males.

Another *lycaenid* worthy of mention was **Reverdin's Blue**, (*Plebejus argyrognomon*). This stunning species was only seen in a couple of locations, but there were several of them at each and yet again they were all seemingly in mint condition. Other desirable members of this family seen were **Large Blue**, **Meleager's Blue**, **Amanda's Blue**, **Turquoise Blue** and **Osiris Blue**.

At this time of year, the higher altitudes remain largely bereft of butterflies. It was noticeable that once one had ascended beyond 1,700m, there was little flying, although **Mountain Clouded Yellows** and **Swallowtails** were active at this altitude.

Also on the wing were **Apollos**, most of which were fresh specimens. The riverside meadows on the road leading to Valdieri saw the greatest numbers, and the rocky grassland also provided numerous **Northern Wall Browns**. Whilst higher altitudes were not so blessed by large numbers of butterflies, there were still interesting species to be found, such as **Mountain Green Veined White**, **Olive Skipper** and **Piedmont Ringlet**.

The area has plenty of deciduous woodland, and on two separate occasions **Poplar Admirals** were sighted, with one delivering a particularly impressive display around a bridge leading to the car park of a hiking spot. The damp gravel of this car park also attracted **Camberwell Beauty**, affording a rare opportunity to have two of Europe's largest species flying within yards of one another.

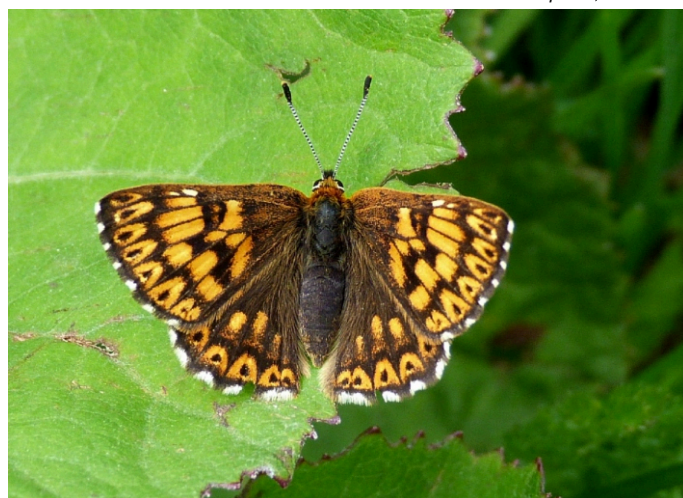
Several **Southern White Admirals** were seen amongst this deciduous woodland, and it was notable that they were flying with their close cousin, **White Admiral**, in a few places. Time and patience are all it would take to see these two species nectaring or basking side by side.



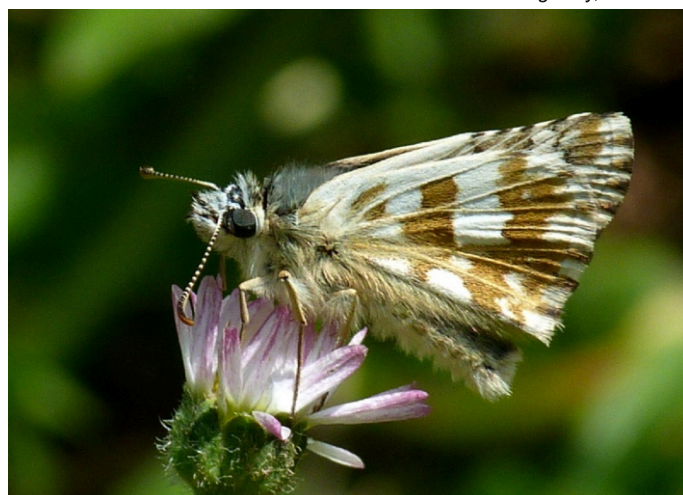
Amanda's Blue, 14.06.19



Apollo, 19.06.19



Duke of Burgundy, 17.06.19



Foulquier's Skipper, 20.06.19



Vallone del Gesso della Valletta, 19.06.19



Green-underside Blue female, 14.06.19



Lesser Spotted Fritillary, 18.06.19



Nickerl's Fritillary, 16.06.19

Pleasingly, one of the commoner butterflies seen was **Duke of Burgundy**. They were recorded just about everywhere apart from the higher altitude sites visited. By contrast, members of the Hairstreak family were thin on the ground. Apart from **Green Hairstreak**, none at all were spotted until the penultimate day, when **Sloe Hairstreak** turned up in a small meadow near Entracque. On the final day, **Blue Spot Hairstreak** made a belated appearance, but provided compensation in the form of being mint fresh with tails intact!

One much sought after species that was just beginning its flight period was **Titania's Fritillary**. Only two were recorded but one suspects numbers would have built considerably by the end of June. On the *erebia* front, unsurprisingly only two species were seen. This family tends to emerge (with a few exceptions) in July and August, but there were plenty of **Almond-Eyed Ringlets** about to compensate, and one eponymous **Piedmont Ringlet** which was as fresh as a daisy.

Perhaps the most noticeable species at this time of year in this region is **Clouded Apollo**. They were in every meadow, often in considerable numbers, usually nectaring on scabious or males flying endlessly in pursuit of females. If anybody has a desire to see this imposing butterfly, a visit to this region around mid-June will provide multi-hundreds!

Amongst the Skippers, the most notable find was a single, freshly emerged **Foulquier's Grizzled Skipper**. Another species emerging was **Safflower Skipper**, with its bold markings and sheer size making it instantly recognisable. The odd **Tufted Marbled Skipper** would turn up here and there, but much commoner was **Marbled Skipper**, which could be relied upon to be present at almost every puddling station.

In total, over a week, exactly 100 species of butterfly were recorded, which is very impressive for mid-June. The only disappointment was failing to find **Southern Swallowtail**, which is known to fly in this region. We suspected we were slightly too early for it and have pushed the dates back for next year's trip in an attempt to track down this beautiful and rare butterfly.

Aside from insects, there was an abundance of orchids and a plethora of other impressive wild flower blooms. Marmots were commonplace at altitude whilst the odd chamois was spotted. This truly is a wonderful area in Europe for nature lovers and anyone keen on hiking would imagine themselves to have arrived in heaven, with breath-taking views all around and unspoiled alpine meadows to traverse. With plenty of other desirable butterfly species not on the wing until later in the summer, this region will be a delight at any time between May and September, although without doubt, alpine meadows and scenery are at their absolute best around midsummer, and the memory of good numbers of Scarce Fritillaries flying around some of these beautiful flower-filled fields will last a lifetime.



David Moore
Photographs: David Moore



Northern Wall Brown, 14.06.19



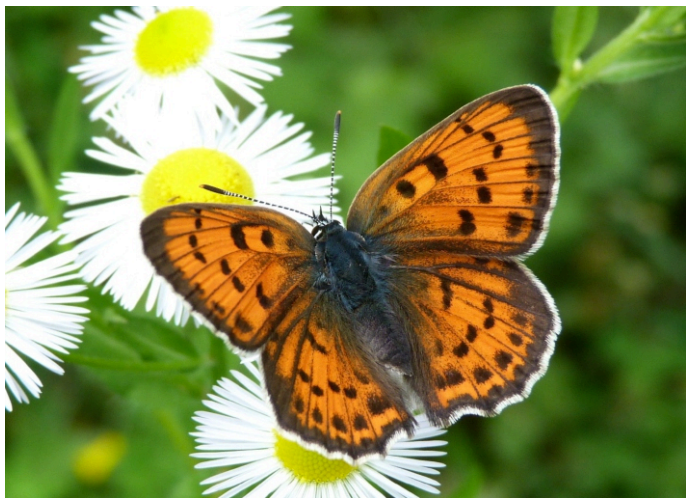
Piedmont Ringlet, 19.06.19



Poplar Admiral, 20.06.19



Reverdin's Blue, 14.06.19



Purple-shot Copper female, 21.06.19



Purple-shot Copper male, 18.06.19



Scarce Swallowtail, 13.06.19



Swallowtail, 13.06.19



Ukki Village, 02.08.16



Black Hairstreak, 28.07.17



Camberwell Beauty, 09.09.17



Chestnut Heath, 26.06.16

Ukki Village, St Petersburg, Leningrad Region, NW Russia

When it comes to butterflies, Russia is not the first place that springs to most peoples' minds and certainly not the Northern City of St Petersburg. Sitting alongside the Finnish Bay, an inlet from the Baltic Sea, this majestic City of some six million people, more famed for its architecture and museums, hosts a surprising array of wildlife, including butterflies. For eight years, I was semi resident in the village of Ukki at the Northern edge of the City and enjoyed a delightfully surprising, wealth of wildlife, right on our doorstep. Mammals, birds, butterflies, moths, beetles and dragonflies were all abundant within a few hundred metres of our home.

Large areas of this part of Europe are completely inaccessible due to the swampy nature of the land but in some places, utility companies have created opportunities to explore by carving large avenues in to the forest for their pylons and underground pipes. My local patch is one such place, it is made accessible only by the presence of underground gas pipes and electricity pylons which ironically, may be what prevents the site from further development for housing as even Russians, don't build houses on gas lines!

My wife and I found a small trail through the trees that ran from a gravelled approach road and opened on to a wider, very exciting looking trail with small ponds and a wet channel running its length on one side. We discovered a habitat that I was only vaguely familiar with, being from England, wet heath and peat bog surrounded by mixed, swamp forest. This is a habitat that is sadly rare in the UK but here, it's so abundant that the Russians think nothing of bulldozing large areas such as this and filling in the swamps to satisfy the housing demands of an ever growing City.

Much of the enjoyment for me here, once I got over the frustration that my butterfly guide didn't cover the area, is that anything we do is totally exploratory, there is just no site information available. It's very exciting to drive along looking for likely spots to explore, we'll just spot a track that goes off the main road, park up and see where it goes. On one occasion, we returned from such an exploration, to discover fresh Bear prints in the mud on a trail we had walked just twenty minutes previous!

My daily, patch walk of usually 5-10km, sees me pass through a small section of swamp forest, mainly Birch and Pine with Poplar and Spruce. Much of the forest floor is carpeted with Blueberries, other parts, in a deep, spongy moss that waits to swallow the unwary walker up to the knee! At the head of the first, small trail **Common Map** is particularly abundant, two generations most years, the species having now spread right up to the Arctic. As I pass through slowly, I look for **Northern Chequered Skipper** which likes to sit, basking on any sunlit leaf at the edge of the forest and maybe **Arran Brown**. At the end of the trail, I scan for **Mountain Argus** which are usually found here and eventually, after just 75m or so, I emerge on to a wide, sandy track which bisects the wet heath.

In some places on the trail where there are semi-permanent puddles where butterflies lap at the mud and often, I'm able to approach on my knees and elbows and with my pocket camera set to macro, I can get some decent shots, all the photos here are taken in this way.

Spring arrives later than most of Europe here and summer, sometimes doesn't get going until July. One of the earliest species I find is **Green Hairstreak**, then, from June, the sedges on the edge of the forest, gradually become festooned with the commonest of the eight Fritillary species recorded here, **Small Pearl-bordered** which is the herald of summer for me. From July, when it in turn, becomes the commonest Fritillary species on site, I can expect to see the scarce and patchily distributed **Pallas's Fritillary**, resident here not irruptive as it is in many places and from July, other Fritillaries become noticeable, **Heath**, which like the permanently coppiced area under the pylons, **Dark Green**, **Silver-washed**, **Cranberry** and **High Brown** are all regular and will often settle at one of the puddles. **Lesser Marbled Fritillary** has several colonies on site but if I'm really lucky, the jewel in the crown on my patch, from late May, the uncommon **Scarce Fritillary** can be found lapping at the mud but it lives up to its name and has only been sighted a hand-full of times.

As I walk on the sandy trail, I expectantly approach any of the large puddles where there could be interesting species such as **Purple** or **Lesser Purple Emperor** with the latter being by far the commoner. Just as likely is **Poplar Admiral**, common during its short flight period and **Moorland Clouded Yellow**, threatened by land drainage in many parts of its range is abundant here most years. Almost guaranteed, a cloud of the common **Black-veined White** will rise up from the ground before resettling on the same, presumably, nourishing spot and sitting on the sandy track, all but invisible until they take flight, **Grizzled Skipper** are common, and a butterfly with a huge range, **Chestnut Heath** is obvious in the surrounding vegetation.

Blues are well represented, **Common**, **Mazarine**, **Amanda's**, **Cranberry**, and **Idas** are all common and I've tentatively identified **Silver-studded** but it's fiendishly difficult to separate from Idas. **Green-underside** and **Short-tailed Blue** have also been recorded a number of times but are not common. Other regular butterflies include **Large Wall Brown**, **Camberwell Beauty**, **Swallowtail**, **Scarce**, **Large** and **Purple-edged Coppers** and **Small**, **Large** and **Essex Skippers** whilst **Black Hairstreak** is uncommon, feeding on flowers on trails within the forest. On one occasion, I was very excited to find a single **Scarce Tortoiseshell**, feeding on a dead Toad during an irruption year when they turned up all over Western Europe, including the UK.



Lesser Purple Emperor, 15.07.15



Moorland Clouded Yellow, 04.07.15



Northern Chequered Skipper, 13.06.15



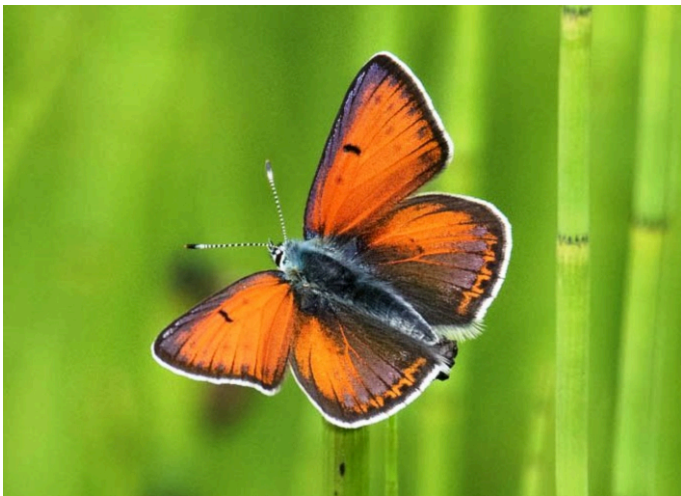
Pallas's Fritillary, 19.07.14



Poplar Admiral, 24.06.16



Poplar Admiral, 28.07.17



Purple-edged Copper, 20.06.15



Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell, 20.07.14

My patch would also be of great interest to those with a broader interest in nature. The wide sandy trail is extremely good for **Adders**, I see them almost daily, basking on the warm sand. **Northern Dune Tiger Beetles** patrol in small squadrons, hunting for unfortunate ants on which to prey and very occasionally, I see what I consider to be one of Europe's loveliest and most declining beetles, the 'Red Data' ***Carabus nitens***. Those with an interest in Dragonflies and Damselflies, wouldn't be disappointed either, on one side of this track is a small, water filled channel and further along, shallow pools in the marsh, which host a number of interesting species. I've also found a number of Orchids on site including **Greater Butterfly Orchid** and **Marsh Helliborine** whilst the purple Orchids on site, have been identified by a Swedish expert as **Western Marsh Orchids** but the ability to identify this group is well beyond my abilities.

Moth trapping has also been very interesting here, we've had some pretty exciting, habitat specific species. With the decline of many European butterfly species and other plants and wildlife, it seems that there is hope for many of them in this forgotten part of Europe. I take comfort in the knowledge, that my patch will remain a small refuge for the insects, birds and animals that depend on it for their existence. This huge country is very unlikely to run out of habitat any time soon and there are, without doubt, countless such oases, just like mine.



Andy Adcock

Photographs: Andy Adcock



Scarce Fritillary, 30.05.16



Scarce Fritillary, 02.06.16

Cyprus Butterflies: July 2015

I don't go on specialist butterfly holidays, but just tend to do a bit of research when my wife tells me where we are taking our family holiday!! So, when I was told that we were going on holiday to Cyprus I was quite thrilled.

With a little research I found a fantastic website, <http://www.cyprusbutterflies.co.uk> with information about the 53 species of butterflies that have been recorded there, which raised my hopes.

We rented a villa in a village about five miles inland from Coral Bay on the west of the island. When we arrived I was concerned to see how dry the habitat was, but I was lucky because just below the house was a small track leading down to a dried up stream, which had a few large thyme plants growing along its edge. These proved to be a real magnet to **Cyprus Meadow Browns** and I would see several each time I walked there. There would always be **Large Wall Browns** there, too, and the occasional **Wall Brown**.

Other butterflies that I regularly saw on the thyme were **Holly, Long-Tailed** and **Lang's Short-tailed Blues**.

Down at the stream on one of my first visit I spotted a **Millet Skipper**, which turned out to be the only one I saw on the holiday. However, there were always **Pygmy Skippers** down there along with more Cyprus Meadow Browns.

Back at the villa we had regular visits from **Swallowtails**, which loved the blossom on the orange trees. **Long-tailed Blues** would regularly fly through the garden, too, along with an occasional **Cleopatra**.

Out and about in the countryside there were very few butterflies flying at that time of the year. I did see the occasional **Small White**, **Clouded Yellow** and **Mallow Skipper**, but there was very little for butterflies to feed on and I am sure earlier in the year there would have been a lot more wild flowers and butterflies.

A trip to the Paphos Archaeological Park proved disappointing for butterflies, only yielding a **Common Blue** and a **Bath White**. This was the only Bath White I saw in Cyprus. It is interesting that, although well within the range of the **Eastern Bath White**, *Pontia edusa*, it is the **Bath White**, *Pontia daplidice*, that occurs on Cyprus.

Realising that the dry habitat wasn't lending itself to butterflies I decided to walk around the Mavrokolympus Reservoir. However, the landscape there was also very dry, other than right on the water's edge. I saw many species of dragonflies and damsel flies there, particularly around the stream that flowed into the reservoir. Interestingly, I had seen a number of dragonflies all over the island, which I found surprising in such a dry environment. On my return from the reservoir I did see a **Hermit**, which was a bit of a consolation.



Larnaca Salt Lake, 25.07.15



Cyprus Meadow Brown, 23.07.15



Grass Jewel, 31.07.15



Lang's Short-tailed Blue, 25.07.15



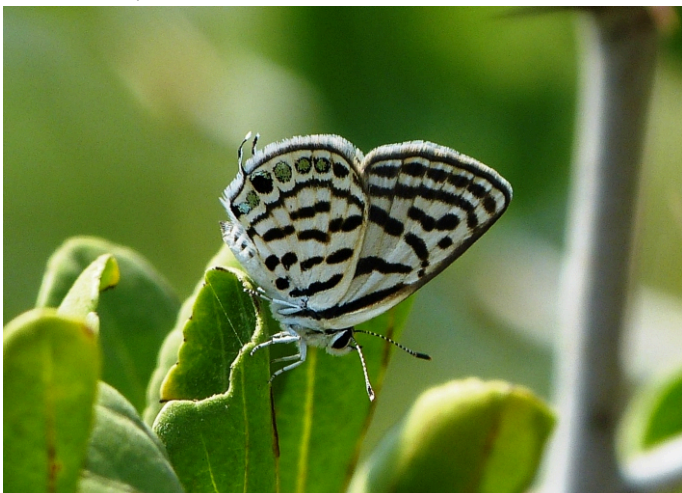
Large Wall Brown, 20.07.15



Lesser Fiery Copper, 25.07.15



Levantine Leopard, 30.07.15



Little Tiger Blue, 25.07.15

I therefore decided that I needed to try walking in the Troodos Mountains, where it would be cooler and possibly I would see more butterflies. I drove up beyond Pano Paltres, which is about 5,000 feet above sea level, and walked a trail following a stream to the Caledonia Falls. On my arrival, I was greeted by an **Oriental Meadow Brown**, **Purple Hairstreak** and **Large Whites**. Further into the woodland there were **Speckled Woods** and a number of **Cyprus Graylings**, which were very shy, only allowing me distant shots to confirm their identity. I later discovered that one of the butterflies I had photographed was a **Lattice Brown**. There were **Holly Blues** regularly drinking from the sand at the side of the stream and back down at the car I saw a **White-banded Grayling** feeding on a thistle. It was lovely walking in the cooler air of the mountains.

On my way back down to the villa I stopped a number of times at likely spots, but didn't see much more than **Long-tailed Blues** in most places. However, on the outskirts of one village there was a lovely vegetable garden with a burst irrigation pipe, where a number of weeds, or wild flowers, were growing. These were attracting a lot of butterflies, including **Clouded Yellows**, **Common Blues**, **Large Whites** and **Holly Blues**.

On another stop to take a picture of the view I noticed a really small butterfly, which initially I had thought was a fly flitting from one *Heliotropium* flower to another. It turned out to be a **Grass Jewel**. This was the first of three I saw on the holiday – beautiful wee things!

One butterfly I was keen to see was the **Small Desert Blue**. Before we left to go on holiday, I had asked Eddy John, who produced the Cyprus butterflies web site, where would be a good place to look for them. He suggested a track running along the side of Larnaca Salt Lake. This was almost 100 miles away from where we were staying, but I thought I should take the opportunity for a visit.

It was well worth the drive. While I was parking the car, I spotted a little silvery butterfly, so I leapt out of the car in hot pursuit. This turned out to be the first of thousands I saw that day. After I had locked the car and sorted myself out I walked around the lake. The track was lined with *Prosopis* plants, and there were **Small Desert Blues** on just about every plant. Interspersed with them were **Lang's Short-tailed Blues**, **Common Blues** and **Lesser Fiery Coppers**.

Eddy had also told me that I may see **Little Tiger Blues** in the *Zizyphus* trees along the track and sure enough when I looked into the trees there they were. Had I not been told I would have walked right past them. I have never been anywhere where there were so many butterflies.

One butterfly that I didn't see there was the **Dark Grass Blue**. The habitat looked perfect and they are meant to occur around the salt lake. Luckily, a few days later I spotted a couple of them on a small patch of grass when I went into the village to buy croissants one morning.

On the last day of our holiday I decided to follow the dried up stream bed into the hills from the village we were staying in. Initially, this appeared to be a lost cause, as there were no butterflies at all. Just as I was about to give up I saw a **Cyprus Meadow Brown**, which inspired me to continue a bit further. And I was pleased that I did. Ahead I saw a small butterfly, which I thought may be another Long-tailed Blue. However, as I got closer I noticed that it appeared to be orange when it flew. It turned out to be the holy grail of Cyprus butterflies, the **Levantine Leopard**. It was quite unlike any butterfly I have seen before, with its striped abdomen and lines of silver scales on its wings, looking like little rivers of mercury. They also turned out to be very approachable, allowing me to get very close and even to coax one onto my finger. There appeared to be a small colony of them, with at least five flying in one small area. About 100 metres further up the stream there were some more. This was a thrilling end to my holiday.

Although I had to go searching for them, I was delighted with the butterflies I saw on Cyprus. Had I been there a little earlier in the year there would no doubt have been more species to see, including the **Paphos Blue**.



Nick Morgan
Photographs: Nick Morgan



Pygmy Skipper, 22.07.15



Small Desert Blue, 25.07.15



Long-tailed Blue, 20.07.15



Swallowtail, 21.07.15



Millet Skipper, 20.07.15



The Hermit, 22.07.15



Moryayla, 23.06.19, (PG)



Balkan Copper, 25.06.19, (PG)



Lesser Fiery Copper, 20.06.19, (PG)



Russian Heath, 20.06.19, (PG)

Butterflies of Erzurum - Turkey

I visited the Turkish province of Erzurum in the second half of June 2019 with Peter Groenendijk (<http://www.anythingbutcommon.nl/>).

Erzurum is the fourth biggest province in Turkey, located in north eastern Turkey. Erzurum has plateaus that are about 2000 meters above sea level, and mountains with altitudes of more than 3000 meters. The province has long harsh winters and short mild summers.

The Asian part of Turkey and the province of Erzurum par excellence are known for the great variety of butterflies, with many species not found elsewhere in the the Western Palearctic. The main goals of the trip are – next to the great variety of Coppers, including the notorious **Anatolian Turan Copper** (*Lycaena euphratica*), finding **Pontic Blue** (*Neolysandra coelestina*) and **Hewitson's Ringlet** (*Erebia hewitsonii*).

We start our trip in the Palandöken mountains, situated barely a few kilometres from Erzurum city. We stay in one of the few hotels on the flank of the Palandöken mountain. Within walking distance of the hotel we find a wet, scrubby part near the road. Most probably because of the heavy precipitation the previous evening we find an abundance of fresh coppers: **Balkan Copper** (*Lycaena candens*), **Purple-shot Copper** (*Lycaena alciphron*), **Sooty Copper** (*Lycaena tityrus*) and **Lesser Fiery Copper** (*Lycaena thersamon*). Next to the coppers, many **Russian Heath** (*Coenonympha leander*) are on the wings; a **Large Blue** (*Phengaris arion*) poses nicely in front of the camera and we also spot **Eastern Orange-tip** (*Anthocharis damone*), **Amanda's Blue** (*Polyommatus amandus*), a few worn **Yellow banded Skipper** (*Pyrgus sidae*) and some beautiful specimens of **Pontic Blue**.

Since the abundance of species is so high, we decide to spend some more time in the neighbourhood. The second day, we manage to find some sleeping **Woodland Ringlet** (*Erebia medusa*), **Niobe Fritillary** (*Fabriciana niobe*), **Mountain Small White** (*Pieris ergane*) and the beautiful **Aedon Blue** (*Polyommatus aedon*). Higher up the mountains, we find some worn **Dalmatian Ringlet** (*Proterebia afra*) and a wonderful female **Adonis Blue** (*Lysandra bellargus*) forma *ceronus*.

On the third day the plan is to drive in the direction of Ispir and stop at a variety of places along the way. On every location we find new beautiful species and spend more time than foreseen. Today we encounter amongst others **Chapman's Blue** (*Polyommatus thersites*), **Green-underside Blue** (*Glaucopsyche alexis*), **Marsh Fritillary** (*Euphydryas aurinia*), **Black-veined White** (*Aporia crataegi*), **Dingy Skipper** (*Erynnis tages*), **Mazarine Blue** (*Cyaniris semiargus*), **Zephyr Blue** (*Kretania modica sephirus*), **Eastern Baton Blue** (*Pseudophilotes vicrama*) and **Scarce Swallowtail**, (*Iphiclidides podalirius*).

We also spot our first **Turkish Fiery Copper** (*Lycaena ochimus*). It's sultry hot and in the afternoon we can enjoy beautiful views, interspersed with thunderstorms and rain.

Checking in at the "Grand İspir Hotel" is an adventure in itself (long live google translate) and a visit to a local diner teaches us that the locals really don't speak a single word of English and are clearly not in the habit of seeing tourists.

We get up early and head for an abandoned quarry eight kilometers from Ispir. The place looks anything but attractive, but we find some more nice species: **Dark Green Fritillary** (*Speyeria aglaja*), **Twin-spot Fritillary** (*Brenthis hecate*), **Knapweed Fritillary** (*Melitaea phoebe*), **Small Copper** (*Lycaena phlaeas*), **Meleager's Blue** (*Polyommatus daphnis*), **Short-tailed Blue** (*Cupido argiades*), **Esper's Marbled White** (*Melanargia russiae*) and **Pearly Heath** (*Coenonympha arcania*).

In the afternoon we set course towards Bayburt and we look for butterflies at three different locations. We can add **Eastern Brown Argus** (*Kretania euryпилus*), **Loew's Blue** (*Plebejidea loewii*), **Blue-spot Hairstreak** (*Satyrium spini*), **Oriental Marbled Skipper** (*Carcharodus orientalis*), **White Banded Grayling** (*Pseudochazara anthelia*); **Large Tortoiseshell** (*Nymphalis polychloros*) and **Cardinal** (*Argynnis pandora*) to our list.

The next day we search again for butterflies along the road between Ispir and Erzurum. We find one single **Anatolian Turan Copper**, but after taking only a few pictures it quickly disappears forever. We also see our first **Powdered Brimstone** (*Gonepteryx farinose*), the tiny but beautiful **Odd spot Blue** (*Turanana endymion*), **Lesser Lattice Brown** (*Kirinia climene*), **Pogge's Skipper** (*Muschampia poggei*) and a nice **Anatolian Blue Argus** (*Aricia crassipuncta*). Depending on which source is consulted, the butterfly can also be identified as **Blue Argus** (*Aricia anteros*). Exact distribution, possible overlaps and species/subspecies discussions have not yet been clarified.

The first furry blues (subgenus *Agrodiaetus*) also start flying. We believe to spot some **Ripart's Anomalous Blue** (*Polyommatus ripartii*) and some **Damon Blue** (*Polyommatus damon*). The number of different species of *Agrodiaetus* blues in the region is large, it is difficult and often even impossible to identify the different species with certainty. From Ispir we head north towards Moryayla. On the dusty sandy roads we make several stops in search of our target species **Hewitson's Ringlet**. We find the butterfly not only on already described, well known places, but also on a number of other locations. We can also add **Freyer's Fritillary** (*Melitaea arduinna*), **Southern Swallowtail** (*Papilio alexanor*), **Bosnian Blue** (*Agriades dardanus*), **Caucasian Spotted Fritillary** (*Melitaea interrupta*) and **Alcon Blue** (*Phengaris alcon*) to our list.



Yellow-banded Skipper, 19.06.19, (DM)



Mountain Small White, 19.06.19, (DM)



Aedon Blue, 19.06.19, (PG)



Zephyr Blue, 23.06.19, (DM)



Turkish Fiery Copper , 20.06.19, (PG)



White-banded Grayling, 21.06.19, (DM)



Anatolian Turan Copper, 22.06.19, (DM)



Pogge's Skipper, 21.06.19, (PG)

On the penultimate day of our trip we set course back in the direction of Erzurum. On the way we find **Geranium Argus** (*Eumedonia eumedon*) and **Persian Skipper** (*Spialia phlomidis*). On one particular stop, we walk into a rather narrow gorge and follow the small stream. We arrive at a rocky biotope that we haven't seen before on the trip. And indeed, we soon see two new species: **Anatolian Grayling** (*Hipparchia pellucida*) and **Great Steppe Grayling** (*Chazara persephone*).

On our last, eighth day of the trip we explore the area around Erzurum again. We notice from the state of the butterflies a week has passed in the meantime. The fresh butterflies from a week ago have flown off completely. A number of new species are flying. We complete the list of butterflies with **Eastern Dappled White** (*Euchloe ausonia*), **Southern White Admiral** (*Limenitis reducta*) and **Southern Comma** (*Polygonia egea*).

Conclusion

For nature and butterfly lovers, the province of Erzurum is a true paradise. The views are breathtaking, the major roads are brand-new and hardly used. The local people are very friendly. The number of hotels to stay overnight, especially if you want a minimum of comfort, is limited to the larger cities.

In the period that we were there we saw some typical spring species, but also some early summer species. There are undoubtedly different biotopes that we did not visit at all. In the summer months many more species fly there. In order to get an as complete as possible picture of all the butterflies that occur there, you have to foresee at least 3 or 4 trips.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank my travel companion Peter Groenendijk (PG) for the wonderful journey together and the use of some of his photos. Many thanks also to Pieter Vantieghem to assist with the identification of some butterflies and for the review of this report.



Dave Maertens

Photographs: Dave Maertens (DM) and Peter Groenendijk (PG)



Anatolian Blue Argus, 22.06.19, (PG)



Caucasian Spotted Fritillary, 23.06.19, (PG)



Hewitson's Ringlet, 23.06.19, (DM)



Anatolian Grayling, 24.06.19, (PG)



Freyer's Fritillary, 24.06.19, (PG)



Great Steppe Grayling, 24.06.19, (DM)



Bosnian Blue, 23.06.19, (PG)



Eastern Dappled White, 25.06.19, (DM)



Book Review: Life Cycles of British and Irish Butterflies: Peter Eeles

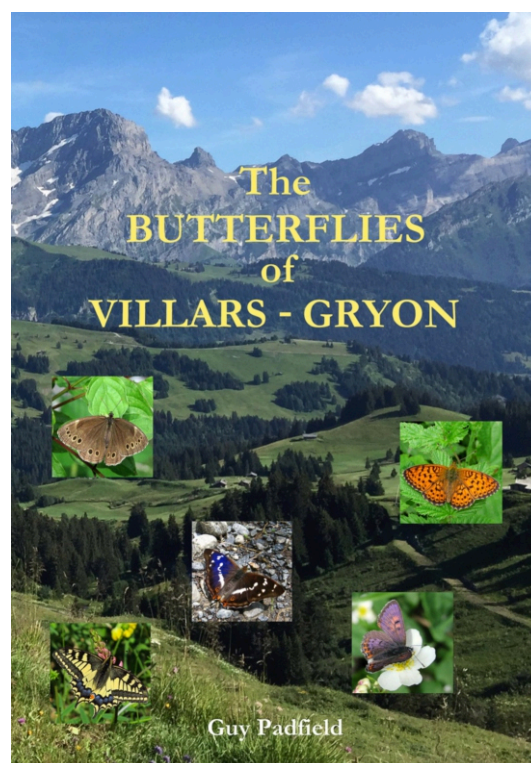
This is an excellent book with a very readable text and superb photographs. However, there are some flaws in content and design that mean it is not the classic text it purports to be.

On the design side, the book is spoilt by an excessive use of the colour purple for captions and titles. Purple is an attractive colour in small doses, it is possibly the publishers theme colour, but it is unnecessary in a well-illustrated butterfly book. Captions are found randomly beneath, above and to the side of photos, rather than a consistent approach, the best place is beneath photos. Each butterfly section begins with a montage of photos of the life cycle – montages are meaningless and this is a waste of 59 pages as all the photos are repeated later in each section. The photographs are not dated, this must be an essential part of any modern butterfly book with all digital photographs having dates. Many of the photographs have been sandwiched together, a design mistake, as there is plenty of space for photographs to stand alone.

On the content side, the introduction is far too short. There is no information about how or when the author took the photographs – in the field or in captivity? There is no general description of the butterfly life cycle and particularly the changes that take place as the butterfly develops. Tributes to F.W. Frohawk are excessive. The descriptions and maps of distribution are not up to date – for example the Purple Emperor and Silver-washed Fritillary are found in Lincolnshire – no mention in the text or on the maps. The order of the text is very strange, with each description finishing with the chrysalis, rather than the adult butterfly. Possibly the most significant part of the butterfly life cycle is missed altogether – emergence. There are no photographs of the emergence of any species – this could have been illustrated with several key species at least.

Overall, an attractive book, however, there is considerable scope for improvement for a second edition.

Jason Sargerson



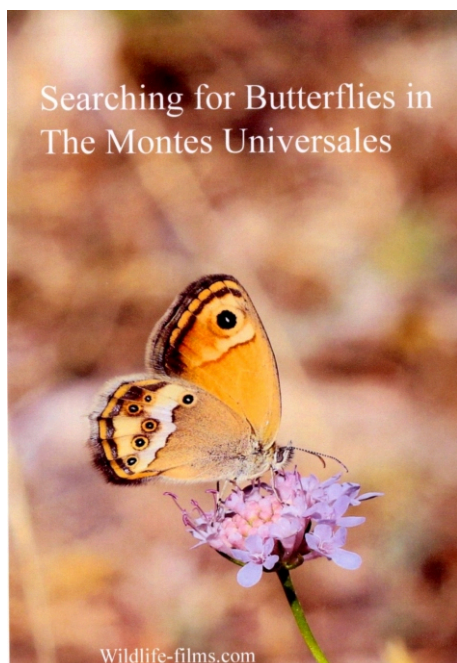
Butterflies of Villars-Gryon: Guy Padfield

This is ultimately a very disappointing book. The author is an expert on Swiss Butterflies, but little of that expertise is shared here. The photographs are good, although some have huge areas of out of focus background. The photographs have no captions, so there is no date or place information, essential in a book about a specific region. The author has no photographs of some species, (no illustration at all of Assman's Fritillary) these have been replaced by the author's illustrations. There are very few photographs of habitat and none of locations, it must be essential to illustrate the different sites and habitats in the region – woodland, meadows, mountain and high-mountain. The author has given some useful identification tips for difficult butterflies such as Skippers and Ringlets.

The text in the first section of the book (127 local species) gives a description of the butterfly, life cycle and general habitat, all basic information found in many other good butterfly books. There is very little insight into the butterfly species found in Switzerland. There is no or very little information on different flight times, frequency, altitude or location. The author could have covered this for each butterfly with a description such as: The Purple Emperor is a frequent butterfly found in mixed woodland below 1000m, near Gryon and Huemoz. The 127 local species is very fanciful – I would estimate you have a good chance of seeing 70 species, the remainder are very rare or occasional visitors. There is no information about climate – the butterflies in this region fly earlier and longer than in other regions. There is also no information about the local transport, for example there is a good bus service from Aigle to Villars. The text has also been carelessly laid out between photographs. The second section of the book (72 species found elsewhere in Switzerland) has a rather vague text – for example many butterflies are found in the east (does this mean St Gallen or Graubünden?). Lastly, the book has been self-published through Amazon on low quality paper.

So, very disappointing, a good opportunity missed. Far more thought was required for this book. This is a very expensive way to buy a photo album – effectively a coffee table book.

Jason Sargerson



DVD Review: Searching for Butterflies in the Montes Universales: Paul Wetton

This is an excellent single disc DVD covering a one week Greenwings holiday. It is 60 minutes long and features 88 species. There is an informative commentary. Many rare species have been filmed including Mother of Pearl Blue, Panoptes Blue, False Grayling, Black Satyr and Zapater's Ringlet. My favourites were the Striped Grayling and Iberian Sooty Copper.

Jason Sargerson

Contributors Notes

Tom Brereton

Tom Brereton is a Naturetrek Tour Leader. A profile is available on the Naturetrek website. He currently works for Butterfly Conservation as a species ecologist.

Dan Danahar

Dan Danahar is a teacher and conservationist. He is currently involved in Butterfly Conservation in Corfu. He also leads Greenwings tours, a profile can be found on the Greenwings website.

Mike Prentice

Mike Prentice is the new Chairman of the European Butterflies Group section of Butterfly Conservation. He often participates in conservation field trips having visited France, Italy, Romania, Greece and Spain.

Andy Adcock

Being mainly a birder, I got into butterflies relatively late although a casual interest was always there. I met my Russian wife in Nepal hence my being in Russia and having some great butterflies, literally a few hundred metres away, stimulated my interest even more. I've travelled widely in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas in pursuit of my hobbies, aided in no small part by my wife, who is a keen photographer and a range of our photos can be found at www.surfbirds.com by using my name in the 'Gallery search'.

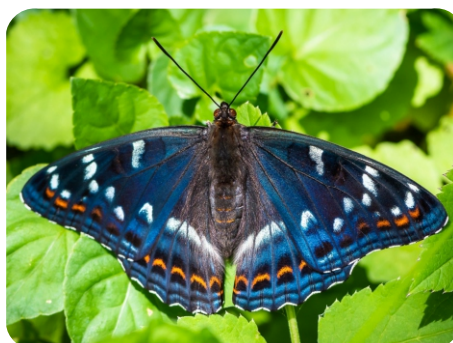


Mario Langourov

Mario Langourov is a tour leader for Wild Echo Tours, a profile can be found on the Wild Echo website.

Gyorgy Liptovszky

Born in Hungary, Gyorgy Liptovszky now lives in Switzerland. He has been interested in butterflies since childhood, but only recently he started taking photos of butterflies on an amateur basis, mainly in Hungary, Switzerland, France, and Serbia.



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Grass Jewel	<i>Freyeria trochylus</i>	27
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopteryx alexis</i>	6,22
Iolas Blue	<i>Iolana iolas</i>	19
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>	27
Little Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus baltanicus</i>	28
Loew's Blue	<i>Eumedonia loewii</i>	15
Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	29
Odd Spot Blue	<i>Turunana taygetica</i>	15
Persian Blue	<i>Plebejus morganius</i>	15
Pontic Blue	<i>Polyommatus coelestinus</i>	15
Reverdin's Blue	<i>Plebejus argyrogomon</i>	23
Silvery Argus	<i>Aricia nicias</i>	13
Small Desert Blue	<i>Luthrodes galba</i>	29
Browns		
Anatolian Grayling	<i>Hipparchia pellucida</i>	33
Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>	24
Cyprus Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola cypricola</i>	27
Great Steppe Grayling	<i>Chazara persephone</i>	33
Hermit	<i>Chazara briseis</i>	29
Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>	28
Northern Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>	23
Russian Heath	<i>Coenonympha leander</i>	30
Saadi's Heath	<i>Coenonympha saadi</i>	16
White-banded Grayling	<i>Pseudochazara anthelea</i>	32
White-bordered Grayling	<i>Hipparchia parisatis</i>	16
Woodland Brown	<i>Lopinga achine</i>	10
Coppers		
Anatolian Turan Copper	<i>Lycaena euphratica</i>	32
Balkan Copper	<i>Lycaena candens</i>	30
Caucasian Turan Copper	<i>Athamantia phoenicura</i>	14
Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersimon</i>	28,30
Purple-edged Copper	<i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>	26
Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>	19,23(2)
Romanoff Vernal Copper	<i>Tomares romanovi</i>	16
Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena virgaurea</i>	13
Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>	5
Turkish Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena ochimus</i>	32
Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamaeris lucina</i>	21
Levantine Leopard	<i>Cygaris acamas</i>	28
Fritillaries		
Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	18(3),19
Caucasian Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea interrupta</i>	33
Freyer's Fritillary	<i>Melitaea arduinna</i>	15,33
Glennville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>	6
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>	4,19
Lapland Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas iduna</i>	17(2)
Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>	22
Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>	13
Nicker's Fritillary	<i>Melitaea aurelia</i>	22
Niobe Fritillary	<i>Argynnis niobe</i>	13
Pallas's Fritillary	<i>Argynnis laodice</i>	10(2),25
Scarce Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas telma</i>	20(2),26(2)
Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	10,13
Hairstreaks		
Black Hairstreak	<i>Satyrus pruni</i>	24
Blue Spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrus spini</i>	13
Hyrcanian Black Hairstreak	<i>Satyrus hyrcania</i>	15
Ringlets		
Hewitson's Ringlet	<i>Erebia hewitsonii</i>	33
Piedmont Ringlet	<i>Erebia meolans</i>	23
Skippers		
Foulquiers Skipper	<i>Pyrgus foulquieri</i>	21
Large Chequered Skipper	<i>Heteropterus morpheus</i>	4
Large Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>	13
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodius alceae</i>	7
Millet Skipper	<i>Peloides thrax</i>	29
Northern Chequered Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus silvicolus</i>	25
Pogge's Skipper	<i>Muschampia poggei</i>	32
Pygmy Skipper	<i>Gegenes pumilio</i>	29
Yellow-banded Skipper	<i>Pyrgus sidae</i>	31
Swallowtails		
Apollo	<i>Parnassius apollo</i>	13,21
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclidia podalirius</i>	5,23
Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>	7
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	23,29
Whites		
Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	19
Dark-veined White	<i>Pieris bryoniae</i>	9
Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>	33
Eastern Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis damone</i>	6,14
Mountain Small White	<i>Pieris ergane</i>	31
Spanish Greenish Black-tip	<i>Euchloe bazae</i>	11(2)
Yellows		
Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacaeniensis</i>	19
Moorland Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias palaeno</i>	25



Naturetrek

Butterfly Holidays in Support of Butterfly Conservation

Naturetrek has enjoyed a partnership with Butterfly Conservation (BC) since 2002 and, as a top-category 'Gold' corporate member of BC, annually donates £1,500 to the charity. As well as this, since 2002, Naturetrek has donated 10% of bookings income generated by an annual programme of Butterfly Tours (all led by BC staff or members) run in partnership with BC, with Naturetrek additionally gifting BC membership to all non-members joining these tours. The total amount raised by Naturetrek for BC to date is £207,074.

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June - 6 days - £1,295

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June - 8 days - £1,795

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June - 8 days - £1,995

Hungary

June - 8 days - £1,795

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June - 8 days - £1,595

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July - 8 days - £1,595

The Cévennes

June - 8 days - £1,595

Armenia

June - 8 days - £1,995

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