

Balkan Butterflies

Holiday Report

15 - 22 June 2013



Greenwings Wildlife Holidays

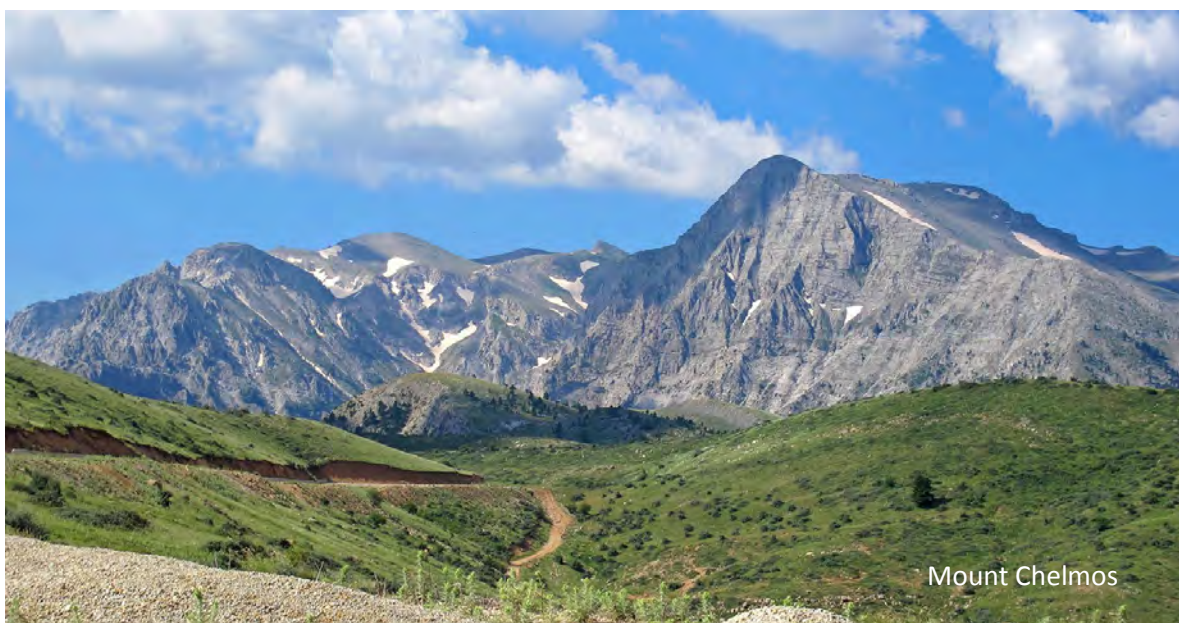
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Introduction

The base for our holiday was the little town of Kalavryta, situated in the foothills of Mount Chelmos, which forms part of the Aroanian Mountain Range in Achaea of the Peloponnese, Greece. The higher areas consist of a wilderness of mainly Pine forested slopes which merge into grasslands and barren rock at around 800 metres and the whole area is renowned for the high degree of endemism in its flora and fauna. Butterfly species such as the very rare and beautifully coloured Chelmos Blue, or the endangered Odd-spot Blue are not only a delight to behold, but creatures which must be preserved. Flowers such as *Aubrieta deltoidea* scrambling over the slopes or pretty *Viola graeca* poking through the sward offer an enchanting reward for anyone with the slightest interest in botany. It's a very peaceful place too, often with only the hum of



Mount Chelmos

bees or the tinkling of goat bells to punctuate the silence. One can walk all day without meeting a soul and for the nature lover, you don't have to walk far before finding something new and exciting. Indeed, exploring just one small area will always turn up something new or challenging. To be out on the vast magical mountain which is Chelmos, or Aroania as it is sometimes known, will always engage the mind and lift spirits.



Group photo

Our aim therefore was to spend a relaxing week exploring the meadows, river valleys and forests, in the hope of seeing around 80-100 species of butterflies and as much other wildlife as possible. The nine guests who joined us were Chris, Tom, Mary, Mike G, Tim, Lynn, Bill, Ken and Mike S. The tour was led by Tristan Lafranchis and assisted by Julian Dowding. During our week, we stayed in the Hotel Filoxenia, located in the heart of Kalavryta.

Day 1: Saturday 15th June, Athens Airport and transfer to Kalavryta

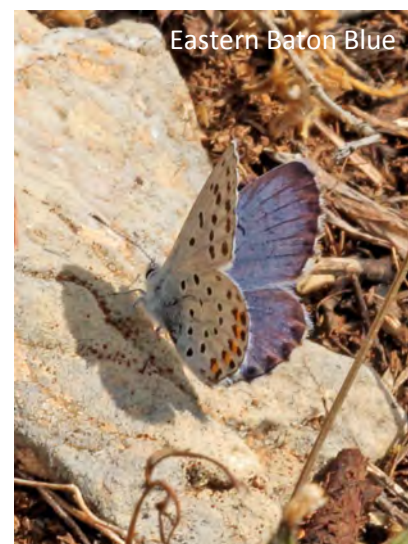
The group arrived in Athens on 3 different flights and with one of them being around lunchtime, it meant that Tim, Lynn and Julian managed to get in a quick visit to a site at Vravronas before others arrived. The site was set up jointly by the airport authorities and the Hellenic Ornithological society very near to Athens airport. We were met there by Chantel Kyriakopoulou-Beuvink who used to work for HOS and was happy to show us around. The area comprised a small wetland and stream, alongside an archaeological site with a Temple of Artemis. Walking past the museum at Vavronas along the bramble and shrubby path, we were soon watching our first butterflies, including Mallow Skipper, Small Skipper, Cleopatra, Brimstone, Southern Small White, Comma, Painted Lady, Common Blue, Grizzled Skipper, Meadow Brown and Large White. It was an agreeable way to steal an hour or so away from the airport before meeting up with the rest of the group. When we had gathered the rest of our guests from the airport, we set off on the drive from Athens to Kalavryta, en-route crossing the Corinth Canal. Our arrival at the hotel was quite late in the evening so we simply left our cases in the rooms and nipped across to a small restaurant close to the hotel to eat. Just as we were ordering our food we were joined by Tristan, who greeted everybody and introduced himself to those in the group who didn't already know him. It was great to finally meet up with the brilliant man who has dedicated a huge amount of his life to the study of butterflies, and in particular, those of Greece. Sitting at our table outside and tucking in to our pizza and pasta dinner on that first warm evening, we were very soon chatting like old friends.

Day 2: Sunday 16th June, Aroania.

After a leisurely breakfast at our hotel in Kalavryta, the group set off on an hour's drive into the Aroanian Mountains at around 9 am, with high hopes. The day's weather was perfect for butterfly watching with blue skies interspersed with light cloud cover keeping the group warm but not too hot. When we arrived at our location, many of the butterflies were still warming up before flying. All around us, Greek Clouded Yellows mixing it up with Clouded Yellows, went flying past along with Large Tortoiseshells and many other species. As we sauntered around the slope, Tim soon



Clouded Yellow



Eastern Baton Blue

found an Eastern Baton Blue, which made a wonderful addition to the Lycaenids we saw that day. An interesting looking Brimstone proved to be just that, although later on, Powdered Brimstones and Cleopatras appeared. The area we investigated was full of Astragalus and Vetches, both of them useful nectar and larval host plants for many species of butterflies, along with a stem-less pink Knapweed, *Centaurea raphanina*, whose flowers the butterflies were particularly fond of.

Some of us had not seen Odd-spot Blue before and so this was to be one of our major target species. Tristan advised us that unfortunately this fantastic little butterfly along with the Chelmos Blue, is one that has suffered greatly on Chelmos due to the activities of unscrupulous collectors.



However, the morning's conditions which were not yet too hot were perfect for finding any remaining Odd-spot Blues basking on the rocks before they took flight and thus good for observation and photography of the insect. The slope was certainly beginning to come alive as we arrived, for everywhere it seemed butterflies were whizzing about. Dingy Skippers, Grizzled Skippers, Mountain Small Whites, Black-veined Whites, Wall Browns, Large Tortoiseshells and Queen of Spain Fritillaries all flew by, searching either for mates, nectar or larval food plants.

As we ventured higher, still searching, Lynn discovered the first Odd-spot Blue, a female, which provided a fabulous subject with the odd spot being readily visible. Continuing upwards we finally saw our first male but it soon flew off. Julian, scrambling perilously across the more precipitous parts of the landscape was soon onto

one but it did not linger and neither did he. Eventually we were able to discover more of these treasured little butterflies and so were able to observe their activities at leisure and take a few photos of both sexes.

After the thrill of seeing the Odd-spots, we moved higher up to a beautiful little meadow full of flowering plants, including more Astragalus, Vetches, Campanulas and Trefoils. These proved a colourful magnet for many species of butterflies. Clouded Apollos sailed and fluttered back and forth over the slopes seeking nectar or mating opportunities and Small Heaths darted here and there. As we moved yet higher, we became aware of a different kind of butterfly activity. A



number of different species were moving up the gullies, and then up and over our heads. Swallowtails and Scarce Swallowtails, Camberwell Beauties and Cardinals were all engaged in this behaviour. Lower down amongst the flowers Tristan pointed out a Pontic Blue, another target species (and in very good condition given that it was the last of the brood) settling on a Vetch, its larval host plant. Ken wasted no time with his camera and took a great photo.

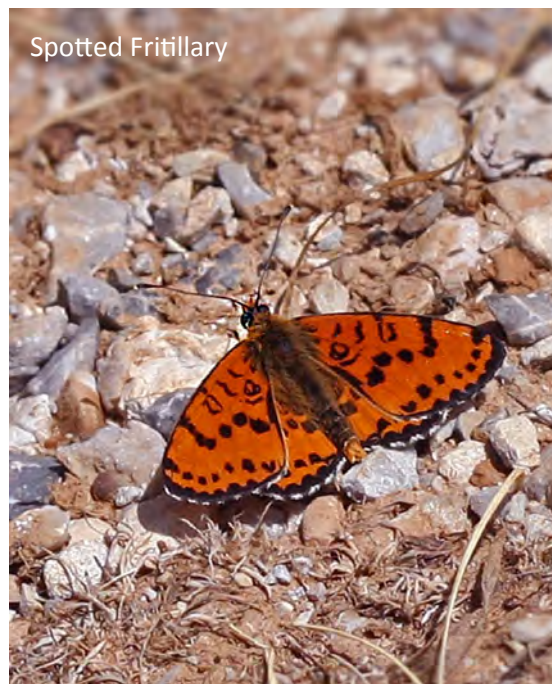
While some of our group ventured higher, others lower down discovered Greek Mazarine Blue, with its orange markings on the underside hindwing. Lesser-spotted Fritillary was here too, at times a challenge to differentiate from Spotted Fritillary but not so for Tristan. Adonis Blues were present but beginning to lose a

little of their perfection and a green Forester Moth offered a little diversion along with other Zygaenids. Tristan soon discovered a caterpillar of the Oriental Meadow Brown with its interesting maroon and white lateral and eye stripes. On our way down the slope, we discovered a mating pair of Odd-Spot Blues, which offered us further photographic opportunities and in the small meadow area full of grasses and flowers adjacent to our parking spot, a healthy population of Silver-studded Blues were busy nectaring along with Common Blues, Turquoise Blues, Amanda's and Adonis Blues.

With the group happy with the morning's activities and having found two of our key targets already, we headed off to a nice covered wooden seating spot for lunch overlooking a valley below. The morning breeze had subsided but with temperatures still rising, we were thankful for some shade. We met a local cattle herder and his dog and he kindly made way for us to enjoy our lunch together. Large Tortoiseshells were ever present, flying past too quickly for a photo but pleasing nonetheless, along with Balkan Zephyr Blue, a little more obliging on the many kinds of flowers there, along with its larval host plant. Not only was it a great spot for a picnic, but for butterflies too, with Amanda's Blue, Cleopatra, Grizzled Skipper, Camberwell Beauty, Southern White Admiral, seen first by Mary, Black veined Whites and a good number of Hummingbird Hawk-moths all around us.

After lunch, we set off in the vehicles negotiating some rather dangerous rocks and stones and managed to get a puncture for our troubles. Being only a little way from one of Tristan's favourite spots, he directed the main party to go ahead whilst others remained to change the tyre. Walking down to a small track leading back up the mountain, Tim and Lynn soon found a Wood White which was another new species for the day.

It wasn't long before the party got back together, and Tristan informed everyone to be on the lookout for Persian Skipper which would be just emerging. We were not disappointed either, as very soon most of the group soon had views of pristine specimens, looking very similar to Hungarian Skipper, but easily identified by their larger size, bright white upperside markings and underside discal band. By 2 pm and with temperatures around 30 degrees Celsius we pressed on up a track lined with the stately yellow Phlomis Sage and Kermis Oak. These and other plants added a really Mediterranean feel to an essentially alpine area and quite different from the morning's adventure.



Julian and Lynn were hanging back adjacent to a small area filled with flowering plants including beautiful blue Sages and pink Thymes which so far had yielded many Blues, but not our main targets. Two Chelmos Blue males appeared and announcing the discovery, the group headed back to the spot. Another male was seen by Bill, and as we searched, we encountered a good number of other species, including Southern Comma, Oriental Marbled Skipper, Grizzled Skipper, Mallow Skipper, Olive Skipper, Powdered Brimstone, a gleaming Turquoise Blue, Osiris Blue, Balkan Marbled White, Cardinal, Large Tortoiseshell and Spotted Fritillary. The area produced a Southern Knapweed Fritillary and the only Southern Swallowtail of our trip flying fast over the slopes.

Returning back down the track we encountered the predatory yellow Owly Sulphur, *Ascalaphus macaronius* and a blue species, *Ascalaphus ottomanus* alongside it. At the roadside, we couldn't help but notice that some of the yellow Colluteas were dripping with Red Longhorn Beetles, *Purpuricenus budensis*.

Our last stop of the day was a damp area. As we ventured down to the water, we found ourselves watching a congregation of about 20 various Blues which were mud puddling and drinking water. The majority of the insects were Balkan Zephyr Blues, *Plebejus sephirus*. The ones on Chelmos are regarded by some as a separate species called *P. brethertoni*. A number displayed

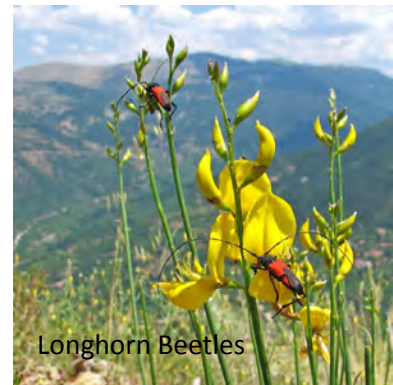


Chelmos Zephyr Blue

beautiful red spots on the upperside hindwings and with their lovely deep blue, at times almost ultramarine hues, they were magnificent. Amongst them was a fine male Amanda's Blue, about half as big again as the Zephyrs, along with a dusting of Common Blues. Seeing the Blues feeding on the wet ground and being in such good company was a real privilege for all of us. Then things got better! As the group focused in on this wonderful spectacle, we were drawn to a butterfly with brownish grey undersides suffused with



Chelmos Blue



Longhorn Beetles



Chelmos Blue

while watching this stunning creature and taking plenty of photos. We'd also managed to see and record our three main targets butterflies on the first day, so when we returned back to our hotel



Chelmos Blue

we were satisfied and quite ready for our evening meal at Spitiko's. The food there was exceptionally good with delicious Greek salads and choice of lamb, chicken, or fish, stuffed peppers, and chips washed down with ice cold Mythos or Fix beer, wine or water according to taste.

Day 3: Monday 17th June, Souvardo and the Coast

After a good breakfast the group headed northwards for our first stop of the day. Whilst heading towards a little chapel, we stopped to move a large Marginated Tortoise from the road noting its dark plates or scutes and the undivided carapace at the caudal end. Arriving at our parking spot we moved off down a track in the direction of a little stream shaded by Oriental Planes which would afford a little respite

from the heat of the sun. En-route we passed massed ranks of tall Verbascum, their flowers a deep cadmium yellow and still open but as Tristan pointed out, soon to close in the heat of the sun. Here we discovered our first Eastern Bath White of the trip and along the track Tristan drew our attention to some Blues, the majority of which were Escher's. Passing alongside a small bank we saw a Peloponnese Wall Lizard making good use of the potential to bask and when we reached the stream and the shade, Mary and Bill pointed to a dark butterfly flitting through the shade which turned out to be a Speckled Wood.

As we turned a corner into the sunlight and begun an uphill walk, one or two Nettle Tree Butterflies flitted across the shrubs. We soon had views of our first Hairstreaks, with Ilex Hairstreak and then Purple Hairstreak seen flitting about in the Willows. A Southern White Admiral made an appearance with its beautiful gliding flight, flashing black and white in the light and close by, Tristan pointed out a female Black-veined White egg-laying on Blackthorn. Naturally some of us took the time to photograph the occasion. In the trees with the Hairstreaks, a couple of Comma's were seen, and Tristan drew attention to the white 'C' mark on the undersides distinguishing these from Southern Comma which display a white Lambda or 'L' mark.

Returning in the direction of our parking spot, a Common Buzzard which Bill had seen on a dead tree on the way down lifted into the azure blue sky and soared out of sight over the forested slopes. Further along the rough track, Tristan discovered a Glanville Fritillary larval web on Plantain with tiny caterpillars crawling over it. When we reached the chapel again, a number of Oak Yellow Underwing moths were seen hidden in the rough crevices of the stone building and two Large



Verbascums



Southern White Admiral

Tortoiseshell Pupae, one of them parasitized, were discovered hanging up on a wall on the shady side of the building. The adult of this species along with a few others was to become something of a feature of the holiday, putting in appearances on nearly every day. Tristan remarked that he had never seen so many in all his years on the mountains. While we had a quick drink of water back at the vehicles, Tim stopped to scope out a Cirl Bunting singing from its tree top song-post, and on the village overhead wires, Red-rumped Swallows were observed as they busily chattered away.

We moved off and arrived at a gorge after about 20 minutes, only to encounter a man blocking our way with his vehicle so as to be near his chickens and in the shade. After a brief 'discussion' we continued with our drive along a stretch of rough track to reach a more open area which was lined on one side with swathes of wild Oleander, some of it over 10 feet tall and all of it bearing striking pink flowers. No sooner had we reached the spot where Tristan had told us to be on the lookout, than members of the group indicated that a Two-tailed Pasha was following the car. Tristan, with his arm holding a special bait out of the car window had managed to lure the butterfly. We parked



Gorge

up for a bit and watched as first one, then two and finally three Pashas were seen dashing about. We ultimately discovered that they were feeding on a discarded old milk carton oozing with a thick creamy liquid in the shade.

A few pink *Crepis rubra* flowers added a splash of colour to the impressive geological feature of sheer limestone walls rising majestically above us. Up on the gorge face, a shepherd had constructed livestock pens,

astonishing some of us that human beings could utilize such seemingly impossible areas. And there was an air of impossibility here because by now the temperatures were getting really high, possibly up into the 40's. Nonetheless, the insects provided too great a photographic opportunity to miss and so everyone pressed on and continued to take pictures of the Pashas. Mike G and Ken pointed out a Southern Small White and we also spent a little time watching some immaculate Cleopatras nectaring on large, stately thistles.

Eventually however, the promise of shade under plane trees and the cool air by the fast flowing stream beckoned us to our picnic spot away from the ever rising heat. We lunched well, sitting on large boulders and tree trunks by the impressive river, leaving a single Pasha to feast on Tristan's bait while we relaxed in the shade listening to the torrents of water racing through. As with Purple Emperors, it seems that

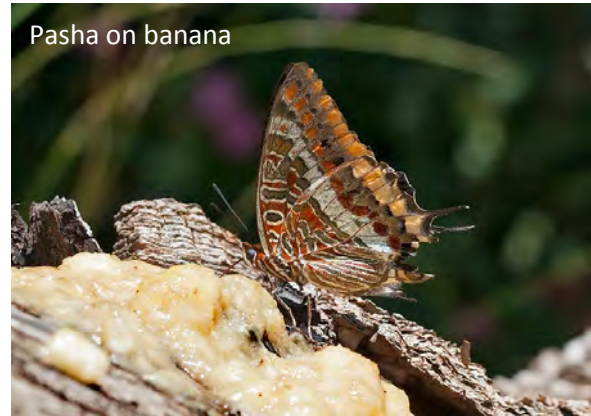


Pasha on Tristan's hand

Pashas have a partiality for things foul or smelly. It was good then, that Tristan's magic bait made with a few bananas was equally appealing to the butterflies and less disgusting, because one Pasha in particular joined us for lunch and stayed around the bait for at least an hour. This gave us plenty of time to watch this fabulous butterfly, which it has to be said, was in a rather worn condition due mainly to the fact that it was one of the last of the first brood which must have hatched out well over a month earlier. We were additionally on the lookout for Dippers which Lynn had hoped to



Admiring Oleander



Pasha on banana

see but alas none were seen other than the human dippers that found the appeal of the icy cold water so tempting they buried their faces in the icy cold water to refresh themselves. A number of Jersey Tigers flew past over the water, occasionally settling on the overhanging branches of the Oriental Planes and here and there, Ilex Hairstreaks darted about. Some Wood Whites, a species noted for its weak flight back home, seemed undeterred by the heat and moved by quite quickly and a Small Copper was briefly seen. Ultimately however, it seemed that the heat was having an effect on the butterflies as well as the humans so attention turned once again skywards to a few Jackdaws which were seen flying over the gorge. Very high up, Bill spotted a couple of Choughs and finally, some Kestrels flew over.

After lunch, we decided to split up for a walk along a track and the promise of good numbers of new brood Southern Commas. We drove back down the track to just beyond a small bridge, where we spotted a Balkan Grayling on the track. It was watched for a brief while and then Bill and Julian drove the cars to a spot at the other end of the track in order to meet the rest of the party when they emerged from their walk. On the way, we had sightings of freshly emerged Southern Commas which regularly fly along the track and settle on the gorge walls. Having parked up, Julian and Bill walked up from the opposite direction and watched a couple of 'probable' Lattice Browns flitting in and out amongst the riverside trees. They too saw a number of Southern Commas on the gorge walls. After a while, we all met up as planned. The last butterfly of the day was a two tailed Pasha, flying in bushes over the river at a point where the Lattice Brown had been seen. As we drove home, we stopped to buy some punnets of black and white cherries as a small reward for bearing the heat. Unsurprisingly, we ate many before arriving back at our hotel but they didn't spoil our appetite for dinner at Spitiko's that evening.



Southern Comma

Day 4: Tuesday 18th June, Mt. Timeos.

We set off from the Hotel at around 9 am and arrived at a small chapel about 20 km away after roughly a half hour's drive. As we got out of the vehicles, we were immediately absorbed by the incredibly loud hum of chirping crickets which filled the air. Soon we were so busy watching the many species of Orthopterans in the grasses and shrubs that we almost forgot the butterflies. The area was so alive with the many different species that visually some of the plants seemed to be bearing a strange kind of fruit. Cricket fruit. A large female Saga Bush-cricket complete with the male 'deposit' was seen on the wall of the chapel, along with many other species. Higher up on the wall, a very well camouflaged Kotschy's Gecko had found a perfect place to disguise itself and additionally, a ready supply of food.

After half an hour or so marvelling at the creatures, we moved off on our walk up a mountain path in the direction of the summit, carrying our lunches and a punnet or two of cherries to eat on the way. Along the track, Powdered Brimstones were showing well, nectaring on the beautiful *Dianthus biflorus*, a flower they seem to particularly like. We also recorded Brown Argus, Amanda's Blue, and Common Blue low down in the sward. By an Elder, a number of Lattice Browns were seen diving into the shade and resting on the branches, and in the flowers and parched grasses all around, Chapman's Blue, Small White, Clouded Yellow and finally, Ripart's Anomalous Blue were all seen. The latter species was easily identified by its strong white line virtually bisecting the underside hindwings, even though this form *-pelopi-* has been accorded sub-specific status on account of its less conspicuous line. The area was, as stated by Tristan, a great place for three different species of Anomalous Blues which use Sainfoin as their larval host plant. Thus, these Lycaenids were to be our main target species of the



Ripart's Anomalous Blue



Saga Bush-cricket



Powdered Brimstone

day, even if we were going to enjoy the Orthoptera as well. Mike Skelton identified many, including Wartbiter, Fischer's Grasshopper and Moroccan Locust. Butterfly-wise, Great Banded Graylings were probably the most numerous butterfly of the walk and seemed to be having a very good year but we had to look hard for the other two Anomalous Blues due to the hot dry spring which had parched much of the vegetation. A new discovery for us was a Woodland Grayling which we found resting on a branch of a tree which had been burnt by a fire. The

mountain had once been covered extensively in *Pinus halepensis* but much of the area appeared quite barren, although new growth and shoots were beginning to show. A Purple Hairstreak was seen on an Elder in full flower along with Holly Blue, Sloe Hairstreak and Ilex Hairstreak and the

grasses were still occupied with a good number of butterfly species in spite of the dry conditions. As we turned a corner rising ever higher, Bill found a male Grecian Anomalous Blue which we managed to photograph. Nearby, an Anomalous Blue with its bold underside chevrons completed a hat-trick of *Agrodiaetus* species that day. By the time we'd reached the top of the mountain, we'd also added Persian Skipper, Lulworth Skipper, Hungarian Skipper, Great Sooty Satyr, Large Tortoiseshell, Small White, Meadow Brown, Wall Brown, Dingy Skipper, Balkan Marbled White and Brimstone to the list. At the top of the path, Tom and Chris had gone ahead and we found them enthusiastically photographing a pristine Scarce Swallowtail feeding on thistles. We ate our lunch there, enjoying the view of the mountains and the coast ahead to the north and east. Tristan mentioned that on a good day, one can see for hundreds of kilometres beyond the Gulf of Corinth to distant mountains.



Scarce Swallowtail

After lunch, we headed off down a grassy slope to eventually meet up with the other side of the track and so complete the mountain circuit. At an old derelict hotel which had large clumps of *Echium italicum* growing at the front, at least 12 Balkan Marbled Whites were feeding on the white flowers which must have been dripping with nectar. The track also gave us Oriental Marbled Skipper, and a few more Great Sooty Satyrs. As we neared the vehicles, Mary and Mike were busily photographing a pair of mating Grecian Anomalous Blues, which gave us the chance to get good views. While pairing, Tristan provided an interesting commentary as Lynn filmed the 'happy couple'.



Grecian Anomalous Blues



Grecian Copper

With everyone back at the vehicles, we rested a while at some seats, enjoying a few cherries and marvelling at the range of wildlife we'd seen. In the distance, Bill spotted a hunting Short-toed Eagle and we watched as it stooped down onto a very lucky snake or some other item of prey, since the bird rose and settled behind a tree without its meal. After eating most of the cherries we set off back towards Kalavryta. We'd been singing the praises of Dwarf Elder and on the way back passed a large amount of the plant in full flower in a meadow by a stream. Tim suggested we get out for a 'recce' and it was fortunate that we did because there we found a couple of Grecian Coppers, and managed to shoot some pictures. We finally arrived back at Filoxenia in time to freshen up and relax before venturing

out in the early evening light to sample the delights of a different restaurant, this time one overlooking a beautiful gorge which cuts deep into the mountains. We ordered a menu of salad starters, fried courgettes and other vegetables, followed by a selection of meat and vegetable dishes. Much of the food was produced locally by the owner and it would be fair to say that we were in for a veritable feast. With such good company the time passed by really too quickly and yet still everyone was able to appreciate the magnificent views as the setting sun lit up the gorge in deep orange and apricot hues, and painted the trees with a soft warm glow. The fabulous setting had fired up our appetites and spirits too which was fortunate in many ways, because the restaurateur made sure that our plates were never empty. So it was with some slight reluctance that we had to leave and drive the short journey back to our hotel, in order to be fresh for the following day.

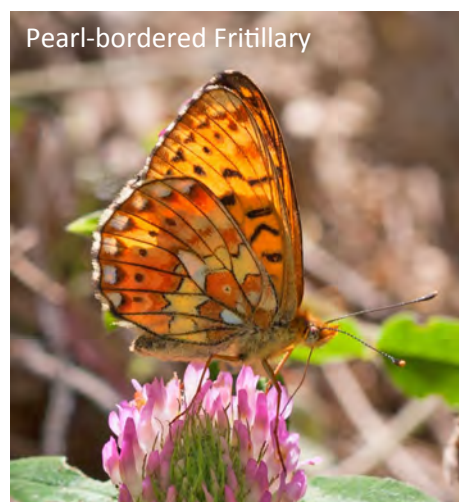
Day 5: Wednesday 19th June, Hidden Glades.

Tristan wanted us to experience a different habitat, where streams and forest clearings would provide a few more new species. This was close to an area that Greenwings visited in 2010 and so we were able to combine both sites in one day.

We arrived at a small village at about 10 am and parked the vehicles. Diving out of the cars towards a stream, we had our first sightings of Purple-shot Coppers. Initially we saw a couple of females and then a male with its lovely flight, flashing orange and grey as it hurried about. There were two small meadows full of flowering plants here, and on the other side of the road an arable field had turned fallow with Tree Mallow, Cornflower and Knapweed. Two Brimstone types were fluttering around the flowers and upon close inspection recognised as Powdered Brimstones. Whilst we meandered through the meadow, Tristan quietly noticed a male Orange Tip fly past. It seemed unusually big and with unusually large patches of orange, but the moisture from the fast stream kept everything lush and green so this was probably a well fed insect that had not gone short of food as a caterpillar rather than any other species. At the sides of the meadows, several medium to large sized Fritillary species were observed buzzing the Bramble which grew quite profusely here, and some of these were identified as Marbled



Marbled Fritillary



Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Fritillary. Queen of Spains were ever present, along with Meadow Browns and Small Skippers. As we began walking up a track behind the meadows, we discovered a Hummingbird Hawk-Moth larva feeding on Lady's Bedstraw and at the end of this little track in the trees, a number of Sloe Hairstreaks were located along with our first White-letter Hairstreak.

We moved off and drove part of the way along a shady track leading up into the mountain, towards our hidden glade, stopping at sunlit clearings along the way. These areas were magnets for butterflies and other insects and one particular glade, full of clovers ranging in colour from

yellow, through to deep pinks attracted Pearl-bordered Fritillaries and more Purple-shot Coppers. The area was also full of Wild Strawberries - too good an opportunity to miss - and Tom gathered



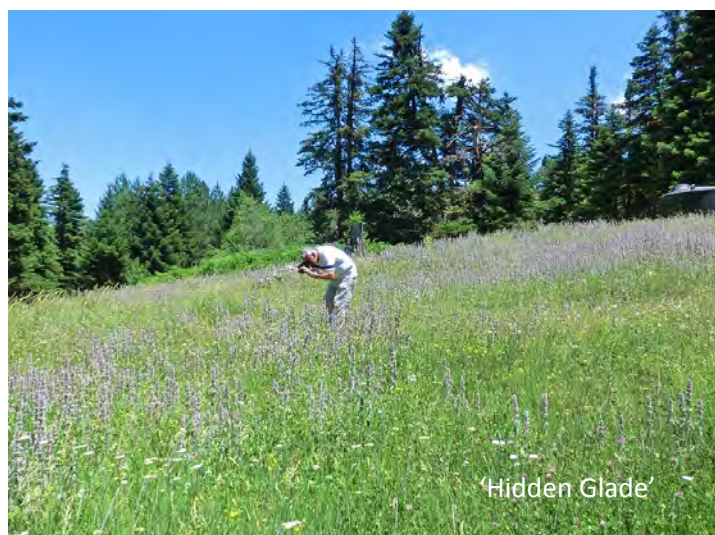
up a handful for Chris while others ate on the hoof. All three forms of Brimstone were encountered, with at least four male Cleopatras, and their females. A Grizzled Skipper was discovered (unsurprisingly with all the strawberry plants which its larvae feed upon) along with Hungarian Skipper, Dingy Skipper, good numbers of Black-veined Whites, Common Blue, and Brown Argus. A Dark Green Fritillary, which made a brief stop enough to positively identify it was seen, suggesting that the larger 'frits' seen earlier could have been the same species. As we got back into the vehicles and drove on, we came upon another patch of flowers, this time vetches which were attracting the attention of Whites and Brimstone types. One or two of these turned out to be Wood Whites, the others, yet more Cleopatras, Powdered Brimstones and Large Whites. Clouded Yellows

drifted in and out of view whilst Painted Ladies and Meadow Browns danced in and out of the flowers and trees. Tristan mentioned that the Wood Whites in this part of Greece choose Hairy Canary Clover *Dorycnium hirsutum* and *Dorycnium pentaphyllum herbaceum* which was growing alongside the track as larval food plants, thus explaining the butterfly's presence. Driving further, he pointed out a Large Tortoiseshell settled on a tree trunk. It remained remarkably calm and at times opened its wings to bask, unperturbed by the small gathering of photographers who took its picture.



With a good morning's butterflying behind us, we pressed on to the large glade deep in the forest where we ate our picnic. Wandering up the track we followed a couple of Large Wall Browns which Bill photographed, along with their close relatives, Wall Browns. The glade was again adjacent to a stream and was frequented by Grey Wagtails that presumably were nesting under some large overhanging boulder nearby. These beautiful little yellow and grey birds provided a welcome avian distraction dashing backwards and forwards over the stones and boulders whilst feeding on small invertebrates.

Growing by the stream, clumps of the sparsely flowered but nonetheless beautiful pink valerian species, *Centranthus longiflorus*, were providing a banquet for many butterflies including Cleopatras and Brimstones which we photographed, as well as a Hummingbird Hawk-Moth. In the large glade which was literally buzzing to the sound of bees - particularly Violet Carpenter Bees - many species were seen including Pearl Bordered Fritillary, Common Blue, Cleopatra, Brimstone, Small



Copper, Speckled Wood, Southern Small White, Marbled Fritillary, Large Tortoiseshell, Black-veined White and Dark Green Fritillary. Within a small depression in the glade, Chris found a Glanville Fritillary patrolling a sunlit spot, chasing out all interlopers. It was interesting behaviour to observe. On a path just beyond the bridge over the stream, an assembly of mud-puddling Whites comprising several Green-veined Whites and Wood Whites was seen, along with a slightly tatty Dingy Skipper.

After lunch, Mary discovered the beautiful non-photosynthesizing plant, Dutchman's Pipe, *Monotropa*



Blue Argus

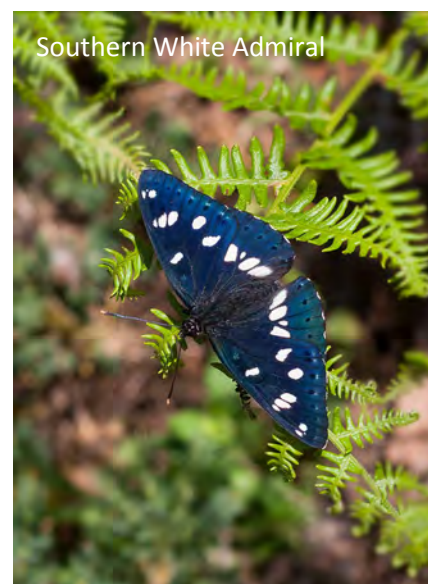
hypopitis growing out from the old needles under the shade of one of the pines. The glade was very good for Blues and as Tristan had been at pains to point out, it was 'always worth checking each Blue to see if it was something different'. We were glad for the advice. We'd noticed a very small blue butterfly and when Tristan finally caught up with it, he identified it

as a male Blue Argus. More interesting still though, was watching the enchanting flight display that the female performed. The male settled somewhat ironically on an old blue mattress with rusty springs, rubbing his hindwings back and forth, while the female buzzed him 6 inches or so overhead. Bill, Julian and others attempted photographic shots, but it was difficult to get close. Tristan said that he'd never witnessed this behaviour before and wished he'd videotaped the whole business. The meadow held a few Sooty Coppers, Southern White Admirals and Holly Blues as well. Meanwhile Tim was quite absorbed recording some *Synanthedon cephiformis* Clearwings but with time pressing on and temperatures soaring, we decided to head back in the direction of Kalavryta and a small meadow near to the village to see what we could find before finishing the day.

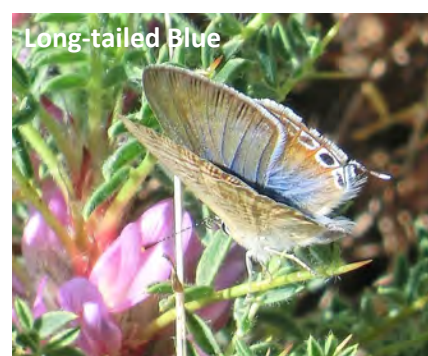
It was still sunny by the time we reached the spot late in the afternoon, and with its abundance of many wildflowers including Bird's-foot Trefoil and Campanulas, we were hopeful of turning up something new. We had Europe's foremost Butterfly guide working with us after all! Bill found a pair of mating Wood Whites which quickly flew off while Mike and Mary spotted a probable Niobe Fritillary. Always on the lookout for Blues, we identified Greek Mazarine Blue, Turquoise Blue, Amanda's Blue, Silver-studded Blue and our first



Dutchman's Pipe



Southern White Admiral



Long-tailed Blue

Long-tailed Blue of the holiday. A healthy number of Brimstones, Powdered Brimstones, Southern Small Whites, and Mountain Small Whites were found. Finally, a couple of Swallowtails, plus Dingy, Grizzled, Mallow and Hungarian Skipper were recorded. It was a pleasant finish to what had been a very interesting day. The hidden glades and streams had indeed given us a variety of habitats that we had not yet experienced on our holiday, together with some interesting butterflies and so we returned to the hotel in good spirits, ready for our evening meal and a good night's sleep in preparation for the following day.

Day 6: Thursday 20th June, North Arcadia.

Our fifth day was organized to explore more riverine habitat and involved an hour's drive southwards towards Tripolis. Our first spot after about half an hour was by steep banks above a stream shaded with overhanging Oriental Planes. When we got out of our vehicles, the sound of the stream was somewhat drowned out by the sound of singing Cicadas. Tristan managed to find a few spent exuvia and then a complete case with a Cicada just beginning to emerge. Some photos were taken and Tim and Julian remained to try and get a picture of the freshly emerged pale green insect, which would later turn brown.



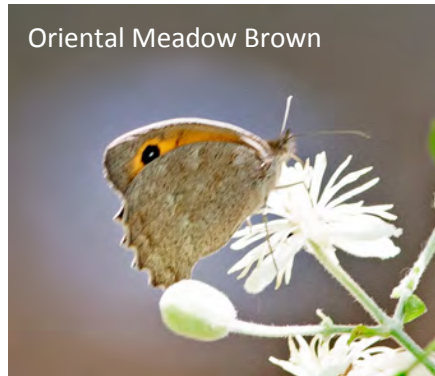
We then ambled up a track in the direction of a small bridge, and turned into a small meadow. En-route we saw good numbers of Silver-washed Fritillaries, gliding in and out of the trees, with at least three pairings visible at one time. The meadow was full of Great Banded Grayling, but a pairing of Woodland Grayling, our first of the trip was very pleasing. A good number of Lycaenids feeding on *Teucrium polium capitatum*, with its densely white flowered compound heads were delightful. Among the Blues, Chapman's Blue seemed more numerous than Common Blues but a female Anomalous Blue was also present along with Grecian Coppers and Brown Argus. The meadow similarly hosted several Wall Browns, Wood Whites, Black-veined Whites, Cleopatras, Brimstone, Powdered Brimstones, Balkan Marbled Whites and Mallow Skipper. Nearby, Lynn spotted a Speckled Wood flitting through and Mike Gwilliam pointed out more Ilex Hairstreaks.



After a while we headed back to the vehicles, some taking the high road, and some a small track by the stream. The air by the stream was cool and refreshing, luring Bill and Julian down where they were able to examine an ensemble of mud puddling Wood Whites and Chapman's Blues. A few Southern White Admirals were seen gliding in and out of the overhanging trees, avoiding the many

dragonfly species patrolling and whilst the Silver-washed Fritillaries continued their courtship antics, Bill and Julian spotted the first Camberwell Beauty of the day flying fast through the Plane trees.

At lunch time, we arrived at our second site of the day and parked at a small picnic area by the river. Whilst sitting on the benches in the shade eating lunch, we could see a small pool opposite



Oriental Meadow Brown

that was full of dragonflies and damselflies. In the dappled shade of the riverside trees, Wood Whites fluttered about seemingly aimlessly and after lunch we investigated the pebbles beside the river and found these insects mud puddling along with some Small Coppers. There were thistles and clovers growing out from under the pebbles which attracted the attentions of Cleopatras, Chapman's Blues and Common Blues at the river. By a small bridge, our first adult Oriental Meadow Brown of the holiday was recorded. The area along the river was well lined with Willows containing numerous Ilex, Purple and Sloe Hairstreaks. Tristan remarked

that he had never seen so many before. Beautiful Demoiselles whose shimmering sapphire and emerald wings looked absolutely stunning in the light by the river were a challenge to photograph but soon we moved on to a walk beside some marshes. A Cardinal was briefly seen nectaring on the flowers of Clematis, and Holly Blues were feeding from the plentiful Bramble along with Small, Dingy and Mallow Skipper. A great find was a male Escher's Blue nectaring on the deep pink path-side Bramble flowers. Later Mary and Mike found a female Escher's along with two Anomalous Blues. We also counted at least six Grecian Coppers, along with more Common Blues, Wood Whites, Eastern Bath Whites, Scarce Swallowtails, Speckled Woods, Small Heaths, Large Whites, Large Tortoiseshells, Swallowtails, Commas, Southern White Admiral, Southern Small Whites, Queen of Spains, Oriental Meadow Browns and Brimstones. On our return to the vehicles, we encountered Lattice Browns on the branches of the large Oriental Planes and a female Swallowtail egg-laying upon fennel.



Escher's Blue

Our last site of the day was a fast flowing river with springs, north of Panagitsa. On the wet ground amongst all the waterside vegetation, hundreds of mud-puddling Blues and Whites could be seen.

The area was literally alive with butterflies and Tristan's instruction was to carefully check each one. As we did, we were able to find Small Copper, Grecian Copper, White Admiral, Clouded Yellow, Dingy Skipper, Mallow Skipper, Ilex Hairstreak, Great Banded Grayling, Southern Small White, Small White, Sooty Copper, Large Tortoiseshell, Small Heath, Spotted Fritillary, Balkan Marbled White and all three species of Brimstones. All three



Cleopatras

of the regional Anomalous Blues were found too, and in a small nearby meadow, some stately thistles dripping with nectar provided a royal banquet for Cleopatras, with up to four sitting on one flowering head at a time. Of the other Blues, Chapman's and Common were found puddling along with a fine male Meleager's Blue. An interesting skipper proved to be our first Sage Skipper of the holiday and we were able to add Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper and Lattice Brown to the site list. Our peace was somewhat interrupted by a herd of Goats that came to the water to drink and nibble though they caused no real harm. They made an impressive picture wading into the vegetation, some half submerged. A courtship dance was being performed by a courting pair of Silver-washed Fritillaries. They were chasing each other back and forth over the stream whilst being serenaded by the purring calls of Turtle Doves and oblivious to the group of people around them. In an old fallen willow, Lattice Browns dived for shade and cover just inches above the gushing water.



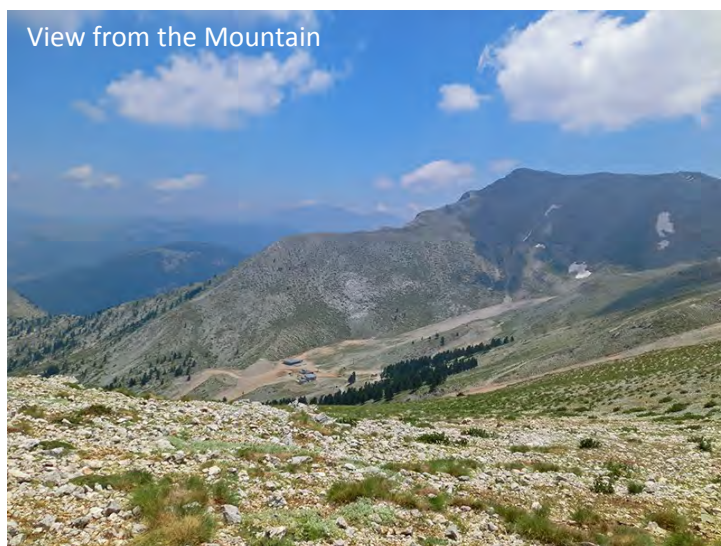
Meleager's Blue

Day 7: Friday 21st June, Meadow and Ridge

Our last full day's butterflying was going to be a couple of beautiful little meadows with forested slopes, and then onto a high peak in the Aroanian Range. The alpine terrain above the snow line promised a very different selection of wildlife, particularly flowers and birds and the opportunity to watch hill-topping butterflies looking for mates. After breakfast, we drove to the little chapel and parked. There at the hillside complete with bee hives, a number of Blues and other species were already on the wing. Tristan found a roosting Brimstone, not yet stirred from the evening's rest and in the distance, Turtle Doves purred their soporific song while a Raven flew over. Balkan Marbled Whites began to wake up and fly and Greek Clouded Yellows and Clouded Yellows joined in as the



Black-veined White



View from the Mountain

day began to warm up. Some of us moved off into the woodland, while others ventured down the slope in the direction of the hives. A Grayling (probably a Delattin's) flew up the slope, and a fine male Peloponnese Wall Lizard basked on a rock to warm up. We found Grecian Anomalous Blue,

Purple Hairstreak, Chapman's Blue, Small Copper, Brown Argus, Silver Studded Blue, Common Blue, Escher's Blue and Balkan Zephyr Blue to add to the list. Nymphalids were also present with



Painted Lady, Red Admiral, and a lone Camberwell Beauty seen flying over. Black-veined Whites and a few Meadow Browns put in an appearance and before we moved on, we recorded Scarce Swallowtail and a Hummingbird Hawk-Moth nectaring on Pale Bugloss, *Echium italicum*.

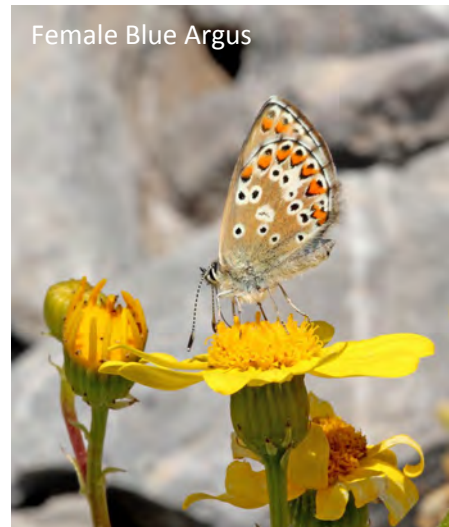
We then travelled for nearly 30 minutes to reach the mountain and arriving at a turn in the road, stopped briefly for views of Woodlarks singing their beautiful song from the Pines and Firs, whilst a Wheatear perched on the buildings. As we began

the ascent, Queen of Spain Fritillaries and Large Tortoiseshells seemed to be following the vehicles and a couple of Camberwell Beauties flew over. When the vehicles could go no further, we parked and carried on upwards, passing a huge patch of melting snow. Here we watched Alpine Accentors and an unusual form of Shore Lark which had white feathering in place of the normal yellow. One of the true alpine specialists, Clouded Apollo, was out in force, flying over the vegetation looking either for mates, nectar or *Corydalis blanda* on which to lay eggs. Pristine Small Tortoiseshells were busily dashing about, and even here at an altitude of around 2000 metres, their larval host plant Stinging Nettle was found. One particularly bright specimen provided excellent photo opportunities against the grey stones. Nettle Tree butterflies intermingled with the other Nymphalids and before we reached the ridge, more Camberwell Beauties flew over. Large numbers of Mountain Small Whites, many of which were involved in courtship activity, appeared in greater numbers than ever along with Spotted Fritillary, Eastern Zephyr Blue and Adonis Blues. At one of the huts just below the ridge, we stopped to admire the beautiful scenery and take a few photos while pausing for a breather.



We were well above the tree line now at around 2,000 metres and in a truly alpine setting with patches of snow still on the ground in the middle of summer. It was a wonderful experience and the views in all directions were fabulous. Among the beautiful alpine flowers, Tristan pointed out *Ranunculus ficarioides*, and then *Verbascum acaule*, a small stem-less variety of Verbascum, looking at first like Rockrose, but on closer inspection very much a Verbascum with beautiful yellow

flowers and deep red buds. We observed a number of other notable flowers including *Alyssum saxatile*, *Ornithogalum oligophyllum* (a beautiful little Star of Bethlehem) *Aethionema saxatile* (Burnt Candytuft) and *Erodium chrysanthemum*, a food-plant of the Blue Argus butterfly. There were lots of violets growing singly or in clumps, including *Viola graeca* and *Viola chelmea*, no doubt



used by some of the violet eating Fritillary butterflies of the area. Tristan had asked us to be on the lookout for *Fritillaria graeca*, a really beautiful flower and ultimately Mary did indeed manage to find and photograph a wonderful fresh specimen.

Before we moved further upwards for lunch, Tristan uttered his surprise at seeing Grecian Copper which had never before been recorded there above 800m. Afterwards, some of our party continued on to the top of the ridge across stones and boulders to reach the peak whilst others lunched at the hut. At the ridge, an increasing number of butterflies provided plenty of interest and we observed more and more Camberwell Beauties hill-topping, along with Swallowtails, Large Tortoiseshells and Painted Ladies. It was a privilege again to witness such a wonderful natural

phenomenon and to be in such company. According to Tristan, the Painted Ladies did not appear to be part of a mass migration, but were simply there in good numbers with all the others. On the small sloping pasture there, which was cropped short by livestock, the wind was keen but the butterflies kept flying, particularly on the leeward side which we humans favoured too. The sward held good numbers of Escher's Blue, Bath White, Brimstone, Brown Argus, Blue Argus, Mallow Skipper, Queen of Spain, Dark Green Fritillary, Southern Comma, and a Delattin's Grayling seen by Mike Gwilliam. Here we finally enjoyed the wonderful spectacle of a number of Blue Argus females egg-laying on *Erodium chrysanthemum*.

After lunch we headed back down to a spot that Tristan had noted earlier and upon arrival we were



Lesser Fiery Copper

amazed at the breathtaking spectacle of *Crocus sieberi*, poking up from under the snow and growing in purple profusion all around the damp patches left by the receding snow and ice. It was a wonderful sight. We lingered a good while photographing the dazzling flowers, reminiscent of those early Crocuses back home in early spring after a long winter but here they were truly at home in a wonderful natural environment. As we continued on our way back down to our parking spot, we noted more flowers and butterflies, and had one last look at the Clouded Apollos, gliding up and down the slopes, some of the females, showing the phragus indicating that they had already mated.



Eastern Bath White

Just before arriving at the vehicles, Tristan called out, "Red Alert" as he latched onto an Inky Skipper, which we all tried to train our eyes on and follow, small as it was. Down below in a gully by a water trough, another was seen along with more Eastern Zephyr Blues, Common Blue and Dingy Skippers.

Day 8: Saturday 22nd June, Meadow outside Kalavryta.

We'd come to our last day in Greece but with evening flights to catch from Athens, there was a chance to spend about an hour and a half exploring a meadow not too far from Kalavryta. The area still had good patches of lush green vegetation including echiums and thistles making it worthwhile investigating in the hope of finding something new to add to our list. With Tom, Chris, Mary and Mike staying back for one last look at the village, seven of us ventured forth and soon found ourselves aiding another Marginated Tortoise across the road before we arrived at the site. Almost as soon as we set foot in the meadow, Ken began photographing an Eastern Bath White. This species was proving quite tricky because it was always on the move, flitting from one flower to the next but his perseverance paid off. A small track through the meadow was lined with flowering

Mints and as we searched the flowers both Lesser Fiery Copper and a Sooty Copper were seen amongst the Lycaenids there. Nectar-rich Echiochloa were proving a real magnet for the Balkan Marbled Whites and Hummingbird Hawk-Moths. Of the Skippers present, we saw reasonable numbers of Mallow, a few Large, and dozens of Small but surprisingly we did not come upon any Essex. Meadow Browns were fairly common here, and we had glimpses of more Lattice Browns diving off into the shade. Another Grayling sped off up the slope, which, given the habitat, was probably a Delattin's Grayling. The meadow was also good for Queen of Spain Fritillaries, Cleopatras and Brimstones, and held a few Spotted Fritillaries and Wood Whites.

Above us on an old weathered dead branch, a couple of Hoopoes landed, appearing to watch us watching them and then flew off. A male Subalpine Warbler was seen and heard singing from a treetop and a fascinating pair of *Malacosoma franconica*, moths which are members of the Eggars and Lappet family, had united on a flower stem, giving us a good chance to observe the sexual dimorphism of the species with the females being possibly twice the size of the males. The mint was still paying dividends on our return, supplying us with plenty of interest including a male Meleager's Blue, a fine dark summer brood Small Copper, Common Blue, Eastern Zephyr Blue, Escher's Blue, and Ripart's Anomalous Blue all nectaring there. In the grasses, a few Silver-studded Blues were on the wing along with some Grecian Anomalous Blues and a Brown Argus. Bill spotted a Powdered Brimstone nectaring on *Salvia verbenaca* to complete the hat-trick of Brimstone types, and in addition, Scarce Swallowtail, Painted Lady, Greek Clouded Yellow, Clouded Yellow, Large White, Small Tortoiseshell, Wood White, Small Heath and Small Tortoiseshell were found. We'd had a good morning and arrived back at Filoxenia in time to collect our bags, say "Goodbye" to our host and take one last group photo before setting off for Athens and our flight home.



Outside the hotel. **From left:** Mike G, Mike S, Tom, Chris, Ken, Julian, Mary, Tristan, Lynn, Bill and Tim.

Photo credits

Mike and Mary Gwilliam: Grecian Anomalous Blues page 11; Dutchman's Pipe page 14; Clouded Apollo page 18

Tom and Chris Ettling: Vouraikos Gorge and Pasha on Tristan's hand page 8; Group around wild Oleander page 9; Scarce Swallowtail page 11; Hidden Glade page13; Long-tailed Blue page 14; view from Egg Mountain page17; Swallowtail and Small Tortoiseshell page 18; Crocus sieberi page 19;

Ken Bailey: Odd-spot Blue and Pontic Blue page 4; Lesser Fiery Copper and Eastern Bath White page 20

Julian Dowding: Spotted Fritillary page 5; Chelmos Blue on flower bud and Chelmos Blue on rock page 6; Verbascums page7; Saga Bush cricket and Powdered Brimstone page 10; Marbled Fritillary and Pearl-bordered Fritillary page12; Southern White Admiral page 14; Cicada, Beautiful Demoiselle and Oriental Meadow Brown page15; Escher's Blue, Cleopatra's and Meleager's Blue page 16; Black-veined White page 17;

Tim Norriss: View of Chelmos and Team photo page 2; Easton Baton Blue page 3; Odd-spot Blues in cop page 5; Longhorn Beetles and Eastern Zephyr Blue page 6; Chelmos Blue page 7; Southern Comma page 9; Grecian Copper page11; Large Tortoiseshell page 13; Blue Argus and View from Chelmos page19;

Bill Stone: Clouded Yellow page 3; Southern White Admiral page 7; Ripart's Anomalous Blue page 10; Large Wall Brown page 13; Blue Argus page 14; Grecian Copper page 16;

Greenwings would like to thank all members of the group for their fantastic support and enthusiasm, and for their help in compiling the species lists and photo galleries.

Photo Galleries overleaf



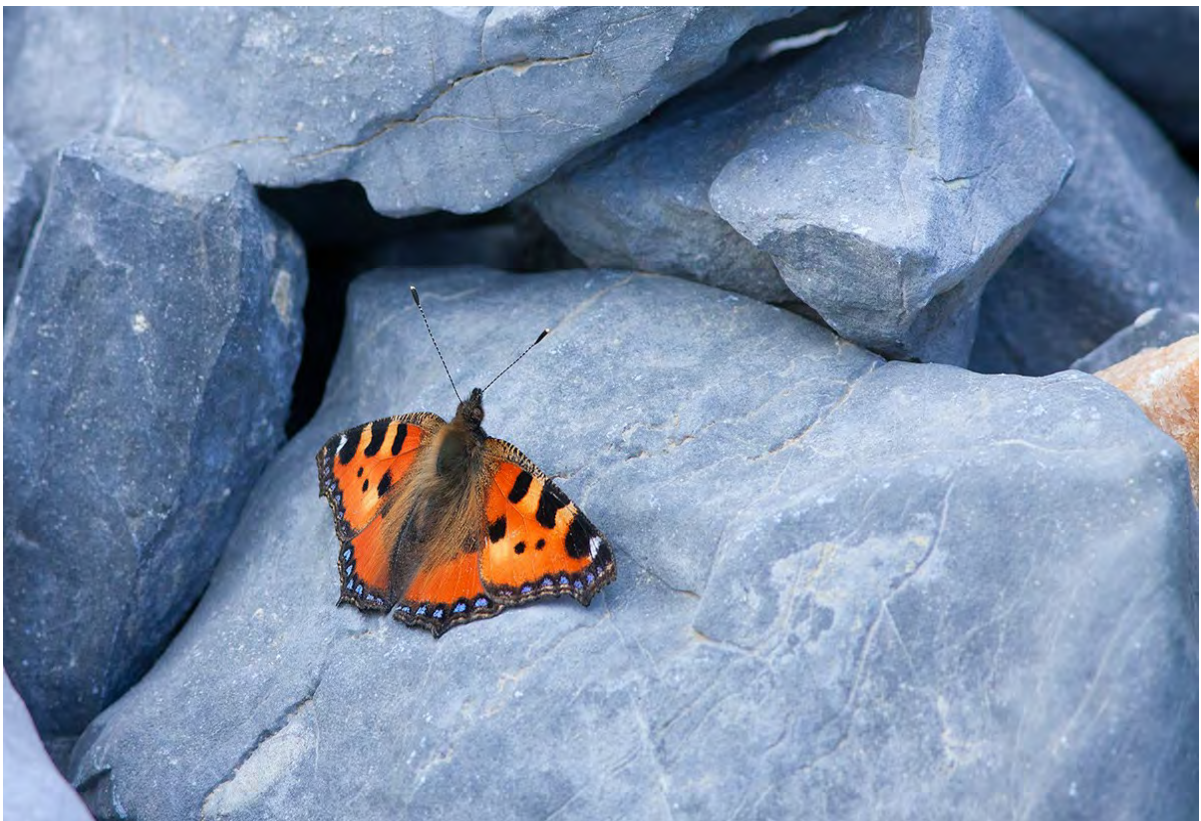
Top: Balkan Marbled White female. **Bottom:** male Cleopatra by Mike and Mary Gwilliam.



Top left: Anomalous Blue. **Top right:** Grecian Anomalous Blue. **Bottom right:** Ripart's Anomalous Blue, photos by Julian Dowding. **Bottom left:** Ripart's Anomalous Blue photo by Bill Stone.



Clockwise from top left: Large Wall Brown by Bill Stone; Glanville Fritillary by Mike Gwilliam; Silver-washed Fritillary by Julian Dowding; Clouded Apollo by Tom Ettling; Eastern Bath White by Tim Norriss.



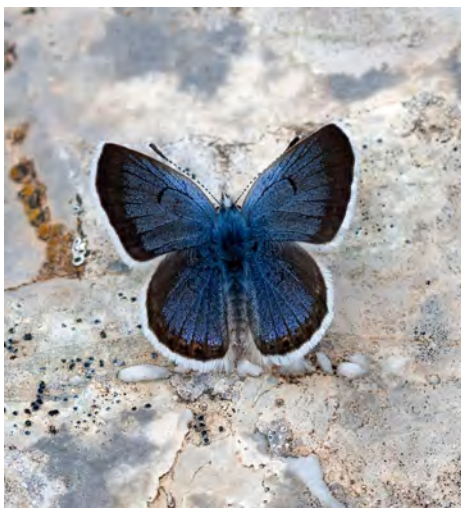
Top: Great Banded Grayling by Bill Stone. **Bottom:** Small Tortoiseshell by Julian Dowding



Clockwise from top left: Lesser Fiery Copper by Bill Stone; Purple Hairstreak by Mike Gwilliam; Holly Blue and Grecian Copper by Julian Dowding.

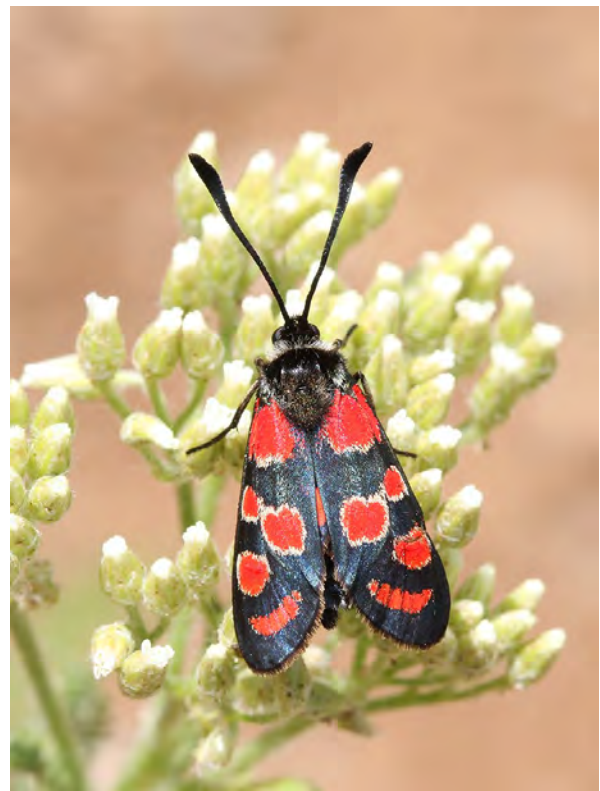
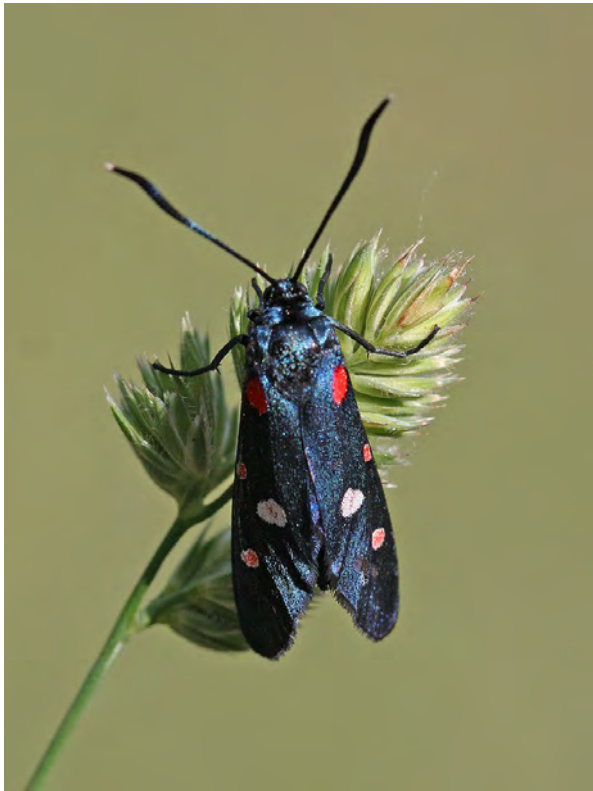


Clockwise from top left: Meleager's Blue and Hungarian Skipper by Julian Dowding; Ilex Hairstreak by Tim Norriss; Dingy Skipper and Odd-spot Blue by Julian Dowding; Olive Skipper by Bill Stone.





Top: Balkan Zephyr Blue '*brethertoni*' by Tim Norriss. **Bottom:** Chelmos Blue by Julian Dowding



Top left: Variable Burnet *Zygaena ephialtes*. **Top right:** Carniolan Burnet. Photos by Julian Dowding.
Bottom left: Forester Moth. **Bottom right:** Transparent Burnet *Zygaena purpuralis*. Photos by Tim Norriss.

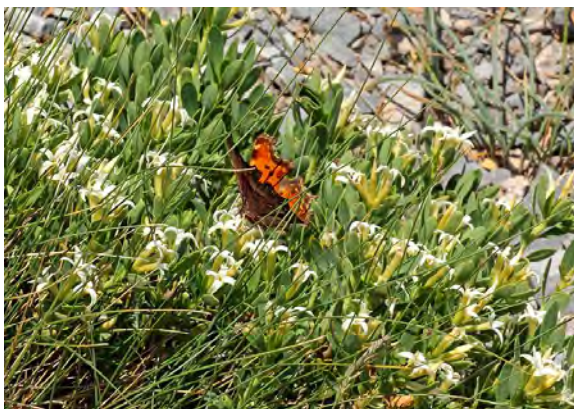


Clockwise from top left: Clouded Apollo by Mike Skelton; Nettle Tree Butterfly by Bill Stone; *Malacosoma franconica* and *Pyrausta purpualis* by Tim Norriss; Scarce Swallowtail by Mike and Mary Gwilliam; Nettle Tree Butterfly by Mike Skelton.



Above: *Erodium Chrysanthemum* the foodplant of Blue Argus; **Right:** *Crocus sieberi*; **Bottom right:** *Verbascum acaule*; **Bottom left:** *Ornithogalum oligophyllum*. Photos by Julian Dowding.





Clockwise from top left: *Acantholimon echinus*, food-plant of Odd-spot Blue; *Scabiosa* sp; *Centaurea pichleri*; Southern Comma on *Daphne oleoides*. Photos by Tim Norriss; *Crocus sieberi* and *Aethionema saxatile* photos by Julian Dowding.



Top: *Achillea umbellata*. **Bottom:** *Campanula spatulata* by Julian Dowding.



Top: *Scilla bifolia* by Julian Dowding. **Bottom:** *Fritillaria graeca* by Mary Gwilliam.



Top left: female Beautiful Demoiselle by Mike Skelton. **Top right:** male Beautiful Demoiselle by Julian Dowding.

Middle left: female White-legged Damselfly and **middle right:** male White-legged Damselfly by Tim Norriss.

Above right: male Blue Chaser by Tim Norriss;
Above left: Turkish Clubtail by J. Dowding

Bottom left: Broad-bodied Chaser by Bill Stone.



Top: Peloponnese Wall Lizard by Mike Skelton. **Middle right:** Kotschy's Gecko by Tim Norriss. **Middle left:** Marginated Tortoise by Tim Norriss. **Bottom:** Balkan Wall Lizard by Bill Stone.



Clockwise from top left: *Ascalaphus ottomanus*; *Ascalaphus macaronius*; *Philaeus chrysops*; Antlion *Palpares libelluloides*; Spider *Lycosa praegrandis*; Cicada emerging; All photos by Tim Norriss.



Clockwise from top left: *Chorthippus bornhalmi*; *Arcyptera labiata*; *Poecilimon jonicus tessellatus*; *Oedipoda germanica* by Mike Skelton. *Callimenus oniscus* by Tim Norriss; *Saga hellenica* by Julian Dowding.



Above right: El Maestro with Mantis by Tim. **Above left:** Ken homes in on a rare butterfly.
Below: Group discussions after a good day on Chelmos, by Julian.





Clockwise from top left: Lynn and Tim pause to watch another butterfly on their way to the Hidden Glade; Mary and Mike on the high path battling against the wind; Ken, Mary and Tristan resting for five minutes; Mike Skelton with hat hopper; Bill in action; Ken portrait; Our group on Aroania. Photos by Tom, Chris and Julian





Clockwise from top left: Bill and Chris on top of Aroania; Tom with handy accessory; Chris about to take off (it was breezy up there); Mary homing in on blue butterflies; Dinner at the restaurant with new guests Matt Rowlings and his Dad. Photos by Tom, Chris and Julian.



Top: Pausing for a breather and chat, somewhere in Aroania with Mary, Lynn and Chris.

Bottom: Passion for Pashas, with Ken, Mary, Tom, Tim and Lynn. Photos by Chris, Tom and Julian.

Species Lists

Butterflies

| | Scientific name | Common name |
|----|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Papilio machaon</i> | Swallowtail |
| 2 | <i>Papilio alexanor</i> | Southern Swallowtail |
| 3 | <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i> | Scarce Swallowtail |
| 4 | <i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i> | Clouded Apollo |
| 5 | <i>Aporia crataegi</i> | Black-veined White |
| 6 | <i>Pieris brassicae</i> | Large White |
| 7 | <i>Pieris rapae</i> | Small White |
| 8 | <i>Pieris manii</i> | Southern Small White |
| 9 | <i>Pieris ergane</i> | Mountain Small White |
| 10 | <i>Pieris napi</i> | Green-veined White |
| 11 | <i>Anthocaras cardamines</i> | Orange Tip |
| 12 | <i>Pontia edusa</i> | Eastern Bath White |
| 13 | <i>Colias crocea</i> | Clouded Yellow |
| 14 | <i>Colias crocea var helice</i> | Clouded Yellow |
| 15 | <i>Colias aurorina (libanotica)</i> | Greek Clouded Yellow |
| 16 | <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i> | Brimstone |
| 17 | <i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i> | Cleopatra |
| 18 | <i>Gonepteryx farinosa</i> | Powdered Brimstone |
| 19 | <i>Leptidea sinapis</i> | Wood White |
| 20 | <i>Favonius quercus</i> | Purple Hairstreak |
| 21 | <i>Satyrium acaciae</i> | Sloe Hairstreak |
| 22 | <i>Satyrium ilicis</i> | Ilex Hairstreak |
| 23 | <i>Satyrium w-album</i> | White-letter Hairstreak |
| 24 | <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> | Small Copper |
| 25 | <i>Lycaena ottomana</i> | Grecian Copper |
| 26 | <i>Lycaena tityrus</i> | Sooty Copper |
| 27 | <i>Lycaena alciphron</i> | Purple-shot Copper |
| 28 | <i>Lycaena thersamon</i> | Lesser Fiery Copper |
| 29 | <i>Lampides boeticus</i> | Long-tailed Blue |
| 30 | <i>Cupido osiris</i> | Osiris Blue |
| 31 | <i>Celastrina argiolus</i> | Holly Blue |
| 32 | <i>Turanana taygetica (endymion)</i> | Odd-spot Blue |
| 33 | <i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i> | Eastern Baton Blue |
| 34 | <i>Plebejus pylaon</i> | Eastern Zephyr Blue |
| 35 | <i>Neolysandra coelestina</i> | Pontic Blue |
| 36 | <i>Plebejus argus</i> | Silver-studded Blue |
| 37 | <i>Aricia agestis</i> | Brown Argus |
| 38 | <i>Aricia anteros</i> | Blue Argus |
| 39 | <i>Cyaniris semiargus helena</i> | (Greek) Mazarine Blue |

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 40 | <i>Polyommatus ripartii</i> | Ripart's Anomalous Blue |
| 41 | <i>Polyommatus aroaniensis</i> | Grecian Anomalous Blue |
| 42 | <i>Polyommatus admetus</i> | Anomalous Blue |
| 43 | <i>Polyommatus iphigenia</i> | Chelmos Blue |
| 44 | <i>Polyommatus escheri</i> | Escher's Blue |
| 45 | <i>Polyommatus thersites</i> | Chapmans Blue |
| 46 | <i>Polyommatus amandus</i> | Amanda's Blue |
| 47 | <i>Polyommatus dorylas</i> | Turquoise Blue |
| 48 | <i>Polyommatus bellargus</i> | Adonis Blue |
| 49 | <i>Polyommatus daphnis</i> | Meleager's Blue |
| 50 | <i>Polyommatus icarus</i> | Common Blue |
| 51 | <i>Libythea celtis</i> | Nettle Tree Butterfly |
| 52 | <i>Charaxes jasius</i> | Two-tailed Pasha |
| 53 | <i>Limentis reducta</i> | Southern White Admiral |
| 54 | <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i> | Camberwell Beauty |
| 55 | <i>Nymphalis polychloros</i> | Large Tortoiseshell |
| 56 | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> | Red Admiral |
| 57 | <i>Vanessa cardui</i> | Painted Lady |
| 58 | <i>Aglais urticae</i> | Small Tortoiseshell |
| 59 | <i>Polygonia c-album</i> | Comma |
| 60 | <i>Polygonia egea</i> | Southern Comma |
| 61 | <i>Argynnis pandora</i> | Cardinal |
| 62 | <i>Argynnis paphia</i> | Silver-washed Fritillary |
| 63 | <i>Argynnis aglaja</i> | Dark Green Fritillary |
| 64 | <i>Argynnis niobe</i> | Niobe Fritillary |
| 65 | <i>Issoria lathonia</i> | Queen of Spain Fritillary |
| 66 | <i>Melitaea telona</i> | Southern Knapweed Fritillary |
| 67 | <i>Brenthis daphne</i> | Marbled Fritillary |
| 68 | <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i> | Pearl-bordered Fritillary |
| 69 | <i>Melitaea cinxia</i> | Glanville Fritillary |
| 70 | <i>Melitaea didyma</i> | Spotted Fritillary |
| 71 | <i>Melanargia larissa</i> | Balkan Marbled White |
| 72 | <i>Pseudochazara anthelea</i> | White-Banded Grayling |
| 73 | <i>Satyrus ferula</i> | Great Sooty Satyr |
| 74 | <i>Brintesia circe</i> | Great Banded Grayling |
| 75 | <i>Maniola jurtina</i> | Meadow Brown |
| 76 | <i>Hyponephele lupina</i> | Oriental Meadow Brown |
| 77 | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> | Small Heath |
| 78 | <i>Pararge aegeria</i> | Speckled Wood |
| 79 | <i>Lasiommata megera</i> | Wall Brown |
| 80 | <i>Lasiommata maera</i> | Large Wall Brown |
| 81 | <i>Hipparchia senthes</i> | Balkan Grayling |
| 82 | <i>Hipparchia fagi</i> | Woodland Grayling |
| 83 | <i>Hipparchia volgensis</i> | Dellatin's Grayling |
| 84 | <i>Kirinia roxelana</i> | Lattice Brown |

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|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 85 | <i>Pyrgus malvae</i> | Grizzled Skipper |
| 86 | <i>Spialia orbifer</i> | Hungarian Skipper |
| 87 | <i>Spialia phlomidis</i> | Persian Skipper |
| 88 | <i>Pyrgus serratulae</i> | Olive Skipper |
| 89 | <i>Muschampia proto</i> | Sage Skipper |
| 90 | <i>Carcharodus alceae</i> | Mallow Skipper |
| 91 | <i>Carcharodus orientalis</i> | Oriental Marbled Skipper |
| 92 | <i>Erynnis tages</i> | Dingy Skipper |
| 93 | <i>Thymelicus acteon</i> | Lulworth Skipper |
| 94 | <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i> | Small Skipper |
| 95 | <i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i> | Large Skipper |
| 96 | <i>Pyrgus amoricanus</i> | Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper |
| 97 | <i>Erynnis marloyi</i> | Inky Skipper |

Birds

| | Scientific name | Common |
|----|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> | Common Quail |
| 2 | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> | Short-toed Eagle |
| 3 | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | Eurasian Sparrowhawk |
| 4 | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | Common Buzzard |
| 5 | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | Eurasian Moorhen |
| 6 | <i>Larus michahellis</i> | Yellow-legged Gull |
| 7 | <i>Columba livia</i> | Rock Pigeon |
| 8 | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | Common Wood-Pigeon |
| 9 | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | European Turtle-Dove |
| 10 | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | Eurasian Collared-Dove |
| 11 | <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | Common Cuckoo |
| 12 | <i>Otus scops</i> | European Scops-Owl |
| 13 | <i>Strix aluco</i> | Tawny Owl |
| 14 | <i>Apus melba</i> | Alpine Swift |
| 15 | <i>Apus apus</i> | Common Swift |
| 16 | <i>Apus pallidus</i> | Pallid Swift |
| 17 | <i>Upupa epops</i> | Eurasian Hoopoe |
| 18 | <i>Dendrocopos medius</i> | Middle Spotted Woodpecker |
| 19 | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | Great Spotted Woodpecker |
| 20 | <i>Picus viridis</i> | Green Woodpecker |
| 21 | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | Eurasian Kestrel |
| 22 | <i>Lanius collurio</i> | Red-backed Shrike |
| 23 | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | Eurasian Jay |
| 24 | <i>Pica pica</i> | Eurasian Magpie |
| 25 | <i>Corvus monedula</i> | Eurasian Jackdaw |

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|----|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 26 | <i>Corvus cornix</i> | Hooded Crow |
| 27 | <i>Corvus corax</i> | Common Raven |
| 28 | <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhacorax</i> | Chough |
| 29 | <i>Lullula arborea</i> | Wood Lark |
| 30 | <i>Riparia riparia</i> | Bank Swallow |
| 31 | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> | Eurasian Crag-Martin |
| 32 | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | Barn Swallow |
| 33 | <i>Cecropis daurica</i> | Red-rumped Swallow |
| 34 | <i>Delichon urbicum</i> | Common House-Martin |
| 35 | <i>Poecile lugubris</i> | Sombre Tit |
| 36 | <i>Periparus ater</i> | Coal Tit |
| 37 | <i>Parus major</i> | Great Tit |
| 38 | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> | Eurasian Blue Tit |
| 39 | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> | Long-tailed Tit |
| 40 | <i>Sitta europaea</i> | Eurasian Nuthatch |
| 41 | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | Eurasian Wren |
| 42 | <i>Regulus regulus</i> | Goldcrest |
| 43 | <i>Cettia cetti</i> | Cetti's Warbler |
| 44 | <i>Iduna pallida</i> | Eastern Olivaceous Warbler |
| 45 | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> | Great Reed-Warbler |
| 46 | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i> | Zitting Cisticola |
| 47 | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | Blackcap |
| 48 | <i>Sylvia cantillans</i> | Subalpine Warbler |
| 49 | <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> | Sardinian Warbler |
| 50 | <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | Spotted Flycatcher |
| 51 | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | European Robin |
| 52 | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> | Common Nightingale |
| 53 | <i>Saxicola rubicola</i> | European Stonechat |
| 54 | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | Northern Wheatear |
| 55 | <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i> | Black-eared Wheatear |
| 56 | <i>Turdus merula</i> | Eurasian Blackbird |
| 57 | <i>Prunella collaris</i> | Alpine Accentor |
| 58 | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | Grey Wagtail |
| 59 | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | White Wagtail |
| 60 | <i>Emberiza cirlus</i> | Cirl Bunting |
| 61 | <i>Emberiza cia</i> | Rock Bunting |
| 62 | <i>Emberiza calandra</i> | Corn Bunting |
| 63 | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | Common Chaffinch |
| 64 | <i>Chloris chloris</i> | European Greenfinch |
| 65 | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | European Goldfinch |
| 66 | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> | Eurasian Linnet |
| 67 | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | European Serin |
| 68 | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | House Sparrow |
| 69 | <i>Petronia petronia</i> | Rock Sparrow |

Dragonflies and Damselflies (Odonata)

| | Scientific | Common |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | <i>Calopteryx</i> | |
| 1 | <i>Calopteryx virgo</i> | Beautiful Demoiselle |
| | <i>Coenagrionidae</i> | |
| | <i>Platycnemididae</i> | |
| 2 | <i>Platycnemus pennipes</i> | White-legged Damselfly |
| | <i>Aeshnidae</i> | |
| 3 | <i>Anax imperator</i> | Emperor |
| | <i>Gomphidae</i> | |
| 4 | <i>Gomphus schneiderii</i> | Turkish Clubtail |
| 5 | <i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i> | Small Pincertail |
| | <i>Cordulegastridae</i> | |
| 6 | <i>Cordulegaster helladica</i> | Greek Goldenring |
| | <i>Libellulidae</i> | |
| 7 | <i>Libellula depressa</i> | Broad-bodied Chaser |
| 8 | <i>Libellula fulva</i> | Scarce Chaser |
| 9 | <i>Orthetrum brunneum</i> | Southern Skimmer |
| 10 | <i>Sympetrum striolatum</i> | Common Darter |
| 11 | <i>Crocothemis erythraea</i> | Broad Scarlet Dragonfly |

Grasshoppers & Allies (Orthoptera)

| | Scientific | Common |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | <i>Phaneropteridae</i> | |
| 1 | <i>Acrometopa servillea</i> | Long-legged Bush-cricket |
| 2 | <i>Poecilimon ionicus tessellatus</i> | Ionian Bush-cricket |
| 3 | <i>Poecilimon zimmeri</i> | |
| | <i>Tettigoniidae</i> | |
| 4 | <i>Tettigonia viridissima</i> | Great Green Bush-cricket |
| 5 | <i>Decticus verrucivorus</i> | Wartbiter |
| 6 | <i>Decticus albifrons</i> | White-faced Wartbiter |

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| 7 | <i>Pholidoptera femorata</i> | Large Dark Bush-cricket |
| 8 | <i>Eupholidoptera megastyla</i> | |
| 9 | <i>Drymadusa dorsalis</i> | |
| 10 | <i>Saga hellenica</i> | |
| | Bradyporidae | |
| 11 | <i>Callimenus oniscus</i> | |
| | Acrididae | |
| 12 | <i>Paracaloptenus caloptenoides moreanus</i> | |
| 13 | <i>Oedaleus decorus</i> | |
| 14 | <i>Oedipoda germanica</i> | Red-winged Grasshopper |
| 15 | <i>Anacridium aegyptum</i> | Egyptian Grasshopper |
| 16 | <i>Arcyptera labiata</i> | |
| 17 | <i>Dociostaurus marrocanus</i> | Moroccan Locust |
| 18 | <i>Omocestus rufipes</i> | Woodland Grasshopper |
| 19 | <i>Stenobothrus fischeri</i> | Fischer's Grasshopper |
| 20 | <i>Chorthippus bornhalmi</i> | |

Moths

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| | Micropterigidae | |
| 1 | <i>Micropterix sp.</i> | |
| | Pyalidae | |
| 2 | <i>Pyrausta purpuralis</i> | Common Purple and Gold |
| 3 | <i>Pyrausta despicata</i> | |
| | <i>Synaphe moldavica</i> | |
| | Crambidae | |
| | <i>Loxostege sticticalis</i> | Diamond-spot Pearl |
| | Saturniidae | |
| 4 | <i>Saturnia pyri</i> | Giant Peacock |
| | Sphingidae | |
| 5 | <i>Hyles euphorbiae</i> | Spurge Hawk-moth |
| 6 | <i>Hyles livornica</i> | Striped Hawk-moth |
| 7 | <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i> | Humming-bird Hawk-moth |
| | Geometridae | |
| 8 | <i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i> | Garden Carpet |
| 9 | <i>Idaea rufaria</i> | |
| 10 | <i>Lythria purpuraria</i> | Purple-barred Yellow |
| 11 | <i>Nychiodes dalmataria</i> | |

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 12 | <i>Rhodostrophia vibicaria</i> | Common Pink-barred |
| 13 | <i>Cyclophora puppillaria</i> | Blair's Mocha |

Noctuidae

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 14 | <i>Orthosia cerasi</i> | Common Quaker |
| 15 | <i>Agrotis puta</i> | Shuttle-shaped Dart |
| 16 | <i>Egira conspicularis</i> | Silver Cloud |
| 17 | <i>Heliothis peltigera</i> | Bordered Straw |
| 18 | <i>Paradrina clavipalpis</i> | Pale Mottled Willow |
| 19 | <i>Amephana aurita</i> | |
| 20 | <i>Autographa gamma</i> | Silver Y |
| 21 | <i>Catocala nymphaea</i> | |
| 22 | <i>Catocala eutychea</i> | |
| 23 | <i>Catocala hymenea</i> | |
| 24 | <i>Catocala nymphagoga</i> | Oak Yellow Underwing |
| 25 | <i>Tyta luctuosa</i> | |
| 26 | <i>Cucullia blattaria</i> (L.) | Mullein Moth |
| 27 | <i>Rhypagla lacernaria</i> | |
| 28 | <i>Odice suava</i> | |
| 29 | <i>Tyta luctuosa</i> | Four-spotted Moth |

Lasiocampidae

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------|--|
| 30 | <i>Malacosoma franconia</i> | |
| 32 | <i>Esperia</i> sp. | |

Tineidae

| | | |
|----|--------------------------|--|
| 32 | <i>Euplocamus ophisa</i> | |
|----|--------------------------|--|

Zygaenidae

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 33 | <i>Adscita</i> sp | Forester |
| 34 | <i>Zygaena purpuralis</i> | Transparent Burnet |
| 35 | <i>Zygaena ephialtes</i> | Variable Burnet |
| 36 | <i>Zygaena carniolica</i> | Carniolan Burnet |

Sesiidae

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 37 | <i>Synanthedon cephiformis</i> | Coniferous Tree-borer |
|----|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

Reptiles

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Testudo marginata marginata</i> | Greek Marginated Tortoise |
| 2 | <i>Podarcis peloponnesiaca</i> | Peloponnese Wall Lizard |
| 3 | <i>Podarcis tauricus</i> | Balkan Wall Lizard |
| 4 | <i>Mediodactylus kotschy</i> | Kotschy's Ghecko |

Other notable fauna

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | <i>Ascalaphus ottomanus</i> | Owlfly sp. |
| 2 | <i>Ascalaphus macaronius</i> | Owly Sulphur sp. |
| 3 | <i>Palpares libelluloides</i> | Ant lion |
| 4 | <i>Cicadiveta sp.</i> | Cicada |