

Butterflies of the French Alps

Holiday Report
5-12 July



Greenwings Wildlife Holidays

Tel: 01473 436096

Web: www.greenwings.co

Email: enquiries@greenwings.co

Introduction

This new butterfly holiday, led by Roger Gibbons and Julian Dowding would focus on summer butterflies in the Alpes-Maritimes. Roger lives on the south coast of France for most of the year and is on a personal quest to see all 240 mainland species. To date he has seen 221. He actively researches the Countries butterflies of the PACA (Provence, Alpes, Côte d'Azur) and submits data to French national and regional databases of conservation bodies. Julian works as a butterfly guide for Greenwings and is an active conservationist and member of Butterfly Conservation.



View from our hotel © J. Dowding

Greenwings welcomed 8 guests: for an enjoyable week spent observing butterflies in the magical landscape of this part of France, close to Italy. What follows is the programme for the week, followed by a description of each day, gallery and species list.

Day 1 Saturday 5th July: arrival at Nice Cote D'Azur Airport and transfer to hotel in Mercantour.

Day 2, Sunday 6th July: Tinée Valley.

Day 3, Monday 7th July: Tinée Valley and higher reaches of the Alpes-Maritimes.

Day 4, Tuesday 8th July: Vallon de Gordolasque.

Day 5, Wednesday 9th July: Transfer to St-Martin-d'Entraunes.

Day 6, Thursday 10th July: Cayolle

Day 7, Friday 11th July: Col des Champs

Day 8, Saturday 12th July: Return to UK

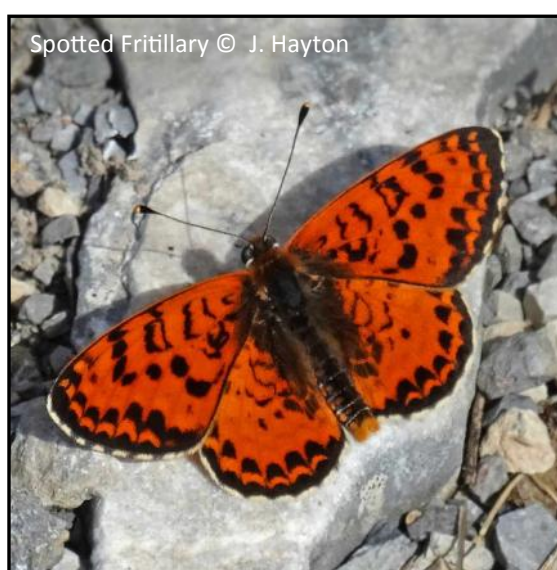
Day 1, Saturday 5th July

Julian arrived at the hotel base in the Mercantour National Park for the first four nights, with the main group of guests at 17.00. Roger had already been in the area for two days to check that the target locations were as expected. As there was still warmth and plenty of daylight, the group decided to drop the cases off at the hotel and reconvene in ten minutes for a walk up a now-unused road gently by the hotel. The verges are flower-rich and usually enjoy a high density of species and numbers. However, these verges had been “thoughtfully” strimmed in some places by the local authority three days earlier but, even so, some nice wild flowers remained and 22 butterfly species were seen, the most notable to UK eyes being a single Great Sooty Satyr, Great Banded Grayling, Escher's Blue and Lulworth Skipper. We were met at the hotel by our charming hosts who had taken over the hotel some three years earlier. Rachel and Ben had their own car and arrived at 23.00 to meet up with the group at breakfast the next morning.



Day 2, Sunday 6th July

Stop 1: One of the main butterfly hotspots in the region is the track that leads down behind the hotel for about one km and then stops abruptly. The track tends to be in shade until 10.00 a.m. and the group set off at around 9.45 a.m. after a leisurely breakfast. Heath Fritillary was very common both here (and at most other locations) and in high numbers and variability in terms of markings. Marbled Whites here were easily the most numerous butterfly, Dave M commenting that they seemed much darker than those in the UK. Spotted Fritillaries were very common and some of the males showed the deep reddish orange colour form and the females, the very dusky colour form, giving themselves away with their low buzzy flight patterns. ‘Coppers’ were a butterfly that many of our guests really wanted to see and they were not to be disappointed, with a number of Purple-shot Coppers in evidence. Some of these stunning insects posed beautifully on the wildflowers here, and in flight, their flashing orange and silvery grey colours attracted much attention. We also saw the dark summer form of Small Copper. By now the sun was warming things up nicely and butterflies



could be seen everywhere. Berger's Clouded Yellows, including paler females were often glimpsed, the males appearing a buttery cream or custard colour, very different to the Clouded Yellows which were also seen. Adonis Blues were flying too; some of these were very fresh, whilst others were rather worn looking. A Wall Brown and Large Wall Brown were also seen basking on the rocks. Dark Green, High Brown and Silver-washed Fritillary all put in appearances throughout the morning, never in high numbers but adding nicely to the butterfly mix. Cleopatras were seen all morning,



along with a potential Brimstone. Roger explained to the group how the shape of the wing when at rest helped to differentiate these two species. A large Grayling species was identified (given its size and location) as Woodland Grayling. A little further down the track we observed a female Scarce Swallowtail ovipositing on a species of wild pear. Large, Small, Essex, Lulworth and Red Underwing Skipper were all seen and Dave W homed in on a different looking hairstreak which turned out to be Blue-spot Hairstreak. It was a beautiful find for us all, and highlighted the importance of checking every small butterfly. A few Wood Whites trickled up and down the track, seldom stopping but easily identifiable and another Fritillary that we had all wanted to see, Weaver's Fritillary, was discovered. Roger explained that its other name of Violet Fritillary, was more descriptive on account of its underside colouration. Flowers seen included both pink and violet forms of Scabious sp., Crown Vetch, Tufted Vetch, and Yellow Ox-Eye, all of which provided the butterflies with a veritable banquet of nectar.

Making our way further down the track, the group saw what initially appeared to be a Southern White Admiral nectaring on honeysuckle about 4m away, but it was not possible to approach any closer. A few seconds later, through binoculars, it dawned that it was not a Southern White Admiral but very surprisingly, Poplar Admiral, a huge and very scarce butterfly that dwarfs even a Purple Emperor and indeed, the Great Banded Grayling sat not a foot away from it. It appeared to be a



female and was photographed from a distance by all who saw it. There are very limited records for Poplar Admiral in the Alpes-Maritimes and none near this location. The larval host plants for this species include Aspen (*Populus tremula*) which was plentiful in the region, so it is possible that a small colony may have existed undetected here for a long time.



Poplar Admiral © J. Hayton



Ilex Hairstreak © D. Moore

The Poplar Admiral was going to be hard to beat, but soon our eyes were turning to other butterflies such as Bath White and then Black veined Whites which occasionally floated past, holding their wings in a v-shape, a useful identification feature. A small Lycaenid was identified as a rather worn Green Hairstreak. Dave Wright eventually caught up with a Great Sooty Satyr, its easy lolling flight rather beautiful to watch. After having seen many Ilex Hairstreaks, a single Sloe Hairstreak appeared. Roger pointed out the white streak was a little farther from the wing margin compared to Ilex and that sometimes they could be identified by the grey spot or the black tip to the abdomen of the females. On the wild Clematis, a few Southern White Admirals were spotted and a Northern Brown Argus (Mountain Argus in Europe) was scrutinised very carefully before pronouncement.

An exciting highlight of this excursion was a female Meleager's Blue, of the brown form *steeveni*, which seems to be the form that occurs in this region and hadn't been recorded here for a few years. The insect was in pristine condition and made for some good photography. Other highlights included what became known as an "ordinary" Swallowtail (*Papilio machaon*) in order to distinguish it from the ironically commoner Scarce Swallowtail (*Ipheclides podalirius*), although naturally *P. machaon* is anything but ordinary. It was strongly suspected that a female blue, with brown uppersides and orange hind-wing lunules, was a female Turquoise Blue. This was made highly likely by the later study of a photo by Rachel that clearly showed a male of the species with the



Meleager's Blue © I. Small



Bath White © D. Moore

characteristic heart shaped lunules. This turned out to be a recurrent theme, the evening review of photos that showed up something that had not been fully apparent (or had been strongly suspected).



The track by our hotel © J.



Scarce Swallowtail egg © I. Small

Rachel and Ben soon found three varieties of Bellflower on the way down: Clustered, Creeping and Nettle-leaved. At the end of the track we also found a couple of Rampion species growing on a bank. Adding these to the other flowers which included both Spotted and Pyramidal Orchids, the floral interest of this place was really rather wonderful. On a patch of Tufted Vetch, the group finally had a chance to see Amanda's Blue and on the way back up the track just before the hotel, another male Berger's Clouded Yellow posed beautifully for Peta. Some of the other species noted included Baton Blue, Holly Blue, Orange Tip and Escher's Blue, out of a total of 60 species seen on the track. This is testament to the advantages of ten pairs of eyes, although not all species were seen by all members of the group. The fact that the group returned to the hotel for lunch at 13.45 was indicative of the sheer number of species being noted.



Scarce Swallowtail © J. Hayton

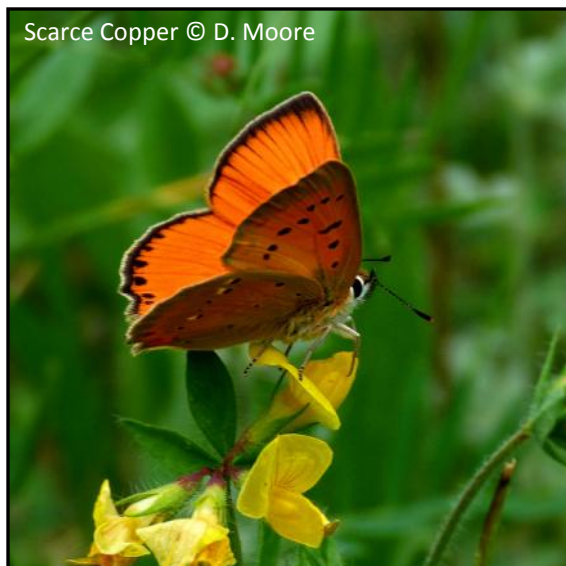


Baton Blue © D. Moore

Stop 2: After a leisurely picnic lunch, we stopped for refreshment by a lake in the valley, where Dave W pointed out some very high flying Golden Eagles before moving off again.

Stop 3: Having quenched our thirst, we went north along the Tinée valley to another location. The spot was a damp meadow alongside an "old road" - so often a source of good butterfly locations. Dark Green Fritillary and Marbled Fritillary were in evidence, nectaring on the plentiful Marsh Valerian. The place was also full of False Heath Fritillaries, which were really very dark when

compared to the Heath Fritillaries which were also present. Dave M delighted us all with his discovery of several Scarce Coppers which enabled the group to get photos of this beautiful insect. Meadow Browns were seen there too along with about a dozen Pearly Heaths and a number of Ringlets, this latter species being rather scarce and localised in the PACA (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) region. Rachel and Ben surprised us with a wonderful Orange Lily, 'Croceum' to add floral interest. Apart from Golden Eagle, bird life this day also included Goldfinch and Serin. By now it was 5.40 p.m. and we headed back to our hotel to relax a little before being served a sumptuous stew with taglietella, by our attentive hosts.



Scarce Copper © D. Moore



Pearly Heaths © J. Dowding

Day 3, Monday 7th July

The plan was to visit some of the higher reaches in the Alpes-Maritimes, stopping off at various spots on the way, increasing in altitude. Butterflies tend to become active earlier at lower altitudes, so plan was to work our way up.

Stop 1: The first stop at 1180m was at a meadow by a bridge over a gushing tributary of the Tinée, where we were greeted by a pair of Grey Wagtails and is also where our first Apollos were seen. Dave M. found one nectaring on Scabious and most of the group managed to photograph it until it was buzzed by a Large Skipper and flew off up the mountain. We watched as it disappeared, wondering whether we would get another chance to see this magnificent creature but we were not to be disappointed. We also found the first of several Large Blues (*Maculinea* -now *Phengaris-arion*). John had found a couple of fresh Black-veined Whites, one of which he tempted onto his finger for the group to photograph. Soon, a Mallow skipper drew the group's attention and then a beautiful Wood White settled on a flower and was photographed. Other notable sightings of non-UK species included Mazarine Blue which Dave W soon had in his phone camera sights, Marbled Skipper, Scarce Copper, Large Wall and Escher's Blue, the latter being seen at nearly every location visited on the tour.



Apollo © J. Hayton

Stop 2: The temperature was rising as we ascended to explore the immediate vicinity at our next stop, a riverside track at 1240m. Red-underwing Skipper was seen there (another regular at most of the sites visited throughout the tour) and a female Long-tailed Blue which was inspecting a potential food plant for egg-laying. Perhaps most surprisingly, there was a female Lang's Short-



tailed Blue egg-laying, highly unusual in that Lang's is usually a lowland species and 1200m was at about the upper limit of its altitude and yet it was egg-laying here. It was clearly a good location for females as an Escher's Blue was seen here, one of very few females seen of this species, along with an example of the blue female form of Adonis Blue, *ceronus*, though perhaps only semi-*ceronus*. The flowers here were just as interesting as lower down, with some lovely Crown Vetches (possible host plant for the Adonis Blues), and also an abundance of Kidney Vetch for the Small Blues. Just before we moved on, a waking Scarce Swallowtail was found low down in the sward at the roadside. Other butterflies included another Apollo flying by at head height, Marbled Fritillary which occasionally settled on bramble, Ringlet, Large Wall Brown, Knapweed Fritillary, Wood White, Black-veined White, Orange Tip, Cleopatra and Pearly Heath.

Stop 3: The next stop was at the curvature of a hairpin bend, where the old road exited. As previously mentioned, these are ideal locations for butterflies as they are wide tracks now unused by traffic and the flowery verges are generally less strimmed. At these altitudes of around 1500m, we started to see the higher altitude species. Several male Purple-edged Coppers were seen for the first time, together with the high altitude form *subalpinus* of the Sooty Copper. Safflower Skipper were seen here, and it was soon to become apparent that they were the dominant *Pyrgus* species at higher levels. Similarly, in the *Erebia* ringlet domain, Almond-eyed Ringlet (*Erebia albertanus*) was becoming noticeably ubiquitous, so much so that Roger confidently predicted that any *Erebia* seen here would be *E. albertanus*. David W. soon proved this wrong by spotting a very fresh male



Piedmont Ringlet (*Erebia meolans*), mainly identifiable by the jet black undersides. This was one of many unusual species spotted by his keen eyes. Mazarine Blue were also spotted by Elaine and John, while more Apollos came gliding over nonchalantly and never really settling. They were probably looking for mates. However, the weather was changing to intermittent sunny spells, which resulted in the butterflies becoming less active, and one very fresh Apollo became very docile and provided a perfect photographic opportunity. Ben and Rachel were intrigued at the vast array of flowers which appeared in some exquisite natural colour schemes and included Wood Pink and Bugloss. At this height, it was interesting to still find Pearly Heath, which generally only flies up to 1200m.



Piedmont Ringlet © J. Dowding



Apollo © J. Dowding

Stop 4: From there we moved up to another disused road loop at 1650m. Flowers were again abundant, with species of Rampion, Scorzonera, Alpine Strawberry, Rock Soapwort, Yellow Rattle, Speedwell, Vetch, Orange Lily and Common Spotted Orchids, all indicating that butterflies would be plentiful and at the same time creating a riot of colour in spite of the gathering cloud. Purple-edged Copper was becoming more frequent, including females, which sometimes had a plain but warm brown upperside, and sometimes an orange flush on the fore-wing. A Silver-studded Blue was seen low in the sward and Peta then found our first Small Tortoiseshell of the trip. We were able to add Heath Fritillary, False Heath Fritillary, Dingy Skipper, Sooty Copper *subalpinus* with its squared off hind-wing, and female Common Blue. From a leafy bough, a Chiffchaff was heard singing and Dave W, always with half an eye on the birdlife, saw a Golden Eagle way off over a ridge. This was the second in as many days, and was seen and enjoyed by most of the group.



Safflower Skipper © J. Dowding



Dave W with Sooty Copper © J. Hayton

Stop 5: After a well deserved lunch, we edged upwards to 1840m, in the environs of a building that appeared to be connected to electricity generation beside a fast flowering river. Here Geranium

sylvaticum was starting to become common on the banks and it was not long before a *Geranium Argus* was spotted, this species nearly always being found sitting on a species of *Geranium*. At this spot we added Small Blue -together with an ovum on the plentiful Kidney Vetch- Pearl-bordered and Glanville Fritillary, Southern Small White, Bath White, Orange Tip, Idas Blue and the first of many sightings of Mountain Clouded Yellow flying endlessly. We had good views of the latter and Roger was able to point out their smudgy markings as a useful identification feature.



Geranium Argus © D. Moore



Idas Blue female © D. Moore

Stop 6: Although the weather was now starting to work against us, we moved up to a sloping flower meadow at 2040. A roadside bank was coloured in a display of flowers including Three-veined Pink, Calamint, Cobweb Houseleek, Kidney Vetch, and there amongst them, a resting Mountain Clouded Yellow. It was good to be able to find a settled individual and we all had a chance to appreciate its beautiful markings up close. We then moved into a meadow full of Alpine Birdsfoot Trefoil, the indefatigable David M disappearing into the distance, but it was clouding over and showed little sign of changing. Dave W again pointed out Golden Eagle, a bird we had seen only an hour or so earlier. As we continued, John and Elaine discovered a black caterpillar and asked for an opinion. The immediate response was “Apollo”, but the yellow markings suggested



Rachel investigating flowers © J. Dowding

that it could also have been Clouded Apollo; later investigations showed it was indeed Apollo. The two Daves decided to climb higher and their reward was a good view of a Chamois.

The flowers this day had been really interesting, especially the orchids, and we were heavily reliant on the expertise of Rachel and Ben for the identification of the less well-known species such as the Lizard Orchid (*Himantoglossum hircinum*) that we saw there. We decided to give it 20 or 30 minutes and offered up silent prayers that the weather would relent, but it was clearly not going to be the case and we returned to Isola village at the base of the road up to Isola 2000, stopping off at the café attached to the camp site for coffee. On the way down, more Purple-edged Coppers were seen and Rachel and Ben discovered a beautiful *Potentilla grandiflora*.



Mountain Clouded Yellow © J. Dowding



Meleager's Blue © I. Small



Apollo larva © J. Hayton

Stop 7: The day was not yet over so we returned to the track behind our hotel where two male Meleager's Blues were seen, to complement the one female seen there previously.

Day 4, Tuesday 8th July

After breakfast, we ventured to the Vallon de Gordolasque, a drive of just over an hour through the Vallon de Vésubie, through the busy town of Saint-Martin-Vésubie and past the ancient village of Belvédère.

Stop 1: We stopped at a track leading off from a hairpin bend to stretch our legs at a small stretch of wayside flowers. The flowers attracted Almond-eyed Ringlet, Sooty Copper, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Speckled Wood and an Idas Blue at the roadside, with its arrow marks on the hind-wings. An Arran Brown was seen and photographed by Ian, the only one to be seen on the tour. Also seen was a beautifully scented Martagon Lily; standing at more than 3ft tall, it made a wonderful beginning to the morning's activities.

Stop 2: The route took us through rather unpromising-looking wooded terrain, but the end of the

road opened into a car parking area and extensive alpine flower meadows at an altitude of 1700m adjacent to the rushing waters of the Gordolasque river. A truly Alpine setting. The flowers were truly superb with Field Gentian, Alpine Birds Foot Trefoil, Thyme-leaved Speedwell, Water Avens, Ornithogalum Pyrenaicum and Bistorts everywhere. Here on every other rock, Cobweb Houseleeks drew the attention of most eyes for their stunning appearance and colour. Globe Flowers and Potentillas completed the scene and naturally drew in lots of lovely butterflies. We were immediately greeted by a wealth of species including Cleopatra, Silver-Studded Blue, Orange Tip, Geranium Argus, Safflower Skipper, Black-veined White, Glanville Fritillary, Brown Argus, Almond Eyed Ringlet, Small Heath, Clouded Yellow, Comma, Sooty Copper, Purple-edged Copper (at least a dozen of these), Adonis Blue, Grizzled Skipper, Mountain Clouded Yellow, Titania's Fritillary, Duke of Burgundy, Small Blue, Tufted Marbled Skipper, Mountain Ringlet (*Erebia epiphron*), of the form *aetheria* which occurs in this region, and Tufted Marbled Skipper.



John and Dave M also spotted a couple of Large Blues and Dave W found a single Balkan Fritillary; the latter's principal distribution is, as its name implies, the Balkan region but it has several localities in this region and is known to occur at Gordolasque. The nature of the terrain was such that many species were identified through field glasses, including Mountain Fritillary and Blind Ringlet, although the Lafranchis book does not show the species as occurring in the Alpes-Maritimes. However, it was seen clearly by both Roger and Julian who both had no doubt about its identity, and the Alpes-Maritimes is a somewhat under-recorded département. Unfortunately, at around 13.00 the heavens opened and the torrential rain obliged us to eat our lunch in the vehicles with the doors closed and discuss the many butterfly species seen and also the bird life which included Alpine Choughs (flying high above), Alpine Swift, Song Thrush, Crag Martin, Serin, Coal Tit, Blackcap and Goldfinches.

Stop 3: We decided to return to our hotel to avoid the localised rain, stopping for coffee in Saint-Martin-Vésubie along the way (John did not disapprove). It was a good decision as blue skies



appeared as we descended and stayed with us the rest of the day. There was a wealth of species flying at the hotel track, including several hairstreaks such as Sloe, Blue-spot and Ilex, although no False Ilex were seen as this tends to be a species favouring the hotter regions. Dave M was on a mission to find Purple Hairstreak and succeeded in finding a particularly purple male, the only one of this species seen on the entire tour. At the base of the track, a Dusky Meadow Brown (*Hyponphele lycaon*) was briefly seen by some



Purple Hairstreak © D. Moore

members of the group but disappeared into the trees before it could be photographed. A male lycaon had been seen and photographed by Roger in the days prior to the tour, but despite examination of the many Meadow Browns (*Maniola jurtina*), no others proved to be *H. lycaon*. Other species seen included Weaver's Fritillary, Pearly Heath, Marbled White, Escher's Blue, Turquoise Blue, Wall, Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Woodland Grayling, Red-underwing Skipper, a worn Baton Blue, Male and female Cleopatra, Woodland Grayling, Great Sooty Satyr, Spotted



Vallon de Gordalessque scenery © J. Dowding

Fritillary, a fine male Meleager's Blue high on a bank reached by Ian, Meadow Brown, good numbers of Purple-shot Coppers, Berger's Clouded Yellow (at least 3 individuals) Mallow Skipper and Dingy Skipper. The ever present Blackcap was also heard.

Day 5, Wednesday 9th July

This was the day of transferring from the first base to the second base at Saint-Martin-d'Entraunes in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, which was approximately equidistant from our two target areas of the Col des Champs and the Col de la Cayolle. It entailed an interesting journey along the narrow winding roads towards Roubion and Roure. En-route, a number of Apollo and Southern White Admiral were seen from the vehicles as we travelled along the windy mountain roads.



Stop 1: We decided to stop at a small road leading off a hairpin bend at 1500m not far from the Col de la Couillolle. There were a few interesting species flying there; although the principal interest here were the orchids. The sward was full of other interesting flower species including Sainfoin, Helianthemum, Rampion, Yellow Rattle, Flax, Ox-Eye, a purple Milkwort, and Common Spotted Orchid, all of which attracted butterflies such as Almond Eyed Ringlet, Black-veined White, and Heath and Marbled Fritillaries. We were about to depart when Peta mentioned that she had seen a Lesser Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera bifolia*) some way down the track and others who had not seen it went back to take a closer look. This was rather fortunate in that as we returned to the vehicle, Elaine had been hanging back a bit by the flowers while others went off investigating the roadside. She had been convinced she'd seen something large and dusky blue coloured flying above the flowers and there as if by magic, we saw a rather large blue in flight. The rather steely blue suggested a male Mountain Alcon Blue (*Maculinea rebeli*) which indeed it was. *M. Rebeli* is now reclassified as the altitude form of Alcon Blue (*Maculinea alcon*), and the erstwhile *Maculinea* group reclassified as *Phengaris*! A few moments later, another, very similar but darker individual, was seen. This one settled conveniently for photographers and then opened up to allow shots of the upperside which confirmed that it was a female *M. rebeli*.



Stop 2: This was at a location about 1km north of the town of Beuil at 1400m. It is a particularly rich area of tracks adjacent to a small river, with flower meadows and several patches of damp ground which attracted many butterflies for puddling. The main attraction, however, was a manure heap



which had existed there for many years and produced liquid manure at the edges which was an absolute magnet for puddling blues, grizzled skippers and fritillaries. At around 11.30 am. the number of butterflies puddling was building up but at the same time the sky was beginning to cloud over. In one patch of the manure heap there were around thirty butterflies puddling including our first sighting of Eros Blue (*Polyommatus eros*) which has a very similar underside to Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*) but has a pale shimmering blue upperside. There were numerous species of blues the most evident being Amanda's Blue on account of its greater size. Common Blue was conspicuous by its absence. There was a lot of Tufted Vetch around, the food plant of Amanda's



Blue and a female was also seen there. Other species included Tufted Marbled Skipper, Safflower Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell, Almond Eyed Ringlet, Adonis Blue, and Escher's Blue. Away from the manure heap among the fabulous flowers, we found Purple-edged Copper, False Heath Fritillary, and our first sighting of Chestnut Heath (*Coenonympha glycerion*) which was distinguishable in flight from the commoner Small Heath and Pearly Heath by its chestnut brown colouring; both the nominate form of *glycerion* and the form *bertolis* that does not have hind-wing ocelli, were present. By the vehicles, Dave W found a Knapweed Fritillary that perfectly exhibited the classic identification features of this species by having centrally placed deep orange spots in the post discal band on the hind-wing undersides.



Eros Blue © I. Small



Amanda's Blue © D. Moore



Flowers near Beuil © J. Dowding



Chestnut Heath © I. Small

By 1.00 p.m. the sky had clouded over so we adjourned to an adjacent camp site for coffee. The staff there kindly permitted us to take our picnic lunch at their tables where we were able to relax after what had been a very intense morning's butterfly watching. Afterwards, we headed toward Saint-Martin-d'Entraunes which would be our base for the next few days. It was not an entirely straightforward journey as we encountered the dreaded Route Barrée sign and were obliged to make a diversion through the town of Péone.

Stop 3: We elected to head for the flower meadows on the lower reaches leading to the Col des Champs and stopped first at a flower meadow at around 1500m. Very little was flying there because of the overcast sky but as it turned out, the abundant flowers of White Melilot, Small Sainfoin, a red Kidney Vetch, Dianthus Sp. Tufted Vetch, Yellow Rattle, Red Clover sp. Mountain Germander and Alpine Rockrose held a few surprises. A lone Niobe Fritillary which Dave M. had noticed flying around the trees came down and was then found roosting and sufficiently tame to

allow everyone to photograph it; it even started to open its wings, enabling shots of the upperside. This one appeared to lack the tiny basal spot (it was later discovered in the photos) but did have the dark lines differentiating it clearly from High Brown. The pale silver panels on its undersides shone like silvery pearls in the light. Then another was found along with a number of Black-veined Whites and Marbled fritillaries, all resting on the flowers and quite torpid. Birds included Tawny Owl, Spotted Flycatcher and Crested Tit. We would return to this field the following day



Niobe Fritillary © D. Moore

Stop 4: We moved upward slightly to a sloping flower meadow near Val Pelens at around 1650m. By now it had become overcast although we did manage to see Red-underwing Skipper and Eros Blue clinging to a stem. Eros was only identified because one of its hind-wings was curled, allowing us a view of the cell spot on the underside. We would return here another time but our long and interesting day was over and all that remained was for us to return to the hotel for dinner and a relaxing evening, musing over the day's finds. It was over dinner that we learned that on the route up toward the Col, Rachel and Ben had spotted a sloping meadow where Pyramidal Orchids were numerous, together with Cross Gential. Rachel showed us her flower photos and proudly displayed a picture of the plant, peppered white with over 20 Mountain Alcon Blue eggs!



Photographing 'Niobe' © J. Hayton



Red-underwing Skipper © J. Small



Black-veined White © J. Hayton

Day 6, Thursday 10th July

As we had two complete days in this region and planned to spend a day at each Col, the météo was promising for today (at least until lunchtime) and we decided to spend the first day at Cayolle as this was expected to deliver the greatest diversity. Over a typically French breakfast of coffee, croissants and jam, we discovered that the two Dave's had already been up with the Lark looking

for butterflies on a patch of thistles close to the hotel. There they had managed to find the Holy Trinity of Fritillaries, with High Brown, Dark Green and Niobe.

Stop 1: The sun was shining as we travelled past swathes of Martagon Lilies growing on the roadside banks to our first stop at 1900m. We arrived below a little bridge at around 10:30 and waited for the butterflies to warm up. Titania's Fritillary was among the first to become active and yet another Mountain Alcon Blue was seen, in contradiction to its reputation for being rather rare. This one was a male. At this height, the Pearly Heaths were replaced by Darwin's Heaths (*Coenonympha darwiniana*), as principally characterised by the narrow and non-dentate white band on the hind-wings. Pearly Heaths do not fly at this altitude, but the situation is muddled by the interbreeding of *C. darwiniana* and Alpine Heath (*Coenonympha gardetta*).

Almond-eyed Ringlets were seen flying over the colourful sward which was full of Nottingham



Catchfly, Ononis, Bladder Campion, Sainfoin, Rampions, Mountain Cornflower, Matted Globularia and a Star of Bethlehem. Here, Ian and Dave M. discovered the day's first Pearl-bordered Fritillary. A single male Osiris Blue was found; presumably it was using the plentiful Sainfoin growing there. Regarding the *Pyrgus* grizzled skippers, we were confident of recording Large Grizzled Skipper (*Pyrgus alveus*) and Olive Skipper (*Pyrgus serratulae*), the former on the basis of its size and upperside markings (and a view of the underside), the latter being confirmed by the hind-wing underside markings. It was heart-warming to see the degree of interest in the identification of *Pyrgus*.



A little later, Dave W. spotted a Marmot lolloping up the slope behind the meadow and more butterflies appeared as the sun warmed the flowers. Mountain Argus and Duke of Burgundy put in an appearance along with Glanville, Marsh and also False Heath Fritillary, some of the latter almost as dark as the Dark Rampions which Peta had identified in the same area. On the little path leading into the meadow, Small Blues were now found puddling.

After about an hour and a half in the meadow, we decided to follow the little path into coniferous woodland where we found sunny glades full of flowers beside the river. The dappled light loving butterflies seemed very happy indeed in this spot, with Speckled Wood, Orange Tip and Mountain Green-veined White showing. Flowers of note included Round-headed Orchid, Elderflower Orchid



and Fragrant Orchid. There were patches of Geraniums also and naturally, *Geranium Argus* was observed flitting between the flowers along with the Alpine form of Sooty Copper. As we made our way back to our starting point, a large Grizzled Skipper was photographed. Bird-wise, a pair of Stonechats were seen by Rachel.



Stop 2: As the metéo had indicated that time may be limited, we headed for a spot on the north side of the Col at around 2000m and adjacent to a river, parking our vehicles by a small bridge.

The track alongside the river had numerous spots where rivulets were trickling down producing damp patches and these proved to be a magnet. Glandon Blue were numerous and a single male Silvery Argus was spotted among them. Here, there were a few Small Apollo floating around and as the weather clouded over they did slow down to permit photographs. A couple of Queen of Spain Fritillaries were flying actively but settling occasionally, plus False Heath Fritillary, Mountain Green-veined White, Mountain Dappled White and Dingy Skipper. On close inspection of the numerous blues here and on the grassy slopes, we also found Osiris Blue, Eros Blue, Large Blue and Chapman's Blue. We strongly suspected that Moorland Clouded Yellow was flying non-stop, but could not categorically identify it to include it on the list of species seen. Making our way back down the slope to the vehicles for lunch, we had our first and only sighting of a Northern Wall which is very similar to the ubiquitous Large Wall but can be identified for certain by the discal line on the upperside hind-wing. Mountain Dappled White were seen at the bridge.

Flowers here had been superb once again, particularly in the marshy area below the bridge bordered by trees where Wood Forget-me-Not, *Pinguicula leptocoris*, a species of Butterwort with beautiful Purple flowers and rolled up leaf edges, was found by Rachel, and *Valeriana Aliuncula* or

Entire-leaved Valerian was discovered by Peta. Birds were superb too and included Griffon Vulture, Kestrels, Alpine Choughs and Peregrines flying over the rocks and peaks. By the Bridge, Dave W. saw a Dipper. Mammal-wise, a Chamois was seen dancing on a patch of snow across the valley by Elaine and John and was photographed.



Glandon Blue © J. Dowding



Queen of Spain © J. Hayton



Small Apollo © J. Dowding



Chapman's Blue © J. Hayton

Stop 3: On the way back to Saint-Martin we stopped by a bank above the road at a hairpin bend at 2255m. The weather was by now against us but it gave us a little breather. Some of our group simply lay there relaxing amongst the colourful flowers which were carpeting the mountainside. The intrepid David M managed to locate a few chilly Shepherds Fritillaries nestling in a sheltered burn, plus a large Pyrgus that did not wait to be identified, while Rachel, Peta and Ben climbed a very good flowery bank. Flowers found included Frog Orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*), Elder-flowered Orchid (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*), and the sweet scented, rose tinted, corneliana sub-species of Black Vanilla Orchid, together with large Trumpet Gentian, Spring Gentian, Alpine Geum and Pyrenean Buttercup.

Stop 4: We made our way back down from the Col to another little bridge with flowery banks. Here, more Heath Fritillary and Geranium Argus were found, along with Mountain Green-veined White and Marbled White. A Whinchat was seen before we decided to make one last stop for the day. Some opted for coffee while others investigated the flower meadow we'd visited earlier in the day. Dave M found mating Large Blues and a female Scarce Copper. At the little Relais where the rest of the group caught up with the others for coffee, Short Toed Eagle and Black Redstart were seen before we returned to the hotel.

Day 7, Friday 11th July

Our plan, discussed over a leisurely breakfast (as was the norm), was to work our way slowly up to the Col des Champs, stopping at various places on the way.

Stop 1: We stopped first at the meadow at around 1450m where we had previously seen the beautiful Niobe Fritillary. The weather was good and this was evidenced by the much greater number of butterflies active there and a lizard basking on a rock as we entered the meadow. An Amanda's Blue caught Dave W's attention and he, Ian and Julian photographed it. Others were busy looking at Chestnut Heaths among numerous fritillaries, blues and Scarce Coppers. John and Elaine watched a Large Wall Brown patrolling the rocks and also found Mountain Alcon Blue. Dave W latched onto a Wood White before moving off on his own in a successful search for Dark Green Fritillary. Other butterflies seen included Spotted Fritillary, Safflower Skipper and Large Skipper.



Stop 2: Working our way up toward the Col, we next stopped at around 1850m by a flowery meadow. Here we saw Meadow Fritillary, Purple-edged and Purple-shot Coppers, Blue-spot Hairstreak, a female Escher's Blue, and perhaps most surprisingly, a very fresh Green Hairstreak. It had been a surprising feature of the tour to those used to UK flight periods, but relatively fresh Green Hairstreaks and Orange Tips were being encountered regularly in July at high altitudes.

Along the roadside, species of Harebell and pink Bistort together with Erigeron neglectus (a mauve and yellow daisy) added a riot of colour. Rachel and Ben soon spotted Fragrant Orchid, very sweet smelling as its name suggested, even though partly going over. Silver-studded Blues -were seen right at the roadside along with Mountain Argus, Escher's Blue and a probable Mountain Clouded Yellow.



Stop 3: We had now arrived at the Col des Champs at 2080m. This is a relatively unknown Col with magnificent scenery in all directions. It was a marvellous place. Roger informed us that the pastures are grazed only in the warmer months because in winter the snow makes the place inhospitable and totally inaccessible.



Col des Champs panorama © J. Hayton

It was not considered to be particularly rich in butterfly numbers or species, but Roger said that he had once briefly seen Cynthia's Fritillary on the slopes here but only once in numerous visits. That said, with sun high, a glorious vista all around and the sound of singing Skylarks, the butterfly gods must have been smiling on us because we saw two males Cynthia's almost immediately which allowed a brief photographic opportunity before disappearing. A search began and eventually most of our group managed to see this most fascinating butterfly, with its marked sexual dimorphism. The males appear much brighter with white, orange and black markings, and the females looking slightly more sombre with their Marsh Fritillary like apparel. One of the females was even egg-laying. So much for predictions!



Cynthia's Fritillary female © J. Hayton



Cynthia's Fritillary male © D. Moore

In the sheltered gullies we also found several Glandon Blues, a number of often-tiny but very hardy, Small Blues and a rarely-seen female Silvery Argus. We also saw our first and only Painted Lady here, spotted by Elaine. The slopes and meadows were swathed in Ranunculus, Bistort, Rampion and Alpine Birdsfoot Trefoil, here and there interspersed with orchids, particularly Frog Orchid. As we moved down into the meadow, we found other interesting butterflies including Small Tortoiseshell, Grizzled Skipper, Safflower Skipper, Large Blue, Mazarine Blue, Marsh Fritillary, Glanville Fritillary, Almond Eyed Ringlet, Black-veined White, and Large White.

We had our picnic lunch in the small car parking area at the Col against the backdrop of distant mountain peaks in all directions, with no sign of human activity or influence anywhere, David W and Ben spotted some Choughs flying overhead, making their characteristic calls. It was noteworthy

that we saw few Vanessa species on the tour, only ones and twos of Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell, and no sightings of Peacock at all.



Glandon and friends © D. Moore



Glanville Fritillary © D. Moore

Stop 4: From there we moved back down to the meadow at 1650m above Val Pelens, also visited on day 5. The track leading into the woodlands had been heavily sheep-grazed but the main flower meadow was untouched and full of wildflowers including Tufted Vetch, Rampions, Ox-Eye Daisy, a purple Milkwort species and many more. The sward was very high, but it didn't deter the butterflies once the sun was shining again. Among the species flying here were Mountain Alcon Blue, Escher's Blue, Adonis Blue, Silver-studded Blue, Black-veined White, Meadow Fritillary, Titania's Fritillary, Weaver's Fritillary, Glanville Fritillary, Duke of Burgundy, Purple-edged and Purple-shot Coppers, Chestnut Heath, and a new species for the holiday, an Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper found by Dave W which exhibited the classic 'clothes peg' markings on the upperside hind-wings.

By now we were ready for a leisurely refreshment break at the one of the auberges, where coffee, ice-cream or beer was taken. Once satiated, Ben and Dave soon had their bins focused on a Golden Eagle. This left us with just one more stop. The meadow which Rachel and Ben had visited earlier in the week.



Alcon Blue ova on Cross Gentian © D. Moore

Stop 5: At the meadow, full of Pyramidal Orchids and a solitary Frog Orchid, we finally had a chance to see the Cross Gentian splattered with Mountain Alcon Blue Eggs. A few Knapweed Fritillaries and Black-veined Whites were still flying and John found and photographed the only Damon Blue of the holiday. We returned to the hotel for one last evening, where, over a wonderful dinner, we checked through a few more photographs taken during the week and reminisced about some of the wonderful things we had seen.

Day 8, Saturday 12th July

Our week's holiday had come to an end and the group said their farewells and then set off not long after sunrise, for the hour and a half's drive to Nice airport .

Footnote:

A total of 119 species were seen in total during the tour by the group. Although not everyone saw every species (David M has one still on his must-see list), everyone saw at least 105. The number at the end of the tour was 119 but subsequent examination of John's photos showed Damon Blue (*Agrodiaetus damon*) which brought the total up to 120. David M had seen a particularly bright-eyed *Erebia* which looked to be a good candidate Bright-eyed Ringlet (*Erebia oeme*); however, on subsequent examination by a French expert on *E. oeme*, it was identified as the bright-eyed (i.e. with clear white centres to the ocelli) *tyrsus* form of the ubiquitous Almond-eyed Ringlet (*Erebia alberganus*), so numerous that it had not merited special attention in this report. The key differentiating feature is that in *tyrsus* the red patches surrounding the ocelli are still lanceolate (almond-shaped) whereas for *E. oeme* they are rather rounder and not quite as markedly lanceolate. Also Lafranchis in his book 'Butterflies of Europe, New Field Guide and Key' shows *E. oeme* as not occurring in the southern Alps and not recorded from the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence or the Alpes-Maritimes.

As previously noted we had not included Moorland Clouded Yellow on the list. Even though the males could be identified with confidence in flight by its clear yellow colour and distinctive wide black borders, as compared to the duskier pale yellow of the male Mountain Clouded Yellow, it flew incessantly and did not settle anywhere to enable us to get a definitive identification, and has therefore not been included in the list.

Acknowledgements

Greenwings would like to thank all the guests for their wonderful support, enthusiasm and humour throughout the trip and for their help in compiling the species list and photo galleries. Special thanks also to Roger, for his dedication, patience and energy, identifying almost every single butterfly!

Photo gallery overleaf



Niobe Fritillary © D. Moore



Purple-edged Copper © D. Moore



Escher's Blue © D. Moore



Bath White © I. Small



Black-veined White © I. Small



Pearly Heath © D. Moore









Darwin's Heath © D. Wright



Purple-edged Copper eurydame © D. Wright



Blue-spot Hairstreak © D. Wright



Purple-edged Copper © D. Wright

Small Apollo © D. Moore



Shepherd's Fritillary © D. Moore





Mountain Green-veined White © D. Moore



Shepherd's Fritillary © D. Moore



Spotted Fritillary © J. Hayton



Poplar Admiral © I. Small



Brown Argus © I. Small



Chestnut Heath © I. Small



Cynthia's Fritillary © I. Small



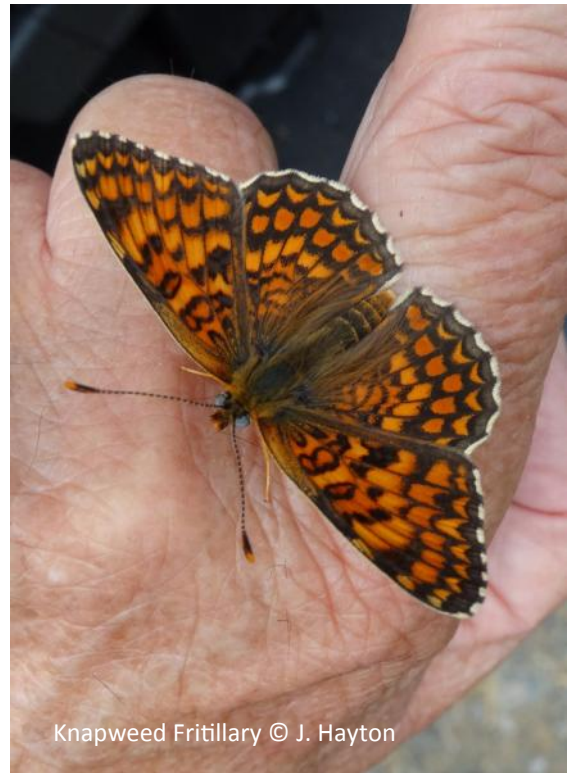
Great Banded Grayling © D. Moore



En route to the track © J. Hayton



Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper © D. Moore



Knapweed Fritillary © J. Hayton



Berger's Clouded Yellow © D. Moore





Chestnut Heath © D. Moore



Cynthia's Fritillary © D. Moore



Cynthia's Fritillary © D. Moore



John and Black-veined White © J. Dowding



Mazarine Blue © D. Moore



Pearly Heath © I. Small





Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper © I. Small



Olive Skipper © I. Small





Safflower Skipper © J. Hayton



Spotted Fritillary © I. Small



Safflower Skipper © J. Hayton



Duke of Burgundy © I. Small



Cynthia's Fritillary © I. Small

Sooty Copper © D. Moore



False Heath Fritillary © I. Small







Small Blue © I. Small



Zygaena viciae © I. Small



Zygaena trifolii © I. Small



Zygaena transalpina © I. Small



Zygaena osterodensis © I. Small



Zygaena nevadensis © I. Small







Scarce Copper © J. Hayton



Purple-edged Copper © J. Hayton



Apollo © J. Hayton





Glandon Blue © I. Small

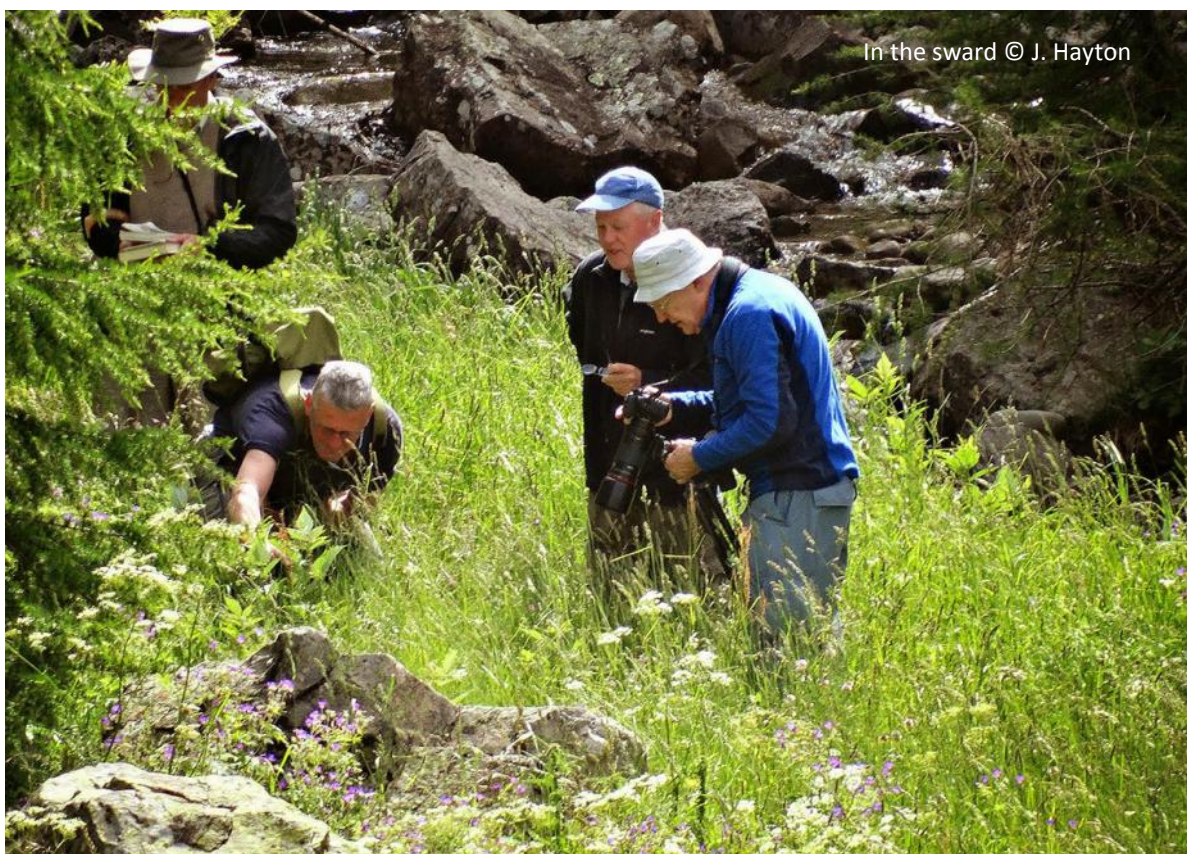


On the track © J. Dowding





Col des Champs © D. Moore



In the sward © J. Hayton







Heath Fritillary © I. Small



Heath Fritillary pair, female with dark makings © J. Hayton





Blue Saxifrage © R. Hay



Common Houseleek © R. Hay

Field Gentian © R. Hay



Black Vanilla Orchid ssp. corneliana © R. Hay







Pyramidal Orchids © R. Hay



Three- veined Pink © R. Hay



Lesser Butterfly Orchid © R. Hay



Broomrape © R. Hay



Lizard Orchid © R. Hay



Landscape view © R. Hay



Spring Gentian © R. Hay



Species list - Butterflies		
No.		
	Skippers	Family - Hesperiidae
1.	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>
2.	Tufted Marbled Skippper	<i>Carcharodus flocciferus</i>
3.	Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>
4.	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>
5.	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>
6.	Large Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus alveu</i>
7.	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>
8.	Safflower Skipper	<i>Pyrgus carthami</i>
9.	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>
10.	Olive Skipper	<i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>
11.	Red-underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>
12.	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>
13.	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineolus</i>
14.	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>
	Blues	Family - Lycaenidae
15.	Glandon Blue	<i>Agriades glandon</i>
16.	Damon Blue	<i>Agrodiaetus damon</i>
17.	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
18.	Mountain Argus	<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>
19.	Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>
20.	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
21.	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>
22.	Osiris Blue	<i>Cupido osiris</i>
23.	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>
24.	Geranium Argus	<i>Eumedonia eumedon</i>
25.	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>
26.	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
27.	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>
28.	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>
29.	Large Blue	<i>Maculinea arion</i>
30.	Mountain Alcon Blue	<i>Maculinea rebeli</i>
31.	Meleager's Blue	<i>Meleageria daphnis</i>
32.	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>
33.	Idas Blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>
34.	Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>
35.	Turquoise Blue	<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>
36.	Eros Blue	<i>Polyommatus eros</i>
37.	Escher's Blue	<i>Polyommatus escheri</i>
38.	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
39.	Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>
40.	Silvery Argus	<i>Pseudoaricia nicias</i>
41.	Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>
	Coppers	Family - Lycaenidae
42.	Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>
43.	Purple-edged Copper	<i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>
44.	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
45.	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>
46.	Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>

Species list - Butterflies cont'd

	Hairstreaks	Family - Lycaenidae
47.	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
48.	Purple Hairstreak	<i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>
49.	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium acaciae</i>
50.	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium ilicis</i>
51.	Blue-spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium spini</i>
	Fritillaries	Family - Nymphalidae
52.	High Brown Fritillary	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>
53.	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>
54.	Niobe Fritillary	<i>Argynnis niobe</i>
55.	Silver Washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>
56.	Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Boloria dia</i>
57.	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>
58.	Balkan Fritillary	<i>Boloria graeca</i>
59.	Mountain Fritillary	<i>Boloria napaea</i>
60.	Shepherd's Fritillary	<i>Boloria pales</i>
61.	Titania's Fritillary	<i>Boloria titania</i>
62.	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>
63.	Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>
64.	Cynthia's Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas cynthia</i>
65.	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
66.	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>
67.	False Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea diamina</i>
68.	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>
69.	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>
70.	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melicta athalia</i>
71.	Provençal Fritillary	<i>Melicta dejone</i>
72.	Meadow Fritillary	<i>Melicta parthenoides</i>
	Aristocrats	Family - Nymphalidae
73.	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
74.	Poplar Admiral	<i>Limenitis populi</i>
75.	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>
76.	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>
77.	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
78.	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
	Swallowtails and Apollos	Family - Papilionidae
79.	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
80.	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
81.	Apollo	<i>Parnassius apollo</i>
82.	Small Apollo	<i>Parnassius phoebus</i>
	Whites & Yellows	Family - Pieridae
83.	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
84.	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>
85.	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>
86.	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
87.	Mountain Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias phicomone</i>
88.	Mountain Dappled White	<i>Euchloe simplonia</i>
89.	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>
90.	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
91.	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>
92.	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
93.	Mountain Green-veined White	<i>Pieris bryoniae</i>

Species list - Butterflies cont'd

94.	Southern Small White	<i>Pieris mannii</i>
95.	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>
96.	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
97.	Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>
	Metalmarks	Family - Riodinidae
98.	Duke of Burgundy (formerly Satyridae)	<i>Hamearis lucina</i> Family - Nymphalidae
99.	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>
100.	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>
101.	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>
102.	Darwin's Heath	<i>Coenonympha darwiniana</i>
103.	Alpine Heath	<i>Coenonympha gardetta</i>
104.	Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>
105.	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
106.	Almond-eyed Ringlet	<i>Erebia albertanus</i>
107.	Mountain Ringlet	<i>Erebia epiphron</i>
108.	Arran Brown	<i>Erebia ligea</i>
109.	Piedmont Ringlet	<i>Erebia meolans</i>
110.	Blind Ringlet	<i>Erebia pharte</i>
111.	Woodland Grayling	<i>Hipparchia fagi</i>
112.	Dusky Meadow Brown	<i>Hyponephele lycaon</i>
113.	Large Wall	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>
114.	Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
115.	Northern Wall	<i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>
116.	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
117.	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>
118.	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
119.	Great Sooty Satyr	<i>Satyrus ferula</i>

Species list - Burnets by Ian Small

	Burnets	Family - Zygaenidae
1.	New Forest Burnet	<i>Zygaena vicae</i>
2.		<i>Zygaena nevadensis</i>
3.		<i>Zygaena osterodensis</i>
4.	Five-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena trifolii</i>
5.	Southern six-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena transalpina</i>

Species list - Birds

		Family - Accipitridae
1.	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
2.	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circus gallicus</i>
3.	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
4.	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
		Family - Falconidae
5.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
6.	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
		Family - Strigidae
7.	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
		Family - Fringillidae
8.	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
9.	Serín	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
		Family - Emberizidae
10.	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>

Species list - Birds cont'd

Family - Passeridae		
11.	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Family - Turdidae		
12.	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
13.	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
14.	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
15.	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
16.	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
Family - Paridae		
17.	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>
18.	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>
Family - Sylviidae		
19.	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
20.	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
21.	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
22.	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
Family - Phylloscopidae		
23.	Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
Family - Motacillidae		
24.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Family - Musciacapidae		
25.	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
26.	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>
Family - Cinclidae		
27.	European Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
Family - Columbidae		
28.	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Family - Alaudidae		
29.	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Family - Apodidae		
30.	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
31.	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Family - Hirundinidae		
32.	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Family - Corvidae		
33.	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>
34.	Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>