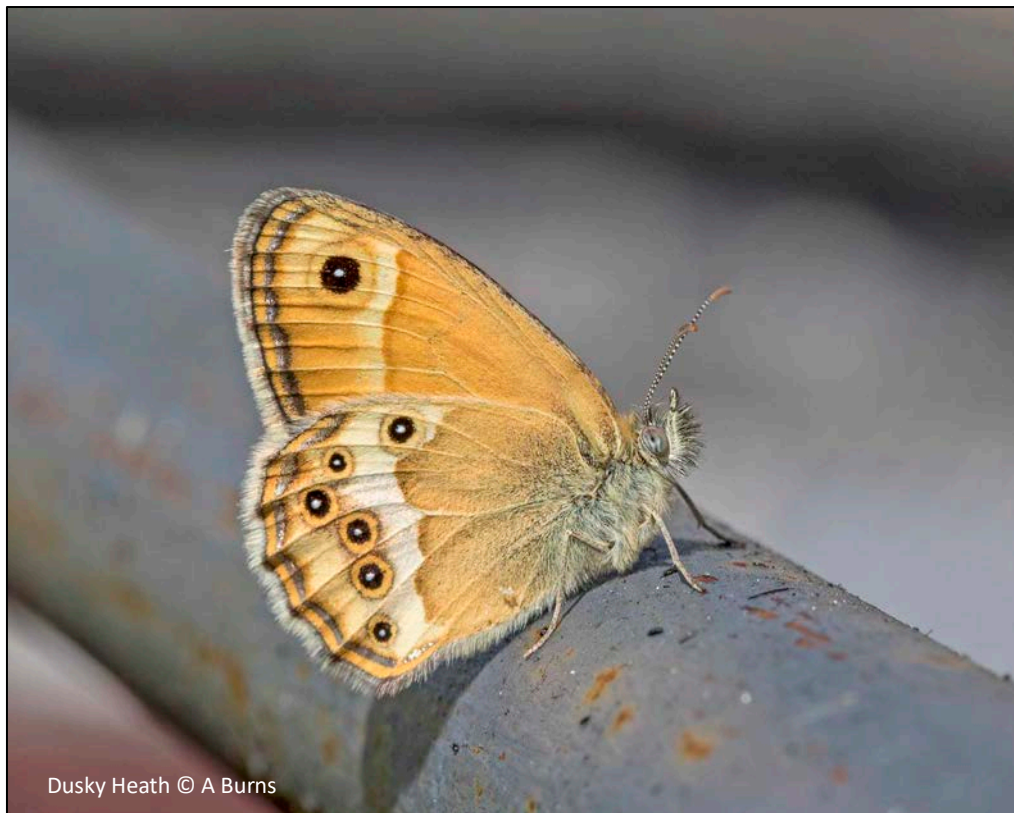


Butterflies of the French Alps 2018
Holiday Report 30 June – 7 July
Led by David Moore and Dr Yiannis Christofides



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Introduction

This butterfly holiday was based in two neighbouring valleys in France– the Tinée valley in the heart of the Mercantour National Park and then the Var valley which extends into the Alpes de Haute Provence. The holiday was led by David Moore and Yiannis Christofides. We stayed at privately run hotels in the village of Rimplas for the first part of the week then another in St Martin d'Entraunes. The guests joining us were Andrew Burns, Mark Cwynarski, Peter Gravett, Dave Wright, Paul Townsend, Ian Lockwood Hall, Susie Kimber, Alan Daws, Roger Newton & Rob Parker.

What follows is a daily diary for the week, followed by gallery and species lists.

Day 1, Saturday 30th June: Arrival at Nice airport, transfer to hotel followed by short walk on the forest track in Rimplas.

Day 2, Sunday 1st July: Col de la Lombarde, with several stops on the way

Day 3, Monday 2nd July: Around Rimplas

Day 4, Tuesday 3rd July: St Dalmas le Selvage

Day 5, Wednesday 4th July: Beuil, Les Launes and arrival at hotel in St Martin d'Entraunes

Day 6, Thursday 5th July: Estenc and Col de la Cayolle

Day 7, Friday 6th July: Col des Champs

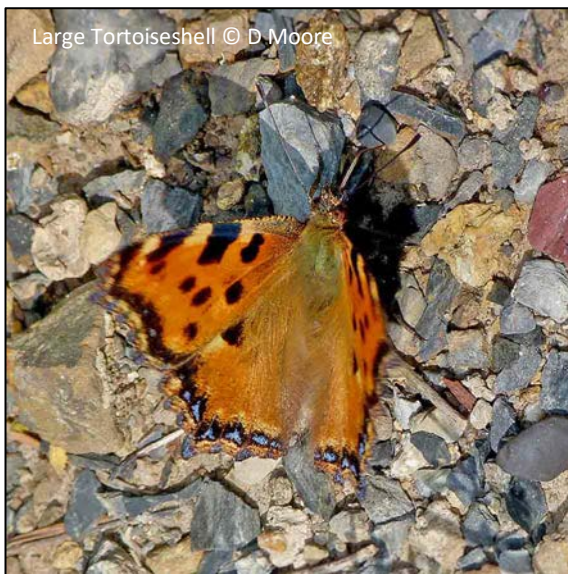
Day 8, Saturday 7th July: Return to UK.



Day 1, Saturday 30th June

After collecting our guests from Nice whose flights were on schedule we got away promptly and were on the fabled forest track at the rear of the hostellerie in Rimplas prior to 4pm. Two hours later, an impressive 48 species had been collectively seen, including Marbled Skipper, Baton Blue, Chequered Blue, Escher's Blue, Ilex & False Ilex Hairstreak, Marsh Fritillary, Spotted Fritillary, Great Banded Grayling, and most pleasingly, Large Tortoiseshell. The latter species is one that this trip normally misses due to the timing, but with this year's season appearing to be late, this and many other species that would normally have finished their flight period were still around.

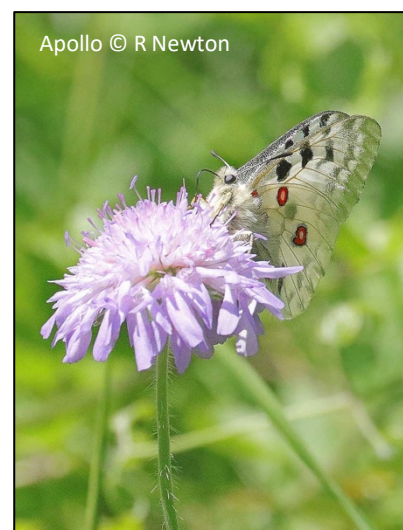
The hostellerie's wonderful host, Stephane Caillot, laid on an excellent first night's meal and the group retired to bed keen for more butterflies the following day.



Day 2, Sunday 1st July

Traditionally, guests get to relax around the hotel in Rimplas on the first full day of this holiday but this time the guide opted to ascend to Col de la Lombarde as the weather forecast for the day was largely warm and sunny at altitude. The relaxing day could wait till Monday with temperatures set to drop a bit.

So, the group was on its way at 9.30am, with the first stop being a roadside pull in at 1,250m approximately 10 minutes' drive from Isola. Just about the first butterfly seen was a wonderful Apollo, but with the shadows still not yet completely retreated from the location, not much else of note was seen, except for a fine sighting of a Poplar Admiral fluttering on the far river bank, confirmed by Susie who was



using her binoculars to good effect. At this point, the venerable Roger Gibbons, who led the first two years' trips to this region, arrived and chatted to some of the group for a while before moving on. His advice regarding the col itself was later to prove most useful (if a little disappointing).

The next stop was at around 1,600m, and the late season was immediately apparent as compared to the same visit in 2017, there were precious few butterflies flying. Mazarine Blue was sighted, along with Almond Eyed Ringlet, Silver Studded Blue, Pearl-bordered & Glanville Fritillary. The group moved up to 1,800m just short of the ski-ing village of Isola 2000 where the week's only Sooty Copper was seen, however Roger called the guide from the col at 2,350m to warn the group that hardly any butterflies were about at that altitude and that the car park was full of Sunday afternoon bikers.



With that in mind, the group descended to 1,700m to encounter two dozen Geranium Argus in a grassy meadow next to a stream where lunch was taken. Another final stop was made at the first site and a new meadow was explored which had many butterflies on the wing, including Large Wall, Cleopatra, Safflower and Marbled Skipper & Amanda's Blue.

Upon the return to Rimplas, there was still more time to explore the many butterflies of the forest track and Alan came up with the day's finest sighting, with an image of a Long-tailed Blue, the only one to be seen during the week.

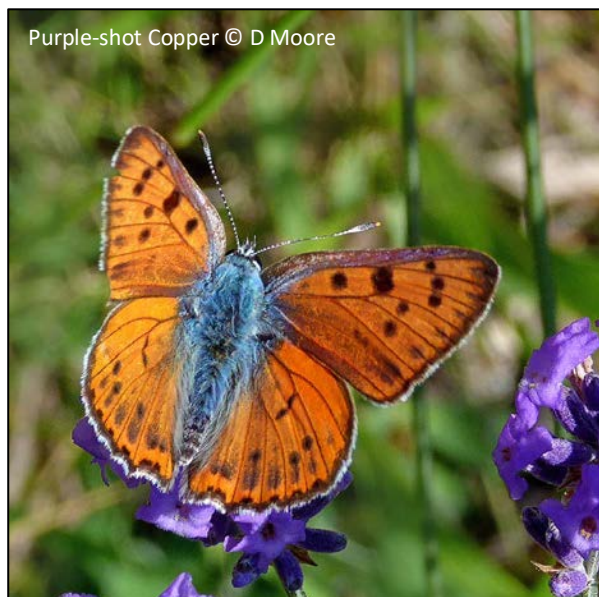
Day 3, Monday 2nd July, Around Rimplas

The day started with a trip up to the hilltop fort which forms part of the Maginot Line defences, and is worthy of a visit in its own right. However, being a high point in the area, the vegetation attracts plenty of hill-topping butterflies, with both Swallowtail and Scarce Swallowtail regular visitors.

Another interesting species up here is Dusky Heath, and the guests all got good views of this delightful little satyrid, which was buzzing



about in company with Ilex & False Ilex Hairstreak, Great Banded Grayling, Purple Shot Copper and many more. Cleopatras, particularly females, were extremely numerous nectaring on the valerian near the top of the hill, and several Great Sooty Satyrs put in an appearance, along with other desirables as Clouded Yellow, Large Wall, Woodland Grayling, Sloe Hairstreaks and Baton Blue.



In the afternoon, the group ventured to the very highest point of Rimplas and made their way over a rocky path to a series of old terraces which had been reclaimed by nature to form a patchwork of meadows. Notable finds here were Bath White & a colony of White Letter Hairstreaks by a group of elm trees. Pleasingly, several of the latter descended to nectar on the white flowers present nearby providing the group with excellent, close up views.

There was still time to descend down the forest track in the late afternoon, where such delights as Marbled Skipper, Lulworth Skipper, Green Underside Blue, Escher's Blue, Provençal Fritillary, Blue Spot Hairstreak, Weaver's Fritillary, Southern White Admiral, Berger's Clouded Yellow & even Poplar Admiral were sighted.

A sign of how late the season was, came in the form of Provençal Short-Tailed Blue, which is usually long gone by early July, and a faded Marsh Fritillary which is equally unexpected at this time of year at 1,000m. Green Hairstreak was also to be found.

Andrew saw the week's only Cardinal, whilst several of the group saw what looked to be a different type of Grayling. Swiss & Rock Graylings tend to look almost identical to Woodland



Grayling, and are consequently hard to separate, but those who saw the butterfly felt that it didn't look like a Woodland Grayling, although without capturing and closely examining the insect it's impossible to be sure. The images were later posted and agreement was reached that the butterfly was *Hipparchia semele* – Grayling.



Green Hairstreak © D Moore



Faded Marsh Fritillary © D Moore

With the weather proving cooler and cloudier and only the trip towards col de la Lombarde completed, it was encouraging that after a mere two full days the group sightings tally had already reached 86. Other species seen today included Spotted, Meadow, Knapweed, Heath, False Heath, Queen of Spain, Marbled and Silver-washed Fritillaries; Amanda's, Mazarine, Holly, Small, Adonis, Common, and Chequered Blues, Brown Argus and White-letter Hairstreak; Large, Safflower, Southern Grizzled, Red-underwing, Essex and Small Skippers; Large Tortoiseshell, Comma, Red Admiral and Painted Lady; Black-veined White, Brimstone, Green-veined and Wood Whites; Small Heath, Pearly Heath, Marbled White, and Speckled Wood.



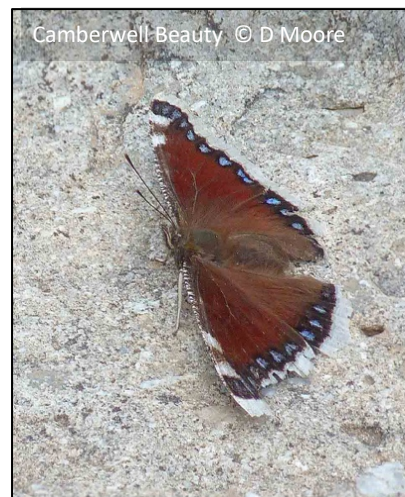
White-letter Hairstreak © A Daws

Day 4, Tuesday 3rd July – St Dalmas le Selvage

Today's forecast wasn't great so the group made the most of the morning by visiting a delightful array of grassy meadows in the charming little village of St Dalmas le Selvage.

We met up again with Roger Gibbons, who was on his way north to the Queyras region, and he worked his magic by pointing out a Camberwell Beauty which, thankfully, remained in the same area for most of the morning and was eventually seen (and photographed) by almost everybody.

Nearby was a damp spot with some concrete mix which attracted several different species for minerals: Safflower & Olive Skipper, plus Heath AND False Heath Fritillary side by



Camberwell Beauty © D Moore

side. There were also, at one point, several Black-veined Whites and FIVE Swallowtails enjoying what was on offer, but sadly, workmen arrived with vehicles and frightened the butterflies away.



Osiris Blue was identified (this species is usually between broods at this time of year), and others put in their first appearance – the meadows contained Chestnut Heaths, whilst in one of the fields there were several Mountain Alcon Blues present, with the occasional fly by from Large Blue.

Normally, the afternoon site visit on this day of the Greenwings holiday is Col de la Bonette, but with cloudy skies this was deemed impossible. Instead, a stop was made by the river on the way back to Rimplas where Ringlets and a few Marbled Fritillaries, were observed.

Upon returning to the hotel, the weather had closed in and the track was misty and wet. However, it soon cleared and intrepid Andrew joined the guide and was rewarded by the week's only Turquoise Blue, posing beautifully on dandelion flower.

Other species seen today included Marbled, Dingy, Red-underwing, Lulworth, Essex and Small Skippers; Small, Mazarine, Silver-studded, Amanda's, Adonis, Escher's and Common Blues; Green and Ilex Hairstreaks; Weaver's Pearl-bordered, Meadow and Glanville Fritillaries; Comma, Painted Lady, Scarce Swallowtail, Orange Tip, Berger's Clouded Yellow, Cleopatra, Brimstone, Great Banded Grayling, Pearly Heath, Great Sooty Satyr and Wall Brown.

Day 5, Wednesday 4th July, Transit day – to Beuil and beyond

Having said our farewells to Stephane and his team in Rimplas, the group set out in the direction of Beuil, passing through the delightful clifftop villages of Roure and Roubion. A quick stop at the col saw the week's first Eros Blue, whilst upon arrival at Beuil, the first thing the guide noticed was that the river was flowing fairly readily; normally on these trips, it is down to a trickle or completely dried out!

The good news was that the dung heap was still there, although with far fewer visitors than in years gone by. That said, the delightful Amanda's Blue posed well for images and in the field behind the dung heap, there were good numbers of both male and female Mountain Alcon Blues, with the gentians being liberally covered with eggs. Almond Eyed Ringlets were around in fair numbers, but there was a distinct lack of the larger Fritillaries, which was a disappointment for all. The thistles they are normally found on in numbers had barely started to flower, so lunch was promptly taken and the group moved on to the next site, the glorious Sainfoin-filled meadow at Les Launes.



Black-veined Whites at dung heap © P Gravett



Clouded Apollo © D Moore



Almond-eyed Ringlets © M Cwynarski

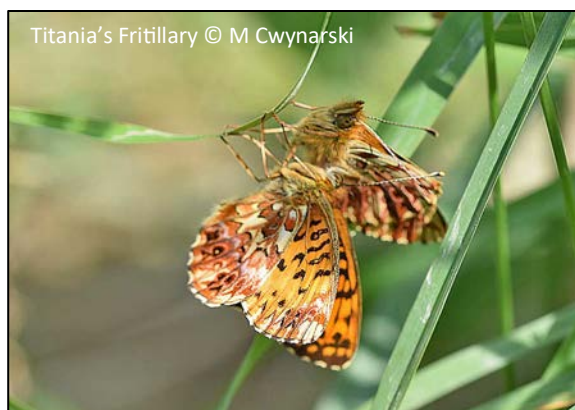


Eros Blue © D Moore

This meadow is notable for being one of the few places Clouded Apollo can be reliably seen in this region. Within minutes of arriving, Roger and the guide were busy chasing one, although some of the others had more pressing duties in the form of a female Titania's Fritillary.

A couple of female Purple Edged Coppers were seen, giving rise to the question of where the males were! However, a couple of further new species made an appearance: Mountain & Silvery Argus whilst the group were enchanted by the general range of butterflies, which clearly are attracted hugely by this beautiful expanse of alpine meadow. Some of the other species seen today included such delights as Orange Tip, Black-veined White, Berger's Clouded Yellow, Southern Comma, Red Admiral, Scarce Swallowtail, Swallowtail, Pearly Heath, Dusky Heath, Great Banded Grayling, Southern White Admiral, Large Tortoiseshell, Cleopatra and Great Sooty Satyr.

Once finished, the group made their way to the second base in St Martin d'Entraunes, where they were greeted by the owners, Jean-Louis and Karine. Several members took time out to inspect the wooded area behind the hotel, but it was late and not a great deal was happening, so everyone settled down for the evening and after a most welcome first evening meal, went to bed in anticipation of two productive days to come.



Day 6, Thursday 5th July, Estenc & Col de la Cayolle

The weather forecast suggested a deterioration in conditions as the day wore on, but the group arrived at the Source du Var in Estenc in good spirits at 10.15am. In years gone by, this has probably been the site with the greatest diversity of species, but it was soon apparent that the poor spring and late season had taken its toll, with numbers being a fraction of those in previous years.

The only new species for the trip recorded today were Mountain Green-veined White and Darwin's Heath, and it was such a shame to walk amongst such lush vegetation with such a relative paucity of butterflies. After an hour and a half, the group moved on beyond the col to a spot where a fast-flowing river runs beneath a bridge. This site has habitually returned both

Small Apollo and Alpine Blue in the past, but there were none today. There were successes though. Mountain Ringlet was seen along with Mountain Clouded Yellow, whilst Alan brought back the notable prize of a Northern Wall Brown in his camera! A Chapman's Blue was also identified whilst a straggler from late spring, De Prunner's Ringlet, was still seemingly in rude health even at this stage in early July!



Mountain Green-veined White © P Gravett

Most of the guests finally got close to a settled Large Blue, but in the main it was a rather disappointing tally of butterflies, with many of the expected species clearly not yet emerged. Lunch was taken and marmots were seen at close quarters on the way back to the col. However, the weather forecast had been sadly accurate, and a stop at the col was rendered impossible due to a heavy storm, which persisted almost all the way back to St Martin d'Entraunes.

Thankfully, the rain and grey skies cleared up and there was time for newcomers to be welcomed at the back of the hotel. High Brown, Niobe and Dark Green Fritillaries were recorded buzzing about the thistles, whilst best of all was (finally!) the appearance of a couple of Scarce Coppers, which were certainly living up to their name this year, having been abundant to the point of distraction in 2017.

Other species today included Purple-edged Copper, Amanda's, Silver-studded and Adonis Blues, Green Hairstreak, Pearl-bordered, Marbled, Marsh, Queen of Spain, Glanville, Heath, Meadow and Knapweed Fritillaries, Southern White Admiral, Berger's Clouded Yellow, Cleopatra, Bath White, Great Banded Grayling, Marbled White and Almond-eyed Ringlet and Dusky Grizzled Skipper, identified later from Peter's photograph.



Dusky Grizzled Skipper © P Gravett



Darwin's Heath © I Lockwood-Hall

Day 7, Friday 6th July, road towards Col des Champs

The last full day saw an ascent of the 2,060m Col des Champs, where the first stop was along a 1km stretch of quiet road where the copious pink valerian blooms attract thousands of butterflies. Unfortunately, as a result of the late season, very few had started to flower and consequently there were not as many butterflies around as there had been in previous years.

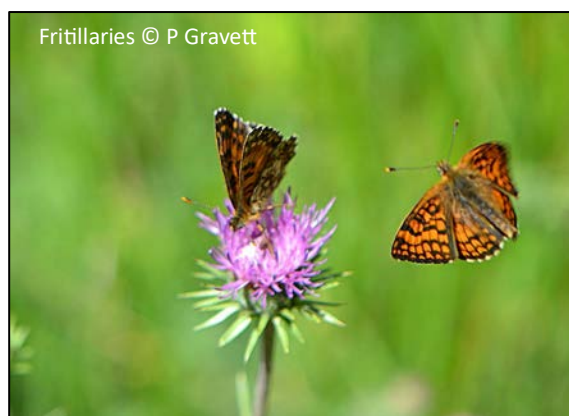
After half an hour, the guide suggested the group moved on up to the col itself, and although Shepherd's and Mountain Fritillaries, normally here in numbers, had yet to emerge, there were sightings of Mountain Dappled White which is usually a rare find.

Suddenly, a cry of excitement went out as a couple of Cynthia's Fritillaries were spotted on the slope leading down from the col. Most of the group got to see at least one, with a female spotted by Ian a few hundred yards away.

The afternoon cloud cover started to build, but there was still time for the week's first Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper to be spotted in a meadow a couple of hundred metres down from the col, along with some Crossbills which were visible in a dead tree next to the car park. A Southern Small White was also identified.



The last surprise was a big one! After returning to the hotel, the guide noticed something unusual on a sapling in the wooded area adjacent to the restaurant – a Black Hairstreak! This is the first time the species has ever been recorded on this tour, and a glance at the distribution chart suggested that this butterfly's presence is unrecorded at this location.



Other species seen today included plenty of blues such as Small, Osiris, Mazarine, large, Silver-studded Eros, Escher's and Common. Of the coppers, Purple-shot, Purple-edged and Small were recorded. In the Pieridae, Cleopatra, Brimstone, Wood White, Berger's Clouded Yellow, Orange Tip and Clouded Yellow were seen while Swallowtail, Scarce Swallowtail and Apollo added interest. In the Nymphalidae, Small Tortoiseshell, Southern White Admiral, Large Tortoiseshell, Meadow Fritillary, Titania's, Marbled, Marsh, False Heath and Heath Fritillary were seen and in the Hesperidae, Dingy, Large, Red-underwing, Small and Essex Skipper were

recorded. All things considered, it was a fine end to a satisfying week, even though butterfly numbers generally had been lower than normal for the time of year.

Footnote: The total number of butterfly species seen was 118, which was broadly in line with other years. Although certain species that one expects to see had not emerged, there was compensation in the form of late spring species still being on the wing. Aside from the Black Hairstreak sighting, other highlights included the far greater numbers of Large Tortoiseshells seen, the close encounter with the Camberwell Beauty and the shock sighting of a Peacock, the first ever seen on a Greenwings Alps trip! The range of species was still very impressive, proving that even in a 'poor' year, this part of SE France will still deliver the goods.

Acknowledgements. Greenwings would like to thank all their guests on this trip for convivial company throughout the week. The hotels catered well for the group and the travel arrangements were relatively problem free. Special thanks must also go to David Moore, and Yiannis Christofides, for their tireless efforts in making the trip such an enjoyable one.



Species list and gallery overleaf

Greenwings Mercantour Alps Butterfly Tour 30th June - 7th July 2018 Species list		30-Jun	01-Jul	02-Jul	03-Jul	04-Jul	05-Jul	06-Jul
Butterfly species	Principal LHP(s)							
Hesperiidae - Skippers								
1	Marbled Skipper (<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>)	Yellow/downy/field woundwort (stachys recta/germanica/arvensis)	✓	✓	✓	✓		
2	Dingy Skipper (<i>Erynnis tages</i>)	Bird's foot trefoil/horseshoe vetch (lotus corniculatus/hippocrepis comosa)		✓		✓	✓	✓
3	Large Skipper (<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>)	Cock's foot/flattened meadow grass/Tor Grass (dactylis glomerata/poa compressa/brachypodium pinnatum)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper (<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>)	Tormentil/spring cinquefoil (potentilla reptans/potentilla tabernaemontani)						✓
5	Dusky Grizzled Skipper (<i>Pyrgus cacaliae</i>)	Potentilla						✓
6	Safflower Skipper (<i>Pyrgus carthami</i>)	Spring cinquefoil (potentilla tabernaemontani/hirta)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Southern grizzled Skipper (<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>)	Wild strawberry/Tormentil (fragaria vesca/potentilla reptans)		✓	✓		✓	✓
9	Olive Skipper (<i>Pyrgus serratalae</i>)	Sulphur cinquefoil (potentilla recta/pedata/hirta)				✓	✓	
10	Red-underwing Skipper (<i>Spialia sertorius</i>)	Salad burnet (sanguisorba minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Lulworth Skipper (<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>)	Tor grass/False brome (brachypodium pinnatum/brachypodium sylvaticum)	✓	✓	✓	✓		
12	Essex Skipper (<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>)	Upright brome/creeping velvet grass (bromus erectus/holcus mollis)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Small Skipper (<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>)	Yorkshire fog/timothy (holcus lanatus/phleum pratense)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lycaenidae - Blues & Arguses								
14	Brown Argus (<i>Aricia agestis</i>)	Common rock rose/white rock rose (helianthemum nummularium/apenninum)			✓	✓		✓
15	Mountain Argus (<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>)	Common rock rose (helianthemum nummularium)				✓		
16	Geranium Argus (<i>Aricia eumedon</i>)	Bloody cranesbill/wood cranesbill (geranium sanguineum/sylvaticum)		✓		✓	✓	
17	Silvery Argus (<i>Aricia nicias</i>)	Wood cranesbill/meadow cranesbill (geranium sylvaticum/pratense)				✓	✓	
18	Holly Blue (<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>)	Holly/ivy (ilex aquifolium/hedera helix)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
19	Small Blue (<i>Cupido minimus</i>)	Kidney vetch (anthyllis vulneraria)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Osiris Blue (<i>Cupido osiris</i>)	Sainfoin (onobrychis viciifolia)				✓		✓
21	Mazarine Blue (<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>)	Red clover/white clover (trifolium pratense/repens)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Green-underside Blue (<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>)	Milk vetch/lucerne (astragalus glycyphyllos/medicago sativa)	✓		✓	✓	✓	
23	Mountain Alcon Blue (<i>Phengaris alcon (rebeli)</i>)	Marsh gentian/willow gentian (gentiana pneumonanthe/gentiana asclepiadea)				✓	✓	

			30-Jun	01-Jul	02-Jul	03-Jul	04-Jul	05-Jul	06-Jul
24	Large Blue (<i>Phengaris arion</i>)	Broad-leaved thyme/creeping thyme (<i>thymus pulegioides</i> / <i>thymus praecox</i>)		✓		✓		✓	✓
25	Silver-studded Blue (<i>Plebejus argus</i>)	Bird's foot trefoil/bladder senna (<i>lotus corniculatus</i> / <i>colutea arborescens</i>)		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Long-tailed Blue (<i>Lampides boeticus</i>)	Bladder senna/field pea (<i>colutea reborescens</i> / <i>pisum sativum</i>)		✓					
27	Provençal Short-tailed Blue (<i>Everes alcetas</i>)				✓				
28	Amanda's Blue (<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>)	Tufted vetch/wood vetch (<i>vicia cracca</i> / <i>vicia sylvatica</i>)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Adonis Blue (<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>)	Horseshoe vetch (<i>hippocrepis comosa</i>)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Turquoise Blue (<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>)	Kidney vetch (<i>anthyllis vulneraria</i>)				✓			
31	Eros Blue (<i>Polyommatus eros</i>)	Yellow oxytropis/mountain milk vetch (<i>oxytropis campestris</i> / <i>oxytropis jacquini</i>)					✓		✓
32	Escher's Blue (<i>Polyommatus escheri</i>)	Montpellier milk vetch (<i>astragalus monspessulanus</i>)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
33	Common Blue (<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>)	Birds foot trefoil/black medick (<i>lotus corniculatus</i> / <i>medicago lupulina</i>)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
34	Chapman's Blue (<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>)	Sainfoin/rock sainfoin (<i>onobrychis viciifolia</i> / <i>onobrychis saxatilis</i>)						✓	
35	Baton Blue (<i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>)	Wild thyme (<i>thymus vulgaris</i>)	✓	✓	✓				
36	Chequered Blue (<i>Scolitantides orion</i>)	Orpine/white stonecrop (<i>sedum telephium</i> / <i>sedum album</i>)	✓	✓	✓				
Lycaenidae - Coppers									
37	Purple-shot Copper (<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>)	Common sorrel/french sorrel (<i>rumex acetosa</i> / <i>rumex scutatus</i>)	✓	✓	✓				✓
38	Purple-edged Copper (<i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>)	Common sorrel/sheep's sorrel (<i>rumex acetosa</i> / <i>rumex acetosella</i>)					✓	✓	✓
39	Small Copper (<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>)	Common sorrel/sheep's sorrel (<i>rumex acetosa</i> / <i>rumex acetosella</i>)	✓	✓					✓
40	Sooty Copper (<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>)	Common sorrel/french sorrel (<i>rumex acetosa</i> / <i>rumex scutatus</i>)		✓					
41	Scarce Copper (<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>)	Common sorrel/french sorrel (<i>rumex acetosa</i> / <i>rumex scutatus</i>)						✓	
Lycaenidae - Hairstreaks									
42	Green Hairstreak (<i>Callophrys rubi</i>)	Prostrate canary clover/lucerne/yellow restharrow (<i>dorycnium pentaphyllum</i> / <i>medicago sativa</i> / <i>ononis striata</i>)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
43	White Letter Hairstreak (<i>Satyrion w-album</i>)	Wych/field elm (<i>Ulmus glabra</i> /minor)			✓				
44	Black Hairstreak (<i>Satyrion pruni</i>)	Sloe/plum/cherry							✓
45	Sloe Hairstreak (<i>Satyrion acaciae</i>)	Blackthorn/St Lucie cherry (<i>prunus spinosa</i> / <i>prunus mahaleb</i>)	✓	✓	✓				
46	Ilex Hairstreak (<i>Satyrion ilicis</i>)	Downy oak (<i>quercus pubescens</i>)	✓	✓	✓	✓			
47	False ilex hairstreak (<i>Satyrion esculi</i>)	Holm oak/kermes oak (<i>quercus ilex</i> / <i>quercus coccifera</i>)	✓	✓	✓				

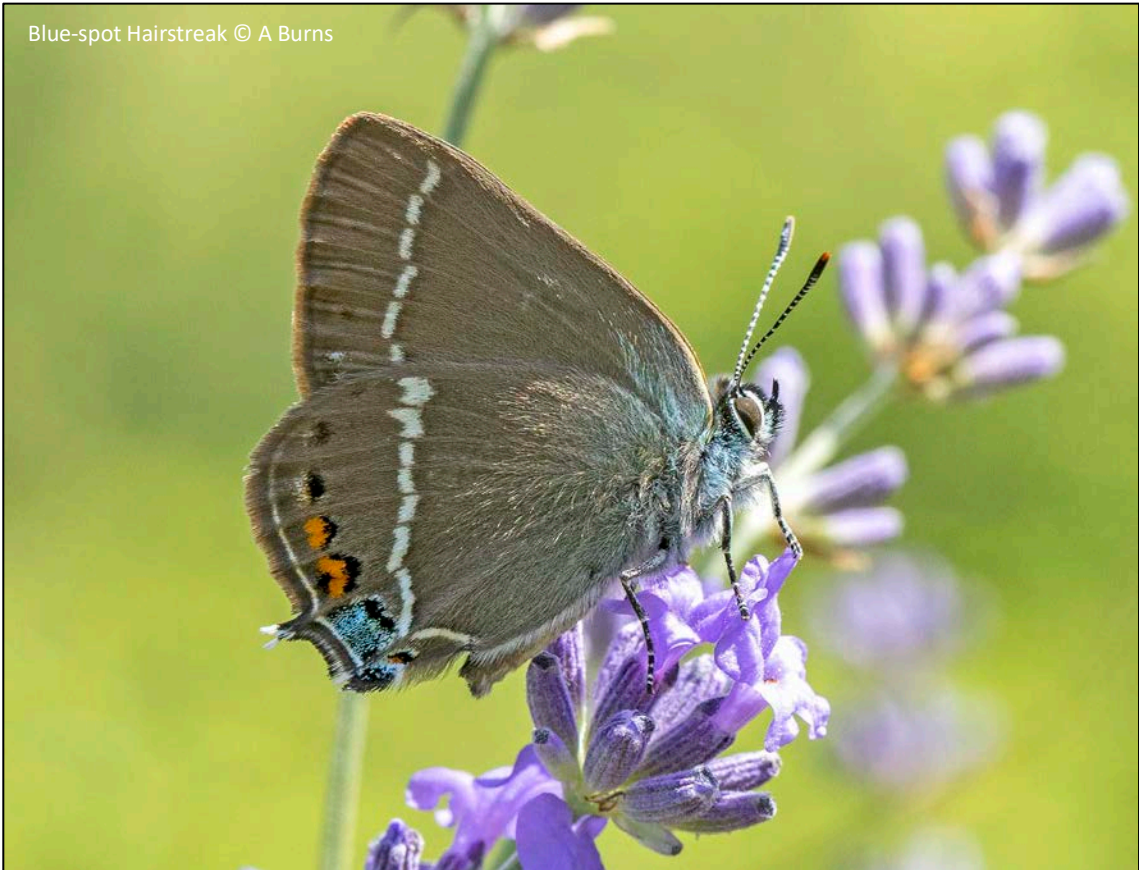
			30-Jun	01-Jul	02-Jul	03-Jul	04-Jul	05-Jul	06-Jul
48	Blue-spot Hairstreak (<i>Satyrrium spini</i>)	Mediterranean buckthorn/purging buckthorn (rhamnus alaternus/rhamnus cathartica)	✓	✓	✓				✓
Nymphalidae - Fritillaries									
49	High Brown Fritillary (<i>Argynnis adippe</i>)	Early dog-violet/common dog violet (Viola reichenbachiana/viola riviniana)						✓	
50	Dark Green Fritillary (<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>)	Hairy violet/alpine marsh violet (viola hirta/viola palustris)						✓	✓
51	Niobe Fritillary (<i>Argynnis niobe</i>)	Hairy violet/alpine marsh violet/common dog violet (viola hirta/viola palustris/viola riviniana)						✓	✓
52	Silver Washed Fritillary (<i>Argynnis paphia</i>)	Common dog-violet/early dog-violet (viola riviniana/viola reichenbachiana)			✓				
53	Cardinal (<i>Argynnis pandora</i>)				✓				
54	Weaver's Fritillary (<i>Boloria dia</i>)	Sweet violet/hairy violet (viola odorata/viola hirta)	✓	✓	✓	✓			
55	Pearl-bordered Fritillary (<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>)	Early dog-violet/common dog violet (viola reichenbachiana/viola riviniana)		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Titania's Fritillary (<i>Boloria titania</i>)	Alpine yellow violet/European bistort (viola biflora/polygonum bistorta)					✓	✓	✓
57	Marbled Fritillary (<i>Brenthis daphne</i>)	Woolly blackberry/European blackberry (rubus canascens/rubus fruticosus)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>)	Devil's bit-scabious/small scabious (succisa pratensis/scabiosa columbaria)	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
60	Cynthia's Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas cynthia</i>)	Alpine plantain/mountain violet (plantago alpina/viola calcarata)							✓
61	Queen of Spain Fritillary (<i>Issoria lathonia</i>)	Field pansy/heartsease (viola arvensis/viola tricolor)	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
62	Heath Fritillary (<i>Melitaea athalia</i>)	Common cow-wheat/field cow-wheat (melampyrum pratense/melampyrum arvense)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Glanville Fritillary (<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>)	Ribwort plantain/broadleaf plantain (plantago lanceolata/plantago major)		✓		✓	✓	✓	
64	False Heath Fritillary (<i>Melitaea diamina</i>)	Common valerian/ribwort plantain (valeriana officinalis/plantago lanceolata)		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Spotted Fritillary (<i>Melitaea didyma</i>)	Ribwort plantain/yellow woundwort (plantago lanceolata/stachys recta)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
66	Meadow Fritillary (<i>Melitaea parthenoides</i>)	Ribwort plantain/alpine plantain (plantago lanceolata/plantago alpina)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Provençal Fritillary (<i>Mellicta dejone</i>)	Creeping toadflax/snap-dragon (linaria repens/antirrhinum latifolium)			✓				
68	Knapweed Fritillary (<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>)	Lesser knapweed/greater knapweed (cantaurea nigra/cantaurea amara)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nymphalidae - Aristocrats									
69	Small Tortoiseshell (<i>Aglais urticae</i>)	Stinging nettle (urtica dioica)		✓			✓		✓
70	Peacock (<i>inachis io</i>)	Stinging nettle (urtica dioica)	✓						

			30-Jun	01-Jul	02-Jul	03-Jul	04-Jul	05-Jul	06-Jul
71	Southern White Admiral (<i>Limenitis reducta</i>)	Etruscan honeysuckle/evergreen honeysuckle (lonicera etrusca/lonicera implexa)		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
72	Large Tortoiseshell (<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>)	Wych elm/field elm (ulmus glabra/ulmus minor)	✓		✓		✓		✓
73	Camberwell Beauty (<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>)	Goat willow/white willow (salix caprea/salix alba)				✓			
74	Comma (<i>Polygonia c-album</i>)	Common hop/urtica dioica (humulus lupulus/stinging nettle)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Southern Comma (<i>Polygonia egea</i>)	Eastern pellitory of the wall (parietaria officinalis)		✓			✓		
76	Poplar Admiral (<i>Limenitis populi</i>)	European aspen (populus tremula)		✓	✓				
77	Red Admiral (<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>)	Stinging nettle/annual nettle (urtica dioica/urtica urens)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
78	Painted Lady (<i>Vanessa cardui</i>)	Creeping thistle/spear thistle (cirsium arvense/cirsium vulgare)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Papilionidae - Swallowtails & Apollos									
79	Scarce Swallowtail (<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>)	(prunus spinosa/prunus mahaleb) Blackthorn/St Lucie cherry		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Swallowtail (<i>Papilio machaon</i>)	Fennel/wild carrot (foeniculum vulgare/daucus carota)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Apollo (<i>Parnassius apollo</i>)	White stonecrop/orpine (sedum album/sedum telephium)		✓					✓
82	Clouded Apollo (<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>)	Fumewort/spring fumewort (corydalis solida/corydalis bulbosa)					✓		
Pieridae - Whites & Yellows									
83	Orange Tip (<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>)	Cuckoo flower/garlic mustard (cardimine pratensis/alliaria petiolata)		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Black-veined White (<i>Aporia crataegi</i>)	Common hawthorn/whitebeam (crataegus monogyna/sorbus aria)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
85	Berger's Clouded Yellow (<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>)	Horseshoe vetch (hippocrepis comosa)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Clouded Yellow (<i>Colias crocea</i>)	Lucerne/trifolium pratense/trifolium repens (medicago sativa/red/white clover)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
87	Mountain Clouded Yellow (<i>Colias phicomone</i>)	Horseshoe vetch (hippocrepis comosa)						✓	
88	Mountain Dappled White (<i>Euchloe simplonia</i>)	Buckler mustard (biscutella laevigata)							✓
89	Cleopatra (<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>)	Mediterranean buckthorn (rhamnus alaternus)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Brimstone (<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>)	Mediterranean buckthorn/alder buckthorn (rhamnus alaternus/frangula alnus)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
91	Wood White (<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>)	Meadow vetchling/tufted vetch (lathyrus pratensis/vicia cracca)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
92	Large White (<i>Pieris brassicae</i>)	Field mustard/wild cabbage (sinapis arvensis/brassica oleracea)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Mountain Green-veined White (<i>Pieris bryoniae</i>)	Alpine pennycress/buckler mustard (thlaspi montanum/biscutella laevigata)						✓	
94	Green-veined White (<i>Pieris napi</i>)	Garlic mustard/field pepperwort (alliaria petiolata/lepidium campestre)	✓	✓	✓	✓			

			30-Jun	01-Jul	02-Jul	03-Jul	04-Jul	05-Jul	06-Jul
95	Small White (<i>Pieris rapae</i>)	Field mustard/wild cabbage (sinapis arvensis/brassica oleracea)	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
96	Southern Small White (<i>Pieris mannii</i>)	Candytuft/perennial wall-rocket (iberis linifolia/diplotaxis tenuifolia)							✓
97	Bath White (<i>Pontia daplidice</i>)	Wild mignonette/hairy bittercress (reseda lutea/cardamine hirsuta)	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Riodinidae - Metalmarks									
98	Duke Of Burgundy (<i>Hamearis lucina</i>)	Cowslip/primrose (primula veris/primula vulgaris)		✓	✓				
Nymphalidae - Ringlets, Browns, Graylings & Heaths									
99	Ringlet (<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>)	Tor grass/false brome (brachypodium pinnatum/b.sylvaticum)		✓		✓	✓		
100	Mountain Ringlet (<i>Erebia epiphron</i>)	Mat grass (nardus stricta)						✓	
101	De Prunner's Ringlet (<i>Erebia triaria</i>)	Sheep's fescue/european feather grass (festuca ovina/stipa pennata)						✓	
102	Great Banded Grayling (<i>Brintesia circe</i>)	Sweet vernal grass/upright brome (anthoxanthum odoratum/bromus erectus)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Grayling (<i>Hipparchia semele</i>)	Sheep's fescue/upright brome (festuca ovina/bromus erectus)			✓				
104	Pearly Heath (<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>)	Hairy melic/tor grass (melica ciliata/brachypodium pinnatum)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Darwin's Heath (<i>Coenonympha darwiniana</i>)	Tor grass (brachypodium pinnatum)						✓	
106	Dusky Heath (<i>Coenonympha dorus</i>)	Tor grass/sheep's fescue (brachypodium pinnatum/festuca ovina)		✓	✓		✓		
107	Chestnut Heath (<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>)	False brome/hairy melic (brachypodium sylvaticum)				✓	✓		✓
108	Small Heath (<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>)	Annual meadow grass/crested dog's tail (poa annua/cynosurus cristatus)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Almond-eyed Ringlet (<i>Erebia albertanus</i>)	Sheep's fescue (festuca ovina)		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Woodland Grayling (<i>Hipparchia fagi</i>)	Phoenician tor grass/mediterranean false brome (brachypodium phoenicoides/b.retusum)	✓		✓	✓			
112	Large Wall (<i>Lasiommata maera</i>)	Sheep's fescue/smooth meadow grass (festuca ovina/poa pratensis)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
113	Wall (<i>Lasiommata megera</i>)	Sheep's fescue/mediterranean false brome (festuca ovina/brachypodium retusum)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	Northern Wall Brown (<i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>)	Sheep's fescue (festuca ovina)						✓	
115	Meadow Brown (<i>Maniola jurtina</i>)	Annual meadow grass/sheep's fescue (poa annua/festuca ovina)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
116	Marbled White (<i>Melanargia galathea</i>)	Timothy grass/sheep's fescue (phleum pratense/festuca ovina)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	Speckled Wood (<i>Pararge aegeria</i>)	Annual meadow grass/smooth meadow grass (poa annua/poa pratensis)		✓			✓		✓
118	Great Sooty Satyr (<i>Satyrus ferula</i>)	Sheep's fescue (festuca ovina)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Photo gallery overleaf

Blue-spot Hairstreak © A Burns



Swallowtail © R Newton



Apollo © D Wright



Spotted Fritillary © D Wright



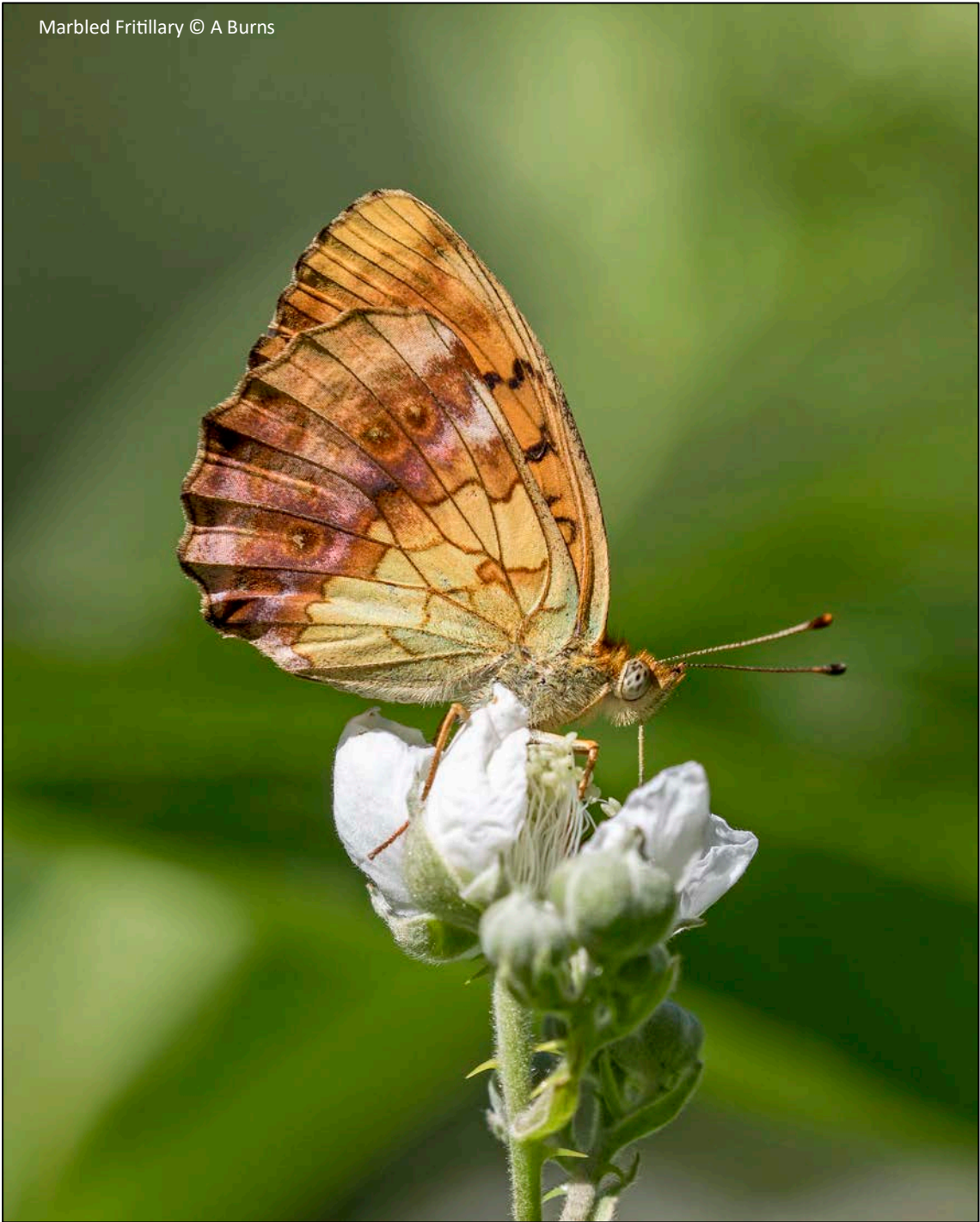
Silver-studded Blues pairing © P Gravett



Darwin's Heath © A Burns



Marbled Fritillary © A Burns



Silvery Argus © D Wright



Knapweed Fritillary © A Burns



Dusky Heath © P Gravett



Marsh Fritillary © P Gravett



Great Sooty Satyr © A Burns



Titania's Fritillary © D Wright





Meadow Fritillary © I Lockwood-Hall



Chequered Blue © A Daws



Southern Comma © A Daws



Large Wall Brown © A Daws



False Heath Fritillary © I Lockwood-Hall



Titania's Fritillary © I Lockwood-Hall



Lulworth Skipper © I Lockwood-Hall



Sloe Hairstreak © D Moore

Glanville Fritillary © A Burns



Escher's Blues © A Burns





Marmot © P Townsend



Chapman's Blue (unusual blue female form) © D Wright



Habitat © D Moore



The track © D Moore

Guide David inspecting Danewort © P Townsend



Guide Yiannis and some guests inspecting vegetation © P Townsend

Diary of notable plants seen 2018 French Alps	
25th June	
Around Rimplas	During the short walk we were able to observe the following plants. Red Valerian was particularly common everywhere. Interesting plants seen included <i>Campanula macrorhiza</i> , a relative of the Harebell, <i>Campanula trachelium</i> and <i>Saxifraga callosa</i> was particularly common on rock faces. Several <i>Sedum</i> species were growing on rock faces, such as <i>Sedum album</i> , <i>S. sediforme</i> . and <i>S. dasyphyllum</i>
30th June	
Down the track at Rimplas	Anacamptis pyramidalis, Himantoglossum hircinum, Coronilla varia, Campanula speciosa, the Pyrenean bellflower. Bupthalmum salicifolium (Yellow Ox-eye daisy), Geranium sanguineum, Dactylorhiza saccifera, Lavandula angustifolia,
up to the fort	more Anacamptis pyramidalis and Himantoglossum, Sedum acre. There were the masses of Orlaya grandiflora, large yellow rest-harrow, Ononis natrix was also common here.
1st July	
1st stop	Trifolium pratense, Salvia pratense, Vicia cracca, Lathyrus latifolius, Astragalus glycyphyllos with accompanying Small blue, Digitalis grandiflora
2nd stop	Dactylorhiza <i>fuchsii</i> , Lilium bulbiferum, Phyteuma nigrum and P. spicata, Veronica alpina
on the way down	Geranium sylvaticum
2nd July	Morning up to fort and down track with same plants as observed on 1st day.
	Afternoon meadows. Orlaya grandiflora, Vicia cracca, Centranthus ruber, <i>Sempervivum arachnoideum</i> , Laserpitium gallicum, Linum suffruticosum
3th July	
St. Dalmas	Meadows full of flowers, most of which we had looked at before. New species seen Thalictrum foetidum, Stinking meadow rue, Potentilla argentea, Acer platanoides
Riverside meadow.	Allium vineale, Centaurea montana, Melampyrum nemorosum
4th July	
2nd stop	Riverside. Linaria repens, Galium verum, Cynoglossum officinale, Lychnis flos-jovis, Ononis cristata, small pink rest-harrow forming mats by riverside.
3rd stop	Clouded Apollo stop. Alpine flowers, new flowers Vicia lathyroides, Troilus europaeus, Geum rivale
5th July	
	Meadow next to hotel. Cirsium arvense, Serratula tinctoria
1st stop	Alpine meadows with Geranium sylvaticum, Veratrum album, Persicaria bistorta, Silene vulgaris, Asphodelus albus, Centaurea montana, Paradisea liliastrum (<i>St. Bruno's lily</i>), Phyteuma nigra, P. orbicularis,
2nd stop	Riverside. Nigritella rhellicani, Scutellaria alpina, Alchemilla alpina, Campanula alpestris, Linaria repens
July 6th	
	<i>Acer campestre</i> , <i>Anthyllis montana</i> , <i>Onobrychis saxatilis</i> , <i>Astragalus sempervirens</i> , <i>Filipendula vulgaris</i> , <i>Trollius europaeus</i> , <i>Gentianella campestris</i> , <i>Globularia cordifolia</i> , <i>Androsace vitaliana</i> , <i>Ranunculus pyrenaicus</i> , <i>Digitalis lutea</i>

Complete plant list

	Alpes Maritimes Plants seen	30 June -7 July 2018	Day seen
	Pteridophyta	Common English names where applicable	
	Botrychium lunaria	Moonwort	day 6
	Angiospermae		
	Dicotyledons		
1	Aceraceae		
	Acer campestre	Field Maple	day 7
	Acer platanoides		day 3
2	Anacardiaceae		
	Cotinus coggyria	Smoke Tree	day 1
3	Apiaceae		
	Anthriscus sylvestris		day 4
	Laserpitium gallicum		day 2
	Orlaya grandiflora		day 2
4	Asclepiadaceae		
	Vincetoxicum hirundinaria	Swallowwort	day 2
5	Asteraceae		
	Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	day 2
	Bupthalmum salicifolium	Yellow Ox-eye	day 1
	Carduus defloratus		
	Centaurea montana	Mountain Cornflower	day 2
	Leucanthemum vulgare	Ox-eye Daisy	day 2
	Serratula tinctoria		day 6
	Solidago virgaurea	Goldenrod	day 7
	Tragopogon pratensis	Goat's-beard	day 6
	Berberidaceae		
	Berberis vulgaris		day 3
	Boraginaceae		
	Cerinthe minor	Lesser Heywort	day 6
	Cynoglossum officinale	Hound's-tongue	day 5
	Echium vulgare	Viper's Bugloss	day 2
	Myosotis alpestris	Alpine Forget-me-not	day 6
6	Brassicaceae		
	Barbarea vulgaris	Winter-cress	day 7
	Biscutella laevigata	Buckler Mustard	day 7
7	Campanulaceae		
	Campanula alpestris		day 6
	Campanula rapunculoides	Creeping Bellflower	day 5
	Campanula speciosa	Pyrenean bellflower.	day 1

	<i>Phyteuma nigrum</i>		day 2
	<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>		day 5
	<i>Phyteuma spicatum</i>		day 2
8	Caryophyllaceae		
	<i>Dianthus sylvestris</i>	Wood Pink	day 7
	<i>Silene latifolia</i> ssp. <i>alba</i>		day 2
	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>		day 6
9	Cistaceae		
	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>		day 3
10	Crassulaceae		
	<i>Sedum acre</i>		day 1
	<i>Sedum album</i>		day 1
	<i>Sedum ochroleucum</i>		day 2
	<i>Sempervivum arachnoideum</i>		day 2
13	Euphorbiaceae		
	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>		day 6
14	Fabaceae		
	<i>Anthyllis montana</i>		day 7
	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	day 2
	<i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i>		day 2
	<i>Coronilla varia</i>		day 1
	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>		day 2
	<i>Lathyrus pratense</i>		day 2
	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil	day 2
	<i>Oxytropis jacquinii</i>		day 5
	<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>		day 5
	<i>Ononis cristata</i>		day 5
	<i>Ononis natrix</i>		day 1
	<i>Trifolium alpinum</i>		day 6
	<i>Trifolium montanum</i>		day 6
	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>		day 6
	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	day 2
	<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>		day 5
	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	day 6
16	Gentianaceae		
	<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring Gentian	day 6
	<i>Gentianella</i>		day 7
17	Geraniaceae		
	<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Cranesbill	day 1
	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Cranesbill	day 1
	<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>	Wood Cranesbill	day 2

18	Globulariaceae		
	Globularia repens		day 6
19	Lamiaceae		
	Lavandula angustifolia		day 1
	Prunella vulgaris		day 5
	Salvia pratensis	Meadow Clary	day 2
	Scutellaria alpina	Alpine Skullcap	day 6
	Stachys recta	Yellow Woundwort	day 7
	Thymus vulgaris		day 7
20	Linaceae		
	Linum suffruticosum		day 3
22	Malvaceae		
	Malva sylvestris	Mallow	day 2
25	Papaveraceae		
	Papaver dubium		day 2
	Papaver rhoeas		
	Chelidonium majus	Greater Celandine	day 2
28	Polygonaceae		
	Polygonum bistorta	Bistort	day 6
	Polygonum viviparum	Viviparous Bistort	day 6
	Polygonum alpinum	Alpine Knotgrass	
29	Primulaceae		
	Androsace vitaliana		day 7
	Primula veris	Cowslip	day 1
30	Ranunculaceae		
	Clematis vitalba	Traveller's Joy	day 2
	Ranunculus acris		day 5
	Ranunculus pyrenaicus		day 7
	Trollius europaeus	Globeflower	day 5
33	Rosaceae		
	Alchemilla alpina	Alpine Lady's Mantle	day 6
	Filipendula vulgaris		day 7
	Geum montanum	Alpine Avens	day 6
	Geum rivale	Water Avens	day 5
	Potentilla argentea	Hoary Cinquefoil	day 4
	Potentilla recta		day 2
34	Rubiaceae		
	Gallium verum		day 5
37	Scrophulariaceae		
	Digitalis grandiflora	Large Yellow Foxglove	day 2
	Digitalis lutea	Small Yellow Foxglove	day 7

	<i>Linaria repens</i>		day 1
	<i>Melampyrum nemorosum</i>		day 3
	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>		day 7
	Monocotyledons		
39	Liliaceae		
	<i>Allium vineale</i>		day 5
	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	Chives	day 6
	<i>Allium sphaerocephalon</i>	Round-headed Leek	day 5
	<i>Anthericum liliago</i>	St. Bernard's Lily	day 6
	<i>Asphodelus albus</i>		day 6
	<i>Lilium bulbiferum</i>		day 2
	<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon Lily	day 6
	<i>Paradisea liliastrum</i>	St. Bruno's Lily	day 6
	<i>Veratrum album</i>	White False Helleborine	day 6
40	Orchidaceae		
	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	day 1
	<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	Frog Orchid	day 6
	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid	day 2
	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid	day 1
	<i>Nigritella corneliana</i>		day 6
	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid	day 6

END