

Butterflies of Montes Universales

30th July - 5th August 2020
Led by David Moore & Pau Lucio



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Montes Universales Butterfly Tour 2020
Holiday Report 30 July – 5 August
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Introduction

This was the third Greenwings trip to the Montes Universales in eastern Spain, a very different and special region where the mountains rise to around 1,900m in much gentler fashion than in those montane areas further north such as Picos de Europa and the Pyrenees. The climatic conditions are rather different too, with much less precipitation meaning the vegetation is comprised of many dry-favouring plants and shrubs, which in turn sees a range of butterflies that are often rare or even absent further north. There are many dry riverbeds in the area which are filled only during stormy periods or from winter snowmelt, although there are several watercourses which flow permanently, and these give rise to verdant oases which attract huge numbers of butterflies.

This trip was adversely affected by the UK government's decision, in mid-July, to introduce restrictions on travel to Spain, but six guests were sufficiently intrepid to participate – Chris and Sheila, John, Miroslava, Regine and Roger, and there were five different nationalities represented – Danish, Czech, German, British and Spanish, in the form of one of the guides, Paul Lucio, who lives in the Valencia area where the tour began.

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

Day 1, Thursday 30 July: Arrival at Valencia airport, transfer to hotel with a stop along the banks of the Rio Guadalaviar

Day 2, Friday 31 July: Noguera and Sierra Alta

Day 3, Saturday 1 Aug: Tragacete and Puerto de el Portillo

Day 4, Sunday 2 Aug: Xavier's Rambla, Road to Pozondon

Day 5, Monday 3 Aug: El Vallecillo and Ojos de Cabriel

Day 6, Tuesday 4 August: Moscardon and Canyon de Albarracin

Day 7, Wednesday 5 August: Xavier's Rambla, Valencia coast, Return to UK.

Day 1, Thursday 30 July

Thankfully, flights were punctual from the UK and Germany respectively this morning, and the group were able to get away in the early afternoon.

A short stop was taken along the way so everyone could take some refreshments, and by late afternoon there was time to spend an hour in a relatively green spot on the banks of the Rio Guadalaviar, about 5km out from Albarracin.

There was excitement straight away, as several of this area's desirable species started to show themselves. The most obvious was Spanish Chalkhill Blue, *Polyommatus albicans*, which takes people unused to seeing it by surprise due to its imposing size and extremely pale upperwing colour.

Less spectacular, but even rarer, was Oberthur's Anomalous Blue, *Polyommatus fabressei*, which is endemic to this region of Spain. Both Long Tailed, *Lampides boeticus*, and Lang's Short Tailed Blues, *Leptotes pirithous*, were seen, along with several Southern Brown Argus, *Aricia cramera*. A Cinquefoil Skipper, *Pyrgus cirsii*, was spotted puddling by the river's edge, but the area was much grassier than in previous years, meaning there were no expansive patches of mud upon which many species take minerals.

Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*, Silver Spotted Skipper, *Hesperia comma* and Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*, caused the UK contingent's hearts to flutter, and a Berger's Clouded Yellow, *Colias alfariensis*, added to the blaze of colour as the trip got off to a positive start.

Perhaps the most popular sighting came when a Striped Grayling, *Hipparchia fidia*, was spotted basking in the shade of a tree, and in all 22 species were recorded in this abbreviated stop in the course of around an hour.

Shortly afterwards, everybody arrived at the delightful, historic Moorish walled town of Albarracin and settled into the Hostal which was to be the base for the week prior to enjoying an evening meal.

Day 2, Friday 31st July

The original plan was to visit the local rambla today, but with temperatures forecast to reach a peak of 37c, the guide rearranged the itinerary and the group headed out to Noguera instead, where a narrow, steep-sided valley would provide greater shade.

A thistle patch by the area where the vehicles were parked provided plenty of interest for the first 20 minutes or so. There were plenty of Fritillaries nectaring here, with High Brown, *Fabriciana adippe*, especially prominent. Quite a few Dusky Meadow Browns, *Hyponphele lycaon*, were seen, along with the much scarcer Oriental Meadow Brown, *H. lupina*, which can be hard to spot in this region due to the prevalence of *lycaon*.

In the damp area by the river, Chris & Sheila were greeted by their first continental Speckled Wood, *Parage aegeria*, looking far more Wall Brown like than the northern European *tircis* form. All three Gatekeepers were on the wing; *Pyronia tithonus*, *P. bathseba* and *P. Cecilia*, with the latter, Southern Gatekeeper, being especially common throughout the week. There were plenty of Graylings too, with Great Banded Grayling, *Brintesia circe*, edging out Grayling, *Hipparchia Semele*, and Rock Grayling, *H. Alcyone*, for sheer numbers, although Striped Grayling and Tree Grayling, *H. statilinus*, were also seen.

The group spent some time at the lowest point on the track, where the stream running through had left damp patches on either side. Unsurprisingly, several butterfly species found this to their liking, with Iberian Scarce Swallowtail, *Iphiclides feisthamelii*, undoubtedly being the most imposing.

It was John who found the first Mother-of-Pearl Blue, *Polyommatus nivescens*, of the trip in this very location, the almost white upperside being the definitive characteristic. Another desirable Lycaenid was also seen here, Azure Chalkhill Blue, *Polyommatus caelestissima*, which would continue to be seen in greater numbers as the trip progressed.

However, the most exciting moment was when an Iberian Sooty Copper, *Lycaena bleusi*, was spotted nectaring on mint flowers amongst several other butterflies. *Bleusi* was only afforded species-specific status last year, although it is hugely different from the old nominative form, *L. tityrus*, looking far brighter and more iridescent.

To escape the worst of the heat, the group tried to visit the 1,854m peak at Sierra Alta in the afternoon. However, the 2km track leading from the road to the parking area had been part blocked by deposits of stone and rubble, so instead the vehicles turned back and parked a little lower down at a series of abandoned terraces amongst the pine woodland.

There weren't a great many flowers available for butterflies to nectar from, but inspection of any eryngium tended to throw up several lycaenids, with both Southern Brown Argus and Mountain Argus, *Aricia montentis*, regularly found nectaring together, the latter being distinctive due to its greater size and reduced orange lunules on the uppersides.

Several Purple Shot Coppers, *Lycaena alciphron* were seen, along with a couple more *bleusi*, but the heat even at this altitude was taking its toll and after little more than an hour it was decided that a return to base was appropriate. 56 species had been seen on the day making a total of 58 for the trip thus far.

Day 3, Saturday 1st August

The word 'heatwave' is usually one which engenders a feeling of anticipation, but in Spain it can spell danger, and with temperatures set to possibly exceed yesterday's highs, the guides again decided to re-order the itinerary to ensure the group could spend most of the day at fairly high altitude.

By 10.30, the trip's longest single site journey had been completed, with the party arriving near the source of the Rio Jucar near Tragacete. This river eventually flows into Valencia, so it was interesting to see its humble beginnings in the faraway Montes Universales.

A walk along the track by the river, which at this point is no more than a stream, provided many butterflies, with the bulk of them attracted by the copious thistle growth on the banksides. The most prominent species was the magnificent Cardinal, *Argynnis pandora*, although much interest was generated when the week's first Hermit, *Chazara briseis*, was seen amongst the nectaring Fritillaries.

As the track opened up, the group stumbled upon a real hotspot as they emerged from the shade. There were butterflies galore flying around this damp, green area, including Lesser Spotted Fritillary, *Melitaea trivia*, Escher's Blue, *Polyommatus escheri*, Provençal Fritillary, *Melitaea deione* and Southern White Admiral, *Limentis reducta*.

Further along, there was an exceptionally damp area where the river ran over the track. By the side of this were hundreds of puddling butterflies, with Azure Chalkhill Blue being easily the most numerous. The adjacent grassland was full of eryngium flowers, and close inspection of these saw the week's first Blue Spot Hairstreak, *Satyrium spini*, recorded, as well as Dusky Heath, *Coenonympha dorus*.

The group understandably returned to the damp area to concentrate on the myriad of butterflies taking minerals there when Chris let out a loud cry – it was the week's first Zapater's Ringlet, *Erebia zapateri*, which is the main target species on this trip.

A group of Spanish passers-by stopped to take a look as this rare Iberian endemic fluttered around, occasionally settling to take fluids.

Having taken their fill of the spectacle, the group walked back to the vehicles seeing even more butterflies than on the way in an hour and a half earlier, as by now the shadows had retreated and the area was in full sunshine. Amongst the plethora of Fritillaries were several Spanish Chestnut Heaths, *Coenonympha glycerion f. iphioides*, and Damon Blues, *Polyommatus damon*.

Lunch was taken in the very scenic area where the vans had been parked, and given the heat, it was decided to make an additional stop at the waterfall on the way back to Tragacete, as there is fairly dense woodland here with plenty of shade.

It proved to be a wise decision, as the small meadow by the waterfall had an astonishing number and range of butterflies in it. Twin Spot Fritillary, *Brenthis Hecate*, was spotted almost immediately, and Chris, whose eyes had become quickly attuned to anything nectaring on the eryngium plants, soon noticed a real treasure, a Spanish Purple Hairstreak, *Laeosopis roboris*, contentedly feeding away in an easily accessible position, meaning everyone could take images of it in this docile state. This is not an easy species to find in this area and was the only one seen all week.

Other notables flying here were two more Zapater's Ringlets, including one which seemed reluctant to move away from the guide's trouser leg, another Hermit, and the week's first definite Esper's Marbled White, *Melanargia russiae*, which unfortunately did not settle for very long.

Whilst waiting at the vehicle, the guide was talking to John about how much Black Satyr, *Satyrus actaea*, likes to feed from white scabious when suddenly one appeared! It set down for a few seconds but was soon off again, although we would see more of this species later in the trip.

There was time for one more site visit in the mid-afternoon. This was at Puerto de el Portillo, at 1,790m one of the highest points in the region. On the way, Pau stopped his car as he had seen Egyptian vultures circling overhead and the group got out to admire them – a welcome diversion.

Once everyone had arrived, the rocky ledge the group ascended was fairly bereft of butterflies and the wind was blowing rather fiercely, but a small number of Spanish Argus, *Aricia morronensis*, were nevertheless recorded at the only known location for it in the Montes Universales.

It had been an excellent day, with some very special butterflies seen. 61 species in total were recorded, of which 18 were new for the trip, bringing the total to 76.

Day 4, Sunday 2nd August

As forecast, the heat had relented somewhat today, with highs of a mere 29c. These conditions were far more appropriate for scouring the rambla about 5km out of Albarracin, as this is a rather open site with very little tree cover and practically no natural shade.

It was a slow start with butterflies only starting to get going at around 10am. One notable early find was Tufted Marbled Skipper, *Carcharodus flocciferus*, nectaring on a lavender plant in a gully about 200m into the rambla.

There were also several Cinquefoil Skippers and plenty of Spanish Chalkhill Blues, but it wasn't until almost 11am when John found the target species for the day, Southern Hermit, *Chazara prieuri*. This individual was basking on the ground and all but one of the group were able to see it, with the guide having blown his whistle to alert them.

There were quite a few Sage Skippers, *Muschampia proto*, flying around the herb-rich sward, along with different varieties of Grayling.

After spending a couple of hours here, the group moved along the road to Pozondon to a rather arid site in amongst agricultural fields, where the guide had hoped water might still be standing from the storm drain which went under the road. Sadly, it had dried up, but there were still plenty of butterflies to see, with more Hermits on offer as well as Turquoise Blue, *Polyommatus dorylas*, Sloe Hairstreak, *Satyrium acacia* and even a Lulworth Skipper, *Thymelicus actaeon*, an image of which Regine revealed later in the day much to the guide's delight.

Lunch was taken in the shade of the rock face, before the group undertook another attempt to track down some of the arid-loving species of this area.

The guide and John set off up what looked to be a rather unpromising rut in the middle of the field, but it wasn't long before they spotted a Southern Marbled Skipper, *Carcharodus baeticus*, a butterfly that isn't at all easy to locate in amongst the hundreds of other hesperids. Another was found a little while later and the whole group were able to get a look at this attractive species.

There were other 'firsts' for the trip, in the shape of a couple of gleaming Spotted Fritillaries, *Melitaea didyma*, a small number of Adonis Blues, *Polyommatus bellargus* and a Glanville Fritillary, *Melitaea cinxia*. There were also several more Black Satyrs nectaring on the white scabious towards the field perimeter, some of which allowed close approaches.

Only 54 species were seen during the day, but these two sites are very much the domain of certain specialised species which are unlikely to be seen elsewhere. The fact that 8 new species for the trip were recorded is testimony to this.

Day 5, Monday 3rd August

Today saw the group venture to El Vallecillo, or more accurately to a series of grassy meadows down a 3km forest track just north of this little village.

The main attraction here is a boggy area (rare in this region of Spain) with long grass and plenty of thistles. This allowed for a mesmerising first half hour, where dozens of different species could be seen jostling for position on the many nectar sources, with Great Banded Grayling and Cardinal being the most conspicuous.

Another feature of this site is the sheltered track which leads away from the thistle patch, and a couple of Zapater's Ringlets were seen nectaring on the scabious here as well as many other species, including the week's first Ilex Hairstreak, *Satyrium ilicis*. Another first for the trip was Silver Studded Blue, *Plebejus argus*, although it was a worn individual clearly at the end of its flight period.

Given that butterflies were readily settling on the thistles in the boggy area, this allowed all the group to finally identify and photograph Esper's Marbled White, and Chris managed to catch up with the solitary Large Blue, *Phengaris arion*, that the guide had seen minutes earlier, thus ensuring that this species was included on the list.

Whilst lunch was being taken, a check of the surrounding eryngium produced another stunning Iberian Sooty Copper, and at around 1.30pm the group moved on to the nearby Ojos de Cabriel.

The main attraction here are the Black Satyrs flying on the scabious rich hillside, but although there were several about, they were all flying endlessly so the decision was made to move back to Albarracin.

Earlier in the day, Pau had struck up a conversation with a lady working in the local shop who informed him there was a verdant path running through a canyon on the outskirts of Albarracin. She had shown him a video she had taken on her phone. The footage looked promising, so the group headed there for a recce with a view to returning the following day.

There were some damp areas on this track, with lush vegetation and a few puddling butterflies, so the group were happy to revisit the following day, and in the meantime the guide and Chris had spotted a Large Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrgus alveus*, another new species for the week.

With one full day still to go, 88 species had now been recorded.

Day 6, Tuesday 4th August

The destination this morning was a large expanse of grassland surrounded by pine trees near the village of Moscardon. This is an excellent site for Zapater's Ringlet, and several more were duly seen, although there were plenty of distractions in the thistle patches on the meadow, with hundreds of Great Banded Graylings, Azure Chalkhill Blues and Iberian Marbled Whites flying.

Several False Graylings, *Arethusana arethusana*, were recorded, and Spanish Chestnut Heaths were more numerous than they had been previously during the trip.

Near to the parking area, there are a series of wooden troughs for itinerant herds of sheep, and this year there was an overspill area which attracted many dozens of puddling butterflies. The two most numerous species were Azure Chalkhill Blue and Cinquefoil Skipper, but amongst these were Grayling, Rock Grayling, Oberthur's Anomalous Blue, Damon Blue, Spanish Chalkhill Blue and even a Berger's Clouded Yellow.

Two new species for the trip were recorded – John found a Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*, a species that had been surprisingly absent up till now, whilst at least two Knapweed Fritillaries, *Melitaea phoebe*, were seen, much to the delight of Sheila and Chris who had long coveted this species.

More Southern White Admirals were seen, with one particularly large female showing well on the eryngium plants near to the vehicles.

The afternoon site visited was a return to the canyon near Albarracin. The group was able to walk further along this time, and whilst no new species were recorded, there were nonetheless many butterflies active along the track, with a fresh-looking Provençal Fritillary being the pick.

Pau's eagle eye for birds drew the group's attention to some Bee-eaters near the car park, which was a fitting way to round off the afternoon.

Day 7, Wednesday 5th August

Departure day is normally a rather depressing affair, but the group had three site visits to undertake, the first being a return to the local rambla to see if we could acquaint Miroslava, who had missed it first time round, with the rare endemic, Southern Hermit.

It took almost an hour to achieve, and typically when it did two were found in different locations simultaneously! With mission accomplished, the group made the journey back to Valencia, bypassing the airport and using Pau's local knowledge to visit a series of paddy fields to the south of the city.

This area is something of a butterfly desert, but it was a paradise for birds and dragonflies, most notable among these being Glossy Ibis, Black Winged Stilt and the delightful Northern Banded Groundling.

Pau was sure that the group would get to see a rather unusual species of butterfly, and eventually three or four were located – African Grass Blue, *Zizeeria knysna*. This tiny insect was incredibly hard to follow in flight, but thankfully one individual was content to settle for a few minutes allowing close inspection.

Before heading back to the airport, a final stop was made at El Saler, a coastal dune site where the group were confident that Mediterranean Skipper, *Gegenes nostradamus*, could be found.

Amazingly, one was located almost immediately, with another found nearby. This large, chunky Hesperid, which is seldom seen on organised butterfly trips, brought to an end an excellent week where a total of 92 different species had been recorded.

Acknowledgements. Greenwings would like to thank all their guests on this trip for their convivial company throughout the week. The tour was undertaken during very uncertain times, with many Covid 19 restrictions in place, and the fact that it DID run is a testament to the determination of those who participated.

Whilst 92 species is 10 fewer than the record for this tour (2019), all the target species were seen by all guests with two completely new ones seen on the last day thanks to the local knowledge of the Spanish guide. The missing species were generally the commoner ones, such as Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell & Niobe Fritillary, although it was slightly disappointing to miss out on Apollo here for the first time.

There were plenty of highlights, especially the tiny meadow near Tragacete which had everyone commenting on how amazed they were to see so many species in one small place.

The town of Albarracin was once again a delight, and was practically bereft of tourists, allowing the group to enjoy a particularly peaceful stay.

SPAIN		Date	30-Jul	31-Jul	01-Aug	02-Aug	03-Aug	04-Aug	05-Aug
BUTTERFLY RECORDING		Site							
Hesperiidae									
1	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	Mallow Skipper				✓		✓	
2	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>	Marbled Skipper							
3	<i>Carcharodus baeticus</i>	Southern Marbled Skipper				✓		✓	
4	<i>Carcharodus flocciferus</i>	Tufted Marbled Skipper				✓		✓	
5	<i>Spialia rosae (sertorius)</i>	Red-underwing Skipper		✓	✓		✓	✓	
6	<i>Muschampia proto</i>	Sage Skipper			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	<i>Pyrgus carthami</i>	Safflower Skipper		✓					
8	<i>Pyrgus cirsii</i>	Cinquefoil Skipper	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	<i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>	Olive Skipper		✓					
10	<i>Pyrgus onopordi</i>	Rosy Grizzled Skipper							
11	<i>Pyrgus cinarae</i>	Sandy Grizzled Skipper							
12	<i>Pyrgus amoricanus</i>	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper							
13	<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>	Large Grizzled Skipper					✓	✓	
14	<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>	Southern Grizzled Skipper							
15	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	Essex Skipper			✓		✓	✓	
16	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Small Skipper		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
17	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>	Lulworth Skipper				✓	✓	✓	
18	<i>Hesperia comma</i>	Silver-spotted Skipper	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	Large Skipper		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Papilionidae									
20	<i>Pamassius apollo</i>	Apollo							
21	<i>Iphiclides feisthamelii</i>	Iberian Scarce Swallowtail		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Swallowtail	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pieridae									
23	<i>Leptidea sinapis complex</i>	Wood White		✓	✓		✓	✓	
24	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	Black-veined white							
25	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
26	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small White	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	<i>Pieris napi</i>	Green-veined White	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
28	<i>Pieris mannii</i>	Southern Small White							
29	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>	Bath White		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	<i>Colias crocea</i>	Clouded Yellow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>	Berger's Clouded Yellow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
33	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	Cleopatra		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Lycaenidae - Coppers									
34	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small Copper	✓	✓		✓	✓		
35	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>	Purple-shot Copper		✓			✓		
36	<i>Lycaena bleusi</i>	Iberian Sooty Copper		✓			✓	✓	
Lycaenidae - Hairstreaks									
37	<i>Laeosopis roboris</i>	Spanish Purple Hairstreak			✓				
38	<i>Favonius quercus</i>	Purple Hairstreak							
39	<i>Satyrium spini</i>	Blue-spot Hairstreak			✓	✓	✓		
40	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>	Ilex Hairstreak					✓		
41	<i>Satyrium esculi</i>	False Ilex Hairstreak							
42	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>	Sloe Hairstreak		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Lycaenidae - Blues									
43	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Long-tailed Blue	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
44	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>	Geranium Bronze							
45	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
46	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly Blue		✓		✓	✓	✓	
47	<i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>	Baton Blue							
48	<i>Scolitantides orion</i>	Chequered Blue							
49	<i>Iolana debilitata (iolas)</i>	Iolas Blue							
50	<i>Pseudophilotes panoptes</i>	Panoptes Blue							
51	<i>Plebejus argus</i>	Silver-studded Blue					✓		
52	<i>Plebejus idas</i>	Idas Blue							
53	<i>Aricia cramera</i>	Southern Brown Argus	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

54	<i>Aricia morronensis</i>	Spanish Argus			✓				
55	<i>Aricia montensis</i>	Mountain Argus		✓					
56	<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>	Turquoise Blue		✓		✓	✓	✓	
57	<i>Polyommatus nivescens</i>	Mother-of-Pearl Blue		✓	✓		✓	✓	
58	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>	Amanda's Blue							
59	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>	Chapman's Blue	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Common Blue	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	<i>Polyommatus escheri</i>	Escher's Blue		✓	✓	✓			
62	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>	Mazarine Blue							
63	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>	Adonis Blue				✓			
64	<i>Lysandra caelestissima</i>	Azure Chalkhill Blue		✓	✓		✓	✓	
65	<i>Polyommatus albicans</i>	Spanish Chalkhill Blue	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	<i>Polyommatus fabressei</i>	Oberthur's Anomalous Blue	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	<i>Polyommatus daphnis</i>	Meleager's Blue							
68	<i>Polyommatus damon</i>	Damon Blue			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nymphalidae - Fritillaries									
69	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	Silver-washed Fritillary		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
70	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	Cardinal		✓	✓		✓	✓	
71	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>	Dark Green Fritillary		✓	✓		✓	✓	
72	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>	High Brown Fritillary		✓	✓		✓	✓	
73	<i>Argynnis niobe</i>	Niobe Fritillary							
74	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	Queen of Spain Fritillary		✓	✓		✓	✓	
75	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>	Marbled Fritillary							
76	<i>Brenthis ino</i>	Lesser Marbled Fritillary			✓		✓	✓	
77	<i>Brenthis hecate</i>	Twin-spot Fritillary			✓			✓	
78	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>	Knapweed Fritillary						✓	
79	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>	Lesser Spotted Fritillary			✓				
80	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	Spotted Fritillary				✓		✓	
81	<i>Melitaea nevadensis</i>	Heath Fritillary							
82	<i>Melitaea deione</i>	Provençal Fritillary			✓			✓	
83	<i>Melitaea parthenoides</i>	Meadow Fritillary							
84	<i>Melitaea diamina</i>	False Heath Fritillary							
85	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>	Glanville Fritillary				✓			
Nymphalidae - Aristocrats									
86	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral		✓	✓		✓	✓	
87	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady						✓	
88	<i>Aglais io</i>	Peacock							
89	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Small Tortoiseshell							
90	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Comma			✓		✓	✓	
91	<i>Libythea celtis</i>	Nettle Tree Butterfly							
92	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>	Large Tortoiseshell							
93	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>	Southern White Admiral			✓			✓	
Nymphalidae - Satyrids									
94	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled Wood		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
95	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall Brown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
96	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>	Large Wall Brown		✓				✓	
97	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>	Pearly Heath							
98	<i>Coenonympha glycerion iphioides</i>	Spanish Chestnut Heath			✓		✓	✓	
99	<i>Coenonympha dorus</i>	Dusky Heath			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath	✓	✓	✓		✓		
101	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Gatekeeper	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	<i>Pyronia cecilia</i>	Southern Gatekeeper	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	<i>Pyronia bathseba</i>	Spanish Gatekeeper		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
104	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow Brown		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	<i>Hyponomephele lycaon</i>	Dusky Meadow Brown	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
106	<i>Erebia zapateri</i>	Zapater's Ringlet			✓		✓	✓	
107	<i>Melanargia russiae</i>	Esper's Marbled White			✓		✓	✓	
108	<i>Melanargia lachesis</i>	Iberian Marbled White	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	<i>Satyrus actaea</i>	Black Satyr			✓	✓	✓		
110	<i>Hipparchia alcyone</i>	Rock Grayling		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
111	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	Grayling		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
112	<i>Hipparchia statilinus</i>	Tree Grayling		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
113	<i>Hipparchia fidia</i>	Striped Grayling	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	<i>Arethusana arethusa</i>	False Grayling		✓			✓	✓	
115	<i>Brintesia circe</i>	Great Banded Grayling		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

116	<i>Chazara briseis</i>	The Hermit			✓	✓	✓		
117	<i>Chazara prieuri</i>	Southern Hermit				✓			✓
118	<i>Hyponphele lupina</i>	Oriental Meadow Brown	✓			✓		✓	
Other Sightings									
	<i>Phengaris arion</i>	Large Blue					✓		
	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>	African Grass Blue							✓
	<i>Gegenes nostradamus</i>	Mediterranean Skipper							✓
Daily Totals			22	56	61	53	68	70	26
Aggregate Totals			22	58	76	84	88	90	92

BIRDS		30-Jul	31-Jul	01-Aug	02-Aug	03-Aug	04-Aug	05-Aug
1	Squacco heron							X
2	Little egret							X
3	Grey heron							X
4	Glossy ibis							X
5	Mallard							X
6	Griffon vulture			X	X	X		
7	Egyptian vulture			X		X		
8	Booted eagle						X	
9	Common buzzard			X			X	
10	Montagu's Harrier				X			
11	Black Kite							X
12	Sparrowhawk			X				
13	Common kestrel			X				
14	Red-legged partridge					X		
15	Moorhen							X
16	Black-winged stilt							X
17	Green sandpiper							X
18	Gull-billed tern							X
19	Whiskered tern							X
20	Feral pigeon					X		X
21	Woodpigeon		X	X	X	X	X	
22	Collared dove	X						X
23	Swift			X	X	X		
24	Alpine swift				H			
25	Kingfisher							H
26	Bee-eater				H		X	
27	Hoopoe						X	
28	Iberian green woodpecker						H	
29	Great spotted woodpecker				H	X		
30	Crested lark	X						X
31	Woodlark			X	H		X	
32	Crag martin		X	X		X	X	
33	Swallow			X		X	X	
34	Red-rumped Swallow				X			
35	House martin			X	X	X	X	
36	Grey wagtail			X		X		
37	White wagtail		X				X	
38	Robin		X			X	X	
39	Black redstart		X	X	X	X	X	
40	Stonechat					X	X	
41	Northern wheatear			X		X		
42	Black-eared wheatear					X		
43	Black wheatear				X			
44	Blue rock thrush		X		X			
45	Blackbird		X			X	X	
46	Song thrush		X			X		
47	Mistle thrush			X		X		
48	Cetti's warbler							H
49	Reed warbler							X
50	Melodious warbler		X	X			X	
51	Dartford warbler				X	X		
52	Blackcap			X	X	X		
53	Garden warbler			H				
54	Western Bonelli's warbler		H			H	X	
55	Long-tailed tit			X		X	X	
56	Crested tit					H	X	
57	Coal tit			X		H	X	
58	Great tit					H	X	
59	Nuthatch				H			
60	Short-toed treecreeper				H		X	
61	Jay						X	
62	Magpie					X	X	
63	Red-billed chough					X	X	
64	Carrion crow		X			X	X	
65	Raven			X		X	X	
66	Spotless starling				X			
67	Golden oriole				H			
68	House sparrow		X		X	X		
69	Rock sparrow			X				
70	Chaffinch			X	X	X	X	
71	Greenfinch						X	
72	Goldfinch			X	X	X	X	
73	Linnet		X		X	X	X	
74	Crossbill		X	X			X	
75	Girl bunting				H	X	X	

DRAGONFLIES

1	Beautiful demoiselle		X	X				
2	Common Bluetail							X
3	Common Goldenring		X					
4	Yellow-winged Darter					X		
5	Red-veined Darter	X						X
6	Broad Scarlet							X
7	Banded Groundling							X
8	Violet dropwing							X
9	Black-tailed Skimmer							X
10	Southern Skimmer		X			X		
11	Long Skimmer							X

Photo Gallery



Mediterranean Skipper © John V



Obethur's Anomalous Blue © John V



Landscape © John V



Southern Hermit © John V



Spanish Purple Hairstreak © John V



Spanish Chestnut Heath © John V



Striped Grayling © John V



Zapater's Ringlet © John V





African Grass Blue © Roger C



Spanish Chestnut Heath © Roger C



Spanish Gatekeeper © Roger C



Spanish Argus © Roger C



Silver-spotted Skipper © Roger C



Wall © Roger C



Chris studying Knapweed Fritillary © Sheila R



Iberian Scarce Swallowtail © Sheila & Chris R



Landscape © Sheila & Chris R



Azure Chalkhill Blue © David M



Iberian Sooty Copper © David M



Spanish Purple Hairstreak © David M



Landscape © David M



Striped Grayling © David M



Southern Hermit © Pau L



African Grass Blue © Pau L



Goldenring © Pau L



Spanish Argus © Pau L



Banded Groundling © Pau L



Violet Dropwing © Pau L