

Mercantour & Queyras Butterfly Tour 2018
Holiday Report 7 -14 July
Led by David Moore and Yiannis Christofides



Introduction

This butterfly holiday was based in two locations – the Tinée valley in the heart of the Mercantour National Park and the area around Vars, on the edge of the Queyras region. The holiday was led by David Moore and Yiannis Christofides. We stayed at hotels in the village of Rimplas for the first part of the week before moving on to Vars for the rest of the trip. The guests joining us were Peter Gravett and Dave Wright (who were staying on from the previous week), Allan Ferguson, Barrie & Anita Staley, Melvyn & Elizabeth Butler, Peter King & Caroline Coles, Ian & Sue Collins and David Potter.

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

Day 1, Saturday 7th July: Arrival at Nice airport, transfer to hotel followed by short walk on the forest track in Rimplas.

Day 2, Sunday 8th July: Around Rimplas village

Day 3, Monday 9th July: Col de Lombarde with stops along the way

Day 4, Tuesday 10th July: St Dalmas le Selvage, Col de la Bonette with a stop on the way towards Vars

Day 5, Wednesday 11th July: Col de Vars and its environs

Day 6, Thursday 12th July: Fontgillarde and Col d’Agnel

Day 7, Friday 13th July: Col d’Izoard and the Ristolas Valley

Day 8, Saturday 14th July: Return to UK.

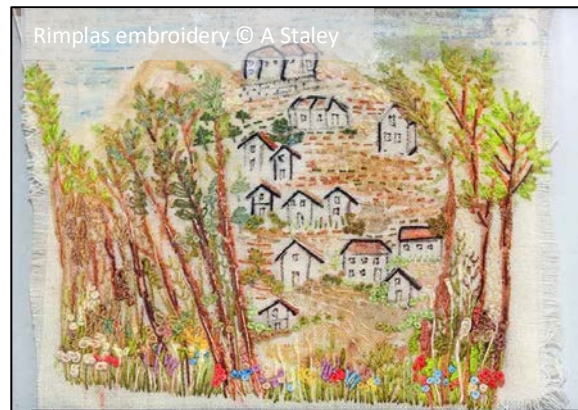


Day 1, Saturday 7th July

Arrivals day was a rather straightforward affair, with four of the twelve guests already being in situ in Rimplas and the two guides left them behind to enjoy themselves in order to collect those who were flying out early that morning.

As with the previous week, there were no serious delays, and upon returning to Rimplas it wasn't long before everyone was on the forest track enjoying the wonderfully rich range of butterfly species on offer. As clouds gathered, we saw Spotted and Fritillaries, Escher's Blue and Lulworth Skipper.

With both guides being accommodated away from the group in a nearby village, time was at a premium, and so it was decided that the best option was to include all that afternoon's sightings in with the next day's as guests were understandably tired and everybody needed an early night.



Day 2, Sunday 8th July

Sunday is traditionally a day of rest, and with the weather forecast being somewhat better than the week before, we decided to stay locally today with a minimum of vehicle travel. The fort at the top of the hill was visited in full sun prior to a descent of the forest track followed by lunch, as well as an option to explore the terraced meadows on the other side of Rimplas for those who preferred to include White-letter Hairstreaks on their afternoon menu.



On the forest track, both Baton Blue and Chequered Blue were present, indicative of a late spring, with Marsh Fritillary also appearing. Pleasingly, the Large Tortoiseshells seen the previous week were still about at the bottom of the track, whilst near to the hotel Peter G notified members of the group about a Southern Comma, which spent a good deal of time behaving very accommodatingly on one of the lavender bushes at the top of the track just inside the village. Other notables were Marbled Skipper, Foulquier's Grizzled Skipper, Geranium Bronze (seen on pelargoniums in the village), Amanda's and Chapman's Blues, Cleopatra, Dusky Heath, Southern White Admiral, Apollo (in the meadows above

the village) and Southern Small White. There was also a good showing of Hairstreaks, with Purple, White-letter, Sloe, Ilex, False Ilex & Blue-Spot all recorded. Hummingbird Hawk-moths were also seen.

The week's only Bath Whites were seen on this day and a review of the first two day's sightings revealed 64 species, all within a half hour walk of the hotel. Yiannis followed our checklist with his plant observations, carefully pointing out the larval foot-plants of many species, e.g., Tufted Vetch for Amanda's Blue, Common Sainfoin for Osiris Blue, Crown Vetch for Meleager's Blue, and other Onobrychis species for Chapman's, Damon and Furry Blues.



Day 3, Monday 9th July, Col de la Lombarde and environs

The first stop was at about 1,650m on the way up towards the col. Weather was good with sunshine and a little cumulus. Straight away some of the montane species made themselves visible, with False Heath Fritillary, Apollo, Almond-eyed Ringlet & Purple-edged Copper making an appearance.

Soon afterwards, the group made its way to the 2,360m col, and all were delighted to find decent numbers of the dainty Grisons Fritillary. Of course, the iconic species here is Cynthia's Fritillary, and several were seen, though not in particularly good numbers. Another sign of a late season was the surprise appearance by De Prunner's Ringlet. Less surprising was the sight of Peak White zooming about. This butterfly is almost always encountered at this time of year in these locations, but seldom if ever do they stop!

Lunch was taken and the group then explored a grassy meadow at around 1,750m, where several Geranium Argus were seen, before descending to a site at 1,300m that the guide had discovered the previous week. This location was replete with butterflies, including Turquoise Blue, Ringlet, Mazarine Blue, Green Hairstreak, Knapweed Fritillary, Black-veined White and Speckled Wood, amongst many others.



Grisons Fritillary © D Wright



Hummingbird Hawk-moth © M Butler

There was time for guests to enjoy another potter down the forest track before the evening closed in and the night's count saw 24 new species added making the aggregate total 88 after just two full days!

Day 4, Tuesday 10th July – St Dalmas le Selvage, Col de la Bonette and towards Vars.

Today was transit day, with quite a distance to travel. It was all sun. First stop was the delightful series of damp meadows at St Dalmas le Selvage. There are several puddling spots at this site and they were to turn up some interesting visitors.

The week's first Safflower & Olive Skippers were seen, whilst Osiris Blue was found in the uppermost meadow. Most pleasing of all perhaps, was the presence of Mountain Alcon Blue in a field down by the river. Amongst the butterflies seen taking mineral fluids were Eros Blue, Chalkhill Blue & Provençal Fritillary, whilst in the grassy areas, Small Apollo and other newcomers such as Titania's, Glanville & Lesser Marbled Fritillary, Chapman's Blue, Scarce Copper and Mountain Green-veined White.



Olive and Safflower Skippers © B Staley



Osiris Blue © A Ferguson



Landscape St Dalmas le Selvage © P Gravett

With lunch taken it was time to ascend to the 2,802m Col de la Bonette. Although windy and quite cool, the sun shone which meant that most of those who decided to walk up to the viewing point were rewarded with a handful of Sooty Ringlets, although sadly, opportunities to take images were limited due to the precarious nature of the scree slopes.

Having crossed onto the northern side of Bonette in the direction of Vars, the base for the second part of the trip, the guide stopped at what he thought was a likely looking site and the group got out and saw an excellent range of butterflies.

Glandon & Idas Blue were recorded, along with the week's first Small Apollo. Mountain Clouded Yellows started to appear whilst Mountain Ringlet was another satisfying find. The group arrived at Les Escondus hotel in the ski-ing village of Vars around 5.30pm, and after a hearty meal the nightly checklist showed the week's tally had now risen to 111 species with three full days yet to come.

Day 5, Wednesday 11th July, around Col de Vars

There was minimal vehicle travel today, with all the sites being within 4km of the hotel. Some of the group had been out early to explore the fields adjacent to the hotel, and were rewarded with Alpine Heath, Mountain Clouded Yellow and False Heath Fritillary. The weather was all sunshine but cooler to begin with.

By 10am the party were all at the car park at Col de Vars and were advised to spread out in any direction they fancied and that lunch would be taken at 12.30pm. The scenery was superb.



The meadows were heaving with Alpine Heaths, which is odd given they are absent from similar habitat south of Col de la Bonette. Mountain Argus, Shepherd's Fritillary and Large Ringlet were all 'firsts' for the week, whilst the guide managed to find a Blind Ringlet having gone alone to a site given to him by Roger Gibbons, previous leader of the Greenwings French Alps tour. The insect provided good photo opportunities to the whole group.

Grisons Fritillary was seen again in decent numbers, whilst Mountain Dappled White made an appearance too. However, the most satisfying aspect was to finally see the kind of numbers that one encounters normally in the Alps. 2018 had seen cool and wet weather up till early summer which had

suppressed butterfly numbers. However, the fine weather of the previous few days had obviously 'kick-started' some emergences, and many thousands of butterflies were seen in these glorious surroundings. Some of the other species seen today were: Berger's Clouded Yellow, Grisons, Knapweed, Glanville and False Heath Frits, Olive Skipper, Glandon, Chapman's, Idas and Osiris Blues and an aberrant Purple-edged Copper.

The biggest shock came in the evening. After the daily count revealed that 120 species had now been seen, Melvyn showed the guide his images from the day....which included a rare Moorland Clouded Yellow, so, the figure was amended to 121!



Moorland Clouded Yellow © M Butler



Purple-edged Copper © P Gravett



Mountain Dappled White © P Gravett



Habitat around Col de Vars© D Moore



Blind Ringlet © B Staley

Day 6, Thursday 12th July, Fontgillarde & Col d’Agnel

This excursion took the group into an area with few visitors, along the road towards Col d’Agnel and the Italian border in sunshine. Sun all day!

The first stop was a meadow bordered by a wood just beyond the rustic village of Fontgillarde, beside a fast-flowing river. All eyes were looking out for Alpine Blue but sadly it was not seen. However, Small Apollo was observed flying over the water whilst Glandon, Idas & Eros Blues were all avidly taking minerals from the banks.

The group soon moved on up to the col at 2,744m, however at this altitude there was a persistent mist which stubbornly refused to clear, in spite of the group having spent half an hour taking lunch there.



Dusky Grizzled Skipper © P Gravett



Mountain Fritillary © P Gravett



Dewy Ringlet © B Staley



Puddling Mazarine & Glandon Blues © P Gravett



Cynthia's Fritillary © P Gravett

A mere half kilometre away skies were blue, so the group descended to a small hill in the valley and were treated to a variety of high alpine species, such as Dewy Ringlet, Dusky Grizzled Skipper, Shepherd's & Mountain Fritillary nectaring on Compositae blooms, Common Brassy Ringlet, Mountain Dappled White and Cynthia's Fritillary. Again, numbers were encouraging, and the group returned to the first port of call, the riverside location, but alas Alpine Blue continued to elude everybody. We did manage to find Glandon, Idas, Mazarine, and Chapman's Blues, Spotted, Meadow and Knapweed fritillaries plus Olive and Safflower Skipper though!

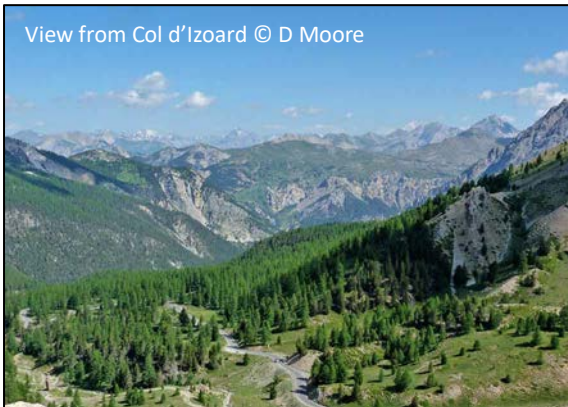


VCol d’Agnel © D Moore

Day 7, Friday 13th July, Col d'Izoard & Ristolas Valley

The last full day saw an ascent of the 2,360m Col d'Izoard, which is steeped in cycling's Tour de France history. It's easy to see why – the road zig-zags upwards very rapidly and must be something of a lung-buster for the competitors. It was another settled and sunny day. For the group, these vertiginous views and massive outcrops provided a spectacular backdrop.

By 10.30am the group had arrived, and on the recommendation of Roger Gibbons spread out to search for the highly elusive Alpine Grayling. Both Peak and Mountain Dappled Whites circuted the summit, with interesting looking *erebia* often circling before disappearing over the steep sides never to be identified.



View from Col d'Izoard © D Moore

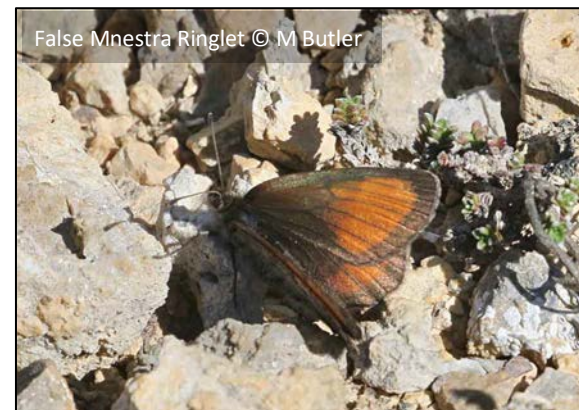


Dewy Ringlet © M Butler

However, good fortune arrived within 20 minutes or so when the guide spotted the first Alpine Grayling, one of our target species, with another seen shortly afterwards at the top of the hill.



Alpine Grayling © D Moore



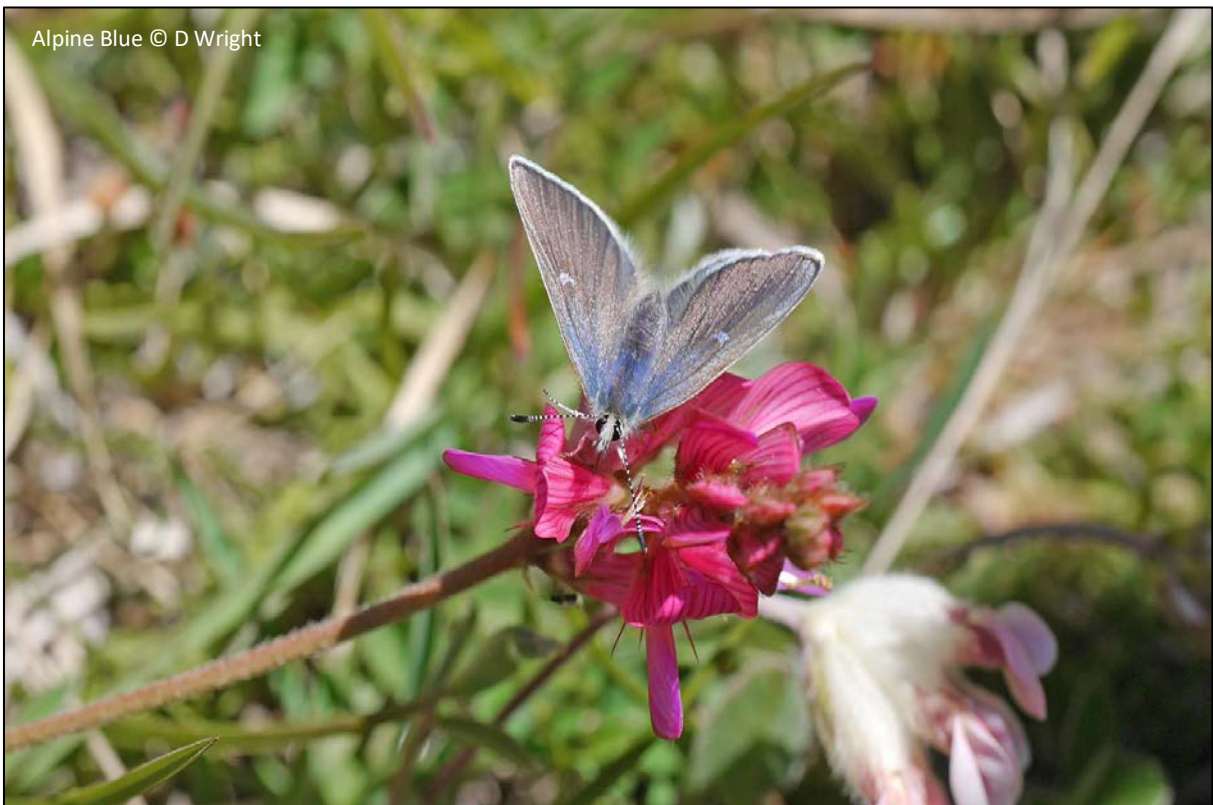
False Mnestra Ringlet © M Butler

With most people assembled at the vans awaiting departure there was a shout that came down from the hillside – Dave W had found an Alpine Blue....what's more it was a female!! The females of this species are notoriously hard to find, making this sighting not only the best of this trip, but amongst the best of any tour! The insect was happily nectaring on Sainfoin and allowed excellent approaches meaning all were given a prolonged and satisfying audience with one of the Alps' most desirable species. Dave W also recorded the week's only False Mnestra Ringlet as well as a Rosy Grizzled Skipper, and was worthy winner of the 'Keen Eyes' award for this trip!

The descent from the col was a little hair-raising (this is probably the steepest mountain road in the region) but eventually the group was back on the flat and travelling towards Ristolas. A few kilometres beyond, the road became a track and the group parked by the riverside whereupon a damp area reserved for cattle was seen to harbour good numbers of puddling butterflies. Amongst them were

the week's first Damon Blue as well as a Piedmont Ringlet.

The track was almost impassable due to ice at one point, demonstrating just how late the season had been, but the group enjoyed one last walk amongst the myriad of butterfly species before it was time to return to the hotel prior to the long trip back to the airport the following morning.





Footnote. The total number of butterfly species seen was 131, proving that the decision to combine the Rimplas part of the trip with a journey into the Queyras was a good one. It should also be mentioned that 2018 was a particularly poor year for butterflies, so one can only speculate on how many could actually be observed in a good or even an average year.

It was apparent that things were just starting to come alive during this tour, with butterfly numbers becoming healthier as the week progressed. Several species which are not seen on the traditional Alps tour were recorded. These were Alpine Grayling, Dewy Ringlet, Dusky Grizzled Skipper, Alpine Heath, Blind Ringlet & Moorland Clouded Yellow. The area around Vars was exceedingly good habitat, with copious alpine meadows and plenty of water whilst further towards the Italian border the landscape was particularly beautiful, with jagged mountain peaks encircling the verdant valleys lower down.

The area is not especially well-trodden by tourists which gave the group a good sense of space and freedom, and it was apparent that everybody had enjoyed a productive and pleasurable week.

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.

The journey time back to Nice was less than had originally been anticipated, meaning that there was no need to rush on the final day and, indeed, a brief stop on the far side of Col de la Bonette was possible to allow everyone to stretch their legs and take a last look for butterflies in these stunning surroundings.

The total of 131 species is quite an achievement in the space of just 7 days, and guests should be applauded for their observation in tracking many of the less common ones down.

Species lists and photo gallery overleaf

		Greenwings Mercantour Queyras Alps Butterfly Tour 7 -14th July 2018	07-Jul	08-Jul	09-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul	13-Jul	Days seen
	Butterfly species seen	Principal LHP(s)								
Hesperiidae - Skippers										
1	Mallow Skipper (<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>)	Common mallow (malva sylvestris)		✓	✓					2
2	Tufted Marbled Skipper (<i>Carcharodus flocciferus</i>)	Yellow/limestone/downy woundwort, betony (stachys recta/alpina/germanica/officinalis)		✓			✓		✓	3
3	Marbled Skipper (<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>)	Yellow/downy/field woundwort (stachys recta/germanica/arvensis)		✓	✓	✓			✓	4
4	Dingy Skipper (<i>Erynnis tages</i>)	Bird's foot trefoil/horseshoe vetch (lotus corniculatus/hippocrepis comosa)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	5
5	Large Skipper (<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>)	Cock's foot/flattened meadow grass/Tor Grass (dactylis glomerata/poa compressa/brachypodium pinnatum)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	5
6	Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper (<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>)	Tormentil/spring cinquefoil (potentilla reptans/potentilla tabernaemontani)					✓	✓		2
7	Foulquier's Grizzled Skipper (<i>Pyrgus foulquieri</i>)	Rockrose (helianthemum nummularium)		✓	✓					2
8	Large Grizzled Skipper (<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>)	Common rock rose/strawberry-leaf cinquefoil (helianthemum nummularium/potentilla sterilis)			✓	✓	✓			3
9	Alpine Grizzled Skipper (<i>Pyrgus andromedae</i>)	Tormentil/mountain avens (potentilla erecta/dryas octopetala)					✓			1
10	Safflower Skipper (<i>Pyrgus carthami</i>)	Spring cinquefoil (potentilla tabernaemontani/hirta)				✓	✓	✓	✓	4
11	Southern Grizzled Skipper (<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>)	Wild strawberry/Tormentil (fragaria vesca/potentilla reptans)			✓	✓	✓	✓		4
12	Olive Skipper (<i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>)	Sulphur cinquefoil (potentilla recta/pedata/hirta)				✓				1
13	Dusky Grizzled Skipper (<i>Pyrgus cacaliae</i>)	Potentilla						✓		1
14	Rosy Grizzled Skipper (<i>Pyrgus onopordi</i>)	Sulphur cinquefoil (potentilla recta/pedata/hirta)							✓	1
15	Red-underwing Skipper (<i>Spialia sertorius</i>)	Salad burnet (sanguisorba minor)		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	5
16	Silver-spotted Skipper (<i>Hesperia comma</i>)	Sheep's fescue (festuca ovina)							✓	1
17	Lulworth Skipper (<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>)	Tor grass/False brome (brachypodium pinnatum/brachypodium sylvaticum)		✓	✓					2
18	Essex Skipper (<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>)	Upright brome/creeping velvet grass (bromus erectus/holcus mollis)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5
19	Small Skipper (<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>)	Yorkshire fog/timothy (holcus lanatus/phleum pratense)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	5
Lycaenidae - Blues & Arguses										
20	Brown Argus (<i>Aricia agestis</i>)	Common rock rose/white rock rose (helianthemum nummularium/apenninum)		✓		✓				2
21	Mountain Argus (<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>)	Common rock rose (helianthemum nummularium)					✓	✓	✓	3

			07-Jul	08-Jul	09-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul	13-Jul	Days seen
22	Geranium Argus (<i>Aricia eumedon</i>)	Bloody cranesbill/wood cranesbill (geranium sanguineum/sylvaticum)			✓	✓	✓			3
23	Silvery Argus (<i>Aricia nicias</i>)	Wood cranesbill/meadow cranesbill (geranium sylvaticum/pratense)						✓	✓	2
24	Geranium Bronze (<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>)	Rose-scented pelargonium/king pelargonium (pelargonium capitatum/grandiflorum)		✓						1
25	Holly Blue (<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>)	Holly/ivy (ilex aquifolium/hedera helix)		✓	✓	✓				3
26	Small Blue (<i>Cupido minimus</i>)	Kidney vetch (anthyllis vulneraria)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5
27	Osiris Blue (<i>Cupido osiris</i>)	Sainfoin (onobrychis viciifolia)				✓	✓			2
28	Mazarine Blue (<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>)	Red clover/white clover (trifolium pratense/repens)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5
29	Mountain Alcon Blue (<i>Phengaris alcon (rebeli)</i>)	Marsh gentian/willow gentian (gentiana pneumonanthe/gentiana asclepiadea)				✓				1
30	Large Blue (<i>Phengaris arion</i>)	Broad-leaved thyme/creeping thyme (thymus pulegioides/thymus praecox)			✓	✓	✓			3
31	Silver-studded Blue (<i>Plebejus argus</i>)	Bird's foot trefoil/bladder senna (lotus corniculatus/colutea arborescens)			✓	✓		✓	✓	4
32	Glandon Blue (<i>Plebejus glandon</i>)	Rock jasmine (androsace chamaejasme/androsace vitaliana)				✓	✓	✓	✓	4
33	Idas Blue (<i>Plebejus idas</i>)	Common sea buckthorn/common broom (hippophae rhamnoides/cytisus scoparius)				✓	✓	✓	✓	4
34	Alpine Blue (<i>Plebejus orbitulus</i>)	Alpine milkvetch (astragalus alpinus)				✓			✓	2
35	Amanda's Blue (<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>)	Tufted vetch/wood vetch (vicia cracca/vicia sylvatica)		✓	✓				✓	3
36	Adonis Blue (<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>)	Horseshoe vetch (hippocrepis comosa)				✓				1
37	Chalkhill Blue (<i>Polyommatus coridon</i>)	Horseshoe vetch (hippocrepis comosa)				✓			✓	2
38	Damon Blue (<i>Polyommatus damon</i>)	Sainfoin (onobrychis viciifolia)							✓	1
39	Turquoise Blue (<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>)	Kidney vetch (anthyllis vulneraria)			✓				✓	2
40	Eros Blue (<i>Polyommatus eros</i>)	Yellow oxytropis/mountain milk vetch (oxytropis campestris/oxytropis jacquini)				✓	✓	✓	✓	4
41	Escher's Blue (<i>Polyommatus escheri</i>)	Montpellier milk vetch (astragalus monspessulanus)		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	5
42	Common Blue (<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>)	Birds foot trefoil/black medick (lotus corniculatus/medicago lupulina)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6
43	Chapman's Blue (<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>)	Sainfoin/rock sainfoin (onobrychis viciifolia/onobrychis saxatalis)				✓		✓	✓	3
44	Baton Blue (<i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>)	Wild thyme (thymus vulgaris)		✓	✓					2
45	Chequered Blue (<i>Scolitantides orion</i>)	Orpine/white stonecrop (sedum telephium/sedum album)		✓						1

			07-Jul	08-Jul	09-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul	13-Jul	Days seen
	Lycaenidae - Coppers									
46	Purple-shot Copper (<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>)	Common sorrel/sheep's sorrel (rumex acetosa/rumex acetosella)		✓	✓					2
47	Purple-edged Copper (<i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>)	Common sorrel/sheep's sorrel (rumex acetosa/rumex acetosella)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5
48	Small Copper (<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>)	Common sorrel/sheep's sorrel (rumex acetosa/rumex acetosella)		✓	✓					2
49	Sooty Copper (<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>)	Common sorrel/french sorrel (rumex acetosa/rumex scutatus)		✓	✓	✓	✓			4
50	Scarce Copper (<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>)	Common sorrel/french sorrel (rumex acetosa/rumex scutatus)				✓				1
	Lycaenidae - Hairstreaks									
51	Green Hairstreak (<i>Callophrys rubi</i>)	Prostrate canary clover/lucerne/yellow restharrow (dorycnium pentaphyllum/medicago sativa/ononis striata)			✓	✓				2
52	Purple Hairstreak (<i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>)	Quercus (oaks)		✓						1
53	White-Letter Hairstreak (<i>Satyrrium w-album</i>)	Wych/field elm (<i>Ulmus glabra/minor</i>)		✓						1
54	Sloe Hairstreak (<i>Satyrrium acaciae</i>)	Blackthorn/St Lucie cherry (<i>prunus spinosa/prunus mahaleb</i>)		✓						1
55	Ilex Hairstreak (<i>Satyrrium ilicis</i>)	Downy oak (<i>quercus pubescens</i>)		✓						1
56	False Ilex hairstreak (<i>Satyrrium esculi</i>)	Holm oak/kermes oak (<i>quercus ilex/quercus coccifera</i>)		✓						1
57	Blue-spot Hairstreak (<i>Satyrrium spini</i>)	Mediterranean buckthorn/purging buckthorn (<i>rhamnus alaternus/rhamnus cathartica</i>)		✓	✓					2
	Nymphalidae - Fritillaries									
58	Dark Green Fritillary (<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>)	Hairy violet/alpine marsh violet (<i>viola hirta/viola palustris</i>)				✓				1
59	Niobe Fritillary (<i>Argynnis niobe</i>)	Hairy violet/alpine marsh violet/common dog violet (<i>viola hirta/viola palustris/viola riviniana</i>)			✓	✓	✓		✓	4
60	Silver-washed Fritillary (<i>Argynnis paphia</i>)	Common dog-violet/early dog- violet (<i>viola riviniana/viola reichenbachiana</i>)		✓		✓				2
61	Weaver's Fritillary (<i>Boloria dia</i>)	Sweet violet/hairy violet (<i>viola odorata/viola hirta</i>)		✓	✓					2
62	Pearl-bordered Fritillary (<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>)	Early dog-violet/common dog violet (<i>viola reichenbachiana/viola riviniana</i>)			✓		✓			2
63	Mountain Fritillary (<i>Boloria napaea</i>)	Alpine yellow violet/alpine bistort (<i>viola biflora/polygonum viviparum</i>)						✓		1
64	Shepherd's Fritillary (<i>Boloria pales</i>)	Mountain violet (<i>viola calcarata</i>)					✓	✓	✓	3
65	Titania's Fritillary (<i>Boloria titania</i>)	Alpine yellow violet/European bistort (<i>viola biflora/polygonum bistorta</i>)				✓	✓	✓	✓	4
66	Marbled Fritillary (<i>Brenthis daphne</i>)	Woolly blackberry/European blackberry (<i>rubus canascens/rubus fruticosus</i>)		✓	✓	✓				3
67	Lesser Marbled Fritillary (<i>Brenthis ino</i>)	Meadowsweet (<i>filipendula ulmaria</i>)				✓				1

			07-Jul	08-Jul	09-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul	13-Jul	Days seen
68	Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>)	Devil's bit-scabious/small scabious (succisa pratensis/scabiosa columbaria)		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	5
69	Cynthia's Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas cynthia</i>)	Alpine plantain/mountain violet (plantago alpina/viola calcarata)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5
70	Queen of Spain Fritillary (<i>Issoria lathonia</i>)	Field pansy/heartsease (viola arvensis/viola tricolor)		✓	✓		✓			3
71	Heath Fritillary (<i>Melitaea athalia</i>)	Common cow-wheat/field cow-wheat (melampyrum pratense/melampyrum arvense)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	5
72	Provençal fritillary (<i>Mellicta dejone</i>)	Creeping toadflax/snap-dragon (linaria repens/antirrhinum latifolium)		✓		✓	✓			3
73	Glanville Fritillary (<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>)	Ribwort plantain/broadleaf plantain (plantago lanceolata/plantago major)				✓	✓		✓	3
74	False Heath Fritillary (<i>Melitaea diamina</i>)	Common valerian/ribwort plantain (valeriana officinalis/plantago lanceolata)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5
75	Spotted Fritillary (<i>Melitaea didyma</i>)	Ribwort plantain/yellow woundwort (plantago lanceolata/stachys recta)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6
76	Knapweed Fritillary (<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>)	Lesser knapweed/greater knapweed (cantaurea nigra/centaurea amara)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6
77	Grisons Fritillary (<i>Melitaea varia</i>)	Alpine plantain/gentiana verna (alpine plantain/spring gentian)			✓		✓	✓	✓	4
Nymphalidae - Aristocrats										
78	Small Tortoiseshell (<i>Aglais urticae</i>)	Stinging nettle (urtica dioica)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5
79	Southern White Admiral (<i>Limenitis reducta</i>)	Etruscan honeysuckle/evergreen honeysuckle (lonicera etrusca/lonicera implexa)		✓						1
80	Large Tortoiseshell (<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>)	Wych elm/field elm (ulmus glabra/ulmus minor)		✓						1
81	Comma (<i>Polygonia c-album</i>)	Common hop/urtica dioica (humulus lupulus/stinging nettle)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	5
82	Southern Comma (<i>Polygonia egea</i>)	Eastern pellitory of the wall (parietaria officinalis)		✓						1
83	Red Admiral (<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>)	Stinging nettle/annual nettle (urtica dioica/urtica urens)		✓	✓	✓	✓			4
84	Painted Lady (<i>Vanessa cardui</i>)	Creeping thistle/spear thistle (cirsium arvense/cirsium vulgare)		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	5
Papilionidae - Swallowtails & Apollos										
85	Scarce Swallowtail (<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>)	(prunus spinosa/prunus mahaleb) Blackthorn/St Lucie cherry		✓	✓					2
86	Swallowtail (<i>Papilio machaon</i>)	Fennel/wild carrot (foeniculum vulgare/daucus carota)		✓	✓	✓	✓			4
87	Apollo (<i>Parnassius apollo</i>)	White stonecrop/orpine (sedum album/sedum telephium)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6
88	Small Apollo (<i>Parnassius phoebus</i>)	Yellow mountain saxifrage/aaron's rod (saxifraga aizoides/rhodiola rosea)				✓		✓	✓	3
Pieridae - Whites & Yellows										
89	Orange Tip (<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>)	Cuckoo flower/garlic mustard (cardimine pratensis/alliaria petiolata)			✓	✓	✓		✓	4

			07-Jul	08-Jul	09-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul	13-Jul	Days seen
90	Black-veined White (<i>Aporia crataegi</i>)	Common hawthorn/whitebeam (<i>crataegus monogyna/sorbus aria</i>)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	5
91	Berger's Clouded Yellow (<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>)	Horseshoe vetch (<i>hippocrepis comosa</i>)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		5
92	Clouded Yellow (<i>Colias crocea</i>)	Lucerne/trifolium pratense/trifolium repens (<i>medicago sativa/red/white clover</i>)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		5
93	Mountain Clouded Yellow (<i>Colias phicomone</i>)	Horseshoe vetch (<i>hippocrepis comosa</i>)				✓	✓	✓	✓	4
94	Moorland Clouded Yellow (<i>Colias palaeno</i>)	Bog bilberry (<i>vaccinium uliginosum</i>)					✓			1
95	Mountain Dappled White (<i>Euchloe simplonia</i>)	Buckler mustard (<i>biscutella laevigata</i>)					✓	✓	✓	3
96	Cleopatra (<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>)	Mediterranean buckthorn (<i>rhamnus alaternus</i>)		✓	✓	✓				3
97	Brimstone (<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>)	Mediterranean buckthorn/alder buckthorn (<i>rhamnus alaternus/frangula alnus</i>)		✓	✓	✓	✓			4
98	Wood White (<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>)	Meadow vetchling/tufted vetch (<i>lathyrus pratensis/vicia cracca</i>)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		5
99	Large White (<i>Pieris brassicae</i>)	Field mustard/wild cabbage (<i>sinapis arvensis/brassica oleracea</i>)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6
100	Mountain Green-veined White (<i>Pieris bryoniae</i>)	Alpine pennycress/buckler mustard (<i>thlaspi montanum/biscutella laevigata</i>)				✓	✓	✓	✓	4
101	Green-veined White (<i>Pieris napi</i>)	Garlic mustard/field pepperwort (<i>alliaria petiolata/lepidium campestre</i>)			✓	✓				2
102	Small White (<i>Pieris rapae</i>)	Field mustard/wild cabbage (<i>sinapis arvensis/brassica oleracea</i>)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6
103	Southern Small white (<i>Pieris manni</i>)	Candytuft/perennial wall-rocket (<i>iberis linifolia/diplotaxis tenuifolia</i>)		✓		✓			✓	3
104	Peak White (<i>Pontia callidice</i>)	Alpine rock-cress/alpine bittercress (<i>arabis alpina/cardamine alpina</i>)			✓	✓			✓	3
105	Bath White (<i>Pontia daplidice</i>)	Wild mignonette/hairy bittercress (<i>reseda lutea/cardamine hirsuta</i>)		✓						1
	Nymphalidae - Ringlets, Browns, Graylings & Heaths									
106	Ringlet (<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>)	Tor grass/false brome (<i>brachypodium pinnatum/b.sylvaticum</i>)			✓	✓				2
107	Mountain Ringlet (<i>Erebia epiphron</i>)	Mat grass (<i>nardus stricta</i>)				✓	✓	✓		3
108	De Prunner's Ringlet (<i>Erebia triaria</i>)	Sheep's fescue/european feather grass (<i>festuca ovina/stipa pennata</i>)			✓					1
109	Piedmont Ringlet (<i>Erebia meolans</i>)	Common bent/mat grass (<i>agrostis capillaris/nardus stricta</i>)							✓	1
110	Sooty Ringlet (<i>Erebia pluto</i>)	Alpine fescue (<i>festuca alpina</i>)				✓				1
111	Blind Ringlet (<i>Erebia pharte</i>)	Mat grass/red fescue (<i>nardus stricta/festuca rubra</i>)					✓			1
112	Dewy Ringlet (<i>Erebia pandrose</i>)	Mat grass (<i>nardus stricta</i>)						✓		1
113	False Mnestra Ringlet (<i>Erebia gorge</i>)	Festuca paniculata							✓	1
114	Almond-eyed Ringlet (<i>Erebia alberganus</i>)	Sheep's fescue (<i>festuca ovina</i>)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5

			07-Jul	08-Jul	09-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul	13-Jul	Days seen
115	Common Brassy Ringlet (<i>Erebia cassioides</i>)	Sheep's fescue (festuca ovina)					✓	✓		2
116	Large Ringlet (<i>Erebia euryale</i>)	Red fescue/sheep's fescue (festuca rubra/festuca ovina)					✓	✓	✓	3
117	Great Banded Grayling (<i>Brintesia circe</i>)	Sweet vernal grass/upright brome (anthoxanthum odoratum/bromus erectus)		✓	✓	✓				3
118	Woodland Grayling (<i>Hipparchia fagi</i>)	Phoenician tor grass/Mediterranean false brome (brachypodium phoenicoides/b.retusum)		✓						1
119	Alpine Grayling (<i>Oeneis glacialis</i>)	Sheep's fescue (festuca ovina)							✓	1
120	Alpine Heath (<i>Coenonympha gardetta</i>)	Poaceae					✓	✓	✓	3
121	Pearly Heath (<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>)	Hairy melic/tor grass (melica ciliata/brachypodium pinnatum)		✓	✓					2
122	Darwin's Heath (<i>Coenonympha darwiniana</i>)	Tor grass (brachypodium pinnatum)				✓	✓		✓	3
123	Dusky Heath (<i>Coenonympha dorus</i>)	Tor grass/sheep's fescue (brachypodium pinnatum/festuca ovina)		✓	✓					2
124	Chestnut Heath (<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>)	False brome/hairy melic (brachypodium sylvaticum)				✓	✓			2
125	Small Heath (<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>)	Annual meadow grass/crested dog's tail (poa annua/cynosurus cristatus)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	5
126	Large Wall (<i>Lasiommata maera</i>)	Sheep's fescue/smooth meadow grass (festuca ovina/poa pratensis)		✓		✓	✓		✓	4
127	Wall (<i>Lasiommata megera</i>)	Sheep's fescue/mediterranean false brome (festuca ovina/brachypodium retusum)		✓	✓	✓				3
128	Meadow Brown (<i>Maniola jurtina</i>)	Annual meadow grass/sheep's fescue (poa annua/festuca ovina)		✓	✓	✓				3
129	Marbled White (<i>Melanargia galathea</i>)	Timothy grass/sheep's fescue (phleum pratense/festuca ovina)		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	5
130	Speckled Wood (<i>Pararge aegeria</i>)	Annual meadow grass/smooth meadow grass (poa annua/poa pratensis)			✓	✓				2
131	Great Sooty Satyr (<i>Satyrus ferula</i>)	Sheep's fescue (festuca ovina)		✓	✓	✓			✓	4
	Daily Total			64	70	79	65	45	63	
	Running Total			64	88	111	121	125	131	

Plant list overleaf

	Alpes Maritimes Plants seen	7-14/7/2018	Day seen
	Pteridophyta		
	Botrychium lunaria	Moonwort	day 3
	Angiospermae		
	Dicotyledons		
3	Apiaceae		
	Orlaya grandiflora		day 2
5	Asteraceae		
	Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	day 5
	Adenostyles		day 5
	Anthemis tinctoria		day 2
	Aster alpinus	Alpine Aster	day 7
	Bupthalmum salicifolium	Yellow Ox-eye	day 2
	Homogyna alpina		day 6
	Leontopodium alpinum		day 7
	Leucanthemum vulgare	Ox-eye Daisy	every day
	Leucanthemum alpine		day 4
	Boraginaceae		
	Cynoglossum officinale	Hound's-tongue	day 7
	Echium vulgare	Viper's Bugloss	day 2
6	Brassicaceae		
	Isatis tinctoria		day 4
	Thlaspi rotundifolium		day 4
7	Campanulaceae		
	Campanula alpestris		day 7
	Campanula barbata		day 7
	Phyteuma nigrum		day 3
	Phyteuma orbiculare		day 3
	Phyteuma spicatum		day 3
8	Caryophyllaceae		
	Dianthus sylvestris	Wood Pink	day 3
	Saponaria ocymoides		day 6
	Silene flos-jovis		day 3
	Silene vulgaris		day 5
9	Cistaceae		
	Helianthemum nummularium		day 5
10	Crassulaceae		
	Sedum acre		day 1
	Sedum album		day 1
	Sedum ochroleucum		day 1

	Sedum saxatile		day 3
	Sempervivum arachnoideum		day 3
12	Ericaceae		
	Rhododendron ferrugineum	Alpenrose	day 3
13	Euphorbiaceae		
	Euphorbia cyparissias		day 7
14	Fabaceae		
	Anthyllis montana		day 5
	Anthyllis vulneraria	Kidney Vetch	day 3
	Astragalus glycyphyllos		day 3
	Coronilla varia		day 2
	Lathyrus latifolius		day 3
	Lathyrus pratense		day 4
	Onobrychis viciifolia		day 2
	Ononis cristata		day 7
	Trifolium alpinum		day 6
	Trifolium montanum		day 6
	Trifolium pratense		day 4
	Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	day 2
	Vicia lathyroides		day 4
15	Fagaceae		
16	Gentianaceae		
	Gentiana acaulis	Trumpet Gentian	day 3
	Gentiana lutea	Yellow Gentian	day 7
	Gentiana verna	Spring Gentian	day 5
17	Geraniaceae		
	Geranium pyrenaicum	Hedgerow Cranesbill	common
	Geranium sylvaticum	Wood Cranesbill	day 3
18	Globulariaceae		
19	Lamiaceae		
	Lavandula angustifolia		day 2
	Prunella vulgaris		day 2
	Salvia pratensis	Meadow Clary	day 2
	Stachys recta	Yellow Woundwort	day 2
20	Linaceae		
	Linum suffruticosum		day 2
22	Malvaceae		
	Malva sylvestris	Mallow	day 2
28	Polygonaceae		
	Polygonum bistorta	Bistort	day 3
	Polygonum alpinum	Alpine Knotgrass	day 3

29	Primulaceae		
	<i>Androsace vitaliana</i>		day 4
	<i>Soldanella alpina</i>		day 6
30	Ranunculaceae		
	<i>Ranunculus glacialis</i>		day 4
	<i>Ranunculus pyrenaicus</i>		day 3
	<i>Ranunculus sequeri</i>		day 6
33	Rosaceae		
	<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine Lady's Mantle	day 6
	<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens	day 6
	<i>Geum reptans</i>		day 4
	<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Hoary Cinquefoil	day 2
34	Rubiaceae		
	<i>Gallium helveticum</i>		day 4
36	Saxifragaceae		
	<i>Saxifraga aizoides</i>		day 6
	<i>Saxifraga hederacea</i>		day 5
	<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>		day 6
37	Scrophulariaceae		
	<i>Digitalis grandiflora</i>	Large Yellow Foxglove	day 3
	<i>Digitalis lutea</i>	Small Yellow Foxglove	day 3
	<i>Linaria alpina</i>		day 4
	<i>Veronica alpina</i>	Alpine Speedwell	day 6
	Monocotyledons		
39	Liliaceae		
	<i>Allium sphaerocephalon</i>	Round-headed Leek	day 3
	<i>Anthericum liliago</i>	St. Bernard's Lily	day 4
	<i>Asphodelus albus</i>		day 3
	<i>Lilium bulbiferum</i>		day 3
	<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon Lily	day 3
40	Orchidaceae		
	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	day 2
	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid	day 3
	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid	day 5
	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid	day 2
	<i>Listera ovata</i>	Twayblade	
	<i>Nigritella corneliana</i>		day 3
	<i>Traunsteinera globosa</i>		day 5

Photo gallery overleaf



Cynthia's Fritillary © A Ferguson



Glanville Fritillary © M Butler



Darwin's Heath © A Ferguson



Large Wall © P Gravett



Alpine Blue © B Staley

Southern Comma © P Gravett



Glandon Blue © P Gravett





Spotted Fritillary © M Butler



Purple-shot Copper © M Butler



Purple-edged Copper ab © M Butler



Apollo © M Butler



Mountain Clouded Yellow © M Butler



Red-underwing Skipper © M Butler



Great Sooty Satyr © M Butler



Dusky Grizzled Skipper © M Butler

Black-veined White (all males) taking minerals © M Butler



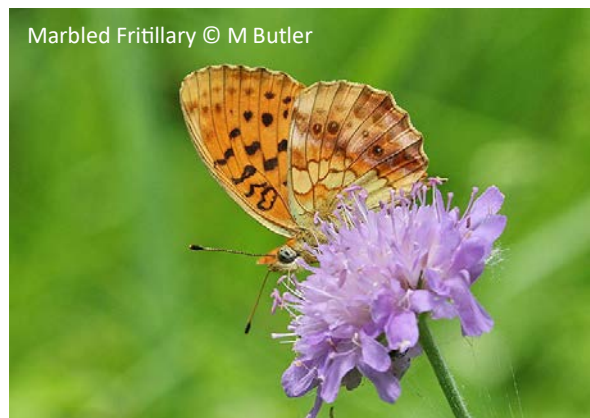
Silvery Argus © M Butler



Knapweed Fritillary © M Butler



Escher's Blue © M Butler



Marbled Fritillary © M Butler





Silvery Argus (l) and Mountain Argus (r) © B Staley



Foulquier's Grizzled Skipper © D Wright



Black Redstart © M Butler



Gentiana caudalis © M Butler



Mountain Green-veined White © D Wright



Martagon Lily © M Butler

Greenwingers in action © P Gravett



Titania's Fritillary © P Gravett



Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper © P Gravett



Purple-shot Copper © P Gravett



Small Apollo © P Gravett









Pearly Heath © P Gravett



Sooty Ringlet © D Wright



Eros Blue © D Wright



Baton Blue (m) taking minerals © D Wright





Apollo © B Staley



Swallowtail © B Staley



False Heath Fritillary © B Staley



Marsh Fritillary © B Staley



Southern White Admiral © B Staley

Purple-edged Copper © B Staley



Idas Blue © B Staley



Mountain Fritillary © B Staley



False Ilex Hairstreak © B Staley



Marbled Skipper © B Staley



Cleopatra © B Staley



Woodland Grayling © B Staley



Cynthia's Fritillary © B Staley



Meleager's Blue © B Staley



Heath Fritillary © B Staley



Alpine landscape Col de Vars © P Gravett



Grisons Fritillary © D Wright



Pyramidal Orchid © A Staley



Ophrys © A Staley



Trumpet Gentian © A Staley



Vanilla Orchid © A Staley



Linaria alpina © A Staley

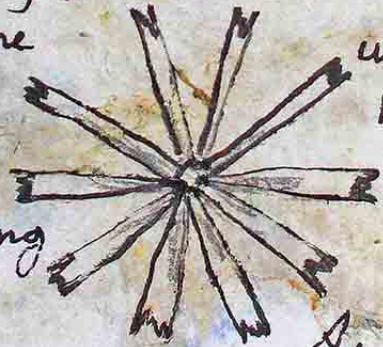


Ranunculus alpestris © A Staley

The view from the terrace at the hotel 517



Dinner - I had the avocado & rice salad starter again. Barrie had beautiful orange melon & ham. Barrie had the cheesy potato & salad. I had the chicken which came with a jacket potato. We both had apple tart, cream and ice cream. - lovely, very filling



Alpine
kettle

View from the terrace © A Staley



Anita, Liz and Ian © C Cole



Ian and Sue photographing Cynthia's Frit © A Staley



Greenwingers Allan, Sue, Peter, Liz, Ian, David © B Staley

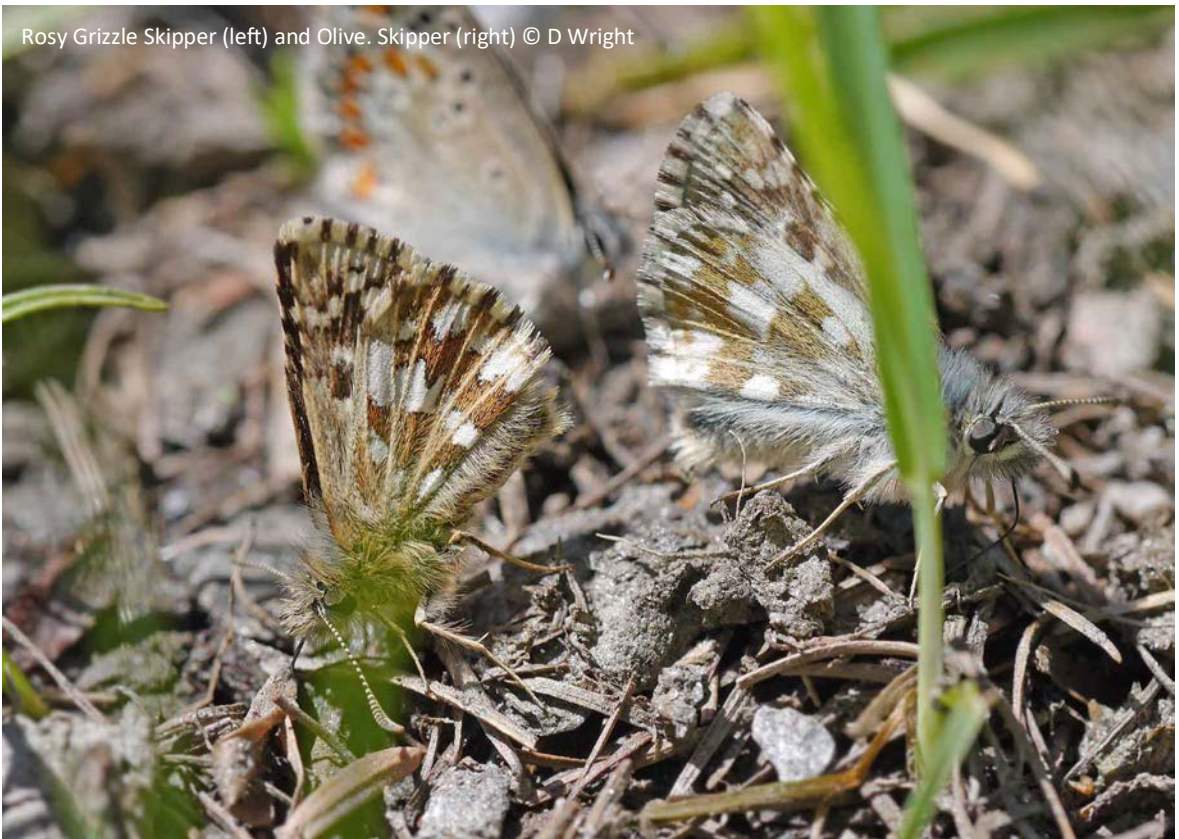


Col d'Izoard Alpine Grayling study © B Staley





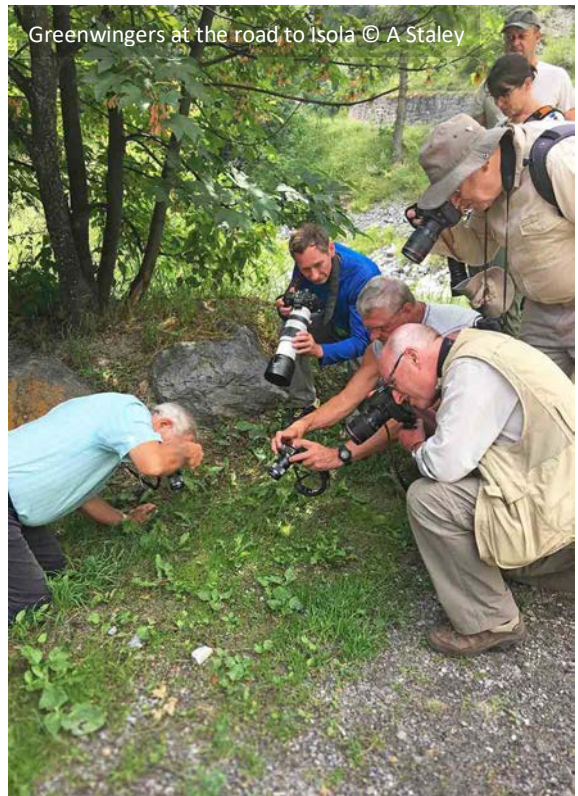
Amanda's Blue © M Butler



Rosy Grizzle Skipper (left) and Olive Skipper (right) © D Wright



Photographing Southern Comma © A Staley



Greenwings at the road to Isola © A Staley



Relaxing at Col de Vars

