

Butterflies and Birds of North Greece, 8-15 June 2018

Led by Jon Dunn & Julian Dowding



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This early summer butterfly and bird holiday was based within Lake Kerkini National Park, one of the best areas in Europe for butterflies and birds and lying very close to the Bulgarian border. The Park has protected status under the Ramsar Convention and also is one of the best places in the world to see the globally endangered Dalmatian Pelican. The Park boasts around 130 butterfly species, over 300 bird species and a host of other wildlife. The main reason for this abundance is the richness in diverse habitats which include wetlands, flowery hillsides, alpine pastures and emerald green mountains covered in forests of beech, hornbeam, oak, black pine and oriental plane. It has been widely known for its avifauna since the beginning of the 20th century. To be sitting by the shores of the lake while being serenaded by the songs of Nightingales, Turtle Doves and Golden Orioles is a magical experience.

Our aim therefore was to spend a relaxing week exploring the area for butterflies, birds and other wildlife in the hope of seeing around 80-100 butterfly species and a similar number of birds. Indeed, it turned out that way with 98 butterfly species seen and 122 bird species providing plenty of interest for the following 12 guests who joined Jon and Julian our guides for the trip: Michael and Sue, Harry, David and Anne, Jim, David W, Peter, Philip, Rosemary and Fergus and Mary.



Puddling Scarce Swallowtails © Jim B

Day 1

Our flights arrived at Thessaloniki Airport as scheduled, and after admiring the large Pallid Swift colony at the airport, by about 12:30pm we were en route to our hotel in Chrysohorafa, a little village not far from the lake. As we travelled northwards, Clouded Yellow and Cleopatra were seen from the first bus. After arriving at the hotel and unpacking our cases we went for giros, a Greek traditional lunch, before heading north towards Vironia and our afternoon outing.

Stop 1. Our first stop was just before a railway crossing where our first interesting butterfly of the trip, Lang's Short-tailed Blue was spotted, along with a few Holly and Common Blues.

Stop 2. Ascending past the rich Christ Thorn bushes on the way to a well-known quarry, we stopped at a damp patch where livestock had been. Here, a few butterflies were found, including Bath White and Swallowtail. The most impressive bird here was a male Levant Sparrowhawk calling from fairly high up, but nevertheless within easy sight. These birds are usually seen here, though never in great numbers so it was a good find. Better yet, the bird was actually mobbing a Lesser Spotted Eagle. Nightingales provided a lovely soundtrack singing from the scrubby Christ's Thorn.

Stop 3. We moved up towards a small ford, which was now just a damp patch due to the summer heat. Here, Silver-washed Fritillaries and Large Tortoiseshell were the real show stoppers. Whites were scrutinised for Kruepers Small White, but alas none were seen. Syrian Woodpecker was seen and heard calling in the large Oriental Plane trees and a Spotted Flycatcher was also present here. For those fortunate enough to be looking in the right direction at just the right moment, Golden Orioles were seen in flight – but we could all hear their beautiful fluting calls from amongst the canopy – this enigmatic species thrives in the region, filled as it is with food and the vast poplar plantations providing nesting places. At the quarry, Crag Martins darted about the rock face, and Hoopoe, Black-eared Wheatear and Woodchat Shrike provided avian highlights, while a small tortoise was the first of many we would encounter as the week wore on. Peter pointed out and we were all intrigued by a large Saga pedo bush cricket, fully 6 ins long.



Jon pointed out Rock Nuthatch nests fixed 30m up on the quarry face. The most common butterfly here was Ilex Hairstreak. Holly Blue, Wall Brown and Meadow Brown were also seen. This spot held commanding views of Lake Kerkini in the mid-distance, set against the Mavrovouni Hills. On the way down, we stopped for a male Cirl Bunting singing from an overhead wire. Other birds seen today included Common Buzzard, Great Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron (as

we crossed the dam at Lithotopos on the way to the hotel), White Stork, Yellow-legged Gull, Woodpigeon, Turtle Dove singing, Common Cuckoo (Peter), Crested Lark and House Martin.

Day 2.

Stop 1. We made a fairly early start after breakfast, heading to Mandraki Harbour. Here we were greeted by the song of Great Reed Warbler, Golden Orioles, and a calling Little Bittern. The latter was eventually seen very easily, flying a circuit just above the water before landing in the reeds. Other birds included Squacco Heron, Common Tern, Pygmy Cormorants, hundreds of Great Crested Grebes, whose many nests dotted the water surface wherever the yellow water buttercup was absent, filling in the gaps! Otherwise it was a mass of yellow all the way to the pelican nesting platforms which local conservationists had installed in recent times. With scopes and bins, we could easily see the huge man-made platforms covered in pelicans, both White and Dalmatian. Not only are the globally endangered Dalmatian Pelicans nesting here, but recently White pelicans have begun to utilize the platforms as well. It's a double success story and one for which the Greeks should be applauded. Maria, our extra birding guide gave a brief explanation of the importance of the lake to the region, for its birdlife, and especially the pelicans and Lesser White-fronted Geese, whose entire European population uses Lake Kerkini in winter. The harbour offers an exceptional vantage point from which to view the surroundings at lake level. It's a magical spot, and was further gilded by our first Queen of Spain fritillaries.



Talk at Mandraki Harbour © Greenwings

Stop 2. After Mandraki, we drove to a little reservoir higher up Mt. Belles. Here in the shade, lots of Silver-washed Fritillaries were seen, along with a few Small Skippers, Bath White, Nettle Tree butterfly, and Large Tortoiseshell. Half a dozen species of dragonfly were hawking over the reservoir. Red-rumped Swallows darted past, their needle like tails and pale rumps visible. Barn Swallow was also present. Cuckoo was again heard here... We fanned out to explore the slopes surrounding the reservoir, with Sooty Coppers providing a welcome reward for our efforts.



Queens of Spain © Mike & Sue F-W

Stop 3. We headed towards Paleocastro, to seek Rollers, but although none were seen, Bee-eaters, and Crested Larks put on a good show for us. On the wires overhead, a male Corn

Bunting was happily singing its jangling notes and, perched atop a False Acacia, a wonderfully marked Lesser Grey Shrike was spotted, followed shortly on exactly the same bush by Black-headed Bunting.

Stop 4. Our next stop was near the Bulgarian border, in a thick wood at Promohonas. Here we would search for woodpeckers. Middle Spotted was heard and eventually spotted, but the prize of the day bird wise, had to be a Black Woodpecker, seen and heard calling first by David and Sue on the giant Aspens. This wet woodland was also home to many dragonflies too including Beautiful Demoiselle. Butterflies were good, though not seen in huge numbers. However, two new species for the trip were added in the form of Map and Common Glider. Speckled Wood and Great Banded Grayling were present along the edges of the wood, the Great Banded flying fast, though some nectared on the Brambles affording good photo opportunities amidst abundant and photogenic Silver-washed Fritillaries. Phil also found Silver-studded Blues in the arable field nearby where Black-veined White was also seen along with Balkan Marbled White.



Stop 5. The temperature was rising into the 30's so we decided to travel on to a welcoming taverna for a well-earned cold drink or ice lolly. A cloud of puddling blue butterflies (mainly Common Blues) were seen taking minerals just outside. Amongst them though, we found our first Anomalous Blue of the trip. We took our time here, exploring the surroundings and soaking up the atmosphere of a fairly hot (for N Greece) day before deciding to head back.



Stop 6. A quick stop at the eastern embankment for Sand Martins and Bee-eaters was made after an abortive attempt to find Lesser Spotted Eagle. We arrived home at the hotel about 6pm, giving us plenty of time to freshen up before dinner. Other birds today included Shoveler, Common Buzzard, Common Kestrel, Moorhen, Syrian Woodpecker, White Wagtail, Nightingale (plentiful), Song Thrush, Cetti's Warbler, singing Penduline Tit, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Masked Shrike, Tree Sparrow, Chaffinch and Goldfinch; while moth-wise, both Hummingbird Hawkmoth and 9-Spotted moth were seen.

Day 3

West side of lake and Mount Belles.

Stop 1. The early birders didn't get the worm today. We'd arranged to have an early visit to a mulberry tree close to our village, which just days before had been dripping with Rose-coloured Starlings – these handsome starlings were having one of their periodic irruption years, with some individuals even found in Britain – and the lure of a flock of them was too much for us to resist. So, for those who wished to start early, we set off about 7:30 to look for these birds. Alas, none were seen but a Little Bittern provided ample compensation when it revealed itself to us very close by in an adjacent dyke.

Stop 2. We headed out to a quarry south of the lake, called Chaemarrhos. Arriving about 8.30am, we pulled up at a rather dry looking river margin, with olive trees higher up in some fields. Roz investigated several Mulleins, currently displaying gorgeous yellow flowers, and soon found several Spotted Fritillary larvae, about 3/4 grown.

Plenty of dragonflies were also seen but the prize of the day had to be Little Tiger Blue butterfly, spotted in determined fashion by Jim. Lightening and clouds the night before made for a very humid and cloudy start, so this little gem was tucked away in the sward. Fortunately, the creature didn't elude Jim's hawk-like eyes, and soon everyone was on their hands and knees photographing this exquisite little jewel of a butterfly, one of the smallest in Europe and no bigger than a small fingernail.



Stop 3. We moved along to the quarry itself and here found Spotted Fritillary (*meridionalis* form) and Southern Grizzled Skipper, found by Peter and Phil respectively. Maria homed in with her scope on a Corn Bunting. Above us, circling high, but getting nearer all the time, two Short-toed Eagles eyed each other up while butterflies including Clouded Yellows fluttered past.

Stop 3. We continued up our track moving beyond the quarry and following a small, fast flowing river. This yielded more dragonflies and beautiful Southern White Admirals and one or two Nettle Tree butterflies. Overhead, Lesser Spotted Eagle soared by very closely. Two locals had placed their beehives nearby and, as we approached, raised their arms and told us stay back as they were inspecting their bees. Maria our bird guide spoke with them briefly but we turned back along the track. Red-backed Shrike was seen perched close by on Christ's Thorn.

Stop 4. After an hour or so, we drove down to the picnic huts near Lithotopos harbour, searching for Lesser Fiery Copper. Alas none were seen. Later, photos produced by Harry confirmed their presence.



Lesser Fiery Copper © Harry F

Stop 5. We ascended to the small chapel above Lithotopos and here relaxed over a coffee. It wasn't long before eyes began to gaze skywards, and so it was that we quickly found a Woodchat Shrike perched atop a small tree. As we moved on, along a flowery track, several Common Blues and Brown Argus were seen, while Scarce Swallowtail and Swallowtail quartered the meadows on the hillside below us. Right at the very end, by an old livestock carcass, two or three Marbled Fritillaries were seen in Bramble. Lower down we found both Mallow and Pygmy Skippers. These were trumped by two more Little Tiger Blues, which were eagerly photographed.

Stop 6. We ventured along the western shores, saw Garganey and Black Stork at the Korafoudi Marshes and, at the hide, saw two Black Kites soaring over.

Stop 7. Kerkini, and the National Park Centre was our next location. Over 40 pairs of White Stork nest here, on platforms installed on specially crafted telegraph poles. It's clear that the Greeks residing in this area see wildlife as an ally, not foe, and it was wonderful to spend a little time watching these fascinating birds. Then we moved to the harbour itself for lunch. Plenty of Barn Swallows and Tree Sparrows were in evidence, as we tucked into our tuna sandwiches washed down with juice.



White Stork nestlings © Mike & Sue FW

Stop 8. Ano Porroia. Our last stop of the day was the track leading up the mountain, known by the Greeks as Mt. Belles, by the Bulgarians as Beletsitsa, and by the British as Mt. Kerkini! The first butterflies were mainly Nettle Trees, but soon Clouded Yellow, Balkan Marbled White and Painted Lady graced us. Mallow Skipper was again seen as was Dingy Skipper, Brimstone, Large and Small Whites, Eastern

Bath White, along with Silver-studded Blue, Common Blue and Sooty Copper. Spotted Fritillaries were reasonably common here, and their cousins, Silver-washed, Queen of Spain, and Heath Fritillaries were also in evidence. As were Large Tortoiseshells (just a couple), Peacocks, and one superb Southern Comma. Jon went running up the mountain to inform the guests of this beauty, but such was the heat, none of them really wanted to come back down to look! They could not be blamed, but our two guides were rather crestfallen. "Southern Comma - and they don't want to see it!" said one. The fear was that this insect would not be seen again on the trip, this being the edge of the species range, and a butterfly not seen on this particular holiday for several years...

Thread-winged Lacewings were spotted too. These strange creatures always cause a stir when first seen and little was known about their biology until recently. The adults have special jaws adapted to feed on pollen, whilst their eggs are laid on the ground, and the larvae feed upon microorganisms. Looking something like a cross between an antlion and butterfly, they were plentiful on the yellow flowers of certain *Compositae* species. Rose Chafers were plentiful too, and also attracted much attention, mainly due to their wonderful iridescent green and bronze colouring.



Thread-winged Lacewing © Mike F-W



Southern Comma © Dave W

In this rugged environment, it was no great surprise when we discovered two Peregrines soaring and calling above our heads.

By 5.20pm we decided to head down and back to the hotel. Driving carefully through the picturesque little village, the first bus lost sight of the second and waited. Suddenly Jon came running down the street waving his arms to attract the attention of the first group. He'd found the first of at least two further Southern Comma and had nearly driven past them as they alighted on a wall. Jon deserved a drink that night for his dedication to the cause! Other birds today included nice sightings of soaring Dalmatian Pelicans, Common Buzzard, Booted Eagle, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Moorhen, Turtle Dove, Little Owl (in the village) Common Swift, Hoopoe, Mallard, Crested Lark, Skylark, Barn Swallow, Great Reed Warbler, Eurasian Reed Warbler, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Common Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Spanish Sparrow, Raven and House Martin.

Day 4. Vrontous

The weather forecast for today was very good, so after breakfast, we set out to our location beyond Serres, for the Vrontous Mountains. One has to have a 'weather eye' for such activities, because conditions in the high mountains can deteriorate rapidly, with cloud appearing as if out of nowhere but for now, all seemed set fair....

Stop 1. Our first stop was at about 600 metres, just after slowing for a Red Squirrel which had decided to run along beside our first vehicle. It seemed a little out of place, and more like its north American grey cousin which we've all become so familiar with. Yet here was this rare 'Red' running down the road.

Our stop was a nice sloping meadow full of Thymes and Genistas, and it gave us a good chance to stretch our legs and enjoy some higher elevations. Almost immediately, three blues were seen frolicking in the morning sunshine and one of these turned out to be our first Large Blue of the trip. Settling on thyme this wee cracker provided some nice photo ops. Two other Large Blues were seen here. Jim was certainly pleased, it being his first ever sighting of the species and indeed they are rather beautiful!

Impressive too was the Sweet Chestnut in full bloom providing home to countless Rose Chafers. Amanda's Blue was also seen here by some of the group, as was Ilex Hairstreak, Silver-studded Blue, Common Blue, Mazarine Blue, Small Skipper, Spotted Fritillary, Clouded Yellow and Lattice Brown.

Stop 2. After half an hour in the meadow we continued to our second point, a high slope by the Ski Centre covered in all manner of different plants, including Wild Strawberry, Violas, Bedstraws and Mulleins. Balkan Copper was the first treat in store for all of us here, its eye-catching metallic deep orange hues easily discernible to everyone in our little troupe. Photos were duly taken. For some, this is the most spectacular member of the copper family, probably even out-doing Large Copper because of its deeper colouration, even if not being quite as big an insect. Ultimately, about four of these beauties were seen, including a lovely egg-laying female. At about 1,600m, pretty much all of the species living here were well adapted to the lower temperatures and these included a couple of specialties, including Woodland Ringlet and Northern Wall Brown. The latter insects



Large Blue © Harry F



Mazarine Blue © David H



Balkan Copper © Dave W



Niobe Fritillary © Peter G



Black-veined White © Mike & Sue F-W

were fairly worn, indicating an early spring. That's never a bad thing on such trips, for where one species might be going over, new species will be coming on. Wall Brown, and Small Heath looked very much at home here too but a brief glimpse of Blue Argus, by the guides only, was both tantalizing and frustrating.

Heath Fritillary was here too - utilising the Speedwells as a larval hostplant - posing nicely on the plentiful blooms of 'other flowers', as were a myriad of other fritillaries, of which Niobe caused probably the greatest interest. It's distinctive underwing pattern (stronger post-discal underside band with darker edging, and small basal spot) were the clues which were needed to identify this beautiful insect and most of the group were able to see this. That sounds a bit geeky, but these features are better seen than described! Queen of Spain, Pearl-bordered, Knapweed and dark Green Fritillaries and Brimstone, all posed wonderfully as did Sooty Copper, Southern Grizzled Skipper, Large Grizzled, Dingy and Hungarian Skipper. Small Tortoiseshell, Large Tortoiseshell, Comma, Black-veined White were present and all equally appealing.

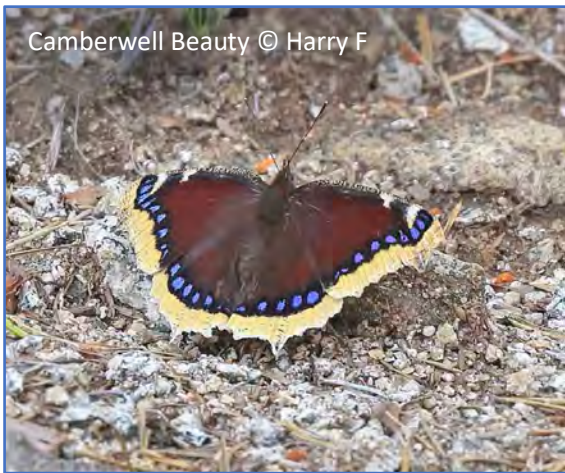
Mary really wanted to see 'BVW' and was able to do so, and also enjoyed some of the interesting plants like the Stonecrops. Southern Small White, Mountain Small White, Large and Small Whites were all seen here too. Our butterfly list was increasing steadily. Even Nettle Tree Butterfly put in an appearance. A few Forester Moths, and Burnet Companions added more Lepidopteran interest. Birds included a Black Woodpecker, heard calling before flying past, though only seen by one or two of our group. Syrian Woodpecker and Woodlark were also recorded here.

After lunch, we moved to some ever-so-slightly lower meadows which had been productive on previous trips. Mazarine Blue

was quickly spotted along with Chapman's Blues and their Common congenitor. Another Balkan

Copper was seen. With Jon guiding, we couldn't miss a beautiful marsh orchid species growing here, *Dactylorhiza saccifera*. Black-veined Moth was reasonably common too. At this point, cloud suddenly appeared forcing us to move on back down to lower altitudes to catch the sunshine.

Stop 3. Thus, we arrived at a prearranged parking spot just in time to see a lovely Camberwell Beauty rising from the grass. Everybody quickly disembarked. Though close, it was in an awkward position for photographs so after it flew off several of the group gave chase. The 'Cambie' disappeared. With a little sunshine but still cloud on the mountain, we persevered along a narrow track. Here, Woodland Ringlets were plentiful and at first, they seemed just about the only butterfly prepared to fly in the conditions. But conditions improved slightly so we ventured further. A female Slowworm caught our attention on the track and was briefly photographed. Blue butterflies were scrutinised (as they should be) and in no time at all, Blue Argus was found. At



Camberwell Beauty © Harry F

last. This is another species which in some years is found, whilst in others isn't. Much depends on the season. We took heart in this blessing, enjoying several of these delightful little blues – at first they played hard to get, and saw some of the group scrambling like mountain goats after them as they flirted with us; but eventually some deigned to join us on the pathway, and allowed wonderfully close views and photographs.

On returning back up the track in the direction of the vehicles, Large Wall Brown was seen and a record shot taken. While this was going on, we had something of a déjà vu. Mary came running towards us, beckoning us with flailing arms. We

knew it had to be something good. It was. A Cambie had been seen resting with wings fully open and gently flapping. Everyone got better views this time and dear Mary and Fergus were given a well-deserved round of applause by a grateful group and their leaders.



Blue Argus © Harry F

Stop 4. After an hour spent there, we moved below the tree line to find glorious sunshine once again. The area was completely awash with butterflies. All manner of blues were seen including Large Blue, Eastern Baton, Silver-studded, Common, False Eros and some lovely Amanda's. False Eros came both with and sometimes without cell spots. Hairstreaks were seen on low growing white flower blooms. These were identified as Sloe and Ilex Hairstreak. One female Sloe displaying its black tipped abdomen, useful at times in separating this species from Ilex

Hairstreak. It was Harry whose perseverance paid off this time... Balkan Grayling was seen on several occasions, alighting on the stony track, angled to the sunshine to cause least shadow

and aid camouflage. Berger's Clouded Yellow was also encountered for the first time on the holiday here.



Eastern Baton Blue © Peter G



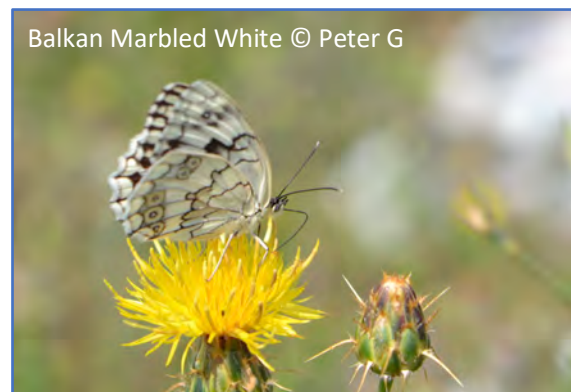
False Eros Blue © David W

It had been a marvellous day, which brought with it 32 new butterfly species (making the trip total already 82) and a few good birds. A lovely male Red-backed Shrike, Northern and Black-eared Wheatears were spotted, along with Linnet, Tree Pipit, Buzzard and Kestrel. Later we learned that Dave W had been out earlier in the day before breakfast and was able to add a group of 6 newly fledged Penduline Tits not far from our hotel. One bird species which had thus far eluded us was also seen perched on the wires on our travels - Roller. To be fair it wasn't seen by everyone but it was at least seen! Serin gave an appearance, as did Short-toed Treecreeper, both of which could be heard calling and our second only Chiffchaff of the trip was heard high on the mountain. Mistle Thrush was also added along with Yellow, Grey and White Wagtails.

Dinner was taken on the way home in a little taverna which served us a good portion of tasty dishes, followed off with a cake and bowl of home produced cherries. It had been a thoroughly worthwhile day.

Day 5. East towards Kapnofito.

Stop 1. We set out after breakfast, on the drive through the foothills of Orvilos. Passing sheer rock faces, quarries and peaks, we soon saw our first Red-backed Shrike of the day just before a little gorge, where we'd chosen to park. In previous years, the area held good numbers of



Balkan Marbled White © Peter G

butterflies, and here we found Osiris Blue and Wood White, Brown Argus, Common and Chapman's Blues, and Spotted Fritillary. A few Ilex Hairstreaks were scattered about but the most plentiful species was Balkan Marbled White. Temperatures were already reaching 28 degrees C by the time we left for our next stop. In fairness, it wasn't brimming with butterflies today.

Stop 2. Roadside meadows. We arrived to find Escher's Blue, or rather Dave W did but soon more were found. Scarce Swallowtails drifted in,

occasionally joined by European Swallowtail (ironically much less common). Southern Small White was found just before it dived into a bush above the river but a positive ID was made from the forewing upperside black markings. Balkan Marbled Whites *and* Marbled Whites were also present which was interesting because normally Marbled Whites are only seen at higher altitudes here. Silver-washed Fritillaries were reasonably plentiful, but only one Cardinal was seen. Later on, more were spotted nectaring on Brambles by a small cave. As we watched, Annie and Julian saw a Camberwell Beauty fly up and land on a leaf. Eventually about 5 people gathered to watch but no sooner had it appeared than it was gone. Large Tortoiseshells were also present, along with Eastern Bath White and a few others. Annie also found our first group sighting of Cleopatra.



Cardinal © Peter G



Eastern Bath White © Harry F

Stop 3. Shangri-La. Another roadside meadow was investigated. This time, Chapman's and Common Blues were seen right at the roadside. We decided to put some water down to try and tempt more believing that they were thirsty. It worked! A healthy collection of blues appeared, along with two Clouded Yellows and a marvellous Scarce Swallowtail, providing good opportunities for photography. Near a patch of Salvias a few Marbled Fritillaries were flying, along with Small and Large Skippers.

On a large goat dropping, Great Banded Grayling was enjoying itself, soon to be joined by our first Hermit on the trip, which Mary and others soon began to photograph. Lower down, after we'd seen a few skippers, what can only be described as a guard of tall Cardoon Thistles attracted at least five Cardinals and these were eagerly photographed. Peter was in his element. Sooty Copper was seen here too but by 1pm, we decided to go for lunch at a picnic spot where Plane trees cast great shade, giving us a chance to cool down and enjoy ourselves. The odd Cardinal flew by, and a large bucket of water was deposited upon a dry patch on the opposite side of the road. It wasn't needed though, for whilst it begun to work, Phil called out that he had found a large collection of blues puddling at a nearby stream which trickled across a



Jon photographing 'puddlers' © Harry F



Ripart's Anomalous (centre) © Harry F

short meadow. The scene was incredible. At least 200 Blues were present including Lang's Short-tailed, Osiris, Small, Chapman's, Adonis, Escher's, Anomalous and a real gem of a Meleager's Blue. This creature was fully twice the size of the others. Guests were tasked with checking every butterfly for anything unusual. They did so patiently while enjoying the spectacle and taking lots of photos. Jon asked Julian to remind him of the features for Grecian Anomalous Blue. Julian duly obliged... "Like this one, then?" Jon replied – he had found one amongst the thronging hordes of blues! It was seen by all before we moved off to our next area. Patience and perseverance pays off...



Sooty Copper © Harry F



Anomalous Blues © Harry F

Stop 4.

We moved off to Kapnofito, making our way up winding streets until we reached the little church. Here we parked for a quick recce of the village but alas, little was showing. Thus, we ventured a little higher and found a few Lattice Browns, Great Banded Grayling - or GBG as they came to be known - Large Tortoiseshells, Southern White Admiral, Balkan Marbled White, plus a few others including Pearly Heath. On returning to our vehicles, Mike called out that there was a Cambie on the wheel of the first vehicle. At first, we thought he was leg pulling but honesty was paramount here, and photos were taken. Eventually it became apparent that this creature had a damaged wing so was finding it difficult to fly. We placed it carefully in some bushes and gave it a drink. There wasn't anything else to do...

Stop 5. Higher up, Spotted Fritillaries, Ilex Hairstreak, Swallowtails, and a few other species were found but

the heat of the day made it quite hard going, so we opted to venture higher still, above 900m, where temperatures would be cooler and where shade was as plentiful as sunlight. It wasn't long before we saw a single Amanda's Blue and eagle-eyed Dave W pointed out our first Purple-shot Copper of the trip. It was soon gone but later others turned up, and to this we added female Balkan Copper. A Bramble patch also held an interesting blue or two: Eastern Zephyr and Escher's (*Dalmaticus* variety). Silver-studded Blue was plentiful. Peacocks, another Amanda's Blue, Comma and Cardinal were all also present. From there we



Pearly Heath © Jim B

ventured higher past log piles and lorries hauling timber. Another Cambie was seen, plus Clouded Yellow, Pearly Heath, Brimstone, another Purple-shot Copper and Woodland Ringlet.

By 5pm we had to reluctantly call it a day and set off for the nearest taverna, where we enjoyed lemonade or beer. It had been another great day. Birds today included Buzzard and at least three Short-toed Eagles, Night Heron, Little Egret (an everyday sight), Turtle Doves, Common Cuckoo, Little Owl, Common Swift, Bee-eater, Hoopoe, Syrian Woodpecker, Red-rumped Swallow, three species of wagtail (again), multitudinous Nightingales, and our first Goldcrest. Also of note, a conspiracy of five Ravens were spotted along with our first and only Hobby.

Day 6. Boat trip and Petritsi

Forecast weather this morning was ‘wall to wall sunshine’ and therefore perfect for our trip on the lake. The afternoon would be a mystery tour into some unchartered butterfly territory – by this stage our butterfly list was groaning with species and repeat sightings of many goodies, so we felt like breaking some new ground to see if we could inch it up just a little bit higher.

Stop 1. Our first destination today, however, was emphatically all about the birds and not the butterflies. We had waited for the perfect conditions in which to spend some hours out on the mirror-calm waters of Lake Kerkini, and this morning was that moment. Climbing aboard the comfortable wooden boat owned and piloted by the most genial skipper (sorry, terrible butterfly pun) we would meet all week in the form of our hotel host and expert boatman Nikos, we set out to explore the breeding birdlife the lake hosts.



On Lake Kerkini © David H



Dalmatian Pelican © David H

This was a fabulous excursion. Initial sightings, as we motored out of the small harbour, of Pygmy Cormorants and Squacco Herons in flight along the shore some way off left us ill-prepared for the astonishing experience that was to come – cruising slowly through the heart of the drowned forest, we were surrounded by the clamour (and aroma!) of a heronry crammed with herons, egrets and cormorants of all shapes and sizes – and almost within touching distance. Nikos knew the location of nests for

all the species to be found here and, armed with this knowledge and excellent fieldcraft drifting the boat quietly and slowly through the throngs of birds, we didn't miss a thing.

We approached the pelican islands too, though of course we kept a respectful distance away from them to avoid disturbing the many breeding Dalmatian and White Pelicans that loafed on the rocky armouring. In the far distance we could see more Dalmatians circling high in the sky and then, as we headed out into open water, a small party of them out in the centre of the lake. These proved marvelously approachable as Nikos cut the engine and let the boat's momentum carry us silently towards them.

We reluctantly headed back towards the harbour, time having passed out on the water incredibly quickly, keen eyes spotting Black and Whiskered Terns flying nearby, and then the unmissable forms of first a few dozen, then hundreds, and finally thousands of Cormorants streaming past the boat in long, wavering flocks that stretched back in flight to the far horizon. Where were they all going?



After arriving back at the harbour we ate lunch, and solved the Cormorant conundrum – word had got around that there were many fish to be caught just offshore from the harbour, and the lake's surface was boiling with fishing birds enjoying their own lunch. In time they departed and, with them, we too were soon on our way to Neo Petritsi.

Stop 2. After negotiating the narrow streets of Neo Petritsi, we found a likely parking spot near to some shades Oriental Planes and went for a walkabout. A few butterflies including Silver-washed Frit and Southern White Admiral were seen.

Stop 3. We took a road leading high up into the mountain and stopped about half way on a dry track. Peter soon found a large *Saga pedo* bush cricket, fully 6 inches long and looking like something out of a horror movie, according to one guest. Wood White, Cardinal, Common Blue and Southern White Admiral were seen.

Stop 4. Another stop in the shade (after briefly spotting Meleagers' Blue from the vehicle) with swathes of Crown Vetch and Bramble produced lots of butterflies including Amanda's, Escher's

and Common Blues. Innumerable Queen of Spain's appeared, along with a few Marbled and Silver Washed Frits. Just a few Spotted Frits were also seen. Most were too active and fast to examine properly to see if some may have been of the Lesser Spotted variety but some posed for photos. A patch of Salvias attracted similar species and additionally, Long-tailed Blue.

Stop 5. Another stop roadside. This time the usual suspects of Silver-washed and Marbled Fritillary as well as Green Hairstreak and Purple-shot Copper.

Stop 6. Our last stop was near the mountaintop. Here, we found a good number of showy Purple-shot Coppers mixed in with a smattering of small and medium sized Fritillaries taking nectar from the abundant Danewort. Common Blue held the ground lower down on the Birds foot trefoil. Avian distractions included Subalpine Warbler (seen by Dave W) and our only wader of the trip, a Common Sandpiper.



Spotted Fritillaries © Phil G

Day 7 Orvilos southern slopes.

Thunder and lightning last night added a little uncertainty but we needn't have worried.

Stop 1. Our first location was a wet roadside puddling spot. The usual suspects were there but not in high numbers so we moved to the southern slopes of Mt. Orvilos, passing some lovely birds such as Calandra Lark, Woodchat and Red-backed Shrikes as we ascended. Crested Lark was everywhere, and farm buildings hosted plenty of Spanish and House Sparrows. We arrived at the large white cross.



Blue-spot Hairstreak © Phil G

We soon found ourselves amongst swathes of Kidney Vetch and Sainfoin, food-plant of Small and Osiris Blues. The track leading along to the slopes held Chapman's and Common Blues. A pile of goat dung was crawling with hundreds of dung beetles, and around them, some carried their cargo away, to be buried in some hole somewhere. Here we found another orchid – cryptic (and not red) Dark-red Helleborines grew at the bases of stunted bushes in small numbers.

High up, Dave found Blue-spot Hairstreak, a new species for the trip but only he and Phil photographed it. Three individuals were present.

Thyme was abundant, but alas no Large Blues were seen, though there were more Eastern Baton Blues, a species whose larvae feed on this plant. A few Frits were also present, including Spotted and Glanville. Great Banded Grayling were probably the most numerous species of butterfly. Osiris and Small Blues, and Brown Argus were all to be seen along with Berger's Clouded Yellow, Large Tortoiseshell and Balkan Grayling.

At 12.30 we assembled at our vehicles for lunch. It was good timing as the clouds gathered and rain fell smartly. Still, this did not deter a beautiful male Black-headed Bunting.

After lunch, we made a further brief stop for Calandra Lark before pushing on.

Stop 3. We headed for Karyodochori to explore the flowery roadside banks. Perhaps the most memorable creature here was again the curious Thread-winged Lacewing, and this species was abundant. But for others, a superb hawkmoth, *Hemaris croatica* was the highlight, hovering inches from the flowers it was nectaring on, and also depositing an egg.

Stop 4. We made a brief stop just outside the village and found several butterflies including SSB, Common Blue, GBG, Eastern Baton Blue, Spotted Frit and Black-veined White.

Stop 5. The rain had subsided and revealed good light on the hillsides. Occasionally we would bump into Balkan Marbled Whites nonchalantly fluttering around.

Stop 6. We came off the mountain and headed back south. Some roadside puddles produced a good collection of Lycaenids including Anomalous and Osiris Blues. Shortly before leaving, Harry pointed out the much vaunted and highly anticipated Meleager's Blue. We were fortunate to see this species so well, as it is often missed if the season is late, but this year we were in luck.

We made several more roadside stops at puddles where butterflies gathered, with two of them producing Yellow-banded Skipper, a new species for the trip, and Mazarine, Adonis, Chapman's,

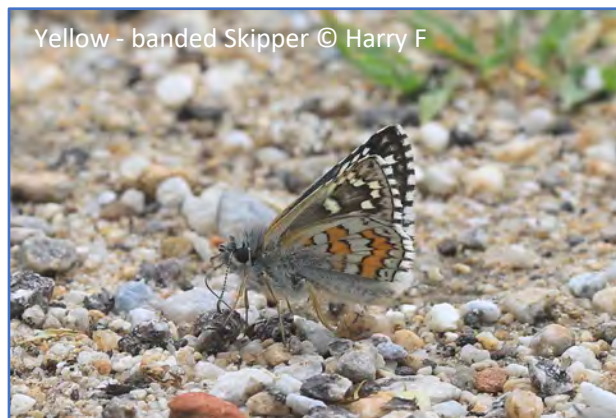
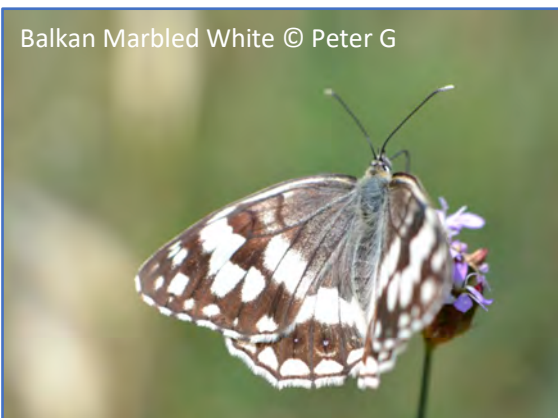


Great Banded Graylings © Jim B



Balkan Grayling © Harry F

Small and Osiris Blues. Some of these aggregations produced beautiful Scarce Swallowtails, feasting in between much smaller butterflies such as Wood White and Common Blue.



Our holiday had come to an end. Puddling butterflies are always a delight and we saw our fair share, including some species which are harder to find, so it was a good way to end our holiday. Our journey back to the hotel was uneventful, and Nikos and his family served us a wonderful home-cooked moussaka for our last supper together before the following day's return to the UK.

The trip recorded 98 species of butterfly. Many good species were seen including Southern Comma which (seen here for the first time in 4 years) and a good number of False Eros Blue and Blue Argus. False Eros has recently been lumped back in with Eros Blue and is not considered a separate species any more by the experts. However, we've used the old established vernacular for this one since it does look very different to the nominate form.

The birding side of the holiday was also pleasing with nearly 120 species seen including numerous shrikes and raptors, finches and buntings, swifts and swallows, and the colonies of Dalmatian and Rosy Pelicans. It's worth highlighting the Red-backed Shrike which was widespread. Naturalists will know how this bird was once a regular part of the British List, but now is something of a forlorn hope, occasionally cropping up in southern counties. Here in North Greece, the birds are thankfully doing very well.

Greenwings would like to thank all their guests on this trip, for their good humour, dedication and friendship.

Species list and photo gallery overleaf

Birds species recorded 8-15 June 2018

	Scientific	Common name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
	Grebes	Family - Pelecanidae							
1	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Little Grebe		✓					
2	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Great Crested Grebe		✓	✓			✓	
	Cormorants	Family - Phalacrocoracidae							
3	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant	✓	✓	✓			✓	
4	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	Pygmy Cormorant		✓	✓			✓	
	Pelicans	Family - Pelecanidae							
5	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	White Pelican		✓				✓	
6	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Dalmatian Pelican		✓	✓			✓	
	Bitterns & Herons	Family - Ardeidae							
7	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern		✓	✓			✓	
8	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night Heron	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
9	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Squacco Heron		✓	✓	✓		✓	
10	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret						✓	
11	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
12	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Storks	Family - Ciconiidae							
13	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork			✓				
14	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	White Stork	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Ibises and Spoonbills	Family - Threskiornithidae							
15	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Eurasian Spoonbill			✓		✓	✓	
	Swans, Ducks and Geese	Family - Anatidae							
16	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute Swan						✓	
17	<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose			✓				
18	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard		✓	✓			✓	
19	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Garganey			✓				
20	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Common Pochard	✓					✓	
21	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Shoveler		✓					
	Kites, Hawks and Eagles	Family - Accipitridae							
22	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite			✓	✓			
23	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Eagle			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Eurasian Marsh Harrier		✓					
25	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk		✓	✓	✓		✓	
26	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk	✓						
27	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common Buzzard	✓	✓	✓	✓			
28	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle	✓	✓	✓			✓	
29	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle							??
30	<i>Aquila pennata</i>	Booted Eagle			✓			✓	

	Scientific	Common name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
	Falcons and allies	Family - Falconidae							
31	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
32	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Eurasian Hobby					✓		
33	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	Eleonora's Falcon							✓
34	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon			✓				
	Rails	Family - Rallidae							
35	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen		✓	✓				
36	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Common Coot		✓					
	Oystercatchers	Family - Haematopodidae							
37	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper						✓	
	Gulls and Terns	Family - Laridae							
38	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull						✓	
39	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Yellow-legged Gull	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
40	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern		✓				✓	
41	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Whiskered Tern						✓	
42	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern						✓	
	Pigeons and Doves	Family - Columbidae							
	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Wood Pigeon	✓	✓					
43	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian Collared Dove	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	European Turtle Dove	✓♪	✓♪	✓♪		✓♪	✓	
45	Cuckoos	Family - Cuculidae							
	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Common Cuckoo	✓♪	✓	✓	♪	✓♪	✓♪	✓♪
46	Owls	Family - Strigidae							
	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Little Owl			✓	✓	✓		
47	Swifts	Family - Apodidae							
	<i>Apus apus</i>	Common Swift			✓	✓	✓		
48	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Pallid Swift	✓						
49	Bee-eaters	Family - Meropidae							
	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	European Bee-eater		✓	✓	✓	♪	✓♪	
	Rollers	Family - Coraciidae							
50	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	European Roller				✓			
	Hoopoes	Family - Upupidae							
51	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Hoopoe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓♪
	Woodpeckers	Family - Picidae							
52	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Green Woodpecker		✓♪		♪			
53	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	Black Woodpecker		✓		✓♪			
54	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	Middle Spotted Woodpecker		✓					
55	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	Syrian Woodpecker	✓♪	✓		✓	✓♪	✓	
	Larks	Family - Alaudidae							
56	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Crested Lark	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Scientific	Common name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
57	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark			✓				✓
58	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	Calandra Lark							✓
59	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Woodlark				✓			
	Swallows and Martins	Family - Hirundinidae							
60	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Sand Martin		✓	✓			✓	
61	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Eurasian Crag Martin	✓						
62	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
63	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	Red-rumped Swallow		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	House Martin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Pipits and Wagtails	Family - Motacillidae							
65	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Tawny Pipit	✓						
66	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Tree Pipit					✓		
67	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail				✓	✓	✓	
68	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail				✓	✓		
69	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	White Wagtail		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Chats and Thrushes	Family - Turdidae							
70	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	European Robin		♪	♪				
71	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Common Nightingale	♪	♪	✓	♪	♪	♪	♪
72	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Northern Wheatear				✓			
73	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	Black-eared Wheatear	✓			✓			
74	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Stonechat				✓			
75	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird			✓	✓	✓	♪	
76	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush		✓					
77	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush				✓			
	Cettia Bush Warbler	Family - Cettia							
78	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Cetti's Warbler		♪					
	Grass Birds & allies								
79	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Grasshopper Warbler							??
	Reed Warblers & allies	Family - Acrocephalidae							
80	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Eurasian Reed Warbler			✓				
81	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Great Reed Warbler		♪	✓	✓	✓	✓	♪
82	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler		♪	✓	♪	✓		♪
	Sylvia Warblers	Family - Sylviidae							
83	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Subalpine Warbler						✓	
84	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Lesser Whitethroat						✓	
85	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Common Whitethroat		✓	♪				
86	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap		♪	♪	✓			
	Leaf Warblers	Family - Phylloscopidae							
87	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Common Chiffchaff			✓	✓			
	Kinglets	Family - Regulidae							

	Scientific	Common name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
88	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest					✓		
	Flycatchers	Family - Muscicapidae							
89	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher	✓						
	Titmice	Family - Paridae							
90	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Blue Tit					✓♪		
91	<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit			✓				
92	<i>Parus ater</i>	Coal Tit					✓		
	Nuthatches	Family - Sittidae							
93	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>	Rock Nuthatch	✓						
	Treecreepers	Family - Certhidae							
94	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	Short-toed Treecreeper				✓♪			
	Penduline Tit	Family - Remizidae							
95	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	Eurasian Penduline Tit		♪		✓	✓		
	Orioles	Family - Oriolidae							
96	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Golden Oriole	✓♪	✓♪	✓♪	✓	✓	✓	✓♪
	Shrikes	Family - Lanidae							
97	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Red-backed Shrike			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	<i>Lanius minor</i>	Lesser Grey Shrike		✓	✓			✓	
99	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Woodchat Shrike	✓		✓		✓		✓
100	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	Masked Shrike		✓	✓				
	Crows	Family - Corvidae							
101	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Eurasian Jay		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
102	<i>Pica pica</i>	Black-billed Magpie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Eurasian Jackdaw	✓		✓	✓	✓		
104	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Hooded Crow	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
105	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven			✓		✓	✓	
	Starlings	Family - Sturnidae							
106	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Old World Sparrows	Family - Passeridae							
107	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
108	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	Spanish Sparrow		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
109	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Eurasian Tree Sparrow		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Finches	Family - Fringillidae							
110	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch		✓	✓♪	✓	✓	✓	✓♪
111	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	European Serin				✓	✓		✓
112	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	European Greenfinch			♪	✓	✓	✓	♪
113	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	European Goldfinch		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Common Linnet				✓			
	Buntings	Family - Emberizidae							
115	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>	Cirl Bunting	✓			♪	✓	♪	✓

	Scientific	Common name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
116	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	Black-headed Bunting		✓♪	✓				
117	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Corn Bunting		✓♪	✓	✓	✓		✓
Dragonflies									
	Scientific	Common name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
1	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	Broad Scarlet	✓	✓					
2	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	Red-veined Darter		?					
3	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	Black-tailed Skimmer	✓	✓					
4	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	Common Darter		✓					
5	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Blue-tailed Damsel							
6	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	White-legged Damsel		✓					
7	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	Beautiful Demoiselle	✓	✓					
8	<i>Anax imperator</i>	Emperor		✓					
9	<i>Lesser Emperor</i>	Lesser Emperor		✓					
10	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	Blue Hawker		✓					✓
11	<i>Cordulegaster heros</i>	Balkan Goldenring sp.		✓					
12	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>	Keeled Skimmer		✓					
Reptiles and amphibians									
	Scientific	Common name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
1	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	Slowworm					✓		
2	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>	Marsh Frog		✓					
3	<i>Testudo graeca</i>	Spur-thighed Tortoise		✓					✓
4	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>	Eastern Green Lizard					✓	✓	
5	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>	Wall Lizard						✓	
6	<i>Malpolon monspessulanus</i>	Montpellier Snake						✓	
Other notable species									
	Scientific	Common name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
1	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Red Squirrel							
2	<i>Saga pedo</i>	Cricket	✓						
3	<i>Empusa fasciata</i>	Mantid		✓					
4	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>	Rose chafer	✓		✓		✓		
5	<i>Myrmeleontidae sp.</i>	Antlion							✓
6	<i>Nenoptera sinuata</i>	Thread-winged Lacewing					✓		

Butterfly and moth species recorded 8 - 15 June 2018			8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
Butterflies									
	Common name	Scientific							
	Skippers	Family <i>Hesperiidae</i>							
1	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>		✓		✓			✓
2	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓
5	Southern Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus maloides</i>			✓	✓			✓
6	Large Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>				✓		✓	
7	Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>					✓	✓	✓
8	Oriental Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus orientalis</i>					✓	✓	
9	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
10	Orbed Red Underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>				✓	✓		
11	Lulworth Skipper			✓?					
12	Yellow-banded Skipper								✓
	Swallowtails, Apollos, Festoos	Family <i>Papilionidae</i>							
13	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon gorganus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclidides podalirius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Whites & Yellows	Family <i>Pieridae</i>							
15	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	✓				✓		
18	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
19	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocaharis cardamines</i>	✓						
20	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Mountain Small White	<i>Pieris ergane</i>				✓	✓		✓
24	Southern Small White	<i>Pieris manii</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>				✓	✓		
26	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
27	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>				✓	✓		✓
	Blues, Hairstreaks, Coppers	Family <i>Lycaenidae</i>							
28	Green hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>				✓		✓	
29	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>				✓		✓	
30	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Blue-spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium spini</i>							✓
32	White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium W-album</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
33	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Purple Shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>					✓	✓	
35	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Balkan Copper	<i>Lycaena candens</i>				✓	✓		
37	Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>		✓					
38	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>			✓			✓	
40	Little Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i>			✓				

	Common name	Scientific	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
41	Holly Blue	<i>Celestrina argiolus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
42	Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>				✓		✓	✓
43	Short-tailed Blue	<i>Cupido argiades</i>		✓					
44	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>					✓		✓
45	Osiris Blue	<i>Cupido osiris</i>					✓		✓
46	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
47	Eastern Zephyr Blue	<i>Plebius pylaon</i>					✓		
48	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
50	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Escher's Blue	<i>Polyommatus escheri</i>					✓		✓
52	Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
53	False Eros Blue	<i>Polyommatus eroides</i>				✓	✓		
54	Meleager's Blue	<i>Polyommatus daphnis</i>					✓	✓	✓
55	Large Blue	<i>Phengaris arion</i>				✓			
56	Anomalous Blue	<i>Polyommatus admetus</i>		✓			✓		✓
57	Grecian Anomalous Blue	<i>Polyommatus aroaniensis</i>						✓	
58	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Blue Argus	<i>Aricia anteros</i>				✓			
60	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>				✓	✓		✓
61	Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>		✓					
	Aristocrats	Family Nymphalidae							
62	Nettle-tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
64	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
65	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Southern Comma	<i>Polygonia egea</i>			✓				
68	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>				✓			
70	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
71	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>				✓	✓		
72	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>				✓			
73	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>				✓		✓	
74	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Niobe Fritillary	<i>Argynnis niobe</i>				✓	✓		
77	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>				✓			
78	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
79	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>					✓	✓	✓
80	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Pearl Bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>				✓			
83	Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>		✓					
84	Common Glider	<i>Neptis sappho</i>		✓					
	formerly Satyridae	Family Nymphalidae							
85	Lattice Brown	<i>Kirinia roxelana</i>				✓	✓		
86	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
87	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Northern Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>				✓			
89	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>				✓			
90	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
91	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>				✓	✓	✓	
92	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>				✓	✓		
94	Balkan Marbled White	<i>Melanargia larissa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
95	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Balkan Grayling	<i>Hipparchia senthes</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Hermit	<i>Chazara briseis</i>					✓		
Burnets & notable moths			8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
	Common name	Scientific							
1	Transparent Burnet	<i>Zygaena purpuralis</i>				✓			
2	5-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena lonicerae</i>				✓	✓		
3	Nine-spotted	<i>Amata phegea</i>		✓					
4	Forester	<i>Adscita sp.</i>				✓			
5	Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>		✓		✓	✓		
6	Spurge Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>				✓			cat
7	Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>				✓		✓	✓
8	Burnet Companion					✓			
9	Croatian Bee-hawkmoth	<i>Hemaris croatica</i>							✓

Photo gallery overleaf



Pearly Heath © David H



Niobe Fritillary © Mike & Sue F-W

Marsh Frog © Peter G



Eastern Green Lizard © Peter G





Red and black Longhorn Beetle © Phil G



Mazarine Blue © Phil G



Black-veined White © David H



Little Tiger Blue © Peter G



Little Tiger (showing upper and underside) © Phil G



Spurge Hawk larva © Jim B



Lattice Brown © Phil G



Painted Lady © David H



Night Heron © David H



Red - veined Darter © Jim B



Beautiful Demoiselle (m) © Jim B



White Stork © David H









Queen of Spain Fritillary © Harry F



Large Blue (left) and Eastern Baton Blue (right) © Harry F







Spotted Fritillary Mike & Sue F-W



Sooty Copper Mike & Sue F-W



Swallowtail © Harry F



Meleager's Blue © Harry F

