

Butterflies of Bulgaria 2017

Holiday Report 29th July - 6th August 2017

Led by Simeon Gigov and Yiannis Christofides



Nicholl's Ringlet by Melvyn Butler

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Introduction:

The southwestern region of Bulgaria is one of the most diverse and rich in flora and fauna on the Balkan Peninsula. Here are located its first and third highest mountains, respectively Rila with Mount Moussala towering to 2,925m and Pirin with Mount Vihren – 2,916m. The rich biological diversity of these two mountains are protected with the designation of Rila National Park and Pirin National Park, Pirin is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The third mountain that we visited during our trip is Slavyanka, which is a Nature Reserve extremely rich in butterfly species. The area also features three of the biggest rivers in Bulgaria – Struma, Mesta and Iskar, whose valleys we also explored during this trip.

We used three different hotels to enable us to cover the maximum amount of different habitats and sites with the minimum amount of driving. The first base is in Predela area, in the foothills between both Rila and Pirin mountains. The second base is in the foothills of Slavyanka Mountain and the third is in the northern foothills of Rila Mountain and not far from Sofia airport.



Rila National Park and Belmeken Reservoir by Peter Gravett

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

Day 1: July 29th.

Arrival at Sofia airport. Our first stop in the vicinity of Sofia for **Dusky Large Blue**. This rare species actually happened to be the first butterfly that we saw on our trip. Other ones here include **Spotted Fritillary**, **Marbled White** and **Large Skipper**. We couldn't spend much time here as we had to travel a couple of hours to our first base and stop at one more spot on the way.

Plants seen included *Agrimonia eupatoria*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, the foodplant of the Dusky Large Blue, *Allium carinatum*, one of a number of beautiful species that we were to see during our week in Bulgaria, the very beautiful *Veratrum nigrum*, *Clinopodium vulgare* and *Ononis spinosa*.

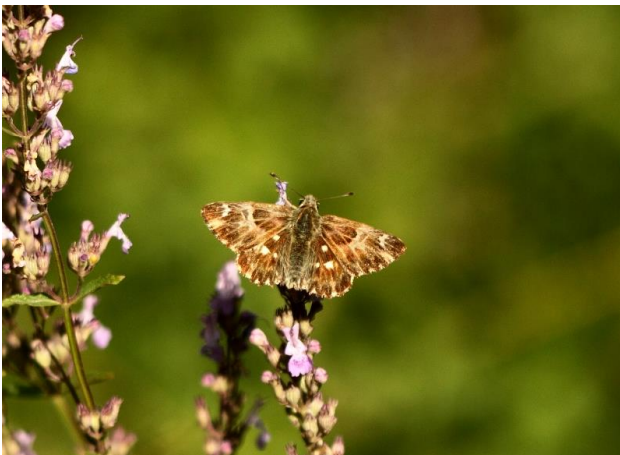


Dusky Large Blue by Dave Wright



Black False Hellebore by Simeon Gigov

After an hour and a half drive we were at our next stop near Rila Monastery. Our main target species was Poplar Admiral. We spend almost couple of hours here and we spotted several very good species for the trip including our only **Large Tortoiseshell**, **Niobe Fritillary**, **Great Sooty Satyr** and **Tufted Marbled Skipper**, as well as **White-letter Hairstreak** and **Eastern Rock Grayling**. The **Poplar Admiral** was unfortunately seen only shortly in flight by Dave and Simeon. From the flora here we saw tall *Cirsium ligulare*, yellow *Tanacetum vulgare* with leaves cut into long, acute pinnate lobes, *Digitalis viridiflora* and *Impatiens noli-tangere*.



Tufted Marbled Skipper by Simeon Gigov



Eastern Rock Greyling by Dave Wright

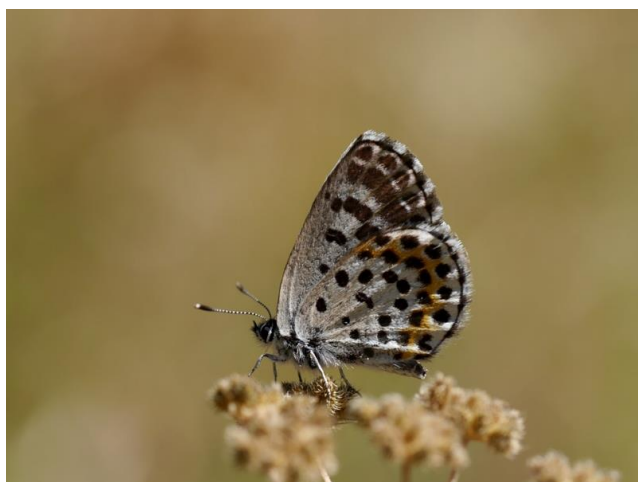
Another hour and half trip took us to our final destination at Biohotel Moravsko selo near Bansko.

Day 2: July 30th.

Feeling somewhat rested from our long journey yesterday we set off following the river Struma. The habitat consisted of a mixture of coniferous and deciduous trees. Low vegetation was confined to the road verges which were mostly taken over by *Robinia pseudoacacia*.

We made a couple of stops along the Kresna gorge, where we found **Swallowtail**, **Scarce Swallowtail**, **Southern Small White**, **Eastern Wood White**, a fresh second generation **Chequered Blue**, **Eastern Baton Blue**, **Southern White Admiral**, our only **Wall Brown**, **Oberthuer's Grizzled Skipper**, **Safflower Skipper** and **Oriental Marbled Skipper**. Several good species of birds also draw our attention - **Short-toed Eagle**, **Middle Spotted Woodpecker**, **Sombre Tit**, **Crag Martin**, **Red-rumped Swallow** and **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler**. Dragonflies were also well represented here, including **Banded Demoiselle**, **White-legged Damselfly**, **Green-eyed Hooktail** and **Southern Skimmer**.

Most interesting amongst the plants were *Paliurus spina-christi*, the food plant of *Tarucus balkanicus*, *Saponaria officinalis*, *Silene alba*, *Anchusa officinalis*, *Althaea officinalis*, *Cichorium intybus*, *Nigella damascena*, *Jasione heldreichii*, *Centaurea solstitialis*- yellow with winged stems, *Echinops ritro*, short with deep blue heads, *Echinops sphaerocephalus*, taller with white heads and *Centaurea salnitana*.

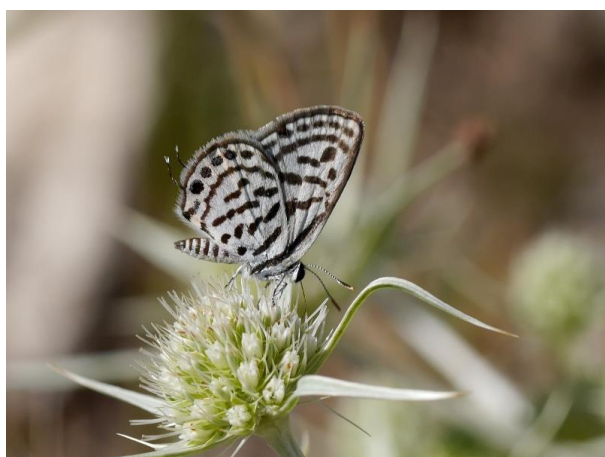


Chequered Blue by Dave Wright



Oriental Tufted Skipper by Dave Wright

The afternoon was much slower and hotter and our early afternoon at Rupite produced very few things worth to mention: **Lesser Gray Shrike** and a few **Scarlet Darter** dragonflies. Regarding the heath we opted for a stop in the foothills of Pirin Mountain near Strumyani. We stopped the bus under the shade of a huge mulberry tree and looked around. The spot produced **Southern Small White**, **Green-veined White**, our only **Little Tiger** and **Chapman's Blues** for the trip, **Anomalous Blue**, **Lesser Spotted Fritillary** and **Mallow Skipper**.



Little Tiger Blue on *E. campestre* by Dave Wright Lesser Spotted Fritillary by Peter Gravett

Day 3: July 31st.

We headed for Bansko and then started to climb through conifer woodland to Vihren Chalet in the foothills of Mount Vihren (2014m). *Cirsium appendiculatum* was common in the verges. *Campanula velebitica*, a Balkan endemic, was growing on rocks. As we reached the end of the road the group split into two. Simeon headed higher with Dave and Melvin to look for the specialist butterflies of the higher alpine areas whereas Yiannis and the other members of the group explored a nearby meadow where we saw *Veratrum lobelianum*, with a couple of plants in flower. We photographed *Galeopsis speciosa*, a beautiful member of the Lamiaceae with yellow and purple flowers, *Parnassia palustris*, and we saw one plant of *Pinguicula balcanica* with deep blue flowers. There was also the beautiful *Jasione heldreichii* that we were to see again in various areas.

We then started to walk down the road looking for flowers and butterflies. We saw **Purple-shot Copper**, as well as **Eastern Large Heath** and **Large Ringlet**. We also photographed an anomalous blue which proved to be **Higgins' Anomalous Blue**. Plant-wise we saw *Allium flavum*, *Campanula rapunculoides* and *Geranium macrorrhizum*. Yiannis saw a couple of **Spotted Nutcrackers**, which Michael and Jillian saw fly off. We reached our destination and checked a group of mud-puddling butterflies. There was **Higgins' Anomalous Blue**, **Turquoise Blue**, **Little Blue**, **Chalk-hill Blue** and **False Eros Blue**.



Turquoise Blue by Dave Wright



Veratrum lobelianum by Yiannis Christofides

Simeon's group took a steep climb to the about 2600m a.s.l. The ringlet species here were abundant, but about 80 % of them comprised of one species - Large Ringlet. Other species here included **Balkan Copper**, **Mountain Argus**, **Mazarine Blue**, **False Eros Blue**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Balkan Fritillary**, **Arran Brown**, **Nicholl's Ringlet**, **Ottoman Brassy Ringlet**, **Black Ringlet**, **Eastern Large Heath**, **Northern Wall Brown** and **Large Grizzled Skipper**.

Alpine Choughs were coming very close to us and also **Spotted Nutcracker**, **Coal Tit**, **Linnet**, **Siskin**, **Dunnock**, **Black Redstart** and **Red Crossbill** were observed in the area. Despite we were mainly looking for butterflies we managed to see and photograph some flowers as well, some of which are very localized to that area: *Campanula alpina*, *Aster alpinus*, *Nigritella nigra* (*Gymnadenia rhellicani*), *Dianthus microlepis*, *Gentiana lutea* and the very attractive to butterflies *Succisa pratensis*.



Balkan Fritillary by Dave Wright



Gentiana lutea by Simeon Gigov

The late afternoon we decided to spend around the hotel, where we saw **Scarce Swallowtail**, **Brown Hairstreak**, **White-letter Hairstreak**, **Lang's Short-tailed Blue** and **Dingy Skipper**. **Pallid Swift**, **Red-backed Shrike**, **Wood Warbler** and **Yellowhammer** were also seen.



Brown Hairstreak by Jillian Macready



White-letter Hairstreak by Melvyn Butler

Day 4: 1st August.

Move to our second base today. We headed east towards Bansko once again and then round the Pirin range. We followed the Mesta River as it wound its way through the mountains. The hillsides were heavily forested with a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees. Road sides were mostly taken over by *Robinia pseudoacacia*. Our only stop in the morning was at the fishponds near Gotse Delchev. Plants were mostly species we had already seen except for *Silene frivaldszkyana* and *Eupatorium cannabinum*.

Butterflies here included **Large Copper**, second generations of **Map Butterfly**, **Short-tailed Blue**, **Nettle Tree Butterfly** and loads of **Lesser Spotted Fritillaries**. Birds here were represented by **Black Stork**, **Kingfisher**, **European Bee-eater**, **Hoopoe**, **Golden Oriole** and **Long-tailed Tit**. Dragonflies were quite numerous here, but species were a lot less than they were in the past before the marsh was destroyed for the construction of another fishpond. Still we had some good species like **Small Emerald Damselfly**, **Green-eyed Hooktail** and **Scarlet Darter**.



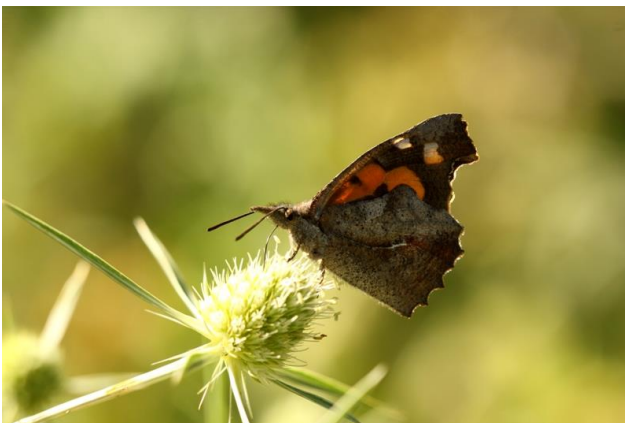
Map Butterfly by Dave Wright



Large Copper by Peter Gravett

Most of the afternoon we spent near our hotel in a limestone area with mostly lower vegetation where we had *Jasione heldreichii*, *Nigella damascena*, *Delphinium balcanicum*, *Dianthus corymbosum*, *Pulicaria dysenterica* and *Chondrilla juncea*.

Butterflies were quite numerous here with most interesting species here being **Brown Hairstreak**, **Purple Hairstreak**, **Reverdine's Blue**, **Weaver's Fritillary**, **Knapweed Fritillary**, **False Grayling** and **Great Banded Grayling**. We also saw some other interesting insects including the shield bugs, *Codophila varia* and *Phyllomorpha laciniata*.



Nettle Tree Butterfly by Simeon Gigov



Phyllomorpha laciniata by Jillian Macready

Our base for the next three nights was Belite skali hotel near Gaytaninovo.

Day 5: 2nd August.

The mornings were one of the best time looking for butterflies on this trip and regarding the location of this hotel we took each opportunity to look for butterflies and birds in our mornings here. Species here included **Lesser Fiery Copper**, **Eastern Baton Blue**, **Anomalous Blue**, **Chalk-hill Blue**, **Adonis Blue**, **False Grayling** and **Oberthuer's Grizzled Skipper**.



Lesser Fiery Copper by Dave Wright



Anomalous Blue by Simeon Gigov

The whole day today was dedicated to the foothills of Slavyanka Mountain, which one of the best areas for butterflies in Bulgaria. We followed a valley near our hotel with mostly xerophytic vegetation but also some bushes and trees. There were *Xeranthemum nummularium*, *Eryngium campestre*, *Agrimonia eupatoria*, *Cichorium intybus*, *Berteroa incana*, *Echium vulgare* and *Ononis spinosa*, *Salvia glutinosa*, *Hypericum rumeliacum* and *Vicia grandiflora*.

Butterflies were very numerous here and plenty were found nectaring on the flowers around or exploring the puddles along the road: **Apollo, Mountain Small White, Brown Hairstreak, Sloe Hairstreak, Scarce Copper, Purple-shot Copper, Eastern Short-tailed Blue, Reverdine's Blue, Ripart's Anomalous Blue, Higgins's Anomalous Blue, Meleager's Blue, Nettle Tree Butterfly, Cardinal Butterfly, Dark Green Fritillary, Weaver's Fritillary, Eastern Rock/Woodland Grayling, Balkan Grayling, Great Banded Grayling, False Grayling, Silver-spotted Skipper** and others.

Very numerous here was the **Balkan Goldenring** dragonfly, as well as **Beautiful Demoiselle** damselfly. Birds were represented by **Honey Buzzard, Short-toed Eagle, Green Woodpecker, Golden Oriole, Spotted Flycatcher, Grey Wagtail** and **Corn Bunting**.



Balkan Grayling by Dave Wright



Eastern Short-tailed Blue by Dave Wright

Day 6: 3rd August.

After another nice morning walk around the hotel we drove higher to Popovi livadi area in the central part of Pirin mountains. From there we took another long walk through the woodlands, which produced several **Apollo, Mountain Small White, Higgins's Anomalous Blue, Turquoise Blue, Meleager's Blue, False Eros Blue, Nettle Tree Butterfly, Cardinal Butterfly, Marbled**

Fritillary, Arran Brown, Ottoman Brassy Ringlet, Eastern Large Heath, etc.

On several occasions we spotted a **Sombre Goldenring** dragonfly. The birdlife here included a pair of **Honey Buzzards, Pallid Swift, Spotted Nutcracker, Black Redstart** and **European Serin**. There were patches of *Campanula rapunculoides*, *Sambucus ebulus* and thistle which attracted clouds of fresh Queen of Spain and Silver-washed Fritillary butterflies. We also saw *Allium melanantherum*, *Dactylorhiza saccifera* and *Verbascum densiflorum*.



Higgins's Anomalous Blue by Simeon Gigov



Apollo by Peter Gravett

The meadows in the area produced a few more species of butterflies including **Brown, Purple, Sloe and Blue-spot Hairstreaks, Scarce Copper** and **Spotted Fritillary**.



Blue-spot Hairstreak by Jillian Macready



Purple Hairstreak by Simeon Gigov

After another long and tiring day we arrived earlier at the hotel and looked around for butterflies. A puddle nearby was attracting hundreds of blues including **Lang's Short-tailed, Holly, Eastern Baton, Reverdine's, Silver-studded, Brown Argus, Turquoise, Chalk-hill, Adonis** and **Common**, as well as **Green-veined White, Wood White, The Hermit** and **Oberthuer's Grizzled Skipper**.



The Hermit by Simeon Gigov

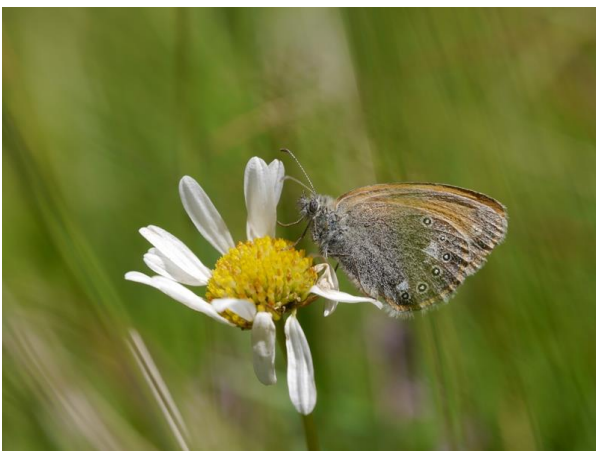


Lang's Short-tailed Blue by Michael Chown

Day 7: 4th August.

Today we headed north towards our last base in Samokov. We followed the Mesta river and slowly climbed through low rolling hills. As we headed higher the area became forested with coniferous trees. Our destination was two alpine areas where we looked for ringlets and other butterflies. At the first one near Yundola we found **Black-veined White, Scarce Copper, Balkan Copper, Large Ringlet, Chestnut Heath** and **Large Wall Brown**.

A small pond nearby produced several species of dragonflies such as **Scarce Emerald Damselfly, Azure Damselfly, Large Red Damselfly, Southern Hawker, Broad-bodied Chaser** and **Yellow-winged Darter**. **Spotted Nutcracker, Common Raven, Coal Tit, Willow Tit, Mistle Thrush** and **Red Crossbill** were also spotted here.



Chestnut Heath by Dave Wright



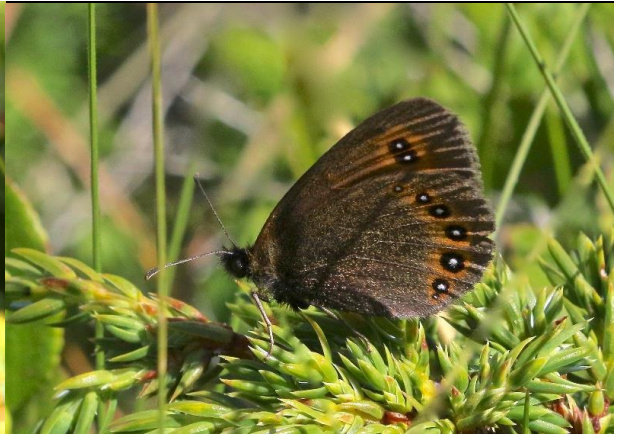
Scarce Emerald Damselfly by Simeon Gigov

The second spot was much higher and near Belmeken Reservoir and was more open and grassy. This was a much better area for ringlets here and several species were discovered: **Large, Ottoman Brassy, Water** and **Bright-eyed**. Other species of butterflies here included **Balkan Copper, Mazarine Blue, Balkan Fritillary** and **Chestnut Heath**.

Some of the more interesting species of birds here were **Grey-headed Woodpecker, Hooded Crow, Crag Martin, Northern Wheatear, Dunnock** and **Tree Pipit**. There were some plants still in flower here such as *Viola orbelica*, *Geum montanum*, *Geum coccineum*, *Bruckenthalia spiculifolia*.



Water Ringlet by Simeon Gigov



Bright-eyed Ringlet by Melvyn Butler

We then started descending to other side of the mountain and stopped to look for emperors and admirals. We saw *Impatiens noli-tangere*, *Saponaria officinalis*, on which an impressive **Convolvulus Hawkmoth** was nectaring. On the rocks there was a new Campanula, *C. lanata*, as well as a blue *Allium cirrhosum* and also tall *Telekia speciosa* was growing in patches in the verge.



Convolvulus Hawkmoth feeding on Common Soapwort by Simeon Gigov

Day 8: 5th August.

From our base in Samokov we drove to the lift station that was to take us to within sight of the highest peak in the Balkans - Mount Mussala (2925 m). We took the lift up through pine and spruce forest to about 2400 m. As we reached our destination dwarf pine *Pinus mugo* took over. At the top we started our long walk towards Mussala Chalet, looking for butterflies and plants.

It is a ringlet paradise here and we succeeded to find **Large, Bulgarian, Nicholl's, Common Brassy, Water and Black Ringlets**. Other species of butterflies we found include **Mountain Argus, Mazarine Blue, Small Tortoiseshell, Balkan Fritillary, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary**, a single female **Cynthia's Fritillary** and **Eastern Large Heath**. A **Wood Tiger** near the chalet also drew our attention.

Most interesting amongst birds were **Quail, Pallid Swift, Red-rumped Swallow, Linnet and Red Crossbill**. Flowering plants were confined to meadows and verges. We saw *Telekia speciosa*, *Cicerbita alpina*, *Doronicum columnae*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Senecio pancicii*, *Jasione bulgarica* and

Campanula alpina. On the way back to the lift Simeon, Dave and Melvyn took an alternative route in search of other butterflies, which proved to be very good for plants like the local endemic *Primula deorum*, the alpine specialists *Allium schoenoprasum*, *Gentiana nivalis*, *Verbascum longifolium*, *Saxifraga stellaris* and *Swertia perennis*, the balkan endemic *Angelica pancicii* and *Gentianella bulgarica*.

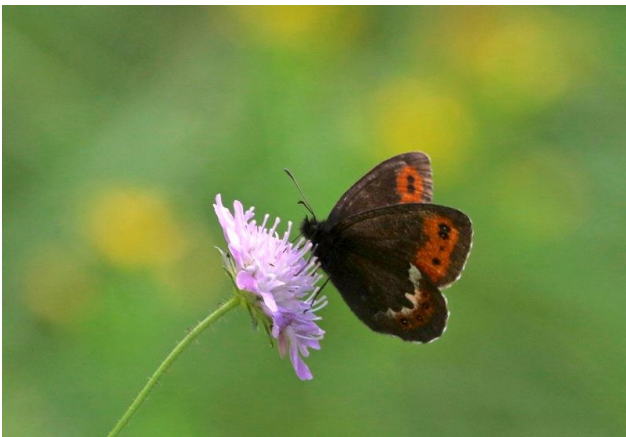


Bulgarian Ringlet by Melvyn Butler



The endemic *Primula deorum* by Simeon Gigov

We spend most of the day at this high altitude and in the late afternoon we made another couple of stops at lower altitudes, where we happened to see a **Common Glider**, **Scarce Copper**, **Arran Brown** and **Large Wall Brown**. Here we also heard **Black Woodpecker** and **Spotted Nutcracker**. At the later location we saw *Epipactis helleborine*, *Polygala major*, *Digitalis viridiflora* and *D. grandiflora*.



Arran Brown by Melvyn Butler



Scarce Copper by Simeon Gigov

The day finished with a very obliging **Syrian Woodpecker** in the hotel's garden and a **Pine Hawkmoth** on the restaurant's terrace, while having our farewell drinks.

Day 9: 6th August

As we had to be at the airport at 10 a.m., we only had time for a group photo today in the Palakaria plain near Samokov. Then another hour to the airport to check in for the flights to London and Manchester.

Overview:

Our first trip in Bulgaria ended with 110 species of butterflies, 73 species of birds and 21 species of dragonflies. There weren't many plants in flower so late in season, but from those we found there were several Bulgarian or Balkan endemics. Different species of moths, grasshoppers, bugs, bees and spiders also contributed to the overall good experience.



Participants:

Jillian Macready

Michael Chown

Dave Wright

Peter Gravett

Elizabeth Butler

Melvyn Butler

Karen Nichols

John Vallender

Yiannis Christofides - guide

Simeon Gigov - guide



The Guides by Jillian Macready

Attracted to a Hawkmoth by Jillian Macready

Butterflies Species List:



Swallowtail by Melvyn Butler

1. Swallowtail / *Papilio machaon*
2. Scarce Swallowtail / *Iphiclides podalirius*
3. Apollo / *Parnassius apollo*
4. Black-veined White / *Aporia crataegi*
5. Large White / *Pieris brassicae*
6. Small White / *Pieris rapae*
7. Southern Small White / *Pieris mannii*
8. Mountain Small White / *Pieris ergane*
9. Green-veined White / *Pieris napi*
10. Bath White / *Pontia daplidice*
11. Clouded Yellow / *Colias crocea*
12. Brimstone / *Gonepteryx rhamni*
13. Wood White / *Leptidea sinapis*
14. Easatern Wood White / *Leptidea duponcheli*
15. Brown Hairstreak / *Thecla betulae*
16. Purple Hairstreak / *Favonius quercus*
17. Sloe Hairstreak / *Satyrium acaciae*
18. Blue-spot Hairstreak / *Satyrium spini*
19. Small Copper / *Lycaena phlaeas*
20. Large Copper / *Lycaena dispar*
21. Scarce Copper / *Lycaena virgaureae*
22. Sooty Copper / *Lycaena tityrus*
23. Purple-shot Copper / *Lycaena alciphron*
24. Lesser Fiery Copper / *Lycaena thersamon*
25. Balkan Copper / *Lycaena candens*
26. Lang's Short-tailed Blue / *Leptotes pirithous*
27. Little Tiger Blue / *Tarucus balkanicus*

28. Short-tailed Blue / *Cupido argiades*
29. Eastern Short-tailed Blue / *Cupido decoloratus*
30. Holly Blue / *Celastrina argiolus*
31. Little Blue / *Cupido minimus*
32. Dusky Large Blue / *Phengaris nausithous*
33. Chequered Blue / *Scolitantides orion*
34. Eastern Baton Blue / *Pseudophilotes vicrama*
35. Reverdine's Blue / *Plebejus argyrognomon*
36. Silver-studded Blue / *Plebejus argus*
37. Brown Argus / *Aricia agestis*
38. Mountain Argus / *Aricia artaxerxes*
39. Mazarine Blue / *Cyaniris semiargus*
40. Chapman's Blue / *Polyommatus thersites*
41. Anomalous Blue / *Polyommatus admetus*
42. Ripart's Anomalous Blue / *Polyommatus ripartii*
43. Higgins's Anomalous Blue / *Polyommatus nephohiptamenus*
44. Turquoise Blue / *Polyommatus dorylas*
45. Meleager's Blue / *Polyommatus daphnis*
46. Chalk-hill Blue / *Polyommatus coridon*
47. Adonis Blue / *Polyommatus bellargus*
48. Common Blue / *Polyommatus icarus*
49. False Eros Blue / *Polyommatus eroides*
50. Nettle Tree Butterfly / *Libythea celtis*
51. Poplar Admiral / *Limenitis populi*
52. Southern White Admiral / *Limenitis reducta*
53. White Admiral / *Limenitis camilla*
54. Common Glider / *Neptis sappho*
55. Large Tortoiseshell / *Nymphalis polychloros*
56. Small Tortoiseshell / *Aglais urticae*
57. Peacock Butterfly / *Aglais io*
58. Map Butterfly / *Arashnia levana*
59. Red Admiral / *Vanessa atalanta*
60. Painted Lady / *Vanessa cardui*
61. Queen of Spain Fritillary / *Issoria lathonia*
62. Comma Butterfly / *Polygonia c-album*
63. Cardinal Butterfly / *Argynnis pandora*
64. Silver-washed Fritillary / *Argynnis paphia*
65. Dark Green Fritillary / *Argynnis aglaja*
66. Niobe Fritillary / *Argynnis niobe*
67. Marbled Fritillary / *Brenthis daphne*
68. Balkan Fritillary / *Boloria graeca*
69. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary / *Boloria selene*
70. Weaver's Fritillary / *Boloria dia*
71. Knapweed Fritillary / *Melitaea phoebe*
72. Spotted Fritillary / *Melitaea didyma*
73. Lesser Spotted Fritillary / *Melitaea trivia*
74. Cynthia's Fritillary / *Euphydryas cynthia*
75. Marbled White / *Melanargia galathea*
76. Woodland Grayling / *Hipparchia fagi*
77. Eastern Rock Grayling / *Hipparchia syriaca*
78. Balkan Grayling / *Hipparchia senthens*
79. The Hermit / *Chazara briseis*

80. Great Sooty Satyr / *Satyrus ferula*
81. Great Banded Grayling / *Brintesia circe*
82. False Grayling / *Arethusana arethusia*
83. Arran Brown / *Erebia ligea*
84. Large Ringlet / *Erebia euryale*
85. Bulgarian Ringlet / *Erebia orientalis*
86. Nicholl's Ringlet / *Erebia rhodopensis*
87. Common Brassy Ringlet / *Erebia neleus*
88. Ottoman Brassy Ringlet / *Erebia ottomana*
89. Water Ringlet / *Erebia pronoe*
90. Water Ringlet / *Erebia melas*
91. Bright-eyed Ringlet / *Erebia oeme*
92. Meadow Brown / *Maniola jurtina*
93. Ringlet / *Aphantopus hiperantus*
94. Gatekeeper / *Pyronia tithonus*
95. Eastern Large Heath / *Coenonympha rhodopensis*
96. Small Heath / *Coenonympha pamphilus*
97. Chestnut Heath / *Coenonympha glycerion*
98. Speckled Wood / *Pararge aegeria*
99. Wall Brown / *Lasiommata megera*
100. Northern Wall Brown / *Lasiommata petropolitana*
101. Large Wall Brown / *Lasiommata maera*
102. Large Grizzled Skipper / *Pyrgus alveus*
103. Oberthuer's Grizzled Skipper / *Pyrgus armoricanus*
104. Safflower Skipper / *Pyrgus carthami*
105. Mallow Skipper / *Carcharodus alceae*
106. Tufted Marbled Skipper / *Carcharodus flocciferus*
107. Oriental Marbled Skipper / *Carcharodus orientalis*
108. Dingy Skipper / *Erynnis tages*
109. Silver-spotted Skipper / *Hesperia comma*
110. Large Skipper / *Ochlodes sylvanus*

Dragonflies Species List:



Sombre Goldenring by Melvyn Butler

1. Banded Demoiselle / *Calopteryx splendens*
2. Beautiful Demoiselle / *Calopteryx virgo*
3. Scarce Emerald Damselfly / *Lestes dryas*
4. Small Emerald Damselfly / *Lestes virens*
5. Blue-tailed Damselfly / *Ischnura elegans*
6. Common Blue Damselfly / *Enallagma cyathigerum*
7. Azure Damselfly / *Coenagrion puella*
8. Large Red Damselfly / *Pyrrhosoma nymphula*
9. Small Redeye / *Erythromma viridulum*
10. White-legged Damselfly / *Platycnemis pennipes*
11. Southern Hawker / *Aeschna cyanea*
12. Green-eyed Hooktail / *Onychogomphus forcipatus*
13. Balkan Goldenring / *Cordulegaster heros*
14. Sombre Goldenring / *Cordulegaster bidentata*
15. Broad-bodied Chaser / *Libellula depressa*
16. Scarce Chaser / *Libellula fulva*
17. Black-tailed Skimmer / *Orthetrum cancellatum*
18. Keeled Skimmer / *Orthetrum coerulescens*
19. Southern Skimmer / *Orthetrum brunneum*
20. Ruddy Darter / *Sympetrum sanguineum*
21. Red-veined Darter / *Sympetrum fonscolombii*
22. Scarlet Darter / *Crocothemis erythraea*

Birds Species List:



European Bee-eaters by Melvyn Butler

1. Common Quail / *Coturnix coturnix*
2. Black Stork / *Ciconia nigra*
3. White Stork / *Ciconia ciconia*
4. Grey Heron / *Ardea cinerea*
5. Common Kestrel / *Falco tinnunculus*
6. Honey Buzzard / *Pernis apivorus*
7. Short-toed Eagle / *Circaetus gallicus*
8. Eurasian Sparrowhawk / *Accipiter nisus*
9. Eurasian Buzzard / *Buteo buteo*
10. Feral Pigeon / *Columba livia* var. *domesticus*
11. Wood Pigeon / *Columba palumbus*
12. Turtle Dove / *Streptopelia turtur*
13. Collared Dove / *Streptopelia decaocto*
14. Pallid Swift / *Apus pallidus*
15. Common Kingfisher / *Alcedo atthis*
16. European Bee-eater / *Merops apiaster*
17. Common Hoopoe / *Upupa epops*
18. Middle Spotted Woodpecker / *Dendrocopos medius*
19. Syrian Woodpecker / *Dendrocopos syriacus*
20. Great Spotted Woodpecker / *Dendrocopos major*
21. Black Woodpecker / *Dryocopus martius*
22. Green Woodpecker / *Picus viridis*
23. Grey-headed Woodpecker / *Picus canus*
24. Red-backed Shrike / *Lanius collurio*
25. Lesser Grey Shrike / *Lanius minor*

26. Golden Oriole / *Oriolus oriolus*
27. Eurasian Jay / *Garrulus glandarius*
28. Common Magpie / *Pica pica*
29. Spotted Nutcracker / *Nucifraga caryocatactes*
30. Alpine Chough / *Pyrrhocorax graculus*
31. Eurasian Jackdaw / *Corvus monedula*
32. Hooded Crow / *Corvus cornix*
33. Common Raven / *Corvus corax*
34. Great Tit / *Parus major*
35. Blue Tit / *Cyanistes caeruleus*
36. Coal Tit / *Parus ater*
37. Sombre Tit / *Poecile lugubris*
38. Willow Tit / *Poecile montanus*
39. Barn Swallow / *Hirundo rustica*
40. Crag Martin / *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
41. House Martin / *Delichon urbicum*
42. Red-rumped Swallow / *Cecropis daurica*
43. Long-tailed Tit / *Aegithalos caudatus*
44. Crested Lark / *Galerida cristata*
45. Eastern Olivaceous Warbler / *Iduna pallida*
46. Common Chiffchaff / *Phylloscopus collybita*
47. Wood Warbler / *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
48. Eurasian Nuthatch / *Sitta europaea*
49. European Starling / *Sturnus vulgaris*
50. Blackbird / *Turdus merula*
51. Song Thrush / *Turdus philomelos*
52. Mistle Thrush / *Turdus viscivorus*
53. European Robin / *Erithacus rubecula*
54. Black Redstart / *Phoenicurus ochrurus*
55. Northern Wheatear / *Oenanthe oenanthe*
56. Spotted Flycatcher / *Muscicapa striata*
57. House Sparrow / *Passer domesticus*
58. Tree Sparrow / *Passer montanus*
59. Dunnock / *Prunella modularis*
60. Grey Wagtail / *Motacilla cinerea*
61. White Wagtail / *Motacilla alba*
62. Tree Pipit / *Anthus trivialis*
63. Chaffinch / *Fringilla coelebs*
64. European Serin / *Serinus serinus*
65. European Greenfinch / *Chloris chloris*
66. Eurasian Siskin / *Carduelis spinus*
67. European Goldfinch / *Carduelis carduelis*
68. Common Linnet / *Carduelis cannabina*
69. Common Rosefinch / *Carpodacus erythrurus*
70. Red Crossbill / *Loxia curvirostra*
71. Eurasian Bullfinch / *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
72. Corn Bunting / *Emberiza calandra*
73. Yellowhammer / *Emberiza citrinella*

Butterfly Gallery:



Southern Small White by P. Gravett



Eastern Wood White by Dave Wright



Clouded Yellow f. helice by P. Gravett



Balkan Copper by Melvyn Butler



Sooty Copper by M. Chown



Purple-shot Copper by Michael Chown



Sloe Hairstreak by Jillian Macready



Small Blue by Y. Christofides



Eastern Baton Blue by Y. Christofides



Ripart's Anomalous Blue by S. Gigov



Higgins's Anomalous Blue by Yiannis Christofides



Mazarine Blue by Y. Christofides



Meleager's Blue by Dave Wright



Adonis Blue by Jillian Macready



False Eros Blue by M. Chown



Southern White Admiral by P. Gravett



Silver-washed Fritillary f. valezina
by Michael Chown



Queen of Spain Fritillary by P. Gravett



Weaver's Fritillary by
Yiannis Christofides



Knapweed Fritillary by P. Gravett



Spotted Fritillary by Michael Chown



False Grayling Dave Wright



Eastern Large Heath by Melvyn Butler



Gatekeeper by Y. Christofides



Large Ringlet by Melvyn Butler



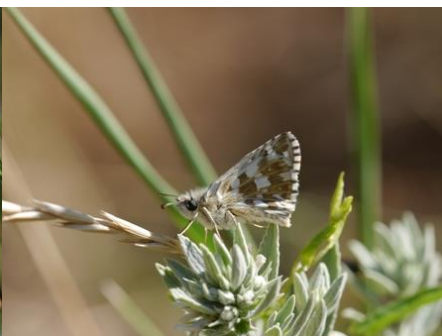
Common Brassy Ringlet by D. Wright



Ottoman Brassy Ringlet by S. Gigov



Large Grizzled Skipper
by Peter Gravett



Oberthuer's Grizzled Skipper by D. Wright



Large Skipper by Michael Chown

Dragonfly Gallery:



Beautiful Demoiselle by M. Butler



Small Redeye by Melvyn Butler



Small Emerald Damselfly by M. Butler



Southern Hawker by Michael Chown



Balkan Goldenring
by Peter Gravett



Green-eyed Hooktail by Michael Chown



Scarce Chaser by Melvyn Butler



Southern Skimmer by Melvyn Butler



Scarlet Darter by Melvyn Butler

Other Insects:



Hummingbird Hawkmoth by M. Butler



Lythria cruentaria by Jillian Macready



Wasp Spider by P. Gravett



Large Banded Grasshopper by S. Gigov



Rattle Grasshopper by S. Gigov



Bellied Bright Bush-cricket by M. Butler

Bird Gallery:



Pallid Swift by Melvyn Butler



Alpine Chough by Melvyn Butler



Red-backed Shrike by Melvyn Butler



Barn Swallow by Melvyn Butler



Red-rumped Swallow by M. Butler



Black Redstart by Melvyn Butler



Common Linnet by Melvyn Butler



Eurasian Siskin by Melvyn Butler



Red Crossbill by Peter Gravett

Plant Gallery:



Allium crenatum by Y. Christofides



Allium melanantherum
by Yiannis Christofides



Allium schoenoprasum by Simeon Gigov



Senecio pancici by M. Butler



Doronicum columnae by M. Butler



Aster alpinum by Simeon Gigov



Cicerbita alpina by M. Butler



Echinops ritro by Melvyn Butler



Centaurea solstitialis by Melvyn Butler



Althaea officinalis by Yiannis Christofides



Angelica pancici by Melvyn Butler



Verbascum longifolium
by Melvyn Butler



Bruckenthalia spiculifolia by Melvyn Butler



Swertia perennis by M. Butler



Pinguicula balcanica by Y. Christofides



Nigella damascena by Melvyn Butler



Delphinium balcanicum by Melvyn Butler



Digitalis grandiflora
by Melvyn Butler



Galeopsis speciosa by Y. Christofides



Campanula alpina by M. Butler



Campanula lanata by Simeon Gigov



Nigritella nigra by M. Butler



Epipactis helleborine
by Melvyn Butler



Gentiana lutea by M. Butler



Gentiana nivalis by M. Butler



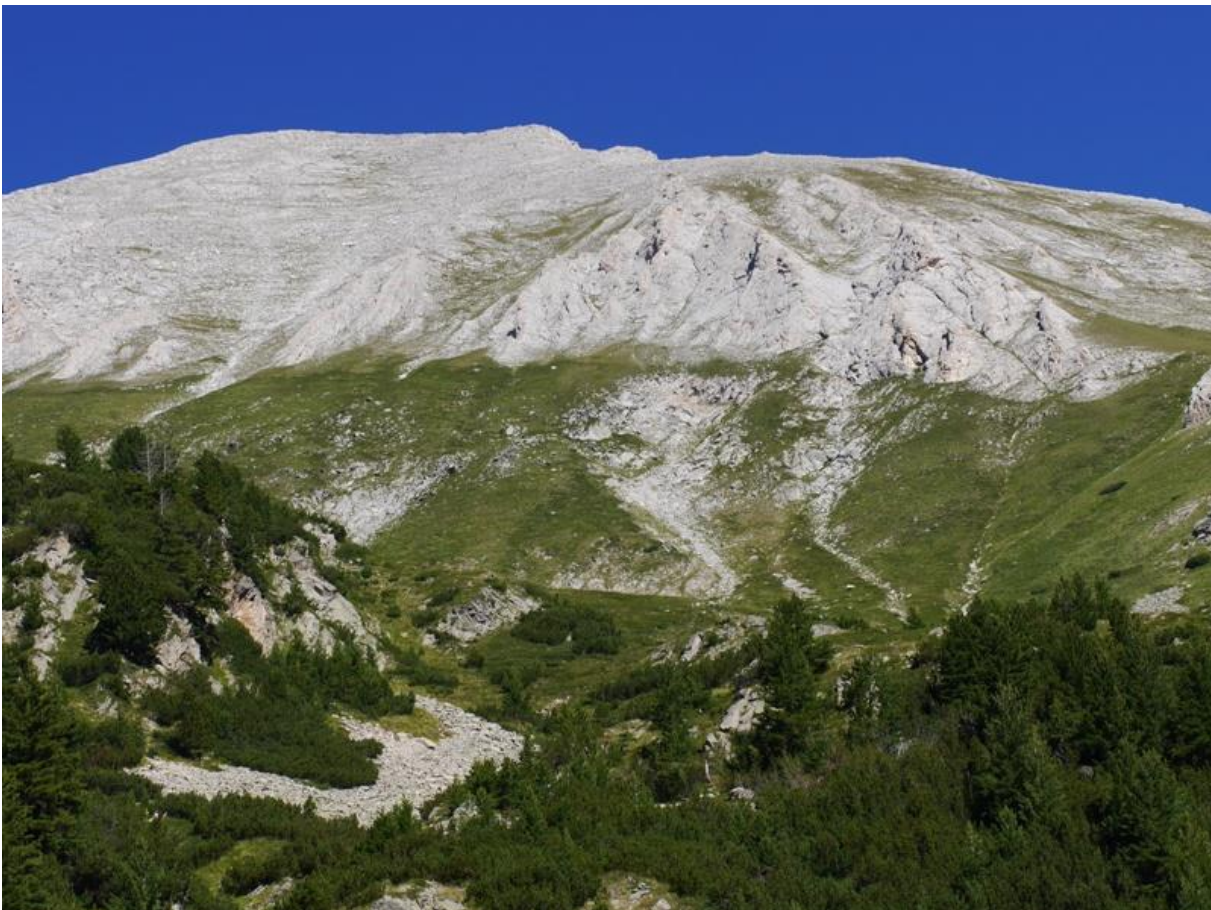
Geum coccineum by Dave Wright



Hypericum rumelianum
by Yiannis Christofides



Parnassia palustris by Yiannis Christofides



Vihren Peak by Dave Wright