

Butterflies and Flowers of Bulgaria 2018 Holiday Report 21 - 29 June 2018

Led by: Simeon Gigov and Yiannis Christofides



Greenwings Wildlife Holidays

Tel: 01473 254658

Web: www.greenwings.co.uk

Email: enquiries@greenwings.co.uk

Introduction:

The southwestern region of Bulgaria is one of the most diverse and rich in flora and fauna on the Balkan Peninsula. This year's trip is divided on two halves. The first half takes place in the famous Rhodope Mountains in southern Bulgaria, close to the country's border with Greece. As we enter the mountain the rolling landscape gradually becomes rugged and occasionally cut by translucent streams winding through deep gorges. One of them is the magnificent Trigrad Gorge – a spectacular crevasse of sheer limestone cliffs, surrounded by old pine forests and lovely flowery meadows. The second half we spent in Pirin Mountain and the surrounding river valleys of Mesta and Struma.

Pirin is the second highest mountain in Bulgaria with Mount Vihren ascending to 2,916m. The rich biological diversity of the mountain is protected with the designation of Pirin National Park, Pirin is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We used two 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 the small village of Teshel and situated in a narrow gorge with beautiful vertical cliffs. The second base is in Predela area, in the foothills between Rila and Pirin mountains.



What follows is a daily diary, species lists and galleries.

Day 1: June 21st

Guests were met at Sofia airport terminals 1 and 2 by Yiannis and Simeon. The weather was sunny and warm but there was a distant rumble of thunder. Our first stop was at a riverside in Sofia where we saw Short-tailed Blue, Lesser Fiery Copper, Marbled White. Dragonflies that we saw here included Banded Demoiselle, Green-eyed Hooktail, Broad-bodied Chaser and Ruddy Darter. Most interesting among the plants were *Agrimonia eupatoria, Vicia grandiflora*



and Sambucus ebulus. Soon the rain came and we had to leave to our next destination.

We then drove southeast through mixed forest of deciduous trees and conifer plantations to reach the Upper Thracian Valley. After a short stop for lunch, we continued to our next stop, which was a nice steppe area with several quarries. In one of them this year a colony of about 1500 pairs of Rosy Starlings was established in the end of May. The **Rosy Starlings** were fascinating to watch and we got excellent views. They were actively feeding young (mostly with Orthoptera and mulberries) and were flying around in big flocks of up to 500 individuals.

A short walk around also produced Eurasian Stone Curlew, European Turtle Dove, European Bee-eater, Lesser Grey Shrike, Crested Lark, Black-eared Wheatear (*ssp. melanoleuca*) and Black-headed Bunting. Butterflies were represented by Swallowtail, Scarce Swallowtail, Bath White, Berger's Clouded Yellow, Adonis Blue, Niobe Fritillary, Great Banded Grayling, Oberthuer's Grizzled Skipper.

Other insects were much in evidence as well with interesting species such as the **Mammoth Wasp** (Megascolia sp.), the **Violet Carpenter Bee**, and the enormous antlion *Palpares libelluloide*. The most interesting though was a **Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth**, which was feeding on blooming thistles around us. We were now in drier Mediterranean habitat with plants such as *Xeranthemum numullarium, Xeranthemum annuum, Nigella damascena, Achillea clypeolata, Colutea arborescens, Carduus nutans* and other thistles.



We then made our way to our hotel, driving along a route which followed the river through spectacular gorges, gradually climbing to a large dam. Eventually we reached the Orfeo, located in a deep gorge next to a branch of the river. We met in the restaurant area for drinks and then had a dinner of salad, followed by pork and mushrooms and dessert. An early night beckoned so that we were ready for the next day.

Day 2: June 22nd

Some guests were up early before our breakfast of scrambled eggs and coffee, taking a short walk with Yiannis looking for the Water Vole that Dave had seen the previous evening, and then walked along the road near the hotel. Interesting birds spotted included a **Black Redstart**, **Black Woodpecker**, White-throated Dipper (*ssp. cinclus*), Eleonora's Falcon, European Serin and a flock of Common Crossbills.

It was a fine day initially, with some cloud building up. We drove towards Smolyan and then took a side road that lead to some very extensive, rolling flowery meadows. We made our way slowly through the meadows looking at the butterflies and flowers. It was very diverse and rich in a huge variety of flowers. New plants for the day included *Coronilla varia, Salvia verticillata*, the Balkan endemics *Campanula moesiaca* and *Knautia midzorensis*, the interesting *Nonea atra*, the orchids *Orchis ustulata* and *Gymnadenia conopsea* and of course the highlight of the day - *Lilium rhodopeum*, the large endemic Balkan Lily with its gorgeous yellow flowers.

The abundance of butterflies here was overwhelming with more than 40 species recorded in a walk of only 2 hours. Most notable among them were Apollo, Black-veined White, Balkan Copper, Alcon Blue, Mazarine Blue, Heath Fritillary, Marsh Fritillary, Woodland Ringlet, Bright-eyed Ringlet, Northern Wall Brown and Tufted Marbled Skipper. The meadows are also a nice bird habitat and we managed to hear a Corncrake and see Pallid Swift, Red-backed Shrike, Mistle Thrush and Yellowhammer.



After a lunch of bean salad and omelette at a restaurant overlooking Smolyan Lake, most of the group spent some time looking for dragonflies. We managed to see some lovely species including **Scarce Emerald Damselfly, Blue-tailed Damselfly, Azure Damselfly, Large Red Damselfly, Blue Emperor, Downy Emerald Dragonfly, Four-spotted Chaser** and **Black-tailed Skimmer**. Peter G and David W and went off in search of other insects, seeing some Satyrids and Pierids but rain eventually came and forced us back on to the bus so we decided to return to the hotel slightly earlier than planned.

On arriving back at our base, some of the group went out on a local orchid hunt before a dinner of trout before completing our species lists for the day.



Day 3: June 23th

We set off today on the road to Trigrad gorge. We drove through it and then turned off to a gentle mountain track where we disembarked and started our walk. The weather was cloudy and too cool for butterflies to fly so we mostly focused on birds in the beginning with **Peregrine Falcon**, **Alpine Swift, Spotted Nutcracker, Rock Bunting** and **Crested Tit** being the stars of this walk.

Around 11 a.m. the sky started to clear and soon the butterflies were actively flying around us. Target species like Alcon Blue, Geranium Argus, Escher's Blue, Amanda's Blue, Twin-spot Fritillary, Nickerl's Fritillary and Marbled Skipper were well seen and photographed here along with Silver-studded Blue, Large Wall and Black-veined White. Especially interesting was to observe and compare Heath and Nickerl's Fritillaries flying in the same meadow. The Nickerl's appeared much darker and duskier, but also had other distinguishing features. Many new plants, mostly endemic were seen here. Included were *Campanula jordanovi, Campanula orphanidea, Silene roemeri, Silene fabariodes, Silene flavescens, Dianthus petreum, Sideritis montana, Asyneum lonifolium, Aster alpinus, Digitalis viridiflora and Digitalis lanata.* On the rocks two ferns were particularly common, *Aspenium ruta-muraria* and *Asplenium trichomanes*.



We then returned to our bus and took the road back through the gorge, stopping to admire the view and take photos. From here we return to our hotel for lunch of beef soup, peppers and cheese. and then boarded our bus once again to visit some fields around Zmeytsa. The weather had by now deteriorated and the butterflies were now very reluctant to fly, paradoxically making photography easier once they were spotted sitting on the vegetation.

Especially numerous here were the fritillaries - Niobe, Marbled, Pearl-bordered, Glanville, Knapweed, Spotted and Heath. Many of these species were resting on dianthus flowers. Other

species included **Pearly Heath, Chestnut Heath, Large Wall Brown** and **Grizzled Skipper**. We also found some new orchids, including *Dactylorhiza baumanniana* and *Anacamptis coriophora*. Simeon found a young **Grass Snake** and a **Balkan Slow-worm**, *Anguis colchicus*, which were well appreciated by the group. Other insects seen here included several dragonflies - **Beautiful Demoiselle, Scarce Emerald Damselfly** and **Southern Skimmer**, as well as the **owlfly**, *Ascalaphus macaronius*.



Day 4: June 24th

The weather outlook was better than yesterday, with the prospect of sunshine. People going on a pre-breakfast walk reported **Short-toed eagle, Black Stork** and **Marsh Tit**. Our destination today was beyond Trigrad; however, our departure was somewhat delayed by the finding of **Black Hairstreak** and a **Nettle-tree Butterfly** in the garden of the hotel.



On arrival at the meadows **Marbled Whites** were everywhere, appearing with much more black on them than in the UK. **Chimney Sweeper** moth was found 'in cop'. Flower-wise we soon found the unusual *Ajuga laxmanni* again as well as more *Morina persica, Marrubium vulgare,*

Hyoscyamus niger, Jasione heldreichii, Sideritis scardica as well as a host of orchids such as Gymnadenia conopsea, Dactylorhiza cordigera, Orchis ustulata and Anacamptis coriophora. Other butterflies present included Brimstone, Scarce Copper, Woodland Grayling, and Orbed Red Underwing Skipper, a new species for the trip. At our second meadow, we stopped to chat with a Bulgarian lady collecting herbs.



On the way back to the hotel we explored a deep

river gorge, where we also added **White Admiral** and the beautiful **Scarlet Tiger** moth. We ate lunch of soup and salad back at the hotel, where we saw a nice displaying **European Honey Buzzard** with its typical wing-clapping flight.



After lunch, we headed to another magnificent gorge - Buynovsko, where we stopped to go on a woodland walk and found a completely different set of orchids. Amongst them were *Platanthera chlorantha*, *Cephalanthera rubra*, *Neottia ovata* and *Epipactis atrorubens*. The highlight of the day plant-wise though, had to be the **Ghost orchid**, *Epipogium aphyllum*. Other interesting plants were also seen such as the saprophytic *Monotropa hypopitys* and *Orthilia secunda*.

Our last site was at some higher meadows and we were lucky that the sun came out, causing the butterflies to start flying again in spite of the chilly wind. Species here included Balkan Copper, Alcon Blue, Mazarine Blue, False Eros Blue, Niobe Fritillary, Heath Fritillary, Knapweed Fritillary, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Marsh Fritillary, Bright-eyed Ringlet, Eastern Large & Chestnut Heath, Tufted Marbled & Chequered Skipper.



After dinner of buffet salad and pork, we packed our cases, ready for tomorrow's transfer to our next hotel.

Day 5: June 25th

The weather was cloudy to start off with this morning, but improving and becoming quite hot during the day. As a result, butterflies were much more active. We drove south-east to a different habitat which was drier and with a Mediterranean influence. The conifers were now replaced with broad leaf deciduous trees.

At our first stop near Satovcha we saw both *Filipendula vulgaris* and *Filipendula ulmaria* growing together. There were several new plants in the meadow including *Gladiolus illyricus*,

Anacamptis elegans as well as Dactylorhiza incarnata which we hadn't seen previously. Epipactis palustris was growing in a damp patch in the meadow too.

Our main destination today were the foothills of Slavyanka mountain not far from the Greek border. It was near lunchtime when we reached out first stop at dry meadow along a stream, where we saw *Papaver rhoeas*, an *Onosma* species, *Echium italicum* and magnificent *Himantoglossum jankae*.

Butterflies were very active here and sometimes difficult to find them resting, and we got a lot of good and new species. Especially numerous were the **Great Banded Graylings**, but the group was a lot more fascinated by an **Eastern Festoon** that was seen and stayed long enough to please everyone. Other interesting species here were **Swallowtail**, **Ilex Hairstreak**, **Adonis Blue**, **Queen of Spain Fritillary**, **Weaver's Fritillary**, **Lesser Spotted Fritillary**, **Sandy Grizzled Skipper** and **Orbed Red Underwinged Skipper**. Real excitement was here was a 'mini armadillo', which Simeon identified as **Bronze Glandular Bush-cricket**, *Bradyporus dasypus*.



After a well-deserved picnic we took a walk along a tarmac road which took us through an abandoned orchard, across a river and finished at a dry stream-bed with a few water pools left. Fresh goat poo had attracted plenty of butterflies like **Sooty Copper, Little Blue, Balkan Grayling, Sandy Grizzled Skipper, Mallow Skipper** and **Dingy Skipper**. A short look around the river produced dragonflies like **Banded** and **Beautiful Demoiselle, White-legged Damselfly** and **Green-eyed Hooktail**. But the highlight of this walk were the small pools in the drying stream, which has a attracted a swarm of puddling blues, skippers and whites including **Southern Small White, Mountain Small White, Green-veined White, Wood White, Silver-studded Blue, Escher's Blue, Amanda's Blue, Chapman's Blue, Anomalous Blue, Ripart's Anomalous Blue, Adonis Blue, Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper and Dingy Skipper.**



Birds seen included European Turtle Dove, European Bee-eater, Common Hoopoe, European Green Woodpecker, Crested Lark, Whitethroat, Hawfinch and Cirl Bunting.

We drove further and higher along the road and stopped at another meadow in full sun (where there was much thyme) and a river. We found **Berger's Clouded Yellow, Purple-shot Copper** (feeding upon the thyme) **Large Blue, Chalk-hill Blue, Cardinal, Silver-washed Fritillary, Dark Green Fritillary, Marbled Fritillary, Balkan Marbled White** and **Oriental Meadow Brown**, the latter found by Dave W. Small Elephant and Spurge Hawk larvae were uncovered in pursuit of other quarry and many of the Nymphalidae were attracted by the extensive patches of the superb nectar source provided by Danewort growing by the river.



At about 4 p.m. we left the area and had another hour and a half transfer to the hotel. Here we were welcomed by a singing **Common Rosefinch** and a mixed flock of hirundines and **Pallid Swifts**. Dinner tonight was salads and cheese and meat followed by rice pudding.

Day 6: June 26th

We were now in Southern Bulgaria near the Rila and Pirin Mountains but the weather forecast was rather bleak. A pre-breakfast birding walk produced Common Sandpiper, Pallid Swift, European Green Woodpecker, Red-backed Shrike, Marsh Tit, Red-rumped Swallow, Woodlark, Common Rosefinch, Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer.

After breakfast we journeyed to Kresna gorge along Struma River. The area is among the richest biodiversity sites in Europe and especially good for butterflies. Our first stop was near a rafting centre, where we saw our first Lang's Short-tailed Blue, Chequered Blue, Balkan Marbled White, Wall Brown and Southern White Admiral. Birdwatching here was also good and produced Eurasian Griffon Vulture, Short-toed Eagle, European Honey Buzzard, Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Eurasian Crag Martin and Hawfinch.



We also found **Spur-thighed Tortoise**, *Testudo hermannii*. The flora in the area was typical Mediterranean with species like *Linaria genistifolia*, *Silene alba*, *Plumbago europaea*, *Palliurus spina-christi*, *Pistacia terebinthus*, *Campanula scutellata*, *Reseda lutea*, *Aristolochia clematis*, *Platanus orientalis*, *Morus alba*.

At the second site a few kilometres down the road we explored a track and also a stoney area by the river. Fortunately it was getting sunnier and we found puddling Scarce Swallowtail, along with Sooty Copper, Southern White Admiral, Common Glider (the latter on bramble flowers), Balkan Marbled White, Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper and Lulworth Skipper. Simeon succeeded in finding a large dragonfly for us, which turned out to be a Sombre Goldenring.



After a lunch of spinach soup and courgette fritters, rain threatened and temperatures dropped. Still, we decided to try one more site near Ilindentsi, but nothing was flying in such conditions. Even so, we did find some butterflies in the grass including Southern **Small White, Bath White, White-letter Hairstreak, Anomalous Blue, Great Banded Grayling, Dingy Skipper**.



Yiannis found a few nice plants for the botanically inclined, including *Trachelium rumelliana, Scolymus hispanicus, Verbascum sinuatum.* Just before the rain hit on us, David found **Balkan Goldenring**, quietly resting on a bush. The rain however ended our day but even after our dinner of sliced beef, chicken soup, savouries and salad, Peter G went exploring and found a salamander.

Day 7: June 27th

Today's forecast was for cloud all day and indeed it drizzled on several occasions, so there wasn't much chance of enjoying butterflies. Thus, we witched our focus to birds and flowers and went to the subalpine zone of Mt. Pirin to look for endemic flora and some typical mountain birds.

Temperatures were quite low so the only butterfly we found was an Eastern Large Heath. Birds

however were numerous and we saw several lovely **Spotted Nutcrackers, Coal Tit, Dunnock** (which is a mountain species in Bulgaria), **Linnet, Common Crossbill, Bullfinch**, etc. Some of us even saw **Balkan Chamois** on the mountain slopes.

The incredible flora with many endemic and typical alpine species included *Dactylorhiza* cordigera, Geum coccineum, Campanula velibitica, Viola orbelica, Anthyllis aurea, Crocus veluchensis, Scilla biflora, Gagea sp. Primula elatior, Scutellaria alpina, Geranium macrorrhizum, Aquilegia aurea, Dactylorhiza saccifera, Cynoglossum hungaricum, Daphne cneorum, Daphne oleoides, Centaurea orbelica, Verbascum longifolium, Verbascum davidoff, Pinus peuce, Pinus mugo, Pinus sylvestris, Pinus nigra, and Pinus heldreichii.

We ate a lunch of stew and lentil soup back at the hotel and after we'd warmed up a little we ventured out for another walk in the nearby beech forest. Here we found **Balkan Copper, Heath Fritillary, Ringlet** and **Large Skipper**. An interesting **Clearwing** moth was also seen on an Elderflower. Birds were also fewer in these conditions, but we still could find **Coal, Blue and Marsh Tits, Blackcap, Goldcrest, Eurasian Treecreeper, Song Thrush & Black Redstart**.



Day 8: June 28th

The first stop in the morning was at some nice meadows at the hills near Razlog. Again, butterflies were well hidden with just a few Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns, Common Blues, a lovely female Meleager's Blue and Large Skipper. Avian distractions included Eurasian Hobby, Common Buzzard, European Bee-eater, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Red-backed Shrike, Sombre Tit, Red-rumped Swallow, Woodlark, Mistle Thrush, and Corn Bunting. Some interesting flora here included *Silene conoidea, Lychnis coronaria, Teucrium chamaedrys, Galium verum, Melilitus alba, Jasione heldreichii.*



Unfortunately, very heavy rain came so we decided to spend an hour sightseeing in the old town of Bansko. We visited the old and very impressive church until the rain stopped and then walked through the town for a while until it was time for lunch.

When we came out of the restaurant, the sky has cleared and the sun was shining. A butterfly flew by to remind us what the main goal of our trip was! In the afternoon we explored a couple of areas along a river near Dobrinishte. Butterflies were quite active and numerous in the warm conditions. Species seen included **Sloe Hairstreak**, **Scarce Copper** (nectaring upon a small pink scabious), **Balkan Copper, Large Blue, Eastern Baton Blue, Idas Blue, Amanda's Blue, High Brown Fritillary** (including a mating pair), **Marbled Fritillary, Weaver's Fritillary** (by the river), **Gatekeeper and Essex Skipper**. Even some dragonflies started flying - **Scarce Emerald Damselfly, Keeled Skimmer, Southern Skimmer** and **Southern Darter**.

Some new plant species for the trip here included Lysimachia punctata, Potentilla argentea, P. recta, P. repens, Viburnum opulus, Alnus glutinosa.

Dinner tonight was a dish of. Meat balls and potatoes, salad, a bean dish and soup.





Day 9: June 29th

The last day of our holiday was only for travelling. Yiannis, David and Peter left in the early hours to catch their morning flight to Nice for their next butterfly trip in the French Alps, while Simeon and the driver Vasil travelled with the rest of the group to Sofia Airport for their noon flights back to England.

Overview:

This was Greenwings second trip in Bulgaria and we recorded a total of 112 butterfly species, 95 species of birds and 19 species of dragonflies. Around 150 species of plants were identified including more than 15 species of orchids and at least 30 Bulgarian or Balkan endemic plants. Different species of reptiles, moths, grasshoppers, bugs, bees and spiders also contributed to the overall good experience. Greenwings would like to record a note of thanks to all their guests for their good humour and encouragement throughout.

Participants:

Peter Gravett, David Wright, Andrew Ashworth, Anne Ashworth, Elizabeth Brown, Michael Brown, Wendy Black, Nicholas Branson, Colin Taylor, Yiannis Christofides (guide) and Simeon Gigov (guide).







Butterfly Species List:



	Incomidae continued
Family Papilionidae	Lycaenidae continued
1. Swallowtail / Papilio machaon	23. Sooty Copper / Lycaena tityrus
2. Scarce Swallowtail / Iphiclides podalirius	24. Purple-shot Copper / Lycaena alciphron
3. Eastern Festoon / Zerynthia cerisy	25. Lesser Fiery Copper / Lycaena thersamon
4. Apollo / Parnassius apollo	26. Balkan Copper / Lycaena candens
Family Pieridae	27. Lang's Short-tailed Blue / Leptotes pirithous
5. Black-veined White / Aporia crataegi	28. Short-tailed Blue / Cupido argiades
6. Large White / Pieris brassicae	29. Holly Blue / Celastrina argiolus
7. Small White / Pieris rapae	30. Little Blue / Cupido minimus
8. Southern Small White / Pieris mannii	31. Alcon Blue / Phengaris alcon
9. Mountain Small White / Pieris ergane	32. Large Blue / Phengaris arion
10. Green-veined White / Pieris napi	33. Chequered Blue / Scolitantides orion
11. Bath White / Pontia daplidice	34. Eastern Baton Blue / Pseudophilothes vicrama
12. Berger's Clouded Yellow / <i>Colias</i>	35. Silver-studded Blue / Plebejus argus
alfacariensis	36. Idas Blue / Plebejus idas
13. Clouded Yellow / Colias crocea	37. Geranium Argus / Aricia eumedon
14. Brimstone / Gonepteryx rhamni	38. Brown Argus / Aricia agestis
15. Wood White / <i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	39. Mazarine Blue / Cyaniris semiargus
Family Lycaenidae	40. Escher's Blue / Polyommatus escheri
16. Sloe Hairstreak / Satyrium acaciae	41. Amanda's Blue / Polyommatus amanda
17. Ilex Hairstreak / Satyrium dedede	42. Chapman's Blue / Polyommatus thersites
18. White-letter Hairstreak / Satyrium w-album	43. Anomalous Blue / Polyommatus admetus
	44. Ripart's Anomalous Blue / Polyommatus
19. Black Hairstreak / Satyrium pruni	ripartii
20. Green Hairstreak / <i>Callophrys rubi</i>	45. Meleager's Blue / Polyommatus daphnis
21. Small Copper / Lycaena phlaeas	
22. Scarce Copper / Lycaena virgaureae	

Lycaenidae continued	Nymphalidae / Satyridae continued
46. Chalk-hill Blue / <i>Polyommatus coridon</i>	83. Balkan Grayling / <i>Hipparchia senthens</i>
47. Adonis Blue / Polyommatus bellargus	84. Great Banded Grayling / <i>Brintesia circe</i>
48. Common Blue / Polyommatus icarus	85. Woodland Ringlet / Erebia medusa
49. False Eros Blue / <i>Polyommatus eroides</i>	86. Bright-eyed Ringlet / Erebia oeme
Family Nymphalidae	87. Meadow Brown / <i>Maniola jurtina</i>
50. Nettle Tree Butterfly / <i>Libythea celtis</i>	v
51. Poplar Admiral / <i>Limenitis populi</i>	88. Oriental Meadow Brown / <i>Hyponephele lupina</i>
52. Southern White Admiral / <i>Limenitis</i>	
reducta	89. Ringlet / Aphantopus hiperantus
53. White Admiral / <i>Limenitis camilla</i>	90. Gatekeeper / Pyronia tithonus
54. Common Glider / Neptis sappho	91. Eastern Large Heath / <i>Coenonympha</i>
55. Small Tortoiseshell / <i>Aglais urticae</i>	rhodopensis
56. Peacock Butterfly / <i>Aglais io</i>	92. Small Heath / <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
57. Map Butterfly / Arashnia levana	93. Pearly Heath / <i>Coenonympha arcania</i>
58. Red Admiral / Vanessa atalanta	94. Chestnut Heath / Coenonympha glycerion
59. Painted Lady / Vanessa cardui	95. Speckled Wood / Pararge aegeria
60. Queen of Spain Fritillary / Issoria lathonia	96. Wall Brown / Lasionmata megera
61. Comma Butterfly / Polygonia c-album	97. Northern Wall Brown / Lasiommata
62. Cardinal Butterfly / Argynnis pandora	petropolitana
63. Silver-washed Fritillary / Argynnis paphia	98. Large Wall Brown / <i>Lasiommata maera</i>
64. Dark Green Fritillary / Argynnis aglaja	Family Hesperiidae
65. High Brown Fritillary / Argynnis adippe	99. Grizzled Skipper / Pyrgus malvae
66. Niobe Fritillary / Argynnis niobe	100. Oberthuer's Grizzled Skipper / Pyrgus
67. Twin-spot Fritillary / Brenthis hecate	armoricanus
68. Marbled Fritillary / Brenthis daphne	101. Sandy Grizzled Skipper / Pyrgus cinarae
69. Pearl-bordered Fritillary / Boloria	102. Orbed Red Underwing Skipper / Spialia
euphrosine	orbifer
70. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary / Boloria	103. Mallow Skipper / Carcharodus alceae
selene	104. Marbled Skipper / Carcharodus
71. Weaver's Fritillary / Boloria dia	lavatherae
72. Glanville Fritillary / Melitaea cinxia	105. Tufted Marbled Skipper / Carcharodus
73. Knapweed Fritillary / Melitaea phoebe	flocciferus
74. Spotted Fritillary / Melitaea didyma	106. Oriental Marbled Skipper / Carcharodus orientalis
75. Lesser Spotted Fritillary / Melitaea trivia	
76. Heath Fritillary / Melitaea athalia	107. Dingy Skipper / Erynnis tages
77. Nickerl's Fritillary / Melitaea aurelia	108. Chequered Skipper / Carterocephalus palaemon
78. Marsh Fritillary / Euphydryas aurinia	109. Lulworth Skipper / <i>Thymelicus acteon</i>
Nymphalidae formerly Satyridae	110. Essex Skipper / Thymelicus lineola
79. Marbled White / Melanargia galathea	
80. Balkan Marbled White / Melanargia	111. Small Skipper / <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>
larissa	112. Large Skipper / Ochlodes sylvanus
81. Woodland Grayling / Hipparchia fagi	
82. Eastern Rock Grayling / Hipparchia	
syriaca	

Dragonflies Species List:



1. Banded Demoiselle / Calopteryx splendens	
2. Beautiful Demoiselle / Calopteryx virgo	
3. Scarce Emerald Damselfly / Lestes dryas	
4. Blue-tailed Damselfly / Ischnura elegans	
5. Azure Damselfly / Coenagrion puella	
6. Large Red Damselfly / Pyrrhosoma nymphula	
7. White-legged Damselfly / Platycnemis pennipes	
8. Blue Emperor / Anax imperator	
9. Green-eyed Hooktail / Onychogomphus forcipatus	
10. Balkan Goldenring / Cordulegaster heros	
11. Sombre Goldenring / Cordulegaster bidentata	
12. Downy Emerald / Cordulia aenea	
13. Four-spotted Chaser / Lbellula quadrimaculata	
14. Broad-bodied Chaser / Libellula depressa	
15. Black-tailed Skimmer / Orthetrum cancellatum	
16. Keeled Skimmer / Orthetrum coerulescens	
17. Southern Skimmer / Orthetrum brunneum	
18. Ruddy Darter / Sympetrum sanguineum	
19. Southern Darter / Sympetrum meridionale	

Birds Species List:



18. Collared Dove / Streptopelia decaocto
19. Tawny Owl / Strix aluco
20. Alpine Swift / Tachymarptis melba
21. Common Swift / Apus apus
22. Pallid Swift / Apus pallidus
23. European Bee-eater / Merops apiaster
24. Common Hoopoe / Upupa epops
25. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker /
Dendrocopos minor
26. Middle Spotted Woodpecker /
Dendrocopos medius
27. Great Spotted Woodpecker / Dendrocpos
major
28. Black Woodpecker / Dryocopus martius
27. Great Spotted Woodpecker / Dendrocpos
major
28. Black Woodpecker / Dryocopus martius
29. Green Woodpecker / Picus viridis
30. Grey-headed Woodpecker / Picus canus
31. Red-backed Shrike / Lanius collurio
32. Lesser Grey Shrike / Lanius minor

33. Golden Oriole / Oriolus oriolus	66. Song Thrush / Turdus philomelos
34. Eurasian Jay / <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	67. Mistle Thrush / <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
35. Common Magpie / <i>Pica pica</i>	68. European Robin / Erithacus rubecula
36. Spotted Nutcracker / Nucifraga	69. Common Nightingale / Luscinia
caryocatactes	megarhynchos
37. Eurasian Jackdaw / Corvus monedula	70. Black Redstart / Phoenicurus ochrurus
38. Hooded Crow / Corvus cornix	71. Northern Wheatear / Oenanthe oenanthe
39. Common Raven / Corvus corax	72. Black-eared Wheatear / Oenanthe
	hispanica
40. Great Tit / Parus major	73. Spotted Flycatcher / Muscicapa striata
41. Blue Tit / Cyanistes caeruleus	74. White-throated Dipper / Cinclus cinclus
42. Coal Tit / Periparus ater	75. House Sparrow / Passer domesticus
43. Sombre Tit / Poecile lugubris	76. Spanish Sparrow / Passer hispaniolensis
44. Marsh Tit / Poecile palustris	77. Eurasian Tree Sparrow / Passer
	montanus
45. Crested Tit / Lophophanes cristatus	78. Dunnock / Prunella modularis
46. Barn Swallow / Hirundo rustica	79. Grey Wagtail / Motacilla cinerea
47. Crag Martin / Ptyonoprogne rupestris	80. White Wagtail / Motacilla alba
48. House Martin / Delichon urbicum	81. Tree Pipit / Anthus trivialis
49. Red-rumped Swallow / Cecropis daurica	82. Chaffinch / Fringilla coelebs
50. Long-tailed Tit / Aegithalos caudatus	83. European Serin / Serinus serinus
51. Crested Lark / Galerida cristata	84. European Greenfinch / Chloris chloris
52. Woodlark / Lullula arborea	85. European Goldfinch / Carduelis
	carduelis
53. Eurasian Skylark / Alauda arvensis	86. Common Linnet / Carduelis cannabina
54. Common Chiffchaff / Phylloscopus	87. Common Rosefinch / Carpodacus
<i>collybita</i>	erythrinus
55. Blackcap / Sylvia atricapilla	88. Red Crossbill / Loxia curvirostra
56. Lesser Whitethroat / Sylvia curruca	89. Eurasian Bullfinch / <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
57. Greater Whitethroat / Sylvia communis	90. Hawfinch / Coccothraustes
50 Firegrand / Describer invited	coccothraustes
58. Firecrest / Regulus ignicapilla	91. Corn Bunting / <i>Emberiza calandra</i>
59. Goldcrest / Regulus regulus	92. Yellowhammer / <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
60. Winter Wren / Troglodytes troglodytes	93. Western Rock Bunting / Emberiza cia
62. Eurasian Treecreeper / Certhia familiaris	94. Cirl Bunting / Emberiza cirlus
63. Rose-coloured Starling / Pastor roseus	95. Black-headed Bunting / <i>Emberiza</i>
64 European Starling / Sturming	melanocephala
64. European Starling / <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	
65. Blackbird / Turdus merula	

Plant List:



Pinaceae (Gymnosperms)	15. Centaurea orbelica
1. Bosnian Pine / Pinus heldreichii	16. Yellow Star-thistle / Centaurea solstitialis
2. Dwarf Pine / Pinus mugo	17. Centaurea salonitana
3. Scots Pine / Pinus sylvestris	18. Balkan Thistle / Cirsium appendiculatum
4. Macedonian Pine / Pinus peuce	19. Cirsium ligulare
5. Norway Spruce / Picea abies	20. Common chicory / Cichorium intybus
Dicotyledons	21. Golden Thistle / Scolymus hispanicus
Adoxaceae	22. Yellow Ox-eye / Telekia speciosa
6. Dwarf Elder / Sambucus ebulus	23. Immortelle / Xeranthemum annuum
7. Guelder-rose / Viburnum opulus	24. Xeranthemum nummularium
Anacardiaceae	Balsaminaceae
8. Turpentine Tree / Pistacia terebinthus	25. Touch-me-not/ Impatiens noli-tangere
Apiaceae	Betulaceae
9. Field Eryngo / Eryngium campestre	26. European Alder / Alnus glutinosa
9. Field Eryngo / Eryngium campestre 10. White Laceflower / Orlaya grandiflora	26. European Alder / <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> Boraginaceae
10. White Laceflower / Orlaya grandiflora	Boraginaceae
10. White Laceflower / Orlaya grandifloraAristolochiaceae	Boraginaceae 27. Common Bugloss / Anchusa officinalis
10. White Laceflower / Orlaya grandifloraAristolochiaceae11. European Birthwort / Aristolochia	Boraginaceae27. Common Bugloss / Anchusa officinalis28. Hungarian Hound's-tongue / Cynoglossum
 10. White Laceflower / Orlaya grandiflora Aristolochiaceae 11. European Birthwort / Aristolochia clematis 	Boraginaceae27. Common Bugloss / Anchusa officinalis28. Hungarian Hound's-tongue / Cynoglossumhungaricum
10. White Laceflower / Orlaya grandifloraAristolochiaceae11. European Birthwort / AristolochiaclematisAsclepiadaceae	Boraginaceae27. Common Bugloss / Anchusa officinalis28. Hungarian Hound's-tongue / Cynoglossum hungaricum29. Viper's Bugloss / Echium vulgare
 10. White Laceflower / Orlaya grandiflora Aristolochiaceae 11. European Birthwort / Aristolochia clematis Asclepiadaceae 12. White Swallow-wort / Vincetoxium 	Boraginaceae27. Common Bugloss / Anchusa officinalis28. Hungarian Hound's-tongue / Cynoglossum hungaricum29. Viper's Bugloss / Echium vulgare
 10. White Laceflower / Orlaya grandiflora Aristolochiaceae 11. European Birthwort / Aristolochia clematis Asclepiadaceae 12. White Swallow-wort / Vincetoxium hirundinaria 	Boraginaceae27. Common Bugloss / Anchusa officinalis28. Hungarian Hound's-tongue / Cynoglossum hungaricum29. Viper's Bugloss / Echium vulgare29. Viper's Bugloss / Echium vulgare29. Viper's Bugloss / Echium vulgare

Brassicaeae	70. Ajuga laxmanii
32. Hoary Alyssum / Bertorea incana	71. Wild Basil / <i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>
Campanulaceae	72. Large flowered Hemp-nettle / <i>Galeopsis</i>
Cumpunuluccuc	speciosa
33. Asyneuma limonifolium	73. Monte Gargano Dead-nettle / <i>Lamium</i>
	garganicum
34. Campanula jordanovi	74. Marrubium friwaldskyanum
35. Clustered Bellflower/Campanula glomerata	75. Catmint / Nepeta nuda
36. Campanula. moesiaca	76. Cut-leaved Selfheal / Prunella lacianiata
37. Campanula orphanidea	77. Common Selfheal / Prunella vulgaris
38. Spreading Bellflower / Campanula patula	78. Jupiter Distaff Sage / Salvia glutinosa
39. Peach-leaved Bellflower / Campanula	79. Lilac Sage / Salvia verticillata
persicifolia	
40. Campanula scutellata	80. Balkan Ironwort / Sideritis scardica
41. Campanula velebitica	81. Mountain Ironwort / Sideritis montana
42. Jasione heldreichii	82. Alpine Skullcap / Scutellaria alpina
43. Trachelium rumeliana	83. Wall Germander / <i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>
Caryophyllaceae	Lentibulariaceae
44. Dianthus giganteus	84. Balkan Butterwort / Pinguicula balcanica
45. Dianthus petraeus	Malvaceae
46. Large Pink / Dianthus superbus	85. Common Mallow / Malva sylvestris
47. Soapwort / Saponaria officinalis	Morinaceae
48. White Campion / Silene alba	86. Morina persica
49. Silene subconica	Oleaceae
50. Silene fabariodes	87. Yellow Jasmine / Jasmimum fruticans
51. Silene flavescens	88. European Privet / Ligustrum vulgare
52. Silene roemeri	Orobanchaceae
Fabaceae	89. Field Cow-wheat / Melampyrum arvense
53. Anthyllis aurea	Plumbaginaceae
54. Bladder-senna / Colutea arborescens	90. Common Leadwort / <i>Plumbago europaea</i>
55. Crown Vetch / Coronilla varia	Polygalaceae
56. Dorycnium herbaceum	91. Showy Milkwort / Polygala grandiflora
57. Maedow Vetchling / Lathyrus pratensis	Primulaceae
58. Spiny Restharrow / Ononis spinosa	92. True Oxlip / Primula elatior
59. Onobrychis alba	93. Yellow Loosestrife / Lysimachia punctata
60. Large Brown Clover / Trifolium spadiceum	Pyrolaceae
61. Sulphur Clover / Trifolium ochroleucon	94. Sidebells Wintergreen / Orthilia secunda
62. Black Locust / Robinia pseudoacacia	Ranunculaceae
63. Honey Locust / Gleditsia triacanthos	95. Aquilegia aurea
64. Large Yellow Vetch / Vicia grandiflora	Rhamnaceae
Generaceae	96. Glossy Buckthorn / Frangula alnus
65. Geranium macrorrhizum	97. Christ's Thorn / Paliurus spina-christi
66. Bloody Cranesbill / Geranium sanguineum	Resedaceae
Gensereiaceae	98. Wild Mignonette / Reseda lutea
67. Haberlea rhodopensis	Rosaceae
Hyperaceae	99. Common Agrimony / Agrimonia eupatoria
68. Mt Olympus St. John's Wort / Hypericum	100. Dropwort / Filipendula vulgaris
olympicum	
Lamiaceae	101. Meadowsweat / Filipendula ulmaria
69. Upright Bugle / Ajuga genevensis	102. Dwarf Orange Avens / Geum coccineum

103. Silver Cinquefoil/ Potentilla argentea	Monotropoidae
104. Sulphur Cinquefoil / Potentilla recta	128. Yellow Pinesap / <i>Monotropa hypopitys</i>
105. Creeping Cinquefoil / Potentilla repens	Orchidaceae
106. Blackthorn / Prunus spinosa	129. Bug Orchid / Anacamptis coriophora
107. European Wild Pear / Pyrus pyraster	130. Anacamptis elegans
108. French Rose / <i>Rosa gallica</i>	131. Red Helleborine / <i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>
Scrophulariaceae	132. Creeping Goodyera / <i>Goodyera repens</i>
109. Green Foxglove / Digitalis viridiflora	133. Fragrant Orchid / <i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>
110. Grecian Foxglove / Digitalis lanata	134. Dactylorhiza baumanniana
111. Broom-leaved Toadflax / Linaria	135. Sac-carrying Dactylorhiza / Dactylorhiza
genistifolia	saccifera
112. Scrophularia bulgarica	136. Heart-shaped Lip Dactylorhiza /
	Dactylorhiza cordigera
113. Moth Mullein / Verbascum blattaria	137. Early Marsh Orchid / Dactylorhiza
	incarnata
114. Verbascum davidoffii	138. Dark-red Helleborine / Epipactis
	atrorubens
115. Verbascum humile	139. Broad-leaved Helleborine / Epipactis
	helleborine
116. Verbascum longifolium	140. Marsh Helleborin / Epipactis palustris
117. Verbascum sinuatum	141. Ghost Orchid / Epipogium aphyllum
Solanaceae	142. Balkan Lizard Orchid / Himantoglossum
	jankae
118. Black Henbane / Hyoscyamus niger	143. Eggleaf Twayblade / Neottia ovata
Thymelaceae	144. Burnt-tip Orchid / Orchis ustulata
119. Rose Daphne / Daphne cneorum	145. Greater Butterfly Orchid / Platanthera
	chlorantha
120. Olive-leaved Daphne / Daphne	Poaceae
oleoides	
Monocotyledons	146. Broad-leaved Cotton-grass / Eriophorum
	latifolium
Butomaceae	Ferns
121. Flowering Rush / Butomus umbellatus	147. Wall-rue Spleenwort / Aspenium ruta-
	muraria
Iridaceae	148. Maidenhair Spleenwort / Aspenium
	trichomanes
122. Crocus veluchensis	
123. Wild Gladiolus / <i>Gladiolus illyricus</i>	
124. Rhodopean Lilly / <i>Lilium rhodopeum</i>	
125. Alpine Squill / Scilla bifolia	
Melanthiaceae	
126. White Hellebore / Veratrum lobelianum	
127. Herb Paris / Paris quatrifolia	

Butterfly Gallery:



Tufted Marbled Skipper © S. Gigov



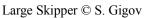
Orbed Red Underwing Skipper © S. Gigov



Chequered Skipper © S. Gigov



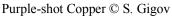
Small Skipper © S. Gigov





Balkan Copper © S. Gigov

Scarce Copper © S. Gigov





Underside Alcon Blue © S. Gigov

Male Alcon Blue © S. Gigov

Female Alcon Blue © S. Gigov



Eastern Baton Blue © N. Branson

Chequered Blue © S. Gigov

Mazarine Blue © P. Gravett



Silver-studded Blue © S. Gigov

Idas Blue © S. Gigov



Meleager's Blue © A. Ashworth

Escher's Blue © P. Gravett

Amanda's Blue © S. Gigov



White Admiral © S. Gigov

Southern White Admiral © A. Ashworth





Silver-washed Fritillary © A. Ashworth

High Brown Fritillary © A. Ashworth Niobe Fritillary © A. Ashworth



Pearl-bordered Fritillary © S. Gigov

Weaver's Fritillary © S. Gigov

Marsh Fritillary © S. Gigov



Glanville Fritillary © S. Gigov

Twin-spot Fritillary © P. Gravett Knapweed Fritillary © A. Ashworth



Spotted Fritillary © S. Gigov

Lesser Spotted Fritillary © C. Taylor



Heath Fritillary © S. Gigov

Nickerl's Fritillary by D. Wright



Heath Fritillary stages by S. Gigov Above left imago aberration. Centre larva. Above right chrysalis



Oriental Meadow Brown © P. Gravett

Meadow Brown © S. Gigov



Eastern Large Heath © S. Gigov

Chestnut Heath © S. Gigov



Northern Wall Brown © S. Gigov

Large Wall Brown © P. Gravett



Silver-washed Fritillary 'Valezina' © P. Gravett

Sandy Grizzled Skipper © D. Wright



Meleager's Blue (male) © D. Wright



Northern Wall Brown © D. Wright



Niobe Fritillary © P. Gravett



High Brown Fritillary © P. Gravett



Knapweed Fritillary © N. Branson



Marbled White © N. Branson



Oriental Meadow Brown © D. Wright



Narrow-bordered Bee-hawk © P. Gravett

Moth Gallery:



Clouded Buff © S. Gigov

Zygaena loti © S. Gigov

Shaded Broad-bar © S. Gigov



Above left to right © S. Gigov: Plain Golden Y, Great Brocade & Latticed Heath



Adscita mannii © S. Gigov

Small Elephant Hawkmoth larva © Simeon G

Spurge Hawkmoth larva © A. Ashworth

Dragonfly Gallery:



Keeled Skimmer © S. Gigov Sombre Goldenring © C. Taylor Balkan Goldenring © A. Ashworth

Other Insects Gallery:



Poecilemon sp. © C. Taylor Bronze Glandular Bush Cricket © P. Gravett Huge Violet Ground Beetle © A. Ashworth



Palpares libelluloides © P. Gravett Owlfly (*Ascalaphus macaronius*) © N. Branson

Nemoptera sinuata © N. Branson

Reptile Gallery:



Grass Snake © A. Ashworth European Green Lizard © A. Ashworth Spur-thighed Tortoise © A. Ashworth

Bird Gallery:



Great Cormorants © C. Taylor



Nest of White Stork & Spanish Sparrows © A. Ashworth



Hooded Crow © C. Taylor



Black Redstart © A. Ashworth Rock Bunting © A. Ashworth

Corn Bunting © C. Taylor

Plant Gallery:



Ghost Orchid © A. Ashworth

Balkan Lizard Orchid © Y. Christofides

Burnt-tip Orchid © Y. Christofides



Heart-shaped Lip Dactylorhiza © S. Gigov

Dark-red Helleborine © S. Gigov

Yellow Pinesap © S. Gigov



Ajuga laxmannii © Y. Christofides

Large Pink © Y. Christofides *Morina persica* © Y. Christofides



Green Foxglove © Y. Christofides Grecian Foxglove © Y. Christofides

Campanula orphanidea © A. Ashworth



Silene flavscens © S. Gigov White Campion © S. Gigov Large Brown Clover © S. Gigov