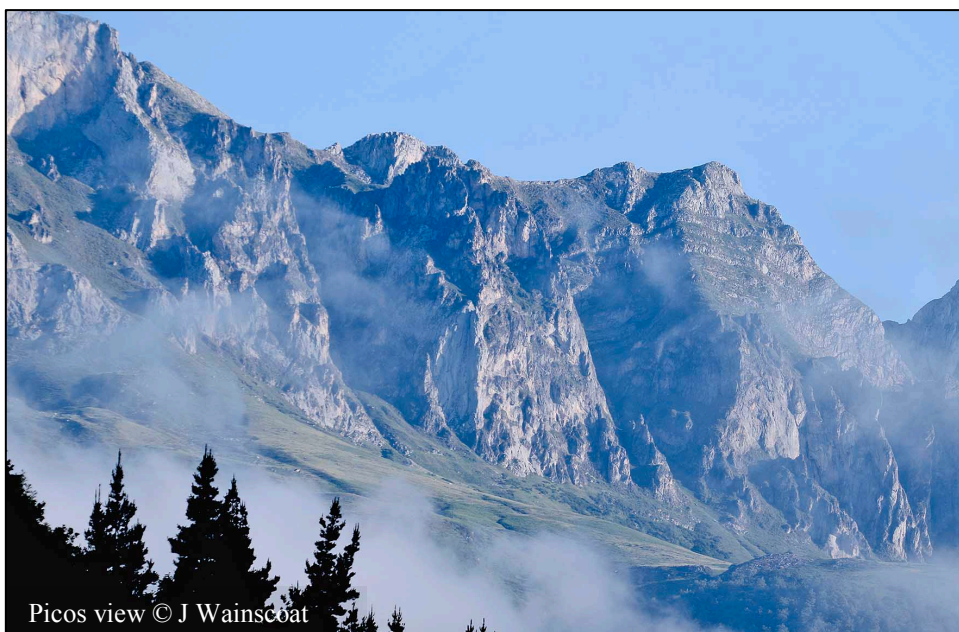


## **Butterflies of the Picos de Europa Holiday Report 6-13 July 2019**

Led by Patrick Barkham and assisted by Julian Dowding



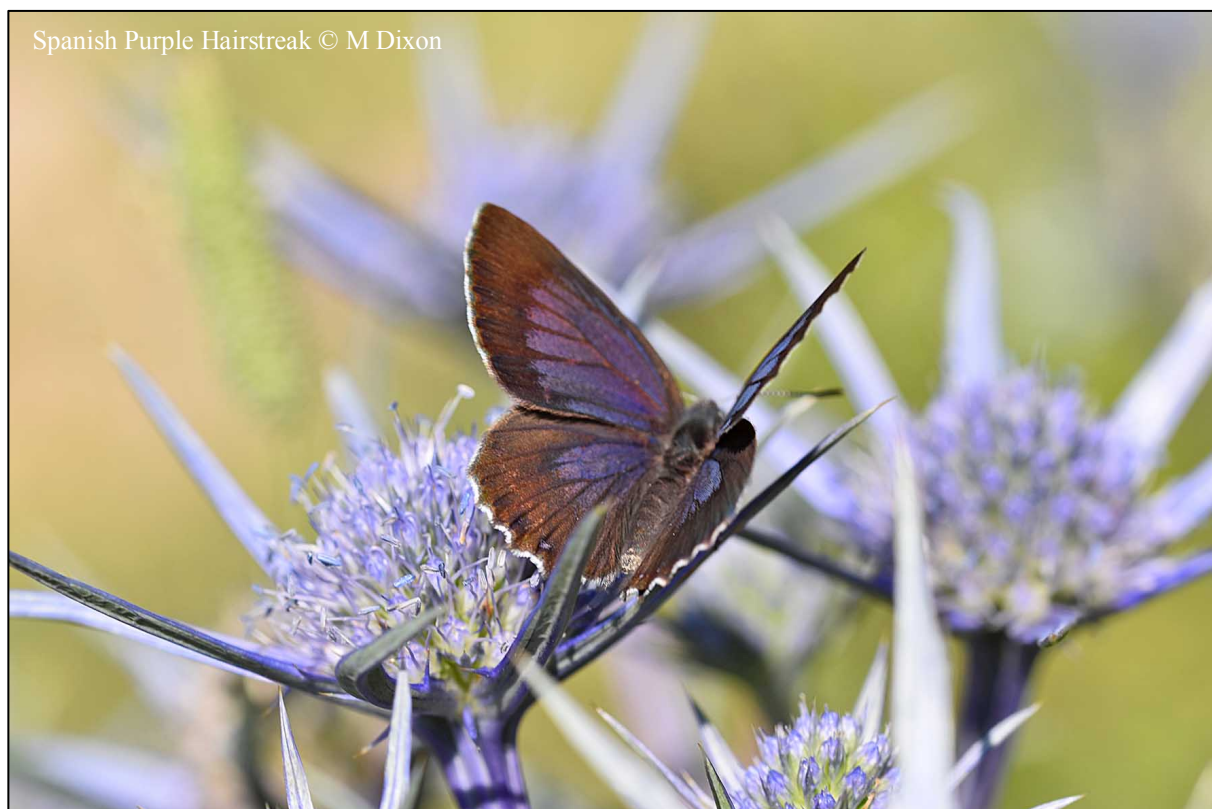
**Day 1, Saturday 6 July.**

Prior to the arrival of the guests, the guides Patrick and Julian had spent a few days in the Picos to reconnoitre the area for butterflies with Patrick's father John before the guests arrived. This also enabled them to be at the airport in good time for our guests' flights. There were a few delays but nothing major, and so after introductions we were soon winging our way back to our wonderful hotel at the top end of the beautiful Liebana Valley, in the heart of the Picos de Europa. It was really lovely accommodation, set among the majestic limestone "Peaks of Europe" in lush-green northern Spain that no-one in Britain has ever heard of! The 12 guests joining us on this holiday were James and Beverly, Robin and Nicholas, Andy and Denise, Steve and Gwen, Christian, Ian, Paul and Martin.

**Day 2, Sunday 7 July.**

Our intrepid band of butterfly hunters began our first full day in Spain with a stupendous multiple-choice breakfast at the Hotel del Oso – so many pastries, so little time – before swinging into action on a stony track at the south-western end of the Liebana Valley. The weather was superb with good sunshine and warm temperatures. We had already clocked four species in the meadow by the hotel including the first of many lovely Pearly Heaths and Marbled Whites, and on the short journey to our morning destination, Chris spotted a Honey Buzzard in a nearby field.

The track where we began our butterflying was characteristic of many in the Picos, steeply weaving up the contours to serve the valley's higher hay meadows, its rocky surface bearing the scars of the winter rains, and so inaccessible to vehicles. The edges of this little track were festooned with wildflowers and we soon found Spanish Purple Hairstreak being very obliging for our cameras and the first of dozens of pristine Dark Green Fritillaries.





The bells were ringing in the quiet of the valley for Mass as we identified our first buzzing small fritillary of the day – a Heath Fritillary. Steve then spotted our first Weaver’s Fritillary, a little golden fritillary with large dark spots bordering the upperside of its wings. We saw many Common Blues and Brown Arguses, one of which was unusually large and strongly decorated in orange on its underside – we identified it as a Southern Brown Argus but according to local expert Teresa Farino, the current guidebooks are incorrect and this is only a subspecies and all the Brown Arguses we were seeing were actually the Mountain Argus (known in Britain as the Northern Brown Argus). Silver-studded Blue was also seen here, in reasonable numbers, a butterfly reminder of home for some of us. Andy and Denise, our guests from the Isle of Man, were reptile experts and soon found a Wall Lizard basking in the morning sunshine.

Climbing up the track, we found Short-tailed Blue and a Lang’s Short-tailed blue in hot sunny spots and Speckled Woods (unusually bright orange in these parts) in the shady sections of overgrown hazel coppice. There were some fine old coppiced beeches in the old boundary hedges. We looked into various little wildflower meadows on our way up, some decorated with purple English irises, with the pale-grey limestone peaks of the Picos a breathtakingly scenic backdrop. Flying high above these peaks, Chris identified a Golden Eagle. Further on, Griffon Vultures circled on the thermals.



Lang’s Short-tailed Blue © P Barkham



Sooty Copper © P Lister

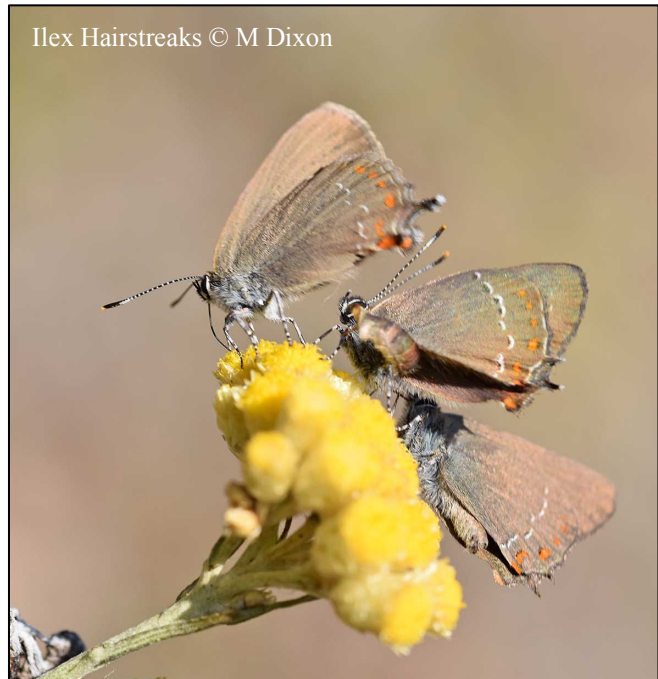


English Iris © P Barkham

We reached our end destination – a large meadow with a promising boggy patch where a stream ran through in the middle and lots of wetland plant species thrived. Here we found a pristine Sooty Copper, a rather elusive but nonetheless beautiful Purple-edged Copper and fritillaries including Marbled and Lesser Marbled, Queen of Spain, and the more familiar Silver-washed

Fritillary, nectaring on bramble. Robin also spotted the day's first Comma. It was hot now and the fritillaries were buzzing around incessantly, making some very difficult to identify.

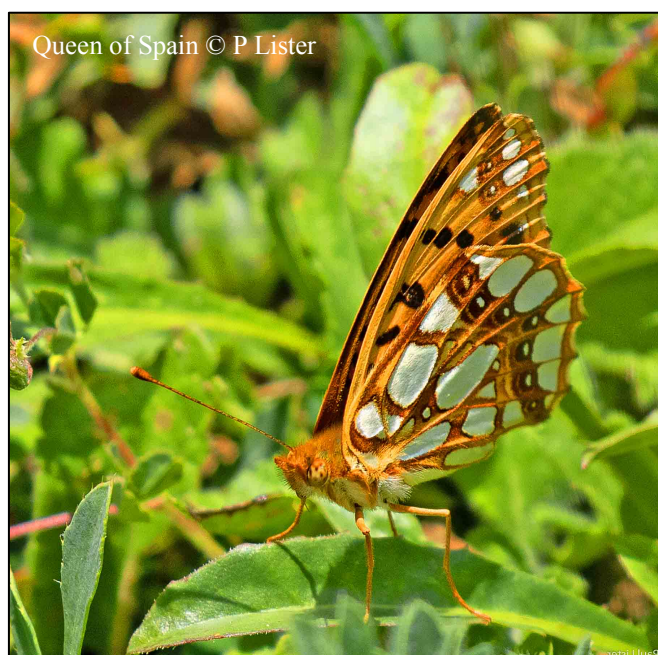
We headed back down the track and on the way encountered a fantastic mating pair of High Brown Fritillaries, which lingered long enough for everyone to admire them, while hairstreak-whisperer Martin did well to discover a Sloe Hairstreak amongst some beautiful Blue-spot Hairstreaks and many Spanish Purple Hairstreaks. Berger's Clouded Yellow was present too.



We enjoyed a late picnic lunch in the shade before heading down the valley towards the village of Arguebanes, where we stopped again to explore rather different hot, dry terrain. Here we found dozens of False Ilex Hairstreaks buzzing around the scrubby hillside and also enjoyed good views of Cleopatras. We also heard Cirl Bunting and discovered a Golden Ringed dragonfly.

Back at the hotel, a small group wandered up the track into the woods where we found White Admiral, with Mallow Skipper in the hotel meadow. Top marks for those who also spotted the tiny Geranium Bronze buzzing around the hotel's pots of geraniums.

We ate out in the evening at nearby Hotel Nevandi and totted up our species list. It had been a bounteous first full day in the field: 55 species. Amazing how effective 14 pairs of eyes can be!





### Day 3, Monday 8 July.

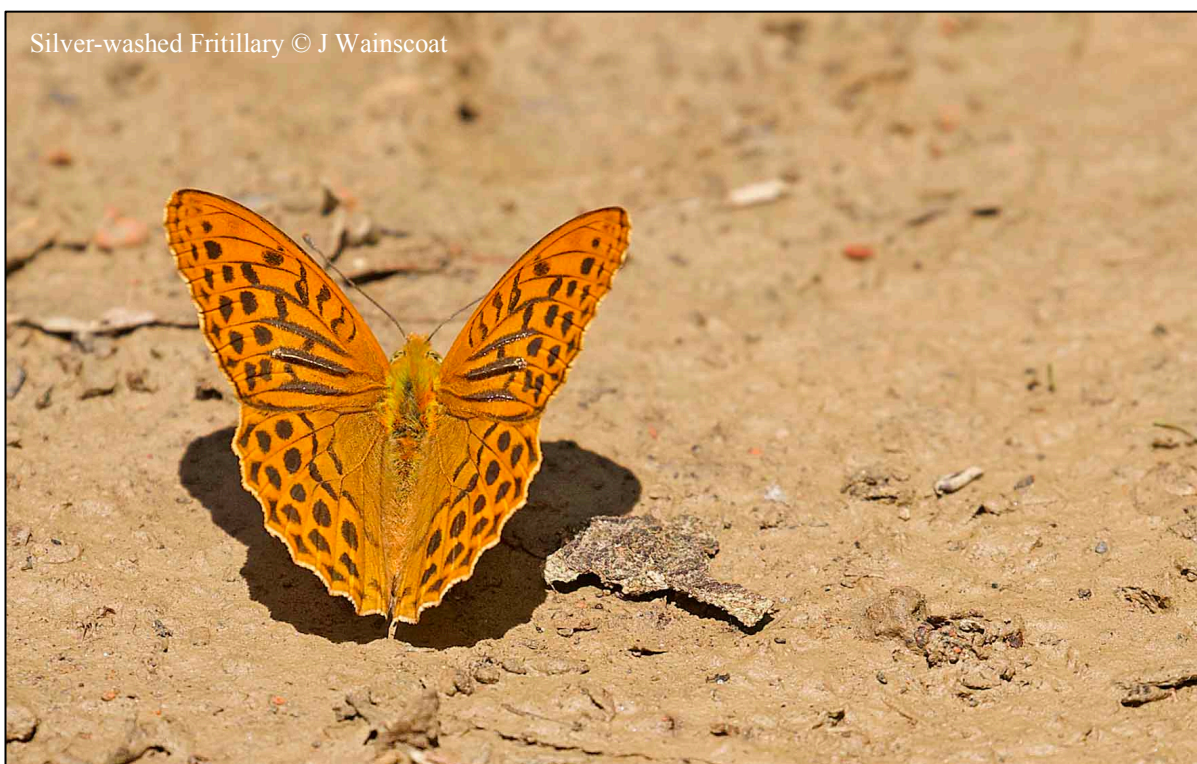
The forecast was for rain and unfortunately it turned out to be accurate. The morning was deeply overcast and drizzly, although warm, and some of the group took the opportunity to potter around Potes where, fortunately, it was market day with lots of stalls selling local cheeses and chorizo. The rest of us drove down the valley to the small village of Salarzon. We followed a track up the side of the valley and into a nice oak woodland. Everything was dripping wet but we saw Nuthatches, Goldcrests and a juvenile Buzzard, plus several enormous slugs feasting on unseasonal fungi. The only lepidoptera were a few day-flying moths and Painted Lady.

By the time we returned to Potes for lunch it was clearing up and in the sunshine at the scenic spot that was some dustbins in the car park, Robin and Nick made the find of the day – a Spanish Swallowtail well settled on a damp patch. We all enjoyed the view, and mystifying passersby.



Spanish Swallowtail © S Easter

In the afternoon we headed down to the woods near Aliezo where we'd seen a Lesser Purple Emperor a few days earlier on our recce. We concocted and laid various fiendishly stinky baits to try to lure it onto the forest track. It was sunny but rather breezy now, and the wood was filled with Silver-washed Fritillaries, with males pursuing females in a mating dance down the track. There were plentiful Cleopatras and some Spanish Purple Hairstreak and Holly Blues amongst the ash trees. A Wood White made an appearance, nonchalantly floating down the track. But no Emperor. Until finally we caught a fleeting glimpse of one patrolling the canopy of the ash tree. Eventually, on one of its lightning



Silver-washed Fritillary © J Wainscoat

forays into its airspace, we followed it until it landed high in a poplar. We obtained some very long shots which we were able to identify as Lesser (and not the conventional Purple Emperor) from the patterning on its wing. Back at an orchard in the village, we found Lang's Short-tailed Blue, Long-tailed Blue and Short-tailed Blue – a nice trio.

We had dinner at Angel's in Potes which proved to be an atmospheric riverside location, and Mr Angel was friendly and attentive. Dinner was accompanied by a tremendous thunderstorm and we drove home, slowly, in the deluge.



#### **Day 4, Tuesday 9 July.**

Fortunately, Tuesday dawned more brightly than forecast and soon turned into a lovely sunny day. We picked up John Barkham – my dad – for a special guest appearance. This trip is indebted to the knowledge he has built up during 25 successive years of summer butterfly spotting here, and he guided us up the twisty San Glorio pass and down the other side to a streamside location that must only be known as Site X.

We paused at the top of the pass, 1,609 metres up, and saw a Purple-edged Copper, a Small Elephant Hawkmoth and a Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary which unfortunately was an ex-fritillary. Then we reached our destination – some fairly ordinary scrubby looking meadows with boggy patches that contained the most marvellous mix of plants and butterflies on both limestone and acidic Devonian sandstone. We soon found the king of the ringlets, Chapman's Ringlet, the largest of the Erebia





butterflies and a species endemic to the Picos. This large, dark ringlet with big eye-spots was relatively easy to see and photograph, unlike some ringlets that never settle. A few minutes further on, eagle-eyed John found the first Dusky Large Blue, a very rare species that unfortunately is still the target of European butterfly collectors – hence the secrecy surrounding this location. To be honest, this rare blue was rather underwhelming – small and bronzy brown in colour at rest, with its wings always closed. Later in the day we saw more, and the males at least showed a dusky blue in flight.

We enjoyed finding our first Esper's and Iberian Marbled Whites of the holiday. This also became an epic fritillary day, with 17 different species of fritillary by the end of the day. Lesser Marbled was first up, followed by the Heath and the similar Provencal Fritillary (distinguished from the Heath by its bright orange palps at the front of its face – a subtle-sounding distinction that was surprisingly straightforward when the butterfly landed). Amongst the fritillary bonanza we had Pearl-bordered and Small Pearl-bordered, and the last fairly tired Glanville Fritillaries of the summer. Julian smartly identified some interesting blues – Idas Blue (similar to the more common Silver-studded Blue but with narrower black borders) and the splendid Turquoise Blue. There were also some tricky skippers, including Red Underwing and Lulworth Skippers and a lovely Large Wall Brown, a close relative of the Wall Brown (a UK species).



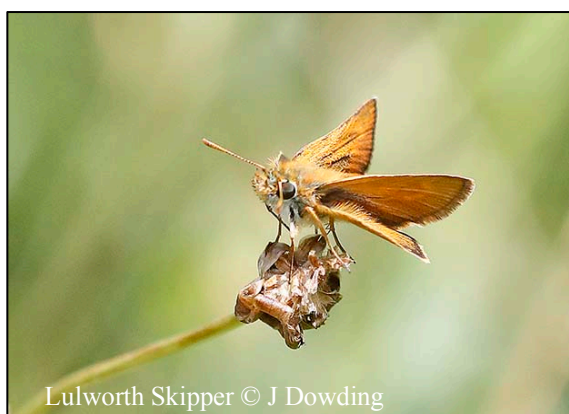
Esper's Marbled White © P Barkham



Large Wall Brown © P Barkham



Seoane's Viper © J Dowding



Lulworth Skipper © J Dowding

As we enjoyed our picnic lunch, Denise found an immaculate dark orange variety of the Small Tortoiseshell and Andy picked up a Swallowtail, which was impressive because he devoted his time to finding the most amazing reptiles. His reptile-finding skills really added to the group's experience and during lunch he showed us a family of Schreiber's Green Lizards, a gorgeous and quite large green-and-blue lizard, Iberian Grass Snake and a Seoane's Viper, a small adder like snake that had to be treated with respect.



Swallowtail © R & N George



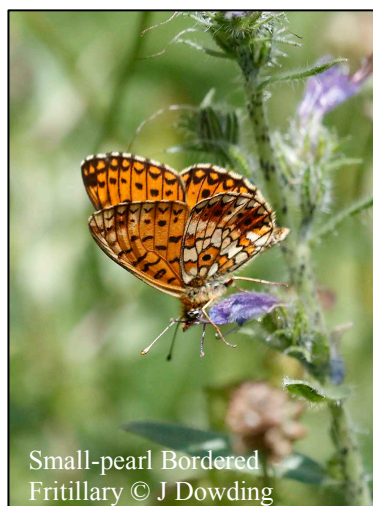
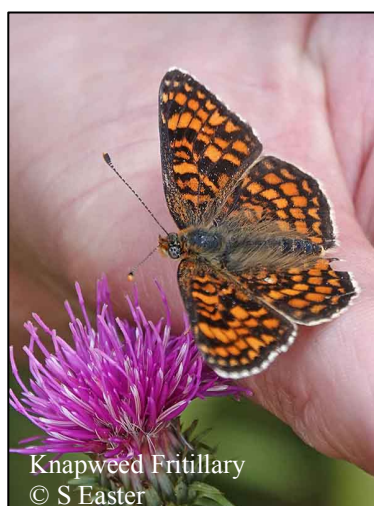
Iberian Grass Snake © D Qualtrough





After lunch we continued up the other side of the stream and, pressing on to find us rarities, we spotted an Apollo. Sadly for most of us it was a distant white speck heading away up the mountainside. Another specimen would be seen later in the holiday and for now, we were compensated with the first Niobe Fritillary of the trip, while Steve and Denise pointed out a Black-veined White. Scarce Copper was also seen today and photographed well by Paul.

On a second short stop at another boggy meadow back up towards San Glorio, we found dozens of fritillaries including Heath, Knapweed, Marsh, Dark Green, Silver-washed, Small Pearl-bordered, Marbled and Lesser Marbled. But one target species eluded us – the Bog Fritillary. We also enjoyed some fine views of wet meadow-loving coppers including Purple Shot Coppers, Purple-edged Coppers, Small Coppers and Sooty Coppers.



We returned to the hotel shortly before 7pm, excited after tallying 55 species in one epic day, including 20 that were new for this trip.

### Day 5, Wednesday 10 July

There wasn't a cloud in the sky as we took the ten-minute drive to the cable car at Fuente Dé, at the head of the Liebana valley. Everyone else in Northern Spain had the same idea as us, and we had to queue for a while to clamber on the cable car and whizz up to 1,800 metres. The atmosphere inside the cable car was like the Northern Line in rush hour but the views were rather different. At the top, it was a few degrees cooler but still warm and the sun was hot, and the air had that wonderful unusually clear, fresh Alpine quality. We set off on a bit of a scramble over rocks and pasture which contained some truly lovely alpine flowers (rapidly being grazed by a big gang of what looked a bit like shire horses and their foals).

We were in search of the Gavarnie Blue, a high altitude butterfly only found in the Cantabrian Mountains and the Pyrenees. The species lays its eggs on a very small but pretty member of the cowslip family, called Rock Jasmine. For an hour, all we saw were lovely bright orange (high altitude) Small Tortoiseshells and the occasional dashing Painted Lady. Then Denise spotted a small silver shape the exact colour of the limestone rocks all around us and Paul spotted one too. Unlike the rather underwhelming Dusky Large Blue the previous day, this rarity was a beautiful butterfly – snowy silvery grey undersides, with the male possessed of bright pale silver-blue topsides. Paul found our first Cinquefoil Skipper, a small Grizzled-Skipper type butterfly, and Julian identified our first Mountain Dappled White. We also enjoyed plenty of views of constantly moving Common Brassy Ringlets. Chris and Jim waited by some rocks and were rewarded with sightings of a Snowfinch, and they also saw Gavarnie Blue without the need for scrambling. When we climbed back up to the level track where we found several of these little blues basking by the trackside.



Gavarnie Blue © J Dowding

We walked on the track through high mountain scenery for a mile or so, reaching a rock face where Wallcreepers creep. Despite a patient vigil, none showed today but at least we got to make friends – and share our lunch – with some Alpine Choughs. On the walk back, three of the group enjoyed the most memorable butterfly encounter of the day. We had spied constantly-moving Lefebvre's Ringlets bouncing over the rocky scree slopes but these never once paused for a proper view until one creature mistook



Lefebvre's Ringlet © M Dixon



Alpine Chough © J Dowding



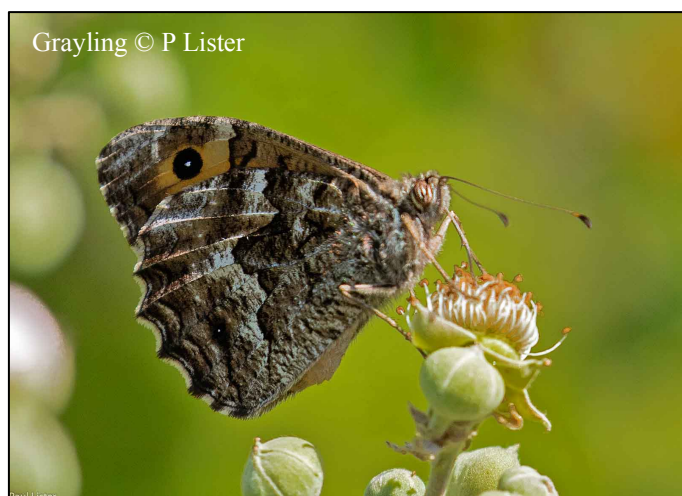
Ian's blue t-shirt for sky and pelted straight into his chest. Bouncing back, it fell, stunned, to the ground, where it lay and slowly recovered as Ian, Martin and Paul took its portrait.

We retreated back down the cable car, some guests viewing what turned out to be an Alpine Accentor just outside the station, and then went to check on the pungent baits that we had earlier laid in the hope of luring a Purple Emperor down from the treetops. There was plenty of fallow around for the Emperors but only Commas and Red Admirals dropped in on our lure. We walked into the cool of the nearby beech woods and enjoyed a gorgeous wildflower meadow below the sheer limestone crags at the head of the valley. Here flew dozens of Marbled White, Silver-washed and Dark Green Fritillaries, as well as some nice pristine Short-tailed Blues. Steve spotted the first Osiris Blue of the holiday on another flowery patch near the cable car and we also chalked up the first Green Underside Blue as well.

We reached the hotel at 5.30pm and enjoyed some R&R in the sunshine before dinner at nearby Nevandi's. Our species tally was now into the 80s after another memorable day's butterflying.

### **Day 6, Thursday 11 July.**

We took the road south out of Potes for a two-hour drive up and over the Picos range and into what felt like a very different region – a hotter, drier terrain of large fields, low hills and sleepy villages with their shutters pulled down against the sun. This was the landscape of central Spain and its scale and quietness gave an indication of the size of Spain, and the remoteness of much of its countryside.



Grayling © P Lister

We passed through the small town of Aguilar de Campoo, with its castle on a hill, to reach a nearby limestone gorge and nature reserve. On the flowery edges of the track leading up through the gorge we hoped to find some new species for the week and were quickly onto several. A profusion of Cardinals were nectaring on meadow thistle, Great Banded Graylings bounced their way up the track, and Spanish Gatekeepers – a very attractive variant of the Gatekeeper with a silvery pattern

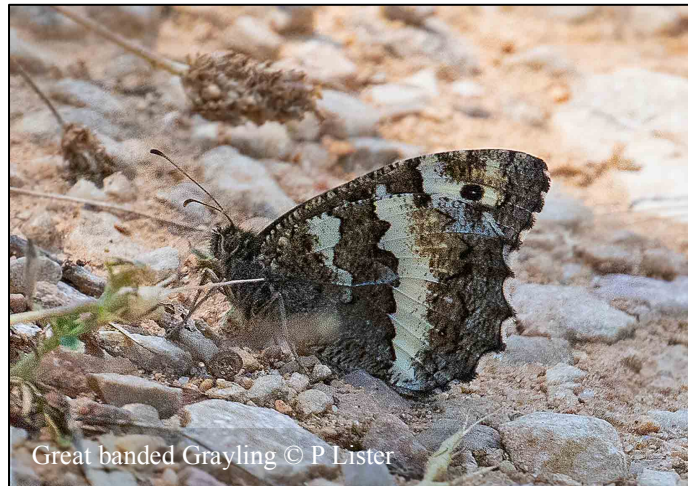
and extra eyespots on the underside – fed on the bramble flowers. We walked slowly up the track, slightly overwhelmed by the number of butterflies. There were good views of Sloe Hairstreak nectaring and, belatedly, our first graylings – the Grayling we get at home (although this one was not sitting on bare ground as usual but feeding on bramble) and the larger Rock Grayling. We soon found our first Southern White Admiral, flashing a hint of iridescent blue in its black wings,



L-R: Common, Ripart's Anomalous, Silver-studded and Chapman's Blues © J Wainscoat

which obediently perched for photographs. Further on, we spotted a damp patch on the track which was being enjoyed by a profusion of blues. Four gathered together in one spot: a Silver-studded Blue, a Turquoise Blue and four new sightings – a Meleager's Blue, a Chapman's Blue, and a Ripart's Anomalous Blue. Similar to Ripart's with a white slash across its underside but showing blue on the top side was the Damon Blue. It was a crash course in blue identification! Chris finally enjoyed some good views of one of his target species – the Black-veined White. Under one of the many rocks lifted up by Andy, he was pleased to find a Parsley Frog.

We could've stayed here all day but we wanted to see the lepidopteral life of other habitats and so paused for lunch in the shade of some poplars by the River Pisuerga where the ever-vigilant Martin found a Mazarine Blue. Our second stop was to wander down a country track close to the reservoir beyond Aguilar. This was a good spot for graylings and there were lots of Great Banded Graylings, and a Quail calling by a scented grove of pines. A Ripart's Anomalous Blue kindly landed on Robin's hand for a closer inspection. Andy discovered perhaps the most beautiful of the many reptiles he found on this trip: an Eyed Lizard.



Great banded Grayling © P Lister



Eyed Lizard © J Wainscoat

On our final stop on the drive back into the Picos we paused at a location that can only be known as Site Y because it contained an unexpected profusion of the extremely rare Dusky Large Blue. We were hoping for a Bog Fritillary but this was the one that got away: we chased



down numerous suspects but they always turned out to be Small Pearl-bordered, Lesser Marbled, Provencal or Heath fritillaries. As expected in late afternoon on a hot day, there was a profusion of mud-puddling butterflies at this lovely riverside spot and we had a tough task to identify the various grizzled skipper type butterflies on show. Martin and I went barefoot to wade across a stream and enter a muddy paradise for these *Pyrgus* butterflies. There were several to-be-confirmed species as well as the more easily identifiable Mallow Skipper – very fresh and marbled purple “dingy” skipper types. Our little troupe also found another first for the trip – a Spanish Heath, also known in some books as the Iberian subspecies of the Chestnut Heath, and Denise’s sharp eyes helped us finally identify an elusive species that Martin had been tirelessly seeking on several Greenwings’ trips – a Dusky Meadow Brown. Nick had also spotted one earlier in the day but this time Martin obtained the crucial photographic evidence. It had been a long day of winding mountain roads, fine views of layers of blue mountains receding into the far distance, and ten new butterfly species, bringing our trip total tantalisingly close to the ton. While negotiating hairpin bends, Julian also managed to spot a Purple or Lesser Purple Emperor swooping down from the oak forest where bears live, while my van had a lovely view of an Iberian Beech Marten crossing the road ahead.



Patrick looking for mudpuddling butterflies © R & N George

### **Day 7, Friday 12 July.**

On our final day we drove south to a small mountain village which was typical of the area. We can’t identify it because it is close to a site for the rare and declining Woodland Brown which is a target for butterfly collectors. We walked up a zig-zag farm track out of the village and soon gained lovely views of limestone peaks, wooded valleys and the red-tiled villages spread out below. It was the hottest day so far, more than 30C, and so the hill was quite strenuous. Andy found an Alpine Newt in a cattle water trough and we were soon picking up lots of nice



butterflies on the flowery margins of the track: Silver-studded Blues, an Idas Blue, and Walls and Large Walls. On the climb up, we had close-up views of a Griffon Vulture which barely beat a wing as it spiralled on the thermals. Then Julian spotted another exciting beast of the high mountains – an Apollo, which came powering up the hill and past us, accelerating away as quickly as it came. Robin found our 96<sup>th</sup> butterfly species of the tour, a darting Marbled Skipper, which was an excellent find.



We reached a flowery uncut hay meadow at the top of the saddle above the village but it was surprisingly bereft of butterflies in the heat of midday, apart from some enormous Common Blues and some fast-flying Clouded Yellows. We moved on into a low woodland, seeking the elusive Woodland Brown. Chris was the first to spot it, resting on a hazel leaf, wings closed, in the sunshine. It was a good but fleeting view and then it sped off. We enjoyed lunch in the shade of the trees, overlooking a beautifully floral glade where Silver-washed and High Brown Fritillaries swooped. But despite repeated pursuits of various jinking shadows, we didn't get close to any of the Woodland Browns – the best attempt was made by Martin who captured a grab-shot before the Woodland Brown shot off.



We slowly retreated down the hill, enjoying the views and space and peace, as well as more than 25 species of butterfly. We ended the day with a well-deserved cold drink in the village bar. Later that evening, we enjoyed tapas in Camacho's, an authentic Spanish bar in the pretty town of Potes. The Picos on a warm summer's evening is a truly splendid place to be.



We finished with 97 species but this rose to 101 once we'd gone through all our photographs.

This tour of the Picos was genuinely one of the most enjoyable trips I've been on, with a really lovely group who were a total pleasure to spend time with. Everyone contributed enthusiasm, good vibes, excellent spotting skills, as well as friendship, support and fun stories. It was a real joy to together enjoy butterflies in wildflower meadows in one of Europe's most beautiful landscapes.



Species list and photo gallery overleaf

	Butterfly species seen		
	Common name	Scientific name and comments	
	<b>Skippers</b>	<b>Hesperiidae</b>	
1	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	widespread
2	Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>	only at track up to Woodland Brown site
3	Red-underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>	widespread but uncommon
4	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>	widespread but uncommon
5	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	common
6	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineolus</i>	widespread
7	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>	3 or 4 seen
8	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	common
9	Cinquefoil Skipper	<i>Pyrgus cirsii</i>	2 seen at altitude
10	Olive Skipper	<i>Pyrgus serratalae</i>	1 male photographed
	<b>Swallowtails</b>	<b>Papilionidae</b>	
11	Apollo	<i>Parnassius apollo</i>	at altitude, 2 seen
12	Spanish Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides feisthamelii</i>	observed well in Potes
13	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	widespread but uncommon
	<b>Whites and Yellows</b>	<b>Pieridae</b>	
14	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	widespread
15	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	widespread but uncommon
16	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	common
17	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	common
18	Southern Small White	<i>Pieris manii</i>	uncommon
19	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	common
20	Mountain Dappled White	<i>Anthocharis euphenoides</i>	only at altitude at Fuente Dé
21	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>	scattered
22	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	common
23	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	widespread
24	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	widespread
	<b>Blues, coppers, hairstreaks</b>	<b>Lycaenidae</b>	
25	Spanish Purple Hairstreak	<i>Laeosopis evippus</i>	common
26	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>	common
27	False Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium esculi</i>	common
28	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>	common
29	Blue-spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium spini</i>	scattered
30	Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>	uncommon, seen at San Glorio and site x
31	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>	scattered
32	Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>	scattered
33	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	common and dark summer form seen
34	Purple-edged Copper	<i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>	scattered
35	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>	scattered
36	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	scattered
37	Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>	seen only on 2 occasions at hotel
38	Short-tailed Blue	<i>Everes argiades</i>	common, Liebana Valley, especially hotel
39	Osiris Blue	<i>Cupido osiris</i>	1 seen at Liebana Valley
40	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	common



41	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopteryx alexis</i>	1 seen at Liebana Valley
42	Meleager's Blue	<i>Polyommatus daphnis</i>	Aguilar del Campoo only
43	Dusky Large Blue	<i>Maculinea nausithous</i>	rare species but locally common
44	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>	River Pisuerga - 1 seen
45	Turquoise Blue	<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>	Aguilar del Campoo only
46	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	widespread and common
47	Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>	Aguilar del Campoo only
48	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>	scattered
49	Gavarnie Blue	<i>Agriades pyrenaicus [asturiensis]</i>	common at Fuente Dé
50	Damon Blue	<i>Polyommatus damon</i>	Aguilar del Campoo
51	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	common
52	Mountain Argus	<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>	Liebana Valley
53	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>	common
54	Idas Blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>	scattered
	<b>Aristocrats</b>	<b><i>Nymphalidae</i></b>	
55	White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>	hotel grounds and Liebana Valley
56	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>	scattered
57	Lesser Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura ilia</i>	2 seen - Aliezo woodland and driving across Picos
58	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	common at altitude
59	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>	uncommon
60	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Fuente Dé
61	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	widespread
62	Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	widespread
63	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>	scattered - mostly beyond their best
64	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>	widespread
65	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	common
66	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>	common
67	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melicta athalia</i>	scattered
68	Provençal Fritillary	<i>Melicta deione</i>	scattered
69	Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>	scattered- some good ones seen
70	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	common
71	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	common at Aguilar del Campoo
72	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>	Liebana Valley
73	High Brown Fritillary	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>	Liebana Valley
74	Niobe Fritillary	<i>Argynnis niobe</i>	site X
75	Queen of Spain	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	common
76	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>	common and widespread
77	Lesser Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis ino</i>	common and widespread
78	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>	scattered
79	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	widespread
80	Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Boloria dia</i>	Liebana Valley, scattered
81	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	widespread, also orange nominate form
82	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	widespread
83	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>	widespread
84	Woodland Brown	<i>Lopinga achine</i>	extremely rare and localised
85	Spanish Heath	<i>Coenonympha iphioides</i>	site Y
86	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>	widespread

87	Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>	site Y
88	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	widespread and common
89	Spanish Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia bathseba</i>	common
90	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	common
91	Dusky Meadow Brown	<i>Hyponephele lycaon</i>	2 seen at site Y
92	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	common
93	Lefèvre's Ringlet	<i>Erebia lefebvrei</i>	Fuente Dé locally common
94	Common Brassy Ringlet	<i>Erebia cassioides</i>	Fuente Dé
95	Chapman's Ringlet	<i>Erebia palarica</i>	Fuente Dé locally common
96	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	widespread
97	Iberian Marbled White	<i>Melanargia lachesis</i>	widespread
98	Esper's Marbled White	<i>Melanargia russiae</i>	widespread
99	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>	widespread
100	Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	widespread
101	Rock Grayling	<i>Hipparchia hermione</i>	widespread
<b>Birds of note</b>			
1	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	fairly widespread, seen most days
2	Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	seen above Picos
3	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	tagged bird above Picos
4	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	soaring and at rest
5	Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	Fuente Dé perched on rocks and singing
6	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	Fuente Dé and above Liebana Valley
7	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Fuente Dé
8	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	woodland at Salarzón
9	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	woodland at Salarzón
10	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	Seen by some guests on return to cable car station
<b>Reptiles and Amphibians - special thanks to Andy and Denise for their hard work in identifying species</b>			
1	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	at Fuente Dé
2	Iberian Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax perezi</i>	picnic stop south of Picos
3	Spiny Toad	<i>Bufo spinosa</i>	Fuente Dé
4	Parsley Frog	<i>Pelodytes punctatus</i>	Aguilar del Campoo
5	Midwife Toad	<i>Alytes obstetricianus</i>	Woodland Brown site and hotel garden
6	Alpine Newt	<i>Ichthyosaura alpestris</i>	
7	Bocages Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis bocagei</i>	Potes by the river
8	Iberian Rock Lizard	<i>Iberolacerta monticola</i>	top of Fuente Dé
9	Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>	hotel grounds
10	Guadarrama Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis guadarramae</i>	Potes on wall near Spanish Swallowtail
11	Catalonian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis liolepis</i>	petrol station car park near Bilbao
12	Schreiber's green lizard	<i>Lacerta schreiberi</i>	Dusky Large Blue site
13	Eyed Lizard	<i>Timon lepidus</i>	outing south of Picos
14	Iberian Three toed Skink	<i>Chalcides striatus</i>	near Casa Angel (John's guesthouse)
15	Slow worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	near Casa Angel (John's guesthouse)
16	Iberian Grass Snake	<i>Natrix astreptohora</i>	seen most days
17	Viperine Snake	<i>Natrix maura</i>	by river in Potes
18	Seoane's Viper	<i>Vipera seoanei</i>	Dusky Large Blue site
19	Smooth (or southern Smooth) Snake	<i>Coronella austriaca/girondica</i>	a juvenile near John's guesthouse







Silver-studded Blue © J Wainscoat



Gavarnie blue female © P Lister









Meadow flowers © R & N George



Purple-shot Copper © J Wainscoat





Spanish Purple Hairstreak © D Qualtrough



Red Squirrel © D Qualtrough









Spanish Purple Hairstreak © M Dixon



Gavarnie Blue © M Dixon





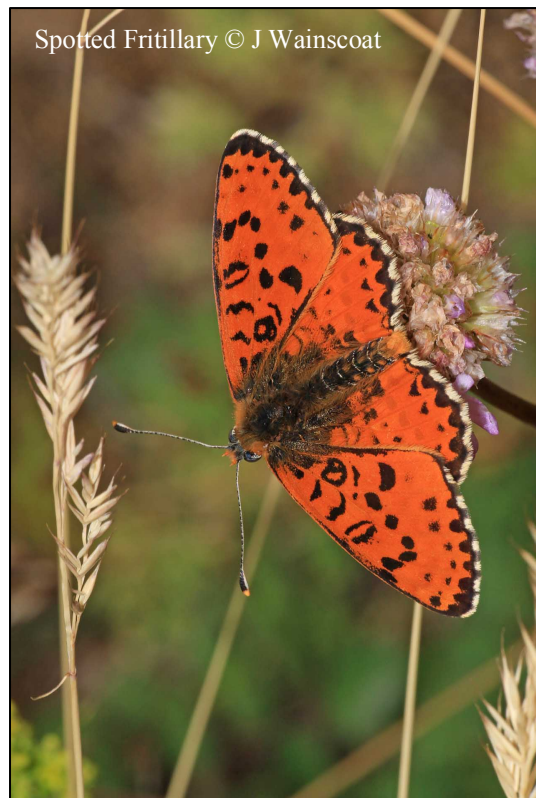
Painted Lady © J Wainscoat



Idas Blue © J Dowding



Spotted Fritillary © J Wainscoat





Dusky Large Blue © P Lister

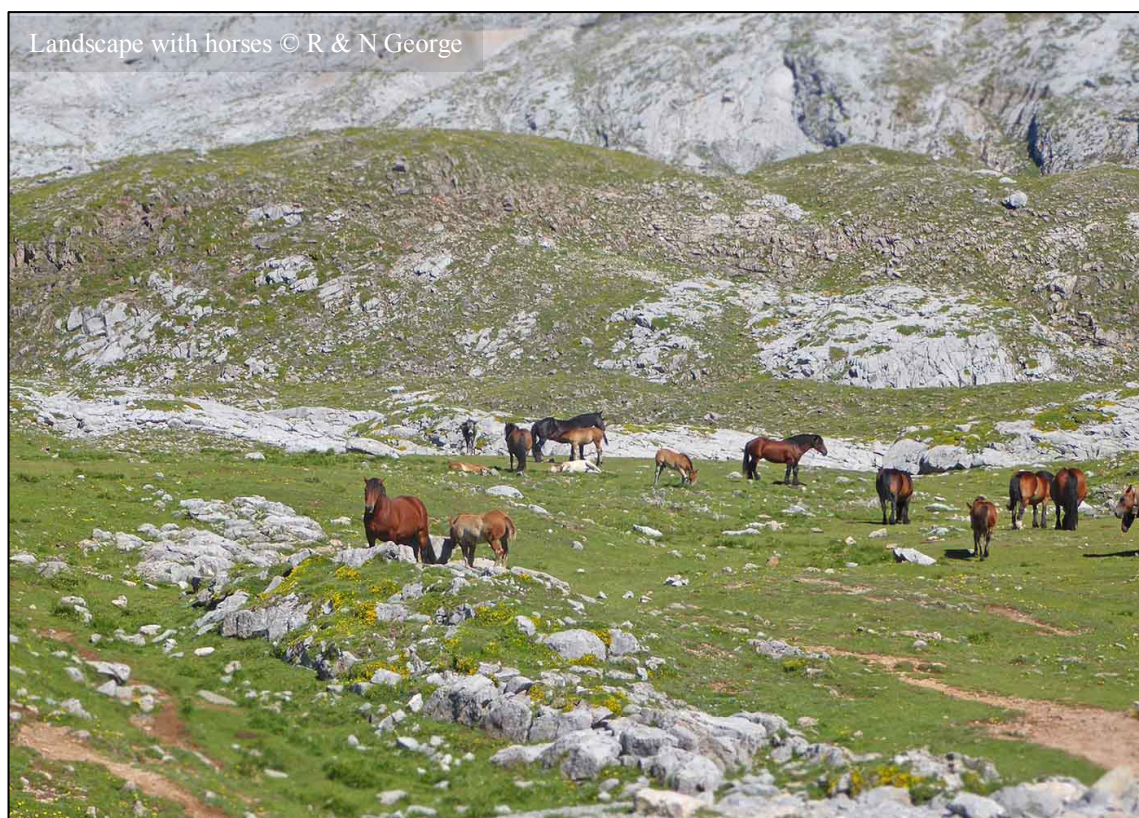
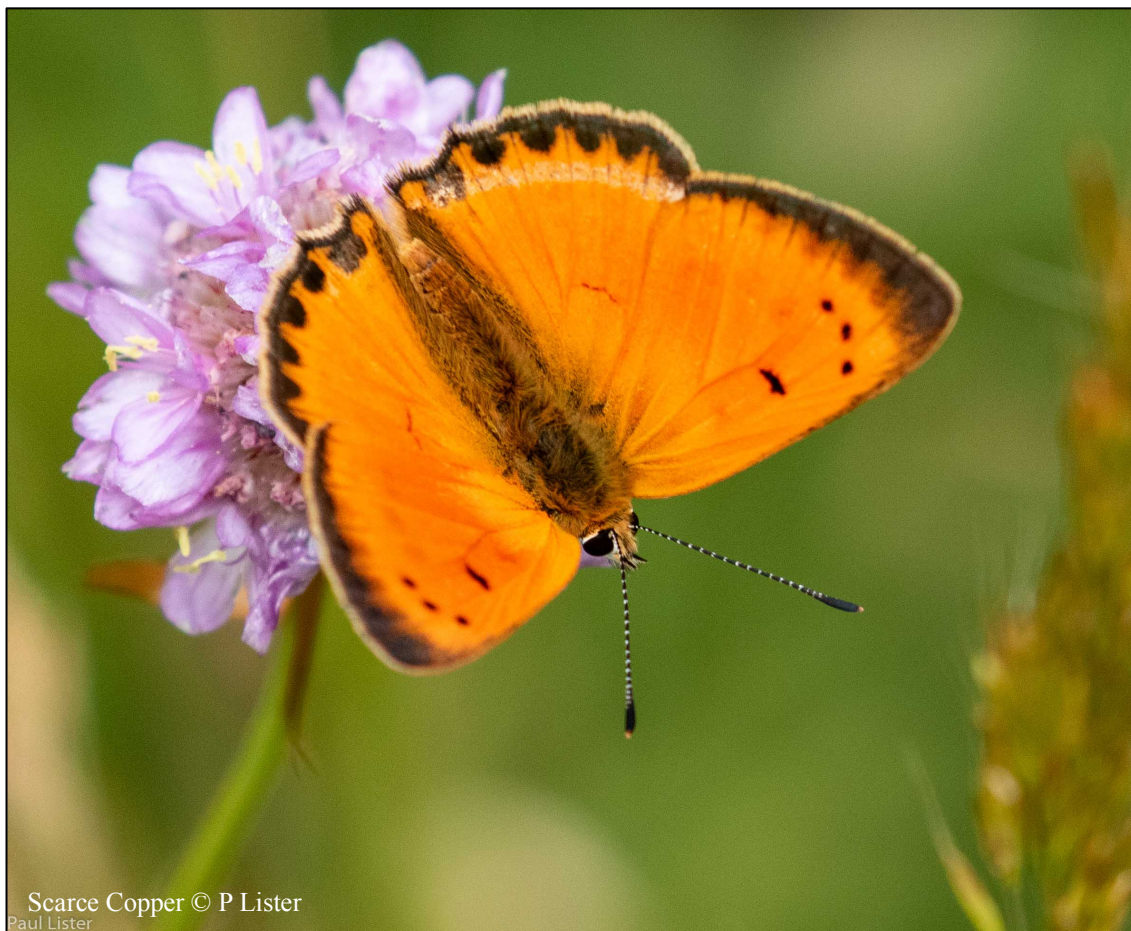


Paul Lister

Patrick with Iberian Grass Snake © J Wainscoat









Wood White © J Wainscoat

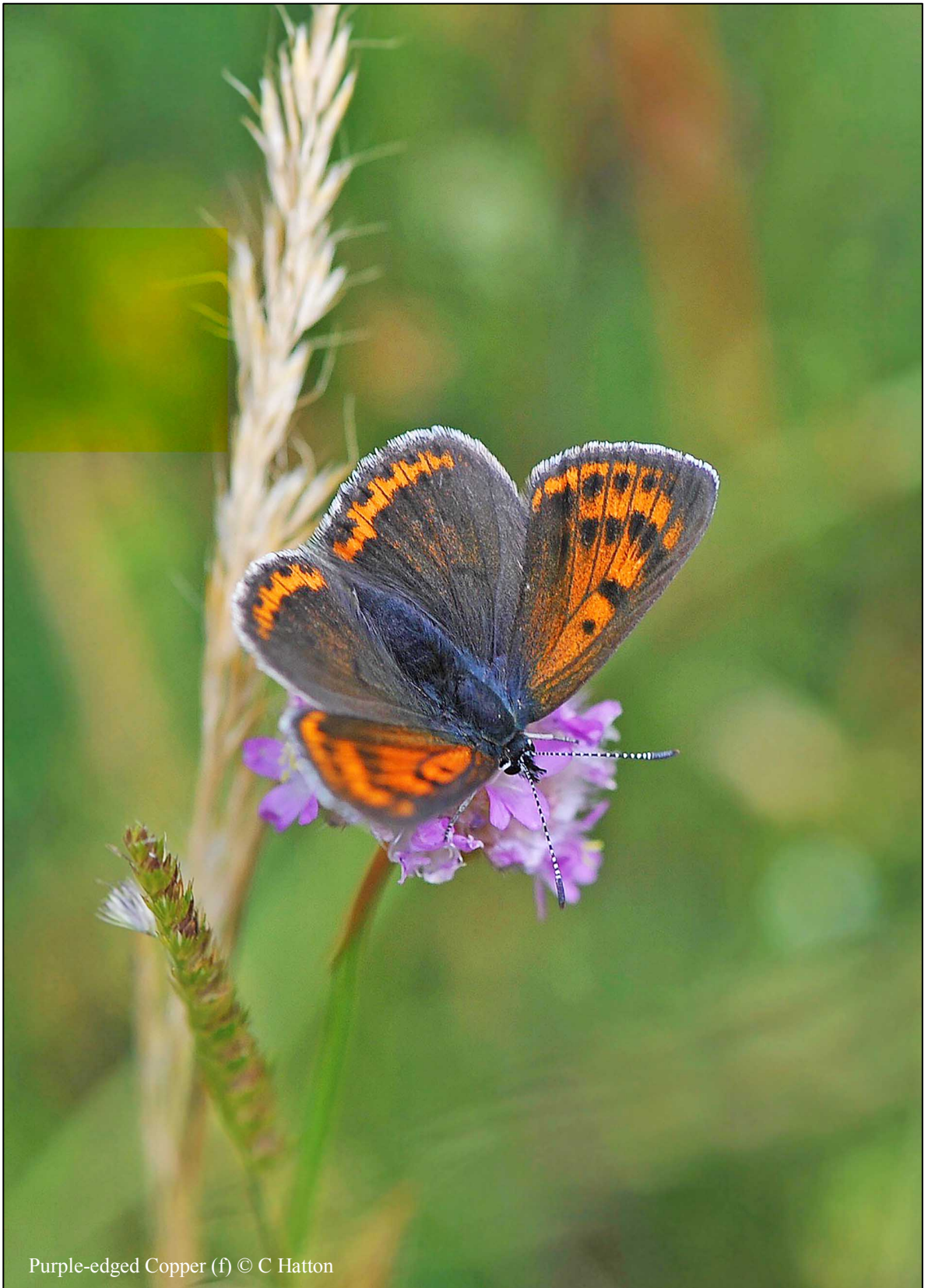


Black-veined White © P Lister



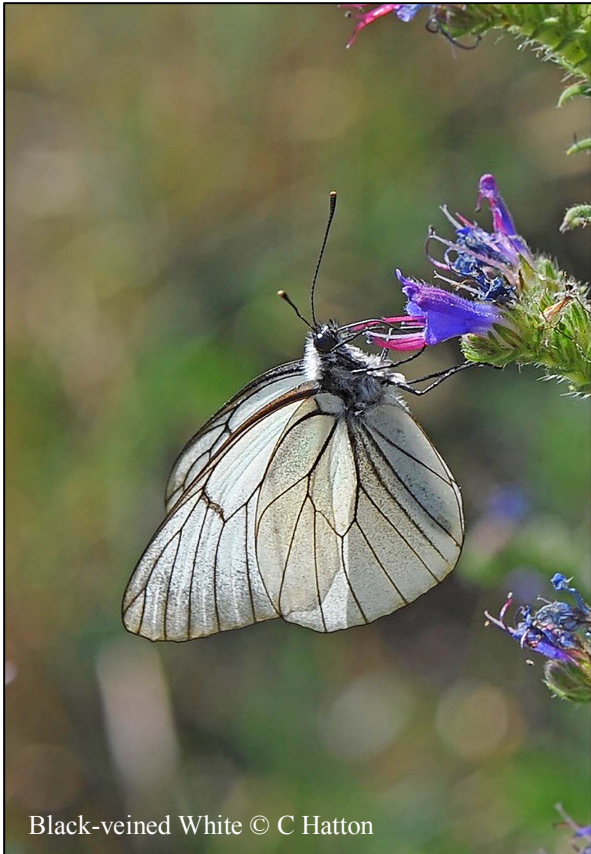
Paul Lister





Purple-edged Copper (f) © C Hatton

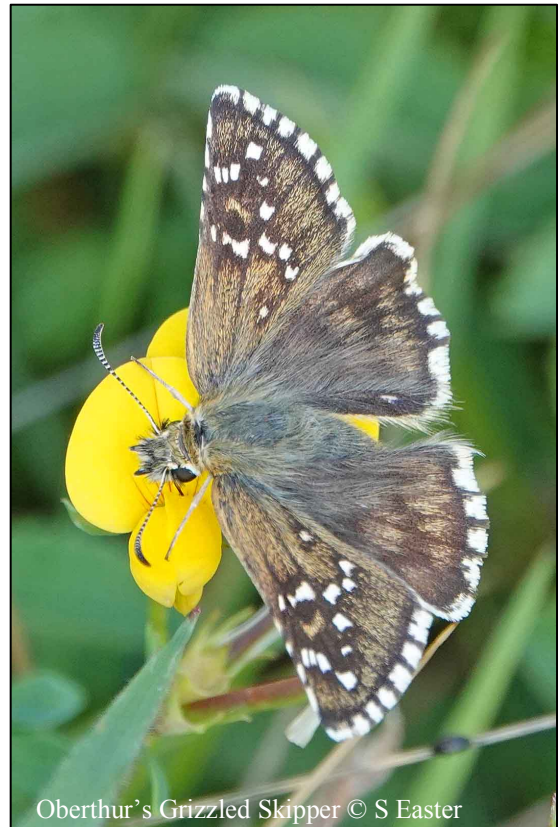








Olive Skipper © S Easter



Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper © S Easter



Ripart's Anomalous Blue © S Easter



Mallow Skipper © S Easter



Turquoise Blue © S Easter



Pearly Heath © S Easter



High Brown Fritillaries pairing © S Easter



Heath Fritillaries pairing © S Easter



