

Butterflies of The Vercors

24th June - 1st July 2022

Led by Richard Lewington & Alice Hunter & Jason Mitchell



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Day 1

The group met leaders Jason and Richard in the arrivals area of Lyon airport and after a minor hiccup with a minibus that needed changing, Alice joined them shortly afterwards. We loaded luggage into the vehicles and were soon on the road. We drove for around 45 minutes to our first stop on the edge of a small town where we found conveniences and a bakery to pick up some food for those that wanted it. From here it was a few more minutes down the road to a nature reserve, La Tourbière du Grand Lemps where we would stretch our legs and explore for a short while before continuing our journey.

The reserve was new ground for our guides but looked to be promising habitat for some species that we were unlikely to see elsewhere during the week. The weather was not the best as it had been raining until this point but thankfully the rain eased to a light drizzle and then stopped altogether while we were at the reserve.



Sarracenia purpurea © Alice Hunter

The air was still damp but there were a few birds beginning to sing with Blackbird, Chiffchaff and Reed Warbler the most notable. We wandered out onto the boardwalk and kept an eye out for the dragonflies, Fen Orchids and Large Copper butterflies that the information board promised. Sadly none were forthcoming but Richard located a smart looking Knotgrass Moth caterpillar and there were some nice plants flowering including Purple and Yellow Loosestrifes, Hemp Agrimony, Meadowsweet and some pristine Marsh Helleborine spikes. A little further round there was an unusual depth gauge which showed the extent of the bog we were walking above, and just round the corner we stumbled on the strangest find yet, some naturalised Purple Pitcher Plants looking right at home among the rushes and reeds.

It was soon time to climb back in the buses for the second half of our journey and it wasn't long before the mountains came in sight and the views ahead of us stretched as far as the Alps themselves. We made the last leg of our journey watching the light change on the peaks and in no time found ourselves in the small village of Chichilianne, our base for the first half of the week. Having checked in to our hotel, we checked that it wasn't likely to rain again and gathered downstairs for a short wander around the village.

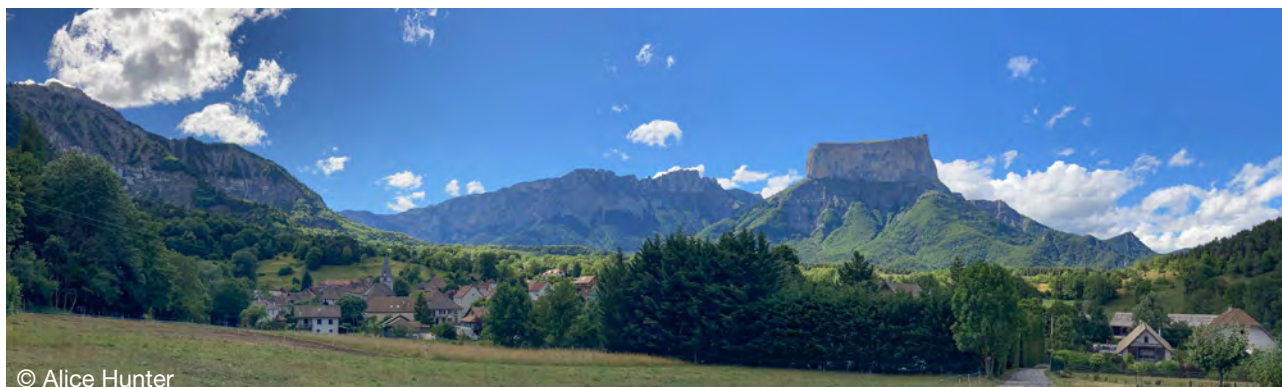
We took the road we had come into the village on and chatted as we walked. A Meadow Brown was the first butterfly of the trip, nectaring on a Scabious flower just yards from the hotel entrance. A short way beyond, Alice discovered a Lizard Orchid blooming beside the gate into a small orchard and in a gravelly patch where Viper's Bugloss flowered we found more butterfly delights with Amanda's Blue, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary,



Amanda's Blue © Antony W

Brown Argus and a selection of orange Skippers being joined by Marbled White.

We turned up a side road which took us uphill past some houses where Black Redstarts and White Wagtails called from the rooftops and, on the telegraph wires beyond, Swallows gathered between feeding flights that took them in low swooping arcs over the fields. The sun soon came out and we enjoyed views over the village towards the iconic Mont Aiguille. Goldfinch and Serin were added to the list along with Ringlet, Brimstone, Green-veined White and Common Blue.



© Alice Hunter

Another turn took us along a tree-lined section of road where Speckled Woods fluttered overhead and we soon came across some interesting Burnet moths to puzzle over. There was *Zygaena romeo* along with the usual Six-spot Burnet, but beyond that we weren't quite sure which species we were looking at as there are a number to choose from here and separating them can be especially tricky. A Hummingbird Hawkmoth and Latticed Heath moth both proved simpler to identify and we continued our loop, emerging back at the hotel entrance.

Having freshened up, we met in the lounge area for a drink before dinner where we made our formal introductions, ran through what lay ahead for the week and began our list of species seen which was already at 17 species of butterfly from our meandering in the village. Dinner was relaxed and enjoyable as we got to know one another and we retired for the evening in anticipation of a good week ahead of us.

Day 2

The day dawned cool but bright and we began by emptying a moth trap before breakfast, which Jason had set up in the garden the night before. There were sadly no Hawkmoths to marvel at but a dozen or so species still proved a welcome reward for the earlier start in the shade behind the hotel. The star perhaps was a beautiful green Large Emerald which sat on the light fixture while the rest of the trap was emptied. A few other species of note included Silver-ground Carpet, Beautiful Hooktip and Clouded Border.



Tufted Marbled Skipper © John K

Trap packed away, we headed in to indulge in the delights of breakfast and chat about our hopes for the day ahead. We would soon be stepping out on our first excursion, a walk out round the village and into the fields beyond under a cloudless blue sky.

Just outside the hotel entrance, a small flower bed planted with bedding plants drew our attention almost immediately as Sheila spotted a Tufted Marbled Skipper

nectaring alongside Marbled White and Meadow Brown. Continuing over the road and up the lane, we spotted Essex and Large Skippers in the meadow beside us and Dee noted our first Ringlets. Then, just over a wire fence and nectaring on thistle in the rough edge of a garden a Fritillary was noted by Roy. We gathered to admire it and spent a moment or two trying to get a good look at the markings to discern the species. Jason and Richard pronounced it a Marbled Fritillary, their practiced eyes picking up the necessary details despite the butterfly's flapping and fluttering from flower to flower.



We turned right beyond, taking a road out of the village and spotting a Great Green Bush-cricket a short way along. From here we took a path alongside a dry stream bed and in the shade beside the path found the beautiful purple and yellow Wood Cowwheat flowering along with Small Yellow Foxglove.

Reaching an open track with fields on either side, we caught sight of our first Black-veined White and marvelled at the vast number of Summer Chafers buzzing a bobbing flight low over the ground, especially noticeable where the field had been cut. Skylark, Blackcap and Chaffinch sang around us and more butterflies soon materialised with our first Clouded Yellow joining Amanda's and Common Blues.



Following the track uphill a short way we found Holly Blue and then an obliging Arran Brown fluttering from flower to flower in a meadow with longer grass and allowing us all good views. Nearby, Pearly Heath and Small Heath were noted along with Heath Fritillary and Richard found an Escher's Blue which the group admired. There were a few other invertebrates of interest here too including a Crepuscular Burnet moth, Oak Orb-weaver, Black and Red Frog hopper and an attractively pink and white coloured Crab spider.

Continuing along the field margin below and into the woods, we noted Common Rockrose, Broad-leaved Helleborine and Fragrant Orchids flowering while Bonelli's Warbler called overhead. Silver-washed Fritillary and Brimstone were added to the list and Jason pointed out a Wood White. On the way back through the village John spotted a Weaver's Fritillary and Alice found Creeping Bellflower and Field Toadflax in bloom. We noted Wall Lizards skittering away from us as we walked round the church and made one last addition to our butterfly list as we returned to the flower bed outside the hotel to find a lovely Cleopatra nectaring there.

We paused at the hotel for a short while to collect a packed lunch and then took to the buses for a short drive uphill. We stopped at the Col du Prayet with the intention of having our picnic here before taking a short walk along a nearby track. While a few of us settled at the picnic tables, there was almost immediate excitement at the butterflies and so many of us were soon occupied taking photographs of some puddling on the damp gravel where we'd parked while others wandered a short distance following others.



Woodland Brown © Antony W

Antony spotted a Woodland Brown which was a good addition to our list, while Dark Green Fritillary and the first of many Scarce Coppers were seen a short way away. The next excitement was a Damon Blue, again the first of several seen puddling just over the road. Great Banded Grayling and Mountain Alcon Blue were also added to the list here and eventually, once everyone had eaten, we ventured over the road to the track we were going to wander down.

As is so often the case when wandering with like-minded nature enthusiasts, there was much to take in and we didn't get terribly far without seeing lots of lovely things. There were familiar species like Red Admiral and Common Blue joined by those less familiar including Berger's Clouded Yellow, shimmering green Forester moth, a wonderfully furry Ground Lackey moth, Large Grizzled Skipper and High Brown Fritillary. A Chiffchaff sang ardently nearby and along with the lepidoptera, there were a few plants of note including Broad-leaved Cotton Grass studding a damp patch where Fragrant Orchids and Marsh Helleborine bloomed in profusion, and both Pyramidal and Common Spotted Orchids in the drier meadow opposite.

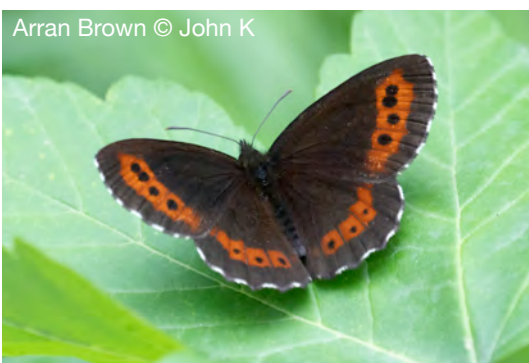
With so much seen in the day and some of the group tiring, we decided from here to split up with some returning to the hotel with Alice, a few others walking down to the hotel and the rest remaining a little longer on the Col with Jason, an arrangement that suited everyone. We would reconvene later before dinner and hear of what we had each seen before enjoying another home-cooked meal and retiring for the evening.



Ground Lackey © Alice Hunter

Day 3

Another clear day dawned and this time, after breakfast we headed straight out and back the way we had come the first day for a short distance. We were headed towards the village of St Michel les Portes and made a short impromptu stop on the way. A Short-toed Eagle had been spotted by Jason and while a few of us saw it, our attempts to view it for longer were thwarted when it promptly disappeared from sight. Not to be discouraged, we made the most of the situation by looking at the butterflies around us. Most were species we had seen yesterday including Great Banded Grayling, Silver-washed Fritillary and Pearly Heath but a Swallowtail made a welcome if brief appearance, a Woodland



Arran Brown © John K

Grayling was noted and Rita spotted a Dingy Skipper.

Continuing our journey, we parked up at the bottom of a valley where we would walk up a Route Forestière. On exiting the vehicle we were met with a lovely area of meadow full of Yellow Rattle, Bistort, Meadow Clary, Sainfoin and Mountain Cornflower among others. Nectaring among them all were Large Ringlets and Arran Browns while a

Purple Emperor made itself at home on Alice's water bottle, hanging from her rucksack and would stay there for around half an hour, hitching a lift while she walked!

A *hutchinsonae* form of Comma settled nearby and a Mountain Argus was spotted, yet we had barely left the carpark.



© Alice Hunter

Richard decided that this

would be a good opportunity to run through some of the key features to look for when identifying members of the Lycaenidae and gave a short explanation, indicating the features as he'd illustrated them in the field guide accompanied by the song of a Blackcap.



© Rita G

Minds full of identifying features, we set out up the track. Herb Paris flowered in the shade beside Large Yellow Foxglove and Alpine Woundwort, while Yellow Gentian and Martagon Lily bloomed in sunnier patches. A strange grape-like gall adorned many of the Beech leaves here, the result of feeding activity by larvae of a midge, *Mikiola fagi*.

We ventured out into one of the larger meadows beside the track to find Yellow Ox-Eye, Clustered Bellflower and Masterwort as well as Adonis Blue, Lesser Marbled Fritillary and Scarce Copper. Both Apollo and Clouded Apollo were added to the list here too, the former sadly not hanging around for everyone to see this time. Back near the track, Alice found a Dark Red Helleborine flowering.

As we continued our climb, a Wren was singing loudly from the trees while Round-leaved Wintergreen, Sanicle and Twayblade bloomed beneath. In a small clearing we found Provençal Short-tailed Blue nectaring and as we walked a White Admiral settled on a leaf for us to admire. Alice pointed out the odd, brown flowers of Bird's Nest Orchids among the leaf litter and a flurry of new butterflies appeared including Mountain Ringlet, Bright-eyed Ringlet and Peacock.



Provençal Short-tailed Blue © Sheila R

We found a spot with scattered rocks to sit on in the shade of the trees for our lunch and, as he sat down, Antony realised he had a hitch-hiker on his camera lens, an Emperor moth caterpillar. It had found its way off and disappeared into the leaf litter by the time we had finished our lunch, so we continued on for a short way to a large clearing which on Alice's previous visit 3 years ago had been a bare mud turning circle for timber lorries. She was delighted to find that in the interim it had grown up into a lovely meadow full of flowers and replete with visiting butterflies. We spent a happy time photographing them before beginning our descent.

Roy had mentioned that he had found some other orchids while wandering at lunch time and so we stepped away from the track into another small meadow in a clearing where Greater Butterfly Orchids and Red Helleborine greeted us. Here we found Woodland



Queen of Spain © John K

Brown and, emerging onto the track once more, a Queen of Spain Fritillary. Sheila noted a Scarce Swallowtail too.

We headed back to the buses at a leisurely pace and drove on to the pretty village of Gresse-en-Vercors in the valley bottom for a comfort stop and a quick visit to a café for a drink and some ice cream. Leaving the village we headed for the Pas du Serpaton where a breathtaking vista awaited us.

The view from here encompasses the main Vercors ridge along with the back of Mont Aiguille and is definitely worth taking the narrow road to access it. What's more, there is some good butterfly habitat and so we hoped to find some more species and indeed we did.



© Roy B

The first was a Rock Grayling, followed swiftly by Apollo. Richard found a Great Sooty Satyr a little way down the slope and a few minutes later, Alice spotted two Blue-spot Hairstreaks nectaring on a Stonecrop. Nearby, an Almond-eyed Ringlet was found and all the while a Yellowhammer called across a small valley. From somewhere nearby but unseen, a Marmot called and a Tree Pipit made brief song flights below us. We spent a short while looking at some confusing Fritillaries with unusual markings, trying to ascertain if one might be a False Heath, and finally deciding that one definitely was but the other probably wasn't.

Having drunk in the view and enjoyed the butterflies, it was time to head back to the hotel and we climbed back in the vehicles for the return journey, collecting Roy from where he'd walked to a little way down the road en route. We enjoyed another pleasant dinner in the dining room having tallied our butterflies for the day. With 60 species seen today alone, it would be hard to beat!

Day 4

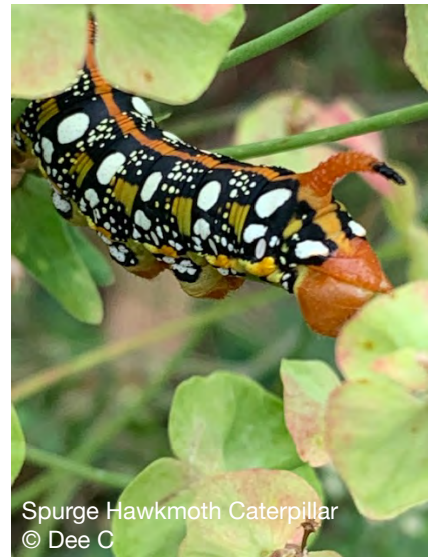
Another sunny day greeted us this morning and after breakfast, we set out uphill and over the Col du Prayet. We had a slightly longer journey today but the scenery was spectacular and we enjoyed good views for much of it. A few miles short of our destination, Jason let us know that he had spotted Alpine Swifts overhead and we pulled into the nearest lay-by to see if we could see them. Unfortunately they had flown on but while we were here and out of the vehicles, we made the most of the opportunity to look at the butterflies and we were not disappointed.



Nectaring on Valerian growing the in opposite bank were Blue-spot Hairstreaks, Swallowtail, Black-veined White and Hummingbird Hawkmoth. Great Sooty Satyr and Dark Green Fritillary joined them along with a Meleager's Blue and a Purple-shot Copper while Apollo flitted overhead and dropped down the mountainside. A Cuckoo called across the valley and several Griffon Vultures circled overhead.

Our appetites for what else might await us whetted, we climbed back in the vehicles for the last section of the journey and parked up. We would be walking up a track that led past some woods and onto the plateau beyond and taking our lunch with us. We set out at a steady pace and were soon finding the first things of interest. Rita set the bar early with a lovely Spurge Hawkmoth caterpillar and on a bend in the track, a Safflower Skipper was noted. Climbing on, we added Mountain Argus, Adonis Blue and Large Grizzled Skipper. Dee spotted a Pearly Heath and Scarce Coppers were common and seemed to glow a brilliant orange from the meadow making them easy to spot.

Crested Tits were calling nearby and a few alpine plants were noted too including Alpine Lady's Mantle, Round-headed Rampion, Spiked Speedwell, Paniculate Saxifrage and Field Gentian. As the landscape opened up around us we began to find yet more butterflies including Olive Skipper, Mazarine Blue, and Foulquier's Grizzled Skipper as well as Common Brassy Ringlet with their distinctive pale silvery underwing so noticeable in flight. Dee found some Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars on a patch of nettles near the top of a gully while Chalkhill Blue and Purple-edged Copper were also noted.



We continued on uphill at a slow but steady pace to the song of Woodlark and Song Thrush. A Large Ringlet settled on a number of the group, seemingly testing to see which was the best ride before sitting on Richard's fingertip for a moment and finally fluttering away. There were a few patches of Greater Knapweed and Scabious beside the track which seemed particularly attractive to butterflies and on these we found a pristine Red Underwing Skipper along with Silver-studded Blue. We decided to have lunch nearby where there were plenty of spots to sit on the hillside and admire the view. As we ate, Jason pointed out Crossbills flying over and we listened to Blackbird and Chiffchaff singing.

Having eaten we explored the slope we sat on further, John finding a Turquoise Blue, Alice calling out as a Swallowtail flew past and sightings of Clouded Yellow, Painted Lady and False Heath Fritillary announced. In a particularly rocky area, a Queen of Spain Fritillary basked on the bare stone and nearby, Small Blue and Almond-eyed Ringlet were spotted. Meanwhile, Richard had found what he thought was a different Ringlet and

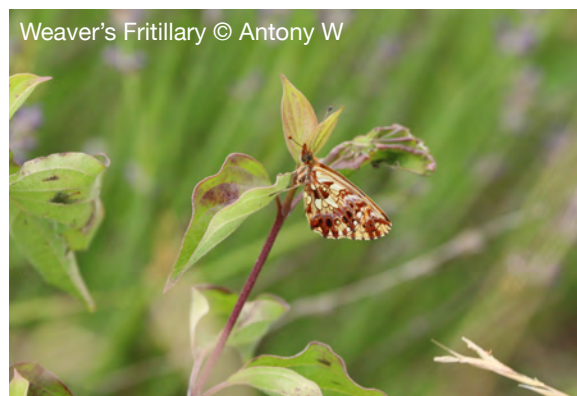
having followed it to a nectaring spot, managed to take some photographs and confirm it as a Piedmont Ringlet.

On the way back down the hill, Lesser Marbled Fritillary, Purple-shot Copper and Large Wall Brown were all added to the list along with Marbled Skipper. A few new birds were noted too including Mistle Thrush, Raven and Buzzard. We watched the antics of a shepherd with his sheep dogs on the opposite side of the valley as we returned to the bus and made our way back down the valley.

A short way down, Jason radioed to say they'd spotted some Long-tailed Tits and were pulling over for John to photograph them. Alice did likewise in a gravelly lay-by beyond and soon spotted an Apollo from the bus. We climbed out to investigate and found a couple of these magnificent butterflies sitting nicely on flowers for photographs along with both Heath and False Heath Fritillaries. Having caught up with us, Jason's bus joined the impromptu outing and while we were looking down at the butterflies, Jason looked up to spot a Golden Eagle circling against the cliff top above us.



Apollo © Roy B



Weaver's Fritillary © Antony W

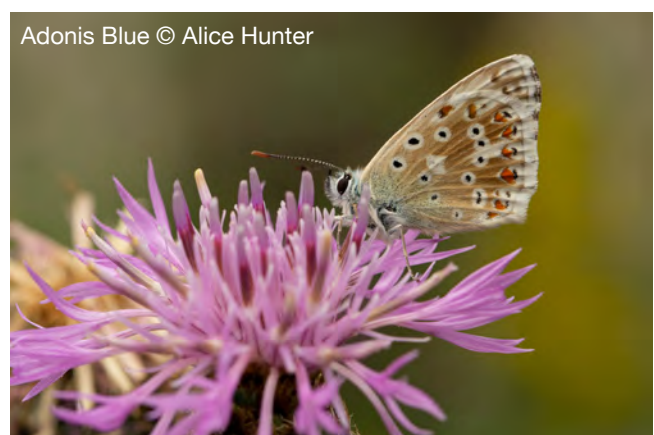
We soon moved on making one final stop on the edge of the village of Benevise where a bank was covered in wild Lavender. We wandered among it for a short while, and as the sun had gone in we now found a few butterflies settled among the flowers including Weaver's Fritillary, Meleager's and Silver-studded Blues plus the ever present Marbled Whites.

On the journey back, a very dark Red Squirrel was spotted by Rita as we drove through some woodland near the Col du Menée. This was our final evening in the Château and we once again enjoyed drinks in the lounge before dinner.

Day 5

We woke to a cooler, greyer start this morning and having enjoyed breakfast, packed up the vehicles ready to make our transfer to La-Chapelle-en-Vercors. Driving up over Col du Prayet, we were soon in the cloud and the views we had enjoyed the previous day were hidden from us. We crossed the Col du Menée and found that although the cloud had dissipated it was still cool outside. Dropping down the other side, we made a brief but satisfying stop by a large meadow. There was a substantial patch of Greater Knapweed which we investigated and duly found roosting butterflies.

A pristine female Adonis Blue was one of the first followed by Heath Fritillary, Pearly Heath and Small Heath. The temperature



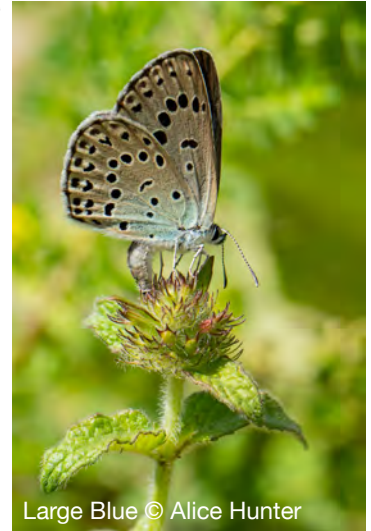
Adonis Blue © Alice Hunter



climbed slowly and Crested Tits busied themselves in the tops of the trees around us. Alice found a Knapweed Fritillary which was a welcome new species for the trip and we admired both Chalk-hill and Meleager's Blue, the former climbing willingly onto Alice's finger for photographs. Roy found a White Admiral while Marbled White and Clouded Yellow were among the more familiar species found before we moved on.

Reaching the valley bottom, we found a sunny meadow by an abandoned building and made an impromptu stop to investigate. It was well worth our while with lots of butterflies including Scarce Swallowtail, Great Sooty Satyr, Large Grizzled Skipper and

Berger's Clouded Yellow joined by the usual suspects. An Sulphury Owlfly made for some excitement while Alice captured the only images of what was later established as a Large Blue. A small nest of Paper Wasps on the wall of the building made for interesting watching and a Cuckoo called. A Southern White Admiral was a new species for our list along with a Lulworth Skipper spotted by Jason. We noted Burnet Companion Moths and Violet Carpenter Bees here too.



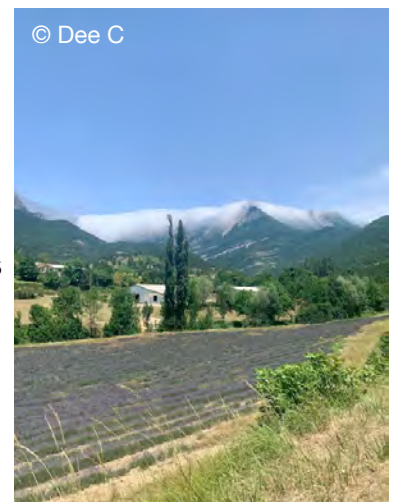
Moving on, we paused briefly without exiting the vehicles to look at a Honey Buzzard passing overhead and then found a suitable lunch spot where a Black Kite flew over as



we ate in the shade of some Oaks. A wander down the track beyond the picnic spot yielded a few more butterflies including Dingy Skipper and a female form of Marbled White known as *leucomelas* where the hindwing lacks markings on the underside. Banded Demoiselles were perched in the bushes nearby and Jason spotted a Black Vulture way up, pointing it out for us all to get a look and explaining that the pale feet were a good diagnostic feature from below, even at a distance.

We drove on, pausing for photos overlooking a Lavender field on the edge of Chamaloc with cloud pouring over the mountain tops beyond. From here we began the climb up Col de Rousset, eventually re-entering the cloud and emerging from the tunnel in a fairly thick fog. We would normally have made a stop here but owing to the conditions decided to press on to the hotel. We arrived a little earlier than planned but managed to check in easily and stopped for a drink in the hotel bar.

Suitably refreshed, the group was given the opportunity to go for an exploratory walk. A number were interested and those



that weren't were content to stay put and explore the village at their own leisure. Having paid a quick visit to the Tourist Information office to pick up a map, we set out uphill and followed the route indicated to us. The path took us through the outskirts of the village where a Serin sang loudly from a telegraph wire and on to a track that wound on up the hill. Reaching a split in the path, we met some locals who advised of the options from here. A few of the group were feeling energetic and decided to continue on the ridge trail with Jason and Alice while the rest took a shorter loop back into the village with Richard.

Those on the longer walk were treated to good views of Coal Tit and Crested Tit while hearing but not seeing Crossbills and Goldcrest in a patch of conifers. There weren't too many butterflies with just a handful of common species noted and a Fox Moth caterpillar, but the route was scenic and the walk enjoyable after a day travelling. We reconvened at the hotel for dinner, swapping stories of our finds as we ate.

Day 6

Thankfully, this morning dawned bright and sunny so Alice was able to adjust the itinerary to fit in some of the stops that we had missed the previous day. After breakfast, we headed back out to the Col de Rousset to take in the breath-taking view. We noted a few good butterfly species here too with Apollo, Blue-spot Hairstreak and Great Sooty Satyr among them. Chough, Griffon Vulture and Black Vulture were also seen here, all giving decent views. Before leaving we paused for a group photograph against the scenic backdrop.



Returning back through the tunnel, we headed up the Pas de Beurre and parked at the top for a wander. The high pasture was being grazed to Alice's disappointment but there was a nice flowery area beyond the fence which looked promising. A Skylark sang as we walked round to it and before we'd begun looking for butterflies we got another glimpse of Griffon Vulture and soon after, a Golden Eagle soaring over.

The flowery patch was ideal for butterflies and we were soon engrossed with finding and photographing Escher's Blue, Green-veined White (including an individual with so few green scales that Richard initially thought it was a Southern Small White!), Clouded Yellow, Small Heath, Brown Argus and others. Roy found a wonderful metallic green Rose Chafer and as we headed back towards the road, a Large Tortoiseshell settled on a log briefly before fluttering on ahead.



The vans were moved on downhill giving the group a chance to wander down the quiet road at leisure and admire some more of the flowery verge and the butterflies it yielded. These included Scarce Copper,

Turquoise Blue, Almond-eyed Ringlet, Arran Brown and Cleopatra among many others.

From here we drove on to our intended spot for the morning at Font d'Urle. Here we found the road being re-tarred and altered our plans a little to accommodate this. We found a place to park up and began with lunch, accompanied by a little cake in honour of Rita and Chris' birthdays. We then began our exploration, wandering through a lovely flowery area where Bistort and Spiked Speedwell bloomed alongside Scabious, and Saxifrages were tucked in nooks against the rocks. Skylark, Water Pipit and Mistle Thrush were seen with the latter pausing in clear view on the stop of a pole beside the road for us to admire. Chalk-hill Blue and Queen of Spain were found before we crossed the road to a lower meadow where Apollo and Clouded Apollo were found. Alice found a Colorado Beetle looking most out of place and later picked up a roosting Hummingbird Hawkmoth to show the group. Wood White and Mazarine Blue were noted on the way back up the slope to the bus.

Hummingbird Hawkmoth © Rita G



Our next spot was in the valley bottom where, having passed the main roadworks, we found a lay-by that Alice hoped would yield some puddling butterflies. There had been rain since she and Richard had visited last week and the butterflies were indeed making the most of it with hundreds of Essex Skippers joined by the odd Silver-washed and Dark Green Fritillary, Almond-eyed Ringlet and Small Blue. A dried up pond nearby was also being used as a puddling spot and had curious hummocks of Caddis cases, presumably where they had gathered as the water grew shallower in the heat. A "freshly Painted Lady" fluttered past and Roy found some lovely Heartsease in flower.



Meanwhile, Jason had spotted a Goshawk over the distant forest and closer at hand, both Wheatear and Red-backed Shrike.

With the temperature rising once more, we decided to see if we could find a café on the way back to the hotel for a drink and an ice cream break. We didn't find anything until we were only a few minutes from the hotel and the consensus was that we should return, knowing that they had both along with a pool that some of the group wished to sample. While relaxing in the gardens, we noted a number of butterflies and damselflies plus Great Tits feeding young and White Wagtails patrolling the pool edge.

Having cooled a little and enjoyed some refreshment, we headed out for one last excursion just a short distance away on the edge of the village. While returning via the shorter route from their walk yesterday, Richard and his group had noted an area where he suspected Sloe Hairstreak might be found and with the sun now shining, we decided to have a look.

No sooner had we parked than Alice climbed out of the bus and said "There's one here!" It was a matter of feet from her driver's door, and on a patch of wild Oregano nearby we found more, along with Meadow Browns. Meanwhile a Comma and Red Admiral were perched on the fence above.

Hairstreaks found, we took the opportunity to wander on up the path they had descended to see if anything else materialised. A couple of Crested Tits put in an appearance and a few common butterflies fluttered about but it wasn't until we reached a bit of wall that sported Stonecrops flowering from the top that we found much of interest. Here we found some lovely Blue-spot Hairstreaks and enjoyed photographing them in the evening sun before retiring once more to our hotel for dinner.

Day 7

Our final full day here began with a moth trap session in the hotel garden before breakfast. Once again Jason had set the trap up, this time in a shady nook between some



Pine Hawkmoth © Alice Hunter

trees and a small chapel. We carefully moved it round to a table where we could gather to empty it and were delighted to find that this time we had Hawkmoths - two to be precise! A Pine Hawkmoth and a Lime Hawkmoth were admired by all along with several Guernsey Underwings, a variety of Footmen, and a number with charming names like Smoky Wainscot, Birdwing, Coronet, Rose Plume and Pale Mottled Willow. A Leopard Moth had also come to the light but

remained out of reach up a tree trunk nearby, while a wonderful large beetle was brought round by Richard to be shown to the group - a Pine Chafer. It was not too happy about being moved and hissed loudly, but sat quite still to be photographed by all in the branches of a Cherry tree.

Moths released and trap packed away, we moved inside to warm up a little over breakfast before heading out for the day. Our route took in the Gorges de la Bourne, an impressive balcony road down a narrow canyon with a river at the bottom which marks the boundary between the Départements of Isère and Drôme. We stopped for a few moments to allow some photos in this dramatic landscape and noted Large Wall and Pearly Heath butterflies in the vegetation below the road. A second brief stop further on was less fruitful in terms of butterflies but a Robin sang somewhere nearby and we enjoyed the notes as they bounced off the rock walls around us.

Continuing our journey, we headed down the Gorges du Méaudret, a wider canyon with wet meadows either side of the river in the bottom. We parked up and followed a path that wound down the valley, crossing the river a couple of times as it went. The first thing that caught our attention was a number of roosting Essex Skippers, gathered on the Viper's Bugloss beside the vehicles. Following the path down the slope and over the first bridge we caught sight of several Beautiful Demoiselles in the reeds beside the river along with an Azure Damselfly. Hedge Woundwort and Meadowsweet flowered beside



Essex Skippers © Dee C

the path and a Chiffchaff sang from the Willows nearby.

Rita spotted a White-legged Damselfly and at the next bridge, a Goldenring Dragonfly was hawking up and down just above the water's surface while a Pincertail was spotted basking on a rock. From the next bend a few more butterflies were spotted with Common Blue, Ringlet and Sloe Hairstreak noted alongside Lesser Marbled and Heath Fritillaries. At this point, Jason and Alice returned to pick up the vehicles while the group wandered on and a short while later we reconvened to hear of a new species being added to the list in the form of a Pale Clouded Yellow, based on the habitat that it was seen in.



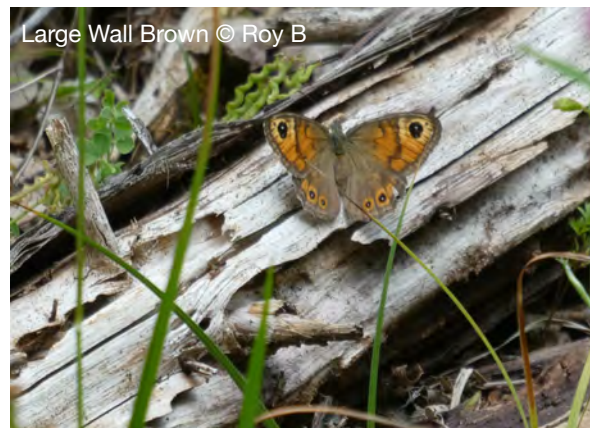
Scarse Swallowtail © Sheila R

We moved on from here taking a scenic route to the village of Bois Barbu, where we stopped on the edge of a large meadow just outside the village. A particularly flowery rough bank proved the most enticing and we found a good number of butterflies here including Scarse Swallowtail, Scarse Copper, Amanda's Blue, False Heath Fritillary and a new species for the trip, Titania's Fritillary. We looked in vain for Mallow Skipper here but on the edge of the forest, a Wood White fluttered and along with the butterflies, a Scarlet

Tiger Moth was seen.

Further down the road we found our lunch spot. Crested Tits chattered in the trees around us and a handful of familiar butterflies were seen in the sunnier patches. Small and Wood Cowweats flowered beneath the trees and Jason noted some interesting behaviour from a Small Skipper that landed on the door of his bus - it was secreting liquid from its back end and then drinking it. Richard concluded that it was exceedingly fresh and so likely to have just emerged which suggested that it might be recycling nutrients.

A short drive onward brought us to our next brief stop at a viewpoint overlooking the derelict village of Valchevrière, an instrumental site of the French Resistance during the Second World War. A Raven cranked overhead as we took in the memorials, the spectacular view and a number of butterflies on the bank below the road. These included Silver-washed Fritillary, Small Tortoiseshell, Green-veined White, Large Wall and Arran Brown. We didn't linger too long here and were soon moving on once more.



Large Wall Brown © Roy B



Titania's Fritillary © Rita G

Our next point of interest was a clearing in the forest where there is a meadow with a small pond. Several male Broad-bodied Chasers and a Southern Hawker were tearing round after one another over the water. Meanwhile, among the Bistort, Scabious, Aconite-leaved Buttercup, Dusky Cranesbill and Nettle-leaved Figwort, there were plentiful butterflies. Fritillaries were the most numerous with Titania's in good numbers along with Lesser Marbled, Queen of Spain, and High

Brown. Familiar species like Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Painted Lady were joined by Mazarine Blue and Almond-eyed Ringlet and, on the edge of the clearing, a pair of White Admirals danced over our heads as they chased one another.

We made one final roadside stop further on and although we didn't add any final new species to the list here, John finally got to see and photograph a Robin which, unlike all the others we had heard over the week, was singing from a prominent perch.

Having gone in search of Sloe Hairstreaks the evening before, Richard had mentioned afterwards that he thought there was a possibility that some of the Meadow Browns we had seen on the Oregano patch there could be Dusky Meadow Browns. We decided to



© Roy B

take a small detour on the way back to the hotel to confirm this and only a few minutes of closer inspection there enabled us to do this and confidently add them to our list as a new species for the trip.

We returned to the hotel and found that a table had been laid outside for our final evening meal. We ate while watching the young Great Tit's foraging in the Horse Chestnut above us and chatted about our favourite finds this week before retiring to pack our bags ready for departure in the morning.

Day 8

After a last delicious breakfast we said our farewells to the hotel staff and set out for our return journey to Lyon. We had plenty of time and so decided to make a stop at the same reserve we had visited on the first day. It proved an excellent spot for our picnic lunch and with the weather far more pleasant today, we encountered a few more species than we had previously. Mazarine Blue and Blue-tailed Damselfly were the first things we noted and a Grass Snake was spotted disappearing into the undergrowth. Jason pointed out the calling of a Golden Oriole in the Poplars but we sadly couldn't see it.



© Alice Hunter

A little further round, a Common Lizard was basking on the boardwalk and then a butterfly fluttered in across the reeds and for a brief moment we thought it was a White Admiral before we realised it was something far more exciting - a Map in its black and white summer generation form and another new species to add to our list. We suddenly seemed to have heightened senses as for the next few minutes we noted a Keeled Skimmer spotted by Roy, Dock Bugs seen by Rita and a handful of more common butterfly and dragonfly species plus the call of a Cirl Bunting. It was a delightful way to round off our visit here and so we returned to the buses counting our blessings that the weather had been kind on this occasion.

At last, we returned to the airport and said our goodbyes. It had been a fantastic week with excellent company and some fabulous wildlife not to mention over 90 species of butterfly in a beautiful location. We had all enjoyed it immensely.

Systematic Species Checklists

Butterflies			24th June	25th June	26th June	27th June	28th June	29th June	30th June	1st July
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
Family Papilionidae										
1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>			✓	✓				
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiolides podalirius</i>			✓		✓		✓	
3	Apollo	<i>Parnassius apollo</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
4	Clouded Apollo	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>			✓			✓		
Family Pieridae										
5	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
6	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
8	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
9	Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias hyale</i>							✓	
10	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
11	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
12	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
13	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>		✓				✓	✓	
14	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Family Lycaenidae										
15	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>						✓	✓	
16	Blue-spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium spini</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
17	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓				✓	✓	
18	Purple-edged Copper	<i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>			✓	✓				
19	Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
20	Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>				✓		✓	✓	
21	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
22	Provençal Short-tailed Blue	<i>Cupido alcetas</i>			✓		✓			
23	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
24	Large Blue	<i>Maculinea arion</i>					✓			
25	Mountain Alcon Blue	<i>Maculinea alcon rebeli</i>		✓			✓	✓		
26	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓		✓				
27	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
28	Mountain Argus	<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
29	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓
30	Escher's Blue	<i>Polyommatus escheri</i>		✓	✓			✓		

Butterflies			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	1st
			June	June	June	June	June	June	June	June
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31	Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
32	Damon Blue	<i>Polyommatus damon</i>		✓						
33	Turquoise Blue	<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>				✓		✓		
34	Meleager's Blue	<i>Polyommatus daphnis</i>				✓	✓			
35	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
37	Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Lysandra coridon</i>				✓	✓			
38	Provençal Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Lysandra hispana</i>						✓		
	Family Nymphalidae									
39	White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
40	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>					✓			
41	Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura iris</i>			✓					
42	Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>			✓			✓	✓	
43	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		✓	✓	☆		✓	✓	
44	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>						✓		
45	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
46	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
47	Map	<i>Araschnia levana</i>								✓
48	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
49	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
50	False Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea diamina</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
51	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>					✓	✓		
52	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
53	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
54	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
55	High Brown Fritillary	<i>Argynnis adie</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
56	Niobe Fritillary	<i>Argynnis niobe</i>		✓	✓			✓		
57	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>	✓				✓			
58	Titania's Fritillary	<i>Boloria titania</i>							✓	
59	Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Boloria dia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
60	Lesser Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis ino</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
61	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brent's daphne</i>		✓	✓					
62	Woodland Brown	<i>Lopinga achine</i>		✓	✓					
63	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓	

Moths			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	1st
			June	June	June	June	June	June	June	June
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32	Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>							✓	
33	Isle of Wight Wave	<i>Idaea humiliata</i>							✓	
34	Beautiful Hooktip	<i>Laspeyria flexula</i>		✓						
35	Four-spotted Footman	<i>Lithosia quadra</i>							✓	
36	Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>		✓					✓	
37	Scarce Black-neck	<i>Lygephila cracca</i>							✓	
38	Tawny-barred Angle	<i>Macaria liturata</i>		✓						
39	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	✓			✓		✓		
40	Fox Moth	<i>Macrothylacia rubi</i>					☆			
41	Ground Lackey	<i>Malacosoma castrense</i>		✓				☆		
42	Rosy Footman	<i>Mittochrista miniata</i>							✓	
43	Lime Hawkmoth	<i>Mimas tiliae</i>							✓	
44	Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>							✓	
45	Marbled Minor	<i>Oligia strigilis</i>		✓					✓	
46	Guernsey Underwing	<i>Polyphaenis sericata</i>							✓	
47	Brown Rustic	<i>Rusina ferruginea</i>							✓	
48	Emperor Moth	<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>			☆					
49	Pine Hawkmoth	<i>Sphinx pinastri</i>							✓	
50	Silver-ground Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe montanata</i>		✓						
51	Leopard Moth	<i>Zeuzera pyrina</i>							✓	
52	Crepuscular Burnet	<i>Zygaena carniolica</i>		✓						
53	6 Spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	✓							
54	A Burnet	<i>Zygaena romeo</i>	✓							
55	A Burnet	<i>Zygaena transalpina</i>	✓		✓					
56	Burnet sp.	<i>Zygaena sp.</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	



Buff Arches © Alice Hunter



Crepuscular Burnet © Alice Hunter

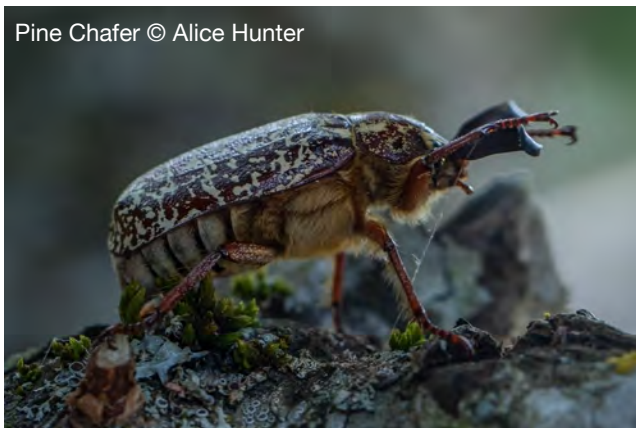


Burnets & Black-veined White © Roy B

Dragonflies & Damselflies			24th June	25th June	26th June	27th June	28th June	29th June	30th June	1st July
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
1	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>					✓			
2	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>							✓	
3	Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>						✓		
4	Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>						✓	✓	✓
5	Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>						✓		
6	Small Red Damselfly	<i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i>								✓
7	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>								✓
8	White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis latipes</i>							✓	
9	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadripunctata</i>								✓
10	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>							✓	
11	Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum caerulescens</i>								✓
12	Small Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>							✓	
13	Goldenring Dragonfly	<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>							✓	
14	Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>							✓	




Other Notable Invertebrates			24th June	25th June	26th June	27th June	28th June	29th June	30th June	1st July
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
Endemic species are noted with a ☆										
1	Wart-biter	<i>Decticus verrucivorus</i>				✓				
2	Green Mountain Grasshopper	<i>Miramella alpina</i>							✓	
3	Great Green Bush-cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>		✓						
4	Black & Red Frog hopper	<i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>		✓						
5	Dock Bug	<i>Coreus marginatus</i>								✓
6	Summer Chafer	<i>Amphimallon solstitiale</i>		✓					✓	
7	Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>						✓		
8	White-spotted Rose Chafer	<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>					✓			
9	Pine Chafer	<i>Polyphylla fullo</i>							✓	
10	Colorado Beetle	<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>						✓		
11	A Weevil	<i>Lixus sp.</i>				✓				
12	Black & Yellow Longhorn Beetle	<i>Rutpela maculata</i>			✓					
13	Sulphury Owlfly	<i>Libelloides coccajus</i>					✓			
14	Hornet Hoverfly	<i>Volucella zonaria</i>						✓		

Other Notable Invertebrates			24th June	25th June	26th June	27th June	28th June	29th June	30th June	1st July
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
15	Tree Bumblebee	<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>		✓						
16	Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>		✓			✓		✓	
17	Oak Orb Weaver	<i>Aculepeira ceropegia</i>		✓	✓				✓	
18	Pink Crab Spider	<i>Thomas's onustus</i>		✓						



Animals			24th June	25th June	26th June	27th June	28th June	29th June	30th June	1st July
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
1	Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>			✓					
2	Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>								✓
3	Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>		✓						
4	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>								✓
5	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>				✓				
6	Alpine Marmot	<i>Marmota marmota</i>			♪♪					

Birds			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	1st
			June	June	June	June	June	June	June	June
Species seen are marked with a ✓, those heard but not seen are marked with 🎵			day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
2	Black Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>					✓	✓		
3	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			✓	✓		✓		
4	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓					
5	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓				✓		✓	
6	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				✓				
7	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter Gentiles</i>						✓		
8	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
9	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
10	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓		✓		✓			
11	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>					✓			
12	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				🎵	🎵			
13	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>				✓				
15	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		✓			✓		🎵	
16	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓		✓				
17	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				🎵				
18	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	🎵			✓		
19	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>					✓	✓	✓	
21	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			✓	✓	✓			
22	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>						✓		
23	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓		✓		✓	
24	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		🎵	🎵	🎵	🎵		✓	🎵
26	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	✓	🎵	🎵	🎵				
27	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
28	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						✓		
29	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				✓	✓	🎵		
30	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	🎵	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Birds			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	1st
			June	June	June	June	June	June	June	June
Species seen are marked with a ✓, those heard but not seen are marked with 			day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
32	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>								
33	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓					✓		
34	Bonelli's Warbler			✓						
35	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>								
36	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>								
37	Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>		✓				✓		
38	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓				✓	✓	
39	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>				✓	✓	✓		
40	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>							✓	
41	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
42	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				✓	✓			
43	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>								
44	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓				✓		
45	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
46	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
47	Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>						✓		
48	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓							
49	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓			✓		✓	
50	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				✓		✓	✓	
51	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓						
52	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domestica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Dunnock									
54	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>								
55	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
56	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
57	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				✓				
58	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓	✓			✓			
59	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				✓				
60	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>	✓							✓

Notable Plants			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	1st
			June	June	June	June	June	June	June	June
Endemic species are noted with a ☆			day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22	Round-leaved Wintergreen	<i>Pyrola rotundifolia</i>			✓					
	Fabaceae									
23	Dyer's Greenweed	<i>Genista tinctoria</i>					✓			
24	White Melilot	<i>Melilotus albus</i>						✓	✓	
25	Sainfoin	<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>			✓				✓	
26	Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>			✓					
	Gentianaceae									
27	Yellow Gentian	<i>Gentiana lutea</i>			✓			✓		
28	Field Gentian	<i>Gentianella campestris</i>				✓				
	Geraniaceae									
29	Dusky Cranesbill	<i>Geranium phaeum</i>							✓	
30	Wood Cranesbill	<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>			✓				✓	
	Lamiaceae									
31	Wild Basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
32	Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>				✓	✓			
33	Cut-leaved Selfheal	<i>Prunella laciniata</i>				✓				
34	Wild Clary	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>			✓	✓				
35	Mountain Ironweed	<i>Sideritis hyssopifolia</i>				✓				
36	Alpine Woundwort	<i>Stachys alpina</i>			✓					
37	Lamb's Ear	<i>Stachys byzantina</i>						✓		
38	Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>		✓					✓	
	Linaceae									
39	White Flax	<i>Linum suffruticosum</i>				✓				
	Lythraceae									
40	Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	✓							✓
	Malvaceae									
41	Musk Mallow	<i>Malva moschata</i>						✓	✓	
	Onagraceae									
42	Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>					✓			
	Orobanchaceae									
43	Wood Cowwheat	<i>Melampyrum nemorosum</i>		✓					✓	

Notable Plants			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	1st
			June	June	June	June	June	June	June	June
Endemic species are noted with a ☆			day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
64	Vervain	<i>Verbena officinalis</i>					✓			
Violaceae										
65	Heartsease	<i>Viola tricolor</i>						✓		
Monocotyledons										
Asparagaceae										
66	May Lily	<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>			✓					
Liliaceae										
67	Martagon Lily	<i>Lilium martagon</i>			✓	✓				
Melanthiaceae										
68	Herb Paris	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>			✓					
Orchidaceae										
69	Marsh Helleborine	<i>Epipactis palustris</i>	✓	✓						
70	Lizard Orchid	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	✓							
71	Broad-leaved Helleborine	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>		✓	✓					
72	Fragrant Orchid	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>		✓	✓					
73	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>		✓						
74	Common Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>		✓	✓	✓				
75	Dark Red Helleborine	<i>Epipactis atrorubens</i>			✓	✓				
76	Common Twayblade	<i>Listera ovata</i>			✓					
77	Bird's Nest Orchid	<i>Neottis nidus-avis</i>			✓					
78	Greater Butterfly Orchid	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>			✓					
79	Red Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>			✓					

Photo Gallery



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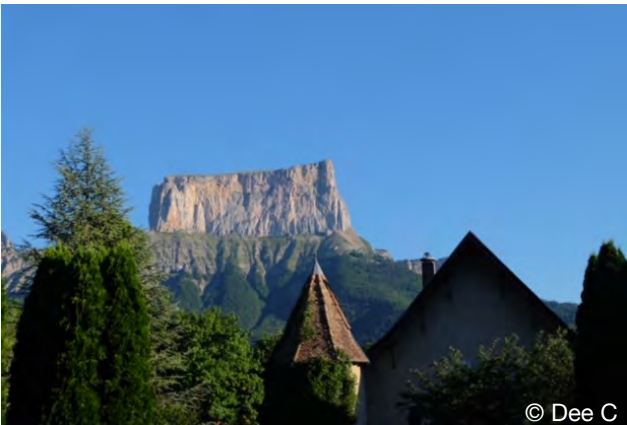
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Dark Green Fritillary © John K



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Marbled Fritillary © John K



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White Admiral © Alice Hunter



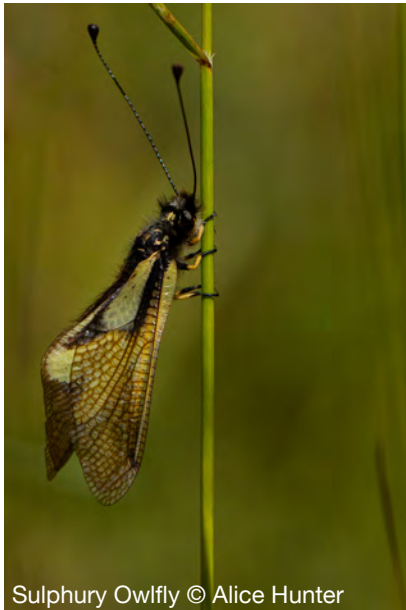
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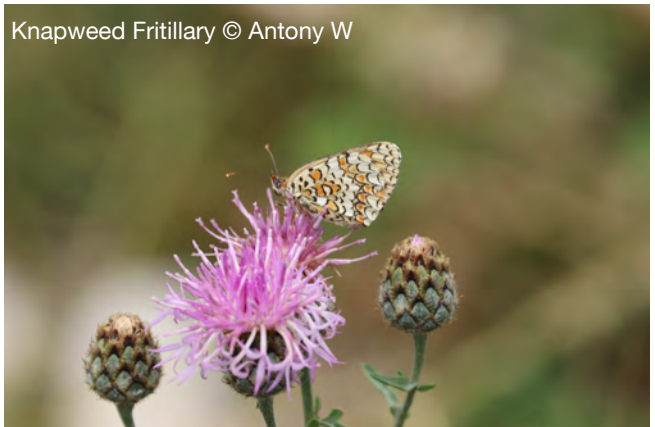


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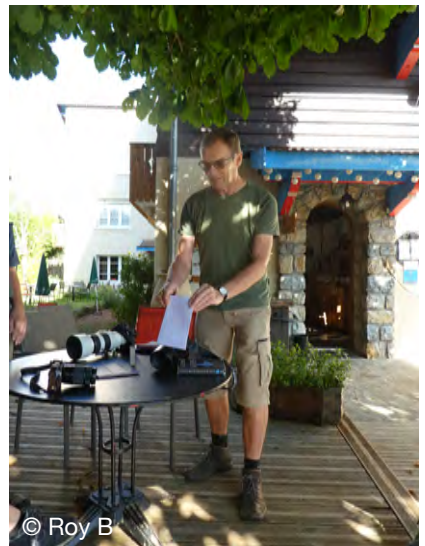
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High Brown Fritillary © Sheila R



Black-veined White © Antony W



Clouded Yellow © Antony W



Martagon Lily © Alice Hunter



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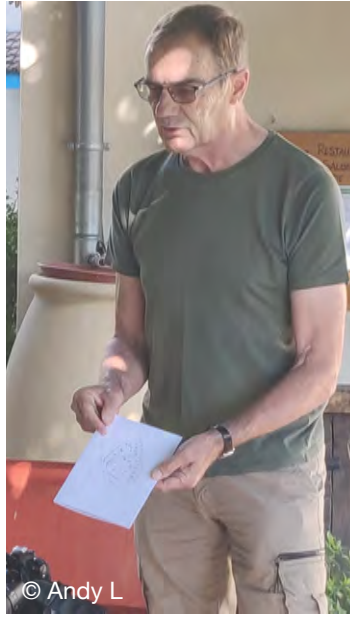
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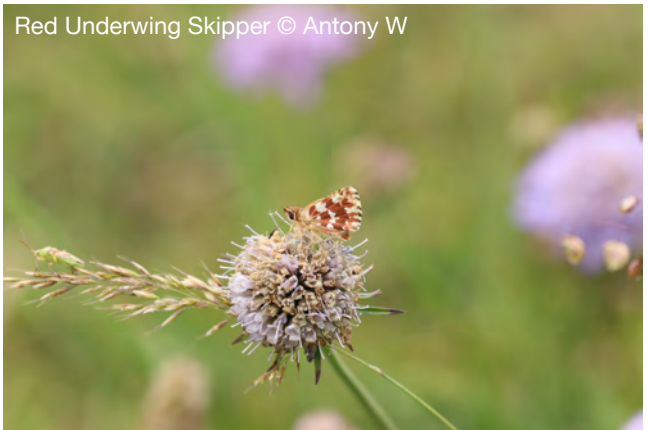
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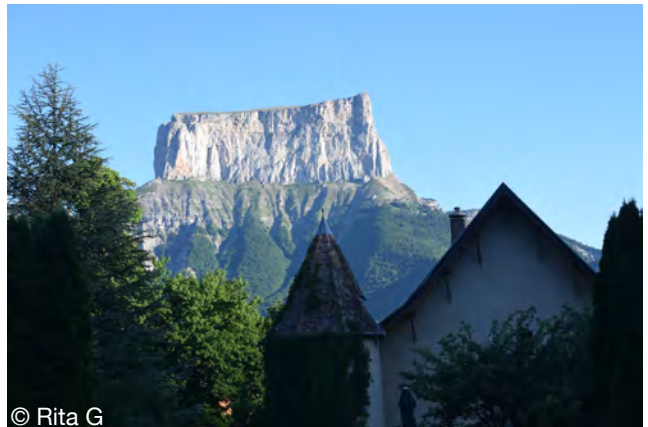
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Below: a small montage of Lepidoptera at close quarters by Roy B

