

## Butterflies & Flowers of Bulgaria

28th June - 5th July 2023

Led by Peter Eeles, Ben Greenaway & Simeon Gigov



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#### Introduction

The Balkan peninsula is rich in biodiversity, with southwestern Bulgaria a particular gem in this beautiful and relatively unspoilt part of the world. The trip was comprised of two halves with the first in the western Rhodopes Mountains (near the border with Greece), known for its deep gorges and wild flower meadows, and the second further west, in the Pirin Mountains, with its abundance of river valleys.



© Pete Eeles

The 12 guests were Andrew, Arnet, John, Linda, Regine, Richard, Roger C, Roger D & Signe, Steve, and Tad & Kaz.

#### Day 1 – Besaparski Ridove

With the group gathered at Sofia airport we were soon on our way to the first of our two hotels for the trip, in the Rhodope mountains and close to the border with Greece. We did, however, have time for a stop at Besaparski Ridove where several quarries provided an arid and rocky landscape that we were unlikely to encounter during the remainder of the trip.

Highlights of the site included hill-topping Scarce Swallowtails in good numbers, with the quarries sitting at a high point in the landscape that was suitable for the different sexes of this species to locate one another. The other highlight was good numbers of The Hermit, with 17 species seen in total that also included Mountain Small White, Bath White, Berger's Clouded Yellow, Reverdin's Blue, Chapman's Blue, Spotted Fritillary and Great Banded Grayling.

Heading on, we eventually arrived at the Hotel Ribarskata Hizha near the town of Devin, nestled on the bank of the local river and with its very own fish stocks.



© Pete Eeles

#### Day 2 - Zmeitsa, Borino, Beden

We woke to rain and, with Simeon's local knowledge, decided to start the day along a track at Zmeitsa, where we stood a chance of finding roosting butterflies. With the weather gradually improving, the star of the show was undoubtedly the Balkan Copper. Watching butterfly after butterfly open their wings as they sat on the wet grass stems was quite magical, especially the males, with their bright copper wings.



Black-veined White © Regine

A few Bright-eyed Ringlet were also seen in the area, along with several other commoner species. A Black-veined White was also seen drying its wings, having just emerged from its pupa that was attached to a grass stem.

We then moved to a damp grassland site at Borino that had a small river running through it. More Balkan Copper were found here, and a very fresh male Scarce Copper posed beautifully on an umbellifer



with many photos taken of this one individual. Walking along the bank of the river resulted in several new species being seen for the trip, including our first Amanda's Blue. As we were leaving, several European Tree Frogs were found in several puddles.



European Tree Frog © Pete Eeles

We then moved on to our final site for the day at Beden which, with its higher elevation, provided a much drier habitat than the two sites visited earlier in the day. The path we followed adjoined a grassy and flower-filled hillside and, unsurprisingly, many more species were found. We had our

first sightings of Yellow-banded



Yellow-banded Skipper © Tad

Skipper flitting among the flowers and also recorded our first Black Hairstreak and Sloe Hairstreak that were flying around the abundant Blackthorn.

Coming to a corner, we came across several species mud-puddling, with Silver-studded Blue and Mazarine Blue joined by several fritillaries. We also found our first Duke of Burgundy (Europe's sole representative of the Riodinidae family, the 'metalmarks') for the trip at the same corner and, although it was slightly the worse for wear, was a 'lifer' for some of the non-European visitors.

The fritillaries put on a good show overall, with Queen of Spain Fritillary, Twin-spot Fritillary, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Glanville Fritillary, Knapweed Fritillary, Lesser Spotted Fritillary, Heath Fritillary, Nickerl's Fritillary all seen, with particularly good numbers of Marbled Fritillary. We eventually decided to make a u-turn as the path headed on up the hill but were rewarded here with several Scarce Copper and good numbers of Alcon Blue.



©Pete Eeles

An incredible 65 species were seen for the day, bringing our overall total to 73 species for the trip.

### Day 3 – Trigrad

Day 3 was spent in the area around Trigrad, famous for its gorge where we started the day and where we were rewarded with a couple of sightings of the elusive Wallcreeper.

We eventually moved on into the town itself before coming out the other side where we parked up and followed a wooded path. Here we found our first Large Blue settled at the base of a Juniper bush and, a little further on, several Geranium Argus were living up to their name as they flew around and settled on purple Geranium flowers.



Balkan Goldenring © John

The path eventually opened up into some beautiful flower-rich meadows, the first of which had several Chequered Skipper flying around, with the territorial males perching on grass stems from which they flew up to inspect passing insects. Heading back down the path, we were treated to a number of very obliging Scarce Swallowtails that posed for the cameras, as well as a nice Balkan Golden-ringed dragonfly that was roosting on a bush.

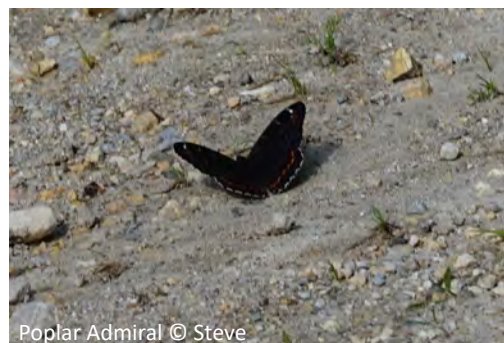
We stopped off next to a farm on our way to another group of fields, and inspected a manure heap that was particularly rich in butterflies that were topping up their

supplies of nutrients. Several Scarce Swallowtails were joined by groups of Wood White, along with several species of blue, especially Amanda's Blues, although we also saw a single Meleager's Blue that was new for the trip.

We eventually arrived at our second track for the day and were surprised to come across a local that seemed to take great delight in playing his ghetto blaster at full volume as he passed us! We

almost immediately found our first Niobe Fritillary in one of the meadows as we headed on up the track, where we encountered more groups of mud-puddling butterflies, including several Chequered Skipper.

We eventually headed back after a long day out in the field, but decided to stop off at another track to see what we might find. The star of the show was undoubtedly the sighting of a Poplar Admiral that caused much excitement as it flew around us before settling down just ahead of the group. We were also rewarded with the sighting of several Balkan Zephyr Blue that was also new for the trip.



Poplar Admiral © Steve

This was another good day with 64 species seen, bringing our total to 89 species for the trip.

#### Day 4 - Stoykite, Golyam Perelik, Gela, Shiroka Laka



© Pete Eeles

Today was spent at several new sites, the first of which was Stoykite village where we followed a track that ran alongside a Russian orthodox church. Alcon Blue were found in several meadows in the area, but the star of the show was undoubtedly the Marsh Fritillary that was flying in incredible numbers, with several mating pairs and aberrations found. Several groups of mud-puddling butterflies were found near an area that had clearly been churned up by Wild Boar. As we headed back to the bus, we came across a single Tufted Marbled Skipper that was new for the trip.

We then moved on to a high point at Golyam Perelik, where we stopped at an orchid-rich area. Following the road downhill, we eventually came across some flower-rich meadows that were full of Small Tortoiseshell and Queen of Spain Fritillary that were nectaring on the Wild Thyme that was growing between rocks. Several Black-veined Moth and Small Argent and Sable were also flying here.



Black-veined Moth © Pete Eeles

We then moved on to the village at Gela, where we followed a path that led up to some meadows. One of the highlights here was the sighting of a family of Crossbill, with adults seen feeding one of their young. With several



Alcon Blue egg © Pete Eeles

Alcon Blue seen, Ben suggested that we stay around its foodplant of Gentians. It wasn't long before a couple of female butterflies joined us before proceeding to lay their eggs.

The last site visited was at Shiroka Laka where we again walked down a hill, with the bus meeting us at the bottom. A couple of glimpses of what we thought was a 'glider' continued to frustrate us. However, once at the bottom of the hill, a butterfly flitted about our heads and, once settled, allowed us to confirm our first Hungarian Glider for the trip.

With 51 species for the day, of which two were new for the trip, we were now on a trip total of 91 species and tantalisingly close to hitting three figures!

#### Day 5 - Ilinden, Paril

Today was a transfer day, and what a day it was to turn out to be! Most transfer days are focused on getting from A to B with a couple of stops thrown in, but today was to turn out to be one of the most productive days of the trip.

We headed west and soon reached Ilinden where we walked through several flower-rich meadows. A notable highlight was finding a single Eastern Festoon flitting around and, having found several *Aristolochia* plants (birthworts), the larval foodplant of the both the Eastern Festoon and Southern Festoon, decided to search for larvae, with a single larva of the Southern Festoon found. Given that this was the only sighting of Southern Festoon,



Southern Festoon larva © Regine



a lively discussion followed as to whether the species should be added to our tally based on the sighting of a caterpillar!



Freyer's Purple Emperor © John

In the same area we found several Freyer's Purple Emperor flying around the treetops, with one eventually settling on the top of a bush, allowing us to confirm identification. Back at the bus, a few more were seen landing on rocky surfaces and allowing photos of this rare beast to be taken.

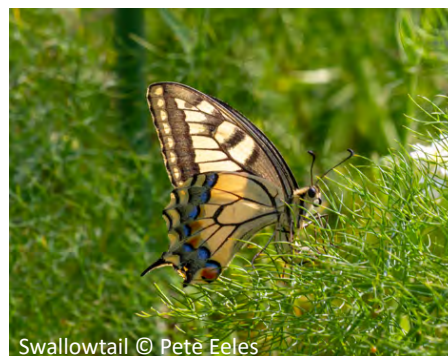
We stopped for lunch on a road that was off the beaten track where butterflies could be found feeding from the road surface. This included our first sightings of Balkan Grayling that were partial to animal droppings. A small bridge over a gully also allowed us to get our first sightings of the diminutive Map butterfly. We also got our first sightings of

both White-letter Hairstreak and Ilex Hairstreak at this site.

With lunches eaten, we made our way to the village of Paril where a path through the village headed up to the top of a very picturesque valley. A group stopped to look at some Silver-studded Blues below a house, only to have clothes thrown on them by the owner who, presumably, thought we were up to no good!

Many different species were seen along the path, with our first sightings of False Eros Blue for the trip causing much excitement. But the sighting of a Purple Emperor that sat tantalisingly in a small tree above our heads caused frustration, especially among those for whom this was their first sighting of this spectacular beast.

Heading back to the van, we were treated to the sight of a couple of ovipositing Swallowtails that were laying on Fennel, with over two dozen eggs subsequently found. We then headed to the Hotel Molerite in the town of Bansko, where we were to spend the next four nights, with a short stop to see a nesting White Stork, whose nest was itself inhabited by Spanish Sparrows.



Swallowtail © Pete Eeles

This was another good day, with 63 species seen, 18 of which were new for the trip, getting us to three figures with a total of 109 species seen for the trip.

## Day 6 - Vihren Hut, Dobrinishte, Bansko

Another day, another set of habitats! We started the day by 'going high' to Vihren Hut, where we were dropped off with the intention of walking down the hill. Very little was flying as we started to head down, but butterflies soon started to appear, with both Clouded Apollo and Southern Small White, both new for the trip, making a show.



Eastern Large Heath © Pete Eeles

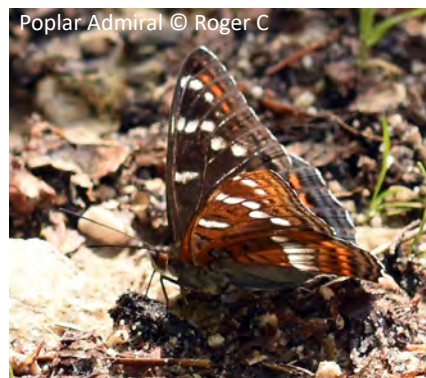
As we headed further down the hill, we had a suspected sighting of Eastern Large Heath, but without enough evidence to be sure of its ID. Further down, however, we came to a secluded meadow where we not only found several Chequered Skipper, but also several Eastern Large Heath that obliged for the photographers. We eventually came to a café perched on the side of the road where we stayed for lunch.

We then moved on to Dobrinishte and walked up a path that led into some woodland, but it was clear that the area at our start

was likely to be more productive, and so it was to be, with several Common Glider found and, to everyone's delight, our second Poplar Admiral for the trip. A Pearl-bordered Fritillary was also found in the grip of a Crab Spider.

We made one more stop at a steep hillside near Bankso, the highlights of which were finding egg batches of Black-veined White on the abundant Blackthorn, and even a single Scarce Swallowtail egg.

Back at Bansko, we decided to look for Lesser Purple Emperor



Poplar Admiral © Roger C

near some willows that grew near a railway line, but drew a blank.

With 58 species for the day, four of which were new for the trip, we were now on total of 113 species.

### Day 7 - Kresna Gorge, Ilindentsi

Today we headed for Kresna Gorge in the hope of finding some new species for the trip, first stopping off on an old road that, surprisingly, gave us two new species for the trip, namely Lang's Short-tailed Blue and Balkan Marbled White.

Sooty Copper © Pete Eeles

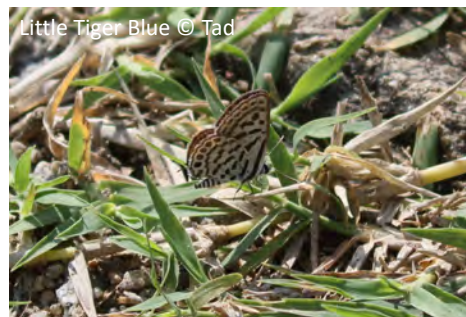


We then moved on to another site next to a river, which was extremely hot as the sun bounced off the rocks. One particular area was very productive, with several fresh Sooty Copper flying. Here we also found Eastern Wood White, Blue-spot Hairstreak and Sandy Grizzled Skipper, which were all new for the trip. The highlight, however, was finding the tiny Little Tiger Blue, which was one of our target species for this site.

We then moved on to Ilindentsi where we had lunch, although the heat was unbearable, with

shade being sought out. A Cardinal showed itself as soon as we got out of the van, where it proceeded to nectar on thistles. Further up the hill we found a couple of Lulworth Skipper and an Eastern Rock Grayling was also seen.

Despite a relatively mediocre 48 species seen, 9 were new for the trip, bringing our total to 122.



### Day 8 - Rupite, Petrovo

Our last day was spent at two sites. The first was an area on the way to Rupite, where a couple of lakes were likely to be home to a significant number of dragonflies, as it proved to be. However, the extreme heat curtailed activity of both butterflies and guests! There were, however, several ovipositing Bath White that was good to see.

Spur-thighed Tortoise © Pete Eeles



Moving on to Rupite, we came across several puddles where butterflies were feeding on the damp ground. Pleasingly, this gave us our first sightings of Anomalous Blue, Nettle Tree Butterfly and Marbled Skipper, the latter of which was displaced by a tortoise that decided to cross the path! A couple of Lulworth Skipper also posed, allowing the group to get the photos they were after of this species.

We then moved on to the last stop of the tour at Petrovo. Unfortunately, no sooner had we arrived, than the heavens opened and we were 'trapped' for just over an hour, so decided to have lunch. Fortunately, the rains moved on and we

were able to walk up the road from the van, with meadows on each side. As things warmed up, so the butterflies emerged from wherever they had been roosting.

Spurge Hawkmoth larvae were found feeding on various *Euphorbia* species that grew in the roadside ditches and it was not long before the butterflies started appearing. We had our first new species for the day with a specimen of Ripart's Anomalous Blue found. It was not long before butterflies were everywhere and everyone was having a great time when a shout of 'Purple Emperor' rang up the road. Everyone headed back down to where Andrew had found a very obliging Purple Emperor showing well on the road as it fed on animal droppings. Despite Simeon highlighting an Oriental Meadow Brown, a new species for the trip, everyone seemed too engrossed with the Purple Emperor to take note!

Purple Emperor © Richard





This was, however, a fitting end to a wonderful trip that showed off the best of what Bulgaria has to offer. With another five species added to our tally, we finished the tour with a grand total of 127 butterfly species.

## Systematic Species Checklists

Butterflies			28th June	29th June	30th June	1st July	2nd July	3rd July	4th July	5th July
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆										
Family <b>Papilionidae</b>										
1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
3	Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>					✓			
4	Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>					☆			
5	Clouded Apollo	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>						✓		
Family <b>Pieridae</b>										
6	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
7	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Southern Small White	<i>Pieris mannii</i>						✓	✓	✓
10	Mountain Small White	<i>Pieris ergane</i>	✓							✓
11	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
12	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	✓							✓
13	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			✓		✓	✓		
14	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>	✓	✓	✓					
15	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
17	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Eastern Wood White	<i>Peptides duponcheli</i>							✓	
Family <b>Lycaenidae</b>										
19	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>		✓	✓					
20	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>		✓			✓			✓
21	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>					✓			
22	White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium w-album</i>					✓		✓	
23	Black Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium pruni</i>		✓	✓			✓		
24	Blue-spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium spini</i>							✓	
25	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>		✓			✓	✓		
27	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

<b>Butterflies</b>			28th	29th	30th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
			June	June	June	July	July	July	July	July
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
29	Balkan Copper	<i>Lycaena candens</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
30	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>							✓	✓
31	Little Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i>							✓	
32	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓
33	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>		✓	✓					
34	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓
35	Osiris Blue	<i>Cupido osiris</i>							✓	✓
36	Alcon Blue	<i>Phengaris alcon</i>		✓	✓	✓				
37	Large Blue	<i>Phengaris arion</i>			✓		✓			✓
38	Balkan Zephyr Blue	<i>Plebejus sephirus</i>			✓					
39	Reverdin's Blue	<i>Plebejus argyrognomon</i>	✓							
40	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Idas Blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>					✓	✓		
42	Geranium Argus	<i>Aricia eumedon</i>			✓					
43	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Blue Argus	<i>Aricia anteros</i>		✓						
45	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
46	Escher's Blue	<i>Polyommatus escheri</i>			✓	✓				
47	Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
48	Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
49	Meleager's Blue	<i>Polyommatus daphnis</i>			✓					
50	Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>		✓	✓		✓			
51	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	False Eros Blue	<i>Polyommatus eroides</i>					✓			
53	Anomalous Blue	<i>Polyommatus admetus</i>								✓
54	Ripart's Anomalous Blue	<i>Polyommatus ripartii</i>								✓
55	Chequered Blue	<i>Scolitantides orion</i>		✓						
<b>Family Riodinidae</b>										
56	Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucinia</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
<b>Family Libytheidae</b>										
57	Nettle Tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>								✓
<b>Family Nymphalidae</b>										
58	Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>					✓			
59	Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura iris</i>					✓			✓
60	Poplar Admiral	<i>Limenitis populi</i>			✓			✓		



Butterflies			28th	29th	30th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
			June	June	June	July	July	July	July	July
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
61	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>					✓		✓	
62	White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>			✓	✓	✓			
63	Common Glider	<i>Neptis sappho</i>						✓	✓	
64	Hungarian Glider	<i>Neptis rivularis</i>					✓			✓
65	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>					✓			
66	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>					✓			
67	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
68	Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
69	Map	<i>Araschnia levana</i>					✓			
70	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
73	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>							✓	
75	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>					✓	✓		✓
76	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Speyeria aglaja</i>			✓	✓				
77	Niobe Fritillary	<i>Fabriciana niobe</i>			✓	✓		✓		
78	Twin-spot Fritillary	<i>Brenthis hecate</i>		✓						
79	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓
80	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>			✓	✓		✓		
81	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>		✓		✓		✓		
82	Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Boloria dia</i>					✓			
83	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
84	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>		✓			✓			
85	Eastern Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea ornata</i>					✓			
86	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	✓	✓☆			✓	✓		✓
87	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>		✓					✓	✓
88	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Nickerl's Fritillary	<i>Melitaea aurelia</i>		✓						
90	Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>		✓	✓	✓				
91	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
92	Balkan Marbled White	<i>Melanargia larissa</i>							✓	✓
93	Eastern Rock Grayling	<i>Hipparchia syriaca</i>							✓	
94	Woodland Grayling	<i>Hipparchia fagi</i>					✓			✓

<b>Butterflies</b>			28th	29th	30th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
			June	June	June	July	July	July	July	July
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
95	Balkan Grayling	<i>Hipparchia senthes</i>					✓			✓
96	The Hermit	<i>Chazara briseis</i>	✓						✓	
97	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>		✓		✓				
99	Bright-eyed Ringlet	<i>Erebia oeme</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
100	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Oriental Meadow Brown	<i>Hyponophele lupina</i>								✓
102	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>		✓			✓	✓		
103	Eastern Large Heath	<i>Coenonympha rhodopensis</i>						✓		
104	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
106	Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>		✓	✓	✓				
107	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
108	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓			✓			✓	✓
109	Northern Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>			✓	✓		✓		
110	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
111	Lattice Brown	<i>Kirinia roxelana</i>		✓			✓		✓	
	<b>Family Hesperidae</b>									
112	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
113	Large Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>			✓					
114	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>		✓				✓		
115	Olive Skipper	<i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>			✓					
116	Sandy Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus cinarae</i>							✓	
117	Yellow-banded Skipper	<i>Pyrgus sidae</i>		✓	✓					
118	Hungarian Skipper	<i>Spialia orbifer</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>		✓					✓	✓
120	Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>								✓
121	Tufted Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus flocciferus</i>				✓				
122	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
123	Chequered Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
124	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>							✓	✓
125	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
126	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
127	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓



Birds			28th June	29th June	30th June	1st July	2nd July	3rd July	4th July	5th July
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
1	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		✓						
2	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓						
3	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinunculus</i>	✓							
4	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓						
5	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓							
6	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓							
7	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓							
8	Bee Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓							
9	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓							
10	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓							
11	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓							
12	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓						
13	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓						
14	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓							
15	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓							
16	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	✓							
17	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>	✓							
18	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓							
19	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	✓							
20	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓							
21	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	✓							
22	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓							
23	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	✓							
24	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓						
25	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓						
26	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	✓	✓						
27	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓							
28	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓						
29	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	✓							
30	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓						
31	Great-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓						
32	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓						
33	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓						
34	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestre</i>		✓						
35	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>		✓						

Birds			28th June	29th June	30th June	1st July	2nd July	3rd July	4th July	5th July
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
36	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		✓						
37	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓						
38	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓						
39	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓						
40	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓						
41	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓						
42	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓						
43	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓						
44	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>			✓					

Notable Moths			28th June	29th June	30th June	1st July	2nd July	3rd July	4th July	5th July
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆										
1	Tiger Moth	<i>Arctia caja</i>					✓			
2	Wood Tiger	<i>Arctia plantaginis</i>				✓				
3	Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>			✓	✓				
4	Clouded Buff	<i>Diacrisia sannio</i>				✓				
5	Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth	<i>Hemaris fuciformis</i>			✓					
6	Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth	<i>Hemaris tityus</i>						✓		
7	Spurge Hawkmoth	<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>								☆
8	Bat Hawkmoth	<i>Hyles vespertilio</i>			✓					
9	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>						✓		
10	Small Argent and Sable	<i>Epirrhoe tristata</i>				✓				
11	Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>				✓				

Dragonflies and Damselflies			28th June	29th June	30th June	1st July	2nd July	3rd July	4th July	5th July
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
1	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>				✓				
2	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>							✓	
3	Balkan Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster heros</i>		✓						
4	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>		✓		✓				
5	Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>				✓				
6	White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>				✓				



Other notable species			28th June	29th June	30th June	1st July	2nd July	3rd July	4th July	5th July
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
1	Aesculapian Snake	<i>Zamenis longissimus</i>						✓		
	Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>							✓	
2	Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>								✓
3	European Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>		✓						
4	Bronze Glandular Bush-cricket	<i>Bradyporus dasypus</i>					✓			
5	Antlion	<i>Palpares libelluloides</i>							✓	✓
6	Fasciated Conehead Mantis	<i>Empusa fasciata</i>								✓
7	Sinuated Spoon-winged Lacewing	<i>Nemoptera sinuata</i>							✓	

Tufted Marbled Skipper © Pete Eeles



Lulworth Skipper © Pete Eeles



Adonis Blue © Richard



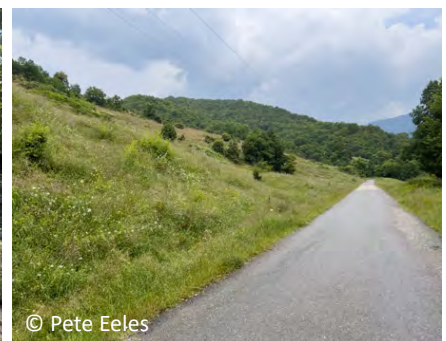
Alcon Blue © Tad



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Amanda's Blue © Roger C



Antlion © Roger C



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Balkan Copper © Steve



Chequered Skipper © Regine



Eastern Wood White © Pete Eeles

## Photo Gallery





Large Wall Brown © John



False Eros Blue © Pete Eeles



Antlion © Linda



© Steve



Balkan Copper © John



© Pete Eeles



Spurge Hawkmoth larva © Pete Eeles



Great Banded Grayling © Regine





Rhode Lily © Linda



© Linda



© Pete Eeles



Balkan Green Lizard © Pete Eeles



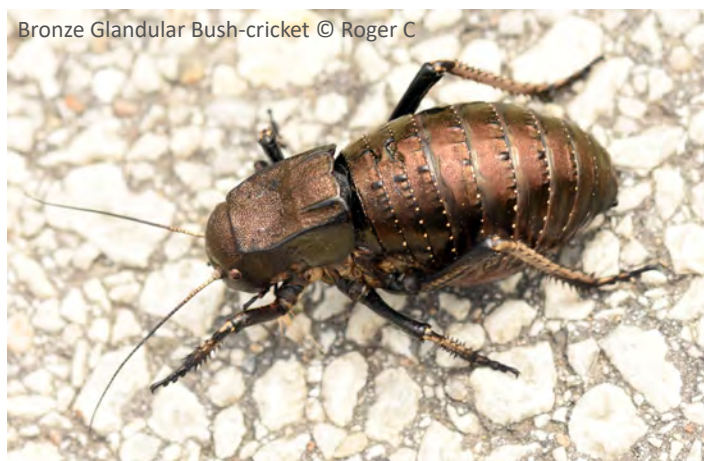
Bansko © Linda



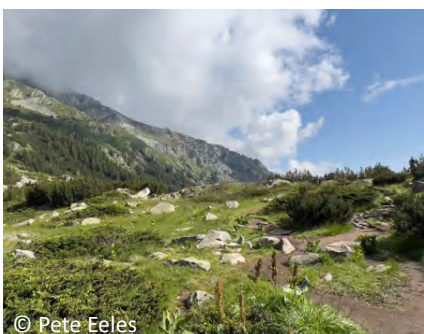
White Storks © Pete Eeles



Eastern Festoon © Pete Eeles



Bronze Glandular Bush-cricket © Roger C



© Pete Eeles



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Sinuated Spoon-winged Lacewing © Roger C



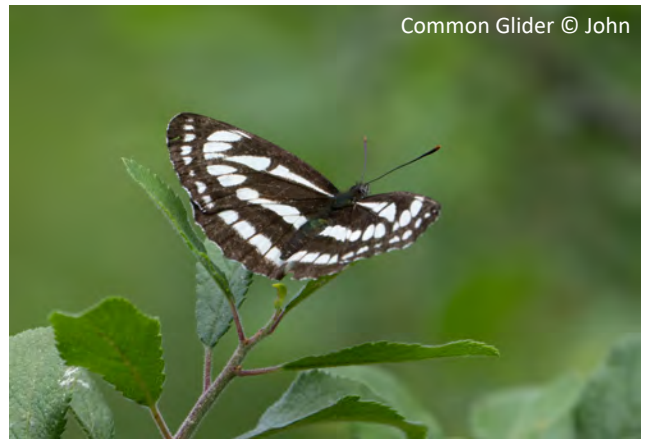
Balkan Lizard Orchid © Linda



Hungarian Glider © John



Black-veined White © Steve



Common Glider © John



Purple Emperor © Pete Eeles



Fasciated Conehead Mantis © Roger C



© Pete Eeles



Queen of Spain Fritillary © Pete Eeles



The Hermit © Pete Eeles



Crab Spider with Pearl-bordered Fritillary © Pete Eeles



Freyer's Purple Emperor © Tad



© Pete Eeles

Common Glider © Pete Eeles



Large Wall Brown © John

Rhodope Lilies © Linda



Marsh Fritillaries © Pete Eeles





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Marsh Fritillaries © Pete Eeles



Mountain Small White © Tad



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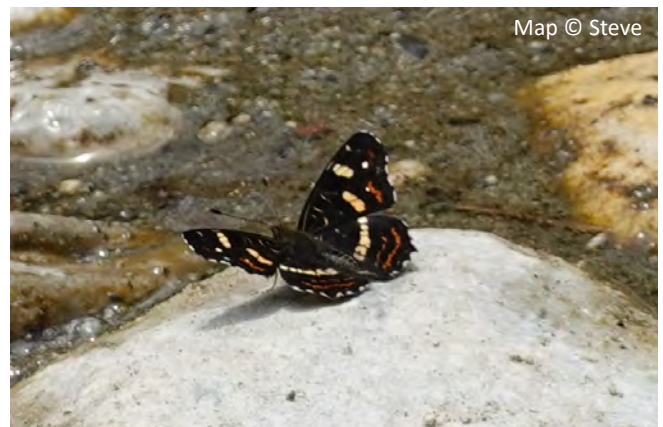
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Queen of Spain Fritillary © Richard



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Banded Demoiselles © Pete Eeles



Marsh Fritillary © Roger C



Niobe Fritillary © Tad



Black-veined White eggs on Blackthorn © Pete Eeles



Poplar Admiral © John



Balkan Grayling © Pete Eeles



Southern Festoon larva © Pete Eeles



Puddling Blues © Richard





Purple Emperor © Tad



Marsh Fritillary © Pete Eeles



Scarce Swallowtail © Linda



Small Argemone and Sable moth © Pete Eeles



Poplar Admiral © Tad



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