

**Butterflies of Mercantour & Queyras**  
2nd - 9th July 2022



**Greenwings Wildlife Holidays**

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# Butterflies of Mercantour & Queyras

2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Led by David Moore & Jon Dunn

## Introduction

This butterfly holiday was based in two locations – three nights in the Tinée valley in the heart of the Mercantour National Park followed by four nights in the area around Vars, on the edge of the Queyras region. The group stayed at hotels in the village of Rimplas for the first part of the week before moving on to the ski resort of Vars for the rest of the trip. The guests joining us were Michael, Sheila & Christopher, John V, Derek, Miroslava, Melissa, John K and Robert & Karen.

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

## Itinerary

**Day 1, Saturday 2 July:** Arrival at Nice airport, transfer to hotel followed by short walk on the forest track in Rimplas.

**Day 2, Sunday 3 July:** La Colmiane, Rimplas forest track

**Day 3, Monday 4 July:** Towards Col de la Lombarde

**Day 4, Tuesday 5 July:** Lac d'Estenc, Col de la Cayolle and beyond

**Day 5, Wednesday 6 July:** Road to Col Agnel

**Day 6, Thursday 7 July:** Col du Vars, Col d'Izoard, Col du Galibier and beyond

**Day 7, Friday 8 July:** Col du Vars

**Day 8, Saturday 9 July:** Return to Nice airport

## Day 1, Saturday 2 July

There were, thankfully, no late arrivals amongst the guests, although the abrupt cancellation of the tram service linking the two airport terminals meant David and Miroslava were delayed by half an hour, having to walk the route along with dozens of other passengers.

The two vehicles finally departed in early to mid-afternoon, depositing those who were staying in Rimplas at their hotel before David drove the rest to Valdeblore to the other accommodation that had been reserved.



Great Sooty Satyr © Sheila

It was around 1600hrs when everyone gathered together to explore the forest track in Rimplas, but the weather was good and guests were busy admiring the range of butterflies visiting the ornamental lavender bushes at the top end of the village. These included Great Sooty Satyr, *Satyrus ferula*, Scarce Swallowtail, *Iphiclides podalirius*, Cleopatra, *Gonepteryx cleopatra*, and Spotted Fritillary, *Melitaea didyma*.

Interestingly (and helpfully), Small White, *Pieris rapae*, was present alongside Southern Small White, *Pieris manni*, giving everyone the

opportunity to see the characteristics that differentiate these two species from one another.

A leisurely stroll down the first linear part of the forest track was a productive and enjoyable one. Marbled Skipper, *Carcharodus lavatherae*, was one of the first butterflies to be seen, with Escher's Blue, *Polyommatus escheri*, Purple Shot Copper, *Lycaena alciphron*, and Pearly Heath, *Coenonympha arcania*, also prominent.

At the first hairpin, which is steep and rocky, Dusky Heath, *Coenonympha dorus*, was recorded, and this corner also provided Great Banded Grayling, *Brintesia circe*, and Meleager's Blue, *Meleageria daphnis*.

Everyone proceeded at their own pace, stopping regularly to see what was settling beside them. Some of the more notable species were Blue Spot Hairstreak, *Satyrium spini*, Weaver's Fritillary, *Boloria dia*, and Mallow Skipper, *Carcharodus alceae*. The steep climb back to the village had its own reward – a further look at the lavender bushes, with the rare Southern Comma, *Polygonia egea*, being seen by some, along with Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*.



A couple of Ilex Hairstreaks, *Satyrium ilicis*, were found amongst the shrubs, whilst Melissa also photographed a False Ilex Hairstreak, *Satyrium esculi*, although this was not realised until after the tour had concluded and her images checked. This was to be the only one seen during the week.

In spite of the relatively short window, 41 species were recorded on this first late afternoon, with everybody enjoying an excellent meal and a few drinks before retiring for the evening looking forward to the first full day's activities.

## Day 2, Sunday 3 July

A wonderfully warm and sunny morning was ideal for the first excursion of the tour, to the nearby ski station at La Colmiane. This location had never previously been on the itinerary for this tour, but the loss of a site further east due to landslides had necessitated a change of plan.

Arriving at the car park in near perfect conditions, the group walked down the bank onto the part-grassy piste and were met by dozens of butterflies nectaring from the alpine flowers, the most obvious being larger, brightly coloured species such as Swallowtail and Cleopatra.

However, closer inspection of the grassy banks saw lots of smaller butterflies, including a Geranium Argus, *Aricia eumedon*, which was unexpected. There were several *hesperids* active in this area, with Safflower Skipper, *Pyrgus carthami*, and Large Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrgus alveus*, being new for the trip.



Most pleasingly, a handful of Mountain Alcon Blues, *Phengaris alcon rebeli*, were found on a grassy slope where the larval foodplant, gentian, was growing. Many ova were seen on the leaves of these plants – this butterfly liberally deposits them in full view on the upper surfaces of the leaves.

Turquoise Blue, *Polyommatus dorylas*, was a nice find at the bottom of the bank on the main piste, whilst other *lycaenids* new for the week were Idas Blue, *Plebejus idas*, Silver Studded Blue, *Plebejus argus*, and Chalkhill Blue, *Polyommatus coridon*.

Coppers were well represented, with Sooty, *Lycaena tityrus f. subalpinus*, Small, *L. phlaeas*, Purple-Shot and the beautiful Scarce Copper, *Lycaena virgaureae*, all seen in small numbers, whilst on the Fritillary front, the most desirable species found was undoubtedly Titania's Fritillary, *Boloria titania*, which was seen alongside Niobe, *Fabriciana Niobe*, False Heath, *Melitaea diamina*, Knapweed, *Melitaea phoebe*, and Queen of Spain, *Issoria lathonia*.

As ever, the sight of Orange Tips, *Anthocharis cardamines*, in July caused amusement, whilst a Bath White, *Pontia daplidice*, observed at the bottom of the piste provided a few welcome photo opportunities. Other Pierids seen were Black Veined White, *Aporia crataegi*, Brimstone, *Gonepteryx*

*rhamni*, Wood White, *Leptidaea sinapis*, and both Clouded, *Colias crocea*, and Berger's Clouded Yellow, *C. Alfacariensis*.

Being 400m or so higher than the track in Rimplas, there were also mid-range altitude species that are generally not found below 1,000m. These included Almond Eyed Ringlet, *Erebia alberganus*, Chestnut Heath, *Coenonympha glycerion*, and Arran Brown, *Erebia ligea*.

A circuit of the man-made lake to the left of the piste was notable for large numbers of beautiful dragonflies and a strong colony of Damon Blues, *Polyommatus damon*, which were nectaring and puddling on the far side.

Lunch was taken back at the car park, and even here there were interesting things to see, including a Lang's Short Tailed Blue, *Leptotes pirithous*, feeding from the vetches on the bank beside the vehicles.

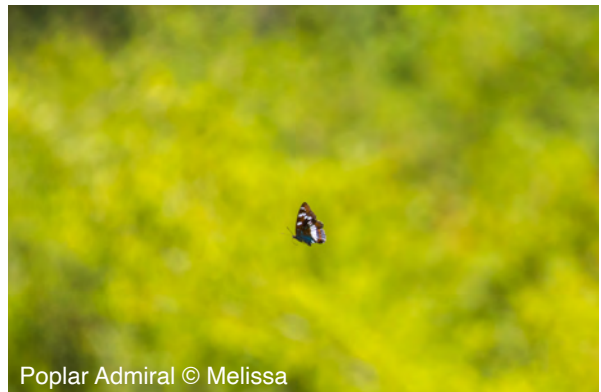


Purple Hairstreaks © Miroslava

In the afternoon, the group revisited the forest track in Rimplas. The sighting of the tiny Baton Blue, *Pseudophilotes baton*, was a good start, and Chequered Blue, *Scolitantides orion*, was possibly even better! A couple of Southern White Admirals, *Limentis reducta*, were seen near the fruit trees, but the highlight was when the group arrived at the second hairpin down the track to find large numbers of Purple Hairstreaks, *Favonius quercus*, taking shade in the lower branches of a cherry tree. Normally, this species is difficult to observe, with it having a tendency to perch in the canopy of tall trees, so this was a rare opportunity to get close.

In the same tree, a very large butterfly was seen flying in the higher branches. When it came out into the open it was clear that it was a Poplar Admiral, *Limentis populi*, although unfortunately it did not settle for any images to be taken at close range.

Other species new for the trip were Red Underwing Skipper, *Spialia sertorius*, Lulworth Skipper, *Thymelicus acteon*, Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*, Heath Fritillary, *Melitaea athalia*, Comma, *Polygonia c-album*, and Large Wall, *Lasiommata maera*.

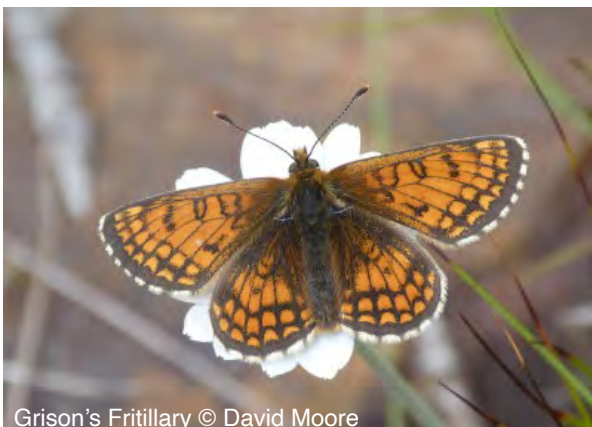


Poplar Admiral © Melissa

At the end of the first full day, 84 butterfly species had been recorded.

### Day 3, Monday 4 July

The weather forecast had predicted a gradual breakdown at altitude today, so the group headed off, with a short stop in the village of Isola to purchase a few supplies, to Col de la Lombarde, the 2,350m border between France and Italy.



Griston's Fritillary © David Moore

Conditions were sunny but still cool when the group emerged from the vans at the car park on the col, but it wasn't long before the true montane species began to reveal themselves.

Mountain Clouded Yellow, *Colias phicomone*, was the first, the dusky, pale yellow wings being identifiable from a distance. There were also Griston's Fritillaries, *Melitaea varia*, a cool-hardy insect whose constitution belies its delicate appearance.

On the Italian side of the col, a solitary Mountain Dappled White, *Euchloe simplonia*, persisted in

completing circuits around a building without ever stopping for more than the briefest of moments. Common Brassy Ringlet, *Erebia cassioides*, was also guilty of frustrating hyperactivity as temperatures began to warm.

A rather worn Cynthia's Fritillary, *Euphydryas Cynthia*, was picked up by some of the group, although everyone got their first taste of the radiant Purple Edged Copper, *Lycaena hippothoe*. There was even a Great Sooty Satyr up here, although it is suspected that this one had 'hitched a ride' inside one of the vans as this butterfly is not a high altitude species.

With cloud increasing, it was deemed sensible to drive a couple of kilometres downhill to take advantage of a more sheltered meadow area, which also had a handily located picnic spot.

The sun was in and out which was frustrating, but Mountain Ringlet, *Erebia epiphron*, was around in low numbers. Even better, there were a couple of Balkan Fritillaries, *Boloria graeca*, a rare and localised butterfly in western Europe, as its name would suggest.



Balkan Fritillary © John V

Further notable finds were Alpine Heath, *Coenonympha gardetta*, Tufted Marbled Skipper, *Carcharodus flocciferus*, and Silver Spotted Skipper, *Hesperia comma*, although these paled into relative insignificance in comparison to False Mnestra Ringlet, *Erebia aethiopella*, which is one of the rarest of all the *Erebia* group in the SW Alps and practically a French endemic.

Lunch was taken whilst the weather became ever more threatening, and it almost caused a washout of the next stop, which is traditionally the best for Apollos, *Parnassius apollo*.

There had been some rain on the descent through the ski village of Isola 2000, but the clouds were broken in places and several Apollos were seen, but a particular heavy downpour had the group racing back to the vehicles, where it made sense to move down to lower altitude where conditions are often better.

This final stop was conducted in predominantly cloudy conditions, but Amanda's Blue, *Polyommatus amandus*, was seen, as well as plenty of rain-soaked Apollos which were unable to get properly airborne.

A total of 75 species had been recorded in less than ideal conditions, bringing the tally for the trip to 102.

#### Day 4, Tuesday 5 July

With the longest journey of the week to be undertaken, everybody was extremely relieved to see that weather conditions had significantly improved following the rain and cloud the previous day.

The group made their way through the perched villages of Roure and Roubion, past Beuil and down via the ski resort of Valberg to the Var valley to the west. After a little more than 2 hours, the vehicles arrived at Lac d'Estenc, a wonderfully verdant area fed by the mountain streams forming the source of the Var river, which makes its way south before reaching the sea next to Nice airport.



Silvery Argus © John V

There were a handful of new species seen at this location. Darwin's Heath, *Coenonympha darwiniana*, is thought to be a result of long term historical hybridisation between Alpine and Pearly Heath. It is certainly distinctively different to either of these species and occurs very sparsely in a narrow altitude range.

Silvery Argus, *Aricia nicias*, was also present, with its pale blue ground colour set against broad, dark wing margins. Mountain Green Veined White, *Pieris bryoniae*, was found in small numbers along the

woodland edges, and Eros Blue, *Polyommatus eros*, was one of the many *lycaenids* seen puddling at the damp spots on this site.

Both Lesser Marbled, *Brenthis ino*, and Meadow Fritillary, *Melitaea parthenoides*, were present in lowish numbers, whilst Large Ringlet, *Erebia euryale*, introduced itself for the first time and would prove to be exceedingly common thereafter on the trip.

After moving on in the early afternoon, lunch was taken just prior to Col de la Cayolle, near a grassy meadow surrounded by steep banks. This was to prove a judicious decision, as many False Mnestrans were encountered, with Derek being plagued by one particularly persistent individual which had clearly taken a liking to his clothing.

Southern Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrgus malvoides*, was another new species picked up at this location along with Shepherd's Fritillary, *Boloria pales*, and a small number of Cynthia's Fritillaries which were also on the wing.



Small Apollo © Sheila

The last stop of the day was a few kilometres to the north of the col, at a bridge over a fast flowing river. This location has traditionally proved to be reliable for Small Apollo, *Parnassius phoebus*, but they were conspicuous by their absence until just prior to departure, when a solitary male was seen flying through the grasses. Thankfully, he settled, giving everyone a few photo opportunities.

Along the track which leads up into the higher mountains, Glandon Blues, *Plebejus glandon*, were seen puddling at the damp areas emanating from a trickle of fresh water

flowing from higher up the hillside, whilst a great variety of species were flying on the grassy slopes leading down to the river.

The drive down the north side of the col was rather wearisome, although the scenery was spectacular in places, and eventually the group arrived at the second base for the week, the Hotel Escondus in the ski resort of Vars, just at the edge of the Queyras region.

An impressive 91 species had been recorded during the day, with the 14 newcomers upping the total to 117 for the tour thus far.

## Day 5, Wednesday 6 July

More fine weather greeted the group on this first morning at the new base, and thankfully this continued for the rest of the day.

The drive to Col Agnel on the border with Italy took longer than usual, due to a diversion around St Veran which took the vehicles onto some roads of dubious quality. However, these were successfully negotiated and a little while later everyone arrived at the wooden refuge about 2km before the 2,700m col.

Within seconds of exiting the vehicles, Cynthia's Fritillaries were seen flying on the grassy slope, and indeed they proved to be around in good numbers throughout the morning. In addition, there were both Shepherd's and Mountain Fritillaries, *Boloria napaea*, which were frustratingly airborne most of the time but would occasionally land to take nectar, mainly from yellow flowers.

David managed to find and pot the week's first Alpine Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrgus andromedae*,



Cynthia's Fritillary © Robert

whilst John K did well to find and photograph a Dewy Ringlet, *Erebia pandrose*. This species had all but gone over during the previous week's tour so it was surprising that one was found.

Chris and Sheila accompanied David on a hunt near the refuge for Dusky Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrgus cacaliae*, and although one was found, it was a rather worn specimen.

Perhaps the most notable feature was that most of the 'Apollos' flying around the slopes were actually Small Apollos. The males have a habit of flying up and down fast flowing water courses, and there were certainly more than two dozen doing precisely that during the time spent here.

After a couple of hours it was time to move on back down away from the col to a site 10 minutes' drive away with a conveniently located picnic table opposite a rocky knoll, the latter being occupied a short while later by a marmot, much to the group's amusement.

The meadows here are especially rich and the sheltered dip leading down to the river had plenty of butterflies within it, although one stubborn cloud proved aggravating as it was preventing the sun from warming up this area in spite of blue sky almost everywhere else.

David managed to find a Large Blue, *Phengaris arion*, which everyone was able to later see for themselves, and word soon got out that an Alpine Blue, *Plebejus orbitulus*, was amongst the many other Blues flying in the dip near the river. It was impossible to track this butterfly as it was continually being intercepted by other male *lycaenids* nearby – mainly Idas Blues. With the cloud stubbornly refusing to move away, it was decided to head down the valley to a sunnier location, but not before an unusually late Marsh Fritillary, *Euphydryas aurinia*, had been recorded.

The final stop was a popular one – a large car park next to a river with a wooden café opposite. Everyone understandably took the opportunity to purchase refreshments on such a warm day, with the added bonus of seeing a grey wagtail's nest beneath the boardwalk with several juveniles on the cusp of fledging.

There were plenty of butterflies puddling on either side of the river, with the pick being Carline Skipper, *Pyrgus carlinae*, a species not often encountered on this tour as it generally only emerges in mid-July.

The group eventually wrapped things up just after 1700hrs, but it had proved to be a rewarding day with 78 species seen at just three sites on the same mountain road. Of these, 8 were new for the trip meaning that an impressive 125 different butterflies had now been seen.



## Day 6, Thursday 7 July

Today was one of those days full of little frustrations over unanticipated issues outside of the group's control. Things got off to a positive start when the short journey to a damp meadow just beyond Refuge Napoléon yielded several Blind Ringlets, *Erebia pharte*, along with multi-hundreds of Large Ringlets, which had grown immensely in number as the week had progressed.

The next site was an hour's drive away, the 2,600m Col d'Izoard, a precipitous and rather barren location, but nevertheless one that has yielded many rarities over the years.

Conditions were marginal, with cloud regularly obscuring the sun, but every so often in those sunny intervals, butterflies would take to the wing, with Peak White, *Pontia callidice*, being confirmed by Melissa's distance shot as it flew up and down the high slope.

False Mnestra Ringlet was now being considered a distraction as the group knew there were other highly desirable *Erebia* species flying at this location, one of them being Silky Ringlet, *Erebia gorge*, which wasn't confirmed as a sighting until after the trip when Melissa provided a clear image of one.

The eastern side of the col was sadly sectioned off as building work, presumably related to the regular cycling events held here, was in progress, and it was something of an unpleasant experience to have to listen to heavy machinery going about its work, with the attendant dust that accompanied it.



Alpine Blue © John V

That said, David, Jon and Michael managed to get to a scree slope beyond these works, and a fresh male Alpine Blue was soon spotted, allowing the group to finally get a close look at this montane rarity.

Frustratingly, after leaving, the drive to Briançon was conducted in almost total sunshine, and the number of dark *Erebia* flying across the road was something to behold.

Once Briançon had been negotiated, it was a clear run to Col du Galibier, although much to everyone's annoyance the col itself had been closed to traffic due to the impending Tour de

France stage at this location, meaning that the vehicles had to divert through a lower altitude tunnel to reach the Savoie department on the other side.

Eventually, the group arrived at a sheltered riverside site, and Marbled Ringlet, *Erebia montana*, was picked up immediately, puddling in a damp area beside the river. Incredibly, this was the only one seen in the near two hours spent at the site, although there were plenty of other species to enjoy.

The guides decided to stop just prior to the tunnel on the way back to look for Sooty Ringlet, *Erebia pluto*, which can be found quite easily at the col 150m higher up. Thankfully, a male and a female were both seen on these lower slopes, with the female providing excellent photo opportunities for everybody.

The scenery was so spectacular on the way back that an impromptu stop was made at the request of Miroslava to photograph the still ice-clad peak of La Meije, which at 3,984m is one of the highest mountains in the region.

There was some nervousness on the drive back to Vars, as one of the vehicles had run out of AdBlue, the diesel additive that reduces nitrous oxide emissions. It was imperative not to stall the van as once this additive has been exhausted, the engine will not restart. Luckily, with some careful cajoling, the group made it back to the hotel, leaving the guides the frustrating task of working out how to ameliorate the situation for the following day.

Fortunately, this was all successfully attended within the hour that followed and the evening meal went ahead as normal, with the 5 new species for the day bringing the aggregate total to 130.

## Day 7, Friday 8 July

Originally, the intention for this final full day had been to undertake the 5 hour round trip to Alpe d'Huez in the Isère region to the north. However, having had a long day interspersed with some frustrating moments the previous day, the group decided to stay local, visiting the Col de Vars early in the morning.

There were plenty of the 'usual suspects' on the wing, with Purple Edged Copper being especially prominent, and when the group moved to a track about 2km to the south of the col, a mystery *Erebia* was seen and photographed, which turned out to be another Marbled Ringlet thanks to the



Purple-edged Coppers © Melissa



intervention of John V.

Lunch was taken at the top of a grassy slope which led down to the lake opposite Refuge Napoléon, but sadly the heatwave had dried the normally damp area towards the bottom of the slope meaning that it was necessary to go right to the end of the track to reach the boggy parts, where serious numbers of Dark Green Fritillaries, *Speyeria aglaja*, were seen puddling whilst a nearby herd of cows watched on.

The only new species picked up on this final day was back at the Blind Ringlet site, when John K spotted a small butterfly settled on some vegetation next to the car park. It was a Sloe Hairstreak, *Satyrrium acaciae*, which can often be fairly common, but one suspects the early season and the heatwave either suppressed general numbers or led to its flight period being abbreviated.

Given the hot conditions, the group opted to truncate the day's proceedings prior to 1630hrs, which gave everybody ample time to prepare for departure the following morning.

### **Day 8, Saturday 9 July**

To break up the long journey back to Nice Airport, the group stopped at a damp, grassy site some 5km from Col de la Bonette on the north side. There were plenty of butterflies to be seen in the grasses and up the hillsides, but after 45 minutes it was time to move on.

There were no issues during the drive to Nice and guests were safely deposited to catch their flights after a very satisfying week.

### **Footnote and acknowledgements**

The total number of butterfly species seen was 131, which is a record equalling total for this tour, and Greenwings must thank all the guests who worked so assiduously to track down and record so many, as well as for their convivial company during a hectic week with several long journeys in quite hot conditions.

Given that this was far from an ideal year from a butterfly perspective, the species range recorded goes to prove just how rich this area is and how resilient these creatures are. But for cloudy conditions on a couple of occasions, it is likely that several more species might have been picked up, but overall it was an enjoyable and satisfying holiday, demonstrating the ongoing appeal of this very special part of Europe.



## Systematic Species Checklist

<b>Butterflies</b>			2nd July	3rd July	4th July	5th July	6th July	7th July	8th 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
<b>Family Papilionidae</b>									
1	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
2	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
3	Apollo	<i>Parnassius apollo</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Small Apollo	<i>Parnassius phoebus</i>				✓	✓		
<b>Family Pieridae</b>									
5	Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓		✓			
6	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Mountain Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias phicomone</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Mountain Dappled White	<i>Euchloe simplona</i>			✓		✓	✓	
11	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
12	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
13	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓	✓			
14	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Mountain Green-veined White	<i>Pieris bryoniae</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Southern Small White	<i>Pieris mani</i>	✓	✓					
17	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
18	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Peak White	<i>Pontia callidice</i>						✓	
20	Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>		✓					
<b>Family Lycaenidae</b>									
21	Purple Hairstreak	<i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>	✓	✓					
22	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>							✓
23	False Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium esculi</i>	✓						
24	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>	✓	✓					
25	Blue-spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium spini</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
26	Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
27	Purple-edged Copper	<i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓	✓	✓			
29	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
30	Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

<b>Butterflies</b>			2nd July	3rd July	4th July	5th July	6th July	7th July	8th July
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆									
31	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>		✓					
32	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
33	Mountain Argus	<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Geranium Argus	<i>Aricia eumedon</i>		✓				✓	✓
35	Silvery Argus	<i>Aricia nicias</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>				✓			✓
37	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Meleager's Blue	<i>Meleageria daphnis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
40	Large Blue	<i>Phengaris arion</i>					✓		✓
41	Mountain Alcon Blue	<i>Phengaris alcon rebeli</i>		✓					
42	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Glandon Blue	<i>Plebejus glandon</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Idas Blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Alpine Blue	<i>Plebejus orbitulus</i>					✓	✓	
46	Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>			✓	✓			
47	Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>	✓	✓					✓
48	Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Polyommatus coridon</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Damon Blue	<i>Polyommatus damon</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
50	Turquoise Blue	<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
51	Eros Blue	<i>Polyommatus eros</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Escher's Blue	<i>Polyommatus escheri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
53	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>	✓	✓			✓		
55	Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>		✓					
56	Chequered Blue	<i>Scolitantides orion</i>		✓					
<b>Family Nymphalidae</b>									
57	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>				✓		✓	
59	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>		✓	✓	✓			
60	Poplar Admiral	<i>Limenitis populi</i>		✓					
61	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>		✓		✓			✓
62	Southern Comma	<i>Polygonia egea</i>	✓						
63	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓	✓		✓			
64	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

<b>Butterflies</b>			2nd July	3rd July	4th July	5th July	6th July	7th July	8th July
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆									
65	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	High Brown Fritillary	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>	✓	✓		✓			
67	Niobe Fritillary	<i>Argynnis niobe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
69	Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Boloria dia</i>	✓	✓		✓			
70	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>			✓	✓			✓
71	Balkan Fritillary	<i>Boloria graeca</i>			✓				
72	Mountain Fritillary	<i>Boloria napaea</i>					✓	✓	✓
73	Shepherd's Fritillary	<i>Boloria pales</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Titania's Fritillary	<i>Boloria titania</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>			✓	✓			
76	Lesser Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis ino</i>				✓			
77	Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphedryas aurinia</i>					✓		
78	Cynthia's Fritillary	<i>Euphedryas cynthia</i>			✓	✓	✓		
79	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>			✓				✓
82	False Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea diamina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
84	Provençal Fritillary	<i>Melitaea dejone</i>		✓	✓				✓
85	Meadow Fritillary	<i>Melitaea parthenoides</i>				✓			
86	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
87	Grison's Fritillary	<i>Melitaea varia</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓
88	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>		✓					
89	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
90	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
91	Darwin's Heath	<i>Coenonympha darwiniana</i>			✓	✓			
92	Dusky Heath	<i>Coenonympha dorus</i>	✓	✓					
93	Alpine Heath	<i>Coenonympha gardetta</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
94	Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>		✓		✓			✓
95	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	False Mnestra Ringlet	<i>Erebia aethiopella</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	
97	Almond-eyed Ringlet	<i>Erebia alberganus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Common Brassy Ringlet	<i>Erebia cassioides</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

<b>Butterflies</b>			2nd July	3rd July	4th July	5th July	6th July	7th July	8th July
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆									
99	Mountain Ringlet	<i>Erebia epiphron</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Large Ringlet	<i>Erebia euryale</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Silky Ringlet	<i>Erebia gorge</i>						✓	
102	Arran Brown	<i>Erebia ligea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Marbled Ringlet	<i>Erebia montana</i>						✓	✓
104	Dewy Ringlet	<i>Erebia pandrose</i>					✓		
105	Blind Ringlet	<i>Erebia phrase</i>						✓	✓
106	Sooty Ringlet	<i>Erebia pluto</i>						✓	
107	Woodland Grayling	<i>Hipparchia fagi</i>	✓	✓					
108	Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	✓	✓					
109	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
111	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
112	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
113	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
114	Great Sooty Satyr	<i>Satyrus ferula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>Family Hesperidae</b>								
115	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
116	Tufted Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus flocciferus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>	✓	✓					✓
118	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>				✓			
119	Silver-spotted Skipper	<i>Hesperia comma</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
120	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
121	Large Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
122	Alpine Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus andromedae</i>					✓		
123	Dusky Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus cacaliae</i>					✓		
124	Carline Skipper	<i>Pyrgus carlinae</i>					✓	✓	✓
125	Safflower Skipper	<i>Pyrgus cathami</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
126	Southern Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>				✓	✓		
127	Olive Skipper	<i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
128	Red Underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
129	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>		✓	✓	✓			
130	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
131	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Photo Gallery



Goldfinch on nest © Melissa



© Melissa



Darwin's Heath © David Moore



False Mnestr Ringlet © John V



© John V



Eros Blues © Melissa



Common Brassy Ringlet © Sheila



Damon Blue © Robert



Chequered Blue © David Moore



Black-veined White © Melissa



Brimstone © Melissa



Sooty Ringlet © David Moore



Swallowtail © Miroslava



© Melissa



Yellowhammer © Melissa



Balkan Fritillary © Sheila



Purple-shot Copper © Sheila



Titania's Fritillary © Melissa



© Melissa



Marbled Fritillary © Sheila



Sooty Copper © Sheila



© David Moore



Marsh Fritillary © Robert



Common Blue Damselflies © Miroslava





Bath White and Orange Tip © Melissa



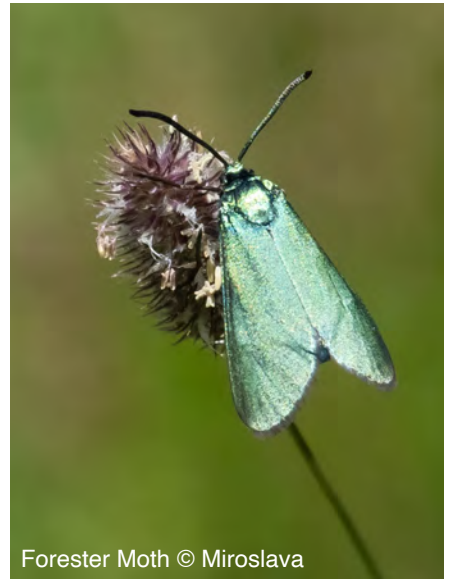
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Southern White Admiral  
© Miroslava



Trichodes sp. © Miroslava



Forester Moth © Miroslava



Ladder Grasshopper © Miroslava



Spotted Fritillary © Robert



Small Apollo © John V



Almond-eyed Ringlet © Melissa



Southern Grizzled Skippers © Miroslava



Large Ringlet © Miroslava



Four-spotted Chaser © Miroslava



Marbled Fritillary © Robert



© Miroslava



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Marbled Fritillary © Robert



Keeled Skimmers © Miroslava

