

Butterflies of the Kaçkars in Turkey

11th - 19th July 2023 Led by Ben Greenaway with Göze and Yasemin Konuralp



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Introduction

This report details the fifth Greenwings trip to the magical provinces of Erzurum and Artvin in north-east Turkey. The majority of the trip was spent in the wild and beautiful Kaçkar Mountains. Here, as with the very best pockets of Eastern Europe, to walk through villages and up into mountain pastures and further still into wild alpine flower meadows is an experience as close to time travel as one could imagine.

The combined total of species resident in the two provinces we visit (Erzurum and Artvin) is well over 200, and on any particular trip we expect to encounter in the region of 140 of these.

Daily diary

Day 1

Upon arrival in Erzurum, the majority of the group are tired having travelled through the night so spending a day locally is a sensible option and allows everyone to refresh and ease themselves into the trip. Staying the first night at a ski lodge on Mount Palandöken enables easy exploration of the steppe and mountain steppe habitat to be found on the doorstep. The flowery slopes outside the hotel are rich in flora and butterflies, and one of our guests, Markus, has already explored the area having arrived at our first hotel a couple of days early. This is a superb boost for the group, and a pattern that would continue throughout the trip, with Markus (the youngest and fittest guest!) able to cover ground beyond the main group and highlight any finds that others may

find interesting. Although Markus is particularly suited to this role, it should be noted that the group in general is exceptionally fit and able, and many members are, at times, keen to split off from the main group and explore for themselves.

The Palandöken slopes certainly deliver, and as we settle down for our first evening meal and drinks our list is already at an impressive 50 species. Some of the highlights are Eastern Orange Tip, Balkan and Lesser Fiery Coppers, Loew's, Aedon and False Chalkhill blues, many Niobe Fritillaries and Cardinals and the Great Steppe Grayling.



One of our guests, Claire, is particularly interested in the bumble bees of the area, and these Palandöken slopes are some of the most productive of the entire trip.

Although very tired by the end of the day, we've had a fantastic start to the trip and there is much excitement about what the following eight days have in store for us.



Day 2

Day two is a transit day where we cover the considerable distance from Erzurum to Barhal in the Kaçkar Mountains. This is much more than just a day of travel though, and as we follow the Çoruh river valley we pass through many butterfly rich areas and squeeze in as many stops as time allows.

About 20 miles north of Erzurum lies the small village of Güngörmez and for us, this is undoubtedly the highlight of the area. Of course there are many of these small villages in similar valleys scattered throughout the region, but Güngörmez is the one we know, and it never disappoints. The cattle-grazed surrounding hillsides provide the perfect breeding ground for a wide variety of species, and the trickling streams that work their way to the valley bottom by cutting through dung-soaked village paths offer superb congregations of mud puddling butterflies.

The general area around here is characterised by long cold winters with extensive snow followed by hot, dry summers. Owing to this the butterfly season is very condensed and, after the explosive spring, the area soon becomes semi-arid with the last trickling snow melt streams creating the only lasting wet flushes in the landscape.

The village itself is very rustic with cow dung apparently being put to excellent use for almost any building task. Used as a winter fuel it is also piled high at various points around the village. The villagers, as usual in these areas, are very friendly and always welcome us back enthusiastically - on this occasion Diana and Göze spend much time chatting with a local lady and are invited in to see her home.

Butterflies in this area are exceptional, not only in terms of sheer numbers puddling, but also in terms of the species assemblages on offer. This year however, it is immediately apparent that the season is rather late, with the dominant species puddling being Pontic Blue. We have never seen Pontic Blue here before and although we realise we may miss some of the later species we were expecting, we can't be disappointed at the spectacle that dozens of open winged Pontic Blues provide. Also of particular interest amongst the puddling blues are the many Aedon Blues, some Odd-spot and just one or two Iphigenia (Chelmos) Blues.



The focus here is certainly the mud puddling, but butterflies are everywhere and other highlights include Cardinal, Niobe and Twin-Spot fritillaries, Purple-shot and Balkan Coppers, many skippers



including numerous Yellow-banded and Marbled, and a magical colony of Dusky Large Blue discovered by Markus in a hidden location down the hillside in a damp area close to the river.

We eat a wonderful lunch prepared by Yasemin, Göze and our driver, Refik in the shade of some tall trees and then reluctantly board the bus to continue our northward journey. It is always hard to leave this area, but we console ourselves with the promise of a return visit when we travel back this way at the end of trip.

We have two further transits stops along the way to Barhal, and although we fail to find Fiery

Copper at one of these, we have more success at the other with Amasian Satyr, Persian Skipper and Geranium Argus being added to the list. Some of us also chat once again to local people, and are encouraged to try fruit growing on the edge of their modest plots of land.

The road to Barhal follows one of the Çoruh tributaries passing first through a landscape of rolling hills as we drop down from the Erzurum plateau before becoming much more spectacular as the valley becomes increasingly steep sided with cuttings exposing the complicated underlying geology in dramatic fashion.

In recent years huge dams have been built in the area of our route and it is now necessary to navigate to Barhal using a new network of elevated roads and tunnels - we pass over canyons and through mountains where once we followed rivers along valley floors.

This is an incredibly impressive project, but we mourn the loss of an extensive area of wonderful habitat and find it hard to believe that the vibrant bustling town of Yusefeli is now entirely under water.

Day 3

Our first base at Barhal is situated on the southern slopes of the Kaçkar. Here the humid beech forests of the northern Black Sea slopes give way to mixed forests dominated by pine or scrubby oak. In this zone the surroundings are remarkably variable with apparently subtle changes in aspect/altitude giving rise to quite different habitat types.

Barhal is a small village situated along a lush wooded valley, where small-holdings give rise to an environment of hay meadows and orchards. The river that flows along the valley floor irrigates the adjacent plots, and is bordered by lush vegetation - particularly striking are the large sections of the herbaceous Dwarf Elder or Danewort (*Sambucus ebulus*) which prove to be a magnet for butterflies of many species.

Our pension is of the traditional wooden chalet style, with several connected structures being used for hay storage and bee keeping. The valley sides here are steep, and being set back from the road also necessitates a considerable increase in elevation. Unusually, and luckily for us, our accommodation is blessed with a steep access road so our bus can bring us most of the way, and a traditional pulley system delivers our luggage the final way to our rooms.

To start our first day in this area we take a walk down to Barhal village from our pension. This gives us a chance to familiarise ourselves with our immediate surroundings and we enjoy the many butterflies that we encounter along the way.

We board our bus in Barhal and set off to explore the Biçakçilar Valley. We briefly stop to enjoy a rare endemic Campanula that Yasemin points out and, whilst this is being appreciated, some of the group enjoy photographing our first Blue Argus and a beautiful fresh Swallowtail.

Half way up the valley we stop at a site for Ionian Emperor. There are several banks covered in Dwarf Elder and our first emperors are soon located. Chris seems to offer something particularly attractive to them, and not for the last time on the trip, he acts as an emperor magnet.





We also enjoy several beautifully fresh Southern White Admirals and our first encounter with the fascinating and exotic looking Camel Spider. A Large Tortoiseshell flies by but doesn't stop, and although we suspect Powdered Brimstone we are frustrated that they too, are constantly on the move. We look here for Small Bath White but are unfortunately unable to locate it on this occasion.

Continuing up to 1800m we stop at a muddy bridge we know to be a hot-spot for mud puddling. We are not disappointed and are blown away by the vast congregation of blues and fritillaries that dazzle on our arrival. Amongst the many hundreds of butterflies we find

High Brown, Glanville, False Heath and Heath Fritillaries (including a stunning abberant Heath Fritillary). The blues mainly consist of Eros, Anatolian Zephyr, Osiris, Idas, Silver-studded and Common, but there are also Green-underside, Pontic, Aedon and Turkish Blues in the mix.

We enjoy a delightful picnic lunch whilst working out all the puddling butterflies and then walk down the valley with the bus following behind. Again we encounter congregations of blues but the numbers aren't so overwhelming here and Ben is able to spend some time helping Pete with some key identification tips.

perrant Heath Fritillary® Sheila R

On the way back we stop again at the morning's Ionian

Emperor site, and this time along with the Emperors we get lucky with hairstreaks, finding the Dwarf Elder flowers are also attractive to Gerhard's Black, Green, Sloe, Ilex, Purple and Whiteletter Hairstreaks.

Now late in the afternoon we head back stopping for ice cream in Barhal to cool down after an incredible day. 'Butterfly paradise' is mentioned more than once!

Day 4

The majority of the group are up at 4am for an early morning trip into the high Kackar to look for



bears. This is offered as an optional extra and is something that the owner of our Barhal pension organises for us according to demand. Unfortunately on this occasion we are unlucky, and despite a large population of brown bear in the area we don't manage the encounter we all hope for. We all accept that with wildlife watching nothing can be guaranteed, and despite some inevitable extra tiredness late in the afternoon, we all agree that the early morning trip was worth it just to stand atop this hidden mountain paradise as the first rays of morning light begin to illuminate the high peaks that surround us.

After breakfast we head off to the Pishankara Valley. We wind our way high into the mountains but progress is abruptly halted by some heavy machinery working in the area. It is immediately

apparent that the trees and debris strewn throughout the area were deposited by a significant avalanche that must have ripped through the valley earlier in the year. We leave the bus here and continue on foot. At this altitude, and with the newly cleared path flanked by impressive banks of quickly melting snow and ice the area has a distinct spring feel to it, and this is backed up by the numerous Orange Tips and fresh Pearl-bordered Fritillaries that we encounter. We enjoy some puddling with fresh Scotch Argus and worn Woodland Ringlet in close proximity, and then explore the area as we wander further down the valley.



Our lunch stop is a bridge over the river and with the day quickly warming up the species list builds in predictably impressive fashion. Many of the species are familiar to us from the previous day, but a Camberwell Beauty gliding over the river beneath the bridge and a Large Blue that poses nicely for photographs are memorable highlights.



Some beautiful late instar Camberwell Beauty larvae are appreciated by all, and Martin and Ben negotiate a steep bank to watch a Lesser Spotted Fritillary ovipositing on some grass next to the food plant, Verbascum.

After another excellent lunch we travel further down the valley and investigate a side road that Yasemin has noticed on the way up. This proves to be an excellent choice as the bridge that crosses the river is alive with puddling butterflies. The collection is impressive, and the dozen or so Scarce Swallowtails puddling or gracefully gliding and swooping in and out of the mix offer a striking alternative for those less keen to focus on the subtle beauty of the numerous skippers and blues.

Continuing down the valley we again enjoy some wonderful butterflies in the hot afternoon sun. Another overwintered Camberwell Beauty, a fresh Large Tortoiseshell and several Ionian Emperors are spotted and photographed.

After a very hot finish to the day we again enjoy an ice cream stop on our way back through Barhal.

Day 5

Today we plan to make our way across to Olgunlar - our second base in the mountains, but first we spend the morning exploring Barhal Valley.

After only a short drive we stop at a height of about 1800m, in an area where several paths lead off in different directions. We stay here for two and a half hours allowing everyone time to explore

at their own pace and focus on their particular areas of interest. Claire is keen to climb higher up to some high meadows that prove to be excellent for the bumblebees that she is particularly interested in. Once again the area proves to be very productive, and despite not finding any new species, we all enjoy the spectacle and soak up the surroundings. This scenery in this valley is some of the best we experience on the trip, with the snow capped peaks, stunning wildflower meadows and gushing mountain streams providing a glorious backdrop to some truly unforgettable butterflying.



As we head back down our valley for lunch we notice a bright orange Clouded Yellow skimming around the path in front of us. Refik, attentive as ever, halts the bus and we all quickly jump out. The stunning deep orange/red butterfly that flits between puddling and gliding around a few inches above the path is a Caucasian (Balkan) Clouded Yellow. This is a rare treat and a wonderful way to round off our time in this area.

After a lunch in Barhal by the river we continue our journey to Olgunlar knowing well that after spending only three days here we have barely scratched the surface and although we have ticks next to most of

the species we know occur here, we leave with the sense that despite our best efforts, these mountains have shared only a fraction of the secrets they hoard.

Arriving at Olgunlar we are disappointed to find that the dirt track outside the hotel has been 'improved' and is now a giant concrete block. Fortunately there are still muddy puddles at the

edges of the block and although it is late in the day and the sun has gone, we are easily able to find many roosting butterflies including numerous Twin Spot Fritillaries, Apollos and several different blues including Damon.

After our daily meeting and before dinner we head out to show several interested members of the group a beautiful roosting Apollo that had been located soon after our arrival. This is expertly photographed at this late hour but also at first light the following morning by several members of our group but especially Martin who is particularly interested in this family of butterflies.



Day 6

This is our first day of disappointing weather. Any trip into lush mountain environments such as this will naturally come with a very high risk of some wet weather days, and we've done well to avoid them up until this point. The Hastaf Valley is found between the towering peaks of the Güngörmez range to the south and the Kaçkar range to the north. Our hotel is to be found at 2200m and we plan to climb very gently to a height of 2900m or so.



We only have brief windows of sun and butterflies are hardly active in these cool conditions but despite this we still locate two of our targets, Balkan Blue and a stunning fresh Hewitson's Ringlet. The whole group make excellent progress up the valley with each making their own decision about when it is the right time for them to turn around and head back. With Ben up front and Yasemin behind everyone is helped over the tricky makeshift bridges that carry us over mountain streams. By the time we reach the base camp used for attempts to ascend Kaçkar Dagi, the highest peak of the Kaçkar, our group is whittled down to five. Perhaps only Markus is still considering pushing on in search of a very special Apollo that flies

here, but with the season running late, and the weather getting worse, we all decide that reaching

base camp is enough of an achievement and that we should begin our long descent back to our pension. The weather looks more promising for the following morning and so we go to bed with high hopes for the much discussed sunny weather mud puddling that should occur close to our hotel.

Day 7

We wake to blue skies and sunshine and make an early start to see what this area has to offer in good weather.

The mud muddling already starts to build at 7am and by 9 there are large congregations developing throughout the dung soaked paths that lead through Olgunlar. The diversity of species is again very special, with at one stage eight or nine skipper species close enough to feature in a

single photograph. These include specialities such as Tufted Marbled, Aegean, Yellow-banded, and Hungarian. Of particular interest amongst the many blue species are the blues with white stripes on their underside hind wings and these prove to be a mix of Iphigenia Blue and Turkish Blue. Markus also locates one of the other local specialities, Alpine Ringlet, not far from our pension.

Once we have all enjoyed the spectacle on our doorstep we board the bus and travel a short distance to a nearby valley where Ahmet Baytas (the author of our much used butterfly field guide) was born. We are



met by wonderfully friendly locals who chat at length to Yasemin, Göze and Diana before we descend gradually back down the valley enjoying plenty of butterflies along the way. Martin, Markus and Ben decide to follow a little used path that runs down the steep sided valley and although the terrain would not be suitable for the whole group, the hillside habitat is wonderful and they are sure that butterflies numbers would be very high if the recently arrived cloud would have held off a little longer.

Upon our return to Olgunlar Ben has promised Mira that he would help her to locate some



roosting Apollos. One is duly spotted but upon closer inspection it is found to be loosely caught in a spider's web. The web also contains another freshly caught Apollo that has already been tightly bound up with silk so the decision is made to free the individual that has not yet been 'processed'. Although initially clearly somewhat discombobulated, the butterfly soon recovers its senses and poses attractively on the rock onto which it was released. Mira stays behind, keen to see whether the butterfly continues to recover, and is happy to report at dinner that the butterfly was behaving normally when she eventually left it.

Day 8

Today we are travelling back to our first hotel at Erzurum and with some potentially excellent stops along the way we agree to have an early breakfast in order to maximise time in the field.

Our first stop after perhaps an hour and a half of driving is in a steep sided valley that leads to the town of Dereici. We are here primarily to find Little Tiger Blue, White-bordered Grayling and Freyer's Grayling and all are quickly located. Pete misses the first good photo opportunity with Little Tiger Blue but others are eventually located and everyone comes away with decent photos of this species.

The Mulberry Tree that attracts the graylings is also very attractive to Ionian Emperor and we are treated to several of this species with some of the best views



of the entire trip. We are keen to stay longer at this location but we decide to only extend our stay for a short period as we still have several stops to come.



Our second stop is back at the site for Fiery Copper. We only allow ourselves a strict thirty minutes here and decide to spread out to maximise our chances of finding a butterfly that we worry may not yet be on the wing. Our search quickly reveals Oriental Skipper, but it is only just before we head back to the bus that our true quarry is located. A single Fiery Copper is found in a very similar location to previous years, and although there is only one, it stays around long enough for most of the group to enjoy the encounter and come away with excellent photographs. This is pleasing to everyone but certainly nobody can be more thrilled than Sheila who has searched and failed to find this species several times on previous trips.

Everything appears to be going extremely well today, so we have high hopes that our next site, a

riverside site just off the main road, will also deliver some of our targets. The area feels noticeably more advanced than it did a week previously, and several fresh Ripart's Anomalous Blue's are puddling on the main path. We search diligently for both Hopffer's and Poseidon Blue but conclude that they are not yet emerged. We are, however, treated to the very striking Orange Hermit that stops briefly on the path at our feet before flying off down the river. As we head back to the bus we are intrigued by a couple of Blue-spot Hairstreaks that are locked in an apparently never ending spiralling display just above the ground. Photography is challenging but we manage to achieve something just about sufficient to confirm their identity.



We have another excellent lunch here and while most of the group are relaxing in the shade Mireille crosses the road to investigate another area of promising looking roadside habitat. Amongst the many Amasian Satyrs, Mireille searches for the very similar Anatolian Satyr and believes she has found it. The two species can be hard to separate from photographs but Mireille has excellent knowledge of the region's butterflies having travelled widely in the area so her determination is accepted.

From here we travel for another hour to our final afternoon destination - the beautiful Güngörmez Valley that had such an impact on us seven days previously. Although the sun is still strong, we are slightly disappointed to find that the mud puddling is not as spectacular as we had hoped, although there are still impressive congregations of a lovely variety of species. Markus is keen to look for special hairstreaks but very generously gives up his time to lead the group to a boggy area next to the river that he had discovered a week earlier. The target species here is Dusky Large Blue and several individuals are quickly located. We are all careful not to trample this delicate area of habitat and marvel once again at the range of habitats, and therefore species, that can be located in such close proximity in these areas.



We are all very grateful to Markus and partly in light of this Ben heads off up the steep hillside to attempt to help Markus locate the hairstreaks that are of particular interest to him. The hillside is steep and unfortunately not suitable for the majority of the group. After a steep climb and after searching many potentially suitable hillside shrubs they are on the point of admitting defeat when finally a hairstreak flies up from the last shrub to be checked. The grey/green flash is unmistakable and they know instantly that they have found one of the main targets of the area - Rebel's Hairstreak. It stays

long enough for excellent photos, and although it then shoots off downhill and out of sight, it returns to the same location half an hour later where Markus is patiently waiting.

This afternoon in Güngörmez rounds off the trip wonderfully and we all head back for our final meeting and evening together very tired, but knowing very well that we've had a huge amount of success in terms of butterfly species, and with a strong sense of privilege for the experiences we have been treated to over the last eight days.

Our final meeting is a happy affair, with a day count of 93 species breaking all trip records and with so many target species finally in the bag we can relax and reflect on an incredible trip full of memorable moments and stunning spectacles.





Systematic Species Checklists

	Butter	11th July	July	13th July	14th July	15th July	16th July	17th July	18th July	
Imag	go 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	Scarce Swallowtail	Iphiclides podalirius		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
2	Swallowtail	Papilio machaon			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Apollo Parnassius apollo				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Family Pieridae									
4	Orange TIp	Anthocharis cardamines				✓				
5	Eastern Orange Tip	Anthocharis damone	✓		✓					
6	Black-veined White	Aporia crataegi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Berger's Clouded Yellow	Colias alfacariensis	✓		✓					
8	Anatolian Clouded Yellow	Colias aurorinia		✓						
9	Balkan Clouded Yellow	Colias caucasica					✓			
10	Clouded Yellow	Colias crocea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Eastern Dappled White	Euchloe ausonia		✓						
12	Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
13	Wood White	Leptidea sinapis		✓	✓	✓	✓			

	Butter	11th July	12th July	13th July	14th July	15th July	16th July	17th July	18th July	
Imag	Imago sightings are marked with a √, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
14	Large White	Pieris brassicae		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Mountain Green-veined White	Pieris bryoniae						✓		
16	Mountain Small White	Pieris ergane							✓	
17	Southern Small White	Pieris mannii			✓	✓	✓			✓
18	Green-veined White	Pieris napi		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Small White	Pieris rapae		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Eastern Bath White	Pontia edusa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Family Lycaenidae									
21	Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi			✓	✓	✓			✓
22	Purple Hairstreak	Neozephyrus quercus			✓	✓	✓			
23	Gerhardt's Black Hairstreak	Satyrium abdominalis			✓		✓			✓
24	Sloe Hairstreak	Satyrium acaciae		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
25	Ilex Hairstreak	Satyrium ilicis			√	√	✓		✓	✓
26	Rebel's Hairstreak	Satyrium myrtale								✓
27	Blue-spot Hairstreak	Satyrium spini		✓	√		✓			✓
28	White-letter Hairstreak	Satyrium w-album			√		✓			
29	Purple-shot Copper	Lycaena alciphron	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Balkan Copper	Lycaena candens	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
31	Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas		✓			✓			✓
32	Lesser Fiery Copper	Lycaena thersamon	√							✓
33	Fiery Copper	Lycaena thetis								✓
34	Sooty Copper	Lycaena tityrus	√	✓		✓			✓	
35	Scarce Copper	Lycaena virgaureae					✓			
36	Brown Argus	Aricia agestis		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Northern Brown Argus	Aricia artaxerxes			√			✓	✓	
38	Anatolian Blue Argus	Aricia crassipunctus	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
39	Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus	√	✓	✓	√	✓			√
40	Short-tailed Blue	Cupido argiades		✓	✓		✓			
41	Small Blue	Cupido minimus			✓		✓		✓	
42	Osiris Blue	Cupido osiris	√		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Mazarine Blue	Cyaniris semiargus	√	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Geranium Argus	Eumedonia eumedon		✓				✓	✓	✓
45	Green-underside Blue	Glaucopsyche alexis			✓	✓			✓	✓
46	Eastern Brown Argus	Kretania eurypilus	√	√	√	√	√			√

	Butter	flies	11th July	12th July	13th July	14th July	15th July	16th July	17th July	18th July
Ima	Imago sightings are marked with a √, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
47	Long-tailed Blue	Lampides boeticus	√			✓				✓
48	Pontic Blue	Neolysandra coelestinus	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Alcon Blue	Phengaris alcon						✓		
50	Large Blue	Phengaris arion				✓	✓	✓		
51	Dusky Large Blue	Phengaris nausithous		✓						✓
52	Loew's Blue	Plebejidea loewii	✓	✓		✓				✓
53	Silver-studded Blue	Plebejus argus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Reverdin's Blue	Plebejus argyrognomon		✓						
55	Bosnian Blue	Plebejus dardanus						✓	✓	
56	Idas Blue	Plebejus idas		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Anatolian Zephyr Blue	Plebejus modicus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Aedon Blue	Polyommatus aedon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
59	Amanda's Blue	Polyommatus amandus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Adonis Blue	Polyommatus bellargus	✓		✓		✓		✓	
61	False Chalkhill Blue	Polyommatus corydonius	✓							
62	Damon Blue	Polyommatus damon					✓			
63	Meleager's Blue	Polyommatus daphnis	✓	✓		✓				✓
64	Turquoise Blue	Polyommatus dorylas			✓				✓	✓
65	Eros Blue	Polyommatus eros			✓	✓	✓		✓	
66	Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Chelmos Blue	Polyommatus iphigenia		✓					✓	
68	Ripart's Anomalous Blue	Polyommatus ripartii		✓						✓
69	Chapman's Blue	Polyommatus thersites				✓	✓			✓
70	Turkish Blue	Polyommatus turcicus			✓	✓			✓	
71	Eastern Baton Blue	Pseudophilotes vicrama		✓	✓	✓	✓			
72	Chequered Blue	Scolitantides orion				✓				
73	Little Tiger Blue	Tarucus balkanicus								✓
74	Odd-spot Blue	Turanana endymion		✓						✓
	Family Libytheidae									
75	Nettle Tree Butterfly	Libythea celtis		✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Family Nymphalidae									
76	Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Southern White Admiral	Limenitis reducta		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
78	Camberwell Beauty	Nymphalis antiopa		✓		✓	✓			

	Butte	11th July	12th July	13th July	14th July	15th July	16th July	17th July	18th July	
Imag	go 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
79 Large Tortoiseshell Nymphalis polychloros				✓	✓	✓				
80	Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell	Nymphalis xanthomelas		✓						
81	Comma	Polygonia c-album			✓	✓	✓			✓
82	Southern Comma	Polygona egea		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
83	Ionian Emperor	Thaleropis ionia			✓	✓	✓			✓
84	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
85	Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Cardinal	Argynnis pandora	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
87	Silver-washed Fritillary	Argynnis paphia		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
88	Marbled Fritillary	Brenthis daphne		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
89	Twin-spot Fritillary	Brenthis hecate	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Lesser Marbled Fritillary	Brenthis ino		✓						
91	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria euphrosyne			√	√	✓		✓	✓
92	Marsh Fritillary	Euphedryas aurinia			√	√	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	High Brown Fritillary	Fabriciana adippe		✓	✓	✓	✓			
94	Niobe Fritillary	Fabriciana niobe	✓		√	√	✓			✓
95	Queen of Spain Fritillary	Issoria lathonia	✓	✓	√	√	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Heath Fritillary	Melitaea athalia			√	√	✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Glanville Fritillary	Melitaea cinxia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	False Heath Fritillary	Melitaea diamina			✓	√	✓	✓	✓	✓
99	Spotted Fritillary	Melitaea didyma	✓	✓						
100	Caucasian Spotted Fritillary	Melitaea interrupta			√	√	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	Melitaea trivia				✓	✓			✓
102	Dark Green Fritillary	Speyeria aglaja		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Marbled White	Melanargia galathea			✓	✓	✓	✓		
104	Balkan Marbled White	Melanargia larissa	✓	✓	✓					✓
105	Esper's Marbled White	Melanargia russiae	✓							
106	Great Banded Grayling	Brintesia circe		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
107	Orange Hermit	Chazara bischoffii								✓
108	Great Steppe Grayling	Chalaza persephone	√							
109	Freyer's Grayling	Hipparchia fatua								√
110	White-bordered Grayling	Hipparchia parisatis								✓
111	Anatolian Grayling	Hipparchia pellucida		✓						✓
112	Eastern Rock Grayling	Hipparchia syriaca		✓	√	✓	✓			✓

	Butterf	11th July	12th July	13th July	14th July	15th July	16th July	17th July	18th July	
Imag	go sightings are marked with a √, c	caterpillars are marked with a 🕾	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
113	113 Amasian Satyr Satyrus amasinus									✓
114	Anatolian Satyr	Satyrus favonius								✓
115	Scotch Argus	Erebia aethiops			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
116	Hewitson's Ringlet	Erebia hewitsonii						✓	✓	
117	Woodland Ringlet	Erebia medusa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
118	Alpine Ringlet	Erebia melancholia							✓	
119	Dusky Meadow Brown	Hyponephele lycaon							✓	✓
120	Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
121	Russian Heath	Coenonympha leander	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
122	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
123	Lederer's Heath	Coenonympha symphyta					✓	✓	✓	
124	Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
125	Large Wall Brown	Lasiommata maera		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
126	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera								✓
	Family Hesperiidae									
127	Mallow Skipper	Carcharodus alcaea		✓						
128	Tufted Marbled Skipper	Carcharodus flocciferus		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
129	Marbled Skipper	Carcharodus lavatherae	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
130	Oriental Skipper	Carcahrodus orientalis								✓
131	False Marbled Skipper	Carcharodus stauderi								✓
132	Dingy Skipper	Erynnis tages	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
133	Large Skipper	Ochlodes sylvanus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
134	Large Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus alveus		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
135	Sandy Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus cinarae			✓					
136	Aegean Skipper	Pyrgus melotis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
137	Olive Skipper	Pyrgus serratulae	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
138	Yellow-banded Skipper	Pyrgus sidae	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
139	Hungarian Skipper	Spialia orbifer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
140	Persian Skipper	Spialia phlomidis		✓						
141	Essex Skipper	Thymelicus lineola	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
142	Small Skipper	Thymelicus sylvestris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Birds											
1	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	21	Ring Ouzel	Turdus torquatus							
2	Cattle Egret	Bubulcis ibis	22	Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin							
3	White Stork	Ciconia ciconia	23	Whitethroat	Sylvia communis							
4	Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus	24	Great TIt	Parus major							
5	Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	25	Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio							
6	Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni	27	Magpie	Pica pica							
7	Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	26	Jay	Garrulus glandarius							
8	Ноорое	Upupa epops	29	Jackdaw	Corvus monedula							
9	Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	28	Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax							
10	Skylark	Alauda arvensis	30	Rook	Corvus frugilegus							
11	Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris	31	Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix							
12	House Martin	Delichon urbicum	32	Starling	Sturnus vulgaris							
13	Water Pipit	Anthus spinoletta	33	House Sparrow	Passer domestica							
14	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	34	Rock Sparrow	Petronia petronia							
15	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	36	Red-fronted Serin	Serinus pusillus							
16	Dipper	Cinclus cinclus	35	Common Rosefinch	Carpodacus erythrinus							
17	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros	37	Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra							
18	Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	38	Black-headed Bunting	Emberiza melanocephala							
19	Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra	39	Ortolan Bunting	Emberiza hortulana							
20	Blackbird	Turdus merula										

P	lants Endemic species	are marked with a &			
	Adoxaceae			A Pimpinella	Pimpinella rhodantha
1	Dwarf Elder/Danewort	Sambucus ebulus	6	A Hogweed	Heracleum apiifolium
2	Elder Sambucus nigra			Amaranthaceae	
	Anacardiaceae		7	Turkish Wild Beet	Beta trigyna
3	Smokebush	Cotinus coggyria	8	Oak-leaved Goosefoot	Oxybasis glauca
	Apiaceae			Asteraceae	
4	A Masterwort	Astrantia maxima	9	Yarrow	Achillea millefolium

Pla	ants Endemic spec	sies are marked with a 🖈			
10	White Mat Chamomile	Anthemis cretica	35	A Tansy	Tanacetum balsamitoides
11	Downy Lesser Burdock	Arctium minus ssp. pubens	36	Yellow-Ox-eye	Telekia speciosa
12	A Burdock	Arctium lappa ssp. platylepis	37	Immortelle	Xeranthemum annuum
13	Alpine Aster	Aster alpinus		Betulaceae	
14	Musk Thistle	Carduus nutans	38	European Hop- hornbeam	Ostrya carpinifolia
15	A Caucasalia	Caucasalia macrophylla		Boraginaceae	
16	A Mountain Cornflower	Centaurea nigrofimbria	39	An Anchusa	Anchusa leptophylla
17	A Knapweed	Centaurea triumfettii	40	Oriental Alkanet	Alkanna orientalis
18	A Knapweed	Centaurea spectabilis	41	Smooth Honeywort	Cerinthe glabra
19	Woad-leaved Knapweed	Centaurea glastifolia	42	Viper's Bugloss	Echium vulgare
20	A Knapweed	Centaurea virgata	43	Prophet-flower	Huynhia pulchra
21	A Blue Sow-thistle	Cicerbita racemosa	44	Alpine Forget-me-not	Myosotis alpestris
22	Creeping Thistle	Cirsium arvense	45	A Monkswort	Nonea intermedia
23	Golden Marguerite	Cota tinctoria	46	A Monkswort	Nonea versicolor
24	Stinking Hawksbeard	Crepis foetida		Brassicaceae	
25	A Fleabane	Erigeron caucasicus	47	Greater Cuckooflower	Cardamine raphanifolia
26	A Fleabane	Erigeron acris ssp. pycnotrichus	48	Oriental Sea Kale	Crambe orientalis
27	An Eryngo	Eryngium billardierii	49	An Isatis	İsatis cappadocica
28	Dwarf Everlasting	Helichrysum arenarium	50	Woad	Isatis tinctoria
29	An Everlasting	Helichrysum plicatum	51	Heart-podded Hoary Cress	Lepidium draba
30	Elecampane	Inula helenium	52	A Ricotia	Ricotia aucheri
31	An Inula	Inula helenium ssp. turcoracemosa		Campanulaceae	
32	A Thistle	Lophiolepis trachylepis 🖈	53	An Asyneuma	Asyneuma amplexicaule
33	Feverfew	Tanacetum parthenium	54	A Bellflower	Campanula saxifraga ssp. aucheri
34	A Tansy	Tanacetum argenteum	55	Birch-leaved Bellflower	Campanula betulifolia ☆

Pla	Plants Endemic species are marked with a ☆									
56	A Bellflower	Campanula choruhensis		Convolvulaceae						
57	A Bellflower	Campanula collina	80	A Bindweed	Convolvulus galaticus					
58	Clustered Bellflower	Campanula glomerata	81	Field Bindweed	Convolvulus arvensis					
59	Giant Bellflower	Campanula latifolia	82	Large Bindweed	Calystegia silvatica					
60	Milky Bellflower	Campanula lactiflora		Crassulaceae						
61	A Bellflower	Campanula stevenii	83	Allegheny Stonecrop	Hylotelephium telephioides					
62	A Bellflower	Campanula olympica	84	A Stonecrop	Phedimus spurius					
63	Creeping Bellflower	Campanula rapunculoides	85	A Stonecrop	Prometheum pilosum					
64	A Bellflower	Campanula stricta	86	A Stonecrop	Sedum tenellum					
65	A Bellflower	Campanula troegerae ☆	87	Biting Stonecrop	Sedum acre					
	Capparaceae		88	White Stonecrop	Sedum album					
66	A Caper	Capparis spinosa var. herbaceae	89	Annual Stonecrop	Sedum annuum					
	Caprifoliaceae		90	A Houseleek	Sempervivum staintonii ☆					
67	A Scabious	Cephalaria aristata	91	A Houseleek	Sempervivum minus ☆					
68	Giant Scabious	Cephalaria gigantea		Cucurbitaceae						
69	Small Scabious	Scabiosa columbaria	92	White Bryony	Bryonia alba					
70	Cutleaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniata		Euphorbiaceae						
71	A Morina	Morina persica	93	A Spurge	Euphorbia grisophylla					
72	A Valerian	Valeriana alliariifolia		Fabaceae						
	Caryophyllaceae		94	A Milkvetch	Astragalus ponticus					
73	Corn Cockle	Agrostemma githago	95	A Chesneya	Chesneya elegans 🕁					
74	An Atocion	Atocion compactum	96	A Colutea	Colutea armena					
75	A Pink	Dianthus orientalis	97	Oriental Crownvetch	Coronilla orientalis					
76	A Gypsophila	Gypsophila glandulosa	98	Pink Crownvetch	Coronilla varia					
77	Common Soapwort	Saponaria officinalis	99	Persian Everlasting Pea	Lathyrus rotundifolius					
78	Bladder Campion	Silene vulgaris	100	Bird's-foot Trefoil	Lotus corniculatus					
	Celastraceae		101	Horned Sainfoin	Onobrychis cornuta					
79	Grass of Parnassus	Parnassia palustris	102	False Acacia	Robinia pseudoacacia					

Pla	nts Endemic specie	es are marked with a ☆			
103	Red Clover	Trifolium pratense	126	Mediterranean Sage	Salvia aethiopis
104	Caucasian Clover	Trifolium ambiguum	127	Clary	Salvia sclarea
105	Tufted Vetch	Vicia cracca	128	Sticky Sage	Salvia glutinosa
	Gentianaceae		129	Lulling Sage	Salvia limbata
106	Willow Gentian	Gentiana asclepiadea	130	Iranian Sage	Salvia staminea
107	Crested Gentian	Gentiana septemfida	131	Whorled Clary	Salvia verticillata
108	Spring Gentian	Gentiana verna	132	Southern Meadow Sage	Salvia virgata
	Geraniaceae		133	Yellow-flowered Skullcap	Scutellaria orientalis
109	Wood Crane's-bill	Geranium sylvaticum	134	A Stachys	Stachys iberica
110	A Crane's-bill	Geranium asphodeloides	135	Big Betony	Stachys macrantha
111	A Crane's-bill	Geranium collinum	136	Woolly Germander	Teucrium polium
112	Caucasian Crane's-bill	Geranium ibericum	137	A Germander	Teucrium orientale
113	A Crane's-bill	Geranium lazicum ☆	138	Mother of Thyme	Thymus praecox
114	A Stork's-bill	Pelargonium endlicherianum ☆	139	A Thyme	Thymus nummularius
	Iridaceae			Linaceae	
115	A Gladiolus	Gladiolus kotschyanus	140	Narrow-leaved Flax	Linum tenuifolium
	Lamiaceae			Lythraceae	
116	Greater Calamint	Clinopodium grandiflorum	141	Purple Loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria
117	Broad-leaved Hemp-nettle	Galeopsis ladanum		Malvaceae	
118	A Lallemantia	Lallemantia canescens	142	A Hollyhock	Alcea apterocarpa
119	White Dead-nettle	Lamium album	143	A Hollyhock	Alcea hohenackeri
120	Rush Horse Mint	Mentha longifolia ssp. typhoides	144	Hemp-leaved Mallow	Althaea cannabina
121	A Catmint	Nepeta betonicifolia		Onagraceae	
122	Wild Oregano	Origanum vulgare	145	Great Willowherb	Epilobium hirsutum
123	An Oregano	Origanum rotundifolia	146	Hoary Willowherb	Epilobium parviflorum
124	Selfheal	Prunella vulgaris	147	Rosebay Willowherb	Epilobium angustifolium
125	Cut-leaved Selfheal	Prunella laciniata		Orchidaceae	

Pla	Plants Endemic species are marked with a ☆										
148	An Orchid	Dactylorhiza urvilleana	169	A Rock Jasmine	Androsace armeniaca						
149	An Orchid	Dactylorhiza incarnata ssp. cilicica		Ranunculaceae							
	Orobanchaceae		170	Narcissus-flowered Anemone	Anemonastrum narcissiflorum						
150	Field Cow-wheat	Melampyrum arvense	171	A Columbine	Aquilegia olympica						
151	Crested Lousewort	Pedicularis comosa	172	Old Man's Beard	Clematis vitalba						
152	Greater Yellow Rattle	Rhinanthus major var. major	173	A Larkspur	Delphinium flexuosum						
153	A Rhynchocorys	Rhynchocorys elephas	174	A Larkspur	Delphinium hohenackeri						
154	A Rhynchocorys	Rhynchocorys stricta	175	A Trollius	Trollius ranunculinus						
	Papaveraceae			Resedaceae							
155	Great-flowered Horned Poppy	Glaucium grandiflorum	176	Mignonette	Reseda lutea						
156	А Рорру	Papaver arenarium		Rhamnaceae							
157	А Рорру	Papaver armeniacum ssp. armeniacum	177	Christ's Thorn	Paliurus spina-christi						
158	А Рорру	Papaver lateritium		Rosaceae							
159	Pseudo-oriental Poppy	Papaver setiferum	178	Creeping Grover	Agrimonia repens						
	Plantaginaceae		179	Dropwort	Filipendula vulgaris						
160	Rusty Foxglove	Digitalis ferruginea ssp. ferruginea	180	A Geum	Geum coccineum						
161	A Foxglove	Digitalis ferruginea ssp. schischkinii	181	Wild Cherry	Prunus avium						
162	A Toadflax	Linaria corifolia ☆		Sapindaceae							
163	Broadleaf Toadflax	Linaria genistifolia	182	Montpellier Maple	Acer monspessulanum						
164	Large-flowered Toadflax	Linaria grandiflora		Saxifragaceae							
	Polygonaceae		183	Paniculate Saxifrage	Saxifraga paniculata						
165	An Atraphaxis	Atraphaxis billardieri	184	Siberian Saxifrage	Saxifraga sibirica						
166	Common Bistort	Polygonum bistorta		Solanaceae							
167	Sheep's Sorrel	Rumex acetosella	185	Deadly Nightshade	Atropa belladonna						
168	French Sorrel	Rumex scutatus	186	Egyptian Henbane	Hyoscyamus reticulatus						
	Primulaceae		187	Black Henbane	Hyoscyamus niger						

Plants Endemic species are marked with a ☆										
188	188 Black Nightshade Solanum nigrum Violaceae									
	Urticaceae 190 Field Pansy Viola arvensis									
189	Stinging Nettle	Urtica dioica								

Photo Gallery

























































































































































