

# Butterflies and Birds of North Greece 8-15 June 2019

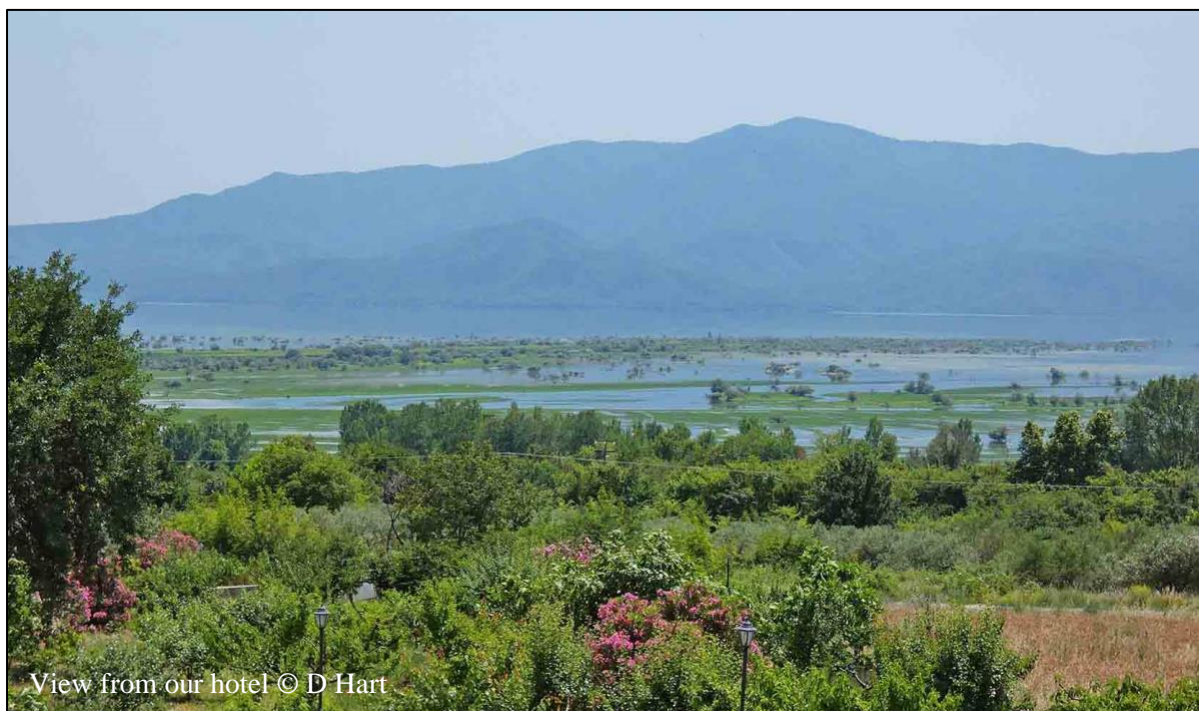


## Introduction

This early summer butterfly and bird holiday was based within Lake Kerkini National Park, one of the best areas in Europe for butterflies and birds, lying very close to the Bulgarian border. The Park has protected status under the Ramsar Convention and also is one of the best places in the world to see the globally endangered Dalmatian Pelican and an astonishing variety of other wetland birds. It is also home to around 140 butterfly species and a host of other wildlife. The main reason for this abundance is the richness in diverse habitats which include wetlands, flowery hillsides, alpine pastures and emerald green mountains covered in forests of beech, hornbeam, oak, black pine and oriental plane. It has been widely known for its avifauna since the beginning of the 20th century. To be sitting by the shores of the lake while being serenaded by the songs of Nightingales, Turtle Doves and Golden Orioles is a magical experience.

During our week, 96 butterfly species and 124 bird species were seen (or heard). The weather was rather warmer than is usual for this time of year, with temperatures peaking at 37 degrees Celsius on some days at lower altitudes, and never less than 22.5 degrees at higher altitudes. The week before had seen much lower temperatures and a fair bit of rain, but for our week, the only rain was a light shower on one particular day, and an early evening thunderstorm with hailstones the size of marbles on another.

The 12 guests joining us were Paul, Peter, Kerry, Sue, Hilary, Debbie, Charles, Eileen, Trish, Clive, Sally and Dean.



**Day 1.** 8 June. The flight from London to Thessaloniki was on time and soon we were en route to our base in the foothills of Mount Belles, with views of the lake.

**Stop 1.** After lunch at the hotel, we made an afternoon foray into the lower foothills of Belles near the pretty little town of Porroia. We stopped first at the roadside and explored a dirt track leading through a scrubby area with Christ's Thorn and thistles

and Bramble. The first butterflies to fly past were Lesser-spotted Fritillary, a beautiful orange and brown insect distinguishable by its dark wing borders enclosing little crescents, and its close relative, Spotted Fritillary, which is an even more vivid orange but with a much more broken pattern in the males. Cardinal Fritillary, the largest European fritillary species was also present. Clouded Yellows and Lattice Brown made appearances, as did a few Common and Holly Blues. Our main reason for the stop was because Jon had visited the area a month earlier and found plenty of Little Tiger Blues. It is one of the smallest European butterfly species and it took less than a few minutes to find it again, and in reasonable condition given that it had been on the wing for at least a month. It's foodplant is of course *Paliurus spina christi*, Christ Thorn.

**Stop 2.** We drove a little further up the road and parked at a spot of dappled light where some roadside puddling was going on. The butterflies here were mainly Nettle-Tree with a few others mixed in. This species thrives in this part of Greece and also over the border in Bulgaria because its foodplant, Nettle Tree is abundant here. A week earlier, there were reports of swarms of many thousands being seen. With large trees either side of the road, we were hopeful of finding Common Glider and indeed spotted something which appeared to have the correct appearance of such, but unfortunately it was flying too far away to be able to make a definite pronouncement. Shortly afterwards, Southern White Admiral was seen.



Little Tiger Blue © C Burrows



Southern White Admiral © C Cuthbert

**Stop 3.** We drove through the village of Porroia and parked at a point in the river where large stones allowed us to cross over. Lesser-spotted Fritillary was seen again and this time we were also treated to Large Tortoiseshell flying over, and around us, and another Southern White Admiral which perched up in one of the overhanging trees. With running water, it was no surprise to see a number of Beautiful Demoiselles dancing in the light.

**Stop 4.** We made a final stop at a wall in the village to see if we could find any Southern Comma. This butterfly is at the edge of its known range here in northern Greece according to the field guides, but sure enough, we found it at exactly the same spot as in 2018, alighting on a stone wall, with its larval hostplant Pellitory of

the Wall growing nearby. It was a good butterfly to record so early into the holiday and would prove to be the only individual of its kind that we would encounter.



**Day 2. 9 June. Stop 1.** Our first full day began at Mandraki harbour to take in views of Lake Kerkini and observe some of the wildlife at water level. Birds included Golden Orioles (seen and heard), many Squacco Herons, an elusive Purple Heron, a Little Bittern 'barking' in the deep reed cover, and, in the distance, Pygmy Cormorant and Dalmatian Pelican. Butterfly wise, both European and Scarce Swallowtail were seen, Small Copper, Nettle Tree butterfly, Clouded Yellow, Mallow Skipper (unsurprisingly buzzing around a mallow plant) and Common and Holly Blues.

**Stop 2.** We moved up to a large reservoir which provided plenty of interest. Dragonflies abound here, and species such as Emperor, Lesser Emperor, Black-tailed Skimmer, White-legged Damselfly, Broad-bodied Chaser, Common Blue Damselfly, Scarlet Darter were all seen. Butterfly interest was also good, particularly along the track leading up. Here we were able to watch Lattice and Meadow Browns and a few Large Tortoiseshells which were attracted to the small amount of moisture on the track. Wood White, Cardinals, Silver-washed and Spotted Fritillary were also seen. It turned out to be a bumper week for Cardinal, with the species appearing on most days, and in pretty good numbers.



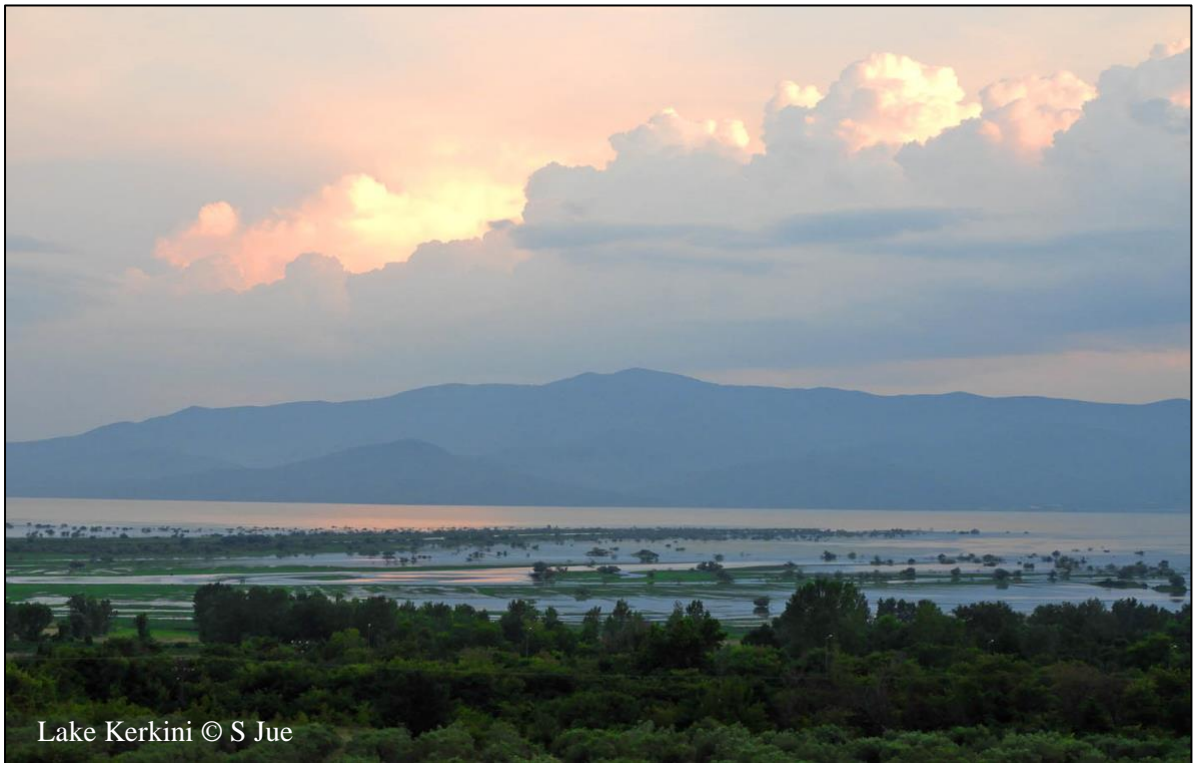
At the reservoir itself, a solitary Mazarine Blue was seen. Bird life was very interesting with Red-rumped and Barn Swallows flying over the water taking insects, a circling Black Stork overhead, and a Woodchat Shrike sitting atop one of the trees in the open. Some of the group explored a small meadow beyond the reservoir where Dean and Sally were shown the sexual dimorphism in Spotted Fritillaries. By now it was getting hot, and some of us had already returned to the vehicles parked in the shade. We ate our packed lunches here, and spent a little time watching a Large Tortoiseshell which alighted on one of the guests. Of added interest, two local people turned up with a basket full of some very colourful mushrooms which they'd collected in the mountains.

**Stop 3.** After lunch, we drove to the Black Kite hide on the western side of Lake Kerkini. Here we were treated to a two Black Kites and some Iolas Blues. We were astounded when we realised that the females of this species had thus far managed to avoid the very large spiders whose webs festooned the Iolas' larval hostplant, Bladder Senna. We were fortunate to see the species really, considering that they start emerging in May and were now well past peak flight season at low altitude.



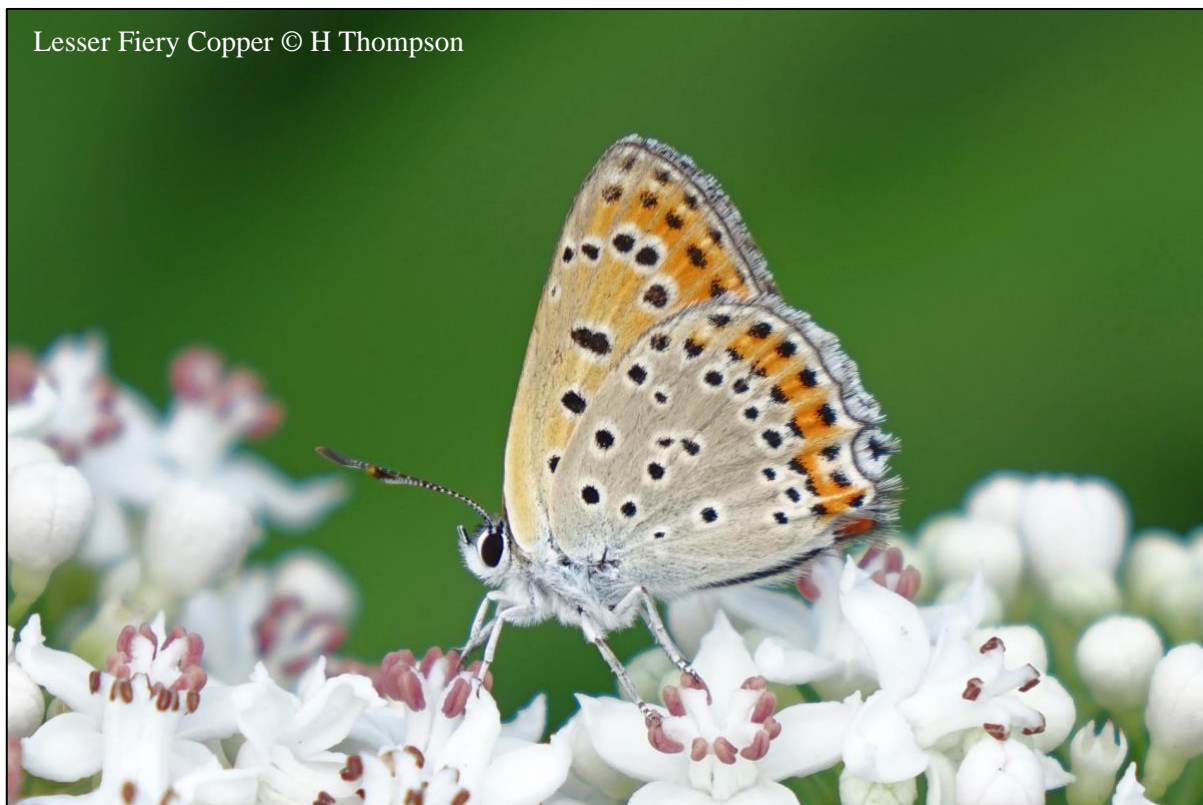
Iolas Blue female at foodplant © P Selby

**Stop 4.** We continued further along the road heading south beside the western shore of the lake and eventually took a track up through some pines which ended in a large parking area and chapel. Woodchat Shrike was seen here, along with Eastern Baton Blue, Little Tiger Blue, Berger's Clouded. Yellow (not often seen here), Large Tortoiseshell, Southern White Admiral, Small Blue, Common Blue and Meadow Brown. Other birds seen included another Black Stork, this time much lower and affording closer views, and Lesser Spotted Eagle. From there, we returned back to the hotel in time to freshen up for dinner and enjoy the wonderful view of the lake.



Lake Kerkini © S Jue

**Day 3. 10 June Stop 1.** Before setting off after breakfast, we had a good look at the Danewort flowering profusely on the roadside by the hotel where a number of Lesser Fiery Copper butterflies were admired together with Sooty and Small Coppers, and a few White-letter Hairstreaks.



Lesser Fiery Copper © H Thompson

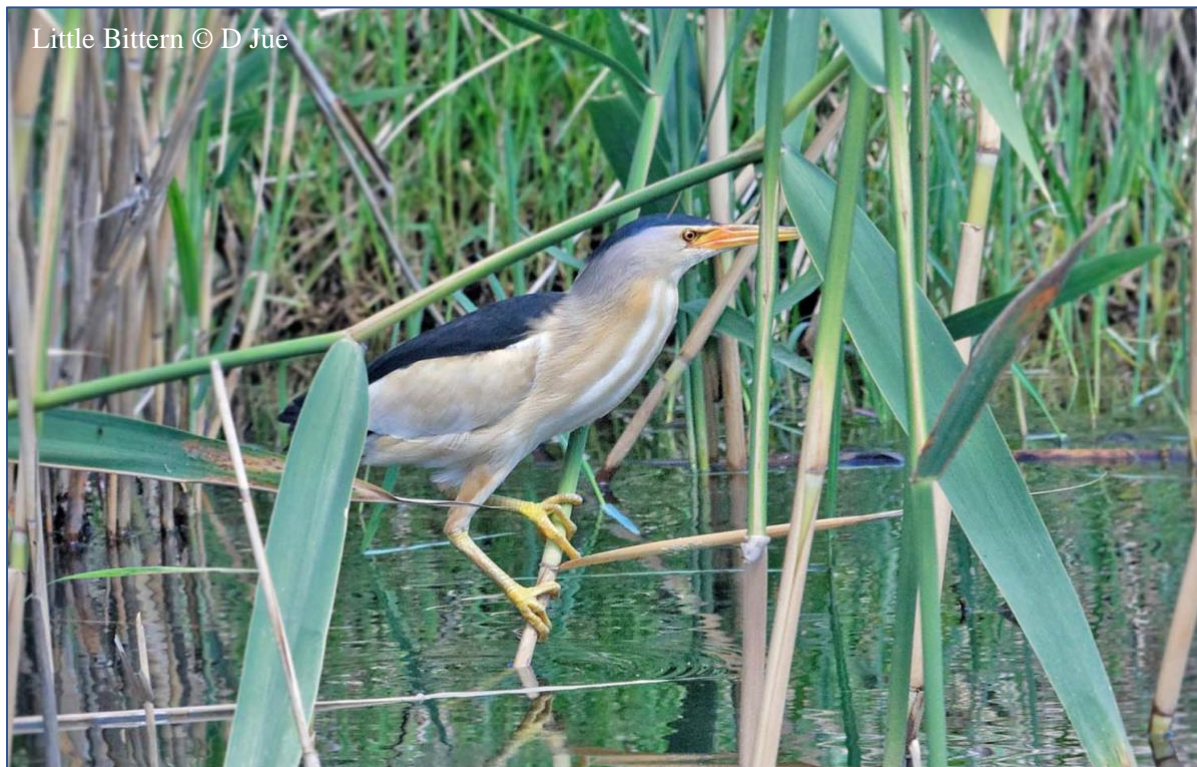
Peter identified a really interesting species of dragonfly, the Blade-tail, found here at the very edge of its global range and thus a rare treat. Clive ventured into a field left fallow and showed us a Wood White, as Sally and Dean homed in on Meadow Brown, a species which is absent in the US. Birdlife around the hotel was always good and this morning we had a good look at confiding Black-headed Bunting, Tree Sparrow, Corn Bunting and Red-rumped Swallows.

**Stop 2.** En route to collect some optics from our friend Nikos in Chrysohorafa, those at the front of the buses had a good view of a Little Owl perched in a tree in the local park.



Blade-tail © P Colston

**Stop 3.** We arrived at a channel beside Lake Kerkini and were soon watching our first of many Little Bitterns. This is one of the best places for the species in Europe, let alone Kerkini national Park. Views are usually close but quick, because the birds' nature is to fly away or simply skulk in the phragmites reeds. That said, some nice footage and photos were taken, and a few fortunate guests even saw a male bird briefly perching on top of a resting terrapin!



Little Bittern © D Jue

Hepatic morph Cuckoos were seen, along with the more usual grey ones. Their calls were ever present throughout the week. Two very vocal birds posing here were Great Reed Warbler and Reed Warbler. Both were heard singing from prominent positions in the reeds. Bee-eaters, Little Egrets and Grey Herons were seen and we were delighted to watch a small group of White Pelicans fly by in formation.

**Stop 4.** We drove up onto the Eastern Embankment, to have some coffee and take in a little more of the sights and sounds all around us. A kindly visiting Frenchman, Christoph, directed us towards a Penduline Tit nest. The birds were just beginning to create the entrance tunnel. While watching this rarely observed behaviour, we were treated to Little Bittern and Spoonbill flying close by.

**Stop 5.** Chaemarrhos. Our next stop was a quarry a few kilometers south of the lake. Eastern Subalpine Warblers were in full song here, and a Woodchat Shrike was seen, but generally this site was rather quiet. Paul, Debbie and Julian walked across the river to a small flowery meadow and found a few butterflies including Southern White Admiral but with afternoon temperatures soaring we decided to take a refreshment break before venturing out again.

**Stop 6.** At the taverna in Lithotopos we saw a few hirundines, a drake Goosander, and a solitary Common Buzzard. Sue ventured to the harbour and saw a large but harmless Whipsnake. The 'beast' reared up at her!

**Stop 7.** As we set off for our final location today at Vironia Quarry, we were treated to a rain shower. In truth, it probably did us all the world of good, such had the heat been earlier. It also provided something for the butterflies and we discovered many Lattice Brown on the ground beneath a white mulberry tree extracting minerals and fruit juice from some fallen berries; amongst them was a single Large Tortoiseshell.



Clouded Yellow © D Hart



Large Tortoiseshell © P Colston



Nettle Tree Butterfly © C Burrows



Great Banded Grayling © D Hart



In a small glade by the track leading up to the quarry, Silver-washed Fritillary, Great Banded Grayling Ilex Hairstreak and Meadow Browns were flitting around. Further up the track towards the quarry, Clouded Yellows and Nettle Tree butterflies fluttered past. Bath White is always a regular here and was seen egg-laying and on our way back down, we photographed a basking Large Tortoiseshell, which decided to fly around Hilary and briefly alight on her back. Bird life at the quarry included male and female Blue Rock Thrushes, Crag and House Martins, European Honey Buzzard and another singing Eastern Subalpine Warbler. We also found a tortoise shell, split asunder after being dropped from on high by a hungry Golden Eagle.

**Day 4.** 11 June. Boat trip with Nikos and a search for Tessellated Skipper.

**Stop 1.** We set off at 8.30 so that we could get to Kerkini Harbour and be out on the lake a little after 9am. Nikos and Dimitris our cheerful captains were waiting for us and we were soon gliding out onto the mirror-calm lake, passing Black-crowned Night and Grey Herons that were perched around the mouth of the harbour. It wasn't long before we began to see Dalmatian Pelicans, the species that this area is renowned for. Some of the group remarked on how large the birds were. Indeed, male Dalmatians are amongst the largest flying birds in the world. White-winged Black Terns and Whiskered Terns were spotted further off and a small raft of around half a dozen Black-necked Grebes were also seen paddling along on the glassy water. Through binoculars, we could see their golden ear tufts.



**Stop 2.** As we sailed on, thousands of Great Cormorants streamed by heading for the shallows, joined by a handful of Dalmatian Pelicans, all getting ready for a feeding frenzy. We watched for a while, before moving to the river channel where many Black-crowned, Grey and Squacco Herons were seen and, for one of the boats, a feeding Glossy Ibis that promptly vanished, frustratingly; the other boat,

meanwhile, were treated to a Marsh Harrier, so all wasn't lost! All the while, the calls of the water birds and Penduline Tits filled the air.

**Stop 3.** Into what remains of the drowned willow forest, we were soon observing nests of, amongst others, Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Spoonbill and Pygmy Cormorant. The odd white butterfly drifted by. In one of the Great Cormorant nests, Spanish Sparrows and Tree Sparrows had also taken up residence.



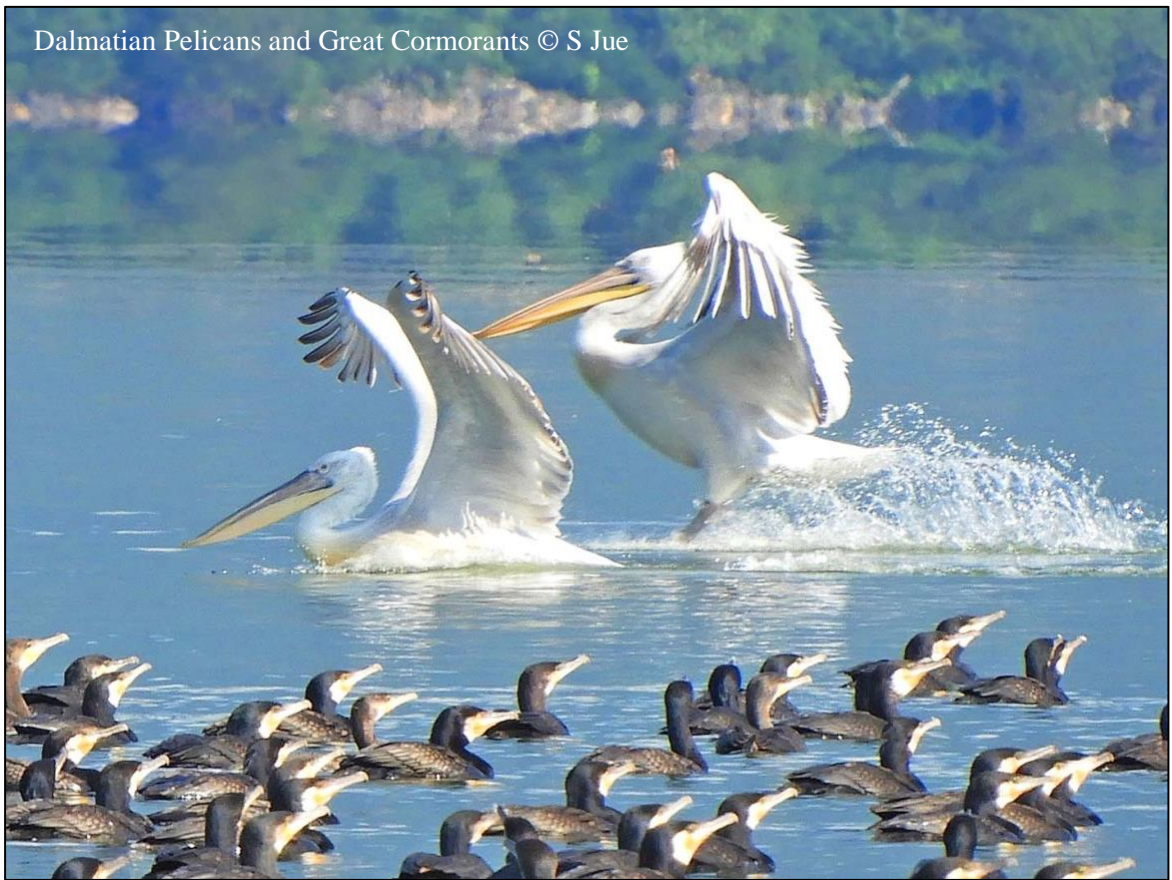
**Stop 4.** After a couple of hours on the water, having enjoyed the wonderful sights and sounds, we moved towards the pelican breeding platforms. We weren't allowed to approach too closely, but we all were able to appreciate the birds and how the man-made structures had succeeded in attracting them to breed here.

**Stop 5.** On our way back to Kerkini Harbour we had good views of about 20 Black Terns, and a solitary Whiskered Tern. At the harbour, we stopped for lunch. Both species were seen earlier but not by everyone so it was good to finally be able to have some good views.

After saying goodbye to Nikos and Dimitris, we took the opportunity to eat lunch in the shade, while enjoying the Tree Sparrows and Red-rumped Swallows which nest in the huts, and an obliging Scarce Swallowtail. Just as we set off, a herd of Water Buffalo turned up and were eagerly photographed.



Squacco Heron and Dalmatian Pelican © S Carter



Dalmatian Pelicans and Great Cormorants © S Jue

**Stop 6.** We ventured forth to a sensitive site for an afternoon in search of Tessellated Skipper, a species that is largely restricted to a small area in eastern Europe. The area we visited was a small wooded copse on a hillside, with open areas. In the shade it there was some respite from the heat. Fortunately, Clive soon found several of the skippers and we were able to photograph these. Also present were Balkan Marbled White, Great Banded Grayling, Lattice Brown, Small Skipper, Common Blue and Small Copper. Birds here included a tantalizingly brief Masked Shrike that Charles captured a photo of, and a flyover Short-toed Eagle. A quick taverna stop for refreshments was followed by a walk to watch Little Owl hiding in a tree hollow. Here, Paul heard and possibly saw, Wryneck.



Lattice Brown © C Burrows



Tessellated Skipper © D Jue

**Day 5. 12 June. Stop 1. Promachonas.**

We arrived at a good wood which straddles the Bulgaria/ Greece border, in search of Common Glider. Unfortunately, it wasn't seen but we were soon rewarded with both spring and summer brood Map butterflies in perfect condition. A possible Balkan Clouded Yellow found by Paul was the source of ongoing debate and research as the week wore on; Silver-washed, Eastern Knapweed, Lesser-spotted and Spotted Fritillaries were also seen along with Great Banded Grayling, Southern White Admiral, Silver-studded Blue (laying eggs on a Lucerne crop), Lattice Brown, Small Skipper, Eastern Bath White, Large White, Small White and Common Blue.

Bird-wise, Masked Shrikes were discovered nesting 20 feet up in a tree, and a drumming Black Woodpecker was heard. A few beautiful 9-spotted Moths were seen here too, with their distinctive orange and black colouration.



Spotted Fritillary © P Hall

**Stop 2.** Towards Achladochori, our guides put water on the roadside, which soon began to lure down some interesting species of butterflies including, Amanda's, Osiris, Small, Eastern Baton, Chapman's, Common, Adonis, and Anomalous Blues.

Nearby, we photographed several lovely *Himantoglossum jankae* orchids before moving on to explore some nearby flowery meadows which featured tall cardoon thistles. There were plenty of species on offer here. Lesser Fiery and Sooty Coppers, Cardinals, Lattice Brown (darting in and out of the trees which lined the meadow), Wood White, Yellow-banded Skipper, Clouded Yellow, Large Tortoiseshell, Southern White Admiral, Swallowtail, Scarce Swallowtail, Orbed Red Underwing Skipper, Southern Grayling and a possible Large Grizzled Skipper. Marbled Fritillaries were plentiful both here, and along the brambles at the edge.



The butterflies were still puddling. Lower down the road, where a small bridge crossed over the river, Beautiful and Banded Demoiselles were seen dancing in the dappled light and more Marbled Fritillaries were noted on bramble. The prize of Marbled White was also found while watching the Eastern Festoons which Trish had found. It was here that we discovered Paul had also found Marbled Skipper.

**Stop 3.** Our final stop of the day was a little further along towards Achladochori, where some roadside vetches produce little other than Sloe Hairstreak and some very interesting Sloe Emperor Moth larvae.

**Day 6. 13 June. Stop 1.** We set off at 8.30 for our furthest-flung destination of the holiday, the ski slope at 1800m elevation in the Vrontous mountains. We explored a small meadow north of the city of Serres for butterflies. The first Large Blue of the trip was seen by Paul, fluttering down the bank and quickly out of sight. Higher up, another was seen which settled on a flower. Silver-studded Blue were also seen in low numbers whereas Ilex Hairstreak were ubiquitous, as were the helice form of female Clouded Yellow.

**Stop 2.** Jon called an impromptu roadside stop at a higher elevation, having seen our first 'Cambie' fluttering above a large aggregation of puddling butterflies. These consisted mainly of Large Tortoiseshells, a few Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks, Comma and Nettle Tree butterflies. It was a sight to behold as we edged closer. The Camberwell Beauty remained a while, seldom settling but occasionally flying right beside the guests, captivating us with its beautiful black wings, cream petticoat and sheer size. Paul later discovered Large Wall Brown amongst the puddlers.



**Stop 3.** At 1600m amsl, and were soon enjoying coffee and biscuits before delving into the rather large meadow of the ski slope.

The interesting range of wild flowers here included speedwell, wild strawberry, star-of-Bethlehem, bugle and lady's bedstraw. These colourful plants all filled the air with delicious aromas and naturally attracted plenty of butterflies and moths. Clive soon found a male Balkan Copper and the group were able to draw close and observe. Soon a female was also seen laying eggs. Northern Wall Brown, Heath Fritillary, Woodland Ringlet, Large Grizzled Skipper, Orbed Red-underwing Skipper, Southern Grizzled Skipper were found along with Mazarine, Zephyr, Chapman's, Common, Adonis, Silver studded, and Amanda's Blues. We also had another 3 Camberwell Beauty sightings but again they were vastly outnumbered by the Large Tortoiseshells which seemed almost common. Blue Argus was present, but only one male was seen. In terms of birds, this site delivered our first Tree Pipits and Coal Tits.



**Stop 4.** We walked a small track after lunch and found Northern Wall Browns in good condition and a single Large Wall but alas no further Blue Arguses were seen. Woodland Ringlet, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, and dozens of Green Hairstreaks were present though, so it was a pleasant butterfly-filled walk. Crossbills were heard and seen at the roadside. A muddy puddle also attracted nest-building Red-rumped Swallows.



Red-rumped Swallows © P Colston

**Stop 5.** We returned to the ski slope and found more Northern Wall Browns, Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, Mazarine Blue, Heath Fritillary, Wall Brown and Pearly Heath. Julian, Peter and Kerry saw Mountain Small White and Geranium Argus, and Clive and Jon discovered a beautiful female Iolas Blue, here, right on the upper end of its known altitude limit.

**Stop 6.** Our final stop was a track and slope below the tree line. Some wonderful patches of *Viccia Dalmatica* attracted many blues including Eastern Baton, Amanda's, Silver-studded and False Eros. A single female Blue Argus was seen. Of note, we found ourselves in the middle of a mass influx of Painted Ladies with easily 3 butterflies passing us every second. After arriving back at Villa Belles, our hotel, Eileen, Trish and Charles visited the nearby, newly built nunnery. Here they enjoyed the welcoming nuns, and a number of good butterflies on the lavender, including a wonderful Scarce Swallowtail and Silver-washed Fritillary. Just as they left, a Lesser Spotted Eagle was seen flying overhead and photographed by Charles.



Mazarine Blue © C Burrows

Today's records brought the total number of butterfly species seen so far to 86.

**Day 7.** 14 June. Today we would visit the Vrontous again, but our approach would be from the west. Skies were bright blue and soon we were winging our way to the mountains, passing a beautiful Roller, seen by Dean sitting in the front vehicle.

**Stop 1.** Our first butterflies were unsurprisingly Nettle Tree butterflies. There were still lots flying but the vast swarms had turned into just a trickle now. Painted Lady continued to show evidence of mass migration, with dozens flying by as we ascended the track, all heading north-west. Before we began to climb, however, a brief stop was made to admire another colony of *Himantoglossum jankae* orchids – these numbering some 50 flowering plants, one of which was a metre high!





This stop also delivered Southern White Admiral, and fortunately, another chance for False Eros Blue. Large Tortoiseshells continued to grace show, often flying right beside us. A surprise was to find Marbled White here at only 400 metres elevation. It's close relative, Balkan Marbled White was flying with it. The latter looks much creamier in colour here and the Marbled White much darker. Graylings included Delattin's and Great Banded. Comma, Red Admiral, Eastern Batn Blue and more beautiful Cardinals were also seen, giving Trish happily the chance to photograph the them as they posed on the Cardoon thistles.



False Eros Blue © C Burrows

**Stop 2.** A little higher at around 800 metres we stopped again, hoping for Large Blue. We didn't see it there but Idas Blue did appear along with Silver-studded, Chapman's and a few more Large Torts. Queen of Spain was fairly common, and Green Hairstreaks soon turned up. This latter species was an indication that things were still a little behind, seasonally speaking.

We had juice or coffee while enjoying the sights and scents and the sound of singing birds. A Heath Fritillary fluttered around us, probably seeking human nectar (sweat!).

**Stop 3.** By a woodsman's hut, we parked the buses and walked a few hundred metres, hoping for more species. A fair amount of puddling was taking place, and we were graced with more Camberwell Beauties. The creature is sometimes quite inquisitive and this first individual certainly took a liking to us, flying around, above and back to us. This one had a very definite personality.



Heath Fritillary © C Burrows

**Stop 4.** We arrived at some nice wet areas and carefully identified the species on offer. These consisted mainly of Nettle Tree butterflies but mixed in were a few Large Torts and Holly Blues. At the next bend in the road, a Large Blue and another Amanda's were seen, along with Brimstone, Wood White, and Green-veined White. Paul found a female Orange Tip. It wasn't the much hoped for Eastern Dappled White, but it was a new species for the holiday, and again an indication of how late the season was, for it is essentially a spring butterfly. Whilst this was going on, Sue got very close to a gorgeous Scarce Swallowtail imbibing thistle nectar.

Eventually we retraced our way back down to the vans and ate lunch. Red-rumped Swallows had constructed a nest on the ceiling of the hut, and this structure clearly displayed the cleverly constructed entrance tunnel.

A shout of Purple-shot Copper went up and had everybody dropping lunch and scrambling for cameras. This was a bright male, as fresh as a daisy. After lunch we ascended to 1,150 metres and enjoyed more puddling before heading off again, a descent interrupted only by a Berger's Clouded Yellow at the trackside.



**Stop 4.** We arrived on a mountain track only a short distance from the border with Bulgaria. In fact, it's even closer than that for the road actually *is* the border in places, so at times we were half in Bulgaria and half in Greece.

Our first insects were Wood White and Large Tortoiseshell. At the top of the road, we found another couple of male Purple-shot Coppers, more Green Hairstreaks and a fly-by Clouded Apollo. The decision to come here was vindicated, for Purple-shot are truly lovely butterflies. Clive was diligent and rewarded with more Clouded Apollos, Mazarine Blue and High Brown Fritillary. He stayed put while the rest of the group joined him and soon most of us were clicking away with lenses pointing at a pairing of Clouded Apollo.

By 4.30 pm, heavy clouds appeared and began emptying their loads accompanied by the crack of thunder and flashes of lightning. This was the first rain of any consequence for the entire holiday. It was also time to return to our hotel, so we wound back down the mountain in time to freshen up before dinner.

An impressive 95 species of butterflies and 120+ species of birds were seen. This is another very impressive butterfly tally, and possibly could have beaten last year's record, had a few more of the species which were spotted been recorded by more than one person. Of note, were the vast numbers of Large Tortoiseshells, Nettle-Tree Butterflies, Tessellated Skipper and of course the specialties such as Balkan Copper and Clouded Apollo.

Greenwings would like to thank all guests for their good humour and patience throughout the holiday, especially given the somewhat higher than anticipated temperatures.



Species list and photo gallery overleaf

## Lepidoptera checklist, North Greece, 8-15 June 2019

Key: (?) were almost certainly seen but ongoing discussions have not been able to substantiate these sightings. They are not included in the final trip tally.

t= target species; n = new for the trip

	<b>Butterflies</b>		8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>
	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Scientific</b>							
	<b>Hesperiidae - Skippers</b>								
1	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>							
2	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>							
3	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>							
4	Southern Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>							
5	Marbled Skipper (t)	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>							
6	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>							
7	Orbed Red Underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>							
8	Olive Skipper	<i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>	?						
9	Yellow Banded Skipper	<i>Pyrgus sidae</i>							
10	Large Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>							
11	Tessellated Skipper (t)	<i>Pyrgus tessellum</i>							
	<b>Papilionidae - Swallowtails, Festoons and Apollos</b>								
12	Clouded Apollo (t)	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>							
13	Eastern Festoon (t)	<i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>							
14	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon gorganus</i>							
15	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>							
	<b>Pieridae - Whites and Yellows</b>								
16	Eastern Wood White	<i>Leptidea duponcheli</i>							
17	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>							
18	Clouded Yellow (+h= Helice female)	<i>Colias crocea</i>			+h		+h		+h
19	Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias hyale</i>							
20	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfaciensis</i>							
21	Balkan Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias caucasica</i>					?		
22	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>							
23	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>							
24	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>							
25	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>							
26	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>							
27	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>							
28	Mountain Small White	<i>Pieris ergane</i>							
29	Southern Small White	<i>Pieris mannii</i>							
30	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>							
31	Kruper's Small White (t)	<i>Periris krueperi</i>							
32	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>							
	<b>Lycaenidae - Hairstreaks</b>								
33	Green hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>							
34	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>							
35	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>							
36	White-letter Hairstreak								
	<b>Lycaenidae - Coppers</b>								
37	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>							
38	Purple Shot Copper (t)	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>							
39	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>							
40	Lesser Fiery Copper (t)	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>							
41	Balkan Copper (t)	<i>Lycaena candens</i>							
	<b>Lycaenidae - Blues</b>								
42	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>							

	Common name	Scientific	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th
43	Little Tiger Blue (t)	<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
44	Holly Blue	<i>Celestrina argiolus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
46	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓			✓	✓	
47	Osiris Blue (t)	<i>Cupido osiris</i>					✓	✓	✓
48	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>					✓	✓	✓
49	Zephyr Blue (t)	<i>Plebejus sephirus</i>						✓	
50	Idas Blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>							✓
51	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Blue Argus	<i>Aricia anteros</i>						✓	
53	Geranium Argus (n)	<i>Aricia eumedon</i>						✓	
54	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>		✓				✓	✓
55	Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
56	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	False Eros Blue (t)	<i>Polyommatus eroides</i>						✓	✓
58	Amanda's Blue (t)	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>					✓	✓	
59	Anomalous Blue	<i>Polyommatus admetus</i>					✓		
60	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>					✓	✓	✓
61	Iolas Blue (t)	<i>Iolana iolas</i>		✓				✓	
62	Large Blue (t)	<i>Phengaris arion</i>						✓	✓
	<b>Nymphalidae - Aristocrats</b>								
63	Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>					✓		
64	Nettle-tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Southern Comma (t)	<i>Polygonia l-album</i>	✓						
70	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>						✓	✓
72	Large Tortoiseshell (t)	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Camberwell Beauty (t)	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>						✓	✓
74	Eastern Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea telona</i>					✓	✓	✓
75	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		
76	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>						✓	✓
78	High Brown Fritillary	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>							✓
79	Cardinal (t)	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
81	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
83	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>						✓	
	<b>Nymphalidae - Browns, Heaths, Ringlets</b>								
84	Lattice Brown	<i>Kirinia roxelana</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
85	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>				✓	✓	✓	
86	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>						✓	
87	Northern Wall Brown (t)	<i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>						✓	
88	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>						✓	
89	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
90	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
91	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>						✓	
92	Balkan Marbled White	<i>Melanargia larissa</i>				✓	✓		✓
93	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>					✓		✓
94	Balkan/Southern Grayling	<i>Hipparchia senthes</i>					✓		✓

	Common name	Scientific	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>
95	Delattin's Grayling								
96	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>							
97	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>							
98	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>							
Notable Moths			8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>
	<b>Common</b>	<b>Scientific</b>							
1	Forester	<i>Adscita sp.</i>							
2	6 Spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipenulae</i>							
3	Transparent Burnet	<i>Zygaena purpuralis</i>							
4	Nine-spotted	<i>Amata phegea</i>							
5	Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>							
6	Spurge Hawk-moth larva	<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>							
7	Wood Tiger	<i>Parasemia plantaginis</i>							
8	Sloe Emperor larva	<i>Saturnia spini</i>							
9	Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>							
10	Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>							
11	Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>							
12	Small Yellow Underwing	<i>Panemeria tenebrata</i>							
13	Common Wave	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>							
14	Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>							
15	Bee Hawk sp.	<i>Hemaris tityus/fuciformis</i>							
16	Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>							
	<b>Dragonflies</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Comments</b>						
1	Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	Lake and reservoir above Platanos						
2	Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	Reservoir above Platano						
3	Small Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>	Reservoir above Platanos and Lake						
4	Bladetail	<i>Lindenia tetraphylla</i>	Rare-2 separate females photographed						
5	Balkan Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster heros</i>							
6	Sombre Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster bidentata</i>							
7	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	Lake and reservoir						
8	Scarce Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>	Reservoir and lake						
9	Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	Reservoir and lake						
10	White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>	Reservoir and lake						
11	Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>	Reservoir and lake						
12	Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>	lake						
13	Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	lake						
14	Yellow-winged Darter	<i>Sympetrum flaveolum</i>	fields						
15	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	Reservoir and lake						
16	Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	Reservoir and lake						
	<b>Damselflies</b>								
1	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>							
2	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>							
3	White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>							
4	Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>							
	<b>Other invertebrates</b>								
1	Thread-winged Lacewing	<i>Nemoptera bipennis</i>							
2	Mantis	<i>Empusa fasciata</i>							
3	Egyptian Locust	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>							
	<b>Herpetofauna</b>								
1	Herman's Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>							
2	Black Whip Snake	<i>Dolichophis jugularis</i>							
3	Slowworm	<i>Anguilla fragilis</i>							
4	Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>							
5	Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>							
6	Stripe-necked Terrapin	<i>Mauremys caspica</i>							

7	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>
8	Aesculapian Snake	<i>Zamenis longissimus</i>
9	Stream Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>
10	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana graeca</i>

Birds checklist, north Greece, 8-15 June 2019									
Key: s = scarce; d = difficult to see or find. ✓ = seen ♪ = heard									
	Common name	Scientific	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>							
2	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>							
3	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> (s)							
4	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>							
5	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>							
6	White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>							
7	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>							
8	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> (d)		✓♪					
9	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>							
10	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>							
11	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i> (s)							
12	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>							
13	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i> (s)							
14	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>							
15	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i> (d)							
16	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>							
17	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>							
18	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>							
19	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>							
20	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>							
21	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i> (s)							
22	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>							
23	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>							
24	Gadwall	<i>Anas querquedula</i>							
25	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i> (s)							
26	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>							
27	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i> (s)							
28	European Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>							
29	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>							
30	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>							
31	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i> (s)							
32	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>							
33	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>							
34	Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennata</i>							
35	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>							
36	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>							
37	Rock Partridge	<i>Alectoris graeca</i> (d)							

	Common name	Scientific	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th
38	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓				
39	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓	✓			
40	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓			
41	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
42	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		✓		✓			
43	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓			
44	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>				✓			
45	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				✓			
46	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>			✓		✓		
47	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			✓				
48	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	♪	✓	✓	✓	♪		✓
50	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓♪	✓	✓	✓♪	✓	✓♪
51	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i> (d)				♪	♪	✓♪	
52	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	
53	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
54	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓						
55	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		✓♪	✓♪	✓			
56	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulous</i> (d)					✓	✓	✓
57	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓♪	✓♪	✓	✓	✓	✓	♪
58	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i> (s)					♪		
59	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			✓	♪	✓		
60	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i> (d)					♪		
61	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
62	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>					♪	✓	
63	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			✓			✓	✓
65	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			✓				
66	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓		✓				✓
67	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			✓			✓	
68	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i> (s)						✓♪	♪
72	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓						
73	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	
74	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i> (d)						♪	♪
75	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓♪	✓	✓	✓♪	✓	✓	✓
76	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> (s)			✓				
77	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>						✓	
78	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i> (s)			✓				
79	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓♪	✓	✓	✓		✓
80	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	♪		✓		✓		
81	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i> (s)						✓♪	



	Common name	Scientific	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th
82	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		♪					
83	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> (s)	♪	✓	✓	✓			
84	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		✓	✓	✓			
85	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>		✓♪	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>						?	
87	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓
88	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>			✓				
89	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	♪	♪			✓	✓♪	✓
91	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>						♪	✓
92	Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>					✓		
93	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i> (d)						♪	
94	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					✓	✓	
95	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>			✓	✓		✓	
96	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓				✓
97	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>						✓	
98	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>							✓
99	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>							✓
100	Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>			nest				
101	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> (d)						✓	
102	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>		✓	nest	✓			
103	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓♪	✓	♪	♪	✓	♪
104	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
105	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>				✓	✓		
106	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
108	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓				✓		✓
109	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			✓		✓	♪	♪
111	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
112	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
113	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
114	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				♪	✓	✓	✓
116	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>			✓♪			✓	✓
117	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
118	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>						✓	
119	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>						✓♪	
120	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>						✓	✓
121	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> (d)			✓		✓		✓
122	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			✓♪	✓♪	✓	✓	✓
123	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	✓♪	✓♪	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	♪	✓♪	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Photo Gallery





Marbled Fritillary © C Burrows



Queen of Spain © C Burrows



Spotted Fritillary © C Burrows



Iolas Blue female © C Burrows



Berger's Clouded Yellow © C Burrows

Sooty Copper female © P Selby



Map Butterfly © K Harrison



Scarce Swallowtail © K Harrison



European Honey Buzzard © P Colston



Balkan Goldenring © K Harrison









Small Pincertail © P Colston



Ilex Hairstreak © C Burrows



Spotted Fritillary © D Jue



Green Hairstreak © D Jue





Black Stork © C Cuthbert



Brimstone © P Hall



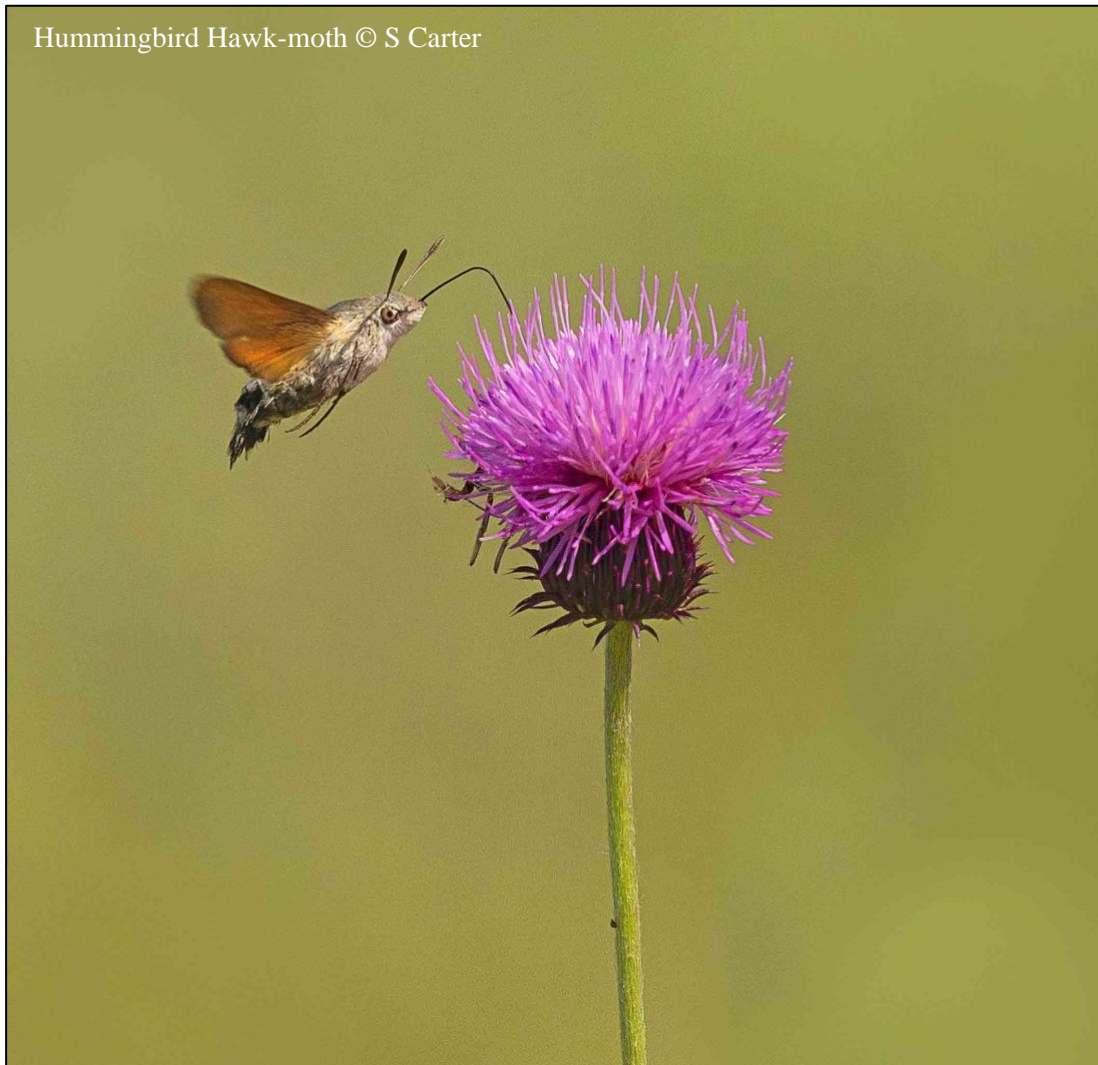
Meadow Browns © D Jue



Watching Tesselated Skipper © S Jue



Paper Wasps and nest © H Thompson



Water Buffalo © D Hart



Reed © H Thompson

Green-veined White © P Selby



Lang's Short-tailed Blue © S Carter



Clouded Yellow 'helice' © K Harrison



Lesser-spotted Woodpecker © P Colston



Little Bittern © C Cuthbert

