

Butterflies & Birds of North Greece 2015

Holiday Report 6 - 13 June 2015



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Introduction

Our holiday was based within Lake Kerkini National Park, one of the best areas in Europe for bird and butterfly watching. It 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. The Park boasts around 130 butterfly species, over 300 bird 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. Our aim therefore was to spend a relaxing week exploring the area for butterflies, birds and other wildlife in the hope of seeing around 80-100 butterfly species and a similar number of birds. We stayed in a small village called Chrysohorafa. The guests joining us were Lou and Bob, Chris and Jackie, Cathy and Rowan, Pat and Gavin, Helen, Marilyn, Jenny and Cynthia. Steve Mills and Hilary Koll (whose charity Birdwing, Greenwings supports) led the birdwatching while Julian Dowding guided on the butterflies.

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

Day 1, Saturday 6th June: Arrival in Thessaloniki and transfer to hotel.

Day 2, Sunday 7th June: Lake Kerkini and hillside.

Day 3, Monday 8th June: Western shores and quarry.

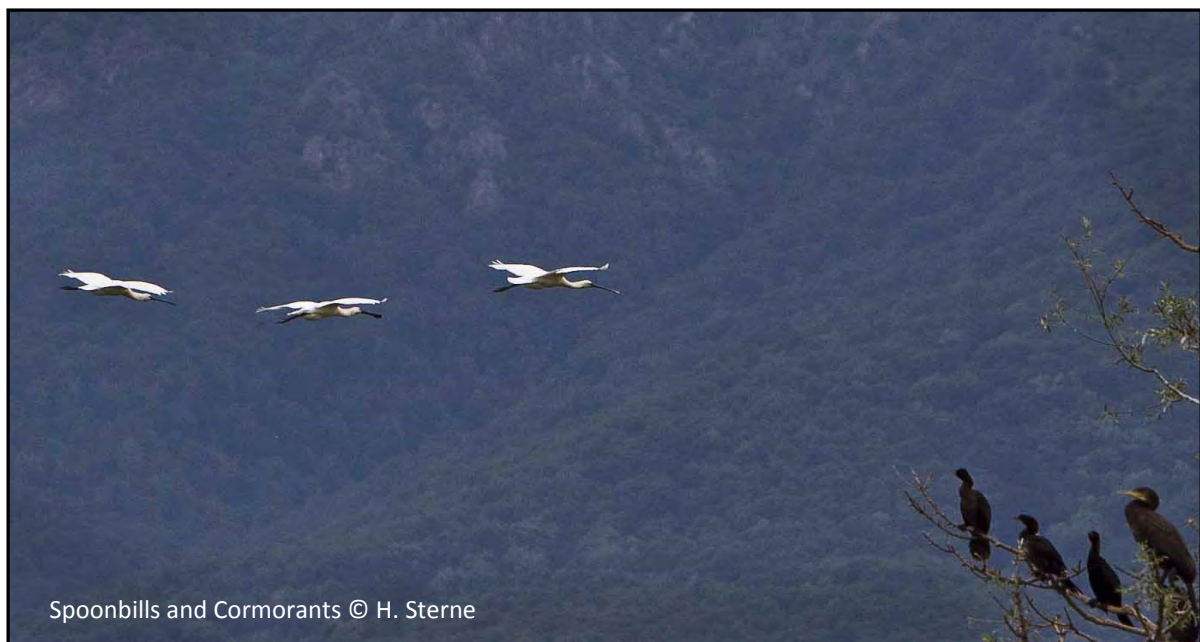
Day 4, Tuesday 9th June: Mt. Orvilos.

Day 5, Wednesday 10th June: Boat trip on the lake and Mt. Belles.

Day 6, Thursday 11th June: Undisclosed trail.

Day 7, Friday 12th June: Vrontous mountains.

Day 8, Saturday 13th June: Return to UK.



Spoonbills and Cormorants © H. Sterne

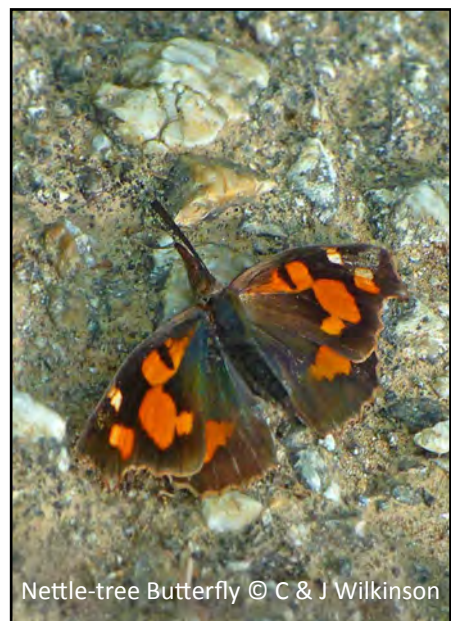
Day 1, Saturday 6th June: Arrival at Thessaloniki airport, and transfer to hotel.

We arrived at the airport in two groups on Saturday, the first around lunchtime and the second late evening. This meant the first guests would have the afternoon exploring and the second group would have an extra morning on the last day. After settling in and being introduced to the hotelier Nikos, and having lunch, we set out for a leisurely afternoon's butterfly and birdwatching around Vironia, north of Lake Kerkini.



Stop 1. En route to our first stop, we saw White Storks, Grey Herons and Common Buzzard flying over. This was the first taste of some of the avian delights which were to be with us throughout the week. At a rather ordinary looking roadside just before Vironia, we stopped to see Nettle Tree Butterflies puddling on the mud. They were the first of a massive emergence in the mountains, and this forward party was beginning to disperse. Helen found Lang's Short-tailed Blue too, and it was also puddling. There were several Holly Blues and lots of dragonflies. Ed, our birding guide, was quick to point out the birds seen or heard here which included Cetti's Warbler, Cuckoo, Great Reed Warbler and Nightingale.

Stop 2. We continued our way on to a small church and a quarry, passing a Cleopatra on the way up, and then made





another roadside stop to see the spectacle this time of 100's of Nettle Tree Butterflies puddling. Other butterflies seen were Clouded Yellows, which fluttered past and never really stopped, Small Copper (which Chris found), Wall, Ilex Hairstreak (nectaring on Christ's Thorn and Bramble), and a Meadow Brown which Gavin pointed out. We also saw Rose Chafer Beetles, a wonderful emerald green insect measuring 3/4 inch in length, feeding off the Clematis flowers.

The scrub alongside the road made it difficult to view the local avian population, but Nightingale song poured forth aplenty. Ed pointed out the songs of Black-eared Wheatear and Black-headed Bunting too before both species flew. Reptile-wise, a Spur-thighed Tortoise was seen nonchalantly walking up the road. We also had our first sighting of the curious looking Threaded Lacewing.

Stop 3. We continued to the church, and found our first Silver-washed Fritillaries along with more Ilex Hairstreak, Holly Blue and Meadow Brown. Some of us had a brief sighting of a male Golden Oriole, a flash of yellow and black which flew off over the quarry and disappeared into some trees. Dinner that evening was taken at a local restaurant, where we were joined by Nikos and his little boy, George.



Day 2, Sunday 7th June: Lake Kerkini and hillside.

With the arrival of Steve and Hilary, we were able to spend the next two days concentrating on birding along the shores of the lake and in the foothills of the surrounding mountains.

Stop 1. After breakfast, we set off and arrived at Mandraki Harbour about 30 minutes later. Steve and Hilary gathered everyone together around the information board sited at the harbour. Here, they pointed out the geography of the area, with Mt. Belles to the north, its ridge-line being the border with Bulgaria and to the northwest, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



They also spoke about the lake and its uses, and how it affects the birds and other wildlife. Steve pointed out that many of the reed-beds and water meadows have disappeared due to fluctuating water levels. These days, the lake now dries out in Summer and you can walk for kilometres over dry ground which a few months earlier had been submerged. These issues have caused problems for the marsh Terns, Squacco Herons and Black-necked Grebes, as these birds all used to nest on the lily pads which have subsequently disappeared. On a more positive note, the deeper areas are now good for Cormorants, Pygmy Cormorants and also for the Dalmatian Pelicans which nest in the middle of the lake on platforms. The endangered Dalmatian Pelican had suffered globally due to disturbance and competition mainly from fishermen, but the measures taken at Lake Kerkini have witnessed an increase in numbers. The lake is also an important staging post in winter for

Lesser White-fronted Geese which are also threatened. The local population, which numbered only 53 birds last year, spends a month apiece in November and February on the lake.

After the chat, we began looking at the birds. All manner of birds songs and calls filled the air. Our first close sightings were of Squacco Herons in the shallows. These beautiful creamy white birds with blue dagger-like bills were fishing right beside the jetty. A Grey Heron was among them and two pairs of Great Crested Grebes had built their nests in the shallows. Black Kites were also seen, one of which was observed carrying a stick (back to its nest presumably), and another stooping in and catching - and then dropping - a small bird. With telescopes fixed, we were able to see the Tern rafts which Steve and Hilary's charity BirdWING had helped with, and the Pelican platforms in the distance.



Squacco Heron © R & C Scholes



Black Kite © C & J Wilkinson

Great Reed Warblers were seen and heard, their energetic song belting out from the reeds - a series of rattles, chattering and wheezes. Another very vocal bird was Cetti's Warbler, its song literally exploding from the reeds. Cuckoos were also heard and one was seen, flying over the harbour and perching in one of the large Willows there. Steve mentioned how the Cuckoos predate the Great Reed Warblers here. Hilary pointed out a small squadron of White Pelicans and mentioned

how they fly 150 miles to Lake Prespa and back each day to Lake Kerkini, using the latter as a feeding area. Other birds seen at the harbour included a scoop of three Dalmatians along with Black-crowned Night Heron and from the Poplars, the melodious fluting song of a Golden Oriole added colour to the chorus.

Gavin and Pat focused their scope on a Common Tern raft and waited patiently for activity. The terns were bringing fish back to their chicks but these were difficult to see in amongst the vegetation and pebbles, although Julian managed a brief glimpse of one using their scope.

Butterflies seen included Holly and Common Blue, Small and Large Whites and Lesser Spotted Fritillary, the latter found by Hilary. The star of the butterfly show though, was Freyer's Purple Emperor, announced first by Marilyn's exclamation, "What's that Julian?" Soon everybody saw it and ultimately three of these colourful butterflies were seen flying around the Willows. One or two of them even came to the ground to feast on the fallen mulberries.



Freyer's Purple Emperor © M Peterkin



Lesser Spotted Fritillary © C & J Wilkinson

Dragonflies were very interesting too with Red-veined Darter, Broad Scarlet and Broad bodied Chaser being seen.

Stop 2. We moved off to a small village for refreshments under a huge plane tree. These distinctive trees only grow where there is copious water all year round. Cirl Bunting, Turtle Dove and Wren provided the background soundtrack. A couple of corvids, namely Jay and Raven, flew



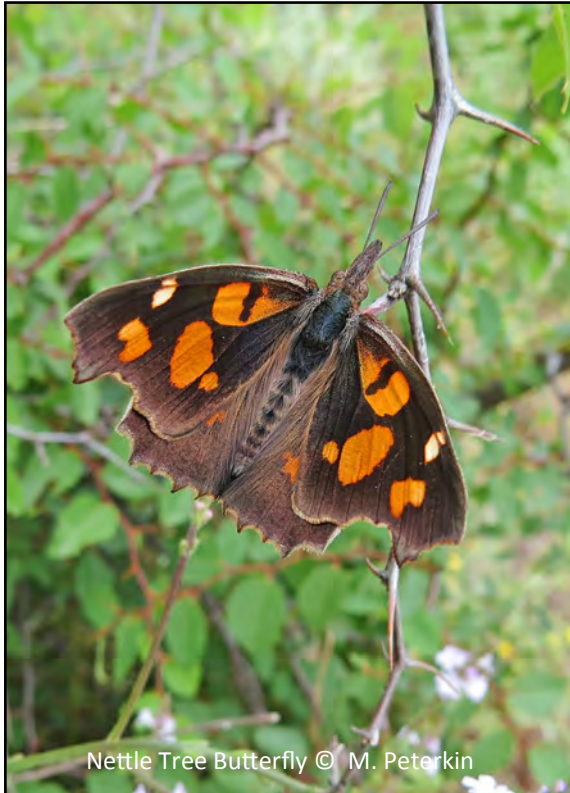
Refreshments at Platanos © R & C Scholes

over. Steve scanned the ridge expectantly for Golden Eagle. He explained that the local youths are not interested in the old ways, namely shepherding, which has resulted in less open areas for feeding and carrion. Subsequently, in these parts Golden Eagles feed exclusively on tortoises in summer, dropping them from a great height to crack their shells. During refreshments, Julian went off and found thousands of spent pupal cases of Nettle Tree Butterflies on their host plant, *Celtis australis*. We also watched this species taking salts from the taverna walls. Other butterflies here included Bath White and Spotted Fritillary.

Stop 3. After refreshments, it was a short drive to Vironia quarry. Some lovely birds were seen including Masked Shrike, Red-rumped Swallow, House Martin, Black-eared Wheatear and Black-headed and Cirl Buntings. Nightingales sang from all around. Sadly, there was no sign of the Rock Nuthatches, but their distinctive mud nest



was evidence of breeding. Bob latched onto a pair of Golden Eagles, which gave us a wonderful view when they settled on the cliffs to perch. Other raptors seen included Peregrine and Common Buzzard. As we were leaving, a beautiful Spurge Hawk moth caterpillar was found and photographed. Eagle-eyed Bob also spotted a perched Sparrowhawk on the roadside.



Butterfly-wise, Rowan spotted Southern White Admiral. Also seen were Nettle Tree butterflies (in

their thousands, forming great clouds as they flew up from the damp ground), Painted Lady, Large Tortoiseshell, Clouded Yellow, scores of Ilex Hairstreaks (found by Cathy nectaring on the plentiful small white flowers of *Teucrium polium*) Chapman's Blues, Wood White, Bath White and Peacock.

As we finished and moved down to a nearby church for our picnic, accompanied by a friendly dog that was well fed by the group, three Krueper's Small Whites were seen. This attractive and rare butterfly is found only in this region of the Balkans and usually in very low numbers. Six Silver-washed Fritillaries - including a greenish female of the form *Valezina* spotted by Rowan and Cathy - were also seen supping nectar from the abundant flowers of Christ's Thorn.



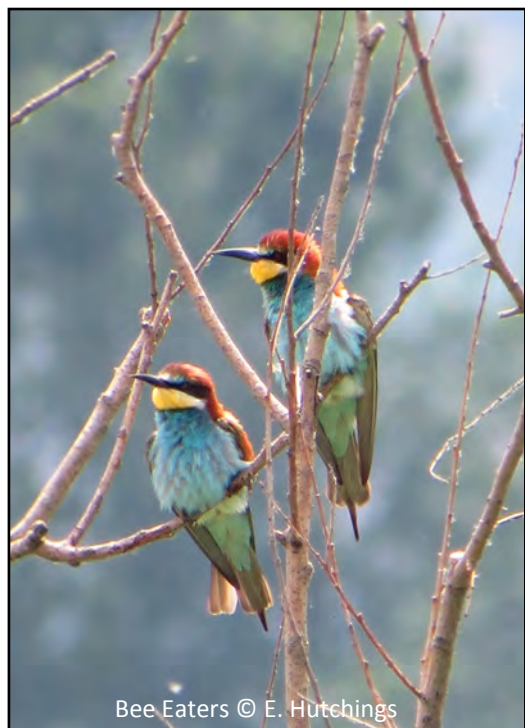
Krueper's Small White © J. Dowding

Stop 4. We moved on after lunch to a small strip of land by the Strymonas River where a herd of water buffalo provided a bucolic riparian scene. Here we saw Hoopoe, Glossy Ibis, Bee-eater, Grey and Squacco Herons, Little Egret, Little Bittern, Yellow Wagtail, Cuckoo, Turtle Dove, Pygmy Cormorant and Olivaceous Warbler. Skulking Nightingales and Golden Orioles sang from the waterside greenery. Black Kite and Hooded Crow patrolled the riverbank. A large cast of Eleonora's Falcon flew over as we were leaving.

Butterflies along the strip included Small Heath, Chapman's and Common Blues and Bath White. They



Distant Water Buffalo © E Hutchings



Bee Eaters © E. Hutchings

were nearly all nectaring on bramble flowers. An obliging Nightingale was seen by Marilyn, Helen, Julian and Jenny. Temperatures were high but a little cloud kept the walk comfortable.

In the evening, we dined in Vironia, indulging in a selection of delicious Greek salad, cheese and

kebabs, washed down with local wine and beer. A train, daubed with colourful graffiti, stopped halfway through dinner, providing an interesting interlude for the diners.

Day 3, Mon 8th June: Marshes and the western shores of Lake Kerkini.

This was our last day with Steve and Hilary but by 9 am, rain was coming down, so we waited for ten minutes until the skies began clearing then drove towards the western shores of the lake.



Stop 1. Our first stop was made by the Korifouri marshes. Upon leaving the vehicles, we could see a couple of Spoonbills and Glossy Ibis, three Pygmy Cormorants, Little Egret, Squacco Herons, Little Grebe and Grey Heron. In the background as ever, the songs of Nightingales, Turtle Doves and Golden Orioles could be heard. The rains had now cleared leaving the lake on the other side of the road, beautifully still, a palette of blues and greys splashed with the yellow Water Lilies all painting the scene with pastel tones. Out on the lake, three Dalmatian Pelicans floated into this dream but eventually moved further out onto the lake. A gull was deemed Black-Headed, rather than Slender billed. So as not to be forgotten by the other performers, Great Reed Warblers and Spanish Sparrows added their songs to the symphony. Three Common Buzzards were seen overhead, and another perched on a telegraph pole. Butterflies here included lots of Small Whites, Common Blues and Holly Blues. A number of Dragonflies were identified including Blue-tailed Damselfly and Scarce Chaser.

Stop 2. We moved on to a track where there was a good chance of seeing Penduline Tits. Hilary soon found the birds by locating a nest with the dome already added to the structure, indicating that the nest was occupied (males build several nests and when the female has chosen one, he

adds the entrance dome). The nest was slung under some dangling willow twigs, just a few feet above the surface of a small river and the birds were busy coming and going. We kept a respectful distance but even so, managed to take a few photos.



Marbled Fritillary © H Sterne

Butterflies here included Clouded Yellow, Large Skipper, Comma, Spotted Fritillary, Mallow Skipper, and Marbled Fritillary.

Upon returning to the vehicles, Chris and Jackie spotted a male Golden Oriole in a large Poplar and set their scope on it. Soon, most of us saw the male as he appeared in the tree displaying his gorgeous yellow and black livery. Steve remarked that this was as good a view as we were likely to get, as the birds are very secretive. We watched as it moved off carrying a faecal sac, indicating that the birds were actually nesting in the Poplar. Ed also picked up a hat trick of eagles with Booted, Lesser-Spotted and Short-toed all seen well by the group against the backdrop of hills.

Stop 3. After the morning's intensity, we moved to a taverna near Kerkini for refreshments and a short rest.

Stop 4. Our next stop was Kerkini Village where we looked at the colonies of Spanish Sparrows which utilise the structures of the numerous White Stork nests in which to build their own. We also found some Tree Sparrows doing the same. The Storks themselves had large young in the nests and we were able to photograph these. We also visited the national park centre, where the staff have an interesting permanent display of the conservation work they are doing in the area.



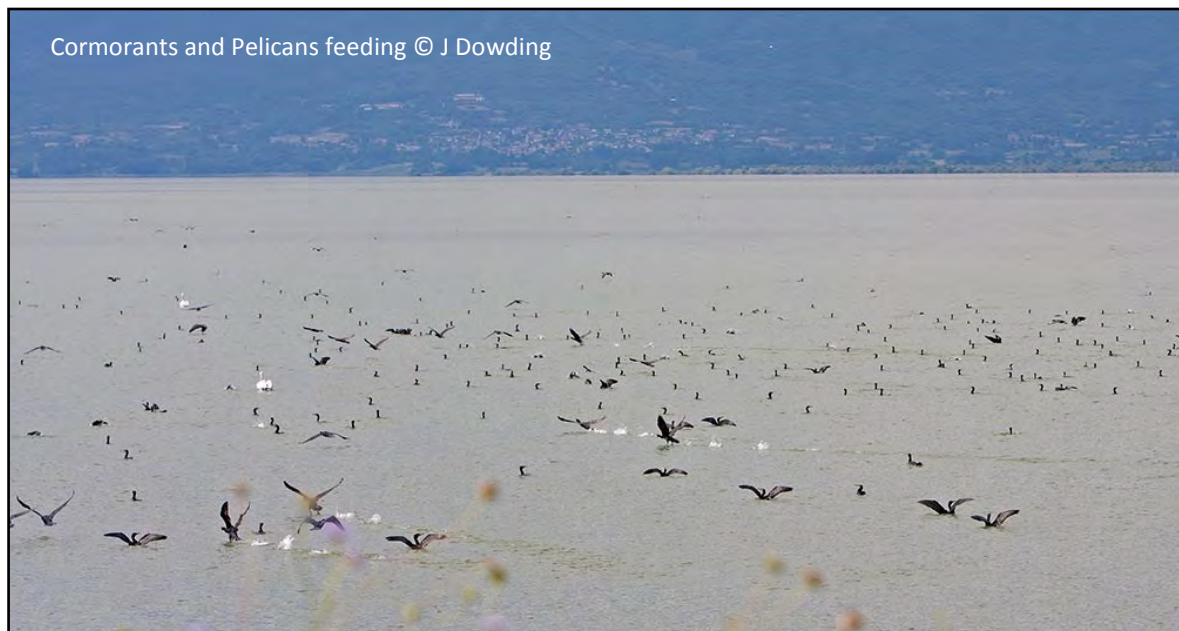
Spanish Sparrow © M. Peterkin



White Stork nest © B & L Green

Stop 5. We moved to a spot by the lake and ate lunch, washed down with coffee. A few tiny Marsh Frogs were brought to our attention by Bob and Louise.

Stop 6. After lunch, we moved to a little meadow in an old quarry. En route, Steve stopped to point out a Cormorant and Pelican feeding frenzy in the shallows. A weary looking Green Underside Blue butterfly was seen here too. It was sitting on the road, and had probably been hit by a car.



Red-backed and Masked Shrikes were seen along with Booted Eagle. The obligatory Cirl Buntings, Nightingales and Olivaceous Warblers sang nearby. Butterflies included Essex and Small Skipper, Small Heath, Black-veined Whites and Common Blues. Julian took the opportunity to give a simple explanation of the differences between Common and Chapman's Blues.

Stop 7. Our last location of the day was a track in the Mavrovouni Hills, where we had splendid views of Honey Buzzard, enabling Steve to point out the salient features of long neck and barred tail. Common Buzzard and a pair of Short-toed Eagles were also seen. Masked and Woodchat Shrikes were evident, as well as Cirl, Corn and Black-headed Buntings. An unusual and unidentified green tortoise was found up the track, while a pair of dung beetles wheeled their spoils across said track and Eastern Green Lizard was seen in the scrub. A couple of White Storks stalked through the long grass of a nearby meadow and Crested Lark and Olivaceous Warbler sang in the late afternoon sunshine. As we retired down the track, Ed spotted a Goshawk that flew right over our

heads. Unfortunately, half of the group were already back at the buses and missed it.

Butterfly-wise, we glimpsed a Large Tortoiseshell flying fast and low across the field, and a very large looking Southern White Admiral.

We arrived back to the hotel around 6 pm, in time to freshen up before dinner at Limneo.

Day 4, Tuesday 9th June: Mt Orvilos.

After breakfast, we took a road north into the mountains. Conditions were perfect for wildlife watching with temperatures of around 23°C .



Stop 1. Our first stop was made at a picnic hut overlooking another quarry. It was a good spot for both birds and butterflies. The very large and impressive Great Banded Grayling was pretty much the first butterfly spotted. As it was quite early still, only a few had started moving about, but as the sun continued to rise higher and warm the vegetation and rock piles, more of these almost black and white wonders were seen. The butterfly was very difficult to photograph because of its early morning habits

of continually moving about and because when they finally do land, they are well camouflaged and cause problems for camera focusing systems. Even so, we managed to get good views and with a little determination, a few photos.

Other butterflies included Chapman's Blue, distinguishable from Common Blue in lacking the underside forewing cell spot, a few Wood Whites, and a good number of Ilex Hairstreaks.



Birds were excellent here too with flyby Short-toed Eagle, Raven and Red-rumped Swallow. Common and Honey Buzzard were seen in the sky together, allowing Ed to give a brief lesson in comparing the two. Bob picked up a Sparrowhawk species that whizzed past, but we were unable to get a positive ID. Levant Sparrowhawk occurs in these hills, so is always an exciting possibility. There was yet more Nightingale and Cirl Bunting song, accompanied by the gentle purring of Turtle Dove. A nearby Eastern Subalpine Warbler gave away its presence with its scratchy song and some of the group got a brief glimpse of its beautiful burgundy and grey plumage. Louise spotted a distant pair of Masked Shrikes, while Gavin pointed out a noisy pair of Green Woodpeckers in the pine woodland behind us.

Stop 2. We then moved on to a little sandy area covered in moisture. The butterflies were there in very good numbers, taking moisture or salts. These included a small cloud of Nettle Tree Butterflies, many Wood Whites, Small White, Short-tailed Blue, Balkan Grayling, Heath Fritillary, Great Banded Grayling, Chapman's, Holly, Eastern Baton (spotted by Marilyn), and Small Blues.



With eagle eyes, Helen also homed in on our second Lang's Short-tailed Blue of the holiday. In amongst the Whites was Mountain Small White, easily distinguishable from the Small Whites on account of the squared off shape of the black apical patch on the forewing uppersides, and the lack of dark spot on the forewing undersides.

Other butterflies included Silver-washed Fritillary, Clouded Yellow, Knapweed Fritillary (including a mating pair), Marbled Fritillary (which was seen more often patrolling the wild clematis and brambles - presumably males looking for females), Meadow Brown, Small Skipper, Marbled Skipper, Mallow Skipper, Southern White Admiral and Brimstone. Finally a Swallowtail also put in an appearance and Julian saw the second Cleopatra of the holiday (but only he saw it!). Jackie and Gavin found and photographed a lovely Orbed Red Underwing (Hungarian) Skipper and Bob and Lou found a well grown Spurge Hawk-moth larva.



Whilst all this butterflying was going on, Ed was busy pointing out the birds. Raptors were much in evidence with Black Kite, Kestrel, Short-toed Eagle and a lovely pair of Long-legged Buzzards, spotted by Cynthia, being mobbed by Raven and Hooded Crow. On a distant rocky outcrop, Bob picked up a Black-eared Wheatear, while Gavin found a Blue Rock Thrush further down. Red-rumped Swallows swooped around us before perching to give us lovely views through the scope. Good views were also obtained of Woodchat Shrike, Cirl Bunting and Turtle Doves. Eastern Subalpine Warbler sang too.

Stop 3. We moved on towards Mount Orvilos. On our way, Cathy spotted a Short-toed Eagle perched in a dead tree, giving those in her minibus a wonderful view and photo opportunity. Driving along the track we found a patch of Field Scabious, which was drawing the attention of Queen of Spain Fritillaries and Painted Ladies. Eastern Bath Whites were again seen. Moving higher through the open country, we encountered Red-Backed and Woodchat Shrikes, as well as Calandra, Crested and Woodlarks. Little Owls perched on the scattered buildings.





Orvilos landscape © R & C Scholes

Stop 4. We finally arrived at the mountain, following a bit of a bumpy ride up to about 800m. On the slopes the temperature was a warm 28°C and the sky 3/4 cloudy. Here we ate lunch prepared by Nikos, watching another impatient Large Tortoiseshell flyby, before moving across to the slopes or down to the gorge. Ed led the birding party down into the latter, though it proved to be very quiet save Blackbird, Chiffchaff and Whitethroat. Nightingales sang reliably.

Birdlife was more interesting in the open ground. A family of Black-eared Wheatear was seen along with Kestrel, Linnet, Black-Headed and Corn Buntings, Eastern Subalpine and Olivaceous Warblers. Red rumped and Barn Swallows carved the sky overhead. Bob spotted a pair of large raptors working a distant peak and Ed determined that they were most likely Booted Eagles.



Juvenile Black-eared Wheatears © R & C Scholes

Butterfly-wise, we found Nettle Tree, Osiris Blue (including an ovipositing female) Mazarine Blue, Adonis Blue, Eastern Baton Blue, Small Heath, Balkan Grayling and Mountain Small White. There were no Large Blues unfortunately, for the Thymes had not started to flower but a Margined Tortoise was found in one of the abandoned fields and a Convolvulus Hawk-moth added excitement. Carneolan Burnet and Transparent Burnet moth were also found as well as some extremely colourful flowers including, Larkspur (*Consolida ajalis*), *Digitalis lanata*, Sainfoin, Pyramidal Orchid, St Bernard's Lily and the striking *Asphodeline liburnica*.



Eastern Baton Blue © M Peterkin



Convolvulus Hawk © C & J Wilkinson



Carneolan Burnet © C & J Wilkinson



Asphodeline liburnica © M Peterkin

On the way back down, more Calandra Larks were heard and seen and at the junction with the road, a Quail was heard, its distinctive 'wet-my-lips' call resonating through the cornfield.

Stop 5. We moved to the village for well deserved lemonade and coffee after a long time in the field. The collective chirping of the Spanish Sparrow colony was charming. It was wonderful to see their nests built on the Oriental Plane tree branches. A good number of House Martins had taken up residence under the eaves of the buildings. Some of these were just three metres off the ground.



House Martins © M Peterkin



Spanish Sparrow nest © E Hutchings

Stop 6. We decided to have one last look at the area and visited some roadside vetches in the hope of finding Large or Amanda's Blues. There were a number of Amanda's present, some worn, some fresh. Moving further along the slopes, we found Silver-studded Blues, Meadow Browns, Sussex Emerald, Idas Blue, Threaded Lacewing, Eastern Baton Blue, Small Heath and Yellow Banded Skipper. A few Sloe Emperor Moth caterpillars were found on Prunus and attracted our attention, their skin appearing like taut plastic spotted with orange tubercles and long hairs. Another interesting creature was the large cricket, *Bradyporus dasypus*, the creature having beautiful burnished bronze armour plating and a strong bite!



Yellow Banded Skipper © H Sterne



Eastern Baton Blue © R & C Scholes



Gliding out onto the lake © G & P Russell

Day 5, Wed 10 June: Boat trip on Lake Kerkini and a visit to Mt. Belles.

The aim today was to explore the lake by boat and then do a bit of butterfly and bird watching around northern shores and on Belles Mountain.

Stop 1. After breakfast, we set out in a clockwise direction around the lake and parked the vehicles at Kerkini Harbour, where the boats were being readied. At the harbour, our first birds were Black-crowned Night Heron, Little Egret, Common Tern and Great Crested Grebes with young. A Barn Swallow perched obligingly on one of the lights.

Wearing our lifejackets, and with great excitement, we glided out on the mirror like water, the sun rising high and the thermometer reading 22°C. Great White and Dalmatian Pelicans skimmed low over the lake, their wingtips and bellies almost touching the water.



Black Crowned Night Heron © H Sterne



Gt. Crested Grebe and young © C & J Wilkinson

As we drifted alongside the riparian forest, where many of the water birds were nesting, we gradually became aware of the sounds of the young birds being fed and the general chatter of the adults. The skippers of both boats cut their engines so that we could soak up the atmosphere.



Some of the trees were full of Cormorants and Pygmy Cormorants. Others held small groups of Spoonbills and Little Egrets. We soon saw flights of both Cormorants species, landing in waves as they returned from their fishing duties and a crowd of Glossy Ibis flew gracefully above us in V formation, with their necks outstretched. A few raptors were present too including Marsh Harrier and Black Kite.

In amongst the Pygmy and Great Cormorants, Night and Grey Herons could be found, some tantalisingly close for photos, but often disappearing behind some willow. Squacco Herons and Dalmatian Pelicans were seen too, often found sitting on bundles of half submerged branches.

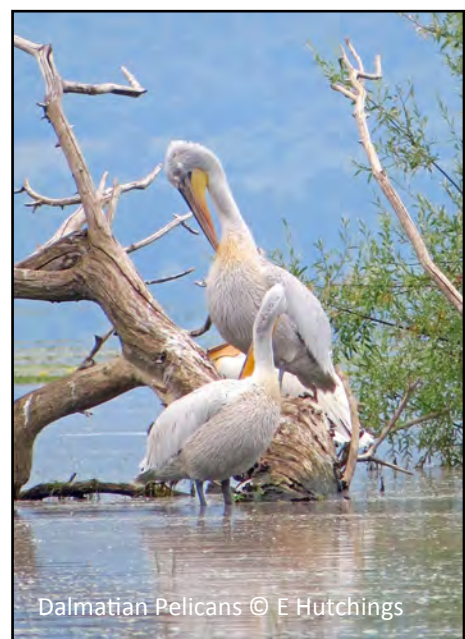
Soon after, Ed pointed out a Penduline Tit call. Subsequently, the birds were seen with their low-slung domed nest, hanging just a few feet above the water.

Stop 2. Our next location was a view of the pelican breeding platforms. Nikos explained that one of the 'rafts' had been lost to winter storms and that now only two remained. Even so, about 120 young Dalmatian Pelicans had been raised this year. We kept a respectful distance of about 200 metres so as not to disturb the birds and thus were able to spend a little time admiring these majestic birds through our bins and lenses.



On the way back to the harbour, we saw lots of Great Crested Grebes, with the obligatory stripy young on their backs. Ed caught sight of a party of around thirty Black Terns in the distance. He explained how these 'marsh terns' don't hover and plunge dive for food like 'sea terns', but dip down to the water surface to take insects. It was an impressive sight watching them wheeling and skimming. A solitary Common Tern was in amongst them. This was an unusually high number of Black Terns for the lake.

Stop 3. We left the boats and ate lunch at the harbour followed by some delicious local buffalo ice cream. Looking north to Mt Belles, we saw that the weather there was turning sour, with thunder and heavy clouds gathering, so



we decided to explore another area first and see if the weather over Belles improved later. It was just as well that we did because some banks of brambles were attracting numerous Marbled Fritillaries, a species which some of us had really wanted to get another look at. After the obligatory photos, we then made our way slowly to an area on the north-western side of Lake Kerkini, birding and butterfly watching as we went.

Plenty of birds were seen including Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Golden Oriole, Long-legged Buzzard and Black Kite. Gavin spotted a Hobby hunting as it whizzed past low over the dense lakeside scrub. From within the scrub various warblers sang, including Zitting Cisticola, Olivaceous and Moustached Warblers.

Helen called out to stop the vehicles and so we got out and noticed some very small butterflies flitting over the brambles. These turned out to be Lang's Short-tailed Blues, a butterfly we were all becoming more familiar with, and one which was using Dwarf Elder as a larval host plant. Short-tailed Blue was also present.

A flower bank held good numbers of Common and Chapman's Blues and Spotted Fritillaries. One of these was a female with dusky grey-coloured wings. A beautiful Scarce Swallowtail appeared for a good while resting on a Christ's Thorn, providing ample photo opportunities.



Stop 4. Eventually we decided to give Mount Belles a look, and because it was by now quite late in the afternoon we went straight up the mountain. As we parked, we saw a few Large Tortoiseshells, lots of the by now ubiquitous Nettle Tree Butterflies, Balkan Marbled White, Southern Small White, Lattice Brown, Small Skipper and Silver-washed Fritillary. Jackie found the

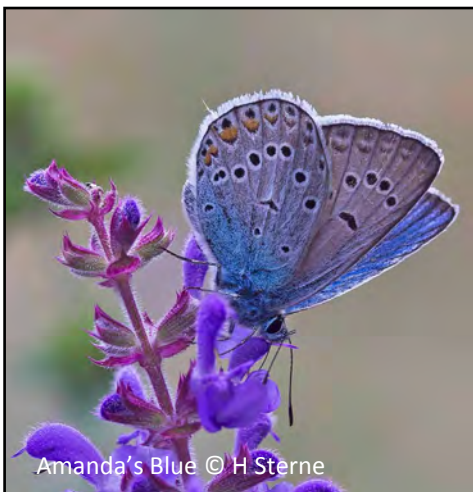
rare and exquisite Lizard Orchid *Himantoglossum caprinum* growing beside the track. A pair of Golden Eagles and Honey Buzzard ended the day on a high note.



Day 6, Thursday 11th June: Undisclosed trail.

Stop 1. After breakfast, we set off making a quick visit to an old quarry to look for Roller. The weather was fine with the thermometer reading 26°C. Unfortunately, the Rollers were not in evidence, so we moved off to a favoured spot for butterflies near Sidirocastro.

Stop 2. We arrived at around 10:30am and soon found our beloved butterflies fluttering all about some deep purple Salvias and other colourful flowers.



The first butterfly to catch our attention was a shining male Amanda's Blue. The butterfly stayed put for a while, indulging in its favourite tippie of nectar from salvia flowers. There were also Chapman's, Osiris and Common Blues settling on the ground near to our vehicles. Marbled Fritillaries were present in large numbers, some of the males quite small in comparison to the females and appearing almost like another species. We walked along checking the other flowers and soon found Spotted Fritillary, Lattice Brown, Knapweed Fritillary and Ilex Hairstreaks (swarming over nearly every flower available to them) and a solitary Green

Hairstreak. Two 'golden skippers' were present in the form of Essex and Small Skipper. We also found Southern Small White, Small White, Green-veined White, Wood White, Meadow Brown, Queen of Spain, Brown Argus, Eastern Baton Blue and Balkan Marbled White. The Eastern Batons were surprisingly plentiful. One arable field, which had turned fallow and was filled with Cardoons, was full of all manner of Fritillaries and other butterflies including Great Banded Grayling, Lattice Brown, Meadow Brown, Silver-washed Fritillary, Clouded Yellow, Spotted Fritillary and Marbled Fritillary. It was a good start butterfly-wise. Helen also found Blue-spot Hairstreak.

This situation became even better when Lou asked for an opinion about a small brown butterfly which turned out to be Brown Argus. Behind it, another lycaenid, and one we'd hoped to see on this holiday - Little Tiger Blue. We took some photos of this diminutive creature and could see how striking its markings on both sides of the wings were, with deep violet blue hues above and black and white stripes below, set off neatly with beautiful iridescent turquoise spots near to the tails.



Green Hairstreak © C & J Wilkinson



Blue-spot Hairstreak © H Sterne



Little Tiger Blue © H Sterne



Little Tiger Blue © M Peterkin

Birds were very interesting too with a pair apiece of Short - toed Eagle and Raven on arrival. Woodlark, Alpine Swift, Bee-eater, Nightingale and Blue Rock Thrush created plenty of interest for the group.

Stop 3. By 11:30, we gathered together and decided to visit a small taverna for coffee and refreshments. It was now a warm 28°C with 25% relative humidity, so we felt we deserved a little break. We introduced ourselves to the regulars and chatted with the proprietor Sofia and her other guests, thankful for the shade and refreshments. Trying to converse in Greek and German was difficult, as we knew no Greek, but we got the impression that one or two of the menfolk were keen on football, especially FC Barcelona!

After refreshments, we decided to go for a walkabout in the town and soon found butterflies, including Eastern Festoon. On the ground, taking moisture and minerals, were lots of Wood Whites, Nettle Tree Butterflies, Chapman's Blues, Ilex Hairstreaks and Olive Skipper.



Southern White Admiral © M Peterkin



Eastern Festoon © C & J Wilkinson



Purple-shot Copper © Helen Sterne

Other species seen included Red Admiral, Amanda's Blue, Marbled and Knapweed Fritillary, Holly Blue and Southern White Admiral. European Swallowtails were seen in the village, one of them a large female which Rowan and Julian watched for a while as she laid her eggs on fennel. A Glanville Fritillary skimmed over the ground and whilst we were looking down, Ed called out "Black Stork!" and we all swivelled skywards to watch this rare and shy species fly overhead. Always a treat to see.

Stop 4. We returned to the taverna for yet more liquid refreshments and Sofia kindly allowed us to eat our picnic there. By about 2.15pm, we'd rested enough and ventured along a track leading up the mountain. We made several short walks and stops along the way, gaining altitude as we climbed.

On the tracks some nice butterflies were found including more Eastern Baton Blue, Small Blue, Holly Blue, Purple Shot Copper, Blue Argus, Idas Blue, Zephyr Blue, Ilex Hairstreak, Large Tortoiseshell, Southern White Admiral and Brown Argus. At the highest point in our journey upwards, Mountain Argus, was found. Other interesting species included Yellow Bellied Toad and Rose Chafer Beetle. At 5pm, with thunderclouds in the distance, we decided to return to the hotel but not before some of us dipped our toes in the cold mountain water. Birds found on the mountain included Raven, Crested Lark and Subalpine Warbler.



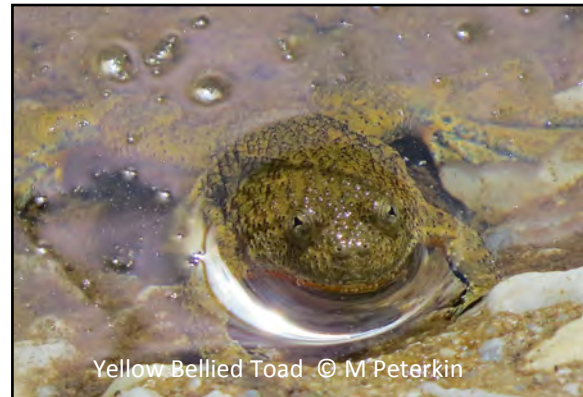
Blue Argus © H Sterne



Idas Blue © M Peterkin



Large Tortoiseshell © C & J Wilkinson



Yellow Bellied Toad © M Peterkin

Day 7, Friday 12th June: Vrontous mountains.

Our aim today was to visit the Vrontous Mountains for a selection of different butterflies and birds. The day started with wall-to-wall sunshine and a temperature of 20°C and so after breakfast, we headed out a little earlier than normal to make the most of the day.

Stop 1. Our first stop was made after we had driven through Serres, one of the major cities. The driving was very good and en route, we saw a Roller perched on wires beside the roadside. At this first location, we saw Lattice Browns settled on one of the roadside pines.

Stop 2. We spent half an hour at another stop half way up the mountain nestled at about 800m and here we found Ilex Hairstreak, Clouded Yellow, Glanville Fritillary, Lesser Spotted Fritillary, Large Tortoiseshell, Black-veined Whites, and Idas Blue.

Stop 3. Our third stop, much higher, was a little woodland glade which appeared to have the benefits of both light and shade and a lot of butterflies flitting above the flowers. On the way up,

Julian, Cath and Jenny caught a glimpse of a Camberwell Beauty flying beside the trees but quickly moving out of sight. It was a promising start to this area.

In the glade, we were quickly mesmerised by a dazzling array of butterflies including Balkan Copper, Purple-shot Copper, Sooty Copper and Mazarine Blue. These were followed by Chapman's and Common Blues, Clouded Apollo, Green Hairstreak, Woodland Ringlet, Brimstone, Small Mountain White, Small White, Orange Tip, a female Idas Blue, Brown Argus, Common Blue, Queen of Spain, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Dark Green Fritillary flying down the road, Amanda's Blue, Meadow Brown, Wall, Comma, Nettle Tree, Peacock and Large Tortoiseshell.



As soon as we had disembarked at the glade, Ed put the group onto a large flock of Crossbills giving unusually good views. Their frequent and repeated 'chip-chip-chip' calls echoed around the conifer woodland. Bullfinch, Crested Tit, Firecrest, Tree Pipit, Woodlark and Tree Pipit made up the supporting cast.

Stop 4. Approaching lunchtime, we ventured onto the highest slopes of the mountain. Here we found another new species, Northern Wall Brown, a beautiful insect which Jenny and Cynthia were delighted to find. There were two specimens to start off with, one in pristine condition, the other a little worn. Later sightings were made of the butterfly but there were probably only a handful present. Linnets were also seen.



Camberwell Beauty © M Peterkin



Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper © J Dowding



Pearl-bordered Fritillary © C & J Wilkinson



Sloe Hairstreak © M Peterkin

Pat pointed out a little pyrgus skipper on the slope which we identified as Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper. Other butterflies included Amanda's Blue, Balkan Copper, Small Tortoiseshell, Dingy Skipper, Mountain Small White, Large Tortoiseshell, Woodland Ringlet, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Brimstone (spotted by Chris), Southern Grizzled Skipper and Small Heath. Wood Tiger and Forester Moths were also found.

Stop 5. We stopped for lunch, made a quick search of the glade where a Long-legged Buzzard was seen flying off, and then we moved back down the mountain. En route another Camberwell Beauty was seen and photographed.

Stop 6. Our last stop was a slope below the tree line. Here we found Small Heath, Amanda's Blues, Knapweed Fritillary, Clouded Yellow and Woodland Ringlet. Julian pointed to a Hermit dashing past and chased after it but it flew across the road and out of sight. We also found Sloe Hairstreak on the track leading down into the valley. This was pretty much the last act of the day.

We drove back to Chrysohorafa for one last supper together on Nikos' terrace. He and his parents produced a wonderful moussaka, which went down extremely well. Over dinner, various herons and gulls were seen flying to their roosts dotted around the lake, a small reminder that we too would soon be flying home, but nevertheless adding a fitting avian end to the trip.

Day 8, Saturday 13th June: Return to UK or a morning on Mt. Belles.

Most of us bade farewell to Nikos and his family and set off for Thessaloniki around 8am, to ensure plenty of time for checking in at the airport. The drive was a comfortable one and took just over an hour.

Marilyn, Cynthia and Jenny on the other hand had later flights, so spent much of the day in the company of George, a local birding guide.

Stop 1. George took the ladies to Vironia and put his scope on a Long-legged Buzzard's nest. The huge chick was sitting beside the nest so they waited for a while but the adult did not come to feed it. Here they got a scoped view of a Subalpine Warbler.

Stop 2. The next stop was Sidirocastro to try for Rock Nuthatch but with no luck. However, standing on the bridge over the river, two juvenile Dippers were seen along with two Little Ringed Plovers, a Grey Wagtail and a Blue Rock Thrush, the latter perched neatly upon a television aerial on one of the buildings.



Stop 3. We then visited the castle ruins, where there were some good views over the town and of Serres Plain to the south. A number of European Swallowtails were seen here.

Stop 4. With lunchtime approaching, we made our way to Mt Belles and ate at the high plateau. Thousands of Nettle Tree butterflies were seen on the track forming big clouds. However, time was running out and so we decided to collect our luggage, and go straight to Thessaloniki for a lovely dinner. George knew a good taverna that served unusual local food. Afterwards, we made the short drive to Thessaloniki Airport and checked in, ready for the flights back to the UK. It had been a memorable holiday in the company of some wonderful people.

Acknowledgements

Greenwings would like to thank all the guests for their good humour and enthusiasm throughout the trip and also in helping to compile the species lists and the use of their photos in the gallery. Special thanks also must go to Hilary and Steve from BirdWING, and to Nikos and his family for their wonderful hospitality, and finally to George for the last day's guiding.



Photo gallery and species lists overleaf



Little Owl © M Peterkin



Little Egret © M Peterkin



Wood Tiger © L & B Green



Freyer's Purple Emperor © L & B Green



Distant view of riparian forest © L & B Green



Large Tortoiseshell © C & J Wilkinson



Spurge Hawkmoth larva © B & L Green



Marbled Fritillary © M Peterkin



Common Blue © C & J Wilkinson



Balkan Marbled White © C & J Wilkinson



Purple-shot Copper © J Dowding



Silver-washed Fritillaries © C & J Wilkinson



Swallowtail © M Peterkin



Black-veined Whites © C & J Wilkinson



Freyer's Purple Emperor © C & J Wilkinson



Southern White Admiral © B & L Green



Hummingbird Hawk-moth C & J Wilkinson



Pearl-bordered Fritillary © C & J Wilkinson



Amanda's Blue © C & J Wilkinson



Knapweed Fritillary © C & J Wilkinson



Mazarine Blue © H Sterne



Dalmatian Pelican © C & J Wilkinson



White Storks at nest © C & J Wilkinson



Lake Kerkini © E Hutchings



Wall Lizard © C & J Wilkinson



Water Buffalo © E Hutchings



Water Buffalo © C & J Wilkinson





Marbled & Spotted Frits © P & G Russell



Spotted Fritillary © H Sterne



Scarce Swallowtail © P & G Russell



Large Tortoiseshell © H.Sterne



Holly Blue female © H.Sterne



Black-eared Wheatear © M Peterkin



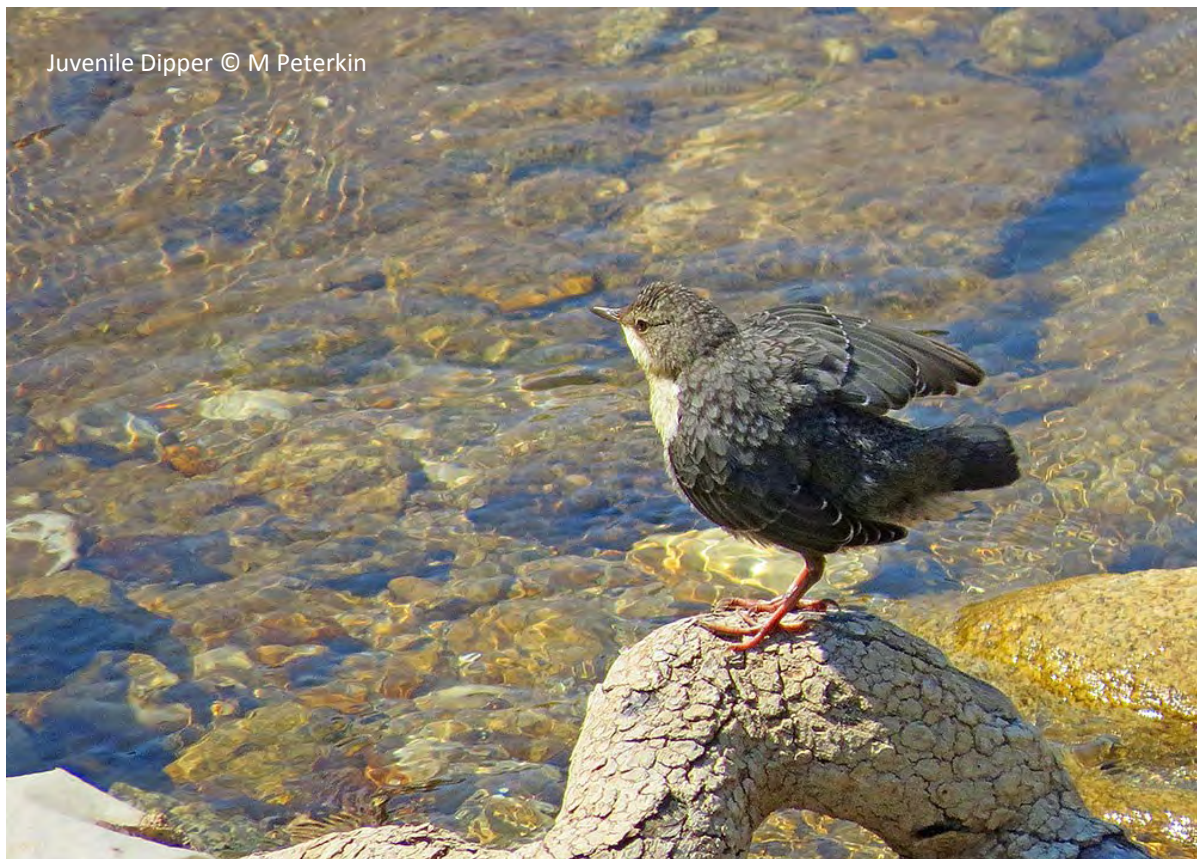
Crested Lark © M Peterkin



Great Cormorants © M Peterkin



White Storks © M Peterkin



Juvenile Dipper © M Peterkin



Kruper's Small White © R & C Scholes



Small Blue © M Peterkin



Pearl-bordered Fritillary © G & P Russell



Eastern Bath White © R & C Scholes



Amanda's Blue © R & C Scholes



Heath Fritillary © R & C Scholes



Queen of Spain Fritillary © C & J Wilkinson



Female Spotted Fritillary © R & C Scholes



Chapman's Blue © B & L Green



Knapweed Fritillary © B & L Green



Woodland Ringlet © M Peterkin



Marbled Skipper © M Peterkin



Silver Studded Blue © H Sterne



Clouded Yellow f *Helice* © H Sterne



Soldier Beetle © H Sterne



Great Crested Grebes © H Sterne



Sunken tree © H Sterne



Purple Shield Bug © B & L Green



Black and Red Bug © B & L Green



Empusa fasciata © E Hutchings



Dung Beetles © C & J Wilkinson



Puddling Nettle Tree butterflies and Painted Lady © M Peterkin



Orvilos flowers with Digitalis lanata © N & L Green



Spoonbills in flight © H Sterne



Little Owl © C & J Wilkinson



Spur-thighed Tortoise © E Hutchings



Pond Terrapin © M Peterkin



Greek Marsh Frog © M Peterkin



Wall Lizard © M Peterkin



Balkan Wall Lizard © M Peterkin



Male Eastern Green Lizard © R & C Scholes



Eastern Green Lizard © R & C Scholes

Dalmatian Pelican © E Hutchings



Preening Dalmatian © M Peterkin



Dalmatian sailing © E Hutchings



Short-toed Eagle © M Peterkin



Red-rumped Swallows © M Peterkin



Glossy Ibis © M Peterkin



Tree Sparrow © E Hutchings



Blue Rock Thrush © M Peterkin



Night Heron © H Sterne



Rose Chafers © M Peterkin



Crab Spider © B & L Green



Thread-winged Lacewing © R & C Scholes



Nine Spotted © M Peterkin



Forester moth sp. © R & C Scholes



Egyptian Locust © B & L Green



Red-veined Darters © M Peterkin



Broad Scarlet © R & C Scholes



Black-tailed Skimmer © M Peterkin



White-legged Damselfly © R & C Scholes



Black-tailed Skimmer (f) H Sterne



Blue Chaser (m) © H Sterne



Banded Demoiselle © R & C Scholes



Southern Skimmer © J Dowding



Black Pennant © M Peterkin



Blue-tailed Damsel © E Hutchings



Female Lesser Spotted Fritillary © M Peterkin



Zephyr Blue © J Dowding



Idas Blue © E Hutchings



Eastern Festoon © H Sterne



Heath Fritillary © M Peterkin



Woodland Ringlet © G & P Russell

species checklist 6 - 13 June 2015			Sat 6 th Jun	Sun 7 th Jun	Mon 8 th Jun	Tue 9 th Jun	Wed 10 th Jun	Thu 11 th Jun	Fri 12 th Jun	Sat 13 th Jun
Butterflies			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
	Common name	Scientific								
	Skippers	Family <i>Hesperiidae</i>								
1	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>			✓	✓		✓		
2	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
4	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>				✓			✓	
5	Southern Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>							✓	
6	Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>				✓				
7	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>			✓	✓				
8	Orbed Red Underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>				✓				
9	Olive Skipper	<i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>						✓		
10	Yellow Banded Skipper	<i>Pyrgus sidae</i>				✓				
11	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>						✓		
	Swallowtails, Apollos, Festoons	Family <i>Papilionidae</i>								
12	Clouded Apollo	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>							✓	
13	Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>						✓		
14	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon gorganus</i>				✓		✓		
15	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>		✓			✓	✓		
	Whites & Yellows	Family <i>Pieridae</i>								
16	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
17	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	✓			✓ _{JD}			✓	
19	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
20	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>							✓	
21	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
23	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>				✓		✓	✓	
24	Mountain Small White	<i>Pieris ergane</i>				✓		✓	✓	
25	Southern Small White	<i>Pieris mannii</i>					✓	✓		
26	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	✓			✓		✓		
27	Krueper's Small White	<i>Periris krueperi</i>		✓						
28	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Blues, Hairstreaks, Coppers	Family <i>Lycaenidae</i>								
29	Green hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>						✓	✓	
30	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>							✓	
31	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
32	Blue Spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium spini</i>						✓		
33	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Purple Shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>						✓	✓	
35	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>							✓	
36	Balkan Copper	<i>Lycaena candens</i>				✓			✓	
37	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>	✓			✓	✓			
38	Little Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i>						✓		
39	Holly Blue	<i>Celestrina argiolus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
40	Green Underside Blue	<i>Glaucopteryx alexis</i>			✓ _{rd}					
41	Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	

	Butterflies cont'd		Sat 6 th Jun	Sun 7 th Jun	Mon 8 th Jun	Tue 9 th Jun	Wed 10 th Jun	Thu 11 th Jun	Fri 12 th Jun	Sat 13 th Jun
	Common name	Scientific								
42	Short-tailed Blue	<i>Cupido argiades</i>	✓			✓	✓			
43	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>				✓		✓		
44	Osiris Blue	<i>Cupido osiris</i>				✓				
45	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>				✓				
46	Zephyr Blue	<i>Plebejus sephirus</i>						✓		
47	Idas Blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>						✓	✓	
48	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓	✓				✓		
49	Mountain Argus	<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>						✓		
50	Blue Argus	<i>Aricia anteros</i>						✓ ^{HS}		
51	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>				✓			✓	
52	Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
53	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
54	Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>				✓		✓	✓	
55	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>							✓	
	Aristocrats	Family Nymphalidae								
57	Nettle-tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
58	Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>		✓						
59	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
60	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓				✓	✓	
61	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
62	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
63	Southern Comma	<i>Polygonia l-album</i>						✓ ^{HS}		
64	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
65	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>							✓	
66	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
67	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>							✓	
68	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>						✓		
69	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
70	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>		✓		✓			✓	
71	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
72	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>				✓				
73	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>							✓	
74	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
75	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>				✓		✓	✓	
76	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
77	Pearl Bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>							✓	
	formerly Satyridae	Family Nymphalidae								
78	Lattice Brown	<i>Kirinia roxelana</i>					✓	✓	✓	
79	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>				✓		✓	✓	
80	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓						✓	
81	Northern Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>							✓	
82	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
83	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
84	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>							✓	
85	Balkan Marbled White	<i>Melanargia larissa</i>				✓	✓	✓		
86	Balkan Grayling	<i>Hipparchia senthes</i>				✓	✓	✓		
87	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
88	Hermit	<i>Chazara briseis</i>							✓ ^{JD}	

Burnets & notable moths			Sat 6 th Jun	Sun 7 th Jun	Mon 8 th Jun	Tue 9 th Jun	Wed 10 th Jun	Thu 11 th Jun	Fri 12 th Jun	Sat 13 th Jun
	Common name	Scientific	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
1		<i>Zygaena angelicae</i>				✓		✓	✓	
2	Crepuscular Burnet	<i>Zygaena carniolica</i>				✓				
3	Forester	<i>Adscita sp.</i>							✓	
4	6 Spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipenulae</i>				✓		✓		
5	Transparent Burnet	<i>Zygaena purpuralis</i>			✓	✓				
6	Shaggy Burnet	<i>Zygaena brizae</i>						✓		
7	Nine-spotted	<i>Amata phegea</i>				✓				
8	Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>				✓				
9	Convolvulus Hawk-moth	<i>Agrilus convolvuli</i>				✓				
10	Spurge Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>		✓		✓	✓			
11	Wood Tiger	<i>Parasemia plantaginis</i>							✓	
12	Sloe Emperor	<i>Saturnia spini</i>				✓				
13	Sussex Emerald	<i>Thalera fimbrialis</i>				✓				
14	Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>				✓				
15	Rose-banded Wave sp.	<i>Rhodostrophia discopunctata</i>				✓				
16	Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>							✓	
17	Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>				✓				
18	Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>							✓	
19	Silver-ground Carpet	<i>anthorhoe montanata</i>							✓	

Birds			
	Common name	Scientific	✓
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓
2	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	✓
3	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓
4	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	✓
5	White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	✓
6	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	✓
7	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	✓
8	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓
9	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	✓
10	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓
11	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓
12	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓
13	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	✓
14	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓
15	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	✓
16	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	✓
17	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓
18	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	✓
19	European Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	✓
20	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓
21	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	✓
22	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓
23	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	✓
24	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	✓
25	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓
26	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	✓
27	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	✓

Birds cont'd			
28	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	✓
29	Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennata</i>	✓
30	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓
31	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	✓
32	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonorae</i>	✓
33	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	✓
34	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	✓
35	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓
36	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓
37	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	✓
38	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓
39	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓
40	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓
41	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	✓
42	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓
43	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓
44	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓
45	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	✓
46	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓
47	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	✓
48	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	✓
49	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓
50	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	✓
51	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	✓
52	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓
53	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	✓
54	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓
55	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	✓
56	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	✓
57	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	✓
58	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	✓
59	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓
60	Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	✓
61	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓
62	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓
63	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓
64	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	✓
65	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	✓
66	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓
67	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓
68	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	✓
69	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	✓
70	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓
71	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓
72	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	✓
73	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	✓
74	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	✓
75	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓
76	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓
77	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓
78	Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	✓
79	Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	✓
80	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	✓

Birds cont'd			
81	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	✓
82	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>	✓
83	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	✓
84	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>	✓
85	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	✓
86	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓
87	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓
88	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	✓
89	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	✓
90	Sombre Tit	<i>Parus lugubris</i>	✓
91	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	✓
92	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	✓
93	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓
94	Wood Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	✓
95	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	✓
96	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	✓
97	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	✓
98	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	✓
99	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	✓
100	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	✓
101	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	✓
102	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓
103	Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓
104	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓
105	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓
106	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓
107	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓
108	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓
109	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	✓
110	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓
111	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓
112	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓
113	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	✓
114	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓
115	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	✓
116	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	✓
117	Common Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	✓
118	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	✓
119	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	✓
120	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓

Amphibians and Reptiles			
	Common name	Scientific	
1	Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>	✓
2	Marginated Tortoise	<i>Testudo marginata</i>	✓
3	Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>	✓
4	Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>	✓
5	Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>	✓
6	Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	✓
7	Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>	✓
8	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>	✓
9	Large Whip Snake	<i>Coluber caspius</i>	✓
10	Tesselated Water Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>	✓

Dragonflies			
1	Broad Bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	✓
2	Blue Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>	✓
3	White Tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>	✓
4	Black Tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	✓
5	Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>	✓
6	Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	✓
7	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	✓
8	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	✓
9	White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	✓
10	Black Pennant	<i>Selysiothemis nigra</i>	✓
11	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	✓
12	Small Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>	✓
Other invertebrates			
1	Dung Beetle	<i>Sarabaeus sp.</i>	✓
2	Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>	✓
3	Green Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>	✓
4	Thread-winged Lacewing	<i>Nemoptera bipennis</i>	✓
5	Purple Shield Bug	<i>Carpocoris pupureipennis</i>	✓
6	Black and Red Bug	<i>Ligaeus equestris</i>	✓
7	Egyptian Locust	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	✓
8	Cricket	<i>Bradyporus dasyopus</i>	✓
Mammals			
1	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	✓
2	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	✓