



Butterflies & Birds of North Greece

6th - 13th June 2022



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Arrival day – 6th June

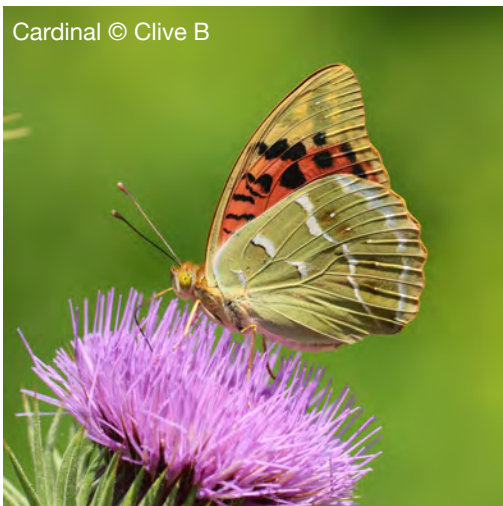
Despite the best efforts of the denuded numbers of airport ground-staff in the UK, and Vladimir Putin's repulsive war in Ukraine forcing increased air traffic to divert through European airspace, our guests all arrived more or less on time at Thessaloniki airport and were greeted by their guides for the week.

We made good time across the hills and plains to Lake Kerkini and our comfortable hotel for the week, where we dropped off bags before sitting down to a refreshing lunch of Greek salad at a local restaurant. Suitably refuelled, we wasted no time in getting out into the field with one of our targets for the week, Little Tiger Blue *Tauricus balkanicus*, very much in our sights.

A short drive around the lake brought us to a series of meadows adjacent to a leaky concrete cattle water trough – the latter, unsurprisingly, proving attractive to puddling blues. Foremost of these were Silver-studded Blues *Plebejus argus*, but Jon soon spotted our first Little Tiger Blue, followed by David picking out a Nettle-tree Butterfly *Libythea celtis*.



What was really grabbing our attention were a huge bank of blue-black clouds massing over the nearby hills that flank the lake and mark the border with Bulgaria. Ominous rumbles of thunder were emanating from them, and occasional forks of lightning were seen. While the wind picked up, for the next two hours no rain was forthcoming – at least, not on us. We could see torrential downpours just a few miles away.



The cloud was stifling butterfly activity, but we found a couple of flaming Cardinals *Argynnis pandora*, a smart male Amanda's Blue *Polyommatus amandus*, Lesser Spotted Fritillary *Melitaea trivia*, Eastern Bath Whites *Pontia edusa*, Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclide podalirius*, and a few Lang's Short-tailed Blues *Leptotes pirithous*. A promising start.

A nearby site yielded more settled Little Tiger Blues to delight the photographers – the cloudy weather and, by this juncture, imminent rain helping to calm these normally hyperactive tiny butterflies down to the point where they were unusually approachable as they roosted on low vegetation.

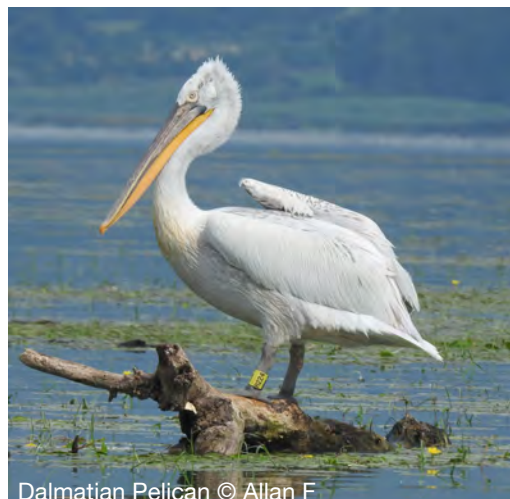
A final roll of the dice led us into a nearby village where we would, in normal sunny circumstances, have found hundreds of puddling Nettle-trees – but alas, as the heavens proceeded to open with torrential rain beginning to fall just as we headed back into our vans, we left empty-handed. Still, with some 30 species tallied in the space of a couple of late afternoon hours in unpromising conditions, we had made a good start to our weekly account.

7th June

After a travel day, it's always good to keep it local on our first full day in the field, so we planned a leisurely – but comprehensive! – circumnavigation of the countryside that flanks Lake Kerkini. Our first stop, on a country lane near the Hotel Bella Vista, yielded several immaculate Sooty Coppers

Lycaena tityrus amongst other butterflies and, as an added bonus, two magnificent flowering specimens of Balkan Lizard Orchid *Himantoglossum calcaratum*.

From here we took ourselves down to the picturesque surroundings of the harbour at Mandraki, where we spent the balance of the morning watching the comings and goings of much of Lake Kerkini's resident birdlife – a good variety of herons, bitterns and egrets, both Dalmatian *Pelecanus crispus* and Great White Pelicans *P. onocrotalus*, while the melodious calls of nearby Golden Orioles *Oriolus oriolus* were almost drowned out by the constant chatter of Cetti's *Cettia cetti* and Great Reed Warblers *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* in the reedy fringes of the lake. A few butterflies were on the wing here, including a genuinely baffling tiny blue that had even David scratching his head & was later confirmed as a dwarf Common Blue, but the main insect interest came from the dragonflies and damselflies that had several of our number reaching for their cameras.



Dalmatian Pelican © Allan F

For lunch, we took ourselves up to a small reservoir high in the Mandraki hills, commanding a panoramic view of the lake and mountains beyond. On arrival, we found ourselves eye to eye with soaring Lesser Spotted Eagles *Clanga pomarina*... while the steep mud track we drove up to our parking place was boiling with puddling Nettle-tree butterflies. The next two hours, apart from a picnic lunch, yielded Lattice Brown *Kirinia roxelana*, Silver-washed Fritillary *Argynnis paphia*, and a couple of pristine Large Tortoiseshells *Nymphalis polychloros* – found, respectively, by brothers Harvey and Nick.



Large Tortoiseshell © Nick O

Harvey's butterfly-finding skills were on fire today, for it was he – after a group pit-stop en route in Kerkini to admire White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* bringing water to their chicks, while Spanish Sparrows *Passer hispaniolensis* flirted and bustled in the immense stork nests beneath – who found the first of several Iolas Blues at our next roadside stop. While the roadside surroundings may not have been the most picturesque of places, there was no denying the impact of Europe's largest blue butterfly, nor the commoner denizens of an immense nearby thistle patch... A dozen Cardinals jousted for nectar with several of both Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni* and Cleopatra G. *cleopatra*, and some two dozen Hummingbird Hawkmoths *Macroglossum stellatarum* for good measure. It was quite a spectacle.



Cleopatra © Lynn G



Southern White Admiral © Harvey O

Our final stop of the day, outside Lithotropos, was at a site that, in the past, has boasted Eastern Baton Blue *Pseudophilotes vicrama*, amongst other delights. The area in which they were found had, in the intervening three years since we had last been able to visit, been lost to a pop-up farmyard... but we found consolation in more Little Tiger Blues, and a new species in the form of a Southern White Admiral *Limenitis reducta*. Our walk back to the vans was further enlivened by a low flyover Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* that circled us a

couple of times before being lost to sight in nearby woodland. Today had been a good day.

8th June

We had initially planned to make today our longest, expeditionary day away from Kerkini, but a deteriorating weather forecast for the week forced us to rethink our plans somewhat in order to optimise our time in the field. Today was meant to be spent at 1,600masl, and the forecast was making it clear that this would mean rain all day at that elevation. Indeed, rain was forecast across the region around lunchtime and into the afternoon, so we would hit disruption wherever we went – but we wanted to minimise that.

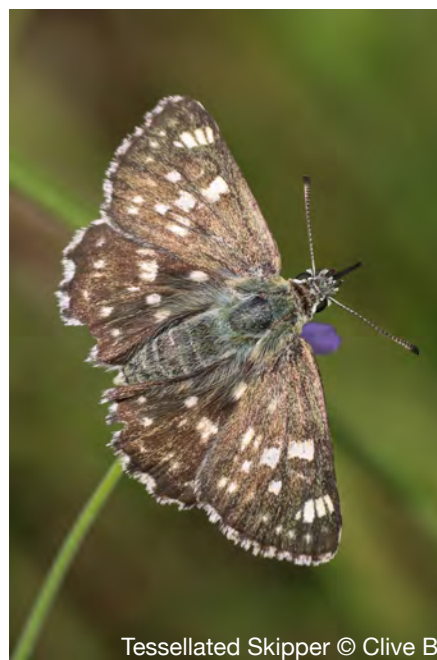
Our plans therefore evolved. In the morning we went out onto Lake Kerkini for a two hour boat trip



with our good friend Nikos. Under his skilful guidance we enjoyed marvellous views of the bustling, stinking heronries of the flood forest, heaving with myriad breeding Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*, Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* and Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, with a few Pygmy Cormorants *Microcarbo pygmaeus* and a Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* also seen. En route, only Andrew had been fortunate enough to see a flyover Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*, but we all had close views of White and Dalmatian Pelicans on the lake.

We'd no sooner returned to dry land than the heavens opened – we drove west to the countryside surrounding Lake Doriani and our site for Tessellated Skipper *Muschampia tessellum* in torrential rain, the vans ploughing through surface water on the roads. Yet, by the time we arrived, the rain was stopping and the skies brightening. We got out of the vans cautiously optimistic we might find our target in the long wet grass and, sure enough, less than five minutes later Jon found our first insect, roosting calmly on a scabious flower. This compliant insect was followed a few minutes later by another, found by David and Rod.

The following hour before lunch was a lot of fun, with more Lattice Browns seen, Balkan Marbled Whites *Melanargia larissa* taking to the wing and then, in a moment of great excitement, David J found an insect that looked very like an emperor in flight... He, Jon and David obtained fair flight views and felt this could be our first Freyer's Purple Emperor *Apatura metis*– but frustratingly the butterfly was lost to sight amongst the tree canopy shortly afterwards.



All was not, however, lost. We had another nearby site for this extreme rarity, and moved there after lunch, the skies now blue and the sun beating down on us once more. A walk of a long muddy track was at first a mixed bag – the highlight being a fabulous fresh female Camberwell Beauty *Nymphalis antiopa* found by Nick, but no sign forthcoming of Freyer's Purple Emperor. A Marbled Skipper *Carcharodus lavatherae* was also new for the trip, but hardly a fair consolation prize.

David J, meanwhile, was deploying both his sharp eyes and a pot of truly foul-smelling shrimp paste. A miasma of fermented shrimp drifted down the track in his wake... but perhaps it was helpful in luring our prize within range of his laser gaze, for soon enough he got a brief glimpse of another Freyer's. Teasingly, it flew high into the tree canopy above us. Jon spotted it at rest on a leaf on the tree top, and we all obtained very distant record shots before it flew into another, larger

tree and was lost to sight. A new butterfly for us all, but not the views we might have hoped for. We planned to return earlier one morning in the coming days for another go at it...

We ate out this evening, a celebration dinner after a fine day, at the railway station tavern. Always a great feed, this evening didn't disappoint, and we returned to the hotel well-fed and happy.

9th June

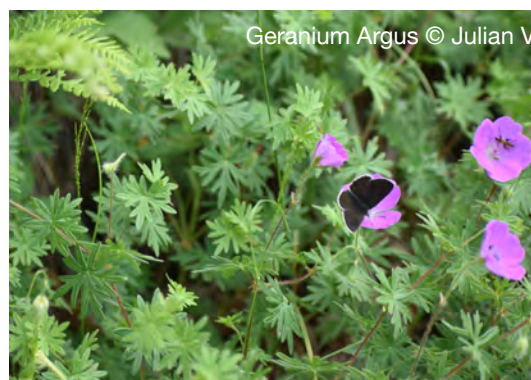
The guides continued to monitor the weather forecasts for the coming week and decided that, in the face of a clearly deteriorating situation in the coming days with a deep low pressure system due to land imminently in Greece, today was the best opportunity available to us to head to the highest point of our week's butterflying, the 1600masl ski resort at Lailias and to work our way downhill from there back to the plains around Kerkini.



Having negotiated the labyrinthine streets of Serres, we arrived at the deserted ski resort and immediately hit the slopes! Happily snow-free, and with butterflies immediately obvious in flight over the grass and patches of flowering plants. Some pristine Woodland Ringlets *Erebia medusa* were quickly seen, their dark *Erebia* fluttering flight always distinctive; and shortly afterwards our first Northern Wall Browns *Lasiommata petropolitana* too.

Fritillaries were much in evidence, with many Queen of Spain *Issoria lathonia* augmented by good numbers of fresh Pearl-bordered *Boloria euphrosyne*, and some Heath *Melitaea athalia* and Eastern Knapweed Fritillaries *M. ornata* also. A dark Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae* was a surprise find and our first of the week. What we couldn't find, however, were any Balkan Coppers *Lycaena candens* – the first time we'd ever missed them here. Maybe the season was a late one and they simply hadn't emerged yet?

Giving credence to that theory, at our next stop, a woodland track some 200 metres downhill, we also failed to find Blue Argus *Aricia anteros*, but noted that the bracken was considerably less well-grown than we were used to seeing it. Julian turned up a consolation prize for us here in the form of a beautiful Geranium Argus *A. eumedon*.



While we were turning up some new butterflies, we needed the welcome hit of a site that was bursting with them, and the next stop, a further 300 metres downhill, delivered – and then some. A stony track, south-facing, with abundant ungrazed patches of vetch was always going to be promising – not least as the sun finally decided to shine uninhibited upon us for a while. New butterflies came thick and fast from the very off – we'd no sooner locked the vans than Jon found our first Balkan Grayling *Hipparchia senthes*, and David our first Anomalous Blue *Polyommatus*



admetus, but there was plenty more to follow – False Eros Blues *P. eroides* puddling on the track metres from similarly compliant Marbled Fritillaries *Brenthis daphne*; Sloe *Satyrus acacia* and Ilex Hairstreaks *S. ilicis* nectaring side by side; and over a dozen immaculate Purple-shot Coppers *Lycaena alciphron*. Even when we returned to the vans for a late lunch the butterflies didn't stop coming. Some folk were distracted by a settled Large Tortoiseshell, while our first Orbed Red Underwing Skipper *Spialia sertorius*

and Eastern Baton Blue were both found while we had lunch in hand.

Our final stop on the descent of the mountain was a roadside meadow that's usually a reliable site for Large Blue *Phengaris arion* – alas not this late season, though we'd none of us ever seen as many Ilex and Sloe Hairstreaks as we did here. A smooth journey back to Lake Kerkini gave us time for another go at Lesser Fiery Copper *Lycaena thersamon*, but once again there was no sign of them to be seen. Maybe another casualty of later than anticipated emergences...

Ominous rumbles of thunder across the lake were the soundtrack to our butterfly hunting at this final site and, as we drove back to the hotel, the anticipated storm began in earnest. Thunder, lightning, heavy rain, and even a severe weather warning texted to many of our phones by the Greek authorities. What would tomorrow bring?

10th June

Given the dire weather warning we'd received the previous evening, awakening to find clear blue skies and sunshine was a pleasant surprise. We brought our departure from the hotel forwards a little to maximise our time in the field, surmising that the weather was likely to break down at some point during the day given the synoptic charts we'd seen, and wanting to maximise our usable time in the field until that point. This proved a wise move...

The day was to be all about a series of meadow sites near to, or even spanning, the border with Bulgaria. At the first, a pair of meadows on either side of a country road, we found incredible numbers of Sloe and Ilex Hairstreaks – countless thousands of insects, with some flowering vetch plants holding over a hundred insects alone. We'd none of us ever seen anything quite like this. An hour here was very pleasant, and yielded a triumvirate of new blues – Adonis *Lysandra bellargus*, Osiris *Cupido osiris*, and Escher's *Polyommatus escheri*.



Escher's Blue © Allan F

A couple of minutes' drive down the road brought us to what would, later, be our lunch site. But first we had another chain of meadows a few hundred metres away to explore. On their outskirts we hoped for Eastern Festoon *Zerynthia cerisy*, though a search for this proved fruitless. Instead, Clive found our first Lulworth Skipper *Thymelicus acteon*, and two new hairstreaks came in quick succession – Blue-spot *Satyrion spini*, and White-letter *S. w-album*. The meadows beyond were, more accurately, ruderal fields with many flowering plants abounding on their broken soil. It looked extremely promising, and so it proved. David J found a fine male Lesser Fiery Copper; Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus armoricanus* was also new here; and some striking, tangerine-hued clouded yellows were extremely suggestive of Balkan Clouded Yellow *Colias caucasica*. This laid to rest something of a ghost for Jon, as on our last trip here he and a guest noticed a similar insect at a nearby site, but were unable to clinch the identification at the time.



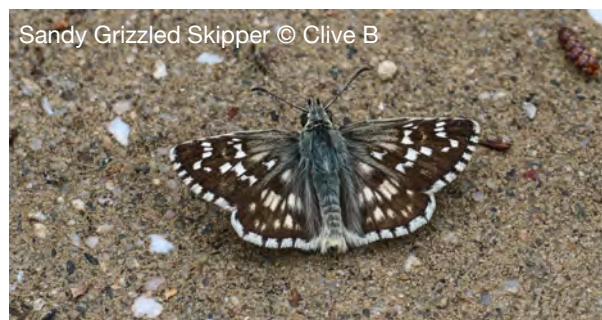
Blue-spot Hairstreak © Clive B

A quick lunch was taken and, at this juncture, it seemed like our day was over – heavy drops of rain began to fall, and we set off for the hotel with the vans' windscreen wipers going. David and Jon had discussed the possibility of detouring should the rain stop and, when it did, they seized the opportunity to head north-east to the very border with Bulgaria and a site that previous groups had spent a little fruitful time at on other tours. We would normally drive into these meadows on an agricultural track, but the previous night's heavy rain meant discretion was necessary – we didn't want our vans bogged down in mud! We walked in on foot, giving ourselves almost two hours here – assuming rain didn't stop play. The first few hundred metres of the track looked distinctly

unpromising, though an early Osiris Blue was a pleasant surprise beside the vans. The track then led into a long mowed field flanked by trees on either side. Here Clive found a Common Glider *Neptis sappho* that, frustratingly, immediately sailed high into the tree canopy. Nonetheless, a promising start...

Beyond the mowed field was a mosaic of mown and unmown hay meadows, each carved out of the woodland that spanned the Greek / Bulgarian border. We each went our separate ways exploring these, and it was Jon who hit the jackpot first with the discovery of a fine summer-brood Map *Araschnia levana* – apparently unheard of in this part of Greece! His shouts brought David J running in time to see the insect before it set off at great speed down the meadow and was lost to sight.

The rest of the group joined them, and set out to relocate the missing Map. While it was to prove a fruitless task, two more marvellous skippers were found here, much to everyone's delight – firstly a Sandy Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus cinarae* and, latterly, a fine Yellow-banded Skipper *P. sidae*. We returned to the vans on schedule at mid-afternoon just in time to depart as the overdue rain began to fall once more in earnest. We'd been lucky with the weather – and our persistence had paid off handsomely.



Sandy Grizzled Skipper © Clive B

11th June

The weather forecasts, once again, had some bearing on our destinations for today – them, and the habits of emperors, whose questionable dining habits are most often displayed in the morning before the heat of the day sends them to sleep it all off in the treetops during the afternoon. We wanted another go at Freyer's Purple Emperor and, with any luck, views down at our feet rather than high overhead, so this meant returning to our newfound site before the day heated up.

For those who didn't fancy emperor-baiting, we had a good alternative – a couple of hours back at our Tessellated Skipper site, which was to prove to be thronging with, in addition to them, many Balkan Marbled Whites and Great Banded Graylings *Brintesia circe* too, and numerous Bladetail *Lindenia tetraphylla* dragonflies which posed obligingly.



Lesser Purple Emperor © Julian V

Back on the muddy lakeside track, David J unleashed the last of his potent shrimp paste, while David M deployed a cocktail of stale urine and cherry juice. Track suitably baited, we spread out to keep tabs on what our lures might attract... David M and Jon were the lucky ones who found an emperor, a tawny beast that initially settled on top of a tall bush. The good news was shouted down the track, and everyone gathered in time to watch this magnificent insect come down to sup on a patch of David J's shrimp paste and, once sated, to perch on a low shrub to clean its proboscis. Who could blame it?!

Doubts began to set in, though, as we questioned what we were seeing. Was this really Freyer's? Careful consultation of the literature confirmed we were right to be cautious – our insect was, in fact, the beautiful *clytie* form of Lesser Purple Emperor *Apatura ilia*. With hindsight, it felt safer to ascribe our previous sighting two days earlier to this species too. In itself, *f.clytie* is still a marvellous find, but Freyer's would have to wait for another day and another tour.

We returned to the Tessellated Skipper site and, after lunching together, headed back towards Lake Kerkini. Jon wanted to try for Southern Comma *Polygonia egea* in a small, pretty village whose narrow streets support patches of the larval foodplant, Pellitory-of-the-Wall. We got

marvellously lucky when, on a patch of Danewort beside our parking place, we found first one and then a second insect calmly nectaring. A great result!

From here we moved to our final site of the afternoon, the old abandoned quarry at Vironia. Butterflies were numerous in the small glades and tracks leading to the quarry, with Large Tortoiseshell a notable highlight, but it was birds that stole the show in the quarry itself, with good views to be had of Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*, Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe melanoleuca*, and Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*.

12th June

Looking at our checklist in the evening the night before, we decided to head back to the Vrontous mountains we'd last visited three days previously – our logic being that it offered the best chance of adding several new species, not least the possibility of Balkan Copper and Blue Argus, both of which might have started to emerge in the intervening days. The weather forecast looked promising, though the cloud-locked skies that greeted us outside the hotel gave some slight cause for concern. At least the sky looked a little brighter in the direction of Serres, the town nearest to the mountains...

Once clear of Serres' labyrinthine streets, we began the long climb up towards the Lailias ski centre. For a while all seemed well, though with no sign of the sun the temperature was steadily dropping. Some 500m below Lailias we started to enter the cloud base and, before too long, were enveloped in thick, grey foggy murk – the vans slowed to a crawl on the tree-shadowed roads, and the atmosphere within them was becoming despondent. Had we come all this way only to have to head back downhill?



Queen of Spain Fritillary © Clive B

It felt like a minor miracle then to round the final corner into the Lailias parking area and to emerge into much brighter conditions. Indeed, the sun was doing its best to burn through the cloud and, in a matter of just a few minutes, did just that. Game on! We hit the slopes with Balkan Copper on our minds. Woodland Ringlets were bouncing around the foot of the ski slope, along with Queen of Spain, Eastern Knapweed and Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, several Southern Grizzled *Pyrgus*

malvoides and Dingy Skippers *Erynnis tages*, and a Mazarine Blue *Cyaniris semiargus* but, apart from a brief false alarm with a bright female Sooty Copper, there was no sign of any coppers bar Small *Lycaena phlaeas*.

In due course Jon's phone rang – Clive had wandered away from the slopes, and found a warm, south-facing area with both Geranium and, critically, Blue Argus! We hastened to find him and, on a narrow pathway, enjoyed brief but good views of two of the latter insect – a most attractive insect, as if someone had crossed a Brown Argus *Aricia agestis* with a Chalkhill Blue *Polyommatus coridon*...

With the pressure of finding Blue Argus taken off us, we didn't need to waste time at our regular Blue Argus site further downhill, and could take the hour saved to the next site, the dry track that had proved so productive three days previously. The rest of the morning was spent here, initially in sunny conditions but, as we reconvened for lunch, under gathering cloud and a freshening breeze.

We compared notes, and realised we'd done well between us, seeing several more Blue Argus here too, in addition to Eastern Baton, Amanda's, and Idas Blues *Plebejus idas*, still more Purple-shot Coppers, and a couple of fresh Safflower Skippers *Pyrgus carthami*. Perhaps the biggest surprise of all, however, was



Blue Argus © Nick O

David's discovery of a Chequered Blue *Scolitantides orion*. Further downhill, we could see a patch of hillside that remained bathed in sunshine while we ate, so made the decision to take the vans off-road down the gravel track to see if the sustained sunshine might reap rewards. It was to prove one of the best decisions we'd made all week...

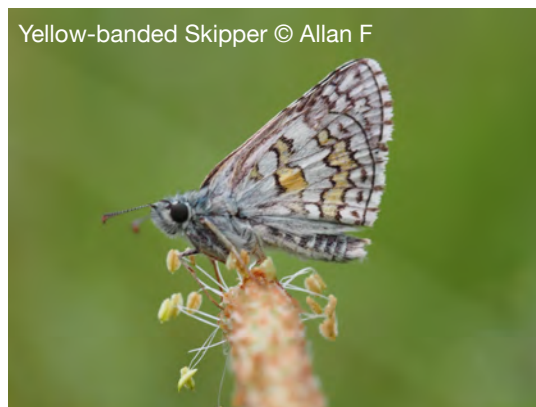


Purple-shot Copper © Clive B

Alas, the sunshine had evaporated by the time we reached a likely looking spot – a south-facing flowery meadow. Undeterred, we spread out into the meadow, and soon began to find insects. First a Safflower Skipper for those who'd missed it further uphill... then a typically fleeting Large Tortoiseshell... and coppers, lots of them. Dozens of fresh Purple-shot Coppers were on the wing here, with Small and Sooty Coppers for company. Cameras were a-clicking at the Purple-shots until a much brighter copper altogether was spotted – could this be a male

Balkan? A quick glance at the upperside hindwings and, crucially, the undersides soon dispelled that notion, but this was something extremely desirable nonetheless – an immaculate male Scarce Copper *Lycaena virgaureae*! Glowing like a hot coal, he flirted with us, flying off purposefully, but being relocated on several occasions as we followed in his wake. Four species of copper, all within a few metres of one another at once – this was the copper mine!

The meadow held further surprises still – a good candidate for Zephyr Blue *Plebejus sephirus*, our second Yellow-banded Skipper of the week, and still another new species, albeit one that's often overlooked – an Essex Skipper *Thymelicus lineola*. As we returned to the vans the stiffening breeze was getting much stronger, and accompanied by the first spots of rain. This might be the last site that yielded any butterflies, but it would be a fitting finale to the week, and definitely a site we'd visit again in future...



Yellow-banded Skipper © Allan F

Once back on the main road we made one final speculative attempt to find Large Blue further downhill. The imminent rain had held off, so it seemed logical to spend a little while here. The meadows in question had been heavily grazed by cattle, but if one looked closely there were still pockets of thyme, and no obvious reason why Large Blues might not persist here. Finding one, however, proved fruitless... but not an entirely thankless task, as during our search David uncovered two new Satyrids – an Oriental Meadow Brown *Hyponephele lupina*, and an Eastern Rock Grayling *Hipparchia syriaca*. The new species were still mounting up.

Back at the vans, David's luck took a turn for the worse when he trod squarely in the middle of a large, fresh cowpat. Or was it for the better? Whilst wiping his boot clean on the grass nearby, he disturbed a distinctive insect sheltering in the vegetation and, as it flew low over our heads, the shout went up – Large Blue! We couldn't believe our luck.

And nor, once we returned to the hotel, was Lady Luck quite finished with us. Allan, standing out on the balcony of his room, was visited by a species we'd been baffled to miss hitherto – Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*. We'd hoped for maybe half a dozen new species today, but finished with thirteen. A brilliant team effort that brought the total number of confirmed species for the week to 94, but with at least one more to come – confirmation of the Sandy Grizzled Skipper was surely but a formality, and with the possibility of Balkan Clouded Yellow to follow too, and who knows what surprises might lurk in guests' memory cards, we would have a final tally of butterflies in the mid-nineties. An excellent week's work by us all, and great fun had.

Greenwings would like to thank the guests for their friendly companionship, excellent butterfly-hunting skills, and good-humoured tolerance of both the vagaries of the weather and the Serres one-way street system! We look forward to travelling with you again someday soon in the future, and sharing some more butterflies, stories and laughs along the way.

Systematic Species Checklists

Butterflies			6th June	7th June	8th June	9th June	10th June	11th June	12th June
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
	Family Papilionidae								
1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Family Pieridae								
3	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
7	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	✓	✓					
11	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓		✓		✓	
12	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Family Lycaenidae								
13	Green hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	✓			✓			✓
14	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium acaciae</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium ilicis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Blue Spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium spini</i>					✓		
17	White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium w-album</i>					✓		
18	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Purple Shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>				✓			✓
20	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>					✓	✓	
22	Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>							✓
23	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	✓						
24	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Butterflies			6th June	7th June	8th June	9th June	10th June	11th June	12th June
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
25	Little Tiger Blue	<i>Tauricus balkanicus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
26	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
27	Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>				✓	✓		✓
28	Osiris Blue	<i>Cupido osiris</i>					✓		
29	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Idas Blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>							✓
31	Zephyr Blue	<i>Plebejus sephirus</i>							✓
32	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Blue Argus	<i>Aricia anteros</i>							✓
34	Geranium Argus	<i>Aricia eumedon</i>				✓			✓
35	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>				✓			✓
36	Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	False Eros Blue	<i>Polyommatus eroides</i>				✓			
39	Escher's Blue	<i>Polyommatus escheri</i>					✓		
40	Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>	✓					✓	✓
41	Anomalous Blue	<i>Polyommatus admetus</i>				✓			
42	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>					✓		
43	Iolas Blue	<i>Iolana iolas</i>		✓					
44	Chequered Blue	<i>Scolitantides orion</i>							✓
45	Large Blue	<i>Phengaris arion</i>							✓
	Family Nymphalidae								
46	Nettle-tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
47	Lesser Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura ilia</i>			✓			✓	
48	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
49	Common Glider	<i>Neptis sappho</i>					✓		
50	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Map	<i>Araschnia Levana</i>					✓		
52	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Southern Comma	<i>Polygonia egea</i>						✓	

Butterflies			6th June	7th June	8th June	9th June	10th June	11th June	12th June
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
55	Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>				✓			✓
57	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓
58	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>			✓				
59	Eastern Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea telona</i>				✓	✓		✓
60	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>		✓		✓	✓		
62	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>				✓			✓
63	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>		✓				✓	
65	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Pearl -bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>				✓			✓
68	Lattice Brown	<i>Kirinia roxelana</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
69	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>							✓
70	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
71	Northern Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>				✓			✓
72	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>				✓			✓
74	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Oriental Meadow Brown	<i>Hyponephele lupine</i>							✓
76	Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>							✓
77	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>				✓			✓
78	Balkan Marbled White	<i>Melanargia larissa</i>			✓		✓		
79	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>							✓
80	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Balkan / Southern Grayling	<i>Hipparchia senthes</i>			✓			✓	
82	Eastern Rock Grayling	<i>Hipparchia syriaca</i>							✓
Family Hesperiidae									
83	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>				✓			✓
84	Southern Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>				✓	✓		✓

Butterflies			6th June	7th June	8th June	9th June	10th June	11th June	12th June
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
85	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>					✓		
86	Sandy Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus cinarae</i>					✓	✓	
87	Safflower Skipper	<i>Pyrgus carthami</i>							✓
88	Yellow Banded Skipper	<i>Pyrgus sidae</i>					✓		✓
89	Tessellated Skipper	<i>Pyrgus tessellum</i>			✓			✓	
90	Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>			✓		✓	✓	
91	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
92	Orbed Red Underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>				✓	✓		✓
93	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>					✓		
94	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>							✓
95	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Black-veined White © Lynn G



Spotted Fritillary © Clive B

Blue Argus © Clive B



Southern White Admiral © Lynn G



Lesser Purple Emperor © Allan F

Birds			6th June	7th June	8th June	9th June	10th June	11th June	12th June
Sightings are marked with ✓, those heard only are marked with 🎵			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
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 White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓		✓			
12	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓	✓				
14	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		✓					
15	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>			✓			✓	✓
17	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>			✓				
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓				
19	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		✓					
20	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓				✓	
21	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓	✓				
22	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>						✓	
23	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓		✓		
24	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>		✓		✓		✓	
25	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
26	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>						✓	✓
27	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓			✓	✓
28	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓				
29	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			✓				
30	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓				
31	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

Birds			6th June	7th June	8th June	9th June	10th June	11th June	12th June
Sightings are marked with ✓, those heard only are marked with 🎵			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
32	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			✓				
33	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓				
34	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
38	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓				
40	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
43	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>					🎵		
44	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				✓	✓		✓
45	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>		✓					
46	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
47	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			✓	✓			
48	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>				✓	✓	✓	
49	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
50	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				✓			✓
53	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓
54	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					✓		
55	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>							✓
57	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				✓			✓
58	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>						✓	
59	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>						✓	
60	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
62	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

Birds			6th June	7th June	8th June	9th June	10th June	11th June	12th June
Sightings are marked with ✓, those heard only are marked with 🎵			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
63	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
64	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>			✓				✓
65	Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca cantillans</i>						✓	
66	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		✓					
67	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				✓			✓
69	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>				✓			
70	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				✓			
71	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓			✓	
72	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>				✓	✓		
73	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓
74	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>							✓
75	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓
77	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>					✓	✓	✓
78	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
79	Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓		✓				
81	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓		✓			
83	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
84	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
85	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		✓					
86	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
87	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
88	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>				✓			
89	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>					✓	✓	
90	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
91	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>				✓			
92	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
93	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	

Photo Gallery

Balkan Water Frog © Allan F



Adonis Blue © Clive B



Balkan Marbled White © Clive B



Balkan Spoonwing © Allan F



Amanda's Blue © Clive B



Balkan Lizard Orchid © Julian V



Stenopogon coracinus © Lynn G

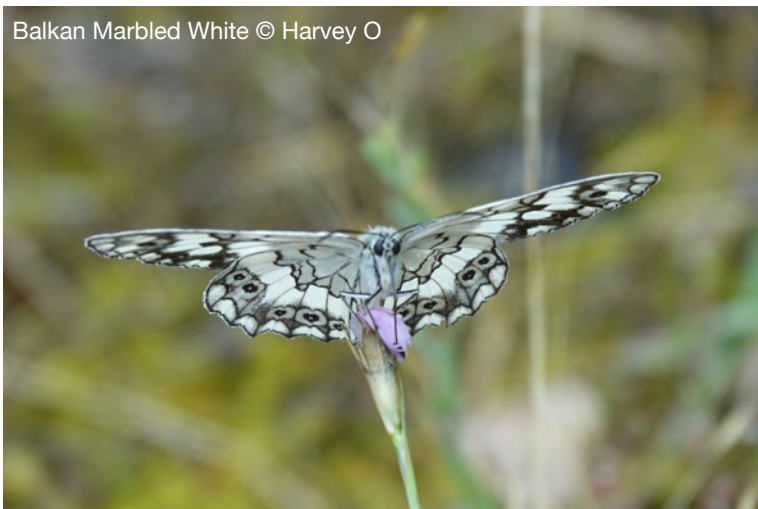


Beautiful Demoiselle © Clive B



Balkan Grayling © David M

Balkan Marbled White © Harvey O



Protaetia sp. Chafer © Lynn G

Philipomyia sp. Fly © Lynn G



Black-veined White © Clive B

Cardinal © Nick O



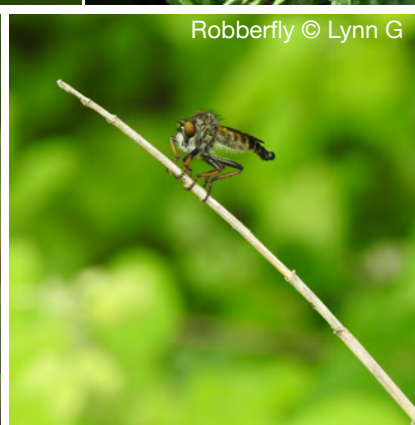
Banded Demoiselle © Allan F



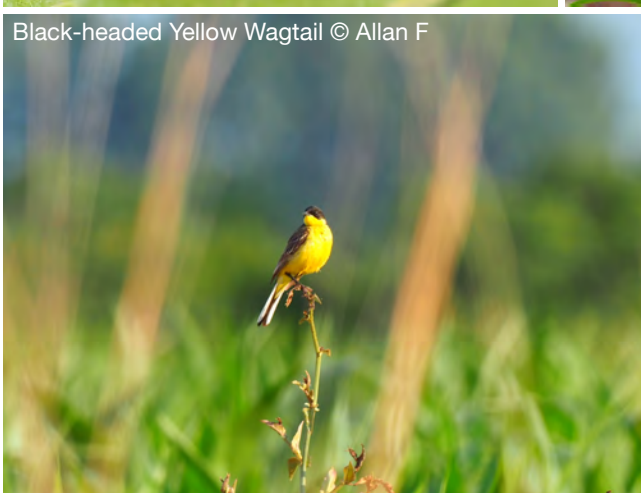
Grecian Foxglove © Allan F



Robberfly © Lynn G



Black-headed Yellow Wagtail © Allan F



Bladetail © Allan F



Blue Argus © Allan F



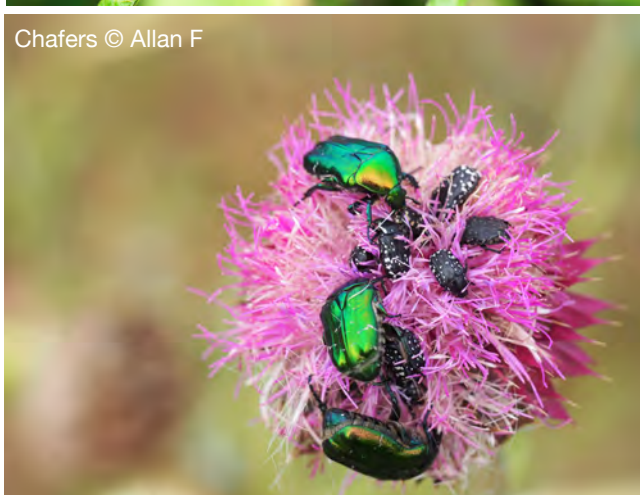
Beautiful Demoiselle © Allan F



Blue-tailed Damselflies © Allan F



Chafers © Allan F



Cirl Bunting © Julian V



Chapman's Blue © Lynn G



Brimstone & Cleopatra © Lynn G



Greek Predatory Bush-cricket © Allan F



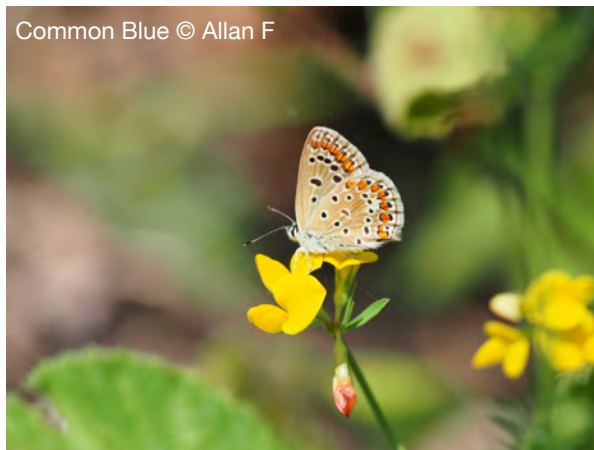
Heath Fritillary © Nick O



Clouded Yellow © Clive B



Common Blue © Allan F



Cleopatra © Clive B



Eastern Bath White © Lynn G



Dalmatian Pelican © Allan F



Black-tailed Skimmer © Lynn G



Geranium Argus © Harvey O



Epirus Water Frog © Allan F



Cleopatra © Lynn G



Eastern Green Lizard © Allan F



False Eros Blue © Allan F



Eastern Bath White © Nick O



Erhard's Wall Lizard © Allan F



Great Banded Grayling © Clive B



Southern Grizzled Skipper © Clive B



© Lynn G





© Nick O

Ilex Hairstreak © Clive B



Lattice Brown © Harvey O



Heath Fritillary © Clive B



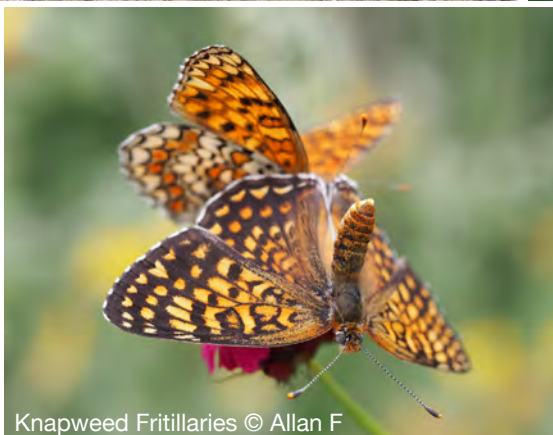
© David M



Hermann's Tortoise © Allan F



Lolas Blue © Nick O

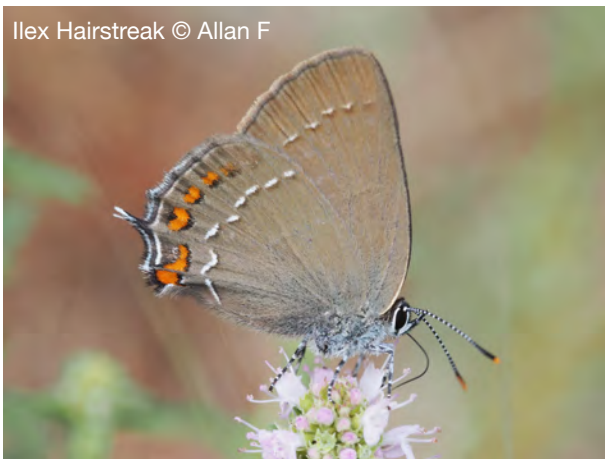


Knapweed Fritillaries © Allan F



Juvenile Eastern Green Lizard © Allan F

Ilex Hairstreak © Allan F



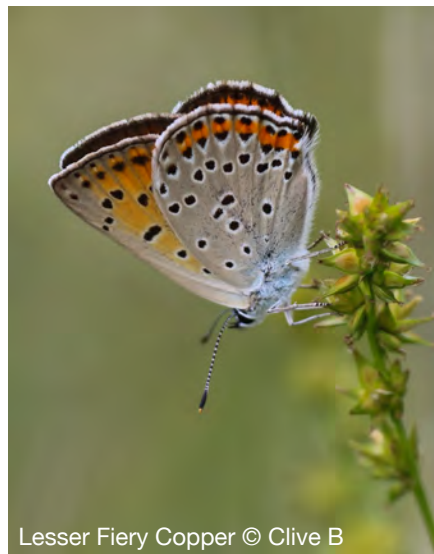
© Nick O



Lattice Brown © Clive B



Meadow Brown © Clive B



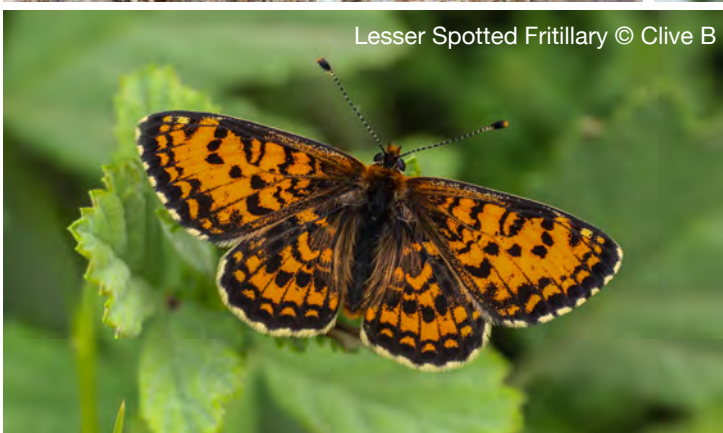
Lesser Fiery Copper © Clive B



Lesser Purple Emperor © Allan F



Little Owl © Allan F



Lesser Spotted Fritillary © Clive B



Little Tiger Blue © David M

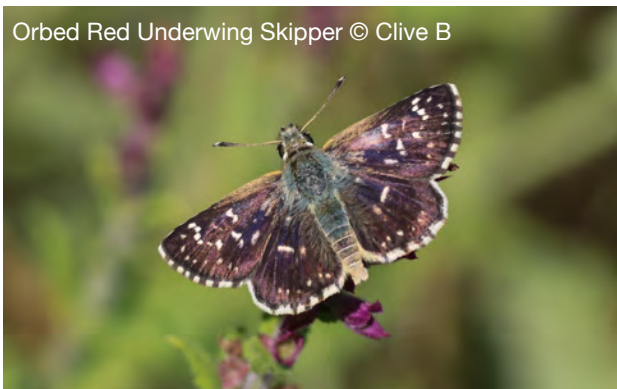
Lesser Purple Emperor © Clive B



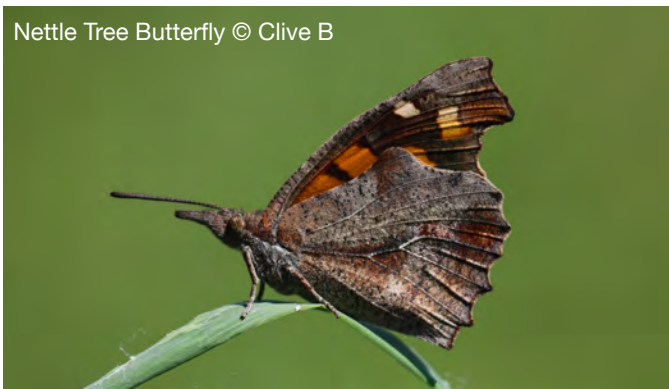
Marbled Fritillary © Allan F



Orbed Red Underwing Skipper © Clive B



Nettle Tree Butterfly © Clive B



Safflower Skipper © Clive B



Scarce Swallowtail © Lynn G



Pearly Heath © Harvey O



Southern Skimmer © Allan F



Swallowtail © Clive B



Southern Skimmer © Allan F



Spotted Fritillary © Harvey O



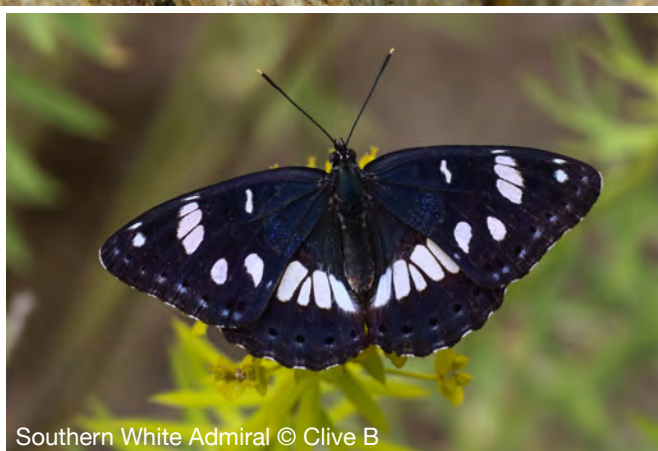
Scarlet Darter © Lynn G



Tessellated Skipper © Allan F



Southern White Admiral © Clive B



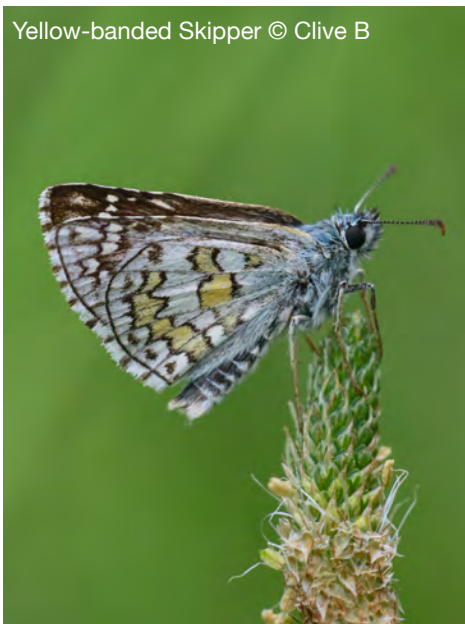
White Stork © Allan F



White Pelicans © Allan F



Yellow-banded Skipper © Clive B



Tessellated Skipper © Allan F

Southern White Admiral © Nick O



Sooty Copper © Clive B

