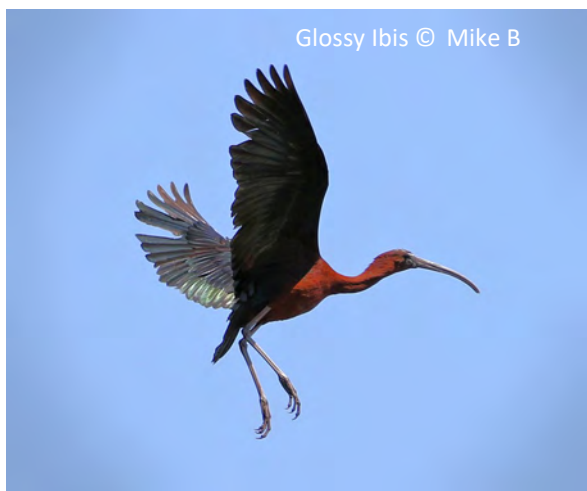


Butterflies & Birds of North Greece

2017

Holiday Report 7 - 14 June 2017
Led by Patrick Barkham and Julian Dowding



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Greenwings group and Steve © Julian D



Cormorants and Spoonbills © Julian D

Introduction

Our holiday was based within Lake Kerkini National Park, one of the best areas in Europe for butterflies and birds. 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 Helen, Dave, Michael, John, James, Anne, Robert and Ann, Michael and Oksana, Howard and David. Steve Mills and Hilary Koll (whose charity Birdwing, Greenwings supports) led the birdwatching with Patrick Barkham and Julian Dowding guiding on the butterflies.

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

Day 1, Wednesday 7th June: Arrival and transfer to hotel. Then the Embankment

Day 2, Thursday 8th June: Lake Kerkini eastern shores and Mandraki Harbour.

Day 3, Friday 9th June: Boat trip and the western shores.

Day 4, Saturday 10th June: Vrodou Mountains.

Day 5, Sunday 11th June: Towards Orvilos

Day 6, Monday 12th June: Undisclosed trail.

Day 7, Tuesday 13th June: Ano Poroia and Mandraki re-visited

Day 8, Wednesday 14th June: Return to UK.

Wednesday 7th : Arrival at Thessaloniki airport, and transfer to hotel.

The sun shone down as our intrepid band of 14 made each other's acquaintance over the baggage carousel at Thessaloniki airport. It was a simple 75-minute drive to Limneo, our hotel in the sleepy northern Greek village of Hrisohorafa.

After settling in at our lodgings, admiring the views of the blue-green mountains all around, we met Steve Mills and Hilary Koll of the charity Birdwing, who were leading the first two-and-a-half days of our holiday. After lunch (traditional Greek Giros), they took us straight out to enjoy the edge of Lake Kerkini in late afternoon sunshine. Many of us were surprised by the lushness of the land, fed by the lake which was created in 1932 to provide the area with reliable irrigation for its golden crops of maize and sunflowers. As soon as we stepped from our minibuses, we were greeted by an astonishing blast from a Great Reed Warbler, tucked away in the reed-filled channels that criss-cross the arable plains. With so many warblers, this was heaven

for opportunistic Cuckoos and sure enough, cuckoo calls also echoed all around us. Little Bittern was also seen at one of the channels and a solitary Black Kite was seen drifting over.

With the kind of sharp-eyed spotting for which she would become known, Helen soon found the nest of a Penduline Tit, an ingenious structure dangling from a poplar branch so slender, together with a collapsing 'pop up' entrance tunnel so that no predators could reach it. The busy adult birds were seen coming and going. We enjoyed great bursts of Nightingale song from almost every bush, accompanied by Olivaceous Warblers and Blackcaps. By the lake, several Night Herons and Spoonbills flew over and, in the distance, Steve identified a feeding frenzy of Cormorants on the water. "The Pelicans won't be far behind," he predicted, and sure enough, a Dalmatian Pelican approached. This simple flyover was an unexpectedly glorious experience. Looking like "a heavy-bodied seaplane" as Ann C put it, this marvellous, stately bird gave eight beats of its enormous wings and then glided for so long that the tips of wings ruffled the water when they began to stroke again.

At the Embankment, we soon saw White Pelicans, which the Greeks call the Rose Pelican, a far better name given the fine rosy tint around its neck. Before we headed home for supper, a Black Kite made an appearance. A few of us butterfly enthusiasts couldn't resist checking out the Clouded Yellows and Holly and Common Blues, and



there was also a tantalising cameo by what looked like a Freyer's Lesser Purple Emperor, a golden gliding insect which circled a willow and then zoomed off before a definitive identification could be made. Greenfinches were also present, while butterfly eyes homed in on Holly and Common Blues, and Clouded Yellows.



Thursday 8th, day 2: Lake Kerkini eastern and northern shores, and hillside.

The early bird caught the worm on our first full day in Northern Greece. Dr Mike went for a stroll in the peace of a pink Greek dawn and bumped into a Beech Marten by the poplars. After breakfast, we took a short trip to the north-eastern corner of the lake, passing Hoopoe, Cuckoo and Kestrel on the drive. Once there, we strolled

along its banks, which provided a fine view of an enormous waterland. Framed by mountains, the scale of this wetland was far greater than anything in Britain, reminding many of us of Africa. Amazing birds approached from all angles and were deftly identified by Steve and Hilary, who have spent two decades becoming the birding experts of Northern Greece, as well as founding the Birdwing charity to encourage a wider appreciation of its ornithological riches. The couple criss-cross the continent each spring and autumn in their camper van, and “this is just about the richest landscape for birds we've come across in Europe,” said Steve.

There were Squacco Herons, Purple Herons, Bee-eaters, Golden Oriole, Pygmy Cormorant, Ferruginous Ducks, Turtle Dove and dozens of Great-Crested Grebe. Mike H spotted a Black-billed Magpie and there were Glossy Ibis and Whiskered Terns. The weather was a little uncertain, the lake animated by storm clouds and, as thunder rumbled in the distance, we heard what for many was a completely new sound – the very lovely fluting of the Golden Oriole. Not to be outdone, Marsh Frogs and chirruping sparrows joined the symphony. In the distance, a herd of Water Buffalo were seen and we soon were able to enjoy the delicate White-legged Damsel and the rather robust and colourful Spurge Hawkmoth caterpillar.

We continued around the north side of the lake to Mandraki Harbour. Steve and Hilary had installed Common Tern nesting platforms close by, and we were able to watch as the adults fluttered in with food for their young. Dave, who quickly demonstrated his aptitude for both birds and butterflies, got a good view of a Scops Owl and then we enjoyed a Springwatch moment: two Golden Oriole madly pursuing a Levant Sparrowhawk, which was carrying something ominous – a chick, perhaps? – in its beak. At a small building by the lake, used for education purposes, Red-rumped Swallows had begun



building their nest.

We had a packed lunch in a scenic spot in the foothills and found a nettle tree decorated with the empty pupal cases of thousands of Nettle Tree Butterflies. Mysteriously, all the Nettle Trees had vacated this spot but Ann C discovered three Lattice Browns on a tree trunk, a large and brown butterfly whose underwings are decorated with ringlet-type spots. Eastern Bath White was seen here along with a rather lonely looking Queen of Spain Fritillary.

As late afternoon grew warmer and sunnier, Steve helped us see a Black-Headed Bunting and a Sombre Tit feeding on old thistle heads on the way up to Vironia Quarry, an abandoned workings in the mountainside. The Sombre Tit was completely unexpected and a first for everybody in the group.



In the old quarry, with the unmistakable song of Cirl Bunting calling nearby and House Martins flying above, Steve pointed out the tiny tubular nest of the Eastern Rock Nuthatch. Hidden somewhere in the rocks were Eagle Owl chicks but they remained a well-disguised secret. Steve and Hilary announced a prize for the first person to spot an eagle and Dave's excitement grew as he found a Black-eared Wheatear and then a Black Stork – “That's better than an eagle isn't it?” he laughed. Dave and Dr Mike were soon to point out Eastern Subalpine Warbler. On the wild Clematis and Christ's Thorn, iridescent emerald and bronze Rose Chafer beetles were busy gathering pollen.

While most eyes were on the skies, the butterflies were beginning to build up too:

familiar British species such as Brown Argus and Silver-washed Fritillary but also new southern European species – Ilex Hairstreak, Southern White Admiral and Southern Small White. We'd clocked up 26 butterfly species during a day of birding and the lepidopteral highlight came late. During a final walk along a hot, flowery drainage channel, Dave found the Purple Shot Copper on bramble.



Bath White © Bob C

Our last scheduled stop of the day was at the eastern channel. Soon, we were finding all manner of birds including Bee-eaters, Red-backed and Masked Shrikes, Common Buzzard and Golden Oriole and a beautifully marked Lesser Spotted Eagle. Oksana had decided to wait by the vehicles, and was rewarded with incredibly good views of Golden Orioles.

The final birding treat on a truly memorable first day was a little owl on the wires just by our hotel, a “furious gargoyle” as the poet R.S.

Thomas once rather unkindly wrote, “that is like a god gone small and resentful”. There was nothing small about our evening meal that night, a traditional Greek feast topped off with a choc-ice held together by two sides of a custard cream biscuit. Ann and Bob celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary by kindly treating everyone to a glass of bubbly. What was their secret? “You won't change him and don't nag – you can get your own way while he thinks he's getting his,” was Ann's advice to wives everywhere. And Bob's advice to husbands? “Just give in,” he chuckled.



Little Owl © Bob C

Friday 9th, day 3: Marshes and the western shores of Lake Kerkini.

The previous day's storminess had cleared the air and the mountains were pin-sharp under brilliant sunshine as we made our way along the western side of Lake Kerkini. Steve and Hilary predicted that plenty of raptors would be taking advantage of first warm thermals and, after enjoying fine views of European Bee-eaters, a pair of Golden Oriole and a Hoopoe, they were proved right: a Short-toed Eagle circled overhead, followed by a Black Stork, Buzzard, Kestrel and then a parade of Pelicans. The thermals help some pelicans commute 200kms each day to their feeding grounds but “if they are well-fed the pelicans just seem to enjoy it,” said Steve. Butterflies present, included

the majestic Southern White Admiral, and Lulworth and Small Skippers.

Our second stop of the day was up a sandy track through a pine wood and along a track by olive groves and rough grassland. The only sound was the ding-ding of cow bells and the purring of a Turtle Dove as a Honey Buzzard drifted overhead, followed by a superb view of a Lesser-spotted Eagle carrying a lizard in its beak. Yellow fleabane was filled with nectaring Marbled Fritillaries and Small and Essex Skippers. And Clouded Yellow was seen nectaring. After well-deserved refreshments in a lakeside taverna, we moved off for a lakeside packed lunch, and here Dave (never one for sitting down) spotted a Lesser Fiery Copper, a magnificent little jewel of a butterfly which lives up to its name. He also found Little Tiger Blue and Mallow Skipper. Dragonfly interest was provided by Keeled Skimmer and Broad-bodied



Chaser. Eastern Olivaceous Warbler was seen, cheekily poking its head out from behind the leaves of Christ's Thorn, before giving us a much better view.

Afterwards, we headed towards Kerkini village, passing some of the 40 White Storks nests, huge structures built atop telegraph poles. Soon, we were gliding out onto the green and silver waters of Lake Kerkini in two boats. First we cruised slowly past the pelican islands, including a new island made of stone and funded by an EU Life grant. Local boatmen observe an exclusion zone around the islands so that 130 pairs of Dalmatians and Whites can nest in peace. There are only 14,000 pairs of Dalmatian Pelicans left in the wild; this lake and the Danube delta host the main colonies. The chattering conversation of these wonderful birds sounded like a malfunctioning Greek motorbike. Further on, our boats crept into the

drowned forest, an area of the lake around the river mouth where willows still grow up through the water. Scores of these tree-islands have been adopted by thousands of nesting Great Cormorants, which stand on their boughs like bizarre black fruit. Not quite so numerous were the smaller, but similarly reptilian- looking Pygmy Cormorants. This other-worldly aquatic forest was also heaven for herons, and amidst the cormorant were nesting Squaccos, Grey Herons, Glossy Ibis, Spoonbills, Little Egrets and Night Herons, whose beautiful blue-grey backs were the colour of a road after the rain.

At the old river channel, plenty of White Pelicans had amassed, their rosy faces and chests now readily apparent.

Slipping quietly between the silvery trees on water that shimmered green and then silver was a unique experience. It is also an endangered one, because this forest is slowly dying. Water levels are normally too high for seedlings



to establish themselves and so there are no young trees to replace the older willows when they die. Steve pointed out areas where conservationists have planted new willow saplings on raised banks just beneath the water. "It's so important that this forest is regenerated because it's the heart and soul of this place," he said.

As well educating us, Steve peddled a fine line in bad jokes. Spotting some terrapins in the water sparked another. "It's like that lorry-load of terrapins that turned over in Newcastle City Centre," he said, putting on a Geordie accent. "It was a turtle disaster."

In such an oasis, we really could have stayed longer, but we headed back to the harbour, stopping for a solitary Black-necked Grebe in amongst a flotilla of countless Great-crested.



On the way home, we stopped to photograph the amazing storks' nests on telegraph poles all over the village of Kerkini and to visit the Black Kite hide on the western side of the lake where we all admired a Black Kite, right on cue, and Julian Helen and Dave caught a brief glimpse of the splendid Iolas Blue, Europe's largest blue butterfly.

Saturday 10th, day 4: Vrodous Mountains.

Our first full day out butterflying dawned with bright sunshine but as we drove into the hills north of the busy city of Serres, cloud started to gather. We stopped for a roadside break by a flowery upland meadow at 750m asl and wandered into it. We found Ilex Hairstreak dashing around the scrub and the big, graceful Balkan Marbled White jinking across the field alongside a dashing Painted Lady. Silver-studded Blues were present here, along with their cousins, Common Blues. Marbled and Lesser Marbled Fritillary put in an appearance too.

By the time we navigated numerous hairpin bends and reached the ski slope at the top of the mountain, the cloud was well and truly down. It looked like it was going to be a tough day. But cloudy conditions can be surprisingly good for getting close-up views of butterflies which spend sunnier hours dashing unstoppably across the landscape. First, however, you must find them. Luckily, the group included a number of eagle-eyed butterfly spotters including Dave, Patrick's dad, John; and James, who in an understated way was often first to identify difficult European species, such as the Sooty Copper. Dave stole the show on this morning by conjuring up a male Balkan Copper, whose vivid orange wings seemed even more luminescent on a cloudy day. Soon everyone in the group was finding new species, from the Northern Wall Brown to the Eastern Bath White. Anne followed a zen butterflying approach, keeping still and letting the rare species come to her. Whenever a fast-moving skipper eluded us, Helen would always find it again. Howard claimed his eyesight wasn't very good but proved remarkably consistent at spotting new butterflies. David and Bob unobtrusively took perfect photos while Ann C captured many glorious and gory moments on video (the ants consuming a mating pair of



Woodland Ringlets; the preying mantis gobbling a Spotted Fritillary). Both Mikes had the gimlet eyes of experienced and knowledgeable birders. Oksana was no slouch on the birds either and, on the final day, made the most remarkable sighting of the trip. Bird wise, Crossbills were seen here along with Gt. Spotted Woodpecker and displaying Tree Pipit, in full parachute mode.

Heading down the mountain brought brighter conditions and we stopped in the high woods for lunch and a short hunt for some woodland species. Here, the heaths revealed themselves: the beautiful Pearly Heath, the Heath Fritillary and the Small Heath. Thanks to Julian's consistently

excellent butterfly-finding, we also turned up a Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Woodland Ringlets and the Wood White. Avian distractions included a superb male Tree Pipit, delighting all of us and no doubt his wife too, with his aerial display, flying up, then parachuting back down to his perch, singing sweetly as he descended. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was also seen here, along with Crossbills.

A slightly lower meadow revealed an unidentified skipper, possible Sandy Grizzled. Later inspection proved it to be Grizzled. Dingy Skipper was also present.

Another woodland clearing gave a brief glimpse of Roebuck, and James identified a perfect male Mazarine Blue. Julian even magicked up a Balkan or Large Copper caterpillar on the underside of one dock leaf among thousands. Southern Small White, somewhat tricky to identify whilst flying, was good enough to call out its



Pearl-bordered Fritillaries © David W



Sooty Copper © Helen B

name, as were Transparent and 6-spot Burnet moths.

Our final stop of the day was the most magical. The sun came out on a thyme-scented mountainside and, as many of us simply relished the magnificent views over Northern Greece we also began bumping into an astonishing range of species. We needed our guides' expert guidance to distinguish a blizzard of blues – Eastern Baton Blues, Amanda's Blue, Mazarine Blue, Chapman's Blue, Holly Blue, Common Blue, Green Hairstreak and Brown Argus – and then Julian found the greatest prize of the day: a rare Blue Argus. We were warming up now and while Patrick was deep in his butterfly book trying to distinguish a female Chapman's from a female Common Blue, a Large Tortoiseshell swooped in on most of the group. James was the first to identify the Balkan Grayling and Dr Mike was practically dancing with joy when the day's end was marked by a Black Woodpecker flying directly overhead. This much sought after bird, had minutes earlier been heard calling an alarm, very near to a juvenile raptor.

It had been an epic day in the mountains, and we returned to the hotel tired but dazzled by our time spent with 53 wonderful species of butterfly in a remote and beautiful landscape.

Sunday 11th, day 5: Orvilos.

We had no illusions about this day. Rain was forecast, cool and grey all day, and we knew we'd have to battle for our butterflies. We first jumped out of our minibuses to admire the spectacular rock cliffs in the small town of Sidirocastro and scan the cliffs for the Rock Nuthatch. This diminutive bird was not showing its face however, so we made do with a fine Honey Buzzard and the lusty croaking of scores of Marsh Frogs in the river. Turning up a mountain road, we pulled over by some flowery mountain grassland overlooking a quarry and admired Alpine Swifts looping in the sky above us, before finding Chapman's and Common Blues roosting in the grass. These two very similar species, can be identified with a bit of perseverance and luck. The cool air also helped today, for most kept their wings tightly shut, until a ray of sunshine coaxed one to open its wings, revealing its marked androconial patches. The only butterfly flying in the cool air was the Eastern Bath White.

Exploring a track up a gully, we found more blues including Osiris Blue, a tiny steely blue-grey butterfly rather like our Small Blue, quietly waiting out the cool weather on a grass stem. Balkan Marbled White was however flying.



Blue Argus © David W



Heath Fritillary © Helen B

We stopped in the village of Achladochori for a coffee in the square and admired the way the townsfolk lived with nature. The square was dominated not so much by the storks' nests but by the hundreds of Tree and House Sparrows nesting and chirping all over, as well as House Martins, which had splattered their mud nests all over the picturesque historic buildings. Would we in Britain be so tolerant? Julian asked about local honey and the friendly taverna owner took some of the group to buy honey from the local beekeeper, who had the most beautiful garden and sold a kilo of wild flower or woodland honey for 7 euros.

We then climbed higher on a rough track up towards the head of the valley, through flowery meadows filled with the kind of arable weeds we in Britain now buy in packs of wildflower seeds. No wonder so many locals had placed colourful beehives on rough field margins: this remote and picturesque country was dripping with nectar. There were no people up here, only dogs tasked to keep an eye on small herds of cattle and all we could hear was lark song. A big plus for the birders was some excellent views of the Calandra Lark. We estimated at least half a dozen pairs had



chosen this spot to set up their homes. Other birds included Black-eared Wheatear, Common Whitethroat, Crested Lark, Red-backed Shrike (very common) Cirl Bunting and Black-eared and Northern Wheatear.

A drizzle came in as we ate lunch but when it stopped we began scouring the small fields and suddenly Bob spotted a Knapweed Fritillary, James found a Lesser Spotted Fritillary and Dave identified a Spotted Fritillary. Essex Skippers and Clouded Yellows also patrolled the field margins alongside the obligatory Eastern Bath Whites.

We headed further east towards Karidochori, making several stops along the way, and with the weather now much improved. Great Banded Grayling was seen and became more and more frequent throughout the afternoon, as did Amanda's Blues. The latter very beautiful species was having a good year, probably as a result of a good flush of its larval hostplant, a Tufted Vetch. A few Ilex Hairstreak flitted about as did 'ordinary' Marbled Whites of the kind found in the UK. The undoubted star of the day butterfly wise was a female Eastern Festoon, found by John.

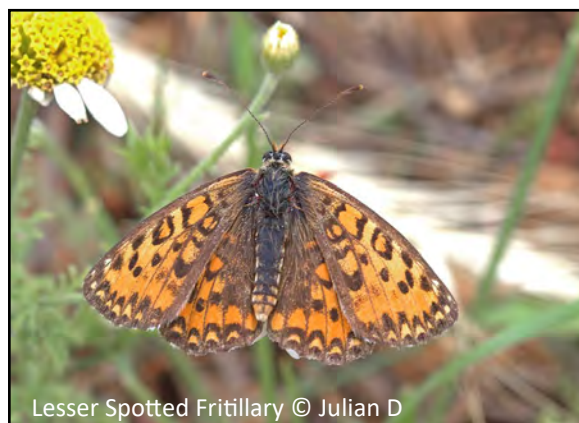
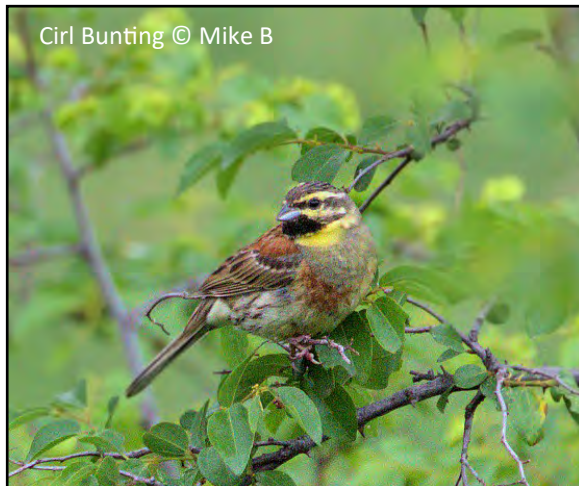
Our last location was at some dry roadside meadows. Here, the curious looking Threaded Lacewing was found in relative abundance, along with Black-veined White, Lesser-spotted Fritillary and Small Blue.

Given the weather, it was never going to be a big butterfly day, but we returned to our base with that kind of glowing feeling obtained from time outdoors in a peaceful place all day.

Monday 12th, day 6

The day dawned exactly as we hoped: brilliant sunshine under perfect blue skies. As we drove out, butterflies jinked along every verge. We headed into the hills but before we began to seriously climb, we stopped in a valley bottom and began exploring the flowery edges of a sunflower field and other small meadows.

There were butterflies everywhere: scores of Marbled Fritillaries and Ilex



Hairstreaks and a surprising number of Southern White Admirals gliding around gracefully. Julian spotted a Large Tortoiseshell which roared over and into tall oriental planes before many could get a glimpse. Closer to earth, we identified the first Hungarian Skipper of the trip and the first Nettle Tree Butterfly, a pleasingly idiosyncratic insect with a long snout, which delighted us all with its frequent reappearances during the day. Clouded Yellows raced over the sunflowers and a Black Veined White floated in, alongside more fritillaries – Queen of Spain,

Knapweed, Spotted, Lesser Spotted and a large number of soaring Silver-Washed. But these gloriously large insects soon had to bow before an even grander creature: the Cardinal, Europe's largest fritillary, which showed us all its marvellous green and orange underwings, with that unique flash of red.



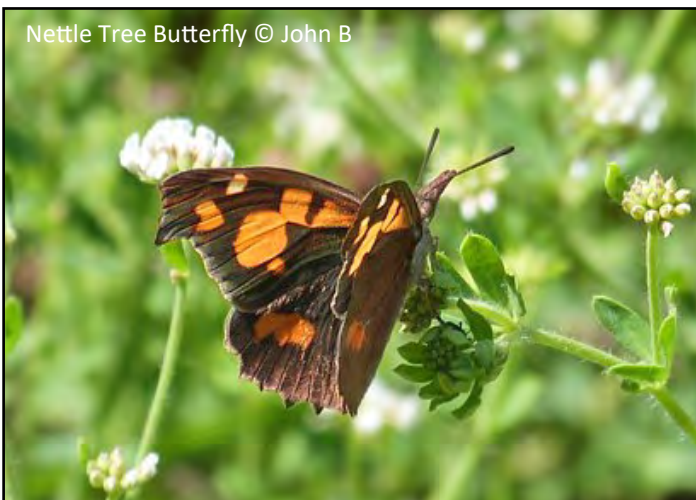
Eastern Festoon Bob C

A cloud of 100 blues, enjoyed themselves at a roadside puddle; Adonis and Osiris, Chequered, Chapman's, Common Blues, all mirroring the blue skies above. The much vaunted Eastern Festoon was seen across the road in a small sandy scrape, along with Great Banded Grayling, Balkan Marbled White, and Large and Small Whites. Glanville Fritillary was also seen here, unfortunately by only one person. However, such was the profusion of species that this didn't really matter in this Aurelian Paradise. In the large meadow, the Large Tortoiseshell swooped in on some of the group – Patrick punched the air in what was his first ever Large Tort spot – and then we moved on.



Queen of Spain © John B

We didn't get far as around the corner Julian spotted the more mud-puddling action by the roadside. A profusions of whites, skippers blues were taking salts and minerals from a damp patch, including our first Mountain Small White of the trip, first Anomalous Blue and several tricky skippers, including Mallow Skipper, Marbled Skipper, and Oriental Marbled Skipper.



Nettle Tree Butterfly © John B

We enjoyed our packed lunch under the shade of an ancient oriental plane tree. Lattice Brown rested on the tree, and by the nearby stone fountain, eating something not normally associated with butterflies, a Great Banded Grayling was probing a bar of soap! Dave – who like the butterflies we were seeking never settled for more than 10 minutes for lunch – checked out some mud-puddling blues we had overlooked and

turned up a Grecian Anomalous Blue. Patrick, our butterfly whisperer was just mentioning that it would be good to see Escher's Blue, when one settled at his feet. This was a stunning male of the *Dalmaticus* variety, with thick black upperside margins and deep blue uppersides. Two more splendid species for an intense butterfly day.

As we moved on, Julian warned us to look out for Southern Comma and Large Tortoiseshell sunning themselves on the walls in the pretty mountain village of Kapnofito, and, by the village cemetery, just after we'd left tarmac and headed onto



Cardinal © Julian D



Ilex Hairstreak © Julian D



Chapman's Blues puddling © Julian D

the dirt track into the hills, we spotted a Large Tortoiseshell. It dived over the cemetery wall so we laid a bait of apricot and nectarine to entice it back. Typically, the butterfly vanished and never showed any interest in our bait. While we waited, it snuck back and we found it chomping on the rotten cherries hanging from a tree behind our backs. On the flowery field edges outside the village Patrick finally found an elusive sloe hairstreak. Unfortunately, Southern Comma was not found.

It was hot but not too hot and the day became one of those legendary sun-drenched days where you fall asleep at the end, a little addled by butterflies, beauty and dehydration.

We followed the mountain track aiming for the higher altitudes, where beech and pine woods offered dappled shade. Here, Dave identified an Eastern Wood White. We also saw Sooty and Small Coppers, Heath and Marbled Fritillaries and even a Speckled Wood. Pearly Heath, Woodland Ringlets, Balkan Grayling and Swallowtail added to the spectacle. Best of all, sunning itself on stacks of felled timber, was another Large Tortoiseshell, and we found others mud-puddling and willing to tolerate photography. On the slow winding track home, Julian braked sharply to spot a Camberwell Beauty soaring over the trees but unfortunately only eagle-eyed Dave was quick enough to spot it. Yellow-bellied Toads had made their burrows in the banks of a stream here and most of the group saw them.



Grecian Anomalous Blue (centre) Anomalous Blue (left) and Chapman's Blue (right) © David W



Roadside puddling © Julian D

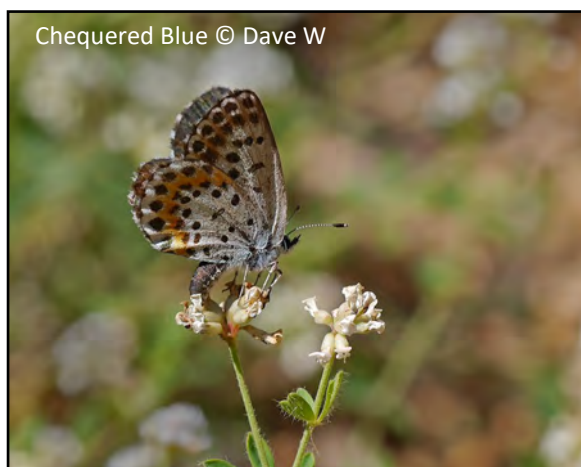
You win some, you lose some, and this was a truly epic day, with 70 different butterfly species – more than could be seen in a year in Britain. For many, it was a first proper sighting of two of Europe's most charismatic species, the Cardinal and the Large Tortoiseshell.

Tuesday 13th, day 7

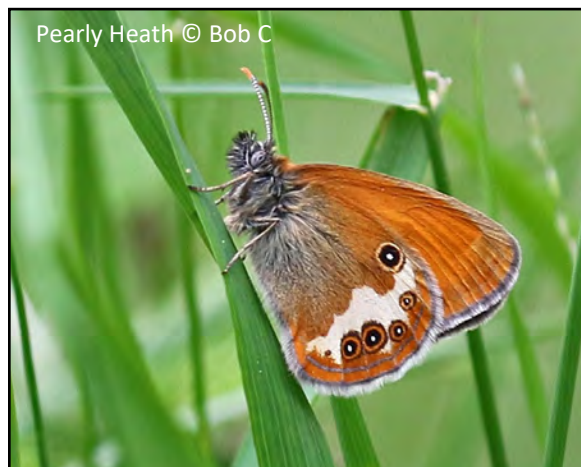
Tuesday looked like it was going to be scorching from the

moment the sun rose over the mountains to the east of Lake Kerkini. We headed up the western side of the lake and stopped by the Black Kite hide, where Julian and a couple of the group had chanced upon an Iolas Blue, Europe's largest blue, earlier in the week during our birding stint with Steve and Hilary. At 9.30am, the marshy tang of the lake signified it was going to be a hot day but it was still rather early for butterflies, with Holly Blues, Balkan Marbled Whites, a Scarce Swallowtail and a Great Banded Grayling (or the GBG, as we started calling it) among the early risers. The raptors were swifter to take advantage of a perfect summer's day, and rising on the warm thermals came a Booted Eagle, straight overhead, followed by a Black Kite and then a flypast of Pelicans. It is “a wonderful luxury” to have these birds in your skies all the time, said Oksana.

We drove on, admiring a Black Stork before reaching the hill village of Ano Porroia, squeezing between picturesque houses to find the zig-zagging foresters' track which took us up the mountainside. Some years the track is impassable and we slowly bumped over rough stones and around hairpins. “Oh, a beautiful large dark butterfly with yellow edges just flew past,” said Oksana from the back of the minibus. It was a Camberwell Beauty, but Oksana was the only person to see this magnificent, elusive Nymphalid, as it sailed down the wooded slope.



Chequered Blue © Dave W



Pearly Heath © Bob C

We pulled over to explore the flowery margins of the track, which proved to be one of Greece's busier roads – ie, not quite empty. A truck and two pick-ups passed us, and the foresters on their way to work up the mountain looked rather bemused by our binoculars and leaping and pointing in pursuit of the Cleopatra, which we all eventually saw but few managed to photograph given its habit of remaining constantly on the move. On our way up the mountain, we didn't see the range of species we had enjoyed the previous day but we did experience the spectacle of clouds of butterflies. These were mainly Nettle Tree butterflies, which filled any damp hollows in the track. There were also lots of Clouded Yellows, Queen of Spain Fritillaries and Brown Argus, with the majestic Cardinals and the lovely Mazarine Blue also making welcome reappearances. The interesting European summer form of Small Copper was seen here, not the summer variety *caeruleopunctata*, prized by UK butterfly lovers, but a very dark, almost black form, which can play tricks on the unsuspecting. The very similar Sooty Copper was also present.

We reached the plateau at a shade over 1,000 metres and began exploring its series of small glades, each like a different room. In one, Anne found a Large Tortoiseshell feeding on horse manure. There were also plenty of Copper territories, with Smalls, Sooty and Purple Shot all darting low over the turf. Further up, at a second plateau, we found Silver-studded Blues, Brimstone and Green-veined Whites. The two Mikes – both keen birders – explored the alder woods and soon located woodland birds



including Black Woodpecker, Hawfinch, Treecreeper and Nuthatch. The highlight for some was gazing up at the mountainous ridge above us and seeing a Golden Eagle, soaring between Greek and Bulgarian airspace. Others enjoyed a close encounter with a pristine and particularly large continental Swallowtail. It fluttered at clover for 15 minutes, looking at least a third bigger than the smaller, British subspecies.

After lunch in the shade with scores of mud-puddling Nettle Trees, we descended and called in at Mandraki harbour again to seek out Freyer's Lesser Purple Emperor. The reeds echoed to the extraordinary chirruping of Great Reed Warblers and we found plenty of Nymphalids – Peacock, Red Admiral and Comma – some of which were feeding on sweet rotting mulberries but the Emperor continued to elude us. Bird life included Whiskered and Common Terns, and our last view of the enigmatic Pygmy Cormorant. Pool Frog was seen

Refuelled by an ice-cream stop in Vironia, and a lovely view of White Storks nesting at the modern church, we drove up to Vironia Quarry to check again for Little Tiger Blue and Kruper's Small White. Neither showed themselves but we found consolation in a bramble patch dominated by a dozen or more magnificent Silver-washed Fritillaries. Helen – extremely keen-eyed as ever – spotted that one was a curious aberration, with four symmetrical colourless patches on each wing.

After the riches of Monday, some of us were a little disappointed to head home without any new species for the day – or a proper sighting of a Camberwell Beauty – but going through our sightings that evening we realised we had seen 54 species in a day and spent quality time with everything from Large Tortoiseshells to Swallowtails, while also enjoying a quantity of nettle tree butterflies that recalled the Victorian collectors, who wrote of butterflies falling from the skies like autumn leaves.

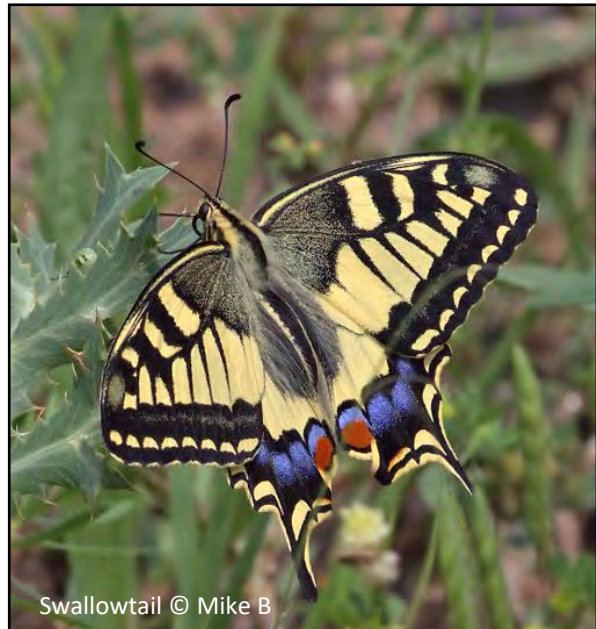
As Mike H pointed out, this trip was filled with unforgettable moments, from the eagle with a lizard dangling from its beak to the Large Tortoiseshell flicking its wings in disdain while feeding at a woodland puddle. We could all choose so many and yet there was also a feeling of having been suffused in the sunny tranquillity of unspoilt northern Greece.

Wednesday 14th, day 8: Return to UK.

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.

Photo gallery and species lists overleaf



Swallowtail © Mike B



Southern White Admiral Bob C



Lesser Spotted Eagle © Mike B

species checklist 7 - 14 June 2017		Wed 7 th Jun	Thu 8 th Jun	Fri 9 th Jun	Sat 10 th Jun	Sun 11 th Jun	Mon 12 th Jun	Tue 13 th Jun
Butterflies		day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
	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	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>			?id		✓	
6	Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>					✓	
7	Oriental Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus orientalis</i>					✓	
8	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carchahrodus alceae</i>		✓			✓	✓
9	Orbed Red Underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>					✓	✓
10	Tesselated Skipper	<i>Muschampia tessellum</i>					✓	
	Swallowtails, Apollos, Festoons	Family <i>Papilionidae</i>						
11	Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>				✓	✓	
12	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon gorganus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
13	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>		✓			✓	✓
	Whites & Yellows	Family <i>Pieridae</i>						
14	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Eastern Wood White					✓		
16	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>		✓	✓			✓
18	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>					✓	✓
19	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
21	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Mountain Small White	<i>Pieris ergane</i>					✓	✓
23	Southern Small White	<i>Pieris mannii</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
24	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓				✓
25	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Blues, Hairstreaks, Coppers	Family <i>Lycaenidae</i>						
26	Green hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>			✓		✓	✓
27	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>					✓	
28	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
30	Purple Shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>		✓			✓	
31	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>			✓		✓	✓
32	Balkan Copper	<i>Lycaena candens</i>			✓			
33	Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>		✓				
34	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>		✓			✓	
35	Little Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i>		✓				
36	Holly Blue	<i>Celestrina argiolus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	<i>butterflies cont'd</i>		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
37	Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>				✓	✓	✓	
38	Short-tailed Blue	<i>Cupido argiades</i>			✓		✓		
39	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>					✓	✓	
40	Osiris Blue	<i>Cupido osiris</i>					✓	✓	✓
41	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>				✓		✓	✓
42	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>				✓		✓	✓
43	Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Escher's Blue	<i>Polyommatus escheri</i>						✓	
46	Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>				✓	✓	✓	
47	Anomalous Blue	<i>Polyommatus admetus</i>						✓	
48	Grecian Anomalous Blue	<i>Polyommatus aroaniensis</i>						✓	
49	Chequered Blue	<i>Scolitantides orion</i>						✓	
50	Brown Argus	<i>Arícia agestis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Blue Argus	<i>Arícia anteros</i>				✓			
52	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>				✓			✓
53	Iolas Blue	<i>Iolana iolas</i>			✓				
	Aristocrats	Family <i>Nymphalidae</i>							
54	Nettle-tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>						✓	✓
55	Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>		Guide					
57	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
58	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
59	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
61	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>			✓	✓			✓
62	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglaia urticae</i>				✓			✓
63	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>				✓		✓	✓
64	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>						✓	✓
65	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>					✓	✓	
66	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>				✓		✓	✓
69	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>		✓				✓	✓
70	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>						✓	✓
71	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Pearl Bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>				✓			
	formerly Satyridae	Family <i>Nymphalidae</i>							
74	Lattice Brown	<i>Kirinia roxelana</i>		✓				✓	✓
75	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓				✓	✓
76	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
77	Northern Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>				✓			
78	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>				✓		✓	

	<i>butterflies cont'd</i>		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
80	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>				✓	✓	✓	
82	Balkan Marbled White	<i>Melanargia larissa</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>					✓	✓	
84	Balkan Grayling	<i>Hipparchia senthes</i>				✓		✓	
85	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
	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
	Common name	Scientific	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
1	Crepuscular Burnet	<i>Zygaena carniolica</i>						✓	
2	Forester	<i>Adscita sp.</i>				✓			
4	6 Spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipenulae</i>				✓	✓	✓	
4	5 Spot Burnet							✓	
5	Transparent Burnet	<i>Zygaena purpuralis</i>				✓			
6	Nine-spotted	<i>Amata phegea</i>				✓	✓	✓	
7	Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
8	Spurge Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>		cat			cat	cat	
9	Wood Tiger	<i>Parasemia plantaginis</i>				✓			
10	Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Epicallia villica</i>					✓		✓
11	Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>				✓			
13	Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>				✓		✓	✓
14	Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>				✓		✓	✓
15	Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>				✓			
16	Silver-ground Carpet	<i>anthorhoe montanata</i>				✓			
17	Orange Underwing sp.						✓		
18	The Passenger	<i>Dysgonia algira</i>			✓				
19	Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>			✓				
20	Bloodvein	<i>Timandra comae</i>						✓	
	Birds								
	Common name	Scientific	seen/heard = ✓ and comments						
	Grebes	Podicipedidae							
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓						
2	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	✓						
3	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	✓ boat trip						
	Cormorants	Phalacrocoracidae							
4	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓						
5	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>	✓						
	Pelicans	Pelecanidae							
6	White/Rosy Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	✓ + nests on artificial islands						
7	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	✓ + nests on artificial island						
	Bitterns and Herons	Ardeidae							
8	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	✓						

	<i>Birds continued</i>		
9	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓
10	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	✓
11	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓
12	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓
13	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	✓
	Storks	Ciconiidae	
14	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	✓ flying over + Korifoudi Marsh
15	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓ abundant in villages
	Ibises & Spoonbills	Threskiornithidae	
16	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	boat trip
17	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	✓
	Swans, Ducks & Geese	Anatidae	
18	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓
19	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	✓ pair seen at Korafoudi marsh
	Kites, Hawks & Eagles	Accipitridae	
20	European Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	✓
21	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓ Kite hide
22	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circus gallicus</i>	✓ several, one with prey
23	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	✓
24	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	✓ chased by Golden Oriole
25	Common Buzzard	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	✓
26	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	✓
27	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	✓ Mt. Belles
28	Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennata</i>	✓ Pale -phase
	Falcons	Falconidae	
29	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓
30	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	✓
31	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	✓
	Rails	Rallidae	
32	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓
33	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓
	Gulls & Terns	Laridae	
34	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓
35	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓
36	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓ Mandraki rafts, feeding young
37	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	✓ Mandraki, Day 7
	Pigeons & Doves	Columbidae	
38	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓
39	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓
40	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	✓
	Cuckoos	Cuculidae	
41	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓ Cut-off channel and embankment
	Owls	Strigidae	
42	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	✓
43	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	✓ Chrysohorafa village
	Swifts	Apodidae	
44	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓
45	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	✓ quarry
46	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓ Airport building, dozens
	Kingfishers	Alcedinidae	
47	River Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	✓

	<i>Birds cont'd</i>		
	Bee-eaters	Meropidae	
48	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓ widespread
	Hoopoes	Upupidae	
49	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓ heard frequently and seen
	Woodpeckers	Picidae	
50	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	✓
51	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	✓ Seen twice, Mt Vrontous and Mt Belles
52	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	✓
53	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	✓
	Larks	Alaudidae	
54	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	✓ good numbers South side Orvilos
55	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓
56	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	✓
	Swallows & Martins	Hirundinidae	
57	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓
58	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	✓
59	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓
60	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓
61	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓ good numbers in Kerkini and at lake
	Pipits & Wagtails	Motacillidae	
62	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	✓ including 'parachute' display song
63	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava (incl Feldegg)</i>	✓
64	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓
	Chats & Thrushes	Turdidae	
65	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓
66	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	✓
67	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	✓
68	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓
69	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Lailias ski centre
70	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓
71	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	✓
	Cettia Bush Warblers	Cettia	
72	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓
	Reed Warblers & Allies	Acrocephalidae	
73	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	✓ widespread around lake
74	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>	✓
	Sylvia Warblers	Sylviidae	
75	Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans albistriata</i>	✓
76	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia corruca</i>	✓ More often heard
77	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia Communis</i>	✓
78	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓
	Leaf Warblers	Phylloscopidae	
79	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓
	Bush Tits/Long-tailed Tits	Aegitholidae	
80	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	✓
	Penduline Tits	Remizidae	
81	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	✓
	Titmice	Paridae	
82	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>	✓ feeding on thistle seeds
83	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	✓

Reptiles & Amphibians			
1	Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>	✓
2	Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>	✓
3	Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>	✓ widespread
4	Stripe-necked Terrapin	<i>Mauremys caspica</i>	✓
5	Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>	✓
6	Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>	✓ Lake Kerkini
7	Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>	✓ Vrodous Mts +squashed on track
Dragonflies			
1	Broad Bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	✓ Mandraki and elsewhere
2	Black Tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	✓ Mandraki
3	Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	✓ Mandraki
4	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	✓ Mandraki
5	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	✓ Mandraki
6	White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platychnemis pennipes</i>	✓ Mandraki
7	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	✓ Bridge nr. Karidochori
8	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	✓ Mandraki
9	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	✓ Mandraki
10	Scarce Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>	✓ Mandraki and cut-off chanel
Other insects and invertebrates			
1	Dung Beetle	<i>Scarabaeus semipunctatus</i>	✓ Vironia and elsewhere
2	Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>	✓ Vironia quarry
4	Thread-winged Lacewing	<i>Nemoptera sinuata</i>	✓ Kapnofito
5	European Mantid	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>	✓
Mammals			
1	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	✓ Vrodou Mts.



Southern White Admiral © John B



White Stork nest © Bob C



Great Banded Grayling feasting © John B





Lesser-spotted Eagle © Bob C



Short-toed Eagle © Bob C



Penduline Tit at nest © Bob C



Squacco Heron © Bob C



Night Heron © Bob C



Clouded Yellow © Helen B



Amanda's Blue © Helen B



Sunflowers © Helen B

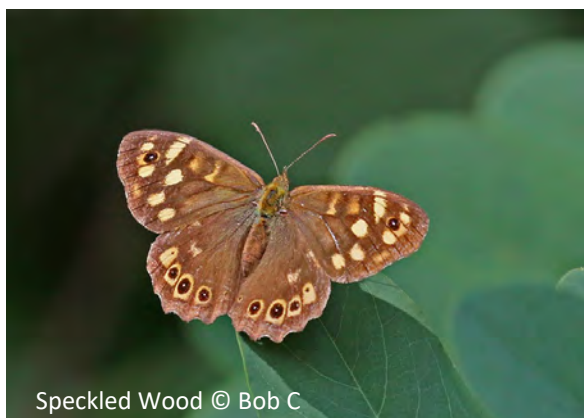


Black-veined White © David W



Escher's Blue *dalmaticus* © David W







Mantis with Lesser-spotted Fritillary © Mike B



Little Owl © Mike B



Beautiful Demoiselle © Mike B



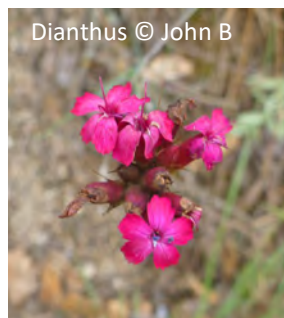
Squacco © Mike B



Night Heron © Mike B



Penduline Tit nest © Mike B





Tortoise © Anne W



Eastern Fестoon © Anne W

