



Birds and Butterflies of North Greece

7th – 14th June 2024

Led by Michael de Courcy Williams



Greenwings Wildlife Holidays

Tel: 01473 254658

Web: www.greenwings.co.uk

Email: enquiries@greenwings.co.uk

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Introduction

June usually brings warm weather but even by normal Greek standards 2024 saw unbroken high temperatures. The heat and lack of rain was to affect our pattern of going in search for interesting butterflies. The area around Kerkini offers exceptional opportunities for butterfly observation due to the proximity of lake, the Strymonas river and a range of nearby high mountains. The combination of lowland wetlands, nearby dry grasslands as well as flower rich mountain fields and track sides, refreshed by numerous streams, high altitude forest clearings and alpine grasslands brings a remarkable diversity of possible species. We were to fully use all this range of habitats to maximum limits in our search for butterflies, birds and other wildlife on this trip. One of the most remarkable experiences this tour offers is an unforgettable trip on Lake Kerkini to observe the incredibly rich birdlife at uniquely close quarters, including many of the largest birds of Europe. Nikos, who provides our accommodation and whose deep knowledge of the lake is our guide on the water and he ensures this is an experience that lives on in your memory as a truly exceptional wildlife experience.

At the last minute two people had to unfortunately pull out of the trip. The remaining four of us worked hard, in a completely rewarding way, to get the most out of the opportunities the trip provides for seeing such a large range of species. Due to the efforts of guests Martine, Dave, Trish, our guide Michael and our host Nikos we enjoyed a truly productive trip.

The itinerary we followed for 2024 included:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Day 1, Friday 7th June: | Arrival at Thessaloniki airport and transfer to Chrysohorafa at Lake Kerkini. Afternoon visit to Vyronia Quarry. |
| Day 2, Saturday 8th June: | Mount Belles a visit to the south-western shore of Lake Kerkini. |
| Day 3, Sunday 9th June: | Vrondous mountain, from the southern foothills to the Lailias ski resort area. |
| Day 4, Monday 10th June: | Lake Kerkini boat trip and birding followed by visit to hills around Lake Doirani. |
| Day 5, Tuesday 11th June: | Promachonas riverside area and on to the hills in the Eastern region of Mount Belles. |
| Day 6, Wednesday 12th June: | The foothills of Vrondous mountain. |
| Day 7, Thursday 13th June: | The foothills and summit area of Vrondous mountain. |
| Day 8, Friday 14th June: | Return to Thessaloniki Airport. |

Daily diary

The following are notes on the stops during the trip with highlights for each day. A full list of butterflies seen is given at the end of the diary in a checklist of species for each site visited. In addition a checklist of the moth species observed is provided and similarly a list of birds seen and their calls heard are given in a checklist form. A number of bird species were recorded from their calls and most of these were supported through the use of the Merlin app produced by Cornell University (<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>). Dave led this use and compiled the list of observations. In addition, a gallery of photos of butterflies and other wildlife observed is provided at the end of the report.

Day 1, Friday 7th June

After a long day's journeying, the small group assembled at Thessaloniki airport prior to driving the trip to our destination at Lake Kerkini. After arriving at our sleepy village we got a late lunch in the village taverna. Suitable fortified and with our baggage safe in the hotel we headed out to see what we could find. Around the hotel we were welcomed by both Common and Scarce Swallowtail, a dancing gypsy moth male, Storks and a circling Honey Buzzard. Our destination for the afternoon was the scrubby grasslands of the nearby Vyronia Quarry. Amongst the grasslands and abundant and very prickly Christ's thorn,, a rhamnaceous shrub, butterflies were hard to find in the heat of the late afternoon. An absolute highlight was the presence of Little Tiger Blue. It's small size is hugely offset by it's exotic looks with distinctive stripes and glittering scales. A late but good start to the week. Returning to our village and after freshening up we went to the taverna we had briefly visited earlier but this time for a proper meal and some cool refreshing beers as it had been a long day for everyone.



Day 2, Saturday 8th June



Following a fortifying breakfast at our hotel and after stocking up with refreshments and cool drinks for the hot day ahead we headed off for a full day in the field. On the back roads towards Mandraki, around the village of Megalochori, we caught sight of Bee-eaters causing us to stop briefly. Numerous dragonflies were around the small ditches and a Common Buzzard flew overhead but the only butterfly of note was Holly Blue. We pushed on to find our destination on the lower slopes of Belles Mountain. On our first stop, along the flowery tracks and Plane trees, we were greeted by the sounds of Golden Oriole.

Numerous flowers of scabious, sparges, chamomiles gave us plentiful whites, including form helice of the Clouded Yellow, Eastern Bath White and most interestingly the Balkan Green-veined White. Here we also saw a late fling Orange Tip. Sooty Coppers were on the scabious flowers and we also found some more Little Tiger Blues. A large Goldenring



dragonfly (*Corduligaster* sp.) was restlessly patrolling a shaded runnel of water and numerous species occur in this region. We also saw the delicate and strangely winged Spoon-winged lacewing. Also, Europe's largest wasp species, the Mammoth Wasp (*Megascolia maculata*), which is a member of the family Scoliidae and reaches up to 6cm long. With its large size, dark wings and bright yellow abdominal markings the wasp makes quite an impressive sight. It's a parasitoid of Rhinoceros beetle, which is also one of Europe's largest beetles. Further on at a reservoir we had

dramatic views below to the countryside by Lake Kerkini. Numerous dragonflies were around the lake water's edge and a flowering Sweet Chestnut tree was drawing in all the green chafer beetles along with Meadow Browns. Our first sightings of the strange Nettle Tree Butterfly and Lattice Brown, most of the latter were now to be seen settling on tree trunks in the deep shade. A sign that the temperatures were already high. A brief visit to the harbour at Mandraki, which overlooks the northern part of the lake had large populations of Lang's Short-tailed Blue. The very large Bladetail Dragonfly (*Lindenia tetraphylla*) put in a showy appearance. Martine also came across a large snake cooling itself in the shallow waters. It turned out to be a Dice Snake (*Natrix tessellata*), which is perfectly at home in the water as it swims well to hunt fish, newts and tadpoles. We could also hear Great Reed Warblers, sitting on top of the reeds and sounding just like frogs. Heading back up on the slopes of Belles Mountain we stopped where large thistles had numerous Balkan Marbled Whites, Eastern Baton Blue and the delicate Spoon-winged lacewings with their long tailed hind wings. With the high temperatures we pushed on as high as we could on the road. Stopping for lunch in the Beech zone we tried putting some water down on the track to see what we could attract. It worked and brought in Peacock and Comma, with very little else. Later in the afternoon we visited a wooded track that lead to a long deserted camp, which provided a flower rich meadow in the forest. The field was full of flowering Thymes, white Brambles, Yarrows with other yellow Asteraciae and leguminous plants in flower. Coppers were numerous, including Small, Sooty and Purple-shot Coppers. Leaving the hillside behind we headed down the western



side of lake Kerkini in search of a spot that previously had the largest blue in Europe, Iolas Blue. We found the foodplant but there was no sign of the butterfly, probably due to the exceptionally high temperatures of the year so far. We were to catch up with Iolas Blue later in the trip at higher altitudes. The only butterflies evident were Brimstone, Small White and Holly Blue. With heat fuelled tiredness, we headed back to our hotel and after a rest enjoyed a few cool beers and a hearty meal in a the village taverna.

Day 3, Sunday 9th June

The next day brought strong sunshine and the promise of high temperatures. A priority of the trip is to visit Vrontous mountain (1849m), with its numerous sites around 14-1500m. This year the decision was made easy due to constant clear weather and indeed the relative cool was more than enticing! After our hearty hotel breakfast and stocking up on supplies for a long day in the mountains we set off for the southern approach to Vrontous via the town of Serres.

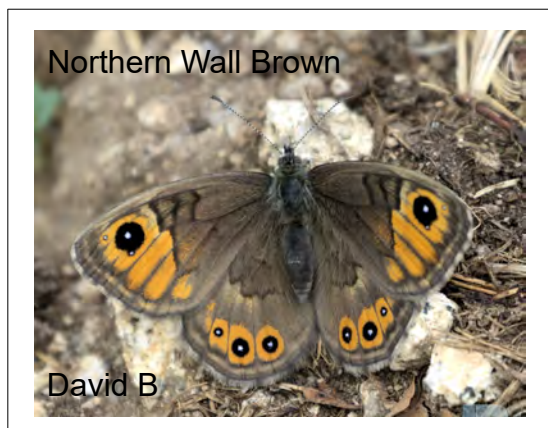
Having put the bustle of Serres traffic behind us and finding the road that was gaining altitude confirmed we were going in the right direction, upwards. Having been confined in the bus for some time, we were eager to stop and see what could be found. Most of the roadside places were heavily grazed with dry grassland. Along with Queen of Spain and Spotted Fritillary were a number of relatively common species as well as Eastern Baton Blue. We were soon on the road again with the aim of



arriving at the ski centre, called Lailias. The area provides a very nice damp subalpine grassland opened up in the generally forested summit area. The whole place was full of fresh flowers and new growth but we were shocked to be in a race to find things against a couple of workers attempting to strim all these wonderful plants into something resembling a badly kept lawn. Apparently this effort to “tidy” the area was for a mountain marathon event later in July! Probably the consequence of a misguided decision made in a remote office! Nevertheless, the edges of the steep slope of the ski run provided a haven for flowers and a couple of other patches of flowers

provided a concentration of butterflies

A highlight were the incredibly beautiful Balkan Coppers. In addition, following some puzzling we realised that Northern Wall Brown was also present. The distinctive and irregular dark line on the upperside hindwing readily separating it from the otherwise very similar Large Wall Brown. This butterfly is restricted to the mountains of North Greece and otherwise found elsewhere only in the Balkan mountains, the Alps, Pyrenees and Fennoscandia. A very nice find making two good observations for the mountains. The area around the ski centre provided a focus of species. Some other sites were found to be unexpectedly dry or had numerous picnickers, a consequence of it being Sunday. Nevertheless, our mountain excursion proved very fruitful. Among the whites we had Mountain Small White, Balkan Green-veined White, Black-veined White and Eastern Clouded Yellow. Small Blue, Green-underside Blue, Zephyr Blue and Meleager's Blue were highlights as were Niobe, Pearl-bordered, Marbled and Heath Fritillaries. We also picked up Lesser Fiery Copper. Along with the remarkable Northern Wall Brown there was Wall and Large



Wall and also Pearly Heath and Woodland Ringlet. Among fritillaries we picked up both Knapweed and Eastern Knapweed Fritillaries, which are very similar species with slight distinctions on the underside hindwing where the submarginal black crescents are connected in Knapweed but separated in Eastern Knapweed.



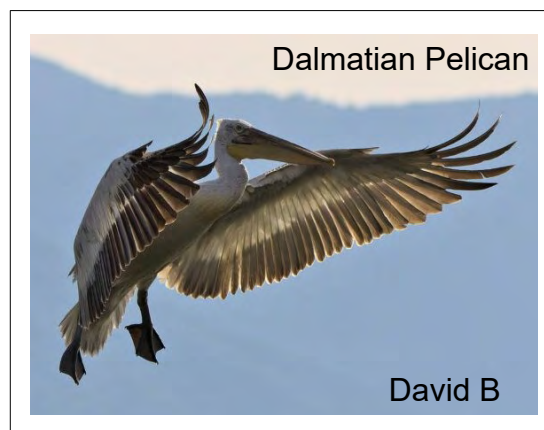
Refreshed from the relative cool mountain air and exhausted from our searches for new species we finally hit the road and our long journey back to base. However, a flowery side track proved irresistible and we took the chance to do some more field work. Although becoming late in the day there were a good range of species and we were rewarded with our only sighting of Cleopatra on the trip.

Being Sunday we treated ourselves to what turned out to be an absolute feast at a taverna in the nearby village of Vyrionia in a charmingly converted old railway station. We were joined by

our hotel host, Nikos and a bird photographer, who was also staying at our hotel. In the warm evening the different dishes came thick and fast forming wonderful conclusion to a successful day. Nikos promised us an early start the next morning for a special wildlife treat with a difference.

Day 4, Monday 10th June

Our instructions for today were to skip breakfast (an alarming thought!) and instead rendezvous at an early hour on the water's edge of the northern shore of Lake Kerkini, at Mandraki harbour. We were in for a special treat with a boat trip on the lake for a birding extravaganza. Our host and guide for the morning was Nikos, who thankfully turned up with breakfast, bakery fresh, along with good supplies of coffee! The day was still, the water calm and the early morning cool was very welcome. Once we boarded the boat and were on our way across the still waters of the lake, we were to enjoy our breakfast while experiencing the sights and sounds of waterbirds of a truly amazing variety. Being amongst them and



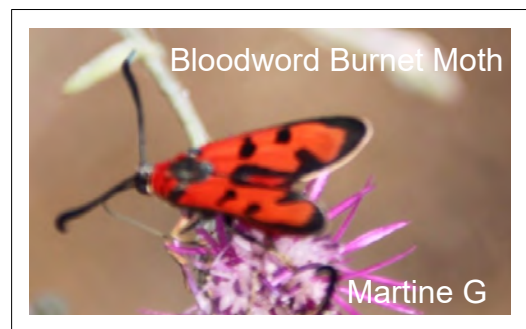
gliding along in their world permitted an otherwise unattainable acceptance and tolerance to our presence. On view were some of our largest fresh water birds, including egrets, herons, cormorants, spoonbills, sometimes in mind-boggling numbers. An absolute highlight were the stunningly close views of our largest birds, the truly amazing and ancient lineage of Pelicans, including both Great White and Dalmatian. Of the two species, Great White Pelicans have a wider distribution in Africa and Asia. Dalmatian Pelican is the largest Pelican in the world and is the more restricted of the two European species in its global distribution. Although wide-ranging, occurring from south-eastern Europe across Central Asia to Eastern China, it's

requirement for extensive undisturbed wetlands makes it vulnerable to habitat loss and is consequently a much rarer species. The IUCN designate Dalmatian Pelican as Near Vulnerable with a decreasing populations. Visiting their world and having such close views of these extraordinary birds is one of the truly exceptional wildlife experiences you can have in Europe. Drifting past nesting Spoonbills, having close views of the reclusive and extravagantly exotic Night Heron and Squacco Heron, being with huge numbers of Pygmy Cormorant and many other bird species as well as listening to the constant chatter, croaks, shrieks and grunts of numerous birds, seen and unseen, under the expert guidance of Nikos gave us an unforgettable experience. We were witnesses to something very special!



Once back on land it took us some time to reset our minds and bring our focus to the remainder of the day on a trip to the low hills around an other lake a little to the West, Lake Doirani. Hot, dry flowery grasslands with thorny Mediterranean scrub were the order of the day. Our main target here was a population of the very local southern Balkan species of Tessellated Skipper. With one tantalising glimpse of our quarry but without supporting photos resulted in a long search. Probably the extended hot period meant that the flight season had already come to an end.

However we had more Balkan Marbled Whites, Chapman's Blue, Little Tiger Blue, Southern White Admiral and a number of other more generally distributed species. Martine found the strikingly marked Bloodword Burnet moth (*Zygaena laeta*), which was also perhaps a sign of just how early the season was this year as the moth usually occurs first in July! Exhaustion overcame us from the relentless sunshine and early start. On returning to our base and after a badly needed rest we went out to a nearby village to enjoy a meal in the warm evening. Once settled on our quiet roadside table a Little Owl landed close by on a building just opposite us and proceeded to screech at us in a most disapproving way. Soon it left us to continue with its foraging and our attention turned our meal that arrived in front of us and our



conversations about the Pelicans, the heat and butterflies. On the way back we dropped Martine off to continue her search by looking for moths to photograph using her portable LED system and light tower.

Looking at the species list we had notched up 72 species, which was a testament to the hard work and field skills of our small group. Given the unusually high temperatures we were experiencing it was interesting to see that 24 of these species, in other words a third of our total, came from sites away from the lowland areas and only once we had gone up a little in altitude.

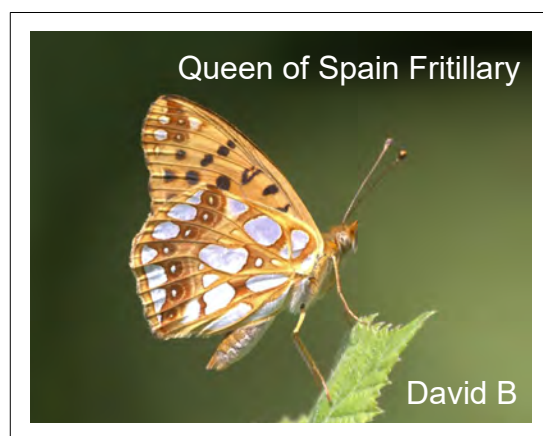
Day 5, Tuesday 11th June

An other warm sunny day greeted us, so it would again be very hot with temperatures in the high thirties! Our first destination was to be followed with a trip to higher ground for the afternoon in an attempt to find cooler temperatures and hopefully more butterflies. Along river near the border is a mosaic of gallery woodland and open fields straddling both the Greek and Bulgarian sides. Our first stop of the day was to explore this area before the temperatures rose uncomfortably. The site produced some good observations including Common Glider, our only Map butterfly of the trip. both Wood White and Eastern Wood White and a small number of Balkan Green-veined White, showing much more diffuse markings along the veins than the more widespread Green-veined White. We were to see the later, later in the day.



As temperatures and humidity rose to uncomfortable levels we headed for the higher ground of the Eastern slopes of Belles Mountain. Once above a small village and having gained about 300m in altitude the appeal of a shaded stream valley enticed us to stop. It was pleasant to be in the shade and the valley gave us Nettle Tree Butterfly and Lattice Brown. It was clear that we should try and gain a little more altitude in our efforts to see some different species. With a determined effort we pushed on up an increasingly winding and forested track to the top where the forest opened out at about 1300m. Eventually, we

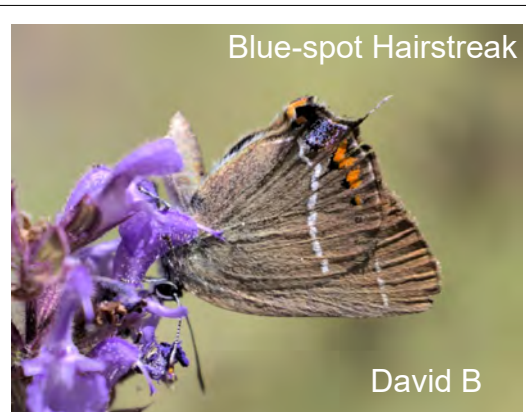
settled on a shaded spot to park for lunch. The track at this point was full of flowers and clumps of Danewort provided a focus for butterflies. The highlight at this altitude was Clouded Apollo, which were reasonably numerous. Here too was Eastern Clouded Yellow and regular Green-veined White provided a contrast to the Balkan Green-veined White we had seen earlier and previously in the trip. This and a number of nearby stops gave us a range of species including Sooty and Purple-shot Coppers, the Fritillaries including Silver-washed, Queen of Spain, Pearl-bordered, Marbled, Spotted and Heath and a range of other more generally distributed species. We slowly wound our way back down to the heat and back to our hotel for a well earned rest. Later we went back to the charming taverna at Vyronia for an other wonderful meal outside as the sun set on an other beautiful warm evening.



Day 6, Wednesday 12th June

Our plan for the day was to head to the Western foothills of Vrontos mountain and visit a number of sites on the back roads and secluded valleys of a quiet corner of the region. Armed with water for us and water to put out on the tracks to provide an additional way to attract butterflies in the heat we set off for our destination. The protracted period of high temperatures meant that most of the sites at lower altitudes were becoming dessicated and flowers were few. Nevertheless, with persistent searching a few interesting sightings were obtained. An early sighting by Dave of a

Camberwell Beauty, our only one of the trip, was welcome even though it did its common habit of flying powerfully just out of reach! We also had our first view of the always beautiful Eastern Festoon. Amongst plentiful Sloe and Ilex Hairstreaks we also found Blue-spot Hairstreak and White-letter Hairstreak to bring up the number of species of this group



of butterflies. Later in the day we were able to add Purple Hairstreak to the list. We came across the Hermit and Eastern Rock Grayling and Little Tiger Blue was also a wonderful addition to our list of sightings for the day. As the day heated up we headed up in search of flowers and different species. Our efforts were rewarded with clumps of Vetches full of butterflies. The spectacular Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoths were feeding on the vetches and provided an exotic spectacle. The vetches also provided us with a list of interesting Blues, including our first Iolas Blue, as well as a host of other species including Large



Blue, Reverdin's Blue, Silver-studded Blue and Amanda's Blue. Amongst plentiful Great-banded Grayling we also saw the smaller and our only sighting of Balkan Grayling. With a day total of 50 species it was clear that concentrating on sites with an extra level of altitude had served us well.

Day 7, Thursday 13th June

It was clear that we should concentrate on revisiting upper regions for our last day. Our destination was the summit area of Vrontos mountain. Given the unbroken good weather we were determined to make the most of our last day's field work. At the lowest levels we had Lang's Short-tailed Blue. A flowery meadow with numerous tall yellow Mulleins (*Verbascum* sp.) and a small stream provided an other good sighting of Eastern Festoon on the trip. Here also we found the large and distinctive Banded Skipper.

Amongst more Large Blues and Silver-studded Blues a remarkable finding here was Eros Blue, our only one of the trip and one of many highlights of the day. Fritillaries were diverse



on this site with Queen of Spain, Eastern Knapweed, Spotted, Lesser spotted and Heath Fritillaries. As well as Balkan Marbled White we had Great-banded Grayling and the Hermit.

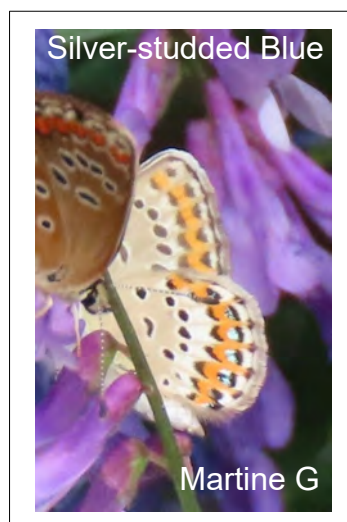
In the extensive region of the summit area of Vrontous we made a stop in a large clearing with Beech forest around and a number of small streamlets, which gave us many species. Here we found our only sighting of Sandy Grizzled Skipper amongst a number of other more generally distributed skippers. Here too, along with Wood White was its distinctive cousin, Eastern Wood White. A dramatic highlight was finding the very beautiful Balkan Copper again along with the much more sombre Sooty Copper. This site produced a number of other nice firsts for our trip including Alcon Blue as well as a Geranium Argus and more Green-underside Blue, Silver studded Blue along with a host of other species.

We also had the remarkable Northern Wall as well as Large Wall and Wall. Fritillaries included Pearl-bordered and Marbled and we had both Knapweed and Eastern Knapweed Fritillaries.

Woodland Ringlet was here as well as Large Tortoiseshell and the Nettle Tree Butterfly.

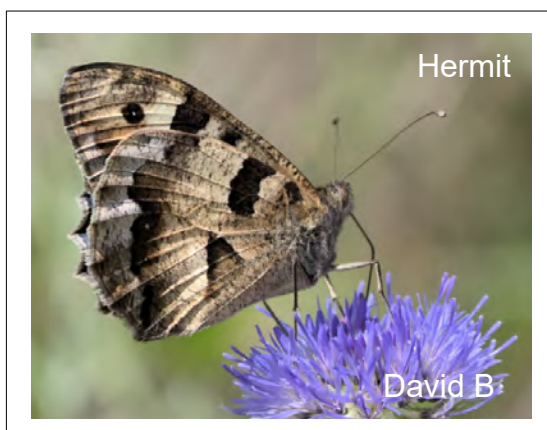
With so much to see, check and photograph including a host of more generally distributed species as well as a range of remarkable sightings meant that time slipped away. Exhausted but with a good range of species seen it was time to make our long way back to the hotel. We had time to recover pack up for an early start the next day before heading out for our last evening meal of the trip. There was no question it had been an exceptional day and there was no better way to celebrate the success of the trip than with a visit to the wonderful Stathmos taverna in Vyrionia, where as darkness enveloped us we thoroughly enjoyed

a truly excellent and traditional Greek mousaka meal washed down with plentiful cool beers. It was the perfect way to reminisce about the trip and what we had found and how time seemed to zoom by, a clear indication of how much we had enjoyed our all too brief visit to NE Greece. The tally for the day showed we had clocked up a remarkable 63 species.



Silver-studded Blue

Martine G



Hermit

David B



Alcon Blue

Martine G



Large Blue

David B



Amand's Blue

David B

Day 8, Friday 14th June

An early start was needed for the journey back to Thessaloniki airport. Although not a particularly long journey, the roadworks involved in widening the ring road on the way to the airport in Thessaloniki meant we had to be careful of unexpected delays. In the event all went well and we arrived at the airport in very good time. Here we parted our ways and after brief goodbyes we each embarked on our long journeys home. Hopefully with good memories and excellent photos to remind us of an exceptional week's butterfly searching and observation of the rich wildlife of the area. Apart from the butterflies there could be no possibility anyone could forget the boat trip on Lake Kerkini with such close views of Pelicans, Spoonbills and Bitterns and much else besides.



Concluding remarks

During the full extent of the trip of 2024 we had exceptionally good weather that remained very hot but allowed us to see an extraordinary variety of butterflies. By combining low lying sites around the lake of Kerkini with excursions into the surrounding mountains we were able to see 95 butterfly species. Some real highlights were the outrageously beautiful Balkan Copper, seen at a couple of different sites. An other highlight was to see Eros Blue in among a long list of other Blues, including Greenish Underside, Iolas, Large, Alcon, Zephyr, Silver-studded, Reverdin's, Amanda's and Melearger's with many others and not forgetting the ever wonderful Little Tiger Blue. Northern Wall butterfly is a notable speciality of this mountainous part of Northeast Greece. Eastern species were well represented with Eastern Baton Blue, Eastern Bath White, Eastern Wood White, Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow, Eastern Knapweed Fritillary, Eastern Rock Grayling and the spectacular Eastern Festoon. With long days spent in field work enjoying a wide range of habitats to observe a host of other butterflies made for a most rewarding trip.

An early morning boat trip onto the lake of Kerkini provided unrivalled opportunities to see a host of spectacular wetland birds. The threatened species, Dalmatian Pelican was a particular highlight along with Great White Pelican and a host of other large birds such as Eurasian Spoonbill, Flamingo, White and Black Storks, Night, Squacco and Purple herons and too many other species to mention.

This area provided many opportunities to see other wildlife and we also observed and identified 62 moth species along with a range of other insects such as Spooontail lacewings and the dramatically coloured Owlfly, *Libelloides macaronius* (see the gallery of photos below).

Checklist of Butterfly species

Species			Trip	7 th June	8 th June	9 th June	10 th June	11 th June	12 th June	13 th June
				Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
HESPERIIDAE										
1	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	✓	✓						✓
2	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	✓	✓			✓			
3	Tessellated Skipper	<i>Muschampia tessellum</i>	✓ ?				✓ ?			
4	Yellow-banded Skipper	<i>Pyrgus sidae</i>	✓			✓				✓
5	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	✓			✓		✓		✓
6	Sandy Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus cinarae</i>	✓							✓
7	Essex Skipper	<i>Thmelicus lineola</i>	✓		✓				✓	
8	Small Skipper	<i>Thmelicus sylvestris</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
PAPILIONIDAE										
10	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	✓	✓					✓	
12	Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>	✓						✓	✓
13	Clouded Apollo	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>	✓					✓		
PIERIDAE										
14	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
15	Eastern Wood White	<i>Leptidea duponcheli</i>	✓					✓		✓
16	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	✓		✓					
17	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegei</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓	
18	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

Species			Trip	7 th June	8 th June	9 th June	10 th June	11 th June	12 th June	13 th June
				Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
19	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
20	Mountain Small White	<i>Pieris ergane</i>	✓			✓				✓
21	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	✓					✓	✓	
22	Balkan Green-veined White	<i>Pieris balcana</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓		
23	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
24	Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias erate</i>	✓			✓		✓		
25	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Brimstone	<i>Gonopteryx rhamni</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
27	Cleopatra	<i>Gonopteryx cleopatra</i>	✓			✓				
LYCAENIDAE										
28	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
30	Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
31	Balkan Copper	<i>Lycaena candens</i>	✓			✓				✓
32	Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>	✓			✓				
33	Purple Hairstreak	<i>Favonia quercus</i>	✓						✓	
34	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
35	White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium w-album</i>	✓						✓	
36	Blue-spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium spini</i>	✓						✓	
37	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
38	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

Species			Trip	7 th June	8 th June	9 th June	10 th June	11 th June	12 th June	13 th June
				Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
39	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>	✓		✓					✓
40	Little Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus balcanicus</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓	
41	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	✓		✓	✓				
42	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>	✓		✓	✓				
44	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>	✓			✓				✓
45	Iolas Blue	<i>Iolana iolas</i>	✓						✓	
46	Large Blue	<i>Phengaris arion</i>	✓						✓	✓
47	Alcon Blue	<i>Phengaris alcon</i>	✓							✓
48	Zephyr Blue	<i>Kretania sephirus</i>	✓			✓				
49	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>	✓						✓	✓
50	Reverdin's Blue	<i>Plebejus argyrognomon</i>	✓						✓	
51	Geranium Argus	<i>Eumedonia eumedon</i>	✓							✓
52	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>	✓			✓		✓		✓
54	Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>	✓						✓	✓
55	Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
56	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Eros Blue	<i>Polyommatus eros (eriodes)</i>	✓							✓
58	Meleager's Blue	<i>Polyommatus daphnis</i>	✓			✓				

Species			Trip	7 th June	8 th June	9 th June	10 th June	11 th June	12 th June	13 th June
				Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
NYMPHALIDAE										
60	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
61	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓
62	Niobe Fritillary	<i>Fabriciana niobe</i>	✓			✓				
63	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
64	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	✓			✓		✓		✓
65	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓			✓				✓
67	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓			✓				
68	Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
69	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
70	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	✓			✓				
71	Map	<i>Araschnia levana</i> f. <i>prorsa</i>	✓					✓		
72	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	✓						✓	
73	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>	✓						✓	✓
74	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>	✓			✓				✓
75	Eastern Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea ornata</i>	✓			✓			✓	✓
76	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>	✓		✓	✓				✓
77	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
78	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>	✓			✓		✓		✓
79	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓

Species			Trip	7 th June	8 th June	9 th June	10 th June	11 th June	12 th June	13 th June
				Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
80	Common Glider	<i>Neptis sappho</i>	✓					✓		
81	Lattice Brown	<i>Kirinia roxelana</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓	
82	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓		
83	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
84	Northern Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>	✓			✓				✓
85	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>	✓			✓				✓
86	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>	✓			✓			✓	✓
87	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Eribia medusa</i>	✓			✓				✓
90	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	✓			✓				✓
91	Balkan Marbled White	<i>Melanargia larissa</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
92	Eastern Rock Grayling	<i>Hipparchia syriaca</i>	✓						✓	
93	Balkan Grayling	<i>Hipparchia senthes</i>	✓						✓	
94	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Hermit	<i>Chazara briseis</i>	✓						✓	✓

Checklist of Moths (62 species)

Kerkini 2024 - Moth List			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
Tineidae		Crambidae (contd.)	
<i>Euplocamus ophisa</i>		<i>Chrysocrambus cassentiniellus</i>	
Zygaenidae		<i>Elophila nympheata</i>	Brown China-Mark
<i>Ragades pruni</i>		<i>Pyrausta aurata</i>	Small Purple-and-Gold
<i>Adscita statices</i>	Forester	<i>Pyrausta purpuralis</i>	Common Purple-and-Gold
<i>Zygaena punctum</i>		<i>Sitrochroa verticalis</i>	Lesser Pearl
<i>Zygaena purpuralis</i>	Transparent Burnet	<i>Euclasta splendidalis</i>	
<i>Zygaena laeta</i>	Bloodword Burnet	<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	Rusty Dot Pearl
<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	Six-Spot Burnet	Sphingidae	
<i>Zygaena lonicerae</i>	Narrow-bordered Five-Spot Burnet	<i>Hemaris fuciformis</i>	Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth
<i>Zygaena trifolii</i>	Five-spot Burnet	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Hummingbird Hawkmoth
Sesiidae		<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>	Spurge Hawkmoth
<i>Pyropteron minianiformis</i>		Geometridae	
Tortricidae		<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>	Speckled Yellow
<i>Olethreutes arcuella</i>	Arched Marble	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>	Common Heath
<i>Crociosema plebejana</i>		<i>Siona lineata</i>	Black-Veined Moth
<i>Eucosma cana</i>		<i>Pseudoterpna pruinata</i>	Grass Emerald
Crambidae		<i>Hemithea aestivaria</i>	Common Emerald
<i>Chrysoteucha culmella</i>	Garden Grass-Veneer	<i>Idaea ochrata</i>	Bright Wave
<i>Crambus perlella</i>		<i>Idaea moniliata</i>	Chequered Wave

Kerkini 2024 - Moth List (contd.)					
Scientific Name		Common Name		Scientific Name	
Geometridae contd.				Erebidae (contd.)	
<i>Idaea sylvestraria</i>		Dotted Border Wave		<i>Amata marjana</i>	Ragusa's Nine-spotted Moth
<i>Idaea biselata</i>		Small Fan-footed Wave		<i>Dysauxes ancilla</i>	The Handmaid
<i>Idaea aversata</i>		Riband Wave		<i>Dysauxes famula</i>	
<i>Rhodostrophia discopunctata</i>				<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	Ruby Tiger
<i>Lythria cruentaria</i>		Purple-barred Yellow		<i>Diacrisia purpurata</i>	Purple Tiger
<i>Scotopteryx coarctaria</i>				<i>Arctia plantaginis</i>	Wood Tiger
<i>Scotopteryx mucronata</i>		Lead Belle		<i>Herminia tarsicrinalis</i>	Shaded Fan-Foot
<i>Scotopteryx luridata</i>		July Belle		<i>Euclidia mi</i>	Mother Shipton
<i>Xanthorhoe montanata</i>		Silver Ground Carpet		<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>	Burnet Companion
<i>Perizoma albulata</i>		Grass Rivulet		<i>Catocala nymphaea</i>	
<i>Aplocera plagiata</i>		Treble-bar		<i>Dysgonia algira</i>	The Passenger
<i>Euchoeca nebulata</i>		Dingy Shell		<i>Grammodes stolidia</i>	The Geometrician
<i>Minoa murinata</i>		Drab Looper		Noctuidae	
Erebidae				<i>Acronicta megacephala</i>	Poplar Grey
<i>Lymantria dispar</i>		Spongy Moth		<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Knot Grass Moth
<i>Amata phegea</i>		Nine-spotted Moth		<i>Emmelia trabealis</i>	Spotted Sulphur

Checklist of Birds (96 species)

Kerkini 2024 - Bird List			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
Podicipedidae		Phoenicopteridae	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Pelicanidae		Anatidae	
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Accipitridae	
Phalacrocoracidae		Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Adeidae		Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Eurasian Sparrow hawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Falconidae	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Ciconiidae		Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Rallidae	
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Threskiornithidae		Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Scolopacidae	
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>

Kerkini 2024 - Bird List (contd.)					
Scientific Name		Common Name		Scientific Name	
Scientific Name		Common Name		Scientific Name	
Laridae				Meropidae	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>			Picidae	
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>			Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Columbidae				Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			Eurasian Wryneck*	<i>Jynx torquilla*</i>
Stock Pigeon	<i>Columba oenas</i>			Alaudidae	
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Cuculidae				Hirundinidae	
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Strigidae				Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Apodidae				Motacillidae	
Pallid Swift,	<i>Apus pallidu</i>			Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Upupidae				White Wagtail*	<i>Motacilla alba*</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			Troglodytidae	
Alcedinidae				Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Common Kingfisher*	<i>Alcedo atthis*</i>			Turdidae	
				European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>

Kerkini 2024 - Bird List (contd.)				
Scientific Name	Common Name		Scientific Name	Common Name
Turdidae (contd.)			Regulidae	
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
Thrush Nightingale*	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i> *		Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		Paridae	
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Muscicapidae			Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>
Black Redstart*	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> *		Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		Certhiidae	
Sylviidae			Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		Laniidae	
Sardinian Warbler*	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> *		Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>
Acrocephalidae			Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Moustached Warbler*	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i> *		Corvidae	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler*	<i>Iduna pallida</i> *		Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Phylloscopidae			Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
Cettiidae			Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>

Kerkini 2024 - Bird List (contd.)									
Scientific Name		Common Name			Scientific Name		Common Name		
Sturnidae			Fringillidae (contd.)						
Common Starling		Sturnus vulgaris			Common Linnet		Linaria cannabina		
Oriolidae			European Goldfinch				Carduelis carduelis		
Golden Oriole		Oriolus oriolus			European Greenfinch*		Chloris chloris*		
Passeridae			Hawfinch*				Coccothraustes coccothraustes*		
House Sparrow		Passer domesticus			Red Crossbill*		Loxia curvirostra*		
Spanish Sparrow		Passer hispaniolensis			Emberizidae				
Eurasian Tree Sparrow		Passer montanus			Cirl Bunting*		Emberiza cirlus*		
Fringillidae									
Eurasian Chaffinch		Fringilla coelebs							

* indicates call only, supported with the use of the Merlin app (Cornell University)
<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

Yellow-banded Skipper



Martine G

Large Skipper



David B

Mallow Skipper



David B

E Wood White



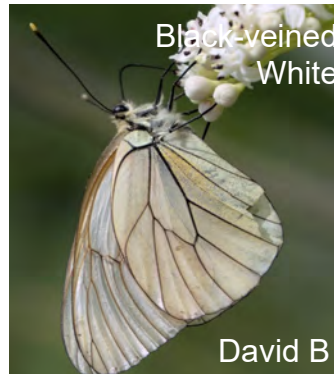
Martine G

Balkan Green-veined White



Martine G

Black-veined White



David B

Meleager's Blue



Martine G

Mazarine Blue



David B

Silver-studded Blue



Martine G

Lesser Fiery Copper



David B

Nettle Tree Butterfly



David B

Cardinal



David B

Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Martine G

Marbled Fritillary



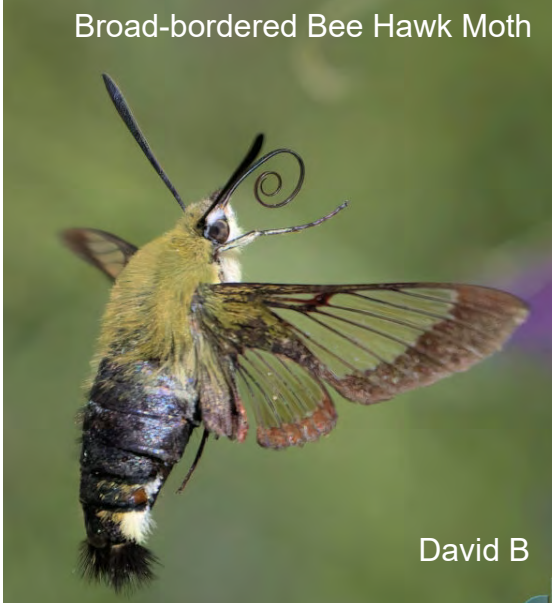
David B

Lesser Spotted Fritillary



David B

Broad-bordered Bee Hawk Moth



David B

Hummingbird Hawk Moth



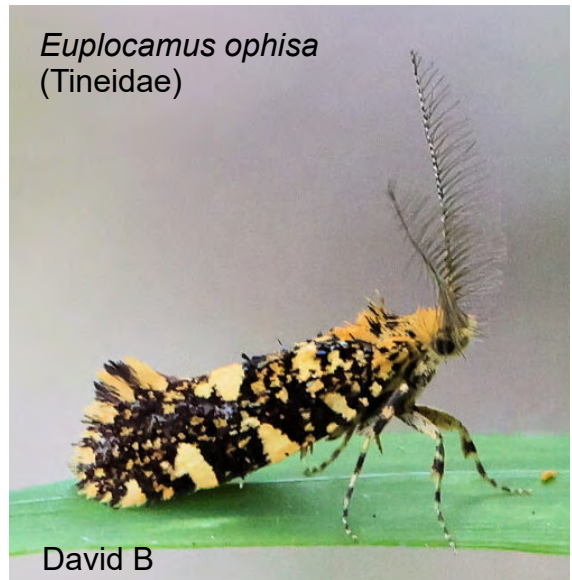
David B

Pyrausta nuptialis
(Crambidae)



David B

Euplocamus ophisa
(Tineidae)



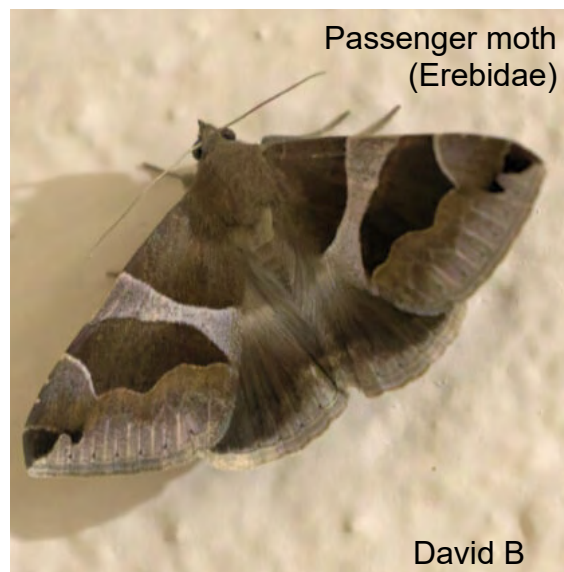
David B

The Geometrician
(Erebidae)



David B

Passenger moth
(Erebidae)



David B



Owlfly
(*Libelloides
macaronius*)

Martine G



Bladetail Dragonfly
with Cicada prey

David B



Small Pincertail Dragonfly

David B



Robberfly

David B



Speckled Bush Cricket

David B



Schmidt's Marbled Bush Cricket

David B



Dalmatian Pelican

David B



Great White Pelican

Martine G



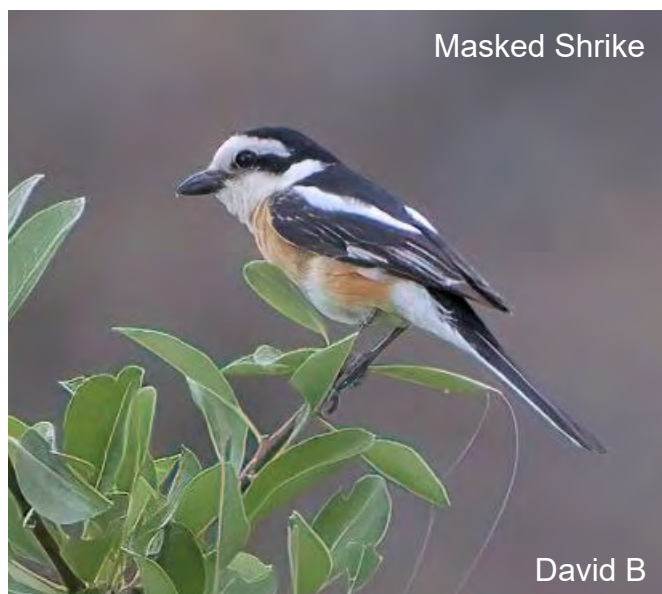
Squacco Heron

Martine G



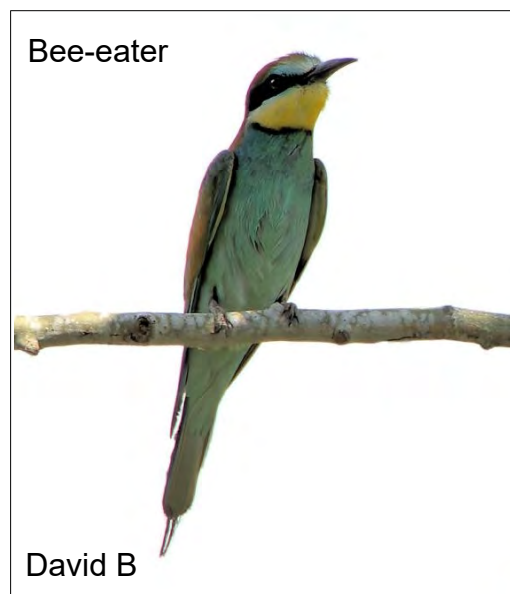
Night Heron

Martine G



Masked Shrike

David B



Bee-eater

David B