

## Butterflies of Croatia

11th - 18th June 2025  
Led by Terry Goble & Martina Sasic



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# **Butterflies of Croatia**

**11<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**Led by Terry Goble with local guide Martina Šašić**

## **Introduction:**

This Greenwings trip to Croatia was designed to sample the extensive and varied habitats of Croatia. The lush lowland flower meadows and the arid coastal plain could not be more contrasting. The mountain meadows and open moorland offered yet another habitat and suite of wildlife to explore. Even though this was just a sample of the major biomes it revealed a diversity of life that provided an exciting trip. The focus was on the butterfly fauna and over eighty species was a great return. Highlights included both European and Scarce Swallowtails and a plethora of obliging Two-tailed Pashas, Europe's largest and most spectacular butterfly.

Such were the interests of the group that we also enjoyed some great bird life with Eagles, Golden Orioles, Bee-eaters and songbirds enjoyed alike. There were many other highlights, but the Bladetail dragonfly and Alpine Longhorn Beetle were fantastic mini-beasts and both usually difficult to find, which made our views even more special.

I think it's fair to say the trip was a great success and much of this credit goes to our local guide Martina, and a group of wildlife enthusiasts that brought a great range of knowledge and expertise to the tour and remained fun and engaged throughout. I like to thank you all for making the week a very enjoyable experience.

## **Wednesday June 11<sup>th</sup>**

Most of the group gathered at Café Nero inside the new Zagreb airport, a stylish modernist building. We all introduced ourselves and waited for the remaining two to join our group. We all chatted in a relaxed atmosphere until it was time to join with the last two arrivals. Welcomes and introductions over, we set off towards our hotel in the heart of the Plitvice National Park.

The journey took around two hours first along the freeway (toll road) and then winding through a mix of towns, forest and meadow. We stopped at a local supermarket to buy some water and to grab some savoury pasties for our lunch with bananas for dessert. Sated, we continued the rest of the now short journey to our hotel.

The hotel is set in delightful terrain of forested hills and open meadows, the rooms were excellent, clean and comfortable. We agreed to meet at 5pm for a local stroll and drove to some nearby upland meadows. Before we set off a Wryneck was heard calling from the woodland and a male Black Redstart was seen on the hotel roof. Not a bad start for the generalists in the group.

We drove a short distance and after about 15 minutes arrived at a gorgeous upland meadow. Hay making was in progress, but much of the meadow was intact. As we alighted from the car we could hear the delightful fluting of Golden Orioles, which was a nice welcome. Almost simultaneously we saw our first butterflies, so our focus shifted. There were several Marbled Fritillaries satellite-ing around some shrubs, all in very good condition. There was also a good number of Yellow-and-Black Longhorn Beetles mixed in with the fritillaries.

As we progressed up through the meadow, we steadily collected a few different butterfly species. It had been a very wet and cool spring so several of the butterfly species were late to emerge, but the species we were seeing were in great condition due to the recent warmer weather. The highlights were the fritillaries, including Twin-spot, Small Pearl-bordered, Heath and probably Nickerl's and perhaps the late show of Black-veined Whites, but closer views would be appreciated as the warm afternoon meant that the butterflies were very active. There was also a very active Sooty Copper that defied decent views as it zipped around the meadow.

Happy with our introduction to Croatia's butterflies and stunning flower meadows we headed back to the hotel to get ready for dinner. We reconvened at 7pm and enjoyed a very relaxing meal

together outside on a sultry evening. We worked out the plans for the following day before retiring to look forward to a full day in the field.

## Thursday June 12<sup>th</sup>

We all met at 7am for breakfast buffet style and enjoyed a relaxed breakfast inside the restaurant. Today we had decided to split into two groups. One group went with Martina to some local butterfly sites and the second group went with Terry to the Plitvice lakes and 'slaps'.

### Group One (report thanks to Jane)

In the morning, Martina took three of us (Giles, Mike and Jane) to a dry, grass-rich meadow. Common plant species included Marguerites, Soft Brome, Campanulas and lots of Yellow Rattle. The morning was warm and sunny, but windy, and the insects mostly remained low in the vegetation. The most abundant butterflies were Meadow Browns and Black-veined Whites, including an aberrant form with red patches on its hind wings. In the sheltered lea of a hedge there were also Silver-studded Blues.

The second field we visited was slightly wetter, and there were dried up ponds and many sedge species. One particularly exciting plant was the Dalmatian Scilla (*Scilla litardierei*), which is endemic to the western Balkans and listed as near threatened. We heard frogs and Golden Oriole and managed to see a Red-backed Shrike and a Black Stork. The butterflies were once again dominated by Meadow Browns, Black-veined Whites and one late Marsh Fritillary.

### Group Two

The morning was bright and sunny as we set off on the short woodland walk to the entrance. Throughout breakfast we had been hearing Golden Orioles as we walked along, we had a couple of glimpses as a male and female flew between some trees. We arrived just before 8am paid the entrance fee and set off on a walk around the park. We stopped to admire the beautiful scenic view of the lakes and waterfalls from a high vantage point, enjoying a panorama of the jade lakes and cascading falls.

We descended into the valley and walked the boardwalks enjoying the scenery and looking out for any wildlife. We visited a couple of the main waterfalls before heading off to the boat station. On route as the morning warmed, we began to see a variety of wildlife including a Grass Snake, Dice Snake and Marsh Frog. The Lake Chub was a constant companion all around the lakes and we began to add dragonfly species, which ended being an excellent haul with the highlights of Goldenring, Lesser Emperor and Clubtail amongst others.

A long walk around to the train/bus station added a few butterflies as we saw a Comma, Clouded Yellow and Large White. The walk took longer than expected and we were running late for the rendezvous time. Thankfully Martina kindly drove down to pick us up at the gate which saved a bit of time.



Black-veined Whites © Giles D



Clouded Apollo © Mike L

We then all drove off, firstly to buy lunches and then on to our first site of the afternoon. It was another beautiful upland meadow, bursting with wildflowers and masses of Black-veined Whites and Heath-type Fritillaries. We slowly accumulated other species and enjoyed Woodland Ringlet and Mazarine Blue. We then set off to our second site where we were hoping to find Clouded Apollo. We did indeed enjoy fantastic views of the Clouded Apollo, but there were many other species in the rich habitat. High Brown and the bright and vibrant Spotted Fritillary were among the many species we saw. Another non-butterfly highlight was a curious

Owfly. This vivid yellow and black insect was enjoyed by all as it alighted in the grass.

Our final destination was targeting the Large Copper. This beautiful species is found in damp meadows where its larval food plant grows. Despite finding a few of the coppers, sightings were brief as the males and females soon flew out of sight and only glimpses of this stunning butterfly were managed. We agreed to have another attempt in the morning. Other butterflies included a pristine Reverdin's Blue a lovely butterfly to end the day on. We headed back to the hotel for around 6:30pm and arranged to meet for dinner again at 7:30pm to give us time to freshen up.

We duly met at 7:30pm and enjoyed a relaxed meal as the evening sunshine was still enough to warm us outside. We chatted about our day and compiled a list of butterflies and other wildlife we had seen. It was a very enjoyable evening capped off by a free drink offered by the owner. We settled our bills and bid each other goodnight to end what was a great day in the rich meadows of Croatia.

## Friday June 13<sup>th</sup>

Today was a travel day, but we started out with a pre-breakfast bird walk. Terry and a few of the group met just before 6:30am and were treated to a double falcon fly-by. Firstly, a Hobby flew by rapidly, followed closely by a male Peregrine. For those that missed the first show they had the consolation of the Peregrine returning, giving stunning views in the morning light.

We walked on down the road and into the Beech woodland. As is typical in mid-June it was quiet, however a few tit species kept us entertained as Marsh, Long-tailed and others were seen, the tits were particularly focusing on a Cherry tree. Other familiar woodland birds were seen, but on the return to the hotel things got a lot more interesting as a Collared Flycatcher posed nicely. Back at the hotel we had much better views of male Golden Oriole, Red-backed Shrike and Glyn got to see the Wryneck that had been calling. We went to breakfast content with our morning's haul.

After our buffet breakfast we loaded the van and set off to our next destination at the heart of the Paklenica National Park. On route we had several stops, our first was at the damp meadow where we had glimpsed the male Large Copper. We failed to see it on this occasion, but had Purple-shot, Balkan and female Large Copper as a consolation.



Our next stop was along a lowland dry meadow that was surprisingly unproductive with mainly Black-veined Whites and Meadow Browns. What was astonishing was the birds of prey overhead! In very quick succession we saw a Golden Eagle being mobbed by two feisty Ravens and then two glorious male Hen Harriers passed through. Then on our way out we had the stunning European Bee-eater and a few Great Grey Shrikes in the same bush. Although this was a butterfly focused trip, the birds were stealing the show!



We next stopped in a more upland meadow towards Mazin and sat in the shade amidst glorious, forested hills and meadows. We enjoyed a relaxed lunch and also picked up some excellent new butterflies including Eastern Baton Blue and Small Blue. There were plenty of very fresh Marbled and Twin-spot Fritillaries and a bonus Knapweed Fritillary. Not to be out done a young Short-toed Eagle drifted by, giving excellent views.

Our final stop was a short walk to a river. At the river Otuča we could hear a chorus of Marsh Frogs serenading us as we looked for butterflies. Among the more familiar butterflies we got our first sighting of the Nettle Tree butterfly, a unique butterfly as it is the only representative in Europe of the 'beaked' butterflies. Whilst the

leaders collected the vehicles the group managed to find their own Scarce Swallowtail!

We now headed off to our hotel via a strange route! We eventually arrived at the pension and had a warm welcome from Martina, the owner. We refreshed and then met to walk to the restaurant which is around a ten-minute walk. It was however still very warm even at 7:30pm and we were happy that the restaurant was able to accommodate us with a table overlooking the Adriatic. As the sun set, it glowed a fiery red and the ambiance was beautiful and serene. We

enjoyed a lovely meal and vowed to return during our short stay. The walk back was decidedly cooler, and we returned to retire for the night after a long but excellent day.



Scarce Swallowtail © Richard A

### Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>

We met for breakfast at 7am, which was the standard buffet affair with some interesting jams. After breakfast we all met by the van and set off to the Paklenica National Park. After a winding start, we eventually got on to the road over the high pass and enjoyed fantastic scenic views below of the Adriatic coastline, and above of the crinkly tops of the jagged limestone mountains.

We wound our way to the car park at the top of the main park road and alighted into the glorious national park. Incessant Hoopoe, Nightingale and Golden Orioles serenaded us as we set out on our walk.



Blue-spot Hairstreak © Mike L

There appeared to be Blue-spot Hairstreaks everywhere, with good numbers of Large Wall Brown. As we strolled down the valley different species came thick and fast in the relative cool of the morning. Niobe Fritillary, Scarce Swallowtail, Eastern Baton Blue and many more were enjoyed. Nearing the end of our walk, Great Banded Grayling, Southern White Admiral and a Cardinal were the highlights. Birds had also been a prominent feature with sightings of Golden Oriole, Rock Nuthatch, Blue Rock Thrush, Black-eared Wheatear and Red-backed Shrike abundant. We even had the great fortune of spotting a distant Chamois, our only

mammal so far!

The walk back was quicker as we were keen to get back to the van for some shade, water and a rest. The day was now getting hot, but at least at the car park there was some breeze.

After our picnic lunch we set off again for a walk along the main track. We had a glimpse of a probable Southern Comma and lots of fritillaries, including a High Brown. The group rested in the shade at the bottom of a valley, watching some birds, whilst Terry collected the van. There was a Cleopatra flying across the track, which the group missed, but hopefully we would see more.

Terry collected the group and drove back down to the viewpoint for a brief stop. On the way, two Great Sooty Satyrs were seen as they flew around the vehicle. After a brief stop at the viewpoint, we continued to the hotel to get out of the searing heat.

We took a break for the hottest part of the day and met again at 4pm for a stroll in nearby, costal meadow and woodland habitat. The area has been degraded, by a combination of building (including a new supermarket!) and slightly by market gardening. Access was limited but some paths took us deeper into the habitat. We were surprisingly successful in finding wildlife and the butterfly highlight was a pristine looking European Swallowtail and for those who like their birds, Melodious Warbler, Zitting Cisticola and Turtle Doves were a nice addition to the sightings.

Although still warm it was decidedly cooler than a few hours ago and it was a nice walk back to the minibus seeing Spotted Fritillary and more Turtle Doves on route. Not a bad way to end a delightful day.

We all met again for dinner. Tonight, we were trying Kaleta restaurant on the recommendation of Martina, who booked ahead for us. It was a nice little restaurant by the Adriatic coast. A little busier area as it was centrally located, but charming in its own way. Service was good and everyone seemed to enjoy their food. We discussed the plans for the next day and everyone was unanimous in wanting to go to the marsh land reserve for a change of scenery. We arranged to meet at 7am and bade each other goodnight.



### **Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>**

We all met at 7am for our now familiar buffet breakfast. It was a still and humid morning, the Adriatic looking like glass. It was a glorious setting for our breakfast in the shade of the breakfast area.

Today we had decided to visit the East of the region. We met again around 8am and set off on an hour-long drive...except that it turned out to be a slightly longer drive as we stopped for a Hare sighting, to assist a Spur-thighed Tortoise across the road and to admire a European Bee-eater on a power line adjacent to the road.

We eventually arrived at the visitor centre, already feeling like we had seen a lot of wildlife. We paid the entrance fee and tried to find shade to park the bus as it was now already a hot day despite only being a little after 9am.

We initially walked the boardwalk seeing Black-winged Stilt, Little Egrets and plenty of Grey Herons. A Marsh Harrier and a Purple Heron were a little more exciting and it was nice to find a few Pygmy Cormorants diving in the shallows.

As we walked along we enjoyed dragonflies, a big fat Common Carp (plus introduced Pumpkinseed fish) and also a few butterflies such as whites, Clouded Yellows, Walls and a majestic European Swallowtail, all the while serenaded by Reed and Cetti's Warblers and the ever-present Nightingales.

The morning got even better when a glimpse of a large fast butterfly turned out to be a Two-tailed Pasha. Although they were not great views, we saw it a couple of times as it patrolled in the shade of the hedgerow. We decided to return to the centre and seek some shade ourselves and perhaps cool in the bus as it was now very warm.

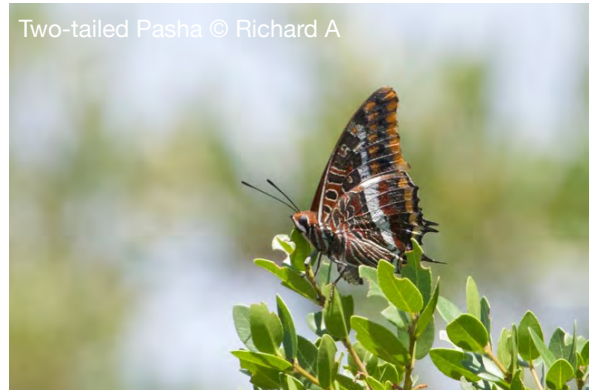
We paused a while at the visitor centre and then set off to the café and viewpoint on a hillside above the lake. On route we decided to visit a separate viewpoint over the rocky hillside. We



parked up in a scruffy lay-by and stood at the edge of the rocky shrubs. Wildlife sightings then came thick and fast as a host of butterflies including Pasha, both Swallowtails and the Great Banded Grayling among a host of others made an appearance. Perhaps the highlight however was reserved for the stunning Bladetail dragonfly that appeared in front of us. It was both beautiful and dramatic as it perched just a few feet away, a cracking dragonfly. What looked an unpromising site turned out to be excellent and difficult to tear ourselves away.

We eventually drove on to the visitor centre, restaurant and viewpoint with the promise of coffee and loos. On route we saw some excellent birds including Turtle Doves, European Bee-eaters and Woodchat Shrikes.

We arrived at the centre, showed our tickets and headed for the shade of the picnic table where we proceeded to enjoy our lunch. Whilst sitting there we had a procession of Two-tailed Pasha, some sitting obligingly a few feet away! Swallowtails, a Cleopatra and Ilex Hairstreaks were other butterfly highlights while we sat and relaxed and enjoyed the panoramic views.



Two-tailed Pasha © Richard A

All good things must come to an end as they say and we began to make our way back to the hotel to get some rest in the hottest part of the day. We arrived back in good time and agreed to meet again at 4pm for another local walk.

After an afternoon rest, we reconvened at 4pm at the bus. There was a ripple of excitement as Ian had seen a butterfly around the geraniums, he thought to be the Geranium Bronze. The few that had gathered confirmed that it was indeed a Geranium Bronze, another for our list.

We set off to the Paklenica National Park and walked a cycle path. Historically this has been a fine walk for butterflies, reptiles and birds. On this occasion it was a little disappointing as we had only a few species. Both Swallowtails were seen and a few Walls, Clouded Yellow, Common Blue and Skippers. There were common birds and the only signs of the (black) Red Squirrels were nibbled pine cones!

We decided to walk back to the minibus and return to the hotel to get ready for our last evening at Sidro Restaurant before we departed in the morning.

Food and ambience was again lovely at Sidro and we enjoyed watching the sun turn crimson before it eventually disappeared below the horizon. After a relaxed and enjoyable meal, we walked back to the hotel in the warm evening air. We bade each other goodnight and went to our rooms.

## Monday June 16<sup>th</sup>

Today was a transition day as we were driving to our final hotel. We met for breakfast as usual at 7am and a last look for the Geranium Bronze. It was still a little too early for the butterfly so we had our breakfast as usual and met again at 8:30am to load the van and head off to our next destination.

We took a coastal road to enjoy the splendour of the rocky Adriatic coastline. Occasionally passing small towns and following the many desolate islands just across from the mainland. Eventually we turned inland and took a short break just to stretch our legs and enjoy the view. We wound up the coast road and after many hairpin bends arrived up in the foothills of the Velebit mountains.



Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth  
© Giles D

Our hosts were out shopping and were not due back for a few hours. This gave Martina plenty of time to show us the fabulous upland meadows. First though after a short coffee break, we brought our lunches from a local store and headed off to the first meadow. The skies looked ominous and a tiny sprinkle of rain fell. However, we were fortunate that the skies cleared and we enjoyed a lovely warm afternoon.

The first meadow, despite being relatively small was packed with butterflies and other insects. The highlights included very fresh Dark Green Fritillaries and a few High Browns. Also new for the group was the attractive Eastern Large Heath. The non-butterfly highlight was a gorgeous Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth. We also had two very dark forms of Spotted

Fritillary and Knapweed Fritillary.

We travelled back down the road a little further and came to a larger meadow. This produced again a large a varied population of fritillaries, with a lot of fresh Twin-spot and many others. The only new butterflies were the Essex Skippers, but we also enjoyed the splendid Owlflies. We then headed back to the hotel after exploring these two great upland meadows.

When we arrived at the hotel the owners had just arrived back, so we decided to give them time to get sorted and headed up the road to a higher meadow. The weather had remained breezy all day and now was a little cloudier. Some of the butterflies were already beginning to roost. We enjoyed watching Mistle Thrushes take advantage of the freshly mown meadows, joined by White Wagtails. A little distance away a male Golden Oriole gave an extended flight view as it crossed the meadow and Red-backed Shrikes hawked from fences and power lines around us. The butterflies were not neglected, and we were delighted to add Alcon Blue to our sightings. This was a great note to end on and we returned to the hotel to check-in and get some rest.



*Libelloides macaronius* © Richard A

We all met for dinner at 7:30pm. The evening had got dark and moody with rain threatening. The meal was however fun and relaxed with Mike challenging the knowledge of the leaders with some dodgy photographs. The food was a set menu to meet the individual dietary requirements. Everyone seemed to enjoy this more rustic food and hotel. The forecast for tomorrow didn't look promising and it had already started to rain steadily. We agreed a later breakfast and to make some plans when we had seen what the weather was doing. One idea was to drive South to find a drier area. In the meanwhile, we enjoyed our meal and then retired to get some sleep. Outside the steady rain had turned to a deluge and a lightning storm was lighting up the surrounding mountains whilst the thunder clapped loudly over the hotel... I guess the moth trap was out then! Giles consoled himself with the intricate stonework on the hotel floor, belying his geological background.

## Tuesday June 17<sup>th</sup>



Alpine Longhorn © Giles D

After the stormy night we woke a little later than usual to be greeted by a grey sky and cool temperatures. An impromptu bird stroll yielded only common birds. Whilst walking, the skies began to brighten and we had hope of a productive day. On return to breakfast the morning was made more delightful by Mike finding the Alpine Longhorn Beetle. This gorgeous longhorn is difficult to find and a stunning beetle. All the group got to see it and it was much admired and photographed.

We then finally sat for breakfast which consisted of homemade jams and herbal tea as well as the usual buffet items. It was very enjoyable and relaxed meal. We agreed to meet again at 9am to see how the weather was faring and to decide on the options.

When we met at 9am the skies were still cloudy, but a little brighter so we decided to visit a lake area in the morning and go up into the North Velebit National Park in the afternoon when the forecast was of clear skies.

We drove down to Otočac to collect some supplies for our picnic lunch. We then returned to the lake. It was still cool and cloudy and therefore there was little insect activity. We did see a few damselflies and a new dragonfly, but butterflies were limited to common species such as Marbled Whites and Meadow Browns. The birds were a little more obliging and we had both Purple and

Grey Herons at close range, Others included Cirl Bunting, Common Whitethroat, Serin and some waterbirds (Coot and Little Grebe). Above us a Common Buzzard and Peregrine appeared together both being harassed by smaller birds.

We then continued south a little more and went to a marshy area. However, the area had recently been flooded and then dried out, this left a meadow of dead plants and grasses. We consoled ourselves with some good views of Golden Oriole and managed a new species of butterfly for the trip as we saw a couple of pristine Short-tailed Blues.

We decided the weather looked bright enough to have a picnic up in the national park and drove to the entrance. Once parked up we had a picnic lunch in the wooded meadow. There were a few species around including Spotted Fritillaries and Heath Fritillaries as well as a few blues, Eastern Large Heath and Marbled Whites. Giles heard a Firecrest, but we were unable to locate it.

We made the decision to purchase tickets and drive into the park. As we drove up into the moorland plateau the clouds descended onto the hills and the temperatures became decidedly chilly. The conditions meant both birds and insects were nearly impossible to find. Happily, Jane stepped up and used her botanical knowledge to help identify and enjoy the alpine flora. Giles also chipped in with his explanation of the geology of the region. Both were entertaining and very knowledgeable and we were grateful for their input. Just as we made our way back to the van Mike spotted a roosting butterfly, which turned out to be an Alcon Blue! This was our only butterfly of the afternoon.

We drove back down and out of the park and returned to the meadow we last visited yesterday afternoon. There were a few mostly common species and a few Alcon Blues. However, the cool temperatures and cloudy conditions mean searching for insects was tricky. We enjoyed watching Red-backed Shrikes and Mistle Thrushes as we walked the meadows and a small track. As conditions got slightly worse, we decided to return to the hotel rest up and meet for dinner at 7:30pm.

### Wednesday June 18<sup>th</sup>

We all met for breakfast at 7am and enjoyed our last meal together in a relaxed and chatty atmosphere. After breakfast we took some group photos, packed the bus and said farewell to Ian, who was heading off to Zandar to continue his holiday. The rest of us headed to Zagreb airport along the toll roads. We did however spot a Hedgehog species and Red Fox along the roads as we headed to the capital.

We arrived in Zagreb with plenty of time for the flights, but just about in time to return the bus. After we had returned it we headed to the departure terminal. Here we said our goodbyes as we were off in different directions. Richard and Brigid were continuing their adventure in Slovenia and Jane was heading back to Munich. We thanked Martina for her help and for injecting her own brand of humour into the week as she headed back to Zagreb. Giles and Graham took the earlier flight and Mike and Terry the slightly later one back to London and the tour came to a close.

## Species Lists

Butterflies of Croatia: June 2025			11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th
Imago sightings are marked with ✓, larvae sightings are marked with ☆			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
	Family <b>Papilionidae</b>									
1	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Clouded Apollo	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>		✓						

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4	Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>		✓☆						
<b>Family Hesperidae</b>										
4	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>		✓			✓	✓		
5	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>				✓	✓			
6	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
7	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>						✓	✓	
8	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alcaea</i>			✓	✓				
9	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>			✓					
10	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
11	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>		✓						
12	Large Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>		✓						
<b>Family Pieridae</b>										
13	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓		✓			✓	
14	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
15	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>					✓			
16	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>			✓	✓				
17	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
20	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓			✓	✓		
21	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓		✓			✓	
22	Southern Small White	<i>Pieris mannii</i>				✓		✓	✓	
23	Mountain Small White	<i>Pieris ergane</i>				✓				
<b>Family Lycaenidae</b>										
24	Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>			✓					
25	Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>		✓	✓					
26	Balkan Copper	<i>Lycaena candens</i>			✓					
27	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
28	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		
29	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium ilicis</i>				✓	✓	✓		
30	Blue-spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium spini</i>				✓				
31	Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>					✓			
32	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>				✓				
33	Alcon Blue	<i>Phengaris alcon</i>						✓	✓	

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34	Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>			✓	✓				
35	Short-tailed Blue	<i>Cupido argiades</i>							✓	
36	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>			✓					
37	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓	✓					
38	Reverdin's Blue	<i>Plebejus argyrognomon</i>		✓						
39	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
40	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>			✓			✓		
42	Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
43	Turquoise Blue	<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>			✓					
44	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>Family Nymphalidae</b>									
45	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>				✓	✓			
46	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓		✓		✓		
47	Twin-spot Fritillary	<i>Brenthis hecate</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		
48	Lesser Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis ino</i>	✓							
49	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>	✓		✓				✓	
50	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>				✓				
51	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Speyeria aglaja</i>						✓		
52	Niobe Fritillary	<i>Fabriciana niobe</i>				✓				
53	High Brown Fritillary	<i>Fabriciana adippe</i>		✓		✓		✓		
54	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>	✓							
55	Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Boloria dia</i>	✓							
56	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		
57	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓				✓	
58	Southern Comma	<i>Polygonia egea</i>								
59	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>		✓						
60	Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>		✓						
61	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>					✓			
62	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>		✓			✓	✓		
63	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>			✓			✓		
64	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>		✓	✓				✓	
65	False Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea diamina</i>		✓						

<b>Butterflies of Croatia: June 2025</b>			11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th
Imago sightings are marked with ✓, larvae sightings are marked with ☆			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
66	Assmann's Fritillary	<i>Melitaea britomartis</i>		✓				✓		
67	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
68	Nickerl's Fritillary	<i>Melitaea aurelia</i>	✓	✓						
69	Nettle Tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>			✓	✓				
70	Two-tailed Pasha	<i>Charaxes jasius</i>					✓			
71	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Eastern Large Heath	<i>Coenonympha rhodopensis</i>						✓	✓	
73	Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
74	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>		✓				✓	✓	
75	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>				✓				
76	Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>				✓	✓	✓		
77	Balkan Marbled White	<i>Melanargia larissa</i>				✓				
78	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Eastern Rock Grayling	<i>Hipparchia syriaca</i>				✓				
80	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>				✓	✓			
81	Great Sooty Satyr	<i>Satyrus ferula</i>				✓				
82	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Bright-eyed Ringlet	<i>Erebia oeme</i>						✓		
84	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>		✓	✓					

## **Birds** (Those heard only are marked with 🎵)

Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Quail 🎵	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus micahellis</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Common Cuckoo 🎵	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Pallid swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Alpine swift	<i>Apus melba</i>
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Hoopoe 🎵	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>

Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
Cetti's Warbler 	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>
Firecrest 	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		

## Reptiles and Amphibians

Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>
Dahl's Whip Snake	<i>Platyceps najadum</i>
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>
Hermann's (Dalmatian) Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>

## Dragonflies

Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>
Green-eyed (Norfolk) Hawker	<i>Aeshna isosceles</i>
Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>
Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>
Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>
Balkan Goldening	<i>Cordulegaster heros</i>
Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
Common Clubtail	<i>Gomphus vulgatissimus</i>
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>

Scarce Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>
Bladetail	<i>Lindenia tetraphylla</i>
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>
Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>

### **Moths** (With thanks to Mike)

Forester Moth	<i>Adscita</i> sp.
Nine-spotted Moth	<i>Amata phegea</i>
Mother Shipton	<i>Callistega mi</i>
Pale Tussock	<i>Calliteara pudibunda</i>
Kermes Yellow-underwing	<i>Catocala conversa</i>
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>
Small Grass Emerald	<i>Chlorissa viridata</i>
Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>
Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth	<i>Hemaris tityus</i>
Golden-yellow Wave	<i>Idea aureolaria</i>
Humming-bird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
Drab Looper	<i>Minoa murinata</i>
Chimney Sweeper	<i>Odezia atrata</i>
Oblique Striped	<i>Phibalapteryx virgata</i>
Litter Moth	<i>Polypogon tentacularia</i>
White Plume Moth	<i>Pterophorus pentadactyla</i>
Brown-spot Grey	<i>Scoparia pyralella</i>
Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>
Feathered Footman	<i>Spiris striata</i>
Several Burnet Moth species	<i>Zygaena</i> sp.

### **Mammals**

Short-tailed Field Vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus</i> sp.
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
Alpine Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>

### **Fish**

Chub	<i>Squalius cephalus</i>
Roach	<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>
Common Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
Pumpkinseed Fish (I)	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>

### **Other Taxa**

Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>
Red and Black Frog hopper	<i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>
Dalmatian Saddle Bush-cricket	<i>Dinarippiger discoidalis</i>
Mayfly	<i>Ephemera</i> sp.
European Striped Shieldbug	<i>Graphosoma italicum</i>
An Owlfly	<i>Libelloides macaronius</i>
Blister Beetle	<i>Mylabris variabilis</i>
White-spotted Rose Chafer	<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>

Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes dominula</i>
Alpine Longhorn Beetle	<i>Rosalia longicorn</i>
Yellow-and-black Longhorn Beetle	<i>Rutpela maculata</i>
Hairy Flower Wasp	<i>Scolia hirta</i>
European Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>

### Notable Plants (With thanks to Jane)

#### Dicotyledons

##### Acanthaceae

Balkan Bear's Breeches *Acanthus hungaricus*

##### Anacardiaceae

Smokebush *Cotinus coggygria*

##### Apiaceae

White Laceflower *Orlaya grandiflora*

##### Aristolochiaceae

Round-leaved Birthwort *Aristolochia rotunda*

##### Asteraceae

Carline Thistle *Carlina acaulis*

Curry Plant *Helichrysum italicum*

##### Betulaceae

European Hop Hornbeam *Ostrya carpinifolia*

##### Boraginaceae

Pale Bugloss *Echium italicum*

##### Campanulaceae

Adriatic Bellflower *Campanula fenestrellata*

Sheep's Bit *Jasione montana*

Spiked Rampion *Phyteuma spicatum*

##### Euphorbiaceae

Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*

Mediterranean Spurge *Euphorbia characias*

A Spurge *Euphorbia fragifera*

Myrtle Spurge *Euphorbia myrsinites*

Warty Spurge *Euphorbia verrucosa*

##### Fabaceae

Ruddy Clover *Trifolium rubens*

##### Linaceae

Narrow-leaved Flax *Linum tenuifolium*

#### Orobanchaceae

Slender Broomrape *Orobanche gracilis*

#### Ranunculaceae

Fragrant Virgin's Bower *Clematis flammula*

Lesser Meadow Rue *Thalictrum minus*

#### Rhamnaceae

Christ's Thorn *Paliurus spina-christi*

A Buckthorn *Rhamnus orbiculata*

#### Sapindaceae

Montpellier Maple *Acer monspessulanum*

#### Scrophulariaceae

Hoary Mullein *Verbascum pulverulentum*

#### Monocotyledons

##### Asparagaceae

Tassel Hyacinth *Muscari comosum*

Dalmatian Squill *Scilla litardierei*

##### Dioscoreaceae

Black Briony *Dioscorea communis*

##### Iridaceae

Grass-leaved Iris *Iris graminea*

Hungarian Iris *Iris variegata*

##### Orchidaceae

Bug Orchid *Anacamptis coriophora*

Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*

A Bee Orchid *Ophrys* sp.

Burnt-tip Orchid *Neotinea ustulata*

##### Smilacaceae

Smilax *Smilax aspera*

# Photo Gallery



Adriatic Bellflower © Jane M



Black-veined Whites © Mike L



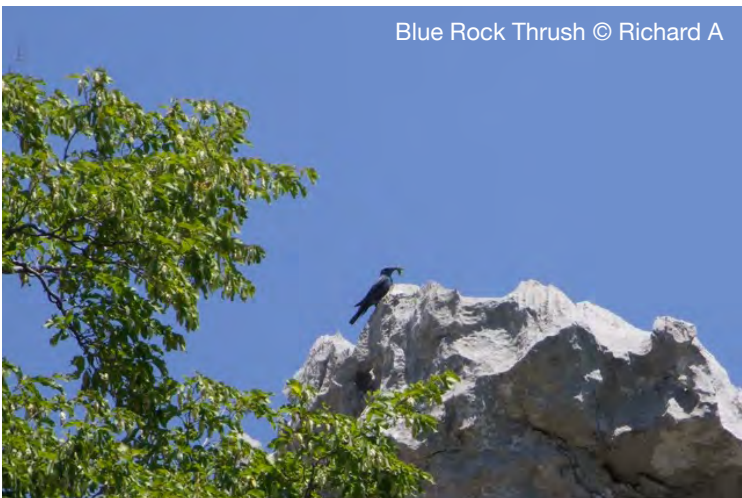
*Calliptamus* sp. © Giles D



Burnt-tip Orchid © Jane M



Eastern Rock Grayling © Giles D



Blue Rock Thrush © Richard A



Glanville Fritillary © Jane M

Grass-leaved Iris © Jane M



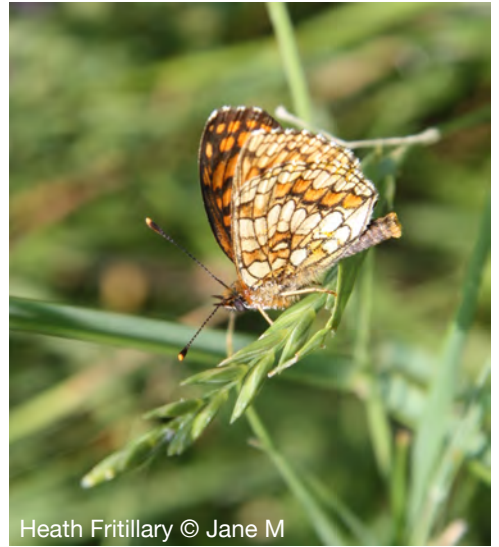
Lesser Marbled Fritillary © Mike L



Kermes Yellow-underwing © Giles D



Hungarian Iris © Jane M



Heath Fritillary © Jane M



Niobe & Queen of Spain Fritillaries © Richard A



Knapweed Fritillary © Jane M



Short-toed Eagle © Richard A



Southern Festoon larva © Mike L



Lesser Spotted Fritillary © Giles D



Round-leaved Birthwort © Jane M



Scarce Swallowtail © Giles D



Ruddy Clover © Jane M



Two-tailed Pasha © Giles D



Sheep's Bit © Jane M



Short-tailed Field Vole © Giles D



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Warty Spurge © Jane M



White Plume Moth © Jane M



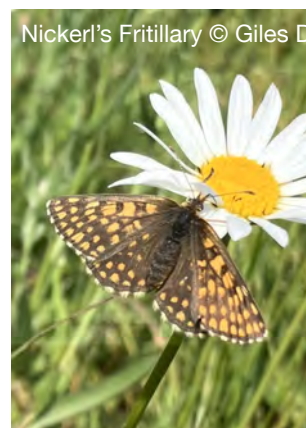
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Swallowtail © Mike L



Clouded Yellow © Giles D



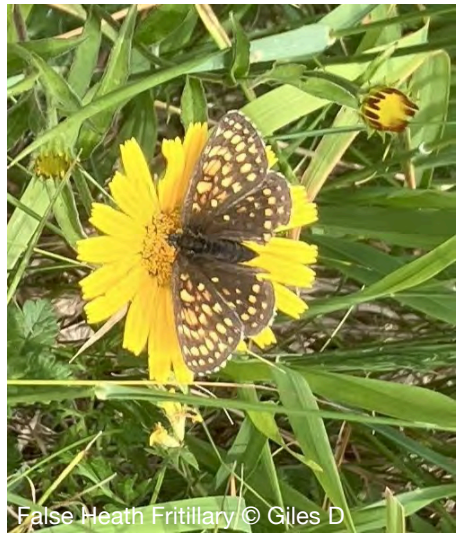
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False Heath Fritillary © Giles D



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