

Butterflies of Southern Greece

19th - 26th June 2025

Led by Alice Hunter, Sotiris Alexiou & Rachael Eele



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Day 1

The group gathered at the airport slowly after several slightly delayed flights. It was therefore agreed that the first 6 should go ahead with Alice while Sotiris and Rachael waited for the final pair to come through the long passport control queue and then baggage claim. They would all then convene at the Corinth Canal - it would be much better to be heading in the right direction than sitting in an airport!

Having got on the road, we hit some traffic but managed to keep moving and were soon admiring the incredible feat of engineering that is the Corinth Canal. Sotiris, Rachael, Richard and Geraldine soon joined the rest of the group and we were all able to spot some Lesser Kestrel over the water below and partake of the refreshments here before we set off again towards Kalavryta and our hotel for the first few days of our trip.

We were treated to beautiful golden light over the valley as we climbed away from the motorway and the sun began its slow descent in the sky. Our arrival in the early evening meant a fairly brief break before we headed out for dinner at a local taverna where we enjoyed some delicious local food along with each others company as we got to know one another and looked forward to the week to come.

Day 2

Our morning began with a short meeting before breakfast to go through some of the pertinent points of the trip before tucking into the delicious fare on offer in the hotel dining room. Then we took the short trip to the local bakery to pick out lunches before heading up the mountain to our first stop of the day; a small meadow beside the road, bordered by Grecian Fir and dotted with Juniper and a few other shrubs. Here we found a variety of lovely butterflies, the most numerous and first to be identified were Silver-studded Blues which were beautifully fresh. Among the other highlights here were both Inky and Dingy Skippers, Mountain Small White and Southern Comma. A Mistletoe Clearwing was spotted resting atop an umbellifer and several other day-flying moths were photographed. Rachael found some Red Helleborines between the trees and nearby, Holly Blue and Queen of Spain Fritillary were seen too. Meanwhile, Blackcap, Chaffinch and Serin were singing around us and Geraldine found a Cockchafer.

Moving on, we drove slowly over the plateau in order to look out for birds - there appeared to be a slight shortage of the Red-backed Shrikes that are often so frequent here but one was spotted by a few of the group along with a distant Rock Thrush and fleeting glimpses of Northern Wheatear and Linnets.

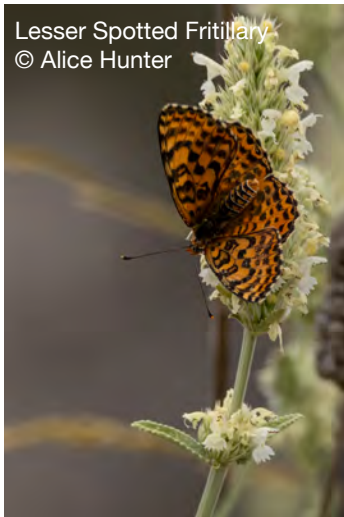
Our site for the Odd-spot Blue was next on the agenda and we parked up to the sound of a calling Corn Bunting. Venturing out, we soon found both Transparent and Six-spot Burnet moths close to the vehicles. Further round, Alice located a female Balkan Zephyr Blue and climbing the slope a short way, Markus took the first photo of an Eastern Bath White. Further up, we found the food plant of our target species, *Acantholimon echinus*, in good flower and after some careful searching we found the first one, then several butterflies exhibiting different behaviours, with some fluttering between nectar sources, one ovipositing and even several mating pairs!



Odd Spot Blues © Jim B

From here, we dropped down the other side of the mountain a short way to our lunch spot. There were many butterflies tempting us as we ate and as soon as we finished we had plenty to look at including Balkan Marbled White and Lattice Brown. Walking on up the track, we found the eggs of

Long-tailed Blue on the Spanish Broom beside the path and then saw one ovipositing just moments later on the bush next door.



Lesser Spotted Fritillary
© Alice Hunter

Meanwhile, nearby Rachael had found the first of many Ilex Hairstreaks. Up the hill a short way, our next new butterfly for the day came in the form of a fritillary which Sotiris and Alice were cautious to ID in the field without further inspection of their images. They later confirmed it to be a Lesser Spotted Fritillary, albeit with some unusual colouring on the underside. A little further up again, a larger lycaenid with very few orange lunules proved to be Amanda's Blue while on the way back down the hill we spotted a Hungarian Skipper.

Continuing on along the track, Markus spotted our first Silver-washed Fritillaries of the trip and further on, we found a lovely specimen of Ripart's Anomalous Blue. Near where we turned to head back towards the vehicles, Sotiris also pointed out an orchid with beautiful purple foliage and which was just coming into bloom, which he identified as *Epipactis subclausa*.

Once back at the vehicles, we made the decision to make one final stop for the day up near the top of the mountain but on our way back, the clouds which had been looming well and truly broke and we were caught in a monumental hail storm with marble sized hailstones! Thankfully we were in the safety of the vehicles and came through unscathed but decided not to risk staying up the mountain in a thunderstorm of that magnitude so returned to Kalavryta where the sun was shining and many of the group wandered into the town square for an ice cream.

After our evening check list meeting, we had a pleasant dinner in another local taverna, eating outside despite the earlier downpour having caught up with us since we returned. The air was cooler but not unpleasant and as ever, the food delicious and the conversation flowing.

Day 3

Our day began early for some today with an optional walk just after dawn to the war memorial on the edge of Kalavryta. On the way, we heard Hoopoe and Cetti's Warbler calling and chatted amiably about what we hoped to find up there - perhaps damp roosting butterflies after the storm yesterday evening?!

Our first thoughts on arrival went towards the moths that gathered on the monument where the lights had shone on the pale stone overnight. Among them, several Gypsy moths with feathery antennae, a Willow Beauty and a White Pearl as well as a few others. Sotiris meanwhile had scouted out a roosting Brown Argus and it was indeed bejewelled with water drops, much to the delight of the photographers in the group.

We headed up to the cross at the top to admire the view over the town nestled in the valley below as the sun rose over it and paused on the way back down to spot various insects and invertebrates as well as a few birds in the trees around us. Tony managed to photograph a Rock Sparrow which was a great addition to our list and not a species seen before on this holiday. Meanwhile, back at the entrance most of the group got good views of a Middle Spotted Woodpecker as it flew overhead and landed in a dead tree.

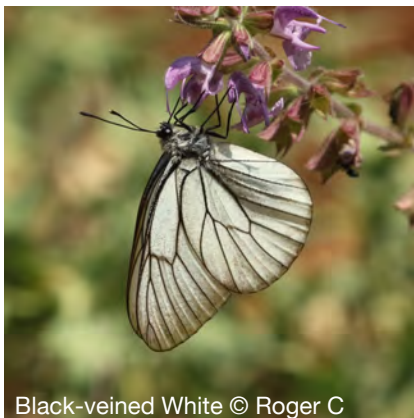


Rock Sparrow © Tony J

We made one last stop on our way back to the hotel for breakfast, pausing at a large patch of flowering *Opopanax hispidus* which is a food plant of the Southern Swallowtail to look for caterpillars. We didn't find any unfortunately, but there were a few interesting beetles and on the final stretch from here, some of the group found the first Meadow Brown of the trip.

After breakfast and a quick stop to pick up lunches at the bakery, we set off up the mountain once more to a spot on the other side of the pass. Here we would spend a couple of hours enjoying a

lovely set of meadows along a track where there were a variety of species awaiting us. Immediately on stepping out of the vehicles, Rachael pointed out a Short-toed Eagle soaring high above us and almost beneath our feet we found a Mallow Skipper, followed swiftly by a smart male Grecian Copper.



Black-veined White © Roger C

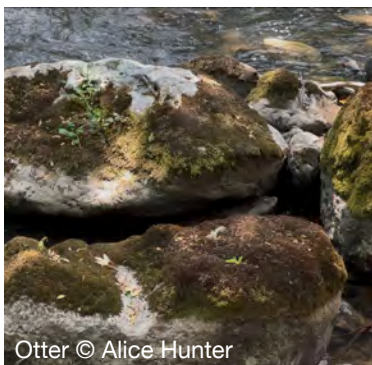
We headed up a slope into a dry meadow where we spotted Cirl Bunting calling from a telegraph wire overhead while Southern Small White was picked out from the butterflies below. Another white caught Roger's eye and having followed it back onto the track, we confirmed his suspicion that it was a Black-veined White - the first of several. On the same corner in the track, we had tantalising glimpses of Southern White Admiral before it disappeared over the tops of the trees, and then a more satisfying first look at Chapman's Blue. Further on, we managed to track down Essex Skipper and Purple Hairstreak along with Oriental Meadow Brown, while Geraldine photographed an Anomalous Blue.

Roger helped a Hermann's Tortoise cross the track safely before we took a moment to watch a Clematis covered bush that was being visited by a variety of butterflies from the relative comfort of the shade for a few minutes. From here we headed straight into one of the meadows which held even more delights in the form of *Purpuricenus budensis* longhorn beetles, Thread-winged Lacewings and a sub-adult *Saga hellenica* Predatory Bush cricket, found and modelled by Rachael. A few of the group also glimpsed Sooty Copper before turning back towards the vehicles and all of this was done with a backdrop of intermittent bursts of Nightingale song.



Greek Predatory Bush-cricket © Geraldine S

Our last hurrah here came on the way back to the vehicles when we found another Purple Hairstreak followed in fairly quick succession by our first male Cleopatra of the trip in splendid condition. It was now time to move on to our lunch spot however and we returned through Kalavryta to a place by the river near the railway line. It was nice and shady here with interesting dragonflies and a different set of birds to what we had been seeing up the mountain.



Otter © Alice Hunter

The excitement came after we had eaten however as when Alice crossed the small railway bridge to join the majority of the group, she spotted an Otter in the river below and rushed round to try and tell the others. She caught up with Rachael and Mira but the rest were too far upstream, however they saw the Otter with her and she managed to video her find. Sotiris was very surprised as this is an exceedingly rare mammal in this part of the world, Red Listed in Greece and even more so on the Peloponnese. We should therefore report our finding to the relevant people and it is excellent that we have video evidence.

We soon moved on to another site nearer to Kalavryta where we were wary of straying too far from the vehicles as the first rumbles of thunder could be heard. Nevertheless, we ventured out along a track and into some rough ground and scrubby meadows where we added Small Copper and Grecian Anomalous Blue to our tally. Mira found a large Antlion, *Palpares libelluloides* just as the rain began and we beat a hasty retreat.

Returning to Kalavryta we found it had yet to rain here despite only being a couple of kilometres up the road. The thunder was still close though and so we took the opportunity to have a coffee in a local cafe and hope that the weather would abate enough to venture out again later. Sadly it didn't and the rain eventually caught up with us so we opted to call it a day early in light of having had an early start and knowing that the forecast for the coming days was good.

We met at our usual time for our evening meeting before heading to another taverna in the town for dinner. We enjoyed a most delicious meal having navigated a local wedding and baptism in the town square on the way!

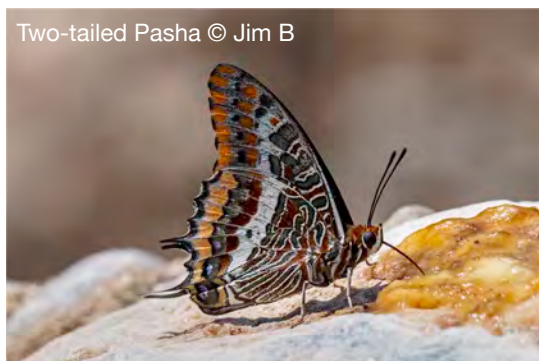
Day 4

This morning we woke to clear skies and a good weather forecast. We had breakfast at the standard time and set off to pick up lunch from the bakery before heading downhill towards Diakopto. Our first stop of the day was at a roadside glade with a stream running through and a small scrubby meadow beside it. We had hardly been out of the vehicles for two minutes when Richard spotted a very obliging Grecian Anomalous Blue which sat on a Jerusalem Sage flower for the entire group to view and photograph it, unlike the individual which had been spotted the previous afternoon and been exceedingly flighty.



There were a couple of new species for the trip here too including Large Skipper and Wood White on the butterfly front plus Broad-bodied Chaser and Emperor dragonflies. There were also a few now familiar species which we caught up with including Lattice Brown and Ilex Hairstreak.

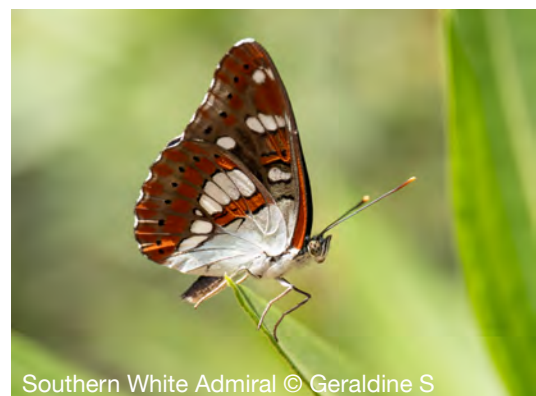
Soon though, it was time to move on and we made a brief stop in Diakopto itself for those who wished to make the train journey back to buy their tickets in advance. We then made our way into the Vouraikos gorge to the spot where we would search for Two-tailed Pashas and Alice spread some fermenting bananas in prominent spots to entice them to settle. Fairly quickly we had one flying around at high speed but it wasn't hanging around and so we happily busied ourselves looking at the other species here.



There were Marsh Frogs in the river, an Egyptian Grasshopper was found in part of the river bed that was dry and accessible, and a number of dragonflies were noted including Small Pincertail and both Southern and Keeled Skimmers as well as lots of Beautiful Demoiselles.

Sotiris then took Mira and Markus to the train station for their return journey to Kalavryta and as luck would have it, shortly after they left, the Pashas arrived. First one, then a second and then two more with a full dog-fight

happening over our heads. We enjoyed good views for a little while and all got photos before they disappeared almost as fast as they had arrived. We waved the train past and then took a walk down another track where we found a pair of Southern White Admirals enjoying the Oleander bushes that were flowering there. A little further on, we found an ovipositing Common Swallowtail too and spotted an unusually large Bee-fly which we later identified as *Heteralonia megerlei*. A Dice Snake was also spotted on the far side of the river among the rocks.



By now Sotiris had rejoined us and we retraced our route to this morning's first stop for our lunch place as there was more shade here. It was also a good opportunity to see what else might have turned up now that the sun had moved round. It turned out to be a good decision as while we ate we noted Great Banded Grayling and Brimstone but the stars appeared shortly afterwards when Rachael spotted a pair of mating Silver-washed Fritillaries and then just nearby Sotiris spotted a White-letter Hairstreak. This species has only recently been recorded as occurring on the Peloponnese and many of the books don't yet mention it being present so it was good to find it here.

The next stop on the agenda was at the impressive monastery of Mega Spileo. Here we spotted Lesser Kestrel, Jackdaw and Crag Martins all wheeling above the buildings that are nestled into the cliff face. The butterfly numbers were low but we did add a rather ragged Sloe Hairstreak to our list.



Milky Owlfly © Alice Hunter

With Markus and Mira having rejoined us, we headed to our final stop for the day on the other side of Kalavryta at a hillside track to a small chapel. Right by our parking spot was a puddle which was attracting a number of Long-tailed Blues and among them was a lone skipper that we concluded was a Persian Skipper.

Along the track, we also spotted Southern Comma, Anomalous Blue, Painted Lady, Eastern Bath White and several other species, all of which we had seen before but not yet today. Jim found a sadly dead Dahl's Whip Snake and Mira spotted a beautiful Milky Owlfly. We wandered on a short way further to take in the view looking back at Kalavryta before returning to the hotel after a good day in the field.

We returned to the first restaurant we had visited for our final evening in Kalavryta and enjoyed another delicious meal and plenty of chatter about our successful day.

Day 5

Today was our transfer day and after breakfast we gathered to load the vehicles with our luggage, ready to set off. Our journey took us to the coast at Diakopto and then west towards Patras. We stopped briefly to take photographs of the impressive Rio Antirrio bridge before crossing it onto the mainland once more and following the coast road to Galaxidi.

Here we parked up in the small harbour and took a short walk to stretch our legs. We were amazed as Hoopoe after Hoopoe flew across the water towards us and disappeared into the woodland we were about to enter. Indeed, when we climbed the small hill, we saw four together but not before we had stopped to photograph a tree full of Freyer's Graylings. One caught our eye to begin with and was swiftly joined by another, then a third made itself known higher up, its camouflage having masked its presence until now and finally a fourth joined them - it was a walk of fours!

Having enjoyed a wander, we made our way to a restaurant on the other side of the harbour where we enjoyed a leisurely lunch of locally caught fish and other homemade delights. It was then time to move on up the mountain towards Delphi with one more stop on the way to look for Europe's smallest butterfly, the Grass Jewel. No sooner had we parked than we found one only feet from the vehicle but we would still walk a short way along the track to see if there was anything else to find. Our efforts in the heat of the afternoon were rewarded with both Common and Scarce Swallowtails as well as our first views of Rock Nuthatches, and an unused nest of theirs on the rock face, plus a Blue Rock Thrush.



Grass Jewels © Tony J

It was not too far now to Delphi and the welcoming cool of our hotel. We checked in and had time to rest before our evening meeting and dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 6

Since our day yesterday had produced only a few butterflies, albeit some good species, we were keen to get a full day in the field today. As our new hotel offered breakfast a little earlier, we were able to set off at 8:30 to beat the heat a bit. We began with a brief stop to pick up some lunch things in Arachova and then continued up the pass.

At the top, we enjoyed the view along with Hoopoe, Red-backed Shrike and some smaller finds such as an Emperor dragonfly, a dung beetle rolling its ball of dung and a couple of beautifully camouflaged Parnassos Stone Grasshoppers. There were butterflies here too of course, some familiar species like Balkan Marbled White and Brimstone but also our first Balkan Grayling and Meleager's Blue.



Lesser Fiery Copper © Roger C

Our next stop was an unassuming spot beside the road further on, but this proved to be exceptionally productive with around twenty species of butterfly noted in this small area. Among the favourites that we had seen previously were Cleopatra, Grecian Anomalous Blue, Grecian Copper and Amanda's Blue, the latter here in good numbers. But there were also a few new species for the week including Marbled White, Turquoise Blue, and Lang's Short-tailed Blue. To add to this plethora of butterflies, Rachael found some orchids too, both Broad-leaved and Red Helleborines in the shade of the trees. Roger also managed to find and photograph a Lesser Fiery Copper.

Moving on up the mountain, our next stop would be our lunch stop, but first we took some time to explore the meadow we found ourselves in. There were masses of Small Coppers, Large Whites and Clouded Yellows including one or two pale Helice form females. We also found some exciting new species for our list though, Heath Fritillary and Purple-shot Copper were among the best although later we established that a Marbled Fritillary had also been photographed and was a species that neither Alice nor Sotiris had seen up here before - it is rarely recorded here.

After lunch, we headed to the top of the mountain where we climbed out to look for some of the iconic species that are more comfortable at this altitude. After some searching to the tune of a Wren singing from the trees nearby, we eventually located a couple of Clouded Apollos and a Mountain Argus. A brief sighting of a Greek Clouded Yellow was also had alongside a regular Clouded Yellow, beautifully demonstrating the difference in colour between the two.

Eventually we had to make the return journey downhill but not without one last stop in a flowery roadside glade. Here we found several pairs of mating blue butterflies - on one flower stem, both Silver-studded and Common Blues were vying for a comfortable position in the breezy conditions! A Comma was spotted and Alice found the target she had hoped for here, a Blue Argus. In the trees around us a Short-toed Treecreeper joined a Firecrest and a Nuthatch in calling while a Queen of Spain Fritillary and others fluttered through.

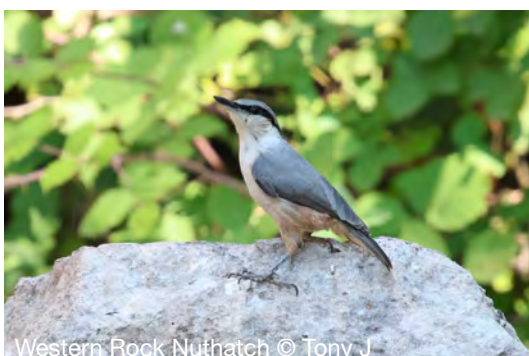


Queen of Spain Fritillary © Tony J

We had enjoyed a wonderful and full day, so returned to the hotel a happy group. We gathered for our evening list meeting and then before heading for dinner, had a last dash to a spot outside the hotel to see some Geranium Bronze that Sotiris had found in the street!

Day 7

Our final full day in Greece was set to be a hot one and with the archaeological ruins of Delphi on the agenda, we headed out early to beat both the crowds and the worst of the heat. This tactic worked well and we saw plenty of lovely butterflies around the site with Freyer's Grayling and Southern White Admiral noted before we had even got through the gates! Among the other species to be seen were Grass Jewels, Eastern Bath Whites, Mallow Skippers and lots of Scarce Swallowtails sailing through without settling. There were a few other things of interest too, among the birds there were of course the charming Western Rock Nuthatches which chattered their way around the ruins and popped



Western Rock Nuthatch © Tony J

up for photo opportunities periodically, a sighting of a Blue Rock Thrush around the Treasuries, and a Rock Dove which came down to drink at the spring. There were some interesting insect finds as well including several Southern Skimmer dragonflies and one of the two species of Goldenring, although not settling for a photo to allow a clear identification; there were several Thread-winged Lacewings too looking beautifully ethereal in flight and a large jewel beetle, *Capnodis tenebrionis*.



Capnodis tenebrionis © Geraldine S

Having taken in the ruins, a few of the group ventured to the museum while the others meandered back slowly and headed for a cold drink in the cafe. It was soon our allotted meeting time though and we gathered again to head to Arachova for lunch at a bakery before heading up the mountain once more.

Up the mountain we found a beautiful meadow with a cool breeze, a most welcome change from the heat of the morning and full of butterflies to entertain us for the afternoon. We began looking at a mud puddle near where we had parked and along with a few Common Blues and Brown Argus butterflies, found the diminishing puddles home to some well developed tadpoles and tiny emerging toadlets belonging to the European Green Toad. We had just moved away to look at a Small Heath, the first for the week found by Paul, when a call from Geraldine notified us to a snake back at the pool. It transpired to be a very small juvenile Grass Snake that was swimming around after the tadpoles.



Grass Snake © Roger C

We continued wandering through the meadow, enjoying *Gladiolus palustris* flowers, a spectacular Pyramidal Orchid and then a whole clump of *Ophrys oestrifera* in flower which was extraordinary given they would normally be over by the end of May at the latest. This was a good indication of how late the spring had been this year. There were masses of Heath Fritillaries along with several Queen of Spain and Small Coppers. Further up, a single Nettle Tree Butterfly was found and round a small chapel, there were several more additions to our list for the day with a cluster of nectaring Cleopatras, a Large Tortoiseshell taking shade among the firs, a Dark Green Fritillary and a Turquoise Blue.

Making our way back down the track along the side of the meadow, we came across a great mud-puddling spot full of Common, Chapman's and Balkan Zephyr Blues, Essex Skipper and Heath Fritillaries. Further down, a Comma took a rest on Geraldine's bag and was coaxed onto Alice's finger. Meanwhile a mixed flock of tits was seen moving through the trees. Near the vehicles, another puddle was drawing a few butterflies in and a Cirl Bunting was singing loudly from a nearby treetop. As we reached the vehicles themselves, a female Sparrowhawk emerged from the trees and glided silently down the valley, low over our heads.

We had had a full day and were ready to return to the hotel. We met for our usual evening meeting and dinner, followed by a final drink for those who wished to join in at a bar down the road. The atmosphere was amiable as we discussed highlights of the trip, and lamented the need to pack up and leave in the morning.

Day 8

Breakfast this morning was made all the more pleasant by the gathering of over eighty House Martins on the telegraph wires just beyond the rooftop terrace where we ate. We were soon packed up and ready to leave beautiful Delphi behind us. The journey to the airport was fairly straight forward although we did hit some traffic along the way. We noted Yellow-legged Gulls and Kestrel from the road despite not having time to make any stops though. We said our goodbyes at the departures drop off after a very enjoyable week with super company and some excellent wildlife and butterflies too!

Species Lists

Butterflies of S. Greece: June 2025 species checklist Species which are endemic to Greece or the Balkan Peninsula are marked ☆ and those endemic to Parnassus or Chelmos are marked (P) or (C). NB: not all species will be seen. Much depends on season and local conditions.			20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
			day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
Family Papilionidae								
1	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>				✓		✓
2	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓
3	Clouded Apollo	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>					✓	
Family Hesperidae								
4	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>			✓			
5	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	
6	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>		✓				✓
7	Persian Skipper	<i>Spialia phlomidis</i>			✓			
8	Hungarian Skipper	<i>Spialia orbifer</i>	✓	✓			✓	
9	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
10	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	✓					
11	Inky Skipper	<i>Erynnis marloyi</i>	✓					
12	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>						✓
Family Pieridae								
13	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>			✓			
14	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
15	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Greek Clouded Yellow ☆	<i>Colias aurorina</i>					✓	✓
17	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>		✓				
19	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓
21	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓		
22	Southern Small White	<i>Pieris manni</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
23	Mountain Small White	<i>Pieris ergane</i>	✓					
24	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	✓					✓
Family Lycaenidae								
25	Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>					✓	
26	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓			✓	✓
27	Grecian Copper ☆	<i>Lycaena ottomana</i>		✓			✓	

Butterflies of S. Greece: June 2025 species checklist Species which are endemic to Greece or the Balkan Peninsula are marked ☆ and those endemic to Parnassus or Chelmos are marked (P) or (C). NB: not all species will be seen. Much depends on season and local conditions.			20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
			day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
28	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>		✓				
29	Purple Hairstreak	<i>Favonius quercus</i>		✓				
30	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
31	White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium w-album</i>			✓			
32	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>			✓		✓	
33	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>					✓	
34	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓
35	Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>					✓	
36	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	✓		✓			
37	Odd-spot Blue (C)	<i>Turanana endymion</i>	✓					
38	Grass Jewel	<i>Freyeria trochilus</i>				✓		✓
39	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Pebejus argus</i>	✓				✓	✓
40	Balkan Zephyr Blue	<i>Kretania sepphirus</i>	✓					✓
41	Blue Argus	<i>Aricia anteros</i>					✓	
42	Mountain Argus	<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>					✓	
43	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
44	Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
45	Meleager's Blue	<i>Polyommatus daphnis</i>					✓	
46	Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>	✓				✓	
47	Turquoise Blue	<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>					✓	✓
48	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
49	Anomalous Blue	<i>Polyommatus admetus</i>		✓	✓			
50	Ripart's Anomalous Blue	<i>Polyommatus ripartii</i>	✓					
51	Grecian Anomalous Blue ☆	<i>Polyommatus aroaniensis</i>		✓	✓		✓	
Family Nymphalidae								
52	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
53	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	✓				✓	✓
54	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>					✓	
55	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓
56	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Speyeria aglaja</i>					✓	✓
57	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓
58	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓				✓	✓
59	Southern Comma	<i>Polygonia egea</i>	✓		✓			

Butterflies of S. Greece: June 2025 species checklist Species which are endemic to Greece or the Balkan Peninsula are marked ☆ and those endemic to Parnassus or Chelmos are marked (P) or (C). NB: not all species will be seen. Much depends on season and local conditions.			20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
			day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
60	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>					✓	✓
61	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>						✓
62	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>	✓				✓	
63	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>					✓	✓
64	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>					✓	✓
65	Nettle Tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>						✓
66	Two-tailed Pasha	<i>Charaxes jasius</i>			✓			
67	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>						✓
68	Lattice Brown	<i>Kirinia roxelana</i>	✓	✓	✓			
69	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓			
70	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Balkan Marbled White ☆	<i>Melanargia larissa</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
72	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>					✓	
73	Freyer's Grayling	<i>Neohipparchia fatua</i>				✓		✓
74	Balkan Grayling ☆	<i>Hipparchia senthes</i>					✓	
75	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
76	Oriental Meadow Brown	<i>Hyponephele lupina</i>		✓			✓	
77	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓		✓	

Moths			20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
			day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
1	Forester Moth	<i>Adscita/Jordanita</i> sp.		✓			✓	✓
2	A Many-plumed Moth	<i>Alucita hexadactyla</i>		✓				
3	A Noctuid	<i>Apamea syriaca</i>		✓				
4	A Noctuid	<i>Apautis rupicola</i>					✓	
5	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>						✓
6	An Underwing	<i>Catocala eutychea</i>		✓				
7	Oak Underwing	<i>Catocala nymphaea</i>				✓	✓	
8	Bordered Straw	<i>Heliothis peltigera</i>					✓	✓
9	Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>		✓				
10	Bright Wave	<i>Idaea ochrata</i>			✓			✓
11	Small Dusty Wave	<i>Idaea seriata</i>		✓				

Moths			20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
			day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
12	Gypsy Moth	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>		✓		✓		
13	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	✓				✓	
14	White Pearl	<i>Palpita virelais</i>		✓				
15	Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>		✓				
16	Small Blood Vein	<i>Scopula imitaria</i>					✓	
17	Mistletoe Clearwing	<i>Synanthedon loranthe</i>	✓					
18	A Pyralid	<i>Synaphe moldavica</i>	✓					
19	Four-spotted Moth	<i>Tyta luctuosa</i>	✓					
20	Crepuscular Burnet	<i>Zygaena carniolica</i>	✓					
21	Billowing Burnet	<i>Zygaena ephialtes</i>	✓		✓			
22	6 Spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	✓				✓	✓
23	Transparent Burnet	<i>Zygaena purpuralis</i>	✓				✓	✓
24	A Burnet Moth	<i>Zygaena romeo</i>		✓				

Other Notable invertebrates			20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
			day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
1	Oak Orbweaver	<i>Aculepeira ceropegia</i>		✓				
2	A Longhorn Beetle	<i>Agapanthia kirbyi</i>	✓					
3	Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptiaca</i>			✓			
4	A Grasshopper	<i>Callyptamus barbarus</i>						✓
5	A Jewel Beetle	<i>Capnodis tenebrionis</i>						✓
6	Mediterranean Shieldbug	<i>Carpocoris mediterraneus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	
7	Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
8	A Cicada	<i>Cicadetta</i> sp.					✓	
9	Fasciated Bonehead Mantis	<i>Empusa fasciata</i>				✓		
10	Greek Marbled Bush Cricket	<i>Eupholidoptera megastyla</i>		✓	✓			
11	Parnassos Stone Grasshopper	<i>Glyphanus obtusus</i>					✓	
12	A Shieldbug	<i>Graphosoma italicum</i>	✓	✓				
13	A Shieldbug	<i>Graphosoma semipunctatum</i>	✓	✓				
14	Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>						
15	Black-cloaked Bee-fly	<i>Hemipenthes morio</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
16	A Bee-fly	<i>Heteralonia megerlei</i>			✓	✓		

Other Notable invertebrates			20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
			day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
17	Milky Owlfly	<i>Libelloides lacteus</i>			✓			
18	Cockchafer	<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>	✓					
19	Mediterranean Spiny Stinkbug	<i>Mustha spinosula</i>		✓				
20	Thread-winged Lacewing	<i>Nemoptera coa</i>		?				✓
21	White-spotted Rose Chafer	<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>			✓	✓		✓
22	An Antlion	<i>Palpares libelluloides</i>		✓		✓		
23	Red-bellied Jumping Spider	<i>Philaeus chrysops</i>	✓					
24	A Longhorn Beetle	<i>Purpuricenus budensis</i>		✓		✓	✓	
25	An Assassin Bug	<i>Rhynocoris iracundus</i>	✓					
26	Greek Predatory Bush Cricket	<i>Saga hellenica</i>		✓				
27	A Cricket	<i>Tylopsis lilifolia</i>			✓			
28	Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓

Amphibians, Reptiles and Mammals			20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
			day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
1	European Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>						✓
2	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>		✓				
3	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>						✓
4	Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>			✓			
5	Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>			✓			
6	Erhard's Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis erhardii</i>		✓				
7	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>					✓	
8	Peloponnese Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis peloponnesiacus</i>		✓	✓			
9	Hermann's Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>		✓				

Birds			19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
✓ denotes sightings, 🎵 denotes birds that were heard only										
1	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓	✓			✓	
2	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			✓	✓				
3	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>							✓	
4	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	✓			✓				

Birds ✓ denotes sightings, 🎵 denotes birds that were heard only			19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
6	Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		🎵						
7	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus micahelis</i>	✓				✓			✓
8	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓			✓			
9	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>							✓	
10	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
11	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>			🎵	✓				
12	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			🎵		✓	✓	✓	
13	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus medius</i>			✓					
14	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		✓				🎵		
15	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestre</i>	✓			✓				
16	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
18	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	🎵			✓		✓		
20	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	🎵	✓				
21	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓						
22	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓						
23	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>			🎵	🎵				
24	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				✓				
25	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓					✓	
26	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
27	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					✓		✓	
28	Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>		✓						
29	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	🎵		✓	🎵	
30	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			🎵					
31	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			🎵					
32	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>						🎵		
33	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>						🎵		
34	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓				✓	
35	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			✓				✓	
36	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>		✓						
37	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓			🎵		
38	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>		✓			✓		✓	

Birds ✓ denotes sightings, 🎵 denotes birds that were heard only			19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
39	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>						🎵		
40	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓				✓		
41	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓				✓		
42	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
43	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓			✓				
44	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
45	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓					
46	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
47	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>			✓					
48	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	🎵			🎵	🎵	
49	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓					
50	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	✓			✓	
51	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓	✓				
52	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓						
53	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		🎵	✓	🎵		✓	✓	
54	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓						

Dragonflies			20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th
			day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
1	Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>			✓		✓	
2	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>		✓	✓		✓	
3	Greek Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster helladica</i>		✓				
4	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>			✓			
5	Small Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>			✓			
6	Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>			✓			✓
7	Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>		✓	✓		✓	
8	White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>		✓				

Notable Plants (mostly endemic to the area)

Gymnosperms

Pinaceae

Grecian Fir *Abies cephalonica*

Angiosperms

Dicotyledons

Asteraceae

Umbellate Yarrow *Achillea umbellata*

Short-fringed Knapweed *Centaurea achaia*

A Knapweed *Centaurea affinis*

Pelion Knapweed *Centaurea pelia*

A Knapweed *Centaurea psilacantha*

A Knapweed *Centaurea raphanina*

Yellow Knapweed *Centaurea salnitana*

A Knapweed *Centaurea spruneri*

Squarrose Knapweed *Centaurea triumfetti*

A Knapweed *Centaurea zuccariniana*

A Thistle *Cirsium hypopsilum*

Verbascum-leaved Inula *Inula verbascifolia*

A Viper's Grass *Scorzonera crocifolia*

One-flowered Everlasting *Staehelina uniflosculosa*

Boraginaceae

Pale Bugloss *Echium italicum*

A Golden Drops *Onosma erecta*

Campanulaceae

Lyrate Bellflower *Asyneuma limonifolium*

Asperula-like Bellflower *Campanula asperuloides*

Rock Bellflower *Campanula rupicola*

Spoon-leaved Bellflower *Campanula spatulata*

A Bellflower *Campanula topaliana*

Caprifoliaceae

Persian Whorlflower *Morina persica*

Mt. Parnassos Scabious *Pterocephalus perennis*

Caryophyllaceae

Greek Foamflower *Bolanthus graecus*

Greek Snow-in-Summer *Cerastium candidissimum*

A Pink *Dianthus biflorus*

A Catchfly *Silene bupleuroides*

A Catchfly *Silene congesta*

Fabaceae

Narrow-leaved Milkvetch *Astragalus angustifolius*

Mountain Tragacanth *Astragalus sempervirens*

Geraniaceae

Balkan Cranesbill *Geranium macrorrhizum*

Grossulariaceae

European Gooseberry *Ribes uva-crispa*

Lamiaceae

False Dittany *Ballota acetabulosa*

Fragrant Savory *Clinopodium suaveolens*

Velvet-white Horehound *Marrubium velutinum*

Argolic Catmint *Nepeta argolica*

Naked Catmint *Nepeta nuda*

Greek Catmint *Nepeta parnassica*

Cretan Marjoram *Origanum onites*

Mount Olympus Sage *Salvia ringens*

Parnassica Savory *Satureja parnassica*

A Skullcap *Scutellaria rupestris*

Greek Mountain Tea *Sideritis clandestina*

Downy Woundwort *Stachys germanica*

Swainson's Betony *Stachys swainsonii*

Felty Germander *Teucrium polium*

Conehead Thyme *Thymus capitatus*

Plantaginaceae

Peloponnese Toadflax *Linaria peloponnesiaca*

Plumbaginaceae

Spiny Thrift *Acantholimon echinus*

A Thrift *Armeria canescens*

Rhamnaceae

A Buckthorn *Rhamnus sibthorpiana*

Rosaceae

A Hawthorn *Crataegus pycnoloba*

Saxifragaceae

A Saxifrage *Saxifraga sibthorpii*

Thymelaceae

Jasmine-flowered Daphne *Daphne jasminea*

Olive Daphne *Daphne oleoides*

Monocotyledons

Iridaceae

Marsh Gladiolus *Gladiolus palustris*

Orchidaceae

Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*

Sword-leaved Helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium*

Red Helleborine *Cephalanthera rubra*

Broad-leaved Helleborine *Epipactis helleborine*

Small-leaved Helleborine *Epipactis microphylla*

A Helleborine *Epipactis subclausa*

An Ophrys *Ophrys oestrifera*

Photo Gallery



Marbled White © Tony J



Mediterranean Shieldbug © Jim B



© Alice Hunter



Mediterranean Spinky Stinkbug © Geraldine S



© Rachael Eele



Lattice Brown © Jim B



© Tony J



© Rachael Eele



Hermann's Tortoise © Roger C



Heath Fritillary © Jim B



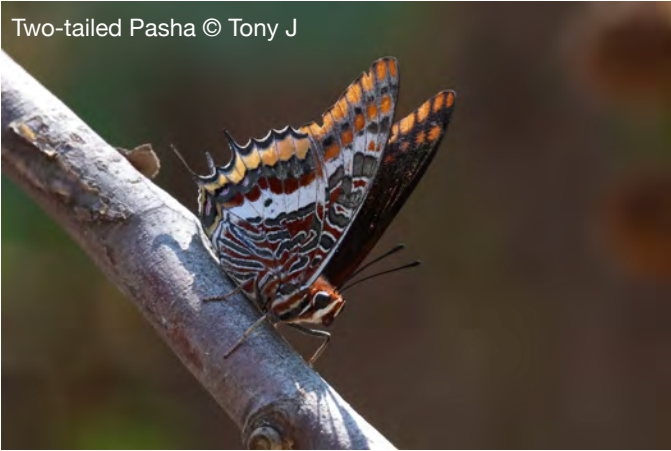
Silver-washed Fritillary © Jim B



Oak Orbweaver © Geraldine S



Balkan Zephyr Blues © Jim B



Two-tailed Pasha © Tony J



© Alice Hunter



Mistletoe Clearwing © Geraldine S



Southern White Admiral © Jim B



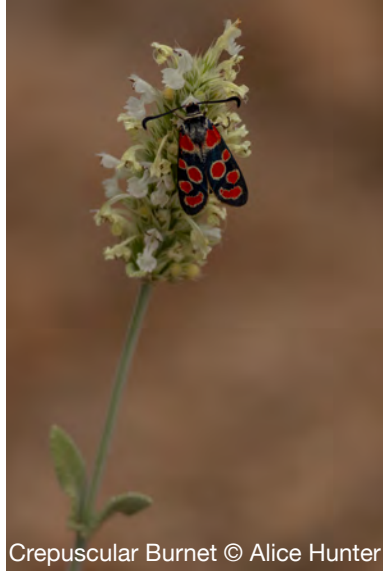
Grecian Copper © Tony J



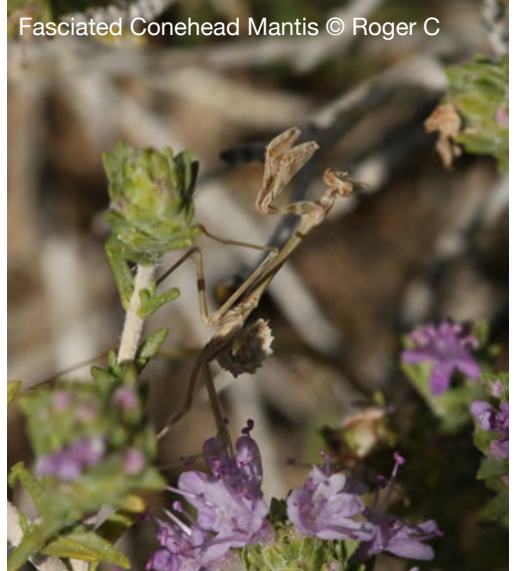
© Rachael Eele



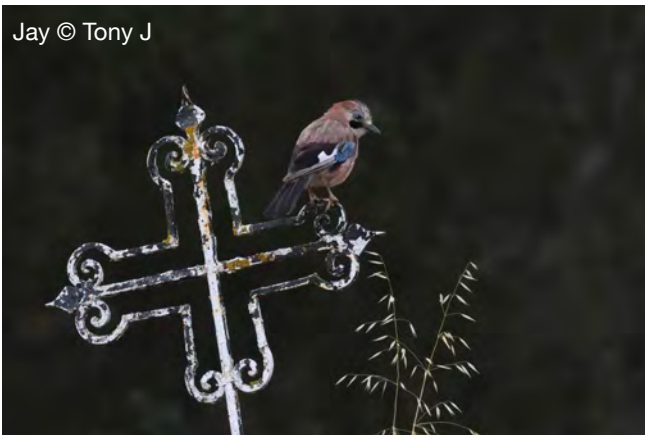
© Sotiris Alexiou



Crepuscular Burnet © Alice Hunter



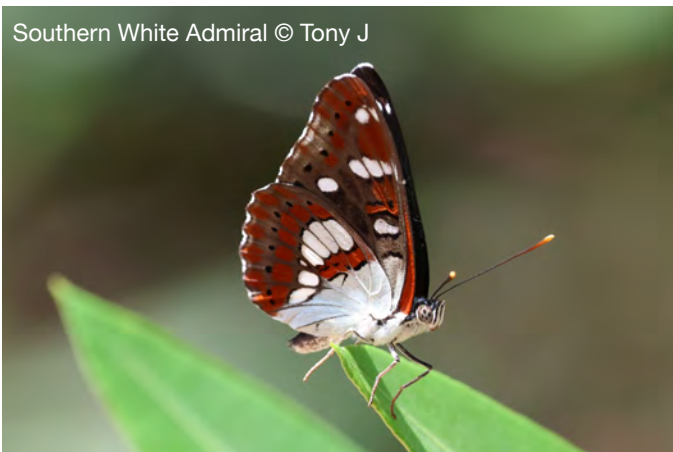
Fasciated Conehead Mantis © Roger C



Jay © Tony J



Greek Predatory Bush-cricket © Roger C



Southern White Admiral © Tony J



Cleopatra © Geraldine S

Eastern Bath White © Jim B



Purple-shot Copper © Alice Hunter



Clouded Yellow © Jim B



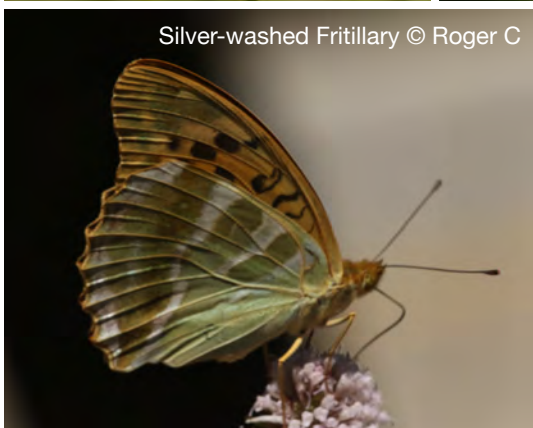
Scarce Swallowtail © Tony J

Silver-studded Blues © Alice Hunter



Cicada © Roger C

Billowing Burnet © Alice Hunter



Silver-washed Fritillary © Roger C