



EUROPEAN
BUTTERFLIES
GROUP



eNewsletter

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Welcome to the Spring 2019 Newsletter. It includes news of a new Chairman for EBG (Congratulations to Mike Prentice), some superb photos from the Spanish Pyrenees by Mark Searle, and an account of my own travels in Cyprus.

With the political uncertainty about Brexit I was initially a bit cautious about fixing up trips to EU destinations this spring but soon decided this was nonsense. On 24 March I flew to Lesvos in the Eastern Aegean to look for **False Apollo** (*Archon apollinus*). This is a very early flier

and really requires a dedicated visit.

The males we found looked to have been

around for a few

days already, but some females were freshly emerged.

Is there a more spectacular European butterfly?



False Apollo (*Archon apollinus*)
female, Lesvos, 27 March 2019





Notices and News

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EuropeanButterflyGroup/

New Chairman

Mike Prentice has agreed to take over from Simon Spencer as Chairman of the European Butterflies Group. Simon has agreed to continue supporting the Group as Secretary. These appointments will need to be ratified at the next AGM which will be at the Ibis Hotel in Birmingham on 12 October.

Mike paid tribute to Simon in an email to members as follows:

Some of you may know that Simon and Mike Williams and others set up the group 12 years ago for those members of Butterfly Conservation with a particular interest in European butterflies originally as EIG. Their initial idea was inspired by a trip to Hungary in 2006 with Szabolcs Safian. Since that time not only has more than £20,000 been raised by members for projects in the Orseg region of Hungary but many other projects have been undertaken across Europe and membership of EBG has grown from humble beginnings to more than 600.

We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Simon for his stewardship and leadership of European Butterflies Group over its 12-year history.

Mike added that he will do his best to serve the membership of the European Butterflies Group, and that if members have any ideas on what the group should do, on how they could help or what they would like done differently, they should please contact him by email (mikeprentice7@gmail.com). •

AGM and Members Day, Saturday 12 October 2019

This year's AGM and Members Day will take place at the IBIS hotel in Birmingham (near New Street Station), on the afternoon of Saturday 12 October 2019. Details will be placed on the website nearer the time. •

2020 EBG Calendar

A reminder from Anne Spencer to get your cameras out for the 2020 Calendar Competition. Entries to Anne (maximum 3 per entrant) by 1 September please, ensuring that the English common name of the butterfly is on each photo caption. Anne's email is rhoslan.anne@gmail.com. •



Enter
our Calendar
Competition
for a chance to
see your photo
in print

Updated Index of EIG/EBG Newsletters

An updated index of Newsletters is on the EBG website (in the About EBG section) at <http://www.european-butterflies.org.uk/downloads/EBG%20newsletter%20index%201%20to%2024.pdf>

Thank you to Graham Revill for preparing the update.

Taxonomic Update

Prepared by Nigel Peace (liz-nigel@hotmail.co.uk)

An updated checklist of European Butterflies by an international committee of taxonomic experts has recently been published in the journal ZooKeys and can be accessed as follows:

- <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330025423>
- <https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.811.28712>

The distinguished committee comprised Martin Wiemers (corresponding author), Emilio Balletto, Vlad Dinca, Zdenek Fric, Gerardo Lamas, Vladimir Lukhtanov, Miguel Munguira, Chris van Swaay, Roger Vila, Albert Vliegenthart, Niklas Wahlberg, and Rudi Verovnik.

It is the same piece of work as the checklist published in the EIG Anniversary Magazine in May 2017 (which was an advanced draft of the committee's conclusions) but with a few updates and corrections, as follows.

Species added and lost

Polyommatus timfristos is added as a new species. This is an Anomalous Blue from the Timfristos and Parnassos mountains in central Greece and was described in December 2016 by Vishnevskaya et al in a paper on the karyosystematics and molecular taxonomy of the Anomalous Blue butterflies from the Balkan Peninsula (Comparative Cytogenetics 10(5):1-85).

As a result of the same study, ***Polyommatus eleniae*** (Phalakron Anomalous Blue) is now considered conspecific with ***P. orphicus*** (Kolev's Anomalous Blue).

The authors state in their abstract

- *P. aroaniensis* is not as widespread in the Balkans as was previously thought. In fact, it has a dot-like distribution range restricted to the Peloponnese in Southern Greece.
- *P. orphicus* is not as closely related to the Turkish species *P. dantchenkoi* as was supposed earlier. Instead, it is a Balkan endemic represented by two subspecies: *P. orphicus orphicus* (Bulgaria) and *P. orphicus eleniae* (Northern Greece).
- *P. ripartii* is represented in the Balkans by an endemic subspecies *P. ripartii pelopi*.
- *P. admetus* occurs in the Balkans and west Turkey.
- *P. nephohiptamenos* is confirmed to be a species with a dot-like distribution range in Northern Greece.
- *P. timfristos* is described as a new species which differs by its haploid chromosomal number from the closely related and morphologically similar *P. aroaniensis* and *P. orphicus*. As noted above, the range is Central Greece (Timfristos and Parnassos mountains).

Hypolimnas missipus (Danaid Eggfly) now appears on the list. (According to the Distribution Atlas of European Butterflies and Skippers by Kudrna et al (2015), this tropical species has been recorded and is possibly breeding in the Canary Islands, and has been recorded in Madeira.)



Notices and News cont.

Pieris wollastoni (Madeiran Large White) is now classified as extinct.

The split of *Euphydryas beckeri* (Iberian Marsh Fritillary) from *E. aurinia* (Marsh Fritillary) is dropped.

Revised scientific names

The scientific name of the recently split Southern Heath Fritillary is corrected from *Melitaea nevadensis* to *Melitaea celadussa*.

In the *Argynnis* Fritillaries, *Argynnis aglaja* (Dark Green Fritillary) is now *Speyeria aglaja* and *Argynnis niobe* (Niobe Fritillary), *A. elisa* (Corsican Fritillary) and *A. adippe* (High Brown Fritillary) become *Fabriciana niobe*, *F. elisa* and *F. adippe*.

Nevada Grayling becomes *Pseudochazara williamsi*. It is now regarded as a separate species from *Pseudochazara mercurius* (formerly *P. hippolyte*) which is an eastern species outside our area.

The spelling of several species names has been corrected from -us to -a and vice versa:

Carcharodus flocciferus is now *C. floccifera*
Carterocephalus silvicolus is now *C. silvicola*
Lycaena ottomanus is now *L. ottomana*
Kretania psyloritus is now *K. psylorita*
Erebia alberganus is now *E. albergana*
Erebia calcaria is now *E. calcarius*
Erebia triaria is now *E. triarius*

Species ranges

The distribution of some recently split species is noted as follows:

Spialia rosae: endemic to mountains of Spain

Iphiclides feisthamelii (Iberian Scarce Swallowtail): SW part of France, the Iberian Peninsula, and northern Africa

Zerynthia cassandra (Italian Festoon): peninsular Italy

Leptidea juvernica (Cryptic Wood White): replaces *L. reali* (Real's Wood White) from south-western Europe (Spain, S France and Italy) in the rest of the continent

Polyommatus celina (Southern Common Blue): distributed in the Iberian Peninsula, northern Africa, Sardinia and Sicily

Erebia cassioides (formerly Common Brassy Ringlet) is split into three allopatric species. *E. cassioides* is limited to the eastern Alps, *E. arvernensis* is distributed in the western Alps, Cantabrian mountains and Pyrenees, while *E. neleus* is present in the mountains of the Balkan Peninsula and the southern Carpathians.

The species list on the EBG website will be amended accordingly.

News from France Spring 2019

Contributed by Jude Lock (lock.jude@gmail.com)



National Action Plan (Plan national d'actions) for butterflies of France 2018 - 2028

The National Action Plans are strategic tools produced by the French Ministry responsible for biodiversity issues. They are intended to ensure the maintenance and restoration of populations of endangered species or species of special interest within a conservation status. This National Action Plan follows on from that of 2011 - 2015 for *Maculinea (Phengaris)* species and concerns 38 protected and heritage species over a 10-year period. See http://www.european-butterflies.org.uk/downloads/PNA_Papillons_de_jour_2018-2028_low.pdf and refer to pages 10 and 11 for the priority species lists.

French Regional Butterfly Red Lists



The Red List for the former Aquitaine region has just been published and can be consulted here: <http://si-faune.oafs.fr/actualites/9>

The Red List for the region of Occitane (previously the Languedoc-Roussillon and the Midi-Pyrénées regions) is in the consultation phase.

Integrated Red Lists

“Integrated Red Lists” is an initiative by Dirk Maes which was taken up by the BCE partners. The paper “Integrating national Red Lists for prioritising conservation actions for European butterflies” was published in the Journal of Insect Conservation. The extract begins:

Red Lists are very valuable tools in nature conservation at global, continental and (sub-) national scales. In an attempt to prioritise conservation actions for European butterflies, the team of experts compiled a database with species lists and Red Lists of all European countries, including the Macaronesian archipelagos (Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands). In total, they compiled national species lists for 42 countries and national Red Lists for 34 of these. The most species-rich countries in Europe are Italy, Russia and France with more than 250 species each.

You can read the full paper here:

https://link.springer.com/epdf/10.1007/s10841-019-00127-z?author_access_token=Lb0G87a_tuXFj29tBBOs9Pe4RwLQnchNByi7wbcMAY60ljO6bqx4W7zxFNpo3KuchHhegrqLQxcsO29ZmXNKnAkmVX0Gv6GZ96dEPanQP7TIB7NXle6y1B8Lc4VRL5B3ro6sznKRKvSDJuRGs68etlw%3D%3D



Artemisiae - internet database for the Lepidoptera of France

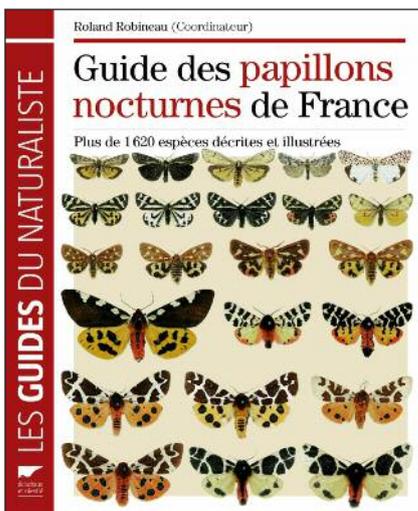
Artemisiae is a new internet portal for the butterflies of metropolitan France and Corsica, developed by our partners at **oreina**. It is a tool created for the recording and validation of Butterflies, Moths, Micromoths, and Burnet and Forester Moths using the latest national taxonomy TAXREF.

In the first 2 months more than 185,000 records were entered or imported into the database and in February 22,000 records from the Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin departments and 15,000 records from Bourgogne were also incorporated..

There will be a series of explanatory videos for the website. You can watch the first explanatory tutorial video (in French) on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzGdsdxuy6Y&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3NVP0EPUCR9i9lo5c9hUP43K4DXuMKJ8ajdGYvQII4KDkAxczjKy9nt7w>

Website : <https://oreina.org/artemisiae/>



Guide des papillons nocturnes de France, coordinated by Roland Robineau

A new and updated edition of the « Guide des papillons nocturnes de France » (Guide to the nocturnal butterflies of France) is being prepared by Roland Robineau and colleagues from **oreina**. The book is due for publication in 2020 from the publishers Delachaux & Niestlé. Roland is asking for photographic assistance for a few remaining rare or newly described species. Please contact Jude for the species list if you think that you may be able to help.



Image from the 2007 edition

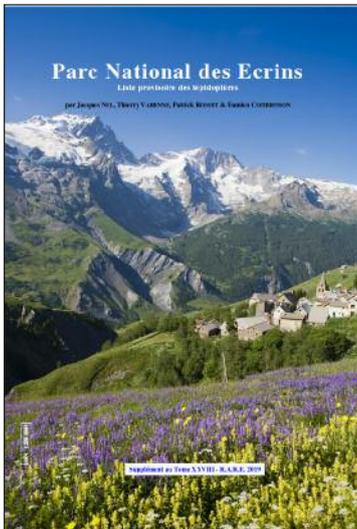
Photographic guide to the butterflies of France, Gard Nature

Jean-Laurent Hentz, Jean-Pierre D'Hondt and Philippe Dauguet, together with their colleagues, are in the process of acquiring the remaining photographs to illustrate all the butterfly species of France and are working to finalise the identification criteria. Two documents will be produced, an identification guide for the butterflies of France and a discussion paper. A draft of these documents should be available during the spring of this year and the printed version is expected by the end of 2020. ▼





For more information or if you wish to contribute please contact Jean-Laurent Hentz, Jean-Pierre D'Hondt and Philippe Dauguet at papillons@gard-nature.com. Photographs can be sent via WeTransfer.



Parc National des Ecrins : Liste provisoire des Lépidoptères du Parc national des Écrins

by Jacques Nel, Thierry Varenne, Patrick Rosset & Damien Combrisson.

This atlas is a supplement to volume XXVII of the Revue de l'Association Roussillonnaise d'Entomologie. Published in 2019, it lists 2697 species of Lepidoptera for the Ecrins National Park, with 426 species photographs and some habitat photographs.

The book is obtainable from the NHBS

<https://www.nhbs.com/parc-national-des-ecrins-liste-provisoire-des-lepidopteres-ecrins-national-park-provisoric-list-of-lepidoptera-book>



Butterfly Atlas PACA

Stéphane Bence (our partner for the region PACA) has reported that the Atlas of Butterflies and Zygaena of the region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is due to be published this year and currently comprises 640,000 validated records. The last remaining species pages are in the process of being finalised.

180,000 records have been integrated for the period between 1832 and 1999. Such an important number has brought to light trends that had not previously been remarked upon.



Notices and News cont.

Un ouvrage d'une ampleur sans précédent **Plus de 4 ans de coordination**

255 espèces monographiées
650 000 données d'observations

24 rédacteurs de toute la région
+ de 500 pages
analyse historique à partir de données anciennes

Cet atlas se veut l'aboutissement de l'ensemble des actions menées depuis plusieurs années sur la connaissance et la conservation des papillons. Il valorisera donc l'ensemble des synergies créées autour de ce projet : associations, laboratoires, universitaires, gestionnaires de territoire, insectaires et bénévoles. Il participera également à la connaissance pour tous, expertise grand public. Ce projet représente surtout les ambitions de la nature qu'on aime scientifiques. Il a nécessité un travail de quatre années de coordination mené par le Conservatoire d'espèces menacées. Ouvrage complet des observations de papillons de 1938 à 2018, du 43°N à 44°N et d'altitude.

réseau d'observateurs

comité de validation des données **comité de rédaction**

Coordinateur
Conservatoire d'espèces menacées
Pyrénées-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

comité de relecture scientifique

For many species the comparison of the records before and after the year 2000 show a recent regional evolution, for instance the progression of species at altitude, yet also the regression of other species.

The monographs for certain species also include a regional distribution map together with the species host plant, as established by the Mediterranean Botanical Conservatory.

Les papillons, insectes indispensables **Un projet fédérateur**

Maillon indispensable dans la chaîne alimentaire

Indicateurs de l'état de santé des milieux

Indicateurs des changements climatiques

Pollinisateurs

1 200 participants (bénévoles et professionnels)

Des partenaires départementaux, régionaux, nationaux et internationaux pour une vision globale

Le Conservatoire d'espèces menacées de Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, depuis 2013, met en œuvre un programme régional de conservation en faveur des papillons ou insectes de trois axes d'intérêt :

- l'identification des connaissances par des actions ciblées (papillons menacés, territoires peu connus, espèces rarissimes récemment ou dont la présence est suspectée) ;
- la connaissance utile sur des espèces menacées en région ;
- la formation de réseaux, de partage et mutualisation de la connaissance.

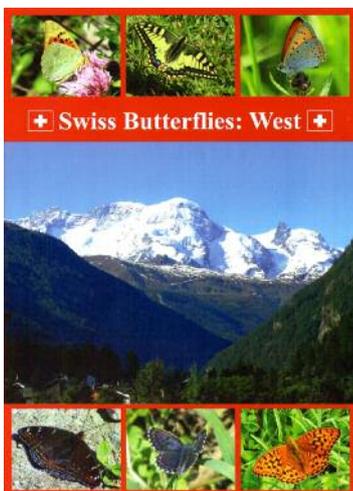
Afin de mieux comprendre les enjeux d'ordre climatique et économique, ce projet vise à publier une synthèse régionale de référence sous forme de livret. Chaque livret est un ouvrage de référence, au prior et une carte de répartition actualisée dans la région. Un texte d'accompagnement et présente la répartition régionale et son évolution au cours du siècle passé, en précisant si l'espèce est commune ou rare, à quelle altitude et à quelle saison est-elle observée ?

Butterfly and Burnet Moth Atlas of the Aquitaine

The publication of the Atlas is planned for 2020. A number of identification training and survey days for Burnet species (*Zygaena*) have been organised throughout the region from May to July this year. Please contact Pierre-Yves Gourvil for further details and if you wish to book send an email to py.gourvil@cen-aquitaine.fr

OTHER NEWS

DVD Swiss Butterflies: West (2019) by Jason Sargerson.



This 90 minute film of butterflies in Western Switzerland shows easily accessible butterfly sites. Bern, Geneva, Jura, Ticino, Valais and Vaud are visited, including the Lütchine Valley, Laubach Valley, Allondon Valley, Tabeillon Valley, Melezza Valley, Rhone Valley, Val d'Anniviers, Trient Valley, Vispa Valley and Saas Valley. A varied range of habitats is featured, including Woodland, Wetland, Rocky Steppe, Mountain and High Mountain. Butterfly subspecies found in specific locations are highlighted. Butterflies filmed include **Asian Fritillary**, **Bath White**, **Cardinal**, **Grisons Fritillary**, **Large Copper**, **Large Tortoiseshell**, **Poplar Admiral**, **Scarce Large Blue** and **Woodland Brown**. A species list, site by site is included. More than 90 species filmed, from 2014 to 2018. See Jason's website <https://jasonsargerson.uk/>



Sending in Records

by **Simon Spencer**

One of the aims of European Butterflies Group since the early days (as EIG) has been to encourage members to send their holiday records to people who would use them, but also give them the scrutiny that European butterfly records should have if they are to be accurate and meaningful. I remember in my days as a county recorder a lovely old lady who I knew as a reliable recorder ringing me up and saying she had seen **Duke of Burgundy** (*Hamearis lucina*) on one of our local nature reserves. I was out there the next day. I scoured the whole site and spent several hours exactly where she said she saw it. The habitat was right, limestone grassland where cowslips and primroses are in abundance but it was never confirmed. At that time of year the reserve gets many visitors who know their butterflies and I have been there many times every year for 30 years. Was she mistaken? Was it something that we had missed? In this case local knowledge suggested that the record was at best doubtful and should be omitted.

In Europe the problem of identification is more extreme and butterfly distribution is less well known and changing. The **Southern Small White** (*Pieris mannii*) is moving north. The **Map butterfly** (*Araschnia levana*) now occurs in places where it shouldn't according to its distribution map.

At its best the British model (Butterfly Conservation and partners) is very effective. All records need to be validated by the vice-county recorder whether they are submitted via iRecord on a mobile phone or sent in to the local recorder in the format he or she prefers, often an Excel spreadsheet. I have got back into moth recording after a gap of about 50 years. For a designated list of species my county moth recorder will want a photo for verification. The local moth recording web page says for which species a photo is required. I also send him photos of any moths where I am uncertain or I have not seen before. The fact that my mobile phone both takes photos but also can send them by email is very useful. My local moth recorder is absolutely brilliant. I usually get a response by lunch time. In summer it must take him all day to respond to different people.

This model does not work in most of Europe because the collectors of data for local or national atlases either don't exist or cover too large an area. The EBG website country pages give details of French regional schemes and national schemes where these exist. For Greece Lazaros Pamperis is delighted to receive records and will confirm the ID of butterfly photographs. He is unique and totally dedicated but covers the whole of Greece. For many countries such as Italy with the longest butterfly species list in Europe there is no such equivalent.

New App and web-based recording systems

EBG members and others now have the option to send in their records to iRecord, iNaturalist or Observado and other App or web-based biological recording systems. This can now be done in the field from a mobile phone very easily, attaching pictures where possible. The App will use the phone's GPS to pick up the location. This information can be validated by experienced recorders who log on to these Apps and websites before being incorporated into the 'database', but it can't be ▼



checked by a local moderator if there isn't one. However, for observations with a good photograph the ID can be checked.

Global Biodiversity Information Forum

The information from a number of national databases is now available online via GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Forum – www.GBIF.org) where you can see the distribution of butterfly species with quite accurate GPS coordinates being published. This is very useful if you are looking for a particular species but is not complete. It covers all species globally with currently over a billion records.

We should encourage the App and web recording systems to share their data with GBIF and also to make their data available to local or regional atlases. Whilst this may be an issue for BCE rather than EBG, in the short term we would encourage experienced EBG recorders to participate in the validation process. Those of you who heard Chris van Swaay's talk at the AGM will be aware how rapidly biological recording is changing.

Rare and local species

There are issues about sending in data for very rare and more particularly extremely local species because collecting is still a problem in some countries, France and Greece particularly. The list is short (23 species) and probably needs revision and can be found in the 'Code of Practice for Butterfly Recording and Photography' in the 'Policies' section of the 'About EBG' page of the EBG website. However, for almost all species there is no problem sending in the records and having them appear eventually on GBIF or available to anyone.

Identification by App

The use of artificial intelligence in butterfly recording will soon be a reality. My Birdup App on the mobile phone is brilliant at identifying bird songs. Other Apps can give an ID of flowers from photographs. Obsidentify (in Dutch) attempts to identify Lepidoptera from photographs. It needs more work and no doubt more photographs but it is getting there. I was impressed on how it could get species names of moths correctly. However, I hope my county moth recorder will not be replaced by artificial intelligence just yet.

Conclusion

In conclusion we are lucky in the UK to have a strong network of vice county recorders and systems that enable data to be validated and also to be used for local county reports and books. For European records the preferred option is still for members to send records directly to a coordinator as identified in our country recording forms on the EBG website. However another option, certainly where a more local method cannot be identified, is for members to send in their data using the new Apps and I would encourage members to do so. In the absence of a local scheme they are an effective way of ensuring that records are not lost.

Simon Spencer,
cerisyi@btinternet.com

Greece Apollo Project

Survey of Apollo (*Parnassius apollo*) in Greece

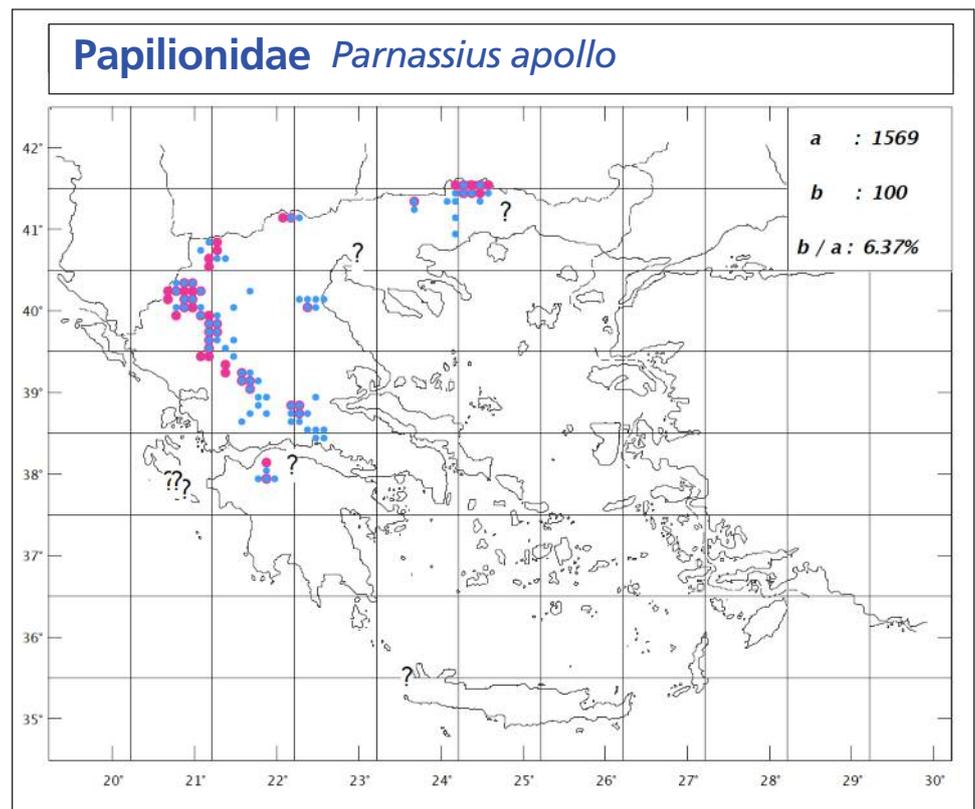
Butterfly Conservation's European Butterflies Group has had a long interest in Greece and has often worked with Lazaros Pamperis on Greek butterflies. We have been asked to help with a LIFE project in Greece on the **Apollo butterfly** (*Parnassius apollo*) organised by

Olga Tzortzakaki (olgatzortz@gmail.com) and the Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy.



The species is widespread in the Greek mountains but rarely common (see map). The distinctive larvae feed on *Sedum* often growing in rocky places. The Apollo is an iconic species. It may be affected by changes to grazing in the Greek mountains where sheep and goat grazing is often being replaced by cattle grazing. There is very little quantitative data available and its presence on several mountains such as Mt Chelmos is in doubt. ▼

Apollo (*Parnassius apollo*)





**Greek Apollo Project
cont.**

Request for records

We would like to encourage members and others to firstly send historical records to Olga and Lazaros Pamperis (pamperis@otenet.gr) but also to go and look for Apollo in the Greek mountains especially where it appears to be present in the distribution map. The Apollo flies from June to August. If you do find it, please do a timed count as number of adults seen per hour. It is an easy species to identify



Parnassius apollo larva

More information

You can download more information on Greek butterflies free from Lazaros's website <http://www.pamperis.gr>, where there are updates to his book '*The Butterflies of Greece*'.

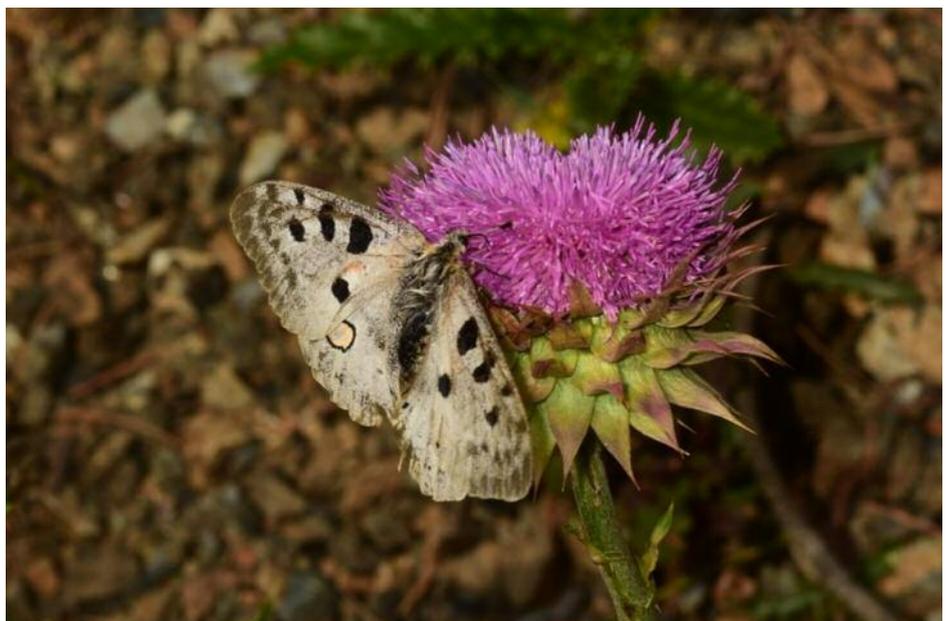
The Greek mountains are a delight and a paradise for butterflies.

You may wish to consider walking parts of a long-distance footpath such as 'The Pindos Way'. If so, see *Trekking in Greece: The Peloponnese and Pindos Way* by Tim Salmon and Michael Cullen and the websites <https://thepindosway.com/> and www.the-peloponneseaway.com.

Simon Spencer

cerisyi@btinternet.com

Photos by Lazaros Pamperis



Apollo (*Parnassius apollo*)

Spanish Pyrenees

Butterflies of the Cerdanya National Park in the Spanish Pyrenees (20th –27th July 2018)

by Mark and Caroline Searle

After weeks of scorching weather in the UK, we headed south for some blessed relief to the Spanish Pyrenees, where the foothills looked considerably greener than the parched English countryside. We drove east from Bilbao staying a few nights in Jaca in Aragon, arriving at our base for the week in Bellver de Cerdanya in the Cerdanya National Park to the east of Andorra. We explored the terrain around Bellver, travelling no further than 15-20 kms in any one day, and on several days simply walked from basecamp up the hillside. The myriad of meadows, patches of light woodland, walking tracks, scrubby roadside margins, and pockets of scrub and wasteland provided a wealth of opportunities around the villages of Orden, Cortas, Talltendre, Meranges and Lles de Cerdanya.

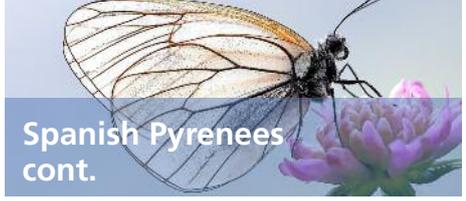


Weaver's Fritillary (*Boloria dia*)

Our tally rapidly climbed to 95 species over a period of just 10 ten days with an impressive count of **Fritillaries** (**Spotted** (*Melitaea didyma*), **Knapweed** (*M. phoebe*), **Southern Heath** (*M. celadussa*), **False Heath** (*M. diamina*), **Marbled** (*Brenthis daphne*), **Queen of Spain** (*Issoria lathonia*), **Weaver's** (*Boloria dia*), **High Brown** (*Fabriciana adippe*), **Dark Green** (*Speyeria aglaja*) and **Silver-washed** (*Argynnis paphia*)), **Marbled Whites** (including **Iberian** (*Melanargia lachesis*) and **Esper's** (*M. russiae*)) and many **Blues** (including **Long-tailed** (*Lampides boeticus*), **Silver-studded** (*Plebejus argus*), **Idas** (*P. idas*), **Chapman's** (*Polyommatus thersites*), **Amanda's** (*P. amandus*), **Escher's** (*P. escheri*), **Ripart's Anomalous** (*P. ripartii*), **Damon** (*P. damon*), **Adonis** (*Lysandra bellargus*), **Chalkhill** (*L. coridon*), **Mazarine** (*Cyaniris semiargus*), **Chequered** (*Scolitantides orion*), and **Baton** (*Pseudophilotes baton*)). A number were new to us, with some documented in the shots below. This

also proved to be a good area for **Apollo** (*Parnassius apollo*) and **Great-banded Grayling** (*Brintesia circe*), along with a solitary sighting through a stretch of conifer woodland of the enigmatic **Nettle-tree Butterfly** (*Libythea celtis*).

The trip shifted northwards with an additional week (28th July – 4th August) on the French side of this impressive mountain range in the area around Luz St. Sauveur, Barèges, Col du Tourmalet and along the Gavarnie Valley. *continued on p.16* ▼



Spanish Pyrenees
cont.



False Heath Fritillary (*Melitaea diamina*)

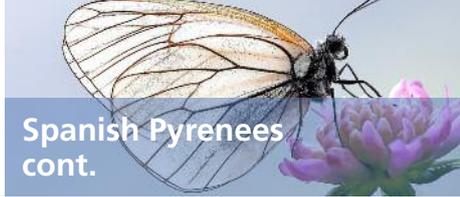


Knapweed Fritillary (*Melitaea phoebe*)



Spotted Fritillary (*Melitaea didyma*)





Spanish Pyrenees
cont.



Esper's Marbled White (*Melanargia russiae*)



Iberian Marbled White (*Melanargia lachesis*)



Great Banded Grayling (*Brintesia circe*)



Black-veined White (*Aporia crataegi*)





Spanish Pyrenees
cont.

Altogether different terrain with steep, heavily grazed slopes and valleys, some dense woodland, and of course significantly more tourists (!) – altogether a less enjoyable experience than on the quiet southern slopes in Spain. The higher tracks around the Cirque de Gavarnie (above 1500 m) yielded mud-puddling **Mazarine**, **Silver-studded** and **Turquoise Blues** (*Polyommatus dorylas*), along with **Safflower** (*Pyrgus carthami*), **Mallow** (*Carcharodus alceae*), **Marbled** (*C. lavatherae*) and **Red-underwing Skippers** (*Spialia sertorius*) and the occasional **Purple-shot Copper** (*Lycaena alciphron*) and **Apollo**, not to mention **Purple Emperor** (*Apatura iris*) on the lower wooded slopes, and the ubiquitous **Clouded Yellow** (*Colias crocea*), to name but a few. All in all, one of our best European butterfly holidays to date, one that has dramatically sharpened our in-the-field identification skills!

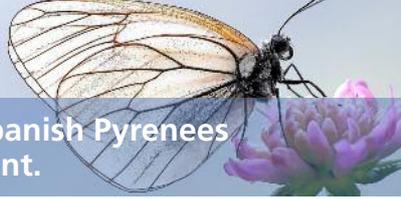


Apollo (*Parnassius apollo*)



Escher's Blue (*Polyommatus escheri*)





Chapman's Blue (*Polyommatus thersites*)



Ripart's Anomalous Blue (*Polyommatus ripartii*)



Damon Blue (*Polyommatus damon*)

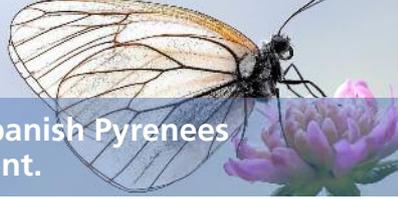


Idas Blue (*Plebejus idas*)



Baton Blue (*Pseudophilotes baton*)





Photographic technique

Prompted by the editor, I offer a few comments on my photographic technique. All photographs were taken close-up with a Canon 5D MkIV DSLR and a 100 mm F2.8L macro lens. The 'raw' data files were processed using the camera manufacturer's image processing software. All shots were taken handheld in the 'wild'.

Regarding technique, butterfly photography is particularly challenging and attempts to chase down subjects in the bright sunshine during the heat of the day usually prove unproductive and exhausting. Successful shots were often taken either early morning while subjects were relatively inactive but willing to open up to the first rays of the morning sunshine, or late afternoon under cool cloudy conditions when they were resting and easily approached.

Composition is often left to luck, but taking a low perspective can help to eliminate background vegetation, one hand often managing the camera and the other the unwanted grass stalks! Cutting your losses and returning to a good site when the conditions are more favourable can dramatically improve the success rate.

The rest is about knowing the habitat and likely locations, long days in the field, perseverance, an understanding and patient companion, and the sustaining effects of a large packet of sandwiches!

Mark (and Caroline) Searle
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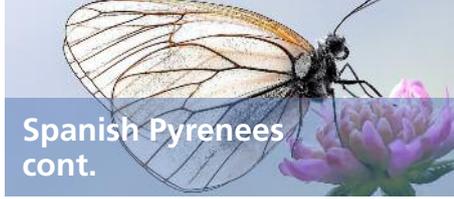
Spanish Purple Hairstreak (*Laeosopis roboris*)



Blue-spot Hairstreak (*Satyrium spini*)



Spanish Heath (*Coenonympha glycerion iphioides*) ▼



Nettle-tree Butterfly (*Libythea celtis*)



Black Satyr (*Satyrus actaea*)

All photos by Mark Searle. Uncropped versions of the images presented above can be accessed on Mark's flickr site <https://www.flickr.com/photos/135189540@N07/45193383485/>



Cyprus

Cyprus 2018

by Nigel Peace

Why go to Cyprus for butterflies? There are several good reasons:

- Cyprus is a member of the EU and is therefore politically part of Europe. Its butterflies are included on the EBG Checklist of European Butterfly Species.
- Geographically it is a long way east – close to south central Turkey, Syria and Lebanon – and thus provides a taste of middle eastern butterflying.
- It is a very easy country for the British to visit. There are many cheap flights to Paphos and Larnaca, English is widely spoken, cars drive on the left, signs are in English as well as Greek, fish and chips can be ordered for supper, etc etc.
- There is an excellent website (www.cyprusbutterflies.co.uk), run by Eddie John, and an excellent book (*Butterflies of Cyprus*, by Christodoulos Makris). For those with a wider interest, a recently published book, 'An introduction to the Wildlife of Cyprus', edited by David Sparrow and Eddie John, provides comprehensive coverage of various other orders in its 895 pages, as well as updated information on butterflies and hawkmoths (see the website).
- Last but not least, Cyprus has some interesting butterflies.

The butterflies of Cyprus

About 53 species occur in Cyprus, give or take a stray or two. This compares with 45 on Crete, 50 on Rhodes, 62 on Corsica, and 70 on Lesvos. The *Pieridae*, *Lycaenidae* and *Satyrinae* are well represented, but the *Nymphalidae* and *Hesperiidae* are not. A full list is at the end of this article.

Cyprus has three endemic species:

Paphos Blue (*Glaucopsyche paphos*)

Cyprus Meadow Brown (*Maniola cypricola*)

Cyprus Grayling (*Hipparchia cypriensis*)

and five species for which endemic subspecies have been described (note that the last two, marked with an asterisk, are now regarded as synonymous with the nominate form):

Eastern Festoon (*Zerynthia cerisy cypria*)

Eastern Rock Grayling (*Hipparchia syriaca cypriaca*)

Hermit (*Chazara briseis larnacana*)

Oriental Meadow Brown (*Hyponephele lupina cypriaca*)*

White-banded Grayling (*Pseudochazara anthelea acamanthis*)*

There are also two species which are not found elsewhere in Europe:

Small Desert Blue (*Luthrodes galba*)

Levantine Leopard (*Cigaritis acamas*)

and several with a restricted range in other parts of Europe, such as:

Dark Grass Blue (*Zizeeria karsandra*) – also on Sicily, Malta and Crete

African Ringlet (*Ypthima asterope*) – also on some Aegean islands

Millet Skipper (*Pelopidas thrax*) – also on some Aegean islands.

In 2018 I made three short trips to Cyprus in an attempt to see as many of these species as I could. The first trip (in the second half of March) was for early species



Cyprus cont.

and I was accompanied by my good friend Tony Hoare. The second trip (in early June) targeted mountain species and Small Desert Blue. My wife Liz had planned to come with me but work and family (new grandson) intervened and she did not make it, so I went on my own. The third trip was at the beginning of September for post-summer Satyrines and Millet Skipper and I was once again accompanied by Tony.

First visit, 21-24 March 2018.

On our first trip we based ourselves in a holiday apartment at Mandria, close to Paphos. The scrub outside the apartment (awaiting more apartments) had a few

Dark Grass Blues.



Dark Grass Blue (*Zizeeria karsandra*), female



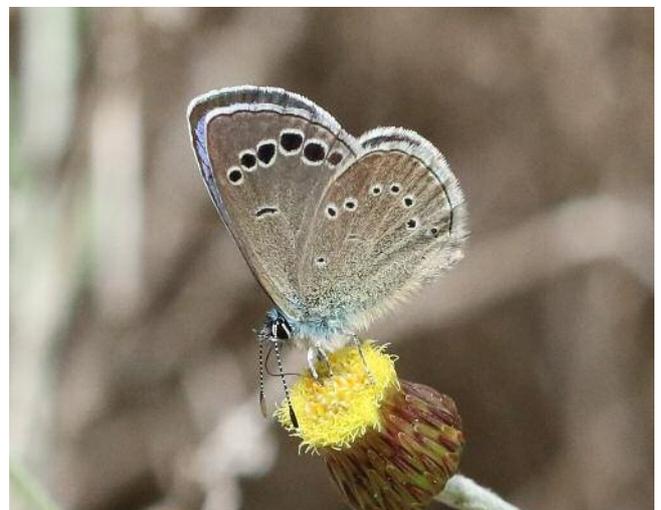
Dark Grass Blue (*Zizeeria karsandra*), male

Paphos Blue

The main attraction of the trip was **Paphos Blue**, which belongs to the same family as **Green-underside Blue** (*Glaucopsyche alexis*) and **Black-eyed Blue** (*Glaucopsyche melanops*). We found it at several localities at low altitude and had no trouble getting photos of fresh specimens. It is better looked for early in the year - I did not find the species at all on my later visits.



Paphos Blue (*Glaucopsyche paphos*), male



Paphos Blue (*Glaucopsyche paphos*), male





African Ringlet

Eddie John kindly suggested a site for this species and we found at least 10 individuals there. However they were extremely reluctant to settle and hard to photograph. These grainy shots took a lot of effort.



African Ringlet (*Ypthima asterope*)



Tony Hoare getting ready for battle with African Ringlet

Other species

We encountered **Eastern Festoon** from time to time including these handsome individuals. Other species in a total list of 20 included **Eastern Dappled White** (*Euchloe ausonia*) and **Pygmy Skipper** (*Gegenes pumilio*).



Eastern Festoon (*Zerynthia cerisy cypria*), male



Eastern Festoon (*Zerynthia cerisy cypria*)





Cyprus cont.

Second visit, 1-6 June 2018

On my second visit I stayed in the Jubilee Hotel in Troodos, in the Troodos mountains. The weather was unseasonably cool on arrival, with lots of cloud and afternoon rain, but it improved by the end of my stay.

Cyprus Grayling (*Hipparchia cypriensis*). This taxon was formerly included in *H. pellucida*

Cyprus Grayling

I was expecting **Cyprus Grayling** to be common, and indeed I did see plenty when the weather improved, but it was elusive when weather conditions were not right.



Cyprus Meadow Brown

Also unexpectedly elusive was **Cyprus Meadow Brown**. I did photograph a couple of females, but I failed to find any males at all.

Other species in the mountains

White-banded Grayling and **Nettle-tree Butterfly (*Libythea celtis*)** co-operated for the camera and were my highlights. Other species included **Cleopatra (*Gonepteryx cleopatra*)**, **Oriental Meadow Brown (*Hyponephele lupina*)** and **Lattice Brown (*Kirinia roxelana*)**.



Cyprus Meadow Brown (*Maniola cypriicola*), female



White-banded Grayling (*Pseudochazara anthelea acamanthis*), male. *P. anthelea* is now regarded as a separate species from *P. amalthea*, which occurs on the Balkan Peninsula and Crete



Nettle-tree Butterfly (*Libythea celtis*)



A butterfly-friendly track relatively low down in the Troodos mountains

Larnaca Salt Lake

Whilst the weather was poor in the mountains I made an excursion to Larnaca Salt Lake near the coast and walked along the track just past the restored Muslim shrine of Hala Sultan Tekke. I was very pleased to find **Small Desert Blue** and several other Lycaenids including **Lesser Fiery Copper (*Lycaena thersamon*)** and **Little Tiger Blue (*Tarucus balkanicus*)**.





Small Desert Blue (*Luthrodes galba*)



Lesser Fiery Copper (*Lycaena thersamon*)



Little Tiger Blue (*Tarucus balkanicus*)



The track by Larnaca Salt Lake

Third visit, 31 August -3 September 2018.

On my third visit we again stayed in the Jubilee Hotel in Troodos. This time the weather was sunny and hot – upper twenties in the mountains, mid-thirties on the coast. Conditions were very dry everywhere, and few flowers remained in bloom. Satyrines were generally observed zooming past at top speed, and it took a lot of patience to get decent photographs.

Satyrines

Cyprus Grayling was extremely common in the mountains. This time it was accompanied by **Eastern Rock Grayling** (*Hipparchia syriaca*), which I had failed to find on my earlier trips. **The Eastern Rock Graylings** liked to settle on the trunks of the larger pine trees which made them one of the easier species to photograph.



Cyprus Grayling (*Hipparchia cypriensis*)



Eastern Rock Grayling (*Hipparchia syriaca cypriaca*)



Cyprus cont.

We occasionally encountered **Oriental Meadow Brown** (*Hyponephele lupina*). They were usually very flighty, but we were fortunate to encounter one co-operative individual sitting quietly on a bush by the Troodos Visitor Centre.

Oriental Meadow Brown
(*Hyponephele lupina cypriaca*)

We saw several **Hermits** (*Chazara briseis larnacana*) a little inland from Paphos but could not get any photographs. Another frustrating species was **Cyprus Meadow Brown**, which we failed to identify positively among the many hyperactive Satyrines which kept us occupied.



Millet Skipper

I was keen to find this species, which I had previously looked for without success on Samos. According to the Butterflies of Cyprus there is a marked increase in numbers during the autumn, possibly due to migrations from the Middle East or Africa, and I was afraid that we might miss it at the beginning of September. I was therefore very pleased to find a single specimen by a farm track during our excursion inland from Paphos. It is not the best looker on the European list, but it was a welcome sighting nonetheless!



Millet Skipper (*Pelopidas thrax*)

Back to Larnaca Salt Lake

I went back with Tony to Hala Sultan Tekke by Larnaca Salt Lake. The site looked unpromising when we arrived in hot afternoon sunshine, but all the species observed on my June visit were still present, and in good numbers.

Conclusion

Cyprus is a somewhat specialised butterfly destination. Butterfly numbers are not huge, either of species (35 seen in total during my three visits) or

individuals, and photographs have to be worked for. However there are rewards for perseverance and it was undoubtedly satisfying to get to grips with more than two thirds of the butterflies of a single destination in three short trips.

If you do consider going I strongly recommend that you make contact with Eddie John before you go (eddiejohn100@googlemail.com), and that you send him your records afterwards. •

Nigel Peace

liz-nigel@hotmail.co.uk



LIST OF BUTTERFLIES OF CYPRUS

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisy cyprica</i>
African Migrant (note 1)	<i>Catopsilia florella</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>
Small Bath White	<i>Pontia chloridice</i>
Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>
Levantine Leopard	<i>Apharitis acamas</i>
Pomegranate Hairstreak (note 1)	<i>Deudorix livia</i>
Purple Hairstreak	<i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>
Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptodes pirthous</i>
Little Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i>
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
Paphos Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche paphos</i>
Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>
Grass Jewel	<i>Chilades trochylus</i>
Small Desert Blue	<i>Chilades galba</i>
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i>
African Babul Blue (note 1)	<i>Azanus jesus</i>
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
Nettle-tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>
Two-tailed Pasha	<i>Charaxes jasius</i>
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>
Large Tortoiseshell (note 2)	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>
Cyprus Grayling	<i>Hipparchia cypriensis</i>
Eastern Rock Grayling	<i>Hipparchia syriaca cypriaca</i>
The Hermit	<i>Chazara briseis larnacana</i>
Dark Rockbrown (note 3)	<i>Chazara persephone</i>
White-banded Grayling	<i>Pseudochazara anthelea</i>
Cyprus Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola cypricola</i>
Oriental Meadow Brown	<i>Hypnophela lupina</i>
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
African Ringlet	<i>Ypthima asterope</i>
Lattice Brown	<i>Kirinia roxelana</i>
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alcaeae</i>
Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>
Millet Skipper	<i>Pelopides thrax</i>
Pygmy Skipper	<i>Gegenes pumilio</i>

Note 1: very rare migrant

Note 2: Large Tortoiseshell is now considered extinct in Cyprus

Note 3: Dark Rockbrown/Great Steppe Grayling (*Chazara persephone*) was rediscovered in 2010.

Photospot

Any reader who would like to submit a few photographs to conclude subsequent newsletters is most welcome to do so.

Ikaria and Samos **by John Heap**

My wife and I spent the first two weeks of May 2018 on the neighbouring Greek islands of Ikaria and Samos, part of the Eastern Aegean island group close to Turkey. Apparently there had been a prolonged hot spell earlier in the year which seemed to have brought forward the flowering season although I don't know if this had any effect on the butterflies.

Southern Swallowtail
(Papilio alexanor),
Samos, 3 May 2018



Swallowtail (*Papilio machaon*), Ikaria, 7 May 2018



Scarce Swallowtail (*Iphiclides podalirius*), Samos, 11 May 2018

Beach (and remains of temple to Artemis) at Nas, Ikaria





Photospot
cont.



Black-veined White (*Aporia crataegi*), Samos, 11 May 2018



Cleopatra (*Gonepteryx cleopatra*), Samos, 14 May 2018



Ilex Hairstreak (*Satyrium ilicis*), Samos, 15 May 2018



Lattice Brown (*Kirinia roxelana*), Ikaria, 7 May 2018

Hillside above the resort of Kokkari on Samos, with the island capital Vathi at centre rear, and Turkish coast in background



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