



Southern Spain

Nevada Grayling *Pseudochazara williamsi*

In 2023 a group of 8 EBG members joined local experts José Miguel Barea and Javier Olivares together with other Spanish colleagues and students to survey for Nevada Grayling *Pseudochazara williamsi* a species which only lives at high altitudes in the Sierra Nevada and a few other nearby sierras. The species has been classified in the new Red List as one of only six Critically Endangered European species.



Pseudochazara williamsi Photo Martin Davies

The first trip found the butterfly at only 2 sites during the eight day trip although *williamsi* foodplant was found in some locations where the butterfly was not found. In 2024 another group of 8 EBG volunteers joined José Miguel and Javier for another strenuous eight days of surveys in the high sierras. *P. williamsi* was seen on 3 sites but on one of the sites in fewer numbers than the previous year. Surveys in both years found the greatest numbers of *williamsi* at El Buitre, an isolated and fairly inaccessible plateau at over 2000 m altitude.

The surveys reinforced the view that *williamsi* is in serious decline due to both habitat degradation and climate change.

The decision was taken to produce a Species Action Plan in both Spanish and English, which EBG financed. The Plan is available [here](#) on the Butterfly Conservation Europe website.



Part of the EBG team with Javier Olivares. *Pseudochazara williamsi* survey, Andalucia, July 2024 Photo Martin Davies



Pseudochazara williamsi female Photo Dave Plowman



Javier Olivares Photo Martin Davies