

# **NEWSLETTER**

**Issue 4**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

EIG now has 147 members and has had a successful year. In this Newsletter there are two reports of successful trips by EIG members to Mount Chelmos in Greece (Page 9 & 10) and to Hungary (Page 11,12 & 13). These activities are beginning to influence local National Parks and it was encouraging to hear that grazing has resumed in the Latrany Valley in Hungary something that the West Midlands group that went to Hungary in 2006 recommended. It was this group that formed EIG.

We are able to organize activities in Europe only if we don't fall foul of the 1991 EU Travel Directive and the 1993 EU Package Travel Directive. This means for all EIG trips we have to either use a travel company such as Ecotours or book our own flights and accommodation as we did in Greece or to travel independently and meet up at the arranged site as we did in the Ecrins last year. There is however an insurance issue outstanding, which would cover BC from, claims from anyone participating in the same way as they are covered by BC's insurance for a field event or work party in the UK. We are in discussions with BC headquarters about insurance but have not yet resolved the issue. A number of EIG trips for 2009 are in the pipeline and these will be announced as soon as the insurance issues have been satisfactorily resolved. **STOP PRESS** We think these insurance issues are now resolved.

In the meantime we are organizing two events in the UK. I have arranged a visit to the Natural History Museum now temporarily in Wandsworth to see the European Butterflies collection on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 09. The visit would start at 10.00am. We are limited to 12 people as there is not much space. Expressions of interest to Simon Spencer [cerisyi@btinternet.com](mailto:cerisyi@btinternet.com). I will have to take these on a first come first served basis. If oversubscribed I suggest we organize a subsequent visit.

We are also trying to organize a spring 2009 Butterfly Photography workshop to be led by Neil Thompson probably at a butterfly farm in the Midlands. No date available as of going to press. Expressions of interest to Neil Thompson [neilt@ukgateway.net](mailto:neilt@ukgateway.net)

Further suggestions of UK based meetings would be welcome. We rarely get an opportunity to meet our membership.

This year's **EIG AGM** will take place at the conclusion of business at the BC AGM in York on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of November. The main item of business will be the adoption of a voluntary code of conduct for butterfly recording and photography in Europe. The aim is to make it easier for members of EIG who do not collect butterflies to get permission to use nets in national parks and elsewhere in Europe. See article on page 4 & 5.

We have made a start on expanding the EIG website to include Country Pages. The idea eventually is to have a page on every European country giving a brief description of good places to go with a map, key target species, useful links, a bibliography, any recording schemes, recommendations by members of where to stay, the Butterfly Conservation Europe representative or partner etc. We hope individuals who know the country well will volunteer to become the EIG representative. We will also provide a downloadable list of species with English and Latin names. See [www.bc-eig.org.uk/countries.htm](http://www.bc-eig.org.uk/countries.htm) Try it. Only Greece is there at the moment. Slovenia and Cyprus are in the pipeline. Turkey, Hungary, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, Eire, Switzerland and Poland are promised. We need volunteers to put something together for all the rest of the European countries. The Greece page is a template. For big countries like France we need a volunteer to pull together information from a number of contacts. It would be nice to get a good number of pages up before next season. We can add further information later. I believe this will be a fantastic resource for our members and a great stimulus for interest in European butterflies. The sharing of information brings benefits to us all.

The Red Data Book of European Butterflies is being updated by Butterfly Conservation Europe. To my mind this should be a good opportunity to sort out the vexed issue of Butterfly taxonomy. Nigel Peace's thought provoking article on page 6,7 & 8 calls for EIG to take on a role here but the organisation that should take the lead is Butterfly Conservation Europe. Those of you with an interest in Taxonomy may want to bring to their attention recent taxonomic articles on butterflies that they should consider. (See link on page 8 at the end of the article)

**Simon Spencer**  
**Chairman EIG**

## **Contact Details:**

### **Chairman:**

Simon Spencer - email: [cerisyi@btinternet.com](mailto:cerisyi@btinternet.com) - Tel No: 01691 648339

### **Vice-Chairman/Field Trip Organiser:**

Mike Williams - email: [mike@stagborough.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mike@stagborough.fsnet.co.uk) - Tel No: 01299 824860

### **Minutes Secretary:**

Ian Duncan - email: [duncaniz@aol.com](mailto:duncaniz@aol.com) - Tel No: 01684 574965

### **Membership Secretary:**

Anne Spencer - email: [apatura.metis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:apatura.metis@yahoo.co.uk) - Tel No: 01691 648339

### **Website Manager:**

Neil Thompson - email: [webmaster@bc-eig.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@bc-eig.org.uk) - Tel No: 01386 710917

### **Newsletter Editors:**

Simon & Anne Spencer - as above

### **Other Committee Members:**

Nigel Spring - email: [nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk) - Tel No: 01963 23559

## **Dates for your Diary:**

**22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> November 08** - Butterfly Conservation AGM in York  
(The EIG AGM will be held after conclusion of meeting on Saturday)

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 09** – Visit to Natural History Museum to see the European Butterfly Collection

**Spring 2009** - a Butterfly Photography workshop to be led by Neil Thompson probably at a butterfly farm in the Midlands. Expressions of interest to Neil Thompson [neilt@ukgateway.net](mailto:neilt@ukgateway.net)

## **EIG 2009 Calendar**

We are hoping to produce a limited edition EIG 2009 Calendar with photographs of European Butterflies to raise funds for EIG, which will be on sale for £8.99 at the EIG stall at the AGM in York. If sales are successful this year we will run a competition for photos to be included for a 2010 Calendar.

## **The EIG Website [www.bc-eig.org.uk](http://www.bc-eig.org.uk)**

Anything that should go on the website – it's your website. Please email any thoughts, ideas, or whatever you have, to [webmaster@bc-eig.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@bc-eig.org.uk). Thank you.

# ***A Code of Practice for Butterfly Recording and Photography in Europe***

## **Introduction**

Butterfly Conservation has a code of practice on collecting, breeding and photography, which is focussed on the UK. It was also represented on the joint Committee for the Conservation of British Invertebrates that published a 'Code of Conduct for Collecting Insects and other Invertebrates' in 2002. This code recognises that collecting for scientific purposes is a legitimate scientific activity and that for some groups as it is difficult to determine the live insect. Members of Butterfly Conservation's European Interests Group wish to adopt a stronger code of conduct that precludes 'collecting' in order to assure National Park and other Authorities in Europe that their activities will not be detrimental to populations of butterflies. Their purpose is to give those authorities sufficient assurances so that they can obtain permission to use nets in order to correctly identify butterfly species. This code of conduct not only regulates activities in the field but also the publication of information on the precise location of rare butterfly species and the dissemination of information to others which in the hands of unscrupulous collectors could damage populations of rare butterflies. There are many parts of Europe where the use of nets is prohibited. Signing up to this protocol does not mean that the individual does not need to comply with local laws. The idea is to facilitate permission to use nets and to allay the suspicions of authorities where nets are being used without permission.

## **Signatories to the EIG Code of practice will therefore: -**

1. Capture and release butterflies in the field unharmed where they are found.
2. Only handle butterflies for the purpose of identification, which may include the examination of the genitalia with a hand lens.
3. Only retain insects in tubes, jars or boxes for the minimum of time ensuring that these are kept cool and in the shade. This may be necessary for the identification to be checked by a colleague. Cooling specimens for photographic purposes must not harm the butterfly, which must be released where it was caught.
4. Use close focus binoculars where capture with a net is not necessary
5. Make minimal impact on the habitat by way of trampling
6. Where collections are retained by individuals who have collected butterflies in the past the individual undertakes not to add to that collection except by receipt of donated collected material that would otherwise be neglected.
7. Submit records to any authority that issues a licence to use nets and endeavour to make the records available to the partners of Butterfly Conservation Europe.
8. Butterfly eggs or larvae should only be removed from the environment for a specific scientific purpose and any subsequent adults that emerge should be released where they were found. For UK visitors to Europe this will mean that eggs and larvae will not be removed from the wild.

## ***Vulnerable and very local species***

For a restricted number of very local species (List A) where collecting is known to be a problem a stricter protocol will apply unless part of a fully authorised scientific study.

1. No nets will be used in order that there is no confusion over the complete prohibition of using nets in the colony area EVEN IF A PERMIT HAS BEEN OBTAINED.
2. The species will not be handled
3. The exact location of the site will not be published on the internet or in scientific literature (though its occurrence at the 10k square level may be published) except as part of a CONFIDENTIAL report for which a non disclosure agreement must be signed for.
4. The exact location of the site will only be passed verbally or by email to signatories of this code of conduct or persons of similar integrity.

### **List A – Vulnerable and very local species**

*Borbo borbonica*  
*Euchloe bazae*  
*Turanana endymion* (in Europe)  
*Lycaena thetis* (in Europe)  
*Agrodiaetus humedasa*  
*Agrodiaetus iphigenia*  
*Agrodiaetus exuberans*  
*Agrodiaetus violetae*  
*Agrodiaetus orphicus*  
*Pseudophilotes bavius*  
*Agriades zullichi*  
*Cupido carswelli*  
*Boloria improba*  
*Melitaea aetherie*  
*Coenonympha oedippus*  
*Coenonympha hero*  
*Erebia christi*  
*Pseudochazara amymone*  
*Pseudochazara cingowskii*

The suggestion is that members of EIG who sign up to this protocol can obtain from EIG a certificate with the EIG Logo, possibly the BC logo, and a copy of the protocol on the back together with graphics and multilingual text that indicates that the owner of the certificate, laminated + a photo, **is not a collector**. There would be a cost for this service. Certificates would only be issued to people known to us or on recommendation of a BC branch official. We might also ask Tour operators to sign up to the code of practice. This protocol would be circulated to BCE members, National Park authorities & colleagues.

**Simon Spencer**

## ***A List of European Butterflies – A Role for EIG?***

As a relative newcomer to the world of butterflies from the world of birds, I have been struck by the apparent absence of authority on European butterfly taxonomy.

One only has to compare the taxonomic treatment in two popular field guides (Tristan Lafranchis's 'Butterflies of Europe' and the Collins Field Guide by Tolman & Lewington 'Butterflies of Britain and Europe') to appreciate the present unstable state of affairs. For a start, Lafranchis treats as full species no less than 25 forms treated as subspecies in Tolman & Lewington, or not mentioned there at all (see list at end). But the differences run more widely to all levels of the systematic treatment - for example, to the genera to which species are assigned, and to the order in which genera and families are listed. Another comparison for example Ahmed Baytas's excellent recent book on the 'Butterflies of Turkey' follows Otakar Kudrna's 'Distribution Atlas of European Butterflies' and assigns the *Agrodiaetus* blues to the genus *Polyommatus* whereas Lafranchis uses *Agrodiaetus*.

Taxonomy may seem a side-issue best left to the specialists, but it really is the foundation for our interest, and an accurate taxonomy is important, for reasons of conservation, science and convenience.

- Full species are likely to attract far more conservation attention than subspecies. The trend towards splitting butterfly forms with restricted geographical ranges, so evident from comparing Lafranchis and Tolman & Lewington, has the potential to stimulate important conservation action, but it must be based on robust taxonomy if it is to have a durable impact.
- A systematic list distils the state of human understanding about the evolutionary relationships of the forms covered. An up-to-date list will reflect our best understanding of the butterfly world and is a desirable end in itself.
- A consistent taxonomic treatment would be convenient in all sorts of ways for all sorts of people - for publishers, writers, conservation bodies, and indeed all those with an interest in butterflies - and it would make the butterfly world more accessible for non-experts. For example there is nothing more irritating than having two field guides, which present species in different orders.
- Lastly an authoritative, unequivocal, published list would be an excellent tool for encouraging interest in butterflies - for encouraging modern-day 'collectors', armed with camera and tick list, to seek out all the species on the list.

The explosion of interest in bird-watching has been underpinned by the production of national, regional, and world checklists. In Britain, the British Ornithologists Union maintains the British list and it follows the taxonomic recommendations of a five-person taxonomic sub-committee. I am not aware of any body which oversees a list of birds for the whole of Europe (or the Western Palearctic), but the BOU's taxonomic sub-committee includes representatives from Sweden and the Netherlands. It has published criteria for assessing whether taxa constitute full species and, as I understand it seeks to encourage a consistent approach between national list committees.

At world level, the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology has recently inherited responsibility for the well-known Clements world bird checklist and has announced its intention to keep the list up to date. The forward to the latest edition of the list identifies four specific needs of 'real birders':

- (1) The list must remain easy to use
- (2) The list must be consistent with the findings of scientific professionals, who study bird biology and publish their decisions in peer-reviewed technical journals
- (3) Where differences of opinion exist among professionals, the list must be decisive, but biologically consistent and clear about its choice and hierarchy of scholarly references
- (4) The list must 'stay alive', remaining as synchronous as possible with a constantly changing body of information.

Remember we are not trying to reveal the intentions of an almighty creator but trying to impose a man made order on an untidy dynamic evolutionary system. Many disciplines can inform taxonomic discussions including DNA analysis, chromosome studies, behavior and biology and not just morphology and taxonomic precedent.

The issue I raise for the EIG is this. Do not those of us with a real interest in butterflies have similar needs to 'real birders'? Should EIG not promote the setting up of a subcommittee to produce a systematic list of European butterflies, and to keep it up to date?

I do not underestimate the difficulties. Taxonomy will be in a state of flux for many years to come. Taxonomic issues can be hugely controversial. And a list will only have authority if it is widely respected by the butterfly community as a whole. Thus its production will require scientific and political expertise in equal measure! Should EIG embark upon such an adventure?

**Nigel Peace**

### ***Forms treated as full species by Lanfranchis but not by Tolman & Lewington***

<i>Pyrgus [carlinae] cirsi</i>	Cinquefoil Skipper
<i>Zerynthia [cerys] cretica</i>	Cretan Festoon
<i>Iphiclides [podalirius] feisthamelii</i>	Spanish Swallowtail
<i>Agrodiaetus [dolus] virgilius</i>	Italian Furry Blue
<i>Agrodiaetus exuberans</i>	Verity's Anomalous Blue
<i>Lysandra [coridon] caelestissima</i>	Azure Chalk-hill Blue
<i>Lysandra [coridon] gennargenti</i>	Sardinian Chalk-hill Blue
<i>Agriades [glandon] aquilo</i>	Arctic Blue
<i>Agriades [pyrenaicus] dardanus</i>	Bosnian Blue
<i>Plebejus [idas] bellieri</i>	Bellier's Blue
<i>Plebejus villai</i>	Villa's Blue
<i>Vanessa [indica] vulcania</i>	Canary Red Admiral
<i>Lasiommata [megera] paramegaera</i>	Corsican Wall Brown
<i>Coenonympha [glycerion] iphioides</i>	Spanish Heath
<i>Coenonympha [leander] orientalis</i>	Balkan Heath
<i>Erebia [cassioides] arvernensis</i>	Western Brassy Ringlet
<i>Erebia [hispania] rondoui</i>	Pyrenees Brassy Ringlet
<i>Melanargia [occitanica] pherusa</i>	Sicilian Marbled White
<i>Arethusana [arethusia] boabdil</i>	Andalusian False Grayling

<i>Hipparchia [semele] leighebi</i>	Eolian Grayling
<i>Hipparchia [aristaeus] senthes</i>	Balkan Grayling
<i>Hipparchia [aristaeus] blachieri</i>	Sicilian Grayling
<i>Hipparchia sbordonii</i>	Ponza Grayling
<i>Hipparchia neapolitana</i>	Italian Grayling
<i>Hipparchia genava</i>	Lesser Woodland Grayling

#### **Editor's note:**

EIG may have a facilitating role here but the most likely body to make a definitive list stick would be Butterfly Conservation Europe. As Nigel has said the important thing would be for the 'committee' to have the respect and trust of the whole European 'Butterfly' community. BCE is currently reviewing the taxonomic list for the purposes of updating the Red Data Book of European Butterflies (Van Swaay and Warren 1999). They don't intend to revise the nomenclature or add or subtract species except in response to papers in peer-reviewed journals that have appeared since 1996. The current changes are summarized at <http://sites.google.com/site/redlisthelppage/taxonomy>. If you know of recent papers that they should consider then get in touch with them.



## Mount Chelmos, Greece – June 2008

After an Easyjet flight to Athens the seven of us in the party, Nigel Peace, Jan Miller, Simon and Anne Spencer (leaders), John Salmon, Martin Catt and myself (Graham Revill) drove west to the Peloponnese, along the Gulf of Corinth and then southwards into the mountains to arrive at our destination, the small town of Kalāvrita, a summer and winter resort located in a mountain valley at an altitude of 700m.

To the east of the town the road immediately starts its steady climb into the Mt Chelmos massif, whose peaks attain a shade over 2300m. This road became familiar to us over our nine days of field trips over the period June 22 - 30. We endeavoured to record at all altitudes where the habitat looked promising. At 700m - 800m the vegetation was well past its spring best with grass and plants drying out and very little nectar remaining. At above 900m,



New Ski Run on Mount Chelmos

© Anne Spencer

however, we reached flower rich grassland usually in the proximity of sparse woodland and, at above 1600m, scrubby grassland fairly rich in wildflowers. This latter habitat was being grazed by cattle, sheep and goats, and we learnt that grazing pressure from sheep and goats is now much reduced with their numbers having decreased supposedly to one tenth of the number present ten years earlier. Cattle grazing had to some extent replaced the sheep and goats and whereas Chelmos was notorious for being overgrazed some of the steeper slopes are now almost abandoned.

The whole area from Kalāvrita right up to the mountain peaks on both sides of the massif is now being formally designated the Chelmos and Vouraikos National Park and we made contact with park staff, in particular the ecologist, Miss Rika Bisa, who joined us on several of expeditions. Mt Chelmos is one of Greece's Natura 2000 sites.

We spent one afternoon on the coast at the town of Diakopto, meeting French emigre' entomologist Tristan Lafranchis and his family. A late afternoon exploration of rough ground on the western outskirts of Diakopto accompanied by Tristan revealed some of the expected species of dry waste ground, such as the Long-tailed Blue (*Lampides boeticus*) and the Eastern Bath White (*Pontia edusa*).

On two days we walked along the narrow-gauge railway track of the Kalāvrita - Diakopto railway, northwards from a point 8kms north of Kalāvrita at an altitude of 600m before the railway descends through the Vouraikos Gorge. Here we saw species that seek hot terrain, notably the Balkan Marbled White (*Melanargia larissa*), Hungarian or Orbed Red Underwing Skipper (*Spialia orbifer*), Great Sooty Satyr (*Satyrus ferula*), Large Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis polychloros*), Anomalous Blue (*Agrodiaetus admetus*), Chapman's Blue (*Agrodiaetus thersites*), Lattice Brown (*Kirinia roxelana*), Sloe Hairstreak (*Satyrium acaciae*), Ilex Hairstreak (*Satyrium ilicis*), The Hermit (*Chazara briseis*), Escher's Blue (*Agrodiaetus escheri*), Southern White Admiral (*Limenitis reducta*) and the Scarce Swallowtail (*Iphiclides podalirius*).

At 750m, on the slopes near Kalāvrita we searched for the Bavius Blue (*Pseudophilotes bavius*), but we failed to locate it. We did, however, find the Sage Skipper (*Muschampia proto*) here. Higher up the valley into the Chelmos massif in the open woodland between 1000m and 1600m we found a great diversity of species, in particular encountering Grecian Copper

(*Lycaena ottomana*), Greek Clouded Yellow (*Colias libanotica* or *aurorina*), Amanda's Blue (*Agrodiaetus amanda*), Oriental Marbled Skipper (*Carcharodus orientalis*), Knapweed Fritillary (*Melitaea phoebe*), Purple-shot Copper (*Lycaena alciphron*), Pontic Blue (*Neolysandra coelestina*), and a Grayling, either Southern Grayling (*Hipparchia senthes*) or Delattin's Grayling (*Hipparchia volgensis*), Ripart's Anomalous Blue (*Agrodiaetus ripartii*), Cardinal (*Argynnis pandora*), in addition to some of those seen at lower altitudes.

At 1600m, 2k W of the ski centre, the road emerges onto a plateau and the landscape is more open with bushes, notably an endemic Hawthorn, and plentiful nectar flowers. The damp earth around water troughs placed here and there for grazing animals provided a useful location to watch out for mud-puddlers. On the slopes above and to the south of the ski centre are to be seen enormous scars on the mountainside where wide ski-runs have been gouged deep into the valley walls. On the quiet, open hillsides to the north of the Ski Centre, along a wide road in course of construction, we found many of those species found at lower levels, notably the Pontic Blue (*Neolysandra coelestina*), plus other species such as the Clouded Apollo (*Parnassius mnemosyne*), Grecian Mazarine Blue (*Cyaniris semiargus helena*), Powdered Brimstone (*Gonepteryx farinosa*), Inky Skipper (*Erynnis marloyi*), Mountain Small White (*Pieris ergane*), Southern Comma (*Polygonia egea*), Persian Skipper (*Spialia phlomidis*), Grecian Anomalous Blue (*Agrodiaetus aroaniensis*), Olive Skipper (*Pyrgus serratulae*), Camberwell Beauty (*Nymphalis antiopa*), Turquoise Blue (*Polyommatus dorylas*) and the Zephyr Blue (*Plebejus pylaon*). Down the eastern slope of the mountains, on a track leading off the road that descends eventually into Peristera, we found Blue-spot Hairstreak (*Satyrium spini*) and particularly numerous Ripart's Anomalous Blue (*Agrodiaetus ripartii*).



Chelmos Blue (*Agrodiaetus iphigenia*) © Nigel Pearce

Our two target species for the trip were both found in the upland area at an altitude of 1700m - 1800m. These were the Chelmos Blue (*Agrodiaetus iphigenia*), which, although found in Turkey and in the Transcaucasus, is only found within Europe in these mountains. We failed to find it until June 30 when we observed fresh specimens, suggesting that its emergence was just beginning. The second target species was the Odd-spot Blue (*Turanana endymion*), which, like the Chelmos Blue, is, in Europe only to be found in the mountains of the

Peleponnese, but is also found further east in Turkey and Turkestan. We found it, generally in rather worn condition, in proximity to its larval foodplant (*Acantholimon androsaceum*), which grows in characteristic cushions on the windswept hillsides. At all locations on these upper slopes we searched for *Acantholimon* and found it in a total of only three areas, but the Odd-spot Blue was only found in numbers at one of these sites with a single individual on the second nearby patch. On one visit to this colony we found a Hungarian car and observed 3 gentlemen with nets in the colony area. Rika came out to confront them and after a flurry of text messages to colleagues in Hungary we established that they were probably collectors though they denied having caught any. They showed us a pack of empty collecting papers to prove it! This species is protected in Greece and if it had not been a Sunday they might have been arrested. We were challenged on our first day using nets in the park but thanks to John Salmon's excellent Greek we were soon able to establish our credentials.

We achieved sightings of a total of 84 species for the nine days and look forward to keeping in touch with the National Park to see how they fare in protecting wildlife and restricting the growth of skiing facilities. A report will be sent to the National Park shortly.

**Graham Revill**

## Discovering butterflies in Turkey's Kaçkar Mountains

"I'm finding this very hard work – and confusing", confessed Safi as the three of us studied the blue butterfly in the pot. There were butterflies everywhere and our brains were numb from having to recall how to identify so many different species at once. The butterfly in the pot should have been a **Common Blue** (*Polyommatus icarus*) but it was big, and a paler, brighter blue than any *icarus* we had seen. And its markings below were uncharacteristically 'clean' looking. And there were several of them, they were easy to spot amongst the numerous other blues. Surely this must be *icarus*, we hadn't seen any *icarus* here yet. But it didn't look like one.

"If I was anywhere else I'd collect this", Safi announced. "But since we can't I suggest we release it. Sitting here looking at it is driving me mad!" Exasperated, he took the lid off the pot and we watched the butterfly go.



Ladies making hay – Yunculer ©Hilary& Geoff Welch

That day we were surveying along a road running between hand-mown subalpine meadows. I wasn't sure whose was the harder work, the women's with their sickles or ours. In 5 hours and 500 metres of road we recorded 63 species. If it hadn't been for the onset of rain we'd have kept going longer and without doubt would have recorded more species. It was staggering, exhilarating and exhausting.

We were surveying butterflies on the south side of the Kaçkar Mountains, one of the richest regions of Turkey for butterflies: in eight weeks we recorded 180 species out of the Turkish total of about 350

(depending which taxonomist you support the list could be longer). What's amazing about that total of 180 is that 21 had not been recorded in the region before, yet this is a relatively well-studied area of Turkey – unfortunately more by foreign collectors than Turkish conservationists. But there are people in Turkey working to change that.

The reason we were there was because a major biodiversity assessment of the Turkish Lesser Caucasus – an area of 35,000 sq kms (a bit bigger than Belgium) – had identified this area of 1,800 sq kms as a remarkably rich centre of both diversity and conservation priorities – including an extraordinary richness of butterflies. The Turkish team that carried out that study went on to develop the follow-on project we were working for. Its aim is to help local people develop sustainable livelihoods which will actively conserve the biodiversity of the region. This is an impressive 4 year project which has attracted €1.8 million of EU funding and is being implemented by a partnership of NGOs, a university and a government ministry\* (see below).

DKM is the brains behind the biodiversity fieldwork. Their first problem was to put together a team to carry out fieldwork on butterflies in a country where potential fieldworkers are either academicians (whose focus is taxonomy) or amateur butterfly enthusiasts (whose interest is photography). Somehow, with financial support from the Dutch Government, DKM managed to organise some training – led by Ahmet Baytas, flown in from America especially for the occasion – and the project provided money to pay for the involvement of three experienced butterfly watchers in fieldwork. All were from Butterfly Conservation Europe. So it was that Dirk Maes (Belgium), Szabolcs Sáfaián 'Safi' (Hungary) and Simon Spencer (UK) found themselves as fieldwork team leaders. They might have been the leaders but the team was so determined to collect as much data as possible that they set a gruelling pace!

Every day the team was driven along narrow cliff-hugging roads to the day's survey squares. We'd set off early with the explicit aim of avoiding the daily incoming flow of minibus traffic from the mountain villages. On those roads meeting traffic travelling in the opposite direction was a test of the driver's reversing skills and nerve.



Sometimes we'd see another of the project's teams in the field – the botanists, or a group of volunteers working to build a new mountain pass to join two trekking routes – but mostly it was just us and a few locals. For those increasingly few local people who continue to eke out a traditional living from the mountains – upon whose activities many of the butterflies depend – our work was clearly incomprehensible. The hardest task for Evrim, the team's lead local butterfly fieldworker, was to convince locals that 'yes', we were using nets but 'no', we weren't collecting anything. It was important for us and the project that we weren't labelled 'collectors'.

In the Kaçkars, although collecting is illegal every year there is a major incident, last year a Macedonian was caught, this year a German. We heard about him while we were in the field. He was stopped leaving Hatila Valley National Park, part of our study area. Unfortunately, due to the lack of a search warrant the local National Parks staff and Jandarma were not able to press charges and he was released. Imagine then everyone's delight when, some time later, he was caught and searched by Customs officials at the Turkish frontier. He was found to have 371 specimens and was fined £9,500. There was much celebrating in Artvin and Yusufeli when they heard the news, but you can be sure that they would prefer to have been able to press the charges themselves.

So this was the background against which we worked and why the blue was released. We wanted to be seen by locals as the students and ambassadors of Ahmet Baytas. He comes from this area and, as author of Turkey's first butterfly field guide he is something of a local hero. But, although Ahmet is an avid butterflyer with remarkable identification skills he has never, ever used a net.

But we didn't have Ahmet with us and we couldn't hope to record all the species present in every square if we didn't use a net. We had limited time, were starting with no local knowledge and had a lot of ground to cover. Even with a net we failed to identify every butterfly. The clouded yellows (*Colias* species) were the worst. We'd seven species possible in the Kaçkars and, until we got our eyes in to spot the differences on them as they zipped past, we needed to catch them. Luckily, for three weeks we had Safi, *Colias*-catcher extraordinaire. There would be a shout of 'Colias!' and Safi was off, leaping rocks and careering up and down mountainsides in focused pursuit. His performance was impressive and often successful but we couldn't emulate him. Once he'd gone, four of us working in concert failed miserably to catch one *Colias* on level open ground!

But simply to enjoy the Kaçkars and their butterflies, a camera and close-focusing binoculars are enough. To truly appreciate and even identify a group of hundreds of mud-puddling blues the best course of action is to get down on your knees and wait for them to settle around you. Then you can enjoy and, if you wish, study the finer differences between *eurypilus* and *agyrognomon*, *anteros* and *artaxerxes*, *corydonius* and *dorylas*, *aedon* and *daphnis*, *argus* and *idas*, *semiargus* and *coelestinus*. And what's this? "Hey, I've got an Odd-spot Blue! They're easy!"



Mud Puddling Blues ©Hilary & Geoff Welch

## Hilary Welch

Hilary is DKM's Senior Conservation Officer. Together with Evrim Karaçetin (Research Assistant at Erciyes University) DKM is working to build the national technical capacity for Turkey to actively conserve its rich national heritage of butterflies. This work is being supported through the Dutch government's KNIP and BBI-Matra funding programmes.

\* The project, 'Sustainable forest use and conservation in the Kaçkar Mountains', is being implemented by TEMA (The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats) with technical support from DKM (the Nature Conservation Centre) and METU (Middle East Technical University). The Ministry of Environment and Forestry is involved at both national and local levels and local interests are represented by the local NGO, AKYD (Artvin Cultural and Solidarity Association).

## ***EIG Surveys in Hungary May 25th – June 6th 2008***

### ***Freedom for butterflies and people in Hungary***

In Week 1, nine butterfly enthusiasts explored the north-eastern part of Hungary from the protected areas of Aggtelek National Park to huge areas of abandoned agricultural fields outside the Park. The geology is limestone karst with some areas having a sandy cap. Staying at the Community Centre in the village of Gomorszolos, there were 30+ species of butterfly within 500 metres of our home. A delightful day was spent 'getting our eye in' for species identification with our Hungarian guide Szabolcs Safian (Safi) encouraging us to check at least 3 diagnostic features on species before recording a name. Mud-puddling groups of Mazarine (*Cyaniris semiargus*), Reverdin's (*Plebejus argyrognomon*), Small (*Cupido minimus*), Osiris (C. Osiris), Green-underside (*Glaucopsyche alexis*), Common (*Polyommatus icarus*), Adonis (*Lysandra bellargus*), Idas (*Plebejus idas*) and Silver-studded Blues (*Plebejus argus*) gave photographers and ID practitioners plenty of opportunities!

The afternoon was spent inside the Aggtelek National Park where limestone pavement habitat included Duke of Burgundy (*Hamearis lucina*), Small Pearl-bordered (*Boloria selene*), Weavers (*Boloria dia*) and Spotted Fritillaries (*Melitaea didyma*). 10 years after arable use stopped, a meadow has been regularly hay cut and now has a range of legumes and other wild flowers.

At Gomorszolos, the next morning was spent walking transects to compare butterfly populations at the bottom and middle slopes and the top of the valley abandoned by agriculture about 20 years ago. Burning is the main management here, leaving Tor grass (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) widespread but with occasional patches of wild flower herbs. The valley bottom, included Lesser Fiery (*Lycaena thersamon*) and Large Copper (*Lycaena dispar*). Some managed, dry south-facing slopes were well populated with Lycaenidae and Chestnut Heath (*Coenonympha glycerion*). An unmanaged patch nearby had Large Blue (*Maculinea arion*), Lesser-spotted Fritillary (*Melitaea trivia*) and 20 other species present. Each night, a moth trap was run with Lewes Wave (*Scopula imorata*), Small Lappet (*Phyllodesma ilicifolia*) and Essex Emerald (*Thetidea smaragdaria*) as examples from rather cool nights.

Latrany valley (outside the Park), which was first visited by West Midlands branch in 2006, has just re-started cattle grazing and the herd of 50 adults and 20 calves were kept moving by the herdsman. Grazing is a key requirement to control scrub encroachment which has occurred in the past 10 years and provide the mosaic of herb and grass heights required by Lepidoptera. There are no fences and we were free to wander anywhere in the 100 plus hectares. My notes record 48 butterfly species in 3 hours with quantities in thousands. This site is a template for what can be achieved elsewhere in the region which has so far been free from herbicide sprays and over fertilisation. Two members of the National Park staff, both called Attila, joined in our habitat and butterfly survey. Adding in the additional 26 species recorded on this site on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2006 by the West Midlands group makes a total of 74 species so far at Latrany which is extremely impressive for a single site.

In the Aggtelek National Park, the damp Tohonya Valley at Josvafo is grazed by a herd of over 100 Hucal horses free to range for 10+ kilometres. The resulting sward of mixed heights and ages was ideal for Lepidoptera from Clouded Apollo (*Parnassos mnemosyne*), Large Blue (*Maculinea arion*) and Hungarian Glider (*Neptis rivularis*) to Large Copper (*Lycaena dispar*) (full species list available on request). Sandor Boldogh joined us in the evening and gave a presentation on the Park and the need for more research and conservation. Tourism is encouraged as the Park has to earn money to support its operations. There is a part non-intervention zone and the scale of the Park is increased by neighbouring Slovakia having its own national park joined on to Aggtelek across the border.

Both in and outside the Park, butterflies of European significance were widespread in small numbers as good natural populations. These deserve our continuing support at landscape scale. Flowery meadows gave the botanists ample opportunities for recording foodplants for butterflies. Birthwort (*Aristolochia clematitis*) for the Southern Festoon (*Zerynthia polyxena*), a subspecies of Knapweed (*Circius Pernonicum*) for the endemic subspecies of the Knapweed Fritillary (*Melitaea telona kovacsi*), and Sainfoin (*Onobrichis* sp) for the Osiris Blue (*Cupido osiris*) were recorded. A Chequered Blue (*Scolitantides orion*) was seen egg-laying on a sedum species at Perkupa Valley.

For our second week, we moved on to Sajomercse which is on the edge of the Bukk Hills National Park where the declining Scarce Fritillary (*Euphydryas maturna*) was found and photographed near our accommodation. Some members of the group had to return home but we were joined by new recruits from the UK. This was the same farmhouse accommodation as that used last year by Nick Williams and students from Stourbridge College and Wolverhampton University and our work over the week built on what had already been achieved.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June, we walked transects and recorded on hay meadows which had been mown in June 2007 and were due for mowing in mid June this year. For comparison, we recorded on unmanaged areas which had more scrub. 14 Lycaenidae species in huge quantities were found in 2 hours out of a total of 29 species. Large amounts of *Aristolochia clematitis* had grown where volunteers including Hungarian Lepidopteral Society members had cleared Acacia trees the previous year. In the late afternoon, our own party all went to clear encroaching scrub led by Safi with a power clearing saw. Another session two days later took out the remaining Acacia trees and piled up the cuttings. Much more of this work is needed. The horse grazed fields of the farm yielded 27 species including Spotted (*M. didyma*), Lesser Spotted (*M. trivia*) and Nickerl's Fritillaries (*Mellicta aurelia*).

Bukk National Park at Uppany was an immediate success with many Scarce Fritillary (*Euphydryas maturna*), Chequered Blue (*Scolitantides orion*) and a Hungarian Glider (*Neptis rivularis*) flying in a limestone canyon. Sedum grew on the rocks, Aspen was abundant by the stream and reservoir and a Black Stork added to our range of species. Marshland beside the River Sajo revealed more *A. clematitis* and the prize it hosts, the Southern Festoon (*Zerinthia polyxena*), rose from the grass and a second was soon found. Our leader's site knowledge again made the party's day. The distance between sites for this protected species is a cause for concern.

A brief stop at Jardanhaza the following day, again had Large Blue (*M. arion*) and Large Copper (*L. dispar*) showing the advantage of landscape scale populations. These species are included in the Habitats Directive (NATURA 2000). Also here another 17 species were seen in an hour on ex agriculture slopes fringed by trees.

Jozef Sulyok, botanist of the Bukk National Park, took us to a relic of the steppe comprising Loess (wind blown sand) a relict similar to the Ukraine.. Jozef started to survey this unique area of transitional forest/steppe last year recording a dynamic, mosaic distribution of plants. Over 50 special plants were identified and these included the endemic Hungarian rose, *Rosa hungariana*, with leaves that smelt of cinnamon, and Fraxinella, (*Dictamnus albus*), whose stems exude an inflammable oil - the Burning Bush. A Swallowtail larva (*P. machaon*) was feeding on this bush which was an interesting observation. Three milk vetches were identified, (*Astragalus glycyphyllos*, *A. austriacus*, *A. dasyanthus*), *A. dasyanthus* is of particular interest as it is the foodplant for the Zephyr Blue. *Inula hirta* was pointed out as being a typical plant of the forest/steppe. The Toothed Orchid (*Orchis tridentata*) and Lady Orchid (*O. purpurea*) were two orchids also seen. The area is grazed with Hungarian grey cattle. It was good to hear that this site is protected as a Site of Special Interest 2000. The day was rounded off by supper at Farm Lator which was delicious as well as providing an insight into accommodation fitting well with eco tourism where you will all be welcome.



Two hours drive through the very rich intensive agricultural Central Hungarian Plain was a contrast to our previous dry areas. The Tokaj region vineyards reminded us of our tasting session of this speciality wine during the first week. The Zephyr Blue (*P.pylaon*) was seen and its isolation from other populations of this species is of great interest. Again, we were indebted to Hungarian National Parks for guidance and an informative visit. Blue-spot Hairstreak (*Satyrrium spini*) was another rare new species here.

On our final day, we made a return visit to the Jossava valley of the Aggtelek National Park as the season had moved on and this provided sightings of the Woodland Brown (*Lopinga achine*) and Poplar Admiral (*Limenitis populi*). These are a reminder of how important the structure of rides and glades are to these species which have declined in most European countries. Sensitive management in forests is very demanding and does not sit easily with short term timber production.



Poplar Admiral (*L. populi*)

© Mike Williams

The very positive grassland grazing management we saw would be a good example to expand in the regions we visited and I hope some European Union money can be encouraged to help these local schemes. EIG group support for this has been stated before and this 2008 visit emphasised how important it is to get the balance right with ecological input. Just using standard EU subsidies to plough the dry areas will not compete with the rich plains or provide a sustainable income for the region's people.

Support for the Hungarian National Parks including widening their areas of influence should be one of our objectives. We wish the Hungarian Lepidopteral Society well in their wonderful country.

Both weeks, tasty regional food was carefully cooked and served by local cooks who also provided us with packed lunches. Our hosts at Sajomercse hosted a memorable barbeque on our last night. Geordt, our driver drove us, with a broad smile, to remote places and managed to turn the minibus round on less than a sixpence.

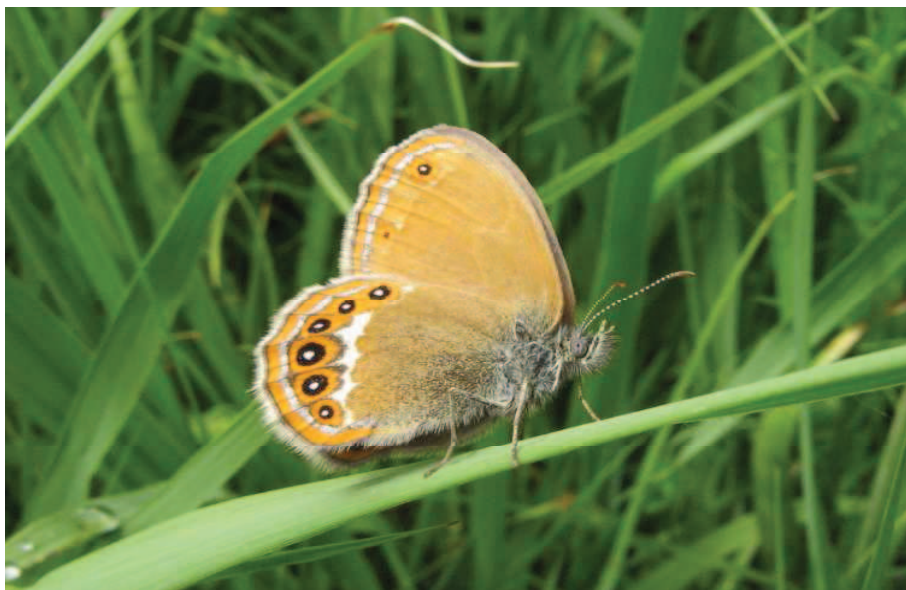
Our thanks go to all these people for their kindness and hospitality: to Ecotours, Mike Williams for his efficient organisation and to Safi, our indefatigable and knowledgeable Hungarian leader whose patience and forbearance made the trip so memorable. We can't wait to go again!

**Lawrie and Bridget de Whalley**

## **Efforts for the Conservation of the Scarce Heath (*Coenonympha hero*) In Bavaria**

### **The general situation of the Scarce Heath**

The **Scarce Heath** is a truly palearctic species, with populations from France in the West to Japan in the East. In contrast, its North-South distribution is limited; it reaches from South-Finland, South-Sweden, South-Norway and the Baltic states in the north to the Alps. It is known from the following European countries: France, Luxembourg (extinct), Austria, Germany, Belgium, Denmark (extinct), Norway, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands (extinct), Switzerland, Czech Republic (extinct), Slovakia, Norway, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia (van Swaay & Warren 1999). However, populations are scarce and widely distributed and it has become extinct in several countries.



A sun-basking female of the Scarce Heath. This individual tries to get optimal insolation and positions its wings in a right angle to the sun rays. ©Mathias Dolek

In Germany **Scarce Heath** used to occur in most parts of the country, but now strong populations remain only in Bavaria. The Bavarian distribution is peculiar: The butterfly has an important stronghold in the pre-alpine mires, especially if shrubs are abundant. Young growth of **Alder Buckthorn** (*Rhamnus frangula*) is typical. In all other areas it inhabits completely different habitats: There it is a butterfly of light forests and forest meadows. This is closely connected to its German name: "Wald-Wiesenvögelchen". „Wiesenvögelchen“ is the general German name of the genus *Coenonympha* and „Wald“ hints that this is a forest inhabiting species – the only Central European one in this species-rich genus. However you should not imagine a dark and closed forest as the habitat of the **Scarce Heath**. It is still a sun-loving creature and is only found in forests with abundant forest meadows, plenty of gaps and an extremely open canopy. Actually, its preferred habitat is neither a classical grassland nor a forest as foresters love and create.



## Why the Scarce Heath?

The **Scarce Heath** deserves special attention as it is listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive, but is still grossly under-studied. There are no detailed studies on its biology and habitat requirements published.

But why study it in Bavaria? There are still good populations, although it has declined heavily. A good population is a necessary pre-requisite for research. Moreover, the **Scarce Heath** is not only important in its own right, but also as a representative of an endangered habitat that did not get enough attention in the past: light open forests.

In Bavaria a new program has been created in recent years to support forest owners financially, who manage their forests according to conservation aims (more details in Liegl & Dolek, in press). To better focus these efforts, species such as the **Scarce Heath** and **Woodland Brown** (*Lopinga achine*) are of great help. Where they occur the forest is special, is extraordinary and is of conservation value. It may be assumed that other rare species co-occur with these two butterflies and it is therefore worth putting money into the management of these forests.



The egg of the Scarce Heath is laid in the litter near the ground.  
©Mathias Dolek



The Scarce Heath was observed visiting unusual flowers. In this case a closed bud of Greater Knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*)  
©Mathias Dolek

## Biology

The **Scarce Heath** has one generation per year and is on the wing from Mid May until Mid July – though the actual flight period in a given year is much shorter: The 2008 peak time was in the beginning of June. Males are more active, patrolling over grassy patches and alongside bushes, females rest more often on grasses and flowers. On the wing, males also appear a bit darker and smaller than the females – which is helpful when observing female egg-laying as it is easier to direct observations to the right individuals. Generally, there is little known about egg-laying sites and larval development. We are about to gather a few observations to get at least some hints on its pre-imaginal development, as we assume this to be of key importance for understanding where the **Scarce Heath** occurs and where it does not.

In the course of our studies it was surprising that we observed many females visiting flowers. Which is normal for most butterflies, but so far rarely seen for the **Scarce Heath**. We observed sucking behavior on a range of different flowers, but the individuals seemed unskilled. They visited closed buds or landed in positions that made access difficult. Close inspection of the flowers proved that there was no dew-fall visible that might attract them. The **Scarce Heath** is certainly not a regular flower visitor, but nectar uptake may play some role in its life cycle.

## **Management**

Our ultimate aim is to direct management in such a way that it is optimal for the **Scarce Heath**. The general description of its habitats as light and warm forests with high air humidity and protection against wind is obvious from the known localities and described in all general textbooks. Nevertheless, not all such localities that seem suitable are inhabited. The right kind of grass-cover, amount of litter, other abiotic conditions and management needs to be fully understood. Until our studies reveal answers to these questions we have to direct the management along the more general guidelines and hope that we cover the exact niche as well. Educated guesses and trial and error are important tools if you have to act before you know exactly how to act !

## **Future perspectives**

We expect to improve our knowledge on the **Scarce Heath** soon. Our initial hypotheses are already formulated but need further study. We hope that we can conserve the remaining populations long enough. We hope that they survive until we know in detail how to deal with them. Our first ideas on management have already been developed and will be applied this coming winter. If you have significant experience with the **Scarce Heath** we would be happy if you would share your knowledge with us!

## **Acknowledgements**

The studies we report on are conducted on behalf of „Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt“ and „Regierung von Schwaben“.

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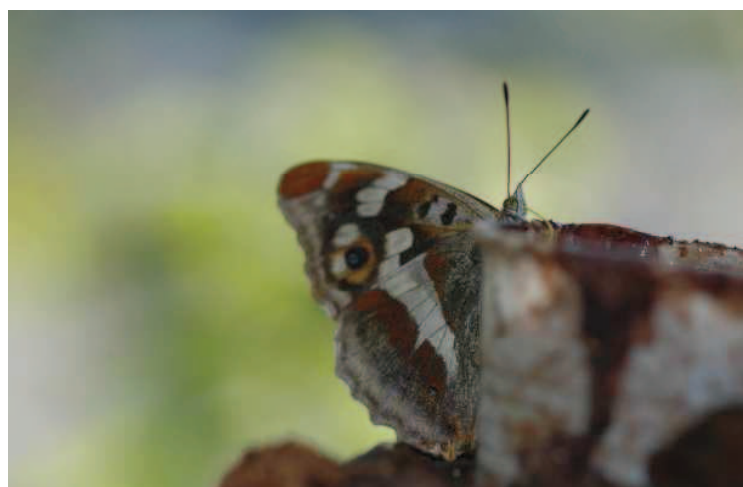
**Matthias Dolek, Anja Hager and Adi Geyer**

contact: [Matthias.Dolek@Geyer-und-Dolek.de](mailto:Matthias.Dolek@Geyer-und-Dolek.de)  
[www.Geyer-und-Dolek.de](http://www.Geyer-und-Dolek.de)

## NEWS : The 130<sup>th</sup> butterfly species seen at the French Butterfly Garden – Jardins de Proserpine

On September the 20<sup>th</sup> 2008, an unexpected species of butterfly got to our French Butterflies Garden located at Digne-les-Bains in the French Alps. This date will be remembered because the **Purple Emperor** (*Apatura iris*) is one of the most beautiful butterflies in Europe. We are honored by its visit to our place.

This date corresponds to what we call the 'French Natural Heritage day'. On this occasion the first visitors had the chance to observe this butterfly for a few minutes. It was a magnificent female staying at the open tank enclosing a fruit based fermented liquid put there to attract butterflies. After the previous observation of the closely related **Poplar Admiral** *Limenitis populi* (Nymphalidae) on July the 19<sup>th</sup> 2008, the **Purple Emperor** (*Apatura iris*) is now the 130<sup>th</sup> species of butterfly that has visited our Garden.



The 'Purple emperor' (*Apatura iris*) the 130<sup>th</sup> butterfly species observed in our Garden on the September 20th 2008. ©Nicholas

Twenty-five years ago **Purple Emperor** was unknown in this part of the French Alps. The Alpes-de-Haute-Provence is one department out of the six departments constituting the Region of PACA (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur).

The **Poplar Admiral** arrived in the late 80's at the Lure and Monges mountains masses and spread out of the valleys from West to East until it reached the Haut-Verdon. It is a common species of extended broadleaved forest in the Northern France.

For further information, please feel free to go to our website <http://www.proserpine.org/>

**Nicholas Maurel**

**Editors Note:** This garden is a 'must' for anyone visiting Provence but it is small and extremely popular and you must contact them first to book a visit - normally a conducted tour. It is a brilliant place for butterfly photography.

## Spring into the Algarve

Like the other (eastern) end of the Mediterranean, you need to get to the Algarve (and indeed Spanish southern costas) in early spring to get the optimal diversity of endemic and specialist species. This is a region where marsh fritillaries on the wing in late February is not unknown. Indeed Portugal, as a whole is probably one of Europe's last real strongholds for marsh fritillary.



Spanish Festoon (*Zerynthia rumina*) ©John Sherwood

A glance through the distribution maps in Lafranchis or Tolman will quickly highlight some of the specialist lycaenids in particular but also a couple of fritillaries. You've really got between mid March and the end of May as a target period for many of these smaller species. As a bonus you should also encounter some more spectacular species like **Spanish Festoon** (*Zerynthia rumina*), **Monarch** (*Danaus plexippus*) and towards the end of this period, **Two-tailed Pasha** (*Charaxes jasius*).

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008 was the day we arrived this year and we spotted a **Moroccan Orange Tip** (*Anthocharis euphenoides*) at the airport. The hour's journey west towards our villa near Caldas de Monchique, showed us straightaway the extraordinary colours and hues of every uncultivated piece of land as far as the eye could see. At least, we'd hit the flowering season of most wild flowers. That was encouraging to say the least. Another encouraging sign was the presence of numerous fresh specimens of unfamiliar moths attracted to the outdoor lights surrounding the villa. We knew not to stay too close to the Atlantic coast so early in the year, but in our sheltered situation here 20 miles inland, although mostly sunny, there was a chill breeze for the first few days. However that was until 31<sup>st</sup> March which turned out to be the start of ten days of warm, sunny and calm weather with midday temperatures in the low 20s.

It was great to encounter **Geranium Bronze** (*Cacyreus marshalli*) and **Chapman's Green Hairstreak** (*Callophrys avis*) in the gardens of our villa, in the first few days. The latter was found poolside on a young strawberry tree and that evening by the bookshelf we also came across an old (dead but well-preserved) specimen of a **Two-tailed Pasha** (*Charaxes jasius*), presumably from the same source later in a previous year. It wasn't long before local short walks added **Green Striped White** (*Euchloe belemia*), **Spanish Festoon** (*Zerynthia rumina*), **Green Hairstreak** (*Callophrys rubi*) and **False Mallow Skipper** (*Carcharodus tripolinus*) to our tally. A slightly longer jaunt to the Bensafrim limestone ridge, near a small road to Cotifo, added **Spanish Marbled White** (*Melanargia ines*), **Red Underwing Skipper** (*Spalia sertorius*), **Sage Skipper** (*Syrictus proto*) and **Scarce Swallowtail** (*Iphiclides podalarius*) and Naked Man Orchid.

By 31<sup>st</sup> March, several coastal locations around Carvoeiro were alive with fresh **Marsh Fritillaries** (*Euphidryas aurinia*) of the highly colourful ssp. *Beckerei*. That day saw both our first **Monarch** (*Danaus plexippus*) and **Lorquin's Blue** (*Cupido lorquini*) and numerous patches of orchids of what we used to call bee, woodcock, mirror and tongue types. Of the specialist blues we came across **Black-eyed Blue** (*Glaucopsyche melanops*) (not endemic but restricted range) near Pedriava west of Lagos, then **Lorquin's Blue** (*Cupido lorquini*), **False Baton Blue** (*Pseudophilotes abencerragus*)



False Baton Blue (*Pseudophilotes abencerragus*)  
©John Sherwood



& **Panoptes Blue** (*Pseudophilotes panoptes*) all on Bensafrim ridge on 6<sup>th</sup> April. The latter two are difficult to separate in the field and we relied on photographs reviewed later to confirm presence of both species.

Finally, although on this particular trip, we didn't connect with dappled white, Portuguese dappled white, Provence hairstreak, aetherie or Spanish fritillaries (slightly too early for latter two), we've ended up with one interesting little conundrum: a small blue which keys out from the photo as **Carswell's Little Blue** (*Cupido carswelli*). According to all the accessible literature, this species (which some authors regard as a *ssp* of **Small Blue** – *Cupido minimus*) is endemic to a few localities in south-east Spain. I'd be interested if any reader can shed further light on this.

There are plentiful birding venues to enjoy as well, including the roadsides between Mertola & Castro Verde in the Alentejo, where we eventually spotted little bustard, to add to the numerous white stork nests, Spanish sparrows, corn buntings, Montague's harrier, black kite and vultures. Flamingos and many wader species were still present on the coastal lagoons this early in year.

The moth trapping around the villa was extremely productive with numerous highlights and new species to most of us, including:

*Itame vincularia*, *Calophasis platyptera*, *Ekboarmia atlanticaria*, *Hecatera weissi*, *Amygdaloptera testaria*, *Disgonia algira*, *Idaea ostrinota* & *Ophiura tirhaca*.

Martin White who travelled in our party of nine has a full moth list. If anyone is interested, let me know.

Richard Smith  
[Rgsoverton@boltblue.com](mailto:Rgsoverton@boltblue.com)

### **Butterfly Conservation**

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**Registered office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset. BH20 5QP.**

**Tel: 0870 7744309**

**[www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org)**