

# **NEWSLETTER**

**Issue 3**

**March 2008**

## **CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<i>Contact Details / Dates for your Diary</i>	2
<i>The EIG Website</i>	2
<i>An Online Butterfly Recording System for Europe</i>	3
<i>A Lepidoptera Conservation Centre in Hungary</i>	4
<i>Field Studies on the False Ringleet in Hungary</i>	6
<i>Opportunities in Europe with the European Conservation Action Network</i>	6
<i>Butterfly Conservation Europe Conference</i>	8
<i>Butterfly Wing Structure and Patterns</i>	9
<i>In search of the loneliest 'Anomalous Blue'</i>	10
<i>Which Clouded Yellow?</i>	13
<i>Butterflies of the Rhone, France</i>	14
<i>Contacts, Job opportunities and Request for Information</i>	14
<i>Book Reviews</i>	15

## **INTRODUCTION**

These are exciting times for Butterfly Conservation on the European front and there is lots to report. For a start the first BCE conference in Laufen was a great success and I include a report of it in this newsletter. The collaboration with Birdlife International on policy issues particularly the CAP is something that we should all wish to see successful. I am off to the Dutch Butterfly Conservation conference in Wageningen this month, which we hope will also be a great success. They are going to launch a European butterfly on line recording system at the conference, which has even won over hardened cynics such as myself. You will find a report later on. This is something, which we should welcome and support.

The EIG 'trips' if we are allowed to call them that are all fully subscribed and will take place in Hungary in early June and on Mt Chelmos starting in late June. We still have issues with head office over insurance etc but hopefully these will be resolved. For my part I think these activities in Europe are important for Butterfly Conservation and we are all glad that BC is making a difference in Europe. We are already starting to think about next year and welcome suggestions and initiatives from EIG members.

EIG was thought up in Hungary. It is with great pleasure that we can report progress on Peter Davey's project in the Orseg National park. We wish this venture every success. (See page 4). There are opportunities to do conservation work in Hungary and Nigel Spring's project as reported here may appeal to many EIG members. We have also been asked to find volunteers for another project in Hungary on *Coenonympha oedippus* the False Ringleet.

We are going to develop some Country pages for the EIG website and we are looking for volunteers to collate these. We will be using a standardized template with sections on atlases and field guides, special and endemic species and links to useful websites. I have used the questionnaires that you have returned to identify individuals with knowledge of specific countries but we still have many gaps especially outside our usual holiday destinations. Anyone who would like to help compile these please get in touch with me.

**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: **01564 776459**

### **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**

### **17-19<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

International Symposium Future of Butterflies in Europe II (Wageningen)  
<http://vlinderstichting.bureaupost.nl/>

### **24th – 31st May 2008**

**& 31st May 7th June** – EIG Trip to Hungary. Contact Mike Williams

### **21st June to July 1st 2008**

EIG Field Trip to Peloponese (Greece) - Contact Simon Spencer

## **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.

## ***An Online Butterfly Recording System for Europe***

As a former computer programmer I have had a long interest in Wildlife recording systems and have yet to find a commercial system that I would happily use. (I tend to use Excel spreadsheets in the hope that I can one day consolidate the data into a proper database). It was therefore not surprising that when I was introduced to the online recording system as developed by Dutch BC (de Vlinderstichting) I approached it with considerable scepticism.

What I found was much better than I had anticipated and the fact that it was free and online has considerable advantages. The Dutch system is on their website but it runs in Dutch and is designed for Holland. They are developing a multi lingual European version designed to capture data from all over Europe this is now available in English. Give it a look! Go to [www.telmee.nl](http://www.telmee.nl), change the language to English, register and login. Central to it is a 'Google Earth' module that is one way to associate your records with a polygon so that you could put in the records for a field or a larger geographical area. It will accept Grid coordinates as well and for those of us who carry a GPS in the field this is probably easier. The species list seems flexible enough and the data entry reasonably easy. The Dutch system has collected thousands of records for Holland from members of the Dutch public. Birders amongst you are probably aware of very good Birding websites from the BTO where you can enter bird data. It gets rid of the chore of people transcribing data from paper records.

Us programmers often use the phrase 'garbage in garbage out' with computers and usually have to work very hard to keep the integrity of the data perfect. There is a built in sophistication that potentially makes the Dutch system very sound. You can build in rules about not accepting records for a species that fall outside its normal range or flight period and only accepting records when they have been validated by the data controller for the region from where they have been entered. The public can even submit a photograph with the record. Previous mapping exercises such as Otakar Kudrna's MEB that produced the 'Distribution Atlas of European Butterflies' had very high standards of data integrity and would insist on a specimen for unlikely records or taxonomically difficult species. We try not to take specimens nowadays but a photograph is not always definitive. Few non-specialists could reliably determine *Erebia*, *Mellicta*, *Agrodiaetus* or *Pyrgus* species in the field, so casual records might have to be excluded to ensure data integrity. It is a pity that this has not been developed in conjunction with Kudrna and his colleagues as it requires the background assistance of many of the same people to validate the data and accredit the recorders. The scale of MEB was much coarser only attempting to put a dot on a small map of Europe whereas this could be hugely invaluable to 'site managers' if it takes off properly.

The ownership of the data is also a contentious issue. If people submit data using an online system they explicitly or implicitly share ownership of that data with someone else. In this case it will be Butterfly Conservation Europe. The rules about access have yet to be agreed and would be subject to differing jurisdictions in different parts of Europe. If people are going to use it then they need to be sure that the data will not fall into the hands of unscrupulous collectors but still be made available to national conservation agencies and NGOs. They might even want to enquire on the data for genuine reasons themselves especially if they are a regular contributor. For example can anyone tell me where I can find *Coenonympha hero* in the Jura? I would like to film it.

Northern Europe including the UK and Holland has a limited butterfly species list and only a handful of difficult species. Southern Europe is completely different. If you extend the system to cover moths and there is no reason why you couldn't, even the UK has problems with validating the data. The county moth recorders might feel sidelined when they potentially become more important and relieved of a tedious task. For the system to work well it needs to incorporate data from existing data sets as a background even if they are to 10km square level.

There are huge data sets for the UK, but also Holland, Switzerland, Spain, Slovenia, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. The owners of this data need be brought on board. The successful implementation of a European wide recording scheme needs thought, tact and resources but it provides huge potential for citizen science and we should support it. We have already seen from the UK data butterfly species moving northwards in response to climate change. Tracking changes in distribution across Europe would provide very interesting data. It would also inform conservation effort and give us the ammunition to campaign on EU wide policy issues like the CAP.

The system will be launched in April at the conference in Wageningen. Give it a try and tell us what you think. I think it is important that this job is done by Butterfly Conservation Europe and not someone else. They have made a brilliant start and we should support it.

**Simon Spencer**

## ***A Lepidoptera Conservation Centre in Hungary***

**By Peter Davey**



**Sanguisorba rich meadow in Kerkaszomor Photo by Szabolcs Safian**

My introduction to Hungary and its Lepidoptera was a week's visit to Farm Lator in the Bukk National Park in July 2006. This superb Centre run by Rob de Jong and his wife Barbara, organises bird and butterfly tours; it also has moth trapping facilities within the grounds. During our group's visit, we were joined by Szabolcs Sáfián from Sopron University and initiator of Butterfly Conservation Ghana. Sáfi provided invaluable assistance with our moth and butterfly identifications during our stay. It was at that time Sáfi mentioned that it would be his dream to create a Lepidoptera Conservation Centre in the west of Hungary. I thought about this comment and suggested later to Sáfi "why not turn the dream into reality; it might just be an interesting adventure".

I travelled to Balaton in May 2007 where I was met by SÁFI and his girl friend Agnes. We reconnoitred several sites in the Sopron area of north-west Hungary and a single site in the village of Kercaszomor in the Kerca valley on the border with Slovenia in the south-west of Hungary, and met with representatives from the Sopron and Orseg National Parks, respectively. Although the Sopron sites show great potential, not least a greater potential customer base, a major negative factor is high land expense in this fast-expanding region. There were however, a number of positive factors associated with a Centre based at Kercaszomor. Firstly, no less than seven EU Habitat Directive (NATURA 2000) Lepidoptera species are resident at the site: Alcon Blue, Large Blue, Dusky Large Blue, Scarce Large Blue, Large Copper, Marsh Fritillary and Willowherb Hawk - on a recent visit to Kercaszomor we located good stocks of *Chamaecytisus supinus*, the foodplant of the Danube Clouded Yellow, yet another NATURA 2000 species. Secondly, the sanguisorba-rich grassland lies within the Orseg National Park and owners who no longer graze animals there as they once did, can do little with it and are willing to sell at reasonable cost. Unfortunately, the absence of grazing has caused blackthorn and golden-rod to invade the grassland and this pernicious process evidently threatens the viability of 'Blue' species populations.

In the interim we now have Paul Butter, Chairman of Dorset Butterfly Conservation on board, and, thanks to the huge amount of work put in by SÁFI and Agnes, we have registered a Trust located at Kercaszomor that formalises the Lepidoptera conservation enterprise. We have also acquired more than ten hectares of grassland in the village at an average cost of one thousand euros per hectare and hope to buy more. We intend to apply for an EU LIFE+ grant for grassland management and are casting the net wide to obtain private financing to build an ecologically-friendly Lepidoptera conservation centre building within the village; an architect is in the process of producing a range of designs. The success of the project naturally depends on the approval of the grant and our ability to raise private funds to meet building construction costs.

In summary, the Trust's aims are to revitalise animal husbandry in the Kerca valley, to re-establish former grazing levels and thereby protect and promote the most vulnerable species, to run a Lepidoptera Centre that promotes research and conservation in action and more generally is the focal point for increased revenue for the local community via eco-tourism. A further aim, given the presence of viable colonies of Dusky Large Blue and Scarce Large Blue at the site, is the Trust's participation within the framework of a cross-border grassland rehabilitation project with lead members being Goričko National Park (Slovenia, Hungary and Austria), Órség National Park and Butterfly Conservation Europe. This could lead to additional funding streams.

As far as I understand it, up until 2012, individuals who are not Hungarian nationals cannot purchase land directly. Land prices are already beginning to rise in anticipation of that date, for example, EU subsidies will make it attractive for the big agricultural multinationals to move into Hungary and convert large tracts of unimproved and 'fallow' grassland into 'weed-free' and 'pest-free' arable. So little time remains for us to protect these disappearing habitats plus the rarities hosted by them.

We would welcome any support towards this initiative from EIG members.

A survey undertaken in Kercaszomor by West Midlands Butterfly Conservation, Ecotours and the Hungarian Lepidopterological Society in 2006 can be viewed online at <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/njsweb/ButterflyConservationEuropeONP.pdf>.

**Peter Davey** (Dorset County Moth Recorder) 1 New Barn Cottages, Park Lane, Shapwick, Blandford Forum, Dorset. DT11 9JP  
[peter@livornica600.freemove.co.uk](mailto:peter@livornica600.freemove.co.uk)

## ***Field Studies on the False Ringlet (Coenonympha oedippus) in Ócsa Hungary***

We have had a request for volunteers to work on a conservation project in Hungary for the very rare False Ringlet (*Coenonympha oedippus*) in the summer of 2008. Anyone interested should look at [www.concoord.org](http://www.concoord.org) or email [concord@gmail.com](mailto:concord@gmail.com)

## ***Opportunities in Europe with the European Conservation Action Network***

In 2007, a consortium of partner groups including The Dorset Branch of BC and The Kingcombe Centre in west Dorset was successful in a funding application to the Leonardo da Vinci section of the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme to establish EuCAN, the European Conservation Action Network.

The aims of this are to enable people 'in the labour market' in the UK (i.e. over 18, not in fulltime education), particularly those not yet involved in conservation, to travel to other countries of the EU to help partners there to carry out management tasks and monitoring, and ultimately to encourage volunteers and professionals from those countries to visit the UK to take part in conservation activities here. Our main objective is to entice more people into the UK countryside to help with conservation work on our reserves and a free visit for a fortnight to Hungary or France seems a pretty good carrot! In our selection process, we aim to choose groups which are evenly balanced in age, gender and levels of experience, particularly looking for equal numbers of people in the 18-35 and the 35+ age range.

The training element of the Leonardo scheme is of prime importance: the two week placements provide a superb opportunity not only to learn about the wildlife and its ecology in other parts of Europe, but also to understand conservation challenges and management techniques in a European context. In addition, there are many cultural activities built into the programme, including tours and presentations to learn about the history, economy and customs of the area.

The placements are free – the grant covers the return journey from the UK (by rail and minibus – this is a no-fly organisation), all board and lodging, the ecological and cultural training and any skills training in advance of the visits (several participants have undertaken brushcutter courses for this year's visits). This year, most of the EuCAN candidates have joined in 'preparation' weekends at The Kingcombe Centre to enable them to get to know others in their group and to meet some of the 2007 participants, to learn about the places they are going to visit and a bit more about the scheme, and to take part in conservation activities on our local Butterfly Conservation reserves at Alners Gorse and Lankham Bottom and the nearby Dorset Wildlife Trust reserve at Powerstock Common. The preparation weekend in June will enable participants to obtain more experience in identification of butterflies and moths and to take part in local monitoring schemes in Dorset. French guests have joined in both the Kingcombe weekends this year.

Everyone is asked to pay a deposit of £100. Half of this is returned at the beginning of the trip, while the remainder will be paid back on completion of the visit report and questionnaires and after the participant has volunteered in two local conservation tasks. Nearly all the 2007 participants fulfilled these requirements – for those few that did not, presumably £50 is insufficient incentive!

Our partners in Europe are the LPO (Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux) in La Brenne in central France whom we have visited for three placements so far, and a conservation association in an area of restored gravel pits near Meaux east of Paris (where mustard and brie come from!) where we worked for a week last October. Our third partner is Aggtelek National Park in north eastern Hungary where the urgent conservation challenge is to protect the incredibly bio-diverse grasslands from scrub invasion due to agricultural neglect on the one hand and from the pressures for agricultural intensification on the other. Serious threats are posed by foreign agri-business and particularly recently from the drive to increase the acreage of biofuel and biomass crops.

We worked with the Aggtelek National Park staff and Hungarian student volunteers for a fortnight last September and it was a memorable experience for all concerned. Their hospitality was overwhelming: the superb programme of 'cultural' activities included a meal and a tasting session in a wine cellar in the Tokaj region, a concert of classical music in the famous Baradla cave, a visit to a food festival and hot baths in the central plain and a visit to a huge hilltop castle with a splendid view, where we were treated to wild boar stew and 'palinka' spirit served in small green peppers instead of cups (the ultimate in disposable tableware!). We will be returning to Aggtelek in July to help with butterfly monitoring and in September to continue with the scrub clearance in the deserted fields.



September 2007, Aggtelek National Park

The first phase of the project is funded until May 2009. For the second phase, due to run from August 2008 until May 2010, we have submitted another application for Leonardo funding and have established potential partners in two sites in Poland and one in the south-east of the Czech Republic. In Poland we will be working on grassland sites south of Warsaw which are the subject of Life projects particularly for the conservation of the **Scarce Large Blue** (*Maculinea telejus*), **Alcon Blue** (*M. alcon*) and the **Violet Copper** (*Lycaena helle*), and with a very go-ahead NGO in the west of the country called Pro-Natura which has purchased a number of damp grassland sites in the Barycz valley south of Poznan, where we hope to become involved in management work and butterfly monitoring.



*Maculinea telejus*, Aggtelek.

In the Czech Republic, our prospective partner is the Town Council of the little town of Zdanice, where most of the last remaining unimproved grassland is common land in a valley owned by the municipality. Research into the butterflies there has been carried out by an NGO called 'Daphne' and Martin Konvicka and his students. This 'butterfly valley' (as the mayor calls it) supports a good populations of the **Mountain Alcon Blue** (*Maculinea rebeli*), and **Nickerl's Fritillary** (*Mellicta aurelia*), and the Town Council is very keen not only to introduce conservation management and grazing in the valley, but also to encourage eco-tourism in the area because it could be a considerable boost to the local economy. The woodlands nearby have the last remaining Czech colony of the **Woodland Brown** (*Lopinga achene*).

We have recently begun discussions with PlantLife, the UK plant conservation charity, to involve their European partners in the Planta Europa organisation in applications to the Leonardo funding agencies in their own countries. These grants would enable them to set up exchanges within their network and with our EuCAN partners, so ultimately achieving our aim of bringing conservation volunteers and professionals back to the UK.

Nigel Spring

**Anyone who is interested in finding out more about this project should contact Nigel Spring on 01963.23559 or by email to: [nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk) .**

Application form <http://www.bc-eiq.org/LonardoApplication%20form%202008.doc>

Program <http://www.bc-eiq.org/Leaflet%20with%20info%20on%202008%20programme3.pdf>

### ***Butterfly Conservation Europe Conference in Laufen (Germany) October 29-31<sup>st</sup> 2007***

This was the first conference of Butterfly Conservation Europe and was very generously hosted by the Bavarian Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management (ANL). It attracted over fifty delegates from 31 countries and the full proceedings etc are on the BCE website <http://www.bc-europe.org/category.asp?catid=11> . Thanks to Sue Collins, who works voluntarily on policy for BCE, two very important speakers gave presentations Ladislav Miko, the director of DG Environment for the EU and Tamás Marghescu of IUCN on Countdown 2010. This was quite a coup for a new organisation.

All in all it was a great success and very enjoyable. I was invited to attend as part of the BC delegation. I was particular struck by the calibre, courage and competence of some of the Eastern European delegates. These are the countries that still have the potential to hang on to their butterflies in areas of 'high nature value farmland' rather than see their countryside turn into wildlife desert like much of North West Europe. Butterfly Conservation Europe now has partners in most countries covered by the Council of Europe not just the EU.

The partners are listed at <http://www.bc-europe.org/category.asp?catid=4>

The resolution adopted by the conference at the end is really a great beginning for Butterfly Conservation Europe.

1. The conference believes that butterflies are important flagships of Europe's wildlife.
2. They are valuable indicators of the health of Europe's environment and action to save them will contribute to the wellbeing of all citizens.



3. The conference calls on Governments at European, National and Regional levels to take more determined action to stop this serious loss of biodiversity.
4. The conference delegates commit to work together under the umbrella of Butterfly Conservation Europe to halt the loss of butterflies, moths and biodiversity.

We also agreed to work with Birdlife International and the RSPB on policy issues including the Common Agricultural Policy 'health check' and reform. Birdlife International is really the model for successful integration of single interest NGO's on a European or Global scale and have helped in setting up BCE. Sue Collins and I have produced a paper that puts a 'butterfly perspective' on Birdlife's proposals for the CAP which we hope will inform this partnership. The conference agreed to sign up to Birdlife's policy statement on the CAP which you can find at <http://www.birdlife.org/eu/pdfs/CAP%20Brochure.pdf> BCE will probably issue their own glossy document but coming to the same six conclusions as found in the executive summary of the Birdlife paper.

There are those, like myself who over the years have pressed BC to do more in Europe and have been slightly impatient with the apparent lack of progress. I was much encouraged by Laufen and we should thank Martin Warren and his staff for the huge amount of work they put in organising the event. BCE now has the critical mass to do something, to collect transect data to give trends on a European scale, to influence the EU on policy and to support our partners in Europe in their battles with national governments. BCE could do with some money but watch this space.

**Simon Spencer**

***Butterfly Wing Structure and Patterns; Cause and Effect;  
Polyommatae (Blues), an Example by B. R. Watts  
Summary***

Broadly stated, butterfly wing patterns are not random because most of the spots and marks etc. are regulated by the vein structure, which varies only slightly in different groups. The article describes the development of butterfly wing venation generally, and, as an example, shows how the observed underside wing patterns of the Blues (Polyommatae) can be seen as a direct consequence of the pattern of venation.

Interestingly, the vein development takes place in two stages, to create in turn a primary venation followed by a secondary venation. The venation in an adult butterfly is predominantly the latter, but also retains relics of the primary venation and these atrophied veins play a significant role in the adults' wing patterns.

The Full article is on the EIG website at:

<http://www.bc-eig.org/Wing%20Structure%20and%20Pattern.pdf>

Bernard Watts:

## ***In search of the loneliest ‘Anomalous Blue’: Monte Pollino, Calabria, July 2007***

The most distant ‘target’ of a long expedition shared with Dr. Bernard Watts (see previous issue) was the strangely isolated population of **Gallo’s Anomalous Blue** (*Agrodiaetus galloi*). The species is a European endemic with a highly restricted distribution in southern Italy (**Kudrna 2002**). Efforts to gain detailed information of localities for the butterfly having completely failed, we decided to make for the Monte Pollino National Park, one of the areas cited in the literature, and hope our tried and tested field skills would bear fruit. After a somewhat eventful drive, including a long hold-up on the motorway near Rome while an exploded and burning vehicle was dealt with, and a shattered glass shower cubicle, Bernard finally got us to Campo Tenese, within the national park on 28th July. We spent the following two days exploring adjacent areas using minor roads and nearby grassy slopes. Despite reports of exceptionally high temperatures earlier in the season, the Park was surprisingly green, and the variety of butterflies much greater than we had expected. In places there were extensive stands of Hemp Agrimony, whose flower-heads were alive with butterflies – **Holly, Long-tailed, Common and Meleager’s Blues** (*Celastrina argiolus*, *Lampedes boeticus*, *Meleageria daphnis*), **Queen-of-Spain, Marbled, Dark Green and Silver-washed Fritillaries** (*Issoria lathonia*, *Brethnis daphne*, *Argynnis aglaja*, *Argynnis paphia*), and, on wayside flowers, more species, including **Turquoise, Baton and Chalkhill Blues** (*Polyommatus dorylas*, *Pseudophilotes baton*, *Lysandra coridon*), **Grayling** (*Hipparchia semele*), Large Wall brown (*Lasiommata maera*), **Sooty Satyr** (*Satyrus ferula*), **Large and Silver-spotted Skippers** (*Ochlodes sylvanus*, *Hesperia comma*).



Female of Gallo’s Anomalous Blue (*Agrodiaetus galloi*) feeding from *Eryngium*

Within 2 to 3 hours of searching we found a female *galloi*, peacefully nectaring, wings closed, on a green-flowered *Eryngium* sp. growing at the foot of a steep grassy roadside bank (altitude 1470 mtrs). She continued nectaring, unaffected by our photography for several hours, while we turned our attention to the males, which were very actively flying over the slope, stopping only occasionally to nectar briefly from a species of Scabious. Late in the afternoon (5-6pm local time), individuals of both sexes shifted from nectaring to settle head-down on grass-tufts or on flower-heads. Here they would bask, often several close together, with wings open to the setting sun, before adopting the typical Lycaenid roosting posture – facing down, with wings closed.

Subsequent exploration revealed the species at other similar sites – dry grassy south-facing slopes, reminiscent of the habitat of other species in the ‘Anomalous’ group that we’d seen in other parts of Europe. In appearance, *galloi* closely resembles **Ripart’s Anomalous Blue** (*Agrodiaetus ripartii*), with extensive androconial patches on the male forewing upperside, and prominent white streaks on the underside hindwings in both sexes. The relationship between these taxa, currently recognised as distinct species would be worth further study.



Female of Galloi's Anomalous Blue basking prior to roosting



Male of Galloi's Anomalous Blue showing androconial patches on forewings



Habitat of Gallo's Anomalous Blue, Furry Blue and others, Monte Pollino, Calabria

Flying in the same habitats was another localised *Agrodiaetus* species – the **Furry Blue** (*A. dolus*), here represented by the form *virgilius*, with whitish uppersides in the male. Other species seen included **Blue-spot Hairstreak** (*Satyrium spini*), **Scarce Copper** (*Lycaena virgaureae*), **Hermit** (*Chazara briseis*) and **Woodland Grayling** (*Hipparchia fagi*).

#### References

- Kudrna, O. 2002** *The Distribution Atlas of European Butterflies*. Oedipppus 20. Apollo Books et al.
- Lafranchis, T. 2004** *Butterflies of Europe: new field Guide and Key*. Diatheo.

**Ted Benton**

## Which Clouded Yellow?



Pale Clouded Yellow *Colias hyale* by David Newland

Two years ago my wife and I spent a happy week in Provence. It was towards the end of May and six of our seven days were warm and sunny. Great butterfly days, and we were not disappointed. It was wonderful to see so many of the British species that appear in South's 1906 book but are either now extinct or very rarely seen in Britain. No doubt about the Black-veined Whites (lots of them) and Large Tortoiseshells (everywhere in a field of thistles), Bath Whites, and Queen of Spain Fritillaries, all distinguishable immediately amid showers of local species. But it was not so easy to sort out the Clouded Yellows.

In one field at S. Martin in Southern Provence, there were some very pale looking Clouded Yellows. Were they Pale Clouded Yellows *Colias hyale* or the lighter form of Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus helice*, or a different sub-species altogether? I tried to take identification photos to decide later, but am still uncertain. Can any EIG reader help with their identification? And the problem deepened when moving on to Switzerland and then Hungary.

The pictures that follow (if you click on <http://www.bc-eig.org/080317%20Which%20Clouded%20Yellow.pdf>) show some of the trickier European Clouded Yellow species, and where they were seen in 2006. Can you help identify them? If you can, please email your answers to me at [denewland@gmail.com](mailto:denewland@gmail.com). I will report in a future issue what the consensus is, if there is one!

**David Newland**

## ***Butterflies of the Rhône, France***

I moved to the Lyon area of France in 1993 but it wasn't until the year 2000 that I became interested in observing butterflies. This rapidly developed into a passionate hobby and over the last couple of seasons I have launched a proper survey of the Rhône département (county) as a whole. Recent published literature on French butterflies using countrywide distribution maps is excellent for getting the picture of the general areas where species occur, but it is difficult to get a clear understanding of the presence of species within individual départements. My current survey aims to communicate which species genuinely are being observed in the Rhône département at the present time and to what extent they are distributed throughout the département.

At the end of the 2007 season I decided that I had enough information to put the results to paper for a first report. There is an introductory text and then a page for each species seen during the period 2000-2007 with a distribution map, details on flight periods, habitat, abundance and rarity. Finally there is a comparison with catalogue listings for the area from 1959 to check on the expansion or decline factors. There is also a further list of species reported from the Rhône historically but which we have been unable to find for the time being.

The document itself has a French text, but the distribution maps and the accompanying table of flight periods are clear to interpret even for a reader who cannot understand any French. The English common name of each species is noted at the bottom of each species page.

This is an ongoing projet and I intend to update the document on a yearly basis at the end of each future season. Any person wishing to contribute observations or just for general discussion can contact me at this email address [timothy.cowles@wanadoo.fr](mailto:timothy.cowles@wanadoo.fr)

Observations must be fom the year 2000 onwards to feature on the maps but any information relating to previous records is welcomed as it may help us to find important colonies of species in the future.

**Tim Cowles**

### **Contacts and Requests for information:**

"Would anyone living in SW France like to get in touch for occasional fieldtrips and discussion about all things lepidoptery". David Simpson email: [audave2505@yahoo.fr](mailto:audave2505@yahoo.fr)

I hope to go to Romania in August for a week to see and film *Colias myrmidone* (See EIG newsletter 2). Does anyone know any localities for this rapidly declining butterfly? Anyone want to come too and share expenses? Contact Simon Spencer ([cerisyi@btinternet.com](mailto:cerisyi@btinternet.com)).

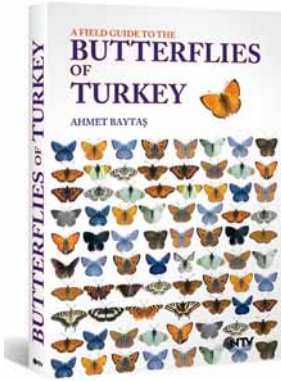
There is a **paid job opportunity** in Turkey for someone to work as Research Worker on butterflies in the North East of the country. May till September with 7 weeks fieldwork in June and August. Contact Hilary Welch, [hilary.welch@dkm.org.tr](mailto:hilary.welch@dkm.org.tr) Senior Conservation Officer, Doga Koruma Merkezi

See <http://www.bc-eig.org/Turkey2008.pdf>

Closing date, 28 March 2008 but extended.

## Book Reviews

### Review of A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Turkey by Ahmet Baytaş



Up until this field guide was published at the end of last year, the only authoritative work on the butterflies of Turkey was the three volume work of Hasselbarth, Van Oorschott and Wagener. The latter is by no means a field guide, each volume alone being far too large and heavy to easily carry in the field, as Mike Williams and I will testify! Hasselbarth (as it is commonly known) is also very expensive to buy.

For anyone interested in the butterflies of Turkey, Ahmet Baytaş' new field guide is therefore very welcome. It's compact size of 210x140x15mm (approx 8½" x 5½" x ½") and coverage of 344 species with over 750 photographs makes it an excellent field companion. The brief text on each species gives information on size, flight period, habitat, Turkish range and larval foodplants. The identification sections for each species are generally detailed, with key points being highlighted in bold text. The author has also included some very useful comments in the species accounts.

A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Turkey is available now from booksellers in the UK. Further information is available at <http://frontpage.montclair.edu/baytasa> and EIG members should also have received a separate email giving further details.

Neil Thompson ([webmaster@bc-eig.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@bc-eig.org.uk))

The full text of Peter Bygate's article on Bulgaria (EIG Newsletter 2) is on the website:

Peter Bygate: <http://www.bc-eig.org/BULGARIA%20July07.pdf>

Butterfly Conservation

A registered and non-profit making company, limited by guarantee.

Registered in England No: 2206468 – Registered Charity No: 254937

Registered office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset. BH20 5QP. Tel: 0870 7744309

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