

Butterflies of Croatia

Naturetrek Tour Report

13 - 20 June 2011



Clouded Apollo by Bill Furse



Little Tiger Blue by Ian Small



Hermit by Ian Small



Heath Fritillary by Bill Furse

Report compiled by Vic Tucker
Images courtesy of Bill Furse and Ian Small



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Introduction

This was Naturetrek's second butterfly tour to this relatively recently war-torn country, and very little visited by most European butterfly enthusiasts. In fact, this remains only the second such specialist butterfly visit by any British wildlife tour company.

Lepidoptera are relatively little studied here. The rather scant published information, including very recently published books, inaccurately record status and distribution of even some commoner species. Also, perhaps some of the better butterfly localities imprecisely known, added a pioneering flavour to this venture! That this mainly long, slimly shaped country hosts many exciting butterflies is however not in question. Our aim, to endeavour to seek them out and perhaps, add to, or highlight a knowledge of their haunts and the butterflies they may contain, within the districts we were visiting. Thankfully the very varied, rich habitats which still occur are in good part due to the extensively hilly and mountainous nature of the country. This terrain does not lend itself to intensive agriculture practices and more traditional pastoral methods are generally the order, anyway.

The weather in Croatia the entire week previous to our visit was unusually cool and wet. Unsettled weather affected much of central southern Europe, but in Croatia rain was heavy and prolonged. As far as butterflies are concerned, this would have killed off large numbers, possibly (temporarily) eliminating a whole species, though in the main most species were present. An upshot: the majority we saw were pristine. In retrospect weather-wise how lucky we were to be.

Day 1

Monday 13th June

Weather: Mostly calm, warm and sunny. 25 deg C

Our first day was inevitably taken up with travel out of Gatwick via Easy Jet, our flight arriving 20 minutes early, landing into the compact and easily negotiated Zagreb airport, where the group met up with Gerard Gorman, Naturetrek's local guide, who had put this trip together following several years of careful but challenging research, as there are virtually no field lepidopterists, either professional or otherwise, in Croatia.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent uneventfully travelling in the minibus. We were expertly driven by Attila, who, in addition to driving, also handed out copious cold drinks and set up the picnic lunches each day. An hour into our journey we pulled into a roadside café where the group relaxed with cooling drinks. Here, situated beside a small stream, this 'pit-stop' provided our first insects: Beautiful and Banded Demoiselles, Broad-bodied Chaser and Goblet-marked (Blue-eyed) Damselflies along with our only Lesser Marbled Fritillary of the trip! We then continued to our comfortable, very modern, cottage-style hotel.

Following dinner, many of the group wandered the hotel's tree-lined grounds and in the warm night air watched numerous fireflies and some very large bats skimming the trees – possibly Large Noctule.

Day 2

Tuesday 14th June

Weather: Early morning produced disappointing heavy rain, fortunately clearing by mid-morning giving a warm, sunny afternoon

Our well-situated hotel overlooked the wooded hills of Plitvice National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A path to the rear of our hotel led out to an interesting area of trees and a rock-strewn spot sandwiched between farmland, favouring the attentions of the keen dawn patrol prior to the rain setting in. Any hotel boasting singing Golden Orioles and Black-headed Buntings can't be bad. Among the morning's first few butterflies were attractive Pearly, Chestnut and Small Heaths.

Though not specifically visited for its butterflies, the park's breathtaking spectacles of dramatic waterfalls and a series of deep, turquoise-coloured lakes really is a must-see experience.

Our woodland walk wended beside the lakes, the accompanying display of exotic wild flowers any botanist's dream! Eventually reaching the largest lake, we joined a ferryboat which took us to rejoin our minibus. Unmissable as these truly impressive water features are, they are a major tourist attraction, not the usual Naturetrek scene...it was time to leave the typical hordes of admiring tourists. Several interesting species were noted along our leisurely walk; dragonflies included Brown Hawker, Small Pincer-tail, also White-legged Damselfly, as well as a Chequered Blue, and our sole Hungarian Glider, a Sombre Tit was watched along with five basking Dice Snakes.

Now to concentrate on our key objective! Following a relatively short drive, we arrived at the southern sector of the National Park and a large, gloriously meadowed basin surrounded by the park's massive wooded hills. Then into the fray! Butterflies abounded. A mesmerizing array of families represented and intermingling; the obvious, such as graceful Back-veined Whites, dramatic Scarce Swallowtail, vivid Southern Festoon, Clouded Apollos as well as perhaps more familiar Small and Large Skippers.

Pleasing were more Amanda's Blues than anyone in the group had ever seen together before, a Europe-wide declining species. Small and Chestnut Heaths a-plenty, while Safflower, Hungarian and Oberthur's Grizzled Skippers threw up identification challenges. Meanwhile, other blues, like Mazarine, browns, Clouded Yellows and nine species of fritillaries all demanded our attention. We ended our first full day in the field on an admirable 38 species. The drive back to our hotel saw our elated group well rewarded with our action-packed first full day. All kept busily deployed observing the dramatic scenery and exciting species we had travelled to see.

Day 3

Wednesday 15th June

Weather: A cloudy start becoming clear and very warm, attaining 30 deg C.

Changeover day... The early risers again had various notable wildlife encounters, which included breeding Whinchats, a male Montague's Harrier, and many Hummingbird Hawk-moths. Following a good breakfast, our route towards our next base on the shores of the Adriatic Sea was interrupted by several stop-offs in order to check out likely-looking butterfly habitats

Remembering there are NO site guides nor local information available to help us find butterflies, here we need to be self-reliant, which of course adds to the real sense of achievement in discovering the unknown. Our first such 'take-a-chance' stop-off was to a south-facing woodland edge, old meadow habitat managed by the national park which adjoined a flower-rich hay meadow thankfully for us not yet mown. We had travelled only some 16km from our hotel reckoning on staying here perhaps just an hour. Three hours later we returned to the minibus! This old meadowland was full of Fragrant and Burnt-tip Orchids and Red Helleborines among innumerable interesting wild flowers, which of course attracted a plethora of butterflies. Among their throng were a number that were only to be seen on this one occasion, or only a few at other times. So, our only Large Blues, Duke of Burgundy, Black Hairstreaks and a De Prunner's Ringlet were noted. A single Marsh Fritillary was interestingly of the highly distinctive Provencal form. A well-named Sooty Copper and several subtly lovely Purple-shot Coppers were seen. However, these few species formed but a fraction of 'aerial flowers' flitting over swathes of real flowers. We also saw Marbled Whites and Meadow Browns en masse, dark Woodland Ringlets and incredibly ubiquitous Amanda's Blues, truly diminutive Small Blues, along with large, bright High Brown and Dark Green Fritillaries. Much smaller, duller fritillaries present in at times overwhelming numbers were those we dubbed 'the nightmares'! Heath and Nickerl's are very closely similar in all appearances, therefore only a representative sample could conceivably be identified, as a forensic-like approach to their individual identification was required to be undertaken. It was an utterly impossible task to even begin to evaluate total numbers seen, let alone the percentages of each species present, (this applied throughout many localities we were to visit), but we certainly ascertained each species was commonly present.

Now for another headache! Two female coppers, both seen here but briefly, neither in pristine condition were originally thought to be Balkan. However, Purple-edged females are very similar; my further investigation revealed Balkan Copper was until relatively recently considered a subspecies. As the two populations are not known to overlap and Balkan does not reach so far north as Croatia, though Purple-edged is here known to be at its extreme southern boundary, it's most likely to be this (controversial) species – unless proven otherwise. Indeed, so closely related are they, that to be totally sure where doubt exists, it is advised that the genitalia are examined.

A close focus (closed wing) photo of a summer brood Wood White type clearly shows the antenna tip to be grey and brown tipped, which is a diagnostic mark of both sexes and all broods of Eastern Wood White; also the faint under hindwing markings commensurate with this species. The Wood Whites are notoriously difficult (if not impossible) to identify in the field, except for Eastern, though it still demands fine detail to be discerned if not of the more distinctive first (spring) brood.

At our picnic stop, an entrance to a forest track, produced good numbers of commoner species and our only Marbled Skippers. Stunning were what were originally thought to be several Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moths feeding avidly upon Viper's Bugloss. However, they were subsequently identified as Olive Bee Hawk-moth (*Hemaris croatica*). An arresting feature was large numbers of closely-packed butterflies like elegant Black-veined Whites on the track. In Croatia, as well as commonly in most southern and central European countries, for instance, butterflies of many genera and species gather to 'puddle', ie to imbibe salts and other nutrients they detect on dung or urine or located leaching from mineral rocks, or around muddy pools. This is obviously an important phenomenon in many parts of Europe, but basically unknown in the UK, apparently so too in Scandinavia. Why, with abundant nectaring sources available, do these populations require to also feed in this way is an as yet unexplained, intriguing scientific conundrum.

Our final stop-off came at a panoramic high spot as we climbed over the Velebit Mountain Range, leaving behind the lush growth of the continental section of this country; now entering the quite different sparsely vegetated, barer rocky Mediterranean type scrub, stunted conifers and tough evergreen oaks associated with the hotter, dryer Dalmatian region. At this short stop, we saw our only Peacock, but just the first Great-banded Graylings so typical of these environs. The common Grayling (as in UK) is here noticeably larger, the male displaying a much more dramatically-marked underwing pattern, the whiter, wider zig-zag flash especially prominent in this Balkan form.

So ended our event-filled day - well pleased with the superb landscapes, favourable habitats and of course so many brilliant butterflies. We lastly had a fly-past by two Alpine Choughs birds also typifying this region.

Day 4

Thursday 16th June

Weather: Hot, sunny 30 deg C+

Our new, very friendly hotel lies close to the Paklenica National Park, located at Starigrad, its vistas overlooking tree-lined farmland, the sea and a large island, allowing scenic walks prior to our daily excursions. Much of the day was rightly spent at a scenically wonderful high spot at some 650m, where a good, wide track was taken through typical rocky mountain scrubland lined with a diverse flora, which in turn attracted several much hoped for butterflies to drink from them. With ideal weather and this highly scenic venue, we really couldn't go wrong. We began our quest.

Groups of very similar Mountain and Small Mountain Whites required care in their separation, as did several smaller species of Blue, such as Silver-studded, concealing similar species in their midst. Brilliant Adonis, distinctive Chequered and abundant Meleager's, unfortunately unaccompanied by even a single dramatically marked female. A suspected Escher's Blue of a very bright boldly-marked form caused initial quandary. Despite later investigation of all likely contenders, its true identity remains a mystery, but likely an unusually-marked *Idas*.

Among other small species were hundreds of Ilex and Blue-spot Hairstreaks. Amongst the large fritillaries were a few Niobe of the form *eris*, lacking the silver-spotted underwings of the nominate race; instead, the yellowish spots are matt. Cardinals are subtly attractive, and several graced us. Eastern Rock Grayling, common Grayling and Great Sooty Satyr are typical 'hot-rock' species. We admired several, with only a singleton Southern Comma, while pale, nectar-imbibing Oriental Skippers were present in good numbers. Yet another unexpected discovery was Balkan Clouded Yellow, again not shown as present in Croatia, even in the latest guides, underpinning just what an interesting voyage of discovery this trip can be.

Among huge numbers of Marbled Whites was an example of the female-only form *leucomelis* – it's under hindwing entirely plain buff. It was also noted that Marbled Whites in Croatia have much larger areas of black on their upperwings than their northern European (and UK) counterparts, presumably a decreasingly graded dark clinal form from the much blacker Greek populations.

Several specialist birds of these montane areas were: Eastern Orphea and Subalpine Warblers, Western Rock Nuthatch, Black-eared Wheatear, Rock and Blue Rock Thrush and Rock Bunting. Dalmatian Wall Lizard and huge Balkan Green Lizard also typify these more arid landscapes.

Toward late afternoon the heat really built up, so the group decided to finish up in the shade of a waterfront café over cooling beers. An unhurried but eventful day achieved its aims – providing an exceptionally varied range of wildlife within dramatic settings, all of which demanded our attention. Our return to our very friendly hotel and excellent dinner left us replete. Our open air post-dinner log calls were enlivened by appearances of Turkish Geckos on nearby walls.

Day 5

Friday 17th June

Weather: Much as yesterday – but hotter

The surrounds of our hotel have proven productive for reptiles discovered by our early morning risers: Balkan Green Lizard, snake-like Glass Lizards, Dalmatian Wall Lizards and a Leopard Snake. In this unlikely arid terrain a Red Squirrel was a surprise. Singing Nightingale, Cirl Bunting and Blue Rock Thrush; also a sighting of several Alpine Swifts followed. We spent the day within the central Velebit National Park which is a UNESCO biosphere reserve, in varied but essentially 'hot rock' habitats. Yet another very interesting day was in prospect.

During the somewhat cooler morning we walked the route of an ancient stone road at the foot of the hills. Here, shaded trees allowed some respite. Small grassy fields with surrounding hedges and stone walls provided variable habitats. Though butterfly numbers were generally not as high as in some previous areas, several species seen here, especially those preferring low level arid locales, were not seen elsewhere, namely: Woodland Grayling and Hermit. However, stealing the show was a goodly number of Little Tiger Blue. This tiny thing repaid careful close observation beyond their obviously attractive black and white stripes. Tiny tails were two-toned, miniscule shining silver studs and a mother-of-pearl iridescence covered their wings – what a little cracker! On a vastly different scale: two dramatically showy Swallowtails were the only ones we saw. Among many other previously noted species mostly preferring dryer habitats with sparser plant cover was a single Southern Comma, very few of which we encountered this year; similarly several Large Wall Browns and a few Mallow Skippers. Two Blue Argus were unfortunately both females.

Later in the afternoon most of the group visited a higher spot in the hills. Here we saw our only Eastern Bath Whites and Silver-washed Fritillaries in particular. As this area proved rather quiet, to finish off yet another successful day the group again elected for cooling beers!

Birds of these environs included good numbers of Golden Orioles breeding in habitat far removed from lush overgrowth and Poplar-strewn venues often associated with them. Wrynecks were common, as were Spanish Sparrows. Hoopoe, an obliging and unexpected pair of Red-rumped Swallows and a flock of Rock Doves all helped mark multifarious highlights of another different and productive day for the generalists and specialists alike.

Day 6

Saturday 18th June

Weather: Cloudy and breezy, but dry and warm. 25 deg C

Changeover day was to again signal the unexpectedly rapid transition from exposed, rocky, maritime southern slopes growing typical Mediterranean-type pines, oaks and coarse, sparse scrub to the landward continental slopes – a marked contrast, heavily wooded with tall deciduous trees and lush growth rampant with wild flowers.

Upon leaving our hotel we drove northwards for about an hour along the scenic coast road, diverting up a steeply winding mountainous road to revisit the entirely different continental habitat which quickly emerges once the crossover from the dryer south-facing coastal strip is completed. Arriving at a high but verdant pass at some 800m consisting of open heathy meadows and scattered trees, butterflies more associated with lush plants suddenly appeared. New species were Bright-eyed Ringlets – including some confusingly variable forms. Further confusion was also possible among intermingling and plentiful Woodland Ringlets. More new species for our ever expanding lists were attractive Eastern Baton Blues, and a single Idas Blue. A single Turquoise Blue was also one of very few seen so far, so too Chalkhill Blue. Among ten species of fritillary was our only other Knapweed.

A final stop not much further away was especially chosen for its sub-alpine meadows and wet flushes, thus ensuring a range of different wildlife. Distractions from butterflies here were: Southern Skimmer dragonfly, Blue-tailed and Scarce Blue-tailed Damselflies, also Alpine Newts, Grass Snake and Common Wall Lizard. Finally it was onward to our last hotel.

Day 7

Sunday 19th June

Weather: Today our continuing good luck finally ran out. Heavy overnight rain actually intensified during the morning, accompanied by the Bura, a localised cold wind sweeping off the high mountains – but which uniquely affects only a relatively narrow band concentrated mainly along the coastline. Later in the afternoon, broken but longer sunny spells and a decreasing wind improved our fortunes somewhat.

As Plan A (butterfly watching) was out, we drove quite a long way inland to try and lessen the wind – this worked. We pulled up at a village café and ordered hot drinks! From the covered veranda we watched Black Redstart and Hawfinch. Nearby was a Brown Bear rescue centre which we visited. In Croatia 100 Brown Bears are licensed to be shot by ‘sportsmen’. Other bears are illegally trapped or poisoned. If the adult is female it is likely she will have dependant cubs. If these cubs can be found before they succumb, this centre, run entirely by volunteers, will home them.

We were escorted around spacious enclosures and their work and problems faced explained. For instance, a Brown Bear can live to over 25 years, but it is estimated their average life-span in Croatia is eight years due to intense persecution. Later we were invited to make a donation towards this well worthwhile project.

Mercifully the rain eased and the sun tried to shine. We decided to head for a very sheltered, secluded and spectacular flower meadow and, once again, chance our luck. Gradually conditions improved as we attempted to rescue something of the day, as our original intention, to visit a couple of high (over 1,000m) montane habitats were sadly aborted. Several specialist species could reasonably have been expected up there. However, as one door closes...By the time we reached our destination the day was indeed improving. We finished up with 30 species all seen in this one small meadow – not much bigger than a football pitch. Apart from more widespread, more frequently occurring kinds, was a Clouded Apollo, our only Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Dingy and Grizzled Skippers and our only other Essex Skippers. Further adding to our luck, due to the conditions, many were intent on sunning, thereby allowing excellent photo opportunities. As common here, as elsewhere, was the truly Common Blue, of the much brighter sky blue form *icarinus*, (rather than our more familiar violet blue), a constant pitfall for the uninitiated. So ended our final full day in the field...

Day 8

Monday 20th June

Weather: What a difference a day makes. A pleasant, sunny day 23 deg C

Our final day basically taken up with our reluctant return to Zagreb Airport, leaving time only for a roadside refreshment stop – but in a rural spot conducive to a final spot of butterflying, as our scenic route deliberately avoided the motorway, this venue included a tree-lined track with woodland edge plants and grassy areas. In just 25 minutes, we logged 14 species including several Maps, our very last new one of the trip, crucially located just within its most southern outpost in Croatia!

Summary

The stated aim of this holiday was to seek out, and enjoy a wealth of butterflies, within a widely diverse range of habitats covering two distinctly different regions, whilst also enjoying whatever other forms of wildlife might interest individuals. Energetic requirements are needed to cover all terrains on this holiday, though less strenuous alternatives exist. Judged on the core criteria, this excursion into a country relatively unexplored for wildlife was a definite success, thankfully aided by the crucially good weather we largely enjoyed.

Another important contributing factor was the group's willingness to work closely together in finding and helping each other identify what they saw. However, I feel special mention is merited to Derek Goodban, Robert Godden, Mike Harford, Ian Small and Peter Waterton., without which the final impressive trip list total would have been the poorer, as no one (or two) 'experts' can be everywhere at once or see everything that may be present. Among any diverse group there will (hopefully) be the committed, knowledgeable enthusiasts as well as those less seriously involved. Some balance should be struck to accommodate varying degrees of interest, but inevitably errs on the side of keener members. However, even the less experienced among our intrepid number contributed much effort and interest towards making this visit an enjoyable wildlife holiday for all, and certainly includes our two very keen lady botanists Peta and Ruth.

Our final tally, as certainly logged by the group as a whole, stands at a very respectable 99 species. By any standards this must be viewed as an extremely successful butterflying holiday, especially considering the natural degree of uncertainty as to exactly what species to expect at each new location, selected for the probability of a diverse range of butterflies. That a host of other wildlife interests crowded in, combined with superlative scenery, all added to our lasting memories of the treasure troves Croatia has to offer.

Among those butterflies encountered were Europe-wide scarce, rare and/or declining species which are still found in good numbers in Croatia along with several species either unrecorded for Croatia (as far as we knew) or occurring only within the extreme outliers of their known range. The vast majority were either seen or photographed by the whole group.

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Species Lists

Butterflies

(Numbers fewer than 10 are enumerated. Numbers over 10 are represented by a '✓', unless otherwise shown)

	Common name	Scientific name	June							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>					2			
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>			10	✓	✓	✓		
3	Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>		3						
4	Clouded Apollo	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>		5					1	
5	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>		✓	✓	1		✓	6	2
6	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓		1	1			1
7	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>		1		4	5			
8	Mountain Small White	<i>Artogeia ergani</i>				✓				
9	Southern Small White	<i>Pieris mannii</i>				✓				
10	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>					2			
11	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		5	✓	✓	✓	✓		
12	Balkan Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias caucasica</i>			5					
13	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>				3		2		
14	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	2	✓				9
15	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>				1				
16	Eastern Wood White	<i>Leptidea duponcheli</i>			1					
17	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓		3		✓		
18	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium ilicis</i>		1	3	✓	✓			
19	Blue-spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium spini</i>			3	✓	✓	1		1
20	Black Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium pruni</i>			2					
21	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			2	4	✓	3		
22	Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>			1					
23	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>			1					
24	Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>			✓			1	3	1
25	Purple-edged Copper	<i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>			2					
26	Little Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i>				1	15+			
27	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>			1	2	6			
28	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		3	✓	6		2		
29	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>								
30	Large Blue	<i>Maculinea arion</i>			3					
31	Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>						6		
32	Chequered Blue	<i>Scolitantides orion</i>		1		3				
33	Zephyr Blue	<i>Plebejus pylaon</i>				1				
34	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>				✓				
35	Idas Blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>						1		
36	Reverdin's Blue	<i>Plebejus argyrognomon</i>		4						
37	Amanda's Blue	<i>Agrodiaetus amanda</i>		30+	✓				3	
38	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>		✓				1	2	
39	Turquoise Blue	<i>Plebicula dorylas</i>			2					
40	Meleager's Blue	<i>Meleageria daphnis</i>		1	3	✓				
41	Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Lysandra corridor</i>						1	1	
42	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>			5	✓		5		
43	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Geranium Argus	<i>Eumedonia eumedon</i>								
45	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>			4	✓	✓	5	2	
46	Blue Argus	<i>Ultraaricia anteros</i>					2	1		

	Common name	Scientific name	June							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
47	Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>			1					
48	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>				✓				
49	Hungarian Glider	<i>Neptis rivularis</i>		1						
50	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>			1					
51	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			3	3	1	1		
52	Comma	<i>Polygonum c-album</i>			1					
53	Southern Comma	<i>Polygonum egea</i>			1	1	1	1		
54	Map	<i>Araschina levana</i>								3
55	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>				6	2	1		
56	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>					6			1
57	High Brown Fritillary	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>			6	✓	2		3	
58	Niobe Fritillary	<i>Fabriciana niobe</i>			2	3				
59	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Mesoacidalia aglaja</i>		4	✓	3			1	
60	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		2	1	1				
61	Twin-spot Fritillary	<i>Brenthis hecate</i>		6			1	2		1
62	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>			3					10
63	Lesser Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis ino</i>		1						
64	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana euphrosyne</i>							1	
65	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>		1	4			7	2	
66	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>			1			2		
67	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>		3	1	10	✓	5	4	
68	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea fascelis</i>		✓		1		2	3	
69	Heath Fritillary	<i>Mellicta athalia</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	6
70	Nickerl's Fritillary	<i>Mellicta aurelia</i>		5+	✓			✓	✓	
71	Marsh Fritillary	<i>Eurodryas aurinia</i>			1					
72	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	✓
73	Hermit	<i>Chazara briseis</i>				2				
74	Woodland Grayling	<i>Hipparchia fagi</i>					2			
75	Eastern Rock Grayling	<i>Hipparchia syriacha</i>			4	6				
76	Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>			3	✓				
77	Great Sooty Satyr	<i>Satyrus ferrula</i>			1	10	3			
78	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Kanetisa circe</i>			2	5	✓	3	2	
79	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>		10	✓			✓	✓	
80	Bright-eyed Ringlet	<i>Erebia oeme</i>						✓	2	
81	De Prunner's Ringlet	<i>Erebia triaria</i>			1					
82	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			2	12	16	10		
83	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>				5	3	3		4
84	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓	✓		4	4	
85	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	3	✓	✓	✓	
86	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>		5	✓	✓	✓	✓	3	
87	Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>		✓	✓			✓	1	
88	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>							2	
89	Large Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>		1	4			1		
90	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>		1				1		
91	Safflower Skipper	<i>Pyrgus carthami</i>		1				1	5	
92	Hungarian Skipper	<i>Spilalia orbifer</i>		1	4			4	8	
93	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>			1	4	5			
94	Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>				1				
95	Oriental Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus orientalis</i>				✓		2		
96	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>							1	
97	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>			2	2	6			

	Common name	Scientific name	June							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
98	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>			1				2	
99	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus flavus</i>		3	2	✓	✓	4		
100	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>		5	✓	2			1	1

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

1	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		H						
2	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			1	✓	1			
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		6	2					
4	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		nest						
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		1						
6	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						1		
7	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		2						
8	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>			1					
9	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			1					
10	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		4	3					
11	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			1					
12	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michellis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
13	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>					10	8		
14	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		1	3		✓	1		
15	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	1		1			
16	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		H	H		1			
17	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartus melba</i>			3					
18	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>						✓		
19	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		1	2	2	2	2		
20	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		H		2	3	1		
21	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2	1					
22	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
23	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		1	✓	3	✓	1		
24	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		1	1			1		
25	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		2						
26	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>			2					
27	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				3				
28	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		1			1	2		
29	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		3						
30	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>		2				1	1	
31	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		1		3	4	1		
32	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>					1	1		
33	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>						1		
34	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
35	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>								
36	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
37	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>					2			
38	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		2		✓		✓		
39	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓						
40	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			2					
41	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	2	3	1		
42	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		2						
43	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>			1					
44	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>						1		
45	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>				2	4			
46	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>				1				

	Common name	Scientific name	June							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
47	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>					5	3		
48	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	H					
49	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>				1				
50	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓						
51	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	2		
52	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		1						
53	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1						
54	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		1	1	✓	✓	6		
55	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		1						
56	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		4	2					
57	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		1	2					
58	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						2		
59	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>				1		1		
60	Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>				1				
61	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			1	2	1			
62	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
63	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>					✓			
64	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓					
65	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓						
66	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		1		1		✓		
67	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			1					
68	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓		1	✓		
69	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓		1	2	✓		
70	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		✓			✓	✓		
71	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	6		✓	✓		
72	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		2		4		✓		
73	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>						1		
74	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		6	✓					
75	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				1				
76	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>			1					
77	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		1		4	✓	3		
78	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>			1					

Dragonflies

1	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	✓	✓				2		
2	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	✓							
3	White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>		2						
4	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>						3		
5	Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>						12		
6	Goblet-marked Damselfly	<i>Erythromma lindenii</i>	5							
7	Brown Hawker	<i>Aeshna grandis</i>		2						
8	Small Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>		1						
9	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	1					3		
10	Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>						1		

Amphibians & reptiles

1	Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>		✓	6			✓		
2	Alpine Newt	<i>Ichthyosaura alpestris</i>							✓	
3	Dalmatian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis melisellensis</i>				1		1		
4	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>							1	

	Common name	Scientific name	June							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5	Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>			1					
6	Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>				1				
7	European Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus apodus</i>					4	2		
8	Leopard Snake	<i>Elaphe situla</i>			1					
9	Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>		5						
10	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>							1	

Mammals

1	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			1	1		1		
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Moths recorded during daylight hours (Courtesy of Colin Burningham)

13/06/2011

Pseudopanthera macularia
Chiasmia clathrata

Hotel Plitvicka Sedra, Irinovac, close to the Plitvice Lakes National Park

Speckled Yellow
Latticed Heath

14/06/2011

Amata phegea
Nemophera degeerella

Plitvice Lakes National Park

Nine-spotted
-

14/06/2011

Sionia lineata
Idaea aurolaria

Plitvice Lakes National Park meadow

Black-veined Moth
-

15/06/2011

Shistostega decussata
Epirrhoe tristata
Chiasmia clathrata
Pseudopanthera macularia
Ematurga atomaria
Amata phegea
Zygaena carniolica

Plitvice Lakes National Park meadow

-
Small Argent and Sable
Latticed Heath
Speckled Yellow
Common Heath
Nine-spotted
-

16/06/2011

Fenestrella thyris
Hemaris croatica
Macroglossum stellatarum

Mountain foothills above Stari Paklenica

-
Olive Bee Hawk-moth
Hummingbird Hawk-moth

18/06/2011

Scopula imitaria
Aplocera annexata
Scopula tessellaria

Baske Ostarije, Velebit National Park

Small Blood-vein
-
-

19/06/2011

Zygaena purpurialis
Amata phegea
Hyphoraia aulica
Idaea aurolaria
Autographa gamma

Korinski Krc, near Oltarie

Transparent Burnet
Nine-spotted
Court lady
-
Silver Y