

# Butterflies of Croatia

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 - 12 June 2017



Balkan Marbled White



Niobe Fritillary



Little Tiger Blue



Latin

Report and images by Andy Harding



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Tour participants: Andy Harding (leader) & Gerard Gorman (local guide) with fourteen Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

Monday 5th June

There was a technical issue with our plane at Terminal 5, which meant an hour's delay leaving Heathrow airport. This was compounded at Zagreb airport by lengthy and slow-moving queues at passport control. However, baggage reclaim was without problem and we were able to meet a very patient Gerard, our local guide. He immediately called up Tibor, the driver, who brought the bus round to pick us up and loaded our luggage into our very comfortable bus.

To enable us to get the best out of Croatia, we took a scenic route towards our hotel and stopped en route after about an hour at Gornje Taboriste. Our planned 15-minute stop became 45 minutes at this brilliant site. 23 species of butterfly in such a short time simply blew us away! We spotted Purple Emperor, Common Glider, Heath Fritillary, Short-tailed Blue, and many Sloe Hairstreaks with an Ilex Hairstreak for comparison. A big patch of Lizard Orchids and a lovely Bee Orchid distracted from the range of common day-flying moths such as Spotted Sulphur, Latticed Heath, Burnet Companion and many Forester Moths. Hawfinches flew overhead.

Then it was on to our hotel at Dreznik Grad, close to the Plitvicka National Park. What a good choice it proved as we sat down to a simply enormous evening meal, with great anticipation for the next day.

## Day 2

Tuesday 6th June

Today was overcast and humid with a maximum temperature of 24°C. Before the 7am breakfast there was a twin assault on the fauna behind the hotel. Our makeshift moth trap was a great success with around 30 species. The most fascinating was a Lappet Moth which, though very large, avoided detection on the wall while in full view - it simply looked like a pile of dead leaves in a spider's web! Also good with camouflage were two Marbled Whitespots in close formation and looking like two hinge fixings. We also found two Clouded Buffs, four species of emerald, Pale Oak Beauty, Fox Moth, Treble Bar - one could go on: just look at the list!

Golden Oriole and Black Redstart were among the birds seen by those who could drag themselves away from the moth trap. There were also early rising butterflies including Small and Purple-edged Coppers, Glanville Fritillary, Wood White, Mazarine Blue and Pearly Heath. And we haven't got to breakfast yet!

Our prompt 8am (well done everybody) departure for the National Park was stymied by a serious road accident, which meant a long diversion, costing us about an hour and a decision to do the morning walk in reverse from the original plan. So we started with two slow boat trips across the lakes amidst beautiful scenery. At the first docking point Common Twayblade and Lesser Butterfly Orchid ambushed the botanists. After a coffee stop when back on dry land, we took a wonderful walk. By now many tourists were passing in the other direction, which was unfortunate but this walk through a UNESCO World Heritage site cannot be missed. The limestone karst has worn to produce hundreds of waterfalls of various sizes, falling into intensely green-blue lakes, which are that colour even in the shade. Fish are a constant sight alongside the path, as were occasional Beautiful Demoiselles and Marsh Frogs. Good views of Grey Wagtail and Raven were most welcome, but two Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers were seen only by a subset of the team. The botanists were in seventh heaven with six species of orchid and many other delights.

We then returned to our hotel, by the direct route, and enjoyed our picnic lunch in the lovely surroundings behind it. The subsequent walk for the next four hours was a sheer butterfly and botanical delight, and we never moved more than a kilometre from the hotel! 11 species of Blues were seen including many Adonis Blues with very prominent spotting on the rear of their hindwing upperside. This was extremely puzzling for a while, and is presumably a local variation. Weaver's, Marbled and Queen of Spain Fritillaries were the most striking in that group, but two Assman's Fritillaries were very carefully identified, given this is on the very edge of the range of that species. The Nickerl's/Assman's debate is an annual one, but if the available criteria hold good we were confident of this identification. Six species of Skipper could be found, while Red-backed Shrike and Corn Bunting watched on. The meadows in which we were walking were packed with flowers; a glorious sight with Rampion Bellflower, Tuberous Pea and Bath Asparagus starring.

Then back for a well-earned drink and another splendid dinner.

### Day 3

### Wednesday 7th June

With mist on the surrounding hills, the early temperature was 18°C and it remained cloudy for several hours. Later, with clearing skies, the temperature rose to 30°C. The moth trap was again very productive. The first visit was at 5am so that moths could be taken from the wall and potted before the local birds decide that it is a breakfast spread designed for them. The more general inspection was at 6.30am when the invasive Box Moth was the main attraction, but unfortunately the Eyed Hawk-moth present earlier had disappeared. However around 50 individuals could be seen. Those who then went birdwatching had their closest and best-ever encounter with several Hawfinches feeding young, though a Jay attempting to predate a nest was a sadder sight.

After breakfast we set off down the old highway, Road No.1, under grey skies, but as the sun broke through at Bjelpolje we had a lengthy butterfly stop. The habitat was a low-lying depression (a polje), typical of the region. Many Woodland Ringlets, Small Heaths and Adonis Blues flitted around us, while Green-underside Blue was a beautiful addition. Mother Shipton moths abounded, many with bright orange hindwings which made them lookalikes for Fritillaries in flight. The undoubted highlight, though, was four or five newly emerged Amanda's Blues feeding on a piece of dung, just before we re-embarked on the bus. Several of the group resolved to look for dung, rather than butterflies in future.

Following a coffee stop near Gracac, we then stopped above the village for a lengthy butterfly session with our picnic lunch sandwiched in between. Both species of Swallowtail were seen. Hoped-for Balkan Marbled Whites turned out to be simply Marbled Whites. Why there were five female Turquoise Blues in pristine condition, but no males is unclear. Excellent views of a Short-toed Eagle carrying a lizard (probably Balkan Green Lizard) were a big bonus. One of a small number of Graylings persisted in landing on some people. The same species actually prevented the bus from setting off, by sitting in the road until moved by those wielding cameras.

Our final butterfly stop was adjacent to a large concrete bunker as we crossed the Velebit range. It was very productive with Niobe Fritillary and both Ilex and Blue-spot Fritillaries feeding in the shade of this structure. More sun-loving was a definite and very obliging Balkan Marbled White. Higher in the air, Alpine Choughs flew past on a couple of occasions, with their yellow bills just visible.

Only an ice-cream and/or beer stop separated us from our new hotel, but even then Blue-spot Hairstreaks and numerous Skippers entertained us on garden borders. Those who sallied forth before dinner were rewarded with Great Banded Grayling, Glass Lizard and Italian Wall Lizards. Dinner was taken al fresco with a huge mixture of grilled meats and a superb cream-covered gnocchi for the vegetarians, which was kindly shared!

## Day 4

Thursday 8th June

Whilst it was breezy late on, we did run the moth trap. The favourite moth of a small catch was The Passenger.

With the prospect of a hot day, we made an early start for the short trip into the nearby mountains. At the first stop we saw our first Lulworth Skippers, a couple of Graylings and a Lesser Spotted Fritillary, while Serins were a constant feature. A little higher, at another safe place to park the bus, Amanda's Blue and Southern White Admiral starred, and we got to grips with identifying Southern Small White. The views of the Adriatic and the belts of land between us and the sea were fabulous.

At the highest point which the bus could go, Veliki Vaganac, we prepared for a longer walk. A Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth was photographed, but unfortunately couldn't be relocated. On the long winding track, Ilex and Blue-spot Hairstreaks abounded. Mountain Small Whites became regular. There were excellent views of Rock Bunting and more distant ones of Blue Rock Thrush. As the track started to go downhill there was a greater variety of butterflies. Clouded Apollo, Scarce Swallowtail and another Southern White Admiral, which preferred people to flowers, were the most spectacular, accompanied by huge numbers of Large Wall Browns. An Eastern Baton Blue was only identified subsequently from photographs. We returned to the bus and had our picnic lunch.

On the way back down the mountains we stopped at an appropriate place for scenic photographs. Of course this interlude lasted much longer than planned as lots of butterflies were seen. Niobe Fritillary showed well and Marbled Whites were everywhere. A large dark butterfly was captured all too briefly and generated mixed opinions among those who saw it - was it a Dryad or a Great Sooty Satyr? We shall never know for sure but the next stop, just a couple of hundred metres further on, provided the most likely answer. Down a short path a Small-leaved Lime tree was in full bloom and literally covered in butterflies. Hairstreaks and Large Wall Browns predominated, but two Great Sooty Satyrs stole the show. On the other side of the tree half the group saw a Southern Comma on an adjacent wall, but though we stayed for around 30 minutes it did not return. A displaying Subalpine Warbler, an almost constant stream of low-flying Alpine Swifts and a more obliging male Blue Rock Thrush added to this amazing place.

Back down at sea level, beer or ice-cream was required before we returned to the hotel. There was then both led and independent walks through the nearby allotments and Olive groves to the castle on the coast. Eastern Bath White and two Glass Lizards were the net result, with another Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth photographed a couple of hundred metres down the road from the hotel.

Dinner was a fish banquet with tuna and squid starring - and the pancakes were rather good also.

## Day 5

Friday 9th June

Today was sunny with blue skies all day, and the temperature reaching 30°C. Despite clear skies overnight the moth trap yielded some new species including Cream-spot Tiger, Rose-banded Wave, Engrailed and Mullein Wave.

Our plan today was to walk various sections of the cycle track which runs behind the village at the base of the hills, with the bus meeting us at intervals so we could take on extra water. The birds were good and we were constantly accompanied by Golden Oriole and Nightingale song. A couple more Subalpine Warblers displayed and Cirl Bunting was particularly well seen. A strange concrete water collection structure with plentiful low flora poking through was excellent for butterflies, though only Spotted Fritillary was new. The next highlight was a Southern Comma, which delighted in landing on different points on a house wall, giving fantastic views. There were many more Scarce Swallowtails, the ever present Hairstreaks and small orange Skippers, but Great Banded Grayling was spectacular and new for most of the group.

Following a coffee stop at Selene, and another two Great Sooty Satyrs, we took the bus a short distance to a shady garden with access to all the facilities in the adjacent house - courtesy of the owners of our hotel.

Our final stop was at the start of the Mala Paklenica Gorge. The dried-up river bed provided lots of butterfly interest. However on the road a Great Banded Grayling was seen to land on a roadside flower. Before it could be approached a van drove past and presumably displaced the grayling, for it was no longer at that spot. But even better, a Little Tiger Blue was; on its food plant of Christ's Thorn. It stayed long enough for the whole group to be gathered together and enjoy this pristine specimen. It was still there when we left to take a mainly scenically-orientated walk up the gorge itself, before returning to the hotel for a celebration beer

## Day 6

Saturday 10th June

It was hazy and cooler at first today, but the temperature rose to 27°C later. Breakfast was at 8am to allow some extra packing time before we started our transfer journey. However some people used part of this time in more exploration of the allotments and added Grecian Copper and the familiar Speckled Wood to our collective list.

We took a slow drive along the spectacular Adriatic coast with the island of Pag across the water. It looked so very barren, but as we turned and climbed inland we could see one of the small settlements there. Having climbed to around 1000 metres, we stopped alongside a rocky hillside near Karlobag. The amazing Owl Fly and Bright-eyed Ringlet were rapidly found: this was not difficult since there were lots of both. Among the more familiar Heaths we found several rather different looking individuals which proved to be Eastern Large Heaths, whose rather disjointed distribution includes these Velebit Mountains. These were quite easy to photograph, but not so a pair of courting Geranium Argus, who must have been dancing close to us for quarter of an hour before landing. In addition to these new species, the utter proliferation of insect life was just astonishing. An apparently rocky place was packed with different flowers including a spectacular Red Lily.

We moved to lower levels, near Baske, for our picnic, still accompanied by Bright-eyed Ringlet and Eastern Large Heath. There were many Nickerl's Fritillaries here with Amanda's Blues. A mating pair of Mazarine Blues was a puzzle at first - they are not usually seen in that position! After an ice-cream stop in Gospic, we made

another long (in time, not distance) expedition in the North Velebits National Park. Many butterflies included three types of Grizzled Skipper, of which Safflower and Orbed Red Underwing were new. Then it was on to Krasno to check in to our final hotel and have a lovely trout dinner.

## Day 7

Sunday 11th June

On a sunny day which reached 25°C, new in the moth trap were Southern Lappet, Coxcomb Prominent and Light Feathered Rustic.

Back in the National Park near Oltare were beautiful sheltered meadows full of butterflies. Large Grizzled Skipper was the only unfamiliar addition to our list, but we had not seen Small Tortoiseshell or Comma previously either. Though not a new species, a female Spotted Fritillary, very different from the more familiar male, was a fabulous sight. Walking uphill into deciduous forest, White Helleborine excited botanical interest while Woodland Grayling, Duke of Burgundy and Pearl-bordered Fritillary were much enjoyed.

At the woodland lunch stop, the discovery of Brown Bear dung saw Gerard on the floor making the closest of examinations. Those who were more circumspect saw Orange Tip, Green-veined White and Broad-bodied Chaser. We then drove to open fields next to Krasno village. In terms of flowers and depth of insect life, different members of the group who had visited all the major mountain ranges in Europe judged these the best meadows ever. We added only one more species here, a splendid Southern Festoon, close to its larval food plant. However numbers mattered not in these surroundings. What a wonderful place in which to effectively end the tour!

The atmosphere at our last dinner together was lovely, and reflective of the whole tour.

## Day 8

Monday 12th June

An early breakfast for an early start did not prevent early walkers, who found our first Lesser Whitethroat of the trip. Petrol stations are a little different to the UK with plenty of flowers and, of course, butterflies, so in 15 minutes, among commoner species, Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Marbled Whites flew around, and yet another new and very attractive species as a second-generation Map Butterfly was found. There was even another new moth: a Vestal. En route Marsh Harriers, a Black Kite, our first White Storks and finally a Grey Heron were spotted.

Time is of the essence at Zagreb airport so the final farewells to the leaders and driver are always hasty. However they were very fond farewells. While the tour was very successful on the butterfly and moth front, the genial and helpful atmosphere and humour within the group was even more important in contributing to a really superb trip.

## Postscript

In an effort to produce a timely report, one butterfly and several moths remain unidentified with certainty at the time of writing. These are omitted from the species lists.

## Species Lists

### Macro Moths (85 species)

- Ghost Moth, *Hepialis humuli*  
 Six-spot Burnet, *Zygaena filipendulae*  
 Transparent Burnet, *Zygaena purpuralis*  
 Fox Moth, *Macrothylacia rubi*  
 Southern Lappet, *Phyllodesma occidentalis*  
 Small Grass Emerald, *Chlorissa viridata*  
 Little Emerald, *Jodis lactearia*  
 Maiden's Blush, *Cyclophora punctaria*  
 Mullein Wave, *Scopula marginepunctata*  
 Vestal, *Rhodomestra sacraria*  
 Royal Mantle, *Catarhoe cuculata*  
 Common Carpet, *Epirrhoe alternata*  
 Green Carpet, *Colostygia pectinataria*  
 Pretty Chalk Carpet, *Melanthiaprocellata*  
 Double-striped Pug, *Gymnoscelis ruffasciata*  
 Chimney Sweeper, *Odezia atrata*  
 Scorched Carpet, *Ligdia adustata*  
 Tawny-barred Angle, *Macaria liturata*  
 Brown Silver-line, *Petrophora chlorosata*  
 Swallow-tailed Moth, *Ourapteryx sambucaria*  
 Willow Beauty, *Peribatodes rhomboidaria*  
 Mottled Beauty, *Alcis repandata*  
 Engrailed, *Ectropis bistortata*  
 Common White Wave, *Cabera pusaria*  
 Light Emerald, *Campaea margaritata*  
 Annulet, *Charissa obscurata*  
 Grey Scalloped Bar, *Dyscia fagara*  
 Eyed Hawk-moth, *Smerinthus ocellata*  
 Humming-bird Hawk-moth, *Macroglossum stellatarum*  
 Dusky Marbled Brown, *Gluphisia crenata*  
 Orange Footman, *Eilema sororcula*  
 Hoary Footman, *Eilema caniola*  
 Cream-spot Tiger, *Arctia villica*  
 White Ermine, *Spilosoma lubricipeda*  
 Muslin Moth, *Diaphora mendica*  
 Scarce Black Arches, *Nola aerugula*  
 Heart and Dart, *Agrotis exclamationis*  
 Delicate, *Mythimna vitellina*  
 Latin, *Callopietria juvenina*  
 Marbled White-spot, *Protodeltotepygarga*  
 Passenger, *Dysgonia algira*  
 Burnet Companion, *Euclidia glyphica*  
 Snout, *Hypena proboscidalis*  
 Forester, *Adscita statices*  
 Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet, *Zygaena lonicerae*  
 Crepuscular Burnet, *Carniolica*  
 Lappet, *Gastropacha quercifolia*  
 Buff Arches, *Habrosyne pyritoides*  
 Common Emerald, *Hemithea aestivaria*  
 Mocha, *Cyclophora annularia*  
 Blood-vein, *Timandra comae*  
 Treble Brown-spot, *Idaea trigeminata*  
 Silver-ground Carpet, *Xanthorhoe montanata*  
 Small Argent and Sable, *Epirrhoe tristata*  
 Streamer, *Anticlea derivata*  
 Small Waved Umber, *Horisme vitalbata*  
 Spruce Carpet, *Thera britannica*  
 Treble-bar, *Aplocera plagjata*  
 Clouded Border, *Lomaspilis marginata*  
 Sharp-angled Peacock, *Macaria alternata*  
 Latticed Heath, *Chiasmia clathrata*  
 Speckled Yellow, *Pseudopanthera macularia*  
 Waved Umber, *Menophra abruptaria*  
 Olive-tree Beauty, *Peribatodes umbraria*  
 Pale Oak Beauty, *Hypomecis punctinalis*  
 Common Heath, *Emanturgaa atomaria*  
 Common Wave, *Cabera exanthemata*  
 Barred Red (form prasinaria), *Hylaea fasciaria*  
 Black-veined Moth, *Siona lineata*  
 Grass Wave, *Perconia strigillaria*  
 Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth, *Hemaria fuciformis*  
 Coxcomb Prominent, *Ptilodon capucina*  
 Buff-tip, *Phalera bucephala*  
 Dingy Footman, *Eilema griseola*  
 Four-spotted Footman, *Lithosia quadra*  
 Clouded Buff, *Diacrisiasannio*  
 Buff Ermine, *Spilosoma luteum*  
 Nine-spotted, *Amata phegea*  
 Light Feathered Rustic, *Agrotis cinerea*  
 Treble Lines, *Charanyca trigrammica*  
 Marbled Minor agg, *Oligia agg*  
 Bordered Sallow, *Pyrrhia umbra*  
 Spotted Sulphur, *Emmelia trabealis*  
 Mother Shipton, *Callistege mi*  
 Fan-foot, *Zanclognatha tarsipennalis*  
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## Micro moths,

Box Moth, *Cydalima perspectalis*Meal Moth, *Pyralis farinalis*Gold Triangle, *Hypsopygia costalis*Small Magpie, *Anania hortulata*

## Butterflies (✓=recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	July								
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>			✓	✓				✓	
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>								✓	
4	Clouded Apollo	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>				✓					
5	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	
6	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Mountain Small White	<i>Pieris ergani</i>			✓	✓			✓		
9	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>								✓	
10	Balkan Green-veined White	<i>Pieris balkana</i>				✓					
11	Southern Small White	<i>Pieris mannii</i>				✓	✓				
12	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>				✓					
13	Orange Tip	<i>Anthrocharis cardamines</i>									✓
14	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
15	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>						✓			
16	Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias erate</i>				✓					
17	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	
18	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓	
19	Purple Hairstreak	<i>Quercusia quercus</i>	✓								
20	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium acasiae</i>	✓					✓			
21	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium ilicis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓				
22	Blue-spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium spini</i>			✓	✓	✓				
23	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>		✓		✓				✓	
24	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓				
25	Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>		✓							
26	Grecian Copper	<i>Lycaena ottomana</i>							✓		
27	Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>		✓							
28	Purple-edged Copper	<i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>		✓							
29	Little Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i>						✓			
30	Short-tailed Blue	<i>Everes argiades</i>	✓	✓	✓						
31	Provencal Short-tailed Blue	<i>Cupido alcetas</i>		✓							
32	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓				
33	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓			
34	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>		✓	✓						
35	Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>				✓			✓	✓	
36	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		
37	Idas Blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>				✓					
38	Reverdin's Blue	<i>Plebejus argyrognomon</i>	✓	✓	✓						
39	Amanda's Blue	<i>Agrodiaetus amanda</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
40	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>		✓					✓	✓	
41	Turquoise Blue	<i>Plebicula dorylas</i>			✓						
42	Meleager's Blue	<i>Meleageria daphnis</i>		✓							
43	Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Lysandra corridon</i>			✓						
44	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
45	Geranium Argus	<i>Eumedonia eumedon</i>							✓		



	Common name	Scientific name	July								
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
46	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
47	Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>									✓
48	Nettle Tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>			✓						
49	Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura iris</i>	✓								
50	Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>									✓
51	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>				✓	✓				
52	Common Glider	<i>Neptis sappho</i>	✓						✓		
53	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglias urticae</i>							✓		
54	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓				✓		
55	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
56	Comma	<i>Polygonum c-album</i>									✓
57	Southern Comma	<i>Polygonum egea</i>				✓	✓			✓	
58	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	✓						✓	✓	
59	High Brown Fritillary	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>				✓					
60	Niobe Fritillary	<i>Fabriciana niobe</i>			✓	✓					
61	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓							
62	Twin-spot Fritillary	<i>Brenthis hecate</i>							✓		
63	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>		✓	✓						
64	Lesser Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis ino</i>	✓								
65	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana euphrosyne</i>								✓	✓
66	Weaver's (Violet) Fritillary	<i>Clossiana dia</i>		✓							
67	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	
68	Nickerl's Fritillary	<i>Melitaea aurelia</i>							✓	✓	
69	Assman's Fritillary	<i>Melitaea britomartis</i>		✓	✓						
70	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>							✓	✓	
71	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>						✓	✓	✓	
72	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea fascelis</i>				✓	✓	✓			
73	Heath Fritillary	<i>Mellicta athalia</i>	✓	✓					✓		
74	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Balkan Marbled White	<i>Melanargia larissa</i>			✓	✓	✓				
76	Woodland Grayling	<i>Hipparchia fagi</i>									✓
77	Eastern Rock Grayling	<i>Hipparchia syriacha</i>			✓	✓	✓				
78	Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	
79	Great Sooty Satyr	<i>Satyrus ferrula</i>				✓	✓				
80	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Kanetisa circe</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
81	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>			✓				✓	✓	
82	Bright-eyed Ringlet	<i>Erebia oeme</i>							✓	✓	
83	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeri</i>							✓	✓	
84	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			
85	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>			✓	✓	✓				
86	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
87	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
88	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
89	Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
90	Eastern Large Heath	<i>Coenonympha rhodopensis</i>							✓		
91	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
92	Large Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>									✓
93	Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>		✓		✓					
94	Safflower Skipper	<i>Pyrgus carthami</i>							✓		
95	Orbed Red-underwing (Hungarian)Skipper	<i>Spilalia orbifer</i>			✓	✓			✓		
96	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>		✓			✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	July									
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
97	Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>										
98	Tufted Marbled Skipper	<i>Carcharodus flocciferus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓				
99	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>			✓						✓	
100	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>				✓	✓					
101	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>		✓	✓					✓		
102	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus flavus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
103	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	

## Birds (h = heard only)

1	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓					✓			
3	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>										✓
4	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>							✓			
5	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>									✓	
6	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓	✓						
7	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>										✓
8	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>										✓
9	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
10	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>			✓							
11	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		✓		✓						
13	Western Yellow Legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
14	Common (Feral) Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>									✓	
16	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
17	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		h	✓	h			h	✓	✓	✓
19	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartus melba</i>				✓			✓			
20	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>						✓			✓	
21	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
22	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>						✓	✓			
23	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>		✓								
24	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓							
25	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	✓									
26	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
27	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	✓						✓			✓
28	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
29	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
30	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			✓				✓			
31	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>			✓				✓			
32	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>							✓			
33	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
34	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓				✓			
35	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		h								
36	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>										✓
37	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		h								✓
38	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>										✓
39	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
40	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓				✓			
41	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓				✓			
42	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓									

	Common name	Scientific name	July							
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
43	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			h				h	
46	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	h	h	✓	h	
47	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>			✓					
48	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>								✓
49	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>					✓			
50	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		✓						
51	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>				✓	✓	✓		
52	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>							h	
53	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>							h	
54	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓						
55	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓			✓	h	
56	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>				✓				
57	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>							h	
58	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
59	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
61	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓				✓	
62	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓					✓	
63	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	h	
64	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
65	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓					
66	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>			✓	✓		✓		
67	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				✓	✓	✓		
68	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓					
70	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓						
71	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>						✓		
73	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>							✓	
74	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
75	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
76	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
77	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
78	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓	✓				
79	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>								
80	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
81	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	
82	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				✓			✓	
83	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>						✓		
84	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			✓	✓	✓			
85	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>				✓				

## Dragonflies & Damselflies

Beautiful Demoiselle, *Calopteryx virgo*  
 Azure Damselfly, *Coenagrion puella*  
 Broad-bodied Chaser, *Libellula depressa*  
 Norfolk Hawker, *Aeshna isoceles*

White-legged Damselfly, *Platycnemis pennipes*  
 Common Clubtail, *Gomphus vulgatissimus*  
 Common Blue Damselfly, *Enallagma cyathigerum*  
 Emperor Dragonfly, *Anax imperator*

## Amphibians & Reptiles

Edible Frog, <i>Pelophylax kl esculentus</i>	Marsh Frog, <i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>
Pool Frog, <i>Pelophylax lessonae</i>	Dalmatian Wall Lizard, <i>Podarcis melisellensis</i>
Italian Wall Lizard, <i>Podarcis sicula</i>	Common Wall Lizard, <i>Podarcis muralis</i>
Horvath's Rock Lizard, <i>Lacerta horvathi</i>	Balkan Green Lizard, <i>Lacerta trilineata</i>
European Glass Lizard, <i>Ophisaurus apodus</i>	Dalmatian Algyroides, <i>Algyroides nigropunctatus</i>
Grass Snake, <i>Natrix natrix</i>	Dice Snake, <i>Natrix tessellata</i>
Viper sp,	Turkish Gecko, <i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i>

## Mammals

European Hare, *Lepus europaeus*

## Other Insects

Locust, <i>Locusta migratoria</i>	Egyptian Grasshopper, <i>Anacrididae aegyptum</i>
Violet Carpenter Bee , <i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	Green Bush-cricket , <i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>
Assassin Bug, <i>Rhinocoris iracundus</i>	Ascalaphid (Owl Fly), <i>Libelloides longicornis</i>
Horsefly, <i>Chrysops caecutiens</i>	Green Chafer, <i>Gnorimus sp.</i>
Rose Chafer, <i>Cetonia aurata</i>	Bee Beetle, <i>Trichius fasciatus</i>
Bee Fly sp,	

## Spiders

Crab Spider sp, <i>Thomisidae sp</i>	Funnel Spider sp,
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## Molluscs

Roman Snail , *Helix pomatia*

## Short Plant List

The following has been kindly produced by Caroline Jackson-Houlston. These are the most striking plants for those with a general interest as well as aficionados. The locations are added to help members of future groups locate these lovely plants.

## Orchids

<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine	(woods, final day)
<i>Epipactis atrorubens</i>	Dark Red Helleborine	(buds only)
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid	(constituent of hay meadows on several days)
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid	(fine stand on roadside at first stop on way from airport, 5/6)
<i>Neotinia ustulata</i>	Burnt-tip Orchid	(hay meadows)
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's-nest Orchid	
<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Common Twayblade	(at first boat stop at Plitvika lakes, 6/6)
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	(most days, but especially Plitvika, 6/6)

<i>Ophrys ?dinarica</i>	This Woodcock-type Orchid is endemic to valleys near Mount Dinara; what we found before lunch on 7/6 fits the description in Delforge
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid (at first boat stop at Plitvika lakes, 6/6, and also in greater quantity in woods on last day, 11/6)
<i>Trausteinera globosa</i>	Round-headed Orchid (one in final hay meadow, 11/6; looks like a garlic head)

### Other notable plants

<i>Lilium bulbiferum</i>	Orange Lily	(thanks to Jim for the best ones on top of the hill, 10/6, but I think everyone saw them in the first meadow on 11/6)
<i>Ornithogalum pyrenaicum</i>	Bath Asparagus	(wonderful display of this stately Star of Bethlehem in fields behind first hotel)
<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	Crown of Thorns	(striking lime-green flowers and top-shaped fruits; food plant of Little Tiger Blue butterfly)
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	(the tree full of butterflies and other insects on 8/6; n.b. not Silver-leaved as the undersides of the leaves were not silvered, and the flowers were not erect. Nor was the floor carpeted with dozy bees. Silver-leaved is toxic to bumblebees.)

### Major components of hay meadows

The meadows behind our first hotel were a wonderful introduction to butterfly-rich habitat. They were full of colourful flowers, including Rampion Bellflower, Tuberous Pea and Bath Asparagus (*Campanula rapunculus*, *Lathyrus tuberosus* and *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum*). Interestingly, all these three have in the past been used for human food.

On the last afternoon the meadows were absolute stunning—probably the best in Europe for variety and colour. The variety of flowers is largely down to the presence of Yellow Rattles (likely fits for what we saw are *Rhinanthus alectorolophus*, *burnatii* and *rumelicus*). These are semi-parasitic on grasses, reducing their vigour and allowing herbs to flourish.

Characteristic of these fields were the ubiquitous blue Meadow Clary (*Salvia pratensis*) and creamy Dropwort (*Filipendula vulgaris*), crimson clover (*Trifolium rubens*), and the food plant of Festoon butterflies, *Aristolochia pallida* (or *lutea* if you want to split them) as well as three species of orchid.

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Cirl Bunting



Lappet



Owl Fly



Southern Comma