



Coenonympha dorus
©Xavier Houard

Mediterranean &
Corsica - France

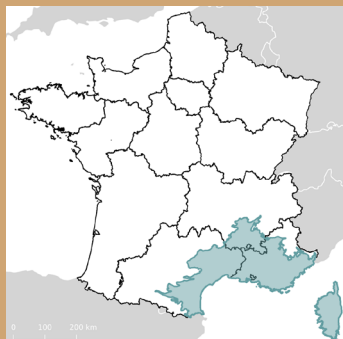
Field Guide for butterfly identification

The French section of the **European butterfly monitoring programme (Sterf-eBMS)** aims to monitor and promote the conservation of these insects. The programme relies on thousands of volunteers who identify and count butterflies using the same simple rules throughout Europe! Thanks to all this information collected by volunteers, we can determine the state of butterfly populations and take action to conserve them.

This Field Guide aims to facilitate the task of field identification of the **98 most common butterfly species seen in Mediterranean area and Corsica** of France.

*This Field Guide can be downloaded at the
eBMS website*

www.butterfly-monitoring.net/field-guides



Counting butterflies will help to protect them!

French Butterflies

The aim of this field guide is to present the **98 butterfly species most commonly seen in the mediterranean area and Corsica** of France, and to make it easier to identify them. Beware, that in some cases, the species may require capture or even examination of the genitalia to confirm identification. This mini-guide is designed to help you, but does not cover all the species in the given area. It also describes the Sterf-eBMS protocol for setting up and monitoring transects and counting butterflies.

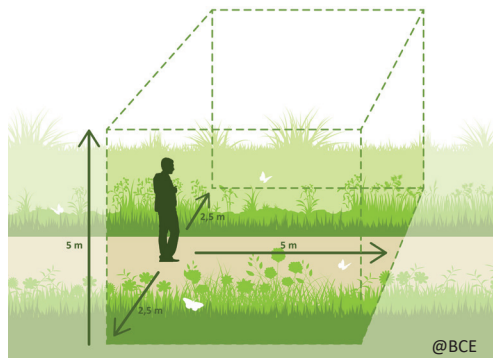
Butterfly Monitoring

Butterflies can be counted everywhere: in a meadow, in a forest, park, garden, along road verge, in the countryside and in the city. Wherever it is, every count is important. As part of the European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (eBMS), data is most often collected during the “Butterfly Walk”, called a **transect**. This is a fixed route where butterflies are counted regularly (species and abundances), preferably once a week or two. It will be most convenient to set up your transect near your home or work so that you can visit it often. Another option is to record butterflies during “**15-min Count**”. It consists in counting butterflies for 15 minutes in a given area. It can be a path, a restricted area (e.g. a garden) or just a specific point.

You can use the eBMS mobile application, [ButterflyCount](#), to record “eBMS Transects” or “15-minute counts”. For the latter methodology, turn on the GPS and the application will draw your route while counting butterflies. You will need to create an account on the eBMS website and log into the application to record butterflies with the application. More information is available on the eBMS website www.butterfly-monitoring.net/eBMS-app.

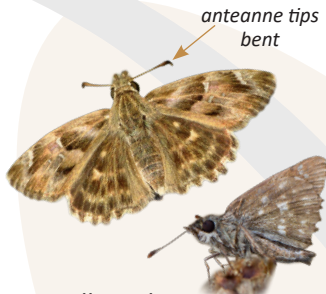
Basic rules when counting butterflies:



- Count all butterfly species and all individuals you encounter in an imaginary cube: 2.5m to the left and right, and 5m in front of and above you
- Walk through the transect/area at a slow, steady pace
- Make observations with good weather (sunny and warm, no rain and strong wind)
- Submit your data to the eBMS database or to the BMS coordinator

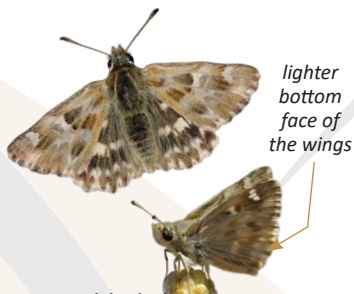




How to use this Field Guide

This field guide shows images of the **98 most common butterfly species** currently found in the Mediterranean and Corsica area of France. The butterflies are organised by family and relationship to similar species. Every butterfly species has both a common English name and a scientific name (written in *italics*). For better identification look at the flight periods bar below each species shows the months they fly in brown, and the butterfly symbol on the right which shows the approximate size (**small**, **medium** or **large**). Please note that butterfly sizes are not to scale for better observation of details. The eye symbol indicates whether **identification is easy**, **requires capture** or even **examination of the genitalia**. Check the diagnostic characteristics highlighted in this guide with the arrows or circles and the remarks to help you with the identification. Butterfly identification is often best done using photographs. See also the legend on the back cover of the Field Guide.





Mallow Skipper
Carcharodus alceae  
J F M A M J J A S O N D





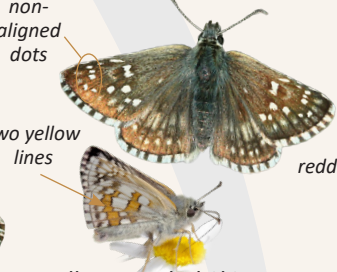
Marbled Skipper  
Carcharodus lavatherae
J F M A M J J A S O N D





Southern Marbled Skipper  
Carcharodus baeticus
J F M A M J J A S O N D





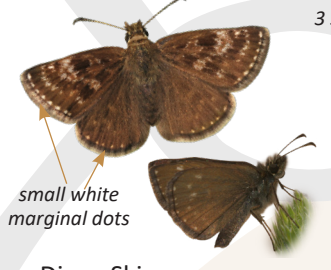
Southern Grizzled Skipper  
Pyrgus malvoides
J F M A M J J A S O N D





Yellow Banded Skipper  
Pyrgus sidae
J F M A M J J A S O N D





Red Underwing Skipper  
Spialia sertorius
J F M A M J J A S O N D





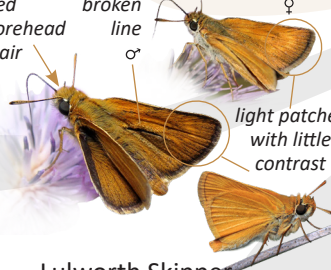
Dingy Skipper  
Erynnis tages
J F M A M J J A S O N D





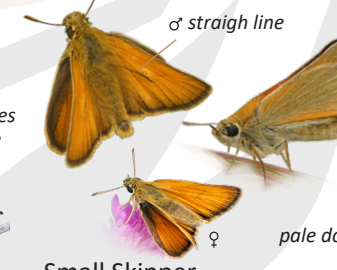
Sage Skipper  
Muschampia proto
J F M A M J J A S O N D





Silver-spotted Skipper  
Hesperia comma
J F M A M J J A S O N D





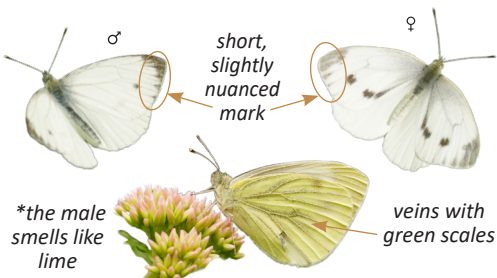
Lulworth Skipper  
Thymelicus acteon
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Small Skipper  
Thymelicus sylvestris
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Large Skipper  
Ochlodes sylvanus
J F M A M J J A S O N D

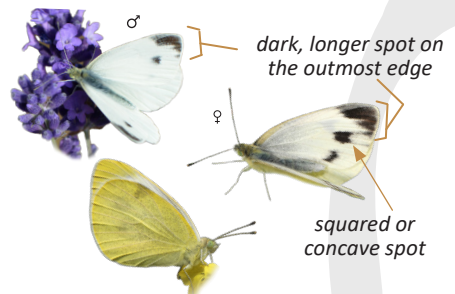


*the male smells like lime

Green-veined White

Pieris napi

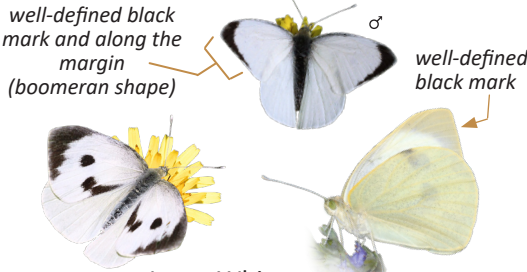
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Southern Small White

Pieris mannii

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Large White

Pieris brassicae

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Small White

Pieris rapae

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Wood White

Leptidea sinapis

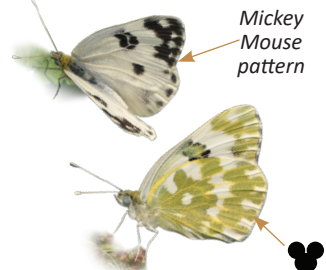
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Black-veined White

Aporia crataegi

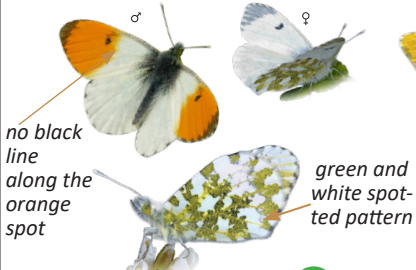
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Bath White

Pontia daplidice

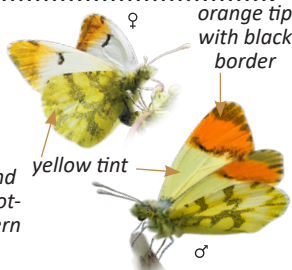
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Orange-tip

Anthocharis cardamines

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Provencal Orange-tip

Anthocharis euphenoides

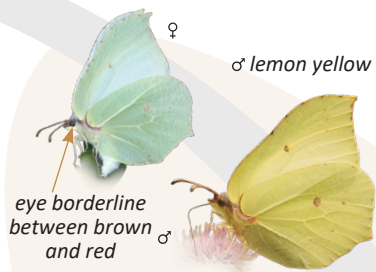
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|





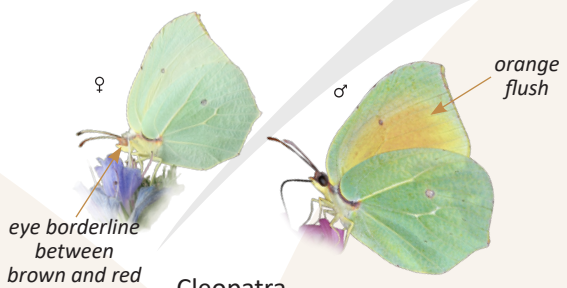
Western Dappled White



Euchloe crameri

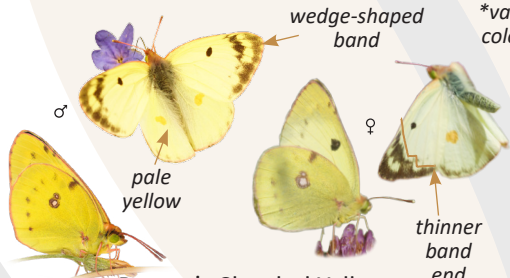
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|





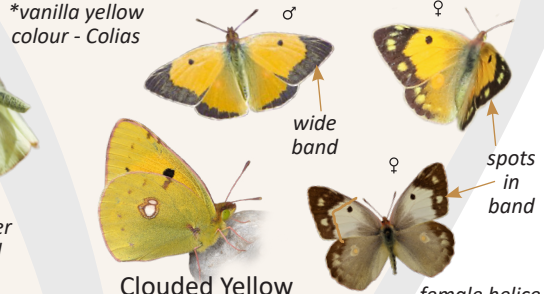
Brimstone
Gonepteryx rhamni  
J F M A M J J A S O N D





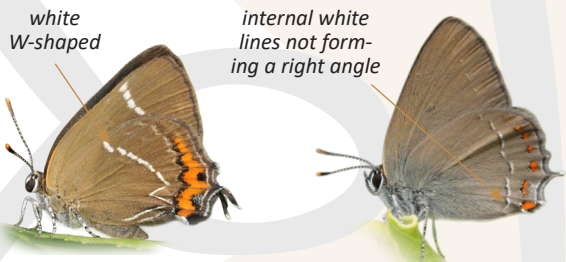
Cleopatra
Gonepteryx cleopatra  
J F M A M J J A S O N D






Berger's Clouded Yellow
Colias alfacariensis  
J F M A M J J A S O N D





Clouded Yellow
Colias crocea   female helice form
J F M A M J J A S O N D

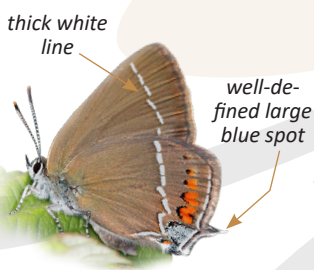



White-letter Hairstreak
Satyrium w-album  
J F M A M J J A S O N D

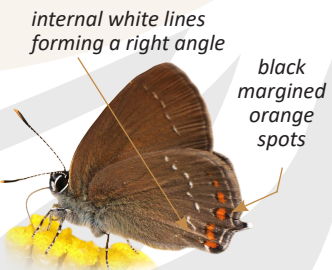
False Ilex Hairstreak
Satyrium esculi  
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Spanish Purple Hairstreak
Laeosopis roboris  
J F M A M J J A S O N D





Blue-spot Hairstreak
Satyrium spini  
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Ilex Hairstreak
Satyrium ilicis  
J F M A M J J A S O N D





Sloe Hairstreak
Satyrium acaciae  
J F M A M J J A S O N D

flying on the top trees;
better search for eggs in
winter on *Prunus spinosa*

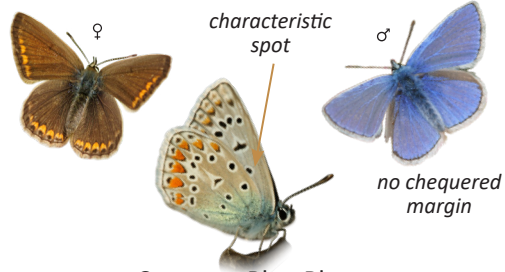




Brown Hairstreak
Thecla betulae  
J F M A M J J A S O N D

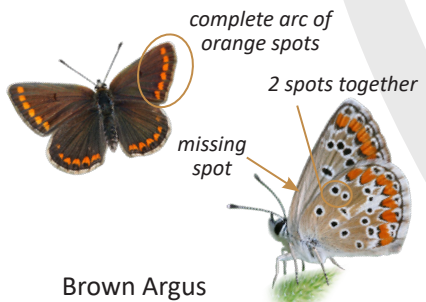
Chapman's Green Haristreak
Callophrys avis  
J F M A M J J A S O N D





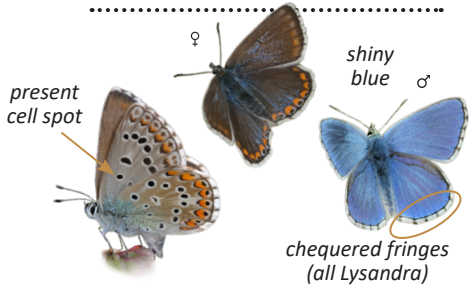
Green Hairstreak
Callophrys rubi  
J F M A M J J A S O N D





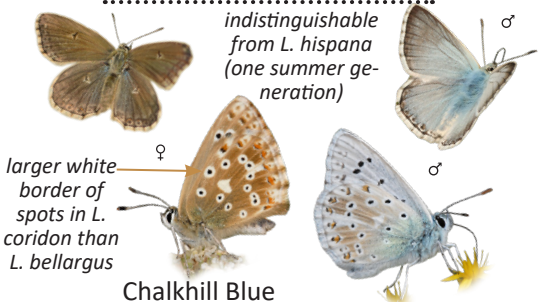
Common Blue Blue
Polyommatus icarus  
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Brown Argus
Aricia agestis  
J F M A M J J A S O N D



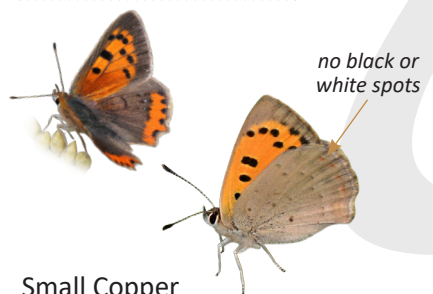
Adonis Blue
Lysandra bellargus  
J F M A M J J A S O N D





Chalkhill Blue
Lysandra coridon  
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Spanish Brassy Ringlet
Lysandra hispana  
J F M A M J J A S O N D

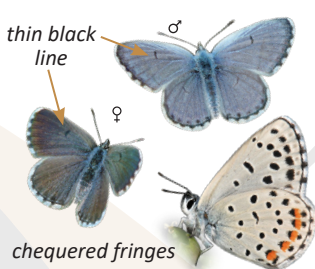


Small Copper
Lycaena phlaeas  
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Silver-studded Blue
Plebejus argus

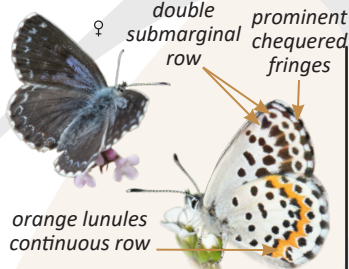
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Baton Blue

Pseudophilotes baton

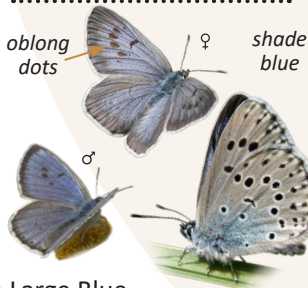
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Chequered Blue

Scolitantides orion

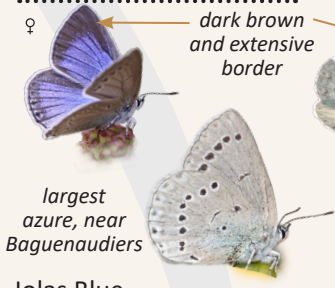
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Large Blue

Phengaris arion

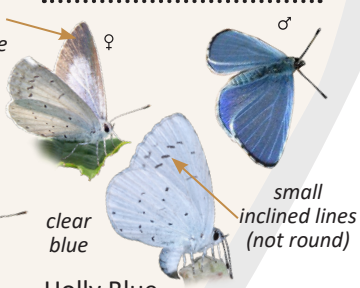
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Iolas Blue

Iolana iolas

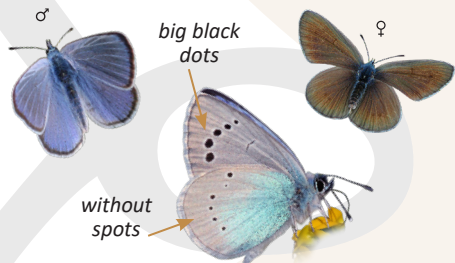
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Holly Blue

Celastrina argiolus

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Green-underside Blue

Glaucopsyche alexis

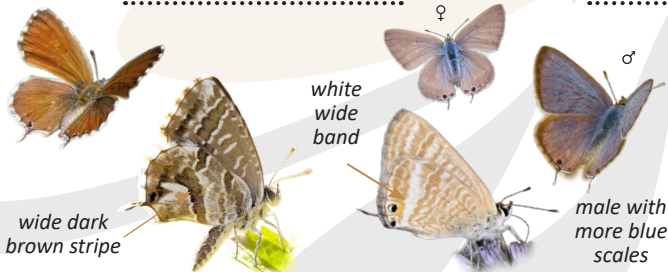
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Black-eyed Blue

Glaucopsyche melanops

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Geranium Bronze

Cacyreus marshalli

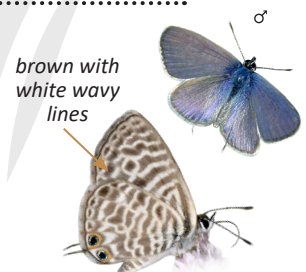
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Long-tailed Blue

Lampides boeticus

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|





Lang's Short-tailed Blue

Leptotes pirithous



| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

PAPILIONIDAE - SWALLOWTAILS

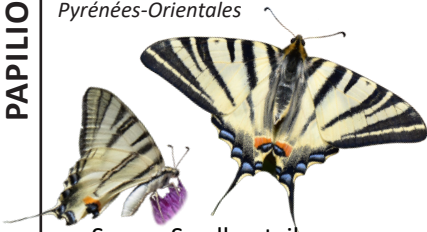




Swallowtail
Papilio machaon  
J F M A M J J A S O N D

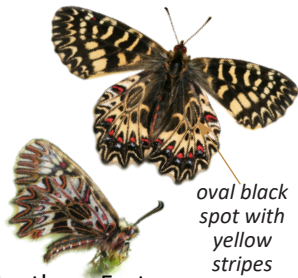




Corsican Swallowtail
Papilio hospiton  
J F M A M J J A S O N D

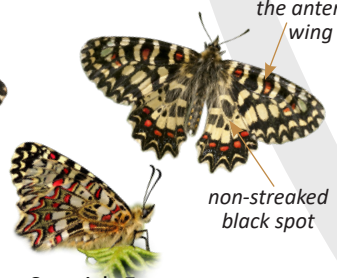
*replaced by *l. feisthamelii* in the Pyrénées-Orientales



Scarce Swallowtail
Iphiclides podalirius  
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Southern Festoon
Zerynthia polyxena  
J F M A M J J A S O N D



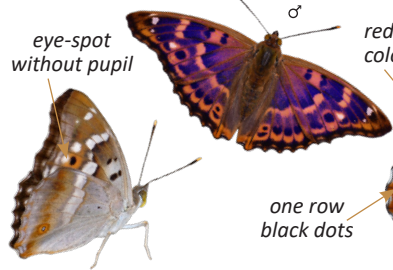
Spanish Festoon
Zerynthia rumina  
J F M A M J J A S O N D

red dots on the anterior wing

oval black spot with yellow stripes



non-streaked black spot

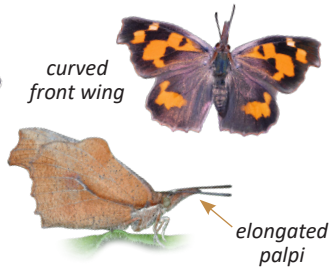
NYPHALIDAE





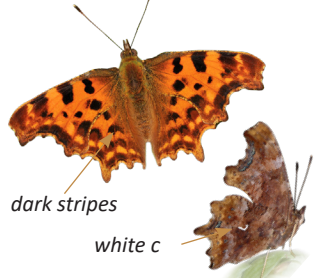
Lesser Purple Emperor
Apatura ilia  
J F M A M J J A S O N D





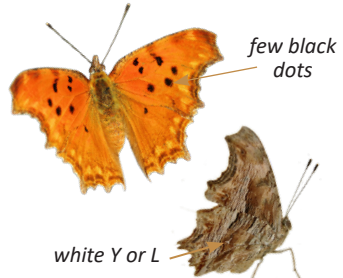
Southern White Admiral
Limenitis reducta  
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Nettle Tree Butterfly
Libythea celtis  
J F M A M J J A S O N D





Comma
Polygonia c-album  
J F M A M J J A S O N D



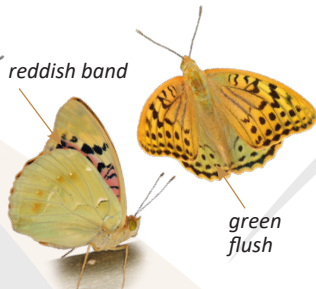
Peacock
Polygonia egea  
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Large Tortoiseshell
Nymphalis polychloros  
J F M A M J J A S O N D





green with silver stripes





reddish band

green flush



Silver-washed Fritillary
Argynnis paphia  

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Cardinal
Argynnis pandora  

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Corsican Fritillary
Fabriciana elisa  

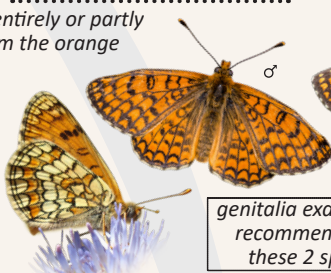
J F M A M J J A S O N D



♂ black markings entirely or partly separated from the orange

Spotted Fritillary
Melitaea didyma  

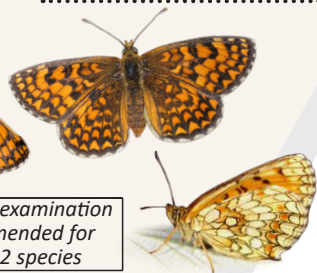
J F M A M J J A S O N D





genitalia examination recommended for these 2 species

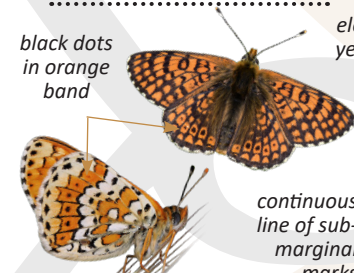
Provencal Fritillary
Melitaea deione  

J F M A M J J A S O N D



Southern Heath Fritillary
Melitaea celadussa  

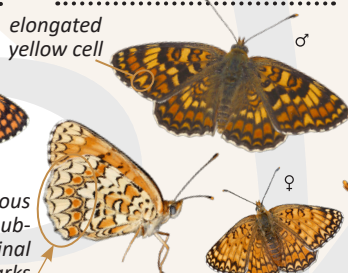
J F M A M J J A S O N D



black dots in orange band


Glanville Fritillary
Melitaea cinxia  

J F M A M J J A S O N D

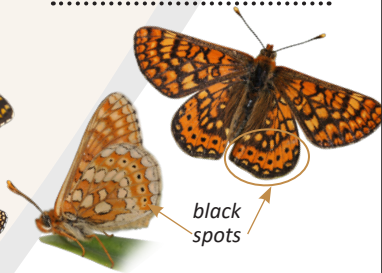


elongated yellow cell

continuous line of sub-marginal marks

Knapweed Fritillary
Melitaea phoebe  

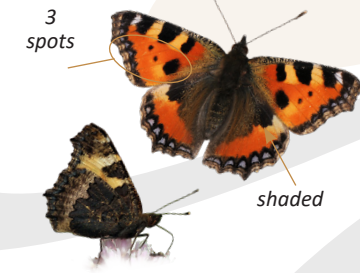
J F M A M J J A S O N D



black spots



Marsh Fritillary
Euphydryas aurinia  

J F M A M J J A S O N D



3 spots

shaded

Small Tortoiseshell
Aglais urticae  

J F M A M J J A S O N D



Red Admiral
Vanessa atalanta  

J F M A M J J A S O N D



Painted Lady
Vanessa cardui  

J F M A M J J A S O N D



Two Tailed Pasha
Charaxes jasius



J F M A M J J A S O N D

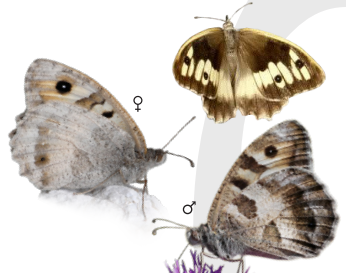


Plain Tiger

Danaus chrysippus



J F M A M J J A S O N D



Hermit

Chazara briseis



J F M A M J J A S O N D

3 brown lines at the top of the anterior area

chequered pattern



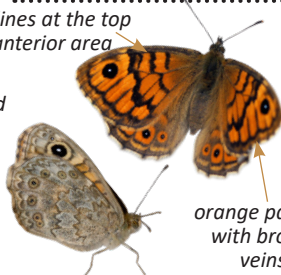
white band with spots in the middle

Dusky Heath

Coenonympha dorus



J F M A M J J A S O N D



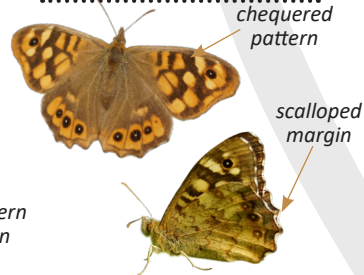
orange pattern with brown veins

Wall Brown

Lasiommata megera



J F M A M J J A S O N D



scalloped margin

Speckled Wood

Pararge aegeria



J F M A M J J A S O N D

eyespot with yellow ring

discontinuous pale stripe

pale wide band

usually one or more small black eyespots

Small Heath

Coenonympha pamphilus



J F M A M J J A S O N D

Meadow Brown

Maniola jurtina



J F M A M J J A S O N D



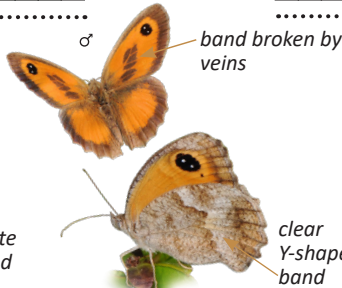
white band

Spanish Gatekeeper

Pyronia bathseba



J F M A M J J A S O N D



band broken by veins

Southern Gatekeeper

Pyronia cecilia



J F M A M J J A S O N D



white band



Great Banded Grayling

Brintesia circe





J F M A M J J A S O N D



Rock Grayling
Hipparchia alcyone  

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



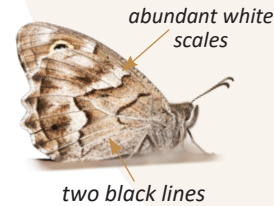
Lesser Rock Grayling
Hipparchia genava  

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Woodland Grayling
Hipparchia fagi  

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Striped Grayling
Hipparchia fidia  

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Tree Grayling
Hipparchia statilinus  



| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



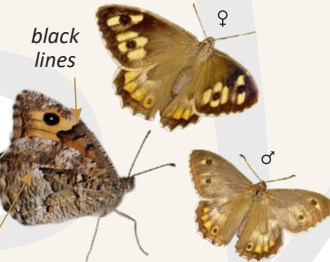
Southern Grayling
Hipparchia aristaeus  



| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



False Grayling
Arethusana arethusa  



| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



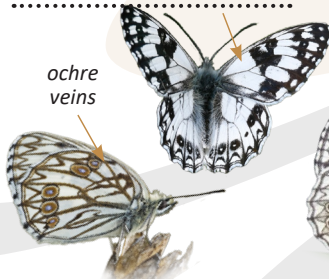
Grayling
Hipparchia semele  



| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



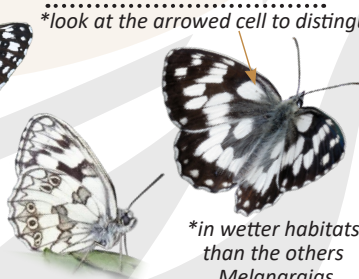
Corsican Grayling
Hipparchia neomiris  

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Western Marbled White
Melanargia occitanica  

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Marbled White
Melanargia galathea  

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Iberian Marbled White
Melanargia lachesis  

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

*look at the arrowed cell to distinguish the Melanargias

Butterfly Conservation Europe and the **UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology** (UKCEH) established the European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (eBMS) to bring together data from different Butterfly Monitoring Schemes of Europe. All member countries share their data annually to the eBMS database, to analyse and produce the population trends of the European butterfly species and European Butterfly Indicators, which provide an expert basis for further action in the conservation of butterflies and their habitats. Visit the website of eBMS, www.butterfly-monitoring.net to get more information about butterfly monitoring and how to submit your butterfly data.

The **Sterf** (*Suivi temporel des Rhopalocères de France*) is a citizen science project launched in 2005, based on the English name, butterfly monitoring scheme (BMS). It is co-hosted by the National Museum of Natural History of Paris (MNHN), the Office for insects and their Environment (Opie) and the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB), as part of of the National Action Plan in favor of threatened butterflies. Contact email at: mathieu.deflores@insectes.org

This guide was created by Butterfly Conservation Europe, eBMS & OPIE.

Authors: Mathieu de Flores, Benoit Fontaine, Bastien Louboutin, Alexis Borges and Cristina G. Sevilleja.

Photography: Philippe Dauge, Bastien Louboutin, Alexandre Ruffoni; Juan Pablo Cancela, Helena Romo, Saba González, Juan Ignacio Arce, Miguel Carballa, Jose Rodrigo Dapena, Javier Olivares, Alberto and José Ramón Sanchís (Spanish BMS); Paolo Mazzei, Marco Bonifacino, Raniero Panfili and Daniel Morel (www.leps.it); Carlos Viveiros, Christos Zoumides, Mariano Vindel, Juan Manuel Sanchez, Izabella Dziekanska, Martin Wiemers, Albert Vliegthart, Bert van Rijsewijk and Chris van Swaay.

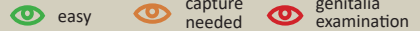
eBMS - European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme

Graphic design: Cristina G. Sevilleja

December 2024



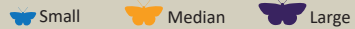
Identification difficulty:



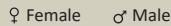
Flight period: months when butterflies are seen flying.



Butterfly size:



Sex:



Species only present in Corsica:



Symbols:

