



Underside *Maniola jurtina*
@Helena Romo

Common
Spanish
butterflies

Field Guide for butterfly identification

The **European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (eBMS)** aims to promote the monitoring and conservation of this group of insects. This programme is based on thousands of volunteers who systematically count butterflies in accordance with simple, uniform rules for the entire continent. Using all the data collected by volunteers, we can determine the state of the butterfly population and conserve them more effectively.

This Field Guide aims to facilitate the task of field identification of the **105 most common butterfly species seen in Spain**. The guide also serves as a support tool for those involved in the monitoring of butterflies and describes the standardised methodologies used by **eBMS**.

*This Field Guide can be downloaded at the eBMS website
www.butterfly-monitoring.net/field-guides*

Counting butterflies will help to protect them!

Spanish Butterflies

Spain is home to 258 species of butterflies belonging to six families. Our region forms part of two hotspots of diversity, the Iberian Peninsula in the Mediterranean Basin, and the Canary Islands in the Macaronesian zone. Spain therefore has a varied butterfly fauna, which also contains a high number of endemic species (species that occur only in Spain). Our butterfly fauna is especially rich in the mountains.

Butterfly Monitoring

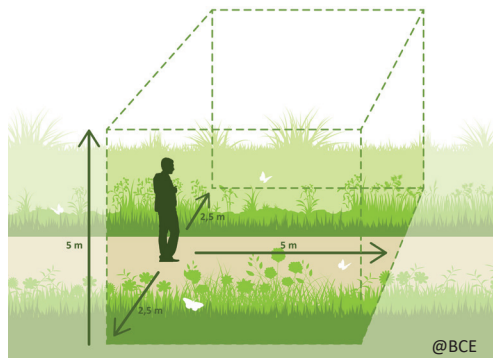
Butterflies can be counted everywhere: in a meadow, in a forest, park, garden, along road verges, in the countryside and in the city. Wherever it is, every count is important. As part of the European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (eBMS), data is most often collected during the “Butterfly Walk”, called a **transect**. This is a fixed route where butterflies are counted regularly, 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 a “**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 the butterflies of each species 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 **105 most common butterfly species** currently found in Spain, including the Canary endemic species. 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. Endangered and vulnerable species are marked with letters (Ⓔ and ⒱). 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.

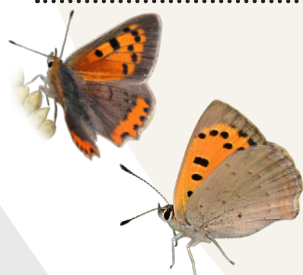
browner
pattern than
P. aegeria



Canary Speckled Wood
Pararge xiphioides



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
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



Iberian Sooty Copper
Lycaena bleusei



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



Purple Hairstreak
Favonius quercus



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



Canary Red Admiral
Vanessa vulcania



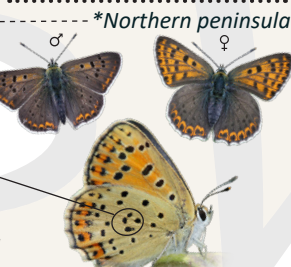
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



Scarce Copper
Lycaena virgaureae



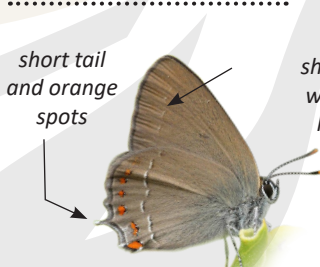
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



Sooty Copper
Lycaena tityrus



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
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



Canary Blue
Leptotes webbianus



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

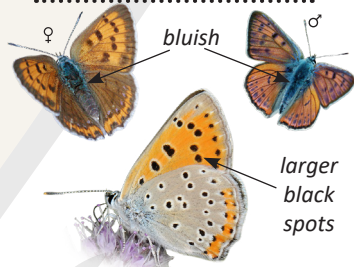
Callophrys avis reddish eye band



Green Hairstreak
Callophrys rubi



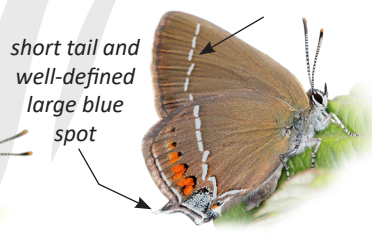
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



Purple-shot Copper
Lycaena alciphron



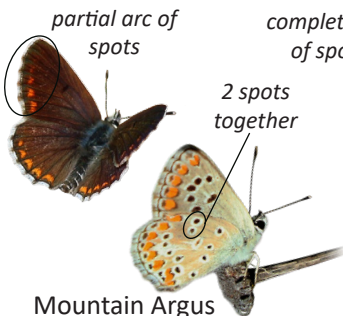
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



Blue-spot Hairstreak
Satyrium spini

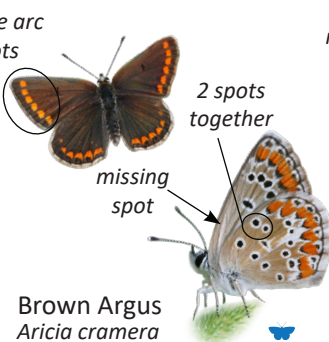


J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



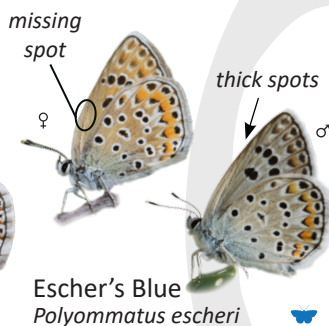
Mountain Argus
Aricia montensis

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



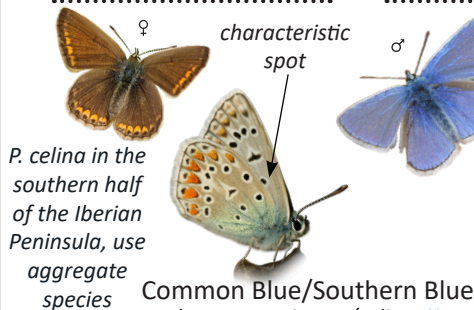
Brown Argus
Aricia cramera

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



Escher's Blue
Polyommatus escheri

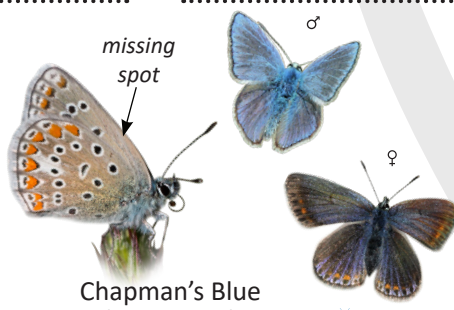
J F M A M J J A S O N D



P. celina in the southern half of the Iberian Peninsula, use aggregate species

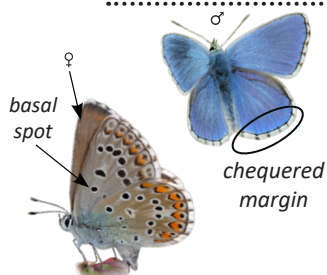
Common Blue/Southern Blue
Polyommatus icarus/celina

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



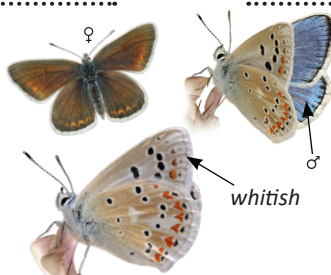
Chapman's Blue
Polyommatus thersites

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



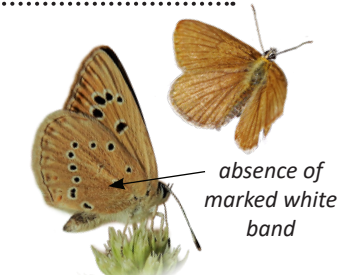
Adonis Blue
Lysandra bellargus


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



Turquoise Blue
Polyommatus dorylas

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



Oberthur's Anomalous Blue 
Polyommatus fabressei

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



*flies in the Northern peninsula

Chalk Hill Blue
Lysandra coridon

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



male more whitish in *L. albicans*

Spanish Chalk Hill Blue
Lysandra albicans

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



*flies in the Sistema Ibérico

Azure Chalk Hill Blue 
Lysandra caelestissima

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



Provencal Hairstreak
Tomares ballus

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



African Glass Blue
Zizeeria knysna

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



spots
displaced



Mazarine Blue
Cyaniris semiargus

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



the males are pale blue
on the upperside



Silver-studded/Idas Blue
Plebejus argus/idas

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

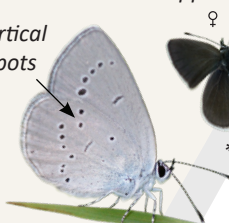


Holly Blue
Celastrina argiolus

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



vertical
spots



Small Blue
Cupido minimus

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

*species
so
small



without
spots

Green-underside Blue
Glaucopsyche alexis

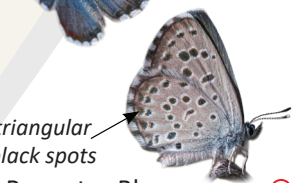
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

grey
spots

Black-eyed Blue
Glaucopsyche melanops

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

elongated
spot without
pale scales



triangular
black spots

Panoptes Blue
Pseudophilotes panoptes

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
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

white
wide
band



Long-tailed Blue
Lampides boeticus

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

brown with
white wavy
lines



Lang's Short-tailed Blue
Leptotes pirithous

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



Swallowtail
Papilio machaon



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



Apollo
Parnassius apollo



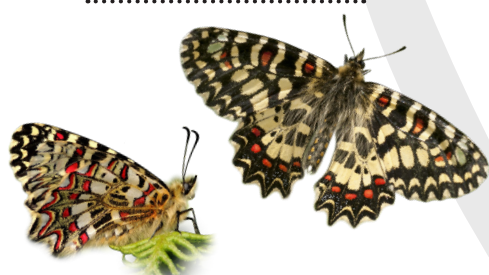
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Southern Scarc Swallowtail
Iphiclydes feisthamelii



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

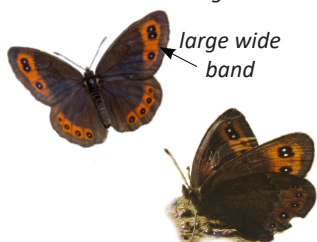


Spanish Festoon
Zerynthia rumina



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

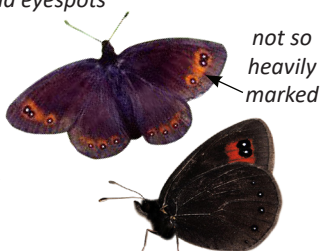
*Erebias: look at orange bands and eyespots



Chapman's Ringlet
Erebia palarica



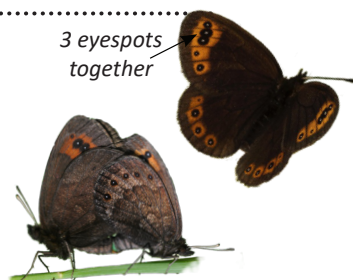
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Piedmont Ringlet
Erebia meolans



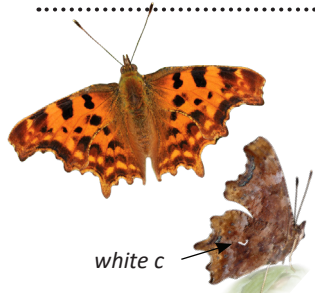
J F M A M J J A S O N D



de Prunner's Ringlet
Erebia triaria



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



Comma
Polygonia c-album



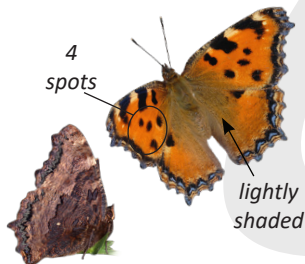
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Peacock
Aglais io



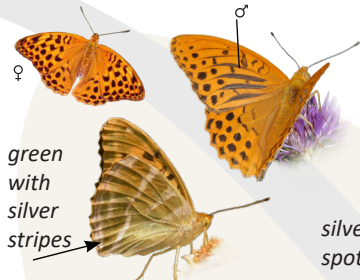
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Large Tortoiseshell
Nymphalis polychloros



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



green with silver stripes

silvery spots

Silver-washed Fritillary
Argynnis paphia

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



reddish-brown spots

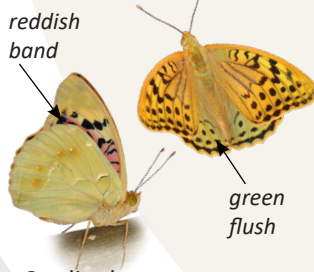
Dark Green Fritillary
Speyeria aglaja

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



High Brown Fritillary
Fabriciana adippe

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



reddish band

green flush

large silver spots

brown eyespots

Cardinal
Argynnis pandora

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

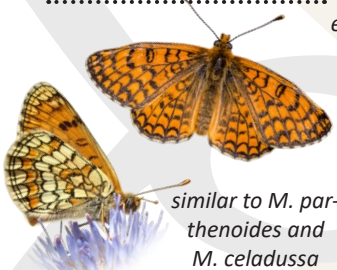
Queen of Spain Fritillary
Issoria lathonia

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



Niobe Fritillary
Fabriciana niobe

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



elongated yellow cell

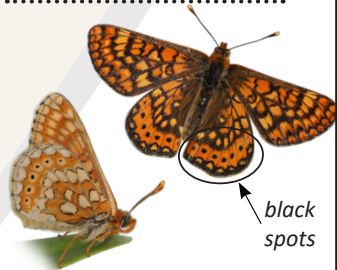
similar to *M. parthenoides* and *M. celadussa*

Provencal Fritillary
Melitaea deione

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

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
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



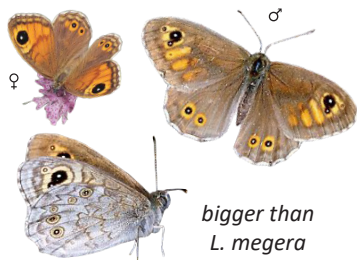
Red Admiral
Vanessa atalanta

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



Painted Lady
Vanessa cardui

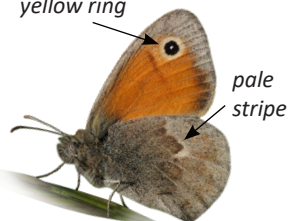
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



Large Wall Brown
Lasiommata maera

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

eyespot with
yellow ring



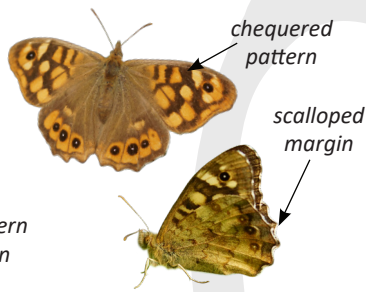
Small Heath
Coenonympha pamphilus

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



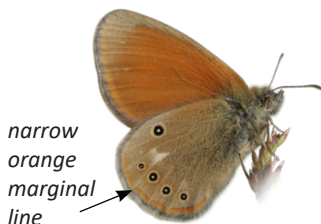
Wall Brown
Lasiommata megera

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



Speckled Wood
Pararge aegeria

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



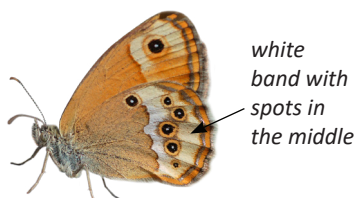
Chestnut Heath
Coenonympha glycerion

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



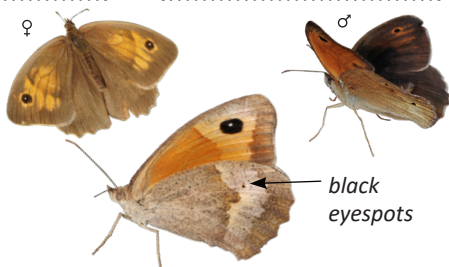
Pearly Heath
Coenonympha arcania

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



Dusky Heath
Coenonympha dorus

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



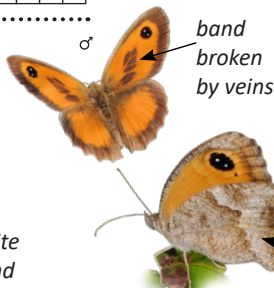
Meadow Brown
Maniola jurtina

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



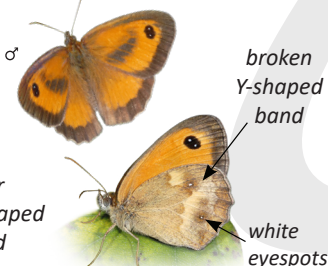
Spanish Gatekeeper
Pyronia bathseba

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



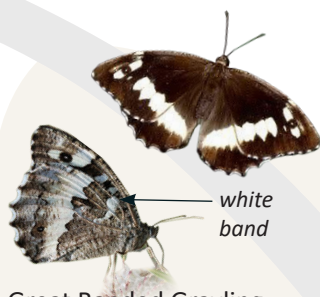
Southern Gatekeeper
Pyronia cecilia

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



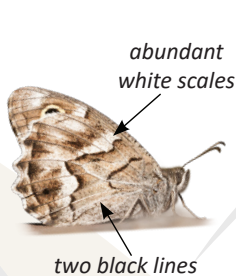
Gatekeeper
Pyronia tithonus

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



Great Banded Grayling
Brintesia circe

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



Black Satyr
Satyrus actaea

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



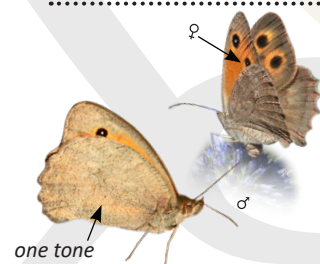
Grayling
Hipparchia semele

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



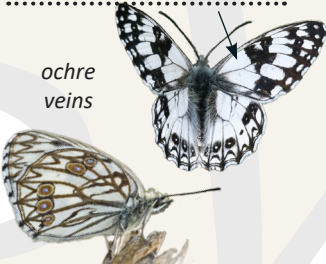
Rock Grayling
Hipparchia hermione

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



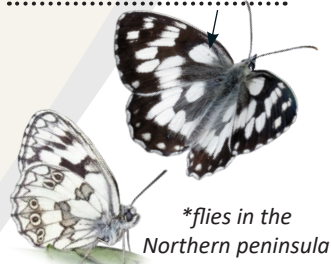
Oriental Meadow Brown
Hyponephele lupina

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



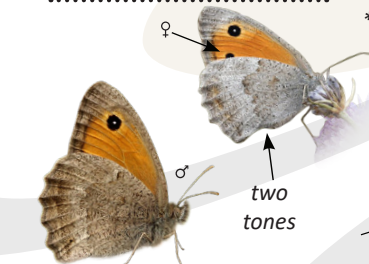
Western Marbled White
Melanargia occitanica

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



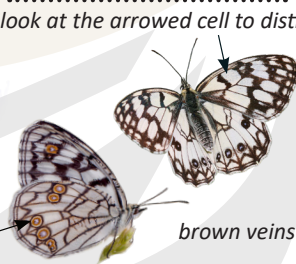
Marbled White
Melanargia galathea

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



Dusky Meadow Brown
Hyponephele lycaon

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



Spanish Marbled White
Melanargia ines

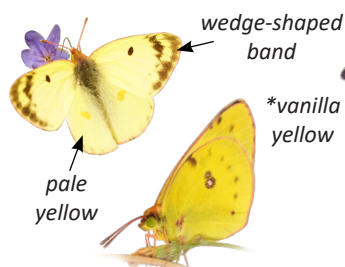
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Iberian Marbled White
Melanargia lachesis

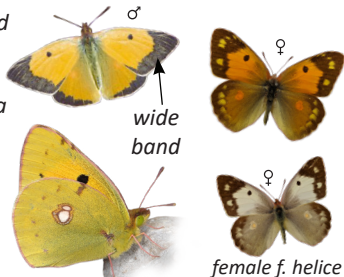
J F M A M J J A S O N D

*look at the arrowed cell to distinguish the Melanargias



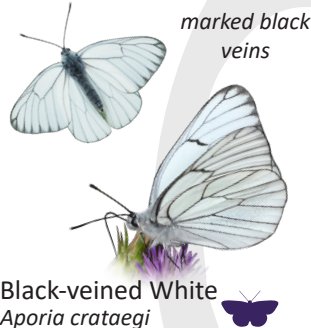
Berger's Clouded Yellow
Colias alfacariensis

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



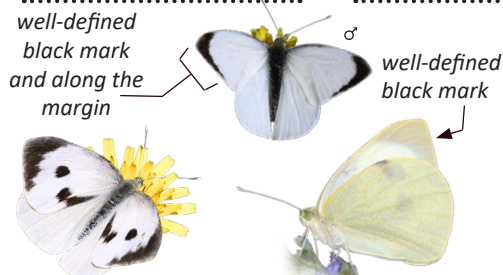
Clouded Yellow
Colias crocea

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



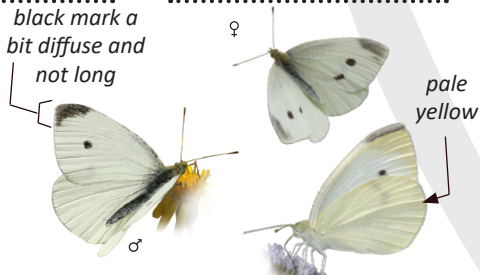
Black-veined White
Aporia crataegi

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



Large White
Pieris brassicae

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



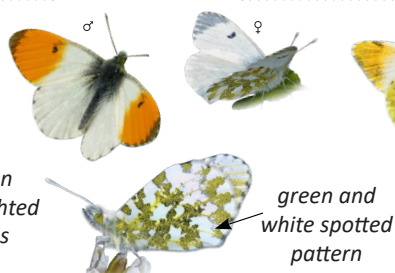
Small White
Pieris rapae

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



Green-veined White
Pieris napi

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



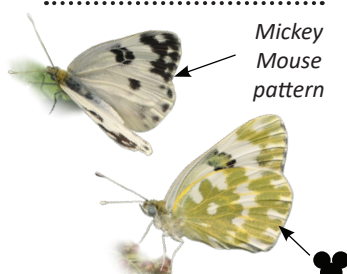
Provencal Orange-tip
Anthocharis euphenoides

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



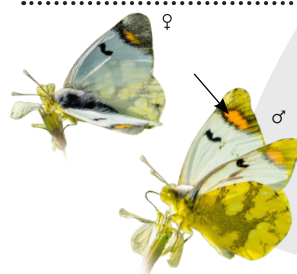
Western Dappled White
Euchloe crameri

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



Bath White
Pontia daplidice

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



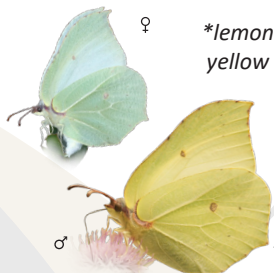
Sooty Orange-tip
Zegris eupheme

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



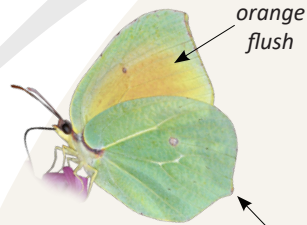
Wood White
Leptidea sinapis

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



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

3 spots +
1 displaced



Cinquefoil Skipper
Pyrgus cirsi

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

3 spots



Sage Skipper
Muschampia proto

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

*position of spots on the forewing to determine Genus

4 spots
in line

reddish



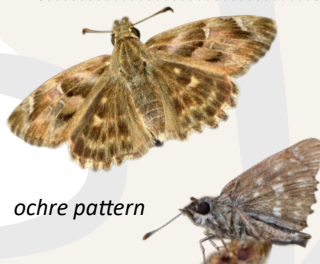
Red Underwing Skipper
Spialia sertorius

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



Mallow Skipper
Carcharodus alceae

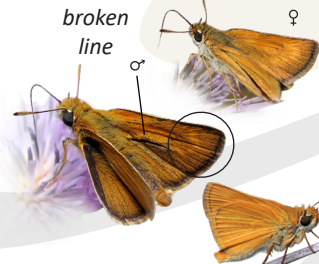
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Silver-spotted Skipper
Hesperia comma

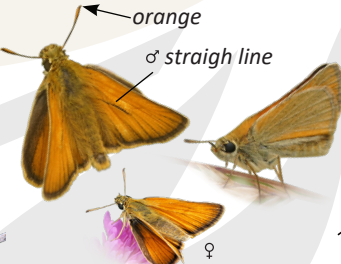
J F M A M J J A S O N D

broken
line



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

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.

Spain BMS is the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme of Spain started in 2014 in the vast majority of National Parks together with other monitoring initiatives. At present, several associations and institutions are collaborating. Thanks to the great work of volunteers this great network is possible, monitoring more than 150 transects throughout Spain. To participate in Spain BMS, please contact SOCEME, Society for the Conservation and Study of Butterflies in Spain: info.soceme@gmail.com

This guide was funded by DG-Env (European Commission) under the SPRING service contract.

Authors: Cristina G. Sevilleja, Saba González, Juan Pablo Cancela, Miguel Munguira, Helena Romo, Juan Ignacio Arce, Amparo Mora, Jose Miguel Barea, Ángel Marco Barea and Sergio Montagud (Spain BMS).

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

Graphic design: Eveline van der Jagt and Cristina G. Sevilleja

eBMS - European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme
SPRING - Strengthening Pollinator Recovery through
Indicators and monitoring




Conservation Status in Spain (Red List):

 Vulnerable  Endangered

Flight period: months when butterflies are seen flying,
based on Fauna Ibérica.

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

Butterfly size:

 Small  Median  Large

Sex:

♀ Female ♂ Male



Symbols:

→ ○ Specific characteristics to help on butterfly identification

June 2022

