



Aporia crataegi

Pianura Padana species

Field Guide for Butterflies Identification

The **European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (eBMS)** aims to collect data and promote monitoring and conservation of these insects. The BMS network includes thousands of volunteers collecting data following the same protocol.

The aim of this guide is to help field identification of the most common species in the area of Padana Plain. It is also helpful for all volunteers collecting data following the standard eBMS protocol to monitor butterfly species all over Europe.

This guide can be downloaded as pdf file at the following website:

www.butterfly-monitoring.net/it/guide-da-campo

Count butterflies to save them!

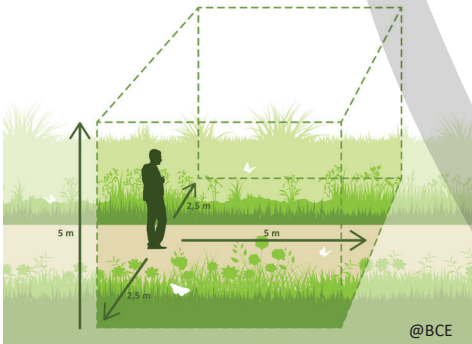
Italian Butterflies

Italy supports a great variety of butterfly species, due to the diversity of habitats that occur. Around 290 butterfly species can be found over the whole country. This guide presents 93 butterfly species commonly seen in the Padana Plain and surrounding areas.

Butterfly Monitoring

To monitor butterflies we use the transect method, where a person count all butterfly species and individuals along a path inside an imaginary cube of 5x5x5 meters (see image below).

The transect must be monitored frequently, at least once every two weeks (every 10 days), in a timeframe roughly between 10am and 4pm, and with a temperature between 13°C and 35°C. It may consist of several sections, normally corresponding to different habitats. Before starting and at the end, the recorder has to note temperature, percentage of sun, and wind strength using the Beaufort scale (see the table).



Another method for monitoring butterflies is the 15-minutes count, though the app **ButterflyCount**. It is possible to do the count anywhere, along a path or on a fixed point, following the same instructions as previously described regarding weather and time, and turning the phone GPS on while the app is running.

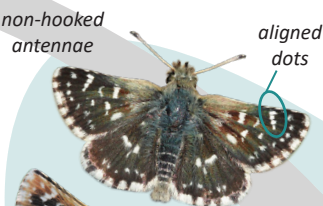
For more information, please visit the website www.butterfly-monitoring.net/it or contact help.itbms@gmail.com.

Beaufort scale

0 Calm	Smoke climbs vertically
1 Light Air	Direction shown by smoke drift but not by wind vanes
2 Light breeze	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; wind vane moved by wind
3 Gentle Breeze	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion
4 Moderate Breeze	Raises dust and loose paper; small branches moved
5 Fresh Breeze	Small trees in leaf begin to sway

How to use this guide

This guide shows 93 species of butterflies you can find in the Padania Plain and surrounding areas. Species are ordered by family and similar species are grouped together to help in their identification. Usually, both upper and under side are shown. For those species with sexual dimorphism (males and females have different appearance), both males and females are shown. For an easier identification, pay attention to flight periods: the bars below each species show in greenish the months during when butterflies are flying. The symbol on the right represents the approximate size of the species (small, medium, or large). Please note that pictures are not on scale, to better show the details of the different species. Please check the characters highlighted in this guide through arrows or circles to help with identification. Correct identification of butterflies is often easier through pictures or catching them. On the last page of this guide, you will find the complete legend of all the used symbols.



Red-underwing Skipper
Spialia orbifer

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



Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper
Pyrgus armoricanus

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



Southern Grizzled Skipper
Pyrgus malvoides

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



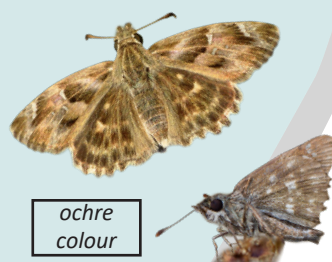
Large Chequered Skipper
Heteropterus morpheus

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



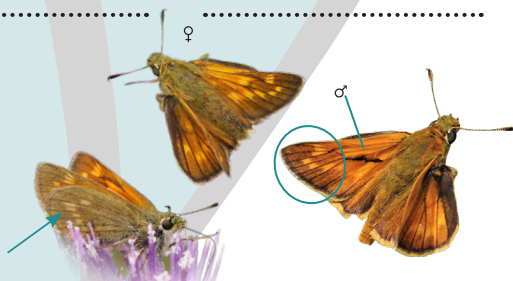
Mallow Skipper
Carcharodus alceae

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



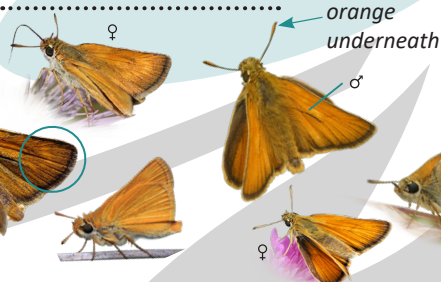
Silver-spotted Skipper
Hesperia comma

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



Large Skipper
Ochlodes sylvanus

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

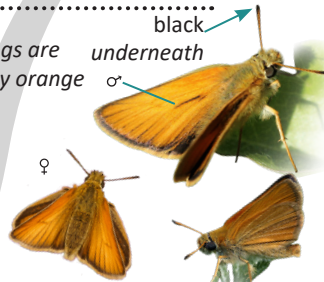


Lulworth Skipper
Thymelicus acteon

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

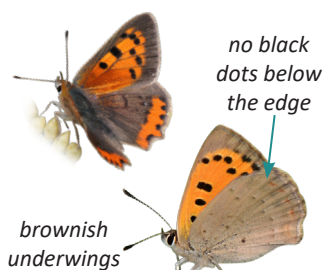
Small Skipper
Thymelicus sylvestris

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



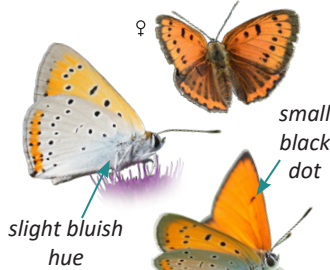
Essex Skipper
Thymelicus lineola

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



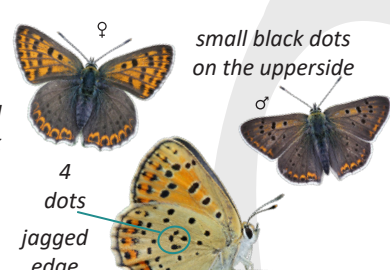
Small Copper
Lycaena phlaeas

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



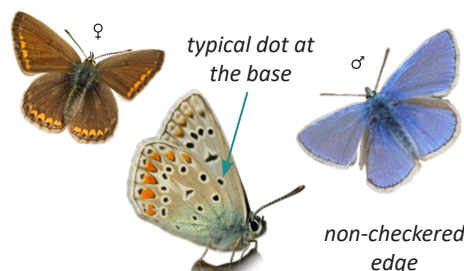
Large Copper
Lycaena dispar

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



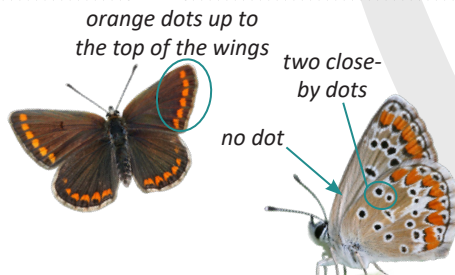
Sooty Copper
Lycaena tityrus

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



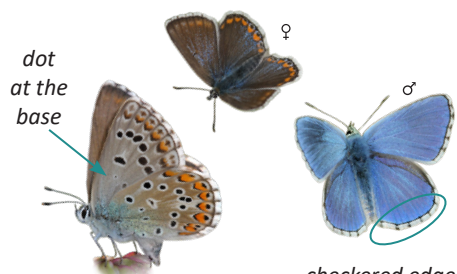
Common Blue
Polyommatus icarus

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



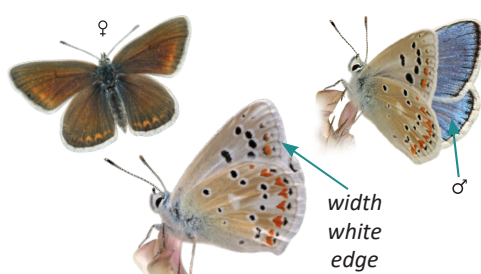
Brown Blue
Aricia agestis

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



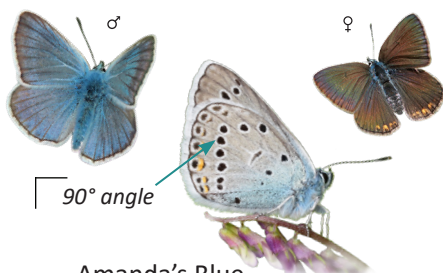
Adonis Blue
Lysandra bellargus

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



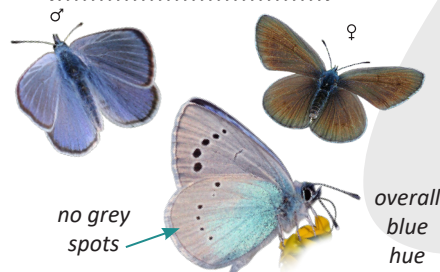
Turquoise Blue
Polyommatus dorylas

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



Amanda's Blue
Polyommatus amandus

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



Green-underside Blue
Glaucopsyche alexis

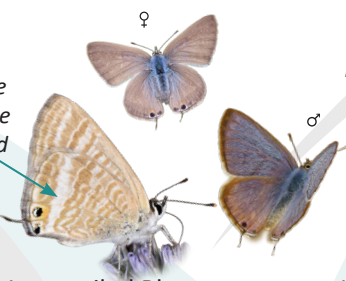
J F M A M J J A S O N D



Geranium Bronze
Cacyreus marshalli

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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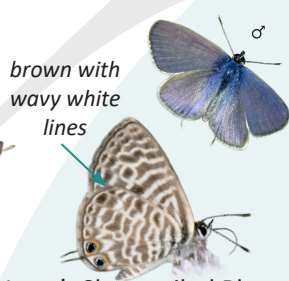
wide
white
band



Long-tailed Blue
Lampides boeticus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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brown with
wavy white
lines



Lang's Short-tailed Blue
Leptotes pirithous

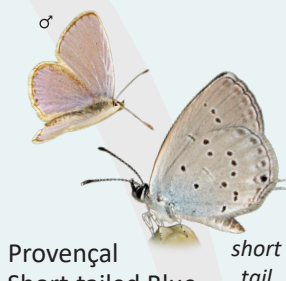
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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males have a scattering of
blue at the wing bases



Short-tailed Blue
Cupido argiades

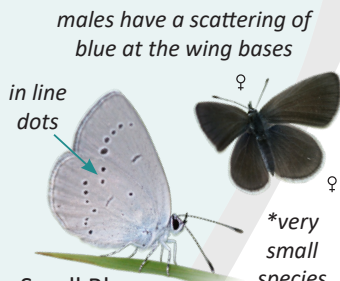
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Provençal
Short-tailed Blue
Cupidos alcetas

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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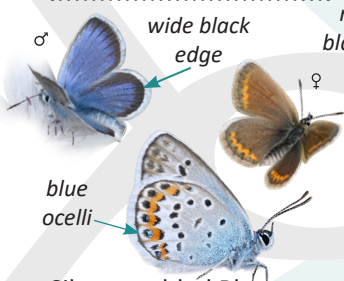
in line
dots



Small Blue
Cupido minimus

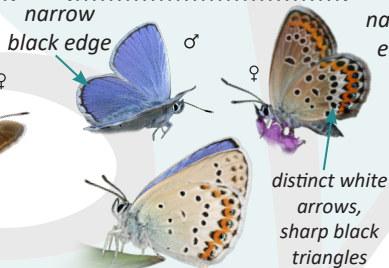
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

*very
small
species



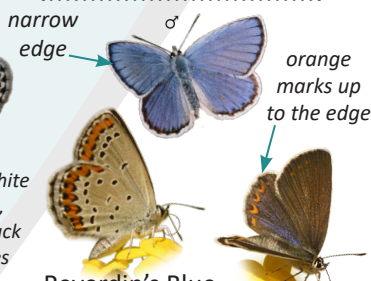
Silver-studded Blue
Plebejus argus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Idas Blue
Plebejus idas

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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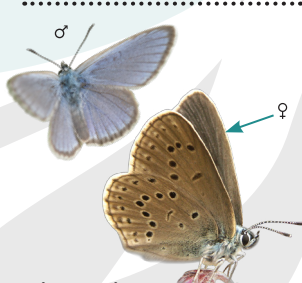
Reverdin's Blue
Plebejus argyrognomon

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Holly Blue
Celastrina argiolus

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



Alcon Blue
Phengaris arion

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Scarce Large Blue
Phengaris teleius

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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green wings; upper wing page brown



Green Hairstreak
Callophrys rubi

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



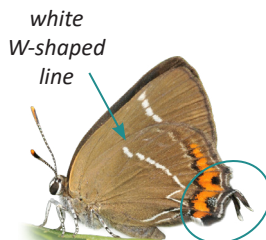
Sloe Hairstreak
Satyrium acaciae

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



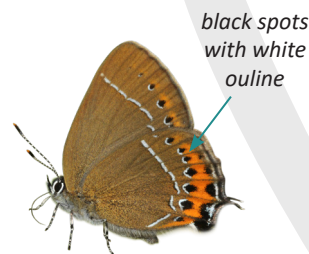
Blue-spot Hairstreak
Satyrium spini

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



Black Hairstreak
Satyrium pruni

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



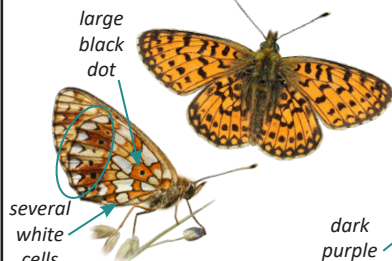
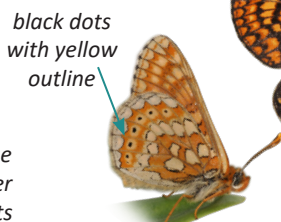
Queen of Spain Fritillary
Issoria lathonia

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



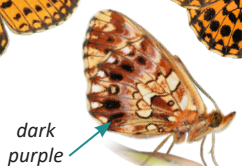
Marsh Fritillary
Euphydryas aurinia

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



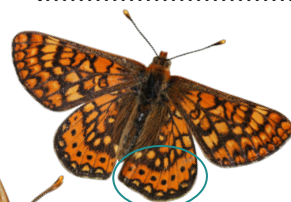
Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary
Boloria selene

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



Violet Fritillary
Boloria dia

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



Pearl Bordered Fritillary
Boloria euphrosyne

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

♀

♂ bold sexual bands

silver stripes

Silver-washed Fritillary
Argynnis paphia

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

silver spots

Dark Green Fritillary
Speyeria aglaja

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

two lines of small black dots

Twin-spot Fritillary
Brenthis hecate

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

continuous black band

only yellow

Lesser Marbled Fritillary
Brenthis ino

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

separated black spots

Marbled Fritillary
Brenthis daphne

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

black dots inside orange band

Glanville Fritillary
Melitaea cinxia

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

round black dots

orange band

Spotted Fritillary
Melitaea didyma

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

black dots on red background

light external edge

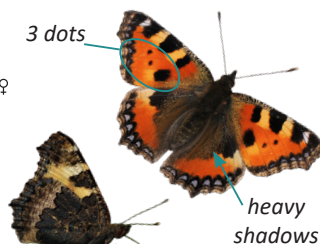
Southern Heath Fritillary
Melitaea celadussa

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

elongated yellow spot

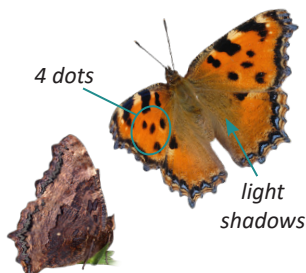
Knapweed Fritillary
Melitaea phoebe

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
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Small Tortoiseshell
Aglais urticae

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



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



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



White Admiral
Limenitis camilla

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



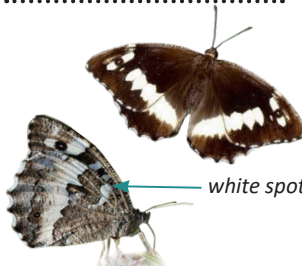
Lesser Purple Emperor
Apatura ilia

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



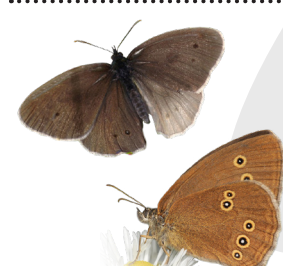
Camberwell beauty
Nymphalis antiopa

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



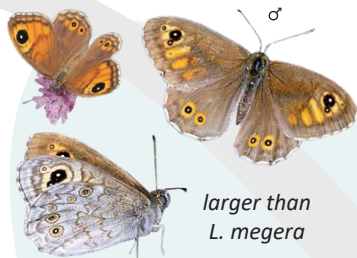
Great Banded Grayling
Brintesia circe

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



Ringlet
Aphantopus hyperantus

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



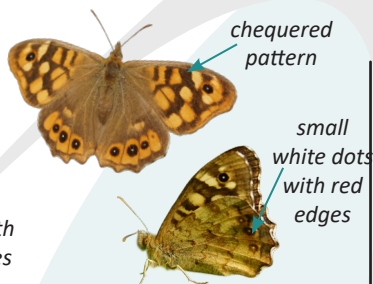
Large Wall Brown
Lasiommata maera

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



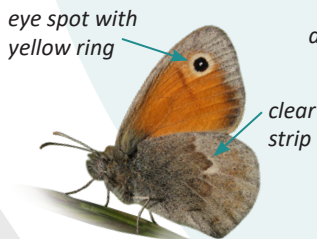
Wall Brown
Lasiommata megera

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



Small Heath
Coenonympha pamphilus

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



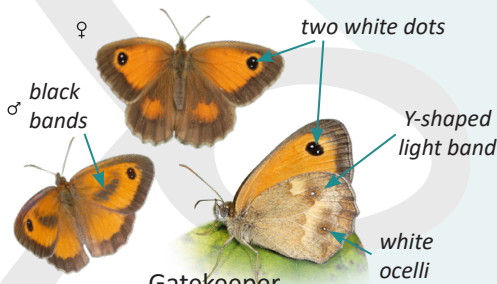
False Ringlet
Coenonympha oedippus

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



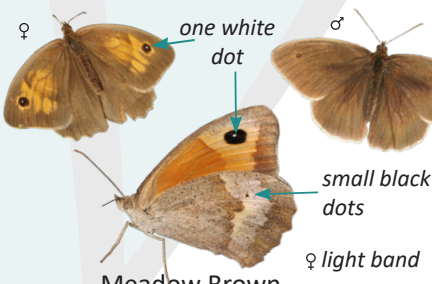
Pearly Heath
Coenonympha arcania

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



Gatekeeper
Pyronia tithonus

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



Woodland Brown
Lopinga achine

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



Dryad
Minois dryas

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



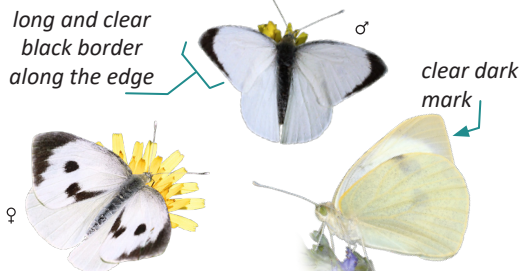
Black-veined White
Aporia crataegi

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



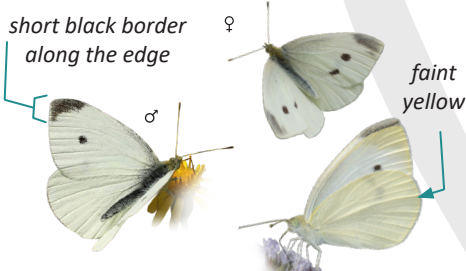
Wood White
Leptidea sinapis

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



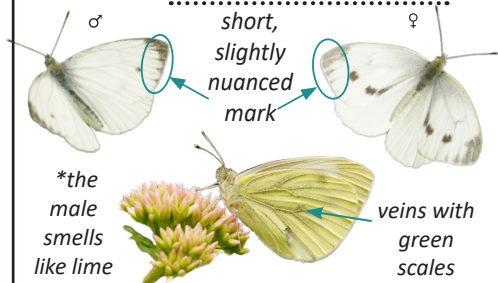
Large White
Pieris brassicae

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



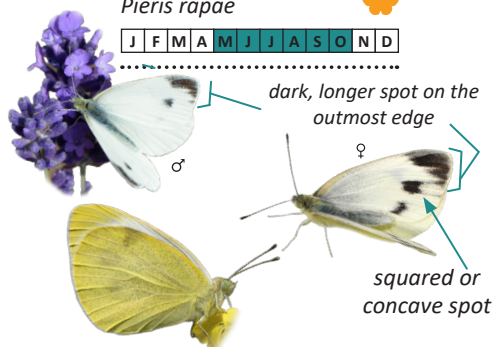
Small White
Pieris rapae

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



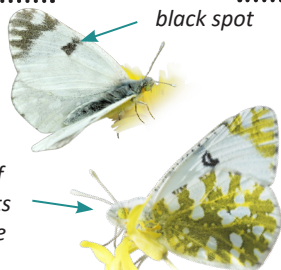
Southern Small White
Pieris mannii

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



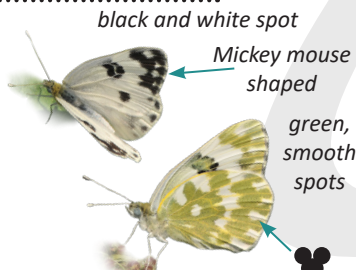
Orange-tip
Anthocharis cardamines

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



Eastern Dappled White
Euchloe ausonia

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



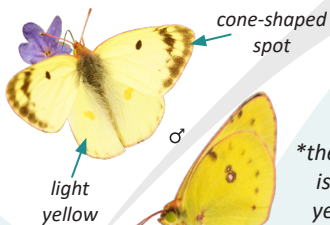
Eastern Bath White
Pontia edusa

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



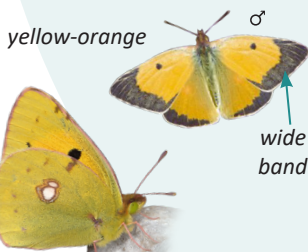
Brimstone
Gonepteryx rhamni

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



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



female of *f. helice*



Pale Clouded Yellow
Colias erate

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



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

Butterfly Conservation Europe and UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH) have created the European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (eBMS) to collect data from different Butterfly Monitoring Schemes all over Europe. Each State cooperating to this project shares data with eBMS yearly, in order to analyse and evaluate population trends of European butterflies and European indicators, creating a starting line for future policies to protect butterflies and their habitat.

For more information about monitoring and to upload your data, please visit the eBMS website:

www.butterfly-monitoring.net/it

If you wish to join the Italian butterfly monitoring network please contact help.itbms@gmail.com

You can keep up-to-date with all our initiatives by following our socials: [Facebook \(Butterfly Monitoring Scheme Italia\)](#) and [Instagram \(@bms_italia_\)](#).

This guide can be downloaded as pdf file on the eBMS website

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Authors: Cristina G. Sevilleja (eBMS), Stefano Scalerio (Centro di ricerca Foreste e Legno, CRE-FL), Simona Bonelli (Università di Torino), Leonardo Dapporto (Università di Firenze), Marta Depetris (Università di Torino) and Stefano Masier (Università di Torino).

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Graphis design: Cristina G. Sevilleja, & Stefano Masier

Italian coordinators: Simona Bonelli, Leonardo Dapporto e Stefano Scalerio help.itbms@gmail.com

Flight period: months when butterflies are noticeable

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


Butterfly size:

 Small

 Medium

 Large

Gender:

Protected species: 

♀ Female

♂ Male

Symbols:

→ ○ Noticeable characters useful for species identification

eBMS - European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme

SPRING - Strengthening Pollinator Recovery through Indicators and monitoringG

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