

Reverdin

by Reverdin, 30-May-11 05:23 AM GMT

New to the site, so to start a blog with some images from here and there, and experiences to share.
Today, 29th May...



Male Speckled Wood attending to his territory..

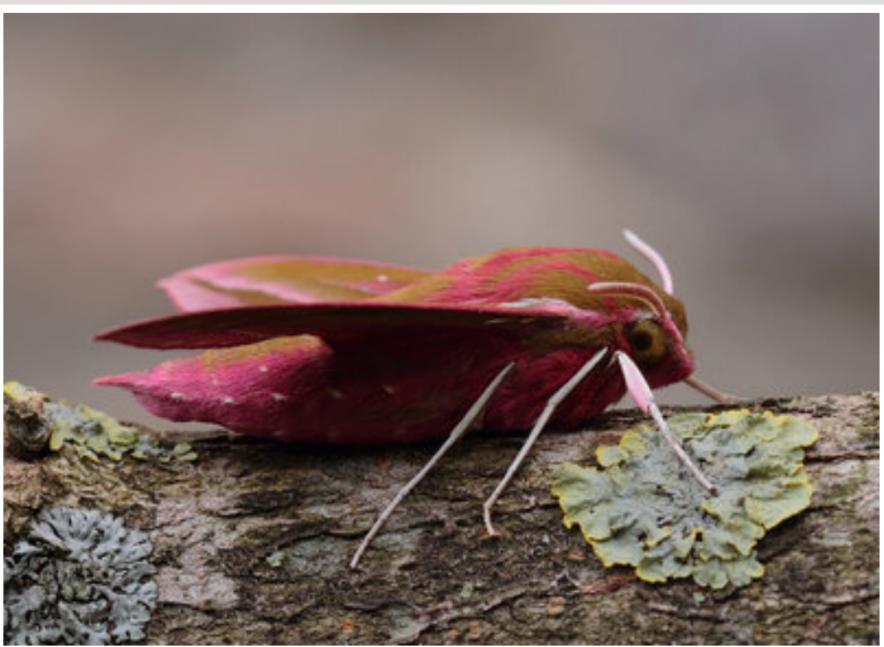


and a Large White clinging on to a Yellow Rattle head in the breeze today.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 30-May-11 09:01 PM GMT

Not much of a day here, cold grey and rainy, but ran a moth trap last night and thought I just had to show these... sorry I know they're not butterflies, but they do have wings and they are gorgeous...



Elephant Hawk



and something I've never seen before, a Campion



Re: Reverdin

by Padfield, 30-May-11 09:42 PM GMT

Two very lovely moths!

Guy

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 07-Jun-11 05:20 AM GMT

Collard Hill pilgrimage Saturday 4th June.



7.30am First rays of sun hit the downslope



First wings to open



Feeding



more glimpses of that gorgeous blue



who would not want to see these in England



last one of my day

Great to finally meet Mr Hulme and to bump into Roger again 😊

Re: Reverdin

by David M, 07-Jun-11 05:25 AM GMT

Is there a particular time of day/specific weather conditions where Large Blues exhibit a greater propensity toward opening their wings?

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 07-Jun-11 05:35 AM GMT

Well, judging by Saturday... there weren't that many around, and I know there were comments about the lack of wing opening... I was there from 7am, until 2 ish, and spent a lot of time carefully wandering around the slopes after them... they were quite jittery and did not settle for long, and flew very easily when approached...
... however... with patience, nearly all of them (4 or 5!!) eventually showed me upperside, not particularly sun related, but spent ~ 95% time with closed wings, opening for 30 seconds at most. I saw more males than females and they were all quite fresh.... a great day out.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 08-Jun-11 06:04 AM GMT

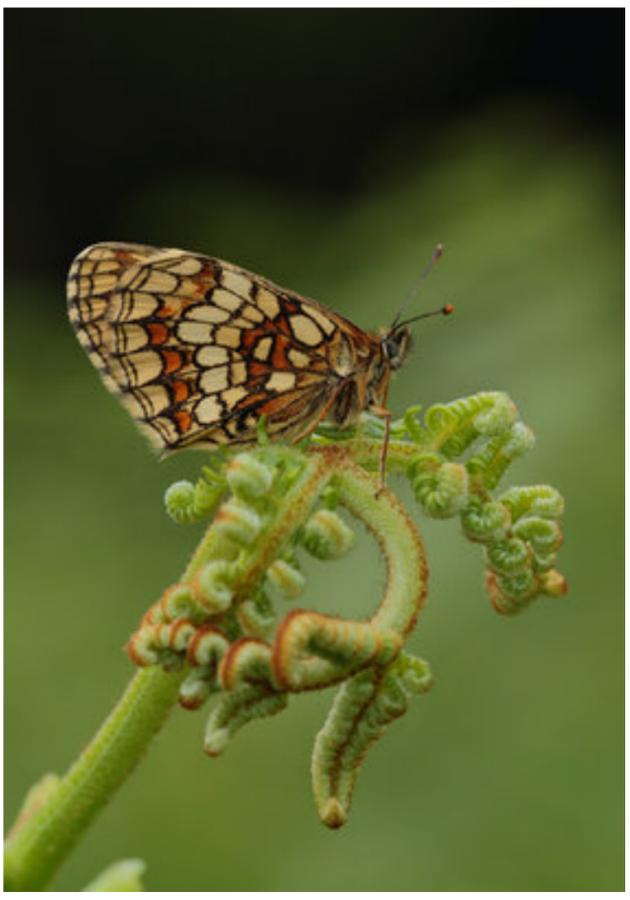
Sunday 5th in Devon. Not great weather but some Fritillary success... first time I have seen Heath Frit in this country, and seem to be darker than their European counterparts to me... lovely to see and thanks indeed to Roger and Rose for their wonderful hospitality.



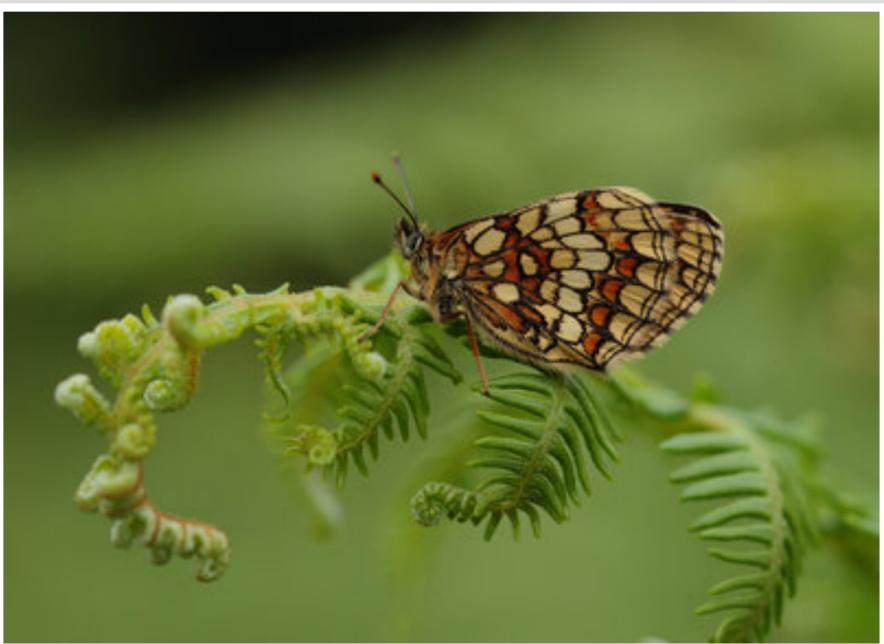
Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary, Devon style



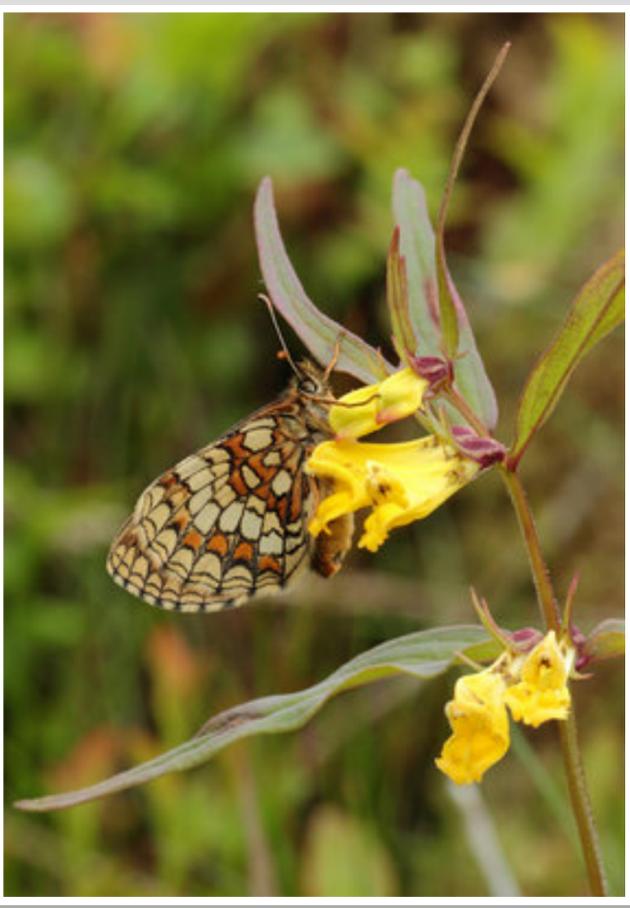
Underside of Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary, Devon style



Heath Fritillary



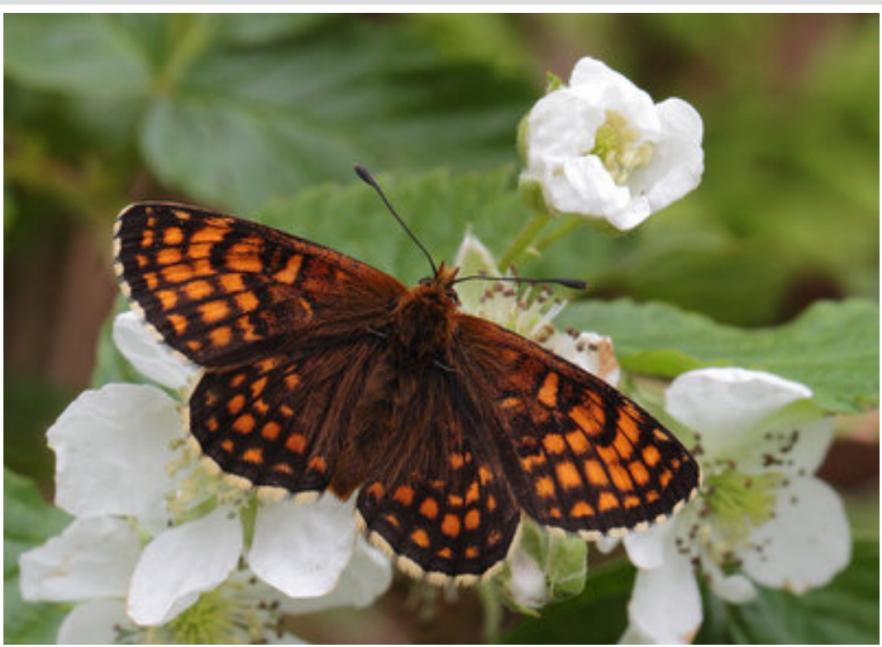
Heath Fritillary



Heath Fritillary on Common Cow Wheat



Heath Fritillary



Heath Fritillary



Re: Reverdin

by jens, 09-Jun-11 12:03 AM GMT

"Reverdin" wrote:

Sunday 5th in Devon. Not great weather but some Fritillary success... first time I have seen Heath Frit in this country, and seem to be darker than their European counterparts to me... lovely to see and thanks indeed to Roger and Rose for their wonderful

hospitality.



Where in Devon did you see the Heath Frits ? I was returning to South Wales that day after 3 days in Hampshire & Dorset, made a detour to Lydford Gorge, and watched never ending rain from 11 am till 2pm. Not one butterfly of any description (they`d have been mad to have been out in that weather !) But I couldnt find any HF`s sheltering in the grass either. Hence my hesitation to travel to East Anglia this coming weekend (see Swallowtail thread) in view of the weather that is forecast. I may make a trip to Haddon Hill if the weather looks good (less distance) if someone can point me to the area where HF`s are found.

Thanks for any help.

Re: Reverdin

by Rogerdodge, 09-Jun-11 12:41 AM GMT

Where in Devon did you see the Heath Frits ?

Actually, we were in Somerset – Haddon is just over the border. It was misty, cold and drizzly, but we found a couple of roosting HF's. I shall PM you a map later today.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 26-Jun-11 07:46 AM GMT

Sat 24th June – Lake District, Hartsop Dodd.

In the company of Roger Harding, made the climb to the high fells to see mnemon, and despite not quite ideal conditions achieved the following.

Apologies to those who hate photographers and who hate butterflies on sticks... I suggest you look away now 😬





Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 11-Jul-11 01:20 AM GMT

Day 1 - Spent the morning along the riverside in our Haute Savoie base at 700m with weather gradually improving. Investigated any rough waste ground and gradually accounted for Marbled White, Small Heath, Small and Large Skipper, Small and Large Whites, Wood White, Short Tailed Blue, Provencal Short Tailed Blue, Holly Bue, White Admiral, Marbled Fritillary, Heath Fritillary, ubiquitous Meadow Brown and Ringlet and penultimately Arran Brown. Finally, an Emperor put in a brief aerobatic display, taunting us by not revealing it's true identity!!



Arran Brown



Provençal Short-tailed Blue

In the afternoon we set off to the top of one of the local peaks, a flattish basin at 1700m with a small lake. Here we had a very warm afternoon, and saw Mazarine Blue, Moorland Clouded Yellow, Alpine Heath, Dark Green Fritillary, Mountain Ringlet, Bright Eyed Ringlet and my first totally new species of my trip.... Blind Ringlet.



Mazarine Blue



Moorland Clouded Yellow



Marbled White



Alpine Heath



? Blind Ringlet



Lesser Mountain Ringlet (ID edited from Mountain Ringlet)

We ventured slowly down the Alpine road back into our valley base, stopping off in the early evening sun in several places, finding some further

amenable local species as we went...Titania's Fritillary, Black Veined White, Geranium Argus (all well worn) and False Heath Fritillary.



Titania's Fritillary



Black-veined White

All in all, a good day, and a promising start, with weather set to be fair and new pastures to investigate. It was already evident that 2011 was an early season for many butterfly species, and this was indeed clear from the start, with the promise of some early emergent later flying species ahead. We weren't to be disappointed.

More days and photos to come 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Rogerdodge, 11-Jul-11 02:36 AM GMT

Excellent stuff Paul.

Really envious of you.

You are getting great results with that new camera/lens combo.

Can't wait to see the next edition!

I am away from internet access for the next fortnight, so I will have your whole trip to read up on when I get back.

Can't wait.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 11-Jul-11 03:53 AM GMT

Have a great time! 🍷

Re: Reverdin

by Padfield, 11-Jul-11 04:28 AM GMT

Hi Reverdin! I'm looking forward to your further instalments too!

Your mountain ringlet is a lesser mountain ringlet (*Erebia melampus*). Typically, mountain ringlets (*epiphron*) fly on higher, more wild terrain than lesser

mountain and the other species you feature. The blind ringlet is just that.

I've been in similar country with a group from UK Butts today – must get on and process the few photos I permitted myself after they had had their pick!!

Guy

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 11-Jul-11 04:35 AM GMT

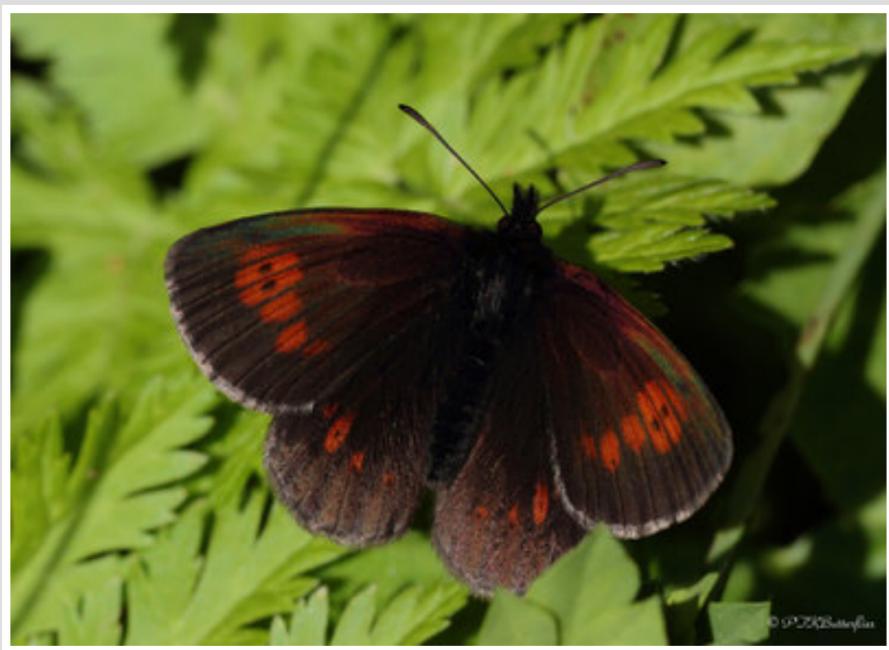
Thanks Guy, thought I must have seen melampus, but not sure which!!!!... now I know. 😊 Look forward to hearing how your current group do. 🍷

Re: Reverdin

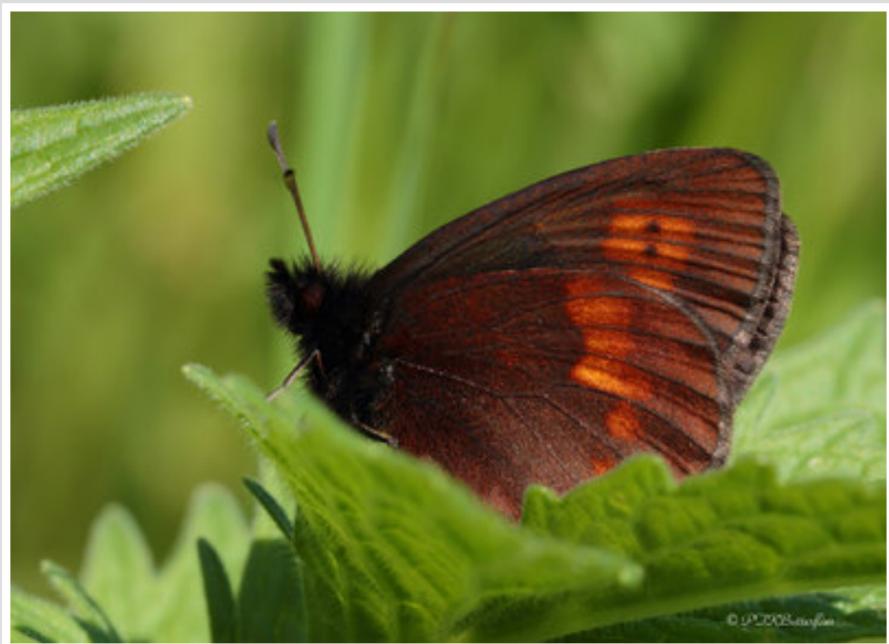
by Reverdin, 12-Jul-11 05:31 AM GMT

02/07/11

Day 3 – We ventured early, up to a ski base at 1600m and walked slowly uphill, steeply at times to a lofty 2100m. At 1600m the first Erebia visible turned out to be Manto Ringlet, my first experience of this one. Images as usual were difficult to accomplish well. Glorious Sooty and Purple Edged Coppers, and Small Blues were evident a little further up the path.



Manto Ringlet (Yellow Spotted)



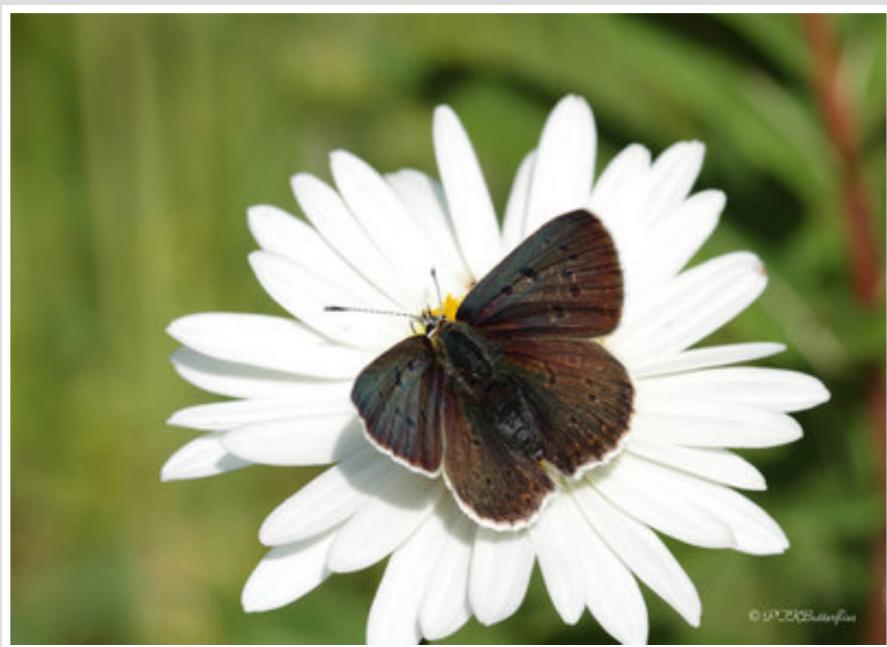
Manto Ringlet underside



Purple Edged Copper



Purple Edged Copper female



Sooty Copper

At about 1800m the debilis form of Marsh Fritillary was seen and a male Queen of Spain Fritillary appeared. Blind Ringlet was once more present. Large Grizzled Skipper put in a tantalizing but unphotographable appearance, and many *Erebia* continued to taunt, as the thin mountain air took a toll of my legendary lack of fitness! We settled for lunch at a promontory at 1900m and enjoyed a hill-topping Machaon Swallowtail, Small Tortoiseshell, Bath White, a pristine Mazarine, and Grizzled Skippers. The *Erebia* continued to taunt, flying 10m on disturbance within 2m, and always settling in long grass, rarely still. As we approached our 2100m vantage point, only a rather worn Dewy Ringlet added to our tally.



debilis Marsh Fritillary



Blind Ringlet



Blind Ringlet underside



Mazarine Blue

The descent was similar in reverse, with species appearing, and then disappearing as we staggered down the very unstable scree like path. Rewardingly, some better photo opportunities began to afford themselves as the day wore on. Just below 1800m a Niobe Fritillary showed off. I was then enthralled to improve my Manto Ringlet images. I am sure Lesser Mountain Ringlet was also in the throngs of dark Ringlets along the way.



Purple Edged Copper



Manto



Manto underside

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 13-Jul-11 07:08 AM GMT

Day 4 - A visit to the head of the valley at 1000m. After driving as far as we could go, a long brisk walk bought us to unstable mountain grassland which one felt was basically a boulder field on which lush vegetation constantly tried to smother the expanding collection of rocks as they dropped off the surrounding amphitheatre towering 500m above on three sides.

The species were initially a little disappointing. A Mountain Argus, worn Woodland Ringlets and pristine Arran Browns provided some distraction, and an Orange Tip was seen.



Mountain Argus

Not until the lunchtime heat did much else happen. Riverside scat provided the breakthrough. A flurry of Blues scattered as we walked nearby. On closer inspection Eros, Chalkhill, Damon and Small Blues were all enjoying the mineralogical feast.



Eros



Damon



Chalkhill

Among the Sanfoin nearby Osiris Blues, a Damon Blue and a Large Blue had chosen a sweeter food source!



Large Blue



Damon

Descending back to the car, we furthermore saw Silver Washed Fritillaries, Commas and another rather large Pyrgus Skipper for which I am endeavouring to find an identity.



Large Grizzled Skipper

An evening trip up to the last venue of day 1 yielded further photo opportunities for several species, but none new for the trip.



Alpine Heaths



Damon



Chalkhill



Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 13-Jul-11 07:31 AM GMT

Day 5 - A trip across the Beaufort pass in Savoie to a site I had been before at 1500m. This turned out to be a relatively bad day. Most species were too active to photograph, until the sun went in at lunchtime, not really to re-appear. Almond-eyed Ringlet was definite and numerous, and my first witness of a female Mountain Fritillary was a pleasant surprise.



alberganus



alberganus



alberganus



female Mountain Fritillary



female Mountain Fritillary

and my favourite..



alberganus

Two or three species of *Pyrgus* were present, identities being worked on!



amERICANUS



alveus



serratulae

I then drove down the steep switchback road and promptly deposited my car accidentally on a precipitous edge. 😞 – ?ironic smile from NickB?? 😊



I spent the rest of the day in recovery vehicles, taxis and finally a new Hire car and arrived back at base rather bedraggled and dejected, but at least no-one had been injured.. 😞

Re: Reverdin

by Padfield, 14-Jul-11 04:35 AM GMT

I think it would be a little optimistic to try and identify those *Pyrgus* with certainty, Reverdin! But I agree that the second does look a lot like *alveus*. The first looks like *armoricanus* to me. I'm not sure how the voltinism works there, but if it was at altitude it could have been the very last of the first generation, which would explain its condition. *Alveus* is currently very fresh here in CH. The last could be female *alveus*, but I couldn't rule out female *serratulae* just from one angle like that... In some ways it looks more like *serratulae* than *alveus*.

Great pictures, especially the very last one, of your car! 😊

Guy

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 14-Jul-11 04:48 AM GMT

Thanks for that Guy, those *Pyrgus* frustrate me+++ . I didn't dare think *armoricanus*... but I'll take it as my first of that species, albeit battered a bit 😊 .. and the car... 😞😞😞

Stand by for the next weary instalment 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 14-Jul-11 05:25 AM GMT

Day 6 - From a car park at 1100m, in a different side valley, we took a long and intermittently steep walk on a baking hot day to 1600m. Conifer predominant mixed forest gave out to Alpine flower meadow grassland at 1400m.

The first part therefore showed off mainly *Fritillaries*.. *Titania*'s and Lesser Marbled in particular, along with the now ubiquitous Arran Brown.



titania



ino with company



ino



ligea

As we left the tree-line, Chalkhill Blues accompanied us up the path, with teasing erebia, worked out to be Common Brassy Ringlet. Some Large Blues were present and photos were impossibly difficult to obtain.



cassioides



cassioides



cassioides

and another Pyrgus challenged us..



alveus

As we wandered back down, we were attracted to an unusual looking beast which when it eventually stopped proved to be a **very** unusual beast.. never seen one like this before...



hyperantus ab. pallens



hyperantus ab. pallens

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 15-Jul-11 05:45 AM GMT

Day 7 - Another short morning walk down the river valley through waste ground and woodland yielded a few more species, although the hope of a fresh Short-tailed Blue never materialized..



malvae



malvae



alcetas



alcetas



paphia

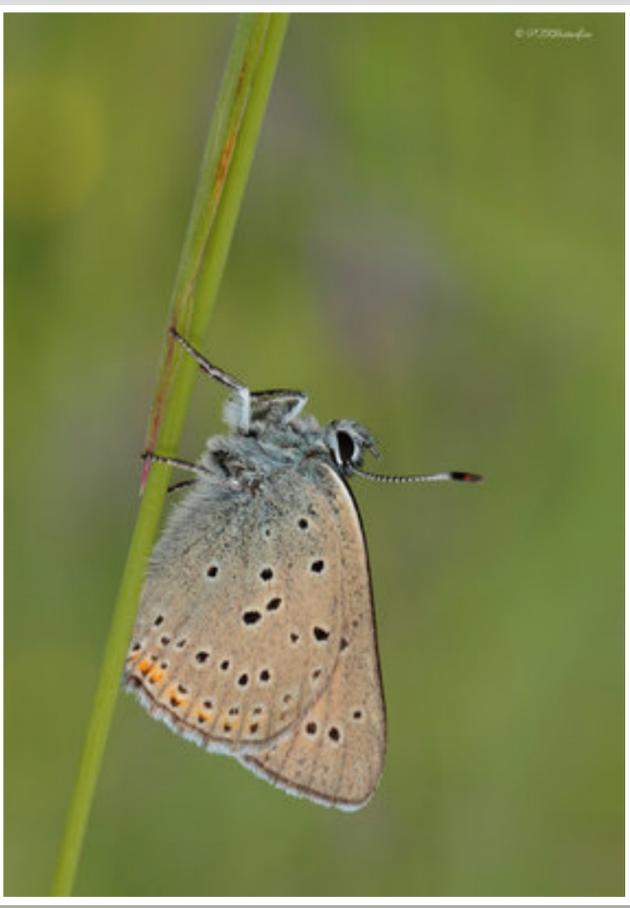


(edit) *napi ssp. meridionalis*

At the end of the day we travelled through high mountain passes to our second destination at Evian, to position ourselves for visits to the Swiss Valais, bringing few but welcome opportunities at 1600m in the evening sun.



hippotoe



hippotoe

Re: Reverdin

by Lee Hurrell, 15-Jul-11 04:35 PM GMT

Hi Reverdin,

Lovely photos.

I'm usually wrong in these things, but isn't your *rapae* actually *napi*?

Cheers

Lee

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 16-Jul-11 02:29 AM GMT

Hi Lee... you could well be right.... I've been caught out like that before with lightly marked *napi*... but it was a big b****r!! 😊 – I'll look at it more closely.... thanks 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 16-Jul-11 03:32 AM GMT

Day 8

Another day to savour.. Quite a long trip to a high Swiss mountain pass to search out some special species at 2000m to 2250m.

It was very sunny to start with, but the cloud built up until it deposited plenty of rain as we beat a retreat in the mid afternoon. Bodily but not spiritually dampened, we had seen most of that we had been looking for.



male Cranberry Blue



female Cranberry Blue



Cranberry Blue underside



male Cranberry Blue





Glandon Blue underside

There were many Idas Blues.. this one was particularly well endowed with silver studs.



Idas Blue.

Then there was this beautiful pair of Purple Edged Coppers..

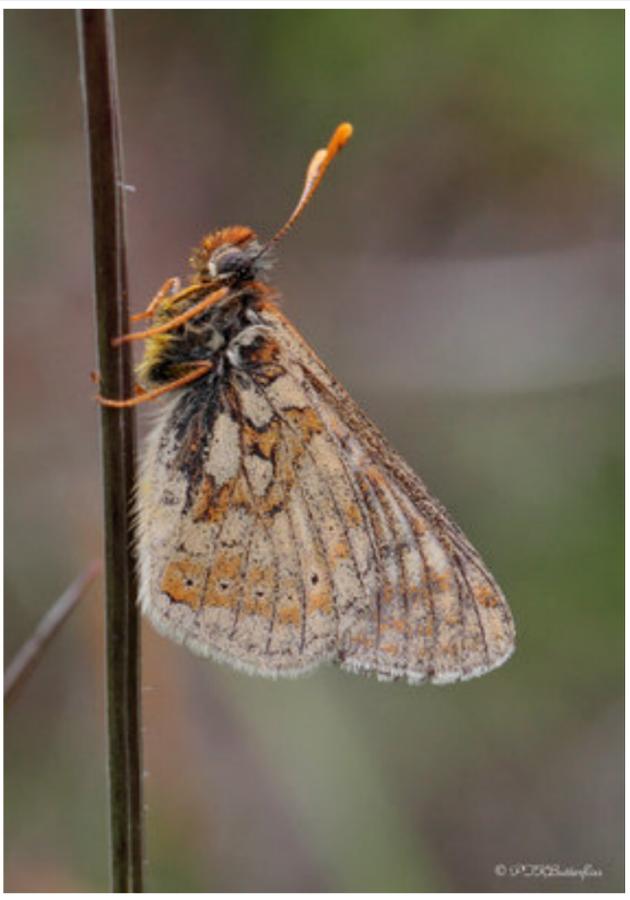


Purple Edged Coppers

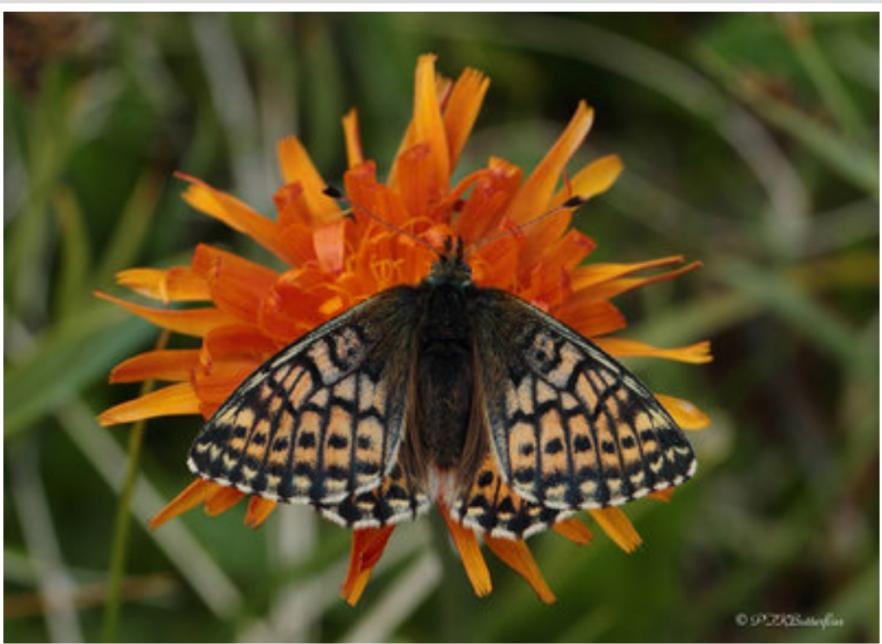
Once we got beyond my favourite Lycaenids, there were others...



debilis Marsh Fritillary



debilis underside



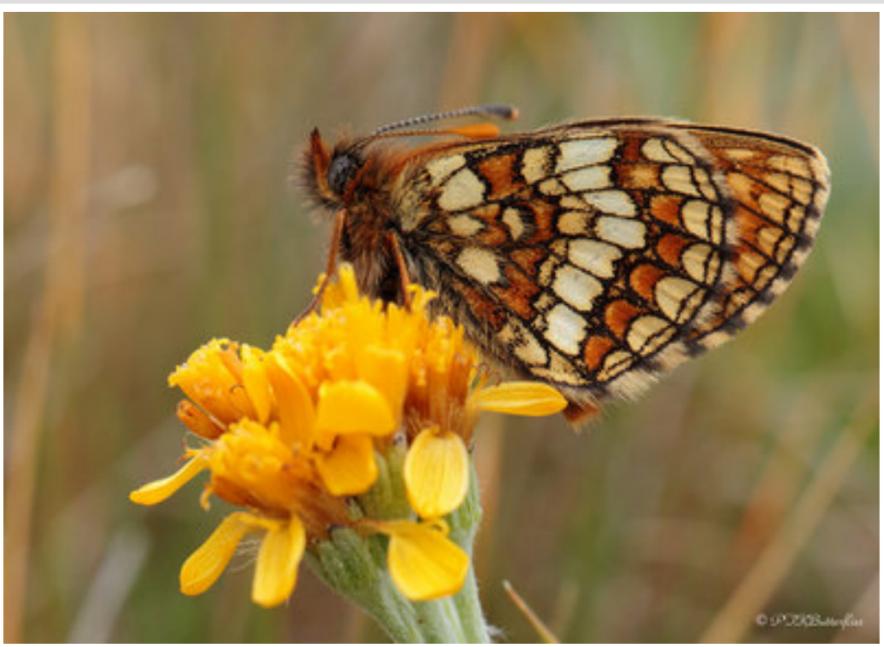
female Mountain Fritillary



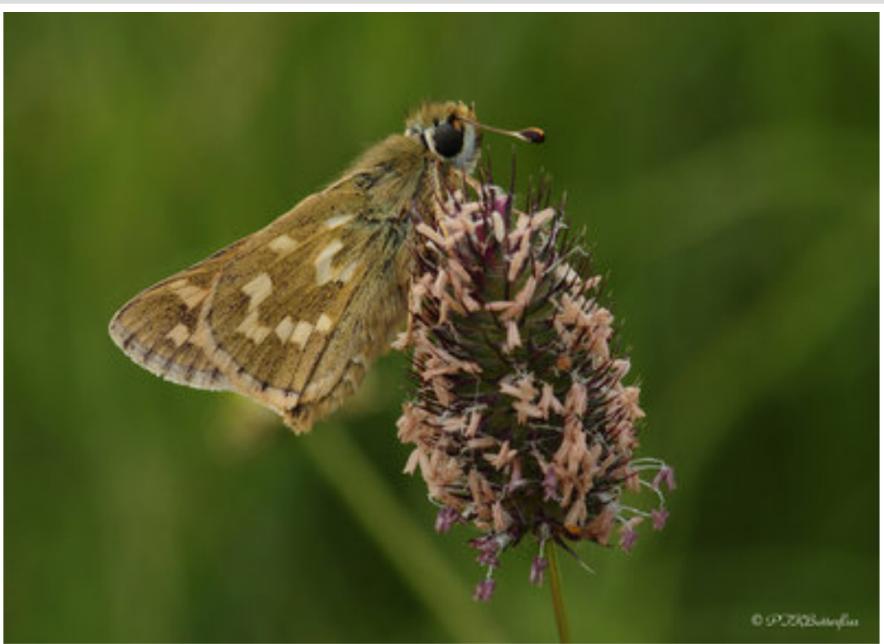
Male Mountain Fritillary underside



male Grisons Fritillary



Grisons underside



Silver Spotted Skipper



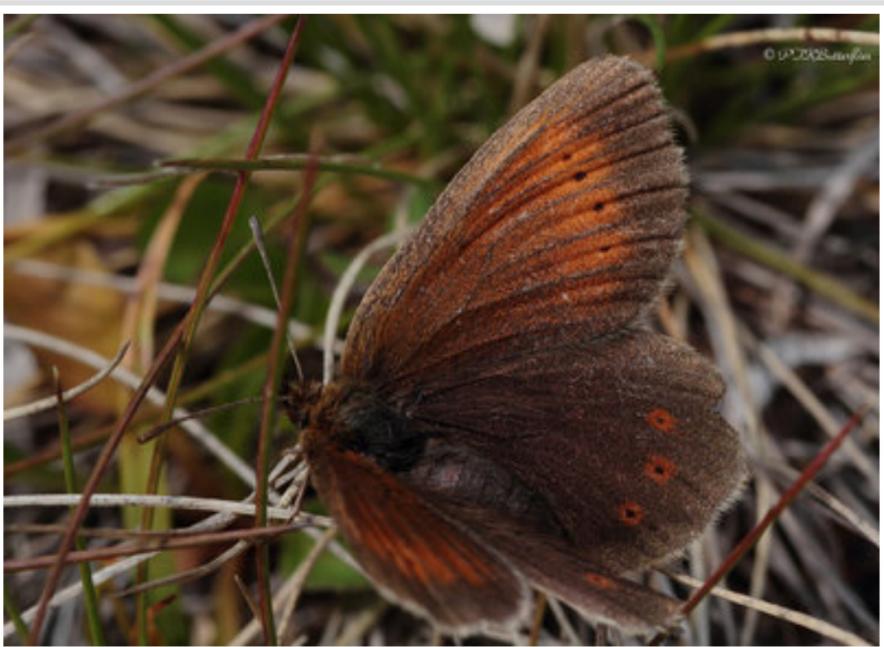
Swiss Brassy Ringlet



Darwin's Heath



Ringlet (edit) epiphron



not sure which *erebia* (edit) *epiphron*
😊

As we descended back to the car, Blues were beginning to settle down and I had the opportunity to photograph this beauty...

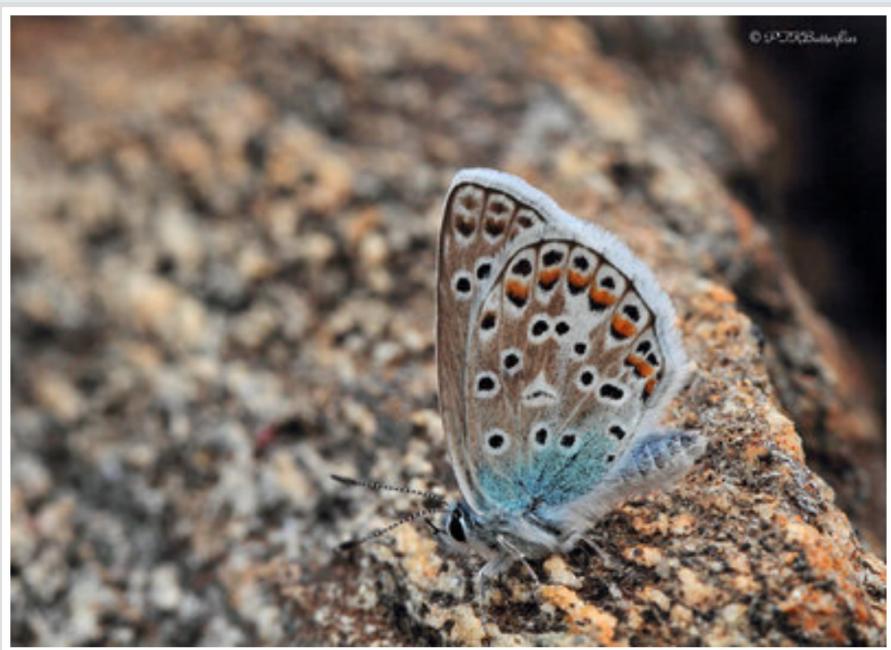


Damon Blue

Finally, as we drove back towards home, a last stop produced this rather nice Escher's (or Chapman's... but I think Escher's)



Escheri



Escheri underside

😊😊😊

Re: Reverdin

by Padfield, 16-Jul-11 05:01 AM GMT

Fantastic photos, as always, Rev!

I think both your last *Erebia* are *epiphron*.

Guy

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 16-Jul-11 05:34 AM GMT

Thanks Guy, epiphron they are! As ever, much appreciate you keeping me right, I tend to come up with some maverick ID's on occasions 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 16-Jul-11 09:48 PM GMT

Day 9

A trip to a further high venue, at a different mountain pass. This time quite a long uphill trek was necessary, after setting off at 2200m, again in wonderful alpine weather. An early start meant we could make the most of butterflies rousing and nectaring before their most active daily routine. We turned round eventually at 2500m, and re-traced our steps, as the weather became more breezy and the clouds built up. All in all, an exceptional day.

I really had wanted to return to this place as it was the first time I saw Alpine Blue, and was disappointed then with my photos, which turned out poor. This time I was able to linger along the paths, and I hope did the species more justice. This time, my recollection of an electric blue upperside was tempered with them appearing from some angles as Common Blue like. Only from other angles did that electric colour flash out.



Alpine Blue 1



Alpine Blue 1 - different angle



Alpine Blue 1 underside



Alpine Blue 2



Alpine Blue 3

There was much more to come.. 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 16-Jul-11 11:00 PM GMT

Day 9 continued.

There were other Blues around to savour.. immediately out of the car, Eros was making it's pale and beautiful presence felt..



eros eros



eros

This female tityrus (edit) hippothoe must have been very fresh..



hippithoe female

Idas was ever present, and probably as plentiful as minimus was..



idas

Glandon was being a little more shy, but one chap eventually found his moist patch more interesting..



glandon

Finally, and the surprising piece de resistance for the day was this fantastic emergent female arion...



arion underside



arion upperside

and that takes care of the Lycaenids... a wonderful place for them. 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Padfield, 16-Jul-11 11:33 PM GMT

Hi Reverdin!

More fantastic stuff!

That *tityrus* must be *hippotoe*. A feature of the old genus *Heodes*, which *tityrus* really belongs to (I hate lumping), is that the pd line of spots on the forewing is staggered, in groups of two. In the old *Palaeochrysophanus* (*hippotoe*), that line of spots is smooth and continuous.

For me, that's decisive, BUT I could be wrong, as you know.

Guy

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 17-Jul-11 12:36 AM GMT

Thanks again Guy, I'm losing my touch.. just hadn't seen the males around, but your argument is sound as usual.. changing it now... it was a beauty!!!

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 17-Jul-11 12:56 AM GMT

Day 9 continued...

We saw one Small Apollo, which seemed dozy whilst I over-exposed all my photos, then as I nonchalantly adjusted things and prepared to do it right, the Apollo flitted lazily off over the cliff, never to return... so here is my attempt to rescue a blown image... the only time I have ever seen this one, about 3/4 size of normal Apollo, and red spots on forewing just about distinguishable 😞 😊

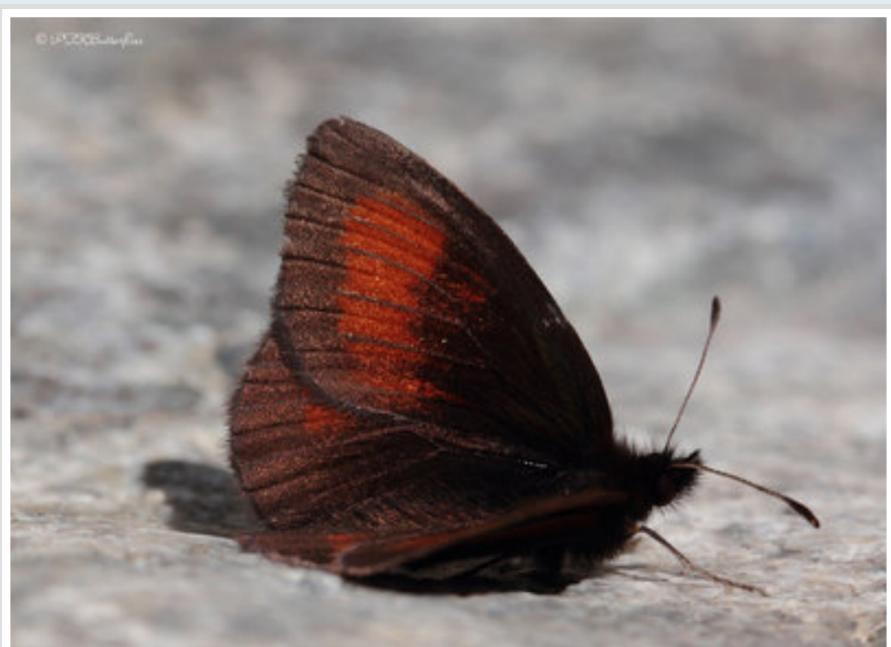


Small Apollo

Erebia were generally too active to get close to, but I would be grateful for Guy's opinion on this one, photo taken on the path overlooking brilliant blue glacial water..



erebia 1 ??



erebia 2 ??



erebia 2 ??



erebia 2 ??



tindarus upperside



tyndarus underside

This underside may not quite be the hue I remember.. maybe need to have another look at it.

Re: Reverdin

by Padfield, 17-Jul-11 01:04 AM GMT

Erebia 1 & 2 both look like *mnestra* to me.

Guy

Re: Reverdin

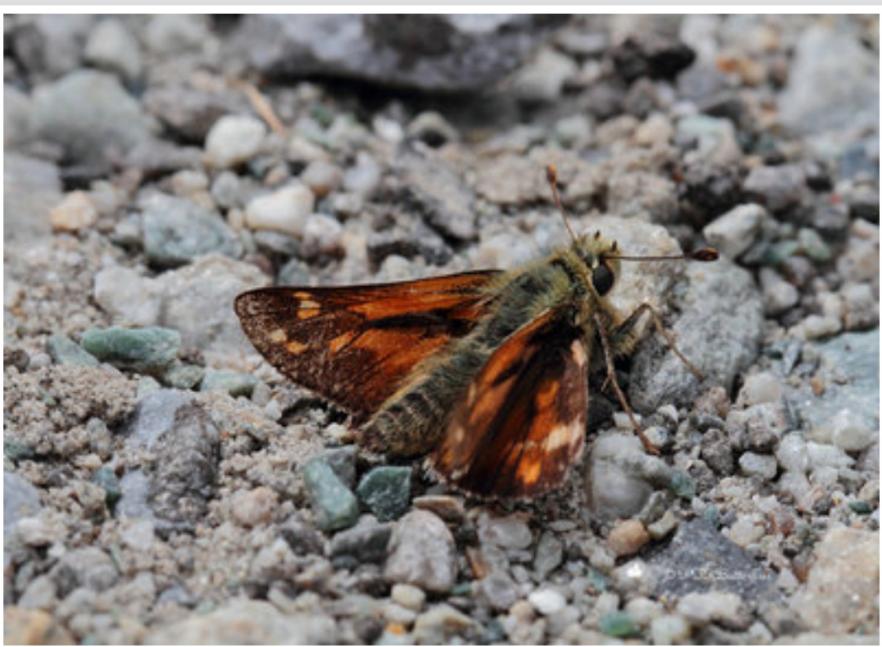
by Reverdin, 17-Jul-11 01:08 AM GMT

Skippers were likewise fast and furious, but up at 2500m, this large one I think may be *cacaliae*, another first..



?*Dusky Grizzled*

and Silver Spotted Skippers were among the most common..



Silver Spotted Skipper

At a similar height, I finally found an obedient Peak White, and only probably LOTSW1 know what that means to me..



Peak White



Peak White underside

After this many joyous sightings, there were only the day's Fritillaries to come.. 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 17-Jul-11 01:10 AM GMT

Guy... you have no idea how much I was hoping you would say that.. I doubted it 'cos we were at the other site with the Cynthia's. 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊

Re: Reverdin

by Padfield, 17-Jul-11 01:33 AM GMT



It seems you had a fantastic trip!

I'm also pretty confident that's *cacaliae*!

Guy

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 17-Jul-11 01:49 AM GMT

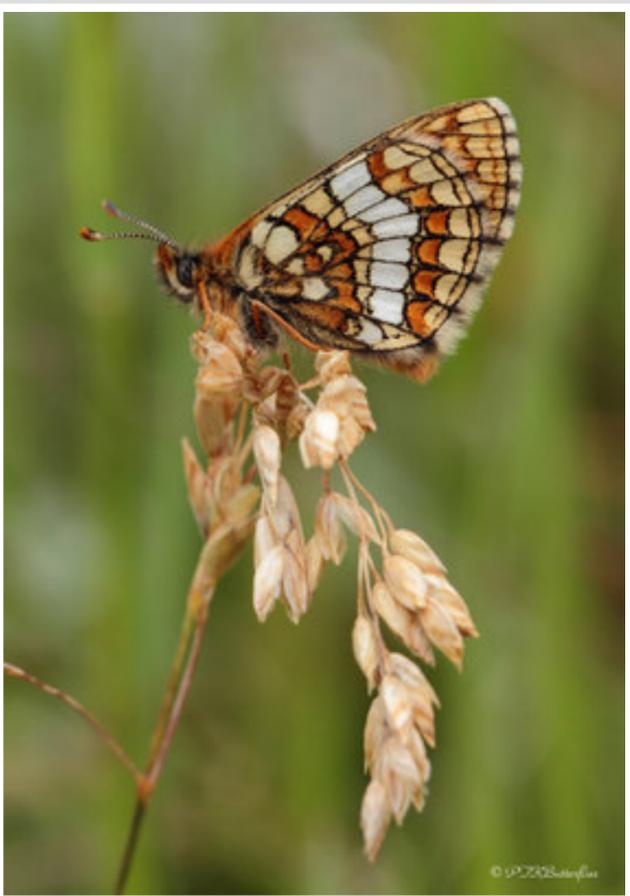
Certainly did, only your company (impossible I know) could have made it better... as others on this site can now appreciate. Well, here are the Fritillaries from our penultimate day...



debilis



Grisons



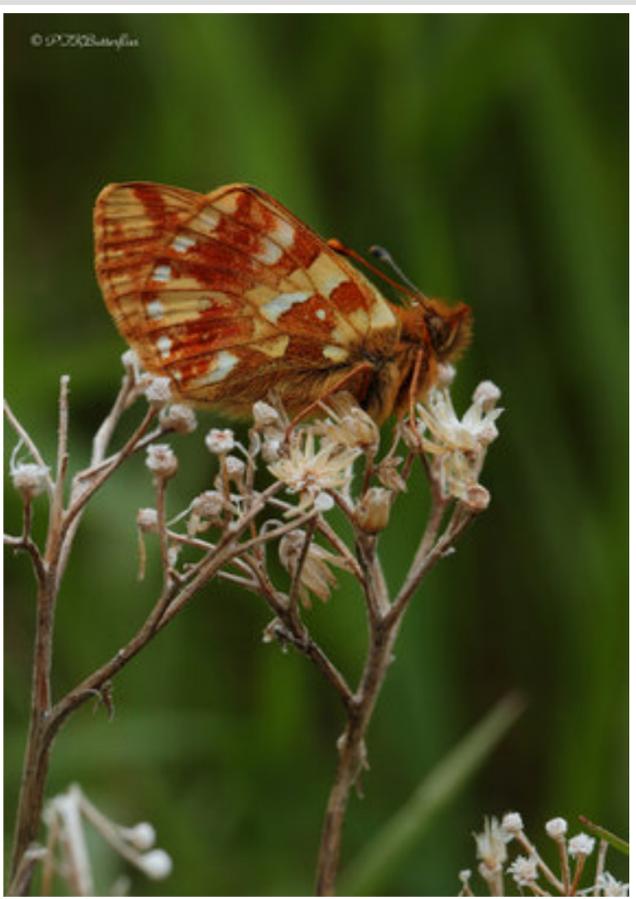
Grisons underside



Shepherd's (edit)



Shepherd's (edit)



Shepherd's (edit)

and after some searching, and more worn than when last seen...



Cynthia's Fritillary

Re: Reverdin

by Padfield, 17-Jul-11 02:16 AM GMT

Another year!

I've edited this. I think they're all shepherd's frit now. Reasoning to come later - I'm multitasking at the moment.

Guy

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 17-Jul-11 02:28 AM GMT

I'll go with that!... thanks, as ever.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 18-Jul-11 03:22 AM GMT

This was to be our last day. It was a risk to decide to go chasing Phengaris species, as I had maps covering the start and end of the journey, but not the middle bit!.. A friend, 😊 chanced in on the way, kindly supplied the missing link, actually more straightforward than I remembered. Sadly he couldn't join us, but we journeyed onwards undaunted, with weather rather dubiously promising.

We need not have worried. The weather stayed kind and we reached our destination in good time, a lake surrounded by towering peaks.



P. nausithous



P. nausithous



Rare? upperside view of female nausithous



P. nausithous



P. telejus



P. telejus female



P. telejus female

Ironically, one of the most pressing reasons for making this journey was for the male upperside of telejus... I didn't take this, but my son did!.. 🍷



P. telejus male

Re: Reverdin

by Rogerdodge, 24-Jul-11 06:08 AM GMT

Rev

Brilliant reports.

I really wish I could have been there with you.

As usual your photos get better and better.

See you soon.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 30-Jul-11 11:47 PM GMT

Look forward to the time you can come up to North Yorks.... you obviously have been practicing for the climate recently 😊😁 - I have found a nice real ale pub here I didn't know about. Good times will be had. 😊

I have never until now had what I would judge to be a decent underside shot of a Peacock... Why bother? - well... I think they as beautiful as any other butterfly 😊



Peacock's more subtle side

also - our Purple Hairstreaks are spinning high in the Oak tree at the bottom of the garden, and I just watched a Small Copper ovipositing on the sorrel in my little wildflower patch 😊😁

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 01-Aug-11 01:17 AM GMT

Here is the result from the Small Copper I watched yesterday.... 4 years of "environmental manipulation" now counts as a success!! 😊



Small Copper ovum on Sheep's Sorrel



Small Copper ovum on Sheep's Sorrel 2

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 20-Aug-11 07:03 AM GMT

Ha!.... back on line after a computer disaster, self inflicted by me trying to make extra room on me c drive 😊😞 deleted an important driver & lost connectivity 😞 – all with no-one else to blame 😊

Had a few days last week in Somerset, and made the most of some average weather to visit Shipton Bellinger for the first time, then Lulworth and Durston another day.

Brown Hairstreak has been something of my nemesis, so having paced the hedgerows to weariness, I settled down by a vaguely promising Ash to console myself – a nice bloke wandered past and said "they're over there".. half a dozen or so, gesticulating in the direction of the other side of the adjacent field. " might just be your lucky day".... as I bemoaned my BH sterility...

so I set wearily off to where several others were patrolling the said hedgerow. Started at one end and just as I was starting to think there would be nothing, the most beautiful fresh female BH was good enough to nectar away before my eyes – first of several to show themselves along a very short section of hedge...



Female Brown Hairstreak 1



Female Brown Hairstreak 2



Female Brown Hairstreak 3



Female Brown Hairstreak 4

The first time you really see something, is a memorable one indeed. 😊😊

Re: Reverdin

by David M, 20-Aug-11 07:12 AM GMT

"Reverdin" wrote:

The first time you really see something, is a memorable one indeed. 😊😊

Certainly true with this species. I was mesmerised when I saw my first BH at close quarters last year.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 20-Aug-11 08:01 AM GMT

I really think this has to be the most difficult UK species to see.... means a lot!

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 20-Aug-11 08:16 AM GMT

Tried Lydlinch to see if Brown Hairstreaks were in evidence there.... true to form, not a sausage!! 😊
However, there were some beautiful, if not uncommon butterflies around...



Brown Argus



Common Blue underside



Common Blue upperside

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 20-Aug-11 08:25 AM GMT

Finally went down to Lulworth – no Adonis seen, but a really quite fresh Chalkhill was showing off....didn't expect to see that!! 😊



Chalkhill Blue

Then moved on to Durlston in the hope of Adonis... and after a heavy shower....

Oh... and can anyone name the wee beasties this Adonis was treading on as they tried to procreate ??? 😊



Adonis underside 1



Adonis underside 2



Adonis upperside 1



Adonis upperside 2



Adonis upperside 3



Re: Reverdin

by Gibster, 20-Aug-11 04:54 PM GMT

Hi there, bugs aren't really my strong point, but the ones in your pic could be (note *COULD* be!) *Myrmus miriformis*...maybe! 😊
Have a look at http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/heteroptera/Rhopalidae/myrmus_miriformis.html for a pic.

Cheers,

Gibster.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 21-Aug-11 04:49 AM GMT

Close enough for me thanks Gibster, I am constantly in awe of the collective intelligence available on this site 😊😊😊

Re: Reverdin

by Gibster, 21-Aug-11 05:18 AM GMT

You wouldn't be if you met a few more of us 😊

Re: Reverdin

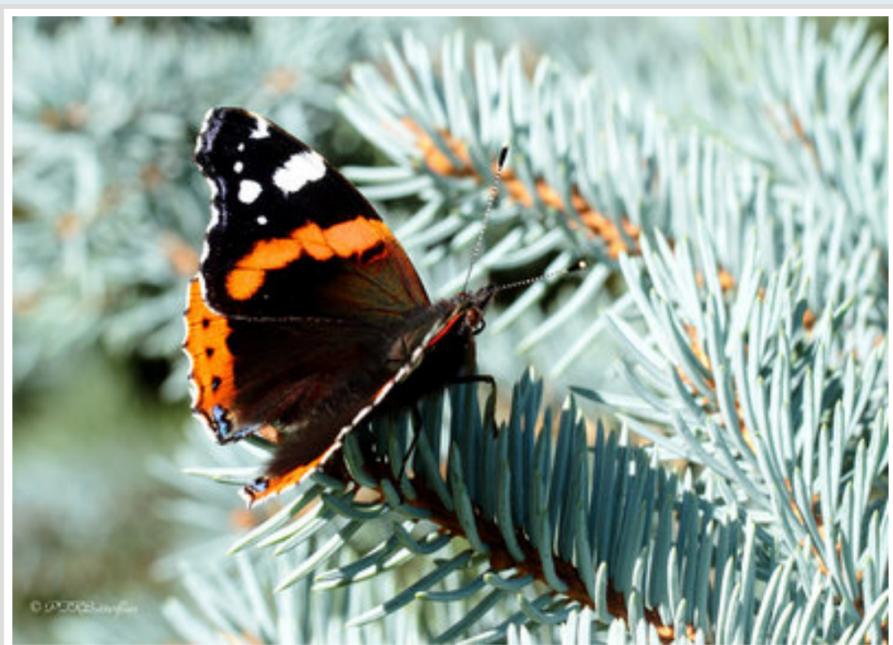
by Reverdin, 21-Aug-11 05:28 AM GMT

😊😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 28-Aug-11 10:00 PM GMT

A Red Admiral warming itself in this morning's autumnal sun..



V. atalanta

😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 14-Sep-11 05:52 AM GMT

I've been using a different way of "developing" my RAW images over the last few days, and some re-do's seem worth a new airing..



Spotted Frit and friend



Male QoS



Weaver's ups



Weaver's uns



Marsh ups



Marsh uns

There will be more to follow

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 15-Sep-11 04:00 AM GMT

Now for another focus on Green Underside Blue, and Black Eyed Blue..



Green Underside male



Green Underside male



Green Underside male



Green Underside male



Green Underside underside!



Green Underside underside!

and Black Eyed...



Black-eyed Blue male



Black-eyed Blue male



Black-eyed Blue underside



Black-eyed Blue underside

Re: Reverdin

by Padfield, 15-Sep-11 04:58 AM GMT

Great pictures, Rev!

Those underside pics illustrate something Tim C pointed out to me years ago. The black spots on the forewing of alexis tend towards the outer margin as they go south, where in melanops they turn back in towards the base. It makes the two species spearable regardless of the condition, or whether you can see the marginal markings.

G

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 15-Sep-11 06:05 AM GMT

Ah.... so they do... the marginal marking differentiator is much less obvious than that now you say... fascinating how not so subtle differences can be easily unobserved.... and I thought I had looked closely!!

I remember your alexis photo from last year when I thought I would really really like to see one like that, unbelievable Blue shade, as stunning in it's own way as bellargus.

- Hope your torso is not as blue as the butterflies 🤪😬😄

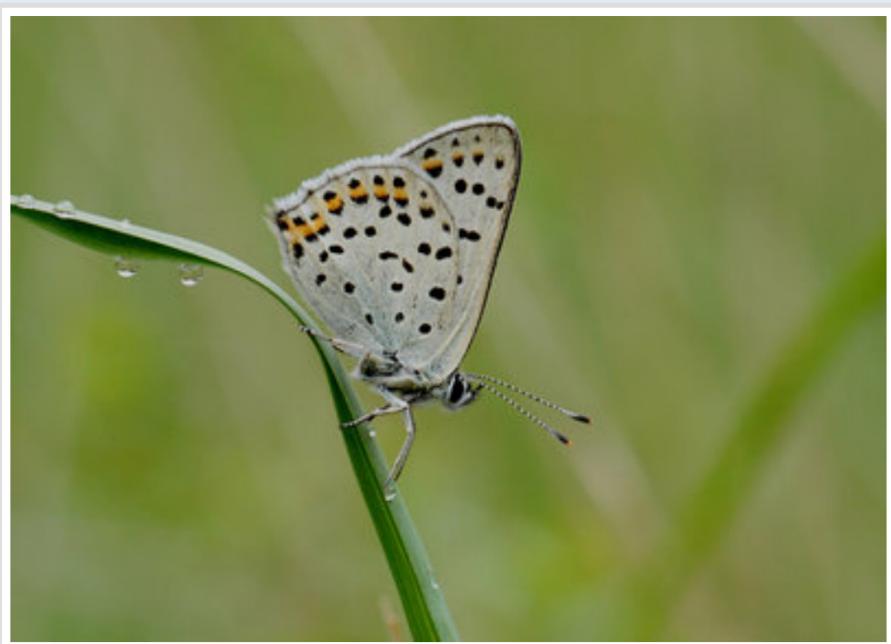
Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 16-Sep-11 03:41 AM GMT

A few more dimly lit ones, hence the inescapable noise...



Skipper, ?malvae



Sooty Copper underside



orion underside



orion upperside

Re: Reverdin

by Rogerdodge, 16-Sep-11 08:03 AM GMT





Paul

It is interesting to compare our efforts with this Sooty Copper side by side.

Yours at f10, and mine at f11.

My longer focal length (180mm) compared to yours (100mm) makes a lot of difference to the cleanness of the background I think.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 17-Sep-11 02:20 AM GMT

owch yes indeed – I MUCH prefer your clean background to mine... still working on getting the best I can out of my setup. 😊 Hope this is bringing back some good memories 😊😊

Re: Reverdin

by Padfield, 17-Sep-11 02:59 AM GMT

No reflection on anyone's photography skills (especially not Roger's), because this is all about focal lengths, but I much prefer the noisier background. I know I'm probably on my own here, but I find something actively unaesthetic about the uniform backgrounds that the top photographers seem to aim at, almost clinically. Blurred twigs, light and shade, even just general messiness please my eye much more than uniformity.

Guy

Re: Reverdin

by millerd, 17-Sep-11 04:11 AM GMT

I have to agree. The uniform (often neutral buff) backgrounds favoured by some look utterly unnatural. Having little photographic knowledge, I have no idea how they are achieved without use of clever software. I also don't comment on the photo competitions on this site, as my taste never seems to coincide with the majority!

Still, each to his own, it would be a boring old world if we all liked the same things.

Dave

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 17-Sep-11 07:08 AM GMT

Viva la difference one and all 😊😊

Here are some more variably out of focus backgrounds...



Baton



Baton



Baton f

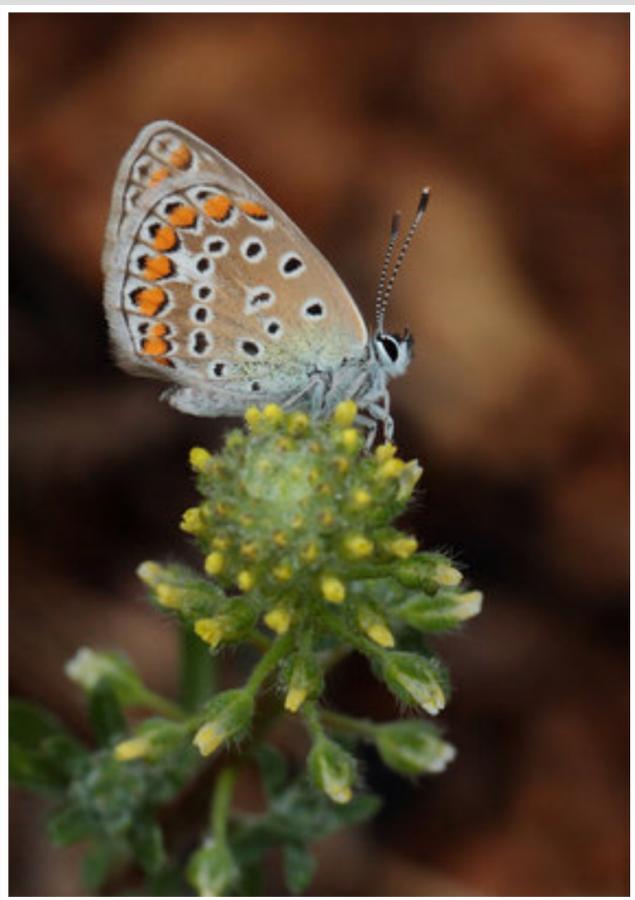


Baton f



Baton u

and an unknown...



icarus or ??? late April in the Alp Maritime

Seems to me that it's a matter of distraction levels with backgrounds... our occipital lobes naturally process what our eyes deliver, to ignore the background, or at least recede it.... I think a lot of us try to retain that effect to some degree in our imaging.. I don't mind too much but find straight lines at odd angles, as in my Sooty Copper are indeed deleterious. 😊 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Rogerdodge, 17-Sep-11 04:18 PM GMT

It is, of course, each to their own, when it comes to aesthetic preferences.

However – I personally find the intrinsic beauty of a butterfly so fascinating and absorbing that I prefer to have few distractions in the photograph. There are, obviously, exceptions to this – for example, some of Guys' photographs which show the actual geography of the area are superb. Also the inclusion of pleasing foliage or perch can add to a picture. For example the second *Baton f* that Paul has just posted. The yellow of the flowers add real interest to the photos and a contrast to the blue/black of the subject – in fact it has a similar effect to a plain background in that it helps to draw the eye to the subject.

However (and please don't take this wrong Paul?) the final *icarus* (and I think it is *Icarus* by the way) has a most distracting and clumsy background that would blend into a more unified block of colour by using a wider aperture or a longer lens.

Dave

Having little photographic knowledge, I have no idea how they are achieved without use of clever software.

I can assure you that I use no "clever software". In fact many of my friends say I should do more processing. This is because I don't shoot RAW, and do no more than just lighten (I under-expose by one stop), lightly sharpen, and sometimes lightly crop. That is it. I don't even think I would know how to turn (for example) Paul's last *Icarus* into a shot with a plainer background. Frankly I don't enjoy photo editing.

The subject of "butterfly on a stick" photography has been discussed on this forum many times. It is a style I have worked very hard to achieve (I think) good results with. I know it isn't to everyone's taste, but that is fine.

I do, however, think that some people say they don't like it because they don't have the equipment or skills to produce it.

The "right" sort of equipment is a longer lens, a larger "film" (sensor) size, a wider aperture, and a tri/monopod. It is also important to look beyond the

subject in the viewfinder and look for composition and distracting lines or blobs.

One person who is managing this style of photographs superbly with the "wrong" equipment is Sussex Kipper whose work has improved so much over the last couple of years using the ever popular Lumix. He is getting photos that really look as if they have come from a top flight DSLR. This is down to exquisite technique, endless practise and an intrinsic artistic eye that looks beyond the subject in the viewfinder to the finer composition.

The butterfly is the subject, and I like nothing to draw the eye away from it's extraordinary beauty.

I suppose, however, it is the Marmite factor.

Re: Reverdin

by Padfield, 17-Sep-11 06:27 PM GMT

I'll agree to disagree with you, Roger (unless you don't like Marmite, in which case you're simply wrong). In my opinion, that last *icarus* shot would be ruined by having a uniform background – as I think all butterfly shots are ruined by that effect. It makes them look like studio models. I shall say no more (for a bit).

Guy

Re: Reverdin

by Rogerdodge, 17-Sep-11 06:38 PM GMT

Marmite is superb.

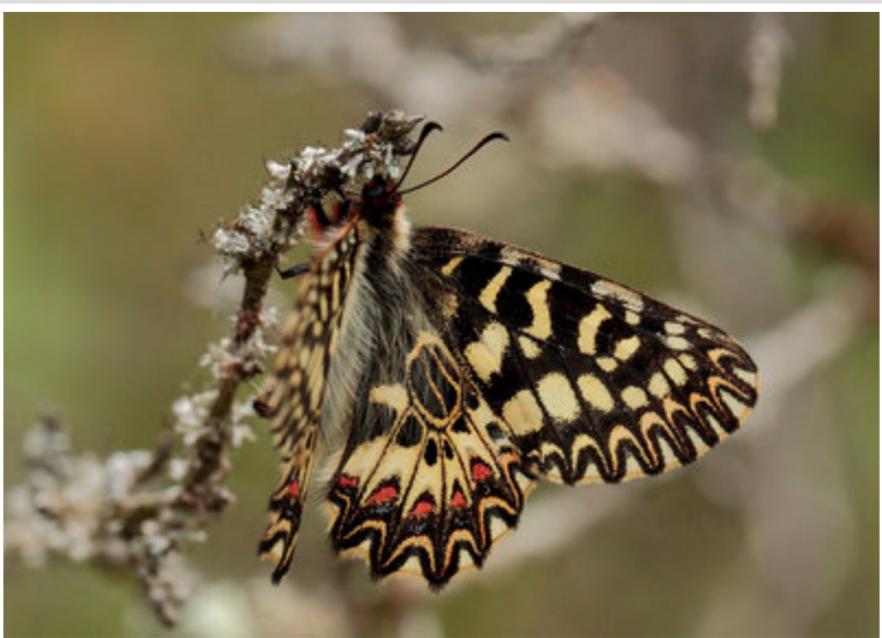
Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 18-Sep-11 07:05 AM GMT

Welll..... here are some more re-developed images from earlier this year...



Spanish Festoon



Southern Festoon

and a couple of the same SWA...



SWA



SWA

mmmmmmmm... Marmite 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 20-Sep-11 03:45 AM GMT

Here are some more treasured Pierid memories of spring in the Var...



Provence OT



Provence OT



Provence OT



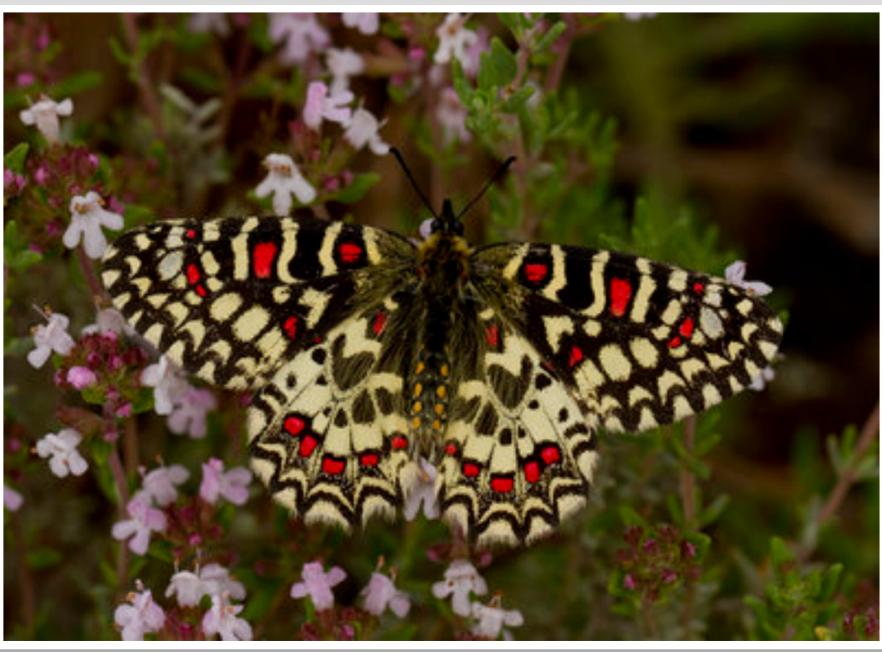
Cleopatra



Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 21-Nov-11 07:54 AM GMT

I've been fortunate enough to have my hands on a full photoshop suite recently 😊 .. so I have been whiling away the dark hours by re-developing some RAW images from this year... now the 3rd time I have done so 😊 (maybe need to get a life) – putting the images through the PS RAW converter is, I think, superior to the Canon software version... see what you think of these now familiar images from 2011... (3 out of the 4 appear two posts ago)



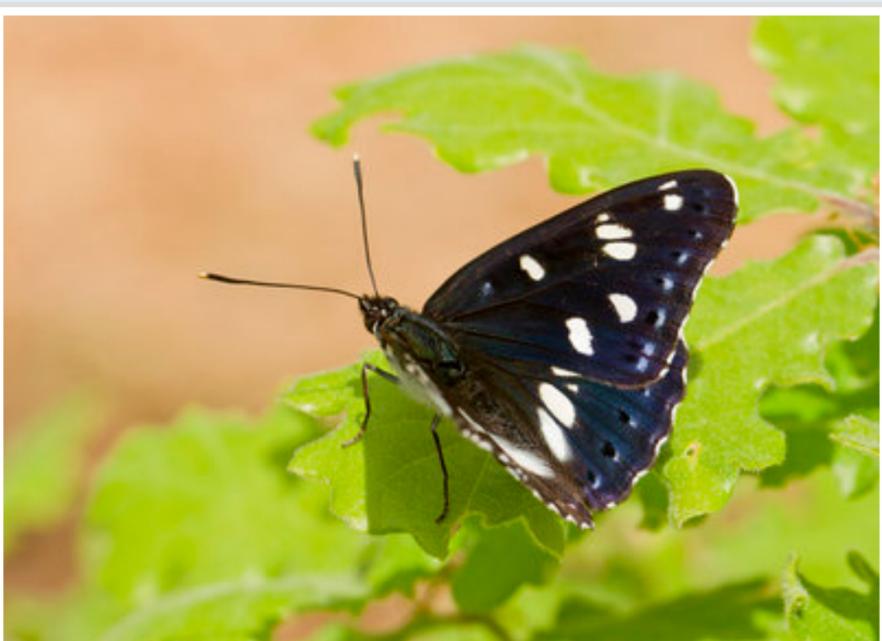
Spanish Festoon



Southern Festoon



Camberwell Beauty



Southern White Admiral

It seems very clear to me that the art of developing one's images is almost as important as getting the original shot – one day I will have it sussed. 😊

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 26-Nov-11 12:44 AM GMT

Thought I'd put together my best images of Grisons Fritillary from this year...



male



male



female



underside



underside



Re: Reverdin

by Roger Gibbons, 26-Nov-11 01:54 AM GMT

I think that maybe your *reducta* is the same butterfly as the one below:

[http://www.butterfliesoffrance.com/html ... r_13May11_](http://www.butterfliesoffrance.com/html...r_13May11_)

Your photo was on 24 April, mine on 13 May, but mine is not showing as much wear as I would have expected. Same pose, different tree!

Roger

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 26-Nov-11 02:47 AM GMT

wouldn't that be a coincidence Roger... ours was unforgettable, NickB spotted it and it was very territorial within the area just along the track opposite to where we entered the crossroads from. Sadly I think I was a little over enthusiastic about getting a shot, and also not a single one was any cop! 😊

I'm going to put more shots here of vacation origin, some of the ones not in the first draft.

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 26-Nov-11 02:57 AM GMT

Here are a couple of rather tattered *debilis* from different sites...



Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 26-Nov-11 03:08 AM GMT

Comparative shots for undersides of titania and dia...



dia



titania

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 27-Nov-11 05:41 AM GMT

Here are a couple of Moorland Clouded Yellow shots from the Haute Savoie this summer..



palaeno

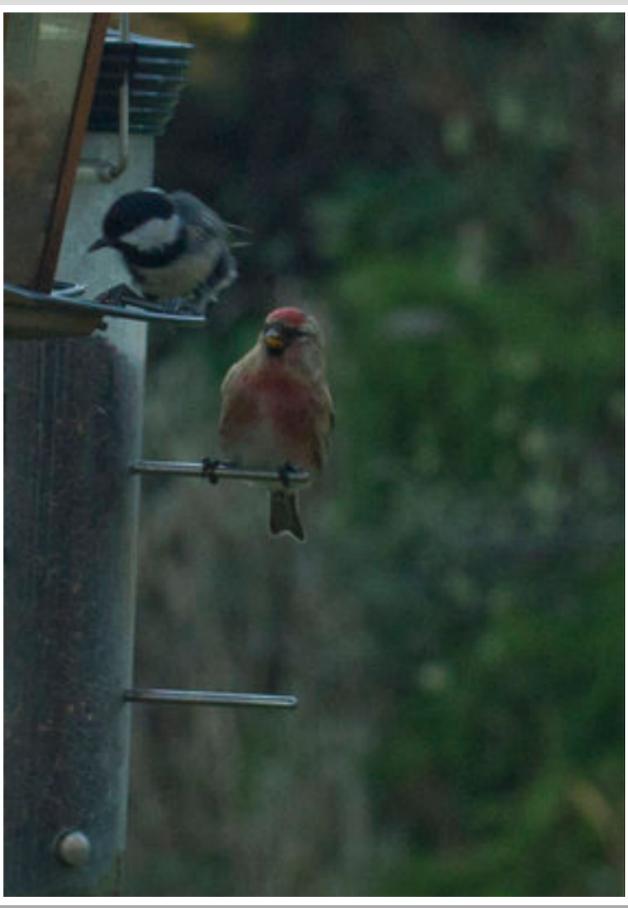


palaeno

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 20-Dec-11 05:30 AM GMT

Had this little visitor to the bird table yesterday... the phot quality is pants, but it does for a record shot.... I haven't seen one for years and years. 😊 ..



Oh, and you can just see the abb. Coal Tit with a piebald black breast

Re: Reverdin

by Wurzel, 20-Dec-11 06:10 AM GMT

I am really jealous of your shots 🍷 My wife is threatening to take us all on a last minute package holiday this year – can I be guaranteed plenty of new species anywhere on the continent or are there any places to avoid? 😊
By the way I too like the busy backgrounds – as I don't know how not to get them!

Have a goodun (Christmas and new year that is!)

Wurzel

Re: Reverdin

by Reverdin, 20-Dec-11 06:39 AM GMT

Hi, and thanks greatly, 😊

The continent is just wonderful!... Wherever I have been, and it's not many places, you can be sure to find interesting stuff 'cos by now you will have an automatic sense for what constitutes good habitat.. if it's summer and mountainous, all the better.

I have just set off in a car, decided to drive as far south as I need to outrun the rain, and with no local knowledge have found loads of stuff 😊 – old quarries, pipelines, powerline runs, canalside to coastal walks, and just plain old scrubby wasteland... there's usually plenty of it..... just avoid military installations 😊

Finding out about your sightings is the greatest pleasure afterwards.

In my experience, family can get a bit ratty if you lose yourself in it, reactions from 🤔 to 😡

Enjoy! 😊