

Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 12-Apr-19 07:07 PM GMT

This is my blog about my books, DVDs and magazines.

I hope to include my visits to UK Butterfly sites and also my trips to Swiss Butterfly sites in the summer.

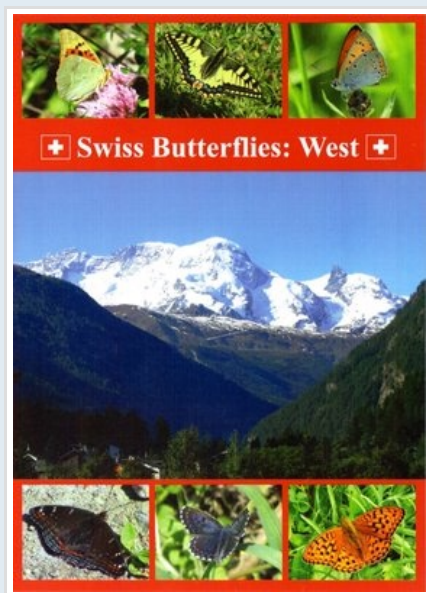
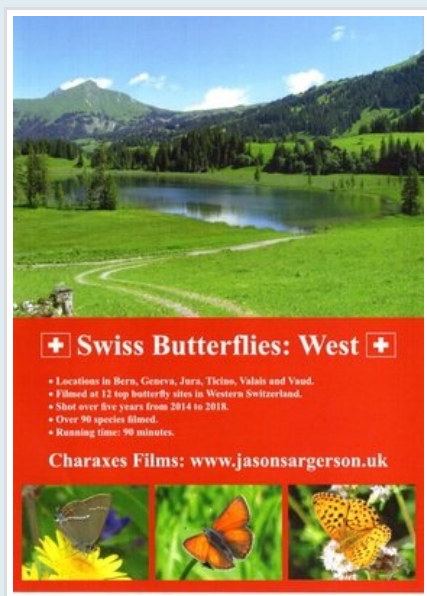
My latest DVD is now available: Swiss Butterflies: West.

The key to my DVDs is that the sites visited are all easy access – you should be seeing some nice butterflies as soon as you arrive by bus, train or car.

Peter Eeles has posted a review on this site, and Bill Stone has reviewed the DVD on Amazon.

Clips from the DVD can be seen on my website, on youtube and on this website.

Full information about the DVD is on my website.



Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 13-Apr-19 08:12 AM GMT

Welcome, Jason. I shall look forward to your reports from Switzerland in particular.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by Benjamin, 13-Apr-19 10:26 PM GMT

Hi Jason –

Good idea to post on here – I think there are many users that will very much appreciate your work. Personally I find your DVDs and magazines most

useful when brushing up on id skills before trips to Europe – obviously anyone heading to Switzerland will find them particularly beneficial!

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 14-Apr-19 02:30 PM GMT

Thanks for the welcome David and Ben.

I have created a new post in the Overseas section for my magazine: European Butterflies Magazine.

The first issue is still available.



European Butterflies Cover 2018

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 15-Apr-19 05:17 PM GMT

The second issue (2019) of European Butterflies Magazine is now available.

Please see Overseas forum: European Butterflies Magazine for details.



European Butterflies Magazine 2019 Cover

Re: Jason Sargerson

by NickMorgan, 20-Apr-19 07:38 PM GMT

Received my copy of European Butterflies a couple of days ago. Loads of interesting articles and pictures. I am really looking forward to reading it on holiday.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 20-Apr-19 09:32 PM GMT

My first butterfly trip today to Wilberforce Way, Woodmansey near Kingston upon Hull.

This is a footpath along the Barmston Drain, beside what is now a good field of grass, that used to have a lot of flowers for Small Copper, Common Blue and Brown Argus,

There were some Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks, Orange Tips, Small Whites and a single Comma.



Comma, Wilberforce Way, 20.04.19



Peacock, Wilberforce Way, 20.04.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 21-Apr-19 07:21 PM GMT

Are you looking for a bargain book?

My book Southwest USA and Four Corners is available direct from me at £5.00, including postage.

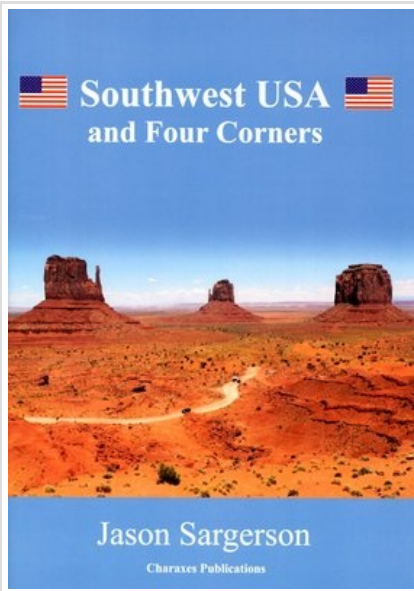
This is a Natural History/Geology guide to the Southwest, covering National Parks and National Monuments.

It covers Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon, but also places such as Moab, Monticello and Durango.

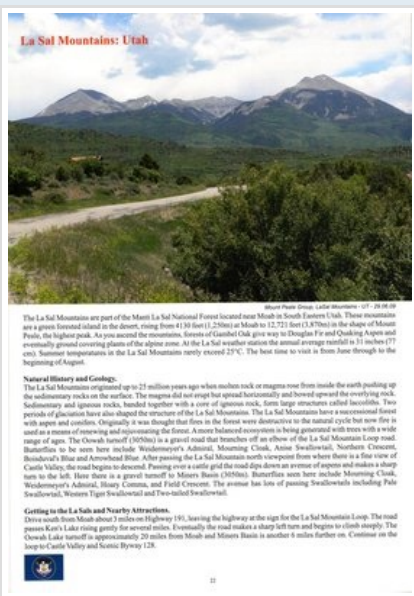
There are two good areas to visit for butterflies: the LaSal Mountains and the Abajo Mountains – both green mountain ranges in the red rock country.

Please see my website <http://www.jasonsargerson.uk> for further details.

See the front cover and selected pages that follow:



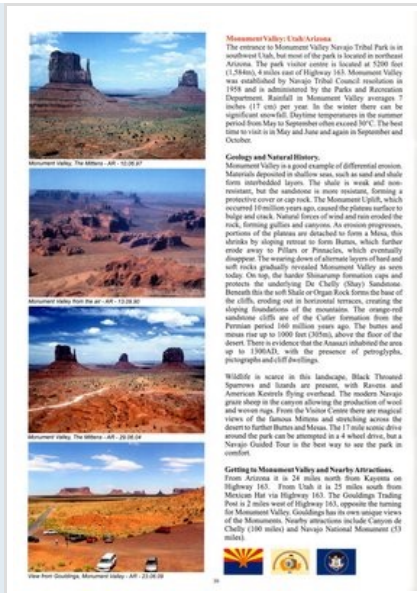
Southwest USA and Four Corners Cover



Southwest USA Page 22



Southwest USA Page 23



Southwest USA Page 30



Southwest USA Page 31

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 22-Apr-19 07:25 AM GMT

Does it cover the area around Aspen, Jason?

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 22-Apr-19 12:35 PM GMT

Hello David

The book covers the south west of Colorado – Mesa Verde National Park and the Durango to Silverton Railway.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 22-Apr-19 05:40 PM GMT

Thanks, Jason. I will take a couple off your hands very soon.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 28-Apr-19 08:00 PM GMT

Here is another clips from my recent DVD: Swiss Butterflies: West.

This is the Marbled Fritillary, found in lowland woodland and rocky steppe areas in Switzerland

<https://youtu.be/1YZy8IGKUgU>

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 28-Apr-19 11:40 PM GMT

Very nice, Jason. Reminds me of the forest track behind my first hotel in the French Alps!

I've sent you an email regarding your USA publication just now.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 06-May-19 08:05 PM GMT

My book Swiss Butterflies second edition is still available, direct from me for £10.00, including postage.

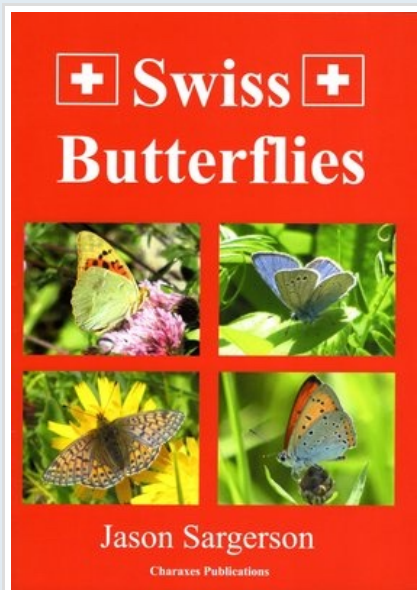
See my website <http://www.jasonsargerson.uk> for more details.

This second edition is a significant improvement on the first edition. The key to the book is butterflies are grouped according to habitat, rather than in the traditional taxonomic way. This gives the book a different appearance, with butterflies that appear together in the field, also appearing together in print. Common butterflies were grouped together – I made it 41 species in Switzerland (compare to the UK!). Also the Ringlets appear as one chapter – there are 26 species to be found in Switzerland. The habitats are Lowland, Rocky Steppe, Wetland, Mountain and High Mountain, to go with the chapters on Common Butterflies and Ringlets

In the first edition I did not edit or improve the photographs in any way and I only borrowed one or two. For the second edition I decided all species had to be illustrated and therefore I borrowed quite a few photos from my friends in Switzerland, including Matt Rowlings, Vincent and Michel Baudraz, Guy Padfield and Yannick Chittaro. The text for each butterfly was lined up with the photographs. Photographs were brightened or colour enhanced or cropped to improve them where required.

For each habitat and grouping selected sites are described and illustrated to visit, thus complementing my other Swiss Butterfly book – Swiss Butterflies Site Guide. There are over 200 photos of butterflies and 21 of habitat.

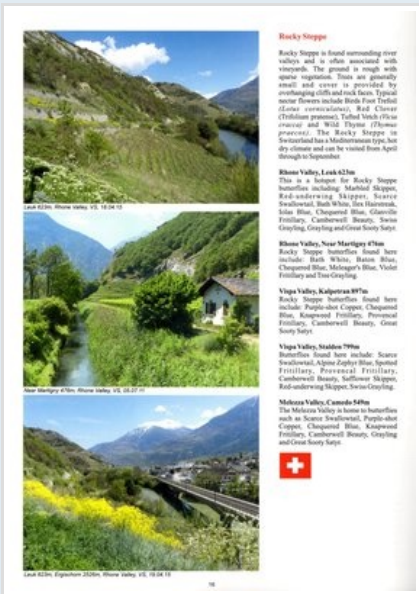
Please see examples of covers and inside pages:



Front cover Swiss Butterflies



Back cover Swiss Butterflies



Page 16 Rocky Steppe



Page 17 Rocky Steppe



High Mountain

The High Mountains include all habitats above 1500m. In Switzerland the alpine chain includes the mountains of Valais, Uri, Bern, Ticino and Graubünden. Mountain habitat is usually alpine meadows with small bushes and trees. Typical insect plants include: Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and Green Knopweed (*Centaurea scaberrima*). Butterflies of the high mountains are characterized by the special Gravel Skipper, Small Pale Alpine Blue and Smaller Frithill. The best time to visit the high mountains is in the six week period from the end of June to the beginning of August. The butterflies are a mix of colonial species.

Some of the high mountain butterflies have a two year life cycle, so that populations may be greater in alternate years. These include: Asian Frithill, Little Frithill, Mountain Frithill, Thor's Frithill, Alpine Grayling and Mountain Dappled White. Some of the high mountain species are more likely to be found above the tree line, including: Small Apollo, Peak White, Glendon Blue, Alpine Blue, Mountain Frithill, Shepherd's Frithill, Green's Frithill and Alpine Grayling.

Saas Valley, Mattmark 2054m
Typical high mountain butterflies include: Small Apollo, Peak White, Mountain Clouded Yellow and Green Blue.

Simplon Pass, 2055m
High mountain butterflies to look for include: Green's Frithill, Mountain Marsh Frithill, Purple-winged Copper, Mountain Clouded Yellow, Mountain Dappled White, Alpine Blue and Glendon Blue.

Oberalpstein, 2035m
Look for: Mountain Clouded Yellow, Shepherd's Frithill, Alpine Blue, Cranberry Blue and Small Apollo.

Puncheon Valley, Alp Gröb 2016m
High Mountain butterflies include: Large Gravel Skipper, Mountain Clouded Yellow, Purple-winged Copper, mountain and Alpine Blue.



Page 26 High Mountain



Page 29 High Mountain

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 11-May-19 08:13 PM GMT

My book Swiss Butterflies Site Guide is still available from me for £10.00, including postage.

Alternatively, you can buy both the Site Guide and Swiss Butterflies for £18.00 from me, including postage.

The Site Guide covers sites in Bern, Geneva, Graubunden, Jura, Schwyz, Ticino and Valais.

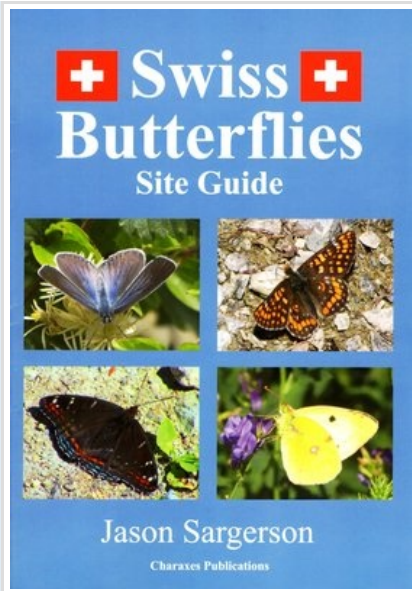
Habitat covered includes Lowland, Rocky Steppe (Dry), Wetland, Mountain and High Mountain.

There are over 150 species illustrated with 250 colour photographs.

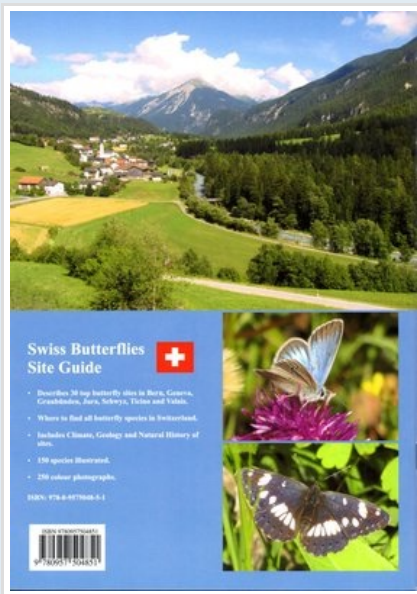
The format is based on 'American Butterflies' magazine articles called Definitive Destinations. This means including information about climate, including rainfall and sunshine, the best time of year to go, Geology of the area as well as Natural History including wildlife and nectar plants.

Full details are on my website: <http://www.jasonsargerson.uk>

Please see examples of pages and covers.



Swiss Butterflies Site Guide Front Cover



Swiss Butterflies Site Guide Back Cover



Swiss Butterflies Site Guide page 18

by jasonsargerson, 15-May-19 07:15 PM GMT

Marsh Fritillaries at Chambers Farm, Lincolnshire.

The Lincolnshire branch recent sightings highlighted over 500 Marsh Fritillaries at Chambers Farm.

So I visited today and found hundreds of Marsh Fritillaries – so if you live within an hours journey, it is well worth a visit.

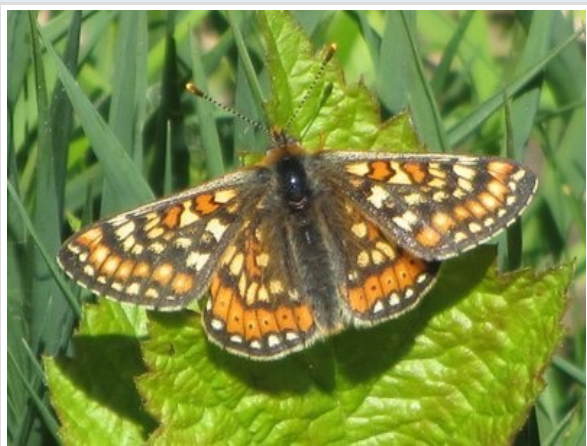
They were nectaring on the dandelions on the path on the way to Little Scrubs Meadow, and in the two meadows there were hundreds.

Dingy Skipper was also seen by others, and I saw Comma and Brimstone.

Some photos:



Marsh Fritillary, Chambers Farm, 15.05.19



Marsh Fritillary, Chambers Farm, 15.05.19



Marsh Fritillary, Chambers Farm, 15.05.19



Marsh Fritillary, Chambers Farm, 15.05.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 16-May-19 07:36 AM GMT

jasonsargerson wrote:

...The Lincolnshire branch recent sightings highlighted over 500 Marsh Fritillaries at Chambers Farm.

So I visited today and found hundreds of Marsh Fritillaries...

Wow! Those are seriously impressive numbers, Jason. Hopefully they'll be out near me by the weekend (although that's when the cloud is set to roll back in after several consecutive sunny days) 😊

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 16-May-19 07:51 PM GMT

Some more stills from my video of the Marsh Fritillaries yesterday at Chambers Farm and a short video clip.

The Marsh Fritillary is an interesting butterfly because each individual has unique markings.

<https://youtu.be/osjgIYYx1x4>



Marsh Fritillary, Chambers Farm, 15.05.19



Marsh Fritillary, Chambers Farm, 15.05.19



Marsh Fritillary, Chambers Farm, 15.05.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 17-May-19 11:44 PM GMT

jasonsargerson wrote:

..The Marsh Fritillary is an interesting butterfly because each individual has unique markings....

Not to mention the regional variation....and regular aberrations, Jason!

A fascinating species for sure.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 22-May-19 05:06 PM GMT

I visited Kiplingcotes Chalk Pit, near Market Weighton, East Yorkshire for the first time this year today.

This is probably the best butterfly site nearest to my home in Hull.

I was hoping to see Dingy Skipper and Common Blue.

It was not as sunny as forecast and butterflies were only just showing themselves in the overcast conditions.

I did see Orange Tip, Dingy Skipper, Common Blue and a surprise for me, for the first time at this site: a Brown Argus.

See attached photos:



Dingy Skipper, Kiplingcotes, 22.05.19



Brown Argus, Kiplingcotes, 22.05.19



Brown Argus, Kiplingcotes, 22.05.19



Common Blue, Kiplingcotes, 22.05.19



Common Blue, Kiplingcotes, 22.05.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by CallumMac, 23-May-19 09:36 AM GMT

Nice set of pics from Kip, Jason. I consider this to be my 'local patch' – a super reserve! Good to see that the Common Blues are out now, as I've not seen one yet in Yorkshire (one last weekend in Cumbria).

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 23-May-19 09:26 PM GMT

jasonsargerson wrote:

...and a surprise for me, for the first time at this site: a Brown Argus.

Always a nice feeling is that, Jason, especially when you have been visiting for some while.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 26-May-19 04:47 PM GMT

My first DVD *Swiss Butterflies: East* is still available from me for £12.00, or buy both *East* and *West* for £21.00, including postage.

Swiss Butterflies East concentrates on Graubunden, on sites that I discovered myself, just by getting off the train at a promising place.

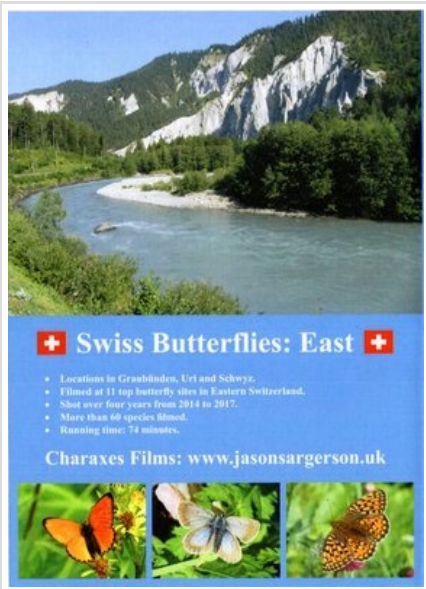
The DVD features some rare butterflies including Alcon Blue, Amanda's Blue, Damon Blue, Escher's Blue, Silvery Argus, Thor's Fritillary and Southern White Admiral. Sites filmed include 11 top sites in eastern Switzerland, featuring Lowland, Rocky Steppe, Wetland, Mountain and High Mountain.

The film was shot over 4 years from 2014 to 2017 and has film of over 60 species, with a running time of 74 minutes.

Please see the cover images and photos of key sites: Cavaglia, Oberalppass, Preda and Versam.



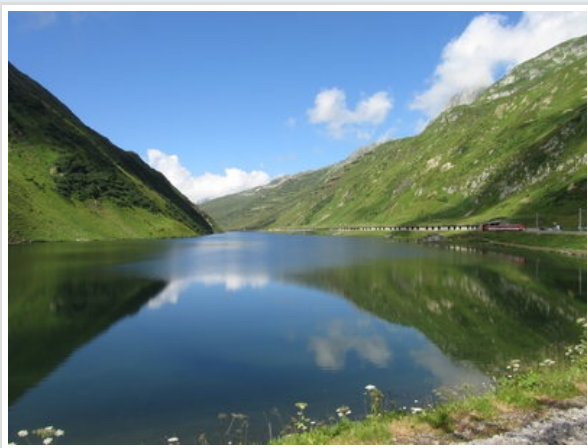
Swiss Butterflies: East, front cover



Swiss Butterflies: East, back cover



Cavaglia from Alp Grum, Lago Poschiavo, 02.8.13



Oberalppass, Uri, 29.07.16



Preda, The Twins, Albula Valley, 01.08.12



Versam, Rhine Valley, 29.07.15

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 02-Jun-19 04:50 PM GMT

My book 'Papilio' about butterflies in Europe and South West USA is still available.

This is a forerunner of the European Butterflies magazine, with different sites visited in Europe and the USA.

Countries visited include Corfu, England, France, Gibraltar, Hungary, Italy, Switzerland and the United States.

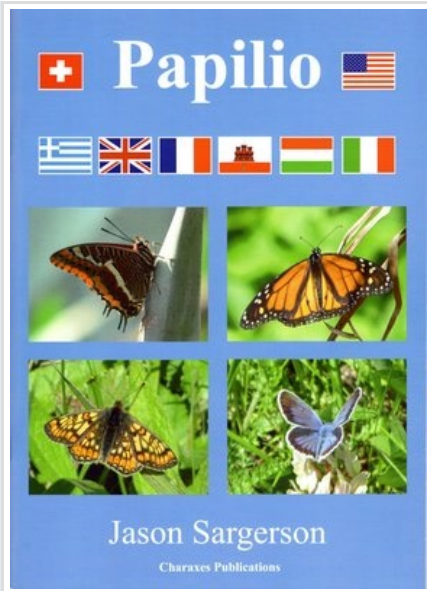
Over 100 species illustrated, with 140 colour photographs.

Available from me for £10.00, including postage. See my website <http://www.jasonsargerson.uk> for more details.

I have given 25 copies to the Lincolnshire Branch of Butterfly Conservation and also 25 copies to the Yorkshire Branch.

Both of their society stands should be selling the book at a reduced price.

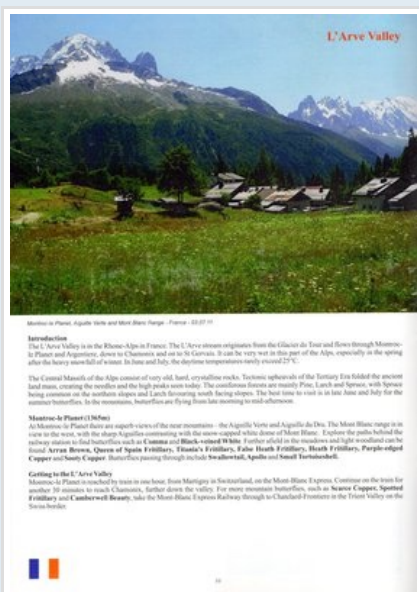
Please see attached scans of the cover and sample pages:



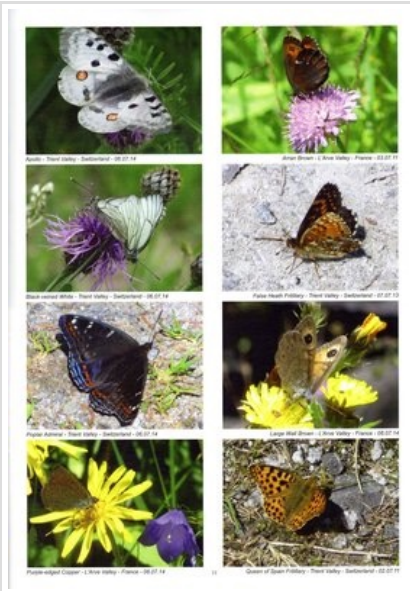
Papilio Front Cover



Papilio Back Cover



Papilio Page 10, France



Papilio Page 11, France

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 13-Jun-19 09:58 PM GMT

I have just returned from my first trip to Switzerland.

The weather was not very kind, so I include in my accounts places I visited using my Swiss Pass.

Day 1: Thursday June 6th.

This was a dull and wet day. I took the train to Zurich from Brig, hoping to sample the new Class 502 units.

I was lucky and traveled from Zurich to Basel in the new train – reasonably comfortable and smooth.

On returning to Visp from Basel, there was a glimmer of sun, so I visited Leuk in the Rhone Valley – only butterfly on show was a Speckled Wood.

A 'Gold Train' shot through Leuk at speed – this was the new Class 526 for the Sudostbahn on test in the Rhone valley – I managed to photograph on my return to Brig.



SBB, Class 502, Basel, 06.06.19



Speckled Wood, Leuk, 06.06.19



SOB, Class 526, Brig, 06.06.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 14-Jun-19 08:02 PM GMT

June 7th – the second day of my trip to Switzerland.

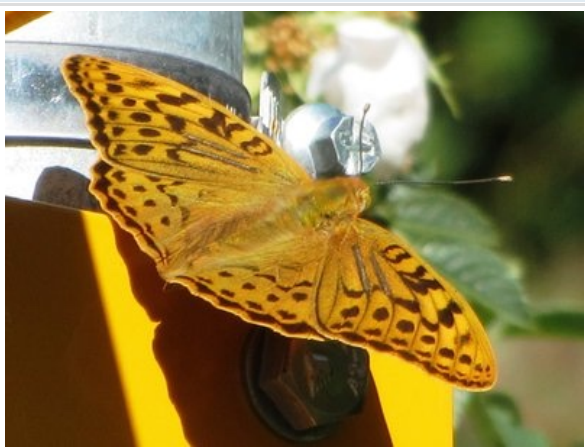
The forecast was good, after all the rain the day before, so I set off for the Cardinal site near Martigny.

This is supposed to be a secret location, but judging by the number of people on the Swiss Butterfly database, many have located the Cardinals.

Also at this site, it is possible to find Iolas Blue, another rare butterfly in Switzerland, feeding on Bladder Senna (*Colutea*).

I managed to find some nice Cardinals, mostly females, but the Iolas Blues were difficult to photograph – too far away or diving into the *Colutea*.

Other butterflies photographed included Turquoise Blue, Safflower Skipper and Red-underwing Skipper. Also seen were Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell and Common Blue.



Cardinal male, Rhone Valley, 07.06.19



Cardinal female, Rhone Valley, 07.06.19



Iolas Blue, Near Martigny, 07.06.19



Iolas Blue, Near Martigny, 07.06.19



Turquoise Blue, Near Martigny, 07.06.19



Safflower Skipper, Near Martigny, 07.06.19



View back to Martigny 2, 07.06.19



View back to Martigny, 07.06.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 15-Jun-19 07:26 AM GMT

Lovely Cardinal, Jason. Shame about the weather. Seems like most of central and northern Europe (towards the west at least) has been suffering lately.

Still, that scenery is worth the visit on its own!

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 15-Jun-19 11:30 PM GMT

June 7th pm - I got back to Martigny and because the weather was so good I was tempted to go on the Mont Blanc Express to Chatelard Frontiere.

This site promises Camberwell Beauty, Apollos and Swallowtails on a good day.

In the background is the volcanic looking Aiguille de Mesure, actually in France.

I managed to see 18 species, photographing 10 species: Silver-studded Blue, Provencal Short-tailed Blue, Swallowtail, Common Blue, Adonis Blue, Heath Fritillary, Queen of Spain Fritillary, Duke of Burgundy, Green Hairstreak, Grizzled Skipper.

Not photographed were: Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Brimstone, Orange Tip, Wood White, Small Tortoiseshell, Piedmont Ringlet, Painted Lady and Small Blue.

I did see a Camberwell Beauty from the train, and several Apollos, but not at the site. The highlight for me was probably the Duke of Burgundy, because it frequents the area near the bee hives and it was probably late in the season.



Mont Blanc Express, Martigny, 07.06.19



Chatelard, Aiguille de Mesure, 07.06.19



Swallowtail, Chatelard, 07.06.19



Adonis Blue, Chatelard, 07.06.19



Common Blue, Chatelard, 07.06.19



Provençal Short-tailed Blue, Chatelard, 07.06.19



Silver-studded Blue, Chatelard, 07.06.19



Duke of Burgundy, Chatelard, 07.06.19



Queen of Spain Fritillary, Chatelard, 07.06.19



Green Hairstreak, Chatelard, 07.06.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 16-Jun-19 09:02 PM GMT

June 8th – a very nice warm day.

It was a particularly nice day forecast so I ventured higher up to Lauenensee in Bern, hoping to see some different species.

However, it was too early in the season, the best time to visit this protected area is at the beginning of July.

In July you may be rewarded with Scarce and Dusky Large Blue and Purple-edged Copper and possibly Violet Copper.

I only managed Small Tortoiseshell, Small Blue, Green-veined White, Small White and Dingy Skipper.

Lauenensee is a spectacular place though, with the lakes and waterfall, meadows and mountains.

Gstaad used to be the home to Roger Moore – now sadly passed away. Take the 181 Post Bus to Lauenensee.

I stopped off in Spiez on the way back to Brig – always superb views of the lake from the railway station.



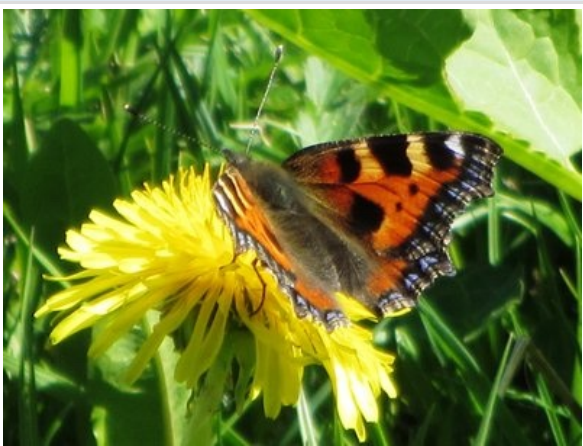
Spiez, Lake Thun, 08.06.19



Spiez Castle, Lake Thun, 08.06.19



Postbus to Lauenensee, Gstaad, 08.06.19



Small Tortoiseshell, Lauenensee, 08.06.19



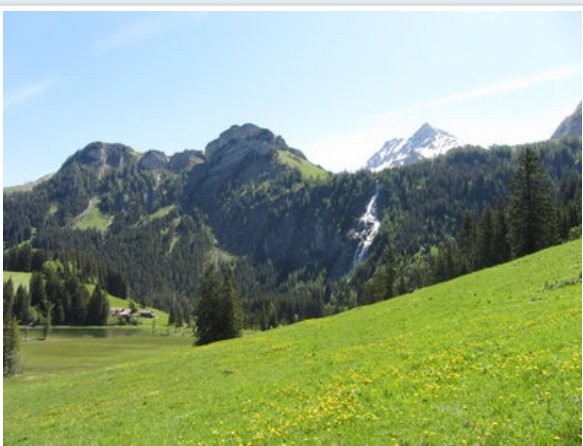
Small Blue, Lauenensee, 08.06.19



Lauenensee, 08.06.19



Lauenensee, 08.06.19



Lauenensee, Geltenschuss waterfall, 08.06.19



Lauenensee, 08.06.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 17-Jun-19 09:11 PM GMT

June 9th – the fourth day of my holiday in Switzerland.

It was very wet, I decided to go to Geneva by train in the hope that the weather would improve – but it just rained.

I saw Cormorants, Herons and Great Crested Grebes on Lake Geneva on the section between Vevey and Lausanne.

Returning from Geneva, I got off at Aigle and took the TPC train to Monthey.

I walked from Monthey Ville station to the Monthey SBB station in the rain and waited for the train back to Brig in the rain.

Some photos from previous times of Lake Geneva and the TPC train.



TPC, Aigle, 11.06.17



Montreux, Dents du Midi, Lake Geneva, 03.07.16



Montreux, Lake Geneva, Vaud, 03.07.16

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 18-Jun-19 07:59 PM GMT

Monday 10th June – Day 5 of my Swiss Trip.

It was forecast wet again, so I went on a long train trip.

When i arrived in Zurich, it was sunny and also when arriving in Schaffhausen.

I went to photograph the Munot Castle by the River Rhine in Schaffhausen and also a train crossing the Rhine Bridge.

Leaving Schaffhausen, I went to St Gallen, via Winterthur – it rained all the way, but was dry in St Gallen (unusually).

I arrived on the new Class 502 double deck train and went outside the station to see the new Appenzellbahn Tango trains.

I left St Gallen on the Voralpen Express to Luzern (Lucerne), seeing the lake outside the SBB station and the huge 3 section trolleybuses.

Then it was back to Brig by 1915 – no sandwiches left!



Schaffhausen, Castle Munot, River Rhine, 10.06.19



Schaffhausen, Rhine Bridge, 10.06.19



SBB, Class 502, St Gallen, 10.06.19



AB, St Gallen, Tango 1, 10.06.19



AB, St Gallen, Tango 2, 10.06.19



Lucerne, Lake Lucerne, 10.06.19



VBL, Lucerne, Hess Articulated Trolley, 10.06.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 19-Jun-19 09:22 PM GMT

June 11th - last day of my holiday in Switzerland.

It was forecast for some sunshine, so I visited Leuk, where there is usually something even in dull weather if it is warm.

In the morning there were a few butterflies, such as Adonis Blue, Idas Blue, Small White, Bath White and Marbled White.

I took the train to Martigny in the hope of some sun there - but no luck.

I returned to Leuk and managed to see Great Sooty Satyr, Wall, Common Blue, Queen of Spain Fritillary, Idas Blue, Small White and Marbled White in the afternoon.

I attach a photo of Leuk on a sunny day and the butterfly photos.

In total I saw 34 species on my trip (more than in a whole year in the UK), but not as many as the 38 species in June last year.

Not too bad for only 3 butterfly days out of 6.



Adonis Blue, Leuk, 11.06.19



Bath White, Leuk, 11.06.19



Common Blue, Leuk, 11.06.19



Idas Blue, Leuk, 11.06.19



Idas Blue, Leuk, 11.06.19



Marbled White, Leuk, 11.06.19



Leuk, Rhone Valley, Ergischorn, 08.06.17

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 20-Jun-19 04:15 PM GMT

Pleased to hear you had an enjoyable trip, Jason, even if the weather was far from ideal. As you say, being able to rack up 3 dozen or so species puts things in the UK into perspective.

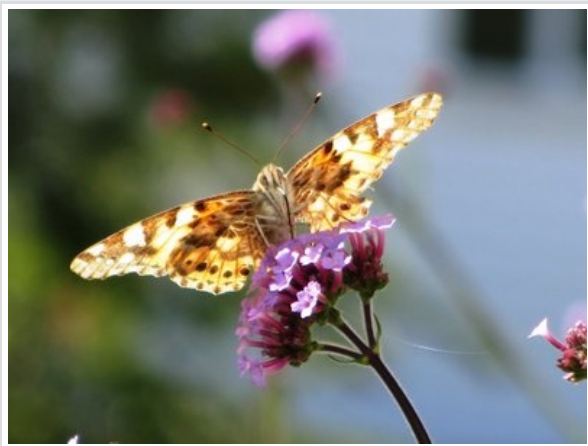
Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 27-Jun-19 07:36 PM GMT

At last a sunny day – only the second sunny day I have recorded in June in the UK this year!!

I saw some Red Admirals, Painted Ladies, Small Tortoiseshells, Meadow Browns and Speckled Woods at Hesse Golf Club today.

On returning home, there was a very worn Painted Lady feeding on the *Verbena bonariensis*.



Painted Lady, Kingston upon Hull, 27.06.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 30-Jun-19 12:25 PM GMT

I have sent my records of my sightings from my recent trip to Switzerland to the Swiss Butterfly Recorder: Yannick Chittaro.

If you visit Switzerland and record your sightings Yannick is always very pleased to receive your records.

His email is yannick.chittaro@unine.ch The database where all the records appear is at <http://www.lepus.unine.ch/carto>.

The best site for Swiss Butterfly photographs and information is run by Vincent and Michel Baudraz and is <http://www.lepido.ch>.

For example my records of Poplar Admiral at Chatelard appear on the database and photos are on [lepido.ch](http://www.lepido.ch).

Some photos of Poplar Admiral:



Poplar Admiral, Chatelard, 06.07.14



Poplar Admiral, Chatelard, 13.06.17

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 04-Jul-19 07:06 PM GMT

I 'discovered' a new tree species when I cycled down Westbourne Avenue in Hull today - it is Indian Horse Chestnut - it flowers much later than our Horse Chestnut. Somebody thoughtful has planted several on Westbourne Avenue, thus expanding the flowering season for trees into July.

I went to Wood Lane, Cottingham this afternoon, but the sun went hazy, so I only managed Speckled Wood and Meadow Brown.



Speckled Wood, Wood Lane, 04.07.19



Meadow Brown, Wood Lane, 04.07.19



Indian Horse Chestnut, Westbourne Avenue, 04.07.19



Indian Horse Chestnut, Westbourne Avenue, 04.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 18-Jul-19 08:08 PM GMT

I have just returned from my second trip to Switzerland this summer.

It seemed like hard work, there was only one full day of sunshine and two half days.

However, I was lucky to see some key species – at one place (Cavaglia) it was briefly sunny and raining at the same time.

On day one Thursday 11th July, it was dull so I went on the train all the way to Basel, from Filisur in Graubunden where I stay in the east.

I get a first class train pass in the east because the trains are often crowded.

I traveled on the new Class 502 to start and then on the new Class 501 from Zurich to Basel – the Swiss seem to use this as a testing ground.

The train appeared to have small windows – maybe there is a technical reason for fast trains to have smaller windows.

When I returned to Filisur, it was still dull. A quick trip to the woods yielded only Small White, Large Wall Brown, Comma in its favourite place and surprisingly White Admiral – I look forward to Southern White Admiral here usually.



SBB, Class 501 arriving at Zurich, 11.07.19



SBB, Class 501, 1st Class, 11.07.19



SBB, Class 501, Basel, 11.07.19



Comma, Filisur, 11.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 19-Jul-19 08:22 PM GMT

On the second day of my holiday in Switzerland, Friday July 12th, I ventured down the Poschiavo Valley to Brusio.

Sunshine was forecast, but it was relatively cool. I needed to see some butterflies to make up for the previous day.

The weather on the way over the Bernina pass and down through Alp Grum was not very promising – see photos of Ozpizio Bernina and Miralago.

The Cambrena glacier has significantly receded.

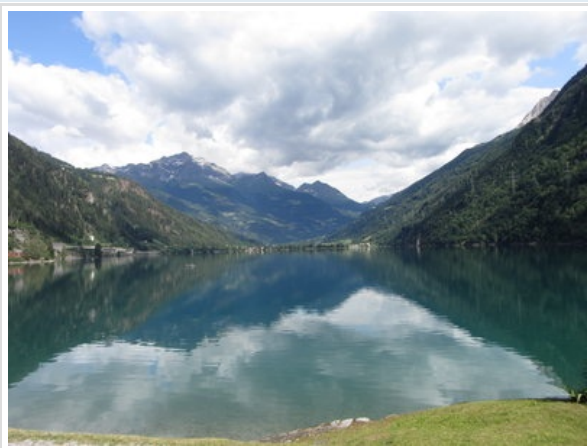
At Brusio, I found butterflies such as Common Blue, Small Heath, Comma, Small Skipper, Heath Fritillary and Spotted Fritillary.

It was disappointing not to see any larger Fritillaries, there are usually Silver Washed, Dark Green and High Brown on the buddleias.

The highlight was Purple-shot Copper, one of my favourite butterflies, usually found on the Yarrow at Brusio.



Ozpizio Bernina, Lago Bianco, Piz Cambrena, 12.07.19



Miralago, Lago Poschiavo, Piz Varuna, 12.07.19



Small Heath, Brusio, 12.07.19



Spotted Fritillary, Brusio, 12.07.19



Small Skipper, Brusio, 12.07.19



Purple Shot Copper, Brusio, 12.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 20-Jul-19 09:15 PM GMT

I left Brusio on the 12th July on the 1205 train to Cavaglia.

On the way back I caught glimpses of Apollo, Swallowtail, Marbled White and Silver Washed Fritillary.

By the time i reached Cavaglia, it was dull and I had to persuade myself to get off the train and go to the site.

On passing through the village (about 3 houses), the first place for butterflies is a patch of rough ground with red clover.

I was pleased to find Black-veined Whites and Large Ringlet – a good start despite the dull weather.

Walking further upstream, amazingly the sun came out and i could see some butterflies flying!!

The sun shone briefly on and off and it even rained at the same time as being sunny.

I managed to see Thor's Fritillary for the first time here for 3 years – I like this butterfly because it is always variable.

Also seen were Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Titania's Fritillary, Heath Fritillary, Niobe Fritillary, Mazarine Blue, Large Wall Brown, Almond-eyed Ringlet, Dusky Grizzled Skipper, Red Admiral and Painted Lady.

No Coppers though – usually Purple-edged, Sooty and Scarce and occasionally Purple-shot.

So, a good list of butterflies – it poured with rain when I got back to Cavaglia station, so very lucky.



Cavaglia, Val Poschiavo, 12.07.19



Black-veined White, Cavaglia, 12.07.19



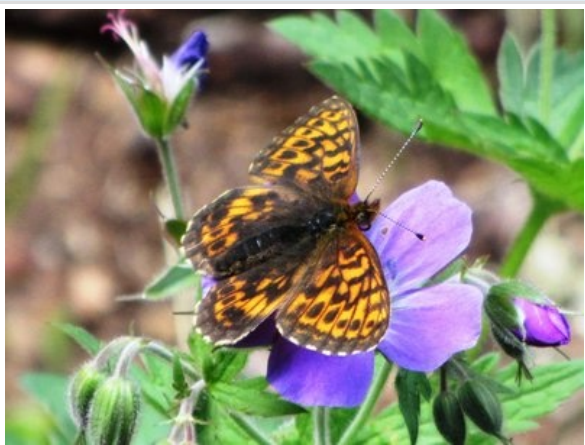
Large Ringlet, Cavaglia, 12.07.19



Thor's Fritillary, Cavaglia, 12.07.19



Thor's Fritillary, Cavaglia, 12.07.19



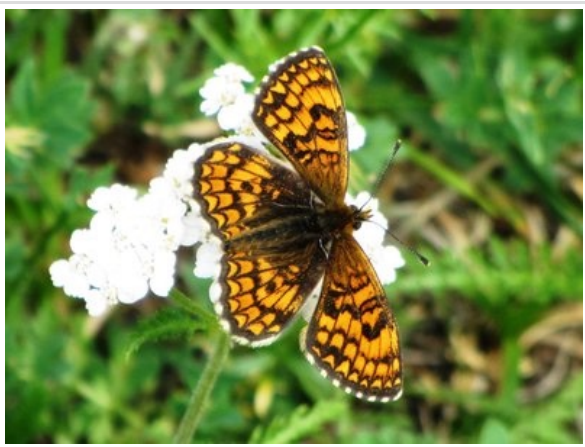
Thor's Fritillary, Cavaglia, 12.07.19



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Cavaglia, 12.07.19



Titania's Fritillary, Cavaglia, 12.07.19



Heath Fritillary, Cavaglia, 12.07.19



Niobe Fritillary, Cavaglia, 12.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 20-Jul-19 09:38 PM GMT

That Swiss scenery is to die for, Jason.....it also helps when the butterfly fauna contains the likes of Thor's Fritillary and Poplar Admiral!

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 21-Jul-19 09:53 PM GMT

On the third day of my holiday in Switzerland (13th July) it was not a good forecast, so I ventured back from Filisur to Rapperswil by train.

Rapperswil promised a walk on the boardwalk across the causeway between Rapperswil and Pfäfers, possibly seeing birdlife and taking photos of the trains and the castle. I found I couldn't get the castle and the trains in the same picture very easily.

From Rapperswil, the S-bahn trains take you into Zurich via Zurich Stadelhofen, where I stopped off to see the trams and the Forchbahn trains.

The square at Stadelhofen is sheltered by Plane trees and there are expensive shops, the Opera House is beyond and a large public square next to Lake Zurich and the lake steamers.

From Stadelhofen, it is easy to go through Zurich main station to Dietikon, where I caught the Bremgarten (BDWM) train through Bremgarten to the woods at Erdmannlistein. I have not been here since 2011 – there were Map butterflies here then and Silver Washed Fritillaries – this time I saw Map almost immediately in a brief 10 minute spell of sunshine, a Brimstone and Ringlet – no Silver Washed Fritillaries though.



SBB, Rapperswil Causeway, Class 511, 13.07.19



SOB, Rapperswil boardwalk and Castle, VAE Class 566, 13.07.19



Great Crested Grebe, Rapperswil, 13.07.19



Stadelhofen, Forchbahn Be 4/6, 13.07.19



Stadelhofen, Cobra Tram, 13.07.19



Brimstone, Erdmannlistein, 13.07.19



Map, Erdmannlistein, 13.07.19



Map, Erdmannlistein, 13.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

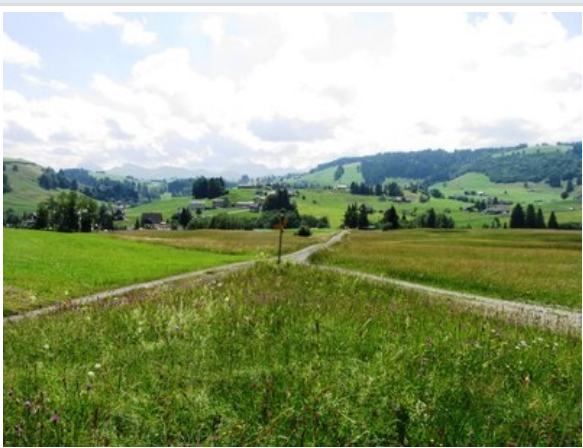
by jasonsargerson, 22-Jul-19 08:24 PM GMT

On the fourth day of my holiday (Sunday 14th July) it was forecast sunny in Schwyz for the only time in the week, so I visited Biberbrugg.

This is an interesting site because it includes wetland and associated woodland.

I managed to find Scarce Large Blue and Lesser Marbled Fritillary, along with False Heath Fritillary, Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady, Small Skipper, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Marbled White and Small White.

I left after lunch, working my way back to Filisur via Unterterzen – to try and photo trains and the Walensee, and Sargans – another scenic spot.



Biberbrugg, Alp Valley, 14.07.19



Scarce Large Blue, Biberbrugg, 14.07.19



Scarce Large Blue, Biberbrugg, 14.07.19



Lesser Marbled Fritillary, Biberbrugg, 14.07.19



Lesser Marbled Fritillary, Biberbrugg, 14.07.19



Small Tortoiseshell, Biberbrugg, 14.07.19



SBB, Class 511, Unterterzen, Walensee, 14.07.19



SBB, Class 502, Sargans, Gonzen mountain, 14.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 22-Jul-19 11:43 PM GMT

Again, that scenery is breathtaking, Jason. Is the weather always so unreliable in Switzerland in mid July though?

Love the summer brood Maps by the way!

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 23-Jul-19 09:22 PM GMT

No, David, the weather is usually much more reliable – I hope to have 4 or 5 days of sunshine out of 6 days in a holiday in Switzerland.

I think I have just been unfortunate – looking at the weather either side of my holidays so far, it has been good.

On the 5th day of my holiday (July 15th) it was again forecast dull, so I went looking for the new Class 526 working the Voralpen Express. I traveled up and down between Rapperswil and Biberbrugg several times, but no luck though. I walked the boardwalk at Rapperswil again but couldn't improve my photos.

Returned to Filisur via Sargans and Chur. I caught the DB ICE 1 train between Sargans and Chur – very austere seating in 1st Class.

At Filisur there was a little sunshine and I managed to see Comma and False Heath Fritillary = a new species for me at Filisur.



Rapperswil Castle, 15.07.19



DB, ICE 1, 1st Class, 15.07.19



SBB and DB, Class 502 and ICE 1, Chur, 15.07.19



Comma, Filisur, 15.07.19



False Heath Fritillary, Filisur, 15.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 24-Jul-19 07:46 PM GMT

On the 6th day of my holiday (July 16th), it was sunny all day – the best butterfly day of my holiday.

I went to 4 sites and saw over 30 species of butterfly.

I decided to go up Muottas Muragl, but because it would not warm up until later, I visited Val Roseg first – a short walk from Pontresina.

I was rewarded with Amanda's Blue, Titania's Fritillary, Lesser Marbled Fritillary, Almond-eyed Ringlet, Large Ringlet, Common Blue, Large Grizzled Skipper, Chequered Skipper, Alpine Heath, Purple-edged Copper and Pearl-bordered Fritillary.



Val Roseg, 16.07.19



Val Roseg, Roseg stream, 16.07.19



Amanda's Blue, Val Roseg, 16.07.19



Amanda's Blue, Val Roseg, 16.07.19



Alpine Heath, Val Roseg, 16.07.19



Purple-edged Copper eurydame, Val Roseg, 16.07.19



Titania's Fritillary, Val Roseg, 16.07.19



Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Val Roseg, 16.07.19



Large Grizzled Skipper, Val Roseg, 16.07.19



Chequered Skipper, Val Roseg, 16.07.16

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 25-Jul-19 11:15 AM GMT

You sure made the most of that sunny day, Jason. That's a great species line-up, and nice that you can get Chequered Skipper in mid-July!!

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 25-Jul-19 07:46 PM GMT

I left Val Roseg at about 1030 to walk back to the station at Pontresina on 16th July.

On arriving at the base station, just after 1100, for the funicular to Muottas Muragl, there was a significant queue.

It took 30 minutes before I was on the funicular, then had to stand for 10 minutes – this was rather tiring so curtailed my walking at the top.

Next time, it is probably best to go at 0900 and walk as high as possible, even though it may be cool for butterflies.

There weren't as many butterflies as on my visit in August last year, but I immediately found Mountain Marsh Fritillary.

Walking higher up. i found my target species – Cynthia's Fritillary, but it was very worn already – so must come next year for a better specimen.

I also found Silky Ringlet – a first for me, Alpine Heath, Mountain Clouded Yellow and Dusky Grizzled Skipper.

There were several free horses where I saw the Mountain Marsh Fritillaries when I returned there – so the vegetation and flowers were sparse.

On returning to the base station at Punt Muragl, I managed to see a Dark Green Fritillary for the first time.



Muottas Muragl Funicular, St Moritz in distance, 16.07.19



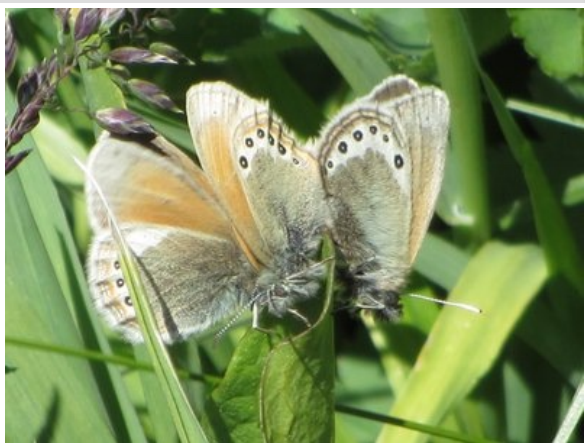
Mountain Marsh Fritillary, Muottas Muragl, 16.07.19



Mountain Marsh Fritillary, Muottas Muragl, 16.07.19



Cynthia's Fritillary, Muottas Muragl, 16.07.19



Alpine Heath, Muottas Muragl, 16.07.19



Silky Ringlet, Muottas Muragl, 16.07.19



Dusky Grizzled Skipper, Muottas Muragl, 16.07.19



Mountain Clouded Yellow, Muottas Muragl, 16.07.19



Muottas Muragl, Free horses, 16.07.19



Dark Green Fritillary, Punt Muragl, 16.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 26-Jul-19 09:11 PM GMT

At 1400 on 16th July, I took the train from Punt Muragl a short distance down the valley to La Punt Chamues-ch.

Here it is possible to find Damon Blue and the usual Fritillaries and Ringlets.

I managed Niobe Fritillary, Titania's Fritillary and Lesser Marbled Fritillary, as well as Purple-edged Copper.

Damon Blue is an easy butterfly to identify from the underside, but it is difficult to photograph well.



La Punt Chamues-ch, Piz Mezzaun, 16.07.19



Damon Blue, La Punt, 16.07.19



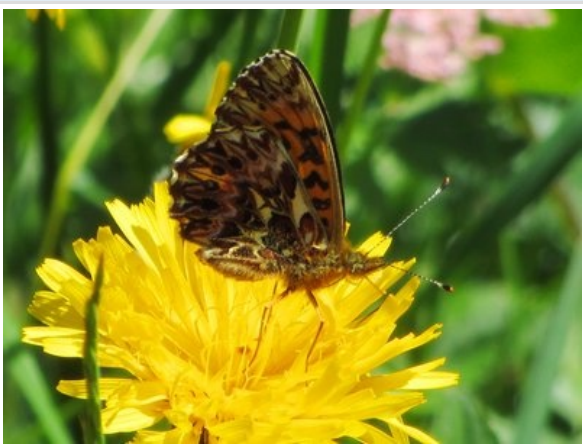
Damon Blue, La Punt, 16.07.19



Niobe Fritillary, La Punt, 16.07.19



Lesser Marbled Fritillary, La Punt, 16.07.19



Titania's Fritillary, La Punt, 16.07.19



Purple-edged Copper eurydame female, La Punt, 16.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 27-Jul-19 07:32 PM GMT

The last site I visited on 16th July was of course back at base at Filisur at 1700.

The village has returned to normal after the invasion of 6000 people for the One Love Festival!!

This was 5 nights of pop music, and I mean from 2300 to 0700 – the night time!!

I managed to see the White Admiral and Comma sparring again for territory, also Arran Brown and Black-veined White.

A Small Blue was a first for Filisur and I saw a nicely posing Spotted Fritillary.



Spotted Fritillary, Filisur, 16.07.19



Small Blue, Filisur, 16.07.19



Filisur, Albula Valley, 16.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 28-Jul-19 07:24 PM GMT

On the last day of my holiday in Switzerland (July 17th), I had a chance to look around Filisur in the morning.

I found a nice Knapweed Fritillary posing on Knapweed, but otherwise the usual, Meadow Brown, Marbled White and Dark Green Fritillary.

The Glacier Express was 45 minutes late at Filisur – probably a locomotive problem at St Moritz.

The RhB Crocodile was on time though.

So, goodbye to Filisur for another year – I have booked for next year, but not at the same time as the One Love Festival!!



Knapweed Fritillary, Filisur, 17.07.19



RhB, Filisur, Crocodile, 17.07.19



RhB, Filisur, Glacier Express, 17.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 29-Jul-19 09:32 PM GMT

To summarize my latest holiday – I saw 54 species – only slightly down on last years 58 species.

I was very pleased to find Purple-shot Copper, Thor's Fritillary, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Map, Scarce Large Blue, Amanda's Blue and Mountain Marsh Fritillary. But I missed out on Swallowtail, High Brown Fritillary, Sooty Copper, Scarce Copper, Dryad, Clouded Yellow and Pale Clouded Yellow.

There is always the next holiday in August!

Various people have helped me find butterflies in Switzerland – they include Guy Padfield, Michel Baudraz, Yannick Chittaro, Mike Brown, Keith Newman, Tony Steele, David Irven and Paul Wetton.

If you are interested in visiting Switzerland and would like some ideas on where to go, I am always happy to help – see my website for contact details.

At home today, it was almost sunny and there was some activity on the buddleias – Painted Ladies, a Comma and a Peacock.



Painted Lady, Muirfield Park, 29.07.19



Comma, Muirfield Park, 28.07.19



Peacock, Muirfield Park, 29.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 01-Aug-19 09:13 PM GMT

There was a nice Peacock on the buddleia in my front garden today.

Two Holly Blues were chasing around the Symphoricarpos, but I couldn't get a decent photo.

The Peacock was taken with the close up photo technique.



Peacock, Muirfield Park, 01.08.19



Peacock, Muirfield Park, 01.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 16-Aug-19 08:53 PM GMT

I have just returned from my last trip to Switzerland this year.

On the first day of my trip (August 8th), the priority was to sample the new Voralpen Express, running from Luzern to St Gallen.

I took the train from Brig to Luzern and traveled from Luzern to Arth Goldau in the new train – quite comfortable in second class.

At Arth I took the bus down to Arth am See and walked round the lake towards the railway and up to a viewpoint where I could get a good photo of the train with the lake in the background. It was rather warm (mad dogs and englishmen go out in the midday sun) – I was very hot and sweaty by the time I climbed up over the motorway and under the railway.

On returning to Arth, I caught the train to Biberbrugg – the twin peaks of the Mythen appeared from among the clouds at last.

At Biberbrugg I found some rather worn White Admirals and Silver-washed Fritillaries. The Scarce Large Blues were looking faded. However, there was a nice Map butterfly feeding on the thistles and Brimstones were feeding on their favourite Cabbage Thistles.

I returned to Brig via Wadenswil and Zurich – the views of Lake Zurich are always special as the train descends toward to the lake.



SOB, Class 526, Luzern, 08.08.19



SOB, Class 526, 2nd Class, 08.08.19



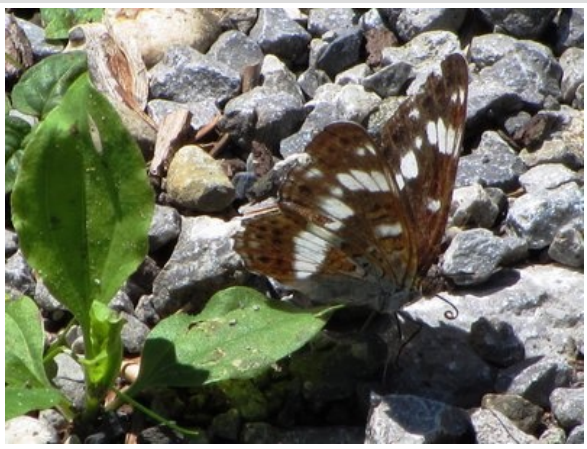
SOB, Class 526, Arth am See, 08.08.19



Arth Goldau, The Mythen, 08.08.19



Biberbrugg, Alp Valley, 08.08.19



White Admiral, Biberbrugg, 08.08.19



Scarce Large Blue, Biberbrugg, 08.08.19



Map, Biberbrugg, 08.08.19



Brimstone, Biberbrugg, 08.08.19



Burghalden, Lake Zurich, 08.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 17-Aug-19 02:10 PM GMT

Beautiful scenery again, Jason, and I really envy you those Scarce Large Blues, irrespective of their condition.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 17-Aug-19 10:45 PM GMT

On the 2nd day of my holiday in Switzerland (August 9th), the weather forecast was for 20 C and sunny on the Simplon Pass.

So I took the Post Bus from Brig, but first stopped off at Rothwald Ganterwald. I followed the metaled road behind the hotel towards the sunshine.

Here I found Dark Green Fritillary, Scarce Copper and Large Ringlet.

I briefly saw a Swiss Grayling, but once it landed, it withdrew its upper wing and disappeared – I could not see it with the camera.

I don't seem to be very good at Graylings – there is always next year though.

After this, I also found Heath Fritillary and Queen of Spain Fritillary.



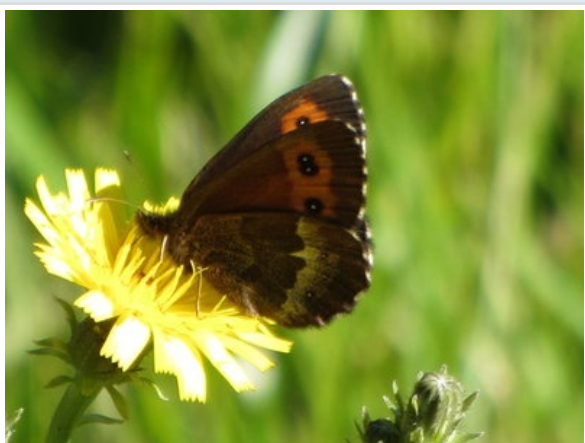
Rothwald Ganterwald, 09.08.19



Dark Green Fritillary, Rothwald, 09.08.19



Scarce Copper, Rothwald, 09.08.19



Large Ringlet, Rothwald, 09.08.19



Heath Fritillary, Rothwald, 09.08.19



Queen of Spain Fritillary, Rothwald, 09.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 18-Aug-19 09:52 PM GMT

Following my excursion in Rothwald on the second day of my holiday (9th August), I took the Post Bus for a further 10 minutes up to Simplon Pass.

The last time I visited Simplon Pass 6 years ago, it was early July, the season was late, I saw butterflies such as Green Hairstreak, Grizzled Skipper and Small Blue.

This time I managed 18 species, mostly common mountain species, such as Scarce and Purple-edged Copper, Niobe Fritillary, Idas Blue and Silver-spotted Skipper.

It was very windy, and there do not appear to be many sheltered spots for butterflies. It was difficult to photograph them and very difficult to film the butterflies.

More interesting species included Shepherds Fritillary, Marbled Ringlet, Swiss Brassy Ringlet, Pearly Heath. Others included Clouded Yellow, Chalkhill Blue, Large Grizzled Skipper.

There are spectacular views at Simplon Pass, under the eyes of the Big Bird (Eagle) and down to Brig on the bus journey back.



Simplon Pass, 09.08.19



Simplon Pass, Big Bird, 09.08.19



View from Simplon Pass, 09.08.19



Clouded Yellow, Simplon, 09.08.19



Idas Blue, Simplon, 09.08.19



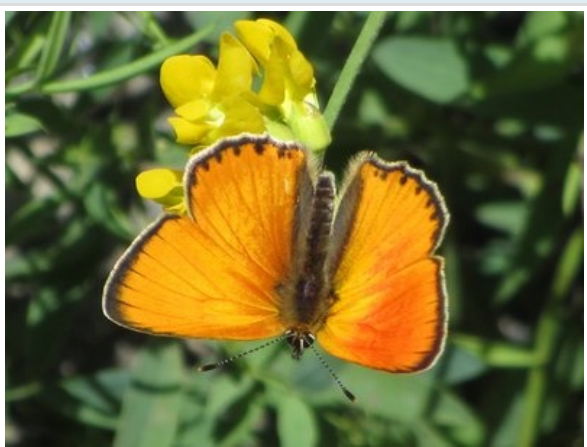
Marbled Ringlet, Simplon, 09.08.19



Niobe Fritillary, Simplon, 09.08.19



Purple-edged Copper, Simplon, 09.08.19



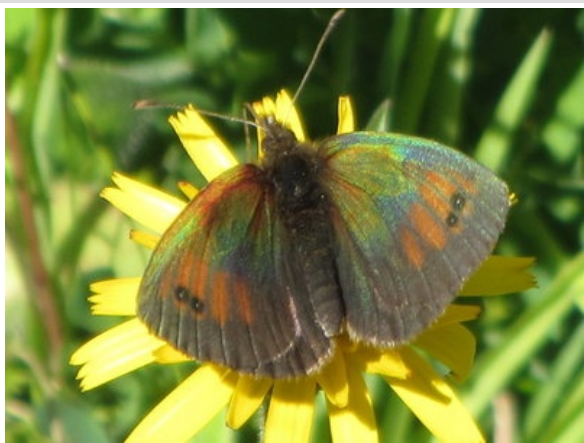
Scarce Copper, Simplon, 09.08.19



Shepherd's Fritillary, Simplon, 09.08.19



Silver-spotted Skipper, Simpon, 09.08.19



Swiss Brassy Ringlet, Simplon, 09.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 19-Aug-19 07:44 PM GMT

I returned to Brig on the Post Bus, arriving just after 1430 on the 9th August.

I decided to visit Leuk, just up the Rhone Valley – about 20 minutes away by train.

At Leuk there was a significant difference in the temperature from the Simplon Pass – it was 33 C and calm, compared to 20 C and windy.

So I only ventured as far as the waterfall – otherwise it was mad dogs again.

I added some new butterflies for the trip, but because it was so hot, not much was flying.

Butterflies seen included Spotted Fritillary, Great Sooty Satyr, Chalkhill Blue and Mallow Skipper.

I returned to Brig, cooling down in the air conditioned train!



Leuk, Ergischorn, Rhone Valley, 09.08.19



Chalkhill Blue, Leuk, 09.08.19



Great Sooty Satyr, Leuk, 09.08.19



Spotted Fritillary, Leuk, 09.08.19



Mallow Skipper, Leuk, 09.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 20-Aug-19 11:50 PM GMT

On the third day of my holiday (August 10th), it was very wet.

i took the train down the valley to Martigny – still raining here, so on to Lausanne.

From Lausanne I headed to Zurich, along Lake Neuchatel and Lake Biel.

There were badly dressed young people on both trains playing loud music – very annoying.

At Zurich, I found out why – it was the day of the Zurich Street Parade.

I don't know why young people want to dress badly and play terrible music.

I took some photos of the trams outside Zurich Main Station and some photos of trains in the station.

Another problem in Switzerland (despite it being one of the best countries in the world to live in) is the graffiti – here on brand new Class 502 trains, paid for by all the Swiss people.



SBB, Class 502, Zurich, 10.08.19



VBZ, Zurich Bahnhofstrasse, 10.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 21-Aug-19 11:28 PM GMT

On the fourth day of my holiday in Switzerland (Sunday 11th August), it was a good forecast.

So I ventured down the valley to Martigny, took the bus down the Rhone Valley and began the climb up to the summer Cardinal site.

I gave myself 30 minutes walking uphill to get there – it was very hot and I eventually gave up – too far for me.

I saw some Whites, Adonis Blue and Provencal Short-tailed Blue, but no Cardinals.

I will have to be happy with visiting the Cardinals in the Spring – at least that site is more easily reached.

There were good views back to Martigny, you can just see the Castle.

Because it was Sunday, the buses ran only every 2 hours – so I took the bus back along the valley and walked to a local Vineyard.

By the bus stop there were 2 Buddleias – with Painted Lady, Silver-washed Fritillary, High Brown Fritillary, Marbled Fritillary Wall, Dryad and Clouded Yellow.

At the vineyard I found Adonis Blue, Mallow Skipper, Spotted Fritillary. I saw briefly Scarce Swallowtail and Tree Grayling. The Tree Grayling evaded photography in the same way as the Swiss Grayling previously, pulling in its upper wing and disappearing to the eye of the camera.



View of Martigny, Rhone Valley, 11.08.19



View toward Martigny at bus stop, 11.08.19



Provençal Short-tailed Blue, Near Martigny, 11.08.19



Silver-washed Fritillary, Near Martigny, 11.08.19



High Brown Fritillary, Near Martigny, 11.08.19



Marbled Fritillary, Near Martigny, 11.08.19



Dryad, Near Martigny, 11.08.19



Near Martigny, Vineyards, River Rhone, 11.08.19



Adonis Blue, Near Martigny, 11.08.19



Mallow Skipper, Near Martigny, 11.08.19



Spotted Fritillary, Near Martigny, 11.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 22-Aug-19 10:17 PM GMT

Great that you saw Dryad, Jason. It's a species that I always seem to just miss given that I abandon the French Alps prior to mid July. 😞

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 22-Aug-19 10:41 PM GMT

Yes, David, the Dryad appears to be a later summer species – I usually see at Filisur and Versam in the east in August.

On leaving the Vineyard site (Sunday 11th August), I caught the bus back to Martigny – it seemed a little late (unusual for Switzerland), but I got back to Martigny in good time to take the Mont Blanc Express to Chatelard Frontiere.

Chatelard Frontiere is my top site in Switzerland, this was my first visit in August and I added another two species to the site list: Marbled Fritillary and Dusky Meadow Brown. This brings the total to over 60 species seen on visits in May, June, July and now August.

Also seen were Apollo, Silver-washed Fritillary, High Brown Fritillary, Spotted Fritillary, Titania's Fritillary, Common Blue, Silver-spotted Skipper and Small Skipper. It was a little overcast, the Aiguille de Mesure was hazy in the distance.



Mont Blanc Express, Martigny, 11.08.19



Chatelard Frontiere, Trient Valley, 11.08.19



Apollo, Chatelard, 11.08.19



Marbled Fritillary, Chatelard, 11.08.19



Dusky Meadow Brown, Chatelard, 11.08.19



Silver-washed Fritillary, Chatelard, 11.08.19



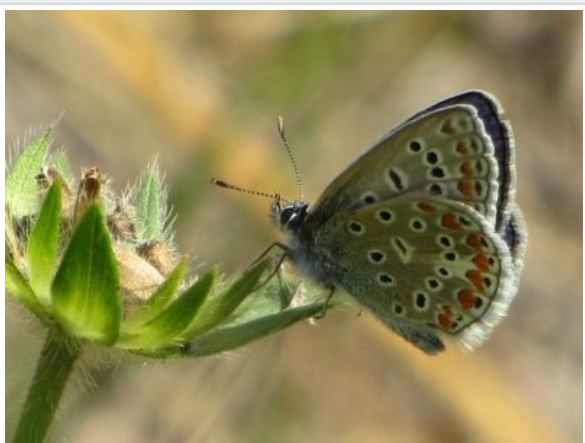
High Brown Fritillary and Spotted Fritillary, Chatelard, 11.08.19



Spotted Fritillary, Chatelard, 11.08.19



Titania's Fritillary, Chatelard, 11.08.19



Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 23-Aug-19 11:22 PM GMT

On the fifth day of my holiday in Switzerland (August 12th) rain was forecast across Switzerland.

I took the train from Brig, through the Simplon tunnel to Domodossola in Italy.

From Domodossola, I took the Centovalli train through to Locarno back in Switzerland – normally a very scenic route, but very wet on this day.

At Locarno I boarded the TILO train to Bellinzona, where it was raining even harder.

I ate my lunch in the station waiting room and then took the train to Goschonen – the old Gotthard route. Visibility was severely reduced at times.

At Goschonen, I took the MGB train to Andermatt, only to find there were no trains through to Brig, due to line flooding.

However, bus replacement to Realp and then rejoining the train meant I returned to Brig at the appointed time.



SBB, Locarno, Class 524 TILO, 12.08.19



SBB, Bellinzona, Class 500, 12.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 24-Aug-19 11:48 PM GMT

On the last day of my holiday in Switzerland (August 13th), the forecast was sunny for Geneva.

So I set off from Brig for Geneva, arriving at 1030.

On consulting the display in the station, my limited French told me that there was a replacement bus service to La Plaine.

After swearing a few times, because this meant I would only be able to visit Allondon, rather than both Russin and Allondon, I took the train and then the bus – it took 45 minutes instead of the normal 15 minutes to La Plaine. It was interesting crossing the fields and visiting the small villages. Next year La Plaine will be a rebuilt station and part of the CEVA development of the railways around Geneva.

I took some photos of the trams outside Geneva Cornavin station and then some of the TGV trains passing La Plaine.

It was disappointing to find the bridge over the Allondon stream has had graffiti daubed on it.

The butterflies were mainly common ones (found in the UK), including, Small Heath, Dingy Skipper, Small White, Common Blue, Heath Fritillary and Brown Argus.

I also found Gatekeeper, a rare butterfly in Switzerland – it must be the only species rarer in Switzerland than the UK.



TPG, Geneva, Be 6 10, 13.08.19



TPG, Geneva, Be 6 8, 13.08.19



SNCF, TGV Lyria, La Plaine, 13.08.19



SNCF, TGV Duplex, La Plaine, 13.08.19



Allondon Stream, La Plaine, Geneva, 13.08.19



Small Heath, Allondon, 13.08.19



Dingy Skipper, Allondon, 13.08.19



Heath Fritillary, Allondon, 13.08.19



Brown Argus, Allondon, 13.08.19



Gatekeeper, Allondon, 13.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 25-Aug-19 10:05 PM GMT

To summarise my three trips to Switzerland this year:

I saw 92 species over the three visits, slightly down on last years 98 species.

The weather was not as favourable as it can be – I think i will have to plan for 4 butterfly days out of 6 in each holiday, rather than 5 out of 6.

Global warming or climate change is making a difference – Switzerland is having very hot spells in the summer and also more wet spells.

My targets next year must be to photograph and film both Cynthia's Fritillary and Swiss Grayling.

I was very pleased this year with Cardinal (first trip), Amanda's Blue, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Mountain Marsh Fritillary (second trip) and Map Butterfly (third trip).



Cardinal, Rhone Valley, 07.06.19



Amanda's Blue, Val Roseg, 16.07.19



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Cavaglia, 12.07.19



Mountain Marsh Fritillary, Muottas Muragl, 16.07.19



Map, Biberbrugg, 08.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 26-Aug-19 08:11 PM GMT

I have been neglecting UK Butterflies this year unfortunately,

I did not get to Chambers Farm in Lincolnshire to see the Purple Emperors in July.

This last weekend, I did go to Wilberforce Way (Woodmansey) on Saturday (24th August).

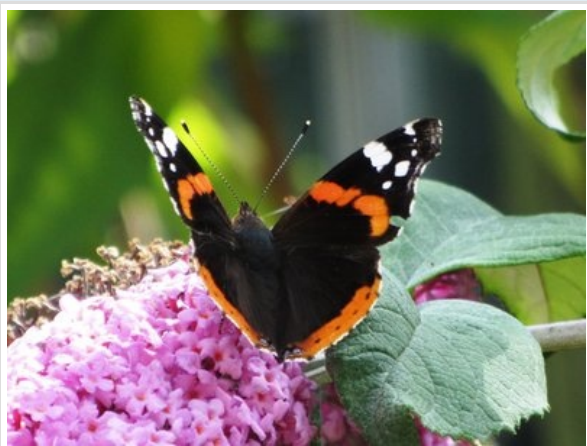
There were lots of Peacocks, Painted Ladies, Red Admirals, Small Tortoiseshells on the buddlieas at either end of the walk.

Only a Speckled Wood in the hedgerow – no Small Coppers, Brown Argus or Common Blue now.

Pictures of Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral taken in my garden.



Speckled Wood, Woodmansey, 24.08.19



Red Admiral, Muirfield Park, 23.08.19



Small Tortoiseshell, Muirfield Park, 17.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 27-Aug-19 09:25 PM GMT

On Sunday 25th August I managed to visit Kiplingcotes, East Yorkshire.

I was too late in the season for Marbled White and Gatekeeper, but there were some Common Blues and Brown Argus flying.

Fairly common were Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell, Large White and Small White.

I also saw Speckled Wood and several nice Brimstones.



Kiplingcotes, Path into Reserve, 25.08.19



Common Blue, Kiplingcotes, 25.08.19



Brown Argus, Kiplingcotes, 25.08.19



Painted Lady, Kiplingcotes, 25.08.19



Brimstone, Kiplingcotes, 25.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 20-Sep-19 11:18 PM GMT

On Tuesday 17th September I went to Sheffield on the train.

The train going was a very noisy Class 158, very slow to accelerate.

At Sheffield it was sunny, the waterfalls in the Peace Gardens were appreciated by people at lunch.

On returning there were still buddleias in flower, but no butterflies.

The return train was much better, a Class 170, air conditioned and quiet.

On Wednesday I met Peter Cawdell of the Lincolnshire Branch of Butterfly Conservation and gave him copies of *Papilio*, South West USA and the first issue of *European Butterflies* (2018). If you are looking for a bargain see the Lincolnshire Branch sales stand.

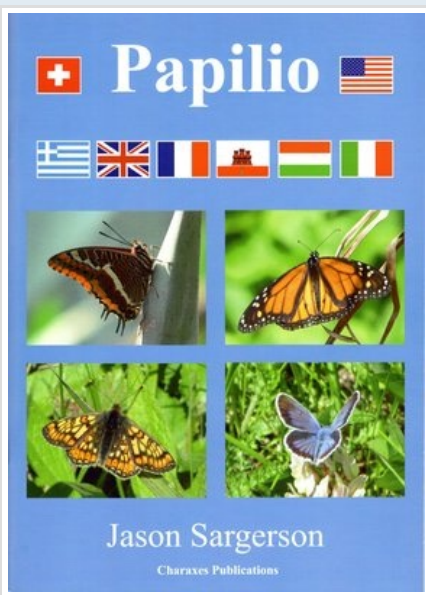
Today, Friday 20th September, there was a nice Painted Lady on the *Verbena bonariensis* – it has lasted much longer than buddleia.



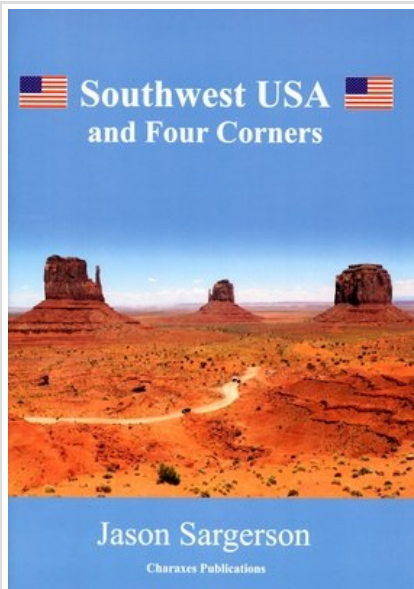
Peace Gardens, Sheffield, 17.09.19



Northern Rail, Hull Paragon, Class 170, 17.09.19



Papilio



Southwest USA and Four Corners



European Butterflies Issue One Spring 2018



Painted Lady, Muirfield Park, 20.09.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by millerd, 21-Sep-19 07:34 PM GMT

I've only just seen your report from Kiplingcotes from 23rd August, Jason – interesting to look at as strangely enough I was there just a couple of days later (on 25th). There was quite a bit flying, as you describe, but the icing on the cake was a surprise appearance of a Clouded Yellow – just the left of from where your view was taken. It's a great site. 😊

Dave

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 22-Sep-19 10:20 PM GMT

jasonsargerson wrote:

...The train going was a very noisy Class 158, very slow to accelerate...

Clearly, you were no longer in Switzerland, Jason! 😊

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 26-Sep-19 10:42 AM GMT

I have updated my Pinterest account with my photos of Switzerland and the UK taken this year.

They range from Schaffhausen to the Simplon Pass in Switzerland and from Marsh Fritillaries in Lincolnshire to Mountain Marsh Fritillaries on Muottas Muragl in Switzerland.



Schaffhausen, Castle Munot, River Rhine, 10.06.19



Simplon Pass, 09.08.19



Marsh Fritillary, Chambers Farm, 15.05.19



Mountain Marsh Fritillary, Muottas Muragl, 16.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 29-Sep-19 07:46 PM GMT

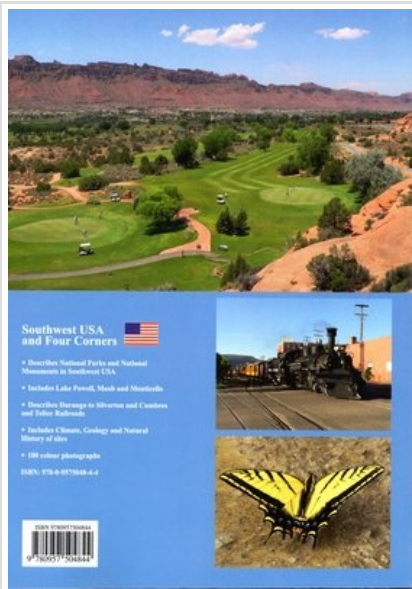
I met with Sean Clough of Yorkshire Butterfly Conservation today.

I passed on to him copies of South West USA and the first issue of European Butterflies Magazine (2018).

The Yorkshire Branch will have Papilio, South West USA and European Butterflies magazine for sale at bargain prices on their sales stand at their members meeting in late October and subsequently.



Papilio back cover



Southwest USA back cover



European Butterflies Magazine 2018

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 07-Nov-19 07:13 PM GMT

If you are following my diary regularly then you will know of my interest In Swiss Railways as well as Swiss Butterflies.

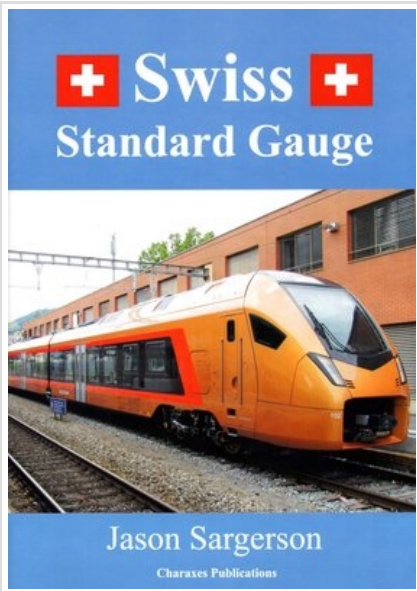
I have just received the first proof of my latest book: Swiss Standard Gauge.

There are quite a few adjustments to make, but I hope to have it published in early December.

This will possibly be my last book for some time as I have used the 10 ISBN numbers I bought in 2012.

Never say never, so I expect I will probably buy some more ISBNs and start publishing again.

I intend to keep publishing European Butterflies magazine, as this does not require ISBN numbers.



Swiss Standard Gauge Cover 2019

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 18-Dec-19 10:26 PM GMT

My book Swiss Standard Gauge has now been printed.

I attach a couple of sample pages. It has 40 pages, 140 colour photos.

I appreciate that only a few readers will be interested in Swiss Railways.

Price is £10.00 direct from me.



Swiss Standard Gauge Page 16

At Aigle there are three narrow gauge rail ways belonging to the TPO group, serving Leysin, Les Haudouins and Champéry. At Bex there is another narrow gauge railway serving Villars-sur-Glâne. The line now follows the flood-plain through woodland and farmland, crossing the river on a brand new bridge just after Bex. At St Maurice the regional trains come in from Monthey or St Gingolph and continue down the valley to Brig. Just before Vermorel the line high above is the narrow gauge Martigny-Chamonix. Here the main line passes camp grounds, garden centres and saw woodlands. At Martigny there are connections with the narrow gauge Transports de Martigny (TMR) line to Chamonix and the Region Alps lines to Ovens and Le Châble.

From Martigny to Bex and Sion the line is relatively straight and light speeds are permitted. The high mountains of the Valais are visible either side of the valley. At Sion the route overlooks the town. After Sierre the train enters a tunnel before crossing over the Rhone at Leuk. The railway follows the river closely all the way from Leuk to Brig. Before Vevy the line from the Ligneberg base tunnel comes in over the Rhone. At Vevy there are connections with the narrow gauge Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn (MGB) for Zermatt and Andermatt. The line runs into Brig with the Lombardy mountain line coming from the left over the Rhone. The Simplon Pass and high mountains can be seen from the station. Electric international trains for Milan in Italy enter the Simplon tunnel (V-Milan) just beyond Brig station.

The SBB main express trains every 30 minutes from Lausanne to Brig with a varying stopping pattern. Local trains run every 15 minutes through to Villeneuve. The Region Alps local trains come every 15 minutes. Express trains take one hour and forty minutes for the journey from Lausanne to Brig. There are good connections with the local narrow gauge trains at Vevy, Muzzano, Aigle, Bex, Martigny and Vevy. This is an important route, every in Switzerland connecting the country through to Italy.



SBB 100, Class 803, 11.08.17



SBB Alps, Class 400, 04.05.12



SBB, Class 400, 08.07.12



SBB, Lausanne, Class 803, 02.08.19



SBB, Vevy, Class 400, 17.08.17