

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 17-Jan-20 11:45 AM GMT

I have found an explanation why there are fewer birds using my bird bath.

Yesterday there was a Sparrowhawk in the bird bath!!

I only managed the one photograph before it flew away.



Sparrowhawk, Muirfield Park, 16.01.20

Re: Jason Sargerson

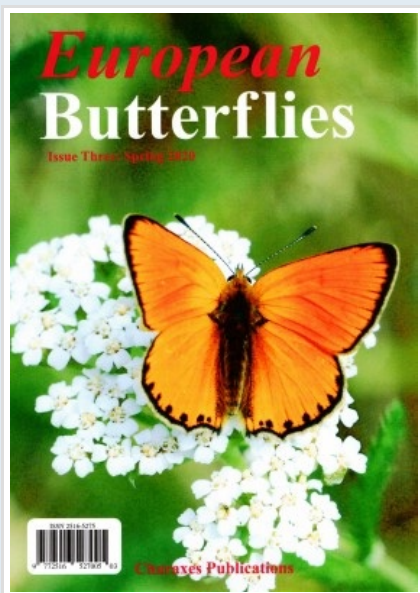
by jasonsargerson, 09-Feb-20 10:53 AM GMT

European Butterflies Magazine is part way through its design process now.

I hope to have it printed in the middle of March.

More information about the magazine is in Forums: Overseas: European Butterflies Magazine.

This is the cover of the third issue – cover photograph by James Gibbs.



European Butterflies Magazine Issue Three, Spring 2020

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 14-Feb-20 08:57 PM GMT

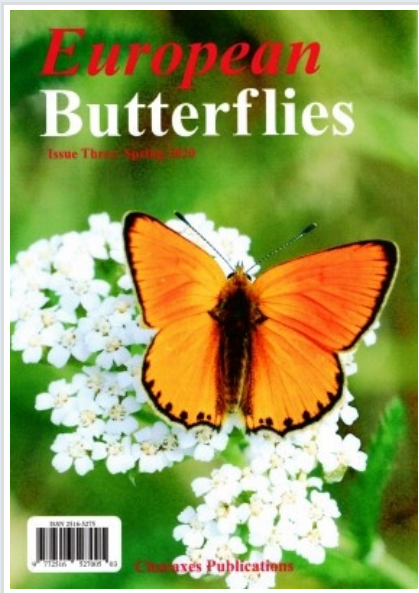
Very striking, Jason. I will look forward to receiving a copy and the cover is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful European butterfly species

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 12-Mar-20 11:02 PM GMT

The new issue of European Butterflies Magazine is now available from me for £8.00, including postage.

More details are in the Forum: Overseas: European Butterflies Magazine.



European Butterflies Magazine 2020 Cover

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 15-Apr-20 10:53 AM GMT

It looks as if we will not be travelling overseas this year and probably not even to visit local sites.

I certainly would not like to travel in a crowded train, the underground or on an airplane unless I was confident everyone had been vaccinated against the Coronavirus. So, I don't expect to travel abroad until summer next year at the earliest.

For my personal diary, I had the idea I would describe my proposed trips at the appointed times. For example, I was intending to visit Switzerland at the beginning of June – so at the beginning of June I will post photos of the sites and butterflies, similarly for local visits – Kiplingcotes in May – I will post site and butterfly photos. I will try to use photos not previously displayed on UK Butterflies.

I have copies of my magazines, books and DVDs that I can still post out if ordered.

I have 3 copies of the DVD Swiss Butterflies: East and 5 copies of the DVD Swiss Butterflies: West in stock if you would like to see some Swiss Butterflies in action and their locations.

I attach two photos – High Brown Fritillary and Titania's Fritillary at Murren – (DVD West) and Southern White Admiral at Bergun (DVD East).



High Brown Fritillary, Murren, BE, 08.07.18



Southern White Admiral, Bergun, GR, 04.08.14

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 15-Apr-20 08:33 PM GMT

[quote=jasonsargerson_post_id=152242_time=1586944427_user_id=18978] It looks as if we will not be travelling overseas this year and probably not even to visit local sites.

I certainly would not like to travel in a crowded train, the underground or on an airplane unless I was confident everyone had been vaccinated against the Coronavirus. So, I don't expect to travel abroad until summer next year at the earliest.

Sadly, Jason, I think you're right regarding travelling abroad, though I'm hopeful we'll be able to move around domestically fairly soon, although I doubt the hospitality industry will be allowed to go back to normal, meaning the distance we travel will be limited if we can't stay overnight in hotels/guest houses.

Good idea to post previously taken images at the times of year you would have visited. I shall look forward to seeing them.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 07-May-20 11:26 AM GMT

I usually visit Woodmansey near Kingston upon Hull at the end of April or beginning of May for the spring butterflies.

This is a large meadow and hedgerow beside the Barmston Drain – the path is part of the Wilberforce Way.

Orange Tips fly on and on and are difficult to photograph, as are Brimstones.

I often see Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Large and Small Whites.

Here are some previous photographs (not all at Woodmansey).

It sounds as if the travel restrictions may be lifted soon, so I may visit later in May.



Woodmansey, 26.05.13



Brimstone, Kiplingcotes, 25.08.19



Orange Tip, Woodmansey, 26.05.13



Peacock, Muirfield Park, 13.08.17

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 07-May-20 08:26 PM GMT

Yes, Jason, like you I too hope travel restrictions will be lifted soon.

I think we butterflyers could all have coped better with this had it begun in the autumn.

Sadly, we were locked down at the very beginning of the season and there's no real sign that things are going to change much within the next two or three weeks.

Right now, whilst looking at past endeavours provides solace, it also adds to the frustration. 😞

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 16-May-20 03:22 PM GMT

Last year at this time I visited Chambers Farm in Lincolnshire to see the Marsh Fritillaries.

There were literally hundreds (and maybe thousands) flying.

The attraction of the Marsh Fritillary is that they all look slightly different, so if there are many to photograph you could carry on for hours.

Some people did last year.

I hope there is still a good population to see this year.

Some photos of the Marsh Fritillaries on the dandelions they enjoy so much:



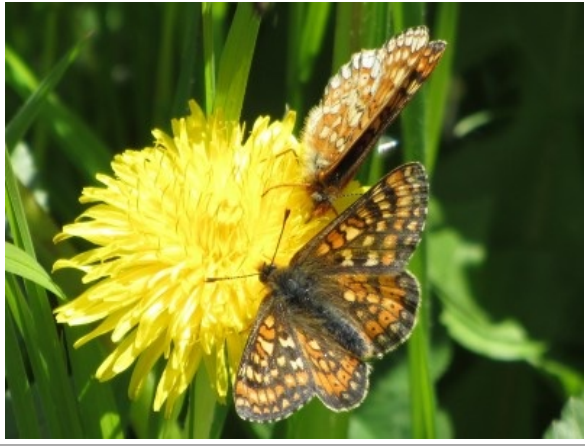
Marsh Fritillary, Chambers Farm, 15.05.19



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, 17-May-20 08:22 PM GMT

It'll be interesting to see what numbers are like this year, Jason. Round my way in 2019, they weren't particularly spectacular, whereas in Lincolnshire they seemed to skyrocket.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 29-May-20 11:49 AM GMT

My books about Swiss Butterflies are still available.

I have about 12 copies of Swiss Butterflies Site Guide and 30 copies of Swiss Butterflies left.

Buy both for £18.00 or each book is £10.00, including postage.

Swiss Butterflies does have site information, although not as comprehensive as in the Site Guide.

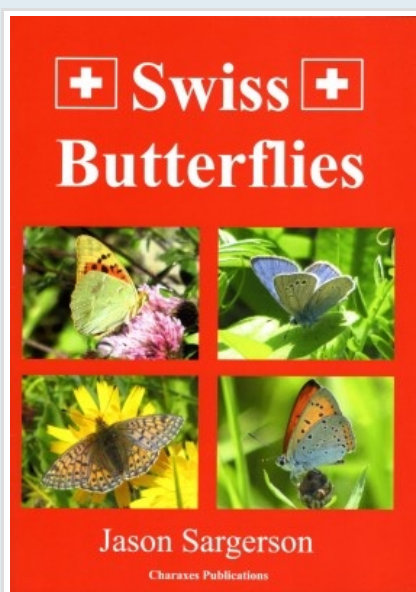
Both of these books address two issues that are very rarely covered in the standard texts.

Frequency is addressed using Common (about 40 species found across Switzerland), Frequent (likely to be seen in specific habitat) and Rare (unlikely to be seen, found at specific sites). Often books describe butterflies as locally common or not uncommon – not really helpful.

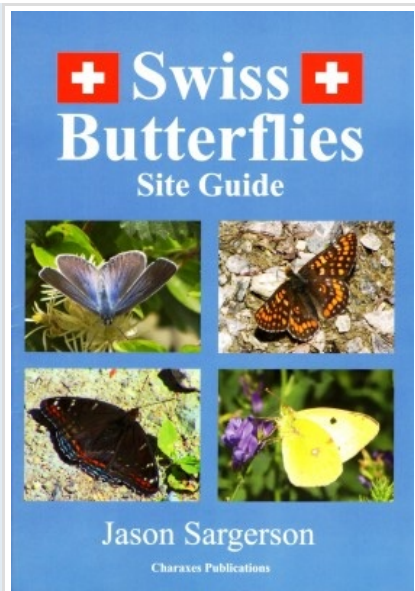
Altitude is also addressed – each site has the altitude indicated, but Lowland is defined as below 1000 m, Mountain as 1000 to 1800 m and High Mountain as above 1800 m. Books describe the Niobe Fritillary as found 0 to 2200 m – far too broad.

My system is useful for butterflies such as the Niobe Fritillary – a mountain butterfly found at sites in Switzerland from 1000 to 1800 m, only once above the tree line. The Niobe Fritillary is one of my favourite butterflies – here again textbooks often describe the sexes as similar – this is not my experience in Switzerland. The female is a paler orange with a grey or purple wash sometimes, very bold black markings and very large. My reaction on first seeing a butterfly like this – what is that!!

See scans of covers and examples of male and female Niobe Fritillaries.



Swiss Butterflies Cover



Swiss Butterflies Site Guide Cover



Niobe fritillary male, La Punt, 16.07.19



Niobe fritillary female, Val Roseg, 02.08.18



Niobe Fritillary female, Cavaglia, 02.08.16

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 29-May-20 07:49 PM GMT

That's one hell of a Niobe Fritillary, Jason. Beautiful specimen. 😊

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 30-May-20 01:18 PM GMT

Some more thoughts on the Niobe Fritillary.

I think some of the guide books may have it wrong regarding the dark form of the Dark Green Fritillary – this may be the female Niobe Fritillary.

For example in Ted Benton's book: Butterflies of Britain and Northern Europe – on page 112 there is a mating pair of DG Fritillaries – but to me this looks like Niobe Fritillary. However, it could be that there are dark forms for the female of many of the Fritillaries – clear examples are Silver-washed, Mountain, Spotted etc.

There aren't any photos of the dark form of the female on either Guy Padfields or Matt Rowlings websites – on Lepido.ch the only photo is mine.

Another interesting feature of the Niobe Fritillary is the underside has two variants – the nominate form 'niobe' has cream or white markings, the 'eris' form has yellow markings in place of the white – I see both forms in Switzerland.

See more photos of dark female and niobe and eris forms.



Niobe Fritillary, niobe, Chatelard, 13.06.17



Niobe Fritillary, eris, Cavaglia, 07.08.17



Niobe Fritillary female, Cavaglia, 03.08.18



Niobe Fritillary female, Simplon Pass, 09.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 01-Jun-20 08:13 PM GMT

I'm very familiar with *eris*, as it's the default form in Spain, but I haven't seen such dark examples of the nominate form, Jason.

Will try to keep an eye out for them going forward.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 02-Jun-20 07:42 PM GMT

I should have been going on my first trip to Switzerland at the beginning of June.

I have looked at the weather forecast and it is very mixed – a bit like the UK over the next week – they have had a good spell like us.

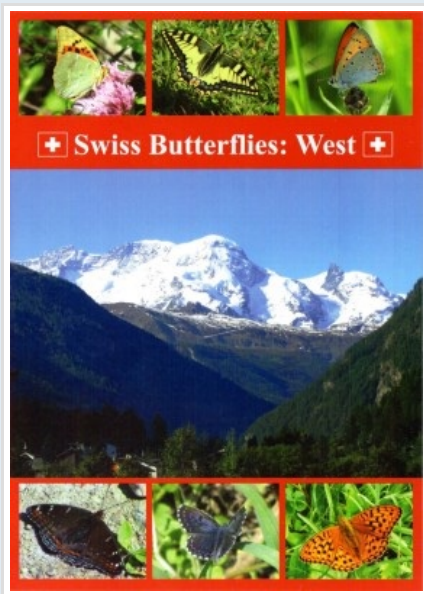
I would have hoped to visit at least six sites in a week – not one each day, but probably two on some days.

My trip would have covered the following sites:

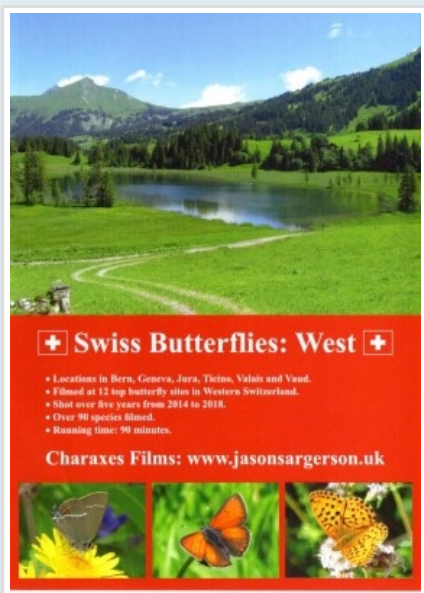
Near Martigny (Cardinal site), Chatelard Frontiere (both Valais), Allondon and Russin (Geneva), Camedo (Ticino), Gryon (Vaud) and Leuk (Valais).

So I will describe the butterflies I would have hoped to see at each site in the following days.

All these sites are brought to life in my DVD Swiss Butterflies: West – still available for £12.00, including postage.



Swiss Butterflies West DVD front cover



Swiss Butterflies West DVD back cover

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 04-Jun-20 04:03 PM GMT

On the first day of my holiday I would head for the Cardinal site near Martigny.

I do like the Cardinal because of the contrast between the pink and the green on the underside and the green flush to the upper wings.

This site is also good for Iolas Blue – I will get some good photos eventually – I attach a good photo from Leuk.

Other early blues include Green-underside Blue, Adonis Blue and Turquoise Blue.

The smaller Fritillaries are present including Queen of Spain, Marbled and Violet.

Other butterflies favouring the dry habitat include Painted Lady, Red-underwing Skipper, Safflower Skipper and Bath White.



Rhone Valley, Near Martigny, 08.06.17



Adonis Blue, Near Martigny, 05.06.18



Bath White, Near Martigny, 05.06.18



Cardinal, Near Martigny, 07.06.19



Iolas Blue, Leuk, 28.06.13



Painted Lady, Near Martigny, 05.06.18



Safflower Skipper, Near Martigny, 07.06.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 04-Jun-20 09:35 PM GMT

Agree about the Cardinal, Jason. However, it's Iolas Blue that interests me. Is it reliable in that spot? I don't know of anywhere in France where it can be found with anything approaching certainty.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 05-Jun-20 08:49 PM GMT

I think the Iolas Blue is reliable at this site – there is plenty of Bladder Senna. I think there was even more Bladder Senna by the road on my first visit.

However, it is not a protected site, (like most of the sites I visit in Switzerland) so I suppose the land owner could easily clear the Bladder Senna.

My next site is Chatelard Frontiere – take the Mont Blanc Express from Martigny.

If you wanted to make a full day – visit Chatelard in the morning, Montroc-le-Planet in France at lunchtime, then return to Chatelard for the afternoon butterflies. There are spectacular views of the Aiguille Verte and the Mont Blanc range at Montroc – even from the station.

The Aiguille de Mesure provides the backdrop to Chatelard Frontiere – I expect if you were here at night you would see UFOs landing!

At Chatelard this early in the season, look out for late flying Duke of Burgundy and possibly worn Camberwell Beauties.

I have seen Poplar Admiral here twice! Typical butterflies include Black-veined White and Swallowtail.

Common butterflies include Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Heath Fritillary, Queen of Spain Fritillary, Adonis Blue, Common Blue and Silver-studded Blue.

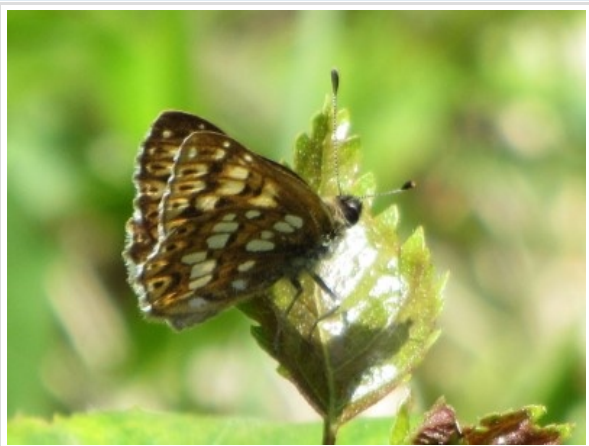
Other possibilities include Green-underside Blue, Piedmont Ringlet and Green Hairstreak.



Chatelard Frontiere, Aiguille de Mesure, 13.06.17



Black-veined White, Chatelard, 04.06.18



Duke of Burgundy, Chatelard, 07.06.19



Green-underside Blue, Chatelard, 07.06.16



Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Chatelard, 07.06.16



Piedmont Ringlet, Chatelard, 04.06.18



Poplar Admiral, Chatelard, 06.07.14



Swallowtail, Chatelard, 08.06.17



Montroc le Planet, Aiguille Verte, Mont Blanc Range, 28.06.15



Montroc le Planet, Station, 28.06.15

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 06-Jun-20 07:40 PM GMT

The 3rd and 4th sites I would have visited on my holiday to Switzerland are west of Geneva.

The local train takes you to Russin. from where you can walk across to the Allondon Reserve. Alternatively take the train on to La Plaine and walk back to the Allondon Reserve.

There are butterflies in the fields and meadows and the rough ground at Russin, and the Nightingales are usually singing in the hedgerows.

Typical butterflies of the heathland area are Heath Fritillary, Glanville Fritillary (quite worn by June), Marbled White, Small Tortoiseshell, Silver-studded Blue and Adonis Blue.

Walking into the woodland reveals Marbled Fritillary, White Admiral and common species such as Speckled Wood, Brimstone and various Whites.

I have seen Great-banded Grayling once in the heathland area and Large Copper once in a field not far from the reserve.



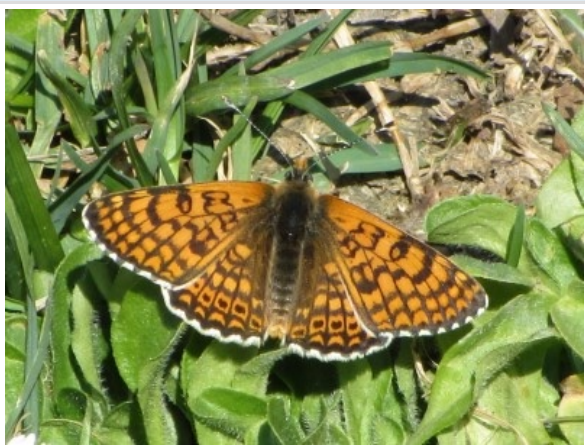
Allondon Valley, River Allondon, 10.06.17



Russin path, 10.06.17



Great-banded Grayling, Russin, 10.06.17



Glanville Fritillary, Allondon, 21.04.15



Heath Fritillary, Russin, 10.06.17



Large Copper, Allondon, 06.06.16



Marbled White, Russin, 10.06.17



Silver-studded Blue, Russin, 06.06.16



Small Tortoiseshell, Russin, 10.06.17



White Admiral, Allondon, 10.06.17

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 07-Jun-20 07:44 PM GMT

The next site I would have visited is Camedo in the Ticino in Switzerland.

To get to Camedo, take the train through the Simplon tunnel to Domodossola in Italy. Here you catch the Centovalli train through Italy, back to Switzerland. You could visit Camedo in the morning and then take the train to Intragna, returning to Camedo in the afternoon for further butterflies.

The key target butterflies at Camedo are Chequered Blue, Knapweed Fritillary, Pearly Heath and Purple-shot Copper. Chequered Blues are an early butterfly, here they are very dark – the lariana form.

You are very lucky if you see all four species at one visit. Other species to compensate are Small Copper and Sooty Copper on the Yarrow.

Larger Fritillaries could be High Brown or Dark Green. More common butterflies include Clouded Yellow, Wood White, Large Skipper and Small Heath.



Camedo, Palegnedra Reservoir, 25.06.15



Camedo Station, 04.07.13



Chequered Blue, Intragna, 06.07.18



Clouded Yellow, Camedo, 06.07.18



High Brown Fritillary, Camedo, 25.06.15



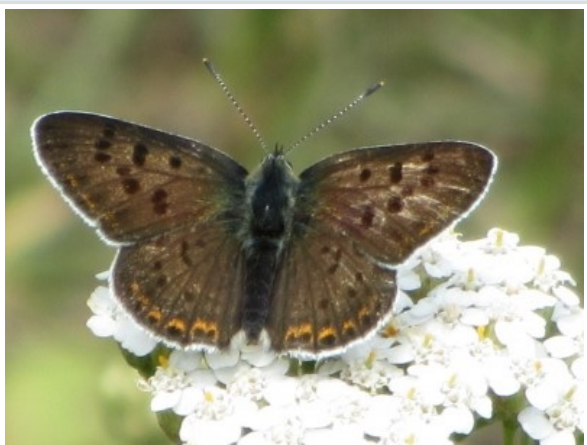
Knapweed Fritillary, Camedo, 12.06.17



Pearly Heath, Camedo, 06.07.18



Purple-shot Copper, Camedo, 12.06.17



Sooty Copper, Camedo, 25.06.15

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 08-Jun-20 07:55 PM GMT

On the fifth day of my proposed holiday I would be heading for Gryon (Vaud).

Take the train from Bex (pronounced bay) up to Gryon. The Dents du Midi are in view most of the way on a good day.

If you are fortunate the meadows will have newly emerged large Fritillaries – High Brown, Dark Green and Silver-washed.

However, they are usually very flighty – going wheee – I can fly!!

Other common butterflies to look out for include Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Marbled White, Common Blue and Clouded Yellow.

Site typical butterflies include Adonis Blue, Large Wall Brown, Geranium Argus, Heath Fritillary and False Heath Fritillary.

Among the meadow flowers are the Astrantia with their 4 flower heads, that many of the butterflies like.



Gryon meadows, Dents du Midi, 11.06.17



Bex Station, Dents du Midi, 11.06.17



Adonis Blue, Gryon, 26.05.12



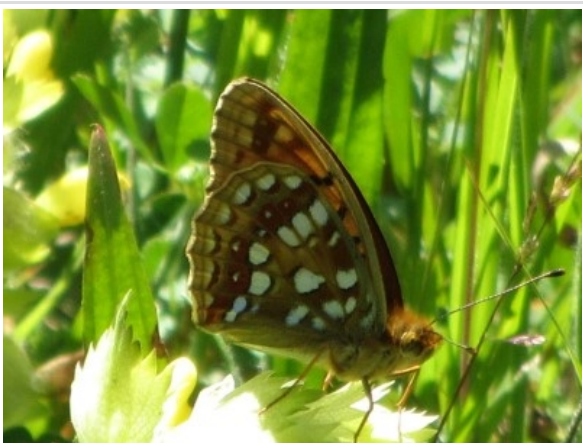
Dark Green Fritillary, Gryon, 11.06.17



Geranium Argus, Gryon, 11.06.17



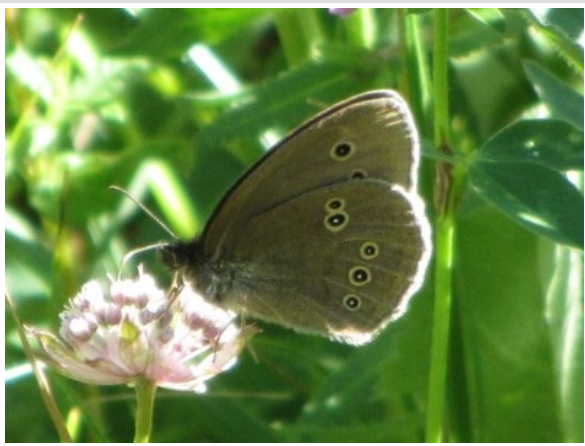
Heath Fritillary, Gryon, 25.06.10



High Brown Fritillary, Gryon, 11.06.17



Large Wall Brown, Gryon, 11.06.17



Ringlet, Gryon, 11.06.17



Silver-washed Fritillary, Gryon, 11.06.17

Re: Jason Sargerson

by Janet Turnbull, 08-Jun-20 11:02 PM GMT

I'm enjoying your virtual holiday! 😊 At least I shall know what to hope to see if I ever get there.. 😊

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 09-Jun-20 09:47 PM GMT

Thanks for the appreciation of my diary Janet – I enjoy looking back at my photos for this purpose.

The last place I would have liked to visit on my proposed holiday would be Leuk (Valais) in the Rhone Valley.

Sometimes this site is not very productive, but it can be very rewarding at other times.

The secret appears to be to walk slowly along the path and to explore the side paths into the vineyards if possible.

The path at the back of the station is also a good place to explore, as well as the main path over the river.

I always walk at least as far as the waterfall – this is where I have seen Camberwell Beauty and Large Tortoiseshell.

I have not seen any of the larger Fritillaries here, but you can find Knapweed, Spotted, Marbled, Queen of Spain and Heath Fritillaries.

Blues include Adonis, Common, Provençal short-tailed, Mazarine and Idas Blue – the Idas blues are the very large lowland species – calliopsis.

Skippers include Large Skipper, Red-underwing Skipper and Southern Grizzled Skipper.

Other butterflies to look for at the beginning of June include Marbled White, Clouded Yellow and Swallowtail.



Leuk, Rhone Valley, 08.06.17



Adonis Blue, Leuk, 11.06.19



Idas Blue, Leuk, 11.06.19



Idas Blue female, Leuk, 11.06.19



Large Skipper. Leuk, 10.07.17



Large Tortoiseshell, Leuk, 05.06.18



Marbled Fritillary, Leuk, 30.06.16



Queen of Spain Fritillary, Leuk, 05.06.18



Southern Grizzled Skipper, Leuk, 03.06.16



Swallowtail, Leuk, 30.06.16

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 10-Jun-20 07:10 AM GMT

Another tempting selection, Jason. With things easing right now, perhaps a few of us **will** be able to get away to the continent this summer?

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 28-Jun-20 11:49 AM GMT

I was due to go on my second trip to Switzerland next week – now cancelled of course, due to the Coronavirus.

This was once again based in the west of Switzerland, but now later in the year it is possible to visit the higher mountain sites.

So, I would have visited the following sites: Stausee Mattmark, Tasch – both Valais, possibly on the same day, Lauenensee and Murren – both Bern, Grimentz, Leuk and the Simplon Pass – all Valais.

All these sites are covered in my DVD: Swiss Butterflies West. This is still available from me for £12.00, including postage.

I attach the introduction clip from the DVD found on youtube.

<https://youtu.be/pv1vPLA1NNO>

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 02-Jul-20 11:12 AM GMT

On the first day of my projected holiday I would probably head for Grimentz (Valais), taking the Postbus from Sierre.

It is possible to find Asian Fritillary near Grimentz, I am not giving the location to protect it.

But, if you are not successful in finding Asian Fritillary, this is still an excellent butterfly spot.

I look forward to seeing Cranbury Blue, Northern Wall Brown and Chequered Skipper in particular at this site.

The local mountain is called Sex de Marinda – not sure about mountains called Sex – why not just Mount?

Other Blues to see include many Small Blue, Idas Blue, Turquoise Blue and Large Blue.

Fritillaries include Pearl-bordered, False Heath, Lesser Marbled, Titanias and Niobe.

The most common Ringlet is the Large Ringlet, but there are also Minestra's Ringlets.

Coppers include Scarce Copper and Sooty Copper subalpina.

Other butterflies to spot include Peacock (unusual for 1800m), Swallowtail, Clouded Yellow, Alpine Heath, Southern Grizzled Skipper and if you are lucky I have seen Alpine Grayling here once.



Asian Fritillary, Grimentz, 08.07.17



Chequered Skipper, Grimentz, 09.07.18



Cranberry Blue, Grimentz, 09.07.18



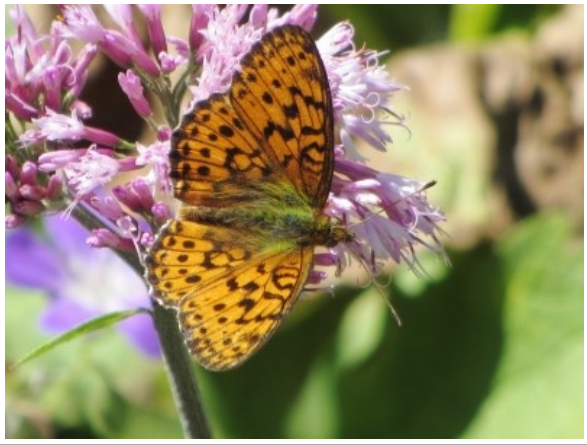
Lesser Marbled Fritillary, Grimentz, 09.07.18



Niobe Fritillary, Grimentz, 09.07.18



Northern Wall Brown, Grimentz, 09.07.18



Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Grimentz, 09.07.18



Sooty Copper subalpina, Grimentz, 09.07.18



Near Grimentz, Sex de Marinda 2906m, 26.06.15

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 03-Jul-20 07:33 PM GMT

On returning from Grimentz to Sierre in the early afternoon, a good place to go is one stop further down the railway line to Leuk.

Leuk can be very rewarding or disappointing sometimes, but there are rare butterflies to be seen here if you are lucky.

I usually try the track at the back of the station first - I have seen Scarce Swallowtail, Blue-spot Hairstreak and Marbled Fritillary here.

More common butterflies include Heath Fritillary, Clouded Yellow, Speckled Wood and Comma.

If you cross the railway and river and walk on the opposite bank to the station you may be rewarded with Iolas Blue or Meleager's Blue.

More common blues include Adonis, Turquoise, Chalkhill and Provencal Short-tailed Blue.

Butterflies characteristic of the dry rocky site are Great Sooty Satyr and Bath White.

Other common butterflies include Marbled White, Spotted Fritillary, Dingy Skipper.



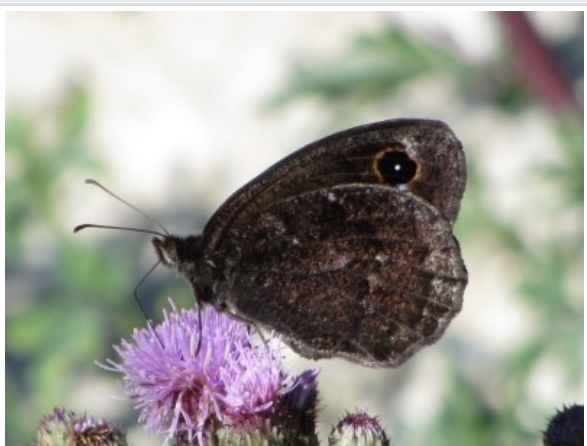
Leuk, Rhone Valley, 25.07.15



Bath White, Leuk, 11.07.17



Blue Spot Hairstreak, Leuk, 30.06.16



Great Sooty Satyr, Leuk, 06.07.16



Iolas Blue, Leuk, 28.06.13



Marbled Fritillary, Leuk, 06.07.16



Meleager's Blue, Leuk, 10.07.17



Provençal Short-tailed Blue, Leuk, 30.06.16



Scarce Swallowtail, Leuk, 09.07.18

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 04-Jul-20 07:20 PM GMT

On the next day of my intended holiday my butterfly trip would have been to Stausee Mattmark or Mattmark.

This is a huge reservoir, high up in the mountains, reached by Postbus from Visp, via Stalden, with a change just before Saas Fee.

I think the best approach now is to go early – arrive at about 0920, then walk as high as possible – take the right hand path after going through the tunnels. It is cooler early, the butterflies are just emerging, then you may have a chance of Cynthia's Fritillary on the higher ground.

This site is good for rare butterflies, but don't expect to see them all – later in July is better for Shepherd's Fritillary and Mountain Fritillary.

I have seen Alpine Blue and Glandon Blue here, but they are often difficult to spot among Idas Blue and Small Blue.

I have come to the conclusion I am not very good at small butterflies – I need more practice!!

Fritillaries to be seen include the rarer Grison's and Mountain Marsh and also Niobe Fritillary.

Ringlets to be found are Swiss Brassy, Marbled and Mnestra's. Skippers include Large Grizzled and Silver-spotted.

I have seen Small Apollo here once and it is also supposed to be good for Peak White – maybe later in the season.

There are Clouded Yellows and Mountain Clouded Yellows, Purple-edged Coppers and Sooty Coppers – Scarce Coppers are later.

Alpine Heath are usually easy to find and Alpine Grayling may put in an appearance.



Stausee Mattmark, Saas Valley, 04.07.16



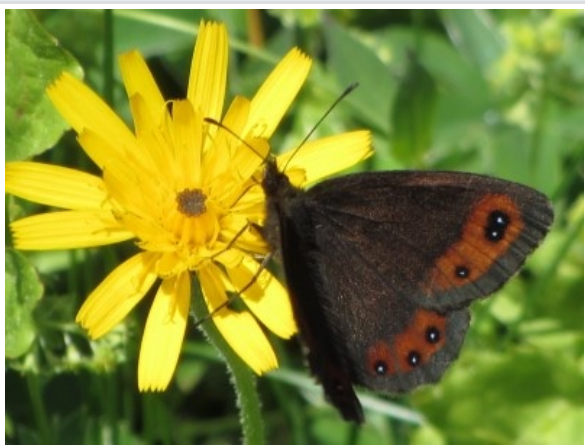
Alpine Blue, Mattmark, 06.07.17



Glandon Blue, Mattmark, 10.07.18



Crison's Fritillary, Mattmark, 10.07.18



Marbled Ringlet, Mattmark, 24.07.15



Mountain Marsh Fritillary, Mattmark, 10.07.18



Mountain Fritillary, Mattmark, 24.07.15



Purple-edged Copper euridice, Mattmark, 06.07.17



Silver-spotted Skipper, Mattmark, 24.07.15



Small Apollo, Mattmark, 24.07.15

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 05-Jul-20 11:45 AM GMT

On returning from Mattmark on the 1220 Post Bus, I usually get off at Stalden and walk to the railway station to catch the MGB train to Tasch.

Tasch is a mountain site, beside the Mattervispa stream. In the distance are the snow capped peaks of the Breithorn and the Kleine Matterhorn.

On the photograph you can see a diagonal line – this is one of the avalanche shelters for the Gornergrat Railway – next photo shows the view of the Breithorn and Kleine Matterhorn from Gornergrat – almost touching space!

Tasch is a good place to find Knapweed Fritillary, Large Wall Brown and Silver-studded Blues. I follow the river in the direction of Zermatt, past the campground on the right. At the back of the camp are some nice flowers for butterflies, including Knapweed Fritillary.

Skippers to be found here include Red-underwing and the rare Carline Skipper.

I can often find Purple-shot Copper on the Yarrow and also Scarce Copper.

The key blue species include Large Blue, Mountain Brown Argus, Idas Blue, Mazarine Blue and Turquoise Blue.

Other Fritillaries found are Heath, False Heath, Spotted, Pearl-bordered and Niobe.

It is possible to find Northern Wall Brown, Alpine Heath, Darwin's Heath and later in July, Dusky Meadow Brown.

Regular Ringlets include Almond-eyed and Large Ringlet. I have found Hairstreaks – Green and Blue-spot.

Apollos fly through, along with Mountain Clouded Yellow and various whites including Wood White.



Vispa Valley, Breithorn and Kleine Matterhorn, 02.07.13



Gornergrat, Breithorn and Kleine Matterhorn, 01.07.13



Carline Skipper, Tasch, 24.7.15



Knapweed Fritillary, Tasch, 01.07.13



Large Blue, Tasch, 06.07.17



Large Wall Brown, Tasch, 04.07.16



Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Tasch, 10.07.18



Purple-shot Copper, Tasch, 06.07.17



Scarce Copper, Tasch, 06.07.17



Silver-studded Blue, Tasch, 26.06.15



Turquoise Blue, Tasch, 04.07.16



MGB by the Matternvispa, Tasch, 04.07.16

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 06-Jul-20 03:42 PM GMT

Ah! Sunshine and mountains. What could be better? 😊

That Swiss Large Blue is quite some critter, Jason. Are they all like that?

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 06-Jul-20 07:18 PM GMT

Yes David, I think all the Swiss Large Blues are of the 'obscura' type – not like the more blue versions in England.

The next place on my proposed holiday is a trip to Lauenensee in the Bernese Alps.

If you recall my diary last year, I went to Lauenensee too early at the beginning of June – it is much more productive in early July.

I would expect to see Scarce Large Blue and Dusky Large Blue – although the latter is more difficult to find.

The best places unfortunately appear to be near the car park, the path to the lake and the paths at the near end of the lake.

So if you have a good find, you are likely to be disturbed by people with dogs or children, who have no consideration for photographers.

I have seen Purple-edged Copper and Violet Copper here – Purple-edged is more likely.

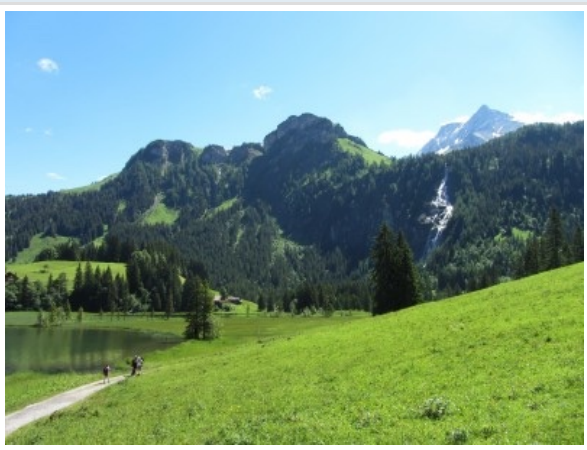
Other butterflies to look out for include Black-veined White, Dingy Skipper, Alpine Grizzled Skipper, Mazarine Blue and Lesser Marbled Fritillary.

This is a protected wetland, so you are not permitted to leave the paths.

It is a spectacular place though and well worth a visit even if you are not fortunate with the butterflies.



Lauenensee lake, 03.07.16



Lauenensee waterfall, 03.07.16



Black-veined White, Lauenensee, 07.07.18



Dusky Large Blue, Lauenensee, 29.06.15



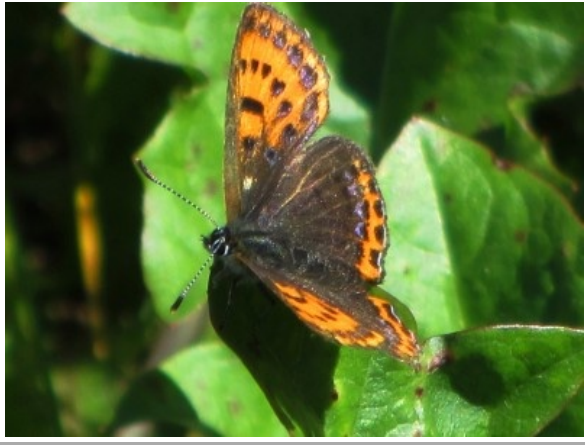
Mazarine Blue, Lauenensee, 07.07.18



Purple-edged Copper euridice, Lauenensee, 03.07.16



Scarce Large Blue, Lauenensee, 07.07.18



Violet Copper, Lauenensee, 03.07.16

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 07-Jul-20 07:33 PM GMT

The next day of my intended holiday I would have visited Murren in the Bernese Oberland.

If I arrive in Murren by mid morning, first I walk back along the railway line to look for butterflies.

Then I walk through the village to the Allmendhubel funicular. There are some meadows to look for butterflies on the way to the funicular, but not as many as when I first visited Murren. Allmendhubel gives a more spectacular view of the Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau mountains.

Allmendhubel is also a good place to find hilltopping Swallowtails. Other butterflies found include Sooty Copper subalpina, Titania's Fritillary, Geranium Argus, Small Blue and Small Tortoiseshell.

On returning to Murren, I walk back along the railway again – it is surprising you find different species at a different time of day.

Along the railway line I usually find Apollo and Black-veined White.

Fritillaries include False Heath, Titania's, High Brown, Dark Green, Pearl-bordered and Queen of Spain.

Blues include Small Blue, Mazarine Blue, Common Blue – I have seen Large Blue, but not for some years now.

Coppers include Sooty Copper subalpina and Purple-edged Copper euridice.

Other butterflies to look for include Large Skipper, Berger's Clouded Yellow, Large Wall Brown, Alpine Heath and Bright-eyed Ringlet.



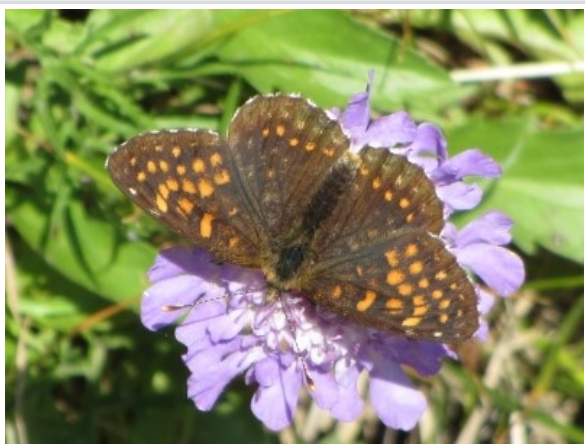
Allmendhubel, Eiger, Monch, Jungfrau, 30.06.15



Apollo, Murren, 08.07.14



Berger's Pale Clouded Yellow, Murren, 03.07.14



False Heath Fritillary, Murren, 08.07.18



High Brown Fritillary, Murren, 08.07.18



Large Wall Brown, Murren, 08.07.18



Purple-edged Copper euridice, Murren, 03.07.14



Sooty Copper subalpina, Allmendhubel, 08.07.18



Swallowtail, Allmendhubel, 08.07.18



Titania's Fritillary, Murren, 08.07.18

Re: Jason Sargerson

by Janet Turnbull, 07-Jul-20 10:29 PM GMT

Lovely to look back, Jason... will you get away later in the year, or leave it until next year?
Janet

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 08-Jul-20 03:28 PM GMT

Thanks for the inquiry about travelling Janet.

I am going to be very cautious about travelling. I have cancelled my three trips to Switzerland this year (the airlines cancelled the flights) and re-booked for next year. I was hoping to go later this year or early next year, but I think I would need a vaccination or evidence that the Coronavirus infection rate is very low indeed. It seems younger people are willing to risk things, but unfortunately I think this will lead to further serious outbreaks. The virus came to the country by airplane, and was spread via the crowded transport network – underground and railways, as well as people returning to their homes. So, it seems very careless to me to repeat this all over again.

On the last day of my intended holiday I would have a choice depending on the weather. I could go to Chatelard Frontiere, Camedo or Allondon – see previous posts. But I would probably go up to the Simplon Pass. Last year I had a good visit in August – in July I would hope to see some new species.

The Simplon Pass is featured on Paul Wetton's excellent DVD: Searching for Butterflies in South West Switzerland. He filmed butterflies such as Moorland and Mountain Clouded Yellows, Glandon and Cranberry Blues, Mountain, Mountain Marsh and Grison's Fritillaries and Darwin's Heath.

Butterflies that I saw included Clouded Yellow, Idas Blue, Scarce Copper, Niobe Fritillary, Silver-spotted Skipper, Marbled and Swiss Brassy Ringlets.

The Simplon Pass is an easy 45 minute Post Bus trip from Brig.



Simplon Pass, Big Bird, 09.08.19



Simplon Pass lake, 09.08.19



Simplon Pass, 09.08.19



Clouded Yellow, Simplon, 09.08.19



Idas Blue, Simplon, 09.08.19



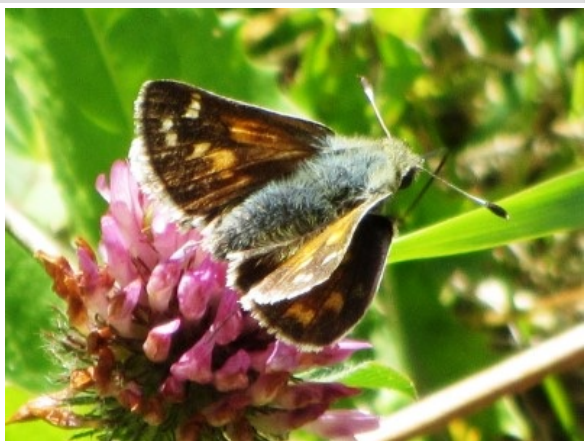
Marbled Ringlet, Simplon, 09.08.19



Niobe Fritillary, Simplon, 09.08.19



Scarce Copper, Simplon, 09.08.19



Silver-spotted Skipper, Simplon, 09.08.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 17-Jul-20 08:08 PM GMT

At last I have seen some butterflies in England.

I went to Chambers Farm in Lincolnshire today – the first sunny day for at least 3 weeks.

I found quite a few butterflies, however, many were already damaged, so not such good photographs.

I found a Purple Emperor on the ground at Fiveways – it was not easy to photograph, so I disturbed it and it landed on me, then flew off.

There were several White Admirals on the paths and on the brambles.

The highlight for me was photographing Silver-washed Fritillary for the first time here – I have only seen briefly on previous visits.

Other butterflies were Red Admiral, Comma, Peacock, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Small Skipper, Brimstone, Large White and Small White



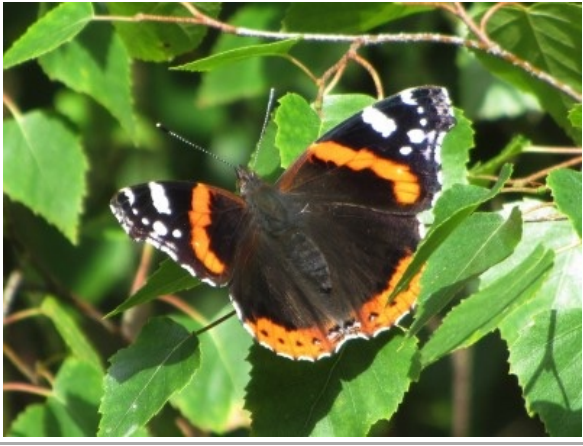
Comma, Chambers Farm, 17.07.20



Peacock, Chambers Farm, 17.07.20



Purple Emperor, Chambers Farm, 17.07.20



Red Admiral, Chambers Farm, 17.07.20



Small Skipper, Chambers Farm, 17.07.20



Silver-washed Fritillary, Chambers Farm, 17.07.20



White Admiral, Chambers Farm, 17.07.20

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 19-Jul-20 08:50 PM GMT

Good to see you got out and saw a few of our native butterfly fauna, Jason, although it's no real substitute for a week or three in the mountains on continental Europe.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 26-Jul-20 08:25 PM GMT

At last, a break in the weather!! This is only my second butterfly day this year – typical when we cannot visit Europe as normal.

I visited Kiplingcotes Reserve (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) near Market Weighton today. It was cloudy and windy to start with – not very promising.

However, by 1200 there was some sun and it was less breezy.

I managed to see Large White, Small White and Green-veined White, along with Meadow Brown, Ringlet and plenty of Gatekeepers.

The key species here is Marbled White – there were quite a few flying. Small Heath was absent though – maybe in August.

I also saw Peacock, Red Admiral, Small Skipper and also a Large Skipper.



Gatekeeper, Kiplingcotes, 26.07.20



Green-veined White, Kiplingcotes, 26.07.20



Large Skipper, Kiplingcotes, 26.07.20



Marbled White, Kiplingcotes, 26.07.20



Peacock, Kiplingcotes, 26.07.20



Red Admiral, Kiplingcotes, 26.07.20



Small Skipper, Kiplingcotes, 26.07.20



Small White, Kiplingcotes, 26.07.20

Re: Jason Sargerson

by millerd, 26-Jul-20 08:42 PM GMT

Good to see those shots from Kiplingcotes, Jason! 😊 I would normally visit at this time of year and it's fascinating to compare year on year. In fact I was there a year ago to the day (26/7/19) and saw Brown Argus, Common Blue, Small Heath and Comma as well as those you came across today. A year before that on 28/7/18, there were Walls as well! It's a great spot.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 28-Jul-20 09:30 PM GMT

`{quote=jasonsargerson_post_id=156614_time=1595791500_user_id=18978}`At last, a break in the weather!! This is only my second butterfly day this year - typical when we cannot visit Europe as normal.

Tell me about it, Jason! 😊

Have to say, such is my frustration that I have been out butterflying in this country more than ever before this year, but of course the species count simply can't compete with continental Europe.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 30-Jul-20 03:59 PM GMT

Thanks for your replies Dave and David.

I am hoping to visit Kiplingcotes again tomorrow - supposed to be sunny and 30 C.

I usually see Common Blue and Brown Argus second brood in August.

Wall butterfly would be very good - I haven't seen one in England for about 15 years!

When I returned home from golf today at about 1330, there was a surprise visitor sunning himself on the back lawn.

It is amazing, when you are out, the Foxes come out to play - they must have a sixth sense when it is all clear.



Fox, Muirfield Park, 20.07.20



Fox, Muirfield Park, 30.07.20

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 31-Jul-20 09:12 PM GMT

A return to Kiplingcotes today – very hot, sunny, but windy.

Not so many butterflies as when it was cloudy and cooler!!

The Ringlets had disappeared, not so many Whites or Gatekeepers.

I managed to find one Small Heath, one Small Tortoiseshell and four Common Blues, that were new compared to the last visit.

There were also Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small Skipper, Marbled White and Peacock.

In August I would hope to see Brown Argus, Comma and Brimstone.



Kiplingcotes Chalk Pit, 31.07.20



Common Blue, Kiplingcotes, 31.07.20



Green-veined White, Kiplingcotes, 31.07.20



Peacock, Kiplingcotes, 31.07.20



Small Heath, Kiplingcotes, 31.07.20



Small Skipper, Kiplingcotes, 31.07.20



Small Tortoiseshell, Kiplingcotes, 31.07.20



Small White, Kiplingcotes, 31.07.20

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 01-Aug-20 10:20 PM GMT

Today I visited North Cave Wetlands, a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust site.

It is primarily a place for wetland birds, but there is a chance of butterflies.

I forgot to take my binoculars (don't normally need them for butterflying), so my bird identification was limited.

I did see Greylag Geese, White Egret, Mute Swan and Lapwing.

Butterflies included Large White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Peacock.



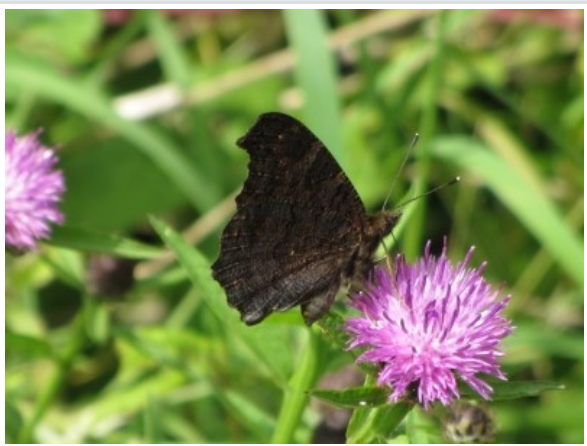
North Cave Wetlands, 01.08.20



North Cave Wetlands, 01.08.20



Meadow Brown, North Cave, 01.08.20



Peacock, North Cave, 01.08.20



Greylag Geese, North Cave, 01.08.20



White Egret, North Cave, 01.08.20

Re: Jason Sargerson

by kevlings, 02-Aug-20 12:57 PM GMT

Jason,

I've been reading your diary with interest, especially the Swiss reports. We have been fortunate to visit both Zermatt and Wengen and the scenery and Butterflies are fantastic. I have memories of the alpine meadows when you alight from the Kleine Matterhorn cable car. When we visited they were full of Apollos. You've brought happy memories back to me.

Kind Regards
Kev

Re: Jason Sargerson

by Pauline, 02-Aug-20 07:02 PM GMT

Loving your fox images Jason. How wonderful to have them sunning themselves on your lawn 🇨🇭

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 02-Aug-20 07:42 PM GMT

Thanks for your encouraging comments Kev and Pauline.

Maybe I should just post about Foxes – forget about butterflies!

This is a reminder to me about the Purple-edged Copper subspecies in Switzerland.

I have made the mistake of labeling some photos euridice, when they are eurydame.

It has been made clear by Vincent and Michel Baudraz in their excellent book 'Guide to Identification of Butterflies of Switzerland' that the eurydame subspecies is found in the Southern Alps (Valais and Graubunden) and the euridice subspecies is found in the North (Bern and Jura).

The euridice subspecies is the one with the purple edges to the wings of the male. The female is darker copper with spotting on the upperwings. The underside spotting is more pronounced than in the eurydame subspecies.

I have seen the euridice subspecies at Murren, Brandegg and Lauenensee – all Bern

The eurydame subspecies has no purple on the male or female, the male is bright orange, the female is dark brown with some orange markings.

The underside spotting is usually weaker than the euridice subspecies.

I have seen the eurydame subspecies at Mattmark, Simplon and Chatelard (all Valais) and at Brusio, Cavaglia, Alp Grum, Ozpizio Bernina, Muottas Muragl, Val Roseg, La Punt and Preda (all Graubunden).

It would be interesting to know if there is a division like this in France or Austria.



Purple-edged Copper euridice male, Lauenensee, 03.07.16



Purple-edged Copper euridice female, Murren, 30.06.15



Purple-edged Copper euridice underside, Murren, 01.07.16



Purple-edged Copper eurydame male, Ozpizio, 05.08.12



Purple-edged Copper eurydame female, Cavaglia, 02.08.16



Purple-edged Copper eurydame underside, Cavaglia, 05.08.14

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 03-Aug-20 07:28 PM GMT

I visited Pearson Park Wildlife Garden in Hull today at the invitation of Andrew Gibson of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

The garden is currently closed to visitors due to Covid 19 restrictions.

I was very pleased to see Common Blue – last time I saw one here was in 2011!

There were also plenty of Gatekeepers, Small Whites and Green-veined Whites.



Pearson Park, Populus nigra, 03.08.20



Common Blue, Pearson Park, 03.08.20



Common Blue, Pearson Park, 03.08.20



Gatekeeper, Pearson Park, 03.08.20



Gatekeeper, Pearson Park, 03.08.20

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 08-Aug-20 07:41 PM GMT

I visited Kiplingcotes again today – a very nice day, not too windy or too hot.

There were still Gatekeepers flying – must be my butterfly of the year – I have seen it everywhere, including in my garden!

The new butterflies were Brown Argus and Brimstone.

There were Common Blues flying, including females.

Other butterflies were Red Admiral, Peacock, Large White, Small White, Marbled White (very faded), Small Skipper and Meadow Brown.



Kiplingcotes Chalk Pit, 08.08.20



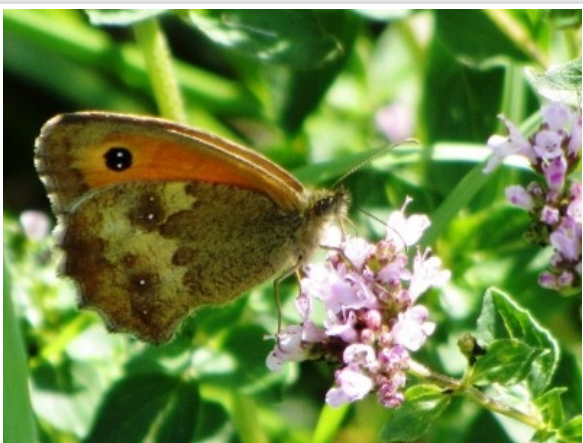
Brimstone, Kiplingcotes, 08.08.20



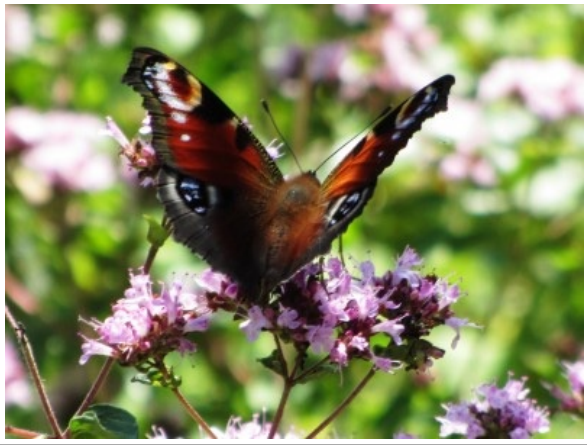
Brown Argus, Kiplingcotes, 08.08.20



Common Blue, Kiplingcotes, 08.08.20



Gatekeeper, Kiplingcotes, 08.08.20



Peacock, Kiplingcotes, 08.08.20



Small Skipper, Kiplingcotes, 08.08.20



Small White, Kiplingcotes, 08.08.20

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 08-Aug-20 10:14 PM GMT

Looks a nice stretch of habitat there, Jason. This is still a time of the year when plenty of species can be seen, including some in good numbers like your Gatekeepers.

In another two weeks or so things will be on the decline so best enjoy it while we can.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by millerd, 08-Aug-20 11:33 PM GMT

I missed you by a day, Jason – I was at Kiplingcotes on 7th when it was cloudy most of the time. I did see an Essex Skipper (but not the Brown Argus!).

That's a good view of the site, as well as the butterflies. 😊

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 09-Aug-20 04:48 PM GMT

Thanks for your comments Dave and David.

I didn't think Essex Skipper had arrived this far north yet?

I was supposed to go on my last trip to Switzerland at the end of July and beginning of August.

This is to the east of Switzerland – to Graubunden – the butterfly season is usually a little later than in the west.

The places I would visit include Bergun, Biberbrugg (Schwyz), Brusio, Cavaglia, Filisur, La Punt, Val Roseg and Versam.

I often manage two or three sites in a good day. I stay at Filisur and usually walk round after I have returned from my longer excursions.

Filisur is a mountain site, the local mountain is Muchetta (higher than Ben Nevis), there is woodland and meadows in the village and plenty of buddleias to tempt butterflies – sometimes they are only just in flower.

Filisur has many common species (not common in the UK), the only very rare species are Southern White Admiral and Escher's Blue.

On the buddleias look for Swallowtail, Silver-washed Fritillary, High Brown Fritillary, Brimstone and Dryad.

In the meadows look for Chalkhill Blue, Common Blue, Sooty Copper, Clouded Yellow, Pale Clouded Yellow, Meadow Brown.

In the woodland look for Southern White Admiral, Arran Brown, Scotch Argus, Comma, Queen of Spain Fritillary, Heath Fritillary.



Filisur, Muchetta, 05.08.17



Clouded Yellow, Filisur, 08.08.18



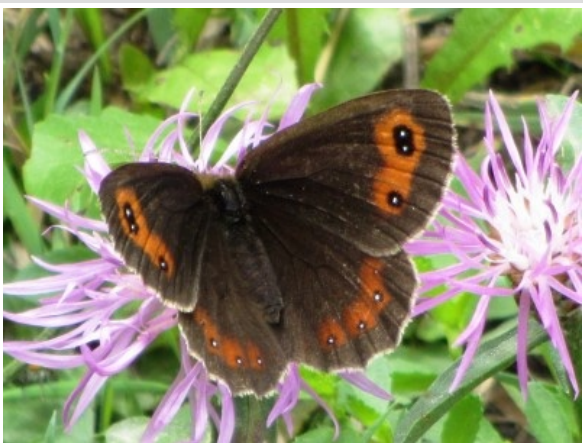
Dryad, Filisur, 04.08.18



Escher's Blue, Filisur, 03.08.17



Pale Clouded Yellow, Filisur, 05.08.17



Scotch Argus, Filisur, 02.08.18



Sooty Copper, Filisur, 03.08.16



Southern White Admiral, Filisur, 29.07.16



Silver-washed Fritillary, Filisur, 02.08.18



Swallowtail, Filisur, 07.08.17

Re: Jason Sargerson

by millerd, 09-Aug-20 07:16 PM GMT

[quote=jasonsargerson-post_id=157101-time=1596988112-user_id=18978] I didn't think Essex Skipper had arrived this far north yet?

It surprised me too, Jason, though a chap I spoke to there on the day confirmed they had recently arrived. I'll post a shot or two in my diary when I get back from northern England.

Cheers,

Dave

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 10-Aug-20 08:53 PM GMT

[quote]Dryad, Filisur, 04.08.18

Very envious of that one, Jason....a species that I still haven't seen. 🍷

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 10-Aug-20 10:57 PM GMT

On the first day of my proposed holiday, I usually head south almost to Italy, to Brusio via the Bernina line of the Rhaetian Railway.

Brusio is a relatively lowland site, with meadows and buddleias for butterflies.

I first went through here on the train in 2005 and the buddleias by the railway were covered in Fritillaries – the valesina Silver-washed stood out.

Of course, I couldn't get off and had to wait until 2006 to visit!! Now I visit every year, except of course this year.

The meadows are home to Purple-shot Copper and Small Copper, Clouded Yellow, Common Blue, Small skipper, Wall, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Queen of Spain and Spotted Fritillary.

On the buddleias occasional visitors are Apollo and Scarce Swallowtail. There can be Silver-washed Fritillaries along with High Brown and Dark Green.

Other buddleia feeders include Comma, Red Admiral, Peacock, Small White, Swallowtail and Scotch Argus.



Miralago, Poschiavo Valley, 02.08.13



Apollo, Brusio, 02.08.13



Clouded Yellow, Brusio, 03.08.18



Common Blue, Brusio, 28.07.15



Purple-shot Copper, Brusio, 12.07.19



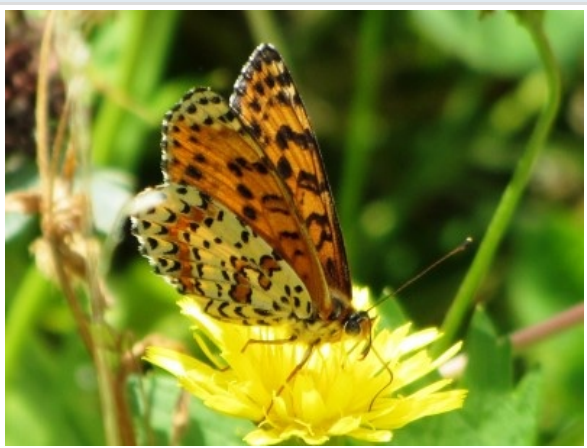
Scarce Swallowtail, Brusio, 02.08.13



Small Heath, Brusio, 28.07.16



Small Copper, Brusio, 07.08.17



Spotted Fritillary, Brusio, 28.07.16



Silver-washed Fritillary, Brusio, 28.07.15

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 11-Aug-20 08:40 PM GMT

On returning from Brusio, I usually visit Cavaglia.

This is a mountain site, the place I have discovered is usually alive with butterflies – I often don't know where to point my camera.

There are three groups of butterflies very frequent here: Coppers, Fritillaries and Ringlets.

The coppers include Scarce Copper, Purple-edged Copper and Sooty Copper – I have seen Purple-shot here once as well.

The first time I saw Purple-edged here I thought it was Large Copper (but of course very unlikely)

The 'common' Fritillaries are Dark Green, Heath, Titania's, Pearl-bordered and Niobe.
But these are usually topped up by the rare Thor's and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries.

The regular Ringlets are Almond-eyed, Lesser Mountain and Large Ringlet, with occasional appearances of Arran Brown and Marbled Ringlet.

If these riches are not enough look for Geranium Argus, Chequered Skipper, Black-veined White, Large Wall Brown and Mazarine Blue.



Cavaglia, Poschiavo Valley, GR, 07.08.17



Dark Green Fritillary, Cavaglia, 03.08.18



Geranium Argus, Cavaglia, 28.07.16



Large Ringlet, Cavaglia, 07.08.17



Niobe Fritillary female, Cavaglia, 02.08.16



Scarce Copper female, Cavaglia, 03.08.18



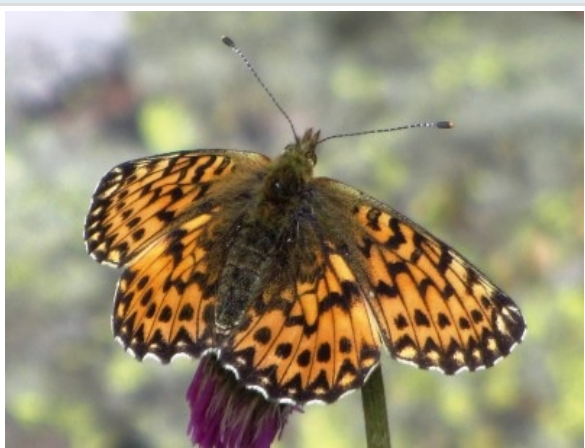
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Cavaglia, 12.07.19



Sooty Copper subalpina, Cavaglia, 28.07.16



Thor's Fritillary, Cavaglia, 02.08.16



Titania's Fritillary, Cavaglia, 02.08.16

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 12-Aug-20 04:25 PM GMT

Another local trip is to Bergun – the next station from Filisur – about 15 minutes by train.

I like this because I get to sleep in, and go on the 1000 train rather than the 0800 train.

At Bergun, the best place I have found (so far) is to walk up the road to Stugl – a bit of a climb.

Apollo butterflies fly in Bergun (but not in Filisur or higher at Preda for some reason).

Blues include Mazarine Blue, Chalkhill Blue and Mountain Brown Argus,

Fritillaries found include High Brown, Titania's, False Heath and Heath.

The star butterfly here is the Southern White Admiral – I have even seen it flying through the railway station.

Other key butterflies are Large Wall Brown, Alpine Heath, Silver-spotted Skipper, Comma, Scotch Argus and Arran Brown



Bergun, Albula Valley, GR, 01.08.13



Alpine Heath, Bergun, 30.07.16



Apollo, Bergun, 30.07.16



Arran Brown, Bergun, 30.07.16



Chalkhill Blue, Bergun, 30.07.16



False Heath Fritillary, Bergun, 04.08.14



Large Wall Brown, Bergun, 30.07.16



Southern White Admiral, Bergun, 04.08.14



Titania's Fritillary, Bergun, 02.08.18

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 12-Aug-20 08:18 PM GMT

I've only been back home for a week and you're making me hunger for the mountains again, Jason! 🍷

Stunning butterflies and scenery. I hope 2021 will allow us to safely revisit these favourite locations.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 13-Aug-20 09:10 PM GMT

Thanks for the comments David – I am not sure whether highlighting where I might have been has been good therapy or not!!

Following visiting Bergun in the morning, I would travel through the Albula tunnel to the Engadine valley and visit La Punt.

This is my only site so far for Damon Blue (maybe someone reading this could suggest another good site).

I have also seen Amanda's Blue here twice.

It is a good site for Niobe Fritillary, Titania's Fritillary and Lesser Marbled Fritillary.

There are usually plenty of Lesser Mountain Ringlets and Large Ringlets.

Other blues include Chalkhill and Common Blue.

The other key butterflies are Large Grizzled Skipper, Purple-edged Copper, Clouded Yellow and Painted Lady.



La Punt, 16.07.19



Amanda's Blue, La Punt, 01.08.16



Damon Blue, La Punt, 30.07.15



Large Grizzled Skipper, La Punt, 31.07.15



Large Ringlet, La Punt, 05.08.17



Lesser Marbled Fritillary, La Punt, 16.07.19



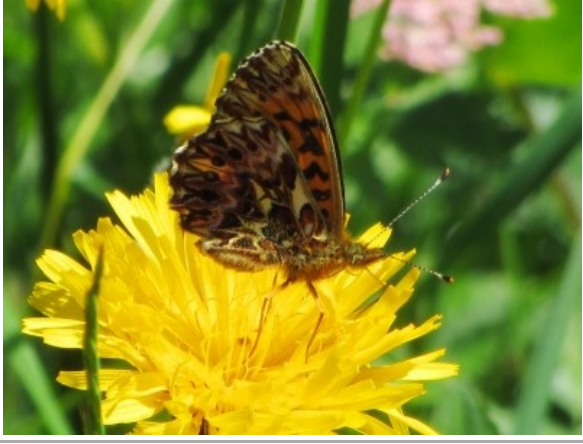
Niobe Fritillary, La Punt, 16.07.19



Painted Lady, La Punt, 30.07.15



Queen of Spain Fritillary, La Punt, 05.08.17



Titania's Fritillary, La Punt, 16.07.19

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 14-Aug-20 08:01 PM GMT

On one day of my proposed holiday in Graubunden I head for Biberbrugg in Schwyz.

This is a very interesting site because it combines two habitats – woodland and wetland.

There are common butterflies, wetland butterflies and woodland butterflies.

The common butterflies include Large Skipper and Small Skipper, Brimstone, Swallowtail, Common Blue, Whites, Small Tortoiseshell, Small Heath, Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Marbled White.

I particularly like to photograph the Brimstone on the Cabbage Thistle.

Butterflies of the wetland include Scarce Large Blue, Alcon Blue, Lesser Marbled Fritillary and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

I have yet to see Cranberry Fritillary and Dusky Large Blue, but they are supposed to be present.

Woodland butterflies include Map, White Admiral, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Silver-washed Fritillary.

I have seen Purple Emperor here twice, but not recently and I did see a very new Camberwell Beauty once – it flew away very fast.



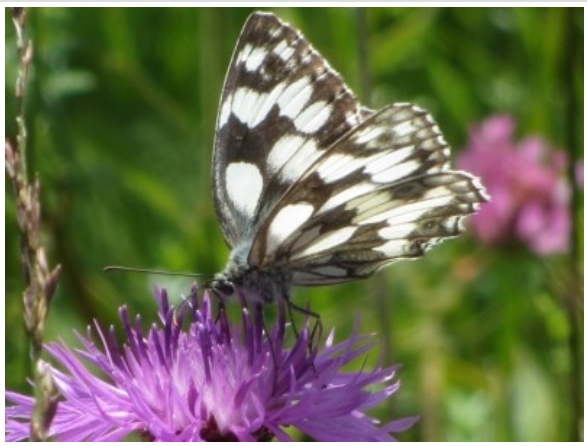
Biberbrugg, Alp Valley, 03.08.17



Brimstone, Biberbrugg, 05.08.18



Map, Biberbrugg, 08.08.19



Marbled White, Biberbrugg, 01.08.14



Meadow Brown, Biberbrugg, 01.08.14



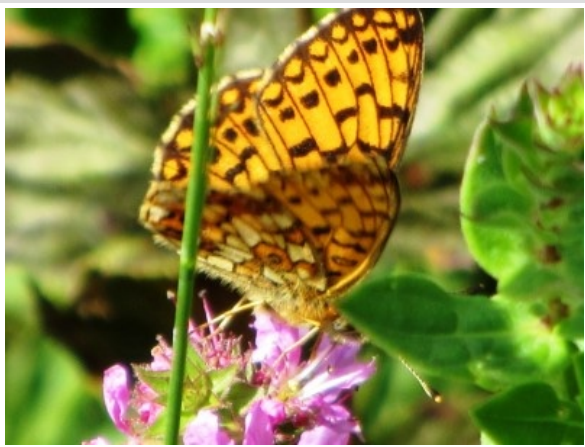
Purple Emperor, Biberbrugg, 01.08.14



Scarce Large Blue, Biberbrugg, 14.07.19



Silver-washed Fritillary, Biberbrugg, 05.08.18



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Biberbrugg, 03.08.17



Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 15-Aug-20 07:40 PM GMT

On another day in my proposed holiday I would visit Versam-Safien beside the River Rhine.

I usually go to Oberalp pass in the morning and visit Versam on the way back, but it might be a good idea to visit Versam first in the morning.

Versam is a lowland woodland site with typical butterflies such as Silver-washed Fritillary, High Brown Fritillary and White Admiral.

There is a good buddleia near the railway station that is usually well patronised by Fritillaries.

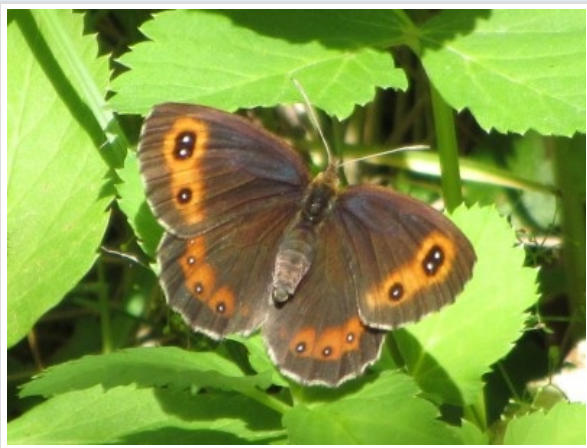
Other butterflies to look for include Map, Red Admiral and Comma and the Dryad also likes the buddleia.

Walking along the railway line should turn up Chalkhill Blue, Common Blue, Marbled White, Pale Clouded Yellow, Large skipper, Wall Brown and Meadow Brown.

Scotch Argus and Arran Brown can be found on the buddleia or on the pathway.



Versam, River Rhine, 04.08.17



Arran Brown, Versam, 29.07.16



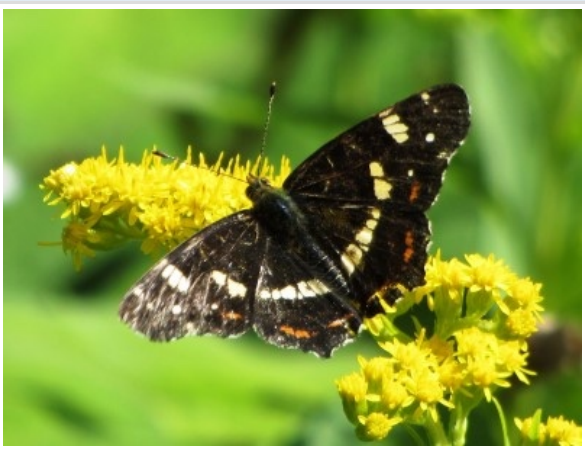
Chalkhill Blue, Versam, 03.08.14



Dryad, Versam, 04.08.17



High Brown Fritillary, Versam, 29.07.16



Map, Versam, 29.07.16



Pale Clouded Yellow, Versam, 29.07.15



Silver-washed Fritillary, Versam, 29.07.16



Wall Brown, Versam, 29.07.15



White Admiral, Versam, 29.07.15

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 16-Aug-20 07:42 PM GMT

The last place I am visiting on my virtual tour is Val Roseg – a walk from Pontresina.

I have visited here the last three years and found Amanda's Blue each time, long may it continue.

This site is good for Fritillaries, including Niobe, Titanias and Lesser Marbled.

Purple-edged Copper is present and Scarce Copper arrives later in the season.

Skippers include Small, Silver-spotted, Large Grizzled and Chequered.

Ringlets are the usual common ones: Large, Lesser Mountain and Almond-eyed – and sometimes Swiss Brassy.

Alpine Heath is common, and you may spot a Mountain Clouded Yellow.



Val Roseg, Roseg Stream, 05.08.17



Alpine Heath, Val Roseg, 02.08.18



Amanda's Blue, Val Roseg, 16.07.19



Large Grizzled Skipper, Val Roseg, 04.08.18



Lesser Marbled Fritillary, Val Roseg, 16.07.19



Niobe Fritillary, Val Roseg, 02.08.18



Purple-edged Copper, Val Roseg, 16.07.19



Scarce Copper, Val Roseg, 02.08.18



Small Skipper, Val Roseg, 05.08.17



Titania's Fritillary, Val Roseg, 02.08.18

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 17-Aug-20 07:47 PM GMT

Fabulous once again, Jason.

I really **need** to investigate the possibility of living abroad!

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 18-Aug-20 07:32 PM GMT

That is the end of my three trips to Switzerland – I hope to do as well for real next year.

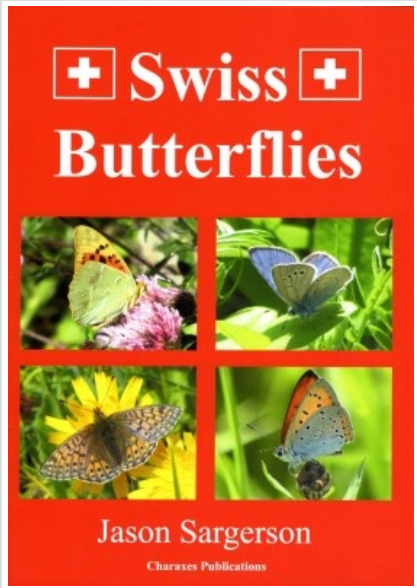
Hopefully this has given you some inspiration for a visit to Switzerland.

There is more information about Swiss Butterflies and a good overview by buying both my books: *Swiss Butterflies* and *Swiss Butterflies Site Guide*.

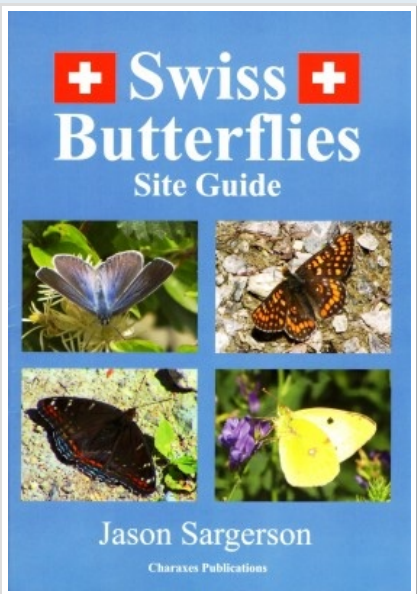
Buy both direct from me for £18.00, including postage.

Alternatively, if you prefer live butterflies, try my DVDs: *Swiss Butterflies East* and *Swiss Butterflies West*.

Buy both direct from me for £21.00, including postage.



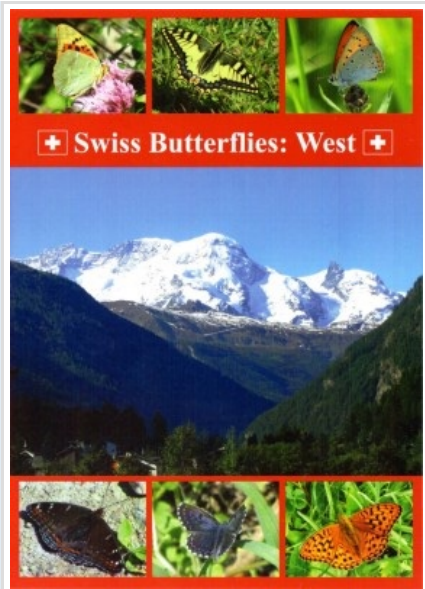
Swiss Butterflies



Swiss Butterflies Site Guide



Swiss Butterflies East



Swiss Butterflies West

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 05-Sep-20 10:11 PM GMT

The summer has been disappointing – I have not seen any Holly Blues or Speckled Woods in my garden this August.

The buddleias have flowered and not seen any Peacocks, Red Admirals or Small Tortoiseshells.

My Red Valerian has seen a single Small Tortoiseshell a few days ago, and a slightly damaged Red Admiral today.



Red Admiral, Muirfield Park, 05.09.20



Red Admiral, Muirfield Park, 05.09.20



Small Tortoiseshell, Muirfield Park, 01.09.20



Small Tortoiseshell, Muirfield Park, 01.09.20

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 08-Sep-20 10:22 PM GMT

For those of you who prefer the Fox diary to the Butterfly diary.

The Fox was sunning itself again in the back garden at lunchtime today (about 1315).

One day I will set up the camera trap I bought a couple of years ago!!



Fox, Muirfield Park, 08.09.20



Fox, Muirfield Park, 08.09.20

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 11-Sep-20 07:52 PM GMT

Shame you've not seen too many butterflies lately, Jason. This last couple of weeks numbers have been pretty good round my way.

Gorgeous images of the fox. More often, if I see them at all, they tend to look a bit scruffy & battle scarred but that one seems to be in prime condition.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 14-Sep-20 08:23 PM GMT

Continuing the wildlife theme – a rather sad looking crow was perched in my pear tree the other day.

The squirrels like the pears – I have to keep chasing them off.

There was a nice black cat giving one of the squirrels a good chasing around the garden yesterday.

I hope my oak tree produces acorns this year – maybe this will keep the squirrels occupied.



Crow, Muirfield Park, 11.09.20



Squirrel, Muirfield Park, 14.09.20

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 09-Oct-20 07:30 PM GMT

For those of you interested in the Fox diary.

On Monday 28th of September, the fox appeared in the garden at lunchtime.

It decided to investigate my rockery, instead of sunbathing, so of course when I took its picture, it made haste.

Yesterday just after breakfast, another fox appeared – very wet and sorry for itself – it seemed to have a damaged tail.

Another fox appeared and the first fox was very upset – snarling and crying – the other fox disappeared.

Maybe there is a territory dispute or mating problem?



Fox, 28.09.20



Fox, 08.10.20



Fox, 08.10.20

Re: Jason Sargerson

by David M, 01-Nov-20 07:14 PM GMT

Nice images, Jason. I used to regularly see foxes when I lived in urban Manchester but now I've moved to the Gower countryside I barely see them at all!
Shame Pauline isn't around right now – she'd no doubt love your garden visitors.

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 14-Nov-20 11:19 AM GMT

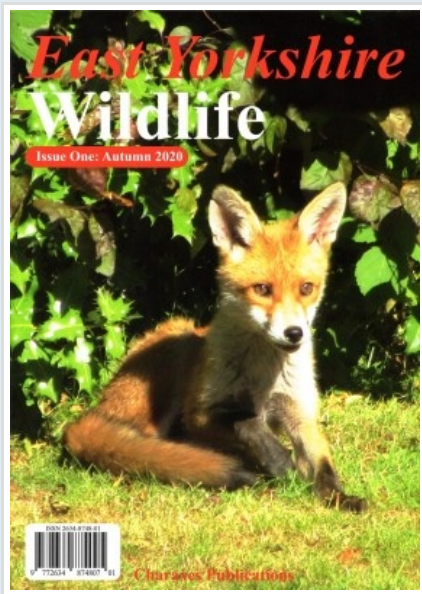
As you may have guessed, I have become more interested in my local wildlife this year.

This has led to publishing a new magazine: East Yorkshire Wildlife.

I have had the first printed proof now – there are a few adjustments to make, but it should be published in early December.

Contributors are local naturalists – there is a range of articles, covering mammals, birds, butterflies and bees.

I hope it will appeal to readers from outside the area – Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.



East Yorkshire Wildlife Magazine Issue One Autumn 2020

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 12-Dec-20 07:55 PM GMT

My magazine East Yorkshire Wildlife is now available.

It can be purchased direct from me for £8.00, including postage.

Alternatively, you can purchase from Amazon, or NHBS or Pemberley Books – if you need to use credit card/debit card or Paypal

Local butterfly enthusiasts Sean Clough and Andrew Ashworth have contributed articles about the butterflies of East Yorkshire and Gardening for butterflies respectively.

Other key contributors include Robert Fuller about Thixendale, Margaret Boyd about Tophill Low and Nigel Puckrin about Red Kites.

I hope there will be some interest from outside the area – from Lincolnshire and the rest of Yorkshire.



Page 33, *How Trees Sustain Life*, Robert Fuller

Re: Jason Sargerson

by jasonsargerson, 14-Dec-20 11:34 AM GMT

I have only 2 copies left of *Swiss Butterflies Site Guide*.

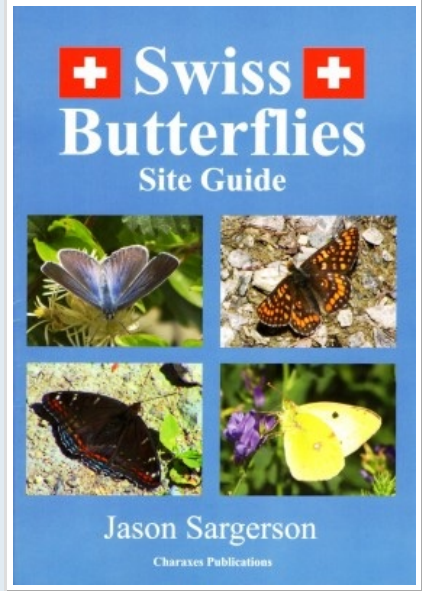
This has been my most successful book so far – over 200 copies sold.

I intend to produce a second edition, probably in a couple of years time.

My other book – *Swiss Butterflies* – is also down to about a dozen copies.

Buy both for £18.00 (including postage) or each book is £10.00 (including postage).

If any mainstream publisher is reading this – I would be interested in producing a combined new edition of the books.



Swiss Butterflies Site Guide Cover

+ Swiss **+**
Butterflies



Jason Sargerson

Charaxes Publications

Swiss Butterflies Cover