

Obergurgl (Austria) 1st-15th July 2023

Trip Report By

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Golden Eagle at Solden

Introduction

Our holiday in Obergurgl was arranged through Inghams again and cost around £1440 pounds each for half board at the hotel Alpenland, which can be thoroughly recommended. As stated in previous reports although there are some nice birds to see this is probably not an area to come for a purely birding trip. Obergurgl is around 1900 metres high and the gondola here takes you up to a shade under 3000 metres which is ideal for walking and scenery which is what we come for.

Birds of the High Alps



Ring Ouzel on Solden ski run



Black Redstart were fairly common and nested in the hotel roof



White-winged Snowfinch (These were only seen at the top of the Obergurgl gondola area)



Redpolls and Linnets were common behind the hotel as were Cuckoos, Crag Martins, Sand Martins and Common Swifts



Western Orphean Warbler (probable)



Water Pipit



Northern Wheatear



Three Ravens at Solden mid station, Alpine and Red Billed Choughs were also seen here.



Fieldfare at Solden



This was the second Golden Eagle flying with top picture Eagle, the first good sighting of these fabulous birds in eight weeks of holidays!



Nutcracker (common in most areas)



Grey Wagtail (behind hotel)

For a full list of species seen please see table at the end of this report.

Other animals seen



Marmot



This Fallow Deer was running at speed behind our hotel



This very large Grasshopper (about 3 inches long) was hiding in the undergrowth in Moos (Italy)

Butterflies

As seen in my previous reports Obergurgl is one of the premier locations for butterflies in Europe, I have put many (too many?) hours into the identification and have put them all in the report so the reader might use it as a guide. The premier location here is the walk down from the Lohman hotel and turn right just before a dung heap and continue down the river valley.



Mountain Ringlet



Peak White



Blind Ringlet



Large Blue



Northern Wall Brown



Sudeten Ringlet



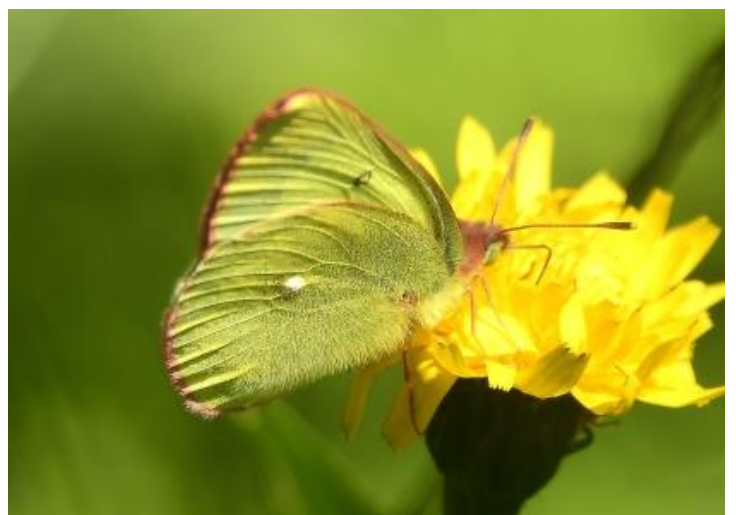
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Mountain Green-veined White



Osiris Blue



Moorland Clouded Yellow



Wood White



Alpine Heath



Large Grizzled Skipper



Marbled Skipper (probable!)



Geranium Argus



Large Wall Brown



Silver-studded Blue



Chequered Skipper



Scarce Copper



Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Scarce Fritillary



Mazarine Blue



Nickerl's Fritillary



Little Blue (right hand) with Silver Studded



Lesser Mountain Ringlet



Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper



Large Ringlet



Yellow-spotted Ringlet



Stygian Ringlet (Probable)



Heath Fritillary



Large Skipper



Arran Brown



Common Brassy Ringlet



High Brown Fritillary



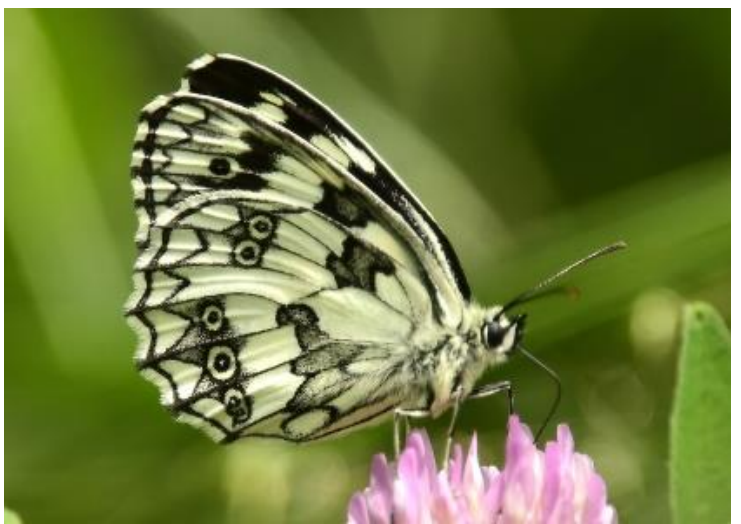
Small Skipper



Comma



False Heath Fritillary



Marbled White (seen in Italian Alps)



Esher's Blue



Sooty Ringlet (probable)



Piedmont Ringlet



Dusky Grizzled Skipper



Mountain Clouded Yellow



Speckled Wood



Meadow Fritillary



Thor's Fritillary



Olive Skipper



Dusky Large Blue



Mountain Argus



Apollo



Swallowtail (very common!)



Woodland Ringlet (on wife`s arm)



Small Copper



Silver Spotted Skipper



Purple-edged Copper



Black-veined White



Southern Small White

In addition to the butterflies shown above common UK butterflies seen and identified were; Small White, Large White, Common Blue, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady and Orange Tip.

Summary

This was another good holiday based at the Alpenland Hotel, and Claudia the receptionist is always on hand to advise on the best walks and wildlife (not butterflies). Interestingly we saw more butterflies than on any previous trip and Ring Ouzels were seen for the first time, perhaps a sign of the warming climate. The weather on our trip was around 18 degrees C most days and although rain was forecast every day we were able to walk for five or six hours every day and did not get wet at all!

Bird Species List

House Sparrow

Common Swift

Linnet

Redpoll

Black Redstart

Crag Martin

House Martin

White Wagtail

Grey Wagtail

Kestrel

Ring Ouzel

Fieldfare

Nutcracker

Water Pipit

White Winged Snowfinch

Northern Wheatear

Raven

Alpine Chough

Red Billed Chough

Golden Eagle

Common Buzzard

Western Orphean Warbler

Chaffinch

Total =22

Butterfly Species

Mountain Ringlet

Peak White

Blind Ringlet

Large Blue

Northern Wall Brown

Sudeten Ringlet

Mountain Green-veined White

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Osiris Blue

Moorland Clouded Yellow

Wood White

Alpine Heath

Large Grizzled Skipper

Marbled Skipper

Geranium Argus

Large Wall Brown

Silver-studded Blue

Chequered Skipper

Scarce Copper

Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Scarce Fritillary

Mazarine Blue

Nickerl's Fritillary

Little Blue

Lesser Mountain Ringlet

Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper

Large Ringlet

Yellow-spotted Ringlet

Stygian Ringlet

Heath Fritillary

Arran Brown

Common Brassy Ringlet

High Brown Fritillary

Small Skipper

Marbled White

Fake Heath Fritillary

Esher's Blue

Sooty Ringlet

Dusky Grizzled Skipper

Piedmont Ringlet

Mountain Clouded Yellow

Speckled Wood

Meadow Fritillary

Thor's Fritillary

Olive Skipper

Dusky Large Blue

Mountain Argus

Apollo

Swallowtail

Woodland Ringlet

Small Copper

Silver-spotted Skipper

Purple-edged Copper

Black-veined White

Southern Small White

Large Skipper

Small White

Large White

Common Blue

Red Admiral

Small Tortoiseshell

Orange Tip

Painted Lady

Total=64

As an exercise I have gone through my previous three reports dating back to 2015 and sorted butterflies seen then but not on this trip, in other words a total tally of butterflies seen over four trips;

Small Apollo

Titania`s Fritillary

Marsh Fritillary

Cynthia`s Fritillary

Cranberry Blue

Clouded Yellow

Water Ringlet

Dewy Ringlet

Almond-eyed Ringlet

Sooty Copper

Green Hairstreak

Green Underside Blue

Shepherd`s Fritillary

Silky Ringlet

Adonis Blue

Meadow Brown

Scotch Argus

Dark Green Fritillary

Marbled Ringlet

De Lesse`s Brassy Ringlet

Lesser Marbled Fritillary

Total=21

Total seen on four trips to Obergurgl=85