Tiger swallowtail (Papilio alexanor)
Big, one of the largest, 60-70 mm, yellow with black markings, distinct tails on hindwings. Mnemonic: **BYBT**, Big Yellow & Black Tailed
Flies: April-August, Flight Pattern: gliding & hovering, Habitat: low to medium heights, sunny hills, scrub, meadows, woodlands
Associated Plants: *Ferula tingitana*, *Herpetocera crenata*, *Scaligeria cretica*, *Cenarthus ruber*

Eastern festoon (Allancastria cerisyi)
Big, looks like tiger swallowtail but smaller and lacks long tails on hindwings, 50-60 mm. Mnemonic: **BYBN**, Big Yellow & Black Not tailed
Flies: March-July, Habitat: mainly lower elevations, sunny hills, meadows, farmland, river valleys
Associated Plants: *Aristolochia altissima*, *A. billardieri*, *A. maurorum*, *A. parvifolia*, *A. scabridula*

Lebanese festoon (Allancastria deyrollei)
A **BYBN** butterfly, but differentiated from eastern festoon by being larger, lighter, and with 3 hindwing projections instead of 1, 60-80 mm
Flies: April-June, Habitat: medium to higher altitudes, plains, steppes, mountain valleys
Associated Plants: *Aristolochia bottae*, *A. poecilantha*, *A. scabridula*, *A. maurorum*

Cloued Apollo (Paranthias mnemosyne)
Big, white, larger than green-veined white, wings rounded and semitransparent, looks silvery at distance, 50-70 mm,
Mnemonic: **BWNR**, Big White Not tailed Rounded wings
Flies: April-August, Flight Pattern: slow, Habitat: all types and altitudes
Associated Plants: *Corydalis solida*, *Astragalus*, *Vicia*, *Carduus*, *Centarea*

Lebanon cloued yellow (Colias aurorina)
Big, reddish-orange, unmistakable, larger than coppers, 53-55 mm, Mnemonic: **BRB**, Big Red with Black borders
Flies: May-July, white form June/July, Habitat: all types, prefers dry areas, steppes, fields
Associated Plants: *Astragalus*

Brimstone (Gonepteryx rhamni)
Big, bright yellow, underside slightly greenish, 52-64 mm, females lighter (not different species!), leaf-shaped wings,
Mnemonic: **BLYW**, Big Yellow with Leaf-shaped Wings
Flies: May-October, Habitat: all types and altitudes
Associated Plants: *Rhamnus*, *Cardina*, *Cirsium*, *Carduus*, *Stachys*, *Ajuga*, *Primula*, *Taraxacum*, *Pulicaria*, *Centarea*, *Origanum*, *Silene*, *Prunella*, *Vicia*

Powdered brimstone (Gonepteryx farinosa)
A **BLYW** butterfly, slightly larger and lighter than brimstone, female pale bluish-white, 55-64 mm
Flies: June/July, Habitat: low to medium heights, hills, meadows, scrub, woodland margins
Associated Plants: *Pellurus spina-christi*, *Ziziphus*, *Rhamnus*, *Phlomis fruticosa*

(Note: drawings not drawn to scale, refer to wing sizes for approximate dimensions)

Drawings derived from A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Lebanon and the Middle East and Butterfly Gardening in Lebanon.
**Green-veined white** (*Pieris napi*)
Medium-sized, white, common and unmistakable, slight differences between broods (less grey and more black in 2nd), refer to expert to distinguish with other nonrecorded white species, 32-52 mm
Flies: March–October, Habitat: all except highest peaks

**Mountain small white** (*P. ergane*)
Medium-sized, white, common, smaller than green-veined white with more pointed forewings and black tips and less black on underside, 2nd brood greyish, 34-50 mm
Flies: April–September, Habitat: medium heights, dry stony areas, thickets, mountain valleys, scrub
Associated Plants: *Isatis tinctoria*.

**Eastern wood white** (*Leptidea duponcheli*)
Medium-sized, white, common, resembles green-veined and mountain small whites but smaller, more silvery, and forewing tips rounded, 2nd brood yellowish with less markings, 34-42 mm
Flies: April–July, Habitat: all except highest peaks
Associated Plants: *Dorycnium*, *Lathyrus aphaca*, *Onobrychis cornuta*.

**Green hairstreak** (*Callophrys rubi*)
Small to medium-sized, distinct unmistakable green underside observable when butterfly perches, 25-34 mm
Mnemonic: **SDG**, Small Dark with Green side
Flies: March–June, Habitat: all types
**Ilex hairstreak** (*Satyrini ilcis*)
Small to medium-sized, dark, larger than green hairstreak but lacks green underside, red spots on underside, 32–36 mm, Mnemonic: **SDR**, **Small Dark with Red spots on underside**
Flies: May–August, Habitat: low to medium heights, oak forests, meadows, fields, scrub, heaths
Associated Plants: Quercus, Thymus, Origanum, Sedum, Rubus, Sambucus

**Orange-banded hairstreak** (*Satyrini lederi*)
Small to medium-sized, lacks the hindwing projection of Ilex hairstreak, lighter underside with orange band, 28–34 mm, Mnemonic: **SDO**, **Small Dark with Orange band on underside**
Flies: June–August, Flight Pattern: like all hairstreaks, close to ground, Habitat: low to medium heights, dry stony places, steppes
Associated Plants: Astraphaxis, Prunus, Mentha, Astragalus

**Pomegranate hairstreak** (*Deudorix livia*)
Small to medium-sized, unmistakable coppery-red, distinct from coppers and vernal coppers by having hindwing tails, 30–40 mm, Mnemonic: **SCT**, **Small Coppery-red with Tails**
Flies: all year round, Flight Pattern: like all hairstreaks, fast and close to ground, Habitat: low to medium heights, farmland, groves
Associated Plants: Punica granatum, Acacia, Eriobotrya japonica, Allium, Heliotropium

**Turkish vernal copper** (*Tomares nesimachus*)
Small to medium-sized, dark brown and orange, darker than Syrian vernal copper with lighter undersides, don’t confuse with hairstreaks with which it often flies! 30–32 mm
Flies: May–July, Flight Pattern: like hairstreaks, direct and close to ground, Habitat: all except highest peaks, in pastures, steppes, pine forests, scrub
Associated Plants: Astragalus, Cistus

**Syrian vernal copper** (*Tomares nesimachus*)
Small to medium-sized, like Turkish vernal copper but slightly lighter brown with more orange on uppersides and darker undersides, 28–34 mm
Flies: May–July, Flight Pattern: like hairstreaks, fast, direct, and close to ground, Habitat: all except highest peaks, in pastures, steppes
Associated Plants: Astragalus

**Small copper** (*Lycaena phlaeas*)
Small, unmistakably copper or reddish-orange with dark brown hindwings and many black spots, 2nd brood darker and often tailed, 22–36 mm, an **SCB**
Flies: February–October, Habitat: all types, look under pines
Associated Plants: Oxyria digyna, Polygonum aviculare, Rumex acutosella, R. conglomeratus, R. crispus, Hedera helix, Taraxacum, Rubus, Senecio, Achillea, Origanum, Pulicaria, Ranunculus, Bellis, Carduus, Cirsium, Hieracium, Scabies, Pinus
Lesser purple-shot copper (*Lycaena asabinus*)
Small, unmistakably copper or golden-orange on wings with small black dots and narrow black marginal band, 25-31 mm, an SCB
Flies: May-July, Habitat: upper heights, mountain slopes and streams, gorges
Associated Plants: *Rumex, Acantholimon, Mentha*

Golden copper (*Lycaena ochimus*)
Small, bright copper or golden-orange wings, pale greyish undersides with faint markings, don’t confuse with other coppers! 30-32 mm, Mnemonic: SCB, Small Copper Butterfly
Flies: June-September, Habitat: higher altitudes, dry slopes, pastures
Associated Plants: *Polygonum aviculare, Rumex crispus, Acantholimon*

Fiery copper (*Lycaena thetis*)
An SCB, males with coppery-red wings, many black spots in females, 30-34 mm
Flies: July/August, Flight Pattern: fast, Habitat: upper heights, steppes, mountain valleys and slopes
Associated Plants: *Acantholimon, Thymus, Origanum, Mentha, Eryngium*

Northern blue (*Lycaenidae idas*)
Small, males silvery-blue to violaceous blue, like many blues don’t confuse females with hairstreaks or browns, 25-34 mm, Mnemonic: SBB, a Small Blue Butterfly
Flies: March-August, Habitat: all types
Associated Plants: *Lotus corniculatus, Genista, Melilotus albus, Trifolium pratense, Cercis siliquastrum*

Zephyr blue (*Plebejus pylaon*)
An SBB, males light violaceous blue, females dark brown, 28-34 mm
Flies: May-July, Habitat: medium to higher altitudes, pastures, meadows
Associated Plants: *Astragalus angustifolius, A. echnus*

Geranium argus (*Eumedonia eumedon*)
Small, dark, don’t confuse with hairstreaks, males and females brown with row of pale orange dots on hindwings, 25-30 mm, Mnemonic: SDB, a Small Dark Blue butterfly, i.e. an argus
Flies: May-August, Habitat: higher altitudes
Associated Plants: *Erodium trichomanifolium, Geranium cinereum, Crepis, Lathyrus, Vicia*

Starry-backed blue (*Aricia dorumstellae*)
An SBB, males sky-blue, females brownish with orange marginal bands, 25-30 mm
Flies: May/June, Habitat: highest altitudes, mountain slopes, cliffs, gorges
Associated Plants: *Erodium trichomanifolium, Vicia canescens*
Lebanese blue (*Aricia bassoni*)
- An SDB, males dark greenish-grey, females with orange marginal band, don't confuse with hairstreaks or Geranium argus, 28-30 mm
- Flies: May, July, & September, Habitat: higher altitudes, mountain streams and slopes
- Associated Plants: *Erodium cicutarium*, *Eryngium*, *Mentha*

Eastern mazarine blue (*Polyommatus bellis*)
- An SBB, larger than other blues, males light blue, females blue with distinct orange marginal bands on wings, 30-42 mm
- Flies: April/May, Flight Pattern: like many blues, flight weak and indirect, often close to ground, Habitat: medium to high altitudes, pastures, stony slopes
- Associated Plants: *Lotus corniculatus*, *Melilotus officinalis*, *Trifolium pratense*

Baby blue (*Polyommatus isaricoëdes*)
- An SBB, small to medium-sized, males silvery-blue while females brown, don't confuse with starry-backed blue which is larger and has more distinct underside markings, 25-35 mm
- Flies: May-August, Habitat: higher altitudes, mountain slopes, stony steppes, scrub
- Associated Plants: *Astragalus*, *Mentha*

Cedar Mountain blue (*Polyommatus ellisoni*)
- An SBB, males bright blue, females silvery-brown, 25-35 mm
- Flies: June/July, Habitat: higher altitudes, mountain slopes, gorges, thickets
- Associated Plants: *Vicia canescens*, *V. tenuifolia*

Chapman’s blue (*Polyommatus thersites*)
- An SBB, males bright violaceous-blue, females brown with orange marginal band, 28-30 mm
- Flies: April-August, Habitat: upper heights, stony slopes, scrub, meadows, pastures
- Associated Plants: *Onobychis caput-galli*

Lebanese Adonis blue (*Polyommatus syriaca*)
- An SBB, males bright blue, females brown, refer to expert to distinguish between this species and other blues, 30 mm
- Flies: May-August, Habitat: higher altitudes, mountain slopes, cliffs, stony places
- Associated Plants: *Coronilla ladanotica*, *C. varia*

Green-underside blue (*Glaucopsyche alexis*)
- An SBB, males with sky-blue wings, underside green, don't confuse females with hairstreaks or Geranium argus! 27-36 mm
- Flies: April-June, Habitat: all types except highest peaks
Odd-spot blue (Turamana endymion)
- An SBB, males deep blue with black marginal bands, females bluish-brown, don't confuse females with hairstreaks or Geranium argus! 20-32 mm
- Flies: May-July, Habitat: medium to higher altitudes, mountain valleys and slopes
- Associated Plants: Acantholimon, Thymus, Crataegus, Medicago sativa

Niobe fritillary (Argynnis niobe)
- Big, unmistakable, orange with black spots and markings, females duller, 41-64 mm, Mnemonic: BOBB, a Big Orange & Black Butterfly
- Flies: May-August, Flight Pattern: fast, close to ground, Habitat: all types, pastures, meadows, scrub, look on ground where it frequently basks
- Associated Plants: Viola odorata, Plantago lanceolata

Queen of Spain fritillary (Issoria lathonia)
- A BOBB, orange with large round black spots, distinguished from the Niobe by being smaller and having pearly underwing spots, 35-50 mm
- Flies: March-October, Habitat: all types at upper heights
- Associated Plants: Viola odorata, Medicago sativa, Anchusa azurea, Borago officinalis, Rubus, Mentha

Glanville fritillary (Melitaea cinxia)
- A BOBB, orange-yellow, black markings distinctly "striped," females lighter and larger, 37-52 mm
- Flies: April-August, Habitat: all types
- Associated Plants: Achillea, Plantago lanceolata, P. major, Viola, Veronica, Corynephorus, Lotus, Taraxacum, Hieracium, Armeria

Toadflax fritillary (Melitaea didyma)
- A BOBB, males brightly reddish-orange, females duller and larger, 35-50 mm
- Flies: March-October, Habitat: all types, look on ground might be basking
- Associated Plants: Anarrhinum orientale, A. orontium, Plantago lanceolata, P. major, Dianthus, Phlomis, Linaria, Veronica, Teucrium

Levantine marbled white (Melanargia lutea)
- Big, white with unmistakable black markings, easily distinguishable from green-veined whites and other whites, different subspecies, 55 mm, Mnemonic: BWB, a Big White & Black butterfly
- Flies: April-August, Habitat: all types, pastures, scrub, steppes, ruderal areas, meadows
- Associated Plants: Poa, Centaurea, Carduus

Freyer's grayling (Neohipparcia fata
- Medium-sized, males dark brown, females slightly lighter, conspicuous eyespots on wings, 30-34 mm, Mnemonic: BDBE, a Big Dark Butterfly with Eyespots
- Flies: May-October, Habitat: low to medium heights, stony places, woodlands, thickets, olive groves, scrub
- Associated Plants: Poa, Festuca
**Rock grayling** (*Hipparchia alcyone*)
A BDBE, big, unmistakable, dark brown with distinct yellowish-white bands on wings, 46-60 mm
Flies: June-August, Habitat: all except highest peaks, in stony slopes, thickets, pine woods, heaths, meadows
Associated Plants: *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Brachypodium pinnatum*, *B. sylvaticum*, *Bromus*, *Holcus lanatus*

**Klug's tawny rock brown** (*Pseudochazara pelopea*)
A BDBE, dark brown with red or orange bands that become wider in the hindwings, 50-54 mm
Flies: June-August, Habitat: higher altitudes, stony mountain slopes, cliffs, gorges, steppes
Associated Plants: grasses, *Cirsium*, *Carduus*

**Turanian rock brown** (*Pseudochazara telephassa*)
A BDBE, dark brown with distinct orange bands, like Klug's but smaller, band not interrupted, and duller undersides, 42-45 mm
Flies: May-July, Habitat: all types, especially at medium altitudes, mountain meadows, steppes
Associated Plants: grasses, *Dianthus*, *Echinops*, *Lavandula*

**Great sooty satyr** (*Satyrus ferula*)
A BDBE, unmistakable, males blackish-brown, females lighter with orange marks, 50-60 mm
Flies: June-August, Habitat: medium to higher altitudes, cliffs, pastures, meadows
Associated Plants: *Festuca valesiaca*, *Stipa*

**Dusky meadow brown** (*Hyponephele lycaon*)
A BDBE, smaller, males and females dark brown but lacking orange bands, with unmistakable orange spot on underside of forewing, pale underside hindwing, 36-40 mm
Flies: June-August, Habitat: all except highest peaks
Associated Plants: *Poa annua*, *Aira*

**Oriental meadow brown** (*Hyponephele lupinus*)
A BDBE, larger than the dusky meadow brown, wings golden-brown with distinct black markings, 40-50 mm
Flies: June-August, Habitat: upper heights, mountain slopes, pastures, thickets, cedar forests
Associated Plants: *Poa annua*, *Stipa parviflora*

**Lattice brown** (*Kirinia roxelana*)
A BDBE, one of the largest browns, males dark brown with orange forewing patches, females larger with more conspicuous orange, 55-60 mm
Flies: April-September, Flight Patterns: as all browns, flies short distances and then perches, look in shades of trees, Habitat: low to medium heights
Associated Plants: *Brachypodium*
Oberthur’s grizzled skipper (Pyrgus armoricanus)
A skipper, small, wings light golden brown, undersides whitish, 24-28 mm, Mnemonic: SAB, a Small Active Butterfly, or skipper Flies: May-August, Habitat: all except highest peaks, in pastures, waysides, thickets, meadows, slopes Associated Plants: Potentilla reptans, Helianthemum nummularium, Fragaria, Thymus, Achillea

Kiki’s skipper (Spialia phlomidis)
A SAB, unmistakably dark brown with rows of white spots, undersides yellowish-brown, 28-30 mm Flies: May-July, Flight Pattern: as all skippers, fast and close to ground, Habitat: all types, stony slopes, grasslands, meadows, steppes, scrub Associated Plants: Convolvulus libanoticus, C. lineatus, Dianthus

North African skipper (Carcharodus stauderi)
A SAB, distinct dark brown or reddish-brown wings with black and white spots, 25-35 mm Flies: March-October, Habitat: all types, stony slopes, pastures, valleys, riverbeds Associated Plants: Marrubium vulgare, Stachys

Millet skipper (Pelopidas thrax)
A SAB, but big and larger than other skippers, distinctly yellowish-brown or dark brown with small white or yellow dots, hooked antennae, and pointed wings, 42-51 mm Flies: May-July, September/October, Habitat: low to medium heights, riversides, grassy places, farmland, woodlands Associated Plants: Imperata cylindrica, Oryza

Note: details and images of all Lebanese species can be obtained online from LEPIDOPTERA LIBANOTICA/Butterflies and Moths of Lebanon at www.butterflies.spnl.org

Any questions or concerns? Any butterfly you’re not sure of? Or need any confirmation and validation? Please call or email Husein Zorkot, Lepidopterist and Butterfly Expert, LBMS founder, and BG & P manager Email: huseinspnl@gmail.com Mobile: 76/371 382