

## Butterflies & Dragonflies in Sweden mid-late June

In this splendid time of uprising Nordic summer, with nights as short as merely an hour of twilight, a good collection of unique Scandinavian Butterflies are on the menu. This is in fact the best time to see **Poplar Admiral**, **Baltic Grayling**, **Scarce Fritillary**, **Friggas Fritillary** and many more.

We visit a handful of central Sweden's richest butterfly-sites without any longer drives. A trip to the Baltic coast and the island Gräsö gives **Glanville Fritillary** and on the mainland not far away, we find **Clouded Apollos**.

This time of the year is also the best for several of Scandinavia's Dragonfly specialities, such as **Yellow-spotted-**, **Lilypad-** and **Ruby Whiteface**, **Common Clubtail**, **Small Pincertail** and the very rare and tiny **Pygmy Damselfly** or Sedgling (*Nehalennia speciosa*).

### DAY 1

Arrival at Västerås airport. We go directly to nearby island Nature reserve Ängsö, where we enjoy a picnic in a deciduous, semiopen landscape with meadows and wetlands and a parklike setting near an old castle.

We explore a couple of different parts of this lovely island by foot, looking for **Poplar Admirals** and dragonflies like **Yellow-spotted Whiteface** (*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*) and **Small Pincertail** (*Onychogomphus forcipatus*).

One of several charismatic dayflying Moths to be seen on the trip is locally common here; the small, but beautiful **Purple-barred Yellow** (*Lythria rotaria*). **Pearly Heath**, **Lesser Marbled-** and **Heath Fritillaries** are only some examples of the Butterflies at hand.

Night in the Black River Valley.

### DAY 2

Färna ekopark is probably the best of all nearby areas to see large and beautiful **Poplar Admirals**. We spend the morning part of the day here, and then move on to Butterfly reserve Munkhyttan, where a lot of conservation and management effort has been made to conserve healthy populations of **Scarce-**, **Marsh-** and **False Heath Fritillaries**.

**Northern Chequered Skipper**, **Common Swallowtail**, **Cranberry Blues** are also abundant in the area. If the **Wood Whites** are still on their wings we try to identify **Real's Wood White** among them.

**Common Goldenring**, **Beautiful Demoiselle** and **Downy Emerald** (*Cordulia aenea*) are among the dragonflies to be seen here.

Night in the Black River Valley.

### DAY 3

**Friggas Fritillary** is the first target species of today's excursion going northwards.

The site is a very nice little bog lake surrounded by pineforest and also a good site for species like **Moorland Clouded Yellow**, **Bog-**, and **Cranberry Fritillary**, **Large Heath** and **Baltic Grayling**, and dragonflies like **Ruby Whiteface**, (*Leucorrhinia rubicunda*) and **Small Whiteface** (*Leucorrhinia dubia*)

We continue northwards to look for **Scarce Heath** and if time permits we spend search for elusive **Northern Grizzled Skippers** on the myres in the pineforest.

Night back in the Black River Valley.

For those interested we do a Moth-night one or two of these nights, selecting an interesting site where a good selection of Moths are likely to appear. **Northern Oak Eggar, Pine-, Poplar-** or **Elephant Hawk Moth, White Prominent, Scarce Hook-tip** and colourful and unique Scandinavian **"Peat-bog Carpet"** (*Arichanna melanaria*) are just a couple of examples on what can be found. (Have a look at these lists of species from previous Moth-nights in the area: [link to pdf.](#))

#### DAY 4

"The Butterfly road" near the Baltic coast is 2 hours drive away but definitely worthwhile visiting. Here we find a good selection of rare Butterfly species, like **Large Grizzled Skipper, Black-veined White, Scarce Copper**, up to 10 species of Blues including **Mazarine-, Idas-** and **Amanda's Blue, Silvery-, Geranium-** and **Mountain Argus**. Among dayflying Moths **Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth** is one of the most charismatic ones.

In the same area we visit the only known site for one of Europe's rarest dragonflies, the **Pygmy Damselfly** or Sedgling (*Nehalennia speiosa*). The site is also good for **Common Clubtail** (*Gompus vulgatissimus*) and **Yellow-spotted Emeralds** (*Somatochlora flavomaculata*) can be seen at the Butterfly road.

Among the "flying blue toothpics" – the Damselflies we should identify Scandinavian exclusivities like **Dark Bluet** (*Coenagrion armatum*) and **Spearhead Bluet** (*Coenagrion hastulatum*) among more common Blue Featherlegs (*Platynemis pennipes*) and Common Bluetails (*Ishnura elegans*).

Night in small, picturesque coastal town Öregrund.

#### DAY 5

Just across Öregrund lies the island Gräsö in the Baltic Sea and after a lovely hotel breakfast we just take the five-minute ferry out to the island, to enjoy **Glanville Fritillaries** and **Purple-edged Coppers**. If we're lucky **Ladyslipper Orchids** might still be in bloom.

A coffe-break at a café by a lighthouse on the coast is well-earned after some hours of Butterflying.

Back on the mainland we spend time with **Clouded Apollos** on one of their stronghold sites in the country.

Night in Roslagen.

#### DAY 6

A couple of good Dragonfly species still remains to see and they are within reach around Stockholm. We focus on **Lilypad Whiteface** (*Leucorrhinia caudalis*) and might be additionally exposed to **Blue/Scarce Chaser** (*Libellula fulva*), **Small pincertail** and **Common Goldenrings** (*Cordulegaster boltonii*).

Night back in the Black River Valley.

#### DAY 7

The last day we dedicate to what's on the doorstep, which is a lot of lovely nature in the Black River Valley, including open wetlands, floodplains and pine forests with bogs and many lakes. If there's anything we would like to see again or if there are species left to see, we have the possibility to see **Poplar Admiral, Purple-edged Copper, Marsh Fritillary** and among Dragonflies **Common Clubtail, Broad-**

**bodied Chaser** (*Libellula depressa*) and **Eurasian Baskettail** (*Ephiteca bimaculata*)  
all fly nearby.