



Edition 13 - June 2022

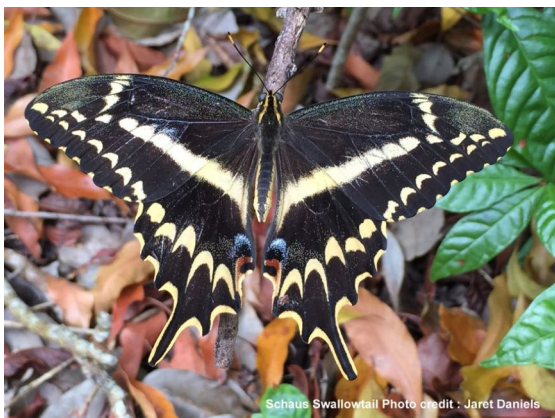
Welcome to another edition of Papilio!

It's been a while since we were last in touch but the Swallowtail and Birdwing Butterfly Trust has been busy keeping projects moving during the pandemic and, at the same time, building new ideas for future work.

In this Newsletter, we take a look at:

- World Swallowtail Day celebrated on the 11th and 12th June 2022
- Reserve Wardens across Norfolk checking for fungal disease on Milk-parsley
- Borneo/Kinabalu Birdwing project moving forward once again
- Conservation of *Baronia* and the Parnassiinae – a further appeal
- Butterfly House opens in Fiji to conserve and breed endemic butterflies

Do send us your own news and ideas for ways to conserve swallowtails and birdwings, and encourage local colleagues and enthusiasts to join our ranks by signing up for *Papilio!*



Schaus Swallowtail Photo credit: Jarot Daniels



Blue Kite Swallowtail PR copyright Caribbean Wildlife Publications 2021

World Swallowtail Day celebrated on the 11th and 12th June 2022

Special events were held in several locations across Norfolk, UK, in recognition of World Swallowtail Day, undeterred by the worries about a fungal disease that is attacking the food plant of Britain's only papilionid... read more below.



Swallowtail *Papilio machaon britannicus* - Mark Collins

Nature Reserve Wardens across Norfolk, England checking for fungal disease on Milk-parsley

On 9th June SBBT, together with partners, met with reserve managers from right across Norfolk at Wheatfen Nature Reserve. The aim? To share a pictorial factsheet on the fungal disease that destroyed more than 90% of Milk-parsley plants at Wheatfen last year. With this in hand, they can check their Milk-parsley stocks to see whether there are any signs of spread. With only 16 breeding sites now remaining for the British Swallowtail, which depends on Milk-parsley as its foodplant, this work is vital. The fungus should be showing in July and August so wardens at all 16 sites now know what to look for. In a more detailed Survey Methodology, SBBT, Wheatfen, the Royal Horticultural Society and the Norfolk Fungus Study Group have provided clear guidance on where, when and how to search and how to report the findings. Once we have the results later this year, the partners will meet again to discuss the next steps for remedial action. The fungal disease story has been covered very recently by journalist Patrick Barkham in the UK's [Guardian](#) newspaper.



Photo Credit : Murphy Ng

Borneo/Kinabalu Birdwing project moving forward once again

Two years of COVID restrictions took their toll on our project to conserve the Borneo Birdwing *Troides andromache*, but travel rules have now been eased and Netherlands Master's student Corné van der Linden from Wageningen University and the Uyttenboogaart-Eliassen Stichting will soon travel out to Sabah thanks to a grant from SBBT. Corné will deliver training to Kampung Kiau homestay owners in Kinabalu National Park on the identification of host plants (*Aristolochia* sp.) and birdwings in the field, helping to build a workforce for improved surveys, more sophisticated ecotourism and better appreciation of this important species. Ultimately, this project will create more tourism value and help to push back the many pressures on the Park's boundaries. At the same time, the work helps to build a base for future research by students from the Universiti Malaysia Sabah, not only on this spectacular species but also on the many other montane endemics threatened by habitat loss due to climate warming.

Martin Jagelka *Zerynthia rumex*Mike Friel *Sericinus montela*Mike Friel *Parnassius stubendorfi*

Conservation of *Baronia* and the Parnassiinae – a further appeal

In the last edition of Papilio! we invited experts on the Baroniinae and Parnassiinae to get in touch and help us pull together an online conference on these fascinating papilionids. There has been a helpful but modest response and we would love to hear from more of you as we bring together information on these groups near the roots of the papilionid evolutionary tree. Specifically, we are interested in *Baronia*, *Archon*, *Hypermnestra*, *Parnassius*, *Sericinus*, *Allancastris*, *Zerynthia*, *Bhutanitis* and *Luehdorfia*. Do please send any pointers you may have on their distribution, habitats, ecology and particularly conservation. We are compiling a list of references and articles as well as the names of enthusiasts and experts. It would be great to hear from you!

Please get in touch using the email info@sbbt.org.uk

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Butterfly House opens in Fiji to conserve and breed endemic butterflies

On Friday 10th June, Jone Liku, the Village Headman of Visaratu in Vanua Levu, Fiji, opened and inaugurated a new butterfly house inspired by the work of Operation Wallacea and SBBT on the newly discovered Natewa swallowtail, *Papilio natewa*. The aim of the new facility is to develop a captive breeding facility for the region's butterflies, and showcase them to the growing number of visitors and ecotourists to the region, which has many endemics and lies at the heart of an *Important Bird Area*. The project, which has been supported by Kokomana's Richard Markham and SBBT throughout the difficult COVID times, owes its success to strong local partnerships and will greatly enhance community expertise and appreciation of the valuable wildlife. SBBT Associate Clive Huggins is currently in Fiji, pushing forward with ecological research as part of the Operation Wallacea team working there. SBBT is very concerned that illegal and irresponsible collecting, habitat loss for kava production and other pressures require immediate action for conservation in this key location. It all started with a few committed experts and enthusiasts. We have now engaged local landowners and communities. We will also need the Government of Fiji to show some support for this nationally important initiative by protecting the area properly and enforcing CITES and other international treaties.

ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

Please help grow our community by following or liking us.

Our Twitter handle is @SBBT_Papilio

Our Facebook page is [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/swallowtailandbirdwing/)

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