

# *Honeyguide*

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0PX

Telephone: 01603 300552

www.honeyguide.co.uk E-mail: chris@honeyguide.co.uk



**Spring in the Spanish Pyrenees  
14-23 April 1996**

**Spring in the Spanish Pyrenees  
14-23 April 1996**

The group

George Graves  
Doris Graves

Keith Morgan  
Jo Morgan

Leslie Baker  
Hazel Wells

Doreen Brown

Jennie Pyle

Mike Pill  
Doreen Pill

Anne Sommerville

Leaders:     Rob Macklin  
                  Kathy Archibald

Report written by Rob Macklin, illustrations by Rob Hume.

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the cost of the holiday was put towards La Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO), the Spanish Ornithological Society, making a contribution of £375 towards SEO's campaign to save the steppes. During the course of Honeyguide holiday that followed this one in Berdún, Juan Carlos Cirera Martínez of SEO's Zaragoza office came to Berdún to collect a cheque for £825, including contributions from both Pyrenees holidays and £150 from Fuerteventura.

## **Spring in the Spanish Pyrenees 14-23 April 1996**

### Sunday 14th April - Bilbao to Berdún

Cloud, mist and dull conditions at Heathrow were replaced by relatively warm conditions at Bilbao airport and a temperature of 12 degrees. John Boucher welcomed us at the airport and escorted us to our coach for the four hour drive to Berdún in the foothills of the Pyrenees. A magnificent white stork stood astride its nest on a church tower of a village near Bilbao - an opportunity for a photo stop on the return journey.

Everyone soon got into the swing of raptor spotting from the coach and we drove along to a chorus of 'griffon', 'red kite', 'black kite' and 'buzzard' all the way. A female hen harrier swooping over the coach outside Pamplona was a real surprise and a female marsh harrier soaring away was also somewhat unexpected. Several kestrels were seen on the roadside wires. The botanists set the tone of the holiday at the half-way coffee stop, busily identifying hybrid oxlips, cornsalad and tall rock-cress. The Embalse de Yesa was full to the brim which dashed our hopes for any wading birds on the edge although we did catch a glimpse of great crested grebes and mallards. A flock of 20 yellow-legged gulls circled the reservoir appearing brilliant white against the still water.

Those who had been to Berdún before looked out expectantly for that wonderful, inspiring sight of the 'fortress on the hill' commanding the plains like a battleship, a view which soon produced a gasp of welcome from everybody as we returned from our travels each evening.

Vivien greeted us as we arrived at the steep ramp through the mediaeval archway into the town and helped us stagger up with our luggage to our two fabulous houses, where swallows were chattering a welcome on the wires. The first of many excellent dinners was taken at the 'Rincón de Emilio' and we were very pleased that John was able to join us.

### Monday 15th April - Around Berdún to the Rio Veral and Rio Aragón

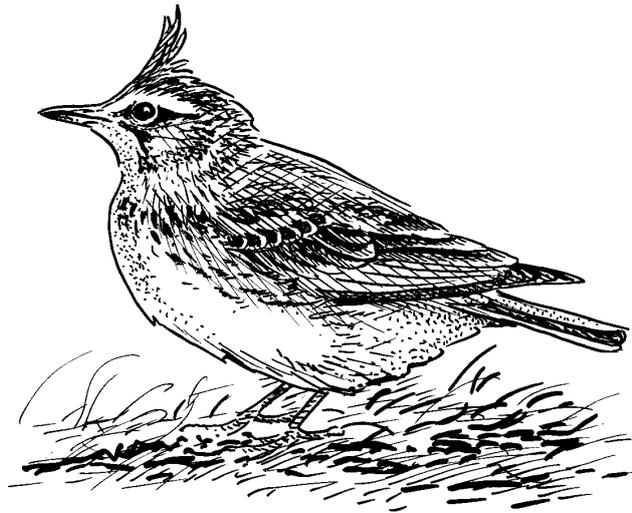
We were all very pleasantly surprised by the weather on our first day, which was warm, sunny and calm. A pre-breakfast walk gave us our first sights and sounds of the residents of Berdún particularly serins, goldfinches and greenfinches, all in full song. Several nightingales sang lustily from the village slopes and Doreen was quick to pick up a quail calling softly from the lower slopes. A female black redstart was spotted on the top of a house by the church while a pair of ordinary redstarts squabbled in the dense scrub. A single swift was over the village and a little egret flew lazily over giving us good views. No kites were seen but a solitary griffon vulture drifted across the sky.

After breakfast we set off through the 'badlands' down to the Rio Veral. The views were stunningly crisp and clear with the heavily snow-capped peaks of the Pyrenees looking close enough to touch. Not a plant went unnoticed as the group scattered and went athletically scrambling up and down the shale to identify the botanical delights. For such a barren landscape it was quite surprising how many there were: globularia and blue gromwell, Spanish broom, barberry and the superb, flowering amelanchier. Several lady orchids were found on the slopes just coming into flower.

We had excellent views of four turtle doves through the telescope and were surrounded by singing nightingales, serins, ciril buntings and corn buntings. A male stonechat looked very neat in his spring plumage and a crested lark busied itself with nest building. Both red and black kites soared overhead but the raptor honours were taken by an adult Egyptian vulture and a short-toed eagle just hanging in the air.

Both subalpine and Bonelli's warblers were singing in the scrub along the river while two male pied flycatchers caught insects along the field edge. A few butterflies were found here including the impressive scarce swallowtail which was new to most of the group. A wood white fluttered through the scrub and the startling Spanish festoon landed to give several of the group good views.

After an enormous lunch at Emilio's, instead of a sensible siesta we set off on the long hike to the Rio Aragón, past the rather barren arable fields and the ugly, modern grain stores, including Franco's silo, about which we were to hear later in the week. The fields themselves held singing crested larks and skylarks while a single woodlark sat quietly on the telephone wires. Corn buntings seemed to be in song from every bush and six rock sparrows were flushed out of an almond grove by a passing sparrowhawk.



*Crested lark*

Cleopatra and brimstone butterflies flew at great speed along the roadside verges while wall brown and small copper were also added to the list. The real find here were several, tiny panoptes blues and a bright Moroccan orange-tip. A bright orange butterfly landed just long enough to see that it was a Queen of Spain fritillary.

Wild clary, sainfoin and rush-leaved narcissus were all found alongside the fields and several clumps of purple toothwort were out along the river edge, parasitising the aspens. Sun spurge flowered all over the place but was dwarfed by the impressive large Mediterranean spurge. The more adventurous members of the group (i.e. all the women!) went for a paddle in the river which, being fresh snow-melt, did wonders for hot and tired feet. After quite a long day and all the unaccustomed sunshine, we were all pretty pleased to see John and Viv arriving in convoy to ferry us home by car in time for a promenade around the town before another gargantuan meal at Emilio's brought a relaxing end to an exciting day.

#### Tuesday 16th April - Santa Cruz de la Seros & St. Juan de la Peña

We made our first stop a little way along the Aragón at a grove of Holm oaks where we could get right down to the river, which was ringing with the calls of Cetti's warblers and nightingales. This was a productive patch with both green and common sandpipers plus little ringed plover on the river and up to five black kites overhead. A plethora of warblers in the scrub included many chiffchaffs, whitethroat and blackcap with another singing subalpine warbler and a rich, yellow melodious warbler. Several groups of blue aphyllanthes were found growing on the scrubby banks and false senna provided a splash of colour. As we were pulling away from the grove, a black

stork drifted right overhead and we all jumped out again to watch it, much to the amusement of José until Doreen explained in Spanish what an exciting rarity it was for us. José probably decided we were mad and was very accommodating and patient with us, much to our advantage.

Next stop was Santa Cruz de la Seros with its fabulous 12th century church complete with alabaster windows and nesting crag martins. We had an incredible raptor half-hour with golden and Bonelli's eagles, peregrine falcon and griffon vultures all in the sky at once. The peregrine mobbed the golden eagle for several minutes as it drifted across the valley. An alpine swift was seen briefly here and Mike was lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a passing dipper.

Then an awe-inspiring coach ride up the steep, twisting mountain road above the village to the monastery of St. Juan de la Peña (St. John of the cliff). As if the view over the cliff-edge was not spectacular enough, the other side of the road with carpets of hepatica and tiny narcissus under the trees was just breath-taking. 'Fairyland' many of us agreed: I have rarely seen anything so beautiful!

We delved into Emilio's substantial packed lunches on the grass outside the old monastery, surrounded by the leaves of merendera and the calls of coal tits and nuthatches in the pine trees. A Queen of Spain fritillary butterfly interrupted lunch! Suitably fuelled we walked through a sea of hepatica and up the steep slope where the trees gave way to echinospartum along the top of the ridge, part of the Sierra de St. Juan. We had hoped to see lammergeier from here but had to be content with many soaring griffons and a single Egyptian vulture. Two pairs of ravens were seen up here and a solitary buzzard glided by. On the butterfly front both swallowtail and scarce swallowtail were found along the ridge and a green hairstreak was located in a sheltered area of scrub; we also had good close up views of a meadow fritillary here. We were also very fortunate to have good views of a hummingbird hawk-moth which was taking nectar from the narcissus. Both rush-leaved and rock narcissus were found in profusion along the ridge and the delightful white daffodils were identified as *Narcissus pseudonarcissus moschatus*. (Rock and rush-leaved narcissi have been now lumped as one species, rush-leaved narcissus, in the latest edition of Blamey & Grey-Wilson's alpine flora.)

On the way back down we began to explore the pine woods and our patience was rewarded when we were able to get reasonable views of firecrests which seemed to be everywhere. Nuthatches were also very evident here and we came across a pair at their nest hole in the woods. All in all a very successful day enlivened by the calls of scops owls in the evening. Mike and Doreen were lucky enough to see one of the owls in the light on a TV aerial.

### Wednesday 17th April - Embalse de la Peña, Castillo de Loarre & Riglos

A reasonable, though cold morning greeted us after overnight rain, thunder and lightning which put the lights out in the painting school until we located the trip switches! The highlight of the pre-breakfast walk was 30 griffons gliding low over the fields towards Berdún and a little owl on the farm buildings below the town. Both red and black kites were in the air and small flocks of goldfinches were moving through.

Our first stop was at the Embalse de la Peña although it was very windy here and quite cold. The reservoir itself was very quiet with just three pairs of great-crested-grebes and several mallards. A common sandpiper flitted away and a solitary yellow-legged gull stood stock still on the far side. Crag martins flashed around the surrounding crags and we located a raven's nest overlooking the road with the parents regularly bringing in food. A blue rock thrush sang from a high perch on the rocks allowing most of the group to see it in the telescope and a pair of black redstarts called from the rocks. Most of the group were already on the coach when a lammergeier drifted low through the gorge.

Our next destination was Castillo de Loarre which dominates the landscape in the valley. One or two of us began to explore the scrub around the castle while the majority of the group opted for a look around the castle itself. Kestrels, choughs and crag martins were nesting within the confines of the castle and Mike and I had a brief glimpse of a hoopoe which seemed to just vanish into the undergrowth! Luckily the whole group had reasonable views of this same bird from below the castle walls after lunch. This afternoon session proved particularly productive with the thick scrub concealing singing Sardinian, subalpine and Dartford warblers and a woodlark occasionally rising into song. A rock bunting was located on the castle slopes and a very brief glimpse was had of a black-eared wheatear disappearing into the rocks.

The latter part of the afternoon was spent at the striking cliffs of Riglos with the small village nestling under its towering sandstone peaks. The cliffs themselves had several climbers on them, which was certainly disturbing a nesting pair of Egyptian vultures. It would seem reasonable for the climbers to desist until the breeding season was over. Many griffons glided along the rockface and both rock doves and choughs were nesting here. A blue rock thrush sang from high up on the cliffs while the scrub concealed singing Sardinian and subalpine warblers. Unfortunately the black wheatears were nowhere to be seen.

The plants here were unspectacular though the rosemary was literally all over the place and gave off the most exquisite scent. Wild thyme and white rock-rose added to the colour. Navelwort grew out of the town walls.

#### Thursday 18th April - Bridge of St. Miguel, Aisa Village & Sierra de Aisa

Thankfully the day dawned sunny and clear although still a little chilly. As we were heading up into the high Pyrenees we all took suitable warm clothing in case of poor weather. Our first stop was to be the medieval bridge at St. Miguel near Jaca and on the way we were very fortunate indeed to spot a crane feeding unconcernedly in a roadside field.

The bridge itself gave excellent views along the river and the only grasshopper warbler of the trip was reeling away from the undergrowth. Both skylark and woodlark were singing here and we even managed to get the latter in the telescope. Five swifts were moving up through the valley and five turtle doves appeared restless on their way north. A flock of 'little brown jobs' in the bushes turned out to be ten tree sparrows. A Bonelli's eagle unbelievably turned up in the same place as last year while two red kites included one carrying nesting material. Butterflies here included Bath white and brown argus.

We stopped in the mountain village of Aisa for coffee (eventually managing to persuade the owners to open up) and noticed both rusty-back fern and maidenhair spleenwort growing on the village walls. A short-toed eagle hovered over the village.

Our lunchtime spot was high up the valley yet below the alpine meadow, beside the river. Several crag martins buzzed around us and a superb Camberwell beauty gave us great views as it warmed up on a rock with its wings outstretched! A small meadow here was alive with cowslips and spring gentians.

After lunch we climbed up through the rocks and into the high alpine meadow where we were met with stunning views. But, horror of horrors, the cold and late spring had not allowed the carpets of spring and trumpet gentians to come through, although we managed to find one of the latter. Small compensation was had with the carpets of wild daffodils (*Narcissus minor*) and clumps of golden saxifrage and spring crocus. A number of spots in the distance turned out to be a herd of 29 chamois; these did not seem to be particularly bothered about us and allowed us to get good views through the telescope. The large amount of snow higher up had made it difficult for the chamois to hide in the high passes. Two ravens flew around the valley cronking loudly and

coming very close when we tried to imitate their calls. The high wheeling flocks of crows turned out to be a feeding flock of alpine choughs working along the mountain slopes. Another rock bunting was seen up here and one or two wheatears were in song. No other mammals were seen but we located evidence of rabbit, mole and wild boar. As the afternoon drew to a close a full adult lammergeier (below) came into view and drifted along the rim of the valley appearing bright orange in the sunlight.

A truly remarkable day in the high Pyrenees which we will remember for a long time.



#### Friday 19th April - Foz de Biniés and Rio Veral Valley

The day dawned sunny and warm with excellent visibility and our pre-breakfast walk was accompanied by the songs of at least five nightingales in the scrub below Berdún. One gave excellent views singing from the top of a bush. Two rock sparrows were seen at their customary place at windy corner!

After breakfast we were driven up to Biniés gorge by John and Viv and most of us saw two little owls on the farm buildings outside Berdún. At the entrance to the gorge we located false senna, blue aphyllantes, globularia, two lady orchids and the leaves of petrocotis. Fortunately this plant was in flower in one or two areas along the gorge.

Griffon and Egyptian vultures were very much in evidence while a couple of sparrowhawks flashed over the gorge. Much higher in the sky we spotted a single peregrine and at least 30 alpine swifts. Grey wagtails were very apparent along the river and at least one dipper flew swiftly just above the water - very difficult to see!

Butterflies were fairly abundant in the sunnier areas and both panoptes and black-eyed blues were identified, Spanish festoons were seen mating and another Camberwell beauty flew along the road edge. We managed to find a comfortable picnic site at the top of the gorge and Vivien arrived in the car with our packed lunches. This was an excellent spot for butterflies with peacock, comma, small blue and Queen of Spain fritillary all found here. There was also a superb area of Nice milkwort here. After lunch we 'disposed' of our chicory here - hope the wild boar like it!

Most of the group decided on the walk back to Berdún along the Rio Veral, a fairly long trek. Fortunately Vivien ferried us down to the Veral bridge to make the journey shorter. Nightingales and blackcaps were singing in the scrub by the river while a pond-skater attacked and ate a spider in the shallows. No sooner had we started our walk when an immature lammergeier appeared

over the badlands giving us all good views. Four red-legged partridges sped away as we approached - probably more used to hunters! New butterflies along here included a long overdue clouded yellow and a well camouflaged dingy skipper, ably spotted by Anne.

Raptors along this section included a superb male Montagu's harrier, which disappeared as quickly as it arrived, two red kites on nests which did not seem to bother too much, two buzzards, a short-toed eagle and a pale-phase booted eagle - an amazing array of birds.

Diligent searching in a patch of scrubby grassland revealed several early spider orchids, lady orchids and twisted thymelaea. Walking on around the network of fields we came across a very old willow which held a couple of long-tailed tits and a short-toed tree creeper. The scrub here produced three whinchats which we all saw well and a girl bunting trilled. The real highlight was the sudden arrival of at least 30 trilling bee-eaters - surely one of the birds of the trip. We approached the last leg of the journey faced with the climb up to Berdún, a long haul only broken by the sight of two little ringed plovers on the river. It was a hot, dusty and tired group that arrived back at base.

### Saturday 20th April - Col de Portalet & Valle de Hecho

A long drive to the very roof of the Pyrenees, which took almost a couple of hours. At this height it was still very cold with great drifts of snow along the roadside. However a bit of weather did not daunt our group and, after a lukewarm coffee, we spread out to search the immediate area around the Spanish/French border. The cold conditions made gentians and orchids out of the question but we were lucky enough to find several clumps of purple saxifrage blooming on the rocks. Yellow saxifrage was also found here as were oxlips and wild daffodils.

Birds were relatively few and far between here with water pipits and wheatears breeding on the slopes and ravens and choughs overhead. A pair of kestrels were mobbing a red kite and later the male had a go at two passing choughs.

We decided it was too cold to stay up here and moved back down in search of warmth, birds, butterflies and plants. We decided to explore the Hecho valley which entailed driving back almost to Berdún. The valley itself looked very picturesque but our progress was halted by the road being closed by falling rocks. Nevertheless we found a super spot for lunch below the road, in the sun and well out of the wind. We almost stumbled onto several striking early purple orchids and Keith discovered a small group of green-winged orchids, both unexpected bonuses. Butterflies here included brimstone, orange-tip, green hairstreak, small blue and Queen of Spain fritillary while another Camberwell beauty flew at great speed along the road. We also discovered a group of 30 pine-processionary moth caterpillars on a large rock.

Marsh tits and long-tailed tits were calling from the trees and yet another firecrest was briefly seen. Up to ten griffons were joined by a pair of Egyptian vultures along the cliff rim but the real highlight of the day was the sight of four lammergeiers flying together. After our worries about seeing this species earlier in the trip it was fantastic to see such a group in the air together. Doreen pointed out the birds to two young Spanish birdwatchers with whom she communicated brilliantly! Our botanists continued to search the scrub (Doreen, Jo and Leslie in the forefront as usual) and found rock soapwort, wild strawberry, brooklime, bush vetch and the enigmatic Pyrenean saxifrage.

### Sunday 21st April - Berdún and Rio Veral

A free morning for the group which allowed everyone to explore Berdún and relax in the marvellous surroundings. Swifts had finally arrived over the town heralding the real start of summer. Another new species was represented by a female yellowhammer just below the village

where a common blue butterfly was also seen. In the afternoon we all walked down to the Rio Veral again to explore this area further.

In the badlands we found several lady orchids in full flower; many nightingales and corn buntings were in full song even on a hot afternoon! Two short-toed eagles and a buzzard were in the air over the river and the bee-eater count reached twelve, all calling loudly as they flitted over the scrub. Doreen and I had moved on slightly ahead and were very fortunate to witness three black kites, one red kite and a booted eagle all mobbing a passing osprey - brilliant!

One of the few sparrowhawks of the trip flew quickly over and five citril finches were identified by their calls as they flew over. A little owl was seen briefly around the old farm buildings here and a brown hare fled into deep scrub on our approach.

In the morning Keith and Jo had found some Pyrenean fritillaries on the slopes overlooking the river and we all trooped up there to have a look at them; 27 flowers were found in all. Both rock and rush-leaved narcissus were also in flower here and we also found field marigold and brown pea. Fools and 'proper' watercress were found as well as common figwort. A really excellent afternoon!

#### Monday 22nd April - Rio Aragón, Hoz de Arbayún & Hoz de Lumbier

Mike and Doreen came on the last pre-breakfast walk in overcast, windy and cold conditions. Very little was seen apart from two rock sparrows at windy corner and ten swifts over the town.

Our 'unscheduled' first stop was down to the Rio Aragón and a walk along the far side of the river. At least six grey-headed wagtails and 30 sand martins were busily feeding here and two golden orioles flew out. Both quail and cuckoo were calling here and little ringed plover and common sandpiper were seen along the river. The reedbeds were difficult to see into but our perseverance paid off with fleeting glimpses of at least two singing great reed warblers and Cetti's warblers. We also managed to get really close views of a singing Bonelli's warbler which is usually a very skulking species.

We then moved on to the viewpoint overlooking the magnificent gorge of Arbayún. Even though the weather was not brilliant we had excellent views of both griffon and Egyptian vultures, while a short-toed eagle and a male kestrel were also seen. A blue rock thrush sang from a prominent crag as up to 20 alpine swifts flashed overhead. Exploration of the surrounding scrub revealed more Pyrenean fritillaries and lady orchids while asphodel was in full flower here.

Lunch was taken on the picnic tables at the entrance to the Lumbier gorge in somewhat cool conditions. A superb male circler bunting sang lustily from a perch right next to us giving us all great views. Many choughs and griffons flew low over the area and two ravens drifted into the gorge. Plants here included wild clary, early spider orchid, shrubby jasmine and a turpentine tree. As we walked along the route of the old railway we were accompanied by large numbers of griffons, choughs and jackdaws, an Egyptian vulture and a kestrel. Lady orchids were in full flower here and were some of the best we had encountered on the trip. As we neared the end of the gorge large black clouds billowed up bringing torrential rain lashing down the valley. Fortunately many of the group had reached the hostel in the village of Liédena before the deluge and could only wait for the rest of the group to battle through the rain. The latecomers were the only ones to see a little grebe on the river.

Our last night at Emilio's was a really jolly occasion and we were joined by John for dinner where the champagne flowed. I think we all agreed that it was an excellent trip and we were incredibly lucky with the weather!

## Tuesday 23rd April - Return to Bilbao

An early start for the four hour drive to Bilbao via Pamplona and Vitoria Gasteiz. As we passed the huge reservoir we spotted both great grey and woodchat shrikes on the overhead wires but the reservoir itself was largely deserted.

Coffee was taken at the usual place outside Pamplona and we were able to persuade José to make a slight detour on the edge of Vitoria to get good views of the white stork on its nest - brilliant camera stop!!

So back to 'hideous' Bilbao where Kathy and I took the opportunity to brief the next leaders on our sightings over the past ten days.

It only remains to thank you for being a wonderful group and making the holiday go with a swing.

### Bird list

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Little grebe         | Great crested grebe      |
| Cormorant            | Little egret             |
| Grey heron           | Black stork              |
| White stork          | Mallard                  |
| Black kite           | Red kite                 |
| Lammergeier          | Egyptian vulture         |
| Griffon vulture      | Short-toed eagle         |
| Marsh harrier        | Hen harrier              |
| Montagu's harrier    | Sparrowhawk              |
| Buzzard              | Golden eagle             |
| Booted eagle         | Bonelli's eagle          |
| Osprey               | Kestrel                  |
| Peregrine            | Red-legged partridge     |
| Quail                | Coot                     |
| Crane                | Little ringed plover     |
| Green sandpiper      | Common sandpiper         |
| Yellow-legged gull   | Rock dove                |
| Woodpigeon           | Collared dove            |
| Turtle dove          | Cuckoo                   |
| Scops owl            | Little owl               |
| Swift                | Alpine swift             |
| Bee-eater            | Hoopoe                   |
| Green woodpecker     | Great spotted woodpecker |
| Crested lark         | Woodlark                 |
| Skylark              | Sand martin              |
| Crag martin          | Swallow                  |
| House martin         | Tawny pipit              |
| Water pipit          | Yellow wagtail           |
| Grey wagtail         | White wagtail            |
| Dipper               | Wren                     |
| Dunnock              | Robin                    |
| Nightingale          | Black redstart           |
| Redstart             | Whinchat                 |
| Stonechat            | Wheatear                 |
| Black-eared wheatear | Blue rock thrush         |
| Blackbird            | Song thrush              |

Cetti's warbler  
 Great reed warbler  
 Dartford warbler  
 Subalpine warbler  
 Whitethroat  
 Bonelli's warbler  
 Goldcrest  
 Pied flycatcher  
 Marsh tit  
 Blue tit  
 Nuthatch  
 Golden oriole  
 Woodchat shrike  
 Magpie  
 Chough  
 Carrion crow  
 Spotless starling  
 Rock sparrow  
 Chaffinch  
 Citril finch  
 Goldfinch  
 Yellowhammer  
 Rock bunting

118 species

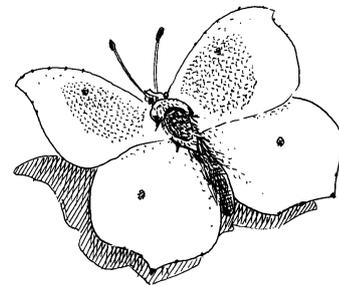
Butterfly list

Scarce swallowtail  
 Spanish festoon  
 Small white  
 Bath white  
 Moroccan orange tip  
 Brimstone  
 Wood white  
 Small copper  
 Holly blue  
 Panoptes blue  
 Brown argus  
 Peacock  
 Comma  
 Painted lady  
 Meadow fritillary  
 Dingy skipper

31 species

Grasshopper warbler  
 Melodious warbler  
 Sardinian warbler  
 Garden warbler  
 Blackcap  
 Chiffchaff  
 Firecrest  
 Long-tailed tit  
 Coal tit  
 Great tit  
 Short-toed treecreeper  
 Great grey shrike  
 Jay  
 Alpine chough  
 Jackdaw  
 Raven  
 House sparrow  
 Tree sparrow  
 Serin  
  
 Linnet  
 Cirl bunting  
 Corn bunting

Swallowtail  
 Large white  
 Green-veined white  
 Orange tip  
 Clouded yellow  
 Cleopatra (*right*)  
 Green hairstreak  
 Little blue  
 Black-eyed blue  
 Common blue  
 Camberwell beauty  
 Red admiral  
 Small tortoiseshell  
 Queen of Spain fritillary  
 Wall brown



## Plant list

This is a far from complete list of all the plants recorded and is on a site by site basis.

April 14th - Coffee stop near Pamplona

Corn salad (*Valerianella locusta*); Tall rock-cress (*Cardaminopsis arenosa*); Oxlip (*Primula elatior*).

April 15th - Berdún, Rio Veral & Rio Aragón

Wild clary (*Salvia verbenaca*); Borage (*Borago officinalis*); Sainfoin (*Onobrychis argentea hispanica*); Rush-leaved narcissus (*Narcissus requienii*); Shepherd's needle (*Scandix pecten-veneris*); Green hellebore (*Helleborus viridis*); False acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*); Purple toothwort (*Lathraea clandestina*); Dove's-foot cranesbill (*Geranium molle*); Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*); Spanish broom (*Genista scorpius*); White rock-rose (*Helianthemum apenninum*); Spring cinquefoil (*Potentilla tabernaemontani*); Lady orchid (*Orchis purpurea*); Judas tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*); Grape hyacinth (*Muscari racemosum*); Wild thyme (*Thymus drucei*); Amelanchier (*Amelanchier laevis*); Globularia (*Globularia punctata*); Blue gromwell (*Lithospermum arvensis*); Common Fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*); White comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*); Madwort (*Asperugo procumbens*); Henbit dead-nettle (*Lamium amplexicaule*); Pyrenean violet (*Viola pyrenaica*); Ivy-leaved toadflax (*Cymbalaria muralis*); Rustyback-fern (*Ceterach officinarum*); Sun spurge (*Euphorbia helioscopia*); Perennial flax (*Linum perenne*); Cowslip (*Primula veris*); White horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*); Brown vetch (*Lathyrus setifolius*); Corn Mignonette (*Reseda phyteuma*); Hop trefoil (*Trifolium campestre*); Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthum*); Milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*); Borage (*Borago officinalis*); Pyrenean flax (*Linum suffruticosum salsoloides*).

April 16th - St.Cruz de la Seros, St.Juan de la Peña & Puente de Reina

Kermes oak (*Quercus coccifera*); Stinking hellebore (*Helleborus foetidus*); Kerneria (*Kerneria saxatilis*); Blue aphyllanthes (*Aphyllanthes monspeliensis*); Wild daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus moschatus*); Rush-leaved narcissus (*Narcissus requienii*); Rock narcissus (*Narcissus rupicola*); Asphodel (*Asphodelus albus*); Pyrenean violet (*Viola pyrenaica*); Spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*); Hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis*); Echinospartum (*Echinospartum horridum*); Lesser periwinkle (*Vinca minor*); Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*); Pyrenean saxifrage (*Saxifraga longifolius*); Mistletoe (*Viscum album austriacum*); Box (*Buxus sempervirens*); Holm oak (*Quercus ilex*); Kermes oak (*Quercus coccifera*); Twisted thymelaea (*Thymelaea tinctoria*); Field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*); Barren strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*); Alpine bitter-cress (*Cardamine bellidifolia*); False senna (*Coronilla emerus*).

April 17th - Embalse de la Peña, Castillo de Loarre & Riglos

White rock-rose (*Helianthemum apenninum*); Dittander (*Lepidium latifolium*); Wild thyme (*Thymus drucei*); Wild clary (*Salvia verbenaca*); False senna (*Coronilla emerus*); Common polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*); Aethionema (*Aethionema saxatile*); Flag iris (*Iris germanica*); Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*); Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*); Box (*Buxus sempervirens*); Great burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*); Tassel hyacinth (*Muscari comosum*); Matted globularia (*Globularia cordifolia*); Field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*); Berry catchfly (*Cucubalus baccifer*); Navelwort (*Umbilicus rupestris*); Brown vetch (*Lathyrus setifolius*); Wild mignonette (*Reseda lutea*).

April 18th - Aisa

Greater celandine (*Chelidonium majus*); Rustyback-fern (*Ceterach officinarum*); Maidenhair spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*); Greater stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*); Red dead-nettle (*Lamium purpurea*); Mountain kidney-vetch (*Anthyllus montana*); Sainfoin (*Onobrychis argentea hispanica*); Elder-flowered orchid (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*); Green hellebore (*Helleborus viridis*); Stinking hellebore (*Helleborus foetidus*); Hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis*); Cowslip (*Primula veris*);

Spring gentian (*Gentiana verna*); Oxlip (*Primula elatior*); White crocus (*Crocus albiflorus*); Solid-tubered corydalis (*Corydalis solida*); Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*); Trumpet gentian (*Gentiana acaulis*); Alpine rock-rose (*Helianthemum oelandicum*); Lesser wild daffodil (*Narcissus minor*); Rush-leaved narcissus (*Narcissus requienii*); White false helleborine (*Veratrum album*); Stemless carline thistle (*Carlina acaulis*); Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*); Rue-leaved isopyrum (*Isopyrum thalictroides*).

April 19th - Foz de Biniés & Rio Veral

False senna (*Coronilla emerus*); Petrocoptis (*Petrocoptis pyrenaica*); Blue aphyllanthes (*Aphyllanthes monspeliensis*); Lady orchid (*Orchis purpurea*); Early-spider orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes*); Globularia (*Globularia punctata*); Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*); Black bryony (*Tamus communis*); Climbing white-bryony (*Bryonia dioica*); Spanish catchfly (*Silene otites*); Pyrenean hyacinth (*Hyacinthus amethystinus*); White campion (*Silene alba*); Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*); St.Lucies's cherry (*Prunus mahaleb*); Wayfaring tree (*Viburnum lantana*); Asphodel (*Asphodelus albus*); False vetch (*Astragalus monspessulanus*); Nice milkwort (*Polygala nicaeensis*); Twisted thymelaea (*Thymelaea tinctoria*); Common comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*).

April 20th - Col de Portalet & Valle del Hecho

Pyrenean buttercup (*Ranunculus pyrenaicus*); Solid-tubered corydalis (*Corydalis solida*); Spring crocus (*Crocus albiflorus*); Green hellebore (*Helleborus viridis*); Spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*); Purple saxifrage (*Saxifraga oppositifolia*); Oxlip (*Primula elatior*); Wild daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus nobilis*); Yellow saxifrage (*Saxifraga aretioides*); Early-purple orchid (*Orchis mascula*); Green-winged orchid (*Orchis morio*); Rock soapwort (*Saponaria ocymoides*); Wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*); Dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*); Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*); Bush vetch (*Vicia sepium*); Pyrenean saxifrage (*Saxifraga longifolia*); Lavender cotton (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*).

April 21st - Berdún & Rio Veral

Lucerne (*Medicago sativa*); Corn mignonette (*Reseda phyteuma*); Nice milkwort (*Polygala nicaeensis*); Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*); Wayfaring tree (*Viburnum lantana*); Pyrenean snakeshead (*Fritillaria pyrenaica*); Fly orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*); Groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*); Purple toothwort (*Lathraea clandestina*); Early spider orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes*); Field marigold (*Calendula arvensis*); Watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*); Fool's watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*); Common figwort (*Scrophularia nodosa*).

April 22nd - Hoz de Arbayún & Hoz de Lumbier

Rush-leaved narcissus (*Narcissus requienii*); Pyrenean snakeshead (*Fritillaria pyrenaica*); Asphodel (*Asphodelus albus*); Lady orchid (*Orchis purpurea*); Pyrenean hyacinth (*Hyacinthus amethystinus*); Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*); Cowslip (*Primula veris*); Wild clary (*Salvia verbenaca*); Early spider orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes*); Turpentine tree (*Pistachia terebinthus*); Shrubby restharrow (*Ononis fruticosa*); Lady orchid (*Orchis purpurea*); Birthwort (*Aristolochia clematitis*); Blue gromwell (*Lithospermum arvensis*); Pyrenean toadflax (*Linaria supina*); Yellow oxalis (*Oxalis corniculata*); Elder (*Sambucus nigra*).