

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Spanish Pyrenees
12 – 19 May 2018

Participants

Sue and Peter Burge
Helen and Malcolm Crowder
Kate Dalziel

Diana and David Melzack
Colin Taylor
Pauline and Keith Vaughton

Leaders

Chris Gibson, who also wrote this report, and Peter Rich.

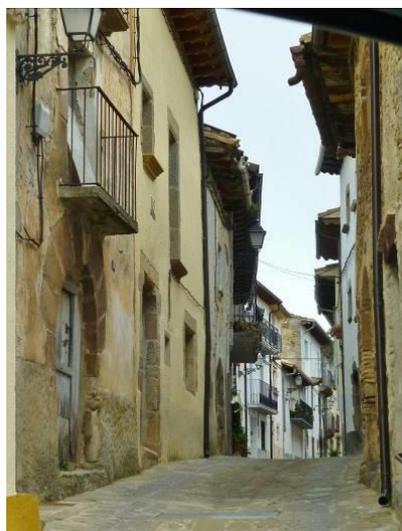
Our hosts: Melanie and Peter Rich at Casa Sarasa www.casasarasa.com

Photos by Chris Gibson (CG), Kate Dalziel (KD) and Helen Crowder (HC) were all taken during this holiday.

Front cover: female Spanish moon moth (CG).



Above: the group at Casa Sarasa, with Berdún in the background.
Below: a street in Berdún (KD); giant peacock moth at Casa Sarasa (CG).



This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed, in this case for La Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO), the Spanish Ornithological Society, and its work in Aragón.

The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of £500. This donation brings the total given to SEO since the first Honeyguide holiday in Spain in 1991 to £18,785 (through all Honeyguide holidays, mostly the Spanish Pyrenees and Extremadura).

As at May 2018, the total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £124,020.

DAILY DIARY

Saturday 12 May: the way there...

Departing from a rainy Stansted after lunch, a rather bumpy flight took us to Biarritz, and more rain and strong winds. After meeting Peter, and picking up the second van, we headed into the low cloud of the Pyrenees; occasional showers interspersed with shafts of sunlight spearing through the cloud made the Motorway of the Mountains suitably dramatic, with a few griffon vultures and red and black kites for accompaniment. As we pulled in to Casa Sarasa just after 8pm, the welcome from Melanie and Marcella was amplified by that from the local nightingales, providing a beacon of hope in the strong, cold northerly winds. And so to the first of many, unfailingly delicious and satisfying meals, a feature of the entire week. Outside a scops owl hooted, a welcome return for this once common bird, but after a long day of travel, the call we heeded was that of our beds.

Sunday 13 May: Local walks, Río Veral and Río Aragón

Overnight the skies cleared, the temperature fell to an unseasonal 4°C, but it didn't deter the village fiesta which continued until 6am, thankfully generally out of our earshot, or masked by the natural counterpoint of nightingales.

The crystal light of dawn shone favourably on the kites overhead and melodious warbler and circl bunting around the garden, but the still-strong wind meant we needed to be well wrapped up for our morning walk to the Río Veral, flanking the northern slopes of Berdún's lofty perch. As we stepped out, a peregrine flashed through, serins sang, spotless starlings were spotted, along with other village denizens such as black redstarts and linnets.



On the Badlands this first, rather chilly, morning. It soon warmed up enough to bring out butterflies, including this Spanish swallowtail. (KD)

As we moved on to the eroded marl landscape of the Badlands, it soon became apparent that these stony, largely soil-less slopes were in fact in profuse bloom: yellow Berdún broom and barberry (mixed with bronzy box, not in flower), pink shrubby rest-harrow, mauve shrubby thyme, and a rainbow of lower growers: white rock-rose, blue aphyllanthes, globularia and beautiful flax, and purple lady orchids. Early spider and bee orchids were also located, while a lower meadow by the river produced yellow bee orchid and the leaves and emerging spikes of lizard orchid. On the richer valley soils, white-flowered shrubs – hawthorn, wayfaring tree, dogwood and fly honeysuckle – were in evidence, and providing both nectar and shelter for several butterflies, including Spanish swallowtail, holly blue and a single Glanville fritillary. Unrecognised at the time, but subsequently identified from photos, the butterfly haul also included a Provençal short-tailed blue.

In the black poplars by the Veral, golden orioles sang and a male appeared for most of the group, albeit briefly. And with temperatures rising a little in mid-morning, good numbers of raptors started to appear: about 40 griffon vultures were mingled with several booted eagles, common buzzard, kites and kestrel, while a total of three honey buzzards moved purposely northwards, presumably still migrating.

The raptor haul was completed by a splendid short-toed eagle, which hovered and hunted over the marl slopes scouring for reptilian prey, while migrant whinchats were noted along with singing garden warblers.

Back at Casa Sarasa for a lovely tortilla lunch, we managed to miss a rain shower, and both a hobby and a short-toed eagle were available for those with eyes to the sky as well as the table. Then a short drive took us to the Aragón Bridge. On arrival, the heavens opened trapping us in the vans for a few minutes: as throughout the holiday, we led a charmed life in avoiding almost all inclemencies. Not only had the squall produced rain, it also dropped in high-flying migrating birds: flocks of hirundines, followed by numerous common and then half-a-dozen alpine swifts. Common sandpiper and little ringed plover fed along the bouldery river banks, while a woodchat shrike pounced on unsuspecting insects from a distant hedge.



Woodcock, yellow bee and early spider orchids, and below, one of the hybrids. (HC)

Walking along the dry, cobbly, overflow river bed, many of the plants were as found earlier on the Badlands, together with ground-pine, Pyrenean rock-rose, shrubby plantain and dragon's-teeth. Orchids in flower included military, woodcock, early spider and mirror, together with several confusing, probably complex, *Ophrys* hybrids involving woodcock, yellow bee and early spider parentage. Some resembled 'species' recognised by some authorities, such as *O. incubacea*, *riojana* and *passionis*, but where the species limits sit in relation to intraspecific and hybrid variation is a moot point.



Forming crusts on the ground, the scrambled-egg lichen *Fulgensia fulgens*, with pale yellow thalli and more orange fruiting bodies raised my usual questions as to its identity (resolved by Jude on my return home). Given the still-strong wind, birds and insects were rather few and far-between. An Iberian chiffchaff sang from the black poplars and a great egret flew upstream, while insects of note included green-underside blue and green tiger beetle, with a mating pair of large red-and-black froghoppers. Not the species we are used to seeing in the UK, on account of the red band on its legs and reduced red patches on the wings, these were *Cercopis intermedia*, another coup for my identification service at home, the answer provided within a couple of hours of the sighting!

Driving along the north side of the river to its confluence with the Veral, patches of purple toothwort by a stream and purple gromwell on the verges added splashes of vibrant colour, while some thirty grey herons were feeding in the shallows of the merging rivers. Intending to return to Casa Sarasa by a different route,



Scrambled egg lichen and froghoppers *Cercopis intermedia*. (CG)

involving a steep slope with a spring-line, Peter almost got his van stuck; fearing the worst, and putting discretion before valour, I opted to turn about and retrace our steps, giving an opportunity for those that wanted to photograph the purple toothwort, and to see a red-backed shrike by the road.

Again, just as we got back the rain started....

Monday 14 May: Peña Reservoir; Agüero to Murillo; Riglos from above

By dawn it was clear, albeit cold and breezy, but a few hardy birders came out with me down to Berdún Marsh in search of some sunny shelter. A little owl perched prominently on one of the old farm buildings as we headed across the agricultural plains, with crested larks displaying, northern wheatear on the trackside, and an Egyptian vulture at rest on one of the pylons. Down by the marsh where the valley sides gave some shelter, it was alive with birds: cirr buntings and wryneck singing; red-legged partridges running, melodious warbler being unmelodious (but in full view), male golden orioles calling and a pair seen briefly dashing through the poplars, and migrant redstarts, spotted flycatcher and robin progressing along the scrubby slopes. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Kate had been out and spotted a male hen harrier hunting over the nearby fields.

After breakfast, we headed south into the Pre-Pyrenees, hoping to make the best of a cold day with a sharp northerly wind. At Peña Reservoir, however, it was still very blustery and felt seriously cold. Nothing at all to be seen on the Reservoir itself, and most of the cliff birds like crag martins were hunkered down in their crevices, but a subalpine warbler was singing and seen briefly in the scrubby slopes next to the dam. However, the plants were simply outstanding: matted globularia, Pyrenean hyacinth and *Chaenorhinum oreganifolium* on the rocks, with numerous rosettes (some just flowering) of the endemic *Saxifraga longifolia*, and a more floriferous display of the pre-glacial relict African violet *Ramonda myconi* than I have ever been privileged to see here.



By the dam at Peña Reservoir: *Ramonda myconi* (CG); Pyrenean hyacinth; *Saxifraga longifolia* (HC).

Round then to Agüero, sheltered from the wind by the towering conglomerate cliffs, where we walked a 4km stretch of the GR1 long distance route, to Murillo, taking three hours over it...definitely Honeyguide pace! From scrubby, strongly Mediterranean habitats, with kermes oak (its berry-like red bug galls creating a remarkable similarity to holly), juniper, *Osiris alba*, grey-leaved cistus and rosemary, through olive and almond groves, we found a female rock thrush, red-backed and woodchat shrikes, and several noisy, beautiful parties of bee-eaters, each a performing jewel. Sardinian warblers, always a strong indicator of the Mediterranean climate zone, scolded our approach from many a bush, and an unfamiliar song, thrush-like yet warblery, proved to be a male Orphean warbler, as his bulky form with white outer tail feathers flitted between song-posts.

As always, which way to look? Above, the dramatic stacked lenticular clouds spoke of the strength of the high-level winds, while at our feet, there were fine clumps of the broomrape *Orobanche latisquama*, and orchids included fragrant, sombre bee, white helleborine and a few beautiful, purple spikes of the violet bird's-nest orchid, together with a squashed, but still beautiful, Latreille's pellicle tiger-moth.

Lunch – a delicious spread brought in a cool box and complete with table cloths – was in a shady picnic site, for by now the sun had got quite warm, and was followed by a coffee stop while the leaders reunited the two vehicles. Then followed what can be best described as an interesting drive, up the unmade agricultural and then mountain tracks above Sarsamaruello to the vulture viewpoint overlooking the nests on Los Mallos de Riglos. The wind was fearsome on the exposed mountain-top, although thankfully blowing towards us on the cliff edge; the views were magnificent; the vultures at rest and in flight, above and below. Colin found a Dartford warbler in the wind-blasted scrub, and his happiness was complete when he spotted a pair of rock thrushes on the slow drive back down, the male especially radiant and more vibrant than any painting or photo could do justice to.



Watching vultures, below us for a change, from a windy precipice high above Riglos. (CG)



Male rock thrush (through the van window). (HC)

Such interruptions meant we arrived back at Casa Sarasa a little late: a long day but very rewarding. After dinner, lenticular clouds had formed over us, so no sign of an end to the wind...

Tuesday 15 May: Atarés junction; St Juan de la Peña; Santa Cruz de la Seros

The early morning crew found themselves cold and windblown down on the Aragón bridge, but the sight of flocks of fish-eaters feeding in the pools and shallows made it worthwhile: around fifty grey herons, forty cormorants, three little egrets, two great egrets and several yellow-legged gulls made for quite a spectacle.

Low cloud and rain were hanging over the high Pyrenees as we drove back for breakfast, prompting a 180-degree change of plan for the day. Instead of heading into the main range, we decided to return to the Pre-Pyrenees, starting in a sheltered riverine nook at the Atarés junction. Here a tree-lined tributary of the Aragón bubbles out of the southern hills: too early for much in the way of aquatic insects, the fringes and surrounding woodland produced a male black oil-beetle; burnet companion moths; southern grizzled skipper, tufted marbled skipper, black-eyed blue, panoptes blue, Weaver's fritillary, wood white, orange tip and brimstone butterflies; and best of all, a stunning, confiding, pristine Spanish festoon.



Seen at Atarés junction: southern grizzled skipper (KD); large psammodromus – the scales are keeled, giving the lizard a spiny appearance; Spanish festoon. (CG)

Several common buzzards were circling overhead, and the air was full of the trilling song of Bonelli's warblers, while a large psammodromus lizard rested and basked on a rock. Plants included crested cow-wheat, *Vicia onobrychoides* and some lovely burnt orchids: just in time perhaps, as when we returned to the vans, they were surrounded by local transhumance in action, a large flock of goats and sheep being transferred between pastures. Most of the goats bore bells, the larger the goat the larger the bell; the result was a throbbing polyphonic soundtrack, an almost visceral ululation from the dawn of farming history.

Having ascertained that the vultures were not going to be fed at Santa Cilia this morning, we then went right to the top of the road at St Juan de la Peña, and parked by the upper, new monastery, set amidst grassland with numerous singing field crickets, and showy stands of Champagne orchid and grape-hyacinth. Sporadic staccato quacking from Iberian water frogs in the old fish ponds added to the natural soundscape. Somewhat uncharacteristically, the pine woods seemed full of birds, with numerous nuthatches calling, common treecreepers feeding, a preening firecrest and crested tits all seen well.

The woodland floor was adorned with banks of dog violets, hepaticas (mostly blue form, although both white and pink were there as well) and cowslips, with less demonstrative but equally lovely wood spurge and spurge-laurel. The clearing around the tumbledown hermitage of St Teresa provided lots of colour, with early purple and elder-flowered orchids, spring cinquefoil, meadow saxifrage, *Valeriana globulariifolia*, grass-leaved buttercup and the dainty, scented rock daffodil, plus stupendous views south over the blue remembered hills to Riglos, and east to Oroel, bearing the conspicuous scar of a large rock-fall last autumn.



There were many Champagne orchids in the field by the new monastery, and grass-leaved buttercups at the abandoned hermitage of St Theresa, from where the scar on Oroel was clearly visible. (CG)

We had lunch, another tasty picnic from Casa Sarasa, in the pine woods, enlivened by one of the local nuthatches, clearly feeding chicks, which foraged for scraps around our tables, and soon learned to take (unsalted) hazelnuts which Helen wedged into cracks in tree bark. Good for the birds, and a prime photo opportunity for us!



This nuthatch was quick to adapt to an unusual feeding opportunity. (HC)



Not on the circle line forever – a new leader emerges. (HC)

In a vain search for a black woodpecker nest, one of which is often to be found around the car park, we came upon another superb photo opportunity, a procession of 26 pine processionary caterpillars edging their way across the road. Bound for certain death if a vehicle had come along, we felt obliged to turn them around, although mindful of the caterpillars' irritant hairs. David and Sue proved to be effective processionary wranglers with their sticks, and coaxed them round, back to safety and fresh food. In doing do, the procession closed into a circle, but they proved the lie to the old Victorian naturalists' tale: after a few minutes of circling nose-to-tail, one rebel broke formation. Perhaps significantly it was the largest of the larvae, although not the original procession leader. Another example of doing good for the natural world, while providing us with photo opportunities and some resolution of our intellectual curiosity.

Back down at Santa Cruz, we finished the afternoon with a gentle walk along a rural track, through the fields of a local experimental organic farmer, meeting him, his lovely Pyrenean mountain dog, chickens, donkey and totally free-range pigs. The flowery verges, with wild clary and shrubby gromwell particularly abundant, were attracting the interest of many nectaring butterflies, including clouded yellow, Berger's clouded yellow and dingy skipper, together with a broad-bordered bee-hawkmoth and numerous bee-flies. In the heat, there were few birds apparent, although Egyptian vulture, peregrine and booted eagles flew over, while a short-toed treecreeper foraged on the trunk of an old willow just in front of us.

In the evening, we were joined by Sophia from SEO Aragón, the Birdlife Partner in the region, and the recipients as usual of Honeyguide's conservation donation. She took us through the valuable work of SEO, nationally, regionally and locally, for birds and their habitats, and therefore also for the whole diversity of wildlife we had been enjoying: all agreed that the work they do is more than worthy of our support, support which is all the more valuable to an organisation without the income or membership base of UK equivalents. But Honeyguide is still the only wildlife holiday company which includes a contribution towards a conservation project in the place visited from every participant on every holiday. Why is it not industry standard to put something back into the places a tour company visits? Honeyguide may be only a small company, but I like to hope it is leading the way, and that eventually all others will follow suit. Given that tourism is essentially exploitative, isn't it right that every provider should do what they can to safeguard its most important assets: its destinations?

Wednesday 16 May: Fago Gorge; Ansó valley, to Linza; Biniés Gorge

Stepping out in the morning, it was immediately apparent something was missing: the wind! The rising sun through clear skies soon lifted the temperatures well above anything we had felt previously. The moth trap was on for the second time overnight: the previous attempt was essentially a failure because of the cold wind, but this morning the trap was graced by some twenty moths, including the blemished, the tiger, and no less than three giant peacocks, still low on numbers but high on impact! Above, hirundines and swifts were much more apparent than previously, but as yet no raptors – today, without updraughts they will have to wait for the thermals.



The tiger (CG) and a giant peacock (KD).

Heading up the Fago valley, the quiet road allowed for an unscheduled stop to admire a pair of red-backed shrikes and a party of bee-eaters, and then it was up to the viewpoint down the Fago Gorge: a visually dramatic scene, the deep limestone gorge partially closed at its mouth by a dolerite sill, a palimpsest of the turbulent geological history over many millions of years. Griffon vultures were everywhere, above and below, in flight and on the rocks, with well-grown chicks on nesting ledges. The song of Bonelli's warblers echoed around the arena, a blue rock thrush sat typically atop a rock pinnacle, and a chickering party of alpine swifts circled around the clifftops and swept into their presumed breeding cave. Five common and one honey buzzard, trailed by a peregrine, moved purposefully high overhead, presumably still migrating, as a subadult large psammodromus peered at us from its fence-post basking spot.

A lovely drive then took us through the spectacular Pyrenean scenery, up to Fago village, up and over to the next valley Ansó, ever upwards through Zuriza to the end of the road, at Linza refuge. Just before reaching the end, we chanced upon a griffon melée, right by the road. A horse had recently died, perhaps in foal-birth, and a group of some 70 griffon vultures had set about the recycling process. Watched first from 100m, then 50m, then as close as 5m range as we had to drive right past, it showed nature's recyclers at their best (and worst), but at least it was a free-range event, not a staged feeding opportunity. And so to lunch....



The sight that greeted us just before lunch at Linza refuge. (HC)

...which most managed without too much difficulty despite any lingering sounds, sights and smells. Vast swathes of snow-patched mountainside revealed a trio of izard crossing one of the white patches, and later a dispersed herd of 20 or so grazing lower down below the snow, while a flock of more than a hundred alpine choughs wheeled over the very high tops. A short walk then took us through the grassy pastures, splashed with the eye-arresting colour of spring and trumpet gentians, the blue having a particular vibrancy and intensity in the clear mountain sunlight. Then into the beechwoods, the sun-flecked ground adorned with Pyrenean squill, purple toothwort, yellow anemone, lungwort and two species of cuckoo-flower; a 'black' beetle, when flipped, showed the amazing metallic purple reflections on the underparts of the Pyrenean dor beetle.

Back then all the way down the Ansó valley, with just two photostops, one for more of the griffon gore-fest, the other for montane views above Zuriza, before we travelled to within a few kilometres of Berdún, and the start of the Biniés Gorge. A low-level but hugely dramatic gorge, with a quiet road running down it: the recipe for a gentle 3km afternoon stroll. Plenty of grey wagtails were in the river, but there was no sign of dippers, in keeping with most of our recent visits, and in sharp contrast to visits 15 or 20 years ago. 'Citizen science' monitoring of environmental change has now come of age, and our collection of past reports now makes an important contribution to that.



One of the crag martins nesting under the eaves of the refuge building at Linza. (KD)

Cushions of rock petrocoptis, a local speciality in shades of pale pink to white, clung to seemingly impossible cracks in the rock, contrasting with deeper pink rock soapwort on screes or at the foot of the cliffs. Yellow garlic was just coming into flower, splashing its colour among the by now familiar hues of the Badlands plants which took over from the gorge specialities as the landscape opened out. And perhaps the best insect find was a colony of potter wasp nests, some still sealed, others evacuated, in a niche on the gorge wall.

Back at Casa Sarasa, it was still lovely and warm, so several of the group took the opportunity to stroll around Berdún and its surroundings, coming back with tales of short-toed eagles and flocks of bee-eaters overhead, linnets and stonechats resplendent in the light of the sinking sun. And after dinner, under clear, dark skies, a telescope on the lawn revealed four of the moons of Jupiter; but no moth trap tonight to give them a rest after last night.

Thursday 17 May: Hecho valley, including the Boca del Infierno and Selva de Oza

A lovely, calm, warm dawn saw us down at Berdún Marsh once again, bathing in the serenade of nightingales and melodious warblers. A pair of marsh harriers drifted into and around the reedbed, and a zitting cisticola, not regular in these parts, added his jarring notes, unseen, into the birdsong embrace. Surprisingly, there was no vocal contribution from the orioles: perhaps breeding duties had taken precedence since our previous visit?

Heading once again to the high mountains, we made an initial diversion across the agricultural plains of the Canal de Berdún towards Santa Engracia to try and locate a black-headed wagtail that Peter had heard about the previous evening. No such luck, but the plethora of corn buntings, together with both skylark and short-toed lark made the dusty drive worthwhile. Then it was up the Hecho valley to our first stop at the start of the Boca del Infierno, if anything our most dramatic gorge so far, and again an easy walk up a very quiet public road. Grey wagtails and a few fleeting glimpses of dipper provided the bird interest, while flowers included bastard-balm, sweet woodruff, fairy foxglove, a single perfect Pyrenean snake's-head in a clearing of the beech forest, and a fascinating vertical water garden, with a substrate of tufa, supporting a lovely colony of large-flowered butterworts.



Pyrenean snake's-head fritillary (CG); large-flowered butterwort, with sticky leaves to trap insects, supplementing poor nutrition from the tufa and vertical aspect (HC); western green lizard (CG).

At the top of the gorge, and with good views of the surrounding mountain tops, Colin had done some scouting and was able to point out no less than four lammergeiers, two on a nesting ledge, two on the opposite side of the valley on a resting rock. And both sets occasionally treating us to a sample of their awesome mastery of flight, never a flap to be seen: such a privilege! Then over the bridge into the meadow, where spring squill was flowering along with *Cardamine raphanifolia* and more snake's-heads, while Pauline spotted the main reason for our visit, a confiding, basking green lizard, a breeding male complete with blue throat.

Lunch was at picnic tables at Selva, among the open forest, with good mountain views, but nothing to show apart from a few griffons. In fact, rather too few griffons: the suspicion must be that yesterday's melée in the next valley was being repeated today. Lunchtime rain was forecast, and a cloud duly formed down the valley, so we headed on upwards to try (successfully as it happened) and rise above it. The grassy slopes of the upper valley were an absolute picture, with gentians, buttercups, violets, louseworts, orchids and a host of other flowers adding their colour to the sward, springing emerald after its relatively recent release from the snow.

A flock of about 20 red-billed choughs worked the turf below us in the valley, as we started to see and hear alpine marmots marking territory and issuing warnings about aerial dangers. About 40 izard grazed lower slopes across the valley, working their way around the flattened cushions of alpine juniper, and to cap off the afternoon another pair of lammergeiers graced us with a fly-past.

Heading home, it was apparent there had been significant rain at lower levels. Honeyguide luck once again, and that continued back at Casa Sarasa, with two separate thunderstorms, one on the hills to the south and one to the northwest. We could see them and the lightning, and hear the rumbling, but barely a drop of rain fell upon us...

Friday 18 May: Aísa, Jaca and the Alastuey valley

A warm, overcast night boded well for the moth trap, but detailed examination had to wait until after breakfast. How I managed to contain my excitement, I shall never know....

Dawn at the Aragón bridge produced many fewer fish-eaters than last time, just 15 grey herons and four cormorants, but we did manage definitive views of both rock sparrow and little ringed plover, as requested by Keith! Then on the way home, a little owl on a telephone wire posed beautifully for all four of us.



The world's happiest man!!



Peter R's photo and tweet; and the cause of our excitement (HC).

Breakfast was enlivened by a termite emergence, but at last it was time for the moth show to begin. It started well with a couple of giant peacocks (at least one being a fresh individual, not one of those from last time). Then the tigers: cream-spot tiger and two chaste pellicles (don't you just love the names?!). Next up the hawks – three small elephants, a spurge and a privet. And finally, the *pièce-de-résistance*, an icon of the Pyrenees, the lammergeier of the moth world, a living Art Nouveau brooch: a female, near-pristine Spanish moon moth. What a privilege to see one: after numerous photos she was released on a garden pine tree...here's hoping for next year.

Dragging ourselves away from the wildlife which came to us, we headed east and up the Aísa valley, in fact straight up to the very top given the forecast of a lunchtime storm. And such a visual feast and delight: outstanding glacial geomorphology; snow-clad peaks, with large pink patches as a result of a recent Sahara dust-fall; and pastures in better bloom than I have ever seen. Gentians, oxlips (and hybrids with cowslips), elder-flowered orchids (both purple and yellow, with a few intermediates), and bird's-eye primroses – the colour-spangled turf seemed to go on for ever. Add to that the less showy plants, such as least daffodil, Pyrenean and yellow rock-jasmines and Pyrenean violet: a true botanical cornucopia.



Glorious Aisa valley. (CG)

And of course that was not all: a few lizard grazing; two more lammergeiers (one a sub-adult) and one, perhaps two, golden eagles, circling in the company of griffons for easy and instructive flight comparison; alpine choughs positively identified by sight; a goshawk cruising the pine-clad mountain ridge; and more prosaically, dunnocks (here a high mountain breeder) singing from the box and juniper scrub.

As forecast, the thunder clouds started to gather from noon, which precipitated the leaders ushering folk off the exposed tops as quickly as possible. Again, the storm came to nought, but discretion is a virtue in such circumstances. Down at the Abi picnic area, after yet another splendid lunch, this time watched over by a bagworm *Taleporia tubulosa*, we explored in every direction the meadows and rocky beech woods. Spring cinquefoil and wild strawberry were especially noticeable here, attracting the nectaring attentions of green-veined whites, and at our known location, there were two spikes (sadly some way from flowering) of the glorious Pyrenean lily. Meanwhile above, both golden eagle and goshawk showed once again.



Elderflower orchids (CG), bird's eye primrose and trumpet gentians (HC), flowering profusely at Aisa.

Heading back to the foot of the valley, we stopped off for a bit of history, culture and coffee, with an hour in Jaca as a light rain started to fall. Heading homeward, we diverted up the picturesque Alastuey valley, where even the rain could not diminish our final good birds of the day, a pair of rock thrushes. Finally, a short drive around the top of Berdún village gave everyone the chance to see many of the places we had visited during the week, in a newly familiar context, and it was back to Casa Sarasa just as the heavens opened in a big way.

As is usual, the final evening meal was a bit special, with bubbly, thanks, a round-up of the wonderful week, and everyone's 'Best Bits' for the report. Here they are, in their own words, some rather abridged, and in no particular order:

- Pauline** The walk from Agüero to Murillo, through olive groves and bee-eaters; nature's recycling in action; and the wild flower riches of Aísa.
- Keith** Raptors on the first day, with such good views of booted and short-toed eagles; Aísa – the perfect alpine meadows and classic glacial geomorphology; and the interactions between the participants in the griffon gore-fest.
- Sue** Normally it would be bee-eaters, but on this occasion the first male rock thrush took pole position; not sold on lammergeiers, but the hovering short-toed eagle was magnificent; perfect meadows with perfect flowers, especially Pyrenean snake's-head; and of course the moon moth.
- Peter B** That first male rock thrush; and the procession of processional caterpillars, which set me wondering about how the messages get through, and who makes the decision to break out of the circle....
- Kate** 'Nancy the naughty nuthatch' helping us to clear up after our picnic at St Juan de la Peña; rock thrushes; and the plethora of strong arms, ready and willing to help me down hills.
- Colin** Star birds for me were rock thrush and lammergeier (both with multiple sightings); the best flowers I have ever seen; and the group, for putting up with my 'excitable' behaviour!
- David** Forget lammergeiers and griffons, best has to be the Egyptian vultures, never before having had such good views; and the wonderful blue flowers – no, not the gentians but beautiful flax adorning the natural gardens.
- Diana** The pair of bullfinches as we headed down the Hecho valley (a front van treat only!); and those wonderful gentians.
- Malcolm** The first male rock thrush; those entertaining and educational processional moth caterpillars; and the sights, sounds and smells of nature in the raw at the vulture jamboree.
- Helen** The griffons on a dead horse will be remembered for a long time (without specifying whether in a good or a bad way...); rock thrush and moon moth; and good walking, food and company.
- Peter R** The 'crowd' of lammergeiers in the Hecho valley, four from one point, and six in total; and then two human reactions to the natural world – Colin's unbridled excitement at the brilliance of the first male rock thrush, and the look on Chris's face when he told Mel and I (before the group knew) of the moon moth to come, while realising the revelation would have to wait another hour....
- Chris** Two lepidoptera: that beautiful Spanish festoon at Atarés, a beacon of hope when the cold north winds (thankfully now a distant memory) were causing things to lie low; and of course the Spanish moon moth, my third ever. Peter's photo and tweet say it all.

And so to bed, well fed and satisfied after an excellent week all round!

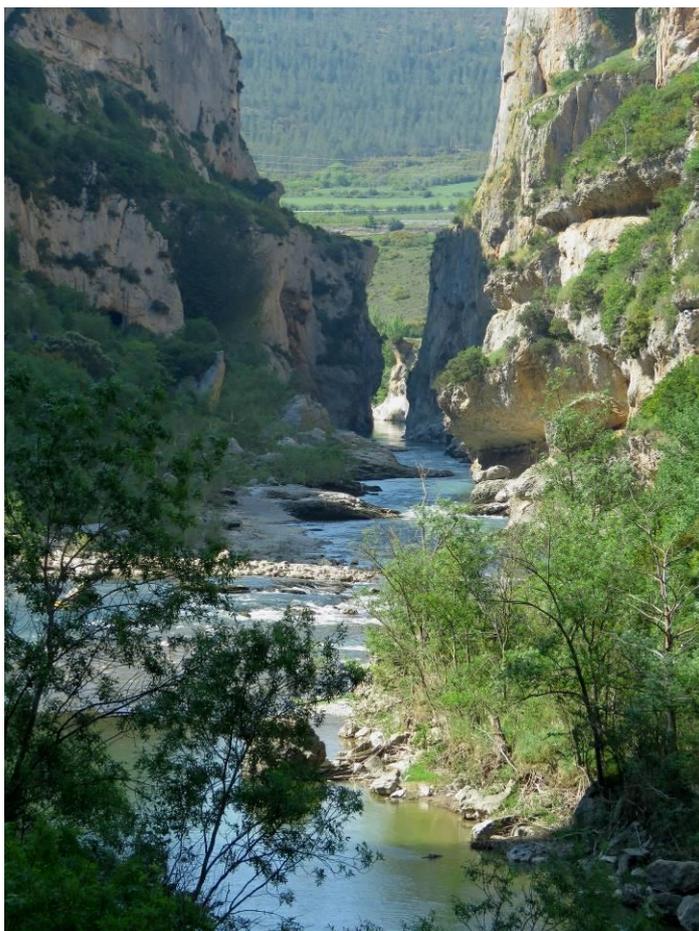
Saturday 19 May: Lumbier Gorge, and the journey home

At first light, a low mist hung evocatively in the Canal de Berdún, and the still-exuberant song of numerous nightingales filled the moist air. Time to pack, and after breakfast, loading the vans, team photos, thanks and goodbyes, we were off. As we drove alongside Yesa reservoir, a great crested grebe snuck onto our bird list.

Lumbier Gorge. It was Saturday. It was sunny. So it was busy: the hubbub of those finding recreational value in the gorge was a stark contrast to the tranquillity of the past week, but also reassuring to see local people appreciating their environment. Maybe Honeyguide has helped contribute to that in some small way? And notwithstanding the noise, the birds and other wildlife seemed undeterred. Within the dramatic gorge, griffons were resting, nesting and flying; crag martins, choughs, alpine swifts, rock doves and a large colony of rock sparrows adding their notes to the cacophony; and nightingales still making themselves heard above it all – and at long last showing well out in the open. A few jackdaws, our first of the week, were nesting in the gorge, and a migrating group of six honey buzzards flew high overhead.

As soon as the sun penetrated the gorge, brimstone butterflies sprang into action, while just south of the lowest tunnel, in the hottest of surroundings, our second Spanish festoon of the trip entertained for several minutes, repeatedly visiting particular perches, flycatcher-fashion. The first direct rays of sun also released the apple fragrance of sweet briar, a delightful accompaniment to our stroll back to the picnic site.

But after lunch, it was back onto the motorway, for the final two hours' drive to Biarritz Airport, where we were greeted first by the Patrouille de France (the 'French Red Arrows') in display formation, and then unfortunately by a two-hour flight delay home. But it couldn't diminish the feeling that our week had been another superb, diverse Honeyguide experience.



The River Salazar flows through Lumbier Gorge, beyond which Roman remains have been found. (CG)

WILDLIFE LISTS

KEY TO LOCALITIES

In the lists below, specific localities are given only for the more interesting species found in a small number of sites.

Otherwise if any code is given, it is the generalised zone code:

CB – Canal de Berdún – includes Berdún Marsh, Río Veral, Río Aragón.

LG – Lower gorges – Biniés, Fago, Lumbier.

PP – Pre-Pyrenees – Atarés, St Juan de la Peña, Peña Reservoir, Agüero, Riglos.

HP – High Pyrenees – upper Ansó valley; Hecho valley, Aísa.

BIRDS

Great Crested Grebe	Single bird on Yesa Reservoir.
Little Egret	Up to 3 on the Río Aragón.
Great Egret	2 on the Río Aragón.
Grey Heron	Up to 50 on the Aragón, with some early morning movement; occasional elsewhere.
Cormorant	Up to 40 on the Río Aragón.
Honey Buzzard	Migrants over Berdún (3), Fago (1) and Lumbier (6).
Black Kite	Numerous, especially lower down.
Red Kite	Numerous everywhere; the most frequent kite at montane levels.
Lammergeier	Upper Hecho valley (6), Aísa (2).
Egyptian Vulture	Occasional in most areas.
Griffon Vulture	Widespread and numerous.
Short-toed Eagle	Berdún, Fago, Hecho valley.
Marsh Harrier	Berdún Marsh (2), Aragón (1).
Hen Harrier	Male at Berdún.
Goshawk	Aísa.
Sparrowhawk	Fago, Lumbier.
Common Buzzard	Widespread, especially on journeys, perched on telegraph poles; several apparently migrating.
Golden Eagle	Aísa (probably 2).
Booted Eagle	Fairly numerous throughout.
Peregrine	Berdún, Fago, Santa Cruz.
Kestrel	Widespread, but not numerous.
Hobby	Berdún.
Red-legged Partridge	Pairs observed on several days in the lowlands.
Quail	Calling in Canal de Berdún, including close to Casa Sarasa.
Little Ringed Plover	Río Aragón.
Common Sandpiper	Río Aragón.
Yellow-legged Gull	Río Aragón.
Feral Pigeon	Widespread around settlements and in gorges; some reasonably convincing Rock Doves at Lumbier.
Woodpigeon	Frequent in pairs and small groups.
Collared Dove	Abundant in built-up areas.
Turtle Dove	Berdún.
Little Owl	Berdún.
Scops Owl	Berdún, heard on only a couple of nights.
Cuckoo	Males heard in several locations.
Common Swift	Common, especially in second half of week; still migrating.
Alpine Swift	Aragón, Fago, Lumbier.
Bee-eater	Numerous at Agüero; scattered elsewhere.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Widespread but not numerous.
Green Woodpecker	Berdún Marsh.
Wryneck	Heard at Berdún Marsh, Aragón.
Crested Lark	Lowlands.
Skylark	Canal de Berdún.
Short-toed Lark	Canal de Berdún.
Woodlark	Berdún Marsh; Santa Engracia.
Crag Martin	Gorges and cliff habitats; nesting on Linza refuge.
Swallow	Common; some migration still taking place.
House Martin	Common.
Sand Martin	Río Aragón.
Tawny Pipit	Canal de Berdún.
Water Pipit	Zuriza.
Grey Wagtail	Upland and gorge rivers.

White Wagtail	Common.
Dipper	Upper Hecho valley.
Wren	Mainly upland forest and gorges.
Dunnock	Aísa.
Robin	Very vocal especially at higher levels, although still some lower down where they are typically mainly winter visitors.
Nightingale	Very abundant in the lowlands during the course of the week.
Black Redstart	From lowland to mountain tops, a wide altitudinal range around cliffs, rocks and buildings.
Redstart	Berdún.
Stonechat	Thinly spread, from Badlands to high pastures.
Whinchat	Berdún.
Northern Wheatear	Berdún.
Blue Rock Thrush	Fago, Lumbier.
Rock Thrush	Agüero, Alastuey, Sarsamarcuello.
Blackbird	Common.
Mistle Thrush	St Juan de la Peña, Selva de Oza.
Song Thrush	Selva de Oza.
Cetti's Warbler	Common in the valleys; not always close to water.
Zitting Cisticola	Berdún Marsh.
Melodious Warbler	Quite common, low and mid-altitudes.
Dartford Warbler	Sarsamarcuello.
Sardinian Warbler	Riglos area.
Western Subalpine Warbler	Riglos area.
Western Orphean Warbler	Murillo.
Blackcap	Relatively common.
Garden Warbler	Common and noticeable especially in the second half of the week.
Western Bonelli's Warbler	Very obvious in low to mid-level and woodland.
Willow Warbler	Atarés.
Northern Chiffchaff	Frequent.
Iberian Chiffchaff	One singing in Aragón valley.
Firecrest	San Juan de la Peña, Río Aragón, Aísa.
Spotted Flycatcher	Berdún Marsh, Aragón.
Pied Flycatcher	Berdún.
Long-tailed Tit	Riverine woodland to montane forests.
Crested Tit	San Juan de la Peña; Aísa.
Coal Tit	Conifer forest and plantations.
Blue Tit	Common.
Great Tit	Common.
Nuthatch	San Juan de la Peña; Linza.
Short-toed Treecreeper	Río Aragón, Santa Cruz.
Treecreeper	San Juan de la Peña, Selva de Oza.
Golden Oriole	Berdún Marsh, Río Veral, Río Aragón, Lumbier.
Red-backed Shrike	Berdún, Fago, Agüero.
Woodchat Shrike	Río Aragón, Agüero, Fago.
Jay	Frequent in forests.
Magpie	Common in the lowlands.
Alpine Chough	Large groups seen at very high levels.
Red-billed Chough	Lumbier; Ansó Valley; Fago, Hecho.
Carrion Crow	Common in lowlands.
Raven	Seen regularly at all levels in small numbers.
Jackdaw	Lumbier.
Spotless Starling	Common in urban habitats and lowlands.
House Sparrow	Common around houses, bridges etc.
Rock Sparrow	Numerous at Berdún and especially Aragón Bridge and Lumbier.
Chaffinch	Common, especially in mountain forests.
Serin	Very common in the lowlands.
Greenfinch	Common at lower levels.
Goldfinch	Very common in the lowlands.
Linnet	Small groups in the Badlands and the higher valleys.
Bullfinch	Selva de Oza (2).
Yellowhammer	Higher mountain valleys.
Cirl Bunting	Frequent in the lowlands.
Corn Bunting	Abundant at low levels.

MAMMALS (including signs)		
Northern Mole PP HP molehills only	Marten sp. Río Veral, droppings	Stoat Upper Hecho, droppings
Red Squirrel PP HP nibbled cones only	Red Fox Linza	Wild Boar CB PP HP, rootings
Alpine Marmot Upper Hecho	Otter Atarés, droppings	Roe Deer Aísa Iizard HP
AMPHIBIANS		
Iberian Water Frog Atarés, St Juan de la Peña, Río Aragón	Common Frog Upper Hecho, tadpoles only	
REPTILES		
Catalonian Wall Lizard CB LG PP	Pyrenean Rock Lizard Aísa	Large Psammmodromus Fago, Atarés
Common Wall Lizard HP	Western Green Lizard Hecho	
BUTTERFLIES		
Southern Grizzled Skipper CB PP	Berger's Clouded Yellow PP	Small Heath CB
Tufted Marbled Skipper PP	Brimstone CB LG PP	Brown Argus PP
Dingy Skipper Santa Cruz	Peacock LG	Provençal Short-tailed Blue CB
Scarce Swallowtail CB LG PP	Red Admiral LG	Common Blue CB PP
Spanish Festoon Atarés, Lumbier	Small Tortoiseshell HP	Chequered Blue LG
Large White CB LG	Violet Fritillary Atarés	Panoptes Blue CB PP
Small White CB	Glanville Fritillary Berdún	Green-underside Blue CB PP
Green-veined White Aísa	Silver-washed Fritillary LG HP	Black-eyed Blue PP
Orange-tip CB LG PP	Nettle-tree Butterfly Murillo	Holly Blue CB
Wood White LG PP	Southern Speckled Wood CB LG PP	Small Blue Lumbier
Clouded Yellow CB PP	Wall Brown CB	
MOTHS		
* = found in the Casa Sarasa light trap		
Broom Burnet Berdún	Pine Processionary Moth Larval webs & larvae CB LG PP HP	
<i>Stigmella aurella</i> Leaf mines on Bramble CB LG	Privet Hawk-moth *	
<i>Adela australis</i> A longhorn moth LG	Spurge Hawk-moth *	
<i>Psyche casta</i> A bagworm Lumbier	Small Elephant Hawk-moth *	
<i>Taleporia tubulosa</i> A bagworm Aísa	Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth Santa Cruz	
<i>Yponomeuta mahalebella</i> A small ermine on St Lucie's cherry Lumbier	Chaste Pellicle *	
	Latreille's Pellicle (dead) Murillo	
<i>Bucculatrix alaternella</i> Leaf mines on Mediterranean Buckthorn LG PP	The Tiger *	
	Cream-spot Tiger *	
Spanish Moon Moth *	Muslin Moth *	
Giant Peacock *	Heart and Dart *	
Coniferous Lappet *	Shuttle-shaped Dart *	
Oak Eggar LG HP	Nutmeg *	
Small Eggar Caterpillars in communal web Berdún	Light Brocade *	
	<i>Lacanobia aliena</i> *	
Blemished Moth *	<i>Hadena ruetimeyeri</i> *	
Common Heath CB	White-point *	
Latticed Heath CB PP	Delicate *	
Yellow Belle *	Antirrhinum Brocade *	
Tawny-barred Angle *	Bird's-wing *	
Mullein Wave *	Concave Cleophane *	
Grass Wave *	Honeysuckle Cleophane *	
Portland Ribbon Wave *	Angle Shades Biniés	
Grey Mountain Carpet Agüero	Burnet Companion CB LG PP	
Brindled Two-lined *	Mother Shipton LG	



This fox was on the prowl and heading towards the vultures when we arrived at Linza. (CG)



Marmot on the lookout at 'Marmotropolis', upper Hecho valley. (CG)

OTHER INVERTEBRATES		
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i>	A banded snail	CB
<i>Rumina decollate</i>	A sawn-off snail	CB
<i>Arion ater</i>	Large Black Slug	HP
<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>	A millipede	Murillo
<i>Philodromus margaritatus</i>	A large, grey flattened spider	Aisa
<i>Pisaura mirabilis</i>	Nursery-web Spider	CB
<i>Gryllus campestris</i>	Field Cricket	PP HP
<i>Pholidoptera griseoptera</i>	Dark Bush-cricket	LG
<i>Anacridium aegyptiacum</i>	Egyptian Locust	CB
<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>	Red-winged Grasshopper	CB PP
<i>Libelloides coccajus</i>	An ascalaphid	HP
<i>Panorpa meridionalis</i>	A scorpion-fly	LG
<i>Reticulotermes grassei</i>	A termite	Casa Sarasa
<i>Macrosiphon jasminii</i>	Aphid gall on wild jasmine	CB
<i>Aphis fabae</i>	Black Bean-aphid	CB
<i>Spanioneura buxi</i>	A psyllid gall on box	CB LG
<i>Cicada</i> sp.	Exuvium only	PP
<i>Cercopis intermedia</i>	A red-and-black froghopper	CB PP
<i>Coccus ilicis</i>	Berry gall on kermes oak	PP
<i>Aquarius najas</i>	Large Pond-skater	LG PP
<i>Rhaphigaster nebulosi</i>	A brown shield-bug	Berdún
<i>Dolycoris baccarum</i>	Hairy Shield-bug	Berdún
<i>Eurydema ornate</i>	Ornate Shield-bug	Biniés
<i>Eurygaster austriaca</i>	Tortoise Shield-bug	Río Aragón
<i>Coreus marginatus</i>	A squash-bug	Berdún
<i>Enoplops scapha</i>	Boat-bug	Berdún
<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>	Fire-bug	CB LG
<i>Melanocoryphus albomaculatus</i>	A red-and-black lygaeid bug	Lumbier
<i>Corizus hyoscyami</i>	A red-and-black bug	Berdún
<i>Rhopalis subrufus</i>	A reddish rhopalid bug	Berdún
<i>Cicindela campestris</i>	Green Tiger-beetle	Río Aragón
<i>Geotrupes pyrenaicus</i>	Pyrenean Dor-beetle	Linza
<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>	Spotted Flower-chafer	CB LG
<i>Cetonia aurata</i>	Rose Chafer	Lumbier
<i>Meloe proscarabaeus</i>	Black Oil-beetle	Atarés
<i>Nyctophila reichii</i>	A glow-worm (larva)	Berdún
<i>Cantharis rustica</i>	A soldier-beetle	LG
<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	7-spot Ladybird	CB LG
<i>Timarcha tenebricosa</i>	Bloody-nosed Beetle	Lumbier
<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>	Colorado Beetle	Berdún
<i>Lachnaia tristigma</i>	A red-and-black leaf-beetle	LG PP
<i>Cassida viridis</i>	Green Tortoise-beetle	Berdún
<i>Lixus</i> sp.	A large weevil	Berdún
<i>Bibio marci</i>	St Mark's Fly	LG
<i>Bombylius fimbriatus</i>	A bee-fly	LG PP
<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	Marmalade Hoverfly	CB
<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	Drone-fly	CB
<i>Eristalis nemorum</i>	A hoverfly	HP
<i>Scathophaga stercoraria</i>	Yellow Dung Fly	HP
<i>Diplolepis rosae</i>	Robin's Pincushion gall	CB
<i>Camponotus vagans</i>	A large ant	PP
<i>Formica rufa</i>	Wood Ant	HP
<i>Polistes</i> sp.	A paper wasp	CB PP
<i>Eumenidae</i> sp.	Potter-wasp nests	Biniés
<i>Amegilla quadrifasciata</i>	White-banded Digger-bee	Atarés
<i>Eucera</i> sp.	A long-horned bee	PP
<i>Andrena florea</i>	Bryony Mining-bee	LG
<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	Violet Carpenter-bee	CB LG PP
<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	Common Carder-bee	LG PP
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Honeybee	CB

PLANTS

This list concentrates on those seen in flower, with just a few more distinctive non-flowering species.

BRYOPHYTES (Mosses)		
<i>Grimmia pulvinata</i>		
PTERIDOPHYTES (Ferns)		
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	LG
<i>Asplenium fontanum</i>		LG
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall-rue	CB LG
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	LG
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback Fern	CB
<i>Cheilanthes fragrans</i>		PP
<i>Equisetum variegatum</i>	Variiegated Horsetail	CB
<i>Polypodium interjectum</i>	Intermediate Polypody	LG
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	PP
GYMNOSPERMS (Conifers)		
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Cypress	PP LG
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	CB PP LG
<i>Juniperus communis</i> ssp. <i>nana</i>	Alpine Juniper	HP
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper	PP
<i>Juniperus phoenicia</i>	Phoenecian Juniper	PP
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Black Pine	PP HP
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	PP HP
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	LG

DICOTYLEDONS		
Aceraceae Maple Family		
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	CB LG PP
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier Maple	CB LG PP
<i>Acer opalus</i>		LG
Anacardiaceae Pistachio Family		
<i>Pistachia lentiscus</i>	Lentisc	LG
Apiaceae Carrot Family		
<i>Bupleurum rigidum</i>		CB LG
<i>Eryngium bourgatii</i>	Pyrenean Eryngo	HP
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	CB
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	CB
Aquifoliaceae Holly Family		
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	PP
Araliaceae Ivy Family		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	CB LG PP
<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	Irish Ivy	LG
Asclepiadaceae Milkweed Family		
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	LG
Asteraceae Daisy Family		
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	Wormwood	CB
<i>Artemisia campestre</i>	Field Southernwood	CB
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	CB
<i>Carlina acanthifolius</i>	Cardabelle	HP

Asteraceae (cont'd)		
<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Slender thistle	CB
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Red Star-thistle	CB
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry-plant	CB
<i>Lactuca perennis</i>	Blue Lettuce	LG PP
<i>Onopordon acanthium</i>	Scotch Thistle	CB
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Spiny Fleabane	CB
<i>Rhagadiolus stellatus</i>		PP
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	Lavender Cotton	CB
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	CB
<i>Taraxacum</i> sp.	Dandelion	HP
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard	LG
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	HP
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>		CB LG
Berberidaceae Barberry Family		
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	Barberry	CB LG PP
Boraginaceae Borage Family		
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	CB
<i>Buglossoides purpurocaerulea</i>	Purple Gromwell	CB LG
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-tongue	CB LG
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Hound's-tongue	CB
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss	CB
<i>Lithodora fruticosum</i>	Shrubby Gromwell	CB
<i>Lithospermum officinale</i>	Common Gromwell	CB
<i>Pulmonaria affinis</i>	Lungwort	Linza
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Comfrey	CB
Brassicaceae Cabbage Family		
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	LG
<i>Alyssum alyssoides</i>	Small Alison	CB
<i>Arabis alpina</i>	Alpine Rockcress	HP
<i>Arabis turrata</i>	Towercress	LG PP
<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	Shield-cress	PP
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	CB
<i>Cardamine heptaphylla</i>	Seven-leaved Bittercress	Linza
<i>Cardamine raphanifolius</i>	Radish-leaved Bittercress	HP
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary Cress	CB
<i>Lepidium heterophyllum</i>	Smith's Pepperwort	CB
<i>Sisymbrium austriacum</i>	Austrian Rocket	HP
Buxaceae Box Family		
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	CB LG PP HP
Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family		
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Perfoliate Honeysuckle	CB LG PP
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Fly Honeysuckle	CB
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf Elder	CB
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	CB LG
<i>Sambucus racemosus</i>	Red-berried Elder	Upper Hecho
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring-tree	CB PP
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose	CB
Caryophyllaceae Pink Family		
<i>Arenaria aggregata</i>		Río Aragón
<i>Dianthus hispanicus</i>		Lumbier
<i>Paronychia argentea</i>		CB
<i>Paronychia kapela</i>		Aísa
<i>Petrocoptis pyrenaica</i>	Rock Petrocoptis	Biniés
<i>Saponaria ocymoides</i>	Rock Soapwort	LG
<i>Silene alba</i>	White Champion	CB PP
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham Catchfly	LG PP
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion	CB PP

Celastraceae Spindle Family		
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	LG
Cistaceae Rock-rose Family		
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey-leaved Cistus	PP
<i>Fumana ericoides</i>		PP LG
<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i>	White Rock-rose	CB PP
<i>Helianthemum canum</i>	Hoary Rock-rose	LG
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i> ssp. <i>pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean Rock-rose	CB LG
Convolvulaceae Bindweed Family		
<i>Convolvulus cantabricus</i>	Cantabrian Bindweed	LG
Cornaceae Dogwood Family		
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	CB
Crassulaceae Stonecrop Family		
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Thick-leaved Stonecrop	LG
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	LG
Cucurbitaceae Cucumber Family		
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony	CB LG
Ericaceae Heather Family		
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	PP
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather	Upper Hecho
Euphorbiaceae Spurge Family		
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge	CB PP HP
<i>Euphorbia broteri</i>		PP
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	LG PP
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	CB
<i>Euphorbia hyberna</i>	Irish Spurge	HP
<i>Euphorbia serrata</i>	Toothed Spurge	CB
Fabaceae Pea Family		
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> ssp. <i>pyrenaica</i>	Kidney Vetch	LG PP
<i>Astragalus depressus</i>		HP
<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>	Montpelier Milk-vetch	CB LG
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	CB
<i>Coronilla emerus</i>	Scorpion Vetch	CB LG PP
<i>Dorycnium hirsutum</i>		PP
<i>Dorycnium pentaphyllum</i>		LG PP
<i>Echinopartium horridum</i>		PP
<i>Genista hispanica</i>	Spanish Gorse	CB PP
<i>Genista scorpius</i>	Berdún Broom	CB PP LG
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch	CB
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>		CB
<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>	Spring Pea	HP
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	CB
<i>Medicago suffruticosa</i>	Sprawling Medick	HP
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin	CB
<i>Ononis fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Rest-harrow	CB
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	LG
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia	CB
<i>Tetragonolobus maritimus</i>	Dragon's-teeth	Río Aragón
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	CB PP
<i>Vicia onobrychooides</i>		Atarés
<i>Vicia pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Vetch	HP
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	CB
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	LG HP

Fagaceae Oak Family		
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	PP HP
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak	PP
<i>Quercus faginea</i>		CB PP
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	CB LG PP
Fumariaceae Fumitory Family		
<i>Corydalis solida</i>		Upper Hecho
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	Ramping Fumitory	LG
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Fumitory	CB
Gentianaceae Gentian Family		
<i>Gentiana acaulis</i>	Trumpet Gentian	HP
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring Gentian	HP
Geraniaceae Crane's-bill Family		
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	CB
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>		CB PP
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	LG
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little-Robin	LG
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	LG
Gesneriaceae African-violet Family		
<i>Ramonda myconi</i>		Peña Reservoir
Globulariaceae Globularia Family		
<i>Globularia cordifolia</i>		PP HP
<i>Globularia nudicaulis</i>		LG
<i>Globularia punctata</i>		CB PP
Guttiferae St John's-wort Family		
<i>Hypericum nummularium</i>		Biniés
Lamiaceae Labiate Family		
<i>Acinos arvensis</i>	Basil-thyme	CB
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground-pine	Río Aragón
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle	CB PP
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red-Dead-nettle	CB
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard Balm	LG HP
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	HP
<i>Phlomis lychnitis</i>		CB
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	PP
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	CB LG PP
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow Woundwort	LG
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Shrubby Thyme	CB PP
Lentibulariaceae Butterwort Family		
<i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered Butterwort	Boca del Infierno
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common Butterwort	HP
Linaceae Flax Family		
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax	CB
<i>Linum narbonense</i>	Beautiful Flax	CB PP
<i>Linum suffruticosum</i>	Pyrenean Flax	CB
<i>Linum viscosum</i>	Sticky Flax	LG
Loranthaceae Mistletoe Family		
<i>Viscum album</i> ssp. <i>austriacum</i>	Conifer Mistletoe	PP HP
Malvaceae Mallow Family		
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	CB
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf Mallow	CB
Moraceae Fig Family		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Wild Fig	LG
Oleaceae Olive Family		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	LG
<i>Jasminum fruticans</i>	Wild Jasmine	CB LG
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	PP
Onagraceae Willowherb Family		
<i>Oenothera rosea</i>	Pink Evening-primrose	Lumbier

Orobanchaceae Broomrape Family		
<i>Lathraea clandestina</i>	Purple Toothwort	CB HP
<i>Orobanche latisquama</i>		PP
Papaveraceae Poppy Family		
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	LG
<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>	Welsh Poppy	Upper Hecho
<i>Papaver hybridum</i>	Rough Poppy	CB
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	CB PP
Plantaginaceae Plantain Family		
<i>Plantago sempervirens</i>	Shrubby Plantain	Río Aragón
Polygalaceae Milkwort Family		
<i>Polygala alpestris</i>	Alpine Milkwort	Aísa
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort	CB
Primulaceae Primrose Family		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	CB
<i>Androsace chamaejasme</i>	Ciliate Rock-Jasmine	Aísa
<i>Coris monspeliensis</i>		CB
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip	HP
<i>Primula farinosa</i>	Bird's-eye Primrose	Aísa
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	PP HP
<i>Primula veris x elatior</i>	Hybrid Primula	PP HP
<i>Vitaliana primuliflora</i>	Yellow Rock-jasmine	Aísa
Ranunculaceae Buttercup Family		
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	Linza
<i>Anemone ranunculoides</i>	Yellow Anemone	Linza
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine	LG PP
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh-marigold	HP
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy	CB
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore	CB PP HP
<i>Helleborus viridis</i>	Green Hellebore	HP
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica	PP HP
<i>Ranunculus amplexicaulis</i>		Aísa
<i>Ranunculus gouanii</i>	Gouan's Buttercup	HP
<i>Ranunculus gramineus</i>	Grass-leaved Buttercup	PP
<i>Ranunculus pyrenaicus</i>	Pyrenean Buttercup	HP
<i>Thalictrum tuberosum</i>	Tuberous Meadow-rue	CB LG PP
Resedaceae Mignonette Family		
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld	CB
<i>Reseda phyteuma</i>	Corn Mignonette	CB
Rhamnaceae Buckthorn Family		
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn	LG PP
Rosaceae Rose Family		
<i>Alchemilla plicatula</i>		HP
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	Snowy Mespilus	CB PP
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	CB PP HP
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	PP HP
<i>Geum sylvaticum</i>		HP
<i>Potentilla tabernaemontani</i>	Spring Cinquefoil	CB PP HP
<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>	St Lucie's Cherry	LG
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	CB
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Sweet-briar	LG
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble	
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet	CB PP
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	PP
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Wild Service-tree	LG

Rubiaceae Bedstraw Family		
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	PP HP
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff	HP
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder	CB
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder	CB LG
Salicaceae Willow Family		
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar	CB
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	CB LG
<i>Salix purpurea</i>	Purple Willow	CB
Santalaceae Sandalwood Family		
<i>Osiris alba</i>		PP
Saxifragaceae Saxifrage Family		
<i>Saxifraga corbariensis</i>		Peña Reservoir
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage	St Juan de la Peña
<i>Saxifraga longifolia</i>	Pyrenean Saxifrage	LG PP
Scrophulariaceae Figwort Family		
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Snapdragon	LG PP
<i>Chaenorhinum organifolium</i>		LG PP
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	CB
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy Foxglove	Boca del Infierno
<i>Linaria alpina</i>	Alpine Toadflax	HP
<i>Linaria pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Toadflax	Boca del Infierno
<i>Melampyrum cristatum</i>	Crested Cow-wheat	Atarés
<i>Pedicularis pyreneica</i>	Pyrenean Lousewort	Upper Hecho
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>		Lumbier
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime	HP
<i>Veronica bellidioides</i>		HP
<i>Veronica teucrium</i>		HP
Solanaceae Nightshade Family		
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Henbane	CB
Thymelaeaceae Daphne Family		
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge-laurel	PP HP
Valerianaceae Valerian Family		
<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>	Annual Red Valerian	LG
<i>Valeriana globulariifolia</i>		PP
Violaceae Violet Family		
<i>Viola pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Violet	HP
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet	PP HP
MONOCOTYLEDONS		
Amaryllidaceae Daffodil Family		
<i>Narcissus minor</i>	Least Daffodil	Aísa
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i> ssp. <i>alpestris</i>	Alpine Daffodil	St Juan de la Peña
<i>Narcissus rupicola</i>	Rock Daffodil	St Juan de la Peña
Dioscoreaceae Yam Family		
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	LG
Liliaceae Lily Family		
<i>Allium moly</i>	Yellow Garlic	Biniés
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rose Garlic	CB
<i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i>	Blue Aphyllanthes	CG LG PP
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>		CB
<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White Asphodel	LG PP
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>		CB
<i>Dipcadi serotinum</i>	Brown Bluebell	Río Aragón

Liliaceae (cont'd)		
<i>Fritillaria pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Fritillary	HP
<i>Hyacinthus amethystinus</i>	Pyrenean Hyacinth	LG PP
<i>Lilium martagom</i>	Martagon Lily	Aísa
<i>Lilium pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean Lily	Aísa
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	CB
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Grape-hyacinth	St Juan de la Peña
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem	PP
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom	LG
<i>Scilla lilio-hyacinthus</i>	Pyrenean Squill	HP
<i>Scilla Verna</i>	Spring Squill	HP
<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i>	Wild Tulip	CB PP
Orchidaceae Orchid Family		
<i>Anacamptis champaneuxii</i>	Champagne Orchid	CB PP
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	PP
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine	CB PP
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>	Broad-leaved Marsh-orchid	Upper Hecho
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted-Orchid	Hecho
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid	PP HP
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine	PP
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid	Río Veral
<i>Neotinia ustulata</i>	Burnt Orchid	Atarés
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Bird's-nest Orchid	Murillo
<i>Listera ovata</i>	Common Twayblade	Río Aragón
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	Berdún
<i>Ophrys fusca</i>	Sombre Bee-Orchid	PP
<i>Ophrys lutea</i>	Yellow Bee Orchid	CB
<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock Orchid	CB PP
<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	Mirror Orchid	CB LG
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early Spider-Orchid	CB PP
<i>Ophrys hybrids</i>		CB
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple-Orchid	PP HP
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid	CB LG
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	Military Orchid	Río Aragón
Poaceae Grass Family		
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking-grass	PP
<i>Melica ciliata</i>		PP
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melick	LG
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	CB
<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	Bulbous Meadow-grass	CB
Typhaceae Reedmace Family		
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Greater Reedmace	B
LICHENS		
<i>Fulgensia fulgens</i>	Scrambled-egg Lichen	Río Aragón
<i>Usnea</i> sp.	Beard Lichen	PP HP
<i>Xanthoria parietina</i>	Starburst Lichen	LG
FUNGI		
<i>Phyllosticta cornicola</i>	A red leaf spot on dogwood	
<i>Puccinia graminis</i>	A rust on Barberry	
<i>Taphrina deformans</i>	A red leaf gall on almond	