

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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French Pyrenees
19 – 26 June 2004

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Participants

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Norfolk
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Leaders

Chris and Maureen Gibson

Dovercourt, Essex

Illustrations by Rob Hume, except field cricket by Maureen Gibson. Front cover: lammergeier
Report written by Chris Gibson.

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. The conservation contribution this year of £25 per person towards lammergeier protection campaign was supplemented by a contribution from two groups in Dordogne for the 'Refuge LPO' project, leading to a total of £675 given to La Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO, the French Bird Protection League).

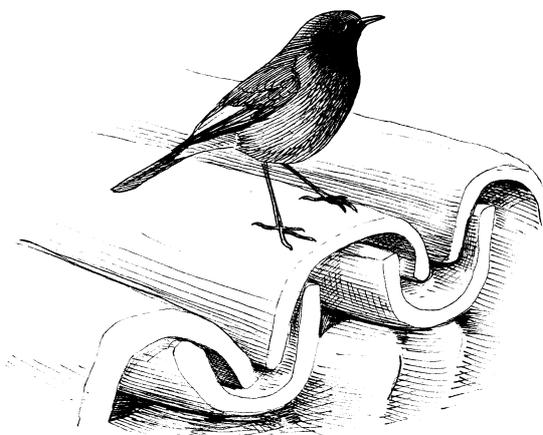
This brings the total given to LPO to £7,600 since 1991, and to various conservation projects in Europe to £33,330. A thank-you letter from LPO and summary translation is at the end of this holiday report.

FRENCH PYRÉNÉES 19 – 26 JUNE 2004

Leaders: Chris and Maureen Gibson

Saturday 19 June – the way there

After successfully gathering the group at Stansted, the flight was a little delayed. Long enough to see the sun becoming obscured by clouds, which stayed with us for the whole flight to Pau Pyrénées. After a rather bumpy landing (we understand it was a learner driver!), we gathered the luggage, loaded the minibus and headed off in murky conditions towards the mountains. I say 'towards' advisedly as they were nowhere to be seen. Buzzards and black kites had been spotted even before we had left the plane, and remained very much in evidence for much of the two-hour drive, at least in the lowlands. And as a welcome to the mountains, over the outskirts of Lourdes there was an impressive stack of 25 griffon vultures, soon to become a familiar sight. Heading ever upwards from there, the kites faded out rapidly, although a few of the stragglers turned out to be red, and we were soon embraced in the verdant lushness of the mountain valleys.



On arrival in Gèdre, and a welcome from our hosts Odile and Philippe, a short walk was in order, despite the gloomy weather and threat of rain. We headed through the village towards the river, and very soon a few griffons started to drift over. As if to kick-start the trip, one of its specialities performed on cue as Maureen spotted a lammergeier over the distant mountainside. And not one but two, circling and wheeling, soon joined by an Egyptian vulture. Also overhead, there were ravens and masses of house martins and swifts, while black redstarts were feeding young around the houses. Always charismatic, one particular bird tackling a big beetle was especially delightful. Down by the bridge, we were treated to two superb dipper flypasts, and a fledgling was seen farther up the river looking rather bedraggled, much to the concern of several of our party.

Most of the meadows around the village had already been cut for hay, but one near the bridge hadn't and gave us a flavour of the botanical splendours which awaited us. Greater yellow-rattle, bird's-foot-trefoil, twayblade, pink kidney-vetch, viper's bugloss, round-headed rampion and ragged-robin, among many other species, gave a real feel of what a meadow should look like, a sight which is now so rare back home. And despite the drizzle, there were a few insects around, including cistus forester and slender scotch burnet, two related day-flying moths, both sitting on flowerheads for all to see. Then walking home Peter noticed a couple of greater butterfly-orchids behind a wire fence, protected from the mowers: always exciting to see, little did we realise how soon we were going to see so many that we would not be giving them much more than a second glance! A few serins were flying noisily around, and a final glance into the ravine below the hotel revealed a showy group of one of the local botanical specialities, a patch of ramonda in full flower.

And so to the first of many delightful meals, and an early night

Sunday 20 June – Barrage and Lac des Gloriettes

Yesterday's murky weather persisted, the result being that the view from the hotel was not as spectacular as it might have been. Cloud was still hanging over the mountain tops, and the dramatic rock cleft, the Brèche de Roland, after which the hotel is named, remained resolutely out of sight (and indeed stayed that way for another few days). But undeterred, we boarded the bus and headed up the Héas valley, stopping *en route* to examine roadside orchids. Despite the clouds, round each bend of the wonderful twisty road, the views became ever more dramatic, and before long we found ourselves at the foot of the Gloriettes dam, high up in the mountains. Here, at our first stop, we needed go no further than the immediate surroundings of the parking area to get a wonderful taster of the montane flora. The slopes in places were crimson from the alpenrose, a low-growing rhododendron, in prolific bloom, and by searching between the bushes and the rocks, we started to amass a considerable list of plants – broad-leaved marsh-orchid, large-flowered butterwort, globe-flower, alpine lady's-mantle, mountain everlasting, swallow-wort....the list goes on. Several large common frogs were disturbed from the boggy ground, while a yellowhammer, a few griffon vultures and a couple of lammergeiers provided the bird interest.

Moving up the road a little way on foot, we started to examine the verges, seemingly turning up new plants at every pace. There was livelong saxifrage, columbine, narcissus-flowered anemone, wood crane's-bill, mountain avens, and a clutch more of orchids – greater butterfly, fragrant, burnt-tip, common twayblade, and best of all, several spikes of the elusive black vanilla orchid. By now, the sun was trying to break through and insects were perking up: the very first butterfly proved most interesting, a mountain dappled white posing well so that we could make out its subtly different forewing pattern to distinguish it from its lowland relatives.

Then it was still further uphill, to the incredibly busy car park by the dam. Busy it may have been, but it was a convenient spot to explore the first of our voluminous packed lunches, perching on rocks covered in forking spleenwort, rock currant and chamois ragwort.

After refuelling, we were off again, across the dam, and around the reservoir. The views were tremendous, with distant peaks reflected in the still waters, and the pastures around us were teeming with insects. Butterflies included Piedmont ringlet, grizzled skipper, black-veined white, and Adonis and mazarine blues. Alpine marmots were calling from all around the valley, several giving good views perched atop their rocks, or grazing around their bases; common wall lizards were basking in the occasional sun patches, water pipits were displaying everywhere; and overhead, among the scattering of griffons, again a couple of lammergeiers drifted past. The floral displays were simply stunning, a wonderful mix of colours, including sheets of powder-blue Pyrenean hyacinth, white spikes of asphodel, bloody crane's-bill and yellow rock-rose.

Heading back down the valley, we stopped off to check out some of the showy plants, including Welsh poppy and yellow pea, and also stumbled over a basking slow-worm; and we were still back home in time for Peter and Sally to explore the woods and slopes behind the hotel, and return with tales of red squirrel and bee orchid. After dinner, another walk around the village and down through the woods produced lots of pipistrelle bats, especially by the dipper bridge.

Monday 21 June - Gavarnie

Despite a cold dawn, the pre-breakfast walkers turned up a lovely male red backed shrike behind the hotel, perching on Bob's luge run. Our departure was delayed a little as a result of a slice of local life – the postmistress clearly does not expect customers so early – but those waiting by the bus were treated to a short-toed eagle quartering the hillside.

Soon we were off and up again, this time to Gavarnie, one of the high mountain human honeypots of the region. Despite the crowds, only a short way out of the town, new and exciting wildlife appeared. Dippers and grey wagtails were feeding in the river next to the car park. Several clouded apolloes were feeding drowsily (the sun was barely up) by the track, and the meadows were a riot of colour with greater yellow rattle, clovers and vetches, ox-eye daisy, scabious, buttercups and dusky crane's-bill, together with some lovely displays of the large-flowered *Viola cornuta*. On the first big rock, bold pink splashes of fairy foxglove were lovely sight.

We continued up the river, past crosswort, Pyrenean valerian, wood scabious and spotted dead-nettle, the natural delights only slightly marred by the troops of trippers heading towards the looming Cirque de Gavarnie. From any angle and distance the cirque is impressive: vertical walls of rock, several hundred metres high, with snowbeds, small glaciers, and melt-water waterfalls – simply incredible scenery. Birds were relatively sparse, with just a few griffons, a couple of common buzzards, and a short-toed eagle which drifted low down the valley, straight over us.

Continuing our walk, we paused to explore a small meadow full of broad-leaved marsh-orchids, ringing with the song of blackcaps, before entering an area of typically shady beech wood. Much of the woodland flora was over, as evidenced by the carpets of Spanish bluebell and hepatica leaves, though wood spurge and bugle were still in bloom. Once through the woods, again the vistas opened, as we came to a broad valley, a jolly good place to sit for lunch and to contemplate the majesty of the cirque and the billowing wafts of pine pollen blowing down the valley. A short exploration of the valley bottom revealed more black vanilla orchids, as well as several frog orchids, Pyrenean lousewort and alpine bistort, and a tree pipit performing well from the top of an isolated tree. But all too soon it was time to potter back to the frenzy of retail therapy in Gavarnie, a bustle of people and squeaking marmots in every shop!

A brief stop on the way back produced several sword-leaved helleborines, alongside some rather less showy violet helleborines, and the best butterflies of the trip so far, including chequered skipper, wood white, Escher's blue and large wall brown, and large numbers of chimney-sweeper moths flopping around the woodland ride.

By evening, it had warmed up, so we planned to hold our daily planning and review meeting outside on the patio, as hummingbird hawk-moths nectared at the hanging baskets and yet another lammergeier drifted over. But then the rain began, curtailing our plans; back indoors for the rest of the meeting and dinner, before the group divided, some to the TV room for football (it *was* Euro 2004), the rest back to the bats, although poorer than last night, presumably as the stiffening breeze was stopping insects from flying.

Tuesday 22 June – Col de Tentes & Vallée d'Ossoue

Today's trip took us to some of the highest places it is possible to drive in this part of the Pyrenees, reaching 2208m at the Col de Tentes. But we took our time getting there, stopping at will on the quiet mountain roads to spot what we could. Marmots, alpine choughs, wheatears, water pipits, vultures, and pink patches of Pyrenean thistles made for a useful distraction from the hairpin bends for those more nervous passengers!

Moving up to the plateau, flowers were more in evidence, and included spring gentians in electric-blue patches, sheets of white Pyrenean buttercup, and alpine speedwell. Then it was up to the end of the road, at the Col, only some 1500 metres from the Spanish border at the Port de Boucharo. Dragging ourselves away from the stunning high mountain scenery, a short wander on to the grassy pastures and snow-beds revealed some wonderful displays of spring and trumpet gentians (*right*), some of the latter in pink rather than the usual vivid blue. Other botanical gems included pink-spangled cushions of moss campion, two pink *Primulas* – *hirsuta* and *integrifolia*, pink rock-jasmine, Pyrenean violet, ashy crane's-bill and the remarkable dwarf buckthorn, a shrub almost fused with vertical rock faces. To complement this spectacle, wheatears were displaying, the melt-water pools were full of frogspawn and common frogs, and a weasel was watched foraging in the roadside rubble.



Descending from the highest ground, Sally spotted a patch of the elusive snowbells, so necessitating another short stop, before we went still lower for lunch. We settled upon a rocky valley and tumbling stream, a lovely tranquil area to eat, the silence broken only by cattle and calling marmots. One of the latter was a real showman, feeding and basking at very close range in the valley bottom, while an immature golden eagle flew along the mountain crests, almost in the descending clouds.

And then it was down still further, and into the Vallée d'Ossoue. On entering the valley, a large rock by the bridge demanded our attention, as it was dripping in Pyrenean saxifrage (though not in flower, and seemingly not likely to be this year from the small size of the rosettes) and ramonda. The neighbouring slopes were wonderful in their diversity of flowers and their abundance of butterflies and other insects, including hummingbird hawk-moth, swallowtail black-veined moth, brimstone and apollo, while drinking in a pool on the road, there were literally hundreds of small blues, along with heath and false heath fritillaries.

Up the valley, it was very warm out of the wind, which really brought the insects out. Most notably, there were dozens of ascalaphids, ant-lion relatives, zipping around the slopes. A male rock bunting showed well in a small quarry, while overhead an adult lammergeier swooped in from a considerable height and entered its nest cave on the distant rock face, while a golden eagle (again an adult) quartered the tops. Further on, the vista opened out into a wide U-shaped valley, with vast mountains encompassing a series of grassy and marshy habitats, liberally peppered with the purple spikes of thousands of broad-leaved marsh-orchids.

By now, time was pressing and so we drove slowly back down the magnificent valley. The road *was* rather narrow, the drop steep and deep, and the intransigence of an oncoming driver merited the 'universal gesture of disdain' produced by one of our party...! Back home, the clouds were still building, and humidity rising, but the hoped-for storm never materialised; a sparrowhawk shot across the valley during our meeting, emphasising the

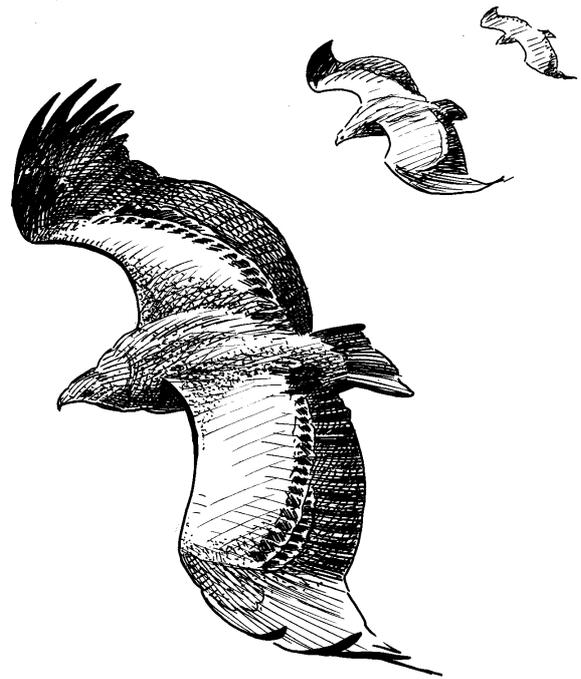
rule never to take one's binoculars off in a place like this. And to round the day off nicely, we had a visitor, Philippe Serre, leader of the LPO lammergeier project. He gave us an entertaining and informative talk about his work, and the successes of the project, before I gave him a cheque – the contributions from the party to local conservation efforts - bringing the total given to LPO from Honeyguide since 1991 to some £7600, a not-inconsiderable sum.

Wednesday 23 June – Barèges, Col du Tourmalet & Vallée de la Glère

The morning dawned a little more promising, with some big clear patches in the skies, even if there was still a shroud of cloud around the Brèche. First stop was in Barèges, in the market place, where it was market day. So we headed for the delights of fresh fruit and mountain honey, while also taking the opportunity to catch up with crag martins (surprisingly scarce in these parts), with at least two nests on the cinema.

And so we hit the road again, continuing up on ever-more-winding roads, and through ever-more-primeval landscape, until we reached the top - the Col de Tourmalet – at 2115m, the second highest point we reached during the week. By now the cloud had largely dissipated, and the crowds were out, including an impressive number of cyclists who had clearly toiled hard to reach that point. Even so, the main object of our visit was there as soon as we got out – snowfinches. Not one but several; not distant but scratching around for crumbs in the car park. And feeding round snow beds, display flying overhead, and breeding in the supports of the ski lifts. A short, steep wander brought us to the nearby crest, and lovely patches of pink rock-jasmine and rock campion, a male rock thrush, several griffon vultures, wonderful views, which were periodically obscured by the drifting clouds, and the bizarre sight of llamas grazing the mountain pastures. A Queen of Spain fritillary showed its silvery hindwing patches to a select few, and bulbous corydalis was bursting into flower from one particular melting snow-bed.

For lunch, we descended half way to the valley floor, trying to avoid what looked like threatening clouds, and we were treated to a magnificent fly-past of griffons, a large party of red-billed choughs, and several extremely smart male wheatears. Back then towards Barèges, we headed into the Vallée de la Glère, and its picnic sites in the lovely beech and pine woodland. Woodruff was in full flower, along with lesser wintergreen, and there were certainly plenty of birds around, even if they were rather elusive. Crested tit, firecrest, great spotted woodpecker, short-toed treecreeper and nuthatch – all were there but giving only the most brief of views as they moved around the tree canopy. Then out into the open valley, there were patches of heather, with sheep's-bit flowering profusely, and several broad-bodied chaser dragonflies around the small ponds. Males and females, feeding, mating, egg laying – they really put on a show, as if to distract us from the rather less pleasant sight of large leeches swimming through the clear water. And after a full, increasingly hot day, an ice-cream courtesy of *Chez Louissette* was most welcome.



As we parked back at the hotel, a short-toed eagle flew over, hovered over the hillside, before plunging to ground. Immediately it was harried by a crow, but its efforts were successful, as it rose into the air carrying a snake in its talons, before transferring to its beak in flight and drifting away. Sometimes the best wildlife experiences take no effort at all!

Thursday 24 June – Pont and Plateau de Saugué & Vallée de Bué

Overnight, a large flock of sheep was driven through village, no doubt heading for the high summer pastures. In fact, it could all have been a rather noisy dream, had it not been for the ample evidence deposited on the road. The day dawned murkier than ever, but undeterred, we headed on a minor road out of Gèdre, climbing steeply through the most wonderful flowery meadows, with pyramidal orchids, scarce swallowtail and the incessant, almost deafening, song of field crickets, onto the Plateau de Saugué.

As we reached the top, the cloud parted very briefly for a quick view of Gavarnie from above, but for much of the morning we were in the cloud. Not that it really affected our enjoyment of the stupendous flora on the small area of limestone pavement: masses of hoary rock-rose, Montpellier milk-vetch, some lovely patches of alpine aster and several frog orchids produced a visual display which would have knocked any rock garden into a cocked hat. Yellowhammer, short-toed lark (bizarrely out of its usual lowland habitat) and quail were all heard from the cloud and several normal elusive insects were found crossing the track, including field cricket, oil beetle and a female glow-worm.

Back down to the bridge, it remained cool and overcast, so the hoped-for masses of butterflies simply did not materialise, although a rather torpid heath fritillary gave everyone the chance to examine its intricate patterning. Plants on the boggy roadside included cotton-grass, Tofield's asphodel, butterworts and all the usual orchids, while despite the poor visibility we were able to watch a dipper family going about its business. After that, on the way down, we simply had to make a couple of stops, first for a very obliging apollo, and then at a super clump of pyramidal orchids, a site which also produced a singing Bonelli's warbler.

For the final destination of the day, we retraced our steps to the valley of Bué, and progressed up through the woodland – part deciduous, part open conifer plantation. There were Welsh poppies, Pyrenean valerian, wood saxifrage, yellow pea, wild strawberry, leafy lousewort and woodruff growing by the track; with a magnificent display of flowering ramonda on one rock face. Then suddenly an unfamiliar call (to me) – it was a black woodpecker, and it was coming closer. In the event, at least Conrad and Maureen managed to see it moving through the trees, a rare glimpse of an elusive bird.

Because the weather had been unhelpful, we ended up returning to the hotel in mid-afternoon, upon which several of the group decamped to the village bar for ice creams and *frites*, before an unscheduled local walk, up the road to Gèdre-dessus, and back down the squirrel trail. No sign of the squirrel, but the bee orchid was relocated, and we also found Pyrenean sage and a number of more Mediterranean plants, like *Euphorbia characias*, on the south-facing, sun-baked cliffs, while a young lammergeier struggled up the valley, before taking refuge (presumably for the night) on a distant crag.

No thoughts of bats tonight: it was England's quarter-final match against Portugal in Euro 2004. Yes, *that* match – full time, extra time, penalties, sudden-death penalties – it went on late into the night. We all knew we had places to be and things to see in the morning, but we couldn't possibly leave the match, could we?

Friday 25 June – Cirque de Troumouse

In an interesting turn of events, we woke up to no water in the hotel, nor indeed anywhere in the village. It later transpired that a farmer had ploughed through the supply pipe at Saugué. But the show must go on, and breakfast was served almost as normal. Then as we were boarding the minibus, a rustling in the branches overhead revealed a red squirrel (a rather dark individual) watching us watching it.

For the first time, the sun was really shining as we headed out, and the mountain tops were free of cloud. We again headed up the Héas valley, right up to the Cirque de Troumouse, if anything even more visually spectacular than anywhere else we had been during the week. Half way up, we stopped near the café, and watched both alpine and red-billed choughs feeding among the cattle. Water pipits were singing in every direction, wheatears and marmots their constant associates, and a few griffons sailed overhead.

But this was only the halfway point, so up we went again (with the minibus engine beginning to struggle) to the top car park, surrounded on three sides by the walls of the vast cirque, a dramatic curtain of rock and snow around more than half of our horizon. We walked on towards the cirque, still about 4 kilometres away. Garland flower was abundant in patches, scenting the air beautifully, and in the lee of various boulders, we found mezereon, a close relative, its flowers seemingly irresistible to insects. On the boulders, there were several species of saxifrage and yellow-flowered *Viola biflora*, while we almost literally stumbled over a water pipit nest with eggs, under a small overhang right in the middle of the path. In the middle distance, a herd of izard (the local chamois) fled from the valley onto the safety of the snow patches.

By now, our stomachs were declaring lunchtime, so we stopped overlooking the tarn, and tucked in. A serendipitous choice of picnic sites, as a nearby boggy area was covered in snowbells (*pictured, overleaf*), the slopes had purple colt's-foot, and the rocks, a few, late, flowering cushions of purple mountain saxifrage.

Our appetites for food and wildlife fully served, we headed back, stopping for a welcome drink at the ‘halfway house’. A final stop by the lower river, near the hamlet of Héas, was another hotspot, heaving with butterflies. Blues, skippers and fritillaries were everywhere; green hairstreak and speckled wood found their way onto our trip list, a lovely reminder of the delights of the area – as it was described on a previous Honeyguide trip ‘myriads of myriads’. And yet still there were surprises to come: on the drive back, a long-tailed, cat-like mammal crossing the road was a genet. Common enough hereabouts, but normally nocturnal, we suspected it may have been hunting for baby marmots, to judge from the consternation it was creating in the ranks.

And so to our final dinner – as Odile said ‘En français, une surprise!’. Out came the hot bricks, then the raw steak, and over to us to cook it as we preferred. A lovely end to a wonderful week, one which in spite of the weather had provided us all with a wealth of wildlife experiences.

Saturday 26 June – homeward bound...

Typically, as we loaded our bags into the bus, the weather was perfect: clear blue skies and hot sunshine. In fact, there were several comments to the effect that we were lucky it had not been like that earlier in the week, or we would have been flagging. But however much we would have liked to have stayed, Ryanair waits for no-one; a red squirrel on the road, griffons down to Lourdes, kites beyond provided the wildlife accompaniment, and all too soon we were back on the tarmac at Stansted.



LISTS

KEY TO LOCALITIES

In the lists below, localities are not generally given, unless the species was seen at only one or two sites (and it is the sort of species someone may wish to seek out in the future).

- Ge – Gèdre
- Gl – Barrage and Lac des Gloriettes
- Ga – Cirque de Gavarnie
- Te – Col de Tentes
- O – Vallée d’Ossoue
- Gle – Vallée de la Glère
- To – Col du Tourmalet
- S – Pont and Plateau de Saugué
- B – Vallée de Bué
- Tr – Cirque de Troumouse (including Héas valley)
- J – Journeys, Pau to Gèdre

FLOWERING PLANTS

(Incomplete – a number of widespread and familiar species are omitted)

Dicotyledons

Aceraceae

- Acer campestre* Field maple
- A. pseudoplatanus* Sycamore

Apiaceae

- Angelica razulii* Gl
- A. sylvestris* Wild angelica
- Chaerophyllum aureum* Golden chervil Ge
- Conopodium majus* Pignut
- Eryngium bourgatii* Pyrenean eryngo
- Heracleum sphondylium* ssp. *pyrenaicum* Hogweed
- Laserpitium siler* Sermountain
- Meum athamanticum* Spignel Te
- Peucedanum ostruthium* Masterwort Ge
- Pimpinella major* Great burnet-saxifrage Ga
- Sanicula europaea* Sanicle Ga

Asclepiadaceae*Vincetoxicum hirundinaria*

Swallow-wort

Asteraceae*Antennaria dioica*

Cat's-foot

Aster alpinus

Alpine aster

O S

*Bellis sylvestris**Carduus carlinoides*

Pyrenean thistle

Te To

C. nutans

Musk thistle

Carlina acaulis

Stemless carline thistle

Centaurea jacea

Brown knapweed

C. montana

Perennial cornflower

Ga

C. scabiosa

Greater knapweed

Cirsium eroiophorum

Woolly thistle

Hieracium alpinum agg.

Alpine hawkweed

Gl

H. pilosella

Mouse-eared hawkweed

Homogyne alpina

Purple colt's-foot

Te Tr

Lactuca perennis

Blue lettuce

Ge Gle

Leucanthemopsis alpina

Alpine moon daisy

Tr

Leucanthemum vulgare

Ox-eye daisy

Mycelis muralis

Wall lettuce

Scorzonera aristata

Bearded viper's-grass

S

Senecio doronicum

Chamois ragwort

Gl

Solidago virgaurea

Golden-rod

Tanacetum corymbosum

Ge S

Tragopogon pratensis

Goat's-beard

Tussilago farfara

Colt's-foot

Urospermum dalechampii

Ge

Berberidaceae*Berberis vulgaris*

Barberry

Gl

Betulaceae*Alnus glutinosa*

Alder

Betula pendula

Silver birch

Boraginaceae*Echium vulgare*

Viper's-bugloss

Myosotis alpina

Alpine Forget-me-not

Te To

M. sylvatica

Wood forget-me-not

Pulmonaria longifolia

Long-leaved lungwort

Brassicaceae*Arabis turrata*

Towercress

Cardamine raphanifolia

Radish-leaved bittercress

B

Draba aizoides

Yellow whitlow-grass

Hutchinsia alpina

Chamois cress

Ga Te

Iberis amara

Candytuft

B

Sisymbrium austriacum

Austrian rocket

S. pyrenaicum

Ga

Buxaceae*Buxus sempervirens*

Box

Campanulaceae*Campanula patula*

Spreading bellflower

Jasione montana

Sheep's-bit

Gle

Phyteuma orbiculare

Round-headed rampion

P. spicatum

Spiked rampion

Gl Gle

Caprifoliaceae*Lonicera pyrenaicum*

Pyrenean honeysuckle

Ga O

Sambucus ebulus

Dwarf elder

S. racemosa

Alpine elder

Tr

Caryophyllaceae*Arenaria grandiflora*

Gl

Cerastium arvense

Field mouse-ear

Dianthus carthusianorum

Carthusian pink

Ga

D. deltoides

Maiden pink

S Tr

Gypsophila repens

Alpine gypsophila

Gl

Herniaria glabra

Rupturewort

Gl

Lychnis flos-cuculi

Ragged-robin

Ge

Minuartia verna

Spring sandwort

Paronychia capitata

Gl Ga

Scleranthus perennis

Perennial knawel

Gl

<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Moss campion	Te
<i>S. nutans</i>	Nottingham catchfly	
<i>S. rupestris</i>		Gl
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion	
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater stitchwort	
Chenopodiaceae		
<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>	Good King Henry	
Cistaceae		
<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i>	White rock-rose	
<i>H. canum</i>	Hoary rock-rose	
<i>H. nummularium</i>	Common rock-rose	
<i>H. nummularium</i> ssp. <i>pyrenaicum</i>		Ge
<i>H. oelandicum</i>	Alpine rock-rose	
Corylaceae		
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	
Crassulaceae		
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting stonecrop	
<i>S. album</i>	White stonecrop	
<i>S. anglicum</i>	English stonecrop	
<i>S. dasyphyllum</i>	Thick-leaved stonecrop	
<i>S. rupestre</i>	Rock stonecrop	
<i>Sempervivum montanum</i>	Mountain houseleek	
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	
Cuscutaceae		
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Dodder	
Dipsacaceae		
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabious	
<i>K. dipsacifolia</i>	Wood scabious	Ga
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small scabious	
Ericaceae		
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather	
<i>Rhododendron ferrugineum</i>	Alpenrose	
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry	
<i>V. vitis-idaea</i>	Cowberry	
Euphorbiaceae		
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood spurge	Ga
<i>E. characias</i>	Large Mediterranean spurge	Ge
<i>E. cyparissias</i>	Cypress spurge	O
Fabaceae		
<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>	Montpelier milk-vetch	
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	
ssp. <i>forondae</i> , <i>pyrenaica</i> and <i>vulnerarioides</i>		
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe vetch	
<i>Lathyrus laevigatus</i>	Yellow pea	B
<i>L. pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	
<i>L. sylvestris</i>	Narrow-leaved everlasting-pea	
<i>L. vernus</i>	Spring vetchling	Gl
<i>Lotus alpinus</i>	Alpine bird's-foot-trefoil	
<i>L. corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil	
<i>Medicago hybrida</i>	Pyrenean medick	
<i>Ononis natrix</i>	Large yellow rest-harrow	
<i>O. rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved rest-harrow	Ge
<i>Oxytropis campestris</i>	Yellow milk-vetch	
<i>Trifolium alpinum</i>	Alpine clover	
<i>T. campestre</i>	Hop trefoil	
<i>T. dubium</i>	Lesser trefoil	
<i>T. incarnatum</i>	Crimson clover	Ge
<i>T. montanum</i>	Mountain clover	
<i>T. ochroleucon</i>	Sulphur clover	S B
<i>T. pratense</i>	Red clover	
<i>T. repens</i>	White clover	
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch	
<i>V. hirsuta</i>	Hairy tare	
<i>V. pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean vetch	
<i>V. sepium</i>	Bush vetch	

Fagaceae		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet chestnut	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile oak	
<i>Q. pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean oak	
Fumariaceae		
<i>Corydalis solida</i>	Tuberous corydalis	To
Gentianaceae		
<i>Gentiana acaulis</i>	Trumpet gentian	
<i>G. verna</i>	Spring gentian	
Geraniaceae		
<i>Geranium cinereum</i>	Ashy crane's-bill	Te
<i>G. phaeum</i>	Dusky crane's-bill	
<i>G. pratense</i>	Meadow crane's-bill	
<i>G. pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean crane's-bill	
<i>G. robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	
<i>G. sanguineum</i>	Bloody crane's-bill	
<i>G. sylvaticum</i>	Wood crane's-bill	
Gesneriaceae		
<i>Ramonda myconi</i>		
Globulariaceae		
<i>Globularia nudicaulis</i>	Leafless-stemmed globularia	
<i>G. repens</i>	Creeping globularia	
Grossulariaceae		
<i>Ribes petraeum</i>	Rock currant	Gl
Hypericaceae		
<i>Hypericum nummularium</i>	Western St. John's-wort	B
Lamiaceae		
<i>Acinos alpinus</i>	Alpine calamint	
<i>Ajuga pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal bugle	Tr
<i>A. repens</i>	Bugle	
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild basil	
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow archangel	
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted dead-nettle	Ga
<i>Sideritis hyssopifolia</i>		S
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow woundwort	
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Wall germander	Ge
<i>T. pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean germander	Ge
<i>T. scorodonia</i>	Wood sage	
<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>	Wild thyme	
Lentibulariaceae		
<i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered butterwort	
Loranthaceae		
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	
Malvaceae		
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk mallow	
Oleaceae		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	
Papaveraceae		
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine	
<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>	Welsh poppy	Ga Gle B
Plantaginaceae		
<i>Plantago maritima</i> ssp. <i>serpentina</i>	Fleshy plantain	Gl
<i>P. media</i>	Hoary plantain	
Plumbaginaceae		
<i>Armeria maritima</i> ssp. <i>alpina</i>	Mountain thrift	Tr
Polygalaceae		
<i>Polygala alpina</i>	Alpine milkwort	To
<i>P. comosa</i>	Tufted milkwort	
<i>P. nicaeensis</i>	Nice milkwort	
Polygonaceae		
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	Mountain sorrel	
<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>	Bistort	
<i>P. viviparum</i>	Alpine bistort	
<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	French sorrel	
Primulaceae		
<i>Androsace carnea</i>	Pink rock-jasmine	Te To

<i>A. chamaejasme</i>	Ciliate rock-jasmine	Ga
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Yellow pimpernel	B
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip	
<i>P. farinosa</i>	Bird's-eye primrose	
<i>P. hirsuta</i>		Te
<i>P. integrifolia</i>	Entire-leaved primrose	
<i>P. veris</i>	Cowslip	
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	Primrose	Tr
<i>Soldanella alpina</i>	Alpine snowbell	
<i>Vitaliana primuliflora</i>	Yellow rock-jasmine	Te
Pyrolaceae		
<i>Pyrola minor</i>	lesser wintergreen	Ga Gle
Ranunculaceae		
<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	Monk's-hood	
<i>Anemone narcissiflora</i>	Narcissus-flowered anemone	Gl
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine	
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh marigold	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy	
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking hellebore	
<i>H. viridis</i>	Green hellebore	
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica	
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous buttercup	
<i>R. flammula</i>	Lesser spearwort	
<i>R. gouanii</i>	Gouan's buttercup	
<i>R. polyanthemus</i>	Multi-flowered buttercup	
<i>R. pyrenaicus</i>	Pyrenean buttercup	
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	Great meadow-rue	
<i>Trollius europeaeus</i>	Globe-flower	Gl
Resedaceae		
<i>Reseda glauca</i>	Pyrenean mignonette	
Rhamnaceae		
<i>Rhamnus pumilus</i>	Dwarf buckthorn	Te Tr
Rosaceae		
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine lady's-mantle	
<i>A. splendens</i>	Intermediate lady's-mantle	
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	Snowy mespilus	
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goat's-beard Spiraea	B
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	Mountain avens	Gl
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild strawberry	
<i>Geum montanum</i>	Alpine avens	
<i>G. pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean avens	
<i>Potentilla alchemilloides</i>		Gl Ga
<i>P. rupestris</i>	Rock cinquefoil	Gl
<i>P. tabernaemontani</i>	Spring cinquefoil	
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose	
<i>R. gallica</i>	Provence rose	
<i>R. glauca</i>	Blue-leaved rose	
<i>R. pendulina</i>	Alpine rose	
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad-burnet	
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	
<i>S. aucuparia</i>	Rowan	
Rubiaceae		
<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>	Squinancywort	Ge
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge bedstraw	
<i>G. odoratum</i>	Woodruff	
<i>G. saxatile</i>	Heath bedstraw	
<i>G. sylvaticum</i>	Wood bedstraw	
<i>G. verum</i>	Lady's-bedstraw	
Salicaceae		
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	
Saxifragaceae		
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow saxifrage	
<i>S. harriotii</i>		Tr
<i>S. longifolia</i>	Pyrenean saxifrage	
<i>S. oppositifolia</i>	Purple saxifrage	Tr

<i>S. paniculata</i>	Livelong saxifrage	Gl B
<i>S. pubescens</i>		Gl
<i>S. rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved saxifrage	Ge
<i>S. umbrosa</i>	Wood saxifrage	Gl S B
Scrophulariaceae		
<i>Bartsia alpina</i>	Alpine bartsia	
<i>Chaenorhinum minus</i>	Lesser snapdragon	O
<i>C. organifolium</i>		
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy foxglove	
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp	Eyebright	
<i>Linaria alpina</i>	Alpine toadflax	
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common cow-wheat	Ga
<i>Pedicularis foliosa</i>	Leafy lousewort	B
<i>P. pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean lousewort	Ga O
<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	Alpine figwort	
<i>S. nodosa</i>	Common figwort	
<i>S. pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean figwort	Ga
<i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i>	Greater yellow-rattle	
<i>R. minor</i>	Yellow-rattle	
<i>Verbascum lychnitis</i>		
<i>V. nigrum</i>	Dark mullein	S
<i>Veronica alpina</i>	Alpine speedwell	Te
<i>V. beccabunga</i>	Brooklime	
<i>V. fruticans</i>	Rock speedwell	Gl
<i>V. nummularia</i>	Pyrenean speedwell	Gl
<i>V. officinalis</i>	Heath speedwell	
<i>V. ponae</i>	Pyrenean spiked speedwell	Gl Ga
<i>V. prostrata</i>		
<i>V. serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved speedwell	
Thymelaeaceae		
<i>Daphne cneorum</i>	Garland flower	Gl Tr
<i>D. laureola</i> ssp. <i>philippii</i>	Spurge-laurel	Te
<i>D. mezereum</i>	Mezereon	Tr
Tiliaceae		
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Large-leaved lime	
Ulmaceae		
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych elm	
Valerianaceae		
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red valerian	
<i>Valeriana montana</i>		
<i>V. officinalis</i>	Valerian	Tr
<i>V. pyrenaica</i>		Ga B
<i>V. tripteris</i>		Gl
Violaceae		
<i>Viola biflora</i>	Yellow wood violet	Tr
<i>V. cornuta</i>	Horned violet	
<i>V. lutea</i>	Mountain pansy	S
<i>V. pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean violet	Te
<i>V. riviniana</i>	Common dog-violet	
Monocotyledons		
Cyperaceae		
<i>Carex davalliana</i>		
<i>C. sylvatica</i>	Wood sedge	B
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Cotton-grass	
Dioscoreaceae		
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black bryony	
Iridaceae		
<i>Iris latifolia</i>		To
Juncaceae		
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	Great woodrush	B
Liliaceae		
<i>Allium senescens</i>	Mountain onion	Ge
<i>Anthericum liliago</i>	St Bernard's lily	
<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	Asphodel	
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily-of-the-valley	Gl
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanicus</i>	Spanish bluebell	Ga

<i>Hyacinthus amethystinus</i>		Pyrenean hyacinth	
<i>Lilium martagon</i>		Martagon lily	
<i>Tofieldia calyculata</i>		Tofield's asphodel	
<i>Veratrum album</i>		White false helleborine	Tr
Orchidaceae			
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>		Pyramidal orchid	
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>		Narrow-leaved helleborine	Ga
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>		Frog orchid	Ga S
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>		Common spotted-orchid	
<i>D. incarnata</i>		Early marsh-orchid	S
<i>D. majalis</i> ssp. <i>alpestris</i>		Broad-leaved marsh-orchid	
<i>D. sambucina</i>		Elder-flowered orchid	Ga
<i>Epipactis purpurata</i>		Violet helleborine	Ga
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>		Fragrant orchid	
<i>Listera ovata</i>		Common twayblade	
<i>Nigritella nigra</i>		Black vanilla orchid	
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>		Bee orchid	Ge
<i>Orchis mascula</i>		Early purple orchid	
<i>O. ustulata</i>		Burnt-tip orchid	
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>		Lesser butterfly-orchid	
<i>P. chlorantha</i>		Greater butterfly-orchid	
Poaceae (very incomplete)			
<i>Briza media</i>		Quaking-grass	
<i>Melica uniflora</i>		Wood melick	
CONIFERS			
<i>Abies alba</i>		Silver fir	
<i>Pinus nigra</i> ssp. <i>salzmannii</i>		Pyrenean black pine	
<i>P. sylvestris</i>		Scots pine	
<i>Juniperus communis</i>		Juniper	
<i>Taxus baccata</i>		Yew	
FERNS			
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>		Black spleenwort	
<i>A. ruta-muraria</i>		Wall-rue	
<i>A. septentrionale</i>		Forking spleenwort	Gl
<i>A. trichomanes</i>		Maidenhair spleenwort	
<i>Athyrium alpina</i>		Alpine lady fern	Gl
<i>A. filix-femina</i>		Lady fern	
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>		Moonwort	Te
<i>Ceterach officinalis</i>		Rusty-back fern	
<i>Cryptogramma crista</i>		Parsley fern	Gl
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>		Scaly male fern	
<i>D. filix-mas</i>		Male fern	
<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>		Oak fern	Gl
<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>		Beech fern	Gle
<i>Polypodium australe</i>		Southern polypody	
<i>P. vulgare</i>		Common polypody	
<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>		Holly fern	Tr
<i>P. setiferum</i>		Soft shield-fern	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>		Bracken	
BUTTERFLIES			
Swallowtail		Meadow brown	
Scarce swallowtail		Wall brown	Ga
Apollo	O S	Large wall brown	Ge Ga
Clouded Apollo	Ga	Bright-eyed ringlet	
Red admiral		Piedmont ringlet	
Painted lady		Small heath	
Small tortoiseshell		Speckled wood	Ge Tr
Comma	Ge	Large white	
Small pearl-bordered fritillary		Small white	
Pearl-bordered fritillary		Green-veined white	
Heath fritillary		Dappled white	O
False heath fritillary	O	Mountain dappled white	Gl Tr
Queen-of-Spain fritillary	To	Wood white	

Orange tip
 Black-veined white
 Brimstone O
 Clouded yellow
 Mountain clouded yellow Tr
 Common blue
 Adonis blue
 Mazarine blue
 Escher's blue Ga

MOTHS

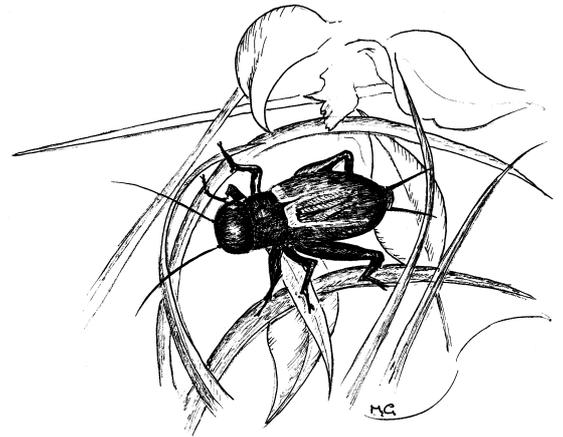
Nemophora degeerella Ge
Yponomeuta rorella (caterpillars) B
Metaxmeste phrygialis To Tr
 Small magpie
 Cistus forester Ge
 Slender scotch burnet Ge
 Fox moth Gl
 Little emerald
 Chimney sweeper
 Common heath
 Cream wave Ga

Small blue
 Green hairstreak Tr
 Brown argus
 Large skipper
 Dingy skipper
 Grizzled skipper
 Large grizzled skipper
 Red-underwing skipper S Tr
 Chequered skipper Ga

Psodos quadrifaria To
 Speckled yellow
 Buff-tip Ge
 Clouded buff Tr
 Hummingbird hawk-moth
 Privet hawk-moth Ge
 Small purple-barred Gl
 Black-veined moth
 Burnet companion
 Silver Y

OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Leech Gle
Cepaea nemoralis Banded snail
Arion ater a large black slug
Decticus verrucivorus Wart-biter Gl
Pholidoptera griseoptera Dark bush-cricket Ga
Gryllus campestris Field cricket (right)
Libellula depressa Broad-bodied chaser Gle
Calopteryx splendens Banded demoiselle Ge
Lygaeus equestris a ground bug Gl
Libelloides longicornis an ascalaphid O
Panorpa sp. a scorpion-fly Gl Tr
Cetonia aeruginosa a rose chafer Ge
Lampyris noctiluca Glow-worm S
Lucanus cervus Stag beetle Ge
Cicindela campestris Green Tiger-beetle Gl
Calosoma sycophanta a metallic ground beetle Ge
Coccinella 7-punctata 7-spot ladybird
Cantharis rustica a soldier beetle
Timarcha tenebricosa Bloody-nosed beetle S
Meloe proscarabaeoides an oil beetle S
Polistes sp. a paper wasp
Bombus wurfleini a large colourful bumble-bee
Formica rufa Wood ant S



AMPHIBIANS

Common frog

REPTILES

Common wall lizard
 Pyrenean rock lizard Te
 Slow worm Gl

MAMMALS

Alpine marmot
 Red squirrel Ge J
 Snow vole (runs)
 Mole (hills only)
 Pipistrelle Ge

Fox (droppings and prints) Tr
 Genet Tr
 Weasel Te S
 Iizard (Pyrenean chamois) Tr
 Wild boar (rootings) Gl

BIRDS

Golden eagle	Te O	Tree pipit	
Short-toed eagle	Ge Ga	Water pipit	
Red kite	J Ge Tr	Grey wagtail	
Black kite	J	White wagtail	
Common buzzard		Wren	
Sparrowhawk	Ge	Dunnock	
Egyptian vulture	Ge	Dipper	
Griffon vulture		Blackbird	
Lammergeier		Song thrush	
Kestrel		Mistle thrush	B
Peregrine	Gl	Rock thrush	To
Quail	S	Robin	
Rock dove/ Feral pigeon		Nightingale	Ge
Woodpigeon		Northern wheatear	
Collared dove		Black redstart	
Tawny owl	Ge	Northern chiffchaff	
Swift		Bonelli's warbler	S
Green woodpecker		Blackcap	
Great spotted woodpecker		Garden warbler	Ga
Black woodpecker	B	Firecrest	
Raven		Nuthatch	Ge Gl
Carrion crow		Short-toed treecreeper	Gl
Red-billed chough		Starling	J
Alpine chough		Red-backed shrike	Ge Ga
Magpie		Chaffinch	
Jay		Linnet	
Swallow		Serin	
House martin		Snow finch	To
Crag martin		House sparrow	
Great tit		Yellowhammer	
Blue tit		Cirl bunting	
Coal tit		Rock bunting	O
Crested tit			
Short-toed lark	S	Total: 66 species	

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LPO thank-you letter

In the letter from Philippe Serre from LPO that follows, he thanks us for our contribution to the project to protect the lammergeier (*Gypaète barbu*) in the Pyrenees, and that it was a pleasure to meet Honeyguiders in Gèdre. The lammergeier is considered to be the most threatened raptor in Europe and is benefiting from a government action plan, carried out by LPO. Our contribution of £150 goes towards a package of actions studying its distribution and threats in the Luz-Gavarnie valley and massif of Pibeste, and also towards the costs of a feeding station. Philippe also mentions an attached article: this is four pages, in French, and can be emailed from the Honeyguide office for anyone who wishes to know more.

Philippe SERRE
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Courriel : philippe.serre.environnement@libertysurf.fr

Gan, le 18 septembre 2004

BORDEREAU D'ENVOI

DESTINATAIRE	Monsieur DURDIN - HONEYGUIDE
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OBJET	Cofinancement - Remerciement
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OBSERVATIONS	<p>Monsieur, A l'instar de l'année dernière, vous avez décidé de poursuivre votre soutien financier au programme que mène la LPO pour la sauvegarde du Gypaète barbu sur le massif des Pyrénées.</p> <p>Je tiens à vous remercier très sincèrement de l'appui que vous nous apportez. En tant que responsable du programme Pyrénées Vivantes, cela a été un plaisir d'intervenir auprès de vos clients à Gèdre (département des Hautes-Pyrénées) pour leur présenter cette espèce emblématique des cieux pyrénéens.</p> <p>Le Gypaète barbu est considéré comme le rapace le plus menacé d'Europe. Il bénéficie sur le massif des Pyrénées d'un plan d'action validé par l'état français et animé par la Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux.</p> <p>Votre contribution (150 livres) participera d'une part au financement du réseau de suivi environnemental (vallée de Luz Gavarnie et massif du Pibeste – département des hautes-Pyrénées) car il est fondamental de connaître la répartition de cette espèce et les menaces qui planent sur elle pour pouvoir la protéger et d'autre part au financement d'un site de nourrissage dans le département de l'Ariège (vallée du Vicdessos).</p> <p>Vous trouverez ci-joint un article de présentation de notre programme transfrontalier Pyrénées Vivantes qui s'appuie sur le travail réalisé pour le Gypaète barbu pour étendre notre savoir-faire à la biodiversité des Pyrénées.</p> <p>Je vous prie de recevoir mes meilleures salutations, très cordialement.</p>
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