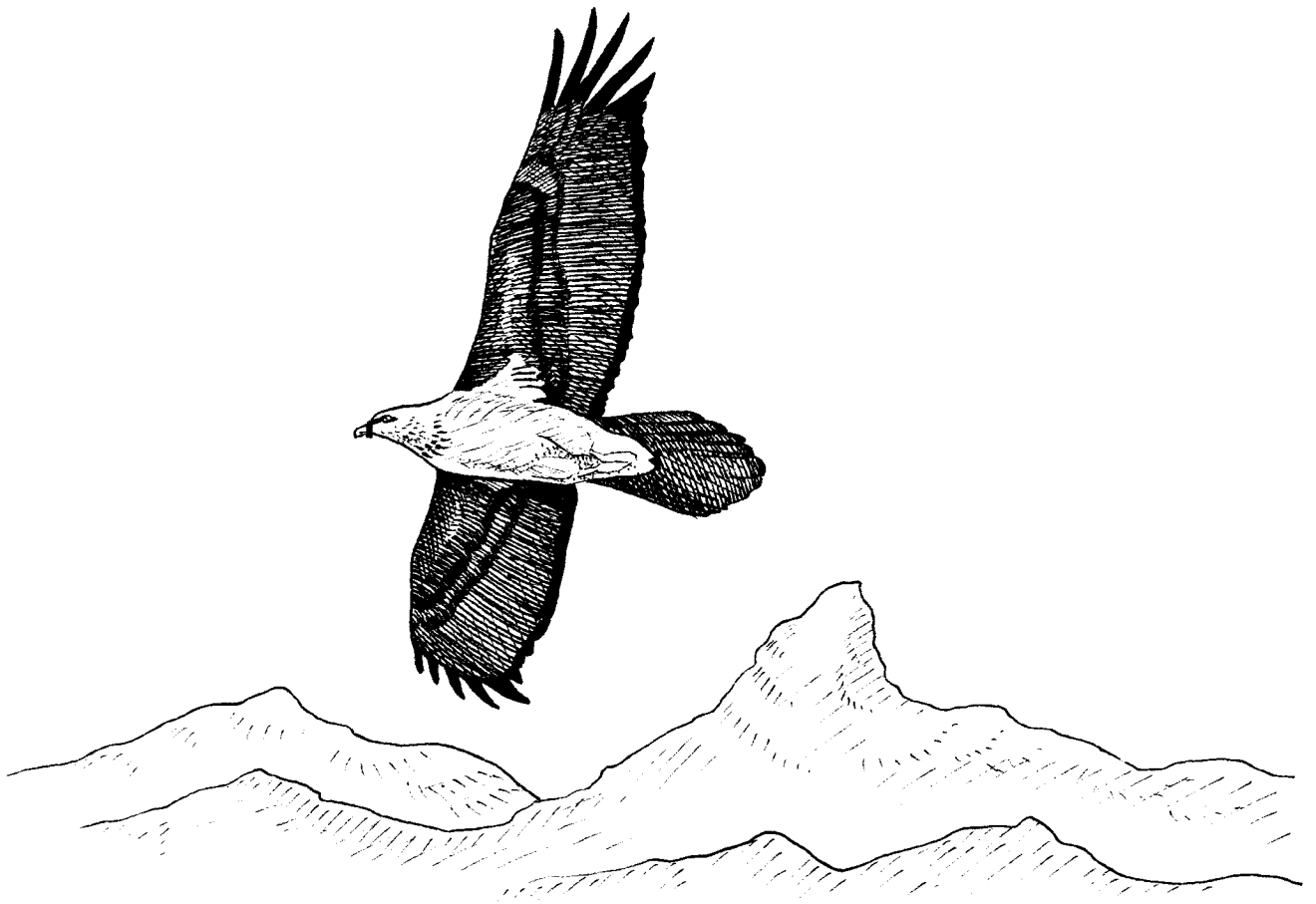


# *Honeyguide*

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0PX  
Telephone: 01603 300552 evenings & weekends  
www.honeyguide.co.uk E-mail: honeyguide@tesco.net



**Spring in the Spanish Pyrenees  
9 – 18 May 2006**

**Spring in the Spanish Pyrenees**  
**9 – 18 May 2006**

**Participants**

Mike Price  
Mary Price

Pauline Collinson  
Gordon Collinson

Colin Ward  
Anne Edwards

With the group briefly:  
Robin and Anne Law

**Leaders**

Chris and Maureen Gibson

Report by Maureen and Chris Gibson

*Illustrations by Rob Hume. Front cover: lammergeier*

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, 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 £25 per person (including from Robin and Law) was supplemented by gift aid through the new Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, rounded up to a total of €360 (£257). This donation, plus that from our Extremadura holiday, brings the total given to SEO since the first Honeyguide holiday in Spain in 1991 to £10,320 (€14,448).

The total conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was at £42,235 (roughly €59,100) at the end of summer 2006.

**SPRING IN THE SPANISH PYRENEES**  
**9-18 MAY 2006**  
**Chris & Maureen Gibson**

**Tuesday 9 May: The way there...**

An early afternoon flight from Stansted brought us to Pau by teatime, the first time we have used this airport for this trip. Compared with Bilbao it was a shorter journey and certainly very impressive scenically, from the natural majesty of the Pic du Midi to the man-made spectacle of the 7 km long Somport tunnel, a mesmerising masterpiece of lights. And before long we were glimpsing Berdún on the skyline, a welcome sight from any direction, before negotiating the bends and narrow street, a welcome from our hosts John and Viv, unpacking and heading off for the first of many satisfying meals at Emilio's.

**Wednesday 10 May: Rio Veral, Rio Aragón and Martés tip**

After feasting on fresh-baked croissants from the village bakery, we met in the churchyard at 9.15, for our first real taste of Berdún's bird life – assorted hirundines, house, not Spanish, sparrows, spotless starlings and serin. A hoopoe 'hooped' from a nearby rooftop, nightingales sang from the scrub down the hill, and everyone managed close views of a handsome male black redstart perched directly below us on one of the many decorative streetlights.

Pausing for a moment while others returned to their rooms for hats and sunscreen (it was already hotting up nicely), some saw three grey herons flying over, high and purposeful, travelling north, a welcome sign that migration was not all over. And then down onto the lunar-type landscape of the Badlands, where it was the plants which grabbed our attention – early spider and lady orchids, beautiful flax and blue aphyllanthes, all set against the backdrop of Berdún broom, barberry, box and the stunning pink shrubby rest-harrow.

Griffon vultures were gradually getting up and drifting over in ones and twos, joining forces with the red and black kites which were already becoming familiar fare, and bee-eaters called as they flew over. Melodious warblers gave us good views of their peaked crowns, singing from several bushes, and a pair of stonechats chased about. Down at the Rio Veral, golden orioles were heard but not seen in the poplars, though an Egyptian vulture showed itself off to everyone as it circled lazily overhead.

The meadow in the valley bottom proved an oasis of cool now that the sun was up to full strength, and a grass snake was spotted taking advantage of some shade, alongside several flowering spikes of white helleborine. But lunch was calling, so a hot trek back up the hill was punctuated only by pauses to admire the shrubby gromwell, like tiny blue bonsai trees, and a basking Egyptian locust.

Due to Emilio's rather large lunch, and the by now intense heat, we decided to take the minibus down to the Rio Aragón (rather than walk there and back), stopping off *en route* to wander among the old barns, scanning the wires for obliging woodchat shrikes and trying (unsuccessfully!) to coax the quail out of the long grass by mimicking its 'wet-my-lips' call. Pauline showed early on her prowess with a butterfly net, bagging both Moroccan and common orange-tip for closer inspection. These stops also afforded magnificent views back to Berdún, basking in the sun yet with snow-capped peaks as a dramatic backdrop.

Having met us down at the bridge, Viv was able to show us some military orchids, not yet fully out, and sword-leaved helleborines which were. She then led the way to the salubrious locality of the rubbish tip at Martés, although we couldn't resist stopping on the way to admire a party of feeding bee-eaters. And looking skyward we discovered not one but two lammergeiers drifting effortlessly round and round just above our heads! The best views ever even for the leaders. On to the tip where the ravens took off on our approach, leaving two Egyptian vultures sitting in a sea of blue plastic carrier bags. Leaving the tip we were once more stopped by good views of a male red-backed shrike, then eventually on to Viv's special site, along farm tracks only just passable by our brand-new minibus! Sadly the tulips were almost over, as were the Pyrenean snake's-heads, but several burnt-tip orchids, yellow mounds of Spanish gorse, and brilliant blue stars of purple gromwell



made some amends, and the attractive grass-leaved iris (not a species we had noticed here before) confirmed our feelings that the season was at least two weeks more advanced than expected.

Back to base, a brief freshen up, and into the first of our regular evening meetings, held in the cool of the library. A run through of today's highlights, a word about plans and hopes for tomorrow, and it was off to Emilio's for dinner.

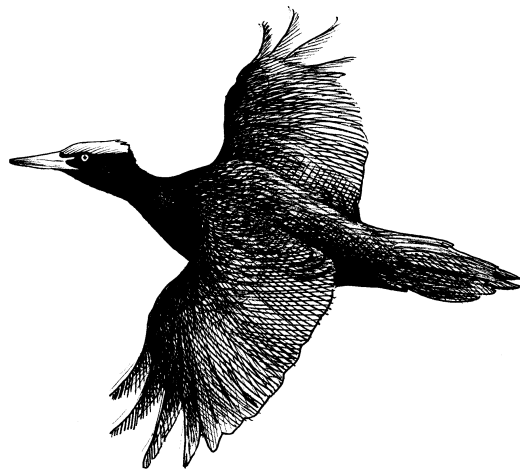
#### **Thursday 11 May: St Juan de la Peña and Oroel**

Those who managed it out for an early morning walk around Berdún were amply rewarded by a fly-over party of 12 bee-eaters, along with the regular serins (almost deafening in their exuberance on the northern slopes), firecrests, nightingales, hoopoe and blue rock thrush.

After breakfast, into the minibus and eastwards. First port of call was at Santa Cruz de la Seros, nestled at the foot of the mountain St Juan de la Peña. Lots of fairly tasteful building work was going on round the church, the new buildings in original style with decorative chimneys. After last night's deluge, swallows and house martins were frantically collecting wet mud from puddle edges for their nests, before the hot sun dried them out again. On our walk up the hill, hepatica was everywhere, a singing Bonelli's warbler was eventually pinned down, and a Duke of Burgundy 'fritillary' basked in the sunshine. Back down at the church, a crag martin sat preening on a ledge, the 'scope allowing close study of this pretty greyish martin. Then back to the minibus and our first encounter with the road gangs, who were out in force all over the Pyrenees, repairing the roads after the long icy winter; up the hairpin road to the lower monastery, stopping to take in the views over the wooded hills, across the plain and ultimately to the snow-clad high peaks beyond.

A walk through the dripping wooded valley produced the only fly orchid of the holiday, and our first distant views of a hovering short-toed eagle, while the diverse mixed woodland echoed with the songs of blackcap, song thrush and several other birds. Cliffs by the road have become colonised by a wide range of rock plants, including saxifrages and rock petrocotis, and the display of flowering white asphodels was most dramatic.

Ever upward to the new monastery at the top, we found a pair of crested tits excavating a dead tree in preparation for nest building. Then after lunch we turned our attention to the flora: even the grassland round the monastery was teeming with grape hyacinths and green-winged orchids. Heads down, bottoms up, peering into the grass, we were approached by a party of Germans, the leader apparently saying "Let's ask the English what these plants are – they'll know!" (thanks to Anne for the translation!). Field crickets, always vociferous here, were for once mobile and visible, several scuttling through the grass and rewarding Chris with a sharp nip when he picked one up. Along the wood edge, we disturbed a black woodpecker, flying into the wood and showing its characteristic silhouette on a trunk to a few of us, before silently disappearing.



Up to the hermitage, by now the sun was hot, huge clouds were building, lizards were basking and the orange hindwing of a hummingbird hawkmoth matched perfectly the orange stamens of the spikes of white asphodel it was visiting. Sadly, the rock daffodils were almost over, just a few solitary flowers in good enough condition for us to fill our lungs with their delicate, heady fragrance. But the views of the 'blue remembered hills' fading into the southern skyline were stunning, as always.

Gradually we wound our way back to the bus, stopping for an ice cream and to pat Hector the dog – a number of the group were clearly missing their mutts! Having a minibus then allowed us to explore the mysterious and dramatic mountain of Oroel, although the switchback, bumpy road up to the top was not the most comfortable drive for all our passengers! Although we saw little here which we had not seen earlier, apart from Solomon's-seal, spring pea and some huge wood ants' nests, the sense of tranquillity and stunning views from the *mirador* made it a worthwhile diversion. Heading homeward, near Berdún, we once again turned off the road, and down a farm track to the frog pond. It was alive with croaking until we approached too close,

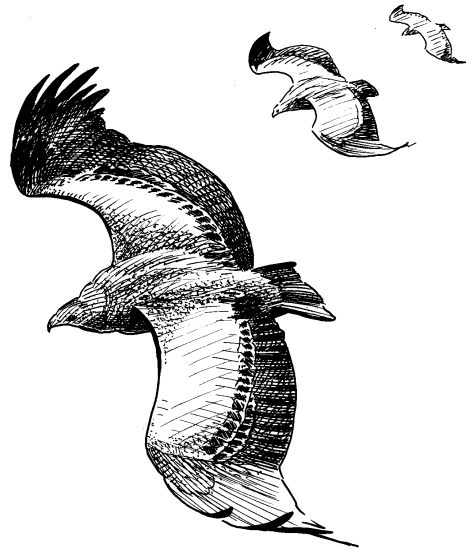
but with a little patience we all had views of the green Iberian water frogs, the local form of the more widespread marsh frog.

If anything it was hotter than ever walking across to Emilio's: two quail each served with chips was the surprising, but delicious, main course (Viv later assured us that they were farmed, not wild!) while a spectacular thunderstorm captured on camera by Chris from the western lookout provided the after-dinner entertainment.

### Friday 12 May: Riglos and Agüero

Today we were joined by two other Honeyguiders: Robin and Anne, staying in the nearby village of Santa Cilia, met us in Berdún and drove in tandem with us to Riglos. Only a few of us saw a beautiful male rock thrush executing a flamboyant display flight at the side of the road. Our first stop was at the Peña reservoir, where good views were obtained of both rock sparrow, singing continuously from overhead wires, and cirl bunting in a small tree on the water's edge. The flowers were outstanding – a whole sheet of *Ramonda* in full flower on a rock face, Pyrenean bluebell, the delicate pink Pyrenean rock-rose, and rosettes of Pyrenean saxifrage, although only a couple of which were in flower.

As we approached Riglos, the vultures were up and about, and a short stop produced our first real 'stack' of griffons, all circling together in the warm sunshine. As we watched, a kestrel flew past with a rather flittery flight: it didn't look quite right, and was confirmed by Chris to be a lesser.



At last to Riglos, and after parking up we set off to the drama of the cliffs, only to pass a (new) empty car park much closer to the centre of the village. After a false start or two we got on the track towards the natural amphitheatre, formed by the former sea cliffs, marking the southernmost extent of the Pyrenees, looking all the way for today's speciality. We didn't locate it until almost entering the semi-enclosed area, but there it was – black wheatear! Actually on the rock face, then up it went, its white rump resplendent against its blackness. Beautiful! Mission accomplished, we stopped for lunch then, and Mike relocated it and a second bird, perched quietly on a rock in the sun for all to see. The bird Robin most wanted to see on his holiday appeared next, right on cue, a terrific adult lammergeier, floating lazily along the top of the cliffs, its mud-stained, red chest plain to see, and further lunchtime treats came in the form of a small group of alpine swifts, scything and chittering their way around the rocks.

As we potted back, the heat of the day was bringing the insects out: a southern white admiral patrolled the scented Mediterranean scrub, a lovely metallic ruby-tailed wasp took a liking to Chris's hand, and black-veined white, Cleopatra and Adonis blue were added to our list across the valley at Agüero. A final stop for a view back to Riglos village nestling in below the 'fingers' was an essential photo-opportunity, despite the puzzled looks from a geology student group who were drawing the folds and faults which made up the dramatic landscape. But even here, a roadside lay-by, there were interesting plants: supporting Chris's claim that we had now entered the true Mediterranean climate zone, we found grey-leaved cistus, the prickly scrambler *Smilax*, and *Euphorbia nicaeensis*.

Another warm, sultry but clear evening, and over dinner the conversation turned to storms – Gordon, a keen cloud-watcher from his time in the forces decreed the chances of a storm tonight to be only 'marginal'. So we were quite surprised to be woken at 1.30am not only by flashing and crashing, but also, for some of us, by dripping of water – Viv's newly renovated roof not withstanding the deluge!

### Saturday 13 May: Biniés Gorge and Rio Aragón

Breakfast this morning was punctuated by a deafening thunderclap immediately overhead, followed by a torrential downpour. So we began in a more leisurely fashion today, driving the short distance to Biniés gorge in rain and mist. We took time to stop and view the river, spotting a splendid woodcock orchid on the verge;

Anne braved the elements for a photo. As the sky brightened we decided to set off, Gordon resplendent in orange waterproofs, through the ‘entrance gates’ – walls of vertical rock – and into the gorge. A blue rock thrush flirted with us from the top of the cliff, but did not show itself well, and a family of spotted flycatchers were feeding in the dripping treetops. The plants are the stars here – petrocotis, with delicate white or palest pink flowers clinging to the sheerest rock face (later confirmed in fact to be two species), *Allium moly*, with bright yellow starry flowers, and bastard balm, its leaves shiny in the wet and its white hooded flowers brightening the gloom.

As the skies continued to clear the griffons stirred, peering down at us from their ledges, and gradually coming off the cliffs on the developing upcurrents. Mike accompanied Maureen back down to get the minibus; sadly they discovered that the big brown slugs which had been feasting on their road-killed friends on the way up had themselves fallen victim to the traffic! After picking the group up we went to turn the bus round, and saw a group of 5 or 6 honey buzzards, trying to get height from the developing thermals; eventually they disappeared into the low clouds, presumably to continue on their northward migration.

We rendezvoused with Viv back at the mouth of the gorge, and followed her little Fiat up a steep and slippery track to our picnic site amongst the holm oaks. The sun came out, the wine and tortillas likewise, and so did the bugs: Chris showed everyone the tick he’d just found making a beeline for his nether regions! Once again Pauline’s butterfly net was in action, to catch a weak-flying but well-marked butterfly: it was found to be a Spanish festoon, albeit a rather worn specimen.

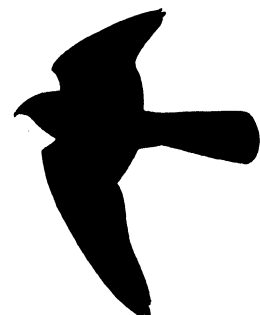
The orchid meadow once again proved a little disappointing (half eroded away, and the remainder either scrubbed over or recently flooded), so Viv offered to show us her *pièce de résistance*, a penduline tit nest, back down by the Aragón. The nest was constructed in a gap between the poplar trees, large and hanging free, and one or two of us caught a glimpse of a bird flying away. We thought that was all, but after a short wait, the male appeared near the nest, a new species for all concerned. Bee-eaters were busy in the hot sunshine, but also perching long enough for excellent views through the ‘scope. And a rest by the riverside wasn’t restful for long – a large, chestnut coloured bird flew across the river into the willows. We were stumped! After a short while it thankfully flew back and we all saw it to be a rufous-coloured cuckoo! None of us had seen one before; only the females exhibit this colour form as adults, and then only occasionally – it was the most attractive, rich chestnut colour. And so home and another sociable evening at Emilio’s.

### **Sunday 14 May: ‘Free day’ - Gabardito**

On a 10 day holiday, one half day is billed as free time, but what better thing to do at leisure than bird watching! So off we went, back towards Puente la Reina, but instead of crossing the bridge we turned off left, and set off up the Hecho valley to Hell’s Mouth! Before reaching the gorge of that name, we left the main road up the forest trail to the refuge at Gabardito, on the way up admiring both red squirrel and roe deer by the roadside. Setting off along the track, set among pine and beech woods, we met the local farmers, bringing their sheep down, who told us in French about griffon vultures feasting on a cow carcass ‘just half an hour’s walk up’. After forty minutes difficult walking up a rock-strewn path, we met an English lady with her ‘scope trained across the valley at a griffon’s nest, complete with young. In passing she mentioned that the rest of her group were further up, watching wallcreeper! Off we went, spurred on by the knowledge that a wallcreeper had been seen that morning. The Speyside Wildlife Holiday group made way for us on the narrow path, and before long our quarry flew out of the crack in the cliff face, flashing its large red wing patches and settled to preen on a rock, before flitting back across, calling, to the sheer face, where the length of its bill and soft grey head could be seen through the telescope. A new tick for most of us, and an excellent ‘extra’. But we never did find the feasting griffons – maybe half an hour loses something in translation!

We picnicked lower down by the rushing river, watching canoeists in their rubber splash skirts discussing ways of getting down the rushing rocky torrent. Then a quick drive through the Boca de Infierno, narrower than Biniés but shorter in length, and back to Berdún, for an hour or two’s rest and relaxation.

After dinner the now regular perambulation round the village turned up a giant peacock moth, on a house wall, in the warm, still evening. Conditions were at last conducive to batting, and four species were picked out with the detector from the western lookout, and while waiting in vain for a barn owl to appear from the church, we watched a nightjar feeding over the village.



### Monday 15 May: Portalet and Formigal

The early-birders re-found the moth in the same place, and Mike came in to breakfast with one hindwing and a bit of abdomen of a Spanish moon moth! Beautiful, iridescent, like a stained glass window, and on detaching the wing from the body, she was found to be full of the most beautiful peacock-blue, pearlescent eggs.

Today, a slightly longer trip up to the high Pyrenees at Portalet, a crossing into France at around 1750m altitude. We stopped on the way for a breather at the reservoir and had good views of a pair of red-backed



shrikes, atop a bush by the water's edge. From this distance, the mountain tops looked relatively snow-free, and so it proved when we got there. The snow was all but gone, the sun was unexpectedly hot, and the flowers were amazing: spring and trumpet gentians, elder-flowered orchids, Pyrenean snake's-heads, wild daffodils, and spiguel, a pretty little umbellifer, to list just a few. This remarkable blooming, better than any time previously on a Honeyguide trip, was a further reflection of the early season and rapid snowmelt; the only drawback was that early flowering species were almost (snowbell) or completely (purple mountain saxifrage) over. Lizards were out too, basking on the warm rocks, and included a few Pyrenean rock lizards, a very rare species known only from the high Pyrenees between Portalet and Ordesa, a few kilometres to the east.

Eventually we looked upwards, a few griffons were floating by, and something different – a golden eagle, an adult, lacking the diagnostic white wing patches of young birds, but unmistakable, even at this distance. Water pipits were display-fighting, wheatears and black redstarts singing from every rock. A group of alpine choughs flurried round the rocky tops, their bizarre call strangely at odds with such large black birds. A kestrel flew past, trailing something from its legs: as it turned and approached its rocky nest site we saw it was a lizard or small snake, which it transferred to its bill before landing. A few alpine marmots were out sunbathing too, flattening themselves against their rocky homes, soaking up the warmth; periodically one would rouse itself for long enough to engage in a bout of tail-flick signalling with its neighbour.

Portalet itself is being adversely affected by 'progress', despite what seems to be an increasingly unpredictable supply of snow; a newly constructed roundabout, and a huge car park are paving the way for more ski runs and disturbance up here, threatening the special-ness of this marvellous place. Was it merely a coincidence that small birds like water pipits seemed much less frequent than on previous trips?

Our lunch stop further down the valley revealed another unexpected plant - horned violet, usually flowering in late June, carpeted the slopes. A walk here also produced some magnificent displays of marsh marigolds, interspersed with butterworts and bird's-eye primrose, while a lovely male rock thrush sunning on a rock was seen by all, and once again a lammergeier floated leisurely over. Our final stop, just below Formigal, was again superb for flowers, especially elder-flowered orchids, drifts of them covering the pastures in both colour forms, together with a few intermediates – purple with a yellow centre. And for a lucky few, the only Camberwell beauty of our trip.

### Tuesday 16 May: Arbayún and Lumbier Gorges; Yesa Reservoir

The early birders took a trip down to the Rio Aragón, to catch the sunrise. Bee-eaters were once again performing brilliantly – it's lovely to watch these exotic looking birds, hawking, eating and resting. Golden orioles were once again heard in the poplars; eventually one came out and flew skywards, gaining height, flying purposefully, possibly still on migration. A wryneck was visible singing from a tree on the way back past the penduline tit's nest, as we picked our way through the puddles from last night's storm.

First stop after breakfast was at the vulture feeding station near Lumbier, where a lack of carcasses, usually brought by the local farmers, meant a total lack of birds, so we pressed on to the viewing platform at Arbayún.

Almost the first bird was an Egyptian vulture, coming in to its nest hole on the vertical gorge face. The gorge is deep and narrow, tree clad at the base, the horizontal cracks and splits home to dozens of griffons, some with young, just waiting for enough lift from the thermals to take to the skies. Once again alpine swifts were wheeling about, their whickering call catching us out again, our thoughts leaping from kestrel to wader, before realisation dawned.

Robin and Anne showed up presently – echoing the Honeyguide itinerary independently – and once again Robin's 'must see' bird appeared, a lammergeier. The second golden eagle of the holiday was more distant, while black kites floated round below us in the gorge. By now the griffons were getting up, giving magnificent views flying over our heads heading up the valley, and at the mouth of the gorge a significant 'stack' started to form - thirty or forty, wheeling round on the same rising thermal. A scan with the 'scope picked up a new bird for the holiday, a peregrine, sitting, we believe, on the same distant rock as spotted a few years ago on another Honeyguide trip!

Eventually we moved down to the Lumbier gorge. This is more accessible, and therefore busier, with locals out walking dogs, but the wildlife is still there. A nettle-tree butterfly was basking just outside the gorge entrance, a good view of this often elusive creature, and rock doves and crag martins flew just above the water. Entering the gorge a blackbird sang - or could it be a blue rock thrush? We searched in vain for visual confirmation, and surprisingly we had no sighting of blue rock thrush anywhere in the gorge, normally a very reliable site. But one song we had no trouble with was the Iberian chiffchaff – distinctly similar but clearly different to the standard European chiffchaff; riverine trees seem to be a favoured haunt of this species.

The day was hot, and so the butterflies were out, including speckled wood, Moroccan and common orange tips and brimstone. A promenading local approached with something in his hand; it was a bat! Small, obviously not well, Chris held it firmly by the scruff of its neck to give us all a close look, then lodged it in a crevice in the rocks. Its contrasting pale lower body fur and ear shape helped identify it as a Savi's pipistrelle, a poorly-known southern species, typically associated with rocky gorges.

We took lunch in what shade we could find: from their perch Chris and Maureen happened to spot a chaffinch feeding young in its nest. On through the long tunnel, seemingly not as pitch black as last time (we wondered if it had been widened to give more light?) and out into a hot meadow, which produced another unexpected plant, at least half a dozen flowering spikes of lizard orchid. Golden orioles were calling from the riverside poplars, and a precarious scramble to the Devil's Bridge defeated some of us and terrified the rest! The shade of the tunnel as we returned to the minibus was most welcome, the heat almost becoming too much, so we felt an ice cream stop at Liédena was a fitting reward. And then on to our final stop by Yesa Reservoir, where we added mirror and bee orchids, several dragonflies and an ascalaphid (splatted, but not dead, on our windscreen!) to the holiday tally.

### **Wed 17 May: Aísa**

Our last full day dawned hot, humid and hazy. We headed east to Jaca, then left onto a long winding road up to Aísa. The road gangs had got there first – this time removing the whole surface of the last 5km of road, making for a slow and bumpy ride. At last we got up to the car park at Aísa, and immediately spotted crested tits calling and feeding young in a nest hole in a dead pine tree.

Since the last Honeyguide trip here the track has been extended, negating the need for rock scrambling as previously. But as soon as we entered the hanging valley, it was clear the splendour of this wonderful place has not been compromised. And the relative lack of disturbance was demonstrated when Mike spotted two izard (southern chamois) on the nearby screes. The alpine flowers were once again stunning, with carpets of pink and blue (kidney-vetch and gentians) dotted with white and yellow, a rich, multi-layered tapestry so visually stunning that identification of its components seemed almost to devalue the experience.

But again the day was too hot for some, so after arranging a lunchtime rendezvous, we all split up for a little while, to find our optimum conditions for soaking up the magic of Aísa. Colin and Anne sped off to reach the edge of the lowest remaining snowbeds, Pauline and Gordon admired the majestic scenery from the shade of small trees and bushes, and Mike and Mary stared into the distance! Following their gaze, we saw a group of at least seven izard, including young, feeding on the lush grasses in the damp valley bottom.



Following an ant-infested lunch stop, we gradually made our way back to the bus. Looking up we spotted a bird perched on a rock – it took some time looking at its large head and top-heavy appearance, with its short, scruffy tail, before we realized it was a short-toed eagle at rest.

We took an alternative route back to avoid the roadworks, and found ourselves going higher and ever higher on well-made, but zig-zagging roads, until eventually we dropped back down into Jaca, and so home. We had a couple of hours before the pre-dinner meeting, ostensibly to allow for some packing, but the more energetic in the group set off once again down onto the Badlands, this time going down a farm track by the western lookout. While nothing new was found, they were rewarded with the best views of the week of blue rock thrush, before they were chased back up the hill by an approaching squally thunderstorm.

Viv joined us for our last meal, another convivial gathering, this time with champagne, and a discussion about everyone's favourite bit of the holiday. The evening was warm and still, and as we all had one last promenade round this magical place, we all agreed it had been a superb and memorable holiday, much enjoyed by everyone. Sadly the owls let us down – even on this, the last night, we could not connect with either barn or scops owls. Perhaps they really have deserted the area?

### **Thursday 18 May: Homeward bound...**

Our flight being late in the day meant we had a couple of hours free before leaving, and opted to return once again down to the Rio Aragón, to see if the military orchids were fully open (they were!) Although the day was dull and damp (Viv had said last night that the weather was changing, and didn't look so settled for next week's Naturetrek holiday), we added yet more species to our lists, including a couple of dramatic cream-spot tiger moths and several lesser butterfly orchids, along with some very intricately marked forms of woodcock orchid. And as we headed back to pack, a booted eagle provided a final identification challenge – while we had seen plenty in flight, this was perched, hunched and miserable-looking!

All too soon the time came for us to leave, after bidding farewell to Viv and Berdún. Emerging from the tunnel on the French side, we were met with angry clouds sitting low over the mountaintops, heavy drizzle, and a few griffons who had perhaps ventured over from the drier Spanish side. The rain continued all the way to Pau, making the journey seem interminable but easing the pain of what we were leaving behind. And before long, we were saying our goodbyes at Stansted, tired but happy!



## KEY TO LOCALITIES

B – Berdún, including the Badlands, the banks of the Veral and Aragón, Yesa, and Martés  
H – High Pyrenees (Portalet, Formigal, Aísa, Gabardito, Hecho)  
G – Gorges (Biniés, Lumbier and Arbayún)  
P – Pre-Pyrenees (San Juan de la Peña, Santa Cruz de la Serros, Oroel, Peña Reservoir, Riglos, Agüero)

### BRYOPHYTES (Mosses)

*Grimmia pulvinata* B  
*Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* B

### PTERIDOPHYTES (Ferns)

*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* Black Spleenwort H G  
*A. fontanum* G  
*A. ruta-muraria* Wall-rue B G  
*A. trichomanes* Maidenhair Spleenwort H G P  
*Ceterach officinarum* Rustyback Fern B G  
*Equisetum arvense* Field Horsetail B  
*E. telmateia* Great Horsetail P  
*E. variegatum* Variegated Horsetail B  
*Polypodium australe* Southern Polypody G  
*P. vulgare* Common Polypody H G P  
*Polystichum lonchitis* Holly Fern H  
*Pteridium aquilinum* Bracken P

### GYMNOSPERMS (Conifers)

*Abies alba* Silver Fir G P  
*Cupressus sempervirens* Cypress B G P  
*Juniperus communis* Juniper B G P  
*J. communis* ssp. *nana* H  
*J. oxycedrus* P  
*J. phoenicia* Phoenician Juniper G P  
*Pinus halepensis* Aleppo Pine P  
*P. nigra* Black Pine B H G P  
*P. pinea* Stone Pine P  
*P. sylvestris* Scots Pine B H G P  
*Taxus baccata* Yew G

### DICOTYLEDONS

#### Aceraceae

*Acer campestre* Field Maple B G P  
*A. monspessulanum* Montpellier Maple G  
*A. opalus* G

#### Anacardiaceae

*Pistachia lentiscus* Lentisc G P  
*P. terebinthus* Turpentine Tree G P

#### Apiaceae

*Bupleurum rigidum* B G  
*Conium maculatum* Hemlock B  
*Conopodium majus* Pignut P  
*Daucus carota* Wild Carrot B P  
*Eryngium campestre* Field Eryngo B G P  
*E. bourgatii* Pyrenean Eryngo H  
*Foeniculum vulgare* Fennel B P  
*Laserpitium gallicum* H  
*Meum athamanticum* Spignel H  
*Sanicula europaea* Sanicle P  
*Scandix pecten-veneris* Shepherd's-needle B  
*Selinum pyrenaicum* B G  
*Tordylium apulum* B

#### Apocynaceae

*Vinca major* Greater Periwinkle B

**Aquifoliaceae**

*Ilex aquifolium* Holly P

**Araliaceae**

*Hedera helix* Ivy B H G P

*H. hibernica* Irish Ivy G

**Aristolochiaceae**

*Aristolochia rotunda* G

**Asclepiadaceae**

*Vincetoxicum hirundinaria* Swallow-wort G

**Asteraceae**

*Achillea millefolium* Yarrow H P

*Arctium minus* Lesser Burdock G P

*Artemisia absinthium* Wormwood B P

*A. campestris* Field Southernwood B

*Asteriscus aquaticus* B G P

*Bellis perennis* Daisy B H P

*B. sylvestris* B G

*Calendula arvensis* Field Marigold B P

*C. officinalis* B

*Carduus acanthoides* Watted Thistle B

*C. carlinoides* Pyrenean Thistle H

*C. tenuiflorus* Slender Thistle B

*Carlina acaulis* Stemless Carlina-thistle H

*C. vulgaris* Carlina-thistle B H G

*Cirsium arvense* Creeping Thistle B P

*Crepis vesicaria* Beaked Hawk's-beard B P

*Filago pyramidata* Broad-leaved Cudweed B P

*Helichrysum stoechas* B G P

*Hieracium pilosella* Mouse-eared Hawkweed G

*Lactuca perennis* Blue Lettuce G

*Onopordon acanthium* Scotch Thistle B

*Pallenis spinosa* P

*Picris hieracioides* Hawkweed Ox-tongue B

*Rhagadiolus stellatus* G P

*Santolina chamaecyparissus* Lavender Cotton B G P

*Senecio vulgaris* Groundsel B P

*Silybum marianum* Milk Thistle B P

*Sonchus oleraceus* Smooth Sow-thistle B P

*Taraxacum* sp. Dandelion B H P

*T. erythrospermum* H

*Tussilago farfara* Colt's-foot H P

*Urospermum dalechampii* B G

**Berberidaceae**

*Berberis vulgaris* Barberry B G P

**Betulaceae**

*Betula pendula* Silver Birch B H G P

**Boraginaceae**

*Borago officinalis* Borage B

*Buglossoides purpureo-caerulea* Purple Gromwell B G

*Cynoglossum creticum* B G

*Echium plantagineum* Purple Viper's-bugloss B

*E. vulgare* Viper's-bugloss B G P

*Lithodora fruticosum* Shrubby Gromwell B G P

*Lithospermum arvense* Corn Gromwell B P

*Myosotis alpina* Alpine Forget-me-not H

*Symphytum officinale* Comfrey B P

**Brassicaceae**

*Aethionema saxatile* Burnt Candytuft G P

*Alliaria petiolata* Garlic Mustard G P

*Alyssum alyssoides* Small Alison B G P

*A. cuneifolium* P

*Arabis alpina* Alpine Rock-cress H G P

*A. hirsuta* Hairy Rock-cress G

*A. turrata* Towercress G P

*Biscutella didyma* P

*Brassica napus* Rape B

*Capsella bursa-pastoris* Shepherd's-purse B

*Cardamine raphanifolia* H  
*Cardaria draba* Hoary Cress B P  
*Diplotaxis muralis* Annual Wall-rocket B  
*Draba aizoides* Yellow Whitlow-grass H  
*Erysimum cheiranthoides* Treacle-mustard B  
*Iberis sempervirens* H  
*Lepidium heterophyllum* Smith's Pepperwort B P  
*Lunaria annua* Honesty B  
*Sinapis arvensis* Charlock B P  
*Sisymbrium altissimum* Tall Rocket B  
     *S. austriacum* Austrian Rocket H  
     *S. officinale* Hedge Mustard B  
*Thlaspi alpestre* Alpine Pennycress H  
**Buxaceae**  
*Buxus sempervirens* Box B H G P  
**Cactaceae**  
*Opuntia ficus-indica* Prickly-pear B P  
**Cannabaceae**  
*Humulus lupulus* Hop G  
**Caprifoliaceae**  
*Lonicera etrusca* Perfoliate Honeysuckle G  
     *L. periclymenum* Honeysuckle B  
     *L. pyrenaicum* Pyrenean Honeysuckle G  
     *L. xylosteum* Fly Honeysuckle B G P  
*Sambucus ebulus* Dwarf Elder B G P  
     *Sambucus nigra* Elder G  
*Viburnum lantana* Wayfaring Tree B G P  
     *V. opulus* Guelder-rose P  
**Caryophyllaceae**  
*Arenaria grandiflora* P  
     *A. serpyllifolia* Thyme-leaved Sandwort B  
*Cerastium alpinum* H  
     *C. arvense* Field Mouse-ear H  
     *C. fontanum* Common Mouse-ear B P  
     *C. glomeratum* Sticky Mouse-ear B  
*Dianthus pyrenaicus* P  
*Paronychia argentea* B G P  
*Petrocoptis hispanica* G  
     *P. pyrenaica* G P  
*Petrorhagia prolifera* G  
*Saponaria ocymoides* Rock Soapwort G P  
*Silene alba* White Campion B G P  
     *S. nutans* B G  
     *S. vulgaris* Bladder Campion B P  
*Stellaria media* Common Chickweed B G P  
**Celastraceae**  
*Euonymus europaeus* Spindle-tree G  
**Chenopodiaceae**  
*Chenopodium album* Fat-hen B  
     *C. bonus-henricus* Good King Henry H  
     *C. polyspermum* Many-seeded Goosefoot B  
**Cistaceae**  
*Cistus albidus* Grey-leaved Cistus P  
*Fumana ericoides* B G P  
*Helianthemum apenninum* White Rock-rose B G P  
     *H. nummularium* Common Rock-rose B G  
     *H. nummularium* ssp. *pyrenaicum* B G P  
     *H. nummularium* ssp. *tomentosum* P  
     *H. oelandicum* G P  
**Convolvulaceae**  
*Convolvulus arvensis* Field Bindweed B  
     *C. cantabricus* B G  
*Cuscuta epithimum* Dodder G P  
**Cornaceae**  
*Cornus sanguinea* Dogwood B G P  
**Corylaceae**  
*Carpinus betulus* Hornbeam P

*Corylus avellana* Hazel B G P

**Crassulaceae**

*Sedum album* White Stonecrop B  
*S. dasyphyllum* Thick-leaved Stonecrop B G P  
*S. reflexum* Rock Stonecrop G P

*Sempervivum montanum* H  
*Umbilicus rupestris* Navelwort G P

**Cucurbitaceae**

*Bryonia dioica* White Bryony B Bi R L

**Cuscutaceae**

*Cuscuta epithymum* Dodder B

**Dipsacaceae**

*Dipsacus fullonum* Teasel B

**Ericaceae**

*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* Bearberry P  
*Vaccinium myrtillus* Bilberry P

**Euphorbiaceae**

*Euphorbia amygdaloides* Wood Spurge B G P  
*E. chamaebuxus* Pyrenean Spurge B G  
*E. characias* B P  
*E. flavicoma* H  
*E. helioscopia* Sun Spurge B  
*E. lathyris* Caper Spurge B  
*E. nicaeensis* P  
*E. serrata* B G P

**Fabaceae**

*Anthyllis montana* Mountain Kidney-vetch H  
*A. vulneraria* ssp. *forondae* Kidney Vetch H P  
*A. vulneraria* ssp. *pyrenaica* H G P  
*A. vulneraria* ssp. *vulnerarioides* P

*Argyrobium zanonii* G  
*Astragalus monspessulanus* Montpellier Milk-vetch B G P  
*A. sempervirens* Mountain Tragacanth H

*Cercis siliquastrum* Judas Tree B P  
*Colutea arborescens* Bladder Senna B G  
*Coronilla emerus* Scorpion Vetch B G  
*C. scorpioides* P

*Dorycnium hirsutum* G  
*D. pentaphyllum* B G P

*Echinopartium horridum* P  
*Genista hispanica* Spanish Gorse B G P  
*G. scorpius* B G P

*Hippocrepis comosa* Horseshoe Vetch B H G P  
*Laburnum anagyroides* Laburnum B  
*Lathyrus bauhini* G  
*L. filiformis* G  
*L. montanus* Bitter Vetch P  
*L. setifolius* P  
*L. vernus* Spring Pea P

*Lotus alpinus* H  
*L. corniculatus* Bird's-foot-trefoil B P

*Medicago arabica* Spotted Medick B G  
*M. lupulina* Black Medick B P  
*M. minima* Bur Medick G  
*M. sativa* Lucerne B  
*M. suffruticosa* H

*Onobrychis supina* B G  
*O. viciifolia* Sainfoin B P

*Ononis fruticosa* Shrubby Rest-harrow B G  
*Oxytropis campestris* Meadow Milk-vetch B  
*O. pyrenaica* H

*Psoralea bituminosa* Pitch Trefoil B P  
*Robinia pseudacacia* False Acacia B P  
*Spartium junceum* Spanish Broom P  
*Tetragonolobus maritimus* Dragon's-teeth B  
*Trifolium alpinum* Alpine Clover H  
*T. pratense* Red Clover G

*T. repens* White Clover B  
*Vicia cracca* Tufted Vetch B G P  
*V. pyrenaica* Pyrenean Vetch H  
*V. sativa* Common Vetch B P  
*V. sepium* Bush Vetch P  
*V. villosa* Fodder Vetch B

#### **Fagaceae**

*Fagus sylvatica* Beech H P  
*Quercus coccifera* Kermes Oak B G P  
*Q. ilex* Holm Oak B G P  
*Q. petraea* Sessile Oak H P  
*Q. pubescens* Downy Oak G  
*Q. pyrenaica* Pyrenean Oak G P

#### **Fumariaceae**

*Corydalis solida* H  
*Fumaria officinalis* Fumitory B P

#### **Gentianaceae**

*Blackstonia perfoliata* Yellow-wort B G  
*Gentiana acaulis* Trumpet Gentian H  
*G. verna* Spring Gentian H

#### **Geraniaceae**

*Erodium cicutarium* Common Stork's-bill B G P  
*E. malacoides* B P  
*Geranium lucidum* Shining Crane's-bill G  
*G. molle* Dove's-foot Crane's-bill B G P  
*G. purpureum* Little-Robin B G  
*G. pusillum* Small-flowered Crane's-bill B  
*G. robertianum* Herb-Robert B G P  
*G. rotundifolium* Round-leaved Crane's-bill B  
*G. sanguineum* Bloody Crane's-bill P

#### **Gesneriaceae**

*Ramonda myconi* G P

#### **Globulariaceae**

*Globularia cordifolia* B G  
*G. punctata* B G P  
*G. repens* H P

#### **Juglandaceae**

*Juglans regia* Walnut B P

#### **Lamiaceae**

*Acinos alpinus* Alpine Basil-thyme H  
*Ajuga chamaepitys* Ground-pine B  
*Horminium pyrenaicum* Dragonmouth H  
*Lamiastrum galaeobdolon* Yellow Archangel G  
*Lamium amplexicaule* Henbit Dead-nettle B P  
*L. maculatum* Spotted Dead-nettle H  
*L. purpureum* Red Dead-nettle H P  
*Lavandula angustifolia* B P  
*Marrubium vulgare* White Horehound B P  
*Melittis melissophyllum* Bastard-balm G  
*Mentha aquatica* Water Mint B  
*Phlomis lychnitis* B G P  
*Rosmarinus officinalis* Rosemary P  
*Salvia verbenaca* Wild Clary B G P  
*Stachys recta* Yellow Woundwort G P  
*Teucrium chamaedrys* Wall Germander B G  
*Thymus serpyllum* Breckland Thyme B H  
*T. vulgaris* Garden Thyme B G P

#### **Lentibulariaceae**

*Pinguicula grandiflora* Large-flowered Butterwort H  
*P. vulgaris* Butterwort H

#### **Linaceae**

*Linum narbonense* Beautiful Flax B G P  
*L. suffruticosum* Pyrenean Flax B

#### **Loranthaceae**

*Viscum album* ssp. *album* Mistletoe B G  
*V. album* ssp. *austriacum* G P

**Malvaceae**

*Malva sylvestris* Common Mallow B G  
*M. neglecta* Dwarf Mallow B P

**Moraceae**

*Ficus carica* Fig B G P

**Oleaceae**

*Fraxinus excelsior* Ash B G  
*Jasminum fruticans* Wild Jasmine B G P  
*Olea europaea* Olive P

**Onagraceae**

*Epilobium hirsutum* Hairy Willowherb B  
*E. parviflorum* Small-flowered Willowherb B

**Orobanchaceae**

*Orobanche hederæ* Ivy Broomrape G

**Papaveraceae**

*Chelidonium majus* Greater Celandine G  
*Papaver argemone* Prickly Poppy P  
*P. rhoeas* Common Poppy B P

**Plantaginaceae**

*Plantago lanceolata* Ribwort Plantain B  
*P. media* Hoary Plantain B H G P  
*P. major* Greater Plantain B G  
*P. sempervirens* B P

**Polygalaceae**

*Polygala comosa* Tufted Milkwort B G P  
*P. nicaeensis* B G P  
*P. vulgaris* Common Milkwort B

**Polygonaceae**

*Oxyria digyna* Mountain Sorrel H G  
*Polygonum aviculare* Knotgrass B P  
*Rumex crispus* Curled Dock B  
*R. obtusifolius* Broad-leaved Dock B

**Primulaceae**

*Anagallis arvensis* Scarlet Pimpernel B G P  
*Androsace villosa* H  
*Primula elatior* Oxlip H  
*P. farinosa* Bird's-eye Primrose H  
*P. hirsuta* H  
*P. veris* Cowslip H G P  
*Soldanella alpina* Alpine Snowbell H  
*Vitaliana primuliflora* Yellow Rock-jasmine H

**Ranunculaceae**

*Anemone narcissiflora* H  
*Aquilegia vulgaris* Columbine G P  
*Caltha palustris* Marsh-marigold H  
*Clematis vitalba* Traveller's-joy B G P  
*Helleborus foetidus* Stinking Hellebore B G P  
*H. viridis* Green Hellebore H  
*Hepatica nobilis* H P  
*Ranunculus acris* Meadow Buttercup H  
*R. amplexicaulis* H  
*R. gouanii* H  
*R. gramineus* G P  
*R. pyrenaicus* H  
*Thalictrum tuberosum* B G P

**Rhamnaceae**

*Rhamnus alaternus* Mediterranean Buckthorn G P  
*R. pumilus* Dwarf Buckthorn H

**Rosaceae**

*Alchemilla alpina* Alpine Lady's-mantle H  
*Amelanchier ovalis* Snowy Mespilus B H G P  
*Crataegus monogyna* Hawthorn B H G P  
*Fragaria vesca* Wild Strawberry H G P  
*Geum montanum* Alpine Avens P  
*G. sylvaticum* P  
*Malus sylvestris* Crab Apple G P  
*Potentilla micrantha* Pink Barren-strawberry P

*P. repens* Creeping Cinquefoil B G  
*P. tabernaemontani* Spring Cinquefoil B H G P  
*Prunus avium* Wild Cherry H P  
*Rosa canina* Dog Rose B H G  
*Rubus fruticosus* Bramble B G P  
*Sanguisorba minor* Salad Burnet B H G P  
*Sorbus aria* Whitebeam G P  
     *S. aucuparia* Rowan B  
     *S. torminalis* Wild Service-tree G  
*Spiraea hypericifolia* G  
**Rubiaceae**  
*Cruciata laevipes* Crosswort B P  
*Galium aparine* Cleavers B G  
     *G. mollugo* Hedge Bedstraw G  
     *G. verum* Lady's Bedstraw G  
*Rubia peregrina* Wild Madder G P  
*Sherardia arvensis* Field Madder B G P  
**Salicaceae**  
*Populus nigra* Black Poplar B G  
     *P. tremula* Aspen B  
*Salix alba* White Willow B G  
     *S. eleagnos* B  
     *S. purpurea* Purple Willow B  
     *S. pyrenaica* H  
**Santalaceae**  
*Osyris alba* G P  
**Saxifragaceae**  
*Saxifraga corbariensis* P  
     *S. granulata* Meadow Saxifrage H P  
     *S. longifolia* Pyrenean Saxifrage H G P  
     *S. oppositifolia* Purple Mountain Saxifrage H  
     *S. tridactylites* Rue-leaved Saxifrage H G  
**Scrophulariaceae**  
*Antirrhinum majus* Snapdragon B G P  
*Chaenorhinum organifolium* B G  
*Cymbalaria muralis* Ivy-leaved Toadflax B  
*Linaria purpurea* Purple Toadflax B G  
     *L. supina* Prostrate Toadflax H G  
*Pedicularis sylvatica* Lousewort H  
*Rhinanthus minor* Yellow Rattle B H P  
*Scrophularia canina* B  
*Verbascum sinuatum* P  
*Veronica austriaca* Large Speedwell B  
     *V. fruticans* H  
     *V. hederifolia* Ivy-leaved Speedwell B  
     *V. persica* Common Field Speedwell B  
     *V. teucrium* H  
**Simaroubaceae**  
*Ailanthus altissima* Tree-of-heaven B  
**Solanaceae**  
*Hyoscyamus niger* Henbane B  
*Solanum dulcamara* Bittersweet B G  
**Thymelaeaceae**  
*Daphne laureola* Spurge-laurel P  
     *D. laureola* ssp. *philippii* H  
     *D. mezereum* Mezereon H  
**Tiliaceae**  
*Tilia cordata* Small-leaved Lime G P  
     *T. platyphyllos* Large-leaved Lime G  
**Ulmaceae**  
*Ulmus minor* Elm B G  
**Urticaceae**  
*Parietaria judaica* Pellitory-of-the-wall G P  
*Urtica dioica* Stinging Nettle B G P  
**Valerianaceae**  
*Centranthus ruber* Red Valerian B  
*Valeriana dioica* Marsh Valerian G



*V. globularifolia* G P

### **Violaceae**

*Viola cornuta* Horned Pansy H  
*V. odorata* Sweet Violet G P  
*V. pyrenaica* Pyrenean Violet H P  
*V. riviniana* Common Dog-violet P

### **Vitidaceae**

*Vitis vinifera* Grape-vine G

## **MONOCOTYLEDONS**

### **Amaryllidaceae**

*Narcissus minor* H  
*N. pseudonarcissus* ssp. *pseudonarcissus* H  
*N. rupicola* Rock Daffodil H P

### **Araceae**

*Arum italicum* Italian Lords-and-ladies G

### **Cyperaceae**

*Cladium mariscus* Saw-sedge B  
*Schoenus nigricans* Black Bog-rush B  
*Scirpus holoschoenus* Round-headed Club-rush B

### **Dioscoreaceae**

*Tamus communis* Black Bryony G

### **Iridaceae**

*Iris germanica* Purple Iris P  
*I. graminea* B  
*I. pseudacorus* Yellow Flag B

### **Juncaceae**

*Juncus effusus* Soft Rush B  
*J. inflexus* Hard Rush B  
*Luzula campestris* Field Woodrush H P  
*L. spicata* H  
*L. sylvatica* Greater Woodrush P

### **Liliaceae**

*Allium moly* G  
*A. roseum* Rose Garlic P  
*Aphyllanthes monspeliensis* Blue Aphyllanthes B G P  
*Asparagus acutifolius* G  
*Asphodelus albus* White Asphodel H G P  
*Convallaria majalis* Lily-of-the-valley P  
*Fritillaria pyrenaica* Pyrenean Snake's-head B H  
*Hyacinthus amethystinus* Pyrenean Bluebell B G P  
*Muscari comosum* Tassel Hyacinth B G P  
*M. neglectum* Grape-hyacinth B G P  
*Ornithogalum pyrenaicum* Bath Asparagus G  
*O. umbellatum* Star-of-Bethlehem P  
*Polygonatum odoratum* Solomon's Seal P  
*Ruscus aculeatus* Butcher's-broom G P  
*Scilla liliohyacinthus* Pyrenean Squill H  
*S. verna* Spring Squill H  
*Tulipa sylvestris* Wild Tulip B P  
*Veratrum album* White False-helleborine H

### **Orchidaceae**

*Anacamptis pyramidalis* Pyramidal Orchid G  
*Cephalanthera damasonium* White Helleborine B  
*C. longifolia* Sword-leaved Helleborine B  
*Dactylorhiza majalis* Broad-leaved Marsh-orchid H  
*D. sambucina* Elder-flowered Orchid H P  
*Himantoglossum hircinum* Lizard Orchid G  
*Listera ovata* Common Twayblade P  
*Ophrys apifera* Bee Orchid B G  
*O. insectifera* Fly Orchid P  
*O. scolopax* Woodcock Orchid B G  
*O. speculum* Mirror Orchid B  
*O. sphegodes* Early Spider-orchid B G P

*Orchis mascula* Early Purple-orchid H G P  
*O. militaris* Military Orchid B  
*O. morio* var. *picta* Green-winged Orchid P  
*O. purpurea* Lady Orchid B G  
*O. ustulata* Burnt Orchid B  
*Platanthera bifolia* Lesser Butterfly-orchid B  
*P. chlorantha* Greater Butterfly-orchid B P

**Poaceae** (very incomplete)

*Aegilops ovata* P  
*Anthoxanthum odoratum* Sweet Vernal-grass B  
*Arundo donax* Giant Reed B P  
*Bromus sterilis* Barren Brome B  
*B. tectorum* Drooping Brome B  
*Catapodium rigidum* Fern-grass B  
*Dactylis glomerata* Cock's-foot B  
*Deschampsia cespitosa* Tufted Hair-grass B  
*Hordeum murinum* Wall Barley B  
*Melica uniflora* Wood Melick G P  
*Phragmites australis* Common Reed B  
*Poa annua* Annual Meadow-grass B  
*P. compressa* Flattened Meadow-grass B  
*P. pratensis* Smooth Meadow-grass B

**Smilacaceae**

*Smilax aspera* P

**Typhaceae**

*Typha latifolia* Greater Reedmace B

**LICHENS**

*Cladonia foliacea* B P  
*Ramalina* sp. G  
*Rhizocarpon geographicum* H  
*Usnea* sp. P

**MAMMALS**

**(including droppings and other signs)**

Northern Mole H P (hills)  
European Free-tailed Bat B  
Serotine B  
Long-eared Bat B  
Daubenton's Bat B  
Pipistrelle B  
Savi's Pipistrelle G  
Red Squirrel H  
Alpine Marmot H  
Snow Vole H (runs)  
Brown Hare B  
Pine Marten P (droppings)  
Stone Marten B (droppings)

Wild Boar H P (rootings)

Roe Deer H

Izard H

**AMPHIBIANS**

Iberian Water Frog B G P

Common Frog H

**REPTILES**

Iberian Wall Lizard B H G P

Common Wall Lizard H

Pyrenean Rock Lizard H

Green Lizard B

Grass Snake B

Viperine Snake G

## BUTTERFLIES

Grizzled Skipper H G  
Alpine Grizzled Skipper H  
Dingy Skipper G P  
Swallowtail B G P  
Scarce Swallowtail B G P  
Spanish Festoon B  
Large White B G P  
Small White B P  
Wood White B G P  
Black-veined White B G P  
Bath White B  
Orange-tip B G P  
Moroccan Orange-tip B G P  
Clouded Yellow B H G P  
Pale Clouded Yellow B G  
Brimstone B H G P  
Cleopatra B G P  
Comma B(caterpillars)  
Camberwell Beauty H  
Red Admiral B H P  
Southern White Admiral P  
Small Tortoiseshell B H  
Painted Lady B H G P  
Violet Fritillary G  
Spanish Fritillary G  
Heath Fritillary B  
Nettle-tree Butterfly G  
Marbled White B P  
Wall B G P  
Bright-eyed Ringlet H  
Speckled Wood B G P  
Duke of Burgundy P  
Common Blue B G P  
Chalkhill Blue B  
Green-underside Blue B G  
Adonis Blue G P  
Baton Blue G  
Small Blue H  
Brown Argus P  
Small Copper B P

## MOTHS

*Zygaena lavanduli* B  
*Adela reaumurilla* G  
*Yponomeuta cagnagella* G  
*Metaxmeste phrygialis* H  
Spanish Moon Moth B P  
Giant Peacock Moth B G  
Pine Processionary Moth B H G P  
Fox Moth B  
Common Wave B  
Brimstone Moth B  
Lime-speck Pug B

Common Heath B P  
Latticed Heath G P  
Yellow Belle B P  
*Psodos quadrifaria* H  
Brown-tail G(caterpillars)  
Cream-spot Tiger B  
Hummingbird Hawk-moth B G P  
Pine Hawk-moth H  
Bedstraw Hawk-moth G(caterpillars)  
Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth G  
Heart and Dart B  
Burnet Companion B G P  
Silver-y B P

## OTHER INVERTEBRATES

*Arion ater* - a large black slug H P  
*Gryllus campestris* Field Cricket B G P  
*Oedipoda coerulescens* Blue-winged Grasshopper B  
*O. germanica* Red-winged Grasshopper B P  
*Anacridium aegyptiacum* Egyptian Locust B  
*Blatta orientalis* Common Cockroach B  
*Orthetrum cancellatum* Black-tailed Skimmer B  
*Crocothemis erythraea* Scarlet Darter B  
*Sympetrum striolatum* Common Darter B  
*Ischnura elegans* Blue-tailed Damselfly B  
*Libelloides coccajus* - an ascalaphid B  
*Coccus ilicis* - a gall insect on Kermes Oak B G P  
*Eurydema dominulus* - a brassica bug B  
*Aquarius najas* - a large pond skater B G  
*Hydrometra stagnorum* Water-measurer B  
*Cercopis vulnerata* - a large bright froghopper G  
*Corizus hyoscyami* - a red and black bug P  
*Lygaeus saxatilis* - another red and black bug H  
*Pyrrhocoris apterus* Fire Bug B P  
*Coreus marginatus* Squash Bug B G P  
*Phytomyza ilicis* Holly Leaf-miner P  
*Bombylius major* Bee-fly B G  
*Cicindela campestris* Green Tiger-beetle B  
*C. germanica* - a tiger-beetle P  
*Carabus nemoralis* - a ground-beetle B G  
*Agapanthium* sp. - a longhorn beetle P  
*Dorcadion scopolii* - a longhorn beetle H  
*Trichodes alvearius* - a red and blue hairy beetle B  
*Timarcha tenebricosa* Bloody-nosed Beetle H G  
*Blaps mucronatus* Churchyard Beetle B  
*Cetonia aurata* Rose Chafer B  
*Oxythyrea funesta* - a flower chafer B P  
*Xylocopa violacea* Violet Carpenter-bee B G P  
*Chrysis ignita* - a ruby-tailed wasp B  
*Messor barbara* - a large ant B  
*Formica rufa* Wood Ant P  
*Polistes* sp. - a paper wasp B

## BIRDS

Great Crested Grebe - Yesa and Peña Reservoirs  
Grey Heron  
Little Egret - near Pau  
Mallard  
Honey Buzzard - migrating groups over Biniés and Portalet  
Black Kite  
Red Kite  
Lammergeier - seen most days, better views and more regularly than on any previous trip  
Egyptian Vulture  
Griffon Vulture - numerous, and ever-present, the motif for the holiday  
Short-toed Eagle  
Marsh Harrier - one by the Aragón  
Common Buzzard  
Golden Eagle - Portalet, Arbayún  
Booted Eagle  
Kestrel  
Lesser Kestrel - one, south of Riglos  
Peregrine - Arbayún  
Red-legged Partridge - Berdún  
Quail - Berdún  
Common Sandpiper  
Yellow-legged Gull  
Rock Dove - Biniés, Lumbier  
Feral Pigeon  
Woodpigeon  
Collared Dove  
Turtle Dove  
Cuckoo  
Nightjar - Berdún  
Swift  
Alpine Swift - Arbayún and Riglos  
Bee-eater  
Hoopoe  
Great Spotted Woodpecker  
Black Woodpecker - St Juan de la Peña and Gabardito  
Wryneck - by the Aragón  
Crested Lark  
Woodlark - by the Aragón  
Skylark  
Sand Martin - by the Aragón  
Crag Martin  
Swallow  
House Martin  
Tree Pipit - Formigal  
Water Pipit  
Spanish Wagtail - by the Aragón  
Grey Wagtail  
White Wagtail  
Dipper - Biniés and Hecho  
Wren  
Dunnock

Robin  
Nightingale  
Black Redstart  
Stonechat  
Northern Wheatear  
Black Wheatear - Riglos  
Rock Thrush - near Riglos, and above Formigal  
Blue Rock Thrush  
Blackbird  
Song Thrush - by the Aragón  
Mistle Thrush - St Juan de la Peña  
Cetti's Warbler  
Reed Warbler - one by the Veral  
Melodious Warbler - Berdún and Lumbier  
Sardinian Warbler - Riglos  
Garden Warbler  
Blackcap  
Bonelli's Warbler - St Juan de la Peña and Lumbier  
Chiffchaff  
Iberian Chiffchaff - Lumbier  
Firecrest  
Spotted Flycatcher - Biniés  
Penduline Tit - a pair with nest by the Aragón  
Long-tailed Tit  
Crested Tit - St Juan de la Peña and Aísa, nests found at both sites  
Coal Tit  
Blue Tit  
Great Tit  
Nuthatch - St Juan de la Peña  
Wallcreeper - Gabardito  
Trecreeper - Gabardito  
Short-toed Trecreeper - St Juan de la Peña  
Golden Oriole  
Red-backed Shrike  
Woodchat Shrike  
Jay  
Magpie  
Alpine Chough - Portalet  
Red-billed Chough  
Jackdaw  
Carrion Crow  
Raven  
Starling - Pau  
Spotless Starling  
House Sparrow  
Rock Sparrow  
Chaffinch  
Serin  
Greenfinch  
Goldfinch  
Linnet  
Cirl Bunting  
Corn Bunting

