Honeyguide FE HOLI WI LDLI \mathbf{D} \mathbf{A}

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



French Pyrenees 10 – 17 June 2005

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Participants	
Nicholas Armfelt	Cornwall
George Shutter	Cornwall
John Horder Claire Horder	Kent
Geoff Pears Barbara Pears	Colchester
Sue Burge Peter Burge	Oxford
Humphrey Kay Sallie Kay	Wiltshire
Robin McKeown	Australia
Helen Crowder Malcolm Crowder	Norwich

<u>Leaders</u> Chris and Maureen Gibson

Dovercourt, Essex

Illustrations by Rob Hume, except field cricket by Maureen Gibson. Front cover: trumpet gentians Report written by Maureen and Chris Gibson, and we're very pleased to include an additional report written by Nicholas Armfelt on butterflies seen by the four who stayed on for a further week.

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 was supplemented by gift aid through the new Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust and combined with the contribution the group in Dordogne for the 'Refuge LPO' project, leading to a total of €1220 (£872) given to La Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO, the French Bird Protection League).

This brings the total given to LPO to $\pounds 8,472$ since 1991, and to various conservation projects until this year entirely in Europe to $\pounds 38,645$. A thank-you letter from LPO is usually included but this hadn't been received when the report was printed.

FRENCH PYRÉNÉES 10 - 17 JUNE 2005 Leaders: Chris and Maureen Gibson

Friday 10 June – the way there...

An early start on a lovely summer day in England, most of the group gathered easily and sociably at Stansted (many were old 'Honeyguiders'), followed by a smooth and efficient flight courtesy of Ryanair, made all the sweeter by generous donations of Nicholas's maltesers, 'two at a time'. In no time at all we were in Pau. It was still sunny, a hot 28°C, and a kestrel and two black kites were spotted even before we left the plane. And then the final arrival challenge: Robin, meeting us at Pau from Australia via Turkey was there waiting.

The two minibuses loaded, the journey up to the distant snow-topped Pyrénées was punctuated by black kites, and, through the towns, collared doves and swifts. After Lourdes, it became a steady climb, with spectacular views at every turn. On arrival at Gèdre, serins were singing in spite of a strong, hot, wind, and Chris allowed us all a generous 45 minutes' unpacking and recuperation interval before a walk round the village was ordered. This hectic schedule persisted for the entire week!

While the group assembled, we watched griffon vultures and a lammergeier, that wonderful icon of the Pyrénées, from the hotel terrace, and drank in the splendour of the scenery. The Brèche de Roland, lending its name to the hotel, and all the high peaks was clearly visible, quite a contrast from last year when the full beauty of our surroundings wasn't revealed until half way through the trip. Views and vultures, not a recipe for a fast walk, and it became even slower when we came upon the multitude of meadow plants in every piece of roadside grassland. Greater yellow-rattle and bladder campion, dusky crane's-bill, clovers, vetches and buttercups, and many more presented a kaleidoscope of colour, soon to become one of the abiding images of our trip.

Some of the fields in the village were already being cut, in spite of us being a week earlier than some years, but as usual the sloping meadow just across the 'dipper' bridge reminded us of how a meadow should look: scabious, meadow vetching, the beautiful pink kidney vetch and a large swathe of vipers bugloss, the last being

visited by a hummingbird hawk-moth. Insects in general were numerous: red-underwing skipper, lesser purple emperor, scarce swallowtail and common blue butterflies, to take just a few examples. A resting ascalaphid was a real treat to see; usually in the heat of the day they zip about too fast to be seen properly, but this one offered great photo opportunities before closing its wings and descending down a stem into the vegetation for the night. And so we wandered back too, the field crickets (*right*) still calling in the evening warmth, and still enough light to spot the patch of the local speciality, ramonda, in the dark gorge by the hotel.

Our appetites for wildlife whetted, it was time to satisfy more basic desires in the shape of the first of many excellent meals provided by Philippe and Odile.

Saturday 11 June – Barrage and Lac des Gloriettes



Saturday dawned bright and sunny, the light on the Brèche revealing surprisingly little snow. As we assembled on the patio at the front of the hotel, an incredibly ragged grey heron flapped past, serins sang and we all slapped on the Factor 30. We broke the short journey up to the dam at Gloriettes to survey the roadside meadows in the Héas Valley, rich in a huge variety of montane flowers and the various insects dependent on them: pignut, with chimney-sweeper moth, and horseshoe vetch, food plant of several blue butterfly species. With several moth and butterfly experts in the group, and at least four nets between us, the lepidoptera list began in earnest: grizzled, large grizzled and chequered skippers, heath and false heath fritillaries, purple edged copper and the first of many Lefebvre's ringlets, one of the commonest species during the week. Eventually we continued towards the dam, only to be stopped in our tracks by a sea of woolly sheep washing round both sides of the minibuses, sheepdogs and farmhands following behind. After parking below the impressive barrage, we set off slowly up the road, a real treat, the rocky slopes covered with alpenrose, a low-growing rhododendron, the air scented with wild thyme, and a black redstart singing from its rocky perch. The plants continued: livelong saxifrage, Pyrenean hyacinth, crosswort, globe-flower, swallow-wort, and large stands of the most common orchid here, broad-leaved marsh orchid, contrasting with the diminutive but exquisite black vanilla orchid. Narcissus-flowered anemone was seen to great advantage, its hairy stems and delicate white flowers backlit against the dark mountainside.

The bells round the sheeps' necks were getting louder – after a mineral feed they were being driven up the road, but had to be cajoled past us, frightened, it transpired, by our collection of white or pale-coloured sunhats! Lunch was enjoyed in what shade we could find, an immature golden eagle floated past, showing its white wing patches, and a rock thrush, silhouetted against the sky, serenaded us with its blackbird-like song.

The afternoon walk round the reservoir produced our first encounter with alpine marmots, their oystercatcherlike calls carrying across the valley. We continued round, in increasingly heavy showers, adding spiky mounds of white asphodel, Pyrenean eryngo and stemless carline thistle, burnt-tip and greater butterfly orchids to the list. Also plenty of fritillaries here, but all that we examined proved to be pearl-bordered, along with blackveined white butterfly and black-veined moth, both incredibly rare species back home.

Our final port of call was a brief stop to look at the road verges and cuttings by the bridge in the valley. Sword-leaved and violet helleborines were growing under the shade of hazel trees, and clinging to the rocks was an array of saxifrages, including several impressive flowering rosettes of *Saxifraga cotyledon*, albeit looking a little sad in the now-heavy rain.

After dinner, the weather had improved, so we decided to visit the 'dipper bridge' with an array of bat detectors. They did not disappoint, with at least three species making feeding forays along the river, in large numbers.

Sunday 12 June - Gavarnie

This morning's drive took us through the Chaos de Coumély (an aptly named jumble of fallen boulders), alongside a rushing mountain stream and up to the small tourist resort of Gavarnie, with the magnificent cirque as its dramatic backdrop. Just out of the vans and two lammergeiers were spotted, circling lazily along the ridge, before we set off alongside the river towards the snow-topped cirque. Grey wagtails and dippers were busy along the river, while the plants were again meadow specialities: greater yellow-rattle, greater burnet-saxifrage, the small but beautiful fairy foxglove, and carpets of the large-flowered *Viola cornuta*, the flowers a delicate lilac shade, back at home sold as a garden plant. Helen and Nicholas took a detour looking for butterflies and came back with reports of a small group of citril finches, although they weren't relocated for the group to see. Butterflies were again out in force in the warmth, including green hairstreak, pearl-bordered fritillary, mazarine blue, swallowtail and very large numbers of clouded apollo.

A small damp meadow was full of broad-leaved marsh-orchid, plus fragrant, common-spotted, a single spike of greater butterfly-orchid and a hybrid between broad-leaved marsh-orchid and common spotted, just to keep the leaders on their toes! Then into the shade of a hillside beechwood, with some familiar woodland species: Spanish bluebell, wood spurge, wood forget-me-not and common bugle. The mosaic of lichens on the usually uniformly-coloured beech trunks suggested clean and pure air up here.

Back into the warmth, and a large tortoiseshell butterfly basked in the sun, while a true apollo, the only one of the trip, was seen flying strongly away by a few. This was but a prelude to the butterflies at the sunny lunch spot – green-veined, black-veined, small and wood whites, brown argus, common, mazarine and silver-studded blues, all feeding on dung left by the pony rides to the cirque wall. A spectacular longhorn beetle posed brooch-like on Sallie, and the close up photography allowed identification of this later as *Monochamus sartor*.

A more spectacular lunch spot we couldn't have hoped for, the cirque looming in front of us, above a wide alpine valley, teeming with all sorts of life. The citril finches returned, looking for seeds on the damp meadow. After lunch we walked further towards the cirque along the river, finding a few frog orchids to add to the black vanilla, burnt-tip and ubiquitous broad-leaved marsh orchids, while the stony river banks produced mountain tragacanth and Pyrenean mignonette, clumps of the lovely pale pink *Asperula hirta*, and purple splashes of alpine toadflax and *Chaenorhinum origanifolium*. But by now the rain had set in, so we trudged back to Gavarnie, picking up a tree pipit, clearly close to its nest, on the way.

After an hour's retail and ice cream therapy in the centre of Gavarnie as the storm clouds gathered, a rather damp stop in the woods on the way back to the hotel turned up a Camberwell beauty, a brimstone moth, and a host of woodland plants including one or two violet helleborines, the delicately scented, shrubby Pyrenean honeysuckle and some twayblade leaves. Probably the most remarkable find, given its amazing camouflage was the 'living birch twig' ie an adult buff-tip moth. The storm intensified, the rain came down ever heavier, forcing us back to the buses and home.

The evening meeting is a good opportunity to run through each days highlights, and plan the next day's events, after which we enjoyed a delicious meal and an early night, rocked to sleep by a distant rumbling storm.

Monday 13 June - Col de Tentes & Vallée d'Ossoue.

Today's journey started in Gavarnie, where we turned right and looked upwards to the statue on the hilltop. A few minutes and quite a few hairpin bends later, the statue was far below us, as we made our way up to the Col de Tentes. Stopping by the roadside to locate a calling marmot was a good move: Helen found a pair of dazzling green lizards, the male's throat a sparkling electric blue. A male rock thrush sang from a pylon, its melodic song also delivered in flight. We carried on ever upwards, pausing again to allow distance to develop between us and a groaning cattle truck ahead; serendipitously, this produced a magnificent pair of red-backed shrikes. Marmots were seen all the way, basking in the warming day, nibbling, or bouncing back to their burrows like mini-seals! Large patches of Pyrenean thistle were in full flower, the delicate pink flowers contrasting nicely with the glaucous spiky leaves.

And so finally to the top: 2208m high and only 1500m from the Spanish border at the Port de Boucharo. The air was full of the sound of displaying water pipits, one or two griffon vultures floated about and wheatears guarded their territories, flashing white at any other males coming too close. But it was the plants we had really come to see: spring and trumpet gentians in vivid blues, masses of white Pyrenean buttercup, the delicate purple colt's-foot, Pyrenean violet, two species each of pink *Primula* and rock-jasmine, and pink-starred cushions of moss campion amongst many others. Brassy ringlet was a new butterfly, although insects were few and far between on the breezy, open mountain top.

About an hour later, having failed to find any snowbells, we began the descent to the lunch spot. The front van slowed, stopped, binoculars were searching the slopes, and a whole swathe of alpine snowbells (*right*) was found, just by the roadside. We enjoyed an alfresco lunch watching storm clouds build and griffons coming in to their rocky holes high up on the mountainsides – they knew what was coming. We set off when the storm began, stopping at the bridge to look at a good clump of ramonda, then driving on along the Vallée d'Ossoue into the ever-darkening storm.

Eventually the road opened out into a damp valley, waterproof overtrousers were donned and we set off in torrential rain and thunder echoing round the mountain tops in fruitless search of the elusive desman, an aquatic shrew-like mole relative occasionally seen in mountain streams like this. With rain dripping down our necks, we were quite unable to appreciate the floral riches, including carpets of marsh-orchids, as much as we would have liked! On the slow drive back along the valley the rain eased, the sky brightened, and we decided to stop and explore an interesting-looking meadow. We were rewarded with excellent



views of a male rock bunting on its breeding territory. The meadow was beautiful, bounded by a rushing mountain stream. The sun reappeared, the insects came out, field crickets calling everywhere, clouds of butterflies, and something looking like a tiny bunch of twiggy bits moving purposefully over a leaf. Closer inspection found it was a bagworm moth, a wingless female, living out her life in a homemade, mobile bag. Claire found the semi-parasitic leafy lousewort, and Chris was pleased to see moonwort, a tiny fern, and only his second ever sighting in these parts! At last we dragged ourselves back to the buses, and home, damp but elated.

Tuesday 14 June - Pont and Plateau de Saugué & Vallée de Bué

The day dawned murky, after a wet night, but the early morning walkers headed up the hill behind the hotel to search for a few woodland birds. As it happened, they were few and far between, although we heard both great spotted woodpecker and nuthatch, and spent time watching the local breeding black redstarts, serins and spotted flycatchers in the village.

After breakfast, it brightened as we headed up out of Gèdre on a switchback minor road to the plateau. Just out of the vans and Maureen's impersonation of quail were almost immediately responded to by the real thing, although typically they were nowhere to be seen. Field crickets were deafening all around, the land was gently steaming after yesterdays deluge, and whinchats showed distantly but well, all against a backdrop of flower-rich meadows overlooking Gavarnie. A stunning male wheatear posed for photographs on a rocky outcrop, its pale breast beautiful against the dark brooding sky. We slowly wandered, most of the plants becoming familiar now, with a few additions: the diminutive mountain pansy, alpine aster, Montpelier milk-vetch, hoary rock-rose and rock buckthorn clinging to the rock faces. Chris tried to enrage a bloody-nosed beetle, and was rewarded by 'blood' oozing not from its nose at all but its leg joints! A slight rise in temperature and suddenly wartbiter crickets appeared: we got a splendid comparison of the sexes, the larger male, and female with a sabre-like ovipositor at the back. Neither was sufficiently interested in Chris's calloused hands to bite though!

Most people elected to walk back down the road towards the bridge, the vans following slowly behind. The second van rounded a bend – Chris's van was stopped in the road – Chris was on the ground! An accident? No, just an ascalaphid posing for a photograph! The verges were coming to life as the day warmed up. Large tortoiseshell, large wall brown, dark-green fritillary, dappled white and black-veined white, butterflies everywhere. And the flowers were equally wonderful, with swathes of pyramidal orchids, rampions, scabious and a couple of huge bushes of deadly nightshade. The stop at the bridge was brief, as a dipper was unhappy with our presence - it presumably had young to feed underneath the bridge, so we carried on, to the Vallée de Bué, and stopped for lunch. There's always a bogey bird – something someone really wants to see but misses. Malcolm's was the black woodpecker (*right*), which flew right over the valley towards us while he was looking the other way!



We set off to walk down the valley, finding *Lathyrus laevigatus*, Welsh poppy and masses of Pyrenean valerian as well as more typical woodland plants, lungwort, woodruff and woodrush as we went. Eventually Chris and Maureen returned with Barbara for the buses, only to find a broken-down cattle truck blocking the road. A good deal of gesticulating, polite French handshaking and dodgy reversing, and Chris's van was never the same again! Picking up everyone apart from Claire and John, who had elected to walk further, we set off back down, hearing about the (black) red squirrel which the group had seen along the way. A large grassy arrow was in the road ahead; on investigation we found Claire had successfully located the only lesser butterfly-orchid of the trip.

Our early arrival home gave the opportunity for a little local exploration, alone or as part of our organised walk, as this morning, up the hill. South-facing and rocky, the flora of this hillside is subtly different to other areas we visited, having a touch of the Mediterranean (large Mediterranean spurge and Mediterranean hartwort), mixed with a range of meadow species, including vast amounts of St Bernard's lily, and scattering of rock-lovers, including several stonecrops and both Pyrenean and wall germander.

Back at the hotel we watched a short-toed eagle glide easily across the sky, dangling a snake from its bill, as we enjoyed an early evening drink and a chat with an interesting ex-pat. After dinner, we took a walk up the road (for some, the third time in one day!) towards Gèdre-dessus in the deepening dusk. We were rewarded with not one or two, but 13 glow-worms, resting on the walls and verges up the road. A streetlamp illuminating a footpath was thronged with hunting bats. Out came the bat detectors. Pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and serotine bats were identified, plus European free-tailed bat, which is the only bat easily audible to our ears. A great evening's entertainment.

Wednesday 15 June - Philippe, Barèges, Col du Tourmalet & Vallée de la Glere

Another action-packed day began with a talk by Philippe Serre of LPO, and the presentation, kindly done by Malcolm, of our donation to his lammergeier conservation project. As it turned out, Philippe's life-size inflatable was the only lammergeier we saw today.

Soon we were off, firstly to the market in Barèges, for local honey and fruit, and nesting crag martins, but before long we were heading ever upwards, past toiling cyclists, and eventually to the Col du Tourmalet, 2115m high, and on the route of the Tour de France. At first our main quarry was elusive, but after a while we found them: snowfinches, poking around below the pylons, and evidently nesting in the hollows of the structures themselves.

We set off towards the ridge, and stumbled across a patch of the lovely bulbous corydalis, tiny, frilly and delicate; it seemed the only way to get a decent photo was to kneel, bottoms-up, which the group did -en masse. Only the English ...! Looking up we were amazed to see a red kite soar over the ridge, a most unexpected bird this high up. The plants were sparse up here, but two Daphne species, the green-flowered *laureola* and pink *cneorum*, were both beautifully scented. The wonderful view to the Pic du Midi de Bigorre from the ridge prompted thoughts about how different the wildlife must be that 800m higher up.

Back to the vans, to find that Humphrey and Sallie, who had stayed put, had also had close views of snow finches. We dropped down for lunch, while Chris did a recce in the Jardin Botanique as we ate. He came back to report it disappointing, so after photographing sheep grazing on a local grass roof, we pressed on to the Vallée de la Glere. This is a fairly steep pine and beech woodland, and ferns were varied and plentiful here: broad buckler-fern, soft shield-fern, oak-fern, scaly male-fern, Chris pointed out the differing amounts of pinnation in each species. It was a relief to be in the shade of the trees – the day had warmed up considerably - so while most of the group wandered on, looking at herb-Paris, lungwort and the beech trees themselves, dripping with lichens, Sallie and Humphrey sat and watched. A good move, as when we reconnected with them at *Chez Louisette* for coffee and ice cream (and honey buzzard), their news was of a mole caught in a butterfly net (yes, really!) and the antics of an anting black woodpecker! The remainder of the group could counter that only with the sight of Chris molesting a medicinal leech, which again failed to find him to their taste, much to his relief when Sue and Peter informed him of the diseases which can be transmitted in that way.

After another lovely meal, the evening was still warm and inviting, so we headed off once again up the road, to count a total tonight of more than 20 glow worms!

Thursday 16 June – Cirque de Troumouse

Our last full day and one member of the party less as Peter was heading off to Copenhagen to give a presentation. The journey up to the *piece de resistance* of the week, the awesome Cirque de Troumouse is taken at a leisurely pace, for the good of not only the passengers, but also the buses – Chris's especially laboured on ever upwards in clouds of varying coloured smoke! Fortunately there was plenty to look at on the way; a group of fourteen or so griffon vultures sunning themselves on a grassy slope was an unusual sight, and Malcolm and Helen's amazing 'scope gave everyone a good look at these lumbering birds. We paused again at the half-way house, if only to watch a dipper feeding young in its nest behind the waterfall, then it was up and up, until finally we made it to the remarkably civilised car park at the top.

Almost immediately Helen spotted a group of izard (the local chamois) on a small snowbed. This group included Bambi himself – frolicking and skipping playfully around his mum until he fell over and slid down the icy slope! Griffons, in their more usual element, soared in and out of the clouds on a level with us, while Chris and the botanists tried to distinguish between the expected trumpet gentian and an alleged alpine gentian, as discussed with the Naturetrek leader in the bar last night. The conclusion? In the car park area, mostly trumpets, at least one true alpine, but a whole series of intermediates. We walked on, finding a Pyrenean brook newt in the stream, serenaded as usual at these heights by water pipits, and enjoying once more the mountain flowers, by sight and smell, especially the highly scented garland flower.

We ate lunch overlooking a small lake near the cirque. A male black redstart was singing, but then another bird flew over, called and landed – alpine accentor! – and then joined by a second bird which had been hiding in the rocks! Although always hoped for, we hadn't anticipated seeing them; they poked around on the short turf for a while, then the male, distinguished by his necklace of black and white, dropped into the stream and had a bathe! How lovely, not only a rarely-seen bird, but a bird going about its business, not at all disturbed by us. As they stayed around for a while, we tried to get the whole group to see them; I located Sue, but where was George? We caught up with him as we slowly made our way back to the buses, sadly having missed a star bird!

Time to retreat to lower levels, incorporating a refreshment break at the halfway house, we ended up in the valley bottom at Héas. Here, our last look at the magical wildlife of the Pyrénées, we spent a lovely hour, with a wealth of butterflies – Oberthur's grizzled skipper, bright-eyed ringlet, brown argus, western dappled white, mountain ringlet among the many – and as a final flourish, out from Humphrey's pots came a wonderfully iridescent oil-beetle, the Spanish-fly, the cure for all sorts of unmentionable ailments! An excellent end to one of the very best trips of the week.

Our last evening meeting was held on the hotel verandah, and this time most people saw the short-toed eagle hovering into the breeze over the far hillside, disappearing against the mountainside then reappearing and

gliding in the same direction as before, towards us then over the hotel, once more carrying a snake. The evening meal was once more '*un surprise*', as out came the hot plates and cook-your-own-steak. Delicious! The packing really had to be done, but the evening was warm and still – time for a final wander to the dipper bridge for a few to mark the end of a superb but all too brief holiday.

Friday 17 June – Pau, then home

Four lucky Honeyguiders were staying on for another week, so it was an even smaller bunch who collected their final packed lunch and set off gradually downhill, and away from the drama of the mountains. In no time at all the peaks were left behind, the valleys widened, lammergeiers were replaced by black kites and we returned to civilisation. It's always nice to get a new bird even at the end of the holiday, so the little egret flying away over the petrol station in Pau was added to the list! Boarding the plane, almost while the incomers were still disembarking, we could just make out the peaks protruding through the haze of another hot day, a final view of the Pyrénées to carry with us on the way home.

Thanks to all for making the trip such good fun.

Maureen & Chris



Postscript

Nicholas very kindly furnished us with details of the delights that he, George, John and Claire experienced during their second week at Gèdre. Not having their own transport (apart from their legs), they remained close to home for most of the week. But the summer had advanced, and it seems some considerable changes in the wildlife, particularly the butterflies, had taken place. Here is an abridged extract from his diary, reproduced with his permission – mouth-watering stuff, and perhaps an encouragement, if any were needed, to return to the area at a later date in the year. The additional butterfly species they recorded are listed later in the report.

Friday 17 June: Blazing fine weather, not a cloud in the sky. Walked steeply up from Gèdre through the wooded mountainside of the Bois de Coumély. It was not until we emerged on the plateau that we realised we had reached paradise. A most beautiful place: the rushing mountain streams, an amazing array of flowers, fabulous views of the Cirque de Troumouse, dozens of butterflies mud-puddling and rising in small swarms, the relaxation of an easy and level path along which to regain our breath after the strenuous ascent. We progressed to views of the Cirque d'Estaubé and Gloriettes; two short-toed eagles showing well, as was a (black) red squirrel. Maybe 10 miles and 2000 feet of ascent, but a most wondrous day!

And all while the rest of us were winging our weary ways home!

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	
Bupleurum falcatum	Sickle-leaved Hare's-ear	Ge
Chaerophyllum aureum	Golden chervil	Ge
Conopodium majus	Pignut	
Eryngium bourgatii	Pyrenean eryngo	
Heracleum sphondylium ssp. pyrenaicum	Hogweed	
Laser trilobum		
Laserpitium siler	Sermountain	
Ligusticum lucidum		
Meum athamanticum	Spignel	Те
Peucedanum ostruthium	Masterwort	Ge
Pimpinella major	Great burnet-saxifrage	Ga
Sanicula europaea	Sanicle	Ga
Tordylium apulum	Mediterranean Hartwort	Ge
Asclepiadaceae		
Vincetoxicum hirundinaria	Swallow-wort	
Asteraceae		
Adenostyles alliariae		Tr
Antennaria dioica	Cat's-foot	
Aster alpinus	Alpine aster	O S
Bellis sylvestris	-	
Carduus carlinoides	Pyrenean thistle	Те То
C. nutans	Musk thistle	
Carlina acaulis	Stemless carline thistle	
Centaurea jacea	Brown knapweed	
C. montana	Perennial cornflower	Ga
C. scabiosa	Greater knapweed	
Cirsium eroiphorum	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	G
Scorzonera aristata	Bearded viper's-grass	S CI
Senecio doronicum	Chamois ragwort	Gl
Solidago virgaurea	Golden-rod	0.0
Tanacetum corymbosum		Ge S
Tragopogon pratensis	Goat's-beard	
Tussilago farfara	Colt's-foot	Ca
Urospermum dalechampii Berberidaceae		Ge
	Darbarra	Gl
Berberis vulgaris Betulaceae	Barberry	U
Alnus glutinosa	Alder	
Betula pendula	Silver birch	
Boraginaceae	Silver blich	
Echium vulgare	Viper's-bugloss	
Myosotis alpina	Alpine forget-me-not	Те То
Myösölis alpina M. sylvatica	Wood forget-me-not	10 10
M. syivaiica Pulmonaria longifolia	Long-leaved lungwort	
Brassicaceae	Long-leaved lungwort	
Arabis turrita	Towercress	
	Radish-leaved bittercress	В
Cardamine raphanifolia C. impatiens	Narrow-leaved bittercress	D
Clypeola jonsthlaspi	manow-icaved dideletess	Ge
	Vallow whitlow grass	Ge
Draba aizoides Hutchinsia alpina	Yellow whitlow-grass Chamois cress	Ga Te
Hutchinsia alpina Iberis amara	Candytuft	B
	Austrian rocket	D
Sisymbrium austriacum	Austrian Tocket	Ga
S. pyrenaicum		Ga
Buxaceae	Bow	
Buxus sempervirens	Box	
Campanulaceae	Spreading hellflower	
Campanula patula C. trachelium	Spreading bellflower Nettle-leaved bellflower	S
		3
Jasione montana Phyteuma orbiculara	Sheep's-bit Round headed rampion	
Phyteuma orbiculare	Round-headed rampion Spiked rampion	
P. spicatum Caprifoliaceae	Spikeu rampion	
Caprifoliaceae	Duranaan hanavarahla	GaO
Lonicera pyrenaicum Samhucus chulus	Pyrenean honeysuckle	Ga O
Sambucus ebulus	Dwarf elder	Тr
S. racemosa	Alpine elder	Tr
Caryophyllaceae		Gl
Arenaria grandiflora Carastium amansa	Field mouse car	UI
Cerastium arvense	Field mouse-ear	Ga
Dianthus carthusianorum	Carthusian pink	Ga S Tr
D. deltoides	Maiden pink	
Gyposophila repens Harmiaria glabra	Alpine gypsophila	Gl Gl
Herniaria glabra	Rupturewort	
Lychnis alpina	Alpine catchfly Pagged robin	Tr Ge
L. flos-cuculi Minuartia vorma	Ragged-robin	
Minuartia verna Paromychia capitata	Spring sandwort	$Cl C_{2}$
Paronychia capitata	Doronnial Imagical	Gl Ga
Scleranthus perennis Silono gogulis	Perennial knawel	Gl
Silene acaulis	Moss campion	Te
S. nutans	Nottingham catchfly	CI
S. rupestris	D1-11-	Gl
S. vulgaris	Bladder campion	
Stellaria holostea	Greater stitchwort	
Chenopodiaceae Chenopodium bonus-henricus		
I hanopodium bonus hanviaus	Good King Henry	

Cistaceae		
Helianthemum apenninum	White rock-rose	
H. canum	Hoary rock-rose	
H. nummularium	Common rock-rose	
H. oelandicum	Alpine rock-rose	
Corylaceae		
Corylus avellana	Hazel	
Crassulaceae		
Sedum acre	Biting stonecrop	
S. album	White stonecrop	
S. anglicum	English stonecrop	
S. dasyphyllum	Thick-leaved stonecrop	
S. rupestre	Rock stonecrop	
S. telephium	Orpine	
Sempervivum montanum	Mountain houseleek	
Umbilicus rupestris	Navelwort	
Cuscutaceae		
Cuscuta epithymum	Dodder	
C. europaea	Greater dodder	Tr
Dipsacaceae		
Knautia arvensis	Field scabious	
K. dipsacifolia	Wood scabious	Ga
Scabiosa columbaria	Small scabious	
Ericaceae		
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Bearberry	
Calluna vulgaris	Heather	
Rhododendron ferrugineum	Alpenrose	
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	
V. vitis-idaea	Cowberry	
Euphorbiaceae		
Euphorbia amygdaloides	Wood spurge	Ga
E. characias	Large Mediterranean spurge	Ge
E. cyparissias	Cypress spurge	0
E. hyberna	Irish spurge	В
Fabaceae		
Astragalus alpinus	Alpine milk-vetch	
A. monspessulanus	Montpelier milk-vetch	
A. sempervirens	Mountain tragacanth	Ga
Anthyllis montanum	Mountain kidney-vetch	Tr
A. vulneraria	Kidney vetch	
sspp. forondae, pyrenaica and vuln	erarioides	
Hippocrepis comosa	Horseshoe vetch	
Lathyrus laevigatus	Yellow pea	В
L pratensis	Meadow vetchling	
L. sylvestris	Narrow-leaved everlasting-pea	
L. tuberosus	Tuberous pea	Ge
L. vernus	Spring vetchling	Gl
Lotus alpinus	Alpine bird's-foot-trefoil	
L. corniculatus	Bird's-foot-trefoil	
Medicago hybrida	Pyrenean medick	
M. suffruticosa	Sprawling medick	
Ononis natrix	Large yellow rest-harrow	
O. rotundifolia	Round-leaved rest-harrow	Ge
Oxytropis campestris	Yellow milk-vetch	
Trifolium alpinum	Alpine clover	
T. campestre	Hop trefoil	
T. dubium	Lesser trefoil	
T. incarnatum	Crimson clover	Ge
T. montanum	Mountain clover	
T. ochroleucon	Sulphur clover	S B

T. pratense	Red clover	
T. repens	White clover	
Vicia cracca	Tufted vetch	
V. hirsuta	Hairy tare	
V. pyrenaica	Pyrenean vetch	
V. sepium	Bush vetch	
Fagaceae		
Castanea sativa	Sweet chestnut	
Fagus sylvatica	Beech	
Quercus petraea	Sessile oak	
Q. pyrenaica	Pyrenean oak	
Fumariaceae		
Corydalis solida	Tuberous corydalis	То
Gentianaceae	-	
Gentiana acaulis	Trumpet gentian	
G. alpina	Alpine gentian	Tr
G. verna	Spring gentian	
Geraniaceae	1 22	
Geranium cinereum	Ashy crane's-bill	Ga Te
G. phaeum	Dusky crane's-bill	
G. pratense	Meadow crane's-bill	
G. pyrenaicum	Pyrenean crane's-bill	
G. robertianum	Herb-Robert	
G. sanguineum	Bloody crane's-bill	
G. sylvaticum	Wood crane's-bill	
Gesneriaceae	wood erane s-oni	
Ramonda myconi		
Globulariaceae		
Globularia nudicaulis	Lasflass stammad glabularia	
~	Leafless-stemmed globularia	
G. repens	Creeping globularia	
Grossulariaceae	Rock currant	Gl
Ribes petraeum	ROCK CUITAIL	GI
Lamiaceae	A1 * 1 * /	
Acinos alpinus	Alpine calamint	T
Ajuga pyramidalis	Pyramidal bugle	Tr
A. repens	Bugle	
Clinopodium vulgare	Wild basil	
Lamiastrum galaeobdolon	Yellow archangel	
Lamium maculatum	Spotted dead-nettle	Ga
Stachys recta	Yellow woundwort	
Teucrium chamaedrys	Wall germander	Ge
T. pyrenaicum	Pyrenean germander	Ge
T. scorodonia	Wood sage	
Thymus serpyllum	Wild thyme	
Lentibulariaceae		
Pinguicula grandiflora	Large-flowered butterwort	
P. vulgaris	Common butterwort	
Loranthaceae		
Viscum album	Mistletoe	
Malvaceae		
Malva moschata	Musk mallow	
Oleaceae		
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	
Papaveraceae	1 1011	
Chelidonium majus	Greater celandine	
Meconopsis cambrica	Welsh poppy	Ga Gle B
-	това рорру	
Plantaginaceae	Elechy plantain	Gl
Plantago maritima ssp. serpentina	Fleshy plantain	U
P. media	Hoary plantain	

Plumbaginaceae		
Armeria maritima ssp. alpina	Mountain thrift	Ge Tr
Polygalaceae		
Polygala alpina	Alpine milkwort	То
P. comosa	Tufted milkwort	
P. nicaeensis	Nice milkwort	
P. vulgaris	Common milkwort	
Polygonaceae		
Oxyria digyna	Mountain sorrel	
Polygonum bistorta	Bistort	
P. viviparum	Alpine bistort	
Rumex scutatus	French sorrel	
Primulaceae		
Androsace carnea	Pink rock-jasmine	Те То
A. chamaejasme	Ciliate rock-jasmine	Ga
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow pimpernel	В
Primula elatior	Oxlip	
P. farinosa	Bird's-eye primrose	
P. hirsuta		Te
P. integrifolia	Entire-leaved primrose	
P. veris	Cowslip	
P. vulgaris	Primrose	Tr
Soldanella alpina	Alpine snowbell	
Vitaliana primuliflora	Yellow rock-jasmine	Te
Ranunculaceae		
Aconitum napellus	Monk's-hood	~ .
Anemone narcissiflora	Narcissus-flowered anemone	Gl
A. nemorosa	Wood anemone	
Aquilegia vulgaris	Columbine	
Caltha palustris	Marsh marigold	
Clematis vitalba	Traveller's-joy	
Helleborus foetidus	Stinking hellebore	
H. viridis	Green hellebore	
Hepatica nobilis	Hepatica	
Ranunculus bulbosus	Bulbous buttercup	
R. flammula	Lesser spearwort	
R. gouanii	Gouan's buttercup	
R. polyanthemus	Multi-flowered buttercup	
R. pyrenaeus	Pyrenean buttercup	
Thalictrum aquilegifolium	Great meadow-rue	~
Trollius europeaeus	Globe-flower	Gl
Resedaceae	D	
Reseda glauca	Pyrenean mignonette	
Rhamnaceae	D (1 1/1	T T
Rhamnus pumilus	Dwarf buckthorn	Te Tr
Rosaceae		
Alchemilla alpina	Alpine lady's-mantle	
A. conjuncta	T (1' (1 1 2) (1	
A. splendens	Intermediate lady's-mantle	
Amelanchier ovalis	Snowy mespilus	CI
Dryas octopetala	Mountain avens	Gl
Fragaria vesca	Wild strawberry	
Geum montanum	Alpine avens	
G. pyrenaicum	Pyrenean avens	
Potentilla alchemilloides		Gl Ga
P. montana	Deels air an a Coll	C^{1}
P. rupestris	Rock cinquefoil	Gl
P. tabernaemontani	Spring cinquefoil	
Rosa canina	Dog rose	
R. gallica	Provence rose	

R. glauca	Blue-leaved rose	
R. pendulina	Alpine rose	
R. pimpinellifolia	Burnet rose	
Rubus idaeus	Raspberry	
Sanguisorba minor	Salad-burnet	
Sorbus aria	Whitebeam	
S. aucuparia	Rowan	
Rubiaceae	Savinonaurort	Ca
Asperula cynanchica A. hirta	Squinancywort	Ge Ga
Cruciata laevipes	Crosswort	Ua
Galium cometerrhizon	Closswort	Те То
G. mollugo	Hedge bedstraw	10 10
G. odoratum	Woodruff	
<i>G. saxatile</i>	Heath bedstraw	
G. sylvaticum	Wood bedstraw	
G. verum	Lady's-bedstraw	
Salicaceae		
Populus tremula	Aspen	
Saxifragaceae	-	
Saxifraga cotyledon	Pyramidal saxifrage	Gl
S. granulata	Meadow saxifrage	
S. harriotii		Tr
S. longifolia	Pyrenean saxifrage	
S. moschata	Musky saxifrage	
S. oppositifolia	Purple saxifrage	Tr
S. paniculata	Livelong saxifrage	Gl B
S. pubescens		Gl
S. rotundifolia	Round-leaved saxifrage	Ge
S. umbrosa	Wood saxifrage	Gl S B
Scrophulariaceae		
Bartsia alpina	Alpine bartsia	
Chaenorhinum origanifolium		
Erinus alpinus	Fairy foxglove	
Euphrasia sp	Eyebright	
Linaria alpina Malampumum pratonsa	Alpine toadflax Common cow-wheat	Ga
Melampyrum pratense Pedicularis foliosa	Leafy lousewort	0 0
P. palustris	Marsh lousewort	0
P. pyrenaica	Pyrenean lousewort	Ga O
Scrophularia alpestris	i yrenean iousewort	G
S. canina	Alpine figwort	U
S. nodosa	Common figwort	
S. pyrenaica	Pyrenean figwort	Ga
Rhinanthus angustifolius	Greater yellow-rattle	
R. minor	Yellow-rattle	
Verbascum nigrum	Dark mullein	S
Veronica alpina	Alpine speedwell	Те
V. beccabunga	Brooklime	
V. fruticans	Rock speedwell	Gl
V. nummularia	Pyrenean speedwell	Gl
V. officinalis	Heath speedwell	
V. ponae	Pyrenean spiked speedwell	Gl Ga
V. prostrata		
V. serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved speedwell	
Thymelaeaceae		
Daphne cneorum	Garland flower	Gl Tr
D. laureola	Spurge-laurel	То
D. laureola ssp. philippii		Te To
D. mezereum	Mezereon	Tr

Tiliaceae		
Tilia platyphyllos	Large-leaved lime	
Ulmaceae		
Ulmus glabra	Wych elm	
Valerianaceae		
Centranthus ruber	Red valerian	
Valeriana montana		
V. officinalis	Valerian	Tr
V. pyrenaica		Ga B
V. tripteris		Gl
Violaceae		
Viola biflora	Yellow wood violet	Tr
V. cornuta	Horned violet	
V. lutea	Mountain pansy	S
V. pyrenaica	Pyrenean violet	Те То
V. riviniana	Common dog-violet	
Monocotyledons		
Cyperaceae		
Carex davalliana	XX 7 1 1	D
C. sylvatica	Wood sedge	В
Eriophorum angustifolium	Cotton-grass	
Dioscoreaceae		
Tamus communis	Black bryony	
Iridaceae Ivia latifalia		То
Iris latifolia		10
Juncaceae	Creat woodruch	D
Luzula sylvatica	Great woodrush	В
Liliaceae	Manufain anian	C.
Allium senescens	Mountain onion	Ge
Anthericum liliago	St Bernard's lily	
Asphodelus albus	Asphodel	C1
Convallaria majalis	Lily-of-the-valley	Gl
Fritillaria pyrenaica	Pyrenean snake's-head	Gl
Hyacinthoides hispanicus	Spanish bluebell	Ga
Hyacinthus amethystinus	Pyrenean hyacinth	
Lilium martagon	Martagon lily	C1
Paris quadrifolia	Herb paris	Gle
Ruscus aculeatus	Butcher's-broom	
Scilla liliohyacinthus	Pyrenean squill	Gle
S. verna	Spring squill	Gl
Tofieldia calyculata	Tofield's asphodel	
Veratrum album	White false helleborine	Tr
Orchidaceae		
Anacamptis pyramidalis	Pyramidal orchid	
Cephalanthera longifolia	Narrow-leaved helleborine	Ga
Coeloglossum viride	Frog orchid	Ga S
Dactylorhiza fuchsii	Common spotted-orchid	
D. incarnata	Early marsh-orchid	S
D. majalis ssp. alpestris	Broad-leaved marsh-orchid	
D. sambucina	Elder-flowered orchid	Ga
Epipactis purpurata	Violet helleborine	Ga
Gymnedenia conopsea	Fragrant orchid	
Listera ovata	Common twayblade	
Nigritella nigra	Black vanilla orchid	
Orchis mascula	Early purple orchid	
O. ustulata	Burnt-tip orchid	
Platanthera bifolia	Lesser butterfly-orchid	
P. chlorantha	Greater butterfly-orchid	
Poaceae (very incomplete)		

Briza media Melica uniflora Nardus stricta

CONIFERS

Abies alba Silver fir Pinus nigra ssp. salzmannii Pyrenean black pine *P. sylvestris* Scots pine Juniper Juniperus communis Taxus baccata Yew

FERNS

FERNS		
Asplenium adiantum-nigrum	Black spleenwort	
A. ruta-muraria	Wall-rue	
A. septentrionale	Forking spleenwort	Gl
A. trichomanes	Maidenhair spleenwort	
Athyrium alpina	Alpine lady fern	Gl
A. filix-femina	Lady fern	
Botrychium lunaria	Moonwort	Te
Ceterach officinalis	Rusty-back fern	
Dryopteris affinis	Scaly male fern	
D. diautata	Broad buckler-fern	
D. filix-mas	Male fern	
Gymnocarpium dryopteris	Oak fern	Gl
Phegopteris connectilis	Beech fern	Gle
Polypodium australe	Southern polypody	
P. vulgare	Common polypody	
Polystichum aculeatum	Hard shield-fern	
P. lonchitis	Holly fern	Tr
P. setiferum	Soft shield-fern	
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	

Quaking-grass Wood melick

Mat-grass

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail Scarce swallowtail Apollo Clouded Apollo Small tortoiseshell Large tortoiseshell Lesser purple emperor Camberwell beauty Comma Pearl-bordered fritillary Heath fritillary False heath fritillary Dark green fritillary Meadow brown Wall brown Large wall brown Northern wall brown Bright-eyed ringlet Piedmont ringlet Lefebvre's ringlet Mountain ringlet Common brassy ringlet Small heath Speckled wood

Large white Small white Green-veined white Dappled white Mountain dappled white Wood white Orange tip Black-veined white Brimstone Clouded vellow Mountain clouded yellow Berger's clouded yellow Duke of Burgundy Common blue Silver-studded blue Adonis blue Mazarine blue Holly blue Turquoise blue Small blue Green hairstreak Purple-edged copper Brown argus Geranium argus

Large skipper Small skipper Olive skipper Marbled skipper Oberthur's grizzled skipper Dingy skipper Grizzled skipper Large grizzled skipper Red-underwing skipper Chequered skipper

To the above impressive butterfly list can be added the extra species spotted by Nicholas, George, Claire and John on their week's extension:

Sooty copper Scarce copper Osiris blue Baton blue Chapman's blue Chalk-hill blue Painted lady Southern white admiral Niobe fritillary Queen-of-Spain fritillary Shepherd's fritillary Knapweed fritillary Marbled fritillary Spotted fritillary Rock grayling Gatekeeper Pearly heath Marbled white

MOTHS

Nemophora degeerella Yponomeuta rorella (caterpillars) Metaxmeste phrygialis Cistus forester Slender scotch burnet Fox moth (caterpillar) Little emerald Small grass emerald Riband wave Beautiful carpet Sandy carpet 'French annulet' Common wave Argent and sable Small argent and sable Grass rivulet Brimstone moth Chimney sweeper Latticed heath Common heath Psodos quadrifaria Speckled yellow Buff-tip White satin Hummingbird hawk-moth Black-veined moth Burnet companion Hedge rustic

OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Hirudo medicinalis Arion ater Glomeris marginata Araniella cucurbitina Decticus verrucivorus Gryllus campestris Libellula depressa Graphosoma italicum Libelloides longicornis Panorpa meridionalis Cetonia aeruginosa Phyllopertha horticola Lampyris noctiluca *Cicindela campestris* Calosoma sycophanta Coccinella 7-punctata Cantharis rustica Lytta vesicatoria Monochamus sartor Timarcha tenebricosa Polistes sp. Bombus wurfleini Formica rufa Tipula maxima Bombylius major

AMPHIBIANS

Common frog Pyrenean brook newt

MAMMALS

Alpine marmot Red squirrel Snow vole (runs) Short-tailed vole Mole Pipistrelle Soprano pipistrelle Daubenton's bat

BIRDS

Little egret	J
Grey heron	Ge
Honey buzzard	Gle
Red kite	J To
Black kite	J
Griffon vulture	
Short-toed eagle	Ge Ga
Lammergeier	
Golden eagle	Gl
Common buzzard	
Sparrowhawk	Ge
Kestrel	
Quail	S
Rock dove/ feral pigeon	
Collared dove	

Medicinal leech a large black slug Pill millipede Cucumber spider Wart-biter Field cricket Broad-bodied chaser Milwall bug an ascalaphid a scorpion-fly a rose chafer a chafer Glow-worm Green Tiger-beetle a metallic ground beetle 7-spot ladybird a soldier beetle Spanish-fly a longhorn beetle Bloody-nosed beetle a paper wasp a large colourful bumble-bee Wood ant a crane-fly a bee-fly

REPTILES

Common wall lizard Green lizard Slow worm

Noctule Serotine European free-tailed bat Fox (droppings) Pine marten (droppings) Izard (Pyrenean chamois) Wild boar (rootings)

Tawny owl	Ge
Swift	
Green woodpecker	
Great spotted woodpecker	
Black woodpecker	B Gle
Skylark	
Swallow	
House martin	
Crag martin	
Tree pipit	
Meadow pipit	
Water pipit	
Grey wagtail	
White wagtail	
Dipper	
Wren	
Dunnock	
	Tr
Alpine accentor Robin	11
Black redstart	C
Whinchat	S
Stonechat	0
Northern wheatear	
Rock thrush	
Blackbird	
Song thrush	
Mistle thrush	
Blackcap	
Garden warbler	
Northern chiffchaff	
Firecrest	
Spotted flycatcher	
Long-tailed tit	
Great tit	
Blue tit	
Coal tit	
Nuthatch	
Starling	J
Red-backed shrike	Ge Ga
Raven	
Carrion crow	
Red-billed chough	
Alpine chough	
Magpie	
Jay	
Chaffinch	
Bullfinch	
Linnet	
Serin Citril finch	GaO
	Ga O
Snow finch	То
House sparrow	
Yellowhammer	
Cirl bunting	0
Rock bunting	0

Total: 70 species