



# Honeyguide

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

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

Telephone: 01603 300552

www.honeyguide.co.uk E-mail: [chris@honeyguide.co.uk](mailto:chris@honeyguide.co.uk)



**Spanish Pyrenees  
1 – 8 October 2024**

## Holiday participants

Jill Jordan  
Sue and Peter Burge  
Kate Dalziel  
Barry & Sally Hennessey  
Mundi Smith and Ceri Pearce

Everard Daniel  
Ann Greenizan  
Marie Watt  
Rob Carr  
Julie Durdin

## Leaders

Peter Rich and Chris Durdin. Report by Chris Durdin.  
Our hosts: Peter Rich, Marta and her team at Casa Sarasa [www.casasarasa.com](http://www.casasarasa.com)

Photos as attributed, e.g. Rob Carr (RC), Kate Dalziel (KD) other photos by Chris Durdin, all taken on the holiday.

Cover: Portalet, with *Crocus nudiflorus*. Below: an autumnal cardabelle (acanthus-leaved carline thistle), crossbill (RC), blackening waxcap (CP).



Above: not every group photo is taken when the sun shines. This was at Loarre Castle.  
Below: Berdún, from the road to the River Aragón.



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

The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by an additional donation and by Gift Aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of £820. This donation brings the total given to SEO since the first Honeyguide holiday in Spain in 1991 to £21,415 (through all Honeyguide holidays, mostly the Spanish Pyrenees and Extremadura). The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 is £155,517 (October 2024).

## DAILY DIARY

### Tuesday 1 October – Gatwick to Berdún

The Vueling flight to Bilbao was straightforward and on time, and Peter Rich from Casa Sarasa was there to meet us. Julie arrived at the same time after a complicated journey: the Plymouth-Santander ferry had been cancelled due to sea conditions at Plymouth, and instead she'd arrived later than planned (with no overnight in Santander) via Portsmouth, the final legs by bus and taxi to Bilbao Airport. Once the Enterprise minibus was sorted, we headed east, soon stopping for some lunch at a motorway café. Outside, though the weather was perfect, the landscape was very groomed, so wildlife was limited to a mustard-coloured clouded yellow, vervain in pavement cracks and bracket fungi on copper-leaved cherry plums.

Our main stop on route was a detour to the Laguna de Pitillas, some 90 minutes driving later. Peter explained a checkered history, drained and re-wetted, though now managed well and with plenty of water. From a raised area overlooking the lake we could see large numbers of pochards and coots, with gadwalls scattered among them, joined by two black-necked grebes that had started in the nearest area of water weed. The most surprising bird species, though, was a scattering of mute swans, several dozen, all over the lake. Swans don't ordinarily occur in Spain, and these had come from a collection. The lake's managers are now weighing up whether this non-native species is an issue or not. Peter R found a nice Iberian grey shrike on a tree in the middle distance, and there were several gorgeous merendera flowers bursting from the ground.

Egyptian grasshopper and rosemary beetle started us on interesting invertebrates, and once we'd walked down to the reservoir's edge we added blue-saddled lesser emperor dragonflies to the many red-veined darters. Mundi spotted a redder, broader dragonfly, and we able to get the telescope on the broad scarlet (scarlet darter) as it perched on vegetation in the water. A female marsh harrier appeared to be fishing in the lagoon. Greylag geese flew in the distance: Peter remarked that this was an unusual sighting for him.



Laguna de Pitillas; one of several exuviae (shed larval skins), plausibly lesser emperor.



Merenderas; pair of red-veined darters (KD); head of Egyptian grasshopper, showing stripey eyes.

It was an a little over an hour from here to Berdún, which included a brief backward glance to see the castle at Olite. At Casa Sarasa we met Marta, who now manages the domestic side of things. We settled into rooms and met up for drinks in the comfortable lounge/meeting room/library. In the meantime, Peter B was using his bat detector, taking advantage of the mild weather and twilight, recording no less than six species of bats (see lists, with later additions). It was time for dinner, and soon after an early night after a long day.

### Wednesday 2 October – Loarre and Riglos

We woke to rain, which meant a change of plan from the local walk, and instead we headed south in the hope of less rain and/or shelter, which was successful to some extent. We started at the more southerly Loarre Castle, which also offered some shelter. What an impressive place and location it is, built to resist the Moorish occupation, which reached the plains that the castle overlooks. Peter brought the place to life with description of both its place in Spanish history and the construction techniques for a combined castle and monastery, including routes for military and monks separated by a wall. Of course there were natural history distractions: serins and a black redstart as we looked down onto the defensive outer wall, Sardinian warblers in scrub, crag martins inside the main monastery hall (now gloomy walls, despite the alabaster window openings, but once richly decorated). Flowers included small bushes of yellow pigmy restharrow *Ononis minutissima* and, near the way into the castle, yellow woundwort. We ended by exploring the rest of the building by ourselves before meeting up in the site's café.

Coming out of the café we found a singing woodlark, like us enjoying an interlude of sunshine. A blue-winged grasshopper provided entertainment on the grass by a strawberry tree, which we searched without success for signs of two-tailed pasha butterflies. We drove to Riglos for a splendid picnic, spread from a large coolbox on tablecloths on picnic tables under a weeping willow. We shared the picnic site with a large school party, many of whom spent time looking through my telescope at griffon vultures perched on Riglos's impressive conglomerate cliffs.



Loarre Castle; woodlark (RC).

Our afternoon walk took us through the village and under those cliffs. Banks of Marvel of Peru (or four o'clock plant) were in flower in red and yellowy-orange, plus big patches of the alien caltrop or devil's thorn *Tribullus terrestris*. Everard found a recently deceased two-tailed pasha, showing we were on the right track earlier to be thinking about this butterfly. We noted some interesting trees: nettle-tree, Indian bean tree, kermes oak and terebinth, the last with masses of red berries. Crag martins were hugging the cliff as they fed, two ravens flew past, there were more griffons and a singing blue rock thrush, which very briefly appeared. By now the rain had returned so we headed back, stopping to buy fuel in Puente de la Reina.

### Thursday 3 October – River Veral and Fago Gorge

After yesterday's rain, a bright and sunny day, with griffon vultures hanging over Berdún first thing, taking advantage of the updraft from the hilltop town: I counted 17. Ann found a praying mantis in the garden, devouring a grasshopper.

We were on foot this morning, our tradition on the first morning postponed, on account of the weather. Having first left one minibus at the end of the walk, we started down a track behind Casa Sarasa where Peter pointed out the first leaves on next year's lizard orchid protected by a semi-circle of stones, plus hemp-leaved mallow and many rustyback ferns. There was a speckled wood of the darker northern version on an ivy leaf, and Peter explained that both this and southern speckled wood occur here – Berdún must be on the dividing line of their range. How the two interact, if at all, is unknown. The view towards the road included one of Franco's municipal grain stores, long disused. Interesting flowers in this area included *Sesili montanum*, purslane and thorn-apple. We moved onto a former water supply for Berdún, and someone fished out a dead dragonfly from a stone trough, a female southern hawk. Farther down, Peter explained the geology of the 'Badlands', laid down in a former era when the area was under water. A change in more recent years, since the 1970s, is more vegetation, on account of reduced grazing pressure. We crossed the concrete bridge over the River Veral, which was flowing at a fast rate after yesterday's rain. Here was one minibus, enough to take half of the group plus the other driver (Peter) back to Berdún.

We were soon all at the café by the main road, to enjoy a café con leche or other drink and to use the facilities. As we gathered by the minibuses, a large moth flew around the vehicles, showing flashes of red. Soon the French red underwing (*Catocala elocato*) settled on the wall of the café/restaurant, blending in remarkably well. We found another of the same species, a smaller moth and little mud cones made by mason bees.

We drove the short distance to the beautiful Fago Gorge for today's picnic, spread on picnic table overlooking rock pinnacles. We spent much of the afternoon gently ambling along the quiet road through the gorge. It was bright enough for a few butterflies to be out, including wall browns, red admiral, several clouded yellows and a faded chalkhill blue species. Smooth rock spleenwort *Asplenium fontanum* was an interesting fern; a pink snapdragon here must have been a wild *Antirrhinum majus*. Terebinths here had impressive red galls, shaped like horns: these are caused by an aphid *Forda formicaria*. Montpellier and field maples grew side-by-side on one roadside.



Violet fritillary on Kate; common carder bee of a very bright form on a mournful widow scabious; galls on terebinth tree (see text).

At last, a fritillary, which took a liking to Kate's arm, enabling a careful look: a weaver's (=violet) fritillary. On the rocks on the shady side of the road were many huge rosettes of Pyrenean saxifrage, rendering previous attempts to see them through a telescope as somewhat unnecessary! Some yellow boletes were growing under some Scots pines. By now we'd found the car park and minibuses, where low-growing scabiousses attracted chalkhill and Adonis blues, a chalk burnet moth and a strikingly chestnut colour form of common carder bee.



We detoured via the River Aragón, where Peter knew that autumn lady's tresses grow, the only orchid likely this autumn week. They are small and sometimes easy to overlook, though he soon found one, then three, then half-a-dozen, their twisting flower spikes easy to admire, albeit challenging to photograph (*right*).

Back at Casa Sarasa, Ceri and Mundi found a dead ladder snake on the road very nearby. We followed our usual routine of meeting for a chat and checklists in the meeting room / library. At dinner there was a birthday cake for Everard.

#### Friday 4 October – Portalet

Another sunny day, which we started somewhere near Berdún in a little damp valley to look for wasp spiders in an area of long grass. We saw two fine females, though a curiosity was that both of their webs lacked the zigzag stabilimenta that typically is a characteristic of their webs. A third web, without a spider at that moment, did have a stabilimentum. Also here was a singing woodlark and Cetti's warbler, emerging long-tailed blues and little patches of goldilocks aster.

We drove on, pausing by a juvenile griffon vulture that was, for unknown reasons, standing by a quiet roadside. Peter spoke to a lady in a post van who was going to tell the authorities. Late, after the holiday, Peter advised that the griffon vulture was picked up by the Guardia Civil special nature unit (SEPRONA) and taken to the wild animal hospital run by the Aragonese government at Alfranca, near Zaragoza.



Wasp spider; juvenile griffon vulture on the ground (RC); goldilocks aster.

There is now a fast dual carriageway to Jaca and from there we headed north and up the Pyrenees towards the French border. The road was diverted at one point, then we encountered a herd of cows, delays that prompted a loo stop at a garage before we reached our destination. It was then a short drive to park in Portalet, quite a busy 'frontier town'. From here we walked up a good track to the left (west), soon finding our first groups of *Crocus nudiflorus*, and more merenderas. Both the leading and the trailing groups paused to look at Pyrenean rock lizards. A marmot called and we all saw it well. A pool had a live common frog and a bigger tarn a dragonfly moving over it. Eventually Ann and I got close to it as it was egg-laying: a later check of photos confirmed a female moorland (common) hawkker. By now there were numerous groups of *Crocus nudiflorus*. Barry mentioned that their corms spread with stolons, which is why they tend to be patch-forming.



Pyrenean rock lizard.

An adult bearded vulture flew into view over the nearest mountain. A good view, albeit not a sustained one. There had been several black redstarts already and now these were joined by several meadow pipits, and two alpine choughs flew over. By now we were at the simple electric fence that marks the border with France, and some of us stepped over the border. In two places there were waxcap fungi on the short turf, with blackening waxcap the likely ID. We descended into Portalet and into a cafe for coffee, and some made other purchases. Two bearded vultures flew over the mountain to the east while we were there.

We moved on to a lower, quiet valley beyond Formigal – with a red squirrel running in front of the second bus during the journey – for what was now a very late picnic lunch at La Sarra. From here we walked alongside a fast-flowing river, in time crossing the river and returning on the other side. Though not staying still long enough for everyone to see, group members saw both dipper and grey wagtail. The telescope's only real use was to look at a hawkker in 'hanging' pose: Kate realised that it was a moorland hawkker rather than the southern hawkker that I first suggested. Flowers were of the late-lingering type, or distinctive leaves (such as hepatica and large-flowered butterwort), though included several interesting species: fringed gentian, brown clover, maiden pink, cut-leaved self-heal and yellow monkshood. The last prompted a story from Sue about an Indian woman who killed her estranged husband and nearly killed his new partner with poisonous monkshood concealed within a strong curry.



Fringed gentian (KD); brown clover; yellow monkshood.

### Saturday 5 October – Aísa

It was a winding route to Aísa, though it took only an hour. Perfect weather and being Saturday morning meant many others had chosen to visit here today, though we found parking spaces OK. The first stretch

was fairly steeply uphill, past bushy areas and gorgeous Pyrenean Brown cattle. Then it levelled out as we walked into this beautiful valley. And it would be fair to say that this morning's walk was to a great extent appreciating the place, with a waterfall, fast flowing river, and mountain pastures against a backdrop of mountains. Ceri found crested tits in some pines, griffons appeared several times and a mixed flock of red-billed and alpine choughs flew over and fed on the mountain turf. People were well-spread, but perhaps enough to deter any izardos (Pyrenean chamois) from showing, and I failed to find any Pyrenean brook newts despite searching in many stiller, shallow areas of the river. The most obvious flowers, as elsewhere, were merenderas (lower down, mostly) and many more *Crocus nudiflorus*. Alpine lady's-mantle, eyebright and grass-of-Parnassus were noted. There was a bright Adonis blue and a high-flying red admiral, though perhaps of more interest were a wart-biter cricket and small field crickets. A later check of photos showed that there was a great green bush-cricket, too (see photos on page 11 & 12).



Aisa; red-billed chough (RC).

We descended and took a short drive to some picnic tables for the usual splendid lunchtime spread, close to meadows and beech woods turning into autumn gold. A brimstone flew past. From here most of us took two short walks: some group members just pottered. The first stroll was through the meadows, the second by the beech wood, both nice walks in perfect weather, though without a huge amount of note for wildlife. By the meadow's track were cross gentians, their shape obvious despite the lack of flowers, and also the seedheads of martagon lilies and a large cardabelle. By the beech wood there was a mysterious late-flowering thistle that was not in the Alpine flora: a Spanish flora of Peter's pointed towards *Circium monspellanum*. Fungi included a two large clumps of a coral fungus *Romana aurea*, and several *Tricholoma myomyces*.

We found a recently opened road that was effectively a short-cut for a smooth and relatively early return to Berdún. That allowed time for several of us to walk from Casa Sarasa to Berdún itself to view the interesting buildings, doors and other features of this fortified hilltop town, and for me to reminisce about holidays based in the Painting School in years gone by. Peter took a minibus of Honeyguiders to the church in Berdún for a recital with a mezzosoprano singing classical music, which was very much enjoyed, we heard.

### **Sunday 6 October – Lumbier Gorge and Roncal Valley**

A cloudy start to the day, prompting a swap around of plans, soon after we'd set off, to start low and go high later. A car park and loos are new at Lumbier since I last visited, though otherwise it's the same: a flat track, a former railway line, that takes you through a short tunnel and into an attractive gorge, which we shared with many Sunday morning walkers. We looked down into an autumnal-looking corner where there was a robin, a male blackcap and a red squirrel that scampered through the trees. A large caterpillar was later identified as a convolvulus hawkmoth.

Over the gorge itself there were many griffon vultures and more perched within the gorge. Crag martins were numerous, and we heard our first wren. On a wire we could see white wagtails and a silhouette that was just about discernible as a rock sparrow. It flew off, though happily we re-found it, or another rock sparrow, within the gorge. There was a large flock of pigeons, some of which had plumage reminiscent of wild rocks doves, but many were definitely feral pigeons. Two ravens flew through and there were several red-billed choughs.

Then it was time to head upwards and into the neighbouring region of Navarra. The long drive took us through beech and maple woods in autumn colours, though the mountain villages of Isaba and Roncal and into open, skiing country. Here we had coffee in a mountain bar, as usual in ski country of a utilitarian

rather than attractive design, though the drinks and loos were fine. Also, it's the deal here that anyone is allowed to bring their own food, so we settled onto the outside picnic tables for lunch. Birds were plentiful: a small flock of both serins and meadow pipits, black redstart, red-billed choughs, red kites and griffons.

We drove on a little more, even higher, almost to the border with France, into an area of old black pines on rugged limestone. As Ceri observed later, the best-bird-is-in-the-car-park rule applied, with a fine male crossbill atop a black pine, which stayed long enough for everyone to see it well through the telescope. There was a second, or possibly the same, equally cooperative crossbill a short way into our walk. That walk was along cross-country skiing paths through the open pine forest, so an easy walk through a very attractive habitat. It was generally quiet for birds, though over the slopes above an open area there was a flock of c.80 alpine choughs. Botanists in the group studied various late flowers, including fairy foxglove, heather and bell heather, the leaves of Pyrenean germander, alpine toadflax and more crocuses, plus a scattering of fungi, including more waxcaps. As at Portalet we found what in the UK we call common frog, which is restricted here to the very north, in the Pyrenees. It was time to return to Casa Sarasa and to find out what Ann had seen, having taken a day out from the programme – the answer being a good selection of invertebrates, as ever, and common toad tadpoles.



Roncal, open black pine forest: part of a large flock of alpine choughs (RC).

### Monday 7 October – Berdún and San Juan de la Peña

A grey day, turning to rain in the afternoon, though fine for this morning's activity, which was a visit to Berdún. A few walked up the hill, meeting the minibuses in the square by the school where once (but not now) there was a castle. This was a walking tour, with Peter giving insights into the history of this fortified small town. That started with an overview of the geography of the Canal de Berdún, the extended valley running east-west (unlike most Pyrenean valleys that run north-south). Blocks of holm oaks breaking up the arable are relatively new, planted for truffle production. We admired the big doorways and heard how big families squeezed into the usually three storey buildings, including livestock, stored crops and wine-making facilities, the last as wine was safer than water to drink. The church clock struck many times to mark ten o'clock.

We then had a real treat as the former Painting School, which once hosted Honeyguide groups and others, is now a museum for traditional musical instruments. Our guide here was Angel, who bought the Painting School to provide a home for his extensive collection. He is also an accomplished musician, and we had demonstrations of various instruments, including small and portable percussion instruments, a dulcimer, local bagpipes (the bag made from goatskin) and a wind instrument made from a vulture bone.

We then had coffee in Emilio's café El Rincón, which for many years was where groups had evening meals. The entrance is in the corner of a square and it appears to be small until you go in – as Rob remarked, a bit like entering the Tardis. Berdún had struck as being quiet, but not here: there was a real sense of a community café.

Sue and Peter opted for a quiet day around Casa Sasara and the rest of us went out. First stop was in arable not far from Berdún as sometimes great bustards have been turning up here in autumn/winter. There were no bustards today, though we did find three roe deer and a flock of red-billed choughs that I very quickly estimated as 250 strong<sup>1</sup>. Looking back towards Berdún, there were at least ten ravens in flight.

---

<sup>1</sup> Kate Dalziel reports: "Your 250 count was an underestimate! Even with my photos it is impossible to count accurately but nearer to 300. Amazing."



We drove on to the former monastery at San Juan de la Peña, set by a large open meadow and surrounded by Scots pine woodland. Most of us checked out the palatial loos for visitors, like us and today's visiting school group, and resisted buying any souvenirs. Back at the picnic benches – by more excellent loos – our picnic was ready, which we finished off speedily when it started to rain. It continued to rain, though not heavily, on and off as we walked around the pine woods. Our route took us to a viewpoint where we could see towards where we'd been at Aísa and Portalet. On the rocks below, Peter managed to find a single ramonda in flower. Back in the woods the birdwatching was quiet, though various group members heard crested tit, nuthatch, firecrest and chaffinch, and a few glimpsed a red squirrel. It's plainly an excellent autumn for fungi, some of which we could name – that was mostly by Peter – including saffron milkcap *Lactarius deliciosus* (occasional in Britain), fly agaric, panther cap *Amanita pantherina*, sulphur tuft and many more impressive clumps of coral fungus. We ended up in the meadow by the remains of an ice house for the monks. Near here was an experimental station, one of several in the Iberian Peninsula, where a series of vegetated ponds in containers has been set up to see what invertebrates will arrive, and how this varies between experimental locations with differing temperatures and altitudes.

We re-fuelled on the way home, and by now it was pouring with rain.



Upright coral fungus *Ramaria stricta*; panther cap *Amanita pantherina*; fly agaric.

## Tuesday 8 October – Berdún to Bilbao

We left promptly at 08:30 and happily it was a smooth journey, pausing for coffee and fuel at the equivalent café to the one we'd visited on the way out, only this time on the other side of the road. We dropped the group, I returned my minibus and Peter took Julie to Bilbao's bus station. At the airport, there was time to get food & drink and all was straightforward with the Vueling flight back to Gatwick.

### Holiday highlights, as nominated by group members

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Sue     | Crossbill; crocuses; wasp spider.  |
| Peter B | Crossbill; Loarre Castle; crocuses.  |
| Barry   | Crocus; bearded vulture; Peter R's wonderful narratives.   |
| Sally   | Crossbill; variety of fungi, especially coral fungus; music museum.  |
| Everard | Bearded vulture; crossbill, marmot; crocuses, fabulous mountain scenery.   |
| Mundi   | Loarre Castle; Portalet with bearded vulture & crocuses; Roncal walk & crossbills; music museum and concert; violet fritillary.  |
| Rob     | Crossbills. Flocks of red-billed choughs today; alpine chough flock on Roncal walk.  |
| Julie   | Peter's narratives (also by popular acclaim); food, picnics, dinners and staff; scenery, favourite was Aísa; the company; the very close griffon vulture.  |
| Marie   | Scenery, including crocuses; food and having table cloths; crossbills, fungi.  |
| Ann     | Splendid isolation in Berdún; quiet afternoon at Casa Sarasa; the company.   |
| Jill    | Scenery; crocuses, chicory, a favourite plant; very red red squirrel. Thanks for excellent vegan food.   |
| Kate    | Loarre Castle and the sunshine that brought out the woodlarks; the Portalet experience; Aísa; honoured by the violet fritillary on my shirt.   |
| Ceri    | The welcome, the passionate group on all aspects of nature; the grandeur of cliffs, gorges and tarns; experience and hospitality of Berdún and Casa Sarasa; firecrest, crossbill, alpine chough and especially the rock sparrow. |
| Chris D | Three landscapes: Portalet with crocuses; Roncal's pines, new to me; seeing Berdún as we approached. The music museum, such a good use for the former Painting School.   |
| Peter R | Family atmosphere of a bunch of Honeyguiders; the good you do, the conservation contributions to protect nature an "industry benchmark"; fungi today at St Juan de la Peña; Aísa in perfect conditions.                          |

## WILDLIFE LISTS

### BIRDS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Little grebe                           | A few, Laguna de Pitillas.  |
| Black-necked grebe                     | 2, Laguna de Pitillas.  |
| Grey heron                             | A single bird in a field, 5/10.   |
| Mute swan                              | Scores at Laguna de Pitillas.   |
| Greylag goose                          | Flying over Laguna de Pitillas.   |
| Gadwall                                | Common at Laguna de Pitillas.   |
| Mallard                                | A single bird at Laguna de Pitillas.  |
| Pochard                                | Hundreds at Laguna de Pitillas.   |
| Red kite                               | Several seen every day.   |
| Bearded vulture                        | 1 then 2 at Portalet.   |
| Griffon vulture                        | Seen daily, often in large numbers.   |
| Marsh harrier                          | A female at Laguna de Pitillas.   |
| Common buzzard                         | Seen almost every day.  |
| Common kestrel                         | Seen on four days.  |
| Water rail                             | Heard at Laguna de Pitillas.  |
| Coot                                   | Laguna de Pitillas.   |
| Yellow-legged gull                     | Bilbao only.  |
| Feral pigeon                           | Daily at Berdún, and a flock in Lumbier Gorge.  |
| Woodpigeon                             | 3, Aísa Gorge.  |
| Collared dove                          | Daily at Berdún.  |
| Great spotted woodpecker               | Recorded on 3/10 only.  |
| Crested lark                           | Surprisingly scarce. Heard at Laguna de Pitillas, and some mornings at Casa Sarasa.                             |
| Skylark                                | Heard (by Chris only) flying past Casa Sarasa, 7/10.  |
| Crag martin                            | Daily, sometimes in large numbers   |
| Swallow                                | Brief sightings on two days.  |
| Meadow pipit                           | 4/10 and 6/10, both in the high Pyrenees.   |
| Grey wagtail                           | Recorded on two days, on rivers.  |
| White wagtail                          | Seen on four days.  |
| Dipper                                 | Recorded on two days, on rivers.  |
| Wren                                   | Heard in Lumbier Gorge and Berdún.  |
| Dunnock                                | Lumbier Gorge, 6/10.  |
| Robin                                  | Seen daily.   |
| Black redstart                         | Seen daily.   |
| Stonechat                              | 2/10 only, surprisingly scarce.   |
| Northern wheatear                      | 4/10, Portalet area.  |
| Blue rock thrush                       | A brief sighting at Riglos, 2/10.   |
| Blackbird                              | Recorded on four days.  |
| Mistle thrush                          | 5/10 & 7/10, both in areas of high pasture.   |
| Cetti's warbler                        | Heard on two days.  |
| Zitting cisticola (fan-tailed warbler) | Seen at Laguna de Pitillas only.  |
| Sardinian warbler                      | Seen or heard on three days.  |
| Blackcap                               | Seen on two days.   |
| Chiffchaff                             | Seen or heard almost every day.   |
| Firecrest                              | Seen 4/10, heard 7/10.  |
| Long-tailed tit                        | Seen on two days, 3/10 and 4/10.  |
| Crested tit                            | Aísa and St Juan de la Peña.  |
| Coal tit                               | Heard 4/10 only; with so many pines, perhaps they were being quiet.   |
| Blue tit                               | Recorded on 5 days.   |
| Great tit                              | Recorded on 2 days.   |
| Nuthatch                               | Heard at St Juan de la Peña.  |
| Short-toed treecreeper                 | Treecreepers seen on 3 days. Treecreepers at Roncal, based on height/habitat, could well be common treecreeper. |
| Iberian grey shrike                    | Seen well at Laguna de Pitillas, 1/10, also one on 2/10.  |
| Jay                                    | Seen or heard on three days.  |
| Magpie                                 | Seen on four days.  |
| Carrion crow                           | Seen almost every day.  |
| Raven                                  | Seen on five days   |
| Spotless starling                      | Daily, especially in Berdún.  |
| House sparrow                          | Daily, especially in Berdún.  |
| Rock sparrow                           | One in Lumbier Gorge.   |
| Chaffinch                              | Recorded on 4 days.   |
| Serin                                  | Recorded on 2 days.   |
| Greenfinch                             | Recorded on 2 days.   |
| Goldfinch                              | Recorded on 3 days.   |
| Linnet                                 | Recorded on 4 days, mostly heard.   |
| Crossbill                              | Excellent views of males at Roncal, 6/10.   |
| Corn bunting                           | Laguna de Pitillas, 1/10, only  |

| MAMMALS                       |                          |                                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Wild boar (rootings & prints) | Roe deer                 | Red squirrel                       |
| Alpine marmot                 | European free-tailed bat | Greater horseshoe-bat              |
| Noctule                       | Leisler's noctule        | Common beat-wing (Schrieber's) bat |
| Western barbastelle           | Pipistrelle              | Soprano pipistrelle                |
| Nathusius's pipistrelle       | Kuhl's pipistrelle       | Brown long-eared bat               |

Bats all recorded using an Echo Meter, so records should be regarded as probable rather than confirmed.

| AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES |                         |                |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Common frog           | Common toad (tadpoles)  | Wall lizard sp |
| Iberian rock lizard   | Ladder snake (roadkill) |                |

| BUTTERFLIES    |                         |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sage skipper   | Red admiral             | Speckled wood           |
| Small skipper  | Painted lady            | Common blue             |
| Swallowtail    | Two-tailed pasha (dead) | Provence chalkhill blue |
| Large white    | Wall                    | Adonis blue             |
| Small white    | Large wall              | Brown argus             |
| Clouded yellow | Rock grayling           | Long-tailed blue        |
| Brimstone      | Meadow brown            |                         |

| MOTHS                |                                     |                        |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Chalk burnet         | Hummingbird hawk-moth               | Vestal                 |
| French red underwing | Convolvulus hawk-moth (caterpillar) | Fox moth (caterpillar) |



French red underwing *Catocala elocata* (KD); Provence chalkhill blue (KD) seems to be the best fit for chalk-hill blues with a faded look, though Spanish chalkhill blue is very similar; two-tailed pasha (dead).

| DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLY |                           |                                |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Migrant hawkler         | Moorland (common) hawkler | Southern hawkler (dead)        |
| Lesser emperor          | Red-veined darter         | Broad scarlet (scarlet darter) |
| Bluetail sp.            |                           |                                |

| OTHER INVERTEBRATES     |   |                      |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Wasp spider             | Great green bush-cricket                    | Rosemary beetle      |
| Garden spider           | Praying mantis                              | Rose chafer          |
| Egyptian grasshopper    | <i>Graphosoma italicum</i> red & black bug  | Honey bee            |
| Blue-winged grasshopper | Fire bug                                    | Common carder-bee    |
| Field cricket           | <i>Carpocoris fuscispinus</i> a shield bug  | Violet carpenter bee |
| Wart-biter              | <i>Saperda carcharias</i> a longhorn beetle | Paper wasp           |



Wartbiter (left), great green bush-cricket (right), both at Aísa.

| GALLS   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Terebinth:</b> aphid <i>Forda formicaria</i>       | <b>Rose:</b> robin's pincushion, gall wasp <i>Diplolepis rosae</i> |
| FUNGI (incomplete)                                    |  |
| Shaggy inkcap <i>Coprinus comatus</i>                 | Fly agaric <i>Amanita muscaria</i>                                 |
| Parasol <i>Macrolepiota procera</i>                   | Panthercap <i>Amanita pantherine</i>                               |
| Suede or yellow bolete <i>Xerocomus subtomentosus</i> | Field mushroom <i>Agaricus campestris</i>                          |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Saffron milkcap <i>Lactarius deliciosus</i> | Upright coral fungus <i>Ramaria stricta</i> |
| Blackening waxcap <i>Hygrocybe conica</i>   | Tar spot <i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>           |
| Sulphur tuft <i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>   | <i>Tricholoma myomyces</i>                  |



Field cricket at Aísa; rose chafer on rosemary outside Emilio's; convolvulus hawkmoth, Lumbier Gorge (all KD).

### PLANTS

Generally, flowers are included if in flower or obvious fruit. Occasionally we note NiF = not in flower, e.g. for distinctive leaves. No great effort was made to list trees: those noted are mostly species that we discussed in the field.

#### CONIFERS *Pinus nigra* ssp. *salzmannii*

*Pinus halapensis*

*Pinus sylvestris*

*Juniperus communis*

#### FERNS *Asplenium fontanum*

*A. trichomanes*

*Ceterach officinarum*

*Polypodium vulgare*

*Polystichum lonchitis*

*Pteridium aquilinum*

Pyrenean black pine

Aleppo pine

Scots pine

Juniper

Smooth rock spleenwort

Maidenhair spleenwort

Rusty-back fern

Common polypody

Holly fern

Bracken

#### Dicotyledons

##### Aceraceae

*Acer campestre*

*A. monspessulanum*

Field maple

Montpellier maple

##### Amaranthaceae

*Amaranthus hybridus*

Green amaranth

##### Anacardiaceae

*Pistachia terebinthus*

Turpentine tree

##### Apiaceae

*Bupleurum falcatum*

*Daucus carota*

*Eryngium campestre*

*Seseli montanum*

Sickle-leaved hare's-ear

Wild carrot

Field eryngo NiF

Mountain cicely

##### Asteraceae

*Achillea millefolium*

*Artemisia campestris*

*Artemisia vulgaris*

*Aster linosyris*

*Bellis perennis*

*Carlina acanthifolia*

*Centaurea calcitrapa*

*Chicorium intybus*

*Cirsium monspellanum*

*Helminthotheca echioides*

*Hieracium pilosella*

*Pallenis spinosa*

*Tussilago farfara*

Yarrow

Field southernwood NiF

Mugwort

Goldilocks aster

Perennial daisy

Cardabelle (= acanthus-leaved carline thistle)

Red star-thistle

Chicory

Bristly ox-tongue

Mouse-eared hawkweed

Spiny golden-star

Colt's-foot NiF

##### Boraginaceae

*Anchusa arvensis*

*Buglossoides purpureocaeruleum*

*Echium plantagineum*

*Heliotropium europaeum*

Bugloss

Purple gromwell

Purple viper's-bugloss

Heliotrope

##### Brassicaceae

*Diplotaxis eruroides*

*Sinapis arvensis*

White wall-rocket

Charlock



Chalk burnet moth

|  |                            |          |
|--|----------------------------|----------|
| <b>Buxaceae</b>  |                            |          |
| <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>                                | Box                        |          |
| <b>Campanulaceae</b>                                     |                            |          |
| <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>                            | Harebell                   |          |
| <b>Caprifoliaceae</b>                                    |                            |          |
| <i>Lonicera etrusca</i>                                  | Perfoliate honeysuckle     |          |
| <i>Sambucus ebulus</i>                                   | Dwarf elder                | in fruit |
| <i>S. nigra</i>  | Elder                      | in fruit |
| <b>Caryophyllaceae</b>                                   |                            |          |
| <i>Dianthus deltooides</i>                               | Maiden pink                |          |
| <i>Silene vulgaris</i>                                   | Bladder campion            |          |
| <b>Convulvulaceae</b>                                    |                            |          |
| <i>Convolvulus cantabricus</i>                           | Pink bindweed              |          |
| <b>Cornaceae</b>   |                            |          |
| <i>Cornus sanguinea</i>                                  | Dogwood                    | NiF      |
| <b>Corylaceae</b>  |                            |          |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i>                                  | Hazel                      |          |
| <b>Crassulaceae</b>                                      |                            |          |
| <i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>                               | Navelwort                  | NiF      |
| <b>Cucurbitaceae</b>                                     |                            |          |
| <i>Bryonia dioica</i>                                    | White bryony               |          |
| <b>Dipsacaceae</b>                                       |                            |          |
| <i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>                               | Small scabious             |          |
| <i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>                             | Mournful widow             |          |
| <b>Ericaceae</b>   |                            |          |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>                                  | Heather                    |          |
| <i>Erica cineria</i>                                     | Bell heather               |          |
| <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>                               | Bilberry                   | in fruit |
| <b>Euphorbiaceae</b>                                     |                            |          |
| <i>Euphorbia characias</i>                               | Large Mediterranean spurge | NiF      |
| <b>Fabaceae</b>  |                            |          |
| <i>Anthyllis hermannii</i>                               | (spiny)                    |          |
| <i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>                               | Judas tree                 | NiF      |
| <i>Dorycnium pentaphyllum</i> ( <i>Lotus dorycnium</i> ) |                            |          |
| <i>Ecinospartum horridum</i>                             | NiF                        |          |
| <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>                                | Bird's-foot-trefoil        |          |
| <i>Medicago sativa</i>                                   | Lucerne (=alfalfa)         |          |
| <i>Melilotus alba</i>                                    | White melilot              |          |
| <i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>                             | Sainfoin                   |          |
| <i>Ononis minutissima</i>                                | Pigmy restharrow (yellow)  |          |
| <i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>                               | Pitch trefoil              | NiF      |
| <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>                              | False acacia               | NiF      |
| <i>Trifolium badium</i>                                  | Brown clover               |          |
| <i>T. pratense</i>                                       | Red clover                 |          |
| <i>T. repens</i>   | White clover               |          |
| <i>Vicia sepium</i>                                      | Bush vetch                 |          |
| <b>Fagaceae</b>  |                            |          |
| <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>                                   | Beech                      |          |
| <i>Quercus coccifera</i>                                 | Kermes oak                 |          |
| <i>Q. ilex</i>   | Holm oak                   |          |
| <b>Gentianaceae</b>                                      |                            |          |
| <i>Gentiana cruciata</i>                                 | Cross gentian              |          |
| <i>G. ciliata</i>  | Fringed gentian            |          |
| <b>Geraniaceae</b>                                       |                            |          |
| <i>Erodium cicutarium</i>                                | Common storksbill          |          |
| <i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>                               | Pyrenean cranesbill        |          |
| <b>Gesneriaceae</b>                                      |                            |          |
| <i>Ramonda myconi</i>                                    | Ramonda                    |          |
| <b>Lamiaceae</b>   |                            |          |
| <i>Acinos alpinus</i>                                    | Alpine basil-thyme         |          |
| <i>Clinopodium ascendens</i>                             | Common calamint            |          |
| <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>                            | Lavender                   |          |
| <i>Prunella laciniata</i>                                | Cut-leaved self-heal       |          |
| <i>Stachys recta</i>                                     | Yellow woundwort           |          |
| <i>Teucrium pyrenaicum</i>                               | Pyrenean germander         | NiF      |
| <b>Lentibulariaceae</b>                                  |                            |          |
| <i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>                            | Large-flowered butterwort  | NiF      |
| <i>Viscum album ssp austriacum</i>                       | Mistletoe                  |          |
| <b>Lythraceae</b>  |                            |          |
| <i>Lythrum salicaria</i>                                 | Purple loosestrife         |          |
| <b>Malvaceae</b>   |                            |          |
| <i>Althaea cannabina</i>                                 | Hemp-leaved mallow         |          |
| <i>Malva sylvestris</i>                                  | Common mallow              |          |

|   |                                       |          |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>M. neglecta</i>                              | Dwarf mallow                          |          |
| <b>Nyctaginaceae</b>                            |                                       |          |
| <i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>                         | Marvel of Peru or four o'clock flower |          |
| <b>Oleaceae</b>                                 |                                       |          |
| <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>                       | Ash                                   |          |
| <i>Jasminum fruticans</i>                       | Wild jasmine                          |          |
| <i>Olea europaea</i>                            | Olive                                 |          |
| <b>Parnassiaceae (or Celastraceae)</b>          |                                       |          |
| <i>Parnassia palustris</i>                      | Grass of Parnassus                    |          |
| <b>Plantaginaceae</b>                           |                                       |          |
| <i>Plantago maritima</i> ssp. <i>serpentina</i> | Fleshy plantain                       |          |
| <i>P. media</i>                                 | Hoary plantain                        |          |
| <b>Polygonaceae</b>                             |                                       |          |
| <i>Polygonum aviculare</i>                      | Knotgrass                             |          |
| <b>Portulacaceae</b>                            |                                       |          |
| <i>Portulaca oleracea</i>                       | Common purslane                       |          |
| <b>Ranunculaceae</b>                            |                                       |          |
| <i>Aconitum anthora</i>                         | Yellow monkshood                      |          |
| <i>Clematis vitalba</i>                         | Traveller's-joy                       | Nif      |
| <i>Helleborus foetidus</i>                      | Stinking hellebore                    | Nif      |
| <i>Hepatica nobilis</i>                         | Hepatica                              | Nif      |
| <b>Rhamnaceae</b>                               |                                       |          |
| <i>Rhamnus alpinus</i>                          | NiF                                   |          |
| <b>Rosaceae</b>                                 |                                       |          |
| <i>Alchemilla alpina</i>                        | Alpine lady's-mantle                  | Nif      |
| <i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>                       | Snowy mespilus                        |          |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>                       | Hawthorn                              | In fruit |
| <i>Prunus spinosa</i>                           | Blackthorn                            | In fruit |
| <i>Rosa pendulina</i> (= <i>R. alpina</i> )     | Alpine rose                           | In fruit |
| <i>Sorbus aria</i>                              | Whitebeam                             | In fruit |
| <i>S. aucuparia</i>                             | Rowan                                 | In fruit |
| <b>Saxifragaceae</b>                            |                                       |          |
| <i>Saxifraga longifolia</i>                     | Pyrenean saxifrage                    | Nif      |
| <b>Scrophulariaceae</b>                         |                                       |          |
| <i>Antirrhinum majus</i>                        | Common snapdragon                     |          |
| <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>                       | Ivy-leaved toadflax                   |          |
| <i>Erinus alpinus</i>                           | Fairy foxglove                        |          |
| <i>Euphrasia</i> sp                             | Eyebright                             |          |
| <i>Linaria alpina</i>                           | Alpine toadflax                       |          |
| <i>L. pyrenaica/supina</i>                      | Pyrenean toadflax                     |          |
| <b>Simaroubaceae</b>                            |                                       |          |
| <i>Ailanthus altissima</i>                      | Tree-of-heaven                        |          |
| <b>Solanaceae</b>                               |                                       |          |
| <i>Datura stramonium</i>                        | Thornapple                            |          |
| <i>Solanum dulcamara</i>                        | Bittersweet or woody nightshade       |          |
| <i>S. nigrum</i>                                | Black nightshade                      |          |
| <b>Thymelaeaceae</b>                            |                                       |          |
| <i>Daphne laureola</i> ssp. <i>philippii</i>    | Spurge-laurel                         | Nif      |
| <b>Urticaceae</b>                               |                                       |          |
| <i>Parietaria judaica</i>                       | Pellitory-of-the-wall                 |          |
| <b>Valerianaceae</b>                            |                                       |          |
| <i>Centranthus ruber</i>                        | Red valerian                          |          |
| <b>Verbenaceae</b>                              |                                       |          |
| <i>Verbena officinalis</i>                      | Vervain                               |          |
| <b>Violaceae</b>                                |                                       |          |
| <i>Viola cornuta</i>                            | Horned violet                         |          |
| <b>Zygophyllaceae</b>                           |                                       |          |
| <i>Tribulus terrestris</i>                      | Maltese cross, small caltrops         |          |
| <b>Monocotyledons</b>                           |                                       |          |
| <b>Araceae</b>                                  |                                       |          |
| <i>Arum italicum</i>                            | Italian lords-and-ladies              | NiF      |
| <b>Iridaceae</b>                                |                                       |          |
| <i>Crocus nudiflorus</i>                        |                                       |          |
| <b>Liliaceae</b>                                |                                       |          |
| <i>Lilium martagon</i>                          | Martagon lily or Turk's cap lily      | NiF      |
| <i>Merendera pyrenaica</i>                      | Merendera                             |          |
| <i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>                         | Butcher's-broom                       | Nif      |
| <b>Orchidaceae</b>                              |                                       |          |
| <i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>                      | Autumn lady's tresses                 |          |