

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

36 Thunder Lane Thorpe St Andrew Norwich NR7 0PX
Telephone and Fax 01603 300552 Evenings and weekends



**Spring in the Spanish Pyrenees
Cambridge RSPB Members' Group
20 – 28 April 2002**

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Participants

Jenny Brightwell

Sylvia Custerson

Dorothy Aylett

Audrey Meaney

Thea Cockcroft

Mick and Dorothy Best

Sandra Clarke

Anne Shearcroft

Andrew Camps

Jean Benfield

Dan, Judy and Justin Bloom

John Durdin

Norfolk

Leaders

Chris Durdin

Norwich

Ivan Nethercoat

Beverley

Report by Ivan Nethercoat, with plant list by Chris Durdin.

Illustrations by Rob Hume. Front cover: Berdún

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for La Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO, BirdLife Spain), the Spanish Ornithological Society, and its work in Extremadura. During the holiday, Juan Carlos Cirera of SEO's Zaragoza office came to Berdún to collect the cheque for £395 from this year's holiday in the Spanish Pyrenees (£25 per person, plus a £20 donation from Alan Greengo who was on one of this year's Crete holidays).

This brings the total given to SEO since the first Honeyguide holiday in Spain in 1991 to £7,470, and the total from all Honeyguide holidays to £25,700. A thank-you letter from Juan Carlos appears at the end of this report.

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Saturday 20 April – Stansted to Berdún

A gathering of happy souls at Stansted, all safely checked in, then through to departure lounge for some food and we were off. A quick flight followed by a rapid trip through Bilbao airport, including one of the quickest retrievals of luggage and before we knew it we were on the coach travelling to Berdún in glorious sunshine.

Birds became more numerous as we travelled west with buzzard the first of the birds of prey followed by black kite. Swallows skimmed the fields and eventually red kites appeared, then more black kites followed by two booted eagles, then 16 red kites together and griffon vultures seen distantly over the ridges.

A large reservoir, the Embalse de Yesa, evidently in need of much more water and then Berdún, perched on a hill above farmed land, resplendent in the evening light. Vivien Boucher, our host, and a chattering display of swallows, sparrows and spotless starlings met us. A quick look at our rooms then into Emilio's restaurant for our evening meal.

While Chris sampled the highly efficient medical facilities – the clinic was open late and quickly provided a cure for his eye infection – the rest of took a warm evening stroll around the town, chorused by a scops owl using the walls of buildings to amplify his call. Alas he proved elusive to the eye; we vowed to try another night and retired to bed wondering what tomorrow might bring.

Sunday 21 April – around Berdún

Bright sunshine and clear skies set the scene for the rest of the day. A pre-breakfast contingent set out for the edge of the town having seen spotless starling from the bedroom window. Goldfinches and serin were competing for the singing prize while down below the town, the voices of numerous nightingales were rising above the competition. A stop at a viewpoint looking down onto the plain gave a great introduction with rock sparrow and black redstart showing well to a background of golden oriole song. Surprise of the morning was thanks to Jenny's good ears. Below us in a wheat field was heard the very distinctive call of corncrake, a passage migrant and new bird for the Honeyguide holiday list. A stroll back toward the church gave us very good views of Bonelli's warbler before breakfast.

Two rivers were to be our destinations for the day. The morning involved a stroll to the banks of the Veral through the 'badlands': an area of poor soil, long ago stripped of its protective woodland covering, now scrubby hillsides and low hills leading to a mature shallow river. Nightingales were in good view for everybody along with black and common redstarts. Swifts shared the air with swallows and new town dwellers - crag martins.

Mid-morning saw the start of the vulture excursions to the updrafts over Berdún. Groups of six or seven griffons hung low overhead, along with red and black kite and Egyptian vulture. Common sandpiper and marsh frogs were the main river interest but just beyond in the quiet fields, three black kites gave spectacular aerial displays only a few feet above the ground. Here too was firecrest, treecreeper (probably short-toed) and great spotted woodpecker. Lady orchids provided botanical interest before the return to Berdún past numerous scarce and common swallowtails, fritillaries – probably violet fritillaries but they were never caught to confirm - and brimstone butterflies. There was even the luxury of lift back up the hill for a few.



After a substantial lunch at Emilio's, we set off for the river Aragón along public roads.

Numerous male whinchats lined the fences and stones in some of the less disturbed fields. A woodchat shrike and another obliging subalpine warbler - eventually - were some of the bird highlights set in a spectacular landscape. Viv and her daughter Charis then ferried us all back to Berdún.

After supper an evening stroll when we finally managed to see last night's elusive scops owl.

Monday 22 April – San Juan de la Peña

Santa Cruz is a village nestling below the hills that lead up to the monasteries and a convenient stop for a leg stretch en route. Stepping out of the coach we soon found a small colony of griffon vultures on cliffs a cave above the village. The birds were starting to take to the air in the company of a pale phase booted eagle and a small flock of alpine swifts. A short walk behind the town we found delightful clumps of hepatica, violets and cowslips.

Back on the road and we were soon climbing the hills to the new monastery. This popular tourist spot is also home to the often elusive citril finch and other pine forest birds and flowers.

On leaving the bus – and driver Jesus – there was an almost instant sighting of crossbills, at the top of Scots pines on view through telescopes. Egyptian and griffon vultures soared overhead while farther on the sound of citril finch came from the pines. The size of serins, these little birds proved very difficult to pinpoint for any length of time until we realised they were coming to drink from a nearly dry pond. Moving to a vantage point overlooking the water we managed to set up telescopes on the perches used for drinking and everyone had excellent views of this normally tricky species.

Moving on through the forest we were serenaded by firecrest and crested tit before reaching the viewpoint. There are stunning views to the high peaks over 20 miles away with flocks of griffon vultures in between to greet us. Having paid our commission to Fuji & Kodak we moved back to the car park for lunch, accompanied by crested tit and nuthatch.

Lunch was our first of the generous packed lunches supplied by Emilio, complete with a sack of bread baked in Berdún. After lunch, a hot woodland walk was very quiet bird wise but superb areas of *alpestris* wild daffodils and rush-leaved narcissus more than made up for it. Then more citril finches with tea and ice cream before the descent, by coach, to the old monastery set into the cliffs. Here all the party opted for a look inside rather than walk outside, a reflection of the temperature as well as the interest in history.

More warm evening strolling with a look at five planets in alignment with even Mercury putting in a brief appearance along with clear views (through the telescope) of the rings of Saturn, Jupiter and its moons and Mars and Venus completing the set. Oh, and scops owls and barn owl.

Tuesday 23 April – the high meadows of Aísa.

A short walk across the valley and over the river Aragón at Jaca broke up the journey and introduced us to some more migrant birds. Swifts, hoopoe and pied flycatcher were all signs that migration was under way, albeit mostly straight over our heads due to the exceptionally hot and clear weather.

At the village of Aísa we stopped at a café where most of us took coffee although some took a brandy with a dash of coffee or, at the excuse of following local customs, a good measure of Anise with a dribble of camomile tea.

The snow-capped peaks gradually came closer as we drove higher up the valley but the strong wind kept the birds low. We left the bus and walked the rest of the way to the meadows just below the snowline. After a short clamber through rocks and scrub we soon reached the calmer short turf of the meadows and were immediately greeted by patches of spring and trumpet gentians set against a backdrop of high snow-capped peaks at the end of the valley.

Settling down in the meadow for lunch we were all alert for signs of large raptors against the skyline. After a few minutes the cry of “Lammergeier!” went up: but not as a silhouette, rather a large bird directly approaching us from across the valley. As it came overhead it was so low as to more than fill a binocular image. Once it ascertained that we were not a carcass it circled higher and eventually disappeared over the ridge leaving us elated and very surprised at our timing. However a few minutes



later binoculars were again raised in excitement as a golden eagle drifted over, soon to be chased back over the ridge by a crowd of mobbing choughs.

After all this we left to explore more of the meadows. Sheets of lesser wild daffodil, bird's eye primrose, a sparkling stream, Iberian rock lizards basking on the rocks and chamois on the hills at top of the valley set off a perfect day.

Wednesday 22 April – the gorges of Arbayún and Lumbier

A blisteringly hot and clear day again. With previous weather so hot, some people today were putting on layers to cover up areas of skin that had already caught too much sun.

A drive to our first stop at Arbayún, This beautiful gorge is home to the largest colony of griffon vultures. A viewing platform has been set above the gorge to help appreciate the scale and beauty in safety. From here we could get excellent views of one of Europe's largest birds as well as one of our smallest. While vultures soared overhead a tiny short-toed treecreeper was nesting in a rock crevice below us.

Vultures were joined by peregrine, red & black kite, a pair of pale phase booted eagles and a pair of short-toed eagles. This was our first sighting of these large eagles and a better view could not have been hoped for as they drifted past us at eye level, a pair of birds on patrol of a territory rather than hunting.

Up to 40 griffon vultures were in the air together at one time but this was a place where things changed every few minutes. A blue rock thrush flew across the gorge; a subalpine warbler sang in the bushes as a cleopatra butterfly flew below the platform giving wonderful views through binoculars of bright yellow wings with vivid orange patches.

Eventually though we moved on to our next destination around the corner at Lumbier. The weather was now very hot as we turned off the road toward the start of the gorge. Vultures were flying around the entrance when Dorothy spotted the different silhouette of a white stork trying to share the thermals. As we piled out of the coach to get a better view at this lonely migrant, a male Montagu's harrier drifted overhead set against vivid blue sky, a view that we don't normally see when they are observed drifting over corn fields.

After lunch a brief diversion for some splendid early spider orchids and then we set off down the gorge following the old route of a railway. This led us through dark cool tunnels and along a fabulous gorge to the sound of rock sparrow and blue rock thrush, watched by griffon vultures sat on the rocks above us while partners drifted by overhead. Moroccan orange tip butterflies sped along, charged in the hot sun while we sought shade at every opportunity. Where the sides of the gorge became an overhang we were treated to very close views of crag martin and house martin nesting in their natural habitat. Interesting plants along the way included scorpion senna with its very distinctive seed pods and spindle trees with their accompanying moth caterpillars making tents of silk all over the plant.

Here too was the home of the Iberian chiffchaff, seen well but very similar to our familiar chiffchaff with a distinctively different song.

At the end of the gorge the track opens out and takes us through farmland. Birds here were a little difficult to see in the dense scrub, heat and stiff breeze. Sardinian warblers called but refused to show. Flowers though were less shy and shrubby restharrow, pitch trefoil and beautiful flax graced the sides of the path that led us to the nearby town with our bus conveniently waiting outside a bar.

Thursday 25 April – Riglos and Loarre Castle

A regular walk with the pre breakfast crew and two new species for the week with a flypast of four cattle egrets and then a distinctive call and eventual silhouette of two bee-eaters! The cattle egrets eventually came back and sat in trees below the town but the bee-eaters remained elusive.

Today we headed south to the town of Riglos and the distinctive rock formations known as Los Mallos. En route we had a brief stop at a lake and were surprised at the lack of waterbirds, no moorhen, coot or ducks on the water and not a bird to be seen or heard from the reedbeds. Overhead however booted eagle and a sparrowhawk took to the air and opposite was a nest of Egyptian vultures on the cliffs. A migrating marsh harrier flew high over the cliffs and our only gull of the trip drifted past along the lake.

Riglos is a beautiful town with massive sandstone pillars of rock towering above it. It's home to another colony of griffon vultures and choughs, but this time accompanied by several parties of rock climbers ascending the sheer cliffs.

We took lunch at the Riglos station to take advantage of some shade. Butterfly hunting was the main activity here but a pair of short-toed treecreepers was very active and showed very well and allowed us all to get used to the call. A female Sardinian warbler showed very briefly but it was too hot for the birds to be doing much. Several had a go at catching butterflies: those 'attracted' to the net for inspection included Panoptes blue and mallow skipper.

Back on the bus and a drive to Loarre Castle. Full of history, this is a highly impressive fortress set on a huge hill giving stunning views across the surrounding land. While some took the guided tour of the castle, others took the guided tour of the outside bar and were rewarded with excellent views of rock bunting.

Friday 26 April – the nearby gorge at Biniés and Hecho.

Biniés is a delightful gorge, full of life and cool with shade and the sound of the fast flowing river below. On the rocks above Pyrenean saxifrage was very distinctive, even though not in flower. A surprised sound in Andy's voice, as he called us over to a large bush he was looking into, was explained by a superb giant peacock moth. These are almost identical to our own Emperor moth except that they are enormous. It posed perfectly for the photographers.

Bonelli's warblers trilled as we walked along. The usual griffon vultures were overhead, a peregrine perched very high on the cliffs while below was grey wagtail and a regular passage of butterflies – scarce and common swallowtails, fritillaries that refused to be caught and a Spanish festoon that took off across the gorge as the net appeared. At the end of the gorge we all finally found the dippers we had been searching for from the start and by the bus another surprise find in the shape of the wonderfully named Tau Emperor moth, smaller than the peacock moth but very impressive none the less.

Lunch today was delivered by Viv who led us to a field at the top of the gorge. Here she had laid out wine, bread, fruit, superb Spanish tortillas and chorizos. As the botanists went off to look for - but not find - purple toothwort, a lammergeier drifted high overhead and into the gorge. This area is an Important Bird Area, partly because it is the home range for a pair of these wonderful birds as well as eagle owl.

After lunch, we took a slow road up to the valley at Hecho, heading for Hell's Mouth. Hecho valley is huge, with magnificent peaks at its head. As the road narrowed we had to leave the bus and walk a few hundred yards. Camberwell beauty butterflies flew high above and occasionally landed on the road. Hell's Mouth – Boca del Infierno in Spanish – is at the start of these high peaks and is one of the lowest breeding areas for wallcreeper. These small cliff dwelling birds are not uncommon but can be very difficult to see, even here where the cliff face is very close to the road. We set up telescopes and prepared to scan the rocks a glance to the ground and there, almost crushed by the legs of a tripod, was a young grass snake, brightly coloured with a very distinctive white collar which is lost in the adult animals in Iberia.

Some of the group checked the rocks on the other side of the tunnel but with no joy so came back to spend time staring at a cliff face with very little happening on it. After a while a figure emerged from the darkness of the tunnel to join the rest of the group. Calm as anything, Sandra told us that she had just seen a wallcreeper on the other side of the tunnel, where the group had stopped earlier. She saw the bird, looked around to realise that everyone else had gone! Needless to say we went back to the site but there was no sign and we had to leave, pleased that one of the party was lucky, frustrated that we were so close and yet...

Our frustration was soon dispersed with a game of table football in a bar on the way back, signs of misspent youth and hidden goal keeping talent and we then headed back to Berdún for our final meal, complete with strawberries, champagne and impromptu speeches.

Saturday 27 April – Berdún to Bilbao

Departure day. As if we had some control on the forces of nature that was slowly weakening as the end of the week drew near, the weather today was very windy with grey clouds massing around the village before breakfast. We took a pre-breakfast stroll below the village to try and get out of the wind and were greeted with the unexpected sight of c20 griffon vultures coming out of Biniés gorge, straight to Berdún. With no hope of thermals to rise on the birds were using the updraft caused by the strong wind hitting the hillsides around the village.

With heads cleared by the wind it was back to breakfast, packing and departure. A stop at the Hotel Iturrimuri for a coffee and in the week since we were last there the fields now had some 20 large spikes

of lady orchid. A nice farewell to a week of scorching sun, great birds, wonderful flowers and, of course, excellent company.

With Ivan, Chris and John safely at the airport, the coach then took the rest of the group for its bonus day in Bilbao, staying overnight at the Hotel Conde Duque, close to the Guggenheim Museum.

Favourite bits of the holiday

At the end of the holiday, everyone was asked what their favourite wildlife sighting was, with the flexibility of nominating two or more if it was difficult to choose or if there were especially memorable flowers, birds and insects. These were the nominations.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Dorothy A | hepatica, giant peacock moth, nightingales/griffons |
| Dorothy B | giant peacock moth, lesser wild daffodils |
| Mick | lammergeier & golden oriole |
| Audrey | solid-tubered corydalis and crag martins |
| Andrew | scops owl, daffodils and giant peacock moth |
| Judy | scops owl |
| John | lammergeier |
| Dan | citril finch |
| Jean | giant peacock moth and gentians |
| Thea | masses of griffons |
| Sylvia | lammergeier, trumpet gentians |
| Jenny | citril finch |
| Sandra | vultures |
| Ann | young vultures, sheets of |
| daffodils | |
| Ivan | daffodils |
| Chris | Iberian chiffchaff |

As there were also places being nominated, we then did a count on memorable places/views, which scored: Aísa 6, view of Berdún 2, and one vote each for Biniés gorge, the Badlands at Berdún, the view from San Juan de la Peña and Emilio's restaurant.



Birds

Great crested grebe
Cormorant
Cattle egret
Grey heron
White stork
Black kite
Red kite
Lammergeier
Egyptian vulture
Griffon vulture
Short-toed eagle
Marsh harrier
Montagu's harrier
Sparrowhawk
Common buzzard
Golden eagle
Booted eagle
Kestrel
Peregrine
Corncrake (h)
Common sandpiper
Yellow-legged gull
Rock/feral dove
Woodpigeon
Collared dove
Cuckoo
Barn owl
Scops owl
Swift
Alpine swift
Bee-eater
Hoopoe
Green woodpecker (h)
Great spotted woodpecker



Crested lark (pictured above)
Skylark
Sand martin
Crag martin
Swallow
House martin
Tawny pipit
Meadow pipit
Grey wagtail
White wagtail

Mammals

Red squirrel
Alpine shrew (dead, Hecho)

Dipper
Wren
Duncock
Robin
Nightingale
Black redstart
Whinchat
Stonechat
Northern wheatear
Blue rock thrush
Blackbird
Song thrush
Mistle thrush
Cetti's warbler
Dartford warbler
Subalpine warbler
Sardinian warbler
Whitethroat
Blackcap
Bonelli's warbler
Chiffchaff
Iberian chiffchaff
Willow warbler
Goldcrest
Firecrest
Spotted flycatcher
Pied flycatcher
Long-tailed tit
Crested tit
Coal tit
Blue tit
Great tit
Nuthatch
Wallcreeper
Short toed-treecreeper
Golden oriole
Woodchat shrike
Jay
Magpie
Red-billed chough
Jackdaw
Carrion crow
Raven
Spotless starling
House sparrow
Rock sparrow
Chaffinch
Serin
Citril finch
Greenfinch
Goldfinch
Linnet
Crossbill
Cirl bunting
Rock bunting
Corn bunting
h = heard only

Fox
Chamois
Rootings of wild boar

Numerous unidentified large bats around Berdún

Amphibians

Marsh frog
Common toad

Reptiles

Iberian wall lizard
Iberian rock lizard
Grass snake

Butterflies

Swallowtail
Scarce swallowtail
Spanish festoon
Large white
Small white
Wood white
Green-veined white
Orange tip
Moroccan orange tip
Clouded yellow
Pale clouded yellow
Brimstone
Cleopatra
Camberwell beauty
Red admiral
Violet fritillary (probably)



cleopatra

Wall

Speckled wood
Holly blue
Common blue
Panoptes blue
Small blue
Mallow skipper

Moths

Giant peacock
Pine processionary caterpillars
Hummingbird hawk-moth
Burnet companion
Tau Emperor
Burnet ccompanion

Other invertebrates

Field cricket
Egyptian locust
Fire bug
Churchyard beetle
Ampedus cinnabarinus a click beetle
Violet carpenter bee
Paper wasp (*polistes* sp)
Robin's pincushion gall
Wood ant

KEY TO LOCALITIES

We didn't carefully note all locations, so the locations in this list are those recorded in May 2001 by Chris Gibson but are broadly right for any year. The exception to this is Aisa, not visited in 2001, and plants recorded here are denoted with Ai

B - Berdún, including the banks of the Veral and Aragón

Bi - Biniés gorge

J - San Juan de la Peña

R - Riglos and Agüerro (Riglos and Loarre in 2002)

A - Arbayún gorge

L - Lumbier gorge

P - Portalet and Formigal (not visited in 2002)

Ai - Aisa, including village

PTERIDOPHYTES (Ferns)

Asplenium fontanum Smooth rock Spleenwort Bi

A. ruta-muraria Wall-rue B Bi L

A. trichomanes Maidenhair Spleenwort Bi J

P

Ceterach officinarum Rustyback Fern B Bi

Equisetum A horsetail B

Polypodium sp either

P. interjectum Intermediate Polypody or *P. cambricum*
Southern polypody Bi

P. vulgare Common Polypody Bi L P

Pteridium aquilinum Bracken J

GYMNOSPERMS (Conifers)

Cupressus sempervirens Cypress B R L

Juniperus communis Juniper B Bi J R

Pinus nigra Black Pine B Bi J R P

P. sylvestris Scots Pine B Bi J R L P

Taxus baccata Yew Bi

DICOTYLEDONS

Aceraceae

Acer campestre Field Maple B Bi A

A. monspessulanum Montpellier Maple Bi L

Apiaceae - umbellifers

Eryngium campestre Field Eryngo B Bi R L

Foeniculum vulgare Fennel B R

Aquifoliaceae

Ilex aquifolium Holly J

Araliaceae

Hedera helix Ivy B Bi J R L

Aristolochiaceae - birthworts

Aristolochia pistolochia A birthwort

Asclepiadaceae

Vincetoxicum hirundinaria Swallow-wort Bi

Asteraceae

Achillea millefolium Yarrow J P

Arctium minus Lesser Burdock Bi J

Artemisia absinthium Wormwood B R

Bellis perennis Daisy B J F

Calendula arvensis Field Marigold B

Carduus acanthoides Watted Thistle B

Lactuca perennis Blue Lettuce Bi

Santolina chamaecyparissus Lavender Cotton B
R L

Silybum marianum Milk Thistle B R

Sonchus oleracea Smooth sowthistle B

Taraxacum sp. Dandelion B R P

Tussilago farfara Colt's-foot J P

Berberidaceae

Berberis vulgaris Barberry B Bi R

Betulaceae

Betula pendula Silver Birch B J P

Boraginaceae

Borago officinalis Borage B

Buglossoides purpureocaerulea Purple Gromwell
Bi

Cynoglossum cheirifolium Houndstongue R

C. creticum B

Echium vulgare Viper's Bugloss R

Lithodora fruticosum Shrubby Gromwell B L

Symphytum officinale Comfrey B J

Brassicaceae (cabbage family, incomplete)

Alliaria petiolata Garlic Mustard Bi J

Alyssum alyssoides Small Alison B J L

Arabis turrita Towercress Bi P

Capsella bursa-pastoris Shepherd's-purse B

Cardaria draba Hoary Cress B

Draba aizoides Yellow Whitlow-grass P Ai

Erophila verna Early Whitlow-grass J Ai

Lunaria annua Honesty B

Sinapis arvensis Charlock B

Buxaceae

Buxus sempervirens Box B Bi J R A L

Cactaceae

Opuntia ficus-indica Prickly-pear B

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera etrusca Perfoliate Honeysuckle L

L. xylosteum Fly Honeysuckle B Bi

Sambucus ebulus Dwarf Elder B J

Sambucus nigra Elder Bi

Viburnum lantana Wayfaring Tree B Bi J

Caryophyllaceae – pinks

Paronychia argentea J R

Petrocoptis pyrenaica Bi

Saponaria ocymoides Rock Soapwort Bi

Silene alba White Campion Bi J

S. nutans Nottingham catchfly Bi

S. vulgaris Bladder Campion B R

Stellaria media Common Chickweed B

Celastraceae

Euonymus europaeus Spindle-tree Bi L

Cistaceae

Helianthemum apenninum White Rock-rose B Bi J R

H. canum Hoary Rock-rose R L

H. nummularium Common Rock-rose B Bi

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus arvensis Field Bindweed B

Cornaceae

Cornus sanguinea Dogwood B Bi J L

Crassulaceae

Sedum album White stonecrop B Bi R

Umbilicus rupestris Navelwort Bi L

Cucurbitaceae

Bryonia dioica White Bryony B Bi R L

Dipsacaceae

Dipsacus fullonum Teasel B

Ericaceae

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi Bearberry J

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia amygdaloides Wood Spurge B Bi J

E. chamaebuxus Pyrenean Spurge B

E. characias Large Mediterranean B Bi R L

E. helioscopia Sun Spurge B

E. serrata Saw spurge B Bi R L

Fabaceae

Anthyllis vulneraria ssp. *pyrenaica* Kidney Vetch Ai

Astragalus monspessulanus B Bi R L

Cercis siliquastrum Judas Tree B

Coronilla emerus Scorpion Vetch B Bi L

C. scorpioides R

Dorycnium pentaphyllum B L

Echinospartum horridum J

Genista hispanica Spanish Gorse B R

G. scorpius B J R L

Hippocrepis glauca R

Lathyrus montanus Bitter Vetch J

L. setifolius Brown vetch B R L

Medicago arabica Spotted Medick B

M. lupulina Black Medick B R

Onobrychis viciifolia Sainfoin B R

Ononis fruticosa Shrubby Rest-harrow B R L

Psoralea bituminosa Pitch Trefoil B R L

Robinia pseudoacacia False Acacia B R

Spartium junceum Spanish Broom R

Vicia sativa Common Vetch B R

V. villosa Fodder Vetch B

Fagaceae

Fagus sylvatica Beech J

Quercus coccifera Kermes Oak B Bi J R L

Q. ilex Holm Oak Bi J A

Quercus sp a deciduous oak

Fumariaceae

Corydalis solida Solid-tubered corydalis Ai

Fumaria officinalis Fumitory B R

Gentianaceae

Gentiana acaulis Trumpet Gentian Ai

G. verna Spring Gentian Ai

Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium Common Stork's-bill B R

E. malacoides Mallow-leaved s'bill B R

Geranium molle Dove's-foot Crane's-bill B

G. purpureum Little-Robin B

G. robertianum Herb-Robert B Bi J L

G. rotundifolium Round-leaved cranesbill B

Gesneriaceae

Ramonda myconi Bi (leaves only)

Globulariaceae

Globularia cordifolia Matted globularia

Hypericaceae

Hypericum nummularium Bi (leaves only)

Juglandaceae

Juglans regia Walnut B R

Lamiaceae – labiates

Lamium amplexicaule Henbit Dead-nettle B R
L. purpureum Red Dead-nettle J

Lavandula angustifolia B J R

Marrubium vulgare White Horehound B R L

Rosmarinus officinalis Rosemary R

Salvia verbenaca Wild Clary B R L

Stachys recta Yellow Woundwort Bi L

Thymus vulgaris Garden Thyme B Bi R L

Linaceae

Linum narbonense Beautiful Flax B R L

Loranthaceae

Viscum album ssp. *album* Mistletoe B Bi

V. album ssp. *austriacum* B Bi J R

Malvaceae

Malva sylvestris Common Mallow B L

Moraceae

Ficus carica Fig B R

Oleaceae

Fraxinus excelsior Ash B Bi

Jasminum fruticans Wild Jasmine Bi L

Olea europaea Olive R

Papaveraceae

Chelidonium majus Greater Celandine Bi

Papaver rhoeas Common Poppy B

Plantaginaceae

Plantago lanceolata Ribwort Plantain B

P. media Hoary Plantain B Bi J P

P. major Greater Plantain B Bi

Polygalaceae

Polygala calcarea Chalk Milkwort R

P. nicaeensis B Bi J

P. vulgaris Common Milkwort B

Polygonaceae

Rumex scutatus French sorrel Bi

Primulaceae

Anagallis arvensis Scarlet Pimpernel B R

Primula elatior Oxlip Ai

P. farinosa Bird's-eye Primrose Ai

P. veris Cowslip Bi J P Ai

Vitaliana primuliflora Yellow Rock-jasmine Ai

Ranunculaceae

Aquilegia vulgaris Columbine Bi J

Clematis vitalba Traveller's-joy B Bi J

Helleborus foetidus Stinking Hellebore B Bi J R L

H. viridis Green Hellebore P

Hepatica nobilis J

Ranunculus bulbosus Bulbous Buttercup Bi

R. pyrenaicus Ai

Resedaceae

Reseda lutea Mignonette B Bi J

R. phyteuma Corn Mignonette R B

Rhamnaceae

Rhamnus alaternus Mediterranean Buckthorn Bi RL

Rosaceae

Amelanchier ovalis Snowy Mespilus B Bi J R L

Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn B Bi J

Dryas octopetala Mountain Avens P

Fragaria sp Wild Strawberry Bi J

Geum pyrenaicum Pyrenean Avens Bi

Malus sylvestris Crab Apple Bi

Mespilus germanica Medlar

Potentilla aurea Golden cinquefoil Ai

P. repens Creeping Cinquefoil B

P. tabernaemontani Spring Cinquefoil

Prunus mahaleb St Lucie's Cherry Bi J

Rubus fruticosus Bramble B Bi J R

Sanguisorba minor Salad Burnet B Bi J R L P

Sorbus aria Whitebeam Bi J

Rubiaceae

Cruciata laevipes Crosswort J

Galium verum Lady's Bedstraw Bi L

Rubia peregrina Wild Madder J

Salicaceae

Populus nigra Black Poplar B Bi

P. tremula Aspen B

Salix sp Willow sp

Saxifragaceae

Saxifraga granulata Meadow Saxifrage J

S. longifolia Pyrenean Saxifrage Bi

Scrophulariaceae

Antirrhinum majus Snapdragon B Bi L

Chaenorhinum origanifolium Chaenorhinum Bi

Cymbalaria muralis Ivy-leaved Toadflax B

Scrophularia canina French figwort B

Verbascum sinuatum R

V. pulverulentum Hoary mullein

Veronica beccabunga Brooklime

V. hederifolia Ivy-leaved speedwell

V. persica Common Field Speedwell B

Solanaceae

Solanum dulcamara Bittersweet Bi

Thymelaeaceae

Daphne laureola Spurge-laurel J

Tiliaceae

Tilia platyphyllos Large-leaved Lime Bi

Ulmaceae

Ulmus minor Elm B Bi

Urticaceae

Parietaria judaica Pellitory-of-the-wall R

Urtica dioica Stinging Nettle B L

U. urens Annual Nettle B

Valerianaceae

Centranthus ruber Red Valerian (from Bilbao road)

Valeriana sp unidentified valerian

Violaceae

Viola sp either *V. pyrenaica* or *V. riviniana* Common Dog-violet J

MONOCOTYLEDONS**Amaryllidaceae**

Narcissus minor Lesser wild daffodil Ai

N. pseudonarcissus ssp. *alpestris* J

N. requienii Rush-leaved narcissus B J

Dioscoreaceae

Tamus communis Black Bryony Bi

Iridaceae

Iris germanica Purple Iris R (gardens)

Juncaceae

Luzula campestris Field Woodrush J P

Liliaceae

Allium moly Bi

A. roseum Rose Garlic R

Aphyllanthes monspeliensis B Bi L

Asparagus acutifolius Bi

Asphodelus albus White Asphodel Bi J A L

Crocus albiflorus White crocus Ai

Hyacinthus amethystinus Pyrenean hyacinth Bi L

Muscari comosum Tassel Hyacinth B R

M. neglectum Grape-hyacinth B J A

Ruscus aculeatus Butcher's-broom J L

Orchidaceae

Ophrys fusca Sombre Bee-orchid B L

O. sphegodes Early spider-orchid L

Orchis mascula Early Purple-orchid J

Orchis purpurea Lady orchid B

Poaceae (very incomplete)

Hordeum murinum Wall Barley B

Phragmites australis Common Reed B

Avena sp Wild oat sp

Typhaceae

Typha latifolia Greater Reedmace B

early spider-orchid



Chris Durdin
HONEYGUIDE
36, Thunder Lane
Thorpe St. Andrew
Norwich, NR7 OPX
INGLATERRA

Zaragoza, 24th June, 2002

Dear Chris:

Once again I want to thank you for contributing with your donation of £395 to our Conservation Project in the steppes of Belchite (Zaragoza - Spain). This year the money will be used again to restore part of the old farm we bought three years ago to demonstrate in near future the importance of traditional farming in steppes. Thanks to you and people and groups like yours the Ornithological Reserve of "El Planerón", in Belchite, can go a head.

Please, extend my thanks to your spring '2002 group in Berdún and all the others that have contributed with SEO. All of you are invited to visit our natural reserves whenever you have the chance.

I hope see you again soon.

Best wishes:

Juan Carlos Cirera Martínez
SEO/BirdLife officer in Aragón.