

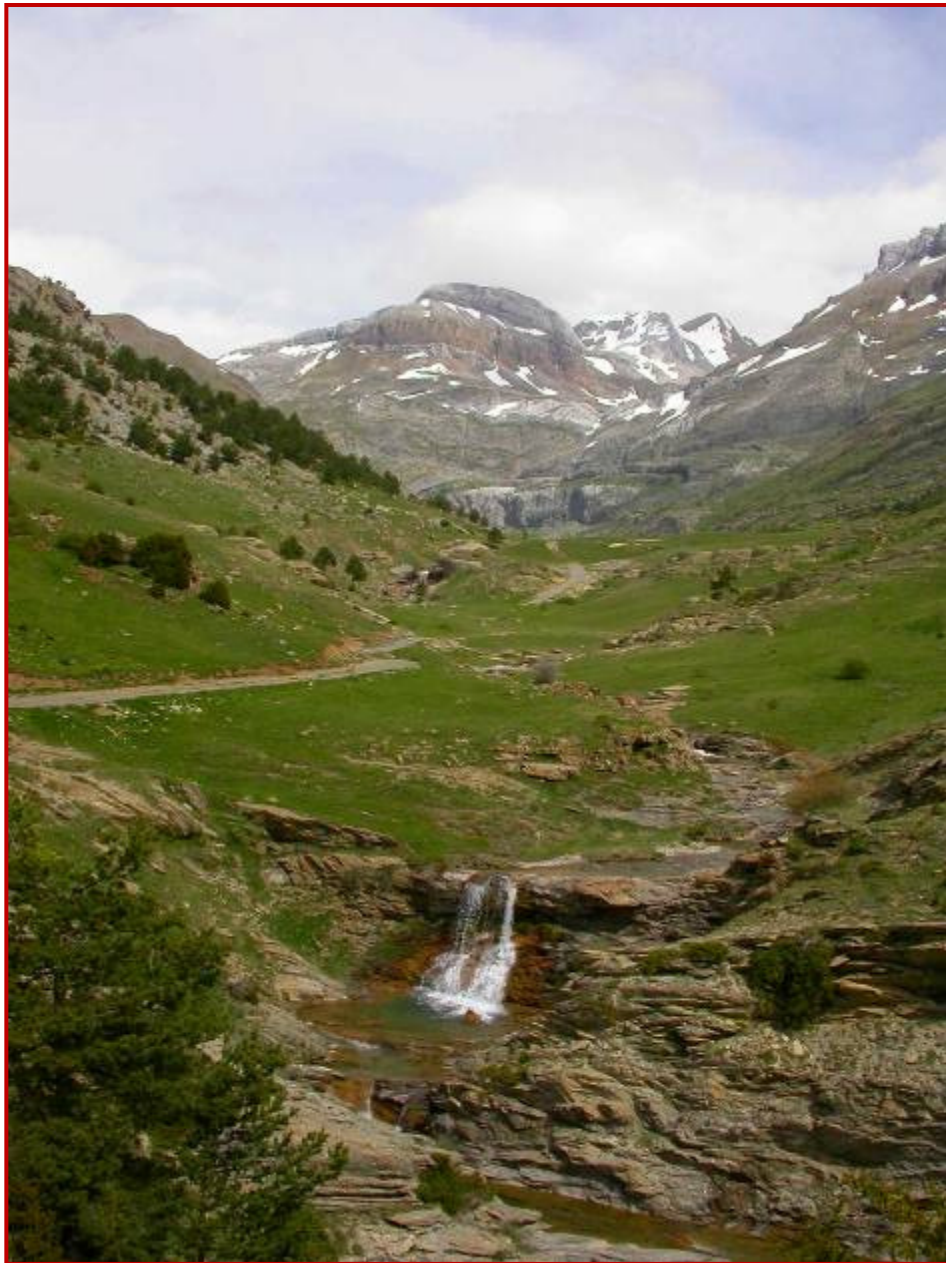
# *Honeyguide*

## **WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

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## **SPRING IN THE SPANISH PYRENEES**

**29 APRIL – 7 MAY 2011**

**Spring in the Spanish Pyrenees**  
**29 April – 7 May 2011**

**Participants in this private holiday of Honeyguide friends**

Sue and Peter Burge  
Helen and Malcolm Crowder

Kate Dalziel  
Sally Cullum and Barry Hennessey

**Leader**

Chris Gibson

Report by Chris Gibson, with notes on food by Helen Crowder.

Photos edged green by Chris, edged blue by Helen and edged red by Malcolm.

Front cover - Aisa U-shaped valley.

Below Casa Sarasa at the foot of the hill in Berdún.

Our hosts: Melanie and Peter Rich at Casa Sarasa [www.casasarasa.com](http://www.casasarasa.com)



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, and its work in Aragón. The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of £360 (€400).

This donation, plus that from our Extremadura holiday, brings the total given to SEO since the first Honeyguide holiday in Spain in 1991 to £13,129. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 is £72,591 as at June 2011.

## SPRING IN THE SPANISH PYRENEES

### 29 April – 7 May 2011

#### Friday 29 April: The journey there...

Fleeing the Royal Wedding madness and cloudy skies over Stansted at a very sociable hour, we arrived in Biarritz mid-afternoon. The clouds were still with us (thankfully not the crowds) but it was warmer, and after collecting the minibus a drive of a little under three hours, with red and black kites almost every step of the way, brought us to Berdún. Although construction works for the motorway which is due to extend right across northern Spain, including through the Aragón valley and the Canal de Berdún, has reached Yesa reservoir, fortunately for the moment (and given the current financial climate it may be a long moment) our immediate environs for the week remain untouched. So it was to the tranquillity of Casa Sarasa we rolled up at 18.30 to be met by our welcoming hosts Peter and Melanie, unpack, and enjoy the all-embracing chorus of nightingales, before sitting down for the first of many exceptional meals. This was the first time Peter and Melanie have provided evening meals for our group, and the sheer variety and quality of the food was such that we all agreed a menu list should form part of this report. A glass or two of wine later, bedtime beckoned, those nightingales providing the natural lullaby.

#### Saturday 30 April: local walks around Berdún – Río Veral and Río Aragón; Martés

A low turn-out for the pre-breakfast walk was not so much to do with the need to recover from a day of travel, but more the (quite understandable) desire of folk to enjoy a relaxing holiday! Nevertheless, Malcolm and I strode out across the Badlands as the sun came up, and were rewarded by excellent views of black kite, singing (not very) melodious warblers, and nightingales, which as always here seem to revel in their muted finery and happily sing in full view. Less obliging visually was the quail which wetted its lips almost at our feet, but remained resolutely, even obstinately, out of sight.

After breakfast, delayed by common consent to 08.30 to allow the arrival of freshly-baked local bread and croissants, we drove up to the village, perched on its hilltop, for an orientation ramble. Despite a brisk breeze, the warmth of the sun was growing by the minute, quite unlike the last forecast we had seen before departure of rain, rain and more rain, and the views were spectacular up to the high Pyrenees, either way along the Canal de Berdún, and south to the pre-Pyrenees.



A nightingale singing in the early morning light; and a griffon vulture drifting over the Badlands.

Red and black kites floated around as we spotted the spotless starlings, and the twittering of house sparrows (not Spanish, just 'ordinary' house, although altogether more smart than many of our grime-encrusted city birds) mingled with the buzzing notes of rock sparrows, a pair of which perched for cracking 'scope views by the churchyard. Overhead a few newly-arrived swifts flew around with hordes of house martins and swallows. From the northern slopes, nightingales, melodious warblers and serins were in fine song, and display 'soaring' in the case of one serin – 'look at me ladies, I'm as big as a griffon vulture!'. Talking of which, at the eastern lookout, no sooner had I uttered the words 'I think it is now warm enough for the griffons to be roaming' than the skies darkened as the first one appeared. In the three years since the last Honeyguide trip, it appears the local griffon population has become much reduced: Peter tells me that new animal



hygiene restrictions and the centralisation of collection facilities for dead livestock has led to redistribution of the population – declines where there is no longer food, but concentration where there is. A tract of land has been acquired just north of Berdún to form a vulture restaurant, so if this ever takes off we may yet see the return of the winged battalions. We progressed down onto the Badlands, a skeletal, eroded marl landscape, at first glance lifeless but far from the case in reality. Stonechats and linnets on the bushes, northern and black-eared wheatears on rocks and wires, crested lark and tawny pipit on the marl slopes provided small bird interest, all to the accompaniment of nightingales and jangling corn buntings, and an explosion of song from a bush revealed itself briefly as coming from a splendid male subalpine warbler. The slopes were home to yellow-flowering patches of Berdún broom and barberry, pink shrubby rest-harrow and bronzy-green box, and wherever the scrub afforded a little shelter from the sun and browsing animals there were bevvies of lady orchids, mingling with the appropriately named, bright blue beautiful flax. Other plants, more tolerant and so less dependent on the protection of shrubs, included stinking hellebore and serrated spurge, with their arsenal of chemical defences, and garden thyme, its herby aroma a dual defence against grazing and heat and a wonderful addition to the scentscape. The river itself was rather quiet, with just a few white wagtails and a singing northern chiffchaff, so after a brief pause to admire the large pond skaters on the marginal pools we returned uphill to Casa Sarasa for lunch, pausing only to look at scarce swallowtails and other butterflies and the occasional basking Iberian wall lizard.



Lady orchid; panoptes blue showing discal mark on forewings; early spider orchid.

After lunch, a short drive took us into the main Aragón valley. From Martés bridge, common sandpipers, little ringed plovers and a Spanish yellow wagtail fed on the water-washed rocks, and a wander along the south bank produced several orchids, including early spider, yellow bee and woodcock, pink Pyrenean rock-rose, white *Arenaria aggregata*, and yellow ground-pine and dragon's-teeth *Tetragonolobus maritimus*. A liquid bubbling drew our attention to a party of 15 bee-eaters overhead, while for us on the ground a distant hum turned into a loud buzz as a swarm of bees passed over. If only the two could have met up! Insects were everywhere and active in the heat; green tiger-beetles hunting and red-winged grasshoppers displaying on the track, and many butterflies, including the delightful Moroccan orange tip, and common and panoptes blues taking salts from the rapidly-diminishing puddles in the ruts.

With a little time to spare, we then drove slowly across vast plains of arable cultivation, enlivened by a hunting marsh harrier, and interspersed with Badlands scrub. Tawny pipits and corn buntings were everywhere, and a pair of woodchat shrikes put on a good show for us. Red-legged partridges, here in their natural home, tried hard to attract our attention, but to little avail as a sub-adult lammergeier had just floated in front of us, its stupendous falcon-like shape a fitting end to the day's excursion.

### **Sunday 1 May: San Juan de la Peña and Oroel**

Overnight rain had subsided and the dawn was bright and breezy as the early morning crew of three drove down to the Martés bridge. Both male and female golden orioles were heard tantalisingly close, but seen only fleetingly as they raced through the tops of the poplar plantation, and a wryneck sang in the distance. A great spotted woodpecker fed in the riverside willows, and a pair of ciril buntings perched in full view on a small bush as we headed back for breakfast.

Our first main destination of the day was the historic village of Santa Cruz de la Serós, at the foot of La Peña. From the village, griffon vulture nests could be picked out on the towering cliffs, although few appeared to be occupied. As the day warmed so the griffons started to fly, and a single Egyptian vulture joined them, its smaller size, longer tail and contrasting colours showing well. The church was home to several bees' nests, judging from the number entering the holes in the masonry, and also a couple of crag martin nests, their occupants feeding swift-like overhead.

A short walk up the hill soon produced some new plants: cowslips, spurge-laurel and hepatica nestled in the hedge bottoms, with bold blue splashes of *Polygala nicaeensis* higher up. The pines here were very heavily infested with mistletoe, in its conifer-parasitising subspecies *austriaca*. And everywhere the trilling song of Bonelli's warblers: normally reluctant to show themselves, one male in particular put on a whole-body-shivering show, displaying its subtly beautiful grey and yellow plumage. An unfamiliar truncated thrush song was eventually tracked down to an orphean warbler, although showing only briefly while the insect-hunters were kept busy with the common heath moths and Duke-of-Burgundy butterflies in the sunny clearings. As we dropped back down to the village, a giant peacock moth flew over us, the lepidopteran griffon, huge in size with a slow flapping action: large it may be, but when it went to ground in a hotel garden it could not be relocated.



Purple gromwell; and Duke-of-Burgundy on flowering thyme.

Driving uphill was going back in time, with *Amelanchier* springing into flower. A brief stop at the viewpoint gave tremendous views across to the high Pyrenees, usefully interpreted (in understandable Spanish) on the geological trail boards provided. Ever onward and upward, we drove then to the car park by the new monastery at the top. Being Sunday and sunny it was busy, but our chosen picnic table location soon produced a noisy black woodpecker in the treetops, albeit seen only in flight.

Crossing the meadows in front of the new monastery, what at first seemed rather unpromising grassland produced swathes of grape-hyacinth, and patches of green-winged orchids interspersed with a few stars-of-Bethlehem. Alpine swifts wheeled overhead, and the song of field crickets filled the air. Normally elusive, we did manage to catch a female for close inspection. The area was also clearly much used by wild boar, to judge from the rootings and snufflings which were obvious all over the woodland: a delight to see, as I've long believed our British woodlands are all the poorer for the lack of their dynamic effects. A walk through the trees produced a variety of woodland birds, including coal tit, crested tit and firecrest, and some fine displays of hepatica. But a spectacular sight awaited us in the small clearings by the ruined chapel of St Teresa: beautiful, scented drifts of rock daffodils, interspersed with a few elder-flowered orchids, in a dramatic setting looking across the blue-remembered hills of the pre-Pyrenean range to the Ebro valley and beyond.

A slow drive east through forests and hills eventually brought us to the *mirador* at Oroel, the partner mountain to San Juan de la Peña. A few crested tits fed in the pines, though proved difficult to see well, and the air was filled with the apple-scent of sweet briar, following a short shower of rain. At our feet, early purple and elder-flowered orchids were in magnificent patches, and nestling unobtrusively in the woods Solomon's-seal was in full flower.



Rain was again threatening as we left and headed back via Jaca, our descent interrupted only by a striking blue road-verge patch of purple gromwell, and on our return to Berdún it was clear from the still-parched ground that the rain had fallen only on the mountains. That evening we were joined for dinner by Viv Boucher, who used to host Honeyguide holidays to Berdún, and is a fount of knowledge about the local sites and flowers.

### Monday 2 May: High Pyrenees - Portalet to Formigal; Alastuey

With the tops largely clear of cloud, our first foray into the high Pyrenees took us towards Portalet in bright sunshine, passing a sadly freshly-dead pine marten on the road. Typically the high level reservoirs were birdless, but a short stop there gave us some splendid views of the mountains. Higher and ever higher, towards Formigal, then Portalet, was like peeling back the seasons: early summer in the lowlands, to the first inkling of spring at five thousand feet, although lying snow remained well above us, in stark contrast to many previous trips. After a coffee stop, we explored the local rocky grassland, a natural alpine garden, to Barry's evident delight. Most dramatic of all were the bold pink splashes of *Primula hirsuta*, together with wild daffodil, oxlip, Pyrenean violet and green hellebore. Gentians, both spring and trumpet, were opening their first flowers in the sunlight, a glimpse of the riches to come lower down, and rock buckthorn clung gecko-like to the rock-faces with a southerly aspect, to make the most of the sun's heat. In a rather unprepossessing corner behind one of the shops – actually, a rubbish dump – Sue found our only examples of snowbells on the trip.



The high Pyrenees from our stop by Gallego reservoir.



*Primula hirsuta*, trumpet gentians, alpine snowbells.

Overhead, small parties of swallows heading into France provided signs of ongoing migration, along with a chiffchaff resting and feeding around the rocks. A pair of kestrels was nesting on the cliffs, alongside the dramatic song flights of a rock thrush, a flurry of orange and blue with a prominent white rump, fluffed up in the descent. Northern wheatears and black redstarts perched prominently on the rocks, while a little further away, alpine marmots sat atop their rocky mounds, which presumably formed their winter hibernation homes, and the slopes echoed with their strange wader-like piping cries. A few water pipits, in subtle shades of blue and pink about as 'pretty' as any pipit can ever be, were singing in their parachute song-flights; choughs (mainly red-billed) sky-danced noisily, and a short-toed eagle which drifted over us was followed even more leisurely by an adult lammergeier, barely flicking its wing-tips as it traversed the valley.

And then it was back into the bus, dropping downhill into spring, and stopping by a blazing patch of kingcups for lunch. Closer investigation soon added bird's-eye primrose, horned pansy, and alpine forget-me-not to the list, along with an array of bold flowers on the road verges and rocks: *Euphorbia flavicoma*, globularia, Pyrenean vetch, rock cinquefoil, and both main colour forms of elder-flowered orchid together with a single salmon-pink intermediate. Common wall lizards, with a few Pyrenean rock lizards, basked on the rocks, and a Pyrenean frog just avoided being knelt upon in our quest to photograph the orchids. Lower down still, below Formigal, the roadside pastures were a visual delight, in particular the intensely blue gentians mingling with the yellow and purple of elder-flowered orchid, in their thousands. So much to savour at our feet that most missed the common buzzard, honey buzzard and Egyptian vulture overhead, flying in advance of a heavy squall moving up the valley. Passing through the worst of the rain in the comfort of the van, it was only drizzling gently as we reached our final stop at Escarilla, a short potter around a side valley, with jay and grey wagtail, bright cushions of rock soapwort, and a vertical, dripping wall of large-flowered butterwort in full bloom.



Bird's-eye primroses on the bank of a stream in the kingcup meadow; elder-flowered orchids big as hyacinths and in their thousands at Formigal; large-flowered butterwort at Escarilla.

After an early dinner, Peter and Mel led us to Alastuey, to the renowned local site to see eagle owl. Renowned maybe, but not tonight! We waited as dusk fell to no avail; neither did the nightjars appear – perhaps they had not yet arrived? But a fleeting, scythe-winged hobby, several subalpine warblers and the beautiful reddening sky were ample reward, achieving magical perfection as a færie wind-chime chorus of midwife toads started up. We completed a long day with a drive through the valley to Bailo: apparently good for nocturnal beasties (wild boar, genet etc), all we could muster were two cats, a dog and a mouse! And the sound of two scops owls calling to each other. But the place felt promising and we resolved to return in daylight.

### **Tuesday 3 May: Riglos and Agüero; Bailo and the Alastuey Valley**

To the southernmost reaches of the pre-Pyrenean range, first stop was next to the Peña Reservoir after Sue reported a large raptor over the water. Not the hoped-for osprey, but a fine marsh harrier, and as we crossed the reservoir on a wobbly concrete slab bridge, the mist lifted and set the scene for a lovely hot sunny day. Perhaps four different hoopoes were seen, two making extended flights over the water: this was especially rewarding as the usual abundance of hoopoes at Berdún never materialised – apparently the main migration influx had been rather early and they had gone through a couple of weeks before. And both golden oriole and wryneck were in good voice when the sun started to show, as a couple of yellow-legged gulls came down onto the water and a pale booted eagle drifted down the valley.

Then a short drive to the dam, and as we parked the air was filled with a chattering party of seven alpine swifts, racing around the rock faces along with numerous crag martins. A short-toed and three booted eagles drifted through as we made our way across the dam to pay homage to a veritable rock garden, covered in saxifrages and other plants, including some superb flowering examples of Pyrenean saxifrage and *Ramonda*. Tuberous meadow-rue and an obliging male



Moroccan orange tip completed the picture, made even more memorable by the shimmering rainbows below us in the spray from the waterfall.

By the time we reached Riglos it was lunchtime, taken in the car park, and then a walk through the pretty street of the village, encountering Egyptian locust and nettle-tree butterflies on the way, to the hot dry slopes below the towering conglomerate cliffs. Distinctly more Mediterranean than the Badlands scrub, with abundant juniper and rosemary, it was no surprise to find the commonest scrub warbler to be Sardinian, that stalwart of many a Mediterranean holiday. Griffon vultures and red-billed choughs were ever-present overhead, while a single lammergeier drifted over, and the sweet song of blue rock thrushes echoed around the natural amphitheatre.

Returning to the village off the main track, we soon came upon one of our target birds, a superb, confiding male black wheatear on territory around the uppermost line of houses. Although a regular site for the species, it is the edge of their range and they are sometimes simply not there, so a cause for celebration!



Male black wheatear in Riglos village. The rock stacks of Los Mallos de Riglos are up to 300m high.

A short drive across the main road then took us to Agüero, the smaller but quieter counterpart of Los Mallos de Riglos. Initially quiet, a couple of Egyptian vultures eventually appeared, probably close to their nest cavity, and we were treated to the sight of a crag martin mobbing a kestrel mobbing a chough mobbing a raven! Which sailed on serenely as if oblivious to the fracas around it. A dot on the skyline eventually resolved into another black wheatear; much closer, two hummingbird hawk-moths were feeding on the wild jasmine and perfoliate honeysuckle flowers; and new plants included bloody crane's-bill, *Osiris alba* and the beautiful shell-pink rose garlic.

With time in hand, we made a diversion on the way home into Bailo, and thence to Alastuey, the reverse of last night's nocturnal foray. Bailo proved to be a wonderfully preserved village, albeit almost deserted, and well worth a short wander. Heading into the valley, a short-toed eagle or two appeared on the skyline and hovered over the slopes, and a distant tractor-drawn plough in operation was being followed not by gulls but by around 15 red and black kites, no doubt taking advantage of the upheaval to get a few worms, a rare commodity in such dry weather. But a more substantial meal could have been found further along the valley as a no-holds-barred episode of *Lambing Live* unfolded before our very eyes: just-born and being-born lambs with their attendant 'tasty morsels', so graphic as to induce vociferous squeamishness even in as seasoned a naturalist and Honeyguider as Helen! As we progressed down the valley, small parties of bee-eaters became more frequent, and at a final stop on a marl summit with wonderful views to La Peña, a wheeling mass of griffons, some 55 in total, drifted from the mountain towards a presumed feeding site in the Canal de Berdún.

### **Wednesday 4 May: Hecho Valley, Gabardito, Biniés gorge**

In the beautiful light of a clear blue dawn, the early crew headed to Berdún Marsh. A couple of turtle doves flew through, and a great spotted woodpecker drummed, but the abiding memory of that perfect sunrise was a virtuoso vocal performance from a male golden oriole. It was in the tree-tops right above us, but managed to remain invisible apart from a brief flash as it moved deeper into the poplar plantation.



Heading once more to the high mountains, we drove up the Hecho Valley and through the dramatic rocky gorge, the Boca del Infierno (the aptly named Hell's Mouth), before parking in the upper valley. Almost immediately, a single golden eagle and lammergeier were spotted quartering the rocky skyline, while more prosaically a male bullfinch flew across the river.

Back down through the gorge, we then turned off piste, up to the refuge at Gabardito, another uphill, hairpin-filled ride. Set amidst incredible scenery and open, mixed scots pine and beech woodland, we watched a male crossbill dismantling cones before flying off with its mate, and trekked out to the main reason for visiting: a large rock which has overtaken the Boca del Infierno as the prime local site for wallcreeper. It is a very large rock and the birds are rather small, but thanks to an Australian family already on site, we managed to connect within five minutes. For the next ten minutes we got the works – feeding, flicking and flying, showing its unique plumage and jizz to advantage. Our elation was only heightened when on our return a butterfly with a similar charisma rating – the Camberwell beauty – flew along the forest ride over our heads.

The hairpin ride back produced a roe deer and a silver-washed fritillary, so by the time we arrived at our picnic site in the valley bottom, we felt we had already had a good day, especially with a short-toed eagle surveying our proceedings. But more, much more was to come...



Enjoying lunch and an intriguingly-shaped local cheese in the Hecho valley; and Binies gorge.

Taking the newly-improved former forest road across to Anso, we then dropped down to the top of the Foz de Biniés, where I left the group before moving the van down to the bottom of the gorge, close to Berdún. By the time we regrouped in mid-gorge an extended dipper dogfight had been heard and seen and a Spanish festoon, our first of the trip, photographed. The rosettes of *Ramonda*, clinging to the north face of a large rock, were only just showing signs of flowering, in contrast to those lower down the day before, but there were other botanical riches aplenty: masses of the delicate pink flowers of *Petrocoptis*, Pyrenean hyacinth, purple gromwell, rock soapwort, yellow garlic, bastard-balm and both bedstraw (its clove scent identified olfactorily by Sally in true Masterchef fashion) and ivy broomrapes. In the sunnier patches, there were more festoons, several chequered blues and a broad-bordered bee hawk-moth (the last for Kate's eyes alone), while overhead flew many griffons, some very bedraggled in heavy moult, and a couple of lammergeiers. Finally, at the 'entrance gates' – vertical walls of rock, cleft by the river – there was another chance to see the long flowering spikes and large rosettes of Pyrenean saxifrage.

At dinner, Malcolm gave a short speech (in his capacity as Trustee) to the assembled group about their donation of €400 which would be going to support the sterling work of SEO, the Spanish BirdLife Partner. Honeyguide remains unique among tour companies in supporting conservation projects in the places we visit: over the nearly 20 years since the company was established, more than £70,000 has been raised and distributed in this way.

### Thursday 5 May: Arrés and Rio Aragón

Time today for a bit of exploration, taking in an area neither I nor any of the group had been to before, ably assisted by Mel. Across the other side of the Canal from Berdún lies the tiny village of Arrés, which can be reached by a delightfully scenic scrubland and woodland walk from Puente la Reina, on a section of the Camino de Santiago.



View from the hillside walk to Arrés, looking towards Berdún across the *Canal*, a geological depression or channel extending from Jaca in the east to Yesa in the west.

In perfect weather this also proved fascinating in wildlife terms. While most of the plants we had seen before, the habitat here seemed much more intact than elsewhere. And we did manage a few new species, including the large, yellow-flowered *Adonis vernalis* and white helleborine, along with the almost homeopathically-pink Pyrenean flax (so pale you are never quite sure it is not white), a patch of the vegetable hedgehog broom *Echinopartium horridum*, last seen atop La Peña and here at a remarkably low altitude, massed *Aphyllanthes* and *Genista hispanica*. The scrubby slopes provided a *Sylvia*-fest with six species of scrub warbler (blackcap, garden, subalpine, Sardinian, orphean and Dartford); overhead raptors which included hobby, sparrowhawk, buzzard, honey buzzard and booted eagle; and masses of beetles and other insects, much to Peter's delight, including bloody-nosed beetle which duly performed on my hand, and swarms of something as-yet-unidentified around the new flowers of holm and kermes oaks. And then there were the butterflies: green hairstreak, wood white, Duke-of-Burgundy, wall, green-underside blue, and best of all an obliging southern white admiral, deftly spotted above the path by Malcolm. Such riches – both abundance and diversity – made it the perfect Honeyguide locality, even though we failed to track down ortolan buntings which are known to use the site.

Our walk ('half an hour' according to Peter, but three hours at Honeyguide pace!) brought us to Arrés, another lovely village and one with a very welcome bar... at which the Honeyguide guinea-pigs were treated to a drink in return for feedback on the morning walk: universally positive! But not before we had been spotted by a Forest Guard – or more accurately, our butterfly nets had been spotted. At which point we were told most forcefully that had we been in possession of any captured butterfly, the perpetrator would have been fined heavily! So nets were packed away for the remainder of the tour. On returning to the UK, I checked up, and it seems it is true: all butterflies (and moths for that) are protected by law against capture (irrespective of whether the intent is to kill or to release), and specific authorisation has to be obtained for the use of nets and moth traps...

Through Mel's contacts we then obtained the key to the historic Romanesque church in the village for a quick look around, before we headed down to the banks of the Aragón for lunch. A more idyllic place could hardly be conceived: under the shade of the black poplars, military and early spider orchids standing proud, all enveloped in the bubbling of bee-eaters.



After lunch we wandered along the flood plain, past many recently cleared out bee-eater nests in the low sandy mounds, as maybe 80 birds flew around overhead, their calls rising to a crescendo every time a kite appeared. Under their perching posts we even found (much to my excitement) their pellets, containing the indigestible parts of their insect prey. A large psammmodromus lizard skittered over the track, a short-toed treecreeper sang from the poplars, and a western olivaceous warbler was singing from inside a dense bush. We headed towards the distant quacking of a throng of Iberian water frogs, part submerged on floating weed in a still backwater, as a broad-bodied chaser hawked for insects in the manner of a flycatcher, and then gave ourselves the opportunity for a cooling paddle, or in Helen's case to discover a fine moth, the willow inspector. All-in-all, another must-see site for the Honeyguide itinerary...

Then back in the van, we headed west to Martés bridge, thence on the north shore towards the confluence of the Aragón and Veral. Although off piste, the tracks were perfectly passable as it had been so dry, and brought us to the Badlands scarp slope where we found burnt-tip orchid, and after much searching a few remaining flowers of *Fritillaria lusitanica* in deep shade. Wild tulips, again almost over, were easier, dotted along a stretch of the track-side, as was a lovely flowering clump of *Iris graminea*, in two colour forms. We had one of those cameo moments of intimacy, so easily missed in the hurly-burly: a delightful interaction between two wood whites, atop a single flower, repeatedly touching, almost caressing, each others' antennae. Then a stroll down to the confluence produced red-underwing skipper and lesser butterfly-orchid, before we commenced the slow ascent across the Badlands direct to Berdún.

After dinner, a warm, largely windless night seemed a good bet for batting. Although numbers were low, the massed bat detectors did indicate the presence of common pipistrelles, Kuhl's pipistrelles and Daubenton's bat, a fine end to a remarkable day.

### **Friday 6 May: Aísa and Fago**

And if yesterday was remarkable, on our last day we simply ran out of superlatives. Mild but with heavy cloud at first, it didn't look too promising. A griffon vulture was already in the air over Casa Sarasa at first light, as the crew of two headed out early back to the Martés bridge, picking up a migrant whinchat on the way. Standing in the middle of the river were three little egrets and two grey herons, but then things really started moving. First a flock of 20 cormorants flying up-river, followed by at least 28 grey herons, 24 of which were in a single loose group. Three or four golden orioles came to life as the cloud lifted and the sun started to appear, first singing, then as we prepared to head back, flying across the road between poplar patches. A pale booted eagle joined the upstream movement, and as we crossed the bridge one of the ten or so rock sparrows posed wonderfully as we slowly rolled past. It had been an amazing few minutes, and the day was still young.

We duly headed east again and turned into the hills at Jaca, past the alluring smell of roasting infidels (it was Jaca's main fiesta day, celebrating the victory of the people of Jaca against the Moors). Once up at the Aísa car park it was quite cool and windy, but before we had even gone through the gate a scan of the tops produced a few isard, the southern chamois. Almost immediately, a golden eagle hove into view and proceeded to cross the valley above us.

So then we headed up into the hanging valley, our uphill slog enlivened by the antics of separate flocks of alpine and red-billed choughs, perhaps 60 and 40 respectively. Aísa is a place of incredible scenic beauty and relatively undisturbed, so a haven for mountain wildlife. The lower, box-covered slopes were alive with the signs of summer, including basking Iberian wall lizards, while the meadows above were simply stunning in the trappings of spring – intensely blue patches of spring and trumpet gentians, and bold yellow splashes of yellow rock-jasmine, elder-flowered orchids and more locally, delicate rock daffodils to name just a few. Higher up the valley, oxlips, cowslip x oxlip hybrids, bird's-eye primrose, globularias and pink kidney-vetch added their hues to the botanical kaleidoscope.

Here we took lunch in the most impressive surroundings, with the sun still shining weakly, followed by a generalised potter (producing a few *Narcissus minor* and purple dragonmouth) under the ever-alert gaze of seven isards on the cliff-top above, while a couple each of citril finch and rock bunting (the male of the latter being especially accommodating) added to our bird list.

Being our last day, we also took the opportunity for a few moments of quiet contemplation, in the sort of place that makes one thankful that such spots remain in this troubled world. A fitting finale to a wonderful week...?

But we still had a couple of hours left, and by unanimous agreement we decided to take the 'interesting' route home. Up and over successive mountain ridges, first to Jasa and Hecho, then Anso, and finally Fago (more hairpins than I care to remember), and down to the top of the Fago Gorge, and the conveniently situated picnic space. Overlooking the awesome gorge, griffons were ever-present above and below, and still the new plants appeared, hairy mallow by the fence and Barry located brown bluebell on the rocks above. Time at last to head back, we loaded into the van, only to disembark rapidly as a golden eagle dragged a prey item (possibly a rabbit) into our airspace. With that, a lammergeier launched itself from an unseen vantage point, and after a brief, speculative mid-air tussle at eye-level to us, both continued up the gorge and out of sight.



Alpine choughs – red legs, yellow bill – among the alpine flowers; and two inquisitive isards watching them.



Now that was a finale...merely accentuated as we progressed down the gorge and Helen called 'there's a big animal down there!'. And so a huge male wild boar wandered down the river, just a hundred metres from us in full daylight, no hurry, pausing to snuffle around and relieve itself, quite unconcerned about its admiring audience. The final mini-highlight then occurred as we reached the Canal de Berdún, our destination in sight, and a lovely red fox bounded across the road, and through a cornfield, its ears and snout sparkling in the evening light.

Our final dinner, with the memories of a wonderful holiday and a day to crown all days still fresh in our minds, was enlivened by bubbly, brought on by our excellent hosts in appreciation of our infectious enthusiasm and good humour!

### **Saturday 7 May: the way home...**

Looming skies, a thunderstorm over Yesa – yes, a good day to leave. We had been blessed with wonderful weather throughout the trip, and nobody minded the cloud and rain which accompanied much of our drive back to Biarritz. On the outskirts of town a 'real' spotty starling nudged our list up to 112 species, and before long we were boarding the plane and on our way home...

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### The Best Bits

As is customary on a Honeyguide holiday, I asked the group to tell me their favourite parts and sightings of the trip:

- Peter** the **wallcreeper**, flashing and flicking its way round the rocks; the flower meadows of **Aísa**.
- Sue** **Aísa**, filled with wonderful flowers including bird's-eye primroses; the Aragón **bee-eaters**, their nests and pellets.
- Helen** some new (to me) **blue butterflies** and managing to sort their identity; the abundance of **raptors**, and particularly the golden eagles.
- Malcolm** the **flock of herons** moving up the Aragón on our last early morning session; Aísa's **isards** overlooking us at lunch; '**proper**' **tulips and daffodils**, a world apart from their cultivated counterparts.
- Sally** the **hoopoes** at Peña Reservoir; **alpine flowers** where they belong!
- Barry** **bee-eaters**; **Aísa** – the alpine gardener's dream.
- Kate** **choughs** in great, noisy flocks; **bitter vetch**; **golden oriole**, and the shower of honeyed notes we were treated to one morning.

For my part, the highlights had to be the **black wheatear** at Riglos, my best views ever, and the chorus of færie wind-chimes, my first ever **midwife toads**. My thanks to all involved in what has to be one of the best Honeyguide trips I have had the pleasure to lead.

By common consensus, highlights of every day were the meals. So much so that Helen kept a note of all we were treated to, completing the perfect triumvirate of wildlife, weather and food:-



Mel and Peter do all the cooking themselves, using local ingredients wherever possible. Over the week they produced the following delicious evening meals, during which the Comportillo Crianza Rioja 2008 flowed freely.

- Friday** White and green tagliatelli with a garlicky sausage sauce and cheese to sprinkle; quarter chicken and green salad; tiramisu.
- Saturday** Berdún black sausage on a potato and cabbage timbale topped with a fried quail's egg; salmon trout and broccoli; and a carrot cake and sparkling wine to celebrate Peter B's birthday today.
- Sunday** Viv joined us this evening and we tucked into potato and leek soup, creamed chicken and mushroom on a tortilla pancake with rice and green salad; and a citrus flapjack with ice-cream.
- Monday** Mozzarella, tomato and rocket salad; roast quail with puréed potatoes and roast garlic; fresh fruit salad and cream.
- Tuesday** Lentil soup; Berdún sausages with oven-roasted vegetables and sweet potatoes; orange slices marinated in Grand Marnier, with shortbread.
- Wednesday** Beetroot soup with sesame seeds; pork fillet with mild, green chilli peppers, sautéed potatoes, roast garlic and English mustard; apple crumble and custard.
- Thursday** Our last evening, and Peter demonstrated how to assemble the first course, *panne de tomate* (probably better known to us as *bruschetta*) which, as well as being a starter, is also a typical Aragónese workman's breakfast. We then enjoyed rabbit in rancid\* wine sauce; and lemon cheesecake on a chocolate crumb base.

\* *Rancio* wines are made throughout Spain. Although the term translates literally as 'rancid' it is not pejorative in this case but describes the result of deliberate oxidation which produces a richly flavoured wine, high in alcohol and similar to tawny port or Madeira.

## SYSTEMATIC LISTS

### BIRDS

<b>Great crested grebe</b>	Yesa
<b>Cormorant</b>	Aragón valley, a group of 20 flew upstream
<b>Little egret</b>	3 in the Aragón at Martés
<b>Grey heron</b>	small numbers in most lowland rivers, with 28 over the Aragón at Martés
<b>Mallard</b>	Yesa; Aragón at Arrés
<b>Honey buzzard</b>	singles over Formigal and Arrés
<b>Black kite</b>	numerous; birds following the plough at Bailo
<b>Red kite</b>	also numerous, and following the plough at Bailo
<b>Lammergeier</b>	Martés ; Portalet; Riglos; Hecho valley; Biniés Gorge (2); Fago
<b>Egyptian vulture</b>	1-4 birds at Santa Cruz, Formigal, Agüero, Biniés and elsewhere while travelling
<b>Griffon vulture</b>	widespread, with notable concentrations at La Peña and in Biniés Gorge
<b>Short-toed eagle</b>	Portalet; Peña Reservoir; Bailo (2); Hecho valley; Arrés
<b>Marsh harrier</b>	Martés ; Sabinanigo; Peña Reservoir
<b>Sparrowhawk</b>	Arrés
<b>Golden eagle</b>	singles at Hecho valley, Aísa and Fago, the last carrying prey
<b>Common buzzard</b>	especially on journeys, perched on telegraph poles
<b>Booted eagle</b>	Peña Reservoir (4); Arrés; Martés bridge
<b>Kestrel</b>	
<b>Hobby</b>	Alastuey, and two at Arrés
<b>Red-legged partridge</b>	pairs at Martés and Alastuey
<b>Quail</b>	heard around Berdún
<b>Coot</b>	Yesa
<b>Little ringed plover</b>	Aragón, at Martés Bridge (2)
<b>Common sandpiper</b>	Aragón, at Martés (4) and Arrés; Peña Reservoir; Formigal
<b>Yellow-legged gull</b>	Aragón, and Peña Reservoir
<b>Feral pigeon</b>	no convincing rock doves seen
<b>Woodpigeon</b>	
<b>Collared dove</b>	
<b>Turtle dove</b>	2 at Berdún Marsh
<b>Scops owl</b>	heard at Alastuey (2) and Berdún
<b>Cuckoo</b>	
<b>Swift</b>	rather sparse in number, apart from occasional short influxes
<b>Alpine swift</b>	San Juan de la Peña; Peña Reservoir (7); Gabardito
<b>Bee-eater</b>	Aragón Valley and Alastuey
<b>Hoopoe</b>	Peña Reservoir (4); Jaca: none at Berdún
<b>Great spotted woodpecker</b>	Berdún and Berdún Marsh; Martés Bridge
<b>Green woodpecker</b>	San Juan de la Peña; Gallego Reservoir
<b>Black woodpecker</b>	one in the car park at San Juan de la Peña
<b>Wryneck</b>	Martés Bridge; Arrés; Peña Reservoir; Riglos (heard only)
<b>Crested lark</b>	lowlands
<b>Skylark</b>	Portalet, in song
<b>Crag martin</b>	
<b>Swallow</b>	including birds still migrating through Portalet
<b>House martin</b>	
<b>Tawny pipit</b>	Berdún; Martés
<b>Meadow pipit</b>	Portalet
<b>Water pipit</b>	Portalet, though rather few (and none at Aísa)
<b>Meadow pipit</b>	Portalet and Formigal
<b>Spanish Yellow Wagtail</b>	Martés Bridge, a single male
<b>Grey wagtail</b>	
<b>White wagtail</b>	
<b>Dipper</b>	Biniés Gorge
<b>Wren</b>	upland forest and gorges, plus one singing at Arrés
<b>Dunnock</b>	Gabardito and Aísa, around the tree-line
<b>Robin</b>	mostly upland, with very few low down
<b>Nightingale</b>	very abundant and obvious in the lowlands
<b>Black redstart</b>	from lowland to mountain tops, a wide altitudinal range around cliffs, rocks and buildings



<b>Whinchat</b>	a single migrant at Martés
<b>Stonechat</b>	including recently-fledged young
<b>Northern wheatear</b>	Berdún, Portalet and Aísa
<b>Black-eared wheatear</b>	Berdún, on the Badlands
<b>Black wheatear</b>	Riglos and Agüero
<b>Blue rock thrush</b>	Formigal, Biniés, Riglos and Fago
<b>Rock thrush</b>	Portalet (displaying) and Aísa (singing)
<b>Blackbird</b>	
<b>Mistle thrush</b>	Gabardito and the Hecho valley
<b>Song thrush</b>	Hecho valley and Aísa
<b>Cetti's warbler</b>	
<b>Melodious warbler</b>	abundant in the lowlands this year
<b>Western olivaceous warbler</b>	one singing in the Aragón floodplain at Arrés
<b>Sardinian warbler</b>	Riglos and Arrés
<b>Subalpine warbler</b>	
<b>Dartford warbler</b>	Arrés
<b>Orphean warbler</b>	Santa Cruz and Arrés
<b>Garden warbler</b>	
<b>Blackcap</b>	
<b>Bonelli's warbler</b>	common in low/mid altitude woods; an especially viewable individual at Santa Cruz
<b>Northern chiffchaff</b>	heard in many places; a high-altitude migrant at Portalet
<b>Willow warbler</b>	Formigal and Arrés
<b>Firecrest</b>	
<b>Long-tailed tit</b>	
<b>Crested tit</b>	San Juan de la Peña and Gabardito
<b>Coal tit</b>	
<b>Blue tit</b>	
<b>Great tit</b>	
<b>Nuthatch</b>	San Juan de la Peña and Escarilla
<b>Golden oriole</b>	banks of the Aragón, Berdún Marsh and Peña Reservoir
<b>Wallcreeper</b>	Gabardito
<b>Short-toed treecreeper</b>	San Juan de la Peña and the Aragón at Arrés
<b>Woodchat shrike</b>	a few in lowland habitats, in scrub and on telegraph wires
<b>Jay</b>	
<b>Magpie</b>	
<b>Alpine chough</b>	Portalet, and a large group at Aísa
<b>Red-billed chough</b>	Portalet, Aísa and Riglos
<b>Carrion crow</b>	
<b>Raven</b>	
<b>Spotless starling</b>	
<b>Common starling</b>	Biarritz
<b>House sparrow</b>	
<b>Rock sparrow</b>	widespread, but numerous at Berdún and Martés Bridge
<b>Chaffinch</b>	
<b>Serin</b>	
<b>Citril finch</b>	two seen twice in flight at Aísa
<b>Greenfinch</b>	
<b>Goldfinch</b>	
<b>Linnet</b>	
<b>Crossbill</b>	two at Gabardito
<b>Bullfinch</b>	upper Hecho valley
<b>Yellowhammer</b>	Portalet and Aísa
<b>Rock bunting</b>	two at Aísa
<b>Girl bunting</b>	
<b>Corn bunting</b>	

**Total – 112 species**, and that was without several species we might have expected to see, including peregrine, little owl, woodlark, flycatchers, red-backed shrike or jackdaw.

## KEY TO LOCALITIES

In the list above, and those below, specific locations are given only for the more interesting species found in a small number of localities. Otherwise if any locality code is given, it is the generalised zone code.

### Canal de Berdún (CB)

**B** – Berdún, including the banks of the Veral

**Ar** – Rio Aragón, between Puente la Reina and the confluence with the Veral

**Arr** – Arrés

**Ala** – Alastuey

### Pre-Pyrenees (PP)

**J** – San Juan de la Peña and Santa Cruz de la Seros

**O** – Oroel

**R** – Riglos and the 'Ramonda rock'

**Ag** – Agüero

### Lower gorges (LG)

**Bi** – Biniés gorge

**Fa** – Fago gorge

### High Pyrenees (HP)

**P** – Portalet and Formigal

**E** – Escarilla

**A** – Aísa

**G** – Gabardito and Hecho Valley

## BUTTERFLIES

Dingy Skipper **Arr**

Grizzled Skipper **Ar**

Mallow Skipper **R**

Red-underwing Skipper **Ar**

Alpine Grizzled Skipper **P A**

Scarce Swallowtail **CB**

Swallowtail **B**

Spanish Festoon **Bi**

Large White

Small White

Clouded Yellow **B G**

Wood White **Ar Arr** (*photo, top left*)

Bath White **B**

Orange-tip

Moroccan Orange-tip **Ar R**

Brimstone **B Ar Arr**

Cleopatra **Bi**

Small Tortoiseshell **B HP**

Camberwell Beauty **G**

Southern White Admiral **Arr**

Painted Lady **Arr**

Glanville Fritillary **Arr**

Knapweed Fritillary **J**

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary **J** (*bottom right*)

Silver-washed Fritillary **G**

Nettle-tree Butterfly **R**

Southern Speckled Wood **Ar Bi**

Wall

Duke-of-Burgundy **J Arr**

Common Blue

Adonis Blue **Ag** (*top middle*)

Chequered Blue **Ar Bi** (*bottom left*)

Panoptes Blue **Ar Arr Bi**

Turquoise Blue **R**

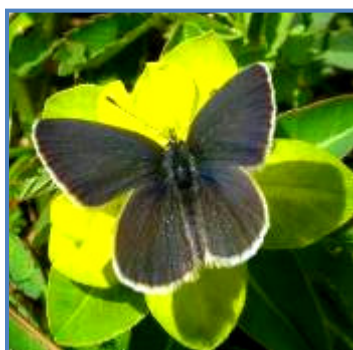
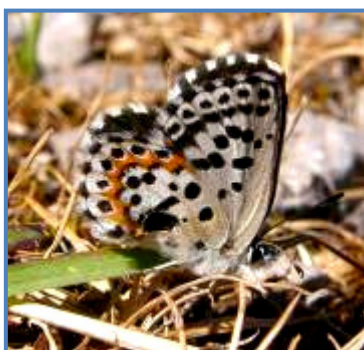
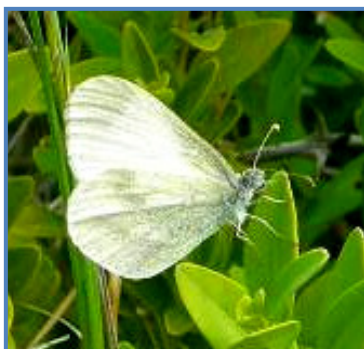
Green-underside Blue **Arr R** (*top right*)

Black-eyed Blue **Bi**

Little (or Small) Blue **B P A** (*bottom middle*)

Brown Argus **Arr R**

Green Hairstreak **Arr**



## MOTHS

*Zygaena lavanduli* **Ar Arr** (below left)  
 Giant Peacock **J**  
 Ground Lackey **A** (caterpillars)  
 Common Heath **J Arr** (♀ below middle)  
 Pine Processionary Moth – caterpillars  
 everywhere where there were pine trees  
 Lace Border **Ar**

Yellow Belle **Ar**  
 Burnet Companion **B Ar J**  
*Psodos quadrifaria* **P** (below right)  
 Bright-line Brown-eye **B**  
 Willow Inspector *Drasteria cailino* **Ar**  
 Hummingbird Hawk-moth **Ag**  
 Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-Moth **Bi**



## FISH

Brown Trout **B Ar**

Barbel **Ar**

## AMPHIBIANS

Iberian Water Frog (Marsh Frog) **Ar Ala**  
 Pyrenean Frog **P**

Midwife Toad **Ala**

## REPTILES

Iberian Wall Lizard **CB PP**  
 Common Wall Lizard **HP**

Pyrenean Rock Lizard **P**  
 Large Psammodromus **Ar**

## OTHER INVERTEBRATES

*Arion ater* a large black slug **HP**  
*Cepaea hortensis* a banded snail  
*Gryllus campestris* field cricket  
*Oedipoda germanica* red-winged grasshopper **Ar**  
*Anacridium aegyptiacum* Egyptian locust **R**  
*Forficula auricula* common earwig  
*Libellula depressa* broad-bodied chaser **Ar**  
*Coccus ilicis* a gall insect on kermes oak  
*Pyrrhocoris apterus* fire-bug  
*Lygaeus saxatilis* a red-and-white bug **Arr**  
*Aquarius najas* a large pond skater **B Ar**  
*Bombylius major* bee-fly  
*Lytta vesicatoria* Spanish fly **J**  
 (below right, on globularia)

*Cicindela campestris* green tiger-beetle **Ar Arr**  
*Pyrochroa serraticornis* a cardinal beetle **J** (below left, on grass-leaved buttercup)  
*Blaps mucronatus* churchyard beetle **Arr**  
*Timarcha tenebricosa* bloody-nosed beetle **Arr**  
*Copris lunaris* a dung beetle **Ar**  
*Geotrupes stercorarius* dor-beetle **A**  
*Formica rufa* wood ant **G**  
*Xylocopa violacea* violet carpenter-bee **CB**  
*Polistes gallicus* a paper wasp **CB**  
*Apis mellifera* honeybee **Ar J**  
*Biorhiza pallida* an oak-apple gall wasp **Arr**  
*Diplolepis rosae* Robin's pincushion gall-wasp **CB**





PLANTS		
BRYOPHYTES (Mosses)		
<i>Grimmia pulvinata</i>		B
PTERIDOPHYTES (Ferns)		
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	Bi
<i>A. fontanum</i>		Bi
<i>A. ruta-muraria</i>	Wall-rue	B Bi
<i>A. trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Bi
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback Fern	Bi
<i>Cheilanthes fragrans</i>		Bi G
<i>Polypodium interjectum</i>	Intermediate Polypody	Bi
<i>P. vulgare</i>	Common Polypody	Bi
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	J
GYMNOSPERMS (Conifers)		
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Cypress	B R
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	CB PP
<i>J. communis</i> ssp. <i>nana</i>		P Ai
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Black Pine	B PP HP
<i>P. pinaster</i>		PP
<i>P. sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	PP HP
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	Bi
DICOTYLEDONS		
The list concentrates on those seen in flower, with just a few more distinctive non-flowering species.		
Aceraceae		
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	Bi
<i>A. monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier Maple	Bi
<i>A. opalus</i>		Bi
Anacardiaceae		
<i>Pistachia lentiscus</i>	Lentisc	Bi R
<i>P. terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree	R
Apiaceae		
<i>Bupleurum rigidum</i>		Bi Ar
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	PP HP
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	
<i>Eryngium bourgatii</i>		G
<i>E. campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	B
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	
<i>Meum athamanticum</i>	Spignel	HP
Aquifoliaceae		
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	
Araliaceae		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	
<i>H. hibernica</i>	Irish Ivy	Bi
Asclepiadaceae		
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	LG
Asteraceae		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	HP
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	Wormwood	B
<i>A. campestre</i>	Field Southernwood	Ar
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	
<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	Wetted Thistle	B
<i>C. carlinoides</i>	Pyrenean Thistle	J HP
<i>C. tenuiflorus</i>	Slender Thistle	B
<i>Carlina acanthifolia</i>		HP
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>		CB
<i>Lactuca perennis</i>	Blue Lettuce	Bi R HP
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>		B
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	Lavender Cotton	CB
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	B
<i>Taraxacum</i> sp.	Dandelion	
<i>Tragopogon crocifolius</i>		B
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	HP
Berberidaceae		
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	Barberry	CB PP

<b>Betulaceae</b>		
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	
<b>Boraginaceae</b>		
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	B
<i>Buglossoides purpureo-caerulea</i>	Purple Gromwell	Ar Bi
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>		B
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss	B Bi Ag
<i>Lappula squarrosa</i>	Bur Forget-me-not	A
<i>Lithodora fruticosum</i>	Shrubby Gromwell	CB
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	Alpine Forget-me-not	HP
<b>Brassicaceae</b>		
<i>Aethionema saxatile</i>	Burnt Candytuft	J
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	
<i>Alyssum alyssoides</i>	Small Alison	CB
<i>Arabis alpina</i>	Alpine Rock-cress	HP
<i>A. turrita</i>	Towercress	Bi HP
<i>Biscutella didyma</i>		R
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary Cress	
<i>Cardamine raphanifolia</i>		P
<i>Draba aizoides</i>	Yellow Whitlow-grass	HP
<i>Iberis saxatilis</i>		P
<i>Lepidium heterophyllum</i>	Smith's Pepperwort	B
<i>Sisymbrium austriacum</i>		HP
<i>S. officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	
<b>Buxaceae</b>		
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	CB PP
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>		
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Perfoliate Honeysuckle	CB LG PP
<i>L. pyrenaicum</i>		R
<i>L. xylosteum</i>	Fly Honeysuckle	B J
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf Elder	
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree	CB LG
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>		
<i>Arenaria aggregata</i>		Ar
<i>A. grandiflora</i>		A
<i>Cerastium alpinum</i>		A
<i>Dianthus hispanicus</i>		Fa
<i>Paronychia argentea</i>		CB
<i>Petrocoptis pyrenaica</i>		Bi
<i>Saponaria ocymoides</i>	Rock Soapwort	LG HP
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Moss Champion	A
<i>S. alba</i>	White Champion	
<i>S. nutans</i>	Nottingham Catchfly	CB LG
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion	
<b>Cistaceae</b>		
<i>Fumana ericoides</i>		CB
<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i>	White Rock-rose	CB PP
<i>H. nummularium</i> ssp. <i>pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean Rock-rose	CB
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>		
<i>Convolvulus cantabricus</i>		R
<b>Cornaceae</b>		
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	B
<b>Crassulaceae</b>		
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Thick-leaved Stonecrop	R
<i>Sempervivum montanum</i>		HP
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	Bi R
<b>Cucurbitaceae</b>		
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony	B Bi
<b>Ericaceae</b>		
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	J
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry	HP
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>		
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge	CB J
<i>E. chamaebuxus</i>		Ar
<i>E. characias</i>		PP
<i>E. cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge	B

<i>E. flavicoma</i>		P
<i>E. helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	
<i>E. serrata</i>		CB
<b>Fabaceae</b>		
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> ssp. <i>forondae</i>	Kidney Vetch	HP
<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>		CB
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	B
<i>Coronilla emerus</i>	Scorpion Vetch	CB LG PP
<i>Dorycnium hirsutum</i>		Bi
<i>D. pentaphyllum</i>		CB
<i>Echinospartium horridum</i>		J Arr
<i>Genista hispanica</i>	Spanish Gorse	CB
<i>G. scorpius</i>		CB PP
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch	CB PP
<i>Lathyrus montanus</i>	Bitter Vetch	P
<i>L. setifolius</i>		Ar
<i>L. vernus</i>	Spring Pea	PP Arr
<i>Lotus alpinus</i>		HP
<i>Medicago suffruticosa</i>		HP
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin	CB
<i>Ononis fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Rest-harrow	CB
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	LG PP
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia	B
<i>Tetragonolobus maritimus</i>	Dragon's-teeth	Ar
<i>Trifolium montanum</i>		PP HP
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	CB PP
<i>V. pyrenaica</i>		HP
<i>V. sativa</i>	Common Vetch	
<i>V. sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	CB
<b>Fagaceae</b>		
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	PP HP
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak	CB
<i>Q. ilex</i>	Holm Oak	CB LG PP
<i>Q. petraea</i>	Sessile Oak	PP
<i>Q. pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Oak	PP
<b>Fumariaceae</b>		
<i>Corydalis solida</i>		P
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Fumitory	B
<b>Gentianaceae</b>		
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort	Bi
<i>Gentiana acaulis</i>	Trumpet Gentian	HP
<i>G. verna</i>	Spring Gentian	HP
<b>Geraniaceae</b>		
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	
<i>E. moschatum</i>	Musk Stork's-bill	B
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	
<i>G. purpureum</i>	Little-Robin	B Bi
<i>G. pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean Crane's-bill	HP
<i>G. robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	LG HP
<i>G. sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill	Ar Ag
<b>Gesneriaceae</b>		
<i>Ramonda myconi</i>		Bi R
<b>Globulariaceae</b>		
<i>Globularia cordifolia</i>		Bi HP
<i>G. punctata</i>		CB
<i>G. repens</i>		HP
<b>Lamiaceae</b>		
<i>Acinos alpinus</i>		A
<i>A. arvensis</i>	Basil-thyme	Arr
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground-pine	Ar
<i>Horminium pyrenaicum</i>	Dragonmouth	A
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle	A
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White Horehound	B
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard-balm	Bi Arr
<i>Phlomis lychnitis</i>		CB R
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	R
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	CB



<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow Woundwort	R
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Garden Thyme	CB
<b>Lentibulariaceae</b>		
<i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered Butterwort	E
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	Butterwort	P
<b>Linaceae</b>		
<i>Linum narbonense</i>	Beautiful Flax	CB
<i>L. suffruticosum</i>	Pyrenean Flax	CB
<b>Loranthaceae</b>		
<i>Viscum album</i> ssp. <i>album</i>	Mistletoe	CB
<i>Viscum album</i> ssp. <i>austriacum</i>		J
<b>Malvaceae</b>		
<i>Althaea hirsuta</i>	Hairy Mallow	Fa
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	
<b>Moraceae</b>		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	R
<b>Oleaceae</b>		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	Bi
<i>Jasminum fruticans</i>	Wild Jasmine	B LG PP
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	R
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>		
<i>Orobanche amethystea</i>		Bi
<i>O. caryophyllacea</i>	Bedstraw Broomrape	Bi
<i>O. hederæ</i>	Ivy Broomrape	Bi
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>		
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood Sorrel	G
<b>Papaveraceae</b>		
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	Bi
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>		
<i>Plantago sempervirens</i>	Shrubby Plantain	Ar
<b>Polygalaceae</b>		
<i>Polygala nicaeensis</i>	Nice Milkwort	J Arr
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort	B
<b>Primulaceae</b>		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	
<i>Androsace villosa</i>		A
<i>Coris monspeliensis</i>		R
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip	HP
<i>P. farinosa</i>	Bird's-eye Primrose	P A
<i>P. hirsuta</i>		P
<i>P. veris</i>	Cowslip	J HP
<i>P. veris</i> x <i>elatior</i>		HP
<i>Soldanella alpina</i>	Alpine Snowbell	P
<i>Vitaliana primuliflora</i>	Yellow Rock-jasmine	P A
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>		
<i>Adonis vernalis</i>		Arr
<i>Anemone narcissiflora</i>		P
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine	
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh-marigold	HP
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy	B Bi
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore	CB PP
<i>H. viridis</i>	Green Hellebore	HP
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>		J G
<i>Ranunculus amplexicaulis</i>		A
<i>R. gouanii</i>		HP
<i>R. gramineus</i>		J
<i>R. pyrenaicus</i>		HP
<i>Thalictrum tuberosum</i>		B PP
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globe-flower	P
<b>Resedaceae</b>		
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Mignonette	B
<i>R. phyteuma</i>	Corn Mignonette	Ar
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>		
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn	Ag
<i>R. pumilus</i>	Rock Buckthorn	HP

<b>Rosaceae</b>		
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine Lady's-mantle	P A
<i>A. conjuncta</i>		A
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	Snowy Mespilus	CB PP HP
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	Bi J A
<i>Geum montanum</i>	Alpine Avens	PP G
<i>Potentilla rupestris</i>	Rock Cinquefoil	P
<i>P. tabernaemontani</i>	Spring Cinquefoil	PP HP
<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>	St Lucie's Cherry	Bi
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose	
<i>R. glauca</i>		B Ar
<i>R. rubiginosa</i>	Sweet-briar	O
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble	
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet	CB
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	Bi
<b>Rubiaceae</b>		
<i>Asperula taurica</i>		B
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	J
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder	B
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder	Ar
<b>Salicaceae</b>		
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar	Ar
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	Bi
<i>S. purpurea</i>	Purple Willow	Ar
<b>Santalaceae</b>		
<i>Osiris alba</i>		Ag
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>		
<i>Saxifraga corbariensis</i>		P
<i>S. granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage	J A
<i>S. hirsuta</i>		G
<i>S. longifolia</i>	Pyrenean Saxifrage	Bi R P
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>		
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Snapdragon	CB PP
<i>Chaenorhinum origanifolium</i>		Bi A
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	B
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy Foxglove	A
<i>Linaria pyrenaica</i>		P A
<i>L. repens</i>	Pale Toadflax	R
<i>Rhinanthus mediterraneus</i>		R
<i>Veronica austriaca</i>		A
<i>V. bellidioides</i>		G
<i>V. fruticans</i>		HP
<i>Viola serpyllifolia</i> ssp. <i>humifusum</i>		A
<b>Solanaceae</b>		
<i>Hyocymus niger</i>	Henbane	Ag
<b>Thymelaeaceae</b>		
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge-laurel	J
<i>D. laureola</i> ssp. <i>philippii</i>		HP
<b>Tiliaceae</b>		
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	Bi
<b>Ulmaceae</b>		
<i>Celtis australis</i>	Nettle-tree	R
<b>Urticaceae</b>		
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	R L
<b>Valerianaceae</b>		
<i>Valeriana globularifolia</i>		J A
<i>Valeriana Montana</i>		E
<b>Violaceae</b>		
<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Field Pansy	J
<i>V. cornuta</i>	Horned Pansy	P
<i>V. odorata</i>	Sweet Violet	HP PP
<i>V. pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Violet	HP
<i>V. reichenbachiana</i>	Pale Dog-violet	G
<i>V. riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet	J

MONOCOTYLEDONS – Amaryllidaceae		
<i>Narcissus minor</i>	Least Daffodil	A
<i>N. pseudonarcissus</i> ssp. <i>alpestris</i>		J
<i>N. pseudonarcissus</i> ssp. <i>pseudonarcissus</i>	Wild Daffodil	P
<i>N. rupicola</i>	Rock Daffodil	J A
Cyperaceae		
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	Black Bog-rush	B
Dioscoreaceae		
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	Bi
Iridaceae		
<i>Iris germanica</i>	Purple Iris	
<i>I. graminea</i>		Ar
<i>I. pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	B
Liliaceae		
<i>Allium moly</i>		Bi
<i>A. roseum</i>	Rose Garlic	Ag
<i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i>		CB
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Wild Asparagus	B Bi
<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White Asphodel	Bi J
<i>Dipcadi serotinum</i>	Brown Bluebell	Fa
<i>Fritillaria hispanica</i>		Ar
<i>F. pyrenaica</i>		J
<i>Hyacinthus amethystinus</i>		Bi R
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon Lily	O C
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	B Ar
<i>M. neglectum</i>	Grape-hyacinth	J
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	Solomon's-seal	O
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom	Bi Arr
<i>Scilla liliohyacinthus</i>	Pyrenean Squill	P
<i>S. verna</i>	Spring Squill	P A
<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i>		Ar
Orchidaceae		
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine	Arr
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>	Broad-leaved Marsh-orchid	Ai
<i>D. sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid	J O HP
<i>Listera ovata</i>	Common Twayblade	Ar
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	Ar
<i>O. fusca</i>	Sombre Bee-orchid	CB
<i>O. lutea</i>	Yellow Bee-orchid	Ar
<i>O. scolopax</i>	Woodcock Orchid	Ar
<i>O. sphegodes</i>	Early Spider-orchid	CB
<i>O. tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly Orchid	Ar
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple-orchid	J P O
<i>O. militaris</i>	Military Orchid	Ar
<i>O. morio</i> var. <i>Picta</i>	Green-winged Orchid	J Ar
<i>O. purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid	CB
<i>O. ustulata</i>	Burnt Orchid	Ar Ala Arr
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly-orchid	Ar
Poaceae (very incomplete)		
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	B
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	Ar R
<i>Catapodium rigidum</i>	Fern-grass	B
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	B
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass	B
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	B
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melick	Bi J
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	B
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	B
Typhaceae		
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Greater Reedmace	B
LICHENS		
<i>Cladonia foliacea</i>		B
<i>Rhizocarpon geographicum</i>		HP