

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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French Pyrenees
7 – 14 June 2003

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Illustrations by Rob Hume. Cover: trumpet gentians.

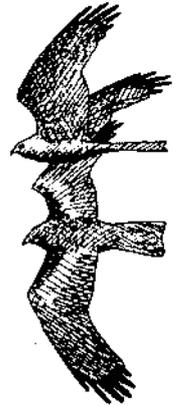
This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution this year of £25 per person from the French Pyrenees was supplemented by two groups in the Camargue groups and one in the Dordogne, leading to a total of £1050 given to La Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO, the French Bird Protection League).

This brings the total given to LPO to £6,925 since 1991, and to various conservation projects in Europe to £29,800. A thank-you letter from LPO is at the end of this report.

FRENCH PYRÉNÉES 7-14 JUNE 2003

Saturday 7 June – the way there

After successfully gathering the group at Gatwick, we flew gratefully out of the cloud and gloom, arriving an hour and a half later in Toulouse in glorious sunshine and 29°C. After collecting the minibuses and squeezing ourselves and the luggage aboard, it was on to the motorway and heading still farther south. As is so often the case with French motorways, it was a delight to drive – relatively little traffic, and an array of interesting birds to keep us alert: several buzzards and little egrets and parties of black kites (*right*) forming the big game. As we slowed down for the tollbooths, a coypu was grazing unconcernedly by the road, and almost every few hundred metres, there was the strident song of great green bush-crickets. A brief drink and loo-stop at the Aire de Cominges gave us chance to look more closely at the raptors overhead, one of which turned out to be a rather distant booted eagle.



Before long, we were back on the road, and soon branched off the motorway and skirted around Lourdes, before heading up into the ever-more-dramatically looming mountains, arriving at Gèdre around 9PM. Odile and Philippe, our hosts, and a hummingbird hawk-moth visiting the petunias outside the hotel welcomed our arrival, but no time to stand and stare – we were hungry, and the restaurant staff wanted us *tout de suite!* So after the first of many delightful meals, time to unpack and off to bed

Sunday 8 June – Barrage and Lac des Gloriettes

... only for most of us to be rudely awakened in the early hours by a huge crack of thunder and torrential rain. I for one was decidedly apprehensive – mountain weather is notoriously unstable. But we need not have worried as it dawned fresh and clear, and after breakfast we assembled in the car park, raring to go. But not before taking in a few of the local sights, from the Brèche de Roland, a cliff-cleft up the valley above Gavarnie (and lending its name to our hotel), to the firecrests in the garden conifers; serins all around, their twinkling songs audible even above the sound of the rushing river; and the flower-filled meadow right beside us – greater yellow-rattle, small scabious and numerous clovers lit up by the sun which had just dragged itself up above the mountainside, and home to several painted ladies.

Driving up from Gèdre, on wonderful twisty roads, round every bend the views became still more dramatic, and before long we found ourselves at the foot of the Gloriettes dam, high up in the mountains. Here, at our first stop, we needed go no further than the immediate surroundings of the parking area to get a wonderful taster of the montane flora. The slopes in places were crimson, from the alpenrose, a low-growing rhododendron, in prolific bloom, and by searching between the bushes and the rocks, we started to amass a considerable list of plants – broad-leaved marsh-orchid, large-flowered butterwort, globe-flower, alpine lady's-mantle, mountain everlasting, swallow-wort...the list goes on. Several large common frogs were disturbed from the boggy ground, while a yellowhammer and a few distant griffon vultures provided bird interest. A wart-biter bush-cricket failed to bite me, and a crab spider *Misumenia vatia* had clearly been successful, despite the colour mismatch with its chosen flower – its jaws were clamped around a large fly.

Moving up the road a little way on foot, we started to examine the verges, seemingly turning up new plants at every pace. There was livelong saxifrage, columbine, narcissus-flowered anemone, wood crane's-bill, mountain avens, and a clutch more of orchids – elder-flowered, greater butterfly, burnt-tip, common twayblade, and best of all, three spikes of the elusive black vanilla orchid. By now, the sun was growing in strength and insects were perking up: orange tip, small blue, and dingy and grizzled skippers were among the butterflies seen, and the first ascalaphid sped past, a brightly-coloured, fast-flying ant-lion relative. So much to look at around our feet, we almost forgot to look up, but cries of 'big bird overhead' led us to an immature golden eagle patrolling the peaks.

Time was pressing on, so we returned to the vans, and headed still further uphill, to the incredibly busy car park by the dam. Busy it may have been, but it was a convenient spot to explore the first of our voluminous packed lunches, perching on rocks covered in forking spleenwort, and looking (with little success) for the nuthatch proclaiming its presence so loudly.

After refuelling, we were off again, across the dam, and around the reservoir. The views were tremendous, with distant peaks reflected in the still waters, and again, the pastures around us were teeming with insects. Ascalaphids were out in style, and we even managed to capture one, to allow us to see the complex wing venation and colouring, and its distinctive club-tipped antennae; reference to Chinery identified it as *Libelloides longicornis*. We saw more, many more, of the same butterflies as in the morning, along with Piedmont ringlet, clouded yellow and small pearl-bordered fritillary. Both lesser and greater butterfly-orchids (and not a few indeterminate, at least going on the orientation of the pollen sacs) were abundant, along with scattered fragrant and early purples. The most stunning plants though were the garland flower, not least because of its perfume, and the bold purple splashes of alpine toadflax. Alpine marmots were calling from all around the valley, several giving good views perched atop their rocks, or grazing around their bases; water pipits were displaying everywhere; and overhead, among the scattering of griffons, a couple of distant lammergeiers drifted past.

In mid-afternoon, the cloud started to form, and enveloped us as it rose up the valley. The temperature fell a touch, allowing us to examine some of the butterflies in more detail, including a geranium argus. Then the thunder started, seemingly and strangely coming from below us in the valley, so before the rain, we headed back to the vans and down to Gèdre for a grandstand performance of the elements.

After dinner, more leisurely than the previous night, a local walk behind the hotel seemed in order, and produced a pipistrelle, wild candytuft and blue lettuce in the fading light.

Monday 9 June - Gavarnie

As we gathered in the car park after breakfast, a honey buzzard delayed our departure a little as it drifted slowly down the valley, but soon we were off and up again, this time to Gavarnie, one of the high mountain human honeypots of the region. Despite the crowds (it was a bank holiday) only a short way out of the town, new and exciting wildlife appeared. Several clouded Apollos were feeding drowsily (the sun was barely up) by the track, and the meadows were a riot of colour with greater yellow rattle, clovers and vetches, ox-eye daisy, scabious, buttercups and dusky crane's-bill, together with some lovely displays of the large-flowered *Viola cornuta*. On the first big rock, one of the Pyrenean specialities *Ramonda myconi*, an African-violet, was in full bloom, with, at the base of the rock, fairy foxglove.

We continued up the river, past crosswort, Pyrenean valerian, wood scabious and spotted dead-nettle, the natural delights only slightly marred by the helicopter trips to the looming Cirque de Gavarnie taking place above us. From any angle and distance the cirque is impressive: vertical walls of rock, several hundred metres high, with snowbeds, small glaciers, and melt-water waterfalls – simply incredible scenery. Birds were relatively sparse, with just a few griffons, a couple of common buzzards, and a short-toed eagle which drifted low down the valley, straight over us.

Continuing our walk, we picked up a few new butterflies – large skipper, southern comma and heath fritillary – before entering an area of typically shady beech wood. Much of the woodland flora was over, as evidenced by the carpets of Spanish bluebell leaves, though wood spurge, bugle, and a few hepaticas were still in bloom. Once through the woods, again the vistas opened, as we came to a broad valley, a jolly good place to sit for lunch and to contemplate the majesty of the cirque. A few alpine choughs were poking around in the pastures, and both swallowtail and Apollo butterflies flew past. Then a short exploration of the valley bottom revealed yet more black vanilla orchids, as well as several frog orchids, Pyrenean lousewort and alpine bistort. The scrubby areas held singing Bonelli's warbler and tree pipit, together with creeping globularia, black-veined white, brimstone and a lovely tiger moth, the clouded buff. But all too soon it was time to potter back, taking in a superb male red-

backed shrike and a welcome cool drink on the way, before re-entering the frenzy of retail therapy in Gavarnie, a bustle of people and squeaking marmots in every shop!

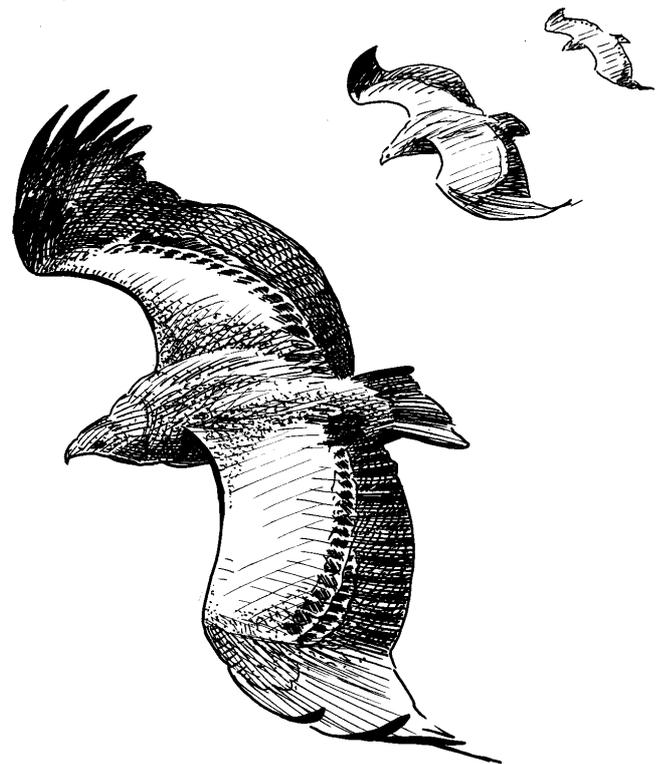
On the drive up, Jenny had spotted orchids in the verges, so heading back we made a brief stop to look at them. Several sword-leaved helleborines were duly located, along with fly orchid, and chequered skipper was added to the butterfly list.

At dinner, we were somewhat bemused when we were presented with plates of raw steak. But all became clear when the hot stones arrived – it was an indoor DIY barbecue! And then Philippe produced several large baked Alaskas from the kitchen, doused them in spirit and ignited them. A dramatic entrance, spoiled only by the smoke alarm going off! Afterwards, the French *troisième age* group with whom we were sharing the hotel had a *soirée folklorique* laid on, to which we were invited to listen. It involved a local male voice choir, in traditional dress, heartily singing a series of folk songs. Despite the language difficulties, especially when they descended into *patois*, it was clear that the songs were on the theme of folk songs worldwide – women, war, and sheep! And still later in the bar, we even got performances especially for *les rosbifs* – ‘Frère Jacques’ and ‘Alouette’ (dragging up schoolday memories) and a finale of ‘It’s a Long Way to Tipperary’....

Tuesday 10 June – Col de Tentes & Vallée d’Ossoue

Today’s trip took us to some of the highest places it is possible to drive in this part of the Pyrenees, reaching 2208m at the Col de Tentes. But we took our time getting there, stopping at will on the quiet mountain roads to spot what we could. First was just above the ski station, in response to the sight of a marmot ambling along the edge of the road. Griffon vultures (*right*) also featured here, with several in flight and perching on the crags across the valley, and even a couple wandering around for all the world like outsized turkeys on the grassy slopes below our vantage point. Alpine choughs were ever-present overhead, and a colony of house martins was nesting on the rocky outcrops just above the road. Plant-wise, the area was relatively sparse, apart from the numerous rosettes, just starting to flower, of the lovely Pyrenean thistle.

Moving up to the plateau, flowers were more in evidence, and included the elusive snowbell, spring gentians in electric-blue patches, moonwort, sheets of white Pyrenean buttercup, and Alpine speedwell. Helen located a splendid male rock thrush, perched on the ski-lift wires, and we watched the comings and goings of marmots on the far hillside: feeding, basking and collecting bedding around the numerous burrows, a veritable marmotopolis. Then it was up to the end of the road, at the Col, only some 1500 metres from the Spanish border at the Port de Boucharo. Almost immediately on leaving the vans, Mike spotted a couple of izard (the recently-separated Pyrenean chamois) crossing a distant snow patch. Then dragging ourselves away from the stunning high mountain scenery, a short wander on to the grassy pastures and snow-beds revealed some wonderful displays of spring and trumpet gentians, some of the latter in pink rather than the usual vivid blue. Other botanical gems included pink-spangled cushions of moss campion, *Primula hirsuta*, pink rock-jasmine, purple colt’s-foot, Pyrenean violet, ashy crane’s-bill and the remarkable dwarf buckthorn, a shrub almost fused with vertical rock faces. To complement this spectacle, wheatears were displaying and the melt-water pools were full of frogspawn and common frogs.



Descending from the highest ground for lunch, we settled upon a rocky valley and tumbling stream, the margins of which were home to beautiful pink patches of entire-leaved primrose, with a sprinkling of snowbells (*right*). It was a lovely tranquil area to eat, the silence broken only by the calling marmots.



And then it was down still further, and into the Vallée d'Ossoue. On entering the valley, a large rock by the bridge demanded our attention, as it was dripping in Pyrenean saxifrage and *Ramonda*. The neighbouring slopes were wonderful in their diversity of flowers and their abundance of butterflies and other insects, including hummingbird hawk-moth, black-veined moth, and Apollo butterfly, while 12 griffons soared majestically overhead.

Up the valley, and through an only recently opened snow blockage, it opened out into a wide U-shape, with vast mountains encompassing a series of grassy and marshy habitats, liberally peppered with the purple spikes of thousands of broad-leaved marsh-orchids. Almost reluctantly lifting our eyes to the heavens, a lammergeier drifted slowly past, and then a second more distant one, in the company of two golden eagles, appeared around the crags. By now it was getting on to departure time: the sun was still beating down, and there was no sign of the now traditional late afternoon thunderstorm. And so it remained – warm, humid and dry into the evening, when a local dusk walk produced sightings and soundings of both pipistrelle and serotine bats.

Wednesday 11 June – Vallée de la Glère & Col du Tourmalet

The pre-breakfast walkers found both red squirrel and nuthatches in the woods above the hotel, and as we gathered for departure, the usual firecrest had grown into a whole family. And while watching a common buzzard quartering the slopes, so two short-toed eagles put in an appearance, hunting the hilltops for reptiles in the new day's sun.

First stop was in Barèges, in the market place, where quite fortuitously it was market day. So while some headed for the delights of fresh fruit and mountain honey, the rest potted down to the cinema to catch up with crag martins (surprisingly scarce in these parts), with at least two nests.

A little way past the village, we turned of the road into the Vallée de la Glère, passing through picnic sites and woods, into the open valley on an increasingly bumpy road. When we got as far as was practicable, we parked and set off on the 1_ hour hike up the mountainside towards the hydroelectric site, where previous groups had found wallcreepers. The anticipation kept us going in the mounting heat, but at the top we were greeted with the sight of the buildings having recently been demolished! And so the near-mythical bird must remain just that. All very disappointing, especially given the effort, and the relative lack of other wildlife, or at least anything we had not seen previously with a great deal less effort. At least on the way down, several of us managed to see crested tits, and large tortoiseshell and rock grayling butterflies. Back at the vans, those who had not attempted the hike felt quietly smug, especially as many of them had seen a wonderful male rock thrush.

A late lunch in the beech woods was then in order, followed by a welcome drink in the café, where another mammal got onto our list – a dead wood mouse. And so we hit the road again, continuing up on ever-more-winding roads, and through ever-more-primeval landscape, until we reached the top - the Col de Tourmalet – at 2115m, the second highest point we reached during the week. By now the cloud had formed and it was relatively cool, but the crowds were still out, including an impressive number of cyclists who had clearly toiled hard to reach that point. Even so, the main object of our visit was there as soon as we got out – snowfinches. Not one but several; not distant but scratching

around for crumbs in the car park. And feeding round snow beds, display fighting overhead, and breeding in the supports of the ski lifts. A short wander also brought us a lovely patch of pink rock-jasmine, a male rock thrush, and the bizarre sight of llamas grazing the mountain pastures...

Heading home, the heat and humidity increased, we passed through a little rain, and then returned to the hotel again in the midst of another thunderstorm, echoing off the hills.

Thursday 12 June – Pont and Plateau de Saugué & Vallée de Bué

As was so often the case, wildlife came to us as we were waiting to board the minibuses: Edward captured a Queen-of-Spain fritillary in the meadow next to the hotel, crested tits were in the conifers, and overhead a lammergeier and a possible Bonelli's eagle drifted distantly past.

Today's trip was unknown to all, apart from the fact that the leaders had found a likely looking spot before breakfast a couple of days previously. A minor road led out of Gèdre, and climbed steeply through the most wonderful flowery meadows, with pyramidal orchids, scarce swallowtail and the incessant, almost deafening, song of field crickets, onto the Plateau de Saugué. We stopped at the bridge, ostensibly to look for dippers, while I then went off in search of air for one of the tyres. An hour later I returned, only to find the group had not moved at all. They had come upon the most incredible congregations of butterflies, feeding on the abundant nectar sources and especially drinking from pools next to the bridge. There were Apollos; small, common, Adonis, mazarine and Escher's blues; pearly heath and brown argus; bright-eyed and piedmont ringlets; purple-edged copper; dappled and green-veined whites; heath and false heath fritillaries; large tortoiseshell; large, dingy, grizzled and large grizzled skippers. And not just a few but hundreds of many of the species, many of which were netted for close examination and identification. Add to that black-veined, burnet companion and lace border moths, and black-tailed skimmer and broad-bodied chaser dragonflies, and it was a haven for insect life, one of the abiding memories of the trip. The plans were almost superfluous, but included cotton-grass, Tofield's asphodel, some bold splashes of maiden pink, butterworts and all the usual orchids, while marmots and whinchats provided yet more to look at. Two marmots in particular provided good entertainment, tussling on the grassy slope and eventually rolling right down to the river. As for the dippers...well, the leaders had seen them on the reccy, but they did not perform for the whole group.

After lunch, we went on to the end of the road, overlooking Gavarnie and its cirque, from a different angle to previously, and found a small patch of limestone pavement, typically abounding in flowers. Masses of hoary rock-rose, Montpellier milk-vetch, some lovely patches of alpine aster, field gentian, frog orchids and another five spikes of black vanilla orchid knocked any rock garden into a cocked hat, and a splendid male whinchat showed well on a tumbledown barn.

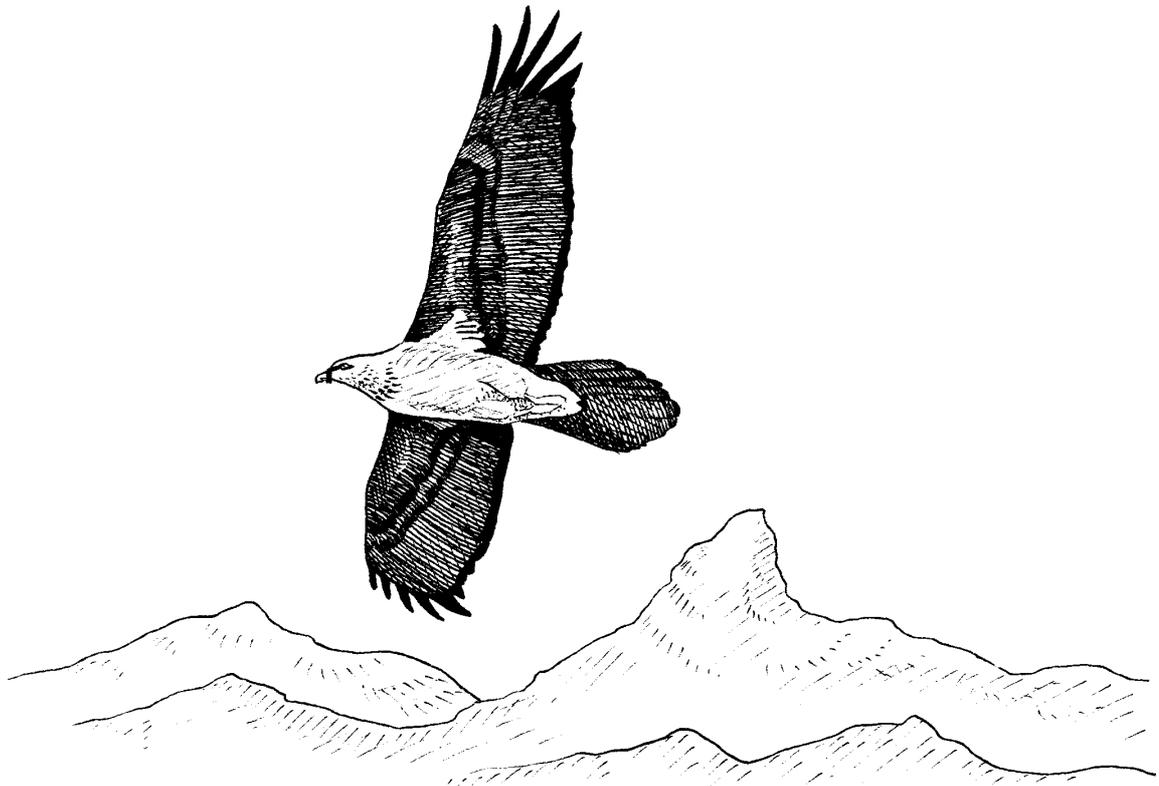
For the final destination of the day, we retraced our steps to the valley of Bué, and progressed up through the woodland – part deciduous, part open conifer plantation. There were Welsh poppies, Pyrenean valerian, wood saxifrage, *Lathyrus laevigatus* and woodruff growing by the track; while common lizards, southern comma, wood white and Apollo (one of which at last gave photo opportunities) took advantage of the hot and humid conditions – the clouds were building and thunder starting to rumble. But undeterred, we continued searching, finding many of the less obvious biodiversity features – bagworms (strange flightless moths, living in a bag); a small ermine moth infestation on a willow tree; leaf-miners on almost every beech leaf; and the colt's-foot rust fungus.

Taking refuge in the minibuses from the impending storm, we drove back down the valley in the gathering gloom, stopping only to admire a large patch of *Ramonda* on a rock by the track, conveniently next to an even larger patch of fruiting wild strawberries, before heading home in the rain. All agreed it was one of the highlight days of the week, especially because we were off the beaten track and had no idea of what to expect.

Friday 13 June – Cirque de Troumouse

The early morning squirrelers were again successful – it moved through the woods behind the hotel right on cue. In a change from previous days, we were not straight out into the field after breakfast, as we had a visitor, Philippe Serre, leader of the LPO lammergeier project. He gave us an entertaining and informative talk about his work, and the successes of the project, while Chris gave him a cheque – the contributions from the party to local conservation efforts, bringing the total given to LPO from Honeyguide since 1991 some £6925, a not-inconsiderable sum.

By mid-morning, we were out in the sun once more, this time heading up the Héas valley. An initial stop by the roadside failed again on the dippers, but produced some spectacular patches of maiden pink, and once again, swarms of butterflies (especially small blues) underfoot. Then we went into the Cirque de Troumouse, if anything even more visually spectacular than anywhere else we had been during the week. Half way up, we stopped near the café, and watched both alpine and red-billed choughs feeding among the cattle. Water pipits were singing in every direction, wheatears and marmots their constant associates, and a few griffons sailed overhead. These were joined briefly by a young lammergeier, showing very clearly the broad wings (significantly broader than in an adult – *pictured below* – giving a distinctive flight silhouette), which we had learnt about from Philippe only two hours before.



But this was only the halfway point, so up we went again, to the top car park for lunch (and a vivid demonstration of our altitude through the ‘exploding crisp packet’ phenomenon), amidst carpets of gentians and alpine catchfly. A couple of izard were eventually picked out by Jenny on the distant screes.

After lunch we walked on towards the cirque, still some 2km away but forming a dramatic curtain of rock and snow around half of our horizon. Garland flower was abundant in patches, scenting the air, and in the lee of various boulders, we found mezereon, a close relative, its flowers seemingly irresistible to silver Y moths. Even this high up, insects were active: another Queen-of-Spain flew past; a mountain clouded yellow added itself to our list, here at the lower edge of its altitudinal range;

and a hummingbird hawk-moth was watched laying eggs on a bedstraw plant. On the boulders, there were several species of saxifrage, and yellow-flowered *Viola biflora*, while in the margins of the boggy pools (many of them full of large caddis-fly larvae) we found several patches of snowbell.

Around this time, mid-afternoon, Chris said that the time was right for the *pièce-de-résistance*. We thought the group of 12 izard, including two young ones, grazing below the cliffs might be it. Then, a low rumble, followed by a very loud, echoing ‘explosion’, and a wedge of ice fell in an avalanche from the top of the cirque. Nature at its most powerful! But even that was eclipsed a few minutes later, while sitting in the tea-room garden, watching a distant peregrine, a familiar shape rose over the mountain. A cry of ‘lammergeier’ got the whole clientèle looking up, as it came lower and lower, over our heads and down the valley. A lovely creamy adult, it drifted right through our field of vision without even a single twitch of its wings: sheer majesty, and a fitting finale.

After dinner, sitting outside and enjoying a drink as the light faded, we ran through a few holiday highlights and shared our personal highlights. It is testament to the richness of the area that everyone’s highlights were different. But one or two themes did emerge. Many felt the grandeur of the landscape, forming a constant backdrop to everything we saw, would linger longest in their minds. Others thought it was the sheer diversity of plants, butterflies and other wildlife which set it apart. This was neatly summed up by Jenny as ‘myriads of myriads’ – lots of different things, and lots of each of those different things. It was never a question of what to look for, but a question of what not to look at for fear of missing something better.

But still they were not satisfied. They wanted more! So it was out with the scope and the bat detector, picking up the moons of Jupiter, just before it set over the hillside, and four types of bat – pipistrelle, serotine, Daubenton’s and a horseshoe species, all distinctively different in sound. Then just as bed beckoned, a pinprick of light on the car park wall resolved itself into a glowing female glow-worm.

Saturday 14 June – local walk and homeward bound...

Perhaps we should have stayed up later: at half past three Mike awoke to see a full moon settled over the Brèche de Roland – apparently a magnificent sight. As if to make the most of the dying embers of the trip, many of the group were out and about before breakfast, but for the first time, the red squirrel failed to put on a show. However, David managed to catch up with a dipper on the river, and Chris a red-backed shrike in the hydroelectric plant.

This was enough to convince us that our spare hour after breakfast, and after loading cases into the buses, should be spent exploring the village. As we gathered, a male serin gave a lovely ‘serenade’ from across the road – by now a familiar bird, this one gave the best performance of the week. Wandering around on yet another hot, sunny day (such a contrast to last year, to judge from the report), we watched a family of black redstarts, relocated the male red-backed shrike, and eventually managed a couple of dipper fly-pasts over the bridge. Two new butterflies, comma and speckled wood, appeared, and a short-toed eagle and five griffon vultures drifted over. Best of all, though, just before departure time, was a honey buzzard which circled overhead, and performed its ‘butterfly’ display, with stuttering wingbeats, its pale underwings flashing in the sunlight. And all this to the accompaniment of the hay meadows being cut, and cattle being trucked up to the high pastures. It really seems we had picked the very best week of the year to see the flowers in all their glory.

A brief stop at the Pont de Napoléon, near Luz St Sauveur, ostensibly to find crag martins (successfully), in reality turned into another shopping expedition for squeaking marmots, and a large wall brown added itself to our butterfly list. And then we were back down to the lowlands, in ever-rising temperatures, seeing red and black kites in abundance by the motorway. Lunch at the Aire de Cominges produced a corn bunting, grey heron and our final new butterfly, marbled white (bringing our total to 49 species), but by now the heat was so intense that remaining fixed in the shade was the order of the day. Just how hot perhaps we didn’t appreciate: when we finally arrived at Toulouse in our delightfully air-conditioned vans and boarded the plane, we were informed that the outside temperature was still 39°C at half past six in the evening! A remarkable end to a remarkable holiday.

LISTS

KEY TO LOCALITIES

In the lists below, localities are not generally given, unless the species was seen at only one or two sites (and it is the sort of species someone would wish to seek out in the future).

Ge – Gèdre
Gl – Barrage and Lac des Gloriettes
Ga – Cirque de Gavarnie
Te – Col de Tentes
O – Vallée d'Ossoue
Gle – Vallée de la Glère
To – Col du Tourmalet
S – Pont and Plateau de Saugué
B – Vallée de Bué
Tr – Cirque de Troumouse
J – Journeys, Toulouse to Gèdre

FLOWERING PLANTS

(Incomplete – a number of widespread and familiar species are omitted)

Dicotyledons

Aceraceae

Acer campestre Field maple
A. pseudoplatanus Sycamore

Apiaceae

Bupleurum falcatum Sickle-leaved hare's-ear Ge
B. ranunculoides Three-veined hare's-ear Gl
Chaerophyllum aureum Golden chervil Ge
Conopodium majus Pignut
Eryngium bourgatii Pyrenean eryngo
Heracleum sphondylium ssp. *pyrenaicum* Hogweed
Laserpitium siler Sermountain Ge
Meum athamanticum Spignel Te
Peucedanum ostruthium Masterwort Ge
Pimpinella major Great burnet-saxifrage Ga
Sanicula europaea Sanicle Ga

Asclepiadaceae

Vincetoxicum hirundinaria Swallow-wort

Asteraceae

Antennaria dioica Cat's-foot
Aster alpinus Alpine aster O S
Bellis sylvestris
Carduus carlinoides Pyrenean thistle Te To
C. nutans Musk thistle
Carlina acaulis Stemless carline thistle Gl
Centaurea jacea Brown knapweed
C. montana Perennial cornflower Ga
Cirsium eroiophorum Woolly thistle
Hieracium alpinum agg. Alpine hawkweed Gl
H. pilosella Mouse-eared hawkweed
Homogyne alpina Purple colt's-foot Te Tr
Lactuca perennis Blue lettuce Ge
Leucanthemopsis alpina Alpine moon daisy Tr
Leucanthemum vulgare Ox-eye daisy
Mycelis muralis Wall lettuce
Senecio doronicum Chamois ragwort Gl
Solidago virgaurea Golden-rod
Tanacetum corymbosum Ge
Tragopogon pratensis Goat's-beard

<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>		Ge
Betulaceae		
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver birch	
Boraginaceae		
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss	
<i>Myosotis alpina</i>	Alpine Forget-me-not	Te
<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i>	Long-leaved lungwort	
Brassicaceae		
<i>Arabis turrita</i>	Towercress	
<i>Cardamine raphanifolia</i>	Radish-leaved bittercress	B
<i>Draba aizoides</i>	Yellow whitlow-grass	
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's-violet	
<i>Hutchinsia alpina</i>	Chamois cress	Ga Te
<i>Iberis amara</i>	Candytuft	Ge
<i>Murbeckiella pinnatifida</i>		Gl
<i>Sisymbrium austriacum</i>	Austrian rocket	
Buxaceae		
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	
Campanulaceae		
<i>Campanula patula</i>	Spreading bellflower	
<i>C. trachelium</i>	Nettle-leaved bellflower	
<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>	Round-leaved rampion	
<i>P. ovatum</i>	Dark rampion	
<i>P. spicatum</i>	Spiked rampion	Gl
Caprifoliaceae		
<i>Lonicera pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean honeysuckle	O
<i>L. xylostium</i>	Fly honeysuckle	Gle
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf elder	
<i>S. racemosa</i>	Alpine elder	Gle
Caryophyllaceae		
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Field mouse-ear	
<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>	Carthusian pink	Ge
<i>D. deltoides</i>	Maiden pink	S Tr
<i>D. sylvestris</i>	Wood pink	Ga
<i>Gypsophila repens</i>	Alpine gypsophila	Gl
<i>Lychnis alpina</i>	Alpine catchfly	Tr
<i>Minuartia sedoides</i>	Mossy cyphel	Te
<i>M. verna</i>	Spring sandwort	S
<i>Scleranthus perennis</i>	Perennial knawel	Gl
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Moss campion	Te
<i>S. nutans</i>	Nottingham catchfly	
<i>S. rupestris</i>	Rock campion	Ga
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion	
<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	Sand spurrey	Tr
Chenopodiaceae		
<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>	Good King Henry	
Cistaceae		
<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i>	White rock-rose	
<i>H. canum</i>	Hoary rock-rose	
<i>H. nummularium</i>	Common rock-rose	
<i>H. oelandicum</i>	Alpine rock-rose	
Corylaceae		
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	
Crassulaceae		
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting stonecrop	
<i>S. album</i>	White stonecrop	
<i>S. dasyphyllum</i>	Thick-leaved stonecrop	
<i>S. telephium</i>	Orpine	Ga

<i>Sempervivum montanum</i>	Mountain houseleek	
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	
Cuscutaceae		
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Dodder	Tr
Dipsacaceae		
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabious	
<i>K. dipsacifolia</i>	Wood scabious	Ga
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small scabious	
Ericaceae		
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather	
<i>Rhododendron ferrugineum</i>	Alpenrose	
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry	
<i>V. vitis-idaea</i>	Cowberry	
Euphorbiaceae		
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood spurge	Ga
<i>E. cyparissias</i>	Cypress spurge	O
<i>E. flavicoma</i>		Gle
Fabaceae		
<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>	Montpelier milk-vetch	
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	
ssp. <i>forondae</i> , <i>pyrenaica</i> and <i>vulnerarioides</i>		
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe vetch	
<i>Lathyrus laevigatus</i>	Yellow pea	B
<i>L. pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	
<i>L. sylvestris</i>	Narrow-leaved everlasting-pea	
<i>L. vernus</i>	Spring vetchling	
<i>Lotus alpinus</i>	Alpine bird's-foot-trefoil	
<i>L. corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil	
<i>Ononis natrix</i>	Large yellow rest-harrow	
<i>O. rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved rest-harrow	Ge
<i>Oxytropis campestris</i>	Yellow milk-vetch	
<i>Trifolium alpestre</i>		S
<i>T. alpinum</i>	Alpine clover	
<i>T. campestre</i>	Hop trefoil	
<i>T. dubium</i>	Lesser trefoil	
<i>T. incarnatum</i>	Crimson clover	Ge
<i>T. montanum</i>	Mountain clover	
<i>T. pratense</i>	Red clover	
<i>T. repens</i>	White clover	
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch	
<i>V. pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean vetch	
<i>V. sepium</i>	Bush vetch	
Fagaceae		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet chestnut	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile oak	
<i>Q. pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean oak	
Gentianaceae		
<i>Gentiana acaulis</i>	Trumpet gentian	
<i>G. verna</i>	Spring gentian	
<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	Field gentian	S
Geraniaceae		
<i>Geranium cinereum</i>	Ashy crane's-bill	Te
<i>G. palustre</i>	Marsh crane's-bill	Gl
<i>G. phaeum</i>	Dusky crane's-bill	
<i>G. pratense</i>	Meadow crane's-bill	
<i>G. pusillum</i>	Small-flowered crane's-bill	
<i>G. pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean crane's-bill	
<i>G. robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	
<i>G. sanguineum</i>	Bloody crane's-bill	

<i>G. sylvaticum</i>	Wood crane's-bill	
Gesneriaceae		
<i>Ramonda myconi</i>		
Globulariaceae		
<i>Globularia nudicaulis</i>	Leafless-stemmed globularia	
<i>G. repens</i>	Creeping globularia	
Hypericaceae		
<i>Hypericum nummularium</i>	Western St. John's-wort	B
Lamiaceae		
<i>Acinos alpinus</i>	Alpine calamint	
<i>A. arvensis</i>	Basil-thyme	Gl
<i>Ajuga pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal bugle	
<i>A. repens</i>	Bugle	
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild basil	
<i>Lamiastrum galaeobdolon</i>	Yellow archangel	
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted dead-nettle	Ga
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow woundwort	
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Wall germander	Ge
<i>T. pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean germander	Ge
<i>T. scorodonia</i>	Wood sage	
<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>	Wild thyme	
Lentibulariaceae		
<i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered butterwort	
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	Common butterwort	S
Linaceae		
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy flax	
Loranthaceae		
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	
Malvaceae		
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk mallow	
Oleaceae		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	
Onagraceae		
<i>Epilobium anagallidifolium</i>	Alpine willowherb	Gle
Oxalidaceae		
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood sorrel	
Papaveraceae		
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine	
<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>	Welsh poppy	Ga B
Plantaginaceae		
<i>Plantago maritima</i> ssp. <i>serpentina</i>	Fleshy plantain	Gl
<i>P. media</i>	Hoary plantain	
Polygalaceae		
<i>Polygala comosa</i>	Tufted milkwort	
<i>P. nicaeensis</i>	Nice milkwort	
Polygonaceae		
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	Mountain sorrel	
<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>	Bistort	
<i>P. viviparum</i>	Alpine bistort	
<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	French sorrel	
Primulaceae		
<i>Androsace carnea</i>	Pink rock-jasmine	Te To
<i>A. chamaejasme</i>	Ciliate rock-jasmine	Ga
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Yellow pimpernel	B
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip	
<i>P. farinosa</i>	Bird's-eye primrose	
<i>P. hirsuta</i>		Te
<i>P. integrifolia</i>	Entire-leaved primrose	Te Gle
<i>P. veris</i>	Cowslip	
<i>Soldanella alpina</i>	Alpine snowbell	

Ranunculaceae		
<i>Anemone narcissiflora</i>	Narcissus-flowered anemone	Gl
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine	
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh marigold	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy	
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking hellebore	
<i>H. viridis</i>	Green hellebore	
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica	
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous buttercup	
<i>R. flammula</i>	Lesser spearwort	
<i>R. gouanii</i>	Gouan's buttercup	
<i>R. polyanthemus</i>	Multi-flowered buttercup	
<i>R. pyrenaicus</i>	Pyrenean buttercup	
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	Great meadow-rue	
<i>Trollius europeaeus</i>	Globe-flower	Gl
Resedaceae		
<i>Reseda glauca</i>	Pyrenean mignonette	
Rhamnaceae		
<i>Rhamnus pumilus</i>	Dwarf buckthorn	Te
Rosaceae		
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine lady's-mantle	
<i>A. splendens</i>	Intermediate lady's-mantle	
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	Snowy mespilus	
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goat's-beard Spiraea	B
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	Mountain avens	Gl
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild strawberry	
<i>Potentilla alchemilloides</i>		Gl
<i>P. rupestris</i>	Rock cinquefoil	Gl
<i>P. tabernaemontani</i>	Spring cinquefoil	
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose	
<i>R. gallica</i>	Provence rose	
<i>R. glauca</i>	Blue-leaved rose	
<i>R. pendulina</i>	Alpine rose	
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad-burnet	
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	
<i>S. aucuparia</i>	Rowan	
Rubiaceae		
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge bedstraw	
<i>G. odoratum</i>	Woodruff	
<i>G. sylvaticum</i>	Wood bedstraw	
<i>G. verum</i>	Lady's-bedstraw	
Salicaceae		
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	
Santalaceae		
<i>Thesium alpinum</i>	Alpine bastard-toadflax	Gl
<i>T. pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean bastard-toadflax	Gl Ga
Saxifragaceae		
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow saxifrage	
<i>S. harriotii</i>		Tr
<i>S. longifolia</i>	Pyrenean saxifrage	
<i>S. moschata</i>	Musky saxifrage	Te
<i>S. oppositifolia</i>	Purple saxifrage	Tr
<i>S. paniculata</i>	Livelong saxifrage	Gl B
<i>S. rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved saxifrage	Ge
<i>S. umbrosa</i>	Wood saxifrage	S B
Scrophulariaceae		
<i>Bartsia alpina</i>	Alpine bartsia	
<i>Chaenorhinum minus</i>	Lesser snapdragon	O

<i>C. origanifolium</i>		
<i>Digitalis lutea</i>	Small yellow foxglove	Ga
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy foxglove	Ga
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp	Eyebright	Ga
<i>Linaria alpina</i>	Alpine toadflax	
<i>L. supina</i>	Pyrenean toadflax	
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common cow-wheat	Ga
<i>Pedicularis pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean lousewort	Ga O
<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	Alpine figwort	
<i>S. nodosa</i>	Common figwort	
<i>S. pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean figwort	Ga
<i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i>	Greater yellow-rattle	
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark mullein	S
<i>Veronica alpina</i>	Alpine speedwell	Te
<i>V. beccabunga</i>	Brooklime	
<i>V. nummularia</i>	Pyrenean speedwell	Gl
<i>V. ponae</i>	Pyrenean spiked speedwell	Gl
<i>V. prostrata</i>		
<i>V. serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved speedwell	
Thymelaeaceae		
<i>Daphne cneorum</i>	Garland flower	Gl Tr
<i>D. laureola</i> ssp <i>philippii</i>	Spurge-laurel	Te
<i>D. mezereum</i>	Mezereon	Tr
Tiliaceae		
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Large-leaved lime	
Ulmaceae		
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych elm	
Valerianaceae		
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red valerian	
<i>Valeriana montana</i>		Ga
<i>V. pyrenaica</i>		Ga B
Verbenaceae		
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain	Ge
Violaceae		
<i>Viola biflora</i>	Yellow wood violet	Tr
<i>V. cornuta</i>	Horned violet	
<i>V. pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean violet	Te
Monocotyledons		
Cyperaceae		
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood sedge	B
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Cotton-grass	
Iridaceae		
<i>Iris latifolia</i>	English iris	B
Juncaceae		
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	Great woodrush	B
Liliaceae		
<i>Anthericum liliago</i>	St Bernard's lily	
<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	Asphodel	
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily-of-the-valley	Gl
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanicus</i>	Spanish bluebell	Ga
<i>Hyacinthus amethystinus</i>	Pyrenean hyacinth	
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon lily	
<i>Tofieldia calyculata</i>	Tofield's asphodel	
<i>Veratrum album</i>	white false helleborine	Tr
Orchidaceae		
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal orchid	S
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved helleborine	Ga
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	Frog orchid	Ga S
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common spotted orchid	Ga

<i>D. majalis</i> ssp. <i>alpestris</i>	Broad-leaved marsh-orchid	
<i>D. sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered orchid	
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant orchid	
<i>Listera ovata</i>	Common twayblade	
<i>Nigritella nigra</i>	Black vanilla orchid	
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly orchid	Ga
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early purple orchid	Gl Ga
<i>O. ustulata</i>	Burnt-tip orchid	
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser butterfly-orchid	
<i>P. chlorantha</i>	Greater butterfly-orchid	
Poaceae (very incomplete)		
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking-grass	
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood melick	
CONIFERS		
<i>Abies alba</i>	Silver fir	
<i>Pinus nigra</i> ssp. <i>salzmannii</i>	Pyrenean black pine	
<i>P. sylvestris</i>	Scots pine	
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	
FERNS		
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black spleenwort	
<i>A. ruta-muraria</i>	Wall-rue	
<i>A. septentrionale</i>	Forking spleenwort	Gl
<i>A. trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair spleenwort	
<i>Athyrium alpina</i>	Alpine lady fern	Gle
<i>A. filix-femina</i>	Lady fern	
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	Moonwort	Te
<i>Ceterach officinalis</i>	Rusty-back fern	
<i>Cryptogramma crispa</i>	Parsley fern	Gle
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	Scaly male fern	
<i>D. filix-mas</i>	Male fern	
<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	Beech fern	Ga
<i>Polypodium australe</i>	Southern polypody	
<i>P. vulgare</i>	Common polypody	
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft shield-fern	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	
BUTTERFLIES		
Swallowtail	Piedmont ringlet	
Scarce swallowtail	Rock grayling	Gle
Apollo	Small heath	
Clouded Apollo	Pearly heath	S
Red admiral	Speckled wood	Ge
Painted lady	Marbled white	J
Small tortoiseshell	Large white	
Large tortoiseshell	Small white	
Comma	Green-veined white	
Southern comma	Dappled white	S
Small pearl-bordered fritillary	Wood white	
Pearl-bordered fritillary	Orange tip	Tr
Heath fritillary	Black-veined white	
False heath fritillary	Brimstone	Ga
Queen-of-Spain fritillary	Clouded yellow	Ge Tr
Meadow brown	Mountain clouded yellow	Tr
Wall brown	Common blue	Tr
Large wall brown	Adonis blue	J
Bright-eyed ringlet	Mazarine blue	S

Escher's blue	S Tr	Large skipper	
Small blue		Dingy skipper	
Green hairstreak		Grizzled skipper	
Purple-edged copper	S	Large grizzled skipper	S
Geranium argus	Gl	Chequered skipper	Ga
Brown argus	S		

MOTHS

<i>Nemophora degeerella</i>	Ge	Latticed heath	
<i>Yponomeuta rorella</i> (caterpillars)	B	<i>Psodos quadrifaria</i>	Tr
Bagworm sp.	O B	Speckled yellow	Ga
<i>Metaxmeste phrygialis</i>	Gl Tr	Clouded buff	Ga
Rush veneer		Hummingbird hawk-moth	
Lackey (caterpillar)	Gl	Small purple-barred	Gl
Clouded border	Ge	Black-veined moth	
Yellow shell	Ge	Burnet companion	
Lace border	S	Silver Y	
Chimney sweeper			

OTHER INVERTEBRATES

<i>Arion ater</i>	a large black slug		
<i>Misumenia vatia</i>	a crab spider	Gl	
Great-green bush-cricket		J	
Wart-biter		Gl	
Field cricket			
Black-tailed skimmer		S	
Broad-bodied chaser		S	
<i>Libelloides longicornis</i>	an ascalaphid		
Caddis fly larvae sp.		Tr	
Summer chafer		J	
Rose chafer		Ge	
<i>Agapanthia villosoviridescens</i>	a longhorn beetle	Tr	
<i>Monochamus galloprovincialis</i>	a longhorn beetle	Gle	
Glow-worm		Ge	
Stag beetle		Ge	
<i>Calosoma sycophanta</i>	a metallic ground beetle	Gl	
7-spot ladybird			
<i>Cantharis rustica</i>	a soldier beetle		
<i>Meloe proscarabaeoides</i>	an oil beetle	Gl	
<i>Polistes</i> sp.	a paper wasp	Ga	
Beech leaf miner		B	
<i>Tipula maxima</i>	a crane fly	Ga	

AMPHIBIANS

Common frog

REPTILES

Common (Viviparous) lizard B
Common wall lizard

MAMMALS

Alpine marmot		Daubenton's bat	Ge
Coypu	J	Serotine	Ge
Wood mouse (dead)	Gle	Horseshoe bat sp.	Ge
Red squirrel	Ge B	Weasel	S
Mole (hills only)	Te	Izard (Pyrenean chamois)	Te Tr
Pipistrelle (45khz)	Ge		

BIRDS

Great crested grebe	J	Meadow pipit	Te
Grey heron	J	Tree pipit	Ga
Little egret	J	Water pipit	
Golden eagle		Grey wagtail	
Short-toed eagle	Ge Ga	White wagtail	
Booted eagle	J	Wren	
(Bonelli's eagle) ?	Ge	Dunnock	
Honey buzzard	Ge	Dipper	
Red kite	J	Blackbird	
Black kite	J	Song thrush	
Common buzzard		Mistle thrush	
Griffon vulture		Rock thrush	
Lammergeier		Robin	
Kestrel		Northern wheatear	
Peregrine	Tr	Black redstart	
Yellow-legged gull	J	Whinchat	S
Black-headed gull	J	Nightingale	J
Rock dove/ Feral pigeon		Northern chiffchaff	
Woodpigeon		Bonelli's warbler	Ga
Collared dove		Blackcap	
Swift		Firecrest	
Green woodpecker		Goldcrest	
Great spotted woodpecker		Spotted flycatcher	
Raven		Nuthatch	Ge Gl
Carrion crow		Red-backed shrike	Ge Ga
Red-billed chough		Chaffinch	
Alpine chough		Goldfinch	
Magpie		Linnet	
Jay		Serin	
Swallow		Bullfinch	B
House martin		Snow finch	To
Crag martin		House sparrow	
Great tit		Yellowhammer	
Blue tit		Cirl bunting	Ge
Coal tit		Corn bunting	S J
Crested tit	Ge Gle		
Skylark			
Crested lark	J	Total: 72 species	