French Pyrenees
10 – 17 June 2005
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Leaders
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Illustrations by Rob Hume, except field cricket by Maureen Gibson. Front cover: trumpet gentians
Report written by Maureen and Chris Gibson, and we’re very pleased to include an additional report written by
Nicholas Armfelt on butterflies seen by the four who stayed on for a further week.

This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by
way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution this year of £25 per person
towards Lammergeier protection was supplemented by gift aid through the new Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable
Trust and combined with the contribution the group in Dordogne for the ‘Refuge LPO’ project, leading to a total
of €1220 (£872) given to La Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO, the French Bird Protection League).

This brings the total given to LPO to £8,472 since 1991, and to various conservation projects until this year
entirely in Europe to £38,645. A thank-you letter from LPO is usually included but this hadn’t been received
when the report was printed.
FRENCH PYRÉNÉES  10 - 17 JUNE 2005  
Leaders: Chris and Maureen Gibson  

**Friday 10 June – the way there…**

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

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

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

Some of the fields in the village were already being cut, in spite of us being a week earlier than some years, but as usual the sloping meadow just across the ‘dipper’ bridge reminded us of how a meadow should look: scabious, meadow vetchling, the beautiful pink kidney vetch and a large swathe of vipers bugloss, the last being visited by a hummingbird hawk-moth. Insects in general were numerous: red-underwing skipper, lesser purple emperor, scarce swallowtail and common blue butterflies, to take just a few examples. A resting ascalaphid was a real treat to see; usually in the heat of the day they zip about too fast to be seen properly, but this one offered great photo opportunities before closing its wings and descending down a stem into the vegetation for the night. And so we wandered back too, the field crickets (right) still calling in the evening warmth, and still enough light to spot the patch of the local speciality, ramonda, in the dark gorge by the hotel.

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

**Saturday 11 June – Barrage and Lac des Gloriettes**

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

The bells round the sheeps’ necks were getting louder – after a mineral feed they were being driven up the road, but had to be cajoled past us, frightened, it transpired, by our collection of white or pale-coloured sunhats!

Lunch was enjoyed in what shade we could find, an immature golden eagle floated past, showing its white wing patches, and a rock thrush, silhouetted against the sky, serenaded us with its blackbird-like song.

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

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

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

**Sunday 12 June - Gavarnie**

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

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

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

A more spectacular lunch spot we couldn’t have hoped for, the cirque looming in front of us, above a wide alpine valley, teeming with all sorts of life. The citril finches returned, looking for seeds on the damp meadow. After lunch we walked further towards the cirque along the river, finding a few frog orchids to add to the black vanilla, burnt-tip and ubiquitous broad-leaved marsh orchids, while the stony river banks produced mountain tragacanth and Pyrenean mignonette, clumps of the lovely pale pink *Asperula hirta*, and purple splashes of alpine toadflax and *Chaenorhinum origanifolium*. But by now the rain had set in, so we trudged back to Gavarnie, picking up a tree pipit, clearly close to its nest, on the way.
After an hour’s retail and ice cream therapy in the centre of Gavarnie as the storm clouds gathered, a rather damp stop in the woods on the way back to the hotel turned up a Camberwell beauty, a brimstone moth, and a host of woodland plants including one or two violet helleborines, the delicately scented, shrubby Pyrenean honeysuckle and some twayblade leaves. Probably the most remarkable find, given its amazing camouflage was the ‘living birch twig’ ie an adult buff-tip moth. The storm intensified, the rain came down ever heavier, forcing us back to the buses and home.

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

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

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

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

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

Eventually the road opened out into a damp valley, waterproof overtrousers were donned and we set off in torrential rain and thunder echoing round the mountain tops in fruitless search of the elusive desman, an aquatic shrew-like mole relative occasionally seen in mountain streams like this. With rain dripping down our necks, we were quite unable to appreciate the floral riches, including carpets of marsh-orchids, as much as we would have liked! On the slow drive back along the valley the rain eased, the sky brightened, and we decided to stop and explore an interesting-looking meadow. We were rewarded with excellent views of a male rock bunting on its breeding territory. The meadow was beautiful, bounded by a rushing mountain stream. The sun reappeared, the insects came out, field crickets calling everywhere, clouds of butterflies, and something looking like a tiny bunch of twiggy bits moving purposefully over a leaf. Closer inspection found it was a bagworm moth, a wingless female, living out her life in a homemade, mobile bag. Claire found the semi-parasitic leafy lousewort, and Chris was pleased to see moonwort, a tiny fern, and only his second ever sighting in these parts! At last we dragged ourselves back to the buses, and home, damp but elated.

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

The day dawned murky, after a wet night, but the early morning walkers headed up the hill behind the hotel to search for a few woodland birds. As it happened, they were few and far between, although we heard both great spotted woodpecker and nuthatch, and spent time watching the local breeding black redstarts, serins and spotted flycatchers in the village.
After breakfast, it brightened as we headed up out of Gèdre on a switchback minor road to the plateau. Just out of the vans and Maureen’s impersonation of quail were almost immediately responded to by the real thing, although typically they were nowhere to be seen. Field crickets were deafening all around, the land was gently steaming after yesterday’s deluge, and whinchats showed distantly but well, all against a backdrop of flower-rich meadows overlooking Gavarnie. A stunning male wheatear posed for photographs on a rocky outcrop, its pale breast beautiful against the dark brooding sky. We slowly wandered, most of the plants becoming familiar now, with a few additions: the diminutive mountain pansy, alpine aster, Montpellier milk-vetch, hoary rock-rose and rock buckthorn clinging to the rock faces. Chris tried to enrage a bloody-nosed beetle, and was rewarded by ‘blood’ oozing not from its nose at all but its leg joints! A slight rise in temperature and suddenly warbler crickets appeared: we got a splendid comparison of the sexes, the larger male, and female with a sabre-like ovipositor at the back. Neither was sufficiently interested in Chris’s calloused hands to bite though!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Soon we were off, firstly to the market in Barèges, for local honey and fruit, and nesting crag martins, but before long we were heading ever upwards, past toiling cyclists, and eventually to the Col du Tourmalet, 2115m high, and on the route of the Tour de France. At first our main quarry was elusive, but after a while we found them: snowfinches, poking around below the pylons, and evidently nesting in the hollows of the structures themselves.
We set off towards the ridge, and stumbled across a patch of the lovely bulbous corydalis, tiny, frilly and delicate; it seemed the only way to get a decent photo was to kneel, bottoms-up, which the group did – en masse. Only the English …! Looking up we were amazed to see a red kite soar over the ridge, a most unexpected bird this high up. The plants were sparse up here, but two Daphne species, the green-flowered laureola and pink cneorum, were both beautifully scented. The wonderful view to the Pic du Midi de Bigorre from the ridge prompted thoughts about how different the wildlife must be that 800m higher up.

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

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

**Thursday 16 June – Cirque de Troumouse**

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

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

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

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

Our last evening meeting was held on the hotel verandah, and this time most people saw the short-toed eagle hovering into the breeze over the far hillside, disappearing against the mountainside then reappearing and
gliding in the same direction as before, towards us then over the hotel, once more carrying a snake. The evening meal was once more ‘un surprise’, as out came the hot plates and cook-your-own-steak. Delicious! The packing really had to be done, but the evening was warm and still – time for a final wander to the dipper bridge for a few to mark the end of a superb but all too brief holiday.

**Friday 17 June – Pau, then home**

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

Thanks to all for making the trip such good fun.  

*Maureen & Chris*

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**Postscript**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Dicotyledons**

**Aceraceae**
*Acer campestre* Field maple
*A. pseudoplatanus* Sycamore

**Apiaceae**
*Angelica razulii* Wild angelica
*A. sylvestris* Sickle-leaved Hare’s-ear
*Bupleurum falcatum* Golden chervil
*Chaerophyllum aureum* Pignut
*Conopodium majus* Pyrenean eryngo
*Eryngium bourgatii* Hogweed
*Heracleum sphondylium ssp. pyrenaicum* Sermountain
*Laser trilobum* Masterwort
*Laserpitium siler* Spignel
*Ligusticum lucidum* Stemless carline thistle
*Meum athamanticum* Great burnet-saxifrage
*Peucedanum ostruthium* Perennial cornflower
*Pimpinella major* Brown knapweed
*Sanicula europaea* Greater knapweed
*Tordylium apulum* Mediterranean Hartwort

**Asclepiadaceae**
*Vincetoxicum hirundinaria* Swallow-wort

**Asteraceae**
*Adenostyles alliariae* Cat’s-foot
*Antennaria dioica* Alpine aster
*Bellis sylvestris* Alpine hawkweed
*Carduus carlinoides* Stemless carline thistle
*C. nutans* Musk thistle
*Carlina acaulis* Greater knapweed
*Centaurea jacea* Perennial cornflower
*C. montana* Woolly thistle
*C. scabiosa* Alpine hawkweed
*Cirsium eriophorum* Mouse-eared hawthorn
*Hieracium alpinum agg.* Purple colt’s-foot
*Lactuca perennis* Blue lettuce
*Leucanthemopsis alpina* Alpine moon daisy
Leucanthemum vulgare  Ox-eye daisy
Mycelis muralis  Wall lettuce
Scorzonera aristata  Bearded viper’s-grass
Senecio dorcumarum  Chamois ragwort
Solidago virgaurea  Golden-rodd
Tanacetum corymbosum  Goat’s-beard
Tragopogon pratensis  Colt’s-foot
Tussilago farfara  Ge
Urospermum dalechampii  Ge

Berberidaceae
Berberis vulgaris  Barberry

Betulaceae
Ailanthus glutinosa  Alder
Betula pendula  Silver birch

Boraginaceae
Echium vulgare  Viper’s-bugloss
Myosotis alpina  Alpine forget-me-not
M. sylvatica  Wood forget-me-not
Pulmonaria longifolia  Long-leaved lungwort

Brassicaceae
Arabis turrita  Towercress
Cardamine raphanifolia  Radish-leaved bittercress
C. impatiens  Narrow-leaved bittercress
Clypeola jonsilasi  Yellow whitlow-grass
Draba aizoides  Chamois cress
Hutchinsia alpina  Candytuft
Iberis amara  Austrian rocket
Sisymbrium austriacum  Austrian rocket
S. pyrenaicum  Austrian rocket

Buxaceae
Buxus sempervirens  Box

Campanulaceae
Campanula patula  Spreading bellflower
C. trachelium  Nettle-leaved bellflower
Jasione montana  Sheep’s-bit
Phyteuma orbiculare  Round-headed rampion
P. spicatum  Spiked rampion

Caprifoliaceae
Lonicera pyrenaicum  Pyrenean honeysuckle
Sambucus ebulus  Dwarf elder
S. racemosa  Alpine elder

Caryophyllaceae
 Arenaria grandiflora  Field mouse-ear
Cerastium arvense  Carthusian pink
Dianthus carthusianorum  Gypsophila repens  Alpine gypsophila
D. deltoides  Maiden pink
Herniaria glabra  Rupturewort
Lychnis alpina  Alpine catchfly
L. flos-cuculi  Ragged-robin
Mimartia verna  Spring sandwort
Paronychia capitata  Gl
Scleranthus perennis  Perennial knawel
Silene acaulis  Moss campion
S. nutans  Nottinghamp catchfly
S. rupestris  Bladder campion
S. vulgaris  Bladder campion
Stellaria holostea  Greater stitchwort

Chenopodiaceae
Chenopodium bonus-henricus  Good King Henry
Cistaceae
*Helianthemum apenninum* White rock-rose
*H. canum* Hoary rock-rose
*H. nummularium* Common rock-rose
*H. oelandicum* Alpine rock-rose

Corylaceae
*Corylus avellana* Hazel

Crassulaceae
*Sedum acre* Biting stonecrop
*S. album* White stonecrop
*S. anglicum* English stonecrop
*S. dasyphyllum* Thick-leaved stonecrop
*S. rupestre* Rock stonecrop
*S. telephium* Orpine
*Sempervivum montanum* Mountain houseleek
*Umbilicus rupestris* Navelwort

Cuscutaceae
*Cuscuta epithymum* Dodder
*C. europaea* Greater dodder

Dipsacaceae
*Knautia arvensis* Field scabious
*K. dipsacifolia* Wood scabious

Ericaceae
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* Bearberry
*Calluna vulgaris* Heather
*Rhododendron ferrugineum* Alpenrose
*Vaccinium myrtillus* Bilberry
*V. vitis-idaea* Cowberry

Euphorbiaceae
*Euphorbia amygdaloides* Wood spurge
*E. characias* Large Mediterranean spurge
*E. cyparissias* Cypress spurge
*E. hyberna* Irish spurge

Fabaceae
*Astragalus alpinus* Alpine milk-vetch
*A. monspessulanus* Montpelier milk-vetch
*A. sempervirens* Mountain tragacanth
*Anthyllis montanum* Mountain kidney-vetch
*A. vulneraria* Kidney vetch
*sspp. forondae, pyrenaica and vulnerarioides*

Hippocrepis comosa Horseshoe vetch
*Lathyrus laevigatus* Yellow pea
*L. pratensis* Meadow vetchling
*L. sylvestris* Narrow-leaved everlasting-pea
*L. tuberosus* Tuberous pea
*L. vernus* Spring vetchling

Lotus alpinus Alpine bird’s-foot-trefoil
*L. corniculatus* Bird’s-foot-trefoil

Medicago hybrida Pyrenean medick
*M. suffruticosa* Sprawling medick

Ononis natrix Large yellow rest-harrow
*O. rotundifolia* Round-leaved rest-harrow

Oxytropis campestris Yellow milk-vetch

Trifolium alpinum Alpine clover
*T. campestre* Hop trefoil
*T. dubium* Lesser trefoil
*T. incarnatum* Crimson clover
*T. montanum* Mountain clover
*T. ochroleucon* Sulphur clover

Trifolium pratense Meadow vetchling

Trifolium repens Creeping red clover

Trifolium repens var. subterraneum Creeping white clover

Trifolium repens var. dubium Lesser white clover

Trifolium subterraneum Red clover

Trifolium subterraneum var. incarnatum Crimson clover

Trifolium subterraneum var. dubium Lesser red clover

Trifolium subterraneum var. pratense Hop clover

Vicia cracca Bird’s-foot trefoil

Vicia cracca subsp. sepium Lesser bird’s-foot trefoil

Vicia faba Broad bean

Vicia faba var. minor Small bean

Vicia fava Fava bean

Vicia villosa Welsh vetch

Vicia villosa var. villosa Common vetch
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Genus</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
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<td><strong>T. pratense</strong></td>
<td>Red clover</td>
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<td><strong>T. repens</strong></td>
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<td>Yellow archangel</td>
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<td>Spotted dead-nettle</td>
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<td><strong>Stachys recta</strong></td>
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<td><strong>P. vulgaris</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Plantago maritima ssp. serpentina</strong></td>
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<td><strong>P. media</strong></td>
<td>Hoary plantain</td>
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</table>
**Plumbaginaceae**
*Armeria maritima* ssp. *alpina*  
Mountain thrift  
Ge Tr

**Polygalaceae**  
*Polygala alpina*  
Alpine milkwort  
To

*P. comosa*  
Tufted milkwort

*P. nicaeensis*  
Nice milkwort

*P. vulgaris*  
Common milkwort

**Polygonaceae**  
*Oxyria digyna*  
Mountain sorrel

*Polygonum bistorta*  
Bistort

*P. viviparum*  
Alpine bistort

*Rumex scutatus*  
French sorrel

**Primulaceae**  
*Androsace carnea*  
Pink rock-jasmine  
Te To

*A. chamaejasme*  
Ciliate rock-jasmine  
Ga

*Lysimachia nemorum*  
Yellow pimpernel  
B

*Primula elatior*  
Oxlip

*P. farinosa*  
Bird’s-eye primrose  
Te

*P. hirsuta*  
Entire-leaved primrose

*P. integrifolia*  
Cowslip

*P. vulgaris*  
Primrose  
Tr

*Soldanella alpina*  
Alpine snowbell

*Vitaliana primuliflora*  
Yellow rock-jasmine  
Te

**Ranunculaceae**  
*Aconitum napellus*  
Monk’s-hood

*Anemone narcissiflora*  
Narcissus-flowered anemone  
Gl

*A. nemorosa*  
Wood anemone

*Aquilegia vulgaris*  
Columbine

*Caltha palustris*  
Marsh marigold

*Clematis vitalba*  
Traveller’s-joy

*Helleborus foetidus*  
Stinking hellebore

*H. viridis*  
Green hellebore

*Hepatica nobilis*  
Hepatica

*Ranunculus bulbosus*  
Bulbous buttercup

*R. flammula*  
Lesser spearwort

*R. gouanii*  
Gouan’s buttercup

*R. polyanthemus*  
Multi-flowered buttercup

*R. pyrenaeus*  
Pyrenean buttercup

*Thalictrum aquilegifolium*  
Great meadow-rue

*Trollius europaeus*  
Globe-flower  
Gl

**Resedaceae**  
*Reseda glauca*  
Pyrenean mignonette

**Rhamnaceae**  
*Rhamnus pumilus*  
Dwarf buckthorn  
Te Tr

**Rosaceae**  
*Alchemilla alpina*  
Alpine lady’s-mantle

*A. conjuncta*  
Intermediate lady’s-mantle

*A. splendens*  
Snowy mespilus

*Amelanchier ovalis*  
Mountain avens  
Gl

*Dryas octopetala*  
Wild strawberry

*Fragaria vesca*  
Alpine avens

*Geum montanum*  
Pyrenean avens

*G. pyrenaicum*  
Gl Ga

*Potentilla alchemilloides*  
Rock cinquefoil  
Gl

*P. montana*  
Spring cinquefoil

*P. rupestris*  

*P. tabernaemontani*  

*Rosa canina*  
Dog rose

*R. gallica*  
Provence rose
**R. glauca**  Blue-leaved rose
**R. pendulina**  Alpine rose
**R. pimpinellifolia**  Burnet rose

**Rubus idaeus**  Raspberry
**Sanguisorba minor**  Salad-burnet
**Sorbus aria**  Whitebeam
**S. aucuparia**  Rowan

**Rubiaceae**

**Asperula cynanchica**  Squinancywort
  **A. hirta**  Ga

**Cruciata laevipes**  Crosswort

**Galium cometerrhizon**
  **G. mollugo**  Hedge bedstraw
  **G. odoratum**  Woodruff
  **G. saxatile**  Heath bedstraw
  **G. sylvaticum**  Wood bedstraw
  **G. verum**  Lady’s bedstraw

**Salicaceae**

**Populus tremula**  Aspen

**Saxifragaceae**

**Saxifraga cotyledon**  Pyramidal saxifrage
  **S. granulata**  Meadow saxifrage
  **S. harriotii**  Tr
  **S. longifolia**  Pyrenean saxifrage
  **S. moschata**  Musky saxifrage
  **S. oppositifolia**  Purple saxifrage
  **S. paniculata**  Livelong saxifrage
  **S. pubescens**  Gl
  **S. rotundifolia**  Round-leaved saxifrage
  **S. umbrosa**  Wood saxifrage

**Scrophulariaceae**

**Bartsia alpina**  Alpine bartsia

**Chaenorhinum origanifolium**

**Erinus alpinus**  Fairy foxglove

**Euphrasia sp**  Eyebright

**Linaria alpina**  Alpine toadflax

**Melampyrum pratense**  Common cow-wheat

**Pedicularis foliosa**  Leafy lousewort
  **P. palustris**  Marsh lousewort
  **P. pyrenaica**  Pyrenean lousewort

**Scrophularia alpestris**
  **S. canina**  Alpine figwort
  **S. nodosa**  Common figwort
  **S. pyrenaica**  Pyrenean figwort

**Rhinanthus angustifolius**  Greater yellow-rattle

**R. minor**  Yellow-rattle

**Verbasum nigrum**  Dark mullein

**Veronica alpina**  Alpine speedwell
  **V. beccabunga**  Brooklime
  **V. fruticans**  Rock speedwell
  **V. nummularia**  Pyrenean speedwell
  **V. officinalis**  Heath speedwell
  **V. ponaee**  Pyrenean spiked speedwell
  **V. prostrata**  Thyme-leaved speedwell
  **V. serpyllifolia**

**Thymelaeaceae**

**Daphne cneorum**  Garland flower
  **D. laeuroela**  Spurge-laurel
  **D. laeuroela ssp. philippii**
  **D. mezereum**  Mezereon
Tiliaceae  
*Tilia platyphyllos*  
Large-leaved lime

Ulmaceae  
*Ulmus glabra*  
Wych elm

Valerianaceae  
*Centranthus ruber*  
Red valerian

Valeriana montana  
*V. officinalis*  
Valerian  
Tr

*V. pyrenaica*  
Pyrenean violet  
Te To

*V. tripteris*  
Common dog-violet

Violaceae  
*Viola biflora*  
Yellow wood violet  
Tr

*V. cornuta*  
Horned violet  
B

*V. lutea*  
Mountain pansy  
S

*V. pyrenaica*  
Pyrenean violet  
Ga B

*V. riviniana*  
Common dog-violet

Monocotyledons  
Cyperaceae  
*Carex davalliana*  
Wood sedge  
B

*C. sylvatica*  
Cotton-grass

Dioscoreaceae  
*Tamus communis*  
Black bryony

Iridaceae  
*Iris latifolia*  
To

Juncaceae  
*Luzula sylvatica*  
Great woodrush  
B

Liliaceae  
*Allium senescens*  
Mountain onion  
Ge

*Anthericum liliago*  
St Bernard’s lily

*Asphodelus albus*  
Asphodel

*Convallaria majalis*  
Lily-of-the-valley  
Gl

*Fritillaria pyrenaica*  
Pyrenean snake’s-head  
Gl

*Hyacinthoides hispanicus*  
Spanish bluebell  
Ga

*Hyacinthus amethystinus*  
Pyrenean hyacinth

*Lilium martagon*  
Martagon lily

*Paris quadrifolia*  
Herb paris  
Gle

*Ruscus aculeatus*  
Butcher’s-broom

*Scilla liliohyacinthus*  
Pyrenean squill  
Gle

*S. verna*  
Spring squill  
Gl

*Tofieldia calyculata*  
Tofield’s asphodel

*Veratrurn album*  
White false helleborine  
Tr

Orchidaceae  
*Anacamptis pyramidalis*  
Pyramidal orchid

*Cephalanthera longifolia*  
Narrow-leaved helleborine  
Ga

*Coeloglossum viride*  
Frog orchid  
Ga S

*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*  
Common spotted-orchid

*D. incarnata*  
Early marsh-orchid  
S

*D. majalis ssp. alpestris*  
Broad-leaved marsh-orchid

*D. sambucina*  
Elder-flowered orchid  
Ga

*Epipactis purpurata*  
Violet helleborine  
Ga

*Gymnadenia conopsea*  
Fragrant orchid

*Listera ovata*  
Common twayblade

*Nigritella nigra*  
Black vanilla orchid

*Orchis mascula*  
Early purple orchid

*O. ustulata*  
Burnt-tip orchid

*Platanthera bifolia*  
Lesser butterfly-orchid

*P. chlorantha*  
Greater butterfly-orchid

Poaceae (very incomplete)
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<thead>
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<th>Briza media</th>
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**CONIFERS**

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<td>P. sylvestris</td>
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<td>Juniperus communis</td>
<td>Juniper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxus baccata</td>
<td>Yew</td>
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**FERNS**

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

**BUTTERFLIES**

| Swallowtail | Large white |
| Scarce swallowtail | Small white |
| Apollo | Green-veined white |
| Clouded Apollo | Dappled white |
| Small tortoiseshell | Mountain dappled white |
| Large tortoiseshell | Wood white |
| Lesser purple emperor | Orange tip |
| Camberwell beauty | Black-veined white |
| Comma | Brimstone |
| Pearl-bordered fritillary | Clouded yellow |
| Heath fritillary | Mountain clouded yellow |
| False heath fritillary | Berger’s clouded yellow |
| Dark green fritillary | Duke of Burgundy |
| Meadow brown | Common blue |
| Wall brown | Silver-studded blue |
| Large wall brown | Adonis blue |
| Northern wall brown | Mazarine blue |
| Bright-eyed ringlet | Holly blue |
| Piedmont ringlet | Turquoise blue |
| Lefebvre’s ringlet | Small blue |
| Mountain ringlet | Green hairstreak |
| Common brassy ringlet | Purple-edged copper |
| Small heath | Brown argus |
| Speckled wood | Geranium argus |
Large skipper
Small skipper
Olive skipper
Marbled skipper
Oberthur’s grizzled skipper

Dingy skipper
Grizzled skipper
Large grizzled skipper
Red-underwing skipper
Chequered skipper

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species / Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hirudo medicinalis / Medicinal leech</td>
<td>Arion ater / a large black slug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glomeris marginata / Pill millipede</td>
<td>Araniella cucurbitina / Cucumber spider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decticus verrucivorus / Wart-biter</td>
<td>Gryllus campestris / Field cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libellula depressa / Broad-bodied chaser</td>
<td>Graphosoma italicum / Milwall bug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libelloides longicornis / an ascalaphid</td>
<td>Panorpa meridionalis / a scorpion-fly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cetonia aurugnosa / a rose chafer</td>
<td>Phyllopertha horticola / a chafer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lampyris noctiluca / Glow-worm</td>
<td>Cicindela campestris / Green Tiger-beetle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calosoma sycophanta / a metallic ground beetle</td>
<td>Coecinella 7-punctata / 7-spot ladybird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantharis rustica / a soldier beetle</td>
<td>Lytta vesicatoria / Spanish-fly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monochamus sartor / a longhorn beetle</td>
<td>Timarcha tenebricosa / Bloody-nosed beetle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polistes sp. / a paper wasp</td>
<td>Bombus wurfleini / a large colourful bumble-bee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formica rufa / a bumble-bee</td>
<td>Tipula maxima / a crane-fly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombylus major / a bee-fly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### AMPHIBIANS

- Common frog
- Pyrenean brook newt

### REPTILES

- Common wall lizard
- Green lizard
- Slow worm

### MAMMALS

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

### BIRDS

- Little egret
- Grey heron
- Honey buzzard
- Red kite
- Black kite
- Griffon vulture
- Short-toed eagle
- Lammergeier
- Golden eagle
- Common buzzard
- Sparrowhawk
- Kestrel
- Quail
- Rock dove / feral pigeon
- Collared dove

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

Total: 70 species