



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Picos de Europa
6 – 13 June 2025

Holiday participants

Jill Jordan
Julian Lawrence and Nicola Sutton
Malcolm and Jane Key
Ann Greenizan
Dawn Stevens

Nick and Michelle Penny
John Titchmarsh
Margaret Palmer
Kathy Bilham
Marie Watt

Leaders

Pau Lucio and Chris Durdin. Report by Chris Durdin.

We stayed at the Hotel Tierra de la Reina in Boca de Huérgano www.hoteltierradelareina.com



Group photo at Mirador del Tombo on the way to Valdeón.

Photos as attributed e.g. by Pau Lucio (PL), otherwise by Chris Durdin, all taken on the holiday.

Cover, top: large-flowered butterworts.
Bottom: common redstart (PL), Spanish chestnut heath (PL).
Right: lizard orchid.



As on every Honeyguide wildlife holiday, we contributed to a conservation project. The conservation contribution of £40 per person, supplemented by an additional donation and gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, totalled £880. This was sent to Asociación Zerynthia, a Spanish NGO dedicated to the study and conservation of butterflies: see thank-you below. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 is £159,397 (June 2025).

Dear Chris,
Many thanks for the detailed summary and for sending the donation—what a generous contribution! We really appreciate your continued support of ZERYNTHIA.



Best wishes: Yeray Monasterio León
Presidente de la Asociación Española para la Protección de las Mariposas y su Medio (ZERYNTHIA)

Asociación Española para la Protección de las Mariposas y su Medio ZERYNTHIA
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DAILY DIARY

Friday 6 June: Stansted to Santander, Santander to Boca de Huérgano

Our Ryanair flight from Stansted was 30 minutes late leaving and was smooth until a bumpy touchdown in sunny Spain. We met Pau, who had flown in from Valencia, and Margaret, who had come to Spain for a couple of weeks before our holiday. The group went to Santander Airport's café while I queued to collect the key for our Enterprise minibus; Pau had completed his paperwork before the rush of people from the incoming flight. A black kite flew over the terminal building as we were heading on our way. We soon needed a short diversion to fill my Mercedes with fuel, but that apart we didn't stop on the journey, which took two and half hours. In the way of these things, the journey and landscape became increasingly interesting as we headed inland, with several nests and groups of storks the most obvious birds, plus a cuckoo flying past, a few egrets and griffon vultures. A fox by the side of the road was a surprise. Our arrival at 6:30 gave good time to settle into rooms, for some group members to have a quick stroll, then to meet in the bar before dinner.

Day 2: Saturday 7 June: Argovejo and Crémenes area

Before breakfast, those who came out birdwatching walked a circuit across the road from the hotel. There was a family party of stonechats including recently fledged young, several black kites, a corn bunting and linnets flying around. In a tree over the house in the direction of Riaño was a new white stork nest – that's now four in the village. There was also another stork that perched on a chapel with what was presumably its mate nearby. Just as we returned to the hotel, an adult Egyptian vulture flew past.



In Argovejo: a neat way to collect house martin droppings, and two decorative clock designs.

We headed past the reservoir at Riaño and to Argovejo, where we parked by the bridge over the river. The theme for village decorations this year was ornamental clocks, which added personality to an already attractive village. A house with nesting house martins had suspended dustpans with long handles to catch droppings, an innovation which ought to catch on more widely. The weather was perfect, warm and sunny but not too hot, and this combined with the wet spring in Spain this year meant lots of flowers, butterflies and birds all morning. Blackcaps and, especially, garden warblers were singing from scrub as we meandered slowly upwards. Lizard orchids were at their peak, with man orchids here and there. Damp patches on the path attracted many butterflies, including Queen-of-Spain, knapweed and Glanville fritillaries, plus turquoise, little and black-eyed blues. Other butterflies on the wing included clouded yellow, brimstone and Provence orange-tip, the last a write-in on the list, as was white helleborine, spotted by Nicky. There was a steady stream of interesting invertebrates, too: beehive beetles, a tiger beetle, several stone-flies, *Graphosoma italicum* (red and black shield bugs) and more.



Beehive or soldier beetle *Trichodes alvearius* on musk mallow; green tiger beetle *Cincindela campestris* in a bug box; Duke of Burgundy butterfly.

The supporting cast of other wild flowers is too long to list, though a few examples are rock soapwort, kidney vetch, common and hoary rockroses, and star-of-Bethlehem. The ended point was a craggy gorge entrance where we saw Cantabrian and livelong saxifrages, *Chaenorhinum*, fairy foxglove and alpine basil-thyme around limestone with added patches of tufa – where limestone had been dissolved then reformed into crumbly patches.

The quicker descent was soon slowed when Ann pointed out an unusual butterfly: a Duke of Burgundy (formerly called Duke of Burgundy fritillary, though not actually a fritillary), a surprise for Pau especially, who had only once seen this species here before. As on the way up there were singing short-toed treecreepers where there were trees.

We gathered for drinks at the café in Argovejo, called Bar Pepin, from where Jules found a grey wagtail in the adjacent river.

We took a short drive beyond the next village of Crémenes to a picnic site in a long grass meadow near a modern but unused chapel. One picnic table had seen better days but there was plenty of seating for us, and we tucked into rice salads supplied by the hotel in insulated picnic boxes bought for Honeyguide groups in a previous year. We spent a little while pottering here after lunch. We all saw Spanish festoon, an early butterfly but still out in this unusual season. Pau went one direction and found a marsh fritillary of the Spanish subspecies *Euphydryas aurinia beckeri*. Those of us by the chapel found yellow bartsia, dropwort and several pyramidal orchids, one of which had a crab spider on it.



Marsh fritillary, Spanish subspecies *Euphydryas aurinia beckeri* (PL);
pyramidal orchids with (bottom left) heather crab spider *Thomisus onustus*.

Near the village of Crémenes we took our regular circuit up and down a hillside, before returning along the quiet road. Several black kites flew around, as in most places there were griffon vultures and later an Egyptian vulture, too. St Dabeoc's heath was flowering, sometimes in large patches: recent research is showing that the presence of this species in Ireland is probably an historic introduction from the Iberian Peninsula, linked to ancient trading routes. We heard Bonelli's warbler. We found our first sawfly orchid, then probably hundreds more: usually we find just the odd one, so this was another bonus from a wet spring and our holiday's timing. Perhaps more surprising was the odd bee orchid, and eventually woodcock orchid as well. Some tongue orchids were mostly past their best, which is odd as they tend to be a later species. As well as the intense blue of beautiful flax there was a patch of white flax (or Pyrenean) flax, which some had seen from the minibuses on yesterday's journey. Nicky was alert to a red deer, a large stag with horns in velvet that ran away from us and disappeared into scrub. Two day-flying moths were noted: speckled yellow and burnet companion.

On the downhill stretch we stopped by a stream where we found a male broad-bodied chaser. We returned to the minibuses along the road and were soon back in Boca de Huérgano.



Sawfly orchid

Day 3: Sunday 8 June: Lois and old Roman road at Las Salas

The pre-breakfast group turned left out of the hotel, in the direction of Riaño. A black redstart was singing from a perch on the hotel and the usual early morning black kite flew past. We reached a point where there was a distant view over a small patch of the river, on which there was a great white egret and a mallard. We noticed several cornflowers in the edge of the crop, and a patch of thrift, here *Armeria cantabrica*.

We headed in the same direction as yesterday, though today stopping by the reservoir. This was both for the view and to see what wildlife was around. The star bird remained out of sight: singing nightingales. The supporting cast included garden warbler, blackcap, serin and two yellow-legged gulls on a float in the water allowing us to see the leg colour of their name. A long-tailed blue remained patiently while it was photographed.



Reservoir at Riaño; long-tailed blue on a teasel.

Our morning was spent in the remote village of Lois, that feeling of remoteness coming after a drive up a narrow road, mostly single track ('Lois Lane'), which makes the prominence of Lois in years before motor cars all the more surprising. We were here on Sunday morning as it was a good time for Pau's friend Maria to meet us, armed with keys for the two main features of Lois. We started in the 'Catedral de la Montaña', an apparently oversized church built of pink limestone from a quarry nearby. Maria explained that its size was linked to the prosperity of the area in the 18th century, built on the rich mountain grazing. The population of Lois was then 800 – and they only counted adult males, so presumably there were three or four times that number. Now there are just 24 residents, who have quite a drive to get to shops, and many of the houses are second homes. The previous prosperity allowed free education for all the children in Lois, and later we saw two former school buildings. The bias towards males in the population survey was offset a little in the church by female figures and artwork showing four women from the Old Testament. Outside a common redstart sang most of the time we were there but we failed to find it, though we did see a kestrel. Walls and pavement cracks were rich in wild flowers and solitary bees.

We then we took turns to go into the historic 'smoke house', the home of 'Noris' – Honorino Alvarez Gonzalez – until he died, aged 90, in 1999. This is a rare surviving example of a house with a thatched roof that was preserved by smoke from a chimney-less house. When it was re-roofed, rye thatch was imported from the USA, but how long it will survive without the smoking process being restarted is difficult to say.



The tar-coated inside of the smoke house; rye thatch outside, which now deteriorates without being smoked.

We had a brief walk through the village, and happily the village bar/café was open for drinks. The bar's seating area overlooked a fast-flowing stream, by which there was a large patch of large cuckoo-flower and a fine spike of Pyrenean valerian.

For lunch, we drove the short distance to a different chapel with picnic tables set in long grass. An Iberian chiffchaff sang as we arrived and, as we ate, we watched two short-toed treecreepers feeding in an ash tree and on the chapel's wall. I found a tick on my arm, happily not attached, which encouraged us not to linger here once we'd eaten.

We parked by the road in Las Salas, then crossed the bridge over the river to reach our afternoon's walk on the old Roman road, Calzada Romana del Esla. At the start of the walk is a wet rock face with scores of large-flowered butterworts, here perfectly in flower, their pale green leaf rosettes sprinkled with small dead flies that add to the nutrients available for this partly carnivorous plant. John pointed out a plump mullein moth caterpillar, on a mullein, naturally.

The helpfully flat path ran alongside the river, with a flower-rich slope to our left. Like yesterday, the path had some wet patches on account of the wet spring, though nothing that hindered our progress. Inevitably we were a bit strung out along the route so not everyone saw the same things, though there were regular sharing moments. There were scores of sometimes very large lizard orchids, burnt-tip orchids and some broad-leaved marsh orchids in a damp area. Other flowers included the distinctive leaves of two eryngo species, columbines in flower and a very hairy hawkbit *Hieracium bombycinum* on a cliff face. Brimstones seemed to be constantly flying past, there were several speckled woods and another marsh fritillary. The end point was a dry grassy meadow, which had Nice milkwort and two stemless *Centaurea* species. Here we admired a red-underwing skipper caught by Pau. On the way back, most of us had good views of black-veined moths and there was a very confiding Duke-of-Burgundy butterfly on a sweet cicely flower (photo on page 3).



Hawkbit *Hieracium bombycinum*; black-veined moth; mullein moth caterpillar.

There was joy for Pau and in Spain generally this evening when Carlos Alcaraz beat Jannik Sinner to win the French Open men's singles final. Some of us went out after dinner and heard tawny owls, midwife toads and a nightjar.

Day 4: Monday 9 June: Valle de Valdeón

In Boca de Huérgano, before breakfast we found a singing common redstart, perching in dead branches at the top of a tree. Serins came and went here and elsewhere. Down at the river, looking from the old Roman bridge, we found the dipper that some had also seen yesterday, on a rock in the water in a dark corner under the new bridge. There was also a grey wagtail on stones in the main part of the river. House martins were going to nests under the eaves of the big factory building that produces both cheese and bread.

Our main stop this morning was in a lovely patch of mountain meadows on the way to Valdeón. Yellowhammers and dunnocks were singing – here found at higher altitudes – plus garden warblers, stonechats and, for some, long-tailed tits. In drier places by the path were burnt-tip orchids and a broomrape actually on broom, and in damper areas broad-leaved marsh and heath spotted orchids. We had good views of a sooty-coloured chimney sweeper moth, and later another day-flying moth, latticed heath, on some buckler-mustard. Marbled skipper was a new species of butterfly, as were both meadow and pearl-bordered fritillary, and there were many more skippers, blues and fritillaries. Some of the more obvious flowers included globe flowers, wood cranesbill and patches of horned violet. By the roadside there was large patch of broad-leaved marsh orchids and, almost

masquerading as more of these, several verticillate louseworts. There was lots of large cuckoo flower, more butterwort in flower, the large leaves of adenostyles, brook thistle (though only in bud) and water avens.



Verticillate lousewort; horned violet; buckler mustard; greater broomrape.

We stopped for the view and group photos at Mirador del Tombo. Here there were several Chapman's ringlets flying around: it's a large ringlet and endemic to the Picos.

Next stop was the town of Posada de Valdeón for our regular coffee/drinks stop, with some nice nibbles provided 'on the house'. Several people visited the cheese shop and one or two bought ice creams. From where we'd parked we could see a fine example of the historic buildings here called *hórreos*, small, roofed structures on stilts once used to store agricultural produce safely off the ground and away from floods, vermin and other contamination.

It was time for our picnics, a very short distance away where there are tables set in grassland by a small lake. An Iberian chiffchaff sang for most of the time that we were here, and several times we heard Iberian green woodpecker. It was rather poor for odonata today, though Ann found the egg-laying scars of willow emerald damselflies (western willow spreadwing), there was a single large red damselfly and some small blue damsels that moved too quickly to name.

Not far from here we had a roadside stop to look for a large and distinctive toadflax, *Linaria triornithopus*, the 'three birds flying' toadflax. There were none where last year's group had found them by the roadside, though happily there were others above a retaining wall on the other side of the road.

Our next stop was a short – though uphill – walk to look for orchids on an area of limestone grassland by some bends in the road. Many orchids were abundant, there were more bee and lizard orchids and a single pyramidal orchid. At the end of the final dry slope a shady area supported many sweet-scented fragrant orchids. There were the similarly named yellow-wort (distinctive leaves, though not in flower) and yellow woundwort side by side, and a fine robin's pincushion gall on a rose. Twice we found small elephant hawkmoths, western dappled white was a new butterfly (another early species) and twice a Cleopatra flew past. Jules had good views of the firecrest that was singing in the car park.

This place had a rather poor specimen of dark red helleborine so we stopped at another site where we've seen them before. The best plant, in full flower, either needed a scramble up a steep slope (that was just me, for the photo, right) or, more easily, a good view through the telescope.



Dark red helleborine

The final stop today was at 'El Chorco de los Lobos', a wolf-trap set in a woodland by the road. In years gone by, all adult men were obliged to take part in a wolf round-up, driving the wolves down into the woodland and eventually into a pit at the end of a funnel of wooden palisades. There

were also little shelters, still displayed for historic interest, designed to hide people who would discourage the wolves from turning back. Jill found a fine flowering oxlip by the road.

The temperature on the pharmacy sign close to the hotel was showing 32°C at 7:30 as we started to run through wildlife checklists. After dinner, those that went out heard, like last night, lots of midwife toads, tawny owl and nightjar. Bats were coming out of a property across the road, and my detector noted possible greater noctule, noctule, pipistrelle and European free-tailed bat.



'El Chorro de los Lobos', the wolf-trap viewed from the road; a late-flowering oxlip.

Day 5: Tuesday 10 June: Fuente Dé

The pre-breakfast birdwatchers at last caught up with rock sparrows, three recently fledged juveniles, around the industrial-looking buildings in the direction of Riaño.

Our tickets for the cable car at Fuente Dé were for 10:30, so we left Boca de Huérgano at 8:45. There was an unexpected stop in a canyon for a family party of ibexes on steep rocks. I saw two adults and five small youngsters, and at checklists later there was a consensus that there were nine in total. Then it was onward through Potes, passing classic cars on the road today (into double figures, heading in the opposite direction) then to the big car park at Fuente Dé. We joined the throng preparing for the ascent; happily, we were able to bypass the queue as they were letting those booked for 10:30 go through. By chance the whole group was in the same cable-car (they take 20) for the ascent from 3,500 feet to 6,000 feet.

Immediately there were the tame alpine choughs that are such a feature here. Red-billed choughs were also generally around all day, though never tame and mostly obvious by their call. Soon after Pau had explained the plan and lie of the land we were all still together for a fine view of an adult male rock thrush and a pair of northern wheatears. Our first bearded vulture appeared in the sky with some griffons. This time it soon went, though made appearances again later.



Snowfinch and northern wheatear (PL).

The first half of the two-kilometre walk passes a green mountainside rich with alpine flowers. There was low-growing – and prickly and sweetly-scented – Spanish gorse, rockroses, birdsfoot trefoil and wallflowers *Erysimum mayorii* all in yellow. A stock *Matthiola perennis*, sheepsbit and early purple orchids added colour. So did hundreds of trumpet gentians and a few bright spring gentians; sometimes the latter have finished flowering when we visit. Creeping globularia was hugging rocks in distinctive patches; shrubby gromwell flowers could have passed as small gentians without a careful look.



Trumpet gentians; spring gentian.

It was busy with people, as ever: a birdwatching group from Bristol; large school groups on a day out (we presumed); lots of couples, small groups or individuals enjoying the high mountain landscape. Towards the crossroads in the path a water pipit was performing its descending flight song. As the landscape became barer, oddly there were more birds, though alpine toadflax – it likes scree slopes – started to appear here. Groups of chamois could be studied through the telescope as they kept cool this hot day on snow patches. We were lucky enough to see snowfinches today on several occasions. Our destination was the cliffs that often have wallcreepers. By now we were fairly strung out, and only the first to arrive and last to leave saw the wallcreeper. We had our picnics here.

Several of us had excellent views of an alpine accentor on the return walk before we all gathered in the café at the top of the cable car. Then it was time to join the queue to descend. The possibility of storms today didn't materialise, though a few clouds appeared during the afternoon. These didn't seem to have an impact on the serious heat – 36°C – at the bottom of the cable car and as we drove through Potes. The return journey took an hour and a half.

The after-dinner stroll started with the house where bats leave their roost. Nick's analogue bat detector and my digital Echo Meter agreed on common pipistrelle. The following day Nick's detector picked up soprano pipistrelle; noted here, like yesterday's bat list, though it's tricky to be certain. We heard tawny owl and nightjar again and most of us saw a midwife toad.



More alpine flowers: pink sandwort *Arenaria purpurascens*; wallflowers *Erysimum mayorii*; alpine toadflax.

Day 6: Wednesday 11 June: La Ercina area

Curiously it was warmer before breakfast than usual on a day that was generally helpfully cooler, with cloud arriving and rain predicted. A signal crayfish was on the quiet road by the hotel: an invasive and undesirable species, of course, though potentially an easy prey item for a white stork, such as the one on the flooded meadow behind the hotel. Down at 'dipper bridge' a dipper was in its usual shady spot, and there was a male common redstart singing from a high perch a little beyond the bridge.

The change in the weather was a good prompt to head south-west, a short distance outside the Picos and into bee-eater country, a habitat with a hint of the Mediterranean near La Ercina, beyond Yugueros. We soon found the bee-eaters, and their presence started an extended roadside stop. Golden orioles called and some group members had either fleeting views as they flew between poplars and oaks, or a bit more as two males jousted. A chestnut heath was a new butterfly, as was a silver-studded blue, on a wonderful spread of flowers. A tree pipit was in song, and Pau found it on its high perch.



Signal crayfish by the hotel; early spider orchid; robust marsh orchid (the orchids very much *not* to scale!)

The floral riches continued as we parked by a church at this morning's 'official' stop. A clump of intense blue cupidone – cupid's dart – was admired. Areas of short turf had plainly benefitted from the wet spring, with white and blue flaxes, yellow horseshoe vetch and pink thyme creating a lovely mix. The showiest of the orchids were sawfly orchids and it was possible to find a few lingering flowers on early spider orchids. As in other areas there were lizard, man and the occasional pyramidal orchids. Robust marsh orchid caught my eye; checking its ID on an app revealed a new English name to me of 'stately dactylorhiza'.

On the other side of the road, the sheets of flowers continued, though birds were equally good. A red-backed shrike showed well, albeit not for a long time on any of its many perches. There were more bee-eaters, a hoopoe flew past and a woodlark sang. Again, there were ascalaphids and Ann found a bright green forester moth.

There is no bar/café in the local village so we returned to Crémenes for our coffee stop, the bar with the tame monk parakeet. As so often happens, some cake was provided with our drinks. We revisited the picnic tables near the modern chapel for our picnic, which ended as raindrops fell, though they soon stopped.



Juvenile rock sparrow, unusually in a tree, Boca de Huérgano (PL).

We drove back to Boca de Huérgano, and arrived at a quick consensus to have our local walk through the village soon, after just 15 minutes to get sorted, not least in case it rained. This morning's crayfish was reduced to just a pair of claws, then later one claw only. Pau found a rock sparrow, a recently fledged juvenile, unusually for this species perching on a branch.

We moved to the garden that often has common redstarts and we saw both the male and the female. In the adjacent concrete water channel, we found several caddis-fly larvae in protective cases of twiggy material. We looked for martagon lilies, finding two with leaves only; the flowers will come later.

At the bridge, there were large numbers of barbels feeding in shallow water. There was also the usual grey wagtail and dipper, plus French figwort and rubble dock. With the local house martins and barn swallows we also found a crag martin and a red-rumped swallow. Some of us spent time peering under the old bridge – from the new bridge – at a mud nest found by Jules, quite likely built by a red-rumped swallow. More raindrops encouraged a speedy return to the hotel, though again the rain didn't amount to much.

Situation normal for the after-dinner stroll: heard tawny owl, nightjar and midwife toads. Though no adult toads were seen, there were tadpoles in a stone water trough.



Female common redstart (PL)

Day 7: Thursday 12 June, near Riaño and La Uña

We had a good view of a rock sparrow before breakfast, with a chance to compare it with house sparrows and to hear its call.

Our morning's walk was beyond but overlooking the reservoir at Riaño, on a day that was cooler than we'd been used to, though very comfortable. Just beyond the village where we'd parked, we stopped to look at Iberian water frogs in a large concrete water structure. The vegetation in this area showed it to be slightly acidic, with plants familiar from home such as tormentil, heath bedstraw, crosswort and sheep's sorrel, and rarer ones including maiden pink and winged broom. We quickly found our first lesser butterfly orchid, and soon many more. A firecrest showed well, and we saw yellowhammer and whitethroat. Various interesting insects caught the eye: a scorpion fly, a digger wasp and speckled yellow & chimney sweeper moths. The reservoir had few birds, just a cormorant and a great crested grebe with a young grebe alongside. We dropped into a meadow to look at bug orchids, where there were also heath spotted orchids and flowers of large self-heal. Dog roses here (as on the first day) had obvious orange patches of rose rust *Phragmidium mucronatum*. Just before we turned, there were patches of a mignonette-type flower with many slim white spikes, later identified as *Sesamoides purpurascens*. The return walk was delayed in a good way by a green hairstreak that perched where we could see it through the telescope.



Small elephant hawkmoth caught by a crab spider on an early purple orchid (PL); lesser butterfly orchid; bug orchid.

Our regular coffee stop in the small town of Acebedo was closed, so we drove onto the next place, Maraña, for drinks. Lunches were at a new picnic site for the week reached by walking along a short boardwalk through a damp meadow that had patches of ragged robin in flower. A short-toed eagle hovered high in the sky.

Our afternoon was spent at Puerto de Las Señales, above La Uña, around two pools set in alpine meadows. We soon found coal tit and whitethroat. By the first of the pools, a tree pipit proved tricky to see through the 'scope, and a goldcrest was feeding in a nearby pine. Dragonflies here were not showing well, so we moved to the upper pond where it was easier to see the four-spotted chasers. These were around in good numbers, judged by both dragonflies on the wings and the number of exuviae (shed larval skins) on vegetation. Azure damselflies were also in good numbers, despite a sometimes brisk wind. Several group members saw common frog, and while Ann was looking at exuviae she found a tree frog. Tree pipits continued to sing, and Jules & Nicky found a siskin. We'd noticed one moonwort fern on the walk up the hill to the main pond, then about ten as we scanned more carefully as we returned towards the bus. We had a look without success for frog orchid in the turf on the other side of the parking area, though did find a couple of burnt-tip orchids and a tall early purple orchid. Pau caught another new butterfly for the week: olive skipper. We stopped for fuel in Riaño on the way home.

The hotel prepared a special final evening meal of roast lamb; a vegan meal option was available, as ever.



Shed larval skins of four-spotted chasers; moonwort; firecrest from this morning (DS).

Day 8: Friday 13 June – Santander and home

We left at the hotel at the usual time, and our flight times allowed for two half-hour stops on route. The first was an open area with singing skylarks and dozens of black-veined white butterflies on the wings. Better still was an Esper's marbled white. Like many areas we'd seen it was colourful here with white and beautiful flaxes, there were many lizard orchids and stately looking plants of *Salvia aethiopis*, Mediterranean sage, plus a few dragonflies (red-veined darters). The second stop was our usual one at Aguilar de Campoo for facilities and drinks, with silver limes planted as street trees outside. Then it was just steady driving on motorways to Santander airport, where we ate our filled rolls before dropping off bags. Ryanair's flight to Stansted was a delayed by an hour, mostly on account of storms and air traffic control constraints over France, and as on the outward journey the flight was smooth but with a bumpy landing.

Holiday highlights These are the holiday highlights nominated by group members.

Julian	The Picos experience, "Wow!"; butterfly variety; serin; smoke house.
Nicky	Whole experience; seeing the mountains; stag; smoke house and Lois.
Marie	Lovely environment and walks; firecrest.
Ann	Owl flies; vistas; jolly good group.
Jane	Sheer abundance of wildlife, flowers and butterflies; lovely food.
Malcolm	"Could write a book"; scale of botany; the vastness of the Picos de Europa; guides' expertise.
Kathy	Fuente Dé; hunting for midwife toads in the half-light; I finally made it!
Nick	Broomrape; bearded vulture fly-over.
John	Ibex; listening to golden orioles competing with nightingales while watching bee-eaters; so many butterflies, especially those caught by Pau.
Michelle	Red-underwing skipper; pair of wheatears with mountain backdrop.
Jill	Loved it all; gentians.
Margaret	Sheer scale of the mountains; meadows of flowers; butterflies up close; raptors; firecrest.
Dawn	So different from my previous trips to the Picos; Fuente Dé, where everything was so bright, e.g. trumpet gentians and we saw all the best birds so quickly.
Pau	Landscape; meadows; Duke-of-Burgundy; alpine birds at Fuente Dé.
Chris	Ibex; floral spectacles such as white & beautiful flaxes mixed with orchids; local birds like storks, rock sparrows and black redstarts; coffee stops.

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

Great crested grebe	Adult and juvenile on the reservoir at Riaño, 12/6.
Cormorant	1-2 flying past the hotel most days, and on the reservoir at Riaño.
Grey heron	Single birds seen daily, especially flying past the hotel.
Cattle egret	Near Santander on both journeys.
Little egret	Near Santander on both journeys.
Great white egret	1 seen on the river at Boca de Huérgano, 8/6.
Grey heron	Single birds seen daily, especially flying past the hotel.
White stork	Increase from three to four pairs in Boca de Huérgano and regularly elsewhere.
Mute swan	On SEO's nature reserve in Santander as we drove past, 13/6.
Mallard	Seen on 3 days.
Black kite	Seen every day
Egyptian vulture	Seen on five days in the Picos.
Bearded vulture	Excellent views at Fuente Dé.
Griffon vulture	Seen every day, including the travel days.
Short-toed eagle	One over the picnic site, 12/6.
Booted eagle	A pale phase bird on 7/6.
Buzzard	Seen every day.
Sparrowhawk	One on 7/6.
Common kestrel	Seen on 4 days.
Peregrine	One on 7/6.
Coot	1 on the lake, 9/6
Yellow-legged gull	Recorded on three days, flying past the hotel or around the reservoir at Riaño.
Woodpigeon	Seen on 4 days.
Collared dove	Seen only at La Ercina.
Cuckoo	Seen on the journey, 6/6, and heard on 3 days.
Tawny owl	Heard at Boca de Huérgano every evening.
Nightjar	Churring at Boca de Huérgano every evening.
Swift	Seen daily.
Bee-eater	At least 20 at La Ercina on 11/6.
Hoopoe	La Ercina on 11/6.
Wryneck	Heard by some on 11/6.
Great spotted woodpecker	Seen on 7/6 and 8/6.
Iberian woodpecker	Heard or seen daily, the sightings mostly of flying birds.
Red-backed shrike	Seen on 3 days, at first while driving, then at La Ercina.
Golden oriole	Heard and seen flying on 12/6, La Ercina.
Jay	Seen only on 7/6.
Magpie	Seen daily.
Red-billed chough	Fuente Dé, 10/6.
Alpine chough	Common at Fuente Dé, 10/6.
Carion crow	Seen almost daily.
Raven	Seen on two days, best views at Fuente Dé, 10/6.
Coal tit	Seen on two days.
Great tit	Seen daily
Blue tit	Seen on three days.
Long-tailed tit	9/6 only
Barn swallow	Daily.
Red-rumped swallow	1 at the bridge at Boca de Huérgano, 11/6.
Crag martin	Seen on four days, including at the bridge at Boca de Huérgano.
House martin	Seen daily. Nesting near the bridge at Boca de Huérgano.
Crested lark	On the return journey, 13/6, by the roundabout at Aguilar de Campoo,
Woodlark	Heard and seen near the bee-eaters.
Skylark	Singing at the stop on the return journey, 13/6.
Cetti's warbler	Heard on five days.
Iberian chiffchaff	Heard on four days, no clear views.
Western Bonelli's warbler	Heard on two days.
Blackcap	Heard daily, seen on two days.
Garden warbler	Heard daily, seen on two days.
Whitethroat	Seen best at Riaño's reservoir.
Firecrest	Heard 7/6, seen on 9/6 and 12/6.
Goldcrest	In pines by the ponds, 12/6.
Dipper	Seen on most visits to the bridge in Boca de Huérgano.
Wren	Heard or seen almost every day.
Wallcreeper	Seen by those arrived early or left late on their cliffs at Fuente Dé, 10/6.
Short-toed treecreeper	Heard 7/6 & 9/6, good view at the picnic site on 8/6.
Spotless starling	Heard or seen on journey days and at La Ercina.
Blackbird	Seen every day.
Song thrush	Heard on four days, occasional glimpses.
Rock thrush	Excellent views at Fuente Dé, 10/6.
Robin	Seen or heard daily.

Nightingale	Heard every day, especially opposite the hotel.
Black redstart	Seen every day, including in Boca de Huérgano.
Common redstart	Seen on three days in Boca de Huérgano, in two places, nesting in a garden and beyond 'dipper bridge'; also in Lois.
Stonechat	Seen on five days.
Northern wheatear	Excellent views at Fuente Dé, 10/6.
House sparrow	Seen daily.
Rock sparrow	Around the hotel on three days, including recently fledged juveniles.
Snowfinch	Excellent views at Fuente Dé, 10/6.
Dunnock	Heard or seen on two days.
Alpine accentor	Excellent views at Fuente Dé, 10/6.
Grey wagtail	Seen on five days, especially from the bridge in Boca de Huérgano.
White wagtail	Seen every day.
Tree pipit	11/6 & 12/6, in display flight.
Water pipit	Displaying well at Fuente Dé, 10/6
Chaffinch	Seen daily.
Serin	Seen daily, lots in Boca de Huérgano.
Greenfinch	Heard on two days, especially by the bridge at Boca de Huérgano.
Goldfinch	Seen daily.
Siskin	Seen by a few in pines by the ponds, 12/6.
Linnet	Seen daily, family parties in Boca de Huérgano.
Bullfinch	On the walk at the reservoir at Riaño, 12/6.
Yellowhammer	Seen or heard on three days, at higher altitudes.
Rock bunting	Seen by some on 9/10.
Corn bunting	Heard or seen daily, especially opposite the hotel.



ibex were among the holiday highlights (PL).

MAMMALS	
Fox	Southern/Pyrenean chamois (Isard)
Common pipistrelle	Ibex
Pine marten (roadkill); greater white-toothed shrew (dead)	Red deer
REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS	
Wall lizard sp (probably common wall lizard)	Iberian tree frog
Common midwife toad	Iberian water frog
Common frog	
DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES	
Azure bluet / damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>
Large red damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>
Western willow spreadwing (willow emerald)	<i>Chalcolestes viridis</i> – egg-laying scars
Four-spotted chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>
Broad-bodied chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>
Red-veined darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>

Our butterfly checklist is based on species seen on holidays in several previous years, yet we still had four 'write-ins' among our 59 species, in **bold**, some of which relate to the cool and wet spring this year in the Picos.

BUTTERFLIES	
Mallow skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>
Dingy skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>
Iberian grizzled skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>
Oberthur's grizzled skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricus</i>
Olive skipper	<i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>
Large grizzled skipper	<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>
Red underwing skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>
Small skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>
Essex skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>
Spanish festoon	<i>Zerynthia rumina</i>
[Common] swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Scarce swallowtail	<i>Iphiclidides podalirius</i>
Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Green-veined white	<i>Pieris napi</i>
Small white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Black-veined white	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>
Western dappled white	<i>Euchloe crameri</i>
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Provence orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis euphenoides</i>
Clouded yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Berger's clouded yellow	<i>Colias australis</i>
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Wood white	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>
Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Large tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>
Small tortoiseshell	<i>Aglaia urticae</i>
Pearl-bordered fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>
Marsh fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ssp <i>beckeri</i>

Queen of Spain fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
Knapweed fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>
Glanville fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>
Provençal fritillary	<i>Melitaea dejone</i>
Spotted fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>
Lesser spotted fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>
Southern heath fritillary	<i>Melitaea (athalia) celadussa</i>
<i>False heath fritillary (found dead)</i>	<i>Melitaea diamina</i>
Meadow fritillary	<i>Melitaea parthenoides</i>
Esper's marbled white	<i>Melanargia russiae</i>
Chapman's ringlet	<i>Erebia palarica</i>
Meadow brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Chestnut heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>
Southern speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>
Large wall brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>
Wall brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>
Green hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
Sooty copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>
Long-tailed blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
Small blue/Little blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>
Holly blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
Silver-studded blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>
Black-eyed blue	<i>Glaucopsyche melanops</i>
Green-underside blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>
Turquoise blue	<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>
Common blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Chapman's blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>
Adonis blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>



Butterfly and moth collage: all from the Picos, 2025. Top: Spanish festoon (PL) and chimney sweeper moth. Bottom: burnet companion moth, western dappled white (PL).

MOTHS	Latticed heath <i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>
Black-veined white <i>Siona lineata</i>	Small elephant hawk-moth <i>Deilephila porcellus</i>
Speckled yellow <i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>	Chimney sweeper <i>Odezia atrata</i>
Burnet Companion <i>Euclidia glyphica</i>	Forester moth <i>Adscita sp</i>
Southern 6-spot burnet <i>Zygaena lavandulae</i>	Mullein moth caterpillar <i>Cucullia verbasci</i>
Cinnabar moth <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Bird-cherry ermine <i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i> tents
BEETLES	
<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i> Flower or pollen chafer	<i>Trichodes alvearius</i> a soldier or bee-hive beetle
<i>Cincindela campestris</i> Green tiger beetle	<i>Oedemera nobilis</i> Thick-legged flower beetle
<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i> 7 spot ladybird	<i>Pyrochroa serraticornis</i> Red-headed cardinal
BUGS	
<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i> firebug	<i>Lygaeus equestris</i> a red and black bug
<i>Graphosoma lineatum italicum</i> in Honeyguide circles, often called Millwall bug	<i>Melanocoryphus albomaculatus</i> another red and black bug
MISCELLANEOUS INVERTEBRATES	
Signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>	Southern wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i>
<i>Libelluloides longicornis</i> ascalaphid or owlfly	Hornet <i>Vespa crabro</i>
Heather crab spider <i>Thomisus onustus</i>	Common carder <i>Bombus pascuorum</i>
Field cricket <i>Gryllus campestris</i> (heard)	Violet carpenter bee <i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
Stonefly Cf <i>Dinocras cephalotes</i>	Black slug, probably <i>Arion ater</i>
Scorpion-fly <i>Panoptes sp</i>	Caddis-fly larvae (species unknown)

Plant galls			
Host plant	Organism	Common name	Type of organism
Lime	<i>Eriophyes tiliae</i>	Nail gall	Mite
Oak	<i>Andriscus quercuscalis</i>	Cotton wool gall	Gall wasp
Oak	<i>Neuroterus quercubaccarum</i>	Currant gall	Gall wasp
Rose	<i>Diplolepis rosae</i>	Robin's pincushion	Wasp

PLANTS

Any plant list relates partly to what you find but also how much effort is put into naming and listing. So, for example, we didn't put much effort into trees, or speedwells, or grasses.

NiF = not in flower		<i>Centaurea lagascana</i>	(yellow, stemless)
FERNS		<i>Centaurea montana</i>	Perennial (or mountain) cornflower
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall rue	<i>Cirsium rivulare</i>	Brook thistle
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair spleenwort	<i>Cota (Anthemis) triumfetti</i>	Southern dog daisy
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	Moonwort	<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry plant
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rusty-backed fern	<i>Hieracium (mixtum) bombycinum</i>	a very hairy mountain hawkbit
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common polypody	<i>Inula salicina</i>	Alpine coltsfoot
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy
CONIFERS		<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear hawkweed
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine	<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>	Marsh ragwort
Dicotyledons		<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort
Apiaceae (Umbellifers) Carrot Family (incomplete)		<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk thistle
<i>Eryngium bourgatii</i>	Pyrenean sea holly	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goatsbeard
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field eryngo	Berberidaceae Berberis Family	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>cantabrica</i>	Barberry
<i>Laserpitium gallicum</i>	a sermountain	Boraginaceae Forget-me-not Family	
<i>Ligusticum lucidum</i>	A lovage	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss
<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	Sweet cicely	<i>Lithodora oliefolia</i>	Shrubby Gromwell
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock water dropwort	<i>Myosotis alpina</i>	Alpine forget-me-not
<i>Reynoutria sachalinensis</i>	Giant hogweed	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Water forget-me-not
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's needle	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green alkanet
<i>Thapsia villosa</i>	'villous deadly carrot'	Brassicaceae (Cruciferae) Cabbage Family	
Aquifoliaceae Holly Family		<i>Biscutella sp</i>	Buckler Mustard
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	<i>Cardamine raphanifolia</i>	Large (or radish-leaved) cuckoo flower
Asteraceae (Compositae) Daisy family		<i>Erysimum mayorii</i>	Wallflower
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	<i>Matthiola perennis</i>	a stock
<i>Adenostyles alliariae</i>	Adenostyles NiF	Campanulaceae Bellflower Family	
<i>Andryala integrifolia</i>		<i>Campanula erinus</i>	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	<i>Campanula (scheuchzeri) ficarioides</i>	Like a thin-leaved harebell
<i>Carduncellus mitissimus</i>	(Stemless, purple)		
<i>Carduus carlinoides</i>	Pyrenean thistle		
<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Slender thistle		
<i>Catananche caerulea</i>	Cupidone		
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower		

<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	Peach-leaved Bellflower	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush vetch
<i>Jasione laevis</i> ssp <i>carpentana</i>	a local sheep's-bit, 'botón azul'	<i>Vicia pannonica</i>	Pyrenean Vetch
<i>Thlaspi brachypetalum</i>	Small-flowered pennycress	Fagaceae Oak and Beech Family	
Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family (inc. Adoxaceae)		<i>Catenae sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf elder	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	<i>Quercus faginea</i>	Valencian Oak (tough lvs)
<i>Viburnum opulis</i>	Guelder rose	<i>Quercus ilex/rotundifolia?</i>	Holm Oak
Caryophyllaceae Pink Family		<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy/White Oak
<i>Arenaria grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered sandwort	<i>Quercus pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean oak
<i>Arenaria purpurascens</i>	Pink sandwort	Gentianaceae Gentian Family	
<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved sandwort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort
<i>Dianthus deltoides</i>	Maiden pink	<i>Gentiana angustifolia</i> subsp. <i>corbariensis</i>	Pyrenean Trumpet Gentian
<i>Dianthus gallicus</i>	Jersey pink (coastal)	<i>Gentiana lutea</i>	Great Yellow Gentian NiF
<i>Dianthus turoloensis</i>		<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring Gentian
<i>Kohlruschia (Petrorhagia) velutina</i>	Hairy pink	Geraniaceae Geranium Family	
<i>Sabulina tenuifolia (Minuartia hybrida)</i>	Fine-leaved sandwort	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common storksbill
<i>Saponaria ocymoides</i>	Rock soapwort	<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	Long-stalked cranesbill
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining cranesbill
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser stitchwort	<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot cranesbill
Chenopodiaceae Goosefoot Family		<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>	Good King Henry	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody cranesbill
Cistaceae Rock-rose family		<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean Geranium
<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i>	White rockrose	<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>	Wood cranesbill
<i>Helianthemum canum</i>	Hoary rockrose	Globulariaceae Globularia Family	
<i>Helianthemum nummularian</i>	Common rockrose	<i>Globularia nudicaulis</i>	Leafless-stemmed Globularia NiF
Convolvulaceae Bindweed Family		<i>Globularia repens</i>	Creeping globularia
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed	Hypericaceae St. John's Worts	
Corylaceae Hazel Family		<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's wort
<i>Corylus avellane</i>	Hazel	Lamiaceae (=Labiatae) Mint Family	
Crassulaceae Stonecrop Family		<i>Acinos alpina</i>	Alpine calamint
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting stonecrop	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted dead-nettle
Disacaceae, Teasel/scabious Family		<i>Mentha longifolia</i>	Horse mint
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	<i>Prunella grandiflora</i>	Large self-heal
<i>Knautia dipsacifolia</i>	Wood scabious	<i>Prunella laciniata</i>	Cut-leaved self-heal
Ericaceae, Heath Family		<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal
<i>Daboecia cantabrica</i>	St. Dabeoc's heath	<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>	Mediterranean sage
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree heather	<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow woundwort
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell Heather	<i>Teucrium pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean germander NiF
Euphorbiaceae Spurge Family		<i>Thymus</i> sp	Wild thyme
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood spurge	<i>Thymus camphorus</i>	Camphor thyme
Fabaceae (Leguminosae) Pea Family		Lentibulariaceae Butterwort Family	
<i>Adenocarpus complicatus</i>	yellow shrub at Boca de H	<i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered butterwort
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney vetch (yellow)	Linaceae Flax Family	
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> subsp. <i>pyrenaica</i>	Kidney vetch (pink)	<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Purging or fairy flax
<i>Chamaespartium sagittale</i>	Winged greenweed/broom	<i>Linum narbonense</i>	Beautiful flax
<i>Coronilla scorpiodes</i>	Annual scorpion-vetch	<i>Linum perenne</i>	Perennial flax
<i>Genista florida</i>	the abundant, flowery broom	<i>Linum (suffruticosum). salsoloides</i>	Pyrenean/white flax
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch	Malvaceae Mallow Family	
<i>Lathyrus filiformis</i>	Slender vetch	<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk mallow
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> ssp <i>carpentanus</i>	Birdsfoot trefoil	<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf mallow
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common mallow
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Ribbed melilot	Oleaceae Olive & Lilac Family	
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>		<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild privet
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom	Onograceae Willowherb Family	
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser trefoil	<i>Oenothera glazoviana</i>	Large-flowered evening primrose
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil	Orobanchaceae Broomrape Family	
<i>Trifolium ochroleucon</i>	Sulphur clover	<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Greater broomrape
<i>Trifolium pretense</i>	Red clover	Papaveraceae Poppy Family	
<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly clover	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch	Plantaginaceae Plantain Family	
		<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buckshorn plantain
		<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain

<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Common lousewort
Plumbaginaceae Thrift Family		<i>Pedicularis verticillata</i>	Whorled or verticillate lousewort
<i>Armeria cantabrica</i>	(= <i>Armeria maritima</i> ssp <i>alpina</i>)	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow rattle
Polygalaceae Milkworts		<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	French figwort
<i>Polygala nicaeensis</i>	Nice milkwort	<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark mullein
<i>Polygala alpestris</i>	Mountain milkwort	<i>Verbascum pulverulentum</i>	Hoary mullein
Polygonaceae Knotweed Family		<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime
<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>	Bistort	Thymelaeaceae Daphne Family	
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel	<i>Daphne laureola</i> subsp. <i>philippi</i>	Spurge laurel
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's sorrel	Tiliaceae Lime Family	
Primulaceae Primrose Family		<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	Common lime
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver lime (planted)
<i>Androsace villosa</i>	Ciliate rock-jasmine	Valerianaceae Valerian Family	
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip	<i>Centranthus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved red valerian
Ranunculaceae Buttercup Family		<i>Valeriana pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean valerian
<i>Anemone pavoniana</i>	Windflower	Violaceae Violet Family	
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine	<i>Viola cornuta</i>	Horned pansy
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh marigold	<i>Viola</i> sp	Dog violet tbc
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking hellebore	Viscaceae Mistletoe Family	
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp	Water crowfoot	MONOCOTYLEDONS	
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globeflower		
Resedaceae Mignonette Family		Liliaceae Lily Family	
<i>Sesamoides purpurascens</i>		<i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i>	Blue aphyllanthes
Rhamnaceae Buckthorn Family		<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White asphodel
<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	Alder buckthorn	<i>Erythronium dens-canis</i>	Dog's-tooth violet NiF
Rosaceae Rose Family		<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon lily NiF
<i>Agrimonia euphatoria</i>	Agrimony	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine lady's mantle	<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Grape hyacinth
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star of Bethlehem
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort	<i>Scilla verna</i>	Spring squill
<i>Fragaria</i> sp	Wild strawberry Fruit	Orchidaceae Orchid Family	
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water avens	<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man orchid
<i>Geum pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean avens	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal orchid
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White helleborine
<i>Potentilla recta</i>	Sulphur cinquefoil (pale)	<i>Dactylorhiza elata</i> var. <i>iberica</i>	Robust marsh orchid
<i>Potentilla repens</i>	Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath spotted orchid
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose	<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>	Broad-leaved marsh orchid
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad burnet	<i>Epipactis atrorubens</i>	Dark red-leaved helleborine
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant orchid
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard orchid
Rubiaceae Bedstraw Family		<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee orchid
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock orchid
<i>Galium album</i>	White bedstraw	<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early spider orchid
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly orchid
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath bedstraw	<i>Orchis coriophora</i>	Bug orchid
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early purple orchid
Saxifragaceae Saxifrage Family		<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged orchid
<i>Saxifraga canaliculata</i>	Cantabrian saxifrage	<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	Burnt-tip orchid
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow saxifrage	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser butterfly orchid
<i>Saxifraga paniculata</i>	Paniculate/livelong saxifrage	<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue orchid
Scrophulariaceae (inc. Antirrhinaceae) Figwort Family		Sedge and grasses (very incomplete)	
<i>Antirrhinum braun-blauquetii</i>		<i>Aegilops geniculata</i>	Ovate goat grass
<i>Bartsia (Parentucellia) viscosa</i>	Yellow bartsia	<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking grass
<i>Bartsia (Bellardia) trixago</i>	Bellardia	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot
<i>Chaenorhinum origanifolium</i>	Malling toadflax	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Cottongrass
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Houndstongue	<i>Stipa pennata</i>	Feather grass
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved toadflax	FUNGI	
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove		
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy foxglove	<i>Phragmidium mucronatum</i>	Rose rust
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp	Eyebright	<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytail
<i>Linaria alpina</i>	Alpine toadflax		
<i>Linaria saxatilis</i>	(yellow, hairy)		
<i>Linaria triornithopus</i>	'three birds flying' toadflax		
<i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i>	Small cow-wheat		