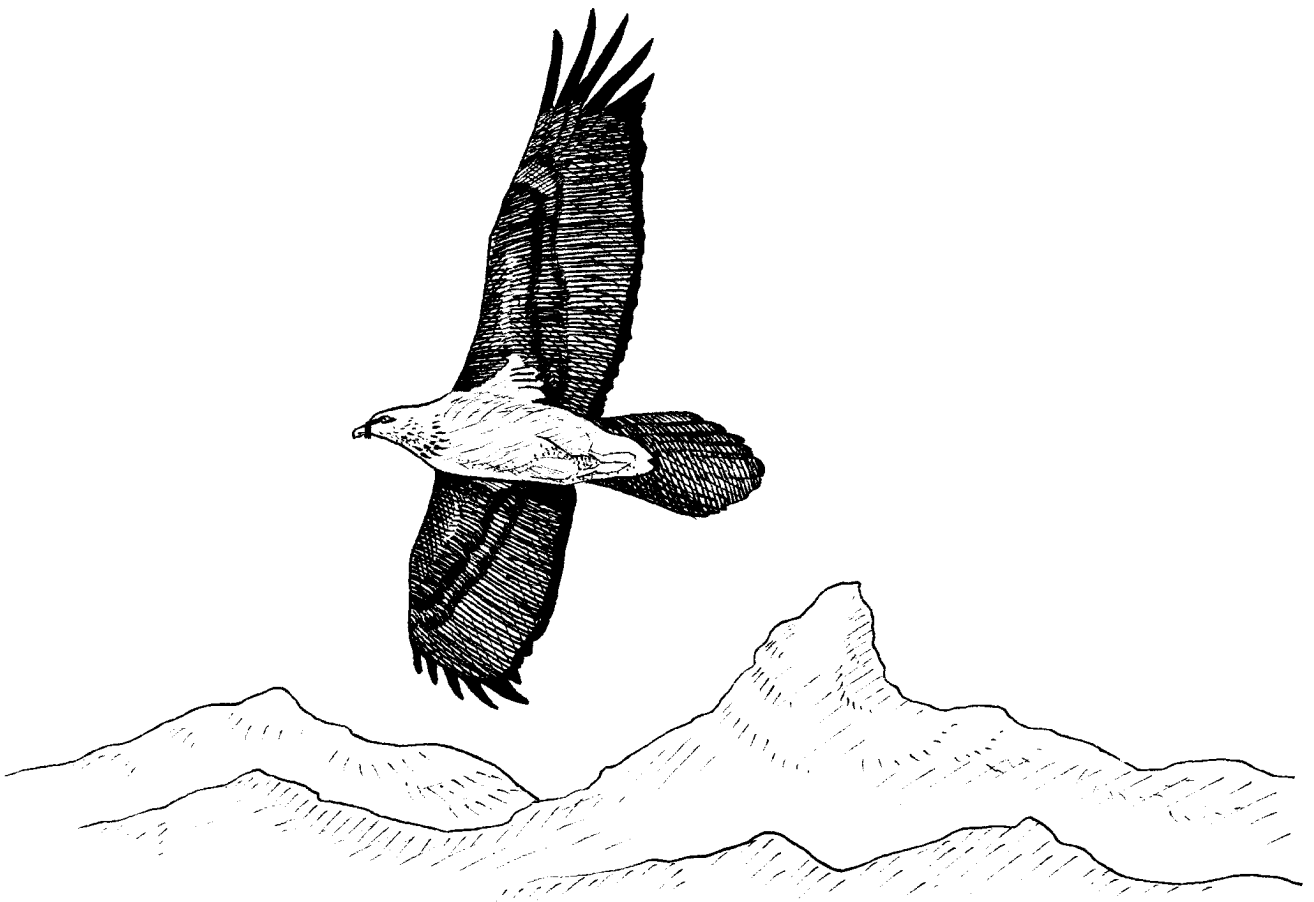


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French Pyrenees
Salisbury & District Natural History Society
7 – 15 June 2002

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Participants

Rosemary and Gerald Nicholls

Diana Forbes

Ted Sansby

Patricia Dashwood
Elisabeth Richmond

Donald and Rita Scarfe

Jim and Brenda Wade

June Hodkinson
Audrey Lovett

Marigold Woolley
Joan Tripp

Joan Cook
Betty Robinson

Ailsa McKee
Susan Thornton

Grace Hickman
Pamela James

Margaret Pragnell
Jean Carroll

Leaders

Rob Macklin
Kathy Archibald

Driver

Dale Newton

Report written by Rob and Kathy Macklin. Ferns compiled by Gerald Nicholls.
Illustrations by Rob Hume. Cover: lammergeier

Summer in the French Pyrenees

7 – 15 June 2002

Friday June 7th – The Journey

Cloudy and grey skies at Gatwick airport and the bad news that Diana had left her passport back at her house near Salisbury. Diana immediately set off home to retrieve it and we all hoped she would join us later. Toulouse was pleasantly warm and sunny. We collected our three minibuses and were soon on our way to Gèdre after managing to find our way out of the airport and through the town of Blagnac! As we left Toulouse we spotted both yellow-legged and black-headed gulls on roadside water bodies plus several buzzards and black kites over the adjacent farmland. We hoped to find somewhere for lunch and settled on a rather up-market motorway service station at Aire de Comminges. We had a very close sighting of a hunting black kite here and Dale found a stunning poplar hawk-moth. After photographs, we repositioned him on one of the many tulip trees, which were just coming into flower.

We resumed our drive towards Gèdre feeling quite refreshed and further birds seen included three hoopoes plus several jackdaws, magpies and crows. The scenery became more and more stunning and the drive more and more hairy! We arrived at the Breche de Roland hotel in Gèdre in late afternoon to be greeted by Odile and soon settled into our rooms. Serins were singing from the neighbouring trees and Rob was lucky enough to see a lammergeier drifting under low cloud above the hotel. The low cloud soon turned into persistent rain from late afternoon, which did not bode well for the following day. The four-course meal was excellent, the staff very attentive, and the wine freely flowing!

Saturday June 8th – Gavarnie, Heas Valley and Barrage des Gloriettes

Our worst fears were confirmed with heavy rain falling at Gèdre in the morning – even so, house martins, crag martins and swifts were hunting for the few insects available in the valley. We decided to head up to Gavarnie to investigate the National Park centre, hoping that the rain would soon stop. As we pulled in to the village the rain turned into snow and the few cars leaving were absolutely covered! We walked up to the centre but it was closed (open on weekdays but closed at weekends – bizarre). The wall opposite the centre came in for close scrutiny with some members of the group getting to grips with some of the saxifrages, and the delightful fairy foxglove. Up to 100 meadow pipits had been grounded by the foul weather, our first griffon vulture drifted through the low cloud and four red-billed choughs flew over. As it was so cold we found a bar in the village for hot chocolates and coffees – very welcome indeed.

After coffee the snow began to abate so we decided to have a look at the lower reaches of Gavarnie; at least three black redstarts and a song thrush were singing in the village and a mistle thrush was taking food into the trees for a hungry brood. As we walked along the river we were very fortunate to get close views of a female red-backed shrike that then flew across the road to join a resplendent male perched up in the top of a small pine tree. Both garden warblers and blackcaps were seen singing from the scrub along the river, several wheatears were feeding around two donkeys in one of the meadows and a singing male cirl bunting showed himself briefly before skulking in the scrub out of view.

Flowers were difficult to identify as they were bowed under a sprinkling of snow, but we could still detect masses of gorgeous Pyrenean hyacinth in the meadows and dusky cranesbill along the river, among other delights. As the low cloud began to lift, alpine choughs and two kestrels drifted past, a peregrine skimmed along the high ridge and the first of many lammergeiers loomed into view above us. Perhaps the highlight here was the sight of an adult dipper feeding two juveniles on the river, giving everyone very good views.

As it had stopped raining we drove back from Gavarnie and up to the Barrage des Gloriettes; 1668 metres above sea level. We stopped below the barrage or dam and were rewarded by masses of birdseye primrose, butterworts and broad-leaved marsh orchids in the snow-melt. By this time we were getting some sunny periods but it was still very cold. Up to 10 griffon vultures circled the surrounding peaks with two ravens but the stars of the show were three adult lammergeiers, flying low along the face of the mountains, showing off their bright orange underparts to great effect. Water pipits, wheatears and black redstarts were all breeding at this height and a male yellowhammer also put in an appearance. Susan found a rock bunting and some of the group were lucky enough to see a salamander that Ted spotted in a little rivulet of snow-melt. Our last short drive was up to the dam and a short walk

across the concrete sill; the wind was very chilly up here although that did not stop a couple of marmots from calling furiously across the slopes.

We warmed up with a well-earned cup of tea in the bar before dinner. Just as we were enjoying another super meal, Diana arrived – taxi driver in tow – with quite a tale to tell! We were all very pleased – and impressed! – to see her.

Sunday June 9th – Col du Soulor & Valle d’Arrens

Another day that dawned with low cloud and a little rain in the air, not particularly what the doctor ordered. Before we left we heard the usual serins singing around the hotel and the first sparrowhawk of the trip flew across the valley. Our journey today took us northwest to the foothills of the French Pyrenees around the Valle d’Arrens. We made a brief stop in Luz St. Sauveur to visit the pharmacy among other things and noted grey wagtail and singing goldfinch in the town with a red kite overhead.

We then drove north to the town of Argelès-Gazost before heading west towards the Col du Soulor; we were fortunate that this high point was open as the nearby Col d’Aubisque was firmly closed. Two red kites were seen along the way before we arrived at the Col to find the coffee bar gratifyingly open with a roaring wood burner on the go! We strolled along the road in amazement at the fabulous displays of flowers all the way; masses of early-purple orchids, spring and trumpet gentians, *sheets* of birdseye primrose and butterworts in the wet flashes, and all sorts of lady’s mantles and speedwells.



The first butterflies of the trip – green-veined white, clouded yellow and small heath – struggled to find enough warmth to fly. At least 10 griffons were at the colony here, a raven was seen carrying a large white blob (still don’t know what that was) and another peregrine flew over. Unbelievably yet another two lammergeiers flew low over the road as we walked back to the buses. We had lunch in the buses, although a few hardy souls sat outside, before moving off to the Valle d’Arrens.

The Valle d’Arrens proved to be popular with weekend trippers but this did not spoil our enjoyment of the area. We parked the buses by the lake and proceeded to explore the area. The first of many saxifrages spilling out of the rocks turned out to be paniculate saxifrage while both small tortoiseshell and small white butterflies were on the wing. Two dark spots in the sky then came nearer and turned out to be golden eagles soaring over a nearby peak. Later in the afternoon we saw one of them much closer when a pair of breeding kestrels was mobbing them; the difference in size was quite remarkable!

Our intended walk up into the woods was curtailed by the abundance of plants everywhere. We found a very photogenic patch of Pyrenean thistle, along with spiked Pyrenean speedwell and alpine toadflax. Ted and Rob examined the fabulous columbines and discovered, to our disappointment, that they are in fact common, rather than Pyrenean columbines. Patricia found a wonderful specimen of Pyrenean snakeshead fritillary, then we crossed a bridge below a spectacular waterfall into the meadow on the other side of the reservoir. There were many fragrant orchids in here, Pyrenean lousewort, and alpine rose as well as alpenrose.

At least six crag martins were searching for insects over the lake, we had good views of coal tit and blackcap but the only woodpecker located was a green woodpecker, calling from the surrounding forest. As we returned to the buses yet another lammergeier drifting along the rock face brought a splendid end to a long day.

Monday June 10th – Port de Boucharo & The Ossoue Valley

The weather forecast proved incorrect today and our day began in bright sunshine after early low cloud. Before starting off we picked up singing serins at the hotel as well as blue tit, wren and our first male bullfinch. As conditions seemed set fair we decided to head for one of the highest points in the Pyrenees at the Port de Boucharo. Unfortunately the road was closed a few kilometres from the very top and we had to content ourselves with exploring the roadside. It was spectacular up here – bright, clear, crisp and quiet, with incredible views down across the snow-covered peaks. The snow was very deep beside the road, with 10-foot cliffs where it had been ploughed. Water pipits and wheatears were singing and displaying well and we were surprised to find two linnets at such a height. A minimum of seven griffon vultures soared around the peaks but most attention was focused on several marmots that provided very close views. Beautiful pink entire-leaved primroses were growing out of the snow, and Rita found catsfoot and chamois cress. We then moved down the road a little way to search for alpine snowbell but were unlucky in this respect. We did however get excellent views of a griffon vulture perched up on a nearby rock and while hunting for flowers picked up more butterflies such as orange tip, swallowtail and dingy skipper.

As it was still a little chilly up here we returned to Gavarnie for a welcome cup of coffee before having lunch in the sunshine in the Ossoue valley. The afternoon sunshine certainly brought out more butterflies with wood white, green hairstreak, brown argus and painted lady all on the wing. As we were eating, a golden eagle flew low over the valley carrying prey and being mobbed by a carrion crow. After lunch we drove further up the valley and parked near the Naturetrek bus. Early excitement was generated by a splendid male rock thrush, which Patricia spotted on nearby rocks, seemingly oblivious to a helicopter that was taking materials in and out of the valley. The male then disappeared but was promptly replaced by the duller female, which we finally managed to get into the telescope for all the group to see.

We then walked out into the meadows to explore the wet flashes and nearby slopes; the slopes were covered in narcissus-flowered anemone as well as many trumpet gentians. A couple of kestrels and a peregrine were seen along the mountain ridges, two ravens ‘cronked’ their presence and Gerald found another pair of red-backed shrikes. One or two of the group then saw a couple of dippers flitting along the valley stream.

On the way back out of the valley we stopped at a known lammergeier nest site; we were not able to see the young in the nest but were very fortunate to see an ochre-coloured adult drift along the ridge and drop straight into the nest. Susan then found some very brightly coloured moth-like insects that on reflection turned out to be of the insect family Ascalaphidae and were probably *Ascalaphus libelluloides*.

Back at the hotel a short-toed eagle and a buzzard over the nearby hills enlivened a welcome early evening beer – a splendid end to a marvellous day.

Tuesday June 11th – Cirque de Gavarnie

A very warm day in prospect with the sun shining and the weather set fair for our ‘official’ visit to the world famous Cirque de Gavarnie. The Naturetrek team put us onto a group of citril finches within the town and careful searching of the area produced seven birds with another five further up the track. A pair of red-backed shrikes here was probably the same pair we saw on the previous Saturday.

What a difference a couple of days made with warm conditions and butterflies coming onto the wing as the day warmed up. The first meadows, with their profusion of Pyrenean violets, were alive with clouded Apollos. Walking up through the woods we met a British group who had spotted several Pyrenean chamois, or isards, in the distance. Even through binoculars they were still just specks against the snow but became identifiable in the telescopes as they rested below the stunning cirque.

We came out of the woods into a glorious area of open meadows, stretching right up to the sheer cirque. We made camp amongst carpets of alchemilla-leaved cinquefoil and had lunch before exploring the scrub and grassland. Some plants were in short supply as cattle had already been through the area grazing off anything edible. What a shame the mountain larkspur was not yet in flower – it would be worth coming back just to see that. Ramonda grew in rock-crevices, with matted globularia below – very beautiful. Gerald identified the first Queen of Spain fritillary and two brown butterflies were

identified as Piedmont ringlet and large wall brown. A large white type flew swiftly across the clearing and was identified as a black-veined white, widespread in the UK in the 19th century but now sadly extinct!

Birds of prey then became more apparent overhead with two buzzards soaring over the woods, at least three griffon vultures drifting along the ridge and yet another lammergeier putting in an appearance! This was turning out to be a holiday full of lammergeiers! Other birds on the wing included just one alpine swift, singing goldcrests and several breeding water pipits. We continued to search for butterflies, finding a brilliant adonis blue and several Duke of Burgundy fritillaries before finally catching a very elusive pearl-bordered fritillary. As we clambered along the slopes we came upon a huge wood ants' nest and watched the ants moving along their very own motorway with all sorts of booty. A somewhat worn fritillary turned out to be a small pearl-bordered fritillary and several Camberwell beauties were on the wing flying together in the woodland clearings.

As the afternoon came to a close we re-assembled at the lunch spot where a golden eagle was being harassed by two ravens; as if this wasn't enough, Dale spotted a fantastic black woodpecker which flew over the meadows giving us all really good views – amazing! As we left, there was an ominous rumble and roar, and we actually saw an avalanche high up in the cirque. Jim saw a rock bunting on the edge of the village – one of the species that eluded most of the group.

Wednesday June 12th – Vallée de la Glare & Col de Tourmalet

Another hot day was in prospect as we boarded the buses for the trip to the 'wallcreeper site' in the Vallée de la Glare. Our first stop though was at a splendid stone bridge just below the village of Gèdre where Rosemary and Gerald had spotted some magnificent Pyrenean saxifrage in flower and was this worth the stop. They were absolutely magnificent growing out of the overhanging rocks and the cameras were clicking away merrily – round-leaved restharrow was also found in flower here. Our next stop was at Luz St. Sauveur to change some euros. Many swifts were screeching over the town and collared doves called in the square.

We arrived at the valley to find the track alongside the river in reasonably good condition, which allowed us to drive a good way towards the site. Around half of the group potted leisurely amongst the meadows beside the stream, finding many more flowers and watching Camberwell beauties defending their territories along the stream banks. The other half of the group decided to attempt the steep climb, even though by this time it had become rather hot. The walk up was relatively uneventful although a crested tit was a good find amongst the more usual water pipits and black redstarts. We finally made it to the series of abandoned buildings, which we supposed used to house quarry workers but was now no more than an empty shell. We didn't have to wait long as our quarry, a wallcreeper, flew in from its nest on the cliff face to hunt for food on the old buildings. We then saw the bird on a couple more occasions which was fantastic for all those who had made the walk – a 'first' for just about everyone. The walk back down to the buses was much easier and we caught sight of a black kite going over closely followed by yet another golden eagle.

We joined the rest of the group for lunch in the valley, washed down with ice-cold water from the stream – nectar! The next stop was for a cold drink at the bar at Leinz where two buzzards soared over the surrounding woods and serins were singing.

As we still had a little time left in the afternoon we decided to drive up to the Col du Tourmalet at 2115 metres above sea level. It was certainly a little colder up here but we soon managed to find several snowfinches feeding in the grass along the snow line; the birds were very confident and obviously used to groups of people in the car park! Another male wheatear was also seen here plus another griffon but we were all astounded to see a group of llamas nonchalantly strolling across the car park! A strange end to an excellent day!

Thursday June 13th – Heas Vallée & Cirque de Troumouse

Another fine day in prospect and up to nine griffon vultures and a buzzard were in the air at Gèdre as we prepared to board the buses. Our first stop was along the roadside in the lower reaches of the Heas valley to look for plants on the neighbouring banks. Our first find was a real beauty, a large creamy-yellow clump which was identified as crested lousewort. Above this we spotted an even more

spectacular white flower, which turned out to be narrow-leaved helleborine; many fragrant orchids were also found here.

Our second stop was beside a sun-drenched flower-filled meadow, which promised much in the way of butterflies. We (well, Ailsa!) used the net and bug box to great effect and turned up Provençal fritillary, Provençal short-tailed blue, chequered skipper, Moroccan orange-tip, swallowtail and Chapman's blue. Several raptors included yet another lammergeier, two griffon vultures and the second sparrowhawk of the trip. Some of the loveliest flowers were round-headed rampions and a gorgeous maiden pink.

We then boarded the buses for the climb right up into the Cirque de Troumouse and a welcome coffee stop. The owners were a little perplexed as we descended on them but the coffees and chocolates soon arrived. Lots of alpine choughs gave us all super views and several spots on the highest peaks turned out to be five chamois when viewed through the telescope. On the way up to the higher ground we saw another three adult lammergeiers soaring low over the road together with another griffon.

Our last stop was at the highest car park within the Cirque de Troumouse; we wandered off to explore the meadows with their carpets of white Pyrenean buttercups, pink rock jasmine and delicate purple snowbells. We also found a stunning patch of oxlips growing with heavily grazed mezereon. Birds were few and far between but we did find lots of singing water pipits, a couple of ravens and yet another lammergeier, this time a juvenile, drifting along the nearby ridge. On the way back we stopped briefly at the same coffee shop and cleaned them out of their flower postcard-books! As we left, we were thrilled to find a stunning male black-eared wheatear and then another as we descended, without even crashing the buses! We stopped to examine a funny tree, which turned out to be alpine elder, and found marvellous displays of garland flower and moss campion.

On the evening stroll to the bridge in Gèdre, people were busy cutting the hayfields, which was rather tragic! What a lucky week we chose – any later and we would have missed many of the most glorious floral sights of the trip.

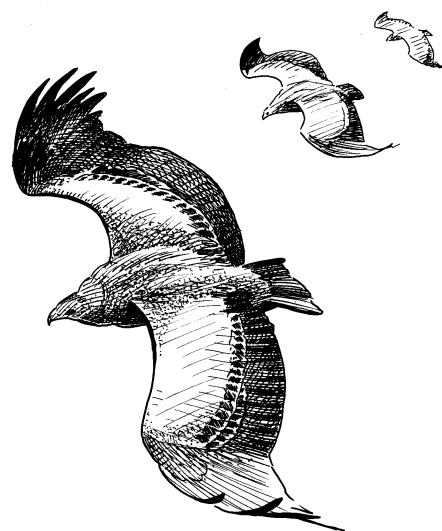
Friday June 14th – Agos Vidalos, Argeles Gazost & Luz St.Sauveur

The last full day of the holiday and a really hot one – up to 33 degrees! What a week of extremes! A great spotted woodpecker was in the trees behind the hotel as we set off for the relatively long drive to Agos Vidalos. This was reputed to be a good site for booted eagles and Egyptian vultures so we were hopeful of a good day. We arrived in mid-morning in intense heat; scanning the skies above the ridge we located approximately 30 griffons and two Egyptian vultures, which shone brilliantly in the sun.

Several of the group opted for the cool shelter of the local church where a mass for one parishioner was in progress. The rest of us climbed up into the wood, where we saw bloody cranesbill, yellow (ordinary) kidney vetch, hoary cinquefoil and drooping star-of-Bethlehem. It was difficult to see the ridge overhead from the interior of the wood but we were kept company by singing blackcaps and chiffchaffs. We also found several new butterflies including marbled white, heath fritillary, cleopatra and pearly heath, the last a close relative our more familiar small heath. Most of the plants here were quite different from the alpine regions and we identified swallow-wort, felty germander and Pyrenean oak.

By now the heat was oppressive and we decided to find a cool spot for lunch; after initial false turns we finally located a spot by the river just outside Argeles Gazost. Two dippers were seen briefly on the river by a couple of members of the group but we all saw both grey and white wagtails on the rocks. Several black redstarts also sang from the trees.

After lunch we took a drive around the Boo-Silhen area but this looked too intensively farmed and seemed devoid of interesting wildlife. We decided to head back to Luz St.Sauveur for cool drinks in the



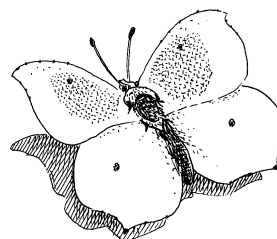
shade of the most magnificent lime tree, and a little cultural history. There is a “Templar” fortified church in the town so we explored this in mid-afternoon. It turned out to be a church in the Templar tradition but not actually anything to do with the Templars! Nettle-leaved bellflowers were growing out of the church walls and Dale spotted two honey buzzards soaring on flat wings over the town.

Grace cleverly discovered that it was Brenda and Jimmy’s 55th wedding anniversary, so Odile rushed off into town for us to buy champagne to celebrate.

Saturday June 15th – The Journey Home

A last botanical walk for most of the group along tracks above and behind the hotel – Patricia led the mountain goats and Rosemary led the marmots! Many additions to the list were made! We left, reluctantly, in mid-morning, still birding all the way! Masses of kites were flocking around rubbish tips along the route. Over lunch, provided by Odile, Dale heard a corn bunting singing and then a large raptor overhead turned out to be a booted eagle. Almost at once another cry of “what’s this over here” went up and a male marsh harrier drifted into view. As if this wasn’t enough two hobbies swooped over the car park, hunting dragonflies – amazing!

On the last leg of the drive back to Toulouse we saw a large group of little egrets on the river Garonne as we approached the city but were then dismayed to find the motorway to the airport completely closed! We had to head into the centre of Toulouse and try to find our way out of the maze of streets and traffic. After a few hairy moments we duly arrived at Blagnac airport ready to board our flight home. Our thanks, once again, to everyone for being such great company and making the holiday such fun. We were sad that Kate couldn’t be with us this time, but very pleased to meet Jean, Patricia and Susan. Many thanks to Gerald for his fern list, not to mention identifying all the ferns in the first place. Last but not least, thank you all for our lovely furry whistling marmot – what a conversation piece!



cleopatra

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS

Species	Details
Little egret	Several near Toulouse on 15 th
Honey buzzard	2 at Luz St.Sauveur on 14 th
Black kite	Widespread and common esp. in lowland areas.
Red kite	3 on way to Col de Soulor; c.15 on return journey to Toulouse on 15 th .
Short-toed eagle	1 at Gèdre on 10 th .
Lammergeier	c.14 sightings from all alpine areas; 4 at Troumouse on 13 th .
Egyptian vulture	2 at Agos Vidalos on 14 th .
Griffon vulture	Widespread and common in all mountainous areas.
Marsh harrier	Male at Aire de Comminges on 15 th .
Sparrowhawk	One at Gèdre on 9 th & Heas Valley on 13 th .
Common buzzard	Widespread and relatively common.
Golden eagle	2 at Vallée d’Arrens on 9 th ; one at Ossoue Valley on 10 th , Gavarnie on 11 th & Vallée de la Glere on 12 th .
Booted eagle	One at Aire de Comminges on 15 th .
Common kestrel	Widespread and common.
Peregrine	One at Gavarnie on 8 th & Col de Solour
Black-headed gull	Several seen near Toulouse on 7 th .
Yellow-legged gull	Seen near Toulouse on 7 th .
Woodpigeon	2 at Gavarnie on 11 th .

Collared dove	Widespread and common in towns and villages.
Tawny owl	2 at Gèdre on 14 th .
Swift	Widespread and common.
Alpine swift	One at Ossoue valley on 10 th & Gavarnie on 11 th .
Green woodpecker	Two at Vallée d'Arrens, one at Gavarnie & Agos Vidalos
Black woodpecker	Two at Gavarnie on 11 th .
Great spotted woodpecker	One at Vallée d'Arrens on 9 th & Gèdre on 14 th .
Woodlark	One at Gavarnie on 8 th .
Skylark	One at Col de Soulor on 9 th .
Crag martin	Widespread and common.
Swallow	One at Vallée d'Arrens on 9 th & widespread on 14 th .
House martin	Widespread and Common.
Tree pipit	One at Col de Solour on 9 th & Gavarnie on 11 th .
Meadow pipit	100+ at Gavarnie on 8 th .
Water pipit	Widespread and common at higher levels.
Grey wagtail	Found on all rivers.
White wagtail	Widespread and common.
Dipper	Peak of three at Gavarnie on 8 th .
Wren	Relatively common.
Dunnock	Found at alpine levels.
Robin	Found in woodland areas.
Black redstart	Widespread and common
Northern wheatear	Peaks of 5 at Gavarnie/Gloriettes on 8 th & 6 at Boucharo on 10 th .
Black-eared wheatear	Pair at Troumouse on 13 th .
Rock thrush	Pair at Ossoue Valley on 10 th & one at Heas Valley on 13 th .
Blackbird	Widespread and common.
Song thrush	Singing birds at Gavarnie on 8 th & 11 th & Vallée D'Arrens on 9 th
Mistle thrush	Relatively widespread but uncommon.
Garden warbler	One at Gavarnie on 8 th & 11 th .
Blackcap	Widespread and common.
Chiffchaff	Widespread and relatively common.
Goldcrest	Heard at Gavarnie on 11 th .
Firecrest	One at Gèdre on 14 th .
Spotted flycatcher	One at Gèdre on 7 th & 14 th then Gavarnie on 11 th .
Crested tit	One at Vallée de la Glere on 12 th .
Coal tit	Recorded at most forest locations.
Blue tit	Recorded from Gèdre.
Great tit	Widespread and common.
Nuthatch	Three at Gèdre on 11 th .
Wallcreeper	One at Vallée de la Glere on 12 th .
Red-backed shrike	Single pairs at Gavarnie on 8 th & 11 th plus Ossoue Valley on 10 th .
Jay	Widespread and common.
Magpie	Common in lowland areas.
Alpine chough	Common in alpine areas, peak of 70 at Gavarnie on 8 th .
Red-billed chough	Widespread and common.
Carrion crow	Widespread in small numbers.
Raven	Reported from all locations in twos & threes.
Snowfinch	5 at Col du Tourmalet on 12 th .
House sparrow	Widespread and common.
Chaffinch	Widespread and common.
Serin	Widespread and relatively common.
Citril finch	12 at Gavarnie on 11 th .
Goldfinch	Occasional birds at Luz St.Sauveur & Agos Vidalos.
Linnet	Occasional birds at Boucharo, Col de Dolour & Troumouse.
Bullfinch	Male at Gèdre on 10 th & 2 at Vallée de la Glere on 12 th .
Yellowhammer	Several sightings at higher levels.
Cirl bunting	Singing male at Gavarnie on 8 th & Agos Vidalos on 14 th .
Rock bunting	Single birds at Gloriettes on 8 th & Gavarnie on 11 th .

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail	Clouded Apollo
Black-veined White	Large White
Small White	Green-veined White
Wood White	Orange Tip
Moroccan Orange Tip	Clouded Yellow
Brimstone	Cleopatra
Pale Clouded Yellow	Green Hairstreak
Large Blue	Little Blue
Brown Argus	Adonis Blue
Common Blue	Chapman's Blue
Provençal Short-tailed Blue	Duke of Burgundy Fritillary
Camberwell Beauty	Peacock
Red Admiral	Painted Lady
Small Tortoiseshell	Queen of Spain Fritillary
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary
Heath Fritillary	Provençal Fritillary
Marbled White	Piedmont Ringlet
Meadow Brown	Small Heath
Speckled Wood	Large Wall Brown
Pearly Heath	Grizzled Skipper
Red-underwing Skipper	Dingy Skipper
Chequered Skipper	

Flowers in the French Pyrenees

English and scientific names are mostly based on 'Alpine Flowers of Britain and Europe' by Christopher Grey-Wilson and Marjorie Blamey (published by Collins), or occasionally in its companion volume 'The Wild Flowers of Britain and northern Europe' by Fitter, Fitter and Blamey.

Pines and cypresses

European silver fir	<i>Abies alba</i>
European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>
Black pine (Pyrenean subspecies)	<i>Pinus nigra salzmannii</i>
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniperis communis</i>
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>

Willow, birch, hazel and beech families

Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Sweet chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>
Pyrenean oak	<i>Quercus pyrenaica</i>
Sessile oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>

Sandalwood family

Osyris	<i>Osyris alba</i>
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Nettles

Stinging nettle

*Urtica dioica***Mistletoe**

Mistletoe

*Viscum album***Docks**

Rubble dock or French sorrel

Rumex scutatus

Common sorrel

Rumex acetosa

Bistort

Polygonum bistorta

Alpine bistort

*Polygonum viviparum***Pink family**

Ragged robin

Lychnis viscaria

Nottingham catchfly

Silene nutans

Spanish catchfly

Silene otites

Tufted catchfly

Silene saxifraga

Bladder campion

Silene vulgaris

White campion

Silene latifolia

Red campion

Silene dioica

Moss campion

Silene acaulis

Maiden pink

Dianthus deltoides

Fringed pink

Dianthus monspessulanus

Common chickweed

Stellaria nemorum

Greater stitchwort

Stellaria holostea

Snow in summer (widely naturalised)

Cerastium tomentosum

Field mouse-ear

Cerastium arvense agg.**Buttercup family**

Stinking hellebore

Helleborus foetidus

Green hellebore

Helleborus viridis

Globeflower

Trollius europaeus

Marsh marigold

Caltha palustris

Hepatica

Hepatica nobilis

Creeping buttercup

Ranunculus repens

Meadow buttercup

Ranunculus acris

Gouan's buttercup

Ranunculus gouanii

Bulbous buttercup

Ranunculus bulbosus agg.

Pyrenean buttercup

Ranunculus pyrenaicus

Mountain larkspur

Delphinium montanum

Narcissus-flowered anemone

Anemone narcissiflora

Lesser spearwort

Ranunculus flammula

Common meadow-rue

Thalictrum flavum

Clematis/traveller's joy

Clematis vitalba

Common columbine

*Aquilegia vulgaris***Fumitory family**

Common fumitory

*Fumaria officinalis***Poppy family**

Common or corn poppy

Papaver rhoeas

Long-headed poppy

Papaver dubium

Greater celandine

Chelidonium majus

Welsh poppy

*Meconopsis cambrica***Crucifers**

Austrian rocket

Sisymbrium austriacum

Murbeckiella

Murbeckiella pinnatifida

Tansy-leaved rocket

Hugueninia tanacetifolia

Decumbent treacle-mustard

Erysimum decumbens

Dame's violet
Cuckoo flower
Yellow whitlow-grass
Chamois cress
Spoon-leaved candytuft
Shepherd's purse
Prickly lettuce

Mignonette family

Wild mignonette
Pyrenean mignonette

Stonecrop family

Mountain houseleek
Roseroot

Saxifrages

Round-leaved saxifrage
Livelong or paniculate saxifrage
Musky saxifrage
Yellow saxifrage
Reddish saxifrage
Pyrenean saxifrage

Rose family

Dropwort
Raspberry
Bramble
Field rose
Burnet rose
Blue-leaved rose
Alpine rose
Provence rose
Dog rose
Downy rose
Sweet briar
Salad burnet
Mountain avens
Pyrenean avens
Rock cinquefoil
Creeping cinquefoil
Alchemilla-leaved cinquefoil
Tormentil
A wild strawberry
Alpine lady's mantle
Hoppe's lady's mantle
Lady's mantle
Crab apple
Mountain ash or Rowan
Whitebeam
Amelanchier
Hawthorn
Blackthorn
Bird cherry

Pea family

Winged greenweed
Tufted vetch
Pyrenean vetch
Bush vetch

Hesperis matronalis
Cardamine pratensis
Draba aizoides
Hutchinsia alpina
Iberis spathulata
Capsella bursa-pastoris
Lactuca serriola

Reseda lutea
Reseda glauca

Sempervivum montanum
Rhodiola rosea

Saxifraga rotundifolia
Saxifraga paniculata
Saxifraga moschata
Saxifraga aretioides
Saxifraga media
Saxifraga longifolia

Filipendula vulgaris
Rubus idaeus
Rubus fruticosus agg.
Rosa arvensis
Rosa pimpinellifolia
Rosa glauca
Rosa pendulina (= *R. alpina*)
Rosa gallica
Rosa canina
Rosa tomentosa agg.
Rosa rubiginosa
Sanguisorba minor
Dryas octopetala
Geum pyrenaicum
Potentilla rupestris
Potentilla reptans
Potentilla alchimilloides
Potentilla erecta
Fragaria viridis
Alchemilla alpina
Alchemilla hoppeana agg.
Alchemilla vulgaris agg.
Malus sylvestris
Sorbus aucuparia
Sorbus aria
Amelanchier ovalis
Crataegus monogyna
Prunus spinosa
Prunus padus

Chamaespartium sagittale
Vicia cracca
Vicia pyrenaica
Vicia sepium

Spring vetchling	<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>
Bitter vetch	<i>Lathyrus montanus</i>
Broad-leaved everlasting pea	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>
Round-leaved restharrow	<i>Ononis rotundifolia</i>
Yellow restharrow	<i>Ononis striata</i>
White melilot	<i>Melilotus alba</i>
Alpine clover	<i>Trifolium alpinum</i>
Mountain clover	<i>Trifolium montanum</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Hop trefoil	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>
Sulphur clover	<i>Trifolium ochroleucon</i>
Alpine birdsfoot trefoil	<i>Lotus alpinus</i>
Birdsfoot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> agg.
Kidney vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>
Kidney vetch – red flowers	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> subsp <i>pyrenaica</i>
Horseshoe vetch	<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>

Geraniums

Ashy cranesbill	<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>
Bloody cranesbill	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>
Meadow cranesbill	<i>Geranium pratense</i>
Wood cranesbill	<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>
Dusky cranesbill	<i>Geranium phaeum</i>
Pyrenean cranesbill (=hedgerow cranesbill)	<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>
Dovesfoot cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
Cut-leaved cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
Round-leaved cranesbill	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>
Herb robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Common storksbill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>
Rock storksbill	<i>Erodium petraeum</i>

Spurges

Cypress spurge	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>
Wood spurge	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>
Dog's mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>

Flaxes

Purging (=fairy) flax	<i>Linum catharticum</i>
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Milkworts

Nice milkwort	<i>Polygala nicaeensis</i>
Tufted milkwort	<i>Polygala comosa</i>

Maple, lime, olive and box families

Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Lime sp	<i>Tilia</i> sp
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Box	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>
Privet	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>
Wild jasmine	<i>Jasminum fruticans</i>
Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>
Buddleia	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>

Mallows

Common mallow	<i>Malva alcea</i>
Dwarf mallow	<i>Malva neglecta</i>

Daphne family

Mezereum
 Spurge laurel
 Garland flower

Daphne mezereum
Daphne laureola subsp *philippi*
Daphne cneorum

Rockroses

Common rockrose
 White rockrose
 Alpine rockrose
 Hoary rockrose

Helianthemum nummularium
Helianthemum apenninum
Helianthemum oelandicum
Helianthemum canum

Willowherb family

Evening primrose

Oenothera sp.

St John's worts

Perforate St John's wort
 Tutsan (planted)

Hypericum perforatum agg.
Hypericum androsaemum

Violets and pansies

Pyrenean violet
 Dog violet
 Heartsease

Viola pyrenaica
Viola riviniana
Viola tricolor

Dogwood family

Common dogwood

Cornus sanguinea

Ivy

Ivy

Hedera helix

Umbellifers

Sanicle
 Pyrenean eryngo
 Sweet cicely
 Hogweed
 Conopodium sp? Likely to be pignut *Conopodium majus* or *Conopodium C. pyrenaicum*
 Cow parsley
 Sickle-leaved hare's ear
 Masterwort

Sanicula europaea
Eryngium bourgatii
Myrrhis odorata
Heracleum spondylium
Conopodium C. pyrenaicum
Anthriscus sylvestris agg.
Bupleurum falcatum
Peucedanum ostruthian

Heather family

Cowberry
 Bilberry
 Alpenrose
 Heather

Vaccinium vitis-idaea
Vaccinium myrtillus
Rhododendron ferrugineum
Calluna vulgaris

Primrose family

Oxlip
 Cowslip
 Birdseye primrose
 Entire-leaved primrose
 Marginate primrose
 Pink rock-jasmine
 Ciliate rock-jasmine
 Alpine snowbell
 Scarlet pimpernel

Primula elatior
Primula veris
Primula farinosa
Primula integrifolia
Primula marginata
Androsace carnea
Androsace chamaejasme
Soldanella alpina
Anagallis arvensis

Thrift family

Mountain thrift

Armeria maritima subsp *alpina*

Gentians

Trumpet gentian
Spring gentian

Gentiana acaulis
Gentiana verna

Oleander family

Greater periwinkle

Vinca major

Milkweed family

Swallow-wort (yellow flowered)

Vincetoxicum hirundaria subsp *intermedium*

Borage family

Gromwell
Viper's bugloss
Long-leaved lungwort (leaves only)
Alpine wood forget-me-not
Bur forget-me-not

Lithospermum officianale
Echium vulgare
Pulmonaria longifolia
Myosotis alpestris
Lappula squarrosa

Labiates

Wood sage
Feltly germander
Pyramidal bugle
Common bugle
Meadow clary
White deadnettle
Yellow archangel
Betony
Yellow woundwort
Alpine woundwort
Alpine calamint
Gypsywort
Basil-thyme
Marjoram
Thyme

Teucrium scorodonia
Teucrium polium
Ajuga pyramidalis subsp *genevensis*
Ajuga reptans
Salvia pratensis
Lamium album
Lamiastrum galeobdolon
Stachys officinalis
Stachys recta
Stachys alpina
Acinos alpinus
Lycopus europaeus
Acinos arvensis
Origanum vulgare
Thymus serpyllum

Figwort family – including toadflaxes and speedwells

Chaenorhinum
Rock snapdragon
Common snapdragon
Pyrenean toadflax
Alpine toadflax
Ivy-leaved toadflax
Fairy foxglove
Dark mullein (branched form)
Common figwort
Alpine (= French or dog's figwort)
Thyme-leaved speedwell
Spiked Pyrenean speedwell
Germander speedwell
Brooklime
Wall speedwell
Large speedwell (subsp. prostrata)
Alpine bartsia
Crested lousewort
Pyrenean lousewort
Yellow rattle
Narrow-leaved rattle

Chaenorhinum organifolium
Antirrhinum sempervirens
Antirrhinum majus
Linaria supina
Linaria alpina
Cymbalaria muralis
Erinus alpinus
Verbascum chaixii
Scrophularia nodosa
Scrophularia canina
Veronica serpyllifolia
Veronica ponae
Veronica chamaedrys
Veronica beccabunga
Veronica arvensis
Veronica prostrata
Bartsia alpina
Pedicularis tuberosa
Pedicularis pyrenaica
Rhinanthus minor
Rhinanthus angustifolia

Gloxinia family

Ramonda

Ramonda myconi

Globularia family

Matted globularia
Leafless-stemmed globularia

Globularia repens
Globularia nudicaulis

Butterworts

Large-flowered butterwort
Common butterwort

Pinguicula grandiflora
Pinguicula vulgaris

Plantains

Ribwort plantain
Greater plantain
Hoary plantain

Plantago lanceolata
Plantago major
Plantago media

Bedstraws

Lady's bedstraw
Hedge bedstraw
Wood bedstraw
Woodruff

Galium verum
Galium mollugo
Galium sylvaticum
Galium odoratum

Honeysuckles

Black-berried honeysuckle
Fly honeysuckle
Elder
Alpine elder

Lonicera caerulea
Lonicera xylosteum
Sambucus niger
Sambucus racemosa

Valerians

Common valerian
Pyrenean valerian
Three-leaved valerian
Cornsalad

Valeriana officinalis
Valeriana pyrenaica
Valeriana tripteris
Valerianella locusta agg.

Teasel family

Teasel

Dipsacus fullonum

Bellflower family

Round-headed rampion
Black rampion (though not supposed to occur!)
Nettle-leaved bellflower
Small scabious

Phyteuma orbiculare
Phyteuma nigrum
Campanula trachelium
Scabiosa columbaria

Daisy family – composites

Golden rod
Daisy
Southern daisy
Pineapple mayweed
Alpine aster
Evax
Catsfoot/mountain everlasting
Ox-eye daisy
Yarrow
Coltsfoot
Alpine coltsfoot
Cotton thistle
Musk thistle
Pyrenean thistle
Pyrenean woolly thistle
Brown-rayed knapweed
Urospermum
Blue/mountain lettuce
Prickly lettuce

Solidago virgaurea
Bellis perennis
Bellis sylvestris
Chamomilla suaveolens
Aster alpinus
Evax pygmaea
Antennaria carpatica
Leucanthemum vulgare agg.
Achillea millefolium agg.
Tussilago farfara
Homogyne alpina
Onopordum acanthium
Carduus nutans
Carduus carlinoides
Cirsium richteranum
Centaurea jacea
Urospermum dalechampii
Lactuca perennis
Lactuca serriola

Goatsbeard

Lily family

St Bruno's lily
St Bernard's lily
Asphodel
Mountain onion
Pyrenean snakeshead
Martagon lily (leaves only)
Spanish bluebell
Spring squill
Pyrenean squill
Spiked star of Bethlehem
Drooping star of Bethlehem
Pyrenean hyacinth
Lily of the valley
Herb Paris
Butcher's broom

Yam family

Black bryony

Iris family

Gladiolus

Orchids

Bee orchid
Early purple orchid
 Early purple orchid with very dark flowers
Burnt-tip orchid
Elder-flowered orchid
Broad-leaved marsh orchid
Common spotted orchid
Heath spotted orchid
Frog orchid
Fragrant orchid
Narrow-leaved helleborine
Lesser butterfly orchid
Greater butterfly orchid
Common twayblade

Ferns

Bracken
Moonwort
Parsley fern
Beech fern
Maidenhair spleenwort
Forked spleenwort
Wall rue
Black spleenwort
Rustyback fern
Lady fern
Holly fern
Soft shield fern
Male fern
Scaly male fern
Broad buckler fern
Limestone fern
Common polypody

Tragopogon pratensis

Paradisea liliastrum
Anthericum liliago
Asphodelus albus
Allium montanum
Fritillaria pyrenaica
Lilium martagon
Endymion hispanicus
Scilla verna
Scilla liliohyacinthus
Ornithogalum pyrenaicum
Ornithogalum nutans
Hyacinthus amethystinus
Convallaria majalis
Paris quadrifolia
Ruscus aculeatus

Tamus communis

Gladiolus illyricus

Ophrys apifera
Orchis mascula
Orchis mascula subsp *hispanica*
Orchis ustulata
Dactylorhiza sambucina
Dactylorhiza majalis
Dactylorhiza fushsii
Dactylorhiza maculata
Coeloglossum viride
Gymnadenia conopsea
Cephalanthera longifolia
Platanthera bifolia
Platanthera chlorantha
Listera ovata

Pteridium aquilinum
Botrychium lunaria
Cryptogramma crispa
Phegopteris connectilis
Asplenium trichomanes
Asplenium septentrionale
Asplenium ruta-muraria
Asplenium adiantum-nigrum
Asplenium ceterach
Athrium filix-femina
Polystichum lonchitis
Polystichum setiferum
Dryopteris filix-mas
Dryopteris affinis
Dryopteris dilatata
Blechnum spicant
Polypodium vulgare