

Picos and Plains - The Best of Northern Spain

Naturetrek Tour Report

4 - 13 August 2011



White-winged Snowfinch by Edmond Denning



Snow Vole by Edmond Denning



Griffon over Fuente De by Harriet Denning



A pigeon coop at Villafafila by Harriet Denning

Report compiled by Peter Dunn and Byron Palacios

Images courtesy of Harriet and Edmond Denning



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

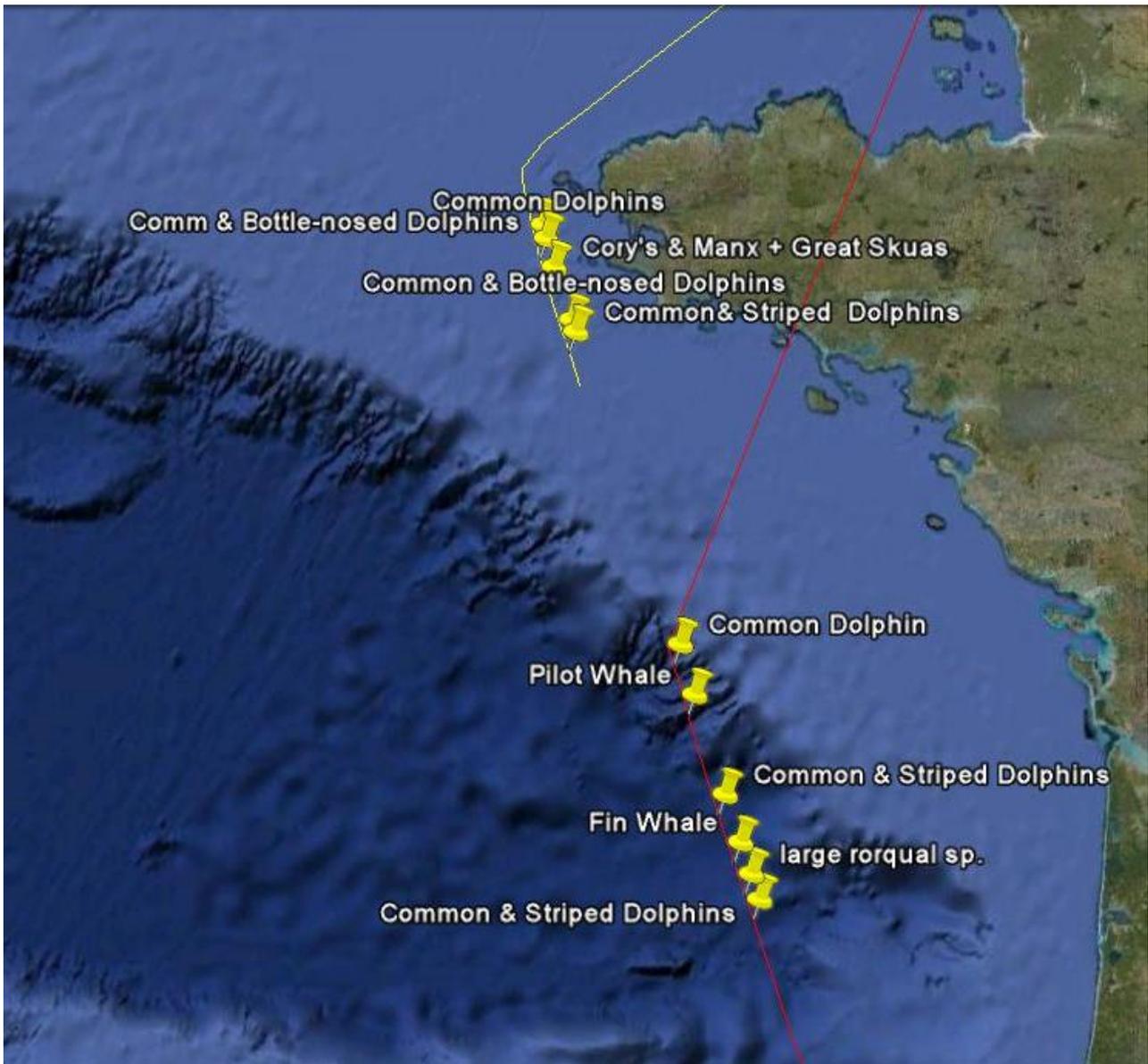
T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Ferry journey with some of the highlights - note big whales over deep water



Red- Ferry out 5/6 August;

Yellow - Ferry in 14 August

Tour Leaders: Peter Dunn
Byron Palacios

Participants: Penny Hay
Stuart Hay
Lynne Dale
Peter Dale
Lynda Graham
Graham Snowden
Jeremy Rayner
Andy Strouthous
Harriet Denning
Edmond Denning
Philip Corddell
Tim Puntis
Susie Hall
David Hall
Dilys Gane

Summary: The trip started with an inaugural Naturetrek journey across the Bay of Biscay with Brittany Ferries on the new cruise ferry the 'Cap Finistere'. This was followed by two days in the Picos de Europa Mountains and then a journey down to Zamora. The typical northern European climate and wildlife of the Picos gave way to a more Mediterranean feel as Woodchat Shrikes replaced Red-backs and mild temperatures turned to warming heat.

Day 1

Friday 5th August

Depart Portsmouth on the Cap Finistere

Peter and Byron met the entire group in the newly built ferry terminal at Portsmouth where we discovered that we were the only foot passengers for the ferry apart from a Spanish lady and her daughter. This made a pleasant change with a relaxed roomy departure lounge, easy boarding passes and cabin allocations and an escalator entry to the boat rather than some gruelling stairs on the old ferry. Once aboard the group explored the new boat and watched the Isle of Wight disappear into the distance on this fast vessel, followed by having dinner before retiring to bed.

Day 2

Saturday 6th August

Biscay and arrival into Bilbao Port

The day started cloudy, overcast with showers and a brisk east wind. The sea state showed a few white horses so picking out animals was quite difficult.

We found that the small open deck on level ten and the rear deck on level nine were the best vantage points and we had these to ourselves for most of the time. The speed of the boat overnight had brought us to 160 miles south of the Brest Peninsula by dawn and we started to see schools of dolphins. Most were Long-beaked Common Dolphin racing towards the boat to ride the fast bow wave, but at one point we had a mixed school of Common and Striped Dolphins, the latter advertising their presence by their acrobatic leaping from the water. A lone Pilot Whale passed close by the ship also.

After midday we left the shelf edge and sailed over the abyssal plain which resulted in our first Fin Whale showing its powerful blow and the smooth long back and small rear place dorsal fin, helping identification. We had a further four or five distant rorquals blowing towards the horizon and although we could not positively identify them, most were probably Fin Whales. Bird life was hard to see because of the sea state but we logged a Great and Manx Shearwater, an Great Skua, Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged Gulls and a few Gannets.

We arrived slightly earlier into the new port of Bilbao which was still under construction and were taken to collect our minibuses. Once loaded we headed west towards Santander and then inland towards the Picos, travelling through some heavy showers of rain. We made a brief refreshment stop in Unquera before arriving at Hotel Nevandi around 10.30pm Spanish time, to be greeted by our host Santi. Rooms were quickly allocated and we retired to bed looking forward to our full day in the mountains.

Day 3

Sunday 7th August

Espinama, Pembes and Briz

The weather did not look that promising this morning as a heavy mist covered the mountains with a light drizzle. In spite of that, we carried on with our plans and drove up out of Espinama, heading south towards the village of Pembes. As we arrived the clouds cleared to expose a beautiful blue sky, which was great, in order to enjoy our very first day in the mountains. We climbed up to the village of Pembes (890 metres above sea level) from where we had good perspective of the valley, which allowed us to appreciate the lush views, and saw great birds such as Egyptian Vulture, Red-backed Shrike, Eurasian Jay, Garden Warbler, and Black Kite, amongst others. Common and Honey Buzzards were also around as were Iberian Green Woodpecker, White Wagtail, Blackcap, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Sparrowhawk – all indicative of a northern European climate.

After visiting this area, we moved down south – towards Potes – to the village of Bez. As we started the climb to the village a large flock of Red-billed Choughs was soaring around (at least 100+ individuals at the same time). Many other birds such as Cirl Bunting, Griffon Vulture, Booted Eagle and Peregrine Falcon were seen. This was indeed a very productive spot! We continued towards Brez and parked up just outside the village, having great eye-level views of Egyptian and Griffon Vultures, Black Redstart, Goldfinch, Sparrowhawk, and Common Buzzards, amongst others.

As lunch time was approaching, we decided to have it in Cillorigo de Liébana where an old 10th-Century church lies by a lush creek and gardens, hidden within the gorges. We found a nice spot with shade right next to the church where everyone relaxed and enjoyed the delicious local picnic lunch while admiring the surroundings. A Short-toed Eagle delighted us with some smashing views while she hovered over the crags.

We then drove up the road to Fuente De in order to spend the rest of the afternoon walking around the old farmers' tracks below the cliffs. More Griffon and Egyptian Vultures were seen here soaring against the limestone rocky walls of the dramatic mountains. The vast meadows were surrounded by a peaceful patch of beech forest, holding more Northern European species such as Marsh and Blue Tits, and Long-tailed Tits of the darker headed *irbil* race, Willow Warbler, White Wagtail, and Eurasian Jay, amongst others.

By the end of the afternoon, we drove back to our hotel in Espinama, in order to take a break and get ready for a delicious local supper, accompanied by some drinks at the bar of the hotel beforehand.

Day 4

Monday 8th August

Fuente Dé

We gathered for breakfast at 8am ready to head to the cable car by nine. The weather could not have been better with a clear blue sky and little wind. The quick process of obtaining tickets soon found us waiting to board the cable car in one group. What greeted us at the top is difficult to put into words. The crystal clear sky provided superb backdrop to the limestone mountains climbing above us and the fertile wooded valleys stretching out below us. There were a few wisps of cloud touching the mountain tops and the distant hills added to the atmosphere. Having taken our time taking photos we started on the gentle sloping trail towards the huge buttresses of Peña Olvidada. We had shared the load of the picnic between us and then started to check out the wildlife. A few Water Pipits and Linnets flitted about amongst the rocks then a party of Alpine Accentors put in a short appearance. While watching a small herd of Chamois on the distant rocks a very obliging Snow Vole was found and photographed as it fed on fresh shoots.

Reaching the saddle next to Peña Olvidada we took the opportunity to look down into the valley opposite and were greeted by the first Griffon Vultures taking to the air, with parties of tumbling Alpine Choughs drifting around the rock face. We were fortunate to see some White-winged Snowfinches fly over and another Alpine Accentor was found. We continued along the track which followed the scree, to a site that the leaders knew was good for Wallcreeper. The lunch provisions were presented to Byron and Peter to prepare but this was interrupted by the appearance of a Wallcreeper in the scree and boulders next to the track. This bird turned out to be a newly fledged young bird, still with a brownish head but sporting the vivid crimson wings, which were flicked continuously. It remained in the area throughout our mountain picnic, calling for food and flying around the boulders, occasionally being joined by an adult and another, that were hunting insects. This was one of the best and longest views we have had on this tour and a suitable aperitif for our picnic and wine!!

After a leisurely lunch and having had our fill of Wallcreepers, we slowly walked back towards the cable car station. We had more good views of Chamois, now laying down and enjoying the afternoon sunshine, and also some excellent close Snowfinches. Back at the station, close Alpine Choughs and Accentor entertained us during our refreshments and we eventually took the cable car back down and returned to the hotel where we explored the village and surrounding area prior to dinner.

The day was completed with the checklist and preparations for our departure to the plains the next day and all agreed that it had been a marvellous day up in the mountains with plenty of memories (and photos) to take home.

Day 5

Tuesday 9th August

Travelling day to Zamora

We started the morning enjoying the relaxing atmosphere and the lush landscape of the mountains. We had a good breakfast, after which we packed up and checked out of our hotel in Espinama. We set off to the lovely little mountain town of Potes for a stroll while we stocked up our picnic bags for our lunch en route down towards Zamora. Once ready, we reassembled back at the market's car park and headed south crossing the Puerto de San Glorio Pass, where we made a quick stop to stretch legs and also to check the sky and the meadows, where some birds such as Stonechat, Serin, Linnet, Short-toed Eagle were seen. We continued downhill, this time making another stop in a nice gully on the outskirts of the village of Riaño, where we spotted Griffon Vulture, Coal Tit, Garden Warbler, Mistle Thrush, and a few interesting butterflies such as Scarce and Purple-shot Copper, Queen of Spain Fritillary, amongst others.

We drove south following the course of the River Esla, making a picnic stop in the base of the Esla dam. We enjoyed our rich picnic lunch amongst the many repetitive calls of Iberian Green Woodpeckers, Eurasian Nuthatch, soaring Black and Red Kites, Griffon Vultures and Booted Eagles. We continued our drive taking the motorway through Benavente, making a refreshment stop at a local petrol station. We had already seen some birds of the plains such as Crested Lark, Woodchat Shrike, Spotless Starlings, Montague's Harrier, and others. After this we headed along the road to Zamora, and made a quick check in the area of Villafafila. More Montague's Harriers, including a couple of black morphs, were seen well, also Short-toed Eagle, more Crested Larks and Fan-tailed Warblers. We left Villafafila onto the new road for a thirty-five minute drive into the city of Zamora which was to be our base for the next three nights. Our hotel, Palacio del Duero, was well located close to the River Duero, one of the most important river sources in Spain. We checked in and retired to our rooms for a break, and later on we went to enjoy a delicious dinner in the hotel's restaurant in the early evening.

Day 6

Wednesday 10th August

Fariza and Miranda areas

Gathering at 6am and clutching our packed breakfast we headed off in the dark for a favoured watering hole in the dry scrubland close to Portugal at Fariza. There was a stiff wind blowing so it was particularly chilly before the sun came up. We set up alongside the pool, which had been extended since last year, with our packed breakfasts, and awaited the sunrise. Calls could be heard in the half-light, Corn and Rock Buntings, Greenfinch, then the distinctive call of Bee-eaters. First birds in were the buntings, then we started to see Woodchat Shrikes and Crested Larks. Turtle Doves flew over and the first of a number of Hoopoes flew past. As the sun started to warm the air we were entertained by ten Red-rumped and a number of Barn Swallows hawking over the pool and drinking.

A cool wind still continued as we started our circular walk through the sheep trails. We found a nice male Subalpine Warbler feeding in a tree and more Woodchat Shrike families along the way. With the sun warming up the land, Booted Eagles, Red Kite and Griffon Vultures took to the air and a vocal Short-toed Treecreeper was encouraged to show to all. Walking back to the road, both Dartford and Sardinian Warblers were seen and best was a superb male Golden Oriole which allowed telescope views.

Back at the minibuses we decided to drive into Portugal to the town of Miranda Do Douro, where the group enjoyed some time to find coffee and refreshments while Peter and Byron purchased the picnic ingredients. The picnic was taken at the church on the edge of the Douro Gorge at Aldeia Nova, where there are some nice facilities. During our time there Edmond and Harriett saw a nice juvenile Golden Eagle which they managed to photograph and the group added Blue Rock Thrush and Alpine Swift to the daily tally. It was now hot and we left to pay a brief visit to the huge Almedre Dam where Griffons loafed about on the rock faces and huge carp basked in the water. We followed this with a refreshment/comfort stop at a bar and finally returned to Zamora around 5pm in order for the group to have some time to explore this fascinating city.

Day 7

Thursday 11th August

Castroño

Another very early start was necessary today in order to get the most out of the fresh and temperate morning. We drove south east out of Zamora heading into the province of Valladolid, where the area – and village – of Castroño lies in the countryside. This old farming area offers an array of fields and patches of mixed hilly scrub vegetation ideal for steppe birds. In spite of the clear and fresh morning, it was particularly quiet, but we managed to see some important species such as Great Bustards, Little Owl, Crested Lark, Woodchat Shrike, Red-legged Partridge, Montague's Harrier, Booted Eagle and Hoopoe. As the morning was going by, we kept exploring the area with not many visible results, so we retired to the village itself to have a coffee break, but first, we checked an old roosting site for Iberian (Azure-winged) Magpie, having two of them fly over the main road and call in the distance; but in spite of our efforts, they remained elusive within the Stone Pine woods.

After the coffee break, we moved to a very nice site along the River Duero surrounded by reed beds and sunflower plantations, which was an ideal mixture of habitats for Iberian (Southern-grey) Shrike, Spotless Starling, Great Cormorant, Blackcap, Melodious Warbler, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Linnets, and Cetti's Warbler. Along the river bank plenty of other species were seen, such as Purple Heron, Little and Great-crested Grebe, Cetti's Warbler, Red-rumped Swallow, and House Martin, amongst others. We eventually set up our picnic lunch under the refreshing shade that the large poplar trees provided us near the river bank.

After enjoying a delicious lunch, we drove to the other side of the river bank and on to the Embalse de San Jose (San Jose's Dam) and walked round the old path toward the shore. It was very hot by the time we started our stroll, which also slowed down the bird activity, though some butterflies and dragonflies were active. As soon as we approached the reed beds, plenty of European Reed Warblers were seen; also some Savi's, Fan-tailed and Sedge Warblers were seen or heard. We all started to feel the results of the heat, so we decided to drive back to Zamora in order to enjoy the rest of the afternoon around town, or simply bird along the long portion of the River Duero which crosses the town – this produced some interesting birds, such as Little Bittern, Grey Heron, and Common Sandpiper, amongst others. We reassembled again later on in the early evening in order to enjoy our last dinner in Zamora.

Day 8

Friday 12th August

Journey to Bilbao

We had our breakfast at the hotel at 7.30am before loading the mini buses and heading out of the city. We headed north towards Villafáfila stopping at a small pool first to see what was there - only Gadwall was new for us but there were Coot, Moorhen, Willow and Melodious Warblers , and Yellow Wagtail.

We continued on to Otero de Sariegos where a Peregrine was seen eating its prey on a telegraph pole. The lake in front of the hide was full of water for a change with Black-headed Gulls and Lapwings in good numbers and a small flock of Black-winged Stilts. The ever present Little Owl was in the demolished pigeon house and three or four Great Bustards were seen in flight in the distance. As we left a pair of Rock Sparrows showed well on the wires.

We continued on to the other side of this Ramsar site, only to find the visitors centre shut again, but came across a roadside hide overlooking more water. Here we notched up Spoonbill, Avocet, Shoveler and Sand Martin but the best thing was the number of raptors in the air – Buzzards, Montague's and Marsh Harriers, Kestrels, Lesser Kestrel and Black Kite. Even the Bustards were closer here with five or six Greats close by the road.

Byron had arranged lunch in the local bar, a finger buffet of meats, cheeses, bread and Spanish omelette washed down with wine or water, after which we set off towards Bilbao on the motorways, making one comfort and fuel stop before arriving in Bilbao at around 5.30pm. The group then had free time in Bilbao until midday the next day.

Day 9

Saturday 13th August

Bay of Biscay

After enjoying of the surroundings of the lovely Bilbao the previous night, we had the chance to explore more of this fantastic city throughout the morning. After a very nice buffet breakfast at our hotel, some of us either took the free time this morning to visit museums or simply to take a stroll along the River Nervión. We gathered together at noon, checked out of our hotel and drive up out of Bilbao heading west towards the marshes of Santoña. In spite of the heavy traffic along the motorway due to an unexpected accident, we managed to find a shortcut to skip the very slow jam, arriving at the marshes just in time for lunch. We set up our last delicious picnic lunch. Mediterranean, Yellow-legged, Herring, Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen around, plus some interesting waders such as Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Ringed Plover, Curlew and a few Whimbrel. The latter were seen flying over the hide and amongst the Curlews. A pair of Spanish Yellow Wagtails was seen flitting around the fence and at the path by the hide. We also saw other birds such as Eurasian Spoonbill, Grey Heron, Great Cormorant and Little Egret.

After this, we started to make our way back to the port in Bilbao, and made a quick coffee break stop in one of the cafes in the village of Cicero; forty-five minutes later, we were disembarking at the port's terminal in order to get ready to board our 20:45 ferry to Portsmouth.

Day 10

Sunday 14th August

English Channel into Portsmouth

When we awoke we were just south of the Brest peninsula and were immediately greeted by dolphins. As members of the group gathered at the back of the boat (which we now found was the best place) over the next hour and half we counted up to 600 Common Dolphins coming into the wake of the boat, together with a few Striped and two small pods of logging Bottle-nosed Dolphins. Bird-wise, Gannets were the most obvious but around one feeding frenzy we saw single Cory's and Manx Shearwaters, and up to four Great Skuas, busily harassing the Gannets and a few Fulmars.

We managed to secure a small room at 11am to go through the last of the checklist and to deal with the 'housekeeping' at the end of a tour, and both group members and the leaders said their thanks for making a successful trip. With a promise to meet up again, the rest of the day was spent relaxing as we sailed up the channel. We arrived back at Portsmouth at 8pm where we went our separate ways with great memories of some of the best parts of Spain along with its' wildlife and some new friends.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

Species Lists

Birds (✓ = regularly recorded or common H = heard only)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	August										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>								6			
2	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>								H	H		
3	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>									2	1	
4	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>									✓		
5	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>									1		
7	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>									2		
8	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>											✓
9	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>		1									1
10	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>											1
11	Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>		1									
12	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>								1	1	1	
13	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>							1	3			
14	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>										2	
15	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	2	
16	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>									5	18	
17	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>							2	1			
18	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓							2	✓	
19	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		1				1	3	2	6	5	
20	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>								1			
21	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		1						1		20	
22	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	✓	✓									✓
23	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		1				1		2		5	1
24	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			4			1		1			
25	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>							6		2		
26	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		1	1			✓	5	4	✓	✓	
27	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			5	4	2	3					
28	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	6	2	1		
29	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			1			3		2			
30	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>						1			3		
31	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						12	1	5	20		
32	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			1				1				
33	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		1	✓	2	✓	2	4	✓	1		
34	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>							1				
35	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>			2		2	4	2	2			
36	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>									✓		
37	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			1		2	2			✓		
38	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			2						1	2	
39	Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>								9	20		
40	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓				✓	1	1	✓	✓	
41	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓					1	✓	✓	✓	
42	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>									25		
43	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>									9		
44	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>									✓		
45	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>											2
46	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>										✓	
47	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>										✓	
48	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>										✓	
49	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>									1	1	
50	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>						2	7	7		4	
51	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	5						20	1	✓	✓	✓
52	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>										3	
53	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓									✓	✓

	Common Name	Scientific Name	August										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
54	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓					1		1	✓	
55	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		3							1	✓	✓
56	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>											✓
57	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>										3	
58	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>		1									4
59	Common Pigeon (feral)	<i>Columba livia feral</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>								8			
61	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
62	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>							30	2			
63	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>						✓	5	✓	✓	✓	
64	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>			H	H	H						
65	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>								1	1		
66	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartus melba</i>				2			6				
67	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	
68	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>								1		3	
69	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>							✓	70	✓		
70	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			1	1			7	3	1		
71	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>			H								
72	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			1								
73	Iberian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis sharpei</i>			H			1		1			
74	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			12	3							
75	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>			1			1	1	1	1		
76	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>						1	✓	✓	✓		
77	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>							3	4			
78	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓					
79	Iberian Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cooki</i>								2			
80	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			1	1	✓	✓	5	✓	✓		
81	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>			100								
82	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>			12	✓							
83	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓		
84	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
85	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			2	4	2				1		
86	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			2	1							
87	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>				1	1						
88	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
89	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>						1	✓	✓	1		
90	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>								2			
91	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>						1	✓	✓	✓		
92	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>							3				
93	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>								2	✓		
94	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
95	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			✓	✓	6	10	3				
96	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
97	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>							15	1			
98	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>								4			
99	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus irbil</i>			10								
100	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			1			1	1	12	6		
101	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>							H				
102	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>								1			
103	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>							1	8			
104	Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>									1		
105	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>							2	2	1		
106	Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>								H			
107	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>								1			
108	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>						2		2	2	H	
109	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			1	1	1	2	1	1	1		
110	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>						1		1			

	Common Name	Scientific Name	August										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
111	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>								1			
112	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>							2				
113	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>							2				
114	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>				1			4	1			
115	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>						H					
116	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			H	4	1	H	H			H	
117	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				3	1						
118	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>				3							
119	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>							1	H			
120	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>		✓				✓	✓	1	✓	✓	
121	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
122	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			H	1	1						
123	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>						2					
124	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			✓	✓	5			2	1		
125	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>			1					1			
126	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		1	3	✓	✓	6	1	1			
127	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			4			2	2	2	1		
128	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						1	3	1	2		
129	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>							3				
130	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			2								
131	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				2	1						
132	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
133	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						✓		1			
134	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>							1		2		
135	White-winged Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>					10						
136	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>					10						
137	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>						2					
138	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>								3	4	2	
139	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					1	1	1				
140	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓			6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
141	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>					2						
142	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			2			H					
143	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>					✓						
144	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
145	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			4	1	✓	2	✓				
146	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>							5	✓	✓		
147	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
148	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
149	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>						H					
150	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>						3	✓	2	✓		
151	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>						1	1				
152	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			5								

Cetaceans

	Common Name	Scientific Name	August	
			6	14
1	Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus capensis</i>)	50	600+
2	Long-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>)	1	
3	Striped Dolphin	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>)	15	10+
4	Fin Whale		1	
5	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>)		18+
	Unidentified orquals		4	

Mammals

Chamois, European Rabbit, Snow Vole, Red Fox, Roe Deer, various unidentified bats

Butterflies (Thanks to all the group)

1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
2	Spanish Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides feisthameli</i>
3	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
4	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>
5	Green-veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>
6	Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias hyale</i>
7	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
8	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias australis</i>
9	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
10	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>
11	Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>
12	Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>
13	Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alci</i>
14	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>
15	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebeius argus</i>
16	Spanish Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Lysandra albicans</i>
17	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
18	Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>
19	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
20	Cardinal	<i>Pandoriana pandora</i>
21	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>
22	Queen Of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
23	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana selene</i>
24	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>
25	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>
26	Rock Grayling	<i>Hipparchia alcyone</i>
27	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Kanetisa circe</i>
28	Common Brassy Ringlet	<i>Erebia cassioides</i>
29	Piedmont Ringlet	<i>Erebia meolans</i>
30	Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>
31	Spanish Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia bathseba</i>
32	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
33	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
34	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>
35	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>
36	Silver-spotted Skipper	<i>Hesperia comma</i>
37	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>

Moths

Dew Moth, Hummingbird Hawk Moth, 5-spot Burnet and Jersey Tiger

Other taxa

Violet Carpenter Bee, Shield bug species, Blue Flashwing and Red Flashwing Grasshoppers, Wartbiter Cricket, Stick Insect, Crab species (Santoña marsh), glow worm sp., Spider (*Argiope lobata*), Crayfish sp., Dung Beetle sp. Ichneumon Wasp sp., Honey bees,

White Featherleg, Blue Emperor, Common Darter, Southern Hawker, Scarce Bluetail, Azure Damselfly.

Common Lizard, Iberian Wall Lizard, Marsh Frog, Moorish Gecko, Adder, European Terrapin.

Plants (Courtesy of Dilys Gane)

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Family/Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Urtica (spec unknown)</i>	nettle	<i>Levisticum officiale</i>	lovage
<i>Rumex nebroides</i>	Apennine dock	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bog whortleberry
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	heather
<i>Silene saxifraga</i>	Tufted campion	<i>Erica vagans</i>	Heather, flowers all round stem
<i>Cerastrium (spec unknown)</i>	mouse-ear	<i>Armeria cantabrica</i>	thrift
<i>Helleborus (spec unknown)</i>	hellebore	<i>Gentiana lutea</i>	Great yellow gentian
<i>Ranunculus (spec unknown)</i>	buttercup	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's bugloss
<i>Sisymbrium (spec unknown)</i>	rocket	<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Wall germander
<i>Sempervivum arachnoideum</i>	Cobweb houseleek	<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Betony
<i>Sedum album</i>	White stone crop	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	self-heal
<i>Sedum villosum</i>	Hairy stonecrop	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red dead nettle
<i>Sedum (spec unknown)</i>	Small yellow flowered stonecrop	<i>Thymus (sp unknown)</i>	thyme
<i>Saxifraga (spec unknown)</i>	Saxifrage (small white flowers)	<i>Antirrhinum molle</i>	Soft snap dragon
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	bramble	<i>Linaria alpina</i>	Alpine toadflax
<i>Rosa (spec unknown)</i>	Dog rose	<i>Verbascum (sp unknown)</i>	Yellow mullein
<i>Agrimonia (spec unknown)</i>	Agrimony	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad burnet	<i>Euphrasia (sp unknown)</i>	eyebright
<i>Potentilla pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean cinquefoil	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow rattle
<i>Alchemilla (spec unknown)</i>	Lady's mantle	<i>Plantago (sp unknown)</i>	plantain
<i>Genista hispanica</i>	Spanish gorse	<i>Galium (sp unknown)</i>	White bedstraw
<i>Astragalus (spec unknown)</i>	Milk vetch, blue and white flowers	<i>Valeriana pyrenaica</i>	Pyreneum valerian
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch	<i>Campanula cochlearifolia</i>	Fairy's thimble

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Family/Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Anthyllis montana</i>	Mountain kidney vetch	<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	Clustered bellflower
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	<i>Scabiosa (sp unknown)</i>	Blue scabious
<i>Trifolium noricum</i>	Cream clover	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Lotus alpinus</i>	Alpine birdsfoot trefoil	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Moon daisy
<i>Anthyllis montana</i>	Mountain kidney-vetch	<i>Achillea oxyloba</i>	sneezewort
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder buckthorn	<i>Senecio (sp unknown)</i>	ragwort
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common mallow	<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	Woolly thistle
<i>Helianthemum (spec unknown)</i>	Rockrose (yellow)	<i>Centaurea (sp unknown)</i>	Purple knapweed
<i>Hypericum (spec unknown)</i>	St John's Wort	<i>Cicerbita alpina</i>	Alpine sow thistle
<i>Viola (spec unknown)</i>	Purple violet	<i>Leontodon (sp unknown)</i>	hawkbit
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Greater willowherb	<i>Taraxacum (sp unknown)</i>	dandelion
<i>Astrantia minor</i>	Lesser masterwort	<i>Merendera pyrenaica</i>	merendera
<i>Eryngium bourgatii</i>	Pyrenean eryngo	<i>Iris (sp unknown)</i>	iris
<i>Conopodium pyrenaicum</i>	conopodium	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard orchid
<i>Selinum pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean angelica		