

Picos and Plains - The Best of Northern Spain

Naturetrek Tour Report

4 – 13 August 2013



Chamois



Wallcreeper

Report and images compiled by Byron Palacios



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Summary:

We started this new adventure from the port of Plymouth returning to Portsmouth after ten exciting days around the majestic high cliffs and gorges of the Picos de Europa (Cantabria & Asturias) followed by the lush slopes and steppes and the warmer Mediterranean-influenced plains and rivers of Castilla y Leon of Zamora province. The contrasts in landscape gave us a good mix between the sea, the high mountains and the plains, from the countryside to ancient and picturesque towns. The weather was kind to us throughout our trip, quite variable during the crossing but fresh and pleasant once on land! It was indeed a great experience for all of us who came to this tour to enjoy the wildlife highlights of the Picos & Plains!

Day 1

Sunday 4th August

Ferry journey from Plymouth to Santander

Weather: Wet (at departure from Plymouth) and windy off shore

The group met in the ferry terminal at Plymouth. After introducing ourselves and giving a brief explanation of the activities to be done in the week ahead, we started boarding the ship, a good-sized vessel which crosses the northern sea several times weekly. Once on board, we retired to our cabins and some of us to the dining room in order to catch up with lunch. The rain was heavy as we left Plymouth; but once offshore, the afternoon turned into a sunny one but also into a very windy one. We went up to the deck anyway and managed to see a few Northern Gannets, before going back inside the boat to have dinner and retiring to bed.

Day 2

Monday 5th August

Bay of Biscay and arrival into Santander Port – Espinama

Weather: Dry & overcast towards the late afternoon.

We agreed to meet up on the main deck early this morning on an overcast but dry day. Manx Shearwater, Minke, Couvier's Beaked and Fin Whales, and Common Dolphin were spotted this morning. As the ferry was approaching Santander, we got our stuff ready and left the vessel to start our mainland tour. Our co-leader Laura was already waiting for us at the ferry station. After about 30 minutes, our vans were sorted and ready to go; we packed both vans and drove towards Picos de Europa, making a stop in the village of Lebena in order to have lunch, and continuing to Espinama afterwards. The weather was dry but overcast so we took a short walk on the track behind our hotel which leads to the area of Aliva before returning to our hotel in order to get ready for a delicious dinner.

Day 3

Tuesday 6th August

Fuente Dé and cable car to the top of the Picos de Europa (Peña Vieja)

Weather: Dry & sunny. Misty & drizzle in the afternoon

The weather forecast was kind for today, so we planned to explore the mountain tops of Picos de Europa. After breakfast, we made some sandwiches for our picnic and then set off to the village of Fuente Dé where we arrived in time to get one of the earliest of the cable cars which took us up to the very top of the massive and impressive crags. Once on top, a group of Griffon Vultures flew drifting down the valley, and some of them perched along the closer cliff edges giving us great views. A pair of Egyptian Vultures was also seen from the top, flying together with a juvenile Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) which just some of us managed to catch.

Alpine Choughs were also very obliging around the cable car station and were seen even closer throughout the walk. We took along the trail known as "la vueltona", checking the rocky and grassy hills where Black Redstarts were always flitting around, and we spotted a single White-winged Snowfinch which soon joined a few other individuals. We continued our walk watching some Linnet and Northern Wheatears, Alpine and Red-billed Choughs, Griffon Vultures and Black Redstarts; and a group of Chamois got our attention and kept us amused for a while - they were very relaxed as they made their way over the rocky hills, youngsters and adults, sometimes very close - what a great view we had of them!

Continuing on, we found a pair of Alpine Accentors, and then a Wallcreeper was spotted nearby perched on the rocks, which some of us managed to see until he flew off and vanished amongst the rocky landscape. We took advantage of this lovely spot to have some lunch. We found the Wallcreeper once again and this time we could get closer to him and had great views through our binoculars and scopes! After enjoying this sighting, we started to walk back to the starting point, watching more Chamois and the beautiful landscape; although a heavy mist was already covering part of the glacier. We walked off the trail up to a hill from where we saw a group of nearly forty White-winged Snowfinches flying right in front of us and giving us amazing eye-level views of this beautiful species! A dense fog now covered the mountain tops, just in time we were able to walk back to the cable car station and take a break before getting down to the car park. Once in the car park, we scanned the hilltops in search of a Lammergeier and bingo! We found one flying across the mountain crags getting superb views of it!

A light rain covered the whole area by now, so it was the right moment to carry on. We passed Espinama heading up towards the village of Pembes where we made a stop at a view point which overlooks the lush green valley and beech and oak forest. It was fairly slow; nevertheless, we managed to see some interesting birds such as Cirl Bunting, Spotted Flycatcher, and Barn Swallow, amongst others. We also had great views of a pair of Egyptian Vultures flying right in front of us and very close, getting great details of this lovely vulture species. A Honey Buzzard was also spotted together with some Ravens and Griffon Vultures. We then drove back to our hotel in Espinama in order to get ready for supper!

Day 4

Wednesday 7th August

Brez – Los Llanos (lunch spot) – Potes – Quintana

Weather: Overcast with several showers and sunny spells

We started the day with a delicious breakfast, setting off afterwards to the mountain village of Brez, making a stop before the village in order to explore a meadow surrounded by pristine oak forest. We had a handsome Cirl Bunting as soon as we got off the vans; Red-billed Choughs and Ravens were also flying around and several Griffon Vultures were perched on the cliff tops waiting for good thermals. We started our walk up the meadow but the rain arrived as soon as we got to the top of the hill. We walked back to our vehicles and drove up the hill to the end of the road where the village of Brez lies amongst the high mountain crags. The rain was easing as we arrived here, and it was great to catch up with some lovely birds such as Red-back Shrikes, Eurasian Stonechat, Common Redstart and White Wagtail. Our attention was drawn by several contact calls of active Middle-spotted Woodpeckers which we looked for intensively, getting poor glimpses as they continued calling several times nearby.

Next we moved to our picnic spot which was located not far from Brez, down in the village of Los Llanos. The weather was better here; at least dry and we even had some sunny spells. A Middle-spotted Woodpecker contact call diverted our attention onto a group of trees by the main road where finally this elusive woodpecker was seen very well by the whole group - we managed to set the scopes on him straight away. A nice pale phase of Booted Eagle was also spotted soaring above us at the same time. We then enjoyed our picnic lunch just before another shower came. With unsettled weather, we decided to spend time walking around Potes which we all enjoyed.

After this break in Potes, we moved to the village of Quintana where we planned to walk along a riparian area which offers interesting wildlife. We waited for a shower to pass and started our walk which was a bit quiet at the beginning, but we had good butterfly activity as the sun came out again. A group of raptors were spotted as we were walking through the heart of the village; an obvious large raptor was pointed out first and it was a beautiful Short-toed Snake Eagle, alongside several migratory Honey Buzzards and a single Common Buzzard amongst them which was ideal to see the differences between them. Back to the path along the river, a White-throated Dipper was spotted feeding along the rapids and river rocks. After a good afternoon, we drove back to Espinama in order to have a break and get ready to do our checklist of the day, followed by dinner and bed.

Day 5

Thursday 8th August

Espinama – Piedrasluengas Pass (1,575 m) – Salinas de Pisuega – Monte Royal – Monfarrachinos (Zamora)

Weather: Dry. Chilly in the pass. Sunny & warm the rest of the day

We had a good breakfast and then we packed up and checked out of our hotel in Espinama in order to drive southwards to Zamora, crossing through the Piedrasluengas Pass, where we made a quick stop to stretch legs and also to check the sky, the pristine beech forest and the meadows. We continued our journey southwards making a stop in the little village of Salinas de Pisuerga and had a walk around the River Pisuerga which produced Griffon and Egyptian Vultures, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Red and Black Kites, White-throated Dipper, a loud Cetti's Warbler, and some interesting butterflies such as Southern Gatekeeper, Cardinal, and Clouded Yellow, amongst others.

We continued our drive for another twenty minutes into the village of Aguilar de Campoo making a lunch stop at the pine woodland of Monte Royal, located on the outskirts of the village. We enjoyed our lunch here while seeing interesting wildlife such as Red Squirrel, Red Crossbills and Short-toed Treecreeper. After lunch, a two-and-a-half drive was done to our hotel located on the northern outskirts of Zamora, in the village of Monfarracinos. We checked in and retired to our rooms for a break before enjoying very cold drinks as the heat was still hitting. We had a delicious dinner in the hotel's restaurant to finish the evening.

Day 6

Friday 9th August

Villafafila plains – River Esla

Weather: Sunny & hot

The weather in the plains was great and temperatures were in the late twenties and early thirties at times. After an early breakfast, we left our hotel heading north and arriving at Villafafila just in time to see our very first group of Great Bustards grazing in the barley fields - we had great views of this peculiar big bird. We also had fantastic views of two pairs of Montague's Harriers hunting along the fields; Marsh Harrier, White Stork, Spotless Starlings, Greater Short-toed Lark and Crested Lark were also spotted here. We continued driving into the abandoned village of Otero de Sariegos where we took a stroll around the village which produced interesting species such as Little Owl, Eurasian Kestrel, Marsh Harrier, and Black Redstarts. We had also great views of Rock Sparrows here, and Lesser Kestrels were feeding youngsters on the roofs of the old buildings. Next we found a nice spot amongst Poplar trees where we set up our picnic lunch.

The sun was up and shining bright and it was time for us to drive west for a good fifteen minutes towards the River Esla area. Surrounded by a pristine Dehesa habitat, the River Esla is one of the main water points in the Zamora province and the main tributary of the River Duero; it provides a great water supply and landscape to the transitional region of plains and mountains. We chose to explore the old bridge from where we saw Black Kites, Great Cormorant, Little and Great Crested Grebes, Mallard, and lovely views of Golden Eagle while soaring over the rocky hilltops. We then drove to one of the river shores spotting some Serin, Green Finch, Corn Buntings Linnets and Cirl Bunting on the way. Scanning the waters and the rocky cliffs we found a very elusive Blue Rock Thrush which was very hard to spot but we managed to put the scope on him. The day was hitting its peak at 30 degrees, so it was time to drive back to our hotel and cool down in our rooms or by the swimming pool for a very well deserved break before dinner and bed.

Day 7

Saturday 10 August

Fariza (Duero International Park and Arribes del Duero) and Zamora

Weather: Sunny & hot

After a very early breakfast, we left our hotel and headed off after the dawn towards the Portuguese border to the Duero basin area. We looked for a favoured watering hole in the dry scrubland close to Portugal outside a small village called Fariza. There was poor activity at the water point as it was drier than usual, perhaps due to the scarce rainfall of the late spring. We began to walk through the scrub and cork oak habitat and a lot of bird calls could be heard in the area; Corn Buntings, Sardinian and Dartford Warblers, Greenfinch, then the distinctive call of Bee-eaters. First birds in were the buntings, then we started to see adult Woodchat Shrikes feeding a hungry and demanding chick, the always nice Iberian (Southern) Grey Shrike, and Crested Larks. Turtle Doves flew over and the first of a number of Eurasian 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 adjacent fields of the dehesa.

We drove to another patch in order to take another stroll and a pair of Thekla Larks turned up, followed by cracking views of Dartford Warbler, alongside Short-toed Treecreeper, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Sardinian Warbler, and Iberian Grey Shrike, amongst others. We started to walk back to the vehicles and a group of raptors caught our eyes; we checked them all and there were lots of Griffon Vultures and a pair of Cinereous Vultures flying amongst them. A Booted Eagle was flying lower and the rare Bonelli's Eagle turned up - a fabulous bird! After enjoying these walks we decided to stop at the village of Fariza for a drink. Next we drove a short distance to where the village hermitage is, right at the edge of the gorges which split Spain from Portugal, where we enjoyed a nice walk through a scrubby area having great views of more Griffon and Egyptian Vultures, Short-toed Treecreeper, Dartford and Sardinian Warblers, Eurasian Hoopoe, Linnets and Red-rumped Swallows. We set our lunch at the hermitage's gardens in order to enjoy the fantastic weather and the views; some of us were also enjoying a fabulous display of Common Swallowtail and Spanish Swallowtails by the church's hedges! A quick view over the church's mirador was a very nice Golden Eagle which we all enjoyed lots!

After lunch, we finally returned to Zamora as some of us wanted to explore this nice city, while others took a break in the hotel's grounds. Zamora also offered a few good birds for those who walked along the River Duero; Little Bittern, Penduline Tit and Golden Oriole were some of the highlights!

Day 8

Sunday 11th August

Zamora – Tierra de Campos – Santander

Weather: Sunny & hot

We had a relaxing breakfast at the hotel before loading the mini buses and heading out of Monfarracinos. The day was nice and sunny with blue skies, great for driving while enjoying the pristine landscape of the plains! We headed north on the main motorway heading to Palencia and bearing straight north towards Santander, but not before making a stop at a vast steppes area called Tierra de Campos.

We arrived there after a drive through country roads making our first stop at Boada Lake. We managed to see waders such as Black-tailed Godwit, Northern Lapwing, Dunlin, Common and Green Sandpipers, Greenshank, Little Ringed Plover, and plenty of Whiskered Terns. A nice male Montagu's Harrier was seen in the fields and also a couple of pairs of Lesser Kestrels. We had our lunch at the visitors centre in La Nava and then we carried on towards Santander, arriving at our hotel in time for a relaxing late afternoon and evening.

Day 9

Monday 12th August

Santander – ferry to Portsmouth

Weather: Overcast & drizzly morning in Santander. Sunny during the crossing

After enjoying of the surroundings of the lovely Santander the previous night, we had the chance to explore more of this fantastic city throughout the morning. Some of us took it easy at the hotel and others went birding along the reed beds of the recreational area located near the neighbourhood of Sardinero. Here, a few interesting species were seen, such as Willow and Sardinian Warblers, Common Chiffchaff, Moorhen, Coot, European Reed Warbler, amongst others. We then returned to our hotel in order to collect our stuff and reassemble with the rest of the group and drive down to the ferry port in order to catch our ferry to Portsmouth. We said goodbye to our co-leader Laura who was heading south to her home in La Montana Palentina. We then boarded the vessel and started the crossing in fairly calm waters.

Day 10

Sunday 13th August

English Channel into Portsmouth

Again, we gathered again together on the deck in order to keep looking for some marine wildlife. Some Gannets, Cory's and Manx Shearwaters and a Great Skua were seen, together with some Northern Fulmar. It was also productive for marine mammals and we had wonderful close views of Fin Whale and a calf, Cuvier's Beaked Whale, Sperm Whale, Minke Whale, Bottle-nose Dolphin, and a big blow of a possible Blue Whale. We went back indoors to eat and then we gathered together to catch up with our species checklist before disembarking in Portsmouth. We arrived back at Portsmouth in the afternoon where we went our separate ways with great memories of some of the best parts of northern Spain....Adios!

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Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	August									
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>						✓	✓			
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>		✓							✓	
4	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>									✓	
5	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>						✓				
6	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				✓				✓		
8	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>							✓			
9	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	✓								✓	
10	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>								✓	✓	
11	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					✓	✓			✓	
12	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			✓	✓						
13	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
14	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
15	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓			
16	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
17	Lammergeier (Bearded Vulture)	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>			✓							
18	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓		
19	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>						✓		✓		
20	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>					✓	✓		✓		
21	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				✓						
22	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>				✓						
23	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
24	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>						✓	✓			
25	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>							✓			
26	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
27	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>						✓		✓		
28	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
29	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						✓	✓	✓		
30	Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>						✓				
31	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>									✓	
32	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>							✓	✓	✓	
33	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						✓		✓	✓	
34	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>								✓		
35	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>						✓		✓		
36	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>								✓		
37	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>								✓		
38	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								✓		
39	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>								✓	✓	
40	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>								✓		
41	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>									✓	
42	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>								✓		
43	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>								✓	✓	
44	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		✓								
45	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓				✓			✓	
46	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>								✓		
47	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>								✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	August									
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
48	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>									✓	✓
49	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>									✓	
50	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>								✓		
52	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						✓				
54	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>						✓	✓			
56	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>									✓	
57	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>								h		
58	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>				✓	h					
59	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓						✓		
60	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>				✓						
61	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>								✓		
62	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>							✓	✓	✓	
63	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>								✓		
64	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓					
65	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>			✓	✓	✓					
67	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>			✓							
68	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓				
70	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>					h					
71	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓				✓	✓			
72	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓				✓	✓			
73	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>							✓	h		
74	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>						✓				
75	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>						✓	✓	✓		
76	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>							✓			
77	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>							✓			
78	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		✓				✓	✓			
80	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>							✓			
82	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>					h		✓	h	✓	
83	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>						✓				✓
84	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>						✓		✓	✓	
85	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>				h			✓			
86	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>						h	✓	✓	✓	
87	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>							✓			
88	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>									✓	
89	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		h	h	h		✓	✓			
90	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>							✓			
91	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>							✓			
92	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				✓	h	h	h			
93	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			✓	h			✓			
94	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>			✓							
95	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>					✓					
96	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
97	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				h						

	Common name	Scientific name	August								
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
99	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>						✓			
100	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓		h	✓	✓			
101	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
102	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				✓					
103	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>				✓					
104	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	
105	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			✓					✓	
106	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>						✓	✓		
107	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				✓	✓				
108	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>							✓		
110	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>						✓	✓		
111	White-winged Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>			✓						
112	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>			✓						
113	Spanish Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>								✓	
114	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓		✓					
115	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
116	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
117	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	✓	✓					
118	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		h				✓	✓		✓
119	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
120	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>			✓		✓				
121	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>					✓				
122	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>							✓	✓	
123	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>					✓				
124	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		h	✓	✓			✓		

Mammals

1	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>					✓				
2	Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>			✓						
3	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>		✓							✓
4	Cuvier's Beaked Whale	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>		✓							✓
5	Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>		✓							✓
6	Bottle-nose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>									✓
7	Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>		✓							
8	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>						✓			

Butterflies

1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>							✓		
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>				✓		✓		✓	
3	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>					✓	✓			
6	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>				✓					
8	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>				✓	✓				
9	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>					✓				
10	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				✓					
11	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>			✓						
12	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>					✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	August									
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	Lesser-spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>							✓			
14	Rock Grayling	<i>Hipparchia alcyone</i>			✓					✓		
15	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Kanetisa circe</i>								✓		
16	Piedmont Ringlet	<i>Erebia meolans</i>			✓							
17	Lefebvre's Ringlet	<i>Erebia lefebvrei</i>			✓							
18	Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>								✓		
19	Southern Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia cecilia</i>					✓					
20	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>				✓	✓					
21	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>				✓		✓	✓			
22	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>					✓					

Other invertebrates

1	Chimney-sweeper Moth	<i>Odezia atrata</i>			✓							
2	Jersey Tiger Moth	<i>Euplagia quadripunctuaria</i>				✓						
3	Golden-ringed Dragonfly	<i>Cordulegarter boltonii</i>				✓						
4	Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>						✓				
5	Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>							✓			
6	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>						✓				
7	Blue-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda caerulescens</i>						✓	✓			

Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Viviparous Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>					✓					
2	Red-eared Tortoise	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>										✓



Birding the mountain villages