

Picos and Plains - The Best of Northern Spain

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 – 14 August 2018



Wallcreeper by Don Farlow



Yellow-billed Chough by Don Farlow



Exploring the Picos by Max Farlow



Little Owl by Byron Palacios

Report compiled by Byron Palacios
Images courtesy of Don & Max Farlow and Byron Palacios



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Tour Participants: Byron Palacios (leader) with seven Naturetrek clients

Summary:

Spain is a country of contrasts, a country of snowy mountains, large rivers, lush woodland, vast plains, dramatic gorges and a fabulous coastline! We enjoyed all the wildlife of the mentioned habitats getting the very best out of their fantastic and breathtaking landscape. The delicious local food and wines added a great touch and amusement to our tour as we enjoyed the local cuisine alongside fantastic company of our fellow travellers.

Day 1

Sunday 5th August

Ferry journey from Plymouth to Santander

The entire group met up at Plymouth's ferry terminal in order to get in our van and proceed to check in. A brief explanation of the activities for the week ahead was given to the party, followed by our boarding of the Pont Avent, a good-sized vessel which crosses the Bay of Biscay 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 some lunch, gathering together on Deck 9 by 6pm, in order to begin our marine wildlife watching. The sea looked calm and the sun was generous and shining; although it was a bit quiet, we enjoyed brief views of Common Dolphins and several Northern Gannets and a Manx Shearwater. We then all retired to grab some dinner before retiring to bed.

Day 2

Monday 6th August

Bay of Biscay into Santander Port – Unquera – Lebeña – Espinama

We agreed to meet up on the main deck early this morning. It was an overcast but dry morning, with sunny spells developing. Several Northern Gannets were seen, alongside Short-beaked Common Dolphins. As the ferry was approaching to its final destination, Santander, we got our stuff ready and drove our van off the vessel in order to start our mainland tour, leaving Santander behind and heading towards the mountains. We made a lunch stop in the village of Unquera where we enjoyed delicious sandwiches by the entrance road to the valley of the River Deva.

We then continued driving making a stop in the village of Lebeña in order to check the crags which surround this medieval village, getting excellent views of Griffon and Egyptian Vultures, Eurasian Kestrel, Short-toed Snake Eagle and Crag Martin, amongst other species. We then continued to the village of Espinama where we checked in our rural hotel, settling in to our comfortable rooms and taking a good break before gathering together for drinks and a delicious local-style dinner.

Day 3

Tuesday 7th August

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

After an early breakfast, we set off to the tops of the Picos de Europa, taking advantage of the perfect weather conditions of this wonderful day; though some mist covered the southern face of the Picos and a chilly northern breeze was blowing at times. We arrived in time to the village of Fuente Dé 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, we enjoyed

the superb views of the mighty Picos de Europa, getting the first glimpses of birds such as groups of Alpine Choughs in the distance. We started our walk by checking the rocky and grassy hills, where Black Redstarts were always flitting around, till we spotted a single Alpine Accentor. It was very obliging and came very close to us; then another one joined him to give us spectacular views of this lovely localised alpine bird. A juvenile White-winged Snowfinch was spotted nearby, but it flew as soon as some of us put the binoculars on him. We continued our walk getting great views of Black Redstarts, some Linnets flying over, Northern Wheatear, flocks of Alpine and Red-billed Choughs, and some perched Griffon Vultures which started to fly around and were joined by a pair of Egyptian Vultures. Some single individuals of Chamois got our main attention and kept us amused for a while as they were very relaxed by the rocky hills.

Continuing up the path, a pair of Alpine Accentor kept us busy for a while, as did the many species of butterflies and alpine flowers we got along the rocky track. Once on top of the main trail, we enjoyed the views of the Liébana Valley, while Alpine Choughs landed on the rock boulders right next to us as we were inviting them to come to pose for a photo session. We continued walking on the upper track where the trail comes to a concealed part of the gully; here large boulders where a lovely male White-winged Snowfinch was spotted. We then walked a short distance to a perfect spot for the enigmatic and most-wanted Wallcreeper. The bird was spotted nearby, moving actively in search for food for its youngsters which were crying for some succulent large insects to eat. We settled ourselves in front of their favourite rocky wall where we soon spotted the first individual, getting great views of it. Then, the task became even easier when a young individual and two male adults came down much closer, moving around the boulders right in front of where we were - amazing! We all had wonderful views of this lovely bird.

Of course, part of that time waiting was not wasted as 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 lovely bird, we started to walk back to the starting point, watching more Chamois and the beautiful landscape of the glacier. We finally got back to the cable-car station where we enjoyed a coffee break in a café located on the top, before taking the cable car back down to the car park. Once at the car park, we saw several Griffons which then even perched.

After enjoying our full day up in the heart of the Picos de Europa, we drove back to our hotel in Espinama following the old track through the village of Pido, in order to take a good break and get ready for supper!

Day 4

Wednesday 8th August

Brez – Quintana – Potes – Pombes

We started the day with an early breakfast, setting off to the mountain village of Brez afterwards, making a stop before the village in order to check a very nice meadow surrounded by pristine Pyrenean Oak forest, right at the bottom of the valley. We had a handsome Cirl Bunting as soon as we got out of the vehicle, together with Red-billed Choughs feeding down on an adjacent field, very close to us. Griffon Vultures were perched on the cliff tops waiting for good thermals to start flying around with less effort, and we found a perched Short-toed Snake Eagle perched on a tree nearby, having great views of this fabulous raptor. We also found Red-backed Shrikes, Goldfinch, Serins, and several pairs of European Stonechat. We continued in our vehicle driving up the hill till the end of the road where the village of Brez lies amongst concealed high mountain crags, from where we saw a great array of wildlife, including Black Redstarts, Booted Eagle, Common Buzzard, Eurasian Kestrel, and wonderful views of a pair of Egyptian Vultures flying around the valley at eye-level. We also found a good

variety of butterflies here, having superb views of them and we certainly enjoyed watching different species, and sorting out the tricky ones as well!

It was lunch time and so we drove to a very nice spot in the village of Quintana, located between the river and the road, surrounded by trees full of delicious plums. After lunch, we went to explore the village of Potes and after a good “pottering around Potes”, we drove back to the village of Quintana to take a little stroll along the river which produced a nice White-throated Dipper, White and Grey Wagtails, amongst others. We then drove up the valley diverting towards the village of Pombes, from where we scanned the lovely gulleys and mountain crags, but it was fairly quiet.

After having 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 another delicious supper.

Day 5

Thursday 9th August

Espinama – Piedrasluengas Pass – Salinas de Pisuerga – Zamora

We started the morning ready to move on towards the plains, yet not leaving the mountains behind as we had a few hours of the morning to enjoy them again. We had a good breakfast and then we packed up and checked out of our hotel in Espinama, in order to drive southwards to the town of Zamora. We crossed through the Piedrasluengas Pass, at 1,375 metres, where we made a stop which produced very interesting wildlife such as Northern Goshawk and Griffon Vultures, amongst others. We continued our journey southwards hitting the foothills along the river Pisuerga, making a stop in the little town of Cervera de Pisuerga, followed by a stop in the village of Salinas de Pisuerga. We took a nice walk here around the river Pisuerga, which produced Griffon Vultures, Red and Black Kites, White-throated Dipper, and a good bunch of interesting butterflies. We enjoyed our lunch here while enjoying of interesting village lifestyle of the locals and the interesting scenery of this nice spot.; After lunch, we hit the road and drove for two-and-a-half hours south to the city of Zamora where our hotel was located. We checked in and retired to our rooms for a break and to enjoy very cold drinks as the heat was still hitting a bit. Later on, we went to enjoy a delicious dinner in the hotel’s restaurant to finish the evening.

Day 6

Friday 10th August

Villafafila plains – River Esla

The weather in the plains was great and the day started with a chilly hint in the early morning. After an early breakfast, we left our hotel, heading north and admiring the sunny early morning along the road towards the reserve of Villafafila, just in time to see our very first group of Great Bustards grazing in the empty barley fields; we had great views of this peculiar big bird. We also had fantastic views of two pairs of Montagu’s Harrier hunting along the opposite fields, including a dark morph which sat very obligingly on the ground; Marsh Harrier, White Stork, Spotless Starlings, and Crested Lark were also spotted here, We continued by driving to the other end of the area and 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 too; not far from this spot, we found Northern Wheatears, Montagu’s Harriers, and more Great Bustards. We made a comfort stop in the village of Villafáfila and drove to the village of La Tabla afterwards, where we had nice views of a Lesser Kestrel and Spotless

Starlings, amongst others. After a nice and pleasant morning, we found a very nice spot amongst big poplar trees where we set up our picnic lunch while enjoying the surrounding fields of the plains.

The sun was up and shining brightly and it was time for us to drive west a good 15 minutes towards the river Esla area. Surrounded by a pristine Dehesa habitat, the river Esla is one of the main water points along 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, Mallard, and lovely views of a Purple Heron. The day was getting very hot so we decided to drive back to Zamora in the mid afternoon in order to cool down in our hotel.

Day 7

Saturday 11th August

Arribes del Duero International Park (Fariza) – Miranda du Duoro (Portugal)

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 started our exploration of this gorgeous Mediterranean Forest by looking at a pond, where we found Red-legged Partridge, Turtle Dove, Woodchat Shrike, Corn Buntings, Rock Sparrows and Southern (Iberian) Grey Shrike, amongst others. We continued our walk with the beautiful call from flying colourful European Bee-eaters, with Dartford and Western Bonelli's Warbles flitting around the bushes. We also had Thekla Larks, European Stonechats, and a single Western Orphean Warbler bathing in a different pool. In the mid morning, we took a coffee break in the village of Fariza, afterwards, driving a short distance to where we had great views of Woodchat Shrikes, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, and a pair of Crested Tits. After this productive stroll, we drove a short distance in order to have lunch by the river Duero at this wonderful spot by the local hermitage.

After lunch, we drove into Portugal, crossing the international bridge/dam over the river Duero and making a stop at a viewpoint just on the outskirts of the Portuguese town of Miranda Du Duoro. Here, we had Alpine, European and Pallid Swifts, Crag Martins, Red-rumped Swallow, and very elusive Golden Oriole. We then drove into town in order to enjoy some refreshments to cool down due to the hot temperatures. After this, we started our drive to Zamora as some of us wanted to explore this very nice city, while others took a break in the hotel's grounds.

Day 8

Sunday 12th August

Zamora – Toro – Tierra de Campos – Aguilar de Campo

We had a relaxing start today as we had to hit the road in order to get to the little town of Aguilar de Campoo. And in order to make the journey more entertaining and fun, we made a few very interesting stops along the Valladolid-Zamora Canal, the wine famous town of Toro, and finally at Tierra de Campos, where we enjoyed a simple but nevertheless delicious picnic lunch overlooking at great birds such as Western Marsh Harrier, Zitting Cisticola, and Spanish Yellow Wagtail.

Our final leg of the journey was made driving along the Canal de Castilla and eventually onto the Cantabrian motorway until we finally arrived at Aguilar de Campoo, where we checked in to our hotel in time for a relaxing late afternoon and evening.

Day 9

Monday 13th August

Las Tuerces Geological Reserve – Santander – ferry to Porstmouth

After an early start, we drove up a very short distance out of Aguilar de Campoo and over the river Pisuerga where Las Tuerces Geological Reserve is located. The early morning was a bit misty but yet we enjoyed the dramatic rock formations and the stunning views from the top. We also had very interesting birdlife, such as Merlin, Woodlarks, Black Redstarts, Red-billed Chough and Iberian Green Woodpecker, amongst others. We made a quick stop to check the river Pisuerga where we had great views of Iberian Chiffchaff and White-throated Dipper. Back at the hotel, we enjoyed a delicious breakfast and then we had enough time to relax and get ourselves ready in order to drive to Santander's ferry port in order to start our journey back to the UK.

Once in Santander, we boarded the vessel and started the crossing on a windy sunny afternoon. Some of us gathered on deck 9 for some sea watching, but it was fairly quiet and very windy.

Day 10

Tuesday 14th August

English Channel into Portsmouth

Some of us gathered again on Deck 9 in order to keep looking for some marine wildlife. Some Northern Gannets, Cory's and Great Shearwaters were spotted from one of the top decks. It was also quite productive for marine mammals, as some of us had a blow of a Minke Whale, Short-beaked Common Dolphins and a breaching Fin Whale.

We enjoyed the crossing as well as the ferry food and cafes, and eventually we crossed by the Solent, arriving into the docks in Portsmouth on a warm and sunny afternoon. We all made our ways home, keeping great memories of some of the best parts of northern Spain, along with its wildlife, countryside, food and the beautiful places we visited!

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Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	August									
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>						✓				
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>					✓	✓		✓	✓	
3	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>								✓		
4	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>						✓	✓			
5	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	✓									
6	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>										✓
7	Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>										✓
8	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	✓									
9	European Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>										✓
10	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>								✓		
11	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>						✓	✓	✓		✓
13	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>							✓			
14	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	✓	✓							✓	✓
15	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>										✓
16	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓				✓	✓		✓	✓
17	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Nephron percnopterus</i>		✓	✓	✓						
19	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓		✓		✓				
20	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>						✓				
22	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>							✓	✓	✓	
23	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>							✓			
24	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>						✓				
25	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>							✓			
28	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>							✓			✓
29	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>							✓		✓	
30	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>									✓	
31	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>										✓
32	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓								✓
33	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>										✓
34	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		✓								✓
35	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>								✓		
38	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>								✓	✓	✓
39	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		h								
40	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>							✓			
41	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>								✓		
42	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>								✓		
44	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>							✓	✓	✓	
45	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>								✓	✓	✓
46	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>								✓		
47	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>					h					

	Common name	Scientific name	August									
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
48	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			h							✓
49	Iberian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus sharpei</i>								✓		✓
50	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>							✓		✓	
51	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				✓						
53	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>							✓			
54	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>										✓
55	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>				✓				✓		
56	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>								✓		
57	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>								✓		
58	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>								✓	✓	
59	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
60	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax</i>		✓	h	✓						✓
62	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrhacorax graculus</i>			✓							
63	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
64	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
65	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>								✓		
66	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				✓				✓	✓	✓
68	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>							h			
69	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>										✓
70	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>							h	h		
71	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>								✓		
72	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>							✓			
73	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>								✓	✓	
77	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>									h	h
78	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>						✓				✓
79	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>								✓		✓
80	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>								✓		
81	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>									✓	
82	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				✓	✓					✓
83	Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>								✓		
84	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>								✓		
85	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>								h		
86	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			✓			✓				✓
87	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>			3							
88	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>				✓					✓	
89	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
91	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>						✓			✓	✓
92	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>			✓							
93	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
94	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>				✓			✓	✓		✓
95	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>									✓	
96	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			✓				✓		✓	
97	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				✓	✓				✓	✓
98	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	August									
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
99	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>							✓	✓		
100	White-winged Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>			✓							
101	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>			✓							
102	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>										✓
103	Spanish Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>									✓	
104	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				✓				✓		✓
105	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				✓			✓			✓
107	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>							✓	h		✓
108	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			✓							✓
109	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			✓		✓				✓	
111	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>						✓	✓			
112	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>				✓					✓	

Mammals

1	Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>			✓							
2	Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>										✓
3	Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	✓									
4	Long-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala melaena</i>										✓
5	Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	✓	✓								✓
6	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>							✓			

Butterflies

Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*
 Large White, *Pieris brassicae*
 Bath White, *Pontia daplidice*
 Berger's Clouded Yellow, *Colias australis*
 Cleopatra, *Gonepteryx cleopatra*
 Brown Argus, *Aricia agestis*
 Spanish Chalk-hill Blue, *Polyommatus albicans*
 Mazarine Blue, *Cyaniris semiargus*
 Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*
 Heath Fritillary, *Mellicta athalia*
 Marsh Fritillary, *Euphydryas aurinia*
 Western Marbled White, *Melanargia occitanica*
 Grayling, *Hipparchia semele*
 Great Banded Grayling, *Kanetisa circe*
 Ringlet, *Aphantopus hyperantus*
 Southern Gatekeeper, *Pyronia cecilia*
 Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*
 Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria*
 Wall Brown, *Lasiommata megera*
 Lulworth Skipper, *Thymelicus acteon*

Scarce Swallowtail, *Iphiclides podalirius*
 Small White, *Pieris rapae*
 Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*
 Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*
 Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*
 Escher's Blue, *Agrodiaetus escheri*
 Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*
 Osiris Blue, *Cupido osiris*
 Cardinal, *Argynnis pandora*
 Provencal Fritillary, *Mellicta deione*
 Comma Butterfly, *Polygonia c-album*
 Rock Grayling, *Hipparchia alcyone*
 Tree Grayling, *Neohipparchia statilinus*
 Piedmont Ringlet, *Erebia meolans*
 Gatekeeper, *Pyronia tithonus*
 Spanish Gatekeeper, *Pyronia bathseba*
 Pearly Heath, *Coenonympha arcania*
 Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria aegeria*
 Small Skipper, *Thymelicus sylvestris*

Moths & Others

Jersey Tiger Moth, *Euplagia quadripunctata*
 Hornet Moth, *Sesia apiformis*
 Beautiful Demoiselle, *Calopteryx virgo*

Humming-bird Hawk-moth, *Macroglossum stellatarum*
 Common Carder Bee, *Bombus pascuorum*
 Banded Agrion or B. Demoiselle, *Calopteryx splendens*

Emperor Dragonfly, *Anax imperator*
Red-veined Darter, *Sympetrum fonscolombii*

Southern Hawker, *Aeshna cyanea*

Reptiles & Amphibians

Common Wall Lizard, *Podarcis muralis*
Spanish Rock Lizard, *Iberolacerta cyreni*
Iberian Water Frog, *Rana perezi*

Iberian Wall Lizard, *Podarcis hispanica*
Ocellated Lizard, *Timon lepidus*
Viperine Snake, *Natrix maura*



Wallcreeper by Don Farlow