

Spain's Sierra de Guara - Land of the Lammergeier

Naturetrek Tour Report

9 - 16 May 2011



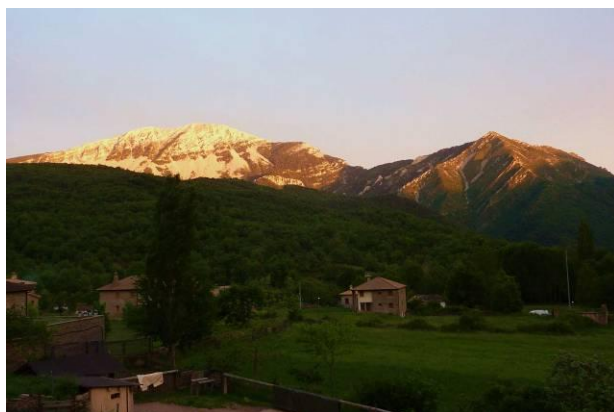
Montearagon Castle



Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush



Spanish Fritillary



Tozal de Guara from Nocito

Report and images by Byron Palacios



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Day 1

Monday 9th May

London - Zaragoza

We arrived at Zaragoza airport late in the night; though full of enthusiasm to start the tour. After get our vehicle sorted, we made our way northeast and up into the Sierra de Guara Mountains, driven to the lovely village of Alquezar, to be precise. The roads were quiet (except outside Zaragoza due to road works in the motorway) which made our driving smooth up to the Moorish-style ancient shire. We finally arrived at the lovely and medieval village of Alquezar, to our superb and very comfortable hotel located in the heart of the village. We checked in and rapidly retire to our comfy bedrooms for a good night sleep.

Day 2

Tuesday 10th May

Alquezar and Morrano Valley trail

Some of us managed to take an early look around the Alquezar before a relaxing breakfast. It was a sunny beautiful morning in the village, and amongst the small streets, and ancient architecture we were introduced to a range of stunning views from the different angles of the village. After breakfast, we spend most of the morning birding by the Colegiata and the cliffs nearby, getting a good taste of the local birds including Black Redstart, European and Alpine Swifts, Red-billed Chough, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures, Lesser Kestrel, Egyptian Vulture, and Red-billed Chough, and a beautiful Goshawk soaring above our heads. The highlight of the morning was, without a doubt, a Bonelli's Eagle being mobbed by a Lesser Kestrel - an unusual sight of this endangered eagle. The surroundings also offered other good birds such as Melodious Warbler, Red-rumped Swallow and a perched male of Cirl Bunting, singing away!

We eventually went back to the hotel by noon in order to get ready to go to explore a different area within the natural park located a good thirty minutes away from Alquezar. We made a good stop en route (apart from the one we made in the village of Adahuesca for stocking supplies) down from the bridge of the River An, in order to see a nesting group of Rock Sparrows which were nesting there along with some Crag Martins. We continued to the Morrano Valley where we had our picnic lunch. The day was getting warmer, although a very pleasant breeze cooled down the temperature which was 30°C by lunchtime. We explore more of the Morrano Valley after lunch, but the bird activity was quite slow, despite that we saw some species such as Corn Bunting, Woodchat Shrike, European Bee-eaters and Griffon Vultures.

Late in the afternoon we drove back to our hotel for a little break before gathering together again for drinks and nibbles, followed by a superb local supper at Casa Gervasio Restaurant.

Day 3

Wednesday 11th May

Santa Cilia & Rodellar

We had another beautiful sunny morning in Alquezar, which was promising for our planned activities for the day. After a quick stop for fresh bread in Adahuesca, we continued driving past beautiful fields carpeted with corn poppies and bluebells. Many birds such as Corn Buntings, Woodchat Shrike, and Golden Oriole (in flight), plus several perched Bee-eaters were seen as we drove through the small roads. We then continued into the village of Santa Cilia where our friends Manu and Laura from FAB (Fondo Amigos de los Buitres – The Friends of the Vultures Fund) were expecting us and took us to the feeding station. As we approached, the blue sky suddenly was packed with Griffon Vultures and a few pairs of Egyptian Vulture, which were clearly familiar with Manu's vehicle as they know him very well!

Once we arrived, we carefully sat very close to where a group of Griffons were already perched, but we were given green light to go even closer, and in less than a minute, we were surrounded by nearly 300 Griffon Vultures just one metre away from us, something truly unbelievable and certainly impressive! A few Egyptian Vultures and Ravens joined the large group, and shortly after that we had a pair of Lammergeiers (Bearded Vultures) soaring very close and right in front of us! After enjoying the time amongst the vultures, we moved a few metres back in order to watch Egyptian Vultures eating their ostrich eggs. Two of them tried to break the eggs using a rock but weren't that accurate, although they were yet a bit uncomfortable as a few Griffons were still around. After spending a good couple of hours watching this marvelous vulture show, we went back to the village to visit the information centre, where interesting footage of the foundations hard work was shown. We then had our picnic lunch right on the mirador which overlooks the limestone face where the feeding station point is located. A few Griffon and Egyptian Vultures were soaring around, but two Lammergeiers turned up and one of them went down to the ground looking for some bones, and grabbed one and took off.

After lunch, we decided that it was coffee time and we ended up in one of the nice cafe-bars of Bierge. We then decided to pay a visit to the Mascún Gorge entering the area through the village of Rodellar, and walking towards the edge of the cliff to enjoy the impressive landscape. We had a few birds such as Subalpine Warbler, Crag and House Martin, European Swift and Sparrowhawk. We then walked back to our vehicle and started our driving towards Alquezar, doing some birding from the van, getting Red Kite, European Bee-eater, Corn Bunting and a Tree Pipit. Back at the hotel, we had a break before we gathered together at the hotel's bar to do our checklist of the day, followed of a great local supper at Casa Gervasio Restaurant, and then a restful night!

Day 4

Thursday 12th May

Colungo Road (to Arcusa) - Lecina

The weather looked really good again this morning, although some showers in the region were predicted for today, but it was certainly a very good and sunny day, although some showers came from the northern part of the Sierra in the late afternoon. We headed north quite early towards Arcusa, making the usual 'fresh-bread-stop' at Colungo.

Our first stop was made at El Palomar Bridge, where hundreds of Pyrenean Saxifraga (*Saxifraga longifolia*) were in bloom and well spotted. The site produced many other interesting plants and birds such as Goshawk, Linnet, Serin and scope views of Subalpine Warbler for some of us.

We then continued up to the top of the road, nearby El Barcabo Gorge where we had a nice walk through the mixed vegetation. Raven, Eurasian Cuckoo, Woodlark, Firecrest and Western Bonelli's Warblers were spotted here. After an hour walking around, we drove a short distance down to the gorge itself, where many Griffon Vultures were soaring and nesting in the crags of the massive gorge; also a pair of Egyptian Vultures soared around, giving us eye-level views from where we were standing. As the day was very nice, we had other raptors such as Short-toed Eagle, Common Kestrel, and a Peregrine Falcon watched from the distance. There were also plenty of Eurasian Swifts, Crag and House Martins, and Alpine Swifts. We had some interesting plants and orchids on our way back to the van and down on the way to the village of Lecina, where we set up our picnic lunch. This lovely hamlet has around five inhabitants, thus it was very peaceful to have our delicious lunch at the main plaza, with Red Kites and Black Redstarts around.

An enormous black cloud coming from the north was threatening our afternoon plans, but we managed to explore the old trail which connects Lecina and Betorz, normally good for orchids, although it has been quite a dry year. In spite of that, we found some beautiful orchids such as Lesser Butterfly, Bird's Nest, Butterfly, Burnt-tip, Broad-leaved and Lesser Helleborine orchids. As black clouds were approaching, and well advertised by a singing Eurasian Cuckoo, we began to walk back to Lecina where our vehicle was parked, having to rescue a knocked out Eurasian Swift we found by the cottages, perhaps hit by an elusive Sparrowhawk. We took it in our hands and one of the well-skilled participants gave the swift some recovery treatment which made it fly again!! That was our good deed of the day! The rain reached us as we started our drive back to Alquezar. In the late afternoon we relaxed, and enjoyed some drinks and another local supper.

Day 5

Friday 13th May

Alquezar – Montearagon Castle – Belsue Dam – Nocito

Today we had a sunny beautiful and relaxing morning – despite the rain forecast – and some of us took a final walk around the village before breakfast. We left Alquezar heading to the northern slope of the Sierra de Guara, our base was in the hamlet of Nocito, right on the other side of the mountains. We travelled through many places of interest.

One of these was around Montearagon Castle, located right in the outskirts of the city of Huesca. The 12th Century castle area offers a pristine patch of semi-arid habitat with predominant shrubs, crags and rock walls and boulders; ideal habitat for key species. We made a few stops and found European Bee-eaters, Black Kite, Thekla Lark, Tawny Pipit, Western Orphean Warbler, Corn Bunting, Rock Sparrow, Spectacled Warbler and great views of Black, Northern and Black-eared Wheatears. As rain was about to come, we continued our drive towards Nocito following the new motorway to Jaca but not for long as we soon went onto the small roads and eventually to narrow tracks and into the natural park's northern slopes. The afternoon then became a bit unsettled with the odd shower. We arrived at Belsue Dam in order to set up our picnic lunch, luckily with a bit of shelter.

After lunch the weather improved dramatically, arriving in Nocito in bright sun in the mid afternoon. We then went for a short walk along the riparian areas. Nice birds such as Sparrowhawk, Black Redstart, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Golden Oriole, amongst other were seen, plus some interesting orchids such as Military, Lesser Butterfly and Early Spider. We then walked back to the hamlet and checked in our mountain lodge hotel, had a break and prepared ourselves to do the log and to enjoy a super dinner in the next door restaurant.

Day 6

Saturday 14th May

Nocito – Bara road

After an early breakfast, we drove up out of Nocito following the track which leads to the ancient hamlet of Bara. We had very pleasant weather, ideal for a long walk in the middle of the remote northern slope of the Sierra de Guara. The impressive face of the Tozal de Guara (2,077 metres) was our eternal companion while walking, and we spotted many great birds such as Tawny Pipit, Corn Bunting, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Stonechat, Short-toed Eagle, Egyptian Vulture, Rock Bunting, and scope views of a very co-operative Wryneck, which was calling away perched from a tree nearby.

We set up our picnic lunch in the lovely-but-abandoned village of Used, which overlooks the entire valley and is located on top of one of the hillsides. Interesting birds were seen such as Red Kite, Red Crossbill, etc... After lunch we continued our walk towards Bara entering mixed pine and oak woods; it seemed to be a bit quiet although we spotted some Coal Tits, Short-toed Treecreeper, Eurasian Jay, Common Kestrel, and a pair of Crested Tits. We picked our van up and drove back to Nocito in the late afternoon in order to have a break, check the list over some drinks and enjoy supper.

Day 7

Sunday 15th May

Bara area (Biban & Black Gorge trails)

After a very early pre-breakfast walk around the village, we enjoyed our delicious breakfast and drove straight to the village of Bara. This lovely hamlet lies in the heart of the Sierra de Guara and it's the most remote inhabited (five people!) village in the region, so remote that the track finishes here! We took the beautiful trail which takes you to Biban hills, walking along the River Alcanadre. The weather was fantastic and the lush landscape was breathtaking throughout the walk. Some birds were spotted here such as White Wagtail, Black Redstart, Red Kite, Subalpine Warbler, Willow Warbler, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Egyptian and Griffon Vultures, plus a good numbers of butterflies and orchids. We walked back to the hamlet in order to have our picnic lunch by the main track. After lunch, the rest of the group continued walking on the Black Gorge trail, unfortunately without me due to an ankle injury. They all enjoyed their walk watching various things. We then drove back to Nocito in order to take a break and get ready for supper. After supper, we went out for a night drive on the Nocito – Bara track, spotting three Iberian Hares plus two European Nightjars.

Day 8

Monday 16th May

Nocito – Belchite – Zaragoza airport

After a relaxing breakfast we left Nocito and made our way back down towards the Zaragoza.

A diversion made not far from the town took us to the upper River Ebro basin which offers a vast land of impressive plains mixed among fields, meadows and farming areas. Going through Los Monegros, we drove by some rice fields where we made our first stop in order to see some interesting birds such as Purple Heron, Black-winged Stilt, Crested Lark, White Stork, Marsh Harrier, and an insistent Fan-tailed Warbler impossible to spot. We kept driving southwards making a stop at the dam in Sariñena where Grey and Purple Heron, Marsh Harrier, Spotless Starling and Common Kestrel, amongst others, were seen. We set up our last picnic lunch together here, which was a good one, good enough to keep us going on the long day ahead!

By the late afternoon, we finally arrived to Belchite, where Skylark, Thekla, Calandra, Short-toed and Crested Larks were seen at our first stop on the El Planeron view point. Also Black-eared Wheatear and Spectacled Warbler were spotted here (some of us spotted a hare here, possibly Iberian). The afternoon was quite warm but with a pleasant breeze as we drove into the reserve tracks, where we managed to see more larks such as Calandra, Thekla, Short-toed and Lesser Short-toed Larks, and had great views of Montague's Harrier. We also saw Black Kite, White Stork, European Bee-eater, and good views of Southern Grey Shrike. We also saw five Eurasian Hoopoes displaying with each other along the track, flying from field to field as we were approaching them.

As the time passed by, we started to make our way heading to Zaragoza airport in order to catch our flight back to the UK. It was a very nice holiday indeed around this fantastic part of northeastern Spain, where we all had unforgettable wildlife experiences and the pleasure of having shared it with a great group of keen nature lovers!

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Species Lists

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

| | Common name | Scientific name | May | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 1 | Little Egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 2 | Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 3 | Purple Heron | <i>Ardea purpurea</i> | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 4 | White Stork | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 5 | Black Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 6 | Red Kite | <i>Milvus milvus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 7 | Short-toed Eagle | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 8 | Egyptian Vulture | <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 9 | Lammergeier | <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 10 | Griffon Vulture | <i>Gyps fulvus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 11 | Northern Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 12 | Eurasian Goshawk | <i>Accipiter</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | ? | | |
| 13 | Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 14 | Bonelli's Eagle | <i>Aquila fasciata</i> | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 15 | Booted Eagle | <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 16 | Golden Eagle | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ |
| 17 | Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 18 | Montagu's Harrier | <i>Circus pygargus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 19 | Peregrine Falcon | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| 20 | Common Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 21 | Lesser Kestrel | <i>Falco</i> | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 22 | Red-legged Partridge | <i>Alectoris rufa</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| 23 | Stock Dove | <i>Columba oenas</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 24 | Rock Dove | <i>Columba livia</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 25 | Wood Pigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 26 | Eurasian Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 27 | Turtle Dove | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | | ✓h | | ✓ | | | |
| 28 | Eurasian Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | h | h | h✓ | h✓ | h✓ | h | h |
| 29 | Tawny Owl | <i>Strix aluco</i> | | | | h | | | |
| 30 | Scops Owl | <i>Otus scops</i> | | | | h | h | | |
| 31 | Alpine Swift | <i>Apus melba</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| 32 | European Swift | <i>Apus apus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 33 | Common Kingfisher | <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | | | | | | h | |
| 34 | Eurasian Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 35 | European Bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 36 | Green Woodpecker | <i>Picus viridis</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 37 | Great Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 38 | Wryneck | <i>Jynx torquilla</i> | | | | h | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 39 | Woodlark | <i>Lullula arborea</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| 40 | Skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 41 | Crested Lark | <i>Galerida cristata</i> | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 42 | Thekla Lark | <i>Galerida Theklae</i> | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 43 | Greater Short-toed Lark | <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 44 | Lesser Short-toed Lark | <i>Calandrella rufescens</i> | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 45 | Crag Martin | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 46 | House Martin | <i>Delichon urbica</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

| | Common name | Scientific name | May | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 47 | Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 48 | Red-rumped Swallow | <i>Cecropis daurica</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| 49 | Tree Pipit | <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| 50 | Tawny Pipit | <i>Anthus campestris</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 51 | White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 52 | Spanish (Yellow) Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i> | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 53 | Nightingale | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> | h✓ | h✓ | ✓ | h✓ | h✓ | h✓ | h |
| 54 | Robin | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 55 | Stonechat | <i>Saxicola torquata</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 56 | Whinchat | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 57 | Black Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 58 | Common Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 59 | Northern Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 60 | Black-eared Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i> | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 61 | Black Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe leucura</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 62 | Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush | <i>Monticola saxatilis</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| 63 | Blue Rock Thrush | <i>Monticola solitarius</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| 64 | Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 65 | Mistle Thrush | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 66 | Fan-tailed Warbler | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i> | | | | | | | h |
| 67 | Melodious Warbler | <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i> | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 68 | Garden Warbler | <i>Sylvia borin</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 69 | Orphean Warbler | <i>Sylvia hortensis</i> | | | | ✓ | | h | |
| 70 | Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | ✓ | h | h | h | | | |
| 71 | Spectacled Warbler | <i>Sylvia</i> | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 72 | Subalpine Warbler | <i>Sylvia cantillans</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 73 | Western Bonelli's Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 74 | Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | | h | h | h | | | ✓ |
| 75 | Willow Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 76 | Firecrest | <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| 77 | Spotted Flycatcher | <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 78 | Long-tailed Tit | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 79 | Crested Tit | <i>Parus cristatus</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| 80 | Marsh Tit | <i>Parus palustris</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 81 | Coal Tit | <i>Parus ater</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 82 | Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 83 | Blue Tit | <i>Parus caeruleus</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 84 | Nuthatch | <i>Sitta europaea</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 85 | Short-toed Treecreeper | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 86 | Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | | | | | ✓ | h | h |
| 87 | Woodchat Shrike | <i>Lanius senator</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 88 | Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 89 | Eurasian Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 90 | Red-billed Chough | <i>Pyrrhocorax Pyrrhocorax</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 91 | Carrion Crow | <i>Corvus corone</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 92 | Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 93 | Golden Oriole | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 94 | Spotless Starling | <i>Sturnus unicolor</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 95 | Rock Sparrow | <i>Petronia petronia</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 96 | House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

| | Common name | Scientific name | May | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|----------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 97 | Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | h | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 98 | Serin | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 99 | Linnet | <i>Acanthis cannabina</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| 100 | Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | ✓ | h | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 101 | Greenfinch | <i>Carduelis chloris</i> | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 102 | Crossbill | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 103 | Corn Bunting | <i>Miliaria calandra</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 104 | Rock Bunting | <i>Emberiza cia</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 105 | Cirl Bunting | <i>Emberiza cirlus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |

Butterflies

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Scarce (Spanish) Swallowtail | <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 2 | Black-veined White | <i>Aporia cratargi</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| 3 | Large White | <i>Pieris brassicae</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4 | Small White | <i>Artogeia rapae</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 5 | Green-veined White | <i>Artogeia napi</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 6 | Orange Tip | <i>Anthocharis cardamines</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 | Wood White | <i>Leptidea sinapis</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 12 | Green Hairstreak | <i>Callophrys rubi</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 13 | Little Blue | <i>Cupido minimus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| 14 | Green-underside Blue | <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| 15 | South Brown Argus | <i>Aricia cramera</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 16 | Adonis Blue | <i>Lysandra bellargus</i> | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |
| 17 | Common Blue | <i>Polyommatus icarus</i> | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 18 | Duke of Burgundy | <i>Hamearis lucina</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 19 | South White Admiral | <i>Limentitis reducta</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| 20 | Large Tortoiseshell | <i>Nymphalis polychloros</i> | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| 21 | Red Admiral | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| 22 | Painted Lady | <i>Vanessa cardui</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 23 | Small Tortoiseshell | <i>Aglais urticae</i> | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 24 | Queen-of-Spain Fritillary | <i>Issoria lathonia</i> | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 25 | Spotted Fritillary | <i>Melitaea didyma</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 26 | Spanish Fritillary | <i>Euphydryas desfontainii</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| 27 | Marbled White | <i>Melanargia galathea</i> | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 28 | Speckled Wood | <i>Pararge aegeria</i> | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 29 | Wall Brown | <i>Lasiommata megera</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 30 | Grizzled Skipper | <i>Pyrgus malvae</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 31 | Moroccan Orange Tip | <i>Anthocharis belia</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| 32 | Peacock | <i>Inachis io</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |

Reptiles

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | Rock Lizard | <i>Lacerta monticola</i> | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Sand Lizard | <i>Lacerta agilis</i> | | | | | | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | May | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |

Mammals

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| 1 | Red Squirrel | <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 2 | Red Fox | <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 3 | Iberian Hare | <i>Lepus granatensis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |

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!

| Scientific name | Common name | total | day | day | day | day | day | day |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Pinaceae | Pine family | | | | | | | |
| Pinus silvestre | Scots pine | | | x | | | x | |
| Pinus halepensis | Aleppo pine | | | | | | | |
| Cupressaceae | Cypress family | | | | | | | |
| Juniperus communis | Common juniper | | | | | | | |
| Juniperus phoenicia | Phoenician juniper | | | x | | | x | |
| Juniperus oxycedrus | Prickly juniper | | | x | | | x | |
| Cupressus sempervirens | Italian cypress | | | | | | | |
| Juglandaceae | | | | | | | | |
| Juglans regia | Walnut tree | | | | | | x | |
| Fagaceae | Oak family | | | | | | | |
| Quercus coccifera | Kermes oak | | | x | | | | |
| Quercus ilex | Holm oak | | | x | | | | |
| Quercus faginea | Lusitanian oak | | | x | | | x | |
| Quercus ilex rotundifolia | | | | | | | | |
| Ulmaceae | | | | | | | | |
| Celtis australis | Nettle tree | | | x | | | | |
| Santalaceae | Sandelwood family | | | | | | | |
| Osyris alba | Osyris | | | | | | | |
| Moraceae | Mulberry family | | | | | | | |
| Ficus sycomorus | Wild fig | | | x | | | | |
| Urticaceae | Nettle familie | | | | | | | |
| Urtica dioica | Nettle | | | | | | x | |
| Urtica urens | Small nettle | | | | | | | |
| Parietaria judaica | Pellitory of the wall | | | x | | | x | |
| Polygonaceae | Dock family | | | | | | | |
| Rumex scutatus | French sorrel | | | | | | | |
| Carophyllaceae | Pink family | | | | | | | |
| Petrocoptis Guarensis | catchfly type | | | | | | | |
| Silene vulgaris | Bladder campion | | | x | | | x | |
| Silene nutans | | | | x | | | | |
| Stellaria media | Common chickweed | | | | | | | |
| Paronychia capitata | | | | | | | | |
| Ranunculaceae | Buttercup family | | | | | | | |
| Helleboris foetidus | Stinking hellebore | | | | | | | |
| Thalictrum tuberosum | | | | x | | | x | |
| Hepatica nobilis | Hepatica | | | | | | x | |
| Aconitum napellus | Common monkshood L. | | | | | | | |
| Clematis vitalba | Traveller's joy | | | | | | | |
| Ranunculus bulbosus | Bulbous buttercup | | | x | | | x | |
| Aquilegia vulgaris | Common columbine | | | | | | x | |
| Papaveraceae | Poppy family | | | | | | | |
| papaver rhoeas | Field poppy | | | x | | | x | |
| Chelidonium majus | Greater celandine | | | | | | x | |
| Fumariaceae | Fumitory family | | | | | | | |
| Fumaria officinalis L. | Common fumitory | | | x | | | x | |
| Crucifereae | Cress family | | | | | | | |
| Biscutella laevigata | Buckler mustard | | | x | | | | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| Capsella bursa-pastoris | Shepherd's purse | | |
| Alliaria petiolata | Garlic mustard | | |
| Arabis hirsuta | Hairy rockcress | | |
| Cardaria draba | Hoary pepperwort | | |
| Resedaceae | Mignonette family | | |
| Reseda lutea | Weld | x | |
| Crassulaceae | Stonecrop family | | |
| Sedum album | White stonecrop | x | |
| Sedum dasphyllum | Thick-leaved stonecrop | | |
| Sedum acre | Biting stonecrop | x | |
| Jovibarba globifera | Hen and chickens houseleek | | |
| Umbelicus rupestris | Navelwort | x | |
| Sedum sediforme | Pale stonecrop | x | |
| Saxifragaceae | Saxifrage family | | |
| Saxifraga longifolia | Pyrenean saxifrage | x | |
| Saxifraga tridactylites | Rue-leaved saxifrage | | |
| Saxifraga granulata | Meadow saxifrage | | x |
| Rosaceae | Rose family | | |
| Filipendula vulgaris | Dropwort | | |
| Rubus fruticosus agg. | Bramble | x | x |
| Geum montanum | Alpine avens | | x |
| Potentilla crantzii | Alpine cinquefoil | | |
| Fragaria vesca | Wild strawberry | x | x |
| Amelanchier ovalis | Amelanchier | | x |
| Sanguisorba minor | Salad burnet | | x |
| Rosa canina | Dog rose | x | x |
| Crataegus monogyna | Common hawthorn | | x |
| Cydonia oblonga | Common quince | | |
| Pyrus pyraster | Wild pear | | |
| Sorbus aucupario | Rowan | | |
| Sorbus aria | Whitebeam | | |
| Prunus spinosa | Blackthorn | x | x |
| Prunus avium | Cherry | | |
| Prunus Dulcis | Almond | | |
| Leguminosae | Pea family | | |
| Genista scorpius | Divel's claw | | x |
| Echinospartum horridum | Echinospartum | | x |
| Robinia pseudoacacia | Black locust , False acacia | | x |
| Colutea arborescens | Bladder senna | x | |
| Astragalus glycyphyllos | Wild liquorice | | x |
| Lathyrus cicera | | x | |
| Lathyrus apaca | Yellow vetch | | |
| Lathyrus latifolius | Broad-leaved everlasting pea | | |
| Anthyllis vulneraria | kidney-vetch | x | |
| Psoralea bituminosa | Pitch trefoil | | x |
| Coronilla emerus | scorpion vetch | x | |
| Medicago polymorpha | Bur clover | | |
| Medicago orbicularis | Button medic | | |
| Onobrychis viciifolia | Sainfoin | | |
| Geraniaceae | Geranium family | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
| Geranium robertianum | Herb Robert | x | |
| Euphorbiaceae | Spurge family | | |
| Euphorbia exigua | Dwarf spurge | | |
| Euphorbia serrata | | x | |
| Euphorbia characias | Large mediterranean spurge | | |
| Linaceae | Flax family | | |
| Linum narbonense | Beautiful flax | x | x |
| Linum suffruticosum | White flax | | x |
| Polygalaceae | Milkwort family | | |
| Polygala nicaeensis | Nice milkwort | x | x |
| Polygala calcarea | Chalk milkwort | | x |
| Anacardiceae | | | |
| Pistacia lentiscus | Mastic tree | x | |
| Pistacia terebintus | Turpentine tree | | |
| Buxaceae | Box family | | |
| Buxus sempervirens | Box | x | x |
| Rhamnaceae | Buckthorn family | | |
| Rhamnus alaternus | Mediterranean buckthorn | | |
| Vitaceae | Vine family | | |
| vitis vinifera | Wild grape vine | | |
| Cucurbitaceae | Cucumber family | | |
| Bryonia cretica ssp dioica | White bryony | x | |
| Cistaceae | Rockrose family | | |
| Helianthemum nummularium | Common rockrose | | x |
| Helianthemum apininum | White rockrose | x | x |
| Cistus albidus | White-leaved rockrose | x | |
| Cistus clusii | Male rosemary | x | |
| Cornaceae | Dogwood family | | |
| Cornus sanguinea | Common dogwood | | |
| Araliaceae | Ivy family | | |
| Hedera helix | Ivy | x | x |
| Umbellifereae | Carrot family | | |
| Eryngium campestre | Field eryngo | x | |
| Foeniculum vulgare | fennel | x | x |
| Bupleurum rigidum | Hares ear | | |
| Ericaceae | Heath family | | |
| Arbutus unedo | strawberrytrees | x | |
| Arctostaphylos uva-ursi | Bearberry | x | |
| Primulaceae | Primrose family | | |
| Primula veris | Cowslip | | |
| Primula vulgaris | Common primrose | | |
| Lysimachia thyrsiflora | Tufted loosestrife | | |
| Anagallis arvensis | Scarlet pimpernel | | |
| Plumbagnaceae | Thrift family | | |
| Armeria maritima ssp alpina | Mountain thrift | | |
| Oleaceae | Olive family | | |
| Fraxinus excelsior | Ash | | |
| Jasminum fruticans | Wild Jasmin | x | |
| Ligustrum vulgare | Privet | | x |
| Olea europaea | Olive | x | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Apocynaceae | Dogbane family | | |
| Vinca mayor | Greater periwinkel | x | |
| Rubiaceae | Bedstraw family | | |
| Galium aparine | Common bedstraw | | |
| Rubia peregrina | Madder | | |
| Convolvulaceae | Bindweed family | | |
| Cuscuta epithymum | Dodder | | |
| Boraginaceae | Borage family | | |
| Symphytum tuberosum | Tuberous comfrey | | |
| Lithodora fruticosa | Shrubby gromwell | | |
| Lithospermum purpureo-caeruleum | Purple gromwell | | |
| Echium vulgare | Vipers bugloss | x | x |
| Borago officinalis | Borage | x | |
| Pentaglottis sempervirens | Evergreen bugloss | | |
| Labiataeae | Mint family | | |
| Ajuga chamaepitys | Ground pine | | |
| Teucrium chamaepitys | Wall germander | | |
| Rosmarinus officinalis | Rosemary | x | x |
| Lavendula angustifolia | Lavender | | x |
| Marrubium vulgare | White horehound | | x |
| Phlomis lychnitis | | | |
| Lamium amplexicaule | Hen-bit | | |
| Ballota nigra | Black horehound | | x |
| Salvia pratensis | meadow clary | | |
| Salvia verbenaca | Clary | x | x |
| Satureja montana | Winter savory | x | x |
| Calamintha nepeta | Lesser calamint | | |
| Thymus vulgaris | Thyme | x | x |
| Mentha piperita | Peppermint | | |
| Solanaceae | Nightshade family | | |
| Hyocyamus niger | Henbane | | |
| Scrophulariaceae | Figwort family | | |
| Antirrhinum majus | Snapdragon | | |
| Verbascum thapsus | Aaron's rod | | |
| Veronica prostrata l. | Sprawling speedwell | x | |
| Veronica persica | Persian speedwell | | |
| Globulariaceae | Globularia family | | |
| Globularia vulgare | Common globularia | x | x |
| Gesneriaceae, | Gloxinia family | | |
| Ramonda myconi | Ramonda | | x |
| Orobanchaceae, | Broomrape family | | |
| Orobanche gracilis | slender broomrape | | |
| Orobanche laticaula | | | |
| Plantaginaceae, | Plantain family | | |
| Plantago media | Hoary plantain | | x |
| Plantago sempervirens | shrubby plantain | x | |
| Plantago coronopus | Buck's-horn plantain | | |
| Plantago lanceolata | Ribwort plantain | | x |
| Caprifoliaceae | Honeysuckle family | | |
| Lonicera etrusca | Etruscan honeysuckle | x | |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| Lonicera periclymenum | Honeysuckle | | |
| Lonicera implexum | honeysuckle | | x |
| Sambucus nigra | Elder | x | x |
| Sambucus ebulus | Dane wort | | x |
| Viburnum lantana | Wayfaring tree | | |
| valerianaceae | Valerian family | | |
| Centrantus ruber | Red valerian | x | |
| Centrantus angustifolius Mill DC | | | |
| Valeriana longiflora | | | |
| Dipsacaceae | Teasel family | | |
| Dipsacus fullonum | Teasel | | |
| Sixalix atropurpuea L. Greuter | | | |
| Campanulaceae | Bellflower family | | |
| Jasione montana | Mountain sheepsbit | | |
| Compositae | Daisy family | | |
| Artemisia campestris | Fieldsagewort | | |
| Filago vulgaris | Common cutweed | | |
| Bellis perennis | Daisy | x | x |
| Tussilago farfara | Coltsfoot | | |
| Staelina dubia | ? | x | |
| Centaurea conifera | ? | x | |
| Silybum marianum | Milk thistle | x | x |
| Tragopogon Pratensis | Goatsbeard | x | |
| Lactuca tenerrima | Moroccan lettuce | x | |
| Helichrysum stoechas | Curryplant | x | |
| Santolina chamaecyparissus | Lavender cotton | | x |
| Arctium minus | Lesser burdock | | |
| Liliaceae | Lily family | | |
| Aphyllanthes monspelienses | Blue aphyllanthes | x | |
| Allium molly | Yellow onion | x | |
| Allium roseum | Rosy garlic | | |
| Asphodelus albus | White asphodel | | |
| Tulipa australis | Wild tulip | x | |
| Dipcadi serotinum | Jacinto bastardo | x | |
| Muscari comosum | Tassel hyacinth | x | |
| Muscari neglectum | | | |
| Ruscus aculeatus | Butcher's broom | | |
| Asparagus officinalis | Asparagus | x | |
| Asparagus acutifolius | Asparagus | x | |
| Dioscoreaceae | Yam family | | |
| Tamus communis | Black bryony | | |
| Iridaceae | Iris family | | |
| Iris xiphoides | English iris | | |
| Iris lutescens | | | |
| Gladiolus Illiricus | | x | |
| Orchidaceae | Orchid family | | |
| Ophris insectifera | Fly orchid | | x |
| Ophrys sphegodes | Early spider orchid | | x |
| Ophris scolopax | Woodcock orchid | | x |
| Orchis purpurea | Lady orchid | x | x |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| Gymnadenia conopsea | Fragrant orchid | | x |
| Platanthera bifolia | Lesser butterfly orchid | x | x |
| Platanthera chlorantha | Butterfly orchid | x | |
| Cephalanthera longifolia | Sword-leaved helleborine | x | |
| Neottia nidus-avis | Bird's nest orchid | x | |
| Agavaceae | | | |
| Agave americana | | | |
| Gramineae | | | |
| Poa bulbosum | | | |
| Bromus rubens | | | |
| | | | |
| Ceterach officinarum | rustback | x | x |
| Asplenium trichomanes | | | x |