

The Spanish Pyrenees

Naturetrek Tour Report

19 - 26 May 2013

Report compiled by Philip Thompson



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Day 1

Sunday 19th May

After our early evening arrival and slight detour around the motorway outside Zaragoza we completed the transfer to the historic town of Berdun and our guest house for the trip where we enjoyed an evening meal before retiring to bed after a long day of travel.

Day 2

Monday 20th May

The morning was spent in a walk from our guesthouse into the 'Badlands' and Rio Veral below the town. We were able to familiarise ourselves with several species of plant found in the area which we would be seeing throughout the trip. Our first Griffon Vulture of the trip was spotted perched, rather incongruously to British eyes, on a nearby barn roof!

We continued on the track down to the river where we then took the narrow path that ran alongside the river on the alluvial shingle with its attractive mix of vegetation. The heavy storms and floods that this part of Spain had experienced over the last winter had left a thick layer of fresh alluvium covering the whole area as well as the river floods having carved large sections of the banks away and had changed its course considerably. The flora was still very rich with numerous species seen including several orchids. An obliging singing Subalpine Warbler was coaxed out to show very well for the group. Luckily for a few of the group a European Nightjar was flushed from the ground almost underfoot as we walked among the plants. Around us several Golden Orioles could be heard but remained typically elusive providing only fleeting glimpses. We retraced our steps back to the bridge and onward to the guesthouse for lunch.

For the afternoon we drove the short distance to the Rio Aragon for our second walk of the day. This covered very similar terrain to the morning but still held numerous new plants and birds. The highlight of the walk was the sighting of an Otter fishing on the far side of the river, that continued in view for some time before finally surfacing with a large fish in its mouth, after which it swam to shore and vanished in to the riverside vegetation.

Day 3

Tuesday 21st May

In a change to the usual itinerary we started the day with a walk among the hills near Alastuey which were rather quiet from a bird perspective but did produce our first singing Western Bonelli's Warbler.

At mid-morning we then moved on the short distance to the hills south of St. Cilia where one of the official vulture feeding points lay, this being the main reason for the change of schedule as we had been informed that today was to be a deposit of carcasses for the birds. We arrived exactly on time for the truck to leave a grisly heap of pigs, piglets and sheep for the gathering vultures. During the next hour up to 300 Griffon Vultures descended to form an impenetrable mass as they fought and squabbled for a share of the spoils. A couple of Egyptian Vultures lurked around the fringes and several Black and Red Kites swept down periodically to snatch at scraps.

After watching this spectacle we then moved on to the monastery of St. Juan de la Pena for lunch! Arriving at the monastery grounds the cold wind made for a rather uncomfortable picnic and therefore a rather abbreviated exploration of the area. A nice bonus was a good number of Common Crossbills in the Scots Pines behind us.

For the afternoon we headed north up the attractive Hecho Valley to take the side road towards the Gabardito Refugio. From here we then took a pleasant walk through the Pine and Beech forest to then stake out the large rock face at the trackside. Our quarry here was for a glimpse of the elusive and diminutive Wallcreeper. During the patient wait we were entertained with good numbers of both species of Chough and distant Pyrenean Chamois. As usual, just as our perseverance is beginning to wane, a bird flew in and spent about 5 minutes moving about the sheer rock face before heading out across the valley once more. Once we had returned to the vehicles and rejoined a couple of the group who had remained behind they informed us that they had been fortunate in sighting a small number of Citril Finches in the meadows at the refuge.

Day 4

Wednesday 22nd May

With the cold northerly wind still blowing and conditions on the high tops due for rain we opted to head south today. Our first stop was alongside the Embalse de Pena. Here the birding was a little disappointing, perhaps due to the cold and windy conditions with several species of birds normally seen remaining unseen or absent. We moved on to the small village of Riglos with the mighty conglomerate pinnacles alongside. Our walk from the village to the base of the rocks proved to be cold with a strong buffeting wind blowing down into the cirque where we would usually spend some time birding. It was decided to retreat out of the wind and take another track running directly along the foot of the pinnacles. Plants proved to be the main interest here with numerous new species for the trip, which offered a rather more 'Mediterranean' feel, compared with the high Pyrenees.

For lunch we transferred to the small Aguerro Chapel found on the opposite side of the valley from Riglos. Here we found shelter from the wind to enjoy lunch in this quiet and peaceful spot with its great views. Our final stop of the day was taken at the Castillio de Loarre found somewhat further south still. The group were able to split up and explore the area as they wanted with some enjoying a visit inside the historic castle whilst others roamed the hills or partook of a coffee in the visitor centre. The wind rather hampered bird activity but the local flora held several delights.

Day 5

Thursday 23rd May

The weather forecast was still due to be windy but we at least were hoping for a dry day as we set off for the beautiful unspoilt and peaceful Aisa Valley set below the high tops of the Pyrenean peaks. Our arrival at the end of the road and walk start did not at first appear to be too bad with a bright sun seeing us set off on foot.

As we steadily climbed at the start of the route the wind became stronger and we were hampered by spray and drizzle being swept down from the peaks. All around us the magical alpine flora of these Pyrenean meadows was blooming with numerous gentians and orchids to admire. We pressed on adding new plants as we went as well as a small select group of birds that included one Golden Eagle sweeping down the valley. Mammals included a few Chamois, a pair of rival males which chased close past us, preoccupied with their personal dispute. After a while we retreated to the shelter of the mountain refuge hut to eat our lunches in the lee of the basic building. Incredibly, a Golden Eagle was sighted which was joined by two more with heads to the wind scanning the ground below. Our final consolation was the sighting of a handsome male Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, which we were able to view through a buffeted telescope.

With a retreat to the minibus and time on our hands the opportunity was taken to take a trip to the head of the Hecho Valley and an exploration of this other high alpine region. Luckily through a quirk of geology the valley here close to French border was far more sheltered from the wind, enough to allow us to take a couple of short walks from the vehicle. The highlight was seeing three Lammergeyers cruising these high meadows. The flora contained a few gems, but the cold spring throughout Europe this year had obviously delayed the flowering of many species.

Day 6

Friday 24th May

Our day today began with a walk along a stretch of the Camino de Santiago Pilgrims Trail that ended in the small village of Arres where we were able to enjoy a coffee in the local bar. Flowers were again the main attraction with numerous new species seen, the birds keeping their heads down in the persistent wind. One species of particular interest found on this walk, the Western Orphean Warbler, was heard singing and put in the most fleeting of views as it kept to deep cover to the frustration of the birders in the group. Butterflies, which up to now had been in short supply, put in a modest appearance with the sighting of a single Duke of Burgundy and Panoptes Blue to add to the trips rather depleted list so far. Towards the end of the walk we were barely able to discern a singing Ortolan Bunting below us that remained unseen. Once we had reached Arres and had some refreshment we drove down to the Rio Aragon for lunch.

A short stop was taken at the roadside at the base of the hillside slope to take a walk to see if we could pick up the Ortolan Bunting heard earlier. We were successful in our search and also added Tawny Pipit to the group list. As we turned off the tarmac road and made our way down to the lunch stop a pair of Woodchat Shrikes were spotted to which incredibly a Wryneck was added sitting on the same branch as one of the shrikes! This excellent sighting at least softened the blow that became apparent during our short walk after lunch along the river. Normally there is a large ground-nesting colony of Bee-eaters found here but the recent floods had clearly silted up the nest sites and the area had been abandoned by the birds.

The afternoon was then spent in a walk along the road through the Gorge de Binies. This stunning walk through this narrow and dramatic gorge provided many botanical highlights new to the trip whilst overhead several Griffon Vultures soared or perched on their breeding crags which were joined by a couple of the smaller Egyptian Vultures. The fast rushing Rio Veral held several Grey Wagtails, but the Dippers were only sighted very briefly by a few of the group.

A final excursion of the day was taken after dinner when we ventured out into the cold and wind to stake out an Eagle Owl site. Once more our endurance was tested to the limit but we were rewarded with the sighting of 2 birds, one of which flew overhead crossing the road close behind us giving a wonderful view in the gathering gloom. The local Nightjars were beginning to ‘churr’ when we decided a warm bed was a better attraction!

Day 7

Saturday 25th May

Another excursion into the high alpine zone was planned today when we were due to head up to the French border at the Col du Portelet. But first we took a short trip to a site below Berdun to admire a small colony of Man Orchids in flower with a few spikes of Lizard Orchid still to reach their climax. The journey up to Portelet was enjoyed in pleasant sunny conditions but it was clear upon our arrival that the tops were not only cold and windy but still had plentiful snowfields with fresh snow having recently fallen to which more began to fall as we retreated to the café for refreshments! We attempted to explore a little of the area lower down on the French side of the border with a very short walk. This was rewarded with a trio of male Rufous-tailed Rock Thrushes all together, and clearly either pushed down off the tops or still awaiting suitable conditions to move up and stake a territory. The freshly fallen powder snow on the branches of the lime-green leaved Beech trees looked stunning even if it didn't tempt us out of the vehicle!

An alternative walk was taken up a lower side valley leading from the ski resort of Formigal which luckily proved to be very productive, pleasant! The route led through a variety of habitats that resulted in the finding of numerous new plants and a few good birds. The walk started well with the spotting of a basking Camberwell Beauty on the path ahead that sat to be admired for some time. As the route then slowly climbed past riverside meadows, rocky escarpment, Beech forest and waterfalls we were able to enjoy at leisure the many special plants found along the way. We rested for lunch by the track below an imposing slab of rock that created a perfect suntrap to finally enjoy some warmth. A Wallcreeper flying overhead provided an extra bonus. We continued walking further before returning to the vehicle and a coffee at the nearby café.

Day 8

Sunday 26th May

With an early evening flight home ahead of us we were able to enjoy an excursion filled day before our arrival the Zaragoza airport. We began with the short journey up a nearby valley towards Fago to spend some time at a roadside raptor viewpoint in this narrow gorge-like section. We were rewarded with numerous locally breeding Griffon Vultures and a few Egyptian Vultures. A few kites were seen but the main highlight was a small party of migrating Honey Buzzards passing by which picked up a thermal overhead. We returned to the guesthouse to pick up our luggage, say our farewells and start the journey south. Our next stop was at the Embalse de la Sotonera. Here the birdlife was of a very different nature to the Pyrenees, now being much more typical of the plains of central Spain. Several species of lark were seen here as well as a small selection of waterbirds on the reservoir, the highlight of which was a trio of Whiskered Terns.

Our final stop was then taken at the Castillio de Montearagon near the town of Huesca. The speciality birds here on this hilltop fort were the breeding Black, Black-eared and Northern Wheatears joined by a Spectacled Warbler. The local Thekla Larks proved to be elusive and were only seen by a few of the group. The local flora was very different and once more held many new species for the trip. All that remained now was to safely complete the journey to the airport and our flight home...

Species List

Plants

Scientific name	Common name
PINOPSIDA (GYMNOSPERMS)	CONIFERS
Cupressaceae	Cypress Family
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenician Juniper
Pinaceae	Pine Family
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo Pine
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Austrian Pine
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine
MAGNOLIOPSIDA	FLOWERING PLANTS
Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)	
Aceraceae	Maple Family
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier maple
<i>Acer opalus</i>	
Anacardiaceae	Sumach Family
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic tree
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine tree
Apiaceae	Carrot Family
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Bupleurum rigidum</i>	
<i>Conopodium denudatum</i>	Earthnut
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Eryngium bourgatii</i>	Pyrenean Eryngo
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo
<i>Laserpitium gallicum</i>	a Sermountain
<i>Laserpitium latifolium</i>	Broad-leaved Sermountain
<i>Meum athamanticum</i>	Spignel
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle
<i>Seseli montanum</i>	-
<i>Trinia glauca</i>	Honewort
Araliaceae	Ivy Family
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
Asclepiadaceae	Milkweed Family
<i>Vincetoxicum nigrum</i>	Black Swallow-wort
Asteraceae	Daisy Family
<i>Artemesia absinthium</i>	
<i>Artemesia campestris</i>	

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Artemesia herba-alba</i>	Pyrenean Wormwood
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy
<i>Carduncellus mitissimus</i>	Dwarf Blue Thistle
<i>Carduus crispus</i>	Wetted Thistle
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk Thistle
<i>Catananche caerulea</i>	Cupid's Dart
<i>Centaurea aspera</i>	
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow Star-thistle
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory
<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Common Cudweed
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry Plant
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed
<i>Lactuca perennis</i>	Blue Lettuce
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Cotton Thistle
<i>Onopordum acaulon</i>	Stemless Cotton Thistle
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Pallenis
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	Lavender Cotton
<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>	Spanish Oyster Plant
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle
<i>Tragopogon crocifolius</i>	-
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	

Boraginaceae

<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage
<i>Cynoglossum cheirifolium</i>	
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-tongue
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss
<i>Lithodora fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Gromwell
<i>Lithospermum arvensis</i>	Corn Gromwell
<i>Lithospermum officinale</i>	
<i>Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum</i>	Blue Gromwell
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	Alpine Forget-me-not

Borage Family**Brassicaceae**

<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Alyssum alyssoides</i>	
<i>Arabis caucasica subsp. alpina</i>	Alpine Rock-cress
<i>Arabis glabra</i>	Tower Mustard
<i>Arabis hirsuta</i>	Hairy Rock-cress
<i>Arabis turrata</i>	Tower Cress
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Common Winter-cress
<i>Biscutella laevigata</i>	Buckler Mustard
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse
<i>Cardamine heptaphylla</i>	
<i>Cardamine raphanifolia</i>	Greater Cuckooflower
<i>Cardamine resedifolia</i>	
<i>Draba aizoides</i>	Yellow Whitlow-grass
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Evergreen Candytuft
<i>Malcolmia africana</i>	
<i>Matthiola fruticulosa</i>	Sad Stock

Cabbage Family

Scientific name	Common name
Buxaceae <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box Family Box
Campanulaceae <i>Campanula erinus</i> <i>Campanula trachelium</i>	Bellflower Family Nettle-leaved Bellflower
Caprifoliaceae <i>Lonicera etrusca</i> <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> <i>Lonicera pyrenaica</i> <i>Lonicera xylosteum</i> <i>Sambucus ebulus</i> <i>Sambucus nigra</i> <i>Sambucus racemosa</i> <i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Honeysuckle Family Etruscan Honeysuckle Honeysuckle Pyrenean Honeysuckle Fly Honeysuckle Dwarf Elder Elder Wayfaring Tree
Carophyllaceae <i>Arenaria aggregata</i> <i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i> <i>Cerastium arvense</i> <i>Dianthus hispanicus</i> <i>Illecebrum verticillatum</i> <i>Minuartia verna</i> <i>Paronychia kapela</i> <i>Paronychia capitata</i> <i>Petrocoptis hispanica</i> <i>Petrorhagia prolifera</i> <i>Saponaria ocymoides</i> <i>Scleranthus perennis</i> <i>Silene nutans</i> <i>Silene vulgaris</i> <i>Spergularia rubra</i> <i>Stellaria media</i> <i>Telephium imperati</i>	Pink Family Field Mouse-ear - Spring Sandwort - Petrocoptis Proliferous Pink Rock Soapwort Nottingham Catchfly Bladder Champion Common Chickweed
Cistaceae <i>Fumana ericoides</i> <i>Fumana procumbens</i> <i>Helianthemum apenninum</i> <i>Helianthemum nummularium</i> <i>H.nummularium subsp. pyrenaicum</i> <i>H.oelandicum subsp. canum</i>	Rockrose Family Fumana White Rockrose Common Rockrose Pink Rockrose Hoary Rockrose
Convolvulaceae <i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i> <i>Cuscuta epithimum</i>	Bindweed Family Pink Bindweed Dodder
Cornaceae <i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood Family Common Dogwood
Crassulaceae <i>Sedum acre</i>	Stonecrop Family Biting Stonecrop

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop
<i>Sedum atratum</i>	
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Thick-leaved Stonecrop
<i>Sedum reflexum</i>	
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>	
<i>Sempervivum arachnoidium</i>	
<i>Umbelicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel
<i>Knautia dipsacifolia</i>	Wood Scabious
<i>Lomelosia stellata</i>	
Ericaceae	Heath Family
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	Dwarf Spurge
<i>Euphorbia characias</i> subsp. <i>characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge
<i>Euphorbia serrata</i>	-
Fabaceae	Pea Family
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> subsp. <i>pyrenaica</i>	Pink Kidney Vetch
<i>Astragalus depressus</i>	
<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>	False Vetch
<i>Astragalus purpureus</i>	Purple Vetch
<i>Astragalus sempervirens</i>	Mountain Tragacanth
<i>Bitumaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil
<i>Coronilla emerus</i>	
<i>Coronilla minima</i>	
<i>Coronilla scorpioides</i>	Annual Scorpion Vetch
<i>Cytisophyllum sessilifolium</i>	
<i>Dorycnium pentaphyllum</i>	-
<i>Echinopartum horridum</i>	Echinopartum
<i>Genista hispanica</i>	
<i>Genista scorpius</i>	
<i>Hippocrepis ciliata</i>	
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	-
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea
<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Bitter Vetch
<i>Lathyrus pannonicus</i>	-
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne
<i>Melilotus altissima</i>	Tall Melilot
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin
<i>Ononis fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Restharrow

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Ononis natrix</i>	Large Yellow Restharrow
<i>Ononis reclinata</i>	
<i>Oxytropis neglecta</i>	
<i>Pisum sativum</i>	Wild Pea
<i>Tetragonolobus maritimus</i>	Dragon's Teeth
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
Fagaceae	Oak Family
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak
<i>Quercus pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Oak
Fumariaceae	Fumitory Family
<i>Corydalis solida</i>	Bird-in-a-Bush
<i>Fumaria parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Fumitory
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort
<i>Gentiana acaulis</i>	Trumpet Gentian
<i>Gentiana occidentalis</i>	Pyrenean Trumpet Gentian
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring Gentian
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family
<i>Erodium ciconium</i>	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill
<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	Long-stalked Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedge Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	
Gesneriaceae	Gloxinia Family
<i>Ramonda myconi</i>	Ramonda
Globulariaceae	Globularia Family
<i>Globularia nudicaulis</i>	Leafless-stemmed Globularia
<i>Globularia punctata</i>	Common Globularia
<i>Globularia repens</i>	-
Hypericaceae	St John's-wort Family
<i>Hypericum nummularium</i>	Western St John's-wort
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-wort
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family
<i>Acinos alpina</i>	Alpine Basil-thyme
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine
<i>Ajuga pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Bugle

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound
<i>Clinopodium acinos</i>	Basil-thyme
<i>Horminum pyrenaicum</i>	Dragonmouth
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Hen-bit
<i>Lamium garganicum</i>	Large Red Deadnettle
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Lavender
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White Horehound
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard Balm
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram
<i>Phlomis herba-venti</i>	-
<i>Phlomis lychnitis</i>	-
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary
<i>Sideritis hirsuta</i>	-
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow Woundwort
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	
<i>Thymbra capitata</i>	
<i>Thymus pulegioides</i>	Large Thyme
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Perennial Thyme
Lentibulariaceae	Butterwort Family
<i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>	Greater Butterwort
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common Butterwort
Linaceae	Flax Family
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax
<i>Linum campanulatum</i>	
<i>Linum narbonense</i>	Beautiful Flax
<i>Linum strictum</i>	
<i>L. suffruticosum</i> subsp. <i>salsaloides</i>	Pyrenean Flax
Loranthaceae	Mistletoe Family
<i>Viscum album</i> subsp. <i>austriacum</i>	Mistletoe
Malvaceae	Mallow Family
<i>Althaea hirsuta</i>	Rough Marsh Mallow
<i>Lavatera maritima</i>	
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
Moraceae	Mulberry Family
<i>Ficus sycomorus</i>	Wild Fig
Oleaceae	Olive Family
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Jasminium fruticans</i>	Wild Jasmine
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Privet
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive
<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family
<i>Lathraea clandestina</i>	Purple Toothwort

Scientific name	Common name
Oxalidaceae	
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood Sorrel
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine
<i>Papaver argemone</i>	Prickly Poppy
<i>Papaver dubium</i>	
<i>Papaver hybridum</i>	
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Field Poppy
<i>Roemeria hybrida</i>	Violet Horned Poppy
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain
<i>Plantago sempervirens</i>	
Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family
<i>Polygala calcarea</i>	
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort
Polygonaceae	Dock Family
<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	French Sorrel
Primulaceae	Primrose Family
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> subsp. <i>foemina</i>	Blue pimpernel
<i>Androsace chamaejasme</i>	Ciliate Rock-jasmine
<i>Androsace vitaliana</i>	Vitaliana
<i>Coris monspeliensis</i>	Coris
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip
<i>Primula farinosa</i>	Bird's-eye Primrose
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip
Pyrolaceae	Wintergreen Family
<i>Pyrola chlorantha</i>	Pale-green Wintergreen
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family
<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	
<i>Adonis annua</i>	Pheasant's-eye
<i>Adonis microcarpa</i>	
<i>Adonis vernalis</i>	Yellow Pheasant's-eye
<i>Anemone ranunculoides</i>	
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Common Columbine
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's Joy
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore
<i>Helleborus viridis</i>	Green Hellebore
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica
<i>Ranunculus amplexicaulis</i>	Amplexicaule Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	Goldilocks Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus carinthiacus</i>	
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	
<i>Ranunculus gouanii</i>	Gouan's Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus gramineus</i>	-

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Ranunculus pyrenaicus</i>	Pyrenean Buttercup
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	
<i>Thalictrum tuberosum</i>	-
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globeflower
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld
<i>Reseda phyteuma</i>	Corn Mignonette
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family
<i>Frangulus alnus</i>	Alder Buckthorn
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn
<i>Rhamnus pumilis</i>	Dwarf Buckthorn
Rosaceae	Rose Family
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine Lady's Mantle
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	Juneberry
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Geum pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean Avens
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Potentilla crantzii</i>	Alpine Cinquefoil
<i>Potentilla rupestris</i>	Rock Cinquefoil
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Madder
<i>Rubia tinctoria</i>	
Santalaceae	Sandalwood Family
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family
<i>Saxifraga exerata</i> subsp <i>moschata</i>	White Musky Saxifrage
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage
<i>Saxifraga longifolia</i>	Pyrenean Saxifrage
<i>Saxifraga paniculata</i>	
<i>Saxifraga pubescens</i>	Hairy Saxifrage
<i>Saxifraga umbrosa</i>	
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Snapdragon
<i>Bartsia alpina</i>	Alpine Bartsia
<i>Chaenorrhinum organifolium</i>	Malling Toadflax
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy Foxglove
<i>Linaria simplex</i>	
<i>Pedicularis pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Lousewort
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle
<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	French Figwort

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Aaron's Rod
<i>Veronica austriaca</i>	
<i>Veronica prostrata</i>	
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family
<i>Atropa belladonna</i>	Deadly Nightshade
<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Henbane
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet
Thymelaceae	Daphne Family
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel
<i>Thymelaea sanamunda</i>	
Urticaceae	Nettle Family
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Small Nettle
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian
<i>Valeriana montana</i>	-
<i>Valeriana tuberosa</i>	
Violaceae	Violet Family
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog Violet
Vitaceae	Vine Family
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Wild Grape-vine
Liliidae (Monocotyledons)	
Dioscoreaceae	Yam Family
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony
Iridaceae	Iris Family
<i>Iris graminea</i>	Grass-leaved Iris
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag
Liliaceae	Lily Family
<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	Wild Leek
<i>Allium moly</i>	Yellow Garlic
<i>Allium pyrenaicum</i>	-
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic
<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	
<i>Allium sphaerocephalon</i>	Round-headed leek
<i>Anthericum liliago</i>	St. Bernard's Lily
<i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i>	Blue Aphyllanthes
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Asparagus
<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White Asphodel
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-leaved Asphodel
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	
<i>Brimeura amethystinus</i>	Pyrenean Hyacinth

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Dipcadi serotinum</i>	Brown Blubell
<i>Fritillaria lusitanica</i>	
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon Lily
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Grape Hyacinth
<i>Narcissus bicolor</i>	-
<i>Narcissus asturiensis (minor)</i>	-
<i>Narcissus assoanus</i>	Rush-leaved Daffodil
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	-
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom
<i>Scilla lilio-hyacinthus</i>	Pyrenean Squill
<i>Scilla verna</i>	Spring Squill
<i>Veratrum album</i>	White False Helleborine

Orchidaceae	Orchid Family
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine
<i>Dactylorhiza elata</i>	Robust Marsh Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>	Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid
<i>Ophrys araneola</i>	an Early Spider Orchid
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid
<i>Ophrys lupercalis</i>	
<i>Ophrys lutea</i>	Yellow Bee Orchid
<i>Ophrys quadriloba</i>	-
<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock Orchid
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early Spider Orchid
<i>Orchis anthropophora</i>	Man Orchid
<i>Orchis champagneuxii</i>	Champagne Orchid
<i>Orchis langei</i>	
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	Military Orchid
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid
<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	Burnt Orchid
<i>Plantathera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid
<i>Plantathera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>								6
2	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>								4
3	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>								4
4	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>								8
5	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>								12
6	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		2				1		
7	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		1						3
8	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	1							12

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9	Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>					3			
10	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	1	10	300+	25	40	50	6	25
11	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>		2	3	3	6	6		2
12	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>					4			2
13	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			2	1	2			
14	Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennata</i>			1			4		
15	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		2	8	10	6	8	2	8
16	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	3	10	20	15	6	10	1	20
17	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		1				1		2
18	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		2				4		8
19	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			1		1			1
20	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		2	3	2	2		1	3
21	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>								1
22	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		1						3
23	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		3				1		
24	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		1		1		1		4
25	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>								3
26	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		1	6				2	4
28	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			3			1		
30	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H			H		
31	Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>						2		
32	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>		1				H		
33	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>								2
35	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		3		1				1
36	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		20		1		1		4
37	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		H	H				H	1
38	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		H	H		1			
39	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>						1		
40	Common Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>								4
41	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		2		2		2		35
42	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida Theklae</i>								2
43	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>								2
44	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>								10
45	Common Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				1		3	1	
46	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			8	12	3	12	3	12
47	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
48	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>						1		2
50	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>							4	
51	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		6	3	1		1	2	2
52	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		1			3	4	1	
53	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>					2	1		
54	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>							H	
55	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		6	3	1	H	1	H	
56	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			12	3	2	1	3	3
58	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			25	1	3	3	6	1
59	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>								3

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
60	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>								2
61	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		1	3	2	1	6		4
62	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			4				1	
63	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>			1		1		3	
65	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		6	H			H		
66	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		10	H			6	✓	
67	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		3	✓	1	1	1	1	1
68	Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>						1		
69	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>								1
70	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>				3				
71	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>		1	3	3		3		2
72	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>								H
73	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H		H				
74	European Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				H				
75	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		3	1	2	1	4	1	
76	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>			3	H	H	H		H
77	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H	H			H		
78	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>							2	
79	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>			3		H			
80	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	H	H		H	H	H
81	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		2		1		1		1
82	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	
83	European Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
84	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>			✓				✓	
85	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			6	H				
86	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
87	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			1					
88	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>			1				1	
89	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		6	H	H		H		
90	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		2			1			
91	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>						2		4
92	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		1				1		1
94	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>			12	10	20		✓	10
95	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>			50		300			
96	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		4	6		3	2		1
98	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
99	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		5						
100	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Common Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>		6		10		3		1
102	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		✓			6	4	✓	✓
104	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓					✓	H
106	Citril Finch	<i>Carduelis citrinella</i>			6					
107	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
108	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			30					
109	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>						2		
110	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>					4			

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
111	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		3	H		1			
112	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
113	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			3		2			

Mammals

Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*

Roe Deer, *Capreolus capreolus*

Eurasian Otter, *Lutra lutra*

Pyrenean Chamois (Izard), *Rupicapra pyrenaica*

Amphibian & Reptiles

Natterjack Toad, *Bufo calamita*

Large Psammodromus, *Psammodromus algirus*

Common Wall Lizard, *Podarcis muralis*

Iberian Water Frog, *Pelophylax perezi*

Green Lizard, *Lacerta viridis*

Iberian Wall Lizard, *Podarcis hispanica*

Butterflies

Dingy Skipper, *Erynnis tages*

Spanish Swallowtail, *Iphiclides feisthamelii*

Large White, *Pieris brassicae*

Orange Tip, *Anthocharis cardamines*

Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*

Duke of Burgundy, *Hamearis lucina*

Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*

Black-eyed Blue, *Glaucopsyche melanops*

Amanda's Blue, *Polyommatus amandus*

Camberwell Beauty, *Nymphalis antiopa*

Provençal Fritillary, *Melitaea deione*

Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria*

Spanish Marbled White, *Melanargia ines*

Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrgus malvae*

Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*

Small White, *Artogeia rapae*

Pale Clouded Yellow, *Colias hyale*

Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Green Hairstreak, *Callophrys rubi*

Green-underside Blue, *Glaucopsyche alexis*

Panoptes Blue, *Pseudophilotes panoptes*

Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*

Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*

Queen-of-Spain Fritillary, *Issoria lathonia*

Wall Brown, *Lasiommata megera*

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