Butterflies & Moths of the Spanish Pyrenees

Naturetrek Tour Report

24th June - 1st July 2025



Black-veined Whites



Pearly Heath



Iberian Swallowtail



Red-underwing Skipper

Tour report by Chris Wilkinson Photos by Flo Pascoe and Nick Eldred



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Peter Rich and Chris Wilkinson (leaders) with 13 Naturetrek clients

Summary

This was a great week, despite the tremendous heat, during which we managed to combine altitude and shady spots to the best advantage, avoiding the worst of the heat. We had a lovely group of clients, ranging from complete beginners to total experts, all generously sharing boundless enthusiasm and appreciation of the amazingly unspoilt and biodiverse Spanish Pyrenees. 120 species of butterfly were seen, pending further confirmations, along with 28 species of dragonflies, 107 species of birds seen or heard, 17 species of orchids, and more than 70 species of moths.

Day 1

Tuesday 24th June

Spain had been in the throes of a heatwave for the previous ten days when the group arrived at Bilbao airport, meeting up with two clients who had travelled down to Bilbao by train a few days previously. Chris flew in with the group, while Peter, who has been living in Spain for the past thirty-five years, was there to meet everyone. The second van was picked up with a minimum of fuss, and we were soon heading uphill, inland and into the intense heat. First stop, however, was lunch at the Altube service station, where everyone was able to choose what they wanted from the buffet counter. Unsurprisingly, most people chose salad! Refreshed, we drove on to our first stop en route to Casa Sarasa and Berdún, the Pitillas Lagoon.

Now a regular feature of holidays here to Berdún, the Pitillas lagoon stood out for being an excellent and unusual place, contrasting very well with the days in the mountains that were to follow. The water level in the lagoon (which is never deeper than two metres) depends entirely on rainfall and evaporation, and this year had been a record one with regards to winter and early spring precipitation. The reedbeds, patches of open water and the protected farming areas that surround it are a haven for all sorts of wildlife. It was a unique oasis in a land that has very few inland reedbeds, and this year in particular it was a magnet for all aquatic life forms. The temperature was 39°C as we pulled off the main road and onto the dirt track that goes around the lagoon. Just as we were crossing a flooded part of the track, the reedbeds on both sides seemed to explode in dragonflies as a dozen or more swarmed around the vehicles. 'Stop! Stop! Let us out here please!' were the cries that came from the back of the van, so once out of the puddle, we duly pulled over and everyone poured out to explore their surroundings, having previously ensured that they had water, hats and sunblock properly applied.

Some went back to the dragonflies, finding that the big ones that had bombarded us were Lesser Emperors, while Red-veined and Scarlet Darters were found, along with Black-tailed Skimmers, and numerous damselflies. The usual fun and games of trying to take decent photos of fast-moving insects then ensued, which was good training for the rest of the week! The darters were very obliging, though. Some of the group had clambered onto a rocky promontory to check out the birds over the lagoon, and were rewarded with fine sightings of Purple Heron, Booted Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Shelduck and Great Reed Warbler, among others.

The edge of the main track leading away from the water had some butterflies too, admittedly alternating between high-speed dashes every which way or sneakily disappearing into the thicker shade under clumps of vegetation. Nonetheless, we found some Common, Adonis and Chapman's Blues, as well as Spanish and Southern Gatekeepers. The vegetation was interesting, with lovely sprigs of Little Centaury, bright *Pallensis spinosa*, Field Eryngo and the incredibly beautiful Albardine Grass. Without realising it, an hour and a half had gone by, so we

loaded back into the vans for a gentle 'game drive' around the rest of the lagoon, where we found Greater Short-toed, Crested, Skylark, Thekla's and Calandra Larks, as well as some excellent views of Bee-eaters, Rock Sparrow and Corn Buntings. Then it really was time to move on, so we motored away to Berdún, where Marta and Javi were waiting with a delicious dinner, everyone desperately trying to ignore the wildflower meadow and lavender avenue teeming with insects.

After dinner, we had an introductory briefing in the library/meeting room, set the moth trap, and headed for bed, everyone exhausted by the day's travel and the general excitement.

Day 2

Wednesday 25th June

34°C maximum. Some clouds and some strong winds from the south.

The night had been incredibly hot, never dropping below 25°C, with a gusty wind from the south, pushing Saharan desert air through Berdún, and when we gathered around the moth trap the general impression was that the moths too had had a hard night. We had only used the MV bulb with a home-made Heath box in the barbecue area of the garden, backed up to some sheets hanging from the wall, leaving the other traps for another night. There were several Ochracheous Waves around on the sheets, plus lovely Spotted Sulphurs and several micros, and once we had unwrapped the sheet closing up the box, our only 'biggie' was a fine Striped Hawk-moth that wasted no time in warming up and zooming off from our chosen perch on the almond tree in the garden, where some people managed to get a few hurried photos. Nonetheless there were Ruby Tiger, Passenger, *Ocneria rubia* and several fine waves and carpets to enjoy, but they all promptly followed the hawk-moth's example and flew off after warming up in the muggy atmosphere.

Traditionally, the first day of holidays here in Bedún is spent doing local things, so that everyone can get the feel of this infrequently-visited part of Spain, and can familiarize themselves with the more 'ordinary' vegetation and insect life. Some people had already made a pre-breakfast visit to the flower meadow and pond here at Casa Sarasa, with one person enthusiastically declaring that she didn't see the point of going anywhere else! Others reported having had fine views of Egyptian Vulture and Peregrine over the village.

Nonetheless, we gathered ourselves to walk behind the house and down to the Veral river behind the village, as the sky mercifully clouded over and the temperature dropped a few degrees. Down we walked, at record-slow pace, stopping to comment and photograph all our finds on the way: Wall Brown, Southern Speckled Wood, Large, Small, Bath and Marbled Whites, while a large gathering occurred around a fairly docile Cleopatra which allowed for several excellent photos. Through the badlands of marl mudstone we walked, unexpectedly seeking shelter from a mini cloudburst that lasted a full ninety seconds, before finding our way to the Veral River itself. Here, on the Dwarf Elder, we located our first hairstreaks, including Ilex, False Ilex and Spanish Purple, as well as glimpsing some fast-moving Great Banded Graylings, the first of the season. Botanical highlights included Purple Phlomis, *Sideritis hirsuta*, Santolina and some great *Onorpodium* thistles, as well as those butterfly- magnet plants, Field Scabious, in fine flower. Back up to the village, we zoomed in the van we had previously left at the bottom, where, after a quick stop at Casa Sarasa, we continued to the Fago Gorge.

Up at the gorge, the clouds had dispersed for a while, but a blustery wind had taken their place. It was not ideal for butterflies, but perfect for having our lunch in the sunny picnic lookout spot, as the breeze cooled us down

sufficiently to not need shade. Soon our attention was drawn skyward as the Griffon Vultures started to wheel overhead, their massive 2.75-metre wingspan allowing them effortlessly to soar past us. Alpine Swift, Kestrel and Crag Martins were other distractions from the first of many delicious picnics prepared by Marta, while Blue-spot Hairstreaks were found sheltering from the wind in the vegetation.

After lunch, we walked along the road, hurrying past those places buffeted by the wind, and like the butterflies, taking time to inspect the verges in those places sheltered in the lee. Hairstreaks were abundant, Cleopatras possibly ran into the hundreds, and Lulworth Skippers likewise, while as we reached the farther end of the gorge, the wind dropped and we started to see some fritillaries and blues, mixed in with at least four types of burnet moth, often found squabbling over a Scabious flowerhead with the hairstreaks. Typically, just when it was time to get in the van and leave, the wind stopped completely and the sun really warmed up, suddenly provoking an explosion of butterflies on the brambles. Photos were taken and compared, debate ensued about Marbled and Lesser Marbled, Southern Heath and Meadow Fritillaries, and the skittish Southern White Admirals finally settled down enough to allow some fine views. It was a perfect way of spending time in beautiful surroundings, in the excellent company of enthusiastic and dedicated people!

We went back down the hill and went off to Berdún for the final part of our introductory day. After a drink and ice-cream at the bar in the village, we took a short walk, during which Peter explained the geology, history, local economy and social situation of Berdún, ending with a visit to Casa Chuglar, where Toche and Angel have opened a museum of traditional Aragonese musical instruments. Here we learned about the 'zambomba', the 'bandurria', the 'salterio' and the 'dulzaina', as Angel expertly played them for us, amazing us with the variety of sounds they can produce. Cultural exchange was heightened when it transpired that among our group were two Morris dancers; the pipe, drum, sticks, swords, bells and handkerchiefs were virtually identical in traditional Aragonese dancing to the heritage of the expelled 'Moriscos' from sixteenth-century Spain who had found their way to England. The visit ended up at the enormous fireplace on the first floor, in the large sitting room overlooking the valley. Beautifully maintained and now in very good hands, Casa Chuglar is the new name of the Painting School, which is where Naturetrek used to stay in Berdún from 1986 until 2008, and we were there in the very room used for meetings and list checking for two decades by previous visitors to the Spanish Pyrenees!

It was time for our own checklists, so we hurried back home for a quick shower and went into the library. We enjoyed inner and then spent more time sorting through photos, answering queries and trying to pin down tricky differences in underwing and cell spots. Bliss!

Day 3

Thursday 26th June

3

Sunny with clear skies. 32°C.

There had been a general consensus that we should try to go and find the Two-tailed Pasha (TTP) during the course of the week, despite it being early in the flight season and the site being at the most southerly and lowest (therefore hottest) point among the places we normally visit on this holiday. However, as far as we could tell from the forecast, this was going to be the 'coolest' day of the week with a maximum of just 32°C, so if we were going to do it, today had to be the day. So we drove south, past all the roadworks on the Bailo-La Peña road, over the reservoir and on to Aguero. After a quick stop at the viewpoint for photos of the village and the impressive sugarloaf 'mallos' behind, we made a quick stop at the Santiago chapel for a cultural interlude. Mystery surrounds

the building of this unfinished Romanesque church, with its masonry marks, irregular design and splendidly-carved doorway encouraging the faithful to shed the various manifestations of sin before entering the holy temple. There was also time to see the Strawberry Trees (*Arbutus unedo*), the foodplant of the TTP.

Then we drove the seven kilometres of bumpy dirt track to the semi-abandoned village of San Felices, scouring the Strawberry Trees along the way, looking for the characteristic strong flight and brown-and-orange upperparts of the TTP. Once at our destination, we parked up to explore our surroundings: a woody track leading to a couple of abandoned meadows. The brambles were thick with flowers and the track was lined with scabious, and every bloom, or so it seemed, had a feeding butterfly atop it. We saw Cleopatra, whites, Marbled Whites, three types of hairstreak, blues of various sorts and hundreds upon hundreds of Gatekeepers. Within moments, all fifteen of us had dispersed, scattered along the track and into the field, each one following their nose, photographing everything that moved, getting uppers and undersides, poring over spots and coloration, totally immersed in the task ahead. Before we knew it, an hour and a half had passed, blissfully spent in a magical meadow brim-full of butterflies.

Calling everyone back together, we resolved to walk back along the track down to the stream junction, and a small reedbed we had passed earlier. Just as we set off, the cry of 'Pasha!' went up, and one of the mythical butterflies flew past, above our heads and over the nearby Oak trees. And so it continued: verges full of butterflies and dragonflies, and the occasional call of a frustrating flypast. Finally, it was time for lunch in the shade of a pine tree, and here the TTP search continued, this time with a very easy to see egg, laid on an *Arbutus* leaf, amidst obvious signs of 'nibblage' among the neighbouring leaves. The TTP is a great butterfly, but the caterpillar is possibly more amazing, so we spent a while searching unsuccessfully for it.

We went back to the reedbed for more frenzied feeding action, and here the TTP put in several more appearances and flypasts, the last one being when it surrounded several of the group, whizzing around at knee height several times before zooming away again, causing some to duck out of the way. Finally, the heat was taking its toll, and we decided to call it a day and go in search of cold drinks and ice cream. In Riglos, we found refreshment at the Albergue, and there, in deep shade, enjoying the fine views of the colossal conglomerate cliffs, we reflected on the joys of butterfly hunting in a place full of butterflies, where nature has for many years been left to its own devices. Today, nobody had set aside the time to do a survey of the butterflies we had seen, but the number of individuals had been truly amazing: several hundred gatekeepers for sure, possibly pushing a thousand? Who knows. The evening list revealed that there had been more than forty-five species.

Day 4 Friday 27th June

Hot, sunny, clear 32°C at the top. Cooler during the night (16°C).

We had put out all three moth traps during the night: the MV bulb in the barbecue area, the Actinic bulb on the first-floor balcony of the main house, and the UV battery-powered box down by the pond. At 8.00am we all gathered to unwrap the sheets put around them, like big Christmas presents. It was a much more satisfying trapping session than the previous time, and the traps revealed some absolute corkers: there was a splendidly striped *Gufria limosa*, an elegant Lydd Beauty, Riband Wave and Guernsey Underwing among others, but the stars of the show were the hawk-moths. We found Hummingbird, Striped, Privet and a splendidly fresh pair, male and female, of the colossal Oak Hawk-moth. Once it had been placed on the rugged bark of the almond tree, everyone got great

photos, until it was time to hide the moths safely again in the deep vegetation, and to go in search of our own breakfast.

To escape the forecast heat, today's destination was the high Portalet mountain pass into France at the top of the Tena Valley. A fairly long drive up fast roads took us to the curious 'wild west' style collection of shopping emporia at the frontier post, where we parked up, used the loos and headed up into the hills. The sky was a luminous blue, the extinct volcano of the Pic du Midi d'Ossau crystal clear across the valley. The air was still and the temperature was a delightful 25°C: absolutely beautiful conditions for a day in the high mountains. Yellow Gentians stood proud, Everlasting Cornflowers displayed their beautiful flowers, and English Irises pushed up past the stalks of gone-over white Asphodels. Ringlets were soon flitting around our feet, never stopping long enough for a photograph, some Mountain Arguses, Small Blues and Grizzled Skippers were puddling on the mud, and we walked up the track scanning for Marmots and Rock Thrush.

A Water Pipit was doing a particularly beautiful display flight above our heads when the 'Apollo!' cry went up. The magnificent butterfly zoomed past over our heads and up out of sight, a pattern that was to repeat itself about a dozen times over the course of the morning, frustratingly never including any settling within photographic range. Up at the mountain tarns, dragonflies were much more compliant, and soon the specialists in the group were happily going around the water's edge, later telling us that eight different species had been found, including Emerald Damselfly, Four-spotted Chaser and Yellow-winged Darter. A wet flush found us some Eros Blues, along with Mazarine, Turquoise and Amanda's. A short sortie into France found some Common Spotted, Marsh and Frog Orchids, while Spotted and Purple-edged Coppers were found, along with our first Silver-studded Blues. Finally, as we turned back to the vans, another elusive butterfly, the Clouded Apollo, put in a couple of brief flypasts, before there was time for a quick coffee and the chance to purchase some Extra Virgin Olive Oil at one of the frontier outposts.

Down at La Sarra, we joined the dozen or so other cars at the carpark and headed for the picnic tables, where we were soon tucking into another one of Marta's excellent lunches. Having wandered off to talk to the owners of the café, Peter came back in breathless excitement, instructing everyone to finish their lunch quickly, as there was a butterfly marvel taking place in the café carpark, which they didn't want to miss. Everybody gulped down their last mouthfuls, grabbed their cameras, and headed back down the way we had come: and what a spectacle it was! Hunkered down at the edges of several big puddles were hundreds of recently-emerged butterflies, frantically gathering minerals and salts from the mud. Black-veined Whites towered over the strongly-coloured Heath Fritillaries, Silver-studded, Mazarine, Amanda's, Turquoise and Common Blues, while the occasional High Brown and Silver-washed Fritillaries joined the fray, elbowing out their smaller rivals for highly-prized substances necessary for their reproductive development. It was an amazing thing to see, and we all spent a long half hour hunkered down, trying to get the best views and pictures, much to the amusement of the non-butterfly enthusiasts who wandered through the carpark!

After a while, we went off for a walk along the fast-flowing, crystal-clear stream, to a small meadow. A Camberwell Beauty dive-bombed us briefly, Burnt Tip and butterfly orchids were found and admired, and every now and then we had to step gingerly round puddling blues and fritillaries on the path. Among the vegetation the last of the season's Dukes of Burgundy were found, as well as some fast-flying, second-generation Orange-tips, while Osiris and Spanish Chalkhill Blues were added to the day's tally.

Finally, all good things had to come to an end, and it was time to leave, so we drove back down to Berdún, stopping briefly for a photo opportunity of the mountains from the dam of the Lanuza reservoir. There was no time for lists before dinner, and barely time to look at our photos, but afterwards, it appeared that we had seen more than sixty species of butterflies today, and again, more than a thousand individuals. The dragonfly species was also impressive: so far twenty species had been found. Not bad for a butterfly and moth holiday!

Day 5

Saturday 28th June

Sunny, hot, no wind, clear blue skies. 31°C at the top, 38°C in Berdún.

More ferocious heat was predicted for today, so uphill we headed, this time to the Roncal Valley and the magical little valley of La Contienda. The first stop was the little meadow beyond Isaba, where we parked up under the shade of some Walnut trees. The meadow was abuzz with insect life, with all the butterflies zooming around, and as we approached the cry of 'Purple Emperor!' went up: an individual cruised over our heads before dropping to the middle of the road. The middle of a road on a Saturday morning with cyclists, motorbikes and cars coming past isn't an ideal spot for butterfly watching, so luckily the butterfly moved on and soared over the nearby trees. Looking up to follow where it had gone revealed a pair of Booted Eagles, as well as a Short-toed Snake Eagle over the woods, which was adequate compensation for the butterfly having disappeared.

Up in the meadow, a Keeled Skimmer was found, plus some new burnets, as well as countless dark butterflies that we surmised were ordinary Ringlets, but which we never really got a chance to see properly, as they were all determined on frantically rushing around the vegetation, sparring with Meadow Browns and zooming off again. A charming highlight was the up-and-down pronking flight of a Large Chequered Skipper, which like a Thomson's Gazelle wove its way between us, plus some more reasonably-behaved Marbled Whites. At the river we found some Silver-washed and High Brown Fritillaries, as well as a Banded Demoiselle, but then another Large Chequered Skipper came in to land, giving everyone excellent opportunities for photos. The stay at this meadow was rounded off perfectly when a Purple Emperor landed on a wooden tourist information sign, at head height, just next to us. In beautiful condition, it occasionally flashed its wings open, giving us all fine views of the purple sheen that gives it its name.

Back into the vans, we drove up to the high pass, stopping for an excellent view over the Belagua Valley, as well as for a pair of cows with very young calves which seemed determined to establish the road as theirs, despite the motorbikes. Finally, up at La Contienda, there was a gentle breeze, and the temperature was at a very reasonable 24°C, so we headed along the cross-country ski route among the Austrian Pines. Small birds chattered in the trees, and we were soon able to spot Crested and Coal Tits, as well as Citril Finch and Short-toed Treecreeper, while we were repeatedly treated to flypasts by Alpine Choughs. The track was crisscrossed by ringlets, which in true ringlet style were on some frantic mission that involved pausing tantalisingly over a flower, just about to settle, before changing their minds and zooming away again. Later, with the help of some blurred photos we were able to establish that they were Mountain, De Prunner's and Piedmont Ringlets. There were fritillaries and blues too, which were slightly less frantic but still not easy to pin down. Altogether, it had been a very pleasant way to spend a morning in a gorgeous high Pyrenean valley, in bright sunshine, with a zephyr of a breeze and temperatures that barely reached 30°C.

For lunch, we headed for the deep shade of the Beech forest at the Rincón de Belagua, and after coffee and cold drinks at the little bar there, we sortied into the woods in search of the mythical Ghost Orchid, which we have found on three previous editions of this holiday. The forest floor was as dry as a bone, however, and as we crunched our way through the brittle mass of leaves it was rapidly apparent that conditions were highly unfavourable to finding Europe's most elusive and enigmatic plant. Another time perhaps.

The deep shade of a Beech forest is as good a place as any to spend a scorching afternoon, but eventually it was time to go, so we drove back down into the furnace, where in Berdún the temperature was a sizzling 38°C.

Day 6 Sunday 29th June

Clear, sunny, hot 31°C in Astún, 38°C in Berdún.

Chris valiantly offered a pre-breakfast sortie for the birdwatchers, so at 7.00am a group of eight gathered for the quick drive down to the Aragón River at the bottom of the valley, just south of Berdún. Great Cormorant, Grey Heron, Common Sandpiper and Little Ringed Plover were found on the river itself, while in the scrubby area to the left Cirl Bunting, Woodlark and Western Subalpine Warbler were seen, and a solitary Wryneck was flushed on the way back to the van.

Another hot day was forecast which, combined with it being Sunday, meant that there were going to be places best avoided. With that in mind, we went first to the little meadow beyond the Binies Gorge. It was still relatively cool when we arrived (24°C) and the scabious flowerheads were drooping with drowsy butterflies. The plan had been for a ten-minute survey of the meadow, then a leisurely stroll down the cooler, shady gorge, but then the usual thing happened: you release a dozen butterfly enthusiasts into a meadow and they just scatter, totally absorbed by their surroundings. Ten minutes turned into an hour and a quarter; curiously, the butterfly species that we had seen previously in the week bombing about defending territories and searching for mates were now quietly absorbed in catching some sunshine and quietly nectaring. Naturally there were multiple photo opportunities that couldn't be foregone.

Once we had finally dragged ourselves away from the flowers, we drove past Jaca and up the Aragón valley to the border with France, just near the ski resort of Astún (1750m). Here we walked up a south-facing track past several wet flushes. Lovely blooming areas of ragwort and Pyrenean Eryngo lined the path, while the water spilled over onto the track, providing puddling areas, and all of a sudden we were finding a whole array of species new to the holiday: Green Hairstreak, Scarce, Purple-edged and Purple-shot Coppers, a frustratingly flighty Mountain Clouded Yellow, Baton and Eros Blues, and, very excitingly, after a considerable amount of debate about whether there were also Gavarnie Blues present, what were finally determined as Glandon Blues. A singing Rock Bunting was a nice surprise, several Crossbills flew by, and the spectacular scenery of the mountains stretching away to the west with a cool breeze was sufficiently delightful to allow everyone to enjoy being out in the sunshine, without being overwhelmed by the heat. It thought it was meant to be cooler up here,' muttered someone when we discovered that the temperature was 30°C back at the vans. But cooler it certainly was, as down in the valley in Canfranc (at 1100m) the temperature was already at 38°C.

Lunch was at the top of some meadows, again with a fleeting Apollo flypast, and then we drove all the way to San Juan de la Peña. First up was coffee, ice cream and very posh loos at the New Monastery, and then we split; some

for a walk through the deep shade of the old-growth pines to the viewpoint overlooking the Pyrenees, while others headed for the pond. On the way to the viewpoint, we stopped to admire the recently-replanted botanical curiosity of *Fibigia clyptea*, a mystery plant found naturally in the Levant, which for some reason lost in the mists of time had been discovered near the physic garden of the monastery, and now, thanks to the rapid action of botanists from the Pyrenean Institute of Ecology, has been replanted after the turmoil caused by the restoration works.

Meanwhile, back at the pond the dragonfly enthusiasts had located seven species, including Emperor, Small Pincertail, Scarce Emerald and Dainty Damselfly; there was an amazing number of dragonflies considering the host of frogs poking out of the carpetweed on the pond's surface. Some Graylings added to the butterfly tally in the carpark, and then it was time to return to Casa Sarasa, cool showers and cold drinks. It had been another great day, with a variety of habitats visited and the worst of the heat avoided.

Day 7 Monday 30th June

30°C at 10.00am, 31°C in Aisa, 41°C at 5.30pm in Berdún. Sunny and still.

We had put out two moth traps during the night, the Actinic bulb on the balcony of the main house and the MV trap down in the barbecue area, with the Actinic on this occasion out-performing the MV one in terms of quantity and variety of moths. Nonetheless, there was a fine collection which we pored over before breakfast, the undoubted highlights being that master of camouflage, the Buff Tip, along with another beautiful pair of Oak Hawk-moths, marvels unknown to several of the group, for whom this week had been the first contact with moth traps and the hidden creatures of the night. Again, the heat was set to be intense, so it was to the high mountains that we headed, but our first stop was the wooded area around the Santa Lucia chapel.

The chapel is all that remains of a medieval village obliterated by the plague in the seventeenth century, perched above the Veral river and surrounded by Holm and Portuguese Oaks. It is used by the villagers of Berdún for an annual 'romeria', a procession, mass and collective picnic, so the grass is partially cut and managed, with alternating wild areas and shorter grass. Standing proud among the native trees were the colossal oak trees trunks of David Nash's sculpture 'Three Sun Vessels for Huesca', a type of massive equinox sundial, and the combination of an area of a partially-manicured meadow, the natural trees and the ingenious sculpture made for a very pleasant place in which to wander. Unfortunately, the sun was already very hot, the vegetation at this lower level already crispy, and butterflies were fairly scarce, with the exception of some Rock and Great Banded Graylings which flitted and disappeared in plain sight onto the tree trunks. Without much further ado, we decided to go uphill.

Our last full day was dedicated to the beautiful Aisa Valley, for many the highlight valley in a week of beautiful mountain scenery highlights. At the end of a winding road, a short uphill walk delivered us to a stunning panorama of flower-filled meadows, looming peaks and a river with mini waterfalls cutting through the middle. This is a place in which to wander and enjoy, to reconnect with nature, to stop and focus on the little things while stepping back to see the bigger picture: a 'happy place' as one client described it. This was Monday, there were only five other cars in the carpark, and we virtually had the place to ourselves. The wet flushes revealed small clutches of puddling blues and skippers, always an invitation to while away a moment looking carefully, while next to the river we came across four pristine Swallowtails, so intent on garnering essential minerals that it was possible to get photos of them up close with the mobile phone. An Apollo flitted by, the English Irises were out, bees buzzed across the

bedstraw, and the stream gently gurgled over the rocks, while a gentle breeze kept the temperature down to an agreeable 30°C.

Lunch was downhill in the shade next to the river, and afterwards some went off on their own, while others joined Chris and myself to look for, and find, several individuals of the highly range-limited and endangered Mountain Alcón Blue, never found far from its scarce Cross Gentian foodplant. A bit further on at a boggy patch, we came across some more puddling butterflies, including Ripart's Anomalous Blue and some Spanish Arguses, while one client tracked down and photographed a Great Sooty Satyr. Reunited with the others, and content with our finds, they too were jubilant about discovering a clutch of eight pristine Silver-washed Fritillaries which had allowed them to get up close. The crowning moment was when a Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) appeared over the tops; it was such a magnificent bird, which even the most devoted butterfly enthusiasts had to admit was pretty impressive.

We rounded off the day down at the Atares crossroad. Here, by the stream, dragonflies were found cruising and posing, some great burnet moths were found on the scabious, and Weaver's Fritillary was found nectaring on the Purple Loosestrife. Under the shade of the oak trees and next to the water, the sensation was surprisingly pleasant, despite the temperature now being up to 41°C. But even the hardiest lepidopterist has his/her limits, so ice cream and home were sought, for cold showers and lists.

Day 8 Tuesday 1st July

41°C in Vitoria, 30°C in Bilbao.

Another scorching day lay ahead before we had to be at Bilbao Airport. and the afternoon flight back to Gatwick, but this didn't stop some people from making a last foray to Marta's pond and the wildflower meadow, in search of the last leaf-cutter bees and the final pictures of the frogs and emerging dragonflies. After breakfast and our goodbyes to Marta and Javi, we made a final local sortie to the nearby Berdún Marsh, where once we had left the shadow of the Poplar trees, we found the trackside covered with scabious and trefoil. Several Long-tailed and Lang's Short-tailed Blues were found and photographed, and the Cleopatras reappeared in copious numbers, as did the Gatekeepers, Marbled Whites and Meadow Browns, while Chris managed to track down a Forster's Furry Blue, a great new species for the list on the very last day.

A minor moment of drama occurred when a colossal combine harvester came careering down the track towards us; the huge cutting drum stretched clean over the whole track and a couple of metres on either side, so we found ourselves clambering up the bank to get out of the way, but all passed without incident. Then, as we were walking back to the van, with the temperature already at 32°C at 11.00am, a last look back to the verges showed a veritable cloud of white, yellow and brown butterflies flitting between the flowerheads, a hive of insect activity stretching into the distance. The innumerable butterflies of the Spanish Pyrenees were busily carrying on with their lives.

Concluding highlights

After dinner on the last night, I asked for people to name their personal highlights, which is a great way to reflect on the holiday and find out what your travelling companions had found important. The results are in:

- N. Quantity of butterflies and amazing scenery. Music museum and village walk.
- C. Black-veined Whites in the carpark puddle. Scenery.
- E. Scenery and whole holiday experience, despite the extreme heat.
- J. Sheer number of butterflies everywhere, plus Swallowtails. Blues in the carpark puddle an extraordinary experience, plus the Siver-washed Fritillaries on last day.
- K. Not really a butterfly person, but found the whole experience fascinating. Purple Emperor on the signboard.
- F. So many highlights! Large Chequered Skipper. Not rare, not big, but outstandingly beautiful female Adonis Blue in the garden.
- W. Music museum. Universal language of music; shared traditions and experience.
- H Garden and Marta's pond at Casa Sarasa. Dawn chorus and Purple Emperor.
- S. Garden at Casa Sarasa. Aisa valley by the stream; 'My Happy Place'.
- J. Trembling anticipation of unwrapping the sheets from the moth traps. Large Hawkmoths. Scenery.
- J. First time on a Naturetrek holiday great experience. Seeing and photographing Wall Browns with the wings open for the first time since 12 years old. Likewise with Wood White. Striped Hawk-moth.
- L. Walking over the border into France at Portalet was going to be the highlight until we reached the Aisa Valley. Seeing for the first time and being able to photograph a Nightingale.
- P. Alpine meadows full of flowers, scenery. Dragonflies. Lammergeier and Oak Hawk-moth.
- Chris Three highlights. Contrast between UK nature experience, where seeing a few scarce individuals of what should be common butterflies is only possible in carefully-managed sites, with the unmanaged wilderness and abundance of butterflies to be found here. First time at Casa Sarasa; great setup, garden, library, excellent management by Marta and her staff and super food. Company of like-minded, enthusiastic people.
- Peter The puddles in the carpark and the amazing collection of fresh butterflies. Being able to share the beautiful place I live in with people who appreciate and can experience and value the daily wonder.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek email list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers.

naturetrek.co.uk/e-newsletter-signup



Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky and X and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers, exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays



facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays



naturetrek.bsky.social



x.com/naturetrektours (formerly Twitter)

Species lists

Butterflies

		June - July 2025								
Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	
Iberian Swallowtail	Iphiclides feisthamelii				✓	✓		✓	V	
Common Swallowtail	Papilio machaon		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	√	
Clouded Apollo	Parnassius mnemosyne				✓					
Common Apollo	Parnassius apollo				✓		✓	✓		
Large Chequered Skipper	Heteropterus morpheus					✓				
Large Skipper	Ochlodes sylvanus				✓		✓			
Lulworth Skipper	Thymelicus acteon		✓	✓				✓		
Small Skipper	Thymelicus sylvestris		✓	✓		✓	✓			
Essex Skipper	Thymelicus lineola		✓							
Red-underwing Skipper	Spialia sertorius		✓	✓	✓			✓		
Mallow Skipper	Carcharodus alceae		✓							
Sage Skipper	Muschampia proto						✓	✓		
Marbled Skipper	Carcharodus lavatherae		✓					✓		
Tufted Marbled Skipper	Carcharodus flocciferus		√							
Southern Marbled Skipper	Carcharodus baeticus								V	
Dingy Skipper	Erynnis tages		✓	✓						
Safflower Skipper	Pyrgus carthami							√		
Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus armoricanus				√					
Large Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus alveus					√				
Wood/Réal's Wood White	Leptidea sinapis/reali		√	√	√	√	√	√		
Common Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni		√	√	√	√	√	√	_	
Cleopatra	Gonepteryx cleopatra		✓	✓	√	√	✓	√		
Berger's Clouded Yellow	Colias alfacariensis		✓	✓		√	✓	√		
Mountain Clouded Yellow	Colias phicomone		•	•		, ·	√	√		
Clouded Yellow	Colias croceus	√	√	√	√	√	✓	√	_	
Black-veined White	Aporia crataegi	•	√	•	√ 		_	√	_	
Western Bath White	Pontia daplidice		√	√				•		
Large White	Pieris brassicae	√	√	· ✓	√	√	√	√	_	
Small White	Pieris rapae	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
Green-veined White	Pieris napi	•	√	•	√		√	•	•	
Common Orange-tip	Anthocharis cardamines				√					
Duke of Burgundy	Hamearis lucina				√			√		
Purple-shot Copper	Lycaena alciphron						√	√		
Purple-edged Copper	Lycaena hippothoe				√		√	V		
Sooty Copper	Lycaena tityrus				√		V			
Scarce Copper	Lycaena vigaureae				V		√	√		
Spanish Purple Hairstreak	Laeosopis roboris		√	√			✓ ✓	✓ ✓		
Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi		V	V		/	V	V		
Ilex Hairstreak		,	,	,		√	/	,		
False Ilex Hairstreak	Satyrium ilicis Satyrium esculi	✓	√ /	√ /			√ /	√		
	•		√ /	√	,		√ /			
Blue-spot Hairstreak	Satyrium spini		√	√	√		✓			
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	Leptotes pirthous			✓	√				V	
Long-tailed Blue	Lampides boeticus						_	✓	V	
Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus						✓			
Mountain Alcon Blue	Phengaris alcon rebeli							✓		
Baton Blue	Pseudophilotes baton						✓			

			June - July 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	
Green-underside Blue	Glaucopsyche alexis						✓			
Osiris Blue	Cupido osiris				✓					
Little Blue	Cupido minimus				✓	✓	✓			
Silver-studded Blue	Plebejus argus				✓		✓	✓		
Glandon Blue	Agriades glandon						✓			
Mazarine Blue	Cyaniris semiargus				✓		✓	✓		
Southern Brown Argus	Aricia cramera		✓	✓						
Brown Argus	Aricia agestis				✓		✓			
Chalk-hill Blue	Lysandra coridon						✓			
Spanish Chalk-hill Blue	Lysandra albicans				✓					
Adonis Blue	Polyommatus bellargus			✓		✓				
Escher's Blue	Polyommatus escheri							√		
Chapman's Blue	Polyommatus thersites				✓	√	✓	√		
Amanda's Blue	Polyommatus amandus				√	✓	√	✓		
Turquoise Blue	Polyommatus dorylas				√	√		✓		
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus	√	√	√	✓		✓	✓		
Eros Blue	Polyommatus eros	-			· √					
Ripart's Anomalous Blue	Polyommatus ripartii							√		
Forster's Furry Blue	Polyommatus fulgens								١,	
Southern White Admiral	Limenitis reducta		√	√	√		√			
White Admiral	Limenitis camilla		•	•	•			√		
Queen of Spain Fritillary	Issoria lathonia			√		√	√	√		
Twin-spot Fritillary	Brenthis hecate		√	V		V	√	V		
Lesser Marbled Fritillary	Brenthis ino		√				V			
Marbled Fritillary	Brenthis daphne		√		√	√	√			
Silver-washed Fritillary	Argynnis paphia		√	√	√	√	√	√		
Dark Green Fritillary	Speyeria aglaja		V	V	✓ ✓	√ √	✓ ✓	✓ ✓		
High Brown Fritillary	Fabriciana adippe		√	,	√	V	√	√ √		
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Boloria euphrosyne			√	V		V	V		
Weaver's Fritillary	Boloria dia		✓	√				,		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						/		✓		
Purple Emperor	Apatura iris		,	,	,	√	,	,		
Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui	✓	✓	✓	✓	√	✓	✓		
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta					√				
Peacock Butterfly	Aglais io					✓		√		
Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae				✓			✓		
Comma	Polygonia c-album			✓	√	✓				
Camberwell Beauty	Nymphalis antiopa				✓					
Spotted Fritillary	Melitaea didyma				✓					
Knapweed Fritillary	Melitaea phoebe		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Glanville Fritillary	Melitaea cinxia				✓					
False Heath Fritillary	Melitaea diamina				✓			✓		
Southern Heath Fritillary	Melitaea celadussa		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Provençal Fritillary	Melitaea deione				✓					
Meadow Fritillary	Melitaea parthenoides		✓					✓		
Two-tailed Pasha	Charaxes jasius			✓						
Dusky Heath	Coenonympha dorus			✓						
Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus				✓	✓		✓		
Chestnut Heath	Coenonympha glycerion							✓		
Spanish Heath	Coenonympha glycerion iphioides	;				√				

				Ju	ne - J	uly 2	025		
Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Pearly Heath	Coenonympha arcania		✓	✓				✓	
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Large Wall Brown	Lasiommata maera				✓	✓			
Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Marbled White	Melanargia galathea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Striped Grayling	Hipparchia fidia						✓		
Rock Grayling	Hipparchia hermione			✓				✓	
Woodland Grayling	Hipparchia fagi		✓				✓		
Common Grayling	Hipparchia semele					✓			
Great Banded Grayling	Brintesia circe		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Great Sooty Satyr	Satyrus ferula							✓	
Dusky Meadow Brown	Hyponephele lycaon		✓						
Southern Gatekeeper	Pyronia cecilia	√		✓			✓		
Common Gatekeeper	Pyronia tithonus						✓		
Spanish Gatekeeper	Pyronia bathseba	√	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Piedmont Ringlet	Erebia meolans				✓	✓	✓	✓	
de Prunner's Ringlet	Erebia triarius				✓	✓	✓		
Mountain Ringlet	Erebia epiphron					√			
Lefèbvre's Ringlet	Erebia lefebvrei				√				

Moths

Common name	Scientific name
	Emathrudes punctellus
Leopard Moth	Zeuzera pyrina
Garlic Borer	Dyspessa ulula
	Guffria limosa
a forester	Adscita sp.
Almond-leat Skeltoniser	Aglaope infausta
Chalk Burnet	Zygaena fausta
Provence Burnet	Zygaena occitanica
Transparent Burnet	Zygaena purpuralis
Woodland Burnet	Zygaena osterodensis
Royal Burnet	Zygaena sarpedon
Six-spot Burnet	Zygaena filipendulae
Black Burnet	Zygaena ephialtes
Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet	Zygaena lonicerae
Grey Knot-horn	Acrobasis advenella
Diamond-spot Pearl	Loxostege sticticalis
Straw-barred Pearl	Pyrausta despicata
Box-tree Moth	Cydalima perspectalis
Rush Veneer	Nomophila noctuella
	Ecpyrrhorrhoe rubiginalis
	Euchromius bella
	Euchromius cambridgei
	Emprepes pudicalis
	Chrysocramboides craterella
Spiny Hooktip	Watsonalla uncinula

Common name	Scientific name
Spanish Chinese Character	Cilix hispanica
Ground Lackey	Malacosoma castrensis
Oak Hawk-moth	Marumba quercus
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	Macroglossum stellatarum
Privet Hawk-moth	Sphinx ligustri
Striped Hawk-moth	Hyles livornica
Bright Wave	Idaea ochrata
Ochraceous Wave	Idaea serpentata
Slender Sand Wave	Idaea mediaria
Spanish Least Carpet	Idaea mustelata
Purple-banded Wave	Idaea ostrinaria
Riband Wave	Idaea aversata
Mullein Wave	Scopula marginepunctata
Galium Carpet	Epirrhoe galiata
- Compar	Ecleora solieraria
Chimney Sweeper	Odezia atrata
Rusty-shouldered Pug	Eupithecia breviculata
Etruscan Viridian	Phaiogramma etruscaria
Grey Bordered Bloom	Isturgia murinaria
Crey Bordered Bloom	Isturgia catalaunaria
Lydd Beauty	Peribatodes ilicaria
Lydd Deadty	Neognopharmia stevebaria
Dusky Carpet (gen det req'd)	Tephronia sepiaria
Sussex Emerald	Thalera fimbrialis
Pine Processionary	Thaumetopoea pityocampa
Buff-tip	Phalera bucephala
Brown-tail	Euproctis chrysorrhoea
Ruby Tiger	Phragmatobia fuliginosa
Scarce Footman	Eilema complana
Hoary Footman	Eilema caniola
Purple Marbled	Eublemma ostrina
Oak Yellow Underwing	Catocala nymphagoga
Passenger	Dysgonia algira
Silver Y	Autographa gamma
	Cleonymia yvanii
Spotted Sulphur	Acontia trabealis
Pale Shoulder	Acontia lucida
Four-spotted	Tyta luctuosa
Knot Grass	Acronicta rumicis
	Alvaradoia disjecta
Marbled Clover	Heliothis viriplaca
Bordered Straw	Heliothis peltigera
Scarce Bordered Straw	Helicoverpa armigera
Marbled Green	Nyctobrya muralis
Porter's Rustic	Athetis hospes
Guernsey Underwing	Polyphaenis sericata
Pale-shouldered Cloud	Chloantha hyperici
Light Brocade	Lacanobia w-latinum
Pearly Underwing	Peridroma saucia

Common name	Scientific name
Turnip Moth	Agrotis segetum
Large Yellow Underwing	Noctua pronuba
Lesser Yellow Underwing	Noctua comes
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	Noctua janthe
Jersey Black Arches	Nola infantula

Damselflies & dragonflies

				Ju	ne - J	uly 2	025		
Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Western Demoiselle	Calopteryx xanthostoma							✓	
Beautiful Demoiselle	Calopteryx virgo				✓				
Copper Demoiselle	Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis			✓					
Common Spreadwing	Lestes sponsa				✓				
Robust Spreadwing	Lestes dryas						✓		
Iberian Bluetail	Ischnura graellsii		✓			✓	✓		
Common Bluet	Enallagma cyathigerum				✓				
Azure Bluet	Coenagrion puella			✓	✓				
Mediterranean Bluet	Coenagrion caerulescens			✓					
Mercury Bluet	Coenagrion mercuriale			√					
Dainty Bluet	Coenagrion scitulum						✓		
Large Red Damsel	Pyrrhosoma nymphula				✓				
White Featherleg	Platycnemis latipes	✓	√	✓				√	
Blue Emperor	Anax imperator						✓		
Lesser Emperor	Anax parthenope		√	✓					
Small Pincertail	Onychogomphus forcipatus		√	✓			√	√	
Four-spotted Chaser	Libellula quadrimaculata				✓				
Broad-bodied Chaser	Libellula depressa				✓				
Black-tailed Skimmer	Orthetrum cancellatum		✓						
Keeled Skimmer	Orthetrum coerulescens			√		√		✓	
Red-veined Darter	Sympetrum fonscolombii				✓	√			
Yellow-winged Darter	Sympetrum flaveolum				√		√		
Common Darter	Sympetrum striolatum			✓		√			
Broad Scarlet	Crocothemis erythraea		√						

Other insects

Common name	Scientific name
Violet Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa violacea
Wool Carder Bee	Anthidium manicatum
White-banded Dagger Bee	Amegilla quadrifasciata
a cuckoo bee	Thyreus histrionicus
lammoth Wasp	Megascolia maculata
Green Tiger Beetle	Cicindela campestri
Black-yellow Owlfly	Libelloides longicornis

Spiders

Common name	Scientific name
Wasp Spider	Argiope bruennichi

Birds (H = Heard only)

				Ju	ne - J	uly 2	025		
Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	✓							
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	✓							
Red-crested Pochard	Netta rufina	√							
Common Pochard	Aythya ferina	✓							
Red-legged Partridge	Alectoris rufa	✓							
Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba	✓							
Common Swift	Apus apus	✓	√	√	√	√	√	√	✓
Feral Rock Dove - I	Columba livia 'domestica'	✓	√				√		
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	✓	√		√				
European Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur	✓						Н	
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	✓	√	√	√	✓	√	√	✓
Water Rail	Rallus aquaticus	Н							
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	✓							
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	✓							
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	✓							
Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius						√		
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos						√		
Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis	✓							
White Stork	Ciconia ciconia	✓							
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo						√		
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea						√		
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea	✓							
Bearded Vulture	Gypaetus barbatus							✓	
Egyptian Vulture	Neophron percnopterus	✓	√	√	√	√	√	✓	
European Honey Buzzard	Pernis apivorus							✓	
Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus		√	√	√	√	√	√	
Short-toed Snake Eagle	Circaetus gallicus				√	√		✓	
Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus	✓			√	√			
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus					√			
Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	✓							
Red Kite	Milvus milvus	✓	√	√	√	√	√	√	✓
Black Kite	Milvus migrans	✓	√	√	√	✓	√	√	✓
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	✓		√		✓	√	√	
Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops	✓							
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	✓	√	√	√				
Eurasian Wryneck	Jynx torquilla						√		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	✓	√		√	√	Н	✓	
Iberian Green Woodpecker	Picus sharpei		Н					√	
Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus		√		√			√	
Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo			√	√			√	
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		√						
Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator							√	
Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio					✓		✓	
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius		√	√	√	√	√	√	

_					June - July 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1			
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax			Н	✓							
Alpine Chough	Pyrrhocorax graculus				✓	✓	✓					
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	✓		✓	✓			✓				
Northern Raven	Corvus corax				Н		✓					
Coal Tit	Periparus ater				Н	✓						
Crested Tit	Lophophanes cristatus					✓	Н					
Great Tit	Parus major		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				
Woodlark	Lullula arborea						✓					
Thekla's Lark	Galerida theklae	✓	✓									
Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	✓	✓				✓	✓				
Greater Short-toed Lark	Calandrella brachydactyla	✓										
Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris		√	√	✓	√		√				
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	√	✓	√	√	√	√	√	٠,			
Western House Martin	Delichon urbicum	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	٠,			
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti							Н				
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus			√				√				
Western Bonelli's Warbler	Phylloscopus bonelli			Н	Н	√	Н	Н				
Melodious Warbler	Hippolais polyglotta							✓				
Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis	√						•				
Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	•	Н	√	√		Н	Н				
Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin			Н	Н		√					
Sardinian Warbler	Curruca melanocephala		√	H	- ' '		· ·					
Western Subalpine Warbler	Curruca iberiae		V				√	√				
Dartford Warbler	Curruca undata	√					V	V				
Common Firecrest	Regulus ignicapilla	V			√	√	Н	Н				
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus				· V	Н	11	11				
Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes		Н	√		Н						
Eurasian Nuthatch	Sitta europaea		11	V		11	Н					
Short-toed Treecreeper	Certhia brachydactyla					,						
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Sturnus unicolor	√	√	,	/	√ √	√ √	√				
Spotless Starling		V	V	✓	√	V	V	-	-			
Song Thrush Mistle Thrush	Turdus philomelos Turdus viscivorus				√	,		✓				
Common Blackbird	Turdus viscivorus Turdus merula	,	,	,	,	√	,	,				
		✓	✓	√	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata			✓		,		,				
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula		,	,	√	√		√				
Common Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos		✓	✓	√	√	✓	Н				
Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros		Н		✓	✓	✓					
Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe				✓							
White-throated Dipper	Cinclus cinclus					✓	✓					
Rock Sparrow	Petronia petronia	✓	✓	✓			✓					
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Dunnock	Prunella modularis					✓						
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea				Н	✓	✓					
White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris	✓										
Water Pipit	Anthus spinoletta				✓							
Eurasian Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs		Н	✓	Н	✓	✓	✓				
Eurasian Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula				✓			Н				
European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris			✓		✓	✓					

Common name		June - July 2025								
	Scientific name	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra					✓	✓			
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Citril Finch	Carduelis citrinella					✓				
European Serin	Serinus serinus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra	✓						✓		
Rock Bunting	Emberiza cia						✓			
Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus		Н	√	√		√			

Plants

Scientific name	Common name
PINOPSIDA (GYMNOSPERMS)	CONIFERS
Cupressaceae	Cypress Family
Cupressus sempervirens	Italian Cypress
Juniperus communis	Common Juniper
Juniperus oxycedrus	Prickly Juniper
Juniperus phoenicea	Phoenician Juniper
Pinaceae	Pine Family
Pinus halepensis	Aleppo Pine
Pinus nigra	Austrian Pine
Pinus sylvestris	Scots Pine
MAGNOLIOPSIDA	FLOWERING PLANTS
Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)	
Aceraceae	Maple Family
Acer campestre	Field Maple
Acer monspessulanum	Montpellier Maple
Anacardiaceae	Sumach Family
Pistacia lentiscus	Mastic Tree
Pistacia terebinthus	Turpentine Tree
Apiaceae	Carrot Family
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley
Bupleurum falcatum	Sickle-leaved Hare's-ear
Conopodium denudatum	Earthnut
Daucus carota	Wild Carrot
Eryngium bourgatii	Pyrenean Eryngo
Eryngium campestre	Field Eryngo
Laserpitium gallicum	a Sermountain
Laserpitium latifolium	Broad-leaved Sermountain
Meum athamanticum	Spignel
Sanicula europaea	Sanicle
Seseli montanum	
Torilis nodosa	Knotted Hedge Parsley
Trinia glauca	Honewort
Araliaceae	Ivy Family
Hedera helix	lvy
Aristolchiaceae	Birthwort Family
Aristolochia pistolochia	
Asclepiadaceae	Milkweed Family
Vincetoxicum hirundinaria	Swallow-wort
Vincetoxicum nigrum	Black Swallow-wort

Scientific name	Common name
Asteraceae	Daisy Family
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow
Andrayala integrifolia	Andrayala
Antennaria dioica	Mountain Everlasting
Artemesia herba-alba	Pyrenean Wormwood
Bellis perennis	Daisy
Bellis sylvestris	Southern Daisy
Carduncellus mitissimus	Dwarf Blue Thistle
Carduus crispus	Welted Thistle
Carduus nutans	Musk Thistle
Catananche caerulea	Cupid's Dart
Centaurea montana	Perennial Cornflower
Centaurea solstitialis	Yellow Star-thistle
Cichorium intybus	Chicory
Filago vulgaris	Common Cudweed
Helichrysum stoechas	Curry Plant
Hieracium pilosella	Mouse-ear Hawkweed
Lactuca perennis	Blue Lettuce
Leucanthemum corymbosum	. ,
Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxe-eye Daisy
Leuzia conifera	Leuzia
Onopordum acanthium	Cotton Thistle
Onopordum acaulon	Stemless Cotton Thistle
Pallenis spinosa	Pallenis
Pilosella officinarum	Mouse-ear Hawkweed
Santolina chamaecyparissus	Lavender Cotton
Scolymus hispanicus	Spanish Oyster Plant
Silybum marianum	Milk Thistle
Staehelina dubia	Staehelina
Tragopogon crocifolius	
Tragopogon porrifolius	Salsify
Tragopogon pratensis	Goat's-beard
Tussilago farfara	Colt's-foot
Volutaria lippii	
Boraginaceae	Borage Family
Anchusa azurea	Large Blue Alkanet
Anchusa officinalis	Alkanet
Borago officinalis	Borage
Cynoglossum creticum	Blue Hound's-tongue
Echium vulgare	Viper's Bugloss
Lithodora diffusa	Scrambling Gromwell
Lithodora fruticosa	Shrubby Gromwell
Lithospermum arvensis	Corn Gromwell
Lithospermum purpurocaeruleum	Blue Gromwell
Myosotis alpestris	Alpine Forget-me-not
Onosma bubanii	Pyrenean Golden Drops
Brassicaeae	Cabbage Family
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard
Arabis caucasica subsp. alpina	Alpine Rock-cress
Arabis glabra	Tower Mustard
Arabis hirsuta	Hairy Rock-cress
Arabis turrita	Tower Cress

Scientific name	Common name
Barbarea vulgaris	Common Winter-cress
Biscutella laevigata	Buckler Mustard
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's Purse
Cardamine raphanifolia	Greater Cuckooflower
Descurainia sophia	Flixweed
Draba aizoides	Yellow Whitlow-grass
Iberis sempervirens	Evergreen Candytuft
Matthiola fruticulosa	Sad Stock
Buxaceae	Box Family
Buxus sempervirens	Box
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family
Campanula persicifolia	Peach-leaved Bellflower
Campanula trachelium	Nettle-leaved Bellflower
Jasione montana	Mountain Sheepsbit
Lobelia urens	Heath Lobelia
	Round-headed Rampion
Phyteuma orbiculare Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family
-	
Lonicera etrusca	Etruscan Honeysuckle
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle
Lonicera pyrenaica	Pyrenean Honeysuckle
Lonicera xylosteum	Fly Honeysuckle
Sambucus ebulus	Dwarf Elder
Sambucus nigra	Elder
Viburnum lantana	Wayfaring Tree
Carophyllaceae	Pink Family
Cerastium arvense	Field Mouse-ear
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow-in-summer
Dianthus hispanicus	
Minuartia verna	Spring Sandwort
Paronychia capitata	
Petrocoptis pyrenaica	Petrocoptis
Petrorhagia prolifera	Proliferous Pink
Petrorhagia saxifraga	Tunic Flower
Saponaria ocymoides	Rock Soapwort
Silene nutans	Nottingham Catchfly
Silene rupestris	Rock Campion
Silene vulgaris	Bladder Campion
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed
Cistaceae	Rockrose Family
Fumana ericoides	Fumana
Helianthemum apenninum	White Rockrose
Helianthemum nummularium	Common Rockrose
H. nummularium subsp. pyrenaicum	Pink Rockrose
H. oelandicum subsp. canum	Hoary Rockrose
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family
Convolvulus cantabrica	Pink Bindweed
Cuscuta campestre	Field Dodder
Cuscuta epithymum	Dodder
Cornaceae	Dogwood Family
Cornus sanguinea	Common Dogwood

Scientific name	Common name
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family
Jovibarba globifera	Hen and chickens Houseleek
Sedum acre	Biting Stonecrop
Sedum album	White Stonecrop
Sedum dasyphyllum	Thick-leaved Stonecrop
Umbelicus rupestris	Navelwort
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family
Bryonia dioica	White Bryony
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family
Dipsacus fullonum	Teasel
Knautia dipsacifolia	Wood Scabious
Ericaceae	Heath Family
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Bearberry
Calluna vulgaris	Ling
Rhododendron ferrugineum	Alpenrose
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family
Euphobia exigua	Dwarf Spurge
Euphorbia characias subsp.	
characias	Large Mediterranean Spurge
Euphorbia helioscopia	Sun Spurge
Euphorbia serrata	
Fabaceae	Pea Family
Anthyllis vulneraria subsp.	Pink Kidney Vetch
pyrenaica	· ·
Astragalus glycyphyllos	Wild Liquorice
Astragalus hamosus	
Astragalus monspessulanus	False Vetch
Astragalus purpureus	Purple Vetch
Astragalus sempervirens	Mountain Tragacanth
Bitumaria bituminosa	Pitch Trefoil
Coronilla scorpioides	Annual Scorpion Vetch
Dorycnium pentaphyllum	
Echinospartum horridum	Echinospartum
Genista anglica	Petty Whin
Genista tinctoria	Dyer's Greenweed
Hippocrepis emerus	Scorpion Vetch
Lathyrus aphaca	Yellow Vetchling
Lathyrus cicera	
Lathyrus latifolius	
Lathyrus linifolius	Bitter Vetch
Lathyrus pannonicus	
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling
Medicago sativa	Lucerne
Melilotus altissima	Tall Melilot
Onobrychis viciifolia	Sainfoin
Ononis fruticosa	Shrubby Restharrow
Ononis natrix	Large Yellow Restharrow
Pisum sativum	Wild Pea
Tetragonolobus maritimus	Dragon's Teeth
Trifolium alpinum	Alpine Clover
Trifolium montanum	Mountain Clover
Trifolium ochroleucon	Sulphur Clover

Scientific name	Common name
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch
Vicia pyrenaica	Pyrenean Vetch
Fagaceae	Oak Family
Castanea sativa	Sweet Chestnut
Fagus sylvatica	Beech
Quercus coccifera	Kermes Oak
Quercus ilex	Holm Oak
Quercus pubescens	Downy Oak
Quercus pyrenaica	Pyrenean Oak
Fumariaceae	Fumitory Family
Corydalis solida	Bird-in-a-Bush
Fumaria parviflora	Small-flowered Fumitory
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family
Blackstonia perfoliata	Yellow-wort
Gentiana acaulis	Trumpet Gentian
Gentiana occidentalis	Pyrenean Trumpet Gentian
Gentiana verna	Spring Gentian
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family
Erodium malacoides	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill
Geranium columbinum	Long-stalked Crane's-bill
Geranium lucidum	Shining Crane's-bill
Geranium pyrenaicum	Hedge Crane's-bill
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert
Geranium rotundifolium	Round-leaved Crane's-bill
Geranium sylvaticum	Wood Crane's-bill
Gesneriaceae	Gloxinia Family
Ramonda myconii	Ramonda
Globulariaceae	Globularia Family
Globularia cordifolia	Matted Globularia
Globularia nudicaulis	Leafless-stemmed Globularia
	Common Globularia
Globularia punctata	Common Globularia
Globularia repens	Ct John's wort Family
Hypericaceae	St John's-wort Family
Hypericum nummularium	Western St John's-wort
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St John's-wort
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family
Acinos alpina	Alpine Basil-thyme
Ajuga chamaepitys	Ground Pine
Ajuga pyramidalis	Pyramidal Bugle
Ballota nigra	Black Horehound
Clinopodium acinos	Basil-thyme
Horminum pyrenaicum	Dragonmouth
Lamium amplexicaule	Hen-bit
Lamium garganicum	Large Red Deadnettle
Lavandula angustifolia	Lavender
Lavandula latifolia	
	White Horehound
Marrubium vulgare	
Melittis melissophyllum	Bastard Balm
-	Bastard Balm Marjoram
Melittis melissophyllum	
Melittis melissophyllum Origanum vulgare Phlomis herba-venti Phlomis lychnitis	
Melittis melissophyllum Origanum vulgare Phlomis herba-venti	

Scientific name	Common name
Salvia pratensis	Meadow Clary
Salvia verbenaca	Wild Clary
Satureja montana	Winter Savory
Sideritis hirsuta	
Stachys recta	Yellow Woundwort
Thymus pulegioides	Large Thyme
Thymus vulgaris	Perennial Thyme
Lentibulariaceae	Butterwort Family
Pinguicula grandiflora	Greater Butterwort
Pinguicula vulgaris	Common Butterwort
Linaceae	Flax Family
Linum bienne	Pale Flax
Linum catharticum	Purging Flax
Linum narbonense	Beautiful Flax
Linum perenne	Perennial Flax
Linum suffructicosum subsp.	
salsaloides	Pyrenean Flax
Linum trigynum	
Linum viscosum	Sticky Flax
Loranthaceae	Mistletoe Family
Viscum album subsp. austriacum	Mistletoe
Moraceae	Mulberry Family
Ficus sycomorus	Wild Fig
Oleaceae	Olive Family
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
Jasminium fruticans	Wild Jasmine
Ligustrum vulgare	Privet
Olea europaea	Olive
Orobranchaceae	Broomrape Family
Lathraea clandestina	Purple Toothwort
Orobranche gracilis	Slender Broomrape
Orobranche hederae	Ivy Broomrape
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family
Papaver argemone	Prickly Poppy
Papaver rhoeas	Field Poppy
Roemeria hybrida	Violet Horned Poppy
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family
Plantago arenaria	Branched Plantain
Plantago media	Hoary Plantain
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family
Armeria maritima subsp. alpina	Mountain Thrift
Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family
Polygala nicaeensis	Nice Milkwort
Polygala vulgaris	Common Milkwort
Polygonaceae	Dock Family
Persicaria viviparum	Alpine Bistort
Rumex scutatus	French Sorrel
Primulaceae	Primrose Family
Anagallis arvensis subsp. foemina	Blue pimpernel
Androsace chamaejasme	Ciliate Rock-jasmine
Androsace chamaejasme Androsace vitaliana	Vitaliana
Coris monspeliensis	Coris

Scientific name	Common name
Primula elatior	Oxlip
Primula farinosa	Bird's-eye Primrose
Primula hirsuta	
Primula veris	Cowslip
Soldanella alpina	Alpine Snowbell
Pyrolaceae	Wintergreen Family
Moneses uniflora	One-flowered Wintergreen
Pyrola chlorantha	Pale-green Wintergreen
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family
Actaea spicata	Baneberry
Adonis annua	Pheasant's-eye
Adonis vernalis	Yellow Pheasant's-eye
Anemone narcissifolia	Narcissus-flowered Anemone
Aquilegia vulgaris	Common Columbine
Caltha palustris	Marsh Marigold
Clematis vitalba	Traveller's Joy
Consolida regalis	Forking Larkspur
Helleborus foetidus	Stinking Hellebore
Helleborus viridis	Green Hellebore
Hepatica nobilis	Hepatica
Nigella arvensis	Love-in-a-mist
Ranunculus amplexicaulis	Amplexicaule Buttercup
Ranunculus auricomus	Goldilocks Buttercup
Ranunculus bulbosus	Bulbous Buttercup
Ranunculus gouanii	Gouan's Buttercup
Ranunculus gramineus	Codair a Butteroup
Ranunculus pyrenaeus	Pyrenean Buttercup
Thalictrum tuberosum	r yrenean Battereap
Trollius europaeus	Globeflower
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family
Reseda lutea	Wild Mignonette
Reseda luteola	Weld
Reseda phyteuma	Corn Mignonette
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family
Frangulus alnus	Alder Buckthorn
Rhamnus alaternus	Mediterranean Buckthorn
Rhamnus pumilis	Dwarf Buckthorn
Rosaceae	Rose Family
Alchemilla alpina	Alpine Lady's Mantle
Amelanchier ovalis	Juneberry
Filipendula vulgaris	Dropwort
Fragaria vesca	Wild Strawberry
Geum montanum	Alpine Avens
Geum pyrenaicum	Pyrenean Avens
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens
Potentilla crantzii	Alpine Cinquefoil
Potentilla rupestris	Rock Cinquefoil
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble
Sanguisorba minor	Salad Burnet
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family
Cruciata laevipes	Crosswort
•	
Galium mollugo	Hedge Bedstraw

Scientific name	Common name
Rubia peregrina	Madder
Santalaceae	Sandalwood Family
Osyris alba	Osyris
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family
Saxifraga exerata subsp. moschata	White Musky Saxifrage
Saxifraga granulata	Meadow Saxifrage
Saxifraga hirsuta	Kidney Saxifrage
Saxifraga longifolia	Pyrenean Saxifrage
Saxifraga Iosana	
Saxifraga pubescens	Hairy Saxifrage
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family
Antirrhinum majus	Snapdragon
Chaenorrhinum origanifolium	Malling Toadflax
Erinus alpinus	Fairy Foxglove
Linaria alpina	Alpine Toadflax
Linaria supina	Pyrenean Toadflax
Pedicularis pyrenaica	Pyrenean Lousewort
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow Rattle
Scrophularia canina	French Figwort
Verbascum lychnitis	White Mullein
Verbascum nigrum	Dark Mullein
Verbascum pulverulentum	Hoary Mullein
Verbascum thapsus	Aaron's Rod
Veronica beccabunga	Brooklime
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family
Atropa belladonna	Deadly Nightshade
Hyoscyamus niger	Henbane
Solanum dulcamara	Bittersweet
Thymelaceae	Daphne Family
Daphne cneorum	Garland Flower
Daphne laureola	Spurge Laurel
Urticaceae	Nettle Family
Parietaria judaica	Pellitory-of-the-wall
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle
Urtica urens	Small Nettle
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family
Centranthus ruber	Red Valerian
Valeriana globularifolia	Globularia-leaved Valerian
Valeriana montana	
Verbenaceae	Verbena Family
Verbena officinalis	Vervain
Violaceae	Violet Family
Viola pyrenaica	Pyrenean Violet
Vitaceae	Vine Family
Vitis vinifera	Wild Grape-vine
Liliidae (Monocotyledons)	
Dioscoreaceae	Yam Family
Tamus communis	Black Bryony
Iridaceae	Iris Family
Crocus albiflorus	White Crocus
Crocus vernus	Spring Crocus
Gladiolus italicus	Field Gladiolus

Scientific name	Common name
Iris graminea	Grass-leaved Iris
Iris lutescens	
Iris pseudacorus	Yellow Flag
Iris xiphiodes	
Liliaceae	Lily Family
Allium ampeloprasum	Wild Leek
Allium moly	Yellow Garlic
Allium pyrenaicum	
Allium roseum	Rosy Garlic
Allium sphaerocephalon	Round-headed leek
Allium vineale	Crow Garlic
Anthericum liliago	St. Bernard's Lily
Aphyllanthes monspeliensis	Blue Aphyllanthes
Asparagus officinalis	Asparagus
Asphodelus albus	White Asphodel
Asphodelus fistulosus	Hollow-leaved Asphodel
Brimeura amethystinus	Pyrenean Hyacinth
Dipcadi serotinum	Brown Blubell
Fritillaria pyrenaica	Pyrenean Snakeshead
Lilium martagon	Martagon Lily
Muscari comosum	Tassel Hyacinth
Muscari neglectum	Grape Hyacinth
Narcissus bicolor	Grape Hydeman
Narcissus minor	
Narcissus pallidiflorus	Green-flowered Narcissus
Narcissus requienii	Rush-leaved Daffodil
Ornithogalum narbonense	rasir leaved Barlour
Ornithogalum pyrenaicum	Bath Asparagus
Paradisea liliastrum	St. Bruno's Lily
Ruscus aculeatus	Butcher's Broom
Scilla lilo-hyacinthus	Pyrenean Squill
Scilla verna	Spring Squill
Tulipa sylvestris subsp. australis	Wild Tulip
Veratrum album	White False Helleborine
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family
Anacamptis pyramidalis	Pyramidal Orchid
Cephalanthera damasonium	White Helleborine
Cephalanthera longifolia	Sword-leaved Helleborine
Coeloglossum viride	Frog Orchid
Cypripedium calceolus	Lady's Slipper Orchid
Dactylorhiza elata	Robust Marsh Orchid
Dactylorhiza fuschii	Common Spotted Orchid
Dactylorhiza majalis	Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid
Dactylorhiza sambucina	Elder-flowered Orchid
Gymnadenia conopsea agg.	Fragrant Orchid
Himantoglossum hircinum	Lizard Orchid
Neottia ovata	Twayblade
Ophrys apifera	Bee Orchid
Ophrys araneola	Early Spider Orchid
Ophrys fusca	Sombre Bee Orchid
Ophrys insectifera	Fly Orchid
Ophrys lutea	Yellow Bee Orchid
	. 3 200 0101110

Scientific name	Common name
Ophrys quadriloba	Four-lobed Orchid
Ophrys scolopax	Woodcock Orchid
Ophrys speculum	Mirror Orchid
Ophrys sphegodes	Early Spider Orchid
Orchis anthropophora	Man Orchid
Orchis champagneuxii	Champagne Orchid
Orchis coriophora	Bug Orchid
Orchis laxiflora	Lax-flowered Orchid
Orchis mascula	Early Purple Orchid
Orchis militaris	Military Orchid
Orchis purpurea	Lady Orchid
Orchis ustulata	Burnt Orchid
Plantathera bifolia	Lesser Butterfly Orchid
Plantathera chlorantha	Greater Butterfly Orchid