

Best of The Basque Country!

Naturetrek Tour Report

6 - 14 May 2017



Basque coastline



Red Deer at Salburua Wetlands



Painted Lady



Atxarte Urkiola

Report and images by Pablo Perez Martinez



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Day 1

Saturday 6th May

London Heathrow – Bilbao

We flew from London Heathrow to Bilbao and arrived at lunchtime on a beautiful sunny day. We made a bee-line for the Iruña Restaurant, one of the most historic bars in the old town of Casco Viejo, decorated with mosaics and upholstered sofas. We enjoyed some of the quintessentially Basque aperitif 'Pintxos', soon to become a constant on the tour. Pronounced Pinchos, these small finger foods form the backbone of local food culture and its cohesive social qualities, along with other gastronomic delights such as 'Txakoli' (slightly sparkling white wine) and the famous 'Sidre' (Cider).

Although Bilbao is a city, wildlife can be found in its parks and gardens within the centre and surrounding area. Song Thrush, Feral Pigeon, House Sparrow, Peacock butterfly and even the Common Wall Lizard are some of the visitors that we enjoyed during our quick visit to the city. Additionally, it is not uncommon to spot Griffon Vultures flying high above Bilbao. The river is home to Sandpipers and Kingfishers, mainly during the fall. Its waters, once extremely polluted, now host Cormorant, Mallard and interesting species of fish such as the Sea bass and the Allis Shad.

During the industrial revolution, Bilbao was a major city of industry in southern Europe; a consequence of which is a long-standing and sturdy relationship with the UK. Manchester and Bilbao are two good examples of cities with a history of intense coal and iron activity that have been successfully modernized into cities with iconic pieces of art and architecture, such as the well-known Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. A gentle stroll along the riverside allowed us to delight our eyes with the magnificent view of the museum, just before we turned into the main street of the city, called La Gran Via, where we also appreciate the beauty of the Biscay government buildings and the Palace de la Diputacion, while enjoying an ice-cream. Although Magpie is really abundant in other places, it is interesting to see it in the city because it is a brand new bird for the region. Research suggests it is increasing its population from the south.

From Bilbao, after a forty-minute drive we reach the most iconic feature of the Basque coast, San Juan de Gaztelugatxe, which is a little chapel located at the top of an isthmus with superb views. Standing by the chapel high up on the island, on layers of sedimentary and volcanic rock that has been battered over thousands of years by the Atlantic Ocean, we saw behind us a dramatic vegetated cliff and in front the open sea. One member of the group chose to hike up to the top of the 240 steps for a breathtaking panoramic spectacle, while the others relaxed and searched for some of the unique natural features of the area. There were some endemic plants such as *Armeria euscadiensis* and *Asplenium marinum*, and even an introduced to the unique Atlantic population of Ibiza Wall Lizard.

Because the weather was very warm and still, we did not have the chance to see many pelagic birds which are more visible with onshore winds, although whilst looking for the local Blue Rock Thrush we were lucky to have great views of Firecrest and Yellow-legged Gulls. The San Juan rock cliff and the neighboring Aketz island host some of the rare Storm Petrel populations on the Iberian peninsula. Furthermore, we had our first contact with a constant companion on the Basque tour; the Black Kite.

We drove for 45 minutes to the quaint village of Mundaka to end day one of our tour, and to begin the first of a two-night stay at the base camp which would allow us to explore the nearby area of the UNESCO Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve, which is one of the best preserved estuaries along the north Atlantic coast of Spain, right on the Bay of Biscay.

The Hotel is well located at the heart of this charismatic fisherman's village where you can feel the tears of time along its streets, see the boats moving in the harbour with the rocking tide, and we spotted European Shag. We had a superb dinner at Restaurant Casino, with unbeatable views of the town and the ocean.

Day 2

Sunday 7th May

Biscay, Urdaibai (Laida Beach & Berroja Winery)

There is nothing better than a good breakfast as the one we had at the Ecohotel Mundaka to kick-start a great birding day in Urdaibai. About half an hour from Mundaka we enjoyed a good number of aquatic birds at the Orueta bird observatory, spotting Spoonbill, Redshank, Black-winged Stilt, Cetti's Warbler, Curlew, Widgeon, Pintail, Grey Wagtail and Cattle Egret. But the highlight was a delightful view of a Wild Boar swimming along the pool with good opportunities to photograph and video.

At 11am the Urdaibai Bird Centre opened its doors and we had a guided visit with Edorta Unamuno around the centre with really interesting explanations about how the old fish cannery factory and damp marsh were converted into an excellent visitor centre, with a naturalized wetland full of wildlife, in just a few years. He also reminded us of the importance of the local environmental education, giving examples of the different students and locally established community programs, such as ones surveying and rehabilitating Swallows, Red-backed Shrike and Osprey.

In beautiful weather we enjoyed a pintxo lunch in the Atxarre Restaurant on Laida beach, with magnificent views of the entire estuary – and with binoculars at the ready to spot any birds.

On our way back to the car and before reaching the next stop at Akorta village, we examined the Woodcock Orchid *Ophrys scolopax*. From Akorta we hiked for about an hour to the top of San Pedro the Atxarre Chapel, where the sights of the estuary and the Cantabrian Sea were breathtaking. The Chapel is located at the top of a limestone hill, sumptuously covered in native evergreen forest as a reminder of past warmer times, thousands of years ago. This forest and its surrounding meadows are home to Mediterranean species such as the Sardinian Warbler and the Arbutus Scrub. Furthermore, we also enjoyed views and sounds of Zitting Cisticola and the beauty of Painted Lady butterfly.

There is no doubt that Spain is well known for the quality and variety of its wines. Here we tried an example of an interesting variety of white wine called Txakoli, typical from this wet Atlantic environment in the north of the Basque country. We visited Bodegas Berroja in the evening and had a passionate explanation from Jose Angel as to why the Txakoli wine owns such a personality. It is fair to say that the views from the winery are some of the best in the entire region with a very good chance to see Griffon Vulture, Egyptian Vulture and other birds of prey while enjoying the wines.

On our way back to Mundaka we discovered a Dipper nest underneath a bridge in a brook, as well as a trap to control the presence of the invasive American Mink which is threatening the native and endangered species of European Mink.

At dinner we enjoyed views of the estuary from the opposite side of the river to where we were in the morning, in the extremely well-located and good quality restaurant, The Portuondo.

Day 3

Monday 8th May

Biscay, Urdaibai & Vitoria - Gasteiz (Gernika & Salburua Wetlands)

Another important relationship that the Basque Country has with the UK is the Osprey reintroduction project that Aitor Galarza is leading in Urdaibai. Twelve chicks that have been reared in Urdaibai for the last four years are from Scotland, and there are similar links between ongoing environmental education programmes at Rutland Water in England led by Tim Appleton. We were lucky enough to visit the buildings of the Osprey hatching programme with Aitor and enjoy views of one of the returned chicks from Senegal who is searching for a female Osprey during the summer. In addition to this special experience, we were delighted by the extremely rare presence of a Black Stork and close views of Red Squirrel. Furthermore, Blackcap, Yellow Wagtail and Willow Warbler were some of the song birds that we enjoyed before entering the historical city of Gernika, an iconic and emblematic town of the Basque Country at the southernmost tip of the Urdaibai estuary.

The Picasso painting 'Guernica', as well as the Casa de Juntas and Gernika Tree were some of the heritage features we visited on this sunny day before a pintxos lunch in town. On this occasion we accompanied the pintxos with another traditional Spanish drink called mosto, which is a sweet grape juice with no alcohol on it.

From Urdaibai we reached the Urkiola Sanctuary after a drive of about fifty minutes. The historical religious building is well located at the top of the road near a rich Beech forest, which ends with a superb viewpoint that has majestic views of sharp peaks. From there and along the forest trail we saw Red-billed Chough, Bullfinch, Nuthatch, and Griffon Vulture; all familiar sightings on the Basque tour.

At this point we were getting ready to depart the province of Biscay and enter into Alava, the second of the three provinces that we visit in the Basque Country tour. Its capital, Vitoria-Gasteiz, has been awarded the European Green Capital and is world-renowned for its green ring that provides recreation and natural habitats for its inhabitants and wildlife. The most iconic section of this ring is the Salburua wetlands that supports a healthy population of aquatic birds and provides an excellent opportunity to observe them, with numerous well-defined trails and observatories. Right here is located our second hotel, where we stayed and had dinner for the next three nights: Hotel Palacio Elorriaga.

In the evening some of us went for a quick look at the wetlands where we enjoyed a visit from the local international naturalist Mr. Webster. We had fantastic views of Melodious Warbler, White Stork, Nightingale, Spotless Starling, White-winged Tern and Tree Pipit, all within walking distance from the hotel.

Day 4

Tuesday 9th May

Alava

Alava is the most sparsely populated province of the Basque Country, and the most varied in terms of ecosystems because it is limited in the north by the Atlantic climate regions of Biscay and Gipuzkoa, and the south boasts the real continental Mediterranean climate region. So that makes it quite interesting in terms of unspoiled terrain and a rich biodiversity. This is why we visit the 'Fauneando' bird hide of Andoni Llosa to get a close view of some of the most representative forest birds of the Urkudi area. We enjoyed close views of Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Nuthatch, Marsh, Coal, Blue and Great Tits, Cuckoo and Buzzard. This time we were not fortunate enough to see Middle Spotted Woodpecker, but it remains for another occasion.

During our short drive to the next destination we spotted Green Woodpecker and the elegant Roe Deer. After the hide experience, we had a bocadillo (sandwich) in the local bar Garimotxea, with great views of Swift, House Martin, Goldfinch, Serin, Greenfinch and Robin. We also caught a glimpse of Booted Eagle and Pied Flycatcher.

From Urkudi we stopped in Pobes to visit the wonderful bird garden and bird hides of Elai Etxea, a birding hostel run by Mr. Joseba, before reaching the Salinas de Añana, an extremely old freshwater salt-making town where some bought local handmade salt to take home. This unique place is well-worth a visit, and a good area to spot the local Black Redstart.

From there we drove along Kuartango to reach the trail that leads to the famous site of Salto del Nervion. We walked on very comfortable, flat, gentle ground for almost an hour and a half along paths full of birds such as Wheatear, Cirl Bunting, Dunnock, Stonechat, Yellowhammer and Kestrel.

Reaching the waterfall was a majestic experience with delightful views of the tallest waterfall in Spain; approximately 200 metres high. From the top we had brilliant views of Egyptian Vulture, breeding Griffon Vulture and we listened to Peregrine Falcon calling.

On our way back to the car we were lucky to see a Pine Marten and to find Lady Orchid *Orchis purpurea*, as well as a hunting Montagu's Harrier and hearing the call of a nearby Wryneck! The winds were picking up and we were very fortunate to reach the car when we did to miss a strong storm. We drove happily back to the hotel to enjoy a delicious dinner.

Day 5

Wednesday 10th May

Alava

This morning we had a visit by Lucia Peña, who is the local director of the Basque department of SEO/Birdlife organisation. She was pleased to meet us and tell us about the bird organisation.

Then, looking forward to discovering the southern tip of the Basque Country, we drove to Laguardia, across the Herrera mountain road. Almost at the top, we were a little surprised by the wet and cloudy weather which meant that the outstanding views from the road were somewhat obscured.

Despite the small showers, we stopped at some of the Dolmens along the road before reaching the main birding destination of La Paul pool, where we had a gentle walk along the side. We enjoyed the large abundance of birds such as Bee-eater, Reed Warbler, Spanish Sparrow, Marsh Harrier, Purple Heron, Golden Oriole, Dartford Warbler, Linnet, Iberian Chiffchaff, Sardinian Warbler and Nightingale, plus some nice orchids including Early Spider Orchid *Orchis Sphegodes*.

From La Paul we went to the other pool called Carravalseca for some birding before indulging in one of the jewels of the Basque tour. The weather cleared and we had an excellent private gourmet lunch in the Casa Primicia vineyard with majestic views and fine cuisine, and the wine added an exclusive aspect to the visit. From the private property we had a glimpse of Swallowtail butterfly and Red-legged Partridge while enjoying the delicious barbeque meal enriched with white and red wines.

During the evening we visited the charming medieval city of Laguardia, with one of the oldest wineries in the world. Casa Primicia winery is located underneath the town and our excellent and charismatic local guide Mikel escorted us through the subterranean stores whilst telling us the tales and history of the 15th century cellars.

On our way back to Salburua Reserve the weather had cleared so we were able to enjoy those wonderful views that were missing in the morning. We had another look at Salburua and struck gold with a rare view of Bittern, together with other more common birds such as the Spotless Starling, Red-crested Pochard, Black-necked Grebe, and a quick view of a Weasel.

We returned for our last night at Hotel Palacio Elorriaga in Alava, before heading to the third province of Gipuzkoa tomorrow.

Day 6

Thursday 11th May

Gipuzcoa

Our morning at the Arantzazu Sanctuary, located at the top of the Aizkorri Natural Park, brought us a splendid view of the cordillera with extremely close sightings of Crag Martin and outstanding pictures of Buzzard, Griffon Vulture and Egyptian Vulture. We took our time looking at the exceptional church before reaching the Caserio Gomiztegi. This is a farmer's school where we learnt about how to make the local Idiazabal sheep's cheese and what its properties are. We were delighted by a display by a sheepdog which ran the sheep into the shelter with remarkable ability. We indulged in the nutty taste of this unique and famous cheese and in the process, experienced a significant piece of the Basque culture.

On our way back we walked along an easy path with relentlessly stunning views of the mountains, and we discovered interesting flowers such as Early Purple Orchid *Orchis Masculula*.

The group wanted to enjoy a longer break in the evening, so we decided to have a quick look at the town of Oñati on our way to the new and very last hotel, the Zezilionea Hotel in Olabarria. Slowing the pace gave more time to enjoy the tranquility of such a location. During the sunny, calm evening we come across a 'pala' game in the local 'fronton' with some extremely nice players who invited us to discover this traditional and old Basque game that once was popular on other continents.

Day 7

Friday 12th May

Gipuzcoa

We started the morning at 10.30am in Lastur where we had a brilliant view of an ancient watermill, thanks to Maitane and Vicente. This used to be an iron mill, but was later turned into a flour mill. In Lastur we saw the Geoparkea Interpretation Centre and the Plaza de Toros, which is a very unique building. This is the interior part of the Geopark with significant geological relevance due to its Karstic phenomena. We also saw some of the large rocks that are used in the local Basque 'Highland Games', which are lifted and carried whilst running! This is another example of the close relationship between the five thousand-year-old culture of the Basque Country and the surrounding environment. The Basque language, traditions and different heritage icons were present throughout the entire tour.

That afternoon we had more of the typical *mosto* in a local bar. From Lastur we went to Sakoneta beach to enjoy the magical view of the cliffs from above, and had a good view of the different geological features represented in the Geopark. This spot is especially interesting because of its hanging rivers that take longer to erode the cliffs than the waves do. We were there at the right time of day for low tide which enabled us to see the abrasion platform from above, with stunning formations at the bottom. Here we saw Lesser Black-backed Gull as well as a *Serapias* orchid. Along the little creek we were delighted to see Kestrel, Stonechat, Meadow Pipit, and Cirl Bunting.

There are two main attractions in Zumaia - its geology and the architecture of the Old Town. At lunchtime we took a boat ride to get the best possible views of the cliffs from the ocean. This was a two-hour sail on a calm ocean that brought us close to the shore, being able to appreciate the extremely well carved and characteristic Basque coastline. Geologists from all over the world have come to Zumaia to study and appreciate its cliffs with more than 60 million years of history extremely well detailed in parallel layers of sedimentary rocks. Furthermore, there are presently two golden spikes, one of which represents the dinosaur's extinction: this is a unique experience that connects us to a distant and desolate time. With our minds full of memories and bright images, we drove back to Olaberria with enough time to rest and prepare for the final destination of the tour.

Day 8

Saturday 13th May

Gipuzcoa

If there is one famous city in the Basque Country, it has got to be San Sebastian, the capital of Gipuzkoa and an area of outstanding beauty and traditional tourism. We decided to give ourselves enough time to enjoy and absorb as much of it as possible, so made sure we arrived early in the morning. Despite it being wet in the morning, we started our visit from Zurriola beach, along a nice path to the old part of the city. Before reaching the town we visited the old harbour and had a '*mosto*' in perhaps the very best spot of Concha beach, at the Bokado bar. At that time the weather was fantastic and that encouraged some of us to reach the summit of the Cristo monument.

What we did not want to miss in San Sebastian was a stroll through the old town and, of course, delve into the delights of its famous pintxos. By this time we were total experts in pintxos and our highly-evolved palates were now ready to imbibe and savor the pinnacle of Basque Country pintxos! In a wonderful walk back to the car we saw Whimbrel, Turnstone and Oystercatcher.

We were greeted with a great surprise when we arrived back at the town of our hotel, as celebrations were in full swing with a street-wide party. We really enjoyed a local group of girls playing the traditional music called Trikitrixa. We ate another delicious dinner at the hotel which was consistently superb every night, and then retired to bed.

Day 9

Sunday 14th May

We left the hotel at 9am and reached the airport at 10.15am. After saying our thanks and goodbyes to Pablo, we flew back to the UK where another Naturetrek adventure ended. We had enjoyed a wonderful Basque experience and the tour was amazing!

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Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		✓								
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
3	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		✓	✓							
4	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>					✓					
5	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>					✓					
6	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					✓					
7	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		✓								
8	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
9	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		✓	✓							
10	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					✓					
11	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓	✓							
12	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				✓						
13	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓				
14	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓							
15	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	✓							✓		
16	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			✓							
17	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>				✓		✓				
18	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
19	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>				✓						
20	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>					✓					
21	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				✓						
22	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
23	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			
24	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>						✓				
25	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓			✓					
26	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓		✓					
27	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>						✓				
28	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		✓	✓		✓					
29	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>								✓		
30	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>		✓								
31	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		✓						✓		
32	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓							
33	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	
34	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>								✓		
35	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				✓						
36	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> var. <i>domestica</i>	✓								✓	
37	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>								✓	✓	
38	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	✓							✓		
39	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>								✓		
40	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			✓							
41	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
42	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				✓						
43	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>				✓						
44	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			✓							
45	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>					✓					
46	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrines</i>						✓				
47	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
48	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓		✓				
49	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓		✓			✓			
50	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>			✓						
51	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
52	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>					✓				
53	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓		✓		✓			
54	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓				
55	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
56	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			✓		✓				
57	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			✓		✓		✓		
58	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		✓	✓	✓					
59	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓						
60	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				✓					
61	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓							
62	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>			✓	✓	✓				
63	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>			✓	✓	✓				
64	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			✓						
65	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓						
66	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				✓					
67	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>				✓					
68	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>					✓				
69	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			✓						
70	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				
71	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			✓						
72	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>					✓	✓			
73	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
74	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>					✓		✓	✓	
75	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
76	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>				✓					
77	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>				✓					
78	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			✓	✓	✓				
79	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			✓		✓				
80	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			✓						
81	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>				✓					
83	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			✓						
84	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>		✓							
85	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓						
86	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
87	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				✓					
88	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓						
89	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓							
90	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			✓						
91	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			
92	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			✓	✓	✓				
93	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>			✓						
94	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>				✓					

Mammals

1	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		✓							
2	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>							✓		
4	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		✓							
5	Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>				✓					
6	European Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>			✓						

Butterflies

1	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>				✓					
2	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓							

Plants

Scientific Name

Pteridophyta

Asplenium trichomanes
A. viride
Polypodium sp
Polystichum setiferum
Pteridium aquilinum

Pinaceae

Abies alba
Pinus sylvestris
Picea alba

Cupressaceae

Cupressus sempervirens
Juniperis communis
J. oxycedrus

Ephedraceae

Ephedra sp

Ranunculaceae

Anemone apennina
Aquilegia vulgaris
Caltha palustris
Clamatis sp (C. recta?)
Hepatica nobilis
Helleborus foetidus
Helleborus viridis
Pulsatilla sp
Ranunculus montanus

Papaverceae

Chelidonium majus

Fumariaceae

Fumaria officinalis

Ulmaceae

Ulmus sp

Common Name

Ferns

Maidenhair Spleenwort
Green Spleenwort
Polypody
Soft Shield-fern
Bracken

Pine family

Silver Fir
Scots Pine
Norway spruce

Cypress Family

Italian Cypress
Common Juniper
Prickly Juniper

Joint Pine Family

a Joint Pine

Buttercup Family

Blue Wood Anemone
Common Columbine
Kingcup
a Clematis
Hepatica
Stinking Hellebore
Green Hellebore
a Pasque Flower
Mountain Buttercup

Poppy family

Greater Celandine

Fumitory Family

Common Fumitory

Elm Family

Elm

Scientific Name	Common Name
Urticaceae <i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle Family Stinging Nettle
Fagaceae <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> <i>Quercus ilex</i> <i>Q. coccifera</i> <i>Q. robur</i> <i>Q. pyrenaica</i> <i>Q. mas</i>	Beech Family Beech Holm Oak Kermes or Holly Oak Pedunculate Oak Pyrenean Oak
Betulaceae <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> <i>Betula pendula</i> <i>Corylus avellana</i>	Birch Family Alder Silver Birch Hazel
Caryophyllaceae <i>Silene acaulis</i> <i>S. borderi</i> <i>S. colorata</i> <i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Pink Family Moss Campion Pyrenean Catchfly (pink) Campion Greater Stitchwort
Polygonaceae <i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Dock Family Knotgrass
Plumbaginaceae <i>A. Euskadiensis</i>	Thrift Family
Malvaceae <i>Malva neglecta</i> <i>M. sylvestris</i>	Mallow Family Dwarf Mallow Common Mallow
Cistaceae <i>Cistus clusii</i> <i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Rockrose Family Common Rockrose
Violaceae <i>Viola alba</i> <i>V. riviana</i>	Violet Family White Violet Common Dog Violet
Tamaricaceae <i>Tamarix africana</i>	Tamarix Family African Tamarix
Salicaceae <i>Salix alba</i> <i>Salix spp</i> <i>Populus tremula</i> <i>P. nigra</i>	Willow Family White Willow Willow Aspen Black Poplar
Brassicaceae <i>Eruca sativa</i>	Cabbage family Wild Rocket

Scientific Name	Common Name
Ericaceae	Heath Family
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry
Primulaceae	Primrose Family
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Pimpernel
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort, Wall Pennywort
Rosaceae	Rose Family
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Malus domestica</i>	Apple
<i>Potentilla aurea</i>	Golden Cinquefoil
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn/Sloe
<i>Rubus ulmifolious</i>	Blackberry
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan/Mountain Ash
Fabaceae	Pea Family
<i>Genista hispanica</i>	Spanish Broom
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	False Acacia
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>T. repens</i>	White Clover
<i>T. campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch
Thymelaceae	Daphne Family
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel
Buxaceae	Box Family
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge
Aceraceae	Maple family
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpellier Maple
Anacardiaceae	Cashew Family
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree, Lentiscus
<i>P. terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel family
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel

Scientific Name	Common Name
Geraniaceae <i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Geranium Family Herb Robert
Apiaceae <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Carrot Family Hogweed
Gentianaceae <i>Gentiana acaulis</i>	Gentian Family Trumpet Gentian
Convolvulaceae <i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	Convolvulus Family Pink Convolvulus
Boraginaceae <i>Echium vulgare</i> <i>Lithospermum arvensis</i> <i>L. fruticosum</i> <i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i> <i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Borage Family Vipers Bugloss Corn Gromwell Shrubby Gromwell Long-leaved Lungwort Field Forget-me-not
Lamiaceae <i>Ajuga reptans</i> <i>Lavendula angustifolia ssp pyrenaica</i> <i>Marrubium vulgare</i> <i>Mentha aquatica</i> <i>Mentha sp</i> <i>Origanum vulgare</i> <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> <i>Thymus vulgaris</i> <i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Mint Family Bugle Lavender White Horehound Watermint a Mint sp Marjoram Rosemary Thyme Meadow Clary
Plantaginaceae <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Plantain Family Ribwort Plantain
Oleaceae <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> <i>Olea europaea</i> <i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Olive Family Privet Olive Lilac
Scrophulariaceae <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> <i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Figwort Family Common Toadflax Dark Mullein
Globulariaceae <i>Globularia vulgaris</i>	Globularia Family Common Globularia
Campanulaceae <i>C. speciosa</i>	Bellflower Family Pyrenean bellflower
Rubiaceae <i>Galium aparine</i> <i>G. verum</i> <i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Madder Family Goosegrass/Cleavers Lady's Bedstraw Wild Madder

Scientific Name	Common Name
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle family
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Common Honeysuckle
<i>S. nigra</i>	Common Elder
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common Valerian
Dipsacaceae	Scabious Family
<i>Scabiosa stellata</i>	
Astraceae	Daisy Family
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	Pot Marigold
<i>Carlina acaulis</i>	Stemless Carline Thistle
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Everlasting
<i>Taraxacum sp</i>	Dandelion
MONOCOTYLEDONES	
Cyperaceae	Sedge family
<i>Carex sp</i>	Sedge species
Poaceae	Grass Family
<i>Festuca sp</i>	Fescue
Liliaceae	Lily Family
<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White Asphodel
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth
<i>M. neglectum (racemosum)</i>	Grape Hyacinth
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow flag
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid
<i>Ophrys fusca</i>	Sombre Bee Orchid
<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock Orchid
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early Spider Orchid
<i>Serapias sp.</i>	A Tongue Orchid

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