

France - Butterflies of the Pyrenees

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 - 12 July 2019



Apollo by Alison & Philip Hanmer



Spotted Fritillary by Jason Mitchell



Lesser Purple Emperor by Alison & Philip Hanmer



Alpine Accentor by Alison & Philip Hanmer

Report by Jason Mitchell
Images courtesy of Alison & Philip Hanmer



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: Jason Mitchell (leader) with eight Naturetrek clients

Summary

Based in the charming Pyrenean village of Gèdre, our excellent family-run hotel was perfectly placed to explore the valley of Gavarnie-Gèdre which encompasses a wide range of landscapes, from impressive glacial cirques, to pastoral plateaux, the spectacular Brèche de Roland and the legendary Vignemale.

Although our main focus was butterflies, we were keen to explore the *cirques* for which the region is so well known. We started with the stunning Cirque de Troumouse; at four kilometres across, it is the most open and sweeping of those visited. This was followed by a gentle day-walk into the Cirque de Gavarnie, the best known of the three glacial cirques locally, with its high walls towering to 1500m and one of the largest waterfalls in Europe (427m) which is also the source of the Gave de Pau. Finally we made it to the smaller, more discreet Cirque d'Estaubé with its beautiful Lac des Gloriettes.

The weather was mostly pleasantly warm and settled with a couple of showery days – a trait of the high mountains – and except for one unseasonably chilly day, the temperatures were mostly in the mid-twenties, with the mercury making it into the thirties one two occasions! The scenery was spectacular and the wildlife too. In all, an astonishing 71 species of butterfly were recorded; more so, when you consider there are just 59 species regularly found in the whole of the UK! The bird list was rather more modest but included some quality, sought-after species including Lammergeier, Griffon Vulture, Short-toed Eagle, Rock Thrush and Alpine Accentor.

Day 1

Friday 5th July

With the flight arriving on time into Lourdes, the minibus was soon loaded and we made our way south towards the mountains of the Pyrenees. We were grateful for the vehicle's air-conditioning with a shade temperature of 34°C! Our first experience of the region's wildlife came in the form of a raptor species: the rather common, yet elegant Black Kite. An hour later, having gained several hundred metres of altitude, we arrived at the excellent Brèche du Roland hotel. Once settled into our rooms, we met for 'welcome drinks' ahead of our first excellent dinner together.

Day 2

Saturday 6th July

Leaving Gèdre, we passed through the outskirts of Gavarnie, turning into the Ossoue Valley where we soon made a stop. A small meadow nestled below the towering *Arrouyettes* produced our first magnificent Apollo – a much anticipated butterfly that didn't disappoint – and this was joined by other exciting species: False Heath Fritillary, a smart Turquoise Blue and an abundance of Pearly Heaths and Black-veined Whites. Other insects included a delicate Yellow-winged Darter dragonfly and several Sulphur Owl Flies; an exotic dragonfly-like insect which is more closely related to the ant-lions and lacewings. A Garden Warbler sang from the dense green undergrowth and Alpine Choughs cruised the high ridge above. As we gained height, the narrow gorge gave way to a more open landscape where bright-blue irises covered the gentle slopes and Alpine Marmots stood watchful by their burrows, giving a shrill whistle at the first hint of danger.

Our first picnic lunch was laid out on a huge bolder, where Silver-studded Blues abounded and a near-constant stream of Apollos zipped all around, including one much-photographed individual found resting in shade – even butterflies get too hot it would seem! Birds were more evident now, with a pair of Rock Thrushes feeding discretely around the limestone outcrops, many of which were ‘topped’ by proud-standing Northern Wheatears. Overhead a Golden Eagle was ‘mobbed’ by a Kestrel; the latter being dwarfed by its regal cousin. Griffon Vultures were enjoying the thermals, soaring on huge spread wings and joined by at least two Short-toed Eagles.

With lunch polished-off, we made haste to the Barrage d’Ossoue, in shade temperatures of 32°C, where we made a short walk around the lake. But even before leaving the car park, we were greeted by dozens of tiny butterflies ‘puddling’ on patches of wet earth. While Silver-studded Blues made up the greatest number, these were joined by a few Escher’s Blues and the exquisite, if diminutive Gavarnie Blue – a rare species with a very limited range. Amongst the blues an Essex Skipper was joined by several of its kind. Moving to the lake, two Dippers feeding on the shoreline were unexpected, while a Grey Wagtail was less of a surprise. On an area of meadow nestled between glacial streams, we found dozens of marsh orchids, most likely Early Marsh-Orchid, alongside the miniature and rather sombre Frog Orchid. Returning to the minibus, our first Marbled and Safflower Skippers made the list, before we made our way slowly back down the valley to the Hotel.

Day 3

Sunday 7th July

With a moth trap left running overnight, we assembled after breakfast on a rather cool, cloudy morning to inspect the ‘catch’ before all the moths were released unharmed. An exciting haul included four hawk-moths – Poplar, Privet, Pine and Elephant, two tiger moths – Cream-spot and Scarlet, other delights including Buff Arches, Spectacle, Small Grass Emerald, Blair’s Mocha and the ever-popular Buff-tip – a stunning inch-long moth that closely resembles/mimics a broken birch twig!

In cloudy but improving conditions, we headed for the Col de Tentes, hoping to find better weather at higher altitude. After leaving the hotel we drove up past Gavarnie, stopping a few kilometres beyond to explore an area which is often good for birds and so it proved, with a Short-toed Eagle perched on a pinnacle high above. With the aid of a telescope, we gained excellent views of this large and impressive raptor. Yellowhammers were noticeable by their song and a juvenile Northern Wheatear waited patiently for its parents to return with food. Continuing up the mountain, we slowed for a Water Pipit sitting on a barrier and gained wonderful close views of this smart passerine, seconds later a group of four Alpine Choughs swept across the front of the vehicle. Arriving at the Col, we were greeted by blue skies and with the picnic being prepared, the group spread out across the grassy plateau in search of wildflowers and butterflies.

Following lunch, we started out on a short walk to the french-spanish border enjoying the abundant alpine flowers along the way. And although butterfly diversity was fairly low, there was still plenty on offer with Painted Lady surprisingly numerous, along with lesser numbers of its cousin the Small Tortoiseshell. A Mountain Clouded Yellow was a nice surprise, pausing just long enough for its identification to be confirmed. Passports at the ready, we arrived in Spain! Here we enjoyed magnificent views down into the Ordesa National Park; while surrounded by swathes of gentians, we spent time taking in the splendour of the contrastingly dry south-facing Spanish side. Suddenly we were joined by two very confiding Alpine Accentors, which were so tame that they hopped about on the grass barely a metre away! Several Griffon Vultures passed overhead, and were briefly joined by a Raven. Returning to the bus, we stopped to photograph a Piedmont Ringlet when we noticed a lizard

sunning itself on the scree and closer examination revealed its identity as a Pyrenean Rock Lizard; a very local species found only in the Midi-Pyrenees!

Reaching the bus we descended back down the valley stopping for a stroll close to one of many streams that feed into the Gave de Gavarnie. Here we found three firsts for the tour: Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Heath Fritillary and Green Hairstreak. Other butterflies included Safflower Skipper, Turquoise Blue and several more wonderful Apollos. Some good birds were also noted, with a family group of Rock Thrushes performing well on the bolder-strewn slope above. With several of the group descending down through the gully, the bus departed collecting them further down the valley. Here they presented those already in the minibus with a rather impressive Humming-bird Hawk-moth caterpillar. From here we returned to the hotel.

Day 4

Monday 8th July

Waking to showery conditions, we decided to head for higher ground hoping to get above the clouds. A gentle drive up the Héas Valley took us up onto the Maillet Plateau where we boarded the *petit train* and made the 30-minute journey up the mountainside to the Cirque de Troumouse. With the weather holding, we decided to head across to the back of the Cirque but first stopped to search for the endemic Pyrenean Brook Newt in one of the cold mountain streams. A careful search soon turned up one of these salamander-like amphibian and was soon followed by a second more confiding individual which allowed for some excellent photographs. From here, we continued our walk towards the back of the Cirque with both Red-billed and Alpine Choughs seen and the pools were full of Common Frog tadpoles. Linnet, Northern Wheatear and Water Pipit were all numerous and although our search for Alpine Accentor failed, we did get wonderful views of a family group of three newly-fledged Red-billed Choughs being fed by their parents. From here, we return to the train and back down to the Plateau. Here we enjoyed lunch followed by coffees in the Auberge de Maillet.

Before heading back down to Héas, we enjoyed excellent views of several Griffon Vultures as they swept down from the mountain ridge above. We then made our way back towards the valley, stopping to watch three young Alpine Marmots which were overlooked by a vigilant adult. Arriving in the valley we stopped to explore the village of a Héas, visiting the charming little church which has been partly rebuilt following avalanche disasters in 1600 and 1915. Some of the group made a short circular walk passing over the wonderful ancient packhorse bridge, after which we went in search of Dippers on the river. Here we were distracted by some insect action, with a 'blue' butterfly proving to be a Geranium Argus. This raised our hopes and with the weather showing signs of improvement, we went in search of other butterflies in an adjacent meadow. We soon found dozens of roosting butterflies, principally Silver-studded Blues plus the odd Small Skippers, when suddenly the sun broke through and within minutes dozens of butterflies lifted from the grassland and we were amazed at quite how many we had overlooked. Heath Fritillary was perhaps the most numerous and this was joined by Bright-eyed Ringlet, Lesser Marbled Fritillary and after extensive searching our target species, the Yellow-spotted Ringlet which, in this part of the Pyrenees is a completely unmarked subspecies known as *constans*. Following a photo session of the ringlet, a Dark Green Fritillary basked on the same rock, with a Safflower Skipper close by. But the best was yet to come, as a sudden cry of "Lammergeier!" rang across the valley and to our delight, a magnificent adult bird soared high above our heads.

Feeling extremely excited and content, we returned to the hotel for yet another excellent dinner.

Day 5

Tuesday 9th July

After breakfast and with clouds already gathering, we decided to chase the sun and headed north towards Lourdes where we turned off and climbed the road towards Hautecam; with the route frequently used during the Tour de France, it's always popular with road cyclists, of which we saw dozens making the monstrous ascent. On our arrival we were greeted by patchy cloud but we still enjoyed fantastic views to the river below. Masses of micro moths were on the wing and this gave us some hope and a careful search of the surrounding area turned up a couple of Piedmont Ringlet and a fantastic Emperor Moth caterpillar along with several showy Wart-biter Bush-crickets; in the UK this species is rare, being found at just five sites! A majestic Red Kite made an impressive fly-by, emerging through the swirling mist and a silhouetted Kestrel was identified from its distinctive hovering. Skylarks were also undeterred by the 'challenging' conditions and provided us with an uplifting acoustic soundtrack.

After a warming hot chocolate, we descended to a meadow below the summit. Again in cool conditions we searched the grassy slopes, turning up several new species: a very worn Adonis Blue, a Small Copper and a 'regular' Ringlet. Some interesting flora was also seen, the highlight being several spikes of Dark-red Helleborine. A number of hairy caterpillars, probably a species of tiger moth, were on the march and birds included a flock of Linnets and a family group of Whinchat. With lunch fast approaching, we descended further stopping at some picnic benches.

A heavy downpour brought lunch to an abrupt halt, so we went in search of a coffee in a nearby village. A brief stop to look at the attractive church was rewarded with excellent views of two Black Kites perched in a dead tree. This was followed by an interesting visit for drinks at *Chez Marthe*, an oldly-worldly French café where we added another raptor to the list, with a Sparrowhawk zipping across the parking area. Moving on, we headed to the river below and on exiting the bus, we decided to search of the river bank for waders and soon heard the distinctive call of a Common Sandpiper. Then, moments later, the frantic alarm calls of some Swallows alerted us to a patrolling Hobby which suddenly came down at great speed and tried to take one of them. As the weather brightened, hundreds of Swifts came to feed over the river – an impressive and memorable sight! As we looked on, the Hobby returned for a second attempt; again it was unsuccessful but with barely a chance to catch our breaths, a large raptor was seen in the distance and was soon identified as a sub-adult Egyptian Vulture. After which the raptor-fest continued; Griffon Vulture, Black and Red Kites all joined the party but the highlight was a dark-phase Booted Eagle which made at least three passes during the thirty or so minutes that we watched from the site.

Slowly returning to the hotel, we stopped below Chèze where an amble by the waterfall produced a Dipper and we marvelled at the mass of butterwort growing on a cliff face. However, the most surprising find was an almost white aberrant Marbled White butterfly. Next we headed to Napoleon's Bridge on the outskirts of Luz-Saint-Sauveur, where we found several examples of Ramonda – a clear relative of the African Violet – growing on a wall alongside some spleenwort. Crag Martins were nesting under the bridge and a noisy Kestrel flew overhead. With rain starting to fall heavily, we finished the day with some retail therapy in the town.

Day 6

Wednesday 10th July

Today we visited the famous and spectacular Cirque de Gavarnie. After parking in the village, we walked along the Gave de Gavarnie, a pale-blue glacial stream, with a fantastic meadow crammed with wildflowers on one side and tantalising glimpses of the cirque through trees in front. We stopped on an attractive packhorse bridge, and looked to the skies seeing several Griffon Vultures, a Golden Eagle being harassed by a Kestrel. The calls of Red-billed Choughs rang through the air but we were only able to locate its yellow-billed cousin.

After a kilometre or so, we turned a corner and a spectacular view of the Cirque opened up before us – a truly magical experience. Heading up the main tourist route, we passed through meadows surrounded by forest, an ideal habitat for Crested Tit and Goldcrest which were both heard calling and a Black Woodpecker flashed across a clearing. Almost unnoticed, a pair of very confiding Citril Finches fed on the grass just metres away, allowing the whole group exceptional views. On the far side of the ride, a Garden Warbler made frequent flights to a patch of Bracken where its young took refuge. Butterflies were in evidence too; Silver-studded Blues were particularly numerous along with a number of ringlet species. Climbing up through the woods we spotted some Martagon Lilies and a Bullfinch piped from deep cover.

Arriving in the Cirque for lunch, we feasted with a view like a film backdrop; the three ‘stages’ of the cirque were bathed in glorious sunshine and the ‘Grande Cascade’ was a picture with the light shining through plumes of spray and Alpine Choughs frolicking overhead. After lunch, some of the group opted for a coffee, while a number of us headed up to the Grande Cascade waterfall with Black Redstart and Northern Wheatear noted along the way. After which we returned to the *auberge* to re-group before making a slow return to the valley floor. Leaving the now-busy tourist trail, we initially passed through woodland then crossed over a stream where Burnt, Greater Butterfly and Common Spotted Orchids were growing in numbers. The same pretty meadow boasted numerous marsh orchids in the wet flushes and both Crested Tit and Bullfinch were heard calling again. The variety of butterflies in the meadow was stunning; Pearl-bordered Fritillary was particularly numerous, but it was a Southern White Admiral that stole the show, closely followed by a Chequered Skipper; a UK species which is only known from Scotland. A Keeled Skimmer extended our dragonfly list before we headed down through the woods where Common Twayblade was found. From here we walked back along the stream where a Dipper showed briefly. Arriving back in Gavarnie village, we stopped at a café for a well-earned ice cream before returning to the hotel and another excellent dinner.

Day 7

Thursday 11th July

Leaving Gèdre, we headed east up the Héas Valley, slowing down several times to admire the flowery banks as well as the first of many Black-veined Whites. Leaving the valley floor behind, we started to climb towards our destination, the Lac des Gloriettes. A short circular walk around the lake before lunch gave time to enjoy the wonderful flora, with colourful Maiden and Fringed Pinks both in flower. Birds were evident too, with Northern Wheatear abundant but it was a pair of Ring Ouzels which created the most excitement and a pleasant half an hour was spent tracking these super birds across the mountainside. Across the lake, a dozen or more soaring Griffon Vultures were joined by a Golden Eagle which, as on previous sightings during the week, was attacked by a Kestrel and was then joined by a Lammergeier! A short stop alongside a stream saw dozens of small butterflies ‘puddling’ on damp ground and a careful inspection revealed a few Marbled Skippers and several species of blue including the exquisite Turquoise, attractive Adonis, smaller Mazarine and the now familiar

Silver-studded Blue. Continuing along the side of the lake we came across a luxuriant patch of vegetation which hosted a Sooty Copper and two Purple-edged Coppers, which constantly chased and jostle for ownership of the best flowers. Tempted by a coffee at a charming stone-built auberge overlooking the lake, remarkably, we made one of the 'rarest' sightings of the week; as down below, on a small rocky island in the lake sat a lone Black-headed Gull – a tour first! From here we returned to the minibus and headed back down the valley where we picnicked alongside a stunning meadow heaving with wildflowers and butterflies.

After lunch we spent an hour or more exploring the meadow and this provided us with our first Scarce Coppers of the tour, and several Southern White Admirals and moments before moving on, a Spotted Fritillary appeared and posed beautifully for photographs. After this we returned to the hotel where a few of the group decided to sit out the rest of the afternoon, while the remaining members returned to the Ossoue Valley. Here the pair of Red-backed Shrikes performed well again, as did several Yellow-veined Darters. Next to a stream, a dozen False Heath Fritillaries were found puddling and these were joined by even more Essex Skippers and a few Wood Whites. In very warm temperatures, some of the group decided to cool off in the icy waters of the stream – a truly invigorating experience! Returning to the minibus, a fine pair of Spotted Fritillaries were seen mating at the edge of the track. Reluctantly, we then returned back to the hotel for our last dinner together.

Day 8

Friday 12th July

With the flight not departing until late afternoon, we had time for another visit but first spent some time birdwatching from the hotel before heading out. A Short-toed Eagle was a popular sighting, but a Lammergeier seen perched on a rocky ledge was the star bird. We then headed up onto the Saugué Plateau overlooking the Cirque de Gavarnie. Travelling up the switchback road, we stopped off at a likely looking spot where the roadside verge were a blaze of colour, Pyramidal Orchids and Marbled Whites were both particularly numerous and several skipper species were already on the wing.

From here we headed up to the Plateau. Arriving at the parking area, we immediately spotted a small group of fritillary butterflies resting on the ground and closer examination proved them to be the beautiful Niobe Fritillary. We were also greeted by the distinctive call of a Quail and despite appearing to be just metres away, was typically impossible to find. Both Tree Pipits and Yellowhammers were also in good song but yet another Short-toed Eagle attracted our attention as it glided low-level over our heads. Dragging ourselves away from the delightful fritillaries, we took a short walk along a track and it was here that we added two new species of skipper to the tour list; the Red-underwing and the Olive Skipper.

With time running out, we made the slow zig-zag journey back to Gèdre where we all reconvened for our last picnic lunch together and incredibly, we were joined by a Lesser Purple Emperor! After bidding our farewells, we headed back to the lowlands and with some time on our side we made a couple of stops alongside the Gav de Pau where we added yet more species to the list. A Great Banded Grayling nectaring on a Buddleia bush was an excellent find, but more surprising and thrilling was a fantastic Large Blue which was feeding on a small clump of Marjoram. Just down the road we made our final stop of the tour finding the one-and-only Map butterfly of the week, bringing the tour species total to an amazing 71 butterflies!

Arriving at the airport, we reflected on what had been a super week in perhaps one of France's most spectacular landscapes before taking our return flight to the UK.

Species Lists

Butterflies (m = male; f = female)

| | Common name | Scientific name | July | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| | | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |
| 1 | Swallowtail | <i>Papilio machaon</i> | | f | f | | | | 1 | f | |
| 2 | Apollo | <i>Parnassius apollo</i> | | m | f | 1 | | | 1 | m | 1 |
| 3 | Wood White | <i>Leptidea sinapis</i> | | | | | | | f | f | f |
| 4 | Black-veined White | <i>Aporia crataegi</i> | | m | f | f | | | m | m | f |
| 5 | Large White | <i>Pieris brassicae</i> | | | x | | | | | | |
| 6 | Small White | <i>Pieris rapae</i> | | f | | | | | | f | |
| 7 | Green-veined White | <i>Pieris napi</i> | | f | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Bath White | <i>Pontia daplidice</i> | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 9 | Orange Tip | <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i> | | f | | | | | f | f | |
| 10 | Mountain Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias phicomone</i> | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 11 | Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias crocea</i> | | m | m | | | 1 | 1 | m | f |
| 12 | Berger's Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias alfaciensis</i> | | f | | | | | | f | 1 |
| 13 | Brimstone | <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i> | | f | | | | | 1 | f | |
| 14 | Green Hairstreak | <i>Callophrys rubi</i> | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 15 | Small Copper | <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| 16 | Scarce Copper | <i>Lycaena virgaurea</i> | | | | | | | | f | |
| 17 | Sooty Copper | <i>Lycaena tityrus</i> | | | 1 | | | | | f | |
| 18 | Purple-edged Copper | <i>Lycaena hippothoe</i> | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | f | |
| 19 | Little Blue | <i>Cupido minimus</i> | | m | f | 1 | | | | | |
| 20 | Large Blue | <i>Maculinea arion</i> | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 21 | Mazarine Blue | <i>Cyaniris semiargus</i> | | m | | | | | 1 | f | |
| 22 | Turquoise Blue | <i>Polyommatus dorylas</i> | | 1 | f | | | | 1 | m | f |
| 23 | Escher's Blue | <i>Polyommatus escheri</i> | | f | | | | | | f | |
| 24 | Common Blue | <i>Polyommatus icarus</i> | | | | | | | | 1 | f |
| 25 | Chalk-hill Blue | <i>Lysandra coridon</i> | | f | | | | | | f | |
| 26 | Adonis Blue | <i>Lysandra bellargus</i> | | | | | | 1 | | f | |
| 27 | Gavarnie Blue | <i>Agriades pyrenaicus</i> | | f | | | | | | | |
| 28 | Brown Argus | <i>Aricia agestis</i> | | 1 | f | | | | f | f | f |
| 29 | Geranium Argus | <i>Eumedonia eumedon</i> | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 30 | Silver-studded Blue | <i>Plebejus argus</i> | | m | | m | | | m | m | |
| 31 | Wall Brown | <i>Lasiommata megera</i> | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 32 | Large Wall Brown | <i>Lasiommata maera</i> | | | 1 | 2 | | | f | m | f |
| 33 | Pearly Heath | <i>Coenonympha arcania</i> | | m | | f | | | f | f | f |
| 34 | Small Heath | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> | | f | f | | | | f | f | f |
| 35 | Ringlet | <i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i> | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 36 | Meadow Brown | <i>Maniola jurtina</i> | | | | f | | | | | f |
| 37 | Yellow-spotted Ringlet | <i>Erebia manto</i> | | | | f | | | | | |
| 38 | Mountain Ringlet | <i>Erebia epiphron</i> | | | 1 | | | | f | f | |
| 39 | Western Brassy Ringlet | <i>Erebia arvenensis</i> | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 40 | Bright-eyed Ringlet | <i>Erebia oeme</i> | | | f | f | | | f | f | f |
| 41 | Piedmont Ringlet | <i>Erebia meolans</i> | | m | m | | | f | m | f | f |
| 42 | Marbled White | <i>Melanargia galathea</i> | | m | m | f | f | | m | m | m |
| 43 | Great Banded Grayling | <i>Brintesia circe</i> | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 44 | Woodland Grayling | <i>Hipparchia fagi</i> | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 45 | Lesser Purple Emperor | <i>Apatura ilia</i> | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| 46 | Silver-washed Fritillary | <i>Argynnis paphia</i> | | 2 | | 1 | | | | f | |
| 47 | Dark Green Fritillary | <i>Argynnis aglaja</i> | | | | f | | | f | m | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | July | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| | | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |
| 48 | Niobe Fritillary | <i>Argynnis niobe</i> | | | | | | | | | m |
| 49 | Lesser Marbled Fritillary | <i>Brenthis ino</i> | | f | 1 | m | | | m | m | f |
| 50 | Pearl-bordered Fritillary | <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i> | | | f | | | | m | f | |
| 51 | Southern White Admiral | <i>Limenitus reducta</i> | | | | | | | 2 | m | |
| 52 | Small Tortoiseshell | <i>Aglais urticae</i> | | f | 1 | | | | f | f | |
| 53 | Red Admiral | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> | | | 2 | | | | 1 | | |
| 54 | Painted Lady | <i>Vanessa cardui</i> | | m | m | f | f | m | m | | |
| 55 | Comma | <i>Polygonia c-album</i> | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 56 | Map | <i>Araschnia levana</i> | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 57 | False Heath Fritillary | <i>Melitaea diamina</i> | | f | | 1 | | | m | m | |
| 58 | Spotted Fritillary | <i>Melitaea didyma</i> | | 1 | 1 | | | | | f | |
| 59 | Heath Fritillary | <i>Mellicta athalia</i> | | | 2 | m | | | m | f | f |
| 60 | Meadow Fritillary | <i>Mellicta parthenoides</i> | | f | | 1 | | | | | |
| 61 | Dingy Skipper | <i>Erynnis tages</i> | | 2 | | | | | 1 | f | |
| 62 | Marbled Skipper | <i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i> | | f | | | | | | m | |
| 63 | Red-underwing Skipper | <i>Spialia sertorius</i> | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 64 | Grizzled Skipper | <i>Pyrgus malvae</i> | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| 65 | Olive Skipper | <i>Pyrgus serratulae</i> | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 66 | Safflower Skipper | <i>Pyrgus carthami</i> | | f | 1 | 2 | | | | f | |
| 67 | Chequered Skipper | <i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i> | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 68 | Essex Skipper | <i>Thymelicus lineolus</i> | | 1 | | | | | | m | f |
| 69 | Small Skipper | <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i> | | | | 2 | | | f | f | |
| 70 | Large Skipper | <i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i> | | f | f | f | | | f | m | f |

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 2 | Common Quail | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> | | h | | | | | | | h |
| 3 | Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| 4 | Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) | <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | Egyptian Vulture | <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 6 | European Honey Buzzard | <i>Pernis apivorus</i> | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| 7 | Griffon Vulture | <i>Gyps fulvus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 8 | Short-toed Snake Eagle | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> | | 2 | 1 | | | | 1 | | 2 |
| 9 | Booted Eagle | <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i> | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 10 | Golden Eagle | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| 11 | Eurasian Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 12 | Northern Goshawk | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Red Kite | <i>Milvus milvus</i> | | | | | 4 | | | | |
| 14 | Black Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 15 | Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 16 | Black-headed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 17 | Common Wood Pigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| 18 | Eurasian Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| 19 | Tawny Owl | <i>Strix aluco</i> | | | | h | | | | ✓ | |
| 20 | Alpine Swift | <i>Tachymarptis melba</i> | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 21 | Common Swift | <i>Apus apus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | 100s | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 22 | Great Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| 23 | Black Woodpecker | <i>Dryocopus martius</i> | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 24 | European Green Woodpecker | <i>Picus viridis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 25 | Common Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 26 | Eurasian Hobby | <i>Falco subbuteo</i> | | | | | 1 | | | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | July | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| | | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |
| 27 | Red-backed Shrike | <i>Lanius collurio</i> | | 2 | 2 | | | | | 3 | |
| 28 | Eurasian Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 29 | Eurasian Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 30 | Red-billed Chough | <i>Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax</i> | | h | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 31 | Alpine Chough | <i>Pyrrhonorax graculus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 32 | Carrion Crow | <i>Corvus corone</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 33 | Northern Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | | | 1 | | | 2 | | | ✓ |
| 34 | Coal Tit | <i>Parus ater</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 35 | European Crested Tit | <i>Lophophanes cristatus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 36 | Eurasian Blue Tit | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| 37 | Eurasian Skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 38 | Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 39 | Eurasian Crag Martin | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 40 | Common House Martin | <i>Delichon urbicum</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 41 | Red-rumped Swallow | <i>Cecropis daurica</i> | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 42 | Long-tailed Tit | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 43 | Common Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 44 | Western Bonelli's Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i> | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 45 | Eurasian Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | | h | h | h | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 46 | Garden Warbler | <i>Sylvia borin</i> | | h | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 47 | Common Firecrest | <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 48 | Goldcrest | <i>Regulus regulus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 49 | Eurasian Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 50 | Eurasian Nuthatch | <i>Sitta europaea</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ |
| 51 | Eurasian Treecreeper | <i>Certhia familiaris</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 52 | Ring Ouzel | <i>Turdus torquatus</i> | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| 53 | Common Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 54 | Mistle Thrush | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> | | | 2 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 55 | European Robin | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | | | 1 | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 56 | Black Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 57 | Common Rock Thrush | <i>Monticola saxatilis</i> | | 2 | 4 | 1 | | | | | |
| 58 | Whinchat | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | | | | | | 4 | | | ✓ |
| 59 | Northern Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 60 | White-throated Dipper | <i>Cinclus cinclus</i> | | 3 | | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| 61 | House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 62 | Alpine Accentor | <i>Prunella collaris</i> | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| 63 | Dunnock | <i>Prunella modularis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 64 | Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 65 | White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 66 | Tree Pipit | <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | | | | h | 1 | | | | ✓ |
| 67 | Water Pipit | <i>Anthus spinoletta</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| 68 | Common Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 69 | Eurasian Bullfinch | <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 70 | Common Linnet | <i>Linaria cannabina</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 71 | European Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| 72 | Citril Finch | <i>Carduelis citrinella</i> | | | | | | | 4 | | |
| 73 | Siskin | <i>Carduelis spinus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |
| 74 | Yellowhammer | <i>Emberiza citrinella</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Mammals

Alpine Marmot, *Marmota marmota*

Reptiles

Common Wall Lizard, *Podarcis muralis*

Amphibians

Common Frog, *Rana temporaria*

Pyrenean Rock Lizard N, *Iberolacerta bonnali*

Pyrenean Brook Salamander N, *Calotriton asper*

Other insects

Chimney Sweeper, *Odezia atrata*

Forester sp, *Adscita sp*

Sulphur Owlfly, *Libelloides coccajus*

Transparent Burnet, *Zygaena purpuralis*

Slender Scotch Burnet, *Zygaena loti*

Keeled Skimmer, *Orthetrum coerulescens*

Field Cricket, *Gryllus campestris*

Hummingbird Hawkmoth, *Macroglossum stellatarum*

Italian Shield Bug, *Graphosoma italicum*

Stag Beetle, *Lucanus cervus*

Six-Spot Burnet, *Zygaena filipendulae*

Five-spot Burnet, *Zygaena lonicerae*

Four-spotted Chaser, *Libellula quadrimaculata*

Orchidaceae, Orchid Family

Anacamptis pyramidalis, Pyramidal Orchid

Dactylorhiza incarnata, Early Marsh-orchid

Dactylorhiza majalis, Broad-leaved Marsh-orchid

Epipactis atrorubens, Dark-red Helleborine

Gymnadenia austriaca subsp. *gallica*, A Vanilla Orchid

Neottia ovata, Common Twayblade

Neotinea ustulata, Burnt Orchid

Dactylorhiza fuchsii, Common Spotted-orchid

Dactylorhiza maculata, Heath Spotted-orchid

Dactylorhiza viridis, Frog Orchid

Epipactis helleborine, Broad-leaved Helleborine

Gymnadenia conopsea, Fragrant-orchid

Platanthera chlorantha, Greater Butterfly-orchid

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Social Media

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



www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays



www.twitter.com/naturetrektours



www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays