

# The French Pyrenees

Naturetrek Tour Report

8 - 15 September 2007

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Alpine Accentor



the Cirque d' Estaube from the lac des Gloriette



Fringed Gentian - *Gentiana ciliata*

Report & photos by Mark Galliot



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## Day 1

Saturday 8th September

Warm, sunny

The flight from Gatwick was on time into Toulouse, where Mark who actually lives in France met the rest of the party outside of the luggage reclaim area. After a frustratingly long wait while Cliff waited for his hire car, we loaded up and set off on the 2½ hour drive towards the mountains and our hotel at Gèdre. Apart from a Little Egret and Yellow-legged Gulls seen while crossing the wide River Garonne, the journey was uneventful until we reached the pilgrim town of Lourdes and the gateway to the mountains. Here the scenery changed dramatically as we continued on up into the impressively narrow gorge of the River Gave with tantalising glimpses of the towering peaks all around us.

After skirting Luz St Sauveur and admiring the graceful arch of the Pont Napoleon, we eventually reached the village and our hotel to be met by our amiable hosts Philippe and Odile. We were quickly shown to our respective rooms, the rather late arrival necessitating a quick freshen-up, before we then enjoyed the first of the many lovely meals that we were to eat here during the coming week.

## Day 2

Sunday 9th September

Warm, sunny

Our first full day in the field dawned sunny and clear, so we eagerly ate our breakfast for an early start up the Heas valley high up behind the village to the Barrage des Gloriettes, which holds back the Gave d'Estaube to form a small stretch of water. After negotiating the very narrow and winding road up to the car park, we had our first introduction to Pyrenean flora and fauna as we pottered about in the area just below the dam. This is a good place for plants with the delicately green-veined white blooms of Grass of Parnassus-*Parnassia palustris*, the bright Yellow Mountain Saxifrage-*Saxifraga aizoides*, the striking red berries of Alpine Elder-*Sambucus racemosus*, and the rare Marsh Felwort-*Smertia perennis* all being very noticeable. This was also a good spot for birds with Serin, Black Redstart, Rock Bunting, and Citril Finch all showing well, while Blackcap and many Willow Warblers were observed flitting about in the bushes, urgently feeding up before continuing their journey southwards.

As the sun rose higher, and the temperature climbed we had our first visual experience of some of the many impressive Griffin Vultures that are resident here as they left their overnight roosts on the high cliff ledges. Eventually over thirty birds were wheeling around above our heads gradually gaining height, before eventually soaring away along the nearby ridge, some coming close enough for us to appreciate fully their massive wingspan. They were then joined by three Lammergeiers, two of them immature, although one member of the group did take some convincing that they were not Griffins! Not long after this treat, we also had good views of both a juvenile Golden (with diagnostic white wing patches) and an adult Short-toed Eagle, a superb start to the week's raptor highlights.

After enjoying our own picnic lunch in a sunny spot amongst the rocks, we walked around to the other side of the lake, and a little way along the valley many more plants were found in flower, including the crocus-like endemic *Merendera-Merendera pyrenaica*, whose beautiful pink blooms profusely dotted the turf everywhere we visited all week. Another striking feature was the many large yellow heads of the two stem-less Carline Thistles-*Carlina acaulis* & *C. acanthifolia*, while the lovely blue Fringed Gentian-*Gentianella ciliata* and the delicate pink flowers of Ashy Crane's-bill-*Geranium cinereum* also delighted us.

The warm temperatures also meant that there were a few late butterflies still on the wing with Queen of Spain Fritillary, Turquoise & Chalk-hill Blue, Sooty Copper, Lulworth Skipper and many Clouded Yellows all adding to the ambience of a successful first day's nature watching.

Returning to the hotel an added bonus for two members of the group was a single Black Stork flying along the valley en route to its wintering site in Southern Spain.

## Day 3

Monday 10th September

Warm, sunny

Another glorious morning, so we decided to make for the Port de Boucharo high up on the Spanish border, at 2270m the highest point that we could reach by road during our stay, and would hopefully enable us to see species that we would probably not see again later in the week. We drove up the valley of the Gave River around the edge of Gavarnie, before taking the steep winding road up to the Ski resort area at the Vallée des Espécières, stopping once or twice to scan the surrounding area with our binoculars. Water Pipits were everywhere, while the mini-bus itself was a very good hide to enjoy the antics of the many Alpine marmots scampering about amongst the rocks. Continuing upwards we parked the mini-bus at the Col des Tentes to walk the final 1½ km to the Port as the road has now been permanently closed due to continuous rock falls.

At the Port itself we enjoyed stunning views both back down the valley to Gavarnie and also over the border into Spain, took some photographs, and also marvelled at the large flocks of Hirundines breasting the pass and heading southwards on their relentless journey to South Africa. We then took the path that leads across a barren scree slope up towards La Brèche de Roland, the towering mountain that can be seen from our hotel and from which it takes its name. Some good alpine plants were noted here including Pygmy Hawksbeard-*Crepis pygmaea*, Alpine Fleabane-*Erigeron alpinus*, Chamois Cress-*Hutchinsia alpina*, Pink Sandwort-*Arenaria purpurascens*, Snow Gentian-*Gentiana nivalis*, Alpine Toadflax-*Linaria alpina* and many blooms of the attractive pink flowered endemic Pyrenean Thistle-*Carduus carlinoides*.

The birders were not to be disappointed though with both Alpine and Red-billed Chough, a single Short-toed Eagle, fabulous close views of at least five Alpine Accentors, and to cap it all most of the group were able to watch a Wallcreeper fly up from the valley below to disappear on the vast crags of the mountain overhead. At this time of the year this elusive and enigmatic bird will have left the traditional breeding sites to hunt for insects far and wide, so we were particularly privileged to have such good views.

Returning back down to the parking area there were a few butterflies about in the warm conditions with Small Tortoiseshell, Mountain & Western Brassy Ringlet, and the magnificent Apollo all putting in an appearance. We enjoyed our lunch on the springy alpine turf at the Col des Tentés, before descending the winding road down into the valley, stopping en route to investigate the reason why a dozen Griffin Vultures had flown down to land together in one spot. It was soon apparent that a cow from one of the vast herds that graze these upland pastures had just given birth to a young calf, which was still very unsure on its legs. They were actually feasting on the afterbirth, which considering the numbers of animals grazing these mountains is obviously a valuable food source to the birds.

Upon reaching the bottom of the valley, we turned onto a narrow road that leads up into the Ossoue valley, stopping below an overhanging rock face next to a lovely flowery meadow. Immediately, somebody shouted Lammergeier and for the next quarter of an hour we had exceptional views of first one and then another adult bird both in the air and perched on the cliff-side.

After this spectacle, we then wandered down to the meadow where there was a huge gathering of butterflies busily lapping up the salts on a drying patch of mud next to the stream. The majority of these were Chalk-hill Blues, but other species present were Silver-washed & High Brown Fritillaries, Woodland Grayling, Large Grizzled Skipper, Adonis & Silver-studded Blues, Berger's Clouded Yellow, while we were also able to identify at least one Provence Chalk-hill Blue. Time was now running short, so after noting Crag Martins and another Golden Eagle it was back down the valley to the hotel after another fabulous day.

## Day 4

Tuesday 11th September

### Cool at first, then warm & sunny

Back up the Gave valley this morning to the famous Gavarnie village, where having turned left and passed all the tacky souvenir shops, we parked the mini-bus next to a hotel at the end of the village. This was the start of our circular walk today up to the spectacular cirque, a sheer wall of limestone which encircles a delightful scenic area of high level alpine pasture.

Upon exiting the minibus we straight away saw a Dipper fly swiftly past us downstream, while both Grey and White Wagtail showed well, before we left the village behind and followed the swift flowing stream up through the woods to the beckoning cliffs ahead. It was rather chilly though, as this part of the valley at this time of the year is in shadow until midday, so we made good time as we climbed, stopping at one point to admire Cross Gentian-*Gentiana cruciata* and the delicate flowers of Autumn Crocus-*Crocus nudiflorus*, while slightly further on we were treated to good close views of both adult and young Red Squirrels busily stocking up on pine cones for the impending winter.

As we neared the hotel, the views to the Cirque ahead of us now were magnificent and we paused to observe at a distance a small herd of Izard (Chamois), which one eagle-eyed member had spotted on a rock ledge. Moving on up into the vast amphitheatre, one half of the party continued right up to the foot of the “grand cascade” at 423 metres the highest waterfall in Europe, while the remainder either sat and admired the view or explored further amongst the huge jumbled rocks.

By the time that the waterfall faction had returned, the sun had at last reached this part of the bowl, so we enjoyed our picnic lunch whilst at the same time still marvelling at the stupendous views all around. An immature Golden Eagle alighted in a tree nearby, more Griffon Vultures flew overhead, a single Citril Finch was seen, and a much closer family group of Izard were all also very much appreciated. The higher temperatures had also encouraged a few butterflies to emerge from their torpor including Marbled White, Wall Brown and Silver-spotted Skipper.

To return back down to the vehicles in the valley it was then decided to take the high level route which traverses along the cliffs, through pine woodland into an open alpine area, before descending by a very steep zig-zag path back to the river and along to the car park. The cliffs on the first part were damp in places with running water and were adorned by the leaves of two endemics; *Ramonda myconi* and the insectivorous Long-leaved Butterwort-*Pinguicula longifolia*, as well as flowers of Pyrenean Hare’s-ear-*Bupleurum angulosum*, Purple Lettuce-*Prenanthes purpurea*, Orpine-*Sedum telephium*, a St John’s-wort-*Hypericum nummularium*, Alpine Rockcress-*Arabis alpina*, while as we entered the forest there were many spikes of the strange saprophytic Yellow Bird’s-nest-*Monotropa hypopitys*.

A flock of small birds was flitting about through the branches here, with Goldcrest, Coal Tit and Treecreeper all identified, before we emerged from the trees in the vicinity of a mountain refuge taking the opportunity to stop and partake of a very welcome beer, ice cream or cup of tea.

We then descended back down to Gavarnie by the zig-zag path, everyone having the chance to buy postcards or souvenirs, before reluctantly returning to the hotel.

## Day 5

Wednesday 12th September

Warm, sunny

The day once again dawned clear and sunny, we really were having a fantastic week’s weather, so up the valley again stopping initially to climb the path up to the white statue of the Virgin Mary which dominates a rocky outcrop at the entrance to the Ossoue valley. After admiring the views, but not seeing anything of note, we continued up the narrow winding metalled section of the road and on to the stony track which climbs up through to the head of the valley, which eventually reaches the Barrage d’Ossoue and its small man-made lake.

At one point we paused to scan a large mixed flock of birds which was in amongst the scrub, noting Stonechat, Whinchat and both Spotted & Pied Flycatchers, the latter three species obviously on migration, while probable residents here were Wheatear, Yellowhammer and Linnets. Just around a bend, we again paused to admire a Short-toed Eagle which was perched in an adjacent pine tree close to the track, showing quite clearly why some of the books describe it as being owl-like at rest! A little further on amongst a huge jumble of giant rocks we also had good views of a female Rock Thrush with more tantalising glimpses of her more colourful male partner.

After all this excitement we parked the vehicles up and walked across the valley to search a cliff-face where Mark had previously seen a pair of Wallcreepers another year, but unfortunately they had obviously moved off from the breeding site by now. We did enjoy watching the charming antics of Alpine Marmots once again, while the warmth of the sun had by now encouraged some butterflies including Silver-studded Blue, Pearly Heath, Meadow & High Brown Fritillaries, Mountain Ringlet and both male and female Scarce Coppers, the former being a lovely striking orange.

After enjoying another good picnic lunch amongst the rocks, we continued up the bumpy stony track, eventually reaching the barrage at the head of the valley where we were to spend the rest of the afternoon. The majority of the party walked on past the lake to a waterfall high up on the path that eventually leads to the Refuge de Baysseleance, just beneath the mighty mountain of Vignemale. This area was good for many late flowering plants with Alchemilla-leaved Cinquefoil-*Potentilla alchimilloides*, Alpine Aster-*Aster alpinus*, Thyme Broomrape-*Orobancha alba*, more Marsh Felwort-*Swertia perennis*, Maiden Pink-*Dianthus deltoides*, Hormineum-*Hormineum pyrenaicum* and one superb spike of the magnificent endemic Pyrenean Saxifrage-*Saxifraga longifolia*. A few Apollo butterflies were active here along with Rock Grayling and Weaver's Fritillary.

Reluctantly after another superb day in the field we then made our way back down the valley to the hotel, noting yet another Short-toed Eagle along the way.

## Day 6

Thursday 13th September

### Mist clearing, warm, sunny periods

Assembling as usual at the side of the hotel, we set off down the valley through Luz-St-Sauveur to enter the neighbouring Lutour valley, before turning up through the extensively wooded Val de Jéret near the small spa town of Cauterets. Admiring the many waterfalls as we climbed up through the hairpin bends, we eventually arrived at the Pont d'Espagne where we left the vehicles in the large car park. Up to now (and during most of the week) we had been in habitats on predominantly limestone rocks, today though we were on granite with poor drainage and acid soils, and consequently would experience a very different flora and fauna.

To gain height and get a head start on the many tourists that normally frequent this spot, we started by using the two Télésiège or chairlifts up to near the Lac de Gaube, with wonderful views a lovely way to start the days excursion. Gingerly exiting the chairs, we moved along below an extensive scree slope to our right and neared the lake, fantastic views gradually unfolded of the narrowing valley stretching away ahead towards the mighty Vignemale (at 3219m one of the highest mountains in the Pyrenean range).

Here we found a good selection of new plants, especially ferns, with Beech-*Phegopteris connectilis*, Parsley-*Cytogramma crista*, & Hard Fern-*Blechnum spicant*, Alpine Sow-Thistle-*Cicerbita alpina*, Wood Bitter Vetch-*Vicia orobus*, Alpine Clover-*Trifolium alpinum*, Dwarf Toadflax-*Linaria supina* and the distinctive seed-heads of the Large Yellow Gentian-*Gentiana lutea* all identified. Birds present were Golden Eagle, Green & Great Spotted Woodpecker, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, and both Coal & Crested Tit, the latter the only individuals we were to see all week.

We took lunch by a marshy area, before continuing further up the valley with some more good plants on show including Alpine St John's-wort-*Hypericum richeri*, Arnica-*Arnica montana*, Alpine Marsh Orchid-*Dactylorhiza majalis*

ssp *alpina*, , Brook Thistle-*Cirsium rivulare*, Pyramidal Bugle-*Ajuga pyramidalis*, and unfortunately only the leaves of another scarce endemic Saxifrage-*S. aquatilis*. An endemic butterfly, the Pyrenean Brassy Ringlet was present though in good numbers, along with Brown Argus, Wall brown and High Brown Fritillary.

It was now time to turn back and make our way down past the lake again and on to a steep stony track, which en-route passes through some huge granite rocks that have been worn smooth by the combined action of the elements and perhaps many peoples footsteps? Arriving down at the Pont d'Espagne itself, which spans a huge chasm where three torrents combine, we then took welcome refreshment of a beer or a cup of tea, before rejoining our transport and driving back to the hotel.

## Day 7

Friday 14th September

Mist clearing, sun am; thick fog pm

We awoke to a fine but rather cold morning, and after breakfast once again drove up the Heas valley past the turning to the Lac des Gloriettes, and climbed all the way up past the Hôtellerie de Maillet to the parking area just below the dramatic Cirque de Troumouse. We stopped on the way at one or two vantage points, noting a pair of Ravens, an unusually large flock of Red-billed Chough and a pair of Mistle Thrushes perched on an overhead wire. This Cirque is very much larger than Gavarnie and although the surrounding cliffs are limestone, the bowl is on acid rocks covered with peat giving a completely different feel to it.

It was decided to split the group into two today, with the keen walkers going with Cliff and taking the path that leads all the way down to the chapel at Heas, and the remainder plodding around and exploring the cirque with Mark, before driving down to meet the others after lunch. Initially though we stayed together heading for a series of boggy depressions next to a swift flowing stream. Many of the pools here are obviously ephemeral, being populated by Common Frog-*Rana temporaria* adults, froglets and tadpoles, while the stream itself yielded the endemic Pyrenean Brook Salamander-*Euproctus asper*. This is a strange newt-like creature which inhabits these nutrient poor high altitude streams, being supposedly nocturnal, but Mark has always been able to find them at this precise spot during the day.

Amongst the short turf a few plants were found that had not as yet been nibbled off by the sheep and cattle, the most notable being the blooms of the deep pink Primrose-*Primula integrifolia*, others being Sand Spurrey-*Spergularia rubra*, Monkshood-*Aconitum nepallus*, Dwarf Buckthorn-*Rhamnus pumila* and a diminutive Sandwort-*Minuartia loricifolia*.

After having our picnic lunch, we returned down the winding road and rejoined the other party at the Auberge next to the toll booth, where ice creams, beers or tea were well appreciated. While Mark was ferrying Cliff back up to the top park to retrieve the other vehicle, everyone else had a look inside the little chapel with its beautiful stain glass windows depicting scenes of the mountain lifestyle and also poignantly commemorating those who died in the terrible avalanche of 1915. As we rejoined the vehicles a huge bank of mist rolled up the valley from below, a not uncommon occurrence in these mountains. We once again drove up to the Lac des Gloriettes in the hope that it would clear, but to no avail, so it was back down to the hotel for some early packing, and the last of our gourmet dinners.

## Day 8

Saturday 15th September

Sunny, warm

The overnight fog had completely cleared away as we sadly said good-bye to the hotel staff and departed for the airport at Toulouse by a very scenic route over the passes of the Col de Tourmalet and the lower but equally spectacular Col d'Aspin. At the former there were large gathering of Hirudines, Swallows being the most numerous, whilst we also had good views of Alpine Chough, a lone Griffin Vulture, and the botanists also found a late flowering clump of the attractive Horned Violet-*Viola cornuta*. Descending the Col we could see the impressive Pic du Midi towering up to our left, bristling with the towers and antenna of the observatory at its summit, but unfortunately the road up to it has now been permanently closed, with the only access being by cable car from la Mongie in the valley below. Reaching the awful concrete buildings of this sprawling ski resort, we had a comfort stop, whereupon a Red Kite passed overhead on its way to Spain, remarkably the first of the week!

As we continued down hill, we passed many cyclists trying to emulate their heroes of the Tour de France by tackling this fearsome ascent, before we started to climb again up to the Col d'Aspin, which although more rounded and less rugged than the higher peaks also has spectacular views looking down into the Aure valley far away below. We had meant to take lunch here, but an extremely annoying group of semi-wild goats rapidly changed our minds, so after seeing our last Griffin Vultures, we descended rapidly into the valley below by a series of hairpin bends to eat a hasty meal in a roadside lay-by.

After an uneventful journey down the autoroute to Toulouse, Mark and Cliff then returned their respective vehicles, to rejoin the group at the check-in area at the airport where farewells were exchanged, along with hopes of meetings in the future. We had been very lucky with brilliant weather all week, and everyone agreed that we had all enjoyed a wonderful week seeing many good birds (especially raptors), many rare and distinctive plants, some late butterflies, and of course the magnificent Pyrenean scenery.

## Species Lists

### Plants

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	
<b>FERNS</b>		
<i>Woodsia alpina</i>	Alpine Woodsia	<i>Occasional</i>
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	<i>Occasional, rocks</i>
<i>A. ruta-muraria</i>	Wall-rue	Frequent, rocks & walls
<i>A. trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Common, rocks & walls
<i>A. viride</i>	Green Spleenwort	Cirque de Gavarnie, Ossoue v
<i>Athyrium felix-femina</i>	Lady Fern	Woods, Pont d'Espagne
<i>A. distentifolium</i>	Alpine Lady Fern	Common
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard Fern	Pont d'Espagne
<i>Ceterach officinale</i>	Rustyback Fern	Occasional, rocks & walls
<i>Cryptogramma crispa</i>	Parsley Fern	Occ, screes, Pont d'Espagne
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder Fern	Common
<i>C. montana</i>	Mountain Bladder Fern	Occasional
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler Fern	Woods, Pont d'Espagne
<i>D. felix-mas</i>	Common Male Fern	Occasional, shady places
<i>D. oreades</i>	Montain Male Fern	Occasional
<i>D. submontana</i>	Rigid Buckler Fern	Lac des Gloriettes
<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	Oak Fern	Frequent, shaded rocks
<i>G. robertianum</i>	Limestone Fern	Gavarnie
<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	Beech Fern	Rocks, Pont d'Espagne
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common Polypody	Occasional
<i>P. cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody	Occasional, limestone rocks
<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>	Hard Shield Fern	Frequent
<i>P. longchitis</i>	Holly Fern	Occasional
<i>P. setiferum</i>	Soft Shield Fern	Pont d'Espagne
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	Widespread & frequent
<b>CONIFERS</b>		
<i>Abies alba</i>	Silver Fir	Common
<i>Juniperus communis ssp alpina</i>	Frequent	Frequent
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	Frequent
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scot's Pine	Pont d'Espagne
<i>P. uncinata</i>	Mountain Pine	Gavarnie & Ossoue Valley
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	Ossoue Valley
<b>SALICAEAE</b>		
<i>Salix aurita</i>	Eared Willow	Widespread
<i>S. caprea</i>	Goat Willow	Occasional
<i>S. viminalis</i>	Osier	Frequent, streamsides
<i>S. retusa</i>	Netted Willow	Port de Boucharo
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	Occasional
<b>BETULACEAE</b>		
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	Streamsides
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	Frequent, woodland

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	
<b>CORYLACEAE</b>		
<i>Coryllus avellana</i>	Hazel	Common
<b>FAGACEAE</b>		
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	Frequent, woodland
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak	Mountain woodland
<i>Q. pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Oak	Frequent, valley woodland
<i>Q. robur</i>	Common Oak	Occasional, valleys
<b>ULMACEAE</b>		
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm	Occasional, woodland
<i>U. minor</i>	Small-leaved Elm	Frequent, valleys
<b>URTICACEAE</b>		
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Wall Pellitory	Occasional walls
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	Common
<b>LORANTHACEAE</b>		
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	Occasional, Gédre etc
<b>POLYGONACEAE</b>		
<i>Polygonum viviparum</i> (seedheads)	Alpine Bistort	Frequent, streamsides etc
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	Abundant
<i>R. acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	Frequent
<i>R. scutatus</i>	French Sorrel	Frequent, rocks & scree
<b>CHENOPODIACEAE</b>		
<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>	Good king Henry	Frequent, Lac des Gloriettes etc
<b>CARYOPHYLLACEAE</b>		
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	Frequent
<i>C. tomentosum</i> (L)	Snow-in-Summer	Scree, Pont d'Espagne
<i>Dianthus deltoides</i>	Maiden Pink	Ossoue valley
<i>D. monspessulanus</i>	Fringed Pink	Frequent
<i>Gypsophila repens</i>	Alpine Gypsophila	Frequent, rocks
<i>Minuartia laricifolia</i>	a Sandwort	Cirque de Troumouse
<i>Paronychia kapela ssp serpyllifolia</i>		Rocks
<i>Arenaria tetraquetra</i>	a Sandwort	Scree, Port de Boucharo
<i>A. purpurascens</i>	Pink Sandwort	Rocks, Port de Boucharo, endemic
<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	Sand Spurrey	Rocks, Cirque de Toumouse
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Soapwort	Occasional, roadsides
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Moss Campion	Occasional, rocks
<i>S. alba</i>	White Campion	Occasional, roadsides
<i>S. rupestris</i>	Rock Campion	Rocks, Port de Boucharo
<i>S. saxifrage</i> (L)	Saxifrage Campion	Rocks, Ossoue valley
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	Frequent

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	
<i>S. media</i>	Common Chickweed	Abundant weed
<b>RANUNCULACEAE</b>		
<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	Monkshood	Frequent
<i>A. anthora</i>	Yellow Monkshood	Frequent on limestone
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> (L)	Common Columbine	Frequent
<i>Caltha palustris</i> (L)	Marsh Marigold	Frequent, streamsides
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i> (L)	Stinking Hellebore	Frequent, screes etc
<i>H. viridis</i> (L)	Green Hellebore	Common, woods
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i> (L)	Hepatica	Frequent, woods
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	Abundant
<i>R. thora</i> (L)	Thore's Buttercup	Cirque de Gavarnie
<i>Thalictrum aquilifolium</i>	Greater Meadow Rue	Ossoue valley, Lac de Gaube
<b>BERBERIDACEAE</b>		
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> (in fruit)	Barberry	Lac des Gloriettes
<b>CRUCIFEREAE</b>		
<i>Arabis alpina</i>	Alpine Rock-cress	Gavarnie
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse	Common weed
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bittercress	Frequent
<i>Huthinsia alpina</i>	Chamois Cress	Rocks & screes, frequent
<i>Biscutella laevigata</i>	Buckler Cress	Higher Ossoue valley
<b>CRASSULACEAE</b>		
<i>Sedum acre</i> (L)	Biting Stonecrop	Frequent
<i>S. album</i>	White Stonecrop	Occasional, rocks
<i>S. telephium</i>	Orpine	Gavarnie, Lac de Gaube
<b>SAXIFRAGACEAE</b>		
<i>Saxifraga aizoides</i>	Yellow Mountain Saxifrage	Frequent, streamsides
<i>S. haretii</i>	Musky Saxifrage	Rocks, Port de Boucharo
<i>S. longifolia</i> ssp <i>longifolia</i>	Pyrenean Saxifrage	Higher Ossoue valley, endemic
<i>S. paniculata</i> (L)	Livelong Saxifrage	Common, rocks
<i>S. umbrosa</i> (L)	Wood Saxifrage	Pont d'Espagne, Ossoue Valley
<i>S. aquatica</i> (L)	Water Saxifrage	Lac de Gaube, endemic
<b>PARNASSIACEAE</b>		
<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	Grass of Parnassus	Common, Damp areas
<b>GROSSULARIACEAE</b>		
<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	Mountain Currant	Occasional, Lac de Gaube etc
<b>PLATANACEAE</b>		
<i>Platanus x hybridus</i>	London Plane	Occasional, roadsides

Scientific name	Common name	
<b>ROSACEAE</b>		
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine Lady's-mantle	Common
<i>Cotoneaster integerrimus</i>	Wild Cotoneaster	Leaves & fruit, Lac des Gloriettes
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Occasional
<i>Fillipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	Occasional, streamsides
<i>Fragaria vesca</i> (L. & F)	Wild Strawberry	Frequent
<i>G. urbanum</i>	Herb Bennet	Frequent
<i>P. reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	Occasional, waste places
<i>Potentilla alchemilloides</i>	Alchemilla-leaved Cinq	Lac des Gloriettes etc, endemic
<i>P. erecta</i>	Tormentil	Frequent
<i>Dryas octopetala</i> (seedheads)	Mountain Avens	Occasional, Gavarnie etc
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	Pont d'Espagne
<i>P. spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	Occasional
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	Frequent
<i>R. fruticosus</i> agg	Bramble	Common
<i>R. saxatilis</i>	Stone bramble	Lac des Gloriettes
<i>Rosa canina</i> (F)	Common Dog Rose	Frequent
<i>R. rubiginosa</i> (F)	Sweet Briar	Occasional
<i>R. pendulina</i> (F)	Alpine Rose	Lac des Gloriettes
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	Occasional, woods
<i>S. aucuparia</i>	Rowan	Frequent
<b>LEGUMINOSEAE</b>		
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> ssp <i>pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Kidney vetch	Port de Boucharo
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch	Frequent, grassland
<i>L. pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	Common
<i>Lotus alpinus</i>	Alpine Bird's-foot Trefoil	Frequent, mountain turf
<i>L. corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot trefoil	Frequent
<i>L. uliginosus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	Pont d'Espagne
<i>Melilotus alba</i>	White Melilot	Waste places, common
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	Occasional
<i>Ononis natrix</i>	Large Yellow Rest-harrow	Occasional, Ossoue Valley
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Frequent
<i>T. repens</i>	White Clover	Frequent
<i>T. alpinum</i>	Alpine Clover	Occasional, Lac de Gaube
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	Frequent
<i>V. orobus</i>	Wood Bitter Vetch	Occasional, Lac de Gaube
<i>V. sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	Frequent
<b>OXALIDACEAE</b>		
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i> (L)	Wood Sorrel	Common, woods
<b>GERANIACEAE</b>		
<i>Geranium cinereum</i>	Ashy Crane's-bill	Screes, endemic, Pt de Boucharo
<i>G. molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	Occasional
<i>G. pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean Crane's-bill	Common
<i>G. robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Frequent
<i>G. sylvaticum</i> (L)	Wood Crane's-bill	Common

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	
<b>LINACEAE</b>		
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax	Occasional
<b>EUPHORBIACEAE</b>		
<i>Euphorbia amygaloides</i>	Wood Spurge	Occasional, woods
<i>E. cyparissias</i> (L)	Cypress Spurge	Frequent, dry grassland
<i>E. hyberna</i> (L)	Irish Spurge	Woodland, Ossoue valley
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i> (L)	Dog's Mercury	Occasional, woodland
<b>POLYGALACEAE</b>		
<i>P. serpyllifolia</i>	Heath Milkwort	Pont d'Espagne
<b>ACERACEAE</b>		
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	Occasional
<i>A. pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	Frequent
<b>AQUIFOLIACEAE</b>		
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	Occasional, woods
<b>BUXACEAE</b>		
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	Occasional
<b>RHAMNACEAE</b>		
<i>Rhamnus pumilus</i>	Dwarf Buckthorn	Ossoue valley etc, on rocks
<b>TILACEAE</b>		
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	Common, woods
<b>MALVACEAE</b>		
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow	Occasional
<i>M. sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	Occasional
<b>THYMELACEAE</b>		
<i>Daphne cneorum</i> (L & F)	Garland Flower	Occasional, turf, Troumouse
<i>D. laureola ssp philippi</i> (L)	Spurge Laurel	Frequent
<b>GUTTIFERAE</b>		
<i>Hypericum nummularium</i>	a low growing St J's-wort	Wet rocks, Gavarnie, Ossoue
<i>H. perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-wort	Frequent
<i>H. richeri</i>	Alpine St John's-wort	Lac de Gaube

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	
<b>VIOLACEAE</b>		
<i>Viola cornuta</i>	Horned Pansy	Col de Tourmalet
<i>V. riviniana</i> (L)	Common Dog Violet	Frequent
<i>V. biflora</i> (L)	Yellow Wood Violet	Frequent, Ossoue valley
<b>CISTACEAE</b>		
<i>H. nummularium</i>	Common Rockrose	Common
<b>ONAGRACEAE</b>		
<i>Epilobium anagallidifolium</i>	Alpine Willow-herb	Damp mountain turf, frequent
<i>E. angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willow-herb	Occasional, woods
<b>CORNACEAE</b>		
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	Frequent, woods
<b>ARIALACEAE</b>		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Abundant
<b>UMBELLIFERAE</b>		
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Angelica	Frequent, damp places
<i>Astrantia major</i>	Pink Masterwort	Occasional
<i>Bupleurum falcatum</i> ssp <i>cernum</i>	Sickle Hare's-ear	Rare, Lac des Gloriettes
<i>B. angulosum</i>	Pyrenean Hare's-ear	Gavarnie, Ossoue valley, endemic
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Occasional, Ossoue valley
<i>Eryngium bougatii</i>	Pyrenean Eryngo	Frequent, stony places, endemic
<i>H. spondylium</i> ssp <i>pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean Hogweed	Common, roadsides etc
<i>Laserpitium latifolium</i>	Broad-leaved Sermountain	Common, screes
<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Burnet Saxifrage	Frequent, grassland
<i>Sanicula europaea</i> (L)	Sanicle	Woods, Ossoue valley
<i>Athamanta cretica</i>		Frequent
<b>PYROLACEAE</b>		
<i>Pyrola minor</i> (seedheads)	Lesser Wintergreen	Woods, Gavarnie
<b>MONOTROPACEAE</b>		
<i>Monotropa hypopitys</i>	Yellow Birdsnest	Rare, Gavarnie
<b>ERICACEAE</b>		
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> (berries)	Bearberry	Acid rocks, Lac des Gloriettes
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling	Frequent on acid soils
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell Heather	Frequent
<i>Rhododendron ferrugineum</i> (L)	Alpenrose	Frequent, rocky places
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> (berries)	Bilberry	Occasional
<i>V. vitis-idaea</i> (berries)	Cowberry	Frequent

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	
<b>PRIMULACEAE</b>		
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Yellow Pimpernel	Woods, Ossoue valley
<i>Primula elatior</i> (L & seedheads)	Oxlip	Gavarnie
<i>P. integrifolia</i>	Entire-leaved Primrose	Damp turf, Troumouse
<i>P. veris</i> (L & seedheads)	Cowslip	Seedheads, frequent
<b>PLUMBAGINACEAE</b>		
<i>Armeria maritima ssp alpina</i>	Mountain Thrift	Lac de Gaube
<b>OLEACEAE</b>		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	Frequent
<b>GENTIANACEAE</b>		
<i>G. lutea</i> (L)	Large Yellow Gentian	Screes, Pont d'Espagne
<i>G. burseri</i> (L)		Ossoue valley
<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	Field Gentian	Frequent, Las des Gloriettes etc
<i>G. ciliata</i>	Fringed Gentian	Frequent, Alpine turf
<i>Swertia perennis</i>	a rare plant	Ossoue valley, Lac des Gloriettes
<b>ASCLEPIADACEAE</b>		
<i>Vincetoxicum hirsutum</i> (L & F)	Swallow-wort	Common
<b>RUBIACEAE</b>		
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	Frequent, grassy places
<i>Gallium aparine</i>	Cleavers	Abundant
<i>G. odoratum</i> (L)	Sweet Woodruff	Occasional, woods
<i>G. verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	Common, grassland
<i>Rubia peregrina</i> (L)	Wild Madder	Occasional, bushy places
<b>CONVOLVULACEAE</b>		
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	Frequent weed
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Large Bindweed	Occasional
<b>BORAGINACEAE</b>		
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	Frequent, grassy places
<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	Tufted Forget-me-not	Occasional, damp places
<i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i> (L)	Lungwort	Frequent, woods
<b>VERBENACEAE</b>		
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain	Occasional, Ossoue valley etc
<b>CALLITRICHACEAE</b>		
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	Common Water Starwort	Pools, Cirque de Toumouse

Scientific name	Common name	
<b>LABIATAE</b>		
<i>Mentha longifolia</i>	Horse Mint	Common
<i>Acinos alpinus</i>	Alpine Basil Thyme	Occasional, rocks & scree
<i>Ajuga pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Bugle	Occasional, Lac de Gaube
<i>A. reptans</i> (L)	Common Bugle	Common
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil	Common
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i> (L)	Ground Ivy	Frequent
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> (L)	Yellow Archangel	Frequent, woods
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	Occasional, waste places
<i>L. maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle	Occasional, Lac de Gaube
<i>L. purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle	Occasional, waste places
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	Frequent, grassy places
<i>Prunella grandiflora</i>	Large Self-heal	Occasional, Lac des Gloriettes
<i>P. laciniata</i>	Cut-leaved Self-heal	Occasional, Ossoue valley etc
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	Common Self-heal	Frequent
<i>Scutellaria alpina</i>	Alpine Skullcap	Rare, rocks, Ossoue valley etc
<i>Sideritis hyssopifolia</i>	Sideritis	Occasional, Lac des Gloriettes etc
<i>Stachys alopecurus</i> (seedheads)	Yellow Betony	Occasional, Gavarnie, Ossoue V
<i>S. officinalis</i>	Betony	Occasional, grassland
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Wall Germander	Frequent, rocks, Gavarnie etc
<i>T. pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean Germander	Common, screes, endemic
<i>T. scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage	Common, woods
<i>Thymus praecox ssp polytrichus</i>	Wild Thyme	Frequent
<i>Horminium pyrenaicum</i>	Horminium	Higher Ossoue valley
<b>SOLANACEAE</b>		
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	Occasional
<b>SCROPHULARACEAE</b>		
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Frequent, walls
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> (L)	Foxglove	Frequent
<i>Linaria alpina</i>	Alpine Toadflax	Rocks, Port de Boucharo etc
<i>L. supina</i>	Dwarf Toadflax	Rare, screes, Lac de Gaube
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common Cow-wheat	Occasional, woods
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle	Abundant, meadows
<i>S. canina</i>	French Figwort	Occasional, Ossoue valley etc
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark Mullein	Occasional, Gavarnie etc
<i>V. phomoides</i>	Orange Mullein	Occasional, Gavarnie etc
<i>Veronica becca-bunga</i>	Brooklime	Occasional, streams
<i>V. chamaedrys</i>	Bird's-eye Speedwell	Frequent, grassland
<i>V. ponae</i> (seedheads)		Lac des Gloriettes
<i>V. serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	Frequent, grassland
<i>Euphasia alpina</i>	Pink Eyebright	Common
<b>GLOBULACEAE</b>		
<i>Globularia nudicaulis</i> (L)	Leafless Globularia	Occasional, Lac des Gloriettes
<i>G. repens</i> (L)	Creeping Globularia	Rocks, endemic, Gavarnie

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	
<b>GESNERIACEAE</b>		
<i>Ramonda myconi</i>	Ramonda (endemic)	Shady rocks, Gavarnie, Ossoue
<b>OROBANCHACEAE</b>		
<i>Orobanche alba</i> (seedheads)	Thyme Broomrape	Occasional, Ossoue valley
<b>LENTIBULARIACEAE</b>		
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common Butterwort	Damp flushes, Lac des Gloriettes
<i>P. longifolia</i> (L)	Long-leaved Butterwort	Damp cliffs, Cirque de Gavarnie
<b>PLANTAGINACEAE</b>		
<i>Plantago alpina</i>	Alpine Plantain	Frequent, alpine turf
<i>P. lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	Common
<i>P. media</i>	Hoary Plantain	Frequent
<b>CAPRIFOLIACEAE</b>		
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Common Honeysuckle	Occasional, lower valleys
<i>L. pyrenaica</i> (L & F)	Pyrenean Honeysuckle	Common, endemic
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> (L & F)	Common Elder	Frequent, woods
<i>S. racemosa</i> (L & F)	Alpine Elder	Occasional, mountain scrub
<i>S. ebulus</i> (L & F)	Dwarf Elder	Gavarnie
<i>Viburnum lantana</i> (L)	Wayfaring Tree	Occasional
<i>V. opulus</i> (L)	Guelder Rose	Occasional
<b>VALERIANACEAE</b>		
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	Occasional, walls
<b>DIPSACACEAE</b>		
<i>Knautia dipsacifolia</i>	Wood Scabious	Frequent, shady places
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small Scabious	Frequent, grassland
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious	Occasional, damp meadows
<b>CAMPANULACEAE</b>		
<i>C. rotundifolia</i>	Harebell	Occasional, rocks
<i>C. trachelium</i>	Nettle-leaved Bellflower	Occasional, shady places
<i>C. patula</i>	Spreading Bellflower	Pont d'Espagne
<i>Jasione montana</i>	Sheep's-bit Scabious	Common, Pont d'Espagne
<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>	Round-headed Rampion	Occasional, Lac des Gloriettes etc
<i>P. spicatum</i> (L)	Spiked Rampion	Woods, Gavarnie
<b>COMPOSITAE</b>		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Common
<i>Adenostyles alliariae</i> (L)	Adenostyles	Streamsides, occasional
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	Occasional

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	
<i>Arnica montana</i> (L)	Arnica	Occasional, Lac de Gaube
<i>Aster alpinus</i>	Alpine Aster	Occasional, Ossoue valley
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp Agrimony	Occ, Pont d'Espagne
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	Common
<i>Carduus carlinoides</i>	Pyrenean Thistle	Common, endemic
<i>Carlina acanthifolia</i>	Acanthus-leaved Thistle	Common
<i>C. acaulis</i>	Stemless Carlina Thistle	Less common
<i>Centaurea nemoralis</i>	Knapweed	Frequent
<i>Cicerbita alpina</i>	Alpine Sow-thistle	Rare, screes, Pont d'Espagne
<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	Woolly Thistle	Cirque de Troumouse
<i>C. palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	Occasional, streamsides
<i>C. rivulare</i>	Brook Thistle	Damp places, Lac de Gaube
<i>C. vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	Occasional, waste places
<i>Crepis pygmaea</i>	Pygmy Hawk's-beard	Scree, Port de Boucharo
<i>Erigeron alpinus</i>	Alpine Fleabane	Stony places, Port de Boucharo
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Wall Lettuce	Woods, Gavarnie, Ossoue v
<i>Prenanthes purpurea</i>	Purple Lettuce	Rare, Gavarnie, Pont d'Espagne
<i>Hieracium pillosella</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Frequent, grassy places
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy	Common
<i>Senecio jacobea</i>	Common Ragwort	Occasional
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	Common Groundsel	Occasional, waste places
<i>S. adonifolius</i>		Lac de Gaube
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Goldenrod	Frequent
<i>Tussilago farfara</i> (L)	Colt'sfoot	Frequent, streamsides
<i>Urospermum delechampii</i>	Urospermum	Higher Ossoue valley

**LILACEAE**

<i>Allium victorialis</i> (L & F)	Alpine Leek	Ossoue valley
<i>Asphodelus albus</i> (L & F)	White Asphodel	Common
<i>Convallaria majus</i> (L)	Lily of the Valley	Occasional, woods, Gavarnie
<i>Lilium martagon</i> (L & F)	Martagon Lily	Lac des Gloriettes
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i> (L & F)	Herb Paris	Occasional, woods
<i>Merendera pyrenaica</i>	Merendera	Abundant, alpine turf, endemic

**IRIDACEAE**

<i>Iris latifolia</i> (L & F)	English Iris	Frequent, pastures
<i>Crocus nudiflorus</i>	Autumn Crocus	Occasional

**SPARGANIACEAE**

<i>Sparganium angustifolium</i>	Floating Bur-reed	Pools, Cirque de Troumouse
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**JUNCACEAE**

<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed Rush	Occasional
<i>J. effusus</i>	Soft Rush	Occasional
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i> (L)	Great Wood-rush	Woods, Pont d'Espagne

**CYPERACEAE**

<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cotton-grass	Occasional, bogs
<i>Carex echinata</i>	Star Sedge	Frequent, bogs etc

**Scientific name***C. atrata**C. demissa**C. hostiana**C. nigra**C. panacea (L)**C. sylvatica**C. rostrata***Common name**

Jet Sedge

Common Yellow Sedge

Tawny Sedge

Common Sedge

Carnation Sedge

Wood Sedge

Bottle Sedge

Damp rocks, Gavarnie

Occasional, Pont d'Espagne

Rare, Lac des Gloriettes

Occasional

Occasional

Frequent, woods

Pools, Cirque de Troumouse

**POACEAE***Anthoxanthum odoratum**Arrhenatherum elatius**Brachypodium pinnatum**Briza media**Dactylis glomerata**Festuca rubra**Holcus lanatus**Hordeum murinum**Lolium perenne**Melica uniflora**Nardus stricta**Glyceria fluitans**Phleum alpinum**P. pratense**Poa alpina**P. annua**P. nemoralis**P. trivialis**Molinia caerulea*

Sweet Vernal Grass

False Oat-grass

Tor Grass

Common Quaking Grass

Cock's-foot Grass

Red Fescue

Yorkshire Fog

Wall Barley

Perennial Rye-grass

Wood Melick

Mat Grass

Common Flote Grass

Alpine Cat's-tail

Timothy

Alpine Meadow-grass

Annual Meadow-grass

Wood Meadow-grass

Rough Meadow-grass

Purple Moor Grass

Frequent, meadows

Frequent, waste places

Occasional, Lac des Gloriettes

Frequent, meadows

Frequent, meadows

Occasional

Frequent, meadows

Occasional, waste places

Frequent, meadows

Frequent, woods

*Frequent, acid pasture**Frequent, damp places**Mountain grassland**Frequent, meadows**Mountain grassland**Frequent, waste places**Frequent, woods**Frequent, meadows, woods**Frequent***ORCHIDACEAE***Dactylorhiza majalis ssp alpina**Gymnadenia conopsea (seedheads)**Epipactis helleborine (seedheads)**E. atrorubens (seedheads)*

Alpine Marsh Orchid

Fragrant Orchid

Broad-leaved Helleborine

Dark Red Helleborine

*Frequent, damp meadows**Lac des Gloriettes**Woods, Gavarnie**Frequent*

## Birds (68 species)

**LITTLE EGRET** – *Egretta garzetta*

Two birds seen on the R Garonne on the drive from the airport to Gédre

**GREY HERON** – *Ardea cinerea*

Singles seen to and from the airport

**BLACK STORK** – *Ciconia nigra*

One bird passing through the valley on day 2

**MALLARD** – *Anas platyrhynchos*

Occasional

**RED KITE** – *Milvus milvus*

Two birds seen on the journey back to the airport

**LAMMERGEIER** – *Gypaetus barbatus*

Good close views of adults and adolescents at Lac des Gloriettes, the Ossoue valley and at Gavarnie

**GRIFFON VULTURE** – *Gyps fulvus*

Birds seen every day except 6, good close views, especially at Lac des Gloriettes

**COMMON BUZZARD** – *Buteo buteo*

Occasional

**GOLDEN EAGLE** – *Aquila chrysaetos*

Seen at Gavarnie (4), Ossoue valley (6) and Lac des Gloriettes (2) where a 1<sup>st</sup> winter bird showed up well with its distinctive white wing patches.

**SHORT-TOED EAGLE** – *Circaetus gallicus*

Birds seen at Lac des Gloriettes, Port de Boucharo, Lac de Gaube and in the Ossoue valley, where superb close views were obtained of a bird at rest

**COMMON KESTREL** – *Falco tinnunculus*

Frequent sightings, especially in the Ossoue valley

**PHEASANT** – *Phasianus colchicus*

A single bird seen en route to Lac de Gaube on day 6

**MOORHEN** – *Gallinula chloropus*

Seen on the journey from the airport

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** – *Larus ridibundus*

Seen near the airport

**YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** – *Larus cachinnans*

Birds seen on the River Garonne on day 1

**ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON** – *Columba livia*

Occasional

**COLLARED DOVE** – *Streptopelia decaocto*

Frequent near habitation

**TAWNY OWL** – *Strix aluco*

Heard every night at the hotel

**GREEN WOODPECKER** – *Picus viridis*

Occasional

**GREAT-SPOTTED WOODPECKER** – *Dendrocopos major*

Surprisingly only seen at Lac de Gaube on day 6

**SWALLOW** – *Hirundo rustica*

Birds seen every day, the migration well under way with sometimes 1000's flying through the high passes

**HOUSE MARTIN** – *Delichon urbica*

Very common

**CRAG MARTIN** – *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Frequent

**WATER PIPIT** – *Anthus spinoletta*

Abundant at higher altitudes

**WHITE WAGTAIL** – *Motacilla alba*

Common

**GREY WAGTAIL** – *Motacilla cinerea*

Frequent near water

**DIPPER** – *Cinclus cinclus*

Birds seen on most days

**WREN** – *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Frequently heard, and occasionally glimpsed.

**DUNNOCK** – *Prunella modularis*

Frequent, even at quite a high altitude.

**ALPINE ACCENTOR** – *Prunella collaris*

Superb close views of five birds at Port de Boucharo

**ROBIN** – *Erithacus rubecula*

Frequent at low level

**BLACK REDSTART** – *Phoenicurus ochurus*

Ubiquitous right up to the snow-line, often heard long before being sighted.

**WHINCHAT** – *Saxicola rubetra*

At least two birds in a flock in the Ossoue valley on day 5

**STONECHAT** – *Saxicola torquata*

At least three birds in a flock in the Ossoue valley on day 5

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR** – *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Frequent, seen on most days at higher altitudes

**ROCK THRUSH** – *Monticola saxatilis*

One bird glimpsed at Lac des Gloriettes and a pair in the Ossoue valley

**BLACKBIRD** – *Turdus merula*

Common

**MISTLE THRUSH** – *Turdus viscivorus*

At least two birds in the Héas valley on day 7

**BLACKCAP** – *Sylvia atricapilla*

Occasional

**CHIFFCHAFF** – *Phylloscopus collybita*

Seen and heard singing at the Lac de Gaube

**WILLOW WARBLER** – *Phylloscopus trochilus*

A single seen at Lac de Gaube, while many birds on migration at Lac des Gloriettes

**GOLDCREST** – *Regulus regulus*

Only in the pine woods at Gavarnie

**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** – *Muscicapa striata*

At least three birds in a mixed flock in the Ossoue valley

**PIED FLYCATCHER** – *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Many birds in a mixed flock in the Ossoue valley

**CRESTED TIT** – *Parus cristatus*

Good views at Lac de Gaube

**BLUE TIT** – *Parus caeruleus*

Occasional

**COAL TIT** – *Parus ater*

Frequent

**GREAT TIT** – *Parus major*

Occasional

**LONG-TAILED TIT** – *Aegithalos caudatus*

Occasional

**NUTHATCH** – *Sitta europaea*

Occasional

**TREECREEPER** – *Certhia familiaris*

One bird at Gavarnie

**WALLCREEPER** – *Tichodroma muraria*

Good views of a bird flying at Port de Boucharo

**STARLING** – *Sturnus vulgaris*

A small flock seen on the drive from the airport

**JAY** – *Garrulus glandarius*

Frequent.

**MAGPIE** – *Pica pica*

Frequent.

**ALPINE CHOUGH** – *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

Common, usually in larger flocks than the next species

**CHOUGH** – *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Frequent

**RAVEN** – *Corvus corax*

Frequent

**CARRION CROW** – *Corvus corone corone*

Frequent

**HOUSE SPARROW** – *Passer domesticus*

Common near habitation

**CHAFFINCH** – *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common up to a reasonably high altitude

**CITRIL FINCH** – *Serinus citrinella*

Good views of birds at Lac des Gloriettes, Gavarnie and in the Ossoue valley

**SERIN** – *Serinus serinus*

A male displaying well at Lac des Gloriettes

**GOLDFINCH** – *Carduelis carduelis*

Occasional

**BULLFINCH** – *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Occasional

**LINNET** – *Acanthis cannabina*

Occasional at higher levels

**ROCK BUNTING** – *Emberiza cia*

Two sightings at Lac des Gloriettes on day 2

**YELLOWHAMMER** – *Emberiza citrinella*

Surprisingly frequent at higher altitudes.

## Butterflies (34 Species)

**APOLLO** – *Parnassius apollo*

Occasional at Port de Boucharo (3) & Higher Ossoue valley (5)

**LARGE WHITE** – *Pieris brassicae*

Seen most days

**SMALL WHITE** – *Artogeia rapae*

Seen most days

**CLOUDED YELLOW** – *Colias crocea*

Common, seen on most days

**BERGER'S CLOUDED YELLOW** – *Colias hyale / alfacariensis*

One individual seen in the Ossoue valley on day 3

**SCARCE COPPER** – *Lycaena vigeanae*

Good specimens seen in Ossoue valley (3 & 5)

**SOOTY COPPER** – *Lycaena tityrus*

One individual seen at Lac des Gloriettes on day 2

**SILVER-STUDED BLUE** – *Plebejus argus*

Occasional in the Ossoue valley (3 & 5)

**BROWN ARGUS** – *Aricia agestis*

Occasional

**TURQUOISE BLUE** – *Plebicula dorylas*

Occasional at the Lac des Gloriettes (2).

**CHALK-HILL BLUE** – *Lysandra coridon*

The commonest butterfly

**PROVENCE CHALK-HILL BLUE** – *Lysandra hispana*

Occasional

**ADONIS BLUE** – *Lysandra bellargus*

Only seen in the Ossoue valley on days 3 & 5

**CAMBERWELL BEAUTY** – *Nymphalis antiopa*

One individual seen in the Ossoue valley on day 2

**RED ADMIRAL** – *Vanessa atalanta*

Singles seen on days 2 & 8

**SMALL TORTOISESHELL** – *Aglais urticae*

One seen at Port de Boucharo on day 2

**QUEEN OF SPAIN FRITILLARY** – *Issoria lathonia*

One seen at Lac des Gloriettes on day 2

**SILVER-WASHED FRITILLARY** – *Argynnis paphia*

Occasional in the Ossoue valley

**HIGH BROWN FRITILLARY** - *Argynnis adippe*

Seen on most days, the commonest Fritillary

**MEADOW FRITILLARY** – *Mellicta parthenoides*

One seen in the Ossoue valley on day 5

**WEAVER'S FRITILLARY** – *Boloria dia*

Occasional in the Higher Ossoue valley

**MARbled WHITE** – *Melanargia galathea*

Occasional

**WOODLAND GRAYLING** – *Hipparchia fagi*

One individual seen by the stream in the Ossoue valley on day 2

**ROCK GRAYLING** – *Hipparchia alcyone*

Frequent in the Higher Ossoue valley

**MOUNTAIN RINGLET** – *Erebia epiphron*

Occasional

**PYRENEAN BRASSY RINGLET** – *Erebia rondoui*

Frequent at Lac de gaube on day 6

**WESTERN BRASSY RINGLET** – *Erebia arvernensis*

Frequent in the Ossoue valley and at Gavarnie (days 3, 4, & 5)

**SMALL HEATH** – *Coenonympha pamphilis*

Frequent

**PEARLY HEATH** – *Coenonympha arcania*

One late individual in the Ossoue valley on day 5

**WALL BROWN** – *Lasiommata megera*

Occasional

**LARGE GRIZZLED SKIPPER** – *Pyrgus alveus*

Frequent

**LULWORTH SKIPPER** – *Thymelicus acteon*

Lac des Gloriettes (2)

**SILVER-SPOTTED SKIPPER**

Frequent

**MARbled SKIPPER** – *Carcharodus lavatherae*

By the stream in the Ossoue valley on day 2

**34 Species**

## Other Invertebrates

HUMMING-BIRD HAWK MOTH	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
6 SPOT BURNET MOTH	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>
BROOM MOTH (larva)	<i>Ceramica pisi</i>
STRAW DOT MOTH	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>
LESSER EMPEROR DRAGONFLY	<i>Anax parthanope</i>
DOR (DUNG) BEETLE	<i>Geotrupes stercorarius</i>
CRICKET	<i>Ephippiger ephippiger</i>
FIRE-BUG	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>
RED-FLASHING GRASSHOPPER	<i>Psophus stridulus</i>
BLUE-FLASHING GRASSHOPPER	<i>Oedipoda caeruleascens</i>
WOOD WASP (HORNTAIL)	<i>Urocerus gigas</i>

## Mammals

### **ALPINE MARMOT** – *Marmota marmota*

Common, seen every day in the mountains, sometimes allowing very close views

### **CHAMOIS/IZARD** – *Rupicapra rupicapra*

Good views at the Cirque de Gavarnie

### **RED SQUIRREL** – *Sciurus vulgaris*

Good views of four individuals at Gavarnie

### **PIPESTRELLE BAT** – *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (now separated out into further species!)

Frequent in the vicinity of the hotel

### **COMMON SHREW** – *Sorex araneus*

A dead individual at Gavarnie

### **ROE DEER** – *Capreolus capreolus*

Seen from the autoroute on day 1

## Reptiles & amphibians

### **WALL LIZARD** – *Podarcis muralis*

Occasional

### **COMMON FROG** – *Rana temporaria*

Tadpoles, froglets and adults in the pools at the Cirque de Troumouse

### **PYRENEAN BROOK SALAMANDER** – *Euproctus asper*

In the usual place at the Cirque de Troumouse