

The French Pyrenees

Naturetrek Tour Report

6 - 13 September 2008



Cirque d'Estaube from Lac des Gloriettes



Naturetrek Group - Pyrenees 2008



Alpine Accentor



Fringed Gentian - *Gentiana ciliata* - Lac des Gloriettes

Report and images compiled by Mark Galliot



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Day 1

Saturday 6th September

Weather: heavy rain in the morning, clearing to sunny periods in the afternoon

The flight from Stansted arrived into Pau on time. Mark, who lives in France, met the party outside the exit to the luggage reclaim area. While waiting for confirmation that one member of the group had cancelled, we enjoyed a coffee in the terminal before loading up the minibus and heading for the mountains. Just after reaching the pilgrim town of Lourdes, we turned left and started to climb up to Hautacam, an important migrant watching station where we were to take lunch in the small cafe near the summit. The weather had closed in and thick mist was obscuring the views, though a brief respite for a few minutes did enable us to see our first Griffin Vultures of the week.

Descending into the valley, we continued on to the impressively narrow gorge of the River Gave and had tantalising glimpses of the towering peaks all around us; we noted a few Crag Martins in the vicinity of the rock-fall protection shelters. After skirting Luz St Sauveur and admiring the graceful arch of the Pont Napoleon, we eventually reached the village and our hotel, and were met by our amiable hosts, Philippe and Odile. We quickly settled in to our respective rooms then reassembled for a circular afternoon walk from the hotel into the Héas Valley and back down to Gédre.

Almost immediately at least three Red Kites were spotted flying up the valley towards the Spanish border, while other birds noted were a distant Golden Eagle, Swallows, House Martins, Serins, plus the first of many of the ubiquitous Black Redstarts. Interesting plants that Mark pointed out were Fringed Pink (*Dianthus monspessulanus*), Mountain House Leek (*Sempervivum montanum*), Pyrenean Oak (*Quercus pyrenaica*), Dark Mullein (*Verbascum nigrum*), Monkshood (*Aconitum napellus*) and Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*), with its distinctive black berries. We also managed to surprise a young male Adder sunning itself on some rocks, along with a very colourful Jersey Tiger Moth, before returning to the hotel and assembling again for the first of the lovely dinners that we were to enjoy all week.

Day 2

Sunday 7th September

Weather: warm & sunny

Our first full day in the field dawned sunny and clear. We eagerly ate our breakfast and made an early start up the Héas Valley high up behind the village, to the Barrage des Gloriettes, which holds back the Gave d'Estaubé 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 (*Swertia perennis*) all being found. This was also a good spot for birds with Ring Ouzel, Willow Warbler, Pied Flycatcher, and Whinchat all 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 close 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. They were joined soon after by a pair of Lammergeiers, an immature Golden Eagle with its bold white panels showing well on the wings, a distant Goshawk, and an adult Short-toed Eagle.

After enjoying our picnic lunch in a sunny spot among the rocks, we walked round to the other side of the lake. 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. The many large yellow heads of Stem-less Carline Thistles (*Carlina acaulis* and *C. acanthifolia*) made a striking sight, while the subtle blue of the endemic Pyrenean (Sea) Holly (*Eryngium bougatii*) were also abundant. The warm temperatures also meant that a good number of butterflies were on the wing, giving Mark a good excuse to show off his skills with the net! Turquoise, Chalk-hill, Idas, and Long-tailed Blues, Camberwell Beauty, Berger's and Clouded Yellow, Lulworth, Essex, Large Grizzled, Oberthur's Grizzled and Silver-spotted Skipper were all seen and identified.

At the other end of the lake we were watching flocks of House Martins and Swallows with the occasional Swift all feeding up over the lake, and at the same time flying low over to water to take liquid refreshment, when suddenly a Hobby arrived as if from nowhere. In no time it had singled out a potential victim and we watched spellbound for a few minutes as the drama unfolded above our heads, until eventually the House Martin seemed to dive into the water to escape its pursuer. After the Hobby had departed, it managed to make its way to the bank and was seen returning to the air a little later – a fitting end to our first day!

Day 3

Monday 8th September

Weather: cloudy morning; warm, sunny afternoon

This morning we went up the Gave Valley to the famous Gavarnie village where, having turned left and gone past all the tacky souvenir shops, we parked the minibus 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 delightfully scenic area of high-level alpine pasture.

We got out of the minibus, left the village behind and followed the swiftly flowing stream up through the woods towards the beckoning cliffs ahead. It was rather chilly, as this part of the valley at this time of the year is in shadow until midday, but one or two migrant birds were flitting about in the bushes, including Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Common Redstart; two of the group also glimpsed a Dipper heading downstream.

On passing a small stone bridge, somebody suddenly shouted ‘Wallcreeper!’ The rest of the group was sceptical to start with, but soon we were all able to see, no more than two metres away, a bird quartering the stones in search of its insect breakfast. It stayed there for a few minutes and everybody had superb close-up views of this enigmatic and much sought-after ‘twitch’, demonstrating well its ability to creep over the surface with the use of its tail and outward flicks of its wingtips. Unforgettable!

Continuing on up through the Mountain Pine woods, other birds were noted including Coal Tit, Goldcrest and a colourful male Cross-bill; in the sky the raptors were waking up, with Griffin Vulture, Golden Eagle and a distant Peregrine all putting in an appearance. Plants admired were Cross and Fringed Gentian (*Gentiana cruciata* and *G. ciliata*), Irish Spurge (*Euphorbia hyberna*), the distinctive leaves of Hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis*) and Orpine (*Sedum telephium*), while a single Red Squirrel was busily stocking up on pine cones for the impending winter. As we neared the hotel, the semi-circle of towering cliffs ahead of us now gave us magnificent views, and we paused to admire this wonderful panorama with the ‘Grand Cascade’ (at 423 metres the highest waterfall in Europe) dominating the scene. We enjoyed our picnic lunch among some large rocks, noting a pair of Citril Finches; we also had distant views of a single male IZARD, the Pyrenean version of Chamois.

We then decided to take a high-level route traversing the cliffs through pine woodland into an open alpine area, before descending via 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*), a St John’s-wort (*Hypericum nummularium*) and Wall Germander (*Teucrium chamaedrys*); there were many spikes of the strange saprophytic Yellow Bird’s-nest (*Monotropa hypopitys*) in the forest entrance.

Emerging from the trees, we then enjoyed the hospitality of a friendly warden at a mountain refuge with a very welcome beer or soft drink, before going back down the path to Gavarnie. Bird highlights here were more Citril Finch, both Red-billed and Alpine Choughs, Raven, and a very tatty looking Lammergeier. By this time butterflies were also more numerous, new species being Swallowtail, Brown Argus, Wall Brown and Queen of Spain Fritillary. After arriving back at the minibus, it was a short drive back down the valley to the hotel and more welcome hospitality.

Day 4

Tuesday 9th September

Weather: heavy thundery rain in the morning; a warm & sunny afternoon

The weather today was decidedly unusual as we assembled round the bus after breakfast. It was very warm with a strange hazy light, not typical of the early mornings here before the sun reaches the valley bottom. It was obviously just right for the insects though, as hundreds of Hirundines were busy feeding as they flew backwards and forwards over our heads, while other migrants were also on the move; we had good views of at least four Booted Eagles.

Leaving the hotel, we headed back up to Gavarnie which, owing to time constraints the previous day, we had decided to visit again to buy souvenirs and postcards and to pay homage to the statue of an eccentric explorer named Henry Russell. Born in Toulouse in 1834, of mixed Franco/Irish descent, he returned to France after travelling the world and became a pioneer in exploring and climbing the mountains of the Pyrenees.

He had an almost obsessive love for Vignemale, the mountain at the head of the Ossoue Valley and the second highest in the chain. After visiting the outcrop, crowned by the white statue of the Virgin Mary, and witnessing a huge flock of probably a hundred Alpine Choughs, we continued up into the valley stopping in a lay-by overlooking a meadow next to a stream. The weather had gradually worsened and, with the prospect of mist and rain at this altitude for the rest of the day, we decided to drive back down the Gave Valley towards Lourdes to lower climes, where there was more chance of reasonable weather.

After emerging from the gorges, we arrived at the Lac de Gave near Ageles Gazost, which was bathed in warm sunshine, enabling us to enjoy our picnic lunch on the conveniently provided tables and benches. The early part of the afternoon was then spent walking round the lake, noting a few bird species that we would not have expected back in the mountains. These included Mallard, Grey Heron, Little Grebe, Common and Green Sandpiper, numerous Kingfisher and best of all, two Little-Ringed Plovers, which had probably bred nearby. The warm temperatures here were also conducive to butterflies, with Small Copper, Common Blue, Meadow Fritillary, Painted Lady, another Camberwell Beauty and the very different but equally stunning male and female versions of Lesser Purple Emperor all brightening up the scene.

The weather was continuing to improve so, as we could actually see the summit today, we started the long climb up to the top of Hautacam, the road covered in places with the names (in various colours of paint) of cyclists who had competed in the recent Tour de France. In contrast to our first day, the vistas that were now unfolding were wonderful, with splendid views east and west along the spine of the mountains. Parking at the café again, we spent the rest of our time taking a bracing walk along the ridge, being rewarded with both Black and Red Kite, Yellowhammer and another Booted Eagle; our leader somehow managed to flush a Quail (twice) from the grassland here as well.

Day 5

Wednesday 10th September

Weather: hot & sunny

The improvement in the weather that started yesterday afternoon continued today, with a gloriously sunny start to the morning, so we decided to make for the Port de Boucharo high up on the Spanish border. At 2,270 metres it represented the highest point 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.

Once again we drove up the valley of the Gave River, round 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 and Wheatears were everywhere, and the minibus served as a very good hide from which we could enjoy the antics of the many Alpine Marmots scampering about among the rocks. Continuing upwards, we parked the minibus at the Col des Tentes to walk the final 1½ kilometres to the Port, as the road has now been permanently closed due to continuous rock falls.

At the Port itself the fine clear weather enabled us to enjoy stunning views both back down the valley to Gavarnie, and also over the border far into Spain. After taking many photographs, the majority of the group then took the path leading across a barren scree slope up towards La Brèche de Roland, the towering mountain that could 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*), Hairy Sandwort (*Arenaria ciliata*), Spring and Field Gentian (*Gentiana verna* and *campestris*), Alpine Toadflax-*Linaria alpina*, Ashy Crane's-bill (*Geranium cinereum*), and many blooms of the attractive pink-flowered endemic Pyrenean Thistle (*Carduus carlinoides*). The birders were not to be disappointed, with both Alpine and Red-billed Chough, Sparrowhawk, Black Kite, Peregrine, good close views of at least three Alpine Accentors and, quite inexplicably, three Ptarmigan in summer plumage.

Returning to the parking area there were now plenty of butterflies about in the warm conditions with Small Tortoiseshell, Mountain and Common Clouded Yellow, Mountain Dappled White, Brimstone, Large Wall, and both Mountain and Western Brassy Ringlet – the latter endemic displaying its shimmering iridescence to good effect. We enjoyed our lunch on the springy alpine turf at the Col des Tentés, before descending the winding road down into the valley.

We then turned onto the narrow road that leads up into the Ossoue Valley, stopping at the same spot next to the flowery meadow that we had reached the day before. Wandering down to the stream there was a large gathering of butterflies busily lapping up the salts on a drying patch of mud next to the water, the majority of these being Chalk-hill Blues, but with Adonis, Escher's, Turquoise and Silver-studded Blues also present. Other butterflies here were Queen of Spain, Silver-washed and probable High Brown Fritillaries, Wood White, Comma, Map, and both Sooty and Scarce Copper, the latter being a striking orange-coloured male.

By now the heat was really building, so before returning for a welcome beer back at the hotel, most of the group went for a paddle in the beautifully refreshing water of the mountain stream here. It was a lovely way to finish another very enjoyable day!

Day 6

Thursday 11th September

Weather: fine, sunny morning; heavy showers & mist in the afternoon

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.

We started off by walking the short distance to the Pont d'Espagne itself, an old stone bridge which spans a huge chasm where three torrents combine, and we were lucky enough to see a pair of Crossbills at very close quarters on a wall right next to the cafe. Being exclusively seed-eaters (the distinctive bill is used for extracting seeds from pine cones), we assumed they were probably there to glean salts or minerals from the stone. Gradually climbing up through the thick pine woods, a number of different plants were noticeable. The ground at one spot was dotted with the lovely blooms of Autumn Crocus, while others noted were Beech (*Phegopteris connectilis*), Parsley (*Cytogramma crista*) and Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Alpine Sow-Thistle (*Cicerbita alpina*), Alpine Clover (*Trifolium alpinum*) and Spotted Deadnettle (*Lamium maculatum*). Small flocks of birds were heard all around us, and we eventually had close views of Coal Tit, Goldcrest, Treecreeper, more Crossbills and another glimpse of a Red Squirrel.

As we neared the lake, fantastic views gradually unfolded of the narrowing valley stretching away ahead towards the mighty Vignemale, at the head of the valley. By now though, the blue sky of the morning was fast disappearing and thunder storms threatened, so we had lunch in the isolated hotel here which is only open during the summer months. After eating well, we made a quick exploration of the grassland next to the lake, finding a single Pyrenean Brassy Ringlet (another endemic species), and were all set to continue when a huge and dramatic storm did break over our heads, reverberating all around us from peak to peak. A quick retreat was then made back to the shelter of the hotel, where we were able to enjoy the pyrotechnics while drinking our after-lunch coffee!

Luckily, after the storm had passed, the sun reappeared and we were able to continue round the other side of the lake and up into the higher valley for a couple of hours, before more rain and thick mist curtailed any further exploration; we had to take the chair-lift back down to the car park. Before returning though, we did have good views of Golden Eagle, Grey Wagtail, Spotted and Pied Flycatcher and a pair of Dippers, while a huge and very colourful Marsh Frog put in an appearance on the path, obviously enticed out of his hiding place by the humid conditions.

Day 7

Friday 12th September

Weather: mist clearing to showers; cold & windy

We awoke to a damp, cold and rather misty morning, but with the possible prospect of it improving. We left after breakfast to drive down to Luz St Saveur – Mark bought our picnic lunch and the rest of group got some last souvenirs and presents to take back home. We then took the road up the Heas Valley, past the turning to the Lac des Gloriettes, and climbed all the way up past the Hôtellerie de Maillet (another high, isolated hotel that is closed in the winter) to the parking area just below the dramatic Cirque de Troumouse. On the way, we stopped at one or two vantage points to scan for birds, noting only the ubiquitous Wheatears and Water Pipits. At the top the mist was just starting to clear somewhat, enabling us to see at close quarters a female Goshawk as she flew low over our heads, but the bulk of the surrounding cliffs were still obscured.

We left the car park and made our way into a boggy depression where there were many pools along the course of a stream, these being populated by Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*) froglets, while the stream itself was a good site for the endemic Pyrenean Brook Salamander (*Euproctus asper*). This is a strange newt-like creature which inhabits these nutrient-poor high altitude streams. They are generally considered nocturnal, but Mark has always been able to find them at this precise spot during the day.

Returning to the minibus, the mist was still clearing, but it was still rather cold so we decided to return the way we had come and hope for more favourable conditions lower down. On the way we paused to inspect a gathering of birds round a cattle pen and saw Yellowhammer, Linnet and three Citril Finch, before once again turning right in Gavarnie and proceeding into the Ossoue Valley. Here, we had our lunch at our favourite spot beneath the cliffs, overlooking the butterfly-rich meadow.

Today the lower temperatures precluded any attempt at finding butterflies, but we did have good views of many Griffin Vultures, three Golden Eagles and a pair of Lammergeiers circling the crags above our heads, while the large flock of Alpine Choughs that we had seen on a previous day, were once again in evidence.

The afternoon was spent gradually making our way up and then back down the rough track that ends at the Barrage d'Ossoue, stopping at likely looking spots and taking short walks to explore the surrounding terrain. We ended up dodging cold squally showers for the rest of the day, but did see some good bird species including Raven, Whinchat, Stonechat, Dipper, and both a Yellow Wagtail (western European race) and a Melodious Warbler, the latter a rather late migrant. A magnificent specimen of the endemic Pyrenean Saxifrage (*Saxifraga pyrenaica*) was found growing out of a cliff, while other plants were Cypress Spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*), the berries of Pyrenean Honeysuckle (*Lonicera pyrenaica*) and Maiden Pink (*Dianthus deltoides*).

It was then back down the familiar road to Gédre, packed ready for the early start the following morning, then enjoyed the last of the wonderful gourmet meals of the trip.

Day 8

Saturday 13th September

Weather: cold with showers

We rose at 5am the next morning and, after a quick breakfast, said our farewells to Odile, before leaving for the airport at Pau in plenty of time to catch the early morning flight to Stansted. Skirting Lourdes (where the following day the Pope was due to perform an open-air mass), we joined the autoroute at Tarbes and arrived at the airport just as the heavens opened again.

Mark then rejoined the group at the check-in area after returning the minibus and farewells were exchanged, along with hopes of meeting up again in the future, before he left to get a taxi to Pau railway station with a member of the party who was also staying on in France.

Despite the unusually inconsistent weather during our stay in these magical mountains, everyone agreed that we had enjoyed a terrific week seeing many good birds (especially raptors), many rare and distinctive plants, some late butterflies and of course the magnificent Pyrenean scenery.

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Species Lists

Birds

LITTLE GREBE – *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Five birds seen on Lac de Gave on day 4

GREY HERON – *Ardea cinerea*

Singles seen on days 1, 4 & 6

MALLARD – *Anas platyrhynchos*

Numerous on Lac de Gave on day 4

BLACK KITE – *Milvus migrans*

Migrant birds seen on days 4 & 5

RED KITE – *Milvus milvus*

Occasional, probably on migration?

LAMMERGEIER – *Gypaetus barbatus*

Good views of perhaps four different birds 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

NORTHERN SPARROWHAWK – *Accipiter nisus*

Only on day 5 at Port de Boucharo

GOSHAWK – *Accipiter gentilis*

A distant bird at Lac des Gloriettes on day 2, good close views at Cirque de Troumouse on day 7

COMMON BUZZARD – *Buteo buteo*

Occasional

GOLDEN EAGLE – *Aquila chrysaetos*

Seen every day except day 5

BOOTED EAGLE – *Hieraaetus pennatus*

Four birds seen on migration from the hotel and two at Hautacam, all on day 4

SHORT-TOED EAGLE – *Circaetus gallicus*

A single bird seen close at Lac des Gloriettes on day 2

COMMON KESTREL – *Falco tinnunculus*

Frequent sightings, especially in the Ossoue Valley

HOBBY – *Falco subbuteo*

Superb and dramatic close views of a bird hunting a House Martin at Lac des Gloriettes on day 2

PEREGRINE FALCON – *Falco peregrinus*

Single distant views on days 3, 4 & 5

PTARMIGAN – *Lagopus mutus*

Close views of three birds in summer plumage at Port de Boucharo

QUAIL – *Coturnix coturnix*

A single bird on migration flushed by the leader at Hautacam on day 4

MOORHEN – *Gallinula chloropus*

A single bird seen at Lac de Gave on day 4

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER – *Charadrius dubius*

Three birds seen on gravel at Lac de Gave on day 4

GREEN SANDPIPER – *Tringa ochropus*

Five birds seen on the Lac de Gave on day 4

COMMON SANDPIPER – *Actitis hypoleucos*

Two birds seen on Lac de Gave on day 4

ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON – *Columba livia*

Occasional

WOOD PIGEON – *Columba palumbus*

Occasional

COLLARED DOVE – *Streptopelia decaocto*

Frequent near habitation

TAWNY OWL – *Strix aluco*

Heard most nights at the hotel

SWIFT – *Apus apus*

Two birds seen on day 2 and one on day 7

KINGFISHER – *Alcedo atthis*

Frequent at Lac de Gave on day 4 & occasional on the stream at the hotel

GREEN WOODPECKER – *Picus viridis*

Occasional

BLACK WOODPECKER – *Dryocopus martius*

A fleeting glimpse of a bird near the hotel on day 5

GREAT-SPOTTED WOODPECKER – *Dendrocopos major*

Surprisingly only seen on day 3, and heard on day 6

SKYLARK – *Alauda arvensis*

A single bird seen at Hautacam on day 4

SWALLOW – *Hirundo rustica*

Birds seen on most days, the migration well under way

HOUSE MARTIN – *Delichon urbica*

Very common on migration

CRAG MARTIN – *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Frequent

WATER PIPIT – *Anthus spinoletta*

Abundant at higher altitudes

MEADOW PIPET – *Anthus pratensis*

One bird seen on day 2

WHITE WAGTAIL – *Motacilla alba*

Common

GREY WAGTAIL – *Motacilla cinerea*

Frequent near water

YELLOW WAGTAIL – *Motacilla flava flavissima*

A single bird of the West European race in the Ossoue Valley on day 7

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*

Good close views of three 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

COMMON REDSTART – *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Frequent, on migration

WHINCHAT – *Saxicola rubetra*

One male seen on day 2, and at least five birds in the Ossoue Valley on day 7

STONECHAT – *Saxicola torquata*

A single male seen in the Ossoue Valley on day 7

NORTHERN WHEATEAR – *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Frequent, seen on most days at higher altitudes

ROCK THRUSH – *Monticola saxatilis*

One bird glimpsed at Lac des Gloriettes and another at Lac de Gaube on day 6

RING OUZEL – *Turdus torquatus*

At least three birds seen at Lac des Gloriettes on day 2

BLACKBIRD – *Turdus merula*

Common

SONG THRUSH – *Turdus philomelos*

A single bird seen at Gavarnie on day 3

MISTLE THRUSH – *Turdus viscivorus*

At least two birds at Gédre on day 1

BLACKCAP – *Sylvia atricapilla*

Male and female birds seen at Gavarnie on day 3

MELODIOUS WARBLER – *Hippolais polyglotta*

A single male seen in the Ossoue Valley on day 7

CHIFFCHAFF – *Phylloscopus collybita*

Frequent on migration

WILLOW WARBLER – *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Frequent on migration

GOLDCREST – *Regulus regulus*

Only in the pine woods at Gavarnie and Lac de Gaube

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER – *Muscicapa striata*

A single bird seen at Lac de Gaube on day 6

PIED FLYCATCHER – *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Occasional

CRESTED TIT – *Parus cristatus*

Good close views at Lac de Gaube

BLUE TIT – *Parus caeruleus*

Occasional

COAL TIT – *Parus ater*

Frequent

GREAT TIT – *Parus major*

Occasional

NUTHATCH – *Sitta europaea*

Occasional

TREECREEPER – *Certhia familiaris*

Single birds at Gavarnie and Lac de Gaube on days 3 & 6

WALLCREEPER – *Tichodroma muraria*

Absolutely amazing views of a bird hunting insects on a stone bridge near Gavarnie village. It stayed for about 10 minutes, only a few feet away from the group!

STARLING – *Sturnus vulgaris*

Occasional

JAY – *Garrulus glandarius*

Frequent

MAGPIE – *Pica pica*

Frequent

ALPINE CHOUGH – *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

Common, usually in much larger flocks than the next species, one containing at least 100 individuals

CHOUGH – *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Frequent, usually only in pairs

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 two sites at Gavarnie on day 3, and three birds on the road to Troumouse on day 7

SERIN – *Serinus serinus*
Occasional

GOLDFINCH – *Carduelis carduelis*
Occasional

GREENFINCH – *Carduelis chloris*
Occasional

LINNET – *Acanthis cannabina*
Occasional at higher levels

CROSSBILL – *Miliarialcalandra*
Good views at Gavarnie on day 3 and of a pair at Pont d'Espagne on day 6 inexplicably licking a stone wall, presumably for minerals or salts?

YELLOWHAMMER – *Emberiza citrinella*
Only seen on days 4 & 7

Plants [(L) indicates leaves & (F) fruits only.]

Scientific Name	English Name (if any)	Location
FERNS		
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	Occasional, rocks
<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 Valley
<i>A. septentrionale</i>	Forked Spleenwort	Lac des Gloriettes
<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>	Mountain Male Fern	Occasional
<i>D. submontana</i>	Rigid Buckler Fern	Lac des Gloriettes

Scientific Name	English Name (if any)	Location
<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
CONIFERS		
<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
SALICAEAE		
<i>Salix aurita</i>	Eared Willow	Widespread
<i>S. caprea</i>	Goat Willow	Occasional
<i>S. pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Willow	Gavarnie
<i>S. eleagnos</i>		Lac des Gloriettes
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	Occasional
BETULACEAE		
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	Streamsides
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	Frequent, woodland
CORYLACEAE		
<i>Coryllus avellana</i>	Hazel	Common
FAGACEAE		
<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
ULMACEAE		
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm	Occasional, woodland
<i>U. minor</i>	Small-leaved Elm	Frequent, valleys
URTICACEAE		
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Wall Pellitory	Occasional walls
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	Common
LORANTHACEAE		
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	Occasional, Gédre etc
POLYGONACEAE		
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	Abundant
<i>R. acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	Frequent
<i>R. scutatus</i>	French Sorrel	Frequent, rocks & scree

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CHENOPODIACEAE		
<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>	Good King Henry	Frequent, Lac des Gloriettes etc
AMARANTHACEAE		
<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>	Pigweed	Gédre
CARYOPHYLLACEAE		
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	Frequent
<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 ciliata</i>	a Sandwort	Port de Boucharo
<i>Paronychia kapela ssp serpyllifolia</i>		Rocks, Port de Boucharo etc
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Soapwort	Occasional, roadsides
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Moss Campion	Occasional, rocks
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	Frequent
<i>S. media</i>	Common Chickweed	Abundant weed
RANUNCULACEAE		
<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	Monkshood	Frequent
<i>A. anthora</i>	Yellow Monkshood	Frequent on limestone
<i>Aquilegia pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Columbine	Gavarnie (endemic)
<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 des Gloriettes
CRUCIFERAE		
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse	Common weed
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bittercress	Frequent
<i>Hutbinsia alpina</i>	Chamois Cress	Rocks, Port de Boucharo
RESEDACEAE		
<i>Reseda glauca</i>	Pyrenean Mignonette	Lac des Gloriettes (endemic)
<i>R. phyteuma</i>	Corn Mignonette	Gavarnie
CRASSULACEAE		
<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
<i>Sempervivum montanum</i>	Mountain House Leek	Gédre
SAXIFRAGACEAE		
<i>Saxifraga aizoides</i>	Yellow Mountain Saxifrage	Frequent, streamsides
<i>S. longifolia ssp longifolia</i>	Pyrenean Saxifrage	Higher Ossoue Valley, endemic
PARNASSIACEAE		
<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	Grass of Parnassus	Common, Damp areas

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GROSSULARIACEAE		
<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	Mountain Currant	Occasional, Ossoue Valley
PLATANACEAE		
<i>Platanus x hybridus</i>	London Plane	Occasional, roadsides
ROSACEAE		
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine Lady's-mantle	Common
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Occasional
<i>Filipendula 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>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>R. glauca</i>	Glaucous Rose	Lac des Gloriettes
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	Occasional, woods
<i>S. aucuparia</i>	Rowan	Frequent
LEGUMINOSAEAE		
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> ssp <i>pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean Kidney Vetch	Port de Boucharo
<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
OXALIDACEAE		
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i> (L)	Wood Sorrel	Common, woods
GERANIACEAE		
<i>Geranium cinereum</i>	Ashy Crane's-bill	Scree, endemic, Pt de Boucharo
<i>G. molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	Occasional
<i>G. robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Frequent
<i>G. sylvaticum</i> (L)	Wood Crane's-bill	Common
LINACEAE		
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax	Occasional
EUPHORBIACEAE		
<i>Euphorbia amygaloides</i>	Wood Spurge	Occasional, woods
<i>E. cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge	Frequent, Ossoue Valley

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<i>E. hyberna</i> (L.)	Irish Spurge	Ossoue valley, Gavarnie
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i> (L.)	Dog's Mercury	Occasional, woodland
POLYGALACEAE		
<i>P. serpyllifolia</i>	Heath Milkwort	Pont d'Espagne
ACERACEAE		
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	Occasional
<i>A. pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	Frequent
AQUIFOLIACEAE		
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	Occasional, woods
BUXACEAE		
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	Occasional
RHAMNACEAE		
<i>Rhamnus alpinus</i>	Alpine Buckthorn	Lac des Gloriettes etc
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder Buckthorn	Lac de Gaube
TILACEAE		
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	Common, woods
MALVACEAE		
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow	Occasional
<i>M. sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	Occasional
THYMELACEAE		
<i>Daphne cneorum</i> (L. & F)	Garland Flower	Occasional, turf, Troumouse
<i>D. laureola</i> ssp <i>philippi</i> (L.)	Spurge Laurel	Frequent
GUTTIFERAE		
<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
CISTACEAE		
<i>H. nummularium</i>	Common Rockrose	Common
ONAGRACEAE		
<i>Epilobium anagallidifolium</i>	Alpine Willow-herb	Damp mountain turf, frequent
<i>E. angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willow-herb	Occasional, woods
CORNACEAE		
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	Frequent, woods
ARIALACEAE		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Abundant
UMBELLIFERAE		
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Angelica	Frequent, damp places
<i>Astrantia major</i>	Pink Masterwort	Occasional
<i>Bupleurum falcatum</i> ssp <i>cernuum</i>	Sickle Hare's-ear	Rare, Lac des Gloriettes
<i>B. angulosum</i>	Pyrenean Hare's-ear	Gavarnie, endemic
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Occasional, Ossoue Valley
<i>Eryngium bougatii</i>	Pyrenean Eryngo	Frequent, stony places, endemic

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<i>H. sphondylium ssp 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>Peucedanum ostruthium</i>	Masterwort	Lac des Gloriettes
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip	Pont d'Espagne
MONOTROPACEAE		
<i>Monotropa hypopitys</i>	Yellow Bird's-nest	Rare, Gavarnie
ERICACEAE		
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (berries)</i>	Bearberry	Acid rocks, Lac des Gloriettes etc
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling	Frequent on acid soils
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell Heather	Frequent
<i>Rhododendron ferrugineum (L.)</i>	Alpenrose	Frequent, rocky places
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus (berries)</i>	Bilberry	Occasional
<i>V. vitis-idaea (berries)</i>	Cowberry	Frequent
PRIMULACEAE		
<i>Primula elatior (L. & seedheads)</i>	Oxlip	Gavarnie
<i>P. veris (L. & seedheads)</i>	Cowslip	Seedheads, frequent
PLUMBAGINACEAE		
<i>Armeria maritima ssp alpina</i>	Mountain Thrift	Lac de Gaube
OLEACEAE		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	Frequent
GENTIANACEAE		
<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	Field Gentian	Frequent, Las des Gloriettes etc
<i>G. ciliata</i>	Fringed Gentian	Frequent, Alpine turf
<i>G. cruciata</i>	Cross Gentian	Gavarnie
<i>G. verna</i>	Spring Gentian	Port de Boucharo
<i>Swertia perennis</i>	Marsh Felwort	Ossoue Valley, Lac des Gloriettes
ASCLEPIADACEAE		
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	Common
RUBIACEAE		
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	Frequent, grassy places
<i>Gallium aparine</i>	Cleavers	Abundant
<i>G. pumilum</i>	Small Bedstraw	Gédre
<i>G. verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	Common, grassland
CONVOLVULACEAE		
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	Frequent weed
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Large Bindweed	Occasional
BORAGINACEAE		
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	Frequent, grassy places
<i>Pulmonaria officinalis (L.)</i>	Lungwort	Frequent, woods
VERBENACEAE		
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain	Occasional, Ossoue Valley etc

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LABIATAE		
<i>Mentha longifolia</i>	Horse Mint	Common
<i>Acinos alpinus</i>	Alpine Basil Thyme	Occasional, rocks & scree
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil	Common
<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>Scutellaria alpina</i>	Alpine Skullcap	Rare, rocks, Port de Boucharo
<i>Sideritis hyssopifolia</i>	Sideritis	Occasional, Lac des Gloriettes etc
<i>Stachys alopecurus (seedheads)</i>	Yellow Betony	Occasional, 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, scree, endemic
<i>T. scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage	Common, woods
<i>Thymus praecox ssp polytrichus</i>	Wild Thyme	Frequent
SCROPHULARACEAE		
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Frequent, walls
<i>Digitalis purpurea (L)</i>	Foxglove	Frequent
<i>Linaria alpina</i>	Alpine Toadflax	Rocks, Port de Boucharo etc
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common Cow-wheat	Occasional, woods
<i>M. sylvaticum</i>	Wood Cow-wheat	Occasional
<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. serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	Frequent, grassland
<i>Euphasia alpina</i>	Pink Eyebright	Common, Lac des Gloriettes etc
GLOBULACEAE		
<i>Globularia repens (L)</i>	Creeping Globularia	Rocks, endemic, Gavarnie
GESNERIACEAE		
<i>Ramonda myconi</i>	Ramonda (endemic)	Shady rocks, Gavarnie, Ossoue
LENTIBULARIACEAE		
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common Butterwort	Damp flushes, Lac des Gloriettes
<i>P. longifolia (L)</i>	Long-leaved Butterwort	Damp cliffs, Cirque de Gavarnie
PLANTAGINACEAE		
<i>Plantago alpina</i>	Alpine Plantain	Frequent, alpine turf
<i>P. lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	Common
<i>P. media</i>	Hoary Plantain	Frequent
CAPRIFOLIACEAE		
<i>Lonicera perichlymenum</i>	Common Honeysuckle	Occasional, lower valleys
<i>L. pyrenaica (L & F)</i>	Pyrenean Honeysuckle	Common, endemic
<i>Sambucus nigra (L & F)</i>	Common Elder	Frequent, woods
<i>S. racemosa (L & F)</i>	Alpine Elder	Occasional, mountain scrub
<i>S. ebulus (L & F)</i>	Dwarf Elder	Gavarnie
<i>Viburnum lantana (L)</i>	Wayfaring Tree	Occasional
<i>V. opulus (L)</i>	Guelder Rose	Occasional

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DIPSACACEAE		
<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
CAMPANULACEAE		
<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
COMPOSITAE		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Common
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	Occasional
<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. acanlis</i>	Stemless Carline 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>E. acer</i>	Blue Fleabane	Gavarnie
<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>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Goldenrod	Frequent
<i>Urospermum delectchampii</i>	Urospermum	Higher Ossoue Valley
LILACEAE		
<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	Lac de Gaube
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

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<i>Carex echinata</i>	Star Sedge	Frequent, bogs etc
<i>C. atrata</i>	Jet Sedge	Damp rocks, Gavarnie
<i>C. demissa</i>	Common Yellow Sedge	Occasional, Pont d'Espagne
<i>C. nigra</i>	Common Sedge	Occasional
<i>C. sylvatica</i>	Wood Sedge	Frequent, woods
POACEAE		
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	Frequent, meadows
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	Frequent, waste places
<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>	Tor Grass	Occasional, Lac des Gloriettes
<i>Briqua media</i>	Common Quaking Grass	Frequent, meadows
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot Grass	Frequent, meadows
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	Occasional
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent, meadows
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	Occasional, waste places
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	Frequent, meadows
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melick	Frequent, woods
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	Mat Grass	Frequent, acid pasture
<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	Common Flote Grass	Frequent, damp places
<i>Phleum alpinum</i>	Alpine Cat's-tail	Mountain grassland
<i>P. pratense</i>	Timothy	Frequent, meadows
<i>Poa alpina</i>	Alpine Meadow-grass	Mountain grassland
<i>P. annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	Frequent, waste places
<i>P. nemoralis</i>	Wood Meadow-grass	Frequent, woods
<i>P. trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass	Frequent, meadows, woods
<i>Molinea caerulea</i>	Purple Moor Grass	Frequent
ORCHIDACEAE		
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis ssp alpina</i>	Alpine Marsh Orchid	Frequent, damp meadows
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea (seedheads)</i>	Fragrant Orchid	Lac des Gloriettes
<i>Epipactis helleborine (seedheads)</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine	Woods, Gavarnie
<i>E. atrorubens (seedheads)</i>	Dark Red Helleborine	Frequent

Note. Although many of the plants are stated as common or frequent, because of the time of the year actual flowering blooms were often very scarce.

Butterflies

SWALLOWTAIL – *Papilio machaon*

Two seen at Gavarnie on day 3

WOOD WHITE – *Leptidea sinapis*

One seen at the meadow in the Lower Ossoue Valley on day 5

LARGE WHITE – *Pieris brassicae*

Seen most days

SMALL WHITE – *Artogeia rapae*

Seen most days

GREEN-VEINED WHITE – *Pieris napi*

Only at Lac des Gloriettes on day 2

MOUNTAIN DAPPLED WHITE – *Auchloe simplonia*

Occasional at Port de Boucharo on day 5

MOUNTAIN CLOUDED YELLOW – *Colias phicomone*

Two seen at Port de Boucharo on day 5

CLOUDED YELLOW – *Colias crocea*

Common, seen on most days

BERGER'S CLOUDED YELLOW – *Colias alfacariensis*

Occasional

BRIMSTONE – *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Only in the Lower Ossoue Valley on day 5

SMALL COPPER – *Lycaena phlaeas*

Occasional

SCARCE COPPER – *Lycaena vigeureae*

One seen at the meadow in the Lower Ossoue Valley on day 5

SOOTY COPPER – *Lycaena tityrus*

One seen at the meadow in the Lower Ossoue Valley on day 5

LONG-TAILED BLUE – *Lampides boeticus*

Frequent at Lac des Gloriettes and Port de Boucharo on days 2 & 5

COMMON BLUE – *Polyommatus icarus*

Occasional

ESCHER'S BLUE – *Polyommatus escheri*

Only in the Lower Ossoue Valley on day 5

SILVER-STUDDERED BLUE – *Plebejus argus*

Only in the Lower Ossoue Valley on day 5

IDAS BLUE – *Plebejus idas*

One seen at Lac des Gloriettes on day 2

BROWN ARGUS – *Aricia agestis*

Occasional

TURQUOISE BLUE – *Plebicula dorylas*

Occasional at the Lac des Gloriettes and Lower Ossoue Valley

CHALK-HILL BLUE – *Lysandra coridon*

The commonest butterfly

ADONIS BLUE – *Lysandra bellargus*

Only seen in the Lower Ossoue Valley on day 5

WALL BROWN – *Lasiommata megera*

Occasional

LARGE WALL BROWN – *Lasiommata maera*

Only at Port de Boucharo on day 5

SMALL HEATH – *Coenonympha pamphilis*

Frequent

MEADOW BROWN – *Maniola jurtina*

Frequent

MOUNTAIN RINGLET – *Erebia epiphron*

Only at Port de Boucharo on day 5

WESTERN BRASSY RINGLET – *Erebia arvernensis*

Frequent at Port de Boucharo on day 5

PYRENEAN BRASSY RINGLET – *Erebia rondoni*

Lac de Gaube on day 6

MARbled WHITE – *Melanargia galathea*

Occasional

COMMON GRAYLING – *Hipparchia semele*

Only at Lac des Gloriettes on day 2

LESSER PURPLE EMPEROR – *Apatura ilia*

A male and female at Lac de Gave on day 4

SILVER-WASHED FRITILLARY – *Argynnis paphia*

Ossoue Valley on day 5

QUEEN OF SPAIN FRITILLARY – *Issoria lathonia*

Gavarnie and the Lower Ossoue Valley on days 3 & 5

HIGH BROWN FRITILLARY – *Argynnis adippe*

Probable individuals seen in the Lower Ossoue Valley on day 5

CAMBERWELL BEAUTY – *Nymphalis antiopa*

Individuals seen at Lac des Gloriettes and Lac de Gave on days 2 & 4

LARGE TORTOISESHELL – *Nymphalis polychloris*

One seen at Port de Boucharo on day 5

SMALL TORTOISESHELL – *Aglais urticae*

Occasional

RED ADMIRAL – *Vanessa atalanta*

Occasional

PAINTED LADY – *Vanessa cardui*

Only at Lac de Gave on day 4

COMMA – *Polygonia c-album*

One seen in the Lower Ossoue Valley on day 5

MAP – *Araschnia levana*

One seen in the Lower Ossoue Valley on day 5

MEADOW FRITILLARY – *Mellicta parthenoides*

One seen Lac de Gave on day 4

LARGE GRIZZLED SKIPPER – *Pyrgus alveus*

Lac des Gloriettes on day 2

OBERTHUR'S GRIZZLED SKIPPER – *Pyrgus amoricanus*

Lac des Gloriettes and Lower Ossoue Valley on days 2 & 5

LULWORTH SKIPPER – *Thymelicus acteon*

Lac des Gloriettes on day 2

ESSEX SKIPPER – *Thymelicus lineolis*

Lac des Gloriettes and Lower Ossoue Valley on days 2 & 5

SILVER-SPOTTED SKIPPER

Lac des Gloriettes on day 2

LARGE SKIPPER – *Ochlodes sylvanus*

Lac des Gloriettes on day 2

Mammals

ALPINE MARMOT – *Marmota marmota*

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

CHAMOIS/IZARD – *Rupicapra rupicapra*

Distant views of a male at the Cirque de Gavarnie

RED SQUIRREL – *Sciurus vulgaris*

Seen at Gavarnie and Lac de Gaube

Reptiles and amphibians

WALL LIZARD – *Podarcis muralis*

Common

GREEN LIZARD – *Lacerta viridis*

Occasional

ADDER – *Vipera berus*

A young male basking on rocks on day 1

COMMON FROG – *Rana temporaria*

Occasional

MARSH FROG – *Rana perezi*

A large well-marked individual at Lac de Gaube on day 6

PYRENEAN BROOK SALAMANDER – *Euproctus asper*

In the usual place at the Cirque de Troumouse

Fish

BROWN TROUT – *Salmo trutta*

Other invertebrates

HUMMING-BIRD HAWK MOTH	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
6-SPOT BURNET MOTH	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</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 caerulea</i>
RED-VEINED DARTER	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>
STAG BEETLE	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>
DEVIL'S COACH HORSE BEETLE	<i>Staphylinus olens</i>
MILLIPEDE	<i>Tachypodoiulus niger</i>
JERSEY TIGER MOTH	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>
LEOPARD SLUG	<i>Limax maximus</i>
FOUR-SPOTTED FOOTMAN MOTH	<i>Lithosia quadra</i>
HAWK MOTH LARVAE	<i>Sphingidae ssp</i>
COMMON FIELD GRASSHOPPER	<i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>
GOLDEN-RINGED DRAGONFLY	<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>
a BURNET MOTH	<i>Zygaena lavanduli</i>
CICADA ssp	<i>Cicadetta ssp</i>
LONGHORN BEETLE	<i>Monochamus galloprovincialis</i>
LONGHORN BEETLE	<i>Stenocorus cursor</i>
GRASS EGGAR MOTH LARVAE	<i>Lasiocampa trifolii</i>
BEAUTIFUL DEMOISELLE	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>
SILVER Y MOTH	<i>Autographa gamma</i>
HARVESTMAN SPIDER	<i>Leiobunum ssp</i>