



SPANISH PYRENEES

June 7 – 16, 2010

*Trip Report &
Species List*



SPANISH PYRENEES

June 2010 – 9 Days

HIGHLIGHTS: Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Lammergeier
- Wallcreeper
- Calandra Lark
- Citril Finch
- Eurasian Eagle-Owl
- Golden Eagle
- Black-eared Wheatear
- Blue Rock Thrush
- Firecrest
- European Bee-eater
- Black-eared Wheater
- Yellow-billed Cough
- Spanish Moon Moth
- Butterflies galore!
- Orchids galore:
Bee, Lady's Slipper,
Lizard, Elderflower,
Burnt-tip, Late Spider,
Early Spider, Lesser
Butterfly, Military,
Pyramidal, Fragrant,
Provence and more!

Leaders: Steve Bird and Gina Nichol

Day 1 – Monday, June 7, 2010:

The group arrived in Barcelona around noon and we were soon heading west out of the city. A stop at Laguna de Candasnos turned out to be quite productive with several **Marsh Harriers** including an adult male, many **Common Swifts**, **American Coots**, **Little** and **Great Crested Grebes**, **Shoveler**, **Red-crested Pochards** with chicks and **Common Pochard**. The area was teeming with dragonflies and we had good views of **Scarlet Darter**, 60 or more **Lesser Emperors**, **Red-veined Darter**, and **Keeled Skimmer**.

We departed Candasnos taking a circuitous route along some canals and aqueducts as we tried to traverse the open steppe habitat. After several twists and turns, we had to admit that we were lost but along the way we enjoyed excellent views of several **Calandra Larks** as well as **Hoopoes**, **Bee-eaters**, **Red Kite**, **Black Kite**, **Lesser Kestrel**, **Crested Lark**, and **Red-legged Partridge**. Near one canal, we encountered a **Golden Eagle** on the ground which took flight and gave excellent close views.

Eventually, we found a man who wondered why we were there and helpfully directed us back to civilization. Our first **Griffon Vulture** was spotted as we realized that there was no way to get from the dirt track to the main road, although the road was right in front of us. Eventually, we made our way north to Loporzano and our accommodation for the evening.

Day 2 – Tuesday, June 8, 2010

We started our first full day of the trip with an early walk around Loporzano. There were many **Common Swifts**



White Storks nesting on the church overlooking the village of Loporzano.



It didn't take long to get comfortable at Hotel Uson!

flying overhead and some **Barn Swallows** were seen winging by. **House Sparrows** and **Spotless Starlings** were plentiful on and around the roofs and a pair of **White Storks** were nesting on the church tower. Our walk through some open areas near town yielded nice views of **Melodious Warbler** and **Corn Bunting** as a **Black Kite** circled overhead. A **Woodchat Shrike** was seen well perched along side the path and **Serin, Blue** and **Great Tits** were seen.

After breakfast, drove up above town to bird an area overlooking a large valley with a view of Monteragon Castle. We parked by the cemetery and walked a track past some almond groves. A **Wood Lark** perched on a bush showed very well for us and we had varying views of another **Hoopoe** and a few **Bee-eaters**. **Griffon Vultures** soared above as a **Subalpine Warbler** got away without most of us getting a view. A **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** flew in and fed on some honeysuckle flowers doing its best to evade being photographed. Down a rocky track we scoped a **Rock Sparrow** and ticked **Tawny Pipit** and **Common Stonechat**.

We continued north toward the Hecho Valley stopping just outside of town to check an area for Ortolan Bunting. The bunting did not show but we did see **Spanish Fritillary, Girl Bunting, Garden Warbler** and **Black Redstart**. We chased some butterflies down the road and identified **Small Skipper, Bath White, Pale Clouded Yellow, Knapweed Fritillary, Mother Shipton Moth**, and several **Southern White Admirals**. We also found our first **Bee Orchid** here.

Later on we arrived at our lovely lodge in the foothills of the Pyrenees. We checked into our rooms and then came back down to see and photograph the **Spanish Moon Moth** that was perched by the main door. On the floor below there was a **Cream-spot Tiger Moth** and after both were well photographed we enjoyed a drink in the garden and watched the cliffs above for Lammergeier. All at once a **Booted Eagle** dropped in front of us as it was being chased by **Carrion Crows**. It continued its free fall out of sight. Back to the cliffs, we ticked our first **Egyptian Vultures** and there were several **Griffon Vultures**, a species that seemed ever present throughout the rest of the trip. A **Golden Eagle** soared over quite high which made us appreciate our close view earlier in the day. Later on we enjoyed a nice dinner prepared by our hosts Lucia and served by her husband Imanol.



Spanish Moon Moth appeared twice on the wall outside the hotel door.



Bocas del Inferno was the first place we looked for Wallcreeper.



After our first very wet try, we had to settle for views of this carving of Wallcreeper at the hotel.

Day 3 – Wednesday, June 9, 2010

There was heavy rain overnight but by the morning it was clear. The prebreakfast birders walked down the road from the lodge and found **Serin**, a male **Red-backed Shrike**, a close **Firecrest**, and nesting **Crag Martins** in the nearby tunnel. As we made our way back for breakfast, **European Robin** and **Blackcap** were seen.

After breakfast, we noticed that it was threatening rain so we headed down to the lowlands where it was dryer. As we travelled, we passed by several **Black Kites** perched on the power poles and some of us caught a view of a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** as it flew across the road. We continued toward the village of Berdún and turned off on a small road leading out of town through some farms. A **Little Owl** posed on top of a farm building not far from the road and we enjoyed great views of it. We crossed over the Rio Veral and got quick views of **Rock Sparrows** on the bridge and a **Common Sandpiper** below. Just beyond the bridge we pulled off and parked by a building with a light had some interesting moths including **Mother Shipton**, **Clouded Buff**, **Yellow Shell**, **Cream-spot Tiger** and an **Antlion**. As we began our walk, a **Hoopoe** flew off quickly. We checked the area for flowers some of which were identified later by photos including **Bee Orchid**, **Late Spider Orchid**, **Early Spider Orchid**, **Lesser Butterfly Orchid**, **Military Orchid**, **Pyramidal Orchid**, **Fragrant Orchid**, and **Blue Aphyllanthes**. At the edge of the river, we saw a few birds including **White Wagtail**, a family of **Blue Tits**, a very skulky **Nightingale** and **Yellow-legged Gull** and **House Martins** were seen flying over.

We moved to the other side of river and found a **Little Ringed Plover** working around a puddle not far from where we parked. We got better views of the **Rock Sparrows** on the bridge as well as **Collared Dove** and **Turtle Dove** perched on some power lines on the other side of the river. A look back at the puddle produced male and female **Yellowhammers** and our survey of the area found **Spotted Flycatcher** and some more of the flowers mentioned above. After our picnic lunch, we headed back up the mountain and checked an area called Gabardito. As we arrived in the car park, more than a dozen **Citril Finches** were seen feeding on the open ground allowing the best views ever of this species. We walked a wooded trail and found **Crested Tits**, a **Red Squirrel**, and **Coal Tit**. On the way back we added some nice looking **Linnets** and a **Mistle Thrush**. Flower highlights included some **Helleborines** and **Pyrenean Aquilegia**.



Scope view of the pattern on this Bug Orchid.



This endemic Spanish Tiger Moth was a nice find near Rio Veral.



Bee Orchid near Rio Veral.

Day 4 – Thursday, June 10, 2010

A prebreakfast check of Bocas del Inferno for Wallcreeper came up empty and had stood under a rock ledge for cover from the rain. The skies were again threatening so after breakfast, we decided to go down to the lowlands again to avoid the rain. We drove to the Riglos situated at the southern limit of the Pyrenees and stopped at an overlook to admire the awesome red sandstone towers of Los Mallos de Riglos. As we admired the view, some **Yellow-legged Gulls** were seen flying up the river gorge below us. **Crag Martins** were around as well and were becoming a common sight any time we were around rock cliffs. We continued on toward Riglos village stopping for good views of a showy **Black-eared Wheatear**.



Riglos made for a picturesque visit.

We reached the village and began walking up toward the towers. A nice male **Black Redstart** showed the white on the wings and a pair of **Blue Rock Thrushes** was seen briefly as they cavorted on the adjacent hill. The wind had kicked up quite strong but the **Crag Martins** continued their acrobatics tending to their nest on the face of the cliff. A few **Rock Sparrows** were more difficult to see on the cliff as they blended in with the background. Eileen spotted two **Peregrine Falcons** flying above one of the peaks and there were several **Griffon Vultures** around. Three **Red-billed Choughs** flew in just as we were about to make our way back toward the village. At one point some playful dogs decided to include us in their roughhousing but Jill sorted them out and sent them off quickly.



Lizard Orchid was a great find during a stop on the way to San Juan de La Pena.

After our picnic lunch, we checked an area overlooking the town which turned out to be a new Visitor Centre with exhibits about the area. The local guide, David gave us an orientation and the reviewed the birds that were around, many of which we had already seen. Later on, we travelled toward San Juan de la Pena stopping along the road in what turned out to be a marvellous area for flowers. Steve spotted a **Short-toed Treecreeper** working up a willow tree and some **Great Reed Warblers** were singing in the reeds behind. The flowers and butterflies kept us busy for quite a while but the afternoon was passing so we continued on up to the monastery and walked a tract into the forest. It was quiet bird wise offering only **Nuthatch** and **Crested Tit** but the view was spectacular. On the way back, Eileen and Liz had very brief looks at **Black Woodpecker** as it flew over the car park and disappeared into the forest.



Morning toast was always a challenge but we got the hang of it after a few days.

Day 5 – Friday, June 11, 2010

The early birders walked up the road and found **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Garden Warbler**, and **Woodchat Shrike**. The skies were still threatening but it was now the fifth day of the trip and we had not seen either of our two main target birds so we decided to make the trek up Gabardito for Woodcreeper. The **Citril Finches** were again in the car park and as we walked the track, a **Red Squirrel** was seen as was a **Marsh Tit**. The scenery was stunning despite the low cloud and as we approached the cliff, several **Red-billed Choughs** were seen flying above. Just as we reached the observation point, it began to hail, which we didn't mind, as it was not as wet as rain. But by the time we got settled into our spot, the hail pellets turned to rain and it rained heavily dampening our spirits and our chances of seeing our target. We persisted hoping the rain would subside but it just got heavier and soon revealed the lack of waterproofness in our gear. Bad luck had prevailed. We were drenched and cold and the Wallcreeper was no where in sight. We decided it best to retreat as the track had become a flowing stream. Soaking wet, we returned to the hotel to dry out and work on some photos to identify some of the flowers and butterflies we had seen so far. Imanol started the fire in the fireplace for us (the first time they ever had a fire in June!). As the afternoon progressed, the clouds began to lift revealing snow on the peaks. It was the first time Lucia and Imanol had seen snow in June in 20 years.

At 3 PM, to our surprise the sun came out. We rallied and went to Siresa to have a look around town and see the monastery. From the centre of town, we watched **Griffon** and **Egyptian Vultures** rising over the valley and both **Black** and **Red Kites** flying. We drove toward Anso and walked a wooded road where we had our best views of **Crested Tits**. Several **Black-veined White** butterflies were seen as well and our next stop by a tunnel also had some good butterflies including **Clouded Apollo**.

Since it was relatively clear in the evening, we decided to try for **Eurasian Eagle-Owl**. We drove down the valley to a site that Steve knew well and waited for dusk. It was a lovely, still evening and we stood in anticipation scanning the hills around us. A **Nightjar** called in the distance and just when it was getting dark, the magnificent **Eurasian Eagle-Owl** flew across the valley in front of us and perched on a small tree on the ridge to our left. It allowed scope views for a few minutes before flying off and we were thrilled with this sighting.



Views of Citril Finch were amazingly good in the car park at Gabardito.



The walk up to the Wallcreeper site was dry but it did not last!



Black-veined White showed well for us several times.

Day 6 – Saturday, June 12, 2010

Our luck with the weather was still bad and today was yet another rainy day. After breakfast we were off to Belagua and another valley shrouded in clouds and mist. A **Burnt-tip** orchid was a nice find on a hillside and another stop near a now defunct café at 1430 metres yielded **Northern Wheatear** and **Citril Finch**. We continued up stopping for a **Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush** that appeared in a gully and then vanished. This spot held both **Red-billed** and **Alpine (Yellow-billed) Choughs** and Anne was off finding **Elderflower Orchid** and **Alpine Lady's Mantle**. We could hear **Water Pipits** display fighting but seeing them in the mist was another story. **Eurasian Skylarks** were also heard and some of us could make out their shapes in the clouds. A coffee stop at a ski lodge (in France) was much appreciated and then we continued on to the top of the hill where some of us had very brief views of **Alpine Chough** and **Alpine Accentor**. During our lunch in the mist, we were entertained by a band of cheery cyclists travelling up the hill. Perhaps they knew they were near the top! We headed back stopping again to check for Choughs and Accentors. Instead we were accosted by three pigs which were an odd sight on a mountain top. Working back down the mountain, we stopped at a forest and walked a circuit where there were several flowers and a few birds including **Bullfinch** which was new for the trip. Continuing on, we encountered a herd of hefty cows blocking the narrow road and enjoyed flashbacks to Yellowstone and the Bison jams. Steve manoeuvred the van through the herd but they immediately blocked the road again and Gina's smaller car was less effective at convincing them to move out of the way. Finally, Gordon Mac got out and herded them off the road (something you wouldn't do in Yellowstone!) so Gina's car could pass.

Our last stop of the day was in a gorge with towering cliffs above and ahead of us. We scanned the ridge tops and found a **Peregrine Falcon** perched. Eileen spotted a **Chamois** standing at the skyline and we scoped it. There were plenty of **Buzzards** and **Griffon Vultures** but no Lammergeier. We had made the most of another bad weather day and headed back to the hotel for a lovely meal.

Day 7 – Sunday, June 13, 2010

Today we awoke to clear blue skies. The rain had subsided at least for the moment. There was a distinct sense of urgency to get out while the weather was cooperating and we decided to make another try for the Wallcreeper. We ascended Gabardito and began the trek



Burnt-tip Orchid brightened up our dreary day in Belagua.



Three pigs approached us out of the mist on the border of France!



Poppy fields were a common sight throughout the trip.

up while Eileen and Anne walked down the road to look for flowers. The scenery was stunning as we stopped only briefly to enjoy it pressing on up the track. We arrived at the site and got comfortable scanning the rock face above us. After about ten minutes and both at once, Gina and Steve shouted "**Wallcreeper!**" There it was on the face of the cliff. Over the next half hour, both the male and female Wallcreepers appeared and gave a fantastic show, flying, fluttering their wings, preening, and apparently bringing a snail to a nest to feed their young. What a victory with fabulous views!



A stunning day at to see Wallcreepers!

Mission accomplished we were very pleased and amazed at how quickly we had found the bird. We worked our way back down the track and enjoyed good views of a very close **Firecrest** to Richard's delight. We headed back to hotel for a quick pit stop picking up Anne and Eileen along the way. As we got out of the vehicles, Steve spotted a **Lammergeier** soaring above us around a cliff top. We watched for awhile and ticked distant views of at least two birds.



Pyramidal Orchid

Later on we descended the valley and had our picnic lunch by a river checking the butterflies and flowers. Steve had a quick view of a **Bee Hawkmoth** that got away. Moving on to another area by the Rio Osia near Jasa, we found a **Large Copper** and then we worked our way up the hill stopping at a pub for a coffee that seemed to be a major undertaking for the restaurateur. We reached the Refugio at the top of the road and just as we arrived it started to rain. We climbed up to an alpine meadow which held a few new orchids. Despite the rain, the scenery was stunning. Later on, we returned to the lodge for a lovely dinner and update of our checklist.

Day 8 – Monday, June 14, 2010

This was our last full day in the Pyrenees and we spent it exploring the upper reaches of the Hecho Valley above our lodge. The skies were again cloudy and as we arrived at the car park the rain started again. Anne immediately jumped out of the car and started botanizing thereby inspiring us to brave the elements. We walked slowly up a road overlooking a vast valley with a river below. It was enjoyable despite the rain and our only regret was that the cloud obscured some of the spectacular view. At one point Richard checked out some whitewash on a cliff face and as Gina looked at it she uttered, "Uh, oh!" for on the left side of the whitewash there was a perched **Lammergeier!** Given the weather conditions, the scope had been left back in the car so superstar Steve ran back and got it while we kept a vigil on the bird. Gordon Mac noticed a second **Lammergeier** on the adjacent hillside just as the first bird



Lammergeier – Another victory!

took flight and landed near it. In a few minutes Steve was back with the scope and we all enjoyed amazing views of the two perched birds for several minutes. We had flight views as well as one bird flew down the valley. The other eventually took flight and we watched it soar over the hillside behind us. It was another fantastic triumph!

As we were watching the Lammergeiers, a loud whistle echoed from the valley below. Steve soon found an **Alpine Marmot** by honing in on the sound. We continued along the track adding **Dunnock** and **Yellowhammer** to our list while a large flock of **Red-billed Choughs** took off from the ridge above. Steve explored a small stream that ran by the side of the road and found a **Pyrenean Brook Newt**. In the meantime, one of the **Lammergeiers** had returned to the whitewash spot on the cliff and it was joined by an **Egyptian Vulture**. With scope views were able to compare the size of the birds although the views were not as good as we had previously. On the walk back down, three **Chamois** were seen running down the valley a unique view as we watched them from above.

We headed back down the valley and this time it was Richard's turn to shoe the cows out of the way as we drove along the track. Further down, Steve spotted a **Dipper** on the river and the second vehicle had good views of it. We ate lunch back at the hotel and dried out a bit before heading out for the afternoon. By the time we reached our destination, the sun was back out and the butterflies were becoming active. Several **Common Swifts** were flying low right above our heads and a few **Alpine Swifts** were seen as well. A **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** showed well feeding on **Salvia** and as we walked down the road we had good views of a **Golden Eagle** being mobbed by a **Carrion Crow**. At the bottom of the hill was a lovely field full of flowers and butterflies and we spent the next hour or so investigating the flora and fauna. A **Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth** came into feed on another **Salvia** along side a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** and we attempted to photograph and videotape these tiny gems. We ended the afternoon with a walk through the spectacular Binies Gorge and had closer views of **Griffon Vultures** perched on the cliffs above.

Day 9 – Tuesday, June 15, 2010

This morning we said goodbye to our hosts Lucia and Imanol and departed our lovely hotel in the Hecho Valley. We headed east to the Valle de Tena and ascended to a protected site of the rare and beautiful **Lady's Slipper Orchid**. The flowers were in full bloom and our guide took



Alpine Marmot



Pyrenean Brook Newt



Chamois



Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth

us right up to them for photos. In the meantime, Steve spotted a **Rock Bunting** on the hill above our parking spot and a couple of **Alpine Marmots** were seen as well. We continued up the valley and found an area behind some shops with many, many flowers including **Fritillary** and several orchids. We stopped at several areas on the way down and found more orchids while **Short-toed Eagles** circled above one spot where some **Northern Wheatears** were seen. One vast hillside held so many flowers we wandered for what seemed like hours enjoying and photographing them. The number of orchids was amazing and the spectacular surroundings made the whole experience idyllic.

We continued on to Loporzano and after a failed attempt to get to Monteragon Castle we stopped in an area of small trees that held **Long-tailed** and **Great Tits** as well as a **Western Bonelli's Warbler**. We arrived at our lodge in town in time for our final dinner and a celebration of Jill's impending birthday.

Day 10 – Wednesday, June 16, 2010

This morning we made our way back to Barcelona for our flights home.

It was a particular pleasure to travel with this group again – the 4th trip for me and the 5th for Steve. The fact that all in the group were easy going, flexible, enthusiastic, energetic and willing to brave the inclement weather meant that we all enjoyed the trip very much and were rewarded by some great finds and views. This group is an inspiration to me and I look forward to our next adventure! Special thanks to Robin for organizing the tour.

Gina & Steve



Left:
Boys in
the
flowers

Right:
Amanda's
Blue



The beautiful and rare
Lady's Slipper Orchid



The fields in the Valle de Tena were
filled with orchids!





Sunrise Birding, LLC

SPANISH PYRENEES

June 7-16, 2010

Leaders: Gina Nichol & Steve Bird

SPECIES LIST

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Comments
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	At least 6 seen on Laguna de Candanos
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	A few seen on Laguna de Candanos
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Several seen around Laguna de Candanos
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Seen flying around Laguna de Candanos
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Nesting on the church tower at Loporzano and seen along the road in a few other places
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Laguna de Candanos
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Laguna de Candanos
Common Pochard		A few seen at Laguna Candanos
Red-crested Pochard		Several females with young seen at Laguna Candanos
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Commonly seen, more in the highlands
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Commonly seen in the lowlands
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Best views in Hecho Valley of two birds perched on a cliff. The birds lingered for long enough to allow fantastic scope views and then took flight .
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Commonly seen in the valleys
Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Commonly seen in the valleys
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	A close view of a bird flying over carrying a snake during a stop along the road to Anso
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Several included one adult male seen at Laguna de Candanos
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Seen along the roads in the lowlands
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	A close view of a perched bird around the canals and also good views of a bird being mobbed by a crow in Valle de Tena
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	One bird dropped out of the sky over Hotel Uson as it was being mobbed by crows.
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Seen perched on wires and power poles in the lowlands

Lesser Kestrel		At least one seen over the lark fields in the steppe on Day 2.
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	One bird seen flying as we drove to the Eagle Owl site in the Hecho Valley
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Seen perched and flying above the cliff tops at Riglos
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Heard only around fields in the lowlands
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	One seen by Jill at Laguna Candasnos
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	The most numerous species at Laguna Candasnos
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	A lovely sighting working around a puddle along the Rio Veral outside of Berdun
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Seen along Rio Veral
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans [argentatus]</i>	Seen flying up over Rio Veral and in the Riglos area
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	One seen at Laguna Candasnos
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia (domest)</i>	Seen commonly around villages
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several "real" ones seen in the cliffs at Riglos
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Not common but seen a few times in the lowlands
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Seen along the roads while travelling in the lowlands
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Once seen perched on power lines near Rio Veral
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Heard on several days but not seen.
Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	A magnificent bird seen flying in and perching on a small tree atop a hill near Jaca.
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Seen perched atop a farm building near Berdun.
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Heard where the Eagle Owl was seen near Jaca.
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	A few seen flying near Binies Gorge
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Commonly seen in the lowland areas.
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Seen by Gordon and Ken along the river near Berdun
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	At least 20 birds seen in the lowlands as we travelled north to Loporzano.
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Flight views of birds near Loporzano and near Rio Veral.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Heard or seen on many days of the tour usually in flight.
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	Heard at least twice during the trip and seen flying over the car park by Eileen and Liz at the monastery at San Juan de la Pena
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	Several seen very well in the grasslands on our first day travelling toward Loporzano.
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Seen around the aqueducts on the way to Loporzano

Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Nice views of a perched bird near the cemetery above Loporzano
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Seen during the walk near the cemetery above Loporzano
Eurasian Crag-martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	Seen flying everyday around cliffs. Two nests were seen – one in the tunnel near Uson, the other on the in a small cave at Riglos.
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Seen daily throughout the trip
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Seen daily throughout the trip
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Two birds seen on the cemetery walk near Loporzano.
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Seen in the mist at Belagua and in the open fields at Valle de Tena
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Seen daily during the trip
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Seen on an early morning walk near Hotel Uson, at Belagua and at Serra de Oisa
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	One bird seen on the river on the way down the Hecho Valley
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Nesting just outside the Hotel Uson.
Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	Poor views of this elusive bird in the mist at Belagua.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Noted on four days of the trip
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Seen on most days
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Heard in many locations. Seen very well singing from a perch at Riglos.
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Seen nearly every day.
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Seen well at Loprazano
Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Seen on three days of the tour. Best views around Hotel Uson.
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	At least six birds seen on our day in Belagua. Nice views of male and female at the defunct café in the mountains.
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	Great views of an adult bird near Riglos
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	This bird was difficult to catch up with but was seen three times – on the cemetery walk at Loporzano, at Belagua and in the Valle de Tena
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	A pair seen on an adjacent hill at Riglos was scoped but quickly moved out of sight.
Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Seen nearly every day of the trip
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Heard only twice during the trip
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Seen on five days of the trip
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Heard on five days of the trip but remained hidden each time.
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	A few seen at Laguna de Candasnos
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	At least eight very vocal birds seen at Laguna de Candasnos

Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	Seen very well singing from on open perch during our early bird walk from Casa Boletas in Loporzano
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Heard and seen nearly every day of the trip
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Heard and seen nearly every day of the trip
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	One bird seen during our picnic at Riglos
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Heard on three days of the trip and brief glimpses by some
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Heard on most days
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli bonelli</i>	Seen on the last day of the trip at our last stop in Loporzano
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Good views of one bird during our first morning walk in the Hecho Valley. Great views of a very close bird on our way down from the Wallcreeper site at Gabardito
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Two birds seen near the Rio Veral
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Seen well on our last day at the final stop of the trip
Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris palustris</i>	A good view in the trees above the path on the way to Gabardito.
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Seen on six days of the tour when visiting forested areas
Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>	Best views on the wooded track above Siresa
Great Tit	<i>Parus major major</i>	Seen on most days of the trip
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Seen on three days, best views of a family at Rio Veral
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Seen working the pine trees near the monastery at San Juan de la Pena
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	A major victory after failed attempts at Boca del Inferno and getting drenched at Gabardito. Our second trip to Gabardito was rewarded with great views of a pair!
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	Steve spotted a bird while walking the road near our fabulous orchid site on the from Riglos to San Juan de la Pena
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Heard in Loporzano and seen very briefly flying near the cemetery above town
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio [cristatus]</i>	A gorgeous adult was seen several times around Hotel Uson
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Very nice views of a bird at Loporzano during the early morning walk
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Seen nearly every day of the trip
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Seen daily during the trip
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Seen daily during the trip. A large flock flew above the Lammergeier perch in Hecho Valley

Yellow-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	Seen at the higher altitudes on two days of the trip
Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Seen on the first day of the trip around Laguna de Candasnos
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone corone</i>	Seen daily during the trip
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Seen on most days
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Seen on the first day of the trip near Barcelona
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Common in Loporzano and seen well in on the roofs in the village
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Common
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	Seen at the bridge over the Rio Veral and also at Riglos
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Common
Citril Finch	<i>Serinus citrinella</i>	Best views ever in the car park at Gabardito.
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Seen on four days of the tour
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis carduelis</i>	Seen on six days on the trip. Best views near the hotel
Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Nice views of male and female in the cow field at Gabardito
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	One seen briefly in the forest at Belagua
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	Seen above the parking area at the Lady's Slipper site
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Common in the lowlands often perched up and singing.

BUTTERFLY SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus flavus</i>
Silver-spotted Skipper	<i>Hesperia comma</i>
Carline skipper	<i>Pyrgus carlinae</i>
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataeg</i>
Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias hyale</i>
Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias australis</i>
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>
Southern White Admiral	<i>Ladoga reducta</i>

Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Mesoacidalia aglaja</i>
Pearl-bordered fritillary	<i>Clossiana euphrosyne</i>
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>
Spanish Fritillary	<i>Eurodryas desfontainii</i>
Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>
Piedmont Ringlet	<i>Erebia meolans</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>
Spanish Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia bathseba</i>
Spanish Heath	<i>Coenonympha iphioides</i>
Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>
Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Nordmannia ilicis</i>
False Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Nordmannia esculi</i>
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
Blue-spot hairstreak	<i>Satyrium spini</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>
Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>
Turquoise Blue	<i>Plebicula dorylas</i>
Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Lysandra coridon</i>
Spanish Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Lysandra albicans</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Eros Blue	<i>Polyommatus eros</i>
Provençal Short-tailed Blue	<i>Everes alcetas</i>
Provence Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Polyommatus hispana</i>
Spotted Adonis ??	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
MOTH SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth	<i>Hemaris fuciformis</i>
Spanish Moon Moth	<i>Graellsia isabellae</i>
Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>
Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>
Clouded Buff	<i>Diacrisia sannio</i>
Yellow Shell Moth	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>
Fox Moth	<i>Macrothylacia rubi</i>
Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidea glyphica</i>

Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>
Five-spot Burnet Moth	<i>Zygaena trifolii</i>
Argent and Sable	<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>
Spanish Tiger	<i>Hyphoraia dejeani</i>
Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>
Small Waved Umber	<i>Horisme vitalbata</i>
Waved Umber	<i>Menophra abruptaria</i>
Jersey Emerald	<i>Pseudoterpna coronillaria</i>
Lace Border	<i>Scopula ornata</i>
Pale Tussock	<i>Calliteara pudibunda</i>
Small Emerald	<i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>
Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>
Common Wave	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>
DRAGONFLY SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>
Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>
Common Blue Damselfly ??	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>
OTHER SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Alpine Marmot	<i>Marmota marmota</i>
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Pyrenean Chamois	<i>Rupicapra pyrenaica</i>
Midwife Toad (heard only)	<i>Alytas obstetricans</i>
Pyrenean Brook Newt	<i>Euproctus asper</i>
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Frog sp.	
Antlion sp.	<i>Myrmeleontidae sp.</i>
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>
Bee Fly sp.	<i>Cyllenina sp.</i>
Grasshopper sp	
Stonefly sp.	
Green Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>

FLOWERS & PLANTS

Agrimony
Alpine Forget-me-not
Alpine Snowbell
Alpine Stitchwort
Anemone
Asphodelia
Blue Aphyllanthes
Blue Flax
Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea
Butterwort
Campanula
Centauray
Clover, Red
Clover, White
Coltsfoot
Convolvulus
Cottongrass
Deep Violet
Dog Daisy
Dropwort
Dyer's Greenweed
Eyebright
Fairy Foxglove
Flax sp.
Geum
Globe Flower
Globularium
Goatsbeard
Helleborine, White
Honeysuckle
Jacob's Ladder
Mallow
Marsh Marigold
Meadow Clary
Meadowsweet
Moss Champion
One-flowered Wintergreen
Orchid (Hybrid) sp.
Orchid, Bee
Orchid, Black Vanilla
Orchid, Broad-leaved Marsh
Orchid, Bug
Orchid, Burnt Tip
Orchid, Common Spotted
Orchid, Early Spider
Orchid, Elderflower

Orchid, Fragrant
Orchid, Greater Butterfly

Orchid, Lady
Orchid, Lady's Slipper
Orchid, Late Spider
Orchid, Lesser Butterfly
Orchid, Lizard
Orchid, Marsh
Orchid, Military
Orchid, Provence
Orchid, Pyramidal
Orchid, Woodcock
Pale Violet
Pink Flax
Pyrenean Aquilegia
Pyrenean Buttercup
Pyrenean Gentian
Pyrenean Larkspurt
Pyrenean Lousewort
Pyrenean Milkwort
Pyrenean Pink Rock Jasmine
Pyrenean Saxifrage
Pyrenean Yellow Allium
Red Poppy
Robin's Pincushion
Rock Rose
Round-headed Rampion
Salvia sp.
Scabious
Sheepsbit
Slender Broomrape
Snow Gentian
Spanish Gorse
Speedwell
Spring Gentian
St. Bernard Lily
St. Johnswort
Stemful Gentian
Stemless Gentian
Vetch sp.
Viola biflora
Viper's Bugloss
White Buttercup
Wild Gladiola
Yellow Poppy
Yellow Rattle

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