

Catalonia - The Eastern Pyrenees

Naturetrek Tour Report

26 April –3 May 2017



Els Encantats and Saint Maurici Lake



A happy group in Aigüestortes National Park



Dog's-tooth Violet (*Erythronium dens-canis*)



Birding in Montroig

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Day 1

Wednesday 26th April

The tour started with a flight from the UK to Barcelona. We landed in the evening and were welcomed by Philippa (Pip) and Juame. We then headed out of the Barcelona metropolitan area and proceeded as smooth as we could towards the Pyrenees. The rain made its appearance half-way to our destination. A coffee and comfort stop preceded a misty mountain pass and quick views of Tawny Owl, a family of Wild Boar and Roe Deer. When driving along the final part of mountain road it started to snow, giving us an epic arrival!

Day 2

Thursday 27th May

We woke to find Espot blanketed in snow. It allowed us enchanting photographic opportunities, but the thick snow covering was not ideal for the planned visit to a mountain pass. We first drove upon the sky resort to try for Black Woodpecker. We didn't have success this time, but we did have brief views of Rock Bunting.

To avoid the bad weather, we headed downhill to the Pre-Pyrenees in order to find an easier terrain, and also because the weather forecast promised much better conditions in that corner. We headed to the edge of Collegats canyon, which is an impressive conglomerate limestone formation. Leaving the main road and exploring a quiet track, we soon found several Griffon Vultures and a curious Egyptian Vulture that came to have a look at us. The terrain had a Mediterranean essence, much different from the highest parts of the Pyrenees. Pip pointed out Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*), *Lithospermum fruticosum*, *Globularia punctata* and a wonderful bloom of *Aphyllanthes monspeliensis*.

The weather did not favour picnics so we had a Catalan speciality in a local bar – omelette sandwiches, which proved to be amazingly good.

At mid-afternoon we moved on to the beginning of Vall Fosca, stopping by a large field where several species of alpine birds were resting and feeding, and waiting for the snow to melt. We found more than a hundred Northern Wheatears, several dozen Skylarks, and also Whinchat. We took a short walk and had brilliant views of a Bonelli's Warbler. We also made our first acquaintance with pink and white Rock Roses.

Later in the afternoon, after travelling around some bends on an unspoilt road, we ended up at a lovely natural lake called Montcortès. This is one of the few lakes that is exclusively fed from a limestone well in Catalonia. A gentle walk down the edge of the lake surprised us with a stunning view of a Firecrest. We were glad to see how much beauty and power can be concentrated in such a small bird; the smallest in Europe indeed! The afternoon was coming to its end with beautiful light over the mountains, and the gorgeous mirror effect of the high summits on the lake was stunning.

Day 3

Friday 28th May

The weather today was sunny, and this morning we planned to go into the Parc Nacional d'Aiguestortes. We drove up the little valley, following the Escrita River, to the car park at the entry to the National Park. Because it had snowed yesterday and the day before, we came across some patches of slippery road, but they were short

enough for us to cope and get safely to the car park. From here we were picked up by Land Rover taxis to get into the National Park.

Driving up, we had a glimpse of Fallow Deer and got to see the gradation of woodlands which went from Silver Fir (*Abies alba*) to Mountain Pine (*Pinus uncinata*). Once in Saint Maurici Lake, Jaume told us about the history of the National Park and how it was created. We gently covered a short walk upon a track finding Crested Tit, Chiffchaff and glimpses of Rock Bunting. We reached an enormous ruined building which belonged to the army during Franco times. From there we had lovely panoramic views of Encantats Mountain, and a male Siskin approached really close to sing from the top of a Silver Fir. The contrast of snow and rock certainly delighted most of us and gave us the chance to learn some of the tracks and signs that the wildlife left on the ground; for instance we saw European Hare and Roe Deer tracks.

The snow cover was a handicap to finding some plants, but we still got to enjoy a range of specialities such as Green Hellebore (*Helleborus viridis*), Houseleek (*Sempervivum tectorum*), Mezereum (*Daphne mezereum*) and Alpine Rose (*Rhododendron ferrugineum*).

By midday and after a short comfort stop at the National Park toilets, we arrived at Sant Maurici chapel, very well settled at the base of a cliff. This was our picnic spot, giving us more views of Black Redstart and Crag Martin acrobatically flying close to us.

The walk down gave us views of Goldcrest and Firecrest as we went through a mixture of Mountain and Scots Pines. There were also many hybrids from both species. Eventually we crossed a little stream and came out of the woodland for a while, entering a broader part of the valley. We found a couple of Fallow Deer resting between the bushes and also had views of Hoopoe and Redshank. Finding them here was very rare; surely they were just trying to cross the Pyrenees and had been affected by the unexpected snowfall of the previous days.

But the best of this afternoon had yet to come. “Lammergeier” somebody shouted! There was an adult Lammergeier (Bearded Vulture) trying to break a bone, constantly picking it up from the ground, flying up and dropping it on the rocks. What a wonderful behaviour for such a beauty of a bird!

The final part of the walk went through a wooded pass which crossed a magnificent Silver Fir woodland with Hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis*) beautifully covering the undergrowth of this habitat.

From the car park we drove down back to Espot, enjoying a coffee by the river bar. The rest of the afternoon was spent visiting Estaís, a charming little village just 10 minutes drive away, where the grasslands were amazingly covered in flowers in full bloom. We walked along the streets with houses built in the Romanesque style. Just before leaving, an Iberian Green Woodpecker was seen entering its nest hole in a Cherry tree (*Prunus avium*).

Day 4

Saturday 29th May

Today was sunny and warm, and we again drove down the valley to visit the Pre-Pyrenees. After a stop at the river to see Grey Wagtail and Common Sandpiper, we eventually got off the main road and were soon exploring a very unspoilt part of the territory. We soon arrived at the vulture feeding station in Buseu. The sky was covered

in raptors in a few minutes as Jordi, the manager, got close to the feeding point. We had the most inspiring views of 300-400 huge majestic birds feeding just across the valley from where we stood. There were approximately 15-20 Lammergeiers (Bearded Vultures) and a few Black (Cinereous) Vultures looking for food amongst so many Griffon Vultures. Three Egyptian Vultures also joined the feast and started fighting in the sky. They were a pair pushing out a stranger bird we reckoned. The Lammergeiers, being majestic but shy birds, preferred to land when most of the Griffon Vultures had gone from the feeding grounds, and through the telescope we could enjoy their amazing behaviour. Some were directly swallowing bones, and others just grabbing them and going somewhere else, probably to break them on a cliff.

At midday we left the feeding station and we couldn't have found a better place to enjoy our picnic than at Albert's house. He is a friend of Jaume who offered his private land and picnic tables for us to enjoy. We saw how they had recovered some abandoned land; restoring a collapsed cottage and managing the land using goats, so creating a very charming Oak dehesa.

After lunch we drove up the valley, stopping for a coffee and visiting the alpine area that had been covered in snow on Thursday. As we arrived, a blanket of Dog's-tooth Violets (*Erythronium dens-canis*) stunningly covered part of the grassland and more specialities were seen such as Pyrenean Buttercup (*Ranunculus pyrenaicus*). Pip also showed us *Corydalis solida*, Spring Gentian (*Gentiana verna*), and *Vitalina primuliflora*. On the ornithological side we enjoyed Crested Tits and quite a few Water Pipits. Red-billed Choughs soon appeared, gliding close to us on a background landscape covered in snow. A couple of Chamois also delighted us, grazing between enormous patches of snow.

Day 5

Sunday 30th May

After breakfast we drove down the road, stopping by the riverside where we saw Dipper and Grey Wagtail. The weather didn't favour us at all today but we still managed, between breaks in the rain, to see Subalpine Warbler and Red Kite.

We had lunch in a bar close to Sort, with a field full of horses and Yellow Wagtails next to it. There must have been 40 or 50 birds, all waiting to move north across the Pyrenees. This flock also gave us the chance to identify the different subspecies of Yellow Wagtail as we watched birds belonging to the races *iberiae*, *flava* and also the Scandinavian race *thunbergii*.

Continuing our transfer down the valley, we got off the main road towards Guardia de Noguera. While some of the group were transfixed by Melodious Warblers, Cirl Bunting and a fantastic female Cuckoo of the brown morph, a couple of us wandered down a track attracted by the sound of Nightingales, and we came across a wild jasmine *Dipcardi serotinum*, an array of different pea flowers and a very pretty pink *Silene fuscata*.

Further along the valley towards Mur Castle the roads were edged with bright scarlet *Pistacia terebinthus* bushes, while the Walnut trees presented a sad sight with their leaves frosted and blackened. The sides of the road were covered in Geraniums and Erodiums. Very close to Mur Castle we enjoyed good views of a Nightingale and more views of Griffon Vultures passing by.

As it kept on raining in short showers and the top of Montsec looked extremely misty, we skipped the mountain pass for another day and headed to our hotel in Avellanes. This was a charming location with the hotel settled in the monastery building, surrounded by a beautiful garden with ancient Nettle trees.

Day 6

Monday 1st May

Today we had lots of interesting things to see, as the rain had spoilt our usual transfer day activities yesterday. We headed to Mont-roig, parked our vehicles and walked up the track along the south side of the cliff face. This is a red mountain, based on limestone but containing a high proportion of clay, and oxidation gives it the characteristic rusty colour. This is a very interesting habitat for rock-loving birds, providing good cliffs and many holes and shelters. We enjoyed watching a good number of birds such as Common Rock Thrush, Blue Rock Thrush, Peregrine Falcon, Alpine Swift, Rock Sparrow, Red-billed Chough, Griffon Vulture, Crag Martin and something very interesting, a natural colony of House Martins nesting on the cliff! In the bushlands below we spotted Subalpine Warbler and the very elusive Dartford Warbler.

Plant life was the richest we had found on the trip, with all the contents of a good herb garden on display. Fringed Rue (*Ruta chalapensis*) and Pitch Trefoil added to the pungent scents in the air. Woody Convolvulus (*Convolvulus cantabrica*) was a pleasing find, as was butter yellow *Phomis lychnites*. High on the cliff we spotted the dwarf snapdragon *Antirrhinum molle*, but the end of the walk was the best. Moving round the end of the cliff we were confronted with a view that reached all the way to the snow-capped peaks of the Pyrenees, and hidden among the thick grass we came across purple spikes of Violet Bird's-nest Orchid (*Limnorchis abortivum*) and some of *Ophrys sphegodes*, the Catalan split species of Early Spider Orchid.

Once back in the vehicles, we drove back to the main road and headed north, stopping in a very charming mountain pass for a picnic, with the view of Montsec in front of us. The afternoon took us up yet another twisting path to the top of the Montsec d'Ares, where the landscape was just stunning as the radial view allowed us to enjoy both the Lleida plains and the Pyrenees covered in snow. Here we found a little flock of Red-billed Chough and a shy Dartford Warbler. The stony patch in front of our vehicles was completely covered in *Narcissus assoanus*, no more than a couple of inches high. *Muscari* (Hyacinth) too were dotted around among the amazingly vicious blue Hedgehog Broom (*Erythronium albanum*).

On the way down the hill we stopped at a place where Jaume had previously found Fritillaries, but we were just too early and only found a few leaves and buds. Further down the mountain we came across the large flowered white *Thalictrum tuberosum* and some nice Broomrape. We also enjoyed watching a Fox hunting voles, patiently listening to the ground in order to jump on them. A shepherd herding an enormous number of sheep with the help of his dog complemented the charming scenery in this quiet and unspoilt valley.

Day 7

Tuesday 2nd May

Today we had an optional early start to the Balaguer plains, which nearly everybody attended. Getting into the vehicles, it was still dark. After a 20-minute drive we were on very extensive agricultural land, based on a combination of set-aside fields covered in Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) and Shepherds Needles (*Scandix pecten-venris*), and fields containing cereal, mostly barley. A diverse array of bird species were soon being seen. Calandra Larks were very evident in flight, displaying their song and covering most of the background sound. We visited a

special nesting building promoted by the Catalan Environmental Department to favour steppe birds. We saw several pairs of Lesser Kestrel using it, together with Stock Dove and Jackdaw. A little further, on a set-aside field, we enjoyed a male Little Bustard displaying.

It was then time for a civilised coffee to cope with the early start and late breakfast we would have. As we continued a pair of Stone-curlews flew from a nearby field, whereas Bee-eaters and a Woodchat Shrike perched and showed well. The show carried on with a Short-toed Eagle perched on top of a building, and a male Black-bellied Sandgrouse wandered carefully on a set-aside field, watching and letting us enjoy it for a while. The early morning trip ended the best way possible with sightings of Roller, Hobby, several more Bee-eaters and a very cooperative Wryneck singing from the top of a tree.

After a well deserved breakfast we made our way to the main site of the day, not far from Artesa de Segre. Along the way we saw several pairs of White Stork nesting at Balaguer town, on top of high buildings. We drove for a further 15 minutes, stopping by the picturesque village of Montsonís. From a viewpoint that faces the valley we scanned for birds and watched several Golden Orioles, nesting Griffon Vultures on the cliff and a Subalpine Warbler.

After enjoying the medieval castle and its charming buildings, we moved down the gorge and found a pair of Bonelli's Eagles. They were flying over us carrying nesting material, after apparently having failed earlier this season in an attempt to breed. We had a short walk and spotted several butterflies such as Scarce Swallowtail, Moroccan Orange Tip and Clouded Yellow. Golden Orioles gave the most exotic of sounds, together with Nightingales, and an Egyptian Vulture showed well over us too. Plants included Montpellier Maple (*Acer monspessulanum*), Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and Portuguese Oak (*Quercus faginea*). We enjoyed our picnic by a historical cottage before moving down the river to explore the Poplar woodland. A Kestrel and a Blue Rock Thrush showed well, and we had the luck to spot a couple of Pied Flycatchers and a Spotted Flycatcher in the same tree.

An afternoon rain shower gave us a surprise, so we decided to go for coffee and then to have some time in the grounds of the hotel.

Day 8

Wednesday 3rd May

This morning we took the opportunity to explore the gardens of the Avellanes Monastery, finding a pair of Rock Sparrows in the back yard of the building. They seemed to be nesting in holes in the old wall. A short walk around allowed a quick view of Orphean Warbler and we heard Short-toed Treecreeper.

We drove to the southern part of Lleida plains; a much drier area. After a necessary stop for petrol we entered a nature reserve. The first stop gave us very good views of nesting Marsh Harriers, Bee-eaters flying around, Thekla Lark and a restless Sardinian Warbler which was moving from one bush to another.

Going deeper into the reserve, our way was briefly blocked by a herd of sheep before we arrived at the edge of an area where Red-billed Chough and Lesser Kestrel nest. A look around produced a short view of Red-rumped Swallow and, in the distance, Pintail Sandgrouse. We then moved to another corner of the steppes and found

Woodchat Shrike, more Calandra Larks and a very quiet pair of Turtle Doves sitting on a telephone line. As it started raining we moved to a restaurant for lunch.

We briefly visited Ivars wetland in the afternoon. This stop was very interesting as it held completely different species from the rest of the trip. Purple Heron, Whiskered Tern and several pairs of Marsh Harriers were some of the highlights at this location.

It was then time to head to the airport for our flight back to the UK, where another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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Stunning scenery in Montroig

Species Lists

Plants

Scientific name

Common name

PTERIDOPHYTES

FERNS & ALLIES

Cystopteris fragilis
Polypodium vulgare

Fragile fern
Common Polypody

PINOPSIDA

CONIFERS

Cupressaceae

Juniper Family

Cupressus glabra

Arizona Cyopress

Cupressus sempervirens

Italian Cypress

Juniperus communis subsp. *alpina*

Dwarf Juniper

Juniperus communis subsp. *communis*

Juniper

Juniperus oxycedrus

Prickly Juniper

Juniperus phoenicea

Phoenicean Juniper

Pinaceae

Pine Family

Abies alba

European Silver Fir

Pinus nigra subsp. *nigra*

Austrian or Black Pine

Pinus sylvestris

Scot's Pine

Pinus uncinata

Mountain Pine

MAGNOLIOPSIDA

FLOWERING PLANTS

Magnoliidae

Aceraceae

Maple Family

Acer campestre

Field Maple

Acer monspessulanum

Montpellier Maple

Acer opulis

Anacardiaceae

Sumach Family

Pistacia lentiscus

Mastic Tree

Pistacia terebinthus

Turpentine Tree

Apiaceae

Carrot Family

Eryngium campestre

Field Eryngo

Ferula communis

Giant Fennel

Foeniculum vulgare

Fennel

Scandex pecten-veneris

Shepherds Needles

Asteraceae

Daisy Family

Achillea millefolium

Yarrow

Artemisia absinthium

Wormwood

Artemisia campestris

Field Wormwood

Bellis perennis

Daisy

Calendula arvensis

Field Marigold

Carlina vulgaris

Carlina Thistle

Carduus pyrenaicus

Pyrenean Thistle

Carduus tenuiflorus

Slender Thistle

Scientific name

Carthamus lanatus
Filago pyramidata
Helichrysum stoechas
Santolina chamaecyparissus
Silybum marianum
Taraxacum agg.

Betulaceae

Alnus glutinosa
Betula pendula
Betula pubescens
Corylus avellana

Boraginaceae

Anchusa arvensis
Echium vulgare
Lithospermum fruticosum

Brassicaceae

Biscutella didymus
Eruca sativa

Buxaceae

Buxus sempervirens

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera sp
Sambucus ebulus
Sambucus nigra
Sambucus racemosus
Viburnum lantana

Caryophyllaceae

Petrorhagia saxifraga
Pteranthus dichotomous
Silene latifolia
Silene nutans
Silene vulgaris
Stellaria holostea

Cistaceae

Helianthemum nummularium
H. nummularium subsp. pyrenaicum

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus arvensis
Convolvulus cantabrica

Crassulaceae

Sedum acre
Sedum ochroleucum

Common name

Woolly Distaff Thistle
 Broad-leaved Cudweed
 Curry Plant
 Lavender Cotton
 Milk Thistle
 Dandelion

Birch Family

Alder
 Silver Birch
 Downy Birch
 Hazel

Forget-me-not Family

Bugloss
 Viper's-bugloss
 Shrubby Gromwell

Cabbage Family

a Buckler-mustard
 Rocket

Box Family

Box

Honeysuckle Family

Honeysuckle
 Dwarf Elder
 Elder
 Red-berried Elder
 Wayfaring Tree

Pink Family

Tunic Flower
 White Campion
 Nottingham Catchfly
 Bladder Campion
 Greater Stichwort

Rock-rose Family

Common Rock-rose
 Pink Rock-rose

Bindweed Family

Field Bindweed
 Pink Convolvulus

Stonecrop Family

Biting Stonecrop
 Cream Stonecrop

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>	-
<i>Sedum telephium</i>	Orpine
<i>Sempervivum tectorum</i>	Houseleek
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Wall Pennywort
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small Scabious
Ericaceae	Heath family
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather
<i>Rhododendron ferrugineum</i>	Alpenrose
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge
<i>Euphorbia characias subsp. characias</i>	Mediterranean Spurge
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge
Fabaceae	Pea Family
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom
<i>Dorycnium pentaphyllum</i>	-
<i>Erinacea anthyllis</i>	Hedgehog Broom
<i>Genista hispanica subsp. hispanica</i>	Spanish Broom
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	-
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia
<i>Ulex pavidiflora</i>	Gorse
<i>Vicia lutea</i>	
Fagaceae	Oak & Beech Family
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak
<i>Quercus faginea</i>	Beech-leaved Oak
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak
Fumariaceae	Fumitory Family
<i>Corydalis solida</i>	Bird-in -a-Bush
<i>Fumaria officinalis agg</i>	Common Fumitory
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring Gentian
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family
<i>Erodium ciconium</i>	a Long-beaked Stork's-bill
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
<i>Geranium pusillum</i>	

Scientific name	Common name
Gesneriaceae <i>Ramonda myconi</i>	Gloxinia Family Ramonda
Globulariaceae <i>Globularia cordifolia</i> <i>Globularia vulgaris</i>	Globularia Family Matted Globularia Common Globularia
Lamiaceae <i>Lavandula angustifolia subsp. pyrenaica</i> <i>Phlomis lychnitis</i> <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> <i>Salvia officinalis</i> <i>Salvia pratensis</i> <i>Salvia verbenaca</i> <i>Thymus mastichina*</i> <i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Dead-nettle Family Pyrenean Lavender - Rosemary Sage Meadow Clary - Garden Thyme
Linaceae <i>Linum perenne agg.</i>	Flax Family Perennial Flax
Malvaceae <i>Malva neglecta</i> <i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Mallow Family Dwarf Mallow Common Mallow
Moraceae <i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig Family Fig
Oleaceae <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> <i>Jasminum fruticans</i> <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Olive Family Ash Wild Jasmine Wild Privet
Orobanchaceae <i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Broomrape Family Greater Broomrape
Papaveraceae <i>Glaucium corniculatum</i> <i>Hypocoum imberbe</i> <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> <i>Roemeria hybrida</i>	Poppy Family Red Horned-poppy Hypercoum Corn Poppy Purple horned poppy
Polygalaceae <i>Polygala so</i>	Milkwort Family Milkwort
Primulaceae <i>Anagallis arvensis subsp. foemina</i> <i>Androsace pyrenaica</i> <i>Primula farinosa</i> <i>Primula veris</i> <i>Vitaliana prumulifolia</i>	Primrose Family Blue Pimpernel Bird's-eye Primrose Cowslip

Scientific name**Common name****Ranunculaceae****Buttercup Family**

Hepatica nobilis
Helleborus foetidus
Helleborus viridis
Ranunculus aconitifolius
Ranunculus alpestris
Ranunculus pyrenaicus
Thalictrum tuberosum

Hepatica
 Stinking Hellebore
 Green Hellebore
 Aconite-leaved Buttercup
 Alpine Buttercup
 Pyrenean Buttercup
 Tuberous Meadow Rue

Resedaceae**Mignonette Family**

Reseda lutea
Reseda phyteuma

Wild Mignonette
 Corn Mignonette

Rhamnaceae**Buckthorn Family**

Rhamnus catharticus
Rhamnus lycioides
Rhamnus alternus

Buckthorn
 -

Rosaceae**Rose Family**

Alchemilla alpina
Alchemilla glaucescens
Amelanchier ovalis
Crataegus monogyna
Fragaria vesca
Potentilla anserina
Potentilla aurea
Potentilla erecta
Potentilla pyrenaica
Rosa canina agg
Rubus idaeus
Sanguisorba minor agg
Sorbus aria agg
Sorbus aucuparia

Alpine Lady's-mantle
 Small Lady's-mantle
 Juneberry
 Hawthorn
 Wild Strawberry
 Silverweed
 Golden Cinquefoil
 Tormentil
 Pyrenean Cinquefoil
 Dog Rose
 Raspberry
 Salad Burnet
 Whitebeam
 Rowan

Rubiaceae**Bedstraw Family**

Galium verum

Lady's Bedstraw

Rutaceae**Rue Family**

Ruta chalapensis

Fringed Rue

Salicaceae**Willow & Poplar Family**

Populus alba
Populus nigra agg.
Populus tremula
Populus x canadensis
Salix alba

White Poplar
 Black Poplar
 Aspen
 Hybrid Black Poplar
 White Willow

Saxifragaceae**Saxifrage Family**

Saxifraga paniculata

Live-long Saxifrage

Scrophulariaceae**Figwort Family**

Antirrhinum molle
Veronica austriaca

a dawrf snapdragon

Scientific name	Common name
Thymelaeaceae <i>Daphne cneorum</i> <i>Daphne mezereum</i>	Mezereon Family Garland Flower Mezereon
Ulmaceae <i>Celtis australis</i> <i>Ulmus sp</i>	Elm Family Nettle Tree An Elm
Urticaceae <i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle Family Common Nettle
Valerianaceae <i>Centranthus ruber</i> <i>Centranthus (angustifolius) lecoqii</i>	Valerian Family Red Valerian Narrow-leaved Valerian
Violaceae <i>Viola riviniana</i>	Violet Family Common Dog Violet
Viscaceae <i>Viscum album subsp. album</i> <i>Viscum album subsp. austriacum</i>	Mistletoe Family Mistletoe Mistletoe pine
Liliidae	
Iridaceae <i>Crocus albiflorus</i>	Iris Family White Crocus
Liliaceae <i>Allium sphaerocephalon</i> <i>Allium roseum</i> <i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i> <i>Asphodelus albus</i> <i>Dipcardi serotinum</i> <i>Erythronium dens-canis</i> <i>Fritillaria lusitanicus</i> <i>Gagea soleirolii</i> <i>Gladiolus italicus</i> <i>Muscari comosum</i> <i>Muscari neglectum</i> <i>Muscari racemosum</i> <i>Narcissus assoanus</i> <i>Narcissus moschatus</i>	Lily Family Round-headed Leek Rosy Garlic Blue Aphyllanthes White Asphodel Brown Bluebell Dog's-tooth Violet Portugese Fritillary Pyrenean Gagea Field Gladiolus Tassel Hyacinth Grape Hyacinth Rush-leaved Jonquil
Orchidaceae <i>Limodorum abortivum</i> <i>Ophrys (sphegodes) passionis</i>	Orchid Family Violet Bird's-nest Orchid Early Spider Orchid

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May							
			26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
1	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				✓			✓	✓
2	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>							✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May								
			26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	
3	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>							H	H	
4	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		H							✓
5	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>									✓
6	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>								✓	✓
7	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>									✓
8	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>								✓	✓
9	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>									✓
10	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						✓			
11	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>				✓					
12	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		
13	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓	
14	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
15	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>							✓	✓	
16	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>				✓	✓				
17	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		✓							
18	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>								✓	
19	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			✓						
20	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>								✓	✓
21	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>								✓	
22	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		✓		✓	✓				✓
23	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓						✓	
25	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		H							✓
26	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		H							
27	Little Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>		H							
28	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>								✓	
29	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								✓	
30	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>								✓	
31	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>								✓	
32	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			✓						
33	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				✓	✓			✓	
34	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>									✓
35	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>								✓	✓
36	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>								✓	
37	Rock Dove (Feral)	<i>Columba livia (Feral)</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>								✓	✓
39	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>							H		✓
41	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
42	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H			H	H	H	H
43	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	✓							✓	
44	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>									✓
45	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>							✓	✓	
46	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓
47	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>								✓	
48	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>								H	H
49	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓			✓	H	✓	
50	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			✓			H			
51	Iberian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus sharpei</i>		✓	✓			H		H	
52	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>							✓	✓	
53	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>								✓	

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54	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			✓		✓		✓	
55	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>							✓	
56	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>						✓	✓	
57	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>						H	✓	
58	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
59	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
60	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>				✓		✓		
61	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>							✓	
62	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
63	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
64	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>			✓	✓	✓			
65	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			✓	✓			✓	
66	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	H		H	✓	✓	
67	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓		H	✓	✓	
68	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>							H	
69	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>						✓	✓	
70	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>							✓	
71	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
72	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
73	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
74	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>							H	H
75	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					✓		✓	
76	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>						H		
77	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>		✓		H	✓	H	H	
78	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		H						
79	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		✓						
80	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>					✓		✓	
81	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>							✓	
82	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	✓		✓		✓	
83	Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>						H		
84	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		✓						
85	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>						✓		
86	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>				H	H	✓	✓	
87	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>						H	H	
88	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		✓	H		H	H		
89	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			✓		✓			
90	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H				H	H	
91	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>							H	
92	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		✓						
93	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓			✓	✓		
94	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>							✓	
95	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
96	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		H	H				H	
97	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
98	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>							✓	
99	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H	✓		✓	H	✓	
100	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H			✓	H	✓	
101	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>							✓	
102	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		✓						
103	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
104	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>						✓		

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105	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>							✓	✓	
106	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓							
107	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		
108	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
109	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>									✓
110	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>						✓			
111	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
112	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>								✓	
113	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>							✓	✓	
114	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			✓	✓			H		
115	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>						✓	✓		
116	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				
117	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓		✓	✓			✓	
118	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				✓					
119	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>				✓					
120	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓				H	✓	
121	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			H						
122	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	
123	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			✓				✓	✓	
124	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>				✓	✓				
125	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
126	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			✓						
127	Citril Finch	<i>Carduelis citrinella</i>		✓		✓					
128	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	
129	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>						✓	✓	✓	
130	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>		✓				✓			
131	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>									
132	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>						✓	✓		

Mammals

1	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓		
2	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scopa</i>	✓		T						
3	Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>			✓		✓				
4	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	✓				✓				
5	Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>			✓	✓					
6	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			✓		✓				
7	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>			T	T					
8	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>							T		
9	Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	✓								

Amphibians & Reptiles

1	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>			T						
2	Iberian Water Frog	<i>Rana perezi</i>		H							
3	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>			✓						

Butterflies

1	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>			✓	✓					
2	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>			✓		✓				
3	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			✓						
4	Moroccan Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis belia</i>							✓		

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5	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>			✓					
6	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			✓					
7	Peacock Butterfly	<i>Inachis io</i>			✓					
8	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>					✓			
9	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>					✓			

Other Invertebrates:

1	Wood Ant	<i>Formica rufa</i>			✓					
2	Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>					✓			
3	Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>		✓	✓		✓			
4	Egyptian locust	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>					✓			



Group picture in Montsec d'Ares