

# Catalonia - The Eastern Pyrenees

Naturetrek Tour Report

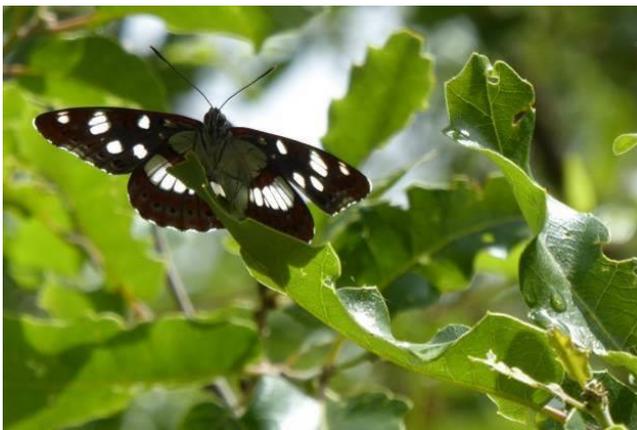
4 - 11 May 2016



Dog's Tooth, *Erythronium dens-canis*



Sant Maurici Lake



White Admiral



Vulture Feeding Station

Report and images by Juame Soler



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Tour participants:       Jaume Soler Zurita (leader & ornithologist)  
                                  John Shipton and Vicky Syme (botanists) together with eight Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

Wednesday 4th May

John and Vicky accompanied group members on a flight from the UK to Barcelona, where Juame was waiting to greet everyone. After sorting out the vehicles and packing our luggage, we set off, heading in a north-easterly direction. Once we had cleared the Barcelona metropolitan area we stopped for lunch in a lovely little village at the bottom of the Montserrat Mountains. We had a picnic on the terrace of a bar, from where we could enjoy some nice birds such as Serin, and a very cooperative Firecrest which came very close! Jaume explained that Montserrat is a unique rock mountain based on conglomerate limestone. There had been an inland sea into which many rivers brought their sediments. Some time ago the rolling stones, sand and clay had converted into rock. The surrounding grounds, being softer, had eroded away, so leaving Montserrat in a higher position.

As the tour was in the reverse order to the itinerary this year (the Pyrenees first and then the plains) we had a long drive ahead of us to Espot. The excitement of a different landscape was appreciated as we passed huge stands of *Arundo donax* (Giant Reed) and *Spartium junceum* (Spanish Broom) along the roadsides and fields full of scarlet *Papaver rhoeas* (Corn Poppies). Driving through the plains, we enjoyed the dramatic landscape of the mountains in the distance. We left the main road and took a smaller one that brought us into a cereal area and then a mosaic of fields and little patches of *Quercus ilex* (Holm Oak). It wasn't difficult to pick up the several Red and Black Kites flying around and looking for food. We stopped before a mountain pass to enjoy the views around, and from here it was possible to see the plains of Lleida at one side and the Pyrenees at the other, still keeping quite a few patches of snow. A couple of Jays were flying around, and we noticed that this season was particularly bad for the pines as they were being affected by the Pine Processionary Moth. After driving down from the pass, we stopped in Vilamitjana for toilets, refreshments and coffee. With more than half of the journey already covered, next we entered a narrower valley of limestone canyons and very dramatic landscape. After a while we left the main route and took a secondary valley where the road climbed to Espot, our base the next four nights. Some of us had had a very early start, so we took it easy, enjoying a rest and a lovely dinner. This was just the beginning, and a lovely week was waiting for us!

## Day 2

Thursday 5th May

Today we started by visiting Aigüestortes National Park. We drove up the valley, following the Escrita River, to the car park where we were collected by taxis from the National Park, which took us to Sant Maurici Lake. Along the way we saw numerous clumps of both *Helleborus viridis* and *H. foetidus* (Green and Stinking Hellebore), and several Fallow Deer. Once there, Jaume told us about the history of the area and why, after Franco had visited, he designated Aigüestortes a National Park. A Common Sandpiper was foraging at the edge of the lake. The first plant of note was *Sempervivum tectorum* (Houseleek), and by the track we saw *Actostaphylos uva-ursi* (Bearberry), and lots of *Hepatica nobilis* (Hepatica). A male Crested Tit was singing and showed on top of a *Pinus uncinata* (Mountain Pine), and nearby we could hear Chiffchaff. There were also *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* (Wild Daffodil) and a crescent undercover of *Rhododendron ferrugineum* (Rododendron). A pair of Rock Bunting showed very quickly, but we had good views of a male Goldcrest moving quite low on the branches in front.

We started our walk down, passing a lake and taking the opportunity to use the toilets. The first part of our route went through woodland which gave us views of a couple of Jays, and we could hear Coal Tits. At the edges of the path it was not difficult to see lots of *Primula veris* (Cowslip) and we were lucky enough to see *Daphne mezereum* (February Daphne) and some individuals of the *Crocus vernus* (Spring Crocus). Soon we reached a more open area where we saw a Whinchat, several Black Redstarts, and Crag Martins flying around. We had our picnic by a little hermitage and enjoyed the good temperature of this time of the day. The path down continued through a majestic forest based on *Pinus uncinata* (Mountain Pine) and *Abies alba* (European Silver Fir), in which it was possible to see the work of Great Spotted and Black Woodpeckers on dead wood. We also saw the beautiful *Anemone trifolia* (Three-leaved Anemone).

The last part of the walk was along open grassland in the middle of the valley, which was covered on *Potentilla aurea* (Golden Cinquefoil). Whilst scanning, we spotted a Golden Eagle in the sky with Griffon Vultures, and a Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) crossed the valley flying over us. It was a bit high, though we appreciated its unique silhouette.

Once back at the vehicles, we drove back to Espot and had a coffee break before moving to the unspoilt village of Estais, just a short drive away. We had a pleasant walk, enjoying some patches of *Saxifraga granulata* (Meadow Saxifrage), as well as looking at different examples of the Romanesque architecture of the buildings. A very active male Black Redstart was singing from the top of a roof, and as we left the village we saw Yellowhammer and Cirl Bunting.

## Day 3

Friday 6th May

Today we planned to drive to the beautiful Aran Valley, but before that we explored some higher areas near Espot. First, we tried to see a Black Woodpecker without success, but enjoyed the hedgerows of *Prunus spinosa* (Blackthorn) in full bloom, and a bit higher up we stopped at the edge of a grassland and enjoyed watching a group of Citril Finch.

It started raining a little as we headed to the Aran valley. Our first stop was at a car park to the south of Port de la Bonaigua, where we spotted Water Pipit and Kestrel, and Jaume explained the differences in the wing shapes of the Red-billed and Alpine Choughs we were viewing; this feature being easier to spot than bill colour against the light or at a distance. We also delighted at the variety and beauty of the flowers. We spotted a plant of *Erythronium dens-canis* (Dog's-tooth Violet), and then we found hundreds of them as we walked down to the little stream nearby. Other species started to appear including *Corydalis solida* (Bird-in-a-bush) and *Ranunculus pyrenaicus* (Pyrenean Buttercup), as well as *Pinguicula grandiflora* (Large-flowered Butterworth), starting to grow by the edge of the water but not yet in bloom. Some minutes later, when enjoying *Primula integrifolia* (Entire-leaved Primrose), a couple of Red-billed Choughs flew quite low over us. It was then time to have lunch so we set our picnic in the shelter of the cablecar station.

After our picnic we rejoined the vehicles and continued north, over the Port de la Bonaigua (2,072 metres/6,798 feet) from where we could see groups of Alpine Chough feeding on snow patches, and had better views of Water Pipits and several Northern Wheatears. Suddenly a group of Chamois was spotted, and then another closer animal walked not more than 50 metres from us, delighting everybody.

In the afternoon we returned down the road and visited a neighbouring valley, stopping in the charming village of Esterrí de Cardós. This is one of the most beautiful and well preserved villages in the area, having unspoilt buildings that still keep the essence of the architecture and the Romanesque style. We had a pleasant walk along a path, hearing Iberian Green Woodpecker, to an impressive viewpoint over the Cardos valley. On the way down we enjoyed a field full of *Narcissus poeticus* (British Daffodil). So despite the weather, we considered that it had been a very good day.

## Day 4

Saturday 7th May

This morning we visited a vulture feeding station. We drove down the valley, stopping at the edge of the river for a while and finding Yellow Wagtail flying and perching on top of the rocks in the middle of the flow. Once at the station we were joined by the manager before driving for another twenty minutes, enjoying entire slopes covered in *Amelanchier ovalis* (Snowy Mespilus) in full bloom. As we arriving a kettle of Griffon Vultures started to form over us. When everything was ready, at least 300 Griffon Vultures started to arrive, as well as quite a few Ravens. They were the first ones to eat and later on, when it was not so busy, the Cinereous (Black) Vultures came and mixed with the others. Watching through the telescope, it was nice to see how big the Cinereous Vultures were, even compared to the Griffon Vultures! The first Bearded Vultures (Lammergeier) then arrived. At first they appeared shy and flew around, but then dropped down and swallowed bones. There were about twenty Bearded Vultures of different ages, from the dark young ones to the bright orange adults. Jaume explained that the orange colour was due to clay baths, and this is a signal of health and beauty, to attract the mate and to get rid of external parasites. A couple of Egyptian Vultures arrived, giving us the four species of vulture present in Europe at one spot! From the observation point we also saw a pale morph Booted Eagle and heard Woodlark and Dartford Warbler.

Around midday we left this fantastic place and drove down the road, passing *Polygala alpina* (Alpine Milkwort), till we reached the main valley. On the way we could see large woodlands of *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots Pine) parasitized by *Viscum album subsp. austriacum* (Mistletoe). We had our picnic at Noguera Pallaresa, a delightful spot beside the river, where there was a popular fountain and we were surrounded by the impressive cliffs of the main canyon.

After lunch we entered this impressive canyon and enjoyed a fantastic show of several Dippers chasing each other, as well as a few different plants such as *Globularia punctata* (Common Globularia), *Coriaria myrtifolia* (Redoul), *Ramonda myconi* (Pyrenean Violet), and a couple of very nice orchids; *Limodorum abortivum* (Violet Limodore) and *Neottia nidus-avis* (Birds-nest Orchid). We enjoyed the acrobatic flights of the Crag Martins, and the Griffon Vultures nesting on the balconies of the cliffs.

We then drove above the main Noguera Pallaresa valley and visited a lake near Guingueta d'Aneu. The lake has been amplified by the damp, and hosts a very interesting habitat based on riverine woodland and formations of *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed). We spent the rest of the afternoon here. On a pleasant walk along the edge of the water we found Cetti's Warbler, families of Blue Tits and Long-tailed Tits, and a couple of very interesting plants; *Cardamine raphanifolia* (Greater Cuckooflower) and *Lathraea clandestina* (Purple Toothwort).

Back in Espot, our hosts Josep and Anna at Hotel Roca Blanca offered us a very nice cava and an aperitif, before we continued with the checklist and then got ready for dinner. Today we had a very special meal of paella, a delicacy!

Later, we went on a post dinner spotlighting excursion to look for mammals from the vehicle. We were quite lucky to see a very nice variety of species including Fallow Deer, Roe Deer, Fox, Pipistrelle bats of an undetermined species, and Daubenton's Bat.

## Day 5

Sunday 8th May

Today we said goodbye to Espot and headed for the plains, taking a leisurely route with interesting stops along the way. First we had another try to see Black Woodpecker, again with no luck. It seems that maybe they haven't bred at this particular spot this year. We continued down the road, stopping for picnic provisions and luckily finding another Bearded Vulture that flew over us, but not so high up this time.

We had a comfort stop before entering an unspoilt valley at the northern face of the Pre-Pyrenees. On a corner by the road we saw several raptors including Short-toed Snake Eagle and Black Kite. Here, *Celtis australis* (Nettle Trees) grew and they were signs that the habitat was changing from more subalpine to more Mediterranean based. By midday we were at a castle, enjoying Alpine Swifts, singing Bonelli's Warblers, and a Woodchat Shrike. There were also interesting flowers such as *Gladiolus italicus* (Italian gladiolus), *Thalictrum tuberosum* (Thalictrum) and a bush plant *Pistacia terebintus* (Turpentine Tree).

Moving on, the hillsides were adorned with *Lavendula angustifolia* (Lavender) and others. Continuing through the main valley and despite the drizzle, we had some breaks to enjoy quite good views of Ortolan Bunting, Tawny Pipit and a shy but very active Melodious Warbler. We drove up the northern face of Montsec Mountain, and as we climbed the weather got worse and worse. Once at the very top, the mist was so thick we could hardly see some *Erynaea anthyllis* (Hedgehog Broom) and *Narcissus assoanus* (Rush-leaf jonquil). Due to the conditions, it was not worth a longer visit, and as we could come back on one of the following days, we drove down towards our hotel, with a break for coffee on the way.

Once there and having checked in, we met for a walk around the grounds of hotel Monestir de les Avellaness. We saw some new birds such as Short-toed Treecreeper, Spotted Flycatcher and a family of Linnets. Some of the interesting plants found here included *Dipcadi serotinum* (Brown-flowered Squill), *Allium roseum* (Rosy-flowered garlic) and *Litbospermum fruticosum* (Shrubby gromwell). After a long day, we enjoyed the tranquillity of this area before a nice dinner.

## Day 6

Monday 9th May

Due to the rain, we abandoned a pre-breakfast birding excursion to the plains. After breakfast we drove down to the plains, arriving at Estany d'Ivars, a big lagoon surrounded by *Phragmites australis* (Reed) and *Typha angustifolia* (Bulrush). This wetland has an interesting history. In the fifties it was drained to cultivate maize, but in 2003 there was a restoration programme to refill it again. Once that happened, the wildlife came back, and now it is quite well preserved. Starting our walk down the edge of the lake, Great Reed Warblers and Nightingales were singing and we managed to see both of them. At the same time, a couple of Common Sandpipers rested at the edge of the lake, not far from us. The rain wasn't very heavy at this moment, but annoying enough to make us move, so we entered one of the observatories. We stayed there for a while watching Great Crested Grebe, Mallard, a single Red-crested Pochard and Little Grebe. The lagoon was changing, probably because of the colonisation by Carp. This species likes to eat at the bottom of the lake, moving the bed around, so affecting the vegetation and creating turbulence that makes it more difficult for aquatic plants to live, and therefore all the

diving birds struggle to find food and to see well under the water. Coming out from the hide we heard a Penduline Tit, which we later spotted on top of a tree, and a Cetti's Warbler too. This part of the edge of the lake had a little patch of riverine woodland, based on *Populus alba* (White Poplar) and *Salix alba* (White Willow).

We left the lagoon by midday and, because of the rain, settled in a nearby bar to enjoy lunch in the warm and dry. Later, it seemed that the rain was easing so we moved out again, finding an unexpected male Red-footed Falcon perched on a wire. We drove to the Balaguer drylands to look for some of the specialities. On entering the area there was a Roe Deer, and the Calandra Larks were singing and displaying in the sky. Marsh Harrier and a couple of male Montagu's Harriers were seen, flying elegantly low over the fields in search of mice. Not far from there we enjoyed seeing a colony of Lesser Kestrels and a couple of Stone-curlews. Coming away from the area, a group of Bee-eaters were flying and perching on top of little poles in flycatcher behaviour. They let us get quite close which delighted everybody.

The weather seemed to be improving as we went close to Artesa de Segre and stopped at a viewpoint. The break in the rain made the birds very active. Golden Orioles were singing and moving from one tree to the other, being very difficult to catch sight of, though some people did! Plant lovers were enjoying different new species with John and Vicky, and they found *Salvia officinalis* (Sage), *Phlomis lychnitis*, *Psoralea bituminosa* (Pitch trefoil) and *Jasminum officinale* (Catalonian jasmine). Several Honey Buzzards flew over us, circling and heading north in their spring migration. The highlight was a pair of Bonelli's Eagles performing display flights in front of us. The clouds were clearing up and the soft afternoon sun gave a very beautiful light. What a beautiful way to end a rainy day - we deserved it!

## Day 7

Tuesday 10th May

After a good breakfast, we made the short drive to Mont-roig to go for a walk whilst there was a window of good weather. After parking our vehicles, we started slowly walking up, enjoying some of the first birds. There were Griffon Vultures and it was very special to see them from above as they tried to catch thermals and gain some altitude. New plants included *Pistacia lentiscus* (Mastic Tree), an evergreen shrub or small tree which has pinnate leaves with no terminal leaflet. Also present was a very similar bush, *Pistacia terebinthus* (Turpentine Tree), which is deciduous.

A very powerful female Peregrine Falcon showed up in the sky, flying very close to the cliffs to our right, as flocks of Alpine Swifts looked very active, hunting insects. An Orphean Warbler was singing actively from a *Quercus ilex* (Holm Oak) tree, and we saw it a couple of times, despite its shyness. As we walked up, the edges of the track were covered in *Malva neglecta* (Dwarf Mallow) showing an amazing bloom. Further on, a male Subalpine Warbler showed as it performed its display flight. New plants belonging to the Mediterranean habitat and new for the trip were *Helichrysum stoechas* (Curry Plant), *Thymus vulgaris* (Wild Thyme) and *Rosmarinus officinalis* (Rosemary). As we approached the cliff and looking up, we enjoy watching Blue Rock Thrush and Common Rock Thrush. The latter is always a pleasure to see here because is not always present and was a very welcome bonus! The botanists were delighted with the variety of species, finding *Antirrhinum molle*, *Ephedra distachya* (Sea Grape) and the endemic *Anthyllis vulneraria ssp pyrenaica*.

Once at the base of the cliff, several Rock Sparrows were calling from the rocks. They were difficult to spot at first, but easier later when they perch on branches sticking out from the cliff. Crag Martins were flying over us,

and joining House Martins nesting on the cliffs. It is interesting to see House Martins nesting in a natural environment, as we always imagine them on buildings in cities and towns. The active and noisy Red-billed Choughs didn't seem to be bothered by our presence, and they flew in and out of the cliff, possibly entering their nests. From here the path was rather flat to the end where there was a very impressive viewpoint, which gave us a new species of orchid; *Ophrys sphegodes* (Early Spider Orchid). From the viewpoint, the dramatic landscape with the mountains in front and the plains at the back was just priceless.

The sun had been strong this morning after the rain had cleared all the dust from the atmosphere, so we returned to the hotel gardens and enjoyed our picnic sheltering under the old *Celtis australis* (Nettle Trees). Due to the mist on Sunday, we still had to revisit the mountain pass, so we drove to Montsec, climbing along its narrow road to the very top. Today was a different story, and at last we could enjoy the magnificent landscape. The *Erinacea anthyllis* (Hedgehog Broom) was in full bloom, another male Common Rock Thrush showed quite well, and a Dartford Warbler was seen. The botanists followed a little path, finding *Narcissus assoanus* (Rush-leaf jonquil) and *Muscari Neglectum* (Grape hyacinth). As the ornithologists followed the path down, they found a very active Dunnock singing close by. We noticed that these birds were much darker than the ones in the UK. Finally everyone joined together and went along the road to a secret spot where a very special plant, *Fritillaria lusitanica* (Fritillary), grows. This beauty has similar species in gardens, but not as beautiful as these ones!

Finally, we returned to the top of the mountain for a group photograph and to enjoy the afternoon light. In a circular view we could appreciate the dramatic landscapes of the Montsec, plains in the south and the snowy Pyrenees to the north. It was even possible to spot Aneto, the highest summit of the Pyrenees. What a magical moment to end the trip!

## Day 8

Wednesday 11th May

Today was our last day and we had to drive back to the airport. Although it was raining heavily at breakfast, we still planned to do some birding stops on the way.

We packed the luggage into the vehicles and headed to the main road. We made a shopping stop for the lovers of local produce before continuing. Luckily there was a break in the weather, so leaving the main road we entered an area of steppe. We stopped to watch a male Little Bustard, hidden in the barley, singing and displaying. This delighted Elisabeth who had dreamed of watching this bird. A couple of Stock Doves were perched on the pylons. The muddy road stopped us continuing. We stopped to scan a clay bank where we found a beautiful Roller perched on top and several Bee-eaters were flying around, coming in and out of their nests. A Montagu's Harrier was flying over a nearby field.

All too soon it was time to head to the airport where we said goodbye to Juame and caught our flight back to the UK. We had enjoyed a memorable trip to Catalonia in the company of good people!

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## Species Lists

### Plants

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>PINOPSIDA</b>		
<b>CONIFERS</b>		
<b>Cupressaceae</b>		
<i>Juniperus communis</i> subsp. <i>communis</i>	Juniper	Aigüestortes
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenician Juniper	Collegats
<b>Pinaceae</b>		
<i>Abies alba</i>	European Silver Fir	Aigüestortes
<i>Pinus nigra</i> subsp. <i>nigra</i>	Austrian or Black Pine	Collegats
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scot's Pine	Aigüestortes
<i>Pinus uncinata</i>	Mountain Pine	Aigüestortes
<b>MAGNOLIOPSIDA</b>		
<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>		
<b>Magnoliidae</b>		
<b>Aceraceae</b>		
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	Mur
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpellier Maple	Mur
<b>Anacardiaceae</b>		
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree	Mont-roig
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree	Montroig
<b>Aquifoliaceae</b>		
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	Aigüestortes
<b>Asteraceae</b>		
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	Wormwood	Estais
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry Plant	Mont-roig
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion	
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard	Guardia
<b>Betulaceae</b>		
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	Aigüestortes
<b>Boraginaceae</b>		
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss	Several locations
<i>Lithospermum fruticosum</i>	Shrubby Gromwell	Avellanés and Montsonís
<b>Brassicaceae</b>		
<i>Cardamine raphanifolia</i>	Radish-leaved Bitter-cress	Escalarre
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Evergreen Candytuft	Montsec
<i>Matthiola fruticulosa</i>	Sad Stock	Montsonís
<b>Buxaceae</b>		
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	Several locations

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b> <i>Saponaria ocymoides</i>	<b>Pink Family</b> Rock Soapwort	
<b>Cistaceae</b> <i>H. nummularium subsp. pyrenaicum</i>	<b>Rock-rose Family</b> Pink Rock-rose	Buseu
<b>Convolvulaceae</b> <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	<b>Bindweed Family</b> Field Bindweed	Balaguer
<b>Cucurbitaceae</b> <i>Bryonia dioica</i>	<b>Cucumber Family</b> White Bryony	Ivars
<b>Ericaceae</b> <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> <i>Rhododendron ferrugineum</i> <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	<b>Heath family</b> Bearberry Heather Alpenrose Bilberry	Aigüestortes Aigüestortes Aigüestortes Aigüestortes
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b> <i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i> <i>Euphorbia segetalis</i>	<b>Spurge Family</b> Wood Spurge	Collegats Balaguer
<b>Fabaceae</b> <i>Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. pyrenaica</i> <i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i> <i>Cercis siliquastrum</i> <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> <i>Erinacea anthyllis</i> <i>Vicia cracca</i>	<b>Pea Family</b> Pink' Kidney-vetch False Vetch Judas Tree Broom Hedgehog Broom Tufted vetch	Mont-roig Esterrí Montsonís Bonaigua Montsec
<b>Fagaceae</b> <i>Quercus faginea</i> <i>Quercus ilex</i>	<b>Oak &amp; Beech Family</b> Beech-leaved Oak Holm Oak	Montsonís
<b>Fumariaceae</b> <i>Corydalis solida</i>	<b>Fumitory Family</b> Bird-in -a-Bush	Pyrenees
<b>Geraniaceae</b> <i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	<b>Geranium Family</b> Common Stork's-bill	Several locations
<b>Gesneriaceae</b> <i>Ramonda myconi</i>	<b>Gloxinia Family</b> Ramonda	Collegats
<b>Globulariaceae</b> <i>Globularia punctata</i>	<b>Globularia Family</b> Common Globularia	Buseu
<b>Lamiaceae</b> <i>Phlomis lychnitis</i> <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> <i>Salvia officinalis</i>	<b>Dead-nettle Family</b> - Rosemary Sage	Montsonís Several locations Montsonís
<b>Lentibulariaceae</b> <i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>	<b>Bladderwort Family</b> Large-flowered Butterwort	Bonaigua

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Linaceae</b> <i>Linum perenne</i> agg.	<b>Flax Family</b> Perennial Flax	Montsec
<b>Malvaceae</b> <i>Malva neglecta</i>	<b>Mallow Family</b> Dwarf Mallow	Mont-roig
<b>Oleaceae</b> <i>Jasminum fruticans</i>	<b>Olive Family</b> Wild Jasmine	Montsonís
<b>Orobanchaceae</b> <i>Orobanche ithraea</i>	<b>Broomrape Family</b>	Escalarre
<b>Oxalidaceae</b> <i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	<b>Wood-sorrel Family</b> Wood Sorrel	Several locations
<b>Papaveraceae</b> <i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	<b>Poppy Family</b> Corn Poppy	Several locations
<b>Polygalaceae</b> <i>Polygala alpina</i>	<b>Milkwort Family</b> Alpine Milkwort	Montsonís
<b>Primulaceae</b> <i>Primula elatior</i> <i>Primula integrifolia</i> <i>Primula veris</i> <i>Soldanella alpina</i>	<b>Primrose Family</b> Oxlip Entire-leaved Primrose Cowslip Alpine Snowbell	Estერი Bonaigua Aigüestortes Bonaigua
<b>Ranunculaceae</b> <i>Anemone nemorosa</i> <i>Anemone ranunculoides</i> <i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> <i>Hepatica nobilis</i> <i>Helleborus foetidus</i> <i>Helleborus viridis</i> <i>Ranunculus montanus</i> <i>Ranunculus pyrenaicus</i> <i>Thalictrum tuberosum</i>	<b>Buttercup Family</b> Wood Anemone Yellow Anemone Columbine Hepatica Stinking Hellebore Green Hellebore Mountain Buttercup Pyrenean Buttercup Tuberous Meadow Rue	Several locations Several locations Several locations Aigüestortes Several locations Aigüestortes Bonaigua Bonaigua Montsonís
<b>Resedaceae</b> <i>Reseda lutea</i>	<b>Mignonette Family</b> Wild Mignonette	Balaguer
<b>Rhamnaceae</b> <i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	<b>Buckthorn Family</b> Buckthorn	Mont-roig
<b>Rosaceae</b> <i>Amelanchier ovalis</i> <i>Fragaria vesca</i> <i>Malus domestica</i> <i>Potentilla aurea</i> <i>Prunus avium</i> <i>Prunus spinosa</i> <i>Rosa canina</i> agg. <i>Rubus idaeus</i>	<b>Rose Family</b> Juneberry Wild Strawberry Apple Golden Cinquefoil Wild Cherry Blackthorn Dog Rose Raspberry	Buseu Aigüestortes Several locations Aigüestortes Several locations Several locations Several locations Several locations Several locations

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Location</b>
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i> agg	Salad Burnet	Several locations
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	<b>Bedstraw Family</b>	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	Several locations
<b>Salicaceae</b>	<b>Willow &amp; Poplar Family</b>	
<i>Populus nigra</i> agg.	Black Poplar	Several locations
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	Several locations
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	Aigüestortes
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>	<b>Saxifrage Family</b>	
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage	Estais
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	<b>Figwort Family</b>	
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Snapdragon	Mont-roig
<i>Linaria alpina</i>	Alpine Toadflax	Mont-roig
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Aaron's Rod	Several locations
<b>Thymelaeaceae</b>	<b>Mezereon Family</b>	
<i>Daphne mezereum</i>	Mezereon	Aigüestortes
<b>Tiliaceae</b>	<b>Lime Family</b>	
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	Avellanes
<b>Ulmaceae</b>	<b>Elm Family</b>	
<i>Celtis australis</i>	Nettle Tree	Avellanes
<b>Valerianaceae</b>	<b>Valerian Family</b>	
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	Several locations
<b>Violaceae</b>	<b>Violet Family</b>	
<i>Viola canina</i>	Heath Dog Violet	Aigüestortes
<b>Viscaceae</b>	<b>Mistletoe Family</b>	
<i>Viscum album</i> subsp. <i>album</i>	Mistletoe	Several locations
<b>Liliidae</b>		
<b>Iridaceae</b>	<b>Iris Family</b>	
<i>Crocus albiflorus</i>	White Crocus	Aigüestortes
<b>Liliaceae</b>	<b>Lily Family</b>	
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic	Avellanes
<i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i>	Blue Aphyllanthes	Collegats
<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White Asphodel	Collegats
<i>Dipcardi serotinum</i>	Brown Bluebell	Avellanes
<i>Erythronium dens-canis</i>	Dog's-tooth Violet	Bonaigua
<i>Fritillaria lusitanicus</i>	Portugese Fritillary	Montsec
<i>Gagea fragifera</i> ( <i>G. fistulosa</i> )	a Yellow Star of Bethlehem	Esterri
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gladiolus	Guardia
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon Lily	Montsec
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Grape Hyacinth	Montsec
<i>Narcissus assoanus</i>	Rush-leaved Jonquil	Montsec

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	Wild Daffodil	Esterri
<i>Tulipa sylvestris subsp. australis</i>	Wild Tulip	Montsec
<i>Narcissus Abcisus</i>		Aigüestortes
<b>Orchidaceae</b>	<b>Orchid Family</b>	
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine	Collegats
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Bird's-nest Orchid	Collegats
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early Spider Orchid	Mont-roig
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's-nest Orchid	Collegats
<b>Poaceae</b>	<b>Grass Family</b>	
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	Several locations

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>			✓					
2	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>						H		
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		H		✓		✓		
4	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>						✓		
5	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						✓		
6	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>						✓		
7	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>						✓		
8	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						✓		
9	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>						✓		
10	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>						✓		
11	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						✓		
12	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>						✓	✓	
13	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	✓							
14	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓				✓	✓		
15	Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier)	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>		✓	✓	✓				
16	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>				✓				
17	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Cinereous (Black) Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>				✓				
19	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>					✓			
20	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>						✓		
21	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						✓		✓
22	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
23	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		✓						
24	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>						✓		
25	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>				✓				
26	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>						✓		
27	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>							✓	
29	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>						✓		
30	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						✓		
31	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>						✓		
32	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						✓		
33	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓		H		✓		
34	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>						✓		
35	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓					✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
36	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>							✓		
37	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>									✓
38	Rock Dove (Feral)	<i>Columba livia (Feral)</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
39	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>									✓
40	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
41	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>							✓		
42	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			H	H	H	H	H	H	
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>							✓		✓
49	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>							✓	✓	✓
50	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓	H	H				
51	Iberian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus sharpei</i>		✓	H	H					
52	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>						✓		✓	
53	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>							✓	✓	
54	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	
55	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>			✓	✓				✓	✓
57	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>			✓						
58	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>			✓				✓		✓
59	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
60	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
61	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
62	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>		✓							
63	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		H	✓		✓			✓	
64	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	H	✓			✓	
65	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>							✓		
66	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>							✓		
67	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>							✓	✓	
68	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				✓	✓			✓	
69	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>							✓		
70	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
71	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
72	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
73	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>				✓		✓			
74	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			H	✓					
75	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				H					
76	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓		H				H	
77	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>				✓				✓	
78	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>							✓		
79	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>							H		
80	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>					✓				
81	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	✓	H					
82	Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>								✓	
83	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>								✓	
84	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>					H			H	
85	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>								H	
86	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	✓	H							

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
87	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		✓						
88	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓						
89	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				✓				
90	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>					✓			
91	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓							✓
92	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
93	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	H	✓		✓	
94	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓						
95	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
96	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			✓					
97	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>			H	H	✓	✓	H	
98	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
99	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓						
100	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			✓		✓		✓	
101	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			✓					
102	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>							✓	
103	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>							✓	
104	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>					✓			
105	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				✓				
106	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
107	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						✓		
108	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>					H	✓	✓	
109	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓	H					
110	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓	✓				
111	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓				
112	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>					✓			
113	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>			✓					
114	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	H	✓		✓	
115	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>					✓		✓	
116	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>					✓		✓	
117	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
118	Citril Finch	<i>Carduelis citrinella</i>			✓					
119	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
120	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>					✓	✓	✓	
121	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓	✓					
122	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			✓					
123	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>					✓			
124	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		✓	✓					

## Mammals (T = tracks)

1	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			✓	✓			✓	
2	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		T					T	
3	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>					✓			
4	Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>		✓	✓					
5	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			✓					
6	Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>			✓					
7	Alpine Marmot	<i>Marmota marmota</i>			H					
8	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>						✓		
9	Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>			✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

### Amphibians & Reptiles

1	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>		✓							
2	Natterjack Toad	<i>Epidalea calamita</i>								✓	
<b>Butterflies</b>											
1	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>								✓	
2	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>				✓					
3	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>				✓					
4	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓							
5	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>		✓							
6	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>								✓	
7	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>		✓							
9	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>						✓			

### Moths

1	Pine Processionary	<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>	✓				✓	✓			
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### Other Invertebrates

1	Wood Ant	<i>Formica rufa</i>		✓							
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## Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!



Morning walk in Mont-roig



Fritillaria lusitanica