

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

ON TOUR IN SPAIN

THE PYRENEES AND PICOS DE EUROPA



JUNE 12th – JUNE 20th 2019

TRIP REPORT

Places Visited

WEDNESDAY 12TH

BARAJAS, MADRID - EL PARDO PARKLAND - TRANSFER TO FUENDETODOS – WITH SEVERAL SMALL STOPS ALONG THE WAY INCLUDING – VILLANUEVA RUBBISH TIP

THURSDAY 13TH

TRANSFER FROM FUENDETODOS TO HECHO VALLEY WITH STOPS AT: EL PLANERON – RIVER EBRO AT QUINTO – LOS MONEGROS

FRIDAY 14TH

LOCAL WALK TO RIO ARAGON SUBORDÁN - REFUGIO GABARDITO – ROAD TO ARRÉS - BRIDGE OVER THE RIO ARAGON

SATURDAY 15TH

LOCAL WALK TO BOCA DE INFERNIO & RIO ARAGON SUBORDAN – RIO ARAGON – ALASTUEY ROAD – CANDANCHU & ASTUN SKI RESORTS – CITEDAL DE JACA

SUNDAY 16TH

ALASTUEY ROAD - MONASTERIO SAN JUAN DE LA PEÑA – UPPER HECHO VALLEY

MONDAY 17TH

VALLEY DE ANSO – VALLEY DE RONCAL – BELAGUA PASS – PIERRE DE SAINT MARTIN

TUESDAY 18TH

TRANSFER FROM THE PYRENEES TO THE PICOS DE EUROPA WITH STOPS AT; EMBALSE DE EBRO & SAINT VICENTE DE LA BARQUERA

WEDNESDAY 19TH

FUENTE DÉ (TELEFÉRICO – CABLE CAR) – PEMBES VILLAGE

THURSDAY 20TH

TRANSFER FRO THE PICOS DE EUROPA TO MADRID AIRPORT WITH STOPS AT SAN VICENTE DE LA BARQUERA AND AREAS AROUND SEPÚLVEDA

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE 2019

MADRID, BARAJAS PLAZA + EL PARDO – TRANSFER TO FUENDETODOS WITH SEVERAL STOPS INCLUDING VILLANUEVA RUBBISH TIP.

WEATHER: a very old start in Madrid, but much warmer later, some cloud, temp 2 – 24C

Six of us arrived last night and so this morning we had time to meet up and go birding before the other arrived a little later. We met at 6am and drove to the northern outskirts of Madrid to a country park called El Pardo, this huge area has pine woodland, open meadows, streams and reed-beds and a lot of open sky.

It was really cold during the first part of the walk and remained so until the sun came up, but the birding was fantastic we saw some really good species. A male Golden Oriole sat out in the open singing to us, what a great start. We went on to see a lot of interesting birds including: Little Bittern, Purple Heron, Crested Tit, Melodious Warbler, Reed Warbler, Black Kite and lots of common species.



Golden Oriole at El Pardo

It was almost 12 noon by the time I had gathered up the remaining group members at the airport, by noon, we had all loaded our luggage and boarded the vehicles for our departure to the 'Plains' near Zaragoza. Those that took breakfast in the plaza at Barajas saw White Stork, Monk Parakeet, Spotless Starling and Common Swift whilst sitting out in the morning sun.

We spent the rest of the day driving, stopping and starting, breaking for lunch and birding, etc. From the vehicles we noted White Stork, Booted Eagle, Griffon Vulture, Mistle Thrush but not much else.

Once off the motorway our stops were many and each one produced a number of good finds, the last two or three stops were the most productive, especially in the broom heathlands between Villanueva and Fuendetodos. We saw Black-eared Wheatear, Tawny Pipit, Melodious Warbler, Cirl Bunting, Red-legged Partridge, Sardinian Warbler, Linnets, Common Stonechats, Bee-eater, Woodchat Shrike and we heard Orphean Warbler.

It was 6pm by the time we reached our hotel, we had time to enjoy the warm afternoon sunshine whilst supping a nice cold beer. Dinner was taken at 8pm and just after that we all went to bed, it had been a long day for some of the group and a very long day for the others that arrived today!

DAY 2 – THURSDAY 13TH JUNE 2019

TRANSFER FROM FUENDETODOS TO HECHO VALLEY WITH STOPS AT: EL PLANERON – RIVER EBRO AT QUINTO – LOS MONEGROS

WEATHER: bright sunshine all day with great temperatures, a little windy in the afternoon. 14 – 28C

We had a terrific day today and despite travelling quite a distance we had plenty of time in the field. We left our hotel in Fuendetodos at 6:30am with our breakfast in a bag and we drove to El Planeron Reserve some 30 km away. It was 14C when we got there, the light was perfect with no wind, just superb conditions for birding.



The colours of this wonderful landscape are stunning – El Planeron

Having notched up Hoopoe, Red-legged Partridge, Crested Lark, Black Kite and a few others along the way we arrived at the entrance track to the El Planeron reserve. This area of psuedo-steppe is a conservation site, a reservation to protect the habitat favoured by the Dupont's Lark, it is a huge site with many breeding species especially larks. We stopped after just 50 meters to watch an area of short scrub, the air was alive with the songs of larks, we quickly found Greater Short-toed Lark, Thekla Lark, Crested Lark and dozens of Rabbits.



As we ventured deeper in to the ‘steppe’ we noticed even more Rabbits, I can’t ever remember seeing that many before, it looked like an epidemic. The sight of a Red Fox wasn’t too reassuring either, as the Rabbits didn’t seem to mind its presence. At that point we added Calandra Lark to the list.



We worked our way to down to an area where a tiny hide overlooks a small pool of water but before we entered the hide we ‘scoped’ the surrounding area for a while. European Bee-eater, Iberian Grey Shrike, Linnet, a distant pair of Stone Curlews and dozens of very distant Griffon Vultures were added to the day list. Then we heard the call of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Nigel then found them sitting in a ploughed field at quite a distance away, we all had good ‘scope’ views of them.



A Thekla Lark watching a Calandra Lark – Kevin Jones

A walk towards the sandgrouse proved a disaster, because all 9 of them flew off into the distance, so we then all took turns to sit in the tiny hide for short spells. It was fantastic sitting just a few meters away from a lot of birds as they came down to drink. We saw 5 species of larks including Lesser Short-toed and Calandra. But surprisingly we also saw Water Rail, Moorhen and a Water Vole!



Water Rail



Lesser Short-toed Lark (left) and juvenile Greater Short-toed Lark – taken by Kevin Jones



Another from Kevin, Calandra Lark, also taken from the hide

Driving towards the exit we stopped a few times to watch various other species, these included; Red-billed Chough, Raven, Little Owl, another pair of Stone Curlews and to our great delight a pair of Black-bellied Sandgrouse (only in flight). It was a magical few hours, the scenery and colours of the landscape were stunning and the light just exquisite.



Left to right: back row; Nigel, Ian, Kevin & Richard. Front; Pat, Sue, Guy, Christine & Tony

Next, and in complete contrast to the landscape of El Planeron, we visited the River Ebro just behind the town of Quinto. Along the way we added White Stork, Marsh Harrier and Short-toed Eagle to the list. An almost 'ox-bow' lake at the river is reed filled and tree lined, it provides great habitat for a good number of species. The surrounding agricultural land (mainly rice and maize) is good too for more scrub-liking species, along the approach track a flooded rice field held Black-winged Stilts.

During the next couple of hours we enjoyed a good number of sightings; Wryneck, Purple & Night Herons, Sand Martin, Kingfisher, Little Ringed Plover, Melodious Warbler, Great Reed and Common Reed Warblers, Common Nightingale and Cetti's Warbler (were both heard) and a Common Cuckoo showed well.



Purple Heron

From the river we drove into the small town of Pina de Ebro which had a picturesque plaza with shaded seated areas and some fine old buildings including a large clock tower with at least eight White Storks nests built on it. We bought and ate a picnic lunch in the plaza before taking a lovely coffee, I do love Spanish coffee. We then moved on.



Our next stop was the area called Los Monegros where small rolling hills are tree-less and covered in short scrub with some broom and tamarisk. It is a harsh place for wildlife as it is always hot and very dry and yet several birds survive well in this environment. We saw Bee-eaters, Crested and Thekla Larks, family groups of Black-eared Wheatears, a juvenile Dartford Warbler and our main target bird the Spectacled Warbler showed well at times. Birds of prey were few and far between, Black Kites,

Common Kestrel, Common Buzzard and some distant Griffon Vultures, we did not see Golden Eagle, juvenile birds often frequent this area in search of the abundant Rabbit.



An odd-looking insect was identified as a **Nosed Grasshopper**, we also found Thread-winged Lacewing and a Little Owl, but not many butterflies were on the wing.

It was now 4pm and we had a long journey ahead of us, so we set off for the final leg to the Hecho Valley, we drove up to Huesca and on to Jaca passing through some terrific scenery before turning up into the Hecho valley, we made a couple of stops for coffee and to buy snack supplies.

It was almost 7pm by the time we reached our hotel which was high up in the Hecho valley, we had noted Red Kite along the way but not much else. As soon as we got out of the bus we saw a couple of Griffon Vultures drifting high over the mountains and to our great delight not one, but two Lammergeiers appeared, we could not believe our luck, two minutes after arriving we had Lammergeier in the bag!! Bullfinches could be heard in the bushes behind us, I think we are gonna love this place.

An excellent dinner was served at 8pm, the group were in a buoyant mood with plenty of laughter at the table along with cheerful banter as we discussed our plans for tomorrow.

DAY 3 – FRIDAY 14TH JUNE 2019

LOCAL WALK TO RIO ARAGON SUBORDÁN - REFUGIO GABARDITO – ROAD TO ARRÉS - BRIDGE OVER THE RIO ARAGON

WEATHER: dull and overcast to start, brighter mid-morning then rain. Sunshine later. Temp 14 20C

We had a mixed bag of fortune today both with the weather and with the birding! It was a lovely start to the day, we met at 7am for a walk down to the local river to look for Dipper, it was overcast but much warmer than we had anticipated with no wind.

Before we left the hotel grounds, we had seen Firecrest, Red-backed Shrike and Crested Tit and we had heard Blackcap, Wren, Song Thrush and Bullfinch. Along the lane we added Coal Tit, European Robin, Dunnock and Blue Tit to our day list.



Bee Orchid found on the driveway to the hotel

At the river we quickly found Grey Wagtail, Dipper and Black Redstart, an Egyptian Vulture flew over and we had good views of a Pine Marten (seen twice). On the way back we found Jay, Mistle Thrush and more Crested Tits.

Immediately after breakfast we headed up the mountainside to the Refugio Gabardito some 10km from the hotel. The car park and the open alpine meadow surrounding the refugio are usually good habitat for finding Citril Finch. We found Common Crossbill, Coal Tit, Red-backed Shrike, White Wagtail, Serin, but no Citril Finches.

We left Nigel with the vehicles as he cannot walk this type of terrain with his bad hip and set off into the forest of beech and pine trees. Our main aim was to walk to the now-famous 'Wallcreeper rock face' and wait for the appearance of a Wallcreeper. The journey was quite uneventful bird wise, we did hear Black Woodpecker, also Garden Warbler and we saw both Red-billed and Alpine Chough. As there were no butterflies on the wing we made an effort to find a few orchids and we came up with a Bee Orchid species as well as Burnt Tip Orchid and a White Helleborine.



Trumpet Gentian

At the Wallcreeper rock face we spent about an hour and a half searching the vertical fissure known as a 'chimney' where the Wallcreeper has bred for the last few years. We saw Crag Martin, both species of Chough, Common Kestrel, Griffon Vulture and Black Redstart but there was no sign of the Wallcreeper.

On the way back we watched Garden Warbler and photographed a few Burnt Tip Orchids before returning to the car park to eat our picnic lunch. In the meantime, Nigel, back at the car park, had photographed Citril Finch, watched Short-toed Treecreeper and seen a Chamois!!



Citril Finch – taken by Nigel in the Car Park at Refugio de Gabardito

Just as we finished lunch it began to rain and as we drove down the mountain it steadily got heavier, we made a quick stop at the hotel before abandoning the Hecho Valley and headed down out of the mountains to the River Aragon some 28 kilometers away. It was the right decision because as we emerged from the mountains we drove into dry, clear weather.



A collage of Orchids, L to R; Burnt Tip, Lesser Butterfly and Pyramidal

Our first stop was on an old bridge over the Aragón Subordán River and from there we saw Rock Sparrow, Turtle Dove, Booted Eagle, Red Kite, Black Kite and a Short-toed Eagle. Then a few kilometers further along the road we had a nice surprise when we found a European Roller, what a beauty and what a great find, I have never seen one in the Pyrenees before!



European Roller – superbly taken by Kevin Jones

We drove into warm sunny weather as we turned onto a side lane leading to the village of Arrés and over the period of a couple of hours we had a great time in the sunshine watching many butterflies and quite a few birds too.

Gently sloping hills leading up to a ridge and covered in low scrub and young trees lay on our left whilst agricultural fields lay on our right. The grass verges were covered in wild flowers and butterflies covered the flowers. We saw our first Honey Buzzards, also Short-toed Eagles, both Kites and Griffon Vultures were ever-present.



Twin-spot Fritillary

Butterfly sightings included: Twin-spot Fritillary, Marbled and Red-underwing Skippers, Chestnut Heath, Iolas Blue, Spanish Chalk-hill Blue, Wall, Southern White Admiral and many more. We also found more Bee Orchids and Pyramidal Orchids.

Small passerine sightings included Corn and Cirl Buntings, Tawny Pipit, Common Stonechat, Subalpine & Melodious Warblers, Blackcap, Crested Larks and lots of common species. We ended up on a bridge over the river Aragón on the road towards Martés, where we watched Little Ringed Plover, White Wagtail, Grey Heron, Rock Sparrow and many House Martins. It was now 5pm so we decided to leave and set off back to the hotel. We made one stop to look at the Roller again as we made our way back up the Hecho Valley.

DAY 4 – SATURDAY 15TH JUNE 2019

LOCAL WALK TO BOCA DE INFERNIO & RIO ARAGON SUBORDAN – RIO ARAGON – ALASTUEY ROAD – CANDANCHU & ASTUN SKI RESORTS – CITEDAL DE JACA

WEATHER: a dull start in the mountains but sunny down the valley. Temp 11 – 20C

The weather forced us to change our plans today, the forecast was not too good locally but it looked good down the valley, so that is where we headed for. Our walk before breakfast took us to the ‘Boca de Infernio’ (devil’s mouth) where the river Aragón Subordán thunders through a spectacular narrow gorge, it is the site where the Wallcreeper used to breed many years ago. We saw Grey Wagtail and not much else, but it was worth a visit just to see the tumultuous river cascading through the gorge.

We also re-visited the river at the bridge just below the hotel and this time we all had much better views of the Dipper. It was a little windy and this enticed more vultures into the sky, there were plenty of both Griffon and Egyptian Vultures out this morning.



Sunrise this morning – taken from my balcony at the hotel

Our first venue after breakfast was down at the Rio Aragón near Puente de Reina we parked near a small bridge in a wooded area. From the bridge we saw Great Cormorant, Common Sandpiper, White Wagtail and Grey Heron. Lots of Golden Orioles called from the trees and every bush seemed to have a Garden Warbler singing from it. We also heard Cetti's Warbler, Common Nightingale and the 'butterfly boys', Kevin and Tony found several new species for the list.



Ilex Hairstreak by Kevin Jones

Just a little further along the main road towards Jaca there is a small patch of oak woodland and this where we went to next. Our target birds were in the bag within minutes of arriving. Both Subalpine

and Bonelli's Warblers showed really well and a bonus find was a Short-toed Treecreeper. We saw both Booted and Short-toed Eagles up on thermals with the Vultures.



Subalpine Warbler – taken by Kevin Jones

We also stopped where a stream crosses underneath the road a few hundred meters along the same lane and where an area of open scrub follows the course of the stream. This habitat is favoured by the Orphean Warbler and one was singing when we arrived. It took a while to locate it, but we all had reasonable views in the end. Southern White Admiral, Ilex Hairstreak and a few other species went onto the butterfly list.

After driving through Jaca we headed for the Ski Resorts at Candanchu and Astún very close to the French border. The wide-open grass slopes with rocky outcrops are ideal habitat for a number of species. At first the area appeared to be devoid of bird-life but after a short walk we began to find some interesting species. Water Pipits were singing as they performed their parachuting display flight, Linnets and Black Redstarts seemed to be everywhere and very pale looking Northern Wheatears went about collecting food for their brood.

Both Alpine and Red-billed Chough fed on the grass ski slopes and the low cloud forced the Griffon Vultures to fly very low as they emerged from the French side of the mountains. But it was the Common Rock Thrush and the Citril Finch that we were after. After quite a walk we eventually found four Rock Thrushes, three males and a female, what a stunning bird, they got the group's full attention. Two of us also saw Citril Finches but they flew off before the others arrived to see them. A couple of nice Orchids were found by 'Orchid Girl' Christine, the Elder-flowered Orchid was in abundance in sheltered areas near the rocks. We also saw Alpine Marmot sitting out during sunny spells.



Water Pipit above and the colourful Common Rock Thrush below



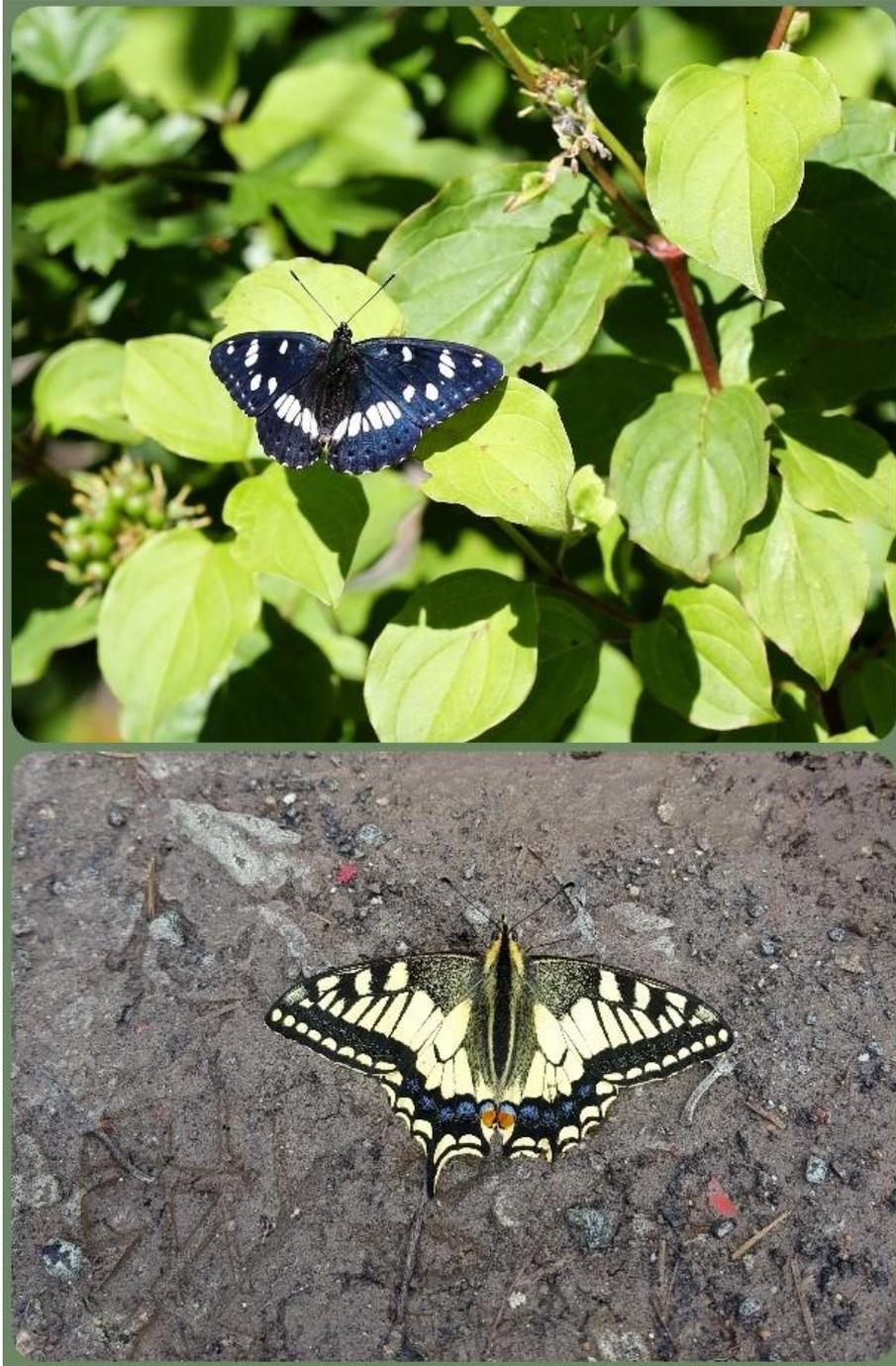
During past visits I have often taken group over the border into France to a site where I have seen the Citril Finch and today we did just that. As soon as we got out of the vehicles, we saw a small group of the finches fly up from the grass verge. After a little patience we got our reward, great views in the 'scope of Citril Finch, our most sought-after little gem.

We had a second reward in the form of a coffee break back over in Spain, we also found a couple more Orchids, the delicate Fragrant Orchid was a crowd pleaser. A Swallowtail Butterfly sat on the mud in the car park, it was taking in minerals, it looked so out of place, this bundle of vibrant colour was a stark contrast to the dull grey mud.

Our visit to Astun Ski Resort was short lived, a chilly wind kept us near the vehicles, we were hoping for a Lammergeier sighting but that never happened. We did see a huge 'kettle' of Choughs (70+ birds) with Griffon Vultures, also Raven, Coal Tit, Goldcrest and Yellowhammer.

We left the ski resorts at 4:30pm and headed for the hotel, we made one stop on the way back in the centre of Jaca at the Citedal. This 16th Century monument in the centre of town has never been

damaged, but it provides nesting sites for several bird species. We hoped to see both Rock and Tree Sparrows. We saw both and a host of Common Swifts too, the sky had cleared and it was a very pleasant visit in the late afternoon sunshine.



Southern White Admiral above (Kevin Jones) And Swallowtail Butterfly both seen today

We ate dinner at 8pm and afterwards we called the bird log, our bird count is now at 120 species.

DAY 5 – SUNDAY 16TH JUNE 2019

ALASTUEY ROAD - MONASTERIO SAN JUAN DE LA PEÑA – UPPER HECHO VALLEY

WEATHER: fantastic wall to wall sunshine all day, light breeze. Temp. mid twenties.

We took an early breakfast and we were out on the road at 8am heading down the valley towards Puente de Reina. Our first goal today was to visit a new site along the road to Alastuey looking for buntings.

It was a gorgeous morning and the scenery along the road Alastuey was delightful. Rolling hills, sometimes wooded, sometimes heathland, with a stream running alongside the road and some steep sand banks with rocky outcrops.



Walking back to the vehicles along the road to Alastuey with the high Pyrenees in the background

We stopped for walking sessions on two or three occasions, the area was alive with bird song and a few butterflies were already on the wing. We found Rock Sparrows in a tree and Tree Sparrows on a Rock (only kidding), just the former! A few European Bee-eaters dashed over the trees and we heard: Orphean Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Blackcap, Chaffinch and a distant Cuckoo.

A pair of Cirl Buntings flew along the road in front of us we then saw Garden Warbler, Orphean Warbler and Subalpine Warbler. Several Melodious Warblers were singing, we found half a dozen of them. But our main target species remained elusive, we were hoping for sightings of both Rock and Ortolan Buntings, neither turned up although towards the end of our visit we did hear a distant Ortolan Bunting but after carefully searching the hillside we drew a blank.

When we finally got back to the vehicles, Nigel, who as usual had stayed behind because of his hip problem, informed us that he had been watching an Otter in the stream just below him!!



The Otter seen and photographed by Nigel Bleaken

The huge Monasterio at San Juan de la Peña was not as crowded as I expected, we parked in the woodland car park and began our walk to the ‘famous’ mirador. We found the nest hole of the Black Woodpecker, it was ‘fresh’ most probably this year’s nest site but after waiting for a while no sight nor sound came from the nest, we assumed the young had fledged.



Our walk to the Mirador produced sightings of few common species and a couple of new butterflies for our list including; Black-veined White and Duke of Burgundy Fritillary. We searched the woodland

for Black Woodpecker without a single sighting, so after eating our picnic lunch and a quick cup of coffee we left the area.

From the mirador we had had unbroken views of the mountains and we saw that they were cloud free, so we made the decision to drive to the 'head' of the Hecho Valley for our afternoon birding. It was a great decision as everyone really enjoyed the afternoon and especially the stunning scenery in the mountains.



You just see some of the group walking up the track at the 'head' of the Hecho Valley

It was just exhilarating, glorious sunshine, unbelievable scenery and a wealth of wildlife all around us. We saw lots of bird species also: Alpine Marmot, Chamois, a Pyrenean Frog, lots of Orchids and plenty of butterflies including the Camberwell Beauty.

Our best sightings of birds included those of Egyptian Vultures, they were feeding in the meadows below the main track, the photographers amongst us were in heaven. We also had three sightings of Lammergeier, they were all fairly distant, but we could see that one was a juvenile bird and the other two were adults. Lots of Griffon Vultures drifted over the mountain peaks, the occasional Short-toed Eagle joined them but there were long periods with nothing in the sky at all.

In the scrub we watched Yellowhammers, Dunnocks, Red-backed Shrikes, Linnets, Serins and one of the group reported the sighting of two Citril Finches. Our butterfly list was enhanced with the sightings of Gavernie Ringlet, Camberwell Beauty, Clouded Apollo, Large Wall and several species of 'blues' and 'skippers' yet to be identified.



Alpine Marmot



Egyptian Vulture

We spent the whole afternoon surrounded by what is arguably the best scenery in Europe, it was hard to drag the group away at 6pm. But we had to go, we had arranged an early dinner because we were due to go out again after dinner to look for an Eagle Owl.

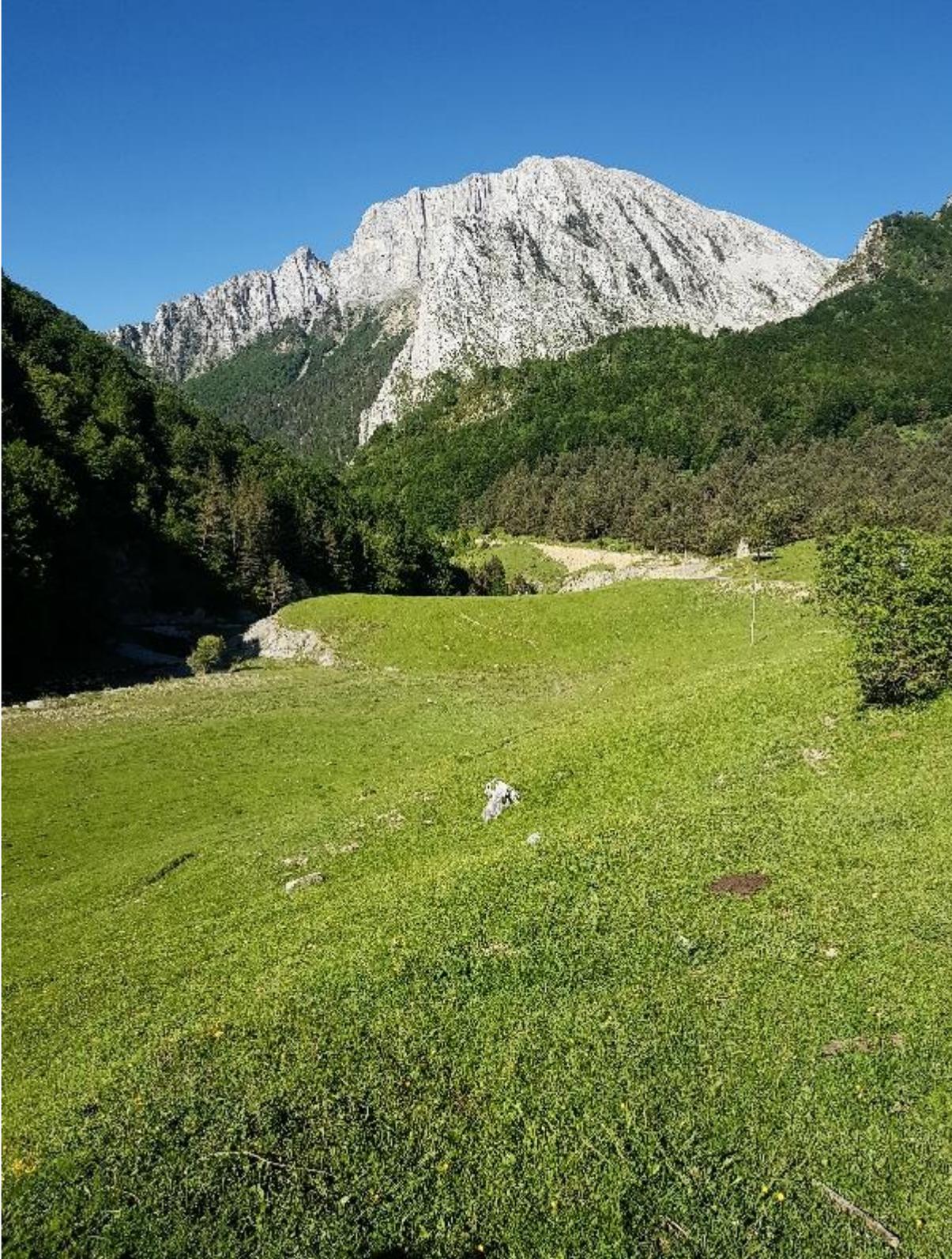
All went to plan, we arrived at the Eagle Owl site just before dusk, the evening weather was perfect, and the beautiful sunset was a befitting end to such a glorious day. We waited, and waited, and waited some more! As it got darker the Owl called from across the valley, we all got excited, then three more calls, it had to show? But no, not a bean, we missed it. For a consolation prize a European Nightjar 'churred' and then flew around for a while, so we did see at least one bird of the night. We got back to the hotel at 11pm, time for bed, methinks.

DAY 6 – MONDAY 17TH JUNE 2019

VALLEY DE ANSO – VALLEY DE RONCAL – BELAGUA PASS – PIERRE DE SAINT MARTIN

WEATHER: a superb day of sunshine, a little hot in the afternoon. Around 20 – 28C

This ‘three valleys’ trip is one of favourites of this tour, we pass through some stunning scenery and hopefully we get to see some of the most prized bird species found in the Pyrenees.



Our route took us down to the town of Hecho and across to the picturesque village of Ansó, passing through open meadows and then climbing up through pine forest. From Ansó we followed the Rio

Verel for 15km through the most beautiful gorge culminating at the head of the Ansó valley at Zuriza. It was stunning there, we parked on the grass verge and looked down to the River, we were surrounded by Beech and Pine Forest and the mountain peaks form a stunning background.



We found Dipper and Grey Wagtail in the river, Black Redstart, Crag Martin, Serin, White Wagtail, Red-billed Chough, Griffon Vulture and Mistle Thrush in the area around Zuriza, but there was no sight nor sound of the Black Woodpecker.



Yellow-billed or Alpine Chough

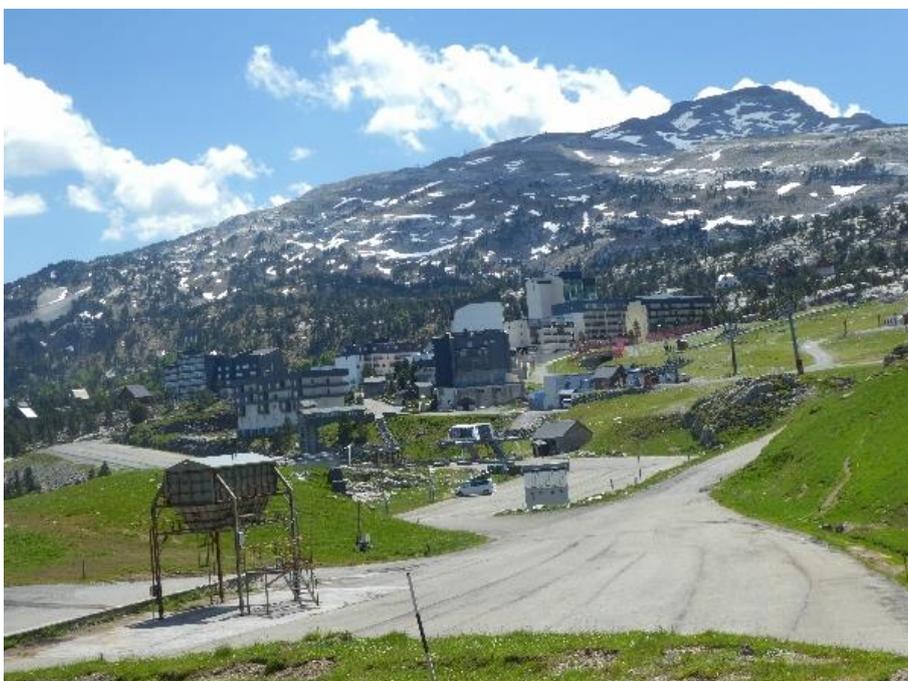
We then travelled across to the Ronçal Valley passing through a wide valley connecting the Anso to the Ronçal valley with forest and alpine meadows on either side of the road. At the head of this valley large pinnacles of rock rise up from the forest. We stopped both in the valley and at the pinnacles to look for woodpeckers and Blue Rock Thrush respectively, drawing a blank in both cases.

Once in the Ronçal Valley we stopped to scan another series of limestone pinnacles and this time we found a nice male Blue Rock Thrush. The drive up to the spectacular Pass at Belagua was the best part of the journey so far. The climb was steep with many ‘switch-backs’ but the view from the top took your breath away.



From then on we started to find alpine wildlife, the flowers were out in force, carpets of yellow gorse, blue gentians and pink scabious. Butterflies were everywhere and so were the alpine birds. Over the next hour we had sightings of dozens of Alpine and Red-billed Chough, also Water Pipits, Northern Wheatears, Dunnocks, Black Redstarts and we saw at least three Common Rock Thrushes!

We ate our picnic lunch just over the border into France, we sat at the head of a rocky gorge with scattered Juniper bushes and clumps of pine trees. This was prime habitat for Ring Ouzel and just as we were finishing lunch a female Ring Ouzel appeared not far away in the grass. A walk into the gorge produced more Ring Ouzel sightings and two of the group ventured much further than the rest of the group and they were rewarded with sightings of Alpine Accentor.



The French ski resort of Pierre Saint Martin (shown above) is always worth a visit, at this time of the year it is deserted but full of birds especially Citril Finches. We saw small flocks of them on the approach road, on grass verges and in the pine trees. Lots of Serins and Black Redstarts frequented the ski resort too and we also found a very obliging Ring Ouzel. Some of the group noted a group of Alpine Swifts in with the Common Swifts. We were hoping for a sighting of a Lammergeier but none turned up.



Black-veined White

After spending an hour or so in the ski resort it was time to head off back into Spain and down the valley back towards Hecho. We took a different route back, passing through Isaba and then the beautiful town of Ronçal. We stopped for coffee in Isaba and sat outside watching a huge flock of Common Swifts dashing about above the town, a few Griffon Vultures drifted over as well as Black Kite and Egyptian Vultures.

As we crossed back over to Ansó the narrow road climbed up through pine forests and steeply back down to alpine meadows, more panoramic vistas were to be had of the stunning countryside. We made one stop along this route and spent nearly an hour chasing butterflies back and forth along the grass verges, many were on the wing as it was still very warm and sunny even at this time of the day.

We saw Heath Fritillary, Queen of Spain Fritillary, Black-veined White, Mazarine Blue, Green Hairstreak and many more. We were back at the hotel by 6pm with plenty of time to pack our suitcases before dinner. Tomorrow we commence the final leg of journey as we drive 450kms to the Picos de Europa.

DAY 7 – TUESDAY 18TH JUNE 2019

TRANSFER FROM THE PYRENEES TO THE PICOS DE EUROPA WITH STOPS AT; EMBALSE DE EBRO & SAN VICENTE DE LA BARQUERA

WEATHER; sunny most of the day, cloudy at the coast, top temp 32C

It was a long, long journey today, we spent all day travelling but we broke it up with many stops and short breaks. We set off at 8:30am after saying goodbye to our hosts at the hotel. Our first stop was just 30 minutes down the road near the Puente de Reina at the Rio Aragón. We parked along the lane to Arrés and searched the area for Ortolan Bunting which was still missing from our list. We saw

several species but not **the** bunting: Cirl & Corn Buntings, Stonechat, Serin, Black Kite, Griffon Vulture and Common Buzzard spring to mind.

Back on the road again we drove for an hour and stopped on the far side of Pamplona for a coffee break. In the gardens of the café many flowers were in bloom and Tony was soon on the case of the butterflies there. On one Rosemary plant there were several different species of butterflies: Scarce and Common Swallowtails, Large and Small Whites, Black-veined White, Marbled White, Ilex Hairstreak, Painted Lady, Queen of Spain Fritillary and a couple of others.



The tidal estuary at San Vicente de la Barquera

We then drove for another 2 hours before stopping for our picnic lunch, we sat at picnic tables in lovely sunshine, during this part of the journey we spotted our only Montagu's Harrier of the trip so far! At lunch we noted Melodious Warbler, Common Nightingale, Serin, Greenfinch, Goldfinch and a Marsh Harrier.

After another drive we stopped for ice-creams and then we drove on to the large Embalse (reservoir) de Ebro. It was very windy at the reservoir and a little unpleasant to stand and bird watch, our stay was short-lived, we did see Great Crested Grebe, Mallard, Gadwall, Yellow-legged Gull and Eurasian Coot.

Our final birding stop was 45 minutes later at the coastal town of San Vicente de la Barquera where a large bay provides shelter for boats and for wildlife. We arrived just before high tide, not ideal but we saw some species of shore birds and a few waterfowl. Our biggest surprise was to see two pairs of Mute Swan and a couple of Eurasian Spoonbills! Other birds present were: Eurasian Curlew, Whimbrel, Redshank, Mallard, Black-headed Gull, Yellow-legged Gull and a single juvenile Great Black-backed Gull.

The last leg of the journey was another 50 minute drive, our route took us through the 15km long Desfiladero de la Hermida Gorge, a fantastic and picturesque drive following the course of the Rio Deva. We stopped in the beautiful town of Potes before arriving at our hotel in Cosgaya. The hotel is right beside the Rio Deva, we saw Grey Wagtail and Dipper before we checked into the hotel.



A Dipper taken outside our hotel in Cosgaya by Kevin Jones

It had been a long day, but we finished with a superb dinner, lovely wine and great rooms, aaaaaaaah bed!!!

DAY 8 – WEDNESDAY 19TH JUNE 2019

FUENTE DÉ (TELEFÉRICO – CABLE CAR) – PEMBES VILLAGE

WEATHER: dull overcast and quite cold this morning, sunny spells later. Temp range 2 – 20C

We had a fabulous last full-day, we saw some terrific birds in magnificent scenery and even the cold weather didn't blemish a great day in the field.

Things started well, we met at 7am, it was overcast but the air was very still and calm. We walked across the road from the hotel to watch Dipper and Grey Wagtails on the River Deva, a bonus was the sighting of a male Common Redstart which was singing from the top of the tallest tree. We also saw Spotted Flycatcher and many common species such as Robins and Great Tits etc.

After breakfast we drove a few kilometers to the terminus of the Teleférico (cable car) and parked up. It was 8:30 am and the first cable car was due to run up the mountain at 10am. So, we had time to kill and birds to look for in pine forest around the terminal buildings and in the woodland a short walk away.

We found two excellent species in the deciduous woodland, first a pair of Marsh Tits showed very well and then we had great views of Middle Spotted Woodpecker, fantastic! We stood at the front of the queue for the cable car for 45 minutes and got into the first car up to the top. The cable car takes you up some 800 meters in just under 4 minutes to a height of 1,823 meters, the view from the car is spectacular.

It was very chilly as we stepped out of the upper terminal building, but we were soon warmed up by the sighting of an Alpine Accentor which searched for food along the concrete path just a few meters out of the building, we had fabulous views of it.



Clockwise: Alpine Accentor, Marsh Tit (Kevin Jones), Middle Spotted Woodpecker (Tony Moore) and Common Rock Thrush



Next we found a Dunnock, the smaller cousin of the Alpine Accentor, which is also known as Hedge Accentor, they do look alike but the size difference and colouration is quite noticeable. A few meters

further on we found a Northern Wheatear which was very pale and made us look twice just in case we had found a Snow Finch, which is exactly what turned up next.



View from the top of the cable car journey, you can see two cable cars about to pass

The Snowfinch was below us on the large open grassy area, it flew towards us before making u-turn and headed away, it was a colourful male in all its glory. We all saw it in flight showing off its white wing patches, what a great find. Of course, the group wanted better views so off we went to look for more.

The cold wind increased as we got further into our walk and it became uncomfortable to stand for too long in one place. We then found another pair of Alpine Accentors with a Black Redstart nearby and another couple of Northern Wheatears. Throughout our walk both Red-billed and Alpine Choughs could be seen and heard all the time, the occasional Griffon Vulture drifted by too.

At the main rock-face the wind was most cutting but there were places to be found where shelter was at hand. In one of these sheltered spots Alpine Choughs came down for crumbs giving unbelievably close views. We could also view more Snow Finches flying in and out of crevices, sometimes chasing one another around, some males were seen to perform display flights.

About an hour into the walk some of group had fallen a little behind and it was those few that had an incredible encounter with a WALLCREEPER, it flew up and perched right next to them and began to scour the nearby rocks for food. By the time the rest of us caught up with this mountain gem it was

quite far away and was working its way up the main cliff-face. Well, what a magical experience for some of the group. We then saw a Chamois quite close, it was walking along the mountain scree not too far away.



Sue with an Alpine Chough right behind her

On the way back to the cable car we made another great find in the form of a Common Rock Thrush, this particular beauty was our fifth trip-sighting of this colourful mountain thrush and we enjoyed every minute of it. Our visit to the peaks of the Picos was over we had had an excellent and most productive visit.

It was a warm relief to get back down to the lower level, we all went straight to a café for a hot drink and to eat our lunch, it was warm enough to eat outside, so we did. After eating our lunch we took a short walk across a nearby meadow to the base of the mountains. Rocky scree was littered with flower plants and small shrubs, it was there that we searched for, and found, Rock Bunting. We had brief views of a female before we found a male that was singing from the top of a bush.

The rain that was forecast, did not materialise, in fact it grew brighter as the afternoon wore on. For our final venue we visited the 'ancient' village of Pombes which is found about 15km back down the valley towards Potes. This lovely little 19th Century village is full of original buildings many of which look as though they are about to fall down and a lot more that have been gentrified.

Nevertheless, it is still a wonderful place to visit. We parked on the edge of the village near the church and just stood for a while taking in the tranquil ambience of the place. Birds were flitting about everywhere especially the Common Redstart, also the Black Redstart, Serins, Chaffinches, Common Swifts, Goldfinches, White Wagtails, and as we walked through the village we had at least four sightings of Middle Spotted Woodpecker.

One or two raptors circled on the recently formed thermals, we saw Honey & Common Buzzards, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures and a Black Kite. However, our best sightings were made when we walked back down the lane from the village towards the valley bottom. A couple of magnificent Lizard

Orchids stood proudly by the roadside and a quite a few butterflies were on the wing, mostly Spanish Marbled Whites but others too.



L to right: Burnt Tip Orchid, close up of Lizard Orchid and then the full 'spike' of the Lizard.

About 1km from the village the leading walkers in the group spotted a Black Woodpecker flying through the trees and one of the group saw it perched on the side of a tree trunk, wow! Our most wanted Woodpecker seen at Last. However, the bird disappeared and we never saw it again, we did find a 'fresh' Black Woodpecker hole but despite waiting for 30 minutes or so we saw no further activity.

It was now approaching 6pm so we called it a day and set off back down the hill to our hotel. Dinner was served at 7:30pm, it was humorous affair, most of the group ordered 'Spanish Stew' which was totally different from the English-type stew that they had expected, lots of beans were left on their plates!!

Tonight we have to pack for our journey home tomorrow, there will be plenty of time for birding along the way to the airport at Madrid.

DAY 9 – THURSDAY 20TH JUNE 2019

TRANSFER FROM THE PICOS DE EUROPA TO MADRID AIRPORT WITH STOPS AT SAN VICENTE DE LA BARQUERA AND AREAS AROUND SEPÚLVEDA

WEATHER: low cloud, mist and rain all morning, brighter with thunderstorms in the afternoon.
Temp 13 – 20C

Well our last day had arrived and what a wash-out! It was dull and overcast the clouds were almost down to street level and a fine rain drizzled down. We left the Picos as soon as we could taking with us some happy memories of our short visit. Our chosen route was via the coast we hoped for clearer weather, but that was not the case, in fact, the cloudy, misty weather was a little worse, but the rain had stopped. We saw very little during our second visit to San Vicente de la Barquera, a few Eurasian Curlews, two Whimbrels, Mute Swan, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Mallard, Gadwall, Great Black-Backed and Yellow-legged Gulls and not much else.

From the coast we drove non-stop all the way to Burgos, the weather got better and better as we progressed. A few species were noted along the way, the most notable was of at least three Montagu's Harriers, we also saw both Black and Red Kites, Common Buzzard, Black-eared Wheatear, Skylark, Crested Lark and Corn Buntings.

Our lunch stop was made at a roadside café on the main autovia towards Madrid and 45 minutes later we turned off the motorway and headed inland towards Sepúlveda where we spent about 3 hours stopping in various places looking for new species for our list. We saw Hoopoe and Bee-eaters during our journey into the countryside.

Our first stop was next to an old church where a track ran alongside a wooded area and led us to a stream, we saw lots of species there. Western Yellow Wagtails, (*iberiae* subspecies), Rock Sparrow, Common Nightingale, Melodious Warbler, Tawny Pipit, Iberian and Woodchat Shrikes, distant Turtle Doves and a probable Hobby hawked the sky in the distance.

It was great birding, lots more species were recorded but it was all cut short by a thunderstorm, we caught just the edge of the storm, so the rain wasn't too bad, but bad enough to make us scramble back to the vehicles.

A short trip along country lanes soon got us back into brighter weather, in fact we spent two memorable hours in lovely broken sunshine and a nice temperature, a great way to finish off our birding holiday.

The main species on our wanted list was Iberian Magpie (formerly Azure-winged Magpie), before long we were surrounded by them as a flock passed through the wooded scrub right where we had parked, we even saw one pair visiting a nest.



Iberian Magpie taken by Kevin Jones

We went on to having close encounters with Western Orphean Warbler, Bonelli's Warbler, our first Woodlark of the trip and more Rock Sparrows. Some of the group saw Eurasian Sparrowhawk, also a first for the trip and we had excellent views of a superb looking Turtle Dove.

Butterflies were also on the wing we added Great Banded Grayling to our list, with Spanish Gatekeeper and Meadow Browns also flitting around us. We left the area at 4:15pm and drove the last hour of the journey to the airport, one last species was added to the list when we saw a group of three Black Vultures on a grass bank on the side of the autovia.



Turtle Dove

By 6pm the trip was over, two of the group, Richard and Ian were dropped off at their hotel, Kevin and Pat took a taxi to central Madrid for an extra two nights, Tony and Christine left to catch a train also to a hotel in central Madrid. That left Guy, Susan, Nigel and myself to catch an Easjet flight.

Of course, the flight was delayed and much worse there wasn't a seat on the plane for me!! I had to check-in and then wait until the end of boarding to see whether or not anyone had not turned up! Luckily that was the case. This was a result of Easyjet's overbooking policy, lesson learnt, I will not be checking in at the last minute in the future!



The final trip count was 151 bird species with another 3 heard but not seen and we saw 59 species of butterfly. It was a classic 'mountain birding tour' with quality sightings rather quantity. The butterfly count was impressive despite the lack of flowering plants in high altitude areas. The European Roller received the most votes and so became our 'bird of the trip'

SPECIES RECORDED JUNE 12TH – 20TH 2019

SPECIES			DATE SEEN										
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cynus olor</i>		X							X		X
2	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>									X		
3	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				X							
4	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		X	X								
5	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>									X		
6	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			X						X		X
7	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			X								
8	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X	X	X	X				X		X
9	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		X	X								
10	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		X	X								
11	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		X	X						X		X
12	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>									X		
13	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		X							X		X
14	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>									X		X
15	Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>			X			X	X				
16	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
17	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
18	Black Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>											X
19	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>				X					X	X	
20	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
21	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
22	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
23	Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>		X		X	X	X					
24	Short-toed Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
25	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>											X
26	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			X						X		X
27	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>									X		X
28	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		X	X	X	X			X	X		X
29	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				X		X					
30	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>			X								
31	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		X	X								
32	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		X	X								
33	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>									X		
34	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			X								
35	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>			X								
36	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			X	X							
37	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>									X		
38	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					X						
39	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>									X		X
40	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>									X		X
41	Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>									X		X
42	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>			X	X		X			X		X
43	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>									X		
44	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>			X								
45	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>			X								
46	Rock Dove /Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		X	X	X	X				X		X
47	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				X							X

SPECIES			DATE SEEN									
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
48	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		X	X		X	X				X
49	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		X	X	X		X		X		X
50	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			X	H	H	X				X
51	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			X							
52	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>						X				
53	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>							X			
54	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
55	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>										X
56]	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			X							
57	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		X	X			X		X		X
58	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		X	X							X
59	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>		X		H						X
60	Middle-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus medius</i>									X	
61	Black Woodpecker	<i>Drycopus martius</i>			H						X	
62	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquatta</i>			X						H	
63	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>										X
64	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>			X							
65	Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>										X
66	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		X	X	X				X		X
67	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>			X							
68	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>			X							
69	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>			X							
70	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			X	X		X		X		
71	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	
72	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
73	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>		X								
74	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
75	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>		X		X						X
76	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>					X		X		H	
77	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
78	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>										X
79	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
80	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	
81	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				X	X	X	X		X	
82	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>							X		X	
83	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		X		X	H	X	X	X	X	
84	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H	X	H	H	H		H		X
85	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	
86	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				H				H	X	X
87	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
88	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>					X	X	X		X	
89	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>		X	X							X
90	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		H		X	H	X	X		H	
91	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		X		X	X		X			
92	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
93	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>							X			
94	Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				H			X			
95	Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>					X		X		X	
96	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				X	X	X	H			
97	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	X	X	H	H	X	H	X	X
98	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>								H		

SPECIES			DATE SEEN										
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
99	Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>		H			X	X					X
100	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>		X									
101	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>				X	X	X					
102	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>			X								
103	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>			X								
104	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			X								
105	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	X	H	H						
106	Great Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>			X								
107	Eurasian Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		X	X								
108	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		X	X	X	X	X		X			
109	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>					X						X
110	Eurasian chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus colybita</i>				H	H	H					
111	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>					X						
112	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>				X		X	X			H	
113	Wren	<i>Troglodytes trogladytes</i>				H	H	H	H			H	X
114	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			X		X					X	X
115	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
116	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>			X	X	X	X				X	
117	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>		X	X	X	X		X			X	
118	Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>				X	X		H				
119	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>										X	
120	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		X		X	X					X	X
121	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>										X	
122	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		X				X				X	
123	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		H			X						
124	Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>			X								X
125	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>				X	X	X	X	X			
126	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		X		X	X	X		X			X
127	Iberian Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyana</i>											X
128	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
129	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				X	X	X		X		X	X
130	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		X	X	X							
131	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>			X	X	X	X	X			X	X
132	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>				X	X		X			X	
133	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
134	Common or Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		X	X		X	X	X				
135	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>		X	X	X	X		X	X			X
136	Eurasian Golden-Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		X	H	H	X						H
137	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
138	Eurasian Tree-Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		X			X						
139	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>		X		X	X	X					X
140	Snowfinch (White-winged)	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>										X	
141	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
142	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
143	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
144	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		X	X			X		X			X
145	Citril Finch	<i>Carduelis citrinella</i>				X	X		X				
146	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
147	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			H	X	X		X				
148	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>				X							
149	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>						H					

SPECIES			DATE SEEN								
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
150	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				X	X	X			
151	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	X	H	X	X	X		X		
152	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
153	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>								X	
154	Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	X								

BUTTERFLIES

SPECIES											
<u>PAPILIONIDAE</u>			DATE								
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	X				X	X	X		
2	Apollo	<i>Parnassius apollo</i>									
3	Clouded Apollo	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>				X	X				
<u>PIERIDAE</u>											
4	Black-veined white	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>						X	X	X	
5	Large white	<i>Pieris brassica</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6	Small white	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>		X	X	X	X		X		
7	Green-veined white	<i>Artogeia napi</i>						X			
8	Bath white	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>	X								
9	Orange tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			X		X				
10	Mountain clouded yellow	<i>Colias phicomone</i>						X			
11	Pale clouded yellow	<i>Colias palaeno</i>			X			X			
12	Clouded yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
13	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>						X		X	
14	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	X								
15	Wood white	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>			X						
<u>LYCAENIDAE</u>											
16	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>					X				
17	Ilex hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>				X			X		
18	Long-tailed blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>							X		
19	Green Underside blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>					X				
20	Iolas Blue	<i>Iolana iolas</i>					X				
21	Little blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	X								
22	Holly blue	<i>Cetastrina argiolus</i>								X	
23	Mazerine blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>					X	X			
24	Brown argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	X								
25	Adonis blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>				X					
26	Common blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	X		X		X	X			
27	Spanish Chalkhill blue	<i>Polyommatus albicans</i>			X	X					
28	Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>					X				
29	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>						X			
<u>NYMPHALIDAE</u>											
30	Southern white admiral	<i>Liminitis reducta</i>			X	X					
31	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>						X			
32	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalus antiopa</i>					X				

33	Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>							X			
34	Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			X		X			X		X
35	Small tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>					X	X	X		X	
36	Queen of Spain fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>							X	X		
37	Pearl Bordered fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>							X			
38	Shepherd's fritillary	<i>Boloria pales</i>										
39	Twin-spot fritillary	<i>Benthis hecate</i>				X		X				
40	Weaver's fritillary (violet)	<i>Clossiana dia</i>					X					
41	Knapweed fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>			X						X	
42	Heath fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>							X			
43	Glanville fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>									X	
	<u>SATYRIDAE</u>											
44	Marbled white	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>				X					X	
45	Spanish Marbled White	<i>Melanargia ines</i>								X	X	
46	Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>		X								
47	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>										X
48	Gavarnie ringlet	<i>Erebia gorgone</i>						X				
49	Meadow brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
50	Southern gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia cecilia</i>								X		
51	Spanish gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia bathseba</i>		X		X	X			X		X
52	Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>							X			
53	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>					X					
54	Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>				X						
55	Speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>			X			X				
56	Wall brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>				X						
57	Large wall brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>						X				X
	<u>HESPERIIDAE</u>											
58	Marbled skipper	<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>				X						
59	Dingy skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>		X			X					
60	Red-underwing skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>				X						

OTHER LEPIDOPTERA/MAMMALS/REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS/INSECTS

SPECIES			DATE									
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	Hummingbird Hawk Moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>			X	X	X		X			
	Thread-winged Lacewing	<i>Nemoptera hipennis</i>		X								
	Nosed Grasshopper	<i>Acrida hungarica</i>		X								
	Pyrenean Chamois	<i>Ruicapra rupicapra</i>			X		X	X		X		
	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	X	X					X			
	European Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>		X								
	Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>			X		X					
	Alpine Marmot	<i>Marmota marmota</i>				X	X					
	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			X	X						
	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		X								
	Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>								X		
	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	X			X			X		X	
	Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>					X					
	Pyrenean Frog	<i>Rana pyrenaica</i>						X				
	Iberian Rock Lizard	<i>Lacerta monticola</i>			X	X		X	X			

