

NORTHERN SPAIN 13-27 May 2013

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Belchite (Zaragoza) - Loporzano (pre-Pyrenees) - Hecho Valley (high Pyrenees)

A self-guided two-week trip to the pre- and high-Pyrenees as well as areas of steppe. Accommodation was booked through Boletas Birdwatching Centre, Loporzano, Aragon:

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Both Andy and Josele provided a great deal of information on the areas we planned to visit; Josele also loaned us walking route maps for sites in the pre-Pyrenees around Boletas Birdwatching Centre at Loporzano.

ACCOMMODATION

All accommodation was good, very comfortable and clean. The food was excellent, lots of it and a wide choice at every meal. The Boletas team (Josele Saiz and Esther Diago) work closely with hotels and guest houses to ensure breakfast and evening meals are tailored for British birders (mostly local-style food but timed to suit our strange ways rather than Spanish custom). More importantly, a packed lunch is provided each day as a matter of course - essential most days as there are very few shops or places to get coffee or meals in the rural areas at this time of year. It made life very easy for us; our Spanish is inadequate, to say the least, and these arrangements meant there were no misunderstandings or wasted time trying to arrange an early breakfast or dinner.

The first two nights were at Lécera, a few kms south of Belchite. The Hotel Rincón del Cierzo is a new venture targeting birdwatchers and, although a 30-minute drive to the steppe area (La Planerón) it's a better option than accommodation currently available in Belchite. We spent the next 6 nights at the home of Esther and Josele, Casa Boletas; a really enjoyable stay with fabulous home-cooking (thanks, Esther). From this base we explored the pre-Pyrenees. Our base in the high Pyrenees was the Hecho Valley, staying at Castillo d'Acher in Siresa, just north of Hecho village. Another comfortable place, famed for its food; we ate rather too well here, even requesting a reduction in the size of our packed lunch!

WEATHER

We had a great trip, despite the rotten weather! The first thing Josele said on our arrival was "I'm sorry about this weather". It was chilly to very cold everywhere, we had rain, sleet or snow for at least part, if not all, of every day. Visibility, even in the lower valleys, was often poor. It even rained for several hours on 2 days at Belchite, making the tracks around the steppes very slippery, some becoming impassable. Even when the cloud broke, the strong, cold wind was relentless. In the pre-Pyrenees it was wet, dull and windy much of the time with only short bright spells. The high Pyrenees peaks were mostly covered in cloud, with rain, drizzle, sleet or snow each day. The usual ploy of descending lower down the valleys didn't work; admittedly there was less cloud but the wind remained very cold and it often rained. Just one day was clear throughout - our last full day - and we were able to see the top of Canfranc valley at Astún (east of Hecho).

MAP

A very useful map, which just about includes the Belchite steppes as well as all other areas we visited, is **Mapa Provincial Series, 1:200,000 scale**, entitled **HUESCA**, If it's difficult to find, try the Map Shop at Upton on Severn, (tel 0800 0 85 40 80). Mention Andy Howes when ordering as they stock them for Boletas enquiries.

ITINERARY

		<u>Accommodation</u>
13 th May	Morning flight to Barcelona. Drive to Lécera. Late afternoon/evening La Planerón, Belchite steppe	Hotel Rincón del Cierzo
14 th May	Early visit to Belchite steppes. Mid-morning Belchite town ruins before another visit to steppes and nearby farmland and orchards.	"
15 th May	To Loporzano then east/north-east from Loporzano/Bandaliés to Los Molinos	Casa Boletas
16 th May	a.m. Loporzano village to edge of Flúmen river. p.m. Vadiello and the dam	"
17 th May	a.m. Piraces and southeast to Sariñena	"
18 th May	a.m. Santa Cilia. p.m. Salto de Roldán	"
19 th May	a.m. Salto de Roldán. p.m. Vadiello area	"
20 th May	Alcanadre river at Ontiñena and Ontiñena steppes	"

21 th May	Hecho Valleys and Gabardito	Castillo d'Acher
22 th May	Puerto Valley to Lizara	"
23 th May	Hecho Valley and Gabardito	"
24 th May	a.m. Higher Hecho Valley and Oza forest. p.m. lower Ansó and Fago Valleys	"
25 th May	a.m. Gabardito and higher Hecho Valley. p.m. high and low Ansó Valley	"
26 th May	a.m. To Canfranc Valley/French border via Jaca. p.m. areas NW of Loporzano	Casa Boletas
27 th May	Drive to Barcelona airport	

PLACES VISITED

Ansó Valley	West of Hecho valley, from Berdún on the N-240 to the French border	High Pyrenees
Bandaliés	Small village along route from Loporzano to Los Molinos and St.Celia	Pre-Pyrenees
Belchite town	South of Zaragoza on the A-222, SW of Codo and La Planerón	Belchite steppe
Canfranc valley	Valley de Canfranc, from Jaca on the N-240 to Astún Valley at French border	High Pyrenees
Codo	Village SW side of Belchite steppes	Belchite steppe
Fago	The western-most valley in Aragon, west of Ansó valley	High Pyrenees
Gabardito	Eastwards off Hecho valley north of Hecho & Siresa villages	High Pyrenees
Hecho valley	Whole valley from Puente la Reina de Jaca on N-240 up to the French border	High Pyrenees
High Pyrenees	Based at Siresa, main areas visited: Hecho Valley/Gabardito/Lizara/Urdues, Ansó and Fago Valleys plus Canfranc Valley (north of Jaca)	High Pyrenees
La Planerón	Protected area of Belchite steppes	Belchite steppe
Lécera	South of Belchite on A-222 road, SW of Codo and the Belchite steppes	Belchite steppe
Lizara	Head of Puerto Valley, east of Hecho	High Pyrenees
Loporzano	Village East of Huesca/pre-Pyrenees; location of Boletas Birdwatching Centre	Pre-Pyrenees
Los Molinos	East from Loporzano, beyond Bandaliés	Pre-Pyrenees
Montearagon dam	North west of Loporzano	Pre-Pyrenees
Ontiñena	Between Sariñena and Fraga on A-131, SE out of Huesca. Bridge crosses the Alcanadre river at Ontiñena river	East of Zaragoza
Ontiñena steppe	Steppe and cultivations, half-way between Ontiñena town and Candasnos	East of Zaragoza
Oza Forest	Beech and Silver Fir forest in upper Hecho Valley	High Pyrenees
Piraces	Sandstone cliffs and valley SE of Huesca	South of Huesca
Pre-Pyrenees	Based at Loporzano, main areas visited were Salto de Roldán, Montearagon-Apiés, Vadiello and Bandaliés-Santa Celia	Pre-Pyrenees
Puerto Valley	East from Hecho Valley- Aragües del Puerto - towards Lizara	High Pyrenees
Salto de Roldán	NW of Loporzano	Pre-Pyrenees
Sariñena	On the A-131, SE out of Huesca	
Sena	On the A-131 between Sariñena and Ontiñena	SE of Huesca
Siresa village	Hecho Valley, north of Hecho village.	High Pyrenees
St.Cilia	NE of Loporzano	Pre-Pyrenees
Vadiello	NE of Loporzano in the Natural Park of La Sierra y los Cañones de Guara	Pre-Pyrenees

BELCHITE STEPPES

We arrived at La Planerón late afternoon on our first day. Although early morning and late evening are the best times for seeing steppe birds, luck was on our side. Huge numbers of Lesser and a few Greater Short-toed Larks, hundreds of Calandras and some Theklas. A group of four Pin-tailed Sandgrouse dropped in and a Stone Curlew flew past. Then we heard a Dupont's Lark and suddenly it appeared very close to the track on top of a tiny clump of vegetation - a brief but very clear view before it hopped down to the ground and disappeared. One of only two target species for this trip already in the bag! Early next morning we heard three Dupont's singing but failed to see them. It had rained heavily during the night and it was then changeable with some sun, lots of showers and quite windy. The dirt tracks became very slippery so we explored other areas - farmland, groves and roadsides. We spent some time around the once-splendid but now ruined buildings at Belchite (a stark reminder of the Spanish Civil War) and found Blue Rock Thrush

and Black Redstart. Four Honey Buzzards flew steadily northwards, quite low. Our evening visit to the steppes was cut short by heavy rain but not before we'd seen Red-billed Chough, Red-backed Shrike, Turtle Dove and plenty of Black-eared and Northern Wheatears.

PRE-PYRENEES

Around Loporzano. Boletas Birdwatching Centre provides accommodation, meals and information for independent travellers as well as organising guided tours. At Casa Boletas, in the small village of Loporzano, we could listen to Nightingales in the garden all night. There's plenty of routes to explore from this base – St.Cilia, Salto de Roldán, Riglos, Vadiello dam. It was often wet and always cold but we saw a good range of species; plenty of raptors, Bee Eaters, Hoopoes, Woodchat Shrikes, Red-billed Chough, Nightingales. Plants were interesting, including a variety of orchids and wild tulips, but were often difficult to photograph in strong, blustery wind and rain.

South from Loporzano. 45 minutes south from Loporzano is Piraces, a fascinating area of sandstone cliffs and a wide rugged "valley" in the middle of nowhere. Eagle Owl can be found here, but we visited during the day. Lots of Griffons and a few Egyptian Vultures; we also saw Tawny Pipit, Rock Sparrow, Thekla Lark and a Montagu's Harrier. Further south, we checked around the Flúmen river at Ontiñena (Cirl Bunting and a roosting Black-crowned Night Heron). Continuing south, we spent the afternoon around Ontiñena steppes (between Ontiñena and Candanos). Of note were 5 Black-bellied Sandgrouse, 3 Great Spotted Cuckoos, 4 Rollers and a male Little Bustard flushed by a Marsh Harrier. During sunny spells there were quite a lot of butterflies: Western Marbled Whites were often seen in some parts and occasional Clouded Yellows and Adonis Blues.

HIGH PYRENEES

Based at Siresa village, we spent most of our days here in Hecho Valley, finding Gabardito and Lizara routes the most productive. The long stretch of open meadow at the top of the Hecho valley, beyond Refugio Mino/Barranco Arguas Tuertas, is no doubt spectacular but each time we visited it was either covered in thick mist, raining heavily or snowing and visibility was very poor. At Gabardito we saw Citril Finch, Bearded Vulture, Golden Eagle and Alpine Chough. At Lizara, Rock Bunting and a huge flock of about 200 Alpine Choughs were of note. However, birds were often few and far between and we spent a lot of time photographing frozen or very wet plants - including a good range of orchids, hyacinths, wild daffodils and hellebores.

In the hope of finding better weather, we tried the Ansó and Fago valleys west of Hecho. Both very productive but the weather was just the same. We reached the top of Ansó valley but in poor weather; lower down it was dry with long clearer spells but still with a strong, cold wind frustrating many attempts at photographing plants. These valleys were good for raptors, with Honey Buzzard, Bearded Vulture, Short-toed and Booted Eagles, and large numbers of both species of Chough. Again, plants were varied and interesting, but often wet and soggy!

SUMMARY

If this trip had been specifically for birds, it may have been disappointing as we often struggled to find good numbers of even common birds, probably due to the weather. We managed a total of 123 bird species, the only obvious one that eluded us was Wallcreeper; maybe if we'd braved the snow showers for longer we'd have succeeded but there was a nagging doubt that they might not yet be on their breeding grounds, deterred by the weather, like the gatherings of species like Northern Wheatear (19 males and 1 female feeding together) and Black Redstarts (5 males together on a roadside verge). Insects were mostly conspicuous by their absence (we found some tucked up under plants and rocks, out of the wet and cold) but plants were rewarding, even though most were sodden or being blown about by the wind. We were not surprised to hear on our return home that on the French side of the high Pyrenees ski resorts were re-opening from 1st June to take advantage of further late snowfall.

SPECIES

BIRDS

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

Fairly common around Belchite and Ontiñena steppe, and pre-Pyrenees.

Alectoris rufa

COMMON QUAIL

Often heard in pre-Pyrenees and farmland around the steppes.

Coturnix coturnix

MALLARD

Uncommon. 5-6 seen around Belchite-Lécera and 1 on flooded rice field at Sena village near Sariñena.

Anas platyrhynchos

WHITE STORK

Common. Nests in many villages in pre-Pyrenees; 100+ at Huesca rubbish tip; large breeding colonies on pylons in lowlands.

Ciconia ciconia

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON

1 adult roosting in thicket by Alcanadre river, Ontiñena.

Nycticorax nycticorax

GREY HERON

1 on Zaragoza-Huesca route; 1 on rice field at Sena village near Sariñena.

Ardea cinerea

BEARDED VULTURE	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
1 by Vadiello Dam; 2 together in higher Hecho Valley 23rd; 2 together in lower Ansó valley plus 1 picking at bones on ground in lower Fago valley on 24th; 1 at Gabardito/Hecho and 1 near Zaina/Ansó on 25th.	
EGYPTIAN VULTURE	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
Common, seen in good numbers most days, all areas. Up to 8 together.	
HONEY BUZZARD	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
4 flying northwards over Belchite town a.m. and 2 northwards over Codo p.m. on 14th; 1 by Los Molinos East of Loporzano on 15th; 3 singles in Hecho Valley on 23rd; 2 singles on 24th in Ansó and Fago lower valleys; 1 in higher Ansó valley on 25th; 1 over higher Canfranc Valley on 26th.	
GRIFFON VULTURE	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Very common almost everywhere, including 6 soaring over Ontiñena steppe, although none around Belchite-Lécera. Groups of 20+ frequent and 100+ around Huesca rubbish tip.	
SHORT-TOED EAGLE	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
1-2 singles on 8 days, around pre-Pyrenees, along lower stretches of Ansó, Fago and Canfranc valleys, and Ontiñena steppe.	
BOOTED EAGLE	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>
1 near Loporzano; 2 together over Huesca rubbish tip; 1 near Sariñena; 1 in lower Ansó valley and 1 in lower Fago valley (this last one was dark-phase, all others pale).	
GOLDEN EAGLE	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
1 subadult north of Belchite; 1 subadult near St.Celia/Loporzano; 2 adults circling low over Ontiñena steppe; 2 s/a at Lizara; 1 ad at Gabardito.	
SPARROWHAWK	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
2 singles on 25th near Gabardito.	
NORTHERN GOSHAWK	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
1 near Loporzano on 26th.	
WESTERN MARSH HARRIER	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Common around farmland in pre-Pyrenees and at Ontiñena steppe where min. 3 adult males.	
MONTAGUE'S HARRIER	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
1 ringtail near Piraces; 1 Ontiñena steppe.	
RED KITE	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Common. Seen most days, usually singles/2s, throughout except higher areas.	
BLACK KITE	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Common throughout, usually singles/2s, except higher areas. 50+ around Huesca rubbish tip.	
COMMON BUZZARD	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Common, 1-3 seen most days.	
LESSER KESTREL	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Mating pair on derelict barn at La Planerón, seen two days.	
COMMON KESTREL	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Common most areas, seen on 8 days.	
HOBBY	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
2 near Loporzano.	
PEREGRINE	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Surprisingly few sightings. 1 near Gabardito and 1 at Lizara.	
LITTLE BUSTARD	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>
1 male on Ontiñena steppes (flushed by Marsh Harrier)	
MOORHEN	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
1 only, on a small pool between Codo and La Planerón steppes	
STONE CURLEW	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>
2 at La Planerón/Belchite steppes; heard only at Ontiñena steppes	
BLACK-WINGED STILT	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
2 on pool between Codo and La Planerón; 1 at roadside pool west of Barcelona	
YELLOW-LEGGED GULL	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>
1-2 at Vadiello Dam on each visit; 6+ at Huesca rubbish tip.	
PIN-TAILED SANDGROUSE	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>
4 at La Planerón, Belchite	
BLACK-BELLIED SANDGROUSE	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>
5 at Ontiñena steppes	
ROCK DOVE / FERAL PIGEON	<i>Columba livia</i>
Wild birds (presumably) fairly common in higher mountain areas.	
WOODPIGEON	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Common in very small numbers (singles/2s/3s), seen most days.	
TURTLE DOVE	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Fairly common. Seen or heard on 7 days; min.6 at La Planerón/Belchite steppes.	
COLLARED DOVE	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Common in small numbers (2s/4s).	
MONK PARAKEET	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>
Single flyovers on outskirts of Barcelona on 13 th and again on 27 th .	
GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO	<i>Clemator glandarius</i>
4 at Ontiñena steppes (3 together + single)	

CUCKOO 3 singles seen; often heard.	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
ALPINE SWIFT 2 near Loporzano on 15 th ; 3 at St.Celia on 18 th	<i>Apus melba</i>
COMMON SWIFT Common, seen most days. Usually small numbers, up to 7 together.	<i>Apus apus</i>
EUROPEAN ROLLER 2 at Ontiñena steppes; 2 near Ontiñena town.	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
EUROPEAN BEE EATER Common in suitable habitat. Seen most days, usually 2s/4s.	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
HOOPOE Common in suitable habitat, especially around steppes.	<i>Upupa epops</i>
WRYNECK Common, frequently heard in all suitable areas. At least 10 on 18 th between Loporzano and Salto de Roldán.	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER 4 singles: 2 near Loporzano; 1 by Alcanadre river at Ontineno bridge; 1 at Gabardito.	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
BLACK WOODPECKER 1 heard several times on west side of upper Hecho Valley on 22 nd .	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>
GREEN WOODPECKER 1 seen briefly by Gabardito Refugio on 23 rd ; 1 heard near Gabardito on 25 th .	<i>Picus viridis</i>
RED-BACKED SHRIKE 1 male at La Planerón/Belchite; 2 single males on route to Lizara; single males near Siresa and below Gabardito; pair at Candanchi, Canfranc Valley.	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
WOODCHAT SHRIKE Common, several sightings most days in suitable habitat.	<i>Lanius senator</i>
GOLDEN ORIOLE Fairly common in suitable wooded areas. Up to 5 sightings per day; more often heard.	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
JAY Uncommon. 1 east of Loporzano; 4-5 in forest below Gabardito; 3 in lower and 2 along upper Ansó Valley; 2 Fago Valley; 1 at Astún at top of Canfranc Valley.	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
MAGPIE Very common in all lower areas.	<i>Pica pica</i>
RED-BILLED CHOUGH Common, seen every day. Frequent sightings around La Planerón and the Belchite-Lécera-Codo villages, usually pairs but 10 on ruins at Belchite; 6 at Ontiñena steppes; 10 near Los Molinos (Loporzano). Min.50 at Salto de Roldán; Common in Hecho Valley, sometimes in single-species flocks up to 50 birds but often with Alpine <i>P.graculus</i> .	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhcorax</i>
ALPINE CHOUGH Common in higher valleys. A huge flock of c.200 around Lizara on 22 nd and again beyond Refugio de la Mina (Hecho) on 23 rd ; 60+ at Gabardito and c.150 in higher Ansó Valley on 25 th ; 60+ at Astún, Canfranc Valley on 26 th . Often with Red-billed <i>P. pyrrhcorax</i> .	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>
WESTERN JACKDAW Uncommon. 5 at petrol station near Lleida; small numbers along route Zaragoza to Huesca.	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
CARRION CROW Occasional sightings of 2s around Belchite and Ontiñena steppes; common along high Pyrenean valleys but not noted in pre-Pyrenees/Loporzano areas.	<i>Corvus corone</i>
NORTHERN RAVEN Common around pre-Pyrenees/Loporzano areas, with 40 at Huesca rubbish tip. Only occasional sightings of singles/2s in high Pyrenean valleys.	<i>Corvus corax</i>
COAL TIT Common in pine forest of high Pyrenees, frequently heard but only 2 seen.	<i>Parus ater</i>
CRESTED TIT 1 seen at Vadiello dam and occasionally heard around Gabardito and along Ansó Valley.	<i>Parus cristatus</i>
GREAT TIT Occasional sightings, more often heard, on most days.	<i>Parus major</i>
BLUE TIT Occasional sightings, less frequent than Great Tit.	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
CALANDRA LARK Abundant on Belchite and Ontiñena steppes.	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>
GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK Frequent sightings in small numbers around Belchite/La Planerón. None found at Ontiñena steppes.	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK Very common, in good numbers, around Belchite/La Planerón and Ontiñena steppes.	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>
DUPONT'S LARK 1 seen at La Planerón and three others heard.	<i>Chersophilus duponti</i>
CRESTED LARK Common in all suitable habitat. A few larks on the edge of La Planerón/Belchite appeared to be this sp.	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
THEKLA LARK c.6 identified as this sp. at La Planerón and at Ontiñena steppes; many others at these sites were probably also this sp.; 2 seen	<i>Galerida theklae</i>

well in Piraces canyon; several seen in bare, rocky areas around Salto de Roldán were probably this sp.	
WOODLARK	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
2 seen near Loporzano and several more heard.	
SKYLARK	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
1 seen well near Loporzano on 15 th .	
BARN SWALLOW	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Common but only in small numbers of 4-6.	
CRAG MARTIN	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Common in suitable habitat.	
HOUSE MARTIN	<i>Delichon urbica</i>
Common throughout.	
CETTI'S WARBLER	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
2 by Alcanadre river at Ontiñena bridge.	
LONG-TAILED TIT	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
6 by Alcanadre river at Ontiñena bridge.	
CHIFFCHAFF	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Occasional singles, more often heard, around Loporzano/pre-Pyrenees; occasionally heard in high Pyrenees.	
WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
Common. Frequently heard in suitable areas but only 4 seen.	
EURASIAN REED WARBLER	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
2 by Alcanadre river at Ontiñena.	
MELODIOUS WARBLER	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
1 by Coda village (Belchite); 3 seen, others heard, around Loporzano.	
ZITTING CISTICOLA	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
4 around village of Coda near Belchite.	
BLACKCAP	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Common, although heard much more often than seen.	
WESTERN ORPHEAN WARBLER	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>
Pair + second male near Coda (Belchite); 1 north of Loporzano; occasionally heard elsewhere.	
DARTFORD WARBLER	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
1 seen near Montearagon	
SPECTACLED WARBLER	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>
Male on edge of Ontiñena steppe.	
SUBALPINE WARBLER	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
Fairly common. 7 singles seen and others often heard in suitable habitat.	
FIRECREST	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
1 heard near St.Celia on 18 th ; 2 heard near Lizara on 22 nd .	
WREN	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Singles seen in Hecho and Fago valleys; occasionally heard elsewhere in high Pyrenees.	
NUTHATCH	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
1 at Gabardito.	
SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
1 at Gabardito.	
SPOTLESS STARLING	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
Common, small parties seen most days.	
BLACKBIRD	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Common.	
SONG THRUSH	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
2 near Loporzano on 15 th ; more frequent in high Pyrenees where seen and heard daily.	
MISTLE THRUSH	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Several around Belchite and Lécera almond and olive groves. Fairly common in high Pyrenees.	
ROBIN	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Common only in higher Pyrenean forest.	
NIGHTINGALE	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Common. Frequently heard and often seen.	
BLACK REDSTART	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
1 male on ruins in Belchite town; 1 male at Piraces; common in high Pyrenees, some probably on passage as frequent sightings of up to 5 males together.	
COMMON REDSTART	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Pair NE of Loporzano (Calcon river)	
EUROPEAN STONECHAT	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
Widespread in small numbers.	
NORTHERN WHEATEAR	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
2 males La Planerón/Belchite and 6 Ontiñena steppes; 1 female Piraces; numerous in high Pyrenees, e.g. 19 males and 1 female on small meadow by Gabardito Refugio on 21 st ; frequent sightings of 4-6 from 21 st to 25 th .	

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>
3 on La Planerón/Belchite and 6 on Ontiñena steppes; occasional sightings of singles/pairs in pre-Pyrenees.	
BLACK WHEATEAR	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>
1 male near Vadiello dam.	
COMMON ROCK THRUSH	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>
Prolonged view of female at La Almunia del Romeral (NE of Loporzano) on 17 th ; 1 male at Astún in high Canfranc Valley on 26 th ; 1 male at Loporzano cemetery on 26 th .	
BLUE ROCK THRUSH	<i>Monticola solitaries</i>
2 males on ruins at Belchite town; pair by Vadiello dam.	
SPOTTED FLYCATCHER	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Widespread in small numbers in all suitable habitat.	
PIED FLYCATCHER	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Male in hotel garden at Lécera on 13 th , female there on 15 th ; pair near St.Cilia in pre-Pyrenees on 18 th .	
DIPPER	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
2 singles in higher Hecho Valley.	
HOUSE SPARROW	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Common.	
ROCK SPARROW	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
4 near Loporzano on 16 th ; distant views of 2-3 at Piraces.	
ALPINE ACCENTOR	<i>Prunella collaris</i>
2 at Astún, higher Canfranc Valley.	
DUNNOCK	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
1 at Astún, higher Canfranc Valley.	
GREY WAGTAIL	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Frequent sightings along Hecho Valley; 2 Canfranc Valley; 2 at Montearagon dam.	
WHITE WAGTAIL	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Widespread in small numbers.	
TAWNY PIPIT	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
1 at Piraces canyon.	
WATER PIPIT	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>
5 in higher Hecho valley; 3 at Astún, higher Canfranc valley.	
CHAFFINCH	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Common.	
GREENFINCH	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Uncommon. 1 near Belchite town; 5-6 Alcanadre river/Ontiñena bridge; occasional sightings of 2s/3s in lower Hecho valley.	
LINNET	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
Common in all suitable habitat.	
GOLDFINCH	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Common in all suitable habitat.	
CITRIL FINCH	<i>Serinus citrinella</i>
8 by Gabardito Refugio on 21st, 3 there 23rd and again on 25th; 4 higher in Hecho Valley on 23rd.	
SERIN	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Common in suitable habitat.	
CORN BUNTING	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>
Common in all farmland as well as areas of sparse, rough scrub.	
YELLOWHAMMER	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>
Fairly common around Hecho and Siresa villages (6 on 24 th); 1 male near Candanch in Canfranc valley.	
ROCK BUNTING	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
1 near Loporzano on 18 th ; 1 near Lizara on 22 nd .	
CIRL BUNTING	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>
1 male near Alcanadre river at Ontiñena; 1 male Loporzano.	

INSECTS

Painted Lady	Silver Y Moth
Common Blue	Lattice Heath Moth
Adonis Blue	Emperor Dragonfly
Panoptes Blue	Black-tailed Skimmer
Wall Brown	Red-veined Darter
Dingy Skipper	Egyptian Grasshopper
Scarce Swallowtail	Ascalaphid sp.
Red-underwing Skipper	
Bath White	
Orange-tip	

MAMMALS

Roe Deer	European Hare
Wild Boar	Red Squirrel
Red Fox (road casualty)	
Chamois	

REPTILES

Large Psammadromus
Spanish Psammadromus
Slow Worm
? Montpelier Snake (caught and carried away by Short-toed Eagle)

We have a long list of plants seen but we are not botanists and have probably misidentified many, so they are not listed here.