

# Mammal Watching – the Picos De Europa

## A Greentours Trip Report

Lead by Fiona Dunbar and Sarah Green

Trip Report by Fiona Dunbar and Sarah Green, Species lists by Fiona Dunbar



### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August**

Sarah and I met Patricia in Plymouth and made our way to the Ferry Terminal by taxi; an arrangement which was in place as Patricia was travelling with a broken arm! Would nothing slow this woman down? Probably not. The ferry was delayed 8 hours due to bad weather and we settled down to read books and chat etc, and walk the sea front of Plymouth. The café was hilarious – of the limited menu we could choose from, we were told that pretty much everything we would have liked was not available. The choice was bacon or sausage butties or toast. At which point they ran out of bread; Sarah was given two crusts, Patricia two hamburger buns. The sandwiches were tasty, though. We boarded the ferry and were away by 11 pm, we fell into bed in our compact but comfortable cabin.

### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August    The Bay of Biscay**

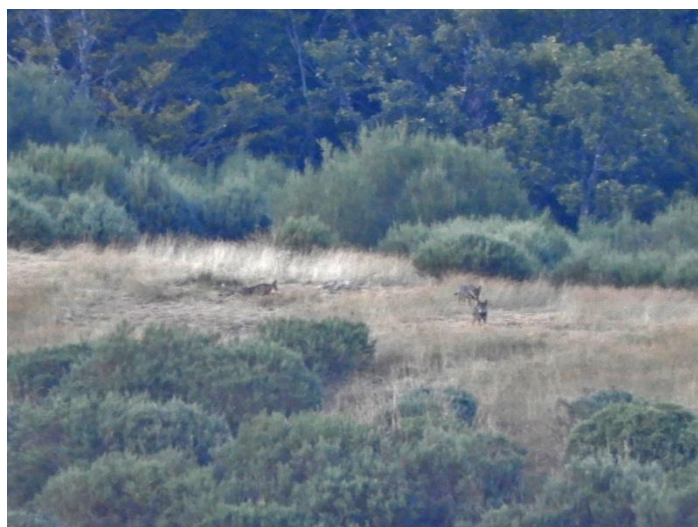
After a nice sleep in our comfy and snug cabin, we woke at 7am for a relaxed breakfast before heading up on deck well wrapped up in coats and hats for some whale-watching accompanied by someone from the organisation ORCA who helped with identification. The eight hour delay meant that we crossed the continental shelf (an area rife with cetaceans and other marine animals) at around 10 am as opposed to the crack of dawn! The conditions were good but not perfect for whale watching however we managed to see three huge fin whales and there was a lovely sighting of a pod of eight short-beaked common dolphins and briefly two bottlenose dolphins right by the boat. These were interspersed with Manx Shearwater and Gannets flying overhead, one Fulmar and a couple of butterflies.

We then went back into the warm ferry for a nice lunch and some rest in our cabin.

We headed back out at around half four because we were then reaching the other side of the continental shelf; another area where nutrients are forced up from deep waters to feed plankton, fish, sea birds and whales. The conditions were better, and it was quite warm. Over three hours we were greeted almost immediately with the blows of a Fin whale and in total we saw nine including a Fin whale that came much closer than the others, amazing.

After dinner we repacked our luggage and got ready to disembark at 8:45pm. We were met by our taxi transfer driver Maria, who had already collected the other group members. We reached the hotel Reina de la Terra rather late. On the way we saw two beautiful foxes on the side of the road.

## **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August      Meadows and Mountains of Riaño, the Valley of Becenes**



After a very short night, we were out at 7 to scan the surrounding meadows for Wild Cat, after coffee, tea and cakes. This was our first chance to view the breath-taking scenery we were surrounded by. Driving slowly through beautiful valleys or by the side of the Riaño reservoir our local guide Mario was constantly on the search for felines hunting mice in the riverside meadows. No luck before breakfast, but some good views of Jay, Mistle Thrushes and Buzzard before returning to the hotel for a good continental breakfast. The

morning continued with more scanning and a walk through some wonderful mixed deciduous woodland dominated by Beech and Downy Oak, with the ground cover dominated with Tree Heather. Ling and Spanish Broom in the valley of Becenes. Butterflies and bumble bees were out by this time and we saw many Scarce Coppers, our first Great Banded Grayling, Marbled White and a couple of Red Admirals as we ambled along looking for deer and admiring the dramatic views. A pair of Griffon Vultures circled over the mountain tops.

Back to the hotel for a generous lunch, then time for a couple of hours rest.

At 6pm we met Mario once more, had a Spanish style cafe con leche, and headed out in the four by four to look for Wolf. That is to say Wolf was the main target, though anything is possible here, there are 25 Brown Bear, Wild Cat of course, Pine Martin, Fox, Badger and even Gennet breed in these mountains.

We turned off into a different valley, were glad of the four wheel drive as we headed up a very steep and rocky track. Meadows here were scattered with purple Autumn Crocus *Colchicum autumnale* and many other wildflowers, and the lower ones with butterscotch coloured cattle wearing cow bells. Thistles and spikey flowers were magnificent with the blue of Field Eryngium, *Eryngium campestre*, Teasels *Dipsacus fullonum* and some stonking thistles *Cirsium eriophorum* with impressive purple and white flowers, all magnets for myriad bumble bees and butterflies. Once again, we were aware of that rarest of treats; a lack of man-made noise. Two relatively small Egyptian Vultures were close overhead. Mario spotted Red and Mary Roe Deer in under the trees as the car carefully made its way up the very rocky track, After 25 minutes of traversing wonderful old forest Mario parked the car under the trees. We had to move very quietly from here on. Transferring

folding chairs, telescopes and blankets to a spot 40 m away was done with careful foot falls and a minimum of noise. We had panoramic views out across a wooded valley with small, natural grassy clearings and stony outcrops, backed by magnificent mountains. Once in position we were firmly instructed to stay seated and quiet, and the watch began. Mario told us to scan the clearings on the opposite side of the valley, one in particular. Only a few minutes later, Mary said 'I can see one – coming in from the left'. Not one, but two wolves loped into the clearing in quick succession. Playful and active, the two siblings were very soon joined by three others. Thus began an hour of watching these youngsters frolicking and relaxing in the evening sun, without any idea they were being observed. Magic. It could not have been better. A Short-toed Eagle put in a brief appearance. We took ourselves quietly off at 9 pm – they had melted into areas with longer vegetation by then, only to be treated to one more wolf entering the clearing and having a good scratch before the light went and we made our way home. The dusky drive back was particularly spectacular, with the last of the sunset glowing behind the mountains and the gibbous moon above the trees.

Back of the hotel we had a very welcome salad with bread, cheese and prosciutto before turning in.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August**

**Meadows and Mountains of Riaño, Port of Pontón**

Again we gathered at 7 for coffee and cake before setting out in search of Wild Cat in the local meadows. Mist was rising off the reservoir this morning, making viewing more difficult. Only Buzzards perched on telegraph poles were out hunting mice this morning. After a good time searching, an Egyptian Vulture flew past very low through the mist. Mario took a different track into a valley with rocky outcrops which was a good place to see Chamois. And indeed it was proved so – we saw four individuals grazing on impossibly steep slopes above us. We progressed on foot further up the track, which must have been quite old looking at the large stones that marked the edge. The plants gave an indication of what a good habitat it was, with mixed forest edged with ferns, fruiting red currant, hazel, *Prunella grandiflora*, and a host of others. A flock of sheep came up the track behind us, herded by the shepherd and the most enormous Spanish Mastiff, a creature with huge size but also huge presence, friendly and very much in easy control of the sheep. He wore a collar heavily spiked with outward pointing nails as protection against wolves and we spent a few very pleasant minutes with the regal dog and the friendly shepherd. Birds included a pair of Egyptian Vultures, four or so Pied Flycatchers, Alpine Chough, Jays and a Greater Spotted Woodpecker. Butterflies were on the wing and there were many Scarce Coppers, also pale Spanish Chalk Hill Blues, Small Tortoiseshells and Great banded Graylings, particularly as the woods opened out into an alpine meadow. Here the flora was excellent as befitted the stunning mountainous surrounds, with Grass of Parnassus, Bog Pimpernel, Ladies Bedstraw amongst the luxurious sphagnum moss edging the rivulets. I was very taken with the Biscay Heather *Erica cantabrica* - like our bell heather, but flowers five times the size. The time rather got away from us, and having had one last search for Wild Cat on the way back, we were first into the restaurant – for lunch.







After a much-needed rest we reconvened at 6pm. Mario took us back up the rugged road to the same lonely spot as before, and we again set up camp overlooking the mountainside where the pack resided – two adults and six cubs in total. Mario pointed out the two huge boulders on the hillside opposite – the upper one was where the mother had had the den when the cubs were younger in April or May. A huge beetle thudded inexpertly around us; a Sparrowhawk flew swiftly past. Mary

had time to practice using a scope for the first time, and quickly got the hang of it. We were all snugly wrapped in the thick blankets from the hotel as the shadow of the mountain behind us crept over the 'wolves' clearing. Then I spotted a Wolf standing in the clearing and we were off. Afterwards there was some discussion whether it was one of the adults or one of the half-grown cubs as it seemed much larger and stockier. The wolf, having paused to the left of the clearing, trotted and then ran down the length of it before melting into the Spanish Broom-clad hillside. Unbelievably there were two tourists in brightly coloured vests walking a track not more than 300 m away from there, happily oblivious. We too were very happy! We returned to scanning the open areas, willing the pack to return to this favoured spot. The guide for the other tiny group who were watching also on the other side of a few trees crept quietly over and put us onto the right-hand edge of the clearing where three pups were now visible, having come up the from the valley below. They were wonderfully playful, carrying sticks and play fighting, and leaping coyote-style on some poor mouse or cricket in the grass. Two more joined them and there were five in total, relaxing in the cooling evening. It was by now nearly nine. Mary, Sarah and I had a very brief walk up to the next clearing along the forest track; a tranquil place indeed. Then back down the track, with the sunset and a very yellow full moon over the trees reflected in the waters of the lake as we drove back for a salad supper and bed.

#### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August Last visit to the Meadows and transfer to Somiedo, a gorge near Erlunes**

Not very warm but otherwise very good coffee and cake before boarding Mario's 4 x 4 at 7. We had our last chance to look for Wild Cat here. Sightings had not been good this season, and we had not fared well so far. The general surmise was that the very hard winter had decimated the mouse population in the meadows and the cats were finding easier prey in the cover of the woodlands. We searched till our eyes hurt. Griffon Vultures, a huge flock of Mistle Thrushes, Goldfinches and numerous Red-backed Shrikes distracted us from time to time, as did the sublime scenery of rustic meadows and forest backed by stunning mountains, and the gossamer cobwebs on teasels. However, no cats. Mario spotted a Red Fox in a misty field, then a second, then later two skittish Red Deer in a field of glossy horses. Sarah raised



our spirits with a four-legged creature in a meadow, but it turned out to be a pair of glossy Red Foxes again, the male with a huge brush, the female with a diagnostic white tip to her tail. The happy pair were hunting crickets with apparent enjoyment. Mario found a further paler (juvenile) fox in the adjoining field. We tried all possible locations, but the cats chose to be elsewhere today. It was so sad to say goodbye to Mario at breakfast; he had done such a good job of guiding and driving for us.

It seemed like no time after breakfast before we were loading into Maria's minivan for the transfer to Somiedo. The journey was broken when Sarah spotted a cat hunting in a meadow, but it turned out to be a tiger-ish feral. We arrived in the beautifully situated village of Somiedo and after settling into our very nice rooms (great views of the mountains all round) we were swiftly downstairs for a (very) late lunch of delicious and epic proportions.

After a short siesta, we met Alberto and were on our way, only a 12 minute drive to a most dramatic gorge where a bear had been seen the day before. We turned the van round in a tiny village just above, where every other building seemed to be an ancient grain store on granite mushroom legs, and a tractor was parked outside the tiny stone church. We parked in a tiny layby and walked a hundred metres down the road to the spot where the bear had been seen from in previous days. The *Clematis alba* was in flower everywhere and scented the air like orange blossom. The large yellow flowered *Sedum acre* covering the cliffs are the food plant for Apollo caterpillars. We had Short-toed Eagle and Honey Buzzard clutching honey comb, Chough and Ravens. A very calm and happy *Tettigonia viridissima*, the Great Green Bush Cricket was observed closely and the female's long ovipositor noted, and bear poo full of cherry stones was evident near-by. A very helpful French chap who was also waiting for bear pointed out a Chamois grazing directly opposite on the other side of the gorge, and we had great fun photographing him/her using mobile phones through the scope – very effective. The same process was used on a Griffon airing its wings and preening near its roost on the cliff. Despite all our patience, we had to return home as the light was fading, with bats and chamois the only mammals seen. The hotel restaurant





provided an excellent paella and then we turned in.

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August      Gua and La Peral**

After a short sleep we all met in the restaurant where the smiling owner (when does she sleep??) served us some coffee (and of course hot chocolate) with some snacks typical to the north of Spain to warm us up before our second attempt for bear. Today we headed out to a nearby village through the incredible mountain range (only a five-minute drive away) where in previous days a mother and small cub had been spotted on a grassy clearing one side of the valley and a lone female/young male on the scree on the other. Whilst we set up camp on a picnic bench near the bottom of the valley it was amazing to see how the locals are proud of and respect the bears that roam their home; the guide, Alberto, told us how it is illegal to hunt them here and there was a sign close by with different animals and rules of how you should act around their habitats. The two impressive and beautiful bronze bear statues outside the hotel accompanied by all the information posters around town (with rules for coexisting with bears etc), of which there were many, reinforced the idea. It was also great to hear that the bear population in Asturias is slowly increasing and although about 30 years ago the brown bears were in danger of becoming extinct (with less than 100 individuals) now they have recovered well and there are around 300 in this area and 50 in another area close by. The rising sun hit the top of mountains making them glow cheerily. One of the guides briefly spotted some wild boar and a few minutes later a Chamois, silhouetted against the top of the ridge grazed leisurely for a few minutes before disappearing. The sunlight, though on the tops, did not reach us down in the valley so it was quite cold, and we were wrapped up in coats and jumpers, and in my case a hat and gloves too!!

The peaceful sound of ringing bells warned us of the approach of some cattle. In the field opposite and a minute later they appeared with some absolutely adorable little calves who came over to say hello and rub against the edge of the fence. Our attention was caught by two little Black Redstarts flitting about playfully on the old church in front of us and, upon closer inspection, some beautiful Maidenhair Spleenwort growing on the wall there. We were also surprised by a griffon vulture circling overhead, a little early for this bird to be out.

On our return to the hotel we noticed a number of beautiful old wooden grain stores (horreu) raised up on mushroom-shaped straddle stones to keep rats out. After a lovely buffet breakfast (including bread with tomato or tomato sauce smeared on top which is typical of Cantabria) we had time to explore the village and visit the little shops such as the Panedaria (bread shop) which had some very inviting smells wafting out (and a very long queue of locals).

After a filling lunch including a delicious tomato, cheese and prosciutto salad we had a nice siesta to catch up on some sleep and then at 6:30pm we headed out. The viewing platform was on a pinnacle overlooking valleys and surrounded by wooded mountains. This picturesque place was also where two bears had been seen the day before, probably attracted by a cow carcass in the woods. Covering the grassy floor were autumn crocuses, clumped together everywhere you looked and



looking back towards the town we could see two friendly horses. On the top of the mountain Fiona spotted a herd of Chamois who then ran towards us playfully and then all but two disappeared into the undergrowth. In the field below us stretching out through the valley there was the first of a number of Red Deer. When we looked closer through the telescope, we discovered he had incredibly big antlers! At around 9.30pm, with the darkness setting in, Sarah spotted a bear! We had great but brief views, but it disappeared over a rise before everyone could see it. Alberto said that he recognised this particular bear because of the colour of its fur which was varied with lighter and darker shades, a nice way to end the night. This sighting was just as it got dark so after we packed up and returned to the hotel for another delicious meal.

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August    Gua and La Peral**

Our morning bear watch was again at Gua. We were serenaded by wrens, but no bears this morning. Alberto then took us to another tiny village where the meadows are a good site for Wild Cat, but the only mammal we saw there was a mole (deceased). The very narrow lanes were a challenge for our wide minibus, and the locals watched us with interest! We added a Skipper, Clouded Orange and Northern Brown Argus to our butterfly list.



We had time to rest after breakfast and also after lunch, so exploration of the village was possible, with a mixture of old houses, the lovely grain stores on granite legs, a few little shops and the 'bear museum', with limestone mountains rising up on all sides.

For our evening watch we returned to La Peral; this time to a grassy ridge just above the last of the houses. The annual village party was well underway, with guitars, singing and dancing. One of the spring fed troughs typical of the area was in use to cool the bottles of beer. The walls of the houses were a good place to spot the rather bold Wall Lizards. There was something of a party atmosphere on the ridge above the village too, with around thirty people, mainly Spanish and some with their families all watching for mammals on the mountain slopes. The best place to look was the edges of the woodland where the Beech trees gave way to forest edge species such as Hazel and Buckthorn, both providing ample food for the bears and the latter a particular favourite. The sunset was lovely, and we watched the sun descend and



the shadows creep up the pinnacles opposite from camping chairs or spots on the colchicum-dotted turf. Various Chamois were spied, and more watchers made their way up the hill. Then around 9 an excited murmur went through the group – bear had been spotted! There was then a flurry of activity while telescopes searched for and were trained on the beast, which was moving with surprising speed from copse to copse, appearing and disappearing behind bushes. Then a sharp-eyed lady spotted a second bear on the mountainside behind us. This bear was further away, but we watched him crossing scree before settling behind a buckthorn bush and giving it a thorough harvesting.

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August      La Peral and Veigas Cabanas de Teito Village Museum**

Mary was duly picked up for her transfer to the airport, after a brief hiatus while I searched for a key to let her out of the front door of the hotel. At 6.30, after café con leches and biscuits we were unexpectedly joined by an enthusiastic Swiss/Sri Lankan family for our morning bear watch. Rain was forecast so we were making the most of the early hours, and we returned to the 360 degree panoramas above La Peral. It was distinctly chilly with a breeze this morning, though the sunset was lovely coming up over the mountains. We spotted a number of Chamois, but generally it was very quiet, and the descending cloud made scanning rather difficult. But we chatted and scanned, and scanned and chatted.

As we made our way back to the minibus feeling slightly damp, the clouds came right down and the mountains disappeared entirely. Ann had chosen the right morning to have a rest back at the hotel, and was packed and ready to go when we joined her for breakfast.

Having finished packing and showering, we left our luggage at the reception and Alberto drove us the short distance to Veigas. Patricia, Sarah and I braved the showers and investigated the village while Alberto and Ann chatted in the village café bar. The museum was fascinating! For a tiny fee we were given a guided tour of three traditional Cabanas de Teito, thatched with Spanish Broom. Our guide spoke only Spanish, but between Sarah and a helpful Spanish couple, sufficient translations were forthcoming. It was a real insight into rural village life which lasted into the 1980s or even '90s. The houses had been put back to how they would have been a century ago, but it would have been fascinating to have seen how they were left in the '80s; when the pot suspended over a tiny fire made in the middle of the floor was upgraded to a wood burning stove, and the wooden wall dividing the kitchen to the only other room (bedroom for the whole family) had a large hole cut into it for a television to be inserted!

We were back in Pola de Somiedo in time for Patricia and Ann to attend mass in the tiny but well-attended village church. Then our last leisurely lunch at the hotel before Alberto drove us to the airport at Santander.





## Species List One – Mammals

<b>Wolf</b>	<i>Lupus lupus</i>	Six fantastic individuals seen on days 3 & 4
<b>Red Fox</b>	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Two on the journey to the Picos and up to 6 seen each day, often in pairs hunting in meadows and looking very healthy on it!
<b>Brown Bear</b>	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	One seen on day 6 and two on day 7, good if distant views and very exciting!
<b>Weasel</b> Patricia	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	One spotted running across the road by
<b>Wild Boar</b>	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Glimpsed on day 6?
<b>Red Deer</b>	<i>Cervus elaphas</i>	Various individuals and pairs seen on days 3.5.7, the ones near La Peral were stags with very fine antlers
<b>Roe Deer</b>	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Days 3, 7,
<b>Pyrenean Chamois</b>	<i>Rupicapra pyrenaica</i>	Days 4.5.6.7,8. Around 20 seen on day 7 at La Peral, running down the mountainside
<b>Mole</b>	<i>Talpa europea</i>	Deceased, day 7!
<b>Fin Whale</b> of Biscay	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	12 individuals, some close, seen in the Bay
<b>Common Bottlenose Dolphin</b>	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	2, Bay of Biscay
<b>Short-beaked Common Dolphin</b>	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	A pod of 8 and probably the other dolphin sightings, Bay of Biscay

## Species List Two - Birds

Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Bay of Biscay
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	Bay of Biscay
Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Bay of Biscay
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Riaño reservoir
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	En route to Santander
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Riaño Reservoir
White Stork Somiedo	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	En route to Pola de
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Erlunes
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Somiedo
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Somiedo
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	widespread
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circus gallicus</i>	Days 2,5,6
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Whilst wolf-watching
Common Buzzard posts by meadows	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Mainly sitting on telegraph
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Heard, days 4,7
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Day 7
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Heard, Erlunes
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Port of Pontón
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Day 4
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	common, seen most days
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Days 5, 7
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Riaño, 4,5
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Somiedo Days 7,8
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Most days in Somiedo
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Days 3,4,5,7

Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Gua, hd day 3
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Very common Somiedo
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Days 4 - 7
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Heard day 6
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Mary saw one day 3
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Common
Mistle Thrush flock of 50 – 100 on one day	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Riaño in the meadows, a
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Day 3
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	4 seen, Port of Ponton
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula</i>	Port of Ponton
Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>	Days 5,6
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Day 3
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Heard day 3
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Day 3
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Days 3,4,5
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Common
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Common
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	Days 4
Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Days 5,7
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Common
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Days 5,6,7
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Days 3,4
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Most days
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Days 3,4,7
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Day 3
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Days 5,7



### Species List Three - Butterflies

Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	Pola de Somiedo
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	
Green-veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>	noted by Mary
Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>	
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	
Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>	
Northern Brown Argus	<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>	
Spanish Chalk -hill Blue	<i>Lysandra albicans</i>	Port of Ponton
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	
Heath Fritillary	<i>Mellicta athalia</i>	ON the walk on the first day
Iberian Marbled White	<i>Melanargia lachensis</i>	
Spanish Marbled White	<i>Melanargia ines</i>	On the walk on the first day
Common Grayling Ponton	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	landed on Mary's bottom, Port of
Hermit	<i>Chazara briseis</i>	
Great Banded Grayling	<i>Kanetisa circe</i>	
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	
Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>	
Skipper sp	<i>Pyrgus sp</i>	

## Species List Four – Flowers

This was meant to be just a few noted in passing plus dominant vegetation

### Ferns

<i>Adiantum capillis-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern	from the car
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall Rue	Gua church
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rusty-backed Fern	Gua church
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern	from the car
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler Fern	from the car
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common Polypody	woodlands
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	common
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Gua church
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	on the way to Santander

### Conifers

<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime Pine
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### Dicotyledons

#### **Aceraceae**

<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> , invasive species	Sycamore	it had to be this, nothing else possible,
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#### **Aquifoliaceae**

<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
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#### **Caprifoliaceae**

<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's Bit Scabious
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elderflower

#### **Campanulaceae**

<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	Peach-leaved Bellflower	there were other species too I think.
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#### **Caryophyllaceae**

<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	in seed everywhree
<i>Dianthus deltoides</i>	Maiden Pink	

<i>Dianthus superbus</i> whilst we were driving	Fringed Pink	El Peral, and Patricia noted it elsewhere
<b>Celastraceae</b>		
<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	Grass of Parnassus	In the wet flush in the Port of Ponton
<b>Cistaceae</b>		
<i>Heliathemum nummularian</i>	Common Rockrose	Patricia spotted it, can't remember where
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>		
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	
<b>Compositae</b>		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	
<i>Anthemis triumfetti</i>	Southern Dog Daisy /chamomile	probably this sp
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	
<i>Senecio jacobea</i>	Ragwort	common
<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	Woolley Thistle	Glorious things, there were other great thistles in flower, I wish there had been more time to look at them Port of Ponton
<i>Centaurea sp</i>	Knapweed	
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy	
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	verges
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	probably this species, like sea holly
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	
<b>Corylaceae</b>		
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	bear food again
<b>Crassulaceae</b>		
<i>Sedum acre</i> catapillars?	Wallpepper	yellow flowers, cliffs, food plant for Apollo
<b>Disacaceae</b>		
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	
<b>Ericaceae</b>		
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heath	not in flower



<i>Erica australis</i>	Spanish Heath	huge flowers! Port of Ponton
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell Heather	
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling	
<b>Fagaceae</b>		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy/White Oak	
<b>Grossulariaceae</b>		
<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Red Current	tasty
<b>Labiataeae</b>		
<i>Ajuga pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Bugle	
<i>Thymus praecox</i>	Hairy Thyme	
<i>Mentha longifolia</i>	Horse mint	Very common, greyish felty leaves
<b>Leguminoseae</b>		
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	common!
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	
<b>Lamiaceae</b>		
<i>Prunella grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered Selfheal	
<b>Moraceae</b>		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	
<b>Malvaceae</b>		
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	
<b>Onograceae</b>		
<i>Oenothera glazoviana</i>	Large-flowered Evening Primrose	
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>		
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common cow-wheat	
<b>Papaverceae</b>		
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Field Poppy	
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>		
<i>Rhamnus lycioides</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn	Favoured by bears

**Rubiaceae**

<i>Gallium aparine</i>	Cleavers	
<i>Gallium verum</i>	Ladies Bedstraw	In the Port of Ponton valley

**Scrophulariaceae**

<i>Verbascum pulverulentum</i>	a Mullein	Large, branched felty mullein
<i>Verbascum</i> sp	Mullein sp	more delicate
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Purple foxglove	introduced?
<i>Antirrhinum magus</i>	Snapdragon	Side of the track up to the wolves area
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle	In seed, probably this sp

**Ranunculaceae**

<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Travellers Joy	Erlunes
<i>Delphinium staphisagria</i>		from the car
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore	leaves

**Resedaceae**

<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette
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**Roseaceae**

<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Sloe
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	Bramble
<i>Pyrus Sylvatica</i>	Wild Pear
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan

**Santalaceae**

<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe
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**Tiliaceae**

<i>Tillia platyphyllos</i>	Lime
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**Urticaceae**

<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle
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**Monocots****Iridaceae**

<i>Iris foetida</i>	Stinking Iris	in seed, gorge Erlunes
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**Colchicaceae**

<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Autumn Crocus	very common, grassy open areas
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**Nartheciaceae**

<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog Asphodel	in seed, Port of Ponton
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