



Birdwatching Holidays in Spain, Morocco & more...

BOLETAS Birdwatching centre

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BIRD HIGHLIGHTS

TOUR	DATES
Orchids & Birds	8th to 15th June 2008

Party:

Keith & Heather Warmington , Rodger & Kate Seaman , Huw & Carol Lewis , Tony & Shirley Hawkins

Tour Leaders : J. J. Saiz (birds) Eva-Pen Smith & G. Bueno (flowers)

Total Number of Species :

30 orchids, 119 birds and 37 butterflies

Weather & Sites:

Day 1 – June 8	Arrival at night - Zaragoza- Quito de Ebro
Day 2 – June 9	Wet and windy - Ebro River - Belchite Ornithological Reserve- Belchite Village
Day 3 – June 10	Cloudy with showers - Belchite Plains – Ebro River – Zaragoza – River Flumen – Loporzano- Jaca
Day 4 – June 11	Rain before seven – Yesa Dam – Foz de Biniés
Day 5 – June 12	Cloudy , sunny & windy - Jaca and Aisa valley
Day 6 – June 13	Cloudy – Formigal & Portalet
Day 7 – June 14	Clouds & sun - Gabardito – Aragués del Puerto - Lizara
Day 8 – June 15	Synny – San Juan de la Peña – River Flumen.

Exceptional bloom of Orchids (June 2008)

It is quite infrequent to find so many orchids blooming at the same time in so many different habitats in a Pyrenean context, such as dry Mediterranean scrublands or fresh Atlantic forests. Although it is difficult to ensure what specific circumstances have led to this unusual situation some reasons can be pointed out.

First of all, the continuous and abundant late rain has let orchid bulbs find water resources when the photoperiod and temperature are optimal to flower. In this sense, Mediterranean orchids are able to find their main limiting resource, water, on time to attract early pollinators, that amazed, complete a nice job. On the other hand the earlier Atlantic and Eurosiberian species find enough light spam (in number of light hours) and humid conditions to feel that it is also a good moment to flower.

Furthermore we must take into account, that the temperatures in this last month (May 2008) were not good enough for an explosive bloom of Mediterranean orchids. When temperatures slowly began to increase, Mediterranean orchids started to flower at the same time as Atlantic bulbs start to meet their flowering conditions.

So please, enjoy this orchid season in the Spanish Pyrenees as it does not look like it will be repeatable.

G. Bueno

List of the birds recorded in the tour

SPECIES	Scientific Name	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	1
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	X
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	14
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	7
Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	x
European Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	2
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	X
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans migrans: M.f.lineatus</i>	X
Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>	2
Short-toed Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	7
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	X
Western or Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	5
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	1
Eurasian Thick-knee or Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedichnemus</i>	5
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>	2
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	4
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator alandarius</i>	2
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	2
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	2
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	X
Eurasian or Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	X
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	H
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	H
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	X
Dupont's Lark	<i>Chersophilus duponti</i>	H
Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	X
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	X
Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	X
Eurasian Crag-Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	X
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	3
Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	2
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	5

Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator senator: L.s.badius</i>	2
Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	5
Great Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	3
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	H
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	H
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polihalotta</i>	4
Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	1
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	2
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	2
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	1
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	H
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	2
Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	1
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	X
Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	2
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	X
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	X
Penduline-Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	2
Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>	2
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	X
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	X
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrhocorax graculus</i>	X
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	X
Golden-Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	3
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	X
Citril Finch	<i>Serinus citrinella</i>	6
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	4
Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	5
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	2
OTHER SIGHTINGS		
Red Squirrel		
Alpine Marmot		
Rabbit		
Chamoix		
Mountain Hare		
Pine Martin		
Red Fox		
Chamoix		
Roe Dear		
Green Lizard		
Pyrenean Rock Lizard		

h/Heard */ Seeing ad/ Adult juv/ Juvenile f/ Female m/Male ++ / Common (?) possible

Boletas - 'Secrets of the High Pyrenees' - Orchids & Birds Tour
Monday 9th June to Sunday 15th June 2008

Butterflies (37 Species)

Red Underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>
Green-veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>
Chequered Blue	<i>Scolitantides orion</i>
Amanda's Blue	<i>Agrodiaetus amanda</i>
Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Lysandra coridon</i>
Spanish Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Lysandra albicans</i>
Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana euphrosyne</i>
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>
Heath Fritillary	<i>Mellicta athalia</i>
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Eurodryas aurinia</i>
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Spanish Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia bathseba</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Spanish Heath	<i>Coenonympha iphioides</i>
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>

Moths

White-collared Burnet	<i>Zygaena lavandulae</i>
Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena lonicerae</i>
Small Waved Umber	<i>Horisme vitalbata</i>
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>

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Orchid List (Jaca Region)

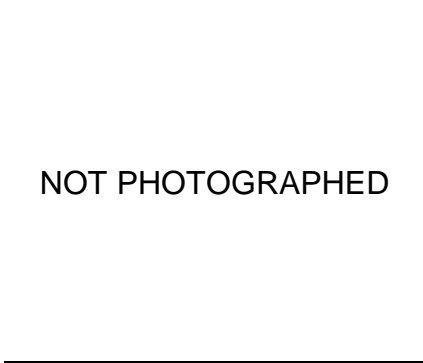
			11/06/2008	12/06/2008	13/06/2008	14/06/2008	15/06/2008
1	Lady's Slipper	<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>			*		
2	Broad-Leaved Helleborine	<i>Epipactis helleborine tremolsii</i>		*			
3	Large White Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>				*	
4	Sword-Leaved Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>		*			
5	Bird's Nest Orchid	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>				*	
6	Greater Butterfly Orchid	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>		*			
7	Lesser Butterfly Orchid	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	*				
8	Frog Orchid	<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>			*		
9	Fragrant Orchid	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	*				
10	Vanilla Orchid	<i>Nigritella nigra</i>			*		
11	Elder-Flowered Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>		*			
12	Broad-Leaved Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>			*		
13	Common-Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>		*			
14	Man Orchid	<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>				*	
15	Bug Orchid	<i>Orchis coriophora</i>	*				
16	Early Purple Orchid	<i>Orchis mascula</i>		*			
17	Lange's Orchid	<i>Orchis langei</i>	*				
18	Pale-Flowered Orchid	<i>Orchis pallens</i>		*			
19	Green-Winged Orchid	<i>Orchis morio</i>					*
20	Champagne Orchid	<i>Orchis champagneuxii</i>					*
21	Lady Orchid	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>		*			
22	Military Orchid	<i>Orchis militaris</i>	*				
23	Burnt Orchid	<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	*				
24	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	*				
25	Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	*				
26	Fly Orchid	<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>		*			
27	Woodcock Ophrys	<i>Ophrys scolopax scolopax</i>	*				
28	Woodcock Ophrys	<i>Ophrys scolopax apiformes</i>	*				
29	Early Spider Ophrys	<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	*				
30	Small Spider Orchid	<i>Ophrys araneola riojana</i>	*				

Guides: Josele J Saiz
Eva Penn-Smith
Guillermo Bueno

Party: Tony & Shirley Hawkins
Carolyn & Huw Lewis
Roger & Kate Seaman
Keith & Heather Warmington



Lady's Slipper
Cypripedium calceolus



Broad-Leaved Helleborine
Epipactis helleborine tremolsii



Large White Helleborine
Cephalanthera damasonium



Sword-Leaved Helleborine
Cephalanthera longifolia



Bird's Nest Orchid
Neottia nidus-avis



Greater Butterfly Orchid
Platanthera chlorantha



Lesser Butterfly Orchid
Platanthera bifolia



Frog Orchid
Coeloglossum viride



Fragrant Orchid
Gymnadenia conopsea



Vanilla Orchid
Nigritella nigra



Elder-Flowered Orchid
Dactylorhiza sambucina



Broad-Leaved Marsh Orchid
Dactylorhiza majalis



Common-spotted Orchid
Dactylorhiza fuchsii



Man Orchid
Aceras anthropophorum



Bug Orchid
Orchis coriophora



Early Purple Orchid
Orchis mascula



Lange's Orchid
Orchis langei



Pale-Flowered Orchid
Orchis pallens



Green-Winged Orchid
Orchis morio



Champagne Orchid
Orchis champagneuxii



Lady Orchid
Orchis purpurea



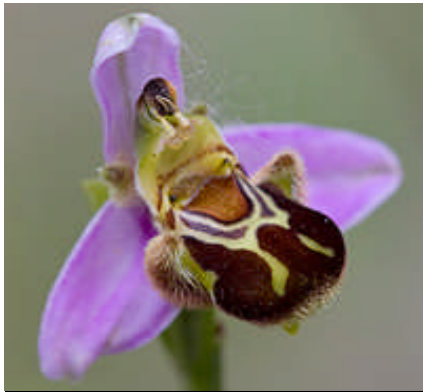
Military Orchid
Orchis militaris



Burnt Orchid
Orchis ustulata



Pyramidal Orchid
Anacamptis pyramidalis



Bee Orchid
Ophrys apifera



Fly Orchid
Ophrys insectifera



Woodcock Ophrys
Ophrys scolopax apiformis



Woodcock Ophrys
Ophrys scolopax scolopax



Early Spider Ophrys
Ophrys sphegodes



Small Spider Orchid
Ophrys araneola riojana

References:

Butler, K.P. 2007 *Field Guide to Orchids of Britain and Europe*,
Delforge, P. 2006 *Orchids of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East*

Photographs:

Keith Warmington