Klaus K. Nielsen and I spent a week in Barcelona in connection with a congress, preceded by a weekend's birding in the Spanish Pyrenees and Belchite areas.

This gave the opportunity to visit four habitats:

- The montane landscapes of the [Pyrenees](#) from about 1000 to 2600 m (48hrs)
- The Río Gállego canyon at [Riglos](#)
- The northern steppes at [Belchite](#) (about 6 hrs birding)
- the [Ebro valley](#) from Belchite to Lerida (drive through twice)
- [Barcelona](#) urban and parks (very limited opportunities) - only included for the sake of completeness.

## Pyrenees - 20-22nd June 2003

We chose two sites, (1) the [Hecho valley](#) (following all the reports) and (2) the valley "Garganta del Escalar" where we walked from [Baños de Panticosa](#), since this gave the opportunity to ascend high (2400 m) within a few Km of the town (1600m), though no birders seem to go there. These are both about 400 Km from Barcelona airport on excellent roads (maybe max 5 hrs).

**Left:** Boco del Inferno, at 9 am taken from the tunnel mouth. The classic Wallcreeper stake out. The valley is so narrow here that the sun did not reach the road while we were there. [Crag Martins](#), [Grey Wagtails](#) and [Black Redstarts](#) here. We also saw [Egyptian Vulture](#), [Sparrowhawk](#), [Honey Buzzard](#) and [Alpine Swift](#) here. Not to mention the omniscient Griffon Vultures (15 recorded)

**Below:** the top of the forest in the Hecho Valley (looking down the valley). [Dippers](#), [Grey Wagtails](#) and a [Kingfisher](#) at this site which is where the road forks.

This Egyptian vulture was flying in the Hecho valley just south of Boco del Infern...
We camped in the forest at a disused campsite at the top of the valley, where we heard both Scops and Tawny Owl and were visited by a pair of Pine Martens. Next morning found us at the Boco del Inferno at about 7 am, but no Wallcreepers - until 9:25 am when one flew north at the north mouth of the tunnel. A few minutes later we had brief views of a pair flying over the gorge, perhaps heading for Garbadito. We subsequently discovered from one of the reports we had that they are breeding at Garbadito. This is the only river crossing between Siresa and Boco del Inferno, you follow the road to the refuge. The report we had stated that you follow the track up to the right through the trees by the car park. It neglected to point out that you pass the refuge first. So we didn't find this site, and didn't discover the correct instructions until we met some birders at Belchite.

After Hecho, we decided to move east and chose to drive the valley "Garganta del Escalar" to Baños de Panticosa, since this gave the opportunity to ascend high (2400 m) within a few Km of the town (1600m). Ordessa requires a much longer walk. So we packed the tent, a couple of beers and a nice bottle of wine and attempted to follow the GR11 path to the lake "Embalse del Brazato". However, we took the wrong (right) fork of the path a few hundred metres out of the resort, following the path to an abandoned refuge. There is a path up into the col just north of the Pico del Serrato. This gave the first Citril Finches. So we can recommend this is a good day trip (or as we did with an overnight stop).
From the top of the col we contoured north to the south end of the reservoir "Embalse del Brazato" (seeing our only Marmot on the way), at about 2500m, and eventually descended to the tarn (glacial lake) "Ibón Inferior del Brazato" (2337m), enjoying our only Alpine Accentor on the way. We camped at the north end of the tarn overlooking the valley and were visited by two Lammergeiers (ad and imm) and kept company by a Dunnock, Black Restarts and Water Pipits. A Scops Owl called all night (according to Klaus who didn't sleep so well). In the morning we were visited by a further adult Lammergeier, much lower and closer. Stunning! We had a total of 6 sightings involving minimum 3 birds.

This Black Kite visited the campsite during the evening. Other species included Citril Finches and Crossbills. More of these on the descent, (Northern) Chiffchaffs, Choughs and a female Ibex. Back in the valley at 9:45 we saw two adult Lammergeiers circling the western hillside just below Penticosa.

Dipped here: Wallcreeper, Snow Finch (not enough snow), Ptarmigan, Golden Eagle.

A holistic biologist cannot fail to be impressed by flora of the Pyrenees. We saw at least 4 species of Gentian as well as the Rhododendron, and masses of other fine plants too numerous to mention.
rocks overlooking the village and valley. We didn't discover the colony until the return journey, but we were struck by the large numbers of vultures as we entered the canyon (we counted 36). Other interesting species were 2 Alpine Swifts.

The Riglos turnoff is about 5 Km south of this view, which is taken from the main road (A132). The landscape opens north of the canyon, affording this fine view of the mountains (There is a large layby). The raptors continued with 2 Egyptian Vulture and Booted Eagle and a singing (Rufous) Nightingale. Just north of Puente la Reina de Jaca was a considerable concentration of kites, mainly Black Kites (about 20 on the third visit), there were also a couple of Egyptian Vultures in this area.

On the return journey we stopped in the village itself, which is clearly something of a tourist attraction (as well as being a centre for rock climbing and other adventure sports - e.g. white-water rafting). We walked up to the area behind the church. Ravens and 4 Alpine Choughs were and wheeling round the cliffs and we were rewarded with a fine view of a male Lesser Kestrel and an Egyptian Vulture. We also saw Crag Martins, a fine male Black Wheatear and a Blue Rock Thrush, all in the area immediately behind the church. Unlike others, we were not bothered by rock-climbers. There were only two, though this was a Sunday afternoon.
Obviously the most impressive feature is the large numbers of Griffon Vultures nesting on the cliffs, both here and on the west side of the valley.

There was a female Orphean Warbler skulking in these bushes below the church. A male Cirl Bunting was singing in the orchard just above the upper car park when we returned to the car. The final observation was a Hoopoe as we drove out of the village.

(we were there for a total of two hours from 14:40 to 16:45, and it was probably about 30ºC, this does not seem to have adversely affected our birding. Riglos is about 60 Km south of Hecho - about an hour).

La Lomanza at Belchite and Ebro - 22-23rd June 2003

The reserve La Lomanza is the northern stake out for Dupont's Lark. About 30 Km SE Zaragoza. We arrived at about 8 pm, meeting two English birders who had arrived a couple of hours before from Barcelona. They had found 4 other species of Lark. We set off into the terrain and soon found Thekla, both Short-toed spp. and Calandra Larks in profusion. We drove down to Belchite looking for evening food. This yielded two Black-bellied Sandgrouse flying across the road, a Turtle Dove, a Northern Wheatear and Spotless Starlings. No food though so we returned to the reserve and finished our supplies before heading out into the reserve again.
There were now two groups of British Birders. The second group had been here previously and were armed with a Ghetto blaster. No success with respect to Dupont but we did hear Stone Curlew.

This water hole (north edge of the reserve, < 1 Km into the reserve) did not give us views of drinking Sandgrouse, as we had hoped, but excellent views of a Thekla Lark. We also saw a pair of Black Wheatears and some Choughs from this viewpoint. At 7 am Monday morning the lime works (just left of picture) started their noisy processes, somewhat reducing the charm of the view.

We heard a Dupont's Lark here at 6 am and the other two groups later saw it while we were brewing coffee (Damn!). This is about 50m after the track splits less that 1Km into the reserve. We saw both Marsh and Hen Harriers, the other 4 Lark spp., two Spectacled Warblers and perhaps a pair of Rock Sparrows, but we did not see them well enough. The final birds are we packed up were a group of three Pin-tailed Sandgrouse. We left the area at 9 am for Barcelona. The temperature was already up in the high 20's by now and the bird activity was lower.

We took the A1404, A 221 and N211 joining the E90 at Lleida/Lerida. The first stage across the steppe yielded 6 Bee Eaters, Black-eared Wheatear and Stonechat.

Dips: we can't complain given the short time used on this area.

Barcelona - 23rd to 28th June 2003

for the sake of completeness....
20th June: While being bussed to the airport terminal from the plane we saw Black-eared Wheatear, Crested Lark and Alpine Swift. We headed for the Pyrenees as soon as we had picked up our Avis car. Roads are excellent, and the traffic fast. Spaniards do not seem to have a concept of "speed limit". The Starlings which were specifically identified in the Barcelona area were all common. Three Red-rumped Swallows were unexpected, and the only we saw on the trip. After we left the motorway at Lleida/Lerida (170 Km from Barcelona). We saw several White storks just before and circling Lleida/Lerida.

23rd to 28th June: I stayed in a hotel (Husa Oriente) on Las Ramblas and my conference was at the congress centre in the Montjuic area. I also walked past the zoo one evening, but I did not have any strictly birding opportunities. Highlights were the parakeets - both Ring-necked and Monk which were frequent in all three areas (yes, even flying round the Columbus monument and along Las Ramblas). The other highlight was breeding Sardinian Warblers near the Olympic Stadium.

Belchite and Ebro - 20-23rd June 2003

See Table for Danish, Spanish and Scientific names.

1. Grey Heron 26th and 28th June in Barcelona
2. Purple Heron 23rd flying towards the River Ebro near Caspe
3. Little Egret Río Ebro and Cinca (Mechinenza) 19 in all
4. Cattle Egret 6 in a field just west of Lerida/Lleida with a Stork
5. Squacco Heron Río Cinca (Mechinenza)
6. Black-crowned Night Heron single Río Cinca (Mechinenza)
7. White Stork 20th Lleida/Lerida 9 including several soaring over the town 23rd At least 8 nesting on an old church? east of Lleida/Lerida (Castelldans?)
8. Mallard 20th 2 on a filed west of Lleida/Lerida were the only ducks we saw; Barcelona near the zoo.
9. Honey Buzzard 21st just south of Boco del Inferno
10. Black Kite 20th 6 west of Lleida/Lerida; 21st; 13 lower Hecho valley in a field with an Egyptian Vulture; 21st Balearic/Baños de Panticosa; 22nd lower Hecho valley 24; 23rd Belchite 5; 23rd Ebro valley 6
11. Red Kite 20th single west of Lleida/Lerida; 21st 2 at Boco del Inferno; 21st 10 at Siresa; 21st Ibón Inferior del Brazato" (2337m); 22nd Jaca area 7
12. Griffon Vulture 20th 36 in Río Gállego canyon at Riglos, about 35 Km NW of Huesca (336 Km from Barcelona Airport); 15 21st Hecho valley; 21st Balneario/Baños de Panticosa 2; Ibón Inferior del Brazato" (2337m) 3; 22nd Jaca area 40; 22nd Riglos approx 30; 23rd Ebro valley 2
13. Egyptian Vulture 2 ad north of the Rio Gállego canyon; 21st lower Hecho valley 1 imm, 1 ad.; 22nd lower Hecho valley 2; 22nd Riglos
14. **Lammergeier** 21<sup>st</sup> Ibón Inferior del Brazato, ad and imm; 22<sup>nd</sup> Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa 4 sightings

15. **Short-toed Eagle** 23<sup>rd</sup> Ebro valley near Caspe 2

16. **Hen Harrier** 23<sup>rd</sup> single female at La Lomanza, Belchite

17. **Marsh Harrier** 20<sup>th</sup> west of Lleida/Lerida; 22<sup>nd</sup> La Lomanza, Belchite; 23<sup>rd</sup> La Lomanza, Belchite,

18. **Sparrowhawk** 21<sup>st</sup> Boco del Inferno

19. **Buzzard** 22<sup>nd</sup> Jaca; 23<sup>rd</sup> Ebro valley

20. **Booted Eagle** light phase individuals: 20<sup>th</sup> north of the Río Gállego canyon; 21<sup>st</sup> lower Hecho valley

21. **Lesser Kestrel** 22<sup>nd</sup> Riglos nice male

22. **Kestrel** about 30 Km west of Barcelona; 20<sup>th</sup>Río Gállego canyon at Riglos; 21<sup>st</sup> Baños de Panticosa 4; 22<sup>nd</sup> La Lomanza, Belchite 2; 23<sup>rd</sup> Ebro valley 8; Barcelona by the Olympic Stadium.

23. **Coot** 5 young in a pool from the motorway in Barcelona (20<sup>th</sup>). (We were in a queue!); 23<sup>rd</sup> Río Cinca (Mechinenza)

24. **Stone Curlew** (Eurasian Thick-knee) 22<sup>nd</sup> La Lomanza, Belchite

25. **Yellow-legged Gull**, common in Barcelona

26. **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** 23<sup>rd</sup> La Lomanza, Belchite 3 just as we were packing up to go.

27. **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** 22<sup>nd</sup> Just north of Belchite 2

28. **Rock Dove** Common in all towns and on the cliffs at Riglos (22<sup>nd</sup>)

29. **Woodpigeon** 4 from the motorway near Barcelona (20<sup>th</sup>); 20<sup>th</sup> Lleida/Lerida 7; 22<sup>nd</sup> Garbardito, Hecho valley

30. **Turtle Dove** 22<sup>nd</sup> Belchite flew into an orchard just north of the town

31. **Collared Dove** 20<sup>th</sup> Barcelona; 20<sup>th</sup> Lleida/Lerida 10; 22<sup>nd</sup> Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa 3; 22<sup>nd</sup> Jaca 22<sup>nd</sup>; 23<sup>rd</sup> Azaila 3; Barcelona in the Montjuic area

32. **Ring-necked** (Rose-ringed) **Parakeet** Barcelona in the Montjuic area, near the zoo and on Las Ramblas

33. **Monk Parakeet** Barcelona in the Montjuic area and flying round the Columbus monument

34. **Scops Owl** 20<sup>th</sup> upper* Hecho valley calling at dusk; 21<sup>st</sup> Ibón Inferior del Brazato* calling all night.

35. **Tawny Owl** 20<sup>th</sup> upper* Hecho valley calling at dusk

36. **Alpine Swift** 20<sup>th</sup> from the bus to the airport terminal at Barcelona; 20<sup>th</sup> Río Gállego canyon at Riglos; 21<sup>st</sup> 2 at Boco del Inferno

37. (Common) **Swift** very common in and near villages. Nesting swifts under the airport terminal roof while we were waiting to pick up our hire car made a pleasant distraction. e.g. 30 in Siresa, Hecho valley;

38. **Kingfisher** 20<sup>th</sup> Upper Hecho valley where the forest stops.
39. **Bee-eater** 23rd Ebro valley 5
40. **Hoopoe** 22nd Riglos flew literally over the bonnet of the car just as we left Riglos
41. **Calandra Lark** 22nd La Lomanza, Belchite 5; also 23rd east of Belchite
42. **Greater Short-toed Lark** 22nd La Lomanza, Belchite 5; 23rd Ebro valley 2
43. **Lesser Short-toed Lark** 22nd La Lomanza, Belchite
44. **Dupont's Lark** 23rd La Lomanza, Belchite, heard calling at 6 am (dawn was at 5)
45. **Crested Lark** We saw the first from the bus from the plane to the airport terminal at Barcelona (20th). Most putative cresteds were not formally separated from the following species!
46. **Thekla Lark** 22nd La Lomanza, Belchite; 23rd Ebro valley
47. **Skylark** 23rd Ebro valley
48. **Sand Martin** 23rd Río Cinca (Mechinenza) 5
49. **Crag Martin** Río Gállego canyon at Riglos; Boco del Inferno 8; 22nd Riglos; 23rd Río Cinca (Mechinenza) 5
50. (Barn) **Swallow** 20th from the motorway near Barcelona 3; 20th Lleida/Lerida 9; 23rd Belchite 4
51. **Red-rumped Swallow** Three quite close to Barcelona 20th from the motorway.
52. **House Martin** 20th 2 west of Lleida/Lerida; 20th Río Gállego canyon at Riglos; 21st Boco del Inferno 6; 22nd Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa 2; 22nd Jaca 4; 22nd Riglos; 23rd Ebro valley 11
53. **Grey Wagtail** Very common in the Pyrenees.
54. **White Wagtail** 20th Barcelona airport; 22nd La Lomanza, Belchite 3; 23rd Río Cinca (Mechinenza) 2; Barcelona in the Montjuic area
55. **Water Pipit** 21st Ibón Inferior del Brazato" (2337m) and thereabouts, singing 2
56. **Dipper** 21st upper* Hecho valley, 1 ad, 1 juv.
57. (Winter) **Wren** 20th upper* Hecho valley 2, ibid 21st 4; 22nd Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa 3
58. **Alpine Accentor** between Ibón Inferior del Brazato" (2337m) and Embalse del Brazato (2500m)
59. **Dunnock** 21st upper* Hecho valley; 21st Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa and Ibón Inferior del Brazato" (2337m) 5
60. **Robin** Common in the Hecho valley
61. **Nightingale** 20th north of Río Gállego canyon the Riglos, singing.
62. **Black Redstart** 21st 5 at Boco del Inferno; 21st Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa; 22nd Ibón Inferior del Brazato 6
63. **Redstart** 21st Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa
64. **Stonechat** 23rd Ebro valley
65. **Black Wheatear** 22nd Riglos; 23rd La Lomanza, Belchite
66. (Northern) **Wheatear** 22nd Belchite
67. **Black-eared Wheatear** 20\(^{th}\) from the bus to the airport terminal at Barcelona

68. **Rock Thrush** 22\(^{nd}\) Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa probably 2

69. **Blue Rock Thrush** nice male 22\(^{nd}\) Riglos

70. **Blackbird** 21\(^{st}\) Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa; 22\(^{nd}\) Jaca; 22\(^{nd}\) Garbardito, Hecho valley 2; 23\(^{rd}\) Ebro valley; Barcelona in the Montjuic area

71. **Song Thrush** upper* Hecho valley; 22\(^{nd}\) Garbardito, Hecho valley

72. **Mistle Thrush** 20\(^{th}\) upper* Hecho valley; 22\(^{nd}\) Garbardito, Hecho valley 3

73. **Cetti's Warbler** 23\(^{rd}\) Río Cinca (Mechinenza)

74. **Reed Warbler** 23\(^{rd}\) Río Cinca (Mechinenza)

75. **Chiffchaff** 22\(^{nd}\) Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa 2; 22\(^{nd}\) Garbardito, Hecho valley

76. **Western Bonelli's Warbler** 22\(^{nd}\) Garbardito, Hecho valley near the refuge

77. **Blackcap** 21\(^{st}\) Hecho valley 5; 21\(^{st}\) Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa; 22\(^{nd}\) Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa 3; 22\(^{nd}\) Riglos

78. **Orphean Warbler** 22\(^{nd}\) Riglos skulking in bushes behind the church

79. **Sardinian Warbler** Barcelona near the Olympic Stadium, nesting.

80. **Spectacled Warbler** 23\(^{rd}\) La Lomanza, Belchite,

81. **Goldcrest** Upper* Hecho valley; 22\(^{nd}\) Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa

82. **Pied Flycatcher** 21\(^{st}\) Hecho valley; 22\(^{nd}\) Garbardito, Hecho valley

83. **Long-tailed Tit** 22\(^{nd}\) Garbardito, Hecho valley

84. **Coal Tit** 20\(^{th}\) upper* Hecho valley; 21\(^{st}\) upper* Hecho valley 6; Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa; Barcelona in the Montjuic area

85. **Crested Tit** 21\(^{st}\) 3 just south of Boco del Inferno; 21\(^{st}\) Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa at 1700 m and Ibón Inferior del Brazato" (2337m); 22\(^{nd}\) Garbardito, Hecho valley

86. **Great Tit** 22\(^{nd}\) Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa; 22\(^{nd}\) Jaca; Barcelona in the Montjuic area

87. **Blue Tit** 21\(^{st}\) Hecho valley; Barcelona in the Montjuic area 4

88. **Nuthatch** 22\(^{nd}\) Garbardito, Hecho valley

89. **Wallcreeper** 21\(^{st}\) 1 then 2 at Boco del Inferno at 9:35

90. **Short-toed Treecreeper** 22\(^{nd}\) Garbardito, Hecho valley

91. **Corn Bunting** 20\(^{th}\) Riglos

92. **Cirl Bunting** 22\(^{nd}\) Riglos; 23\(^{rd}\) Ebro valley

93. **Chaffinch** 20\(^{th}\) Río Gállego canyon at Riglos; 21\(^{st}\) common in upper* Hecho valley; 22\(^{nd}\) Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa 7

94. **Serin** 21\(^{st}\) lower Hecho valley; Barcelona in the Montjuic area (10 one lunchtime)
95. **Citril Finch** 21\textsuperscript{st} Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa 2 & Ibón Inferior del Brazato"1 (2337m); 22\textsuperscript{nd} Ibón Inferior del Brazato 5

96. **Greenfinch** 20\textsuperscript{th} Barcelona airport terminal; 20\textsuperscript{th} Riglos gorge; 22\textsuperscript{nd} Riglos

97. **Goldfinch** 20\textsuperscript{th} west of Lleida/Lerida; 21\textsuperscript{st} lower Hecho valley; 22\textsuperscript{nd} Riglos 3; 23\textsuperscript{rd} Ebro valley; Barcelona in the Montjuic area

98. **Linnet** 23\textsuperscript{rd} La Lomanza, Belchite

99. Common (Red) **Crossbill** 22\textsuperscript{nd} Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa 11

100. **Bullfinch** 21\textsuperscript{st} Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa; 22\textsuperscript{nd} Garbardito, Hecho valley

101. **House Sparrow** Common near habitation.

102. (Common) **Starling** The starlings identified in and around Barcelona were all of this species.

103. **Spotless Starling** The starlings identified near Belchite were all of this species. Frankly, we didn't put much effort into identifying all the starlings.

104. **Jay** 20\textsuperscript{th} upper* Hecho valley 2; 21\textsuperscript{st} lower Hecho valley 21\textsuperscript{st} 3 just south of Boco del Inferno; 22\textsuperscript{nd} Garbardito, Hecho valley

105. **Magpie** Barcelona common; 20\textsuperscript{th} Lleida/Lerida 5; 21\textsuperscript{st} Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa 2

106. (Alpine Chough** 22\textsuperscript{nd} Riglos 4 -slightly wary about these - but we could only see yellow beaks.)

107. **Chough** 22\textsuperscript{nd} Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa 2; 22\textsuperscript{nd} La Lomanza, Belchite 2

108. **Jackdaw** 20\textsuperscript{th} Lleida/Lerida; in the "Sagrada Familia, Barcelona

109. **Carrion Crow** 20\textsuperscript{th} Heuco; 20\textsuperscript{th} Hecho valley; 22\textsuperscript{nd} Ibón Inferior del Brazato; 22\textsuperscript{nd} La Lomanza, Belchite

110. Common **Raven** 21\textsuperscript{st} lower Hecho valley; 21\textsuperscript{st} Tena, Gallego valley; 22\textsuperscript{nd} Riglos

*defined as being above Boco del Inferno

## Mammals

Spain: Pyrenees, Belchite and Barcelona - June 2003

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>English name</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
<th>Dansk navn</th>
<th>Spanish name</th>
<th>Spain Place</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pine Marten</strong></td>
<td>Martes martes</td>
<td>Skovmår</td>
<td>Cabra montés</td>
<td>20/6-03 Hecho valley 2 at our first campsite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roe Deer</strong></td>
<td>Capreolus capreolus</td>
<td>Rádyr</td>
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<td>21/6-03 Hecho valley</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spanish Ibex</strong></td>
<td>Capra pyrenaica</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cabra montés</td>
<td>22/6-03 Balneirio/Baños de Panticosa, at about 1700 m</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Red Squirrel</strong></td>
<td>Sciurus vulgaris</td>
<td>Egern</td>
<td></td>
<td>20/6-03 Hecho valley also at our first campsite</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marmot</strong></td>
<td>Marmota marmota</td>
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<td>20/6-03 Embalse del Brazato a single at 2400 m</td>
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</table>
Not a lot, but can't complain about the quality

Spain: Pyrenees, Belchite and Barcelona - June 2003
200-20-28th June 2003

The trip comprised Summary table for our tour:

- "Belchite and Ebro" covers the trip out from Barcelona to Lerida/Huesca and from Huesca to Belchite and from Belchite via Lerida to Barcelona.
- Pyrenees covers the Rio Gállego canyon at Riglos area, Hecho valley and the valley "Garganta del Escalar" to Baños de Panticosa.
- Barcelona covers 5 days conference in the famous city where birding opportunities were restricted to a couple of evenings walking around to find somewhere to eat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English name</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
<th>Spanish Names</th>
<th>Danske navne</th>
<th>Belchite and Ebro</th>
<th>Pyrenees</th>
<th>Barcelona</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grey Heron</td>
<td>Ardea cinerea</td>
<td>Garza real</td>
<td>Fiskehejre</td>
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<td>25/6 and 28/6</td>
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<td>Garza imperial</td>
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<td>Garceta común</td>
<td>Silkehejre</td>
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<td>Mechinazenia</td>
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<td>Garcilla bueyera</td>
<td>Kohejre</td>
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<td>Ardeola ralloides</td>
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<td>Martinete</td>
<td>Nathejre</td>
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<td>Cigüeña común</td>
<td>Hvid Stork</td>
<td>20/6 Lleida/Lerida</td>
<td>9 23rd 8 east of Lleida/Lerida</td>
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<td>Mallard</td>
<td>Anas platyrhynchos</td>
<td>Ánade Real (Cabeciverde)</td>
<td>Gràand</td>
<td>20/6 Lleida</td>
<td>near the zoo</td>
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<td>Honey Buzzard</td>
<td>Pernis apivorus</td>
<td>Halcón abejero</td>
<td>Hepsevåge</td>
<td>21/6</td>
<td>Hecho</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Kite</td>
<td>Milvus migrans</td>
<td>Milano negro</td>
<td>Sort Glente</td>
<td>common</td>
<td>Very common</td>
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<td>Red Kite</td>
<td>Milvus milvus</td>
<td>Milano real</td>
<td>Rød Glente</td>
<td>common</td>
<td>common</td>
<td>breeding at Riglos, Hech valley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Griffon Vulture</td>
<td>Gyps fulvus</td>
<td>Buitre común</td>
<td>Gåsegrib</td>
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Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*  
Alimoche común  
Adselgrib  
20/6 Jaca, Riglos, Hech Valley

Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*  
Quebrantahuesos  
Lammegrib  
6 at Panticosa

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*  
Aguila culebrera  
Slangeørn  
23/6 Chipandra, Ebro 2

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*  
Aguilucho Norteño (Pálido)  
Blå Kærhøg  
23/6 Belchite 1

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*  
Aguilucho lagunero  
Rørhøg  
20/6 Lleida, Belchite

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*  
Gavilán común  
Spurvehøg  
21/6 Hecho (Boca)

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*  
Ratonero común  
Muskvåge  
23/6 Ebro valley

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*  
Aguila calzada  
Dværgørn  
20/6 Riglos, 21/6 Hecho

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*  
Cernícalo primilla  
Lille Tårnfalk  
22/6 Riglos

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*  
Cernícalo vulgar  
Tårnfalk  
22/6 Belchite  
21st Baños de Panticosa 4

Coot *Fulica atra*  
Focha común  
Blishøne  
23rd Río Cinca (Mechinenza)  
20/6 near Barcelona

Stone Curlew (Eurasian Thick-knee) *Burhinus oedicnemus*  
Alcaraván común  
Triel  
22/6 Belchite

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*  
Gaviota  
Middelhavssølvmåge  
20/6 Riglos  
25/6 Barcelona

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata*  
Ganga común (Ganga Ibérica)  
Spidsralet Sandhøne  
23/6 La Lamosa, Belchite 3

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*  
Ortega (Ganga ortega)  
Sortbuget Sandhøne  
22/6 Belchite 2

Rock Dove *Columba livia*  
Paloma Bravia (Domestica)  
Klippedue common  
common  
20/6 Barcelona
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Woodpigeon</td>
<td><em>Columba palumbus</em></td>
<td>Paloma torcaz</td>
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<td>Turtle Dove</td>
<td><em>Streptopelia turtur</em></td>
<td>Tórtola Común</td>
<td>22/6 Belchite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collared Dove</td>
<td><em>Streptopelia decaocto</em></td>
<td>Tórtola turca</td>
<td>20/6 neat Barcelona</td>
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<td>Ring-necked (Rose-ringed) Parakeet</td>
<td><em>Psittacula krameri</em></td>
<td>Cotorra de Kramer</td>
<td>25/6 Barcelona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monk Parakeet</td>
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<td>Cotorra Argentina</td>
<td>25/6 Barcelona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scops Owl</td>
<td><em>Otus scops</em></td>
<td>Autillo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tawny Owl</td>
<td><em>Strix aluco</em></td>
<td>Cárabo</td>
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<td>Alpine Swift</td>
<td><em>Tachymarptis melba</em></td>
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<td>20/6 Barcelona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swift</td>
<td><em>Apus apus</em></td>
<td>Vencejo común</td>
<td>Ebro valley common</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kingfisher</td>
<td><em>Alcedo atthis</em></td>
<td>Martín pescador</td>
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<td>Bee-eater</td>
<td><em>Merops apiaster</em></td>
<td>Abejaruco común</td>
<td>23/6 Ebro 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoopoe</td>
<td><em>Upupa epops</em></td>
<td>Abubilla</td>
<td>20/6 Riglos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calandra Lark</td>
<td><em>Melanocorypha calandra</em></td>
<td>Calandria común</td>
<td>22/6 Belchite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Short-toed Lark</td>
<td><em>Calandrella brachydactyla</em></td>
<td>Terrera común</td>
<td>22/6 Belchite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesser Short-toed Lark</td>
<td><em>Calandrella rufescens</em></td>
<td>Terrera marismeña</td>
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<td>Dupont's Lark</td>
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<td>Alondra de Dupont</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crested Lark</td>
<td><em>Galerda cristata</em></td>
<td>Cogujada común</td>
<td>23/6 Ebro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thekla Lark</td>
<td><em>Galerda malabarica</em></td>
<td>Cogujada montesina</td>
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<td>Skylark</td>
<td><em>Alauda arvensis</em></td>
<td>Alondra común</td>
<td>23/6 Ebro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sand Martin</td>
<td><em>Riparia riparia</em></td>
<td>Avión Zapador o Ribereña</td>
<td>23/6 Ebro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crag Martin (Barn) Swallow</td>
<td><em>Hirundo rupestris</em></td>
<td>Avión roquero</td>
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<td><em>Hirundo rustica</em></td>
<td>Golondrina Común o Tijereta</td>
<td>20/6 Barcelona</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Hirundo daurica</em></td>
<td>Golondrina daurica</td>
<td>20/6 near Barcelona</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bird</strong></td>
<td><strong>Scientific Name</strong></td>
<td><strong>Local Name</strong></td>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
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<td><strong>House Martin</strong></td>
<td><em>Delichon urbica</em></td>
<td>Avión común</td>
<td>20/6 Lleida, 23rd Ebro valley 11</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grey Wagtail</strong></td>
<td><em>Motacilla cinerea</em></td>
<td>Lavander de cascada</td>
<td>Bjergvipstjert</td>
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<td>Lavander blanca</td>
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<td>Bisbita ribereño alpino</td>
<td>Skærpiber</td>
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<td><strong>Dipper</strong></td>
<td><em>Cinclus cinclus</em></td>
<td>Mirlo acuático</td>
<td>Vandtær</td>
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<td>Chochín</td>
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<td><strong>Nightingale</strong></td>
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<td>Ruiseñor común</td>
<td>Sydlig Nattergal</td>
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<td><strong>Black Redstart</strong></td>
<td><em>Phoenicurus ochruros</em></td>
<td>Colirrojo tizón</td>
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<td>Tarabilla común</td>
<td>Sortstrubben Bynkefugl</td>
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<td><em>Oenanthe leucura</em></td>
<td>Collalba negra</td>
<td>Sørgestenpipper</td>
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<td><strong>(Northern) Wheatear</strong></td>
<td><em>Oenanthe oenanthe</em></td>
<td>Collalba gris</td>
<td>Almindelig Stenpipper</td>
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<td><strong>Black-eared Wheatear</strong></td>
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<td><em>Monticola saxatilis</em></td>
<td>Roquero rojo</td>
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<td>Roquero solitario</td>
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<td><em>Turdus viscivorus</em></td>
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<td>Misteldrossel</td>
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<td><strong>Cetti’s Warbler</strong></td>
<td><em>Cettia cetti</em></td>
<td>Avutarda (Ruiseñor Bastardo)</td>
<td>Cettisanger</td>
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<td><strong>Reed Warbler</strong></td>
<td>Agrocephalus scirpaceus</td>
<td>Carricero común</td>
<td>Rørsanger</td>
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<td><strong>Chiffchaff</strong></td>
<td>Phylloscopus collybita</td>
<td>Mosquitero común</td>
<td>Gransanger</td>
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<td><strong>Western Bonelli's Warbler</strong></td>
<td>Phylloscopus bonelli</td>
<td>Mosquitero papialbo</td>
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<td>Sylvia hortensis</td>
<td>Currucamirlona</td>
<td>Mestersanger</td>
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<td>Currucacabecinegra</td>
<td>Sorthoved Sanger</td>
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<td>Currucatomillera</td>
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<td>Reyezuelosencillo</td>
<td>Fuglekonge</td>
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<td><strong>Pied Flycatcher</strong></td>
<td>Ficedula hypoleuca</td>
<td>Papamoscascerrojillo</td>
<td>Broget Fluesnapper</td>
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<td><strong>Long-tailed Tit</strong></td>
<td>Aegithalos caudatus</td>
<td>Mito</td>
<td>Halemejse</td>
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<td>Parus ater</td>
<td>Carbonergarrapinos</td>
<td>Sortmejse</td>
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<td>Parus cristatus</td>
<td>Herrrillocapuchino</td>
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<td><strong>Great Tit</strong></td>
<td>Parus major</td>
<td>Carbonerocomún</td>
<td>Musvit</td>
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<td>Parus caeruleus</td>
<td>Herrerrilcomún</td>
<td>Blåmejse</td>
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<td>Trepadorazul</td>
<td>Spætmejse</td>
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<td>Korttået Træløber</td>
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<td>Triguero</td>
<td>Kornværling (Bomlærke)</td>
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<td>Escribano soteño</td>
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<td>Serinus serinus</td>
<td>Serín (Verdecillo)</td>
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<td><strong>Citril Finch</strong></td>
<td>Serinus citrinella</td>
<td>Verderónserrano</td>
<td>Citron sisken</td>
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<td><strong>Greenfinch</strong></td>
<td>Carduelis chloris</td>
<td>Verderóncomún</td>
<td>Grønirsk</td>
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Goldfinch  
*Carduelis carduelis*  
Jilguero  
Stillits  
20/6 Lleida  
Barcelona

Linnet  
*Carduelis (Acanthis) cannabina*  
Pardillo común  
Tornirsk  
22/6 Belchite

Common (Red) Crossbill  
*Loxia curvirostra*  
Piquiútero común  
Lille Korsnæb  
22/6 Panticosa

Bullfinch  
*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*  
Camachuelo común  
Dompap  
21/6 Hecho

House Sparrow  
*Passer domesticus*  
Gorrión Común  
Gråspurv  
20/6 Barcelona

Starling  
*Sturnus vulgaris*  
Estornino pinto  
Stær  
20/6 Barcelona

Spotless Starling  
*Sturnus unicolor*  
Estornino negro  
Ensfarvet Stær  
22/6 Belchite

Jay  
*Garrulus glandarius*  
Arrendajo  
Skovskade  
20/6 Hecho

Magpie  
*Pica pica*  
Urraca  
Husskade  
20/6 Barcelona

Alpine Chough  
*Pyrrhocorax graculus*  
Chova piqigualda  
Alpeallike  
22/6 Riglos

Chough  
*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*  
Chova piquirroja  
Alpekrage  
22/6 Belchite

Jackdaw  
*Corvus monedula*  
Grajilla  
Allike  
24/6 Barcelona

Carrion Crow  
*Corvus corone*  
Comeja negra  
Krage  
20/6 Huesca

Common Raven  
*Corvus corax*  
Cuervo  
Ravn  
21/6 Hecho,  
22/6 Riglos

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**Practical information, Literature and links**

Spain: Pyrenees, Belchite and Barcelona - June 2003

**Car hire:** we ordered from home, with pick up in Barcelona airport. Avis gave the best price this time. The trip came up to 1300 Km.

**Accommodation:** we camped rough in the upper Hecho Valley, at the tarn (mountain lake) Ibón Inferior del Brazato on the GR11 path and near Belchite on stubble.

**Supermarket:** There is a shopping centre open 8:00(?) maybe 9 am?) to 22:00 (6 days a week) at Huesco just inside the western bypass (E7 = N330) ring road on the A132 - the Huesco Riglos road. This provided most of our supplies. We couldn't find one at Lerida (Lleida). There is also an InterSport there if you forgot some vital camping supplies!
Birds:

- Mullaney, Killian; Svensson, Lars; Zetterström, Dan; Grant, P.J. 1999 Collins Bird Guide - The most complete field guide to the birds of Britain and Europe, Collins, ISBN 0 00 219728 6

Travel

(I had the first edition, 1998, ISBN 1 873756 21 6). We made limited use of this, but the second edition covers the Panticosa area. Praise to the publisher: I bought the 1st edition a couple of years ago in London and discovered a week before departure that it was faulty: one section (Ordessa) was missing completely and another duplicated. The publisher sent me a new copy by post. Thank you Bryn! I understand that the third edition will be out in 2004. See their website at http://www.trailblazer-guides.com/buy/
- All the big map companies have excellent road maps covering from Barcelona to the Pyrenees. There is little to chose among them. e.g. Michelin 574 Aragón, Cataluña/Catalunya
- *Mapa excursiones #24 "Gavarnie - Ordessa"* 1:50 000 covers the area from Jaca to east of Ordessa but not Hecho. Walking scale map Published by the *Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya, Rando éditiones www.occ.es* was obtained from Nordisk Korthandel Scanmaps Studiestræde 26-30 1455 København K (+45) 3338 2638 fax (+45) 3338 2648 [www.scanmaps.dk](http://www.scanmaps.dk) [post@scanmaps.dk](mailto:post@scanmaps.dk)

Acknowledgements

Various people provided help hints and trip reports - Thank you for your help.

- Phil Cruttenden: [http://www.birdtours.co.uk/tripreports/Spain/extra-pyren/index.htm](http://www.birdtours.co.uk/tripreports/Spain/extra-pyren/index.htm) and for correspondence.
- Jørgen Munk Petersen for lending his annotated map to Klaus.

See [http://www.eurobirding.com/tripreports/](http://www.eurobirding.com/tripreports/) where I have subsequently found a number of reports e.g.:

- [http://www.birdtours.co.uk/birdseekers/march03/Pyrenees1.htm](http://www.birdtours.co.uk/birdseekers/march03/Pyrenees1.htm)
- both of which describe the location of Garbadito