

France – Butterflies & Orchids of the Cevennes

Naturetrek Tour Report

5th - 12th June 2025



Lady's Slipper Orchid



Woodcock Orchid



Cornflowers and Foxgloves



Yellow Gentian

Tour report by Tony Williams



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Pip O'Brien and Tony Williams (leaders) with 11 Naturetrek clients

Summary

We were very lucky with the weather on this trip to the Cevennes which enabled us to go out to see the area's fabulous wildlife every day. The ancient village of Cocurès, where we were based, was alive from dawn till dusk with the site and sound of many Swifts, Swallows and Crag Martins, the last very common there.

As usual (according to the owner Pierrette, this is the 30th year Naturetrek have been going there) the hotel was fine and the meals incorporated many local products, excellent.

We found many species of orchid, including the much hoped for and fabulous Lady's-slipper. Butterflies were omnipresent with several unusual species seen and bird highlights must have included the feeding vultures seen from relatively close range.

We very much appreciated the unspoilt, extensive landscapes; a fabulous backdrop to the many species we saw.

And not to be underestimated was the friendliness of the local people.

Day 1

Thursday 5th June

Sunshine

After an early flight to Montpellier, we set off for the Cevennes along roads lined with Plane trees, many very green vineyards and in bright sunshine. We took minor roads where possible rather than battling with motorway traffic, congested city outskirts and toll booths. taking the very scenic Corniche des Cevennes road.

We arrived at our hotel around 1.20pm with plenty of time to find our rooms and then go down to the hotel garden to have the first of our picnics.

After that we had a gentle stroll down to the nearby river past stone walls covered in Rusty Back Ferns, *Ceterach officinarum*. Plant of the day was the Daisy-leaved Toadflax, *Anarrhinum bellidifolium*. We saw a few butterflies, the most interesting being Sooty Copper (which doesn't occur in Britain)

Leaving the river we wandered through the narrow lanes of Cocurès, admiring the frescos in the church and the well worked vegetable gardens.

Black Redstart and Crag Martin were everywhere.

Back to the hotel for a rest, an evening get-together and a meal at 7pm

Day 2

Friday 6th June

We left the hotel at 9am (as we always did) and headed up the steep hairpin bends onto the limestone Causse Mejean (Causse is an Occitan word meaning “limestone plateau” coming from the Latin word *calx* meaning limestone or chalk). We got out of the minibuses to the song of a Nightingale but were soon distracted by the breathtaking profusion of interesting plants arranged in the numerous spaces between, Box, Juniper and Amalanchier. It was a little too early in the day for many butterflies although it soon became obvious that there had been a recent hatch of Black-veined Whites, they were everywhere. A male Red-backed Shrike proved to be the first of several seen during the week.

After that it was time to cross the Causse Mejean plateau to our picnic site at the Roc des Hourtous where the very friendly couple running the little café/restaurant allowed us to picnic in their garden.

Griffon Vultures were visible drifting about on thermals in the Gorge below us.

There was a walk before the picnic with many orchids and butterflies on show, it took us through a deciduous woodland.

Butterflies were there in abundance, with a variety of blues, Wood Whites and Swallowtails.

A lovely yellow flax *Linum campanulata* was a favourite with many of the party.

Having eaten we walked in the opposite direction on a track along the top of the gorge passing Violet Birds Nest Orchids *Limodorum abortivum* to our intended destination and found what we were looking for: Lady's Slipper Orchid *Cypripedium calceolus* in full flower, 33 in all. Butterflies were once more plentiful with several species of blue, Baton Blue the pick of the bunch. Among the plants seen was a charming little stemless Centurea *Carthamus mitissimus*.

Western Bonelli's Warbler were singing as we walked back, butterflies once again took a while to see well and identify, these included Knapweed, Glanville and Heath Fritillaries and our only Meadow Fritillary of the trip.

After that we drove back over the Causse Méjean to Florac, making a short stop at the park visitor centre on the outskirts of the town before driving the few kilometres back to the hotel, arriving at 5.25pm.

Day 3

Saturday 7th June

Sunny and Hot

Another glorious morning today as we explored the Corniche des Cévennes, to the south-east of Florac.

A stop at the wonderful arched bridge just outside the town yielded two Dippers (an adult and a juvenile) and Grey Wagtail.

Then on to St.-Laurent-de-Trèves to the dinosaurs' footprints site. It is not easy to see the three-toed prints in the limestone pavement and the heavy cloud meant for very few butterflies, mainly Wall Browns.

A brief drive took us on to the small village of Le Pompidou where we picnicked at shaded stone tables in front of the Marie.

Retracing our steps, we visited an area of woodland, mainly pine and beech where we found Twayblade *Listera ovata* and a scattering of Spotted Orchids *Dactylorhiza fuschii*.

After some aerobatics, the guide captured a Duke of Burgundy butterfly for all to appreciate close up.

Our final stop was at a field with a very thin layer of soil on the limestone pavement. Greater Butterfly Orchids *Plantanthera chlorantha* covered the ground, a group of Woodcock Orchids *Ophrys scolopax* was found as well as some fresh Bee Orchids *Ophrys apifera*. A Tongue Orchid *Serapia lingua* was discovered in long grass as well as several other species. A fly-past Short-toed Eagle provided reasonable views of this very large raptor.

Day 4

Sunday 8th June

Cold and cloudy at first, then sunny and hot

The morning started with a very cool breeze as we set off up to the Causse Mejean. First stop was at a small crossroads with a walk along a quiet road and using knowledge from previous visits we went into a roadside field and found wonderful Small Spider Orchid *Ophrys araneola*. The weather was not at all favourable for butterflies and birds seemed thin on the ground. However, a group of more than 20 vultures circling and descending past the ridge of hills to the west reminded the guides that there was an occasionally used vulture feeding site on a farm in that direction. After a little searching we found the vultures and had close views of them on the ground.

Next stop was to see the Przewalski horses at the village of Villares. Their conservation has largely been guaranteed by their having been bred 'in the wild' at this extensive site. Le saw a good number of horses at quite close range as well as a large mixed flock of Red-billed Choughs and Jackdaws

We had our picnic in the grounds of the Aven Armand cave site where we made use of both coffee and gift shop facilities. Various butterfly species were seen at the site, one of the most interesting, Amanda's Blue.

From there we travelled down towards the bottom of the Gorges de la Jonte with two stops on the way mainly to look for butterflies. There were many species the pick of which were a very smart and obliging Southern White Admiral and a less obliging Queen of Spain Fritillary.

Once at the bottom of the Gorge, we parked near the vulture visitor centre and looked up at part of their breeding cliffs. Griffon Vultures were much in evidence, a perched Black Vulture was easily recognisable especially as it was sitting next to three Griffon Vultures and a nearby soaring Egyptian Vulture made for a very interesting few minutes.

Time for 'home'; we crossed the Causse de Méjean and arrived back at the hotel at about 5.15pm.

Day 5

Monday 9th June

Sunny and hot with slight cloud cover.

There was a change of departure direction today as we drove eastwards towards Mont Lozère.

The first stop a few kilometres from the hotel allowed us to walk up a gravel track admiring butterflies and plants along the way. We quickly found a new butterfly for the trip, a Spotted Fritillary, of which we later saw several males and females, these were surprisingly the only ones seen during the week.

Continuing along the winding road we came to the picturesque small town of Le Pont de Montvert. Here we had a coffee and a look along the river at Grey and White Wagtails but no Dippers this time.

From there it was onwards and upwards to the Col de Finiels at 1,541 metres.

Here the hillsides were covered in granite boulders. Birds and butterflies were few although a close fly-by Honey Buzzard was of great interest.

The picnic was eaten at the Col de Finiels after which we descended towards Le Pont de Montvert stopping on the way looking for a special butterfly we had hoped to see at the col. After a few passing butterflies eluded all attempts to catch them one was finally caught, by a dextrous client, and examined in a pot before being released, a Piedmont Ringlet. Once through the town we took the northern, smaller road back to Cocurès, pausing to walk along a very beautiful farm track, full of Foxgloves and Cornflowers.

We finally headed for home via the site of magnificent menhirs before stopping once again to wonder about the origin of the enigmatic Bondons, just above Cocurès.

Day 6

Tuesday 10th June

This time taking the main road round the eastern edge of the Causse Mejeans our first stop was at the Chaos de Nîmes le Vieux at Le Vergalier. Just before the site we stopped to look at an unfortunately freshly killed snake on the road, later verified as an Aesculapean Snake. At the chaos huge boulders are scattered over the hillside with interesting plants tucked in between including *Potentilla laxifolia cevenensis*, cunningly disguised as an Alchemilla. There were quite a few butterflies but nothing of real note and not too many birds, of the later however quality replaced quantity with telescope views of both Rock Bunting and Rock Thrush as well as a couple of clients finding the hoped for Rock Sparrow.

Next stop was at the Col du Perjuret where a visit to a south-facing meadow turned out not to be particularly interesting as it had very much dried out from our visit of two weeks ago. Lunch followed soon after in a pine forest accompanied by the song of a Coal Tit.

After that it was up to Mont Aigoual in full sun but with a pleasant breeze. For those who wanted we had a short stop in the café before continuing; no special birds were seen but we did find two new butterfly species for the list:

Small Tortoiseshell and Large Wall Brown. And one client noticed a couple of Wild Tulips in full flower hiding in the shade, probably the last to flower here this year.

A stop just below the peak produced little of interest and so we moved on down yards to the park visitor centre at the Col de la Serreyèred.

Hard to decide what was most popular, the excellent local ice cream or flowery bank next to the car park covered with Cleopatras and Black-veined Whites.

We turned round and headed home with a final stop at a field we had found on a previous trip. It is an astonishing place with huge drifts of orchids. We found 10 species including Dark Red Helleborine *Cephalanthera atrorubens* and Frog Orchid *Coeloglossum viride*.

Day 7

Wednesday 11th June

Sunny

Our final day dawned cloudless and we set off to explore the Gorges du Tarn. After 20 minutes we took a narrow lane up to Montbrun, a lovely village with many nesting House Martins.

Tall rock faces along the road gave us some most interesting plants including statuesque *Saxifraga longifolia*, Burnt Candytuft *Aethioneme saxatile* and dainty yellow Ground Pine *Ajuga chamaepitys*. And we did eventually see the hoped for Purple-shot Copper.

Then on to Castlebrun, a small village that seems to have been carved out of the rock. A nesting Crag Martin with recently fledged young was seen at the village entrance. Nearby were several blues including Short-tailed Blue although a flighty butterfly, probably Marbled Fritillary didn't let itself be definitely identified.

Lunch was down by the river in an idyllic spot next to the Tarn followed by a short stop in nearby St.-Emilie. We took the northern road back stopping at a forest where we found three different wintergreens, and a round leaved Bedstraw *Gallium rotundifolium*.

Day 8

Thursday 12th June

The final day started with an early departure from the hotel to make sure of being at Montpellier airport in plenty of time for the flight home. Nothing much to report except for a medium sized Wild Boar that crossed the road in front of the leading minibus.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers and exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays



www.twitter.com/naturetrektours



www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays

Species lists

Plants (* = endemic)

Common name	Scientific name	Day
PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES	
Adiantaceae	Maidenhair fern Family	
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern	7
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family	
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	1
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall Rue	6
<i>Asplenium septentrionale</i>	Forked Spleenwort	7
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rusty-back	1
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	1
Dryopteridaceae	Buckler Fern Family	
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i> agg.	Golden Scaly Male Fern	5
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family	
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common Polypody	7
PINOPSIDA (Gymnosperms)	CONIFERS	
Cupressaceae	Juniper Family	
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper	2
Pinaceae	Pine Family	
<i>Pinus nigra</i> subsp. <i>salzmanii</i>	Black Pine	2
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Umbrella or Stone Pine	1

Common name	Scientific name	Day
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	2
<i>Pinus uncinata</i>	Mountain Pine	6
Taxaceae	Yew Family	
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	7
MAGNOLIOPSIDA (Angiosperms)	FLOWERING PLANTS	
Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)		
Aceraceae	Maple Family	
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	1
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpellier Maple	1
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	1
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i>	Fools parsley	3
<i>Athamantha cretensis</i>	Athamantha	7
<i>Chaerophyllum aureum</i>	Golden Chervil	3
<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>	Rough Chervil	3
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	5
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	2
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> subsp. <i>sibiricum</i>	Hogweed (yellow flowered)	5
<i>Laserpitium latifolium</i>	Broad-leaved Sermountain	2
<i>Laserpitium siler</i>	A Sermountain	2
<i>Meum athamanticum</i>	Spignet	5
<i>Molopospermum peloponnesiacum</i>	Molopospermum (Molly)	5
<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	qBurnet saxifrage	2
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle	7
<i>Tordylium maximum</i>	Haartwort	1
<i>Trinia glauca</i>	Honewort	3
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	2
Aristolochiaceae	Birthwort Family	
<i>Aristolochia clematitis</i>	Birthwort	7
Asclepiadaceae	Milkweed Family	
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	2
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	1
<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	Cat's Foot	5
<i>Aster alpinus</i> subsp. <i>cevennensis</i> *	Alpine Aster	4
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	2
<i>Carduus nigrescens</i>	Dark Thistle	4
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk Thistle	3
<i>Carlina acanthifolia</i>	Acanthus-leaved C. Thistle	2
<i>Carthamus mitissimus</i>	Distaff thistle	2

Common name	Scientific name	Day
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower	5
<i>Centurea jacea</i>	Meadow Knapweed	7
<i>Centurea paniculata</i>	Jersey Knapweed	5
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	3
<i>Cirsium palustris</i>	Marsh Thistle	5
<i>Hieracium amplexicaule</i>	Sticky Hawkweed	7
<i>Hieracium maculatum</i>	Noble Hawkweed	2
<i>Hieracium murorum</i>	Wood Hawkweed	2
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	3
<i>Hypochoeris maculata</i>	Spotted Cat's Ear	2
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	1
<i>Leucanthemopsis alpina</i>	Alpine Moon Daisy	6
<i>Leucanthemopsis graminifolium</i>	Grass leaved ox Eye Daisy	2
<i>Leucanthemum monspeliense</i>	-	3
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy	4
<i>Tragopogon hybridum</i>	-	1
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goatsbeard	3
Betulaceae	Birch Family	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	7
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Common Birch	1
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	2
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Vipers Bugloss	1
<i>Onosma fastigiatum</i>	Golden Drops	4
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
<i>Aethionema saxatile</i>	Burnt Candytuft	7
<i>Arabis turrita</i>	Tower Cress	5
<i>Barbarea intermedia</i>	Intermediate Winter-cress	5
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Winter-cress	5
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Lady's Smock	5
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse	1
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	Woad	4
<i>Kernera saxatilis</i>	Kernera	6
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Honesty	5
Buxaceae	Box Family	
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	2
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	Campanula	7
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	Creeping Bellflower	1
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell	7
<i>Campanula scheuchzeri</i>	Scheuchzers Bellflower	7
<i>Jasione montana</i>	Sheepsbit	1
<i>Legousia speculum -venaris</i>	Large Venus Looking Glass	7
<i>Phyteuma obiculare</i>	Round headed rampion	2

Common name	Scientific name	Day
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	3
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Fly Honeysuckle	3
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	2
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow in Summer	2
<i>Dianthus carthusianum</i>	Carthusian Pink	5
<i>Dianthus deltoides</i>	Maiden Pink	3
<i>Minuartia rostrata</i>	Beaked Sandwort	6
<i>Petrohagia prolifera</i>	Proliferous Pink	3
<i>Saponaria ocymoides</i>	Rock Soapwort	3
<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	Perennial Knawel	5
<i>Silene armeria</i>	Sweet William Catchfly	1
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	7
<i>Silene italica</i>	Italian Catchfly	2
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	3
<i>Silene pendula</i>	Drooping Catchfly	5
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	5
<i>Spergula avensis</i>	Corn Spurrey	1
<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	Sand Spurrey	5
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort	4
Celastraceae	Spindle Family	
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle Tree	1
Cistaceae	Cistus Family	
<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i>	White Rockrose	2
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rockrose	2
<i>H. oelandicum</i> subsp. <i>canum</i>	Hoary Rockrose	3
Clusiaceae	St John's-wort Family	
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John'swort	1
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed family	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	7
<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	Pink Convolvulus	1
Cornaceae	Dogwood Family	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Common Dogwood	2
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop	7
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Thick-leaved Stonecrop	1
<i>Sedum telephium</i>	Orpine	1
<i>Sedum ochroleucum</i>	European Stonecrop	7
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Wall Pennywort	1
Cucurbitaceae	White Bryony Family	
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White Bryony	7

Common name	Scientific name	Day
Dipsacaceae	Scabious Family	
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	6
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	3
<i>Knautia dipsacifolia</i>	Wood Scabious	3
Ericaceae	Heather Family	
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	2
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling	1
<i>Pyrola chlorantha</i>	Green Flowered Wintergreen	7
<i>Pyrola minima</i>	Common Wintergreen	7
<i>Orthilia secunda</i>	Serrated Wintergreen	7
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry	5
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cyprus Spurge	2
<i>Euphorbia seguieriana</i>	Seguier's Spurge	2
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
<i>Anthyllis montana</i>	Mountain Kidney Vetch	2
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	2
<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>	False Vetch	3
<i>Coronilla minima</i>	Small Senna	2
<i>Cytisophyllum sessilifolius</i>	Sessile Broom	6
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Common Broom	3
<i>Cytisus striatus</i>	Portugese Broom	5
<i>Genista hispanica</i>	Spanish Gorse	2
<i>Genista pilosa</i>	Hairy Greenweed	3
<i>Genista sagittalis</i>	Winged Greenweed	3
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horse-shoe Vetch	3
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Laburnum	2
<i>Lathyrus alphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling	3
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea	7
<i>Lathyrus pannonicus</i>	Felted vetch	4
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	6
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil	3
<i>Lotus dorycnium</i>	Badassi	4
<i>Lotus maritimus</i>	Asparagus Trefoil	6
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	3
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Common Melilot	3
<i>Onobrychis supina</i>	Creeping Sanfoin	2
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Common Sainfoin	2
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	Robinia	1
<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	Narrow Leaved Clover	3
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hares Foot Clover	5
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	1
<i>Trifolium montanum</i>	Mountain Clover	3
<i>trifolium ochroleucon</i>	Sulphur Clover	3
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	2
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	3

Common name	Scientific name	Day
<i>Trifolium rubens</i>	Red Trefoil	2
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	4
<i>Vicia onobrychoides</i>	False Sainfoin	2
<i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>sativa</i>	Fodder Vetch	5
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	2
<i>Vicia tenuifolium</i>	Fine Leaved Vetchq2	
Fagaceae	Beech Family	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	1
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	6
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey Oak	2
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm/Evergreen Oak	1
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak	5
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	1
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Common Oak	6
Fumariaceae	Fumitory Family	
<i>Fumaria muralis</i> subsp. <i>boraei</i>	Common Ramping Fumitory	1
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family	
<i>Gentiana lutea</i>	Great Yellow Gentian	3
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Storksbill	5
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	1
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin	2
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	1
Globulariaceae	Globularia Family	
<i>Globularia punctata</i>	Common Globularia	2
Grossulariaceae	Gooseberry Family	
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Wild Gooseberry	4
Juglandaceae	Walnut Family	
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	1
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family	
<i>Acinos alpinus</i>	Alpine Calamint	2
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine	7
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Blue Bugle	3
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Common Bugle	2
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	7
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Lavender	2
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard Balm	2
<i>Prunella lacinata</i>	Cut Leaf Selfheal	3
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary	2
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	2
<i>Salvia verticillata</i>	Whorled Clary	2
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow Woundwort	4

Common name	Scientific name	Day
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Wall Germander	7
<i>teucrium polium</i>	Felted Germander	3
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage	5
<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>	Creeping Thyme	2
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Thyme	3
Linaceae	Flax Family	
<i>Linum campanulatum</i>	Yellow Flax	2
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax	2
<i>Linum suffruticosum subsp salsoides</i>	Pyrenean Flax	3
Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	2
Moraceae	Fig Family	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	1
Oleaceae	Olive Family	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	2
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna ash	2
<i>Jasminum fruticans</i>	Wild Jasmine	7
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Privet	7
Onograceae	Willowherb Family	
<i>Oenothera glazioviana</i>	Large-flrd Evening Primrose	3
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
<i>Orobanche caryophyllacea</i>	Bedstraw Broomrape	3
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Lesser Broomroape	1
<i>Orobanche rapum genistae</i>	Greater Broomrape	5
Oxalidaceae	Wood Sorrel Family	
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood Sorrel	
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family	
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	1
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Corn Poppy	2
<i>papaver setiferum</i>	Poppy	4
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
<i>Plantago holostium</i>	-	5
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	5
<i>Plantago major</i>	Great Plantain	5
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain	4
<i>Plantago sempervirens</i>	Branched Plantain	2
Platanaceae	Plane Family	
<i>Platanus x hybrida</i>	London Plane	3
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family	

Common name	Scientific name	Day
<i>Armeria arenaria</i>	Jersey Thrift	3
<i>Armeria maritima subsp alpina</i>	Mountain Thrift	5
Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family	
<i>Polygala calcarea</i>	Chalk Milkwort	2
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort	2
Polygonaceae	Knotweed Family	
<i>Persicaria bistorta</i>	Bistort	5
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Sorrel	5
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	2
<i>Rumex longifolia</i>	Long Leaved Dock	4
<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	French Sorrel	3
Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	2
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
<i>Adonis flammea</i>	Pyrenean Pheasant's Eye	4
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	5
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine	6
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	5
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Old Man's Beard	3
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Helleore	3
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica	2
<i>Pulsatilla rubra subsp. rubra*</i>	Cevennes Pasque Flower	3
<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i>	Pasque Flower	7
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	5
Resedaceae	Mignonette family	
<i>Reseda jacquinii</i>	Jaquin's Mignonette	2
Rosaceae	Rose Family	
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine lady's-mantle	5
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Lady's Mantle	5
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	Amelanchier	2
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	2
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	4
<i>Frageria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	2
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Heb Bennet	1
<i>Potentilla caulescens subsp. cevennensis*</i>	Cevennes Cinquefoil	6
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	tomentil	5
<i>Potentilla hirta</i>	Hairy Cinquefoil	6
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose	2
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Sweet Briar	3
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble	1
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	7
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet	1
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	2
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Mountain Ash	7

Common name	Scientific name	Day
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw family	
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	3
<i>Galium lucidum</i>	Shining Bedstraw	5
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw	5
<i>Gallium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw	5
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder	3
Salicaceae	Willow Family	
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	7
<i>Populus x canescens</i>	Hybrid Black Poplar	7
<i>Populus nigra</i> agg.	Black Poplar	7
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	5
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	7
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family	
<i>Saxifraga cevennensis</i> *	Cevennes Saxifrage	7
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage	5
<i>Saxifraga longifolia</i>	Long Leaved Saxifrage	7
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
<i>Anarrhinum bellidifolium</i>	Daisy-leaved Toadflax	1
<i>Chaenorhinum origanifolium</i>	Chaenorhinum	6
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	3
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	5
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy Foxglove	4
<i>Linaria repens</i>	Striped Toadflax	2
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	A Louswort	5
<i>Rhinanthus mediterraneus</i>	Mediterranean Rattle	2
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle	2
<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	Alpine/French Figwort	4
<i>Verbascum pulverulentum</i>	Hoary Mullien	5
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	5
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Speedwell	3
<i>Veronica spicata</i>	Spiked Speedwell	2
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family	
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Henbane	4
Thymelaceae	Daphne Family	
<i>Daphne Alpina</i>	Alpine Daphne	2
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel	2
Tiliaceae	Lime Family	
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	5
<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	Common Lime	5
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Large-leaved Lime	1
Urticeae	Nettle Family	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	7

Common name	Scientific name	Day
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	4
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family	
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	3
<i>Valeriana officianalis</i>	Common Valerian	3
<i>Valerianella locusta</i>	Corn Salad	2
Violaceae	Violet Family	
<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Field Pansy	3
<i>Viola canina</i>	Heath Dog Violet	5
<i>Viola lutea</i>	Mountain Pansy	5
<i>Viola tricolor</i> agg.	Heart's-ease	3
Liliidae (Monocotyledons)		
Liliaceae	Lily Family	
<i>Allium sphaerocephalon</i>	Round-headed Leek	1
<i>Anthericum liliago</i>	St Bernard's Lily	4
<i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i>	Blue Aphyllanthes	2
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	2
<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>	Pheasant's Eye Daffodil	3
<i>Ornithogalum angustifolium</i>	Star of Bethlehem	2
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	a Star of Bethlehem	2
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal	2
<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i> subsp. <i>australis</i>	Wild Tulip	6
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	2
<i>Cephalanthera atrorubens</i>	Dark Red Helleborine	6
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine	2
<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>	Red Helleborine	4
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	Frog Orchid	6
<i>Cypripedium calceoleus</i>	'lady's Slipper Orchid	2
<i>Dactylorhiza elata</i>		3
<i>Dactylorhiza fuschii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid	2
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath Spotted Orchid	5
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>	Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid	5
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid	5
<i>Gymnadinia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid	2
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid	2
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Bird's-nest Orchid	2
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's Nest Orchid	2
<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Twayblade	3
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	3
<i>Ophrys aymonii</i>	Aymonin's Fly Orchid	6
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Ophrys	4
<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock Ophrys	3
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early Spider	3
<i>Orchis anthropophora</i>	Man Orchid	2
<i>Orchis coriophora</i>	Bug Orchid	3

Common name	Scientific name	Day
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid	3
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	Military Orchid	2
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid	3
<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	Burnt Orchid	2
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid	2
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid	3
<i>Serapia lingua</i>	Tongue l Orchid	3
Poaceae	Grass Family	
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking Grass	4
<i>Briza minor</i>	Small Quaking Grass	2
<i>Sesleria caerulea</i>	Blue Moor Grass	5
<i>Stipa pennata</i>	-	2
Key		
Day 1 -	Around the village of Cocures	
Day 2	Roc de Hortous and surrounds	
Day 3	Corniches de Cevennes	
Day 4	Gorge de la Jonte	
Day 5	Mont Lozere and ascent	
Day 6	Col de Perjuret and Mt Aigille	
Day 7	Gorges du Tarn	

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	June 2025							
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>			2	1				
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>					1			
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		1		3	✓	1	1	
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		1	1			✓	2	
Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias australis</i>				1				
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>				2		✓		
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>		1				10+	✓	
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>					1			
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeus</i>			1			1		
Sooty Copper	<i>Heodes tityrus</i>	2			✓	✓	✓		
Purple-edged Copper	<i>Palaeochrysophanus hippothoe</i>							2	
Short-tailed Blue	<i>Everes argiades</i>							1	
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Osiris Blue	<i>Cupido osiris</i>		?		1				
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>					1			
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>		1						
Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>		1						
Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>		1		✓	✓	✓		
Chapman's Blue	<i>Agrodiaetus thersites</i>					1	1		
Escher's Blue	<i>Agrodiaetus escheri</i>		1+						

Common name	Scientific name	June 2025							
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Amanda's Blue	<i>Agrodiaetus amanda</i>				1				
Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		3+	✓	✓	✓			
Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>			1					
Lesser Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura ilia</i>							1	
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>							1	
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>				1			1	
Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>						1		
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>					1	3		
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		1				1		
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>				1		1		
Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>							?	
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana euphrosyne</i>				✓	1			
Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Clossiana dia</i>								
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>					✓			
Heath Fritillary	<i>Melicta athalia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Meadow Fritillary	<i>Melicta parthenoides</i>		1						
Piedmont Ringlet	<i>Erebia meolans</i>					✓	✓		
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>					1			
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>		1		✓	✓		✓	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>						2		
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>		2	✓		✓			
Large Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>		1						
Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>			1		✓			
Red-underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>					1			
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>					✓			
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineolus</i>		1						
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus flavus</i>	1	1				1		
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>		✓						

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	June 2025							
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					1			
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>				1				
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>					1			
Black Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		1		1				
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓	1					
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				1				
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>								

Common name	Scientific name	June 2025							
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>				2		1		
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			H	✓		✓		
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H	
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>				H				
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		H	H	H		H	H	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				1		1		
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			H					
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				H	H	H		
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		1		1	1		1	
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				1		1		
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		1	2	✓	✓			
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		1	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>				✓				
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>				✓				
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			1	✓				
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>					1	H		
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			1	1	1	H	✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	H	1	✓	H	✓	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		H	1	H		✓		
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		H	✓	✓		H		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					✓		1	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	H	H	H	H	H	H	1	
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>		H	H	H	H		H	
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>							H	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>					1			
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				1				
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		H						
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			H		H		H	
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>			H					
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>							H	
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				1				
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1	H	1	H	H	H	
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>							H	
Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>						1		
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			✓			✓		
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		1		2				

Common name	Scientific name	June 2025							
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>			2+					
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>						1?		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓		✓		✓	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		H				H		
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		1		1				
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				2				
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>					1			
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	H	1	H	H	1	1	1	
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		1	H	1				
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>						✓		
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>						1		