

Dragonflies & Birds of the Camargue

Naturetrek Tour Report

9th – 16th July 2022



Large Pincertail by Sarah Vallance



Black-winged Stilts by Sarah Vallance



Banded Darter by Richard Sayle



Green-eyed Hawker by Richard Sayle

Tour report by Jason Mitchell



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Tour participants: Jason Mitchell (leader) with six Naturetrek clients

Summary

Lying between two arms of the Rhône, the Camargue is Western Europe's largest river delta (750 km²), cut off from the sea by sandbars and encircled by reed-covered marshes. We spent much of our time exploring its meadows, ponds, salt pans and small lakes – known as *étangs*. The region is famed for its migratory birds. More than 400 species have been recorded but it is less well known for its impressive dragonfly fauna. We enjoyed both exciting animal groups while soaking up the region's unique atmosphere, made all the more special by the celebrated Camargue horses and cattle that roam widely. However, the region's emblem and must-see bird is the Greater Flamingo and they were seen in vast numbers on the brine lagoons, which are noted as one of the species' few nesting sites in Europe and the only place they breed in the whole of France.

In addition to the Camargue, we also made visits to Les Alpilles and La Crau. The Massif des Alpilles is an extension of the much larger Luberon mountain range and although its highest point is a modest 498 m (1,634 ft), it stands out impressively as it rises abruptly from the Rhône Valley and from the flat, arid plain of the Crau. An evening visit of Les Baux-de-Provence, nestled high in Les Alpilles, allowed us to enjoy this attractive village once all the tourists had gone home. Perched high on a rocky outcrop with semi-troglodyte buildings and the remains of a castle, it is among the most stunning locations in Provence. Our time in the desert-like La Crau was largely focused on a small, richly-vegetated channel, which is noted as one of Europe's best dragonfly sites and it didn't disappoint!

Based in a charming family run hotel near Arles, we were perfectly positioned to explore the vast Camargue to the south and La Crau and Les Alpilles to the east. Typical of the season we experienced wall-to-wall sunshine, in also typically hot conditions – afternoon temperatures were mostly in the low-thirties, with the mercury hitting 38°C on the hottest day! Early starts allowed us to profit from the cooler mornings and when logistics allowed, a siesta preceded a late afternoon outing. We spent a thoroughly enjoyable and productive week exploring this famed region of France, along with some of its lesser known corners. By the end of our stay, we had amounted a very respectable species tally of 25 dragonflies, 20 butterflies and 111 species of bird. The 'stand-out' finds of the week, included three Camargue rarities: the stunning Violet Dropwing, a scarce dragonfly slowly colonising from Africa, along with the striking and seldom-seen River Clubtail and on the bird front, an Elegant Tern, which we found roosting on salt pans in the company of six other tern species!

Day 1

Saturday 9th July

Marseille Airport to Hotel des Granges, Arles

Sunny, 30°C

With the flight arriving on time into Marseille, we loaded our air-conditioned minibus and were soon heading north-west towards Arles. During the hour-long drive, we had our first taste of some of the region's exciting wildlife; firstly, the fairly common, yet elegant Black Kite, followed by several impressively large White Storks which drifted effortlessly over the autoroute. Once at the hotel, we settled into our comfortable rooms ahead of the first of many, excellent evening meals.

Day 2

Sunday 10th July

Aqueduc de Barbegal and Les Baux-de-Provence

Sunny, 32°C

Waking to a clear blue sky and temperatures already well into the high teens, we met for a relaxed breakfast followed by a later departure, driving the short distance to the Aqueduc of Barbegal. Although a site best known for its Roman history, it happens to be an excellent location for insects too. Minutes before reaching the parking area, we spied a Roller sat in a tree which prompted an unplanned stop for better views. We quickly relocated the bird, in fact there were several Rollers gracing the hillside, where the group took a little stroll also enjoying distant views of Les Alpilles. Another exotic-looking species, the Hoopoe, caused even more excitement and was joined in the same tree by a Turtle Dove. On the butterfly-front, we found a number of Southern Gatekeepers and our first Great Banded Grayling of the tour. A female Red-veined Darter was another new species, later proving to be the most common dragonfly of the tour.

On our arrival at the aqueduct, things were slow at first, except that is for an abundance of grasshoppers; each step seemed to unleash another wave of these leggy insects! A field below the viewpoint was being irrigated and had attracted a large flock of herons. Although dominated by Cattle Egrets, a single Grey Heron and two White Storks added interest. Again, Southern Gatekeepers were the most numerous butterfly, and these were joined by more familiar species, included Small Heath, Common Blue and Painted Lady. In need of refreshment, we returned to the minibus before exploring a small water channel on the opposite side of the road.

Almost immediately, we connected with White Featherleg and Banded Demoiselle. However, the biggest surprise came in the form of a River Clubtail which briefly perched by the stream before relocating into the top of a small tree. Luckily Sarah grabbed a couple of record shots, allowing us to later confirm the identity of this scarce insect. As the morning progressed, we added yet more dragonflies including a female Copper Demoiselle and the only Orange-spotted Emerald of the tour, before eventually returning to the hotel for a late lunch.

Following a tiring day of travel and a busy first morning, the group opted to relax at the hotel for the remainder of the afternoon, with most enjoying a cooling dip in the pool. However, the day's outings were not yet over and following an early dinner, we reassembled at the minibus. This time we departed east towards Les Alpilles. Our first stop of the evening was at Les Baux-de-Provence, an attractive little village rising from a soaring limestone outcrop. Black Redstarts were easy to find, as they gave their distinctive and quirky songs from the castle ruins. But suddenly, a chorus of stuttering trills alerted us to a flock of Alpine Swifts careering around over the village and where soon joined by several Crag Martins. In the surrounding garrigue - a low scrubland dominated by boxwood, juniper and aromatic herbs like thyme, rosemary, lavender or sage - a skulking Sardinian Warbler belted out its rattling refrain but stayed hidden from sight. In a field below, a Brown Hare hopped in and out of view. Having failed to find a Blue Rock Thrush, despite a lengthy scan of the towering cliffs, we hopped back in the minibus. However, after barely 50m eagle-eyed Lorna called out, as a flurry of blue-black wings whirled across the road and our quarry landed on a crag in full view!

Our last stop of the day was timed to coincide with the active period for Eagle Owls. So once again, we found ourselves scanning a craggy mass of limestone but this time for a rather larger bird. But first our attentions were

drawn to a bank, where a butterfly was seeking a place to roost. Closer examination showed it to be a Striped Grayling; a species we normally find at Barbegal but had missed earlier in the day, so we were all delighted to have finally seen this handsome insect. With the light really dropping off, we started to think our luck was out when we heard the squeaky begging calls of a juvenile Eagle Owl. Despite our best efforts to pinpoint the bird, it remained hidden but nonetheless it was exciting to have been in the company of this iconic species of Les Alpilles.

Day 3

Monday 11th July

Marais du Vigueirat

Sunny, 32°C

We left the hotel in ideal conditions and headed for the Marais du Vigueirat, a wetland nature reserve on the eastern edge of Camargue. On the entrance track to the marsh, we stopped to watch two Rollers on a fence and soon realised they were a juvenile and parent, with the duller, less colourful bird begging for food. Above the minibus, a Hobby was hunting dragonflies along with several Bee-eaters, which were probably doing the same. Arriving at the visitor centre, we headed out on a circular walk of the reserve where we were thrilled to see several White Storks and Glossy Ibis flying around overhead. Moving on, we walked a reed-lined path where both Broad Scarlet and Red-veined Darter dragonflies were present in large numbers. The males of both species were so brightly coloured red, that at times it proved quite tricky to separate the two. At a gap in the vegetation, we had fabulous views of two European Pond Terrapins. At barely a metre, we could see their yellow-spotted heads as they hunted below the surface of the clear, richly-vegetated water. Later, we stopped in a hide to observe a lagoon where numerous sandpipers were feeding: Wood, Green and Common Sandpipers were all present, giving an excellent opportunity to study the subtle differences which help separate these three lookalikes. Other waders included Curlew and two plovers: Kentish and Little Ringed. In the same area, a Night Heron flew from cover and a small flock of Cattle Egrets flickered over a herd of cattle.

After a full-on birding session, we decided to return to the visitor centre for our picnic. Retracing our steps, we passed back over a ditch hosting several Small Red-eyed Damselflies but on this occasion, we were more interested in three Viperine Snakes resting motionless at the water's edge in anticipation of a passing picnic of their own. After lunch on some tables in the shade, we returned to the reserve. From an elevated viewpoint, we marvelled at some majestic White Storks as they flew low overhead, gliding into their nests with young birds eagerly awaiting their next snack. Reaching another bird hide we were pleased to find shade, not to mention a fantastic array of water birds. Firstly, our attention was drawn to the Black-winged Stilts which were particularly numerous and very obvious due to their loud bickering calls. Several Gull-billed Terns were posed on an island and a Green Sandpiper flew over giving its shrill call. A Squacco Heron caused considerable excitement amongst the group and as the minutes passed, we spotted several more of these handsome birds hunting discreetly across the shallows.

Returning to the visitor centre we paused to explore a small interpretation trail, encouraged by brief views of a Nightingale at the entrance. From a boardwalk, we were able to observe a small open body of water where a Coypu was feeding actively in plain view and was clearly accustomed to admiring tourists! A number of White-tailed Skimmers were actively zipping over the same pool. Temperatures had begun to rise steeply now, so it was back to the minibus and a short drive to the nearest village for well-earned refreshments. From here we returned to the hotel, soon meeting up again to catalogue the day's finds ahead of a splendid dinner.

Day 4

Tuesday 12th July

Northern Camargue, Vallée des Baux

Sunny, 34°C

The morning was spent discovering the northern part of the Camargue. Not far from the hotel, we explored an area criss-crossed by small irrigation channels, stopping a number of times to look for dragonflies. One particular ditch was heaving with Red-veined Darter and the surrounding bushes had one perched on almost every terminal branch. A typically vocal Zitting Cisticola, untypically offered excellent views as it spent five minutes preening in a nearby tree, while a female Marsh Harrier quartered an adjacent field. At the next stop birds were the main target, with two raucous Great Reed Warblers competing for airtime and the surrounding fields hosted dozens of Glossy Ibis, Black-winged Stilts and Mediterranean Gulls. However, the star sighting was an impressively large White-fronted Warbler which gave its presence away with its loud reeling song.

Moving on, a bridge served as a viewpoint over a river and surrounding meadows, where a pair of Crested Larks flitted into view offering a few sweet notes as they did so. Again, Glossy Ibis and various egrets passed steadily overhead but the Bee-eater colony seemed abandoned this year but for a few 'squatting' local sparrows. In ever rising temperatures, we made a café stop at the Mas de Méjanes, where a number of the group also took a look around the stables. From here, a dirt track lead to the shore of Etang de Vaccarès, the Camargue's largest lake and one which is important for Greater Flamingos and so it proved. While turning the minibus around further along the track, a Short-toed Eagle sat perched in a dead tree, unfortunately only Jason saw the bird as the group were happily studying their first flamingos of the tour.

Returning to the hotel on small back roads, we stopped briefly at a ditch where the now-familiar Broad Scarlet dominated but further along a wet scrape prompted a final stop to identify some interesting birds. Wood Sandpipers posed less of a challenge following the previous days close encounters and Lapwing were familiar too. However, our first Whiskered Tern in the company of its Common and Gull-billed cousins was a welcome addition to the day's sightings as was another first, the Purple Heron, with two of these graceful birds giving good flight views.

Another hearty picnic back at the hotel was followed by a siesta across the hottest part of the day. At around four o'clock, we headed out to explore the Baux Valley canal but first stopped off in St Martin-en-Crau to collect our permits for the following morning's visit and also partook in some swift refreshments at a local café. Arriving at the canal, we opted to walk the cooler southern bank under a high canopy of Poplars and it was here we found large gatherings of the ever-popular Banded Demoiselle, in the company of a few White Featherlegs. Much photography followed, as the dappled sunshine really showed off the demoiselles to best effect. We then braved the sun-baked northern path and thank goodness we did, as it was here we found a stunning male Violet Dropwing; a sought-after species which has been colonising southern Europe from Africa in recent decades. Still buzzing with excitement, we returned to the vehicle where a tuneful Golden Oriole was seen briefly as it flashed between trees in the canopy high above. Dragging ourselves away, we headed back to the hotel and another fine dinner.

Day 5

Wednesday 13th July

La Crau, Vallée des Baux

Sunny, 33°C

Today we headed east to La Crau, a semi-arid stony area which has been designated a Natura 2000 site for its wildlife interest. The approach road was enlivened by several Rollers along with some White Storks searching a ploughed field for worms but the hoped-for Southern Grey Shrikes remained elusive. Arriving at the Crau, we headed out along the central track where both Tawny Pipit and Short-toed Lark gave good views, especially the former, which performed its song flight. But the star birds were ten Stone Curlews, several Lesser Kestrels and a family of Little Owls. Insects featured too, with the smart Bath White butterfly being quite numerous and further interest added by two small mantids (*Ameles decolor*) and a large and impressive Mottled-winged Antlion.

In soaring temperatures, we headed for the edge of the reserve where a narrow, flowing canal with lush green banks hosted a remarkable dragonfly fauna. With around 50 different species recorded to date, it claims to be one of Europe's best dragonfly sites! Indeed, we were amazed at the numbers and diversity of dragonflies on this small but important waterbody which is afforded European protection for its wildlife value. Demoiselles were initially the most obvious, with the familiar Banded being especially common but was soon joined by several darker Copper Demoiselles. Two striking Golden-ringed Dragonflies were soon on the wing along with several Green-eyed Hawkers – one hovering long enough for Richard to take a fine flight photograph of this handsome insect. With four powder-blue species of dragonflies present, we were kept on our toes: with Blue Chaser, Southern, Black-tailed and Keeled Skimmers all numerous. As we continued our exploration of the stream, we started to find dozens of Large Pincertails but despite our best effort its near cousin the Small Pincertail eluded us. Our only Small Red Damselflies of the week were noted and in more vegetated stretches, the equally small Mercury Bluet was also a new addition to the list. However, the best find was a Yellow Clubtail dragonfly, which perched briefly allowing for some photographs to be taken. With lunch fast approaching, we relocated a few kilometres north to a picnic site alongside a small stream. This provided plenty of shade and it was here we had our picnic.

Following a coffee, we made a visit to another section of the Baux Valley where we hoped to find a Pronged Clubtail but in searing heat, we soon abandoned the hunt and returned to the hotel to relax ahead of dinner.

Day 6

Thursday 14th July

Camargue: north to south

Sunny, 33°C

Heading west and then south towards the Camargue, we soon stopped along a woodland edge where a Bee-eater posed beautifully in an isolated tree and a Nightingale perched briefly on a fence at the edge of the same field. The area is often good for woodpeckers on account of the many large mature trees present, with several in an advanced state of decay but on this occasion they remained silent. However, we did hear a Short-toed Treecreeper, no doubt profiting from the same decaying wood and its associated wood-boring insects. Moving on, we soon arrived at the expansive Etang Vaccarès, where we made several stops along the lake's eastern shore enjoying distant views of

Greater Flamingos. The furthest group was so large, that it resembled a pink haze floating over the lake's surface. Closer in, Black-winged Stilts quarrelled, Gull-billed Terns sat on a sandbank and good numbers of Kentish Plover were seen running on the bare sand along with two Whimbrels. However, it was cracking views of several Collared Pratincoles which stole the show, with two of the season's young alighting on the near shore. Still dependant on their parents for food, it wasn't long before they were called away by adults for their next meal. In an adjacent old oak tree, a White Stork fussed over its nest. A quick sortie along a causeway leading to a lighthouse produced much closer views of Greater Flamingos and two Spectacled Warblers skulked in deep cover at the edge of a wet channel. Leaving the lake, we made a stop at a quirky café with abundant shade, where we were joined by a Speckled Wood butterfly.

Lunch was enjoyed under the protective canopy of some pine trees, after which a short drive took us to an extensive area of salt pans. Here we looked on in awe at the huge number of feeding Black-winged Stilts numbering in their hundreds. Avocets were also present, if in much lower numbers. Moving on, we made another stop and after scrutinizing the Black-headed Gulls we eventually found our first Slender-billed Gulls, with some sporting a delicate pink breast typical of their summer plumage. We also spotted several species of tern: Sandwich, Common, Gull-billed and Little but a Black Tern created the most interest, that is, until what at first looked like an orange-billed Sandwich Tern was picked out. We had found an Elegant Tern, a species more at home on the eastern coast of the Pacific! In an effort to gain better views of this real rarity, we moved further around the lagoon. However, something spooked the terns and they took to the air. On settling again, we couldn't relocate the target species but were thrilled to find a White-winged Tern in its place, plus the added bonus of thirteen Curlew Sandpipers all in brick-red summer plumage. In need of refreshments, we headed to the local village where we cooled off in the company of the abundant local swifts giving their evocative screaming calls. Back in the minibus, we made a ferry crossing over the River Rhone. Once on the other side, we dropped into a site where we had previously seen Banded Darters, albeit not for several years. So you can imagine our joy when we found dozens of these stripe-winged gems perched in the shade of a hedgerow. A short drive later and we arrived back at the hotel to enjoy yet another excellent dinner.

Day 7

Friday 15th July

Parc Ornithologique, Barbegal, Vallée des Baux

Misty start, then sunny, 38°C

After many days of blue skies, we were surprised to wake to a misty morning but it would not be long before it burnt off. Leaving the hotel, we made our way towards the Parc Ornithologique on the west side of Camargue first stopping en route. At a shallow pool we were excited to find a 'carrot billed' Caspian Tern amongst its Common and Gull-billed cousins. Waders were well represented too, with several Ruff and Black-tailed Godwits alongside, the now familiar, Wood Sandpipers and Black-winged Stilts.

Moving on, we soon arrived at the 'Parc', where we walked around the edge of the small collection area towards the wader scrapes. Passing down a narrow path, we stopped to watch a number of Night Herons and egrets clambering in low trees before crossing a bridge leading to the first bird hide. From here, we spotted good numbers of Avocets, several Black-tailed Godwits and another Ruff. But it was a group of forty or so elegant Spotted Redshank that caught our attention, with several of the flock sporting their summer finery: jet black from beak to

tail, speckled in white. Much to our delight, there was another Caspian Tern but being a scarce species, it could have been the same bird we'd seen earlier in the morning. Who knows? What was particularly fun, was the presence of several Little Terns, which were dwarfed by their mammoth cousin. En route to the next hide, we watched a Sardinian warbler skulk in a Tamarisk, while a family of Great Tits went about their business in full view. The second hide was quieter but a couple of Black-winged Stilts feeding barely a metre away was a treat to see and a lone Oystercatcher was another good find.

Returning to the collection area, we climbed a platform with wide-ranging views across more pools and a reed bed. First we spotted a pair of Spoonbills sifting the water for food but a rather confiding Purple Swamphen at the edge of the reedbed was what we'd come to see. From the middle of the public area we revelled in amazing views of the heron colony. Several Grey Herons had chicks in various stages of development, but the heronry was dominated by Little Egrets, again with chicks. Cattle Egrets were also present but in smaller numbers. We also enjoyed amazing views of Greater Flamingos and hundreds of Mediterranean Gull chicks accompanied by lesser numbers of adult birds over-seeing the mega-crèche.

In 38°C heat, we opted for lunch at a local restaurant in Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer before heading back to the hotel for a siesta. At five o'clock, we reconvened at the minibus for another pre-dinner excursion. First we returned to what had been our very first visit of the tour, the Roman aqueduct where the only new find was a Western Spectre – well, its redundant exuvia at least. However, the shed larval skin was solid proof that this enigmatic species still breeds at the site despite eluding us for the second time. Then followed another repeat visit, this time to the Canal de la Vallée des Baux in hope of further views of the Violet Dropwing seen some days before. And to our delight, the male was relocated within a metre of where we first saw him. We agreed it was interesting to observe this strong territorial behaviour. Following another look at the delightful demoiselles on the shaded southern bank, we returned to the Hotel des Granges for our final dinner of the tour.

Day 8

Saturday 16th July

Arles, Canal de Vergières (La Crau)

Sunny, 34°C

With a moth trap set overnight, Lorna and Jason met before breakfast to inspect the catch within, all of which were later released unharmed. It was immediately clear that a succession of very warm overnight temperatures had seen the peak of activity pass. However, we were still thrilled to see around 40 different species, made up of over 100 individuals! Some of the highlights included two exquisite hawk-moths: Eyed and Elephant. We then bid Lorna farewell, shortly followed by Richard, with both heading to the airport for their earlier flights home.

After breakfast and having said our farewells to Christine and Pascal, we spent the rest of the morning exploring the mediaeval city of Arles. The city has a long history and was of considerable importance in the Roman province of Gallia Narbonensis. The Roman and Romanesque Monuments of Arles are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites and we made a visit to the 20m high Roman obelisk which dominates the centre of the *spina* of the former Roman circus of Arles. After a sandwich in an attractive hotel garden, we struck a course for the airport. However, with some time on our hands, we made a small detour via the Canal de Vergières on the northern edge

of the dry Crau for a final dragonfly bonanza. No new species were added but it was a fine way to end what had been a superb week exploring the Camargue in excellent company.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	July 2022							
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>						✓		
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						✓		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			10				✓	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓	✓			✓	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				2	✓	✓		
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>						✓	✓	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			✓	100s	✓	✓	✓	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>				1000s		✓	✓	
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓	
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>						✓	✓	
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>			3					
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		1				1		
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓	✓	✓		
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓	✓					
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓		✓				
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>					✓			
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			1					
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>					✓			
Western Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>							✓	
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓			✓	✓	
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						✓	✓	
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>							✓	
Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>					✓			
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓	100s		✓	✓	
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						✓	✓	
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>						8		
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			✓					
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>						20+	✓	
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			✓	✓			✓	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>						13		
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>							4	
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓			✓		
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>						2		
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>							20+	
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						✓	✓	
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>							40+	
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>						8		
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	July 2022							
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			✓			✓		
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			✓			✓	✓	
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>		✓		✓		✓	100s	
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>						3		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>			8	✓		✓	✓	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>						✓		
Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>						1		
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			1	✓		✓	✓	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>							2	
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>						✓	12	
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>						1		
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						1		
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>				✓			20+	
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>					2			
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>		1						
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>					3			
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>		15						
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓					
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			50+	✓	✓	✓		
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		8	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		2	1	✓	✓			
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>			h					
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			✓	✓		✓		
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>					2			4
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		✓						
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>						✓	✓	
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>					2			
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			✓	✓				
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>			✓			✓		
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓					✓	
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			✓					
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		1						
Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				4				
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			✓	✓			✓	
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>							1	
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Spectacled Warbler	<i>Curruca conspicillata</i>						2		
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	h		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓				✓	

		July 2022							
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>			h					
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>						h		
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				3	✓			
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>								✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓							
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓							
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓						
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza Schoeniclus</i>		✓						

Odonata

Ex = Exuvia		July 2022							
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Damselflies									
Copper Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis</i>	✓			✓			✓	
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
White Featherleg	<i>Platycnemis latipes</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Small Red Damsel	<i>Ceragrion tenellum</i>				2				
Mercury Bluet	<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>				30+			✓	
Blue-eye	<i>Erythromma lindenii</i>			✓			✓		
Small Redeye	<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>		✓	✓					
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dragonflies									
Green-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna isosceles</i>				✓				
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>				✓		✓	✓	
Western Spectre	<i>Boyeria irene</i>						Ex		
Yellow Clubtail	<i>Gomphus simillimus</i>				1				
Large Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus uncatus</i>	3			✓		✓	✓	
Common Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>				2				
Orange-spotted Emerald	<i>Oxygastra curtisii</i>	1							
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blue Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>				✓			✓	
White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>				✓			✓	
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>				✓			✓	
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Banded Darter	<i>Sympetrum pedemontanum</i>					✓			
Violet Dropwing	<i>Trithemis annulata</i>			1			1		
River Clubtail	<i>Gomphus flavipes</i>	1							

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Papilio alexanor</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Woodland Grayling	<i>Hipparchia fagi</i>
Striped Grayling	<i>Hipparchia fidia</i>
Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Southern Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia cecilia</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha aracania</i>
Specked Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Red Underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>

Others

Common name	Scientific name
Reptiles & Amphibians	
Iberian Water Frog	<i>Rana perezi</i>
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>
Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>
Western Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>
Viperine Snake	<i>Natrix maura</i>
Mammals	
Western Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>
European (Brown) Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Other insects	
Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>
Blue-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda caerulea</i>
Migratory Locust	<i>Locusta migratoria</i>
Long-winged Conehead	<i>Conocephalus discolor</i>
White-fronted Wartbiter	<i>Decticus albifrons</i>
Praying Mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>
A small mantis	<i>Ameles decolor</i>
Cicada	<i>Cicada orni</i>

Mottled-winged Antlion	<i>Palpares libelluloides</i>
Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes gallicus</i>
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>