

# Dragonflies & Birds of the Camargue

Naturetrek Tour Report

8th – 15th July 2023

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Red-veined Darter



White Stork



Large Pincertail



Greater Flamingos

Tour report by Jason Mitchell, photos by Kat Rees-Jauke



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## Summary

Lying between two arms of the Rhône, the Camargue is Western Europe's largest river delta (750 km<sup>2</sup>), 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, 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 all 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 to Les Baux-de-Provence, nestled high in Les Alpilles, allowed us to enjoy this attractive village once most of 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, followed by a picnic lunch and a siesta back at the hotel, then 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 accrued a very respectable tally of 25 dragonfly, 23 butterfly and 108 bird species. The 'stand-out' sightings of the week, included three Camargue scarcities: the stunning Violet Dropwing, a sought-after dragonfly slowly colonising from Africa, the more cryptic but evocative Western Spectre and on the bird front, not one, but six elegant Marsh Sandpipers amidst a large flock of Spotted Redshanks, many in their finely spotted, black breeding plumage.

## Day 1

**Saturday 8th July**

### Aigues-Mortes, Tour Carbonnière and Étang du Charnier

Sunny, 34°C

With the morning flight arriving just a little late into Montpellier, we loaded our air-conditioned minibus and were soon heading north-east towards Arles. However, with most of the day still ahead of us, we took the opportunity to make our acquaintance with the Petit Camargue, the area which lies between Montpellier and the Petit Rhône

River.

From the airport, we travelled to the attractive town of Aigue Mortes, spending a pleasant hour walking around the La Marette visitor centre. Here, we were delighted to kick-start our dragonfly list, with a couple of fine Lesser Emperors. Some interesting birds were noted too, with our first Greater Flamingos, two Avocets and a Zitting Cisticola perched in the open. Returning to the air-conditioned visitor centre, we cooled off whilst watching an interesting video that introduced us to the various land-uses of the Camargue.

Then, following a visit to a local supermarket, we relocated to the iconic 'Tour Carbonnière', where we enjoyed our lunchtime snack. Heading east, we made a brief stop for a Bee-eater perched on wires and by chance, also added our first Broad Scarlet of the tour.

As we approached the shore of Étang Charnier, we drew to a sudden halt, as Kat called out that she'd spotted a small whitish heron along a reed-lined channel. Backing-up, we soon identified the bird in question as a stunning Squacco Heron. To our great fortune, it remained just long enough for everyone to gain decent views, before it flew off. Further along the same channel, we added a couple of Night Herons and a dashing Kingfisher. But the most exciting find was a group of almost twenty Purple Swamphens, along with a similar number of Little Terns and dozens of Black-winged Stilts. From the nearby visitor centre, a Coypu "posed" for photos and several Glossy Ibis flew overhead.

During the final leg of our journey, another stop was made to admire a White Stork's nest, complete with well-grown chick. Shortly afterwards, we watched as several Gull-billed Terns cruised over the road, in the company of a dozen gaudy Bee-eaters. Once at the hotel, we settled into our comfortable rooms ahead of the first of many, excellent evening meals.

## Day 2

Sunday 9th July

### Aqueduc de Barbegal, Les Alpilles and Les Baux-de-Provence

Sunny, 34°C

Waking to a clear blue sky and temperatures already well into the high teens, we met for a late breakfast followed by a relaxed departure, then drove the short distance to the Aqueduct 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 decided to take a little stroll enjoying distant views of Les Alpilles. Another exciting species, the Iberian Grey Shrike, perched in a distant thorn bush. On the butterfly front, we found a number of Southern Gatekeepers and our first Striped Graylings of the tour. A number of female Red-veined Darters perched conspicuously, later proving to be the most common dragonfly of the tour. Grasshoppers and bush-cricket were also abundant, with every footstep releasing a wave of 'hoppers'.

On our arrival at the aqueduct, an immaculate Scare Swallowtail fluttered over a bush in search of a mate. Things were slow at first but in a field below the viewpoint, an irrigated field had attracted a large flock of herons. Although dominated by Cattle Egrets, a single White Stork added interest. But the quirky sight of a stunning blue Roller

perched on the arm of a JCB stole the show! Again, Southern Gatekeepers were numerous, and these were joined by more familiar species, including a Common Blue butterfly and a few Small Heaths.

We then explored a small water channel on the opposite side of the road. In rather high temperatures, things were a little quiet at first, but a careful search turned up a smart Large Pincertail and was soon followed by fleeting views of a probable Western Spectre. Having seen a single Western Willow Spreadwing along the channel, two more were found in shade at the edge of the car park, just before returning to the hotel for lunch.

Following our picnic, we relaxed at the hotel before heading out again in the late afternoon. Firstly, an un-planned stop, alongside a field full of Yellow-legged Gulls, revealed sixty or so Cattle Egrets hunting in a rushy field opposite and these were accompanied by ten stately White Storks. A Black Kite looked on from overhead wires and countless Red-veined Darters adorned nearby vegetation.

A little further on, a stop near a bridge provided our first Blue-eyes, White Featherlegs and Banded Demoiselles of the week. In adjacent long grass, a huge Wasp Spider lay patiently in its impressive web, awaiting a “visit” from a luckless grasshopper.

Moving on, we arrived at La Caume, nestled in the rugged Alpilles. A short walk to a look-out provided our only Alpine Swifts of the week, and we looked on in awe as these ‘fighter jets’ of the bird world careered across the sky. Our next stop was at Les Baux-de-Provence, an attractive little village atop a soaring limestone outcrop. In slightly cooler temperatures, we enjoyed an ice-cream before returning to our hotel.

## Day 3

Monday 10th July

### Northern Camargue and Vallée des Baux

Sunny, 38°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 sporting one on almost every branch tip. A typically vocal Zitting Cisticola, was upstaged by an unseasonably late-singing Nightingale, which serenaded us from deep within a thicket. But a fly-by from a handsome juvenile Great-spotted Cuckoo, was the star bird of the day! Butterflies were noted too, including a super-fresh Short-tailed Blue.

At the next stop, after some searching, we eventually found our target, the delightful Tree Sparrow, but in the process we turned up much more. A raucous Great Reed Warbler sang briefly from deep-cover but a Little Owl showed well in the shade of a pine tree.

A little further on, a shallow pool was crammed full of birds. We were excited to find a couple of Spoonbills gracefully sieving the water with their outrageous bills, dwarfing the adjacent Cattle and Little Egrets. Overhead, a near constant stream of Gull-billed Terns, Glossy Ibis, Squacco Herons and Greater Flamingos gave Jim and Kat plenty to aim their cameras at. Another notable bird was the elegant Whiskered Tern, which numbered fifty or more, along with smaller numbers of its ‘common’ cousin. Waders were well represented too, with a few Wood Sandpipers and the now familiar Black-winged Stilt plentiful.

Moving on, a bridge served as a viewpoint over a river and surrounding meadows. Here a pair of Crested Larks flitted into view, offering a few sweet notes as they did so and in sharp contrast to the monotonous song of a Common Cuckoo which drifted on the breeze. Again, Glossy Ibis and various egrets passed steadily overhead, and a Bee-eater colony was occupied by a few individuals. In need of refreshments, we made a welcome café stop at the Mas de Méjanes, where we also took a look around the stables.

Returning to the hotel via small back roads, we stopped briefly at a ditch where Broad Scarlets were common and a Sardinian Warbler gave brief flight views, before eventually perching in the open.

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 arriving at a canal, where we were met by the ever-popular Banded Demoiselle, in the company of a few porcelain-coloured White Featherlegs. But moments later, an Orange-spotted Emerald appeared at the edge of the canal, then proceeded to patrol the margins for a good thirty minutes, during which time Jims' perseverance saw him bag a fine flight shot of this tireless insect. We then braved the sun-baked 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 nearby aqueduct we'd visited the previous day. Here we added Holly Blue and a large and impressive Mottled-winged Antlion to our daily haul before heading back to the hotel and another fine dinner. A brief walk around the hotel grounds before retiring for the evening, turned up a cracking Rhinoceros Beetle which was admired by more or less the whole hotel.

## Day 4

Tuesday 11th July

### Camargue: north to south

Sunny, 34°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 Roller gave its strange guttural call from the canopy overhead. The area is noted for the many large mature trees present, and with several in an advanced state of decay, it was little surprise that both Greater Spotted and Green Woodpeckers were heard calling. Another bird fond of wood-boring insects, the Short-toed Treecreeper, was also seen and was no doubt profiting from the same dead wood habitat as the woodpeckers. Through a gap in the canopy, a Hobby was seen soaring high above.

Moving on, we soon arrived at the expansive Etang Vaccarès, where we made several stops along the lakes eastern shore, enjoying distant views of the 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, while Gull-billed Terns sat on a sandbank and Kentish Plovers were seen running along the bare sand. A stop at the nearby visitor centre gave close views of a gnarled tree, where two young White Storks fussed in their nest and a Pipistrelle bat colony was betrayed by their tale-tale droppings.

Leaving the lake, we made a stop at a quirky café blessed with abundant shade. Here we were joined by two flirting Great Banded Grayling butterflies. Shortly afterwards, lunch was enjoyed under the protection of some pine trees,

then a brief drive took us to an extensive area of salt pans.

Here, we looked on in awe at huge numbers of feeding Black-winged Stilts and Avocets, both numbering in their hundreds. Further on, we made another stop and after scrutinizing the Black-headed Gulls, eventually found our first Slender-billed Gulls, some of which sported their summer plumage with delicate pink breast. We also spotted several species of tern: Sandwich, Common, Gull-billed and a single Little Tern which fished the shore of the Rhone.

In need of refreshments, we headed to a nearby village where we cooled off with some ice creams. Here we marvelled at the abundant local swifts, giving their evocative screaming calls as they sped over our heads. Back in the minibus, we made a short ferry crossing over the River Rhone. We then headed back to the hotel, via St Martin-en-Crau where we collected permits for the following morning's planned visit to the famed La Crau nature reserve.

## Day 5

Wednesday 12th July

### La Crau, Vallon de la Lègue and Arles

Sunny and humid, 32°C

Today we made a very early start and headed east to La Crau, a semi-arid stony area which has been designated a Natura 2000 site for its great wildlife interest. The approach road was enlivened by a mixed flock of around a hundred Glossy Ibis and Cattle Egrets. Arriving at the Crau, we enjoyed a light breakfast of coffee and croissants, before heading out along the central track where both Tawny Pipits and Short-toed Larks gave good views, especially the former, which performed its song flight and an Iberian Grey Shrike hunted from its bush-top lookout. But the star birds were several Stone Curlews, some Lesser Kestrels and a Little Owl. Insects featured too, with the smart Bath White butterfly being quite numerous and further interest was added by some large and conspicuous Mottled-winged Antlions. In soaring temperatures, we headed for the edge of the reserve where a narrow, flowing channel with lush green banks hosted a remarkable dragonfly fauna but before reaching it, a handsome Ocellated Lizard sunned itself on a pile of 'gallet' stones.

With around 50 different species recorded to date, the Canal de Vergières 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 *Odonata*. Demoiselles were initially the most obvious, with the familiar Banded being especially common but was soon joined by several darker Copper Demoiselles. With four powder-blue species of dragonfly present, we were kept on our toes: Blue Chaser, Southern, Black-tailed and Keeled Skimmers were all present. As we continued our exploration of the stream, we started to find dozens of Large Pincertails but despite our best efforts, its near cousin the Small Pincertail eluded us. The delicate Mercury Bluet was another good find.

Following a late breakfast back at the hotel, we made a late morning visit to the Valle de la Lègue, in Les Alpilles. While Kat and Jason explored a hillside track, Beryl and Jim checked out a promising-looking irrigation channel. The hillside was good for butterflies and produced several Scarce Swallowtails, White Admirals and a stunning Cleopatra. Meeting up at the irrigation channel, Jim and Beryl had been kept busy by two fabulous Western Spectres and dozens of featherlegs, pincertails and Copper Demoiselles.

Following our practiced routine of lunch and a siesta back at the hotel, we headed out once more but this time in search of some culture. So, we spent the late afternoon 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.

## Day 6

Thursday 13th July

### Marais du Vigueirat, Mas d'Espinaud and hotel walk

Sunny with the Mistral blowing, 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. 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 reasonable numbers, along with several Black-tailed Skimmers basking on the track. But the star was a Mediterranean Tree Frog, spotted by Beryl, which was perfectly camouflaged on a leaf. We then passed over a ditch hosting several Small Redeyes, a species of damselfly now well established in the UK. Further on, we stopped in a hide where we looked over a lagoon hosting numerous sandpipers: Wood and Green sandpipers were both present, giving an excellent opportunity to study the subtle differences which separate these lookalike waders. Herons roosted on a bank just opposite, where a Spoonbill fed in the adjacent shallows and a Coot preened its fur on a small island.

Returning along a canal, all was quiet in rising temperatures but for some more Small Red-eyes. At a gap in the vegetation, we enjoyed fabulous views of a European Pond Terrapin and at barely a metre, we could see its yellow-spotted head and yellow eyes, the latter indicating it was a female (orange in males). Reaching another bird hide, we were pleased to find some shade not to mention a fantastic array of water birds. Firstly, our attention was drawn to the Black-winged Stilts which were particularly obvious due to their loud bickering calls. Several Gull-billed Terns posed on an island and a Green Sandpiper flew over giving its shrill flight call. A stately Purple Heron stood motionless on the far bank, while a wire fence was adorned with a male Kingfisher and a neat Squacco Heron. Temperatures had begun to rise steeply now, so it was back to the minibus and a short drive to the nearest village for coffee.

Leaving the café, an Ocellated Lizard gave brief views on a quiet back road. Our next stop was at a site that has on occasion, produced a good showing of the sought-after Banded Darter. So, you can imagine our joy, when we found dozens of these stripe-winged gems perched along a shaded hedgerow. Then followed a thirty-minute session, capturing this finest of European *Sympetrum*s on camera. A short drive later and we arrived back at the hotel, enjoying yet another excellent picnic.

Following our regular siesta, we then ventured just outside of the hotel grounds to explore the countryside beyond its perimeter. This turned up an impressive bird list, including Roller, Gull-billed Tern and Mediterranean Gull, not to mention a few butterflies, dragonflies and a smart red and black blister beetle.

After another sumptuous dinner, Kat and Jason headed out to Les Alpilles in search of Eagle Owls. Soon we found ourselves scanning a craggy mass of limestone, for this large and impressive bird of prey. But all-too-soon, in fading light we accepted that the hoped-for owls would not show, but we were happy to hear the distinctive flight-calls of a Nightjar before head back to the hotel.

## Day 7

Friday 14th July

### Parc Ornithologique, Canal de Vergières (La Crau) and Vallée des Beaux

Sunny, 32°C

Leaving the hotel, we made our way towards the Parc Ornithologique on the west side of the Camargue. After a pleasant drive, we arrived at the visitor centre and soon headed out on to the site. Passing down a narrow path, we stopped to watch a number of storks and egrets clambering in low trees before crossing a bridge, from where we enjoyed brief flight views of a stunning male Little Bittern. From a bird hide, we spotted large numbers of Avocets and Black-tailed Godwits, including several of the latter in their brick-red summer plumage. But it was a group of fifty or so, elegant Spotted Redshanks that caught our attention, with several of the flock sporting their summer finery: jet black from beak to tail, speckled in white. The presence of a pair of Little Terns was particularly pleasing and these were dwarfed by the adjacent Black-headed Gulls. However, it was the finding of six Marsh Sandpipers that really livened things up; these elegant waders are a regular, if scarce migrant to the south of France and observing six, some in summer plumage, was a lucky find. Other birds of note included some Spoonbills, a pair of Shelduck with a fluffy chick and a number of 'not-so-common', Common Redshanks.

En route to the next hide, we watched a Sardinian warbler skulk in the Tamarisk, while a family of Great Tits went about their business in full view. The second hide boasted more Black-winged Stilts feeding barely a metre away and even greater numbers of Avocets – a hundred or more! An interesting observation was a Gull-billed Tern 'sporting' a radio transponder on its back, no doubt part of a migration project.

Returning to the collection area, we enjoyed a coffee whilst watching a Grey Heron 'mantle' its young chick to protect it from the hot sun. We also soaked up amazing views of dozens of Greater Flamingos, before once more returning to Arles.

Following our last group picnic, a quiet couple of hours was followed by a return visit to the Canal de Vergières on the northern edge of La Crau. Again, skimmers and chasers were plentiful, as were Large Pincertails and finally, after a careful search, we found the very similar Small Pincertail in their midst. However, the rare Mediterranean Bluethroat could not be found amongst the similar Mercury bluethroats. In the afternoon heat, birds were quiet but Kat was delighted to spot a Pin-tailed Sandgrouse in flight.

Then followed another visit to the canal in the Vallée des Baux, albeit several kilometres to the east of the original spot, in the hope of finding another Violet Dropwing. Arriving at the canal, first we watched from 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 the one and only Small Red Damsel of the tour, a cherry-red male. Then



on an adjacent hogweed, we had a brief visit from the aptly named Mammoth Wasp, a truly spectacular but harmless beast. Returning to the vehicle, one last-gasp look over the canal turned up a stunning male Violet Dropwing. A truly fitting end to the last outing of the week, and from here we returned to the Hotel des Granges for our final dinner of the tour.

## Day 8

Friday 15th July

### Arles to Montpellier Airport

Sunny, 32°C

With our flight departing earlier than in previous years, we were up at first light and soon struck a course west for the airport. Although there was no time to stop, we were able to enjoy views over the fabulous Camargue countryside and reflect on what had been a superb week exploring this fascinating part of France and what's more, in excellent company.

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## Species lists

### Odonata

| Common name               | Scientific name                   | July 2023 |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|                           |                                   | 8         | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| <b>Damselflies</b>        |                                   |           |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Western Willow Spreadwing | <i>Chalcolestes viridis</i>       |           | 3 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Copper Demoiselle         | <i>Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis</i> |           |   |    |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |
| Banded Demoiselle         | <i>Calopteryx splendens</i>       |           | ✓ | ✓  |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |
| White Featherleg          | <i>Platycnemis latipes</i>        |           | 4 | ✓  |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |
| Small Red Damselfly       | <i>Ceragrion tenellum</i>         |           |   |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| Mercury Bluet             | <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>      |           |   |    |    | ✓  |    | 1  |    |
| Blue-eye                  | <i>Erythromma lindenii</i>        |           | ✓ | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Small Red-eyed Damselfly  | <i>Erythromma viridulum</i>       |           |   | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |

|                        |                                 | July 2023 |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Common name            | Scientific name                 | 8         | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Common Bluetail        | <i>Ischnura elegans</i>         | 3         | ✓ | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| <b>Dragonflies</b>     |                                 |           |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Lesser Emperor         | <i>Anax parthenope</i>          | 4         |   |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |
| Western Spectre        | <i>Boyeria irene</i>            |           | ? | 1  |    | 2  |    |    |    |
| Small Pincertail       | <i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i> |           |   |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| Large Pincertail       | <i>Onychogomphus uncatus</i>    |           | 1 | 1  |    | 2  |    | ✓  |    |
| Common Goldenring      | <i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>   |           |   |    |    | 2  |    |    |    |
| Orange-spotted Emerald | <i>Oxygastra curtisii</i>       |           |   | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |
| Broad Scarlet          | <i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>    | 1         |   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Blue Chaser            | <i>Libellula fulva</i>          |           |   |    |    | ✓  | 1  | ✓  |    |
| White-tailed Skimmer   | <i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>     | ✓         | ? | ✓  |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| Southern Skimmer       | <i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>       |           |   |    |    | 4  |    | ✓  |    |
| 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>   |           |   |    |    |    | 20 |    |    |
| Common Darter          | <i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>     |           |   |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |
| Violet Dropwing        | <i>Trithemis annulata</i>       |           |   | 3  |    |    |    | 1  |    |

## Birds (h = Heard only)

|                     |                               | July 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Common name         | Scientific name               | 8         | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Great Crested Grebe | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>     | ✓         |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Little Grebe        | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | h         |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| Cormorant           | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>    | ✓         |    |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |    |
| Little Bittern      | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>     |           |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| Night Heron         | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>  | ✓         |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Cattle Egret        | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>          | ✓         | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| Squacco Heron       | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>      | 3         |    | ✓  |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| 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>         | ✓         |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| White Stork         | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>        | 1         | 12 | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Spoonbill           | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>    |           |    | 2  | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Glossy Ibis         | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>   | ✓         | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| Greater Flamingo    | <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>   | ✓         |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |
| Mute Swan           | <i>Cygnus olor</i>            | ✓         |    |    | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Shelduck            | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>        | ✓         |    |    | ✓  |    |    | ✓  |    |
| Mallard             | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>     | ✓         |    |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Red-crested Pochard | <i>Netta rufina</i>           |           |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| Black Kite          | <i>Milvus migrans</i>         | ✓         | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| Common Buzzard      | <i>Buteo buteo</i>            |           | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |
| Short-toed Eagle    | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>     |           |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |
| Common Kestrel      | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>      |           |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    | ✓  |    |
| Lesser Kestrel      | <i>Falco naumanni</i>         |           |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| Hobby               | <i>Falco subbuteo</i>         |           |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |
| Pheasant            | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>    |           |    | h  |    |    |    |    |    |

| Common name               | Scientific name                    | July 2023 |          |    |     |    |    |    |    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|
|                           |                                    | 8         | 9        | 10 | 11  | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Red-legged Partridge      | <i>Alectoris rufa</i>              |           | c.2<br>0 |    |     |    | ✓  |    |    |
| Purple Gallinule          | <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>         | c.2<br>0  |          |    |     |    |    |    |    |
| Moorhen                   | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>         | ✓         |          |    |     |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Coot                      | <i>Fulica atra</i>                 | ✓         |          | ✓  | ✓   |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Oystercatcher             | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>       |           |          |    | 6   |    |    |    |    |
| Stone Curlew              | <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>         |           |          |    |     | 8  |    |    |    |
| Black-winged Stilt        | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>       | ✓         |          | ✓  | ✓   |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Avocet                    | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>      | 2         |          |    | ✓   |    |    | ✓  |    |
| Little Ringed Plover      | <i>Charadrius dubius</i>           |           |          |    | 2   |    |    |    |    |
| Kentish Plover            | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>     |           |          |    | 6   |    |    |    |    |
| Lapwing                   | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>           |           |          |    | ✓   |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Curlew                    | <i>Numenius arquata</i>            | 1         |          |    | 3   |    |    |    |    |
| Whimbrel                  | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>           |           |          |    | 1   |    |    |    |    |
| Black-tailed Godwit       | <i>Limosa limosa</i>               |           |          |    | 1   |    |    | ✓  |    |
| Redshank                  | <i>Tringa totanus</i>              |           |          |    |     |    |    | ✓  |    |
| Spotted Redshank          | <i>Tringa erythropus</i>           |           |          |    | 2   |    |    | ✓  |    |
| Marsh Sandpiper           | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>          |           |          |    |     |    |    | 6  |    |
| Wood Sandpiper            | <i>Tringa glareola</i>             | 1         |          | 3  | 6   |    | ✓  |    |    |
| Green Sandpiper           | <i>Tringa ochropus</i>             |           |          | 2  | 1   |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Common Sandpiper          | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>          |           |          |    | ✓   |    |    |    |    |
| Mediterranean Gull        | <i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i> | ✓         | ✓        |    | ✓   |    |    | ✓  |    |
| Slender-billed Gull       | <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>       |           |          |    | 20  |    |    |    |    |
| Black-headed Gull         | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>  | ✓         | ✓        | ✓  | ✓   |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Yellow-legged Gull        | <i>Larus cachinnans</i>            | ✓         | ✓        | ✓  | ✓   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| Gull-billed Tern          | <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>       | 3         |          | 10 | ✓   |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| Sandwich Tern             | <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>     |           |          |    | 100 |    |    |    |    |
| Common Tern               | <i>Sterna hirundo</i>              | ✓         |          |    | 60  |    | ✓  |    |    |
| Little Tern               | <i>Sternula albifrons</i>          | c.2<br>0  |          |    | 1   |    |    | 2  |    |
| Whiskered Tern            | <i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>         |           |          | 30 |     |    |    |    |    |
| Pin-tailed Sandgrouse     | <i>Pterocles alchata</i>           |           |          |    |     | h  |    | 1  |    |
| 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>         |           | h        | h  |     |    |    | h  |    |
| Cuckoo                    | <i>Cuculus canorus</i>             |           |          | h  | 2   |    |    |    |    |
| Great Spotted Cuckoo      | <i>Clamator glandarius</i>         |           |          | 1  |     |    |    |    |    |
| Little Owl                | <i>Athene noctua</i>               |           |          | 1  |     |    |    |    |    |
| Nightjar                  | <i>Capromulgus europea</i>         |           |          |    |     |    | h  |    |    |
| Alpine Swift              | <i>Tachymarptis melba</i>          |           | 2        |    |     |    |    |    |    |
| Common Swift              | <i>Apus apus</i>                   | ✓         | ✓        | ✓  | ✓   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| Kingfisher                | <i>Alcedo atthis</i>               | 1         |          | 1  |     |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Bee-eater                 | <i>Merops apiaster</i>             | 6         |          | ✓  | ✓   | h  | ✓  |    |    |
| Roller                    | <i>Coracias garrulus</i>           | 1         | c.1<br>0 | 6  | 10  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Hoopoe                    | <i>Upupa epops</i>                 | 1         |          |    | 2   |    | 1  |    |    |
| Green Woodpecker          | <i>Picus viridis</i>               |           |          |    | 1   |    | ✓  |    |    |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker  | <i>Dendrocopos major</i>           |           |          |    | 1   |    |    |    |    |
| Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dryobates minor</i>             |           |          |    |     |    |    | 1  |    |

| Common name            | Scientific name                  | July 2023 |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|                        |                                  | 8         | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Skylark                | <i>Alauda arvensis</i>           |           |   | h  |    |    |    |    |    |
| Crested Lark           | <i>Galerida cristata</i>         |           |   | 3  | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |    |
| Short-toed Lark        | <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> |           |   |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |
| Sand Martin            | <i>Riparia riparia</i>           |           |   |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| Swallow                | <i>Hirundo rustica</i>           | ✓         | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| House Martin           | <i>Delichon urbicum</i>          | ✓         |   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Tawny Pipit            | <i>Anthus campestris</i>         |           |   |    |    | 4  | h  |    |    |
| White Wagtail          | <i>Motacilla alba</i>            | ✓         | ✓ | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Yellow Wagtail         | <i>Motacilla flava</i>           |           |   | 1  | 3  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Nightingale            | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>     |           |   | h  | h  | h  | h  |    |    |
| Black Redstart         | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>      |           |   |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| Blackbird              | <i>Turdus merula</i>             |           | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |
| Fan-tailed Warbler     | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>        | ✓         | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  | h  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Cetti's Warbler        | <i>Cettia cetti</i>              | h         |   | h  | h  |    | h  | ✓  |    |
| Great Reed Warbler     | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> |           |   | h  |    |    |    |    |    |
| Reed Warbler           | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>   |           |   |    | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Blackcap               | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>        | h         |   |    | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Sardinian Warbler      | <i>Curruca melanocephala</i>     | h         |   | 2  | h  |    |    | ✓  |    |
| Blue Tit               | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>       |           |   |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| Great Tit              | <i>Parus major</i>               |           |   |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| Short-toed Treecreeper | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>     |           |   |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |
| Iberian Grey Shrike    | <i>Lanius meridionalis</i>       |           | 1 |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |
| Common Starling        | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>          | ✓         | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Golden Oriole          | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>           |           |   | h  |    | h  | h  |    |    |
| Jay                    | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>       |           |   |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| Magpie                 | <i>Pica pica</i>                 | ✓         | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| Jackdaw                | <i>Coloeus monedula</i>          | ✓         | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| Carrion Crow           | <i>Corvus corone</i>             | ✓         | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| Tree Sparrow           | <i>Passer montanus</i>           |           |   | 2  |    |    |    |    |    |
| House Sparrow          | <i>Passer domesticus</i>         | ✓         | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| Chaffinch              | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>         |           | ✓ |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| Greenfinch             | <i>Chloris chloris</i>           |           |   |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| Goldfinch              | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>       | ✓         | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Corn Bunting           | <i>Emberiza calandra</i>         |           |   |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| Cirl Bunting           | <i>Emberiza cirlus</i>           |           | h |    |    |    |    |    |    |

## Butterflies

| Common name        | Scientific name             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swallowtail        | <i>Papilio machaon</i>      |
| Scarce Swallowtail | <i>Papilio alexanor</i>     |
| Small White        | <i>Pieris rapae</i>         |
| Green-veined White | <i>Pieris napi</i>          |
| Bath White         | <i>Pontia daplidice</i>     |
| Clouded Yellow     | <i>Colias crocea</i>        |
| Cleopatra          | <i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i> |
| Wood White         | <i>Leptidea sinapis</i>     |
| Small Copper       | <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>      |
| Short-tailed Blue  | <i>Everes argiades</i>      |
| Holly Blue         | <i>Celastrina argiolus</i>  |

|                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Brown Argus            | <i>Aricia agestis</i>        |
| Southern White Admiral | <i>Liminetis reducta</i>     |
| Red Admiral            | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>      |
| Iberian Marbled White  | <i>Melanargia lachesis</i>   |
| Striped Grayling       | <i>Hipparchia fidia</i>      |
| Great-banded Grayling  | <i>Brintesia circe</i>       |
| Southern Gatekeeper    | <i>Pyronia cecilia</i>       |
| Small Heath            | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> |
| Speckled Wood          | <i>Pararge aegeria</i>       |
| Wall Brown             | <i>Lasiommata megera</i>     |
| Red-underwing Skipper  | <i>Spialia sertorius</i>     |

## Others

| Common name                      | Scientific name               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Reptiles &amp; Amphibians</b> |                               |
| Stripeless Tree Frog             | <i>Hyla meridionalis</i>      |
| 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>      |
| Ocellated Lizard                 | <i>Timon lepidus</i>          |
| Common Wall Lizard               | <i>Podarcis muralis</i>       |
| <b>Mammals</b>                   |                               |
| Coypu                            | <i>Myocastor coypus</i>       |
| Rabbit                           | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>  |
| <b>Other insects</b>             |                               |
| Red-winged Grasshopper           | <i>Oedipoda germanica</i>     |
| Blue-winged Grasshopper          | <i>Oedipoda caerulescens</i>  |
| Egyptian Grasshopper             | <i>Anacridum aegyptium</i>    |
| Praying Mantis                   | <i>Mantis religiosa</i>       |
| Cicada                           | <i>Cicada orni</i>            |
| Mottled-winged Antlion           | <i>Palpares libelluloides</i> |
| Mammoth Wasp                     | <i>Scolia flavifrons</i>      |
| Paper Wasp                       | <i>Polistes gallicus</i>      |
| Violet Carpenter Bee             | <i>Xylocopa violacea</i>      |
| Rose Chafer                      | <i>Cetonia aurata</i>         |