

# Dragonflies & Birds of the Camargue

Naturetrek Tour Report

26th June – 3rd July 2026

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Banded Darter



Black Pennant



Glossy Ibis



Violet Dropwing

Tour report by Jason Mitchell  
Photos by Kelly Burgess



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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 locally as *étangs*). The region is famed for its migratory birds (more than four hundred species have been recorded), but it is less well known for its rich dragonfly fauna. We enjoyed both, while soaking up the area's unique atmosphere, made all the more special by the celebrated Camargue horses and cattle, which roam widely. However, the region's emblem, and must-see bird, is the Greater Flamingo: they were seen in large numbers on the brine lagoons, which are noted as one of the species' few nesting sites in Europe, and the only places where they breed in France.

Based in a charming family run hotel near Arles, we were perfectly positioned. As is typical of the season, we experienced wall-to-wall sunshine in hot conditions: afternoon temperatures were consistently in the low-thirties, with the mercury hitting 35°C on the hottest day. Earlier than normal starts allowed us to profit from a longer morning session, then 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 an impressive tally of thirty-three dragonfly, twenty-two butterfly and 106 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 enigmatic Western Spectre, and on the bird front, not one but eight elegant Marsh Sandpipers amid a huge flock of Spotted Redshanks, many of which were in their finely spotted, black breeding plumage. However, the 'star species' was a beautifully marked female Black Pennant dragonfly.

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 498m, it stands out impressively as it rises abruptly from the Rhône Valley and from the flat, arid plain of the Crau. A late afternoon 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 area of La Crau was largely focused on a small, richly-vegetated channel, which is noted as one of Europe's best dragonfly sites: it didn't disappoint!

## Day 1

Friday 26th June

### Aigues-Mortes – Tour Carbonnière – Étang du Charnier

Sunny, 34°C

The morning flight having arrived on time in Montpellier, we loaded our air-conditioned minibus and were soon heading north-east towards Arles. However, with most of the day ahead of us, we took the opportunity to explore the Petit Camargue, the area which lies between Montpellier and the Petit Rhône River. We travelled to the attractive town of Aigues-Mortes, and spent a pleasant hour walking around the La Marette visitor centre and grounds. We

were delighted to kick-start our dragonfly list with a couple of impressive Lesser Emperors, one of which was spotted perched in the car park. Some interesting birds were noted too, with our first Greater Flamingoes, a flyby from a smart Night Heron, and some vocal Zitting Cisticolas. Back at the visitor centre, we enjoyed lunch in the shade of a pergola.

We then relocated to the other side of Aigues-Mortes and the iconic Tour Carbonnière, where we enjoyed a coffee before climbing to the top of the tower. It was well worth the effort, and we were rewarded with a fine panorama, and great views of dozens of Glossy Ibis and Black-winged Stilts. Continuing east, we approached Étang Charnier, where we soon drew to a halt, as a Night Heron was seen grappling with a large eel on the bank of a canal. Luckily, it remained just long enough for everyone to gain decent views, before it flew off into the marsh behind. But the highlights were several small groups of Western Swamphens dotted along the shore. Just as we were leaving, a Gull-billed Tern flew parallel with the minibus, giving us a unique view of this elegant master of the air.

During the final leg of our journey to Arles, we made another brief stop to admire several Bee-eaters perched on wires, and a little further on, found a ridiculously blue Roller doing the same thing. However, the cherry on the cake was a small tree bedecked in Bee-eaters, complete with a pair of Hoopoes! Once at the hotel, we settled into our comfortable rooms, ahead of the first of many excellent evening meals together.

## Day 2

Saturday 27th June

### Aqueduc de Barbegal – Les Alpilles – Les Baux-de-Provence

Sunny, 34°C

Waking to a clear blue sky and temperatures already well into the twenties, we met for breakfast, and drove the short distance to the aqueduct of Barbegal. Although a site best known for its Roman history, it is also an excellent location for insects. A short distance before reaching the parking area, we stopped alongside a *garrigue*-covered hillside. We took a stroll, taking in distant views of Les Alpilles. Almost immediately, our first Red-veined Darter was spotted perched on a thorn bush; this attractive species later proved to be one of the commonest dragonflies of the tour. On the butterfly front, we found a number of Southern Gatekeepers and a handsome Striped Grayling. Grasshoppers and bush-crickets were also abundant, with every footstep releasing a wave of 'hoppers'. An impressively large and colourful Lobed Argiope spider was a popular find, and it efficiently dispatched an unfortunate grasshopper that strayed into its web. But the most exciting sightings by far were of several dragonfly-like Mottled-winged Antlions, found perched amongst the fragrant *garrigue*.

On arrival at the aqueduct, an immaculate Scarce Swallowtail fluttered over a bush in search of a mate. We explored a small water channel: in high temperatures, dragonflies were very active, with a Southern Skimmer posing for the cameras at a sluice gate, where a smart Large Pincertail gave fleeting views. A few Western Willow Spreadwings were found roosting in the shade at the edge of the car park. Further along the ditch, Keeled Skimmers were numerous, and were briefly joined by a typically energetic Western Spectre. Before we returned to the hotel for lunch, a stunning male Cleopatra flew over a dry meadow.

Following our picnic, we relaxed at the hotel, before heading out again later in the afternoon. After a twenty-five-minute drive, we arrived at La Caume, nestled in the rugged Alpilles hills, and a short walk took us to a lookout

point. Here we pondered the identification of a *Sympetrum* species, before deciding on Southern Darter, and a Cleopatra was seen fluttering over its larval food plant, the rather glossy Mediterranean Buckthorn.

Another short drive took us to Les Baux-de-Provence, an attractive village atop a soaring limestone outcrop. Here, we observed our only Alpine Swifts of the week, and looked on in awe as these 'fighter jets' of the bird world careered across the sky. Changing the direction of our gaze, we found a Mallow Skipper and an Ornate Sheildbug busying themselves around our feet, while a European Mantis was the star of the 'bug' photoshoot!

Our next stop was along a quiet back road, where a gushing channel produced several odonates, including a fine Western Spectre and our first Copper Demoiselle, a female sporting the diagnostic dusky wingtips. Minutes from the hotel, twenty or so White Storks were hunting in a rushy field, across a ditch from a large roost of Yellow-legged Gulls.

## Day 3

Sunday 28th June

### Northern Camargue – Vallée des Baux

Sunny, 34°C

The morning was spent investigating the northern part of the Camargue. Not far from the hotel, we explored an area criss-crossed by small irrigation channels with flooded paddy fields, stopping a number of times to look for dragonflies. One particular stop was initiated by a formidable Mammoth Wasp nectaring on a bramble thicket, which also held several Rose Chafers. A nearby rice paddy was also very productive, offering up our first Small Redeye and White-tailed Skimmer of the week. A vocal Zitting Cisticola was upstaged by an unseasonably-late singing Nightingale, which briefly serenaded us from deep within a small wooded copse. But a super close fly-by White Stork was the bird of the moment.

At the next stop, we quickly found our target, the delightful Tree Sparrow, in the company of its more common 'domestic' cousin. This gave a rare opportunity to compare the two species in the same field of view. A little further on, a shallow lake was crammed full of birds: there hundreds of Greater Flamingoes, Mute Swans and Coots. Overhead, there was a near constant stream of Gull-billed Terns, Glossy Ibises, and various egrets. Another notable bird was the elegant Whiskered Tern, which hovered effortlessly over the mirror-calm water. Waders were represented too, with a few Wood Sandpipers, and the now familiar Black-winged Stilt.

In need of refreshment, we made a welcome café stop at the Mas de Méjanes, where some took a look around the stables. A Barn Swallow nest in the café veranda was a real draw, with three hungry chicks waiting patiently for their insect supper. As we returned to the hotel, we came to a rapid halt when a small flock of Collared Pratincoles flew over the road in front of us. Fortunately, a small opening into a field allowed us to relocate these stunning birds. We looked on in delight as a dozen of them hawked over a rice paddy.

After another hearty picnic back at the hotel, we paused proceedings for a siesta in the hottest part of the day. At around 3.00pm, we headed out to explore the Vallée des Baux: at a canal we were met by the ever-popular Banded Demoiselle, in the company of a few delicate, porcelain-coloured White Featherlegs. An Orange-spotted Emerald appeared at the edge of the water, and proceeded to patrol the margins. Moments later, a Western Clubtail

appeared, quickly followed by a Pronged Clubtail which, incredibly, was then upstaged by a stunning male Violet Dropwing! The pace was relentless. Buzzing with excitement, we continued our search of the canal bank, adding the delightful Orange Featherleg and our first Blue Chaser of the tour to the tally. In all, fourteen species were found in less than an hour: it was simply remarkable!

We stopped at St-Martin-de-Crau to collect our permits in preparation for a much-anticipated visit to La Crau later in the week, and took the opportunity to enjoy a celebratory drink, before heading back to the hotel and another fine dinner.

## Day 4

Monday 29th June

### Camargue: north to south

Sunny, 35°C

Initially we heading west, then turned south towards the Camargue, soon stopping along a woodland edge where two beautiful Rollers posed in an isolated tree, and several Bee-eaters gave their soft rippling calls from the canopy overhead. This area is noted for having many large, mature trees, several of which are in an advanced state of decay: it was thus no surprise that both Great and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers were heard calling. Low in the canopy, a Spotted Flycatcher gave its discreet 'squeaky wheel' call notes.

We soon arrived at the expansive Étang de Vaccarès, where we made a number of stops along the eastern shore, enjoying distant views of the Greater Flamingoes. Closer in, Black-winged Stilts quarrelled, while a few Whimbrels were seen roosting on a bare sand spit, along with several sandpipers. Deep in a spiky tuft of rush, a delicate Paper Wasp nest was spied nestled within the protective fronds, and as we looked on, several adults tended to their larval progeny. A few hundred metres further on, a White Stork nest was occupied by two well-grown youngsters, which waited patiently in the baking sun for their next meal.

Leaving the lake, we made a welcome stop at a quirky café blessed with abundant shade and a wonderful art gallery! Shortly afterwards, lunch was enjoyed under the shade of some pine trees, where we spotted a Wood Sandpiper within the ranks of many stilts and egrets in an adjacent rice paddy. A nervous pair of House Sparrows kept us guessing to their true identity, due to their 'Spanish Sparrow-like' nest, while a burst of song from a Moustached Warbler was a real surprise!

Replete, we moved on and shortly arrived at an area of extensive salt pans. Both Black-winged Stilts and Avocets fed among good numbers of Shelducks. Further on, after scrutinizing the many Black-headed Gulls present, we eventually found our first Slender-billed Gulls, some of which sported their nuptial pink breast feathers. Here we also noted four species of tern: Sandwich, Common, Gull-billed and several Littles, the latter fishing the shores of the adjacent Rhone River.

We then made our way to Plage de Piémanson, but the heat haze meant that the hoped-for shearwaters were out of reach. After a brief stop at a visitor centre, we returned to the minibus, had a quick ice-cream, and made the ferry crossing over the Rhône. We next visited a site which has, on occasion, produced a good showing of the sought-after Banded Dart: a brief search turned up two of these stripe-winged gems perched along a vegetated

ditch. There followed a photoshoot, capturing this finest of European *Sympetrum*s on camera. We returned to the hotel, and enjoyed yet another excellent dinner.

## Day 5

Tuesday 30th June

### La Crau – Vallon de la Lègue Barbegal – Arles

Sunny and humid, 34°C

Today we 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 perched Roller, but with the semi-desert beckoning, we kept on rolling. Heading out along the main track, we quickly found a Tawny Pipit, which gave good views from the top of a fence post. But the star bird was a Stone-curlew, which surveyed us from afar. Insects were in evidence too, with the smart Western Bath White butterfly being quite numerous, and further interest being added by some large and conspicuous Mottled-winged Antlions. However, it was a rather discreet, small dragonfly that had our pulses racing. For a while, we thought it might simply be a variant of Red-veined Darter, but on realising its wings were clear, we started on a more exotic train of thought. We had our suspicions in the field, but once back at base it was quickly confirmed as a female Black Pennant, one of very few ever recorded in France! Principally a southern and eastern species, it is apparently expanding its distribution in response to climate change.

In soaring temperatures, we headed for the edge of the reserve, where a narrow, flowing channel with lush green banks hosts a remarkable dragonfly fauna. With around fifty different species recorded to date, the Canal de Vergières can claim to be one of Europe's best dragonfly sites. Indeed, we were amazed at the numbers and diversity of dragonflies along this small but important waterbody, which is afforded European protection for its odonata. Demoiselles were initially the most obvious species, with the familiar Banded being especially common, and they were joined by a single darker Copper Demoiselle. With four powder-blue dragonflies present, we were kept on our toes. Blue Chaser was seen, along with three skimmer species: Southern, Black-tailed and Keeled. As we continued our exploration of the stream, we started to find dozens of Large Pincertails, and to our surprise several of its near cousin, the Small Pincertail, including a pair 'in cop'. The delicate Mercury Bluet was another good find, and Green-eyed Hawker was pleasingly common.

Leaving this excellent site behind, we dropped in at another, where Common Goldenring had been seen during a previous visit, and sure enough we connected with this majestic species. Moreover, we found a glade festooned with dozens of Copper Demoiselles!

Following lunch back at the hotel, some decided on a visit to the medieval city of Arles. This conurbation 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.

However, most of the group made a visit to a promising-looking irrigation channel at the base of Les Alpilles, where we were entertained by two fabulous Western Spectres and several Large Pincertails. After a coffee in a nearby village, we made a brief stop at the Aqueduc de Barbegal. This allowed some of the group to catch up with Western Willow Spreadwing, which they had missed on the first visit.

## Day 6

Wednesday 1st July

### Vigueirat – Vallée des Baux – Aqueduc de Barbegal

Sunny with some cloud, 34°C

We left the hotel in ideal conditions and set a course for the Marais du Vigueirat, a wetland nature reserve on the eastern edge of Camargue. We headed out on a circular walk of the reserve, where we were thrilled to see several White Storks and Glossy Ibises flying around overhead. 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, (almost) perfectly camouflaged on a blade of reed.

We then passed over a ditch hosting several Small Redeyes, a species of damselfly now well-established in the UK. Further on, we stopped at a hide where a Black-winged Stilt fed in the shallows and a Coypu preened its fur next to a small island, which also hosted several Common Terns. But a Squacco Heron fishing opposite the hide attracted the most attention. Another waterbody held two Green Sandpipers, and a Gull-billed Tern flew overhead, calling loudly.

As we returned along a canal, all was quiet in the rising temperatures, except for a very obliging Green-eyed Hawker and a stunning male Western Green Lizard. At a gap in the vegetation, some enjoyed fabulous views of a European Pond Terrapin at barely a metre's range: its finely-spotted head and yellow eyes indicated it was a female (the eyes are orange in males). Reaching another bird hide, we were pleased to find some shade, not to mention a fantastic array of water birds.

Our attention was first drawn to the Black-winged Stilts, which were particularly obvious due to their loud bickering calls. An artificial nesting raft was popular, with a couple of dozen Common Terns loafing on top, including several 'scaly' juvenile birds. Temperatures had begun to rise steeply now, so we returned to the minibus and headed back to the hotel for lunch.

Lunch was again enjoyed in the air-conditioned meeting room, and was followed by a late afternoon excursion. We decided to return to the productive Vallée des Baux. We went first to the newly-christened 'Crazy Corner', where we had seen so much a few days ago. Today was calmer, perhaps due to the *mistral* wind which whipped briskly along the channel, but Orange-spotted Emerald, Violet Dropwing and Blue Chaser still made for a very good haul. However, these were somewhat upstaged by a magnificent Death's-head Hawk-moth caterpillar, which was duly christened Derek!

We returned to the Aqueduc de Barbegal for a third time, where we set off in a different direction to our earlier visits: our route led us to a wonderful viewpoint overlooking the Vallée des Baux. A few Mottled-winged Antlions were again popular finds, as was a Striped Grayling. We returned for another excellent evening meal at the hotel.

## Day 7

Thursday 2nd July

### La Crau – Canal de Vergières – Parc Ornithologique – Pont de Gau

Sunny, 33°C

Today we made a very early start and headed east to the semi-arid area of La Crau once more. After a light breakfast of coffee and croissants in the car park, we set out along the central track, where a Tawny Pipit performed its simple song in flight. A little further on, not one but three Iberian Grey Shrikes hunted from the top of a livestock fence. Again, several impressive Mottled-winged Antlions were present, as were a few Red-veined Darters, but sadly there was no sign of any Black Pennants. We headed for the canal at the edge of the reserve, but in cooler temperatures than on our previous visit, there was less odonate activity. Today, we could only find Large Pincertails, with no sign of their smaller cousins. A smart Blue Emperor 'hung up' in a bush was a good find, but by far the best sighting was of a cryptic Winter Damselfly, nestled deep in some rushes.

We dropped in to the nearby Étang des Aulnes, following a tip-off about a Little Bittern. Although this charismatic heron didn't show, we were rewarded with several Violet Dropwings, and our only Small Red Damsel of the tour. The visit was further enlivened by a noisy Kingfisher.

Following a late 'proper' breakfast back at 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 walked out onto the site. With an hour available before lunch, we explored the smaller, more touristic loop, enjoying amazing views of the Flamingoes.

Following lunch, we found ourselves on a narrow path, where we stopped to watch a number of Glossy Ibises and egrets clambering in low trees, before we crossed a bridge, from where we enjoyed ace flight views of a Greater Flamingo. From a bird hide, we spotted several Avocets and Black-tailed Godwits. But it was a flock of more than a hundred elegant Spotted Redshanks that really caught our attention, with many sporting their summer finery: jet black from beak to tail, and speckled in white. The presence of a pair of Little Terns was particularly pleasing: they were dwarfed by the adjacent Black-headed Gulls. However, it was at least eight Marsh Sandpipers that really livened things up: these elegant waders are a regular but scarce migrant in the Camargue, and observing such a number, some in summer plumage, was a lucky find. Other birds of note included some Spoonbills, a pair of Shelducks, and a number of 'not-so-common' Common Redshanks. A single Grey Plover, a 'white-headed' Ruff in summer plumage and a Greenshank topped things off nicely.

A five-minute drive took us to Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, where refreshments in a café were followed by a visit to the attractive local church. Returning via a quiet road flanked with lagoons, we were thrilled with excellent views of large numbers of Greater Flamingoes. The furthest flock was so large that it resembled a pink haze floating over the lake's surface: it was a truly fitting end to the last outing of the week.

## Day 8

Friday 3rd July

### Arles to Montpellier Airport

Sunny, 33°C

With a late morning return flight, we were up fairly early, but still had time for a relaxed breakfast before heading for the airport. Although there was no time to stop, we were able to take in the unique Camargue landscape for a final time as we travelled west, reflecting on what had been a superb week exploring this rich and fascinating part of France, in excellent company.

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## Species lists

### Damselflies & dragonflies

| Common name               | Scientific name                   | June - July 2026 |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
|                           |                                   | 26               | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Banded Demoiselle         | <i>Calopteryx splendens</i>       |                  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |   | ✓ |   |
| Copper Demoiselle         | <i>Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis</i> |                  | 1  |    |    | 30 |   |   |   |
| Western Willow Spreadwing | <i>Chalcolestes viridis</i>       |                  | ✓  |    |    | ✓  |   |   |   |
| Common Winter Damsel      | <i>Sympecma fusca</i>             |                  |    |    |    |    |   | 1 |   |
| Common Bluetail           | <i>Ischnura elegans</i>           |                  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |   | ✓ |   |
| Common Bluet              | <i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>      |                  |    | 1  |    |    |   |   |   |
| Mercury Bluet             | <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>      |                  |    |    |    | ✓  |   |   |   |
| Small Redeye              | <i>Erythromma viridulum</i>       |                  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ |   |   |
| Blue-eye                  | <i>Erythromma lindenii</i>        |                  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ |   |   |
| Small Red Damsel          | <i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i>        |                  |    |    |    |    |   | 1 |   |
| Orange Featherleg         | <i>Platycnemis acutipennis</i>    |                  |    | 1  |    |    |   |   |   |
| White Featherleg          | <i>Platycnemis latipes</i>        |                  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| Green-eyed Hawker         | <i>Aeshna isocetes</i>            |                  |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Blue Emperor              | <i>Anax imperator</i>             |                  |    |    |    | ✓  |   | ✓ |   |
| Lesser Emperor            | <i>Anax parthenope</i>            | ✓                |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Western Spectre           | <i>Boyeria irene</i>              |                  | 1  |    |    | 2  |   |   |   |
| Pronged Clubtail          | <i>Gomphus graslinii</i>          |                  |    | ✓  |    |    |   |   |   |
| Western Clubtail          | <i>Gomphus pulchellus</i>         |                  |    | 1  |    |    |   |   |   |
| Large Pincertail          | <i>Onychogomphus uncatus</i>      |                  | ✓  |    |    | ✓  |   | ✓ |   |
| Small Pincertail          | <i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>   |                  |    |    |    | ✓  |   |   |   |
| Common Goldenring         | <i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>     |                  | 1  |    |    | 1  |   |   |   |
| Orange-spotted Emerald    | <i>Oxygastra curtisii</i>         |                  |    | 1  |    |    | 1 |   |   |
| Blue Chaser               | <i>Libellula fulva</i>            |                  |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Black-tailed Skimmer      | <i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>      | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| White-tailed Skimmer      | <i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>       |                  |    | ✓  |    |    | ✓ |   |   |
| Keeled Skimmer            | <i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>     |                  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  |   |   |   |
| Southern Skimmer          | <i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>         |                  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |   | ✓ |   |
| Banded Darter             | <i>Sympetrum pedemontanum</i>     |                  |    |    | 2  |    |   |   |   |
| Red-veined Darter         | <i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>     |                  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| Southern Darter           | <i>Sympetrum meridionale</i>      |                  | 3  |    |    | 1  |   |   |   |
| Broad Scarlet             | <i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>      | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| Violet Dropwing           | <i>Trithemis annulata</i>         |                  |    | ✓  |    |    | 4 | 6 |   |
| Black Pennant             | <i>Selysiothemis nigra</i>        |                  |    |    |    | 1f |   |   |   |

### Butterflies

| Common name        | Scientific name              | June - July 2026 |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
|                    |                              | 26               | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Scarce Swallowtail | <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i> |                  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Common Swallowtail | <i>Papilio machaon</i>       | ✓                | ✓  |    |    |    |   |   |   |
| Mallow Skipper     | <i>Carcharodus alceae</i>    |                  | ✓  |    |    |    |   |   |   |
| Cleopatra          | <i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>  |                  | ✓  |    |    |    |   |   |   |
| Clouded Yellow     | <i>Colias croceus</i>        |                  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Western Bath White | <i>Pontia daplidice</i>      |                  |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |   |   |   |
| Large White        | <i>Pieris brassicae</i>      |                  |    | ✓  |    |    |   |   |   |

|                        |                              | June - July 2026 |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
| Common name            | Scientific name              | 26               | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Small White            | <i>Pieris rapae</i>          | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| Small Copper           | <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>       |                  | ✓  |    |    | ✓  |   |   |   |
| Holly Blue             | <i>Celastrina argiolus</i>   |                  |    |    | ✓  |    | ✓ |   |   |
| Brown Argus            | <i>Aricia agestis</i>        |                  | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  |   |   |   |
| Common Blue            | <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>    |                  | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |   |   |   |
| Southern White Admiral | <i>Limenitis reducta</i>     |                  |    |    |    | ✓  |   |   |   |
| Painted Lady           | <i>Vanessa cardui</i>        |                  |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |   |   |   |
| Small Heath            | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> |                  |    |    |    | ✓  |   |   |   |
| Speckled Wood          | <i>Pararge aegeria</i>       |                  | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Wall Brown             | <i>Lasiommata megera</i>     |                  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Common Marbled White   | <i>Melanargia galathea</i>   |                  |    |    | ✓  |    |   |   |   |
| Striped Grayling       | <i>Hipparchia fidia</i>      |                  | ✓  |    |    |    | ✓ |   |   |
| Great Banded Grayling  | <i>Brintesia circe</i>       |                  | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Southern Gatekeeper    | <i>Pyrtonia cecilia</i>      |                  | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Meadow Brown           | <i>Maniola jurtina</i>       |                  |    |    |    | ✓  |   |   |   |

## Moths

| L=larva                |                                 | June - July 2026 |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
| Common name            | Scientific name                 | 26               | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Death's-head Hawk-moth | <i>Acherontia atropos</i>       |                  |    |    |    |    | L |   |   |
| Hummingbird Hawk-moth  | <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i> | ✓                |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |

## Other invertebrates

| Common name            | Scientific name               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lobed Argiope          | <i>Argiope lobata</i>         |
| Wasp Spider            | <i>Argiope bruennichi</i>     |
| Red-winged Grasshopper | <i>Oedipoda germanica</i>     |
| Egyptian Grasshopper   | <i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>   |
| European Mantis        | <i>Mantis religiosa</i>       |
| a cicada               | <i>Cicadidae</i> sp.          |
| Firebug                | <i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>    |
| Mottled-winged Antlion | <i>Palpares libelluloides</i> |
| Rose Chafer            | <i>Cetonia aurata</i>         |
| a bee fly              | <i>Bombyliidae</i> sp.        |
| Mammoth Wasp           | <i>Megascolia maculata</i>    |
| European Paper Wasp    | <i>Polistes dominula</i>      |
| Violet Carpenter Bee   | <i>Xylocopa violacea</i>      |

## Birds (H=heard only)

| I=Introduced           |                                    | June - July 2026 |    |    |    |    |   |     |   |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----|----|----|----|---|-----|---|
| Common name            | Scientific name                    | 26               | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2   | 3 |
| Mute Swan              | <i>Cygnus olor</i>                 | ✓                |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓   | ✓ |
| Common Shelduck        | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>             | ✓                |    |    | ✓  |    |   | ✓   |   |
| Mallard                | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>          | ✓                |    |    | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   | ✓ |
| Common Pheasant - I    | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>         |                  |    | ✓  |    |    |   |     |   |
| Common Quail           | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>           |                  | H  |    |    |    |   |     |   |
| Red-legged Partridge   | <i>Alectoris rufa</i>              |                  |    |    |    |    |   | ✓   |   |
| Alpine Swift           | <i>Tachymarptis melba</i>          |                  | 10 |    |    |    |   |     |   |
| Common Swift           | <i>Apus apus</i>                   | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓   | ✓ |
| Rock Dove - I          | <i>Columba livia</i>               | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   | ✓ |
| Common Wood Pigeon     | <i>Columba palumbus</i>            | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   | ✓ |
| European Turtle Dove   | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>         |                  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   |   |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>       | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   | ✓ |
| Common Moorhen         | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>         |                  |    |    | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   |   |
| Eurasian Coot          | <i>Fulica atra</i>                 | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   | ✓ |
| Western Swamphen       | <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>         | 8                |    |    |    |    |   |     |   |
| Little Grebe           | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>      |                  |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓ |     |   |
| Great Crested Grebe    | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>          |                  |    |    | ✓  |    |   |     |   |
| Greater Flamingo       | <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>       | ✓                |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |   | ✓   | ✓ |
| Eurasian Stone-curlew  | <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>         |                  |    |    |    | 1  |   |     |   |
| Black-winged Stilt     | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>       | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   |   |
| Pied Avocet            | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>      |                  |    |    | ✓  |    |   | ✓   |   |
| Northern Lapwing       | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>           |                  |    |    |    |    |   | ✓   |   |
| Kentish Plover         | <i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>    |                  |    |    | ✓  |    |   |     |   |
| Eurasian Whimbrel      | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>           |                  |    |    | ✓  |    |   |     |   |
| Black-tailed Godwit    | <i>Limosa limosa</i>               |                  |    |    |    |    |   | ✓   |   |
| Common Sandpiper       | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>          |                  |    |    | ✓  |    |   |     |   |
| Green Sandpiper        | <i>Tringa ochropus</i>             | ✓                |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   |   |
| Marsh Sandpiper        | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>          |                  |    |    |    |    |   | 8   |   |
| Wood Sandpiper         | <i>Tringa glareola</i>             |                  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |   |     |   |
| Common Redshank        | <i>Tringa totanus</i>              |                  |    |    | ✓  |    |   | ✓   |   |
| Spotted Redshank       | <i>Tringa erythropus</i>           |                  |    |    |    |    |   | 140 |   |
| Common Greenshank      | <i>Tringa nebularia</i>            |                  |    |    |    |    |   | ✓   |   |
| Ruff                   | <i>Calidris pugnax</i>             |                  |    |    |    |    |   | ✓   |   |
| Collared Pratincole    | <i>Glareola pratincola</i>         |                  |    | 10 |    |    |   |     |   |
| Little Tern            | <i>Sternula albifrons</i>          |                  |    |    | ✓  |    |   | ✓   |   |
| Gull-billed Tern       | <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>       | ✓                |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   | ✓ |
| Whiskered Tern         | <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>          |                  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |   | ✓   | ✓ |
| Common Tern            | <i>Sterna hirundo</i>              | ✓                |    |    | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   |   |
| Sandwich Tern          | <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>     |                  |    |    | ✓  |    |   |     |   |
| Slender-billed Gull    | <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>       |                  |    |    | ✓  |    |   |     |   |
| Black-headed Gull      | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>  | ✓                |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   | ✓ |
| Mediterranean Gull     | <i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i> | ✓                |    |    |    |    |   |     |   |
| Caspian Gull           | <i>Larus cachinnans</i>            | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   | ✓ |
| White Stork            | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>             |                  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓   |   |
| Great Cormorant        | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>         | ✓                |    |    | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   |   |
| Glossy Ibis            | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>        | ✓                |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓   | ✓ |

| I= introduced             |                                  | June - July 2026 |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
| Common name               | Scientific name                  | 26               | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Eurasian Spoonbill        | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>       | ✓                |    |    |    |    | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>     | ✓                |    | ✓  |    |    | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Little Egret              | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>          | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| Squacco Heron             | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>         |                  |    |    |    |    | 4 |   |   |
| Great Egret               | <i>Ardea alba</i>                | ✓                |    | ✓  |    |    | ✓ |   |   |
| Western Cattle Egret      | <i>Ardea ibis</i>                | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Grey Heron                | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>             | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Purple Heron              | <i>Ardea purpurea</i>            |                  |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Short-toed Snake Eagle    | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>        |                  |    |    | 1  |    |   |   |   |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk      | <i>Accipiter nisus</i>           |                  |    |    |    |    | ✓ |   |   |
| Western Marsh Harrier     | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>        | ✓                |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
| Black Kite                | <i>Milvus migrans</i>            | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Common Buzzard            | <i>Buteo buteo</i>               | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Eurasian Hoopoe           | <i>Upupa epops</i>               | ✓                |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ |   |   |
| European Roller           | <i>Coracias garrulus</i>         | ✓                |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Common Kingfisher         | <i>Alcedo atthis</i>             |                  |    | ✓  |    |    | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| European Bee-eater        | <i>Merops apiaster</i>           | ✓                |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dryobates minor</i>           |                  |    |    | H  |    |   |   |   |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker  | <i>Dendrocopos major</i>         |                  |    |    | ✓  |    |   |   |   |
| European Green Woodpecker | <i>Picus viridis</i>             |                  |    | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Common Kestrel            | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>         | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| Eurasian Golden Oriole    | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>           |                  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ |   |   |
| Iberian Grey Shrike       | <i>Lanius meridionalis</i>       |                  |    |    |    | ✓  |   | 3 |   |
| Eurasian Jay              | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>       |                  |    |    |    |    | ✓ |   |   |
| Eurasian Magpie           | <i>Pica pica</i>                 | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Western Jackdaw           | <i>Coloeus monedula</i>          |                  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| Carrion Crow              | <i>Corvus corone</i>             | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Eurasian Blue Tit         | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>       |                  |    |    |    | ✓  |   |   |   |
| Great Tit                 | <i>Parus major</i>               |                  |    | ✓  |    |    |   |   |   |
| Eurasian Skylark          | <i>Alauda arvensis</i>           |                  |    | ✓  |    |    |   |   |   |
| Crested Lark              | <i>Galerida cristata</i>         |                  |    |    | ✓  |    |   |   | ✓ |
| Greater Short-toed Lark   | <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> |                  |    |    |    | 1  |   |   |   |
| Sand Martin               | <i>Riparia riparia</i>           |                  |    |    |    |    |   | ✓ |   |
| Barn Swallow              | <i>Hirundo rustica</i>           | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Western House Martin      | <i>Delichon urbicum</i>          | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Cetti's Warbler           | <i>Cettia cetti</i>              |                  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Great Reed Warbler        | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> |                  |    |    |    |    |   | H |   |
| Moustached Warbler        | <i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>  |                  |    |    | H  |    |   |   |   |
| Common Reed Warbler       | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>   |                  |    |    | ✓  |    |   |   |   |
| Melodious Warbler         | <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>      |                  |    |    |    |    |   | ✓ |   |
| Zitting Cisticola         | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>        |                  |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| Eurasian Blackcap         | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>        |                  |    |    | ✓  |    | ✓ |   |   |
| Sardinian Warbler         | <i>Curruca melanocephala</i>     | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| Common Whitethroat        | <i>Curruca communis</i>          |                  |    | ✓  |    |    |   |   |   |
| Common Starling           | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>          | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| Common Blackbird          | <i>Turdus merula</i>             |                  |    |    |    |    | ✓ |   |   |
| Common Nightingale        | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>     |                  |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ |   |   |
| Blue Rock Thrush          | <i>Monticola solitarius</i>      |                  | 1  |    |    |    |   |   |   |

| I= introduced          |                             | June - July 2026 |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
| Common name            | Scientific name             | 26               | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| European Stonechat     | <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>    |                  |    | ✓  |    |    |   |   |   |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow  | <i>Passer montanus</i>      |                  |    | ✓  |    |    |   |   |   |
| House Sparrow          | <i>Passer domesticus</i>    | ✓                | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ | ✓ |   |
| Western Yellow Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava</i>      | ✓                |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |   | ✓ |   |
| White Wagtail          | <i>Motacilla alba</i>       |                  |    | ✓  |    |    |   |   |   |
| Tawny Pipit            | <i>Anthus campestris</i>    |                  |    |    |    | 1  |   | 1 |   |
| Eurasian Chaffinch     | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>    |                  |    | ✓  |    |    |   |   |   |
| European Greenfinch    | <i>Chloris chloris</i>      |                  |    |    |    |    |   | ✓ |   |
| European Goldfinch     | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>  |                  |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |   |   |   |
| European Serin         | <i>Serinus serinus</i>      | ✓                |    |    |    |    | ✓ |   |   |
| Corn Bunting           | <i>Emberiza calandra</i>    |                  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |   | ✓ |   |
| Common Reed Bunting    | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> |                  |    | ✓  |    |    |   |   |   |

## Mammals

| I= introduced      |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Common name        | Scientific name              |
| European Rabbit    | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> |
| European Hare      | <i>Lepus europaeus</i>       |
| Common Muskrat - I | <i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>    |
| Coypu - I          | <i>Myocastor coypus</i>      |

## Amphibians & reptiles

| Common name             | Scientific name              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mediterranean Tree Frog | <i>Hyla meridionalis</i>     |
| marsh frog complex      | <i>Pelophylax</i> sp.        |
| Moorish Gecko           | <i>Tarentola mauritanica</i> |
| Ocellated Lizard        | <i>Timon lepidus</i>         |
| Western Green Lizard    | <i>Lacerta bilineata</i>     |
| Common Wall Lizard      | <i>Podarcis muralis</i>      |
| Barred Grass Snake      | <i>Natrix helvetica</i>      |
| European Pond Terrapin  | <i>Emys orbicularis</i>      |
| Red-eared Slider        | <i>Trachemys scripta</i>     |