France - Carcassonne and Cathar Country

Naturetrek Tour Report

28 April – 5 May 2013

Report compiled by Mark Galliott



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Day 1

Sunday 28th April

Cloudy, cold

The group travelled with Jason to Montpellier via Gatwick, arriving slightly behind schedule in the late afternoon. They were met by Mark the tour leader who is a permanent resident in France. After loading up our two minibuses and co-ordinating our exit from two different car parks, we set off along the *autoroute* on the hour long journey to our hotel in Vinassan. The weather was proving to be unsettled with rather low temperatures— a continuation of the poor weather that seemed to be dogging most of Western Europe this year. On arriving at the hotel we were directed to our rooms by the ever hospitable patrons of the Las Mas Pierrot. After settling in, we later reconvened to sample some local wines generously provided by our hosts before sitting down to our evening meal. Outside we could hear the songs of the resident Nightingale and Serin; the former sang every day, but as is usual were very loath to show themselves for the whole duration of our stay.

Day 2

Monday 29th April

Rain, cold

We awoke to steady rain, but hoping for an improvement in the weather, we ate breakfast and set off from the hotel at 8.30am down the coast towards the Leucate Plateau. This rocky limestone headland sits between two coastal lagoons (Leucate and La Palme) and is considered one of the premier bird migration watch points in France as well as being a European protected site for botany. On arrival the birders scanned the skies, while the botanists searched the stony ground for their first Mediterranean blooms.

Tawny Pipit, Hobby, Crested Lark, Sardinian Warbler & Wood Warbler and Pied Flycatcher were enjoyed by the former, while Rosy Garlic-Allium roseum, Felty Bindweed-Convolvulus lanuginosus, White Henbane-Hyoscyamus albus, Salsify-Tragopogon porrifolius, the blue Aphyllanthes monspeliensis and our first Yellow Bee Orchids-Ophrys lutea were identified by the latter. The wind had by now picked up and the rain very heavy, so we quickly retreated to the minibus's. It was obvious that we could not attempt to take our picnic lunch here, so Mark and Jason then took us down to Leucate beach where a small café/restaurant served us and hot drinks, and a welcome respite from the tempest outside. The kindly patrons then also agreed to let us eat our lunch in the warm and dry.

Exiting the café, it was apparent that a substantial amount of rain had fallen, leaving huge puddles on the roads, so we headed inland to the pictureque village of Lagrasse in an attempt to find more benign conditions. En route, we paused to admire a field full of Lady Orchids-Orchis purpurea, before parking on the edge of the village and doing a circular walk. A grassy slope overlooking the river held some nice orchids including Man-Orchis anthropophorum, Small Spider-Ophrys araneola, Ophrys occidentalis and more Lady & Yellow Bee Orchids, while Grey Wagtail and two immature Black Redstarts were at the water's edge. It was now raining hard again, so we made a hasty retreat back to the hotel for dinner.

Day 3

Tuesday 30th April

Rain, then fog, cool

Next morning it was still raining, but with the promise of dryer weather coming in from the west, we headed down the coast on the autoroute towards Perpignon, before heading up the Agly Valley via Rivesaltes (where we had an unintended tour of the town!) to stop at a lay-by site just on the edge of St-Paul-de-Fenouillet. This spot is well known for orchids and this year it proved to be exceptional with ten species being packed into a very small area. These included Man, Lady, Provence-Orchis provincialis, Dense-flowered-Neotinea maculata, Sword-leaved Helleborines-Cephalanthera longifolia and the very attractive Sawfly Orchid-Ophrys tenthredinifera. Violet Limodore-Limodorum abortivum in bud and a rare Sombre Bee Orchid-Ophrys lupercalis were also added to the list.

The rain had now finally stopped, so we then drove up into the hills via the impressive Galamus Gorge, where a brief stop gave us Blue Rock Thrush and a pair of Crag Martins, and a nice white Saxifrage-Saxifraga pentadactylus was found growing on the rocks. Our destination for the afternoon was the evocative Queribus Castle, perched on the edge of a cliff with lovely views all around. But unfortunately for us, upon reaching the parking and picnic area at the Col, we were surrounded by thick fog! So, after eating a good lunch, we did explore the rocky scrub here finding two more species of Orchid, Orchis olbiensis & Ophrys aractnitiformis, the former restricted to three departments in France, along with Wild Tulip-Tulipa sylvestris ssp australis, Blue Lettuce-Lactuca perennis, and the white shrub Amelanchier.

We had intended to return to the hotel by way of the hills, stopping at likely spots, but the weather conditions had once again curtailed the intended itinerary, so it was back down to the coast and on to the La Palme salt flats, a site we had to miss on the previous day. Flamingo, Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Great white Egret, Little Egret, Shelduck, Hobby, Ringed Plover, Yellow Wagtail and many passing Sand Martins were some recompense...

Day 4

Wednesday 1st May

Warm, sunny!

A fine sunny morning at long last, as we set off eastwards through Salles d'Aude and Lespignan to l'Etang de Vendres, a large area of marshland and water near the mouth of the River Aude. We parked up and walked gingerly along the very muddy track to the roman remains of the temple of Venus, situated on a small knoll giving good views over the marshes. As we passed through the extensive Giant Reed-Arundo donax beds, Fan-tailed Warblers (Zitting Cisticola) were rising all around us on their song flights, while Cetti's and Great Reed Warblers also gave us good views as they sang, and a Purple Heron was also very accommodating close in to us. On the water other birds were Pochard, Red-crested Pochard, while overhead Marsh Harrier, Common, Whiskered & White-winged Black Terns were also enjoyed. Good plants recorded were Field Gromwell-Lithospermum arvense, Prickly Poppy-Papaver argemone, Blue Hound's-tongue-Cynoglossum creticum and the strange yellow flowered Birthwort-Aristolochia clematitus.

We then drove back through Vendres to park near a chalky outcrop called le Peuch Blanc overlooking the grazing marshes, where in previous years we had been lucky enough to observe a pair of Eagle Owls roosting on a rock ledge. Unfortunately they were not there this year, probably because it was May Day, a holiday in France and it seemed that half of the country had decided to walk or cycle this way. We did though have superb views of a colony of around 40 Bee-eaters hawking over the fields for their insect prey, while other birds noted were Corn Bunting, Short-toed Eagle, Black Kite, the first of dozens of Honey Buzzards that we were to see on migration during the rest of the week and a brief glimpse of a pair of Great Spotted Cuckoos. The warm sunshine had brought a few butterflies out on the wing, with Baton & Common Blue, Green Hairstreak, Speckled Wood, Swallowtail, Black-veined White, Clouded Yellow and the exquisite Southern Festoon alongside its food plant, another Birthwort-Aristolochia pistolochia. Other good plants were Little Robin-Geranium purpureum, Italian Bugloss-Anchusa italica, Star of Bethlehem-Ornithogalum umbellatum, Blue Pimpernel-Anagallis caerulea and an attractive yellow pea-flower Lathyrus annuus.

After a late lunch, it was then on to coast at the Lac de Pissevaches to scan the salt pans, where we saw five species of Tern, namely, Little, Common, Sandwich, Caspian and more White-winged Black, along with Slender-billed Gull, Flamingo, and both Redshank and Greenshank.

Day 5

Thursday 2nd May

Warm, sunny

Another fine sunny morning as we headed around the northern side of Narbonne and entered the Corbière foothills, stopping firstly in St-Laurent-de-la-Cabreresse for a pharmacie, so as to enable two members of the group to get some relief from their mosquito bites. We then climbed up to the Col above Talairan, where there is a specially laid out walk to observe some of the many orchids that grow in this area. We were not to be disappointed with eight species present including Early Spider Orchid-Ophrys aranifera, Woodcock Orchid-Ophrys scolopax and the aptly named Ophrys magniflora, all new to the list. Other interesting plants were the diminutive yellow Dwarf Iris-Iris lutescens, a tiny Daffodil-Narcissus requinii, Narbonne Flax-Linum narbonense, Ground Pine-Ajuga chamaedrys and masses of the Wild Tulip that we had already previously seen. Cirl Bunting, Sub-alpine Warbler, Raven and our only singing Cuckoo of the week gave us some avian interest, while butterflies enjoyed were Baton & Black-eyed Blue, Brown Argus, Red Admiral, Brimstone and Marbled Skipper.

We then drove down to Fontfroide Abbey, managing to just about bag a picnic table in the car park there so as to lie out and eat our lunch. This former Cistercian monastery was founded in 1093, and over the centuries since has had some parts rebuilt in the different styles that were in vogue at the time of their work. It is privately owned now, but is one of the best restored buildings of its type in France. Mark had arranged in advance for an English speaking guide to show us around for the afternoon, and as well as explaining the history and methods of the architecture, he also gave a very good insight into the lifestyle of the inhabitants through the ages. After buying postcards and gifts, a coffee or an ice cream was then in order, before departing for home, but not before one lucky person had a good view of a Golden Eagle.

Day 6 Friday 3rd May

Warm, sunny

The weather was really settling down now, as we left at the usual time and drove down to the coast at Gruissan and out along the salt pans to the Isle St Martin. Before reaching the island, we stopped 3 times to scan the marshes noting Kentish Plover, Dunlin, Avocet, Black-winged Stilt and over our heads the first of over 50 Honey Buzzards that were to pass through today battling against the strong northerly Tramontane wind. We then parked in the shade of some pine trees, before doing a circular walk around a rocky outcrop. Many colourful blooms were now in flower including Small-flowered Catchfly-Silene gallica, Rock Stork's-bill-Erodium petraeum, Pink Bindweed-Convolvulus cantabrica, Wild Jasmine-Jasminum fruticans and the felty white Paronychia capitata. Another large flock of Bee-eaters passed over, while other good birds were Black-eared Wheatear and Melodious Warbler. A few butterflies were braving the strong breeze including Queen of Spain Fritillary and Bath White.

On a previous day Jason had struck up a conversation with a French birdwatcher, and was kindly given some information that a small colony of Lesser Kestrels existed at a particular site. So after lunch we headed to the place that he had marked on the map and parked some distance away and walked to within sight of the small building built especially for them. Unlike the Common Kestrel these birds are gregarious, and we were very privileged to witness around a dozen birds going in and out of the nesting holes. They were also joined by a pair of Rollers, doing exactly as their name denotes riding up and down rolling on the strong breeze.

After this superb spectacle it was decided to split the groups with the birders and the botanists going their separate ways for the rest of the afternoon. The former re-visited l'Etang de Vendres and le Peuch Blanc, in the hope of contacting the Eagle Owls that were absent on Wednesday. Still no luck with the owls, but they did have good views of both Red-backed and Woodchat Shrike and at the Etang, Squacco Heron and Red Kite. The botanists had two leisurely walks on la Clape visiting firstly the Oiel du doux, a deep lake below cliffs and then a forest area which was supposed to be a good orchid site. No new orchids, but Montpellier Milk-vetch, Tower Cress, Bath Asparagus and Spotted Rock-rose were some consolation.

Day 7 Saturday 4th May

Warm, sunny

We set off at our now usual time and headed inland to the beautiful old village of Minèrve perched on the precipitous confluence of the Cess and Brian Rivers. Some members of the group preferred to have a leisurely walk around the village, while the majority took a photogenic but safe path down into the gorge, before also circling back through the village to the car park.

Immediately, Crag Martin and Red-rumped Swallow were circling around over our heads and a Blue Rock Thrush was also glimpsed on the rocks opposite. A dashing Montagu's Harrier was next, quartering the garrique on the other side of the gorge, while other birds noted were Redstart, Firecrest, Golden Oriole, Rock Sparrow and at least 20 Alpine Swifts. There were also some interesting plants here on the dry limestone, including Small Alyssum-Alyssum alyssoides, Dwarf Toadflax-Linaria supina, Buckler Cress-Biscutella laevigata, Roman Nettle-Urtica pilulifera and Cotswold Penny-cress-Thlaspi perfoliatum. Scarce Swallowtail was an addition to the butterfly list.

After reassembling we ate our picnic lunch on a convenient low wall, before driving for an hour eastwards to the magnificently restored walled city of Carcassonne. With the afternoon ahead of us we went our separate ways to explore the sites as well as to relax in one of the many cafés to sample some delicious ice-creams and coffee. After a thoroughly relaxing day and some great cultural sightseeing we headed back to the hotel. This was to be our last time going through our by now long list of interesting plants, birds and other wildlife, before the last of our delicious dinners.

Day 8 Sunday 5th May

Warm, sunny

We awoke again to sunshine on our last day in France but as our flights were not until the afternoon we still had a chance to enjoy what the local countryside had to offer. We headed out of the village, under the autoroute and up in to the Clape hills noting the different flora on the acid rock, including Jersey Toadflax-*Linaria pelisseriana*, Narrow-leaved Cistus-*Cistus monspeliensis*, French Lavender-*Lavandula stoechus*, more Spotted Rockrose and Violet Limodore almost in full bloom. Dartford Warbler was a good addition to the bird list, other species seen being more Honey Buzzards, Cirl Bunting, Short-toed Eagle, Alpine Swift and a distant Great Spotted Cuckoo. A few butterflies were on the wing, with Small Copper, Green Hairstreak, Brown Argus and Little Blue, while a good find in the crevices of a large wall was a small colony of Moorish Gecko.

It was the back to the hotel for a buffet lunch, before reluctantly saying our farewells to Jean-Yves and Kristina on leaving for the airport at Montpellier, and there also saying goodbye to Mark, who then left to drive back up through France. After the very unseasonal start to the week everyone agreed we had enjoyed a marvellous week discovering the rich flora and wildlife of this beautiful region.

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Species Lists

Plants

Family	Scientific name	Common Name
ACERACEAE AMARYLLIDACEAE	Acer monspessulanum Narcissus papyraceus	Montpellier Maple Paperwhite Narcissus
	Narcissus requinii	Small Yellow Daffodil
ANACARDIACEAE	Pistachia lentiscus	Mastic Tree
	Pistacia terebinthus	Turpentine Tree
APIACEAE	Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley
	Crithmum maritimum	Rock Samphire
	Eryngium campestre	Field Eryngo (leaves)
	Laserpitum gallicum	Sermountain
	Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel
	Scandix pecten-veneris	Shepherd's Needle
AD A CEAE	Smyrnium olusatrum	Alexanders
ARACEAE	Arum italicum	Large Cuckoo Pint
ARISTOLOCHIACEAE	Aristolochia clematitis	Birthwort
	Aristolochia pistolochia	- D 11 18:41 4
ASPLENIACEAE	Aristolochia rotunda	Round-leaved Birthwort
ASI LEMINGEME	Asplenium adiantum-nigrum Asplenium tricomanes	Black Spleenwort Maidenhair Spleenwort
	Asplenium ceterach	Rustyback Fern
BIGNONIACEAE	Jacaranda ovalifolia	Jacaranda
BORAGINACEAE	Anchusa arvensis	Small Bugloss
	Anchusa italica	Italian Bugloss
	Borago officinalis	Borage
	Cynoglossum creticum	Blue Hound's Tongue
	Cynoglossum officianale	Hound's Tongue
	Echium asperrimum	Rough Italian Bugloss
	Echium plantagineum	Purple Viper's Bugloss
	Echium vulgare	Viper's Bugloss
	Lithospermum arvense	Field Gromwell
	Myosotis arvense	Field Forget-me-not
BUXACEAE	Neatostema apulum Buxus sempervirens	Box
CAPRIFOLIACEAE	Lonicera implexa	DUX
CARYOPHYLLACEAE	Cerastium pumilum	Dwarf Mouse-ear
<u></u>	Paronychia capitata	-
	Silene gallica	Small-flowered Catchfly
	Silene italica	Italian Catchfly
	Silene nutans	Nottingham Catchfly
	Spergularia marina	Lesser Sea-spurrey
	Spergularia media	Greater Sea-spurrey
CELASTRACEAE	Euonymus europaeus	Spindle
CHENOPODIACEAE	Anthrocnemum perenne	Perennial Glasswort
	Beta vulgaris subsp. maritima	Sea Beet
	Halimione portaculoides	Sea Purslane
	Salicornia europaea Suaeda vera	Sea Samphire
CISTACEAE	Cistus monspeliensis	Shrubby Seablite Narrow-leaved Cistus
010111011111	Cistus salvifolius	Sage-leaved Cistus
	Fumana erucoides	Jago louvou Ololuo

Family	Scientific name	Common Name
	Fumana thymifolia	Thyme-leaved Fumana
	Helianthemum appeninum	White Rockrose
	Tuberaria guttata	Spotted Rockrose
CNEORACEAE	Cneorum tricocon	Cneorum
COMPOSITEAE	Anthemis mixta	-
	Arctium lappa agg.	Greater Burdock
	Artemisia maritime	Sea Wormwood
	Aster tripolium	Sea Aster
	Bellis perennis	Daisy
	Calendula arvensis	Field Marigold
	Carduus pycnephalus	Plymouth Thistle
	Cirsium arvensis	Creeping Thistle
	Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle
	Dittrichia viscosa	Aromatic Inula (leaves)
	Evax pygmea	Pygmy Cudweed
	Galactites tomentosa	Galactites
	Helichrysum italicum	-
	Helichrysum stoechas	-
	Lactuca perennis	Mountain Lettuce
	Matricaria maritima	Sea Mayweed
	Senecio vulgaris	Common Groundsel
	Senecio inaequidens	
	Silybum marianum	Milk Thistle
	Sonchus oleraceous	Smooth Sow-thistle
	Tragopogon porrifolius	Salsify
	Tragopogon pratensis	Goat's-beard
	Urospermum dalechampii	Urospermum
CONVOLVULACEAE	Calystegia sepium	Hedge Bindweed
	Convolvulus cantabrica	Mediterranean Bindweed
	Convolvulus lanuginosus	-
CORIARIACEAE	Coriaria myrtifolia	Mediterranean Coriaria
CRASSULACEAE	Sedum dasyphyllum	Thick-leaved Stonecrop
	Umbilicus rupestris	Navelwort
CRUCIFEREAE	Alyssum alyssoides	Small Alison
	Arabis hirsuta	Hairy Rockcress
	Arabis turrita	Tower Cress
	Biscutalla laevigata	Buckler Mustard
	Brassica nigra	Black Mustard
	Cardaria draba	Hoary Cress
	Cheiranthus cheiri	Wallflower
	Diplotaxis erucoides	White Wall Rocket
	Hormatophylla macrocarpa	-
	Lobularia maritima 	Sweet Alison
	Lunaria annua	Honesty
	Raphanus raphanistrum	Wild Radish
CHCHDDITACEAE	Thlaspi perfoliatum	Cotswold Penny Cress
CUCURBITACEAE CUPRESSACEAE	Bryonia cretica	White Bryony
CULKESSACEAE	Cupressus sempervirens	Italian Cypress
	Juniperus oxycedrus	Prickly Juniper
CUSCUTACEAE	Juniperus phoenicia	Phoenician Juniper
	Cuscuta epithymum	Common Dodder
CYPERACEAE	Carex remete	Brown Sedge

Remote Sedge

Carex remota

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Family	Scientific name	Common Name					
DIDCACACEAE	Luzula pilosa	Hairy Woodrush					
DIPSACACEAE	Scabiosa atropurpurea	Mournful Widow					
FOLHERTAGEAE	Scabiosa columbaria	Small Scabious					
EQUISETACEAE	Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail					
ERICACEAE	Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree					
	Calluna vulgaris	Ling					
ELIDITORDIA CEAE	Erica arborea	Tree Heather					
EUPHORBIACEAE	Euphorbia characias	Large Mediterranean Spurge					
	Euphorbia cypariassias	Cypress Spurge					
	Euphorbia exigua	Dwarf Spurge					
	Euphorbia helioscopia	Sun Spurge					
	Euphorbia serrata	-					
	Euphorbia terracina	-					
E1010E1E	Mercurialis annua	Annual Mercury					
FAGACEAE	Quercus coccifera	Kermes Oak					
	Quercus ilex	Holm Oak					
	Quercus petraea	Sessile Oak					
	Quercus pubescens	Downy Oak					
FUMARIACEAE	Fumaria capreolata	Ramping Fumitory					
	Fumaria densiflora	Dense-flowered Fumitory					
	Fumaria muralis	Wall Fumitory					
GERANIACEAE	Erodium ciconium	-					
	Erodium cicutarium	Common Stork's-bill					
	Erodium malacoides	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill					
	Erodium petraeum subsp. crispum	Rock Stork's-bill					
	Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Cranesbill					
	Geranium molle	Dove's-foot Cranesbill					
	Geranium molle Geranium purpureum	Little Robin					
	Geranium purpureum Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert					
	Geranium rotundiflolium	Round-leaved Cranesbill					
IRIDACEAE	Iris germanica	Bearded German Iris					
IMDAGEAL	Iris lutescens	Dwarf Iris					
	Iris pseudacorus	Yellow Flag					
JUGLANDACEAE	•	Common Walnut					
JUNCACEAE	Juglans regia Juncus acutus	Sharp Rush					
JOINGHOLHL	Juncus maritimus	Sea Rush					
LABIATEAE	Ajuga chamaedrys	Ground Pine					
	Lamium amplexicaule	Henbit Dead-nettle					
	Lamium purpureum	Red Dead-nettle					
	Lavandula angustifolia	Narrow-leaved Lavender					
	Lavandula angustilolia Lavandula stoechas	French Lavender					
	Lycopus europaeus	Gypsywort					
	Phlomis lychnitis	Gypsywort					
	Rosemarinus officinalis	Rosemary					
	Salvia pratensis	Meadow Clary					
	Salvia praterisis Salvia verbenaca	Wild Clary					
	Thymus vugaris	Wild Thyme					
LAURACEAE	Laurus nobilis	Sweet Bay					
LEGUMINOSAE	Argyrolobium zanonii	-					
2200mm (00m	Anthyllis vulneraria	- Kidney Vetch					
	Astralagus monspessulanus	Montpellier Milk Vetch					
	Calicotome spinosa subsp	Montpeller Wilk vetti					
	infesta	Thorny Broom					

Family Scientific name Common Name

Cercis siliquastrum Judas Tree
Coronilla emerus Scorpion Senna
Coronilla minima Small Scorpion Vetch

Dorycnium pentaphyllum -

Genista hispanica Spanish Gorse

Genista scorpius

Hippocrepis comosa Horseshoe Vetch

Lathyrus annuus

Lathyrus aphaca Yellow Vetchling

Lathyrus setifolius -

Lathyrus sphaericus

Medicago arabica Spotted Medick **Toothed Medick** Medicago polymorpha Melilotus italicus Small Melilot Ornithopus compressus Yellow Bird's-foot Pitch Trefoil Psoralea bituminosa Spartium junceum Spanish Broom Trifolium aureum Large Hop Trefoil Trifolium campestre Hop Trefoil Trifolium dubium Lesser Trefoil Trifolium pratense Red Clover Trifolium repens White Clover Trifolium resupinatum **Reversed Clover** Trifolium stellatum Star Clover Ulex europaea Common Gorse Vicia hybrida Hairy Yellow Vetch Vicia lathyroides Spring Vetch

Vicia momantha

Muscari comosum

LILACEAE

LINACEAE

MALVACEAE

MORACEAE

Vicia sativaCommon VetchVicia teraspermaSmooth TareVicia villosaFodder VetchAllium roseumRosy GarlicAphyllanthes monspeliensisAphyllanthesAsparagus acutifoliusPrickly AsparagusAsphodelus aestivusCommon Asphodel

Muscari neglectum Common Grape Hyacinth

Tassel Hyacinth

Ornithogalum pyrenaicum Bath Asparagus

Ornithogalum umbellatum Common Star of Bethlehem

Ruscus aculeatusButcher's BroomSmilax asperaCommon SmilaxTulipa australisWild TulipLinum biennePale FlaxLinum narbonenseNarbonne FlaxLavatera arboreaTree Mallow

Malva sylvestris Common Mallow

Ficus carica Fig

Morus alba White Mulberry

OLEACEAE Fraxinus excelsior Ash

Jasminum fructicaus Wild Jasmine

Olea europaea Olive Phillyrea angustifolia -

ORCHIDACEAE Cephalanthera longifolia Sword-leaved Helleborine

		_
Family	Scientific name	Common Name
	Himantoglossum hircinum	Lizard Orchid (leaves)
	Limodorum arbortivum	Violet Limodore
	Neottinea maculata	Dense-flowered Orchid
	Ophrys arachniformis	
	Ophyrys araneola	Small Spider Orchid
	Ophrys aranifera	
	Ophrys insectifera	Fly Orchid
	Ophrys lupercalis	
	Ophrys lutea subsp. lutea	Yellow Ophrys
	Ophrys magniflora	
	Ophtys occidentalis	Western Spider Orchid
	Ophrys scolopax	Woodcock Orchid
	Ophrys sulcata	
	Ophrys tethendrinifera	Sawfly Orchid
	Ophrys virescens	an Early spider Orchid sp
	Orchis anthropophorum	Man Orchid
	Orchis olbiensis	
	Orchis provincialis	Provence Orchid
	Orchis purpurea	Lady Orchid
OROBANCHACEAE	Orobanche crenata	-
	Orobanche gracilis	
OXALIDACEAE	Oxalis articulata	Pink Oxalis
PAPAVERACEAE	Chelidonium majus	Greater Celandine
	Papaver argemone	Prickly Poppy
	Papaver rhoeas	Common Poppy
PINACEAE	Pinus halepensis	Allepo Pine
	Pinus pinea	Stone Pine
	Pinus uncinata	Mountain Pine
PITTOSPORACEAE	Pittosporum tobira	-
PLANTAGINACEAE	Plantago afra	-
	Plantago coronopus	Buck's-horn Plantain
	Plantago lagopus	
	Plantago maritima	Sea Plantain
POACEAE	Aegilops geniculata	-
	Arundo donax	Giant Reed
	Avena fatua	Wild Oats
	Briza minor	Small Quaking Grass
	Bromus madritensis	Compact Brome
	Bromus hordeaceus	Soft Brome
	Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot
	Festuca vivipara	Viviparous Fescue
	Hordeum marinum	Sea Barley
	Hordeum murinum	Wall Barley
	Lagurus ovatus	Harestail Grass
	Phragmites australis	Common Reed
	Sesleria caerulea	Blue Moor Grass
POLYGACEAE		
	Polygala monspeliaca	Montpellier Milkwort
POLYGONACEAE	Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel
DOLVDODIA CE A E	Rumex asectosella	Sheep's Sorrel
POLYPODIACEAE	Polypodium cambricum	Southern Polypody
PRIMULACEAE	Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernell
	Anagallis foemina	Blue Pimpernell
	Primula veris	Cowslip

Family Scientific name Common Name

RAFFLESIACEAE Cytinus hypocistus Cytinus

RANUNCULACEAE Clematis flammula Fragrant Clematis
Ranunculus bulbosus Bulbous Buttercup

RESEDACEAE Reseda phyteuma Bulbous Buttercup

RESEDACEAE Reseda phyteuma Corn Mignonette

RHAMNACEAE Rhamnus alaternus Mediterranean Buckthorn

ROSACEAE Amelanchier ovalis Amelanchier (Snowy Mespilus)

Crataegus azarolus Mediterranean Medlar

Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn

Poterium verrucosum Mediterranean Salad Burnet

Prunus dulcis Almond

Prunus mahaleb St. Lucie Cherry
Prunus spinosa Blackthorn

Rosa canina Common Dog Rose

Rubus fruticosus aggBrambleSanguisorba minorSalad BurnetGalium aparineCleaversRubia peregrinaWild MadderSherardia arvensisField Madder

Valantia muralis -

RUTACEAE Ruta chalepensis Fringed Rue SALICACEAE Populus alba White Poplar

Populus x canadensis Hybrid Black Poplar

Populus nigra Black Poplar

SANTALACEAE Osyris alba Osyris SAXIFRAGACEAE Saxifraga pentadactylus -

SCROPHULARACEAE Antirrhinum majus Snapdragon

Cymbalaria muralis Ivy-leaved Toadflax
Linaria pelisseriana Jersey Toadflax
Linaria supina Dwarf Toadflax
Verbascum phlomoides Orange Mullein
Verbascum sinuatum A Mullein

SOLANACEAE Hyoscyamus albus White Henbane

Solanum nigrum Black Nightshade

TAMARICACEAE Tamaris gallica Tamarisk
ULMACEAE Ulmus glabra Wych Elm

Ulmus minor Small-leaved Elm
Parietaria judaica Pellitory of the Wall

Parietaria officianalis Mediterranean Pellitory
Urtica dioica Common Nettle

Urtica dioica Common Nettle
Urtica pilulifera Roman Nettle

VALERIANACEAE Centranthus calcitrapa

Centhrantus ruber Red Valerian

Valeriana tripteris Three-leaved Valerian

Valerianella discoidea Mediterranean Lamb's Lettuce

Butterflies

URTICACEAE

RUBIACEAE

Family Common Name Scientific Name

PAPILIONIDAE Swallowtail Papilio machaon

Scarce Swallowtail Iphiclides podalarius
Southern Festoon Zerynthia polyxena

PIERIDAE Clouded Yellow Colias crocea

Family	Common Name	Scientific Name
	Large white	Pieris brassicae
	Small White	Pieris rapae
	Green-veined White	Pieris napi
	Black-veined white	Aporia crataegi
	Orange Tip	Anthocharis cardamines
	Wood White	Leptidea sinapsis
	Bath White	Pontia daplidice
	Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni
LYCAENIDAE	Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas
	Common blue	Polyommatus icarus
	Baton blue	Pseudophilotes baton
	Black-eyed blue	Glaucopsyche melanops
	Little Blue	Cupido minimus
	Brown Argus	Aricia agestis
	Green hairstreak	Calaphrys rubi
NYMPHALIDAE	Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui
	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta
	Queen of Spain fritillary	Issoria lathonia
	Southern White Admiral	Limenitis reducta
SATYRINAE	Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria
	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera
HESPERIDAE	Marbled Skipper	Carcharodus lavatherae

Other Taxa

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name					
Invertebrates	Cockchafer sp	Rhizotrogus aestivus					
	Cream-spot Tiger	Arctia villica					
	Violet Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa violacea					
	Yellow Crab Spider	Thomisidae sp					
	Rose Chaffer	Cetonia aurata					
	Chafer sp	Oxythyrea funesta					
	Tiger beetle	Cicendela germanica					
	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	Macroglossum stellatarum					
	Pine Hawkmoth	Hyloicus pinastri					
	Velvet Ant sp	Mutilla sp					
	Earwig	Euborellia sp					
	Millipede	Schizophyllum sabulosum					
Reptiles	Wall lizard	Podarcis muralis					
	Moorish Gecko	Tarentola mauritanica					
Amphibian	Marsh Frog (heard)	Pelophylax ridibunda					
	Parsley Frog	Pelodytes punctatus					
Mammals	Coypu	Myocastor coypus					
Fish	Chub	Squalius cephalus					

 $Birds \ (\checkmark = recorded \ but \ not \ counted; \ c = approximately; \ H = heard \ only)$

							Apri	I/May			
	Common name	Scientific name	French Name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
1	Great-crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	Grèbe huppé				✓		✓		
2	Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	Grand cormoran				✓		✓		
3	Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	Héron garde-bœuf				✓	✓	✓		✓
4	Squacco heron	Ardeola ralloides	Héron crabier						1		
5	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	Egrette garzette	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
6	Great White Egret	Ardea alba	Grande Egrette			1	1		1		
7	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	Héron cendré			✓	✓		✓		
8	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea	Héron pourpré				1		1		
9	Flamingo	Phoenicopterus ruber	Flamant rose			c12	4		c6		
10	Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	Cygne tuberculé						✓		
11	Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	Tadorne de Belon			✓	✓	✓	✓		
12	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Canard colvert		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Shoveler	Anas clypeata	Canard souchet				2				
14	Pochard	Aythya ferina	Fuligule milouin				✓				
15	Red-crested Pochard	Netta rufina	Nette rousse				3		2		
16	Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos	Aigle royal					1			
17	Short-toed Eagle	Circaetus gallicus	Circaëte Jean-le-Blanc			1	3	2	3	1	1
18	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus	Aigle botté							1	
19	Red Kite	Milvus milvus	Milan royal						3		
20	Black Kite	Milvus migrans	Milan noir				1		2	2	
21	Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	Busard des roseaux			1	2		2	1	
22	Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus	Busard Saint-Martin							1	1
23	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	Buse variable		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	1
24	Honey Buzzard	Pernis apivorus	Bondrée apivore				c17	6	c45		3
25	Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	Épervier d'Europe				✓		✓		
26	Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	Faucon crécerelle		√	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanii	Faucon crécerellette						c12		
28	Hobby	Falco subbuteo	Faucon hobereau		2	3	1		2		
29	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	Faucon pèlerin							1	
30	Red-legged Partridge	Alectoris rufa	Perdrix rouge				3		2		
31	Coot	Fulica atra	Foulque macroule			✓	✓		✓		
32	Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	Huîtrier pie				✓				
33	Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta	Avocette élégante			c12	c6		c6		
34	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	Echasse blanche			c6	c6		c20		
35	Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	Grand gravelot			1					
36	Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus	Gravelot à collier interrompu						3		
37	Dunlin	Calidris alpina	Bécasseau variable						c80		
38	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	Chevalier guignette			2	2				
39	Redshank	Tringa tetanus	Chevalier gambette				3				
40	Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	Chevalier aboyeur				2		1		
41	Black-headed Gull	Larus ridibunkus	Mouette rieuse			1	1		✓		
42	Slender-billed Gull	Larus genei	Goéland railleur				2				
43	Mediterranean Gull	Ichthyaetus melanocephalus	Mouette mélanocéphale				c12				
44	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus cachinnans	Goéland leucophée	✓	✓	/	✓ ×	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Little Tern	Sternula albifrons	Sterne naine				1				
46	Sandwich Tern	Thalasseus sandvicensis	Sterne caugek				2				
47	Caspian Tern	Sterna caspia	Sterne caspienne				1				
48	Common Tern	Sterna hirunda	Sterne pierregarin				· ·		✓		
49	Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybridus	Guifette moustac				3		c6		

				April/May							
	Common name	Scientific name	French Name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
50	White-winged Black Tern	Chlidonias leocopterus	Guifette leucoptère				2				
51	Rock Dove	Columba livia	Pigeon biset							1	
52	Stock Dove	Columba oenus	Pigeon colombin				3		2		
53	Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	Pigeon ramier			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
54	Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	Tourterelle turque	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
55	Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur	Tourterelle des bois				Н				
56	Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	Coucou gris				Н				
57	Great Spotted Cuckoo	Clamator glandarius	Coucou geai				2				1
58	Tawny Owl	Strix aluco	Chouette hulotte								Н
59	Swift	Apus apus	Martinet noir	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Alpine Swift	Apus melba	Martinet à ventre blanc							c20	с6
61	Hoopoe	Upuga epops	Huppe fasciée		Н	Н		1	Н	Н	1
62	Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	Guèpier d'Europe				c40	c12	c30	c6	
63	Roller	Coracias garrulus	Guepier d'Europe						2		
64	Skylark	Alauda arvensis	Alouette des champs				✓				
65	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	Cochevis huppé		1	2	1		1	Н	
66	Woodlark	Lullula arborea	Alouette Iulu				1		1		
67	Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	Hirondelle des rivages			✓	✓				
68	Crag Martin	Ptynoprogne rupestris	Hirondelle des rochers			✓			✓	✓	
69	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Hirondelle rustique		1	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
70	Red-rumped Swallow	Hirundo daurica	Hirondelle rousseline							c12	
71	House Martin	Delichon urbica	Hirondelle de fenêtre		✓	√	✓	✓	√	√	✓
72	Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris	Pipit rousseline		1		2		1		
73	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	Bergeronnette grise					✓			
74	Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava	Bergeronnette citrine			✓	✓	✓			
75	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	Bergeronnette des ruisseaux		✓						
76	Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Troglodyte migron					Н			
77	Dunnock	Prunella modularis	Accenteur mouchet		✓						
78	Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Rougegorge famillier			✓		/			
79	Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	Rossignol philomène		Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н
80	Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	Rougequeue à front blanc	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros	Rougequeue noir				✓	✓			
82	Common Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	Traquet motteux					√			
83	Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe hispanica	Traquet oreillard					1			
84	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius	Monticole bleu			1		<u> </u>		1	
85	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	Grive draine			'		Н	Н		
86	Blackbird	Turdus viscivorus Turdus merula	Merle noir	✓	✓	✓	✓	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		✓	✓
87	Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	Fauvette à tête noire	'	· ·	· ·	· ·	· ·	· ·	· ·	· ·
	Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca	Fauvette babillarde		, 	, 	,	Н			Ť
88	Sardinian Warbler	-			✓	✓	/	Π ✓	✓	✓	✓
89		Sylvia melanocephala	Fauvette mélanocéphale		•	, v	· ·	•	✓	•	Ť
90	Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	Fauvette grisette				\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	4	_	4	
91	Subalpine Warbler	Sylvia cantillans	Fauvette passerinette			Н		1		1	
92	Dartford Warbler	Sylvia undata	Fauvette pitchou								2
93	Fan-tailed Warbler	Cisticola juncidis	Cisticole des joncs				4		3		-
94	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	Bourscarle de Cetti				V		√		-
95	Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	Rousserolle effarvatte				·				_
96	Great Reed Warbler	Arocephalus arundinaceus	Rousserolle turdoïde				1		1		_
97	Melodious Warbler	Hippolais polyglotta	Hippolaïs polyglotte						1		1
98	Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	Pouillot fitis				1		1	Н	1
99	Wood Warbler	Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Pouilot siffleur		1		1				
100	Bonelli's Warbler	Phylloscopus bonelli	Pouillot de Bonelli				1			Н	Н

							Apr	il/May			
	Common name	Scientific name	French Name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
101	Firecrest	Regulus ignicapillus	Roitelet triple bandeau			Н				1	
102	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	Gobemouche gris						1	1	
103	Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca	Gobemouche noir		2		3		3	1	2
104	Great Tit	Parus major	Mésange charbonnière	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
105	Coal Tit	Periparus ater	Méssange noire								
106	Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	Mésange bleue	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Crested Tit	Lophophanes cristatus	Mésange huppée			✓					
108	Short-toed Tree-Creeper	Certhia brachydactyla	Grimpereau des jardins		✓						✓
109	Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio	Pie-grièche écorcheur						1		
110	Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator	Pie-grièche à tête rousse						1		
111	Magpie	Pica pica	Pie bavarde	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
112	Jay	Garrulus glandarius	Geai des chênes				✓	✓		✓	
113	Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	Choucas des tours		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	Carrion Crow	Corvus corone corone	Corneille noire	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	Raven	Corvus corax	Grand corbeau					5		2	
116	Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Etourneau sansonnet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus	Loriot d'Europe				1		✓	✓	
118	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	Moineau domestique	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Rock Sparrow	Petronia petronia	Moineau soulcie							2	
120	Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	Pinson des arbres	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
121	Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	Linote mélodieuse			1	✓	✓	✓		✓
122	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	Chardonneret élégant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
123	Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris	Verdier d'Europe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	Serin	Serinus serinus	Serin cini	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
125	Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	Bruant des roseaux				Н				
126	Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus	Bruant zizi					✓	✓		✓
127	Corn Bunting	Millaria calandra	Bruant proyer		Ì		✓	1	1	1	