# France - Carcassonne and Cathar Country

Naturetrek Tour Report

27 April – 4 May 2014





Aphyllanthes monspeliensis



2014 Naturetrek Group at Fontfroide Abbey



Report and images compiled by Mark Galliott



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### Day 1

# Sunday 27th April

### Sunny, windy

The group travelled to Montpellier via Gatwick, arriving on time in the late afternoon. They were met by Mark and Jason who are permanent residents in France. After loading up our two minibuses and exiting the hire car park, we set off along the *autoroute* on the hour long journey to our hotel in Vinassan. It was sunny and quite warm, but the local Tramontane wind (which blows down from the Pyrenees Mountains) was blowing strongly, somewhat taking the edge off the temperatures. Weather-wise, this was to be the theme for the rest of the week, the wind actually preventing the bad weather in the rest of France from reaching us!

On arrival at the hotel, we were directed to our rooms by Jean-Yves and Kristina, the hospitable patrons of the Mas de Pierrot, before reconvening to sample some local wines generously provided by our hosts and then enjoying the first of the very good evening meals of the week. Outside we could hear the liquid song of the resident Nightingale and the tinkling calls of Serin, the former singing every day, but as is usual very loath to show themselves.

### Day 2

# Monday 28th April

### Sunny, windy

We awoke to the sound of two Hoopoes evidently competing to sing the loudest, so after taking breakfast Jason led the group from the hotel for a walk up onto the massif of La Clape, while Mark drove into Narbonne to purchase supplies for our daily picnics. Dartford and Sardinian Warblers were briefly glimpsed, with more Nightingales heard in the dense scrub, while Violet Limodore-Limodorum abortivum, and both the pink Grey-leaved-Cistus albidus and the white Sage-leaved C.salvifolius Rock-roses were also admired. Re-convening, we then loaded up the mini-buses and headed south down the coast to the Leucate Plateau, a rocky limestone headland sitting between the two coastal lagoons of Leucate and La Palme and considered one of the premier bird migration watch points in France as well as being a European protected site for botany.

On arrival, we ate our picnic lunch, before the birders scanned the skies, while the botanists searched the stony ground amongst the Aleppo Pines-Pinus halepensis for their first Mediterranean blooms. Tawny Pipit, Hobby, and Crested Lark were all probably resident, with Alpine & Common Swift and many Bee-eaters passing through overhead. Felty Bindweed-Convolvulus lanuginosus, White Henbane-Hyoscyamus albus, Salsify-Tragopogon porrifolius, the blue Aphyllanthes monspeliensis, Italian Catchfly-Silene italica, Serrate Spurge- Euphorbia serrata, Thyme Broomrape-Orobanche alba and our first Yellow Bee Orchids-Ophrys lutea were some of the many plants to be identified.

It was then on to the salt pans at la Palme, but unfortunately it was swarming with wind surfers, an increasingly activity along this coastline, so we continued to the lagoons at firstly Peyriac de Mer and then the nearby Roc du Salin. Corn Mignonette-Reseda phyteuma, Blue Hound's-tongue-Cynoglossum creticum and the lovely blue Iris germanica were amongst plants found, but the birds here were spectacular with Black-winged Stilt, Redshank, Greenshank, Avocet, Great-crested Grebe, White Stork, Kentish Plover and 100's of graceful Flamingos. Another bonus was a Grey Pelican, but we found out later that it was one of a number that had originally escaped from a nearby wildlife park! The strong wind was not ideal for insects, but during the day we did see Common Blue, Scarce & Common Swallowtail, Western Dappled White and a mating pair of Black-veined Whites.

# Day 3

### **Tuesday 29th April**

#### Sunny, warm

The next morning it was sunny and the wind had dropped somewhat, so with the promise of a fine day ahead we again headed down the coast road to turn right up into the Corbières hills stopping at the Col de Feuilla. Here amongst the garrique many colourful blooms were in flower including Woodcock Orchid-Ophrys scolopax, Rock Stork's-bill-Erodium petraeum, St Bernard's Lily-Anthericum liliago, Hemp Broomrape-Orobanche ramosa, the felty white Paronychia capitata and the rare Lily-Dipcadi serotinum. Orphean and Bonelli's Warbler were heard in the scrub, with Tree Pipit and Crested Lark also present.

Our main destination today was the spectacular and evocative Cathar Castle of Queribus, perched precariously at the top of a steep cliff with commanding views all around, so on reaching the parking area at the col below, we immediately ate a lovely picnic in the sun. After lunch the majority of the party then climbed the steep steps upwards to enjoy the spectacle, before also exploring the scrubby woodland in the vicinity here. Orchids found were Pyramidal-Anacamptis pyramidalis, Green-winged-A.morio, Small Spider-Ophrys araneola, and Sombre Bee Orchid-O.sulcata, while two other good plants were Stinking Hellebore-Helleborus foetidus and a lovely Speedwell-Veronica prostrata. Here we saw our only Red-billed Choughs of the week, with Cirl Bunting, Short-toed Eagle, Griffon Vulture and superb views of a very obliging Sub-alpine Warbler delighting the birdwatchers. This was also the best habitat of the week for butterflies with Glanville, Pearl-bordered & Spotted Fritillary, Marbled White, Orange Tip, Wall Brown and the lovely Cleopatra all seen.

We then descended into the Moury Valley to a layby site just on the edge of St-Paul-de-Fenouillet, which is well known for orchids, although this year it proved to be less exceptional than on previous occasions, probably because of the fine dry weather earlier in the spring. We did though find Lady-Orchis purpurea, Man-O.anthropophorum, Dense-flowered-Neotinea maculata, Sword-leaved Helleborine-Cephalanthera longifolia, the very attractive and rare Sawfly-Orchid-Ophrys tenthredinifera, and the Tongue Orchid-Serapius vomeracea.

Our last stop of the day was the impressive Galamus Gorge, where a hermitage can be reached by a vertiginous path from the car park. We contented ourselves though by enjoying the views and watching Crag Martins patrolling the rocks, with Montpellier Maple-Acer monspessulanum and a nice white Saxifrage-Saxifraga pentadactylus growing on the rocks. We then returned to the hotel via the busy auto-route enjoying good views of the coastline and many more Flamingos in the lagoons.

### Day 4

# Wednesday 30th April

### Sunny, windy

Another fine sunny but windy morning, as we left the hotel and skirted around the northern side of Narbonne, before entering the Corbière foothills, stopping firstly in Lagrasse, one of the many "most beautiful villages in France". Here the party split up into two groups, one enjoying the medieval charms of the village and the other exploring the river and a grassy slope with more orchids. Wild Jasmine-Jasminum fruticans, Hairy Yellow Vetch-Vicia hybrida, Star of Bethlehem-Ornithogalum umbellatum and Man, Small Spider, Pyramidal & Yellow Bee Orchids were all identified. The star of the show though was a Blue Rock Thrush holding territory on a house next to the river, even chasing off a Rock Sparrow, and giving the best views of this particular bird that the leaders had ever seen.

Leaving Lagrasse, 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. As before the dry spring had affected the numbers found, but we did add two new species to our list with Early Spider Orchid-Ophrys aranifera and the aptly named Ophrys magniflora, the latter endemic to this area. There were also masses of the Wild Tulip-Tulipa sylvestris ssp australis, and the seed-heads of both the diminutive Dwarf Iris-Iris lutescens, and a tiny Daffodil-Narcissus requinii. Cirl Bunting, Sub-alpine Warbler, Griffon Vulture and Woodlark added avian interest.

We then drove down to Fontfroide Abbey, managing to bag two picnic tables in the car park there so as to spread out and eat our lunch. This former Cistercian monastery was founded in 1093, and over the centuries since has had many 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 seeing a lovely Southern White Admiral and a Golden Eagle.

# Day 5

# **Thursday 1st May**

#### Sunny, windy

The weather was predictably settled, 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 a few times to scan the marshes noting Kentish & Little Ringed Plover, Little and Common Tern, Dunlin, Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt and over our heads the first of nearly 20 Honey Buzzards that were to pass through today struggling to make headway against the strong northerly westerly wind.

Parking our buses in the shade of some pine trees, we then set out on a circular walk around the rocky terrain of the island, noting many colourful blooms in flower including more Rock Stork's-bill, Pink Bindweed-Convolvulus cantabrica, Bath Asparagus-Orniyhogalum pyrenaicum, a Jerusalem Sage-Phlomis lychnitis, Blue Pimpernel-Anagallis caerulea, a very attractive Broomrape-Orobanche amethystea, which is here is parasitic on Eryngium campestre, and the impressive seed spikes of the Giant Orchid-Himantoglossum robertianum, which flowers very early in March. Two male Woodchat Shrikes gave us wonderful views just yards away, and at least 100 Bee-eaters passed through in several flocks, while a few butterflies were braving the strong wind including Lulworth Skipper, Spanish Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood, Brimstone and a nice Blue-spot Hairstreak.

After a late lunch in the shade, we drove over around the island, stopping twice at likely spots to scan the marshes, before reaching the Petit Castelou, an area of lagoon surrounded by the impressive Giant Reed-Arundo donax. Here we immediately surprised three White Storks, who took off and flew directly over our heads, with Cattle & Little Egret, Gadwall, Reed Bunting, Cetti's & Reed Warbler, Marsh Harrier and a single Whinchat also all noted. Good plants found were Round-leaved and Yellow Birthwort-Aristolochia rotunda and A. clematitis, Water Horsetail-Equisetum fluviatile and five species of Sedge-Carex. One last stop of the day on a very windy exposed viewpoint yielded a very distant Spoonbill, before we returned to the hotel for another lovely meal.

Day 6 Friday 2nd May

#### Sunny, windy

Today 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 the buses and walked towards 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 beds, Fan-tailed Warblers (Zitting Cisticola) were rising all around us on their song flights, while Cetti's, Sedge, & Reed Warblers and a distant Cuckoo could all be heard. Reaching the temple, we were somewhat put out by the knoll being closed off to allow a herd of goats to graze there, obviously totally obliterating the plants and at the same time stopping us from viewing the lake. Fortunately though, nearby a mooring channel had been dug to allow hunters better access to the lake and the higher level of the extracted mud actually gave us better views than we would have had from the temple! At least two Purple Heron were very noticeable close in to us, other birds seen being Red-crested & Common Pochard, Marsh Harrier, Common, Whiskered & Little Terns, Sand Martin and the bonus of a late migrating Osprey over the far side of the lake.

Next it was back through Vendres, and down 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. Unlike the previous year, we were in luck though with a single bird roosting in the trees here, its massive bulk emphasizing why it is the largest Owl in Europe. A little while later our picnic lunch was pleasingly disturbed by two beautiful Bee-eaters perched on the fence near us alongside a singing Corn Bunting. Little Robin-Geranium purpureum, Woodcock, Pyramidal & Bee Orchid-Ophrys apifera, Borage-Borago officinalis and Curry Plant-Helichrysum stoechas also added some floral interest, and a Provence Chalk-hill Blue was found sheltering in the grass, but a Giant Peacock Moth-Saturnia pyri, this time Europe's largest moth also made an lasting impression. After lunch, we then drove along the Aude River and up on to la Clape to a place where a building has been specially constructed to house a colony of the rare and declining Lesser Kestrel, now down to less than 40 breeding pairs in France.

Approaching the site by foot there were around six birds battling the strong wind to search for prey along the ridge, joined by a single Roller, which being a hole nester was probably also breeding here. After all this excitement, we decided to split the group with Mark taking three members for a walk up to a flooded sink hole surrounded by limestone cliffs called the Gouffre de l'Oeil-Doux. The rest continued on to a very windy coast at the Lac de Pissevaches to scan the salt pans, where Sandwich & Caspian Tern, Common Sandpiper, three Glossy Ibis and more Flamingos were noted.

### Day 7

# Saturday 3rd May

### Sunny, windy

We set off at our now usual time, but not before we had spotted a juvenile Golden Eagle close overhead, 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 and Alpine Swifts were circling around over our heads, and a Golden Oriole could be heard but as usual not seen, with Rock Sparrow also in the village. There were some interesting plants here on the dry limestone, including Small Alyssum-Alyssum alyssoides, Buckler Cress-Biscutella laevigata, Roman Nettle-Urtica pilulifera, Shrubby Hare's-ear-Bupleurum fruticosum, Sermountain-Laserpitum gallicum, Shepherd's Needle-Scandis pectin-veneris and the strange Squirting Cucumber-Echallium elaterium.

After reassembling back at the minibuses 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 checklist of interesting plants, birds and other wildlife, before the last of our delicious dinners.

# Day 8

# Sunday 4th May

#### Sunny, windy

We awoke again to sunshine and wind on our last day in France but as our flights were not until the afternoon we still had a chance to enjoy another excursion in to the surrounding countryside. Driving towards Gruissan, we turned off left up into the pine forest and stopped to park amongst the trees, before gradually walking up the steep path to the Chapel of Notre Dame des Auzils and its attendant cemetery, both dedicated to the many seamen and fishermen that have perished at sea from the local port and further afield in France and elsewhere. Two Nightingales were in full voice here, with a Hobby and many more Honey Buzzards on passage overhead, while Giant Fennel-Ferula communis, and our first Lizard Orchid-Himantoglossum hircinum, although still only in bud, were enjoyed, with Spanish Gatekeeper and Wall Brown also on the wing. It was an interesting and lovely walk, a fitting way to end our week. It was the back to the hotel for a leisurely buffet lunch, before reluctantly saying our farewells to Jean-Yves and Kristina and leaving for the airport at Montpellier, where we also said goodbye to Jason and Mark, who were headed for the railway station for their respective trains back up through France. Despite the incessant wind throughout the week, we had miraculously missed any rain and everyone agreed we had enjoyed a marvellous week discovering the rich flora and wildlife of this beautiful region.

# **Species Lists**

# Plants

Family	Scientific name	Common name
ACERACEAE	Acer monspessulanum	Montpellier Maple
AMARYLLIDACEAE	Narcissus requinii	Small Yellow Daffodil
ANACARDIACEAE	Pistachia lentiscus	Mastic Tree
	P. terebinthus	Turpentine Tree
APIACEAE	Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley
	Bupleurum fruticosum	Shrubby Hare's-ear
	Eryngium campestre	Field Eryngo (leaves)
	Ferula communis	Giant Fennel
	Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel
	Laserpitum gallicum	Sermountain
	Oenanthe lachenalii	Parsley Water Dropwort
	Scandix pecten-veneris	Shepherd's Needle
	Smyrnium olusatrum	Alexanders
	Torilus nodosa	Knotted Hedge Parsley
ARACEAE	Arum italicum	Large Cuckoo Pint
ARIALACEAE	Hedera helix	lvy
ARISTOLOCHIACEAE	Aristolochia clematitis	Birthwort
	A. pistolochia	
	A. rotunda	Round-leaved Birthwort
ASCLEPIADACEAE	Vincetoxicum hirundinaria	Swallow-wort
ASPLENIACEAE	Ceterach officinarum	Rustyback Fern
ASTERACEAE	Arctium lappa	Greater Burdock
	Aster tripolium	Sea Aster
	Bellis perennis	Daisy
	Calendula arvensis	Field Marigold
	Carduus pycnephalus	Plymouth Thistle
	Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle
	C. vulgare	Spear Thistle
	Dittrichia viscosa	Aromatic Inula (leaves)
	Evax pygmaea	Dwarf Cudweed
	Galactites tomentosa	Galactites
	Helichrysum stoechas	Curry Plant
	Lactuca perennis	Blue Lettuce
	Matricaria maritima	Sea Mayweed
	Senecio vulgaris	Groundsel
	S. inaequidens	
	Silybum marianum	Milk Thistle
	Tragopogon porrifolius	Salsify
	Urospermum dalechampii	Urospermum
BIGNONIACEAE	Jacaranda ovalifolia	Jacaranda
BORAGINACEAE	Borago officinalis	Borage

Family	Scientific name	Common name
	Cynoglossum creticum	Blue Houndstongue
	Echium vulgare	Vipers Bugloss
	Myosotis arvense	Field Forget-me-not
BRASSICACEAE	Alyssum alyssoides	Small Alison
	Arabis hirsuta	Hairy Rockcress
	Biscutella laevigata	Buckler Cress
	Brassica nigra	Black Mustard
	Cardaria draba	Hoary Cress
	Cheiranthus cheiri	Wallflower
	Diplotaxis erucoides	White Mustard
	Hormatophylla macrocarpa	
	Lobularia maritima	Sweet Alison
	Lunaria annua	Honesty
BUXACEAE	Buxus sempervirens	Box
CAMPANULACEAE	Campanula rapunculus	Rampion Bellflower
CAPRIFOLIACEAE	Lonicera etrusca	Etruscan Honeysuckle
	L. implexa	Mediterranean Honeysuckle
CARYOPHYLLACEAE	Paronychia capitata	
	Silene italica	Italian Catchfly
	S. vulgaris	Bladder Campion
CHENOPODIACEAE	Anthrocnemum perenne	Perennial Glasswort
	Beta vulgaris ssp maritima	Sea Beet
	Halimione portaculoides	Sea Purslane
	Salicornia europaea	Glasswort
	Sueda vera	Shrubby Seablite
CISTACEAE	Cistus albidus	Grey-leaved Cistus
	C.laurifolius	Laurel-leaved Cistus
	C.monspeliensis	Narrow-leaved Cistus
	C.salvifolius	Sage-leaved Cistus
	Fumana thymifolia	Thyme-leaved Fumana White Rock-rose
CNEORACEAE	Helianthemum appeninum	
	Cneorum tricocon	Cneorum
CONVULVULACEAE	Calystegia sepium C. cantabrica	Hedge Bindweed Pink Bindweed
CODVIACEAE	C. lanuginosus	Felty Bindweed Hazel
CORYLACEAE	Coryllus avellana	
CRASSULACEAE	Sedum dasyphyllum	Thick-leaved Stonecrop
CHCURRITACEAE	Umbilicus rupestris	Wall Pennywort
CUCURBITACEAE	Bryonia cretica Ecballium elaterium	White Bryony
CURRECCACEAE		Squirting Cucumber
CUPRESSACEAE	Cupressus sempervirens	Italian Cypress
	Juniperus oxycedrus	Prickly Juniper
CYDEDACEAE	J. phoenicia	Phoenician Juniper
CYPERACEAE	Carex acutiformis C. flacca	Lesser Pond Sedge
	C. IIduca	Carnation Sedge

Family	Scientific name	Common name
	C. otrubae	False Fox Sedge
	C. spicata	Spiked Sedge
	Juncus acutus	Sharp Rush
	J. maritimus	Sea Rush
	Scirpus holoschoenus	Round-headed Club-rush
DIPSACACEAE	Dipsacus fullonum	Wild Teasel
	Scabiosa atropupurea	Mournful Widow
EQUISETACEAE	Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail
	E. fluviatile	Water Horsetail
ERICACEAE	Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree
	Calluna vulgaris	Ling
EUPHORBIACEAE	Euphorbia characias	Large Mediterranean Spurge
	E. cyparissias	Cypress Spurge
	E. esula	Leafy Spurge
	E. portlandica	Portland Spurge
	E. serrata	Serrate Spurge
	Mercurialis annua	Annual Mercury
FABIACEAE	Argyrolonium zanonii	
	Anthyllis vulneraria	Kidney Vetch
	Astragalus monspessulanus	Montpellier Milk-vetch
	Calicotome spinosa ssp infesta	Thorny Broom
	Cercis siliquastrum	Judas Tree
	Coronilla emerus	Large Scorpion Vetch
	C. minima	Small Scorpion Vetch
	Dorycnium pentaphyllum	
	Genista hispanica	Spanish Gorse
	G. scorpius	
	Hippocrepis comosa	Horseshoe Vetch
	Lathyrus aphaca	Yellow Vetchling
	L. sphaericus	
	Medicago arabica	Spotted Medick
	Psoralea bituminosa	Pitch Trefoil
	Spatium junceum	Spanish Broom
	Trifolium aureum	Large Hop Trefoil
	T. campestre	Hop Trefoil
	T. dubium	Lesser Trefoil
	T. pratense	Red Clover
	T. repens	White Clover
	T. stellatum	Starry Clover
	Ulex europaea	Common Gorse
	Vicia hybrida	Hairy Yellow Vetch
	Vicia sativa ssp nigra	Common Vetch
FAGACEAE	Castanea sativa	Sweet Chestnut
	Quercus coccifera	Holly Oak
	Q. ilex	Holm Oak
	Q. petraea	Sessile Oak

Family	Scientific name	Common name
	Q. pubescens	Downy Oak
FRANCKENIACEAE	Frankenia laevis	Sea Heath
FUMARIACEAE	Fumaria capreolata	Ramping Fumitory
	F. muralis ssp boreii	Wall Fumitory
GERANIACEAE	Erodium ciconium	Blue Storksbill
	E. cicutarium	Common Storksbill
	E. malachoides	Mallow-leaved Storksbill
	E. petraeum	Rock Storksbill
	Geranium lucidum	Shining Cranesbill
	G.molle	Dovesfoot Cranesbill
	G. purpureum	Little Robin
	G. rotundifolium	Round-leaved Cranesbill
GLOBULAIACEAE	Globularia punctata	Globularia
HYPOLEPIDACEAE	Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken
IRIDACEAE	Gladiolus segetum	Wild Gladiolus
	Iris germanica	Bearded Iris
	I. lutescens	Dwarf Iris (seed heads)
	I. pseudocorus	Yellow Flag
LABIATEAE	Lamium pupureum	Red Dead-nettle
	Lavandula angustifolia	Narrow-leaved Lavender
	L. stoechas	French Lavender
	Lycopus europaeus	Gypsywort (leaves)
	Phlomis lychnitis	Jerusalem Sage
	Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary
	Salvia pratensis	Meadow Clary
	Salvia verbenaca	Wild Clary
	Sideritis romana	Roman Sideritis
LULACEAE	Thymus vulgaris	Wild Thyme
LILIACEAE	Allium roseum	Rosy Garlic
	A. neopolitanum Anthericum liliago	Naples Garlic St Bernard's Lily
	Aphyllanthes monspeliensis	Aphyllanthes
	Asparagus acutifolius	Prickly Asparagus
	Asphodelus albus	White Asphodel
	Dipcadi serotinum	Dipcadi
	Muscari comosum	Tassel Hyacinth
	M. neglectum	Grape Hyacinth
	Ornithogallum pyrenaicum	Bath Asparagus
	O. umbellatum	Star of Bethlehem
	Ruscus aculeatus	Butcher's Broom
	Smilax aspera	Common Smilax
	Tulipa sylvestris ssp australis	Wild Tulip
LINACEAE	Linum bienne	Pale Flax
MALVACEAE	Althaea officinalis	Marsh Mallow (leaves)
	Malva sylvestris	Common Mallow

Family	Scientific name	Common name
MORACEAE	Ficus carica	Fig
OLEACEAE	Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
	F. ornus	Manna Ash
	Jasminum fruticans	Wild Jasmine
	Olea europaea	Olive
ORCHIDACEAE	Anacamptis morio	Green-winged Orchid
	A. pyramidalis	Pyramidal Orchid
	Cephalanthera longifolia	Sword-leaved Helleborine (seed heads)
	Himantoglossum hircinum	Lizard Orchid
	H. robertianum	Giant Orchid (seed heads)
	Limodorum abortivum	Violet Limodore
	Neottinea intacta	Dense-flowered Orchid
	Ophrys apifera	Bee Orchid
	O. araneola	Small Spider Orchid
	O. aranifera	Early Spider Orchid
	O. insectifera	Fly Orchid
	O. lutea	Yellow Bee Orchid
	O.magniflora	
	O. scolopax	Woodcock Orchid
	O.sulcata	Sombre bee Orchid
	O. tenthredinifera	Sawfly Orchid
	Orchis anthrophorum	Man Orchid
	O.purpurea	Lady Orchid
	Serapius vomerata	Tongue Orchid
OROBANCHACEAE	Orobanche alba	Thyme Broomrape
	O. amethystea	
	O. crenata	
	O. gracilis	
	O. minor	Lesser Broomrape
PAPAVERACEAE	Glaucium flavum	Yellow Horned Poppy
	Papaver argemone	Prickly Poppy
	P. rhoeas	Corn Poppy
	Chelidonium majus	Greater Celandine
PLANTAGINACEAE	Plantago afra	
	P. coronaria	Buck'shorn Plantain
	P. lagopus	0 8
D. 4741140747	P. maritima	Sea Plantain
PLATANACEAE	Platanus x hybrida	London Plane
POACEAE	Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal Grass
	Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oak Grass
	Arundo donax	Giant Reed
	Briza maxima	Giant Quaking Grass
	Bromus hordaceous	Soft Brome
	Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot Grass

Family	Scientific name	Common name
	Festuca arundinacea	Tall Fescue
	F. ovina	Sheep's Fescue
	F. pratensis	Meadow Fescue
	Hordeum murinum	Wall Barley
	Lagarus ovatus	Harestail Grass
	Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye Grass
	Phragmites australis	Common Reed
	Poa annua	Annual Meadow-grass
	P. pratensis	Smooth Meadow-grass
	P. trivialis	Rough Meadow-grass
POLYGONACEAE	Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel
	R. acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel
	R. obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock
POLYPODIACEAE	Polypodium cambricum	Southern Polypody
PRIMULACEAE	Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel
	A. caerulea	Blue Pimpernel
RANUNCULACEAE	Clematis flammula	Sweet Clematis (leaves)
	Helleborus foetidus	Stinking Hellebore
	Ranunculus sceleratus	Celery-leaved Buttercup
RESEDACEAE	Reseda phyteuma	Corn Mignonette
RHAMNACEAE	Rhamnus alaternus	Mediterranean Buckthorn
ROSACEAE	Crataegus laevigata	Midland Hawthorn
	Potentilla reptans	Creeping Cinquefoil
RUBIACEAE	Cruciata laevipes	Crosswort
	Galium aparine	Goosegrass
	Rubia peregrina	Wild Madder
	R. tinctoria	Dye Madder
	Sherardia arvensis	Field Madder
DUT-105-15	Valentia muralis	E: 15
RUTACEAE	Ruta chalepensis	Fringed Rue
SALICACEAE	Populus alba	White Poplar
041174140747	Sorbus aria	Whitebeam
SANTALACEAE	Osyrus alba	Osyrus
SAXIFRAGACEAE	Saxifraga pentadactylus	
SCROPHULARACEAE	Antirrhinum majus	Wild Snapdragon
	Cymbalaria muralis	Ivy-leaved Toadflax
	Linaria pelisseriana	Jersey Toadflax
	L. trigyna	Oranga Mullain
	Verbascum phlomoides	Orange Mullein
	V. sinuatum	Blue Speedwell
SOLANACEAE	Veronica prostrata	Blue Speedwell White Henbane
SOLANACEAE	Hyoscyamus albus	
TAMARICACEAE	Solanum nigrum Tamarix gallica	Black Nightshade French Tamarisk

Family	Scientific name	Common name
THYMELACEAE	Thymelaea sanamunda	a Daphne
URTICACEAE	Parietaria judaica	Pellitory-of-the-wall
	Urtica annua	Annual Nettle
	U. dioica	Common Nettle
	U. pilulifera	Roman Nettle
VALERIANACEAE	Centranthus calcitrapa	
	C. ruber	Red Valerian
	Valeriana tripteris	Three-leaved Valerian
	Valerianella discoidea	Mediterranean Cornsalad
Butterflies		
Hesperiidae	Lulworth Skipper	Thymelicus acteon
Lycaenidae	Blue-spot Hairstreak	Satyrium spini
Lycaemuae	Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus
	Provence Chalk-hill Blue	Polyommatus hispanus
	Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas
Nymphalidae	Glanville Fritillary	Melitaea cinxia
Trymphanaao	Spotted Fritillary	Melitaea didyma
	Marbled White	Melanargia galathea
	Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui
	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Clossiana euphrosyne
	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta
	Southern White Admiral	Limenitis reducta
	Spanish Gatekeeper	Pyronia bathseba
	Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria
	Wall Brown	Lasiommata magera
	Scarce Swallowtail	Iphiclides podalirius
	Swallowtail	Papilio machaon
Pieridae	Black-veined White	Aporia crataegi
	Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni
	Cleopatra	Gonepteryx cleopatra
	Clouded Yellow	Colis crocea
	Orange Tip	Anthocharis cardamines
	Small White	Pieris rapae
	Western Dappled White	Euchloe crameri
	Wood White	Leptidea sinapsis
Other invertebrates		
	a Burnet moth	Zygaena lavandulae
	Crab Spider on Euphorbia	Thomisadae sp
	Glow worm larva	Lampyrus noctiluca
	Gendarme Bug	Lygaeus sp
	Bloody Nose Beetle	Timarcha tenebricosa
	Maybug	Melolontha melolontha

Family	Scientific name	Common name
	Paper Wasp	Polistes gallicus
	7 spot Ladybird	Coccinella 7 -punctata
	Lesser Bee Fly	Bombylius minor
	Pollen Beetle	Oxythyrea funesta
	Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa violacea
	Fire Bug	Pyrrhocoris apterus
	Giant Peacock Moth	Saturnia pyri
	Oak Processionary Moth larva	Thaumetopoea processionea
	Pine Processionary Moth larva	T. pityocampa
	Migratory Locust	Locusta migratoria
	a large Ruby-tailed Wasp	Chrysididae sp
	Cream-spot Tiger Moth	Arctia villica
	Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth	Hemaris fuciformis
Reptiles		
	Ladder Snake (dead)	Rhenechis scalaris
	Moorish Gecko	Tarantola mauritanica
	Wall Lizard	Podarcis muralis
Mammals		
	Badger	Meles meles
	Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus
	Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus
	Weasel	Mustela nivalis
	Red Squirrel	Sciurus vulgaris

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Birds (✓= recorded but not counted; H = Heard only)

							Apri	I/May			
	Common name	Scientific name	French Name	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
1	Great-crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	Grèbe huppé		✓				✓		
2	Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	Grand cormoran		✓				✓		
3	Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	Héron garde-bœuf					<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	
4	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	Egrette garzette		✓	✓		<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	
5	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	Héron cendré		✓		✓	<b>✓</b>	✓		
6	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea	Héron pourpré						3		
7	Flamingo	Phoenicopterus ruber	Flamant rose		c100	c60		10+	c100		
8	White Stork	Cicinia ciconia	Cigogne blanche		3			5			
9	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus	Ibis falcinelle						4		
10	Spoonbill	Platealea leucorodia	Patule blanche					1			
11	Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	Cygne tuberculé							✓	
12	Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	Tadorne de Belon		✓			✓	✓		
13	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Canard colvert		✓			✓	✓		
14	Gadwall	Anas strepera	Canard chipeau					<b>✓</b>	✓		
15	Pochard	Aythya ferina	Fuligule milouin						✓		
16	Red-crested Pochard	Netta rufina	Nette rousse						4		
17	Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus	Vautour fauve			3	1			2	
18	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	Balbuzard pecheur						1		
19	Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos	Aigle royal				1			1	
20	Short-toed Eagle	Circaetus gallicus	Circaëte Jean-le-Blanc		1	2				2	
21	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus	Aigle botté							1	
22	Black Kite	Milvus migrans	Milan noir	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	Busard des roseaux			1		3	6		
24	Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus	Busard Saint-Martin							1	
25	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	Buse variable	✓			✓		✓	✓	
26	Honey Buzzard	Pernis apivorus	Bondrée apivore					16	c10		c12
27	Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	Épervier d'Europe								
28	Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	Faucon crécerelle	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>
29	Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanii	Faucon crécerellette						c6		
30	Hobby	Falco subbuteo	Faucon hobereau		1	1		1		2	1

France - Carcassonne and Cathar Country

Tour Report

				April/May							
	Common name	Scientific name	French Name	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
31	Red-legged Partridge	Alectoris rufa	Perdrix rouge						2		
32	Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	Faisan de colchide					✓	<b>✓</b>		
33	Coot	Fulica atra	Foulque macroule		✓			✓	✓		
34	Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	Huîtrier pie					2			
35	Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta	Avocette élégante		4			1	c50		
36	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	Echasse blanche		10+			30+	10+		
37	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius	Petit Gravelot					1	4	2	
38	Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus	Gravelot à collier interrompu		3			6			
39	Dunlin	Calidris alpina	Bécasseau variable					c30			
40	Knot	Calidris canutus	Becasseau maubeche					c20			
41	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	Chevalier guignette		2				3		
42	Redshank	Tringa tetanus	Chevalier gambette		1			15+	2		
43	Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	Chevalier aboyeur		3			2	30+		
44	Black-headed Gull	Larus ridibunkus	Mouette rieuse		✓				✓		
45	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus cachinnans	Goéland leucophée	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
46	Little Gull	Larus minutus	Mouette pygmae						1		
47	Little Tern	Sternula albifrons	Sterne naine					1	4		
48	Sandwich Tern	Thalasseus sandvicensis	Sterne caugek						200+		
49	Caspian Tern	Sterna caspia	Sterne caspienne						1		
50	Common Tern	Sterna hirunda	Sterne pierregarin					✓	<b>✓</b>		
51	Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybridus	Guifette moustac					3	c6		
52	Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	Pigeon ramier	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓
53	Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	Tourterelle turque	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur	Tourterelle des bois		2				2	1	
55	Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	Coucou gris						Н	Н	Н
56	Eagle Owl	Bubo bubo	Hibou grand-duc						1		
57	Swift	Apus apus	Martinet noir	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓
58	Alpine Swift	Apus melba	Martinet à ventre blanc					4		c20	
59	Ноорое	Upuga epops	Huppe fasciée		3	1	4	Н	2	2	2
60	Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	Guèpier d'Europe		80+		c10	200+	c20	4	
61	Roller	Coracias garrulus	Guepier d'Europe						1		
62	Green Woodpecker	Picus viridus	Pic vert		Н						

							Apri	I/May			
	Common name	Scientific name	French Name	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
63	Skylark	Alauda arvensis	Alouette des champs			✓			✓		
64	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	Cochevis huppé		2	4		4			
65	Woodlark	Lullula arborea	Alouette lulu				4				
66	Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	Hirondelle des rivages						✓		
67	Crag Martin	Ptynoprogne rupestris	Hirondelle des rochers			3	6		✓	c12	
68	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Hirondelle rustique	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Red-rumped Swallow	Hirundo daurica	Hirondelle rousseline							4	
70	House Martin	Delichon urbica	Hirondelle de fenêtre	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris	Pipit rousseline		1				2		
72	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis	Pipit des arbres			1	1				
73	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	Bergeronnette grise		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
74	Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava	Bergeronnette citrine		✓			✓	✓		
75	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	Bergeronnette des ruisseaux				✓				
76	Dunnock	Prunella modularis	Accenteur mouchet			Н					
77	Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	Rossignol philomène		Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н
78	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros	Rougequeue noir	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Common Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	Traquet motteux					✓			
80	Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra	Tarier des pres					1			
81	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius	Monticole bleu				1			Н	
82	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	Grive draine		✓						
83	Blackbird	Turdus merula	Merle noir	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin	Fauvette des jardins			1					
85	Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	Fauvette à tête noire			Н	✓			Н	Н
86	Orphean Warbler	Sylvia hortensis	Fauvette orphee			1	Н	1			
87	Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala	Fauvette mélanocéphale		✓	✓			✓	✓	Н
88	Spectacled Warbler	Sylvia conspicillata	Fauvette a lunettes					Н			
89	Subalpine Warbler	Sylvia cantillans	Fauvette passerinette			5	2	2		2	
90	Dartford Warbler	Sylvia undata	Fauvette pitchou		2						
91	Fan-tailed Warbler	Cisticola juncidis	Cisticole des joncs					10+	8		
92	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	Bourscarle de Cetti					Н	Н		
93	Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	Rousserolle effarvatte					Н	Н		
94	Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	Pouillot fitis			Н	Н	Н		Н	

France - Carcassonne and Cathar Country

Tour Report

							Apri	l/May			
	Common name	Scientific name	French Name	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
95	Bonelli's Warbler	Phylloscopus bonelli	Pouillot de Bonelli			Н		Н			
96	Firecrest	Regulus ignicapillus	Roitelet triple bandeau				Н				
97	Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca	Gobemouche noir			1		1			1
98	Great Tit	Parus major	Mésange charbonnière	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
99	Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	Mésange bleue			✓		✓	✓	✓	
100	Crested Tit	Lophophanes cristatus	Mésange huppée								3
101	Short-toed Tree-Creeper	Certhia brachydactyla	Grimpereau des jardins		Н						
102	Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator	Pie-grièche à tête rousse					2			
103	Magpie	Pica pica	Pie bavarde	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
104	Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	Choucas des tours		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Carrion Crow	Corvus corone corone	Corneille noire	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	Crave a bec rouge						6		
107	Raven	Corvus corax	Grand corbeau			2				1	
108	Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Etourneau sansonnet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus	Loriot d'Europe							Н	
110	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	Moineau domestique	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
111	Rock Sparrow	Petronia petronia	Moineau soulcie				2			1	
112	Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	Pinson des arbres		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
113	Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	Linote mélodieuse		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	Chardonneret élégant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris	Verdier d'Europe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116	Serin	Serinus serinus	Serin cini	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	Bruant des roseaux					2			
118	Yellowhammer	Emberiza citinella	Bruant jaune				1				
119	Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus	Bruant zizi			1	1				
120	Corn Bunting	Millaria calandra	Bruant proyer			Н		3	3	Н	