

Carcassonne & Cather Country

Naturetrek Tour Report

16th – 23rd April 2022



Slender-billed Gulls by Jason Mitchell



Black-winged Stilts by Sarah Vallance



Common Wall Lizard by Jason Mitchell



Carcassonne ramparts by Jason Mitchell

Tour report by Jason Mitchell



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Participants - Tony Williams and Jason Mitchell (Leaders) with nine Naturetrek clients

Summary

Based in the quiet village of Vinassan, a short drive from Narbonne, we were perfectly placed to spend an exciting week exploring the department of Aude, albeit with a few brief sorties into neighbouring Hérault and Pyrénées-Orientales. All three departments fall within the beautiful region known as Languedoc-Roussillon and furthermore, most of the sites visited lay within the *Parc Naturel Régional (PNR) de la Narbonnaise en Méditerranée*. Equivalent to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the PNR of *Narbonnaise en Méditerranée* is home to an extraordinary diversity of animals, plants and landscapes, offering striking contrasts between sea, dry scrubland, wild hills and wetlands. The marshes offer a unique lagoon landscape within the region and combined with the Camargue to the east, represent an internationally important habitat for migrating and wintering birds.

Each day offered new treasures; from the Clape massif bordering our hotel to the plateau of Leucate falling vertically in the sea, through the rugged Corbières and surprising landscapes full of vineyards nestled between picturesque villages and forests. Over the ages, generations have shaped the landscape leaving prestigious vestiges, some of which we explored, including the tranquil Abbey of Fontfroide, gravity-defying Minerve, balanced between two gorges and the formidable walled city of Carcassonne.

But for a couple of thundery showers, we enjoyed an exceptional week blessed by mostly calm, sunny weather peaking in the low-twenties and bursting with the best sights and sounds of *Cathar Country* which will live long in our memories. However, wildlife alone does not make for a successful tour and a friendly and knowledgeable group made for a great atmosphere making the sampling of local food, drink and the Narbonnaise hospitality all the more enjoyable.

Day 1

Saturday 16th April

With the flight arriving more or less on time into Carcassonne, we soon loaded the minibuses and headed east. Less than an hour later, we arrived at our family run hotel in Vinassan and were soon settled into our comfortable rooms. Shortly afterwards, we met up to enjoy our first dinner together.

Day 2

Sunday 17th April

Breakfast on the patio was quite an experience, with Nightingales, Serins and Willow Warblers all providing a delightful acoustic backdrop. This was a regular feature each morning throughout the week but only once did we hear the distinctive call of a Scops Owl in the still of the morning air just before first light.

Following a long day of travel the day before, we stayed fairly close to our base for our first taste of Languedoc. A short drive took us to an area of vineyards where Little Bustards are known to breed. On our arrival several Glossy Ibis glided overhead, some of which landed nearby. Corn Buntings were conspicuous by their jangling songs but those of two male Ortolan Buntings created the most interest but despite our best efforts, they avoided being found. Fortunately, the same could not be said for a couple of confiding Lesser Kestrels which hunted over an adjacent field for flying insects. Their flight was reminiscent of their near cousin the Hobby, deftly plucking insects from the air. One even landed in a tree, allowing the photographers to rattle off some

shots. However, our attention was briefly distracted by a flock of magnificent White Storks soaring overhead and numbering close to a hundred individuals. A passing butterfly had Tony sprinting, net in hand, after what was soon confirmed as a Southern Frestoon, a delightful species related to the swallowtails. Returning to the main road, a flock of forty or so Cattle Egrets hunted frogs in a water meadow.

Arriving in the small village of Vendres, we enjoyed our first picnic lunch under the shade of some large Plane trees in the *place*. Next we visited a lake, where a Purple Heron briefly broke cover and a few strikingly white Mediterranean Gulls drifted gracefully overhead, giving their distinctive cat-like mewing calls. Wildfowl were unusually scarce but some Shelduck and a fine male Red-crested Pochard made it onto the tour list. At the far side of an expansive low-lying area, we walked the base of a rocky outcrop. In the unimproved grassland below, we found our first orchids, several splendid Yellow Bee Orchids and a single spike of Early Spider Orchid. Again, Lesser Kestrels were hunting nearby but a Short-toed Eagle was a little less confiding, dropping into tall grass shortly after being spotted, not to be seen again, so we assumed it was feasting on some unfortunate reptile – the species' staple diet. Back at the vehicles, the rattling flight call of a Great Spotted Cuckoo drew our gaze, with a smart adult bird flying past calling noisily. We then followed a small track which zig-zagged through an extensive area of vineyards, seeing more Cattle Egrets, Glossy Ibis and a small flock of migrating Bee-eaters before returning to the hotel.

Day 3

Monday 18th April

With the weather forecast predicting moderate winds from the north-west, we headed to the coast hoping for some migration. Initially we stopped at some salt-pans where we were briefly distracted from birds by a confiding Moorish Gecko sunning itself on a fence post. The pools were graced by Avocets and a pair of leggy Black-winged Stilts. The first migrants of the day swept east: Barn Swallows, House Martins and a few Common Swifts. Several members of the group remarked how nice it was to see these 'summer visitors' weeks before they normally would back in Britain. In another pool, we delighted at the sight of thirty or more summer-plumaged Slender-billed Gulls. This gracefully proportioned gull is a close relative of its much commoner black-headed cousin but is distinguished by the lack of black hood and a pleasing pink flush to the breast. In the distance a large flock of waders was comprised mainly of Dunlin but were joined by several Grey Plover.

Arriving at a viewpoint, we set up with several other birdwatchers in eager anticipation of a wave of migrating birds. We were not to be disappointed. Within minutes, the day's first Black Kite was seen struggling in over the waves, shortly followed by a female Marsh Harrier, then a smart tri-coloured male. All the while Common Swifts passed just metres over our heads, with a group of five Alpine Swifts scything past at break-neck speeds. Elsewhere a newly arrived Chiffchaff fed in the bushes and another gecko was spotted clinging to the wall of a tumble-down building.

Following a coffee stop in Gruissan, we made our way to a well-known migration spot called Roc de Conhilac. Although better known for autumn passage, we were delighted to discover several newly arrived migrants in an adjacent garden: Willow Warbler, Bonelli's Warbler and a cracking male Common Redstart. On the marshes below our lofty vista, a dozen Greenshank made darting sorties after their aquatic prey.

Moving south along the coast, we took lunch at Vendres where we spent a leisurely afternoon watching Flamingoes, Kentish Plovers and Yellow Wagtails from several coastal watch points. However, the best was left

until last, when a female Red-footed Falcon was seen intermingled with a small group of Black Kites as the two species made landfall.

Day 4

Tuesday 19th April

Waking to the “oop, oop” call of the local Hoopoe in the hotel garden, we again enjoyed an excellent breakfast before setting off to Cap Leucate, one of the region's best known migration sites. With the favourable north-westerly *Tramontane* blowing, we headed there in eager anticipation. On arrival, we set up looking south with the distant Pyrenees making for a magnificent backdrop. Immediately it was evident birds were on the move, with a constant stream of Common Swifts and *hirundines* zipping past. Our lofty viewpoint gave us the rare opportunity to look down on the birds from above, making for a unique viewing angle as they made their way north. In the tree tops below, a sharp-dressed male Pied Flycatcher made sorties in search of its insect prey. And as the morning progressed we added various finches, including Siskin, to the bird list along with a single Red-rumped Swallow. Towards the lighthouse, we made a circuit in search of orchids and other interesting Mediterranean plants, these included the fascinating Mastic Tree. Passing birds were still very much in evidence, with the stream of swifts and *hirundines* joined by new exciting migrants included Bee-eaters, a Hobby and a Tawny Pipit.

A brief stop at a lagoon on the outskirts of Leucate, provided the day's first Flamingoes, while a distant sandpiper eluded identification! By the minibuses, with a deft flick of the wrist, Tony netted a delicately marked Western Dappled White butterfly. In La Franqui (goes to Hollywood!), we set up our picnic on some handy tables in the shade overlooking the coast where two Oystercatchers probed for their lunch. Replete, a walk along the shoreline led us to a water-treatment works – with one of the group commenting that no wildlife tour was complete without such a visit! Unfortunately, on this occasion there was no sight of the crakes which are often noted here, but plants included the curious parasitic White Broomrape.

Our final stop of the day proved more productive. Parking at a saltpan visitor centre, we scanned the nearby *salines* where several new waders were spotted: dozens of Little Stint and Dunlin made up the greatest numbers but some nearby Kentish Plover stole the show with their nuptial display and associated antics.

Day 5

Wednesday 20th April

This morning we headed inland, first stopping to explore the *maquis* above Feuilla. A small, but stunning Woodcock Orchid was a popular find and a swath of St Bernard's Lily was immortalised in pixels by an appreciative group. A pair of calling Red-legged Partridge eventually broke cover, zipping low over the ground. However, one of our hoped for species at this site was the scarce and hard-to-identify Thekla's Lark and our luck was in! We spotted at least two individuals chasing each other and a third giving its 'species-clinching' song overhead. However, the star bird for most was a stunning male Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush which perched in full view for a good ten minutes, allowing the whole group ace views of this sought-after migrant.

Travelling through some delightful countryside we neared the Chateau du Queribus, the magnificent setting for one of many bloody Catholic sieges of the gentle Cathars. The steep path leading to this stunning castle, perched precariously on a high crag, was dotted with orchids including the delicate Southern Early Purple, the poorly named Dull Bee Orchid and several Small Spider Orchids. From the lofty setting, we revelled in the Pyrenean panorama complete with circling Griffon Vultures. Returning to the vehicles, we set up lunch on some

conveniently located tables, with an equally awesome view. After lunch, we headed off to the Galamus Gorge a short drive away.

With some opting for a siesta in the minibuses, most of the group descended the few dozen steps carved into the gorge where a chapel has been built into the rock face. All around a luxuriant vegetation made for a pleasant visit, complete with Crag Martins spiralling overhead.

As we arrived at our final destination of the day, the weather really closed in meaning only a few hardy souls left the dry of the vehicles to marvel at the orchid bank. Despite the challenging conditions, several new orchids made it onto the tour list, with the best including Lady and Dense-flowered Orchids.

Day 6

Thursday 21st April

In light of a dreadful weather forecast, it was decided to adapt the itinerary and make a visit to the splendid Narbonne Cathedral and the city's new Roman museum. However, we awoke to dry, if somewhat threatening weather but we stuck firm to the new plan which had been well received at dinner the previous evening. And so it proved a good decision. In part due to a very enjoyable visit to the majestic cathedral and excellent new Roman exhibition but also because of the heavy rain which arrived mid-morning!

In improving conditions, we returned to the hotel for lunch after which we spent the afternoon exploring sites around La Clape. First we headed to an étang, where again the main attraction was a series of water treatment lagoons. On arrival, we were greeted by the slightly odd sight of two Common Sandpipers pecking around the edge of the parking area, a sure sign the water level was rather high! On the lake, Teal, Gadwall and Shelduck were noted but two elegant Little Gulls caused the biggest stir as they 'dip-fed' alongside their Black-headed cousins. On the main lake, twenty or more Sandwich Terns were accompanied by a few Common Terns, while a Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail perched on the saltmarsh vegetation close to the road. A brief stop in Narbonne Plage turned up a couple of Common Swifts but not their hoped-for pallid lookalikes. So we made the last stop of the day high on La Clape. Here a classic car rally added interest during our vigil in wait for the local Bonelli's Eagles which it seemed had decided to sit tight in cool conditions. After a twenty minute wait not seeing eagles but enjoying the classic Porsches, we headed back to Vinassan.

Day 7

Friday 22nd April

In sharp contrast to the previous day, we awoke to the sun shining and following breakfast headed north-west in high spirits. Our first stop of the day was in search of the elusive Little Bustard but this time near Ouveillan. From a raised vantage point we scanned the landscape, a mix of vineyards and unimproved grassland. At first all was quiet but for the resident Corn Buntings giving their now familiar jangling song, when a strange rattling call caught everyone's attention. This was a cuckoo, not the familiar grey species known to all but the impressively large Great-spotted Cuckoo, named for its parasitic habits rather than its song. It made a fly-past, eventually settling in a small tree allowing excellent scope views and several photographs to be taken. Following the excitement, we returned to scanning the fields when Tony spotted a dark shape in the grass, which was soon confirmed as a Little Bustard! With views being quite distant, we relocated to the fields below and were soon enjoying great views of this scarce, sought-after species.

Moving on, forty minutes later we set up the picnic alongside the Cesse Gorge just outside the attractive Cathar village of Minerve. Here we found several fresh Early Spider Orchids and some good birds including a female Common Redstart and had the briefest of views of a male Subalpine Warbler. Back on the road, we stopped briefly to photograph a swathe of Sword-leaved Helleborines on the edge of the gorge.

Arriving at Minerve, we walked down into the village and as we reached the city walls two Short-toed Eagles drifted above our heads, giving breath-taking views of this majestic raptor. Once in the village, some of the group stopped for a coffee in a café along one of the quaint streets, while others explored the ramparts. Down by the river, a fine male Black Redstart collected nesting material, while several Crag Martins did the same. Along the river, Roman Nettles caught our eye with their distinctive round seeds. Returning slowly to the vehicles, two Ravens gave their croaking calls and another Short-toed Eagle circled over the gorge. With news that a Blue Rock Thrush was showing well, we quickly regrouped at a viewpoint overlooking the village walls and soon found the bird, a delicately marked female. Having enjoyed excellent views, we were then attracted to the calls of a Subalpine Warbler, who unlike the first showed extremely well.

Day 8

Saturday 23rd April

With our flight not departing until late afternoon, we decided on a walk up to the Chapel of Auzils near Gruissan, where we'd started the tour a week earlier. A short, sharp walk leads to a fascinating chapel which commemorates the many dozens of local boats and their crews lost at sea. Just as we started the ascent, the 'chuckling' calls of a Crested Tit rang out in the pines above us. With patience, we looked on as a single bird flitted just metres above, eventually joined briefly by a Firecrest. Reaching the top we explored the entrance to a cave below the chapel which is known to be a stopover for migrating bats. In the chapel we studied the replica paintings of the lost ships, as the originals had been stolen back in the 1960s. Back at the minibuses, we returned to the hotel for the last time where we loaded our cases and headed for Carcassonne.

Once at Carcassonne, we spent the rest of the day exploring this famous and quite spectacular world heritage site. Some of the group made a tour of the chateau and ramparts, while others enjoyed a much acclaimed cassoulet stew. Even inside the walls of the *Cité* there was wildlife present, with Black Redstarts singing from the rooftops and Blackcaps giving their sweet refrain from any available cover. With thundery showers forecast, it was a good thing there was plenty of shelter as an almighty cloud-burst broke above us, making for an unforgettable final afternoon in Languedoc!

With everyone back at the meeting point, we made the short drive to the airport before an uneventful flight back to the UK, following what had been a delightful week exploring Cathar Country.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers and exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays



www.twitter.com/naturetrektours



www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays

Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	April 2022							
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>						✓		
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>						✓		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		1						
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						✓		
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>					✓			
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>						✓		
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		c.85	4					
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		c.40	10					✓
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓						
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>					2			✓
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		1						3
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			6					
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		3	4	1		1	1	

Common name	Scientific name	April 2022							
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>							1	
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>			1		1			
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓		✓		
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				✓				
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		6	c.30	✓		✓		
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			c.5	✓		✓		
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			c.20					
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>			9	12				
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			c.15					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>						2		
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			c.20 0	✓				
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				c.25				
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			c.40	✓				
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓	✓		✓		
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>						2		
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>		6				2		
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			✓			c.30		
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		✓				6		
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		1						
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>							1	
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>		1					1	
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓	✓		✓			
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>			5				✓	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		3	5	✓		4	✓	
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		1						
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>			1					
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>		c.20						
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				1				
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>							2	
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>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Thekla's Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>					3			
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				4				
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>							✓	
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>				1				
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	

Common name	Scientific name	April 2022							
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>			1	✓			✓	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>					1		1	
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			1		✓	✓	✓	
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>				2				
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>							1	
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>				4	✓			
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			1				✓	
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>							2	
Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>					1			
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓		✓			
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>							1	
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			✓					
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			c.30	c.60	✓	✓		
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>				1				
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>							1	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			✓	✓				
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		1			1		1	
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		1						
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>		2						

Orchids

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved Helleborine
<i>H. robertianum</i>	Giant Orchid
<i>Neottinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid
<i>Ophrys araneola</i>	Small Spider Orchid
<i>Ophrys aranifera</i>	Early Spider Orchid
<i>Ophrys lupercalis</i>	Sombre Bee Orchid
<i>Ophrys lutea subsp. lutea</i>	Yellow Bee Orchid
<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock Orchid
<i>Ophrys sulcata</i>	Sombre Orchid
<i>Orchis olbiensis</i>	Southern Early Purple Orchid
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalarius</i>
Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Western Dappled White	<i>Euchloe crameri</i>
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapsis</i>
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>