France – Provence in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

20th - 27th April 2023



Scarce Swallowtail



Black-winged Stilt



Mediterranean Gull



Lady Orchid

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Summary

The eight day spring tour in Provence, South France was blessed with fine weather this year, in contrast to the wet and cold temperatures of the UK. Using Sault as our initial base in this rustic landscape, we enjoyed the fields and dry woodlands surrounding the small town and wandered further afield to explore the slopes of Mount Ventoux, the charming village of Brantes, the wonderful upland plateau at St May and the valley connecting to Gorge de le Nesque. Granite and limestone buttresses, clear stony streams and dry, loamy fields contrasted with the dwarf oak woodlands and thicker pine belts. Lavender is the dominant crop but protected valleys shield orchards, vineyards, cereal crops and grassy meadows, the general non-intensive farming providing room for wild flowers and emergent spring plants.

Warm thermals attracted giant Griffon Vultures, ever-searching Short-toed Eagles, Common Buzzards and Black Kites and the villages and cliffs were home to just arrived House Martins, Common and Alpine Swifts with a few Crag Martins for good measure. Night drives connected quickly with Roe Deer, Red Fox, Brown Hare and Badger and during our early morning walks we were serenaded by singing Black Redstarts, Common Redstarts, Serins, Firecrests and Western Bonelli's Warblers. Marsh Frogs called noisily from any standing water, toads flopped across the roads at night and sun-loving butterflies included the stunning Cleopatra, Moroccan Orange-tip, Glanville Fritillary and Scarce and Common Swallowtails. Lady Orchids were in bloom, wild Southern Tulips swayed in the warm breeze and blossom-laden trees and bushes were everywhere.

The second part of the tour explored a little of the Camargue from our hotel on the outskirts of the historic town of Arles. The reserve at Marais du Vigueirat, the fields and freshwater etangs at Mas D'Agon and the brackish waters of Etang de Vaccares are always firm favourites as they yield plenty of wildlife. We also visited the saltpans on the east side of the region and visited the excellent Parc Ornithologique at Pont de Gau for our fix of flamboyant pink flamingos, numerous herons and ibis, terns, gulls and waders. The relatively warm and early spring provided an opportunity to witness arrivals of Eurasian Bee-eaters, Rollers, a Wryneck or two with plenty of Whiskered and Gull-billed Terns and hundreds of the pink-flushed Slender-billed Gulls. Other wildlife included a night time encounter with Wild Boar, plenty of Coypus, a couple of displaying Little Bustards and a rush of dragonflies and sun-loving reptiles. We finished the tour with a visit to the stony plain of de Crau and enjoyed Stone Curlew, Lesser Kestrel, Southern Grey Shrike, Bath White and Western Marbled White butterflies and even an Ocellated Lizard and a couple of Great Spotted Cuckoos.

Day 1

Thursday 20th April

There was a twenty-minute delay in leaving Terminal Two at Heathrow as we departed on our BA flight to Marseilles. The airport there was relatively quiet on our arrival, and it didn't take too long to retrieve our bags and sort out our mini-bus hire, which was a nearly new Renault Trafic vehicle, which was fit for purpose. We bought some take-out lunch from the airport and with Viv and Tony now with us we headed off to our first venue – a small airstrip at Berre La Fare.

Although early in the season we were hoping that a Little Bustard or two might be on territory here and we were relieved to find a 'clicking' male shortly after our arrival. The insect-like call gave away the bird's location as it tried to hide in the fairly long grasses. We also saw Black Kite, Serin, Common Swifts and a Corn Bunting. White butterflies were on the wing and we saw Clouded Yellow, Scarce and Common Swallowtails and Brown Argus too.

After our enjoyable 35-minute stop, we ventured on northbound for the traditional Provencal town of Sault and our home for the next four nights. Wildlife en-route included a Hoopoe and Common Buzzards in vineyards – just after I had commented how poor they were for wildlife! Vocal birds heard with the window down included Nightingale, Woodlark, Green Woodpecker and Western Bonelli's Warbler. The weather was mostly sunny with cloud in the late afternoon and temperatures up to a very acceptable 19°C.

We arrived at Le Louvre at about 6.40pm and checked in. A briefing was next but the welcome drink of a white wine/chestnut liqueur was better! We ate our dinner at the rather late hour of 8pm which included carrot, cheese and ham soup, a pork and vegetable dish and concluded with tiramisu.

After a day of travelling most of us were feeling a little fatigued, but for some there was just enough energy for a one hour night drive looking for mammals! And it proved to be pretty productive with three Brown Hares, two Red Foxes, two Roe Deer, a Badger, some Marsh Frogs and we heard three European Scop's Owls.

Finally, to bed at 11pm.

Day 2

Friday 21st April

Our first venture for the day was a short walk from the hotel at 6.30am – heading east from the town after first scanning the mosaic of fields in the valley below the town. A distant Golden Oriole was singing in short bursts, and both Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers were also heard calling. Singing Cirl Buntings mostly remained hidden, but easier to see were Black and Common Redstarts and Western Bonelli's Warbler. A Nightingale was singing from the bottom of the valley, a Hoopoe was calling from a town garden and Cuckoo and Black Kite were noted. By the time the bread had been purchased from the artisan bakers down the road, the Golden Oriole had flown into the Horse Chestnut trees right outside the hotel and showed briefly.

Our breakfast was from 8am and after a supermarket visit to shop for our picnic lunch, we were away in the minibus by 9.25am. Trying to marry up the weather forecast and the locations to be visited sometimes creates a mismatch with the anticipated itinerary, but today a reasonable forecast provided us with an opportunity to visit, as planned, Mont Serein, just below the summit of Mont Ventoux and pay a visit to the lovely village of Brantes too. A little café at the base of the mountain outside Carpantras wasn't yet open but served us all a coffee anyway – a few common birds, butterflies and Violaceous Carpenter Bees were on show here too. Two thirds up the mountain road we made another roadside stop – the scenery is just too good to keep driving past – providing us with Crested Tits, Coal Tit and some fast-moving Alpine Swifts.

We reached the upland meadows and conifer woods of Mont Serein at noon and enjoyed a slow walk around. It was much cooler up here, perhaps no more than 8°C and we quickly found the fidgety and beautifully vocal Citril Finches, a local speciality. More Crested Tits made themselves visible and we saw Black Redstart, Serin, Nuthatch, Mistle and Song Thrush. A Black Woodpecker was calling but declined to show itself. Firecrests were singing but it was too cool and dull for the hoped-for lizards to show themselves.

After our walk we ate our picnic on one of the benches there. Unseen eyes were watching us and when we cleared away, some bread attracted the local pair of Ravens and they were seen swooping down for it and taking it away –

perhaps a pleasant diversion from their offal/carrion diet. A café was open nearby for coffee and toilet opportunities.

In the afternoon, after first confirming that, sadly, the summit of Mt Ventoux was closed off, we descended to the pretty village or commune of Brantes, perched on the side of a picturesque valley. Here we pottered along the quaint paths around the houses and Ann, in particular, was working hard on her botany. We enjoyed close views of Firecrest and Nightingale and other birds included two migrant Red-rumped Swallows plus Serin, Black and Common Redstart, Blackcap and hearing Western Bonelli's Warbler. Hummingbird Hawk-moth, Orange-tip and Small Heath butterflies were probably the best of the insects.

We returned to Sault, arriving at Le Louvre for about 5.40pm, this time with sufficient time for relaxation ahead of our Naturetrek checklist at 7pm and evening meal at 7.30pm. Our dinner included leek quiche, pesto pasta and ice cream and fruit salad with caramel.

Our slightly extended night drive from 9.10pm to 10.30pm yielded headlight/spot-lamp views of a Red Fox, seven Brown Hares, four Roe Deer and a few cats including an interesting individual that exhibited at least some traits of Wild Cat. Five Eurasian Scop's Owl were noisy, but remained hidden.

Day 3

Saturday 22nd April

Day three and the weather was a mixture of sun and cloud and was breezy with temperatures varying between 10-18°C. Our 6.30am morning walk took us up the incline to the top of the town where a Wryneck could be heard calling repeatedly. We manoeuvred into position and saw the bird in a Sitka, permitting reasonable views. It flew and settled again and was still calling sometime later. Other more predictable birds included territory-holding Black and Common Redstarts, White Wagtail, Kestrel, Skylark, Corn and Cirl Buntings. Short-toed Treecreeper and Firecrest were heard only and a Siskin flew over.

After breakfast and some grocery shopping we were off on our main excursion for the day at 9.20am, this time taking the road north to the beautiful upland plateau at St May. It's a slow journey winding around the narrow country roads of Provence, a blend of agriculture, rocks and scrub with fragments of woodland – very pleasing on the eye. Raptors en-route included Short-toed Eagles, Common Buzzard, Black Kite and seven Griffon Vultures. We took a pleasant coffee stop at Sainte-Jalle and whilst we were supping, five Bee-eaters flew over rapidly. There were lots of House Martins and we watched Serin and Goldfinches perched together and Blackcaps moved through the scrub alongside the lovely stream there. Several fly-by and perched butterflies included Scarce Swallowtail and Moroccan Orange-tip.

We moved on and drove the scenic river gorge before taking the steep track up to St. May. Arriving at 'our' picnic bench we elected to take an early lunch with Griffon Vultures overhead, a profusion of butterflies in the nearby gully and interesting plants including Lady Orchid. A singing Cirl Bunting was on view but not easy to see – a Short-toed Eagle was easier! We consumed the savoury selection of the picnic, packed up and drove a short distance to the car park and new toilets! A Tree Pipit perched up en-route. Then, from the car park we took a slow meander to the St. May wooden cross and the fabulous views looking across the valley and opposite ridges and hills. A Western Green Lizard scampered into the undergrowth – but a Common Wall Lizard was better behaved! Small Heath and Green Hairstreak butterflies were seen, and Swallowtails were providing good views by the cross.

Griffon Vultures often fly past spectacularly close below and above the ridgeline and several obligingly did exactly that. Small birds included Skylark and Woodlark singing simultaneously, Western Subalpine and Dartford Warblers likewise and other birds enjoyed were Mistle Thrush, Short-toed Eagle, Kestrel, Alpine Swift and Raven.

After our saunter it was time for drinks and our sweet course back at the minibus and then a slow drive back to Sault. En-route we encountered some Wild Goats on a rocky valley slope and we stopped in the commune of Aurel but a short walk didn't produce anything new – a Firecrest singing in the car park was about the best. Arriving back at our hotel at 6pm, we completed our checklist at 7pm and enjoyed our dinner at 7.30pm. A night drive produced sightings of two Roe Deer, three Red Foxes, five Brown Hares and unidentified bats (and a very large Toad)! No less than six Scop's Owls could be heard calling.

By this time the list of flora was beginning to take shape and other butterflies seen during the day included Glanville Fritillary, Rosy Grizzled Skipper, Brimstone, Cleopatra and the widespread Wall Brown.

Day 4

Sunday 23rd April

Our 6.30am morning walk headed through Sault on the east side, with a drumming Great Spotted Woodpecker being difficult to see perched but rather easier in flight. Scanning over the meadows, we saw two interacting Red Foxes who were oblivious to our presence. A Nuthatch showed briefly, Great Tits were foraging around buildings, Swifts emerged from under the eaves and lots of Black Redstarts included a superb adult male. House Martins were active and vocally we recorded Jay, Firecrest, Cuckoo, Green Woodpecker and Hoopoe. Despite being a Sunday morning, the local baker was again open for Viking bread and other varieties. The grocery store didn't open until 9.10am which delayed our departure until 9.30am. The day's weather repeated the previous pattern, but rain arrived at 6pm and continued into the evening.

Today was all about exploring the terrain nearer to Sault, so we began by driving down to the fields in the valley below the town and walking and driving slowly along the tracks between the fields containing Lavender and other produce. Southern Wild Tulips grew in the verges where of course a variety of other plants could also be found that enjoy the well-drained soil of this region. A pair of Hobby were perched up, a pair of Tawny Pipits were in the fields and there were plenty of Corn Buntings; Bee-eaters moved over us high up in vocal flocks and a Redthroated Pipit also went north, calling as it passed. A distant squadron of Griffon Vultures numbered twenty-three individuals. Lots of Skylarks, one Woodlark, a male Stonechat, two Northern Wheatear, Kestrels, Carrion Crows, Nightingales and Cirl Buntings plus Black Kite and Short-toed Eagle made this a very productive session. A Wryneck was heard calling and a Cuckoo gave us a good fly-by view. We drove on to the small lake in the Gorge de Nesque where a car rally was just concluding! At the lake a Great Reed Warbler could be heard singing but seemingly wasn't visible and other aquatic birds such as Cetti's Warbler, Water Rail, Moorhen and Little Grebe were all rather shy too. In comparison, Marsh Frogs and a particularly confiding and very vivid Western Green Lizard were keen to show off! We took a short wander along the stream of the gorge and enjoyed views of Sulphur Owl Fly, a mixture of butterflies and some Crag Martins. Flowers in the shady areas included Hepatica and there were examples of Stinking Hellebore. Painted Lady, Large Tortoiseshell and Black-eyed Blue had by now been added to the trip butterfly list.

We enjoyed our Sunday lunchtime picnic utilising the benches around the lake and where a singing Short-toed Treecreeper had added its voice to the chorus of bird song. After sampling the delicious French cheeses, breads,

salad, strawberries and much, much more we took a slow drive back into Sault to permit Graham, Phil and Mike a bit of time to enjoy a walk around the town and Wendy to be further inspired by the artistic formations and creations in the very well-maintained cemetery. The rest of us drove out to De Nesque viewpoint at Belvedere Castellaras where for the first time in ten years we witnessed nesting Griffon Vultures and were able to watch them tending to their tiny young too. A Peregrine was rather distant and there were lots of Alpine Swifts careering around. We returned to the hotel at the early time of 4.25pm to allow for further exploration of Sault and some quality time-out ahead of our check list and evening meal – a hot goat cheese salad, a fish dish main course and ice nougat sweet!

Fully sated, it was time for the night drive in search of nocturnal activity and we saw as many as six different Red Foxes. We found two buck Roe Deer jousting and they took no notice of us, there was no holding back, attacking each other right at the side of the road. Another Roe Deer, three Brown Hares, Common Toads and a Scop's Owl in flight with three others heard but not seen, were the main additions to the day list.

Day 5 Monday 24th April

Day five of our tour is also the day we migrate from Sault down to Arles for the second of our two centres.

The morning walk at 6.30am was pleasant with a light breeze and partly cloudy. Two Brown Hares cavorting in and out of the Downy Oak woodland were probably the comical highlight! Jays, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Shorttoed Treecreeper and the usual Common and Black Redstarts were our avian specials with calling Hoopoe, Great Spotted and Green Woodpecker remaining unseen. After breakfast and the supermarket shop, and all packed, we regretfully left Le Louvre and looked to horizons new. We stopped en-route at a little roadside meadow where we discovered Green Hairstreak, Rosy Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper and Map butterfly and more Sulphur Owl Flies. We then took a slow drive to Les Baux, a stunning Medieval settlement atop a limestone escarpment with stunning views all around. Unfortunately, it seemed the whole world was there too in sunny, spring weather. We completed a walk round the bottom of the escarpment, admiring the subtle shift to Mediterranean-type flora and with lots of Kermes Oak bushes. Blue Rock Thrush was a target bird quickly found plus Alpine Swifts, Crag Martins in a mid-air fight and brief views of singing Sardinian and Western Subalpine Warblers. We walked up into the old citadel to find legions of tourists – it was difficult to negotiate the narrow streets or enjoy the virtues of this very special place, so after grabbing a coffee or ice cream we sadly left to find somewhere quieter. We drove back to the pinewoods at La Caume and enjoyed another Naturetrek picnic with just the butterflies and a few other picnickers for company.

Once our picnic was packed away we drove south via Maussane–les-Alpilles and spotted an eagle directly over the road just west of Paradou. Expecting it to be a Booted Eagle, we were delighted to identify it as a fine Bonelli's Eagle, now a rare and difficult-to-see resident of the area.

We arrived at Hotel des Granges just outside Arles at 4.30pm, having watched a Marsh Harrier quartering cereal fields nearby just beforehand. Here we checked in, confirmed the presence of a singing Nightingale in the hedge parallel to the hotel Oleander hedge, and then some of our party relaxed in the outdoor pool made available to us. There was some downtime before our dutiful checklist at 7pm with Ann in particular taking control of the botany list and spending most of her time researching and assessing encountered plants and flowers. After our 7.30pm dinner there was an opportunity for a night drive in our new surroundings, but it was much quieter here with a

Red Fox, a Rabbit and an unidentified bat! But there were Moorish Geckos waiting for us on the walls of the reception entrance when we arrived back!

Day 6

Tuesday 25th April

Our early morning walk down the track alongside the hotel to the canal and back was productive with a male Little Bustard on territory, a calling Quail, Crested Lark, some fly-over Bee-eaters, Black Kite and Common Buzzard, lots of Nightingale, Zitting Cisticolas and two or three migrant Tree Pipits. Round-leaved Birthwort is an interesting plant growing in the ditches and verges here. We were back by 7.40am and following breakfast we left the hotel at about 9am and conveyed Wendy to the historic town of Arles with its drawings exhibition at a number of venues and of course much more. The remainder of us headed to the super nature reserve at Marais du Vigueirat where we enjoyed a plethora of wildlife. The shallow fresh water lagoons attracted Squacco Heron, Red-crested Pochard, Little Grebe, Wood Sandpipers, Black-winged Stilts and Glossy Ibis. The Camargue White Horses were on show here, some mares heavily pregnant, others with very cute chestnut foals! Eyes to the skies picked up on Short-toed Eagle, Marsh Harrier and Hobby and White Storks spiralled above us. Coypus were active in the shallows; these very large South American rodents enjoying the lush waterside vegetation to feed on.

We took a circular walk around a small part of the reserve encountering Great White Egret, Yellow Wagtail, Gull-billed Tern and even a few Turtle Dove and a female Lesser Spotted Woodpecker out in the open on a dead Elm.

We identified our first dragonflies of the trip in the shape of Black-tailed Skimmer, Lesser Emperor, Hairy Hawker, Red-veined Darter and Blue-tailed Damselfly. We also managed views of Western Green Lizard and Common Wall Lizard in the sunny, bright conditions with the day temperature perhaps reaching as high as 23°C. The car park has some handy picnic tables, so we made use of these to have lunch following our circuit of the reserve.

Then, after lunch we drove south and caught the ferry over the River Rhone to Salin de Giraud. From here we drove to the coast at Plage de Piemanson – checking the saltpans en-route. There were not many waders but we did manage Common Sandpiper, Little Stint and Kentish Plover and Avocets. Hundreds of Slender-billed Gulls gave us the impression they had just arrived back from their African wintering quarters. There were also good numbers of Sandwich Tern and up to forty Spoonbills and Great Crested Grebes on the adjacent lagoons and three stately Caspian Terns. And of course, we saw our first Greater Flamingos, both settled on the saltpans and in flight. A check of the sea didn't yield much of interest, so we retraced our steps to Salin de Giraud and from here took a slow journey back to our hotel lingering at a waterlogged roadside field containing super numbers of pristine Mediterranean Gulls, Jackdaws and Glossy Ibis. We arrived back at Hotel des Granges at 6pm, met up with Wendy, who confirmed she had really enjoyed herself in Arles. We took an early dinner time of 7pm to provide for an evening venture to an Eagle Owl site. En-route we saw a Roller and a spectacular flock of up to a hundred Bee-eaters resting in a field. We heard 'the Grand Duke' but the Eagle Owl sounded as if it was calling from behind the limestone buttresses rather than on them and we didn't see him. A Nightjar was heard churring here too but wasn't glimpsed in the evening light and we arrived back at the hotel for 10pm with the Geckos again waiting for us!

Day 7

Wednesday 26th April

The good weather held for us with a partly cloudy day, a light breeze with dry conditions and the daytime temperature up to 25°C. Our 6.30am morning walk confirmed the continuing presence of the Little Bustard and the distant calling Quail. We also saw a Hobby, the Crested Larks again, a smart male Whinchat, three Northern Wheatears, Nightingales, several Tree Pipits and Yellow Wagtails. We were back for 7.40am and after breakfast and a stock up on provisions we left for our day excursion at 9.10am. Phil and Graham were conveyed to Arles where they enjoyed themselves for much of the day.

The rest of the group ventured forth to the rustic area known as Mas D'Agon, an area of open flat fields, remnant sedgey habitat and freshwater étangs (lakes), definitely one of the best birding areas in the Camargue depending on the water levels. Bee-eaters showed very well, and we notched up Crested Lark, Tree Sparrow, Stonechat, Northern Wheatear and a rather distant, perched-up Great Spotted Cuckoo. The area around the causeway between the étangs was particularly impressive with an elusive male Pied Flycatcher in the garden there, Purple Herons flying around, a hidden but booming Eurasian Bittern, Western Swamphen, Whiskered, Black and Gull-billed Terns, two Collared Pratincoles, Bearded Tits, lots of Glossy Ibis, Red-crested Pochard and Great Crested Grebes. Several dead Coypus looked as if they had been deliberately killed. Birds of prey included hunting Short-toed Eagles and Marsh Harriers.

Next we moved to Etang du Vaccares and La Capeliere where birds amounted to a small flock of Whimbrel, Spotted Redshanks, Greenshank, Spoonbill, Greater Flamingo, White Storks and a well posed Egyptian Grasshopper. Some of the traditional Camargue Black Bulls occupy the fields on the edge of the étang.

With time marching on we drove around to another area of the Camargue to the Parc Ornithologique. Here we found some picnic tables and enjoyed our lunch, the last one of the tour. Nightingales sang around us, and a Brown Rat came to pinch some food put out for the local House Sparrows. Captive Eurasian Eagle Owls provide a perspective as to how big these huge owls are! We took a slow walk around the lagoons and islands of this spectacular reserve with its very close Greater Flamingos and heronry with close and active Grey Herons, Little Egrets, Cattle Egrets and Glossy Ibis. This year and a colony of Mediterranean Gulls had moved in which of course increases the vibrancy and clamour of the place. Little Terns, Common and Wood Sandpipers, Spotted Redshank and even a Temmick's Stint added further diversity with Avocets and Black-winged Stilts intent on breeding there. A female Sardinian Warbler showed nicely, and whiskery Coypus entertained us.

We met back at the café for a 5pm coffee and left at 5.30pm for the drive back to our hotel. Our dinner was at 7.30pm and a night drive around the fields and country lanes found us a drove of Wild Boar, which scattered on our approach, and a spotlighted Stone Curlew.

Day 8

Thursday 27th April

Our last day of the tour and we said good-bye to Viv and Tony as they left to catch an early train from Arles to travel via lunch in Paris and onward to home. There were no takers for an early morning walk but a Stone Curlew was in a field next to the hotel.

After breakfast and all packed, we left the hotel at about 9am and drove to the La Crau area via the small village of Dynamite. A Turtle Dove and two Stone Curlew provided views from the roadside with two Hoopoes and a Corn Bunting nearby.

At the stony plain of La Crau we took a look at the stream bordering the north section which provided views of Banded and Copper Demoiselle, Egyptian Grasshoppers, some Chub-like fish and Marsh Frog. Walking the track onto the plain we encountered Western Marbled White and Bath White butterflies fluttering around the Asphodels. The best birds were two Great Spotted Cuckoos perched up by the minibus as seen by Graham and Phil. Griffon Vultures, Black Kite, Tawny Pipit, Short-toed Larks and up to six Lesser Kestrels were all admired. We could hear distant Green Woodpeckers and Golden Oriole and watched a pair of Southern Grey Shrikes moving from one low bush to another. An Ocellated Lizard was a good find. Cetti's Warbler and Nightingale let their guard down and showed to us and then it was time to go. We left this interesting area at about 12 noon and arrived at Marseilles Airport for 1pm. Here it was time to say our good-byes with Neil staying on to manage two Naturetrek 'Camargue in Spring' tours. The final six left the airport courtesy of BA – hopefully with great memories of the 'Provence in Spring' tour of 2023.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

I=Introduced		April 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Mute Swan	Cygnus olor						✓	✓		
Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna						✓			
Gadwall	Mareca strepera						√	✓		
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos		√		√		√	✓	✓	
Red-crested Pochard	Netta rufina						√	✓		
Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix						Н	Н		
Common Pheasant - I	Phasianus colchicus						√	√		
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis		Н		Н		√	Н		
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus						√	✓		
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus						√	√	✓	
White Stork	Ciconia ciconia					1	√	√	√	
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus						√	√		
Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia						√	√		
Bittern	Botaurus stellaris							Н		
Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis					√	√	√	√	
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides						√			
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea			1			√	√		
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea							√		
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta						√	√		
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo						√	√		
Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus		√	√	√	1	,	•		
Short-toed Snake Eagle	Circaetus gallicus		2	· ✓	· √		3	6		
Bonelli's Eagle	Aquila fasciata				,	1				
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus		1			1		1		
Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus					1	3	√		
Black Kite	Milvus migrans	2	/	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	√	\ \ \ \	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Little Bustard	Tetrax tetrax	1♂	•	· ·	,	•	1♂	1♂		
Water Rail	Rallus aquaticus				Н		Н			
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus		Н		Н		√	√		
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra						√	√		
Purple Swamphen	Porphyrio porphyrio						V	√		
Eurasian Stone-curlew	Burhinus oedicnemus					Н		1	3	
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus						√	√	✓	
Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta						√	√	√	
Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus						√	_ v	\ \ \	
Collared Pratincole	Glareola pratincola						V	√		
Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula						√	V		
Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus						✓ ✓	√		
Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii						V	✓ ✓		
Little Stint	Calidris minuta						√	V		
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago						GO			
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glarcola						-	√		
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos						√			
Common Redshank	Tringa totanus						√ /	✓		
Spotted Redshank	Tringa totarius Tringa erythropus						√	,		
Greenshank								√		
Greenshank	Tringa nebularia							✓		

I=Introduced					April				
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus							✓	
Slender-billed Gull	Chroicocephalus genei						✓		
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus						✓	✓	
Mediterranean Gull	Ichthyaetus melanocephalus					✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis	✓					✓	✓	✓
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia						√		
Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica					√	√	✓	
Sandwich Tern	Thalasseus sandvicensis						√		
Little Tern	Sternula albifrons							√	
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo						√	✓	
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida							√	
Black Tern	Chlidonias niger							√	
Rock Dove	Columba livia		√	√	✓	√	√	√	√
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	√							
European Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur						√		1
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Great Spotted Cuckoo	Clamator glandarius							1	2
Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus		√	Н	/	Н	Н	Н	
Eurasian Scops Owl	Otus scops	H3	H5	H6	H4				
·	·				saw 1				
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	Bubo bubo				<u> </u>		Н		
Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus						Н		
Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba		GO	√	✓	√			
Common Swift	Apus apus	/	√	√	\ \ \	√	√	√	√
European Roller	Coracias garrulus		V			V	1	2	V
Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis						Н	1	
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster			5	15+	√	√	√	
Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops	1	Н		Н	Н	V	V	2
Eurasian Wryneck	Jynx torquilla	-		1	Н				
Lesser Spotted	Dryobates minor						2		
Woodpecker	27, 000.000 7770.						_		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major		Н		✓	Н	Н		
Black Woodpecker	Dryocopus martius		Н						
European Green	Picus viridis	H3	Н	√	Н	Н			Н
Woodpecker	Falsa nassanai								
Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni								√
Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	✓		✓	√ 	✓	√ 	√ 	✓
Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo				2		1	1	
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus				1				
Southern Grey Shrike	Lanius meridionalis								2
Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus		1						
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	✓		✓	Н	√			
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	Corvus frugilegus								✓
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	Corvus corax		✓	✓	✓				
Coal Tit	Periparus ater		✓		Н				
European Crested Tit	Lophophanes cristatus		✓						
Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Great Tit	Parus major		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

I=Introduced			April 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
Bearded Reedling	Panurus biarmicus							✓			
Woodlark	Lullula arborea	Н	✓	✓	✓	Н					
Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis			✓	✓			✓	✓		
Crested Lark	Galerida cristata						✓	✓	✓		
Greater Short-toed Lark	Calandrella brachydactyla								✓		
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	✓					✓	✓			
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	✓	√	√		√	√	√	✓		
Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris		1		√	√					
Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	√	√	√	√	√		√			
Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica		2								
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti				Н		√	√	√		
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus		Н		Н		√		-		
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	Н	Н	Н	Н	Н	•				
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus						Н		Н		
Western Bonelli's Warbler	Phylloscopus bonelli	Н	√	√	Н	√					
Great Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus arundinaceus		V	٧	Н	V		Н			
Eurasian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus							√			
Melodious Warbler	Hippolais polyglotta						1	H			
Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis					√		√			
Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	Н	,	,	/	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	H	Н		
Dartford Warbler	Sylvia undata	11	✓	√	✓	V	H	11	- ''		
Subalpine Warbler	Sylvia cantillans			√	Н	,	П				
Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala		,	√	П	√	Н	,	Н		
			✓			✓	П	√	П		
Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus							Н			
Common Firecrest	Regulus ignicapilla		√	✓	Н						
Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes		Н		Н						
Eurasian Nuthatch	Sitta europaea		✓		√	Н					
Short-toed Treecreeper	Certhia brachydactyla		✓	Н	Н	✓					
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Н				
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos		✓		✓						
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus		✓	✓	✓						
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Н	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Common Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	H	✓	Н	✓	Н	✓	✓	✓		
European Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca							1			
Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Н		✓		
Common Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius					1					
Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra							1			
European Stonechat	Saxicola rubicola			√	√			1			
Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe				√	√		4			
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus						Н	√			
Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava						√	· √	√		
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea		√	√							
White Wagtail	Motacilla alba		√	√	√	√			√		
Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris		•	•	2	•			1		
Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis				2				<u> </u>		
Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis			1	_		√	√			
Red-throated Pipit	Anthus cervinas			'	1		V	1			
Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	Н	√	√	√	√		'	Н		

I=Introduced			April 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	Н	√	√	√	√			Н		
Common Linnet	Linaria cannabina			√			√		√		
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis		√	√	√	√	✓	√	√		
Citril Finch	Carduelis citrinella		√								
European Serin	Serinus serinus	√	√	√	√	√					
Eurasian Siskin	Spinus spinus			Н							
Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra	√		√	√	√	✓	√	√		
Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus		√	√	√	√					

Other vertebrates

		April 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
Mammals											
European Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus					√					
Coypu - I	Myocastor coypus						√	✓			
European Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	2	4	2	3						
Badger	Meles meles	1									
Red Fox	Vulpes vulpes	2	1	3	8	1					
Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus	3	7	5	3	2					
Wild Goat	Capra aegagrus			2							
bat sp.				1		1		1			
rodent sp.					1						
Brown Rat	Rattus norvegicus							✓			
(White Horse)							√				
(Black Bull)							√				
Wild Boar	Sus scrofa							C12			
Reptiles & Amphibians											
Coruna (Iberian Water) Frog	Pelophylax perezi	✓	√	Н	√	Н	√	Н			
European Pond Turtle	Emys orbicularis							1	√		
Western Green Lizard	Lacerta bilineata			1	lots		√				
Common Wall Lizard	Podarcis muralis			1	√						
Common Toad	Bufo bufo			1	√						
Tree Frog sp.						Н	Н	Н			
Moorish Gecko	Tarentola mauritanica					√	√	√			
Ocellated Lizard	Tomon lepidus								1		

Invertebrates

Common name		April 2023									
	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
Butterflies											
	Hesperidae										
Dingy Skipper	Erynnis tages					✓		✓			
Rosy Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus onopordi			1		1					
	Papilionidae										
Scarce Swallowtail	Iphiclides podalirius	1	1	1	✓	✓	✓		√		
Swallowtail	Papilio machaon	1	1	✓		✓	✓	✓	√		

Common name		April 2023							
	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Pieridae								
Large White	Pieris brassicae	✓			✓			✓	✓
Small White	Pieris rapae	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	
Southern Small White	Pieris manii	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	
Bath White	Pontia daplidice								✓
Orange Tip	Anthocharis cardamines		√	√	√	√			
Moroccan Orange Tip	Anthocharis euphonoides			√	√				
Pale Clouded Yellow	Colias hyale							√	
Berger's Clouded Yellow	Colias alfacariensis	√							
Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni			√	√	√		√	
Cleopatra	Gonepteryx cleopatra			√	√	✓			
<u> </u>	Lycaenidae				-				
Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi			√		√			
Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas			•		√			√
Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus		√			-			_
Black-eyed Blue	Glaucopsyche melanops		,		√				-
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus				V				
Brown Argus	Aricia agestis	√		√	√				
Diowii / ligao	Nymphalidae	V			V				
Large Tortoiseshell	Nymphalis polychloros				√				
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta				V		/	√	-
Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui				/	/	V	V	
Map Butterfly	Araschnia levana				√	√			✓
Glanville Fritillary	Melitaea cinxia			1		✓		-	
Glariville i fillilary	Satyrinae			1	√			✓	-
Speckled Wood	-						,	,	
Wall Brown	Pararge aegeria			,		,	√	√	-
Small Heath	Lasiommata megera			√	√	√	√	✓	ļ.,
Western Marbled White	Coenonympha pamphilus		✓	✓					√
vvestern Marbied vvnite	Melanargia occitanica								✓
Odonata									
Black-taled Skimmer	Orthetrum cancellatum						√	√	
Lesser Emperor	Anax parthenope						√		
Hairy Hawker	Brachytron pratense						√		
Red-veined Darter	Sympetrum fonscolombii						√		
Blue-tailed Damselfly	Ischnura elegans						√		
Copper Demoiselle	Calopteryx haemorhoidalis						· ·		√
Banded Demoiselle	Calopteryx splendens								√
	, , ,								
Other									
Hummingbird Hawk Moth	Macroglossum stellatarum		√	√					
Violacious Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa violacea		√		√				
Owl-fly Sulphur	Libelloides coccajus				√	√		√	
Asiatic Hornet	Vespa velutina				_ •	•	√	,	
Egyptian Grasshopper	Anacridium aegyptium						, v	1	

Flora (with special thanks to Ann Dowling for compiling the plant list)

Scientific name Common name **PTERIDOPHYTES FERNS & ALLIES**

Aspleniaceae **Spleenwort Family**

Asplenium trichomans Rustyback

Maidenhair Sleenwort Asplenium trichomanes

GYMNOSPERMS CONIFERS

Cupressaceae **Juniper Family** Cupressus sempervirens Italian Cypress Juniperus communis Common Juniper Juniperus oxycedrus **Prickly Juniper**

Pinaceae Pine Family Pinus halepensis Aleppo Pine

Black or Austrian Pine Pinus negra

Pinus sylvestris Scots Pine

Taxaceae Yew Family

Taxus baccata Yew

ANGIOSPERMS FLOWERING PLANTS

Dicotyledons

Adoxaceae **Moschatel Family**

Sambucus nigra Elder Viburnum tinus Laurustinus

Carrot Family Apiaceae Anthriscus sylvestris Cow Parsley Conium maculatum Hemlock

Apocynaceae **Periwinkle Family** Vinca major Greater Periwinkle

Holly Family Aquifoliaceae

Ilex aquitolium Holly

Araliaceae Ivy Family lvy

Hedera helix

Aristolochiaceae **Birthwort Family** Aristolochia rotunda Round-leaved Birthwort

Daisy Family Asteraceae (Compositae)

Bellis perennis Daisy Galactites tomentosa Purple Milk Thistle Groundsel Senecio vulgaris Milk Thistle Silybum marianum Taraxacum sp. Dandelion

Scientific name

Tragopogon pratensis

Sonchus asper

Betulaceae

Carpinus betulas

Boraginaceae

Cynoglossum creticum

Brassicaceae

Alliaria petiolata

Capsella bursa-pastoris Lobularia maritima

Lunaria annua Sinapis arvensis

Siriapis arverisi

Buxaceae

Buxus sempervirens

Caprifoliaceae

Centranthus ruber

Dipsacus fullonum

Caryophyllaceae

Silene italica

Cistaceae

Cistus albidus

Cornaceae

Cornus sanguinea

Crassulaceae

Sedum acre

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia characias Euphorbia cyparissias

Euphorbia helioscopia

Fabaceae

Anthyllis vulneraria agg.

Astragalus monspessulanus

Cercis siliquastrum

Coronilla juncea

Hippocrepis emerus

Lathyrus setifolius

Medigo lupalina

Onobrychis saxatilis

Onosis natrix

Vicia hybrida

Vicia sativa

Medicago arabis

Lathyrus nissolia

Common name

Goat's-beard

Prickley Sow-thistle

Birch Family

Hornbeam

Borage Family

Blue Hound's Tongue

Cabbage Family

Garlic Mustard

Shepherd's Purse

Sweet Alyssum

Honesty

Charlock

Box Family

Box

Honeysuckle Family

Red Valerian

Teasel

Pink Family

Italian Catchfly

Rock-rose Family

Grey-leaved Cistus

Dogwood Family

Dogwood

Stonecrop Family

Biting Stonecrop

Spurge Family

Mediterranean Spurge

Cypress Spurge

Sun Spurge

Pea Family

Kidney Vetch

Montpellier Milkvetch

Judas Tree

Rush-like Scorpion Vetch

Scorpion Vetch

Brown Vetch

Black Medick

Rock Sainfoin

Yellow Restharrow

Hairy Yellow Vetch

Common Vetch

Spotted Medic

Grass-leaved Vetchling

Scientific name

Fagaceae

Fagus sylvatica Quercus coccifera Quercus petraea Quercus pubescens

Geraniaceae

Erodium ciconium
Erodium cicutarium
Geranium dissectum
Geranium molle
Geranium robertianum
Erodium sp.

Juglandaceae

Juglans regia

Lamiaceae

Lamium purpureum
Lavandula angustifolia
Rosmarinus officinalis
Salvia pratensis
Teucrium chamaedrys
Thymus vulgaris
Melissa Officianalis
Mentha aquatica

Malvaceae

Malva setigra Malva sylvestris Tilia cordata

Moraceae

Ficus carica

Nymphaeaceae

Nuphar lutea

Oleaceae

Fraxinus excelsior Olea europaea Syringa vulgaris

Papaveraceae

Chelidonium majus Fumarai capreolata Fumaria officinalis Papver rhoeas

Plantaginaceae

Antirrhinum latifolium Cymbalaria muralis Plantago coronopus

Common name

Oak & Beech Family

Beech Kermes Oak Sessile Oak Downy Oak

Geranium Family

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Common Stork's-bill Cut-leaved Crane's-bill Dove's-foot Crane's-bill Herb Robert Stork's-bill sp.

Walnut Family

Walnut

Dead-nettle Family

Red Dead-nettle Common Lavender Rosemary Meadow Clary Wall Germander Common Thyme Lemon Balm Watermint

Mallow Family

Hairy Mallow Common Mallow Small-leaved Lime

Fig Family

Fig

Water-lily Family

Yellow Water-lily

Olive Family

Ash Olive Lilac

Poppy Family

Greater Celandine White Fumitory Common Fumitory Common Poppy

Plantain Family

Snapdragon Ivy-leaved Toadflax Buckshorn Plantain Scientific name

Plantago lanceolata

Plantago major

Veronica persica

Platanaceae

Platanus × hispanica

Plumbaginaceae

Armeria arenaria

Polygonaceae

Rumex crispus

Rumex obtusifolius

Primulaceae

Primula veris

Primula vulgaris

Ranunculaceae

Clematis vitalba

Ficaria verna

Hepatica nobilis

Helleborus foetidus

Ranunculus acris

Ranunculus sceleratus

Resedaceae

Reseda lutea

Rhamnaceae

Rhamnus alaternus

Rosaceae

Cotoneaster integerrimus

Crataegus monogyna

Prunus spinosa

Rubus fruticosus agg

Rosa canina agg

Poterium verrocosum

Rubiaceae

Cruciata laevipes

Galium aparine

Rubia peregrina

Saliaceae

Populus tremula

Salix alba

Santalaceae

Viscum album

Sapindaceae

Acer pseudoplatanus

Common name

Ribwort Plantain

Greater Plantain

Common Field Speedwell

Plane Family

London Plane

Thrift Family

Thrift

Knotweed Family

Curled Dock

Broad-leaved Dock

Primrose Family

Cowslip

Primrose

Buttercup Family

Old Man's Beard

Lesser Celandine

Hepatica

Stinking Hellebore

Meadow Buttercup

Celery-leaved Buttercup

Mignonette Family

Wild Mignonette

Buckthorn Family

Mediterranean Buckthorn

Rose Family

Wild Cotoneaster

Hawthorn

Blackthorn

Bramble

Dog Rose

Mediterranean Burnett

Bedstraw Family

Crosswort

Cleavers

Wild Madder

Willow Family

Aspen

White Willow

Sandalwood Family

Mistletoe

Maple family

Sycamore

Scientific name

Aesculus hippocastanum

Common name

Horse Chestnut

Solanaceae Nightshade Family

Solanum dulcamara Bittersweet

UlmaceaeElm FamilyUlmus glabraWych Elm

UrticaceaeNettle FamilyUrtica dioicaStinging NettleUrtica piluliferaRoman Nettle

Monocotyledons

AmaryllidaceaeAmaryllis FamilyLeucojum aestivumSummer Snowflake

AsparagaceaeAsparagus FamilyAphyllanthes monspeliensisBlue AphyllanthesAsparagus tenuifoliusAsparagusLeopoldia comosaTassel HyacinthMuscari neglectumGrape Hyacinth

Ornithogalum umbellatum Common Star of Bethlehem

IridaceaeIris FamilyIris pseudacorusYellow Flag

Liliaceae Lily Family

Tulipa sylvestris subsp. australis Southern Wild Tulip

OrchidaceaeOrchid FamilyHimantoglossum robertianumGiant OrchidOrchis purpureaLady Orchid

PoaceaeGrass FamilyArundo donaxGiant ReedPhragmites australisCommon Reed

XanthorrhoeaceaeAsphodel FamilyAsphodelus sp.an Asphodel