

# Provence over New Year

Naturetrek Tour Report

28 December 2019 – 4 January 2020

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Greater Flamingo



Kermes Oak



Coypu



Sunset Piemanson

Report & images by Jessica Turner



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Tour participants: Jessica Turner (leader) with seven Naturetrek clients

## Summary

We spent a most enjoyable week over New Year in Provence. We had plenty of warm sun during the days, although the nights were cold and early mornings quite misty. We enjoyed some great views of Marsh and Hen Harriers, White Storks, egrets and herons, the flocks of Common Cranes, Black-necked Grebes and Red-breasted Mergansers and, of course, the magnificent Flamingoes, especially in flight, while the Black-winged Kite was a great bonus. Amongst the smaller birds, the stand-out sightings were the Penduline Tits feeding round us at Ulmet, and the wonderful Wallcreeper on the Pont du Gard. The mild winter in Europe meant there were fewer wintering ducks than some years, but also meant that the Rosemary was flowering beautifully on Les Alpilles. And we certainly won't forget the Eagle-Owl silhouetted against the sunset! My thanks to the group for all sharing your skills and interests and contributing to an excellent New Year's break.

## Day 1

Saturday 28th December

### Marseille Airport to Hotel des Granges, Arles.

The seven group members met with Jessica at Gatwick North Terminal for our 8.20am Easyjet flight to Marseille. Although take-off was delayed by about 30 minutes, the flight was smooth, and we arrived in Marseille in good time. Having bought baguettes at the airport, we sorted the minibus, loaded up, and drove about 10 minutes north-west of the airport, to the Salins du Lion, on the Étang de Vaïné at Vitrolles. The weather was pleasantly sunny and quite warm in the light breeze, and we ate our lunch overlooking the étang.

The road was called the Chemin des Oiseaux, and was well-named, as we saw a lovely selection of birds to start our trip. On the water was a large number of Black-necked Grebes, showing beautifully in the mirror-calm conditions, along with large numbers of Coot, a few Great Crested Grebes, and gulls, mainly Black-headed and Yellow-legged, but also a few Lesser Black-backed. A Common Sandpiper and a couple of White Wagtails flitted along the shoreline rocks. After eating, we looked at the pool behind, seeing a couple of Great Egret, Little Egret, Grey Heron and Great Cormorants, while a Sparrowhawk flew over and a Common Buzzard perched in a Tamarisk. A Kingfisher showed well on a dead branch in the water. Smaller passerines were represented by Goldcrest, a number of fly-catching Common Chiffchaffs, Sardinian Warbler, Meadow Pipits, a Stonechat, a Serin and a Black Redstart. A few plants were in flower, including Sand Rock-cress (*Arabidopsis arenosa*), Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill (*Erodium malacoides*) and Field Marigold (*Calendula arvensis*).

Eventually, we reloaded ourselves, and headed north then west, along the autoroutes towards Arles. As we drove, most of the group were able to take a siesta after their early start. It only took about an hour to reach the Hotel des Granges, just to the north of Arles. We received a warm welcome from Pascal and Christine, and we settled into our rooms. As there was still plenty of daylight, we met at 3.45pm to explore the area round the hotel. Although it was still sunny, the wind was more evident here, making it a bit chilly. A Sardinian Warbler and House Sparrows were near the hotel.

We walked down the track behind the hotel to the Canal du Vigueirot. David reported a large flock of 100+ Skylarks opposite the hotel, while in the fields by the track and on overhead wires were large numbers of Corn

Buntings. It was lovely to see so many, as this species is now scarce in the UK. Two Cirl Buntings were seen well in a tree. Three White Storks flew low overhead, and a couple of Buzzards were over the field. We noted the white bark of the White Poplars (*Populus alba*), while a *Prunus*, possibly *P. cerasifera*, was flowering in the hedge. A harrier briefly appeared but disappeared before identification was possible, and from the canal bridge we had good views of a 'ringtail' Hen Harrier. A Little Egret was in the stream, while another flew over, tinted gold by the low sun. Cattle Egrets were in a very distant field of sheep, and Grey Heron flew into a ditch. A Zitting Cisticola called briefly, evading a clear view. As the temperature was dropping, we made our way back to the hotel, enjoying the golden sunset at about 5.15pm.

We met again at 6.45pm in the dining room, where Jessica outlined plans for the week. We then enjoyed a delicious meal with local wines, before retiring for an early night, ready for our first full day in the Camargue.

## Day 2

## Sunday 29th December

### East side of Camargue

After a good breakfast, it was fine and sunny as we left the hotel at 8.30am to head down into the Camargue, the old delta of the river Rhône. Many of the old marshes have been converted to agriculture, especially rice growing, but there are still large areas of natural habitat. We took a minor road leading to Mas d'Agon, passing groups of the black bulls and white horses, so characteristic of the Camargue. Many Common Buzzards were perched on poles and trees. Little groups of passerines in the reeds and fields adjoining the road included Chaffinches, House Sparrows and Corn Buntings. We had excellent views of Great Egret and paused to look at Cattle Egrets in a field of sheep. We added Little Egret to complete the trio, plus numerous Grey Herons. Several Marsh Harriers were seen well, as was a Peregrine in a tree, and a couple of groups of Glossy Ibis flew overhead, about 23 in total. We heard Cetti's Warbler, which was seen by some, and Water Rail and Mediterranean Gulls were heard but not seen. A Common Snipe was flushed from a wet field and Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) was in flower. At the viewpoint near the road junction we saw a group of Cranes in flight but couldn't see where they landed, and also Lapwing in flight.

We moved on to the Étang de Vaccarès, the large saline lagoon which dominates the centre of the Camargue, where we saw Black-necked and Great Crested Grebes, large numbers of Coots, a Moorhen, Sardinian Warbler which showed well, and some saw a Kingfisher. Unfortunately, the visitor centre at La Capelière was closed for a month, so we continued along the shore of the étang, stopping to look at our first Flamingoes and a single female Shoveler. A Marsh Harrier was perched on the edge of the water and then flew low over the reeds. Chiffchaffs were in the Tamarisks and we had good views of another Kingfisher. A late Paper Wasp was found and Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*) was in flower. From the observation tower at Marais de Grenouillet, we saw a much closer Flamingo, but otherwise, all was quiet. We had our picnic here, enjoying fresh bread, French cheeses and local wine. The evergreen bushes of False Olive (also known as Narrow-leaved Phillyrea, *Phillyrea angustifolia*) were evident round here. As we continued, two White Storks were seen in flight, and another two on a marsh, plus more Cattle Egrets with bulls and horses.

We stopped in Salin de Giraud for a coffee, enjoying the relaxed ambience of the local bar with families having Sunday lunch. Next, we stopped at the salt pans, at le Domaine de Palissade, where we added Shelduck, a large number of Avocets, a couple very close, and a large flock of roosting Golden Plover. Meadow Pipits and a Water Pipit were on the mud, along with White Wagtails. Mediterranean Gull was seen here, too. The freshwater lake

opposite held more Coot and a pair of Little Grebe, and a Coypu was seen swimming near the bank. There were large numbers of Mute Swans and a dense raft of Coot on the Rhône, plus good numbers of Flamingoes both in the salt pans and the river. The sea at Plage de Piémanson was blue but quiet birdwise, apart from gulls, but with plenty of people enjoying the sunny afternoon, where the temperature in the sun reached the high teens. The flock of Golden Plover took flight, and we watched them wheeling, while we also saw a lot more Avocets and Black-necked Grebes. Some of the Flamingoes took flight, looking amazing in the late sun. We stopped to watch the sun set over the salt pans, adding a Kentish Plover to our list, before driving back along the main road. As we headed north, we saw large skeins of Cranes heading to roost, against the orange sky.

As the post-sunset sky darkened, we continued home, arriving back at 6.20pm. After a break, we met for dinner, enjoying another delicious meal of traditional Provençal cooking, before to completing our checklists and having had a very enjoyable and full day in the Camargue.

## Day 3

Monday 30th December

### West side of the Camargue:

After another continental breakfast, we headed out into the Camargue, this time focusing mainly on the west side. It was 2°C as we left, with early misty cloud clearing to brilliant sun. We passed some Cranes in a field before we turned off the main road at Albaron towards Mas de Méjanes, pausing to scan, but all was quiet. We passed a Coypu in the roadside ditch and more large flocks of passerines, mainly Chaffinches and Corn Buntings, then drove the slow road to Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, past the Étang de Vaccarès, and between the Étang de Consecanière and the Étang de Malagroy and Dit l'Imperial. The scenery looked beautiful in the morning light, and a young Wild(?) Boar was scrounging from a feeding trough with some bulls. A male Merlin flew along a field edge and perched briefly in a tree, its colours shining in the sun. White Wagtails, Meadow Pipits and a Water Pipit were feeding in a wet area, and a Grey Plover was seen. On the Étang de Vaccarès were more Flamingoes, and a large group took off and flew round, again, looking amazing in the morning sun. A pair of Common Pochard flew off, and Stonechats perched up on nearer bushes. Good numbers of Marsh Harriers were seen, plus a ring-tail Hen Harrier. Horses were grazing the salt steppe, with its salt-tolerant plants dominated by Shrubby and Perennial Glassworts (*Sarcocornia fruticosa* and *S. perennis*). A stop to photograph the horses also gave a Peregrine perched on a fence post.

We eventually reached the coastal town of Les-Saintes-Maries, with its fortified church and busy market. We stopped for morning coffee or hot chocolate and then drove to the east end of the town, to look at the sea. There were many people around, and some very confiding Little Egrets. Most of the gulls were Black-headed and Yellow-legged, with the occasional Mediterranean and Lesser Black-backed among them. A couple of Black-necked and Great Crested Grebes were seen, but not well. As the sky clouded over, it began to feel rather chilly. We moved on to the Pont de Gau Nature Reserve, where we had our picnic in a sheltered corner before exploring the trails, enjoying the many hundreds of Flamingoes at close quarters and observing their interactions of squabbles and display. There were many Little and Cattle Egrets and Grey Herons, and several Coypu showed well, including a mother with a kit (they breed all year round). As well as many Mallard, we saw a single Teal. Plants included Golden Samphire (*Limbarda crithmoides*) with a few flowers.

We then drove back up to Albaron, pausing to photograph some of the black bulls. We took the road back to Méjanes, where we found a flock of 18 Tundra (Bewick's) Swans, fairly distant but their bills visible through the

scope. There were also many Wigeon and a few Shoveler, but views were partially obscured by nearer reeds – a little extra height would have been helpful! At Mas d'Agon a fine male Hen Harrier flew over, Cetti's Warbler called, and we saw a distant group of 10 White Storks. Many Marsh Harriers were going to roost and could be seen circling low over the marsh. We returned to the hotel in the fading light.

After a break, we met to update our lists and enjoy another delicious meal, having had another excellent day.

## Day 4

Tuesday 31st December

### Mont Ventoux and Pont du Gard

We had an early breakfast this morning, leaving the hotel by 7.30am to make the journey north to Mont Ventoux. There was a beautiful morning sky but also patches of fog in the Rhône valley; the hoar frost on the vegetation was pretty. Passing through Avignon and round Carpentras, we soon reached the foothills of this Alpine outlier which reaches 1,900 metres in height. We stopped for a short leg-stretch above Sainte-Colombe, where all was quiet, but we saw a couple of Mistle Thrushes while Crested Tit and Blackcap were among the calls heard. Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) had plenty of very dark acorns and a spike of Corn Mignonette (*Reseda phyteuma*) was in flower. We then started the main ascent, driving up through the Black Pine (*Pinus nigra*) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) trees. We stopped to try for Black Woodpecker, but all was quiet. We had lovely views of Crested Tits and Marsh Tit and, just as we were about to get back in the minibus, a Black Woodpecker called and flew past us, over the road and away. We stopped again just below the Chalet Reynard, where there are a number of holiday chalets among the pine trees, where there were more Crested Tits and Goldcrests calling. However, a large number of rather noisy cars were being driven past at speed, so hearing birds was not easy.

We stopped at Chalet Reynard for coffee or hot chocolate, with the car park filling with the cars which were taking part in a rally. (We discovered that this is an annual New-Year's-Eve event.) There were only a few snow patches, so we drove on another kilometre or so, to park by the road barrier, the summit road being closed to traffic until May. It was wonderfully peaceful here, and the sky was an unbroken blue and the sun warm, and although the air was cold, there was no wind. We walked up the road, enjoying the ambience. Bird life was sparse, but we saw a Fieldfare, Wood Pigeon and more Crested and Marsh Tits. A small flock of Citril Finch flew overhead and dropped down but couldn't be relocated. The mountain slopes were rocky, dotted with Mountain Pine (*Pinus unciata*) and Prostrate Juniper (*Juniperus communis* var. *saxatilis*), and we noted the dried stems of a relatively large-flowered Carline Thistle (*Carlina acaulis*) and *Eryngium spinalba*. Stinking Hellebore (*Helleborus foetidus*) was nearly in flower.

We started to retrace our route, driving cautiously through the throngs of people and cars at Chalet Reynard, and stopped in a quieter layby under Beech trees, where we had our picnic in the sun. This was close to our morning stop, but no further woodpecker activity was apparent.

Our afternoon destination was Pont du Gard, so we retraced our route to Avignon, taking the road along the bank of the Rhône, from where we could see the famous bridge as well as the castle and city walls. We then crossed the river, driving west, and taking the route to the Rive Droite, or southern side of the River Gardon, where we parked. This impressive Roman aqueduct, which was built in the First Century as part of a system to carry water from Uzès to Nîmes, drops in height by only one inch as it crosses the gorge of the River Gardon. After some scanning of the sunny side of the aqueduct, we soon found a Wallcreeper feeding on the stonework,

and had some great views, especially through the scope. Although the bird is small, we could see clearly the colours of its wings as it flicked them. A flock of Rock Sparrows landed on the top of the aqueduct, flying around before diving in to tiny holes to roost. They were popping in and out of the holes and we could see the heard markings clearly. After quite some time enjoying this, we decided to walk across the bridge. From the viewpoints on the other side were looking along the structure and could see the Rock Sparrows, but did not relocate the Wallcreeper, which had probably also gone to roost. A Grey Heron flew into the sunset. The light was fading fast as we made our way back to the minibus, enjoying the crescent moon through the arches of the bridge.

Christine and Pascal had prepared a special, delicious meal to mark New Year's Eve, starting with aperitifs, and finishing with the 13 desserts, which are all symbolic for the season. The meal was leisurely and did not finish until 11.30, so we all kept awake to greet the new decade but soon retired after our long and active day in the field.

## Day 5

Wednesday 1st January

### Les Alpilles

Today we visited Les Alpilles, the chain of limestone hills, rising to just under 500 metres, that stand impressively above the Crau plain. After our late night, we had breakfast at 8am and left at 9am, driving north then south-east, round the base of Les Baux to reach La Caume car park. It was sunny but with areas of mist, with the carpark initially being shrouded. We set off along the access road for the communications mast that winds gently uphill. The first part was mainly through Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) with Kermes Oak (*Quercus coccifera*) understorey, with the low sun coming through the misty trees. As the sun gained strength the mist burnt off and we admired stands of Atlantic Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*). The open rocky areas held fragrant species such as beautifully flowering Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*) and Lesser Calamint (*Clinopodium nepeta*), and Hairy Spurge (*Euphorbia hirsuta*). Crested Tits and Goldcrest were recorded, but in general, the area was extremely quiet. Grasshoppers were jumping in a sunny spot, and a few hoverflies and a Honey Bee were seen. However, despite scanning from the ridge, today we could not locate any eagles. We added Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*), and flowering oddments of Chicory, *Lactuca viminifolia* subsp. *chondrillifolia*, both very stunted, Spotted Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris maculata*), Narrow-leaved Red Valerian (*Centranthus angustifolius*), Hoary Rock-rose (*Helianthemum oelandicum* subsp. *incanum*), and the Horseshoe Vetch *Hippocrepis glauca*.

From the TV mast, we walked a short way along the plateau, encountering more Crested Tits, Robin and lovely views of Firecrest, before retracing our steps. A further scan of the cliffs then produced a Blue Rock Thrush, which showed quite well, a Black Redstart and a pair of Alpine Accentors, which were quite elusive as they fed among dead plant material. Back at the car park, we found a mainly sunny picnic table, where we enjoyed another delicious picnic. A Chaffinch and a Great Tit were eyeing us, probably hoping for crumbs.

Refreshed, we drove down to the village of Les Baux, which stands atop a limestone outcrop, surrounded by cliffs and boulders. Parking near the village, we prepared to take the path round the outside, under the cliffs. Scorpion Broom (*Genista scorpius*) was flowering, as were Southern Daisies (*Bellis sylvestris*). We were scanning the cliffs above for movement, but sadly, could not locate any Wallcreepers; (we later met a couple who had located seen one in the same spot about 30 minutes later – rather frustrating!) However, we had superb views of Blue Rock Thrush, which we watched for some time; it was also singing. Black Redstart was also seen. Where the path

was slightly shadier, we passed Laurustinus (*Viburnum tinus*) and several budding Giant Orchids (*Himantoglossum robertianum*), before making our way up into the village. We had time to have hot drinks, enjoying a fine male Black Redstart feeding nearby at our feet.

We then returned to the vehicles and drove a short way down to olive groves facing a cliff, where we stopped to listen for Eagle-Owls. This used to be the best site in the area, but over recent years, the increase in human disturbance on the cliffs seems to have driven the birds away; although there were no climbers today, neither could we hear any owls. The light had faded, but we couldn't hear anything, so we called it a day.

## Day 6

Thursday 2nd January

### La Crau

Today we headed for the stony, grassy plains of La Crau, semi-arid steppe formed from the ancient flood plain of the River Durance. It was cloudy today, so not frosty, but it felt rather cold. After breakfast, we drove round the ring-road and then eastwards towards Salon de Provence, passing a group of seven White Storks in a field. We turned off the autoroute to take the old road; our first destination was the road leading to La Jasse. We parked at the edge of an open area, which we scanned. A distant Iberian Grey Shrike was perched up in a tree, and Stonechats and Black Redstarts were closer to hand. Wild Clary (*Salvia verbenaca*) was flowering and Cotton Thistle (*Onopordon illyricum*) was in bud. As we left, we saw two Red-legged Partridges by the road.

We next moved on to Mas de Chauvet, driving to the end of the road to access La Crau. We parked and walked out onto the plain. It was breezier here and felt cold. We added White Wagtail, Dunnock and Robin, among other passerines, with good views of a Sardinian Warbler taking Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) berries. Distant skeins of Cranes could be seen. We returned to St.-Martin-de-Crau, in order to get permits to visit the reserve area of Peau de Meau, and to have a warming coffee, before enjoying our final picnic at the Étang des Aulnes, where Green Woodpecker was calling. A delight here was a Hawfinch, which showed well for most of the group. On the water was a tight raft of Coot, mixed with Red-crested Pochard and Tufted Duck, and Little Grebe were also present. We drove a short way to a fishermen's access point, where we heard Water Rail and Cetti's Warbler and saw Cormorants but could not get views of the ducks. A Marsh Harrier was seen here.

Further on, we parked at the northern entrance to La Crau Reserve, at Peau de Meau. We scanned the field and plain, seeing a good-sized flock of Lapwings with a few Golden Plover in a field. Another Golden Plover flock flew over, an Iberian Grey Shrike was seen briefly. A mystery plant in the ditch was identified as a Primrose-willow (*Ludwigia* sp.), an invasive alien which can block waterways. A Wild Boar, a young male, ran across the plain: we saw it first well to one side and were able to follow it for several minutes as it crossed from left to right, in clear view. Eventually it disappeared at the edge of the plain, only to reappear some ten minutes later, and run all the way back again. We could see several people walking the trail, and the Boar had not put up any birds, so we decided to move on to another location at the south of the plain. As we drove back past the étang, we stopped to look at the raft of Coots, seeing several Red-crested Pochard among them, just visible through the scopes, with their large, orange heads. The light was fading as we left the minibus to walk along the track. Several flocks of Corn Buntings were coming to roost in the Poplars. This was where we had encountered both Little Bustard and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse the previous year; unfortunately, today we were not to be lucky. However, as the light went, a Little Owl was calling.

We returned to the minibus, and headed back to the hotel for a break, dinner, and to update our checklists.

## Day 7

Friday 3rd January

### The east side of Camargue; Les Alpilles

It was cloudy and milder this morning, with the sun trying to break through. After our 7.30am breakfast, we headed first towards Mas d'Agon, stopping first for a mixed flock of House and Tree Sparrows, although the latter were hard to see. Large flocks of Chaffinches and Corn Buntings were also flying around and perched on wires. Mas d'Agon was very quiet, although a flock of Flamingoes flew over, Marsh Harriers quartered the reeds and Water Rail was heard. We moved on to the Marais de Romieu, where there were some smart Shoveler. Several Flamingoes on the Etang de Vaccarès were swimming while feeding, with their legs in the air, while a little further on, we encountered a flock of 57 Red-breasted Mergansers.

This morning, we took the road towards the Etang du Fangassier, stopping at the viewing platform near the site of the twelfth-century abbey at Ulmet; another birdwatcher had mentioned there was a Black-winged Kite in this area. We didn't see it, but we did have amazing views of Penduline Tits, with three moving through the reeds close by; we could see them on reed stems and sometimes perching in a bush, showing brilliantly. We were able to watch them for some time. We then moved on to a narrow dyke with marsh/ water both sides. On the seaward side many Shelduck were feeding, while in the other was a flock of about 80 Pintail, with one pair close to. As it was quite exposed and busy here, we moved back to a more vegetated area, where a Common Wall Lizard was enjoying the warm sun on the wall of a Pumping Station. Here, Jessica noticed a distant grey bird hovering – the Black-winged Kite! It was visible through the scopes, although it kept swooping away, and we could all see its characteristic behaviour. We returned to the platform at Ulmet to look again from there and had some much better views when it was above the height of the trees, although again, it kept swooping down. We enjoyed our picnic with the kite and Penduline Tits for company! A Mediterranean (also known as Stripeless) Tree Frog was sitting on a reed leaf, just next to the platform.

We decided a celebratory coffee was in order, so we returned to Salin de Giraud, to the bar we had visited previously, not seeing the kite as we drove, but passing a White Stork in a field. Refreshed, we then started to head north, in search of the Eagle-Owl. However, after a few kilometres, we saw groups of Cranes flying low. The main road was straight, with a broad verge, so we were able to pull off to watch the Cranes, realising that there were several groups in the stubble field we were facing, so we got some brilliant views. We could also see there were far more in the field behind, mainly obscured by reeds, and more were constantly arriving. It was lovely to hear them and to see a juvenile feeding with the adults. A ring-tail Hen Harrier flew low over the field, again giving us wonderful views.

It was nearly an hour's drive from the marshes into Les Alpilles. Acting on information about a new Eagle-Owl site where one had been seen in flight by a Naturetrek group in May, we pulled in to a carpark facing a ridge. Crested Tits were calling all around, and Scorpion Broom was flowering well. As we were debating where to go, a man in a car pulled up to speak to us. He explained he was a hunter, after Wild Boar, but would go in the opposite direction to us. When we said we were looking for Eagle-Owl, he told us that there was one at a site about four kilometres away and showed us on the map which road we could take. We arrived at the beginning of the track towards Les Caisses de Jean Jean and set off at about 5.15pm. There were good views of the cliffs to the north of us, but we weren't sure where would be best to look. We had not gone far when we heard the first

deep hooting, coming from the north-west, and scanning revealed an odd-shaped tree. On a second look, it had gone, but moments later, flew up on to a crag, where it was silhouetted against the sunset sky – a male Eagle-Owl! We all had fantastic views of the owl through the scopes, able to see its ear-tufts and it pecking at something at its feet. It remained there for a long time, clearly visible although not calling again. As the light faded, we retraced our route to the minibus, all feeling elated at our fantastic experience. It was only about a 30-minute journey back to the hotel, so we were in good time for a break before dinner, which was local beef (“taureau”) with Camargue rice.

## Day 8

Saturday 4th January

### Le Scamandre; Arles; journey home

With our flight not until 8.30pm, we had plenty of time today for further exploration. After breakfast and time to pack, we left the hotel at 9am, heading westwards towards the Nature Reserve of Le Scamandre. This area of pools and reedbeds lies over the Petit Rhône, in the Province of Gard, so just outside the Camargue. It was gloriously sunny but with the mistral starting to blow, although this made the views very clear. Several groups of Cranes flew over, and we saw a White Stork in a field with a tracking device on its back, as well as the usual egrets, herons and buzzards. We were told that there were very few wintering ducks in the area this year, due to the mild winter in Northern Europe, but we did encounter a flock of Teal. Marsh Harriers were quartering the reedbeds and we also had great views of another ring-tail Hen Harrier. Water Rails and Western Swamphen were heard, sometimes very close in the reeds, but sadly, remained out of sight. We did, however, hear Moustached Warbler, and some saw it, as well as many Cetti’s Warblers. However, Robin and Wren flying around the bases of reeds were, perhaps, a little unexpected! Several Coots were seen, plus a group of roosting Flamingoes. As we were walking back, a Kingfisher flew overhead and landed nearby, calling loudly: one of three seen this morning. Penduline Tits were also calling nearby but were not seen.

We returned to the hotel for lunch, before spending the afternoon visiting Arles. Group members visited the Colosseum and the Theatre, as well as the church of St. Trophime and the festival of Santonniers (the makers of the traditional little nativity figures and village characters that are so much part of the Christmas season here). A Black Redstart was noted in the town. We met up again at 4.20pm, returning to the hotel to repack and load the minibus, thanking Pascal and Christine for their wonderful hospitality, before leaving at 5pm. We had a good journey down to the airport, with a beautiful sunset, although the strong wind was felt on the minibus. We checked in in time to the rather cavernous Terminal 2 at Marseille Airport, for our flight home, having a straightforward flight back to London, full of memories of a great week in Provence.

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## Species Lists

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

	I = Introduced		December - January							
	Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
1	Red-legged Partridge - I	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>						✓		
2	Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			✓				✓	
3	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
4	Tundra (Bewick) Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>			18					
5	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓	✓				✓	
6	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		✓	✓				✓	
7	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>			✓					
8	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
9	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>							✓	
10	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			✓					✓
11	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>						14		
12	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			✓					
13	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>						✓		
14	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>							57	
15	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>					✓			
16	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia (feral)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>				✓		✓		
18	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
19	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		H	H			H	H	H
20	Western Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>								H
21	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
22	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
23	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
24	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓				✓		
25	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓					
26	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	100+	✓	✓					
27	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓
28	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓					
29	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		✓						
30	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓				✓		✓
31	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		✓				✓		
32	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			✓					
33	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>		✓						
34	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			H				✓	
35	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		✓						
36	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		✓					✓	
37	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓					✓	
38	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
39	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>		✓	✓					
40	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
41	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	?	✓	✓			✓	✓	
42	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			LO					
43	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
44	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
45	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		✓						
46	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
47	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

	I = Introduced		December - January							
	Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
48	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
49	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
50	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>							✓	
51	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	✓					✓		
52	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		c20	✓			✓	✓	✓
53	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓
54	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>							✓	
56	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						H		
57	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	✓	✓					✓	
58	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>						✓		
59	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>				✓				
60	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>						✓		
61	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>			✓					
63	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓	✓					
64	Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>						✓		
65	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>					✓	✓		
66	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
69	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>				✓	✓		✓	
71	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>				✓				
72	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓		✓	✓		✓
74	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>		H					✓	H
75	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	✓	✓	✓					
76	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>							✓	
77	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>					✓			
78	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓	✓	H			H	✓	✓
79	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓
80	Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>								✓
81	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
82	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			H	H	✓	H	H	
83	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	✓	✓	✓		H	✓	✓	
84	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			✓		✓			
85	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	H	
86	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				✓		✓	H	H
87	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>				✓				
88	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
89	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
90	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>				✓	D	H		
91	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	✓	✓				✓		
92	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>					✓			
93	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				✓	H	✓		
94	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
96	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					✓			
97	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
98	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	December - January								
			28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	
99	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓							
100	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>				✓					
101	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>					✓				
102	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>						✓			
103	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
104	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
105	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		✓	✓						
106	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
107	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>						✓			
108	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓			✓	✓			
109	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>				✓					
110	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>						✓			
111	Citril Finch	<i>Carduelis citrinella</i>				✓					
112	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓			✓					
113	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
114	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	✓								
115	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		✓	✓					✓	

Mammals

1	Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>		✓	✓						✓
2	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			✓			✓			
3	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>						D			
4	Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>		✓							
5	Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>		✓							
6	Mouse sp.							✓			

Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Mediterranean Tree Frog	<i>Hyla meridionalis</i>								✓	
2	Frog sp. (Marsh or Iberian Water)		H	H							
3	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>								✓	

Insects

Grasshopper sp.

European Paper Wasp, *Polistes gallicus*

Mosquito spp.,

European Honey Bee, *Apis mellifera*

Hoverfly spp., *Syrphidae*

Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name	Day	Location
<b>PTERIDOPHYTES</b>			
<b>Polypodiaceae</b>			
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common Polypody	5	Pont du Gard
<b>GYMNOSPERMS</b>			
<b>Cupressaceae</b>			
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress	1	Roadsides
<i>Juniperus communis</i> var. <i>saxatilis</i>	Common Juniper (Prostrate)	4	Mont Ventoux
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Spiny Juniper	4	Mont Ventoux
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenicean Juniper	5	La Caume
<b>CONIFERS</b>			
<b>Juniper Family</b>			

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Pinaceae</b>			
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	<b>Pine Family</b> Atlantic Cedar	5	La Caume
<i>Pinus halpensis</i>	Aleppo Pine	5	La Caume
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Black Pine	4	Mont Ventoux
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone (Umbrella) Pine	1	Roadsides near sea
<i>Pinus uncinata</i>	Mountain Pine	4	Mont Ventoux
<b>PRE-DICOTS</b>		<b>PRIMITIVE ANGIOSPERMS</b>	
<b>Lauraceae</b>			
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	<b>Bay Family</b> Bay Tree	6	Etang des Aulnes
<b>EU-DICOTS</b>		<b>TRUE DICOTYLEDONS</b>	
<b>Adoxaceae</b>			
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	<b>Moschatel Family</b> Viburnum (or Laurustinus)	4	Les Baux
<b>Amaranthaceae</b>			
<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	<b>Pigweed Family</b> Sea Purslane	7	Salt steppe, Camargue
<i>Sarcocornia fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Glasswort	2	Salt steppe, Camargue
<i>Sarcocornia perennis</i>	Perennial Glasswort	2	Salt steppe, Camargue
<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Shrubby Sea-blite	2	Salt steppe, Camargue
<b>Apiaceae</b>			
<i>Bupleurum fruticosum</i>	<b>Carrot Family</b> Shrubby Hare's-ear	5	La Caume
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	2	Mas d'Agon
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field 'Sea Holly'	6	La Jasse
<i>Eryngium spinalba</i>	Silver 'Sea Holly'	4	Mont Ventoux
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	1	Near Hotel
<b>Araliaceae</b>			
<i>Hedera helix</i>	<b>Ivy Family</b> Ivy	1	Common
<b>Boraginaceae</b>			
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	<b>Borage Family</b> Viper's Bugloss	5	La Caume
<b>Brassicaceae</b>			
<i>Arabidopsis arenosa</i>	<b>Cabbage Family</b> A tall, white-flowered 'cress'	1	Les Salins du Lion
<i>Biscutella cf laevigata</i>	Buckler Mustard	5	La Caume
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alison	1	Les Salins du Lion
<b>Buxaceae</b>			
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	<b>Box Family</b> Box	4	Mont Ventoux
<b>Campanulaceae</b>			
<i>Campanula sp.</i>	<b>Bellflower Family</b>	5	La Caume
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>			
<i>Centranthus angustifolius</i>	<b>Honeysuckle Family</b> Narrow-leaved Red Valerian	5	La Caume
<i>Lomelosia stellata</i>		5	La Caume
<i>Lonicera implexa</i>	Perfoliate Honeysuckle	5	Les Baux
<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	Small Scabious	5	La Caume
<b>Cistaceae</b>			
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	<b>Rock-rose Family</b> Grey Cistus	5	La Caume

Scientific Name	Common Name	Day	Location
<i>Helianthemum oelandicum</i> ssp <i>incanum</i>	Hoary Rock-rose	5	La Caume
<b>Compositaceae (Asteraceae)</b>			
<b>Daisy Family</b>			
<i>Bellis perennis</i>		1	Les Salins du Lion
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	5	Les Baux
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	1	Les Salins du Lion
<i>Carlina acaulis</i>	Large-flowered Carline Thistle	4	Mont Ventoux
<i>Centaurea aspera</i>	Rough Star Thistle	5	La Caume
<i>Cichoria intybus</i>	Chicory	5	La Caume
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Canadian Fleabane	4	Mont Ventoux
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Woody Fleabane	2	Roadside Etang des Vaccares
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	6	La Jasse
<i>Hypochaeris maculata</i>	Spotted Cat's-ear	5	La Caume
<i>Jacobaea maritima</i>	Silver Ragwort	5	Les Baux
<i>Lactuca viminifolia</i> subsp <i>chondrilliflora</i>		5	La Caume
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit	5	La Caume
<i>Limbarda (Inula) crithmoides</i>	Golden Samphire	3	Pont de Gau
<i>Onopordum illyricum</i>	A Cotton Thistle	6	La Jasse
<i>Reichardia tingitana</i>	Reichardia	5	La Caume
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	5	Les Baux
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	1	Les Salins du Lion
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion		Scattered
<b>Cornaceae</b>			
<b>Dogwood Family</b>			
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	2	Mas d'Agon
<b>Crassulaceae</b>			
<b>Stonecrop Family</b>			
<i>Sedum rupestre</i>	Rock Stonecrop	5	Les Baux
<i>Umbellicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	5	Pont du Gard
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>			
<b>Spurge Family</b>			
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Mediterranean Spurge	4	Mont Ventoux
<i>Euphorbia cyparassias</i>	Cypress Spurge	5	La Caume
<i>Euphorbia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Spurge	5	La Caume
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge	3	Les-Stes-Maries
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge	5	La Caume
<b>Fagaceae</b>			
<b>Beech Family</b>			
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	4	Mont Ventoux
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak	5	La Caume
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	4	Nr Ste-Colombe
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	4	Nr Ste-Colombe
<b>Geraniaceae</b>			
<b>Geranium Family</b>			
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Stork's-bill	5	La Caume
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	1	Les Salins du Lion
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	5	Les Baux
<b>Lamiaceae</b>			
<b>Dead-nettle Family</b>			
<i>Clinopodium nepeta</i>	Lesser Calamint	5	La Caume
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Lavender	5	La Caume
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White Horehound	5	La Caume
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	5	La Caume

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Location</b>
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	6	La Jasse
<i>Teucrium aureum</i>	Golden Felty Germander	5	La Caume (not in flower)
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Thyme	5	La Caume
<b>Leguminosae</b>	<b>Pea Family</b>		
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	5	Les Baux
<i>Coronilla juncea</i>	A Broom-like shrub	5	Les Baux
<i>Genista scorpius</i>	Scorpion Broom	5	Les Baux in flower
<i>Hippocrepis glauca</i>	A Horseshoe Vetch	5	La Caume
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	5	Les Baux
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	1	Roadsides
<i>Ulex parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Gorse	6	La Jasse
<b>Oleaceae</b>	<b>Olive Family</b>		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	6	Etang des Aulnes
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Wild Olive	2	Marais de Grenouillet
<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	False Olive	2	Marais de Grenouillet
<b>Onagraceae</b>	<b>Evening-primrose Family</b>		
<i>Ludwigia sp.</i>	Primrose-willow	6	La Crau
<b>Papaveraceae</b>	<b>Poppy Family</b>		
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	5	Les Baux
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	<b>Plantain Family</b>		
<i>Plantago afra</i>	Branched Plantain	5	La Caume
<b>Platanaceae</b>	<b>Plane Family</b>		
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane	1	Near Hotel
<b>Plumbaginaceae</b>	<b>Thrift Family</b>		
<i>Limonium sp.</i>	A sea lavender	2	Marais de Grenouillet
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	<b>Buttercup Family</b>		
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine	4	Carpentras bypass
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore	4	Mont Ventoux
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica	4	Mont Ventoux (leaves)
<b>Resedaceae</b>	<b>Mignonette Family</b>		
<i>Reseda phyteuma</i>	Corn Mignonette	4	Nr Ste-Colombe
<b>Rosaceae</b>	<b>Rose Family</b>		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	6	Etang des Aulnes
<i>Prunus cf cerasifera</i>	Wild Plum	2	Near Hotel
<b>Rutaceae</b>	<b>Rue Family</b>		
<i>Ruta graveolens</i>	Rue	5	Les Baux
<b>Salicaceae</b>	<b>Willow Family</b>		
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	1	Common in Camargue
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	6	Southern La Crau
<b>Santalaceae</b>	<b>Sandalwood Family</b>		

Scientific Name	Common Name	Day	Location
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris	5	Les Baux
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b> <i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	<b>Figwort Family</b> Wavy Mullein	5	La Caume
<b>Solanaceae</b> <i>Solanum villosum</i>	<b>Nightshade Family</b> a Nightshade with red berries	5	La Caume
<b>Tamariscaceae</b> <i>Tamarix cf. gallica</i>	<b>Tamarisk Family</b> Tamarisk	1	Scattered near sea
<b>Urticaeae</b> <i>Parietaria judaica</i> <i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	<b>Nettle Family</b> Pellitory of the Wall Roman Nettle	5 5	Les Baux Les Baux
<b>MONOCOTS</b>		<b>MONOCOTYLEDONS</b>	
<b>Araceae</b> <i>Arum italicum</i>	<b>Arum Family</b> Italian Arum	1	Near Hotel
<b>Asparagaceae</b> <i>Asparagus officinalis</i> <i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	<b>Asparagus Family</b> Common Asparagus Butcher's Broom	5 5	Pont du Gard Pont du Gard
<b>Iridaceae</b> <i>Iris foetidissima</i>	<b>Iris Family</b> Stinking Iris/Roast Beef Plant	6	Etang des Aulnes
<b>Juncaceae</b> <i>Juncus acutus</i> <i>Juncus maritimus</i>	<b>Rush Family</b> Sharp Rush Sea Rush	2 3	Roadside Etang des Vaccares Les-Stes-Maries
<b>Orchidaceae</b> <i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	<b>Orchid Family</b> Giant Orchid	5	Les Baux, Pont du Gard (in bud)
<b>Poaceae</b> <i>Arundo donax</i> <i>Phragmites australis</i>	<b>Grass Family</b> Giant Reed Common Reed	1 1	Common in Camargue Common in Camargue
<b>Smilacaceae</b> <i>Smilax aspera</i>	<b>Smilax Family</b> Smilax ('vicious ivy')	5	Les Baux
<b>Xanthorrhoeaceae</b> <i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	<b>Asphodel Family</b> Hollow-stemmed Asphodel	5	Pont du Gard (leaves)

## Social Media

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