

Provence at Christmas

Naturetrek Tour Report

20th – 27th December 2023



Black-winged Stilts



Wallcreeper



Alpine Accentor



Black-necked Grebe

Tour report by Barrie Cooper, photos by Oliver Smart



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Summary

This Naturetrek group enjoyed a pleasant and successful week in Provence over Christmas. We had sunshine throughout, although the wind did reduce the temperature on some days. There were some excellent bird sightings and on Christmas Day we had the pleasure of seeing three Alpine Accentors, a pair of Eagle Owls and the unique and wonderful Wallcreeper at Les Baux. A visit to the spectacular Roman aqueduct of Pont du Gard had Crag Martins, Rock Sparrows and another Wallcreeper. In the Camargue we had excellent views of Greater Flamingos, Common Cranes, Glossy Ibises, Western Swamphens and a Moustached Warbler. Raptors were a continuous presence in the Camargue with Marsh and Hen Harriers being regular, plus a total of four Booted Eagles that were spending the winter there. In addition, we had species such as Little Bustard, Iberian Grey Shrike and Slender-billed Gull along with the beautiful, varied countryside of Provence.

Day 1

Wednesday 20th December

Ten of the group met up with the leaders at Heathrow for the start of this Christmas tour to Provence. The British Airways flight arrived in Marseille at the scheduled time, and we were able to catch the late afternoon sunlight illuminating this attractive part of the Mediterranean coast. It was dark by the time we had complete all the formalities and loaded up the minibuses accompanied by the sound of Starlings roosting in the trees outside the terminal building and the sight of Jupiter close to the moon. We had our first experience of *Le Mistral* during the car journey with the strong winds buffeting the vehicles. After negotiating the motorway traffic and strong wind we eventually arrived at our hotel and were soon enjoying the first fine evening meal as a complete group.

Day 2

Thursday 21st December

Chemin d'Arles, Scamandre Reserve, Etang du Charnier, Tour Carbonniere, Aigues Mortes

Fortunately, the wind had dropped, Venus was in the morning sky during breakfast and we had a sunny day, although the wind did pick up in the afternoon. Following a supermarket visit by the leaders we were finally able to make our first foray into the Camargue. Our first destination was a slow drive along a quiet road known as the Chemin d'Arles. This turned out to be a very good choice as there were plenty of birds around and we made several stops along the road. Raptors were very noticeable with numerous Common Buzzards, Kestrels and Marsh Harriers, plus a couple of Red Kites. We had spotted a few groups of Common Cranes from the vehicles before being presented by the awesome sight of almost two thousand Cranes feeding in fields close to the road. The closest cranes were a family of three, with the juvenile providing a good opportunity to compare the plumage differences with its parents. A few Great White and Cattle Egrets were also around.

In addition to large, spectacular birds there were plenty of small ones with Corn and Reed Bunting, Crested Lark, Tree Sparrow and Zitting Cisticola in roadside fields or hedges. As we continued our journey down this quiet road, Barrie spotted a Wild Boar running into a reedbed. Everyone got out of the minibuses in the hope of seeing the Boar, but it had gone into hiding. However, this became one of the most productive stops of the trip and we spent an hour as one good sighting followed another. A Male Hen Harrier soaring relatively low with the sun revealing its beauty was a marvellous sight and when it had an altercation with two Marsh Harriers we were treated to some

aerial acrobatics. The Hen Harrier was seen several times while we were there and lots of birds took off when it was hunting over an area of water. Next up were two Booted Eagles soaring in the same area of sky that the harriers had vacated. Booted Eagle is a rare bird here in the winter and we were fortunate to see these two, particularly as one was a pale phase adult making it another stunning raptor in the sky. As time progressed, the Booted Eagles were seen soaring with Marsh Harriers at times, providing an interesting opportunity to contrast the two species.

Our attention was eventually taken by other new arrivals including White Stork and a few groups of Glossy Ibis. There was a paddyfield adjacent to the road and this held water which provided perfect conditions for several waders of various species. Lapwing, Curlew, Green and Wood Sandpiper, Dunlin and Common Snipe were all seen here for the first time on the trip. At one stage a group of three Wood Sandpipers were in the same scope view with an obliging Water Rail in the background, adding further variety to proceedings.

We stopped at Scamandre Nature Reserve for lunch to take advantage of the picnic tables and other facilities. It was a perfect place for our first fine picnic lunch with the bonus of obliging Kingfishers, Black Redstarts and Common Chiffchaffs. The next notable stop was Tour Carbonniere where we saw our first Greater Flamingos with over two hundred in view including a few juveniles. Our luck continued with another sighting of a rare wintering species as eight Whiskered Terns flew past – it was perfect habitat for them, but perhaps not in a European winter. A solitary Avocet was wading within a group of Flamingos which was another new wader for the day.

Our final destination was Aigues Mortes which is a thirteenth century walled town where the majority of the group took the opportunity to have a brief exploration of this interesting place on the edge of some salinas. The western sky was illuminated by an impressive sunset with interesting cloud formations providing good photographic opportunities. It was then a fifty-minute drive back to the hotel to bring an end to a very memorable first day in the Camargue.

Day 3

Friday 22nd December

Etang du Charnier, Scamandre Nature Reserve, Pont du Gard

It was another fine, sunny day although the wind had picked up and it was quite breezy for most of the day. A Red Kite was one of the birds seen by the group near the supermarket while waiting for the leaders to make a swift visit inside to get bread for the picnic lunch. We headed back to Etang du Charnier where a fine male Red-crested Pochard with a group of Mallard was the first notable sighting. Cranes and Glossy Ibises were flying in the distance and several Marsh Harriers and a male Hen Harrier hunted over the reedbeds. We parked up near the bridge over the Canal du Rhone where we heard Penduline Tit but maybe the wind made them reluctant to show. However, a group of Serins showed well in a tree with the males looking resplendent with their yellow breasts and staying to provide everyone with scope views of them. A couple of Firecrests were also relatively obliging while they fed at the end of thin branches.

It was then time to move to the nearby Scamandre Nature Reserve where we walked the trails to an observation hide overlooking areas of water. A couple of hundred Greater Flamingos were the most obvious bird out on the two stretches of water but there were numerous ducks including Shoveler, Teal, a Common Pochard, Gadwall and

a group of Red-crested Pochards that arrived with a flock of Coot. A Water Pipit flew in and landed on a dead log just twenty metres in front of the hide. Fortunately, the Pipit remained for several minutes giving everyone the chance to see this interesting bird which had migrated from higher altitude to spend the winter in the relatively mild Camargue. The picnic lunch was taken when we were back at the reserve centre and just as we were finishing our fine meal a Eurasian Bittern flew past to give us an extra special dessert.

We then had an hour-long drive to Pont du Gard, the magnificent Roman aqueduct built in the first century to carry water over 50km to Nimes. It's a magnificent structure and is the tallest of all Roman aqueduct bridges and has gained a reputation as a good place to see some special birds. Top of that list is one of Europe's, if not the World's top birds, the unique Wallcreeper. Barrie had seen one here on another trip two weeks previously and, thankfully, this wonderful little bird was still here and eventually appeared. There are probably not enough adjectives in the English language to adequately describe this very special species in the opinion of this writer, however listening to comments by group members as we watched this little beauty reinforced how wonderful this bird is. We witnessed plenty of wing-flicking, probing by its long beak in nooks and crannies, plus the bonus of it flying to catch insects. The performance was marvellous, a privilege to see a bird that descends from its high mountain breeding site to spend the winter looking for food on a structure built specially for it just two thousand years ago.

Another species that Pont du Gard is noted for is Crag Martin and they were a constant presence as there must have been plenty of insects flying over the aqueduct in the warm sunshine. We later had the opportunity to watch them to come into roost in cavities on the aqueduct. Rock Sparrow is another species that this site is noted for and some finally came into roost in cavities on the aqueduct. We sometimes had Rock Sparrows disputing a roosting site with Crag Martins, so clearly there are prime residencies on this ancient structure. The light was fading and the temperature falling, so we decided to walk back to the car park, but not before looking at Jupiter with scope views clearly showing the two main belts and three of its moons Io, Europa and Ganymede. It was a fitting end to a special day.

Day 4

Saturday 23rd December

Mas d'Agon, Etang de Vaccares, Salin de Giraud, Plage du Piemanson

Another sunny, windy day began with a quick supermarket visit for bread that had the bonus of a Hummingbird Hawkmoth flying around the shopping mall. Mas d'Agon was our first destination and we spent much of the morning exploring this very good road. There were plenty of buntings, finches and sparrows in the fields and a Merlin was flying around aiming to take advantage of this potential food. Cattle and Great White Egrets, Green Sandpiper and Glossy Ibis were some of the species seen before we stopped for a lengthier period for a walk along the road. The pools on both sides of the road had many Glossy Ibises and thirty Greater Flamingos, while a Black Stork feeding close to a White Stork provided a good comparison. A Whiskered Tern flew past while a few Water Pipits were seen in flight and on the ground.

One of the star species of the morning was Western Swamphen with three birds playing hide and seek at first before four individuals proved to be much more obliging allowing everyone to have views that enabled them to appreciate the size, colour and impressive beak of this relative of the Moorhen. After our efforts to see the species during the previous two days it was good to finally see some.

A few groups of Common Cranes flew over with their distinctive calls announcing their presence in advance. Another good species here was Moustached Warbler, which can be an elusive species, but we were fortunate to have an individual who allowed everyone to see it by perching at the top of some reeds. It was the perfect end to an excellent walk along this road. We then made a short drive before stopping near a hedged field for a comfort stop. It was a fortuitous stop because an adult Booted Eagle was spotted and soared around for several minutes and then drifting off before another adult appeared, this time flying low over some trees at the end of the field. Again, we watched the second individual before we lost sight of it behind some trees.

We continued our journey by heading along the eastern side of Etang de Vaccares, stopping at a few viewpoints. A group of fourteen Red-breasted Mergansers were quite close to the road and Black-necked Grebes were also in groups along the lake. Flamingos were in good numbers around the lake providing good photographic opportunities. A few waders were scattered along the lake edge or on islands, with Common Sandpiper and Little Stint seen well. As we reached the southern end of the road, we drove through Salin de Giraud and salinas became the main habitat with more waders in the shape of Dunlin, Grey, Kentish and Ringed Plovers, Turnstone and Curlew. As the end of the afternoon, we were treated to a sunset over the lake with views of eight Avocets, a Common Redshank and Flamingos silhouetted on the water. It had been another fine day in the Camargue.

Day 5

Sunday 24th December

La Crau

It was another sunny, windy day but there were no clouds today and the wind had dropped by mid-afternoon. We spent the whole day in the area known as “Les Coussouls de la Crau” which is the former delta of the River Durance. For five million years the river carried pebbles from the Alps until 18,000 years ago when the bed of the Durance was deflected by tectonic movements. The delta dried up to leave a semi-arid steppe known as the coussoul. It's a unique habitat in France and is comprised mainly of grasses and other plants that can survive arid conditions with relatively poor soil.

Our first destination was an area near an airfield and within two minutes of getting out of the vehicles we had found one of our target species. Probably less than two hundred metres away were some Little Bustards feeding among the vegetation. Up to eighteen were counted and we watched them for over twenty minutes as some revealed themselves quite well. A couple of Red-legged Partridge were also feeding among the vegetation. Further away was an Iberian Grey Shrike but we would have better views later in the day. We drove a few hundred metres down the road to walk along a track that bordered the airfield where we saw Rabbits, two Brown Hares and a Serin. A Red Kite, male Hen Harrier and a few Stonechats and Black Redstarts were also seen from the track.

We then had a twenty-minute drive to another part of La Crau, with eight Little Bustards seen in flight during the journey. This site was right in the centre of La Crau and a good place for a walk through the coussouls. Two more Iberian Grey Shrikes were seen well, posing on bushes or piles of rocks. A few species of passerines were seen before we returned to the vehicles for another fine picnic lunch. It was then a short drive to another access point to La Crau where we spent the rest of the afternoon. A few groups of Lapwing flew over and approximately two thousand Golden Plovers looked spectacular. A male Merlin sitting in a tree was seen by three of the group. As the sun lowered in the sky, a Hen Harrier and Peregrine were seen flying towards their roost site in the distance, but we failed to see any Pin-tailed Sandgrouse. The cloudless sky provided a beautiful sunset in the west and a pink

band along the eastern horizon with the Moon and Jupiter hanging high in the sky. While we were walking back to the vehicles, we were treated to the spectacle of several thousand corvids coming into roost; it was like a conveyor belt of birds continually streaming towards the west. Back at the hotel we had a traditional Provence Christmas meal which included the thirteen desserts. An explanation of the thirteen desserts can be found here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirteen_desserts

Day 6

Monday 25th December

Les Baux, La Caume

Christmas Day was another sunny, but windy day as we headed to the Alpilles mountains. The beautiful village of Les Baux de Provence was our first destination. Les Baux is located on a rocky plateau that is crowned with a ruined castle overlooking the plains to the south. It is considered one of the most beautiful villages in France. After parking the vehicles, we began a walk along a path that follows the base of the cliffs upon which the village is built. The strong wind contradicted the weather forecast and the birds were thin on the ground, apart from a few Sardinian Warblers and Blackcaps. As we made our walk along the path, we reached an area of pine trees where we were fortunate to have brief views of a Red Squirrel before it melted away. A few Crested Tits and a showy Firecrest were also in the pines and a male Sparrowhawk dashed along the cliff. A few Redwings were feeding on ivy berries below a church, but we couldn't find a Wallcreeper throughout the walk.

As we entered the village, we were greeted with a welcoming party of three confiding Alpine Accentors that were shuffling along feeding on scraps near a café. This underrated species came within a few metres of us, clearly used to the masses of people that visit Les Baux. Later, we also saw their cousins in the form of Dunnocks. After leaving the streets of the village we entered the open area and the ancient part of the village where we finally found Blue Rock Thrush. A Serin posed next to the thrush on one occasion, providing good views for everyone.

We returned to the vehicles to have lunch with our first Raven of the tour seen flying along a neighbouring cliff. After lunch we began a short walk back along the track beneath the cliffs. The wind had eased and the warm sunshine had increased bird activity with Crag Martins being very much in evidence. After fifteen minutes of walking, we were rewarded with our target – a Wallcreeper was flitting about on the cliff face and entered a cave at one stage. It was proving difficult to see for some of the group until it took off and flew over us like a large butterfly showing its wing shape and patterning to perfection before disappearing around a corner of the cliff.

Having achieved our objective, we returned to the vehicles and made the short journey to La Caume. We walked up the road, through the forest, but it was relatively quiet apart from Short-toed Treecreeper and Crested Tit. A fifteen-minute drive took us to a location for our final target of the day. We stared at some limestone cliffs for almost an hour before we heard the calls of an Eagle Owl and then the reply of its mate. Our patience was rewarded when one appeared on top of a cliff and, soon after, the other one appeared. For a few minutes we had the male and female silhouetted on top of opposite cliffs, making the size comparison easy to see. We were treated to flight views of both birds before the male flew off, presumably to do some hunting, and the female dropped down out of sight. Before we left, we had a look at Jupiter and Saturn through the scopes to provide a perfect end to the day. So, Christmas Day 2023 had given us five Crag Martins, four Crested Tits, three Alpine Accentors, two Eagle Owls and a Wallcreeper, but no partridges in pear trees.

Day 7

Tuesday 26th December

Cacharel, Pont du Gau (Parc Ornithologique), Etang de Vaccares

Today was another sunny day, but with no wind – it felt like a pleasant spring day in England. The supermarket visit produced Green Sandpiper, Corn Bunting and Sardinian Warbler. We then headed south-west to Cacharel where we had a brief, but productive stop. A Hoopoe flew ahead of us near the track and, despite occasionally hiding in vegetation, gave us decent views. A Water Pipit also gave us reasonable views and we had the ubiquitous Flamingos, Glossy Ibises and Marsh Harriers. It was then a short drive to Pont du Gau which is a marvellous nature reserve with birds seemingly everywhere. Cattle Egrets and two Black-crowned Night Herons were on an island as soon as we entered the reserve and Greater Flamingos were just metres away, Sardinian Warblers seemed to be everywhere; clearly the birds are familiar with people here. The warm weather seemed to be stimulating some of the Flamingos and we saw quite a bit of displaying which added some further interest to the spectacle we were witnessing. Next to one flock of Flamingos we had a group of seventeen Black-winged Stilts that may be spending the winter here.

As we walked around the reserve the experiences kept on coming with a male Bluethroat putting in a brief appearance before a Water Pipit strolled around on the edge of some mud. A part of the reserve with shallow water and mud had a few waders including Avocets, Grey Plovers, Curlew and Common Redshank. Our second Hoopoe of the day was seen and we had some good views of Firecrests. As we walked over a bridge and back to the centre Olly spotted two Bearded Tits and, thankfully, they remained in full view feeding on the seeds at the top of phragmites for ten minutes. These were excellent views for Bearded Tits and we were just in the right place at the right time. They disappeared for a short time which was the cue for most of us to return to the centre and set up our picnic lunch.

The Parc is a great place, not only for birds, but also for a picnic lunch because of the many tables. After another fine lunch we drove towards Etang de Vaccares in search of a species we missed a few days ago. We were more fortunate this time and we managed to find a few Slender-billed Gulls plus a Sandwich Tern on the lake. A stop further along produced more Slender-billed Gulls plus Turnstone, Dunlin and Greenshank. Our final destination was Mas d'Agon where we remained until well after sunset. Calling in the reeds gave the whereabouts of our second Bluethroat of the day and it was spotted a few times as it moved through the vegetation. A few Common Cranes flew to roost in the distance and hundreds of corvids were doing the same, but then we had the surprise of three Sacred Ibises flying over. While some species were going to roost at least sixteen Black-crowned Night Herons were coming out to feed and seen flying overhead. It was all very atmospheric as we watched and heard birds coming and going, it certainly made a fitting end to our final evening in the Camargue. The full moon, Jupiter and its four large moons, plus Saturn completed another excellent day.

Day 8

Wednesday 27th December

Arles or La Crau, followed by drive to Marseille Airport

It was the usual start time this morning as one group was dropped off in Arles for a morning of sightseeing. The rest had a short birding tour where we began with a group of Little Bustards, two Iberian Grey Shrikes, a male

Hen Harrier, plus three Lapwings on a different part of La Crau. We then moved to the track near the airfield where more Little Bustards were found, another shrike plus some Stonechats, Black Redstarts, Serins, Linnets and Goldfinches. A brief return through a part of the Alpilles had four Ravens as the main highlight. Our final picnic lunch was taken back at the hotel in warm sunshine before embarking on our drive to Marseille Airport. We had plenty of time, so we took the scenic route, passing some salinas with a few hundred Greater Flamingos looking splendid as usual. Unfortunately the BA flight had been delayed by Storm Gerrit that was hitting the UK, but we eventually arrived at Heathrow, said our goodbyes and went on our separate ways after a great Christmas trip in Provence.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	December 2023						
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Red-legged Partridge - I	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>				5			2
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		1				4	
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	✓		✓			✓	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		✓				✓	
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓				✓	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>						✓	
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	✓	✓	✓		2	✓	
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		✓				✓	
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		1				✓	
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>			14				
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>				40			28
Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia (feral)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	✓	H	✓			✓	
Western Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	H		8			✓	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	2000	✓	✓	4		✓	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	3	1	✓			✓	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			✓			✓	✓
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>			✓				
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						17	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	1		8			✓	
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>				2000	✓		
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			✓			✓	
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			1				
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>			1				
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	✓		✓			✓	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			1			✓	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			✓				
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	✓		✓			✓	
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			✓				
Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>				1			
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	✓		✓			✓	

		December 2023						
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			1			✓	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	✓		✓		1	✓	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	✓						
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			1			✓	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			✓			✓	
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>						✓	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	✓	✓			✓		
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>						1	
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	8		1			1	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			2				
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓		✓			✓	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
African Sacred Ibis - I	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>						3	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		1					
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						✓	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennata</i>	2		2				
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	2		1		2	1	2
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1	1	1	2			1
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	2	1		1			
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>					2		
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1					2	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1					
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>			1	1			1
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				1			
Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>				5			3
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>					H		
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>					2		4
European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>					✓		
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	December 2023						
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	H	H				H	
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>						4	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				1			
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓						✓
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		30+			5		
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>			1				
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	✓		✓			✓	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>					✓	✓	
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	✓	✓				✓	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	✓					✓	
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		1			1		
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>					✓		
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>				3	2	✓	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				1		✓	
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>						2	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					2		
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓		✓				
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>		5+					
Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>					3		
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>					✓		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	1			1			
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		1	2			2	
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	✓			✓			✓
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>		✓			✓		
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>					✓		
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	

Others

		December 2023						
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Mammals								
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	LO						
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>				✓			✓
Brown Hare	<i>Larus europaeus</i>				2			2
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>					1		
Insects								
White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>		1					
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	2	1		✓	✓	✓	
Green-viened White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			1				
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>				✓			
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>				✓			
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>						✓	
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>			1				

Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name
GYMNOSPERMS	
Cupressaceae	Juniper family
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress
Pinaceae	Pine family
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Atlantic Cedar
<i>Pinus halpensis</i>	Aleppo Pine
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone (Umbrella) Pine
PRE-DICOTS	
Lauraceae	Bay family
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Bay Tree
EU-DICOTS	
Adoxaceae	Moschatel family
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	Viburnum (or Laurustinus)
Amaranthaceae	Pigweed family
<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	Sea Purslane
<i>Sarcocornia fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Glasswort
<i>Sarcocornia perennis</i>	Perennial Glasswort
<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Shrubby Sea-blite
Anacardiaceae	Sumach Family
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Terebinth Tree
Apiaceae	Carrot family
<i>Bupleurum fruticosum</i>	Shrubby Hare's-ear

Scientific Name	Common Name
Araliaceae	Ivy family
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
Brassicaceae	Cabbage family
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alison
Buxaceae	Box family
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle family
<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	Small Scabious
Cistaceae	Cistus family
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey Cistus
Compositaceae (Asteraceae)	Daisy family
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed family
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Dodder
Euphorbiaceae	Euphorbia family
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Mediterranean Spurge
<i>Euphorbia cyparassias</i>	Cypress Spurge
Fagaceae	Oak and Beech family
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak
Geraniaceae	Geranium family
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Stork's-bill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle family
<i>Lavendula angustifolia</i>	Lavender
<i>Oreganum vulgare</i>	Oregano
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Thyme
Leguminosae	Pea family
<i>Genista scorpius</i>	Scorpion Broom
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom
<i>Ulex parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Gorse
Oleaceae	Olive family
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Wild Olive

Scientific Name	Common Name
Platanaceae	Plane family
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane
Salicaceae	Willow family
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort family
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavy Mullein
Tamariscaceae	Tamarisk family
<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	Tamarisk
Urticaceae	Nettle family
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle
Asparagaceae	Asparagus family
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	Prickly Asparagus
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom
Poaceae	Grass family
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed
Smilacaceae	Smilax family
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax ('vicious ivy')
Xanthorrhoeaceae	Asphodel family
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-stemmed Asphodel