

The Camargue in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

13 – 17 May 2009



Black-winged Stilt on nest



Copper Demoiselle male



Stripeless Tree Frog



Naturetrek Group

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This short holiday in the Camargue region gave a good insight into the wildlife to be found in the varied habitats to be found within easy reach of our base near Arles. The marshes and reedbeds of the Camargue itself, along with the stony arid landscape of La Crau and the limestone hills of Les Alpilles, not to mention the extensive salt pans and lagoons, are home to a remarkable variety of species, including birds, dragonflies, butterflies and plants. It is an excellent area for a first experience of an overseas wildlife watching holiday

Day 1

Wednesday 13th May

With the exception of Robin, Margaret and Dave, who were meeting us at Montpellier Airport, the group assembled at Gatwick in plenty of time for the 11.36 flight, which got away more or less on time, and actually arrived in Montpellier a few minutes early. After a short delay locating one of the vehicles, we were on our way to the hotel, with a couple of birdwatching stops planned en route.

Our first stop was at Etang du Charnier, where the road runs between a large shallow lake and a canal. This usually provides a good introduction to the water birds of the Camargue, and so it proved today, with good numbers of Little and Cattle Egrets, a single Great White Egret and the odd Purple Heron. There were plenty of Common Terns and a few Little Terns feeding over the lake, but the bird which caused the most excitement in the group was not a water bird at all. A Great Spotted Cuckoo flew along the far bank of the canal, calling noisily as it went, providing several of the group with a new bird.

After almost an hour we decided that we would head for the hotel, but we had one further stop along the way to look at a White Stork at her nest on a derelict building. The stork was unfortunately keeping low in the nest, so the photographic opportunities were limited, but it was a good sighting nevertheless.

On arrival at the hotel the rooms were allocated and Dave and Ian went to the local supermarket to collect supplies for tomorrow's picnic lunch. After the first excellent meal cooked by our host Marie-Claire, most of the group opted for an early night following a long day's travelling.

Day 2

Thursday 14th May

We awoke this morning to find the sky overcast, but at least it was dry. Dave, Ian and Richard B. went for a pre-breakfast walk along the track beside the hotel, finding a Sparrowhawk, a singing male Black Redstart and several Nightingales and Cetti's Warblers, as well as four Lapwings, a species which proved to be unusually difficult to find on the tour.

After breakfast we set off at around 8.45 to visit various sites along the western side of the Camargue. The first stop was outside a cafe which has proved to be a good location for Hoopoe in the past, but unfortunately there were none to be seen this year. However, we had good views of a Common Buzzard along the way, as well as numerous Cattle and Little Egrets.

We moved on to Mas d'Agon, which usually produces a good variety of species, and it lived up to expectations this year. We had soon recorded Grey, Purple, Squacco and Night Herons, in addition to Little, Cattle and Great White Egrets, and two Bitterns were heard booming, but were not seen. In addition, we found Great Reed Warblers, several Cuckoos, three Collared Pratincoles and a Kingfisher which gave excellent views perching on a branch just above the water. Only one Marsh Harrier was seen, and even that only was distant, which was a little surprising, but the raptors were well represented by a Hobby which flew low overhead. Also noteworthy was a mixed flock of around 30 Black and Whiskered Terns, and a fairly distant Glossy Ibis.

After slightly longer than planned, as there was so much to see, we moved on towards our next destination, the Parc Ornithologique at Pont de Gau. However, there was one more unplanned stop along the way at a bridge over the canal, where we watched a colony of Bee-eaters for about 15 minutes, in addition to a Nightingale which, unusually, allowed itself to be seen singing.

We arrived at the Parc at around 12.30, so we decided to have our picnic lunch immediately, as no-one else was using the picnic area. Whilst eating lunch a Sacred Ibis flew overhead and landed in the nearby pool. This is of course basically an African species, but following an escape a number of years ago, there is now a self-sustaining and growing population in the Camargue.

After lunch we spent about two hours looking around part of the park, seeing plenty of flamingos, as well as many Black-winged Stilts on their nests on a purpose-built island. This island was only created about three years ago, and the stilts have certainly taken to it very enthusiastically, as the breeding population in the Parc has increased rapidly since then. We also saw two Avocets, several Common Terns on their nests on an island, which they share with Black-headed and a few Mediterranean Gulls, and a mixed colony of Little Egrets, Cattle Egrets and Grey Herons, many of which had young which were almost ready to leave the nest.

All too soon it was time to head back to the hotel, as we had arranged an early evening meal, to enable us to go out again after dinner to attempt to see an Eagle Owl.

However, the weather turned against us in a big way, torrential rain setting in whilst we were eating, so the decision was made to postpone the Eagle Owl attempt to another evening.

Day 3

Friday 15th May

Unfortunately it was still raining when we awoke, but nowhere near as heavily as last night. The forecast was for the rain to continue for most of the day, with a considerable improvement for tomorrow, so it was decided to leave the Eagle Owl trip until Saturday evening, giving us a longer day in the field today.

We set off from the hotel at around 8.40am, the plan for the day being to travel down the eastern side of the Camargue, ending up at the salt-pans at Etang du Fangassier, close to the flamingo breeding colony. The first planned stop was to be at Mas d'Agon, where we were successful yesterday, but on the way there those in the leading vehicle saw a Roller in a roadside tree, and at the same time those in the second vehicle saw a Hoopoe. We therefore parked the minibuses at the roadside with a view to trying to get better views of both. We were only partly successful, as the Roller disappeared behind some distant trees, but the Hoopoe gave good flight views and was in fact joined by a second bird which flew across the road close to us. We also heard a Melodious Warbler singing at the roadside and saw a number of Black Kites and a Honey Buzzard overhead.

Moving on to Mas d'Agon, we saw basically the same species as yesterday, with the exception of Collared Pratincole, which were nowhere to be seen. There were two Kingfishers along the canal today, and we had exceptional views of a Squacco Heron perching in a tree very close to the road.

After about 30 minutes we set off towards La Capelliere, where we planned to have lunch, although we intended to stop to look for some Black-necked Grebes which Dave had seen a few days previously close to the shore of the Etang du Vaccares. We were successful in this, as we found at least 15 of these attractive birds feeding quite close to the roadside, along with a smaller number of Great Crested Grebes. When we reached La Capelliere it was still raining, so we split into two groups of nine and took shelter in the nearest two hides, arranging to change over after about 20 minutes. There were not too many birds to see, but an adult Night Heron and two immatures were interesting, and there were also a couple of Stonechats and some Bee-eaters which followed Dave's group from one hide to the other, so Ian's group didn't see them at all! In view of the continuing light rain we persuaded the receptionist to allow us to eat our picnic in a meeting room in the visitor centre, which was fortunate as the outdoor picnic area was looking very soggy indeed. The helpful receptionist also told us that two Spoonbills had been seen that morning at a marsh not far along the road.

After lunch we continued on our way, having spent a few moments in the car park watching a White Stork at its nest, and three Honey Buzzards soaring overhead. The rain had stopped by now and the weather was warming up considerably, so it seemed as though the Honey Buzzards were continuing on their northward migration, having been grounded by the heavy rain the previous afternoon. We stopped briefly at the observation platform at Marais de Grenouillet where there was not a great deal to be seen other than a few Black and Whiskered Terns. Our next halt was at the roadside marsh suggested by the receptionist at La Capelliere and, exactly as promised, two Spoonbills were feeding in the shallow water. We had a further unscheduled stop to look at four Gull-billed Terns, where we also saw several more Honey Buzzards making their way north, and two Short-toed Eagles, although the latter were at least a couple of miles away at this stage.

Fortunately, having driven that couple of miles, the two eagles were sighted again immediately above the road, and we had a further stop to admire them hanging effortlessly in the air, searching out their main prey, snakes, on the ground below.

After several unplanned stops, we at last reached our final destination for the day, the Etang du Fangassier. As anticipated, there were several hundred, if not thousands of flamingos in the area, in addition to numerous waders – mainly Dunlin and Curlew Sandpiper, but also Ringed Plover, Kentish Plover and a few Little Stints. In addition there were up to 20 Slender-billed Gulls resting on a sand bar, looking very attractive in their breeding plumage.

After just over an hour it was time to head back to the hotel, which we managed to achieve with no further unscheduled stops, so we were back in plenty of time for everyone to freshen up before another excellent evening meal.

Day 4

Saturday 16th May

Breakfast this morning was earlier than usual at 7.00 am, as we wanted to be at our first destination, La Crau, before the sun rose too high in the sky. Once it starts to warm up, visibility at La Crau is very badly affected by heat haze, and viewing anything at a distance is virtually impossible. With this in mind we were on the road just before 7.45am, and our only unplanned stop was where the road passes the Etang des Aulnes, just before the car park at Peau de Meau. As we were driving by, Richard B. spotted a Stone Curlew close to the road, and when we stopped, it turned out that there were actually two. They took flight just after we stopped, allowing everyone good views of them.

At the car park we spent a little time admiring a large number of Copper Demoiselle damselflies and also several Tawny Pipits and a Whinchat, before setting off along the track out into La Crau. Even though it was still before 9.00am, the heat haze was already affecting visibility slightly, but we saw more Tawny Pipits, several Crested Larks, two Southern Grey Shrikes and at least four Short-toed Larks. At least 10 Black Kites were in the area, and as the temperature rose and the thermals began to rise, we were treated to the sight of most of these birds in the air immediately overhead. They were joined by a Honey Buzzard and three White Storks, which made a most impressive spectacle. There were also plenty of butterflies to be admired, including thousands of Marbled Whites, in addition to many Meadow Browns, a sprinkling of Common Blues and a single Red-underwing Skipper.

As we were walking back to the car park, a kestrel came very close, and when we were able to get a good view, it was clear that it was a handsome male Lesser Kestrel. Although this is one of the species for which La Crau is noted, it is very unusual to see one as close up as this.

On the way to our next destination we came across two Rollers on wires above the road, so naturally we stopped to allow everyone to see them. We were able to get good views of them perching and in flight. Carrying on, we stopped briefly at the La Crau visitor centre in St Martin, before continuing to our lunch stop at La Caume in Les Alpilles, via the disused airfield at Piste de Vallon, where we unfortunately failed to see any of the Little Bustards which inhabit the area.

When we arrived at La Caume there were several picnic tables free, so we quickly grabbed one and set out lunch. Crested Tits and Chaffinches, and the odd Cirl Bunting were flitting around in the pine trees as we ate, and everyone ate heartily as it had been a long time since breakfast. After lunch had been cleared away, we walked up a track through the trees and came to a viewpoint overlooking a deep valley and the hillside opposite where we hoped to see raptors soaring on the thermals. There were plenty of Black Kites in the area, and a couple of Kestrels, and eventually two large raptors were seen soaring over the distant hillside. By a process of elimination they were identified as Bonelli's Eagles, although we would obviously have liked a much closer look at them. Also in the area were several Alpine Swifts, a few Crag Martins (very distant, around the radio tower) and a single Raven, and a Blackcap sang briefly from the hillside below our viewpoint. Many thousands of Painted Lady Butterflies were making their way north on their spring migration, and in addition Swallowtail and Scarce Swallowtail were seen.

As we were rather short of time this afternoon, due to the re-arranged Eagle Owl excursion this evening, we then made our way back to the hotel, going by way of the ancient hilltop village and fortress of Les Baux. After our final evening meal at the hotel, we set off again to the Eagle Owl site full of optimism. We arrived just before 8.00pm, and although we saw a Common Buzzard, a Kestrel and heard a Jay and some Sardinian Warblers, there was no sign of the owl. After what seemed like an age, an Eagle Owl was heard calling, but it was still a further 20 minutes before one was seen perching on a rock on the skyline. Unfortunately it chose just about the most distant rock it could find tonight, so the views were not as good as in some previous years, but everyone was pleased to have seen it nevertheless.

Back at the hotel, Tony, Louisa, Helen, Jane, Dave and Ian decided on a drink before retiring, which turned out to be a good decision as we heard a Scops Owl call several times from not far away. Marie-Claire, who had just brought Helen and Jane's drinks recognised the call so they are clearly heard reasonably regularly in the area. In the early hours of the following morning Richard B. heard it call again several times, confirming our identification.

Day 5

Sunday 17th May

Our last day in the Camargue dawned fine and bright, but with a brisk wind blowing. We breakfasted later this morning as there was no particular rush to get on the road, and after finishing packing and saying our goodbyes to Marie-Claire, we were on our way. We had a short stop at the old abbey at Montmajeur, where a Honey Buzzard, a Black Redstart and a Red Deer were seen by various members of the group, then carried on to the bridge where we saw the Bee-eaters on Thursday. We had more excellent views of them, as well as of two Kingfishers, but the local Nighthale was less obliging than previously.

We moved on a short distance to a small group of trees in which Dave had seen a number of Stripeless Tree Frogs during the previous week, and fortunately there were still at least five climbing in the branches. Several of the group were most surprised how small they were, and how they were capable of making such a loud noise. Everyone took a few photographs, we were then on our way to the last stop of the holiday, at Etang du Charnier which we visited on the first afternoon. Surprisingly there was a lot less to see today, but we were able to watch a few herons and egrets as we ate our final picnic lunch of the week.

All too soon it was time to drive the last leg of the journey to the airport, where we said goodbye to Robin and Margaret who were travelling home by train via Paris, and to Dave who was staying on for a few more day's holiday. The flight was just about on time, and actually arrived at Gatwick ahead of schedule, and after saying our goodbyes to everyone, we went our separate ways, with memories of an excellent short holiday in the Camargue.

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Species Lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	May				
			13	14	15	16	17
1	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	2	10+	30		1
2	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		2	1		
3	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>			15+		
4	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	4	1	1		2
5	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	10+	10+	6+	1	4
7	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	4	10+	20	1	2
8	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	4	5+	6		
9	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		6+	6		
11	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1	3	4		
12	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		2(H)	1(H)		
13	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	1	2	1	3	1
14	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>			2		
15	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	4	1			
16	Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>		2			
17	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓
18	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	4	2	4	1	6
19	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		1	1		
20	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	6+	8+	20+	2	2
21	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>			2		
23	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	5	4	1		2
24	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		1	15+	1	1
25	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1	2	4		
27	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			2		
28	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciatus</i>				2	
29	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	1	4	5+	
30	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		2		1	1

	Common name	Scientific name	May				
			13	14	15	16	17
31	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>				1	
32	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	3	1	4+	3
33	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		1	1		
34	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		5	2	2	4
35	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			1(H)		
36	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓	4	✓	1	✓
37	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	3	2	4		
40	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>				2	
41	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>		2			
42	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			25+		
43	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>			10+		
44	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		4		1	
45	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			✓		
46	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			✓		
47	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			12+		
48	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularis</i>			2		
49	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
50	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	1	✓
52	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>			20+		
53	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>			4		
54	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	20	30	✓		4
55	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	4				
56	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		20+	50+		
57	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>		10+	30+		
58	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia "feral"</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	1		1	4	2
61	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		1	6+	3	1(H)
63	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandiarius</i>	1				1

	Common name	Scientific name	May				
			13	14	15	16	17
64	Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>				1	
65	Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>				1(H)	1(H)
66	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>				10+	
68	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		1	2		2
69	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	2	30+	4		25+
70	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			2	3	1
71	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1		3	1	
72	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				2	
73	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		3	✓	3	
74	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		4+	✓	✓	1
75	Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>				4+	
76	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>				4	
77	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			1		
78	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>				6+	
81	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1				
82	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		4+	30	2	1
83	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1	1	1	1	2
85	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				2	
86	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		1	2		
87	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>				2	
88	Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	3+	4+	2		1
91	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓
92	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>			5+	2	
93	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				1(H)	
94	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			2		
95	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	1	2	✓	4+	1(H)
96	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				1	

	Common name	Scientific name	May				
			13	14	15	16	17
97	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2	2		✓	✓
98	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>				2	
99	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		2			
102	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
104	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		1			
105	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		2	3	2	
107	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	1			✓	
108	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	1	1			1
109	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		15+	20+	8	5
110	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>				2	
111	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>		1	3	5+	2

Butterflies

	Common name	Scientific name	May				
			13	14	15	16	17
1	Red-underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>			1		
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podaririus</i>				3	
3	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>				2	
4	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>			1	✓	1
5	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		1	1		
6	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			✓		
7	Long-tailed or Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i> or <i>Leptotes pirithous</i>			1		
8	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>				1	
9	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>				✓	
11	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>			1		2
12	Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓		
13	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>			✓		

Dragonflies

	Common name	Scientific name	May				
			13	14	15	16	17
1	Copper Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis</i>			✓		
2	Southern Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>			✓		
3	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>		✓	2		
4	Norfolk Hawker	<i>Aeshna isosceles</i>			2		
5	Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	4	2			
6	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>		1			
7	Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	✓	✓	✓		
8	Scarlet Darter	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>	1	✓	✓		1

Mammals

Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Bat sp	Chiroptera sp.
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		

Reptiles & Amphibians

Moorish or Turkish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i> or <i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i>)		
Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>)	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>)
Stripeless Tree Frog	<i>Hyla meridionalis</i>)		

Other Taxa

Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptum</i>	Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>
A red-winged grasshopper	<i>Orthoptera</i>	Millipede	<i>Diplopoda</i>
An owl fly	<i>Libelloides coccajus</i>	Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
A robber-fly	<i>Asilidae</i>	Catfish	<i>Silurus glanis</i>
Paper Wasp	<i>Polites gallicus</i>		

Sample of Plants

Stone (Umbrella) Pine	<i>Pinus pinea</i>	White Rock-rose	<i>Helianthemum appeninum</i>
Italian Cypress	<i>Cupressus semipervens</i>	Olive	<i>Olea europea</i>
A juniper	<i>Juniperus</i> sp.	A broomrape	<i>Orobanche</i> sp.
Kermes Oak	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>
Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Goat's-beard	<i>Trogapogon pratensis</i>
A glasswort	<i>Salicornia</i> sp.	Aphyllanthes	<i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i>
A seablite	<i>Sueda</i> sp.	Hollow-leaved asphodel	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>
Small-flowered Catchfly	<i>Silene gallica</i>	Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
A poppy	<i>Papaver</i> sp.	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>
Marsh Mallow	<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	Giant Reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>
Spanish Broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Sage-leaved Cistus	<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>		