

The Camargue in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

5th – 9th May 2023



Western Green Lizard by Andrew Burns



Wood Sandpiper by Andrew Burns



Squacco Heron by Mike Jones



Wild Boar piglet by Mike Jones

Tour report by Neil McMahon



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire GU34 3HJ UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Neil McMahon & Laurent Bodini with thirteen Naturetrek clients

Summary

May is the month to be in the Camargue with warming temperatures, flooded rice paddies and vibrant marshes coming alive with odonata, reptiles and amphibians and of course birds associated with water and muddy margins. Terns were well represented with Little, Common, Whiskered, Gull-billed, Sandwich and Caspian all providing us with views and a very noisy and close Mediterranean Gull colony, possibly numbered as many as a thousand birds, the majority being stunning adults with their black hoods, white eye crescents and translucent wings - a definite highlight. Herons were also well-represented with plenty of Purple Herons, a brief sighting of a Little Bittern and great views of Squacco Heron plus many egrets, Grey Herons and a few Black-crowned Night Herons.

Based at our hotel just outside Arles, the birds near to the hotel were pretty special with daily sightings of Little Bustard plus Stone Curlew, Red-backed Shrike, Roller and many others. The flexible itinerary permitted us to go in search of and find Eurasian Eagle Owl, Blue Rock Thrush and Wild Boar in addition to flocks of Greater Flamingos, skeins of Glossy Ibis, migrant waders and the Camargue White Horses and Black Bulls! Western Swampheens, showy singing Melodious Warblers and plenty of melodic Nightingales competed with Bearded Tits, Great Reed Warblers and the ridiculously-long-legged Black-winged Stilts, to be the iconic bird of the Camargue. Egyptian Grasshoppers, Violaceous Carpenter Bees, Lesser Emperors and Scarlet Darters provided more flying colours and Western Green Lizards and Common Wall Lizards scuttled ahead of us on boardwalks.

Naturetrek picnics and three course evening meals with the option of locally produced wine and rice beer added the comfort factor to our wildlife watching.

Day 1

Friday 5th May

For some, the tour began with leaders Laurent 'Lol' Bodini and Neil McMahon meeting seven guests at Marseilles Airport. With our hired minibuses in order, we grabbed some snacks from the airport and made our way to Berre La Fare aerodrome prior to making our way to our hotel on the outskirts of Arles. At the aerodrome we managed to locate two male Little Bustards to start the tour list with a little quality and could also hear a third. Other birds here included Black Kites and Serin and butterflies included Swallowtail, Bath White and Western Marbled White. We hit some slow traffic en route to Arles and it seemed to take a long time until we finally arrived at Hotel des Granges, with White Stork being seen as we drove along. At the hotel we met up with Wendy and Debbie and Scott and Frances who had made their own way to our accommodation.

After making ourselves comfortable at the hotel, we enjoyed a 7pm dinner and then left in the minibuses for an evening excursion to try and find Eurasian Eagle Owl. We struck lucky with one bird showing well but distantly and a second bird was heard calling. The huge size of the owls is quite difficult to appreciate with them a good way off and perched on top of some large limestone buttresses, but the experience was one we all savoured. We also heard the churring of a Nightjar nearby but couldn't pick it out as darkness fell. For one minibus a Red Fox showed well on the way back to the hotel and the Moorish Geckos in the porch welcomed us back. It was time for some kip, ready for the excursions over the next few days and the last of our party Nigel and Janet arrived late that night and were appropriately received and checked in.

Day 2

Saturday 6th May

Our first full day began with an optional 6.30am walk from the hotel along farm tracks overlooking fields and hedgerows, with distant views of Arles, the fortified Benedictine monastery of Montmajour and the limestone hills of Les Alpilles National Park. It was initially quite misty and took a while for the light breeze to improve the visibility. A male Little Bustard was calling and showed well, and a female was seen briefly and a distant Quail could be heard calling. We saw a Stone Curlew in flight and heard another and an oil seed rape crop provided suitable song posts for two Melodious Warblers and three Corn Buntings. A few Sardinian Warblers were vocal and we saw a Roller in the mist. Other birds included Kestrel, Black Kite, Crested Lark, Red-legged Partridge and Zitting Cisticola with our second mammal species of the trip being Rabbit!

It was time for breakfast at 8am and the first opportunity for the full contingent to say hello to each other!

Four of us then visited the nearby supermarket to buy some suitable picnic supplies and on their return we all boarded our two minibuses for the main day excursion. By now it was sunny and warm with temperatures during the day reaching an acceptable 25°C.

Our first venue was the reserve of Marais du Vigueirat, where after paying our entrance fee, we walked the circular route around shallow freshwater lagoons and some scrub and woodland seeking Camargue wildlife. There were no hoped-for Bee-eaters along the entrance track to the reserve, but a Honey Buzzard was a good start. On the reserve circuit, we enjoyed the sight of stately White Storks both in flight and perched up and could hear the bill-clattering as paired birds exhibited their desire to be with each other. A couple of Short-toed Eagles showed themselves a few times, hovering and soaring at height and another raptor moving over the reserve materialised into an immature Bonelli's Eagle – a real bonus bird which not everyone was able to pick out as it glided over also at height. The Camargue White Horses paraded their almost ginger foals along muddy causeways between the lagoons. We picked out a drake Garganey, a pair of Red-crested Pochard, some Coypu and a fine Red Fox showed very well by the viewpoint. We connected with a family party of Long-tailed Tits, heard Water Rail and glimpsed Kingfisher. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was heard calling in the woodland but couldn't be found and a Short-toed Treecreeper in the same area really only showed well in flight. Several Common Wall Lizards trotted along the boardwalks and a Western Green Lizard showed off along a fence railing. Marsh Frogs, a tiny European Pond Turtle and odonatan including Blue-tailed Damselfly, Lesser Emperor, Black-tailed Skimmer, Scarlet Darter and Banded Demoiselle were also espied. The experience was enhanced with lots of Gull-billed Terns, a few Common Terns, a Hobby, some high-up Bee-eaters and a couple of smart Purple Herons.

After an excellent Camargue wildlife morning, it was time for lunch! We utilised the picnic tables in the car park of the reserve, keeping an eye out for more birds flying overhead. Once full, we packed up, bought a few things from the reception shop and trundled off to Salin de Giraud via the Rhone ferry. The large village of Salin de Giraud grew from the end of the 18th Century when foreign labourers from a number of countries arrived there to harvest salt with the formation of salt pans which still now stretch from the edge of town to the coast. Some of these salt pans can now be good for wildlife so we took a slow drive out to Plage de Piemanson, checking the pans and lagoons as we went. Flocks of small waders included Dunlin, Sanderling and Little Stint also contained at least two Curlew Sandpipers in their brick-red summer plumage. We also encountered Avocet, Common Redshank, Yellow Wagtails and a group of about forty Spoonbills. Yellow-legged Gulls breed here, and other birds seen included Greater Flamingos, two rather distant Caspian Terns, Little and Sandwich Terns and about forty of the

local speciality – Slender-billed Gulls. Mute Swans and Great Crested Grebes were on the étangs. Unfortunately, whilst we were distracted by all this birdlife, one of our party suffered the theft of a camera bag and contents, which went unwitnessed whilst our party were strung out along a wide area between the beach and lagoons. This obviously upset us all after such a good day enjoying the wildlife on offer. After searching for any potential discarded items from the theft we made our way back to Hotel des Granges for 6.40pm and sat down for our evening meal at 7.30pm. After a long day in the field there was no appetite for a night drive, but a Stripeless Tree Frog was located in the hotel grounds and promptly released once appreciated by all.

Day 3

Sunday 7th May

There had been a little rain overnight but the weather for our early morning walk was fine and still. A male Little Bustard continued to hold territory in the field next to the hotel and we notched up a Stone Curlew, Crested Larks, two Rollers, Melodious Warblers and Mediterranean Gull. One of the Nightingale songsters actually showed very nicely for us. The wonderful ‘car-week’ calls of the Gull-billed Terns as they rowed over the cereal fields in formation is definitely a call of the Camargue!

By 8am, hungry Naturetrekkers were hankering for breakfast with excursions afterwards to top up picnic provisions and try and make a police report for the previous day’s theft (there is no on-line facility for reporting a crime in France it seems!). And with jurisdiction and opening times for the police stations to contend with, the system defeated us, and we never did manage to create a Police report.

We left the hotel at 9.45am for a morning visit to the medieval settlement and tourist attraction of Les Baux. We decamped from the minibuses and listened carefully for birdsong. A male Common Redstart was singing atop a tree, and we saw the first of several Black Redstarts. Crested Tits, Cirl Buntings and then Blue Rock Thrush were next as we enjoyed new species for our list for half an hour in stunning scenery. Just one or two Alpine Swifts showed intermittently but the Crag Martins were much more sociable. Sharp eyes watching for butterflies picked out Spanish Gatekeeper and both Common and Scarce Swallowtails and the regional variants of Speckled Wood.

We walked around the rough path halfway around the base of Les Baux and then climbed the steep slope into the superbly maintained village inside the walls with its museum, shops, cafés and medieval siege machines. It was already busy with tourists so after a coffee and quick bit of retail therapy it was time to retreat to the countryside!

After jumping back into the minibuses, we drove a few miles to some conifer woodland with a car park and concrete picnic tables at the plateau of La Caume. Now like a well-oiled machine, the drinks, wine, salad, cold meats, cheeses, bread and much more were unpacked and prepared for selection and consumption, followed by sweet things - fruit and of course chocolate! Naturetrekkers generally have healthy appetites and the team tried hard to polish off the goodies on offer! Wildlife around us included Crested Tits and both Swallowtail and Southern White Admiral butterflies.

Following our picnic lunch, we returned to Hotel des Granges where some of our party remained to relax and chill in the grounds or in the pool. The rest of us took an excursion south of Arles to the open countryside area of Mas D’Agon, although there was a delay in the second minibus finding the site! We initially birded from the road overlooking cereal fields and some remnant Camargue sand meadows. Bee-eaters put in a great performance and a Black Stork flew over. There were Tree Sparrows here and hunting Short-toed Eagles and we moved along to

the freshwater étang - always an interesting area, where birds were on view on both sides of the road. A female Montagu's Harrier flew slowly around fields and the edge of the marsh before disappearing over distant woodland. A Little Bittern showed well but all too briefly to Lol and a few of our party and two Black-crowned Night Heron flew over. Western Swamphen and Whiskered Terns were seen by everyone and most of us managed to get on to the Bearded Tits that showed close to us. All the time we were watching carefully as the horizon inland became darker and darker as forecast thunderstorms and intense showers were affecting the countryside not many miles away. Purple Herons flew over the road periodically and one of a couple of singing Great Reed Warblers provided good views, with the much smaller Eurasian Reed Warblers signing from the cover of the reeds; a Squacco Heron showed briefly.

With the storm coming closer, we decided to move into the minibuses and minutes later as we drove back towards Arles, we experienced a powerful deluge which temporarily created large puddles and roadside flooding. Pressing on we were at our hotel by 6.30pm and sat down for our evening meal an hour later. We squeezed in our Naturetrek checklist session somehow and then we went for an hour's night drive which proved more productive than predicted. We saw a Red Fox, Rabbits, and an unidentified, sizeable owl in flight, heard two Scop's Owls calling and saw small and large bats flying around (which were not identified to species). However, the highlight was locating a large party of Wild Boar alongside a farm track with two or three adults and quite a number of humbug-patterned piglets - with some clever photography from inside the bus capturing the moment before they all disappeared into the night. We were back at the hotel by 10.40pm and it was lights out to be ready for our first saunter out at 6.30am the next morning.

Day 4

Monday 8th May

After the late afternoon rain the day before, we experienced a sunny, warm, if breezy, day with temperatures up to 27°C. However, it wasn't quite that warm when we began our pre-breakfast walk! Up to seven Little Bustards provided quite a spectacle with plenty of flying and chasing around, the wings of the male making a distinctive whistling noise. A rufous-looking bird exiting a bush was initially assumed to be a Nightingale until it landed on another bush and showed everyone that she was in fact a Red-backed Shrike! These birds are very scarce passage migrants, so we felt very privileged to see her. We also saw the usual brief views of Crested Larks, both Melodious and Sardinian Warblers, Corn Buntings and fly-over Serin and a brief Roller.

Following breakfast and a quick visit to the supermarket and the cleaning of one of the minibuses, we departed the hotel at 9.20am and drove around Arles to the area known as Le Petit Camargue. Here, roadside birding provided excellent views of a Squacco Heron plus mostly hidden Purple Herons on their reedbed nests. Gaps in the reeds were sufficient to see that the Western Swamphens had youngsters walking around with them. We saw Spoonbills, Great Crested Grebe with young, White Storks, Red-crested Pochard and Eurasian Reed Warbler with Serin on show by the canal bridge. With the local reserve shut on a Monday, we then took a slow drive further to the south, seeing at least three Marsh Harrier en-route and a confiding Wood Sandpiper at a roadside pool.

Our next venue was the Parc Ornithologique at Pont du Gau where we found some picnic tables and consumed a fabulous Naturetrek picnic, much to the envy of those eating near us. The remainder of the afternoon was taken up wandering slowly around this reserve, taking in the sights and sounds of Greater Flamingo, a variety of herons, White Stork, Glossy Ibis, a huge colony of Mediterranean Gulls and terns galore. Migrant waders included Wood Sandpiper and Ruff with many Black-winged Stilts and Avocets settling down to breed. Whiskery Coypu showed

well, and a particularly obliging Nightingale sat right out in the open not far from the little café. Captive Eurasian Eagle Owls provided a close perspective of just how huge these owls are.

It's always hard to leave this spot but we wrenched ourselves away at just after 5pm and were back at the hotel forty minutes later. We completed our by now quite full check list, and sat down for our last dinner at 7.30pm. A small group of us ventured out again to try and see the wild Eurasian Eagle Owls again but were disappointed. We again heard a Nightjar and enjoyed watching up to eight Rollers feeding in a loose group en-route.

Day 5

Tuesday 9th May

The pre-breakfast walk between 6.30 and 7.45am took one of the usual routes from the hotel and we saw a male Little Bustard, a Stone Curlew, a Hobby and the more usual Crested Larks, Nightingale, Sardinian Warblers and Rabbits!

After breakfast and the last picnic stop of the tour, we checked out of Hotel des Granges and at 9.30am made for the open landscape of La Crau via the hayfields and hedgerows around the commune of Dynamite. We had a full day available to us as those flying home were on evening flights. Stopping and scanning over Etang des Aulnes and the vegetated edges was quite productive with brief views of two calling Golden Orioles, Hoopoe and singing Great Reed Warblers. Red-crested Pochard were in the water and Cuckoo and Turtle Dove perched up. We trundled a little further and arrived at the car park next to the north section of La Crau Reserve. It was a humid day with little wind but the intermittent sunshine still brought forth butterflies in the shape of Dingy Skipper, Small Heath, Small Copper, Western Marbled White, Bath White and Common Swallowtail. The odonatan are spectacular here at the small stream later in the year, but there wasn't a bad showing of Copper Demoiselle, Banded Demoiselle, Blue-tailed Damselfly, Lesser Emperor, Black-tailed Skimmer and Scarlet Darter.

Bird-wise it was fairly quiet on the stony plain, but we connected with song-fighting Short-toed Lark and Skylark, albeit they were difficult to see flying high in the blue sky. Four soaring Griffon Vultures were appreciated and a single Iberian/Southern Grey Shrike swapped perches on the low bushes a few times. Frances and Scott scouted ahead and secured some picnic tables next to the étang where we made every effort to polish off all the produce we had. All in all, we did okay with very little waste and enjoyed our last picnic together.

Our party then began to break up with Frances and Scott commencing a long road journey back home and Neil taking Wendy and Debbie to Arles to continue their leisure time in France with more adventures. So we said our respective good-byes and moved on, Lol and one minibus moving around to the south of La Crau to be joined shortly after Neil in the second minibus completed his lift onto Arles with Wendy and Debbie.

The main road through La Crau had some thirty 'Kestrels' hovering alongside, the majority if not all being Lesser Kestrels. However, the road system does not permit stopping or lingering on the verges here so all we could do was peer at them as we drove along.

A walk at the southern section provided a distant view of a Little Bustard and distant 'scoped' views of some of the potential Lesser Kestrels but it was tricky to see all the salient identification features. Further walking and a Pin-tailed Sandgrouse could be heard emitting its distinctive, low-key 'growling' flight call but we couldn't see it

until it was located as it was seen to alight on the stony ground and immediately melt away into the undergrowth in an area with no access. A Hoopoe showed well here.

With the predicted rain beginning to make its presence felt, we walked back to the shelter of the minibuses and set off initially south and then east. With time to spare before we were due at the airport, we dropped into the historic town of Martigues situated in the south-west corner of Etang de Berre which has a canal and marina connecting with the Mediterranean Sea. This attractive small town still boasts a fishing fleet and is an important regional centre for the wine trade and petro-chemical industry. We found a car park and eventually a very typical, traditional bar and Tabac that provided us with shelter from the rain and some good coffee!

Suitably refreshed, we made our way to Marseilles Airport and for most of us it was a flight home back to the UK with, hopefully, happy memories of our wildlife tour in the south of France.

Receive our e-newsletter

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

Social Media

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



www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays



www.twitter.com/naturetrektours



www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays

Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only, GO = Guide only)

I=Introduced		May 2023				
Common name	Scientific name	5	6	7	8	9
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓		✓	
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>		1♂			
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓		✓	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			H	✓	✓
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		H			
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		✓	✓		✓
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	H			H	
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>			✓		
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	3♂♂	1♀	1♂	c7	2♂♂
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>					1
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				3	1
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		H	H		
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Swamphe	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>			✓	✓	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓	H		
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	H	✓	✓		1+
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		✓		✓	
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		GO			
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		✓			
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>		✓			
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>				3	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		2			
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		✓			
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		✓			
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		✓			
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		H			
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		GO			
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				3	
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>			3		
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>		✓			
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyophaga melanocephalus</i>		✓	✓	500-1000	✓
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓

I=Introduced		May 2023				
Common name	Scientific name	5	6	7	8	9
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		2			
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		✓			
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		✓		✓	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>			✓		
large Shearwater sp.			✓			
small Shearwater sp.			✓			
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			1		
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		✓		✓	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>			1		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			2	1	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			1	1	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓	✓	
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		✓			
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>					4
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		1	2		1
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>		1			
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1			1
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				3	
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>			1		
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>			H		
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	2				
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		H			2
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		✓	2	9	1
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓			
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	H
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>		H			
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			H		✓
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>					✓
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>				1♀	
Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>					1
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		H			2
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓		
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>			1		
European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			✓		

I=Introduced		May 2023				
Common name	Scientific name	5	6	7	8	9
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓		
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>			✓		
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			✓		✓
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>					✓
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓	
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			✓		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	H	H	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓		✓	
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>			H		
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		1	2/3	✓	✓
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		1	H	✓	
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		✓	✓	✓	H
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	H	✓	✓
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Currufa melanocephala</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		✓			
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	H		H	H	
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			✓		✓
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			✓		
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			✓		
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				1	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	H		✓	✓	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓		✓	
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	H		✓		
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	H		✓		
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				GO	

Others

		May 2023				
Common name	Scientific name	5	6	7	8	9
Butterflies						
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclydes podarlis</i>			✓		
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓
Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>	✓				✓

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023				
		5	6	7	8	9
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>			✓		
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓		✓	
Western Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	✓				✓
Spanish Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia bathseba</i>			✓		
Small Heath	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>					✓
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>					✓
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>					✓
Odonata						
Copper Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis</i>					✓
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>		✓			✓
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>		✓			✓
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>		✓		✓	✓
Scarlet Darter	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>		✓			✓
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>		✓			✓
Mammals						
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		✓	✓		✓
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	1	1	1		
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			✓		
bat sp.		✓			✓	
Reptiles/Amphibians						
European Pond Turtle	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>				✓	
Western Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>		✓			
Stripeless Tree Frog	<i>Hyla meridionalis</i>	✓	✓			
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>		✓	H		✓
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>		✓			✓
Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>	✓	✓	✓		
Insects						
Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>			✓		
Millipede	<i>Diplopoda</i>			✓		
Violaceous Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>					✓
Common Hornet	<i>Vespidae crabro</i>		✓	✓		
Plants noted						
Stone (Umbrella) Pine	<i>Pinus pinea</i>					
Italian Cypress	<i>Cupressus semipervens</i>					
A juniper	<i>Juniperus sp.</i>					
Kermes Oak	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>					
Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>					
A poppy	<i>Papaver sp.</i>					
Spanish Broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>					
Grey-leaved Cistus	<i>Cistus albidus</i>					
Olive	<i>Olea europea</i>					
Honeysuckle sp.	<i>Lonicera sp.</i>					

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023				
		5	6	7	8	9
Blue Aphyllanthes	<i>Aphyllanthes monsspelensis</i>					
Hollow-leaved Asphodel	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>					
Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>					
Giant Reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>					
Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>					
Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>					
Narrow-leaved Scorpion Vetch	<i>Coronilla juncea</i>					
Star of Bethlehem	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>					
Japanese Cheesewood	<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>					
Common Snowflake	<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>					
Western Salsify	<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>					
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>					
Smooth Golden Fleece	<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>					