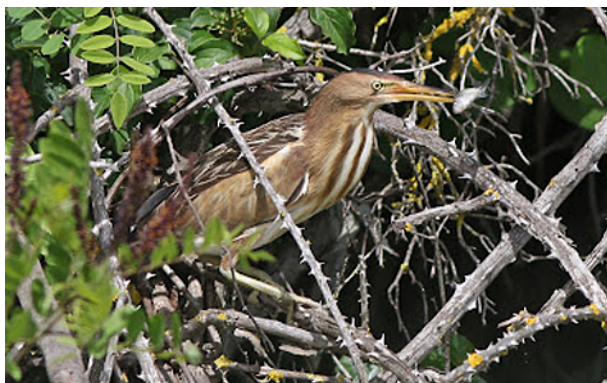


The Camargue in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

6th – 10th May 2026



Little Bittern



Little Gull



Glossy Ibis by Mark Wood



Little Terns by Mark Wood

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 and Simon Dicks (leaders) with 12 Naturetrek clients

Summary

Our second tour to the south of France this May focused once again on the wildlife in the special region between Marseille and Montpellier. Staying at a welcoming hotel on the outskirts of Arles, perfectly located for trips in all directions, we set out to discover the unique and diverse birds and other wildlife this area offers.

Naturally, the legendary Greater Flamingos were high on everyone's wish list, and we enjoyed them at Parc Ornithologique, alongside elegant herons, Black-winged Stilts, gulls and terns, all seen up close. Short-toed Snake Eagles made daily appearances in different settings, while our raptor sightings also included the sought-after Bonelli's Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Montagu's Harrier, Lesser Kestrel and even a squadron of Griffon Vultures. Adding colour and charm, Rollers, Bee-eaters, Hoopoes, Red-backed Shrikes and Golden Orioles put on a show, with Squacco Heron, Little Bittern and a silhouetted Eagle-Owl providing those unforgettable "wow" moments.

With hearty breakfasts and dinners at the hotel, and Naturetrek picnics keeping us fuelled during day trips, we explored the countryside and were lucky to spot some of the trickier species, such as a singing Moustached Warbler and a few fly-by, growling Pin-tailed Sandgrouse.

Day 1

Wednesday 6th May

The tour began with a meet at Marseille Airport just after 10.00am, with the incoming British Airways flight from Heathrow arriving ahead of schedule, and with no significant delays at passport control. We made 'to go' food and drink purchases and filed outside to the two minibuses. Once the luggage was safely stowed, we made our way from the airport to La Berre Aerodrome, where we hoped to find Little Bustard. The ground vegetation at this site was long and straggly, which didn't make things easy, but birds on view almost immediately included a singing Serin, Rooks, Jackdaws and Magpies, some high-up migrating Bee-eaters, Common Swifts and a distant Short-toed Snake Eagle, with rather closer views of Kestrel and Black Kite.

Butterflies whizzing around included Common Swallowtail, Western Marbled White, Large Skipper and Common Blue, and then Simon picked up a male Little Bustard next to the central grass runway near some Rooks. The bird called a few times and permitted reasonable telescope views. A second, much closer male was located, but this bird was a little more furtive and skulked in the vegetation as it moved between bushes. Everyone in the party enjoyed reasonable views of this sometimes difficult-to-see bird, which is now scarce in the region.

The decision was made to move on, and we took about fifty minutes to arrive at the popular reserve of Marais du Vigueirat, ten or more minutes of that driving very slowly along the potholed entrance track. A Roller and the first White Storks of the trip were seen, and Nightingales, Cetti's and Melodious Warbler sang at us from leafy trackside vegetation. We consumed our lunch at the picnic tables, the avian highlights being a squadron of ten Griffon Vultures gliding over, a Short-toed Snake Eagle, a variety of egrets and the first of many Glossy Ibises.

After lunch, we paid our entrance fee at the reception building and went for a slow meander along the boardwalks and paths surrounding the shallow lagoons. There was something of an avalanche of birds coming in from all directions, and it was all a little bewildering after a day of mundane travel! Glossy Ibises curled towards us in smoky

flocks, and a variety of herons and egrets flew back and forth, with several fishing in front of us. Common and Gull-billed Terns flew around, and the air was filled with Barn Swallows, Common Swifts, a couple of displaying Zitting Cisticolas and raptors, which included Hobby, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Marsh Harrier, Common Buzzard, Short-toed Snake Eagle and many circling Black Kites. White Storks lumbered past us as they visited nearby nests, and Nightingales hammered out their songs; Cetti's Warblers shouted at us from unseen perches and the repetitive songs of Blackcap and Sardinian and Melodious Warblers assailed us from the margins. The sensory overload continued with Broad Scarlet dragonflies, Black-tailed Skimmers, Wall Lizards darting and scurrying around the board walks and Marsh Frogs croaking at us from the shallows.

Eventually, order was restored as we began to catch up with what was on offer, and an elevated viewpoint allowed us to slow things down a bit: we enjoyed watching the heads of nestling White Storks craning up out of the huge nests and the sound of calling Cuckoos, and caught our breath as we scanned over this rich habitat.

We pottered along to a nearby hide with a European Pond Turtle and a Cuckoo glimpsed en route, and watched Common Carp and the whiskery Coypus wallowing in the shallow water. A flock of Wood Sandpipers came flying past us, but didn't seem to land, and bill-clattering White Storks were close by. Mallards, Shelducks, Gadwalls and Red-crested Pochards made up the duck contingent. Butterflies seemed to be restricted to Speckled Wood, Wall Brown and Large White.

Overnight rain had flooded one of the board walks approaching the second hide, but those who braved the water enjoyed closer views of Gull-billed Terns, Yellow-legged Gulls and more ducks but not a great deal that was different. The Nightingale and Cetti's Warbler singing next to the hide were so loud that it sounded as if they were inside with us! We backtracked, and a tame Red Fox vixen came and found us: we hadn't much food with us but she nevertheless accepted our meagre offerings.

After we boarded our minibuses, our exit from the reserve was further slowed by Bee-eaters perched in dead elms right alongside the track. Some forty-five minutes later, we arrived at our hotel on the outskirts of Arles, checked in, and organised our dinner for later. There was time to relax and take in the surroundings, and even to take to the small outside swimming pool prior to dinner.

After our evening meal, there was a briefing about the arrangements for the days to come, and an opportunity to complete a checklist to help reinforce the memories of what we had witnessed on our first day. Then it was time to unwind and get some sleep, ahead of our exploration of the Camargue and its wider habitats.

Day 2

Thursday 7th May

The day's events commenced with an optional 6.30am morning walk from the hotel, along a farm track and watching over the adjacent fields and hedgerows for any wildlife on offer. Collared Doves, House Sparrows and Goldfinches were around the hotel and part of the scenery. Black Redstarts sang from nearby, and we heard a Quail and managed views of Crested Lark, Tawny Pipit, Corn Buntings, Zitting Cisticolas and a singing Melodious Warbler. The highlights, though, were four Red-backed Shrikes, a pair in one hedgerow and two splendid males around a juncture of hedges and scrub. These migrants behaved as if they had arrived overnight at this staging post, ahead of their final push to breeding grounds further to the north-east.

After breakfast, our main excursion was to visit Les Alpilles, and specifically the medieval village of Les Baux. A slow drive enabled us to appreciate the birds of the open, flat fields: we saw Corn Buntings, Cattle Egrets, Common Kestrels, a Roller and a brief Hoopoe. Once at Les Baux we began spotting birds almost straightaway. Alpine Swifts raced around, trilling away, and provided great views, and more subtle Crag Martins weaved and glided around the limestone escarpment. A short walk along a track at the bottom of the cliffs provided us with a variety of insects and Mediterranean flora, with both swallowtail butterflies, Spanish Gatekeeper and Sulphur Owlfly the most memorable of the insects.

Black Redstarts were mostly at the top of the cliff, and we saw a couple of territorial Common Redstarts too. Maybe the most sought-after bird here is the Blue Rock Thrush, a Mediterranean speciality: the males look properly blue and song-flight occasionally at this time of the year. We managed some brief views initially, but then enjoyed lengthy 'cope views, particularly of one male very much on territory.

After an enjoyable stroll, we took a walk into the village: it was comparatively quiet. Black Redstarts provided better views, and White Wagtail, Serin and Sardinian Warblers popped up too. We relaxed for a while for a coffee or equivalent, with an opportunity to look around the shops. Lavender products, nougat, sweets, pottery and all-things French were tastefully proffered for sale in the little shops. A subsequent walk on to the upper ramparts provided lovely views, but the birds and butterflies were mostly repeats of earlier observations.

We filed back down out of the village, seeing just-fledged Chaffinches as we did so, and rejoined our minibuses to drive the short distance to Plateau de la Caume, and our first proper picnic lunch! While we set up the tables and prepped the food, Crested Tits were busy in the trees above us. The warm and sunny conditions ensured that there were flowers and butterflies to generate plenty of interest: Southern White Admirals were sprinting around, mostly without resting.

With the reputation of Naturetrek picnics to maintain, we enjoyed a variety of regional cheeses from cows, goats and sheep, as well as salads, cold meats, olives, crisps etc. French bread, fruits and sweet things finished off the proceedings, with some wine and fruit juices on-tap too.

We then took a little waddle around the dry conifer woodland interspersed with little glades and rides, and tracked down a couple of examples of Violet Limodore, an impressive and stately orchid. The Robert's Giant Orchids and smaller unidentifiable orchids had gone over. A Western Subalpine Warbler sang to us, but mostly remained hidden, and Crested Tits offered themselves up to us again.

Scanning and back-scanning nearly always pays off, and a huge bonus for us was locating two locally rare Bonelli's Eagles high up in the sky, one an adult and the other getting there. Although they were high up, the light was great, and it was possible to pick out the salient features against a backdrop of blue skies and white cloud. These two birds cruised around as if they very much owned the place, and even at range you could feel the sense of their power.

Pleased with our eagle sightings we dawdled back to the minibuses and took a slow drive back through Les Baux and to our hotel. There was time to relax ahead of our rather early evening meal, planned to facilitate an evening excursion for those that wanted it.

After our delicious evening meal, the checklist and a briefing for the following day, we again boarded the minibuses and drove for about twenty minutes to visit an area which has in the past provided views of Eagle-Owl. However, the 'hit rate' in recent times hasn't been great, and sometimes we only hear them, or don't see/hear anything at all. We walked the short distance to the viewing area, and after a wait, we were rewarded! An Eagle-Owl arrived and perched up on a distant ridge! Everyone managed to see this magnificent creature, even if it was at range and in dwindling light: it went on to provide a lengthy flight view too. A bonus bird was a Nightjar churring and perched up in silhouette on our walk back to the minibuses. By this time, it was dark, and we drove slowly back to the hotel. Before we finished for the night, a Mediterranean Tree Frog and Moorish Geckos were on view in the hotel grounds, and the Marsh Frogs were calling loudly from their pond.

Day 3

Friday 8th May

Another warm and sunny day began with our regular morning walk, which provided us with views of the lingering Red-backed Shrikes, Melodious Warbler, Nightingale, Sardinian Warbler, Crested Lark, the ever-busy Zitting Cisticolas, Tree Sparrows (mostly in flight) and roving Gull-billed Terns and Mediterranean Gulls.

Following our continental breakfast, we had a full day's itinerary, targeting the waterbirds of salt pans, saline and fresh water. We drove around Arles and then south to Salin de Giraud, with Bee-eaters, Rollers, Kestrels and a couple of the big Short-toed Snake Eagles en route. We headed south through Salin de Giraud and checked the salt pans which are maintained between here and the nearby coast. Unusually, it was very still, and this was beneficial to us: we located some noisy and showy Spectacled Warblers, birds which tend to keep their heads down and don't sing much in a maritime breeze. Being such a tiny warbler in an open habitat and staying perched for just a short time, the male's song-flights provided the opportunity for most people to lay eyes on them. Rarely easy to find, this was another bonus bird.

Waterbirds on the pans included Shelducks, Greater Flamingoes, Yellow-legged Gulls and their chicks, Black-winged Stilts and Avocets. The local form of Yellow Wagtail was a common roadside bird, and Kentish Plovers and Little Terns (always favourites) showed well, when they kept still long enough for sustained viewing. A single Curlew stood alongside a single Whimbrel for an education in telling them apart! Distant flocks of summer-plumaged Dunlin contained several brick-red Curlew Sandpipers, Little Stints and singles of Sanderling and Knot. Ringed Plovers nudged Kentish Plovers out of the way.

A low, vegetated island on one of the pans provided enough infrastructure for a small Spoonbill colony, with Glossy Ibises in attendance too. Hulking Caspian Terns, diminutive but noisy Little Terns, small groups of Slender-billed Gulls and a few Common Redshanks, Common Sandpipers and Common Terns provided more diversity.

We pushed on to the coast at Plage de Piémanson, with an opportunity for a toe or more in the water of the Mediterranean Sea, but without seeing much that was different. We drove back to Salin de Giraud for a comfort stop, and consumed our picnic in a large layby with a picnic table, to the north of the large village.

After sating our thirsts and hunger, it was time for some more wildlife-watching, and we lingered at La Tour de Valet with more Short-toed Snake Eagles, Bee-eaters and White Storks, as well as photogenic Camargue white horses and rather more distant black bulls. A hidden Turtle Dove 'purred' nearby. We motored on to Etang du Vaccares, and popped in to La Capelière for a comfort stop.

On a pool by the roadside, a Little Gull fed acrobatically with Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls, and we notched up Great Crested Grebe and closer views of Greater Flamingoes. Cormorants, Grey Herons and Yellow-legged Gulls were on posts and in bushes nearby. Another roadside stop was taken to enjoy gaudy Bee-eaters feeding in a partly-wooded grass field containing pristine Black Bulls.

Our last plan for the day was to visit Mas D'Agon and St Cecile on the run-in back to the hotel.

The Mas D'Agon freshwater marshes rarely disappoint, and we found plenty of Glossy Ibises, a variety of herons (including Purple and Squacco), Red-crested Pochard, Wood Sandpipers, a Greenshank and (rather surprisingly) a single Common Crane. Chat with other birders suggested that a small flock of Collared Pratincoles had been seen on dry fields towards St Cecile. We tried our luck, and found quite a number of these lovely birds tucked down in the sods of a ploughed field, some of them flying around or sallying up for an insect or two. With everyone having safely seen them (they blended in so well when on the ground), we didn't linger at St Cecile and motored back to our hotel, after a long but rewarding day.

After our dinner, we caught up on the checklist and plans for the next day, and with no appetite for a night drive, it was a case of checking out the wildlife in the hotel garden, and retiring for the evening.

Day 4

Saturday 9th May

We had another sunny day for our morning walk, but it became a great deal cloudier in the afternoon. Our morning walk began with a concerted effort to try and see Stone-curlew: we had been hearing them, but not seeing them. Distant views were had of them at the far end of a field which has recently been turned into a vineyard. Other birds included the still-calling (but not seen) Quail, Red-legged Partridge, Tawny Pipit, Black Redstart and the other regulars, and we secured some views of the often-well-concealed Nightingales.

Another full itinerary followed breakfast, with our first visit to 'Le Petite Camargue', which includes Etang Scamanderie, further to the west from where we had previously ventured. Our first surprise was a Black Stork wheeling over the Arles ring road: of course, traffic meant we weren't able to stop to admire it. After circumnavigating Arles in some traffic, the two minibuses became split up and travelled to the Scamanderie Visitor Centre by different routes. One minibus had a Montagu's Harrier cross the road in front of them, but the bird couldn't be found in the surrounding fields afterwards. Also, a Honey Buzzard spiralled up slowly as the warmth of the day provided some weak thermals. White Storks were atop nests, Corn Buntings and House Sparrows were in roadside hedges, and everywhere Cetti's Warblers, Nightingales and Melodious Warblers sang from damp scrub.

We were reunited at the visitor centre, although the full car park proved this was a popular venue for many people. Once all ready, we took a slow walk along the board walks and tracks, quickly enjoying great views of Tree Sparrows nesting in nestboxes put out for them. Great Reed Warblers sang and showed distantly, as did several Cuckoos. Even a Cetti's Warbler and a Nightingale showed themselves: this is the advantage of going to a venue where they see many people daily. We didn't know it yet, but it was to be an 'eight-heron' day: it began with plenty of Grey and Purple Herons, and all three egret species. A few Night Herons flew over on their way to or from the nearby heronry. A couple of Squacco Herons were a little more furtive, and were almost mistaken as egrets as they flew away.

An 'impossible to see into' reedbed would benefit from a stilted hide, but we did our best, and a Moustached Warbler perched up and sang for an incredibly long time. A couple of Western Green Lizards showed very well in the reed margins, and Common Reed Warblers chuntered away in the phragmites beds. Purple Herons and Great Egrets flew in and out, and we could hear (but not see) plenty of the Western Swamphens. Marsh Harriers and Black Kites were busy over the reed beds or higher still, and the air space also contained Sand Martins and Common Swifts.

After a pleasant walk around for a couple of hours we took an early picnic lunch at the tables at the visitor centre, with shelter from the warm sunshine.

After lunch we exited the visitor centre to drive alongside one of the roadside canals, where we encountered a Squacco Heron in fishing mode and providing something of a photographic opportunity. What we didn't initially realise was that just a little further down, a Little Bittern was also on show, adopting a similar pose. With it being a relatively busy road, it was difficult to manage, but the first minibus concentrated on the Little Bittern, and the second van viewed the Squacco closely. The Little Bittern caught and consumed quite a large fish for its size. Ultimately, both birds were disturbed by traffic, but it was great while it lasted!

We drove to a small bridge which overlooks some of the marshes and a large canal; a Western Swamphen was initially out in the open, but slipped back in the vegetation before most people could see it. A couple of well-hidden Purple Heron nests were visible, with adults on the nests, and Marsh Harriers, Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls flew up and down over the reedbeds.

With time marching on and a significant venue yet to visit, some forty-five-minutes' drive away, we reluctantly pulled ourselves away from 'Le Petite Camargue' and headed south to Parc Ornithologique. Here we spent a couple of hours completing a little circuit around shallow lagoons, with hundreds of habituated Greater Flamingoes, which treat this as their home, and as a safe loafing area for off-duty adults taking a break from egg-minding duties in the colony further out in the Camargue. It's a great place to watch behaviour, communications and a variety of activities within a very social group of birds, and all at point blank range. But it's not just flamingos: we had close views of Black-winged Stilts, Common Terns, Black-headed Gulls, Grey Herons, Cattle and Little Egrets, and Glossy Ibises. A large aviary contained captive Eagle-Owls, and we enjoyed the opportunity to appreciate their huge size and gorgeous amber eyes!

This is another place where you can actually watch singing Cetti's Warblers and Nightingales, plus Sardinian Warblers and Common Reed Warblers. Little Terns were also present, and were clearly looking to nest on one of the islands. Some little observation towers provided views outside the reserve, and several purple Western Swamphens were seen as they periodically wandered out from stands of reeds and meandered back in again. Flying flamingoes, their vivid pink wings on show, kept the photographers busy as formations of birds moved in and out. Coypus were obvious here too, and not bothered by people.

Once reassembled outside the reserve, we took a slow drive back to our hotel, in time to relax prior to dinner and, of course, the daily task of recording what we had encountered. We discussed our plans for the final day of the tour, and the weather forecast threatening rain for our last day in the region.

Day 5

Sunday 10th May

We had cloudy skies indeed, but the rain never arrived, and we enjoyed warmth and some decent wildlife sightings on our departure day. The pre-breakfast morning walk didn't produce anything new, but a Quail was seen as opposed to just being heard, and an unidentified mustelid ran across the track, not to be seen again.

Following breakfast, we checked out, but left our main luggage at the hotel, with a view to returning later to pick it up. We drove out to visit Etang Aulnes and the commune of La Dynamite. Keeping an eye on the weather, we took a short walk, heard a Turtle Dove, and saw at least one Golden Oriole flying away and then coming back into some mature woodland. A Caspian Tern was subsequently seen flying over the étang from a roadside scan, and Jackdaws and Starlings were breeding in good numbers. We kept an eye out for other avian life as we progressed along a country track, and arrived at the northern section of Le Crau. A small stream was enough to attract an early-emerged Blue Emperor dragonfly, plus Banded and Copper Demoiselles.

A walk out along a track on to the stony plateau was pleasant, and we managed distant views of local specialities in the form of Greater Short-toed Lark and Iberian Grey Shrike. Lots of quite distant 'kestrels' proved difficult to identify, but probably included examples of both Common and Lesser Kestrels. Tawny Pipit showed well, and butterflies on show were Western Marbled White, Western Bath White and Painted Lady. Skylarks and Crested Larks were additional songsters.

We then found a picnic spot next to the étang, and while finishing off the remnants of our picnic produce, we could hear and see Cuckoos and Great Reed Warblers, and heard a Golden Oriole again, but this one didn't show! A couple of Viperine Snakes entwined around the reeds in the shallows were a good find.

After our picnic, we motored around to another section of Le Crau, to try and secure better views of Lesser Kestrel. Many probables were hovering alongside the main road on our way there, but it is impossible to stop on the fast road. A Montagu's Harrier crossed the road ahead of us. Once safely parked, we walked a track and managed to obtain better views of several male Lesser Kestrels which came closer, and also bumped into a Hoopoe. A surprise bird sighting came when we heard a growling vocalisation, turned, and saw four Pin-tailed Sandgrouse flash past. These fast-flying birds maintain a very small population locally, possibly the only ones in France, but are traditionally difficult to track down, and it is even harder to obtain good views. Butterflies and other insects made use of the wind-break along our walk, with Dingy Skipper and Common Swallowtail being the highlights.

We returned to our hotel, repacked, cleaned the picnic equipment the vans, and said goodbye to Mark, who was to continue with more wildlife adventures in the Camargue and further afield.

The remainder of us travelled to Marseilles, with Kathy and Scott being dropped off at a nearby hotel, also for further adventures in France. The tour came to an end, and we jetted back to the UK and went our separate ways, with memories of a very pleasant wildlife tour in the south of France.

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

I=Introduced		May 2026				
Common name	Scientific name	6	7	8	9	10
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	✓		✓	✓	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>				✓	
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	✓			✓	
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</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	H	H	✓
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>				✓	
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>		✓			
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>		✓			
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	✓				
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	H	H	✓	✓
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>					4
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	✓		H	H	H
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓
Western Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>				✓	
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>			1		
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 oedecnemus</i>		H	H	✓	H
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓		✓	✓	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			✓	✓	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			✓		
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			✓		
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>			✓		
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			✓		
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓		
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓		✓		
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	✓		✓		
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			✓		
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			✓		
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>			✓		
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			✓		
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			✓		
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			✓		
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			✓		
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>			✓		
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>			✓	✓	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			✓		✓
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓

I=Introduced		May 2026				
Common name	Scientific name	6	7	8	9	10
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			H		
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>			✓		
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			✓		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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>Botaurus minutus</i>				✓	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				✓	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	✓		✓	✓	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>				✓	
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	10				
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>		2			
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	✓		✓		
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				✓	✓
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓		✓	✓	
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>		✓			
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓	✓	H	✓
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	H	✓	✓	✓
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	H			H	H
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>					✓
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	✓				
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		H	H		✓
Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>					✓
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>		✓			
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>					✓
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			H	H	✓
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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓		✓	✓	

I=Introduced		May 2026				
Common name	Scientific name	6	7	8	9	10
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	H	H	✓	✓	H
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	H				H
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				✓	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				✓	✓
Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>				✓	
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			✓	✓	
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	H	H	H	✓
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>		H			
Spectacled Warbler	<i>Curruca conspicillata</i>			✓		
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		H			
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓			
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		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>		✓			
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	H		
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		H	✓	✓	✓
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓			
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>		✓	H	✓	✓
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓			✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			H		
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>			H		

Mammals

I=Introduced		May 2026				
Common name	Scientific name	6	7	8	9	10
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		✓	✓		✓
Coypu - I	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	✓		✓	✓	
a bat	Chiroptera sp.		✓			
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	✓	✓		✓	
a mustelid	Mustelidae sp.					✓

Amphibians & reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026				
		6	7	8	9	10
Mediterranean Tree Frog	<i>Hyla meridionalis</i>	H	✓	H	H	
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>		✓		✓	
Western Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>				✓	
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>	✓			✓	
Viperine Snake	<i>Natrix maura</i>					✓

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026				
		6	7	8	9	10
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>		✓			
Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	✓				
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>					✓
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓			
Western Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>					✓
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓			
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>				✓	
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓			
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>		✓			
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>			✓		
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	✓				
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓	✓			✓
Western Marbled White	<i>Melanargia occitanica</i>	✓	✓			✓
Spanish Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia bathseba</i>		✓			

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026				
		6	7	8	9	10
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>					✓
Copper Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis</i>					✓
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	✓			✓	
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>					✓
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	✓				

Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026				
		6	7	8	9	10
Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptum</i>	✓		✓		
Mole Cricket	<i>Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa</i>			H	H	H
Sulphur Owlfly	<i>Libelloides italicus</i>		✓			
a robber-fly	<i>Asilidae</i> sp.				✓	
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>		✓			
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>		✓			
Millipede	<i>Diplopoda</i> sp.		✓			

Selected plants

Common name	Scientific name
Stone Pine	<i>Pinus pinea</i>
Italian Cypress	<i>Cupressus sempervivens</i>
a juniper	<i>Juniperus</i> sp.
Round-leaved Birthwort	<i>Aristolochia rotunda</i>
a poppy	<i>Papaver</i> sp.
Kermes Oak	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>
Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>
Small-flowered Catchfly	<i>Silene gallica</i>
Goat's Beard Spiraea	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>
Spanish Broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>
Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i>
Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>
Etruscan Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>
Goat's-beard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>
Milk Thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>
Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Giant Reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Robert's Giant Orchid	<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>
Purple Limodore (or Violet Bird's-nest)	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>
Hollow-leaved Asphodel	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>