

France – Wallcreepers & The Camargue

Naturetrek Tour Report

2nd – 6th December 2021



Wallcreeper, by Ann Saetnan



Citril Finches, by Jenny Craddock



Greater Flamingo, by Dave Jackson



Camargue White Horses, by Ruth Hillman

Report compiled by Neil McMahon. Images courtesy of Ann Saetnan, Jenny Craddock, Ruth Hillman and Dave Jackson.



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Tour Participants – Neil McMahon and Dave Jackson (Leaders) with 14 Naturetrek clients

Summary

Following a short flight from Heathrow to Marseilles for the majority of us, we drove to our hotel on the outskirts of Arles and met up with the remainder of the group before enjoying our first evening meal together and making plans for our adventure the following day. Our first main venue was the village of Les Baux de Provence situated in the limestone hills of Les Alpilles. Here we scanned the cliffs and walls of this stunning location, finding Blue Rock Thrushes and obtaining brief views of Sardinian Warbler and Firecrest and plenty of Mediterranean fauna. And there was the main target - an incredible Wallcreeper! Spotted high up on the cliffs it remained on view for a long time, examining crevices, fluttering around the weathered limestone and generally showing off to our happy clan of Naturetrekkers! A second bird was heard calling and we then carried on in to the village and made our way to the upper ramparts where we found Black Redstarts, more Sardinian Warblers and Serins. A complete surprise were the three gaudy Citril Finches feeding with a mixed flock of Chaffinches and Serins!

Another Wallcreeper was seen at our second venue of the day at Pont du Gard where there were also a number of Rock Sparrows on view.

The following morning provided an opportunity for a visit to the historic town of Arles which coincided with a very impressive street market and also a visit to the wetland reserve of Marais du Vigueirat which provided our first Coypus, Greater Flamingos and Common Cranes. The afternoon provided an opportunity to visit more Camargue sites with closer views of bugling Cranes, Black-necked Grebe, raptors and a small group of Wild Boar.

Our last full day included a visit to Parc Ornithologique with incredibly close views of flamingos, herons, egrets, White Storks and Avocets and even a Hoopoe put in an appearance. After our picnic we drove through the middle of the Camargue, seeing plenty of Marsh Harriers, Common Buzzards and a distant Black Stork and made our way to Plage de Piémanson, notching up Little Stint, Kentish Plover, more Black-necked Grebes and three unexpected Velvet Scoters on the sea.

A visit to La Crau and surrounding habitat in the morning of our last day was generally quiet but provided close views of Firecrest and distant views of a Booted Eagle before we consumed our last picnic of the trip and motored our way to Marseilles and the conclusion of the tour.

Day 1

Thursday 2nd December

Most of our group took the afternoon flight from Terminal 3 at Heathrow on a BA flight. Concerned about how bureaucratic the process was going to be (due to Covid-19 restrictions), I think most of us arrived there early! In reality the preparations beforehand paid off and the process was a painless experience and we passed through to the departure lounge without any hiccups. The flight to Marseilles made good time and after experiencing no significant issues at passport control we met up with all our bags and the leaders went about obtaining our two nine-seater minibuses. After a bit of a delay we were finally able to depart Marseilles Airport – well, that is if you could find your way out of the correct barriered exit!!

By now it was dark with a very keen, cold wind immediately making itself felt. Marseilles during rush hour isn't pleasant, but despite a couple of wrong turns both minibuses eventually arrived at Hotel des Granges outside Arles only a little after our expected arrival time. Here we met Gill and Alan and Gillian who had ably found their own way there and had found some nibbles to keep them happy whilst awaiting our arrival and of course our evening meal.

A hot meal was most welcome after room allocation had been completed and it was great to see Christine and Pascal (our hotelier hosts) after our last trip there in January 2020. The hotel had undergone a great deal of refurbishment since then.

After dinner, a briefing and some socializing it was off to bed in preparation for our short break wildlife adventure.

Day 2

Friday 3rd December

The weather forecast indicated a cold, windy but dry day and so it proved to be, with plenty of nice sunshine later too. The disadvantage of an afternoon flight the day before meant there were no wildlife sighting on the first day and no opportunity to purchase picnic provisions for the coming days either. Therefore, after breakfast Dave and the guests took a walk along the rustic track leading from the hotel through adjacent fields and down to an irrigation canal whilst Neil went off to purchase lunch!

Despite the cold and windy conditions, birds were about with Crested Lark and Skylarks in the fields and raptors included a couple of wintering Red Kites. More typical birds of this habitat included mobile Cattle Egrets, common finches, Starlings and Corn Buntings.

A little after 9.30am we were all together again and we drove off on our first excursion making for the super limestone hill refuge of Les Baux. It was a short, but slow journey as we encountered Lapwings, Linnets and more Skylarks and flocks of Corn Buntings in the fields on the way. Stonechats and other common birds flitted along the edges of large fields as we climbed up from the flat fields into the Les Alpilles range. At Les Baux we parked the minibuses in the car park and took a very slow circuitous walk around the base of the cliffs and fortress walls, continuously looking up and around for our quarry. Tough Mediterranean flora abounds here including plenty of Kermes Oak, which looks more like Holly but exhibits miniature acorns in their cups. A Blue Rock Thrush was soon spotted, probably the first of about four birds seen on-site. Small birds flitted in the vegetation, the movements belonging to Blackcaps, Sardinian Warblers and a smart Firecrest. Finches flying around at the top of the cliffs were Serins and Chaffinches and feral pigeons were acting like Rock Doves. Connell alerted us to a movement three-quarters of the way up the honeycombed cliffs and there it was – a stunning Wallcreeper!

There is nothing in the world like a Wallcreeper – totally unique and a must-see bird that is always a challenge to find and hang on to. We watched this grey and vermillion waif as it flicked its white-spotted wings each time it inched towards a crevice or fissure in search of hiding insects. It probed with its decurved bill and sometimes the whole bird disappeared into a hole or fault in the rock. The experience was enhanced by focused telescopes and multiple performance camera lenses. This bird of the mountains kept it's distance, but performed beautifully

for us, in fact it was impossible to tear the avid photographers away from it and continue our walk. For those that hung back a second bird was heard calling, but sadly not seen.

We progressed around the fortified village and made it up the steep steps on the northern side. The leaders' favourite café was shut for the winter but those in search of a caffeine fix found an alternative higher up in the narrow streets of this very special medieval community. More feral pigeons and a few Black Redstarts patrolled the paved streets and alcoves and some of us made it to the top of the ramparts and walked out onto the very exposed and windy, but compelling, top tier of this complex. With very clear conditions, from here we could see for miles to the south with distant views of coastal ports and heavy industry, the blur of the Camargue and closer to home limestone stacks, olive groves and mixed woodland and traditional small villages.

The birds proved to be difficult to track down, but persistence paid off with views of Serins, Chaffinches, Sardinian Warblers, Black Redstarts and Dunnocks. One of the Black Redstarts posed beautifully next to a medieval siege machine. A closer look at a flock of finches feeding intently on ground-hugging plants provided a significant surprise in the shape of three Citril Finches feeding alongside the Serins and Chaffinches. And what colourful individuals they were too!! This was very much a bonus species, the nearest small population being on the upper slopes well to the north of Mount Ventoux (which we could later see was snow covered).

The day was quickly running away with us as we left the village and manoevered the vehicles to try and find a sheltered spot on the leeward side of the cliffs, but it still ended up being a cold and rather uncomfortable picnic.

We then took a forty minute drive to another iconic site in the region, the Roman Aqueduct at Pont du Gard – well we nearly did! Unfortunately, one kilometre short of the car park, Dave's minibus suffered a double blowout with emaciated tyres front and back! With a little ferrying about, we were able to transfer everyone to Pont du Gard (with the exception of Dave who stayed with the moribund vehicle).

With barely an hour of daylight left it was a bit of a race to take in the amazing structure, beautiful river and inspiring surroundings and any wildlife on offer too. Alan P found a Wallcreeper actually on the aqueduct and subsequently saw another or this one again. Scanning the stonework picked up on quite a number of the big Rock Sparrows as they flew in to examine and then roost in the arches, but sadly we had no more views of the Wallcreeper(s). Black Redstart, White and Grey Wagtails were busy on the rocks on the river edge – and the wind of the morning had died down and it was now a very tranquil scene. Cormorants and Grey Herons flew past us and the numerous Blackcaps, Firecrests and Long-tailed Tits quietened as dusk approached and the bushes fell silent apart from the ticking Robins and one or two Blackbirds.

By the time we had walked back the short distance to the reception area and visitors' centre everything (including the toilets) was locked up! With no sign of any recovery or assistance confirmed for the stricken minibus it was then a case of relaying everyone back to the hotel in two journeys. Finally a recovery truck came for Dave's vehicle and after a third journey to collect Dave we were all finally back at the hotel and were very appreciative that another late meal had been kept hot for us.

The lateness of the hour ensured we put off the checklist for another evening, so we talked through the plans for Saturday and retired for the night.

Day 3

Saturday 4th December

Since we were down to one minibus for the morning, flexibility was the name of the game and we brought forward Monday's planned itinerary.

After our usual continental-style breakfast, eight of the party elected to go into the historic centre of Arles, which happily coincided with a particularly impressive Saturday market. So after a short trip to and from Arles, Neil and the remaining five drove out to the lovely reserve of Marais du Vigueirat. Dave, in the meantime took an expensive taxi ride to Marseilles where he successfully negotiated a replacement (and far better) hired minibus and picked up some extra picnic supplies en-route back to the hotel.

Those that visited Arles revelled in what was on offer – the underground, and rarely visited, vaults under the Roman Amphitheatre, followed the Van Gough Trail and enjoyed the architecture, little shops and cafés. Black Redstarts and other town birds were seen too!

At Marais du Vigueirat we could hear bugling Common Cranes not far away and a few flew over us. Great White Egret, Little Egret and Grey Herons stalked the shallows and margins of the lagoons; small birds of the reedy margins included Cetti's Warbler, Sardinian Warbler, Blackcap, Stonechat and Robin. Coypu, a large South American rodent, are here in good numbers and we saw several and plenty of their scats on the boardwalks. Marsh Harrier, Common Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Kestrel were visible and a 'ringtail' Hen Harrier paid one of the lagoons a brief visit. Our first Greater Flamingos were a very welcome sight and we enjoyed common ducks, Little Grebe, Kingfisher, Common Snipe, Great Cormorant and others. Water Rails squealed and called around us, but remained hidden!

Constrained by limited daylight hours, we didn't wander far and vocal Water Pipits flitted over and remained mostly unseen – the Grey and White Wagtails were a little easier. Calling Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers also remained unseen. After a couple of hours here we returned to the hotel and after a pick-up from Arles we were all reunited for a 1pm 'picnic' in the 'classroom' at the hotel.

This then gave us a couple of hours to venture out and see a little of the Camargue and find some of the famous White Horses and Black Bulls! But not before David H saw a wonderfully close adult male Hen Harrier ghost past him just off the hotel track!

We drove around Arles and out onto the motorway heading west before turning south into the fields and marshes of the Camargue. Marsh and Hen Harrier crossed the carriageway and a small, off-white raptor perched on a tree alongside the road could only have been a Black-winged Kite, still a rare bird in this part of Europe.

Advancing towards Mas D'Agon we saw little that was new, however, skeins of large birds and the fantastic sound of their serenading found us right in the middle of hundreds of Common Cranes. These majestic and vocal giants landed in roadside fields and their throaty melodious bugles echoed around us as they took off and reformed large flocks and settled again a few fields away. Curlew, Dunlin, lots of Corn Bunting, a few Stonechats and Chaffinches and a Zitting Cisticola were all there too and the pastures alongside were home to White Horses and Black Bulls which delighted many in our party. The attendant Cattle Egrets liked them too!

The horses delighted in our attention, the muddy conditions ensuring that they weren't quite as pristine white as one would have liked for a photo-shoot!

A nearby reed-fringed freshwater étang (lake) held more Coypu, Greater Flamingos, egrets and Marsh Harrier but wildfowl were mostly absent due to widespread shooting activity prevalent in the winter months here.

We drove to the brackish Etang du Vaccares seeing more horses and Black (and Brown) Bulls on the way. The shoreline was mostly quiet, but we found a large flock of Shoveler, saw a flock of Redshank and a single Greenshank. Marsh Harriers were quartering mostly distantly, Common Buzzards were everywhere and one area held a flock of Black-headed Gulls hiding a single Mediterranean Gull in their midst. The same beach also harboured a Grey Plover and a Common Sandpiper. A little further on and a Black-necked Grebe was seen very close in with a few Great Crested Grebes further out. Cormorant, Yellow-legged Gulls and Grey Herons were constantly in view.

With daylight beginning to fade our last venue was a small platform overlooking 'The Marsh of the Frogs' which initially seemed quiet, however, some saw a Merlin perched briefly on a sign just the other side of the channel and then out on the marsh, first one and then a group of Wild Boar emerged from the waterside vegetation and fed out in the open, albeit at some distance. Finally, distant birds came closer and it was obvious that many Common Cranes were coming in to roost at the far side of the marsh.

We took an uneventful journey back to the hotel, making out Common Cranes moving around and going to roost during the early part of the route. This time we managed to arrive back at the hotel as planned to allow sufficient time to refresh and relax before dinner and a final shop for picnic extras.

After dinner we finally broke into the trip checklist, discussed the events to date and made plans for our last full day.

Day 4

Sunday 5th December

Our itinerary today was to take in two of the southern highlight venues associated with Camargue birding, so there was quite a bit of driving involved. There was uncertainty whether the Parc Ornithologique would be open so we took a slow drive that way after breakfast to see what was available. Sightings in the roadside fields included Red Fox, more Common Cranes and a brief flight view of two Glossy Ibis, oddly the only ones seen all trip. More White Horses were mostly in paddocks and fields. We should have counted every Common Buzzard we saw, such was the significant wintering number of these and Kestrels. The Parc was closed on arrival, but another visitor thought they might be going to open at 10am, so we took a circular drive via Saintes-Maries to arrive back just after 10am. Some saline lagoons and saltmarsh just east of this small seaside town yielded close views of Greater Flamingos and a nice flock of Avocets. There were also Shelduck, Sparrowhawk, the usual gulls and distant hunting Marsh Harrier.

At the Parc Ornithologique we paid our entrance fee and took a slow walk around the shallow lagoons and islands inside. Greater Flamingos were in their hundreds here and at extremely close range. Coypus, big and small, swam around us or sat in the vegetation cleaning their whiskers. Four or five wintering White Storks sat quietly with their heads and necks drawn into their breast feathers. Grey Herons, Little and Cattle Egrets were

all around us. Feeders and scattered seed attracted House Sparrows and Chaffinches and wading birds seemed to comprise just Avocet and Common Snipe.

It is the flamingos that really steal the show here. Partly habituated like the rest of the birds, they ignore the long lenses projected towards them and you can understand how this place is much appreciated by professional and amateur photographers alike. We walked a circuit adding Cetti's Warbler, Sardinian Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Great White Egret and Marsh Harrier. Pat saw a Water Rail by the entrance and a couple of fast-moving Kingfishers were heard more than seen. Towards the latter part of the walk a fly-over Hoopoe delighted the members of our party who managed to see it!

We then manhandled our picnic into a suitable sheltered area and enjoyed the variety of cheeses, salad and tit bits on offer. Unfortunately some of the produce had become too cold and frozen from the overnight fridge and cool box and had to be dispatched. Suitably fed and watered we took another fairly slow and long drive around to the far south-east of the Camargue complex, with a couple of roadside distractions and a brief stop at a look-out en-route. Water and Meadow Pipits were seen, the common raptors were everywhere and a Black Stork was seen distantly in flight. We saw and heard plenty of Common Crane on our travels as we headed out to the coastal projection of Plage de Piémanson. A large saltpan complex initially held few birds but as we advanced towards the coast we saw plenty of Yellow-legged Gulls and then Greater Flamingos, Mute Swans and flocks of waders. Avocets fed and swam in the shallows, we picked up on singles of Common Sandpiper and a male Kentish Plover and the flocks of Dunlin and Little Stints attracted a few Sanderling. A raft of Coots also hid several Great Crested and Black-necked Grebes and a Zitting Cisticola was seen in the vegetative margins. Shelduck and Cormorants flew back and forth and as we parked near the beach singles of Grey Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit were on show. A particularly photogenic Dunlin attracted those lenses again!

This is an exposed spot and it was breezy, but thankfully dry and most of us walked the short distance to the building on the beach. Beach fishermen seemed uninterested in our attendance as we scanned the breakers and turbulent waters further out. Good numbers of Sandwich Terns were fishing about a kilometre further out. Sarah noticed objects in the spray and breakers close in and these proved to be three female/immature Velvet Scoters, definitely not an anticipated species! We watched these heavy-duty sea duck as they slowly swam east, diving regularly as they went.

With the light ebbing away, we made our way back to the warm and inviting minibuses and drove north to Hotel des Granges and our final dinner together.

Day 5

Monday 6th December

With an early breakfast as usual we headed off east of Arles to check out a new neighbourhood. We drove slowly around La Dynamite, a small village near an industrial estate and an agricultural area renowned for its quality hay fields. A small area of woodland adjoining a freshwater étang was our first venue. Here we scanned the lake and could see distant Coots and Black-headed Gulls and singles of Red Kite and Marsh Harrier. A few Common Buzzards came into view and we checked the trees and undergrowth for smaller birds. A Firecrest was calling and a second came into view and we saw Wren, Robin, Song Thrush and Long-tailed Tit. A second pair of Firecrests were found further along the track. But with no sign of the anticipated woodpeckers, we decided to

move on. Cattle Egrets, Collared Dove, corvids and House Sparrows were roadside birds with a few Stonechats and Blackcaps visible as we approached the desert-like plain of Le Crau.

Although the weather was bright, the mistral wind still blew very cold as we donned extra layers to walk out on this alluvial plain. Birds were sparse and included a Corn Bunting, Skylarks and a flock of Linnets. Interpretive boards hinted at land use and expected wildlife at warmer times of the year. Despite scanning we could only find a few Stonechats and a distant Common Buzzard or two with no sign of the hoped-for Merlin and other birds often seen here in winter.

We wandered back towards the minibuses and a distant raptor looked interesting as it stroked into the strong headwind. It finally banked to provide the detail we needed to confirm it as a Booted Eagle, either a first year or intermediate phase bird.

Back in the minibuses we took a slow drive back to the hotel with close views of Blackcap, Sardinian Warbler and Cattle Egret towards La Dynamite. We circumnavigated Arles and took in the rustic track that ends up at the hotel. Here we saw Black Redstart, White and Grey Wagtails, egrets, Yellowhammers and Skylarks.

Back at the hotel, we consumed our last picnic in the classroom, completed the last bit of packing and cleaned the minibuses before saying good-bye and thank you to Pascal and Christine.

En-route to Marseilles the plan was stop off briefly by a small aerodrome to the north which occasionally hosts Little Bustards. However, coming in from an unfamiliar direction beat both the tour leaders and the Satnav, so after failing to find the usual vantage point we kept on going to the Airport.

We had earlier said good-bye to Gillian and to Alan and Gill at the hotel, so it was again a relatively small band that returned to Heathrow on the BA flight home and to the chaos of the Omicron variant of Covid!

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Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; + = approximate count; h = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	December 2021				
			2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			✓	✓	
2	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			✓	✓	
3	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>			✓	✓	
4	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>			✓		
5	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>			✓		
6	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓	✓	
7	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>			1		
8	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			✓	✓	
9	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>				3	
10	Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	
11	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			✓	✓	
12	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			1	✓	
13	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>			1	✓	
14	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>			✓	✓	
15	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				1	
16	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>				5	
17	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				2	
18	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓	✓	
22	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>			1		
24	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>					1
25	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1	2	✓	✓
26	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			✓	✓	✓
27	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>			4		
28	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>			H	✓	
31	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓	✓	✓
32	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			✓	✓	✓
33	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>			100s	✓	
34	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				✓	
35	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
36	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>					✓
37	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			1	1	
38	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>				1	
39	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			✓	✓	✓
40	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				1	
41	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			2	✓	
42	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			✓	✓	
43	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			1		
44	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			1	✓	
45	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			1	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	December 2021				
			2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
46	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				✓	
47	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				✓	
48	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			H	✓	
49	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
50	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>			1		1
51	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				✓	
53	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓	✓	
57	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				1	
58	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			✓		
59	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			H		
60	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	
62	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>			✓		
65	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		H			
67	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		✓	✓		✓
71	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			✓	✓	✓
72	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓	✓		✓
73	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	
74	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			✓	✓	✓
75	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		✓			✓
78	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			✓	✓	✓
79	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		3			
80	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓	✓	
83	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
85	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		✓			
86	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
87	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			✓		✓
89	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>		✓			
90	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
91	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓		✓
92	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
94	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>			✓	✓	
95	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓

			December 2021				
	Common name	Scientific name	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
96	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓		✓
98	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
99	Citrel Finch	<i>Carduelis citrinella</i>		3			
100	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	✓		✓
101	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>		H	✓		
102	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			✓		✓
104	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			✓	✓	

Mammals

			December 2021				
	Common name	Scientific name	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1	Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>		✓	✓		
2	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		✓			
3	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			✓		

Notable plants

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS	
Cupressaceae	Juniper family	
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress	✓
Pinaceae	Pine family	
<i>P. pinea</i>	Stone (Umbrella) Pine	✓
ANGIOSPERMS	FLOWERING PLANTS	
Lauraceae	Bay family	
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Bay Tree	✓
Adoxaceae	Moschatel family	
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	Viburnum	✓
Amaranthaceae	Pigweed family	
<i>Sarcocornia fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Glasswort	✓
Anacardiaceae	Cashew family	
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic tree	✓ Pont de Gau
Araliaceae	Ivy family	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	✓
Brassicaceae	Cabbage family	
<i>Cardamine amara</i>	Sweet Rocket	✓
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle family	
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small Scabious	✓
Cistaceae	Cistus family	

<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey Cistus	✓
Compositaceae (Asteraceae)	Daisy family	
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	✓
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	✓ Les Baux
<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	Dandelion	✓
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Saltbush/Groundsel	✓
Euphorbiaceae	Euphorbia family	
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Mediterranean Spurge	✓
Fagaceae	Oak and Beech family	
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak	✓
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle family	
<i>Lavendula angustifolia</i>	Lavender	✓
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	✓
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Thyme	✓
Leguminosae	Pea family	
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	✓
Oleaceae	Olive family	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	✓
<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	False Olive	✓ Pont de Gau
Platanaceae	Plane family	
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane	✓
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort family	
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavy Mullein	✓ St Martin de Crau
Tamariscaceae	Tamarisk family	
<i>Tamarix sp.</i>	Tamarisk	✓
Ulmaceae	Ulmaceae	
<i>Ulmus alata</i>	Winged Elm	✓ St Martin de Crau
Urticaeae	Nettle family	
<i>U. pilulifera</i>	Roman Nettle	✓
Monocots	Monocotyledons	
Asparagaceae	Asparagus family	
<i>Asparagus acutifolia</i>	Wild asparagus	✓ Les Baux
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom	✓
Orchidaceae	Orchid family	
<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	Barlia/Giant Orchid	✓ Les Baux
Poaceae	Grass family	
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	✓
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	✓
	TOTAL	32

