

# THE TRAVELLING NATURALIST

TRAVEL | EXPERIENCE | CONSERVE



## FRANCE

### Wildlife of the Dordogne in Spring

19 – 26 June 2017

#### TOUR REPORT

**Leader: David Simpson**

##### **Day 1: Monday 19th June**

The week started with a heat wave as temperatures hovered around 37 – 38°C and the forecast was for this to continue until the weekend. Two of the group, Sean and Carole arrived the day before the rest of the group via Bordeaux (Aer Lingus) and train to Bergerac where I met them. They had already added white stork to their list as the train passed through the Libourne marshes where there is an expanding breeding colony. I arrived at Bergerac airport the following day seeking shade from the fierce sun to meet the remaining members the group. Around ten black kites were together on thermals further east over the runway. The Flybe flight arrived on time first with Margaret aboard and soon afterwards the British Airways flight brought Roger, David, Michael and Janine. We were all soon in the minibus and heading back eastwards through the fields for the short journey to Mauzac and Le Barrage Hotel by the riverside.

After settling in at the hotel we gathered at the restaurant for tea and biscuits. I described the plan for the week ahead and Amanda the hotel manager introduced herself and explained hotel arrangements. Following this we walked out to the dam and adjacent marsh for our first wildlife-watching. Crag martins were flying around the railway bridge where they nest. Further on we had great views of great white and little egrets all in breeding plumage. nightingale, Cetti's and melodious warblers plus zitting cisticola (fan-tailed warbler) sang briefly. Later in the week Janine managed to record the Nightingale song here in the evening. Several dark-winged western demoiselle and blue-eye damselflies flitted along the water's edge. There were some interesting butterflies about too: wood white, map and a lesser purple emperor (var. *clytie* – yellowish suffusion). A hummingbird hawk-moth was feeding at a buddleia bush along with a violet carpenter bee. Sean and Carole had already seen Cleopatra, small copper and southern white admiral earlier in the day. As we got back in the bus an Empusa was hitching a lift – this is a strange 'alien'-like large mantid – an unexpected bonus.

We drove up to my house at Saint Meyme to catch a few of the late season orchids. On route a grey wagtail flew up from the pond by the main road junction where it nests. There was a nice cluster of impressive lizard orchids in the meadow and further down in the orchard were some pyramidal and greater butterfly Orchids still with a few florets of colour and here we disturbed a young roe deer which sauntered off into the forest. Flowers included meadow clary, crown vetch and perennial everlasting pea. As usual there were some interesting butterflies about including a fine male Reverdin's blue but also ilex hairstreak, long-tailed

blue, silver-washed and weaver's fritillaries, great banded grayling and Lulworth skipper. Marbled whites were everywhere – as they were most of the week. My guests at our gite had very kindly kept some moths to show the group: oak hawk-moth, swallowtail, purple tiger and lobster. There were also a couple of large rhinoceros beetles!

After this we drove further on up the hill to a little pond with a few more lizard orchids and on arrival a grass snake hunting on the water. There were a few large green frogs and a number of four-spotted chaser dragonflies involved in territorial disputes plus a beautiful scarlet darter. By now it was time to head back to the hotel for the list and dinner. During dinner a common tern appeared briefly fishing in the pool above the dam opposite us. To finish off Amanda found us a large western spectre dragonfly hunting in the hotel garden.

### **Day 2: Tuesday 20 June**

Today we were to spend a day near the local village of Trémolat. On route a male stonechat stood on a wire by the meadows beyond Pezuls. First stop was a nice bit of scrubby downy oak woodland with some 'cause' - dry limestone grassland. We parked up by an old Perigordine house recently restored with its barns and a wooden fishing boat outside! Walking along the track we some heard plenty of birdsong: golden oriole, woodlark, crested tit, turtle dove, Bonelli's warbler, blackcap, chiffchaff and nuthatch. At various points we discovered animal scats – probably fox and pine marten. By the path there were some interesting orchids: red and Mueller's helleborines and wildflowers including blue lettuce and mountain germander.

As the sun rose in the sky the butterflies started to emerge. Berger's clouded yellow was one of the first, along with wood white and soon after ilex hairstreak. There were also a number of blues such as small, common and Adonis plus Brown argus. A few spotted fritillaries added to the interest, as did some pearly heath and a red-underwing skipper. Later we found three 'golden skippers': small, Essex and Lulworth. Day flying moths included four burnet species notably *Zygaena fausta*. Cicadas called strongly from the trees as it warmed up and a few dragonflies were on the wing: keeled skimmer and several pincertails. A shiny green metallic beetle on flower heads was *Oedemera nobilis* with its swollen hind femora. En route for our lunch stop we called in at the Cingle de Trémolat to see the beautiful view from high above the river. Here we saw marsh tit and heard another golden oriole. As usual there were scarce and European swallowtails on the hilltop as well as wall browns, some orange featherleg damselflies and an emperor dragonfly. A fresh broad-leaved helleborine down in the wood made a good photographic subject.

Next we moved on to our lunch stop 'Chez Julien' in the pretty village of Paunat with its 12<sup>th</sup> century abbey next to the restaurant. Here we had a fabulous meal in great surroundings. As we parked up a lesser purple Emperor flew around a tree next to us – but would not pose for photos. The occasional black kite drifted lazily overhead, Jackdaws chatted in the trees and a black redstart sang from the rooftops. A scarce swallowtail nectared in the flowerbeds and paper wasps *Polistes gallicus* came down to the fountain in the centre of the garden. As we left Paunat a very pale raptor flew across a field – in fact it was a common buzzard but largely white!

After lunch we went over to my friend Corine's property near the Cingle de Trémolat for a spot of botanising. Corine showed us a fine spread of red helleborines and a number of Mueller's – broad-leaved types which appear to hybridise freely. A walk by the edge of some rough grassland also produced greater butterfly and pyramidal plus a violet limodore or two gone to seed. Common redstart, short-toed treecreeper and golden oriole sang briefly in the afternoon heat. Common wall lizards scampered about near the house. Butterflies included ilex hairstreak and small cooper whilst common and great banded grayling and pearly heath flew amongst the trees keeping out of the worst of the sun's heat. A guided visit around Corine's vegetable and flower garden produced more scarce swallowtails and some interesting exotic plants and vegetables!

### **Day 3: Wednesday 21 June**

Before breakfast Roger had a nice bird down by the dam – a peregrine falcon, probably one of the locally nesting birds. On another very warm morning we drove out to the Bessède forest. En route I stopped before Cadouin by the roadside so that we could see some fairly fresh greater butterfly orchids. In the

process we also saw a nice red helleborine and a very diverse bank of wild flowers at a small road junction and here we also found the shiny green forester moth – related to the burnets. In the forest we stopped at a track by a little pond. Just across the road was a small colony of lesser butterfly orchids in amongst the bracken. Further on by the pond we also found a few marsh helleborines flowering. Golden oriole and turtle dove sang from the woods. Roger found us a notable butterfly – a beautiful dark brown male dryad and soon after I caught a large chequered skipper to show to the group. Around the pond were several dragonflies: blue and orange featherlegs, blue-tailed damselfly, western clubtail, keeled skimmer and a downy emerald. Interesting plants here included Irish fleabane and hastate-leaved selfheal.

We moved a little further southwards to explore another damp heathy area and were rewarded with a Kerry lily found by David and some more lesser butterfly orchids plus several fragrant orchids and twayblades. I went off to search for a rare butterfly and after initially failing to find anything I came across another large chequered skipper and not much further on a couple of my quarry – the rare false ringlet. I showed one to the group noting its large ringlets and lines on the paler underwing contrasting with the dark brown upperwing. A little further on I saw three birds in a dead tree and all quite interesting for us: tree pipit, stonechat and yellowhammer. Just before lunch we had a quick visit to the forest towards Bouillac. This proved rather quiet but we did add white admiral to our butterfly list. From the trees a middle spotted woodpecker called and we heard our first robin. As we drove back for lunch the dead tree was this time full of swallows!

Lunch was in the little bastide of Molières, very quiet and unspoilt. Our table was under a large shady tree in the square where there was a little breeze. Up above us a few birds of prey occasionally appeared including a hobby. A serin called and then sang briefly for us, as did a black redstart. As we ate we noticed many firebugs on the gravel beneath us both paired up end-to-end and singles. A short after lunch walk in the village provided our first red admiral.

We headed back out to the forest and stopping near Bouillac we started to find plenty of butterflies. A lesser purple emperor flew quickly past us. Both white and southern white admirals flew close to the scrub whilst there were many heath and Weaver's fritillaries. Several silver-washed fritillaries bombed about us whilst a slightly smaller species I first thought was dark green proved to be high brown. We also saw speckled wood, pearly heath, both swallowtails and the common 'golden' skippers. A pond near our parking place provided small and large red damselflies. Perhaps the highlight here was a honey buzzard which briefly flew above us giving tantalising views through the tree canopy. By now it was getting very hot in the middle of the afternoon so we headed back to Mauzac for a break before an early supper and an evening trip in cooler conditions. Margaret had not felt too well in the morning and so had stayed at the hotel. However later on amongst other things she found us a peacock to add to our day list.

After dinner we started with a trip to the other side of the Dordogne river at Traly – one minute as the crow flies but 20 minutes by car! We scanned the fields and found a family of stonechats, a skylark was singing nearby but we couldn't find the crested larks. Cirl buntings called and one sang near us but kept out of sight. We were more fortunate with a firecrest which showed nicely in a fir tree near the minibus just before we left. Our main 'event' for the evening was a visit to Cabant hill near my house to look for nightjars. As we walked out from the woods at dusk all was quiet apart from the trilling of field crickets. We left Roger and David at the first viewpoint whilst the rest of us walked further on. Before we reached the second viewpoint we heard our first churring male back towards Roger and David. Almost immediately two birds appeared flitting and gliding just above us before disappearing and soon after another appeared. As we walked back towards Roger and David we enjoyed several flying displays by one, two or three nightjars – and Roger and David had seen similar. A great way to end the day with these mysterious birds. As we left the site and darkness gathered a tawny owl briefly hooted.

#### **Day 4: Thursday 22 June**

Before breakfast Roger had found a dunnock singing in the village and Janine had seen a couple of Grey Wagtails. This morning was our cave trip at Rouffignac. When we arrived we had a little time before the trip so we explored a little along the roadside and by the picnic area. Birds were singing or calling and we heard green, great spotted and middle spotted woodpeckers, blackcap, nuthatch and short-toed treecreeper.

Butterflies flitted amongst the trees including brimstone, white admiral, comma, great banded grayling plus Mike's speckled wood and Margaret's Berger's clouded yellow. Best of all was a rare woodland brown which came and went rather quickly. Roger found a golden-ringed dragonfly and Sean a common wall lizard as well. At the end of the road there was a fresh broad-leaved helleborine.

Before long it was time to go down into the cave on the hour long trip on a small electric train. There are many fascinating features in this cave system: the limestone and flint geology, the cave geomorphology formed by past underground streams, the cave bear hibernating pits (which pre-date the prehistoric paintings by two or three thousand years at 17,000 BP) as well as the famous engravings and paintings (in monochrome) of mammoth, bison, woolly rhinoceros, horse, ibex etc. and also other symbols. At a constant 13°C throughout the year the cave is a pleasant retreat in hot weather. As we came back out into the light outside the cave we noticed the temperature contrast!

We drove back to Mauzac for a nice light lunch at the hotel. For the afternoon Dick Askew (who runs the dragonfly holidays with me) took the group to his meadow in a nearby village and then onto a village pond. It was rather hot for the meadow where only Adonis blues were really flying, so Dick chose to take the group to the local pond for some dragonfly watching. This proved quite fruitful with orange and blue featherlegs, blue-eye, small red-eyed, small red and azure damselflies. Of the larger dragonflies there were emperor (including egg-laying), western clubtail, brilliant emerald and scarlet darter. Particularly exciting was the present of two or three violet dropwing which appear to be spreading in SW France. In the village Roger heard a serin singing.

Later during dinner a couple of common terns fished in the pool opposite our terrace whilst green frogs cackled to each other. Two 'small blue-like' butterflies in the hotel garden may have been Provençal short-tailed blue often common in these areas. We also found two white featherleg damselflies amongst the lavender.

#### **Day 5: Friday 23 June**

The weather cooled down considerably today reaching a more normal maximum of 27°C. It was cooler, cloudy and a little drizzly in the morning but by the afternoon it was warming up well and sunny. We drove north-eastwards towards the Vézère valley avoiding a dead badger on the road at Pezuls. It's a common species here hence the unfortunate number of road victims. Also at Pezuls a couple of jackdaws flew from the church tower. Beyond Les Eyzies we stopped at a site along the Grand Beune stream with damp meadows, scrub and woodland. Green, middle spotted and great spotted woodpeckers were calling and there was a little song from Bonelli's warbler and short-toed treecreeper amongst others. Butterflies were understandably rather inactive but when found they were easy to photograph. Top of the list must be the two recently emerged large blues but we also saw a nice male short-tailed blue plus holly blue and a rather worn heath fritillary - apart from commoner species. The tiny blue damselfly here is a speciality of the site: the southern damselfly and we also found the beautiful, banded and copper demoiselles along with a couple of keeled skimmers. The group found two large great green bush-crickets and Carole found a large praying mantis. Another interesting invertebrate was the large marsh grasshopper. Towards the ditches were some nice little colonies of marsh helleborine. In the furthest meadow I found a tall patch of meadow rue - not a common species locally.

Next we moved over to the Petit Beune where there is a scrubby reed marsh. Our first bird was a great White Egret standing in a tree amongst the reeds. A tit flock included marsh, crested and long-tailed but they were not easy to see. From the reed bed we heard several reed and Cetti's warblers plus a squealing water rail. Butterflies and dragonflies however were few and far between with the damp cloudy weather.

For lunch we stopped at the Chateaubriant restaurant in Les Eyzies and enjoyed an extended lunch as we gave the weather time to improve for the afternoon session. In fact as we left the sun appeared between the clouds and it felt distinctly warmer and a black redstart sang across the road. By the time we had reached Le Bugue the sun shone and it felt very warm. Butterflies were flying as we drove up the track to

the hilltop. Scarce and European swallowtails buzzed about above our heads and we found wall brown, a peacock and several great banded grayling along the track – one of which took a particular fancy to Carole, regularly landing on her. Also along the track were several small pincertail dragonflies and several *Hemipenthes* (a type of bee-fly) – an unusual dark delta-winged fly. Out on the 'cause' grassland there were several Adonis blues including a lovely blue female (var. *ceronus*). With patience Sean finally got his photo of a cicada *Cicada orni*. Carole found an interesting plant *Stachelina dubia* looking like a kind of lavender with small thistle-like flowers.

For our final stop we called in at Limeuil at the confluence of the Vézère and Dordogne rivers and a well-known local beauty spot. Whilst the tourists enjoyed their ice creams, drinks and a bit of sun-bathing we walked out along the river beach to see what else we could discover. Both sand and crag martins were a good start – both nesting here in walls and bridges respectively. A grey wagtail was in the grass above the beach along with a tree sparrow – the latter quite common in riverside villages along the Dordogne. Green frogs cackled nearby as we started to find a few butterflies and dragonflies. First a lesser purple emperor flew past us and out onto the beds of water-crowfoot, then a red admiral whizzed past and finally by the road we had good views of a marbled fritillary posing well for photographers. In the nearby grasses and rushes we also saw white and blue featherlegs and blue-eye damselflies, a teneral (recently emerged) western clubtail whilst a blue male black-tailed skimmer patrolled a territory along the shoreline. A nice spot to finish the day in glorious sunshine after the poor weather of the morning.

#### **Day 6: Saturday 24 June**

The weather changed back to sunny weather though rather breezy for our mainly birding day on Faux Plateau with the temperature rising to 25°C. As we drove up onto the plateau and emerged amongst the fields north of Naussannes a mistle thrush settled briefly on a fence post near us. Further on we saw a male red-backed shrike on a wire. We made a quick stop and all had good views of this beautiful bird through binoculars or the telescope. A little later we stopped by a path and walked out a short way through the fields. Corn bunting showed well through the 'scope and a girl bunting sang invisibly near by. A whitethroat also sang in the hedge as did a melodious warbler briefly. An anxious nightingale whistled from another hedge. In the distance across a field we found one of the plateau's special birds: the black-winged kite. Through the 'scope we all had reasonable views of this handsome bird. Butterflies included wall brown, speckled wood, small and large skippers, common blue and another small/Provençal short-tailed blue. All the while a quail occasionally called from a field beside us. On the trackside were a few interesting bugs: rose chafer, striped shield bug plus some *Cantharidae* soldier beetles and a flower bug - probably *Trichodes* found by Carole.

We spent the rest of the morning by the silo south of Faux. As we arrived the rock sparrow showed well for us up on the wires by the electricity post where they nest. Turtle doves purred softly from the trees but would not show themselves – like the trilling Bonelli's warbler. A skylark sang high above us and further along the road by the farm we had a bit more luck with a couple of crested larks though through the telescope the heat-haze made viewing difficult. A large longhorn beetle flew into the oak trees near us – most likely *Cerambyx cerdo*. Over the fields where tractors were working groups of black kites circled above looking for easy pickings. Back by the minibus Margaret had seen a dingy skipper and there were Adonis blue and Lulworth skipper flying plus a couple of very freshly emerged brown argus. Far away a large bulky raptor appeared to be a short-toed eagle as it hovered characteristically above a field and showed a pale underneath.

We had a very pleasant lunch in Issigeac at a pretty little auberge near the ancient church. Afterwards we spent a little time exploring this medieval village. For the afternoon session we had a brief visit to the reservoir before a rest back at the hotel followed by dinner and an early evening visit back out on the plateau. The reservoir was fairly quiet bird-wise with the usual great crested grebe, coot and mallard with their young. Roger was lucky enough to catch sight of a kingfisher. I thought I saw a black woodpecker briefly disappearing into the lakeside wood. Unfortunately the orchids were all over though we did see a couple of recently finished ploughshare orchids with their characteristic large lower petal (hence the

name). We walked along the dam footpath where there were many red-veined darters but dragonflies were more interesting in the little pool below the reservoir overflow. Here we found emperor, scarlet Darter and Black-tailed Skimmer. There was a little 'forest' of egg-laying blue featherlegs standing together bolt-upright in the watery pondweed with a pair of azure damselflies amongst them – and some green Frogs nearby. We also saw small red-eyed damselfly and beautiful demoiselle here. As we walked back to the car park there were a few butterflies including a nice male Berger's clouded yellow. Over the grass it was interesting to find the 'other' Dordogne species of ascalaphid (or 'owl-fly'): *Libelloides longicornis* – much scarcer than the early summer species *L.coccajus*. As it started to warm up we headed back to the hotel for our afternoon break.

After dinner with cooler calmer weather we tried a new area of the plateau for some more of the special birds. Not far from St Auban de Lanquais we walked along another footpath through fields. In the distance we soon found another black-winged kite and short-toed eagle hovering over a field but they were too far to see well. There was a hare nearer in another field and some stonechats along a fence line amongst bushes. Here we put up a hoopoe and had views of the flying bird. Further on David and myself found two or three more in a small wood which soon disappeared into the trees. Next David found us a new bird – a male hen harrier – it soon disappeared behind a wood but later as we walked back to the minibus we all had reasonable views, if a little distant, of it hunting low over the grassland and crops.

Next we drove over towards Faux and the silo. A normally interesting scrubby zone was very quiet apart from a Linnet which flew overhead (and a rather persistent barking dog!) so we continued along the road as far as the silo after a couple of fruitless stops. However at the silo as the light started to fade we were treated to a first a female hen harrier hunting close by, soon followed by an immature male Montagu's harrier (which I have seen here recently and it appears to be prospecting the zone with an immature female).

Across the road we heard stone curlews but could not see them. In the gathering dusk first a Red Fox and then a Roe Deer emerged briefly from some crops. As we left in the direction of Faux, Roger shouted 'little owl'. It had flown off from a road sign as we drove past. A little further on a second one flew off from a telephone post. By now with the light almost gone it was time to return to our hotel.

#### **Day 7: Sunday 25 June**

For the last full day we drove out to the Causse de Daglan, a wonderful butterfly area. It was a sunny and warmer morning – perfect for our plans. Our first stop was a hilltop near St Cybranet with a beautiful view out over a small valley. We parked up near a small wood and as I went to lock the minibus I realised there was a little butterfly resting at the base of the passenger side window – an ilex hairstreak! This provided very convenient close-up views before I let it fly away. We then walked back along the lane to first explore the roadsides. Turtle dove, Bonelli's warbler and golden oriole sang from the trees before we emerged on the open hillside. Of the butterflies we were especially looking for the site speciality which is the great sooty satyr. It wasn't long before we were seeing our first very dark males and a little further on the larger brown females looking like big exotic meadow browns. Adonis and common blues plus Weaver's fritillary and the commoner skippers flitted amongst the flowers. We soon saw our first great banded grayling – of which there were many! In amongst them were one or two common graylings. In these open areas we heard a cirl bunting sing whilst a melodious warbler called. We took the little path onto the hilltop to explore a little further. Scarce and European swallowtails joined us briefly along with one or two beautiful male Cleopatras posing for photos. Much of the wild thyme seemed to have finished flowering but there were still a number of good purple patches. Here we found another special butterfly: the blue spot hairstreak. These are always kind to photographers as they seem oblivious to goings on around them! Further along the track a Queen of Spain fritillary alighted – new for the week. There were also a few pincertails and this time we saw both small and large species. I was lucky enough to see a hawfinch briefly break cover but it had already disappeared before I could call to the rest of the group! We wandered back down the track to the minibus where Margaret was already waiting watching Cleopatras and graylings. In fact one of the graylings looked especially interesting being darker but similar in size to the great banded -

though slightly different. This was a woodland grayling with one pale 'line' (not one and a half) on the hindwing underside and a small creamy yellow patch around the 'eye' on the tip of forewing underside (instead of a short white horizontal stripe). In flight the woodland always appears darker as the pale stripes on the upperwings are duller than on the great banded. Meanwhile Janine was doing a little botanising and finding some interesting arable 'weeds' on the recently imported track gravel: large Venus's looking-glass and blue pimpernel. After a very productive morning we headed for Daglan and lunch. On route we had good views of a woodlark on a wire and again the sad sight of a dead badger in the road.

We had lunch at a restaurant in Daglan in the heart of dry-stone wall country 'le pays de la pierre seche'. Afterwards we drove back northwards to a quarry with some damp meadows nearby. When we arrived everything looked very dry following the heatwave but there were some nice butterflies about. A lesser purple emperor buzzed us as we got out of the minibus but was soon gone. There were both swallowtails, Cleopatra and brimstone nectaring on the 'weeds' growing on the disturbed ground. Over the meadows silver-washed and Weaver's fritillaries flitted between flowers and a meadow fritillary showed well on some brambles. Also of note were Adonis and small blues, great banded grayling and pearly heath. An Emperor dragonfly cruised above the meadows and a great green bush-cricket and bee-fly added interest. Two more ascalaphids *Libelloides longicornis* were notable. On the track we found a recently dead shrew which appeared to be a greater white-toothed shrew – common in tall grassland here.

For our final stop of the day I took the scenic route back to the hotel via a campsite at Belvès where I used to work as a wildlife guide. At the bottom of the hill I noticed the first orchids and pulled over to allow the group to disembark and appreciate a fine colony of mauve fragrant orchids some still very fresh. Nearby on the roadside were a few lizard orchids still in good condition. After a little reccie around this marshy seepage zone I walked on a little further on down the road where I found one robust marsh orchid still with a few purple florets at the top of the plant. Everyone was impressed with this orchid which certainly lived up to its 'robust' name!

#### **Day 8: Monday 26 June**

With a busy morning we packed the minibus and said our goodbyes to Amanda at the hotel around 9am. Sean and Carole needed to be at Bergerac for their train first so we dropped them off first towards 10am and said our goodbyes. Then we drove down to the port for a spot of sightseeing before our boat trip around 11am. After dropping off the group I parked the minibus a little downstream beyond the main bridge. As I walked back I was watching the swifts cavorting about above me in large groups when I realised there was a falcon amongst them which they appeared to be 'marshalling'. It was a hobby and it was a pity the group was not with me. By the time I had walked back to the port and found some of the group the falcon had gone. Eventually around 11.15 the boat left and we had a commentary about the history of the town before a quick look at the island 'nature reserve' where all was quiet – not even the usual Canada geese – although we did find a new species for the week: a moorhen! However, now started the more interesting section of the cruise. We sailed upstream along the wooded banks and started to see a few black kites, some gliding high over the river whilst others stood in trees giving good views. We saw several nests including one with what looked like two nearly fledged young. We looked for a kingfisher – we usually see three or four but this time it appeared there were none. Just as we returned to the port I heard one call from the other side of the river. We looked for it in vain – it had probably disappeared behind the island. Once off the boat the group waited in the car park whilst I went off to pick up the minibus. After collecting everyone we drove straight to the airport as it was nearing 'check-in' time. I parked up in the new 'drop-off' zone car park and we all walked across to the departure building where we said our goodbyes after a hot but enjoyable week in the Dordogne.

**David Simpson, June 2017 © The Travelling Naturalist**

## SPECIES RECORDED

### BIRDS

1.	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
2.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
3.	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
4.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
5.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
6.	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius alba</i>
7.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
8.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
9.	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>
10.	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
11.	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
12.	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
13.	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
14.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
15.	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
16.	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
17.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
18.	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
19.	Eurasian Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>
20.	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
21.	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
22.	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
23.	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
24.	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
25.	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
26.	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
27.	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>
28.	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
29.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
30.	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
31.	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>
32.	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
33.	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
34.	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
35.	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
36.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
37.	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
38.	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
39.	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>



40.	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
41.	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
42.	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
43.	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>
44.	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>
45.	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
46.	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
47.	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
48.	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
49.	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
50.	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
51.	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
52.	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>
53.	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
54.	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
55.	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
56.	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
57.	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
58.	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
59.	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
60.	Fan-tailed Warbler (Zitting Cisticola)	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
61.	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
62.	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
63.	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
64.	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
65.	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
66.	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
67.	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
68.	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
69.	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
70.	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
71.	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
72.	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarinchos</i>
73.	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochuros</i>
74.	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
75.	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
76.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
77.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
78.	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
79.	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
80.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
81.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>
82.	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>

83.	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
84.	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
85.	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
86.	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
87.	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
88.	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
89.	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>
90.	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
91.	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>

## BUTTERFLIES

1.	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
2.	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
3.	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
4.	Small White	<i>Atrogeia rapae</i>
5.	Green-veined White	<i>Atrogeia napi</i>
6.	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias australis</i>
7.	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>
8.	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
9.	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>
10.	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>
11.	Blue-spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium spini</i>
12.	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
13.	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
14.	Short-tailed Blue	<i>Everes argiades</i>
15.	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>
16.	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
17.	Large Blue	<i>Phengaris arion</i>
18.	Reverdin's Blue	<i>Plebejus argyronomon</i>
19.	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
20.	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>
21.	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
22.	Lesser Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura ilia</i>
23.	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>
24.	White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>
25.	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>
26.	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
27.	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>
28.	Map	<i>Araschnia levana</i>
29.	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>
30.	High Brown Fritillary	<i>Fabriciana adippe</i>
31.	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathiona</i>

32.	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>
33.	Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Boloria dia</i>
34.	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>
35.	Meadow Fritillary	<i>Melitaea parthenoides</i>
36.	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>
37.	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>
38.	Woodland Grayling	<i>Hipparchia fagi</i>
39.	Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>
40.	Great Sooty Satyr	<i>Satyrus ferula</i>
41.	Dryad	<i>Minois dryas</i>
42.	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>
43.	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
44.	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>
45.	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
46.	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>
47.	False Ringlet	<i>Coenonympha oedippus</i>
48.	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
49.	Wall Brown	<i>Lasioommata megera</i>
50.	Woodland Brown	<i>Lopinga achine</i>
51.	Red-underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>
52.	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>
53.	Large Chequered Skipper	<i>Heteropterus morpheus</i>
54.	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>
55.	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>
56.	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>
57.	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>

## DRAGONFLIES

1.	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>
2.	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>
3.	Western Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx xanthostoma</i>
4.	Copper Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis</i>
5.	Orange Featherleg	<i>Platycnemis acutipennis</i>
6.	White Featherleg	<i>Platycnemis latipes</i>
7.	Blue Featherleg	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>
8.	Blue-eye (Goblet-marked Damselfly)	<i>Erythromma lindenii</i>
9.	Small Red-eyed	<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>
10.	Large Red	<i>Pyrrhosma nymphula</i>
11.	Small Red	<i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i>
12.	Southern	<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>
13.	Azure	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>
14.	Blue-tailed	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>

15.	Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>
16.	Western Spectre	<i>Boyeria irene</i>
17.	Western Clubtail	<i>Gomphus pumchellus</i>
18.	Small Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>
19.	Large Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus uncatulus</i>
20.	Golden-ringed	<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>
21.	Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>
22.	Brilliant Emerald	<i>Somatochlora metallica</i>
23.	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>
24.	Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>
25.	Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>
26.	Broad Scarlet (Scarlet Darter)	<i>Crocothemus erythraea</i>
27.	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>
28.	Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>
29.	Violet Dropwing	<i>Trithemis annuata</i>

## ORCHIDS

1.	Marsh Helleborine	<i>Epipactis palustris</i>
2.	Broad-leaved Helleborine	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>
3.	Mueller's Helleborine	<i>Epipactis muelleria</i>
4.	Red Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>
5.	Violet Limodore	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>
6.	Twayblade	<i>Listera ovata</i>
7.	Greater Butterfly	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>
8.	Lesser Butterfly	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>
9.	Fragrant	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>
10.	Robust Marsh	<i>Dactylorhiza elata</i>
11.	Pyramidal	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>
12.	Lizard	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>
13.	Long-lipped Tongue	<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>