

# Camargue & Pyrenees

## Saturday 6 - Sunday 14 September 2008

**Tour Leader:**  
Mike Read

### **Introduction**

From salty, coastal lagoons in the Camargue to the high cols and cirques in the Pyrenees, we covered a broad range of habitats. As a consequence we found a broad range of wildlife from masses of gaudy, pink Flamingos to high top specialists like Snow Finch and Lammergeier. The weather gave us some variety too from 33° clear-sky days in the Camargue region to just 4° at the Cirque de Troumouse. In fact it varied from almost too hot to snow flurries!

However, the wildlife performed admirably for us with a grand total of 134 species of birds plus a few mammals, butterflies and plants thrown in. As per usual the hotels provided excellent food and wine and the conversation was both stimulating and, at times, quite humorous. Despite the Pyrenean weather, everyone seemed to revel in a super French break.

### **Daily Diary**

#### **Saturday 6 September**

Arriving on 2 separate flights from the UK, it was typical that the later flight was delayed by an hour! Once the hire vehicle was secured we were soon heading towards Beaucaire but apart from a couple of pairs of Jackdaws and a lone Magpie, birds were in short supply during the early part of the journey. As we neared the exit from the motorway at Cavaillon there was a Grey Heron stood beside the River Durance and beyond St Remy-de-Provence, a group of about 50 European Bee-eaters were disturbed by a passing Kestrel. We were warmly greeted at the Hotel Robinson and were soon enjoying a fine evening meal before heading to our rooms for a good nights sleep.

#### **Sunday 7 September**

**Clear and sunny with a little cloud p.m.**

After a leisurely breakfast we began the journey towards the Camargue. On the road towards Fourques we found a pair of Rollers that gave somewhat unsatisfactory views but a couple of kilometres further along another 2 birds were well seen at close quarters. The blue in the wings of these birds showed well when they came down on to open fields nearby. European Bee-eaters were also noted here (and at other locations further on) as were Common and Honey Buzzards.

On a side road we were soon finding more good birds with groups of Cattle Egrets to be seen in many places where there were horses and cattle and even in some fields where there were no animals at all. At one location we noted a Short-toed Eagle perched on a distant pylon and a Black Kite drifted past even further away. But further along we were pleased to find many of the 'available' heron species including Grey, Squacco and Purple herons as well as Great White, Little and many more Cattle Egrets. A Marsh Harrier drifted past and two Gull species were constantly present namely Yellow-legged and Black-headed.

After a pause for coffee, we drove to the Musee Camarguais where we found plenty during our walk to the hide and back. Cattle Egrets were occasionally flying past while a group of about 40 Bee-eaters were perched on overhead cables. Swallows were almost constant overhead while single Common Buzzard and Marsh Harrier appeared during the early part of the walk. Along the waterway to our left, a Cetti's Warbler gave an occasional burst of song and a couple of Collared Doves were perched in a dead tree. A bird was glimpsed flying in to other trees along the bank and as we were not too sure what it was, we strolled along

to see if we could locate it. Imagine our surprise when not one, but nine Black-crowned Night-herons flew out of the trees. As we headed onwards, birds seen included Spotted Flycatcher, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and 3 flying Purple Herons.

At the hide there were a number of resting Grey Herons, a couple more Purple Herons as well as Great White, Cattle and Little Egrets. A few Mallard and Coots were present while a Wood Sandpiper put in a brief appearance. Just before we left a couple of Green Sandpipers flew up from an unseen location just in front of the hide. As we made our way back towards the car park, we saw a Great Tit in some Tamarisk bushes and the Spotted Flycatcher was in the same area as we had seen on our outward walk. One juvenile Night-heron had returned to the dead tree roost.

Back at the car park we found a shaded table for lunch during which a Common Redstart made a few appearances and succeeded in confusing the leader by calling in a similar way to a Willow Warbler!! During the drive to Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer a couple more Short-toed Eagles were seen flying and occasionally hovering in typical legs-dangling fashion. East of St Maries a pool held a few more Flamingos and many gulls while a few Sandwich Terns headed west over the Mediterranean. Further on beyond the numerous camper vans another pool held a good array of waders including 3 Redshanks, perhaps 80 Kentish Plovers, a few Ringed Plovers and Dunlins and a couple of Grey Plovers one of which still sported much of its summer plumage. On a further pool were more dunlins, Kentish Plovers and a number of Sanderlings plus a few roosting Cormorants. Inland from here the etangs held hundreds of Flamingos as well as many more gulls.

We now began the journey back towards Beaucaire but paused in various locations to check for birds. At these locations, mostly in the first 10 kilometres, we added little except hundreds more flamingos, plenty of Black-headed and Yellow-legged Gulls and another lone Caspian Tern. It was not until just after the entrance to the Musee Camarguais that we happened to see a wet field with a few grazing Camargue horses. The main interest for most people were the close views of the horses but for us it was the waders that were in the surrounding water and mud! These included probably in excess of 25 Wood Sandpipers, 7 or 8 Lapwings and at least 2 Little Ringed plovers. There were a few Little and Cattle Egrets feeding too but the best surprise was to see first 2 then 3 Glossy Ibises. This was a great end to a good days birding.

### **Monday 8 September**

**Clear skies all day, 30°C at least, wind v light from NE**

Before breakfast we took a leisurely stroll along the trail in front of the hotel. Wood Pigeons landed in the trees beside the Rhone, a couple of Yellow-legged Gulls flew up river and a Common Buzzard disappeared off through the treetops. A Green Woodpecker called from a thicket but was sadly not seen and we then had the first of three sightings of Hobby. We were not sure if more than one individual was involved. We left the river and a singing Cetti's Warbler behind and walked up the hill behind the hotel. Here birds seemed a little scarce but we did eventually hear a Jay and a couple of Sardinian Warblers calling from the depths of the scrub and we saw a Red Squirrel feeding in the tops of the pines.

After breakfast we drove to Remoulins and took a look at the River Gardon. A Kingfisher on the far bank proved elusive for a while but then flew out, hovered over the river and plunged in for a fish. It then flew back to the far bank and was lost from view as it landed in a tree. A Grey Heron and a Little Egret were also seeking fish while three Common Sandpipers all seemed to want the same area of the weir. Two or three White Wagtails completed our sightings here.

We then drove to the fabulous Roman aqueduct at Pont du Gard where birds seemed in very short supply however we did get really good views of a Sardinian Warbler close to the end of the Pont. At least 30 Crag Martins flew around feeding and amongst them we eventually spotted at least a couple of House Martins. White Wagtails were on the rocky areas, a Great Tit was in the riverside trees and a Little Egret dashed about in the shallows trying to catch some small fish. We then set off for the Chaîne des Alpilles and headed towards les Baux. During our picnic lunch we saw a number of butterflies including Common Blue, Meadow Brown and Great Banded Greyling but the high temperatures were obviously keeping the birds quiet. In fact, nothing stirred either in the scrub or against the clear blue sky overhead!

We decided against a walk in the area and instead, headed for la Crau, the former estuary of the Durance River. At the first location we did not have to search hard to find a group of 8 or 9 resting Stone Curlews while in the same area we began to see Little Bustards. They seemed a little nervous at first and were hiding amongst the vegetation. Gradually they relaxed and began to move about feeding. The more we scanned, the more we found and in the end we located a minimum of 31 individuals. Also seen here were lots of passing Swallows, a couple of circling Common Buzzards and a Roller perched in a dead tree. A short distance away we searched another area of la Crau where we located at least 3 Northern Wheatears, a Crested Lark, 3 Tawny Pipits and 4 more Little Bustards.

From here we began the journey back towards the hotel and made a stop at the high point of Les Alpilles between Maussane and St Remy. The slight breeze helped to keep us a little cool but did not help the birding close to the minibus. Apart from a few more swallows passing overhead we saw nothing. As the heat was getting to us too, we returned to the hotel in plenty of time to relax before dinner.

## **Tuesday 9 September**

**Lightly overcast all day 28°C at least**

After our usual continental style breakfast we gathered in the car park to head out for a day in the eastern part of the Camargue. Before leaving however we had seen two new trip species, Pied Flycatcher and Common Whitethroat. Near the Musee Camarguais we paused to overlook the same wet field that had held so many birds a couple of days earlier. There was just one of the Glossy Ibises still there but another bird with a down-curved beak caught our attention, a Curlew. 40 or more Wood Sandpipers, 3 or 4 Little Ringed Plovers and 61 Lapwings completed the waders while the 'herons' were represented by Grey Heron, Great White, Cattle and Little Egrets.

Later along the Mas d'Agon road we checked fields, reed beds and etangs in our search for wildlife. Fan-tailed Warbler/Zitting Cisticola in a tamarisk was our first good sighting and a little later we heard another calling. 2 Stripeless Tree Frogs were beside us as we looked over the etang and a Kingfisher was soon seen hovering a short distance away. We had good views of Great White Egret, amongst other herons, here as well as Mute Swans and a couple of Black-necked Grebes. A Coypu proved a bit elusive but in the end, everyone saw it. There were at least 10 Gull-billed Terns feeding in the area and occasionally flying overhead and a Greenshank gave its 'tew, tew, tew' call but remained unseen.

As we made our way down the road beside the Etang de Vaccares we paused occasionally to look at birds out on the water. Hundreds of Flamingos and Coots made up the quantity while 2 Kingfishers, a few Great Crested Grebes and a Black Tern were the quality. Over the reed beds a couple of Marsh Harriers were seen and a group of about 15 Spoonbills were seen heading down into a pool. A short drive had us looking over the water and we discovered that there were in fact at least 23 present. As we watched these birds we heard a Water Rail calling and an elusive Cetti's Warbler eventually put in a long enough appearance for everyone to see it. During lunch we heard a Pheasant call and a Speckled Wood butterfly was seen.

Soon we were looking at various birds in the Etang du Fangassier area. These included good quantities of waders including Kentish, Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers, Sanderling, Dunlin and of course, hundreds of Flamingos. A group of about 30 Shelducks made a welcome addition to our list as did the Moorhen we had seen earlier. We drove towards the lighthouse and on the way saw a passing Whimbrel (a new species for *Traveling Naturalist* in the Camargue) and a couple of Cormorants. A pool overlooked from the end of the road held lots of birds and these included many Mallard, a few Grey Plovers, Teal and Cormorants, 3 Oystercatchers, 10 or more Caspian Terns and at least 500 Avocets! A Hobby dashed past at one stage and disturbed many smaller waders but we were concentrating on the Hobby so much that we did not identify the species of waders concerned!

We eventually began the journey back towards Beaucaire but made one more major stop on the way. This was at the Marais de Grenouillet where there was plenty to keep us entertained for some time. Here we found our first Greylag Geese, Gadwall, Northern Shovelers and Red-crested Pochards as well as more Mute Swans, Flamingos and Great Crested Grebes. To end the day we kept watch during the journey back to the hotel and managed to see a Corn Bunting and perhaps 5 Rollers.

**Wednesday 10 September**

**Hazy sun all day 33°C**

The journey towards the Pyrenees began promptly and we had soon seen a Grey Heron and a few Cattle Egrets. A few raptors were seen during the first part of the journey and these included 3 Kestrels at a peage area, 3 Common Buzzards in various places and a Short-toed Eagle flying over the road. After a while we paused for a coffee break and later stopped to view the ancient walled city of Carcassonne. At our lunch stop a little short of Toulouse the birding seemed to improve with sightings of Chaffinch, Pied Flycatchers and a Short-toed Treecreeper. Three members of the crow family were also noted (Carrion Crow, Magpie and Jay) and a Green Woodpecker was heard.

Little was noted during the first part of our journey onwards from here but eventually we saw a few Common Buzzards and our first Red Kite of the tour. We left the motorway near Tarbes and headed for the mountains that could be seen through the haze of a hot afternoon. To the south of Lourdes we paused to scan the cliffs close to the road and almost immediately were watching our first Griffon Vultures. Soon a smaller, paler bird joined them and this was identified as an Egyptian Vulture. Two or three different Sparrowhawks were seen in the same location and a dark phase Booted Eagle flew across the valley and disappeared into a wooded slope. Above this, a few more raptors were riding the up-currents and were presumably seeking prey but unfortunately they were too distant (and through a heat haze) to identify.

Our onward journey took us through increasingly beautiful and rugged scenery along the valley of the Toy River. At times the river seemed to take up more of the narrow gorge than the road but eventually the valley opened out and we were entering Luz-St-Saveur. We arrived at the hotel Montaigu in time to see a Blackbird dashing into a tree and overhead were a few Crag Martins to complete our day.

**Thursday 11 September**

**Sunny to begin the day clouding up to 2 thunder storms p.m.**

We began the day with a pre breakfast walk up the road and due to the darker conditions than those experienced in the Camargue area, we decided to 'bird our way back' to the hotel. It was really quite surprising how being further west had such an effect on the light. Birds noted included Crow, Jay, Blackbird, Green Woodpecker, Great Tit, Robin, Blackcap and 6 Black Redstarts.

After breakfast we headed towards Gavarnie and paused a little before we reached Gedre. Here we found our first Grey Wagtail on the river and in the trees were Coal Tit, Chaffinch and 2 Firecrests. A few kilometres further on we saw a couple of Dippers, an adult and a juvenile, and after watching these for a while, we drove onwards and promptly saw 2 more Dippers flying along. We parked in Gavarnie and walked through the town and out on to the route leading to the Cirque. A close Honey Buzzard was seen before we had gone far and further birds of this species were seen heading southwards during the next hour or so. As we walked further on, a few Griffon Vultures were seen perched up on the cliff tops high above us. Soon some of these took off and began descending into dead ground where we assumed they had found something to feed on. More distant birds saw the activity and were heading in from all directions and amongst them was an adult Lammergeier. This latter bird gave tantalisingly brief views but we need not have worried due to prolonged views of the species, including a more juvenile bird, later in the walk. Soon the Griffons took off again and we watched as 50 or more rose up on a thermal.

At another spot we seemed to almost be surrounded by a group of birds that were passing by. These included Robin, Pied Flycatcher, half a dozen Chiffchaffs, Great Tits and a female Cirl Bunting. Overhead raptors could still be seen. A Goshawk rose up on the breeze and a Golden Eagle circled over the highest peak. Constant searches for Isards paid off when one was eventually located on the skyline but unfortunately it disappeared before any of the clients saw it. Walking onwards we again encountered a Lammergeier and a few other smaller birds including hearing our first Bullfinch of the tour. At the Hotel du Cirque we took some light, liquid refreshment and watched the surrounding high slopes for wildlife. Eventually another Isard was found and everyone secured views; then 3 more were located. We began our walk back towards Gavarnie as a couple of rumbles of thunder rolled around the mountain tops. Rain began and we took shelter beneath a conifer. Soon it was pouring and we ate our lunch while sheltering.

Almost as suddenly as it had begun, the rain subsided and we walked onwards seeing a few birds including 3 male Bullfinches. As we reached the minibus, another Lammergeier was circling over the nearby hills.

From here we drove into the Ossoue Valley where we began seeing Alpine Marmots at various distances including one or two right on the roadside. High up in the valley we stopped by a jumble of rocks where we have seen good birds in the past. A few Water Pipits were the first birds seen and then we noted a number of Black Redstarts among the rocks and a Golden Eagle overhead. More Marmots scurried about and birds noted included a few Northern Wheatears, a male Common Redstart, 2 or 3 Pied Flycatchers and a Whinchat. We were just a short distance from the vehicle when it began to rain. Thunder and lightning accompanied another downpour which we watched from the minibus. As the rain eased birds began to reappear and another Golden Eagle passed above us and a Griffon Vulture flew off up the valley. As the rain increased again we decided on a return to the hotel and made our way back to Gavarnie and then down the valley to Luz-St-Saveur.

**Friday 12 September****Occasional light rain (2 or 3 snow flurries) most of day; 4 – 13°C**

Directly after breakfast we headed for the Cirque de Troumouse climbing up through low cloud as we went. Just beyond the tollbooth approaching the climb to the Cirque we found a group of birds. There were several species present presumably subscribing to the 'safety in numbers' theory. They included a couple of Whinchats, a Wheatear, perhaps half a dozen Black Redstarts, 2 or 3 Willow Warblers and 2 juvenile Yellowhammers. As we checked these birds the cloud seemed to be rising so we continued up to the top car park. During the rest of the journey we were given glimpses of the superb scenery that draws so many people to this spectacular location. We also saw lots of Water Pipits and a few more Wheatears as we went.

Cloud filled the 'bowl' of the Cirque and light drizzle was falling occasionally. This did not deter the group so we began our walk out to a rocky area where we have seen Alpine Accentor in the past. Just after we crossed the stream, a Dipper was a surprise sighting. How often does this bird appear along such a high altitude stream in Europe? As we walked onwards Wheatears and Water Pipits seemed to be abundant and Monkshood flowers brightened the way. At the rocky area we were aiming for, the main species we saw was Black Redstart, there must have been a couple of dozen present. Unfortunately, after some considerable time of searching, we found no accentor so began the journey back towards the minibus. A group of 4 Red-billed Choughs flew past and we had already heard them and their Alpine cousins calling in the distance. By now the drizzle had turned to light rain and occasionally there were sleet or even snow flurries. To say it was cool was an understatement. Back at the vehicle the temperature was a decidedly cool 4 degrees C. What a change from the heat of a few days ago!!

After a warming drink at the Hotel part way down we searched for a suitable picnic location. On the way down a Sparrowhawk was glimpsed dashing low across the ground and 2 Kestrels were perched on electricity cables. During lunch a Griffon Vulture flew off down into the Heas Valley and a couple of minutes later another followed. Presumably they had been roosting high up on the cliff by the waterfall draining the Cirque de Troumouse. Another 10 minutes passed when an adult Lammergeier flew the same route and disappeared off westwards towards a brightening sky. Perhaps the weather conditions in the Ossoue Valley would be the same.

Driving beyond Gavarnie we entered the Ossoue Valley and were soon watching a flock of perhaps 70 Alpine Choughs passing by. There were also some Red-billed Choughs amongst them (identified by their calls) but nobody actually saw one. The clouds were high enough for us to see nearly up to the tops of the cliffs so we continued on up the valley. As we went there were a couple of Common Redstarts and near the jumble of rocks we had visited the previous day, a dozen or more Yellow Wagtails were feeding close to some of the grazing cattle present. Around the rocks were a two more Common Redstarts but there must have been in excess of 50 Black Redstarts. Everywhere we looked we could see them among the rocks and also in the red-berried elder trees. In the end, as the rain began again, we decided to head back to Luz for a walk to the castle above the hotel. Where a footbridge crossed the stream our second Dipper of the day was glimpsed. As we reached the lower part of the Ossoue Valley a couple of small birds flew along and

landed on a roadside rock. These were our first Serins. Also in the area were 3 or 4 Whinchats and a very elusive Rock Bunting.

Soon we were climbing the track up towards the castle above the Hotel Montaigu. A few Crag Martins circled as we enjoyed the view and a Griffon Vulture passed high overhead. A distant Red Kite was seen high up the valley and lower down a Kestrel and a Sparrowhawk were circling over some small fields. Three Carrion Crows began dive-bombing the Sparrowhawk and completely ignored the Kestrel. We walked further along the footpath before making our way back down to prepare for another fine evening meal.

### **Saturday 13 September**

### **Snow at Tourmalet; rain elsewhere for most of the day**

Clouds over the mountains and light rain greeted us this morning and where we could see high enough, fresh snow had fallen. After breakfast we headed for the Col du Tourmalet and beyond Baresges we noticed a couple of Griffon Vultures descending to the ground. These were followed by a few more and it became clear that there was food available for them. As we watched, 20 – 25 of these giant birds gathered and began squabbling over whatever it was they were eating. At least 2 Ravens were circling the area too. We drove on towards the Col and a Sparrowhawk, seeming most out of place in such open countryside, flew up the road ahead of us for some distance. Wheatears and Water Pipits were frequent along the rest of the way and at the Col itself. We parked and the leader braved the snow flurry and looked into the valley towards the ski tow towers. After a while of thinking he could hear Snow Finches, but having seen none, Mike turned to walk back towards the vehicle and there was a flock of about 15 individuals just a few yards away on the car park. The clients had been watching them for a while – from the warmth of the minibus! Unfortunately, moments later a group of Swallows flew past very low and this seemed to spook the Snow Finches and they flew up to a ridge about 50 metres away. We continued to watch them but by now coffee seemed to be calling louder than the finches!

After securing warming refreshment, we drove a little way beyond Tourmalet and along a track. Again Water Pipits and Wheatears were frequent and a couple of Black Redstarts were seen on rocks. A Kestrel hovered over the slopes and a group of 5 raptors flew out of the clouds and towards the Col. These were 4 Honey Buzzards and a Booted Eagle. We then recrossed the Col du Tourmalet ourselves and took the valley route back down. More Water Pipits were seen plus a couple of White Wagtails, a Grey Wagtail, 1 or 2 Yellowhammers and a group of 10 or more Linnets.

We then headed for the Forêt de Lienz in the hope of finding a few woodland birds. As we pulled up, the rain was falling quite heavily. Despite this, a few Mistle Thrushes were feeding in the grassy area, 2 Pied Flycatchers searched for occasional insects, a Black Redstart was on some felled logs and a Goldcrest put in a very brief appearance. An early lunch was taken in the hope that the rain would ease but in fact it seemed to worsen! A change of plan was needed so we left the area in the hope that the lower elevation at Hautacam would provide more favourable conditions. When we reached the top of this famous Tour de France climb, at least it was not raining. We peered through the thinning low cloud and saw a couple of Griffon Vultures drifting off into the valley and at least 4 Ravens could be made out along the ridge. As we left a Red Kite provided perhaps the best views of this species of the tour so far and a couple more Mistle Thrushes flew out of the conifer plantation.

Back in the valley we were able to shelter beneath riverside trees and here the birding seemed a little better. A few White Wagtails were joined on the river bank by a couple of Grey Wagtails and across the river we could see a Pied Flycatcher and a couple of Blackbirds. On our side of the water were 2 more Pied Flycatchers, Great Tit, Common Redstart, Chaffinch, Willow Warbler and our only Nuthatch of the tour.

To complete our birding for the day, we headed down a lane near Ayzac Ost and here we were able to view the cliffs above. Due to the weather and the low cloud cover, birds were somewhat scarce but we did manage to see 2 Egyptian Vultures, at least 4 Griffon Vultures, 2 Common Kestrels, 4 or 5 Ravens and a Green Woodpecker.

### **Sunday 14 September**

### **Bright to begin but cloudy by 10a.m. & for most of the rest of the day**

Typically the final day of the tour dawned bright with relatively clear skies and some valley mist. This was, however short-lived and soon the mist rose to form yet another blanket of cloud over the fabulous Pyrenees. While the good weather lasted we could see many of the surrounding mountaintops many of which sported a new, fine white sprinkling of snow. With the minibus packed and with such reasonable viewing conditions we headed straight for Hautacam in the hope that there would be more to see than the previous day. We were not disappointed! During the 'ascent' we saw a Great Spotted Woodpecker which was new to the list. A couple of Goldfinches and a Common Kestrel were also seen but as we approached the top of the famous Tour-de-France climb, two birds were seen in a juniper bush. They were a juvenile Red-backed Shrike and a Wryneck! And what's more we had excellent views of both. Up at the top of the road we paused to look into a small valley and had 3 Griffon Vultures drift past below us. These were then followed by really good views of a passing Lammergeier, the closest we had seen on this tour. As we left, a couple of Red-billed Choughs were calling nearby, Ravens soared over the cliffs and a couple of Whinchats were seen fairly close to the road.

Jays were frequently seen including the unintentional detour due to the Pope's visit to Lourdes. I do believe we could have done with some divine intervention to keep us on the correct route. Certainly the 'Deviation' signs were misleading!! Before we had reached the peage to head towards Toulouse we had seen 2 or 3 Red Kites and perhaps double that quantity of Common Buzzards. After a lunch stop at an 'aire' we headed onwards again and saw a few more Buzzards, 2 more Red Kites, a lone Sparrowhawk, 3 Common Kestrels and a Green Woodpecker. This was the first of this latter species we had actually seen. As we crossed a river bridge part way through the journey, we were able to add Mallard and Yellow-legged Gull to the day's list. We made the airport in good time and were soon enjoying a celebratory coffee/beer/whatever(!) before we headed to our departure gate and an enjoyable flight homewards.

## SPECIES LIST:

### BIRDS

#### GROUSE, PHEASANTS & allies

<b>Common Pheasant</b>	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	One heard during lunch near Mas de Fielous on 9 <sup>th</sup>
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#### GEESE, SWANS & DUCKS

<b>Greylag Goose</b>	<i>Anser anser</i>	At least 8 at the Marais de Grenouillet on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Mute Swan</b>	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	At least 6 seen on the western side of the Camargue on 7 <sup>th</sup> and 15+ on 9 <sup>th</sup> at various etangs
<b>Common Shelduck</b>	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	A flock of perhaps 40 plus a few others all in the Etang du Fangassier area on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Gadwall</b>	<i>Anas strepera</i>	At least 3 at the Marais de Grenouillet on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Mallard</b>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	A few were on the etang at the Musee Camarguais on 7 <sup>th</sup> and also seen in the eastern Camargue on 9 <sup>th</sup> especially at the Marais de Grenouillet. On 14 <sup>th</sup> there were a few on a river on the way towards Toulouse
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	20 or more at the Marais de Grenouillet on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Eurasian Teal</b>	<i>Anas crecca</i>	A few were in the Etang du Fangassier area on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Red-crested Pochard</b>	<i>Netta rufina</i>	At least 5 females and a male at the Marais de Grenouillet on 9 <sup>th</sup>

#### GREBES

<b>Little Grebe</b>	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Seen on 9 <sup>th</sup> near Mas d'Agon and at 2 more locations that day
<b>Great Crested Grebe</b>	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Seen on Etang du Fangassier and the Marais de Grenouillet on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Black-necked Grebe</b>	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	2 on 9 <sup>th</sup> near Mas d'Agon

**FLAMINGO**

**Greater Flamingo**

*Phoenicopterus roseus*

Our first were 15 which flew into the etang at the Musee Camarguais on 7<sup>th</sup> but by the end of that day we had seen probably a couple of thousand birds. An even larger number were in the eastern Camargue on 9<sup>th</sup> including many juveniles. We were close to their breeding colony here.

**STORKS**

**White Stork**

*Ciconia ciconia*

At least 8 seen by one member of the group near Mas d'Agon on 9<sup>th</sup>

**IBISES & SPOONBILLS**

**Glossy Ibis**

*Plegadis falcinellus*

3 seen near the Musee Camarguais on 7<sup>th</sup> but on 9<sup>th</sup> there was just one present in the same field

**Eurasian Spoonbill**

*Platalea leucorodia*

A group of about 15 flew around close to the Etang du Fangassier and then landed with another 8 or more in a smaller Etang

**HERONS & BITTERNES**

**Black-crowned Night Heron**

*Nycticorax nycticorax*

A roost of at least 9 individuals was found during our Musee Camarguais walk on 7<sup>th</sup>

**Squacco Heron**

*Ardeola ralloides*

At least 6 near Gimeaux on 7<sup>th</sup> and a few were seen in the eastern Camargue on 9<sup>th</sup>

**Cattle Egret**

*Bubulcus ibis*

Seen in good numbers on 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

**Grey Heron**

*Ardea cinerea*

Noted on each of the first 5 days and then seen on 13<sup>th</sup> at Argeles Gazost and Bareges and on 14<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel Montaigu and to the east of Lourdes

**Purple Heron**

*Ardea purpurea*

2 near Gimeaux and 3 during the Musee Camarguais walk on 7<sup>th</sup> and a single bird was seen in the eastern Camargue on 9<sup>th</sup>

**Great White Egret**

*Egretta alba*

First 2 seen near Gimeaux on 7<sup>th</sup> then 3 further individuals seen later that day. The species was also encountered in a number of locations in the eastern Camargue on 9<sup>th</sup> reflecting the increasing numbers of this species in France

**Little Egret**

*Egretta garzetta*

Seen in fair numbers on 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

**CORMORANTS**

**Great Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

A few were resting at the Plage Est near St Maries on 7<sup>th</sup> and 3 more flew over and out to the Mediterranean. There were a number in various locations in the eastern Camargue on 9<sup>th</sup> and 2 were seen during the drive towards Toulouse on 14<sup>th</sup>

**FALCONS & allies**

**Common (Eurasian) Kestrel**

*Falco tinnunculus*

First seen near St Remy on 6<sup>th</sup> then seen on a further 6 days including in the high Pyrenees

**Eurasian Hobby**

*Falco subbuteo*

3 sightings during the pre breakfast walk on 8<sup>th</sup> and another bird was seen the following day near the Etang du Fangassier

**HAWKS, EAGLES & allies**

**European Honey Buzzard**

*Pernis apivorus*

A single bird seen at some distance at the Musee Camarguais on 7<sup>th</sup> then at least 6 heading south over the Pyrenees on 11<sup>th</sup>, 1 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 4 flew out of the low clouds at the Col du Tourmalet on 13<sup>th</sup>

**Red Kite**

*Milvus milvus*

A single bird near Lannemezan on 10<sup>th</sup> as we headed towards the Pyrenees was the first then seen on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

**Black Kite**

*Milvus migrans*

1 near Gimeaux on 7<sup>th</sup> was the only sighting

**Lammergeier/Bearded Vulture**

*Gypaetus barbatus*

4 sightings in the Gavarnie area on 11<sup>th</sup> involved at least 2 birds then we saw an adult below the

<b>Egyptian Vulture</b>	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Cirque de Troumouse on 12 <sup>th</sup> and another was at Hautacam on 14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Griffon Vulture</b>	<i>Gyps vulvus</i>	1 to the south of Lourdes on 10 <sup>th</sup> and 2 were in the same area a couple of days later
<b>Short-toed Eagle</b>	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	At least 20 on 10 <sup>th</sup> , 50 on 11 <sup>th</sup> , 42 on 12 <sup>th</sup> 40 on 13 <sup>th</sup> and 10 on 14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Western Marsh Harrier</b>	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1 on top of a pylon near Gimeaux on 7 <sup>th</sup> was followed by 2 during our walk at the Musee Camarguais later that morning. We then had good views of one near Pont du Gard the next day then single birds on 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> before our final bird during the journey towards Toulouse on 14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Eurasian Sparrowhawk</b>	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	At least 3 seen in the western Camargue on 7 <sup>th</sup> then a couple more were in the eastern Camargue on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1 at the Musee Camarguais on 7 <sup>th</sup> then noted on a further 4 days
<b>Common (Eurasian) Buzzard</b>	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	A single bird was spiralling up to gain height near Gavarnie on 11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Golden Eagle</b>	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Noted on 7 days but with smaller quantities than usual between Toulouse and the Pyrenees on 10 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Booted Eagle</b>	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	A distant bird seen during the Gavarnie walk on 11 <sup>th</sup> then 2 closer sightings in the Ossoue Valley later that day
<b>BUSTARDS</b>		
<b>Little Bustard</b>	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	1 dark phase bird on 10 <sup>th</sup> to the south of Lourdes was followed by another on 13 <sup>th</sup> which crossed over the Col du Tourmalet in the company of 4 Honey Buzzards
<b>RAILS, CRAKES &amp; COOTS</b>		
<b>Water Rail</b>	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	35 seen on La Crau on 8 <sup>th</sup> is the largest number seen by a <i>Travelling Naturalist</i> group on a Camargue tour
<b>Common Moorhen</b>	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Just heard near la Capelliere on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Eurasian Coot</b>	<i>Fulicaq atra</i>	A single bird was seen near the Etang du Fangassier on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>STONE-CURLEWS/THICK-KNEES</b>		
<b>Eurasian Stone-curlew</b>	<i>Burhinus oedichnemus</i>	Seen in the western Camargue on 7 <sup>th</sup> and ia large numbers in the eastern Camargue two days later
<b>OYSTERCATCHERS</b>		
<b>Eurasian Oystecatcher</b>	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	8 or 9 seen together in La Crau on 7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>STILTS &amp; AVOCETS</b>		
<b>Black-winged Stilt</b>	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	At least 2 seen near the Etang du Fangassier on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Pied Avocet</b>	<i>Recurvirostra avocetta</i>	At least 7 near la Capelliere on 9 <sup>th</sup> – our only record
<b>PLOVERS &amp; LAPWINGS</b>		
<b>Northern Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	At least 500 seen to the west of the Etang du Fangassier on 9 <sup>th</sup> a surprisingly large quantity for this location in the autumn
<b>Grey/Black-bellied Plover</b>	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	7 near the Musee Camarguais on 7 <sup>th</sup> had increased to at least 61 a couple of days later
<b>[Common] Ringed Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	2 at the Plage Est near St Maries on 7 <sup>th</sup> and also seen, in larger numbers, near the Etang du Fangassier on 9 <sup>th</sup>
		At least 5 near St Maries on 7 <sup>th</sup> and further birds were in the eastern Camargue on 9 <sup>th</sup>

<b>Little Ringed Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	2 in a wet field near the Musee Camarguais on 7 <sup>th</sup> and also seen there and at the Etang du Fangassier a couple of days later
<b>Kentish Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	The most numerous plover with at least 50 near St Maries on 7 <sup>th</sup> and more than that in the eastern Camargue on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>SANDPIPERS, SNIPES &amp; allies</b>		
<b>Whimbrel</b>	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	A single bird near the Etang du Fangassier on 9 <sup>th</sup> was a first sighting of this species by a <i>Travelling Naturalist</i> group in the autumn
<b>Eurasian Curlew</b>	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	A single bird was seen in a wet field near the Musee Camarguais on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Spotted Redshank</b>	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	
<b>Common Redshank</b>	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	3 on 7 <sup>th</sup> near St Maries and a single bird a couple of days later in the eastern Camargue
<b>Common Greenshank</b>	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1 heard calling on 9 <sup>th</sup> near Mas d'Agon
<b>Green Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	2 on 7 <sup>th</sup> at the Musee Camarguais
<b>Wood Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	1 at the Musee Camarguais and at least 25 nearby on 7 <sup>th</sup> then in excess of 35 at the latter location 2 days later
<b>Common Sandpiper</b>	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	2 on 7 <sup>th</sup> near St Maries, 3 at Remoulins on 8 <sup>th</sup> and also seen the following day
<b>Sanderling</b>	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Seen on both sides of the Camargue on 7 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> . As the species was not on the checklist, presumably it is a new species in the Camargue for <i>Travelling Naturalist</i>
<b>Little Stint</b>	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	At least 1 to the east of St Maries on 7 <sup>th</sup> and also seen in fair numbers at the Etang du Fangassier on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Dunlin</b>	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	6 or more near St Maries on 7 <sup>th</sup> with some still in partial summer plumage. Also seen in the Etang du Fangassier area on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>GULLS, TERNS &amp; SKIMMERS</b>		
<b>Yellow-legged Gull</b>	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Noted on each of the first 5 days then a single bird seen as we headed towards Toulouse on 14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Just seen on 7 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Gull-billed Tern</b>	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	About 15 seen near Mas d'Agon on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Caspian Tern</b>	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	2 near St Maries on 7 <sup>th</sup> and at least 10 near Fangassier on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Sandwich Tern</b>	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	At least 6 seen flying west over the Mediterranean on 7 <sup>th</sup> at St Maries
<b>Whiskered Tern</b>	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	7 at the Musee Camarguais on 7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Black Tern</b>	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	A single bird was seen over the Etang du Vaccares on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>PIGEONS &amp; DOVES</b>		
<b>Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)</b>	<i>Columba livia</i>	Seen every day
<b>(Common) Wood Pigeon</b>	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Seen on 4 days from 8 <sup>th</sup> and on 14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Eurasian Collared Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia decacoto</i>	Seen every day
<b>ROLLERS</b>		
<b>European Roller</b>	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	4 seen between Beaucaire and Fourques on 7 <sup>th</sup> and 1 in La Crau on 8 <sup>th</sup> and finally 2 not far from the Etang du Vaccares and 7 during the journey back to the hotel on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>KINGFISHERS</b>		
<b>Common Kingfisher</b>	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1 seen at Remoulins on 8 <sup>th</sup> and at least 3 in the eastern Camargue on 9 <sup>th</sup>

**BEE-EATERS**

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

About 50 seen on the way to Beaucaire on 6<sup>th</sup> then seen in good numbers the following day, heard but not seen on 8<sup>th</sup> and also on 9<sup>th</sup>

**WOODPECKERS**

**Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

1 seen near Ayzac Ost by one member of the group on 13<sup>th</sup> then everyone had excellent views of one on Hautacam before we set off for Toulouse on 14<sup>th</sup>

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

1 on the way up Hautacam on 14<sup>th</sup> and another seen during the drive to the airport a little later

**(European) Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Heard during the pre breakfast walk on 8<sup>th</sup> and on a further 3 days but then one was eventually actually seen as we headed towards Toulouse on 14<sup>th</sup>

**SHRIKES**

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

A juvenile well seen on Hautacam on 14<sup>th</sup> was the only shrike recorded

**CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES**

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Noted on 5 days

**Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica*

Seen every day except 12<sup>th</sup>

**Red-billed Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Heard during the Gavarnie walk on 11<sup>th</sup> and then seen in the Ossoue valley later that day. Also seen at the Cirque de Troumouse (despite the weather!) on 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Col du Tourmalet on 13<sup>th</sup> and on Hautacam on 14<sup>th</sup>

**Alpine Chough** *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

A large flock was seen in the Ossoue Valley on 12<sup>th</sup>

**(Western) Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

Noted on each of the first 5 days and on the way to Toulouse on 14<sup>th</sup>

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

Noted every day except 6<sup>th</sup>

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax*

Small numbers seen on the last 4 days of the tour

**TITS & CHICKADEES**

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

Just seen on 11<sup>th</sup> at Gavarnie

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

1 at the Musee Camarguais on 7<sup>th</sup> then seen on a further 5 days

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

2 or 3 seen as we had dinner on the terrace at the Hotel Robinson on 9<sup>th</sup> and also seen at Gavarnie on 11<sup>th</sup>

**SWALLOWS & MARTINS**

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Seen on 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in various locations around the Camargue

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Noted every day except 6<sup>th</sup>

**Eurasian Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

About 40 at the Pont du Gard on 8<sup>th</sup> then seen in the mountains as expected every day from 10<sup>th</sup>

**(Common) House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

At least one bird seen at the Pont du Gard on 8<sup>th</sup>

**LARKS**

**Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*

Just a single bird seen on La Crau on 8<sup>th</sup>

**CISTICOLAS & allies**

**Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed Warbler)** *Cisticola juncidis*

Seen on 9<sup>th</sup> near the Mas d'Agon and at another location later that day

**OLD WORLD WARBLERS**

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

Heard on 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and eventually well seen by everyone on the latter date

**Melodious Warbler** *Hippalais polyglotta*

A single bird seen on 9<sup>th</sup> at Mas d'Agon

<b>Willow Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Heard on 7 <sup>th</sup> the Musee Camarguais then encountered on 3 days in the Pyrenees
<b>Common Chiffchaff</b>	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Held up migrants seen in the Pyrenees on 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Blackcap</b>	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	A single bird seen during the pre breakfast walk on 11 <sup>th</sup> then another heard at Gavarnie a little later that day
<b>Common Whitethroat</b>	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	A single bird seen at the Hotel Robinson on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Sardinian Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Heard on 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> then well seen on 9 <sup>th</sup> at the Pont du Gard
<b>CRESTS &amp; KINGLETS</b>		
<b>Firecrest</b>	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	2 well seen near Gedre on 11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Goldcrest</b>	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	1 on 13 <sup>th</sup> in the Foret de Lienz
<b>NUTHATCHES &amp; WALLCREEPERS</b>		
<b>(Eurasian) Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	A single bird seen near the Toy River on 13 <sup>th</sup>
<b>TREECREEPERS</b>		
<b>Short-toed Treecreeper</b>	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	A single bird seen during our lunch stop on the way to the Pyrenees on 10 <sup>th</sup>
<b>STARLINGS</b>		
<b>Common Starling</b>	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Seen on 6 days of the tour
<b>THRUSHES</b>		
<b>(Common) Blackbird</b>	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Noted on 7 days of the tour with most sightings being in the Pyrenees
<b>Mistle Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Half a dozen in the Foret de Leinz on 13 <sup>th</sup> and a further 3 seen on Hautacam later that day
<b>OLD WORLD CHATS &amp; FLYCATCHERS</b>		
<b>European Robin</b>	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Just noted on the 3 full days in the mountains
<b>Black Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Large numbers seen in the mountains where they may have been delayed on their southward bound migration by the bad weather
<b>Common Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	1 at the Musee Camarguais on 7 <sup>th</sup> then not seen again until we reached the Pyrenees where we saw the species on 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Whinchat</b>	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1 on 7 <sup>th</sup> at the Musee Camarguais then seen in the mountains on 4 days
<b>Northern Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	2 or 3 seen on La Crau on 9 <sup>th</sup> then fair numbers seen in the mountains on 4 days
<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	2 sightings on 7 <sup>th</sup> during the Musee walk
<b>European Pied Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	First seen on 9 <sup>th</sup> during the journey to the Pyrenees then seen on 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>DIPPERS</b>		
<b>White-throated Dipper</b>	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	At least 3 seen on 11 <sup>th</sup> near Gedre then 1 seen within the Cirque de Troumouse on 12 <sup>th</sup> on which day we also saw one in the Ossoue Valley
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS &amp; allies</b>		
<b>House Sparrow</b>	<i>Paser domesticus</i>	Noted every day except 11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>White-winged Snowfinch</b>	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	About 15 seen in and from the car park at the Col du Tourmalet. No doubt these birds had been forced down to this level earlier than usual due to the snow yesterday
<b>ACCENTORS</b>		
<b>Dunnock/Hedge Accentor</b>	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Seen on 3 consecutive days from 11 <sup>th</sup> mostly in higher areas of scrub etc
<b>WAGTAILS &amp; PIPITS</b>		
<b>Yellow Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	3 on 7 <sup>th</sup> near Gimeaux were our first and also seen on 9 <sup>th</sup> in the eastern Camargue and at least 10 were in the Ossoue Valley on 12 <sup>th</sup>

<b>Grey Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	A single bird was seen near Gedre on 11 <sup>th</sup> and 2 birds were on the Toy River on 13 <sup>th</sup>
<b>White Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Small numbers seen on 6 days
<b>Tawny Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	3 on La Crau on 8 <sup>th</sup> and then 1 was seen the following day in the eastern Camargue
<b>Water Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus spinolett</i>	Seen in good numbers on high ground in the Pyrenees on 3 days
<b>FINCHES &amp; allies</b>		
<b>Common Chaffinch</b>	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	First seen during the lunch stop on the way to the Pyrenees on 10 <sup>th</sup> then encountered on the next 3 days
<b>European Serin</b>	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	2 seen together in the Ossoue Valley on 12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>European Goldfinch</b>	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1 on 8 <sup>th</sup> at Remoulins and also seen on 14 <sup>th</sup> on the way up Hautacam
<b>Common Linnet</b>	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Seen on 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> in the Ossoue Valley and in the valley below the Col du Tourmalet respectively
<b>Eurasian Bullfinch</b>	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	3 seen and more heard during the Gavarnie walk on 11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>BUNTINGS, NEW WORLD SPARROWS &amp; allies</b>		
<b>Corn Bunting</b>	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Just a single bird seen near Le Sambuc on 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Yellowhammer</b>	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Seen on 12 <sup>th</sup> on the way to Troumouse and on 13 <sup>th</sup> near Tourmalet
<b>Rock Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	A single bird was glimpsed in the Ossoue Valley on 12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Cirl Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	A female was seen close to Gavarnie
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
<b>Eurasian Red Squirrel</b>	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Just seen on 8 <sup>th</sup> at the Hotel Robinson and on 11 <sup>th</sup> close to the Hotel Montaigu
<b>Alpine Marmot</b>	<i>Marmota marmota</i>	Seen in good numbers on 3 successive days from 11 <sup>th</sup> with the closest views in the Ossoue Valley
<b>Coypu</b>	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	At least 1 seen on 9 <sup>th</sup> at the Marais de Grenouillet
<b>Red Fox</b>	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Footprints seen on 7 <sup>th</sup> at the Musee Camarguais
<b>Polecat</b>	<i>Mustela putorius</i>	Just seen dead on the road on 10 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Pine Marten</b>	<i>Martes martes</i>	One dead on the road on 10 <sup>th</sup> was our only record
<b>Eurasian Wild Boar</b>	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Plenty of signs at the Musee Camarguais on 7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Isard/Pyrenean Chamois</b>	<i>Rupicapra pyrenaica</i>	5 seen on high ground at the Cirque de Gavarnie on 11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>REPTILES</b>		
<b>Green Lizard</b>	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>	A single sighting on 7 <sup>th</sup> at the Musee Camarguais was the only reptile recorded
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>		
<b>Stripeless Tree Frog</b>	<i>Hyla meridionalis</i>	3 seen in the eastern Camargue on 9 <sup>th</sup> was the only confirmed sighting of an amphibian
<b>BUTTERFLIES</b>		
<b>SKIPPERS</b>		
<b>Large Skipper</b>	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	
<b>APOLLOS</b>		
<b>Swallowtail</b>	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	
<b>WHITES, YELLOWS &amp; SULPHURS</b>		
<b>Large White</b>	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	
<b>Small White</b>	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	
<b>Clouded Yellow</b>	<i>Colias crocea</i>	
<b>HAIRSTREAKS, COPPERS &amp; BLUES</b>		
<b>Common Blue</b>	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	
<b>Geranium Bronze</b>	<i>Cacyreus marshallii</i>	

**BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES**

<b>Red Admiral</b>	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
<b>Speckled Wood</b>	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
<b>Meadow Brown</b>	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
<b>Great Banded Grayling</b>	<i>Brintesia circe</i>
<b>Striped Grayling</b>	<i>Hipparchia fidia</i>

**MOTHS**

<b>Hummingbird Hawkmoth</b>	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
<b>Six-spot Burnet</b>	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>

**DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES**

<b>Common Bluetail</b>	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
<b>Blue Emperor dragonfly</b>	<i>Anax imperator</i>
<b>Broad Scarlet [Darter]</b>	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
<b>Black-tailed Skimmer</b>	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>

**September 2008**

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