Vercors

Sunday 1 – Sunday 8 June 2008

Trip report

Leaders:
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TRIP DIARY

Sunday 1 June

The group all met up at the new terminal 5 at Heathrow airport and we soon headed through to the departure area and then to our flight to Lyon. On arrival at Lyon we were greeted by our local guide Bruno Veillet and during the hiring of the vehicles we managed to see White Wagtail, a couple of Black Redstarts and a pair of Linnets. Once the paperwork was complete we were soon heading towards the Vercors. During the first part of the journey Black Kite and a few corvids were noted including Black Kite and Rook. We then paused for lunch at a motorway service station. Here we saw Common Swift and Goldfinch and while watching another Black Kite drift past a distant Honey Buzzard was seen. This bird was occasionally seen in display flight and as we were leaving it suddenly appeared just over the roof of the service station giving excellent views. As we headed on many roadside plants were noted including lovely False Acacia trees in full bloom. Birds seen on this journey included Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, more Black Kites and a White Stork standing on its nest.

We left the motorway and headed to Grenoble airport and parked close to the end of the runway! Corn Bunting and Red-backed Shrike were seen nearby while Green Woodpecker and Nightingale were heard singing. Two of the latter species were eventually seen. Quartering low over the grassland beside the runway we saw a male Montagu's Harrier and this was eventually joined by a second individual as well as a female. Plants noted here included Great Mullein, Hedgerow Cranesbill, Cut-leaved Geranium, Creeping Cinquefoil and Wood Scabious. As we drove on around the edge of the airport more raptors were noted including Kestrels but the best find in this respect was a Short-toed Eagle. Smaller birds seen included Melodious Warbler, Skylark and Stonechats.

As we headed on from here more Corn Buntings and a few Common Buzzards were seen and on the edge of Grenoble we heard a Serin calling. Working on information received, we headed to an area of small lakes near Vif and here we saw at least 4 Hobbies and 2 Red-footed Falcons dashing about in search of insects. A young male of the latter species eventually perched in a tree and we were able to get telescope views of it. This was a lovely area and the pathways were lined with various plants including Vipers Bugloss, Swallow-wort, Man and Pyramidal Orchids. Just before we left we could hear Reed Warbler singing in a reedbed, Nightingales seemed to be everywhere, a Cuckoo was singing in the distance, a grass snake was swimming in a lake and we noted a rather small dam built by one of the local Beavers. As we headed up hill into the Vercors proper numerous orchids lined our route with Greater Butterfly perhaps being the most numerous. Other orchids noted included Common Spotted, Pyramidal, Fragrant and Lady. We arrived at Chichilianne and settled in a little before dinner.

Monday 2 June

The day began somewhat damp and miserable so we did not have a pre-breakfast walk. After a typical continental breakfast we drove to Clelles to ensure we had some 'liquid refreshment' to go with our picnic lunch and while we were in the village we saw White Wagtails, Black Redstart and a couple of Rock Sparrows. A pause on the return journey had us looking at good quantities of road side and grassland flowers. These included several species of orchid including Man, Lady, Military, Common

Spotted, Heath Spotted, Fly and Lady's Slipper Orchids plus two species of helleborine. The only bird noted in this area was Chaffinch.

A couple of stops along the road towards Trezanne added Bird's Nest and Coral Root Orchids to our already impressive list of this fine group of flowers and it seemed that every road side verge was studded with a whole host of flowering plants. By now it was lunchtime and so we had lunch as the rain cleared and the sun eventually came out. Birds began to appear in the drier conditions and we found a pair of Black Redstarts nesting beneath the thatch on the local chapel. Nuthatch, Red-backed Shrike and Blackcap were all in the surrounding trees and a Peregrine flew across in front of Mont Aiguille, which was now appearing out of the cloud. Later a Golden Eagle was seen in flight but sadly disappeared behind Mont Aiguille before everyone could get good views of it.

We drove a little further up the road past Trezanne to begin a walk to an area of woodland. Probably the same Black Woodpecker that we had heard at our lunch stop was occasionally calling again. Chiffchaff, Bonelli's Warbler and Firecrest were noted and Chaffinch was relatively common throughout the walk but once again it was the flowers that took pride of place. Along the trackside we again saw Fly, Lady and Man Orchids, along with Herb Paris and inside the woodland there were Round-leaved Wintergreen, One-flowered Wintergreen and Pale-flowered Orchid as well as a whole host of Lady's Slipper and Spitzel's Orchids. Whilst the walk was a little strenuous, everyone agreed that the effort had been fully worthwhile. As we left the woodland to head back towards the vehicle the meadow full of flowers caught everyone's attention and many photos were taken. When we got back to the vehicle Bruno walked a short distance down the road and came back with a Western Whipsnake in his hands to show us.

The Col de Prayet was our next location and here we were again looking at both birds and flowers. Frog, Burnt and Broad-leaved Marsh Orchids were new species and also seen here was Poet's Narcissus and lots of Globeflower. White Wagtail was seen an old farm building and a short distance away a Red-backed Shrike perched right on the top of a conifer. As rain threatened we began our walk back towards the vehicle and at the car park there were at least 3 Bullfinches, a pair of Crested Tits, Firecrest and a Bonelli's Warbler. The mewing of a Common Buzzard drew our attention and as we watched this bird 2 larger and more distant raptors were noted and these turned out to be our 2nd and 3rd Golden Eagles of the day. Thunder rolled around the hilltops and it started to rain once again and so we felt a slightly early finish to the day was in order for people to relax before dinner.

Tuesday 3 June

We woke to a fine and beautiful morning and so were able to take a walk along the roads behind the hotel. Black Redstart was singing as we left and after about 25 minutes all we had walked was about 200 yards! The reason being that Bruno had found half a dozen Chamois high upon one of the ridges above us. He also managed to find a couple of Ibex but unfortunately, despite considerable efforts; he could not get anybody else to see these animals. Whilst we were watching and searching for the animals a couple of Bullfinches flew by and a Cirl Bunting was heard singing. As we wandered onwards we managed to add Blackcap, Garden Warbler and a nice group of Goldfinches to our list and then we had reasonable views of a Short-toed Treecreeper.

After breakfast we popped into Clelles for a little shopping and here we noted a male Common Redstart and a Black Kite. We then headed up through the forest and just beyond the Col de Menée, we paused and made an unsuccessful search for some hoped for birds. Heading onwards we soon entered the Vallée de Combeau and a short way into the valley a Honey Buzzard was seen fairly close overhead. We paused to watch this for a while and a Peregrine flew past and three or four Alpine Swifts were seen in the distance. Further into the valley singing birds included Song and Mistle Thrush as well as Ring Ouzel. The Mistle Thrush was seen and it was possible we also had views of the Ring Ouzel although the bird was so badly backlit we could not be 100% sure. We spent a fair amount of time admiring the vast array of flowers in this upper alpine meadow. Poet's Narcissus was common and there were a fair number of Early Purple and both colour varieties of the Elder-flowered Orchids. We also found a few spikes of Pink Globe Orchid, although most of these were not fully out. Before a slightly late lunch we drove to the top end of the valley and walked up a mountain track to a high col. Here we noted Tree Pipit and Firecrest in fairly quick succession and then we found a couple of Serins that were keeping company with 2 Citril Finches. A Common Buzzard circled in the distance and then 4 Griffon Vultures

drifted past. As we strolled on up the track Coal Tit and Bonelli's Warbler were noted along with Short-toed Treecreeper. However, it was the profusion of wild flowers, especially the Early Purple and Elder-flowered Orchids that held our attention most. There were also large swathes of Long-spurred Pansy and trumpet gentians plus lots more besides. As we stood at the top taking in the magnificent view and watching a few more Citril Finches and a Dunnock, another 7 Griffon Vultures drifted past whilst we watched a Short-toed Eagle perched on a distant pine tree. Wild Tulips and other wild flowers completed the picture at this lovely location and we began our walk back down to the vehicles.

During the short drive to a suitable picnic location, we saw a Honey Buzzard walking about on the ground. This bird allowed a relatively close approach with good views for everyone, before it eventually took flight. During lunch and the subsequent short wanderings, a few trout were found in a small lake and Alpine Figwort was growing amongst some rocks near the stream. Soon after leaving our picnic spot it began to rain and soon the downpour could be likened to stair rods! And in some places the stair rods must have been white because we drove past areas where hail lay beside the road. Despite the rain we stopped to look at a nice chamois near the Rocher de Combeau. As we made our way up towards the Col de Menée we paused at a couple of places and were soon adding new flowers. These included Round-headed Rampion, Clustered Bellflower and Star of Bethlehem and a Black Woodpecker was heard calling in the distance although it was never seen despite a concerted effort. Higher up still a Red-backed Shrike and Tree Pipit were seen but as time was getting on we decided to trundle on back to the hotel. Again orchids lined our route with masses of Lady Orchids and Sword-leaved Helleborines especially featuring. Other species noted included Fairy Foxglove, Seven-leaflet Bittercress and Mountain Kidney Vetch. We reached the hotel in good time for a relax before dinner. The Vercors had produced yet another excellent day.

Wednesday 4 June

To allow time for packing there was no pre-breakfast walk and at 9.00am we began our journey towards La Chapelle in the western part of the Vercors. As we drove up through the forest towards the Col de Menée low clouds obscured any longer views and consequently there was no hope of sighting any birds. However, it seemed that once again wild orchids were lining our route including lots of Lady Orchids and Sword-leaved Helleborines. A brief stop just beyond the col produced no birds at all and so we headed on down to the village of Menée and turned into the Archiane valley in improving weather. A Common Buzzard was our first sighting but that was soon ignored when a Golden Eagle flew into view and landed on a distant crag. Everyone obtained telescope views but not all could find it by their binoculars. A large group of Alpine Swifts circled above us for most of our stay there and eventually Bruno located 3 female Alpine Ibex high on a ridge of the cirque. Plants found here included Crown Vetch, Tassel Hyacinth, Hairy Trefoil, Fragrant and Burnt Orchids.

We paused for a cuppa in Chatillon-en-Diois where a Black Kite and numerous Common Swifts and House Martins were noted. And then we drove on passed Die eventually making a brief stop at Pontaix. As we approached this village a possible Hobby or two were seen and when we pulled up we noted 3 other species of raptor namely Common Buzzard, Honey Buzzard and a passing Red-footed Falcon. A strongish breeze and the fast flowing river Drome meant that the folks playing poo sticks had to really dash across the bridge to beat their sticks to the other side!! Just before we left 2 Grey Wagtails were seen flying up river. We then drove to a wooded slope above the town of Beaufort-sur-Gervanne to have lunch. Afterwards the botanists in the group were in their element as they viewed at least 5 new orchid species (Red Helleborine, Bee, Late Spider and Woodcock Orchids and Violet Limodore) plus other plants including Field Buttercup, Blue Pimpernel, Orlaya and Large Venus's Looking Glass. Birds here included Green and Great-spotted Woodpecker calling, Bonelli's Warbler and Skylark and some people Golden Oriole singing too. At another spot along a wooded track we also found some Drome Orchids and then at some fields closer to Beaufort we found a few more Skylarks, at least 9 Turtle Doves a couple of Kestrels, Rock Sparrow and, best of all a Wryneck. Over the distant hills we could see a couple of Common Buzzards and a Short-toed Eagle. As we drove away from this location a male Red-backed Shrike was glimpsed flying away from some overhead wires.

We then continued our journey towards La Chapelle noting many wild flowers on the way including a large number of Wild Gladiolus in a field. We made a brief stop at the Col de Bacchus where we were pleased to find a few Toothed Orchids on the roadside verge and amongst some pines. From here we

completed the journey to La Chapelle passing the Col de la Bataille where superb views were had from inside the vehicles due to the cold wind, and then as we drove through the Foret de Lente there were more orchids and numerous groups of Ramsons. During dinner at the hotel a male Common Redstart was seen.

Thursday 5 June

The day began dull and damp and unsurprisingly there were no takers for the pre-breakfast walk. Our day out began with us having to take a couple of detours to reach our first destination due to road closures. On our way through some woodland we stopped to admire Large-flowered Butterwort growing in profusion on some roadside rocks. Beyond the Col de Romeyere our aim was to visit a potential site for wallcreeper but unfortunately when we reached there it was raining quite hard and we were up in the clouds. The site we were hoping to look over was shrouded in mist and we could not even see the cliff let alone find a wallcreeper on it! However most people did agree that it was very atmospheric and that the two bits of waterfall that we could see were quite spectacular. As we returned to the car park a Chaffinch flew into one of the trees and a Blackcap gave the briefest of songs.

We retraced our route a little before heading off through the Foret Domaniale des Coulmes but as the rain continued we saw no signs of wildlife except roadside verges full of flowers of course. We headed in the general direction of Pont-en-Royans and paused at another potential wallcreeper site but again despite our best efforts the species was not found but at least this time we could actually see the cliff. Birds noted here included Chaffinch, Blue Tit and a couple of Alpine Swifts. Some new plant species were found including Wild Angelica, Cheddar Pink and Helichrysum italicum. Another stop was made before Pont-en-Royans and this was to look at the river where we found at least three Dippers, a pair of Grey Wagtails and some White Wagtails that were feeding young. We now felt that we had earned a warming cuppa which we enjoyed nearby.

We returned to the same riverside spot to eat our picnic lunch and we continued to enjoy sightings of the same 3 species of birds. From here, we drove to a hide overlooking the Isere River near St Marcellin and Beauvoir. This gave us a different habitat to look over and we stayed relatively dry within the hide. Coots were wandering on the mud and a few Mallards stood around apparently unaware of the rain that was continuing. A Mute Swan was resting on a distant shingle bank and a Little Egret arrived and took no notice of us as we chatted. A juvenile Grey Heron seemed more wary and soon flew off to join two others on the far bank of the river. Our final sighting here was a Coypu that wandered past a few of the Coots and then disappeared into the vegetation.

Our return journey towards La Chapelle took us through forest and past the Col de la Machine. Occasional birds flitted across our route and promptly disappeared into the trees. Few lingered long enough to be identified although we did notice Song and Mistle Thrushes as well as a few Chaffinches. As we neared La Chapelle, we came down out of the clouds and it stopped raining. In fact the roads were dry enough to suggest that it had not rained in this valley for quite a while! A brief stop beside the road produced three good species namely Whinchat, Cirl Bunting and Red-backed Shrike. As we had retreated to the hotel a little early we decided that a local walk might be in order. Along the road behind the hotel we found a pair of Great Tits nesting in someone's post-box. A male Red-backed Shrike briefly perched close to us and was then watched for a longer period of time at a greater distance and a Yellowhammer perched on a tree top for a brief period before flying off. Plants noted included Early Purple, Green-winged and Burnt Orchids and Winged Greenweed.

Friday 6 June

Once again rain sadly prevented a pre-breakfast walk but leading up to breakfast time a Golden Oriole could be heard singing not far from the hotel. After breakfast we set off towards Lans-en-Vercors pausing near the clearing of Herbouilly as we went. Here a Robin could be heard singing amongst the trees along with 3 or 4 Song Thrushes. Plants by the wayside included some superb spikes of Pale-flowered Orchid, Herb Paris, Alpine Honeysuckle, Alpine Dame's Violet and Aconite-leaved Buttercup. Despite considerable effort few other birds were seen here so we made our way to Lans for warming drinks. Here in the town there were numerous Common Swifts flying around overhead and occasional Black Redstarts singing from the rooftops. Not far from Lans we visited some valley meadows that

were an absolute riot of colour with masses of Yellow Rattle, Meadow Buttercup, Bistort and Ragged Robin amongst a host of other wild flowers. A few Swifts, Swallows and House Martins hawked for insects and a slightly bedraggled Common Buzzard flew across the area and into the forest. A Yellowhammer was found perched on a bush at the back of the field, two White Wagtails fed amongst the legs of the horses and a Garden Warbler was singing in some scrub close to the track. The main prizes here though were Red-backed Shrike, a pair of Whinchats, and 1, perhaps 2 singing Marsh Warblers. Just before we left 4 Linnets perched on the trackside wires and everyone had good views.

From here we drove to the Gorges du Furon for lunch. Despite considerable efforts by the leaders the only birds found breeding on the high cliffs above us was a pair of Jackdaws. The low cloud seemed to be preventing activity by the crag martins which were apparently nesting there; we didn't see a single bird. As we finished lunch light rain started to fall again so some retail therapy seemed in order and Joly Marion's seemed to be a suitable venue for this. After spending a while at this location we drove towards Autrans and the lead vehicle was not far off of colliding with a female Roe Deer that ran across the road at the Col de la Croix Perrin. The hoped-for owls near Autrans were either not present or were sensibly sheltering deep within woodland and we consequently did not find them. We returned to Lans and then back through the Foret de la Loubiere where at the large clearing of Herbouilly we saw another Roe Deer. Descending towards St-Martin-en-Vercors the winding road was shrouded in low clouds making driving a little difficult but soon we were back to the warmth of the hotel and looking forward to a nice evening meal.

Saturday 7 June

We again woke to a dull day and a pre-breakfast walk was out of the question. However after breakfast we drove up to and beyond the Col du Rousset and descended to the vulture feeding station close to the village of Chamaloc where approximately 50 Griffon Vultures were gathered. A few young or injured birds were in the cage but by far the great majority were actually flying individuals. Since the introduction of about 30 birds to the Vercors, many others have joined them and of course they have started breeding on nearby cliffs. A pair of Ravens and a few Carrion Crows were also in the area anticipating an easy meal perhaps. A pair of Black Redstarts were nesting in the farm building behind us, White Wagtails seemed active too and a pair of Bonelli's Warblers were feeding in the oaks close to the car park. A Cuckoo sang from the woods above us. A number of the vultures flew off and despite the dull conditions managed to find thermals that took them high into the air without a flap of their wings. Others rested on the cliff top just across the valley from us.

After a coffee stop in Die we took a small back road to the south of the town near Ausson where some good birds were seen. The major find here was a male Ortolan Bunting that perched on the overhead wires close by giving us excellent views. A Kestrel hovered not far away and in the distance 2 Black Kites, a Short-toed Eagle and some probable Griffon Vultures were seen. Flowers along the roadside here included Forking Larkspur (or a very similar species) but better plants were found further along the road at a lightly wooded slope. Plants here included Fragrant, Pyramidal and Lizard Orchids as well as some lovely Aphalanthe and spikes of St Bernard's Lily. The good plants continued a little further along the road as we had lunch and there were excellent groups of Late Spider and Bee Orchids still in full bloom. Also at this location we saw a Common Buzzard fly past while a Wood Lark and 2 Cirl Buntings were singing.

From here we drove through the edge of Die and took D93 westwards for a few kilometres before turning onto a road towards St-Julien-en-Quint. We paused on the bridge over the Drome River where we saw a couple of White Wagtails and perhaps half a dozen Crag Martins. The latter species gave excellent views as they flew around hawking for insects and at times passed within a few feet of us as we stood on the bridge. As we drove on, a Red Squirrel dashed across the road between vehicles and nearly joined the ranks of the sub-species 'horizontalis'! At another place we paused to overlook the river Sure where 3 Serins were seen and we could hear a Wren singing amongst the scrub. Unfortunately there was little other bird life to be seen but there were plenty of wild flowers to be looked at. As we drove on around this minor road loop we saw a Kestrel and then a Common Buzzard was soaring over a woodland. As we checked the identification of this latter bird, a few Griffon Vultures could be seen beyond it. At this stop we found lots more flowers including Etruscan Honeysuckle, Field Gladiolus, Tassel Hyacinth and White Bryony.

When the route took us back to Die, we headed back up the valley to the Col du Rousset. Low cloud still shrouded the top of the hill and was even quite thick in part of the col tunnel. Before heading back to La Chapelle we took another brief detour towards Vassieux-en-Vercors and saw a male Wheatear fly across the road. A pause at the cemetery and monument to the Resistance proved rather poignant and moving, however a couple of Skylarks singing nearby seemed to lift our spirits again. From here we returned to the hotel for another most enjoyable evening meal.

Sunday 8 June

With today being our fly home day, we had no pre-breakfast walk to allow time for packing. However, our flight was rather late in the day and the clouds had lifted somewhat since the previous day so as soon as breakfast was finished and we had loaded the vehicles we headed up to the Font d'Urle. On the way through the woodlands a couple of Brown Hares were seen and as we pulled up at the car park there was another one lolloping about on the grassy slope. From here we walked up to the Porte d'Urle where its name seemed very appropriate as the wind whistled through this small upland gully. During the walk up we saw at least 20 Alpine Choughs in the area, a couple of Water Pipits, Kestrel and 3 Alpine Marmots. The flowers here were quite fabulous with large areas of gently swaying Poet's Narcissus along with bright blue gentians, Horned Pansies, Globeflowers and a wide range of other species in bloom. The views southwards from the Porte were quite stunning and gave the clients just a hint of what the real Vercors can be like in better weather. As we left the area to begin our journey towards Lyon we once again were back into slightly worse but dry weather. We headed beyond La Chapelle and through the fabulous Gorges de la Bourne (open at weekends!) and just beyond at Les Jarronds there were 5 Chamois to be seen on a slope just above the road. These included 2 youngsters, one of which was seen suckling. As we approached Villard de Lans for a coffee stop a couple of Common Buzzards were seen over the hillside when we paused to view some Southern Ragwort.

As we headed northwards after coffee we paused in the Gorges de Furon to search for Wallcreepers but without success. Further along as we approached Grenoble we crossed the Isere River where a Mute Swan was sitting on the riverbank and then Bruno led us to an area of former gravel workings, now used as fishing lakes, to the east of Grenoble. This seemed like a good area for lunch but before we could even uncork the wine or bite into the first delicious cheese, birds were taking our attention. Two Little Bitterns were seen on the first lake beyond which a group of Black-headed Gulls could be seen flying over a field. Occasional Bee-eaters passed overhead and then a little later the appearance of a Black-crowned Night-heron caused us to at least pause from our munchings. Having come down out of the mountains the weather seemed so much better and we stood there enjoying the picnic and admiring the birds in bright sunshine. Other wildlife noted during our picnic included a brief sighting of a Green Woodpecker, an occasional Black Kite passing overhead and then 3 species of birds were identified on call, namely Nightingale, Reed Warbler and Kingfisher. A short though slightly muddy walk after lunch had us looking at the male Little Bittern that was in the reeds close to a few anglers, we then saw a Coypu and a Rabbit and had excellent views of a very small colony of Bee-eaters. As we drove away from the area we added one final good bird and that was a Purple Heron, which was noted on a grassy bank close to the road.

Our journey to Lyon was punctuated by occasional bird sightings and the species noted included Common Buzzard, Black Kite, Kestrel, Corn Bunting and probably the same White Stork standing on a nest that we had seen on the outward journey. We arrived at Lyon airport in good time for our homeward fight, which departed on time and landed a little ahead of schedule. Much to everyone's surprise, and perhaps because of the long walk to get from the aircraft to the terminal building, the luggage had already reached the carousel before us! Terminal 5 was now working efficiently after the start up problems earlier this year!

SPECIES LIST:

BIRDS

Mute Swan	*Cygnus olor*	A single bird was beside the Isere River on 5th. This was the first sighting of this species by a *Travelling Naturalist* group in the Vercors. Then on 8th, one was seen as we crossed a river close to Grenoble.
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	First seen as a single male on the River Bourne (Pont en Royans) on 5th and then we noted about 10 more beside the Isere a little later that day. The species was also noted in small numbers on the next 3 days.
White Stork	*Ciconia ciconia*	One seen stood on a nest as we headed along the motorway towards the Vercors on 1st was also seen on the return journey on 8th.
Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*	One seen in flight during our lunch stop on 1st then there were 2 over the bridge where we had lunch and 3 beside the Isere River on 5th and one seen on 7th.
Purple Heron	*Ardea purpurea*	A single bird was seen on 8th at lakes to the east of Grenoble. A new species for *Travelling Naturalist* on a Vercors tour.
Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*	1 flew in and landed close to the hide beside the Isere River on 5th and 1 glimpsed during the journey towards Lyon on 8th.
Black-crowned Night-heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	A single bird was seen on 8th at lakes to the east of Grenoble. A new species for *Travelling Naturalist* on a Vercors tour.
Little Bittern	*Ixobrychus minuta*	2 birds, perhaps a pair, were seen at the same location as the previous species. A new species for *Travelling Naturalist* on a Vercors tour.
Common (Eurasian) Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	Seen in small numbers on 6 days.
Red-footed Falcon	*Falco vespertinus*	At least 2 seen at Vif on 1st as we neared the Vercors. One bird perched in a tree and we were able to get 'scope views. On 4th at Pontaix a female or juvenile male flew overhead and away northwards. A new species for *Travelling Naturalist* in the Vercors.
Eurasian Hobby	*Falco subbuteo*	At least 4 seen near Vif on 1st together with the previous species and then 2 seen as we approached Pontaix on 4th.
Peregrine	*Falco peregrinus*	1 on 2nd near Trezanne, 1 in the Valley de Combeau on 3rd.
European Honey Buzzard	*Pernis apivorus*	At least 3 seen on the way to the Vercors on 1st then we had 2 sightings in the Vallée de Combeau on 3rd with one seen walking in an Alpine meadow. Our final sighting was on 4th near Pontaix.
Black Kite	*Milvus migrans*	A few seen on 1st & 8th on the way from and to Lyon airport ad seen in small numbers on 4 other days.
Eurasian Griffon Vulture	*Gyps fulvus*	First seen in the Vallée de Combeau on 3rd when 4 individuals drifted south and later 7 went north. On 7th we visited the vulture feeding station close to Die and there saw well over 50 birds.
Short-toed (Snake) Eagle	*Circaetus gallicus*	One at Grenoble airport on 1st, 1 in the Vallée de Combeau on 3rd, 1 near Beaufort on 4th and finally 1 on 7th close to Die.
Montagu's Harrier	*Circus pygargus*	At least 4 seen at Grenoble airport on 1st
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*	A single sighting during the drive to the Vercors on 1st and another seen in the Vallée de Combeau on 3rd.

Common (Eurasian) Buzzard	*Buteo buteo*	This was the only raptor that we saw every day but a couple of them were rain-soaked individuals perched on telegraph poles etc.
Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*	During lunch near Trezanne on 2nd, a single bird was seen briefly beside Mont Aiguille and another 2 were seen in the distance at the Col de Prayer later that day. The best sighting was of a distant bird perched on a cliff top in the Vallée de Combeau on 4th.
Eurasian Coot	*Fulica atra*	Seen on the Isere River on 5th and near Grenoble on 8th.
Yellow-legged Gull	*Larus michahellis*	2 juveniles seen near Vif on 1st.
Black-headed Gull	*Larus ridibundus*	At least 20 seen at lakes to the east of Grenoble on 8th. A new species for a *Travelling Naturalist* group on a Vercors tour.
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	*Columba livia*	Noted on 6 days mostly in the towns of the region.
(Common) Wood Pigeon	*Columba palumbus*	Seen every day except 7th in small numbers.
European Turtle Dove	*Streptopelia turtur*	2 seen on the way to the Vercors on 1st and then at least 9 seen near Beaufort on 4th.
Eurasian Collared Dove	*Streptopelia decacocto*	Seen every day except 2nd.
Common Cuckoo	*Cuculus canorus*	Heard on 5 days but sadly we did not actually see this species.
Alpine Swift	*Apus melba*	At least 4 seen in the Vallée de Combeau on 3rd then a flock of 50 or more were in the Archienne Valley the following day. 2 were also seen not far from Pont-en-Royans on 5th.
Common Swift	*Apus apus*	Noted every day.
Common Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*	One or two birds were heard at lakes to the east of Grenoble on 8th. A new species for *Travelling Naturalist* on a Vercors tour.
European Bee-eater	*Merops apiaster*	At least 8 birds seen at a small breeding colony at lakes to the east of Grenoble on 8th. A new species for *Travelling Naturalist* on a Vercors tour.
Eurasian Wryneck	*Jynx torquilla*	A single bird was well seen near Beaufort on 4th.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos major*	Heard on 1st as we approached the Vercors then single birds seen on 4th and 6th.
Black Woodpecker	*Dryocopus martius*	Heard on 3 successive days from 2nd but sadly not seen.
(European) Green Woodpecker	*Picus viridus*	Heard on 3 successive days from 3rd then seen at lakes to the east of Grenoble on 8th.
Red-backed Shrike	*Lanius collurio*	Seen every day except 8th.
(Eurasian) Golden Oriole	*Oriolus oriolus*	Heard on a couple of occasions at la Chapelle and near Beaufort but sadly not seen.
Eurasian Jay	*Garrulus glandarius*	Singles seen on 2nd & 3rd then 4 on 7th and 3 or 4 on 8th.
Eurasian Magpie	*Pica pica*	Noted every day.
Alpine (Yellow-billed) Chough	*Pyrrhocorax graculus*	A group of at least 20 individuals were seen at Font d'Urle on 8th.
(Western) Jackdaw	*Corvus monedula*	Seen during the journey to the Vercors on 1st and then seen nesting in the Gorges du Furon on 6th & 8th.
Rook	*Corvus frugilegus*	Just seen on 1st on the way towards the Vercors.
Carrion Crow	*Corvus corone*	Seen on 6 days.
Common Raven	*Corvus corax*	Seen on 3rd during the pre breakfast walk and on 7th at the vulture feeding station and also heard on 4th.
Coal Tit	*Parus ater*	Noted on 5 days in a variety of locations.
(European) Crested Tit	*Parus cristatus*	A pair were at the Col de Prayet on 2nd.
Great Tit	*Parus major*	Noted every day.

Blue Tit	*Parus caeruleus*	Noted every day except 1st.
Eurasian Crag Martin	*Hirundo rupestris*	At leas 6 seen feeding over the Drome River to the west of Die on 7th.
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	Seen every day.
(Common) House Martin	*Delichon urbica*	Seen on 6 days of the tour.
Woodlark	*Lullula arborea*	A single bird was seen on 4th near Beaufort and another was heard singing on 7th to the south of Die.
(Eurasian) Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*	Noted on 5 days in a variety of locations.
(European) Marsh Warbler	*Acrocephalus palustris*	1 possibly 2 seen near Lans-en-Vercors on 6th.
Eurasian Reed Warbler	*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*	Heard singing near Vif on 1st and to the north-east of Grenoble on 8th.
Melodious Warbler	*Hippalais polyglotta*	Just seen briefly close to Grenoble airport on 1st.
Common Chiffchaff	*Phylloscopus collybita*	Noted on 4 days.
Western Bonelli's Warbler	*Phylloscopus bonelli*	More often heard than seen but on occasions, this species was seen collecting food presumably to feed young. Noted on 4 days.
Blackcap	*Sylvia atricapilla*	Seen or heard every day.
Garden Warbler	*Sylvia borin*	Seen during the pre breakfast walk on 3rd and also seen on 6th near Lans-en-Vercors.
Firecrest	*Regulus ignicapillus*	Seen on 2nd and 3rd in the woods close to Chichilianne.
(Winter) Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	Noted on 4 days with a single sighting on 5th.
(Eurasian) Nuthatch	*Sitta europaea*	A single bird was seen on 2nd at Trezanne.
Short-toed Treecreeper	*Certhia brachydactyla*	1 seen during the pre breakfast walk on 3rd and also heard on 5th.
Common Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	Seen every day.
Ring Ouzel	*Turdus torquatus*	A bird heard singing was eventually found sat high on a distant conifer in the Vallee de Combeau on 3rd.
(Common) Blackbird	*Turdus merula*	Seen every day.
Song Thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	Identified on each of the last 6 days of the tour.
Mistle Thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*	Seen on 3 successive days from 3rd.
(European) Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*	Noted on 6 days; mostly identified by song.
Common Nightingale	*Luscinia megarhynchos*	2 seen close to Grenoble airport on 1st then heard on 7th near Die and on 8th to the east of Grenoble.
Black Redstart	*Phoenicurus ochruros*	Seen every day beginning at Lyon airport on 1st.
Common Redstart	*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*	First seen at Clelles on 3rd and also seen later that day I the Vallée de Combeau. The species was seen at the hotel in la Chapelle on 5th where we saw it on the next 3 days.
Whinchat	*Saxicola rubetra*	A male was seen close to La Chapelle on 5th and then there was a pair near Lans-en-Vercors on 6th.
Eurasian Stonechat	*Saxicola torquata*	Seen during the journey towards the Vercors on 1st and then single birds noted on 4th & 7th.
Northern Wheatear	*Oenanthe oenanthe*	Just a single male seen close to Vassieux on 7th.
(White-throated) Dipper	*Cinclus cinclus*	At least 3 seen on 5th near Pont-en-Royans. These birds were possibly nesting in the area just to the east of town.
House Sparrow	*Paser domesticus*	Seen every day.
Rock Sparrow	*Petronia petronia*	2 in Clelles on 2nd and another was seen there on 4th.
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*	Just seen on 3rd in the Vallée de Combeau.
Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	1 on 4th near Pontaix and then at least 2 the following day at Pont-en-Royans.
White Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*	Seen every day.
Water Pipit	*Anthus spinoletta*	2 seen in improving weather at Font d'Urle on 8th.
Tree Pipit	*Anthus trivialis*	2 or 3 in the Vallée de Combeau on 3rd.

Common Chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*	Noted every day except 1st & 6th.
European Serin	*Serinus serinus*	Noted every day except 6th in small numbers.
Citril Finch	*Serinus citrinella*	At least 6 seen high in the Vallee de Combeau on 3rd.
(European) Greenfinch	*Carduelis chloris*	Seen every day except 6th.
(European) Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis*	Seen every day.
Common Linnet	*Carduelis cannabina*	2 seen at Grenoble airport on 1st then 1 on 4th near Beaufort and 4 were seen on 6th near Lans-en-Vercors.
(Eurasian) Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	2 or 3 seen on 3 successive days from 2nd.
Corn Bunting	*Miliaria calandra*	At least 4 at Grenoble airport on 1st and also seen during the journey towards Lyon on 8th.
Yellowhammer	*Emberiza citrinella*	Seen on 5 days.
Ortolan Bunting	*Emberiza hortulana*	Just a single male seen close to Die on 7th.
Cirl Bunting	*Emberiza cirlus*	Heard on 4th & 7th and a male was seen near La Chapelle on 7th.

MAMMALS

Roe Deer	*Capreolus capreolus*	1 at the Col de la Croix Perrin and another in the Clearing of Herbouilly both on 6th.
Chamois	*Rupicaria rupicaria*	4 distant ones seen on the slopes of Mont Aiguille on 2nd were our first. At least 7 were seen the following day in the Vallée de Combeau and then near Les Jarrands on 8th there were 5 including 2 youngsters.
Alpine Ibex	*Capra ibex*	3 females in the Cirque d'Archiane.
Red Squirrel	*Sciurus vulgaris*	Just a single sighting to the west of Die on 7th.
Alpine Marmot	*Marmota marmota*	3 at the Font d'Urle on 8th.
Coypu	*Myocastor coypus*	1 beside the Isere River on 5th and 1 seen on lakes to the east of Grenoble on 8th.
Brown Hare	*Lepus europaeus*	1 on 5th on the way to Pont-en-Royans and then at least 4 on the way to and at Font d'Urle on 8th.
European Rabbit	*Oryctolagus cuniculus*	1 seen at lakes to the east of Grenoble on 8th.

AMPHIBIANS

Marsh Frog	*Rana ridibunda*	Heard on 1st near Vif and seen on 8th at lakes to the east of Grenoble.

REPTILES

Common Wall Lizard	*Podarcis muralis*	Single individuals seen on 1st, 2nd & 8th.
Green Lizard	*Lacerta viridis*	1 seen near Beaufort on 4th.
Grass Snake	*Natrix natrix*	1 seen at Vif on 1st where it swam across a pond. A new species for a *Travelling Naturalist* tour to the Vercors.
Western Whip Snake	*Coluber viridiflavus*	1 caught by Bruno near Trezanne on 2nd. A new species for *Travelling Naturalist* in the Vercors.

BUTTERFLIES

Scarce Swallowtail	*Iphiclides podalirius*
Apollo	*Parnassius apollo*
Small White	*Pieris rapae*
Orange Tip	*Anthocharis cardamines*
Clouded Yellow	*Colias crocea*
Brimstone	*Gonopteryx cleopatra*
Wood White	*Leptidea sinapis*
Small Blue	Cupido minimus
Chalkhill Blue	*Lysandra coridon*
Common Blue	*Polyommatus icarus*
Southern White Admiral	*Limenitis reducta*
Meadow Brown	*Maniola jurtina*
Small Heath	*Coenonympha pamphilius*
Speckled Wood	*Parargae aegeria*

DRAGONFLIES

Banded Demoiselle	*Calopteryx splendens*

OTHER GROUPS

Ascalaphus	Libelluloides spp.
Trout species	Trutta spp.
Roman/Edible Snail.	

FLORA

Juniperus communis	**Common Juniper**
Juniperus communis ssp. Alpina	**Dwarf Juniper**
Picea abies	**Norway Spruce**
Pinus uncinata	**Dwarf Mountain Pine**
Betula pendula	**Silver Birch**
Acer campestre	**Field Maple**
Acer pseudoplatanus	**Sycamore**
Carpinus betulus	**Hornbeam**
Tilia europaea	**Lime**
Juglans regia	**Walnut**
Buxus sempervirens	**Box**
Polygonum bistorta	**Bistort**
Oxyria digyna	**Mountain Sorrel**
Lychnis flos-cuculi	**Ragged Robin**
Silene nutans	**Nottingham Catchfly**
Silene rupestris	**Rock Campion**
Silene vulgaris	**Bladder Campion**
Silene dioica	**Red Campion**
Silene latifolia ssp alba	**White Campion**
Saponaria ocymoides	**Rock Soapwort**
Dianthus gratianopolitanus	**Cheddar Pink**
Stellaria graminea	**Lesser Stitchwort**
Cerastium lineare	**Narrow-leaved Mouse-ear**
Helleborus foetidus	**Stinking Hellebore**
Trollius europaeus	**Globeflower**
Caltha palustris	**Marsh Marigold**
Delphinium spp.	**Larkspur**
Clematis vitalba	**Traveller's Joy**
Ranunculus nemorosus	**Wood Buttercup**
Ranunculus carinthiacus	**Carinthian Buttercup**
Ranunculus bulbosus	**Bulbous Buttercup**
Ranunculus aconitifolius	**Aconite-leaved Buttercup**
Aquilegia vulgaris	**Common Columbine**
Fumaria officinalis	**Common Fumitory**
Papaver rhoeas	**Common Poppy**
Chelidonium majus	**Greater Celandine**
Erysimum decumbens	**Decumbent Treacle-mustard**
Alliaria petiolata	**Garlic Mustard**
Hesperis inodora	**Alpine Dame's Violet**
Cardamine heptaphylla	**Seven-leaflet Bittercress**
Sedum acre	**Biting Stonecrop/Wallpepper**
Sedum album	**White Stonecrop**
Saxifraga exarata	**White Musky Saxifrage**
Saxifraga granulata	**Meadow Saxifrage**
Saxifraga paniculata	**Paniculate/Livelong Saxifrage**
Filipendula ulmaria	**Meadowsweet**
Rubus idaeus	**Raspberry**
Rubus fruticosus	**Bramble/Blackberry**
Rosa canina	**Dog Rose**
Rosa villosa	**Apple Rose**
Agrimonia eupatoria	**Agrimony**

Helianthemum canum	**Hoary Rock-rose**
Potentilla reptans	**Creeping Cinquefoil**
Potentilla neumanniana	**Spring Cinquefoil**
Sanguisorba minor	**Salad Burnet**
Geum rivale	**Water Avens**
Geum urbanum	**Herb Bennet/Wood Avens**
Fragaria vesca	**Wild Strawberry**
Alchemilla alpina	**Alpine Lady's Mantle**
Alchemilla vulgaris	**Lady's Mantle**
Sorbus aucuparia	**Mountain Ash/Rowan**
Sorbus aria	**Whitebeam**
Crataegus monogyna	**Hawthorn/May**
Robinia pseudacacia	**False acacia**
Chamaespartium sagittale	**Winged Greenweed**
Astragalus danicus	**Purple Milk-Vetch**
Astragalus monspessulanus	**False Vetch**
Vicia cracca	**Tufted Vetch**
Vicia sepium	**Bush Vetch**
Securigera varia	**Crown Vetch**
Lathyrus aphaca	**Yellow Vetchling**
Lotus alpinus	**Alpine Birdsfoot Trefoil**
Trifolium hirtum	**Hairy Trefoil**
Laburnum anagyroides	**Laburnum**
Trifolium montanum	**Mountain Clover**
Trifolium repens	**White/Dutch Clover**
Trifolium pratense	**Red Clover**
Dorycnium pentaphyllum	**Dorycnium**
Tetragonolobus maritimus	**Dragon's-teeth**
Psoralea bituminosa	**Pitch Trefoil**
Anthyllis montana	**Mountain Kidney-vetch**
Anthyllis vulneraria	**Common Kidney-vetch**
Hippocrepis comosa	**Horseshoe Vetch**
Onobrychis vicifolia	**Sainfoin**
Geranium pratense	**Meadow Cranesbill**
Geranium sylvaticum	**Wood Cranesbill**
Geranium dissectum	**Cut-leaved Cranesbill**
Geranium pyrenaicum	**Hedgerow Cranesbill**
Geranium robertianum	**Herb Robert**
Euphorbia cyparissias	**Cypress Spurge**
Linum perenne	**Perennial Flax**
Linum suffruiticosum spp salsaloides	**White Flax**
Urtica dioica	**Stinging Nettle**
Viscum album	**Mistletoe**
Rumex arifolius	**Mountain Dock**
Rumex acetosa	**Common Sorrel**
Rumex alpinus	**Monks Rhubarb**
Fraxinus excelsior	**Ash**
Ligustrum vulgare	**Wild Privet**
Polygala alpestris	**Mountain Milkwort**
Malva moschata	**Musk Mallow**
Malva sylvestris	**Common Mallow**
Daphne laureola	**Spurge Laurel**
Helianthemum nummularium	**Common Rockrose**
Hypericum perforatum	**Perforate St John's Wort**
Viola rivinlana	**Common Dog Violet**
Viola calcarata	**Long-Spurred Pansy**
Viola cornuta	**Horned Pansy**
Viola tricolor	**Heartsease**
Bryonia cretica	**White Bryony**
Circaea alpina	**Alpine Enchanter's Nightshade**
Cornus sanguinea	**Common Dogwood**
Hedera helix	**Ivy**
Astrantia major	**Mountain Sanicle**

Meum athamanticum	**Alpine Fennel/Spignel**
Angelica sylvestris	**Wild Angelica**
Aegopodium podagraria	**Ground Elder**
Anthriscus sylvestris	**Cow Parsley**
Heracleum sphondylium	**Hogweed**
Orlaya grandiflora	**Orlaya**
Pyrola rotundifolia	**Round-leaved Wintergreen**
Moneses uniflora	**One-flowered Wintergreen/St Olaf's Candlestick**
Loiseleuria procumbens	**Creeping Azalea**
Primula veris	**Cowslip**
Primula auricula	**Auricula/Bears-ear**
Armeria alpina	**Mountain Thrift**
Convolvulus arvensis	**Field Bindweed**
Convolvulus cantabrica	**Pink Bindweed**
Gentiana lutea	**Great Yellow Gentian**
Gentiana clusii	**Clusius's Gentian**
Gentiana acaulis	**Trumpet Gentian**
Gentiana verna	**Spring Gentian**
Blackstonia perfoliata	**Yellow-wort**
Vincetoxicum hirundinaria	**Swallow-wort**
Borago officinalis	**Borage**
Cerinthe minor	**Lesser Honeywort**
Echium vulgare	**Viper's Bugloss**
Pulmonaria montana	**Mountain Lungwort**
Symphytum officinale	**Common Comfrey**
Myosotis alpina	**Alpine Wood Forget-me-not**
Cynoglossum officinale	**Hound's Tongue**
Ajuga pyramidalis	**Pyramidal Bugle**
Salvia pratensis	**Meadow Clary**
Lamium purpureum	**Red Deadnettle**
Lamium album	**White Deadnettle**
Ballota nigra	**Black Horehound**
Stachys recta	**Yellow Woundwort**
Melittis melissophyllum	**Bastard Balm**
Thymus serphyllum	**Wild Thyme**
Mentha aquatica	**Water Mint**
Linaria vulgaris	**Common Toadflax**
Linaria alpina	**Alpine Toadflax**
Erinus alpinus	**Fairy Foxglove**
Verbascum thapsus	**Great Mullein**
Verbascum nigrum	**Dark Mullein**
Veronica ponae	**Spiked Pyrenean Speedwell**
Veronica chamaedrys	**Germander Speedwell**
Veronica persica	**Common Field Speedwell**
Veronica urticifolia	**Wood/Nettle-leaved Speedwell**
Plantago media	**Hoary Plantain**
Plantago major	**Greater Plantain**
Melampyrum cristatum	**Crested Cow-wheat**
Melampyrum pratense	**Common Cow-wheat**
Rhinanthus alectorolophus	**Greater Yellow Rattle**
Globularia cordifolia	**Matted Globularia**
Globularia nudicaulis	**Leafless-stemmed Globularia**
Pinguicula grandiflora	**Large-flowered Butterwort**
Orobanche caryophyllacea	**Clove-scented Broomrape**
Orobanche gracilis	**Slender Broomrape**
Galium verum	**Lady's Bedstraw**
Galium mollugo	**Hedge Bedstraw**
Asperula taurina	**Southern Woodruff**
Crucia laevipes	**Crosswort**
Lonicera alpigena	**Alpine Honeysuckle**
Lonicera xylosteum	**Fly Honeysuckle**
Sambucus ebulus	**Dwarf Elder**
Sambucus nigra	**Elder**

Anagallis arvensis	**Scarlet Pimpernel**
Anagalis arvensis	**Blue form of Pimpernel**
Lonicera periclymenum	**Common Honeysuckle**
Lonicera etrusca	**Etruscan Honeysuckle**
Viburnum lantana	**Wayfaring Tree**
Valeriana officinalis	**Common Valerian**
Valeriana saliunca	**Entire-leaved Valerian**
Valeriana dioica	**Marsh Valerian**
Phyteuma nigrum	**Black Rampion**
Phyteuma orbiculare	**Round-headed Rampion**
Campanula persicifolia	**Peach-leaved Bellflower**
Campanula glomerata	**Clustered Bellflower**
Campanula rotundifolia	**Harebell**
Legousia speculum-veneris	**Large Venus's Looking Glass**
Knautia dipsacifolia	**Wood Scabious**
Dipsacus fullonum	**Teasel**
Bellis perennis	**Daisy**
Helichrysum italicum	**Helichrysum**
Taraxacum officinale group	**Common Dandelion**
Leucanthemum vulgare	**Ox-eye/Moon Daisy**
Achillea millefolium	**Yarrow**
Tussilago farfara	**Coltsfoot**
Homogyne alpina	**Alpine Coltsfoot**
Petasites hybridus	**Butterbur**
Buphthalmum salicifolium	**Yellow Ox-eye**
Taraxacum spp.	**Dandelion spp**
Carduus nutans	**Musk Thistle**
Cirsium palustre	**Marsh Thistle**
Senecio doronicum	**Southern Ragwort**
Leuzia conifera	**Leuzia**
Centaurea montana	**Mountain Cornflower**
Centurea cyanus	**Cornflower**
Lactuca perennis	**Mountain/Blue Lettuce**
Tragopogon pratensis	**Goatsbeard**
Aphyllanthes monspeliensis	**Aphyllanthes**
Colchicum autumnale	**Autumn Crocus**
Anthericum liliago	**St Bernard's Lily**
Allium ursinum	**Ramsons**
Lilium martagon	**Martagon Lily**
Erythronium dens-canis	**Dog's Tooth Violet**
Ornithogalum umbellatum	**Star of Bethlehem**
Muscari comosum	**Tassel Hyacinth**
Maianthemum bifolium	**May Lily**
Polygonatum multiflorum	**Angular Solomon's Seal**
Convallaria majalis	**Lily of the Valley**
Paris quadrifolia	**Herb Paris**
Narcissus poeticus	**Poet's/Pheasant's-eye- Narcissus**
Narcissus pseudonarcissus	**Wild Daffodil**
Gladiolus byzantinus	**Field Gladiolus**
Aceras anthropophorum	**Man Orchid**
Anacamptis pyramidalis	**Pyramidal Orchid**
Epipactis helleborine	**Broad-leaved Helleborine**
Cephalanthera damasonium	**White Helleborine**
Cephalanthera longifolia	**Sword-leaved Helleborine**
Cephalanthera rubra	**Red Helleborine**
Coeloglossum viride	**Frog Orchid**
Corallorhiza trifida	**Coralroot Orchid**
Cypripedium calceolus	**Lady's Slipper Orchid**
Dactylorhiza fuchsii	**Common Spotted Orchid**
Dactylorhiza maculata	**Heath Spotted Orchid**
Dactylorhiza majalis	**Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid**
Dactylorhiza sambucina	**Elder-flowered Orchid**
Gymnadenia conopsea	**Fragrant Orchid**

Himantoglossum hircinum	**Lizard Orchid**
Limodorum abortivum	**Violet Limodore**
Listera ovata	**Twayblade**
Neottia nidus-avis	**Bird's-nest Orchid**
Ophrys apifera	**Bee Orchid**
Ophrys fuciflora	**Late Spider Orchid**
Ophrys drumana	**Drome Orchid**
Ophrys scolopax	**Woodcock Orchid**
Ophrys insectiflora	**Fly Orchid**
Orchis mascula	**Early Purple Orchid**
Orchis militaris	**Military Orchid**
Orchis morio	**Green-winged Orchid**
Orchis pallens	**Pale-flowered Orchid**
Orchis purpurea	**Lady Orchid**
Orchis simia	**Monkey Orchid**
Orchis spitzelii	**Spitzel's Orchid**
Orchis tridentata	**Toothed Orchid**
Orchis ustulata	**Burnt Orchid**
Platanthera bifolia	**Lesser Butterfly Orchid**
Platanthera chlorantha	**Greater Butterfly Orchid**
Traunsteinera globosa	**Pink Globe Orchid**

Each time we visit the Vercors we seem to be adding new species to our list. By visiting a lake near Vif on the journey to the Vercors and by visiting a few lakes to the north-east of Grenoble on the return journey, we added things like Red-footed Falcon, Little Bittern, Black-crowned Night-heron, Purple Heron and Bee-eater. We also had a record number of orchid species amongst our ever-expanding plant list. Two new reptiles were also noted (Grass Snake and Western Whipsnake) but unfortunately due to the somewhat poor weather, our insect list hardly got going.

The days at Chichilianne were a little overcast but one morning was bright and clear and we enjoyed excellent views to Mont Aiguille but when we moved to La Chapelle, the weather worsened and we hardly saw any mountain tops. In fact it turns out that we had rain every single day, though this included just light showers on some occasions. However, the weather did not dampen our spirits and the tour and the location was thoroughly enjoyed once again. As, of course, was the pleasure of everyone's company. I hope we meet up on a future tour.

Mike Read

Mike Read, June 2008
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