

Camargue & Pyrenees

Saturday 4 - Sunday 12 September 2010

Tour Leaders

Mike Read & Liz Read

Daily Diary

Saturday 4 September

Our late afternoon flight was delayed just a fraction and by the time we arrived at Marseilles airport it was heading towards dusk. Minibuses were secured in double quick time and we were soon heading towards Beaucaire and the Hotel Robinson. Not far north of Marseilles a large brown owl flew across behind the first but in front of the second minibus and this was identified as a probable Eagle Owl. One or two bats and lots of insects were also seen in the vehicle headlights. We arrived at the hotel in time for a delicious buffet supper which everyone enjoyed before heading to their rooms.

Sunday 5 September

Before breakfast we took a stroll up the hill behind the hotel and one of the first things we encountered was a red squirrel that ran across the entrance to the tennis court. Magpies and Collared Doves were encountered quite frequently and when we reached slightly higher ground we looked out towards the Rhone River and could see 4 Grey Herons and a few Yellow-legged Gulls in that general area. Sardinian Warblers were frequently heard chattering away in the scrub and eventually one or two were glimpsed briefly. Wood Pigeons, Crows and Jays were also noted and on the way back down to the hotel a Willow Warbler was well seen by two or three people.

After breakfast we began the journey towards the Camargue and before we reached Fourques we had seen at least 3 Rollers, 4 Short-toed Eagles and number of Cattle and Little Egrets, Kestrels and a group of 6 Honey Buzzards. The latter birds were obviously moving through on migration. As we journeyed on towards the Musée Camarguais we saw many more Cattle Egrets, a single Black Kite and a couple of Rabbits. At the Musée we went for a walk down to the hide overlooking an etang and on the way out we saw lots of dragonflies, including Lesser Emperor, Roller, at least half a dozen Bee-eaters, Cattle Egrets, Kingfisher, Short-toed Eagle and a female Montagu's Harrier. Cetti's Warblers were frequently heard but not actually seen. At the etang there were plenty of birds including Grey, Squacco and at least 3 Purple Herons, Cattle and Little Egrets, occasional groups of flamingos in flight, Whiskered Tern, Marsh Harrier and another Short-toed Eagle. Wildfowl included Mallard, Teal, Common Pochard and Mute Swans and there were lots of Coots and one or two Moorhens seen. Perhaps the biggest surprise was a brief glimpse of a Purple Gallinule flying from one area of reeds to another. This was the first Purple Gallinule by either of the leaders in the Camargue area. As we walked back to the Musée for lunch the number of Bee-eaters on overhead wires had increased to at least 80 and one or two people actually had views of a Cetti's Warbler.

After lunch we began the journey down towards the eastern part of the Camargue and occasional stops revealed such things as White Horses, more egrets, a couple of Lapwings and, perhaps the best birds of the day, four Black Storks passing through on migration (this species was another first for the leaders in the Camargue area). At a pool near La Capelliere we paused to check for waders and were pleasantly surprised to find the following: 3 Curlews, 2 Common Redshanks and perhaps 4 spotted Redshanks but best of all there were a number of Black-winged Stilts some of which had presumably bred in the area as there were a number of juveniles. Also noted here were Great-crested and Little Grebes and 2 Gull-billed Terns.

Beside the Etang de Vaccares a Caspian Tern was fishing and there were a number of Greater Flamingos further out in the water, however at the Etang du Fangassier there were many more flamingos present including a number of juveniles. Gulls seen at this location were just Black-headed

and Yellow-legged whilst there were at least 20 Little Ringed Plover, 40 Kentish Plover and 4 Golden Plovers. The latter birds were still sporting some fine summer plumage.

From here we journeyed towards Le Sambuc and saw at least 6 Glossy Ibis flying over and there were a number of birds found on an etang. These included at least 2 more Spotted Redshanks, 1 Black-tailed Godwit, 70 Wood Sandpipers, a number of Greylag Geese and Flamingos. There were some White Horses beyond the etang and after a while a Marsh Harrier flew over these and spooked a number of the waders and other small birds. Just before we left a Sardinian Warbler was noted in a nearby tree. On the way back to the hotel we saw at least 5 Bee-eaters, 5 Corn Buntings and a dozen Rollers.

Monday 6 September

Our early morning walk today took us along the cycle way in front of the Hotel Robinson. At first birds were in short supply but eventually we did find a Robin, a couple of Blue Tits and Chaffinch in the riverside woodland. Two Great Spotted Woodpeckers flew out of this area and headed off up the hill and a Kestrel flew in the opposite direction. A few birds in the scrub attracted our attention and we moved closer to get better views of what was available. These included Great Tit, Coal Tit, Sardinian Warbler and at least 5 Black Redstarts. During the return walk there were a couple of Yellow-legged Gulls and a Caspian Tern over the River Rhone.

Following an invitation from an English couple who live nearby, our first stop after breakfast was just a few yards from the Hotel Robinson. Here we were able to see Roller, Pied Flycatcher and Hoopoe. After this we drove to the eastern part of La Crau to search for birds of this unique area. At our first stop there were a dozen or more Little Bustards, 2 Stone Curlews and 3 or 4 Common Kestrels to be seen which seemed to please everybody. We then drove a little further on and found more Kestrels, at least 8 migrating Northern Wheatears, a few Swallowtail butterflies, Southern Grey Shrike and a Tawny Pipit. As we left the area we paused at another bit of La Crau where we saw at least 4 Rollers and a couple more Kestrels.

We then drove to Les Alpilles close to St Remy for our lunch stop and here birds were in very short supply perhaps due to the heat of the day. However, throughout lunch Cicadas were constantly 'singing' but we could not find a single one. As in the previous year, 3 or 4 fire tenders were stationed up at this high point, presumably in case of fire.

From here we drove to the fabulous Roman aqueduct of the Pont du Gard mainly to admire this 2000-year-old structure but with the added bonus of hoping for a few birds. There were numerous visitors about which seemed to keep bird numbers down a little. However, we did find a couple of Black Redstarts, 2 White Wagtails and maybe a dozen Crag Martins. This completed our watching for the day so we returned to the hotel in time to refresh ourselves before an evening meal.

Tuesday 7 September

Following heavy overnight thunderstorms there was no pre-breakfast walk as it was still raining heavily.

By the time we finished breakfast the rain had eased to a few spots and we set off to spend some time in the eastern part of the Camargue. There were a couple of Rollers noted before we reached Fourques and after bypassing Arles we took a side road to overlook various fields and etangs. Quite early on along this road there were well over 30 Bee-eaters that were perching on roadside wires and in a ploughed field and we were able to get good views of the colours on this occasion. Further on we stood and looked over another sparsely vegetated field. Here we found a large flock of house sparrows flying in and out of a bramble hedgerow, a Whinchat perched for quite some time on a wire fence and a few Crested Larks occasionally flew around but mostly fed at the far side of the fields. Also noted here were Marsh Harrier, Kestrel and Corn Bunting and just before we left 3 Honey Buzzards flew over very low and gave everyone an opportunity to see lots of plumage details. Further on a Black-crowned Night Heron flew across the road giving excellent views, then at a pool there were a number of gulls

(Yellow-legged and Black-headed) and there were at least 4 Whiskered Terns perched on fence posts. Members of the heron family noted here were Grey and Purple Herons, Cattle, little, and 2 Great White Egrets. A Marsh Harrier flew past the pool, which spooked up 1 Green and at least 10 Wood Sandpipers and there was also 4 Common Snipe flying around.

By now the weather had closed in a little and rain was threatening so we drove to nearby restaurant for a cup of coffee. As we then drove towards Gallician there were 3 Rollers noted close to the road. Beyond Gallician an area of wetlands was not as productive as usual, and part of the reason was that there was a man who was out presumably wildfowling. Also, part of the marsh that we usually looked over was somewhat dry and did not hold the expected birds, however we did see Cattle and Little Egrets, 2 Great White Egrets and a couple of dozen Grey Herons. Occasional gulls and a couple of Whiskered Terns were noted, a Kingfisher was glimpsed on a couple of occasions and both Cetti's and Sardinian Warblers were heard. From here we drove towards Sts Maries de la Mer and saw a couple of Rollers before we stopped for our picnic lunch.

The final bit of the journey towards Sts Maries took us past etangs where Mute Swans, Coots and Greater Flamingos could be seen. We then headed to the eastern beach and at the first stop a Common Tern and a Great Crested Grebe were the main birds of interest. Further on we could see 110s, perhaps thousands of Greater Flamingos and there were 3 Caspian Terns fishing over the seaward side lagoons. However, it was in the lagoons to the other side of the track that the main interest occurred. Here we found 3 Little Terns and 2 Sandwich Terns. Waders were well represented with Common Sandpiper, Kentish Plover, Common Redshank, a lone Curlew, at least 2 Bar-tailed Godwits and 213 Grey Plovers. In amongst the Black-headed and Yellow-legged Gulls one lone Slender-billed Gull was identified. There was also a couple of Grey Herons and a Great White Egret and as we left the area to head back to the hotel a dozen more Sandwich Terns flew out towards the Mediterranean. We made it back to the hotel in good time for the bird list and another fine evening meal.

Wednesday 8 September

There was no pre-breakfast walk to allow time for packing but just after 9.00am we began the journey towards the Pyrenees for the second part of our tour. Before we had even reached the motorway we had noted 3 Rollers and during the first part of the journey a female/juvenile Montagu's Harrier was the most interesting bird noted. We paused at the Aire Biziere-Mont Blanc for a cup of coffee but even before we got into the restaurant, we had seen 2 Common and 5 Honey Buzzards flying over. Just before we left a Short-toed Eagle came into view and was well watched.

We drove for another hour or so before making our lunch stop and beside this aire there was a small etang where a couple of Coots and presumably a pair of Little Grebes could be seen. The only birds noted in the trees around the picnic sight were 3 Great Tits.

The journey to the Pyrenees was very short of raptors compared to previous years, perhaps due to the hot weather. As few as 4 or 5 Common Buzzards were noted but the journey was enlivened by a pale phase Booted Eagle and a Sparrowhawk in fairly rapid succession and after a brief pause at another aire, 2 Red Kites were seen and a Green Woodpecker was heard calling. Just to the south of Lourdes we paused to look up to the surrounding hills and here we found at least 20 Griffon Vultures, 3 Egyptian Vultures (2 adults and a probably 2nd year bird), 1 Honey Buzzard, 3 or 4 Common Buzzards and a Peregrine. Another pale phase Booted Eagle completed the watching here and as we set off for the final brief journey to Luz St Sauveur a couple of Red Kites were seen. Just before reaching our hotel another Red Kite was seen over the village of Esquièze-Sère. After a welcoming drink we were soon enjoying a lovely Pyrenean meal.

Thursday 9 September

The pre-breakfast walk up to the castle was taken in overcast conditions and occasional very light rain. This obviously kept the birds fairly quiet but we did see Blackbird, Blue Tit, Willow Warbler,

Common Buzzard and a couple of early morning Griffon Vultures. The wild flower meadow was past its best but still contained Wild Clary, Bladder Campion, Fat Hen, Lucerne and Mallow.

Following a typical Continental breakfast we drove to the river near Argeles Gazost where a group of Mallard were present. A number of juvenile Pied Wagtails and a lone Grey Wagtail were feeding in the shallows and single Dipper was then located. In the nearby trees we found Pied Flycatcher, Willow Warbler, and a group of Long-tailed, Blue and Great Tits. Also loosely attached to this feeding group of birds were 4 Short-toed Treecreepers. By now the number of Dippers had increased! We managed to eventually locate 4 individuals. We also saw a Common Sandpiper. Fly over birds included 2 Grey Herons and a Common Buzzard.

From here we began the drive up one of the famous climbs of the Tour de France; Hautacam. We made a couple of stops on the way up and found a number of birds including Ravens, 3 Red-billed Choughs, Song and Mistle Thrushes, Yellowhammers, Black Redstart, Chaffinch and Dunnock. Overhead there were a number of raptors including Sparrowhawk, Honey Buzzard, Red Kites and Common Buzzard as well as over 20 flying barn doors (e.g. Griffon Vultures). Flowers included Wild Thyme, Fringed Pink and Lady's Bedstraw. We completed the drive to the top of Hautacam where many more Griffon Vultures, 2 Red Kites and 4 or 5 Common Kestrels were noted.

After lunch we drove higher up in the mountains to the Cirque de Troumouse and on the way up to the cirque itself we found lots of Wheatears, a few Linnets, 2 species of Monkshood (Yellow and Common), carpets of Merendera and a few Griffon Vultures. A short walk in the cirque had us looking at 2 Alpine Marmots a number of Water Pipits and Wheatears, a few more Griffon Vultures and 2 Isards. Unfortunately we could not get the full effect of the cirque as the cloud level was down to low and concealed the higher parts of the mountains. With time now pressing we decided to begin the journey back towards the hotel but down near the toll booth, we spotted a group of at least 17 Isards, while overhead at least 10 Griffon Vultures and 1 Lammergeier put in an appearance. This made a fitting end to the day so we returned to the hotel in plenty of time for an evening meal.

Friday 10 September

This morning before breakfast we took a walk up the road from the hotel. At first the semi darkness seemed to encourage a couple of Tawny Owls to call in the distance and other early birds included Robin, Blackbird and Carrion Crow. As the light increased other birds became more active and these included Blackcap, Blue Tit, Great Tit and Nuthatch. A Green Woodpecker was heard calling somewhere down the slopes but the best bird of the morning was a Middle Spotted Woodpecker that fed for a short while in a tree next to the edge of the road.

Under clear blue skies we decided that a Gavarnie walk should be taken today. We parked by the river and were soon starting on a very gently paced walk towards this most spectacular piece of French Pyrenean scenery. As we walked birds began to show themselves with Griffon Vultures perched on and flying along the ridge to the west of us. Amongst these huge birds a Peregrine and a Sparrowhawk were noted and then 2 juvenile Golden Eagles soared into view. Lower down over the slopes at least 3 Kestrels were hovering in search of food and a couple of Honey Buzzards flew off southwards. A number of Alpine Choughs were noted high over the ridge and a Bullfinch was heard calling in the scrub. Our track was lined with many plants including Dark Mullein, Bugloss, Mountain Sorrel and Grass of Parnassus and Merendera was widespread in the short turfed grassland. As we reached the conifer woodlands a Red Squirrel was well seen along with Coal Tits, Crested Tits and a Chiffchaff. At least 3 Bullfinches were amongst the Red-berried Elder bushes and some Common Choughs were heard calling in flight. After a refreshing drink and some of our picnic lunch at the cirque hotel we began the walk back down towards the vehicle with few sightings during this walk but they did include more Kestrels and an adult Golden Eagle.

Once we had assembled back at the vehicles we set off for the Ossoue Valley where many more of the same species that we had seen earlier in the day were found. However, at a jumble of rocks there were numerous Black Redstarts and Wheatears, a few Pied and one Spotted Flycatcher and a Blue Rock Thrush was noted by a couple of members of the group. High overhead were Red-billed and Alpine

Choughs, Golden Eagle, lots of Griffon Vultures, Common and Honey Buzzard and 3 possible pale-phase Booted Eagles. Alpine Marmots were frequently noted throughout this valley and some folks managed some good close up photographs.

We drove back to the hotel and arrived a little later than planned but we were pleased to see a number of Crag Martins and Barn Swallows flitting around locally feeding.

Saturday 11 September

Many of the usual birds were seen during our walk before breakfast but the best bird seen this morning was in fact a new one for the leaders in the Pyrenees. It was a juvenile Ortolan Bunting which caused some identification problems at first but back at the hotel later on, with the help of a field guide, its true identity was confirmed.

After breakfast we headed for the hills once again and set off towards the Col du Tourmalet. As we approached the high ground on the old road numerous Water Pipits were seen along with the occasional Whinchat. As we neared the Col itself another pause to look around showed that a number of Griffon Vultures were now soaring around and a male Marsh Harrier was heading off southwards over the peaks. On this lovely day visibility was really excellent and this gave the Griffon Vultures every opportunity of thermalling up to exceptionally high altitudes. This made them difficult to locate at times and perhaps explains why no Lammergeiers at this regular location for them. At the car park a few Red-billed Choughs were seen and a Rock Thrush put in a brief appearance. We wandered up the track for some distance and Northern Wheatears were frequently encountered. Hirundines were represented by a few Barn Swallows, Sand Martins, and Crag Martins but most numerous of all were the House Martins that lingered for some while as they fed on what must have been a plentiful supply of airborne insects. Yellow Saxifrage and Pyrenean Thistle could be seen along the track side as well as Grass of Parnassus and Parsley Fern. Further on still, a piece of movement in amongst some grey rocks caught our attention and it turned out to be the first Alpine Accentor of the trip. Soon we were looking at a presumed family group of 6 individuals and one of these proved exceptionally tame and was photographed at very close quarters. As we walked back towards the vehicles another Accentor or two were seen and we also noted 2 more juvenile Rock Thrushes.

As we had ate our lunch in the valley below Tourmalet a couple of Red Kites were seen drifting over the upper slopes and way up were more Griffon Vultures. There were numerous butterflies and Hummingbird Hawk Moths seen along the grassland areas and flowers included more Grass of Parnassus, Wild Thyme and Self Heal.

From here we drove the short distance to the Foret de Lienz and took a walk in the shade of tall Beech trees in the area. Even before we had walked away from the vehicles we had seen a few Coal Tits and a Nuthatch and just a short distance up the road a Honey Buzzard flew over the tops of the trees and, like the Marsh Harrier this morning, seemed to be heading southwards. Pied Flycatchers seemed to be in plentiful supply and in amongst them a lone Spotted Flycatcher was noted. Further up the track a couple of Chaffinches and a few Crested Tits were well seen and views up to the Pic du Midi were quite spectacular. On the way back to the minibuses Robin and Common Buzzard were added to the list and we then headed back to the hotel somewhat earlier than in previous days to allow people to visit the town shops or start packing should they need to do so.

Sunday 12 September

As we were heading home today it was felt best not to have an early morning walk. We left the hotel at 9.00am promptly and drove to the river near Argeles Gazost. Two Grey Wagtails and two Pied Flycatchers were noted along with at least 3 Dippers. A Kingfisher was glimpsed by one of the leaders but unfortunately it was such a fleeting glimpse that none of the clients managed to see it. Perhaps the

biggest surprise here was a group of 16 or more Grey Herons. It is likely that these birds were disturbed from a nearby day-roosting site.

A short drive from here took us into the edge of the hills and a walk in a quarry here revealed 3 or 4 Rock Buntings and a couple of Cirl Buntings, both of which were new species for the trip. Other small birds noted here were Great Tit, Robin, Chaffinch, Blackcaps, and a few Black Redstarts. However, it was the raptors overhead that perhaps provided the greatest interest. Amongst the Griffon Vultures were at least 3 Egyptian Vultures. A Short-toed Eagle spent some time thermalling up with a group of Griffons and a little later on a Black Kite joined this group of birds. Two or three Camberwell Beauty butterflies were noted along with Michaelmas Daisy, Datura, Evening Primrose and White Melilot..

After a quick stop at some nearby facilities, we began our journey towards Toulouse. Just north of Lourdes two groups of 3 White Storks were seen flying southwards as we drove along. Out on to the motorway we made good progress for a short while before pausing for lunch and at this coniferous woodland location we saw female Blackcap, a Raven flew past and there were at least 70 Crossbills feeding in the nearby trees. After lunch we completed the journey to Toulouse airport seeing at least 7 Common Buzzards, 6 Red Kites, a Cormorant and a Glossy Ibis as we went. Our final raptors of the trip were seen as we stood in the walkway heading to the plane. Thermalling up above the airport were 4 Common Buzzards and 2 smaller raptors which, without binoculars, were identified as probably Sparrowhawks.

The flight back to the UK went smoothly enough and we were soon at the conveyor belt collecting our luggage and bidding farewell at the end of another great Travelling Naturalist trip.

SPECIES LIST:

BIRDS

Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Two seen very briefly on 5 th near Fourques
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	A few were at the Marais de Grenouillet on 5 th
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	A few were in the eastern Camargue on 5 th and more were then seen close to Sts Maries del la Mer on 7 th .
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Four at the Etang de Galabert and 2 at the Marais de Grenouillet on 5 th
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Noted on 5 th in various parts of the eastern Camargue and also seen on 7 th near Sts Maries and on 9 th near Argeles Gazost.
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Five seen during the Musée walk on 5 th
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	A female was seen in a roadside waterway near Gallician on 7 th .
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Six seen during the Musée walk on 5 th
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Noted in a couple of places in the eastern Camargue on 5 th and 2 were seen during our lunch break on the way to the Pyrenees.
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Just noted on 5 th & 7 th on some of the larger etangs in the Camargue.
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	First seen in flight on 5 th during the Musée walk and then seen later at Vaccares and Fangassier. There were a number of juveniles at the latter site. On 7 th very large numbers were seen close to Sts Maries de la Mer.
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Four seen passing through on migration on 5 th just north of the Etang de Vaccares
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Twelve seen in flight, presumably on migration, in the eastern Crau on 6 th and a further 6 were seen to north of Lourdes, again presumably migrating birds.

Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	At least 6 seen in flight near Salin de Badon on 5 th and another individual was seen by one observant member of the group as we sped towards Toulouse airport on 12 th .
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	A single bird was at the Marais de Grenouillet on 5th
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Just a single bird was seen to the west of Arles on 7 th .
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Seen twice during the Musée Camarguais walk on 5 th with a total of at least 5 individuals.
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Numerous on 5 th , 6 th , 7 th and 8 th and then not seen again until 12 th as we drove towards Toulouse airport.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	First noted on 5 th during our pre breakfast walk and then also noted elsewhere in the Camargue later that day and on 7 th . Two were seen on 9 th near Argeles Gazost where 16 were seen on 12 th .
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	At least 3 at the Musée Camarguais etang on 5 th and also seen to the west of Arles on 7 th .
Great (White) Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	One seen during the Musée Camarguais walk on 5 th with another 2 seen later that day. Also noted on 7 th .
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Common in the Camargue area on 5 th , 6 th & 7 th .
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	At least 4 seen on 5 th in the eastern Camargue and a few on 7 th in the western Camargue. Finally 1 was seen in flight as we drove towards Toulouse airport.
Common/Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Seen every full day of the trip.
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	One seen on 5 th near Fourques by one or two members of the group
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Singles seen on 8 th near Agos-Vidalos and on 10 th during the Gavarnie walk.
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Six took off from woodland near Fourques on 5 th and headed off south west and then on 7 th we had exceptionally good views of 3 flying very low overhead to the west of Arles. Small numbers were also noted on 8 th , 9 th , 10 th & 11 th . A good sprinkling of sightings for this attractive raptor.
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	The first 2 were seen during a brief stop well south west of Toulouse on 8 th with at least a couple more birds seen later that day and further sightings on the four remaining days of the tour.
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	One very briefly on 5 th near the Musée Camarguais and then not seen again until 12 th at Agos-Vidalos.
Lammergeier/Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Just a single sighting at the Cirque de Troumouse on 9 th . Perhaps due to the exceptionally good weather on 10 th & 11 th , there were no further sightings.
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Three seen on 8 th and on 12 th to the south of Lourdes.
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	At least 20 seen to the south of Lourdes on 8 th and also seen on the four remaining days of the tour.

Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Four seen together near Fourques and another 1 or 2 during the Musée walk on 5 th . We then had single birds on 6 th , 8 th , 9 th & 12 th .
(Western) Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	A few were seen in both the eastern and western Camargue on 5 th & 7 th respectively but perhaps the strangest sighting was of a male heading south high over the Col du Tourmalet on 11 th .
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	A female seen on 5 th during the Musée walk and another seen on 8 th during the drive to the Pyrenees.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	A single bird seen during the drive to the Pyrenees on 8 th then singles on each of the next 2 days. 2 birds probably of this species were seen over Toulouse airport high above 4 Common Buzzards.
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Two on 6 th in the eastern part of La Crau and then noted every day from 8 th .
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Two juveniles and 1 adult during the Gavarnie walk and another bird in the Ossoue Valley all on 10 th .
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	A single bird seen as we drove along the motorway towards the Pyrenees and another south of Lourdes on 8 th . 3 birds possibly of this species were seen high over the Ossoue Valley on 10 th .
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	At least a dozen seen in the eastern part of La Crau on 6 th .
Purple Swamp-hen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	A single bird was glimpsed at the etang near the Musée Camarguais on 5 th . This was a new species for <i>Travelling Naturalist</i> in the Camargue.
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Singles seen on 5 th and 6 th .
Eurasian/Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Common on 5 th & 7 th in various parts of the Camargue and a couple seen on a small etang on 8 th .
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	Two seen at short range in the eastern part of la Crau on 6 th .
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	A few seen on 5 th in the eastern part of the Camargue and 2 or 3 were noted near Gallician two days later.
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Small numbers noted on 3 consecutive days from 5 th .
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Four at the Etang du Fangassier on 5 th were all still showing signs of summer plumage.
Grey/Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Well over 200 birds were seen to the east of Sts Maries de la Mer on 7 th and like their golden cousins, many were in some degree of summer plumage.
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	About 20 individuals seen at the etang du Fangassier on 5 th .
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	At least 40 individuals seen at the Etang du Fangassier on 5 th and a single bird was close to Sts Maries on 7 th .
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Noted during the Musée walk on 5 th and to the west of Arles on 7 th .
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	A single bird was at the Marais de Grenouillet on 5 th .
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	At least 2 seen near Sts Maries on 7 th .

Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Three seen in the eastern Camargue on 5 th and a single bird was near Sts Maries on 7 th .
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Four seen near La Capelliere and 2 at the Etang de Grenouillet on 5 th .
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	A few seen on 5 th & 7 th in the Camargue.
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Just noted on 5 th at the Marais de Grenouillet.
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	A single bird was seen in flight to the west of Arles on 7 th .
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Perhaps as many as 70 were at the Marais de Grenouillet on 5 th and at least 10 were seen to the west of Arles on 7 th .
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	One on 7 th near St Maries de la Mer and another on 9 th in the river at Argeles Gazost.
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michalhlilis</i>	Noted on four consecutive days from 5 th and then a single bird seen on 12 th as we drove towards Toulouse airport.
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Noted on four consecutive days from 5 th and then a single bird seen on 12 th as we drove towards Toulouse airport.
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	A single bird was eventually found amongst a group of Black-headed Gulls near Sts Maries on 7 th .
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Two individuals at La Capelliere on 5 th but sadly no further sightings of this rather nice bird.
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	A single bird over the Etang de Vaccares on 5 th , 1 on the River Rhone during the pre breakfast walk on 6 th and then at least 3 the following day at Sts Maries.
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	14 individuals noted east of Sts Maries on 7 th .
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	A single bird was fishing over one of the waterways close to Sts Maries on 7 th .
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	At least 1, possibly 3 birds seen near Sts Maries on 7 th .
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Two at the Musée Camarguais on 5 th and at least 4 to the west of Arles on 7 th .
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>	Noted every day from 5 th .
(Common) Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Seen on 3 consecutive days from 5 th and then not seen again until 12 th during the drive towards Toulouse.
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	A single bird was seen rapidly flying across the road close to Lourdes on 8 th .
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decacoccto</i>	Seen every day from 5 th .
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	A bird possibly of this species was seen on roadside wires on 6 th near Taranscon
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	One seen to fly across the road in front of the second minibus during the journey from Marseille airport on 4 th
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Heard calling at the Hotel Robinson in the early hours on 6 th and also heard during the pre-breakfast walks on 10 th & 11 th at the Montagu
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	At least 20 seen on 5 th in various parts of Camargue and surrounding areas and then noted on the next 3 days.
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	One on 5 th during the Musée walk, then 1 twice near Gallician and 1 seen by the leader only near Argeles Gazost on 12 th .
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	A good number of sightings of this species for this late in the season. At least 80 were seen

Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	during the Musée walk on 5 th and they were also seen on 6 th and 7 th . One seen just across the road from the Hotel Robinson thanks to the generosity of a local couple.
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	A single bird was seen during the pre-breakfast walk on 10 th .
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	One on the pre-breakfast walk on 5 th and 2 on 6 th .
(European) Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridus</i>	Heard or seen on 7 days of the tour.
Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	Just a single bird seen in the eastern part of La Crau on 6 th .
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Noted on 6 days of the tour.
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Seen every day from 5 th .
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Noted on 3 consecutive days in the Pyrenees from 9 th .
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	Distant birds seen on 9 th & 10 th in the Pyrenees.
(Western) Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Seen every day except 11 th .
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Seen every day from 5 th .
Northern/Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Seen daily in the Pyrenees from 9 th .
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	A single bird was seen during the pre-breakfast walk on 6 th , then good numbers seen in appropriate woodland on 10 th & 11 th . At least 4 seen on 10 th and on 11 th .
(European) Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>	Noted on 7 days of the tour.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Small numbers seen on 4 days of the tour.
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	A good number of sightings with at least 300 on 5 th at the Marais de Grenouillet and also noted on 7 th , 8 th , 9 th & 11 th .
Sand Martin/Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Seen every day from 5 th .
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	15-20 seen on 6 th at the Pont du Gard and then small numbers seen on 3 days from 9 th in the Pyrenees.
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	A few seen on 7 th to the west of Arles and then good numbers seen on 10 th & 11 th in the Pyrenees.
(Common) House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	At least 8 seen in the riverside trees near Argeles Gazost on 9 th .
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	A few seen briefly to the west of Arles on 7 th and a further 3 seen close to Sts Maries later the same day.
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Just a single bird seen on 5 th during the Musée walk.
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Seen or heard on 3 consecutive days from 5 th in the Camargue area.
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Just a single bird well seen on 5 th during the Musée walk.
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippalais polyglotta</i>	Two or three seen on 5 th during the Musée walk and then not noted again until 9 th close to the river at Argeles Gazost.
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Two birds seen on 10 th , one during the Gavarnie walk and another high in the Ossoue Valley.
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Heard or seen on 5 days of the tour.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Heard during the pre-breakfast walk on 5 th and seen later that day near the Marais de Grenouillet.
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Also seen on 6 th and heard on 7 th .
(Winter) Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Just heard on 9 th by the river at Argeles Gazost.

(Eurasian) Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Two well seen, but giving strange calls, during the pre-breakfast walk on 10 th and also noted in the Foret de Lienz on 11 th .
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	At least 4 seen on 9 th by the river at Argeles Gazost.
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Seen on 4 consecutive days from 5 th and noted on 12 th during the drive to Toulouse.
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Noted on 4 consecutive days from 9 th in the Pyrenees.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Just seen on 9 th high on Hautacam in a flock with the next species.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Just noted on Hautacam on 9 th .
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	One during the pre-breakfast walk on 6 th then not seen again until we reached the Pyrenees where they were noted on 4 consecutive days from 9 th .
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Five seen in a quarry near the Hotel Robinson early on 6 th and another 2 later that day at the Pont du Gard, then noted on 4 consecutive days from 9 th in the Pyrenees.
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	One on 7 th to the west of Arles and another on 11 th on the way to the Col du Tourmalet.
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	At least 10 seen in the eastern part of La Crau on 6 th and then seen on 3 consecutive days from 9 th in the Pyrenees.
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	Three different juveniles close to the Col du Tourmalet on 11 th .
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	One seen high in the Ossoue Valley on 10 th .
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	One on 10 th in the Ossoue Valley and another the following day in the Foret de Lienz.
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	First seen on 5 th during our Musée walk and then singles noted on 6 th , 9 th , 10 th & 12 th but there were quite a lot in the Foret de Lienz on 11 th .
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	At least 4 seen on the river close to Argeles Gazost on 9 th and 3 further along this river on 12 th .
House Sparrow	<i>Paser domesticus</i>	Noted every day from 5 th .
Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	At least 7 seen close to the Col du Tourmalet on 11 th .
Dunnock/Hedge Accentor	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	First seen fairly high up on Hautacam on 9 th and also seen the following day in the Ossoue Valley.
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Just noted in the Camargue area on 5 th & 7 th .
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Noted on 3 days in the Pyrenees always close to rushing water.
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	The first was seen on 4 th as we arrived at Marseille airport, then noted on a further 6 days of the tour.
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Just a single bird seen in the eastern part of La Crau on 6 th .
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinolett</i>	As expected seen on 3 consecutive days on high ground in the Pyrenees.
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Noted on 6 days with the majority of sightings in the wooded parts of the Pyrenees.
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	A surprising lack of this species throughout our travels with just a few sightings on 9 th , 10 th & 12 th .
Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	First seen on 9 th on Hautacam and also noted on 10 th in the Ossoue Valley.

Common/Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	At least 70 were seen during our lunch stop on the way to Toulouse airport on 12 th .
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	A few seen during the Gavarnie walk on 10 th .
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	At least 4 seen as we drove back towards the hotel on 5 th , and a further half a dozen or so seen a couple of days later.
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	First seen on Hautacam on 9 th , then seen on the following 2 days.
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	At least 3 near Agos Vidalos on 12 th .
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	A single juvenile bird was seen during the pre-breakfast walk on 11 th .
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	At least 2 near Agos Vidalos on 12 th .
MAMMALS		
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	One heard calling in the early hours of 6 th by one member of the group.
Eurasian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Signs noted on 5 th & 6 th in the Camargue area.
Isard/Pyrenean Chamois	<i>Rupicapra pyrenaica</i>	Two high up on the slopes above the Cirque de Troumouse and then a further 17 much lower down in the same area all on 9 th .
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	One seen during the pre-breakfast walk on 5 th close to the Hotel Robinson and then also encountered on 10 th & 11 th in the Pyrenees.
Alpine Marmot	<i>Marmota marmota</i>	Noted on high ground on 3 successive days in the Pyrenees from 9 th .
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	A single individual seen running across the pavement close to Lourdes on 12 th .
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	Two on 5 th and 1 on 7 th in the wetlands of the Camargue.
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Just noted on 5 th & 6 th in the Camargue area.
REPTILES		
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>	
Iberian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis hispanica</i>	
BUTTERFLIES		
APOLLOS		
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalinius</i>	
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	
WHITES, YELLOWS & SULPHURS		
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx Cleopatra</i>	
HAIRSTREAKS, COPPERS & BLUES		
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	
Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>	
Chalkhill Blue	<i>Lysandra coridon</i>	
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	
BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES		
Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	
Meadow Fritillary	<i>Mellicta parthenoides</i>	

Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Bolonia euphrosyna</i>
Western Marbled White	<i>Melanargia occitanica</i>
Piedmont Ringlet	<i>Erebia meolans</i>
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>

MOTHS

Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
Silver Ground Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe montana</i>

DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES

Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>
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Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>
Large Pincertail/Blue-eyed Hooktail	<i>Onychogomphus uncatus</i>
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>

PLANTS

Nos. on the right refer to Mediterranean Wild Flowers – Blamey & Grey-Wilson

Pinaceae

<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone Pine, Umbrella Pine	3
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime Pine	

Cupressaceae

<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	13
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress	11

Fagaceae

<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	23
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak	24
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	25
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork Oak	27

Cannabaceae

<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Hop	36
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Moraceae

<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	42
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Urticaceae

<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	47
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Chenopodiaceae

<i>Arthrocnemum perenne</i>	Perennial Glasswort	82
<i>Suaeda maritima</i>	Annual Seablite	93

Caryophyllaceae

<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	157
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Crassulaceae

<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop	386
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Platanaceae

<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Plane Tree	400
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Rosaceae		
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Fire Thorn	417
<i>Rubus fruticosuds</i>	Bramble	428
Leguminosae		
<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	Honey Mesquite	445
Fabaceae		
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	508
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne	596
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	642
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	645
Euphorbiaceae		
<i>Euphorbia rigida</i>	Narrow-leaved Glaucous Spurge	802
Anacardiaceae		
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree/Terebinth	861
Malvaceae		
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	898
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf Mallow	899
<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	Marsh Mallow	904
Tamaricaceae		
<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	Tamarisk	1017
Cucurbitaceae		
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	1032
Myrtaceae		
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue Gum	1060
Onagraceae		
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Greater Willowherb	1065
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	1069
Umbelliferae		
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	1081
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	1108
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	1168
Ericaceae		
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	1176
Primulaceae		
<i>Lysimachia atropurpurea</i>	Purple Loosetrife	1191
Plumbaginaceae		
<i>Limonium ferulaceum</i>		1222
<i>Limonium vulgare</i>	Common Sea Lavender	1223
Oleacea		
<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>		1246
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>		1247
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	1248
Asclepiadaceae		
<i>Cynanchum acutum</i>	Stranglewort	1268

Convolvulaceae		
<i>Convolvulus silvatica</i>	Great Bindweed	1317
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	1334
Boraginaceae		
<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	Bugloss	1413
Verbenaceae		
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain	1418
Lamiaceae		
<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Wild Thyme	1508
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	1545
Solanaceae		
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	1563
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Thornapple	1575
Scrophulariaceae		
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Common Toadflax	1622
Caprifoliaceae		
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf Elder/Danewort	1710
Dipsacaceae		
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teasel	1732
<i>Knautia purpurea</i>	Purple Knautia	1734
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	1735
Asteraceae		
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	1792
<i>Conyza Canadensis</i>	Canadian Fleabane	1803
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>	Stink Aster	1841
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>	Flat-topped Carline Thistle	1920
<i>Cardopatum corymbosum</i>	Cardopatum	1934
<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	Woolly Thistle	1956
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>		2000
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	2023
Gramineae		
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail	2473
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	2494
Juncaceae		
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp Rush	2504

PYRENEES

The nos on the right refer to page numbers in The Alpine Flowers of Britain & Europe – Grey-Wilson & Blamey.

Pinaceae		
<i>Abies alba</i>	Silver Fir	22
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	22
Cupressaceae		
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	22
<i>Juniperus nana</i>	Dwarf Juniper	22

Salicaceae		
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	26
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar	26
Betulaceae		
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	28
Corylaceae		
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	28
Fagaceae		
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	28
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	28
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	28
Polygonaceae		
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	Mountain Sorrel	30
Caryophyllaceae		
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Moss Campion	32
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	32
<i>Dianthus monspessulanus</i>	Fringed Pink	34
Ranunculaceae		
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore	38
<i>Helleborus viridis</i>	Green Hellebore	38
<i>Aconitum anthora</i>	Yellow Monkshood	40
<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	Common Monkshood	40
Papaveraceae		
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	58
Crassulaceae		
<i>Sedum telephium</i>	Orpine	76
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop	76
Parnassiaceae		
<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	Grass of Parnassus	78
Saxifragaceae		
<i>Saxifraga aretioides</i>	Yellow Saxifrage	84
<i>Saxifraga longifolia</i>	Pyrenean Saxifrage	88
Rosaceae		
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort	90
<i>Rubus saxatilis</i>	Rock Bramble	90
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	90
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Blackberry	90
<i>Rosa glauca</i>	Blue-leaved Rose	92
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose	94
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	100
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	100
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	102
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine Lady's Mantle	102
<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i>	Lady's Mantle	104
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Mountain Ash/Rowan	106
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	106

<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	106
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn/Sloe	108
Leguminosae		
<i>Melilotus alba</i>	White Melilot	122
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne	122
<i>Trifolium alpinum</i>	Alpine Clover	124
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	124
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	124
Geraniaceae		
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean Cranesbill	132
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>		132
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	132
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Storksbill	132
Malvaceae		
<i>Malva alcea</i>	Cut-leaved Mallow	138
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	138
Thymelaeaceae		
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel	140
Cistaceae		
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rockrose	140
Hypericaceae		
<i>Hypericum maculatum</i>	Imperforate St John's Wort	142
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's Wort	142
Violaceae		
<i>Viola cornuta</i>	Horned Pansy	146
Onagraceae		
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Mountain Willowherb	148
Cornaceae		
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Common Dogwood	150
Araliaceae		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	150
Umbelliferae		
<i>Astrantia major</i>	Mountain Sanicle/Great Masterwort	150
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica	158
<i>Heracleum austriacum</i>	Hogweed	158
Ericaceae		
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry	162
<i>Rhododendron ferrugineum</i>	Alpenrose	164
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	164
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling	164
Gentianaceae		
<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	Field Gentian	180
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring Gentian	180
Boraginaceae		
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	186
Verbenaceae		
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain	190

Labiatae		
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary	194
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Deadnettle	196
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	200
<i>Acinos alpinus</i>	Alpine Calamint	200
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	202
<i>Mentha longifolia</i>	Horse Mint	202
<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>	Wild Thyme	202
Scrophulariaceae		
<i>Linaria alpina</i>	Alpine Toadflax	204
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark Mullein	206
<i>Verbascum chaixii</i>		206
<i>Euphrasia alpina</i>	Alpine Eyebright	212
<i>Euprasia rostkoviana</i>	Common Eyebright	212
Rubiaceae		
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	224
<i>Galium mullugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw	312
Caprifoliaceae		
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree	226
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Red-berried/Alpine Elder	226
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Common Elder	226
Campanulaceae		
<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>	Round-headed Rampion	230
<i>Campanula trachelium</i>	Nettle-leaved Bellflower	234
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell	234
Dipsacaceae		
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious	238
Asteraceae		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	246
<i>Petasites spp</i>	Butterbur	248
<i>Carlina acaulis</i>	Stemless Carlina Thistle	250
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk Thistle	252
<i>Carduus carlinoides</i>	Pyrenean Thistle	254
<i>Cirsium acaulon</i>	Stemless Thistle	254
<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	Woolly Thistle	254
<i>Serratula tinctoria</i>	Sawwort	260
Liliceae		
<i>Merendera Montana</i>	Merendera	264
Urticaceae		
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	288
Celastraceae		
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle Tree	304
Aceraceae		
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	306
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	306
Buxaceae		
<i>Buxus sempervierns</i>	Box	308

Rhamnaceae

Rhamnus catharticus Buckthorn 308

Oleaceae

Fraxinus excelsior Ash 310

Also noted during the tour:

<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Himalayan Balsam
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	Evening-primrose
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Soapwort
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Thorn-apple
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet/Woody Nightshade
<i>Buddleia</i>	Buddleia
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp Agrimony
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Reed-mace
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple Toadflax
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut
<i>Populus nigra Italica</i>	Lombardy Poplar
<i>Populus canescens</i>	Grey Poplar
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California Poppy
<i>Cryptogramma crispa</i>	Parsley Fern
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White Bryony

This was yet another highly successful Travelling Naturalist tour to the Camargue and Pyrenees. At times it seemed like the weather would conspire against us but in the end we stayed more or less dry throughout. Our wonderful organisation ensured that the bad weather only came through overnight! In the Pyrenees there were times when the visibility was better than either leader had known before. To say you could see for miles was an understatement! However, this good visibility was perhaps responsible for producing a sparsity viewings of Lammergeier, Golden Eagle and to a certain degree Griffon Vultures. They were probably all just too high for us to see them easily. But as the preceding pages show, we did note all of those species and much more besides. We ended up with a grand total of 142 birds and over 180 plants. Below is a list of species/events that were voted as various people's favourite moments/sightings of the tour.

Not only was the wildlife performing well in general terms, but so were the clients. There was lots of good humour which contributed to the general spirit of the group. It was a most enjoyable tour for us to lead so we hope to see you again on future tours elsewhere.

Mike and Liz Read

Alpine Accentors	Grey Plovers (all 213)
Bearded Vulture	Griffon Vultures
Camberwell Beauty	Hoopoe
Crested Tit	Marmot
Dippers	Melodious Warbler
Female Blackcap	Rock Thrush
Flamingos (all 3,500)	Stone Curlew
Caspian Tern	

**Mike & Liz Read, September 2010, ©
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