

THE TRAVELLING NATURALIST

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Tour Report

France – Spring Birds, Orchids and Prehistory in Dordogne

7 – 14 May 2022

Military orchid



Black kite



photo Ainsley Halligan

Black-veined white



photo Kenneth Hook

Broad-bodied chaser



photo Ainsley Halligan

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Images by Ainsley Halligan & Ken Hook

Day 1: Arrival Bordeaux, travel to Lalinde

Saturday 7 May 2022

After a hiatus of two years with no Travelling Naturalist groups in Dordogne as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, normal service resumed this spring. However, with fewer flights at Bergerac currently, it was necessary to drive to Bordeaux Mérignac airport to pick up the group.

The weather was very warm, sunny and calm which was to continue for most of the week. Corine and I arrived at the airport where we met one of the group who had spent the previous week at her cottage in La Roque Gageac, an hour east of our accommodation in Lalinde. Before long the EasyJet flight from Gatwick had landed and we were meeting the group and walking to the car park to load the suitcases and climb aboard the minibuses.

After a little traffic on the Bordeaux ring road, we were soon heading west on the motorway towards Bergerac and Lalinde. At the confluence of the Dordogne and Isle rivers around Libourne we saw a few white storks with at least one on a nest, whilst all the while black kites drifted overhead. In Mouleydier near Lalinde, a scarce swallowtail flew past the minibus. We reached our accommodation 'Les Magnolias' in Lalinde in the late afternoon where Sieta and Tom were there to meet and greet us. We disembarked from the vehicles, unloaded the suitcases and Corine, Tom, Sieta and myself helped everyone to their rooms to settle in. Half an hour later we all met on a terrace where we were to have our daily evening species list meeting. From here there is a great view of the wooded parkland that surrounds the buildings and across the River Dordogne. The river is particularly wide here with overhanging trees on its banks, mainly willows and American boxelder, and several islands in the stream. Here Corine and I introduced the holiday and itinerary for the week ahead. Sieta also introduced her beautiful chambres d'hôtes complex and the housekeeping arrangements. Out on the river mute swan, white wagtail, cormorant, grey heron, common sandpiper and many barn swallows were noted amongst the islands whilst blackbird, robin, blackcap, short-toed treecreeper and Cetti's warbler sang from the bank. Caddis flies were emerging, a bonanza for the insectivorous birds. We took our first dinner in the dining room adjacent, with our head chef Didier introducing himself beforehand and discussing his proposed menus. We knew we were in for some fine dining as Didier is an experienced chef and indeed our first meal was excellent. It had been a long day travelling for many so we soon returned to our rooms, looking forward to a week of wildlife-watching in the picturesque Dordogne. As I left to go home a dozen little egrets flew upstream to roost.

Day 2: Trémolat and Mauzac

Sunday 8 May 2022

We left Lalinde on a bright sunny morning and drove the short distance to the viewpoint at the Cingle (meander) de Trémolat high above the River Dordogne. Looking south from here across the rich agricultural farmland in the valley bottom we could see the wooded limestone hills around us and the sandy plateau of the Bessède forest to the south-east forming part of a ridge of limestone hills opposite us across the valley. The viewpoint area is a holm oak and downy oak woodland with scrubby grassland, a warm sub-Mediterranean hillside, once open rough grazing land until the mid-20th century. From here we had good views of black kites whilst not to be outdone a wood pigeon made its display flight just in front of us, back and forth before our landscape panorama. Common redstart and Bonelli's warbler sang near us in the wood and a distant pheasant called. As we returned to the minibuses a great white egret and little egret flew upstream high above us.

We moved on to the stone track a little higher up near the large wooden cross at another viewpoint above the river. As soon as we arrived we saw scarce swallowtails and common swallowtails by our parking place. We walked from here along the track towards Trémolat through the scrubby grassland towards an area of mixed woodland. Adonis blue, wall brown and Berger's clouded yellow were quite common and we also saw small heath, red admiral, small blue, and clouded yellow and there were several day-flying moths including common heath and various small geometer moths. One of the group took a photo of a beautiful tiger moth which proved to be *hyphoraia testudinaria*. In the pine trees, we noted pine processionary moth caterpillar nests. On the track itself, a green tiger beetle flew up in front of us and all the while field crickets sang from the grassland. At a low point in the track where a puddle of water had formed, two broad-bodied

chaser dragonflies were battling for territory and further along a dead greater white-toothed shrew was found on the track. Birds of prey were in evidence with as usual many black kites as well as common buzzard, honey buzzard and sparrowhawk and a possible booted eagle. Several Bonelli's warblers sang as well as chiffchaffs, blackcaps, chaffinch and a cuckoo or two. In the mixed woodland at the far end of our walk, we had good views of a crested tit in the pines and green frogs cackled far below us beside the river. Here we saw our first orchids: pyramidal in bloom and lizard and violet limodore both in bud. The vegetation here is typical for dry sunny limestone slopes with a Mediterranean influence. Plants included white and common rockroses, curry plant, common ball flower, horseshoe vetch and small shrubs including the tiny needle sun-rose and larger trailing (or French) broom, whilst dogwood and St Lucie cherry are also very common here.

Next, we headed for Corine's house nearby where she had kindly offered to provide lunch in the wonderful setting of her private nature reserve. During lunch, we watched a common redstart singing by the house where it was using a nest box, blue tits were busy feeding young in another nestbox on an outhouse and golden oriole, cuckoo sang from the woods and a rare baton blue was found fluttering around the house roof and walls. After lunch, we made a short walk and found ascalaphids libelloides coccajus flying in the meadows amongst the butterflies which included dingy skipper, grizzled/southern grizzled skipper and wood white whilst one of the group found a green hairstreak. Along a hedge line, a melodious warbler sang with some of the group having good views of it, and several common wall lizards were noted scuttling away into the grass by the house. There were also many orchids such as burnt, pyramidal, sword-leaved helleborine, violet limodore, green-winged orchid, twayblade and fly. In Dordogne, it is difficult to separate broad-leaved helleborine from Mueller's helleborine, especially when only the first new leaves are visible as now.

After lunch, we moved to the other side of Trémolat to an interesting scrubby limestone grassland area rich in wildflowers and invertebrates. On route, we saw house martins around Trémolat church and we walked along a track through a very dry stony grassland area surrounded by woodland. There was a good variety of fritillaries including meadow, Glanville and knapweed plus brimstone, wood white, speckled wood, dingy skipper and another rarity the turquoise blue. By now the birds were rather quiet with the afternoon heat but we did see several jays, a kestrel, two woodlarks and two pairs of circl bunting. Here we found a good range of orchids, including some new species we had not seen before: fly, pyramidal, sombre bee and woodcock orchid, sword-leaved helleborine, violet limodore, lady orchid and also common tongue and ploughshare orchids with their strange and delicate shapes and colours. Other plants included the tiny dwarf spurge, fairy flax, tassel hyacinth, meadow clary and the strongly perfumed pair of creeping thyme and wild marjoram (the latter not yet flowering). On the clayey soil near a path, wet in winter and dry in summer, were Jersey buttercup, rough yellow-cress and a little white sandwort, *Arenaria controversa*, all rare plants because they need this specific habitat. The more common thyme-leaved sandwort also grows here. On the return to Lalinde, we had a brief stop at the Mauzac dam on the River Dordogne. The six-mile-long canal begins here, built in the mid-19th century to provide a safe route to bypass the dangerous rapids for the 'gabarres', the local boats used for transporting merchandise along the river. We saw little egret, white and grey wagtails, and common sandpiper whilst one of the group found us a holly blue. On the river, some floating river water-crowfoot with its many white flowers could also be seen.

From his early morning walk from Les Magnolias, one of the group also added cattle egret and dipper along the river to the list whilst locally he recorded three nightingales singing.

Day 3: Rouffignac Cave, Les Eyzies, Beune Valley

Monday 9 May 2022

Today we headed north-eastwards to spend the morning at Rouffignac Cave. The good weather continued and we left Les Magnolias under blue skies and warm sunshine. Along the road, by the church in Lalinde, we saw several crag martins flying around the church amongst commoner hirundines. Along the river, a great white egret was noted.

We arrived at Rouffignac on time and I went to buy tickets for the group, which left us with 20 minutes or so to soak up the atmosphere of this special place. The visit is an hour-long by small electric train and takes the visitor around half a mile down through the cave system which is at a constant 13°C throughout the year. The guide was our regular French guide and with a bit of prompting, he added some English to his commentary. Everyone also had a small handheld visio-guide, with the site and each stop on the tour explained in English text.

Soon we were passing down through the galleries, which make up part of an ancient underground river system. On each side of us were hard flint bands standing out against the softer limestone rock and several smaller channels disappeared away to our right and left. Above us were occasional vast shallow circular holes which the ancient river had carved out. At our first stop, the guide showed us vertical scratch marks covering the walls of the cave. These were made by hibernating cave bears and pre-date the cave engravings and paintings. After a while, we saw our first signs of prehistoric man's activities, engravings of mammoths for which the cave is particularly noted. A little further on we reached the first monochrome paintings drawn with manganese dioxide, firstly woolly rhinoceros but soon afterwards mammoths. In one example, two lines of these great beasts face one another. The Cro-Magnon artists made great use of the texture of the rock surface to complement their art. Throughout the cave, there are also more abstract simple designs either engraved or painted. In one section we were shown graffiti from the 18th century, but fortunately, these have not seriously affected the prehistoric art. Next, we passed ancient hibernating bear pits (which have been dated at 18,000 years BP) moulded out of sediment debris. After half a mile we stopped at the final chamber, where we dismounted from the train and were shown a rock ceiling with over 60 paintings of animals, created around 14,000 years BP. These were animals that the Cro-Magnon people knew well such as bison, ibex, mammoth, woolly rhinoceros and some beautiful horses. From the quality of the paintings, we could see that they were true artists. Beyond this chamber, the cave disappears down an inaccessible swallow-hole where a few more prehistoric images have been recorded including a rare human form. As the guide stressed we can never know why prehistoric people entered the cave to make these paintings and engravings but if we look carefully we can discover interesting details and so appreciate their knowledge of these animals and their skill as artists.

After the visit, we drove to Les Eyzies, also known in France as the capital of prehistory. On route, we saw many yellow male brimstone butterflies along the roadside and at one point a large pale bird of prey flew above us. We stopped in a quarry to search the skies but unfortunately, the bird had gone, it may well have been a short-toed eagle. However, we did see one or two black-veined whites and wood whites. For lunch we visited the restaurant at Laugerie Basse set under the impressive cliffs at Grand Roc. Here we had an excellent lunch on the shady terrace looking out across the Vézère Valley. Common swifts were active above us and a few of the jackdaw colony returned to nest holes on the cliff, whilst one of the local peregrines also showed briefly on several occasions. Surprisingly the nesting crag martins were not present. Common wall lizards were also active and an inquisitive violet carpenter bee inspected a rail next to our table. After lunch, we made a small walk around a mixed woodland area at the base of the cliff. There was a mix of the typical local woodland birds including Bonelli's warbler, blue and great tit and we had great views of a firecrest which are always present here. Further on a migrant garden warbler was seen by some of the group as it flitted between the branches. An Asian hornet buzzed past us and high in a tree nearby one of last year's nests, shaped like an oversize rugby ball, could be seen. Searching the skies we saw other raptors including kestrel, honey buzzard and another species, which had lost various flight and tail feathers and appeared to be a red kite. We also found many plants that prefer vertical surfaces to grow on. A whole range of small ferns like maidenhair spleenwort, rustyback, wall rue and in humid places maidenhair fern decorated the cliffs, together with patches of ivy-leaved toadflax (also called 'ruin of Rome') in full bloom and a very tiny light blue small bellflower. White and black bryony were here too, both creepers share a name but they belong to different plant families.

The next stop was the Grand Beune Valley further eastward to explore some wet meadows and adjacent dry grassland and scrub. As we arrived I heard a reed warbler singing across the marsh. Once we were out of the minibuses we were soon into the butterflies which were very active on this warm sunny afternoon. A black-veined white cruised gracefully by, followed by a female brimstone and wood white. Walking along

the track beside the marsh we found new species for the list: sooty copper, Provencal short-tailed blue, common blue, comma and the scarce Reverdin's blue, in this case, a brown female. Wall brown, red admiral, dingy skipper, speckled wood and meadow fritillary were also noted along with a day-flying moth burnet companion amongst them. Dragonflies and damselflies were also abundant. In the grassland were many small blue southern damselflies along with a few small red and large red damselflies plus a lone western clubtail. Further on by the wood were several beautiful demoiselles and banded demoiselles. Ascalaphids patrolled above the grasses and Corine noted a crab spider *misumena vatia* on a flower. Young ravens could be heard from a nearby cliff site and later an adult flew past us calling. Woodpeckers were notable here with great spotted and black calling from the forest and best of all a pair of lesser spotted nesting high in a willow tree giving good views through the 'scope. The marshy meadow showed different shades of green following slight changes in the topography. Olive-green rushes dominate in the lower wetter parts, elsewhere green sedges or grasses of a different green dominate. This kind of habitat is so vulnerable we preferred not to walk into it, but we could observe nearby some nice dark purple early marsh orchids. On the dryer grassland, a large rampion bellflower was in full bloom and there were again yellow and white rockroses. As I returned to the car and opened the tailgate an Asian hornet buzzed out.

From his early morning walks one of the group saw hoopoe, middle spotted woodpecker, kingfisher, common and black redstarts, greenfinch and heard a tree sparrow a new species for the tour list. Using her phone app another member of the group recorded a bird call on the riverbank by Les Magnolias given as a greenshank, a species regularly seen on migration in Dordogne.

Day 4: Bergerac pastures, Mandacou, Eymet, Lac de l'Escouroux

Tuesday 10 May 2022

Another warm sunny morning greeted us for our short journey westward to Bergerac and an interesting area of mixed farming adjacent to damp pastures which is now a sanctuary area where hunting is prohibited. On route by Bergerac airport, some of us saw corn bunting on the perimeter fence. Just before the little village of Le Monteil we stopped to check two birds of prey flying above us. After some searching, these turned out to be a red and a black kite. At the site, we parked on a track lined by mature oak trees.

Birds are the main attraction here, and along the track, we had reasonable views of short-toed treecreeper and there was a group of long-tailed tits also high in the oaks whilst a wren sang. On the hedges, we saw stonechat and heard melodious warbler, curl bunting, goldfinch and several nightingales. Flocks of starling flew about and there were several magpies and carrion crows. Cuckoo, chaffinch, song thrush and golden oriole sang from the woods and one of the group found us a distant marsh harrier flying low across the fields and woods. Nearby other raptors were making use of the morning thermals: common buzzard and black kites as usual but a group of seven migrating honey buzzards was special, showing well and close by with a mix of paler and darker forms making an interesting contrast. A different darker raptor was perhaps the most exciting of all, a dark morph booted eagle and probably a migrating bird. Kestrels were also hunting the fields and one of the group picked out a pair of darker hobbies for us. We had some good views of turtle doves flying near us with a total of five birds seen, and their purring song, a true sound of summer here, was also heard. In the adjacent meadow, we watched two mazarine blue butterflies, the male violet-blue and the female brown like most blue butterflies. A tiny fan-tailed warbler sang above the fields when we returned to the minibuses but was difficult to see. Even though we were here mainly for the birds, it was good to see many meadow and roadside plants in flower. Even common species add to the diversity and richness of a habitat. We saw the white, star-like flowers of greater and lesser stitchwort, corky-fruited water dropwort, ground ivy with its peculiar smell when you walk through it, small geraniums and ragged robin.

Next, we moved south to a small limestone hill near the village of Mandacou noted for its orchids and butterflies. We parked by the site and walked to the highest point with a fine view of the local landscape all around where both species of swallowtails were 'hill-topping' here - a phenomenon whereby males of both species defend territories on a high point waiting for females to pass by. Other species noted were Berger's clouded yellow, adonis blue, black-veined white and small heath along with several ascalaphids. Corine found the impressive brown mantid *empusa pennata* which must have been the inspiration for the 'Alien'

films. The closely related green praying mantis was also found, and there was a good mix of farmland and woodland birds including skylark, woodlark, Bonelli's warbler, melodious warbler, common whitethroat, nightingale plus great spotted and green woodpeckers mostly heard singing or calling. A tree pipit performed nicely for us making occasional song flights and parachuting down into a tree near the hilltop. In the same area, two whinchats showed well and were a reminder of the active migration going on. The hot weather had parched the last tiny yellow bee-orchid so it was barely recognisable, but sombre bee, lady, woodcock, bee and fly orchid could be seen in good shape. In many places on this typical dry hilltop, the white soft limestone soil is often visible between a sparse vegetation of rockroses, fescue grasses, spike lavender and dwarf blue thistle. This last species can only be found in the south-west of Dordogne.

Driving to Eymet for lunch some of us in my minibus were fortunate to see a hoopoe fly across the road, and we had a good lunch in the main square with a quarter of an hour to explore this lovely 13/14th-century bastide – a fortified village from the period of the Hundred Years War. Feral pigeons, collared doves and swifts were flying about over the square and house sparrows chattered from the roofs. A tree sparrow called near the little Dropt River where several people saw black redstart, kingfisher, grey and white wagtails, blackcap and moorhen. In the river we watched several species of fish: chub, dace, bleak and a pair of pumpkin-seed apparently spawning - this is a colourful American species now common in Dordogne.

In the afternoon we went to the nearby reservoir of Escouroux to explore the area around the smaller lake. On route, we stopped briefly at Bouniagues to avoid (and then watch) a red squirrel in the middle of the road determined to save at least part of a squashed walnut. Near the reservoir, a white bird perched on a tree across the fields was a black-winged kite with its companion nearby, so we stopped on the roadside and watched these beautiful small raptors for several minutes.

With the 30°C heat of the afternoon, we decided to just do a shorter walk on one side of the small lake where we would have some shade. The lake was quiet bird-wise though a few people saw or heard a kingfisher and a moorhen was seen amongst the rushes whilst green frogs were making quite a racket near the far end delta. A close-by nightingale gave a great rendition of its full song and amongst the other commoner scrub and woodland birds a migrant willow warbler sang from the willows in the wooded delta, a girl bunting sang from a nearby hillside whilst jays were still active. We had a nice mix of butterflies here including scarce swallowtail, wood white, Glanville, meadow, knapweed and marsh fritillaries and adonis blue. Also amongst them was five-spot burnet, another day-flying moth. Out across the open water, a large blue emperor dragonfly was patrolling whilst along the footpath in the grasses were many blue featherleg damselflies, some just emerging 'teneral' individuals and so lacking adult colour. There were also a few blue-tailed damselflies, with one of the group noting one of the emerald damselflies. An attractive small pale striped longhorn beetle Iberodorcadion was found in the grass and striped shield bugs, firebugs and more crab spiders were also seen. Just on the side of the parking area, a tall lizard orchid nearly in bloom stood out. Along the grassy path sweet-smelling dog roses were in full bloom, we saw wart spurge and cypress spurge, chalk milkwort in blue and white and the somewhat larger common milkwort in blue and purple. We also found purple gromwell which is not purple at all but a deep blue. For the first time this week, we saw man orchid with its lip shaped like a little mannequin, near a still fresh lady orchid wearing - surprise! - a frock. Ploughshare and common tongue orchid were also present, as were bee and woodcock orchid. Meadow vetchling, bird's-foot trefoil, black medick, horseshoe vetch and bush vetch were only a few of the many Leguminosae plants we saw.

One of the group spotted a wood sandpiper on his early morning walk by the river but most interesting of all was his sighting of an otter, probably a male, on the riverbank at Les Magnolias around 06:00. Following this sighting he saw at least one otter at around the same time and place each day until the end of the holiday and on Thursday morning a female with two young cubs. Just before we did the evening species list a serin was singing in the grounds nearby.

Today we headed south across the River Dordogne to the sandy plateau of the Bessède Forest, a mixture of pine plantations, mixed woodland, heathland and a little mixed farming. The very warm sunny weather continued and temperatures reached their highest of the week at 32°C. Our first stop was beyond the village of Cadouin, famous for its abbey. We went uphill and parked on a forest track from where we took a short walk to search for notable birds of prey. Unfortunately, trees largely obscured the view northwards across the Dordogne Valley but there was interesting heathy woodland to explore. A nice mix of commoner birds included linnet, chiffchaff, cuckoo, chaffinch and turtle dove singing and jays calling. Later a small group of honey buzzards circled above us before drifting off northwards. By the minibuses, a crested tit showed well before we moved on to another forest track to stop for a longer walk. The highlight of this for the birders was several Dartford warblers singing, calling and darting amongst the dense heathland vegetation, frustratingly they rarely posed in view though. On the roadside, some heath spotted orchids were just beginning to flower - they are abundant here, the Bessède massif is the only place in Dordogne where you can find this sandy and in places marshy environment they require. Other plants typical for this habitat are viper's grass, tormentil, sweet spurge and heath speedwell, and also the large spikes of white asphodel. A bit further on we saw Kerry lily, a much rarer plant.

We continued along the track into mixed and pine woodland where Corine and myself returned to the minibuses to bring them up to the group. We continued in the vehicles through the forest and stopped briefly at a point where wood warblers nested around five years ago. At first, I heard nothing but the commoner birds however I finally heard the sweet twitter denoting that the species had returned here. Wood warblers are a rare nesting species this far south so it was pleasing to find it again here after an absence of several years. Next, we re-joined the road and drove to the small Belvès aerodrome with one of the group and myself seeing a mistle thrush fly over the minibus en route, another new species for the list. We explored a little around the eastern end near the offices and hangars, and here stonechats appeared to be busy with young and two migrant female wheatears posed nicely for us on the short turf whilst skylark and woodlark also showed briefly. Black redstart, goldfinch and greenfinch appeared by a large garden and further along the track a pair of circler buntings showed well through the 'scope. Further birds of prey were spotted here: common buzzard, honey buzzard, black kite and kestrel plus one of the group watched a harrier briefly, most likely one of the local nesting hen harriers. Butterflies were active as the temperatures rose and we found a good range including swallowtail, scarce swallowtail, black-veined white, brimstone, wood white, common blue, meadow and marsh fritillaries and wall brown. Blue and purple patches of common milkwort grew on the aerodrome field, whilst on its edges the tiny fairy flax, bugle and horseshoe vetch were visible. On the roadside ploughshare, man, and common tongue orchid were present, one of each. By now it was time to go for lunch in the small bastide village of Molières. As we drove into the village a hoopoe flew over the road. Here we ate on the square with parasols and trees for shade. For vegetarians there was Bath asparagus on the menu; this beautiful wildflower is common around here and often picked for preparing delicious dishes. Whilst dining willow warbler, black redstart and common redstart sang for us and a scarce swallowtail flew past. After a nice meal, there was a little time to explore this attractive old village, a very quiet bastide founded by Edward I in the 13th century. The ruins of the castle, where Queen Blanche de Bourbon was incarcerated in a tower (and presumed empoisoned or thrown in a well by her husband) are still there but are no longer accessible.

With the exceptionally hot sunny weather, we changed the programme a little to avoid the sun and heat as much as possible. Firstly we went to the downy oak forest in the limestone hills near Mauzac with temperatures soaring, mainly for butterflies and flowers. Corine searched on the roadside for a group of monkey orchids she had recently seen but they had disappeared, perhaps eaten by roe deer. However, we did see some military orchids, a new species for the week that got its name because its flowers look like mannequins wearing a helmet. The now-familiar pyramidal and fly orchids were also present, with several Berger's clouded yellows and adonis blues flying about plus a lone Weaver's fritillary. A song thrush and melodious warbler sang but otherwise there were few birds active. For the final stop of the day, we visited Pressignac village pond, a notable site for dragonflies and very picturesque with its ancient church overlooking the scene. As soon we walked out to the edge of the pond we could see many dragonflies and

damselflies flitting around. Near the bank, several downy emeralds were patrolling up and down. One or two blue emperors were also seen further out endlessly crisscrossing the water. By the bankside, two broad-bodied chasers and four-spotted chasers jostled for the best perches. There were many azure damselflies near the bank plus orange featherlegs and a small red damselfly. There were few butterflies with the heat of the late afternoon but a small heath and speckled wood were new for the day. Some of us had good views of a great spotted woodpecker which flew into one of the willows near the minibuses. Two American black bass were seen swimming amongst the pond weed, a species introduced by fishermen. At the far end of the pond next to a dense line of woodland, the group found some much-needed shade, from which to view the wildlife.

In the evening we made an excursion to the open hilltop near my former house at St Meyme de Rozens to search for European nightjars. As we walked through the woodland by our parking place we found some interesting orchids by a palombière. There was a nice little colony of bird's-nest orchid and some fine tall specimens of woodcock and greater butterfly orchid. Out on the scrubby limestone heath, the last of the day birds were singing including robin, blackbirds and a song thrush across the valley and the field crickets maintained a chorus all around us. As dusk fell a tawny owl hooted briefly. We reached the furthest point on our walk where we met another track and listened. I could just make out a nightjar churring higher up on the hill from the edge of the wood. We walked back to our previous viewpoint and a nightjar sang again nearer the track. We heard the wing claps and buzzy short whistle too but the bird wouldn't show itself. Walking back towards the minibuses we heard another sing but it too stayed hidden - it was great to hear that special wild summer sound but a pity that no birds were visible. As we left the site several mammals were noted including a vole, hedgehog, rabbit and a long-dead fox, and bats were out flying around the trees on our return to Les Magnolias.

One of the group's early morning walks produced further interesting sightings including a male sparrowhawk, black-headed gull (scarce in Dordogne), kingfisher, sand martin and serin.

Day 6: Plateau de Faux, Issigeac, Bergerac gabarre boat trip

Thursday 12 May 2022

The exceptionally warm weather finally broke this morning. As I arrived at Les Magnolias the sky was grey and there was a forecast of storms and rain for the morning. It was also much cooler which was something of a relief after the hot weather we had experienced. We drove south-westwards towards the plateau de Faux and stopped briefly north of Naussannes in a small parking area to scan some fields. By the minibuses, a nightingale and Bonelli's warbler sang from an adjacent wood but wouldn't show themselves. Across the fields, we noted corn bunting and stonechat whilst a red kite flew past. We continued to our main stop south of Naussannes for a short walk. En route, a kestrel flew out from a nest box on an old barn. Golden oriole, song thrush, cuckoo, dunnock and hoopoe sang from a nearby hamlet and as we walked along the track we watched a black-winged kite flying over the fields. It landed on a tree top where we had all good views through the 'scope. We continued past other fields as skylarks sang and two woodlarks showed briefly. For plants, this was an interesting spot because the surrounding fields are farmed organically and weeds of cultivated fields that have disappeared elsewhere are still present here. We saw corn buttercup with its thorny fruits, common and narrow-fruited corn-salad (distinguishable by a dented border on the fruits - you really need a magnifying glass to see this!) and on the side of a path Bithynian vetch, bulbous thistle, yellow vetchling and hart's wort. By now the rain started so we returned to the vehicles.

We continued to the silo at Faux, a notable area for birds. This high point offers a wide view over large arable fields and some meadows on rolling slopes with a little woodland and scrub nearby. The rain eased off and we set off along the lane towards a nearby farm. In a scrubby area adjacent to the silo some of the group had brief views of a turtle dove. A couple of jays flew off and I was lucky to see a sparrowhawk flying fast and low, hunting nearby. A pheasant called and a brown hare in a field nearby stayed long enough to be viewed well by the group through the 'scope. Skylark, melodious warbler, zitting cisticola, whitethroat, corn bunting and linnet all sang or called around us as we continued along the lane. We stopped in a small wood to view a long-eared owl on the nest but unfortunately, the leaf cover had obscured our view of it. With the cool, wet weather butterflies were not active. However, ahead of us, a male corn bunting sang high

in a small tree amongst leafless branches. We managed to approach quite close and all had excellent views of this lovely little bird through the 'scope. Returning to the silo we had good views of up to three rock sparrows which nest in an electric post next to the parking area. With the weather improving we continued past the minibuses south of the crossroads along a rough track. There were various commoner smaller birds and a migrant wheatear was nice to see. Black-winged kite, kestrel, common buzzard and black kite were all noted whilst further on three pale, long-tailed pipits flew up and into the nearby crop field. They soon returned to the track in front of us and could be identified as tawny pipits, a rare nesting bird here. We watched them feeding along the track and some of us saw them well through the 'scope. As we approached the furthest point of our walk we saw a roe deer buck in an adjacent field showing well, whilst further on we were rewarded with views of red-backed shrike. Both the male and female were seen at this regular nesting site though only the male posed for the 'scope and then just his head was visible! The open areas in the shrubby woodland and the roadside here are miniature limestone grasslands with their typical flora, islands in a desert of modern agriculture. There were orchids such as lizard, pyramidal, woodcock, bee, fly and man orchid. In one area we found thyme broomrape, a small brownish plant without chlorophyll that parasitizes on thyme and other Lamiaceae. We also saw on the edge of a field a large milk thistle with big purple flower heads and decoratively speckled and lined leaves, just as prickly was a rare Plymouth thistle with tiny pink flowerheads.

The birders returned to the minibuses where the botanists, who concentrated their efforts nearer the vehicles, informed us that a male hen harrier had circled above them for a while before disappearing. Just before we left I noticed a crested lark give a brief song flight but unfortunately it did not show again for the group.

As it was lunchtime we drove to the medieval village of Issigeac where we were able to eat on the terrace as the weather had dried up. After lunch, there was time for exploring this attractive village with its alleys and little squares. Black redstarts, swifts and house martins were active and one of the group found a female pied flycatcher by the little river.

There was a change of programme after lunch. We decided to do the boat trip in Bergerac as with the change in flight times and transfer to the airport it would not be possible on Saturday morning. After a short drive, we were in Bergerac getting our tickets and preparing for a short one-hour cruise on the water. By now the weather had brightened and the temperature reached a pleasant 22°C. There was a little time beforehand to explore the port area of the town with its little streets and ancient buildings. Between the cobblestones of the port a lot of mostly very tiny plants grow, some of them so small you need a magnifying glass to see them. We found bur medick with its tiny spiralled fruits with many crooked hooks and black medick with tiny black seeds, fine-leaved sandwort, annual knawel and buck's horn plantain. Sand martins were exploring holes in the old bridge and one of the group saw a crag martin amongst the other hirundines. The boat trip is taken in a reconstruction of a traditional shallow draft flat-bottomed boat called a 'gabarre' which used to ply their trade along the river up until the 19th century.

We had a local French guide who introduced us to the history of the town, local area and river. A new bird species for the holiday was the Canada goose which nests on a small island nearby. As we headed upstream we sailed through a very wooded section of the river where many black kites nest and we had good views of several occupied nests in the trees with sitting birds as well as others flying above us. Unfortunately, we didn't see a kingfisher but there was a grey heron, common sandpiper and moorhen, and Cetti's warbler occasionally sang from the bankside vegetation. Whilst a couple of us were walking back to get the minibuses, we saw some clumps of marram grass growing out of the stone harbour wall - strange to see them here so far from the sea, but the seeds had probably arrived here by the river.

Day 7: Beynac, Daglan village, Causse de Daglan

Friday 13 May 2022

The morning started cool with mist and low cloud. Today we had planned to drive directly to Daglan, an area of dry limestone hills with scrubby downy oak woodland, primarily for butterflies and flowers. However, with the poor weather, we decided to call in at the riverside village of Beynac with its cliffs and

famous castle set high above the river. We made our first stop at the car park at the entrance to the village. Here we scanned the swifts and hirundines for alpine swift, a local specialty. There were plenty of common swifts, sand martins, house martins, crag martins and barn swallows but no large swift with a white belly. The jackdaw colony was active around the cliffs and blackcap and great spotted woodpecker showed well for some in a nearby tree. As we surveyed the riverside we did find kingfisher and grey wagtail and a few grey herons from the local heronry, whilst the highlight was a brief view of an osprey as it disappeared into the bankside trees.

We returned to the minibuses and continued to the car park at the far end of the village. Here we searched for eagle owl which regularly nest high on the cliffs here. I soon had the nest site in my 'scope and everyone had great views of an adult and some were lucky enough to see one or two young.

Next, we drove up to the chateau for a walk around the battlements. Here we had wonderful panoramas of the Dordogne Valley at two viewpoints, both downstream and upstream. Small birds included serin which are regular here throughout the year as well as greenfinch and goldfinch. Cuckoo, cirl bunting, melodious warbler, green woodpecker and golden oriole sang from nearby woods and fields whilst honey buzzard, common buzzard and black kites circled above us. Swallowtail, scarce swallowtail, brimstone, red admiral and Cleopatra were noted at the eastern viewpoint. Even on the battlements of the castle plants could be found, from star-headed liverwort with its receptacles like little parasols visible to the naked eye to white stonecrop and the much rarer thick-leaved stonecrop. And of course, many small ferns grew between the stones, different spleenworts and also wall-rue.

By now it was approaching lunchtime so we went directly to Daglan in "le pays de la pierre seche" or dry stone wall country. We had an excellent lunch in a new restaurant in the heart of the old village and afterwards had time to explore a little including the attractive picnic area by the little River Ceou. Here we saw black redstart and common redstart, house martins searching for nest material and another great spotted woodpecker. By the river, we found beautiful demoiselle damselflies and an emperor dragonfly on patrol.

As the sun shone and the weather warmed up we headed for a St Pompon to make a short walk amongst the stony hills. There was a pleasant chorus of birds singing as we strolled along the track: cuckoo, chiffchaff, robin, melodious and Bonelli's warblers and nightingale. This is a rich site for butterflies and strong fliers such as black-veined white, Berger's clouded yellow and Cleopatra were soon evident. In the grassland, we found Weaver's and Glanville fritillary, wall brown, small heath, small blue, sooty copper, brown argus and lots of adonis blues. Towards the woodland, we saw several southern white admirals, speckled wood and wood white plus a worn duke of burgundy fritillary a rather scarce species in Dordogne and new for the list. Green-veined white, pearly heath and large skipper were also new for the trip. Day-flying moths included common heath, speckled yellow and a blue forester moth, and a small cricket nymph appeared to be Roesel's. Wolf spiders were noted amongst the grass and a tall lady orchid was found well hidden under the dogwood and juniper bushes beside a grassy meadow used for truffle culture. Here holm oak trees with roots inoculated with truffle mycelium have been planted out as an orchard. Woodcock, bee, man and a greater butterfly orchid were also present. A beautiful thistle, *Carduus nigrescens* (no English name) seemed to be appreciated very much by the black-veined whites. Everywhere on the stony slopes beside the meadow the elegant St Bernard's lilies could be seen, typical for these Jurassic limestone hills, and we saw also spike lavender, various rockroses and pitch trefoil - the crushed leaves of the latter have a strange tarry smell.

Later whilst doing the list, one of the group reported two black swans were on the river adjacent to us. As it was the final dinner of the week we thanked Didier our amiable and excellent chef for his wonderful meals.

Day 8: Departure Lalinde, travel to Bordeaux airport

Saturday 14 May 2022

After breakfast, we gathered outside Les Magnolias to pack the suitcases and bags in the minibuses and say our goodbyes to our great hosts Sieta and Tom Platinga. Two of the group were staying a few extra days in

Dordogne with friends who had come to collect them and they left first. The rest of us boarded the vehicles for the drive to Bordeaux Mérignac airport. On route, some of us noticed the white storks again which nest near Libourne. Before too long we were on the Bordeaux ring road and approaching the airport. We parked up and made the short walk to the terminal building, but as we were early we relaxed with a coffee in one of the cafeterias before the check-in and bag drop. Sadly it was soon time to say our farewells to the group after another very enjoyable week of wildlife watching in the beautiful Dordogne countryside.



Checklist

THE TRAVELLING
NATURALIST

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
	BIRDS	AVES								
1	Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>						✓		
2	Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Black swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>					✓			
5	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Common quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>						✓		
7	Common pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		✓				✓		
8	White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓							✓
9	Western cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓						
10	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
11	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓		✓			
12	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓			✓		✓	
13	Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
14	Western osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>							✓	
15	Black-winged kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>				✓		✓		

16	European honey buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
17	Booted eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>				✓				
18	Eurasian sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓			✓	✓		
19	Western marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓				
20	Hen harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>						✓		
21	Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>			✓	✓		✓		
22	Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
24	Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
25	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
26	Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				✓				
27	Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					✓			
28	Feral pigeon (domest.)	<i>Columba livia</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
29	Common wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	European turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				✓	✓	✓		
31	Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
32	Common cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
33	Eurasian eagle-owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>							✓	
34	Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>					✓			
35	European nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>					✓			

36	Alpine swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>							✓	
37	Common swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
38	Common kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
39	Eurasian hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
40	Middle spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>			✓					
41	Lesser spotted woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>			✓					
42	Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
43	Black woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			✓					
44	European green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
45	Common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
46	Eurasian hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				✓				
47	Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			✓					
48	Red-backed shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>						✓		
49	Eurasian golden oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
50	Eurasian jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
51	Eurasian magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
52	Western jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
53	Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
54	Northern raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			✓					
55	European crested tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>		✓			✓			

56	Eurasian blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
57	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
58	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
59	Eurasian skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				✓	✓	✓		
60	Crested lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>						✓		
61	Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					✓	✓	✓	
62	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
63	Eurasian crag martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
64	Common house martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
65	Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
66	Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				✓	✓	✓		
67	Wood warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>							✓	
68	Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				✓	✓			
69	Common chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
70	Western Bonelli's warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
71	Eurasian reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			✓					
72	Melodious warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
73	Zitting cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
74	Eurasian blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
75	Garden warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			✓					

76	Common whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				✓		✓		
77	Dartford warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>					✓			
78	Common firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			✓					
79	Eurasian wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
80	Short-toed treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
81	Common starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
82	Common blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
83	Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
84	Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>					✓			
85	European robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
86	Common nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
87	European pied flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>						✓		
88	Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
89	Common redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
90	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				✓				
91	European stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
92	Northern wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>					✓	✓		
93	White-throated dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		✓						
94	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
95	Eurasian tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			✓	✓	✓			

96	Rock sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>						✓		
97	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>						✓		
98	Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
99	White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
100	Tawny pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>						✓		
101	Tree pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				✓				
102	Common chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
103	European greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
104	Common linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>					✓	✓		
105	European goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
106	European serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>				✓		✓	✓	
107	Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				✓			✓	
108	Cirl bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	BUTTERFLIES	RHOPALOCERA								
1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>				✓	✓		✓	
2	Scarce swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
3	Black-veined white	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
4	Small white	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>					✓			
5	Green-veined white	<i>Artogeia napi</i>							✓	
6	Clouded yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>		✓						

7	Berger's clouded yellow	<i>Colias australis</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
8	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>							✓	
9	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
10	Wood white	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
11	Green hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>		✓						
12	Sooty copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>			✓				✓	
13	Provençal short-tailed blue	<i>Everes alcetas</i>			✓					
14	Small blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓			✓		✓	
15	Holly blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		✓						
16	Baton blue	<i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>		✓						
17	Brown argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>							✓	
18	Mazarine blue	<i>Polyommatus semiargus</i>				✓				
19	Turquoise blue	<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>		✓						
20	Adonis blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
21	Common blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			✓		✓			
22	Reverdin's Blue	<i>Plebejus argyrognomon</i>			✓					
23	Duke of burgundy	<i>Hamaeris lucina</i>							✓	
24	Southern white admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>					✓	✓	✓	
25	Red admiral	<i>Vanesa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
26	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>			✓					

27	Weaver's fritillary	<i>Boloria dia</i>					✓		✓	
28	Glanville fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxa</i>		✓					✓	
29	Knapweed fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>		✓		✓				
30	Meadow fritillary	<i>Melitaea parthenoides</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
31	Marsh fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>				✓	✓			
32	Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilius</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
33	Pearly heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>							✓	
34	Speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
35	Wall brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
36	Grizzled skipper/Southern griz	<i>Pyrgus malvae/malvoides</i>		✓						
37	Dingy skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>		✓	✓					
38	Large skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>							✓	
	DRAGONFLIES	ANISOPTERA								
	Damselflies									
1	Beautiful demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>		✓	✓				✓	
2	Banded demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>			✓					
3	Western demoselle	<i>Calopteryx</i>					✓			
4	Blue featherleg	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>				✓				
5	Orange featherleg	<i>Platycnemis acutipennis</i>					✓			
6	Large red	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>			✓					

7	Small red	<i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i>			✓		✓			
8	Southern (mercury bluet)	<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>			✓					
9	Azure (azure bluet)	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>					✓			
10	Blue-tailed	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>				✓				
	Dragonflies									
1	Blue emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>				✓	✓		✓	
2	Western clubtail	<i>Gomphus pulchellus</i>			✓					
3	Downy emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>					✓			
4	Four-spotted chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>					✓			
5	Broad-bodied chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>					✓			
	ORCHIDS									
1	Broad-leaved helleborine	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>		✓						
2	Mueller's helleborine	<i>Epipactis muelleria</i>		✓						
3	Sword-leaved helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>		✓					✓	
4	Violet limodore (violet bird's nest)	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>		✓						
5	Bird's nest	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>					✓			
6	Twayblade	<i>Neottia ovata</i>		✓						
7	Greater butterfly	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>					✓			
8	Early marsh	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>			✓					
9	Heath spotted	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>					✓			

10	Man	<i>Orchis anthropophorum</i>				✓				
11	Green-winged	<i>Anacamptis morio</i>		✓						
12	Lady	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>		✓		✓				
13	Military	<i>Orchis militaris</i>					✓			
14	Burnt	<i>Neotinea ustulata</i>		✓						
15	Pyramidal	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>		✓		✓			✓	
16	Lizard	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>		✓	✓		✓			
17	Ploughshare tongue	<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>		✓		✓				
18	Common tongue	<i>Serapias lingua</i>		✓		✓				
19	Grooved sombre bee	<i>Ophrys funerea</i>		✓		✓				
20	Yellow bee	<i>Ophrys lutea</i>						✓		
21	Bee	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>				✓				
22	Fly	<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>		✓		✓				
23	Woodcock	<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>		✓		✓				
	OTHER PLANTS									
1	American box elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	✓							
2	Montpellier maple	<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>				✓				
3	Maidenhair fern	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>			✓					
4	Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>					✓			
5	Marram grass	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>						✓		

6	Saint bernard's lily	<i>Anthericum liliago</i>							✓	
7	'Limestone sandwort'	<i>Arenaria controversa</i>		✓						
8	Thyme-leaved sandwort	<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>		✓						
9	Silver broom	<i>Argyrolobium zanonii</i>							✓	
10	White asphodel	<i>Asphodelus albus</i>					✓			
11	Rustyback	<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>			✓					
12	Wall rue	<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>			✓				✓	
13	Maidenhair spleenwort	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>			✓					
14	Pitch trefoil	<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>							✓	
15	White bryony	<i>Bryonia dioica</i>			✓					
16	Field gromwell	<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>						✓		
17	Purple gromwell	<i>Buglossoides purpureocaeruleum</i>				✓				
18	Small bellflower	<i>Campanula erinus</i>			✓					
19	Rampion Bellflower	<i>Campanula rapunculus</i>			✓					
20	"Black thistle'	<i>Carduus nigrescens</i>							✓	
21	Plymouth thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>						✓		
22	Dwarf blue thistle	<i>Carthamus mitissimus</i>				✓				
23	Bulbous thistle	<i>Cirsium tuberosum</i>						✓		
24	Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>		✓					✓	
25	Ivy-leaved toadflax	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>			✓					

26	Trailing broom	<i>Cytisus lotoides</i>		✓						
27	Black bryony	<i>Dioscorea communis</i>			✓					
28	Cypress spurge	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>		✓		✓				
29	Sweet spurge	<i>Euphorbia dulcis</i>					✓			
30	Dwarf spurge	<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>		✓						
31	Wart spurge	<i>Euphorbia flavicoma subsp. verrucosa</i>				✓				
32	Sprawling needle sunrose	<i>Fumana procumbens</i>		✓						
33	Ground Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>				✓				
34	Common Ball-flower	<i>Globularia bisnagarica</i>		✓						
35	White Rockrose	<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i>		✓	✓					
36	Common Rockrose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>		✓						
37	Curry plant	<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>		✓						
38	Horseshoe vetch	<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>		✓		✓	✓			
39	Water violet	<i>Hottonia palustris</i>							✓	
40	Wild candytuft	<i>Iberis amara</i>							✓	
41	Yellow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>						✓		
42	Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>				✓				
43	Spike lavender	<i>Lavandula latifolia</i>							✓	
44	Fairy flax	<i>Linum catharticum</i>		✓			✓			
45	Bird's foot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>				✓				

46	Star-headed liverwort	<i>Marchantia polymorpha</i>							✓	
47	Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>				✓		✓		
48	Bur medick	<i>Medicago minima</i>						✓		
49	Fine-leaved sandwort	<i>Minuartia hybrida</i>						✓		
50	Grape tassel hyacinth	<i>Muscari comosum</i>		✓						
51	Corky-fruited water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>				✓				
52	Wild marjoram	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>		✓						
53	Thyme broomrape	<i>Orobanche alba</i>						✓		
54	Common broomrape	<i>Orobanche minor</i>						✓		
55	Amethyst broomrape	<i>Orobanche amethystea</i>		✓						
56	Field eryngo	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>		✓						
57	Buck's horn plantain	<i>Plantago coronopis</i>						✓		
58	Chalk milkwort	<i>Polygala calcarea</i>		✓		✓				
59	Common milkwort	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>				✓	✓			
60	Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>					✓			
61	Saint Lucie cherry	<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>		✓						
62	Holm oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>		✓						
63	Downy oak	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>		✓						
64	River water-crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus fluitans</i>	✓	✓						
65	Bulbous buttercup	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>		✓	✓					

66	Jersey buttercup	<i>Ranunculus paludosus</i>		✓						
67	White willow	<i>Salix alba</i>	✓							
68	Meadow clary	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>		✓					✓	
69	Annual knawel	<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>						✓		
70	Viper's grass	<i>Scorzonera humilis</i>					✓			
71	Milk thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>						✓		
72	Kerry lily	<i>Simethis mattiazzii</i>					✓			
73	Rough yellow-cress	<i>Sisymbrella aspera</i>		✓						
74	Lesser stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>					✓			
75	Greater stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>					✓			
76	Creeping thyme	<i>Thymus longicaulis auct.</i>		✓						
77	Narrow-fruited cornsalad	<i>Valerianella dentata</i>						✓		
78	Common cornsalad	<i>Valerianella locusta</i>						✓		
79	Heath speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>					✓			
80	Bithynian vetch	<i>Vicia bithynica</i>						✓		
81	Bush vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>					✓			