

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

CEVENNES & GRANDS CAUSSES

27th May to 3rd June 2024

Cévennes 2024: trip report and species lists

Leader

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All photos Kieron Huston, except where stated otherwise.

Front: *Orchis x hybrida* (Hybrid between Military Orchid and Lady Orchid)

Above: First light in Bédouès-Cocurès, Cévennes

Day One: 27th May. Travel to the Cévennes

A full day of train travel, taking us from the busy station at St Pancras, through Essex and Kent and down into the Channel Tunnel, 75 metres beneath the seabed at 270 km per hour through to the French countryside, changing in Lille to our regional train down to Avignon.

From here, we drove across to the Cévennes, and through the winding mountain roads to our final destination, where we arrived in time for a delicious evening meal.

Day Two: 28th May. The Menhirs of Les Bondons

A leisurely start to the day, after our travels yesterday, saw us boarding the bus at the luxurious hour of 9.30, and heading the short way north up towards Mont Lozere, and the edge of the Causse de Sauveterre, where the granite and limestone bump into each other. This area is renowned for the abundance of standing stones or Menhirs and provides an interesting range of habitats with some great views across the mountainous Cévennes and the Causse Méjean.

Our walk took us along the field edges and down into the pine woods, although initially we paused to watch a Black Kite over the fields to the north and to enjoy some of the flowers to be found around the car park. A variety of legumes (Fabaceae) caught our interest including the striking two-toned white and pink flowered form of Crimson Clover *Trifolium incarnatum* subsp *molineri*, bright pink spikes of Sainfoin *Onobrychis viciifolia*, Mountain Kidney-vetch *Anthyllis montana* and the sprawling Montpellier Milk-vetch *Astragalus monspessulanus*. Other plants here included Snow-in-Summer *Cerastium tomentosum*, Viper's Bugloss *Echium vulgare*, Field Pansy *Viola tricolor*, Sand Catchfly *Silene conica*, Perennial Knawel *Scleranthus perennis*. Here too we found our first orchids, with a few lemon-yellow spikes of Elder-flowered Orchid *Dactylorhiza sambucina* and the not-yet-in-flower Twayblade *Neottia ovata*. We also admired one of the jewel beetles *Anthaxia hungarica* which is associated with oak trees but often found feeding on flowers.



Left: *Trifolium incarnatum* subsp. *molineri* and **Right:** *Scorzonera purpurea* (and weevil!)

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A little further on we found a dry sandy area with carpets of clovers, various crane's-bills including Cut-leaved *Geranium dissectum* and others, more bugloss and Field Chamomile *Anthemis arvensis*, Hoary Rock-rose *Helianthemum canum* and Horseshoe Vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*. Several butterflies were spotted including a Queen of Spain Fritillary, a grizzled skipper, Small Heath, Little and Common Blues. Several bumblebees were visiting the flowers including the Common Carder Bee *Bombus pascuorum* and a possible Shrill Carder Bee *Bombus sylvarum*. In amongst the trees there was a fine display of Elder-flowered Orchid with a scattering of Pasque Flower *Pulsatilla vulgaris*.

A little further on we crossed a field we stopped to photograph the brightly coloured Black-and-Red Bug *Lygaeus equestris* - a very common bug found across most of France. At the edges of the fields a variety of arable plants were noted including Corn Cleavers *Galium tricornutum* and Corn Gromwell *Buglossoides arvensis*.

Birds during the morning included Skylark singing overhead, Goldcrest in the pines, more sightings of Black Kites circling in the distance, a singing Tree Pipit and a brief view of Northern Wheatear amongst the scrubby edges of fields.

Heading downhill between the pines, trackside flowers included the surprisingly low-growing *Daphne cneorum*, the local goldendrop *Onosma fastigiata*, *Globularia bisnagarica*, plenty of Swallow-wort *Vincetoxicum hirundinaria* (a remedy against tonsillitis), the lovely lilac, salsify-like *Podospermum purpureum* and the large white flax *Linum salsoloides*. At the edges of the pine trees and in the grassy glades several more orchids were noted including plenty of Green-winged Orchids *Anacamptis morio*, a scattering of Burnt-tip Orchid *Neottia ustulata*, Greater Butterfly Orchid *Platanthera chlorantha* and a stand of Sword-leaved Helleborine *Cephalanthera longifolia*. We also stopped to admire the shrub Snowy Mespilus *Amelanchier ovalis*. A variety of butterflies accompanied us on this stretch of the walk including the occasional Swallowtail and Wood White as well as plentiful Wall Brown and several Red Admiral, Painted Lady and Small Tortoiseshell.



Left: Wood White. **Right:** Steppe Spurge and attendant Large Spearhorn hoverfly *Chrysotoxum cautum*

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Looking across a small glade we enjoyed close views of the owl-fly *Libelloides coccajus* as well as Duke of Burgundy butterflies and a fine male Western Green Lizard lay motionless a foot or so away. Finally making it down to the bottom of the slope, we found a suitably shady bank on which to have our lunch amongst pasque flowers, orchids and Poet's Narcissus *Narcissus poeticus*. Whilst eating, several Clouded Yellow, skipper and Orange Tip butterflies zipped past and a Large Spearhorn *Chrysotoxum cautum*, a large bee mimic hoverfly perched on foliage nearby.

Sandwiches consumed, we took a short stroll down to an impressive valley where a flower filled meadow nestles alongside a small stream and the edge of a rocky limestone cause. The meadow harboured abundant Poet's Narcissus (though not all in flower) as well as frequent Meadow Clary *Salvia pratensis*, Round-headed Rampion *Phyteuma orbiculare* and more Burnt Tip Orchid and Elder-flowered Orchid. Tassel Hyacinth *Muscari comosum* and Star of Bethlehem *Ornithogalum umbellatum* grew amongst the rocks with thymes and rock-rose. Butterflies and moths included a Dingy Skipper, Green Hairstreak, several fritillaries and a Cistus Forester moth.

Back to the main path, and a little further on we found Columbine *Aquilegia vulgaris*, Green Hellebore *Helleborus viridis*, a bright yellow flax *Linum campanulatum*, White and Common Rock-rose *Helianthemum apenninum* and *H. nummularium*. In the verge adjacent to the track we found a single spike of the hybrid between Military Orchid and Lady Orchid *Orchis militaris* x *Orchis purpurea*. Military Orchid *Orchis militaris* was noted growing in an adjacent field and presumably Lady Orchid occurs nearby as well. The Small Spider Orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *araneola*) was also found along the verge. In the ascent back to the bus we finally found our first Mountain Aster *Aster alpinus*¹ in full flower as well as the Grass-leaved Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum graminifolium*).



Left: Mountain Aster and the crab spider *Heriaeus oblongus* (you can just make out long white spines on the spider's abdomen). This went unnoticed at the time, always worth checking your pictures for cameo appearances! **Right:** Elder-flowered Orchids abundant and in perfect condition amongst the Menhirs

¹ *Aster alpinus* is a polymorphic plant that has been the subject of infraspecific divisions not recognized by everyone. For example, in the Causses the subsp. *cebennensis*, is recognised by some and is characterised by a more robust and very hairy form.

Day Three: 29th May. Nimes le Vieux



This morning's drive took us around the eastern edge of the Causse Méjean, where we stopped briefly to take-in a stunning display of Military Orchids including several with all white flowers. We also found plentiful Greater Butterfly Orchid, Early Purple Orchid *Orchis mascula*, Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, one fresh spike of Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera*, and a few Twayblades in full flower. The yellow pea Dragon's Teeth or Sea Trefoil *Lotus maritimus* was locally abundant across the slope.

Just round the corner, the road took us up onto the south-eastern corner of the Causse Méjean, some 1,100 metres above sea level, and the limestone karst landscapes of the Nimes le Vieux. We arrived in the small hamlet of L'Hom to the spectacle of a sky filled with spiralling Griffon Vultures.

Shortly after found us wending our way between the limestone outcrops and enjoying carpets of White Rock-rose, Hoary Rock-rose and occasional Common Rock-rose as well as bright blue flourishes of the speedwell *Veronica teucrium*, Chalk Milkwort *Polygala calcarea*, Horseshoe Vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*, Mountain Kidney-vetch *Anthylis montana*, Prickly Poppy *Papaver argemone*, and the bright yellow flowers of the Golden Banner *Cytisophyllum sessilifolium* and various greenweeds such as *Genista pilosa*. The open grasslands were dotted with Burnt-tip Orchid, Pasque Flowers, Mountain Aster *Aster alpinus*, Geneva Bugle *Ajuga genevensis* and *Globularia bisnagarica*, along with some big creamy-white spikes of Crested Lousewort *Pedicularis comosa*. Here amongst the rocky slopes, we were directed to by a French botanist to a patch of *Pulsatilla rubra var serotina*. We also found hundreds of Burnt Tip Orchid, as well as some Elder-flowered and Pyramidal Orchids. Several Lizard

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Orchids *Himantoglossum hircinum* were tantalisingly close to flowering, but not today! Not far away, we found several spikes of Aymonin's Fly Orchid *Ophrys insectifera* subsp *aymoninii* an endemic species found only in this area of France.

A variety of chasmophytes (rock-loving plants) were present including Fairy Foxglove *Erinus alpinus*, Kerneria *Kerneria saxatilis* and Cévenne Cinquefoil *Potentilla caulescens* as well as Rue-leaved Saxifrage *Saxifraga tridactylis*, Thick-leaved Stonecrop *Sedum dasyphyllum* and Slender Bedstraw *Galium pumilum*. Ferns included Maidenhair Spleenwort *Asplenium trichomanes* and Wall-rue *Ruta muralis*.

Just after we settled down to our much-needed lunch a flock of sheep accompanied by a large dog appeared around the corner and effectively blocked our usual route. As the dog stubbornly refused to acknowledge our benign nature, we opted to explore an alternative route down the slope which took us on a small adventure during which we discovered our first Man Orchid *Orchis anthropophora* of the trip as well as nice views of Grizzled Skipper and Duke of Burgundy Fritillary.



Sheep at Nimes le Vieux

Our walk was punctuated by occasional encounters with Common Wall Lizards and Western Green Lizards which scuttled amongst the rocks. At times they were more interested in each other than their human audience.

After outwitting the sheepdog, we bypassed the sheep and crossed a small marshy area of scrubby hazel and willow woodland with Monk's Hood *Aconitum napellus* before climbing the slope and entering an open grassland field. At this point we stopped to admire the views assailed by the loud chirping of Field Cricket *Gryllus campestris*. We were then fortunate to find and examine a cricket which proceeded to nip the leader's fingers (rather like repeatedly catching your finger in a paper clip).

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Later as we descended back towards L'Hom we found a single Monkey Orchid *Orchis simia* and shortly after we stopped to look at a real local speciality, the endemic Cévennes Saxifrage *Saxifraga cebennensis*, growing in one small cluster of rocky columns.

Butterflies during the day included Small Blue, Orange-tip, Green Hairstreak, Heath, Glanville and Knapweed Fritillaries and lots of Small Heath. We also chanced upon a Mullein Wave *Scopula marginepunctata*.

With the afternoon drawing to a close, we finished our walk, and made our way back to Florac, where we enjoyed a drink in the town marketplace, and visited the National Park visitor information centre, before making our way home.



Left: *Kerneria saxatilis* (KH) and **Right:** *Saxifraga cebennensis* (Richard Somers-Cocks) at Nimes les Vieux

Day Four: 30th May. Causse Mejean

We set off south this morning, climbing from the riverside town of Florac, up the switch-back roads to the rolling steppe of the Causse Méjean: an expanse of rocky grassland, with scattered pine plantations and patches of cereal farming in the little pockets of deeper soil.

Our destination was the little hamlet of Hures, from where we started our day's walking, heading out across the grassy terrain, the 'steppe' grass *Stipa pennata* was just starting to flower, a little later than usual and a sign of a late spring on the Causse. The weather at this point was wet with a rather cold wind whipping across the plateau and it was a sobering reminder of the challenging conditions that the flora and fauna (including people!) must cope with through the seasons.

Despite the elements we were able to see many of the typical steppe plants of the Causse including rock-roses, trefoils and Horseshoe Vetch, along with Pasque Flowers, Felty Germander *Teucrium rouyanum*, the golden-drop *Ononis fastigiata*, Grass-leaved Ox-eye *Leucanthemum graminifolium* and both Cypress Spurge *Euphorbia cyparissias* and Steppe Spurge *Euphorbia seguieriana*. Orchids were abundant, notably Burnt-tip, Military, Aymonin's Fly Orchid, Man Orchid, Twayblade and the rather handsome Small Spider Orchid *Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *araneola*.

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As we started to descend through an area of Maritime Pine plantation woodland and Box scrub the weather started to improve and just as the sun appeared we found the brightly flowered Yellow Pheasant's Eye *Adonis vernalis* lighting up the forest floor. Other plants here included *Hepatica nobilis*, Hairy Greenweed *Genista pilosa*, Early Purple Orchid - plentiful along the path edges - and further into the woodland more Military Orchids. Western Bonelli's Warblers were trilling in the trees and a little further away a Woodlark was singing. With the sun on our backs our spirits were soon revived, and we pressed on through the woodland emerging a little lower down next to a fallow field covered in Corn Chamomile with Sand Catchfly, a scatter of Cornflower, Oxeye Daisy, Wild Mignonette, Ground Pine *Ajuga chamaedrys* and an abundance of legumes of various kinds. Just down the track from this field we stopped to check the large dew pond. Water levels were higher than usual and the water crowfoots a little out of reach – these have previously been identified as Pond Water Crowfoot *Ranunculus cf. peltatus* and Thread-leaved Water Crowfoot *R. cf. trichophyllos*.



Left: Hoary Rock-rose *Helianthemum canum* and **Right:** Yellow Pheasant's Eye *Adonis vernalis* – a species principally found on Causse Mejean in France

The route then then led us along a hedge lined track with arable and fallow fields on either side. In one of these we stopped to admire the views and the Jersey Thrift *Armeria arenaria* before arriving at the sleepy hamlet of Le Bufre. Along the track out of the village we found Roman Snails on the walls and Knapweed Fritillaries and Little and Common Blues flitted around us.

After a heroic climb back up onto the edge of the Causse we stopped for lunch and were able to watch various fritillaries, blues, and swallowtails busying themselves amongst the flowers. On the return walk across the Causse we found Early Spider Orchid *Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *sphogodes*, Centranthe *Centranthus calcitrapae* and French Figwort *Scrophularia peregrina* as well as carpets of Military and Burnt Orchids.

We also had a close view of the magnificent Owlfly *Libelloides coccajus* and found the Monkey Beetle *Hoplia argentea* (it had lost most of its green scales but is likely to have been this species). Bird sightings in this last part of the walk included Red and Black Kite and Common Buzzard, Skylark, Tawny Pipit and Red-billed Chough.



Day Five: 31st May. Causses and Gorges

Today we headed back up to the plateau of the Causse Mejean and our first stop was at the little hamlet of La Villaret, where a project is underway to 're-wild' the original wild horse. Once found across the grassy plains of Eurasia, Przewalski's Horse was last seen in the wild in Mongolia in 1969. By the end of the 1950s, just 12 individuals were left, in a handful of zoos. Conservation work since the 1970s has increased the numbers in captivity to over 1500 animals by the 1990s, with several conservation projects looking to return the animals to the wild.

In 1993, eleven zoo-born horses were brought to Le Villaret, where they have formed free-ranging family groups, and been increasing in numbers ever since: the project now maintains a breeding population of around 40 animals. In 2004/05, 22 horses were returned to Mongolia from Le Villaret to the Khomyn Tal National Park in Mongolia: by 2020, the National Park held more than 100 wild horses. Other re-introduction projects have followed, with populations now present in three Mongolian national parks, the Kalamaili Nature Reserve in Xinjiang, and the Orenburg steppe in Russia. In 2008, Przewalski's Horse was re-classified from 'extinct in the wild' to 'critically endangered', by the IUCN Red List, and further re-assessed in 2011, to 'endangered'.

The horses on this occasion were some distance from the viewpoint grazing on a distant hill side and though these had to be viewed through binoculars it was good to see them and to know that they are roaming such a large area of the Causse. A few people with zoom lenses managed to get some pictures (if a little grainy!).

Adjacent to the bus we found some very nice spikes of Man Orchid *Orchis anthropophora*.

Back on the bus it was a short trip to the cave at Aven Armand. A cable car took us down into a spectacular cave, filled with some extraordinary stalagmites: 110m long, 60m wide with an average height of 45m, the total volume of the space is over 300,000 m³, large enough to house Notre Dame Cathedral.

Back up on the surface, after our Jules Verne explorations, we had a coffee before setting off to the Gorges de la Jonte, where we visited the House of the Vultures, a visitor/interpretation centre focussing on the area's now-flourishing populations of vultures. Around the car park and on the walk to the visitor centre some interesting plants of note included Rock Aphyllanthes *Aphyllanthes monspeliensis*, Bladder Senna *Colutea arborescens*, Dorycnium *Lotus dorycnium* and Blue Lettuce *Lactuca perennis* amongst others. Violet Carpenter Bees could be seen flying around the flowers of the Bladder Senna.

After a brief introduction to the visitor centre, we made our way through the excellent vulture displays. Having gone extinct from the entire region in the early 20th century, Griffon Vultures were reintroduced to the cliffs of the Gorges de la Jonte in the early 1980s: from 61 individuals released in 1981 and 1982, there are now over 1000 birds in the Grands Causses. Next came the Cinereous, or Black Vulture: extinct in the region for more than 120 years, following the removal of most of the forests that the bird nests in, the first release took place in 1992, with around 200 birds now present in the region, representing the largest European population outside of Iberia.

Egyptian Vulture, the smallest European vulture, returned of its own accord in the 1980s, but with the population right across Europe in decline, their position is still very precarious, with just 2 pairs currently in the Grands Causses. The latest reintroduction is the Lammergeier or Bearded Vulture, with 4 birds released in the Grands Causses in 2020, and a current population of around 12 individuals, which have formed several pairs this year.

After learning about the birds, their threats and the conservation work going on to protect and increase their populations, we emerged into the sunshine on the observation platforms that form part of the visitor centre. From here we had superb views of Griffon Vultures, a more distant view of a young Black Vulture in a tree top nest and a sighting of Bearded Vulture high above us. A Peregrine joined the vultures and landed briefly on the rocks behind us.

We had our lunch whilst watching the vultures and then headed back to the bus for our journey to the Gorges du Tarn, and the riverside village of La Malene.

We arrived in good time and shortly after boarded two flat-bottomed punts and gently floated down the River Tarn, enjoying the superb gorge scenery, passing Grey and Pied Wagtails, Dippers and the locally endemic Causses Butterwort *Pinguicula caussensis* as well as Maidenhair Spleenwort and other ferns growing on the wet cliffs. A Bearded Vulture flew high above us amongst the more numerous Griffon Vultures.

Jean Pierre picked us up 8 km along the river, from where we headed back to the hotel.

Day Six: 1st June. Gorges du Tarn and Mont Aigoual.

This morning we bade farewell to La Lozerette, and set off southwards, towards Mont Aigoual. The windy roads took us up onto and across the Causses Méjean, skirting the Gorges du Jonte, through the mixed pine/larch/beech forests up to the summit of Mont Aigoual, at 1567m, from where on a clear day you can see the Pyrenees, the Alps and the Mediterranean. We had all wrapped up as the temperature had dropped to a chilly 5°C and it was quite windy on the summit. However, the rain

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held off and we enjoyed some good views as we descended through the Mugo Pines *Pinus mugo* watched Tree Pipits singing and displaying and found a several plants of note including Alpine Lady's Mantle *Alchemilla alpina*, Field Mouse-ear *Cerastium arvense*, Wallflower Cabbage *Coincya monensis* subsp. *cheiranthos*, Heath Dog Violet *Viola canina*, Mountain Everlasting *Antennaria dioica* and a host of Wild Tulip *Tulipa sylvestris*. Along the edge of the road Sequier's Pink *Dianthus sequieri* and Jersey Thrift were just starting to flower. We paused briefly as a flock of sheep were led off the mountain and down the road by a family and their three dogs. The botanical walk then took us around a slightly lower and more sheltered summit where we found *Anthemis cf. creticus*, Frago's Mossy Saxifrage *Saxifraga fragosoi*, the leaves of Paniculate Saxifrage *Saxifraga paniculata* and Houseleek *Sempervivum tectorum*. Closer to the summit of Mont Aigoual we found False Pygmy Sesame *Sesamoides pygmaea* and clumps of Field Pansy *Viola arvensis*. These slightly steeper south facing slopes were dominated by the tall grass *Festuca paniculata*.

Finding the summit café too busy we decamped to a small café a little further down the mountain where we were able to sit outside in the sunshine whilst enjoying coffee and cake.

From here, we continued our journey south, arriving at our next hotel with time for a quick rest before meeting before dinner.



Left: False Pygmy Sesame *Sesamoides pygmaea* and **Right:** *Saxifraga fragosoi* on Mont Aigoual

Day Seven: 2nd June. Lapanouse de Cernon

In the morning, we headed off promptly towards the Cernon valley to explore the meadows that lie just south of the village Lapanouse-de-Cernon. These meadows are noted for their floristic richness especially orchids but also support a fine range of invertebrates and birdlife.

Within the first few minutes we had found the striking Aveyron Spider Orchid *Ophrys sphegodes* subsp *aveyronensis* together with numerous Lesser Butterfly Orchids *Platanthera bifolia*, a single spike of Bird's-nest Orchid *Neottoa nidus-avis* and several Violet Limodores *Limodorum abortivum*. There were also frequent Chalk Fragrant Orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea*, more Green-winged Orchid, Burnt Orchid, a few Fly Orchid *Ophrys insectifera* subsp. *insectifera* and Pyramidal Orchids.

Our interest also alighted on a single plant of *Laserpitium gallicum* which was just coming into flower, Italian Catchfly *Silene italica*, Hairy Milkwort *Polygala comosa*, Perennial Yellow Woundwort *Stachys recta*, Peach-leaved Bellflower *Campanula persicifolium*, Branched Asphodel *Asphodelus ramosus*, Bloody Crane's-bill *Geranium sanguineum* as well as species already seen earlier in the trip such as Meadow Clary, Mountain Kidney Vetch, White and Common Rock-rose, St Bernard's Lily, Common Asphodel, Aphyllanthes, the short-stemmed blue 'knapweed' *Carthamus mitissimus*, Bastard Balm and Pasque Flower. There were also two new flaxes the smaller-flowered Pale Flax *Linum bienne* and the large, brighter, blue-flowered *Linum narbonense*. We found several bees settled within these larger flax flowers perhaps waiting out the cool of the morning. At least one of these was a Pantaloon bee *Dasygaster hirtipes*. There were also lots of the tan coloured leaf beetle *Exosoma lusitanica*.

Other interesting invertebrates along the way included Hummingbird Hawk-moth and Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth nectaring on the Meadow Clary flowers, the butterflies Spotted Fritillary, Glanville Fritillary, Knapweed Fritillary and Heath Fritillary, a few Pearly Heath, Adonis Blue, Scarce Swallowtail and Berger's Clouded Yellow. Higher up the track we found a Snakefly *Phaeostigma notata* on an oak leaf, the leaf beetles *Cryptocephalus bipunctatus* and the Hazel Leaf Roller Weevil *Apoderys coryli*.

We paused several times to listen to and photograph birds including a Golden Oriole in the surrounding woods and two Western Bonelli's Warblers that were chasing each other around a tree adjacent to the path as we progressed up the slope. Mistle Thrush were seen on the track above us, a Cuckoo called from across the valley and Nightingale was occasionally heard.

Afterwards we paid a visit to the Templar village of La Couvertoirade, where we walked the ramparts, visited the church and explored the narrow lanes before meeting up for a drink at a small local produce café. A variety of plants added interest to the old walls of the town including the locally-endemic Ruffled Sabline *Arenaria hispida*, Prostrate Toadflax *Linaria supina*, Pale Speedwell *Veronica cymbalaria*, Malling Toadflax *Chaenorhinum origanifolium*, Rue-leaved Saxifrage, Thick-leaf Stonecrop *Sedum dasyphyllum* and ferns such as Wall-rue and Maidenhair Spleenwort.

Day Eight: 1st June. Departure

One last wander across the Causse Larzac, enjoying some great views of male and female Red-backed Shrike, Red Kite, a few distant Griffon Vultures and a Short-toed Eagle that swooped towards us before gliding low over our heads.

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Black-veined Whites flitted across the Causse and we stopped to look at Blue Catananche *Catananche caerulea*, Sweet Safflower *Carthamus mitissimus* and the small blue flax *Linum leonii* nestled in a sea of Shrubby Thyme *Thymus vulgaris*, vetches and trefoils and the spikes of Pyramidal Orchids.

Corn Buntings sang above us on the wires and Blackcap and Western Subalpine Warblers called and sang from the scrub whilst in the distance a Woodlark sang high up over the Causse. Then it was time to board the bus and head back to Montpellier, and the rather industrial like Sud de France train station, from where we made our way off, variously to more French explorations or up to Lille and the Eurostar home.

Kieron Huston, Wildlife Travel. June 2024



Linaria supina growing on one of the many 'botanical' walls within La Couvertoirade

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen					
PTERIDOPHYTA: FERNS								
Aspleniaceae (spleenwort family)								
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rustyback		28 th					
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall-rue		28 th					
<i>Asplenium septentrionale</i>	Forked Spleenwort		29 th					
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort		31 st					
Dennstaedtiaceae (bracken family)								
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken		28 th					
Polypodiaceae (polypody family)								
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i> agg	Common Polypody		2 nd					
Pteridaceae (maidenhair fern family)								
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern		31 st					
PINOPHYTA: CONIFERS								
Cupressaceae (cypress family)								
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper		28 th					
Pinaceae (pine family)								
<i>Pinus maritimus</i>	Maritime Pine. Eastern Cévennes, eg Combes des Cades		28 th					
<i>Pinus mugo</i>	Mountain Pine. Mont Aigoual		1 st					
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine. eg Gorge du Tarn		31 st					
MAGNOLIOPHYTA: FLOWERING PLANTS								
MAGNOLIIDS								
MONOCOTS								
Araceae (Arum family)								
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lord's and Ladies		2 nd					
Liliaceae (lily family)								
<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i>	Wild Tulip Mont Aigoual		1 st					
Orchidaceae (orchid family)								
		28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	X					X	
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved Helleborine	X						
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid			X				
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid			X	X	X	X	
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Limodore						X	
<i>Neotinea ustulata</i>	Burnt-tip Orchid	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Twayblade	X	X				X	
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i> subsp <i>aymoninii</i>	Aymonin's Fly Orchid	X	X	X				
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i> subsp <i>insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid						X	
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp <i>araneola</i>	Small Spider Orchid	X						
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp <i>aveyronensis</i>	Aveyron Spider Orchid						X	
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp <i>sphogodes</i>	Early Spider Orchid			X				
<i>Orchis anthropophora</i>	Man Orchid			X	X		X	

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen								
			28	29	30	31	1	2	3		
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid		X	X	X	X			X		
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	Military Orchid		X	X	X	X	X	X			
<i>Orchis x hybrida</i>	hybrid Lady x Military Orchid		X								
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey Orchid			X							
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid							X			
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid			X	X						
Iridaceae (iris family)											
<i>Iris x germanica</i>	Bearded Iris. A garden escape									28 th	
Asphodelaceae (asphodel family)											
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Branched Asphodel									2 nd	
Amaryllidaceae (daffodil family)											
<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>	Poet's Narcissus. Meadow full at Combes des Cades									28 th	
Asparagaceae (asparagus family)											
<i>Anthericum liliago</i>	St Bernard's Lily									29 th	
<i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i>	Road verges in Gorges du Tarn									31 st	
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Grape Hyacinth									30 th	
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth									28 th	
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Garden Star-of-Bethlehem									28 th	
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's-seal									2 nd	
Poaceae (grass family)											
<i>Stipa cf pennata</i>	Angel Hair Grass. Common across the Causses									28 th	
<i>Festuca paniculata</i>	Mont Aigoual									1 st	
DICOTS											
Papaveraceae (poppy family)											
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine									30 th	
<i>Papaver argemone</i>	Prickly Poppy									29 th	
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Corn Poppy									28 th	
Ranunculaceae (buttercup family)											
<i>Adonis vernalis</i>	Yellow Pheasant's Eye									30 th	
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine. Combe des Cades									28 th	
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore									28 th	
<i>Helleborus viridis</i>	Green Hellebore. Combes des Cades									28 th	
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica. Nimes le Vieux									29 th	
<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i>	Pasque Flower									28 th	
<i>Pulsatilla rubra var serotina</i>	Cevennes Pasque Flower									29 th	
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup									28 th	
<i>Ranunculus gramineus</i>	Grass-leaved Buttercup Combes des Cades									28 th	
<i>Ranunculus cf peltatus</i>	Pond Water Crowfoot large-flowered, in the pond									30 th	
<i>Ranunculus cf trichophyllum</i>	Thread-leaved Crowfoot small-flowered, in the pond									30 th	
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	Greater Meadow-rue									31 st	
<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	Lesser Meadow-rue									2 nd	

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
Buxaceae (box family)			
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box		28 th
Grossulariaceae (gooseberry family)			
<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	Mountain Currant		29 th
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry		28 th
Saxifragaceae (saxifrage family)			
<i>Saxifraga cebennensis</i>	Cévennes Saxifrage		29 th
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage		28 th
<i>Saxifraga fragosoi</i>	Fragosi's Saxifrage. Mont Aigoual		1 st
<i>Saxifraga tridactylis</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage		29 th
Crassulaceae (stonecrop family)			
<i>Hylotelephium telephium</i>	Orpine		29 th
<i>Petrosedum sediforme</i>	Pale Stonecrop		29 th
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop		29 th
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop		29 th
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Thick-leaved Stonecrop		29 th
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort		28 th
Fabaceae (pea family)			
<i>Anthyllis montana</i>	Mountain Kidney Vetch		28 th
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch		28 th
<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>	Montpellier Milk-vetch		28 th
<i>Colutea arborescens</i>	Bladder Senna		31 st
<i>Coronilla minima</i>			28 th
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crown vetch		28 th
<i>Cytisophyllum sessilifolium</i>	Golden Banner. eg amongst the rocks, Nimes le Vieux		29 th
<i>Cytisus oromediterraneus</i>	Pyrenean Broom		28 th
<i>Genista hispanica</i>	Spanish Spiny Greenweed. Causse Mejean		30 th
<i>Genista pilosa</i>	Hairy Greenweed frequent but only looked at in detail on Causse Mejean walk		30 th
<i>Genista sagittalis</i>	Winged Greenweed Combes des Cades		28 th
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch. Common eg Nimes le Vieux		29 th
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Laburnum		29 th
<i>Lathyrus cicero</i>	Red Grass Vetchling Lapanouse Meadow		2 nd
<i>Lotus dorycnium</i>	Badassi Gorge Du Jonte		31 st
<i>Lotus maritimus</i>	Dragons Tooth		29 th
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin		28 th
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust		30 th
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom. Roadsides, heading south		1 st
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	Crimson Clover		2 nd
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i> subsp <i>molinerii</i>	Long-headed Clover		28 th
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover		2 nd
<i>Trifolium rubens</i>	Crimson Clover		3 rd

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry Clover		2 nd
<i>Vicia onobrychoides</i>	Sainfoin Vetch		28 th
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch		29 th
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch		3 rd
<i>Vicia tenuifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Vetch		2 nd
Polygalaceae (milkwort family)			
<i>Polygala calcarea</i>	Chalk Milkwort		29 th
<i>Polygala comosa</i>	Hairy Milkwort		2 nd
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort		28 th
Rosaceae (rose family)			
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine Lady's Mantle	Mont Aigoual	1 st
<i>Alchemilla saxatilis</i> agg.	Rock Lady's Mantle	Nimes le Vieux	29 th
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	Snowy Mespilus		28 th
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Common Hawthorn		28 th
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry		29 th
<i>Potentilla caulescens</i>	Causses Cinquefoil.		29 th
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil		1 st
<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>	St Lucie's Cherry		26 th
<i>Prunus spinose</i>	Blackthorn		28 th
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose		28 th
Moraceae (fig family)			
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig		29 th
Fagaceae (beech family)			
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut		29 th
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech		1 st
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak.		28 th
Hypericaceae (St John's-wort family)			
<i>Hypericum montanum</i>	Pale St John's-wort		28 th
Violaceae (violet family)			
<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Field Pansy		30 th , 1 st
<i>Viola canina</i>	Heath Dog Violet		1 st
Euphorbiaceae (spurge family)			
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge		31 st
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge		28 th
<i>Euphorbia seguieriana</i>	Steppe Spurge		28 th
Linaceae (flax family)			
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax.	tall, pale blue	2 nd
<i>Linum campanulatum</i>	yellow flax	Combes des dades	28 th
<i>Linum leonii</i>	shorter, blue	Causse Larzac	1 st
<i>Linum narbonense</i>	Perennial Flax.	tall, rich blue Lapanouse meadows	2 nd
<i>Linum salsoloides</i>	pinky-white flax	fairly frequent	28 th

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
Geraniaceae (geranium family)			
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's Bill		28 th
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill		28 th
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill		29 th
<i>Geranium mole</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill		29 th
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill		28 th
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert		29 th
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill		2 nd
Sapindaceae (maple family)			
<i>Acer monspellanus</i>			31 st
Malvaceae (mallow family)			
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow		31 st
Thymelaeaceae (daphne family)			
<i>Daphne cneorum</i>	Combes des Dades and Causse Mejean		28 th
Cistaceae (rock-rose family)			
<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i>	White Rock-rose		28 th
<i>Helianthemum canum</i>	Hoary Rock-rose		28 th
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rock-rose		28 th
Resedaceae (mignonette family)			
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette		28 th
<i>Sesamoides pygmaea</i>	Fake Pygmy sesame		1 st
Brassicaceae (cabbage family)			
<i>Arabis glabra</i>	Tower Mustard		28 th
<i>Arabis hirsuta</i>	Hairy Rock-cress		29 th
<i>Biscutella laevigata</i>	Buckler-mustard		29 th
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse		28 th
<i>Draba aizoides</i>	Yellow Whitlow-grass. Nimes le Vieux (not flowering)		28 th
<i>Kernera saxatilis</i>	Nimes le Vieux		29 th
<i>Lepidium cf campestre</i>	Field Pepperwort		28 th
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Honesty		1 st
Santalaceae (sandalwood family)			
<i>Thesium divaricatum</i>	Bastard Toadflax		2 nd
Plumbaginaceae (leadwort family)			
<i>Armeria arenaria</i>	Jersey Thrift		30 th
Caryophyllaceae (carnation family)			
<i>Arenaria hispida</i>	Ruffled Sabline La Couvertoirade – on rocks near Church		2 nd
<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Sandwort		28 th
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Field Mouse-ear		1 st
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow in Summer. Combes des Cades		28 th
<i>Dianthus seguieri</i>	Seguier's Pink		1 st
<i>Saponaria ocymoides</i>	Rock Soapwort. Combe des Cades, Gorges du Tarn and La Couvertoirade		28 th

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
<i>Scleranthus perennis</i>	Perennial Knawel.	Combe des Cades	28 th
<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly.	Combe des Cades	28 th
<i>Silene italica</i>	Italian Catchfly.	Lapanouse Meadows	2 nd
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Champion		28 th
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham Catchfly.	Combe des Cades	28 th
<i>Silene otites</i>	Spanish Catchfly.	Nimes le Vieux	29 th
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion		28 th
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort		30 th
Primulaceae (primrose family)			
<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel.	The blue-flowered form	31 st
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip		30 th
Ericaceae (heather family)			
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather		1 st
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry		1 st
Rubiaceae (madder family)			
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort.	Nimes le Vieux	29 th
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw		30 th
<i>Galium pumilum</i>	Slender Bedstraw		29 th
<i>Galium tricornutum</i>	Corn Cleavers		28 th
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw		2 nd
Apocynaceae (dogbane family) (includes former Asclepiadaceae)			
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort		28 th
Boraginaceae (forget-me-not family)			
<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>	Corn Gromwell		28 th
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss		28 th
<i>Onosma fastigiata</i>	the Causses goldendrop		28 th
Plantaginaceae (plantain family)			
<i>Chaenorhinum organifolium</i>	Nimes les Vieux and La Couvertoirade		29 th
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax.	On the wall at La Malene	31 st
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove		30 th
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy Foxglove.	Nimes le Vieux	29 th
<i>Globularia bisnagarica</i>			28 th
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain		28 th
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain		28 th
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell		29 th
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	Glandular Speedwell	La Couvertoirade	2 nd
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell		29 th
<i>Veronica teucrium</i>	German Speedwell,	Nimes le Vieux	29 th
<i>Veronica montana</i>	Wood Speedwell		30 th
Scrophulariaceae			
<i>Verbascum pulverulentum</i>	Hoary Mullein		31 st
<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>	French Figwort		30 th

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
Lentibulariaceae (bladderwort family)			
<i>Pinguicula caussensis</i>	Causses Butterwort		31 st
Lamiaceae (mint family)			
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Blue Bugle. Nimes le Vieux		29 th
<i>Clinopodium acinos</i>	Basil Thyme		2 nd
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel. Nimes le Vieux		29 th
<i>Lamium garganicum</i>	Large Red Dead-nettle. Nime le Vieux		29 th
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Common Lavender		29 th
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard Balm		28 th
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary		28 th
<i>Salvia verbenacea</i>	Wild Clary		2 nd
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow Woundwort		2 nd
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Wall Germander		28 th
<i>Teucrium rouyanum</i>			28 th
<i>Thymus nitens</i>	Dwarf Thyme near the first hotel and other places		28 th
<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>	Wild Thyme Causse Larzac and other places		1 st
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Shrubby Thyme Causse Larzac near the Donkey Hotel		1 st
Orobanchaceae (broomrape family)			
<i>Pedicularis comosa</i>	Crested Lousewort. Nimes le Vieux		29 th
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle		28 th
<i>Rhinanthus cf pumilus</i>	A large yellow rattle		28 th
Campanulaceae (bellflower family)			
<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	Peach-leaved Bellflower Lapanouse Meadows		2 nd
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell (not flowering)		29 th
<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>	Round-headed Rampion		28 th
Asteraceae (daisy family)			
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow		30 th
<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	Mountain Everlasting		1 st
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn Chamomile		28 th
<i>Anthemis cf cretica</i>	The ox-eye daisy at Mont Aiguoal		1 st
<i>Aster alpinus</i>	Mountain Aster		28 th
<i>Carduus crispus</i>	Wetted Thistle		29 th
<i>Carlina acanthifolia</i>	The big carline thistle, symbol of the Cévennes		29 th
<i>Carthamus mitissimus</i>	Small blue, stemless 'thistle'.		29 th
<i>Catananche caerulea</i>	Papery bracts, on the road verge by the 2 nd hotel		3 rd
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower		30 th
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry Plant		31 st
<i>Lactuca perennis</i>	Blue Lettuce		31 st
<i>Leucanthemum graminifolium</i>	Grass-leaved Ox-eye Daisy		28 th
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy		30 th
<i>Podospermum purpureum</i>	Lilac-flowered 'salsify', Combe des Cades		28 th
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's beard. Combe des Cades		28 th

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
Caprifoliaceae (honeysuckle family) (includes former Dipsacaceae)			
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Common Teasel		29 th
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle		2 nd
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Fly Honeysuckle		29 th
<i>Valeriana calcitrapae</i>	valerian on Causse Mejean near Nimes le Vieux		29 th
<i>Valeriana lecoqii</i>	fine-leaved red valerian along roadsides, heading south		2 nd
<i>Valeriana rubra</i>	Red Valerian		27 th
<i>Valeriana tripteris</i>	Three-leaved Valerian		28 th
<i>Valerianella sp</i>	Cornsalad		28 th
Apiaceae (carrot family)			
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut		2 nd
<i>Laserpitium gallicum</i>	(rocky road verges and Lapanouse meadows)		30 th
<i>Laserpitium latifolium</i>	Broad-leaved Sermountain		2 nd
<i>Meum athamanticum</i>	Spignel		30 th
<i>Trinia glauca</i>	Honewort. Combes des Cades, trackside		28 th



Above (clockwise, from top left): Pictures all courtesy Richard Somers-Cocks
Aymonin's Fly Orchid, Red Kite, Monkey Orchid, *Zygaena loti*.



Above (clockwise, from top left):
Knapweed Fritillary, Aveyron Spider Orchid, Bird's-nest Orchid, Cevennes Pasque Flower

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BIRDS

This checklist follows the taxonomy published in the **HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World**, as updated by www.birdsoftheworld.org

English names follow those used in the **Collins Bird Guide** (3rd edition).

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)									
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>								X
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		X	X	X	X			
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>							X	
Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)									
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H	H	H		H	
Family Apodidae (Swifts)									
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Family Ardeidae (Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns)									
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				X	X			
Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Kites)									
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>					X			
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>								X
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>			X				X	X
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		X			X	X	X	X
Family Upupidae									
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			X	X				
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)									
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		X		X	X			
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			X					
Family Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)									
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		X	X	X	X		X	
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>					X			
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)									
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>							X	X
Family Corvidae (Crows, Jays and Magpies)									
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>						X		
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>			X					
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>				X				
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		X	X	X		X		
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		X	X	X				
Family Paridae (Tits)									
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		X						

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ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>					X			
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		X	X	X				
Family Alaudidae (Larks)									
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				X				X
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		X	X	X		X		X
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows)									
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		X	X	X	X	X		
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>			X	X		X		
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)									
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>			X	X			X	
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				X	X	X	X	
Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers and allies)									
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			X	X	X	X	X	
Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>					X		X	X
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>			X	X	X			
Family Regulidae (Kinglets)									
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>				H				
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		H						
Family Troglodytidae (Wrens)									
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>					X		X	
Family Cinclidae (Dippers)									
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>			X		X			
Family Sturnidae (Starlings)									
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>			X				X	
Family Turdidae (Thrushes and allies)									
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>							X	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>					X			
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		X	X	X	X		X	
Family Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)									
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		X	X				X	
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>			X			X	X	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>				X		X		
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		X	X	X	X			
Family Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)									
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)									
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			X		X		X	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>			X		X	X	X	
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>				X				
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		X				X	X	

Cévennes 2024: trip report and species lists

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Family Fringillidae (Finches and allies)									
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>							X	
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			X					
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		X	X	X		X	X	
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)									
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			X			X	X	X
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>			X	X				

MAMMALS									
ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>				X		X		
Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>				X				
Przewalski's Horse	<i>Equus ferus przewalskii</i>					X			
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>				X				
European Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>								S

HERPTILES									
ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>					X			
Western Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>		X	X	X				
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>			X	X				



Left: Common Wall Lizard and **Right:** Western Green Lizard (both Richard Somers-Cocks)

BUTTERFLIES

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Family Hesperidae (skippers)									
Red-underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>				X				
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>		X						
Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>							X	
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>			X				X	
Olive Skipper	<i>Orygus serratulae</i>						X		
Family Papilionidae (swallowtails)									
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>			X	X				
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>				X			X	
Family Pieridae (whites)									
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		X		X			X	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		X	X	X		X	X	
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		X	X	X				
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>						X	X	
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		X	X			X		
Provence Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis euphenoides</i>								
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		X				X		
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		X		X				
Family Riodinidae (metalmarks)									
Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>		X					X	
Family Lycaenidae (blues, coppers and hairstreaks)									
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>		X	X	X				
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		X	X					
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		X	X	X		X	X	
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		X	X	X		X	X	
Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>						X	X	
Nymphalidae (nymphs, fritillaries and browns)									
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>		X	X	X		X		
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		X						
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		X						
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>				X				
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>			X	X			X	
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>		X	X	X		X	X	
Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>							X	
Heath Fritillary	<i>Mellicta athalia</i>		X		X			X	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		X				X		
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		X	X	X		X		
Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>							X	
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		X	X	X		X	X	

MOTHS

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Cistus Forester	<i>Adscita Geryon</i>		X		X			X	
Slender Scotch Burnet	<i>Zygaena loti</i>							X	
Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>			X					
Chimney Sweeper	<i>Odezia atrata</i>				X				
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>		X					X	
Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth	<i>Hemaris fuciformis</i>							X	
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>		X						
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>						X		
Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>			X					
Denisia sp.	Micro-moth (seen at Mont Aigoual)						X		
Grass Eggar	<i>Lasiocampa trifolii</i>			X					
Small Eggar	<i>Eriogaster lanestris</i>				X				
Jersey Tiger	<i>Euplagia quadripunctata</i>							X	
Lackey	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>				X				
Ground Lackey	<i>Malacosoma castrensis</i>			X	X				
Brown-tail	<i>Euproctis chryorrhoea</i>							X	

MISCELLANY

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Common Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascourum</i>		X						
Shrill Carder Bee	<i>Bombus sylvarum</i>		X						
Pantaloan Bee	<i>Dasygaster hirsute</i>							X	
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>				X				
Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>		X	X				X	
an owlfly	<i>Libelloides coccajus</i>		X		X	X		X	
a jewel beetle	<i>Anthaxia hungarica</i>		X						
Bloody-nosed beetle	<i>Timarcha sp.</i>			X					
Monkey Beetle Chafer	<i>Hoplia argentea</i>				X				
Hazel Leaf-roller	<i>Apoderus coryli</i>							X	
a leaf beetle	<i>Cryptocephalus bipunctatus</i>							X	
Black and Red Bug	<i>Lygaeus equestris</i>		X						
an assassin bug	<i>Phymata crassipes</i>			X					
an assassin bug	<i>Rhynocoris iracundus</i>							X	
Large Spearhorn, a hoverfly	<i>Chrysotoxum cautum</i>		X	X					
a snakefly	<i>Phaeostigma notata</i>							X	
a bee-fly	<i>Bombylella atra</i>								



Above: Caterpillars of Jersey Tiger (1), Small Eggar (2), Brown-tail (3) and Grass Eggar (4)

Owl-fly *Libelloides coccajus* (left) and a bee-fly *Bombylilla atra*

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