

Provence at Christmas

Naturetrek Tour Report

22 - 29 December 2011



flamingo by Don and Maxine Farlow



Provence by Simon Gillings



Scamandre reflections by Simon Gillings



Watching wallcreepers by Simon Gillings

Report compiled by Simon Gillings and James Bray
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Day 1

Thursday 22nd December

Cold and windy, clear skies

Les Baux

The flight from Gatwick to Marignane Airport in Marseille arrived on time with 14 tour participants. Christine had arrived a few days early to explore Provence independently and joined us at the airport. As we had plenty of daylight left we took a picnic lunch to the beautiful hillside village of Les Baux where we enjoyed the views and the mid-winter sunshine. As the Mistral (a cold wind that blows down the Rhone Valley) was fairly strong we decided on a relaxing first afternoon and took a walk around the village exploring the narrow streets and having a warming drink in one of the local cafes. Our dusk vigil for a local pair of Eagle Owls was unsuccessful this time around, the owls probably deciding to remain within the warmth of their roost cave. We followed their lead by returning to the hotel for the first of many delicious Provençal meals cooked by Monique and hosted by Bruno and Marie-Jo.

Day 2

Friday 23rd December

Clear skies all day, cold and windy in the morning, calm and warm from lunchtime

East side of the Camargue: Mas Neuf, Mas d'Agon, Étang de Vaccarès, La Capelière, Marais de Grenouillet, Salin de Giraud saltpans, Arles beach

The sky was forecast to be clear but the Mistral was still strong so we decided to start off with a first day in the Camargue along the eastern side of the Étang de Vaccarès. Our first stop at the observation platform at Mas Neuf produced five Common Cranes flying low over the road. Cetti's and Sardinian Warblers scolded from the reedbeds and tamarisks but were typically elusive in the wind. We moved on to Mas d'Agon where we had good views of the first of many Great White Egrets and several Curlew, but the marshes were unexpectedly quiet here. As we moved off towards La Capelière Carol found a Black Stork standing in a roadside field. Those in the second bus enjoyed good views of this real surprise before it flew up for the others to enjoy. Large birds continued to be the theme as we drove along the Étang de Vaccarès as an adult Booted Eagle hunted over the saltmarshes, although large numbers of Black-necked Grebes on the Étang, with their bright red eyes and fluffy rear ends, were just as appreciated.

The wind had really dropped and the day had warmed up by the time that we arrived at La Capelière, so much so that a Slow Worm was out basking in the sun on the path and showing down to a few inches. We had a relaxing walk around the reedbeds and marsh, having very close views of Zitting Cisticolas (Fan-tailed Warblers for the more old-fashioned like me) and Sardinian Warblers, though unfortunately only a few of the group saw the two Penduline Tits that popped up out of the reeds briefly. At lunchtime we shared a warm sunny picnic site with a basking lizard and an approachable Coypu munching on the lawn by our tables.

We then headed towards Salin de Giraud via an observation platform looking over a large marsh with our first distant Greater Flamingos of the trip. We slowly made our way through the saltpans having excellent views of Water Pipit, two Common Sandpipers posing like Kingfishers on posts out in one of the channels, a correctly posed Kingfisher, and large flocks of Avocet and Shelduck. A couple of Hen Harriers were watched hunting along the banks of the saltmarsh as dusk approached. We ended the day by watching the sun set over a calm Mediterranean sea, before heading back to our hotel for another delicious meal.

Day 3

Saturday 24th December

Clear skies, brisk northerly wind, cold

Arles, West side of the Camargue: Pont de Gau Nature Reserve, Étang de Consecanière to Domaine de Mejane

As the Mistral was forecast to continue at pace we decided to spend the morning in Arles soaking up the sights of the spectacular Roman ruins and the atmosphere and smells of the farmers' market. For lunch we took a picnic to the bird reserve at Pont de Gau on the western side of the Camargue. Sheltered in one of the hides, the group enjoyed local French wine and fougasse bread topped with goat's cheese, a traditional Provençal delicacy, which we'd bought in the market earlier. Over lunch we were serenaded by hundreds of displaying Flamingos, and as they were less than thirty metres from us, their dancing and plumage were particularly enthralling. After lunch we walked around the reserve pools where we found a single drake Ferruginous Duck, several Red-crested Pochards and several of the group saw the brief electric blue flash of a Kingfisher flying past. The main lake held several hundred Teal, but the strong wind kept most of the small birds out of sight. We spent the last of the daylight driving up a rough track between Étang de Consecanière and Étang de Vaccarès, where despite the continuing wind we saw some excellent birds. A Merlin and several Hen Harriers were hunting over the marshes, and over three hundred Red-crested Pochards were clustered together on one of the lakes, their crests glowing in the late afternoon sunshine.

An immature Bonelli's Eagle being mobbed by Marsh Harriers was an unexpected bonus but the Spotted Eagle that is occasionally seen in this area of the Camargue did not appear. A flock of Slender-billed Gulls, Golden Plovers sheltering from the wind, Kentish Plover and several Greenshank feeding on the shore of Vaccarès rounded off the day on the bird front.

We returned to our hotel in time for a delicious traditional Provencal Christmas dinner, with kir and wine, “treize déserts”, (thirteen locally-produced desserts), finishing with two “bûche de Noël” (ice-cream logs). Afterwards the hotel staff sang a traditional festive song which we toasted with an aperitif and Morag and Julian, the youngest and eldest, carried a log to the fire to signify good health to all.

Day 4

Sunday 25th December

Clear skies, brisk northerly wind, cold

Les Alpilles: La Caume and Les Baux

With the Mistral forecast to still be blowing we had decided to walk up La Caume, a hill in Les Alpilles, a range of limestone hills that run east-west to the north of the Camargue. On arrival we were greeted by the fire brigade but as they had put out an over-night fire they gave us the go-ahead to walk up the road to the top of the hill. We split the group into the keen walkers who went on a brisk walk to the top, and those who preferred to walk at a more leisurely pace. In the pine woods we saw no evidence of fire, and the more leisurely group soon had good views of Goldcrests, Firecrests and Crested Tits. Nearing the summit, a pair of Bonelli's Eagles appeared along a cliff face across the valley from us. Very few pairs of this spectacular eagle remain in France so we were incredibly lucky to watch them for over twenty minutes, often flying below eye level and on one occasion perched together briefly before flying up to a cliff face with nesting material. At the summit the short scrubby vegetation was home to many Chaffinches, Robins and our first Dunnocks; strange to see these familiar garden birds in montane habitats. Returning down the hill we encountered more crests, and Crested Tits, and some of the group saw a displaying Raven and a single Crag Martin. Having built up a healthy appetite we had a picnic lunch in the warm sunshine; all in all, a very nice way to spend Christmas morning!

We then headed to St. Remy de Provence for a warm drink, but a local power cut meant that the local cafes were struggling to serve their Christmas lunches, and could not provide hot drinks. Instead we headed to Les Baux for one of the main targets of the trip, the superb Wallcreeper. With the wind still blowing strongly from the north, we headed for the shelter of the southern edge of the town, where the cliffs were bathed in warm sunshine. After a nervous walk around the base of the cliffs the cry of “Wallcreeper” finally went up! We watched two birds feeding on the cliff faces for over twenty minutes with everyone able to enjoy wonderful views in the telescopes of their long thin beaks, and brilliant red and black flicking wings. The finale came when the two birds began chasing each other around the cliffs, then over our heads, before heading for another area of cliff. A female Blue Rock Thrush and a couple of Black Redstarts were also found on the cliffs.

We walked up into the village of Les Baux searching for Alpine Accentors but could not find any, so headed back for the minibuses. It was therefore rather frustrating when we looked up from the road below the village to see seven Alpine Accentors flying and perching on house roofs and the cliff face where we had just been searching! As the wind was still strong we left the Eagle Owls for another night and headed back to the hotel for another evening of delicious food and very enjoyable company.

Day 5

Monday 26th December

Calm, clear skies, cold first thing, mild during the middle of the day

La Crau: Eyguieres airfield, La Jasse, Mas Chauvet, St. Martin de Crau, Étang des Aulnes, Peau de Meau; Les Baux

Today was dedicated to La Crau, an area of stony desert created when the River Durance changed course thousands of years ago leaving a flat plain of characteristic rounded stones which is now home to a specialised flora and fauna. This area holds some very exciting birds and did not disappoint. We left the hotel early and arrived at the airfield at Eyguieres just after first light. We saw large flocks of Lapwing, huge wheeling flocks of Starlings, and a hunting ring-tail Hen Harrier, but not the hoped-for Little Bustards. After a careful search we moved to the west side of the airfield where we had good views of a hunting Red Kite, and found numerous Serins, Linnets, Crested and Sky Larks, Black Redstarts and Stonechats. We found a couple of beautiful Rock Buntings but they were frustratingly shy and only a few members of the group had good views of them.

From here we moved to an area of grazing fields and stubble which was alive with small birds. In the fields amongst the flocks of Sky Larks, Meadow Pipits and White Wagtails we found two Richard's Pipits, a scarce winter visitor to La Crau, and had superb opportunities to study these birds in the telescopes, although the couple of Calandra Larks that we located stayed at the back of the fields. The hedges and field margins were host to numerous Corn and Reed Buntings, Chaffinches, and Tree Sparrows.

We continued on to the Eco-museum of Saint Martin de Crau to get our admission tickets to the Nature Reserve of Peau de Meau. After a very interesting visit to this particularly well presented display of all the traditional activities and natural history of the La Crau environment we headed to our lunch spot at Étang des Aulnes where it was warm enough to have encouraged a Clouded Yellow butterfly to take to the wing.

After lunch we headed to a lovely area of preserved steppe habitat at the Peau de Meau reserve. It initially seemed quiet but then the area came to life. As we were admiring a pair of Iberian Grey Shrikes Simon found three Little Bustards on the ground and we all had good views in the telescope. A female Merlin was admired sitting on a pile of stones, and then a White Stork, picked up in flight at the other side of the reserve, flew low down right over our heads, allowing everyone to marvel at a truly spectacular sight. As we were heading back to the car park a group of 16 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse were seen flying off from the reserve, and as we drove away a male Hen Harrier flew alongside our minibuses.

We'd had an extremely good day but aimed to top it off back at Les Baux at our Eagle Owl stake-out. After a nervous wait a distant owl hooted, closely followed by one calling from the cliffs that we were watching. Despite the fading light we soon found it sitting on one of the cliffs and were able to watch it in our telescopes, its throat puffing out white each time it called. The scenery and the sight and sounds of the owls' calls all combined to provide a fabulously exciting and atmospheric end to the day...

Day 6

Tuesday 27th December

Calm, clear skies, mild

Mont Ventoux, Pont du Gard

The forecast was for beautiful weather so we headed out early for Mont Ventoux and on the drive past Avignon and Carpentras were rewarded by a clear and calm sunrise. Making our way up through the wooded slopes of Mont Ventoux we stopped for mixed feeding flocks that included Firecrests and Crested Tits in the pine woods, and Hawfinches and Nuthatches in the beech woods. As it was cold in the shade of the woods and the bright sunny upper slopes were beckoning we didn't linger, and arrived at Chateau-Reynard, a café near the summit, in beautiful sunshine. A glimpse of three bright yellow finches had us moving and we quickly found three gorgeous Citril Finches picking up grit from the road. We watched them for some time in the telescopes which in the sunshine was particularly enjoyable. We took a leisurely walk up the road and were rewarded with superb views of Crested and Marsh Tits feeding low down in isolated dwarf pine trees. The unusually mild weather that we had been enjoying did however mean that there were only very small patches of snow on the mountain, so the mountain-specialist species that we were searching for were disappointingly out of reach for us, although several Ravens flew past patrolling the slopes. The stunning views and clear mountain air were some compensation however. Having spoken to the owner of Chateau-Reynard we were given special permission to eat our picnic at their tables, here we savoured the views and sunshine as well as hot drinks over lunch.

Feeling refreshed and relaxed, and having seen a couple of fly-over Common Crossbills, we drove through Avignon to the Roman aqueduct at Pont du Gard. The aqueduct looked stunning in the glorious late afternoon light, as did a Kingfisher perched by the river, as the group enjoyed a slice of strawberry french tart and a glass of wine. Having finished the tarts we had great views of Rock Sparrows coming in to roost on the aqueduct, and over 40 Crag Martins zipping about around the stonework, another sign of a very mild winter. It was then back to our hotel for hot drinks and dinner after a very satisfying and varied day.

Day 7

Wednesday 28th December

Calm, clear skies, mild

West side of the Camargue: Étang de Consecanière, Stes. Maries de la Mer, Scamandre Reserve, Aigue Mortes

For the final day of the trip we headed back to the marshes and lakes of the Camargue, hoping to catch up with some species that had eluded us, as well as to savour the rich bird life that we had already encountered. Our first port of call was Étang de Consecanière, where in the calm conditions we had excellent views of the abundant bird life. Crested Larks and Water Pipits were watched feeding on the ground, and as we reached the wet reed beds several Reed Buntings sat up allowing all fantastic views. A brief call and view in the saltmarsh had us stalking a Dartford Warbler which eventually showed well, and we were to see up to four of this delightful bird over the next hour. There were even more ducks on Consecanière, with the huge numbers of beautiful Red-crested Pochards having been augmented by over 150 Gadwall, and several elegant Pintails. Merlin, Hen and Marsh Harriers, and Common Buzzards were all seen hunting, but unfortunately we could not find that elusive Spotted Eagle.

After a refreshing coffee break in Stes. Maries de la Mer, we checked the sea and found feeding Sandwich Terns and Gannet, plus an immature Shag on a breakwater. En route to Scamandre we were treated to a fly-over White Stork, 9 Cranes, and an immature and a pale phase adult Booted Eagle right above our heads. At Scamandre we enjoyed our final picnic to the song of a Firecrest and a perched Peregrine watching over the nearby Teal flocks.

To add some cultural dimensions to the day we visited the town of Aigues-Mortes which was established in 1240 by Louis the IX as a means to access the sea to participate in the crusades. We strolled round the walled town admiring the architecture and quaint narrow streets, and also had time to enjoy several Black Redstarts on the town's buildings, hot drinks and a rather delicious chocolaterie. As dusk approached we headed off back to the hotel enjoying the last of many beautiful sunsets and looking forward to our final delicious meal at the hotel care of Monique, Marie-Jo and Bruno.

Day 8

Thursday 29th December

We departed the hotel after an early breakfast to arrive in good time for pre-departure procedures. Though the homeward flight was slightly delayed we all arrived in the UK unruffled and refreshed after a memorable trip.

Summary: The trip was extremely enjoyable with a great group that gelled really well with hopefully firm friendships made, a hotel that went out of its way to be friendly and welcoming and provide us with wonderful food and a fantastic Provencal Christmas experience, and fascinating landscapes and ancient architecture in Arles, Aigues Mortes and Pont du Gard. We were also incredibly lucky with the weather with hardly a cloud seen all week. The birding was truly amazing with huge numbers of birds and numerous highlights that included both species of storks, Common Cranes, Booted and Bonelli's Eagles, two Wallcreepers, Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, Little Bustards and Eagle Owls. Provence truly provided us with a diverse and exciting trip and was a great way to spend Christmas.

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Species Lists

Birds (H = heard only) (✓ = seen but not counted)

| | Common name | Scientific name | December | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------|-----|-----|----|------|----|------|
| | | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 1 | Great Crested Grebe | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> | | 10 | 60 | | | 2 | 60 |
| 2 | Black-necked Grebe | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> | | 50 | 6 | | | | 20 |
| 3 | Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | | 4 | | | | | |
| 4 | Gannet | <i>Morus bassanus</i> | | | | | | | 1 |
| 5 | Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | 12 | 50 | 20 | 1 | 30 | 30 | 60 |
| 6 | Shag | <i>Phalacrocorax aristotlis</i> | | | | | | | 1 |
| 7 | Cattle Egret | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | 13 | 6 | 15 | | 200+ | 10 | 100+ |
| 8 | Little Egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | | 10 | 40 | | 2 | | 15 |
| 9 | Great White Egret | <i>Egretta alba</i> | 3 | 20 | 8 | | | | 12 |
| 10 | Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | | 6 | 20 | | 2 | 12 | 15 |
| 11 | Greater Flamingo | <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> | | 300 | 800 | | | | 300 |
| 12 | Black Stork | <i>Ciconia nigra</i> | | 1 | | | | | |
| 13 | White Stork | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | | | | | 1 | | 2 |
| 14 | Sacred Ibis | <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> | | | 12 | | | | |
| 15 | Mute Swan | <i>Cygnus olor</i> | | 50 | 10 | | | | 30 |
| 16 | Greylag Goose | <i>Anser anser</i> | | 22 | 1 | | | | |
| 17 | Shelduck | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | | 300 | 5 | | | | 30 |
| 18 | Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | | 60 | 50 | | | 10 | 80 |
| 19 | Gadwall | <i>Anas strepera</i> | | | 4 | | | | 150 |
| 20 | Pintail | <i>Anas acuta</i> | | | | | | | 4 |
| 21 | Shoveler | <i>Anas clypeata</i> | | 4 | 20 | | | | 120 |
| 22 | Teal | <i>Anas crecca</i> | | 350 | 600 | | | | 150 |
| 23 | Red-crested Pochard | <i>Netta rufina</i> | | | 300 | | | | 400 |
| 24 | Pochard | <i>Aythya ferina</i> | | 1 | 30 | | | | 12 |
| 25 | Ferruginous Duck | <i>Aythya nyroca</i> | | | 1 | | | | |
| 26 | Tufted Duck | <i>Aythya fuligula</i> | | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| 27 | Red Kite | <i>Milvus milvus</i> | | | | | 7 | | |
| 28 | Hen Harrier | <i>Circus cyaneus</i> | | 2 | 3 | | 4 | | 3 |
| 29 | Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | | 11 | 12 | | | | 20 |
| 30 | Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | |
| 31 | Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | 3 | 15 | 10 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 20 |
| 32 | Bonelli's Eagle | <i>Hieraetus fasciatus</i> | | | 1 | 2 | | | |
| 33 | Booted Eagle | <i>Aquila pennata</i> | | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| 34 | Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| 35 | Peregrine | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | | | | | | | 1 |
| 36 | Merlin | <i>Falco columbarius</i> | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 |
| 37 | Red-legged Partridge | <i>Alectoris rufa</i> | | | | 2 | 8 | | |
| 38 | Pheasant | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| 39 | Common Crane | <i>Grus grus</i> | | 4 | | | | | 12 |
| 40 | Water Rail | <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> | | 1 | 1 | | | 3 | 2 |
| 41 | Moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | | 12 | 5 | | | 1 | 4 |
| 42 | Coot | <i>Fulica atra</i> | 20 | 120 | 10 | | | | |
| 43 | Little Bustard | <i>Tetrax tetrax</i> | | | | | 6 | | |
| 44 | Avocet | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> | | 150 | 200 | | | | 120 |
| 45 | Ringed Plover | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | | 1 | | | | | |
| 46 | Kentish Plover | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> | | | 1 | | | | |
| 47 | Golden Plover | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> | | | 70 | | 30 | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | December | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|------|-----|----|-----|----|------|
| | | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 48 | Grey Plover | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | | 4 | 20 | | | | 10 |
| 49 | Lapwing | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | | 100 | | 1 | 100 | | 4 |
| 50 | Dunlin | <i>Calidris alpina</i> | | 400 | 400 | | | | 5 |
| 51 | Little Stint | <i>Calidris minuta</i> | | 9 | | | | | |
| 52 | Ruff | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> | | 2 | | | | | |
| 53 | Curlew | <i>Numenius arquata</i> | | 5 | 4 | | | | 12 |
| 54 | Black-tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa limosa</i> | | 2 | | | | | |
| 55 | Redshank | <i>Tringa totanus</i> | | 6 | 5 | | | | 5 |
| 56 | Greenshank | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | | | 9 | | | | 4 |
| 57 | Common Sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | | 2 | | | | | 1 |
| 58 | Green Sandpiper | <i>Tringa ochropus</i> | | 4 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 59 | Snipe | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> | | 7 | 4 | | | | |
| 60 | Slender-billed Gull | <i>Larus genei</i> | | | 22 | | | | 1 |
| 61 | Black-headed Gull | <i>Larus ridibundus</i> | 50+ | 300+ | 200 | | 5 | 6 | 100+ |
| 62 | Yellow-legged Gull | <i>Larus michahellis</i> | 50+ | 30+ | 40+ | 4 | 2 | | 30+ |
| 63 | Sandwich Tern | <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> | | | | | | | 15 |
| 64 | Pin-tailed Sandgrouse | <i>Pterocles alchata</i> | | | | | 16 | | |
| 65 | Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon | <i>Columba livia</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 66 | Woodpigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 25 | 20 | 20 |
| 67 | Stock Dove | <i>Columba oenas</i> | | | | | 4 | | |
| 68 | Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 69 | Eagle Owl | <i>Bubo bubo</i> | | | | | 2 | | |
| 70 | Kingfisher | <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | | 1 | 3 | | | 1 | 3 |
| 71 | Green Woodpecker | <i>Picus viridis</i> | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| 72 | Crag Martin | <i>Ptynoprogne rupestris</i> | | | | 1 | | 40 | |
| 73 | Skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | | 8 | | | 50+ | | |
| 74 | Crested Lark | <i>Galerida cristata</i> | | 3 | | | 6 | | 13 |
| 75 | Calandra Lark | <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i> | | | | | 1 | | |
| 76 | Meadow Pipit | <i>Anthus pratensis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | 1 | 80 | ✓ | ✓ |
| 77 | Water Pipit | <i>Anthus spinoletta</i> | | 2 | | | | | 8 |
| 78 | Richard's Pipit | <i>Anthus richardi</i> | | | | | 2 | | |
| 79 | White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | | 1 | | 1 | 25 | 15 | 10 |
| 80 | Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 81 | Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | 1 | 3 | | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| 82 | Dunnock | <i>Prunella modularis</i> | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | | |
| 83 | Alpine Accentor | <i>Prunella collaris</i> | | | | 7 | | | |
| 84 | Robin | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | 3 | 5 | 5 | 40 | 30 | 15 | 20 |
| 85 | Black Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 15 | 8 | 10 |
| 86 | Stonechat | <i>Saxicola torquata</i> | | 3 | | | 20 | | 5 |
| 87 | Blue Rock Thrush | <i>Monticola solitarius</i> | 1 | | | 2 | | | |
| 88 | Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | 2 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| 89 | Redwing | <i>Turdus iliacus</i> | 40+ | | | | 20 | 10 | |
| 90 | Song Thrush | <i>Turdus philomelos</i> | 1 | | | 1 | 6 | | |
| 91 | Mistle Thrush | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> | | | | | | 3 | |
| 92 | Fan-tailed Warbler | <i>Cisticola juncidus</i> | | 6 | | | | | |
| 93 | Cetti's Warbler | <i>Cettia cetti</i> | | 6 | 2 | | | | 8 |
| 94 | Dartford Warbler | <i>Sylvia undata</i> | | | | | | | 4 |
| 95 | Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | H | | | 3 | 4 | 10 | 2 |
| 96 | Sardinian Warbler | <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> | H | 5 | | 5 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| 97 | Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | 1 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 8 | 1 | 10 |

| | Common name | Scientific name | December | | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|------|------|------|-------|------|----|
| | | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 98 | Goldcrest | <i>Regulus regulus</i> | | | | 15 | 2 | 20 | |
| 99 | Firecrest | <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i> | | | | 5 | | 1 | 2 |
| 100 | Bearded Tit | <i>Panurus biarmicus</i> | | | | | | | 4 |
| 101 | Penduline Tit | <i>Remiz pendulinus</i> | | 2 | | | | | |
| 102 | Long-tailed Tit | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> | | | | | 3 | | 11 |
| 103 | Marsh Tit | <i>Poecile palustris</i> | | | | | | 2 | |
| 104 | Crested Tit | <i>Lophophanes cristatus</i> | H | | | 10 | | 5 | |
| 105 | Blue Tit | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| 106 | Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | | 10 | 5 |
| 107 | Coal Tit | <i>Periparus ater</i> | | | | | | 6 | |
| 108 | Nuthatch | <i>Sitta europaea</i> | | | | | | 1 | |
| 109 | Short-toed Treecreeper | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> | | | | 2 | | 3 | |
| 110 | Wallcreeper | <i>Tichodroma muraria</i> | | | | 2 | | | |
| 111 | Iberian Grey Shrike | <i>Lanius meridionalis</i> | | | | | 4 | | |
| 112 | Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | 100+ | 100+ | 400+ | 100+ | 4000+ | 300+ | 50 |
| 113 | Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | | | | 4 | 2 | 3 | |
| 114 | Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> | 12 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 40+ | 50+ | ✓ |
| 115 | Jackdaw | <i>Corvus monedula</i> | 100+ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 500+ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 116 | Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | | | | 2 | | 6 | |
| 117 | Carrion Crow | <i>Corvus corone</i> | 2 | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 118 | Rook | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 119 | Tree Sparrow | <i>Passer montanus</i> | | | | | 2 | | |
| 120 | House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | 100+ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 121 | Rock Sparrow | <i>Petronia petronia</i> | | | | | | 25 | |
| 122 | Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | 50 | 30 | ✓ | ✓ | 50 | 200+ | 12 |
| 123 | Citril Finch | <i>Serinus citrinella</i> | | | | | | 5 | |
| 124 | Serin | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | 2 | | | 2 | 4 | | |
| 125 | Greenfinch | <i>Carduelis chloris</i> | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| 126 | Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | | | | 3 | 150 | 50 | |
| 127 | Linnet | <i>Acanthis cannabina</i> | | | | | 50 | | |
| 128 | Hawfinch | <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> | | | | | | 5 | |
| 129 | Common Crossbill | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> | | | | 1 | | 4 | |
| 130 | Yellowhammer | <i>Emberiza citrinella</i> | | 1 | | | | | |
| 131 | Rock Bunting | <i>Emberiza cia</i> | | | | | 2 | | |
| 132 | Corn Bunting | <i>Emberiza calandra</i> | 2 | 20 | | | 25 | | |
| 133 | Reed Bunting | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> | | 15 | 5 | | 5 | | 15 |

Mammals

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Coypu | <i>Myocastor coypus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| 2 | Red Squirrel | <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> | | | | 1 | | | |
| 3 | European Rabbit | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | | | | | | 1 | |
| 4 | European Hare | <i>Lepus europaeus</i> | | | | | 4 | | |
| 5 | Water Vole | <i>Arvicola amphibius</i> | | | | | | | 1 |

Butterflies / Insects

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1 | Red Admiral | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> | | 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias croceus</i> | | | | | 1 | | |
| 3 | Hymatus bee sp. | | | 1 | | | | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | December | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

Reptiles / Amphibians

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | Slow Worm | <i>Anguis fragilis</i> | | 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | Lizard sp. | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 3 | Stripeless Tree Frog | <i>Hyla meridionalis</i> | | 1 | | | | | |



Flamingo by Don and Maxine Farlow