



# *Honeyguide*

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

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## The Cévennes

### 31 May – 8 June 2017

### **Participants**

Ron Fitton and Val Appleyard  
Michael and Valerie Grogutt  
Andrew and Ursula Edwards  
Leslie and Heather Green

### **From the Salisbury & District Natural History Society**

Barbara Carter  
Ailsa McKee  
Brenda Davis  
Marian Freeman  
Rosemary and Gerald Nicholls

### **Leaders**

Rachel and Robin Hamilton

Daily diary by Rachel and Robin, plant list by Rachel, other lists by Robin.

All the photos in this report were taken during the holiday by group members or leaders

RR = Rachel/Robin, AU = Andrew/Ursula, HG = Heather, VA = Val Appleyard.

Front cover photo – view across the Dourbie valley (VA).

Below – the group at les Baumes (AU)

Our host at la Gare Aux Ânes was Sylvain Goleo – <http://lagareauxanes.free.fr>



This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, giving a total of £700 towards the protection of vultures and other wildlife of the Grands Causses but because this is a LIFE project, the figure is raised by EU funding to £2,800.

This brings the total given to LPO to £24,898 since 1991. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 and up to September 2017 is £118,522.



## DAILY DIARY

### Day 1: Wednesday, 31 May – Arrival, Montpellier to la Gare aux Ânes

That first infusion of warm Mediterranean air never fails to lift the heart; the flight was easy, flamingos calmly waded in the lagoon beside the airport as we landed, there was a kestrel hovering and a serin was singing from the airport terminal building. Minibus admin was fairly painless but our hopes of an easy escape from Montpellier were soon dashed by the continuing roadworks chaos (still – hardly different from 3 years ago!) and, by missing a turning, we (Rachel) managed to make a pantomime of finding our way out onto our northbound route!

At last our way was clear and we could enjoy the sights. It was warm and bright, with enticing distant views. A black kite flew over the road shortly after we set off and the Montpellier suburbs gave way to a landscape of pines, Giant Reed, Spanish Broom, then vineyards and maquis. Kestrels and magpies were in evidence – echoes of home; and Ron spotted a buzzard. The beautifully engineered *autoroute* carried us up about 800m from plain to plateau, through the long tunnel of the *Pas de l'Escalette* and onto the Causse du Larzac. Higher, noticeably, and pleasantly cooler, the great expanse of the limestone plateau, the *causse*, stretched ahead of us. The flowery and rocky hillsides surprised everyone with the brilliant sapphire of Blue Aphyllanthes in the low sunlight.

At la Gare aux Ânes, Sylvain and Nicolas were there to welcome us, to introduce us to Catherine, the new owner, and to assure us that the cuisine would still be in Sylvain's safe hands during our visit. There was time to find our rooms, to look around, to meet the donkeys – Mocha and Pistache – and to locate some of the nightingales, blackcaps, chaffinches, goldfinches and serins that were to share the garden with us for the week. There was time for a drink in the bar before we were called to the table for our first chance to sample Sylvain's characteristically local cuisine: *quiche au Roquefort* (with a choice of *lardons* or leeks) followed by *entrecôte* with *pommes frites* and grilled tomatoes and then *fondant au chocolat* with *chantilly* and *crème anglaise*. There were four or five nightingales singing as we went to bed.

### Day 2: Thursday 1 June – Exploring the Causse du Larzac around la Gare aux Ânes, la Couvertorade and la Pezade

We woke to a fine sunny day, with some scattered cloud – but promising. Nightingale, blackcap and serin were singing in the garden. Most of the group opted for a leisurely start after our travelling day but Ron and Val A had gone for a walk along the track opposite, and found sleepy black-veined whites emerging for the day. Breakfast was a welcome spread of cold ham and cheese, fresh *baguettes*, *croissants* and *pains au chocolat*, yoghurts, juice, and tea and coffee.



Adonis blue (VA); Pyramidal Orchid (HG); forester moth on Blue Aphyllanthes (VA).

We loaded picnic hampers into the minibuses and set off south for a mile or so and then turned up a rough track into the heart of the rocky *causse*. Scanning for birds as we drove along the road, we had to settle for a kestrel but as soon as we turned off, we had a good view of a male cirl bunting singing from a thorn bush beside the track. We drove on up the hill and then stopped to explore on foot. We could catch the song of Bonelli's warblers and a distant hoopoe, but everyone was captivated by the butterflies: Adonis blue, small heath, black-veined white, common blue and small blue. Gerald went hunting on his own and found several more Adonis blues for us, as well as pearly heath and an Oberthur's grizzled skipper and then wall brown and green-veined white. Val A called us over to a speckled bush-cricket. The pine trees were festooned with the silk tents of pine processionary moths, squiggling with caterpillars. There were 6-spot burnet moths and common forester moths settling on the flowers and a delightful little red and black spider *Philaeus chrysops*. Val A called out a painted lady butterfly for us and several scarce swallowtails flew close by for everyone to pick out their characteristic streamlined wing pattern. There were flowers to enjoy too: the smell from the shrubby Common Thyme under our feet was gorgeous in the warmth; Gerald found us a late-season Tassel Hyacinth and Ursula called us over to a plant of *cardabelle* – the huge stemless thistle which is the emblematic flower of the *causse*; it still had last summer's flower attached.

Marian found a group of the dwarf knapweed-relative, *Carduncellus*, nestled in the grass, with Star of Bethlehem, Montpellier Milk-vetch and Pyrenean Flax. In the shelter of Box and Juniper bushes, sprays of strongly fragrant Burnet Rose were opening in the sunshine and spires of St Bernard's Lily, Pyramidal Orchid, Clary and Golden Drop mingled with the Angel's Hair Grass that was just coming into flower. We boarded the buses again and drove on up the track, to see the purpose of this unlikely route into the *causse*: a tall mobile phone mast 'disguised' as a pine tree.

Our next stop was a mile or two further on, where another track leads among curious rock shapes and erosion features to a sheltered and shady corner, ideal for lunch. We unpacked the hamper: rice salad with olives, capers, sweetcorn and walnuts, hard-boiled eggs, fresh *baguettes* and ripe apricots, and we found comfortable seating among the rocks and on the turf, with Cévennes Alpine Aster, White Rock-rose, Blue *Aphyllanthes* and Lesser Butterfly Orchids, and a solitary surviving Pasque Flower. A distant griffon vulture glided overhead and moments later, two more, and our lunch was accompanied by a tantalising subalpine warbler, singing enthusiastically, but proving very tricky to see clearly.

We strolled along the track after lunch, catching a glimpse of an adult green lizard, and then a better look at a young one. Gerald found a wall lizard, which stayed still enough to be photographed, and for us all to have a good chance of a comparison. There were some different butterflies: a brimstone, a small tortoiseshell, a large white and a southern white admiral which Gerald managed to photograph; Val G found a scorpion fly and a clouded yellow flew rapidly past. Ursula and Andrew had gone ahead and reappeared with photos of a Military Orchid, another Pasque Flower in bloom and a Lady Orchid, and news of a chiffchaff calling. They steered us back and we all admired the fine Lady, surrounded by a little group of Military, all in perfect flower, as well as lovely displays of Pyrenean Flax and Pyramidal Orchids.

In our enthusiasm for lunch, we had sped past the fortified Templar village of La Couvertoirade but now was the time to return to explore it – a cultural and historical gem – as well as fascinating for its natural history interest. We found some shady parking, and walked towards the village with swifts screaming overhead and house sparrows and chaffinches singing from the top of the Lime trees. Inside the fortifications, the swifts and sparrows were still plentiful and now joined by serins and black redstarts. We found a little café for coffee, hot chocolate and tisanes, and then separated to explore the ancient lanes and stone buildings. Some people climbed the rocky steps up to the church, others enjoyed some of the fairly classy and original 'souvenir' shops too – and then compared their finds. The ancient stone walls are studded with tiny flowers and ferns: Rusty-back, Wall Rue, Maidenhair Spleenwort, Wall Lettuce, tiny Speedwells and Crane's-bills, Rue-leaved Saxifrage and many more. Under the south gateway we met again, skirted round the town walls and came to an important local agricultural feature, a stone-lined dewpond or *lavogne*. In the arid landscape, water is vital for the sheep and the *causses* are dotted with these attractive structures, still beautifully maintained and in regular use. They are important to the wildlife too. A serin was drinking at the edge and the water was teeming with insect larvae and tadpoles in various sizes. We watched a honey buzzard overhead and some caught a glimpse of a hoopoe as it dashed across the road.



At the café in La Couvertoirade (RR).

We had a longer drive to our final stop of the day, on the other side of the *autoroute*: some meadows near the village of la Pezade. A cuckoo was calling as we arrived and, from the top of a thorn bush, a singing whitethroat gave us a brief view. We watched a lovely tree pipit song-flight from an ash tree and back to the same perch again and again, a common buzzard soared by, and while we admired a wood ants' nest Ron called out in time for us to see a black kite. But it was really for the flowers that la Pezade is worth a visit and for the orchids in particular; as was the case everywhere we went, the Pyramidal Orchids were abundant and a Woodcock Orchid was lurking in the shade under a Box bush. Les found a Military Orchid and several Twayblades. Ailsa called us over to some Lady Orchids by the hedge at the top of the hill and also some Green-winged Orchids, a Man Orchid and a Fly Orchid. There was the beginning of a spectacular show of Fragrant Orchids, but they were only just coming out and totally scentless, so Heather undertook a search, finally finding some in full bloom and appropriately fragrant. Gerald rounded off the afternoon with a hummingbird hawkmoth and a chimney sweeper moth.

Dinner tonight was a *salade aux gésiers* (or cheese for the vegetarians), grilled local trout (from the farm on the river Durzon, in Nant), a wonderful cheese selection and finally raspberry *gateau*. Afterwards, in the mild, still air, we listened to the nightingales and to distant midwife toads – like far-off sheep bells – and natterjack toads, their song reminiscent of a broken-up nightjar churr.



### Day 3: Friday 2 June – The Causse Noir and the Vultures of the Gorges de la Jonte

It was surprisingly cool and misty before breakfast but a nightingale was still singing and there was a good turnout for our early walk. We went along the path opposite the hotel, hoping for the sun to break through the mist and scanning the grasses that were heavy and dripping with dew. Rosemary found a paper wasp's nest but there was no sign of its owner so it was closely examined and photographed. Wild boar had been busily digging during the night, churning up the edge of the field where the wild pink Sainfoin had attractively invaded the crop of blue Lucerne. All the insects were dewy, sleepy and slow-moving, and good for photography: the red and black striped bug *Graphosoma lineatum italicum* (with predominantly black rather than red legs) as well as moths and butterflies – chimney sweeper, black-veined white (and caterpillars), common blue and small heath. A skylark climbed, singing, up in the mist, and corn bunting and whitethroat were singing from song posts in the clumps of box bushes.

By the time we set off after breakfast, the mist had evaporated. We drove northwards down the hill through Nant and down the Dourbie valley – our first views of the spectacular rock formations of the gorges for which the area is so renowned. Just before la Roque Ste Marguerite, we turned right and drove up onto the Causse Noir in bright sunshine. The view opened up across a wide plateau, mainly fields of arable crops, but beyond that fringed by the dense dark green pine woods that give the Causse Noir its name. There were one or two specks in the sky overhead – Griffon vultures – and Gerald alerted us as a hoopoe flew across beside the buses.

We pulled up at a rocky clearing by the road, brilliant with *causse* flowers. We counted ten vultures overhead and could hear a cuckoo calling. Through the trees we could see what looked like a low stone building, another solution to the problem of water-shortage in this area of extremely free-draining rock. A *toit-citerne* is a roof structure built at ground level and arranged to drain rain water into an underground cistern, from which it can be drawn when needed. It is a very photogenic structure, and its ancient engineering never fails to impress.



The *toit-citerne* (HG), and Sword-leaved Helleborine (AU).

The cameras were out. A swallowtail butterfly fluttered across the clearing, Heather got a photograph of a pale clouded yellow while Val A found and photographed a green tiger beetle and a small tortoiseshell spread its wings and sunned itself on a rock. The cuckoo was still calling and a Bonelli's warbler sang continually, though we didn't manage to track him down to get a good view. There were some lovely flowers: the *causse* regulars, thymes and flaxes, a large clump of Swallowwort in perfect flower, majestic domes of the umbellifer Sermountain, Bearberry creeping close to the rocks. The new orchids stole the show. There were several clumps of both Broad-leaved and Sword-leaved Helleborine and a big shady area under the low branches of the pines with a profusion of Bird's-nest Orchids.

Gerald, on the hunt a little further afield, found brown argus, painted lady and pearly heath butterflies, and a hummingbird hawkmoth, while Les and Heather found and photographed an ashy mining bee *Andrena cineraria*. As we strolled back to the buses, with thoughts of lunch, we were brought to a stop by the spectacle of several Adonis blues and a scarce swallowtail salting in a damp patch of sand beside the road, with a large tortoiseshell nearby. And there was a robber fly waiting for us on one the minibuses.

The Priory of St Jean-de-Balmes, and our picnic stop, is about a mile further along the road. Just walking up to the ruined chapel from the car park, we saw Sword-leaved Helleborine, Common Spotted and Bird's-nest Orchids and a wood white. We heard a short-toed treecreeper and a goldcrest, and watched two crested tits feeding in a pine tree.

We spread the picnic on the walls and rocks around the chapel; there was a salad of potato, tomato and *cornichons*, with ham or a veggie alternative, fresh *baguettes* and cheese, crisps and fresh fruit, washed down with red wine and ice-cold water. There were black-veined whites flying around us. After lunch, there was time for a stroll and we explored the new habitat under the tall pines, again watching and listening for crested tits, firecrests, goldcrests and short-toed treecreepers. Underfoot, the vegetation was different too and we were delighted to find two species of Wintergreen, Nodding and Green, plentiful and in nice flower.



View across to le Rocher de Capluc and the Tarn Valley (AU).

After lunch we continued across the Causse Noir and began the descent into the Gorges de la Jonte. About half-way down there is a fine viewpoint, with some easy parking, so we paused to get our bearings and admire the view. Across the valley lies the plateau of the Causse Méjean and straight in front is the junction of the two great gorges, those of the rivers Tarn and Jonte. Here, the Causse Méjean comes to a point, le Rocher de Capluc, with hair-pin tracks leading to the top. We took in this breathtaking panorama, picked out the tiny cars below us along the road we were about to follow, and cameras clicked away in perfect light. Then we headed on down to Peyreleau and le Rozier and turned east along the Jonte to our appointment with the vultures.

Robert Straughan from the LPO (Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux) was in the car park to greet us. He took us up to the visitor centre and from the viewpoint there we were able to watch griffon and black vultures on the nest, albeit some distance away. There were some choughs about and crag martins and alpine swifts soared around the cliffs below and beside us. Robert talked to us about the LPO vulture introduction projects that are in full swing, and to which our Honeyguide conservation donation contributes – though this is all electronic now, so there was no formal handover of a cheque. We were shown round the displays that the visitor centre has developed and we were taken to watch a video including live footage of vultures on the nest and at the feeding station.

Our last destination of the day represented a change of theme. You can't visit the Grands Causses without seeing the area's most iconic man-made structure – the Millau Viaduct. So we retraced our track down the Jonte and then joined the Tarn, skirted north of Millau onto the A75 so that we could approach the viaduct from the north, the most dramatic direction. We diverted slightly to the visitor centre and the official viewpoint, and spent a little time consulting the excellent and informative displays about its inception and construction. We returned to the *autoroute* and drove sedately across it, absorbing the amazing views in all directions (including downwards). Then it was a speedy return to la Gare aux Ânes.



Le Viaduc de Millau (AU).

We had a little time for a review of our day over a pre-prandial drink and then sat down to a starter of home-produced *foie gras*, smoked duck and salad, followed by deliciously tender *araignée de porc*, then the cheeseboard and finally, *crème brûlée*.

Bedtime came, and we were again serenaded by nightingales and toads.



#### Day 4: Saturday 3 June – Mont Aigoual and the Schist and Granite Hills of the True Cévennes

It was warm and sunny again with scattered high cloud – which was a relief, because the plan for today was a bit weather dependent. We set off for our before breakfast walk along the road towards the Nant turning. The telegraph wires beside the road proved fruitful – first a good view of a corn bunting, and then not one but a pair of cirl buntings, nicely perched for a good look at the facial pattern. Skylark song was filling the air and a distant cuckoo called. We arrived at the corner, where the rocky roadside merges into *causse*, and were captivated by what was on the ground: a fine Man Orchid, a very promising Lizard Orchid, not quite out, and some very pretty panicles of Italian Catchfly, a night-flowerer which had not yet 'gone to bed' for the day. A latticed heath and a female common blue were warming themselves with wings outspread to capture the early sunshine. We were cutting it fine for breakfast, so we hurried back, but decided to return with a different strategy the next day.

We loaded up the picnic and turned right out of the gate towards the village of Sauclières. There is a huge limestone quarry in the hills above Sauclières where some fine fossils have been found and the quarrymen in the workshops down in the village are happy to show them off. Sadly, because it was a Saturday, the quarrymen were not at work; we had a little prowling around to see if there were any fossils on display, but no luck. So we continued on, down to St Jean-de-Bruel. Now this particular road follows a very interesting course as it more or less runs along the boundary between the calcareous limestone of the *causse* and the acid schists on the edge of the *massif de l'Aigoual*. The road weaves between the lime-loving communities on our left and the Sweet Chestnut woods, with their acid-loving plants – Bracken, very visible Tree Heaths and Cistuses – on our right. In St Jean-de-Bruel we joined the Dourbie again, and followed the valley upstream, climbing rapidly and leaving the river far below. Much of the early part of the route is through dense Sweet Chestnut woods. The names of the villages such as *Cassagnes* and *Cassanas* reflect the importance of Sweet Chestnut in the local economy, and we passed little stone buildings, *clèdes*, built into the hillsides within the woods, used for roasting the chestnuts.



An early morning Italian Catchfly (RR); *Ecdyonurus dispar* mayfly (VA); Elder-flowered Orchid (AU).

Just before the village of Dourbies, we crossed the river and then turned right in the village. We had left behind the chestnut woods and the scenery opened out. A short-toed eagle soared across the valley and a probable black woodpecker flew across the road ahead and disappeared inconclusively among some trees. A few kilometres further on, we stopped in les Laupies where there is a track down to the river and then a very pleasant walk beside it. We found a dead slowworm as we left the village, and our path had been seriously disturbed by amazing wild boar diggings. The group spread out – some striding ahead to reach the bridge to watch trout of every size holding position in the current, with quantities of pond skaters swirling temptingly above them. We saw the first speckled wood of the week and Val A found and photographed a beautiful large *Ecdyonurus* mayfly, probably *E. dispar*. Val G found two Roman snails busily mating and Ron added 7-spot ladybird to the list of insects.

The botanists made slower progress; we passed Meadow Crane's-bill, *Geranium pratense*, Spiked Rampion *Phyteuma spicatum*, the Cévennes endemic subspecies of our garden Lungwort *Pulmonaria longifolia* ssp *cevennensis*, another garden friend Austrian Leopard's-bane *Doronicum austriacum*, the beautiful pure white-flowered Snowy Woodrush *Luzula nivea*, a fine patch of Maiden Pink *Dianthus deltoides* and, by the bridge, a huge plant of Aconite-leaved Buttercup *Ranunculus aconitifolius*.

As we got back to the buses there was an ortolan bunting singing near the road.

We drove on up the road leading to the summit of Mont Aigoual. The hillsides were yellow with broom and we kept catching glimpses of little dark butterflies, Piedmont Ringlets. As we climbed into the Alpine meadows we scanned the fields beside the road for the last of the narcissi, but the season was too well advanced.

The cloud had descended disappointingly so that the last mile or two to the summit was shrouded in mist. We arrived and parked, and were greeted by a yellowhammer singing on the fence. We decided that the first stop should be for refreshments in the summit café, in the hope that the cloud would lift. However, refreshments came and went, and the outlook was still very meteorological, so it seemed appropriate next to visit the excellent meteorological exhibitions inside the castle. The whole exhibition is beautifully presented, fascinating and informative, but the real-time satellite image of France showing the weather system that we were experiencing did nothing to raise our hopes. We found some shelter among the rocks around the minibuses and somewhere to sit on the crash barriers and unpacked our picnics. It was becoming chilly, though, so a rapid exploration seemed appropriate, and then a return to warmer altitudes.

Rosemary found a beautiful dor beetle (a dung beetle) *Geotrupes stercorarius* with blue and purple iridescence on its legs and underside. It was heavily infested with mites, hence its other vernacular name of 'lousy watchman'. We crawled about on the alpine turf (out of the wind), finding Mountain Everlasting *Antennaria dioica*, Snow in Summer *Cerastium tomentosum*, little stunted Common Dog Violets, Thyme, Lady's Mantle, Heather, Alpine Clover and other little delights. There were a couple more 'must sees' usually to be found just below the summit, so we headed back down the mountain – and were rewarded. There was a bank beside the road with some lovely plants of Elder-flowered Orchid, in both the lemon and magenta form – very pretty, and satisfying to photograph. Just a little farther down a flash of gold on the roadside brought us to a halt for some Wild Tulips. There was one more brief stop, at a well-designed and informative local museum and shop selling regional produce, so we could gather books, maps, leaflets, cards, and culinary mementoes from the 'true' Cévennes, before returning home, by a slightly different route along the north side of the Dourbie valley; the potentially magnificent vistas were lost in the mist!

We were home with little time to spare, but enough for a drink before dinner, and then a welcome hot starter - vegetable soup. This was followed by a very local speciality, *aligot*, a potato and melted cheese dish (said to have been developed by the shepherds when they were high in the mountains with their sheep) with *saucisson* and a salad, then cheese, and finally *flaune Aveyronnaise*, a delicious flan filled with creamy orange custard.

#### **Day 5: Sunday, 4 June – Nant, Cantobre, the Dourbie and the Trévezel**

We had promised an improved version of yesterday's early walk so we embarked in the minibuses to the corner by the Crossing-Keeper's cottage, to give us time to make it along the old railway track. In spite of yesterday's rain, and the drop in temperature, the Lizard Orchid was now fully out on the roadside bank, along with a few Man Orchids, a fine display of Pyramidal Orchids, some Greater Knapweed and the three brilliant blues: Viper's Bugloss, Fodder Vetch and False Sainfoin. Following a vague path round the back of the cottage, we reached the track along the old railway line. Ron spotted two griffon vultures in the distance. As they came closer, they were joined by three more and the five were mobbed by two enterprising carrion crows; they soon gave up as more vultures arrived until there were ten soaring above us. What had they spotted? we wondered. Box bushes studded the hillside and several were being used as song posts: two or three lovely red-backed shrikes, a pair of stonechats, a pair of yellowhammers and a corn bunting singing. The time had sped by, but again we promised a re-visit, and we were happy to jump in the buses to hurry us back for breakfast.

After yesterday's longish drive, we were glad of a fairly local day today. We drove down into Nant and parked the minibuses close to the beautiful medieval stone bridge over the Dourbie, and set up telescopes for a river-watch from the bridge. Swifts, crag and house martins were flying up and down the river, over and under the bridge, and up to nest sites on the old buildings beside the river. White and grey wagtails bobbed around the base of the ruined pillar of an even older bridge in the middle of the stream. Blackcaps sang from the tops of the alders and a long-tailed tit gathered food. We had some excellent views of a dipper as it repeatedly flew up- and down-stream and up to a nest behind the waterfall below the mill. More familiar, but still charming, was a mallard with her three ducklings going about their business. Mike and Val G found a green lizard and we added small white to the butterfly tally.

The plan was for a one-way walk downstream so Rachel and Robin took the two buses the 10 minute run to the far end, left one bus, plus picnic, at the edge of the wood, and then drove back. While we were away, Heather had been busy identifying a sloe bug *Dolycoris baccarum* and finding us a dead millet's shrew.

With one minibus at each end, we set off beneath the magnificent limestone rock formation, *le Roc Nantais*, along the path beside the river. The route starts off along a farm track with an arable field on one side and a beautiful flower-rich meadow on the other. There there were quantities of Pyramidal Orchids and the spires of Lizard Orchids overtopped the grasses. Some of these were close to the path, and in full flower, so we could give substance to the French name, *orchis bouc*, as it is said to stink like a billy-goat! Clearly there was a great display of Hoary Mullein to be expected – many huge dried stems from last year and vigorous young plants coming up, with one by the track already in flower. While we admired and photographed a contented and picturesque group of mares with their foals, Val A and Ron, forever bug-hunting, came up with a very pretty rose chafer on some elder flowers and a mating pair of brassica bugs *Eurydema oleracea*.



There were bushes of fragrant Etruscan Honeysuckle, coppiced Hazels with beautiful demoiselles fluttering around and settling on the leaves, and some substantial Walnut trees by the path with blackcaps in evidence and an elusive cicada 'singing'. We could hear a nightingale singing too, right beside us, so close and yet still out of sight. A large clump of Birthwort beside a barn was in beautiful flower amongst the spurges, and some interesting Hogweed – the greenish-flowered subspecies *Heracleum sphondylium* ssp *sibiricum* that predominates here. An unexpected addition to the bird list was a yellow-legged gull and Ron and Val's sharp eyes discovered a pair of short-toed eagles soaring and hovering above the cliffs across the valley.

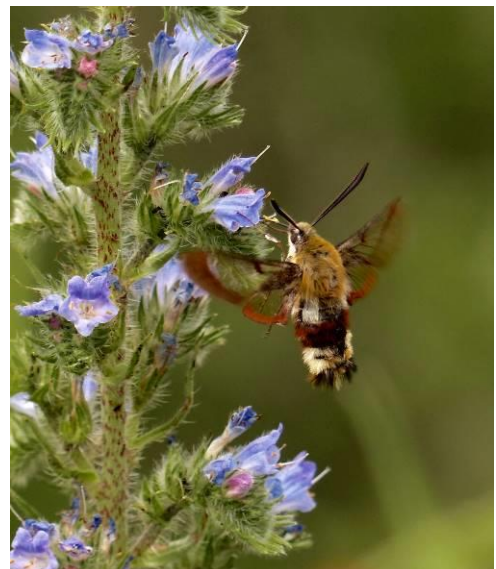


Knotted Crane's-bill (RR); beautiful demoiselle (VA); southern white admiral (HG).

Farther towards the wood in some sheltered patches of sunlight Gerald found an Essex skipper and a Spanish gatekeeper. There is a steep rocky section of the path, an elongated rock garden with many of the plants we had already encountered on the limestone: blue, yellow and white flaxes, thyme, plantains, Blue *Aphyllanthes* and *Dorycnium*. We found holly blues and commas and a white-spotted rose beetle *Oxythyrea funesta*, a cream-spot tiger moth and a fine Woodcock Orchid. In the more humid shade of the wood, where the soil was rich and deep and the path overhung with Downy Oak, Ash, Field and Montpellier Maple trees, there was a rich understorey of Hazel, Box, Dogwood, Juniper and Scorpion-vetch. The woodland ground flora was lush and diverse: Spurge Laurel, Blue Gromwell, Red Helleborine, Green Hellebore, Bastard Balm, Knotted Crane's-bill and grasses, sedges, ferns and mosses. Oxlip, Lungwort and Hepatica were in leaf and here and there were odd-looking clumps of Autumn Crocus leaves with fat fruit emerging from the centre of the plant.

The striders were first to reach our picnic place in a woodland clearing and they unpacked the feast. Birds were silent apart from a distant cuckoo, though Gerald arrived with news that he had also heard a nuthatch – and seen a silver-washed fritillary. While we were picnicking a southern white admiral flew through the clearing, we caught a glimpse of a short-toed eagle and were captivated by a green long-horn moth *Adela reaumurella*, with its incongruously long antennae.

After lunch, the group set off to walk on down to the next river bridge while Robin and Rachel retrieved the abandoned minibus from Nant. The next stop was the ancient fortified village of Cantobre, perched strategically, and precariously, on a rocky promontory between the valleys of the Dourbie and the Trévezel.



Cantobre, and broad-bordered bee hawkmoth on Viper's Bugloss (HG).

We strolled round the village – crag martins in abundance were visiting their nests in the rock faces, serins and goldfinches were singing from trees and rooftops. The whole place is rather rock-garden-like, with cliffs and outcrops and very shallow soils. Rosemary found Wall Lettuce and we peered at the unfamiliar *Phagnalon* – tiny shrubs rooted in the rock crevices. Several minuscule ferns thrived in shadier corners, with geraniums, Fairy Foxglove, Tower Cress, Ivy-leaved Toadflax, sedums, thymes, Dwarf Mallow and Pellitory-of-the-Wall. Gerald found us a small skipper and when we arrived back at the minibuses we found (and photographed) both hummingbird and broad-bordered bee hawkmoths feeding on Viper's Bugloss beside the road.

We were not far from the release site for three young lammergeiers, part of the LPO programme that Honeyguide is supporting. So we followed Robert Straughan's directions and drove the short distance up the valley to les Plos, parked the vehicles and scanned the cliffs. It seemed like looking for a needle in a haystack, but we were in luck; Gerald was first to spot one of the birds, then other sharp eyes found the other two. We were able to watch them flopping about among the rocks – still dependent on the LPO for food and carefully monitored, but gradually developing their independence.

We went straight back to la Gare aux Ânes for an early dinner: there was *quiche aux oignons et fromage de chèvre*, *gigot d'agneau* with *légumes poêlés* and *frites*, followed by the usual cheese board and *île flottante*, and then prepared for an evening excursion.

The plan was to return to the river below Cantobre, to a well-known beaver reintroduction site where there is a good chance – though never any certainty – of seeing beavers. We passed a red-backed shrike on the wires close beside the road down to Nant – a spot to keep an eye on during the rest of the week. As dusk fell we got quietly into position, overlooking the river, with Cantobre towering above us. A heron flew down the river, calling, and was joined by another. A few pipistrelle bats flew around us and a tawny owl called. We watched a distant dipper. It was a beautiful tranquil evening, with glorious birdsong – but no beavers!

#### **Day 6: Monday 5 June – The Heart of the Causse du Larzac**

Another clear bright start to the day and we needed to be well wrapped up for our early walk. Everywhere was still a bit muddy after the rain and the wild boar had made a real mess in the track opposite the hotel gate, and they had created an impressive display of earthworks in the field beside the hotel. Ron and Val had been out even earlier, and had heard a great spotted woodpecker, so we were on the lookout for that. Some greenfinches were feeding on the ground by the gateway and when we scanned the box and thorn bushes at the end of the track, there were two corn buntings singing defiantly – and competitively – from their respective bushes. We could see a dot on a wire in the distance and when we got the telescopes on it we could see it was our red-backed shrike perched at the same spot as last night's bird. As we walked back for breakfast we could hear a melodious warbler singing in the hedgerow down on our left; it took a while, but we eventually located it and had a very good view.

We had scheduled a little time to explore the local medieval market town of Nant, but we had not taken into account their annual Whit Monday event: an immense *brocante* market, with the whole square and park full of stalls selling bric-a-brac and antiques of every description. If only we didn't have a weight limit for our flight! It didn't detract from our enjoyment of the little town which was buzzing with life; people visited the Romanesque church, the river, the narrow lanes, the sweet shop, the fresh fruit stall, the book shop and finally we met for a cup of coffee under the arches in the *Café des Halles*.

We retrieved the parked minibuses and drove up the winding road onto the *Causse des Cuns*. From various places along the Dourbie valley we had already spotted the little group of radio masts up on the cliff edge above Nant, and that was our destination. Along the rough track through the pine woods we passed little clearings rich with Pyramidal and Butterfly Orchids and grassy areas with carpets of Yellow Rattle. A southern white admiral fluttered along beside us and a short-toed eagle soared across the sky above the track. Arriving at the radio mast we parked the buses, and the group, unprompted, immediately spread in all directions. Some of the group made a bee-line for the cliff edge where the astonishing view down into the valley shows the pretty little town of Nant, the whole of our river walk up to Cantobre and, on the other side of the valley, the view across the Causse Begon to Mont Aigoual in the north east. Others gathered round the magnificent clumps of the majestic umbellifer Common Sermountain which always seems to support an exciting array of invertebrates: soldier, flower and dung beetles, forester moths, shield bugs, rose chafers – and more. The rest disappeared among the flowers in the grassland and scrub, hunting out the wild flowers and orchids. Wherever we trod, the mixed scent of Wild Thyme and Basil Thyme rose around us. There were clumps of Alpine Aster, Fumana, Kidney Vetch, little geraniums, spurge, Golden Drop, Yellow Rattle and speedwells. The Pyramidal Orchids were at their best, as they had been all week, and Ailsa found a Bee Orchid. There was a perfect group of Monkey Orchids and Military Orchids as well as a Lady Orchid, though she was very much past her best. The Monkey Orchids were showing beautifully the unusual pattern they have of opening their flowers from the top down. There is a little almost natural *lavogne* which had a group of footprints beside it, probably beech marten coming down to drink. We found both hummingbird and broad-bordered bee hawkmoths and also added two new butterflies, green hairstreak and spotted fritillary.





Common sermountain (HG); spotted fritillary (VA).

In a departure from our usual lunchtime arrangements, we were booked for lunch at *la Ferme Auberge Jassenove*. This charming restaurant-retreat is miles from anywhere, in the heart of the Causse du Larzac and surrounded by their own *causse* farmland. It's a classic, family affair, in the middle of an active farm and serves home-produced and home-prepared lunches. It has developed a great reputation for the quality of the food and, importantly for us, the quality of the welcome from Catherine and Renaud Galtier; it's a truly *Aveyronnaise* experience: *Roquefort soufflé* (mild, sweet and delicious enough to convert anyone with a fear of Roquefort), homemade terrine, home-grown salad, tender pink lamb (their own sheep, *brebis*, raised on the *causse* around the restaurant) with potato *gratin*, cheeses (including Roquefort of course) and a choice of chocolate or apple tart and finally, coffee. We even saw a swallowtail butterfly through the window.



The troglodyte house at les Baumes (AU).

A few kilometres northwest of Jassenove lies the hamlet of les Baumes, our next destination. On the way, we glanced through the screen of pines and saw a roebuck. He was clearly a little unnerved by our vehicles, and stood very still and alert for a moment, before running along the field and disappearing into the wood – a lovely view. We turned towards les Baumes and noticed a family of ravens swirling above some farm buildings, and swallows feeding and swooping in and out of the barn doors. The hamlet is tiny, with no more than a couple of families living there now, but its special feature is immediately obvious because it is dominated by a huge rock with a sheer face, perforated by a door and window openings – an ancient troglodyte dwelling. A little gentle restoration has taken place recently but it was possible to go into it, explore, and imagine ...

We did a minibus juggle again so that we could walk along a particular track which is an example of a local speciality. It is very exposed up on the *causse*. The weather can be searingly hot in high summer, but also bitterly cold with deep snow in winter. Box grows well on the *causse* and there are several examples of tracks between adjacent villages which, long ago, were double-lined with box hedges, trained and maintained to form a tunnel to protect people and animals from these weather extremes. Between les Baumes and the neighbouring village of St Martin-du-Larzac is a very good example of this feature, known as a *buissière* (from *buis*, the French for Box). We started off from les Baumes, leaving the swallows, house sparrows and linnets, and crossed open fields, with a griffon vulture overhead and two ravens croaking loudly close by. We soon plunged into the cool shade of the *buissière*, with the ancient bushes wizened and twisted to form the tunnel. It is easy to imagine the value of such a feature before the days of motor vehicles.

When we had re-juggled the minibuses we headed briskly back to la Gare aux Ânes because, before supper, Raphaël Néouze, the Regional Director of the LPO, had agreed to come to talk to the group in greater detail, and more strategically, about the LPO's project to establish breeding populations in this region of the four European vulture species, with the aim of creating a link between the existing populations in the Alps and the Pyrenees. He explained how the Honeyguide group's donations totalling £700 (including Gift Aid) would be matched threefold by EU funding, making £2,800 in all. Unfortunately, Raphaël was unable to join us for dinner; we had persuaded Sylvain that a light supper was all we should need after the indulgences at lunchtime.

### Day 7: Tuesday, 6 June – The Causse Méjean: Caves, Steppes and Horses

We repeated the manoeuvre of a couple of days ago in order to get as far as possible along the old railway track, and scrambled up the rocky bank, past the Lizard Orchids and Viper's Bugloss. The track is lovely, with views opening up across the *causse* on both sides. We watched a distant kestrel mobbing a harrier that was carrying some sort of prey; it chased it very persistently for a long distance, but they were always flying further away from us – we weren't able to see how the encounter resolved, nor to make a firm ID of the harrier, but it was a good drama to watch. We were gradually approaching a nightingale singing brilliantly ahead of us. We paused to listen, and crept closer, then Les's sharp eyes spotted it; we watched it singing in full view, beak opening wide, its golden yellow throat glistening in the bright sunshine and the feathers under its chin trembling with the sound it was making.

After breakfast, we loaded the hampers – a picnic day again – and set off promptly for a longish drive. We made one stop when we had hardly started, close to where our regular red-backed shrike was perched. We wanted to pay homage to a large patch of Dodder on the roadside on our way to Nant. We could look at it closely, see the tiny flowers, the twining stems and the penetrating 'haustoria' fixing the parasite to its host – a weakened clump of Montpellier Milk-vetch.



Hures, Causse Méjean (HG).

Today, we were heading for a new *causse*, the Causse Méjean, beyond the Gorges de la Jonte where we had visited the Vulture Centre. So we took the most direct route, down the Dourbie to the edge of Millau, up the Tarn and along the Jonte valley. We paused only briefly for a short-toed eagle, and revelled again in the splendour of the cliffs and the soaring vultures in the gorges. The 'main' road up onto the Causse Méjean involves hairpins, and some steep narrow bits, with interesting drops beside the road so, encountering a local timber lorry, clearly familiar with the route, one might have hoped for some chivalry. But no! Andrew guided us round while the driver looked on, tucked comfortably against the cliff, highly amused at the antics of *une chauffeuse*, but totally unwilling himself to reverse 5 metres to a passing place.

We reached our destination, Aven Armand, in comfortable time before our appointed slot, and in time to take in the useful introductory display to what is probably one of the finest and most spectacular of European caves. We were greeted by our English-speaking guide but we were in an international group, so we were guided bilingually. The initial descent is on a little funicular railway and we were introduced to the cavern from a platform high up on one side, where the whole space was magically laid out in front of us. We were set up with the key statistics and facts: over 400 stalagmites, more than anywhere else so far discovered; a volume bigger than Notre Dame Cathedral; its discovery in 1897 and the manner of the original descent by the famous speleologists, Armand and Martel; the chemistry and physics of stalactite and stalagmite formation. The cave is sensitively lit and as we walked down the steps, admiring the extraordinary variety and gazing up at the tallest known stalagmite (30 metres high), we considered their likenesses to trees, cauliflowers, streaky bacon rashers, striped curtains, palm trees, plates piled high with crepes suzette, jellyfish ... It is a very memorable excursion.

It was cool and breezy when we emerged, so we had our lunch in the picnic shelter and then walked over to the hollow in the ground where you can just see the opening through which Martel made the first descent. A stonechat perched on a bush among the rocks and we looked down into the damp, shady sinkhole at a large colony of *Hepatica nobilis* (sometimes known as Liverleaf), just in leaf, but it must be amazing in the spring.

We retraced a little of our route and then set off across the vast open steppe that characterises the Causse Méjean. There were several stonechats again, but the first wheatears of the week popped up on the fences or piles of stones and we watched two choughs feeding in a field. We continued to the hamlet of Hûres and parked the minibuses behind the church. A chough flew close by, calling loudly.



House sparrows were busy around the church but the hoped-for rock sparrows didn't appear. Ailsa's prompt call of 'harrier!' alerted us to a Montagu's harrier just above the hilltop, and lured us up along the well-trodden path. For the botanically inclined, it was slow progress: the Angel's Hair Grass was just opening out, the white flower heads of Fragrant Sneezewort were at their best, pretty clumps of Golden Drop and Swallowwort nestled among rocks, thymes, rock-roses, vetches, lavenders, Felty Germander, the little *Carduncellus* and great big Cardabelles were all flowering and photogenic. There was a sensational view across the hamlet to the steppes beyond.

The last scheduled stop of the day was le Villaret, another hamlet a little further over the *causse* and the headquarters of the enterprising project to introduce Przewalski's horses; the Causse Méjean is deemed to replicate the steppe environment of Mongolia as closely as anywhere else in western Europe. We caught a glimpse of some likely horses in a paddock in the village but the most exciting views are of them out roaming the steppe. Eventually we found a group of three contentedly grazing in a patch of sunlight on the hillside. We had a little diversion with several unusual marbled whites which some of the group managed to photograph. When we examined the images, Ursula's keen eye identified them as Esper's marbled whites, a new butterfly for the list.



Esper's marbled white: features of *Melanargia russiae* ssp *cleanthe* include a narrow zig-zag line across cells near the leading edge of the upperside forewing and distinct eye-spots on the underside (VA & AU).

We returned the way we had come, pausing this time to photograph a well-preserved dolmen, and there was a group of seven choughs flying by and calling. Another shout of 'harrier!', this time from Val A, brought us to a halt. Just below the road, a pair of Montagu's harriers were serenely quartering a field. Then another flew up to join them, but soon settled again, and seemed to be devouring some prey. It was a very worthwhile moment of birdwatching. And another, though more fleeting, followed soon after. We were just dropping down into the Gorges de la Jonte towards Meyreuis when a large bird of prey loomed towards us, gliding heavily, low over the hillside. Even though it was a brief encounter, the bird was close enough to see the golden sheen on its head and shoulders and confirm that it was a fine adult golden eagle.

We needed to make good time on our return journey because we had a few days' reviewing to catch up on before dinner, so when we reached Meyreuis we turned west and followed the Jonte and then the Tarn down towards Millau, and revisited the viaduct which was looking stunning against a background of blue sky and fluffy white cloud.

We had a fruitless search for glowworms after dinner, but the bats were very active and we were, of course, serenaded by our ensemble of nightingales.

#### **Day 8: Wednesday, 7 June – West across the Causse du Larzac to Lapanouse and the Roquefort Caves: Orchids, Cheese, Templars and Angel's Hair**

Weather-wise, it hadn't been a week of extremes and almost every day's weather notes had begun in more or less the same way: bright but chilly with broken cloud. For the final early walk we thought we'd 'branch out', and drove the short distance up the road to the farmstead at Combe Redonde.

We parked by a modern, less romantic, *lavogne*, and admired the size and quantity of unidentified tadpoles; there was no obvious habitat for either midwife or natterjack toads though we presumed that we had been hearing them from around that area. Nightingales sang from the bushes in the railway cutting and swallows gathered on the wires. The old road has been replaced and the track follows a tunnel under the new road and up on to the *causse*. There was lots of bird-song – skylarks and corn buntings above us, and a woodlark's song echoing down in the valley. In the distance we spotted a dozen vultures; five of them came in very close and two of these turned out to be black vultures.

After breakfast we set off to the west, over the *autoroute* and on to the western part of the Causse du Larzac. Driving slowly through a fortified Templar village, l'Hospitalet-du-Larzac, Rosemary spotted a hoopoe flying across the road ahead. It settled in a garden just beside us, and we stopped the minibuses to give everyone a good view, though sadly photographing it was difficult because we were seeing it through the bars of a fence. We turned left in the village and 'noted' mute swans for our list – a captive pair adorns the village pond. The landscape became softer and less rocky, with swathes of arable crops; a large flock of corvids in a field made us think of choughs, though they were carrion crows, with the only mistle thrush of the week. We dropped down towards the valley of the Cernon. In a curve in the hillside there is a beautiful view; two more Templar villages, Ste Eulalie-de-Cernon and Lapanouse-de-Cernon nestle close to the river, and round to the left you can see some of the magnificent engineering of the long-defunct railway line that used to run past la Gare aux Ânes.

We turned sharply left and crossed the tiny stone bridge in Lapanouse; swallows were flying over the river and Barbara spotted a wagtail on some rocks. At the end of the road, near the top of the hill, we drew up beside the derelict Lapanouse station. Immediately we could hear a common redstart singing high in a tree, and there were lots of butterflies amongst the long and the short grasses and around the bushes: black-veined white, Adonis blue, meadow brown, small and pearly heaths, Glanville and spotted fritillaries.

We lingered amongst the flowers too. There was a fine bush of Etruscan Honeysuckle, smelling wonderfully. Viper's Bugloss, Yellow Rattle and Pyramidal Orchids, as ever, were everywhere and stiff spires of *Stachys recta* stood up through the long grass.

Shrieks of joy, honking horns and a rhythmic clattering on the railway heralded the arrival of a little convoy of 'velorail' pedal-cars along the disused line, each with two pedallers and two laughing passengers, and sometimes a dog aboard as well – a 21<sup>st</sup> century life for the 19<sup>th</sup> century engineering. The draw of the railway line was too much for Andrew, and he went off to explore the track, returning with photographs of more complex engineering and surprising structures; it had clearly been a very important investment, though in the event, only a short-lived enterprise.



Aveyron Orchid (RR); pearly heath (HG); Pasque Flower (RR).

We followed the footpath across the line, passing a clump of striking Large Yellow Restharrow. Then we dropped into a grassy hollow where we were delighted to find, and photograph, some lovely specimens of the celebrated local endemic Aveyron Orchid, *Ophrys aveyronensis*. We carried on up the hill where the rocky hillside opened up and we could spend a little time enjoying the butterflies and other insects: Mazarine and green-underside blue, Essex skipper, small heath, swallowtail ... all being harassed by several of the butterfly predators, the ascalaphid *Libelloides coccajus*. The flora, too, was dramatic and diverse: Asphodel, Pasque Flower, Globe-headed Rampion, Bloody Crane's-bill, the so called Beautiful Flax, French Sermountain, Blue Aphyllanthes, Lady's Bedstraw, and more.

A green woodpecker called and as we walked back, a tree pipit perched, calling, from the top of an oak tree, flew up singing and then returned to the same perch – several times, as we watched.

It was definitely time for lunch when we got back to the minibuses and we spread out our last proper picnic of the week in the shade of the great limes by the station. A small flock of crag martins were uncharacteristically hawking for insects among the trees and, on the other side of the railway track, another tree pipit performed its song flight for us.



The busy town of Roquefort-sur-Soulzon is right at the western edge of the Causse du Larzac. We drove along a charming little road that follows the valley of the Cernon and when we reached the main road we turned left to run along the foot of the plateau, with the great hill of Tournemire looming ahead of us. At the roundabout, decorated with metal sculptures of a shepherd with his flock of *brebis* sheep, we turned left again into the town. It is ill-equipped for traffic at the best of times, but it was thrown into chaos by roadworks. However, we were lucky with parking and a short walk took us to the Caves of the Roquefort cheese manufacturer, *Papillon*. The ecology and economics of everything we had enjoyed during our week in *les Grands Causses* is intricately tied in with the ancient sheep culture and the associated grazing regimes, so we felt obliged to ensure, not only that we consumed as much Roquefort cheese as possible but also that we had as deep an understanding as possible of the process and the pressures and problems encountered in the maintenance of this wonderful landscape.

We had booked our group on a tour of the caves belonging to *Papillon*, one of only eight producers entitled to call their cheese after the town. We were shown ancient and modern films tracing the evolution of the production process and then we were taken on a tour of the caves that until very recently had been where the production actually took place. (Roquefort is now such a successful cheese that they have had to move to larger caves which are not open to the public.) At the end of the tour, we tasted, and then we bought. Never have we known a group of such Roquefortophiles!



*Brebis on the causse (AU); growing Penicillium roqueforti (RR).*

It was a bright, sunny evening as we drove, by a slightly different route, up onto the Causse du Larzac and then back to Ste Eulalie-de-Cernon. This well preserved fortified Templar town was the 'Commanderie', the most important Templar town in the area. The church, which is attached to the Commander's house, is said to be the only one in Christendom with the altar at the west end. (In 1641, the then Commander, annoyed because the villagers' route to church passed through his private courtyard, had the altar moved and a door opened in the east end.) The church is on the beautiful village square and there are fine houses and tiny lanes to explore. Sadly, the bar and the little ice-cream stall were both closed, so there were no refreshments to round off our last excursion.



*Angel's Hair Grass, Cheveu d'Ange (HG).*

We had promised a stop to gather some Angel's Hair as a memento. A week had made a huge difference since we had first encountered it and the grassland now was glimmering silver in the low evening sunlight. We stopped overlooking the valley and everyone who wanted to carefully selected a few stems to take home.

We had time for drinks and gathered around the fire before dinner, and as we reviewed the day's records, Ron caught sight of a weasel outside on the terrace; it lingered for us all to watch it. Our final dinner was some of Sylvain's delicious home-smoked salmon, followed by *escalope de poulet*, with – of course – *sauce Roquefort*.

After dinner, we talked about our highlights of the week; these are listed, more or less verbatim, in the sequence we sat in round the table, and are on the next page.

## Day 9: Thursday, 8 June – Departure, the *Autoroute* to Montpellier, Picnic by the Mediterranean at Mauguio, Montpellier Airport and Home

We left in good time in case of unexpected delays. But the journey went well, so we had time for a slight detour to enjoy our picnic of sandwiches and cake beside the lagoon at Mauguio, just a stone's throw from the airport. As we arrived there, Gerald caught sight of a white stork. We had a few minutes to explore the reedbeds and the lagoons, and scan for birds. Altogether we added a dozen species to the week's list, including black-winged stilt, avocet, purple heron, slender-billed gull, great reed warbler and great and little egrets.

As we took off, we glimpsed a flock of flamingos just beyond the runway.

### Highlights

Val G	Aven Armand – most unexpected; I've never seen anything like it before.
Les	Aven Armand; Montagu's harriers on the Causse Méjean; the preponderance of blue flowers.
Heather	All the <i>Causse</i> s: beautiful, with such lovely insects, birds and flowers.
Ailsa	Hearing <u>and seeing</u> the nightingale. (Thank you, Les, for finding it). Also the <i>Ophrys aveyronensis</i> ; and the butterflies too.
Ursula	So much of everything: fields of unbelievable abundance; Ron and Val's enthusiasm for insects – they really opened my eyes to the interest of bugs and things.
Andrew	All manner of highlights: the sound of nightingales was a terrific thrill; the battle of the skies with those vultures before breakfast; the harriers on the Causse Méjean; Aven Armand – just amazing; the flowers – wonderful blues and purples of vetches and bugloss; lots of lovely company; lunch at Jassenove; the Millau Viaduct.
Marian	Simply learning to look at plants in a way I haven't before; I appreciated enormously the great beauty of the place and the open spaces.
Barbara	The cliffs – their shapes and colours; seeing a real live Aveyron Orchid.
Rosemary	Like everybody else, I enjoyed the countryside – the abundance of wild flowers, and the orchids, so numerous and colourful; seeing butterflies in the morning before they had woken up.
Gerald	Being within a few feet of a nightingale singing; the flea market in Nant – a glimpse of the real France and being French, not put on for tourists.
Val A	Aven Armand, just stunning; Pasque Flowers – I've never seen them in the wild before; the harriers – seeing them doing what they are meant to do instead of just distant dots; the villages; the donkeys at la Gare aux Ânes.
Ron	Just what you expect the real France to be: the villages, the landscape, the insects...; alpine asters; Montagu's harriers; the donkeys at la Gare aux Ânes.
Mike	I agree with what everyone has said: the sheer profusion of everything; Aven Armand; the walk through the wood; the dodder; witnessing the excitement of people seeing new things: Rachel, after many years of botany, still excited by the Aveyron orchid, and Robin's pleasure on seeing the golden eagle.
Rachel	When one has been coming to a place for a long time, it's lovely to have one's eyes reopened; the blueness of the flowers – the vetch, the flax; the lovely light on the cliffs; I'm a complete pushover for nightingales; having lots of sharp eyes around to find things.
Robin	Unforgettable views of raptors, especially the harriers and the golden eagle; the keen eyes and enthusiasm in the group.



Mocha and Pistache (AU).



# BIRDS – 86 species

Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	A few at Mauguio
Great egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	One at Mauguio
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Two over the Dourbie at Cantobre and one at Mauguio
Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	One at Mauguio
White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	One at Mauguio
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Occasionally seen on the R Dourbie near Cantobre
Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	A flock on the lagoon beside Montpellier airport
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Three recently released birds in the gorges du Trévezet
Griffon vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Seen every day throughout the region
Black vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Several in the gorges de la Jonte, two near la Gare aux Ânes
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	One in the Gorges de la Jonte
Short-toed eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Occasional individuals on most days
Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Singles over the A75, on the Causse du Larzac and near Mt Aigoual
Montagu's harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Several on the Causse Méjean
Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Occasional individuals on most days
Honey buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	One at la Couvertorade
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Odd individuals nearly every day
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	One or two at Mauguio
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	A pair at Mauguio
Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Several at Mauguio
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Several at Mauguio
Slender-billed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	One or two at Mauguio
Yellow-legged gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	One over the Dourbie near Nant and several at Mauguio
Gull-billed tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	A few at Mauguio
Rock dove/feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	A few seen on most days near villages
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	One or two seen every day
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Frequently seen in villages
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Seen or heard every day on the causses
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Heard near la Gare aux Ânes and at Cantobre
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Seen every day
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Two heard near la Couvertorade and one seen well at l'Hospitalet
Green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Odd individuals in the Dourbie and Cernon valleys
Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Individual birds on the Causse Noir and Causse du Larzac
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Several seen every day
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	One singing near la Gare aux Ânes
Crag martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Small numbers in gorges and several at Lapanouse station
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Several seen every day
House martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Small numbers seen every day
Tree pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Two singing males on the Causse du Larzac and two at Lapanouse
White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	Commonly seen by rivers and lavognes
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Occasionally seen on the Dourbie and Cernon
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	A few along the R Dourbie, including a pair nesting at Nant
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Seen or heard every day
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Occasionally heard or seen in wooded areas
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Abundant and ubiquitous, though seldom seen
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	One singing by Lapanouse station
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	A few in towns and villages
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Seen regularly near la Gare aux Ânes; a few on the Causse Méjean
Northern wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Several on the Causse Méjean
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Very occasionally seen in wooded habitats
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	One seen on the Causse du Larzac
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	A few seen almost every day
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Abundant and widespread in causses and gorges
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Seen and heard every day in scrubby places
Subalpine warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Occasional singing males on the Causse du Larzac
Fan-tailed warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	One or two at Mauguio
Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Heard singing at Mauguio
Great reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	A singing male at Mauguio
Melodious warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	One singing male near la Gare aux Ânes
Bonelli's warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	Several seen or heard almost every day
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Seen or heard almost every day
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	One or two on the Causse Noir
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	A few seen every day
Blue tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Regularly seen at la Gare aux Ânes
Crested tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	A pair seen well on the Causse Noir at St Jean de Balmes
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	One or two beside the Dourbie near Nant
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	One heard in woods beside the Dourbie near Cantobre

<b>Short-toed treecreeper</b>	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	Heard on the Causse Noir at St Jean de Balmes
<b>Red-backed shrike</b>	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Regularly seen near la Gare aux Ânes
<b>Magpie</b>	<i>Pica pica</i>	Several seen every day
<b>Jay</b>	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	One or two seen almost every day
<b>Jackdaw</b>	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Frequently seen in gorges and villages
<b>Red-billed chough</b>	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Small flocks in the Gorges de la Jonte, near Hûres and Ste Eulalie
<b>Carriion crow</b>	<i>Corvus corone corone</i>	Common and widespread
<b>Raven</b>	<i>Corvus corax</i>	A family group on the Causse du Larzac near les Baumes
<b>Starling</b>	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Seen occasionally on the Causse du Larzac
<b>House sparrow</b>	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Small numbers in towns and villages
<b>Chaffinch</b>	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common and widespread
<b>Linnet</b>	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	A small flock seen on most days at la Gare aux Ânes
<b>Goldfinch</b>	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Frequent and widespread
<b>Greenfinch</b>	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Occasionally seen near la Gare aux Ânes
<b>Serin</b>	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Seen every day at la Gare aux Ânes and elsewhere near villages
<b>Ortolan bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	One singing beside the road on the way to Mt Aigoual
<b>Yellowhammer</b>	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	A male at Mt Aigoual and one near Nant
<b>Cirl bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	Seen or heard every day on the causses
<b>Corn bunting</b>	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Several seen every day on the causses

#### MAMMALS

Millet's shrew	Mole (hills)	Rabbit	Weasel	Wild boar	Roe deer	Przewalski's horse
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#### REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS AND FISH

Common wall lizard	Green lizard	Slowworm	Natterjack toad	Midwife toad	Brown trout
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#### BUTTERFLIES

Essex skipper	Small white	Holly blue	Small tortoiseshell	Small heath
Small skipper	Green-veined white	Brown argus	Large tortoiseshell	Pearly heath
Oberthur's grizzled skipper	Clouded yellow	Green-underside blue	Violet fritillary	Speckled wood
Marbled skipper	Pale clouded yellow	Adonis blue	Glanville fritillary	Wall brown
Common swallowtail	Wood white	Common blue	Spotted fritillary	Meadow brown
Scarce swallowtail	Brimstone	Mazarine blue	Knapweed fritillary	Spanish gatekeeper
Black-veined white	Small copper	Painted lady	Heath fritillary	
Large white	Green hairstreak	Red admiral	Silver-washed fritillary	
	Small blue	Southern white admiral	Esper's marbled white	

#### MOTHS

White plume moth	Lackey	Pine processionary	Yellow shell	Mother Shipton
Forester	Small eggar	Brown-tailed moth	Lace border	Chimney sweeper
Six-spot burnet	Hummingbird hawkmoth	Cream-spot tiger	The shears <i>Hada plebeja</i>	Heart and dart
Burnet <i>Zygaena loti</i>	Broad-bordered bee hawkmoth	Clouded buff	Burnet companion	Latticed heath

#### OTHER INSECTS

Mayfly <i>Ecdyonurus ?dispar</i>	Wood ant <i>Formica rufa</i>
Beautiful demoiselle <i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	Violet carpenter bee <i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
Broad-bodied chaser <i>Libellula depressa</i>	Ashy mining bee <i>Andrena cineraria</i>
Great green bush-cricket <i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>	Black mining-bee <i>Andrena pilipes</i>
Speckled bush-cricket <i>Leptophyes punctatissima</i>	Leaf-cutter bee <i>Megachile mendica</i>
Common field grasshopper <i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>	Honey bee <i>Apis mellifera</i>
Large mountain grasshopper <i>Chorthippus scalaris</i>	Paper wasp <i>Polistes gallicus</i>
Stripe-winged grasshopper <i>Stenobothrus lineatus</i>	Red-banded sand wasp <i>Ammophila sabulosa</i>
Field cricket <i>Gryllus campestris</i>	Spider-hunting wasp <i>Cryptocheilus comparatus</i>
Striped shield bug <i>Graphosoma lineatum</i> ssp <i>italicum</i>	Bee beetle <i>Trichius fasciatus</i>
Sloe shield bug <i>Dolichorus baccarum</i>	Flower scarab <i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>
Dock bug <i>Coreus marginatus</i>	Rose chafer <i>Cetonia aurata</i>
Assassin bug <i>Rhinocoris iracundus</i>	Garden chafer <i>Phyllopertha horticola</i>
Brassica bug <i>Eurydema oleracea</i>	Flower scarab <i>Hoplia argentea</i>
Fire bug <i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>	Soldier beetle <i>Trichodes alvearius</i>
Black and red frogopper <i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>	Beetle <i>Capnodis tenebrionis</i>
Ant-lion <i>Euroleon nostras</i>	Wasp beetle <i>Clytus arietis</i>
Ascalaphid <i>Libelloides coccajus</i>	Green tiger beetle <i>Cicindela campestris</i>
Golden-tabbed robberfly <i>Eutolmus rufibarbis</i>	Dor beetle <i>Geotrupes stercorarius</i>
Hoverfly <i>Sphaerophoria scripta</i>	7-spot ladybird <i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>
Hoverfly <i>Chrysotoxum festivum</i>	False oil beetle <i>Oedemera nobilis</i>
Hoverfly <i>Volucella bombylans</i>	Leaf beetle <i>Lachnaia sexpunctata</i>
Pale giant horse-fly <i>Tabanus bovinus</i>	Leaf beetle <i>Clytra quadripunctata</i>
Broad centurion <i>Chloromyia formosa</i>	Blister beetle <i>Hycleus polymorphus</i>
Tachinid fly <i>Cylindromyia bicolor</i>	Beetle <i>Ampedus sanguineus</i>
Hornet robberfly <i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>	Beetle <i>Cydnius aterrimus</i>
Green-legged Sawfly <i>Tenthredo mesomelas</i>	Sulphur beetle <i>Cteniopus sulphureus</i>

#### OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Crab spider <i>Misumenia vatia</i>	Roman snail <i>Helix pomatia</i>	Black slug <i>Arion ater</i>
Crab spider <i>Xysticus ?cristatus</i>	Garden snail <i>Helix aspersa</i>	Spider <i>Philaeus chrysops</i>



**Plants Recorded in the Cévennes and Grands Causses 3<sup>1</sup> May – 8 June 2017**

\* indicates Cévennes endemic.

Where a location is given it indicates where a species has been recorded on the Honeyguide Holiday;  
it does not suggest that that is the only locality for that species in the area.

The 'dafor' scale is used in the third column to indicate how commonly a species was found during the holiday:  
d=dominant, a=abundant, f=frequent, o=occasional, r=rare.

The prefix 'l' indicates 'locally', as in ld: locally dominant, la: locally abundant, lf: locally frequent.

Latin Name	Common Name	2017 Record
<b>PTERIDOPHYTES: Horsetails, Clubmosses and Ferns</b>		
<b>Aspleniaceae: Spleenwort Family</b>		
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	la: stone walls in les Laupies
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall Rue	f: on walls especially where sheltered and damp: la Couvertorade, Cantobre
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	f: on walls especially where sheltered and damp: la Couvertorade, Cantobre
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback Fern	f: on walls, often where dry and exposed
<b>Blechnaceae: Hard Ferns</b>		
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard Fern	o: roadsides below summit of M Aigoual
<b>Dryopteridaceae: Male-ferns and Buckler-ferns</b>		
<i>Dryopteris felix-foemina</i>	Male-fern	r: beside river, les Laupies
<b>Dennstaedtiaceae: Bracken</b>		
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	f: in humid places on schistic, acid soils: under chestnut woods above St Jean de Bruel; on the way to M Aigoual
<b>Polypodiaceae: Polypodies</b>		
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common Polypody	f: on shady rocks; a: in Cantobre
<b>CONIFERS</b>		
<b>Cupressaceae: Cypresses and Junipers</b>		
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	f: component of cause scrub
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenician Juniper	o: component of cause scrub
<b>Pinaceae: Pines, Spruces, Firs and Larches</b>		
<i>Picea abies</i>	Spruce	ld: woodland below summit of M Aigoual
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Austrian, Black or Corsican Pine	o – ld: woodland especially on Causse Noir
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime Pine	f: <i>en route</i> to and from Montpellier
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone Pine	o: <i>en route</i> to and from Montpellier
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	f: widespread on causses
<b>Taxaceae: Yew</b>		
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	r: usually near habitation and often planted
<b>FLOWERING PLANTS – DICOTYLEDONS</b>		
<b>Aceraceae: Maples</b>		
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpellier Maple	f: widespread in scrub and deciduous woodland on limestone
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	o: in deciduous woods; riverside woodland between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Acer opalus</i>	Italian Maple	In open woodland below viewpoint above le Rozier
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	Specimen tree planted beside the pond in Cantobre
<b>Anacardiaceae: Pistacio Family</b>		
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke-tree	lf: in limestone scrub especially in sheltered gorges
<b>Apiaceae (Umbelliferae): Umbellifers</b>		
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	f: hedgebanks and roadsides especially in farmland.
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	o: in damp grassland
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	f: in dry cause grassland in leaf
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> ssp <i>sibiricum</i>	Hogweed (greenish-flowered form)	f: in damp roadside ditches; widespread
<i>Laserpitium gallicum</i>	French Sermountain	o: on rocky hillsides and scree; grassland at Lapanouse
<i>Laserpitium siler</i>	Common Sermountain	f: spectacular umbellifer among rocks and in grassland around radio mast above Nant
<i>Trinia glauca</i>	Honewort	f: in dry stony cause grassland; Lapanouse
<b>Araliaceae: Ivy Family</b>		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	f: on rocks, trees, buildings and old walls especially in shade; riverside woodland in Dourbie valley near Nant
<b>Aristolochiaceae: Birthwort Family</b>		
<i>Aristolochia clematitis</i>	Birthwort	o: waysides and woodland in Dourbie valley near Nant
<b>Asclepiadaceae: Milkweeds</b>		
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	f: in full flower among limestone rocks in grassy places and roadsides, especially high
<b>Asteraceae (Compositae): Composites</b>		
<i>Achillea millefolia</i>	Yarrow	la: grassland
<i>Achillea odorata</i>	Cream-flowered Sneezewort	la: on hillside above Hûres
* <i>Aster alpinus cebennensis</i>	Alpine Aster	f: in full flower in rocky cause grassland, among rocks & scree
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	f: widespread in grazed pasture

<b>Asteraceae (Compositae): Composites (cont'd)</b>		
<i>Carduncellus mitissimus</i>	Carduncellus	f: in good flower in rocky cause grassland
<i>Carduus nigrescens</i>	A Thistle	o: in grassland at Lapanouse
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk Thistle	o: in pasture on Causse Méjean
<i>Carduus tenuifolius</i>	A Thistle	o: in grassland at Lapanouse
<i>Carlina acanthifolia</i>	Cardabelle, Acanthus-leaved Carline Thistle	f: leaf rosettes in rocky cause grassland; flower heads frequently fastened to doors
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	Carline Thistle	o: in grassland at la Pezade
<i>Catananche caerulea</i>	Blue Catananche	f: in rocky cause grassland, but not yet in flower
<i>*Centaurea pectinate ssp supina</i>	Crested Knapweed	o: on dry sandy limestone soils and scree, flowers not yet open
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Wild Chicory	o: beside roads throughout
<i>Doronicum austriacum</i>	Austrian Leopard's-bane	Beside Dourbie at les Laupies
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	o: in cause grassland
<i>Lactuca perennis</i>	Mountain Lettuce	o: in cause grassland
<i>Leucanthemum graminifolium</i>	Grass-leaved Ox-eye (or Dog) Daisy	r: in cause grassland; near telephone mast
<i>Phagnalon sordidum</i>	Phagnalon	la: in crevices on rock faces in Cantobre and elsewhere
<i>Scorzonera hirsuta</i>	Hairy Viper's-grass	o: in cause grassland near telephone mast
<i>Tragopogon crocifolius</i>	Crocus-leaved Salsify	r: fruiting heads in cause grassland; Lapanouse
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard	o: on roadsides and in pasture
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot	Tracksides in les Laupies, leaves only showing
<b>Betulaceae: Birches, Alders, Hazels and Hornbeams</b>		
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	f: riversides and damp woodland; beside the Dourbie at les Laupies and Nant
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	o: in riverside woodland beside the Dourbie at Nant
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	o: in riverside woodland beside the Dourbie at Nant
<b>Boraginaceae: Borage Family</b>		
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	o: in full flower on dry limestone hillsides and roadsides and in cause grassland
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	Corn Gromwell	r: waysides and woodland; track between wood and Cantobre
<i>Onosma fastigiatum</i>	Golden-drop	o: in cause grassland; near radio mast Causse du Larzac
<i>*Pulmonaria longifolia ssp cevennensis</i>	Cevennes Lungwort	o: leaves only in riverside woodland beside the Dourbie near Nant
<b>Brassicaceae (Cruciferae): Crucifers</b>		
<i>Arabis turrita</i>	Towercress	f: in fruit, on rocky cliffs especially in villages
<i>Biscutella laevigata</i>	Buckler Mustard	o: cause grassland in Cantobre
<b>Buxaceae: Box</b>		
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	a-lid: component of cause scrub; <i>buissière</i>
<b>Campanulaceae: Bellflower Family</b>		
<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	Peach-leaved Bellflower	o: on roadsides and in open woodland
<i>Campanula rapunculus</i>	Rampion Bellflower	f: on roadsides and uncultivated ground
<i>Phyteuma hemisphericum</i>	Globe-headed Rampion	o: in grassland near Hûres on Causse Méjean and Pezade on Causse du Larzac, Lapanouse
<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>	Round-headed Rampion	r: alpine grassland M Aigoual
<i>Phyteuma spicatum</i>	Spiked Rampion	o: grassland beside R Dourbie at les Laupies
<b>Caprifoliaceae: Honeysuckle Family</b>		
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle	a: widespread on causes
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree	f: in riverside woodland between Nant and Cantobre; la: on cause
<b>Caryophyllaceae: Chickweeds, Pinks and Campions</b>		
<i>Arenaria controversa</i>	A Sandwort	On walls in la Couvertorade
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Field Mouse-ear	Meadow in Dourbie Valley les Laupies
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow in Summer	la: around rocks and buildings at summit of M Aigoual; o: la Couvertorade
<i>Dianthus deltoides</i>	Maiden Pink	la: in meadows in Dourbie Valley les Laupies
<i>Saponaria ocymoides</i>	Rock Soapwort	o: on rocks and scree
<i>Silene italica</i>	Italian Catchfly	o: rocky bank near les Gare aux Ânes
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham Catchfly	o: on sunny banks on heavier soils
<i>Silene otites</i>	Spanish Catchfly	o: Causse Méjean near Hûres
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	Meadow beside Dourbie at les Laupies
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort	Riverside grassland beside Dourbie at les Laupies
<b>Celastraceae: Spindles</b>		
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	o: in hedges and deciduous woodland understorey on limestone; <i>buissière</i> at St Martin du Larzac
<b>Cistaceae: Cistuses and Rockroses</b>		
<i>Cistus laurifolius</i>	Laurel-leaved Cistus	f: in woodland understorey on acid soils; on the way to M Aigoual
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	f: in woodland understorey on acid soils; on the way to M Aigoual
<i>Fumana ericoides</i>	Heath Fumana	o: in rocky cause grassland
<i>Helianthemum appeninum</i>	White Rockrose	a: in cause grassland throughout
<i>Helianthemum canum</i>	Hoary Rockrose	f: in cause grassland throughout, especially above Hûres
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Yellow Rockrose	a: in cause grassland throughout



<b>Clusiaceae (Hypericaceae): St John's-worts</b>		
<i>Hypericum hyssopifolium</i>	Hyssop-leaved St John's-wort	r: rocky grassland on Causse du Larzac, near telephone mast
<b>Convolvulaceae: Bindweeds</b>		
<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	Pink Bindweed	la: on rocky roadside cliffs in Cernon valley on the way to Roquefort
<b>Cornaceae: Dogwoods</b>		
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	a: in scrub and woodland on limestone, beside the Dourbie near Nant
<b>Crassulaceae: Stonecrop Family</b>		
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop	a: on roofs, rocks, walls, Cantobre, la Couvertorade
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop	f: on roofs, rocks, walls, Cantobre, la Couvertorade
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Thick-leaved Stonecrop	f: on roofs, rocks, walls, Cantobre, la Couvertorade
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Pennywort, Navelwort	f: on roofs, rocks, walls, Cantobre, la Couvertorade
<b>Cuscutaceae: Dodder Family</b>		
<i>Cuscuta</i> sp	Dodder	r: on roadside near la Gare aux Ânes
<b>Dipsacaceae: Scabious Family</b>		
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	o: on waysides and grassy banks
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small Scabious	o: in rocky grassland, la Gare aux Ânes, Cantobre, Lapanouse
<b>Ericaceae: Heath Family</b>		
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	la: on rocks under pines on Causse Noir
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather	ld: on open hillsides and in alpine grassland on acid soils M Aigoual
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heath	o: in woodland on acid soils, on the way to M Aigoual
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry	f: in alpine grassland on summit of M Aigoual
<b>Euphorbiaceae: Spurge Family</b>		
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge	f: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre; Lapanouse
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge	o: in cause grassland Causses du Larzac
<i>Euphorbia seguierana</i>	Seguier's Spurge	o: in cause grassland Causses du Larzac
<b>Fabaceae (Leguminosae): Pea Family, Legumes</b>		
<i>Anthyllis montana</i>	Mountain Kidney-vetch	a: widespread in causses grassland
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Common Kidney-vetch	a: widespread in causses grassland
<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>	Montpellier Milk-vetch	f: widespread in causses grassland
<i>Colutea arborescens</i>	Bladder Senna	Probably planted: by telephone mast
<i>Coronilla emerus</i>	Scorpion Vetch or False Senna	f: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Cytisus purgans</i> (=C. oromediterraneus)	Pyrenean or Purging Broom	ld: on free-draining acid soils, not yet in full flower
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Common Broom	a: on open hillsides on junction between limestone and schist, on the way to M Aigoual
<i>Dorycnium pentaphyllum</i>	Five-leaved Dorycnium, Five-fingered False Fenugreek	f: on rocky slopes and scree; rocky track on river walk near Nant
<i>Genista hispanica</i>	Spanish Gorse	f: common in cause grassland
<i>Onobrychis supina</i>	Sainfoin	f: in grassland on clayey/calcareous soils
<i>Ononis natrix</i>	Large Yellow Restharrow	r: wayside at Lapanouse
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	f: on embankments and in woodland edges
<i>Trifolium alpinum</i>	Alpine Clover	f: in alpine grassland on summit of M Aigoual
<i>Vicia onobrychoides</i>	False Sainfoin	o: in hedgerows on causses, track opposite la Gare aux Ânes
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch	f: tracks and waysides, railway embankments
<b>Fagaceae: Oaks, Beech and Chestnut</b>		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	ld: in woodland on acid soils on schist
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	a: widespread in damp woodland
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	a: in deciduous woodland on calcareous soils
<b>Fumariaceae: Fumitory Family</b>		
<i>Fumaria</i> sp	Fumitory	r: rocks in Cantobre
<b>Gentianaceae: Gentian Family</b>		
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort	Causse du Larzac near radio mast above Nant; la Pezade
<b>Geraniaceae: Crane's-bills and Stork's-bills</b>		
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	f: shady walls in villages; la Couvertorade; buissière at les Baumes
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	f: dry grassland
<i>Geranium nodosum</i>	Knotted Crane's-bill	o: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow Crane's-bill	Riverside grassland beside Dourbie at les Laupies
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little-Robin	On damp rocks beside Dourbie at les Laupies; Causse du Larzac near radio mast
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	o: riverside grassland beside Dourbie at les Laupies; agricultural areas around la Gare aux Ânes
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	f: hedgerows, damp grassland, rocky grassland and villages throughout
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill	o: sunny walls in villages; la Couvertorade
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill	o: widespread in causses grassland, mostly not yet flowering
<b>Globulariaceae: Globularias</b>		
<i>Globularia punctata</i>	Common Globularia	o: in cause grassland throughout

<b>Lamiaceae (Labiatae): Deadnettle Family, Labiates</b>		
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil	o: rocky track on river walk near Nant
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle	r: riverside grassland beside Dourbie at les Laupies
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Common Lavender	On dry, rocky path above Hûres, Causse Méjean
<i>Mellitis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard Balm	f: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary	f: in dry moderately fertile grassland
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Perennial Yellow Woundwort	o: in rank calcareous grassland; near Troglodyte house, les Baumes; Lapanouse
<i>Teucrium aureum</i>	Golden Felty Germander	f: in cause grassland throughout, just coming into flower
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Wall Germander	f: in cause grassland
<i>Teucrium rouyanum</i>	Rouyan's Felty Germander	o: widespread in causses grassland, just coming into flower
<i>Thymus pulegioides</i>	Larger Wild Thyme	o: widespread in causses grassland
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Common Thyme	a: widespread in causses grassland throughout
<b>Linaceae: Flaxes</b>		
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Flax	o: on rocky hillsides
<i>Linum campanulatum</i>	Yellow Flax	o: widespread among rocks and in grassland on calcareous soils;
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Purging Flax	f: dry grassland
<i>Linum narbonense</i>	Beautiful Flax	o: In grassland at Lapanouse
<i>Linum suffruticosum</i>	White Flax, Pyrenean Flax	f: widespread among rocks and in grassland on calcareous soils
<b>Malvaceae: Mallows</b>		
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf Mallow	r: tracksides near cultivation
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	o: on disturbed ground
<b>Moraceae: Mulberries and Fig</b>		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	Escaped or planted: Cantobre, Nant
<b>Oleaceae: Olive Family</b>		
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Ash	o: rocky woodland and waysides, villages
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Common Ash	f: widespread component of deciduous woodland on causse
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Privet	f: in damp woodland understorey, river walk to Nant
<i>Olea europea</i>	Olive	cultivated and escaped form cultivation, <i>en route</i> to and from Montpellier
<i>Phillyrea media</i>	Mock Privet	o: on rocky hillsides in the gorges
<b>Orobanchaceae: Orobanches</b>		
<i>Orobanche</i> spp	Broomrape	o: in woodland and grassland, villages
<b>Papaveraceae: Poppy Family</b>		
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine	o: on pathsides in Cantobre and Nant
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	a: on waysides and in arable fields
<b>Plantaginaceae: Plantains</b>		
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	f: in fertile grasslands, waysides and disturbed ground
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain	f: in calcareous grassland throughout
<i>Plantago sempervirens</i>	Shrubby Plantain	o: on rocky hillsides; rocky part of woodland walk; Cantobre; rocky bank near Gare aux Ânes
<b>Plumbaginaceae: Plumbago, Sea Lavender and Thrifts</b>		
<i>*Armeria girardii</i>	Gerard's Thrift	la: on Causse du Larzac near la Couvertoirade and at Jassenove; generally rare
<i>Armeria plantaginea</i>	Plantain Thrift	la: on sandy roadsides near les Laupies
<b>Polygalaceae: Milkworts</b>		
<i>Polygala calcarea</i>	Chalk Milkwort	Among rocks near la Couvertoirade
<b>Polygonaceae: Dock Family</b>		
<i>Persicaria bistorta</i>	Bistort	la: in riverside grassland beside Dourbie at les Laupies
<b>Primulaceae: Primrose Family</b>		
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip	o: leaves and seed heads only in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<b>Pyrolaceae: Wintergreens</b>		
<i>Orthilia secunda</i>	Nodding Wintergreen	Under pines, St Jean des Balmes, Causse Noir
<i>Pyrola chlorantha</i>	Green Wintergreen	Under pines, St Jean des Balmes, Causse Noir
<b>Ranunculaceae: Buttercup Family</b>		
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	o: leaves only in alpine grassland on summit of M Aigoual; in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Common Columbine	o: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore	o: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre; among rocks on Causse Méjean
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica, Liverleaf	o: leaves only in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre; near the original entrance to Aven Armand
<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris costeanus</i>	Pasque Flower	r: last few flowers in causses grassland at picnic spot near la Couvertoirade; rocky grassland Lapanouse
<i>Ranunculus aconitifolius</i>	Aconite-leaved Buttercup	o: in riverside grassland and beside bridge over the Dourbie at les Laupies
<i>Thalictrum minus</i> ssp <i>majus</i>	Meadow Rue	Rocky grassland Lapanouse



<b>Rosaceae: Rose Family</b>		
<i>Alchemilla alpigena</i>	Alpine Lady's-mantle	ld: in alpine grassland on summit of M Aigoual
<i>Alchemilla glaucescens</i>	Silky Lady's-mantle	o: in alpine grassland on summit of M Aigoual
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	Snowy Mespilus	f: component of causse scrub
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort	o: in grassland on deeper soils near radio mast Causse du Larzac
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	f: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	o: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	f: component of causse scrub; hedges; along railway line near la Gare aux Ânes
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field Rose	f: waysides; beside Dourbie near les Laupies
<i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>	Burnet Rose	o: component of causse scrub
<i>Rubus</i> spp.	Bramble (several species)	f: widespread on waysides, in woodland edges and in causse scrub
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	o: in deciduous woodland on calcareous soils and component of causse scrub
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad burnet	o: damp or shady grassland on alkaline soils
<b>Rubiaceae: Bedstraws</b>		
<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>	Squinancywort	o: widespread in causses grassland
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	la: in riverside grassland beside Dourbie at les Laupies
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw	f: in waysides and hedgerows
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder	f: causse scrub and in woodland beside Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<b>Santalaceae: Bastard Toadflax and Sandalwood Family</b>		
<i>Thesium divaricatum</i>	Bastard Toadflax	o: widespread among rocks and in grassland on calcareous soils
<b>Saxifragaceae: Saxifrages</b>		
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage	o: in meadow below summit of M Aigoual
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage	f: walls in la Couvertorade ; Cantobre
<b>Scrophulariaceae: Foxgloves, Toadflaxes and Speedwells</b>		
<i>Asarina procumbens</i>	Creeping Snapdragon	o: on rocks and buildings Cantobre and Nant
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	f: roadsides and woodland edges on acid soils
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy Foxglove	o: shady rock crevices and walls: Cantobre; beside railway at Lapanouse;
<i>Rhinanthus mediterraneus</i>	Mediterranean Yellow-rattle	la: in grassland on deeper soils
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Lesser Yellow-rattle	o: in grassland on deeper soils
<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	French Figwort	o: in grassland at Lapanouse
<i>Verbascum pulverulentum</i>	Hoary Mullein	meadow and track beside the Dourbie near Nant
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	Cymbalaria-leaved Speedwell	o: stone walls in villages la Couvertorade, Cantobre
<b>Solanaceae: Nightshade Family</b>		
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Henbane	la: in the donkeys' field Gare aux Ânes; near Radio Mast, Causse du Larzac
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Woody Nightshade	Near Vulture Information Centre, Gorges de la Jonte
<b>Thymeliaceae: Daphne Family</b>		
<i>Daphne alpina</i>	Alpine Mezereon	Among rocks at picnic spot near la Couvertorade
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel	o: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<b>Tiliaceae: Limes</b>		
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Large-leaved Lime	Lapanouse
<b>Ulmaceae: Elm Family</b>		
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm	Gare aux Ânes; Lapanouse
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Small-leaved Elm	f: in hedgerows
<b>Urticaceae: Nettle Family</b>		
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	a: waysides, hedgerows and disturbed ground
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-Wall	o: old walls and rocks, especially in villages
<b>Valerianaceae: Valerian Family</b>		
<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>	A Valerian	r: on cliffs and among rocks; Cantobre
<i>Centranthus lecoqii</i>	Lecoque's Red Valerian	r: on cliffs and among rocks; Cantobre
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	Garden escape Cantobre
<i>Valeriana dioica</i>	Marsh Valerian	In riverside grassland beside Dourbie at les Laupies
<b>Violaceae: Violets and Pansies</b>		
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog Violet	f: in alpine grassland on summit of M Aigoual
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Wild Pansy	f: in riverside grassland beside Dourbie at les Laupies
<b>Vitaceae: Vines</b>		
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Vine	o: in scrub & on walls in sheltered gorges; en route to/from Montpellier
<b>MONOCOTYLEDONS</b>		
<b>Cyperaceae: Sedge Family</b>		
<i>Carex caryophyllea</i>	Spring Sedge	f: alpine grassland at the summit of M Aigoual
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	f: in calcareous grassland on deeper soils; la Pezade
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood Sedge	o: woodland beside R Dourbie at Nant
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	Black Bog-rush	o: deeper soils on causse
<b>Dioscoreaceae: Black Bryony</b>		
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	o: in hedgerows; beside track between woodland and campsite in Dourbie valley

<b>Juncaceae: Rush Family</b>		
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed Rush	r: lavogne near radio mast, Causse du Larzac
<i>Luzula nivea</i>	Snowy Wood-rush	o: in riverside grassland beside Dourbie at les Laupies
<b>Liliaceae: Lily Family</b>		
<i>Anthericum liliago</i>	St. Bernard's Lily	o: on rocky roadsides and among rocks and bushes in grassland on calcareous soils
<i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i>	Blue Aphyllanthes	ld: at its peak flowering, banks and rocky hillsides on calcareous soils
<i>Asphodelus cerasiferus</i>	Asphodel	o: cause grassland at Lapanouse
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	f: widespread in causses grassland, mostly finished flowering
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem	o: widespread among rocks and in grassland on calcareous soils
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom	o: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i> <i>ssp australis</i>	Wild Tulip	o: in roadside grassland below summit of M Aigoual
<i>Veratrum album</i>	White False-helleborine	Single clump in riverside grassland beside Dourbie at les Laupies, not in flower
<b>Orchidaceae: Orchids</b>		
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man Orchid	la: widespread in causses grassland on deeper soils, near Gare aux Ânes, around St Jean des Balmes, near radio mast and at Lapanouse on Causse du Larzac
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	la: at their best, widespread in causses grassland,
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine	r: single specimen at Lapanouse
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Helleborine, Sword-leaved Helleborine	f: under pines near <i>toit-citerne</i> on Causse Noir
<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>	Red Helleborine	o: under pines on Causse du Larzac and Causse Noir (not yet flowering); single flowering plant in riverside woodland near Cantobre
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid	lf: in roadside grassland below summit of M Aigoual
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine	r: near <i>toit-citerne</i> on Causse Noir
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid	lf: la Pezade
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid	f: widespread in grassland, waysides, cause; coming out during the week
<i>Listera ovata</i>	Common Twayblade	o: scattered in grassland at la Pezade;
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's-nest Orchid	lf: under pines near <i>toit-citerne</i> , around St Jean des Balmes
<i>Ophrys aveyronensis</i>	Aveyron Orchid	r: some good plants in sheltered hollow near Lapanouse station
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid	r: a good specimen at la Pezade
<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock Orchid	r: single individual at la Pezade
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid	o: several (over) at la Pezade and near radio mast
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	Military Orchid	lf: on Causse du Larzac: near telephone mast, at la Pezade, near radio mast above Nant and at Lapanouse
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	o: a few below St Jean des Balmes, Causse Noir and Lapanouse
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid	o: good specimen under pine near telephone mast on Causse du Larzac; a few specimens still recognisable at la Pezade, near radio mast above Nant and at Lapanouse
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey Orchid	o: a few specimens still recognisable on Causse du Larzac near radio mast above Nant and at Lapanouse
<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	Burnt Orchid, Burnt-tip Orchid	lf: at Lapanouse; o: on Causse Noir, near the <i>toit-citerne</i> and on the Causse du Larzac near radio mast above Nant
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid	lf: on Causse du Larzac: near la Couvertoirade, near radio mast above Nant and at Lapanouse
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid	r: single good specimens near telephone mast, near radio mast and at la Pezade on Causse du Larzac
<b>Poaceae (Gramineae): Grasses</b>		
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat	ld: roadsides and waste places
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	la: ditches and windbreaks, <i>en route</i> to and from Montpellier
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild Oat	la: roadsides, tracksides
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking Grass	f: widespread in causses grassland
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's Foot	f: on waysides and in rough grassland
<i>Festuca vivipara</i>	Viviparous Fescue	o: cause grassland, picnic spot nr. la Couvertoirade; f: M Aigoual
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye Grass	f: cultivated grassland
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melick	o: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	Matt Grass	ld: in alpine grassland on summit of M Aigoual
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	ld: reedbeds at Mauguio
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow Grass	la: trampled areas; la Gare aux Ânes
<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	Wood Meadow Grass	f: riverside woodland between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Stipa pennata</i>	Feather Grass, Angel's Hair, <i>Cheveu d'Ange</i>	ld: widespread in causses grassland
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Golden Oat Grass	a: meadows at la Pezade