



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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The Cévennes
30 May – 8 June 2014

Participants

Jill Jordan
Lesley Scott
Suzanne Hunter
John & Ann Titchmarsh
David Nind & Shevaun Mendelsohn
John Rumpus & Rosemary Macdonald
Geoff & Hazel Woodard
Gillian Thackeray
Malcolm & Jane Key

Leaders

Robin & Rachel 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, those edged green by John Rumpus, and elsewhere as indicated.

Front cover photos by John Rumpus as follows:-

Top row – griffon vultures; Fairy Foxglove; black-veined white and forester moths on Viper's Bugloss.

Middle row – scarce swallowtail on Pyramidal Orchid; sheep of the Cévennes, red-backed shrike.

Bottom row – Przewalski's horse; purple-shot copper; Gerard's Thrift.

Below – the group at the Cirque de Navacelles (M/J K).

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 towards the protection of vultures and other wildlife of the Grands Causses was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust. During the holiday, a cheque for €807 was presented to Noémie Ziletti, Project Officer for the LPO Reintroduction Programme on les Grands Causses.

This brings the total given to LPO since 1991 to £20,556. The total for conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays up to early June 2014 is £95,477.

Daily Diary

Day 1: Friday 30 May – Arrival

We all left an overcast Stansted on various southbound flights: Robin and Rachel at daybreak, to collect minibuses from Carcassonne, and the main group at lunchtime, heading for Rodez. Recently expanded and refurbished, Rodez is now one of the more traveller-friendly of the French provincial airports: light, airy and well-equipped. We were able to draw the vehicles up right outside and David, on lookout, soon alerted the group and thrust very welcome cups of coffee into Robin and Rachel's hands after their long drive from Carcassonne. A few minutes later, we were heading towards our destination on a sunny and comfortably warm late afternoon.

The road verges were blue with Clary and Viper's Bugloss; there were gasps of admiration at the pretty villages with their buildings of local stone and cascades of climbing roses; several black and red kites and a buzzard or two wheeled overhead. The famous Millau viaduct came into view, stretching across the valley onto the Causse du Larzac and we slowed the vehicles down to wonder at the impressive views – the viaduct itself, the astonishing drop below (the height of the Eiffel Tower!) and the beautiful scenery on either side. We soon left the *autoroute* and took a narrow winding lane through the gently undulating rocky countryside, blue, yellow, white and pink with flowers, and arrived at la Gare aux Ânes.

Sylvain and Nicolas were there to welcome us, and so were their donkeys Mocha and Pistache, and the last two members of our group, Geoff and Hazel who had driven over from the west. An amazing chorus of nightingale, blackcap and serin surrounded us, all singing from the trees and bushes in the garden. After a quick allocation of rooms and a little settling-in time, we assembled in the dining room for a drink and an unmistakably French dinner (Sylvain's cuisine has a reputation for excellence throughout the region): *salade aux gésiers*, *sauté de lapin aux champignons*, cheeses and finally, *framboisier* (a layered, creamy raspberry cake) for dessert.

As we made our way to bed, the nightingale was still singing in the garden.

Day 2: Saturday 31 May – Exploring the Causse du Larzac around la Gare aux Ânes, la Couvertorade and la Pezade

We woke to a bright, chilly morning, with a moderate breeze. The nightingale that had lulled us to sleep and entertained us throughout the night was still singing brilliantly. We were greeted at breakfast by Armelle who charmingly and efficiently prepared fresh coffee for us and directed us to an assortment of delights for breakfast: cold ham and cheese, fresh baguettes, croissants and *pain au chocolat*, with a selection of delicious home-made and *Bonne Maman* jams, as well as cereals and yoghurt, fruit juice and an assortment of teas.

We set off south in the minibuses and drove a mile or two over the flowery and rocky Causse du Larzac. We turned off along a rough track up the hill and drew to a halt, bruising the aromatic herbs that scented the air that enveloped us as we climbed out of the vehicles. This was an opportunity for everyone to absorb the extraordinary environment, incredibly rich and diverse, and to enjoy what we could find. To start with, there were three species of blue butterfly to be seen: Shevaun found an Adonis blue, John R found a common blue and Gill spotted a green-underside blue, which she caught in her hands for all of us to look at. John T found a six-spot burnet moth and there were several ascalaphids *Libelloides coccajus* menacingly quartering the grassy clearings. Gill called us over to a crab spider that had caught a small cricket.

Bonelli's warblers were singing and John R's persistence earned him a brief view. Hazel caught the sound of a distant cuckoo calling and Jill's shout of 'raptor' drew everyone's attention to a few distant griffon vultures. There were blackcaps singing and we followed the song of a woodlark and watched as another, presumably his mate, flew over, carrying food.

Others were enjoying the wealth of plants at our feet. There was Pyrenean Flax, Burnet Rose, several rockrose species, Mountain Lettuce, the dwarf knapweed-relative *Carduncellus*, Butterfly Orchids (mostly Lesser but one Greater – we examined their pollinia, and the shape of the top sepal). Lesley found Star of Bethlehem, Jane found a Tassel Hyacinth, Rosemary and Suzanne found a Small Spider Orchid, Gill found Blue Flax and Hazel found a superb Lady Orchid in perfect condition, standing majestically but shyly, half hidden behind a pine tree.

We picked out the fragrant 'Common' Thyme, unfamiliar to us as a wild plant but often grown as a culinary herb, and the commonest thyme in the causse grassland sward. There was evidence of wild boar rootings among plants of Early Purple Orchid; wild boars have a great liking for their tubers. At the top of the track we were entertained by the presence of a magnificent telephone mast, towering above the surrounding pine trees, and crudely but enterprisingly mimicking their structure.

We tore ourselves away and carried on for another couple of miles, to turn off-road again along another track among the rocks. We had a little time to explore before lunch. Beside the track, there were drifts of Blue Aphyllanthes, little clumps of the *cause* endemics Gerard's Thrift and Cévennes Alpine Aster; the rocks were covered in the deep purple flowers of Larger Wild Thyme. We added two more mammals to our list of sightings – or signs at least: a hare, which Geoff saw as it ran away across the field, and moles, whose hills were much in evidence on the deeper soils. Hazel spotted two distant buzzards soaring over the hill and we heard, but didn't manage to spot, a subalpine warbler singing nearby. There was a latticed heath moth fluttering in the long grass and a little group of small blues salting by the track.



Burnet Rose.



Lady Orchid.
(RH)

We spread out our picnic lunch in a sheltered glade among the rocks. There was a feast of rice salad with beetroot, tomato, apricots and cornichons, with home-made dressing; home-made pâté; fresh bread; two or three camembert cheeses; fresh apricots and apple compôte; all to be washed down with red wine (or chilled water).

The fortified Templar village of la Couvertoirade was our next destination. We found some shade for the minibuses in the car park and strolled down the lane towards the village. There was a white wagtail by the car park and we watched it as it joined its family on the roof of a nearby building. We could hear a distant hoopoe – and hoped fruitlessly for a glimpse. Crowds of swifts screamed overhead and we watched them fly up to nests under the tiles of the village fortifications. Shevaun pointed up to a large raptor and identified a short-toed eagle for us. Once we were through the gate into the fortified village, the character changed: sparrows and swallows appeared and a male black redstart sang to his mate from a rooftop by the church.

The plant interest was all in the walls and rocky cliffs: tiny ferns, fleshy stonecrops and Wall Pennywort all took advantage of the crevices, shady corners and overhangs. An Adonis blue and a small blue were salting in a dried-up puddle, John R photographed an Oberthur's grizzled skipper and Malcolm spotted the dramatic (but harmless) violet carpenter bee.



Oberthur's grizzled skipper.



Green-underside blue.

People explored the village – a very rewarding source of holiday souvenirs. One destination was the charming shop selling beautifully made wooden toys and hand crafts that is managed by Armelle, our lovely breakfast waitress. And the shop next door had delightful hand-made knitwear from wool from the local sheep, and stylish babies' and children's clothes – perfect for

new grandchildren! Many of us gravitated to one of the cafés in the square and paused for refreshments and then we all gathered under the south gate where Jane found a large green lizard – much photographed.

A short walk down the hill from the village took us to one of the special pastoral features of the region: a *lavogne*. This is a stone-paved pond – part catchment-fed, part dew-pond – vital to the management of the flocks of sheep that have traditionally grazed the *cause*. The grasslands are extremely arid throughout the summer and the flocks of *brebis* are led to the *lavogne* to drink morning and evening, at the beginning and end of their day's grazing. There was a band of drying mud around the edge of the water and there, a scarce swallowtail and several green-underside blues and small blues were salting; we were able to train binoculars onto them and carefully identify their features.

A large water beetle and lots of tadpoles swam about and fed in the shallow water. Beyond the *lavogne*, a number of people had gathered and we were startled to catch a glimpse of a large raptor low over the field. Then we realised we were seeing a falconry demonstration! We made our way back to the car park, adding great tit and starling to our list on the way.



Left: a Frog Orchid with colour and lip structure similar to Man Orchid.

Above: Passiontide Orchid.

Our last destination for the day was an area of grassland on slightly deeper soil near the village of La Pezade, on the far side of the *autoroute*. A corn bunting was singing as we arrived, but it was soon clear that it was the profusion of flowers – and orchids in particular – that would captivate us. A rather odd green orchid caught our attention: a Frog Orchid but with some clear Man Orchid features; a hybrid perhaps, but rather unlikely as it does not seem to be a reliably recorded hybrid. There were plenty of typical Frog Orchids, Fly Orchids, several Lesser and one Greater Butterfly Orchid,

stands of Military Orchids, several (rather past their prime) Lady Orchids, a Passiontide Orchid, a Woodcock Orchid and a fine stand of Fragrant Orchids which were still only in bud. In

the shelter of some Box bushes, Rosemary found Twayblade and Green Hellebore and Gill found a lovely group of Globe-headed Rampion.

It was time to head back to la Gare aux Ânes. We met for drinks and to go over our day, and then sat down to dinner: vegetable soup followed by *pavé de boeuf* (cooked according to taste, though several people chose the French way!) with *gratin de legumes* and potato purée, followed by cheese and then a chocolate pudding with cream and *crème anglaise*.

Again, we made our way to our rooms accompanied by the brilliant song of the nightingale just outside our window.

Day 3: Sunday 1 June – The Causse Noir and the Vultures of the Gorges de la Jonte

It was warmer today, with a clear blue sky – hardly a cloud; perfect for an early walk. So we set off across the road, along the track that leads into the causse grassland. The garden blackcaps, nightingales and serins were all singing their hearts out. In the damp grass, sleepy butterflies were gradually making their way up the grass stems and warming up, so we were able to have close looks at both sexes of common blue and a small heath. A distant quail was calling from deep in the field of Lucerne beside the track; later on, it became clearer and perhaps nearer, and everyone was able to catch the distinctive song. As we got onto the more open grassland, John T noticed some extensive wild boar rootings and there were more butterflies waking up: wall brown on a rock, its wings spread to catch the warmth of the early sun, and a pair of black-veined whites 'in cop'. The scattered bushes make excellent song-posts; there was a fine singing corn bunting and a male stonechat with two young. Shevaun pointed out the best skylark of the week so far, in full song above our heads and, on our walk back for breakfast, there were both male and female ciril buntings on top of the hedge.



Ciril bunting.

Back at la Gare aux Ânes for breakfast we got a very happy greeting from Armelle who had miraculously remembered all our particular coffee and tea requirements. Then we loaded the picnic into the minibuses and set off on a longer expedition over the Causse Noir to the Gorges de la Jonte.

A gentle drive northwards from the hotel took us down to the little town of Nant, in the valley of the River Dourbie. From there, we followed the river as it wound first north and then west, downstream towards Millau and its confluence with the larger, more famous River Tarn.

It is a beautiful drive, between high rocky cliffs and inviting riverine woodland, with occasional glimpses of improbably perched mountain villages and strange rocky outcrops – ‘ruiniform reliefs’, the guidebooks call them. About halfway to Millau is the village of la Roc Ste Marguerite, where we turned sharply right and climbed steeply out of the valley onto the Causse Noir. The contrast with the Causse du Larzac is immediately clear – more gently undulating, much less obviously rocky, and clothed in dark pinewoods – the ‘noir’ of the name. We drove over the cause for a few miles and stopped in an area of open pinewood.



The *toit-citerne*.

Set back from the road there is a curious structure of great antiquity and local significance. It is a roof without a building, constructed at ground level and following the contours of the ground, built specifically to catch water and store it in a great underground cistern. Water would have been at a considerable premium up here for living and for watering livestock, and this ‘*toit-citerne*’ or ‘roof-cistern’ is a beautiful, and beautifully preserved, historical feature.



Bird's-nest Orchid.



Aymonin's Orchid.

As it happens, it is also a very good place to stop and explore. Several Bonelli's warblers were singing around us and Hazel and Geoff's perseverance was rewarded by a good view. There were lots of butterflies: small copper, pale clouded yellow, green hairstreak. There were several Sword-leaved Helleborines, some still looking very pretty, and a Broad-leaved Helleborine not yet in flower. The greatest excitement was caused by the display of Bird's-nest Orchids in fine flower under the shade of the pines and there was also a good-sized group of one of the cause endemic orchids, Aymonin's Orchid – like a fly orchid but with a little yellowish border to its lip. There

were some ant-lion pits sheltered by a small rocky overhang and an ant-lion larva was tempted to show itself for a moment in response to slight disturbance on the lip if its crater.

A little further on, we pulled into a car park close to another historic building, the Priory of St Jean des Balmes. This is a more extensive complex, including a chapel with a well-preserved tower, set in an area of mature mixed woodland – and another good place to explore for wildlife. Firecrests sang nearby, and they were joined by a goldcrest, which Geoff and John R managed to watch as it crept through the canopy of the pine trees. We listened to a tree pipit singing, at first from treetops, and then we watched it in more typical song-flight. There were lots more Bird's-nest Orchids – it must have been an exceptionally good year for them – and we found extensive patches of Green and of Nodding Wintergreens, just coming into full flower.

We spread out our picnic lunch in the chapel courtyard: baguettes; delicious beef and spinach tortilla; lentil, chick pea and tomato salad with Sylvain's special French dressing; cheese; crisps; fresh apricots and kiwi fruit and little pots of fruit compôte; plenty of red wine and water to drink. While we were tucking in, John R climbed up the chapel tower to take a photograph of us all. And on the way back to the minibuses, Lesley found us some Tassel Hyacinths.

Our road continued across the Causse Noir until we turned northwards to wind our way down into the next valley, the Gorges de la Jonte. Half way down there is a viewpoint where we stopped to look at the spectacular view across the gorge, to the point where the famous Gorges du Tarn joins the Jonte. We could see our next target, the village of le Rozier, lying in the valley below us, and tiny dots on the cliff opposite were a party of rock climbers.

Turning east from le Rozier, we drove the 6 km or so to our final destination of the day, the *Maison des Vautours*, the Vulture Visitor Centre, at le Truel. We were expected, and given the 'red carpet' treatment as their guests because we were to present the Honeyguide conservation donation to the LPO, which part-funds the vulture projects. They gave us a comprehensive guided tour of the visitor centre and took us out onto the viewing platform where we looked at several griffon vultures on the nest, with lumbering chicks precariously perched in crevices in the cliff. There were lovely views of crag martins and ravens, but for all the shouts of 'are those choughs?' they turned out to be jackdaws. In the lecture theatre, we watched a video about the reintroduction programme, not only for griffon vultures but also for black vultures and, less successfully so far, for lammergeiers – bearded vultures as the French prefer to call them. And after this, we made a formal presentation to the project officer, Noémie Ziletti, for the LPO Reintroduction Programme on les Grands Causses, of the Honeyguide cheque for €807, and received a very warm and grateful response.



Robin presents Honeyguide's cheque.
(M/J K)

We were disappointed to discover that the little café on the way up the gorge towards Meyreuis was closed, so we pressed on – a longish way, but a beautiful evening. We had wonderful views over a different part of the Causse Noir, dropped down into the Gorges du Trévezet and rejoined the Dourbie valley at Cantobre.

The review of the day was speedily completed and we sat down to another of Sylvain's exciting displays of regional cuisine: *tarte aux Roquefort*, lamb chops with potatoes and mixed vegetables, a cheese selection of course, and then *tarte aux pommes* with homemade vanilla ice cream.

And still the nightingale sang....

Day 4: Monday 2 June – Mont Aigoual and the True Cévennes

This morning was warmer still, and again perfect sunshine; how lucky we felt as we set off across the road before breakfast. We decided to stride out, and not be distracted until we had passed the arable fields; it was high time that we saw a shrike! Malcolm spotted the first greenfinch of the week and a cuckoo called as we walked briskly along. We stopped as the view opened out. A kestrel flew over as we set up telescopes and, right on cue, a male red-backed shrike appeared on top of a hawthorn bush. He showed up very nicely through the telescopes and then a female joined him. We watched for a while, looking at corn buntings and looking out for the stonechat family that we had seen yesterday. There were latticed heath, common blue and Adonis blue all sleepily perched on grass stems and Gill found a sleeping small blue, which sat obligingly on her hand to be photographed. John R spotted a roebuck on the hillside, calmly wandering about, clearly alert but apparently oblivious of our presence nearby. Breakfast was calling us, so we turned back, startling both blue tit and great tit as we walked up the drive into the garden.

For today's expedition, we joined the Dourbie valley again at Nant and then turned east and headed upstream along the southern side of the river. A buzzard flew across close in front of us as we approached St Jean du Bruel. We climbed steadily, leaving the main limestone plateau behind and skirting the edge of the more acid, less permeable, schistic rocks. These are covered in Sweet Chestnut woodland, and the fruits and wood of the chestnut tree are at the heart of the traditional Cévenol culture and economy. This is the true Cévennes. At times, the ancient chestnut wood closed over our heads with little stone buildings – *clèdes* – built for chestnut roasting, on the hillside beside the road. At times huge vistas opened up revealing the cliffs of the Gorges de la Dourbie, gentle hillsides golden with broom or the inviting peaks of Mont Aigoual, our destination. We crossed the river at Dourbies and then continued up the Dourbie to les Laupies.



The River Dourbie at les Laupies.

In les Laupies we stopped by the road – crag martins were flying around the cottage roofs – and walked down the track to a peaceful path beside the river. There were clouds of little black moths – chimney sweepers – in the long damp grass. We admired a fine plant of Leopard's-bane, and several striking clumps of Snowy Wood-rush. Suzanne found a Roman snail, which Shevaun rescued from its precarious position in the path, and we came across a large black slug *Arion ater*. There was Meadow Saxifrage, the very attractive, large, white flowered Aconite-leaved Buttercup, Maiden Pink, Meadow Crane's-bill – all new for the week. We stood on the bridge and watched a grey wagtail on a rock below us, and the pond skaters were at risk from that, and from the brown trout riding the currents in the stream. A grizzled skipper was sunning itself on a rock and Lesley arrived at the bridge with news of Wild Tulips. Back in the village, goldfinches were flying up to their nest in a spruce tree.

We continued up to the summit of Mt Aigoual. The weather was not quite as pleasant as it had been; clouds had gathered and the wind had got up so, at that altitude, the temperature was distinctly chilly. We explored the geography briefly – the 'Victorian' castle that houses the very modern weather station, café, loos etc, and we went up to the panoramic viewpoint, and got our bearings. A brief moment of sunshine let some of us glimpse the Mediterranean. Then it was lunchtime. We found a bit of shelter from the wind and spread our picnic where we could look down on some scattered trees and a scree slope, and the glorious view beyond. We were rewarded with some beautiful, freshly-emerged small tortoiseshells and painted ladies, a yellowhammer singing on a bush below us, and a tree pipit singing nearby. The botanically inclined braved the biting wind and crawled about on the alpine meadow. The thymes, lady's mantles, Alpine Clover and Mountain Everlasting made a really colourful and fragrant spectacle. But Jill's generous offer to treat us all to a cup of hot coffee was very gratefully received! The extremely well presented meteorological museum was also well worth a visit, as was the well-stocked shop: maps, books, cards, meteorological equipment.



Yellowhammer, two colour forms of Elderflower Orchid and Mosaic Puffball.

On the way down again we stopped to admire a bank where Elderflower Orchids were in peak condition and Wild Tulips and Wild Daffodils were not quite over. There were a few specimens of a giant puffball – not our familiar edible one – beside the road, and we had a superb view of a tree pipit in the sunshine, singing as it flew from tree to tree; we struggled to tear David away from his new friend. We stopped briefly about a mile below the summit, at a shop that sells regional produce: chestnut flour, chestnut jam, chestnut liqueur, chestnut bread, chestnut purée..... and stocked up, and then set off for home. This time, at Dourbies, we took the main road which follows the contours high above the river on the north side of the valley. This gave us a very different prospect as some of the time we were on the granite, with heathland species on the hillside above us. We soon dropped down to St Jean du Bruel again, and back to la Gare aux Ânes.

There is a great local dish, found throughout the southern Massif Central – *aligot*. It's not easy to make, but Sylvain excels. It is made by hand, beating melted cheese into mashed potato until it develops a strange smooth, elastic texture and meltingly delicious flavour. Traditionally, it is served with Toulouse sausages. So, after a tasty bowl of hot vegetable soup, served with crème fraîche, *aligot et saucisson* appeared, and after the great spread of cheeses, the meal was rounded off with *île flottante*.

Tonight, there were glow-worms as well as nightingales!

Day 5: Tuesday 3 June – The Heart of the Causse du Larzac

We woke to another fine sunny morning. Lovely as the track opposite is, we felt we'd like a change so the 'early birds' strode out along the road towards the crossroads and the Crossing-Keeper's Cottage. We scrambled round and onto the abandoned railway track, passing Tassel Hyacinths beside the road and Lizard and Man Orchids by the cottage.

We heard a melodious warbler and briefly watched it as it sang in a tree beside the track. Ahead, we heard a woodlark and caught a glimpse of it as it perched for a moment on top of a bush; and we could hear two other woodlarks singing at the same time. On another bush, a whitethroat was singing. There were butterflies about – we had a very good view of a small heath and, back at the crossing, David found a lovely scarce swallowtail on a Pyramidal Orchid and a fine spike of Viper's Bugloss with a black-veined white as well as two forester moths – all very photogenic.

Our plan for today was a little out of the ordinary, centred around lunch! We drove down through Nant and then up again onto the more westerly part of the Causse du Larzac. A sharp turn at the top of the hill took us onto a winding track along the cliff top – the cliff edge hidden from us by a belt of pines. We stopped at the cliff top viewpoint by the radio mast. There were a lot of chimney sweepers and wall browns, and the Sermountain flower heads were packed with beetles, spiders and shield bugs. We admired the astonishing view: Nant, nestling in the valley, Mt Aigoual presiding over the distant horizon, the river Dourbie meandering along the valley, the village of Cantobre perched on its rocky promontory.

We followed the path along the cliff top, past a little partly natural *lavogne*. There were rushes fringing the far side and we were charmed by a pair of broad-bodied chasers; she was flying low over the water, periodically dipping the tip of her abdomen into the water to lay eggs while he guarded her, clearly on patrol a foot or so above her. There was a subalpine warbler singing and then we heard a brief snatch of song from an Orphean warbler which we followed through the developing scrub – though it remained invisible. There were plenty of flowers in the long grass: Alpine Aster, Yellow Rattle, Kidney Vetch, milk vetches and rock roses. Lady and Military Orchids were fading but there were some good Man Orchids and Lesser Butterfly Orchids, and again a single larger, stouter butterfly orchid, with oblique pollinia and a wide upper sepal – a good Greater Butterfly Orchid. John R got some lovely photos, one of a green hairstreak and one of a pale-coloured clouded yellow – given the available food-plants (Kidney Vetch was abundant there, but neither White Clover nor Lucerne were in evidence), it was most likely to be Berger's rather than a pale clouded yellow, but even from the excellent photograph, it is hard to be certain.

We returned to the main road and quickly turned off again, along a straight, narrow but well-made road to the village of Montredon, and a quick stop at a very charming *lavogne*, nestling in some scrubby grassland beyond the village, with a nice cock chaffinch drinking.

Our lunchtime destination was the *Ferme Auberge Jassenove*, a charming family-run restaurant, serving traditional Aveyronnais lunches with ingredients all (except the Roquefort and some of the other cheeses) from their own farm and garden. We had a very warm welcome from Catherine and Renaud Galtier and sat in the garden with an *aperitif* (their speciality is a quince liqueur, '*Joli Coing*'), and then we were called in to a feast: Roquefort soufflé (mild, sweet and delicious enough to convert anyone with a fear of Roquefort), homemade terrine, salad, tender pink lamb (their *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. After lunch we were ready for some exercise and we set off for a short walk around some of the Jassenove grounds. Swallows were everywhere, nesting in the farm buildings and coursing over the fields around the house. We had a very good view of a cuckoo in flight and of a raven.

Time was pressing on, so we got back into the buses for a short drive to les Baumes, a tiny hamlet but worth a detour for two exceptional reasons. The first confronts you as you drive up to the village – the view is dominated by a substantial ancient troglodyte house built into the rock. These structures are rare enough, but to be able to visit, go into and explore the house is very unusual. It has recently had some restoration work done on it, but it still captures the imagination vividly. The only inhabitants now are black redstarts, nesting on a ledge. Butterflies bask on the doorstep, crevices in the rock-face outside are home to thyme and grasses, and black redstarts sing from the overhang above. And from outside the doorway, it is possible to see what appears to be a thick hedgerow, winding up the hill to the neighbouring village, St Martin du Larzac, a kilometre or so away. This is the second special feature of les Baumes, a *buissière*, an ancient double box hedgerow, grown almost into a tunnel, a relic of an ancient track-way that would have been used by generations of caussenards to travel, sometimes with livestock, sheltered from the extreme weather conditions – both hot and cold – of the high causse. Most of the group elected to follow the route of the *buissière*, guided by Robin. They had good views of male and female red-backed shrikes and heard a quail calling in a field nearby.



The *buissière* between les Baumes and St Martin du Larzac.

Rachel drove the others round to the St Martin end, also seeing red-backed shrikes, and a party of linnets, and then exploring St Martin before meeting in the darkness of the box tunnel. The *buissière* group had a look at St Martin, where Geoff found a red admiral. Then when we had retrieved the other minibus we retraced our journey home.

An early 'light' dinner was scheduled (after the excesses of Jassenove): a tasty buffet of salads, cold meats, cheeses and tarts. The plan was to return to the Dourbie to look for beavers in the river below Cantobre.

It was a pleasant, warm evening and the convoy set off, (equipped with telescopes, warm clothes and midge repellent). A great spotted woodpecker flew by and then a roe deer crossed the road right in front of us. However, about three quarters of the way to Nant, Rachel's minibus suddenly blew a tyre! Robin's bus came back and we began an interesting quest inside and under the vehicle for a spare tyre; it seems that it had been sacrificed for the sophisticated air condition system! So, after a fairly uncomplicated phone call or two, and a wait of about five minutes for the breakdown vehicle (based in Nant, at the bottom of the hill), Rachel's vehicle was borne away and we ferried the group back to la Gare aux Ânes, and a welcome drink on the terrace!

Day 6: Wednesday 4 June - Nant, Cantobre and the Dourbie

There was no magical sunshine this morning, but it was mild, perhaps threatening rain. We had decided against an early walk because of the excitements of the night before, and because of the need for time to do a bit of programme rescheduling. The long drive to the Causse Méjean was clearly not feasible until a replacement vehicle was found, so after Robin made a swift phone call to Aven Armand, the Wednesday and Thursday schedules were switched.



Coffee break at Nant.

After breakfast, we ran a shuttle service into Nant. Rachel went with the first group, gave them some pointers to interesting and important sites and buildings, and arranged a rendezvous (coffee at 10.45 at the cafe under the stone arches, *les Halles*), and then met the second group to repeat the process. We were amused to watch workmen on ladders weeding the stone roof of the ancient arcade. We greatly enjoyed watching the gentle bustle of the little town. Swifts, house martins and crag martins nest in the house roofs or under the eaves and in the fine Romanesque church, and we watched them overhead and admired their unerring ability to direct their flight straight into their tiny nest holes. There was a family of black redstarts about, the male hopping around the café tables, fearless of us, and very photographable. Geoff and Hazel joined us; they had strolled down to the old bridge and had been watching a dipper.

After coffee, we all made our way down to the old bridge, and just as we arrived, Suzanne spotted a kingfisher. We stood on the bridge for a while, hoping for a return visit from either the dipper or the kingfisher. There were grey wagtails, a family party flitting about. Blackcaps, great tits and serins sang from the alders and crag martins fed over the water. (The group greatly enjoyed the spectacle of Robin standing on the bridge, with one hand fielding a phone call from the car-hire people about a replacement vehicle, and with the other, wielding binoculars and trying to identify what appeared improbably, to be some non-European species of crane circling overhead.)

We divided into two groups: striders and strollers. The striders set off with Robin to walk the three miles or so along the north side of the river to Cantobre. The first part of the walk was along a farm track beside arable fields. There were clumps of Birthwort and Lizard Orchids in the grassy bank, both in full flower, and Venus's Looking-glass and Cornflowers along the edge of an arable field. Next door was an amazing field of barley, full of Poppies, Corn Cockle and more Venus's Looking-glass. Close to the woods, a green woodpecker flew by, calling. In the sunshine, on a rocky part of the track, there were lots of small heaths, speckled wood and a pearly heath, which John R managed to photograph.



Poppies and Corn Cockle.

There were one or two places where it was possible to get down to the river and there were both male and female beautiful demoiselles. John T admired some Blue Gromwell and there was a shout of 'ooh' from Lesley as she found the first Red Helleborine. The path winds on through the wood, under Ash and Downy Oak, Field Maple and Montpellier Maple trees, and with a rich understorey and ground flora of Hazel, Box, Dogwood, Spurge Laurel, Green Hellebore, grasses and ferns. There were the spotted leaves of lungwort (this subspecies a Cévennes endemic) and the blotchy leaves of Hepatica, and pink flowers of Bastard Balm and Knotted Crane's bill for the sharp-eyed.

The strollers took the minibus to the bridge at the entrance to the Val de Cantobre campsite. There was an encouraging flash of a kingfisher as soon as we arrived. Then a dipper appeared, and perched on a rock downstream. It bobbed for a while, and then flew off but kept returning and we had a lovely opportunity to watch it for a long time. A spotted flycatcher, black redstarts, goldfinches and wrens all frequented bridge and surrounding trees and a family of mallard swam past. A buzzard flew over and then five griffon and (picked out by Shevaun) one black vulture (the only one of the week).

The two groups rendezvoused as arranged for our picnic in a sunny clearing at the edge of the wood, and after lunch, this time with a combination of keen walkers and a shuttle service, we all made our way up to the village of Cantobre, high on its rocky spur, between the valleys of the Dourbie and the Trévezet. For the first time during the week, the weather was looking as though it would let us down. We strolled through the tiny hamlet; the stone houses – some built on overhangs, others partly cut into the cliffs – line the streets and their gardens, barely cultivated, were almost indistinguishable from the natural rock gardens that surrounded them. We looked down from the cliff top over a perilous drop. There were dozens of swifts and crag martins overhead and we glimpsed a female golden oriole flying quietly behind some bushes down in the valley. The view was beautiful but it was beginning to rain. Like the villagers of pre-historic times, we sheltered under the overhanging cliff while the shower was at its fiercest. Then we followed the path round the east side of the village and made the circuit which climbs gently up to the Romanesque church. The sun was out again, and a moment enjoying the view and a rest on the wooden seat outside the church were in order.

It was tea-time, so we ran a double shuttle home. First stop was for refreshments at the café under *les Halles* again (John T's treat) and then the last leg back to la Gare aux Ânes. One of the groups had a good view of a fox on the way back up from Nant and there was a black kite over la Gare aux Ânes as we arrived back.

A solution to the replacement vehicle had been arranged: Geoff would – incredibly kindly – drive Rachel to Montpellier airport to retrieve it, and dinner would be saved for them! So the rest of the group had a leisurely 'logging' session over a drink and then sat down to dinner: *œufs en cocotte*, then a delicious dish of salmon and cod with scallops and cauliflower, cheese, and finally *fromage à la vanille* for dessert. And in the meantime, an uneventful expedition to Montpellier took place and, almost before they were missed, Geoff and Rachel were back, with an identical replacement vehicle, before the coffee had been cleared away.

Day 7: Thursday 5 June - Caves, Steppes and Horses on the Causse Méjean

The unsettled weather of yesterday seemed to have blown away and it was warm and sunny again. We wanted to make a prompt start after breakfast so we had decided against an early walk but Gill had been out on her own and, much to her delight, a red-backed shrike had perched right next to her. We loaded the picnic into the minibuses and set off. On the drive down to Nant a buzzard and a cuckoo flew by very close. We paused and both bus-loads managed a good view.

From Nant, we drove down the Dourbie again as far as la Roc Ste Marguerite, and this time took a more direct route up a very pretty side valley onto the Causse Noir. We paused at the top for people to stretch their legs and enjoyed something of an orchid-fest – in particular, an amazing spectacle of Fragrant Orchids in full flower and very fragrant, and a group of perfect Burnt-tip Orchids. A song thrush was singing loud and clear from the wood.

We pressed on, down the steep descent into the Jonte valley, on beyond the Vulture Viewpoint (vultures soaring above us in the gorge) and then up a pretty, winding road onto the Causse Méjean. Approached along this route, the Causse Méjean appears at first a little like the Causse Noir – with dense pine woods and occasional long vistas. After a while, it opens out into extensive, gently rolling grassland, steppe-country, quite unlike the other causses we had visited. We were on the constant look-out for harriers. After a few stone villages and a few miles of straight road, we followed the signposts to the famous Aven Armand, and our 11.30 appointment.

We were able to make quick use of the facilities, salute the black redstart singing from the rooftop and then prepare for our visit to one of the most amazing subterranean spectacles in Europe. The Aven Armand cave is immense, and not-too-overdone in the way it is presented. We descended in a little train and then were led out onto a platform overlooking the cavern. Images projected onto the walls and roof told the story of the cave's discovery and the geological history of its formation, and then we began our descent.



The 'Medusa' stalagmite.

Every so often we paused and our (English-speaking) guide pointed out particular features or emphasised some point of interest. We spent about an hour touring and photographing what is an awe-inspiring phenomenon, finally returning to the little train for the short trip back to the sunshine. There was time for coffee, and to buy postcards, guidebooks and souvenirs and then we crossed the car park to look down the large depression in the ground, well fenced off, that leads to the swallow hole through which the original discovery was made, now surrounded by a carpet of *Hepatica*. (How pretty that must be in the spring!)

A ten-minute drive across the steppe took us to the tiny hamlet of Hûres. It was lunch time and the sun was shining from a clear blue sky, so we spread out the feast and sat in the grass, leaning against the rocks and the field walls. Sylvain had produced cold roast chicken joints with tomato and chick pea salad, cheese, fruit compôte, fresh fruit, bread and wine – enough to induce a state of peaceful relaxation. Hûres is curiously well-known for its rock sparrows, though they are seldom as obliging as they were on this occasion – two appeared on a roof by the church, hopped about, disappeared,

reappeared again, were well photographed and thoroughly 'scoped. Then it was time for a walk. There is a rocky hill behind the village, with a well-used footpath. The more birdily inclined walked up to the top of the hill, and got good views of two choughs, a wheatear and a tawny pipit, as well as the magnificent panorama from the top. Planty people, with their noses to the ground, looked at the beautiful, fragrant sward: thymes and rock roses, lavenders, vetches, trefoils, felty germanders and pinks, and didn't get very far up the hill!

Then, it was back to the minibuses and another short drive to get a glimpse of an ambitious project for which the Causse Méjean is uniquely suited – the rehabilitation and reintroduction of Przewalski's horses. This steppe grassland is considered to be most allied to the Mongolian plains and the effective breeding programme here has enabled many family groups to be successfully returned to their wild environment. There were a few small groups of Przewalski's horses dotted on the hillsides for us to look at with binoculars and telescopes – looking perfectly at home and comfortable in the landscape. There were one or two wheatears about too, and another tawny pipit, and some of us watched a couple of vultures being mobbed by a party of choughs.



Rock sparrow.

We drove back across the steppe, the Angel's Hair grass shimmering silver as the sunlight slanted across the hillsides. The road down into the Gorges de la Jonte towards Meyreuis is famous for its views across and along the gorge, and for its route through a dramatic natural arch.

We assembled with our drinks for our roundup of the day's records, adding a dead common vole *Microtus arvalis* which had been left for us by the swimming pool by the resident cat. (This little corpse was distinctly bigger than any mainland British vole and, curiously, is the same species as the Orkney and Guernsey voles, though the Guernsey vole is put in a different subspecies.) Dinner was a warm *salade de chèvre* followed by *hachis Parmentier* (a sort of classy shepherd's pie, with the meat and potato layered), the usual wonderful cheese board, and then *colonelle* (lemon sorbet with vodka) with *crème chantilly* and *gateau basque*.

There were now two glow-worms outside Rachel and Robin's room.

Day 8: Friday 6 June - South across the Causse du Larzac to Lapanouse and the Roquefort Caves

It was overcast again this morning, with a freshening chilly wind. We decided to explore what had once been a track from the garden directly onto the route of the old railway line. The expedition started well. The nightingale's song encouraged us and we heard blackcap and whitethroat. The vetches and the lovely green-flowered hogweed were flourishing beside the little used path through the long grass. We pressed on optimistically, but slowed down as the brambles became more difficult, and eventually we were driven back by the impenetrable blackthorn scrub – but not without some good flowers and butterflies.

Our destinations today lay to the west, along the valley of the little river Cernon. We crossed the *autoroute* and drove parallel to it along the old road to l'Hospitalet du Larzac, where we were surprised to see a yellow-legged gull and, in a pen in the middle of the village, a pair of mute swans with two white cygnets (the leucistic form sometimes known as Polish swans). We turned right at the head of the Cernon valley. At the crossroads there is a wonderful panoramic view; to the south, the route of the (now defunct) railway, its magnificent viaducts striding round the hillside and to the west, the stone buildings with red roofs of little Templar village of Ste Eulalie de Cernon. That was for later in the day.



Aveyron Orchid
and flower detail.



The next village down the valley is Lapanouse de Cernon. In the village we turned sharply left and crossed a narrow bridge over the Cernon, where we caught a glimpse of a grey wagtail. We drove on up to the old station, an exact replica of la Gare aux Ânes, though not in such a happy state. And beside the station, the old railway line, no longer functioning as a railway, has been turned to a very modern use as a '*velorail*' for groups of tourists to propel themselves on sort of four-wheeled pedal-cars that run on the rails of the old line – amid great hilarity!

Some conservation-motivated scrub clearance had been going on, to good effect. Almost immediately we found some superb specimens of one of the *cause*-endemic orchids, Aveyron Orchid, *Ophrys aveyronensis*. There was an excellent cluster of Lizard Orchids, nicely flowering, and some of the best Man Orchids of the week. Geoff and Hazel found a clouded buff moth which John R photographed and we examined a sleeping female common blue.

We crossed the railway line and followed the main track leading up the hill. Under a large oak there were some lovely spikes of Violet Limodore and a little further on, a patch of the charming vetchling with terracotta coloured flowers *Lathyrus setifolius*.

Up the hill John R got a brief view of a large accipiter, almost certainly a goshawk, and the hillside was alive with butterflies: Geoff found a female meadow fritillary, a heath fritillary allowed itself to be photographed in the palm of someone's hand, spotted fritillaries posed on flowers to be photographed, and one even on its own page in the butterfly book. Inevitably, where there are butterflies, there are predatory ascalaphids. The low levels of grazing meant that the meadows were full of flowers: Meadow Rue, Sermountain, Angular Solomon's-seal, Dark-red Pasque Flowers (this one, a Cévennes endemic), St Bernard's Lily, more Aveyron Orchids and Cardabelle. As we trudged back downhill for lunch a short-toed eagle with unusually dark plumage flew low overhead.



Spotted fritillary on Aveyron Orchid (SM); ascalaphid on Yellow Rattle.

After another delicious picnic, we returned down the hill to Lapanouse and then carried on down the Cernon valley. This is warm and intimate, with a narrow lane and a tiny strip of cultivated fields beside the river. The rocky cliffs to the right of our road were a rich rock-garden: Tassel Hyacinths, flaxes, rock roses, Pink Bindweed, and much more.

Finally we reached the main road with signposts to Roquefort and the distinctive hill, Combalou, loomed ahead of us. We drove up through Roquefort village and dropped the group near to the Papillon caves while we parked the minibuses. Then we assembled for our guided tour. A charming English-speaking guide showed us an ancient film of early cheese-making and then took us around the caves, showing the various stages in the Roquefort-making and maturing process. Finally, we were able to taste some of the types of cheese and other products of the Papillon factory, and buy cheese to take home.

We took the road over the plateau of the *causse* back to Ste Eulalie de Cernon where we had hoped for coffee and perhaps a beer. But sadly, the bar was closed. However, Hazel treated us to excellent Ice creams which made a refreshing substitute, and we explored the village: swifts, swallows, crag martins, house sparrows in the plane trees in the village square. The town had been the headquarters, the *commanderie*, of the Templar movement and the church, well worth a visit, contained an excellent explanation of the activities of the Templars and Hospitalers, enough to answer everyone's questions.

The drive back to la Gare aux Ânes took us again past the viewpoint at the head of the Cernon valley, but the magic had gone out of the light and though we stopped, the view was hardly worth photographing. We watched a black kite and a buzzard having a mild aerial altercation with a raven.

We had asked for an early dinner tonight so that we could have another go at seeing some beavers. Sylvain had made a *tarte flambée* with onions, *lardons* and *crème fraîche*. Then came trout with mangetout peas, followed by *tarte aux pommes* with *crème chantilly* and homemade ice cream.

We set off at about 8.30 and drove, without mishap this time, to just below Cantobre, where we parked, and walked down the lane to a vantage point overlooking the river. We took up positions to watch for movement: changes in the patterns of ripples, unexplained splashes. A kingfisher flew by; we watched grey and white wagtails; blackbirds, blackcaps and nightingales sang. Unfortunately, a fisherman had decided that tonight he was going to fish from the weir and he crashed through the bushes along the river opposite. No beavers. There were several glow-worms by the track and we caught a short snatch of nightjar song on the way back to the buses. Driving home, the leading minibus had a brilliant view of a nightjar feeding in the road, caught in the headlights, and then, on the road out of Nant, we had a brief but excellent view of a pine marten crossing the road ahead and jumping onto a stone wall and then slipping away as we drove by.

Sylvain had left drinks for us on the terrace and we sat and chatted, and listened to the nightingale until everyone decided it was time for bed.

Day 9: Saturday 7 June - The Causse de Blandas, the Cirque de Navacelles and the Causse de Campestre

We had had a late night last night so the group opted for a lie-in, though Jill had been out bright and early as usual and enjoyed the early morning butterflies and corn buntings along the track opposite. The day began cool and hazy, but it soon warmed up and by the time we were ready to set off for the day we were optimistic that our good fortune with the weather would last for one more day.

For the first time we turned right, eastwards, out of the drive and drove down to the next village, Sauclières. A few miles out of Sauclières, in the hills, there is an immense limestone quarry internationally renowned for its Jurassic fossils. Getting to the quarry itself is quite an undertaking, but the stonemasons have a workshop in Sauclières where they are more than happy to show off selected finds that have otherwise not been snapped up by museums and universities. It was a Saturday, so the workshop itself was closed, but outside was a great slab of limestone with a wonderful fossil cast of a dinosaur footprint for us all to see – and photograph. Then we pressed on eastwards, towards Alzon where we turned south onto the Causse de Blandas. This new *causse* is about 200 metres lower than the Causse du Larzac, and further south, so it promised to be a hot day. Driving over the rocky plateau it was clearly drier and the season more advanced. We noticed numerous patches of dodder growing over some of the plants of the verges.

After about 8 miles we came to the village of Blandas and a couple of miles beyond that, we drew up at the new developments and car park at the lip of the Cirque de Navacelles. There had been a great deal of recent earth moving leaving a lot of disturbed ground and freshly cut rock faces, and a profusion of flowers and butterflies making the most of it. Beautiful patches of Pink *Convolvulus*, lots of Ground Pine and a very compact form of Common Mallow, several thistles, tiny geraniums, and spurreys all bode well for the rapid colonisation of the raw banks; Adonis blue and male and female Osiris blues were salting on the seepages from the rocks and a hummingbird hawk-moth fed on a large plant of Musk Thistle. A party of six or seven choughs and a jackdaw rose from the treetops above the car park and there was a woodlark singing.

We took the path to the viewpoint past majestic stands of Giant Fennel with a purple-shot copper, pearly heaths, another hummingbird hawk-moth, black-veined whites, meadow browns, six-spot burnets, a small blue, a marbled white as well as rose chafers and a violet carpenter bee: a perfect, shimmeringly hot insect day.

A new viewpoint has been created, with a brilliant panoramic view of the Cirque de Navacelles, the hairpin route down, the village and farms cowering in the bottom and the immense natural amphitheatre – so much to see and to reflect on. Eventually we strolled back; there was Henbane, Mullein, Sainfoin, Blue Scarlet Pimpernel, and a southern white admiral amongst the thistles and grasses.



The Cirque de Navacelles.

We rearranged the tables and chairs at the new restaurant and all sat around for coffee or ice creams or a cold drink, and a group photograph, and then made our way back to the minibuses for the short drive out onto the *causse*. There was an excellent place for lunch: rocks to sit on and to spread out the feast – a tuna, chicory and sweetcorn salad – amongst the fragrant herbs and grasses. As we arrived, two black kites flew low over us, and as we ate our lunch, a few griffon vultures and another black kite circled round, taking a close look at us, then a short-toed eagle appeared and hung, motionless, in the sky very close by, legs dangling, searching for snakes and lizards. Meanwhile skylarks, a woodlark, a tree pipit and a corn bunting all sang from the bushes around and then another black kite and two ravens came into view. The dry silver sward that we sat amongst was fragrant with thymes and lavender, felty germander and clary, there were patches of gold – Seguer's Spurge – amongst the Angel's Hair, which was rapidly opening with its silky hairs spiralling in the sunshine.

We drove on a short distance. We counted a group of seven black kites some way off, circling together, then we found a suitable open area of *causse* and stopped to gather some Angels' Hair that had not already opened out, for people to take home. There were silver studded blues here and patches of little irises *Iris lutescens* – though they were long over – and lots of burrows of the tarantula *Lycosa narbonnensis*. The females could occasionally be lured to the mouth of their burrow with a little tempting grass stalk where we could admire their size and their bright eyes. Further along the road we turned left along a lane and stopped to scan the landscape of widely spaced bushes and low, rocky scrub. It more than lived up to its promise, with at least four woodchat shrikes soon appearing and perching obligingly for the telescopes. Against the hill behind us, a short-toed eagle remained quite stationary in the sky for long enough for several of us to watch it through telescopes, and a woodlark and two tawny pipits posed obligingly on bushes for everyone to enjoy, again with the telescopes.

Eventually we tore ourselves away from this very fruitful spot but soon stopped abruptly for lovely views of two turtle doves on the wires ahead and then on bushes beside the lane. As we drove slowly through a village John T, in the tailing minibus, spotted an enormous green lizard on a dry stone wall. It stayed in full view, close enough for us to see the bright blue eye-spots on its flanks, confirming its identity as an ocellated lizard, the largest European species, and a first record for Honeyguide in the Cévennes.

We returned to the main road and turned westwards again, but before Sauclières we took a left turn onto our final *causse*, the Causse de Campestre, another open, gently undulating landscape, just right for raptors. Soon we saw yet another red-backed shrike and a raven, then Hazel suddenly called our attention to a big, pale raptor. It was certainly a male hen or Montagu's harrier, but before we could stop and get our binoculars on it, it had disappeared. But soon after, another appeared, and this time it flew close enough for us to be sure that it was a Monty, a very satisfactory end to the day!



Ocellated lizard (M/J K).

We had a brief round-up of the week's records and then, before dinner, Sylvain and Nicolas invited us to a complimentary *aperitif* on the terrace. Most of us had acquired a taste for *kir à la mûre*! Dinner was superb, as ever: various *charcuteries* with a delicious salad, *poitrine de veau farcie*, the usual cheeseboard, then *tarte aux fraises* made with local strawberries from Saucières, with *crème Chantilly*. And over coffee after dinner, we turned everyone's attention to recalling their highlights of the week (see below).

Day 10: Sunday 8 June - Return via Carcassonne

We said our goodbyes and grateful thanks to Sylvain – whose hospitality and wonderful cooking had been a highlight for everyone, and to Armelle, whose personality had ensured us a sunny breakfast every day. The route to Carcassonne is a simple one but in sharp contrast to the quiet lanes of the Cévennes. About 7 miles from la Gare aux Ânes, we joined the A75, and stayed on the *autoroute* network all the way to the airport.

Two griffon vultures flew close by as we followed the quiet road towards the A75. Then, as we drove off the Massif Central, down the Pas de l'Escalette, we saw the first grey heron of the week, and as the motorway took us deeper into the warm coastal plain, we added bee-eater, roller, fan-tailed warbler and (thanks to John T's sharp eyes) black-winged stilt. Vineyards appeared in increasing numbers as we headed south, with the landscape dotted with wild olive trees, Italian cypresses, and eventually, Maritime Pines. Near the coast, Giant Reed lined the ditches. We stopped for a picnic lunch at a delightful *aire* beside the motorway, overlooking the old walled city of Carcassonne, and ate our baguettes to the accompaniment of our last Bonelli's warbler.

The departure process at Carcassonne passed without too many hitches and we had a smooth and on-time flight back to Stansted. All baggage restored to its owners and contact details exchanged, we bade each other farewell and went on our various ways.

Highlights

Jill	The cornfield with poppies and corn cockle; arriving to the songs of nightingales and blackcaps; the Cirque de Navacelles.
John R	Lunch at the Jassenove <i>ferme auberge</i> ; the golden oriole – a completely different view from usual; the Roquefort caves; the field of poppies.
Rosemary	Generally pottering around, looking at the meadows full of orchids and other flowers; Aven Armand – the most spectacular thing I've ever seen.
Shevaun	Can't easily think of highlights; this whole holiday had such an unequalled diversity of scenery and wildlife; the morning walks over the meadow; the lovely location of this hotel.
David	The whole area with its number and variety of flowers; two birds: the tree pipit singing in the sunshine on Mt Aigoual and today's tawny pipit, standing so still in the sun; the cornfield with poppies and other annual flowers.
Geoff	Just the scenery; I've travelled a lot in France and always wanted to come here, and I'm certainly not disappointed; and the highlight was today at the Cirque de Navacelles; the griffon vultures – such a successful reintroduction, and its importance as a corridor explained; the best bird was the Montagu's harrier today – so hard to find in Britain.
Hazel	Seeing a bird that Geoff didn't see (the first of Saturday's harriers); the spectacular scenery; the butterflies; also the company has been fantastic, with everyone getting on so well.
Jane	The ocellated lizard; Aven Armand; the sheer abundance of flowers was incredible; it was wonderful that we didn't miss anything because of the blowout.
Malcolm	A good week; the scale and diversity of this upland region; the three-mile walk along the river Dourbie: agricultural, river and woodland habitats; the Aven Armand cave system – it is amazing that, even in Europe, it was in such a sparsely populated area that had been undiscovered until 1897; a terrific week.
Gill	My special view of the red-backed shrike that came so close; the black redstart that came for coffee; the broad-bodied chaser laying eggs in the <i>lavogne</i> while her husband kept guard.
Lesley	Two wonderful river walks along the Dourbie: one at les Laupies and the other from Nant and through the wood to Cantobre.
Suzanne	I grew up with nightingales, butterflies, cuckoos and larks, but sadly in South Wales we don't have them any more, so it was lovely to have them all round us; the villages and buildings; the abundance of flowers; being wheeled along by kind pushers.
John T	The lizard orchids, that I've wanted to see for a long, long time: disappointing at first, but then, seeing them in full flower – they were excellent; the lunch at Jassenove; the scenery everywhere.
Robin	An interesting and interested group; the ocellated lizard – an unexpected first for us in this region.
Rachel	Nightingales everywhere; the flock of sheep near la Couvertorade today; so lucky to get all the orchids at their best, especially the fragrant and Aveyron orchids.

SPECIES LISTS

BIRDS		
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	One over the motorway near Lodève
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Occasionally seen on the R Dourbie near Cantobre
Griffon vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Seen every day throughout the region
Black vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	One near Cantobre
Short-toed eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Good views almost every day
Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Several between Rodez and Sévérac and on the causses
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	One or two between Rodez and Sévérac
Montagu's harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Two males on the Causse de Campestre
Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Occasional individuals on most days
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	One near Lapanouse
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Odd individuals nearly every day
Crane	<i>Grus sp</i>	A presumably escaped bird soaring over the Dourbie near Nant
Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Seen by the motorway near Béziers
Yellow-legged gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	One near l'Hospitalet du Larzac; many over the motorway by Béziers
Red-legged partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Two near Nant; two on the Causse de Campestre
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Often heard calling on the Causse du Larzac
Rock dove/feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	A pair at l'Hospitalet du Larzac
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Occasional in wooded areas
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Frequently seen in villages
Turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Two on the Causse du Larzac and two on the Causse de Blandas
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Seen or heard almost daily
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Heard near la Gare aux Ânes
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Seen and heard near Cantobre
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Seen every day
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	On the river Dourbie at Nant and Cantobre
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	One heard at La Couvertorade and one on the Causse de Campestre
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Seen by the motorway near Béziers
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Seen by the motorway near Béziers
Green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Odd individuals in the Dourbie and Cernon valleys
Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Seen twice in the Dourbie valley
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Several seen almost every day
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Frequently seen and heard on Causses du Larzac and de Blandas
Crag martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Small numbers in gorges and occasionally in villages
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Several seen every day
House martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Small numbers seen almost daily
Tawny pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Occasional individuals on the Causses de Blandas and Méjean
Tree pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Singing males on Mt Aigoual and other places with scattered trees
White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	Commonly seen by rivers and lavognes
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Occasionally seen on the Dourbie, Jonte and Cernon
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	One in the R Dourbie at Nant and one near Cantobre
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
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	A few in almost every town and village
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Seen regularly near la Gare aux Ânes and also 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>	Odd individuals on the Causse Méjean and 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
Orphean warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	One heard on the Causse du Larzac above les Cuns

Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Odd birds on Causses du Larzac and de Blandas
Subalpine warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Occasional singing males on the Causse du Larzac
Fan-tailed warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	One by the motorway near Narbonne
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
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	One or two on the Causse Noir
Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	One by the Dourbie near Cantobre
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Occasionally seen by la Gare aux Ânes
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	A few seen every day
Coal tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	One on the Causse Noir
Blue tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Regularly seen at la Gare aux Ânes
Red-backed shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	A few seen on most days on the causses
Woodchat shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Several on the Causse de Blandas
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Several seen every day
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	One or two seen almost every day
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Occasionally seen in gorges and villages
Red-billed chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Small flocks at Hûres, Roquefort and the Cirque de Navacelles
Carriion crow	<i>Corvus corone corone</i>	Common and widespread
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Ones and twos on most days in causses and gorges
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Seen occasionally on the Causse du Larzac
Golden oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Two on the Causse du Larzac and one near Cantobre
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Small numbers in towns and villages
Rock sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	Two by the church at Hûres
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common and widespread
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Small flocks seen on most days
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Frequent and widespread
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Occasionally seen near la Gare aux Ânes
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Seen every day at la Gare aux Ânes and elsewhere near villages
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	A male at Mt Aigoual and a pair near Nant
Cirl bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	Seen or heard on most days on the causses
Corn bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Several seen every day on the causses

83 species



Patches of Seguer's Spurge amongst the Angel's Hair grass.

Mammals

Pipistrelle sp.	Rabbit	Pine marten	Roe deer
Mole (hills)	Red squirrel	Fox	Przewalski's horse
Brown hare	Common vole	Wild boar (rootings)	

Reptiles

Common wall lizard
Green lizard
Ocellated lizard

Fish

Brown trout

Butterflies

Scarce swallowtail
Black-veined white
Large white
Small white
Berger's clouded yellow
Brimstone
Small copper
Purple-shot copper
Green hairstreak
Small blue

Green-underside blue
Silver-studded blue
Adonis blue
Common blue
Osiris blue
Painted lady
Red admiral
Southern white admiral
Small tortoiseshell
Glanville fritillary

Spotted fritillary
Knapweed fritillary
Heath fritillary
Marbled white
Small heath
Pearly heath
Speckled wood
Wall brown
Meadow brown
Oberthur's grizzled skipper



Adonis blue.



Knapweed fritillary.



Pearly heath.

Moths

Forester
Six-spot burnet
Giant peacock
Hummingbird hawk-moth

Pine processionary
Cream-spot tiger
Burnet companion
Four-spotted

Chimney sweeper
Treble-bar
Small emerald
Clouded buff

Yellow shell
Latticed heath
Small eggar
(caterpillar)



Yellow shell.



Small eggar caterpillar.



Burnet companion.

Other insects

Beautiful demoiselle
Broad-bodied chaser
Green bush-cricket
Field cricket
Green shield bug
Minstrel bug *Graphosoma lineatum*
Ant-lion *Euroleon nostras*
Ascalaphid *Libelloides coccajus*
Wood ant

White-tailed bumblebee *Bombus lucorum*
Gall wasp (Robin's pincushion) *Diplolepis rosae*
Violet carpenter bee
Flower scarab *Oxythyrea funesta*
Rose chafer
Bee beetle
Green tiger beetle
Soldier beetle *Trichodes alvearius*
Glow-worm

Other invertebrates

Crab spider
Misumenia vatia

Roman snail
Helix pomatia

Leopard slug
Limax maximus

Black slug
Arion ater

Plants Recorded in the Cévennes and Grands Causses May 30 – June 8 2014

* 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	2014 Record
PTERIDOPHYTES: Horsetails, Clubmosses and Ferns		
Aspleniaceae: Spleenwort Family		
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall Rue	f: on walls especially where sheltered and damp: la Couvertoirade, Cantobre
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	f: on walls especially where sheltered and damp: la Couvertoirade, Cantobre
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback Fern	f: on walls, often where dry and exposed
Dennstaedtiaceae: Bracken		
<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
Polypodiaceae: Polypodies		
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common Polypody	f: on shady rocks; a: in Cantobre
CONIFERS		
Cupressaceae: Cypresses and Junipers		
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	f: component of causse scrub
Pinaceae: Pines, Spruces, Firs and Larches		
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Austrian, Black or Corsican Pine	o – ld: woodland on Causse Noir
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime Pine	f: en route to Carcassonne
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	f: widespread on causses
Taxaceae: Yew		
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	r: usually near habitation and often planted
FLOWERING PLANTS - DICOTYLEDONS		
Aceraceae: Maples		
<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 pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	Specimen tree planted beside the pond in Cantobre
Anacardiaceae: Pistacio Family		
<i>Cotinus coggygia</i>	Smoke-tree	lf: in limestone scrub especially in sheltered gorges
Apiaceae (Umbelliferae): Umbellifers		
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	f: hedgebanks and roadsides especially in farmland. just going over.
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	o: in damp grassland
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	f: in dry causse grassland, not yet flowering
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel	r: large stands on Causse de Blandas near Cirque de Navacelles
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> ssp <i>sibiricum</i>	Hogweed (greenish-flowered form)	f: in damp roadside ditches; widespread
<i>Laserpitium siler</i>	Common Sermountain	f: spectacular umbellifer along roadsides, among rocks and in light woodland
<i>Trinia glauca</i>	Honewort	f: in dry stony causse grassland
Araliaceae: Ivy Family		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	f: on rocks, trees, buildings and old walls especially in shade
Aristolochiaceae: Birthwort Family		
<i>Aristolochia clematitis</i>	Birthwort	o: waysides and woodland in Dourbie valley near Nant
Asclepiadaceae: Milkweeds		
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	f: among rocks in grassy places and roadsides

Asteraceae (Compositae): Composites

<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	Mountain Everlasting	f: in full flower in alpine grassland on summit of M Aigoual
* <i>Aster alpinus cebennensis</i>	Alpine Aster	f: in full flower in rocky cause grassland, among rocks and scree
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	f: widespread in grazed pasture
<i>Carduncellus mitissimus</i>	Carduncellus	f: 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>Catananche caerulea</i>	Blue Catananche	f: in rocky cause grassland, but not yet in flower
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower	o: cornfield weed; arable field near Nant; fields on Causse Noir
* <i>Centaurea pectinata</i> ssp <i>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>Crupina vulgaris</i>	Common Crupina	o: in cause grassland; near telephone mast, near picnic spot on Causse de Blandas
<i>Doronicum austriacum</i>	Austrian Leopard's-bane	Beside the R 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	Roadside in les Laupies, leaves only showing
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	Urospermum	a: picnic spot near Carcassonne

Betulaceae: Birches, Alders, Hazels and Hornbeams

<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

Boraginaceae: Borage Family

<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	o: spectacular displays on dry limestone hillsides and in cause grassland
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	Corn Gromwell	r: waysides and woodland; track between wood and Cantobre campsite
<i>Myosotis ramosissima</i>	Changing Forget-me-not	o: in grassland below the summit of M Aigoual
<i>Onosma fastigiatum</i>	Golden-drop	o: in cause grassland; near radio mast Causse du Larzac; Causse de Blandas
* <i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i> ssp <i>cevenensis</i>	Cévennes Lungwort	o: leaves only in riverside woodland beside the Dourbie near Nant

Brassicaceae (Cruciferae): Crucifers

<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 and on Causses Noir and de Blandas

Buxaceae: Box

<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	a-ld: component of cause scrub; buissière
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Campanulaceae: Bellflower Family

<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>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>	Venus's Looking-glass	f: weed of arable fields on light soils; field beside the Dourbie in Nant
<i>Phyteuma hemisphericum</i>	Globe-headed Rampion	o: in grassland near Hûres on Causse Méjean and Pezade on Causse du Larzac
<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>	Round-headed Rampion	r: alpine grassland Mont Aigoual
<i>Phyteuma spicatum</i>	Spiked Rampion	o: grassland beside R Dourbie at les Laupies

Caprifoliaceae: Honeysuckle Family		
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle	a: widespread on causses
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Common Honeysuckle	f: on siliceous soils, on the way to M Aigoual
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree	f: in riverside woodland between Nant and Cantobre; la: on cause
Caryophyllaceae: Chickweeds, Pinks and Campions		
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	Corn-cockle	a: in arable field beside the Dourbie near Nant
<i>Arenaria controversa</i>	A Sandwort	On walls in la Couvertoirade
<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 Couvertoirade
<i>Dianthus deltoides</i>	Maiden Pink	la: in meadows in Dourbie Valley les Laupies and grassland below summit of Mont Aigoual
<i>Dianthus graniticus</i>	Granite Pink	Causse grassland near le Buffre, Causse Méjean
<i>Dianthus monspessulanus</i>	Fringed or Montpellier Pink	r: cause grassland nr telephone mast, Causse du Larzac
<i>Dianthus subcaulis</i>	A Pink	o: picnic spot, Causse de Blandas
<i>Saponaria ocymoides</i>	Rock Soapwort	o: on rocks and scree
<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly	o: on sandy and calcareous soils
<i>Silene italica</i>	Italian Catchfly	Meadow in Dourbie Valley above les Laupies
<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
Celastraceae: Spindles		
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	o: in hedges and deciduous woodland understorey on limestone; buissière at St Martin du Larzac
Cistaceae: Cistuses and Rockroses		
<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 near Hûres
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Yellow Rockrose	a: in cause grassland throughout
Clusiaceae (Hypericaceae): St John's-worts		
<i>Hypericum hyssopifolium</i>	Hyssop-leaved St John's-wort	r: rocky grassland on Causse du Larzac, near telephone mast
Convolvulaceae: Bindweeds		
<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	Pink Bindweed	la: on rocky roadside cliffs in Cernon valley on the way to Roquefort
Cornaceae: Dogwoods		
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	a: in scrub and woodland on limestone, beside the Dourbie near Nant
Crassulaceae: Stonecrop Family		
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop	a: on roofs, rocks, walls, Cantobre, la Couvertoirade
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop	f: on roofs, rocks, walls, Cantobre, la Couvertoirade
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Thick-leaved Stonecrop	f: on roofs, rocks, walls, Cantobre, la Couvertoirade
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Pennywort, Navelwort	f: on roofs, rocks, walls, Cantobre, la Couvertoirade
Cuscutaceae: Dodder Family		
<i>Cuscuta</i> sp	Dodder	f: on roadsides, Causse de Blandas
Dipsacaceae: Scabious Family		
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	Along track onto cause from la Gare aux Ânes
<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

Ericaceae: Heath		
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	la: on rocks under pines on Causse Noir
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather	ld: on open hillsides on acid soils M Aigoual, above R Dourbie west of Dourbies
<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
Euphorbiaceae: Spurge Family		
<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 and de Blandas
<i>Euphorbia seguierana</i>	Seguier's Spurge	o: in cause grassland Causses du Larzac and de Blandas
Fabaceae (Leguminosae): Pea Family, Legumes		
<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; near Vulture Information Centre
<i>Coronilla emerus</i>	Scorpion Vetch or False Senna	f: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Cytisus purgans</i> (= <i>C. oromediterraneus</i>)	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
<i>Genista hispanica</i>	Spanish Gorse	f: near telephone mast on Causse du Larzac
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Brown Vetchling	r: trackside at Lapanouse
<i>Onobrychis supina</i>	Sainfoin	f: in grassland on clayey/calcareous soils
<i>Ononis natrix</i>	Large Yellow Restharrow	r: roadside below Cantobre; wayside at Lapanouse
<i>Ononis repens</i>	Restharrow	o: stony grassland Causse de Blandas
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	f: on embankments and in woodland edges
<i>Tetragonolobus maritimus</i>	Dragon's Teeth	o: in cause grassland; Causse du Larzac below telephone mast
<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 tenuifolia</i>	Fine-leaved Vetch	o: on banks and old walls on Causse Méjean
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch	f: tracks and waysides, railway embankments
Fagaceae: Oaks, Beech and Chestnut		
<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
Fumariaceae: Fumitory Family		
<i>Fumaria sp</i>	Fumitory	r: rocks in Cantobre
Gentianaceae: Gentian Family		
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort	Causse du Larzac near radio mast above Nant; la Pezade
<i>Gentiana lutea</i>	Yellow Gentian	la: in meadow beside the visitor centre below summit of M Aigoual, not yet flowering
Geraniaceae: Crane's-bills and Stork's-bills		
<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	
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill	o: widespread in causses grassland, mostly not yet flowering
Globulariaceae: Globularias		
<i>Globularia punctata</i>	Common Globularia	o: in cause grassland throughout
Grossulariaceae: Currant Family		
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry	o: among rocks on cause
Lamiaceae (Labiatae): Deadnettle Family, Labiates		
<i>Ajuga chamaepytis</i>	Ground-pine	r: car park at Vulture Information Centre; car park at Cirque de Navacelles
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Blue Bugle	o: in dry grassland and open woodland; Lapanouse; Jassenove
<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 near le Buffre, 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>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	f: dry grassland on Causse Begon
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Perennial Yellow Woundwort	Near Troglodyte house, les Baumes
<i>Teucrium aureum</i>	Golden Felt 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 Felt 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
Linaceae: Flaxes		
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Flax	o: on rocky hillsides
<i>Linum campanulatum</i>	Yellow Flax	f: widespread among rocks and in grassland on calcareous soils
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Purging Flax	f: dry grassland
<i>Linum narbonense</i>	Beautiful Flax	In grassland at Lapanouse; Causse de Blandas
<i>Linum suffruticosum</i>	White Flax, Pyrenean Flax	f: widespread among rocks and in grassland on calcareous soils
Malvaceae: Mallows		
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf Mallow	r: tracksides near cultivation
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	o: on disturbed ground
Moraceae: Mulberries and Fig		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	Escaped or planted: Cantobre, Nant
Oleaceae: Olive Family		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Common Ash	f: widespread component of deciduous woodland on cause
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Privet	f: in damp woodland understorey
<i>Olea europea</i>	Olive	On the way to Carcassonne
Orobanchaceae: Orobanches		
<i>Orobanche</i> spp	Broomrape	o: in woodland and grassland
Papaveraceae: Poppy Family		
<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
Plantaginaceae: Plantains		
<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
Plumbaginaceae: Plumbago, Sea Lavender and Thrifts		
* <i>Armeria girardii</i>	Gerard's Thrift	la: on Causse du Larzac near la Couvertorade and at Jassenove; generally rare
<i>Armeria plantaginea</i>	Plantain Thrift	la: on sandy roadsides near les Laupies

Polygalaceae: Milkworts		
<i>Polygala calcarea</i>	Chalk Milkwort	Among rocks near la Couvertoirade
Polygonaceae: Dock Family		
<i>Persicaria bistorta</i>	Bistort	la: in riverside grassland beside Dourbie at les Laupies
Primulaceae: Primrose Family		
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip	o: leaves only in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
Pyrolaceae: Wintergreens		
<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
Ranunculaceae: Buttercup Family		
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	o: leaves only in alpine grassland on summit of M Aigoual; woodland beside Dourbie near Cantobre
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Common Columbine	o: flowering clumps beside roadsides and woodland edges on limestone
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore	o: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre; among rocks on Causse Méjean
<i>Helleborus viridis</i>	Green Hellebore	r: among rocks near Hûres on Causse Méjean; la Pezade and Lapanouse on Causse du Larzac
<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; Lapanouse
<i>Pulsatilla rubra serotina</i>	Dark-red Pasque flower	r: seed heads in causses grassland at Lapanouse
<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris costeana</i>	Pasque flower	r: seed heads in causses grassland at picnic spot near la Couvertoirade
<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
Resedaceae: Mignonettes		
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette	o: among rocks and in grassland on calcareous soils
Rosaceae: Rose Family		
<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 cause scrub
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	f: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	o: woodland beside R Dourbie
<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>	St Lucie's Cherry	o: component of cause scrub; Lapanouse
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	f: component of cause scrub; hedges; along railway line at 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 cause scrub
<i>Rubus</i> spp	Bramble (several species)	f: widespread on waysides, in woodland edges and in cause scrub
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	o: in deciduous woodland on calcareous soils and component of cause scrub
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad burnet	o: damp grassland on alkaline soils
Rubiaceae: Bedstraws		
<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>Galium pusillum</i>	A Bedstraw	o: cause grassland near la Couvertoirade
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder	f: cause scrub and in woodland beside Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
Santalaceae: Bastard Toadflax and Sandalwood Family		
<i>Thesium divaricatum</i>	Bastard Toadflax	o: widespread among rocks and in grassland on calcareous soils

Saxifragaceae: Saxifrages		
<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
Scrophulariaceae: Foxgloves, Toadflaxes and Speedwells		
<i>Anarrhinum bellidifolium</i>	Daisy-leaved Toadflax	
<i>Asarina procumbens</i>	Creeping Snapdragon	o: on rocks and buildings Cantobre and Nant
<i>Digitalis lutea</i>	Yellow Foxglove	o: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<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: beside railway at Lapanouse; Cantobre
<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 lychnitis</i>	White Mullein (yellow-flowered form)	Disturbed ground Cirque de Navacelles
<i>Veronica prostrata</i>	Prostrate Speedwell	o: in cause grassland and in grassland on deeper soils near radio mast on Causse du Larzac
Solanaceae: Nightshade Family		
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Henbane	la: in the donkeys' field, near Radio Mast, Causse du Larzac; disturbed ground Cirque de Navacelles
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Woody Nightshade	Near Vulture Information Centre, Gorges de la Jonte
Thymeliaceae: Daphne Family		
<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
Tiliaceae: Limes		
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	Lapanouse
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver-leaved Lime	o: ornamental in towns and villages
Ulmaceae: Elm Family		
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm	Gare aux Ânes; Lapanouse
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Small-leaved Elm	f: in hedgerows
Urticaceae: Nettle Family		
<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
Valerianaceae: Valerian Family		
<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>	A Valerian	r: on cliffs and among rocks Cantobre
<i>Centranthus lecoqii</i>	Lecoque's Red Valerian	Garden escape: on cliffs and among rocks, Cantobre
<i>Valeriana dioica</i>	Marsh Valerian	In riverside grassland beside Dourbie at ILes Laupies
<i>Valerianella dentata</i>	Broad-fruited Cornsalad	r: grassland on Causses
Violaceae: Violets and Pansies		
<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
MONOCOTYLEDONS		
Cyperaceae: Sedge Family		
<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
Dioscoreaceae: Black Bryony		
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	o: in hedgerows; beside track between woodland and campsite in Dourbie valley
Iridaceae: Iris Family		
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gladiolus	o: in cornfield near Nant
<i>Iris lutescens</i>	Crimean Iris	la: dry, rocky grassland. Causse de Blandas, not in flower
Juncaceae: Rush Family		
<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

Liliaceae: Lily Family

<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: banks and rocky hillsides on calcareous soils
<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White Asphodel	o: in rocky grassland on causses
<i>Asphodelus cerasiferus</i>	Asphodel	o: causse grassland at Lapanouse and near picnic spot on Causse de Blandas
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	f: widespread in causses grassland, mostly finished flowering
<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>	Pheasant's-eye Daffodil	f: in meadow below summit of M Aigoual, mostly finished flowering
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	Wild Daffodil	Single flower in meadow below summit of M Aigoual
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem	o: widespread among rocks and in grassland on calcareous soils
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	Angular Solomon's-seal	o: limestone grassland Lapanouse
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom	o: in woodland beside River Dourbie between Nant and Cantobre
<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i> ssp <i>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

Orchidaceae: Orchids

<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man Orchid	la: widespread in causses grassland on deeper soils, especially around St Jean des Balmes, near radio mast and at Lapanouse on Causse du Larzac
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	la: widespread in causses grassland, becoming more evident during the holiday
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine	r: single specimen at Lapanouse (over)
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Helleborine, Sword-leaved Helleborine	f: widespread on Causses in light woodland and
<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>	Red Helleborine	o: under pines on Causse du Larzac and Causse Noir (not yet flowering); riverside woodland near Cantobre
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	Frog Orchid	lf: at la Pezade (including one specimen with characteristics - colour and lip structure - of <i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>)
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid	o: grassland near <i>toit-citerne</i> on Causse Noir
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid	r: causse (la Pezade); lf: in roadside grassland below summit of M Aigoual
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine	r: single specimen on causse near la Couvertorade; near <i>toit-citerne</i> on Causse Noir
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid	lf: at la Pezade (not yet out); in full flower on roadside and in ditch on Causse Noir
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid	f: widespread in grassland and waysides causse, coming out during the week
<i>Limodorum arbortivum</i>	Violet Bird's-nest Violet	Clump at Lapanouse
<i>Listera ovata</i>	Common Twayblade	o: widespread on causses; scattered in grassland at la Pezade; near <i>toit-citerne</i>
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's-nest Orchid	lf: under pines near <i>toit-citerne</i> , around St Jean des Balmes
<i>Ophrys araneola</i>	Small Spider Orchid	r: Causse du Larzac :near telephone mast; la Pezade
<i>Ophrys aveyronensis</i>	Aveyron Orchid	r: some good plants in shelter of bushes at Lapanouse station and in causse grassland below and above the track
<i>Ophrys aymoninii</i>	Aymonin's Orchid	r: small group near the <i>toit-citerne</i> on the Causse Noir
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid	r: a good specimen at la Pezade
<i>Ophrys passionis</i>	Passiontide Orchid	r: single individual 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 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
Poaceae (Gramineae): Grasses		
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat	ld: roadsides and waste places
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	la: ditches and windbreaks, on the way to Carcassonne
<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: causse grassland, near picnic spot near la Couvertoirade; f: Mont 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>Stipa pennata</i>	Feather Grass, Angel's Hair, <i>Cheveu d'Ange</i>	ld: widespread in causses grassland