



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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**The Dordogne
19 – 26 September 2019**

Holiday participants

Peter and Sue Burge
Ann Stearns
Kate Dalziel
Len Tebbutt
Eve Corder
Malcolm and Helen Crowder
Ann Greenizan
John Durdin
Geoff and Kate Gibbs

Leader

Chris Durdin, who also wrote the report.

Our hosts at Castang were Cathy and Keith Parker
www.castang.info.



Photos by Kate Dalziel, Chris Durdin and Ann Greenizan, all taken on the holiday.
Cover: southern speckled wood, with artistic license (KD).
Above: outside at Castang (CD). Below, the group (SB, so she is missing from the photo).



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 'Refuges LPO' project was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a donation of £590. Up to September 2019, the total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £133, 762.

DAILY DIARY

Thursday 19 September – to Castang

I was with the Stansted contingent of seven, which touched down early at Bergerac, so early that the first few with suitcases were outside in the sunshine before our minibus with driver Alex arrived, Honeyguide sign on show just in case. It was an unfamiliar route as we'd arranged a diversion via the village pond by the church in pretty Pressignac. The idea was to look for odonata – dragonflies especially – though it was clusters of common blue butterflies taking salts on mud that first caught the eye. Looking at photos later from those on the earlier flight from Southampton, who'd also called here, sooty copper was also present.



Broad scarlet (KD); violet dropwing (AG).

My group found five species of dragonflies, including bright red broad scarlets (also seen by the Southampton contingent), though the star was certainly a male violet dropwing. Violet dropwing is one of several species that have moved into Europe in recent years in response to the changing climate: some of us saw it in Extremadura (Spain) on a Honeyguide holiday two years ago. It's already farther north in France than shown in the books, though its arrival is included in the recently published Crossbill Guide for the Dordogne. A photo from Sue (with the Southampton contingent) showed a willow emerald damselfly (western willow spreadwing) – my group just found their egg-laying scars on a weeping willow.



The pond at Pressignac (CD); common blue butterflies photographed here (KD).

The second leg of the drive was often alongside the Dordogne River, in which at one point was a mixed group of great white and little egrets. It was still Indian summer warmth as we arrived at Castang, the two groups meeting and sharing stories. Cathy and Keith took us to our rooms then we settled down to relax and chat over tea and biscuits on the terrace. A great banded grayling flew past and we realised that the many hornets on the grapevine were the alien yellow-legged (or Asian) hornet. Kate and Geoff then arrived: they had come all the way from North Wales by train and were picked up by Keith from the railway station at Le Buisson.

Cathy and Keith's daughter Olivia served aperitifs – Kir was a popular choice – before we went into dinner for the first of Castang's legendary multi-course meals. Tonight, it was carrot soup, quiche with home-grown tomatoes, *confit de canard*, a choice of French cheeses and a sweet of *framboisier* (raspberry pudding). There were two interruptions to mention, the first being a sortie outside to see the International Space Station go by low in the night sky to the east, opposite the red glow of the setting sun. The second was to present certificates to Helen and Malcolm to mark 50 Honeyguide holidays each. After a drink of coffee or infusion of lime flower everyone was ready for bed.

Friday 20 September– local walks around Castang

It was barely light at 7:30 so the pre-breakfast walk started at a civilised eight o'clock. A chiffchaff was singing and there was the 'tac' of a blackcap from a patch of scrub. Other birds were common ones like robin and great tit, plus glimpses of the nuthatch that was calling for much of the time.

After breakfast we gathered by the telescope for good views of both European and Asian hornets on the grapes, near which maidenhair spleenwort on the steps must have found a damp patch as ferns elsewhere were dry and shrivelled.

At the top of the drive we turned left, and beyond the first cropped field we wandered into a meadow that had a fair bit of secondary – or perhaps tertiary – growth after a hay crop or crops. Small scabious and wild carrots were the most numerous flowers, with meadow clary and yellowwort among the others. These attracted lots of butterflies: of the small ones, most were common blues though diligent searching yielded sooty copper, Oberthur's grizzled skipper and brown argus. There were several clouded yellows and it took a while to identify a very faded knapweed fritillary. It was Ann G who was alert to both a praying mantis and a swallowtail caterpillar on a small patch of wild carrot, and we noticed a few other mantises from their rather clumsy flight.



Praying mantis, swallowtail caterpillar (CD), sooty copper (KD).

Back on the road now, we carried on into Lagrave, passing thorn-apple and Virginia poke (American pokeweed), two distinctive alien plants. We stopped at the gîte where Eve, Kate and Geoff were staying, partly out of curiosity but also to use the loo and have a glass of cold water on this hot morning. Outside there were three hummingbird hawkmoths on a bush of an ornamental red sage. The big stone pond in Lagrave was completely dry though the smaller section had plenty of water in which there was a single pool frog and many tadpoles. A male black redstart sang and showed briefly on the walk back to Castang; another very faded butterfly this time was a silver-washed fritillary. We were back at one o'clock to enjoy cold drinks, a lunch of quiche and salad and an ice cream

What decadence: a siesta until three o'clock. Anyone would think it was a holiday. We set off, at first on this morning's route with a short cut across the meadow we'd been in this morning. Here we found violet fritillary, confirmed having caught it and checked it in the bug box. We took a right turn along an old cart track through the woodland edge taking us to Le Coux. The shade here was welcome on a hot day, though there was little new apart from the leaves of broad-leaved helleborine. Then into the open, past some cattle over which a buzzard flew, and into Le Coux. Here we met three of the group who'd been driven here by Keith and we continued along the road through some arable down to the River Dordogne.

At the river there were several retired people enjoying the 'beach' and bathing, though that didn't seem to deter two kingfishers that came and went several times, fishing from rocks on the opposite bank. Trifid bur marigold and amaranth were a couple of plants looked at here. Helen, Ann G and Peter walked back and the rest of us were happy to accept a lift from Keith. It was time for tea and checklists and soon aperitifs were followed by dinner, the main course for which was lamb with flageolet beans.

Saturday 21 September – Bigaroque woodland walk and Limeuil

Three red-legged partridges were an addition to the bird list before breakfast, walking away along the grass-centred road that leads to the Chateau of Cazenac. It was also a good morning for seeing black redstarts.

After breakfast, our old friend Gilles was there with his coach, though he was having trouble with its air brakes. Once sorted, we took the short drive to Bigaroque, a red squirrel crossing the road on route, and we found a southern white admiral butterfly as soon as we were out of the coach. The morning was spent pottering along a quiet road, looking especially at flowers and butterflies. The latter included a great banded grayling, which settled for a moment rather than dashing past at full speed, as they tend to do, and several Berger's clouded yellows drifted gently over chalky slopes by the road. Ploughman's spikenard and carline thistle were among the flowers of interest. A white umbellifer growing here – and elsewhere – that we couldn't identify at the time was *Seseli montanum*. Immature – late instars – of the distinctive southern green shield bug created lots of interest.



Long-tailed blue, painted lady (KD) and grizzled skipper (CD) at the patch of water mint.

The best place was a large patch of flowering water mint in a damp ditch that was alive with butterflies. We listed 12 species here: a perfect painted lady, meadow brown, small heath, Berger's clouded yellow, common blue, Adonis blue, long-tailed blue, brown argus, sooty and small coppers, grizzled skipper and small white. The supporting cast included mint moth, six-spot burnet, a bee fly and an ichneumon wasp. We found more violet fritillaries and the occasional faded silver-washed fritillary as we progressed.

Gilles arrived at our lunchtime rendezvous with our picnics in a minibus, having decided that the bus's brakes needed more attention. We ate on banks by a nice meadow, picnics supplemented by ripe figs from Castang's garden. After we'd eaten, where a meadow met woodland we saw a roe deer and also found a fine female wasp spider. That was while Gilles was away again, and he returned with two minibuses so there was room for all 13 of us, though that did mean me sitting in the back for the short drive to Limeuil.

At Limeuil we were dropped by the gateway into the top of the village, renowned as one of the prettiest in France. We started at a viewpoint over the valley, though it was the buddleia here that caught the eye, with a classic French village mix of painted lady, violet carpenter bee and hummingbird hawkmoth. A hairstreak moving around some wisteria proved too mobile and distant to identify. Back in the village, a butterfly on some pots of pelargoniums proved, not surprisingly, to be a geranium bronze. Crag martins soared as we descended, and we paused for a while in the colourful garden overlooking the confluence of the two rivers, Vézère and Dordogne. There was no sign of the usual tree sparrows – perhaps they are only here in spring? – though there was still plenty to enjoy, such as probably 20 hummingbird hawkmoths around the flowers. High above the village, around 100 house martins clustered as they tried and mostly failed to land on a cedar-like conifer tree. Some had an ice cream, others had drinks, enlivened for Ann S by seeing a snake move along the wall by where she sat (best guess from the illustrations in the field guide was western whip snake). Three of us had a rather fruitless search for dragonflies by the river; as we returned Malcolm was among the select few who saw a kingfisher zoom under the bridge that spans the Vézère. Our transport home was slightly different again, two minibuses with seats for us all back to Castang.

After dinner – including spinach soup and pork in mustard sauce with carrots – with a change in the weather expected it was a good moment to put the telescope on Jupiter, tonight with three moons visible, then three of us stayed out a short time more and saw the International Space Station again.

Sunday 22 September – Rouffignac and Roque St-Christophe

A change in the weather: five of us braved the morning drizzle, didn't find a red squirrel in the nearby wood but did hear, and Ann G saw, a short-toed treecreeper.

Steady rain prompted a change in the programme, and we were ready for a prompt departure in the two minibuses driven by Gilles and his wife Nicole. We made it to the Grotte de Rouffignac just in time for the 10:40 tour, and boarded the little electric train necessary on account of the sheer size of the caves. Our guide spoke rapidly in French with English highlights and we had ipod touches with information about the tour and 'frequently asked questions'. The stars were the mammoths and other mammals part etched and part painted in manganese dioxide. Especially memorable were a frieze of ten mammoths, three woolly rhino and the final ceiling, deep inside the cave, with mammoths, ibexes and horses. They were so good that it rang true that the artists were selected and trained. Hollows once used by hibernating cave bears were another remarkable feature of the cave complex, the bears there long before the prehistoric humans.



A wet day: about to brave the rain after Rouffignac (KD) and at Roque St Christophe (CD).

It was chilly in the cave and still raining when we came out so a coffee in a café in Rouffignac town was welcome, where Rugby Union – England vs Tonga – was on the TV. We moved onto Roque St-Christophe where picnic tables under a roof proved very useful today. After eating, we paused by the Roque St-Christophe café for two reasons: to use the new loos and to look at the egg-laying scars of willow emerald damselflies on an ash tree overhanging the adjacent pond.

The Troglodyte City of Roque St-Christophe was next for us, a good place on a still wet afternoon as most of the site is protected by overhangs where once 1,000 people lived and worked. The views over the Vézère and surrounding countryside were a bonus, as were the tame crag martins flying close to us or resting on the cliffs. Kate D saw a peregrine and two of us noticed pale toadflax outside the entrance to the shop and ticket office.

We returned early to Castang for tea and biscuits. With time in hand and improving weather there was time to relax or explore: Kate D found a common redstart. Then back for the usual routine of aperitifs and a lovely meal, tonight of leek soup, fried camembert with salad, salmon with roast potatoes and French beans, cheese and strawberries.



Crag martins (CD); pale toadflax (KD).

Monday 23 September – Keith’s walk

It was a pretty early morning scene, with yesterday’s damp leading to mist in places and glistening cobwebs. It was also a very productive pre-breakfast bird walk, starting with a curl bunting singing, set against the rising sun. As we walked down the hill a tree pipit called and flew over, much as one had done on the first morning’s walk. We turned right, and by the wood a pied flycatcher made an all-too-brief appearance on a roadside wire. There were distant drums that could well have been black woodpecker, but we couldn’t be sure. A nuthatch fed on the ground alongside several robins and another flycatcher. Four roe deer ran across the road and scampered into Castang’s meadows. On the return stretch there was a lively patch of scrub with probably 20 blackcaps, where Kate D had seen them yesterday evening along with (then) a garden warbler, suggesting a little fall of migrants after the bad weather.

Keith’s walk involved, as is our usual routine, a circuit of local lanes and tracks, with Keith’s take on local buildings and structures alongside the group’s attention to natural history. Just beyond the restored *pigeonnier* (pigeon house) in a meadow Sue and Kate D made a great discovery: autumn lady’s tresses, an autumn-flowering orchid species, albeit slim and easy to overlook. An oddity was that though they were in a cut meadow the vegetation was longer than the tight turf they usually prefer. We counted a minimum of 17 flowering spikes. In the adjacent hedgerow was a pedunculate oak with remarkably long stalks on its acorn cups.



Autumn lady’s tresses in Castang’s meadow. It’s tiny: the horse chestnut was to help find it (CD).

Moving on, we paused by the badly overgrown *abreuvoir*, a combined sluice/cattle trough in a seasonal stream on former pasture now with walnut trees on the downstream field. The route was then through woodland from which we turned into a small quarry where there were a few fossils in rocks and a field cricket scampering along the ground.

We emerged from the wood and found a good patch of migrant birds on a sunny hedgerow, including a brief view of a distant pied flycatcher, at least three spotted flycatchers, a common redstart and a whitethroat. Approaching Les Valades there were more migrants, especially a whinchat on a wire. Olivia picked up three of the group in the village for a lift back to base and the rest of us walked on. “Happy autumn” said the American lady as she greeted Keith. Broad-leaved helleborine leaves with a dead flower spike then later the woody stalks of violet birdsnest orchids were reminders of how rich the area is for orchids in spring and summer. To the left and right were large patches of dwarf elder, heavy with berries. The route continued past a *lavoir*, an old washing structure, and across the meadow to Castang.

Local naturalist David Simpson and botanist Corine Oosterlee had just arrived and David sold and signed copies of his Crossbill Guide to the Dordogne before we settled down to quiche and salad for lunch. I then took our guests to see the patch of autumn lady’s tresses finding, as we walked in their direction, another flowering spike of autumn lady’s tresses in Castang’s meadow and a second in bud. I marked the tiny plant with stones so Keith could see it later. The rest of the free afternoon passed in various relaxed activities: Eve sketched, some swam or read and several went off in various directions to look at wildlife.

Tea and checklists included looking at Kate D's photos of a firecrest in the conifer by the swimming pool and a short excursion to see rosemary beetles on Castang's lavender. Over dinner we toasted the autumn equinox.



Kate's firecrest (KD) and rosemary beetles (CD).

Tuesday 24 September – Le Bugue and walk to the Gouffre de Proumeyssac

Four went out in the rain before breakfast but didn't see a great deal, though we did find another autumn lady's tresses in Castang's meadow.

We started above Le Bugue, in the rain, where despite some long-tailed tits and the sound of a firecrest we didn't linger. Having walked down the hill we continued alongside the Vézère River where a great white egret stood in the shallows, a kingfisher flew past and, for completeness, we'll mention the mallards and moorhen. Le Bugue's weekly market had an end-of-season feel, or perhaps it was the on-and-off rain, or a bit of each. Even my usual place for coffee, Bar Menhir, was shut. There was still wildlife: a black redstart was singing and there were several crag martins on the church. Some of the group had rather bitter coffee at the café of the Hotel de Paris (others fared better elsewhere) opposite which some young house martins were noticed through a big hole in their mud nest. A few purchases in the market included Kate G's very practical apricot-coloured umbrella.

Rain was coming and going all day so it helped to have a shelter for picnics where we made our rendezvous with Gilles and one minibus. The second minibus driven by Gilles's son came as we finished lunch: with service beyond the call of duty he had a *baton* to replace the walking stick my father had left in Le Bugue, mysteriously not still at the coffee stop when I went back. There were more sightings of a kingfisher for those sitting near the river.

Ten of us were dropped off for the afternoon's walk, with Eve and Len staying in the minibus. They continued to the Gouffre de Proumeyssac and enjoyed a visit to the 'crystal cathedral'. The rest of us walked and coped with the changeable weather. We dropped into a nice meadow where the sun came out along with butterflies, Adonis blues and Berger's clouded yellows especially. Then back came the rain, though it was never cold. Sue found squinancywort and there were a few examples of large-flowered self-heal. The open limestone scrub turned to woodland, with large stacks of timber harvested last winter by the track. By one of these stacks was a patch of bright yellow sternbergias – we'd seen others on two previous days – though garden rubbish was a reminder this isn't a native species here

We turned left then the path kinked right as we walked up the slope, where as the wood began to open out Ann G was alert to a damselfly. It was a common winter damsel, its brown colours blending well with its dry grass perches, and then there were two, far from water, being very cooperative for cameras. In the meantime, the leading group of Honeyguiders went ahead to an area of pasture that is tightly grazed by horses (good for tongue and sombre bee orchids in May, we know) there finding yet more, certainly many scores, of autumn lady's tresses. Another burst of sunshine allowed ground level photography and brought out butterflies onto scabiouses and other flowers. One of these, by the track, was a great banded grayling that, instead of its usual bat-out-of-hell flight style, first settled on fallen leaves then on Ann G's brightly coloured backpack.

Back in the wood we'd looked at wild service tree where Kate G described how she had surveyed for this species in Essex by looking for its distinctive autumn colours, and here in the open that's exactly what she was able to show us.



A great banded grayling takes a break; winter damselfly; more autumn lady's tresses (CD).

No-one else wished to visit the Gouffre de Proumeyssac so after a brief visit to the gift shop we made an early return to Castang, with a brief detour to see splendid models in straw of a mammoth and a prehistoric man.

During the beef and ratatouille course at dinner Cathy appeared with a toad, which calmly looked at proceedings before being returned outside where it came from.

Wednesday 25 September – Beune Valley and Groléjac

Early rain stopped in perfect time ahead of the pre-breakfast walk. A new bird was mistle thrush, a group of four flying through, just after which a song thrush popped up on a hedge. Malcolm and Helen, coming in the other direction to Ann G and me, saw the group of roe deer again. We noted musk mallow, but otherwise it was a morning to see or hear the usual range of birds, including a singing cirl bunting and plenty of blackcaps.

The changeable weather continued all day, with luck favouring us in terms of being dry when we were out. It was my first visit to the marsh/wet meadow complex in the Beune Valley near Meyrals, a Natura 2000 site. Gilles gave me a hurried briefing on the local geography, which was an easy to walk block that included a range of habitats. Initially along the road it was marshy either side, with tormentil and devilsbit scabious in flower. A left turn took us through an open woodland that at one point overlooked a fishfarm. Various members of the group saw chiffchaff and marsh tit; Kate G gave the low-down on butcher's broom. Alert botanists found leaves of common cow-wheat and hairy violet. Two more left turns and we were on the quiet road where we'd come in, with limestone slopes to our right supporting Montpellier maple, lots of rustyback ferns, wall germander and more *Seseli montanum*. Just beyond where we'd been dropped the road went through the valley with reeds and willows on both sides: here we heard Cetti's warbler and water rail and found wetland plants such as marsh pennywort, marsh thistle and water forget-me-not. A rather dead looking water figwort had both a mint moth and some odd-looking weevils on it, the latter *Cionus hortulanus*.



Weevils *Cionus hortulanus* on figwort and mint leaf beetle *Chrysolina fastuosa* on apple mint, both on the Beune Valley walk. Signal crayfish, Groléjac. (CD)

The journey south took us past several chateaux and into Sarlat, where we stopped briefly for the loo in the main car park and then kept going to take advantage of the spell of good weather, arriving at Groléjac at just the right time for a picnic on tables overlooking the large lake.

It was Helen who spotted the hobby, which returned to the sky while we ate. Above the hobby there was one alpine swift that after scanning around became at least six. All of a sudden, about 20 swallows appeared over the lake and not long afterwards about 100 house martins did the same: visible migration in action. That wasn't all: an osprey appeared over the lake, giving great views for anyone on the right side of the group of trees around the picnic tables. On the lake itself were a few mallards, a coot and a cormorant plus herons coming to and fro. Kate D found a blue featherleg (white-legged damselfly) and a signal crayfish on the grass by the lake waved its red pincers at us.

As we walked by the lake's beach, Malcolm drew our attention to an odd looking and fairly chunky lizard. We looked at it for a while and took photos; later research showed it to be the reticulated form of common wall lizard (photo in wildlife lists). Most of the group then entered Groléjac fen where a boardwalk does a circuit through the huge and no doubt ancient tussock sedges, waterways and alder woodland, though the damp meant that the boardwalk was a little slippery in places. Water rails called many times, close but never in view, and we couldn't find the calling woodpecker, which is a pity as middle spotted occurs here. There were plenty of berries, such as guelder rose and spindle, but not many flowers: common hemp-nettle and marsh marigold were two new for the list.

While in the marsh there was also a very brief shower of rain; happily, that came to nothing but rain restarted on the journey home. One bus paused to see Beynac Castle, but the weather meant it was a very brief stop. We shared holiday highlights (noted below) during our final evening meal.

Thursday 26 May – Bergerac and home

Kate and Geoff headed off early to catch their train at Le Buisson. Just Ann G and I had a pre-breakfast walk towards Le Coux, where there were good numbers of black redstarts and a green woodpecker on a large lawn. We returned via a track with a medlar tree in fruit and found the first dunnock of the week. Kate D heard a woodlark from outside her door and two meadow pipits flew over after breakfast, wildlife close to home as usual.

With four who were next to leave for the earlier flight from Bergerac to Southampton and two relaxing at Castang we were down to five for the morning walk through Lagrave, onto the Le Coux road and into the cluster of houses and barns at Les Tyssanderies. Migrating swallows and house martins came through and a lesser spotted woodpecker called once but remained elusive. Blackcaps were at several points on the walk, as usual, and we were back in good time for a coffee in warm sunshine and final bits of packing.

Our driver was Jean-Pierre for the journey by minibus to Bergerac Airport, where I'd *like* to be able to write that we dropped our bags, ate picnics provided by Cathy and went back to Stansted on time. However it wasn't that straightforward. We were loaded onto the plane but the stairs at the front wouldn't retract. Off we went, a refreshment voucher was provided, and an engineer was flown in from Milan. Then a choice of viewing: to watch either the engineer struggling with and succeeding to get the staircase back under the plane's nose or up to three black-winged kites hunting over the airfield. (David Simpson advises that black-winged kites first nested in the Dordogne in 2012 and are now regular around the airfield.) We were back at Stansted four and quarter hours late.

Group members' holiday highlights

| | |
|---------|--|
| Kate G | Figs falling from a tree into my hand; patch of water mint with so many butterflies. |
| Geoff | Dinner with "enhanced melons"; meeting John and Chris. |
| Helen | Butterflies, autumn lady's tresses; violet dropwing and scarlet darter; figs. |
| Sue | Keith's walk and Kate going into raptures about autumn lady's tresses; team leader finding a kingfisher in the telescope. |
| Eve | Figs; osprey. |
| Len | Food and wine; learning about hornbeam. |
| Peter | Hummingbird hawkmoths; instar of southern green shield bug. |
| Ann G | Violet dropwing; winter damselfly; the ISS and moons of Jupiter; Rouffignac. |
| Ann S | Crag martins and Roque St-Christophe. |
| John | Scenery; lovely company and extraordinary hosts; violet dropwing; lying in a field with countless butterflies. |
| Malcolm | Castang; Gilles and his family; crag martins close on a ledge; Rouffignac and Roque St-Christophe. |
| Kate D | Hot sunshine at Pressignac pond and a great banded grayling; this lovely group and their back stories; cave bear nests. |
| Chris | Autumn lady's tresses; violet dropwing; winter damselfly; 12 butterfly species on a patch of water mint. In hindsight, the many hornets deserve a mention in despatches. |

The food and hospitality were highlights by general acclaim.

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Great white egret | Green woodpecker | Pied flycatcher * |
| Little egret | Great spotted woodpecker | Cetti's warbler H |
| Cormorant | Lesser spotted woodpecker H | Whitethroat |
| Grey heron | Woodlark H | Garden warbler * |
| Mute swan | Tree pipit | Blackcap |
| Mallard | Meadow pipit * | Chiffchaff |
| Sparrowhawk | Sand martin | Firecrest |
| Buzzard | Crag martin | Long-tailed tit |
| Osprey * | Swallow | Marsh tit |
| Kestrel | House martin | Blue tit |
| Hobby | Grey wagtail | Great tit |
| Peregrine | White wagtail | Nuthatch |
| Red-legged partridge | Wren | Short-toed tree creeper |
| Pheasant | Duncock | Jay |
| Water rail H * | Robin | Magpie |
| Moorhen | Black redstart | Jackdaw |
| Coot * | Common redstart | Carion crow |
| Feral pigeon | Whinchat | Raven |
| Woodpigeon | Stonechat | Starling |
| Collared dove | Blackbird | House sparrow |
| Tawny owl H | Song thrush | Chaffinch |
| Alpine swift | Mistle thrush | Goldfinch |
| Kingfisher | Spotted flycatcher | Girl bunting |

* additions to the Honeyguide checklist in September 2019, six new birds reflecting the different season and itinerary.

MAMMALS, REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Cave bear – ancient nests at Rouffignac! | Roe deer | Rabbit | Red squirrel | Mole (dead) |
| | Wall lizard | Pool frog | Common frog | |



Common wall lizard, reticulated form (KD).
From this angle you can see blue spots on the flanks, as well as the reticulated pattern.

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES

Internationally used names, with common UK names in brackets where different. Nine species marked with an asterisk were 'write-ins' onto the checklist from May, and with more consistent good weather there could have been more.

| | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Western demoiselle (yellow-tailed demoiselle) | Common bluetail (blue-tailed damselfly) | Keeled skimmer * |
| Western willow spreadwing (willow emerald) * | Common blue (common blue damselfly) * | Black-tailed skimmer |
| Common winter damsel (winter damselfly) * | Blue featherleg (white-legged damselfly) * | Ruddy darter * |
| | Blue emperor (emperor dragonfly) | Common darter * |
| | | Broad scarlet (scarlet darter) * |
| | | Violet dropwing |

BUTTERFLIES

Species marked with an asterisk were 'write-ins' onto the checklist from May.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Grizzled skipper | Long-tailed blue * | Silver-washed fritillary * |
| Oberthur's grizzled skipper | Geranium bronze * | Knapweed fritillary |
| Swallowtail (caterpillars) | Brown argus | Violet (= weaver's) fritillary |
| Large white | Adonis blue | Great banded grayling * |
| Small white | Common blue | Meadow brown |
| Green-veined white | Southern white admiral | Small heath |
| Clouded yellow | Peacock | Speckled wood |
| Berger's clouded yellow | Red admiral | Wall brown |
| Small copper | Painted lady | |
| Sooty copper | Comma | |

MOTHS

British checklist numbers given from Waring & Townsend

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 169 6-spot burnet moth | 1906 Brimstone (moth) | 2441 Silver Y |
| 170 5-spot burnet moth | 1984 Hummingbird hawkmoth | Micro-moth: Mint moth |
| 1716 Vestal | 1994 Buff-tip (caterpillars) | <i>Pyrausta purpuralis</i> |

OTHER INSECTS

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Praying mantis | Robin's pincushion, gall caused by the larvae of a tiny gall wasp, <i>Diploepis rosae</i> | Firebug |
| Paper wasp <i>Polistes</i> sp. | Hornet hoverfly <i>Volucella zonaria</i> | 7-spot ladybird |
| European hornet <i>Vespa crabro</i> | weevil on figwort <i>Cionus hortulanus</i> | Southern green shield bug, adults and nymphs <i>Nezera viridula</i> |
| Asian (yellow-legged) hornet <i>Vespa velutina</i> | Bloody-nosed beetle | <i>Graphosoma italicum</i> – a black & red shield bug |
| Red-tailed bumblebee | Rosemary beetle <i>Chrysolina americana</i> | Field cricket |
| Common carder bee | Mint leaf beetle <i>Chrysolina fastuosa</i> | Great green bush-cricket |
| Honey bee | | Red-underwing grasshopper |
| Violet carpenter bee | | Water skater |
| Bee-fly sp. | | |

SPIDERS AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Crab spider <i>Misumena vatia</i> | Pale-lipped banded snail | Signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i> |
| Wasp spider <i>Argiope bruennichi</i> | Slug <i>Arion ater</i> | |
| Garden snail | | |



Notable bugs: *Graphosoma italicum* with a nymph on a wild carrot seedhead (KD); southern green shield bug *Nezera viridula*, adult and nymph (CD).

PLANTS

We concentrated on flowers in bloom though as it was autumn there were distinctive fruits as well as 'gone over' wild flowers that were recognised.
Most species are in The Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe by Fitter, Fitter & Blamey.
Those in bold marked M are in the Mediterranean flora. NiF = not in flower Fr = in fruit.

| FAMILY | SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| ACERACEAE (Maple) | <i>Acer campestre</i> | Field maple | |
| | <i>Acer monspessulanus</i> | Montpelier maple | |
| | <i>Acer negundo</i> | Box elder (planted) | |
| AMARANTHACEAE (Amaranth) | <i>Amaranthus hybridus</i> | Green amaranth | |
| | <i>Phytolacca edulis</i> | American pokeweed | |
| ARACEAE (Arum) | <i>Arum italicum</i> | Large (or italian) lords & ladies | NiF |
| ARALIACEAE (Ivy) | <i>Hedera helix</i> | Ivy | |
| ASCLEPIADACEAE (Milkweed) | <i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i> | Swallow-wort | NiF |
| BETULACEAE (Birch) | <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | Alder | |
| BORAGINACEAE (Borage) | <i>Echium vulgare</i> | Viper's bugloss | |
| | <i>Myosotis scorpiodes</i> | Waer forget-me-not | |
| | <i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i> | Narrow-leaved lungwort | |
| | <i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i> | Lungwort | |
| CAMPANULACEAE (Bellflower) | <i>Campanula erinus</i> | M | NiF |
| | <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> | Harebell | |
| | <i>Campanula trachelium</i> | Nettle-leaved bellflower | |
| CANNABACEAE (Hemp) | <i>Humulus lupulus</i> | Hop | Fr |
| CANNABACEAE (Hemp) | <i>Humulus lupulus</i> | Hop | Fr |
| CAPRIFOLIACEAE (Honeysuckle) | <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> | Honeysuckle | NiF |
| | <i>Sambucus ebulus</i> | Dwarf elder | Fr |
| | <i>Sambucus nigra</i> | Elder | |
| | <i>Viburnum lanata</i> | Wayfaring tree | Fr |
| CARYOPHYLLACEAE (Pink) | <i>Dianthus deltoides</i> | Maiden pink | |
| | <i>Myosoton aquaticum</i> | Water chickweed | |
| | <i>Saponaria officinalis</i> | Soapwort | |
| | <i>Silene alba</i> | White campion | |
| | <i>Silene vulgaris</i> | Bladder campion | |
| CELASTRACEAE (Spindle) | <i>Euonymus europaeus</i> | Spindle | Fr |
| CHENOPODIACEAE (Goosefoot) | <i>Chenopodium album</i> | Fat hen | |
| COMPOSITAE (Daisy) | <i>Achillea millefolium</i> | Yarrow | |
| | <i>Arctium minus</i> | Lesser burdock | NiF |
| | <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> | Mugwort | |
| | <i>Bidens tripartita</i> | Trifid bur marigold | |
| | <i>Carlina vulgaris</i> | Carlina thistle | |
| | <i>Centaurea nigra</i> | Black knapweed | |
| | <i>Cirsium acaule</i> | Dwarf thistle | |
| | <i>Cirsium palustre</i> | Marsh thistle | |
| | <i>Hieracium maculatum</i> | Spotted hawkweed | Fr |
| | <i>Inula spiraeifolia</i> | | |
| | <i>Inula conyza</i> | Ploughman's spikenard | |
| | <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> | Ox-eye daisy | |
| | <i>Pilosella officinarum</i> | Mouse-ear hawkweed | |
| | <i>Senecio vulgaris</i> | Groundsel | |
| | <i>Sonchus asper</i> | Prickly sow-thistle | |
| | <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> | Smooth sow-thistle | |
| | <i>Taraxacum (group)</i> | Dandelion | |
| CONVOLVULACEAE | <i>Calystegia sepium</i> | Hedge bindweed | |
| | <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> | Field bindweed | |
| CORNACEAE (Cornus) | <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> | Dogwood | |
| CORYLACEAE (Hazel) | <i>Corylus avellana</i> | Hazel | Fr |
| CORYLACEAE (Hornbeam) | <i>Carpinus betulus</i> | Hornbeam | Fr |
| CRUCIFERAE (Cress) | <i>Nasturtium officinale</i> | Watercress | |
| CUCURBITACEAE (Gourd) | <i>Bryonia cretica</i> | White bryony | Fr |

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|
| CUPRESSACEAE (Cypress) | <i>Juniperus communis</i> | Juniper | Fr |
| CYPERACEAE (Sedge) | <i>Carex paniculata</i> | Greater tussock-sedge | |
| DIPSACACEAE (Scabious) | <i>Knautia arvensis</i> | Field scabious | |
| | <i>Knautia columbaria</i> | Small scabious | |
| | <i>Succisa pratensis</i> | Devilsbit scabious | |
| | <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> | Teasel | NiF |
| EUPHORBIACEAE (Spurge) | <i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i> | Wood spurge | NiF |
| | <i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i> | Cypress spurge | NiF |
| | <i>Euphorbia peplus</i> | Petty spurge | |
| | <i>Mercurialis annua</i> | Annual mercury | |
| FABACEAE (or LEGUMINOSAE, Pea) | <i>Cercis siliquastrum</i> | Judas Tree (planted) M | |
| | <i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> | Meadow vetchling | |
| | <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> | Birdsfoot trefoil | |
| | <i>Medicago sativa</i> | Lucerne (= alfalfa) | |
| | <i>Ononis repens</i> | Restharrow | |
| | <i>Ononis spinosa</i> | Spiny restharrow | |
| | <i>Robinia pseudacacia</i> | False acacia or Locust tree | Fr |
| | <i>Trifolium pratense</i> | Red clover | |
| FAGACEAE | <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> | Horse chestnut (planted) | Fr |
| | <i>Castanea sativa</i> | Sweet chestnut | Fr |
| | <i>Quercus ilex</i> | Evergreen/holm oak | |
| | <i>Quercus pubescens</i> | Downy oak | Fr |
| | <i>Quercus robur</i> | Pedunculate oak | Fr |
| GENTIANACEAE (Gentian) | <i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i> | Yellow-wort | |
| | <i>Centaurium erythraea</i> | Common centaury | |
| GERANIACEAE (Geranium) | <i>Geranium robertianum</i> | Herb Robert | |
| GRAMINEAE (Grass) | <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> | Bermuda grass M | |
| | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | Cocksfoot | |
| | <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Common reed | |
| HYPERICACEAE (Hypericum) | <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> | Perforate St. John's wort | |
| | <i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i> | Square-stalked St. John's wort | |
| IRIDACEAE (Iris) | <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> | Yellow flag iris | Fr |
| JUGLANDACEAE | <i>Juglans regia</i> | Walnut | Fr |
| LABIATAE (Mint) | <i>Calamintha sylvatica</i> | Common calamint | |
| | <i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i> | Common hemp-nettle | |
| | <i>Lamium album</i> | White dead-nettle | |
| | <i>Mentha aquatica</i> | Water mint | |
| | <i>Mentha suaveolens</i> | Apple (round-leaved) mint | |
| | <i>Origanum vulgare</i> | Marjoram | |
| | <i>Prunella grandiflora</i> | Large self-heal | |
| | <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> | Self-heal | |
| | <i>Salvia pratensis</i> | Meadow clary | |
| | <i>Scutellaria galericulata</i> | Skullcap | |
| | <i>Stachys recta</i> | Yellow woundwort | |
| | <i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i> | Wall germander (leaves) | NiF |
| LILIACEAE (Lily) | <i>Ruscus aculeatus</i> | Butcher's broom | Fr |
| MALVACEAE (Mallow) | <i>Malva moschata</i> | Musk mallow | |
| | <i>Malva pusilla</i> | Small mallow | |
| | <i>Malva sylvestris</i> | Common mallow | |
| OLEACEAE (Olive) | <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> | Ash | |
| ORCHIDACEAE | <i>Cephalanthera rubra</i> | Red helleborine | NiF |
| | <i>Epipactis helleborine</i> | Broad-leaved helleborine (leaves) | NiF |
| | <i>Limodorum abortivum</i> | Violet birdsnest orchid (= limodor) | NiF |
| | <i>Spiranthes spiralis</i> | Autumn lady's tresses | |
| OROBANCHACEAE (Broomrape) | <i>Orobanche hederæ</i> | Ivy broomrape | NiF |
| OXALIDACEAE (wood-sorrels) | <i>Oxalis fontana</i> | Upright yellow oxalis | |
| PAPAVERACEAE (Poppy) | <i>Chelidonium majus</i> | Greater celandine | |
| PLANTAGINACEAE (Plantain) | <i>Plantago coronopus</i> | Buckshorn plantain | |
| | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> | Ribwort plantain | |

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|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------|
| POLYGONACEAE (Dock) | <i>Polygonum persicaria</i> | Redshank | |
| | <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> | Knotgrass | |
| PORTULACACEAE (Purslane) | <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> | Purslane | |
| PRIMULACEAE (Primrose) | <i>Anagallis arvensis</i> | Scarlet pimpernel | |
| PTERIDOPHYTA (Fern) | <i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i> | Maidenhair fern | |
| | <i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i> | Black spleenwort | |
| | <i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i> | Wall rue | |
| | <i>Asplenium trichomanes</i> | Maidenhair spleenwort | |
| | <i>Ceterach officinarum</i> | Rusty-back fern | |
| | <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> | Male fern | |
| | <i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i> | Hart's-tongue fern | |
| | <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> | Bracken | |
| | <i>Polypodium vulgare</i> | Common polypody | |
| | <i>Thelypteris palustris</i> | Marsh fern | |
| | RANUNCULACEAE (Buttercup) | <i>Caltha palustris</i> | Marsh marigold |
| <i>Clematis vitalba</i> | | Traveller's joy | Fr |
| RESEDACEAE (Mignonette) | <i>Reseda lutea</i> | Wild mignonette | |
| ROSACEAE (Rose) | <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn | Fr |
| | <i>Geum urbanum</i> | Herb bennet | Fr |
| | <i>Mespilus germanica</i> | Medlar (planted) | Fr |
| | <i>Potentilla erecta</i> | Tormentil | |
| | <i>Potentilla reptans</i> | Creeping cinquefoil | |
| | <i>Prunus spinosa</i> | Blackthorn | Fr |
| | <i>Rosa canina</i> | Dog rose | Fr |
| | <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. | Bramble | Fr |
| | <i>Sanguisorbia minor</i> | Salad burnet | NiF |
| | <i>Sorbus torminalis</i> | Wild service tree | |
| RUBIACEAE (Bedstraw) | <i>Asperula cynanchica</i> | Squinancywort | |
| | <i>Cruciata laevipes</i> | Crosswort | |
| | <i>Galium album</i> (<i>G. mollugo</i> ssp. <i>erectum</i>) | Upright hedge bedstraw | |
| | <i>Galium verum</i> | Lady's bedstraw | |
| | <i>Rubia peregrina</i> | Wild madder | |
| SALICACEAE (Willow) | <i>Salix caprea</i> | Goat willow | |
| SCROPHULARIACEAE (Figwort) | <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i> | Ivy-leaved toadflax | |
| | <i>Linaria repens</i> | Pale toadflax | |
| | <i>Melampyrum pratense</i> | Common cow-wheat | NiF |
| | <i>Scrophularia auriculata</i> | Water figwort | NiF |
| | <i>Verbascum pulverulentum</i> | Hoary mullein | |
| SOLANACEAE (Nightshade) | <i>Datura stramonium</i> | Thorn-apple | |
| | <i>Solanum dulcamara</i> | Woody nightshade (Bittersweet) | Fr |
| | <i>Solanum nigrum</i> | Black nightshade | |
| TILIACEAE (Lime) | <i>Tilia cordata</i> | Small-leaved lime | |
| UMBELLIFERAE (Carrot) (= Apiaceae) | <i>Angelica sylvestris</i> | Wild angelica | |
| | <i>Conopodium majus</i> | Pignut | |
| | <i>Daucus carota</i> | Wild carrot | |
| | <i>Eryngium campestre</i> | Field eryngo | |
| | <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> var. <i>sibiricum</i> | Hogweed (greenish flowered) | |
| | <i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i> | Marsh pennywort | NiF |
| | <i>Pastinaca sativa</i> | Wild parsnip | |
| | <i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i> | Burnet saxifrage | |
| | <i>Seseli montanum</i> | | |
| <i>Silaum silaus</i> | Pepper saxifrage | | |
| URTICACEAE (Nettle) | <i>Parietaria judaica</i> | Pellitory-of-the-wall | |
| | <i>Urtica dioica</i> | Stinging nettle | |
| VALERIANACEAE (Valerian) | <i>Centranthus ruber</i> | Red valerian | |
| VERBENACEAE (Vervain) | <i>Verbena officinalis</i> | Vervain | |
| VIOLACEAE (Violet) | <i>Viola hirta</i> | Hairy violet | NiF |