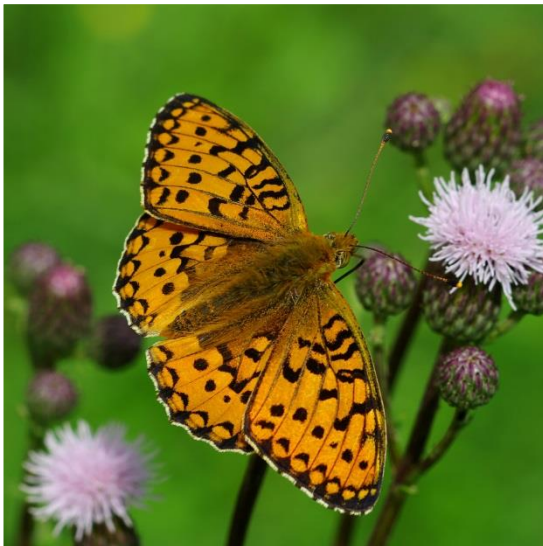


Tour Report

France – Birds, Butterflies & Wildflowers of the Dordogne

3 – 10 July 2017

Dark green fritillary



Middle spotted woodpecker



Violet dropwing



Short-toed tree creeper



Tour Leaders: David Simpson and Dick Askew

Day 1: Monday 3 July 2017

I parked up at Bergerac airport for the early 10am flight and the first thing I heard was a fan-tailed warbler singing 'zit-zit-zit'...overhead. This species has really increased in numbers in recent years after a disappearance following very cold winters five or ten years ago. The flight arrived a little early and before long three of the group emerged from the arrivals hall and we were greeting one another. All had visited Dordogne before – either on a Travelling Naturalist holiday or staying at my gite – so it was a bit like meeting old friends...once I recognised everyone! We drove back south of the river to Mauzac and our hotel. After meeting Amanda the manager and sorting out cases and rooms we re-convened on the terrace for a drink and I gave an introduction to the week ahead. Dick Askew arrived at midday and we all settled down to lunch. The first of many very nice meals at our favourite restaurant!

After lunch the weather was looking up and we walked along to the nearby dam. By now it was getting sunny and warm. As soon as we were on the towpath we noticed the many blue-eye and western demoiselle damselflies. In addition we found white featherleg and azure damselflies. Firebugs were scuttling around underfoot and a violet carpenter bee was on some buddleia. Several butterflies were spotted including brown argus, map, marbled white and wall brown. Margaret went one better and found us a lesser purple emperor. By the dam on the revetment wall a little snake slid quickly away. From the impression of the colour and pattern it was most likely a viperine snake. Green frogs cackled from the riverside vegetation and several birds sang: Cetti's warbler, melodious warbler (the latter of which we saw) and we even heard a few brief snatches of nightingale song. Several black kites drifted about above us as we checked out the herons and egrets along the river. There were a few little egrets fishing at the dam waterfall and more further downstream viewable through the 'scope along with some cattle egrets and grey herons. This year, for the first time in Dordogne, little and cattle egrets are nesting at Mauzac at the island heronry. One of the group and myself saw a couple of probable golden orioles fly off from a tree away from the river.

I collected the group in the minibus and we continued to the municipal campsite river frontage. On arrival in the car park we saw a hoopoe. One of the group tried to photograph it from the minibus but it proved difficult.

Here we found many more western demoiselle damselflies plus a few beautiful copper demoiselles. Out on an island in the river the third new nesting species for Dordogne was incubating – the cormorant! Finally we drove a little further down the road towards Lalinde bridge. Here we found similar dragonflies but added blue featherleg, blue-tailed damselfly and keeled skimmer (a pair) to our list. One of the group found us some other interesting invertebrates: blue chafer, wasp spider, soldier beetles, squash bug and a paper wasp nest. There were a few interesting butterflies like scarce swallowtail, brimstone and an early gatekeeper. We saw a song thrush briefly (rarely seen but often heard locally) and by the sewage farm three grey wagtails. One of the group found a shrew later at Mauzac – probably greater white-toothed and another saw a roe deer on the way home. When I returned home there was a western spectre dragonfly waiting to greet me and a few pincertails along the track – pity the group weren't there to see them (though we would see these species later in the week).

Day 2: Tuesday 4 July 2017

The first sighting of the day was a juvenile goldfinch seen by the group at breakfast. We started today's trip at one of our favourite local dragonfly sites, Pressignac village pond, on a beautiful sunny morning. On route we passed through the little hamlet of Vicq where a couple of green woodpeckers were sitting on hay bales before flying off! As usual the pond was productive although we didn't find two species we had hoped for: orange spotted emerald and violet dropwing – such is wildlife-watching! However there were plenty of

damselflies: azure, southern, small red, blue featherleg, small red-eyed and blue-tailed. The larger dragonflies were emperor, black-tailed and Keeled skimmers and the bright red scarlet darter. A male golden oriole sang from the poplars during our visit and eventually broke cover allowing a few of us to see it. A serin was singing here as well – a typical village bird in summer. As we left two hoopoes flew past the church -unfortunately I think I was the only one to see them – and the local jackdaws called from the trees.

Next we went to St Marcel du Périgord. Whilst turning the minibus around I saw a sparrowhawk rise up from Dick's hay meadow having caught some prey. Soon afterwards we parked by the stream in the village and explored the area. First up was another hoopoe which we watched from the minibus in the car park. black redstart and serin were singing from the houses and a girl bunting towards the meadows. There were masses of beautiful demoiselle damselflies along the stream and some nice dragonflies: golden-ringed plus small and large pincertails. Butterflies included scarce swallowtail, wall, dryad, great banded grayling, wood white as well as Provençal short-tailed and holly blues. A common wall lizard basked on a low wall.

We returned to our hotel at Mauzac for lunch. In the garden we were fortunate to see a male Cleopatra, geranium bronze and a white featherleg over lunchtime. On my chair Dick pointed out an interesting digger wasp nest building in a hole in the metal structure: *Liodontia mexicana*, an introduced species. A walk afterwards out onto the towpath revealed two rare lesser emperor dragonflies and a white-tailed skimmer amongst the many blue-eyes. A pretty fly with a strong wing pattern found by one of the group in the garden was a scorpion fly *Panorpa*.

For our afternoon trip we called in briefly at a little pond near my house. Here four-spotted chaser was a new species for the holiday as was a surprising western spectre which flew in bright sunlight into a buddleia bush affording great views. Also on the buddleia was a silver-washed fritillary amongst commoner butterflies and a hummingbird hawk-moth. In the meadow adjacent we watched four or five lovely large blues. In the pond we saw many newt efts (larvae) which appeared to be of marbled newts and there were several green frogs.

Last visit of the day was to the Louyre stream near Liorac. In this valley it was very warm and humid as the temperature reached 32°C. Here we found blue and orange featherlegs as well as ruddy darter, golden-ringed, emperor and a real surprise – a southern hawkler flying very early – which I managed to catch in a net whilst exploring a wet meadow. At the same time I put up an emperor butterfly, probably a lesser purple but my impression was that it was more like the much rarer purple emperor. As we walked through the damp woodland we found various other interesting butterflies: clouded yellow, comma, brimstone, white admiral, map, and Lulworth skipper. Wild boar had clearly recently been digging up a wetter section of the grassland to get at roots. One of the group found us a couple of this year's agile frog young in the grass. Dick identified a few bugs for us: the red and black striped shield bug, the hairy beetle *Clerus multillarius* and some bush-cricket nymphs: probably speckled bush-cricket.

Day 3: Wednesday 5 July 2017

Today we headed west down the Dordogne valley towards Sainte Foy la Grande and some gravel pits. First stop was a lake surrounded by fields, usually popular with anglers and which we normally avoid. However this morning it was quiet so we decided to explore the southern side. This proved a good decision as there were numerous dragonflies present. Beautiful, banded and western demoiselles flitted near the bank amongst vegetation along with blue-eye, blue-tailed and blue featherleg. Out over the water were emperor and two lesser emperors with black-tailed and white-tailed skimmers, scarlet darter and our first violet dropwings - occasionally landing on bankside vegetation for photographs! As we walked around the lake edge we found a pincertail – most likely a small. Sooty copper and a couple of gatekeepers were also noted. Linnets, fan-tailed warbler and another hoopoe were also seen and a turtle dove purred during our stay.

Next we moved on a short way to another similar-sized gravel pit but set amongst trees. As we drove along the rough track a pair of stonechats were seen on a hedge nearby. Out on the water were 30-odd mute swans whilst around the edge three little egrets and a couple of grey herons stood motionless. A high-pitched piping alerted me to a kingfisher which came and went in a flash of blue – unfortunately the rest of the group missed it. Up in the trees near us a chiffchaff sang whilst a mixed tit flock included long-tailed and a short-toed treecreeper. From the lakeside we could hear more green frogs. A similar mix of dragonflies was seen here minus the demoiselles and lesser emperor - but there were more violet dropwings. Usually there are fishermen's rod rest sticks in the bays which are great dragonfly perching posts. As there were none today I followed Dick's example and made a couple from dead branches nearby and one was particularly successful for photography. By this time it was time for lunch so we drove into Port Sainte Foy and found a picnic table in a small roadside park. As we drove in a hoopoe flew off. Nearby a dunnock sang – our only one of the holiday.

The afternoon session was spent in the Landais Forest near La Force. As we drove near the site a white admiral was fluttering by the roadside and in the little car park lay-by were one or two more plus a couple of southern white admiral for comparison. Brimstone and wood white were also here but best of all butterfly-wise was a fresh short-tailed blue which posed for photos. Beside the pond were blue featherleg and blue-tailed damselfly and ruddy darter, whilst across the water flew emperor, black and white-tailed skimmers and scarlet darter. Tree pipit, crested tit and turtle dove were notable songsters.

At the second nearby pond we went for a walk around the perimeter. The water level was high and the area of sandy delta appeared to have been dredged – unfortunate as it is a good spot for puddling butterflies. We saw a similar range of dragonflies but remarkably another violet dropwing (at a new site for us) and I saw a western clubtail that just eluded the group. New butterflies were clouded yellow, pearly heath and large chequered skipper. At a little wild boar wallowing pit a male silver-washed fritillary briefly 'took the salts'. We completed the circuit and before finishing for the day dropped down to the River Dordogne at Prignonieux by which time the temperature had reached 35°C. Apart from beautiful views all was quiet here apart from the obligatory western demoiselles.

Day 4: Thursday 6 July 2017

Today was a little cooler than yesterday with the temperature not reaching 30°C. We decided to stay on sandstone (as yesterday) rather than the predominant limestone and headed for the Bessède forest, this time south of the river. As we reached the plateau there were two stonechats on the roadside wire above the farmland. Our first pond was a small one used by fireman to fill the tenders during forest fires. There was an emperor holding territory and azure and blue-tailed damselflies in the bankside vegetation. After a while we became aware of another smaller greenish dragonfly flying low over the water making circuits in a shadier part of the pool. We watched it for sometime but it would not settle. I went over to the other side and fought through the dense vegetation to position myself on the bank in the hope of netting it.

Eventually it settled near me – but too far to catch it and I didn't have my camera! The group on the other side couldn't see it – very frustrating for all! Eventually I gave up and re-joined the group and we watched it make its little circuits across the pond. Finally it landed again and I could see where it was. My photos with a little compact camera weren't good enough. By this time one of the group was walking around that side of the pool and I realised his pale shirt would make a good marker for the dragonfly for the group. We directed him to stop exactly behind the dragonfly and then another member of the group and Dick could find the insect and take photos. We then swapped so that the group member could do the same. So now we had some good photos and Dick pronounced a brilliant emerald – a brilliant result! A small emerald damselfly was also a nice find whilst western and banded demoiselles were also present. Butterflies were good with several dryad, brimstone, wood white plus gatekeeper, ringlet and a large chequered skipper – a species we saw several times during the day. A six-spot burnet was found by one of the group on nearby flowers.

As it warmed up we moved towards the aerodrome where we took a circular route on the tracks via another pond or two. Turtle dove, blackcap, robin and chiffchaff were singing in the forest whilst skylark and tree pipit sang in open terrain. As we drove along slowly a small tit flock moved in the branches above us including long-tailed, great and crested tits. We stopped at a track junction and investigated some ponds. An emperor dragonfly was to be expected but another early southern hawkler was a nice surprise - as was a new species for the week – a downy emerald.

The following section of track proved very productive for butterflies settled on the gravel in front of the minibus. First off was a white admiral and further on a great rarity in Dordogne: a purple emperor. The group kindly let me get out to confirm the latter sighting by taking a record shot. Then the rest of the group got out of the minibus but the emperor kept flying a bit further up the track as we advanced! Whilst out walking we saw another large chequered skipper with its funny bouncy flight. We returned to the vehicle and continued along some rather challenging sections of track before emerging near the road where we found a dark green fritillary nectaring in a flower-filled ditch next to the minibus.

Lunchtime was approaching so we went to the pretty little bastide of Molières for our lunch in the square at the little restaurant under a well-placed shade tree (a lime). Above us swifts dashed about screaming which attracted the attention of a hobby briefly (or was it the flies the swifts were hunting?) and several black kites and a buzzard climbed high on thermals. Black redstart and serin sang from houses and trees respectively in and around the square. Fire bugs were frequent on the gravel around our table. Another wonderful spot for lunch.

After lunch we returned to the forest and visited a small pool near Cadouin. Black-tailed skimmer was the only large dragonfly though we also saw blue featherleg and common blue damselflies. Dick showed us some Chorippus grasshoppers including parallelus and the great green bush-cricket. Butterflies included small skipper, pearly heath, dryad, great banded grayling and one of the group found a female Berger's clouded yellow. In the pond itself was a 'ball' shoal of wels catfish fry.

From the pond we drove along another forest track where a male purple hairstreak was sunning itself on the track. Unfortunately soon after I stopped it flew off. We pulled up at another couple of pools by this track and went in search of more dragonflies. It was fairly quiet along the bank so I made a few sorties with the net to try to find something different. This was quite successful as I found two different emerald dragonflies for Dick to identify – which turned out to be small and common emeralds. Another teneral dragonfly proved to be a ruddy darter. From the bank we also saw keeled, black-tailed and white-tailed skimmers plus another emperor. Orange featherleg and common blue damselflies were also noted. There were a few more butterflies too: speckled wood, pearly and small heaths, ringlet and marbled white plus a common wall lizard by the track. We reached the Urval road and headed back to Cadouin for a last look at the abbey before crossing back to the north side of the Dordogne river to our hotel at Mauzac.

Day 5: Friday 7 July 2017

On the hottest day of the week (37°C by late afternoon) we were going to explore the lower Vézère valley and its tributary the River Beune. Our first port of call was the damp meadows east of Les Eyzies. Here as soon as we disembarked we were into the dragonflies. There were some nice southern skimmers around the minibus with some beautiful blue males and nearby a few large pincertails. Whilst the rest of the group concentrated near the minibus, I explored the wet meadow with a net in search of other dragonflies. There were several emerald dragonflies towards the scrub and I netted one which Dick identified as brilliant emerald after carefully working through the keys. It was the male appendages which proved critical here. I found a teneral (recently emerged) darter which Dick showed us was a common darter. Elsewhere there were many damselflies: beautiful and copper demoiselles, orange featherlegs, azure and southern. Interesting orthoptera included great green bush-cricket and large marsh grasshopper. Meanwhile the rest of the group were finding a variety of butterflies including many large blues plus brown argus, large skipper,

dryad, gatekeeper and a pair of sooty coppers. Dick showed the group a nicely marked sailor beetle *Trichodes alvearius* with three alternate blue/black and yellow bars across the back. On my travels I also saw a rather tatty marbled fritillary and a fresh great banded grayling. Few birds were seen but several species were singing or calling including: water rail, moorhen, middle spotted and green woodpeckers, Cetti's warbler and chiffchaff. A brief view of a distant crow may have been one of the local ravens which nest nearby.

We continued further up the valley to Tamniès Lake(s) popular with holidaymakers, though the smaller lake is quiet with just a few fishermen. Whilst the group walked on ahead of me I checked the edge of the larger lake and saw a clubtail dragonfly patrolling which finally settled – a western clubtail. I called the group over but it flew off never to be seen again! We walked around the smaller lake and we soon saw an emperor dragonfly, followed soon afterwards by scarlet darter, black-tailed skimmer plus western demoiselle, blue-eye, common blue, azure and blue-tailed damselflies. In the little shady stream was a golden-ringed dragonfly whilst nearby was a buddleia bush or two full of butterflies including scarce swallowtail, brimstone, comma, peacock and silver-washed fritillary. There were a few hummingbird hawk-moths and Dick found a broad-bodied bee hawk-moth as well. Nearby a common wall lizard was on a small stone structure. There were several pincertails including large as we approached the car park at least one of which looked like a small which we hadn't really had a good look at yet. As the group walked ahead of me I decided to jump up and try to net one settled high on a branch. Amazingly I managed to net it and took it to Dick for checking – clearly a small pincertail and so worth the effort. We returned to the minibus and had our nice salad lunch under a shady tree.

The afternoon session started on another branch of the Beune stream – a lovely little babbling brook surrounded by scrubby reed marsh. Beautiful demoiselles lined the stream and large pincertails were patrolling the water here which seemed unusual behaviour as they are usually out settled on tracks or adjacent vegetation. Maybe it was just too hot by now! Several brilliant emeralds were however still patrolling high above the road as normal. A water rail squealed from the marsh and a middle spotted woodpecker called from the woods.

We moved on to the gardens at Campagne next to the chateau. Seeking shade by now we did most of our wildlife-watching from beneath trees! There were emperor, black-tailed and southern skimmers plus orange and many blue featherlegs, common blue and azure damselflies. Perhaps more notable were both large and small red damselflies. We also saw an emerald damselfly but it was not possible to identify it - though it was possibly a small. Of the butterflies a male Berger's clouded yellow over the lawn was notable.

Our last stop was the local beauty spot of Limeuil at the confluence of the Dordogne and Vézère rivers. After a well-earned ice cream we walked along the back of the beach which had almost disappeared due to the high level of the river. Wildlife-wise it was very quiet in the late afternoon heat but a tree sparrow under the picnic tables was good to see.

Day 6: Saturday 8 July 2017

On a cooler overcast morning we headed out south over the river towards Issigeac and the Dropt valley for a day at the reservoirs. We started near Issigeac and as I drove down the track to the gate at Lac de la Nette I was surprised to see half a dozen cars parked up. Fishermen I thought – but in fact it turned out to be a few local families camping overnight. They were rather fascinated by what we were up to, nets and all! A quick scan of the water produced several great crested grebes, some with young and ditto for coot and mallard. A little egret flew in whilst we were there as well. We started to search for dragonflies adjacent to the dam and with the sun now shining soon found black-tailed, keeled and white-tailed skimmers, emperor, scarlet darter and surprise, surprise: another violet dropwing! As I walked towards the dam to walk the causeway I disturbed a dusky blue butterfly. It soon settled and I saw it was a freshly emerged mazarine blue in perfect condition and so great for the photographers, one or two others were also seen later. A little

further on a number of dragonflies were flitting about and settling on the track. These were large pincertail, ruddy darter and a new species for the trip: red-veined darter. Behind us in the woods golden oriole, chiffchaff, tree pipit, blackcap, short-toed treecreeper and lesser spotted woodpecker sang or called. At the overflow point we walked down the grassy bank of the dam to the outlet pond where we could make out many dragonflies. As we traversed the grassland a couple of ascalaphids (or owl-flies) flew up and hunted above the grasses: *Libelloides longicornis*. At the pond there were notably a lot of damselflies including banded and western demoiselles, blue featherleg and a new species for the week: small-red-eyed. This was finally confirmed by Dick after I netted a specimen having missed many and soaked the net! Photos by two of the group also clearly showed they were small red-eyed. Walking back below the grassy dam slope we found a variety of butterflies: Berger's clouded yellow, Adonis blue, southern white admiral (unusually away from scrub and trees), gatekeeper, small heath plus grizzled/southern grizzled and dingy skippers – the latter not looking dingy at all but a rather fine regal purple and brown! One of the group found a pretty latticed heath moth to photograph.

Lunchtime beckoned so we returned to the minibus and went straight to our pretty restaurant by the church in Issigeac. Although it was still early (12.15pm) this popular restaurant was already filling up. Luckily as we are well known here they were quick to take our orders and serve us - so we weren't delayed. A very pleasant lunch was spent on the terrace beneath the vines and wisteria with the swifts flying and screaming around the church tower. One of the team found a Roesel's bush-cricket inside the restaurant!

Finally we had to drag ourselves away from this delightful spot as we had a drive to reach the two reservoirs near Monpazier just over the border in Lot et Garonne. On route we saw a family of moorhens on the roadside by a farm acting more like chickens! I briefly saw a sparrowhawk flying ahead of the minibus. We began the afternoon at Lac de la Ganne, the smaller of the two reservoirs, parking in the shade in the car park. One of the first things I saw was a swallowtail which took off immediately from the grass near the car park and flew off fast and high over the poplars and across the lake – so not easy for the rest of the group to see! There were masses of darters in the marshy vegetation along the near side of the lake. These were nearly all red-veined darters including pairs in tandem. Black-tailed and keeled skimmers were also buzzing about along the water's edge. We also saw orange and blue featherlegs amongst the commoner species of damselfly. Also in the grassland we found European hornet, rose chafer and praying mantis – mainly thanks to one of the group's researches. I walked further along the bank and found three little ringed plover which had probably nested – unfortunately they proved impossible for one of the group to photograph. In the field adjacent a corn and curl buntings and fan-tailed warbler sang. Again here there were great crested grebes out on the water. Grizzled/southern grizzled skipper was the only notable butterfly, though like everywhere we visited during the week there were plenty of marbled whites and meadow browns. A praying mantis flew in to inspect one of the group's camera equipment which gave another a chance for some unusual photos!

Next we moved a couple of kilometres to the Lac du Brayssou, the largest of the three lakes visited today. The water was very high unfortunately leaving no interesting beach/marsh areas exposed. However the three dragonflies we did see were all of note: lesser emperor, small pincertail and southern skimmer. A lesser purple emperor briefly fluttered high up around a willow tree and one of the group photographed a speckled wood (here the southern subspecies: *aegeria*). A couple of other good butterflies were Provençal short-tailed and mazarine blues. In the water we saw another large 'ball' shoal of wels catfish fry.

To complete the day we returned via Couze in the valley of the same name, and famous for paper-making. We did a short walk around the ancient water mills, low cliffs and over the lovely clean fast-flowing stream only a few hundred metres from its confluence with the Dordogne river. In the streamside vegetation were several beautiful and banded demoiselles plus blue-eye and commoner blue damselflies. One of the group saw a common wall lizard and green frogs called from the water's edge whilst fish of various species including roach and bleak swam past. A grey wagtail or two flitted by the white water as we made our way

back over the bridge to the minibus. As we got back to Mauzac there was a robin on a wall – the first we had seen all holiday!

Day 7: Sunday 9 July 2017

The last full day started grey and cool with a little drizzle in the air and it only warmed up and brightened a little during the day. We drove eastwards nearly to Beynac before stopping beside a small lake by the roadside. With the poor weather we weren't very optimistic but before long were finding a few damselflies as the drizzle eased off: western demoiselle, orange featherlegs and blue-eye as well as some commoner species. At the far end of the lake we disturbed a few teneral darters in the grass which after examination by Dick were identified as red-veined. As we finished our circuit of the lake we saw quite a few more. A bit more luminosity brought out a few larger dragonflies. At first black-tailed and white-tailed skimmers and then scarlet darter. Whilst searching for dragonflies I came across an even more interesting and unusual insect – a mole cricket. This was the highlight of the day and a great photographic subject. Dick also showed the group a field cricket, a handsome red and black leaf beetle *Clytra* (a bit like an elongated ladybird) and a buffalo bug (a Membracid – a strange horned green treehopper). Great spotted and middle spotted woodpecker called and the former flew over us whilst a golden oriole sang briefly from the nearby woods. In the lake we saw several more wels catfish fry. Before we left there was just time for one of the group to find a butterfly to photograph – a speckled wood. So we left the site happy with our varied and unexpected sightings.

We continued eastward in the minibus passing a large flock of around 50 jackdaws foraging in a field. After Beynac and its new road section beneath the cliff we turned for Castlénac and the River Dordogne. We parked up and walked down to the river to survey the scene with a high river level for the time of year. Most interesting were House Martins collecting mud from the edge of the river and a swallow or two collecting dry grass from the bank above. We walked to the confluence of the little Céou stream with the grand Dordogne River. Apart from an information board there was not much to see as it was overgrown and the banks and bed of the river weren't accessible - being private. So we returned to the minibus for our picnic lunch courtesy of Amanda with those lovely plums for dessert! A black redstart sang from a rooftop in the village nearby.

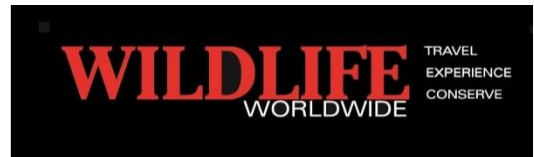
The afternoon was mostly spent along the pretty Céou valley. We started at a little bridge just south of Castlénac. As we got out of the minibus Dick pointed out a dead box hedge victim of the dreaded box moth which has been ravaging box in the south of France in recent years. At the bridge we surveyed up and down river. Western and beautiful demoiselle were present but also two other larger dragonflies which appeared to be golden-ringed and an emerald, however they never came close enough to be identified. We drove on a little further to another little bridge at Pont du Cause though apart from grey wagtails there wasn't too much about. The highlight here however was the brief appearance of a western spectre which hung itself up near the top of the bridge arch before flying off. A little later at St Cybranet we found a good car park and area to walk by the riverside. There were a variety of commoner damselflies about and grey wagtails and a moorhen downstream of the bridge. However I examined the bridge supports for dragonfly exuviae (larval cases) and managed to find one which Dick identified as from an emperor. Last stop along the Céou river was Daglan at a bridge where dippers sometimes nest though we saw none today although I was lucky enough to see a kingfisher. Another exuvia found under the bridge was identified by Dick as from a golden-ringed dragonfly. Amongst the commoner damselflies in the bankside vegetation Dick showed the group a *Lygaeus* bug – similar to the black and red firebug.

As we headed back to Mauzac we made one final stop at a small lake near Saint Pompon. As the path around the lake was rather overgrown we only managed to check out one side. However there were quite a few different butterflies: scarce swallowtail, Berger's clouded yellow, sooty copper, Provençal short-tailed blue and ringlet whilst Dick found a migrant silver Y moth. Bonelli's and melodious warblers called from adjacent trees and scrub respectively.

Day 8: Monday 10 July 2017

It was an early start today as it was a mid-morning flight at Bergerac. I was down at the hotel around 7.45am to collect the group. We packed the bags and had a last chance to look out over the river and to say our goodbyes to Amanda, before we were on the road and heading westward. Although it was grey and drizzly at Mauzac, it gradually dried up and brightened as we drove beyond Lalinde. Near Bergerac I noticed a little owl on a wire by the road but otherwise it was fairly uneventful wildlife-wise with the usual kestrels and black kites as we approached the airport. A skylark was singing out over the runway. We parked up in the new short-stay car park near the departure building and I went with the group to the check-in. Everything was quick and efficient and we were soon saying our goodbyes after another good week spent under the spell of Dordogne. As I left the airport I heard a familiar bird call from a flooded closed car park / gravel storage area. I turned the minibus around and went back to inspect. I found three little ringed plovers, which were probably nesting and nearby a fan-tailed warbler and woodlark both sang – a nice little bonus for the guide, to finish off the holiday!

Checklist



	Common Name	Scientific Name
	BIRDS	AVES
1	Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
3	Great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
4	Western cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
5	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
6	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
7	Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
8	Eurasian sparrowhawk	<i>Accipter nisus</i>
9	Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
10	Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
11	Water rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
12	Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
13	Eurasian coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
14	Little ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
15	Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
16	Common wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
17	European turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
18	Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
19	Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
20	Common swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
21	Common kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>



22	Eurasian hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
23	Lesser spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus minor</i>
24	Middle spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>
25	Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>
26	European green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
27	Common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
28	Eurasian hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
29	Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
30	Eurasian golden oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
31	Eurasian jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
32	Eurasian magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
33	Western jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
34	Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
35	Crested tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>
36	Eurasian blue tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
37	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>
38	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
39	Eurasian skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
40	Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
41	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
42	Eurasian crag martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>
43	Common house martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
44	Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
45	Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
46	Common chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
47	Western Bonelli's warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>

48	Melodious warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
49	Fan-tailed warbler (Zitting Cisticola)	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
50	Eurasian blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
51	Eurasian wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
52	Eurasian nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
53	Short-toed treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
54	Common starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
55	Common blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
56	Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
57	Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
58	European robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
59	Common nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarynchos</i>
60	Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochuros</i>
61	Common redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
62	European stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
63	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
64	Eurasian tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
65	Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
66	White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>
67	Tree pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
68	Common chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
69	European greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
70	Common linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
71	European goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
72	European serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
73	Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>

74	Cirl bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
	BUTTERFLY	
1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
2	Scarce swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
3	Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
4	Small white	<i>Atrogeia rapae</i>
5	Clouded yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>
6	Berger's clouded yellow	<i>Colias australis</i>
7	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>
8	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
9	Wood white	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>
10	Purple hairstreak	<i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>
11	Sooty copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>
12	Geranium bronze	<i>Carcyrius marshalli</i>
13	Short-tailed blue	<i>Everes argiades</i>
14	Provençal short-tailed blue	<i>Everes alcetus</i>
15	Holly blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
16	Large blue	<i>Phengaris arion</i>
17	Brown argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
18	Mazarine blue	<i>Polyommatus semiargus</i>
19	Adonis blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>
20	Common blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
21	Purple emperor	<i>Apatura iris</i>
22	Lesser purple emperor	<i>Apatura ilia</i>
23	Southern white admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>
24	White admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>

25	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>
26	Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
27	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>
28	Map	<i>Araschnia levana</i>
29	Silver-washed fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>
30	Dark green fritillary	<i>Mesoacidalia aglaja</i>
31	Marbled fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>
32	Marbled white	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>
33	Dryad	<i>Minois dryas</i>
34	Great banded grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>
35	Meadow brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
36	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>
37	Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>
38	Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
39	Pearly heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>
40	Speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
41	Wall brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
42	Dingy skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>
43	Large chequered skipper	<i>Heteropterus morpheus</i>
44	Lulworth skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>
45	Small skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>
46	Large skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>
	DRAGONFLY	
1	Beautiful demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>
2	Banded demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>
3	Western demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx xanthostoma</i>

4	Copper demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis</i>
5	Small emerald	<i>Lestes virens</i>
6	Common emerald	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>
7	Orange featherleg	<i>Platycnemis acutipennis</i>
8	White featherleg	<i>Platycnemis latipes</i>
9	Blue featherleg	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>
10	Blue-eye (goblet-marked damselfly)	<i>Erythromma lindenii</i>
11	Small red-eyed	<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>
12	Large red	<i>Pyrrhosma nymphula</i>
13	Small red	<i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i>
14	Southern	<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>
15	Azure	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>
16	Common blue	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>
17	Blue-tailed	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
18	Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>
19	Lesser emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>
20	Western spectre	<i>Boyeria irene</i>
21	Western clubtail	<i>Gomphus pumchellus</i>
22	Small pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>
23	Large pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus uncatus</i>
24	Golden-ringed	<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>
25	Downy emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>
26	Brilliant emerald	<i>Somatochlora metallica</i>
27	Four-spotted chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>
28	Black-tailed skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>
29	White-tailed skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>

30	Southern skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>
31	Keeled skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>
32	Broad scarlet (scarlet darter)	<i>Crocothemus erythraea</i>
33	Red-veined darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>
34	Ruddy darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>
35	Violet dropwing	<i>Trithemus annuata</i>