



Flora & Butterflies of the Vercors
28th May - 4th June 2026

Led by Alice Hunter



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Day 1

Having got the unfortunate news while gathering at the airport that one of our group wouldn't be joining us due to a mix-up with passports, meaning she didn't leave the UK, we got on the road away from the city and tried to escape some of the oppressive heat that was beginning to build.

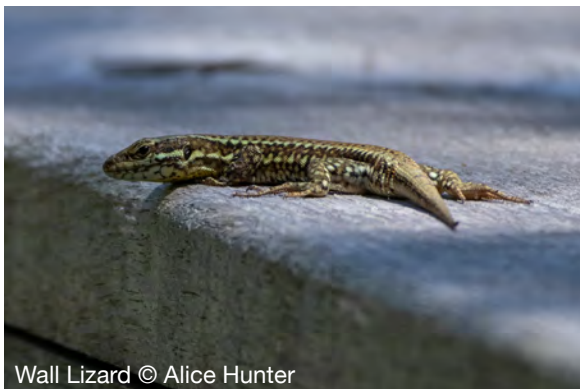
Our first stop would be a brief one at a small town to pick up lunches on the way to a more scenic site to eat them. A visit to a small Boulangerie soon sorted that task, and we then had a short drive onwards to our picnic spot. This was of course no ordinary picnic spot, but one with nature at its core. As we ate, we noted a Grey Heron and Jay flying over, Pool Frogs in a pond next to the car park and a male Broad-bodied Chaser defending his territory and hawking after prey there too.



Broad-bodied Chaser © Alice Hunter

Moving into the peat bog reserve, which we had been on the boundary of until now, we followed a short boardwalk and were able to admire some of its resident species a little more closely. The area is home to a staggering 45 species of odonata, and while we didn't see them all, we certainly noted a good variety almost immediately, with species such as Four-spotted Chaser and Hairy Hawker, along with Large Red, Blue-tailed, Common Blue and Azure Damselflies. There were several butterflies on the wing too, a good number of Brimstones but also a couple of Spotted Fritillary and Black-veined Whites, although neither came close enough for detailed photographs.

We soon came across the first orchid of the trip, a Southern Marsh Orchid, of which there were eventually several, nestled among the sedges and Marsh Fern beside the boardwalk. Further around, in the shadier wooded section of the circuit, we found Herb Paris in flower too, an extraordinary plant exhibiting perfect symmetry through leaves, sepals and petals, with four of each. This shaded area was also perfect for Speckled Wood butterflies, which, unlike in the UK, here are the nominate form, with more orange markings.



Wall Lizard © Alice Hunter

The final section of boardwalk brought a last hurrah in the form of naturalised Purple Pitcher Plants, native to the USA but for some reason introduced and established here, even celebrated. They were blooming beautifully and made quite the spectacle. A Wall Lizard posed on the handrail above them, and a Small White nectared on some nearby Marsh Thistle. Blackcap sang in the woodland behind us, and as we returned to the vehicle, a family of Long-tailed Tits moved through the trees.

We got back on the road for the last leg of our journey to our hotel, admiring increasingly good

views of the mountains on both sides. Cheryl spotted a Black Kite from the vehicle, and we soon arrived at our destination in the shadow of the imposing Mont Aiguille.

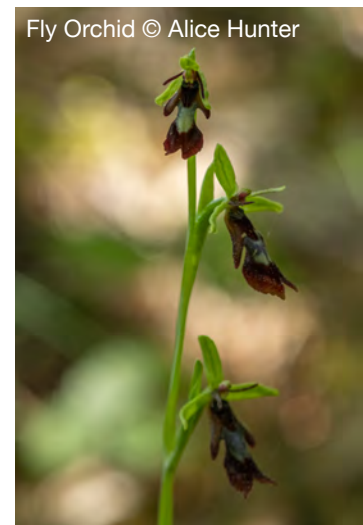
Having checked in and freshened up, we went for a short walk around the village to explore. Goldfinch and Greenfinch were calling from the treetops outside the hotel, and we soon noticed plants in the verges such as Crosswort, Meadow Clary, Hedgerow Crane's-bill, Germander Speedwell and Bush Vetch. Swallows and Swifts wheeled overhead as we turned uphill, and we admired Houndstongue growing close against an old building. As we left behind the houses, a Serin sang above us, and we saw Brown Argus and then Small Heath butterflies in the field margins. The views of the mountains were spectacular, and the meadows as we returned towards the hotel were breathtaking, awash with colour. Under a hedge in the tarmac at the edge of the road, our final flower of the walk was an unexpected patch of Rock Soapwort.

We returned for a cold drink before dinner while we discussed plans for the next day and went over some details for the coming week, and then enjoyed a wonderful meal in the hotel dining room.

Day 2

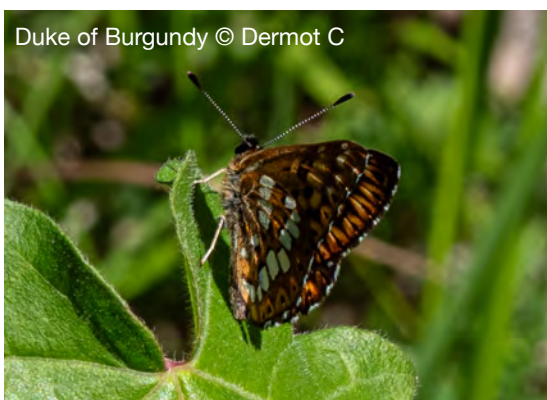
Today began in somewhat leisurely fashion with a slightly later breakfast and then a walk from the hotel and out through the village into the countryside beyond. We noticed birds first, with Yvonne's excitement at common species like Blue Tit and Magpie, having not encountered them before, soon rubbing off on us all. Our first butterfly came in the form of a Small Heath and was swiftly followed by a Meadow Fritillary. Further out of the village, along the edge of some arable fields where glorious flowers intermingled along the edges, we found Adonis Blue, Painted Lady and Chapman's Blue while Skylarks sang high overhead and Cuckoo and Green Woodpecker called in a nearby wood. On the edge of a meadow, Cheryl spotted the first Chequered Skipper of the day, sunning itself against the hedgerow, and we noted Common Columbine, Wood Cranesbill and Burnet Rose, the latter complete with Copper Underwing caterpillar.

In the meadow itself, Charlie spotted a Scarce Swallowtail and then a stunning Patton's Tiger moth nestled amongst the grass. We also saw Black-veined White, Amanda's Blue and Queen of Spain Fritillary, although Her Majesty would grace us with better views later on our walk. Next, we made our way into the edge of a patch of mostly coniferous woodland where we would follow a path back down to the track. It was full of orchids, and we found Twayblade, Lesser Butterfly, Common Spotted and Sword-leaved Helleborine before we had even got under the trees. There were more and better examples in the shade, along with our first Fly Orchid of the day and some other nice plants like Stinking Hellebore, Clustered Bellflower, Wood Spurge, Bastard Balm and Round-headed Rampion. Further down the path, we came across Lady Orchids and a couple of Fragrant Orchids to round off the morning's orchid haul at seven species.



As we emerged onto the track once more, we were greeted by a Dingy Skipper, followed swiftly by a Swallowtail and a Brimstone, which we had yet to see until now today. On the way back to the hotel to collect lunch, we paused to watch a female Helice form of Clouded Yellow nectaring in a horse paddock, caught a glimpse of a Wall Lizard running along the road and paused in the centre of the village to watch a Redstart and some Goldfinches near the school.

We collected our packed lunches and topped up water bottles before heading out for our picnic. We had planned to visit a little Col above the hotel and only a few minutes' drive away, but around



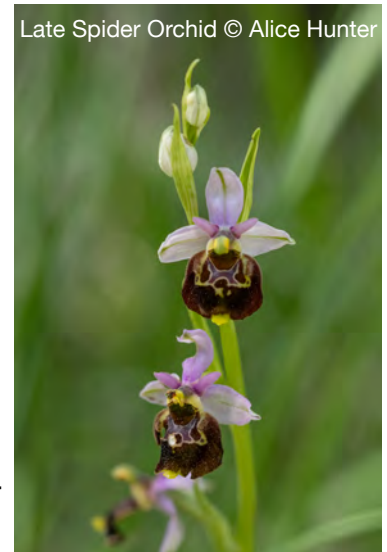
two-thirds of the way up we were stopped by an alarmingly large lorry whose driver told us the road was closed ahead and asked if there was no sign at the bottom. We assured him we were going to the Col and would turn around there, and on arrival found our spot to be full of heavy machinery, so did just that. We found a different spot back in the village with some picnic benches under the trees instead and enjoyed eating while watching Long-tailed Tits in the trees above us and listening to a Wren singing its heart out nearby. We took a short wander to explore before moving on and found Duke of Burgundy and Chequered Skipper in a glade, along with more Twayblades.

It was only a short drive to our next stop in the neighbouring village this afternoon, and we parked up and walked slowly along a track and uphill a short way. The entire distance covered wasn't great, but there was a huge amount to see, so we spent a couple of hours meandering our way and noting the great variety of species here. New for the afternoon were Tassel Hyacinth near where we parked and Tufted Vetch in the verge. Cheryl spotted some Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars on a patch of Nettles too. As we started climbing, we were soon seeing orchids again, with several species from the morning, such as Sword-leaved Helleborine, which was in better condition in the shady spots here, and masses of Common Spotted Orchids. There were also

some new species for the trip though, such as Man Orchid, including an enormous specimen on top of a bank. Nearby, Dermot spotted a Hummingbird Hawkmoth on the Meadow Sage, and while investigating a Star of Bethlehem, we found a lovely longhorned micromoth without a common name, *Adela australis*.

A little further up, we came across Sanicle, an unusual-looking umbellifer, and our first Military Orchids of the trip. These were not in the best condition, and we hoped we might find more another day, but there were a few flowers remaining on a couple of them. Rounding a bend in the track, our final addition to the orchid list for the day was perhaps our most extravagant-looking, the Late Spider Orchid, and we found several of these, along with more of other species from the morning such as Lesser Butterfly, Fragrant, Lady and Fly Orchids. There was also an obliging Pearly Heath, the first of several on the walk. It was soon time to turn and head back, though. We were followed part of the way downhill by a very active male Orange-tip, adding nicely to our butterfly tally for the day.

We returned with time to relax before our checklists and then another delicious dinner, chatting about a fabulous first full day in the field.



Day 3

We woke to a much cooler morning today but still blue skies above. The forecast, however, had changed overnight and now warned of rain showers this afternoon and thunderstorms tomorrow, and therefore we took the decision to swap our plans for the next two days around so that we would not be likely to be on the exposed Alpine plateau if there were indeed storms. With this in mind, coupled with the road closure from yesterday and uncertainty over whether the far side of the pass had reopened, we set off after breakfast on a slightly longer route to get to our destination for the day, just in case.

We found an impromptu roadside stop after leaving the main road where a mass of St Bernard's Lillies were flowering on the verge. Alongside them were Sainfoin, Pyrenean Flax and Montpellier Milkvetch, and the last flowers of Small Spider Orchid, looking a little worse for wear, all new for the trip. There were also Lesser Butterfly, Fragrant and Lady Orchids here, although the latter two were high on the steep roadside bank. Charlie came across a beautiful Speckled Yellow moth, and we heard a Western Bonelli's Warbler singing too.



The road took us on an impressive route over a Col and through a gorge with rock tunnels before emerging on the regular route. We soon reached another stop beside a small river and found several birds in the trees here, including Garden Warbler, Coal Tit and Crested Tit. A Cuckoo was singing from across the valley too. At ground level there were a number of butterflies including Speckled Wood and Dingy Skipper, plus Scarce Swallowtail, Small Blue and Small Tortoiseshell taking minerals at the water's edge. There were also some wonderful flowers including Narrow-leaved Trumpet Gentians in full bloom, two species of Globularia, Globe Flowers, Mountain Cornflower, Alpine Flax, Wood Cranesbill,

Fly Honeysuckle and some perfect specimens of Military Orchid. Cheryl also found a beautiful black moth with white spots which lacks a common name, *Eurrhypis pollinalis*.

On the other side of the road, we paused to admire a patch of Common Spotted Orchids and discovered a colony of Large-flowered Butterwort in the ditch, with several sporting their characteristic blousy purple blooms.

We eventually tore ourselves away to continue the final few minutes' drive to our main destination for the day, where we paused to admire Pheasant's-Eye Narcissus by the vehicle before setting off uphill towards the plateau. We were greeted near the bottom of the path by an obliging Queen of Spain Fritillary and admired Sweet Woodruff flowering beneath the Beech trees further up.

Where the trees opened up to grassland, we got our first sightings of Elder-flowered Orchids and Wild Tulip and heard a Tree Pipit calling from one of the scattered pines.

On reaching the plateau, we stopped for lunch before exploring further. Dermot spent his sitting beside a roosting Clouded Apollo, and after eating we saw it fly. We also enjoyed Early Purple Orchids, Alpine Thrift, Mountain Avens and Meadow Saxifrage to the tune of a Yellowhammer before heading a little further uphill. We watched a pair of Common Lizards basking on a rock, found a host of Ground Lackey caterpillars congregating almost like processionary moth caterpillars, and came across a very obliging Southern Grizzled Skipper. Soon though, despite our planning, a rumble of thunder would have us turning around and starting our walk back towards the safety of lower ground and our vehicle.

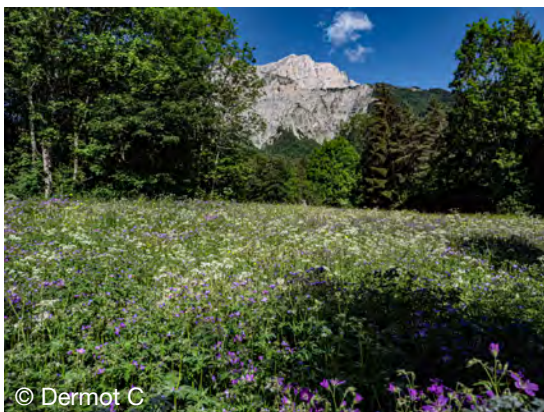


On reaching the bottom, we noted Fairy Foxglove, Dusky Cranesbill and a tiny specimen of Burnt Tip Orchid all growing close to one another, along with both Alpine and Small Lady's Mantle, which we were able to compare directly. The thunder rumbled louder, and we climbed in the vehicle for the return journey, but apart from a couple of spots of rain on the windscreen and driving over some wet roads that had already had a shower, we escaped the weather. We came back over the Col that had been closed the day before and confirmed that the road was now fully open at both ends.

We had some time to relax before our evening meeting and a fabulous dinner, after which we set up the moth trap to run overnight in the hotel garden.

Day 4

We began early today with most of us in the hotel garden at 7am to empty the moth trap together before breakfast. It wasn't a huge haul, and sadly there were no Hawkmoths, but we did have some beautiful species including several varieties of prettily marked Carpet moth, the elaborately patterned Feathered Ear, the fiery-looking Reddish Light Arches and a number of other macro and micro moths, both familiar and less so, to look through.



Having done so, we enjoyed a slightly later breakfast before gathering our lunches and heading out for the day. We had a short drive to a spot near the village of St Michel-les-Portes where we parked up and set off on a walk for the morning. We took in glorious meadows swathed with Crosswort, Wood Cranesbill, Cow Parsley, Meadow Buttercup, Meadow Sage, Hoary Plantain and other delightful plants. Studded amongst them periodically were Pheasant's-Eye Narcissi, Globeflowers or other delightful plants. Along the edges of the track, we admired Herb Paris, May Lily, Mountain Cornflower, the buds of Martagon Lily and further up, Wild Garlic and Lily of the Valley. We also found a

variety of orchids, beginning with familiar species like Common Spotted, Fragrant and Sword-leaved Helleborine and adding chlorophyll-less Bird's Nest, diminutive Coralroot and blousy Lady's Slipper over the course of the morning.

Of course, flowers were not the only attraction, and we found a great many other things to look at and indeed listen to, with birdsong including Blackcap, Goldcrest, Chiffchaff and Song Thrush and later, tantalisingly close calls from a Black Woodpecker. There were butterflies as well, with highlights being a wonderful few minutes spent with a pair of Chequered Skippers and a Duke of Burgundy, all in close proximity and posing well for photographs. Wall, Speckled Wood, Wood White and Black-veined White were also seen. One glade was teeming with Speckled Yellow moths, and we also saw a Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth zipping around in the sunshine here. During a pause for lunch, Yvonne also gained a friend in the form of a beautiful Two-banded Longhorn Beetle that landed on her sleeve and stayed long enough for a photo or two.

Having retraced our steps, we headed to the nearby village of Gresse-en-Vercors for a welcome ice cream break where we also added a handsome pair of Black Redstarts to our bird list. Our afternoon continued with a drive up a nearby pass for an impressive view over the main ridge that forms the backbone of the Vercors. At the top, we added Small Tortoiseshell and Painted Lady to our butterfly list for the day, plus Good King Henry and Early Purple Orchid to our plant list.

On the way back to the hotel, we made two brief stops, one for some incredibly large spikes of Military Orchid beside the road, which were accompanied by the only Lady and Man Orchids of the day, as well as a few Fragrant Orchids, and the second for a view of the distant snow-topped Alps.

We enjoyed a final excellent dinner, rounded off with a glass of the local sweet sparkling wine courtesy of the hotel owner.

Day 5

We met a little later this morning with breakfast at 8am after yesterday's early start, and by 9am we were ready to leave. We loaded the suitcases into the vehicle and were soon on the road, making our first stop at the Col above the hotel, as previously planned a couple of days ago. We ambled along the edge of the car parking area here and a short way along the road to find 9 species of orchid, many of which by now had become familiar, such as Lesser Butterfly, Fragrant and Common Spotted Orchid. There were two lovely specimens of Burnt-tip which we had only seen once before, and Dermot spotted a White Helleborine too.



Lesser Butterfly Orchid © Dermot C

We then took a short walk down a track over the road where a wet flush brought us a tenth orchid species and a new one for the trip at that, the Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid. There was a single Marsh Marigold in flower here too and, further along, a bank of Broad-leaved Cotton Grass blowing in the breeze. A Cuckoo called loudly from somewhere unseen nearby as we returned to the vehicle to make the onward journey.

We had a brief pause for some road-working machinery and another to take a photo of the view before passing through the tunnel at the higher pass, before dropping down the other side and stopping more intentionally for a wander in some meadows. Although we listened for Crested Tits here, the main birdsong was that of the Chaffinch as we admired Queen of Spain, Meadow



Sulphury Owlfly © Alice Hunter

Fritillary, Adonis Blue, including a Ceronus female and Hummingbird Hawkmoth. Cheryl found a lovely Transparent Burnet nearby, and we noted the diggings of Wild Boar beneath the trees. Lady, Common Spotted and Fragrant Orchids were here too, along with Round-headed Rampion and Yellow Woundwort. The meadow was buzzing with the sound of Field Crickets too. Perhaps the star of the show though, was around half a dozen or so Owlflies, hawking for prey above the grasses and returning to perch, wings open in the sun, only closing them when the breeze picked up.

Moving on, we made another brief stop near the valley floor next to a rushing river. Duke of Burgundy, Black-veined White and Pale Clouded Yellow were spotted here along with Black-veined and Clouded Buff Moths. Over the road, we noted Mountain Lettuce and Blue Aphyllanthes and just as we were returning to the vehicle, we spotted our first Copper of the trip, a pristine Purple-shot Copper nectaring on Clover almost by our feet, but not hanging around for long! We were hopeful that this may mean more in the coming days.

Our next stop was our lunch stop, and we enjoyed our picnics in the shade of some Oak and Poplar trees. A Gull Bunting was noted calling nearby, and Meadow Browns were flitting around in the sun. A couple of raptors were spotted in the distance, and we decided after eating to see if we might get closer to them on our onward route. In fact, we didn't see them again, although in

climbing the pass, we did have a close encounter with a Buzzard which flew low over the road in front of us.

We stopped at the top for a group photo and were delighted to find our first Apollos of the trip here, battling against the breeze and not stopping for photos. Mignonette and Crown Vetch were also added to our ever-growing lists. On the far side, we took a detour up to a ski area for a little more botanising and butterflying (in no particular order). A White Wagtail awaited us in the car park at the top and, rather appropriately, we found a cloud of Clouded Apollos flitting among Alpine Thrift, Alpine Thistle, Thyme and Common Rockrose flowers. They were joined by Meadow Fritillary, Small Tortoiseshell and Small Heath.



On some rockier outcrops we found two new Saxifrages, the white Paniculate Saxifrage and the pale yellow Musky Saxifrage, along with Alpine Basil Thyme and Mountain Kidney Vetch. We spotted Serin in the top of a tree nearby and, in a sheltered gully, we found Aconite-leaved Buttercup and a nectaring Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth. Cheryl also found Pink Lousewort, a hemiparasitic member of the Orobanchaceae. We also found Bistort and Early Purple Orchids, and were able to compare Greater and Common Yellow Rattles side by side. All the while, Skylarks sang overhead.

It was soon time to get back on the road for the final leg of our journey to the next hotel, which we did. We arrived in the charming town and were soon installed, and headed out for a cold drink after a long day. We reconvened for a short walk to dinner at a local restaurant where we ate in the garden; our lists could wait until tomorrow!

Day 6

Our day began with a delicious breakfast and then a brief trip to the local boulangerie to buy some suitable savoury pastries for lunch before setting out. We headed for the Gorges du Bourne, and since we were passing through, it seemed rude not to stop and take a look at this impressive geological feature. We spotted a colony of House Martins nesting high up on the gorge walls and a Redstart fluttering from a perch to catch insects like a flycatcher; meanwhile, a Wren was singing loudly from somewhere nearby.

Moving on, we stopped in a nearby valley to walk along the river, where a boardwalk and path took us along the floodplain. Blackcap and Great Tit were the prominent birdsong here, and Long-tailed Tits were moving through the trees near the start of our walk. As we crossed the first bridge, we spotted a couple of male Beautiful Demoiselles living up to their name. Round the corner, a beautiful colour palette of Crosswort, Red Campion, Wood Geranium, Dame's Violet and Yellow Archangel caught our eyes. On closer inspection, there was a riot of life here too, with a variety of small beetles, sawflies, leafhoppers and other insects on the plants.



Black-veined moth nectaring.

Our walk was also accompanied by the iconically alpine sound of cowbells from the three friendly cattle in the field beside us. Rounding another bend in the boardwalk, we admired a female Beautiful Demoiselle, a Small Tortoiseshell caterpillar, and then a delightful patch of Alpine Thistle, complete with a Hummingbird Hawkmoth visitor, before the cows' curiosity got the better of them and they ambled over to the fence to see what we were up to. Having said hello, we left them behind and crossed the river once more to where we admired another patch of thistle, this one with an obliging

A pair of Mallards rose from the water as we approached the next bend in the path, and at the final crossing, a Small Tortoiseshell sat on the bridge. Here, the group proceeded alone for a short distance so the vehicle could be brought round to meet them. They reported seeing Grey Heron, Buzzard and White Wagtail on the final stretch.

Our next stop was in the pine woods where we'd have our lunch. First though, we would take a short walk to see what flowers we might find here. The first to add to our list would be Whorled Solomon's Seal, growing alongside Sweet Woodruff. A short way further on, we found Alpine Rose and more Fly Honeysuckle. Meadow Saxifrage was growing in a sunny patch and beside the path further up, Yvonne spotted a Small Blue basking with its wings open on a Ground Elder Leaf. A female Orange-tip was also flying nearby, but as we were photographing the Small Blue, another insect was spotted that quickly became the focus of our attention: an Oak Snakefly.

Having taken photos of this extraordinary-looking insect, we walked on and found some Spotted Deadnettle and then Dermot noticed Round-leaved Saxifrage, so we marvelled at the beauty of the spotting on the petals, which you need to look closely to see. We felt that now would be a good point to turn around, as the sky had darkened, and as we walked back, we felt the first drops of rain. Rumbles of thunder soon followed, and we made it back to the vehicle just in time for the heavens to open, so we ate our lunch in the comfort and shelter of our seats while it poured outside.



Oak Snakefly © Alice Hunter

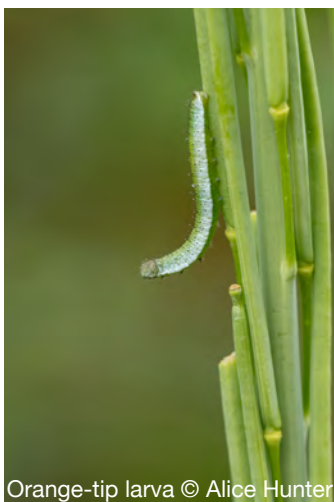
Afterwards, we waited a while in the hope that it might clear and eventually drove on to our next stop a few minutes away. The rain had eased, and most of us emerged for a few minutes to note Lily of the Valley blooming and take in some of the French Resistance history noted here. The rain soon returned though, and didn't ease any further, so we continued back to the hotel in the hope it might be different there.

It wasn't in the end, so a change of tack was required. We opted to have an early list meeting in a nearby cafe over a drink and see if the weather cleared up in the meantime. It did, and so we had the option for another walk. Some took the chance for some downtime while others came to the small memorial from the wartime efforts of the resistance forces on the way out of town, adding Thick-leaved Stonecrop and Maidenhair Spleenwort in the walls there to our list on the way. In the end, only Charlie came along for the whole walk, but an enjoyable time was had, and we added Pyramidal Orchid, Bloody-nosed Beetle, Lulworth Skipper, Winged Greenweed and Peach-leaved Bellflower to our list, along with several other species not otherwise seen today but already noted earlier on the trip.

We were fortunate with our timing as the heavens opened once more for the second thunderstorm of the day just a few minutes after we got back!

The group gathered for a drink before dinner and chatted over an enjoyable meal in the hotel restaurant later, where we recounted our excursion and decided that since it had rained so much and the rest of the group had missed some nice species, we would repeat the main section of the walk in the morning rather than do an alternative which may prove wetter.

Day 7



Orange-tip larva © Alice Hunter

The morning dawned brighter and having visited the boulangerie after breakfast to gather lunch materials, we set out for a brief drive to a suitable point to start the walk. This proved fortuitous as the layby we chose was not a spot we had ventured into the afternoon prior and the bank here held some of the best specimens of Late Spider Orchid we had seen on the trip, as well as a single Fly Orchid and the first Viper's Bugloss in flower. At the bottom of the path, we found Man Orchids in the road verge and Pyramidal Orchids, in tight bud. More would follow over the course of the walk in further states of flower, along with Carthusian Pink, Nottingham Catchfly and White Mullein, plus the species we noted the previous day - including another Bloody-nosed Beetle! We found several very well camouflaged caterpillars of the Orange-tip, feeding on a Tower Mustard and had a lovely close encounter with a male Chaffinch. In the meadows as we re-entered the town, we also spotted Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea and Lady's

Bedstraw, while on the other side of the road, a strange sight welcomed us: a Blackthorn bush full of sagging pale green “fruits”. These were a gall for certain, but which type we weren’t sure of until later, when we established that this was the work of a fungus and that the growths were known as the Pocket Plum because of their tendency to look like fruit but be hollow like a pocket.

The group continued to the Tourist Office while the vehicle was brought round to meet them, and having regrouped (and bought a few mementoes on the way), we set out for our next stop in a broad grassy valley outside of town, bordered on all sides by woodland. Here, we found a



Globeflowers © Alice Hunter

veritable carpet of Wild Pansy being visited by Queen of Spain Fritillary in a brisk breeze, and Cheryl spotted a single clump of Long-spurred Pansy with all purple petals and the characteristic long spur on the back of the flower. There were Pheasant’s Eye Narcissi, Early Purple Orchids, Bistort and Globeflower here too, plus lots of leaves of Monkshood, which would flower later in the year. Dermot found a Sooty Copper and Cheryl noticed a vivid orange jelly fungus on the branches of a Juniper bush which was later identified as *Gymnosporangium tremelloides*.

Meanwhile, Charlie’s keen eye spotted movement among the rocks opposite, and he pointed out “a mammal” which transpired to be a whole family of Alpine Marmots! We were heading in their direction anyhow and so approached slowly and quietly, giving them a respectable berth and got lovely views as they popped up and down from their numerous burrows. A Stonechat seemed to be keeping a close eye on the whole situation, and a Yellowhammer sang nearby. In a sheltered hollow a little way further on, we found a Spotted Fritillary.

Leaving the Marmots in peace, we decided that the wind was a little too cool here to have lunch at the picnic table and so headed on to our next stop only a few minutes’ drive away. Although at a higher altitude, the trees here gave us a little more shelter, and we enjoyed our lunch in the sun with Clouded Apollo and Dingy Skipper flitting around us.

Having eaten, we ventured further afield to explore the flowers around us. We found some lovely specimens of Elder-flowered Orchid, especially the yellow colour form, in the shade of a beech, and nearby, Charlie spotted a large stand of Lesser Solomon’s Seal. Climbing onto a patch of limestone pavement, we found another species of Saxifrage for our growing list, *Saxifraga exarata*, which lacks a common name, along with a charming Jumping Spider. On the other side of the road, we found many more Dingy Skippers, Mazarine Blue and a Mother Shipton moth before returning to the vehicle to make a short journey to another spot further along the road.



© Alice Hunter

From our next parking spot, we would walk along a track to the edge of a ridge where the Vercors drops away into the valley below with views of the pre-Alps and Alps beyond on a clear day. It was windy here, but the sun kept the worst of the cold off, and we set out surrounded by the cries of the Alpine Chough flock that was playing on the air currents, hopping around the rooftops of the chalets and landing on the nearby slopes. The meadows here were brimming with Bistort and Spignel, and we noted how each meadow so far had had its own character and floral makeup, all slightly different to one another. Staggeringly, despite the wind, there was a huge influx in the opposite direction of Painted Ladies, with one passing us at quite a rate every ten seconds or so. On reaching the ridge, we spotted Kerneria growing in the rock face and took a moment to admire the view. Yvonne found a rather battered Glanville Fritillary too, the first of its kind for the trip.

Making our way back to the vehicle, we then took the decision, since we had a little spare time, to revisit the main site which we had missed yesterday afternoon due to the poor weather. This meant a little bit of a drive and that we would be out later than normal, but we wanted to make the most of our final day here and see as much as we could in this beautiful part of the world.

Arriving at our final location for the day, we found ourselves at a lovely forest clearing with a small meadow and a pond. It was worth it - the first butterfly we spotted was a new one for the trip,

Thistle Tortoise Beetle
© Alice Hunter



albeit a little worn, a Pearl-bordered Fritillary. There were Broad-bodied Chasers around the pond, which was full of Common Toad tadpoles too. The road verge here was damp and full of lovely flowers as well, including Dusky Cranesbill, Hairy Chervil, Brook Thistle and Aconite-leaved Buttercup. Walking up the road a short way to another clearing on a wide corner, we explored a bit more and found several Large Whites nectaring and a Wood White which was happy to pose for photos. We also spotted a troupe of well-camouflaged Thistle Tortoise Beetles.

Having enjoyed some extra time in the field and found a variety of lovely things, we reluctantly headed back to the hotel, pausing briefly en route for a nice landscape photo over the valley. Our final evening meal was a relaxed affair over which we discussed plans for the next morning.

Day 8

Our final morning dawned brighter than expected, and we enjoyed watching House Martins swooping down en masse to gather mud from a puddle next to the hotel entrance as we ate breakfast. Having done so, we collected lunches from the boulangerie and then loaded suitcases into the vehicle for our departure.

Our first port of call was in the pretty town of Pont-en-Royans where we enjoyed watching Crag Martins zip around at or below head height - an unusual situation for this species that is so often high overhead. On the river below us, we watched Grey Wagtails and a pair of Dippers for some time too, the latter spotted by Dermot as they hunted along the edge of the rushing water. It was fascinating to be able to see them dipping beneath the surface and walking on the riverbed from above. We also marvelled at the beautiful architecture of the "hanging houses" in this historic town, spotted Swifts and listened to Black Redstarts here, as well as admiring the tenacity of Harebells, which seemed to be growing straight out of the wall.



Pont-en-Royans © Dermot C

From here, we had decided to pay another visit to the site we had stopped at on the way from the airport before visiting a new one in addition to that on our way back. Unfortunately for us, the weather had other ideas. We reached the first and had a rather faster wander round than on our first day owing to the drizzle that had set in. There was not a dragonfly to be seen, and Charlie found the only butterfly of the day, a roosting Small White. There was lots of bird activity still though, and we heard our only Reed Warbler of the trip, as well as watching a family of Wrens for a short while.

Sadly, from here on, the weather only worsened as we reached our next site. We ended up deciding to eat our lunch in the vehicle and, rather than get soaked before travelling, opted to head to a cafe in a local town instead. This proved to be much more relaxing and an enjoyable way to finish the trip before heading to the airport, where we parted ways to head in different directions, with many of the group staying on in France.

We had been mostly very fortunate with the weather, although it is certain that the snow only two weeks prior to our arrival had an impact on the species seen. Nevertheless, we enjoyed a wide range of flora and fauna over the course of our stay, and our week had been most rewarding, thanks to the good nature and keen eyes of the group.

Species Lists

Notable Plants			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
Those in leaf only are marked with L and those in seed are marked with S			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
	Angiosperms									
	Monocotyledons									
	Amaryllidaceae									
1	Wild Garlic	<i>Allium ursinum</i>				✓				
2	Pheasant's Eye Narcissus	<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>			✓	✓			✓	
	Asparagaceae									
3	St Bernard's Lily	<i>Anthericum liliago</i>			✓					
4	Lily of the Valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>				✓		✓		
5	May Lily	<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>				✓				
6	Tassel Hyacinth	<i>Muscari comosum</i>		✓						
7	Lesser Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>							✓	
8	Whorled Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum verticillatum</i>				L		✓	✓	
	Cyperaceae									
9	Broad-leaved Cotton Grass	<i>Eriophorum latifolium</i>					✓			
	Liliaceae									
10	Martagon Lily	<i>Lilium martagon</i>				✓				
11	Wild Tulip	<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i>			✓				S	
	Juncaceae									
12	Snowy Wood Rush	<i>Luzula nivea</i>				✓				
	Melanthiaceae									
13	Herb Paris	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	✓			✓				✓
14	White False Helleborine	<i>Veratrum album</i>			L	L			✓	
	Orchidaceae									
15	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>						✓	✓	
16	White Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>					✓			
17	Sword-leaved Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
18	Coralroot Orchid	<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>				✓				
19	Lady's Slipper Orchid	<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>				✓				
20	Common Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			

Notable Plants			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
Those in leaf only are marked with L and those in seed are marked with S			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
21	Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>					✓			
22	Southern Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>	✓							✓
23	Elder-flowered Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>			✓		✓		✓	
24	Fragrant Orchid	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
25	Burnt-tip Orchid	<i>Neotinea ustulata</i>			✓		✓			
26	Bird's Nest Orchid	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>				✓				
27	Common Twayblade	<i>Neottia ovata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
28	Small Spider Orchid	<i>Ophrys araneola</i>			✓					
29	Late Spider Orchid	<i>Ophrys holosericea</i>		✓				✓	✓	
30	Fly Orchid	<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>		✓					✓	
31	Man Orchid	<i>Orchis anthropophora</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
32	Early Purple Orchid	<i>Orchis mascula</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
33	Military Orchid	<i>Orchis militaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
34	Lady Orchid	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
35	Lesser Butterfly Orchid	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>		✓	✓		✓			
Poaceae										
36	Quaking Grass	<i>Briza media</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
Dicotyledons										
Amaranthaceae										
37	Good King Henry	<i>Blitum bonus-henricus</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Anacardiaceae										
38	Smokebush	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	✓				✓			✓
Apiaceae										
39	Ground Elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	✓					✓		
40	Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>				✓				
41	Hairy Chervil	<i>Chaerophyllum hirsutum</i>							✓	
42	Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>						✓	✓	
43	French Sermountain	<i>Laserpitium gallicum</i>				✓	✓			
44	Broad-leaved Sermountain	<i>Laserpitium latifolium</i>				L				
45	Spignel	<i>Meum athamanticum</i>			✓	✓			✓	

Notable Plants			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
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46	Sanicle	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>		✓		✓	✓			
	Apocynaceae									
47	Swallowwort	<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Asteraceae									
48	Alpine Thistle	<i>Carduus defloratus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
49	Mountain Cornflower	<i>Centaurea montana</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
50	Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	✓							
51	Brook Thistle	<i>Cirsium rivulare</i>							✓	
52	Mountain Lettuce	<i>Lactuca perennis</i>					✓			
53	Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
54	Ox-Eye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
55	Yellow Goat's-beard	<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Boraginaceae									
56	Hound's Tongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
57	Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>							✓	
58	Comfrey							✓		
	Brassicaceae									
59	Seven-leaflet Bittercress	<i>Cardamine heptaphylla</i>				✓				
60	Decumbent Treacle Mustard	<i>Erysimum ochroleucum</i>			✓	✓				
61	Dame's Violet	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>						✓		
62	Kernera	<i>Kernera saxatilis</i>							✓	
63	Tower Mustard	<i>Turritis glabra</i>							S	
	Campanulaceae									
64	Clustered Bellflower	<i>Campanula glomerata</i>		✓			✓			
65	Peach-leaved Bellflower	<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>						✓	✓	
66	Broad-leaved Harebell	<i>Campanula rhomboidalis</i>		✓						
67	Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>								✓
68	Round-headed Rampion	<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
69	Spiked Rampion	<i>Phyteuma spicatum</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Caprifoliaceae									

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70	Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
71	Fly Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>			✓	✓		✓		
72	Common Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>		✓				✓	✓	
Caryophyllaceae										
73	A Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium arvense</i> subsp. <i>strictum</i>					✓		✓	
74	Carthusian Pink	<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>						✓	✓	
75	Rock Soapwort	<i>Saponaria ocymoides</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓			
76	Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>				✓		✓	✓	
77	White Campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
78	Nottingham Catchfly	<i>Silene nutans</i>							✓	
79	Bladder Campion	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cistaceae										
80	Common Rockrose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>			✓		✓		✓	
81	Hoary Rockrose	<i>Helianthemum oelandicum</i>			✓					
Crassulaceae										
82	Pale Stonecrop	<i>Petrosedum sediforme</i>					✓		✓	
83	Annual Stonecrop	<i>Sedum annuum</i>							✓	
84	Thick-leaved Stonecrop	<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>						✓	✓	
85	Mountain Houseleek	<i>Sempervivum montanum</i>			✓					
Euphorbiaceae										
86	Wood Spurge	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>		✓		✓				
87	Cypress Sprurge	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>			✓	✓				
88	Sun Spurge	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>							✓	
Fabaceae										
89	Mountain Kidney Vetch	<i>Anthyllis montana</i>		✓	✓		✓			
90	Kidney Vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
91	Red Kidney Vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> subsp. <i>praeprepere</i>							✓	
92	Montpellier Milkvech	<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>			✓					
93	Winged Greenweed	<i>Genista sagittalis</i>						✓	✓	
94	Laburnum	<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			

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95	Yellow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>							✓	
96	Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>							✓	
97	Meadow Pea	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	✓	✓					✓	
98	Spring Pea	<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>				✓				
99	Dragon's Teeth	<i>Lotus maritimus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
100	Black Medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	✓	✓						
101	Sainfoin	<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
102	Crown Vetch	<i>Securigera varia</i>					✓			
103	Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
104	Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	✓	✓						
105	Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Gentianaceae									
106	Narrow-leaved Trumpet Gentian	<i>Gentiana angustifolia</i>			✓	✓			✓	
107	Yellow Gentian	<i>Gentiana lutea</i>			L	L			L	
	Geraniaceae									
108	Dusky Cranesbill	<i>Geranium phaeum</i>			✓				✓	
109	Little Robin	<i>Geranium purpureum</i>						✓	✓	
110	Hedgerow Cranesbill	<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
111	Wood Cranesbill	<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Lamiaceae									
112	Blue Bugle	<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>				✓				
113	Carpet Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
114	Alpine Basil Thyme	<i>Clinopodium alpinum</i>			✓		✓		✓	
115	Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
116	Large Red Deadnettle	<i>Lamium garganicum</i>			✓					
117	Spotted Deadnettle	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>						✓		
118	Bastard Balm	<i>Melitis melissophyllum</i>		✓		✓				
119	Water Mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	✓							
120	Meadow Sage	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
121	Yellow Woundwort	<i>Stachys recta</i>					✓			

Notable Plants			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
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	Lentibulariaceae									
122	Large-flowered Butterwort	<i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>			✓					
	Linaceae									
123	Alpine Flax	<i>Linum alpinum</i>			✓					
124	Pyrenean Flax	<i>Linum suffruticosum</i> subsp. <i>salsoloides</i>			✓					
	Oleaceae									
125	Wild Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>						✓	✓	
	Orobanchaceae									
126	Pink Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis rosea</i>					✓			
127	Greater Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus alectorolophus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
128	Common Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>					✓			
	Plantaginaceae									
129	Fairy Foxglove	<i>Erinus alpinus</i>			✓			✓	✓	
130	Common Globularia	<i>Globularia bisnagarica</i>			✓				✓	
131	Matted Globularia	<i>Globularia cordifolia</i>			✓		✓			
132	Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>		✓						
133	Hoary Plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
134	Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	✓					✓		
135	Spiked Speedwell	<i>Veronica spicata</i>					✓		✓	
	Plumbaginaceae									
136	Alpine Thrift	<i>Armeria alpina</i>			✓		✓		✓	
	Polygonaceae									
137	Bistort	<i>Bistorta officinalis</i>					✓	✓	✓	
	Primulaceae									
138	Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓			
	Ranunculaceae									
139	Monkshood								✓	
140	Baneberry	<i>Actaea spicata</i>				✓				
141	Common Columbine	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
142	Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	L				✓			

Notable Plants			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
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143	Stinking Hellebore	<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
144	Aconite-leaved Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus aconitifolius</i>					✓	✓	✓	
145	Globeflower	<i>Trollius europaeus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
Resedaceae										
146	Mignonette	<i>Reseda lutea</i>					✓			
Rosaceae										
147	Alpine Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>			✓		✓		✓	
148	Small Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla glaucescens</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
149	Mountain Avens	<i>Dryas octopetala</i>			✓					
150	Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>						✓		
151	Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
152	Tormentil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>			✓					
153	Alpine Rose	<i>Rosa pendulina</i>						✓		
154	Burnet Rose	<i>Rosa spinosissima</i>		✓						
155	Wild Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>				✓		✓	✓	
156	Salad Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>		✓	✓				✓	
Rubiaceae										
157	Crosswort	<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
158	Sweet Woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
159	Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓	
Sarraceniaceae										
160	Purple Pitcher Plant	<i>Sarracenia purpurea</i>	✓							
Saxifragaceae										
161		<i>Saxifraga exarata</i>							✓	
162	Meadow Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
163	Musky Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga moschata</i>					✓		✓	
164	Paniculate Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga paniculata</i>					✓	✓	✓	
165	Round-leaved Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga rotundifolia</i>						✓		
Scrophulariaceae										
166	French Figwort	<i>Scrophularia canina</i>						✓		

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	Thymelaceae									
167	Spurge Laurel	<i>Daphne laeurola</i>				✓				
	Violaceae									
168	Long-spurred Violet	<i>Viola calcarata</i>							✓	
169	Common Dog Violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>				✓		✓		
170	Wild Pansy	<i>Viola tricolor</i>							✓	
	Gymnosperms									
	Pteridaceae									
171	Maidenhair Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>						✓	✓	
172	Marsh Fern	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	✓							

Butterflies			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
	Family Papilionidae									
1	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>		✓	✓					
2	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓		✓				
3	Clouded Apollo	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>			✓		✓		✓	
4	Apollo	<i>Parnassius apollo</i>					✓			
	Family HesperIIDae									
5	Chequered Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>		✓		✓				
6	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>						✓		
7	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
8	Southern Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>			✓		✓		✓	
	Family Pieridae									
9	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
10	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
11	Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias hyale</i>		✓			✓			
12	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>		✓						
13	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			
14	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
15	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓						✓
16	Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	☆	

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	Family Riodinidae									
17	Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>		✓		✓	✓			
	Family Lycaenidae									
18	Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>					✓			
19	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
20	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>				✓			✓	
21	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓	✓						
22	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>		✓			✓			
23	Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>		✓						
24	Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>		✓						
	Family Nymphalidae									
25	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
26	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>							✓	
27	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
28	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		✓☆	✓	✓	✓	✓☆		
29	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	✓						✓	
30	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>							✓	
31	Meadow Fritillary	<i>Melitaea parthenoides</i>		✓			✓			
32	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
33	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>		✓				✓		
34	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	✓		✓	✓				
35	Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>				✓			✓	
36	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓				✓	✓		

Birds			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
Species seen are marked with a ✓, those heard but not seen are marked with 🎵			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
1	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		🎵						
2	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	🎵	🎵	🎵	🎵	🎵		🎵	
3	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓							
4	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>				✓				✓
5	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓							✓

Birds			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
Species seen are marked with a ✓, those heard but not seen are marked with 🎵			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
7	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>					✓	✓		✓
8	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>				🎵				
9	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		🎵			✓	🎵		
10	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				🎵				
11	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			✓					✓
12	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>							✓	
13	Jackdaw		✓							
14	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
15	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			
16	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	🎵					🎵		✓
17	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
18	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		🎵		
19	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		🎵	✓	✓
20	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>			✓	🎵	🎵		🎵	
21	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			✓					
22	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓			🎵		🎵	
23	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaesus</i>								🎵
24	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>								✓
25	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
26	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>			🎵	🎵				
28	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	🎵	🎵	🎵	🎵	🎵	🎵	🎵	
29	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	🎵	✓	🎵	🎵	🎵	🎵	🎵	
30	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			🎵		🎵		🎵	
31	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				🎵		🎵	🎵	
32	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		🎵		🎵		🎵	🎵	✓
33	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>								✓
34	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>							✓	
35	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			✓	🎵			✓	

Birds			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
Species seen are marked with a ✓, those heard but not seen are marked with 🎵			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
36	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		🎵	🎵	🎵	🎵	🎵	🎵	
38	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		✓				✓		
40	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>							✓	
41	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domestica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
42	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				✓		✓		✓
43	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			✓		✓	✓		
44	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			🎵					
45	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	🎵	🎵	✓	🎵	🎵	🎵	✓	✓
46	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	🎵	✓	🎵	✓				
47	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>							✓	
48	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	🎵	✓	🎵					
49	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	🎵	🎵	✓	✓	✓	🎵		
50	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>					🎵			
51	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			🎵	🎵			🎵	

Moths			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
1	A Longhorn Micromoth	<i>Adela australis</i>		✓						
2	Light Feathered Rustic	<i>Agrotis cinerea</i>				✓				
3	Heart and Dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>				✓				
4	Copper Underwing	<i>Amphipyra pyramidea</i>		☆						
5	Reddish Light Arches	<i>Apamea sublustris</i>				✓				
6	Patton's Tiger	<i>Arctia testudinaria</i>		✓						
7	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	✓						✓	
8	Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>					✓		✓	
9	A Noctuid	<i>Caradrina selini</i>				✓				
10	Treble Lines	<i>Charanyca trigrammica</i>				✓				
11	Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	

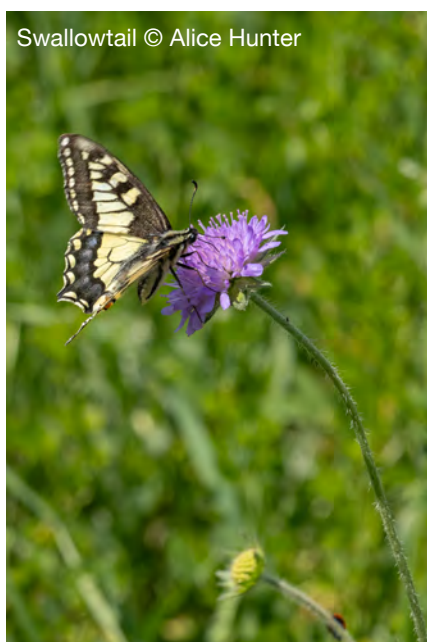
Moths			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
12	Chinese Character	<i>Cilix glaucata</i>				✓				
13	A Tortrix	<i>Cnephasia sp.</i>				✓				
14	Clouded Buff	<i>Diacrisia sannio</i>					✓			
15	Common Heath	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>		✓						
16	Galium Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe galiata</i>				✓				
17	A Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe pupillata</i>			✓					
18	Wood Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe rivata</i>				✓				
19	Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
20	Dwarf Pug	<i>Eupithecia tantillaria</i>				✓				
21	A Crambid	<i>Eurrhysis pollinalis</i>			✓					
22	Dark Tussock	<i>Gynaephora fascalina</i>				☆				
23	Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth	<i>Hemaris fuciformis</i>				✓				
24	Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth	<i>Hemaris tityus</i>					✓			
25	The Uncertain	<i>Hoplodrina octogenaria</i>				✓				
26	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>		✓			✓	✓		
27	Ground Lackey	<i>Malacosoma castrensis</i>			☆				☆	
28	Lackey Moth	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>					☆			
29	Yellow-faced Bell	<i>Notocelia cynosbatella</i>				✓				
30	Feathered Ear	<i>Pachetra sagittigera</i>				✓				
31	Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>			✓	✓	✓			
32	Meadow Grey	<i>Scoparia pyralella</i>				✓				
33	July Belle	<i>Scotopteryx luridata</i>				✓				
34	Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>		✓			✓	✓		
35	Red Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe spadicearia</i>				✓				
36	Setaceous Hebrew Character	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>				✓				
37	Transparent Burnet	<i>Zygaena purpuralis</i>					✓			

Dragonflies & Damselflies			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
1	Hairy Dragonfly	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>	✓							
2	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>						✓		
3	Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	✓							
4	Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	✓							
5	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	✓							
6	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	✓						✓	
7	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadripunctata</i>	✓							
8	Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	✓							

Other Taxa Evidence of the creature where the individual is not present is marked by an e			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
	Fungi									
1	An Orange Jelly Fungus	<i>Gymnosporangium tremelloides</i>							✓	
2	Pocket Plum	<i>Taphrina pruni</i>							✓	
	Amphibians and Reptiles (Herpetofauna)									
3	Common Toad (tadpoles)	<i>Bufo bufo</i>							✓	
4	Pool Frog	<i>Pelophylax lessonae</i>	✓							✓
5	Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>	✓	✓						
6	Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>			✓					
	Mammals									
7	Alpine Marmot	<i>Marmota marmota</i>							✓	
8	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>					e			
	Beetles (Coleoptera)									
9	Golden-bloomed Grey Longhorn Beetle	<i>Agapanthia villosoviridescens</i>				✓				
10	Alder Leaf Beetle	<i>Agelastica alni</i>	✓							
11	Thistle Tortoise Beetle	<i>Cassida rubiginosa</i>							✓	
12	Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>				✓				
13	Two-banded Longhorn Beetle	<i>Rhagium bifasciatum</i>				✓				
14	Green Click Beetle	<i>Selastomus aeneus</i>			✓					
15	Bloody-nosed Beetle	<i>Timarcha tenebricosa</i>						✓	✓	

Other Taxa			28th May	29th May	30th May	31st May	1st June	2nd June	3rd June	4th June
Evidence of the creature where the individual is not present is marked by an e			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8
16	Apple Blossom Chafer	<i>Tropinota hirta</i>								✓
True Bugs (Hemiptera)										
17	Red and Black Froghopper	<i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>		✓		✓				
18	Italian Striped Shieldbug	<i>Graphosoma italica</i>		✓		✓				
Other Invertebrates										
19	Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>		♪♪		♪♪	♪♪	♪♪		♪♪
20	Sulphury Owlfly	<i>Libelloides coccajus</i>					✓			
21	Oak Snakefly	<i>Phaeostigma notata</i>						✓		
22	Jumping Spider	<i>Salticidae sp.</i>							✓	
23	Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>		✓						

Photo Gallery



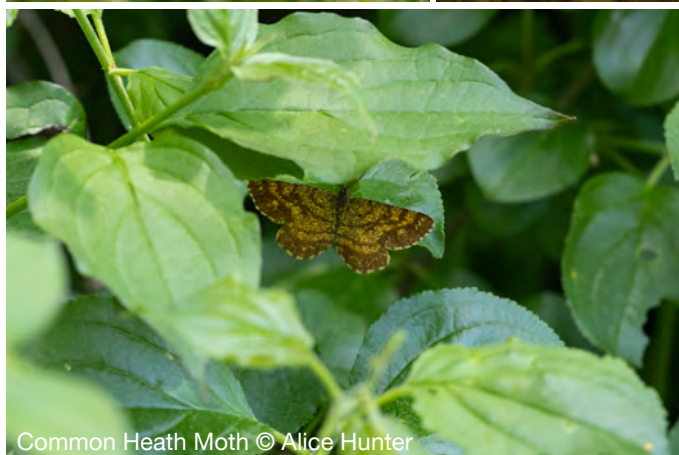
Swallowtail © Alice Hunter



Coralroot Orchid © Alice Hunter



Black-veined Moth © Alice Hunter

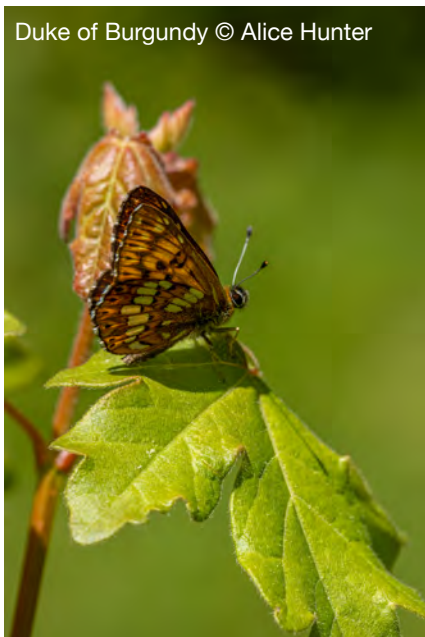


Common Heath Moth © Alice Hunter



© Dermot C

Duke of Burgundy © Alice Hunter



Elder-flowered Orchid © Alice Hunter



Dame's Violet © Alice Hunter



Dingy Skipper © Alice Hunter



Musky Saxifrage © Dermot C

White Wagtail © Alice Hunter



Yellow Archangel © Dermot C

Pool Frog © Alice Hunter



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Beautiful Demoiselle © Alice Hunter



Late Spider Orchid © Dermot C



Lesser Solomon's Seal © Alice Hunter



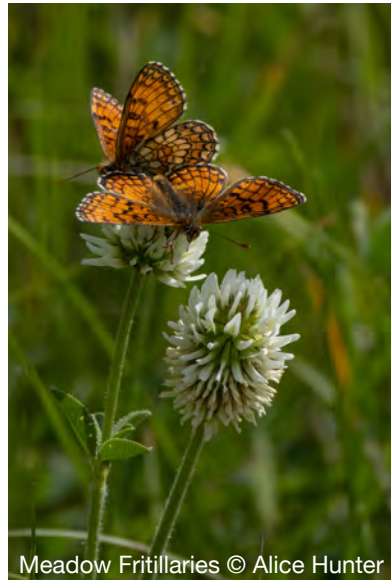
Jumping Spider © Alice Hunter



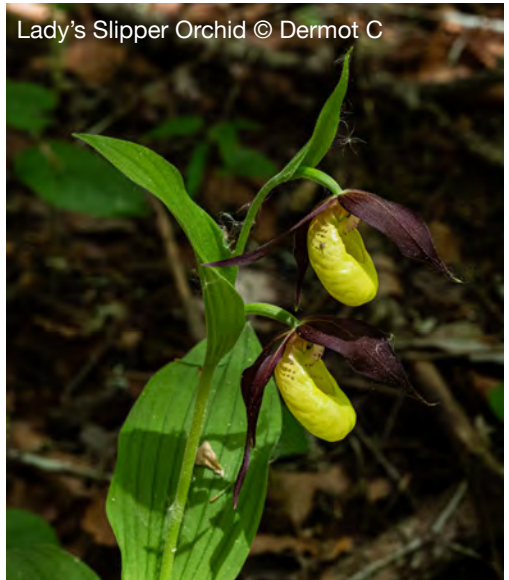
Mountain Cornflower © Alice Hunter



Military Orchid © Alice Hunter



Meadow Fritillaries © Alice Hunter



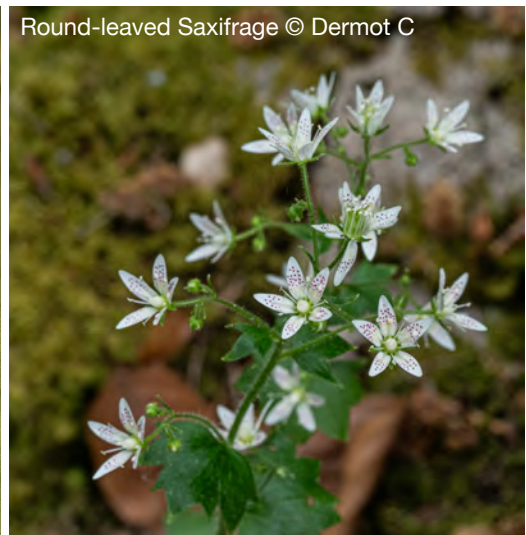
Lady's Slipper Orchid © Dermot C



Pont-en-Royans © Alice Hunter



Two-banded Longhorn Beetle
© Alice Hunter



Round-leaved Saxifrage © Dermot C



Queen of Spain Fritillary © Alice Hunter



Thick-leaved Stonecrop © Alice Hunter



Saxifraga exarata © Alice Hunter



© Alice Hunter



Southern Grizzled Skipper © Alice Hunter



Speckled Yellow moth © Dermot C

Mother Shipton © Alice Hunter



Speckled Yellow moth © Alice Hunter



Round-leaved Saxifrage © Alice Hunter



Hummingbird Hawkmoth on Alpine Thistle © Alice Hunter