

## Day trip around Ouveillan & Capestang – Aude (11) and Hérault (34)

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

**Guide of the day:** Karline Martorell

**Participants:** 7

**Weather conditions:** good weather partly cloudy with a light wind, temps ranging from 10°C to 18°C

**Highlights of the trip:** Iberian grey shrike, Purple swamphen, Black-winged stilt, White stork, Black stork, Black kite, Bonelli's eagle, Crane

### Itinerary and birding spots of the day

We started the day in the agricultural plain near Ouveillan. Here we were looking for Iberian grey shrike. But this increasingly rare species is really shy and quite difficult to find. We were watching some flocks of finches in the vineyards, a lot of Corn bunting perching in bushes and few groups of Lapwing in flight, when we finally found the shrike just before leaving.

The morning in this area was really quiet. Migration seems to be later than a usual spring especially after a few days of onshore wind.



Iberian grey shrike and Lapwing flight

Then, we changed habitats for the end of the morning and the afternoon. Let's go to the Capestang marshes!!!

An initial short walk before lunch allows us to see some nice species: 2 Black-winged stilt (the first of the year), a Purple swamphen, some White storks and amazing groups of Reed bunting.

After our picnic, we walked on the main track across the marshes, which is bordered by amazing reed beds. It was time to sharpen our hearing to find passerines in the reeds. We had a gorgeous view of a male Barded tit! What a superb species!



Then, we were lucky because the North wind started to blow, providing some birds on migration. And now our sightings quickly followed one another: 4 Black kites on migration followed by a juvenile Bonelli's eagle, one Black stork with a group of White storks circling, a beautiful V formation of Common crane, and a huge group of Flamingos that took off from the lagoon! An amazing afternoon!



White stork and Black stork on migration



Common Crane and large group of Flamingo

We finished this successful day by searching for Penduline tit in the reeds to the sound of the Moustached warbler calling. A very nice atmosphere!

We finally found 62 species during this day trip, what is really good for this early spring.

You can find the bird list below.

### Bird List 03/03/22

English Name	French Name	Latin Name
Greylag goose	Oie cendrée	<i>Anser anser</i>
Mallard	Canard colvert	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Northern Shoveler	Canard souchet	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Red-crested pochard	Nette rousse	<i>Netta ruffina</i>
Common Shelduck	Tadorne de Belon	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Red-legged Partridge	Perdrix rouge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
Little Grebe	Grèbe castagneux	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	Grèbe huppé	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Great Cormorant	Grand Cormoran	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Little Egret	Aigrette garzette	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great white egret	Grande Aigrette	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Grey Heron	Héron cendré	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
White Stork	Cigogne blanche	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Black Stork	Cigogne noire	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Greater Flamingo	Flamant rose	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Bonelli's Eagle	Aigle de Bonelli	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	Busard des roseaux	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Common Buzzard	Buse variable	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Black Kite	Milan noir	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Common Kestrel	Faucon crécerelle	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Eurasian Coot	Foulque macroule	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Water Rail (H)	Râle d'eau	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
Purple Swamphen	Talève sultane	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Common Crane	Grue cendrée	<i>Grus grus</i>
Black-winged Stilt	Échasse blanche	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Eurasian Stone-curlew (H)	OEdicnème criard	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>
Common Ringed Plover	Grand gravelot	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Northern Lapwing	Vanneau huppé	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Common Snipe	Bécassine des marais	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Green Sandpiper	Chevalier cul-blanc	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	Goéland leucophée	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Black-headed Gull	Mouette rieuse	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Common Wood Pigeon	Pigeon ramier	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	Tourterelle turque	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Eurasian Skylark	Alouette des champs	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Woodlark	Alouette lulu	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Crested Lark	Cochevis huppé	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
White Wagtail	Bergeronnette grise	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Meadow Pipit	Pipit farlouse	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Common Blackbird	Merle noir	<i>Turdus merula</i>

English Name	French Name	Latin Name
Black Redstart	Rougequeue noir	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Robin	Rougegorge familier	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
European Stonechat	Tarier pâtre	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
Cetti's Warbler (H)	Bouscarle de Cetti	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Zitting Cisticola	Cisticole des joncs	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Sardinian Warbler (H)	Fauvette mélanocéphale	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Moustached Warbler (H)	Lusciniole à moustaches	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>
Common Chiffchaff	Pouillot véloce	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Eurasian Blue Tit (H)	Mésange bleue	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Bearded Tit	Panure à moustaches	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>
Eurasian Penduline Tit	Rémiz penduline	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>
Iberian Grey Shrike	Pie-grièche méridionale	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
Western Jackdaw	Choucas des tours	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
Eurasian Magpie	Pie bavarde	<i>Pica pica</i>
Common Starling	Étourneau sansonnet	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
House Sparrow	Moineau domestique	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
European Goldfinch	Chardonneret élégant	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Common Linnet	Linotte mélodieuse	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
Common Chaffinch	Pinson des arbres	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
European Serin	Serin cini	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Common Reed Bunting	Bruant des roseaux	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Corn Bunting	Bruant proyer	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>

62 species

(H) : species just heard



***Thank you all for your participation and see you next time for new friendly adventures!***