

Day trip around Salses-le-Château (66)

Saturday 13th April 2024

Guide of the day: Karline Martorell

Participants: 8

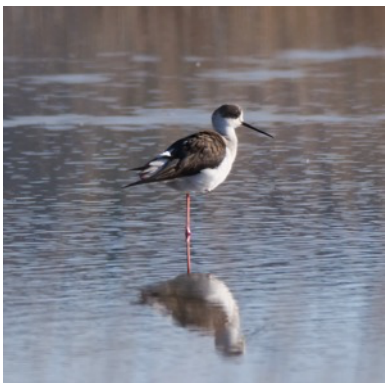
Weather conditions: sunny and hot day with a bit of sea breeze, temps ranging from 19°C to 28°C

Highlights of the trip: Yellow wagtail, Ferruginous duck, Short-toed eagle, White stork

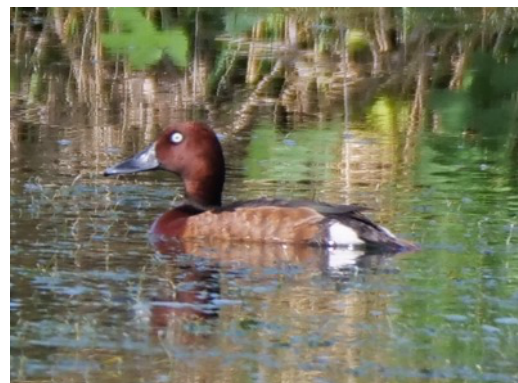
Itinerary and birding spots of the day

We started the day exploring the reedbeds near Salses-le-Château. The narrow track passed around a filtration pond, salt marsh, reedbeds and some lagoons. We had some nice views of Barn swallows, House martin and Common swift flying above the filtration pond. Near some the Salses lagoon, we practiced identifying waders. After checking the colour of all bills and legs, we added some nice species to the list (Green sandpiper, Wood sandpiper, Greenshank, Redshank, Black-winged stilt and Little ringed plover).

On the way back, we went round the pond again and were very happy to find a beautiful male Ferruginous duck (a lifer for some of the group).



Black-winged stilt on the Salses lagoon © K. Martorell



Ferruginous duck in the filtration pond © K. Martorell

We came back to the car and found some raptors on migration (Black kite and Short-toed eagle) accompanied by the local pair of Marsh harrier.

Then, we moved on to the Salanque area, to a completely different steppe habitat with open dry fields to look for another range of species. Here we found two singing male Greater short-toed lark with some Corn bunting, Crested lark and Linnet. We checked some kestrels in flight and found a male Lesser kestrel.



We had our lunch in a nice picnic area next to the lagoon, where we had great views of Short-toed eagle and Marsh harrier.



Picnic spot with the Short-toed eagle ©K. Martorell

We spent the rest of the day around Garrieux, where we saw a group of 42 White stork, Red kite, Black kite, and two Stone curlew in a field. And to end the day on a high note, the Hoopoe came alongside the cars to say goodbye.

It was a nice day with a total list of 59 species. You can find the bird list of the day just below.

Bird List 13/04/24 – BLDT04 – Salses / Salanque

Common name	French Name	Scientific name	
Great cormorant	Grand cormoran	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	x
Cattle egret	Héron garde-bœufs	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	x
Little egret	Aigrette garzette	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	x
Great white egret	Grande aigrette	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	x
Grey heron	Héron cendré	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	x
Purple heron	Héron pourpré	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	x
White stork	Cigogne blanche	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	x
Greater flamingo	Flamant rose	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	x
Shelduck	Tadorne de Belon	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	x
Mallard	Canard colvert	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	x
Ferruginous duck	Fuligule nyroca	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	x
Short-toed eagle	Circaète Jean-le-Blanc	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	x
Red kite	Milan royal	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	x
Black kite	Milan noir	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	x
Marsh harrier	Busard des roseaux	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	x
Common buzzard	Buse variable	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	x
Kestrel	Faucon crécerelle	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	x
Lesser kestrel	Faucon crécerellette	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	x
Pheasant	Faisant de colchide	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	H
Moorhen	Gallinule poule d'eau	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	x
Coot	Foulque macroule	<i>Fulica atra</i>	x
Black-winged stilt	Echasse blanche	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	x
Stone curlew	Oedicnème criard	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	x
Little ringed plover	Petit gravelot	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	x
Dunlin	Bécasseau variable	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	x
Wood sandpiper	Chevalier sylvain	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	x
Green sandpiper	Chevalier cul-blanc	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	x
Redshank	Chevalier gambette	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	x
Greenshank	Chevalier aboyeur	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	x
Yellow-legged gull	Goéland leucopnée	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	x
Wood pigeon	Pigeon ramier	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	x
Collared dove	Tourterelle turque	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	x
Hoopoe	Huppe fasciée	<i>Upupa epops</i>	x
Iberian green woodpecker	Pic de Sharpe	<i>Picus sharpei</i>	H
Short-toed lark	Alouette calandrelle	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	x
Crested lark	Cochevis huppé	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	x
Common swift	Martinet noir	<i>Apus apus</i>	x
Barn swallow	Hirondelle rustique	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	x

Common name	French Name	Scientific name	
House martin	Hirondelle de fenêtre	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	x
Meadow pipit	Pipit farlouse	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	x
White wagtail	Bergeronnette grise	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	x
Yellow Wagtail	Bergeronnette printanière	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	x
Nightingale	Rossignol philomène	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	H
Sardinian warbler	Fauvette mélanocéphale	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	H
Fan-tailed warbler	Cisticole des joncs	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	x
Cetti's warbler	Bourscarle de Cetti	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	H
Reed warbler	Rousserolle effarvate	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	H
Willow warbler	Pouillot fitis	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	x
Great tit	Mésange charbonnière	<i>Parus major</i>	H
Long-tailed tit	Mésange à longue queue	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	x
Magpie	Pie bavarde	<i>Pica pica</i>	x
Jackdaw	Choucas des tours	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	x
Raven	Grand corbeau	<i>Corvus corax</i>	x
Starling	Etourneau sansonnet	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	x
House sparrow	Moineau domestique	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	x
Linnet	Linotte mélodieuse	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	x
Goldfinch	Chardonneret élégant	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	x
Serin	Serin cini	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	x
Corn bunting	Bruant proyer	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	x

Total species per day	59
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X: species seen

H: species just heard



Thank you all for your participation and see you next time
for more friendly birding adventures!