

Birds of



The Vendee



A checklist

Compiled by Stewart Gould

Birds of the Vendee

The **WICE** (World Institute for Conservation and the Environment) checklist of the Birds of France is the basis of this 'Birds of the Vendee' checklist. By cross referencing the details of all birds listed, with the **BWPI** (Birds of the Western Palearctic - interactive) I have arrived at a comprehensive checklist for the Vendee. The BWPI is considered to be the authority on the birds of Europe, North Africa & The Middle East.

Many species which are considered rare in other areas of Europe and certainly Britain, can be found in the Vendee. The inclusion of a bird on my list, is not a promise that you will see it and non inclusion, doesn't mean that you won't see it. Birds don't follow rules that closely and rarities are often reported.

KEY



Resident breeding species. Providing you know where to look, it can be found all year round.



Migrant breeder, or summer visitor.



Winter visitor.

Where a bird can be found is governed by habitat and thankfully, there are few habitat varieties in the Vendee. They are primarily, coastal, estuarine, marshland, grass plain and some woodland between Mervent & Vouvant. There are many websites which will provide you with the best places to go, in order to see birds, but as you are on holiday and are probably not sad enough to have brought your laptop with you (I did), then this information is useless to you right now. From where you are sitting reading this, you have several options. Go to the sea – Aguillon sur Mer, or Ile de noir Moutier. These two are the two prime sites. Inland there are too many options to mention, but give the Marais Poitevin special attention and the rolling fields a fair crack of the whip. Black kites and Harriers abound here.

If you think that you have seen a bird which is not listed as being present at the time of year that you visited, or is not supposed to be here at all, don't worry. It is entirely possible that you have seen this bird. The list is not infallible, it is an indication only. For instance, Ospreys and Golden Eagles are seen in southern England from time to time. Ravens can be seen in the centre of Wells in Somerset and Peregrine Falcons have nested on Exeter Cathedral.

Whatever you do, enjoy this list. I would be the first to congratulate anybody who proved me wrong by seeing an Alpine Swift in the Marais.

Stewart Gould

Latin Name	Common English Name	Common French Name
Alectoris rufa	Red-legged Partridge	Perdrix rouge
Bonasa bonasia	Hazel Grouse	Gélinotte des bois
Coturnix coturnix	Common Quail	Caille des blés
Lagopus mutus	Ptarmigan	Lagopède alpin
Perdix perdix	Grey Partridge	Perdrix grise
Phasianus colchicus	Common Pheasant	Faisan de Colchide
Tetrao tetrix	Black Grouse	Tétras lyre
Tetrao urogallus	Western Capercaillie	Grand Tétras
Anas acuta	Northern Pintail	Canard pilet
Anas clypeata	Northern Shoveler	Canard souchet
Anas crecca	Common Teal	Sarcelle d'hiver
Anas penelope	Eurasian Wigeon	Canard siffleur
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard	Canard colvert
Anas querquedula	Garganey	Sarcelle d'été
Anas strepera	Gadwall	Canard chipeau
Anser albifrons	Greater White-fronted Goose	Oie rieuse
Anser anser	Greylag Goose	Oie cendrée
Anser erythropus	Lesser White-fronted Goose	Oie naine
Anser fabalis	Bean Goose	Oie des moissons
Aythya affinis	Lesser Scaup	Petit Fuligule
Aythya ferina	Common Pochard	Fuligule milouin
Aythya fuligula	Tufted Duck	Fuligule morillon
Aythya marila	Greater Scaup	Fuligule milouinan
Aythya nyroca	Ferruginous Pochard	Fuligule nyroca
Branta bernicla	Brent Goose	Bernache cravant
Branta leucopsis	Barnacle Goose	Bernache nonnette
Bucephala clangula	Common Goldeneye	Garrot à oeil d'or
Cygnus columbianus	Tundra (Bewick's) Swan	Cygne siffleur
Cygnus cygnus	Whooper Swan	Cygne chanteur
Cygnus olor	Mute Swan	Cygne tuberculé
Melanitta fusca	White-winged Scoter	Macreuse à ailes blanches
Melanitta nigra	Black Scoter	Macreuse noire
Mergellus albellus	Smew	Harle piette
Somateria mollissima	Common Eider	Eider à duvet
Tadorna tadorna	Common Shelduck	Tadorne de Belon
Dendrocopos leucotos	White-backed Woodpecker	Pic à dos blanc
Dendrocopos major	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Pic épeiche
Dendrocopos minor	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Pic épeichette
Dryocopus martius	Black Woodpecker	Pic noir
Jynx torquilla	Eurasian Wryneck	Torcol fourmilier
Picoides tridactylus	Three-toed Woodpecker	Pic tridactyle
Picus canus	Grey headed Woodpecker	Pic cendré
Picus viridis	Green Woodpecker	Pic vert
Upupa epops	Eurasian Hoopoe	Huppe fasciée
Alcedo atthis	Common Kingfisher	Martin-pêcheur d'Europe
Merops apiaster	European Bee-eater	Guêpier d'Europe
Clamator glandarius	Great Spotted Cuckoo	Coucou geai
Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo	Coucou gris
Apus apus	Common Swift	Martinet noir
Apus pallidus	Pallid Swift	Martinet pâle
Tachymarptis melba	Alpine Swift	Martinet à ventre blanc
Tyto alba	Barn Owl	Effraie des clochers
Aegolius funereus	Boreal Owl	Nyctale de Tengmalm

Asio flammeus	Short-eared Owl	Hibou des marais
Asio otus	Long-eared Owl	Hibou moyen-duc
Athene noctua	Little Owl	Chevêche d'Athéna
Bubo bubo	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	Grand-duc d'Europe
Otus scops	Common Scops-Owl	Petit-duc scops
Strix aluco	Tawny Owl	Chouette hulotte
Caprimulgus europaeus	Eurasian Nightjar	Engoulevent d'Europe
Columba livia	Rock Dove	Pigeon biset
Columba oenas	Stock Dove	Pigeon colombin
Columba palumbus	Common Wood-Pigeon	Pigeon ramier
Streptopelia decaocto	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Tourterelle turque
Streptopelia turtur	European Turtle-Dove	Tourterelle des bois
Tetrax tetrax	Little Bustard	Outarde canepetière
Crex crex	Corn Crake	Râle des genêts
Fulica atra	Common Coot	Foulque macroule
Gallinula chloropus	Common Moorhen	Gallinule poule-d'eau
Porzana parva	Little Crake	Marouette poussin
Porzana porzana	Spotted Crake	Marouette ponctuée
Porzana pusilla	Baillon's Crake	Marouette de Baillon
Rallus aquaticus	Water Rail	Râle d'eau
Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper	Chevalier guignette
Arenaria interpres	Common (Ruddy) Turnstone	Tournepièrre à collier
Calidris alba	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling
Calidris alpina	Dunlin	Bécasseau variable
Calidris canutus	Red Knot	Bécasseau maubèche
Calidris maritima	Purple Sandpiper	Bécasseau violet
Calidris minuta	Little Stint	Bécasseau minute
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe	Bécassine des marais
Limosa lapponica	Bar-tailed Godwit	Barge rousse
Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit	Barge à queue noire
Lymnocyptes minimus	Jack Snipe	Bécassine sourde
Numenius arquata	Eurasian Curlew	Courlis cendré
Philomachus pugnax	Ruff	Combattant varié
Scolopax rusticola	Eurasian Woodcock	Bécasse des bois
Tringa erythropus	Spotted Redshank	Chevalier arlequin
Tringa ochropus	Green Sandpiper	Chevalier cul-blanc
Tringa totanus	Common Redshank	Chevalier gambette
Burhinus oedicephalus	Stone Curlew (Thick knee)	OEdicnème criard
Charadrius alexandrinus	Kentish Plover	Pluvier à collier interrompu
Charadrius dubius	Little Ringed Plover	Pluvier petit-gravelot
Charadrius hiaticula	Common Ringed Plover	Pluvier grand-gravelot
Haematopus ostralegus	Eurasian Oystercatcher	Huîtrier pie
Pluvialis apricaria	European Golden-Plover	Pluvier doré
Pluvialis squatarola	Grey Plover	Pluvier argenté
Recurvirostra avosetta	Pied Avocet	Avocette élégante
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing	Vanneau huppé
Glareola pratincola	Collared Pratincole	Glaréole à collier
Alca torda	Razorbill	Petit Pingouin
Catharacta skua	Great Skua	Grand Labbe
Chlidonias hybridus	Whiskered Tern	Guifette moustac
Chlidonias niger	Black Tern	Guifette noire
Fratercula arctica	Atlantic Puffin	Macareux moine
Larus cachinnans	Yellow-legged Gull	Goéland leucophée
Larus canus	Common Gull	Goéland cendré
Larus fuscus	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Goéland brun

Larus marinus	Great Black-backed Gull	Goéland marin
Larus melanocephalus	Mediterranean Gull	Mouette mélanocéphale
Larus minutus	Little Gull	Mouette pygmée
Larus ridibundus	Black-headed Gull	Mouette rieuse
Rissa tridactyla	Kittiwake	Mouette tridactyle
Sterna albifrons	Little Tern	Sterne naine
Sterna dougallii	Roseate Tern	Sterne de Dougall
Sterna hirundo	Common Tern	Sterne pierregarin
Sterna sandvicensis	Sandwich Tern	Sterne caugek
Uria aalge	Guillemot	Guillemot marmette
Accipiter gentilis	Northern Goshawk	Autour des palombes
Accipiter nisus	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Épervier d'Europe
Buteo buteo	Common Buzzard	Buse variable
Circus aeruginosus	Western Marsh-Harrier	Busard des roseaux
Circus cyaneus	Hen Harrier	Busard Saint-Martin
Circus pygargus	Montagu's Harrier	Busard cendré
Gypaetus barbatus	Lammergeier	Gypaète barbu
Haliaeetus albicilla	White-tailed Eagle	Pygargue à queue blanche
Hieraetus pennatus	Booted Eagle	Aigle botté
Milvus migrans	Black Kite	Milan noir
Milvus milvus	Red Kite	Milan royal
Neophron percnopterus	Egyptian Vulture	Vautour percnoptère
Pernis apivorus	European Honey-buzzard	Bondrée apivore
Falco columbarius	Merlin	Faucon émerillon
Falco naumanni	Lesser Kestrel	Faucon crécerellette
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	Faucon pèlerin
Falco subbuteo	Eurasian Hobby	Faucon hobereau
Falco tinnunculus	Common Kestrel	Faucon crécerelle
Podiceps auritus	Slavonian Grebe	Grèbe esclavon
Podiceps cristatus	Great Crested Grebe	Grèbe huppé
Podiceps grisegena	Red-necked Grebe	Grèbe jougris
Podiceps nigricollis	Black-necked Grebe	Grèbe à cou noir
Tachybaptus ruficollis	Little Grebe	Grèbe castagneux
Morus bassanus	Northern Gannet	Fou de Bassan
Phalacrocorax aristotelis	European Shag	Cormoran huppé
Phalacrocorax carbo	Great Cormorant	Grand Cormoran
Ardea alba	Great Egret	Grande Aigrette
Ardea cinerea	Grey Heron	Héron cendré
Ardea purpurea	Purple Heron	Héron pourpré
Botaurus stellaris	Great Bittern	Butor étoilé
Bubulcus ibis	Cattle Egret	Héron garde-boeufs
Egretta garzetta	Little Egret	Aigrette garzetta
Ixobrychus minutus	Little Bittern	Blongios nain
Nycticorax nycticorax	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Bihoreau gris
Ciconia ciconia	White Stork	Cigogne blanche
Gavia arctica	Blak Throated Diver	Plongeon arctique
Gavia immer	Great Northern Diver	Plongeon huard
Gavia stellata	Red-throated Diver	Plongeon catmarin
Fulmarus glacialis	Northern Fulmar	Fulmar boréal
Hydrobates pelagicus	European Storm-Petrel	Océanite tempête
Puffinus puffinus	Manx Shearwater	Puffin des Anglais
Lanius collurio	Red-backed Shrike	Pie-grièche écorcheur
Lanius excubitor	Great Grey Shrike	Pie-grièche grise
Lanius minor	Lesser Grey Shrike	Pie-grièche à poitrine rose
Lanius senator	Woodchat Shrike	Pie-grièche à tête rousse

	Corvus corax	Common Raven	Grand Corbeau
	Corvus corone	Carrion Crow	Corneille noire
	Corvus frugilegus	Rook	Corbeau freux
	Corvus monedula	Eurasian Jackdaw	Choucas des tours
	Garrulus glandarius	Eurasian Jay	Geai des chênes
	Oriolus oriolus	Eurasian Golden-Oriole	Loriot d'Europe
	Pica pica	Black-billed Magpie	Pie bavarde
	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	Red-billed Chough	Crave à bec rouge
	Cinclus cinclus	White-throated Dipper	Cinacle plongeur
	Erithacus rubecula	European Robin	Rougegorge familier
	Ficedula albicollis	Collared Flycatcher	Gobemouche à collier
	Ficedula hypoleuca	European Pied Flycatcher	Gobemouche noir
	Luscinia megarhynchos	Common Nightingale	Rossignol philomèle
	Luscinia svecica	Bluethroat	Gorgebleue à miroir
	Monticola saxatilis	Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush	Monticole merle-de-roche
	Muscicapa striata	Spotted Flycatcher	Gobemouche gris
	Oenanthe hispanica	Black-eared Wheatear	Traquet oreillard
	Oenanthe oenanthe	Northern Wheatear	Traquet motteux
	Phoenicurus ochrurus	Black Redstart	Rougequeue noir
	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	Common Redstart	Rougequeue à front blanc
	Saxicola rubetra	Whinchat	Tarier des prés
	Saxicola torquata	Common Stonechat	Tarier pâtre
	Turdus iliacus	Redwing	Grive mauvis
	Turdus merula	Eurasian Blackbird	Merle noir
	Turdus philomelos	Song Thrush	Grive musicienne
	Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	Grive litorne
	Turdus torquatus	Ring Ouzel	Merle à plastron
	Turdus viscivorus	Mistle Thrush	Grive draine
	Sturnus vulgaris	Common Starling	Étourneau sansonnet
	Sitta europaea	Wood Nuthatch	Sittelle torchepot
	Tichodroma muraria	Wallcreeper	Tichodrome échelette
	Certhia brachydactyla	Short-toed Tree-Creeper	Grimpereau des jardins
	Certhia familiaris	Eurasian Tree-Creeper	Grimpereau des bois
	Troglodytes troglodytes	Wren	Troglodyte mignon
	Cyanistes caeruleus	European Blue Tit	Mésange bleue
	Lophophanes cristatus	Crested Tit	Mésange huppée
	Parus major	Great Tit	Mésange charbonnière
	Periparus ater	Coal Tit	Mésange noire
	Poecile montanus	Willow Tit	Mésange boréale
	Poecile palustris	Marsh Tit	Mésange nonnette
	Remiz pendulinus	Eurasian Penduline-Tit	Rémiz penduline
	Aegithalos caudatus	Long-tailed Tit	Mésange à longue queue
	Delichon urbica	Northern House-Martin	Hirondelle de fenêtre
	Hirundo daurica	Red-rumped Swallow	Hirondelle rousseline
	Hirundo rupestris	Eurasian Crag-Martin	Hirondelle de rochers
	Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow	Hirondelle rustique
	Riparia riparia	Sand Martin	Hirondelle de rivage
	Regulus ignicapillus	Firecrest	Roitelet triple-bandeau
	Regulus regulus	Goldcrest	Roitelet huppé
	Cisticola juncidis	Fan-tailed warbler	Cisticole des joncs
	Acrocephalus arundinaceus	Great Reed-Warbler	Rousserolle turdoïde
	Acrocephalus melanopogon	Moustached Warbler	Lusciniole à moustaches
	Acrocephalus palustris	Marsh Warbler	Rousserolle verderolle
	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	Sedge Warbler	Phragmite des joncs
	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	Eurasian Reed-Warbler	Rousserolle effarvate

Cettia cetti	Cetti's Warbler	Bouscarle de Cetti
Hippolais icterina	Icterine Warbler	Hypolaïs icterine
Hippolais polyglotta	Melodious Warbler	Hypolaïs polyglotte
Locustella luscinioides	Savi's Warbler	Locustelle lusciniôide
Locustella naevia	Grasshopper-Warbler	Locustelle tachetée
Panurus biarmicus	Bearded tit	Panure à moustaches
Phylloscopus bonelli	Western Bonelli's Warbler	Pouillot de Bonelli
Phylloscopus collybita	Eurasian Chiffchaff	Pouillot véloce
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Wood Warbler	Pouillot siffleur
Phylloscopus trochilus	Willow Warbler	Pouillot fitis
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	Fauvette à tête noire
Sylvia borin	Garden Warbler	Fauvette des jardins
Sylvia cantillans	Subalpine Warbler	Fauvette passerinette
Sylvia communis	Greater Whitethroat	Fauvette grisette
Sylvia conspicillata	Spectacled Warbler	Fauvette à lunettes
Sylvia curruca	Lesser Whitethroat	Fauvette babillarde
Sylvia hortensis	Orphean Warbler	Fauvette orphée
Sylvia melanocephala	Sardinian Warbler	Fauvette mélanocéphale
Sylvia undata	Dartford Warbler	Fauvette pitchou
Alauda arvensis	Sky Lark	Alouette des champs
Calandrella brachydactyla	Greater Short-toed Lark	Alouette calandrelle
Eremophila alpestris	Shore Lark	Alouette hausse-col
Galerida cristata	Crested Lark	Cochevis huppé
Lullula arborea	Wood Lark	Alouette lulu
Anthus campestris	Tawny Pipit	Pipit rousseline
Anthus petrosus	Rock Pipit	Pipit maritime
Anthus pratensis	Meadow Pipit	Pipit farlouse
Anthus spinoletta	Water Pipit	Pipit spioncelle
Anthus trivialis	Tree Pipit	Pipit des arbres
Motacilla alba	Pied/White Wagtail	Bergeronnette grise
Motacilla cinerea	Grey Wagtail	Bergeronnette des ruisseaux
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail	Bergeronnette printanière
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	Moineau domestique
Passer montanus	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Moineau friquet
Petronia petronia	Rock Sparrow	Moineau soulcie
Prunella collaris	Alpine Accentor	Accenteur alpin
Prunella modularis	Dunnock/Hedge Sparrow	Accenteur mouchet
Coccothraustes coccothraustes	Hawfinch	Gros-bec casse-noyaux
Fringilla coelebs	Chaffinch	Pinson des arbres
Fringilla montifringilla	Brambling	Pinson du Nord