



# La Pélite

*The red gorge shows up in your mailbox when you least expect it.*

## Discovering ...

### *Rivières Sauvages Network*

In France, watercourses and wetlands in general, are becoming increasingly scarce. Few of them are still natural and unexploited. As a consequence, a group of fishermen, naturalists and scientists created the "Rivières Sauvages" (Wild Rivers) network in 2008. The project aims to value and protect natural watercourses.

Six years later, after establishing the necessary criteria (water quality, biodiversity, etc.), the "Site Rivières Sauvages" quality label was created. It does not bring about stricter regulation but highlights the ecological, economic and landscape potential of a territory.

Since the first labelling - the Valserine River in Jura in October 2014 - 17 more rivers have received the exacting label. In December 2017, it was given to the Cians and Roudoule rivers, and the Cante and Amen valleys (aka « red rivers » for the main colour of the rocks forming these drainage basins.).

**The red rivers are the 18<sup>th</sup> rivers labelled in France.** They were selected in part for their little urbanisation, breath-taking landscapes, and eco-friendly policy. The Clue d'Amen (Amen water gap) is entirely located in the Gorges de Daluis Reserve.

## Meeting ...

### *An underwater photographer*

**Yannick Gouguenheim** (image-riviere.com) holds a degree in Nature, Conservation and Management and a Bachelor in Ecology.



When rivers turn red. © G. Maunier

Thanks to his training in river management, he was able to work as a communication manager at several Fishing Clubs. He also started out as a wildlife photographer, an occupation that had interested him since he was a child. Commissioned, amongst others, by Fishing Clubs, or Environment or River Management Institutions, he brings forward a new vision of rivers. By diving with his cameras, he sheds light on the wide diversity of landscapes and the teeming life below the surface.

## Upcoming ...

### *Red river day*

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August:** Celebration of the "Site Rivières Sauvages" labelling.

At 11 am, in Valberg's theatre, free screening of a movie about the value of the red rivers. The label will then be officially given to the federation of municipalities *Alpes d'Azur* and to the SMIAGE (Organisation for Flood and Water Management and Planning).

2 pm: Field trip on the banks of the Cians River.

### *Geology and bird watching*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September :** Naturalist field trips. Inscriptions and information at [nathan.trouverie@lpo.fr](mailto:nathan.trouverie@lpo.fr).

## Did you know...?

### *The Mediterranean barbel (Barbus meridionalis)*

The Mediterranean barbel is an endangered species endemic to the Mediterranean basin. It is found in the red rivers. Nowadays, it is endangered at the domestic level. The *Maison Régionale de l'Eau* (Water Research and Education Centre) studies its distribution in 49 Mediterranean coastal rivers. Fish are caught by electrofishing, weighted and measured. Before letting them loose, samples are taken for genetic research.

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