

# Belarus in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

30 April - 7 May 2006

---

Report compiled by David Kent

---



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour leader: David Kent (Naturetrek)

Tour participants: Phil Hollis

Judy Hollis  
Gill Lindsay  
Alastair MacKay  
Hywel Roderick  
Ralph Trollope

## Day 1

Sunday 30 April

We met up at 11:30 as planned by the Belavia check-in desk, LGW, finding ourselves more or less at the head of a rapidly forming queue. Our scheduled 14:00 flight to Belarus (Boeing 737 aircraft) finally lifted off at 14:25, touching down at Minsk 19:10. Whereas it had been cool, damp and overcast in London, the weather in Minsk was still, dry and largely clear with a temperature of 14° C. By 19:45 we had cleared the airport controls (including purchase of compulsory health insurance), collected baggage, linked up with Lena our interpreter and escort, and driver Sergey, and were on our way south by minibus.

Hooded Crow and Feral Pigeon were the first birds recorded, seen from the taxiing aircraft, our first mammal - an Eastern Hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*) - seen on the road barely a mile from the airport. During the next hour-and-a-half (until darkness) we had further added Common Buzzard, Kestrel, Coot, Lapwing, Fieldfare, Raven and Rook to the list. A bluish haze and the smell of smoke pervaded the atmosphere, caused by the many grass fires carried out across rural areas at this time of year.

Sergey was a much faster driver than previous ones we have known, bringing us to our first base at Doroshevichy by the Pripiat River for 22:50. Here we settled into our comfortable en-suite rooms in the sumptuous new timber-built lodge, where an extremely appetising welcoming meal awaited us, accompanied, of course, with several toasts of vodka. Birthday girl Gill was awarded an entire suite as her accommodation. Na-zdahroveh!

## Day 2

Monday 1 May

The early morning was slightly chilly with a light wind, but clear. The keen pre-breakfast birders were rewarded with a notable showing of species, of which Great White Egret, White Stork, Golden Oriole and numerous Wrynecks - one nesting in a tree just thirty metres from the accommodation - plus all three marsh terns were of particular interest. The supporting cast included Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Marsh Harrier, Wood Pigeon, Cuckoo, Skylark, Black Redstart, Jackdaw (eastern white-collared race *sommeringi*), Tree Sparrow, Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Goldfinch.

09:30 breakfast preceded departure in two comfortable outboard-powered boats, for an introductory excursion across the Pripiat River floodplain, water levels being significantly higher than usual. Arriving at an exposed grassy bar, slowly emerging from the receding river waters, we disembarked for an opening taste of wader activity - many already settling to nest. Careful not to step on nests of eggs - a Terek Sandpiper clutch being an early find - we noted a few Oystercatchers, pairs of Black-tailed Godwits flying about in tandem, Redshanks, Ringed Plovers and several Terek Sandpipers. Displaying bands of showy Ruffs featuring all manner of colour

variation were the star act, a principal characteristic bird of this magnificent wetland ecosystem. Several Garganey and Shovelers were also present. At a second island there were even more Ruffs, and a Great Snipe originally spotted by Hywel flushed from grass cover. The first of many Blue-headed Wagtails (three races), Whinchats and Reed Buntings were also seen.

Continuing through dense thickets of willows Thrush Nightingales and Sedge Warblers were in song and, where the boats passed through groves of mature White Willows, Golden Oriole, Wood and Willow Warblers, and Collared and Pied Flycatchers were heard. Other birds seen during the excursion included Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Common Sandpiper, Marsh Harrier, Sparrowhawk, and a Buzzard and Merlin soaring together. Back at the boat landing for 13:00, where a Grass Snake appeared at the waters edge. Lunch at 13:30 was taken at the lodge.

Towards 15:00 (a first Hoopoe seen over the boat landing) we again set off by boat to explore the river system, visiting a unit of flooded primeval oak-forest. A soaring Black Stork appeared shortly before we entered a channel flanked by lofty mature oaks, in which an enormous White-tailed Eagle eyrie was seen, the head of the incubating female clearly visible. She departed the nest so we headed away from the site, seeing a Great Grey Shrike atop another oak.

Onwards travel through riparian groves of mature oaks, willows and birches flushed with sparse fresh-green leaf cover was a rewarding experience regardless of wildlife seen. Old, gnarled willow trunks of enormous girth manifested as wonderful natural sculptures, the reflected images in the still waters of backwater lagoons accentuating their forms.

A Honey Buzzard and second White-tailed Eagle were seen as we departed the zone of enclosed cover and, on crossing the open flood-plain, a trio of very smart Spotted Redshanks in black summer attire together with a Greenshank added to the tally. A large party of foraging White-winged Black Terns plus one or two Black Terns crossed our path during the return approach to Doroshevichy, where the excursion ended at 18:15.

Having started somewhat cold, 10 - 12° C., the temperature had climbed to about 16° C. by midday, again cooling towards the evening. It had remained mainly bright, with a brief spell of cloud cover that hinted of rain.

## Day 3

Tuesday 2 May

Seven Great White Egrets, two Hoopoes, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat and Jay were part of the collective pre-breakfast haul. 08:00 breakfast preceded a walk around the village by way of cultural experience, where wooden houses with freshly tilled gardens were enclosed by rickety picket-fences. Nodding-donkey type structures drew water from artesian wells, great quantities of neatly-stacked firewood leaned against outbuildings, and fruit trees draped with white blossom overhung the dirt roads. Outside many houses a wooden bench was located by the road, where villagers would sit during evenings to chat with neighbours and watch passing motorised and horse-drawn traffic.

10:00 Sergey took us to Lake Chervonoye (one hour drive), a large but shallow body of water from which silt was once extracted as a fertiliser. Derelict machinery from that operation littered the approach. En route we stopped to view a pair of Cranes in a field, also seeing two Montagu's and four Marsh Harriers - all males. A

strong north-east wind blew across the lake, making viewing rather difficult. In the foreground a gathering of about 100 White-winged Black and Black Terns were gathered on a pipe in the water, while many more foraged across the lake. Black-headed, Herring and Common Gulls were also present. During a walk along the lake we spotted several Great Crested Grebes, a few Pochards, twelve Mute Swans and two distant Whooper Swans. Hywel also saw a Little Gull. We then walked by an extensive reed-bed where a Great Reed Warbler was heard singing and two more Montagu's Harriers appeared.

Moving on from the lake we travelled to a pinewood location for a wind-free lunch stop where, to Judy's great pleasure, the minibus fortuitously pulled up by the only Pasque Flower seen during the tour - a rather splendid specimen inspiring a bout of photography. While Lena prepared our meal we followed a track featuring more botanical items, dominated by an arresting white carpet of Wood Anemones that cloaked the woodland floor, while beds of May Lilies were just beginning to produce flower buds. Reaching a small river the fresh tracks of an Otter were seen. The songs/calls of Robin and Crested Tit were heard.

Continuing to the town of Zhitkovichi, administrative centre of the district, a visit was made to large fishponds at the outskirts. Normally an excellent location for birds associated with well-vegetated eutrophic wetlands, we were to be disappointed on this occasion as the lakes had been dredged and reedbed cover had been either cut or burned. We therefore departed the site earlier than planned and made an unscheduled visit to mature pine forest near the village of Lyaskovichi to look for Capercaillie; a low-flying Merlin was seen en route. A first stop in the forest was made to look at Labrador Tea, an aromatic shrubby ground-cover that typically grows on bogs where Capercaillie lek. Onwards travel was thwarted on meeting a deeply rutted segment of forest road along which our minibus bogged down and stranded. Through Sergey's competent driving and experienced approach to the dilemma, coupled with team effort in packing the ruts with woody forest litter, we duly escaped and were again on our way - albeit on a return course. By way of minor consolation Ralph saw a Striped Field Mouse and Gill found a Smooth Snake, while Alastair discovered tracks of Elk, Roe Deer, Wild Boar, Fox, Polecat and Black Grouse in the mud of the worsening forest track further ahead. Determined that the mishap would lead us along a productive alternative route, we went on to enjoy sightings of Teal, Green Sandpiper, Black Woodpecker - all new species for the tour - and, most rewarding of all, a hen Capercaillie that lingered by the roadside providing prolonged close-range viewing which we noted, positively, may not have been seen but for the stranding incident! Back at the lodge for 19:15.

After a fitful dinner accompanied by celebratory toasts of vodka to the wildlife and adventures of the day, we set off at 20:45 on a two-hour boat excursion to search for European Beavers by spotlight. In the failing light a number of Noctule bats were active at treetop height above the river. One of the boats came on a beaver just minutes into the journey. A total of nine beavers in all were seen - our best result ever - also a Muskrat, and a close-range pair of glaringly bright eyes that most likely belonged to a Raccoon Dog. Boatman Anatoly also claimed to have seen an Otter. Towards the end of the outing a number of Daubenton's Bats were hawking insects low over the water.

The day had remained very bright but cool in open areas, becoming quite chilly by the end of the evening boat excursion.

## Day 4

Wednesday 3 May

This was the nicest morning thus far - mild, wind free and a completely clear sky. Early birders had added Kingfisher, Redstart and Spotted Flycatcher to the tally.

A leisurely 08:30 breakfast was followed by packing of bags before boarding 'Elk', the large river boat that would transfer us to our next base via a full days cruise up the Pripiat. Pressing upriver at a slow speed that facilitated comfortable birdwatching, it was undoubtedly the outstanding riparian habitats which above all else held our attention, featuring endless thickets of riverside willows, flooded pastures and ancient stands of flooded oak forests through which the Pripiat's waters slowly filtered.

The first new item of interest was an American Mink that Gill spotted off the starboard side - which Alastair managed to capture on film. This was soon afterwards followed by a European Beaver that swam across the breadth of the river from left to right just ahead of us - a rare daytime sighting. There was ample birdlife to keep us interested, with Common and Terek Sandpipers regularly showing at the water margin, and a soaring Goshawk adding to the raptor count.

Reaching our riverside picnic spot by midday - the temperature now very warm - we disembarked to enjoy rather deluxe facilities, constructed for the benefit of the Belarusian President who had dined here the previous week. While the cook prepared lunch over an open fire we attempted exploration of water meadows and riparian cover, but found flood levels too high to enable access to some of the best habitats. A short way into our walk Ralph and DK had brief sighting of an Azure Tit, which deigned to reappear for the rest of the group. Grass Snakes and Sand Lizards appeared in the damp grassland, and a first but distant Lesser Spotted Eagle showed. An adult White-tailed Eagles was scoped in a distant dead tree.

Lunch was a sumptuous affair - a superb table of cold meats and salads, followed by barbequed spare ribs and pork, cooked fish fresh from the river and traditional fish soup - inducing us to feed almost to bursting point. During a short afternoon wander we enjoyed views of an ultra-confiding Wood Warbler.

In our replete state we departed mid afternoon, by which time the light was superb and weather fabulous - T-shirt conditions. As the river broadened birdlife increased. The trickle of species thus far seen had included regular Garganey, occasional Marsh Harriers and Black Storks. More terns now appeared, an immature Little Gull dip-feeding among them. To starboard a Fox took off at speed, surprised by the boat's quiet approach. The river eventually entered a wide treeless zone, perhaps a kilometre across, where narrow islands of grassland were beginning to appear. Ruffs and terns dominated the scene, with a great many other waders and significant numbers of ducks, of which Pintail and Gadwall were new. A Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and three Green Sandpipers were notable, two Hoopoes and a Great Grey Shrike also showing.

Our journey concluded on reaching the village of Pererov at 18:00, where we visited a pond to look for amphibians while awaiting the minibus. We had the first good views of Marsh Frogs and Fire-bellied Toads and the purring of Green Toads was heard. Our presence in turn caught the attention of village menfolk, who delighted in the opportunity to exchange a few words with us aliens - who were probably as interesting to them as the frogs and toads were to us. Sergey duly arrived and drove us to our contrasting next base at Buda Chlupinsky, reached at 18:50.

After dinner we made a short journey to a broad forest-ride to listen for owls. Using CD recordings we tried for Eagle, Pygmy and Tawny Owls, just achieving a response from the latter which hooted back in reply and then flew silently by in the failed light. A Spotted Crake was also heard, and a Woodcock heard and briefly seen. Back at our bungalow accommodation, surrounding water-filled ditches resounded to the voluminous chorus of amphibians, while Thrush Nightingale song poured from thick cover beyond.

## Day 5

Thursday 4 May

Another exceedingly nice start to the day, with Thrush Nightingales galore singing all around and proving easy to see. Wrynecks were also abundant and the first Red-backed Shrike and Long-tailed Tits were seen. A Bluethroat was seen singing from a stack of bricks by one of the bungalows. The overall chorus of birdsong was absolutely outstanding.

After an 08:00 breakfast we headed back towards the Pripiat, making a first stop just two kms. from Buda at an intersect of roads and woodland rides that reserve personnel refer to as 'David's Corner'. Snipe were heard 'drumming' with one spotted perched atop a dead tree, then Phil briefly spotted a Bluethroat low down in cover - our main target bird. It was duly coaxed back into view courtesy of the CD player, a stunning white-spot male posing confidently at amazingly close range - a second-to-none view.

Travelling through villages where White Stork nests regularly appeared atop electricity poles, we eventually reached the village of Azerani to link up with ranger Anatoly, who joined us on a walk through mixed mature woodland at the first land-level above the floodplain. Forest ground flora scored from the outset, with Lungwort, May Lily, Solomon's Seal, stunning specimens of Spring Pea, Yellow Anemone, Asarabacca, Herb Paris and Toothwort some of the key species interrupting a broad carpet of Wood Anemones. Our walk through stands of lofty oaks, with a scattering of Scots Pine and rich understorey of Hazel and Hornbeam, commenced with a Grey-headed Woodpecker flying in to briefly alight nearby, followed by views of Collared Flycatchers high up in the woodland canopy. Anatoly found us a bright green Common Tree Frog, a handsome Map Butterfly settled for the cameras, while large Silver-washed Fritillaries occasionally flitted by in hurried manner. Swards of a Marsh Violet species (*Viola uliginosa*) inspired more exposure of film at a broad forest ride, beyond which tree content was dominated by Norway Maple. Fairly fresh evidence of bison presence was found in the vicinity of a 500 year-old oak, the oldest tree in Pripiatsky. On hearing the call of a Black Woodpecker the CD player again came into service, producing fly-bys of three separate birds, one of which briefly alighted within view. During the return walk we similarly had a Middle-Spotted Woodpecker, this one presenting very good viewing.

Early afternoon lunch was taken at a pine-forest location where bison are fed during winter, by which time it was exceedingly warm. Numerous Pied Flycatchers and several Cuckoos sang/called around the site, both showing very well. A post-lunch local walk produced very good views of two Grey-headed Woodpeckers.

Moving on to a large tract of mixed forest dominated by mature Scots Pines we were joined by the reserve's chief scientific officer - another Anatoly - for a circuitous mid-afternoon walk. Speaking some English Anatoly provided interesting background information about Pripiatsky and its history of reclamation over the past 200 years. We saw large wooden beehives (for wild bees) high in the pines, and crossed a small river where beaver activity obstructed water flow and effected a reversal of land amelioration. Bog Arum was a notable plant at the water margin, its pale spathes beginning to open.

Birdlife had been typically sparse for the mid-afternoon, but was pepped-up by appearance of a female Goshawk perched on her massive nest.

The day concluded with a visit to the reserve HQ at Turov, where Anatoly showed us a Long-eared Owl roosting in a cypress hedge. At the HQ we visited the natural history museum, featuring a well-presented representation of habitats and fauna with the inevitable motley collection of unattractive stuffed specimens - but our guide Helena was far from unattractive!

Our base was reached at 19:10, at the end of a very productive day of 'all round' wildlife interest. It had remained very warm, windless and clear.

After dinner a few of us wandered down the road to listen for Spotted Crakes. A few Noctule bats flew above the bungalows and the amphibian chorus was at times deafening - sufficient to drown out the sound of a calling crake, which we didn't hear. A roding woodcock was seen.

## Day 6

Friday 5 May

After an 08:00 breakfast we set off at 09:00, getting Sergey to drop us off about a km. from base so that we could walk to David's Corner in hopes of seeing a Red-breasted Flycatcher - in the absence of which we saw a first Dabchick, a Moorhen (scarce in Pripiatsky) and a Red Deer hind on the road. Reaching the small village of Chvoryensk we linked up with Yvan the boatman to be shuttled in three groups by outboard-powered boat (ten-minute journey), to a river checkpoint by a backwater lagoon containing groves of old-age willows frequented by Azure Tits. As the first departure pulled away an Azure Tit was heard and then seen in willows by the boat landing. Once grouped at the checkpoint we slowly strolled along the water margin intently listening for our bird and, within a hundred metres, an Azure Tit was spotted close by in an oak. It was soon joined by a second - a female showing a dark brood-patch on her underside - the pair foraging for insects among the emergent flowers and flushing buds of the oak. They remained in view for over fifteen minutes before we finally lost them. Although the viewing was excellent, it was regrettable that at no point did they drop down to eye-level cover where good photographs may have been taken. Having said that, Alastair managed to take the best photographs of an Azure Tit ever achieved during a tour.

Continuing along the lagoon margin our next encounter was with a large male American Mink crouched at the base of a tree which, instead of dropping to the ground and quickly vanishing, actually climbed higher to present us with great views and an excellent photographic opportunity. A modest show of other birds included Black Stork, Marsh Harrier, Tree Pipit, Wood Warbler, Fieldfare and Jay. Orange Tip butterflies were abundant and the first Lilies of the Valley were on the verge of flowering. It was exceedingly warm by late morning and the leaf litter so dry that walking even at a slow pace was noisy going.

After a tasty alfresco lunch by the river we returned to Chvoryensk, where a pair of Penduline Tits showed in a willow and numerous Swallowtail butterflies flitted about the weedy stubble of a small enclosed field.

It was 15:00 by the time we set off for Lake Cheretianka, our next destination north of the Pripiat, with a stop on the high road-bridge en route to gain an overview of the immense river flood-plain. Where the water had

receded eye-catching beds of Marsh Marigolds created an arresting show of colour. A flock of seven Wigeon was spotted from the bridge, plus the regular collections of waders, wildfowl and terns.

A significant wind had whipped up by the time we reached the lake, where a flock of Red-breasted Mergansers were the only waterfowl present. Flanking horizons were scrutinised, above which a White-tailed Eagle, Buzzards and a Black Stork were spotted, and DK claimed to see a Hobby. Gill discovered a large litter of feathers - the remains of a White-tailed Eagle - while Ralph found us several items of entomological interest. On the way out we stopped to say hello to a captive Wolf which, although physically in very good condition, was clearly not a very happy individual. A Red-backed Shrike and Lesser Spotted Eagle were noted as we headed back to base, reached at 18:40.

The day had started still and clear, warm then becoming quite hot, with a wind developing late afternoon and partial cloud cover manifesting during the evening.

## Day 7

Saturday 6 May

Another 08:00 breakfast for 09:00 departure, the morning mild though cooler than yesterday, somewhat windy with a thin veil of cloud cover. A 'laid back' visit to the township of Turov was the order of the morning, where we explored its few shops, changed money at the bank and enjoyed a spot of shopping - our presence entertaining the locals.

At the riverside rangers Anatoly and Anatoly awaited us with two outboard-powered boats for a final excursion across the floodplain. We were first shown a Long-eared Owl perched in a riverside willow, very close to the comparatively busy human activity within the town square. Following the course of an oxbow lake we reached a grassy bar and disembarked, where river-dwelling birds occurred in much greater numbers than seen previously. A pair of Black-necked Grebes and six Greylag Geese were new species.

Late midday we set off for Simonichy just 45 minutes drive south. At this small characterful village, bordered by pines to the north and small fields with birch thickets to the south, a small river was the focal point of interest, a pool along its course being inhabited by European Pond Terrapins. Having failed to see them on the previous two visits, it was very pleasing that we spotted three on this occasion. A Woodlark sang overhead as we ate lunch, which was a somewhat blustery affair. A walk was then taken along the river, where Mole Crickets (rare in the UK) were seen in the mouths of their burrows. Judy found one or two specimens of Marsh Violets (*Viola palustris*), and by a road bridge Hen & Chickens Houseleek (*Jovibarba sobolifera*) was seen. Walking back along the pines we failed to hear or see the hoped-for Crested Tits. Finally a walk was taken through the village, presenting a last opportunity to take photographs of a simple way of life that is sadly in decline.

During the return journey we stopped at a forest picnic area to make a last attempt to see a White-backed Woodpecker, seeing just a Great Spotted Woodpecker. Back at base for 18:00. Although rather windy the day had remained very warm.

The day, and the tour, concluded with a farewell dinner - a feast no less - accompanied by numerous vodka toasts to the events and people associated with the weeks experience and, indeed, to the environments - both human and natural - embraced by Pripiatsky National Park.

Stephan Bambiza, General Director of Pripiatsky, briefly called after most of us had retired to our rooms. He excitedly told me that he had just seen a Lynx cross the road at David's Corner!

## Day 8

Sunday 7 May

At 05:40 we surfaced for breakfast, to hear the chorus of amphibians and Thrush Nightingales for the last time. By 06:10, with baggage loaded into the minibus, we were heading away from Buda Chlupinsky on this warm and rather beautiful morning. Apart from a photo stop to capture sunrise from the Pripiat bridge, a refreshment break among pines about two hours later (Woodlark seen), and a brief stop to check a Savi's Warbler site where a Montagu's Harrier pair were the only birds of note, we made haste for Minsk Airport arriving about 10:00. Here we said our farewells to Lena and Sergey before checking-in for the scheduled 12:00 flight to LGW, which lifted off at 12:10 and arrived at exactly 13:00, thus concluding the tour.

### Notes/Comments

As with the previous two springs this one was late developing and the river water-level was much higher than normal, but throughout the week the weather remained excellent. High water-levels meant that there were few exposed bars of grass in the floodplain on which waders and terns gather to nest, and it was noticeable that their numbers increased towards the end of the tour as river waters were receding.

There was a reasonably good show of raptors, although Lesser Spotted Eagles were few and we failed to see a Hobby or Short-toed Eagle. Operated a week later than usual, we were perhaps disadvantaged for finding forest grouse (a female Capercaillie being the only bird seen) and White-backed Woodpeckers, all of which would be on eggs and therefore less in evidence. But, of course, regardless of all effort one also needs that element of luck. Other main target birds such as Terek Sandpiper, Collared Flycatcher, Azure Tit, Thrush Nightingale and Bluethroat presented excellent viewing, and Wrynecks were everywhere.

Mammals are always an uncertain quantity, particularly during spring, but on this tour we did rather well. A total of ten sightings of European Beavers was an outstanding result and a tour record, including a rare daylight view of one crossing the river. And, even though regarded as a pest, the mink in the tree was definitely worth seeing. Reptiles, amphibians, butterflies and other invertebrates, plus flowering plants, collectively conspired to maintain diversity of interest on a day-to-day basis. Species of plants actually in flower were comparatively few, but the overall visual effect of woodlands carpeted in extensive drifts of Wood Anemones interspersed with violets and sparse emergent greenery was a rare and captivating sight.

It is unlikely that anyone would have failed to be impressed with the incredible vitality of the great Pripiatsky River environment, embracing immensely wildlife-rich habitats and creating visually captivating landscapes. Environment, both human and natural, is the great essence of this tour experience, and it has to be witnessed to be appreciated.

An end of tour tally of 140 birds and 10 mammals recorded was very satisfactory. As a team we gelled exceedingly well and had lots of fun. In addition to wildlife content we met with folk who live off the land in the most real sense, and witnessed a way of life that will undoubtedly disappear with passing of the present older generation.

## Species lists

## Birds

	Common name	Scientific name	Apr/May 2006							
			30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		ü	ü					
2	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						ü		
3	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>							2	
4	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
5	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>		ü	7					
6	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		ü	ü	ü		ü		ü
7	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	4		
8	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
9	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>			2					
10	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			12					
11	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>							ü	ü
12	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>						6	ü	
13	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
14	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				2				
15	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				ü			ü	
16	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
17	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			ü	ü				
18	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
19	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			ü	ü			ü	
20	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
21	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		ü		ü				
22	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				ü		7		
23	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>			7		ü			2
24	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		ü	4	10+	ü	6	2	2
25	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		ü	ü					
26	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>				ü	ü			
27	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
28	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		ü						
29	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		2		ü		ü		
30	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>				ü		2		
31	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	ü		ü					ü
32	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		ü	ü	ü		ü		
33	Capercaillie	<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>			ü					
34	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>			ü			ü		
35	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>				H				
36	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				ü		ü	ü	
37	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	ü		ü			ü		ü
38	Crane	<i>Grus Grus</i>			5		5	5		2
39	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		ü		ü		ü	ü	
40	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		ü	ü	ü			ü	
41	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
42	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		1000	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
43	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		ü		ü		ü	ü	
44	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		2		ü		ü		
45	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
46	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		ü		ü				
47	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		ü						
48	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				ü		ü	ü	
49	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	

	Common name	Scientific name	Apr/May 2006							
			30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			ü	5	ü	ü	ü	
51	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Tringa cinereus</i>		20+		10	ü			
52	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>				ü	ü			
53	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>		ü						
54	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
55	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>		ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	ü
56	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>			ü				ü	
57	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>		ü						
58	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>			ü					
59	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>			ü	ü				
60	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	
61	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>		ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	
62	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	
63	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
64	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>		ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	
65	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
66	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>			ü					
67	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	ü	ü
68	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			ü	ü				
69	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	H
70	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>					ü		2	
71	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				ü				
72	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			ü					
73	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		ü	ü	ü	5	ü	ü	
74	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		ü	ü	8	ü	ü	H	
75	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			ü		ü		ü	
76	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					2			
77	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>					ü			
78	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			H		ü	H	ü	ü
79	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
80	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>							ü	ü
81	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		ü	ü	ü			ü	
82	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
83	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>			ü		ü			ü
84	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
85	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
86	Blue-headed (Yellow) Wagtail			ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
87	Great Grey (Northern) Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		2	ü	ü			ü	
88	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>					2	ü	ü	
89	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			H	ü	ü		H	
90	Thrush Nightingale (Sprosser)	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>		H	H	ü	ü	ü	ü	H
91	Bluethroat (white-spotted)	<i>Luscinia svecica cyaneacula</i>					2			
92	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				ü				
93	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
94	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
95	Wheatear (Northern)	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
96	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
97	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
98	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		H	ü	ü	ü		ü	
99	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			ü	ü			ü	
100	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>			H					
101	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		ü	H	H	H	ü		H
102	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>					ü	H		

	Common name	Scientific name	Apr/May 2006							
			30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
103	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			ü	H	H			
104	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>			ü	H	H	H		H
105	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
106	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		H	H	ü	ü	ü	ü	
107	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilis</i>		H	ü	ü	H	H		
108	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		ü	H	H	H	H	H	H
109	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		ü	ü		ü	ü	ü	
110	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>		2			ü	ü		
111	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				ü				
112	Willow Tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>		ü				H		
113	Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>			H					
114	Azure Tit	<i>Parus cyanus</i>				ü		ü		
115	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
116	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
117	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					ü			
118	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>						2		
119	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea europaea</i>					ü	ü	ü	
120	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>					ü			
121	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
123	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		ü						
124	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			ü	ü	ü	ü		
125	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
126	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	ü		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
127	Jackdaw (n. e. race)	<i>Corvus m.soemmerringii</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
128	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
129	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	ü	ü
130	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
131	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
132	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
133	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
134	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		ü		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
135	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	
136	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		ü	ü			ü		
137	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			ü		ü			
138	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				ü		ü		
139	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü
140	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
	<b>Birds recorded by guide only</b>									
	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>						ü		
	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					ü			
	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				ü			ü	
	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>				H				
	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>					H			
	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>							ü	

			April/May 2006							
	Common name	Scientific name	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Mammals</b>										
1	Eastern Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>	ü							
2	Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>			ü					
3	Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentoni</i>			ü					
4	Bat sp.				ü					
5	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			ü	ü		ü		
6	American Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>				ü		ü		
7	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>						ü		
8	Striped Field Mouse	<i>Apodemus agrarius</i>			ü				ü	
9	European Beaver	<i>Castor fiber</i>			9	ü				
10	Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>			ü					
<b>Mammal tracks &amp; signs</b>										
1	Common Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
2	Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>			ü					
3	Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>				ü				
4	Polecat	<i>Mustela putorius</i>			ü					
5	Otter	<i>Alces alces</i>			ü					
6	Elk	<i>Alces alces</i>			ü					
7	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			ü					
8	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			ü	ü				
9	European Bison	<i>Bison bonasus</i>				ü				
10	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>							ü	
<b>Reptiles</b>										
1	Common (Viviparous) Lizard	<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>					ü		ü	
2	Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>			ü	ü			ü	
3	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>		ü		ü	ü	ü		
4	Smooth Snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>			ü					
<b>Amphibians</b>										
1	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>				ü		ü		
2	Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>				H				
3	Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>			ü	ü	H	H	H	H
4	Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>					ü			
5	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>				ü		ü		
6	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>		H	ü	ü	H	ü	H	H
<b>Butterflies</b>										
1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>						ü		
2	Orange Tip	<i>Arthocharis cardamines</i>				ü		ü		
3	Green-veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>				ü	ü	ü		
4	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>					ü			
5	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>				ü	ü		ü	
6	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
7	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>					ü			
8	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>			ü					
9	Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>					ü			

10	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>						ü			
11	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>						ü			
12	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>							ü		
13	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>					ü		ü		
14	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>						ü			

### Diverse interbrates

1	Common Cockchafer	<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>
2	Wood Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela sylvatica</i>
3	Forest Bug	<i>Pentatoma rufipes</i>
4	Firebug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>
5	Seven-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>
6	Two-spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>
7	Ruby-tailed Wasp	<i>Chrysis ignita</i>
8	Spider-hunting Wasp	<i>Anoplius viaticus</i>
9	Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>
10	White-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>
11	Red-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>
12	Mole Cricket	<i>Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa</i>
13	Water Scorpion	<i>Nepa cinerea</i>
14	Pond Skater	<i>Gerris lacustris</i>
25	Whirlygig Beetle	<i>Gyrinus matator</i>

### Notable flowering plants

1	Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>
2	Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>
3	Yellow Anemone	<i>Anemone ranunculoides</i>
4	Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>
5	Spring Pea	<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>
6	Wood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>
7	Marsh Violet	<i>Viola palustris</i>
8	Marsh Violet sp.	<i>Viola uliginosa</i>
9	Labrador Tea	<i>Ledum palustre</i>
10	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
11	Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
12	Orpine	<i>Sedum telephium</i>
13	May Lily	<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>
14	Toothwort	<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>
15	Lily of the Valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>
16	May Lily	<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>
17	Common Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>
18	Herb Paris	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>
19	Bog Arum	<i>Calla palustris</i>
20	Marsh Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla palustris</i>
21	Alternate-leaved Golden Saxifrage	<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>
22	Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
23	Hen & Chickens Houseleek	<i>Jovibarba sobolifera</i>
24	Asarabacca	<i>Asarum europaeum</i>
25	Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>