

Czech Republic - Dragonflies of North Bohemia

Naturetrek Tour Report

15th – 20th June 2025



Dark Whiteface



Yellow-spotted Whiteface



Lilypad Whiteface



Green Snaketail

Tour report by Martin Waldhauser
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Tour participants: Martin Waldhauser (leader) with eight Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Sunday 15th June

From the airport, the group travelled to the hotel in Kytlice. Approximately halfway through the drive, on a very hot afternoon, we stopped south of the town of Roudnice nad Labem at the Čepel stream, where a large population of the very rare Ornate Bluet (*Coenagrion ornatum*) lives. This species was indeed found together with common rheophilic species (those living on flowing water).

Day 2

Monday 16th June

Zahrádky, Jestřebí, Česká Lípa

After heavy overnight storms, the group awoke to a rainy morning. Persistent rain did not favour observing dragonflies. So, we headed to the ornithological observatory at Novozámecký pond near the village of Zahrádky. Fortunately, the rain stopped, but there were still a lot of clouds in the sky. Near the village, we visited the Peklo (= Hell) valley, through which the Robečský stream flows. Due to the adverse weather, we observed only the most common species, the Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*). We then moved to the Jestřebské slaty peat bog, where we observed rarer species such as Keeled Skimmer (*Orthetrum coerulescens*), Small Bluetail (*Ischnura pumilio*), and Variable Bluet (*Coenagrion pulchellum*). We also made two shorter visits to sites near the town of Česká Lípa. At a peat pond in the forest, we observed Common Spreadwing (*Lestes dryas*) and other common species. At the Ploučnice River, we had hoped to see clubtails, but we only found larvae and exuviae.

Day 3

Tuesday 17th June

Hradčany

Fortunately, the weather had improved significantly; it was sunny all day. The group spent a significant part of the day near the former military airport Hradčany. At the Držník pond, we observed the Lilypad Whiteface (*Leucorrhinia caudalis*) landing on water lily leaves. This is essentially the only location for the species in the Czech Republic. In the nearby flooded former sand pits, we found a large number of Yellow-spotted Whiteface (*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*), but also other rare species like Blue Chaser (*Libellula fulva*), Hairy Hawker (*Brachytron pratense*) and Green-eyed Hawker (*Aeschna isosceles*). On the way to the hotel, we stopped briefly at Mařenice, at a small peat bog by the road. There were not many dragonflies here; this is the habitat for Northern Emerald (*Somatoclora arctica*). The last short stop was near the village of Kytlice, where in addition to Yellow-spotted Whiteface, we also saw Small Whiteface (*Leucorrhinia dubia*).

Day 4

Wednesday 18th June

Berzdorf, Frýdlantsko, Jizerské hory

Today was supposed to be very warm, so the group headed to the mountains. On the way, we stopped in Germany at the former brown coal mine Berzdorf, the only known local site for the Irish Damselfly (*Coenagrion lunulatum*) in Saxony was located. Unfortunately, we did not find this species; local photographers told them that the population

had probably disappeared in 2018-2019, when everything dried up in the extreme heat. But we did find Green-eyed Hawker and Yellow-spotted Whiteface. We moved back to the Czech Republic, trying to find clubtails by the Smědá River, but again there were only larvae and exuviae. The next stop was the Jizerka peat bog at an altitude of approximately 900m. Here we found typical tyrfophiles (species of peat bogs), such as the Small Whiteface and Spearhead Bluet (*Coenagrion hastulatum*). The hawkers were not flying, but we found exuviae of Moorland Hawker (*Aeshna juncea*) and Bog Hawker (*A. subarctica*). The last stop was at the former basalt mine at Heřmanice near Frýdlant. Yellow-spotted Whiteface was present in large numbers, but also Green-eyed Hawker, Robust Spreadwing (*Lestes dryas*) and other common species.

Day 5

Thursday 19th June

Lusatian Mountains

The Hamerský stream near the village of Naděje was a good location for both of the goldenrings. The more frequent Common Goldenring (*Cordulegaster boltonii*) flew along the stream; as for the rarer Sombre Goldering (*Cordulegaster bidentata*), we only found larvae at the spring near the main stream. The Brazilka meadow, with a larger number of pools, was a site for Yellow-spotted Whiteface and Moorland Hawker. Then we moved to the shore of the larger Světlík pond, where there was a nice peat bog. Yellow-spotted Whiteface was present in large numbers, but we did not find the related species Ruby Whiteface (*Leucorrhinia rubicunda*). It was probably too late in the season. When we got to the car, we observed the rare Yellow-spotted Emerald (*Somatochlora flavomaculata*). We spent the rest of the afternoon near Kytlice, at two forest ponds, Hraniční and Jedlovský. The finding of Spearhead Bluet was worth noting. The path through the dead forest (the result of a bark beetle infestation) to the spring peat bog was difficult, but we saw the habitat of Northern Emerald, and found Keeled Skimmer, among others.



Small Whiteface



Yellow-spotted Emerald

Day 6

Friday 20th June

Janovice, Hamr, Ploučnice River, Manušice

On this last day in the field, the group planned to visit the localities of those species that we had not yet seen. Near the village of Janovice, we tried again for Ruby Whiteface, but we only found Small Whiteface and Brilliant Emerald (*Somatochlora metallica*). In the vicinity of Hamr, near the lake, we finally found Dark Whiteface (*Leucorrhinia albifrons*) in large numbers, including teneral and exuviae. At the next stop, in an overgrown peat bog, we found Yellow-spotted Emerald. In the afternoon, we moved again to the Ploučnice River and hoped finally to be more successful

with the clubtails. And we found three species here: one young female Green Snaketail (*Ophiogomphus cecilia*), Common Clubtail (*Gomphus vulgatissimus*), and surprisingly Small Pincertail (*Onychogomphus forcipatus*). We still had a little time left, so we stopped at the ponds near Manušice, where we saw several Yellow-spotted Whitefaces.

Day 7

Saturday 21st June

Today, the group transferred from the hotel to the airport after a successful and interesting week.

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Species lists

Damselflies & dragonflies

L = larvae; E = exuviae		June 2025					
ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	15	16	17	18	19	20
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>				✓	✓	✓
Common Spreadwing	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>		✓				
Robust Spreadwing	<i>Lestes dryas</i>		✓		✓		
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
Small Bluetail	<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>		✓				
Common Bluet	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>		✓			✓	✓
Variable Bluet	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>		✓	✓		✓	
Azure Bluet	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ornate Bluet	<i>Coenagrion ornatum</i>	✓					
Spearhead Bluet	<i>Coenagrion hastulatum</i>				✓	✓	
Large Redeye	<i>Erythromma najas</i>		✓	✓		✓	
Large Red Damsel	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue Featherleg	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Green-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna isocetes</i>			✓	✓	✓	
Blue Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>			E			✓
Moorland Hawker	<i>Aeshna juncea</i>				L	✓	
Bog Hawker	<i>Aeshna subarctica</i>				E		
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
Hairy Hawker	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>			✓			
Common Clubtail	<i>Gomphus vulgatissimus</i>		L				✓
Green Snaketail	<i>Ophiogomphus cecilia</i>		L/E				✓
Small Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>						✓
Common Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>				✓	✓	
Sombre Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster bidentata</i>					L	
Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
Brilliant Emerald	<i>Somatochlora metallica</i>						✓
Yellow-spotted Emerald	<i>Somatochlora flavomaculata</i>			✓		✓	✓
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>				✓	✓	✓
Blue Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>			✓			✓
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>		✓	✓			✓
Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Small Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia dubia</i>			✓	✓		✓
Yellow-spotted Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia pectoralis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
Dark Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia albifrons</i>						✓
Lilypad Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia caudalis</i>			✓			
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>		✓				
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>			✓			

Butterflies and moths

		June 2025					
English name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	19	20
Large Chequered Skipper	<i>Heteropterus morpheus</i>				✓		
Chequered Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>			✓			✓
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	✓			✓	✓	
Wood White / Réal's Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis / reali</i>						✓
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepterys rhamni</i>			✓		✓	

English name	Scientific name	June 2025					
		15	16	17	18	19	20
Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias hyale</i>	✓					
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>			✓			✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>				✓		✓
Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>				✓		
Purple-edged Copper	<i>Lycaena hippothoe</i>					✓	
Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>			✓			
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>				✓		
Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i>					✓	
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓			✓		
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓	✓	✓	
Peacock Butterfly	<i>Aglais io</i>					✓	
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>					✓	✓
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>					✓	✓
Camberwell Beauty	<i>Aglais antiopa</i>				✓		
Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>			✓			✓
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓
Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>			✓			
Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>			✓			
Speckled Wood	<i>Parage aegeria</i>			✓			
Common Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>		✓			✓	✓
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>				✓		✓
Bedstraw Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles gallii</i>					✓	

Birds

English name	Scientific name	June 2025					
		15	16	17	18	19	20
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		✓				
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			✓			
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓		✓	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			✓	✓		✓
Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓				✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				✓		
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓				
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		✓			✓	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		✓				
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓				
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>			✓	✓		
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓				
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓		✓		✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓				
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			✓			
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓	✓				✓
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓	✓	✓		
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>		✓			✓	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓		✓		
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		✓				✓
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓				✓
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>						✓
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			✓			✓
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓			✓

English name	Scientific name	June 2025					
		15	16	17	18	19	20
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>						✓
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			✓			
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>					✓	✓
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				✓		
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓				
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	✓					
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓	✓		
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		✓	✓			✓
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>		✓		✓		✓
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	✓			✓		✓
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>					✓	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓		✓	✓	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			✓	✓		✓
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>			✓			
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				✓		
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓				
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				✓		
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓					
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			✓			
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			✓		✓	✓
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				✓		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					✓	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>					✓	
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		✓				
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			✓			✓
Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>				✓		
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			✓			
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓

Mammals

English name	Scientific name	June 2025					
		15	16	17	18	19	20
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>				✓		
Least Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>			✓			
American Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>				✓		

Amphibians & reptiles

English name	Scientific name	June 2025					
		15	16	17	18	19	20
Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>						✓
Common Spadefoot Toad	<i>Pelobates fuscus</i>						✓
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>						✓
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>				✓		
Viviparous Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>				✓		
Eastern Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>					✓	✓