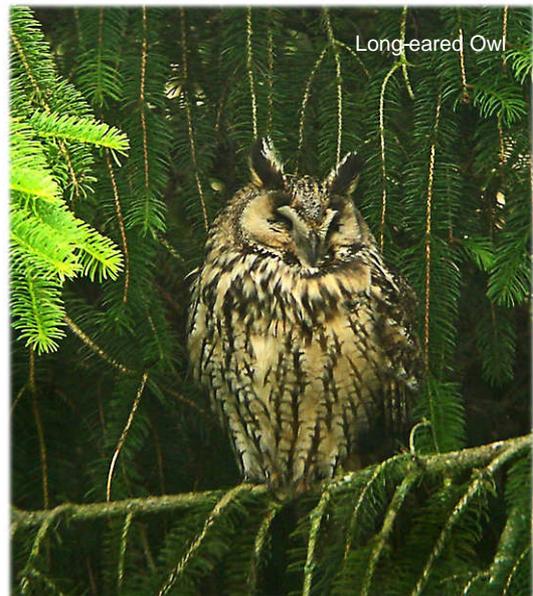
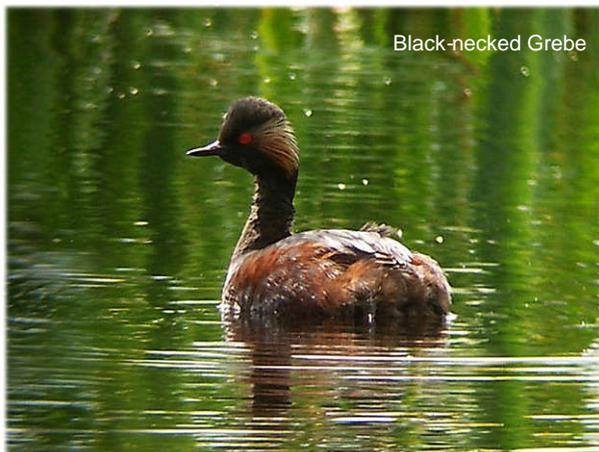


# La Brenne

Naturetrek Tour Report

20 - 27 May 2006



Images and report compiled by Tom McJannet



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|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
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| Tour participants: | Roger Waigh<br>Sally Waigh<br>Roger James<br>Jenny James<br>Madeline Johnson |

This was an eight day birds, plants and butterflies trip to one of the richest, if less well-known, natural history destinations in France. Our centre for the duration was just outside the charming town of Le Blanc.

## Day 1

Saturday 20th May

The six of us met up on the TGV 9116 at Waterloo and were happy that the train left spot on time for the first leg of our journey down to Lille. The weather was quite bright and sunny when we left London but by the time we'd got to Lille it had become dull, overcast and without beating about the bush, darned cold and extra fleeces were dragged out of the bags to make ourselves that bit more comfortable. We had some warming coffees before finding our platform for the train which will take us to our destination of Poitiers before carrying on to its final destination of Toulouse.

We eventually arrived at the station about half an hour late and after picking up our vehicle and having to take an extra long detour due to road works we didn't get to our accommodation until 7 o'clock. We were warmly welcomed by Tony Williams, Naturetrek's resident local expert who has lived in the area for many years now, and as we'd arrived much later than expected, we only had time for a quick wash and brush up, a welcome cold beer and some olives before we drove off to Le Blanc for our evening meal.

Once inside the superb restaurant we all began to unwind and feel that the holiday had well and truly begun. There was animated conversation about what we were hoping to see in the next week and spirits were high as we enjoyed a truly excellent meal before returning back to base for a well needed good nights sleep.

## Day 2

Sunday 21st May

The day dawned with a light drizzle and the hardy ones met up at 7 o'clock for a walk around the lovely grounds of our very palatial chateaux which had the charm of a very well bred gentile aged auntie, lots of style and warmth but had perhaps seen better days. The song of nightingale surrounded us and we noted several Turtle Doves along with Cirl Bunting, Melodious Warbler, Black Redstart, Stonechat, Woodlark and Common Buzzard. Not a bad tally and all before breakfast and it had even stopped raining by the time we got back to the chateaux.

A very good continental breakfast was enjoyed at 8 o'clock and by 9 we were off to meet Tony at his base, the Reserve Naturelle de Cherine making stops along the way for Red-backed Shrike, Cattle Egrets and indulging in some 'oriole speak' with some birds that stubbornly refused to show themselves. We also stopped to view some Lizard Orchids but unfortunately we were a bit too early in the season and they were not yet out in bloom but to compensate we did see Greater Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*) which was a bonus.

We were beginning to get familiar with the habitat of the area which is very varied. Although generally flat, the surrounding countryside includes étangs (lakes, of which there are about 2,300) woodlands, including ancient oak and hornbeam woods, flowery meadows, scrubland, some cultivated land and of course gardens and smallholdings. There are miles of hedges and often, wide verges with ditches alongside. The water table is generally high (although much drier later in the year) and many of the meadows are damp. The general impression, and appeal of the area, is of varied, traditional, low intensity land management with a great diversity of habitats and plenty of room for wildlife.

We duly arrived at the reserve at the agreed time but there was no sign of Tony and the doors to the centre appeared to be locked but within a short time Tony appeared out of nowhere, butterfly net in hand looking every inch the charismatic eccentric that he is. After a short contretemps with a park official who didn't seem to want to grant us access, we finally won the day and were allowed in.

Our first port of call was at some private étangs just east of Mezieres-en-brenne where Tony had arranged for us to have access to this private estate. As we walked across the meadow to the lake we took our time and admired Red-Backed Shrike, Tongue Orchid (*Serapias parviflora*), Loose-flowered Orchid (*Orchis laxiflora*), Green-winged Orchid (*Orchis morio*), Glanville Fritillary, Green-veined White, Small Heath and Small Copper. Once at the lake we marvelled at the hundreds of Whiskered Terns dipping and wheeling among the yellow flag irises as well as the dapper Black-necked Grebes complete with young family and the odd Pochard or two. As always, time seemed to fly when there is so much to look at so we made our way back to the vehicle but were distracted once again by a large puddle in the middle of the road on which a handsome dusty blue male Broad-bodied Chaser held territory. Some females were arriving and he was mating with them while others were actually depositing eggs in the puddle which we were actually able to find and inspect. Fascinating behaviour indeed.

We noted a couple of Camberwell Beauties on the way to our lunch destination, a recreational lake which, today, was pleasantly peaceful and devoid of people looking for recreation. During our meal we heard Green and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers and a very nice Melodious Warbler sat up giving us excellent views. It's Tony who is responsible for our lunches throughout the trip and it was unanimously agreed that he did us proud always providing us with a superb selection of local cold meats, cheeses, salads and fruit and of course the odd glass of vino.

So after our leisurely lunch we dropped Tony back at the reserve and then called in on another étang where we saw several grass snakes which enjoy a very healthy population in this area, a wall lizard, some Gadwall and Purple Herons and although we didn't see it we could hear a Firecrest singing nearby.

The day was drawing to a close and it was time to make our way back to the chateaux where we all enjoyed warm showers and got ready to drive to a restaurant in Gabriere where we were to meet Tony for our evening meal and then go and hopefully see some Nightjars. Upon the conclusion of another excellent dinner we set out into the gathering dusk to try our luck and we were not be disappointed as before too long at a pre-arranged site we were soon greeted by two displaying males who put on a most satisfying show for us. A great end to the day.

## Day 3

Monday 22nd May

Although the day dawned dry it was overcast and decidedly chilly so it was only one of the Rogers and myself that took an early morning stroll and we only managed to see a couple of Woodlark. However after breakfast as we were leaving sharp eyed Madeline noticed several interesting moths that had been attracted by the overnight light above the front entrance. There were several different species there but the star of the show was a superb Poplar Hawkmoth. We spent several minutes getting some nice close up photographs, so the day was on an upward curve already.

Our first destination today was a spot that Tony showed me some years ago which supports several species of orchid and indeed we did see lots of Tongue Orchid and Loose-flowered Orchid as well as a few Greater Butterfly Orchid. As it was so cool and quite windy the bird population was keeping quite a low profile and apart from a few Red-backed Shrikes, Common Whitethroats and jingling Corn Buntings there were not too many birds to be seen, although as we walked back to the vehicle along a path that was lined with hundreds of White Asphodel (*Asphodelus albus*) we did see a very handsome Cirl Bunting.

We met Tony for a very enjoyable lunch in the hide at the reserve and while we ate we watched several Pond Terrapin, a jewel of a Kingfisher, Pochard, Shoveller, Tufted Duck, a Mute Swan with cygnets and a couple of Black Kites in the distance.

After lunch we made our way to the chapel in the woods, complete with holy spring water, for a stroll and Sally found the first Burnt Orchids (*Orchis ustulata*) of the trip, so well done Sally. We also bumped into an English couple that were touring La Brenne independently but after talking to my merry band for a while I think they may try taking a trip with Naturetrek some time in the future. Fine recommendation indeed!

We really had been dodging showers for most of the day but undeterred we soldiered on driving along different tracks in the area finding Early Purple Orchids (*Orchis mascula*) at one spot then Man Orchids (*Aceras anthropophorum*) at another and then an unusual looking orchid that I really couldn't put a name to; in fact it didn't seem to exist at all according to the field guide, (Buttler) obviously a bit more research needed here. We also managed to locate the rare 'Kerry Lily' (*Simethis planifolia*) which is somewhat of an excellent find anywhere in Europe. Although it does occur in France, the only other place it occurs in Europe is in Ireland, hence, the name. So that was an excellent note to end the day on.

## Day 4

Tuesday 23rd May

At last, here was a day that dawned bright and sunny and after breakfast we headed to the North West of the region in our quest for Stone Curlew and Montague's Harrier. When we reached our destination, no sooner had we turned off the main road than we were confronted with a magnificent male Monty's heading straight toward us. As he quartered the field he performed superbly showing all the diagnostic identification features off to perfection. This was a really excellent sighting and very much appreciated by everybody. However we had to work a little harder to connect with the Stone Curlew and after some considerable time scanning the fields the best we could come up with was a few Red-legged Partridges and some odd leverets in their forms impersonating Stone Curlews much to our consternation. We did, however, get some great views of a cracking Melodious Warbler singing its heart out and showing off its beautiful lemony face, chest and front.

We moved on to some other fields still on the look out for the Stone Curlews when we luckily spotted a pair and although they were some way off, they were unmistakable by their jizz. We viewed them through the scope and could clearly see that wonderful beady yellow eye glaring back at us.

Mission accomplished we slowly headed back to the centre to meet up with Tony for lunch but not before stopping at one particular étang where we found a spectacular Willowherb Hawkmoth (*Proserpinus proserpina*) resplendent in muted greens and greys, also at this étang we had close-up views of Blue-tailed Damselfly and the lovely iridescent Banded Demoiselles fluttering around like shiny helicopters.

Lunch today was taken in Saint-Michel-en-Brenne where the picnic tables had been especially washed and cleaned by the groundsman in honour of our visit.

After lunch we headed just up the road to have a look at the picturesque moated convent and then onto the hide at Cherin where we viewed Reed Warblers, Marsh Harriers, Great Crested Grebes and a few Pond Terrapins. Alas, there were no European Tree Frogs to be seen but a couple of beautiful Southern White Admirals were some compensation. We did also note Emperor Dragonfly and fleeting glimpses of Scarce Swallowtail. Once again the camera shutters were in action.

Next we took a most enjoyable walk along a lane that runs down the back of the Cherine reserve and finally we reached an excellent new hide that overlooks a scrape giving us cracking views of Whiskered Terns sitting on every available post out in the water along with a pair of Black-winged Stilt that were strutting their stuff on those ridiculous long red legs.

Back at the vehicle we all agreed a treat was deserved so it was off to Maison du Parc where we indulged ourselves in some serious ice-cream eating, here too the ladies also took advantage of a good shopping opportunity.

We got back to the chateaux around six o'clock giving us plenty of time to get ready for dinner..... Gosh this French food is good! Our day was rounded off perfectly for as we pulled into the car park back at the chateaux there in our headlights sat a Tawny Owl that was catching worms on the newly cut lawn. We all managed to get good views of the bird as it ignored us and continued hunting for its evening meal. .

## Day 5

Wednesday 24th May

It was only me that surfaced for a pre-breakfast walk and enjoyed good views of a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker which is obviously breeding in the trees nearby and I did hear a Black Woodpecker calling which was confirmed at breakfast by Madeline who had actually seen the bird from her bedroom window. Now, that's just too easy, one should suffer just a bit to get a good bird! ☺

After breakfast we headed out to a nice spot I know just outside the town of Migné where we spent a very leisurely time walking to the hide along a lovely path running alongside the lake simply enjoying seeing and photographing all the plants, butterflies and bugs that took our interest. We finally got to the hide and observed Grey Heron, Red-backed Shrike and Yellowhammer. Turtle Doves were purring in the background and we

could hear the fluting calls of Golden Orioles in the nearby poplars. A Sedge Warbler was frantically displaying not 50 yards in front of us in classic Sedge Warbler style keeping us more than entertained. As we looked skyward a couple of birds of prey were drifting over which the group automatically took to be Common Buzzard but on closer inspection they turned out to be a couple of very nice Honey Buzzard. A good lesson learned, always check things out.

We then took a short walk around some nearby farmland and saw a cross looking Little Owl sitting on the wires, heard plenty of singing Nightingales, Jenny found a very interesting Paper Wasp's (*Polistes Gallicus*) nest and we were all enchanted by a newly fledged family of Woodlarks feeding on the path on our way back to the vehicle. This had taken us up to lunchtime where once again we met up Tony at the Maison du Parc and were joined by a local journalist who was working on an article as to why people would want to visit this area of France. He was extremely interested in what we had to say and hopefully this went a little way to cement Anglo-French relations and thus help promote this wonderful region of France.

While we were at the centre Tony introduced me to their resident botanist who we thought may be able to shed a little light on the orchid that we'd failed to identify. After a lot of humming and herring he thought it most likely a Bee Orchid hybrid so with that I promised to send him some of the pictures so he could study them in more detail. Who knows, perhaps we've discovered a new species of plant. Ha!

As we headed off for the afternoon we bumped into Pauline and Dick a couple who have travelled with Naturetrek many times, so we were more than happy that they spend a few hours with us today. So we drove to the comparatively new LPO site where we were hoping for Little Bittern but unfortunately even with a little inducement the bitterns were not playing today, but we did enjoy watching the riot of nesting Whiskered Terns, Black-necked Grebes, Purple Herons and Marsh Harriers. Tony then showed us an old shed in which was housed an ancient piece of machinery that was once used to clear the ponds of weed and any other vegetation that had become too thick, thus improving aeration for the carp which is rather a delicacy in this part of the world. It was a real museum piece and really deserved to be on show somewhere where people could see this little piece of times gone by.

We bade a fond farewell to Pauline and Dick and then headed home after a very enjoyable day indeed.

## Day 6

Thursday 25th May

As this morning was rather dull, cool and overcast it was decided that it would be a good idea to visit the local market in the tiny village square at Mezieres-en-Brenne. It was so good to see a truly rural market full of colour and all the local produce that is reared and grown within a few miles of its selling point. This authentic taste of all the best things in France was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody.

We then headed for another good orchid site known as 'the quarry', but as always we were distracted and had to stop en route on several occasions to admire Sword-leaved Helleborine (*Cephalanthera Longifolia*), Monkey Orchid (*Orchis simia*) and Greater Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*). We also spotted a pair of Stone Curlew in one ploughed field then a single bird in another.

On eventually reaching the quarry we saw several Bee Orchids (*Ophrys Apifera*) but our main target was the Fly Orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*) and we found quite a few good specimens of this very delicate orchid. The other excellent plant we found was the striking Violet Birds Nest Orchid (*Limodorum abortivum*); these plants must have just reached their peak so we were lucky enough to see them at their very best so along with the Burnt Orchid (*Orchis ustulata*) we had an excellent orchid spotting session. This was just as well because other than a singing Bonelli's Warbler the birds were, once again, keeping their heads down due to the inclement weather.

While we were viewing a nice flower filled bank that held a couple of new species for the trip namely Red Helleborine (*Epipactis atrorubens*) and Lady Orchid (*Orchis purpurea*) we received a phone call from Tony telling us to get a move on as we were late for lunch. The main reason for meeting up at this spot was to admire the nesting European Bee-eaters that have taken up residence along the banks of the river for the past several years. However, as much as we enjoyed watching the Bee-eaters the weather was so cold and damp that we couldn't sit on the ground to eat our lunch so had to move on just around the corner to where we did find some tables and chairs to perch on.

Another excellent lunch over and the rain, by now, was a steady drizzle, we made our rather bedraggled way to our next site but were stopped in our tracks by a call on my mobile from Tony telling us to get over to his home as soon as possible as he had a Long-eared Owl roosting in a pine tree in his garden. We didn't need telling twice and made our way, post haste, to his house where, indeed, there it was, a smashing Long-eared Owl which gave us superb views. Although it was still drizzling our spirits were lifted and we all gazed at the owl which appeared quite disdainful and totally ignored our presence. After we'd had our fill of the owl I think Tony's wife took pity on our sorry looking bunch and insisted we come inside for a hot drink and a warm around a very inviting log fire. A very pleasant hour was spent chatting and eventually we said our thanks and left feeling much revitalized.

Stopping for another short walk alongside yet another étang we encountered a couple of Belgian chaps hunkered down on the side of the path photographing what turned out to be a gorgeous little Black Hairstreak Butterfly (*Strymonidia Pruni*) a new and rather elusive species for our trip. Pleasantries were exchanged with the Belgians then we were off to a hide where some horses, similar to the Tarpans at Minsmere and other RSPB reserves in the UK, are kept. As we looked out of the hide we were very impressed by the bravery of a lone Sedge Warbler that was single handedly keeping a Cuckoo at bay. The warbler's insistent scolding and chaffing eventually paid off and the Cuckoo departed to try its luck in another part of the marsh. We also noted a Hoopoe and unbelievably the first Moorhen of the trip.

Once again time was running out and we had to head on back to get washed and shampooed for our last dinner in the excellent Le Cygnet restaurant and its amazing food. On arriving back at the châteaux after our meal Madeline suggested we go look for the Tawny Owl again and sure enough as we turned the corner there he was on the lawn once again.

## Day 7

Friday 26th May

This morning we were going in search of one of the rarest orchids of the area the aptly named 'Brenne Orchid' which is one of the *Dactylorhiza* species and only occurs here and in this one restricted patch. Tony always takes delight in pointing out that these are the most northerly, southerly, westerly and easterly examples of this

particular plant. Firstly though, we stopped along the D14b at a fairly newly established étang where we were rewarded with Snipe, Marsh Harrier and a nice Black-crowned Night Heron.

We duly arrived at the 'Brenne Orchid' site, found our targets and managed to take plenty of shots of this rarity. We were also intrigued by the discovery of a vivid lime green spider (*Micrommata virescens*) which also stimulated plenty of camera action. Whilst enjoying all the terrestrial goodies there was suddenly a flurry of raptor action in the air with Black Kite, Marsh Harrier and a single Honey Buzzard all putting in an appearance and then Tree Pipit, Stonechat and Yellowhammer coming in as supporting cast.

So carried away were we that it ended in a dash to meet up with Tony for our lunch rendezvous where we were hoping to connect with the elusive Middle Spotted Woodpecker. As it happened we arrived first and as we waited I managed, with some considerable deftness I may add, to persuade a Stag Beetle to leave the air and come to ground. Although it was not the male with its huge antlers that I was hoping for but the female with her more diminutive jaws resulted in the clicking of many cameras confirming everyone's pleasure in seeing this 'tank' of an insect.

Tony duly arrived and it wasn't too long, after a wee bit of coaxing that we had a Middle Spotted Woodpecker in the scope and everyone had really good views of it and noted the clean white face of the bird which separates it from our own more familiar Greater Spotted variety.

Lunch was taken at a beautiful spot outside the village of Ciron, alongside la Creuse. The river flows quickly and is wide and shallow, much like a chalk stream and it's overlooked by the Chateau de Romefort complete with fairytale turrets and towers high on the steep slope on the opposite bank, altogether a super place to while away some time.

After lunch we spent some time in the adjacent field which really was any naturalists dream. There were all manner of plants, bugs, beetles and butterflies to enjoy from the tall stately campanulas to the ephemeral demoiselles and other damselflies. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this place and before we knew it a couple of hours had easily sped by and it was time to move on, so we could spend a little time at a chalk hill site I knew of on the way home. The hill was well worth a stop as the ground was absolutely carpeted with the beautiful Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) and the two prominent butterflies of the area were the stunning Adonis Blue and the Berger's Clouded Yellow. So it was another great ending to a lovely day in the field.

Tony joined us for our last dinner of the holiday and a great time was had by us all as we discussed all the things we'd experienced in the last seven days. It was unanimously agreed that although the unseasonable weather had been against us, La Brenne was still a jewel in any naturalist's itinerary. We said a fond farewell to Tony and thanked him for looking after our culinary needs so well and drove back to base where even the Tawny Owl put in an appearance and say his goodbyes.

We noted that new guests had arrived at the chateaux as their very swish cars in the driveway stated. The black MG TD and a beautiful shiny red e-type Jag made our old bus look extremely out of place!

## Day 8

Saturday 27th May

This morning Roger spotted a Hawfinch and a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker in the grounds but it was all too soon that we had to get going on our trip back to London. Thankfully all our connections were on time and the journey went very well indeed with lots of laughs and reminiscing on the journey back to Waterloo, which seemed a far distant cry from the natural history joys that are 'La Brenne'.

Our holiday had yielded for us a total of 112 species of birds, most seen well, but one or two only heard. The week also produced many great memories, along with excellent views of some very exciting Birds, Bugs, Butterflies and Orchids.

## Species lists

## Birds

|    | Common Name               | Scientific Name               | May 2006 |    |      |     |     |      |    |
|----|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|----|------|-----|-----|------|----|
|    |                           |                               | 21       | 22 | 23   | 24  | 25  | 26   | 27 |
| 1  | Great Crested Grebe       | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>     | 12       | 4  | 15   | 10  | 4   | 15   |    |
| 2  | Little Grebe              | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | 4        | 2  | 6    | 5   | 2   | 4    |    |
| 3  | Black-necked Grebe        | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>   | 15       |    | 8    | 6   |     | 2    |    |
| 4  | Cormorant                 | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>    | 4        | 8  | 2    |     | 5   | 4    |    |
| 5  | Black-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>  |          |    |      | 1   |     | 1    |    |
| 6  | Cattle Egret              | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>          | 10       | 4  | 10   | 8   | 4   | 10   |    |
| 7  | Little Egret              | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>       |          |    |      |     | 1   |      |    |
| 8  | Great White Egrete        | <i>Egretta alba</i>           |          | 1  | 1    |     |     |      |    |
| 9  | Grey Heron                | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>          | 6        | 4  | 12   | 10  | 14  | 15   |    |
| 10 | Purple Heron              | <i>Ardea purpurea</i>         | 3        | 1  | 4    | 7   | 3   | 8    |    |
| 11 | Mute Swan                 | <i>Cygnus olor</i>            | 5        | 13 | 50+  | 20  | 6   | 7    |    |
| 12 | Mallard                   | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>     | 25       | 30 | 100+ | 25  | 20+ | 25+  |    |
| 13 | Gadwall                   | <i>Anas strepera</i>          | 12       | 4  | 20   | 15  |     | 12   |    |
| 14 | Shoveler                  | <i>Anas clypeata</i>          |          | 2  | 4    | 2   |     |      |    |
| 15 | Red-crested Pochard       | <i>Netta rufina</i>           | 2        |    | 1    |     |     |      |    |
| 16 | Pochard                   | <i>Aythya ferina</i>          | 20       | 10 | 20+  | 12  | 10  | 14   |    |
| 17 | Tufted Duck               | <i>Aythya fuligula</i>        | 8        | 6  | 15   | 10  | 8   | 8    |    |
| 18 | Black Kite                | <i>Milvus migrans</i>         | 5        | 4  | 8    | 6   | 4   | 5    |    |
| 19 | Montagu's Harrier         | <i>Circus pygargus</i>        |          |    | 2    |     |     | 1    |    |
| 20 | Hen Harrier               | <i>Circus cyaneus</i>         |          |    | 1    |     |     |      |    |
| 21 | Marsh Harrier             | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>     | 2        |    | 1    | 1   | 3   | 2    |    |
| 22 | Sparrowhawk               | <i>Accipiter nisus</i>        |          |    |      |     |     | 1    |    |
| 23 | Honey Buzzard             | <i>Pernis apivorus</i>        | 1        |    | 1    | 2   |     | 2    |    |
| 24 | Common Buzzard            | <i>Buteo buteo</i>            | 18       | 8  | 7    | 6   | 3   | 10   |    |
| 25 | Short-toed Eagle          | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>     | 5        |    |      |     |     |      |    |
| 26 | Common Kestrel            | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>      | 4        | 3  | 2    | 3   | 2   | 3    |    |
| 27 | Hobby                     | <i>Falco subbuteo</i>         |          | 1  |      |     |     |      |    |
| 28 | Red-legged Partridge      | <i>Alectoris rufa</i>         |          |    | 2    |     | 2   |      |    |
| 29 | Grey Partridge            | <i>Perdix perdix</i>          |          |    | 2    |     |     |      |    |
| 30 | Pheasant                  | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>    | 1        | 3  | 1    | h   | 1   | h    |    |
| 31 | Moorhen                   | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>    |          |    |      |     | 2   |      |    |
| 32 | Coot                      | <i>Fulica atra</i>            | 50c      | 15 | 50+  | 40+ | 20  | 25   |    |
| 33 | Stone Curlew              | <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>    |          |    | 4    |     | 3   |      |    |
| 34 | Black-winged Stilt        | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>  | 1        |    | 2    |     |     |      |    |
| 35 | Lapwing                   | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>      | 8        | 3  | 6    | 3   | 2   | 8    |    |
| 36 | Ruff                      | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>     | 1        |    |      |     |     |      |    |
| 37 | Curlew                    | <i>Numenius arquata</i>       |          |    |      |     | 1   |      |    |
| 38 | Snipe                     | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>    |          |    |      |     |     | 1    |    |
| 39 | Black-headed Gull         | <i>Larus ridibundus</i>       | 150+     | 25 | 60+  | 40+ | 25c | 60+  |    |
| 40 | Whiskered Tern            | <i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>    | 100c     | 30 | 80+  | 40+ | 30c | 100c |    |
| 41 | Wood Pigeon               | <i>Columba palumbus</i>       | 20       | 15 | 30   | 10  | 40  | 20   |    |
| 42 | Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon  | <i>Columba livia</i>          | 50       | 30 | 10   | 15  | 6   | 12   |    |
| 43 | Collared Dove             | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>  | 15       | 2  | 10   | 6   | 10  | 12   |    |
| 44 | Turtle Dove               | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>    | 30       | 20 | 6    | 4   | 6   | 10   |    |
| 45 | Cuckoo                    | <i>Cuculus canorus</i>        | 12h      | 1  | 2h   | 3   | 6   | 5    |    |
| 46 | Long-eared Owl            | <i>Asio otus</i>              |          |    |      |     | 1   |      |    |
| 47 | Tawny Owl                 | <i>Strix aluco</i>            |          |    | 1    |     |     | 1    |    |
| 48 | Little Owl                | <i>Athene noctua</i>          |          |    |      | 1   |     |      |    |
| 49 | Nightjar                  | <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>  | 2        |    |      |     |     |      |    |

|     | Common Name                  | Scientific Name                   | May 2006 |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|-----|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
|     |                              |                                   | 21       | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27 |
| 50  | Common Swift                 | <i>Apus apus</i>                  | 6        | 18  | 12  | 20+ | 15  | 20+ | 12 |
| 51  | Kingfisher                   | <i>Alcedo atthis</i>              |          | 1   |     |     |     |     |    |
| 52  | Bee-eater                    | <i>Merops apiaster</i>            |          |     |     |     | 15  |     |    |
| 53  | Hoopoe                       | <i>Upupa epops</i>                | 3        | 2   |     | 4   | 2   | 1   |    |
| 54  | Black Woodpecker             | <i>Dryocopus martius</i>          |          |     |     | 1   |     |     |    |
| 55  | Green Woodpecker             | <i>Picus viridis</i>              | 2h       |     | 1h  | 3   | 2   | 3   |    |
| 56  | Great Spotted Woodpecker     | <i>Dendrocopos major</i>          | 1        | 1   |     | 1   | 2   | 2   |    |
| 57  | Middle Spotted Woodpecker    | <i>Dendrocopos medius</i>         |          |     |     |     |     | 1   |    |
| 58  | Lesser Spotted Woodpecker    | <i>Dendrocopos minor</i>          |          |     |     | 1   |     |     | 1  |
| 59  | Skylark                      | <i>Alauda arvensis</i>            | 6        | 4   | 20  | 12  | 5   | 20+ |    |
| 60  | Woodlark                     | <i>Lullula arborea</i>            | 3        | 2   | 2   | 6   |     | 2   |    |
| 61  | Crested Lark                 | <i>Galerida cristata</i>          |          |     | 1   |     |     |     |    |
| 62  | Sand Martin                  | <i>Riparia riparia</i>            |          |     |     |     |     | 6   |    |
| 63  | Swallow                      | <i>Hirundo rustica</i>            | 25+      | 45c | 50+ | 30  | 30  | 30c |    |
| 64  | House Martin                 | <i>Delichon urbica</i>            | 30       | 20  | 50+ | 15  | 25+ | 25  |    |
| 65  | Tree Pipit                   | <i>Anthus trivialis</i>           | 4        | 2   | 4   |     |     | 4   |    |
| 66  | White Wagtail                | <i>Motacilla alba</i>             | 6        | 3   | 6   | 4   | 5   | 6   |    |
| 67  | Grey Wagtail                 | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>          |          |     |     |     | 2   |     |    |
| 68  | Yellow (Blue-headed) Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava (flava)</i>    |          |     | 2   |     |     |     |    |
| 69  | Wren                         | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>    | 10       | 2   | 5   | 4   | 3   | 2   |    |
| 70  | Robin                        | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>         | 1        | 1   |     |     | 1   | 1   |    |
| 71  | Nightingale                  | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>      | 50+      | 20+ | 20+ | 38  | 25  | 20c |    |
| 72  | Black Redstart               | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>       | 1        |     | 4   | 1   | 2   |     | 1  |
| 73  | Stonechat                    | <i>Saxicola torquata</i>          | 12       | 8   | 12  | 10  | 20  | 18  |    |
| 74  | Blackbird                    | <i>Turdus merula</i>              | 20+      | 7   | 14  | 25  | 16  | 14  |    |
| 75  | Song Thrush                  | <i>Turdus philomelos</i>          | 5        | 2   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 6   |    |
| 76  | Mistle Thrush                | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>          | 5        | 12  | 6   | 8   | 6   | 8   |    |
| 77  | Fan-tailed Warbler           | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>         | 3        | 1   | 4   |     |     |     |    |
| 78  | Cetti's Warbler              | <i>Cettia cetti</i>               |          |     | 2   | 3   | 1   | 2   |    |
| 79  | Sedge Warbler                | <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> |          | 1   | 1   | 4   | 1   |     |    |
| 80  | Reed Warbler                 | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>    | 2        | 2   | 2   | 6   | 4   | 2   |    |
| 81  | Melodious Warbler            | <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>       | 5        | 3   | 8   | 12  | 6   | 8   |    |
| 82  | Garden Warbler               | <i>Sylvia borin</i>               | 4        | 1   | 4   | 4   |     | 1   |    |
| 83  | Whitethroat                  | <i>Sylvia communis</i>            | 10       | 6   | 9   | 6   | 2   | 6   |    |
| 84  | Blackcap                     | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>         | 40c      | 8   | 15  | 18  | 12  | 4   |    |
| 85  | Bonelli's Warbler            | <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>       | 2        |     | 1   |     | 1   |     |    |
| 86  | Chiffchaff                   | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>     | 4        | 3   | 2   | 7   | 2   | 7   |    |
| 87  | Firecrest                    | <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>       | 1h       |     |     |     | 1h  |     |    |
| 88  | Spotted Flycatcher           | <i>Muscicapa striata</i>          | 2        |     |     |     |     |     |    |
| 89  | Blue Tit                     | <i>Parus caeruleus</i>            | 8        | 4   | 5   | 8   | 4   | 6   |    |
| 90  | Great Tit                    | <i>Parus major</i>                | 7        | 2   | 5   | 20c | 8   | 10  |    |
| 91  | Long-tailed Tit              | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>        | 2        |     | 4   | 1   | 2   |     |    |
| 92  | Nuthatch                     | <i>Sitta europaea</i>             |          |     | 1   |     |     |     |    |
| 93  | Red-backed Shrike            | <i>Lanius collurio</i>            | 5        | 8   | 8   | 12  | 8   | 4   |    |
| 94  | Starling                     | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>           | 40c      | 35c | 40c | 30c | 80c | 30c |    |
| 95  | Golden Oriole                | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>            | 8        | 4   | 2   | 12  | 5   | 6h  |    |
| 96  | Jay                          | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>        | 1        | 2   | 4   | 2   | 2   |     |    |
| 97  | Magpie                       | <i>Pica pica</i>                  | 10       | 11  | 5   | 6   | 8   | 5   |    |
| 98  | Jackdaw                      | <i>Corvus monedula</i>            | 5        |     | 6   | 50c | 20+ | 8   |    |
| 99  | Carrion Crow                 | <i>Corvus corone</i>              | 20       | 10  | 18  | 12  | 25  | 60c |    |
| 100 | Rook                         | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>          | 25       | 7   |     |     | 50+ |     |    |
| 101 | House Sparrow                | <i>Passer domesticus</i>          | 30       | 20  | 18  | 22  | 12  | 20  |    |
| 102 | Chaffinch                    | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>          | 18       | 8   | 12  | 15  | 8   | 18  |    |

|     | Common Name  | Scientific Name                      | May 2006 |    |     |    |    |    |    |
|-----|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|
|     |              |                                      | 21       | 22 | 23  | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 103 | Hawfinch     | <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> |          |    |     |    |    |    | 1  |
| 104 | Serin        | <i>Serinus serinus</i>               | 4        | 5  | 6   |    | 3  | 6  |    |
| 105 | Greenfinch   | <i>Carduelis chloris</i>             | 5        | 2  | 2   |    | 2  | 4  |    |
| 106 | Goldfinch    | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>           | 15       | 10 | 16  | 14 | 20 | 15 |    |
| 107 | Linnet       | <i>Acanthis cannabina</i>            |          |    |     | 1  | 4  | 2  |    |
| 108 | Corn Bunting | <i>Miliaria calandra</i>             | 8        | 4  | 20+ | 14 | 10 |    |    |
| 109 | Yellowhammer | <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>           |          | 1  | 1   | 2  |    | 1  |    |
| 110 | Cirl Bunting | <i>Emberiza cirlus</i>               | 12       | 5  | 5   | 4  | 6  | 4  |    |
| 111 | Budgerigar   | <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>       |          |    | 1   |    |    |    |    |

## Mammals

Red Deer, Roe Deer, Beech Martin, Red Squirrel, Coypu, Rabbit, Brown Hare, Pipistrelle Bat.

## Reptiles and amphibians

European Pond Terrapin, Edible Frog, Marsh Frog, Grass Snake, Adder, Green Lizard, Common Wall Lizard.

## Butterflies

Scarce Swallowtail, Clouded Yellow, Berger's Clouded Yellow, Brimstone, Wood White, Bath White, Green-veined White, Black-veined White, Southern White Admiral, Peacock, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Camberwell Beauty, Glanville Fritillary, Knapweed Fritillary, Heath Fritillary, Spotted Fritillary, Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Speckled Wood, Wall Brown, Sooty Copper, Small Copper, Green Hairstreak, Black Hairstreak, Adonis Blue, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Chequered Skipper and Grizzled Skipper.

## Moths

Poplar Hawkmoth, Willowherb Hawkmoth, Broad-bordered bee Hawkmoth, Humming Bird Hawkmoth, Dark tussock Moth, White Ermine, Cream-spot Tiger.

## Odonata

Beautiful Damselfly, Banded Damselfly, Blue-tailed Damselfly, White-legged Damselfly, Common Darter, Broad-bodied Chaser and Emperor Dragonfly.

## Insects and others of note

Stag Beetle, Scarab Beetle (*Scarabaeus semipunctatus*), Geen Spider (*Micrommata virescens*).

## Orchids

Broad-leaved Helleborine, Sword-leaved Helleborine, Red Helleborine, Violet Limodore, Twayblade, Greater Butterfly Orchid, Southern Marsh Orchid, Man Orchid, Loose-Flowered Orchid, Green-winged Orchid, Lady Orchid, Monkey Orchid, Burnt Orchid, Pyramidal Orchid, Lizard Orchid, Tongue Orchid, Bee Orchid, Fly Orchid, Early Spider Orchid, and Brenne Orchid.