

France - La Brenne

Naturetrek Tour Report

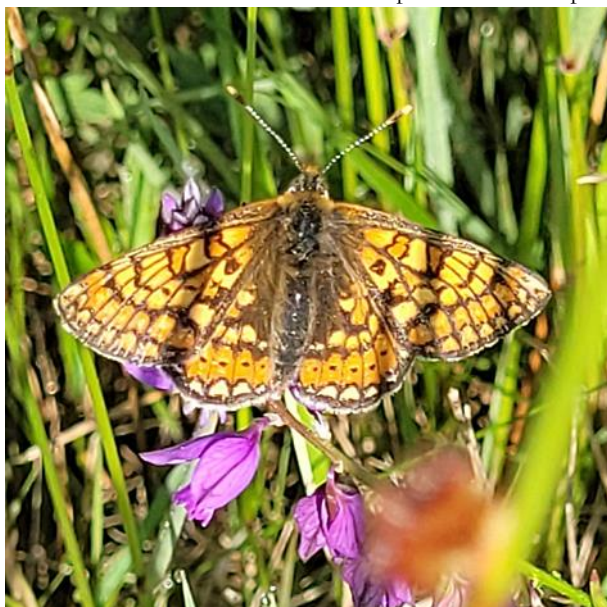
15th – 22nd May 2025



European Pond Terrapin



Purple Heron



Marsh Fritillary



Lady Orchid

Tour report by Emilie Mitchell
Photos by Emilie Mitchell and Tony Gow



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Emilie Mitchell (leader) with eight Naturetrek clients

Summary

Based at l'Auberge de la Gabrière in Lingé, we spent a wonderful week exploring the Parc Naturel Régional (PNR) de la Brenne. Equivalent to an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', the PNR de la Brenne is home to an extraordinarily diverse range of plants and animals, with a landscape offering a striking contrast between forests, meadows, heaths and the thousand lakes for which the region is famed.

The tour focussed on the general wildlife of La Brenne and with it being a relatively compact area, we never wasted much time travelling. By the end of the tour, we had compiled species lists of 115 birds, 26 butterflies, 17 dragonflies and 19 orchids. The weather was sunny and very settled for the most part, with just half a day of showers following a stormy night. At its hottest, the mercury hit 28°C, but most days were pleasantly warm with temperatures in the lower twenties.

Day 1

Thursday 15th May

We all met in Saint Pierre-des-Corps station, with the TGV (high-speed train) arriving on time. After loading the minibus, we struck a course south for La Brenne. Arriving at the hotel, we settled into our rooms and enjoyed our first dinner in the Auberge's restaurant. Fed and watered, we retired to our rooms ahead of what promised to be an exciting first day exploring La Brenne.

Day 2

Friday 16th May

After much travelling yesterday, we only drove a short distance to the Chérine National Nature Reserve, and we first visited Étang Ricot. As we arrived in the car park we were greeted by a male Blackcap calling and hopping about in the bushes in front of us. A Short-toed Treecreeper was singing in the nearby tree and when we arrived in the hide we got the most perfect light for the most obliging Purple Heron! It sat on its tussock of sedges and posed for us for a long while, and allowed us all to have great views of its beautiful purple, orange and blue-grey plumage, and snake-like neck. Whiskered Terns were flying to the back of the reedbed, and five drake Pochards were courting a rather lonely but very feisty female.

We then walked on to Maison de la Nature and headed straight to Étang Cistude. On our walk to the hide we heard Cetti's Warbler, Chiffchaff, Zitting Cisticola and gorgeous Nightingale songs. On the lake, Black-headed Gulls were plentiful and noisy, each defending its territory. Whiskered Terns were actively feeding, showing off their remarkable maneuverability. A pair of Gadwall swam past a few sleepy Tufted Ducks, and we all cooed over a pair of Great Crested Grebe: one of the adult birds was carrying four stripy babies on its back, while the other adult brought small fishes and insects for the little ones to feed on. Cuteness overload!

As we headed back over the small pond, we were lucky enough to have very good views of a fully-grown female European Pond Terrapin. Her golden yellow eyes allowed us to sex her. We then walked into the visitor centre and enjoyed the very nicely-done exhibition. Two more terrapins were quietly sun-bathing on a log, and this time their red eyes told us that they were males. Back in the car park we had brief views of a Scarce Swallowtail, which flew with great power over our heads.

We travelled a short distance to Maison du Parc and had our lunch break by the small pond there. In the afternoon, our guide took us back to Chérine NNR, where we went for a walk to discover Terres de Renard: a lovely walk going through an ancient orchard, a sand dune, heathland and woodland. In the car park we came across a beautifully fresh Southern White Admiral butterfly. A few metres later, two Green-eyed Hawker were seen patrolling on the edge of the wet meadow near some quietly grazing Konik ponies. As we walked through the orchard, we spotted Azure Damselfly (now known as Azure Bluet) the "snooker player", with its pint glass-like marking to the top of the abdomen, bowtie to the tip and cue-like marking on the side of the thorax. Nightingales were singing lustily, and a Turtle Dove was giving a soft purr. On arrival at the old sand dune, we were greeted by a Stonechat and had beautiful views of a male Red-backed Shrike. We then spotted a white bird high in the sky, which turned out to be a Spoonbill. We barely had time to take breath, and two Short-toed Snake Eagles flew right over our heads! We had magnificent views. A distant Hoopoe was calling and a Cuckoo sang almost non-stop. We encountered new dragonflies on a nearby pond: Four-Spotted Chaser and White-tailed Skimmer were dancing over the open water and offering us brief stand still views.

We reached Étang Luc and rested for a while, watching Whiskered Tern and Purple Heron fly in front of the hide. The afternoon flew by very quickly and we visited a couple more privately-owned lakes where Black-necked Grebe had been seen only a few days ago. None were spotted by us, but we enjoyed watching Little Grebes and Whiskered Terns among the water-lilies. It was time for us to head back to our hotel for a well-deserved shower and a delicious meal.

Day 3

Saturday 17th May

This morning we headed east to discover the second part of Cherine NNR: Etang Purais. As we arrived in the car park a battle was taking place: two Nightingale were singing their hearts out in the bushes a few metres from us. They were impossible to see, but impossible not to hear! We were tantalisingly close. We then caught a glimpse of a little brown butterfly in among the blackthorn bushes and as it landed we could observe the orange line on the hind wing extending slightly onto the forewing, and a lovely row of black dots, giving us the necessarily clues to identify it as a Black Hairstreak. Golden Oriole and Turtle Dove were also singing at that point.

Alone, in the hide, we enjoyed watching the usual Pochards and Tufted Ducks mingling around with a stubborn Black-headed Gull which decided to harass all the ducks on its patch. A little further away, near the reedbed, a Purple Heron was playing hide and seek in the vegetation. Our guide suddenly spotted a couple of drake Garganeys, which brought a smile to her face. The drake "summer Teals", as the French call them, showed off their white "eyebrows" nicely.

It was time to leave the Whiskered Terns to their thousands of white water-lilies, and we headed to La Boudinière. This little chalk downland site in the Suin Valley is the home to hundreds of Adonis Blue butterflies which we quickly found. A few stunning Owl-flies enchanted us with their sulphurous wings, and kindly posed for the photographers. During the walk we came across many orchids: Narrow-leaved Helleborine, Fly, Pyramidal, Lizard, Burnt. As we walked further, we heard a Garden Warbler which we briefly observed singing in a young oak tree. Meadow Clary, Fern-leaved Dropwort and Yellow-wort were a joy to see. A very fresh Black-veined White posed on a Pyramidal Orchid for a photo, and we heard the briefest note of a Woodlark.

As we headed back to the minibus, a Wall Brown perched on the ground, and a couple of Blue Emperor dragonflies were whizzing to and fro. Ten minutes later, we reached our lunch spot in Lurais. In the shade of trees and by the beautiful river Creuse, it gave us the perfect opportunity to relax and enjoy our delicious picnic. From our table we could hear Golden Oriole, three of which decided to fly right around us, but only allowing rapid flight views in the canopy. Grey Wagtails were dancing by the river and Banded Demoiselles looked like jewels in among the Water Crowfoot. Before we left, we had good views of a female Great Spotted Woodpecker, and a Serin landed to the top of the Alder tree nearest to our picnic table, singing very loudly.

Feeling rested and well-replenished, we headed onto the road again for a short drive to Rives, where hundreds of beautiful orchids awaited us. Bee, Monkey and Lady Orchid were in pristine condition, and Narrow-leaved Helleborine, accompanied by Greater Butterfly Orchid, were plentiful. We mused over the Nottingham Catchfly and Swallow-wort. Finally, Purple Limodores revealed themselves to us in their slightly strange diaphanous violet robes.

Our eyes full of botanical wonders, we drove a further five minutes down the road to enjoy the Rocher de la Dube. Someone spotted a very still Scarce Swallowtail butterfly, which allowed us to take great photos and even to be picked up by our guide, who gently moved it away from the roadside. The butterfly gently hopped onto her hand and took off gracefully into the lower meadow. A few moments later, a Peregrine Falcon gave us a great spectacle: an adult came with prey to feed its three little downy chicks in the nest. What a gorgeous bird!

To round the day off, we headed back to where we had started, and Étang Puraïs delivered: we had really good views of two Black-necked Grebes in among the water-lilies. This was a beautiful sighting with which to end a beautiful day in La Brenne. We headed back to our hotel to enjoy a rest and a wonderful dinner in great company.

Day 4

Sunday 18th May

After a sumptuous breakfast, we headed north to meet with one of the most tropical-looking birds in La Brenne. Surrounded by cultivated fields and with Skylarks singing, our eyes quickly locked onto some rainbow birds flying above our heads: Bee-eaters were showing off their amazing maneuverability skills and occasionally landing in nearby bushes to provide us with the most colourful show ever! Corn Buntings were also present and singing from the top of blackthorn thickets, a Brown Hare decided to climb up the hill in front of us where the grass was apparently greener, and a few Yellow Wagtails flew by.

Our next stop was Saulnay village, where our short break offered us a nice male Black Redstart singing from the top of an aerial. We then arrived in the Ozance marshes where we stumbled upon the rare and endemic Brenne Orchid. Their beautiful pink flowers stood out well against the green rushes around them, and we admired the lush vegetation, including incredible displays of hundreds of Columbine in flower by the roadside.

On arrival at Étang Vieux, we came across a beautiful male Western Green Lizard, and as soon as we started to walk into the woodland ride we heard singing Western Bonelli's Warblers. We came across many individuals of this particular species without managing to make visual contact. On the contrary, a Spotted Flycatcher showed itself very well, and a Hobby gave us some very good views over the reedbed. The walk also provided great sightings of damselfly and dragonflies including Hairy, Orange-Spotted Emerald, Blue Chaser and Broad Scarlet, and Blue-tailed and Common Blue Damselflies.

Our tummies were just starting to rumble when our guide collected us with the bus and dropped us in Vendoeuvres for a great picnic. Black Redstarts serenading, Swifts “swifting” above our heads and good food made our break for us.

La Forêt de Lancosme was to be our next stop. We first visited the bucolic Chapelle de Saint Sulpice. The meadow surrounded by woodland was stunning, with flowers everywhere. Black-Veined Whites fed on Red Clover, along with Common Blues, and we enjoyed lovely refreshing sound of water springing out of the ground. It was a heavenly, pure ecosystem for Mayfly and Beautiful Demoiselles to enchant us with their dances. Blue Emperor dragonflies, Green-eyed Hawkers and a powerful Golden Ringed dragonfly also gave us great flight views, whizzing up and down the meadow around us.

Feeling rested and cooled, we then headed to Château Robert, near Étang de la Fosse Noire. We heard yet more Western Bonelli's Warblers, but this time we got good views of a couple. By the lake we also came across Large Red-eyed Damselflies on the Yellow Water-lilies, and a Downy Emerald or two flying along the edge of the water in among the willow tree branches. Near the minibus, we also had Monkey and Greater Butterfly orchids. It was time to leave the forest and we headed for one last stop.

Our guide spotted a couple of birdwatchers by the road side near a lake and shouted: Osprey nest! Unaware of the existence of this breeding spot, we stopped on the verge and spent a good thirty minutes as a second adult bird came to join the first on the nest. It was a really special show.

Finally, we made our last journey back to base, and came across not one but two European Pond Terrapins crossing the road in front of our bus. Both animals made it unharmed, and we returned to our hotel very contented indeed. After another delicious dinner, it was time to rest for the night.

Day 5

Monday 19th May

A thunderstorm was forecast for today, but we were not deterred! We began the day with a short drive to the Réserve Naturelle Régionale des Terres et des Étangs Foucault-Massé, and decided to pay Étang Bénisme a visit. We arrived in Black-winged Stilt territory and were not disappointed as lovely views were offered to us of the many stilts resting, feeding and flying, showing off their model-like long legs and gorgeous black and white plumage. Little Ringed Plovers were also present and very active, alongside Common Sandpiper and Lapwings “pee-witting” away. The little island to the right of the lake held several Common Tern's nests and a few more Black-Winged Stilt. We then walked to the Foucault hide and admired the Salers cattle with their Charolais bull grazing over the “button” Foucault (a local sandstone mound used as a quarry to build the houses in the area). From the hide we had a lovely view of a Yellow Wagtail.

We then decided to head further south and stopped at Rosnay Common: Les Communaux de Rosnay. The common provided a spectacular floral display with Tongue Orchids stretching as far as the eye could see; there were many thousands of plants in flower, making it almost impossible not to tread on any! Other good finds included a patch of attractive Lax-Flowered Orchids, some Green-Veined Orchids, Greater Butterfly and a few Lesser Butterfly Orchids, the latter identified by their ‘parallel pollinia’. Tree Pipits were numerous and males performed their parachuting songs. We also spotted a few Black-Veined White butterflies, including a freshly-

emerged individual.

After this busy morning, it was time for lunch. In the afternoon, we decided to drive north to Les Vigneaux. A little lake nearby was peppered with Night Herons. They were all posing quietly and seemed perfectly unmoved by our presence. A Sedge Warbler decided to sing in the open and offered us great views of its camouflaged plumage. A short while later, as we were admiring Whiskered Terns feeding a few metres from us, a client spotted the remains of a male stag beetle. At the same time, our guide spotted a Melodious Warbler singing on the top of another bush. Once again, we were able to admire its inconspicuous looks. We walked on to Les Vigneaux lake, and were very excited to find plenty more Whiskered Terns feeding frenetically above the water. Among them were two Black Terns: a real treat!

We continued our peregrination with a visit to the other side of the D21. A Turtle Dove offered us brief views from the minibus. We then had good sightings of Red-Backed Shrike and admired the beautiful flowery meadow to our left. We soon arrived at Étang Taillis-Renard: as we were gently scanning through the water birds on the lake, someone spotted a Black Woodpecker, which flew right in front of us and gave us great views of its shallow undulating flight. A few minutes later, our guide found a beautiful drake Scaup among the Tufted Ducks.

It was getting close to 5.00pm, so our guide gently coaxed us back to the vehicle, but as we were about to leave the area she shouted "Squacco Heron"! There it was on a branch near the water; although it decided to take off, we found it again on the other side of the little lake again perched in a tree. What a sighting! What a bird!

We finally headed off back to our base; a deviation on the road took us through Mézières-en-Brenne and thank goodness it did! We all had wonderful views of a Hoopoe feeding on someone's newly-mowed lawn. What a wonderful way to end the day. Back at the hotel we ate a wonderful dinner, and were shortly off for one final outing of the day.

We drove to a nearby heathland site and enjoyed the beautiful evening light. Tawny Owls soon made themselves heard, with adults hooting and little ones screeching away. The ever-present Cuckoo never seemed to tire of calling its name out loud until well after the sunset. A nearby Nightingale kicked off again to enchant us with its song, and as the light got really faint the gorgeous churring of the Nightjar emerged from the heath. We were hypnotised by its song; the bird made several passes in front of and above us, and was soon joined by a second. It then proceeded to land on the top of a dead tree and sang some more: we were delighted: the day had been a real success.

Day 6

Tuesday 20th May

A beautiful sunny day lay ahead of us. We headed to the south of Étang Bellebouche to visit a heronry. Along the short walk to the hide we met Melodious Warbler, Turtle Dove, Nightingale, Golden Oriole (of which we got flight views) and, of course, Cuckoos. Next to the hide, Western Bonelli's Warblers were singing, and Firecrest, Short-toed Treecreeper and two lovely Spotted Flycatchers distracted us nicely. From the hide we could observe a large number of Cattle Egrets making strange gurgling noises, as Purple, Night and Grey Herons, and Little Egret. As we came out of the hide one more surprise awaited us: a Red Squirrel. Busy feeding, it allowed us to get some good views. Our walk back to the van offered more Southern White Admiral and Black Hairstreak butterflies.

Given yesterday's cloudy weather, we had missed out on Marsh Fritillary, so we decided to head back to Rosnay Common, and we were soon rewarded with a lovely and very obliging specimen. It was almost noon as we left the Common so we decided to head to Ciron to one of our guide's favourite picnic spots by the river. Overlooking Château Romefort, we enjoyed a delicious meal. Our brief stop in Ciron enabled us to see a Swallowtail butterfly, and we enjoyed looking at a couple of unusual historical structures: the Lanterne des Morts, and a monument erected in the memory of three hot air balloon pioneers, whose misfortune saw them crash in the village way back in 1875, having reached a then world altitude record of 8600m.

To stay cool and refreshed on this sunny afternoon, our guide took us to the nearby Étangs des Riaux. As we arrived, a Scarce Swallowtail flew by the minibus, and we enjoyed watching Purple and Grey Heron fishing alongside Great and Little Egrets, and Night Herons. A Marsh Harrier was spotted, a Kingfisher flew across, and Little Grebe and Whiskered Terns were also present.

We next moved to a old chalk quarry site which was home to many Bee and Burnt Orchids, Narrow-leaved Helleborine and Greater Butterfly Orchids, but also hundreds of Fly Orchids. Adonis Blue butterflies were everywhere, and we discovered a few new insect species to add to our list: Meadow Brown, Marbled White, a couple of very sweet Small Blues and a stunning Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth. Our next stop was on the side of the road near Ruffec where we could admire a new species of orchid: the Man Orchid.

Finally, as the heat was getting to us, we drove up north and made our final stop of the day near Étang Beauregard. A Melodious Warbler sang for us as well, as did a frantic Zitting Cisticola. Red-crested Pochards were swimming on the lake near some Black-necked Grebes. A Marsh Harrier came by and made his way out to the reedbed. Tired but happy, we retired back to base to enjoy a rest and a lovely dinner.

Day 7

Wednesday 21st May

Clouds had invited themselves today, so we headed for a site near Rosnay to check a tip-off our guide had heard about the day before. We were not disappointed. After a little bit of navigating around in a beautiful stereotypical Brenne landscape (meadows and "buttons" surrounded by hedgerows covered in Dog Rose and Honeysuckle blossom) we came across a lovely Stag Beetle, and heard and saw many birds such as Whitethroat, Blackcap, Melodious Warbler, Zitting Cisticola and Corn Bunting. Still looking for our wanted bird, we returned to our minibus and tried a different ride only to discover the Squacco Heron on the track in front of us, searching through horse dung! It stayed a few minutes and took off, only to land on the nearby concrete sluice gate. We got very good views of its gorgeous peachy plumage and bluish beak.

After this epic moment, we got back on the road and had a quick coffee and comfort break in Maison du Parc. Our next destination was Douadic. We drove past a war memorial dedicated to a camp bas from the Second World War. The camp of Douadic was built as a camp for German prisoners of war. But when the Vichy government surrendered on 22 June 1940, the few German prisoners were released. After that, the camp was used as an internment camp for French and foreign refugees, particularly Spanish refugees who had crossed the French border in the Retirada in 1939. From 1942 onwards, it was a transit camp for Jews, who were transported to Drancy and Auschwitz.

Following this reminder of our difficult past, we pursued our quest to find a very difficult bird to spot. After looking through many fields, we finally came across two Stone-curlews. We got very good sightings of them walking along the edge of a newly sowed maize crop. As midday was coming up fast, we headed back to Maison du Parc for lunch.

After a good rest and some nice food, we headed towards Martizay. At the quarry site, we were able to enjoy a pair of Hoopoes very busy feeding on the side of the road. Bee-eaters landed on the telephone line and on the road, dazzling our eyes with their rainbow plumes. We then drove on a little further through Obterre, and arrived near Luatte quarry, where we took our time to admire dozens of specimens of Fragrant, Spider and Military Orchids. Adonis Blue and Pearly Heath were plentiful. Singing Turtle Dove and Tree Pipit were our playlist for an hour, and we simply enjoyed the views and the moment.

Driving back through Cléré du Bois and heading towards Paulnay, we came across two Montagu's Harriers. A male and a female flew near our bus for quite a while, and gave us the best views of their long wings and acrobatic flight. We finished our day at Étang Puraïs and enjoyed a dozen colourful Red-crested Pochards; it was now time to head back to La Gabrière for our last dinner together.

Day 8

Thursday 22nd May

After breakfast, we bade farewell to our hosts and headed for Saint Pierre-des-Corps. We stopped briefly on route at a beautiful natural meadow to add Hen Harrier to our list of birds. We arrived back at the station in plenty of time for our return journey to the UK.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025							
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>			2					
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>					✓			
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		✓			✓			
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>			✓				✓	
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>					✓			
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			✓	✓		✓		
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>				✓	✓			
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>						✓		
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		✓			✓			
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>			✓			✓		
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>							2	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					✓			
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					✓			
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					✓			
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>					✓			
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					✓			
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					2			
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓			
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>			✓		✓			
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>				✓				
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		✓						
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					1		1	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				2				
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			✓			✓		

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025							
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓		2				
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	✓							
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>								1f
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>							3	
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>					✓			
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					✓	✓		
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				✓			✓	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>				H	✓			
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			✓				✓	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				✓				
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			5					
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>				✓	✓	✓		
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			✓					
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>							✓	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					✓			
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>			✓	✓		✓		
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>					✓			
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			✓					
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>						✓		
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		H						
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</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>				✓		✓		

		May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>					✓			
Yellow (Blue-headed) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</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>				✓				
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				✓			✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			✓					
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Mammals

		May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>		✓	✓					
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>				✓				
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>						✓		
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			✓	✓				
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		✓						
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>					✓			
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>						✓		

Reptiles and amphibians

		May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>				✓				
Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>				✓				
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>		✓		✓				
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>		✓		✓				
Green Frog	<i>Rana sp.</i>		✓						

Butterflies

		May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	20	21	22	
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclidides podalirius</i>			✓					
Black-Veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓						
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			✓					
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			✓	✓				
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>				✓	✓			

		May 2025						
Common name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	20	21	22
Black Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium pruni</i>			✓				
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>			✓		✓		
Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>					✓		
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		✓					
Brown argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓	✓				
Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>			✓		✓	✓	
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>				✓			
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>		✓		✓	✓		
Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>						✓	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓			
Dark Green Fritillary (caterpillar)	<i>Speyeria aglaja</i>			✓				
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>			✓				
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>					✓		
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>					✓		
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>					✓		
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓		✓		
Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>						✓	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓	✓			
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓				
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>		✓	✓				

Moths

		May 2025						
Common name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	20	21	22
Five-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena trifolii</i>		✓					
Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth	<i>Hemaris fuciformis</i>					✓		
Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>		✓					
Specked Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>		✓					
Satin Moth	<i>Leucoma salicis</i>			✓				

Damselflies and dragonflies

		May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>			✓					
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>				✓				
Azure Bluet	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>		✓						
Common Bluet	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>				✓				
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>				✓				
Blue Featherleg	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>				✓				
Green-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna isocetes</i>		✓		✓				
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Golden-ringed Dragonfly	<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>				✓				
Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>				✓				
Orange-Spotted Emerald	<i>Oxygastra curtisii</i>				✓				
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>				✓				
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>		✓						
Blue Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>				✓				
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>		✓		✓				
White-Tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>		✓						

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025							
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>				✓				

Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025							
		15	16	17	18	20	21	22	
Sulphur Owl-fly	<i>Libelloides coccajus</i>		✓						
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>			✓					

Orchids

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved Helleborine
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Limodore
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man Orchid
<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered Orchid
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	Military Orchid
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid
<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	Burnt Orchid
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey Orchid
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early Spider Orchid
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue Orchid
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza brenne</i>	Brenne Orchid