

France - La Brenne

Naturetrek Tour Report

20th – 27th May 2026



White-tailed Skimmer



Tongue Orchids



Red-backed Shrike



Western Green Lizard

Tour report by Emilie Mitchell
Photos by Dr Peter Burgess



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Summary

Based at the newly renovated Boeuf Couronné in Mézières-en-Brenne, we spent a wonderful week exploring the Parc Naturel Régional (PNR) de la Brenne. Equivalent to a British '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 given that it is a relatively compact area, we never wasted much time travelling. By the end of the tour, we had compiled a species list of around almost a hundred birds, twenty-three butterflies, seventeen dragonflies and eighteen orchids.

The weather was sunny and very hot all week: we experienced the first May heatwave ever recorded in France, which meant adapting our itinerary to keep us as comfortable as possible.

Day 1

Wednesday 20th May

We all met in Saint Pierre-des-Corps station, where the TGV (high-speed train) arrived on time. After loading the minibus, we struck a course south for La Brenne. Having arrived 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

Thursday 21st 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, we were greeted by a male Blackcap calling and hopping about in the bushes in front of us. A Nightingale was singing in a nearby tree, and when we arrived in the hide, Whiskered Terns were flying around, while a Reed Warbler was singing from the reedbed. Four European Pond Terrapins were sunbathing on a dead tree a few metres from the hide, and a Hoopoe flew by with food in its beak, returning to its nest to feed its hungry chicks.

We then walked on to the Maison de la Nature visitor centre, and enjoyed the beautiful exhibition there: a local artist was showing beautiful ceramic sculptures of birds, reptile and amphibians. We continued our morning heading to Étang Cistude. On our walk to the hide, we heard Cetti's Warbler, Chiffchaff, Zitting Cisticola and gorgeous Nightingale songs, and a freshly emerged Scarce Swallowtail butterfly was busy feeding on bramble blossom.

On the lake, Black-headed Gulls were plentiful and noisy, each pair defending their territory. Whiskered Terns were actively feeding, and showing off their remarkable manoeuvrability. A pair of Gadwalls swam past a few sleepy Tufted Ducks and we all cooed over a pair of Great Crested Grebes: one of the adult birds carried three stripy chicks on its back, while the other adult brought small fishes and insects for the little ones to eat. 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 travelled a short distance to Maison du Parc, and had our lunch break by the small pond there. The weather was hot, so we also indulged in a coffee and ice cream for those who wanted. We went for a short walk around the meadows, and found a Swallowtail caterpillar on Fennel, Heath Fritillary and Black Redstart...and an adult Swallowtail flew past us!

In the afternoon, we went back to Chérine NNR, where we went for a walk to discover Terres de Renard. It was a lovely walk through an ancient orchard, sand dunes, heathland and woodland. In the car park we came across a beautifully fresh Southern White Admiral butterfly. A Whitethroat and a Melodious Warbler were singing from the same dead tree, allowing for superb views and awesome comparison! As we walked through the orchard, Nightingales were singing heartily, and a Turtle Dove was giving its soft purring song. On arrival at the old sand dunes, we were greeted by a Stonechat, and a Cuckoo sang almost non-stop. We encountered new dragonflies on a nearby pond: White-tailed Skimmers were dancing over the open water and offering us brief perched views. We reached Étang Luc and rested for a while, watching Whiskered Terns and a Purple Heron fly in front of the hide, and listened to the laughing call of Little Grebes.

The afternoon had flown by very quickly: we still had time to visit one more privately owned lake, where Black-necked Grebes had been seen only a few days ago. None was spotted by us, but we enjoyed watching Little and Great Egrets among the reeds and water-lilies. It was time for us to head back to our hotel, for a well-deserved shower and a delicious meal.

Day 3

Friday 22nd May

We began the day with a short drive to the Réserve Naturelle Régionale des Terres et des Étangs Foucault-Massé, (the equivalent of a British Local Nature Reserve), and decided to pay Étang Bénisme a visit. As we walked to the hide, we saw a Southern White Admiral flying and on bramble blossom. We then arrived in Black-winged Stilt territory, and were not disappointed: we had lovely views of many stilts resting, feeding and flying, showing off their supermodel long legs, and gorgeous black-and-white plumage. The little island to the right of the lake supported several Common Tern nests, and a few more Black-winged Stilts. Red-crested Pochards were plentiful, and a Purple Heron flew by. A Grey Heron caught a large catfish, and we admired its skill in removing the prickly barbs from the fish before ingesting it almost whole! A Yellow Wagtail was joined by a White Wagtail in an open bush in front of our hide, and gave wonderful views: with one yellow and grey, and the other grey and white, it was spot the difference time! We then walked to the Foucault hide and admired Salers cattle, with the Charolais bull grazing over the “button” Foucault (a local sandstone mound used as a quarry to build the houses in the area). In the hide itself, we cooed over a Barn Swallow on its nest.

We continued our morning with a two-kilometre walk between Étang Massé and Valmicky. Enjoying the various habitats, we encountered a Comma, a Sedge Warbler frantically singing from the reeds at Massé, and some Cormorants resting in the large dead trees on the island. Whiskered Terns were feeding, and a group of Large Red-eye damselflies rested near the reeds just under the hide’s windows. The woodland produced singing Nightingale and Golden Oriole, and purring Turtle Dove, and we enjoyed the cool walk while perusing hidden sculptures and photographs of the local wildlife.

We stopped for lunch in Migné, and found the perfect picnic table in the shade of a Lime tree. We enjoyed a coffee stop (and an ice cream for some).

In the afternoon, we decided to drive north to Les Vigneaux. A little lake nearby was busy with Whiskered Terns, and a Grasshopper Warbler decided to sing in a bush by a little pond. We walked on to Les Vigneaux lake, and were very excited to see a White-tailed Eagle flying by.

We continued our peregrination with a visit to the other side of the D21. We soon arrived at Étang Taillis-Renard: as we were gently scanning through the water birds on the lake, we spotted a Red-crested Pochard, and a Purple Heron which flew right in front of us and gave us great views. The beautiful natural meadow by Étang Taillis-Renard was home to many Black-veined Whites, Small Heaths and Heath Fritillaries, and our first Broad Scarlet dragonfly was seen. A Short-toed Snake Eagle hunted in the distance, and a Hoopoe flew over the road. A pair of Turtle Doves offered us good views from the minibus as they perched on a telephone wire.

We then headed to an Osprey breeding spot. We were lucky enough to see both adults on the nest. One flew out and landed on a nearby branch: it looked like both parents had started to feed chicks.

Back at the hotel we ate a wonderful dinner, and set off for one final outing of the day. Our evening started as a cowboy movie: two male terrapins facing off against each other on the grassy verge of a nearby pond. Startled by our presence, they rapidly reentered the water! As we explored the area further, Nightingales and Cuckoos were singing almost non-stop, and a Tawny Owl started calling, reminding us that the sun was setting. A few moments later, a Nightjar sang and flew over our heads a few times, clapped its wings, and returned to more pressing moth-hunting activities.

Day 4

Saturday 23rd May

This morning, leaving the heart of La Grande Brenne, we headed to La Boudinière. This little chalk downland site in the Suin Valley was home to hundreds of Adonis Blue butterflies. A few stunning Pearly Heaths enchanted us with their beautifully pearly undersides, and kindly posed for the photographers. Black-veined White butterflies were also numerous and posed, their wings resembling stained glass windows. During the walk we came across new orchids: Narrow-leaved Helleborine, Pyramidal and Lizard Orchids, all blowing our minds with their colours and shapes. As we walked further, we heard Nightingale, Blackcap and Black Woodpecker calling. Meadow Clary, Fern-leaved Dropwort and Yellow-wort were a joy to see, and we heard a Tree Pipit singing from the top of an oak tree.

Ten minutes later, we reached our lunch spot in Lurais, which was spot on. In the shade of trees and by the beautiful River Creuse, we had the perfect opportunity to relax and enjoy our delicious picnic. From our table we could hear Golden Orioles, Grey Wagtails were dancing by the river, and Banded Demoiselle were like jewels in among the Water Crowfoot. As we approached closer to the river's edge, our guide spotted an emerging Small Pincertail (formerly Green-eyed Hooktail) dragonfly on the Water Crowfoot! Before leaving, we had good views of a Serin, which landed in 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 Orchids were in pristine condition, along with Narrow-leaved Helleborines, and we saw plentiful Greater Butterfly Orchids. We mused over Nottingham Catchfly and Swallow-wort. It was a particularly good year for Purple Limodores, which revealed themselves to us in their slightly strange diaphanous violet robes, and last but not least, Red Helleborines were also in full flower.

Our eyes full of botanical wonders, we drove a further five minutes down the road to enjoy the Rocher de la Dube. Once again, we walked to the water's edge and enjoyed its cooling shade (we even dipped a toe in the water). There were no Peregrines for us today, but two Kestrels flew by, probably nesting on the blind side of the cliff. We then drove a little further to Le Breuil's old quarry site, and got lovely views of Firecrest singing over our heads. We also added a discreet but beautiful Small-leaved Helleborine.

To finish the day, we swerved via Ruffec to add our last (but not least) orchid species of the day: Man Orchid. With its dozens of little green and purple bodily shaped flowers, it was another stunning plant added to our Brenne list.

Day 5

Sunday 24th May

After yet another delicious breakfast, we headed for a local farm to check an area after some recent sightings of Squacco Heron. As we arrived, a group of half a dozen French twitchers was already on site: the Squacco was too! A Night Heron and Great Egrets were also present, and a lovely group of horses enjoying the water's-edge grazing offered by this lovely lake.

We then decided to head further south, and stopped at Rosnay Common (les communaux de Rosnay). A male Red-backed Shrike welcomed us to the site, posing nicely on the top of a dead tree. A few minutes later, a Nightingale did the same and showed well for a few minutes on the top of a bush. As we progressed with our walk, 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-winged Orchids, Greater Butterfly and a few Lesser Butterfly Orchids, the latter identified by their parallel pollinia. Corn Buntings were numerous and singing actively on the top of bushes. We also spotted a few Black-veined Whites, including a freshly emerged individual. Woodlarks flew over, and Stonechat and Black Kite were also present.

We enjoyed our lunch in Ciron. In the village, 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 their aircraft (the *Zénith*) in the village way back in 1875, having reached a world record 8600m altitude. A Serin serenaded for us in a nearby tree a few Bee-eaters flew over our heads, giving their characteristic rolling, fluty calls.

Our next stop of the day was Étang Mouton near Migné. Although it was busy with French bank holiday visitors attempting to cool down by the water, we gently walked around the lake and encountered Short-tailed Blue, several White Admirals, Blue Featherleg damselfly, and White-tailed and Black-tailed Skimmer dragonflies. It was then time for a coffee and ice cream in Maison du Parc.

Finally, we headed east to discover the second entity of Cherine NNR: Étang Purais. As we arrived in the hide, we enjoyed watching over a hundred Red-crested Pochards, and 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 on, near the reedbed, a Purple Heron was playing hide-and-seek in the vegetation. The stars of the show were the more than twenty Black-necked Grebes parading on the water. It was time to leave the Whiskered Terns to their thousands of white water-lilies.

Day 6

Monday 25th May

After a sumptuous breakfast, we headed north to meet one of the most tropical birds in Brenne. Surrounded by cultivated fields and with Skylark singings, our eyes quickly locked onto some rainbow birds flying above our heads: Bee-eaters were showing off their amazing flying skills, and occasionally landed 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, and a Black Kite flew over with prey in its claws. A few Yellow Wagtails flew by, but it was soon time for the photographers to put their cameras away and get back to our vehicle.

Our next stop was the Ozance marshes, where we stumbled upon the rare and endemic Brenne Orchid. Its beautiful pink flowers stood out well against the green rushes all around. We admired the lush vegetation, including incredible displays of hundreds of Columbines in flower by the roadside. Mercury Bluets (formerly Southern Damselfly) were also seen flying among the reeds.

On arrival at Étang Vieux, we came across a beautiful male Tree Pipit in the car park, and then as soon as we started to walk into the woodland ride, we heard a singing Wood Warbler. We came across the bird, which showed its beautiful plumage well, its whole body quivering as it broke into song. A Woodlark joined the singing party, but didn't show. Arrived at the sluice gate, we enjoyed Broad Scarlet and many other insects along the way.

Our tummies were just starting to rumble when our guide collected us with the bus and dropped us up in Vendoeuvres for a great picnic. Swift "swiftling", along with House Martin and Swallow above our heads, and good food, made for a lovely break.

La Forêt de Lancosme was to be our next stop. We first visited a ride near La Forge, which enabled us to enjoy Southern White Admiral butterflies, dozens of Rose Chafers, and a beautiful male Honey Buzzard which flew among the tree tops. At last, twenty or thirty Woodland Browns delighted us when they landed on the track, allowing excellent views of their pearly undersides. Feeling rested and cooled, we headed to Château Robert. Near Étang de la Fosse Noire, we ended the day with a few Monkey Orchids.

Day 7

Tuesday 26th 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 and, of course, the ever-present Cuckoo. Next to the hide, Western Bonelli's Warblers were singing, and Firecrest, Short-toed Treecreeper and a lovely Spotted Flycatcher distracted us nicely.

From the hide, we could observe a large number of Cattle Egrets making strange gurgling noises, and there were many Night Herons, as well as Purple and Grey Herons, and Little Egrets. The parents were busy feeding their young chicks. A large group of Red-crested Pochard was also busy, feeding in front of the heron colony. As we came out of the hide, one more surprise awaited us: our walk back to the van offered more Southern White Admiral butterflies.

We then drove on to Étang Oince. Covered in white *Nymphaea* water lilies in full flower, the lake was home to many Whiskered Terns, nesting Pochards, and Great Crested Grebes and Coots in numbers. A Downy Emerald patrolled

up and down the lake side, and a pair of White-tailed Skimmers were spotted copulating. A little further down the track, we enjoyed beautiful views of a Turtle Dove perched on a dead tree, and Golden Orioles were singing very close by, allowing snatched views of their yellow plumage as they rapidly crossed the track.

We had our lunch in the village of Sainte Gemme, near the church and under the shade of Lime trees. A Serin was singing again during our stop. We then decided to head back to the hotel for a cool down, as the thermometer had reached 40°C! This was officially the first ever French heatwave recorded in May.

After a rest, we headed out again around 3.00pm. We took the bus for a spin around the northern territories of La Brenne, and caught a brief glimpse of a Montagu's Harrier. Our peregrination eventually led us to an old quarry site near Obterre. We encountered numerous Fragrant and Fly Orchids, and Pearly Heath and Adonis Blue butterflies. As we left the site, a few hundred metres away, our guide spotted a Black Stork using a thermal, circling gently up above a wooded area. We watched it for a few minutes, and it drifted off in the distance.

We then reached our final destination of the day, a quarry site near Martizay. Bee-eaters were buzzing above our heads, accompanied by Sand Martin and Swallow. A Girl Bunting sang in the neighbouring garden: the background playlist and the view were unforgettable. On our way back to the hotel, the playground in Saint Michel en Brenne produced a wonderful surprise: two Hoopoes feeding actively and offering us grand views from our minibus. We all felt very grateful for this amazing encounter, and headed home fully content.

Day 8

Wednesday 27th May

After breakfast, we said farewell to our hosts, and headed for Saint Pierre-des-Corps. We stopped briefly en route to add a beautiful female Montagu's Harrier to our list, over a beautiful natural meadow full of Pyramidal and Lizard Orchids. We arrived back at the station in plenty of time for our return journey to the UK.

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Species lists

Birds

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>			✓					
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>					✓			
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓	✓		✓			
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			✓					
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>			✓					
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</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>					✓			
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓					
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			✓					
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>							✓	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					✓	✓		
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>			✓					
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		✓				✓		
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓					
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>							✓	✓
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>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>								
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>					✓	✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
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>		✓	✓			✓		
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Dartford Warbler	<i>Curruca undata</i>						✓		
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</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>			✓					
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>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow (Blue-headed) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla 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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓						
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		✓					✓	

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>
European Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
European Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>

Amphibians & reptiles

Common name	Scientific name
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>
Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>
a frog	<i>Pelophylax</i> sp.
Western Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>
Eastern Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Small/Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus</i> sp.
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
Short-tailed Blue	<i>Cupido argiades</i>
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>
Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>
Woodland Brown	<i>Lopinga achine</i>
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>

Moths

Common name	Scientific name
a bag worm moth	<i>Psychidae</i> sp.
Six-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>
Lackey	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>
Small Eggar	<i>Eriogaster lanestris</i>
Rose-banded Wave	<i>Rhodostrophia vibicaria</i>
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>
Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
Azure Bluet	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>
Mercury Bluet	<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>
Large Redeye	<i>Erythromma najas</i>
Blue Featherleg	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>
Blue-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna affinis</i>
Green-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna isocetes</i>
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>
Hairy Hawker	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>
Small Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>
Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>
White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>
Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>

Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name
a scorpion fly	<i>Panorpa communis</i>
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>
Lesser Stag Beetle	<i>Dorcus parallelipipedus</i>
Common Cockchafer	<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>
Greater Capricorn Beetle	<i>Cerambyx cerdo</i>
Lesser Capricorn Beetle	<i>Cerambyx scoloپی</i>
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>

Orchids

Common name	Scientific name
Small-leaved Helleborine	<i>Epipactis microphyla</i>
Sword-leaved Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>
Red Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>
Violet Limodore	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>
Lesser Butterfly Orchid	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>
Greater Butterfly Orchid	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>
Fragrant Orchid	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>
Brenne Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza brennensis</i>
a marsh orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza</i> sp.
Lizard Orchid	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>
Green-winged Orchid	<i>Anacamptis morio</i>
Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>
Tongue Orchid	<i>Serapias lingua</i>
Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>
Fly Orchid	<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>
Man Orchid	<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>
Monkey Orchid	<i>Orchis simia</i>
Loose-flowered Orchid	<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>