

# Dragonflies of La Brenne & Vienne

Naturetrek Tour report

24 June - 1 July 2009



Blue-eye male by Dave Smallshire



Small Spreadwing male by Dave Smallshire



Lilypad Whiteface male by Nick Ransdale



Yellow-spotted Whiteface male by Nick Ransdale

Report compiled by Dave Smallshire

Images by Dave Smallshire and Nick Ransdale



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Mike Duffy  
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## Summary

This two-centre holiday in central-western France gave us an excellent insight into both the dragonfly fauna and abundant butterflies, birds and other wildlife of the region. After spending two days visiting small étangs, gravel pits, rivers and streams in the vicinity of Moulismes, we moved to the land of a thousand lakes, La Brenne, visiting the myriad ponds of Le Pinail reserve on the way. Our final three days took us to various dragonfly hot-spots, mostly around specific étangs, but sometimes to drier areas. This wide range of sites and habitats yielded a final total of 44 species of dragonflies – an excellent total by European standards. The group also saw 42 species of butterflies and 104 birds, not to mention a wide range of other animals and plants that the combined talents of the group helped to find and identify. With the exception of one showery day, we were blessed with hot, sunny weather: perfect for finding insects!

## Day 1

### Wednesday 24th June

The group assembled in good time at St Pancras station, prior to boarding the morning Eurostar departure. Having squeezed our luggage into the never-quite-adequate space provided on trains, we settled down for a comfortable journey to Lille. The weather was sunny and a settled forecast bode well for the next week or so. It was no surprise, therefore, that the sun was still shining in when we arrived in Lille an hour and 20 minutes later. We walked along the traffic-free route to Lille Flandres station and took over part of a café for lunch. Soon it was time to board the train for the longer journey to Poitiers. Birdwatching was difficult at the speed French trains travel, but at least we arrived at our destination bang on time at 16:10. Eventually we met up with our local guide, Nick, and his wife, who had brought their car and a minibus to the station.

By the time we had loaded up and set off across Poitiers, the traffic had built up and it was nearly an hour before we hit countryside. Only Dave saw the Honey Buzzard circling close to the road on the way to Montmorillon, but everyone saw the Bee-eaters around a working quarry near our destination.

It was a pleasant short break to take in some sun (the temperature was over 25°C), butterflies, flowers and a Red-backed Shrike – quite a common species in this part of France. By 18:30 we were booking into what proved to be a nice hotel in a lovely, quiet little town.

While the leaders went shopping for the next day's picnic lunch, everyone else unpacked and relaxed or went to explore the delights of Montmorillon. As with all the evening meals during this tour, dinner at 20:00 was most enjoyable. By 21:30, everyone was ready to retire for the day and Dave and Nick left for Nick's home in Moulismes a short distance away.

## Day 2

## Thursday 25th June

Breakfast was taken at leisure, whenever people were ready for it, but by 09:00 we were ready to leave for Persac. The community-owned étang and surrounds there proved to be the perfect venue to start our quest for dragonflies. First we checked the small river for demoiselles, but it was still early and there was little sun on the water to attract them to their breeding site. However, there were several butterflies drinking from wet patches, the most spectacular being a beautiful male Lesser Purple Emperor. Then we crossed the road and started a very slow circumnavigation of the étang. Ishbel found the first of many shady spots during the trip to begin her watercolour studies. For others, distraction came from the adjacent poplars, where elusive Golden Oriole and Short-toed Treecreeper called, but it was of course the waterside vegetation that we had to focus on. Here we started to build our list of dragonflies, as they became more active with increasing sunlight and temperature. The ever-present Blue Featherleg (White-legged Damselfly) and frequent Azure, Blue-tailed and Small Red Damselflies were already familiar to some, but Blue-eye (aka Goblet-marked Damselfly) was less so. Finally the dragonflies made their entrance, with both Black-tailed and White-tailed Skimmers taking up territories or making maiden flights, and Keeled Skimmers giving away the acidic nature of the water. Along the spring-fed inlet stream Nick found Blue (Scarce) Chaser and a pair of Dainty Damselflies, although the latter disappeared and couldn't be relocated. Everyone enjoyed the White-letter Hairstreak egg-laying at eye level over the stream; even Nick was excited to see this scarce species!

As lunch was being prepared near the water's edge, a Short-toed Eagle appeared high overhead and Mike returned with pictures of a Yellow Club-tail – a real surprise, but they were soon forgotten as the wine was poured and everyone tucked into a delicious cold spread. Suitably replenished, we walked around the remainder of the étang, finding first a Common Goldenring hanging in a tree for all to see, then sunbathing Small Pincertails (Green-eyed Hooktails), Western Club-tails and some lovely Orange Featherlegs. Single Map and Provençal Short-tailed Blue proved to be the only ones on the trip. After seeing both Banded and Beautiful Demoiselles at the river before we left at 15:00, the dragonfly tally stood at an amazing 24 species: better than a whole weekend would have yielded in the dragonfly hot-spots of southern England!

A shorter visit to Étang de Biais added both Red-eyes to our list and then we had a walk into the Bois De L'Hospice, where a brief shower reduced our chances of seeing many dragonflies – although we did manage to add the 27<sup>th</sup> species to the day's total: Ruddy Darter. In any case, there were other things to see here, including Marbled Fritillary and the intense colours of Heath Lobelia and Carthusian Pink flowers along the woodland ride.

We arrived back at the hotel at 18:45 and later enjoyed another superb dinner. Not everyone stayed to run through the log, though: we had seen so much that it was 22:00 before the leaders departed. Their journey to Moulismes was filled with thoughts of how amazing the first day had been: well over half the species expected during the trip had been seen already!

### Day 3

### Friday 26th June

Heavy rain during breakfast had stopped by the time we were ready to leave Montmorillon at 09:00. Unfortunately, it remained mainly cloudy in the morning with occasional showers, becoming brighter in the afternoon until a thunderstorm arrived in the evening. Temperatures were between 19 and 25°C, compared with 30°C the previous day and dragonfly activity was reduced as a result.

During the morning we walked along the sometimes rocky bank of the River Gartempe to Rocs d'Enfer. A few Small Pincertails took up territorial positions in mid-river during sunny spells, but the Western Spectres we were hoping to see eluded us: we had to make do with a couple of Exuviae instead. Thankfully, plants stay put, and two interesting species here were the huge Royal Ferns along the river bank and the tiny Forked Spleenwort growing on the massive boulders at the Rocs. We also enjoyed seeing the stunning sky-blue chafer beetle, *Hoplia caerulea*, and watching Grey Wagtails collecting food for their young.

We moved to the picnic tables beside the Étang de Plaisance for lunch, which was interrupted by a Purple Emperor that flew in and sat obligingly in the tree just above us. Then sun came out and we were able to watch Orange-spotted Emeralds and Western Club-tails patrolling the margins. In view of the improved weather, the decision was made to visit a recently discovered étang just inside the Brenne Regional Park. Although the weather deteriorated just as we approached the étang, it was sunny enough for most people to see the site speciality: a few Lilypad Whitefaces 'dancing' over the pondweeds in the middle. The views were not great, though, and they were almost impossible to see once settled on a floating leaf, even with binoculars. Even more frustrating was a possible Eurasian Baskettail flying over the far side of the étang: this species is notoriously difficult to see, but had also been seen at this site earlier in the summer. Both the Whiteface and Basket-tail are at the end of their flight period in June. In contrast, Downy Emeralds were still flying and gave much better views. Soon the sun went and rain started again, so we called it a day, determined to return in better weather later in the holiday, if possible.

As the weather had brightened when we got close to Montmorillon, we decided to look at an old gravel pit where masses of Southern Marsh-orchids grow. We had to view them through a fence, but close by we found Dainty Damselflies and a Wood White, while a Hobby flew by in the distance. Finally, we stopped at the Bee-eater colony again, now armed with telescopes to really appreciate the birds as they perched on wires with Turtle Doves. Another fine meal that evening was followed by log call, which took less time than the previous day.

## Day 4

## Saturday 27th June

Today we left our hotel at Montmorillon, but several people had expressed a wish to look inside the church, which we learned would be open at our time of departure. So at 09:00 we drove to a vantage point next to the church, from where there was a spectacular view over the town and river. Views were had and the church perused, with concern expressed at the extent of damage to the interior caused by rain. Then we drove north-west for just over an hour to Pinail nature reserve, where heathland is pock-marked by hundreds of craters. These were formed during the extraction of granite millstones. These flooded workings now form a superb range of acidic ponds, which host a rich dragonfly fauna. A selection of these was viewed from a circular path, which we knew would take us through to a late lunch. So, out came the secret weapon: delicious strawberry tarts that would give us the necessary energy boost!

It was warm and sunny (temperature up to 30°C), so dragonflies were well in evidence. It wasn't long before Nick found the first Yellow-spotted (or Large) Whiteface – this was the local speciality that we wanted to see. Several more followed and eventually everyone got good views of them. Later ponds held territorial Green-eyed (Norfolk) Hawkers and one had a Yellow-spotted Emerald briefly. We passed lots of Large Chequered Skippers as we walked around, giving their characteristic 'bouncy' flight, a few Pearly Heaths and some very fine Painted Ladies, no doubt progeny from the spring's exceptional immigration. Hen and Montagu's Harriers flew over and Tree Pipit, Yellowhammer, Linnet and Dartford and Garden Warblers were singing, but only a Bonelli's Warbler gave us good views.

After a very welcome lunch, at 15:30 we continued our journey towards La Brenne, stopping first at Chauvigny for panoramic views across to the old fortified town. Later, we stopped at Saint-Savin for refreshments and to look at the recently-restored frescos in the abbey. Travelling through La Brenne, we stopped very briefly to watch a roosting Night Heron from the vehicles, moving on before we disturbed it. We arrived in Vendoeuvres at 18:30, booked in at the delightful, family-run hotel and were soon patronising the bar. Dinner was delicious and clearly home-cooked: everyone gave a big thumbs-up to 'Le Petit Parc'! The log was done over coffees and/or beer around the tables outside – very pleasant.

## Day 5

## Sunday 28th June

After leaving the hotel at 09:05, we went to Mézières-en-Brenne to buy lunch and then spent the morning nearby in the vicinity of Subtray.

First we stopped close to an étang to look at waterbirds: Purple and Night Herons, Cattle, Great White and Little Egrets and the first of many Whiskered Terns flew over. While walking around part of another étang (Robert did the full circuit) we saw recently-emerged Southern, Common (the only two of the trip!) and Ruddy Darters and Migrant Spreadwings, but it was the appearance of a Lesser Emperor that caused the most excitement, as this is a difficult species to find in this part of France. The emperor led to at least two Red-veined Darters being found; they perched long enough on dead stems emerging from the water to be viewed through telescopes. The telescopes were also useful to see the pair of Black-necked Grebes among the flock of Coots and Great Crested Grebes, though not the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker that called frequently. A few diminutive Tree Frogs were found, as was our first Heath Fritillary.

We had lunch nearby at Étang de Bellebouche, but hadn't bargained for the crowds – it was a hot (over 30°C) and sunny Sunday! Nevertheless, as we alighted at the overflow parking area, our first Small Spreadwing was spotted ... and then several more. All the picnic tables were in use (but thankfully not the toilets!), so we used the shady grass next to the vehicles instead. A Great Banded Grayling and circling Honey Buzzard interrupted lunch, after which we had good views of Short-toed Treecreeper. After lunch, a partially-shaded grassy ride back near Subtray had more Small Spreadwings, Dainty Damselfly and a couple of (very!) Agile Frogs.

We spent the last part of the afternoon looking at orchids and other flowers in the Forêt de Lancosme, ending up at a peaceful glade containing Chapelle St Sulpice and a crystal clear spring. The stream flowing from it had been severely trimmed recently, but a few Beautiful Demoiselles in the adjacent woodland looked gorgeous in the shafts of evening sun. We returned to the hotel at 18:50 and enjoyed another lovely dinner at 20:00.

## Day 6

## Monday 29th June

After our routine 08:00 breakfast, 09:00 departure and picnic shopping in Mézières, we travelled only a short distance to a green lane where Small Spreadwings and several Yellow-spotted Emeralds were flying. Two contrasting Emeralds were caught for closer examination: an older individual with stunning green eyes but faded yellow markings and a younger individual with bright yellow 'spots' and browner eyes. Betty had difficulty walking through the tall vegetation, so she was pleased to see them in the hand whilst sitting in the shade (it proved to be another hot and humid day, again around 30°C). Unfortunately, the only Blue-eyed Hawker of the trip disappeared all too quickly and only Nick saw it. Both Great Green and Roesel's Bush-crickets were examined in the hand, before we moved a short distance to an area of fen where the endemic Brenne Orchid grows. One plant remained in flower, beside a ditch on the edge of the fen, but we couldn't find the Marsh Helleborine that flowered last year. A few Southern and Variable Damselflies were eventually seen, as was a Green-eyed Hawker and another Yellow-spotted Emerald. A Melodious Warbler sang conspicuously from the top of a dead branch, giving unusually good views, while Larkspur flowers were also conspicuous on the roadside.

The fen itself was dominated by the vicious Great Fen Sedge, while Black Bog-rush grew in the ditch; both of these plants, the Southern Damselfly and presumably the orchid indicated the calcareous nature of the site.

Lunch was eaten under the welcome shade of a picnic area at the Maison du Parc. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker called from the trees nearby and we watched school children dipping in the pond nearby. Ice creams from the shop were a welcome treat!

As the weather was so good, we travelled back to the Lilypad Whiteface site, this time armed with telescopes. These proved essential, as the three remaining Whitefaces kept their distance again. We could see all the characteristic features well, though, and everyone was satisfied. Digiscoping was attempted, but with predictably blurred results. Small Red Damselflies, Large Red-eyes, Broad-bodied Chasers, Downy Emeralds and a Western Club-tail gave much closer views. Returning to Vendoeuvres, we stopped just short of the town to look for Western Spectre along the River L'Yoson. We gave it 15 minutes while admiring the demoiselles (some of which perched on hands held out in the sunlight!), but finally had to admit defeat and returned to the hotel at 19:00. After finishing the log after dinner, a Quail called in the distance.

## Day 7

## Tuesday 30th June

Birds were the pretty much the focus for the whole morning, during a visit to the LPO Foucault Reserve. Watching from the hide was quite comfortable, given the even higher temperatures (up to 34°C) and humidity today. Herons stole the show, with close views of Purple Heron and Cattle Egret and a more distant Great White Egret, but the star was a Squacco Heron which flew in – a rare bird in La Brenne. Black-necked Grebes were watched nest building, while closer to us Little Grebes chicks were being fed. Pochard also had young, but the Whiskered Terns were still sitting on their floating nests. A Coypu was spotted on the far side of the main étang, where a Wood Sandpiper and Black-winged Stilts were feeding. Black Kites and Honey Buzzards were circling in the distance. At least two Red-veined Darters were among the many darters and skimmers over the water in front of us.

After lunch at the Maison du Parc again, we found a little time to look at the pond next to the picnic site. It proved worthwhile, as there were several mating pairs of Dainty Damselflies and Katharine photographed a Red-veined Darter. The mid-afternoon focus was orchids, along the roadsides near Merigny in the south-west of the Regional Park. In shady areas on the woodland fringe were a number of Mueller's Helleborines growing among Broad-leaved and Red Helleborines; Greater Butterfly-orchids and Violet Limadore were also there, but in seed, as was the parasitic Yellow Birdsnest. Lizard Orchids nearby were also past their best: not surprising, given the hot weather we were experiencing. Orange-spotted Emeralds were feeding over the road and Nick glimpsed a Yellow Club-tail. Butterflies seen in this area included Ilex Hairstreak, Adonis Blue, Heath Fritillary and Lulworth Skipper, while a Silver-washed Fritillary fell in love with the super-stimulating orange-yellow logo on the minibus!

Our final destination was a walk around the Étang Mouton, which had been drained but we hoped would still retain some of the emerald damselflies we had not found to date. Although Common, Migrant and Small Spreadwings were present, we could not find any Western Willow Spreadwings, but we did find a couple of Common Winter Damselflies. Our final addition to the dragonfly list came when a hawkler flew around and landed in tree: it proved not to be the expected Blue-eyed Hawker, but an immature male Blue (Southern) Hawker. Other trees nearby held a Lesser Purple Emperor and Golden Oriole, the latter species still refusing to show itself to most people. We returned to the hotel at 18:00, giving plenty of time to start packing prior to dinner and the final log call.

## Day 8

## Wednesday 1st July

An early start was necessary so as not to risk getting caught in rush hour traffic in Poitiers. Our hostess provided coffee from 06:45, as we packed the vehicles ready for a 07:00 departure. Thankfully, there were no delays and we disembarked at the station with ample time for breakfast and to say farewell to Nick, and Katharine and Robert, who were staying on in Poitiers for an extra couple of days.

The train to Lille Europe was a little delayed, but we arrived with plenty of time for the short walk to the Eurostar platform. In no time, we were back in England, greeted by conditions at least as hot and humid as we had experienced in France. There were final farewells, exchanges of contact details and then we made our separate ways home, full of many fond memories.

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## Species Lists

Dragonflies (*Ex* = *Exuvia* only)

	Common name	Scientific name	June							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
1	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>		✓				✓	✓	
2	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
3	Migrant Spreadwing (Southern Emerald Damselfly)	<i>Lestes barbarus</i>						✓	✓	✓
4	Small Spreadwing	<i>Lestes virens</i>						✓	✓	✓
5	Common Spreadwing (Emerald Damselfly)	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓
6	Common Winter Damsel	<i>Sympecma fusca</i>								✓
7	Blue Featherleg (White-legged Damselfly)	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
8	Orange Featherleg	<i>Platycnemis acutipennis</i>		✓	✓					
9	Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>		✓				✓		
10	Small Red Damselfly	<i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
11	Large Red-eye (Red-eyed Damselfly)	<i>Erythromma najas</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
12	Small Red-eye (Small Red-eyed Damselfly)	<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>		✓						✓
13	Blue-eye (Goblet-marked Damselfly)	<i>Erythromma lindenii</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓
14	Mercury Bluet (Southern Damselfly)	<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>							✓	
15	Azure Bluet	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
16	Variable Bluet	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>							✓	
17	Dainty Bluet	<i>Coenagrion scitulum</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓
18	Common Bluet	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
19	Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
20	Blue-eyed Hawker (Southern Migrant Hawker)	<i>Aeshna affinis</i>							✓	
21	Blue Hawker (Southern Hawker)	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>								✓
22	Green-eyed Hawker (Norfolk Hawker)	<i>Aeshna isosceles</i>				✓			✓	
23	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
24	Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>						✓		
25	Western Spectre	<i>Boyeria irene</i>			Ex					
26	Western Clubtail	<i>Gomphus pulchellus</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓
27	Yellow Clubtail	<i>Gomphus simillimus</i>		✓						✓
28	Small Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>		✓	✓					
29	Common Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>		✓						
30	Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>			✓	✓			✓	
31	Yellow-spotted Emerald	<i>Somatochlora flavomaculata</i>				✓			✓	
32	Orange-spotted Emerald	<i>Oxygastra curtisii</i>		✓	✓					✓
33	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
34	Blue Chaser (Scarce Chaser)	<i>Libellula fulva</i>		✓						
35	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓
36	Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
37	White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓
38	Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>		✓		✓			✓	
39	Yellow-spotted Whiteface (Large White-faced Darter)	<i>Leucorrhinia pectoralis</i>				✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	June						
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
40	Lilypad Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia caudalis</i>			✓			✓	
41	Broad Scarlet (Scarlet Darter)	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
42	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>					✓		
43	Southern Darter	<i>Sympetrum meridionale</i>					✓	✓	
44	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>					✓		✓
45	Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Butterflies

1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>				✓			
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>						✓	
3	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓
4	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓			✓		
5	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓	✓				
6	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓			✓		✓
7	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Purple Hairstreak	<i>Quercusia quercus</i>		✓			✓		✓
10	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>							✓
11	White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium w-album</i>		✓					
12	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>				✓			
13	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>		✓					
14	Provencal Short-tailed Blue	<i>Everes alcetas</i>		✓					
15	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
16	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>							✓
17	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>							✓
18	Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura iris</i>			✓				
19	Lesser Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura ilia</i>		✓					✓
20	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>					✓		
21	White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>					✓	✓	✓
23	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓			✓		
24	Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>		✓			✓		✓
26	Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>		✓					
27	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>				✓	✓	✓	
28	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
29	Heath Fritillary	<i>Mellicta athalia</i>					✓	✓	✓
30	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>					✓		
32	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>					✓	✓	
34	Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia cecilia</i>					✓		
35	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
36	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>				✓			
37	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓			✓		
38	Large Chequered Skipper	<i>Heteropterus morpheus</i>				✓	✓	✓	
39	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>							✓
40	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venata</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓

	Common name	Scientific name	June						
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Birds (H = Heard only)

1	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					✓		✓
2	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>							✓
3	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					✓		✓
4	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					✓	✓	✓
5	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>							✓
7	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>					✓	✓	✓
8	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					✓		✓
9	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>					✓		✓
10	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					✓	✓	✓
12	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>					✓	✓	✓
13	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>					✓		
15	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					✓		✓
16	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>					✓		✓
17	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓
18	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>			✓	✓			
19	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>			✓	✓			✓
20	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			✓		✓	✓	
21	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	✓				✓		✓
22	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓					
24	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
25	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			✓		✓		
26	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>							H
27	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>					✓		
28	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>							H ✓
29	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>							✓
30	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
31	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>							✓
32	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					✓		
33	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>					✓	✓	✓
34	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>					✓		✓
35	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					✓		✓
36	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>							✓
37	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓
43	Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>							H
44	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓				
46	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓		✓				
47	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		H	✓				H
48	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>		H	✓	✓	✓		✓

	Common name	Scientific name	June						
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
49	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus minor</i>		H	H		✓	✓	
50	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			H		✓		H
51	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓		✓				
52	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		H		✓	H	✓	✓
55	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				✓			
56	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓			
58	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	✓	✓	✓		
59	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H	✓			✓	
60	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		✓		H			
61	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				✓		H	
63	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓
66	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				H			
67	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			H		H	H	
68	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					H		
69	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					H		
70	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		H		H	H	✓	H
71	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>				✓			
72	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				✓			✓
73	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>					✓	✓	✓
74	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>				✓	H		
76	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>					H		
78	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓			H	H	
79	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
80	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
81	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓					
82	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>						✓	
83	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			✓		H	H	
84	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		✓	H		✓	H	
85	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
87	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		H	H	✓	✓	H	✓
88	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
90	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
91	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
92	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>						✓	
94	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>							H
97	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	June						
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
99	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>					✓		
100	Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>	✓			✓			
101	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>			H				
102	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				H			✓
103	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>		H	H	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Mammals** (S = signs of. The following were road kills: Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* and Badger *Meles meles*.)

1	Bat sp.	<i>Chiroptera</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
2	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>					S	S	
3	Coypu	<i>Mycocastor coypus</i>							✓
4	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>					✓		

### Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>				✓	✓		✓
2	Edible Frog	<i>Rana esculenta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>					✓		
4	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>						✓	
5	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>					✓		
6	Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>			✓				
7	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	✓	✓					

### Miscellaneous invertebrates (H = Heard only)

1	Mayfly sp.	<i>Ephemeroptera</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
2	Speckled Bush-cricket	<i>Leptophyes punctatissima</i>			✓				
3	Long-winged Conehead	<i>Conocephalus discolor</i>		✓			✓	✓	
4	Roesel's Bush-cricket	<i>Merioptera roeselii</i>						✓	H
5	Great Green Bush-cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>	H	✓	✓	H	✓	✓	
6	Field cricket	<i>Gryllus gryllus</i>			✓		✓	✓	
7	A small wetland cricket	<i>Pteronemobius heydenii</i>		H	H	H		H	
8	Cicada	<i>Cicada orni</i>				H			
9	Fire Bug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>						✓	
10	Lacewing sp.	<i>Neuroptera</i>						✓	✓
11	Scorpion-fly sp.	<i>Mecoptera</i>		✓	✓		✓		
12	Brown China Mark Moth	<i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>				✓	✓		
13	5-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena trifolii</i>		✓					✓
14	6-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>					✓	✓	✓
15	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellarum</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>		✓					
17	Common Heath	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>				✓			
18	Yellow Shell	<i>Campptogramma bilineata</i>			✓				
19	White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>			✓				
20	Robber Fly sp.	<i>Asilidae</i>							✓
21	Black Ant	<i>Lasius niger</i>					✓		
22	Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
23	Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>					✓		
24	A bumblebee	<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>		✓					
25	A carder bee	<i>Bombus sp.</i>			✓	✓	✓		
26	White/Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum/terrestris</i>				✓			

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			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
27	Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	✓	✓					
28	Lesser Stag Beetle	<i>Dorcus parallelipedus</i>			✓				
29	Dor Beetle	<i>Geotrupes stercorarius</i>		✓	✓				
30	Cockchafer	<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>			✓				
31	Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>			✓		✓		
32	A bright blue chafer beetle	<i>Hoplia caerulescens</i>			✓				
33	A soldier beetle	<i>Cantharidae</i>					✓		
34	Spanish Fly	<i>Lytta vesicatoria</i>		✓					
35	A leaf beetle	<i>Clytra 4-punctata</i>			✓				
36	Wasp Spider	<i>Argiope bruennichi</i>						✓	✓
37	Daddy-long-legs spider	<i>Pholcus phalangioides</i>	✓	✓	✓				

## Miscellaneous Plants

1	Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>			✓				
2	Forked Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium septentrionale</i>			✓				
3	Southern Marsh-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>			✓				
4	Heath Spotted-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>			✓	✓			
5	Common Spotted-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>					✓		
6	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>					✓		
7	Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>					✓		
8	Twayblade	<i>Listera ovata</i>					✓		
9	Brenne Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza brennensis</i>						✓	
10	Lizard Orchid	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>							✓
11	Greater Butterfly-orchid	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>							✓
12	Broad-leaved Helleborine	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>							✓
13	Mueller's Helleborine	<i>Epipactis muelleri</i>							✓
14	Red Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>							✓
15	Violet Limodore	<i>Limodorum arbortivum</i>							✓
16	Heath Lobelia	<i>Lobelia urens</i>		✓		✓			
17	Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>		✓					
18	Small Scabious	<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>		✓					
19	Greater Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>		✓		✓	✓		
20	Carthusian Pink	<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
21	Yellow-wort	<i>Blackstonia perforata</i>		✓			✓	✓	
22	Common Centaury	<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
23	Yellow Bartsia	<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>		✓					
24	Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>		✓					
25	Ivy-leaved Duckweed	<i>Lemna trisulca</i>		✓					
26	Water Mint	<i>Metha aquatica</i>		✓			✓	✓	
27	Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
28	Bellflower sp.	<i>Campanula sp.</i>		✓		✓			
29	Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>			✓				
30	Vervain	<i>Verbena officinalis</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
31	Pale Toadflax	<i>Linaria repens</i>			✓				
32	Columbine	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>			✓				
33	Marsh St John's-wort	<i>Hypericum elodes</i>			✓	✓		✓	
34	Butcher's Broom	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>			✓				
35	Lungwort	<i>Pulmonaria sp.</i>			✓				
36	White Asphodel	<i>Ashodelus albus</i>			✓			✓	
37	Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>			✓				

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			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
38	Lesser Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia minor</i>				✓			
39	Creeping Water-plantain	<i>Baldellia repens</i>				✓			
40	Least Bur-reed	<i>Sparganium natans</i>				✓			
41	Floating Club-rush	<i>Eleogiton fluitans</i>				✓			
42	Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>				✓	✓		
43	Broomrape sp.	<i>Orobanche sp.</i>				✓			
44	Dyer's Greenweed	<i>Genista tinctoria</i>					✓		
45	Common Cow-wheat	<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>					✓	✓	✓
46	Larkspur	<i>Consolida sp.</i>						✓	
47	Dragon's Teeth	<i>Tetragonolobus maritimus</i>						✓	
48	Great Fen Sedge	<i>Cladium mariscus</i>						✓	
49	Black Bog-rush	<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>						✓	
50	Stinking Hellebore	<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>							✓
51	Small Yellow Foxglove	<i>Digitalis lutea</i>							✓
52	Everlasting Pea	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>							✓
53	Rock Rose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>							✓
54	Yellow Birdsnest	<i>Monotropa hypopitys</i>							✓