

France - Cranes & Champagne

Naturetrek Tour Report

8th – 14th February 2026



Common Cranes



Hawfinch



Middle Spotted Woodpecker



Red Fox

Tour report by Jason Mitchell
Photos by Jason Mitchell and Mary Rowe



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Tour Participants: Jason Mitchell (leader) with five Naturetrek clients

Summary

The tour was timed to coincide with a very special ornithological experience, amid the delightful rural setting of France's Champagne country. We witnessed the migration of Common Cranes as they undertook their mammoth journey across the country back to their northerly breeding grounds.

First, we spent a few days in the Parc Naturel Régional de la Forêt d'Orient, where we enjoyed great views of big mixed flocks of ducks, large gatherings of herons, particularly Great Egrets, and two majestic White-tailed Eagles being swooped upon by a territorial Peregrine Falcon! On a walk around the Forêt du Temple, we were delighted to add two species of amphibians and Red Squirrel to our sightings. However, despite the much-reduced passage due to storms further south, the undoubted highlight was the sight and sound of many groups of elegant Common Cranes on migration. We greatly enjoyed a guided tour of nearby Troyes, with its attractive historic centre, and also took advantage of our location to visit the Champagne Drappier vineyard. Here we spent a pleasant afternoon exploring the cellars and winery, which was rounded off nicely by a champagne tasting session.

Next, we transferred to Giffaumont-Champaubert, on the southern shore of Lac du Der. In November, vast numbers of Common Cranes arrive at this huge lake to rest and feed, before continuing their migration south. Likewise, in February the same cranes make their return journey to northerly breeding grounds, but during this season they tend to loiter less. Shortly before our arrival, the weekly census had recorded close to 8,000 birds! However, our luck was out, as they had made their 'grand depart' just forty-eight hours before our arrival. Although the Common Cranes were our main focus, we found many other exciting species, including a fifty-strong flock of Tundra Bean Geese, a dozen Smews, which included at least four smart pied males, and a ghostly Hen Harrier quartering fields right next to our minibus for several minutes.

During our stay, the weather was unsettled, but mostly dry and cloudy, except the first full day when we enjoyed the warming winter sun on our backs. We woke to a light frost on the first morning, but thereafter the mercury stayed in the positive, dipping to a low of 6°C, and rising to a daytime high of 14°C.

Day 1

Sunday 8th February

Paris – Mesnil-Saint-Père

With the Eurostar arriving on time into Gare du Nord, the clients undertook the short walk to Gare de l'Est, where they joined a second train to Troyes. After a smooth journey, they met with their guide, Jason, who drove them the final thirty minutes to Auberge du Lac. Here we spent three nights, enjoying the fantastic cuisine and mini-spa facilities. On our arrival, we were greeted by the delightful rippling calls of around forty Common Cranes, which flew over the hotel towards Lac d'Orient just a few hundred metres away. This was enough motivation for some clients to head straight to the lake, where they were duly rewarded with further passing cranes, totalling a couple of hundred birds, along with a stunning fiery sunset. As it proved, this was to be the greatest number seen in one go throughout the coming week, but such are the vagaries of migration!

Day 2

Monday 9th February

Lac d'Orient – Forêt d'Orient – Lac du Temple

We woke to blue skies and a light frost, and following breakfast, we made our way to the Port de Mesnil-Saint-Père. Starting out along the jetty, we disturbed a couple of Meadow Pipits which darted over the rock armour to a muddy section of lake below, joining the company of some equally active Water Pipits. However, these were quickly outranked by a small group of Goosanders, which included three stunning males and a single redhead (female/immature male), which were fishing inside the port. This species is typically furtive, and slowly but surely swam some distance to the far side of the port. Overhead, a small group of five Cranes gave their evocative bugling calls and were followed by another individual minutes later: clearly this one wasn't an early bird! Due to maintenance work on the dyke wall, the water level was rather low for the season, making it attractive to sizeable numbers of Lapwings, which glistened metallic-green in the low winter sun. Mixed in with these attractive waders, we found large numbers of dabbling Teals and Wigeons.

As we scanned the flocks of birds, our attention was drawn to a raptor perched on one of the many ancient tree stumps, a reminder that the flooded area was forested before the lake was created in the 1960s. It was quickly identified as an adult White-tailed Eagle and shortly afterwards, a second bird was spotted perched close by. Although they were some distance away, we all managed good views through the scope. Moments later, they lifted off and flew a short distance, before perching in a dead tree. Then, almost at once, a Peregrine Falcon started its aerial assault. This continued for several minutes, before the pair decided to relocate away from their noisy neighbour! Elsewhere, large flocks of dabbling ducks comprised mostly Mallards, Teals and Wigeons, but lesser numbers of Pochards and Pintails were spotted within their ranks. By now, the chilly wind was starting to make itself known in our fingertips, so we returned to the minibus.

Before our next stop, we paused at the local tourist information office for a quick warm-up and comfort break, then made our way to a small bay known locally as the Anse du Bois Foucaut. Here, the hoped for grey geese were nowhere to be seen, but a Greater Spotted Woodpecker and some Long-tailed Tits were new to the list. Moving on again, we arrived at Maison du Parc, the headquarters of the Parc Naturel Régional (PNR) de la Forêt d'Orient, where the group made a small circular walk while the picnic was prepared. But even before leaving the car park, a Middle Spotted Woodpecker posed beautifully in a large oak tree, allowing everyone to see the field marks which separate it from its similar Great Spotted cousin. As the walk continued, more woodland birds made their presence known: first was another woodpecker, the diminutive Lesser Spotted. Elsewhere, a Short-toed Treecreeper teased us with its persistent calls, but a confiding Nuthatch made for easier viewing.

After lunch, we headed to a local cafe in Lusigny-sur-Barse, where the group enjoyed a well-earned coffee. From here, we made our way to the second largest lake: Lac du Temple. We then undertook a one-mile walk along the dyke wall, to the Piney steps. Not long after setting out, a sizeable flock of some fifty Common Cranes bugled noisily overhead as they headed north-east towards Lac du Der; a short thirty-minute flight away for a crane! On the water, Great Crested Grebes and various duck species were joined by another couple of smart Goosanders.

As we progressed, a large aggregation of grey geese was spotted on a sandy peninsula. On closer examination, they proved to be an impressive flock of around fifty Bean Geese, of the tundra subspecies. In the same area, we spotted ten or so pristine white Bewick's Swans in among larger numbers of the commoner Mute Swan. With the

light starting to fade, we slowly made our way back towards base, where some of the group wished to enjoy the spa facilities ahead of dinner.

However, several of the group were keen for a final short walk, so they were dropped off at the lake, ten minutes away from the hotel. And their efforts were rewarded with large flocks of Great Crested Grebes preparing to roost on the open water, and a fine sunset which brought a productive day to a pleasing finish.

Day 3

Tuesday 10th February

Lac d'Orient – Lac du Temple – Troyes – Lac d'Amance

We started the day with a visit to the Anse des Oiseaux, on the northern shore of Lac d'Orient, in the hope of finding the elusive Willow Tit. Although we did not achieve our principal goal, we enjoyed a pleasant walk in the woods while discussing some of the many tree species that make up a typical forest in the region. The birds we encountered were mostly via their songs, and included both Song and Mistle Thrushes, Chaffinch, Wren and Middle Spotted Woodpecker.

Next, we drove to a viewpoint overlooking the north-west section of Lac du Temple. Here, we immediately connected with a small flock of stunning Goosanders, along with a large variety of other ducks. These included our first Gadwalls, which were joined by many Mallards, Wigeons and Teals. As previously, Great Crested Grebes were very numerous. Looking further out into the lake, we spied a distant Red-throated Diver, and decided it would be worth making our way round to a nearer viewpoint. Having done so, we left the car park and made our way up onto the dyke wall once more. It was most pleasing that our efforts were rewarded with much closer views of the diver, and further scanning of the lake added one, and possibly two more to the tally. But possibly the greatest surprise was finding a Red-necked Grebe, which was seen bobbing on the open water in the company of several of its Great Crested cousins. As we returned to the minibus, a large flock of Meadow Pipits rose into the air, most likely disturbed by the Sparrowhawk and Kestrel seen flying nearby.

With food on our minds, we made our way to the Anse des Terriers, where the picnic was laid out on benches in the forest. While lunch was being prepared, the group took the opportunity to explore the bay, and were rewarded with views of a few handsome male Goldeneyes. Replete, we made our way to Troyes for our planned city tour. We met up with Christine, our local guide, who gave us a fascinating tour of the charming old town, with its half-timbered houses and beautiful town squares. Situated on the River Seine, the city was the capital of the ancient Province of Champagne in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and great trading fairs took place here. The prosperity of the city has left a rich heritage, including ten churches with exceptional stained-glass windows and fine Renaissance statuary, some of which was admired during our visit.

Leaving Troyes, we ended the day with a visit to the third and smallest lake within the PNR, namely Lac d'Amance. Here, a footpath led to a tower hide overlooking the northern section of the lake, from which we were thrilled to find a hundred-strong flock of Bewick's Swans gracing the water in front of us, giving their soft trumpeting call. Other birds of note included a small group of Ruffs, seen in among the masses of Lapwings and Golden Plovers. And the final surprise of the day was finding a scoter bobbing out on the open water. Following much debate as to which species we were watching, it finally answered our question by taking to the air, and in doing so revealed itself as a Velvet Scoter, by the distinct white panels in its wings. Just as we were leaving the hide, several Reed

Buntings dropped into the adjacent reedbed to roost for the night. On our way back to the hotel, we were startled by a large flock of Lapwings, which whizzed across the road just in front of the minibus, flashing bright white in the headlights.

Day 4

Wednesday 11th February

Lac du Temple – Forêt du Temple – Champagne Drappier tour – Giffaumont Champaubert

This morning, we left the hotel a bit later than normal to allow for packing, but also to give time for some wet weather to pass through. Having left the village, we headed for Pogains Jetty: here, there had been a recent report of some Scaups. With the minibus parked, we made our way to the jetty, and as we did so a mixed flock of tits and other small passerines flew between the wooded flanks of the slipway. Blue, Great and Long-tailed Tits made up the greater part, but a Chiffchaff was also seen, along with an even smaller olive-coloured bird. With some patience, we were thrilled to enjoy amazing views of a male Firecrest, which brought some much-needed colour to a rather grey morning. Another tiny olive bird was seen in a willow tree, and we couldn't quite believe our luck, as we had found the other European 'crest', just ten metres from the first, this time the one with the gold top!

Positioning ourselves at the water's edge, we immediately spotted our first grounded Common Cranes of the tour; a young bird in the company of what was almost certainly one of its parents. Nearby a Great Egret posed on the shoreline, where a nearby Grey Heron gave useful scale comparison. On the open water, the usual Mallards and Great Crested Grebes were numerous, and with some patient searching we eventually found the reported pair of Scaup; and what's more, they were accompanied by a female Common Scoter. The latter was a highly unusual encounter away from its usually maritime environment, just like its Velvet cousin yesterday!

With time pressing on, we headed to the expansive Forêt du Temple, where we followed a circular trail through broad-leaved woodland. A Middle Spotted Woodpecker was heard calling but refused to show. Soon after, a Nuthatch was spotted in the canopy high above, and the distinctive "pix" call of a Hawfinch echoed overhead, but sadly the bird never showed. Some careful searching under fallen deadwood produced a Palmate Newt, and further along the path, an attractively marked Agile Frog broke cover. On the return track, two Red Squirrels darted across an adjacent woodland ride, but quickly disappeared into deep forest cover. Driving back to the main road, we connected with some Hawfinches, although we had frustratingly brief views.

For lunch, we returned to the sheltered picnic tables next to the Maison du Parc, amid the delightful setting of the forest, as on our first day. Afterwards, the minibus headed east, making a brief stop in a café ahead of our appointment in the Côte des Bar region. Arriving in Urville, we met with our knowledgeable guide for a visit of Champagne Drappier; a celebrated, family-run champagne producer. Our guide explained in fascinating detail the natural methods of cultivation and production which underpin their award-winning champagnes. The visit started in the atmospheric twelfth-century vaulted cellars, originally built by Cistercian monks. We then continued to the winery, where we saw the grape press, huge fermentation vats, and the wooden ageing barrels, as well as the disgorging and labelling lines. A fascinating visit was nicely rounded off with a tasting of several of the Drappier cuvées, before we headed north to our next hotel on the shore of Lac du Der.

Day 5

Thursday 12th February

Lac du Der – Jean Chevallier’s house – Matignicourt gravel pits – Etang des Landres

With heavy rain falling, but forecast to stop within the hour, we decided to stall for a while, and caught up with our species lists from the previous day. Once underway, we soon arrived at perhaps the best known birding site of Lac du Der, namely the Port de Chantecoq. As we walked to the hide, a Short-toed Treecreeper searched energetically at the base of a willow. As with the other lakes visited during the first days of the tour, any standing water was a magnet for dabbling ducks, particularly Teals, and some close birds were beautifully illuminated by the low winter sun. As had been the case elsewhere, large numbers of Great Crested Grebe were scattered across the lake. It was pleasing to see several small- to medium-sized flocks of Bewick’s Swans dotted across our vista. Towards the middle of the lake, it was clear that vast wheeling flocks of Lapwings and ducks were hugely agitated. As we scanned the Île de Chantecoq, a large island in the middle of the lake, we located a magnificent White-tailed Eagle on a spit of sand. Although distant, views through the scope were reasonable, and all of a sudden it took to the wing, allowing us to appreciate the huge size of this impressive bird of prey. Making progress across the lake, it was suddenly joined by a second eagle, and moments later, a pair of Carrion Crows began to mob them both. Seemingly undeterred by their attackers, they continued their flight, before eventually alighting in a tree. Other birds of note included two pristine adult Yellow-legged Gulls, and a distant flock of geese, which comprised mostly Greylags, but also contained smaller numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese.

Next, we made our way to the home of acclaimed wildlife artist, Jean Chevallier. En route, we made a brief stop in search of the pocket-sized Little Owl, but without success. Arriving at Jean’s house, we were warmly welcomed and entered his studio, where he was working on a magnificent painting of a Great Bittern. We then viewed the many tens of sketches he had taken in the field during the recent cold snap, when up to three individual Bitterns had been present at a local *étang* (small lake). He went on to explain in great detail his intimate observations of this usually extremely secretive bird. We viewed dozens of prints of some of his better-known artwork. After this, Jean kindly took us in search of some Bean Geese he had seen in a flooded field beyond his house earlier that morning; unfortunately, they appeared to have moved on.

Although it was dry for now, it was clear that rain was on its way, so we took the safe option and returned to the hotel for lunch. Replete, and having learned of an exciting bird sighting reported the same morning, we made our way to some flooded gravel pits to the north of Lac du Der. After a short search, we located the gravel pit featured in the report, and following a brief scan from the minibus, we spotted a flock of around a dozen Smews, which included four pristine males. We looked on in awe at this most handsome of ducks, as they actively dived in search of food. There was also a male Tufted Duck in their company, our first, which seemed to be taking advantage of any disturbed scraps floating to the surface. Thereafter, we made a brief visit to the ‘Ferme aux Grues’ where maize is put out for wintering birds. Sadly, it had not attracted any Cranes on this occasion, but it was interesting viewing the surrounding landscape from the impressive tower hide.

Back towards the main lake, we embarked on another short walk to a bird hide overlooking Etang des Landres. Here, various species of duck made up a mega-flock of several hundred birds. The usual protagonists were present, but it also included several species we’d barely seen so far; namely Shovelers and Tufted Ducks. We scanned the nearby reedbed for Bittern, as this was the very same location where Jean had made his recent observations and sketches. Alas, none was showing. However, our careful observation saw us find a Reed Warbler’s nest left over

from the previous breeding season! We were also pleased to see a Little Grebe, the first of the tour, which was fishing just metres in front of us.

We made a brief visit to the local LPO office (the French equivalent to RSPB), before returning to the same lake shore where we had started out in the morning. As we did so, two separate flocks of bugling Cranes flew overhead, each numbering around twenty individuals. This briefly raised hopes that a new influx might be on its way, but a look at the LPO's Crane migration website confirmed that storms to the south had completely halted their migration across France. Frustratingly, it noted that tens of thousands of birds were holed up, just a day's flight away. Back at the hotel, half of the group headed to their rooms, while three of us took a look over the southern part of the lake, just a minute's drive away. Here, two Kestrels hunted the embankment, and a pair of Goosanders fished the margins. As excited as we were to see these delightful sawbill ducks, the biting wind soon had us retreating to the hotel to join the others.

Day 6

Friday 13th February

Lac du Der – Etang des Landres – Etang de la Horre

We started the day at the very northern point of Lac du Der, at Sainte-Marie-du-Lac-Nuisement. The wind had dropped compared with the previous day, making it pleasant and calm, so we decided on a short walk around the port. On exiting the minibus, we heard the distinctive calls of a Hawfinch, and a quick scan produced our longed-for quarry. Several were in the company of a larger flock of Chaffinches, which were foraging for seeds at the base of a hedgerow. We then scanned the North Basin, a large area of impounded water, where we found various flocks of diving ducks and Cormorants. To our delight, it included a group of fourteen Goosanders, equally divided between males and females, and in their company a single female Smew, also known as a redhead, a term used for females and immature of all sawbill species. A little further out, among dozens of Great Crested Grebes, we found a single drake Goldeneye diving actively.

Next we checked a sheltered bay, where ducks were principally dabbling species like Teal and Mallard, indicating the shallower water conditions. In a large willow tree, a Mistle Thrush gave its melancholy but tuneful song. On the way back to the minibus, we again enjoyed close views of the Hawfinches, while a calling Short-toed Treecreeper was more elusive. We then retraced our steps down the western shore of the lake, making a couple of stops at strategic lookout points. At the first, a group of three Cranes was our best sighting of this impressive bird on the ground. Just to one side, a small pond surrounded by willow trees supported a couple of Little Grebes. At the next lookout, there was a pair of Goosanders in a deep lagoon.

We then returned to the very first bird hide we'd visited in Der at the start of the previous day. Again, we revelled in some really close views of Teals and Wigeons, while further out on the huge expanse of water there were once more some very large flocks of Lapwings wheeling in the air, which immediately made us wonder if there was a bird of prey hunting. And sure enough, we soon spotted the distinctive silhouette of the impressively large White-tailed Eagle. But it was doing anything but hunting: instead, it was perched calmly on the ground, most probably digesting its dinner!

We then decided on another visit to the excellent hide overlooking Etang des Landres. Here, as on the previous day, there was a nice selection of wildfowl on offer, including a group of six Goldeneyes, made up of two females

and four glowing males. Elsewhere on the lake, a good number of Pintails showed well, and we discussed the handsome chocolate-brown head pattern of the male, marked by a brilliant white pinstripe. From the reeds, a Cetti's Warbler gave its explosive song, but remained hidden.

Now with tummies rumbling, we returned to the hotel for our picnic lunch, as the sky looked somewhat grey and likely to produce rain. On leaving the hide, we were rather surprised to get more views of Hawfinches, this time two birds separated by some distance; it really was proving to be the bird of the day. Following lunch, we made our way twenty minutes south to the Etang de la Horre. Here, we embarked on possibly our longest walk of the week, and although the rain had started to fall, we were well protected by the woodland canopy, which trapped the raindrops and channelled them down the mossy trunks. At the edge of the lake, a number of old fishing platforms had been transformed into bird hides. We wondered whether these were for hunters, due to the camouflage nets draped over them, but as we were within a National Nature Reserve, we decided they were most certainly designed for birdwatching. We could see aggregations of (mostly dabbling) ducks, but as everywhere else, there were good numbers of Great Crested Grebes. We continued our walk, eventually reaching our destination, an earthen bank separating the southern and northern lakes. Here a Cetti's Warbler blasted out its distinctive song, and a Middle Spotted Woodpecker called excitedly from the canopy. On the water, a Coypu swam serenely past us, without as much as a look our way; this non-native aquatic mammal escaped into the wild many decades ago, and is now a common sight throughout France. It is often mistaken for a Beaver: however, the latter is generally a nocturnal creature, and much larger. A sudden, shrill, piping call alerted us to the presence of a Kingfisher, and a flash of metallic-blue zipped low over the water and disappeared out of sight, before flying back the same way moments later. Although the sighting was brief, it brought some much-needed colour to a grey afternoon.

Retracing our steps back through the woodland, we listened intently to a distant Nuthatch, which was eventually spotted high in the canopy. Back at the minibus, the rain was still falling, so we decided to return to the hotel. We warmed up and got packed, ready for our departure the following morning. We regrouped in the early evening for the checklist, and enjoyed a final excellent dinner together.

Day 7

Saturday 14th February

Giffaumont-Champaubert – Paris

We awoke to a blustery and rather chilly morning. Following breakfast, we packed the minibus and headed south-west back towards Troyes. With some time in hand, we made a brief stop at a little-known *étang*, where a handful of smart Tufted Ducks and a selection of herons were present. On some adjacent cultivated land, a large flock of around fifty Chaffinches fed quietly in the stubble. We made a final stop to collect some bits and pieces for lunch in a wonderful *boulangerie*, before completing the final leg back to Troyes train station.

Here Jason bade the group *au revoir*, following what had been an excellent week full of wonderful wildlife and good humour. Clients took the train to Paris, arriving at Gare de l'Est in plenty of time, before continuing on the Eurostar from Gare du Nord back to the UK.

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	February 2026					
			8	9	10	11	12	13
	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser serrirostris</i>		50				
	Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>					✓	
	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>		10	100		✓	✓
	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓	✓		✓	
	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>					✓	✓
	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		✓			✓	✓
	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		✓			✓	✓
	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>					✓	✓
	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>				2		
	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>			1			
	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>				1		
	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			4			✓
	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>					10	
	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		6	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>					✓	✓
	Feral Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia 'domestica'</i>			✓			
	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				✓	✓	✓
	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>						H
	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓			✓	✓
	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					✓	✓
	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>			1			
	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			1			
	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>			250		✓	✓
	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓	✓	1000	✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓		✓	80
	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>			10			
	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>			✓			
	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>						✓
	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			1			
	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			✓			
	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				1		
	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		2			2	1

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	February 2026					
			8	9	10	11	12	13
	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>						2
	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>		2	H	✓		✓
	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>		H				
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓		✓		✓
	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>				H		
	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		H			H	✓
	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1				
	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>						H
	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>				✓		
	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				✓		
	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>						H
	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			H	✓		
	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>				✓		
	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		H		✓		
	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	✓		✓	✓
	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		H	✓	✓		✓
	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		H	✓	✓		✓
	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		H	✓	✓		✓
	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>			✓			
	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>						✓
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓
	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			✓	✓		✓
	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		✓				✓
	Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		H	✓	✓		8
	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>						✓
	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓		✓	
	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			✓		✓	

Mammals

I=Introduced, S=signs		February 2026					
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>				✓		
Coypu - I	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>				✓		
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>				✓	✓	
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>				S		
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>						✓

Amphibians

		February 2026					
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13
Palmate Newt	<i>Lissotriton helveticus</i>				✓		
Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>				✓		