

The Best of Dorset's Wildlife

Naturetrek Tour Report

14 - 17 June 2016



Badger by Ed Drewitt



Common Spotted Orchids by Ed Drewitt



Smooth Snake by Ed Drewitt



Bearded Reedling by Liz Drewitt

Report by Ed Drewitt
Images by Liz and Ed Drewitt



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Tour participants: Ed Drewitt (leader) together with eight Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Tuesday 14th June

Durlston Country Park

After many of us had travelled through heavy rain on our journeys across southern England, it was a relief that south Dorset was bright and sunny, despite the breeze and some cloud. Half the group were collected from the station at 1.30pm and then we all met at 2pm for Ed to introduce the holiday. We then set off to Durlston Cliffs near Swanage to explore the special limestone grassland that is managed and cared for at Durlston Country Park. We had a little time before meeting Ali, the ranger, and we admired large clumps of bright yellow Bird's Foot Trefoil, a few Common Spotted Orchids, a Bee Orchid and the bright delicate pink flowers of Grass Vetchling. In the breeze, bright male Common Blue Butterflies were sheltering on flowers allowing for prolonged views.

At 3pm we met Ali at the learning centre and we spent the next few hours exploring the rich limestone grassland and downland where some of the highest densities of flower and grass species in the UK live. The first main field we came to looked out towards Old Harry Rocks, Bournemouth and the Isle of Wight. The grassland here was full of yellow Rough Hawkbit, some Meadow Goat's-beard, and Bird's Food Trefoil. When the meadow is cut in late summer some of the field is left standing to provide a refuge for butterflies and other insects. We could see the area that had been left uncut last year, now full of more dominant grasses. This cutting is done on rotation - these tall grasses will get cut this year ensuring the rich flower species continue to thrive and don't get overtaken by grasses and shrubs. Yellow Rattle was also a dominant flowering plant helping to keep the grasses at bay. It parasitizes them by wrapping its roots around theirs and sapping up their food. We also spotted the developing cocoons of 6-spot Burnet Moths and Ali revealed a teardrop shaped frog hopper from a froth of 'cuckoo-spit', bright green with black eyes like pin pricks. Common Swifts flew overhead - the cliffs here are home to some of the UK's remnant cliff-nesting population. A fresh, dark Speckled Wood Butterfly rested on some grasses and a Small Heath butterfly flew across the field. As we passed between meadows, Ali found a male Bloody-nose Beetle, a medium-size beetle with a large round abdomen. This was a male with feathery front legs to help it grip on to the female's slippery wing cases.

As we headed into the next meadow we started to see more Common Spotted Orchids and a Bee Orchid, but we were in for a further surprise. An adjacent meadow was full of hundreds of light-pink Common Spotted Orchids all packed in together. It was remarkable. A close look down amongst the small Glaucous Sedges revealed a few caterpillars and cocoons of the 6-spot Burnet Moth. Ali also pointed out the marmite-taint or meaty smell from the crushed leaves of the Stinking Iris, the delicate white flowers of Hedge Bedstraw and the small white umbrella flowers of Corky-fruited Water Dropwort.

The orchids were amazing but the *crème de la crème* was yet to be revealed. As we walked through a gate and looked to our left towards the sea, the field in front of us was crammed full of wild flowering plants including Oxeye Daisies, Sainfoin, Rough Hawkbit, Common Spotted Orchid, fresh Pyramidal Orchids, Yellow Rattle, Grass Vetchling and Bird's Foot Trefoil. Field Scabious and Greater Knapweed were on the verge of flowering. Meanwhile, the field edge was full of Bristly Ox-tongue, Blackthorn, Hawthorn and Yellow Vetchling. This once oilseed rape field has been turned into a wild flower delight. Ploughed deep and sown with local wild flower seeds, it has developed into a remarkable habitat. In the more mature brambles and Hawthorn trees nearby the odd Eurasian Blackcap, Common Whitethroat and Common Chiffchaff sang. Walking across the downland,

cows were helping to keep the sapling shrubs at bay. The vegetation here was a distinct mix of short grasses, herbaceous plants and shrubs. Amongst the grassland we spotted Salad Burnet, the round, lemon-coloured flowers of Hop Trefoil and the yellow flower spikes of Agrimony. As we headed through Holm Oak woodland to the sea wall we passed more Stinking Iris, Hart's Tongue and Male Fern. We stopped to peek at a vocal Long-tailed Tit flock which included fresh juveniles with their chocolate-coloured masked heads.

We left Ali at the castle building that is now the visitor centre and headed down to the cliffs to look for seabirds. Despite the sea breeze and choppy sea, small groups of Common Guillemots were paddling around below, many busy washing. Scanning amongst them, a few Razorbills were spotted – more compact, black and pointy tailed. Through the binoculars the white line running along their upper bill was visible. A European Shag rested on a rocky ledge close to the sea while a Great Black-backed Gull was sat higher up. An immature Great Cormorant was fanning its open wings above the high tide line, and it was joined by a European Shag doing the same thing almost side by side allowing for ideal comparison between their shape and size. While most of us were watching the auks, Hilary and Catherine spotted two Rock Pipits. The cliffs ledges and path edges were beginning to turn pink with the flowers of Thrift.

Heading back up to the car park we passed a batch of Green Alkanet, deep green with blue flowers. A small family of European Robins, Eurasian Blue Tit, Great Tit and Long-tailed Tits were busy feeding around the nearby steps and woodland. We headed back to the vehicle and drove back to our cosy hotel in Corfe Castle with an hour to spare before meeting for drinks and going through our checklist. We sat down for dinner at 7.17pm and enjoyed superb food from chicken or fish to crottin of goat's cheese; panna cotta to Tuscan orange cake. We retired around 8.30pm ready for our day at Arne tomorrow looking for reptiles and birds.

Day 2

Wednesday 15th June

RSPB Arne

After a delicious, varied buffet and cooked breakfast we headed to the RSPB's Arne Reserve, one of the most visited in the country. We met Luke who works for the RSPB and whose job it is to show people the reserve's special suite of wildlife. He is an expert on the reptiles and holds special licences to handle rare species found on the heath.

While Luke was setting up the visitor booth for the day we watched the birds around the car park. In just ten minutes we spotted a family of Long-tailed Tits, two Eurasian Nuthatches, a European Green Woodpecker, a few Great Tits and Eurasian Blue Tits, and heard Common Chaffinches, Coal Tits and Common Blackbirds! Eurasian Siskins were common and flying over in small groups. Before we set off on a walk to look for reptiles, Luke and a few of his colleagues showed us some moths from their moth trap that had been set the previous night. We saw a whole variety including Horse Chestnut Moth, a speciality in Dorset. Others included the migratory Diamond-back Moth, a migrant that has recently arrived in big numbers from France, Spectacled Moth (looks like it is wearing glasses), Buff Ermine, Treble Lines, Clouded Border, Marbled White Spot, Light Emerald and Foxglove Pug, plus many more. What a treat!

We headed on to the reserve to an exclusive section that just the wardens and staff use. Here there are many small sections of corrugated iron laid out across the heath allowing for monitoring reptiles. Snakes in particular hide under them to warm up for the day. As we walked along a sandy path David spotted some movement – it

was a female Sand Lizard burrowing and making a tunnel to lay her eggs. Luke had only ever seen this once before. We were privileged! She was so intent on what she was doing she just ignored us. Once she realised that we were there she popped her head out and shuffled into the heather.

The weather was ideal for looking for reptiles – overcast, a little breezy but with the sun's heat still penetrating. The birdlife was a little sparse but some of us caught sight of a European Stonechat while Common Swifts foraged overhead. A European Green Woodpecker called nearby while Common Chiffchaffs and Common Chaffinches sang all around. A Meadow Pipit was also singing nearby and revealed itself in an impressive flight display in front of us. The 'churrs' of Dartford Warblers were nearby and Luke spotted a fledgling in the gorse in front of us. As we watched, more young appeared and an adult came to feed the chicks. At one point two male Dartford Warblers were perched together, perhaps an indication the family was close to another family's territory.

Luke left us to watch the birds while he went looking under the corrugated iron. Whilst looking he spotted a fresh Silver-studded Blue butterfly which some of the group managed to see before it flew away. We were in luck – Luke found a Slow Worm under one section of metal. This adult male had previously lost its tail and regrown a smaller version. It looked a little out of proportion and we were able to admire its shiny grey-brown skin and beautiful profile. Luke put him back and next he found a first-year male Common Lizard. He carefully brought it over to show us, revealing its cryptic skin and slightly orange-yellow belly. Once released, Luke continued to look and then found the UK's rarest reptile, the Smooth Snake! Again, he carefully brought the male snake over to show us. This was a mature male and one that Luke had seen before under other nearby patches of iron. He knew this by the distinctive pattern of markings on the top/back of the head of the snake. The last time he had seen this animal was two weeks ago when it was just about to shed its skin, indicated by a cloudy eye. Now the snake was looking fresh and shiny – it had no doubt moulted in the meantime. Smooth Snakes are predators of other snakes and lizards, even their own young, constricting them before eating them. Luke put this snake back under the same sheet of metal where he had found it.

Fantastic – three reptiles in the space of 40 minutes. We headed on away from the heath, through some woodland and on to a farmyard that backs onto grassland and a hedgerow. On the way we passed a small group of Sika Deer resting in the grassy field – a mix of males with velvet antlers and smaller, younger females. Two European Green Woodpeckers called and one flew across through the woodland and then over the field. A Mistle Thrush perched on wires before feeding in the field. Along the track to the farm we spotted all sorts of wonderful wild flowers from Grass Vetchling to Rough Hawkbit; Eyebright to Lesser Stitchwort. A few day-flying Cinnabar Moths were resting in the grasses.

At the farm we walked across the farmyard passing a Barn Owl box in a barn where there were chicks, House Sparrows chirping from the bushes and a hatched Barn Swallow egg on the ground. On the edge of a hedge and brambles were more corrugated iron sheets. As we arrived, people at the front of the group glimpsed a large female Adder basking on the top of the iron. She slithered off out of sight. With the group together we all looked hopefully at the next few sheets of iron. The first produced a few adult Slow Worms and nearby an ant's nest with lots of larvae, ideal food for these legless lizards. The next sheet produced our final British reptile, a young Grass Snake with its distinctive yellow neck collar. It was resting alongside a few Slow Worms, large and small. Luke was very pleased – he doesn't always find all six reptiles in one day. Nearby Barn Swallows were flying around hawking insects while a European Greenfinch displayed overhead like a bat.

We headed back along the road to the visitor centre and stopped for a packed lunch. We then took a short walk back onto the heath, though the heat and wind meant little was around. However, we did catch up with the song of a Willow Warbler and spotted a few dragonflies over a pond: an Emperor and half a dozen Four-spotted Darters.

We arrived back at the hotel around 1.45pm giving group members the chance to have a rest, walk up to Corfe Castle, take the steam train to Swanage or explore the village. We met again for the checklist at 6.15pm and dinner at 6.30pm.

After dinner we drove back to Arne to meet Luke and others for a Nightjar walk. We arrived at just before 8pm with a chance to catch some of the daytime birds first before switching over to the dusk and night-time wildlife. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was in the trees by the car park, a Song Thrush was singing its heart out, and a Wood Mouse was feeding below the feeders.

For the first hour we headed back up to the barn we had visited earlier, stopping to see a baby Winter Wren that had just fledged and was being eyed up by a cat a foot away. Luke put the baby back into the bushes. At the barn, Barn Swallows were swooping low while a Barn Owl tended her five chicks out of view in a nest box in the barn. Luke picked up a large Barn Owl pellet which revealed not just one but at least five animals including a small bird, probably a robin, a Common Shrew, a Pygmy Shrew, a mouse and a Cockchafer. Quite a collection in a single pellet! The owls here have a more varied diet than owls in other habitats as the heathland is not full of voles or mice.

We headed on to check the corrugated iron sheets that we had seen earlier in case an Adder had returned. None had but we did admire a Slow Worm that Luke handled, and a large male Wood Mouse that was under one sheet.

We then headed through a grassy meadow that is usually left for the birds in winter before being cut. This year it has been allowed to grow up and amongst the grasses there were all sorts of herbaceous plants with White and Red Campion being the most obvious. We walked back along the edge of the heath down towards the car park. In the distance the low clouds shrouded the tops of the hills towards Corfe Castle giving a Scottish feel to the landscape. As we walked through some woodland Common Blackbird and European Robin were both alarm calling; both scolding something and keeping hidden. Some of the group held back and were rewarded by seeing an adult Tawny Owl glide through the trees towards its chicks which could be heard squeaking.

We re-gathered in the car park and set off into an exclusive area of the heathland for the nightjars. We didn't have to go far before we heard our first European Nightjar. At 9.30pm on the dot one began 'churring'. With up to 30 calling males at Arne there is plenty of competition and the males begin 'churring' earlier than nightjars at other locations where the density of males is much lower. Over the next half an hour we heard at least half a dozen different males, some quite close and loud. Three were calling together at one point. In relatively good light we saw several different males in flight. One landed in a pine tree and could just be made out in silhouette. Flashes of white on the wings identified the male. At one point a female, lacking the white patches, flew along and was quickly chased by a male. When flying, the birds let out a 'ke-wick' call – a good cue to look around and glimpse a Kestrel-like bird floating across the heath with slow wingbeats. We continued up the heath to a view looking west towards Wareham and out across Arne, very happy that we had experienced so many European

Nightjars. We headed back down through the woodland to the car park where another nightjar was calling nearby before driving back to our hotel, arriving back at 10.30pm.

Day 3

Thursday 16th June

Lodmoor RSPB Reserve, Radipole Lake RSPB Reserve, Portland Bill and Badger watching near Dorchester

While the rest of the country appeared to be washed away with heavy rain, we continued to enjoy relatively good weather – cool, overcast but dry. This morning we drove 45 minutes to the RSPB's Lodmoor reserve, an area of reedbed and wetlands on the outskirts of Weymouth, nestled between the sea front and suburbia.

Stopping at Lodmoor, we watched Common Terns busy at their nests on two islands. It was hard to tell how many there were until they all lifted up and 100 swirled around with a lot of noise. A few terns flew in from the sea with a fish in their bills, ready for chicks or their mate. 30 moulting Gadwall were resting on another island with a few Mallards and half a dozen Eurasian Teal. Up to six Little Egrets were feeding on the edge of the pools and a few Grey Herons were perched up or flying across the reedbeds. Cetti's Warblers sang around us while a Eurasian Reed Warbler busily flew to and fro, often settling on the reeds eight metres in front of us. Eurasian Coot, Tufted Ducks and a few Black-headed Gulls were also around the wetlands. Liz found a summer-plumage Dunlin feeding on the edge of one of the tern islands. Nearby bushes were busy with Winter Wrens, European Robins and occasional European Greenfinch. Before we left, a female Western Marsh Harrier, perhaps only a few years old, was perched on some reeds before flying low over the reserve.

Our next stop a few miles up the road was Radipole, an RSPB reedbed reserve in the middle of Weymouth. The low cloud and breeze saw tens of Common Swifts feeding low over the reeds joined by a few Common House Martins and Barn Swallows. A Great Cormorant was perched on the wooden bars over the main lake alongside European Herring Gulls, a Lesser Black-backed Gull and a Great Black-backed Gull. A Eurasian Oystercatcher hunkered down low on a nest on one of the islands - later it was out having a wash. As we entered the reserve up to 50 male Mallards were waiting to be fed - most were moulting into their summer eclipse plumage. A few Tufted Ducks, Eurasian Coots, Common Moorhens and Gadwall were nearby.

We didn't have to walk far to have splendid views of a singing Cetti's Warbler, and we heard at least ten throughout our walk. Close by a Bearded Reedling (Tit) flew overhead and continued on. To our delight two more Bearded Reedlings perched in the reeds only eight metres away; they were juveniles, a male and a female. The male had a yellow bill and was slightly larger.

We continued on enjoying the songs of Eurasian Reed Warbler, Common Reed Bunting, European Greenfinch and Common Chiffchaff. One of the Common Reed Buntings was perched on the top of a bush in the middle of the reed bed. As we headed on to the hide we admired a Bee Orchid and some fresh Southern Marsh Orchids. Janice spotted a striking Scarlet Tiger Moth, a special moth to see as they were once common but now scarce. Later, at the bridge, we also saw the very furry brown caterpillar of the tiger moth. We also saw the caterpillars of an ermine moth species, forming a tight web on a shrub, and a mass of other hairy caterpillars with black spots on their heads mimicking eyes.

After a packed lunch at Radipole and escaping a sudden heavy rain shower, we drove on towards the Isle of Portland, stopping for 15 minutes at Ferry Bridge on the fleet of Chesil Beach. Here a colony of Little Terns is kept under 24-hour vigil. From the visitor centre we could see a distant flock of six Little Terns heading towards their fenced-off colony. A little later two were washing and resting close to the water's edge nearer us. A small group of European Herring Gulls resting on the sand were hosting a single Sandwich Tern. On the water's edge two Eurasian Oystercatchers were feeding. Denis spotted a wading bird that flew onto the low tide mud and stones - it was a Grey Plover in non-breeding plumage and very cryptic. A Common Ringed Plover was feeding nearby.

We headed on to Portland Bill, an island poking out into the English Channel joined to the mainland by Chesil Beach; a long 18-mile tombola. Leaving the rain behind for now we enjoyed watching seabirds in the sunshine and gentle breeze. Common Guillemots were common, mainly sitting on the sea, but we could just see a few crammed onto limestone cliffs. Most of the colony is just out of view on Ministry of Defence land. A closer inspection revealed at least three Razorbills either on the sea or perching towards the top of the cliffs by some ledges and holes where they prefer to nest. Two Great Cormorants were perched towards the top of the cliffs and a European Shag or two flew out and across the sea. Out over the water over a dozen Northern Gannets flew passed in small groups; mainly adults but some immature birds too. These will be from the nearest colony in Brittany, France or as far afield as Pembrokeshire. Dave spotted a small flock of black Common Scoters in flight which was missed by most of the group first time round but there was a second chance while enjoying an ice cream half an hour later. A Northern Fulmar also glided past. On the water we spotted a Mediterranean Gull, five Black-legged Kittiwakes, a Great Black-backed Gull and European Herring Gulls. On land up to 40 Common Starlings were feeding and perching together. We left them covering the roof of the lighthouse cafe.

At 3.20pm as the dark clouds gave way to heavy downpours, we drove north past Weymouth, round the outskirts of Dorchester and stopped at 4.30pm at the Poacher's Inn, a lovely pub in Piddletrenthide. We went through the checklist and enjoyed various courses before heading on to our badger watching location five minutes up the road. On arrival, Common House Martins were flitting around and a scarce summer migrant, a Spotted Flycatcher, perched up on telephone wires outside a nearby house.

By now it was glorious sunshine and at 6.50pm we were settling in to our hide looking out towards a strip of grassland and a small copse where the Badgers have their sett. While we waited young Rabbits came out to feed and up to three appeared, enjoying the clover and grasses. A male Common Pheasant perched on a log and 'strutted his stuff' despite having a set of broken tail feathers. Outside the hide and down the field a Yellowhammer was perched on top of a telegraph pole and a pair of Red-legged Partridges stood on a tyre, the male calling. Some thunder and rain arrived at 7.55pm, just before Liz spotted a Peregrine Falcon drifting overhead. The heavy rain continued for 20 minutes or more but finally eased off and brightened up. A Stock Dove called for a long while, a Song Thrush sang as it got dark and Common Blackbirds joined in the dusk chorus.

Finally, as the light was fading, a Badger appeared near one of the sett entrances at 9.33pm. It disappeared into the undergrowth and a second appeared shortly after. Some of the stinging nettles twitched and two black and white faces appeared out of the vegetation and hovered by the grassy field. Slowly but surely they edged their way out. One particular Badger with a pink scarred nose came out the most while the other stayed under cover. It soon became clear there was a third Badger also hiding away. Three Badgers gradually came out more into the

open giving us prolonged views of their stripy heads and wet fur as they snuffled up peanuts sprinkled down earlier by the owners. And then one by one they disappeared back into the vegetation at just after 10pm. One pottered back out again for a few more peanuts but then darted off - our cue to leave and head back to the hotel. We arrived back at 11.20pm.

Day 4

Friday 17th June

Charmouth

After breakfast and checking out of our accommodation, we headed for the fossil-rich beaches of Charmouth, an hour's drive away. Ed introduced the cliffs and geology of the area. The cliffs were formed 200 million years ago when the UK was down near the Equator and shallow, tropical seas surrounded islands. Here lived the west's very own dinosaur (the Thecodontosaurus) alongside ammonites, belemnites, seadragons (Ichthyosaurs and Plesiosaurs) and much more. The beach seemed a little devoid of fossils to begin with, but with a little searching we started to find some belemnites; the internal structures called rostrums gave these squid-like creatures some rigidity. The fossils came in many different sizes. Most were parts of belemnites – some the pointed, bullet-like end, some the shaft and others the flattened end. While ammonites were in short supply today, a few examples of pitted species that have been turned into Fool's Gold or iron pyrites were discovered.

We ate lunch by the beach looking out across the calm, flat sea. Three Sandwich Terns were fishing by the shoreline close to a loafing flock of European Herring Gulls and a Great Black-backed Gull. Eppie spotted a single Northern Gannet. The nearby pools revealed Grey Heron, Mute Swan, Mallards with their growing ducklings, and the songs of Eurasian Reed Warbler and Common Reed Bunting. By our lunch spot a migrant Painted Lady butterfly, fresh in from crossing the English Channel, was looking for its own food and searching for flowers.

At 2.45pm we drove back to Corfe Castle, admiring the countryside and evidence of ancient hill forts or burial mounds, arriving back just after 3pm. Denis took a final group photograph and then we said our farewells before Ed took Dave, David and Eppie back to the station and another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June			
			14	15	16	17
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			✓	1
2	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		10	15	
3	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		15		
4	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		6+	✓	
5	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>			✓	
6	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			8	
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓	✓
8	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			✓	
9	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>			✓	
10	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			1	
11	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>			2	
12	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		2	1	
13	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			1	
14	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	1		12+	1
15	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1		2	2
16	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	2+		2	
17	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		2	6+	
18	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea alba</i>			2	1
19	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			1	
20	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	2	2	1
21	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	1	2	1
22	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			1	
23	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			✓	
24	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		✓	4	
25	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			1	
26	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			1	
27	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			1	
28	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>			6+	
29	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓
30	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>			1	
31	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	2		✓	✓
32	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	2		2	1
33	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			1	
34	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>			8+	
35	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	6+		1	3
36	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			100+	
37	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	50+		✓	
38	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	6+		3+	
39	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓		✓	✓
40	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>			H	
42	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			3	1
43	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>		6		
44	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	6+	✓	✓	✓
45	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	2	3		
46	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June			
			14	15	16	17
47	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	H		H	
48	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓
49	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓
50	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		1		
51	Eurasian Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	2		2	
52	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			✓	
53	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	H	✓	✓	H
54	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	H	2	✓	1
55	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	3	2	✓	1
56	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>		2		
57	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	H	H	
59	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			✓	
60	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			✓	H
61	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	H	H	H	H
62	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>				H
63	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	1		H	H
64	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>		5+		
65	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	H	H	4+	H
66	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		H		
67	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		H	H	H
68	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			1	
69	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>			3	
70	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Flock	Flock	Flock	Flock
71	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1	2	2	
72	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	1	2		
73	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>		H		
74	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		2		
75	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1		1	
76	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	50+	✓	✓	✓
78	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	
79	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	2+	✓	✓	✓
80	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			2	
81	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		2	40+	✓
82	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓
83	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	1	✓		
84	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	1	✓	2+	1
85	Europeam Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	3
86	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		3	H	
87	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	H	✓		
88	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			1	
89	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			2+	H

Mammals

1	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			1	
2	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>			3	
3	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		✓	✓	
4	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			2	
5	Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>		12		
6	Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>		✓		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June			
			14	15	16	17
7	Eurasian Water Shrew	<i>Neomys fodiens</i>			Dead	
8	Common Shrew	<i>Sorex araneus</i>		Skull		
9	Pygmy Shrew	<i>Sorex minutus</i>		Skull		
10	Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>		2		

Reptiles

1	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>		1		
2	Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>		1		
3	Smooth Snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>		1		
4	Common (Viviparous) Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>		1		
5	Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>		1		
6	Slow Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>		6		

Dragonflies and Damselflies

1	Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>		1		
2	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>		5		
3	Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>		1		

Butterflies and Moths

1	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		1		1
2	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>				1
3	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	6+			
4	Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	1			
5	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		1		
6	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>				1
7	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			1	
8	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		1		
9	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	2			
10	6-Spot Burnet Moth	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	✓			
11	Scarlet Tiger Moth	<i>Callimorpha dominula</i>			1	
12	Horse Chestnut Moth	<i>Cameraria ohridella</i>		✓		
13	Diamond-back Moth	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>		✓		
14	Spectacled Moth	<i>Abrostola urentis</i>		✓		
15	Buff Ermine Moth	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>		✓		
16	Treble Lines Moth	<i>Charanyca trigrammica</i>		✓		
17	Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>		✓		
18	Marbled White Spot	<i>Deltote pygarga</i>		✓		
19	Light Emerald	<i>Campaea margaritaria</i>		✓		
20	Foxglove Pug	<i>Eupithecia pulchellata</i>		✓		

Other invertebrates (l = larva)

1	7-Spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>		1 (l)		
2	Bloody-nosed Beetle	<i>Timarcha tenebricosa</i>	6			
3	Red-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	1			

Plants

1	Corky-fruited Water Dropwort	<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	✓			
2	Hemlock Water Dropwort	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>		✓	✓	✓
3	Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June			
			14	15	16	17
4	Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	✓			
5	Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	✓			
6	Common Flax	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	✓			
7	Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>		✓	✓	
9	Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Common Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	✓	✓		
11	Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	✓		2	
12	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	✓			
13	Southern Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>			✓	
14	Rough Hawkbit	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	✓	✓		
15	Meadow Goat's-beard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	✓			
16	Salad Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	✓			
17	Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	✓			
18	Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	✓			
19	Yellow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	
20	Horseshoe Vetch	<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>				✓
21	Bird's Foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Hop Trefoil	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	✓			
23	Rock Rose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	✓			
24	Hedge Bedstraw	<i>Gallium mallugo</i>	✓			
25	Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i>		✓		
26	Wild Onion	<i>Allium sp.</i>		✓		
27	Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>		✓		
28	Bristly Ox-tongue	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	✓	✓	✓	
29	Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	✓			
30	Greater Knapweed	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	✓			
31	Green Alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	✓			
32	Stinking Iris	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	✓		✓	
33	Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>			✓	✓
34	Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>			✓	✓
35	Oxeye Daisies	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	✓		✓	✓
36	Sainfoin	<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	✓			
37	Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	✓	✓		
38	Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	✓			
39	Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	✓			
40	Black Medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>		✓		
41	Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	✓	✓		
42	Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	✓	✓	✓	
43	Bittersweet	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	✓	✓		
44	Grass Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	✓	✓		
45	Ling	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>		✓		
46	Bell Heather	<i>Erica cinerea</i>		✓		
47	Cross-leaved Heather	<i>Erica tetralix</i>		✓		
48	Bog Myrtle	<i>Myrica gale</i>		✓		
49	Cotton Grass	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>		✓	✓	
50	Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>		✓	✓	✓
51	Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>		✓		
52	Scot's Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>		✓		
53	Maritime Pine	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>		✓		
54	Cut-leaved Cranesbill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>		✓		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June			
			14	15	16	17
55	Meadow Cranesbill	<i>Geranium pratense</i>			✓	
56	Hedge Cranesbill	<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>			✓	
57	Common Comfrey	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>			✓	
58	White Comfrey	<i>Symphytum orientale</i>			✓	
59	Russian Comfrey	<i>Symphytum x uplandicum</i>			✓	

Fossils

Pyritised Ammonites

Belemnites



Slow Worm by Ed Drewitt



Three Badgers by Ed Drewitt