# The Isle of Wight in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

31st May - 3rd June 2021

Report by Jim Andrews



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Tour Participants: Jim Andrews (Leader) with five Naturetrek clients

#### Day 1

# **Monday 31st May**

After meeting at the ferry terminal, we boarded the ferry and headed off to the Isle of Wight. The crossing was quiet with a lot of boats out on the water. As we approached Cowes, two Large Raptors (which turned out to be White-tailed Eagles!), were soaring over the town and slowly drifted off inland.

Once on dry land we headed off to lunch and then onto Newtown Marshes, walking through the meadows where many of the flowers were just starting to come out such as Dyer's Greenweed, Knapweeds and Meadow Vetchling, while a few other plants like Grass Vetchling stood out with its hot pink flowers. In amongst the grasses, plenty of Small Heath butterflies flitted through as well as Mother Shipton moth. Walking out on to the marsh, we saw several Little Egrets fished in the creeks.

We wondered back into the meadows where we found quite a few Green-winged Orchids which were still just in flower, normally this plant would be completely over but due to the cold spring we were lucky to see it, while the Common Spotted-orchids were just coming out.

Moving on we checked through the gull colony breeding on the reserve and picked up on several Mediterranean Gulls. Heading back to the van, we drove a little way down the road to look for Adder's-tongue fern, and after a little searching we found plenty of the plant hidden in the grass. We then headed off to the home for the next few days.

## Day 2

# **Tuesday 1st June**

After a lovely breakfast we headed off for the day stopping at St Lawrence to have a look for Crested Cow-wheat which was just coming into flower. Also here were Common Gomwell and Crosswort both in flower. The group also picked up on a Glanville Fritillary amongst the flowers and two singing Firecrests as we returned to the van. We moved on to the next site at Strawberry field lane.

We headed out the carpark where we found Beautiful Demoiselle and Speckled wood. Walking out onto the down we soon found a pair of displaying Glanville fritillary as well as singing Yellowhammer and a small flock of Linnets. Heading up the slope we found a singing Whitethroat and slightly higher up slopes we found a singing and displaying Dartford Warbler. We also found plenty of blues with Common and Adonis on the wing and soon joined by several Small Blue and a Green Hairstreak.

As we headed slowly back down the hill we found Dingy Skipper and as we headed further, Small Copper and several Brown Argus. Walking back to the carpark a Broad-bodied Chaser was hawking round the tops of the trees while a Garden Warbler was singing unseen from deep cover. We headed for lunch and to discuss what we had seen that morning.

After lunch we headed to Compton Down where on arrival in the carpark we were greeted by a few more Glanville Fritillaries, Small Blue and a Large Skipper. Heading up the hill side there was plenty of Kidney and Horseshoe Vetch. Heading across the hillside we found several budding Bee Orchids and also several Ravens feeding as we dropped back down the hill. We then found several Green Hairstreaks and Adonis Blue. Crossing the road along the cliff top we found plenty of Hoary Stock in flower. Since the Chines were busy as it was half term, we headed back inland to Brook Down where once again we were greeted by plenty of Adonis Blue.

While we watched these stunning butterflies a Hobby came into view over the site. We had a wander over the hillside and found plenty of Glanville Fritillaries as well as a Hare shooting through the undergrowth.

Around the gorse clumps, several Grizzled Skippers flitted and a few Green-winged Orchids were dotted around. After a while we headed back to the van and back to the hotel and dinner. We had a quick look in the hotel garden and the nearby Park and Cliff walk where we found a Wall Lizard in the hotel garden on our return - a nice way to finish the day.

### Day 3

# Wednesday 2nd June

After breakfast we had a quick check around the garden where we found a male Wall Lizard bathing on top of the wall before we headed off to Bembridge Bay where we went for a walk along the front of Brading Marsh. Here we were welcomed by singing Reed Warblers and walking along the edge of the marsh, several Hobbies hawking over the marsh and a few Marsh Harriers drifting round as well.

Wandering along the track, a local informed us that two of the released White-tailed Eagles were present on the marsh. After a quick scan, we soon found the birds in a dead tree out in the middle. As we walked further down the track, we came across several Large Red Damselflies amongst the brambles. Stopping to look over the river, we scanned round to where the two eagles were sitting in the reedbed with plenty of waterfowl. Here we were lucky enough to have Little and Great White Egret cross the water plus a Bittern in flight down the river towards us - which was a nice surprise! We slowly walked back to the van with several Cetti's Warblers exploding into song along the route.

We popped into a local café for a spot of lunch before heading to Firestone Copse for a walk. We wandered through the mixed woodland looking for Red Squirrel – sadly, even though we found plenty of feeding signs we found no squirrels. The woods did produce a few interesting sightings including Common Cow-wheat, Butcher's Broom, Common Spotted-orchid and Wild Service Tree. After a couple hours searching, we headed on over to Parkhurst Forest to try the hide there. Covid restrictions meant the feeders were not being filled. But a small walk along the rides did produce Speckled Wood and several Brimstone as well as a Speckled Yellow Moth.

We headed off for dinner on our route home. On the way we quickly stopped at a roadside verge for Purple Broomrape before reaching the pub for dinner and then back to the hotel.

## Day 4

# Wednesday 3rd June

For our last day on the Island, we were booked in for a guided walk at Briddlesford Wood which is owned by the PTES. While on the walk it also gave us a chance to take part in a Dormouse box check where the group did manage to see a few Wood Mice (but sadly no Dormice!). The walk was particularly interesting since there are no deer on the island which makes this quite a unique site managed for the plants and Dormice. There was a lovely array of plants in the wood including Narrow-leaved Lungwort which we were lucky to find still in flower. Other good plants included Pignut, carpets of Common Cow-wheat, Wild Service Tree and Butcher's Broom as well as some great stands of Hazel coppice. The site also had the added attraction of a Steam train running through the middle. Other bits of note included a Barn Owl box (sadly no one home that day), but a few fresh pellets in the entrance to the box. Along one of the rides we found a White-legged Damselfly. After after a couple of hours walk, we headed for a quick lunch before catching our ferry back to the mainland. The crossing

back produced Common Tern and another Mediterranean Gull. After disembarking, we said our farewells and headed for home.

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# Checklist

#### Birds

			Date: 31/5-3/6/21			
	Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3
1	Red-legged Partridge	Alectoris rufa			X	
2	Common Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus		Н	Н	Н
3	Canada Goose	Branta canadensis	Х		Х	
4	Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	Х		Х	
5	Gadwall	Mareca strepera			Х	
6	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Х	Х	Х	Х
7	Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	Х		Х	
8	Tufted Duck	Aythya fuligula			Х	
9	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis			Х	
10	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus			Х	
11	Gannet	Morus bassanus		Х		
12	Bittern	Botaurus stellaris			Х	
13	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	X		X	Х
14	Great white Egret	Egretta alba			X	,,
15	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	X		X	
16	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	X		X	
17	White tailed Eagle	Haliaeetus albicilla	2		2	
18	Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus			5	
19	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	X	X	X	X
20	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	X	X	X	X
			^	2	3	^
21	Eurasian Hobby Water Rail	Falco subbuteo			H	
22		Rallus aquaticus				
23	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus			X	
24	Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra			X	
25	Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	X		X	X
26	Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula			.,	X
27	Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus			X	
28	Eurasian Curlew	Numenius arquata	Н			
29	Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	X	X	X	X
30	Common Gull	Larus canus			X	
31	Mediterranean Gull	Larus melanocephalus	X			
32	Great Black-backed Gull	Larus marinus	X		Х	X
33	European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	X	Х	Х	X
34	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus	X		X	X
35	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo				X
36	Sandwich Tern	Sterna sandvicensis	X			
37	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	Columba livia 'feral'	X	Х	Х	X
38	Stock Dove	Columba oenas	X	Х	Х	X
39	Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	X	X	X	X
40	Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	X	X	Х	X
41	Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus		X		
42	Common Swift	Apus apus	Х	Х	Х	Х
43	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major			Х	Н
44	European Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis		Х	Х	Н
45	Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius		Х	Х	Х
46	Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	X	Х	Х	Х
47	Western Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula	Х	X	X	Х

			Date: 31/5-3/6/21			
	Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3
48	Rook	Corvus frugilegus	Х	Х	Х	Х
49	Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	Х	Х	Х	Х
50	Northern Raven	Corvus corax		5		
51	Coal Tit	Periparus ater		Х	Х	Х
52	Great Tit	Parus major	Х	Х	Х	Х
53	Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	Х	Х	Х	Х
54	Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis		Х		
55	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Х	Х	Х	Х
56	Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum				Х
57	Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	Х		Х	Х
58	Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	Х	Х	Х	Х
59	Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus			Н	
60	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti			Х	
61	Eurasian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus			Х	
62	Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	Н	Н	Х	Х
63	Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin		Н		
64	Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis		Х	Х	Х
65	Dartford Warbler	Sylvia undata		Х		
66	Goldcrest	Regulus regulus			Х	
67	Firecrest	Regulus ignicapilla		2H	1H	
68	Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Х	Х	Х	Х
69	Eurasian Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris			Н	
70	Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Х	Х	X	Х
71	Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	Х	Х	Х	Х
72	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos			Х	Х
73	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus		Х		Х
74	European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Х	Х	Х	Х
75	European Stonechat	Saxicola rubicola		X		
76	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata			Н	
77	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	Х	X	X	X
78	Dunnock	Prunella modularis	X	Х	X	Х
79	Pied Wagtail	Motacilla alba yarrellii			X	
80	Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis		X		
81	Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	Х	Х	X	Х
82	European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	Х	X	X	Х
83	European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	Х	Х		Х
84	Common Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	Х	Х	X	Х
85	Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella		Н		
86	Common Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus			Х	

#### **Plants**

Scientific Name	Common Name		
PINOPSIDA			
(GYMNOSPERMS)	CONIFERS		
Cupressaceae	Juniper Family		
Juniperus communis	Juniper		
Pinaceae	Pine Family		
Larix decidua	European Larch		
Picea abies ssp. abies	Spruce		
Pinus sylvestris	Scots Pine		
Thuja pilcata	Western Red Ceddar		
Taxaceae	Yew Family		
Taxus baccata	Yew		
MAGNOLIOPSIDA (ANGIOSPERMS)	FLOWERING PLANTS		
Aceraceae	Maple Family		
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore		
Acer campestra	Field Maple		
Ulmus minor	Elm		
Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)	Carrot Family		
Aegipodium podagaria	Ground Elder		
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley		
Daucus carota	Wild Carrot		
Conopodium majus	Pignut		
Oenanthe crocata	Hemlock water Dropwort		
Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family		
llex aquifolia	Holly		
Araliaceae	Ivy Family		
Hedera helix agg	lvy		
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Daisy Family		
Bellis perennis	Daisy		
Centaurea nigra	Knapweed		
Cirsium acaule	Dwarf Thistle		
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle		
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle		
Leucanthimum vulgare	Ox-eye Daisy		
Senecio jacobae	Common Ragwort		
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth Sow-thistle		
Taraxacum agg	Dandelion		
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Scientific Name	Common Name
Betula pendula	Silver Birch
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Boraginaceae	Forget-me-not Family
Anchusa arvensis	Bugloss
Cynoglossum officinale	Hound's-tongue
Myosotis sylvatica	Wood Forget-me-not
Pulmonaria longifolia	Narrow-leaved Lungwort
Tumonana tenghena	- I am our carron green
Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage Family
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Matthiola incana	Hoary Stock
Sisymbrium officinale	Hedge Mustard
,	-
Campanulaceae	Bellflower family
Campanula glomerata	Clustered Bellflower
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle
Sambucus nigra	Elder
Viburnum lantana	Wayfaring Tree
	Guelder Rose
Viburnum opulus	Guelder Rose
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear
Lychnis flos-cuculi	Ragged Robin
Silene dioica	Red Campion
Silene latifolia (S.alba)	White Campion
Stellaria holostea	Greater Stitchwort
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed
Celastraceae	Spindle-tree Family
Euonymus europaeus	Spindle-tree
	Division 15 miles
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family
Calystegia sepium	Hedge Bindweed
Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed
Cornaceae	Dogwood Family
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood
Corylaceae	Hazel Family
Corylus avellana	Hazel
Cucurbitaceae	Cusumber Femily
	Cucumber Family
Bryonia dioica	White Bryony
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family
Dipsacus fullonum	Teasel
Knautia arvensis	Field Scabious
Ericaceae	Heath family

Heather		
Bell Heather		
Spurge Family		
Petty Spurge		
Pea Family		
Kidney Vetch		
Horseshoe Vetch		
Yellow Vetchling		
Grass Vetchling		
Bird's-foot Trefoil		
Spotted Medick		
Black Medick		
Lesser Yellow Trefoil		
Clustered Clover		
Red Clover		
White Clover		
Tufted Vetch		
Common Vetch		
Bush Vetch		
Oak & Beech Family		
Beech Colv		
Pedunculate Oak		
Bird Cherry		
Geranium Family		
Common Stork's-bill		
Long-stalked Crane's-bill		
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill		
Dove's-foot Crane's-bill		
Round leaved Cranes-bill		
Meadow Crane's-bill		
Herb Robert		
Dead-nettle Family		
Ground-ivy		
White Deadnettle		
Hedge Woundwort		
Wild Thyme		
Mallow Family		
Common Mallow		
Olive Family		
Olive Family Ash		

Scientific Name	Common Name
Onagraceae	Willowherb Family
Chamerion angustifolium	Rosebay Willowherb
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family
Melampyrum cristatum	Crested Cow-wheat
Melampyrum arvense	Field Cow-wheat
Orobanche elatior	Knapweed Broomrape
Orobanche minor	Common Broomrape
Orobanche purpurea	Yarrow Broomrape
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family
Papaver rhoeas	Common Poppy
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift family
Armeria maritima	Thrift
Armena mantima	Tillit
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain
3	
Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family
Polygala vulgaris	Common Milkwort
Polygonaceae	Knotweed Family
Rumex acetosa	Sorrel
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel
Primulaceae	Primrose Family
Primula veris	Cowslip
Timula vens	Oowsiip
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup
Ranunculus bulbosus	Bulbous Buttercup
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup
Transmission repens	Crooping Datteroup
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family
Reseda lutea	Wild Mignonette
	J J J
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family
Rhamnus catharticus	Buckthorn
	"
Rosaceae	Rose Family
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens or Herb Bennet
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil
Potentilla reptans	Creeping Cinquefoil
Prunus avium	Wild Cherry
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn
Rosa canina agg	Dog Rose

Scientific Name	Common Name
Rubus fruticosus agg	Bramble
Sanguisorba minor agg	Salad Burnet
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan
•	
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family
Cruciata laevipes	Crosswort
Galium aparine	Cleevers
Galium mollugo	Hedge Bedstraw
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove
Rhinanthus minor agg	Hay Rattle
Scrophularia nodosa	Common Figwort
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander Speedwell
Outonous	Ministration In Familia
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family
Solanum dulcamara	Woody Nightshade
Urticacae	Nettle Family
Parietaria judaica	Pelitory of the Wall
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family
Centranthus ruber	Red Valerian
Valerianella locusta	Corn Salad
Violaceae	Violet Family
Viola riviniana	Common Dog Violet
Araceae	Arum Family
Arum maculatum	Lords and Ladies
Asparagaceae	Bluebell Family
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell
Trydominoladd fforf doripla	
Iridaceae	Iris Family
Iris psuedocorus	Yellow Flag
Liliaceae	Lily Family
Ruscus aculeatus	Butcher's-broom
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family
Orchis morio	Green winged Orchid
Dactylorhiza fuchsii	Common Spotted Orchid
Ophrys apifera	Bee Orchid
-p.ii.jo apiiora	Doo Gronia

#### Invertebrates

		Date:	Date:		
Common name	Scientific name	31 1 2			3
Butterflies:					
	Hesperiidae				
Dingy Skipper	Erynnis tages		X		
Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus malvae		Х		
Large Skipper	Ochlodes sylvanus		Х		
	Pieridae				
Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni			Х	
Large White	Pieris brassicae		Х		
	Lycaenidae				
Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi		Х		
Small Blue	Cupido minimus		Х		
Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas		Х		
Brown Argus	Aricia agestis		Х		
Adonis Blue	Polyommatus bellargus		Х		
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus	Х	Х		
Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus		Х	Х	Х
	Nymphalidae				
Glanville Fritillary	Melitaea cinxia		30+		
Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui		Х		
	Satyrinae				
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria		X	X	Х
Small Heath	Ceononympha pamphilus	Х	X		X
Moths:					
Mother Shipton	Callstege mi	X	X		X
Speckled Yellow	Pseudopanthera macularia		X	X	X
Silver Y	Autographa gamma		X		Х
Green Long-horn	Adela remurella		X		
Bloodvein	Timandra comae				Х
Other Invertebrates:					
Beautiful Demoselle	Calopteryx virgo		X		
Broad bodied chaser	Libellula depressa		X		
Common darter	Sympetrum striolatum		7.	X	
Azure Damselfly	Coenagrion puella			X	
Large Red Damselfly	Pyrrhosoma nymphula			X	
White legged Damselfly	Platycnemis pennipes			.,	Х