

Poland in Autumn

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 15 September 2019



White-tailed Eagle by Neil Pont



Little Stint by Neil Pont



European Beaver by Neil McMahon



European Nightjar by Neil McMahon

Report by Neil McMahon
Images courtesy of Neil Pont and Neil McMahon



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Introduction

This year's Poland in Autumn trip were blessed with good weather and plenty of wildlife to enthuse over. The first section of the tour centred around the ancient forest at Białowieża where quality mammals included European Bison and Pine Marten and we listened to roaring Red Deer stags. The birds were good too, with sightings of Three-toed Woodpecker, Nightjar, Northern Pygmy Owl and extraordinary numbers of Hawfinches. Raptors were a regular feature of the tour and in the Biebrza Marshes we enjoyed one memorable day where we saw 12 species, including four Spotted Eagles. Elk put in an appearance, European Beaver provided excellent close views at night, and Red Squirrel and Roe Deer were seen on several days. Common Cranes are an increasingly regular sight in this part of the world, and we saw plenty. The last few days were spent exploring different sections of the Vistula Spit, a renowned migration hotspot on the Baltic Sea coastline. Visible migration included wildfowl, raptors, waders, terns and plenty of passerines. A three-hour visit to the centre of Gdansk proved very popular.

Day 1

Saturday 7th September

Outward journey and Białowieża.

Members of the group met successfully at the departure gate in Heathrow's Terminal 5 and our smooth two-hour flight with BA had us ahead of schedule at Warsaw Airport. Here we were met by Olivier Myka, our local guide for the duration of the trip. After transferring to a waiting mini coach, we made steady progress north-east towards Białowieża and the Belarus border. We stopped for soup and a hot meal en route, and made good time, taking less than four hours to arrive at Pension Unikat which was to be our abode for the next three nights.

An afternoon stroll around the village before our evening meal provided views of Jays, Black Redstarts, Yellowhammers, a brief view by Andy of a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and a fly-over harrier that looked to be a 'ringtail' Hen Harrier, and Chaffinches, Blue Tits and Great Tits – perhaps reminding us of home!

A short early evening excursion in perfect weather conditions to some nearby woodland immediately produced calling Pygmy Owls. One of these flew past us a few times and was perched on view for a short period, but only for sufficient time for two of our party to properly appreciate it. Bats of two different sizes flew around. Huge Wood Ants' nests were very active, and we heard calling Tawny Owl and rutting Red Deer. A late-evening walk was enjoyed by three of the group and included torchlight views of a Tawny Owl perched on a hay bale, a Praying Mantis and the roaring or bellowing of the Red Deer stags.

Day 2

Sunday 8th September

Białowieża

Several of the group awoke early to a sunny, bright morning and ventured forth. Small bird activity in the vicinity of our hotel was excellent – Tree Sparrows, flocks of Chaffinches, small parties of Linnets and Goldfinches, Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps, Song Thrushes and several Black Redstarts. A pair of Crested Tits visited, and flocks of Hawfinches flew to and fro. Four Woodlarks were on some sandy heathland almost opposite the hotel, and birds moving overhead included Yellow Wagtail, White Wagtail, Meadow Pipit and Tree Pipit. Singles of Grey Wagtail,

Grey Heron and Peregrine added variety. Great Spotted Woodpeckers were the first of many that day and a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was heard. Andy saw two Roe Deer.

We had breakfast at 7.30am and left at 8.30am for three excursions into the managed Forest of Białowieża. We quickly saw flocks of wandering Hawfinches, mostly in flight, but some perching too. Plenty of Chaffinches and Yellowhammers were joined by smaller numbers of Siskins, Nuthatches, Marsh Tit and a couple more Crested Tits. Three raptors over the trees proved to be Honey Buzzards and a little later we saw Common Buzzard for almost direct comparison. We could hear Goldcrest, Firecrest and Common Treecreeper, but despite our best efforts, couldn't locate any of the special woodpeckers inhabiting the area.

Unidentified dragonflies patrolled the rides and a very large, slow-moving fritillary butterfly could only have been a Silver-washed; however, it was acting and looking quite different to the specimens many of us were used to from central England. A few Common Frogs were hopping about and Jays were flying around in all directions. A Middle Spotted Woodpecker showed well for some before melting away.

We returned to the Pension Unikat for a splendid lunch of soup and filled pancakes, and an hour later took a short bus trip towards the Białowieża Strict Reserve, a showcase depicting primeval forest. Oli had obtained permits for access the day before and with our licensed guides, we split into two groups and took a three-hour meandering walk through the pristine forest habitat. Our informative guides pointed out some of the amazing tree specimens – 600-year-old oaks, a huge and completely intact Field Elm and the largest Lime tree imaginable! With dead timber everywhere and unmanaged trees left hung up, stricken and partly alive, this is how mature broad-leaved woodland should look. Add the fungi, mosses, lichens, understorey vegetation and woodland flowers, this area resonated natural beauty. Some of the group members enjoyed good views of Middle Spotted Woodpeckers and a rather poor view of Three-toed Woodpecker. Lesser Spotted and Black Woodpecker were heard. Marsh Tits, Nuthatches, yet more Hawfinches, two Red Squirrels, and even a couple of Pine Martens, some voles and a Grass Snake rounded off a magical afternoon and a Great Grey Shrike watched over us as we exited the forest and made our way to the bus.

Oli received news that a couple of Bison had been seen near to the village of Starzyna, so after a brief comfort stop at our hotel, we drove for about 40 minutes to the outskirts of Starzyna. Initially we couldn't see anything, but then we connected with a big bull Eurasian Bison – a magnificent animal browsing the meadow and then going on to munch on a willow bush. This big old bull was pretty much unbothered by our excited presence and munched away as we encroached from the track. This was an animal we had all wanted to see so there was much elation and relief in equal measures. For some reason, the local Bison population have scattered in all directions this year and were proving more difficult to track down, so we felt very lucky.

We then drove back to the hotel and managed to sit down for dinner at about 7.20pm. Oli produced a local rye-based spirit (50% proof) called Bimber and we took a 'down-in-one' salute to our Bison! The spirit is produced in the village of Starzyna so it was all quite apt!

A short night walk was good for star-gazing, hearing a distant Tawny Owl and the belly-roars of those fabulous Red Deer stags!

Day 3

Monday 9th September

Białowieża

Following a brief early morning dawdle from the hotel, we left by bus at 6.15am and drove a short distance to a board-walk through some top-quality forest nearby. Small birds, mostly heard rather than seen, included Eurasian Treecreeper, Goldcrest, Marsh and Crested Tits and lots of over-flying Hawfinches and Tree Pipits. A single Brambling flew over calling and was apparently the first recorded in Poland since the spring. We could hear woodpeckers tapping everywhere, but the majority were Great Spotted. Calling Black and White-backed Woodpeckers remained hidden, but we were fortunate to encounter a pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers showing closely and then a Middle Spotted Woodpecker too. Red Deer could be heard roaring nearby, but we were taken by surprise when a pack of Wolves howled barely one kilometre away from us! There was no chance of seeing them but hearing them relatively close was pretty special. At the end of the boardwalk we were met by our mini coach and whisked back to the hotel for our well-deserved breakfast which included some tasty pancakes.

After our refreshments it was time for another excursion by bus. A bridge-stop over a stream in a light-woodland setting was good enough for us to locate a Lesser Spotted Eagle as it spiralled and glided over the trees. Plentiful Jays filed past us, a Tree Pipit posed for a short time and a doe Roe Deer was seen nearby.

On next to another woodland setting where we followed a disused narrow-gauge railway line between the tree plantations. The wind was strong, but it was sunny and warm. Two Hazel Grouse were seen well by members at the front of the group and we all heard one as it whistled to us. One of the birds was then seen scuttling along the forest floor, but some of the group still didn't manage to get a view. A variety of flowering plants and accompanying insects proved a significant distraction and butterflies showed well, considering it was so late in the season, with a single Camberwell Beauty being spotted by Suzanne and Silver-washed Fritillary, Queen of Spain Fritillary and nine other species often seen in the UK. A couple of Crossbills and some Ravens flew over but not the hoped-for Nutcrackers. We peeled away from this interesting section of woodland and headed back for a very nice lunch.

The early afternoon saw us motoring to the north of the forest, heading towards a freshwater reservoir at Siemianówka. Some roadside meadows just before we arrived at our destination proved good grazing for a herd of fairly distant Bison – perhaps numbering 21 in total and including calves. Due to the distance and strong wind, we didn't stay long but these big beasts looked very settled.

Initial views at the reservoir were disappointingly distant but we saw a pair of White-tailed Eagles and large numbers of Great Egrets and Marsh Harriers. We ventured closer to the water and met up with some bird ringers operating mist nets in woodland along the shoreline. A Blue Tit was extracted and ringed as we watched and then we moved off to find a vantage point to watch over the mud and shallow water. By now we had also seen Sparrowhawk, a small flock of Common Cranes in flight, and a good number of Sand Martins. Scanning the evaporating lagoon provided views of maybe 100 Common Snipe, small numbers of other common waders, a glimpse of a Water Rail and a dark eagle that was either a Spotted or possibly a hybrid Spotted x Lesser Spotted. A large flock of White Wagtails also attracted smaller numbers of Yellow Wagtails and Oli picked out a single Citrine. Dabbling ducks were made up of Mallard, Shoveler, Teal, Gadwall and Wigeon.

With afternoon disappearing into evening, we walked back to our waiting mini coach and began the journey back to Pension Unikat. We swapped vehicles and drivers en route, ditching our Mercedes for a larger Volkswagen plus trailer and pulled into our hotel for our last night there at about 6.35pm (for an evening meal at 7.30pm). Later we dutifully caught up with our checklist and retired ahead of a busy Tuesday.

Day 4

Tuesday 10th September

Białowieża and Biebrza

After a fairly heavy shower in the early hours, an optional early morning bird walk from 6.15am immediately proved successful when Andy located a ground-roosting Nightjar perched on a paving slab in a garden adjacent to the hotel. This bird posed beautifully and was still present two hours later. A circular walk around the edge of the village including the grounds of the Park Headquarters produced lots of birds with perhaps the highlights being Pied and Spotted Flycatchers, Green, Middle Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Sparrowhawk, Nuthatch, Firecrest, Common Treecreeper, Serin and Tree Pipit.

After breakfast and packing we drove to an area of flooded forest where we had first visited on Sunday. Most of the birds were the same with the exception of a calling White-backed Woodpecker which stubbornly refused to show itself. Ruddy Darter dragonflies showed well.

We then said goodbye to the Białowieża and headed first west and then north-west towards the area containing the Biebrza Marshes and the Biebrzański Park. We enjoyed a lunch stop at Białystok and took a short diversion to visit a rather striking Orthodox church which had originally been constructed in the south of Poland and was moved to this region when the local community was required to relocate.

We then spent a couple of hours in breezy conditions at some old fishponds on the outskirts of Białystok. Raptors included Kestrel, Hobby, Sparrowhawk, Osprey, Common Buzzard, Marsh Harrier and White-tailed Eagle and new ducks included Pochard, Tufted Duck and Goldeneye. Two adult Whooper Swans graced one of the ponds and Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe and Coot were all new species for the trip list. A Bittern was seen in flight by some, Bearded Tits were heard and both Fieldfare and Reed Bunting were further trip additions. Further along Route 65 we arrived at our hotel in Goniądz at 5pm. Our evening meal in a grand dining hall adorned with clocks, wooden figures and similar seemed more akin to a medieval theme, but the food was very good. Great Grey Shrikes, Common Crane, Sparrowhawk, Kingfisher and Willow Tit were all seen in or from the hotel grounds.

Shortly after 7pm we went out on a night excursion not normally possible on this trip. Circumstances allowed an additional opportunity which provided headlighted Red Foxes and a Long-eared Owl at the roadside, and after a drive of 40 minutes or so, we transferred to a small flat-bottomed boat to try and track down nocturnal aquatic animals. We enjoyed instant success with very good torchlight views of several Eurasian Beavers and a glimpse by some of an Otter. The Beavers provided such good views that our rather tired party were suddenly elated and excited all over again. After a long day we finally arrived back at our hotel just after 10pm.

Day 5

Wednesday 11th September

Biebrza

We awoke to another fine start and our first excursion at 7am was an hour's potter around the hotel next to the river. Looking out to the managed meadows opposite it was possible to see hunting Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier, Common Buzzard and Great Grey Shrike. A clear movement of tits saw flocks of Blue and Coat Tits bouncing past us, but the Marsh and Willow Tits looked much more sedentary. A couple of Kingfishers were seen and a North American Mink scurried past in front of us. A couple of Roe Deer fed on the meadow opposite and a female Merlin gave us a lengthy view as she careered down the valley. Other birds included Raven, Common Whitethroat, Tree Sparrow, Chiffchaff, Tree Pipit, Cuckoo and Hawfinch, and Penduline Tits could be heard calling from the dense cover.

Following a buffet breakfast, we left the hotel just after 9.15am and visited a selection of scanning areas and short walks on the Biebrza Marshes within the Biebrzański National Park. The first stop amongst some fields along one of the main river valleys was amazing with continuous views of raptors which included Common Buzzard, Honey Buzzard, Spotted Eagle (up to four individuals), Kestrel, Hobby, Sparrowhawk, Hen Harrier and Marsh Harrier. Skylark, Whinchat, Common Crane and four more Roe Deer added more diversity. The next site took in a one-kilometre walk to an observation tower through nice mixed woodland and then scrub. A fine adult White-tailed Eagle was the centre of attraction from the tower and a tit flock in the woodland contained Blue, Great, Coal, Willow, Marsh and Crested Tits plus a couple of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers. A Pied Flycatcher, Common Redstart and a Hobby or two provided more variety and insects included Small Copper butterfly, Common Darter dragonfly and a Great Green Cricket. Frogs and a Sand Lizard ensured that several wildlife disciplines were catered for. We ate our packed lunch in a quiet forest car park and then travelled on along the Biebrza loop with multiple sightings of flocks of Common Cranes, a couple of Roe Deer and a couple of fields attracting Grey Herons, Great Egrets, Starlings, Lapwings, Common Buzzards and a Lesser Spotted Eagle! A male Goshawk flew through here too.

Along the Tsar Road we stopped in an effort to try and see that elusive White-backed Woodpecker. This species rarely gives itself up easily, but Oli's local knowledge paid off again and a White-backed Woodpecker flew around us several times. Full marks for persistence! A wonderful vista at another viewpoint provided an opportunity to count three Great Grey Shrikes, Marsh Harriers and a playful Red Fox amongst other things! Twelve species of raptor in one day is some going!

We arrived back at the Hotel Bartłowizna at 6pm and enjoyed a very welcome evening meal at 7pm before retiring.

Day 6

Thursday 12th September

Biebrza and Baltic coast.

For those keen enough, it was a 5.20am start in a determined effort to look for Elk! We drove back to the observation tower we had visited the previous day. However, the still, slightly cool conditions ensured that early morning mist hampered our early efforts. We heard both Red Deer and Elk rutting off in the distance, but couldn't see either. The usual Jays and tits flew over us in small parties plus migrant Chaffinches. A Woodlark

could be heard calling and larger fly-over birds included three Great Egrets, a flock of Common Cranes and some unidentified geese. Plentiful Tree Pipits helped attract a hunting Sparrowhawk.

Another guide, a bare-footed lady, appeared and explained that she could imitate the sound of female Elk. We dutifully padded behind her and tried to keep a straight face as she straddled some railings and made a variety of undignified grunting noises. A buck Roe Deer barked at us from the golden haze as the sun set about dispelling the morning mist but an Elk, sadly, did not materialize. A couple of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers along the road were some compensation. With time marching on we were due to return to the hotel but took one last peep from the tower. The mist had lifted somewhat and there was a female Elk!! After a short while, a male joined the party and then another female – excellent stuff! We dragged ourselves away and arrived back for breakfast and packing just after 8am and left the hotel for the last time just after 9am.

Our journey to the Baltic coast was lengthy and, with few major roads in this region, fairly slow. However, this gave us time to admire the plentiful countryside which subtly changed as we progressed east and then north with gentle undulations and pockets of forest and freshwater lakes. Poland quite rightly has a reputation for building and maintaining a variety of different styles of church, some wooden and other in stone or brick and many with a mixture of spires, domes and metallic lacquered ornate features. A quick scan was possible of a UNESCO lake with its hundreds of Mute Swans and other waterfowl, all taking advantage of the shallow water. Raptors included White-tailed Eagles, a distant '*Aquila*' eagle, a Red Kite and the regular Marsh Harriers and Common Buzzards. We also saw family parties of Common Cranes, a Caspian Gull, Yellowhammers and Tree Pipit, and heard relatively distant Penduline Tits calling from the reedbeds.

Back on the bus we travelled on and reached our hotel on the Baltic coast at Krynica Morska just after 5pm. After checking in some of us took a short wander around to investigate our new surroundings prior to an enjoyable hot evening meal. We then took to the streets of this tourist settlement with our torches in the hope of finding habituated Wild Boar that can often be seen foraging on the grass verges. However, none could be found, despite plenty of evidence of their feeding behaviour – perhaps no surprise as our visit coincided with the annual cull of these animals and the community celebrates with a festival of grilled/roasted skewered Wild Boar!!

Day 7

Friday 13th September

Baltic coast and Gdansk.

We experienced strong south-westerly winds during our time on the coast and exploring the key areas of the Vistula Spit. This is a broad strand of woodland and small settlements that segregates the sea from the mainland and an acknowledged bottle-neck for migrant birds moving south from the lands to the north. Nevertheless, we enjoyed experiencing the obvious visible migration (or 'vis-mig' as it is frequently called).

After our early morning walk, which provided a few more birds to the trip list, we travelled a short distance to a wooden observation tower to watch birds of prey passing over. The walk through the Scots Pine-dominated woodland was enhanced by excellent interpretation boards depicting the wildlife that might be on offer. A couple of hours at the tower gave us fabulous close views of up to five White-tailed Eagles, up to seven Hobbies singles of Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and Marsh Harrier. Smaller birds funnelling over included half-a-dozen Common Swifts, Siskins, Chaffinches, Tree Pipits, wagtails and a single Brambling. Phalanxes of Cormorants, often in 'V' formation rippled in the strong headwinds. The woodland around held woodpeckers, Eurasian

Treecreeper and at least five species of tit, and migrating insects included Red Admiral and Painted Lady butterflies. A sub-group broke off to check out the nearby beach, finding 'argentatus' Herring Gull (one colour-ringed), Great Black-backed Gulls and Common Scoters.

Then, with the entire Naturetrek group together again, we drove to the historic city of Gdansk where the majority thoroughly enjoyed a three-hour meander around the very special city centre. The minority group in the meantime completed a sea-watch and dawdle along the beach about a 40-minute drive further east. Here a spectacular flock of about 100 Little Gulls was perhaps the best sighting, but we also notched up Goosander, Grey Plover, Knot and singles of Arctic and Black Tern amongst the Common Terns.

The birdwatching group then returned to Gdansk to find an excited vibrant group of Naturetrekers enthusing over the delights of Gdansk. A number of keepsakes had been purchased including some polished amber as well as some scrumptious soft fruits which were generously shared around the group members. And despite a couple of rogue showers, everyone was dry and happy!

On the way back to our hotel we zigzagged along minor country roads encountering a Hen Harrier, Lapwings and Golden Plovers and a well-concealed Brown Hare. Common Buzzards and a few Marsh Harriers rode the swirling gusts. We then paid a brief visit to a very windy Pomeranian Beach with plenty of big waves and strong winds. Great Black-backed and Black-headed Gulls provided very close views and Cormorants and Common Terns battled the fierce headwind.

It was then time to head back to our comfortable hotel, and a little later a three-course meal and, of course, the famous Naturetrek log call of creatures encountered, both great and small. With a little beer and wine flowing, team members were happy to remain in the hotel analysing the day's events.

Day 8

Saturday 14th September

Baltic coast.

Despite little respite to the strong south-westerly breeze, it was clear there had been a fall of migrants on the Vistula Spit overnight. The reconnoitre around the hotel and reed-fringed channel produced many Northern Wheatears, a few Whinchats, Common Redstart, Willow Warbler and two Red-backed Shrikes. Flocks of Blue Tits, Tree Pipits and White Wagtails undulated south, and a couple of Penduline Tits mobbed one of the shrikes (showing well in the process). Footprints in the sand proved that not all the local boar had been culled!

After breakfast we left to visit a nearby ringing station, which was unusually quiet for birds, so we moved on to some productive birding in the woodland. One recently felled area provided sustained views of another Red-backed Shrike together with attendant birds in the shape of four Common Redstarts, a couple of Spotted Flycatchers, Robins, tits and others.

We left this area late morning and drove on to a wooded area where we walked about a kilometre to the very special Vistula River Mouth and a shallow, sheltered bay. For some of us this was perhaps the highlight of the trip with hundreds of water birds either feeding or loafing in the shallow water and permanent sandbar. Cormorants and Greylag Geese were in the hundreds and an excellent mix of waders included confiding Dunlin, Knot, Turnstone and a Little Stint, all showing at close range. Amber is a very collectable substance and we

shared the beach with a good number of people carefully sweeping the sand and beach debris for small pieces. The wader list grew with the addition of Curlew, Whimbrel, Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Oystercatcher and even two Avocets. Tufted Duck, Wigeon, Gadwall and Teal were all in good numbers with smaller numbers of Pintail, Shoveler and a single Garganey. A bobbing Grey Seal showed a few times, a juvenile Little Tern flew through, a Caspian Tern roosted alongside good numbers of Sandwich Tern and Black Terns fed excitedly alongside Common Terns as they took advantage of small fish being displaced by feeding Great Crested Grebes in the shallows. Gulls included hulking Great Black-backed, 'argentatus' Herring Gulls, a few Caspian Gulls and both Black-headed and Common Gull.

Quite a number of birds were bearing metal and darvic rings and there were waders with "flags" on their legs – probably all as a result of local bird ringing sessions. A few of our party were successful at locating pieces of amber along the tideline and all in all we enjoyed a very agreeable morning immersed in the natural surroundings. We reluctantly tore ourselves away from the wildlife-rich area and took a slow amble back through the woodland to our waiting bus, all of us successfully seeing at least one of several cracking little Firecrests on the way.

As a little extra, we drove past our hotel and up to a beach which is less than one kilometre from the Russian border. There was a fence and notices but little else to mark the boundary between the two countries. The rough seas here had attracted feeding Little Gulls and Common Terns and three Common Scoters landed in the waves.

We then retired back to our hotel at Krynica Morska where we again enjoyed the food and the surroundings and contemplated our 'Poland in Autumn' adventure.

Day 9

Sunday 15th September

Baltic coast and journey home.

Our last day was much about travelling, but we again took a morning walk from the hotel before breakfast. The wind was strong and made it feel cool; there was no real fall of migrants, but Starlings, White Wagtails and various ducks flew past in flocks. A Roe Deer trotted past us and, of course, the usual Black Redstarts curtsied and bobbed around the buildings.

After breakfast we posed for group photos and just before 10am left for our journey back to Warsaw. A few birds seen from the coach included Sparrowhawks, Common Cranes and a Red Kite. We stopped for a meal and took the opportunity to thank Oliwier and our driver for their efforts.

In Warsaw we said goodbye to Suzanne and Gordon who were staying on for a few days and also Oliwier. We arrived in good time at the airport and the journey back to Heathrow was trouble-free.

This short trip served to introduce the keen naturalists and travellers to a particularly interesting area of Poland. Often the birds and other wildlife were rather distant, and telescopes became a necessity to properly view many subjects. We remarked how clean the country is kept with minimal litter, a very good infrastructure and pleasant, helpful and naturally friendly people. Poland, like much of Eastern Europe is still rich in wildlife viewing opportunities and this tour provides for many of the highlights.

Species Lists

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

	Bird Species	Scientific name	September											
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
1	Hazel Grouse	<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>			2									
2	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>							2			100s		
3	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	1		2	1			✓	✓		✓		
4	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>				2								
5	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>										✓		
6	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>										1		
7	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>			✓	✓			✓		3	✓		✓
8	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>			✓	✓					3	✓		
9	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>			✓	✓			✓			✓		✓
10	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
11	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>								1	6	c12		
12	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			✓	✓			✓		1	✓		✓
13	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓			✓					
14	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				3			✓			✓		
15	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>									7	3		
16	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>				6					2	✓		
17	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>									3	50+		
18	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				1								
19	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>									6			4
20	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>						1						
21	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
22	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>									2			1
23	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
24	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
25	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>			1			H						
26	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>									1			
27	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓			✓			✓		
28	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>			6	50+	100+	c70						2
29	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				✓						1		

	Bird Species	Scientific name	September									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
30	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>									3	
32	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>									1	
33	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>									✓	
34	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>									2	
35	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
36	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>					2			c100		
37	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>							H	1	25	
38	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			✓						6	
39	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			✓							
40	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>									1	
41	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			1						1	
42	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>									6	
43	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>									1	
44	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>								5	4	
45	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>			✓							
46	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>									c12	
47	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			✓					1	✓	
48	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>									1	
49	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			✓	✓	2			✓		1
50	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>									1	
51	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			1							
52	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			1						1	
53	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>								c100	5	
55	Common (Mew) Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>								✓	✓	
57	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>								✓	✓	✓
58	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>			✓	4+			✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>							✓	✓	✓	
60	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>									1	
61	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>								✓	✓	

	Bird Species	Scientific name	September									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
62	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>									1	
63	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>								✓	✓	
64	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>								1		
65	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>								1	14	
66	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			4		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>				1						
68	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
69	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1		c30	1	✓	✓				✓
70	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			1	1						
71	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		3/4			1					
72	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>			1		1					
73	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>			1		4					
74	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3
75	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>					1					
76	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			c6	1	c12	4	8	4	4	4
77	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1			1	4		1			
78	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>						1				1
79	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>			2	1	1	2	5	1	1	1
80	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	1+	H								
82	Eurasian Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	2									
83	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>					1					
84	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>					1					
85	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				1/2	2/3			H		
86	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>		1	2							
87	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>		2+	1	2	H					
88	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	1/2	H	H	1	2	2	H	H	1	1
89	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>			H	H	1					
91	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		H	H			1		1		
92	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	H		H	1	H					
93	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			1	1	✓	1	1			1

	Bird Species	Scientific name	September									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
94	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>					1♀					
95	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				3	2		7	1		
96	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1								
97	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>								3		
98	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		1		2	6					
99	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	1			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓			✓		✓				✓
103	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓			1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
104	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		H	6	4	✓	✓	✓			✓
105	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
106	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>		✓	✓	H	✓		✓			H
107	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	H
108	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>				H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H
109	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
111	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					H	2+	H	12	H	
112	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>				H		H	H	H		
113	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1	4	3	✓		H				
114	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>					✓					
115	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			✓							
116	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
118	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	H	H			H					
119	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>							H			
120	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
121	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						1				
122	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓		
123	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓					✓		H
124	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>					1					
125	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		H		✓	H			✓		H

	Bird Species	Scientific name	September								
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
126	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	H	✓	H	H	✓	H	H	✓	H
127	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	✓	✓	✓		H	✓	
128	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	H		H	
129	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		H	✓	✓	H	H	H		
130	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
131	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
132	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>				✓	✓	✓			
133	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		H
134	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		H			2	4			
135	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓	H	✓	H	✓	H
136	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
137	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					1			4	
138	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			4		6			4	
139	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>							2	12	1
140	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	1	H	1	✓				2	
141	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>				1	1				
142	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
143	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	1	✓	✓	✓			
144	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓	H	H	H	H	H		
145	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
146	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>			1						
147	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		1							1
148	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
149	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
150	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
151	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
152	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>			H				1		
153	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				
154	Northern Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>					1♀				
155	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
156	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
157	Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	H								

	Bird Species	Scientific name	September									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
158	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			2						3	
159	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓			
160	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	H	H		3						
161	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
162	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
163	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Mammals

1	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		1		2+	2+				1	
2	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	✓	H	H			H				
3	Elk	<i>Alces alces</i>						3				
4	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		2	1	✓	8	1	1			5
5	European Bison	<i>Bison bonasus</i>		1	21							
6	European Beaver	<i>Castor fiber</i>					6					
7	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		2		1	1					
8	Bank Vole	<i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i>		✓								
9	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>						1	1			1
10	Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>		2								
11	bat sp.		2									
12	Wolf	<i>Canis lupis</i>			H							
13	American Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>					1					
14	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>					1					
15	Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>									1	

Fish

1	chub sp.					✓	✓					
2	Bleak	<i>Alburnus alburnus</i>				✓						

Reptiles & Amphibians

1	frog sp.				✓	✓	✓					
2	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>		✓								

	Bird Species	Scientific name	September									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
3	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>			✓							
4	Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>		✓			✓					
5	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>		1	1							

Dragonflies

1	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>		✓	✓	✓						
2	Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓		
3	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>			✓		✓					
4	Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>				✓						

Butterflies

1	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓							
2	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓			
3	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓	✓							
4	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓		✓					
5	Pale or Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias</i> sp.				✓	✓					
6	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			✓		✓					
7	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			✓							
8	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>			✓							
9	Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
10	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
11	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>						1	1	✓		
12	Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>			✓		✓			✓		
13	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>			✓					✓		
14	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>		1	✓							
15	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>			✓							
16	skipper sp.				✓							

Other invertebrates

1	Large Green Cricket sp.						✓					
2	Praying Mantis sp.		1									

	Bird Species	Scientific name	September									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
3	Colorado Beetle	<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>									✓	
4	ichneumon sp.					✓						
5	Wasp Spider	<i>Argiope bruennichi</i>					✓					
6	jellyfish sp.										✓	

Notable Plants (Courtesy of client Julia Black)

Białowieża Forest

Tansy, *Tanacetum vulgare*

Mugwort, *Artemisia vulgaris*

Guelder Rose, *Viburnum opulus*

Bellflower, *Campanula spp*

White Champion, *Silene latifolia*

Hops, *Humulus lupulus*

White Clover, *Trifolium repens*

Heath Bedstraw, *Galium saxatile*

Lesser Stitchwort, *Stellaria pallida*

Dark Mullein, *Verbascum nigrum*

Harebell, *Campanula rotundifolia*

Common Melilot, *Meliloyus officinalis*

Marjoram, *Origanum vulgare*

Common Orache? *Atriplex patula*

Hare's-foot Clover, *Trifolium aevense*

Red Deadnettle, *Lamium purpureum*

Shepherd's Purse? *Capsella bursa-pastoris*

Enchanter's Nightshade, *Circaea lutetiana*

Maiden Pink, *Dianthus deltooides*

Barren Strawberry, *Potentilla sterilis*

Goldenrod - Canadian? *Solidago canadensis*

Hemp Agrimony, *Eupatorium cannabinum*

Wayfaring Tree, *Viburnum lantana*

Ground Elder, *Aegopodium podagraria*

Bloody Cranesbill, *Geranium sanguineum*

Wood Sorrel, *Oxalis acetosella*

Tufted Vetch, *Vicia cracca*

Violet, *Viola spp*

Spindle Tree, *Euonymus europaeus*

Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*

Cow-wheat, *Melampyrum spp*

Mouse-ear Hawkweed, *Hieracium spp*

Viper's Buglos, *Echium vulgare*

Evening Primrose, *Oenothera spp*

Forget-me-not, *Myosotis spp*

Great Willowherb (and spp), *Epilobium spp*

Soapwort, *Saponaria officinalis*

Knapweed, *Centaurea nigra*

Common Fleabane, *Pulicaria dysenterica*

Bullrush, *Typha latifolia*

Chicory, *Cichorium intybus*

Butterbur (leaves only), *Petasites hybridus*

Scabious,

Yellow Pimpernel? *Lysimachia nemorum*

Perforate St John's Wort, *Hypericum perforatum*

Red Clover, *Trifolium pratense*

Lady's Bedstraw, *Galium verum*

Selfheal, *Prunella vulgaris*

Herb-Robert, *Geranium robertianum*

Common Toadflax, *Linaria vulgaris*

Germander Speedwell, *Veronica chamaedrys*

Wormwood, *Artemisia absinthum*

Fat-hen, *Chenopodium album*

Common Sorrel, *Rumex acetosa*

Woundwort? *Stachys spp*

Milkwort, *Polygala spp*

Mistletoe, *Viscum album*

Dock, *Rumex spp*

Elder, *Sambucus nigra*

Tormentil, *Potentilla erecta*

Trees,

Elm, *Ulmus spp*

Hornbeam, *Carpinus betulus*

Pedunculate oak, *Quercus robur*

Silver birch, *Betula pendula*
 Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior*
 Hazel, *Corylus avellana*
 Poplar, *Populus spp*
 Goat Willow, *Salix caprea*

Norway Spruce, *Picea abies*
 Lime/linden, *Tilia spp*
 Scots Pine, *Pinus sylvestris*
 Willow, *Salix spp*

Alder, *Alnus glutinosa*
 Maple, *Acer campestre*
 Aspen, *Populus tremula*
 Rowan, *Sorbus aucuparia*

Biebrzanski National Park

Ragged Robin, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*
 Common Melilot, *Meliloyus officinalis*
 Chicory, *Cichorium intybus*
 Mustard,
 Pale Persicaria, *Persicaria lapahifolia*
 Water forget-me-not, *Myosotis spp*
 Lesser Trefoil, *Trifolium dubium*
 Lesser Stitchwort, *Stellaria pallida*
 Cornflower, *Centaurea cyanus*
 Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*
 Mexican Fleabane?, *Erigeron karvinskianus*
 Common Stitchwort, *Stellaria media*
 Tufted Vetch, *Vicia cracca*

Great Willowherb (and spp), *Epilobium spp*
 Wild Cucumber, *Cucumis anguria*
 Field Bindweed, *Convolvulus arvensis*
 Creeping Jenny, *Lysimachia nummularia*
 Common Toadflax, *Linaria vulgaris*
 Perforated St John's Wort, *Hypericum perforatum*
 Red Clover, *Trifolium pratense*
 Meadowsweet, *Filipendula ulmaria*
 Pineapple-weed, *Matricaria discoidea*
 Nodding Bur-marigold, *Bidens cernua*
 Berberis sp, *Berberis*
 Balsam sp, *Impatiens*
 Knotweed, *Fallopia spp*

White Campion, *Silene latifolia*
 Shepherd's Purse?, *Capsella bursa-pastoris*
 Cow-wheat, *Melampyrum spp*
 Bistort, *Persicaria bistorta*
 Common Mallow, *Malva sylvestris*
 Speedwell, *Veronica spp*
 Knotgrass, *Polygonum aviculare*
 Birdsfoot Trefoil, *Lotus spp*
 Yellow Water-lily, *Nuphar lutea*
 Common Milkwort, *Polygala vulgaris*
 Bugle, *Ajuga reptans*
 Snow-on-the mountain, *Euphorbia marginata*

Baltic Coast,

Sea Pea, *Lathyrus japonicus*
 Sheep's bit, *Jasione montana*
 Sea Rocket, *Cakile maritima*

Immortelle, *Helichrysum arenarium*
 Sea-holly, *Eryngium maritimum*
 Tormentil, *Potentilla erecta*

Wild Pansy, *Viola tricolor*
 Japanese Rose, *Rosa rugosa*
 Lily of the Valley (w/berries only), *Convallaria majaris*

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Biebrza Marshes by Neil Pont