

Poland in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

15 - 22 May 2010



River Warbler at Bialoweza by Tomek Jezierczuk



Crested Tit by Patrick Nash



Lesser Spotted Eagle by Patrick Nash



White-winged Tern by Peter Dunn

Report compiled by Peter Dunn



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leaders: Peter Dunn (Naturetrek)
Tomek Jezierczuk (Polish Bird Service)
Damien (Driver)

Participants: Ronnie Gunn
John Kedward
Barbara Kedward
Patrick Nash
Ute Nash
Malcolm Smith
Jane Smith
Ian Marks
Elaine Marks
John Thorogood
David Baker
Michael Durgin
John Bartley
Pat Bartley
Alan Dunn

Summary:

This trip was based on two centres in some of the most productive and naturally scenic areas of north-east Poland, in what is locally known as the 'green lungs' of Poland. The first three nights were spent in the Pension Unikat in the village of Bialoweiza, home of the primeval forest where we get access to the 'strict' reserve of unmanaged forest. Up to nine species of woodpecker can be found here together with some of the favourite eastern specialities such as River and Barred Warbler, Collared and Red-breasted Flycatcher and if we are lucky, Hazel Hen. Large mammals such as European Bison and Elk can be seen also. The second half of the trip concentrates on the marshland and flood plain of the Biebzka River with its abundance of marsh and water birds such as all three marsh terns, White-tailed Eagle, Black Stork and many hundreds or wader and is one of the strong holds of the much threatened Aquatic Warbler.

During the spring of this year Poland had some tremendous rain (we even experienced this on 17th) resulting in very high water levels - highest since 1995 according to Tomek. This meant that many of our usual haunts were flooded or the level was too high and this was reflected in the number of species we saw - primarily waders were missing - but the quality was good.

Day 1

Saturday 15th May

This year we were booked on a British Airways flying from Heathrow Terminal 5 into Warsaw. Peter managed to meet most of the members of the group at the departure gate and we were soon allowed to board our aircraft to settle back for the two hour flight in an orderly and timely manner. The time seemed to pass quickly and after collecting our luggage in Warsaw we were met by Tomek and both Patrick and Ute and were soon on the coach, heading out of the city.

Warsaw was still dogged by the road works making improvements for the 2012 football European Cup and immediately we noticed the *soemmerringii* race of Jackdaw, with its whiter nape band, together with Hooded Crow. Because the traffic was so bad we took a different route from previous years and arrived at a roadside restaurant where we were treated to our first pork cutlet, with chips of course, a common Polish meal nowadays. Suitably refreshed we continued west on some minor roads, where White Stork began to become common and found a lane down to some flooded meadows adjacent to the Bug River. This was a satisfying stop with a singing Marsh Warbler immediately outside the bus and all three marsh turns over the marsh. Four Garganeys loafed about in the flooded meadow and a Serin sang high in a fir tree. What a good start!

After a further 50k journey we had a comfort stop at a service station where Golden Orioles were singing in the back ground and Black Redstart and Tree Sparrow were common. Here also we saw our first Fieldfare, a common garden breeding bird in Poland. We finally arrived in Bialoweiza around 6.30pm in nice evening sunshine and we were allocated our rooms and then met for a welcoming drink and excellent if not over indulging dinner with pleasant conversation. Peter outlined the next day's itinerary before everyone retired to bed to boost the batteries for our early morning start.

Day 2

Sunday 16th May

The morning arrived quickly and we were greeted with some heavy rain after the star-filled evening before. As we made plans and woke driver Damien to take us as far as the Narewka Bridge, the rain stopped but we were already mobile. We left the bus near to the bridge and were greeted by the reeling sound of a close River Warbler which was easy to see in the low willow scrub and a nice Red-backed Shrike sat on the bridge. Cuckoos called all around us and both Marsh and Willow Tit (of the pale northern races) were added to the list. Tomek knew of a Grey-headed Woodpecker nest close to the bridge and although we saw the nest hole we did not see the bird as they were still incubating. However we were luckier with a pair of Hawfinch feeding young in a low nest and eventually we got good views of one of the many singing Thrush Nightingales.

We entered the forest reserve of Wysokie Bagno and walked through managed but superb forest of mixed spruce, oak and hornbeam. Chiffchaff were the most obvious species, their song sounding out from every part of the forest together with the more exotic Golden Oriole and the more familiar species such as Wren and Blackbird being in their natural woodland habitat. A Green Sandpiper flushed from the forest floor is another breeding species of the forest, but with only one Wood Warbler heard and a millions mosquitoes around every corner we made a hasty retreat back to the road where a Corncrake called briefly. Damien arrived with the bus and we were transported back to the 'pension' for breakfast.

Following our continental but filling breakfast we headed out again for an area of flooded forest near Budy village. We stopped the bus quickly as a Lesser Spotted Eagle was flying alongside and we added both Tree Pipit and Whinchat to the list. Walking to the 'dead forest' Tomek pointed out a woodpecker nest hole in a dead tree and soon after we watched both male and female White-backed Woodpeckers coming to feed small young. In the same area a pair of Collared Flycatchers were prospecting for nest holes and even visiting the woodpecker hole at one point and the eagle reappeared above us giving good views. We continued on the Budy Road and turned back to the main Hajnówka road where we made two stops in the forest looking for Three-toed Woodpecker. Neither was successful but a Hobby did entertain us at one point before we headed back to the hotel for lunch.

After a lunch of pirrogi we walked to the Palace Park arriving just ahead of a tremendous downpour and thunder storm. Heading straight for the observation tower in the conservation centre, we sat out the storm with excellent if not wet views over the lake and managed forest and watching Spotted Flycatchers sheltering. After an hour the rain had almost but stopped so we headed out into the park and soon the sun came out. A quick mimic call of Wryneck by Peter and the bird was above us calling strongly and gave great 'scope views. Peter kept hearing distant Common Rosefinches singing but we could not find them at first. More obvious were the huge lumbering Great Reed Warblers and both Song Thrush (of the grey race) and Garden Warbler. As we continued between the two lakes, John found a pair of Rosefinches feeding on elm seeds and we were able to watch this for some time, the male being strikingly crimson on the head and rump. Further round the lake we watched Icterine Warbler and a very obliging male Collared Flycatcher, before it was time to walk back to the hotel to get ready for dinner!! Eating again!!

Dinner was arranged early at 6pm as we were going to try for a Pygmy Owl back at Wysokie Bagno. Walking through the forest, roding Woodcock kept flying over and the evening chorus included River Warbler, Collared Flycatcher and Thrush Nightingale! As we approached the known site, Tomek imitated the call of Pygmy Owl and almost immediately it came to a large Silver Birch tree, right out in the open, close to us and we were treated with excellent views. The walk back was enthusiastic and part of the group stayed on the road bridge with Tomek and the rest went with Peter to the bridge near the post office, both looking for beaver. The first group had a distant view but the second were confused by a distant duck or 'a beaver carrying a log'!!!

Day 3

Monday 17th May

A lie-in this morning, as we met for coffee just before 6am!! It had been raining quite heavily during the night and although overcast and grey it was relatively dry when we went for our early morning walk. We headed out from the hotel and turned down a side street towards the marsh. We started to hear many species of warbler singing including Lesser Whitethroat, Willow Warbler and the 'common' River Warbler, the latter give excellent views. A Golden Oriole proved harder and we could only hear it but managed to see some of the many Common Rosefinches singing around the marsh. Tomek heard a Barred Warbler sing so with a little encouragement it performed superbly with song flights and 'exposed' song perches where we could see the diagnostic barring and the bright yellow eye. Great Reed, Eurasian Reed, Marsh and Sedge Warbler all showed well before Damien arrived in the bus to transport us back to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast the group were given some free time to explore, some taking the opportunity to revisit the Palace Park and its tower whilst others joined Tomek in search of Three-toed Woodpeckers. The latter was successful.

The afternoon was spent in the company of Arek in the strict reserve, where he gave us an excellent tour of the ancient woodland and explained the ecology, history and showed us all manner of flora and fauna. The variety of fungi and flowers was amazing and we even saw a pair of Middle Spotted Woodpecker feeding young at a nest and had good views of a 1st summer male singing Red-breasted Flycatcher.

Following an early dinner we boarded the coach heading for the Narew Valley where we walked out into the flood plain to see a Great Snipe lek. The weather looked promising with clear skies and slight wind carrying the noise of the lek towards us.

However when we arrived we found that it was wetter than usual underfoot and the field had not been cut so the vegetation was long. The sound of bill clicking was occasionally heard, together with Corncrake and Spotted Crake calls, but we could not see the birds. In the distance there was the sound of thunder and lightning started to fill the distant skies. Some of the group decide to walk back and were accompanied by Peter to guide them to the coach whilst the others stayed with Tomek (and Arek who was there with two clients). However the rain soon came and those who stuck it out did see some of the snipe jumping into the air but they had to endure a wet (and dark) walk back to the coach accompanied by Tomek and Arek. We arrived back at the hotel around 10:10 and some hot tea and coffee was arranged before bed.

Day 4

Tuesday 18th May

Our last full day in Białoweiza and we decided to have an early breakfast so that we could leave around 8am to check out some woodpecker nest holes before heading north to Siemianówka Reservoir for the day. After breakfast we collected our packed lunches and headed for the bridge over the Narewka River to check the Grey-headed Woodpecker nest. After a short while the male head appeared from the nest hole but quickly retracted as he must have still been incubating. We were just about to call the bus to pick us up when the female flew to the tree and we witnessed the change over – fantastic!

We then drove out towards Hajnówka to check a Three-toed Woodpecker nest. Walking through the forest we could hear Goldcrest and Wood Warblers and a short wait watching the nest hole was rewarded with both the male and female feeding the chicks – two out of two!!

It was time to start heading north and we made a brief stop on the bumpy main track out of the forest to check for Bison activity (where we heard a Red-breasted Flycatcher singing) then a planned stop at Kosy Most for Nutcracker. A little bit of ‘gentle persuasion’ and a bird flew past us then settled on the top of a tree for prolonged ‘scope views – three out of three!!

It was time to head for Siemianówka Reservoir as the rain started and all the way to the south side it was pouring down. We stopped near to the tower hide and decided to eat lunch while Peter and Tomek made some sort of plan for the wet afternoon. First, after lunch, we went into the tower to view part of the reservoir. New were four Great White Egrets, Mute Swan and Gadwall with all three marsh terns, Red-backed Shrike and Reed Warbler. Someone must have been listening to our prayers as the skies lightened and the rain eased and then stopped. This allowed us to revert back to the original plan and walk the bank. There was much more water than previous years but fewer duck. However the prize here was a superb male Penduline Tit scolding us from the top of a bush (in fact probably two as we found one nearer the coach). Satisfied that there were no Citrine Wagtails this year (none had been reported and in fact there were no Yellow Wagtails at all!!), we stopped on the way out to look at the road sign at Siemianówkaszczynna, one of the longest in eastern Poland. This is also a favoured area for Great Grey Shrike and we soon spotted it on the overhead wires, along with Wood Lark and Raven.

The weather turned warmer and the sun even came out as we drove to the north shore, stopping on the roadside for a brief look at an Ortolan Bunting before parking up and a stroll down towards the railway line whilst viewing the marsh. Many Downy Emerald, White-faced and Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonflies hunted the waters edge and Golden Orioles were singing and briefly seen in the adjacent woodland.

Again the height of the water had changed the habitat with no reed beds as such but plenty of marsh terns and a superb Raft Spider running and jumping on the water surface. Walking back to the bus, we had a series of raptors – first a large eagle, Peter first thought to be White-tailed but then a ‘spotted’ when it got closer and thanks to Patrick’s photo later confirmed as Lesser Spotted. Then two small falcons, mobbing a Grey Heron – turned out to be Red-footed Falcons and then a Hobby flew past. We eventually set off back towards Bialoweiza around 5pm where we had another excellent dinner followed by our checklist and some general ‘housekeeping’ before retiring to bed ready for our move to Biebrza the next day.

Day 5

Wednesday 19th May

There was no organised walk this morning allowing for packing of bags and sorting out rooms before breakfast. We said our goodbyes to the forest and its’ community and boarded the bus at 8.30am for the start of our journey north to Biebrza. The weather was forecast to be good until 8pm so we were going to make the most of it.

Leaving the forested area we travelled north through Hajnówka towards Bialystok and slowly through the village of Trezescianka, where they maintain some of the traditional Belarusian housing, each with its side profile facing the road to save taxes, and being made of wood. We made a scheduled stop at the Dojlidy Fish Ponds in Bialystok and walked the causeways between the ponds. We could only find the Red-necked Grebe which breed here, very smart in their breeding plumage but Black-necked Grebe was missing. A male Penduline Tit was busy building a nest close to the path while a pair of 1st summer Little Gulls visited the Black-headed Gull colony. Best of all was a secretive female Little Crake which was enticed from the reeds – a first for this Polish trip. Our timing was impeccable and we settled back in the coach for the drive to Waniewo, situated on the Narew River, where we were given a pleasant lunch of roast chicken, stuffed cabbage leaves and home made cake.

Nobody wanted to do the boat ride around the river so we all walked to the tower hide overlooking the marsh. The water level was very high with no exposed mud for waders and the only birds of note were Marsh Harriers, our first San Martins of the trip and a male Blue-headed Wagtail. We had planned to call in at the Aquatic Warbler site at Długa Luka so we had to stop near the flooded meadows at Zajkie to collect our permits. The meadows held good numbers of summer plumaged White-winged Terns, Little Grebe and some Shoveler. As we approached Długa Luka the wind began to rise and a storm was brewing, far from ideal conditions to find singing Aquatic Warblers. At the start of the boardwalk was a close Elk which was entertaining. We tried the whole board walk as it was spitting with rain and all we achieved was a very distant bird that probably was Aquatic but not good enough to count. Other species present included displaying Black-tailed Godwits, Curlew and Common Snipe. Promising to return in better weather over the next couple of days, we went back to the bus and headed for our new hotel. We arrived at the Bartek Hotel in Goniadz at 6.15pm which gave us time to unpack and freshen up for dinner at 7.30pm, which was served in a new restaurant. After our meal we completed the days log and retired to bed ready for the walk out, the next morning, if it was not raining.

Day 6

Thursday 20th May

We gathered at 6am to view the marshes but the weather had other plans and there was a thick mist with only 100yds visibility.

We decided to walk to the road bridge and cross to the tower hide in search of Corncrake but the floods were more extensive here and there was no habitat available. On the way a Thrush Nightingale sang and we found another Penduline Tit close to the river before we returned to the hotel for breakfast.

After our 8am breakfast we headed for the west side of the southern basin of the National Park. The fog had cleared and the sun came as we arrived at Mścichy to look for Bluethroat and Citrine Wagtail in pleasant heat and surrounded by White-winged Terns. Almost immediately a male Citrine was briefly seen on a bare tree over a field but quickly disappeared but the Bluethroat was more obliging singing from the top of a bush on a number of occasions enabling all the features to be seen. We continued on to try and find the Citrine Wagtail as well as watching displaying Black-tailed Godwits, Redshank and Common Snipe. Marsh Harriers were a common sight and a Lesser Spotted Eagle perched nicely in a tree. Having walked to the first wood we decided to turn back and try the side lane for the wagtail. While waiting a White-tailed Eagle soared overhead and then Tomek saw the male Citrine Wagtail sat in a bare bush but at a great distance, and before many got to see it, it flew strongly away and disappeared behind another distant bush. We waited a little while longer and decided to head to Brzostowo for lunch. As we turned away Peter heard a distinctive harsh yellow wagtail call and the Citrine Wagtail flew right over our heads and out of view on the other side of the road. Not a satisfactory view of a beautiful rare breeding bird in Poland, and was it enough to 'tick'??

We arrived at Brzostowo to find the water levels very high as expected and we ate our packed lunch on the picnic table accompanied by some nice hot tea and coffee from the farm house. Lunch out of the way we then scanned the floods. Again White-winged and Whiskered Terns were common, with a single Little Tern feeding close to the bank and a small group of adult and 1st summer Little Gulls were loafing about on the grass islands. Because of the water height there were very few waders but we added both Dunlin and Common Sandpiper to the list. Pochard and Shoveler were seen in small numbers and three Red-breasted Mergansers flew up river.

Having satisfied ourselves here we moved on to Burzyn which has a raised viewpoint. The added height of the viewpoint at Burzyn helped us look down into the flooded sedges and reeds and we initially saw two or three Great Egrets feeding in the flooded meadows but these were joined by a further 15 which were spooked by a White-tailed Eagle and then more egrets totalling around 56. Two Black Storks flew past, a flock of Cormorants fished in the floods and two distant Elk were seen.

We continued onto Tycocin, a village steeped in history and was a site of 'war-time atrocities' of Jews. Part of the group spent some visiting the synagogue and museum whilst the remaining crossed the Narew River to check the marshes. Only a pair of Marsh Warblers were seen, then we heard the distinctive sound of a Syrian Woodpecker drumming. We tried to call it and were rewarded to two 'fly-bys' but it was never tracked down to a tree or nest hole. We all re-grouped at the bus and it was decided to have another go at the Aquatic site at Długa Luka.

The sun was threatening to go behind clouds on the journey there but as we arrived it came back out and the wind had dropped. Walking out on the board walk Peter heard the distinctive call near to the first platform and found it quite close, singing from a small birch tree. There then was a panicky few minutes while everyone got a view through the telescopes but the bird remained and reappeared so that everyone could appreciate the tiger-striped back, gorget of throat streaks and occasionally the central crown stripe. This was a great relief for everyone, especially Peter and Tomek!!!

Returning to the Bartek we gathered for dinner after which we completed the day's log.

Day 7

Friday 21st May

Our final full day started at 6am in bright clear conditions, a far cry from yesterday. We decided to head for the old restaurant which is high on a hill and affords good views over the marsh. Scanning over the reeds and sedges we saw small groups of Roe Deer, two Elk and many White-winged Terns. We were hoping for Black Storks but all we could find were white and the only raptors were Marsh Harriers. A male Golden Oriole flashed back quickly and a few Garganeys flew around. Soon it was time to leave to return for breakfast and hearing tales from other members of the group of Orioles and warblers.

At 9am we headed north over the river towards Wolka Piacenza a renowned place for Hoopoe. We soon heard the call and the first members of the group saw it briefly fly away but we could not relocate it. We did however get excellent views of Crested Tit and also Downy Emerald Dragonflies, Hornets and a single Swallowtail Butterfly. Continuing along the road to Budney we 'scoped the water meadows and Ute found a sitting Hoopoe which delighted everyone, followed by a magnificent adult White-tailed Eagle which sat in full view in a tree. Other discoveries included both Sooty and Small Copper Butterflies on the buttercups.

Heading back towards the main road we stopped for souvenirs at the National Park HQ at Osowiec and a drink or an ice cream at the local sklep. Here we also saw a nice Wryneck. We continued to Kapice where we were to have our lunch. Damian got us through the flooded road and we headed for some dry sand dunes to enjoy our packed lunch but the local wildlife thought better. After a few minutes we were driven back to the bus by hordes of mosquitoes which appeared from nowhere!!! We decided to vacate the marshes and drive to the large Zygmunta Augusta Reservoir, eating our lunch on the hoof. At this location we saw up to five White-tailed Eagles (some nice adults catching fish) and two Montagu's Harriers.

Continuing onto Tyccin some of the group went for 'afternoon tea' whilst other looked for yesterday's Syrian Woodpecker. A few drumming calls and the bird was in the tree above us and although Peter and Tomek could see the bird briefly, it flew over the road before others could get onto it. However it then stayed briefly in a willow allowing some views and then flew to a second tree over the field where it stayed in full view for a couple of minutes and allowing 'scope users the opportunity to look at the ID features. We regrouped at the tea party and after refreshments we headed to a sand quarry to look for Bee-eaters. Another group were already there and they had not seen any but had had a Crested Lark and a Honey Buzzard. Peter saw a distant bird which looked initially like a Tawny Pipit and many agreed until it suddenly turned round and showed a crest – only a Skylark! A buzzard over was only a Common but we were entertained by some nice Northern Wheatears and a male Montagu's Harrier before the hours drive back to the hotel.

Our final dinner in the hotel restaurant (a large marquee as the original restaurant had burnt down), was a traditional borscht soup, followed by cutlets and apple pie. Elaine and Patrick then made well received speeches and a presentation to Damian the driver and Tomek the local 'fixer', with Barbara thanking Peter. The final log showed that we had achieved a total of 148 bird species (of which five we heard only).

Day 8

Saturday 22nd May

An early morning walk with Tomek to try and find Greenish Warbler failed and after an early breakfast we started out at 8am to head south west towards Warsaw. The morning had started bright and sunny again and our aim was the tower and hide at Brzostowo and Burzyn. With the weather being so good and dry Peter suggested giving the Citrine Wagtail site at Mścichy half an hour as we would be passing it. It was a beautiful morning with White-winged Terns all over the fields and Reed Bunting and Sedge Warblers singing everywhere. Common Snipe and Black-tailed Godwit displayed over the fields and we saw a male Montagu's Harrier mobbing a female Marsh Harrier. We were just about to leave when Patrick spotted the wagtail on a nearby tree and for about 30 seconds we could see the bright yellow unmarked head and underparts of the male, and those who used 'scopes could see the black collar and grey back. It took off and flew over the road and was joined by another wagtail before disappearing into the marsh. This time it was good enough to add to everyone's list!!

We continued onto Brzostowo where Peter bought teas and coffees to celebrate a good trip with plenty of species and we watched over the floods at terns, waders and swans. At 10.30am it was time to pack the optics and start on the trip back to Warsaw. We made a couple of stops for comfort and lunch and arrived in good time, despite all the road works, at Frederick Chopin Airport. We said our goodbyes to Patrick and Ute who were staying on in Warsaw before flying back to Germany the next day and our driver Damian was thanked for his safe and patient driving. Tomek was a great guide and support for the tour and his 'mr fixit' attitude made sure that most things worked. We all said goodbye to this good friend and headed into the airport for the start of the flight home. The flight was on time and very smooth so we were soon back at Terminal Five Heathrow where we said our goodbyes to a whole bunch of new friends.

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Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					1			
2	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					8			
3	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				4	✓			
4	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						40	1	1
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	2		2	✓	3	✓	✓	✓
6	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>				4		56		2
7	Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>				H	1	H	H	H
8	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>						2		
9	Eurasian White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				6		✓	✓	✓
11	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				100		✓	✓	✓
12	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>						2		
13	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				6		1	1	
14	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓		C	✓		✓	✓	✓
15	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	4					7	4	4
16	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>						6		
17	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						3	2	1
18	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	1			1		2		
19	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>						3		
20	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>						2	7	
21	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	2	1		4	✓	✓	✓	5
22	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>			2		1	2	4	1
23	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>					1			
24	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	2			1	3	6	3
25	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>		2	5	3		3		
26	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				1				
27	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				2				
28	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		1	2	1		1		
29	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>					1			
30	Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	1							
31	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>			6		4	10	7	2
32	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>		H	H	H				
33	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>					1			
34	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>			H					
35	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						2		
36	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	5			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓	2	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		3						
39	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>			3					
40	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			4	1	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					2	✓	1	✓
42	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>					1	2		
43	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>						1		
44	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		1	1					
45	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	2				2	✓		✓
46	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>						40		4
47	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓			✓	C	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
48	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				2	2	12		1
49	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>							2	
50	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>						1	1	
51	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		2				1		
52	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	3			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	✓			✓	C	C	✓	✓
54	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	8			✓	5	2	8	
55	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	2		1	8	4	✓	1	1
56	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2		2			4	1	2
59	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2
60	Eurasian Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>		1						
61	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				1			3	
63	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		1						
64	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>		1	2					
65	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>		2						
66	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1		2		1	1	
67	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>						1	1	
68	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>			1	2				
69	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			1					
70	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>				2				
71	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	3		✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			1	1	1			
73	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					2	2	✓	
74	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>					2	8		
77	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		1	2				1	1
78	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	2	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	1			1	3	10	10	2
80	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>						1		1
81	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓			✓			
82	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				1				
83	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	1			1				
84	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
85	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
87	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>		✓	✓	✓	3	H	H	H
88	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>						1		
89	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1	3	1				
90	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	8	2
91	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		2		1		1		
92	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		1	✓	✓	4	4	2	
93	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>			3					
94	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						1	4	
95	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓	✓	4		1	1	1
96	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>			1					
97	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>		5	✓					
98	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>			1	H				

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
99	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				H				
100	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>			H					
101	Eurasian River Warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>		5	✓					
102	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>			H		H			
103	Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>					1	1		
104	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			2	2	✓		✓	
106	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	1	1	1		1	3	1	
107	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		6	✓	4	✓	2	H	
108	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>		4	✓		2	2	1	
109	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			4	3	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
111	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		2	2	H				
112	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	2	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	2
113	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		3	2	2			1	
114	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>			1					
115	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		1	2	1		2	2	2
116	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
117	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		4						
118	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		1						
119	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>							1	
120	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
121	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		2	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
122	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>				1	2	2		
123	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			1	1	1			
124	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		1		2				
125	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	H	2	1	3		1	2	H
126	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	1	3	8	✓	✓	4		1
127	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>				1		1		
128	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		1
129	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓		2	4	✓	✓	3	2
130	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>				1				
131	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
132	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
133	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓				2	3	1	✓
134	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	3	1		2	3	2	4	1
135	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
136	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
137	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	2	4	6	4	✓	✓	✓	✓
138	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
139	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>		5	✓	✓	✓	8	✓	H
140	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>			✓			4	✓	
141	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	2	2			6	✓	✓
142	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		1	✓	1	1	5	✓	✓
143	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	1		3		1	2	3	4
144	Common Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			3	2				
145	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		✓		✓	2			
146	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
147	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>				1				
148	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Mammals

European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus elaphus</i>	Eurasian Beaver	<i>Castor fiber</i>
Eurasian Elk	<i>Alces alces</i>	Vole sp.	

Butterflies

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>
Green-veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Peacock Butterfly	<i>Inachis io</i>
Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>		

Moths

Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>	Oak Eggar	<i>Lasiocampa quercus</i>
Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>	Lattice Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>
Common Heath	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>		

Dragonflies

Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	Eurasian Baskettail	<i>Epitbeca bimaculata</i>
Common Clubtail	<i>Gomphus vulgatissimus</i>	Small Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia dubia</i>
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>
Common Blue	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>
Small Red Damsel	<i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i>	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>
Variable Bluet	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>	Azure Bluet	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>
Large Red Damsel	<i>Pyrrosoma nymphula</i>		

Other Notable Taxa

Common (Viviparous) Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Fire-bellied Toad (H)	<i>Bombina bombina</i>
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>	European Tree Frog (H)	<i>Hyla arborea</i>
Pond Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Raft Spider	<i>Dolomedes fimbriatus</i>
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	A soldier beetle	<i>Cantharis fusca</i>
Cockchaffer	<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>	Great Diving Beetle	<i>Dytiscus marginalis</i>

add to all these the various unidentified leeches, beetles and of course mosquitoes, made this a wildlife rich trip.

Plants (A few notable species courtesy of John Kedward and others)

Chickweed Wintergreen, Coralroot Bittercress, May Lily, Solomon's Seal, Moschatel, Baneberry, Fluttering Elm, Yellow Dead Nettle, Cuckoo Pint, Water Avens, Lesser Celandine, Northern (Broad-leaved) Marsh Orchid, Larkspur and Cow-wheat. Notable fungi included Brain, Tinderbox and Hoof.