

Poland in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

15 - 22 May 2010



Three-toed Woodpecker by Geraldine Moore



Group photo by Liz Anderson



Penduline Tit by Rich Jones



European Bison by Nick Baelz

Report compiled by Rob Murray



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Summary:

This north-eastern sector of Poland supports two internationally renowned habitats of immense extent. The Biebrza marshes encompass 1160 square kilometres which equates to the entire area of Greater London. Bialowieza Forest is even larger, straggling over the border with Belarus. We visited many of the richest zones with high biodiversity indices. It was not unusual to find some of the group stooped over an exquisite plant whilst other trained binoculars skywards to track a Lesser Spotted Eagle or peered into limpid pools to marvel at the amorous antics of frogs. All components of the ecological food web received our attention during this fascinating excursion into the natural history of Poland. There were many highlights, but few will forget the Pygmy Owl fiasco or the Corncrake encounter. Bison foraging at the woodland edge and the atmosphere of expectation at the Great Snipe lek vie for prominence in our memories. The Red Squirrels' pollen shower; eager White-backed Woodpecker nestlings peering from a hole; an Otter scrambling up the river bank, and the song of the Thrush Nightingale will be recalled with fondness. The varied and interesting local Polish food was certainly appreciated. Once each day's birding activities approached the close of play, we still had the evening meal to look forward to! Those who attempted to predict the menu were well and truly thwarted when Bison meatballs appeared on our plates!

Day 1

Saturday 7th May

Bright and sunny in Warsaw but rainy windy and cool further east. 11°C

"We will be touching down ten minutes ahead of schedule", the confident and proud pilot announced. The plane lurched into its parking bay and the engines were cut. The silence of inactivity pervaded.

The mobile stairway failed to advance and its handlers stubbornly refused to budge from their positions. As the captain spoke you could feel his embarrassment and hear his self-assurance draining away. “Ah! We have pulled up a few feet too far forward and have to wait for a tug to push us back into line with the stairway”. Twenty minutes late then, Captain!

Our guide, Andy, met us and soon we were out of Warsaw and heading for the Biebrza Marshes. Lunch at the Hotel Kamiza was a typical Polish meal of tender pork cutlets in a sour cream and mushroom sauce. By 4pm we had reached the historically important village of Tykocin where there stands an impressive church and synagogue. It was wet, windy and quite cold so we decided to try for Syrian Woodpecker later in the week. The sights encountered at our first birding stop on the shore of the reed-fringed Lake Zygmunowski left the group rigid, not with the cold but with disbelief. There before us were seven White-tailed Eagles flying languidly across the choppy, blue water! Two of them perched in a knarred, dead tree appearing as regal silhouettes in this stark landscape.

The clock chimed 6pm as we arrived at the Hotel Bartek in the village of Goniądz. This imposing red-roofed and white-walled building has grounds extending to the very edge of the squelchy marshes and bird-watching from the balcony of our rooms was very productive. Clacking Fieldfares and tinkling Serins; warbling Black Redstarts and the harsh rasping of White-winged Terns were sounds that were unfamiliar to most of us. The whip lash call of a Spotted Crake greeted us as we emerged replete with food from the restaurant. Many of us drifted into slumber to the booming of Bitterns whose low, resonating pronouncement of territoriality carried a great distance.

Day 2

Sunday 8th May

Sunshine all day. 20°C

There was so much to see on the pre-breakfast walk that maybe we should have started before 6am! Black Storks, White-tailed Eagle, all three species of marsh tern, Common Cranes and, of course, the ubiquitous White Storks were just some from a long list of sightings. Ruff, resplendent in their Elizabethan attire, were cavorting and jumping about on their lek. A dark, elongated shape cutting a deep ‘v’ at the surface of the water revealed itself as an Otter as it scrambled up the bank and disappeared into its holt.

Our first stop after breakfast was in the village where the foundations of a demolished restaurant formed a superb platform for viewing the marshes. From here we watched the huge, bulky and bizarrely shaped form of an Elk plodding through the quagmire. Our presence was resented by the whole population of village mutts who barked incessantly as we walked to the marshes at Mścichy. “Woof, woof, woof”! Roughly translated this means “Hey, hey hey”! Once beyond their reach and out of hearing we imbibed the altogether sweeter sound of a singing Bluethroat and a Thrush Nightingale. More displaying Ruff enticed us to linger as to witness this was a prime target for many of the group.

The track became progressively muddier and eventually flooded. This obstacle was negotiated in a variety of ways. Some tried to circumvent it via a slippery ridge; some crossed a vicious barbed wire fence. One just waded through and had to wring out his socks soon afterwards. Once we were all across Andy decided that it wasn’t worth going any further and turned back!

More claggy mud tested our resolve at Brzostowo where it was necessary to plod through it to gain access to the tower hide. This was an outstanding locality for wildfowl. A flock of 17 Goldeneye contained some displaying drakes. The longer we scanned the marsh the more birds revealed themselves. We had been there for a long time before a splendid Red-necked Grebe in full summer plumage was spotted.

It was 3pm when we departed to try a viewpoint near to the church at Burzyn. It is an attractive place, but held little of interest today so we moved on to Długa Luka where Aquatic Warblers breed. Another group were out on the narrow boardwalk so we parked further down the road to bird watch and to wait for them to leave. Montagu's Harriers sailed past and we actually located a singing Savi's Warbler. Our turn came and we plodded along the boardwalk out onto a sedge covered marsh. Straight away a singing Aquatic Warbler was spotted perched on a stem. It stayed in view for long enough for everyone in the group to see its unique head pattern through a telescope. The route selected back to Goniądz was through mile after mile of Alder Carr swamp along a very bumpy road. It was 7pm before we returned to the hotel. The collective cacophony of a multitude of frogs is often described as a chorus or a symphony. The barrage of sound emanating from the marsh tonight bore no resemblance to any Gregorian choristers. If it was symphonic then the 1812 overture is the closest match to the racket from a colony of tree frogs.

Day 3

Monday 9th May

Sunny and warm all day with bubbly cumulus clouds. 25°C

There is so much to see in this area that it was not a surprise that on this morning's pre-breakfast walk we encountered fresh sightings; two White-tailed Eagles, three Black Storks, a Hoopoe and two Red Deer topped the list. Just beyond the bridge over the river stands a lookout tower. Those just about to climb it stopped and aborted their ascent as the loud calls of a Grey-headed Woodpecker rang out from a nearby tree. Walking slowly along the road we secured satisfying views as it flitted in front of us. A Thrush Nightingale sang its heart out from a thicket and a diligent search led to its discovery. We enjoyed actually seeing this secretive bird performing. It was a 2km walk to the village of Wolka Piaseczna where a Hoopoe and Blue-headed Wagtails were discovered. In view of the difficulty there would be in finding toilets today, most of the group were bussed back to the hotel for a comfort break.

The next port of call was a tower hide at Osowiec and the Rudzki Kanal. Penduline Tits, Great Reed Warblers and Savi's Warblers were all present. Montagu's Harriers and Hobbies represented the raptors. We ate lunch under the hide where welcome shade afforded us some respite from the heat. We were entertained by an acrobatic Penduline Tit bounding up and down on the flower head of a springy stemmed reed.

In Kapice we walked down a track favoured by Map Butterflies, which were a welcome sight, and myriads of mosquitoes which were not! Even four White-tailed Eagles failed to deflect attention. The white flag was raised and a hasty retreat to the bus ensued. The hamlet of Kapice is situated in an isolated, desolate landscape. Thick choking smoke seeped its way out of the engine compartment at the rear of the bus. The smell of burning rubber became all too noticeable. We had broken down! Melted fan belts were stripped from their cogs. Mobile phones can be extremely useful. A replacement bus was despatched and arrived without too long a delay. Meanwhile we puzzled over the identification of members of a flock of yellow wagtails. They appeared to be hybrids of indeterminate race. The new bus was even more spacious and luxurious than the original and was to stay with us for the rest of the tour.

Day 4

Tuesday 10th May

Sunshine all day. 23°C

Today we left the Biebrza marshes and transferred to the Bialoweiza forest. On the way we stopped at Tykocin to try again for Syrian Woodpeckers. Old nesting sites were discovered, but not the one in use this year. Noise from extensive road works didn't help our quest. Golden Orioles flew over and Montagu's Harriers are always a welcome sight. Just before the village of Waniewo lies a cross roads with a religious shrine. There are a few Poplars remaining here and it is a site favoured by Ortolan Buntings. Judicious scanning and listening unearthed two males - they displayed their fine plumage to an appreciative bunch of onlookers.

In the village there is a tower hide overlooking marshes and the Narew River. This proved to be an exceptionally good place for raptors; Buzzard, Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Hobby, Red-footed Falcon and Goshawk graced the blue skies. It was lunch time. We retired to a small Pension in the village where we were astounded by the quality and quantity of freshly prepared, locally grown, home cooked produce. Blackcurrant jam on apple pancakes was just one of the gastronomic delights. No spraying occurs here. The landscape is carpeted with cheerful, beaming and intensely yellow clusters of Dandelions. It is a beautiful sight. I am certain that had Van Gogh been Polish, then Dandelions would be as revered as Sunflowers.

Dojlidy is a large, bustling town with some industrial zones. On the edge a series of fish ponds have been excavated for recreation. They attract an array of wildlife. A strange, fluty hum like the sonar of a submarine, or resonance of a factory siren assaults your tympanum and reverberates around your cerebellum like a sound experienced in your head rather than heard via the normal auditory route. This sound was intensified as a huge congregation of the perpetrators, Fire-bellied Toads, all called at the same time. It is a strangely soothing sound when compared to the harsh, discordant croaking of Pool or Marsh Frogs and their illegitimate hybrids. A pair of Penduline Tits flew back and forth to a gourd-shaped nest suspended from a single twig dangling from a Poplar tree. It is of an exquisite design, being so delicately and intricately woven. Marsh Harriers were displaying over reed beds where Bitterns were booming. Red-necked Grebes looked stunning in their summer plumage. Winter Damselflies were seen here alongside the more familiar Azure, Variable and Blue-tailed Damselflies. Whilst scanning the opposite bank for birds it became apparent that this is a paradise for both naturalists and naturists!! We arrived at the Hotel Unikat at 6.45pm with just enough time to freshen up before another enjoyable Polish dinner.

Day 5

Wednesday 11th May

Sunshine all day. 22°C

A short bus ride took us to an area of forest known as Wysokie Bagno. This was marvellous for woodland birds. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker staged a thrilling performance which pleased many of the group as it was a new bird for them. A Crested Tit and Hawfinch surrendered easily but Black and Three-toed Woodpeckers tormented us by calling but remaining concealed within the fresh clean-green foliage. Wood ants are protected by the foresters as they destroy many insect pests, especially bark beetles. Wooden enclosures surround many of their pine-needle heaps to keep wild boar away. We examined a nest at close quarters. I waved a strip of blue litmus paper over the industrious soldier ants who were defending the untidy heap. It turned red as the angry ants squirted formic acid to deter further intrusion. The group sniffed the pungent odour.

Wood Warblers were well established on their territories ready for the arrival of the females. Their trilling song and plaintive calls accompanied us wherever we were in the forest. Our first Barred Warbler was discovered in an area of scrub and two Ravens performed a display of triumph having seen off a passing Buzzard. A Red Squirrel scampered up a pine tree and leapt daringly across the void to the next tree. We watched a Great Spotted Woodpecker hammering at a cone that it had wedged into a crevice aloft in a rotten pine tree. The forest rides were lined with interesting plants. The familiar Wood Anemone, Wood Sorrel and Yellow Archangel concealed treasures such as Asarabacca (*Asarum europaeum*). This member of the Birthwort family has flowers resembling the hats of pixies. They bloom level with the forest floor so that ants gain access and pollinate them.

In the afternoon a short drive to Zielony Tryb took us deep into the realm of the White-backed Woodpecker. This is a much sought after species that can be a challenge to locate, but with intimate local knowledge our task was made easier. An active nest site was discovered and from a safe distance we attempted to settle down for a prolonged spell of observation. Hordes of mosquitoes vented their anger at our intrusion into their dank, shady refuge by inflicting countless bites into any exposed flesh. An adult bird flew in and a surge of adrenaline dispelled the discomfort as we watched it close in on the excavated nesting chamber. Three nestlings jostled for position at the entrance, but only one would receive a mouthful of large, white, wriggling beetle grubs proffered by the adult. Several visits to the nest were enjoyed and between times the chicks peered eagerly from the neatly excavated hole. They constantly pushed each other out of the way in what can only be likened to a game of musical chairs. Which one would be at the entrance when the adult arrived? Images of this endearing family will linger long after the skin irritations have subsided.

The stretch of road leading to Budy Bridge held more delights. A Middle Spotted Woodpecker entered its nest hole and peered out at the admiring assembly of enthralled onlookers. Goshawk and Lesser Spotted Eagle passed overhead and a lucky few saw a Camberwell Beauty too. A passing car stopped and information was passed to Andy which acted like a starting pistol. Many of us thought that our days of Olympic sprinting lay behind us, but the turn of speed and acceleration shown was unbelievable! We raced down the road, scarcely able to draw enough breath to mumble "where are they"? Three hefty, woolly and dangerous-looking bull Bison were glaring at us from the sanctity of the wood. One lay down and presented a head on view of its menacing horns and irritated countenance. The other two munched the fresh, spring grass at the edge of the wild wood. All too soon they bulldozed their way back into the dark, mysterious interior of the forest and were gone. What incredible luck we had to see these elusive lords of the forest.

Having opted for an early dinner, we were ready to depart at 6pm for a visit to Scinicki Droga which is close to the Belarusian border. To assist us in the pursuit of our quarry we enlisted the help of a local guide who probably holds the world record for whistling constantly like a Pygmy Owl. I have known him persist for two hours without the intervention of a resuscitator! It became an irritation and was clearly ineffective...the Pygmy Owls were doubtless unable to scramble out of their holes for laughing. He ushered us away far too soon as dusk was some time away. We had failed, but I resolved to return using our own devices and at a later time.

One of the most entertaining episodes of the tour awaited us. A family of 4 or 5 Red Squirrels were leaping frivolously in a pine tree and dislodging showers of golden pollen which cascaded upon us and gave their russet coats a pale yellow mantle. I wondered if any suffer from hay fever.

Day 6

Thursday 12th May

Hot and sunny all day with a sweltering high of 26°C

This morning we were ready to begin our route march to the Strict Reserve at 4.30am. Our guide arrived and gave us access to this ancient woodland of towering trees. He explained the history of the forest where wooden crosses stood defiantly as grim reminders of the grief stricken war years. A Three-toed Woodpecker held our attention for some time as it excavated a nest hole. It could be heard hacking at the interior of the hole and then it poked its head out with its bill stuffed with wood chippings. A rapid shake of the head flung the shavings far and wide. Two dark shapes hurried across the path in front of the gaze of one lucky person. Wild Boar! As we tramped across the wooden boardwalk and bridges, expecting a Troll to leap out at any moment, we saw a heap of fresh excrement. There was a massive surge forwards from the ranks of scatologists lingering at the back all eager to add Pine Marten to the dung list. Bracket, Oyster, Hoof and many other bizarre fungi clung to the rotting trees. Although the air was still, one huge fungus was puffing out clouds of spores which wafted gently away. The discovery of a few Toothwort plants parasitizing tree roots was of great interest.

We returned to the hotel for breakfast and departed for Lake Siemianówka at 8.45. It is an hour's drive away and several of us grabbed a nap to recharge after such an early start. We explored two sites at opposite sides of this immense lake. The railway embankment forms an admirable lookout, which is what we had to do when a Belarusian goods train hauling 55 trucks rumbled past. Yes, I did count the trucks! Although there were plenty of birds around, most were distant and required the use of a telescope. More lekking Ruff were well received. Other waders included a smart Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and the ubiquitous Wood Sandpiper. Seventy three Great White Egrets stood nonchalantly peering into the shallows. One stabbed a fish which seemed far too large for it to despatch. It grappled and fought with it and eventually the hapless fish slid down the throat of its captor. We turned our attention to the pond life at the margins of the lake. A Fire-bellied Toad was captured so that we could appreciate the origins of its name. Immense numbers of noisy marsh frogs, wearing suits of yellow, green and every shade in between clustered excitedly around each other in a frenzy of sexual activity. It is essential to examine the leg length in order to determine which of the three species we were watching. This proved to be impossible! On the way back to the hotel we stopped at some fish ponds at Bachury where Common Terns, Tufted Ducks and Gadwall caught our attention, but the nesting Whooper Swans evaded us.

We had dinner at 6.45 and left promptly afterwards for a second attempt at the Pygmy Owl. Spirits sank as we approached the site and saw 'the whistling man' again. Fortunately he left and we had our opportunity to find this enigmatic owl. It appeared straight away in bare branches directly above us Panic spread through the ranks as everyone tried to align themselves with the lucky ones who were drooling over this diminutive, defiant looking forest dweller. "Where is it?" "Which branch?" "How high up?" "I still can't see it"! Tension rose until at last we all located the podgy silhouette. All available telescopes were raised like a firing squad at the inquisitive owl. It cocked its tail like a wren and peered down with a penetrating yellow-eyed stare leaning forward to scrutinise its adversaries. Then it began calling. As the light faded bats emerged to claim the airspace and we retreated from the clouds of mosquitoes. We marched back to the bus whistling like a platoon of American GIs and reflecting on how a very long day had commenced with endearing views of an industrious Three-toed Woodpecker and ended spectacularly with a cooperative Pygmy Owl. There was a moment of consternation when two people received text messages saying "welcome to Belarus" and we were approached by border guards on a motor cycle. Had we strayed behind the iron curtain? No, but it was close!

Day 7

Friday 13th May

Showers, cloudy, breezy. 17°C

Would our luck hold on such an auspicious date? We began the day at a bridge over the river and saw a variety of warblers and a White-backed Woodpecker. Moving on to Kosy Most our hopes were high as this is a good place to see Black Woodpecker. We sauntered down a Cowslip-lined track to a point where two bridges span the river. Corncrakes were rasping and a Barred Warbler was singing and performing its display flight. A Three-toed Woodpecker flew over. The next trail led us to a zone of decaying, mature Spruce trees. A freshly hewn hole in a spruce suggested that it may be the work of our quarry. Sure enough a Black Woodpecker flew in calling. To our amazement it flew straight past the hole and swooped up to clasp the side of a Spruce right next to where we were standing. We had magnificent views as it shuffled upwards and then entered a hole unseen by us. What a wonderful encounter with such a dynamic bird.

Walking for 3km along a forest road led us to a singing Red-breasted Flycatcher and another Collared Flycatcher. After posing for a group photograph we returned to the hotel to prepare ourselves for this evening's adventure into the realm of the Great Snipe. It was a cool, breezy evening which mercifully deterred the mosquitoes! A Corncrake was calling from rank vegetation bordering the muddy, soggy track. It was impossible to see so Andy placed his rucksack just a metre in front of us and set his recorder to play the calls as a loop. The bird responded by creeping closer. Some of us could see it and exuded gasps of delight which further frustrated those unable to lock on to it. The Corncrake ardently pursued the phantom intruder until it was running around the rucksack with bill gapping widely and calling emphatically to proclaim its territory. Soon everyone had it in their sights and agreed that this was yet another highlight of our tour. It was important not to overdo the use of a lure, so after a short time we moved on.

As we gathered together at the vantage point overlooking the lek of the Great Snipe the light was fading and clouds scudded across the misshapen moon. Roe Deer bounded across the sodden marsh and Cranes wailed in the distance. A Grasshopper Warbler reeled nearby and a heavy atmosphere of expectation hung like the gathering gloom descending over the cold marsh. Suddenly a bird leapt up, and then bill clicking could just be heard above the murmurs of the anxious watchers. Three Great Snipe were seen, but the views were all too brief and distant. The real pleasure came from experiencing the atmosphere of the wild marsh at dusk with its eerie sounds and alluring patterns of light.

Day 8

Saturday 14th May

Cloudy with brief sunny periods. 20°C

We tried to spend as much time in the field as possible during this tour. Even though it was the last day and we faced a long journey home, everyone was keen to spend a couple of hours birding in The Palace Park which is just a short walk from the hotel. This proved to be an excellent decision! There was a male Greenish Warbler singing and showing very well near to the park entrance. Further on we found A Scarlet Rosefinch proclaiming its "pleased to meet you" welcome. We all agreed that to drop 'Scarlet' from its name and replace it with 'common' was a travesty. We declined to comply. Other good sightings included Great Reed Warblers, Wrynecks, Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Collared Flycatchers and Grey Wagtail.

We were ready to depart at 11am and on the journey we saw a Great Grey Shrike, Buzzards, Marsh Harriers and Roe Deer. We arrived at the Frederic Chopin Airport in Warsaw at 4pm and boarded our flight on time.

Emotional hugs and best wishes were exchanged at the baggage claim area at Heathrow after a holiday with a wonderful group of keen and enthusiastic people who bonded as seamlessly as a happy family.

Our special thanks to Andrzej and Grzegorz whose contributions to the success of the holiday were enormous.

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Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		3		8				
2	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>		1		3				
3	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		1				6		
4	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	H	H	H	H				
5	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1	43	11			110	14	
6	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		11	12	6		6	4	
7	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		2	8	6				
8	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	23	✓	✓	✓	16	20	15	20
9	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	1	10	7	7		12		
10	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	11	31	25	1		40		
11	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>		✓	1			2		
12	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	5	20	20	20	2	15	6	4
13	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		6	2	2		74		
14	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		25						
15	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		30						
16	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		4		1				
17	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>		15	17	3				
18	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		8		1		4		
19	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		25		16		30		
20	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		17						
21	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	1	3	4	4				
22	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	2	20	15	20	5	10	3	3
23	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>							1	
24	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>				1	1			
25	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>						1		
26	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	1	2	4	2	2	2	2
27	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	7	2	6	1				
28	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>		1	1	1	1	1		
29	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2							
30	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				3				
31	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		3	4	2		1		
32	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	2							
33	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>						H	1 9H	
34	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	H	H						
35	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		2	1	2				
36	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		15	2	12		3		
37	Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	3	30	35	5		6	2	
38	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	9	30	✓	30		25	2	1
39	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		80	100	10		37		
40	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		10	8					
41	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		2	6	2		3		
42	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		2				1		
43	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		1				3		
44	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		✓	✓	✓		12		
45	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		5		2		4		

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
46	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>							1	1	
47	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>						2	H	H	
48	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>								3	
49	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1	1	4	3			1	H	
50	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	3	12	8	✓			✓		1
51	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>				3					
52	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>		4							
53	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	1	2		2			3		2
54	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	2	✓	✓	✓			✓		
55	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		
56	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	1	5		2			10		
57	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	13	10	9	6	7	3	5	6	
58	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	12	1	2	8	2				
60	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		3	1	H	2	3	1		
61	Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>						1			
62	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	10		4	2	3	1	5		
63	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			2	H		1			
64	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>						1	3		
65	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		1				H	1	1	
66	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			2				H		
67	Middle-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>						1			1
68	Great-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>						5	H	3	
69	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>						4		1	
70	Lesser-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>						1			
71	Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>						2H	1	1	
72	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	1	6	2	4					
73	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>							H		
74	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				10					
75	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	25	✓	✓	✓			10	10	4
76	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	8	✓	✓	✓			✓	12	20
77	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>						1	4		
78	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		1							
79	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	1	4	2	3	2	5	1		
80	Blue-headed (Yellow) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	6	10	14	6					
81	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>						1	1	H	
82	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>						H			
83	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>						2	2	1	
84	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>		2H	1				2H	H	H
85	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>		2							
86	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
87	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		1	2	3	1	2	1	4	
88	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		2	5	5	3	3	7		
89	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		4	2	3	20	8	12	6	
90	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	2	6	10	6	2	4	1		
91	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		1	1	1	10	8	11	5	
92	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>						1			
93	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>		2	1	1	H		H		

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
94	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>							H	H	
95	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>			1	6	H	2			2H
96	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		5	3	3		1	H		
97	Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>		1							
98	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>					H				
99	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				1					
100	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>								1	1
101	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>						1			
102	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	H	3	4	4		3	2		2
103	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		1	4	1		1	1		1
104	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		1	2	2	6	2	1		4
105	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>					2		1		
106	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		2H	2	2	2	2	H		
107	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	H	8	1	1		H	H		
108	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	H	4	1	2	H	H	1		H
109	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>					H	H	2		
110	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>			5	4	1				
111	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>					2	1	3		2
112	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				1	1		5		6
113	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>							H		
114	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>			2	5		1			
115	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>					2				
116	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>						H			
117	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>					1				
118	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		1	2	2	1	2	2		1
119	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		1	4	7	2		2		
120	Northern Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater ater</i>					H				
121	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>					3		4		2
122	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>							1		1
123	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>			1						1
124	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
125	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				3	H	H	2		H
126	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1	9	6	6	1	12	8		2
127	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	7	5	4	6		6	1		
128	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	2	1	H	3	2				
129	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula soemmeringii</i>	50	3	6	25		2	5		16
130	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	6	10	3	2		1	2		2
131	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	100	40	24				5		25
132	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		12	8	3	1		1		
133	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	7	20	10	4	5	4	6		20
134	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	1	11	3	3	10	6	6		4
135	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		2			5	1	3		1
136	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		4	1	1		1	1		1
137	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	2				12				
138	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	2	1	1	3	1	2	2		2
139	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		2	2	6	1	2	2		2
140	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>					1				
141	Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>	2	2	2	3		2	3		2

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
142	Scarlet Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>								1
143	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	1	H	2		5	1	1	1
144	Oortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>				2				
145	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		2	7	4		1		

Mammals

1	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			1			1		
2	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		2	1	1				
3	Elk	<i>Alces alces</i>		10	4					
4	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			2		1	1	4	3
5	Bison	<i>Bison bonasus</i>					3			
6	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>					5	2		
7	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	1	1						
8	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>		1						
9	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>						2		

Butterflies

1	Orange tip	9	Speckled Wood
2	Brimstone	10	Scarce Swallowtail
3	Green-veined White	11	Comma
4	Large Tortoiseshell	12	Small Blue
5	Small White	13	Small Heath
6	Peacock	14	Sooty Copper
7	Map Butterfly	15	Large Copper
8	Small Tortoiseshell	16	Camberwell Beauty

Reptiles & amphibians

1	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	5	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>
2	Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	6	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>
3	Red-eared Terrapin	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>	7	Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>
4	Marsh Frog/Pool Frog	<i>Pelophylax sp</i>			

Plants

Snake's Head Fritillary	Bog Bean	Water Avens
Marsh Marigold	Lady's Smock	Greater Celandine
Cotton Grass	Greater Stitchwort	Lily of the Valley
Comfrey	Coralroot Bittercress	Liver Leaf
Wood Sorrel	Wood Anemone	Yellow Archangel
Bugle	Spring Pea	Coltsfoot
Asarum	Woolly Buttercup	Toothwort
Lesser Celandine	Ramsons	Bog Asphodel
Geranium sanguineum	Cowslip	Oxslip
Cowberry	Wild Strawberry	Bilberry
Meadow Rue	Martagon	Sedum acres
Cypress Spurge		