

Poland in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

14 - 21 May 2011



Common Rosefinch at Białoweiza by Chris Townsend



White Stork by Peter Dunn



Penduline Tit by Chris Townsend



Golden Oriole by Chris Townsend

Report compiled by Peter Dunn

Images by Peter Dunn and courtesy of Chris Townsend



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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 got access to the 'strict' reserve of unmanaged forest. Up to nine species of woodpecker could be found here together with some of the favourite eastern specialities such as River and Barred Warbler, Collared and Red-breasted Flycatcher. The second half of the trip concentrated on the marshland and flood plain of the Biebza River with its abundance of marsh and water birds such as all three marsh terns, White-tailed Eagle, Black Stork and many waders and is one of the strongholds of the much threatened Aquatic Warbler.

Day 1

Saturday 14th May

The group gathered at the gate for the British Airways flying from Heathrow Terminal 5 into Warsaw. Peter met most of the members of the group at the departure gate and we were soon flying out over the North Sea and into Europe for our swift flight into Poland, landing some 15 minutes early. Once we had collected our luggage we were greeted in the arrivals hall by Tomek and Piotr (Peter), the latter was to be our guide throughout the tour. Having sorted out currency and water we headed for the coach which was driven by an old Naturetrek friend Krzysiek. We quickly loaded the bags and were soon heading east out of Warsaw.

During our journey through the city we saw the new and the old, with new office blocks and a huge new stadium for the European Soccer Championships to be hosted by Poland in 2012, amidst some old 'Russian style' building complete with bullet holes! During our journey we saw the *soemmerringii* race of Jackdaw, with its whiter nape band, together with Hooded Crow. We stopped at a new hotel in the country where we had a traditional pierogi lunch and were met by a Naturetrek group who were just finishing their tour, with tales of birds and beasts. Around this hotel we started adding to our Polish list with good numbers of Common Raven, Tree Pipit and Yellowhammers to name a few.

Suitably refreshed we continued west on some minor roads, where White Stork began to become common and found a lane down to some meadows adjacent to the Bug River. There was a Marsh Warbler singing in the road side trees but only seen by a few and Black Terns patrolled the river. Signs of migration came in large numbers of Sand Martins in areas where there were no nests and the first Spotted Flycatcher was seen. A bonus here was a Wryneck on a fence post and a Goshawk soaring above the fields. As we left a Hobby dashed past, a bird we saw on a number of times on the journey. As we drove along Helen's sharp eyes spotted a flock of Common Cranes soaring road and Piotr saw two soaring Black Storks which was a real bonus.

We finally arrived in Bialoweza around 7pm in nice evening sunshine and we were allocated our rooms and then met for a 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 15th May

The morning dawned bright and sunny and some had already been to the Palace Park before we all met for a pre-breakfast visit to Wysokie Bagno. Krzysiek drove us first to the Palace Park entrance where an early Greenish Warbler had been reported. We could not find that but instead had our first smart male Collared Flycatcher. We then drove down to the bridge over the Narewka where we started our walk. It was almost immediate that we noticed the lack of some bird song. A single Thrush Nightingale could be heard in the distance, no River or Marsh Warblers and few Hawfinches. We had been told that birds were late this year and now we found out first hand. However that said we still had some wonderful sightings. A brief Icterine Warbler and a Green Sandpiper flushed from the flooded woodland. A nice pair of frosty Marsh Tits and 'shivering' Wood Warblers singing to entertained us. A brief sighting of a Three-toed Woodpecker had us all running back and with a little persuasion the female appeared in full view and started drumming – something not expected and she did so for fifteen minutes. A few more Hawfinches and Whinchats were seen on the walk back whilst a Corncrake called loudly in long vegetation and some of the group had a smart White-headed Long-tailed Tit. Krzysiek arrived with the bus and we were transported back to the 'pension' for breakfast.

Following our continental but filling breakfast we headed back the Palace Park as the Greenish had been reported again and this time we had brief but good views as it sang from the tops of trees – a first for Naturetrek tours this year and a River Warbler sang briefly close by. Out on the park lake, Great Reed Warblers and a nice red male Common Rosefinch sang from the island. We then went to a known site for White-backed Woodpecker, to be greeted by the knowledge that their young had fledged and left the area. However we managed to see an active Middle-spotted Woodpecker and some had brief views of the female White-backed as she sat on a high branch.

From here we went to an area of flooded forest near Budy village. We stopped the bus and walked back to the bridge and into the forest where at least three male Collared Flycatchers sang on territory. A Lesser Spotted Eagle appeared above us and started to display and a male Marsh Harrier patrolled the reed beds. Another Middle-spotted Woodpecker called excitedly and flew through the trees to a nest on the other side of the road and in the distance both Grey-headed and Black Woodpeckers called but would not come any nearer, so we headed back to the hotel for lunch.

After a lunch of borsch and pierogi we walked to the Palace Park arriving just ahead of rain. Heading straight for the observation tower in the conservation centre, we sat out the rain with excellent views over the lake and managed forest and watching Spotted Flycatchers sheltering. After $\frac{3}{4}$ hour the rain had almost stopped so we headed out into the park. We walked slowly down to the northern gate and were rewarded with some views of a pair of Grey-headed Woodpeckers near to their nest. The views were not brilliant because of the amount of leaves but everyone could see the grey face broken up only by the black tear-drop moustache. We continued walking around the park, watching Great Reed Warblers by the lake and eventually catching up with the River Warbler, albeit in flight near the road. After this good walk we headed back to the pension to get ready for dinner. Following another filling dinner, Peter & Peter outlined the next day's activities, and completed the daily log before we all retired to bed.

Day 3

Monday 16th May

We gathered for coffee/tea at 5.30am and boarded the bus at 6. First stop was near the Palace Park where Barred Warbler had been reported the previous day. The weather, although dry was overcast with a moderate cold wind and very few birds were singing. A Common Rosefinch was heard but remained hidden in a tree. We took the road parallel to the village road and left the bus at the old railway, which we followed towards the Narewka Bridge. Most song came from Yellowhammers and Chaffinch but Corncrake was heard from the flood meadows and we tried to see a close Thrush Nightingale without success as it sang from deep cover. More success was a River Warbler seen with telescopes singing in the open from the top of a bush and it was fascinating to see newly fledged Fieldfares being fed. Further down the road we managed to 'scope a Hawfinch and just before we got back on the coach, Paul saw a woodpecker land in a tree and it turned out to be a nice White-backed Woodpecker which showed very well and made up for the brief views we had yesterday. We then headed back to the 'pension' for breakfast.

The rest of the morning was spent in the company of Eva in the strict reserve, where she 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 managed to get brief views of a Black Woodpecker and a nesting hole of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, where the adults changed over. As we were about to leave the gate a Red-breasted Flycatcher, which we heard in the distance as we entered the reserve, showed reasonably well to many of the group. We thanked Eva for her expertise and time and passed back through the Palace Park, where Roger & Helen showed us a Grey-headed Woodpecker nest hole, still being excavated and some were lucky enough to see the female at the hole.

After lunch the group were given some free time to explore the village or join Peter on a trip to look for woodpeckers. New was a displaying Honey Buzzard and good views of Common Rosefinch with some excellent photo opportunities

We had an early dinner this evening (5pm) so that we could drive out to the Narew Valley to look for Great Snipe. The weather was perfect, clear sky little wind as we walked from Narew village into the river valley. Almost immediately we were greeted by a roding Woodcock and out in the marsh a number of Roe Deer grazed and Corncrakes called (one was seen in flight later). We set up the telescopes on a well-trodden area and very soon we were looking at a Great Snipe sat on a tussock. It did momentarily do some bill clicking and a little jump, showing off its white outer tail feathers but then walked off. A few minutes later another appeared in a different area and sat motionless for 15 minutes or more. It eventually stretched up, bill click, flashed its white outer tail and walked off. Although distant views they were some of the best Naturetrek had seen at this site for a number of years as the vegetation was much lower. Satisfied with these views we headed back to the coach where Krzysiek was waiting with hot tea and coffee before driving back to the hotel in time for a beer and completion of the daily log before bed!

Day 4

Tuesday 17th 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. However some of the group went out early and reports returned of Barred Warbler and Common Rosefinches been seen.

After breakfast we collected our packed lunches and headed Kosy Most, deep in the forest. The weather was not as we had expected with cloud and a very cool wind. The birds we wanted at this site did not appear (Nutcracker & Black Woodpecker) but Peter did find an Adder which David saw before it disappeared into the grass. We decided to cut our losses and head for Siemianówka Reservoir for better birding.

We stopped on the way to look at the road sign at Siemianówkaszczynna, one of the longest in eastern Poland and also saw Great Grey Shrike and heard Woodcock. We arrived at the lake side to start adding new species; Great White Egrets, Garganey, Ruff, Wood Sandpiper and Gadwall with all three marsh terns. Peter heard a strange wagtail call and on investigation found a 1st year male Citrine Wagtail, a rare breeding bird in Poland having spread from the east. We had coffee/tea courtesy of Krzysiek and then had our lunches on the table near the tower hide. During lunch an adult White-tailed Eagle also arrived on site to have its lunch of fish which was watched by all. Having seen most of the expected species (including a Thrush Nightingale) we boarded the bus to travel to the opposite side of the reservoir making a timely stop for Ortolan Bunting which was singing right next to the coach.

It was still cool and windy on the north side but we had a steady walk to view the marsh from the railway line. Two Black Storks flew over and were later seen in the field and up to three Hobbies hawked insects over the wood. We saw more waders (Ruff, Green and Wood Sandpipers) here and we heard the booming of the Fire-bellied Toad. By 3pm the sky looked pretty threatening so we walked back to the coach, where we saw two Red Foxes in the field. Then it was a drive back to the Białoweiza forest with a plan to look for Pygmy Owl before dinner. We arrived at a site known as the 'magic place' for mystical powers at around 5.30pm and walked to an area of tall pines. Peter played the calls of Pygmy Owl and for 30 minutes nothing happened and we were about to pack up when suddenly the bird appeared and gave excellent views in the top of a pine, being mobbed by white-headed Long-tailed Tits!!! The group were elated (so were the leaders) and we watch this bird for another twenty minutes before walking back to the coach. As we arrived back we spotted some Common Crossbills feeding in the pines – a good end to the day!

Finally we set off back to the hotel around 7pm 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 18th May

A majority made good their last morning in Białowieża with a walk around the lake at 6am. The River Warbler and Greenish Warbler were still singing and most caught up with the male Barred Warbler with so excellent views. Having breakfast at 8am, we said our goodbyes to the forest and its' community and boarded the bus at 9am for the start of our journey north to Biebrza, leaving the forest via Hajnówka towards Białystok. We made a brief stop in 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 Białystok 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 surprise was a Black-throated Diver which flew over us and landed on the main lake and a couple saw a pair of Penduline Tits at their nest.

We headed off to Waneiwó for a fabulous lunch of cold meats, cheese, pancakes washed down with home made black current juice and a few hardy souls went on a punt trip around the river whilst the others watched from the tower hide. The water level was very high with no exposed mud for waders and the only birds of note were all three marsh terns, three Common Cranes and a male Blue-headed Wagtail.

We planned to call at the Aquatic Warbler site at Długa Luka so had to stop to collect our permits. The conditions looked good and after about a minute we heard the first bird churring and it was not long before one or two started to sing in song flight. Eventually we managed to locate a couple and obtain telescope views where the pale colouration and central crown stripe could be seen. Other species seen here included three Montagu's Harriers, Curlew and roding snipe. After a brief stop at the elk tower we continued on to the Bartek Hotel in Goniądz where we arrived 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.

Day 6

Thursday 19th May

By 5.30am we had borrowed a kettle and with coffee donated by Dick and some tea bags from the hotel managed to prepare an early drink before Peter(s) led the early birds to the roof of an old restaurant which gave an elevated view of the marshes. We were particularly looking for Elk but all we could see this morning were Roe Deer. A large dark eagle sat on the side of a bush in the distance may have been Spotted Eagle but too far to be sure, but a fly-by White-tailed Eagle was easier. A Sparrowhawk was new for the trip, being harassed by the local Swallows and Fieldfares and two Black Storks were feeding in the marsh. By 7.15 thoughts turned to breakfast and we headed back to the hotel.

After breakfast we headed for the west side of the central basin of the national park. We arrived at Mścichy to look for Bluethroat and Citrine Wagtail in warm sunshine but there was another group of birders in front of us. We decided to hang back until they had moved off and checked a well known Bluethroat spot.

At first nothing happened and we were about to continue walking when a male was seen in a low tree. It was singing and for the next 15 minutes gave us excellent views. We continued on looking at a distant Elk and various raptors (Lesser Spotted Eagle amongst them) while all the time searching for Citrine Wagtail. After some time we decided to turn back and try and stay ahead of the other group but the lure of an ice cream at the village shop delayed us for a while. Following this we headed for Brzostowo for lunch.

We arrived at Brzostowo to find the water levels very high but still managed to add some species to the list – mainly duck (Shoveler, Pintail and Wigeon). The fields were full of White-winged Terns with a few Whiskered mixed in. A swimming Grass Snake was a surprise and the only waders were breeding Lapwing and Redshank with a few migrant Ruff and a Common Sandpiper. We ate our packed lunch on the picnic table accompanied by some nice hot tea and coffee from the farm house. The other group arrived and 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 Elk in the distance feeding with Roe Deer but as we scanned up to eight were seen and some looked huge in the telescopes, with antlers in velvet. More duck were added – Pochard and Teal and Blue-headed Wagtails entertained us on the bank. Having seen all that we could here we moved onto Tykocin.

We continued onto Tykocin, 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. The whole area was in a state of turmoil with road works and bridge works and most of the good marsh had been flattened or disturbed. As the birding group crossed the bridge Helen spotted a European Beaver moving in the water and we were able to watch it briefly before it disappeared into the bank. We checked the far bank for woodpeckers but there was too much disturbance and on the way back Peter re-found the beaver and kept it under observation until all the group had returned and seen it. This exciting sighting had delayed us somewhat but we still found time to re-visit the Aquatic site at Długa Luka. Some of the group had good views of one right at the end of the boardwalk. Returning to the Bartek we gathered for dinner after which we completed the day's log.

Day 7

Friday 20th May

Our final full day started at 6am in bright clear conditions, after another nice coffee courtesy of Dick. We took the coach to a bridge over the River Biebzka at Dolistowo. Spending some time there we saw European Beaver, good views of Common Rosefinch and some Golden Orioles, one of which was trying to copy the Swallows by dipping into the water. A Thrush Nightingale was seen in the wood near the bridge and on the way back Peter (Piotr) spotted our first male Red-backed Shrike, which had been until then so obvious by their absence.

After breakfast we headed north over the river towards Wolka Piacenza a renowned place for Hoopoe. First stop was at the tower hide just outside Goniądz where we saw Black Stork, Black-tailed Godwits and a tatty looking Large Tortoiseshell butterfly. We walked through the village of Wolka P. where the sandy streets were lined with lilac bushes. We could not locate the Hoopoe and some locals suggested it nested near to the green building at the start of the village but we still could not find it. It was about 11am when we came across a small village shop and a vast selection of ice cream was purchased, before we made a visit to the National Park HQ at Osowiec where a few souvenirs were available. With lunch time approaching we took advantage of the shaded benches and table in the park to dine, out of the hot sun.

During the early part of the afternoon we walked the boardwalk between the tower hides at Osowiec, where a nice Penduline Tit was building a nest and showed reasonably well. We did see another later on the walk and some briefly saw a Bluethroat. There was a lot of evidence of beaver here, with cut trees and gnawed planks on the boardwalk. The weather was 'steamy' with the threat of a thunderstorm rumbling in the distance and some of the group opted to go back to the hotel to wind down before dinner, whilst others went out for a couple of hours with Peter (Piotr) to revisit the site we had been in before breakfast. There were more Red-backed Shrikes and Corn Bunting was added to the list.

Our final dinner in the hotel restaurant was a very tasty chicken and noodle soup followed by chicken casserole and some cake for 'afters'. Dave and Dick then made well received speeches and presentation to Krzysiek the driver and both Peters. The final log showed that we had achieved a total of 155 bird species (of which four were heard only).

Day 8

Saturday 21st May

After an overnight thunderstorm some had an early morning walk before we met for breakfast at 7.30 and we were loaded onto the coach and on our way by 8.30. We paid a brief stop at Długa Luca for the Aquatics but nothing, not even a call but as we left we flushed a Hoopoe from the side of the road. Another brief stop at Tykocin for the Syrian Woodpecker failed (still too much noise with the road works) and then we settled back in our seats for the journey to Warsaw. We ate our packed lunch at the same café we had visited on our journey out and were soon battling with the Warsaw traffic.

We said our goodbyes to John and Elizabeth who were staying on in Warsaw for an extra day and continued onto the airport. We thanked our driver Krzysiek for his safe and patient driving and Piotr was an enthusiastic guide and his 'mr fixit' attitude made sure that most things worked. We all said goodbye to these good friends 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; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>						2	1	1
2	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				100	3	✓	2	2
3	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	2		1	✓	3	✓	8	2
4	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				✓	2	✓		
5	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>						30		
6	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>						50		
8	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>						2		
9	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>				10	2	12	1	
10	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>						4		
11	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						4		
12	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				2	10	4		
13	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>			20					
14	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>					1			
15	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					4			
16	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				5	6	1		
17	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2			2	1	4	2	
18	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>					H	H		
20	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	12	2	2	✓	8	12	✓	2
21	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				20		15	4	
22	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				1				
23	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				6		12		
24	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			1	2				
25	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				1		1	4	
26	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	9	1	2	6	6	✓	✓	3
27	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>					3	3		1
28	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>						2	1	1
29	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1				1			
30	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	6	1	2	1	1	6	4	3
31	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>		2		2		3		
32	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2		1	1		1		1
33	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	6			3	2	1		
34	Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>		H	1	H	H	H		
35	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>				H				
36	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1	H					1	
37	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	1				6	2		
38	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	11	30	H	24	8	70	20	
39	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	5		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				1				
41	Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>			6	3				
42	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>			2					
43	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			5	✓	5	3	✓	3
44	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	3			✓	8	6	✓	4
45	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>					1			H
46	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				✓	2	4	2	H
47	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		1		2				

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
48	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				12				
49	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				2		1		
50	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				✓				
51	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	1							
53	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				1				
54	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>				2				
55	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	1	2		6	4	2		1
56	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓	8	20	4	
57	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	2		3	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
58	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	✓		2	10	10	6		
59	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	2			2				
61	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓			1	2	2	4	✓
63	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		1	2	3	7	3	1	H
64	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>								1
65	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			1					
67	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	1	3	6	2	2			
68	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>			2					
69	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>		2	1					
70	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>		1	1	1				
71	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1	3	3	1	1			
72	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>		2	1					
73	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		1	1	1	1			
74	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	1		1					
75	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		2	2	1	1			
76	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>							5	1
77	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	1
78	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	H	1	3	3	1	2	6	1
79	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	15	20	✓	✓	✓	4	4	✓
80	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	2		1	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓					4	4	✓
84	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	20			6	2	2	4	38
85	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		4		2	1	2	1	
86	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		1						
87	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>		1						
88	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
89	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
90	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					2		5	
91	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				H				
92	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	2		1	1	4	6	✓	2
93	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	50		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
94	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Northern Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus caudatus</i>		1		4			1	
97	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
98	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
99	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		10	✓	✓	✓			
100	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>		1	1	1	1			
101	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		3	6	✓	✓	3	3	
102	Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>						3	4	2
103	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	H	1	1	1	5	2	4	2
104	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		1	H	H	3		H	
105	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	1	H			H			
106	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>		4	2	2	3	2	4	2
107	Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>		1	1	H	H	H		
108	River Warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>		1	1	1	H			
109	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>		H	1	1	1	1		H
110	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	H	H
111	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	H	1	2		1	1		
112	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>				1	1			
113	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	2
114	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	6	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		2	1					
116	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		4	4	1	1			
117	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		4	2	1	1			
118	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	2	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
120	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	✓	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
121	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		1	1					
122	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
123	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				6	5	1		
124	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		3	2	2	2		1	1
125	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>						4	2	
126	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>		1	H	6	1	2	3	H
127	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	5	8	✓	✓	✓	3	6	2
128	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	2	2	1	1	2		2	1
129	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1	6	✓	✓	3	8	✓	✓
130	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				1	2	2	1	1
131	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	1	10	4	✓	8	1	2	1
132	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		1	3				1	
133	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>		12	10	2	2			
134	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
135	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
136	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		2	1					
137	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	3			2	2	8	✓	3
138	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>				1				
139	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
140	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>					1	3	3	3
141	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	1		3		2	1	2	
142	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
143	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	1	1	1	6	5	2	5	2
144	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	2	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
145	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>				H				
146	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
147	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	2	2	1	2	2	4	✓	3
148	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>		2		2	6	3		3
149	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>				3				

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
150	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>							1	
151	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		8	15	6	5	2	4	2
152	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>							3	
153	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	2	1	6	✓	2	4	✓	4
154	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>				5			H	
155	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		1	3	6	6	✓	✓	6

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>	Bat sp.	
European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	European Mink	<i>Mustela lutreola</i>

Butterflies

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</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>	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</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>	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>

Moths

Oak Eggar	<i>Lasiocampa quercus</i>	Lattice Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>
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Dragonflies

Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx</i>	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>
Common Blue	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	Large Redeye	<i>Erythromma najas</i>
Small Red Damsel	<i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i>	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</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>
Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>	Raft Spider	<i>Dolomedes fimbriatus</i>
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>
European Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	Parasitic wasp sp.	<i>Hymenoptera sp.</i>
Roman Snail	<i>Helix pomatia</i>	Banded Snail sp	<i>Cepaea sp.</i>

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

Plants (A few notable species courtesy of Rhonwen Lock)

Greater Celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Bogbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>
Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamium galeobdolan</i>	Celery-leaved Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>
Thread-leaved Water Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus trichopyllus</i>	Russian Comfrey	<i>Symphytum uplandicum</i>
Thrift	<i>Armeria mauritima</i>	Spring Peas	<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>
Hairy Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus sardour</i>	Toothwort	<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>
Coralroot Bittercress	<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	Golden Saxifrage	<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>
Early Dog Violet	<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>
Red Current	<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Witch Elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>
Small-leaved Elm	<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Fluttering Elm	<i>Ulmus laevis</i>
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>
Wood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Cow wheat sp.	<i>Melampyrum nemorosum</i>
Field Pennycress	<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>
Lily of the Valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>
Ramsons	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Northern Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>
Field Pansy	<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Greater Stichwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>