

Poland in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

14 – 21 May 2017



Three-toed Woodpecker - female



Camberwell Beauty



Red Fox



Hazel leaf Roller weevil

Report and images compiled by Peter J Dunn



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire GU34 3HJ England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Participants: Peter Dunn (leader) & Oliwier Myka (local guide) with 15 Naturetrek clients
Drivers – Lukasz, Roman and Waldek

Day 1

Sunday 14th May

Fly from London to Warsaw then drive to Białoweiza

Peter met most of the group at the departure gate at Heathrow airport. Soon we had boarded our aircraft and were airborne, heading for Warsaw. It was a smooth uneventful flight, arriving at Frederick Chopin Airport a few minutes ahead of time. With the airport formalities sorted, we met Oliwier and our last member of the group who had flown out a few days earlier. We boarded our coach for the journey through the centre of Warsaw, heading east.

Our journey took us east on one of many routes out of the city and onto a brand new 'motorway' which connects with the 'Via Baltica', seeing many Jackdaws and Hooded Crows around the streets. On leaving the city our route continued east and we started to see White Storks feeding in the fields and Common Buzzards over the woods. Lunch was taken at the Kamiza Hotel, where pork cutlets (chops in batter), boiled potato and sauerkraut was accompanied by local beer or juice.

We continued east and stopped at a flooded meadow near to the Bug River at Brok, where small parties of Black Terns flew over. Almost immediately a pair of Marsh Warblers started singing and showed well in some leafless branches, whilst Lapwings displayed and both Black-tailed Godwit and Garganey loafed in the waterlogged grass. There was much activity in the air with both Marsh Harrier and Common Buzzard drifting over the trees and a Common Crane flew purposefully up river.

A falcon-like call alerted us to a Wryneck back near the road and with a little searching it was seen 'singing' in a leafless tree. Other singing birds included both Black and Common Redstarts, Lesser and Common Whitethroats and a short burst from a Thrush Nightingale. It was time to re-board the bus as we had around three hours to go, so continued the journey through Bielsk Podlaski and Hajnówka and finally arriving into Białoweiza and Pension Unikat around 5.50pm, where rooms were allotted and we gathered again at 7pm for dinner.

Following the three course dinner and log call, we discussed the forthcoming day's visits before we all turned in after our early start and a long driving day.

Day 2

Monday 15th May

Białoweiza Forest area.

We woke to a beautiful misty morning with bird song filling the air. After a quick coffee or tea, we headed out on foot towards the fields that surround the Strict Reserve. The sounds of Greenfinch, Blackbird and Yellowhammer were well known by most, but in amongst them were songs of Whinchat, Golden Oriole and even Corn Crake. The first two were easily seen but the crake would not show itself. We had walked to the fields in search of Bison but none were obvious, so Oliwier went to check out another area and came back breathless, stating there were three on the other side of a small wood. We purposely made our way along the tracks to the other side of the wood where most managed to get good views of three magnificent males before they 'melted'

back into the forest. The same area also held a pair of Red-backed Shrike and both displaying Tree Pipit and Woodlark.

Our original plan was to walk through the Palace Park, but we had spent more time in the Bison area so we headed back to the hotel via a tower hide which overlooks the town's marsh. This was a splendid choice with Great Reed Warbler singing from the reedbeds, some brief snatches of Savi's Warbler between many Sedge Warbler songs and, best of all, a very showy, probably newly arrived male Barred Warbler singing from the tops of trees. A great start to the day which also built a healthy appetite as we headed back to the hotel for a satisfying continental breakfast.

We reconvened at 9am to go on a woodpecker hunt. First we drove to Teremiski where we drove down to the forest and set off on a short walk. We were waylaid en route when a Lesser Spotted Eagle started displaying over the road, but we finally arrived and made our way to and through the forest. A distance Common Rosefinch was seen by a few and a bright green Marsh Frog was of photographic interest. Wandering through the forest, we saw Nuthatch and Treecreeper, and could hear both Collared and distant Red-breasted Flycatchers singing. Finally we came to a tree with a low nest hole and soon were watching a pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers coming to feed their young. We stayed and enjoyed this for half an hour before retracing our steps to the bus and headed back towards Bialoweiza.

We stopped again close to a tower hide on the outskirts of town where we heard but failed to locate a singing Icterine Warbler, and staked out another woodpecker hole. This time a pair of White-backed Woodpeckers came and fed quite large chicks. Soon it was time to head back for lunch, but not before trying a known Grey-headed Woodpecker site; alas it was third time unlucky!

Following a lunch of borscht and stuffed pancakes, we headed east to Wysokie Bagno or high bog, where Peter showed the group an active Beaver site where a dam formed a small pond and some beaver lodges. Here we heard and eventually saw another Icterine Warbler and a number of Marsh Frogs, and some found a European Tree Frog. We visited the tower near the bridge and a few heard a distant River Warbler, but there was little else so we headed for the Palace Park.

Almost immediately in the park we had a nice family of Nuthatches at the entrance, and finally all got good views of a nice red male, singing, Common Rosefinch. A Great Reed Warbler entertained us here and one or two saw a male Collared Flycatcher. Having photographed the oldest house in the town, we made our way towards the gate when a singing Thrush Nightingale showed well in some sparsely-leaved bushes. Here John called "woodpecker" and we looked to see what appeared to be a Great Spotted Woodpecker looking for food on a trunk. However Peter D thought there was something not quite right and asked the group to look more closely. The cheeks appeared all white with no bar across, there was very little white in the tail, a thin bill and paler pink under tail coverts all pointed to Syrian Woodpecker. Oliwier could not believe it, as the last undocumented recorded was 20 years ago, however this time some group members got photographs. They were sent to various 'experts' who all concurred that it was a female Syrian Woodpecker; a red letter day for Oliwier and new for many of the group.

Flushed with success we made our way back to the hotel for a drink before dinner. After dinner we met Mateurz and headed back into the forest, north of Budy. Stopping on the side of the road, Mateurz stared to

imitate the call of European Pygmy Owl and soon we were staring into the vicious yellow eyes of this diminutive little hunter. What a perfect end to a busy full day and we returned to our hotel for a well earned sleep before another early start in the morning.

Day 3

Tuesday 16th May

Białoweiza Forest area

Amazingly everyone was up early for coffee or tea before our walk to the Strict Reserve entrance for 5am to meet our guide Mateurz again. The morning was spent walking through the primeval forest with Mateurz keeping us informed about the plants, animals, birds and insects of the forest and their relationship to each other within this ecosystem. He also informed us about the Spruce Bark Beetle problems and the history of the site. Collared Flycatchers called from most parts of the forest and we were able to see one or two, and at one point Colin spotted a young Tawny Owl asleep on a branch, with two more discovered close by. Some had a brief view of a 'fly-by' Black Woodpecker, but Mateurz knew of a nest and we set up telescopes on the hole from a distance and had a fleeting glimpse of one of the adults leaving the nest. Other wildlife interest was a number of Bank Voles scurrying about in the vegetation, and some nice sightings of Red Squirrel. Tracks in soft mud even showed that a Wolf had passed the same way during the night! Having spent around three hours in the reserve, we thanked Mateurz for his hard work and excellent command of English with which he had made us much more aware of this special habitat that spans both Poland and Belarus. The bus arrived at the entrance to the track and we were whisked back to the hotel for a delicious continental breakfast.

After breakfast we re-boarded the bus and drove to the car park at the Bison Reserve and had a walk on the local track onto a trail known as 'zebra zebra'. As we left the car park a Honey Buzzard flew high overhead and a Red-breasted Flycatcher could be heard singing in the wood with a Firecrest in support. We walked slowly amongst the trees and first a male Firecrest was seen singing directly above us, followed by excellent views of a showy 'red throated' male Red-breasted Flycatcher which flitted around, singing from bare branches.

Continuing onto the Zebra Zebra path we saw more Collared Flycatchers and had brief but good views of a Black Woodpecker ahead of us. Our aim was a known Middle Spotted Woodpecker nest and we viewed this through telescopes at a safe distance. Within a few minutes there was some activity and we all saw the male and female come to the nest twice and enter the hole. We suspect the male had fed the female and left. We remained at the site for 30 minutes but he did not show again and eventually we had to leave and drive back to the hotel for lunch, ever watchful for any big animals or new birds.

After a light lunch of pierogi, we had a couple of hours free time to explore the town or walk the marsh trails before reconvening for a ride to Czerlonka to look for Nutcracker and Hazel Hen. The former was easy. We heard them call and eventually they appeared in the trees above us. The Hazel Hen led us a merry dance however and called from the side of the disused rail track and flew across and back three times, but not all of us saw it!

After a dinner of soup, chicken and chips and peach trifle, we headed to the Narew valley in search of Great Snipe. Wellingtons were the order of the day as we had to trail through ankle-deep bog before meeting up with another group on a slight high point. Here we stared at a defined area hoping to hear clicking and see movement. Nothing was happening but streams of Great Egrets went past and Spotted Crakes gave their whiplash calls in the marsh. A distant River Warbler was heard and the loud cries of courting Common Cranes echoed over the

valley. The light rapidly faded and the other group gave up and wandered off, as we discussed tactics. Almost as soon as this happened, Jem saw something jump and Peter D could see a Great Snipe stood on a mound. In the next five or ten minutes we excitedly watched up to five Great Snipes jump about, showing all the white in their tails and wings. This made the long walk back to the coach better and silence reigned on the drive back to the hotel where we arrived back at around 10.30pm ready for bed.

Day 4

Wednesday 17th May

Siemianówka Reservoir and Kosy Most.

The organised walk this morning was at 6.30am due to the late night the previous evening. We had a new coach for the remainder of the tour and we used this to drive to the Park Dyrekcyjny in search of woodpeckers. On arrival we walked through the park and soon there was a cacophony of sound, mostly from three or four drumming Great Spotted Woodpeckers and also calling Wryneck. One of the drumming noises seemed slower and sure enough, with some encouragement, we were soon watching a female Grey-headed Woodpecker. We now only needed Green Woodpecker to complete the set. We also had time to check the bridge at Wysokie Bagno but there were still no River Warblers and all the groups we spoke to had not yet seen one. It was late for this species. Soon it was time to go back to the hotel for breakfast.

Breakfast was at 8am and we boarded the coach at 9am, heading for the reservoir at Siemianówka via the village of Czyże, where we stopped next to a stand of trees. As soon as we disembarked the coach we could hear the tell-tale song of Ortolan Bunting and we soon had two in sight, feeding in a bare ploughed field. Superb! We also had great views of a Marsh Harrier hunting over the field.

We continued on to Siemieniakowszczyzna and stopped to photograph the sign which would rival a certain town in Wales, and then took a drive down to the meadows where we found both Lesser and Greater Spotted Eagles in the air, and also our first Meadow Pipit of the trip!

We arrived at the reservoir south shore in warm sunshine and a pleasant breeze, with all three species of marsh terns over the water and herons, egrets and harriers in most directions. As it warmed up, butterflies appeared with nice examples of Weaver's Fritillary and Green Hairstreak, but some really faded and strange looking Comma butterflies. The only dragonfly was a Four-spotted Chaser, and other entomological finds included Rose Chafers, a black long-horn beetle and another weevil type with the fascinating name of Black-spotted Pliers Support Beetle! Just before lunch, Peter D pointed out two Penduline Tit nests; a fresh one and one from last year. The male was close by and performed well for the group

We ate our picnic lunch here in the warm sunshine and spent a bit more time scanning the lake where White-tailed Eagle and another Greater Spotted Eagle were seen. We returned via the forest and called in at Kosy Most, where we walked down the track to the bridge. En Route, some were fortunate enough to have fleeting views of a Hazel Hen and a basking Camberwell Beauty butterfly was a prize find. We had hoped again for River Warbler at the bridge but still no sign, however both Barred and Icterine Warblers were bonuses.

We left Kosy Most and continued along the forest road and eventually arrived back in Bialoweiza around 6pm, where we prepared for our evening meal of Bison meat balls and completed our daily long. Everyone spoke

highly of the day and the nice change in habitats, but this was the final evening in this town and the next day we were to relocate to the Biebrza marshes.

Day 5

Thursday 18th May

Białoweiza to Biebrza

With this being our change-over day to Biebrza, some had arranged to go and look for Bison again with Olivier whilst others joined Peter for a walk along the marsh to the tower hide. The Olivier group did not see Bison but had good flight views of Corn Crake, and those with Peter failed to see a close singing Corn Crake but had good views of two singing male Barred Warblers.

After breakfast we packed the coach and bid farewell to the Unikat and started our trip north towards Biebrza, calling in at some stalls for honey and then travelling towards Białystok, pausing at the village of Trześcianka where the quaint Belarus-style cottages and green Orthodox Church were photographed.

The next stop was at the Dojlidy fish ponds in Białystok where we did the circular walk. Black-headed Gulls were in full breeding mode and Bitterns were booming, some quite close but could not be seen. Both Red and Black-necked Grebes were breeding, the latter close to the gull colony for protection. Some managed to see a Little Crake that had been calling, as it flew from one patch of reeds to another.

The Marsh Frogs and Fire-bellied Toads competed with each other and the warm weather had brought out some dragonflies; all the larger ones appeared to be Hairy Dragonflies flying around the reeds, and a few diminutive Siberian Winter Damsels and Blue-tailed Damsels. Both Penduline and Bearded Tits were seen, and there was great excitement as two huge adult White-tailed Eagles were located in trees on the edge of one of the ponds.

The time flew by and it was soon time to go for lunch, pre-booked at a restaurant along the main road, where we enjoyed cheese and apple pancakes accompanied by a beer or juice.

We continued north, stopping to check a local pond for Little Bittern but to no avail; there was however another Red-necked Grebe. Our intention was to visit the reservoir at Zygmunt Augusta, but a flooded field waylaid us as it held a number of waders. We counted at least ten Wood Sandpipers and two Temminck's Stints. Three Little Ringed Plovers and a single Ringed Plover were seen, and an injured Ruff fed along the flooded edges with Blue-headed Wagtails. Time was beating us so we drove past the reservoir and headed straight for the hotel at Goniądz, where we quickly checked into our rooms and some had chance to look at the marsh before dinner.

This had been basically a travelling day but we had still recorded around 90 species of birds as well as various invertebrates and amphibians.

Day 6

Friday 19th May

South Basin of the Biebrza National Park.

Most met at 6am to walk to a roof top viewpoint after an early coffee. As we left the gate of the hotel and walked near to the river, Oliwier heard a River Warbler sing and with some careful searching, we managed to find it in the middle of a small Willow bush – at last they had arrived. We continued to the viewpoint and spent time looking over some large flooded meadows and the Biebrza River, teeming with Black and Whiskered Terns with a few White-winged Terns for good measure. A Hoopoe flew across in front of us and out in the marsh we found two quite distant but distinctive Elk. Black-tailed Godwit and Redshank displayed while a Common Crane marched proudly through the meadows. Just as we were about to leave, Peter D found a Great Spotted Eagle in typical pose, sitting on the side of one of the rounded Willow bushes – just like in the Collin's Field Guide!

We returned for a nice buffet breakfast and then headed towards the west side of the Biebrza south basin. Our first port of call was a walk along the road out of Mścichy. On this warm day with light cooling winds, we were no sooner out of the coach when we found a beautiful singing male white-spotted Bluethroat. The bird performed well for the photographers. Other things seen along this walk included displaying Black-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Lapwing, Common Crane, two Raft Spiders and a Swallowtail butterfly. One or two saw a very distant Citrine Wagtail; difficult in the heat haze. We spent a good 90 minutes enjoying these flat flooded meadows before returning to the coach.

As lunch time was approaching fast we went to Brzostowo where we were offered tea and coffee to have with our packed lunches. The wildlife highlights here were the first two pairs of breeding Black-winged Stilts in this part of Poland. Surrounding these two pairs were flocks of marsh terns and Black-headed Gulls and a good sized flock of Dunlin. A Green Toad called continuously from water and we saw raptors including Lesser Spotted and White-tailed Eagles. It was pleasant to stand/sit in the warm sunshine and enjoy the whole experience of this part of Biebrza, and we added a few more species to the tour list such as Whooper Swan and Pochard.

Our last port of call here was at the viewpoint at Burzyn where we scanned the large flooded area of meadows from our raised position. Because of the late snow and rain, this area was more flooded than on recent visits and this helped to add some new species of duck such as Shoveler and Wigeon, together with good views of two White-tailed Eagles in a tree. At least five Elk were visible here, but again quite distant.

We turned round from this point and retraced our route, pausing to unsuccessfully look for Hoopoe and arrived back at the hotel in Goniądz in time for a quick freshen up before a 5.15pm dinner.

After dinner we headed for the long straight Tzar's Road and arrived at Długa Luca boardwalk in the hope of seeing Aquatic Warbler – and see them we did. Initially they were brief flight views and distant singing birds, but eventually more joined in singing and we were entertained by some relatively close encounters. We even saw a male Citrine Wagtail here, the second of the day, and a nice flight of Common Cranes went by. After 90 minutes we felt we had all had marvellous views and vacated the boardwalk for other birdwatchers.

We got back to the hotel around 9pm and celebrated our success with a swift drink at the bar before bed.

Day 7

Saturday 20th May

West side of the Southern Basin.

We met for a pre-breakfast walk at 6am and walked from the hotel, following the river to the bridge. It was a relatively quiet but surprisingly warm morning and that was to be the theme throughout the day. Nothing new for the group was found, but Icterine Warbler was singing out in the open and the River Warbler had relocated to the hotel grounds. A swarm of odonata caught our interest with a few Banded Demoiselle and lots of Variable and Blue-tailed Damselflies.

Following breakfast we headed into the northern basin of the river near Dolistowo, where we watched a pair of Citrine Wagtails near their nest site on the opposite bank. Both birds showed well but the male was, as always with this species, particularly attractive and came quite close. Next we went to the boardwalk at Osowiec which again was quiet, mainly due to the unusually high water for this time of year, and the heat. It turned out to be the hottest day of the year at 28°C. A few ducks were present on the water and both Common Rosefinch and Penduline Tit were seen from the boardwalk. We met the coach at the other end and drove to Dobarz for lunch. There was a choice of Russian dumplings (a local speciality pierogi type meal stuffed with potato and cheese) and pancakes stuffed with either cottage cheese, jam or apple.

After lunch and the welcomed break from the heat, we visited the 'Elk tower' at Długa Luca where a single distant Elk was seen and other wildlife interests were the Blue Cow-wheat that was coming into flower and various invertebrates.

Our final planned birding stop was at a sand quarry near to Tykocin where our quests of European Bee-eater and Tawny Pipit were seen with great speed. The former were four brightly coloured birds sat in trees having just arrived and later flying off towards the town, and a single of the latter on an electric overhead wire. We celebrated these birds with either an ice-cream, drink or both in Tykocin, where a colourful catholic confirmation service was taking place at the large church.

We set off back to Goniądz with a brief stop at the wader flood near Czechowizna, but there was no change and in fact numbers of waders had decreased. We arrived at the hotel at 6pm

That evening we checked in for our flights home and, following our meal, Richard paid thanks to both Waldek the driver and Olivier the local guide for serving us so well and safely getting us to where we wanted to go and finding all the sought-after species. He presented them each with a 'thankyou' envelope. This was followed by the routine for the next day for getting to the airport and the checklist.

Day 8

Sunday 21st May

Długa Luca and journey to Warsaw, then fly to London

It was a casual start this morning with people doing their own thing in their own time. The bridge was visited where a Hobby was seen, whilst watching from the hotel boardwalk brought White-tailed Eagle and a singing Serin. The place was echoing with singing Common Rosefinches and Lesser Whitethroats.

Following breakfast we loaded the bags into the trailer and boarded the coach, leaving at 9.30am and driving to Długa Luca for a final look at the Aquatic Warblers. It was a nice sunny morning but the wind had increased so

we thought it may have been hard. We could not have been so wrong. With the sun behind us, at least two birds started singing and climbed to the top of reeds, remaining there for a few minutes for all to see. While this was going on a female Montagu's Harrier flew so close above us we could see the colour of its' eyes without binoculars!

With all this going on it was hard to drag ourselves away, but we had a flight to catch so we were on the road towards Warsaw by 11am. We stopped for lunch again at the Karmiza restaurant where Edward thanked Peter on behalf of the group and we completed our last checklist before continuing onto Warsaw.

With reasonable Sunday traffic, we made good time and managed to drop two off in the centre for an extended stay in the city and Oliwer to catch his train back to Bialystok. This gave us a brief view of how modernised Warsaw now is before we headed for the airport where the rest of the group bid farewell to Waldek who had driven us well and we checked in for our flight home. Leaving Warsaw some saw a Kestrel as we took off making the final total 162 birds seen and we were soon heading back to London, landing slightly ahead of time. We bid farewell to each other after a very successful and friendly visit to some of the best wildlife watching in Poland.

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Red-breasted Flycatcher - male



Marsh Frog

Species List

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		5		60	✓	✓	2	✓	
2	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	4		2	✓	✓	✓		✓	
3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	2					2	2		
4	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				3	1	5	✓	✓	
5	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>						2			
6	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>						3	✓		
8	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	1			3	1	1	1	2	
9	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			1				1		
10	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						8	✓	1	
11	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			6		2	2		2	
12	Hazel Grouse	<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>			1	1					
13	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>							2		
14	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	✓				2				
15	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					7	3			
16	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					4				
17	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					2				
18	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
19	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>					H	H	H	H	
20	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	3	1	3	✓	2	6	✓	2	
21	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			26	✓		30	✓	1	
22	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	3	4	1		
23	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		1	1						
24	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		3	2	2	2	3			
25	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>				1		2			
26	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>					1	1	1		
27	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1	1		6	3	6	4	2	
28	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						6	1	1	
29	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				1	2	4	1	1	
30	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	4	✓	2	✓	✓	3	✓	✓	
31	Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>		H	H	H	1				
32	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>					1				
33	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>			H				H	H	
34	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓				1				
35	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	1			2	4	✓	✓	2	
36	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	1		H	3		12	6	H	
37	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						4			
38	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓		2	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	
39	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					1				
40	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					3		2	1	
41	Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>			1						
42	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>			5						
43	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			3	1	4	✓	1	✓	
44	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	1					✓		✓	
45	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						✓		✓	
46	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		1							
47	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			1	1	10	1	3		

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
48	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1						2	
49	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>						1			
50	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>						2			
51	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>							150		
52	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>							3		
54	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>							1		
55	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	2		2	4	2	✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	1			4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	12			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Rock Dove (Feral)	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	2								1
61	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	1	H	H	1	2	✓	✓	✓	H
64	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>			3						
65	Eurasian Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>		1							
66	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>								4	
68	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				H		1	H		
69	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	1				H	H			
70	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>		2							
71	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>			2	1					
72	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>			1						
73	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>		1							
74	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓	✓	H			H	H
75	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>		2							
76	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			2	1					
77	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>				1					
78	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>									1
79	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>									1
80	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>								1	
81	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		4	2	✓	6	✓	✓		
82	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>								1	
83	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		3		H	3	H	✓	H	
84	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1	1	2	2	3	1	✓	✓	
85	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	1		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>			2						
87	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓				3		✓	✓	
90	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	2	2	2	1	2	✓	6	2	
91	Coal Tit (Continental)	<i>Parus ater ater</i>			3						
92	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			2						
93	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓	2	2		2			2
94	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>				3	1			1	
97	Bearded (Reedling) Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>					1				
98	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		2			1				

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
99	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
103	Long-tailed Tit (Northern)	<i>Aegithalos caudatus caudatus</i>			2	2				
104	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	H	H	H	2	1	H	✓	H
105	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita abietinus</i>	H	✓	1	H	✓	✓	✓	H
106	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>				H	H			
107	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		✓	2	H	✓	✓	✓	✓
108	Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>						6		4
109	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		H		H	✓	✓	✓	✓
111	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	2			H	H	H		
112	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>		1		2	H	1		1
113	Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>		H	H		3	1		
114	River Warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>		H	H			1	1	
115	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>			H		H		1	H
116	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	2	2	H	✓	H
117	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		H	H	H	H		2	H
118	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>		1	1		2			
119	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	H	✓	1	H	✓	H	✓	H
120	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	2	✓		H	H	✓	✓	1
121	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			2	H				
122	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		H		H				
123	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			H					
124	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓	H				
125	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		✓	2	H				
126	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
127	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
128	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
129	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		2
130	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		1	1	1			1	1
131	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓	2	3	✓		1	
132	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	2	H	1			
133	Bluethroat (White-spotted)	<i>Luscinia svecica cyanecula</i>						1		
134	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	H	1	H	H	H	H	✓	H
135	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	1							
136	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>		1	✓					
137	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		H	1					
138	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	3	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	2
139	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	H	✓	✓	H	H		1	
140	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		1	1
141	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		1						
142	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
143	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed)	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	1	1	1	3	✓	✓	✓	✓
145	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>						2	2	
146	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
147	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>							1	
148	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				1		✓	2	
149	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		2			1			

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150	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
151	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	2		1
152	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>		2	1	1	10	6	✓	✓
153	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
154	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
155	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			3					
156	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
157	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		1				2		1
158	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			H					
159	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	1		✓	2		2		
160	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
161	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>				2				
162	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	2	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

Mammals (SO = signs of; T = tracks; c.= about)

1	Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	1				
2	Eurasian Beaver	<i>Castor fiber</i>		SO				SO		
3	Bank Vole	<i>Myodes glareolus</i>			✓	1				
4	European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	1					1	5	3
5	Western European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>							1	
6	Common Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>			T					
7	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			1	1			1	
8	Eurasian Elk	<i>Alces alces</i>						c.10	1	
9	European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	2							2
10	Red deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		✓		2	10			
11	European Bison	<i>Bison bonasus</i>		3						

Amphibians

Common Frog, *Rana temporaria*

Common Tree Frog, *Hyla arborea*

Common Toad, *Bufo bufo*

European Fire-bellied Toad, *Bombina orientalis*

Marsh Frog, *Pelophylax ridibundus*

European Green Toad, *Pseudepidalea viridis*

Natterjack Toad, *Bufo calamita*

Reptiles,

Sand Lizard, *Lacerta agilis*

Grass Snake, *Natrix natrix*

Butterflies,

Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*

Green-veined White, *Pieris napi*

Orange Tip, *Anthocharis cardamines*

Wood White, *Leptidea sinapis*

Camberwell Beauty, *Nymphalis antiopa*

Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*

Comma, *Polygonia c-album*

Weaver's Fritillary, *Glossiana dia*

Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria*

Small White, *Pieris rapae*

Bath White, *Pontia daplidice*

Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Green Hairstreak, *Callophrys rubi*

Peacock, *Inachis io*

Small Tortoiseshell, *Aglais urticae*

Map Butterfly, *Araschnia levana*

Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Dingy Skipper, *Erynnis tages*

Moths,

Tau Emperor, *Aglia tau*

Latticed Heath, *Chiasmia clathrata*

Brown Silver-line, *Petrophora chlorosata*

Blood-vein, *Timandra griseata*

Burnet Companion, *Euclidia glyphica*

Pebble Hook-tip, *Drepana falcataria scotica*

Dragonflies,

Siberian Winter Damsel, *Sympecma paedisca*

Azure Damsel, *Coenagrion puella*

Common Bluet, *Enallagma cyathigerum*

Small Redeye, *Erythromma viridulum*

Hairy Hawker, *Brachytron pratense*

Brilliant Emerald, *Somatochlora metallica*

Banded Demoiselle, *Calopteryx splendens*

Variable Bluet, *Coenagrion pulchellum*

Blue-tailed Damsel, *Ischnura elegans*

Green-eyed Hawker, *Anaciaeschna isoceles*

Common Clubtail, *Gomphus vulgatissimus*

Four-spotted Chaser, *Libellula quadrimaculata*

Plants of note

Wood Anemone, *Anemone nemorosa*

Wild Strawberry, *Fragaria vesca*

Toothwort, *Lathraea squamaria*

Solomon's-seal, *Polygonatum multiflorum*

Northern Marsh Orchid, *Dactylorhiza purpurella*

Wood Stitchwort, *Stellaria nemorum*

Yellow Archangel, *Lamiaeum galeobdolon*

Lily-of-the-Valley, *Convallaria majalis*

Ramsons, *Allium ursinum*

Blue Cow-wheat, *Melampyrum nemorosum*

Other Taxa of Note

European Hornet, *Vespa crabro*

Buff-tailed Bumblebee, *Bombus terrestris*

Wood Ant, *Formica rufa*

Weaver Beetle, *Lamia textor*

Bishop's Mitre Shieldbug, *Aelia acuminata*

Common Cockchafer, *Melolontha melolontha*

Great Green Bush Cricket nymph, *Tettigonia viridissima*

A Raft Spider, *Dolomedes fimbriatus*

Roman Snail, *Helix pomatia*

Dor Beetle sp., *Geotrupidae*

Common Carder Bee, *Bombus pascuorum*

Black-spotted Pliers Support Beetle, *Rhagium mordax*

Hazel-leaf Roller Weevil, *Apoderus coryli*

Hairy Shieldbug, *Dolycoris baccarum*

Rose Chafer, *Cetonia aurata*

Fire bug, *Pyrrhocoris apterus*

Ramshorn Water Snail, *Planorbis rubrum*



Great Snipe Lek