

Poland in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 - 19 May 2019



Aquatic Warbler by Richard Short



Barred Warbler by Rob Campbell



Red-necked Grebe by Rob Campbell



Savi's Warbler by Peter Dunn

Report compiled by Peter J Dunn
Images courtesy of Rob Campbell, Richard Short & Peter Dunn



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Day 1

Sunday 12th May

Arrival Day

Part of the group travelled with Peter from Heathrow on the early, non-eventful flight to Warsaw, arriving at around 11am European time, and met up with the remaining members and guide Piotr. We quickly located our midi-coach driven by Tomek (Thomas), loaded and set off out of Warsaw. The roads were quiet, being a Sunday and we made good speed, arriving at the Karmiza Restaurant earlier than expected so we sat and enjoyed a drink in the sunshine whilst our lunch was being prepared. This was a fine meal with a, 'ham-hock' main course and chocolate lava cake with ice cream to finish.

An hour later and feeling well satisfied, we were on the road again, heading east. We started to see White Storks, Common Buzzard and Marsh Harriers as we drove along, and our first stop was a viewpoint to the Bug River near Brok. It had been a dry winter and spring, so water levels were down, but we still heard and saw Golden Orioles, Common Whitethroats, displaying Common Snipe, both Black and Common Redstart and heard a Wryneck. Some of the group saw a Honey Buzzard fly over.

We continued on to another viewpoint where Little, Common and Black Terns were feeding or resting by the river, and the grass verges had a few butterflies, including Sooty Copper and Small Heath.

Time was marching on, so we headed straight for Bialoweiza, arriving around 6.30pm, where after allocating rooms, some went for a short walk to the valley and had Great Reed Warbler and heard Corn Crake.

Following a filling Polish dinner, Peter discussed the itinerary for the following days and then completed the checklist. All then retired to their rooms with the thought of a 4am start the next day for our visit to the Strict reserve.

Day 2

Monday 13th May

Strict Reserve and surrounding managed forest.

An early start, and all were raring to go at 4.40am for our visit to the Strict Reserve. It was a fine sunny morning and as we walked up to the edge of the 'buffer fields' to the reserve, the red sun was just coming up over the trees. In amongst the dawn chorus were familiar birds such as Skylark and Willow Warbler, with one or two Wood Warblers and Golden Orioles.

We met Arek our guide and his wife Lucy, bang on time at 5am, and walked down to the huge gates which would not go amiss in a Spielberg film. Here Arek introduced us to the area and history of the reserve and then we spent the next three hours being educated on everything from geology, botany and ecology by this knowledgeable man. However, nice this habitat is, its always the wildlife that is special and on this occasion it was the male Collared Flycatchers that were singing everywhere. With the sighting of just one female, we got the impression that things were a little late this year and indeed, we could not hear any Red-breasted Flycatchers and the only woodpecker seen was Great Spotted. However, Arek's knowledge entertained us until we got back to

the gate just after 8am, where we thanked him and walked slowly back to our waiting bus. It was this walk that was the most productive, with three individual migrating Honey Buzzards just overhead, a nice immature Lesser Spotted Eagle and both Red-backed and Great Grey Shrike.

After a continental breakfast, we headed into the managed reserve in search of woodpeckers. Our first area had been unfortunately closed by the forestry, so we had to relocate to Kosy Most where Piotr had information on a Three-toed Woodpecker nest. We staked out the hole from a distance and although no changeover was seen (the birds were incubating), many saw the male poke his head out of the hole to look around and show off his yellow crown. We then wandered around Kosy Most, where we saw a Black Woodpecker fly over and had good sightings of Crested Tit and a fly-by Large Tortoiseshell. A brief call back to the woodpecker nest did not produce any more sightings, then we had to do a round trip back to the hotel for a lunch of dumplings and biscuits.

We headed straight back out and walked to the Palace Park where a Middle Spotted Woodpecker nest was located. This one was more obliging as they were feeding small young and we had three occasions when the male and female changed over at the nest with food. At the same time a nice, frosty, 'northern' Treecreeper was collecting nesting material and taking it to a close-by tree. While we were watching the woodpecker, a Wryneck had been calling across a small grass meadow, so we walked across, and it was located in the trees and seen well through the telescope.

Next, we climbed (or got the lift) to the top of the glass tower to view over the park. On sunny days it can be a good place to see raptors over the trees but today it was overcast, windy and cool and the only birds of note were White Stork and Common Tern.

Walking through the park and over the bridge we briefly saw one of a number of Great Reed Warblers that were singing around the reed fringes, but it was more difficult locating one of the three Common Rosefinch in the windy, cool conditions but, thankfully, we did and got telescope views.

Piotr had in the meantime located a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker nest and we dutifully lined up on the main road to look at yet another hole in a tree. After an initial glimpse of the male's head poking out, we witnessed a change-over as the female came back to brood the eggs.

Lastly before dinner, we walked back along the back track along the marsh using the tower hide in the village and successfully located a singing male Barred Warbler, after which most went back for a warm drink and rest before dinner, whilst others continued exploring the marshes.

After dinner we reconvened again at 7.30pm to head out to try and find European Pygmy Owl. After a few times of trying to elicit calls we heard a bird start to sing but it was deep in the forest and refused to come to us and we ran out of time and light. Maybe we can try another evening!

Day 3

Tuesday 14th May

Siemianówka Reservoir

The day started for some at 5am and it was raining, which was not forecast. We headed up towards the fields that border the Strict Reserve in search of Bison. Amazingly, this morning it was clear with no mist, but after trying all the hidden corners and meadows, we could not locate any and nor could we find any fresh signs of there being any during the night. However, on the walk back we came across another singing male Barred Warbler which performed for us right out in the open. As we had a bit of time before breakfast, we decided to check the directorate park in the east of the village which led us to having great views of two Wryneck on overhead wires. In the park we watched both Nuthatch and dainty 'white-headed' Long-tailed Tits busily taking food to young in their respective nests and listened to a close Thrush Nightingale which frustratingly would not show, after which we returned to the Unikat for breakfast.

The rain had stopped, and we were fed and watered and ready to go by 9am for our day at Siemianówka Reservoir. We headed out via Hajnówka, stopping to buy some extra provisions to supplement our packed lunches, and then headed to a small village a few miles to the west which was a haven for Ortolan Buntings. Even though the wind was gusty and cold, one bird was seen singing from a small raised drain in the field and everyone managed to see the diagnostic ID features of this bright-coloured bunting. Success under our belts, we headed out to the reservoir, pausing first to photograph the sign for the adjacent village Siemieniakowszczyzna and to see a Great Grey Shrike on the wires.

It was windy with a chill on the banks of the reservoir but almost immediately a female Citrine Wagtail was seen briefly in a willow before she flew down into the marsh and was lost from view. We scanned the reeds and water, which were alive with all three marsh terns, Great Egrets, Marsh Harriers and even some huge juvenile White-tailed Eagles. While looking at these, and also a smart Penduline Tit discovered close to its nest, a large raptor was seen over the adjacent wood which proceeded to fly out over the reeds. There was a little discussion and many photos taken, the conclusion being that this was an adult Greater Spotted Eagle and just to prove it, in classic 'Collins' bird guide fashion, it landed on a small willow bush in the middle of the reed bed where we all had great views. It was seen to be a classic dark bird with some pale in the primaries and the rump, broader winged than Lesser Spotted and a much more 'fingered' tip of the wing (seven long primaries visible when soaring). This was an excellent sighting and a lifer for many. We continued to add species such as Garganey, Green Sandpipers (displaying), and even a Thrush Nightingale was seen from the tower hide, after which we enjoyed are packed lunch at the seated shelter.

We decided to visit the north bank which was slightly warmer as it was sheltered from the northerly wind by forests, and here we added some more water/reed birds. A nice Savi's Warbler was singing from the top of a reed stem and we counted up to four White-tailed Eagles, including an adult, one of which was seen to catch a fish and fly off, 'harried' by a male Marsh Harrier. A Hobby dashed over the reed bed, probably hunting the abundant hirundines and swifts, whilst two smart Common Cranes flew over.

Owing to rain forecast for the next day, we changed our plans and decided to visit the Great Snipe lek this evening so returned to the hotel by 4.30pm to allow the driver to rest and to have an early dinner.

We set off for the marshes on the Narew River at Narew and walked down to a small raised section where another group were stood. Their guide was Arek's son, and he said the birds had been displaying and pointed out the spot. Over the next hour we were frustrated, elated and relieved as the birds flew in, jumped up and clicked their bills, while all the time the light was fading. However, everyone had seen something of the birds, and we walked back to our waiting minibus and back to the Unikat in great spirits.

Day 4

Wednesday 15th May

Białoweiza Area

The day dawned dry but the forecast was for rain most of the day, so a few early risers at 5am went out to check the area for Bison and birds. Although the former did not materialise, we did have Red Fox and Roe Deer out in the fields, and we could hear both Black and Grey-headed Woodpeckers drumming. The dry weather did not last long and by 6am there was continuous rain, so after checking and seeing the Long-tailed Tits at the nest in the directorate park, most headed back to the Unikat to dry off and have breakfast.

After breakfast we headed towards the Narew River and Wysokie Bagno Reserve. We walked into the forest and came to a hole in a tree at the side of the track. From a safe distance we looked and saw the head of a male Grey-headed Woodpecker looking back. The bird had a look around and then popped back in. So as not to disturb it we walked on, but the rain started to increase as we just had heard a distant Nutcracker. We couldn't entice it to come close but a woodpecker that came onto a dead tree briefly was a female White-backed. It almost immediately flew further into the forest.

We decided to head for the tower hide near to the Narew bridge to shelter from the rain and this was a smart move as we heard and/or saw Icterine and River Warbler briefly, at least two maybe three singing Common Rosefinch at eye-level, a smart pale Marsh Tit and a grey-looking Chiffchaff.

After an hour, we walked to the restaurant at the nearby station where we had a hot drink, and then outside continued to listen to a close River Warbler that would not show itself. Walking back towards the woods we saw a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker feeding on a small tree whip and a classic 'bugle-calling' northern Bullfinch was in the trees above us.

We walked back towards the Grey-headed Woodpecker nest hole where the female was now incubating, and Peter had brief views of the male White-backed Woodpecker carrying food, so they were also nesting close by. As it was approaching 1pm, it was time for lunch – a nice warming soup with sandwiches after the rainy morning.

By the time we were ready to resume at 1.45pm, the rain had stopped so we planned on visiting various sites on the Budy Road. The first was a tower hide overlooking a large meadow and reed bed, sometimes good for warblers, but today the stars were a Red-backed Shrike and a Hobby. We moved on to the dead wood at Budy Bridge, where it was initially quiet with only a Spotted Flycatcher seen. However, a sharp woodpecker call alerted us, and with some persuasion, a female White-backed Woodpecker showed to all. The stream that flows under the bridge originates in the wood and there is a walk which took us to a flooded area with dead trees. Pool Frogs were noisy, and both Spotted and Collared Flycatchers fed on the insects. Suddenly we heard the staccato calls of

a woodpecker again, and the female White-backed reappeared here and was watched in the dead trees before flying off and being joined by a male!

We walked back to the minibus and decided, as the rain had stopped, to have another go for the European Pygmy Owl. We stood in a clearing and imitated the calls, but no owls were seen; however, this did upset the local passerine population and a number of birds came to the nearest tree to mob us! Amongst them were Blue and Marsh Tit, Wood Warbler, then a striking red-throated Red-breasted Flycatcher, which was seen well by all. While this was going on, Piotr had been exploring the surrounding forest and summons us to follow a track into the trees. The track stopped in a clearing and across the other side was a tree with three holes. As we watched the smaller of the holes, something dashed in and disappeared. We waited a short time and a Pygmy Owl head appeared, disposing of a bunch of Treecreeper feathers. It then went and sat in a tree above and completely ignored us and began preening as we eagerly watched and photographed it from every angle. What a fantastic little bird!

Flushed with success and with the hint of sunshine, we returned to the tower at Wysokie Bagno as some had not seen the River Warbler that morning. After a short wait, it moved into a low bush and started to preen and sing alternately. The view was not totally clear but through telescopes everyone could see some part of the bird as its body vibrated as it sang!

What had looked like being a wash-out, today had been brilliant, with new birds added to the checklist and people's life list. In the evening, we enjoyed a nice meal while discussing the day's events, running through the order for moving onto the next hotel in the morning and completing the checklist.

Day 5

Thursday 16th May

Transfer day to Biebrza

A few hardy souls ventured out in the rain this morning and it was obvious that more birds had arrived overnight. Common Rosefinches were singing from everywhere and there were at least seven Barred Warblers between the village tower hide and marsh-side walk back to the hotel. Kingfisher was seen again near the bridge both Savi's and Grasshopper Warblers reeled from the marsh.

Following breakfast, we loaded our bags into the minibus, gave our thanks to the staff who had looked after us so well and started the journey north to Biebrza.

The start was wet, and we made our way towards Bialystok. We tried to avoid the massive amounts of road works which were hindering progress by circling round, at the same time looking for Bison at Gugny; neither was very successful. We eventually made it to Trześcińska, where we always make a stop to photograph the traditional Belarus-style houses and the green wooden church with its magnificent brass Orthodox top.

We made it to Bialystok and headed straight for Dojlidy fishpond where we had about an hour to explore. The Black-headed Gull colony increases year after year and this was no different; however, there were more Red-necked Grebes in breeding plumage and we also found a Black-necked Grebe. The first Eurasian Reed Warblers of the trip were seen and heard amongst the noisy Great Reed Warblers, who themselves were nearly drowned

out by the Fire-bellied Toads. After this site we headed for a small restaurant on the outskirts where we had vegetable soup and 'chicken & chips'.

It was almost beyond belief that we hit another mass traffic jam when we were trying to leave Białystok and had to take a detour as the main road was at a standstill. The town of Białystok was under siege by road workers! Eventually we were on our way and we headed straight for Długa Luca and the Aquatic Warblers. Just before the site, we came across some people watching an Elk and then we headed down the boardwalk. After a few false starts we all managed to see a singing Aquatic Warbler in the telescopes, a major relief for the leaders! Whilst we carried on this vigil, we also had nice views of male Montagu's Harriers, displaying Common Snipe, Redshank and Black-tailed Godwit, and also a Short-eared Owl being mobbed by a Marsh Harrier. What a great start to our visit to Biebrza, made all the better with sunshine!

It was now time to make our way to our new hotel at Goniądz, just in time as it started to rain en route, and having settled in, we enjoyed a dinner, drink and the checklist in the huge restaurant.

Day 6

Friday 17th May

Biebrza National Park

The day started at 5.30am for many, and we went for a walk to viewpoint in the village on the disused restaurant roof. It had rained overnight but this had now cleared and, as we waited for the group to gather in the grounds, a Green Woodpecker called and was successfully seen. At the watch point we scanned the marsh to see a number of Roe Deer, Black and White-winged Terns followed the river, while a distant Black Stork was hunting amphibians. We could look down into a White Stork nest to see the three small young, as the adults changed over and we disturbed three Wood Sandpipers on the river side.

After a filling buffet breakfast, we gathered in the minibus to visit the western edge of the southern basin. As we travelled to the village of Mścichy, a light drizzle started, but this was all but over by the time we arrived and started to walk the track towards Mścichy Dam. A calling Hoopoe could not be found but we saw a Northern Raven bring in food to its nest. Around the first corner a singing Bluethroat was discovered (a regular site for them) and was appreciated by all. Continuing the walk, we watched displaying Black-tailed Godwits, Common Redshank and Common Snipe. We checked all the small passerines, mainly Reed Bunting with a few Meadow Pipits. However, our target bird was discovered by Richard: a male Citrine Wagtail sitting at a distance on the side of some shrubs. As he moved around the tops of the dead stems, everyone had a good telescope views of the smart 'yellow-headed' wagtail, with its grey back and white wing bars. We had seen both target birds at this site so returned to the minibus to continue.

The next stop was down by the Biebrza River at Brzotowo where the water level was so low, we could walk right out to check the muddy edges. Noisy Whiskered Terns patrolled the water and Ruffs and Reeves were feeding in the river side vegetation. Small groups of migrating Common Cranes passed over and we discovered two summer plumaged Temminck's Stints. We added Shoveler and Tufted Duck to our list and, after checking the area thoroughly, we headed back to the minibus, pausing to see a Hoopoe feeding on the ground.

With lunchtime approaching we drove to Burzyn where there is a small shelter and toilet, and we had our packed lunch whilst looking down into the marsh from our vantage point. A number of raptors were seen in the

distance; many could not be specifically identified, although one was a huge White-tailed Eagle, another a species of Spotted Eagle and a brief small dark falcon had us scratching our heads. Two Elk appeared in the reed beds, one closer than the other but miraculously disappeared as quickly as they had appeared. A strident call alerted us to two Black Woodpeckers that appeared to have been anting just out of view below us, and we saw them flying into a small copse. Suitably refreshed, we continued, south, calling in at Sieburczyn to view the river again, although this place was quiet, and then onto Ruś where some partook in a hot drink whilst others watched Honey Buzzard and a probable Greater Spotted Eagle.

Our return journey took us north along the Czar's Road again and we made a stop at what is locally known as the Elk Tower. This site can be good for butterflies and plants and today was no exception, with the now warm sunshine. Many Brimstone patrolled the flowers, which included a strange-looking, purple Wood Cow-wheat, and we also found examples of Map butterfly, Green-veined and Wood Whites, Peacock and a fantastic Camberwell Beauty which flew through the area, unfortunately not stopping. Those who visited the tower also found an Elk, and a female Pied Flycatcher was photographed to add to our tally.

The route back took us past the old Russian fort at Osowiec and across the marsh to the hotel, where we arrived back just after 5pm, after a full day.

We dined again in the attached restaurant, completed our checklist and thanked Tomek for his patience whilst driving us throughout the week, as he was having to leave later tonight and a replacement driver was taking over for the last two days.

Day 7

Saturday 18th May

Biebrza National Park

A few hardy souls met in the morning mist (fog) and slowly made their way towards the bridge over the river. This morning the lesson was bird song as it was hard to see anything, so different warblers were pointed out, Garden, Willow, Great Reed, Sedge, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, Blackcap and Chiffchaff being heard. We stopped in a 'futile' attempt to see a Corn Crake calling in a roadside field, but the vegetation was too tall. As we crossed the bridge, the first Marsh Warbler of the trip sang briefly but did not show; however, a Thrush Nightingale brazenly sang from a power line close to the road, affording excellent telescope views. We were now hearing another noise as the sky darkened and the sound of thunder was echoing over the village, so we hastily walked back to the hotel just in time as the rain started to fall.

The thunderstorm had passed through by the time we had finished breakfast and we loaded into the minibus to visit some outlying sites of the park. The first was a boardwalk near Osowiec where we were dropped off and walked to the other end to meet the minibus again. As we approached the tower, we could hear both Penduline Tit and Bluethroat. The first played hard-to-get, although brief views were had by some; the second showed extremely well. It proved to be a male of the white-spotted race with the scientific name of *Luscinia svecica cyanecula* which is scarcer in Poland than the red-spotted nominate race *L. s. svecica*. We did find another four singing male Bluethroats along the boardwalk, all 'red-spots'. Savi's Warblers performed well in the reeds. We found a few moths such as Bordered White but only one dragonfly – a Common Clubtail – which was disappointing. Just before we left, we got news of a Citrine Wagtail seen back behind us, so we walked back and had closer views of a young male perched on stems in the marsh.

Once back at the minibus we headed towards Tykochin where we would have our lunch, but before then, we stopped at a small sand quarry where Tawny Pipits were often seen – but not today. However, a nice Great Grey Shrike, a Sooty Copper butterfly and a female Beautiful Demoiselle were bonuses.

We had some time in busy Tykochin to eat out lunch and visit some sites. Some went to see the synagogue with its chequered history, whilst others walked to the river and meadows, the latter having nice views of close Montagu's Harriers.

After lunch Peter took the group to a bigger sand quarry to explore, and soon after leaving the minibus, we were watching up to five European Bee-eaters hawking bees. This was a well-known site where they return every year but had yet to be reported this year, so it was satisfying to see them. We also saw many Blue-headed Wagtails but again, no Tawny Pipits.

It was time to start heading north, pausing at Knyszyn fishponds, which were too full for waders but held Whooper Swan and Black-necked Grebe, and then onto the reservoir Zygmunta Augusta where we watched at least six huge White-tailed Eagles flying about. Most were 'white-tailed' adults and one was carrying a fish whilst another came over to the traditional roost tree, enabling us to see all the plumage and structural details through our telescopes. Also on the reservoir was a juvenile Little Gull, a few duck such as Pochard and Garganey, and Cormorant.

This was our last planned stop and we made our way back to Goniądz to starting packing for tomorrow, take another look at the marsh and have dinner.

Day 8

Sunday 19th May

Departure

It was free time before breakfast and folks wandered in various areas around the hotel, in bright morning sunshine, seeing Black Stork, White-tailed Eagle and hearing Marsh Warbler amongst other species.

After breakfast we packed our bags into the minibus and said goodbye to Goniądz as we headed south on the Czar's Road. We stopped again at the Długa Luca and walked the boardwalk out to the Aquatic Warbler site. However, we had only walked about a third of the way as one began to sing close to the boards just in front of us, affording excellent views of all the features. During the next hour and half, we had some great views as they sang, together with over-flying Lesser Spotted Eagles, quartering Montagu's Harriers and reeling Grasshopper Warblers.

By 11am the clouds were filling in, and it was time to set off back towards Warsaw. We made a stop at the Karmiza restaurant again for lunch and arrived in plenty of time at Chopin airport, where we said goodbye to some who were staying on for a day or two and checked in for our flight to London.

The flight, although slightly delayed, made up some time and we said our goodbyes at the baggage return after a very fulfilling trip in Poland in the Spring.

Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		2	✓			✓	✓	
2	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓		✓		1	✓	✓	✓
3	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	2	2	2		1		1	
4	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>			✓			2	3	
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>						1	1	
6	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓	✓				2	
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					1		4	
9	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>						1	1	
10	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>				1				
11	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>							4	
12	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	✓	✓			✓			
13	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					6			
14	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			1		2			
15	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					1			
16	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>						2		1
17	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>			H		H		H	
19	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1	1	✓		1	✓	✓	
20	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2		✓			✓	✓	
21	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓				2	
22	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	1	3		1		3	2	1
23	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		1		1				2
24	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>			1			1		
25	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	2	1				1	
26	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	3	1	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	1		1		2	3	3	3
28	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>			5			1	6	2
29	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	2	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>							H	
31	Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>	H	H		H	H	H	H	H
32	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>							1	
33	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			H		H			
34	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			2		✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	2	1	5	3	2	150	30	2
36	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	2		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	2							
38	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>					1			
39	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					✓	✓		✓
40	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>							2	
41	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>						2		
42	Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		1	1					
43	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>			4					
44	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	✓	1	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>						1		
46	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			2	1		1		
47	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓		2		✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
48	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>						8		
49	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
50	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>							1	
51	Common Gull (Mew)	<i>Larus canus</i>					1			
52	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>			5		1			
53	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>							1	
54	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	3							
55	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	4	2	✓	2	2	2	✓	2
56	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓
57	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	2		✓			✓	✓	✓
59	Rock Dove (Feral)	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
60	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			2		✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	1	H	1	2	✓	2	2	2
63	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		1						
64	Eurasian Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>		H		1				
65	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>					1			
66	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	H							
67	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				1	1	1		1
69	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>							5	
70	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>					1	4	2	
71	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	H	1	2	H	2	1		H
72	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>		1	1					
73	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>		2	2					
74	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>		2	2	1				
75	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		6	✓	✓		1	1	
76	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>				5				
77	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		1				2		
78	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>						2	H	H
79	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>				2				
80	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1						1	1
81	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	1		1	1		1	1	
82	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	
83	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	1	1	1		1	1	2	
84	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	3	H	1		H	1		
85	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
87	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			1	H	3	2	2	✓
91	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>		1						
92	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		H		2	✓	H		
93	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		H		1				
94	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
95	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>			1				2	
97	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		3	2	2		H	H	
98	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
99	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Long-tailed Tit (Northern)	<i>Aegithalos caudatus caudatus</i>			2	2				
103	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		✓	H			H		
104	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	H	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	H	H	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	1	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>					5			5
108	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	2	2	2	3	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					2		H	
110	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>							1	1
111	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>				1	2	H		1
112	Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>			H		H	H	H	1
113	River Warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>				3				
114	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinoides</i>		H	1	H	2	H	3	
115	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	1	1	1	2	1	1	5	
117	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>		1	1	1	7			
118	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	1	3	2	✓	2	✓	✓	✓
119	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
120	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				1				
121	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	H					
122	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		2	2	4				
123	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		3		1	1			
124	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
125	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
126	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
127	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3	✓
128	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			2		2	2		
129	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	1			5	✓	✓	1	
130	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1	✓						
131	Bluethroat (Red-spotted)	<i>Luscinia svecica svecica</i>						1	4	
	Bluethroat (White-spotted)	<i>Luscinia svecica cyanecula</i>							1	
132	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	H	H	1	H	H	H	1	2
133	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>						1		
134	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>		✓		4	✓			
135	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				1				
136	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	✓
137	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
138	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		H	✓	4	✓	✓		✓
139	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						1	1	1
140	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
141	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
142	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	✓							
143	Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed)	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	3		1		✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>			1			2	1	
145	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	
146	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>					2	✓	2	✓
147	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		✓	2	2				
148	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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149	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	✓
150	Eurasian Bullfinch (Eurasian)	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		H		1					
151	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>		1	H	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
152	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
153	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
154	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
155	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	1	2	1	1	
156	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			2		2				
157	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	H	1	✓	✓	1	1			
158	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
159	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>			1						
160	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Mammals

1	Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>				1					
2	Eurasian Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>				1					
3	Bank Vole	<i>Myodes glareolus</i>		1							
4	European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>						1	1		
5	Northern White-breasted Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus roumanicus</i>					1		1		
6	Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>				1					
7	European Beaver	<i>Castor fiber</i>				s		s	s		
8	European Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>			D						
9	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	1	2	1						
10	Eurasian Elk	<i>Alces alces</i>					1	3	1		
11	European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	2		5	3			1	2	
12	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		✓	1			2			

Reptiles & Amphibians

Sand Lizard, *Lacerta agilis*

European Green Toad, *Pseudepidalea viridis*

Pool Frog, *Pelophylax lessonae*

European Fire-bellied Toad, *Bombina bombina*

Butterflies & Moths

Small White, *Pieris rapae*

Orange Tip, *Anthocharis cardamines*

Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*

Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*

Large Tortoiseshell, *Nymphalis polychloros*

Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*

Map Butterfly, *Araschnia levana*

Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Chequered Skipper, *Carterocephalus palaemon*

Blood-vein, *Timandra griseata*

Bordered White, *Bupalus piniaria*

Burnet Companion, *Euclidia glyphica*

Green-veined White, *Pieris napi*

Berger's Clouded Yellow, *Colias australis*

Wood White, *Leptidea sinapis*

Sooty Copper, *Lycaena tityrus*

Camberwell Beauty, *Nymphalis antiopa*

Peacock Butterfly, *Inachis io*

Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*

Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria*

Wall Brown, *Lasiommata megera*

Latticed Heath, *Chiasmia clathrata*

The Vapourer, *Orgyia antiqua*

Odonata

Siberian Winter Damsel, *Sympecma paedisca*

Common Clubtail, *Gomphus vulgatissimus*

Broad-bodied Chaser, *Libellula depressa*

Sedgling, *Nehalennia speciosa*

Downy Emerald, *Cordulia aenea*

Other Taxa & notable Plants

Dark Bush Cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoptera*
 Common Cockchafer, *Melolontha melolontha*
 Red Polar Leaf Beetle, *Chrysomela populi*
 Hairy Sheildbug, *Dolycoris baccarum*
 Great Raft Spider, *Dolomedes plantarius*
 Scorpion Fly, *Panorpa communis*
 Norway Spruce, *Picea abies*
 Common Elm, *Ulmus procera*
 Pedunculate Oak, *Quercus robur*
 Alder, *Alnus glutinosa*
 Wood Stitchwort, *Stellaria nemorum*
 Cuckooflower, *Cardamine pratensis*
 Wood Cow-wheat, *Melampyrum nemorosum*
 Toothwort, *Lathraea squamaria*
 Ramsons, *Allium ursinum*

Firebug, *Pyrrhocoris apterus*
 Rose Chafer, *Cetonia aurata*
 Field Cricket, *Gryllinae sp.*
 Red-tailed Bumblebee, *Bombus lapidarius*
 Red Wood Ant, *Formica polyctena*

Wood Anemone, *Anemone nemorosa*
 Small-leaved Elm, *Ulmus minor*
 Silver Birch, *Betula pendula*
 Hornbeam, *Carpinus betulus*
 Greater Stitchwort, *Stellaria holostea*
 Water Avens, *Geum rivale*
 Yellow Rattle, *Rhinanthus minor agg.*
 Elder, *Sambucus nigra*

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Common Rosefinch by Richard Small



Eurasian Pygmy Owl by Peter Dunn



Bluethroat by Rob Campbell