

Poland in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

9th – 16th May 2026



Bluethroat



Common Rosefinch



Map Butterfly



European Bison

Tour report by Luca Boscain



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

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Luca Boscain (leader) and Tomasz Jezierczuk (local guide) with 12 Naturetrek clients.

Summary

The spring trip to Poland was once again a success, with more than 160 bird species and 14 mammal species observed. Even though a dry but cold spring slightly affected the sightings, with the wetlands drier than usual (although not as dry as in 2025) and late migrant birds delayed, we still managed to perfectly see target species like Aquatic Warbler, Three-toed and White-backed Woodpeckers, Red-necked Grebe, Lesser and Greater Spotted Eagles, Great Snipe, Bluethroat, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Common Rosefinch, Ortolan Bunting and many more.

While the Wolves didn't show up this year, we had highly productive mammal-watching sessions, with European Bison, Elk, European Beaver, Wild Boar, Northern White-breasted Hedgehog and European Polecat all successfully seen. In contrast, the amphibian, reptile, insect and flower presence was less impressive, as many species had not emerged yet, or were not yet very active.

The deep local knowledge of Tomasz, our Polish guide, definitely made the difference, combined with generally good weather, with just a couple of downpours and windier days. Everyone participated in all the proposed excursions, even when they required waking up very early in the morning, or returning late in the evening. It was obvious to everyone that spending as much time as possible in the field was worth it, since every single minute was incredibly productive, both for sightings and overall enjoyment. Poland has stolen our hearts.

Day 1

Saturday 9th May

Warsaw and Białowieża

We landed at Warsaw Chopin Airport on time at 1.55pm. Outside the arrivals terminal, we met Tomasz and Luca, our guides for the tour, and Andrzej, our driver, who had a comfortable twenty-seat minibus ready for us. Leaving the Warsaw city centre behind, we briefly drove alongside the Vistula river, where we spotted a few Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls. We then headed north-west along a modern motorway, equipped with several wildlife crossings built to prevent roadkill.

After a coffee break, we took secondary roads which led us through small villages, woodlands, and the deep green Polish countryside. Here, we immediately started spotting Roe Deer, Cranes, Marsh Harriers, Sand Martins and dozens of White Storks, either foraging in the grass or incubating on their countless nests.

We reached the Białowieża forest just after 6.30pm, welcomed by light rain and a refreshing temperature of 6°C. We went for a short, though unsuccessful, wander to look for European Bison before arriving at Białowieża village, where our hotel for the next four nights was located.

Dinner was served at 8.00pm, while outside the last Blackbirds and Song Thrushes provided a melodious soundtrack to the dusk. We enjoyed a delicious vegetable soup, followed by schnitzel with salad, and pudding.

Day 2

Sunday 10th May

Białowieża Forest and Narew

We met for a quick coffee, prepared by Tomasz, at 5.45am, and then set off on foot for a few hundred metres. All around us, in the village gardens, there was a cacophony of bird song, despite the cold temperatures: Black Redstarts, Serins, Linnets and Tree Sparrows. As we reached a bridge over the outlet of two ponds, we added Garden Warbler, Golden Oriole, Wood Warbler, Hawfinch and Thrush Nightingale. Among the old trees of the Białowieża Palace park, we caught a glimpse of a Black Woodpecker, and Tomasz pointed out an unexpected male Pied Flycatcher. Collared Flycatchers are usually the more common *Ficedula* species in the area and, just a few minutes later, we started hearing their curious songs. As we passed alongside the Białowieża hunting palace, formerly used even by the Russian tsars, two Red-footed Falcons flew overhead. As we walked back between the two fish ponds, we added welcome sightings of White-headed Long-tailed Tits, Wryneck, Great Reed, Savi's and Icterine Warblers, and Common Rosefinch, while a calling River Warbler remained hidden.

After breakfast at the hotel, we left again at 9.15am for a short drive to the entrance of the Białowieża National Park. There, we met Irek and Asia, our local guides, to be divided into two groups and led inside the restricted area. Having entered through a massive wooden gate, we walked a loop in the heart of the best-preserved European primeval forest, home to some of the tallest Pedunculate Oaks, Hornbeams, Small-leaved Limes and Wych Elms on the continent. While the setting was characterized by a rich undergrowth of Norway Maples and shorter Sweet Woodruff, Suffolk Lungwort, Woolly Buttercup, Bulbous Bittercress and the strange Common Toothwort, the soundtrack was provided by Collared Flycatchers, Wood Warblers, Chaffinches and Wrens.

A female Black Woodpecker swapped places with the male at a nest hole, while Luca was particularly pleased to find us a preening female Three-toed Woodpecker in an old Norway Spruce. Irek and Asia focused particularly on the natural processes of the untouched forest, explaining everything from the growth to the fall and decomposition of the trees. It was impressive to see centennial trunks left on the ground, quickly colonized by bracket fungi and moss, only to completely disappear within a few decades. Later on, they leave a sort of footprint in the undergrowth vegetation, looking like an animal track cutting through the Ramsons, due to the different soil pH left by the decayed wood.

When we emerged from the trail into the expansive meadows, we spotted Red-backed Shrike, Whinchat, Yellowhammer, Woodlark and a distant Lesser Spotted Eagle in flight. For lunch, we transferred to Narewka, on the northern side of the Białowieża forest, to try a tasty *soljanka*, a local spicy soup with beef, pickles and olives. While driving back to the hotel, we stopped at the Teremiski settlement to admire two huge European Bison bulls, resting calmly on the lawn and occasionally rolling over, completely careless of our presence.

In the evening, we had an early dinner at 5.45pm, and headed out again immediately afterwards. The weather had cleared up, so we tried our luck in a marsh south-west of the town of Narew. We arrived just before a lovely sunset, surrounded by wet meadows, with Roe Deer out in the open, Meadow Pipits, Cranes, Whinchats, Reed Buntings, Grasshopper, Sedge and Savi's Warblers, and a couple of hidden calling Corn Crakes. Scanning with the telescopes, we soon found a wonderful bull Elk in the distance, with new growing antlers, and, later on, we started to hear the calls of Great Snipes. Teamwork in coordinating the thermal visors with the scopes eventually allowed us to get

decent views of a couple of males displaying and jumping in the grass, even though the majority of the lek had moved two hundred metres further away, as reported by Tomasz, who estimated about twenty males.

As darkness fell, more dark shapes appeared and we could still recognize, with a bit of effort, a Red Deer, a Wild Boar and a Badger, sniffing around and being mobbed by Lapwings. The drive back took about fifty minutes, so we returned to the hotel just after 10.00pm. This intense but rewarding first full day had resulted in an impressive eighty species of birds and eight mammals: not bad at all!

Day 3

Monday 11th May

Białowieża Forest

We met at 5.00am to head out on foot from the hotel, toward the Żebra Żubra trail, walking about four kilometres in total and noticing the morning frost on the grass. A beautiful boardwalk led us through a well-preserved patch of forest characterized, at the beginning, by very tall, straight Black Alders, with scattered centennial Pedunculate Oaks and younger Norway Spruces. Right from the start, we were immersed in a chorus of songs and calls from Grasshopper, Wood and Icterine Warblers, Golden Oriole, Hawfinch, Dunnock and many other passerines. The undergrowth, which is usually swampy and partially flooded, was mostly dry this time, but it still hosted bog-loving plant species such as Northern Marsh Violet, Marsh Marigold, Marsh Fern and *Sphagnum* mosses, alongside carpets of more typical woodland geophytes like Ramsons, Wood and Yellow Anemones, Rue-leaved Isopyrum and Herb-paris. In a spruce grove, we were lucky enough to find a Crested Tit nest, with both adults busy bringing food, while Firecrests were also singing nearby.

As the habitat transitioned into hornbeam woodland, we heard the first Red-breasted Flycatcher of the trip, alongside several Collared Flycatchers and a single male Pied Flycatcher, and we surprised a Middle Spotted Woodpecker foraging on a trunk right by the path. Near the Białowieża zoo, we saw a Black Woodpecker in flight and an unexpected male Green Woodpecker visiting its nest. This latter species has been expanding into the forest only recently, growing from just a couple of pairs that used to breed marginally a few years ago. Two tame Red Deer, a young male and a female, were also exploring the zoo car park when Andrzej arrived to pick us up and take us back to the hotel for breakfast.

Later in the morning, we didn't drive very far, stopping first at Teremiski village to admire a bull Bison grazing in a clearing and scratching his moulting coat against a Silver Birch trunk. Nearby, a Great Grey Shrike was hunting by hovering, a Red-backed Shrike was perched on a stake, Sedge and Savi's Warblers were singing in the reeds, and at least three male Snipes were performing display flights, while a female Goldeneye and a Lesser Spotted Eagle flew over.

With the warm sunshine, and despite a light breeze, the first insects began to appear, including some beautiful Map Butterflies which started to bask in the middle of the track. However, the highlight was undoubtedly a solitary male White-backed Woodpecker. We first heard it drumming and calling and, after a short wait, it finally flew to a tree with sparse foliage, allowing everyone to get fantastic views.

On the other side of the village, we made another stop, hoping for the Grey-headed Woodpecker, which remained elusive despite certainly being in the area. Instead, we got a clear view of an Icterine Warbler in a willow, heard a couple of Garden Warblers, and spotted a Wood White along with several Peacock Butterflies.

We had better luck in Budy, where a Grey-headed Woodpecker finally performed well, clinging to a Pedunculate Oak that had not yet reached full leaf. A Dinky Skipper, an Orange-tip and a juicy Black Oil Beetle were also seen, before we transferred back to Białowieża village for lunch at a local restaurant. There, we chose from local specialties such as venison goulash and *pierogi* (dumplings). As we walked back to our rooms, Luca pointed out a very high Honey Buzzard, and we then enjoyed a good three hours of rest to recover our strength.

In the late afternoon, we headed out again to try our luck at a Pygmy Owl nest in the forest. Nothing happened for two hours, until we finally saw the head of the incubating female peek out from the hole several times, waiting hungrily for her partner. We were hungry too, so we left the field at dusk to drive back for dinner.

Day 4

Tuesday 12th May

Białowieża Forest and Siemianówka Reservoir

Today we started at 5.15am. We first went to a forest patch near the settlement of Pogorzelce: a male Red-breasted Flycatcher was singing endlessly there, but it was particularly skulking and stayed deep within the canopy. We saw a cute Red Squirrel feeding on a bare tree. A second attempt was made near Budy village. There, by a memorial dedicated to people deported to Siberia, a mature male Red-breasted Flycatcher looked so orange that it closely recalled a Robin, singing out in the open on top of a stump.

Having walked a bit further, amid a concert of Wood Warblers, we flushed a White-backed Woodpecker from a stump almost at ground level. We then reached an interesting swampy clearing with dozens of dead, bare trees: a true woodpecker paradise. A second White-backed Woodpecker soon appeared, showing beautifully in the telescopes on a number of clean trunks. The reedbeds were alive with a loud mix of Sedge, Savi's and Marsh Warblers, the last of which often perched in the open on short trees. Reed Bunting, Red-backed Shrike and Goldcrest were also recorded.

After breakfast, the weather turned from sunny to light rain as we drove northwards for about forty-five minutes to Siemianówka Reservoir, located right by the border with Belarus. On the way, we stopped at Leśna to spend some time looking out from a tower, facing a wide strip of grassland between two woodlands. It was well worth it: two pairs of Whinchats were present, but above all, we were able to admire a pair of Lesser Spotted Eagles, calling and eventually mating on the roof of another tower, right in front of us.

A few hundred metres further on, a family of Beavers had built a highly efficient dam two years ago, creating a lovely marsh where there was originally just a wide meadow. Tens of Greylag Geese had gathered there, along with Lapwings, Redshanks, Wood Sandpipers, Ruffs and a lone Little Ringed Plover. It was particularly fun to hear the comical calls of Fire-bellied and Common Toads coming from the water, even though we couldn't actually spot any of them.

When we arrived at the south-eastern corner of the Siemianówka Reservoir, a bit of weak sunshine and rather mild temperatures made all the difference. The carpet of Dandelions along the bank was covered in butterflies and other insects: Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells, Green-veined Whites and also an unexpected Violet Copper which, despite being rather damaged on the wing edges, still showed its purple sheen on the upper wings. A Wryneck showed perfectly in the open for a minute, perched on a green fence, as did a noisy female Cuckoo in a Scots Pine.

Unfortunately, most of the reservoir was dramatically dry; instead of water, there were vast expanses of reeds and grasslands with scattered Grey Willows, where Thrush Nightingale, Common Whitethroat, Garden Warbler and Reed Bunting were singing. In the meadows behind, we noticed Small Copper, Small Argent and Sable, Small Grass Emerald, Mother Shipton and Burnet Companion among the moths, and Maiden Pink and *Potentilla collina* among the flowers.

Luca pointed out a Greater Spotted Eagle which made a couple of passes in flight, joined by several much smaller Hobbies. The photos later confirmed it as a pure adult, a detail worth checking, since hybrids between Lesser and Greater Spotted Eagles are not at all rare in eastern Poland.

For our packed lunch, we moved to some benches and tables further along the southern bank of the Siemianówka Reservoir, where we finally found open water. Later, we climbed a tower from which we scanned the basin with telescopes while waiting for a downpour to pass. In the distance, we saw tens of Whiskered, Black, Common and White-winged Terns, as well as Gadwalls, Greylag Geese, Cranes and a pair of Whooper Swans. All these waterbirds flushed when a pair of White-tailed Eagles made their pass, whereas they were not disturbed at all by a "marsh-hunting" Osprey that came to fish right in front of the tower. Even a couple of Crested Tits were seen in the nearby pines.

When the rain stopped, we moved a few hundred metres to reach another access point to the reservoir's southern bank. There, Tomasz found a male Penduline Tit busy building its nest, and we enjoyed a closer view of the terns, among which we observed a Caspian Tern and a likely female Montagu's Harrier (Pallid Harrier is a confusion species in this region).

We made one last stop on the way back to Białowieża, at a bridge in Gruszki. Despite the refreshing breeze, it was remarkably easy to find a bulky male Barred Warbler in just a few seconds: our final new species for a day when we exceeded the hundred bird species barrier!

Day 5

Wednesday 13th May

Białowieża Forest, Dojlidy and Popielewo Fishponds

We had another early start, to drive to the northern portion of the Białowieża Forest, for a three-kilometre walk in the Kosy Most area. There, a former railway built by the Germans cuts straight through the forest, crossing the Narewka riverbed on its way to Belarus. Plenty of Cowslips, Lily-of-the-valley and the enigmatic bastard-toadflax *Thesium ebracteatum* were growing along the trackside. We arrived in a patch of mixed forest and tried hard to find new species, but we could only hear a couple of Hazel Grouse, a northern form Bullfinch (with its typical trumpet call) and the drumming of Three-toed and Black Woodpeckers. Barred Warbler and Tree Pipit showed well, singing as we made our way back to the minibus.

We left Białowieża after breakfast at 10.00am, and drove westwards out of the forest for about an hour and a half. On the way, besides innumerable White Storks, a Lesser Spotted Eagle was seen in Hajnówka. We stopped not far from Białystok at the Dojlidy fishponds. Despite the wind, plenty of passerines were singing from the reed beds and bushes, ranging from Common Reed, Great Reed, Marsh, Savi's and Sedge Warblers, to Eurasian Penduline Tits and Reed Buntings. In the first couple of ponds, we noticed Little Grebe, Coot, Little Bittern, and a Red-necked Grebe with an impressive, velvety brick-coloured breast. The flashes of sunshine tempted Siberian Winter Damsels and Variable Damselflies to climb up blades of grass, while we found two Downy Emeralds basking on low trees, and some Moor Frogs and Pool Frogs along the side of a ditch.

In the final lakes, the avifauna became even more abundant, with a mix of Black-headed Gulls, Whiskered and Black Terns, Sand and House Martins, Swifts and Swallows flying against the wind over the water, while flocks of Gadwalls, Garganeys, Goldeneyes, Wigeons, Great Crested Grebes and more Red-necked Grebes floated on the surface. A Eurasian Bittern was booming in the distance, and we heard several Little Crakes, but only one male briefly showed itself among the reeds.

For lunch, we moved to the attractive, six-hundred-year-old village of Tykocin, characterized by its large seventeenth-century synagogue, one of the very few to have survived the Nazi occupation of Poland. There, we enjoyed a selection of Polish-Jewish specialties in a restaurant adorned with numerous black-and-white historical photos on the walls.

Later, we headed to the Popielewo fishponds, not far from Chraboly. This area turned out to be a true heaven for White-tailed Eagles, with as many as fifteen individuals seen at the same time, often interacting in flight with Lesser Spotted Eagles, Marsh Harriers, Caspian Gulls, Grey Herons and Great Egrets. In the deep-water ponds, there wasn't much activity: just a couple of pairs of Whooper Swans and Greylag Geese. However, we found Shovelers, Gadwalls, Teals and Wood Sandpipers in a lake with shallower water and grassy banks, plus a female Bearded Reedling.

From there, the transfer to our new hotel in Goniądz took about three-quarters of an hour. The hotel welcomed us with a splendid structure, featuring wide rooms and panoramic balconies overlooking the Biebrza marshes. As we walked back from dinner in an interesting wooden restaurant, we saw a Woodcock and some Common Noctules flying in the dusk light.

Day 6

Thursday 14th May

Biebrza Marshes

This morning we met at 4.45am for coffee and drove to the Bagno Ławki boardwalk, which penetrates four hundred metres into the Biebrza marshes. After a very dry year, seeing puddles of water in the vegetation was "like honey in Tomasz's heart." Several Dandelions, a Eurasian Skylark and plenty of Whinchats were proof that the problem hadn't been completely solved, but at least there was some hope for the breeding season for birds associated with wet habitats; several Common Snipes were, in fact, displaying and drumming in the air.

Amid the many bird songs, Tomasz picked up the distinctive call of an Aquatic Warbler, then a second and a third. Although the first one was far away and backlit, we kept improving the quality of our sightings until we had a male

showing perfectly in the scopes. It was pretty close, out in the open on top of a bare reed, and beautifully illuminated by the morning sunshine. Tomasz and Luca could now relax: the hardest species had been ticked! There was still time to admire a male Montagu's Harrier which made two passes in flight, patrolling the marsh in search of food. We interpreted this as a sign that it was time for breakfast for us as well.

At 9.00am, we were on board again. We stopped briefly for a Hoopoe and, stepping out, we suddenly found two Cranes, two White-tailed Eagles and a Marsh Harrier in the sky. A nice female Sooty Copper and a Common Heath moth were noticed as well by the insect lovers. Not far from the Russian fortifications and bunkers of Osowiec, built to control the narrowest point of the Biebrza river, we went for a short walk. By a wooden tower, a Penduline Tit was in a more advanced stage of work on its nest, and a Thrush Nightingale was singing nearby, but hidden in a willow. Luca showed us a Common Winter Damselfly, explaining how to tell it apart from the Siberian ones, as well as a Downy Emerald and a colourful cuckoo wasp (*Chrysis* cfr. *terminata*).



Aquatic Warbler



Elk (Moose)



Downy Emerald



Golden Oriole

Not far from the village of Mścichy, we took another track into the Biebrza Marshes, and went to look for Bluethroat. A bird was singing half-heartedly but didn't show itself, while we spotted a distant Red Kite and two Grey Partridges in a meadow. Continuing eastwards, we parked near a birdwatching tower on the banks of the Biebrza River. There were a couple of pools there with Mute Swans and Great Egrets, among which Tomasz distinguished an immature Greater White-fronted Goose and a Little Egret, the latter being quite a good rarity for north-eastern Poland.

In the tempting sunshine, we decided to have our packed lunch sitting on the riverbank, from where we saw flying flocks of Gadwalls, Shovelers, Ruffs and marsh terns of all three species. The abundant dandelions were also visited by Small and Green-veined Whites, Painted Ladies, Peacocks and Sooty Coppers.

We had another look out over the River Biebrza at Brzostowo. From there, we had a much closer view of both Whiskered and Black Terns hunting over the water surface, to the delight of the photographers. In the distance, we saw Black-tailed Godwits, Redshanks, Lapwings and Yellow Wagtails occasionally emerging from the green wet grassland where they breed. Not far from Brzostowo, we made our first attempt at Ortolan Bunting. A couple of birds were heard in the distance, but the only new bird seen was a distant Wheatear on a wire.

At 3.00pm, we decided to drive back to the hotel to have some downtime until 7.00pm, when we had dinner. Later, some clients joined Luca for a walk after sunset in the hotel garden. Several Common Noctules and pipistrelle bats were flying over the pond, while the songs of Bluethroats, and Savi's, Sedge and River Warblers were coming from the Biebrza riverbed. A great bonus was the unexpected Northern White-breasted Hedgehog found in the mowed grass, showing its pale blue eyes.

Day 7

Friday 15th May

Biebrza marshes

We met at a more civilized 5.45am to spend some time birding in the hotel garden. It was truly worth it because, in perfect weather conditions, with no wind and mild sunshine, we enjoyed great views of a number of sought-after birds. Besides the more 'ordinary' Wryneck, Yellow Wagtails, Savi's, Garden and Marsh Warblers, we had excellent views of a female Citrine Wagtail, two male Common Rosefinches in perfect light, and a spotless male Bluethroat, all from a wooden platform facing the Biebrza River: what a great start!

After breakfast, we tried again not far from Goniadz for the Ortolan Bunting; several males were singing from the pine groves and we eventually managed to scope one for everyone to admire. A Hare ran out in the open and we found two Sand Lizards (including a bright green male), Sea Thrift and two interesting moths along the road bank: Lewes Wave and Silver Barred.

Later, we transferred slightly further north to the edge of a Black Alder forest, hoping for woodpeckers. Bird activity was low, but there were many beautiful butterflies and moths, including Map, Comma, Brimstone, Orange-tip and Holly Blue, as well as Common White Wave, Small Argemid and Sable, and Common Grizzled and Dingy Skippers.

In the village of Wólka Piaseczna, we stopped to watch a singing male Hoopoe on a large Black Poplar. We were just ready to leave when Peter noticed a Golden Oriole landing in a gap in the foliage right outside the minibus. We soon realized there was a rather low nest there, mainly constructed with pieces of plastic and baler twine, with two males moving around: it was an unmissable opportunity to finally get a fantastic view of one of the most attractive European birds.

Another stop was made in rather open countryside, where we spotted a Great Grey Shrike on a distant wire, before we drove about half an hour to Dolistowo Stare. There, we took a short walk to a bridge over the Biebrza, which offered a wonderful view of the river, riverine trees, reedbeds and open wet meadows, all framed by a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A male Bluethroat, this time showing the typical white spot, was singing in the open on a short willow on one side, while a male Common Rosefinch did the same on the other. At one point, four

Golden Orioles perched all together on the top of a Black Alder, joining a calling Common Cuckoo: it was a truly memorable sight!

It was now lunchtime, so we spread out on the grassy bank to enjoy our sandwiches. Luca pointed out a Honey Buzzard flying overhead, and Peter noticed a mix of fish in the transparent water: a lone Threespine Stickleback, Chubs, European Bitterlings and Gudgeons, the latter featuring plenty of dark spots. Walking back to the minibus, Luca pointed out a recently emerged Common Clubtail dragonfly basking on a tree, and then we drove back to the hotel for some *siesta* time.

We gathered again by the boardwalk in front of the restaurant at 4.00pm. In less than half an hour, male and female Citrine Wagtails, male and female Yellow Wagtails, and a single White Wagtail had appeared, allowing us to carefully compare the distinctive features of all three species. A male Montagu's Harrier made a couple of passes, hunting over the reedbeds, and half a dozen Black Terns were flying over the river.

We had an early dinner at 6.00pm, then drove southwards for about an hour along the eastern edge of the Biebrza marshes, encountering a fascinating female Elk in a clearing by the roadside. We crossed the Narew River once again, to Tomasz's delight, and arrived at Wizna village. There, from a platform facing the river, we suddenly saw the dark head of a Beaver, swimming silently. At dusk, a big, noisy flock of Western Jackdaws came to roost on the opposite bank, a Kingfisher zipped past over the water surface and a Common Noctule flew right in front of us. Then, two cute Beavers carrying a log, potentially their dinner, crossed right in front of us, and later we even saw three of them out of the water, illuminated by Tomasz's powerful torch.

Driving back, we watched the straight road ahead as if hypnotized, hoping for nocturnal wildlife. We were not disappointed: we soon found a Nightjar sitting on the asphalt, followed by an unexpected Polecat, seen for a few seconds, and finally another Hare. We arrived at the hotel at about 10.00pm for a well-deserved rest.

Day 8

Saturday 16th May

Biebrza marshes

With drizzly weather, only a few of us went outside today for some pre-breakfast birding, catching sight of a White-spotted Bluethroat, a female Citrine Wagtail and two Golden Orioles. After breakfast, we packed our bags to leave for good at 9.00am.

We drove southwards for about an hour to Tykocin, and quickly 'ticked' an obliging Tawny Pipit perched on a wire, alongside a Great Grey Shrike flanked by two Wood Pigeons acting like bodyguards. While Sand Martins were already at the sandy banks to breed, the Bee-eaters unfortunately hadn't arrived yet this year.

Next, we visited the settlement of Dobarz to check out two tiny ponds. Despite the light rain and cool temperatures, several amphibians were active, allowing us to finally spot some calling Fire-bellied Toads, as well as silent Tree Frogs and Pool Frogs. A flock of Tree Sparrows was feeding on the lawn and, in the distance, we spotted a pair of Montagu's Harriers and a Cuckoo, while Woodlark, Skylark, Marsh Tit and Wryneck were only heard.

Before leaving the Biebrza marshes behind, we made one last (unsuccessful) attempt for Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Instead, we heard a Grasshopper Warbler and saw a Common Rosefinch and a Common Whitethroat. Nature is like that: sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. However, the hardest species to find were ticked magnificently during this tour, first and foremost the iconic Aquatic Warbler.

The transfer to the Warsaw airport took about three hours, including a stop at a restaurant, where we enjoyed a final round of hearty Polish food in generous portions. We expressed our warmest thanks to Tomasz, Luca and Andrzej for their hard work in making our holiday so special.

On the edge of the Warsaw suburbs, Tomasz called our attention to a female Wild Boar with ten striped piglets by the roadside; the species actually finds a safe refuge in urban areas, away from heavy hunting pressure.

We arrived at the Warsaw airport at 4.00pm, with plenty of time for check-in and boarding. Thank you to our guides, and goodbye Poland!

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				110	20	10		
	Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>						1		
	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	2			5	6	9	7	4
	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>				2	5			
	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>					6			
	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>					12	20		
	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>				8	50	40		
	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>					6			
	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	5	8	1	10	10	30	20	30
	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>					2			
	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>					4			
	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			1		6			
	Hazel Grouse	<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>					3H			
	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>						4		
	Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	2	1			H	1		
	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>							1	
	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		1		2	10	1	2	5
	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		3	H	5	2H	6	5	2
	Feral Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>	20				30	3	20	15
	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					3			
	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	10	8	5	3	5	10	10	5
	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	10	1			5	5	4	5
	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>					2H	2H		
	Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>		2H	H	2H		H		
	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						H	H	
	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					100	1		
	Little Crake	<i>Zapornia parva</i>					6			
	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	6	15		50	6	45	10	4
	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					1	H	1	
	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					10			
	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				3	20			
	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				2				
	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	1?			1		1		
	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	3	2		6	3	10	2	2
	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>							H	
	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						2		
	Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		1	H		1			
	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>		3						
	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		5	3	3	1	3		
	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		2					H	
	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				1				
	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				7	3	4		
	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				6		5		
	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>				20	12	10		
	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>				1				
	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				180	2	20		

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>				10	2	20	6	2
	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				1		1		
	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	2			2	2			
	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	50			10	200	3	5	
	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	1			4	50			
	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		1						
	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	50	25	10	15	20	25	10	5
	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	10				1			
	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>					H			
	Little Bittern	<i>Botaurus minutus</i>					1			
	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						1		
	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	3			5	2	4	1	
	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				1	30	3	1	3
	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				1				
	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		1	2				1	
	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		1	1	2	2			
	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>				2				
	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				1?		1	1	2
	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	2	1	1	4	5	3	4	2
	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>						1		
	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				2	20	3	1	
	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	3	1	1	5	2	4	2
	Eurasian Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>			1					
	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>						3	3	2
	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>							1	
	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		1		1		1	1	H
	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picooides tridactylus</i>		2			H			
	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>		1	1					
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1	3	3	1	1	1	
	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>		2H	1	2				
	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		3	1	2	H			
	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			2	H				
	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			2		H			
	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1			1				1
	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>		2						
	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			1?	5	1	3		
	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		3H	2H	2H	2H	H	7	4
	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>			1				1	2
	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		2	1	2	1	1		1
	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		2	6	2	2	5	2	2
	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	1	1		1	3	2	5	1
	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	30	2			20	20	300	10
	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	50	1			50	30	50	3
	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	3			1	3	7	10	5
	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	3	7	3	2		3		
	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		H	H		2H		H	H
	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			3	2	H			
	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		3	3H	2	H			2H
	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		5	H	2	2	3	3	

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		5	5	3	H	H	2	1
	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>				1	4	1		
	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>					1			
	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		2	H	1			3H	H
	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		3	H	10	3	6	3	5
	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	5				200	5	1	5
	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	20	15	10	30	50	50	40	30
	Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	3	5	2	5	50	5	20	
	(White-headed) Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus caudatus</i>		2				2		
	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		15	10	10	3H		H	
	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		3H	2H	2	3H	6H	5	2H
	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		5H	5	3	5H	4H	2	H
	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		4	H		10	2H	2	H
	Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>						3		
	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		2H	1	8	5	10	6	3
	Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				1	7			
	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>				1	2		1	H
	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>		1	2	H		H	H	
	River Warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>		1				H	H	
	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>		3	2	1	4	2	6	1
	Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>		2H	H			2H		H
	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		10	10	3	5H	2H	H	H
	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		H	3H	H	H	3	1	3H
	Barred Warbler	<i>Curruca nisoria</i>			H	1	1			
	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>		4	3	1	H	1	1	H
	Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		1	H	2	2H	5H	3	3
	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		2	5	H	2H			
	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				2	H			
	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		5H	3	H	2H		H	
	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		3	2	H				
	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		3	H	1	H			
	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	50	30	25	60	10	50	20	10
	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	H	15	10	5	4			
	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		1		3		2		
	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	H	5	5	1	2	3	3	4
	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	1					3	1	1
	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		2	1	3	2	1	3	
	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		3	5	5	5	2	H	
	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>		2H	H	3	2H	6H	5H	3H
	(White-spotted) Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica svecica</i>						3H	3	1
	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>			H	2				
	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		1	1					
	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>		15	4	H				
	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	H	4	5	1	H	2	1	1
	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		3H	2H	3	H			
	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		6		5	1	10	1	
	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>				1			2	2
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						1		
	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		5	H		1	2	3	10

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		10	5	5	5	10	5	
	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			H		4H			
	(Blue-headed) Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	1	1	H	2		4	7	1
	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>					1	1	2	1
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1	2		4	2	1	2	
	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>								1
	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		5		3		5		
	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			H		1		2H	H
	Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	3H	20	15	5	3	4	3	H
	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		8	10	5	1	1	2	1
	(Northern) Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>					H			
	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>		2	H				5	3
	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		7	H	1	3	9	5	4
	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		3	1	1	4	7	2	H
	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1	15	3	5	2	2	1	3
	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		4	1	1	2H	1	3	1
	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		3	4	4	H	H	3H	3
	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>						2H	4	
	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		2	1	6	8	10	5	3

Mammals

S=signs, D=dead, BD=bat detector		May 2026							
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>					1		2	
Eurasian Beaver	<i>Castor fiber</i>	S	S		S			4	
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		1		1				
Northern White-breasted Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus roumanicus</i>					D	3	1	
European Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>		S		S	S	S		S
Common Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>					2	3	1	
a pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>						20		
Eurasian Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>					BD			
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	1	1	3	1	3			
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	12	10		1		4	3	3
Elk (Moose)	<i>Alces alces</i>		1					1	
European Bison	<i>Bison bonasus</i>		2	1	2				
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		1		S	S			11
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		4		S				
Grey Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>		S			S			
European Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>		1						
European Polecat	<i>Mustela putorius</i>							1	

Amphibians & reptiles

H=heard		May 2026								
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>				5H	10 H	5H		10	
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>				2	H	3H	H		
Eastern Tree Frog	<i>Hyla orientalis</i>								2	
Moor Frog	<i>Rana arvalis</i>					2				
Pool Frog	<i>Pelophylax lessonae</i>					1			5	
Edible/Pool Frog complex	<i>Pelophylax</i> synkl. <i>esculentus</i>			H	H	10	5	5		
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>							2		
Viviparous Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>			1						
Eastern Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>			D	1			1		

Fishes

		May 2026								
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Threespine Stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>							1		
European Gudgeon	<i>Gobio gobio</i>							15		
European Bitterling	<i>Rhodeus amarus</i>							20		
Common Chub	<i>Squalius cephalus</i>							50		

Butterflies

		May 2026								
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>			1				1		
Common Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>							2		
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>			4	5					
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			2	1		1	5		
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>						1	1		
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>						1			
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>				10		5			
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			1	1			3		
Violet Copper	<i>Lycaena helle</i>				1					
Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>						2			
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>				2					
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>				1		3	1		
Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>			3	1			2		
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>						1			
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			1						
Peacock Butterfly	<i>Aglais io</i>			5	50	1	3	2		
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>				10		2			
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>				1			1		
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>						2	2		
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>			1				1		

Moths

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Tau Emperor	<i>Aglia tau</i>			2					
Lewes Wave	<i>Scopula immorata</i>							1	
Dingy Mocha	<i>Cyclophora pendularia</i>							1	1
Garden Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i>					1			
Small Argent & Sable	<i>Epirrhoe tristata</i>				2			3	
Common Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>				1			1	
Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>						1		
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>				1			1	
Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>				1	1	1		
Common Heath	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>			2	5		1		
Common White Wave	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>							1	
Small Grass Emerald	<i>Chlorissa viridata</i>				1				
Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>				2		1	1	
Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>				2				
Silver Barred	<i>Deltote bankiana</i>							1	

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Common Winter Damsel	<i>Sympecma fusca</i>					10	2		
Siberian Winter Damsel	<i>Sympecma paedisca</i>					10			
Variable Bluet	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>					10		1	
Azure Bluet	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>							10	
Common Clubtail	<i>Gomphus vulgatissimus</i>							1	
Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>					2	3		

Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
H=heard, D=dead									
Grasshoppers and allies									
Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>			H	H		2H	5H	1
Pondskaters									
Lake Pondskater	<i>Aquarius paludum</i>				✓				
Bugs									
Black-shouldered Shieldbug	<i>Carpocoris purpureipennis</i>							1	
European Striped Shield Bug	<i>Graphosoma italicum</i>			1					
European Firebug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>							3	
Lacewings									
a green lacewing	<i>Chrysoperla</i> sp.							1	
Flies									
a robber fly	<i>Pamponerus germanicus</i>					1			
St. Mark's Fly	<i>Bibio</i> cfr. <i>marci</i>		✓		✓				
a dance fly	<i>Empis</i> sp.				1			1	
Tapered Drone Fly	<i>Eristalis pertinax</i>			1					
Sun Fly	<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>					1			
Deer Warble Fly	<i>Hypoderma diana</i>						1		

H=heard, D=dead		May 2026								
Common name	Scientific name	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
a hoverfly	<i>Megasyrphus erraticus</i>				1					
a crane fly	<i>Tipula</i> sp.		1							
Bees & wasps										
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>			✓	✓					
Red-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus</i> cfr. <i>lapidarius</i>				1					
Common Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>		1							
Buff-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus</i> cfr. <i>terrestris</i>						1			
Red Mason Bee	<i>Osmia bicornis</i>				D	1				
a cuckoo wasp	<i>Chrysis</i> cfr. <i>terminata</i>						1			
Ants										
a wood ant	<i>Formica rufa</i> agg.				✓					
Beetles										
Northern Dune Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela hybrida</i>						1	1		
a ground beetle	<i>Amara</i> sp.						1			
Woodland Dor Beetle	<i>Anoplotrupes stercorosus</i>		2	1	1					
Tansy Beetle	<i>Chrysolina graminis</i>						1			
Poplar Leaf Beetle	<i>Chrysomela populi</i>			1	1					
Black Oil Beetle	<i>Meloe proscarabaeus</i>			1						
Common Cockchafer	<i>Melolontha</i> cfr. <i>melolontha</i>			1		1	5	20		
European Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>							2		
Harlequin Ladybird	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>							2		
Seven-spotted Lady Beetle	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>			1	1	3				
Nettle Weevil	<i>Phyllobius</i> cfr. <i>pomaceus</i>					20				
Apple Blossom Beetle	<i>Tropinota hirta</i>				20		2	10		
Alder Leaf Beetle	<i>Agelastica alni</i>			1						
Spiders										
Labyrinth Spider	<i>Agelena labyrinthica</i>							1		
a wolf spider	<i>Pardosa</i> sp.				1					
a stretch spider	<i>Tetragnatha</i> sp.								1	
a ground crab spider	<i>Xysticus</i> sp.						1			
Snails										
Brown-lipped Snail	<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>							1	1	
Roman Snail	<i>Helix pomatia</i>		3	1	D			D		
Common European Ambersnail	<i>Succinea</i> cfr. <i>putris</i>				1			2	2	

Fungi

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Day	Notes
Fomitopsidaceae	<i>Fomitopsis pinicola</i>	Red-banded Polypore	2	Białowieża NP
Phleogenaceae	<i>Phleogena faginea</i>	Fenugreek Stalkball	2	Białowieża NP
Polyporaceae	<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>	Hoof Fungus	2	Białowieża NP
Polyporaceae	<i>Trametes gibbosa</i>	Lumpy Bracket	2	Białowieża NP
Polyporaceae	<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkey-tail	2	Białowieża NP

Lichens

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Day	Notes
Cladoniaceae	<i>Cladonia</i> sp.	a cladonia	4	Siemianówka
Parmeliaceae	<i>Evernia prunastri</i>	Oakmoss	2	Białowieża NP
Parmeliaceae	<i>Hypogymnia physodes</i>	Hooded Tube Lichen	2	Białowieża NP
Teloschistaceae	<i>Xanthoria parietina</i>	Common Sunburst Lichen	2	Białowieża NP

Plants

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Day	Notes
I=introduced				
BRYOPHYTES		MOSSES		
Grimmiaceae	<i>Racomitrium</i> sp.	a moss	4	Siemianówka
Hylocomiaceae	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	Stairstep Moss	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Hylocomiaceae	<i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>	Red-stemmed Feather Moss	7	Goniądz
Polytrichaceae	<i>Polytrichum formosum</i>	Bank Haircap Moss	2	Białowieża NP
Sphagnaceae	<i>Sphagnum</i> sp.	a peatmoss	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Thuidiaceae	<i>Thuidium</i> cfr. <i>tamariscinum</i>	Common Tamarisk-moss	3	Żebra Żubra trail
PTERIDOPHYTES		FERNS & ALLIES		
Athyriaceae	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Cystopteridaceae	<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	Northern Oak Fern	2	Białowieża NP
Dryopteridaceae	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male Fern	2	Białowieża NP
Equisetaceae	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	Water Horsetail	5	Popielewo fishponds
Equisetaceae	<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>	Wood Horsetail	2	Białowieża NP
Thelypteridaceae	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Marsh Fern	3	Żebra Żubra trail
GYMNOSPERMS		CONIFERS		
Cupressaceae	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	1	Roadside
Pinaceae	[<i>Larix decidua</i>]	European Larch	2	Białowieża palace (planted)
Pinaceae	<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	2	Białowieża NP
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	2	Białowieża NP
ANGIOSPERMS		FLOWERING PLANTS		
Dicots		Dicotyledons		
Apiaceae	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Goutweed	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Apiaceae	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	4	Siemianówka
Apiaceae	<i>Chaerophyllum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Chervil	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Apiaceae	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	3	Budy (dead stems)
Apiaceae	<i>Peucedanum palustre</i>	Milk Parsley	3	Żebra Żubra trail (leaves)
Apocynaceae	<i>Vinca minor</i>	Lesser Periwinkle	5	Dojlidy fishponds
Aristolochiaceae	<i>Asarum europaeum</i>	Asarabacca	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Asteraceae	<i>Arctium</i> sp.	a burdock	5	Dojlidy fishponds (leaves)
Asteraceae	<i>Artemisia</i> sp.	a mugwort	7	Płochowo (leaves)
Asteraceae	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	2	Białowieża palace
Asteraceae	<i>Cirsium rivulare</i>	Brook Thistle	3	Żebra Żubra trail (leaves)
Asteraceae	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> agg.	Oxeye Daisy	3	Żebra Żubra trail (in bud)
Asteraceae	<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Common Butterbur	2	Białowieża palace (leaves)
Asteraceae	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i> agg.	Mouse-eared Hawkweed	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Asteraceae	<i>Senecio vernalis</i>	Eastern Groundsel	7	Goniądz

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Day	Notes
Asteraceae	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Common Groundsel	2	Białowieża village
Asteraceae	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy	5	Dojlidy fishponds (leaves)
Asteraceae	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Common Dandelion	2	Białowieża NP
Betulaceae	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Black Alder	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Betulaceae	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Betulaceae	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Betulaceae	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Boraginaceae	<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>	Corn Gromwell	7	Goniądz
Boraginaceae	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Wood Forget-me-not	2	Białowieża palace
Boraginaceae	<i>Pulmonaria obscura</i>	Suffolk Lungwort	2	Białowieża NP
Brassicaceae	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	2	Białowieża palace
Brassicaceae	<i>Arabidopsis arenosa</i>	Sand Rock-cress	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Brassicaceae	<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i> agg.	Bitter Wintercress	2	Białowieża forest
Brassicaceae	<i>Berteroa incana</i>	Hoary Alyssum	4	Siemianówka
Brassicaceae	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	4	Siemianówka
Brassicaceae	<i>Cardamine amara</i>	Large Bittercress	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Brassicaceae	<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	Bulbous Bittercress	2	Białowieża palace
Brassicaceae	<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	Narrow-leaved Bittercress	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Brassicaceae	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Lady's Smock or Cuckoo Flower	2	Białowieża NP
Brassicaceae	<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	Flixweed	5	Dojlidy fishponds
Brassicaceae	<i>Lunaria rediviva</i>	Perennial Honesty	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Cannabaceae	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Common Hops	2	Białowieża palace (leaves)
Caprifoliaceae	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Field Chickweed	7	Goniądz
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Cerastium glutinosum</i>	a chickweed	4	Siemianówka
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Cerastium holosteoides</i>	Common Mouse-ear Chickweed	6	Osowiec
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Cerastium semidecandrum</i>	Little Mouse-ear	6	Mścichy
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Dianthus deltoides</i>	Maiden Pink	4	Siemianówka
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Herniaria glabra</i>	Smooth Rupturewort	6	Osowiec
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Rabdera holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort	3	Budy
Celastraceae	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	2	Białowieża palace
Celastraceae	<i>Euonymus verrucosus</i>	Warty-barked Spindle	2	Białowieża palace
Cornaceae	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red Osier Dogwood	6	Osowiec (in bud)
Crassulaceae	<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop	4	Siemianówka (leaves)
Ericaceae	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Euphorbia saratoi</i>	Boissier's Spurge	5	Kosy Most (in bud)
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Euphorbia</i> cfr. <i>virgata</i>	Slender Leafy Spurge - I	4	Siemianówka
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	2	Białowieża NP
Fabaceae	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	5	Popielewo fishponds
Fabaceae	<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>	Spring Vetchling	2	Białowieża NP
Fabaceae	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pendunculate Oak	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Geraniaceae	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Redstem Stork's-bill	6	Osowiec
Geraniaceae	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill	5	Kosy Most (leaves)?
Geraniaceae	<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	2	Białowieża palace
Geraniaceae	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	2	Białowieża NP
Grossulariaceae	<i>Ribes nigrum</i>	Blackcurrant	2	Białowieża palace

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Day	Notes
Grossulariaceae	<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Red Currant	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Grossulariaceae	<i>Ribes spicatum</i>	Downy Currant	4	Leśna
Lamiaceae	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle	2	Białowieża palace
Lamiaceae	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	2	Białowieża palace
Lamiaceae	<i>Glechoma hirsuta</i>	a ground-ivy	2	Białowieża NP
Lamiaceae	<i>Lamiaeum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel	2	Białowieża NP
Lamiaceae	<i>Lamium album</i>	White Deadnettle	5	Popielewo fishponds
Lamiaceae	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Deadnettle	3	Teremiski
Lamiaceae	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle	2	Białowieża palace
Lamiaceae	<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	European Water-horehound	7	Goniądz (leaves)
Lamiaceae	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Watermint	6	Mścichy (leaves)
Lamiaceae	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Cleary	2	Białowieża palace
Malvaceae	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Nymphaeaceae	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow Water-lily	2	Białowieża palace
Oleaceae	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Common Ash	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Oleaceae	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Common Lilac - I	6	Osowiec
Onagraceae	<i>Oenothera</i> sp.	An evening-primrose	4	Siemianówka (dead stems)
Orobanchaceae	<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	Toothwort	2	Białowieża NP
Oxalidaceae	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Papaveraceae	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	2	Białowieża palace
Papaveraceae	<i>Roemeria argemone</i>	Prickly Poppy	6	Mścichy
Plantaginaceae	<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	4	Siemianówka (leaves)
Plantaginaceae	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Corn Speedwell	6	Osowiec
Plantaginaceae	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	3	Budy
Plumbaginaceae	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Sea Thrift	7	Goniądz
Polygonaceae	<i>Bistorta officinalis</i>	Common Bistort	4	Siemianówka (leaves)
Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	7	Wólka Piaseczna
Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	Water Dock	6	Mścichy (leaves)
Primulaceae	<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	5	Kosy Most
Ranunculaceae	<i>Anemonoides nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	2	Białowieża palace
Ranunculaceae	<i>Anemonoides ranunculoides</i>	Yellow Anemone	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Ranunculaceae	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Ranunculaceae	<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Ranunculaceae	<i>Isopyrum thalictroides</i>	Rue-leaved Isopyrum	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Ranunculaceae	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	6	Mścichy
Ranunculaceae	<i>Ranunculus</i> cfr. <i>aquatilis</i>	Common Water-crowfoot	5	Popielewo fishponds
Ranunculaceae	<i>Ranunculus</i> cfr. <i>cassubicus</i>	Kashubian Buttercup	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Ranunculaceae	<i>Ranunculus lanuginosus</i>	Woolly Buttercup	2	Białowieża palace
Ranunculaceae	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	6	Mścichy
Ranunculaceae	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Cursed Crowfoot	7	Dolistowo Stare
Resedaceae	<i>Reseda</i> cfr. <i>lutea</i>	Yellow Mignonette	8	Warsaw
Rosaceae	<i>Alchemilla</i> sp.	a lady's mantle	6	Mścichy
Rosaceae	<i>Argentina anserina</i>	Silverweed	2	Teremiski (leaves)
Rosaceae	<i>Comarum palustre</i>	Marsh Cinquefoil	6	Mścichy (leaves)
Rosaceae	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	2	Białowieża palace
Rosaceae	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	3	Żebra Żubra trail (leaves)
Rosaceae	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Rosaceae	<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens	2	Białowieża NP

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Day	Notes
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Rosaceae	<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Silvery Cinquefoil	4	Siemianówka (leaves)
Rosaceae	<i>Potentilla collina</i>	a cinquefoil	4	Siemianówka
Rosaceae	<i>Prunus padus</i>	Bird Cherry	2	Białowieża palace
Rosaceae	[<i>Rosa rugosa</i>]	Rugosa Rose - I	8	Warsaw (planted)
Rosaceae	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Red Raspberry	3	Żebra Żubra trail (leaves)
Rosaceae	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	2	Białowieża palace
Rubiaceae	<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	3	Białowieża forest
Rubiaceae	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Catchweed Bedstraw	2	Białowieża palace
Rubiaceae	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff	2	Białowieża palace
Salicaceae	<i>Populus maximowiczii</i> × <i>P. trichocarpa</i>	a poplar - I	3	Budy (leaves)
Salicaceae	<i>Populus</i> × <i>canescens</i>	Grey Poplar	5	Dojlidy fishponds (leaves)
Salicaceae	<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar	5	Dojlidy fishponds (leaves)
Salicaceae	<i>Populus tremula</i>	European Aspen	4	Siemianówka (leaves)
Salicaceae	<i>Salix</i> sp.	a willow	3	Teremiski (leaves)
Salicaceae	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	4	Siemianówka
Salicaceae	<i>Salix euxina</i>	Crack Willow	6	Osowiec
Salicaceae	<i>Salix pentandra</i>	Laurel Willow	5	Popielewo fishponds
Salicaceae	<i>Salix</i> cfr. <i>purpurea</i>	Purple Willow	5	Kosy Most
Salicaceae	<i>Salix</i> cfr. <i>triandra</i>	Almond Willow	4	Siemianówka
Santalaceae	<i>Thesium ebracteatum</i>	a bastard-toadflax	5	Kosy Most
Santalaceae	<i>Viscum album</i>	Common Mistletoe	2	Białowieża palace (leaves)
Sapindaceae	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder - I	5	Dojlidy fishponds
Sapindaceae	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Sapindaceae	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut - I	2	Białowieża palace (planted)
Saxifragaceae	<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>	Alternate-leaved G. Saxifrage	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Verbascum</i> cfr. <i>thapsus</i>	Great Mullein	3	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Ulmaceae	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Urticaceae	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Great Stinging Nettle	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Viburnaceae	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	2	Białowieża NP (leaves)
Viburnaceae	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose	5	Popielewo fishponds (in bud)
Violaceae	<i>Viola arvensis</i>	European Field Pansy	4	Siemianówka
Violaceae	<i>Viola epipsila</i>	Northern Marsh Violet	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Violaceae	<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Early Dog-Violet	2	Białowieża palace
Violaceae	<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Wild Pansy	5	Kosy Most
Monocots		Monocotyledons		
Alismataceae	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	European Water-Plantain	4	Siemianówka (leaves)
Amaryllidaceae	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons	2	Białowieża NP
Araceae	<i>Lemna</i> sp.	a duckweed	4	Budy (leaves)
Asparagaceae	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily-of-the-valley	5	Białowieża forest (in bud)
Asparagaceae	<i>Maianthemum biflorum</i>	May Lily	2	Białowieża NP (in bud)
Asparagaceae	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal	2	Białowieża NP
Cyperaceae	<i>Carex</i> cfr. <i>acuta</i>	Slender Tufted-sedge	4	Leśna
Cyperaceae	<i>Carex cespitosa</i>	Hassock-grass	4	Siemianówka
Cyperaceae	<i>Carex</i> cfr. <i>elata</i>	Tufted-sedge	6	Mścichy

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Family	Scientific name	Common name	Day	Notes
Cyperaceae	<i>Carex paniculata</i>	Greater Tussock-sedge	5	Dojlidy fishponds
Iridaceae	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris	2	Białowieża palace
Juncaceae	<i>Luzula</i> cfr. <i>campestris</i>	Field Woodrush	2	Białowieża NP
Melanthiaceae	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Herb Paris	3	Żebra Żubra trail
Poaceae	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	4	Siemianówka
Poaceae	<i>Melica nutans</i>	Mountain Melick	3	Białowieża forest
Poaceae	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	2	Białowieża palace
Typhaceae	<i>Typha</i> cfr. <i>latifolia</i>	Broadleaf Cattail	3	Żebra Żubra trail (dead stems)