

France – La Brenne

Naturetrek Tour Report

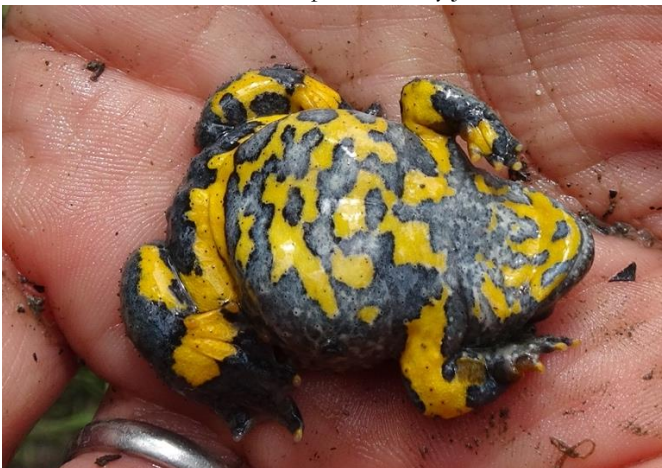
18th – 25th May 2022



Purple Heron by Jonathan Dean



Whiskered Tern by Jonathan Dean



Yellow-bellied Toad by Rob Nottage



Migrant Spreadwing by Rob Nottage

Tour report by Émilie Mitchell



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 - Emilie Mitchell (Leader) with eight Naturetrek clients

Summary

Based in Martizay at the Auberge Bosquet Fleuri hotel, we spent a mostly sunny week exploring the Parc naturel régional (PNR) de la Brenne. Equivalent to an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', the PNR de la Brenne is home to an extraordinarily diverse range of plants and animals, with a landscape offering a striking contrast between forests, meadows, heaths and the thousand lakes for which the region is famed.

The tour focussed on the general wildlife of La Brenne, which being a relatively compact area, we never wasted much time travelling. By the end of the tour we had compiled an impressive species list of 127 birds, 26 butterflies, 19 dragonflies and a similar number of orchids.

The weather was sunny and very settled for the most part, with just half a day of showers which followed a stormy night. At its hottest, the mercury hit 28°C but most days were pleasantly warm with temperatures around the mid-twenties.

Day 1 May

Wednesday 18th

We all met in Poitiers station, with the TGV (high-speed train) arriving on time. After loading the minibus, we struck a course east for La Brenne.

Arriving at the hotel, we were greeted by Benjamin, our host for the week. Our first meal was in the neighbouring village of Azay-le-Ferron, at Terre de Brenne. Fed and watered, we retired to our rooms ahead of what promised to be an exciting first day exploring La Brenne.

Day 2 May

Thursday 19th

Following an excellent breakfast, we made a bee-line for the Chérine National Nature Reserve. On our way, we stopped to observe a pair of Bee-eaters perched on an electric line and two Hoopoes busily feeding on a well-trimmed lawn near Saint Michel-en-Brenne. Arrived at Terre de Picadon, we were greeted by a Melodious Warbler singing right out in the open, just metres from our minibus. The 700m walk around the ponds of Picadon was very pleasant with Cirl Bunting, Turtle Dove, Nightingale, Cuckoo and Zitting Cisticola accompanying us throughout. We encountered a few Black-veined White butterflies which were all freshly emerged and two Downy Emerald dragonflies dazzled us with their metallic green as they came and went along the edge of the "Lily pond".

We then drove to the bird hide at étang Ricot where a European Pond Terrapin was sunning itself on a dead tree trunk in front of the hide. Its proximity allowed us to conclude, by a quick look into her yellow eyes, that we were watching a female! A brief walk from the Ricot hide to Maison de la Nature produced some wonderful views of a newly emerged Southern White Admiral. From the visitor centre's bay window, we observed a powder-blue Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly perched on a reed stem. Etang Cistude was dry as it was on "asseç"

for the whole spring and summer. This traditional management practice takes place every 10 to 12 years for each of the *étangs* (fishing lakes) in La Brenne. It allows the mud to mineralise and flowers to flourish then go to seed, providing future food for ducks and fish as well as offering an opportunity for the wardens to repair the leaky dykes and eliminate invasive alien species.

Before lunch, we stopped briefly by *étang* Monmélier and were lucky enough to observe a beautiful male Garganey as well as hearing a Savi's Warbler 'reeling', Zitting Cisticola 'zit-zit-zitting', along with chattering Sedge and Reed Warblers. Marsh Harrier and Black Kite flew by as well as Cattle and Little Egrets and various other heron species.

Moving on, our first picnic was enjoyed at Maison du Parc. We lunched with a view over the wildlife pond to the back of the restaurant.

A little further south, Rosnay Common provided a spectacular floral display with Tongue Orchids stretching as far as the eye could see; there were many thousands of plants in flower, making it almost impossible not to tread on any! Other good finds included a patch of attractive Lax-flowered Orchids, some Green-veined Orchids, Greater Butterfly and a few Lesser Butterfly Orchids – the latter identified by their 'parallel pollinia'. Some excellent birds were on offer too; a fine male Red-backed Shrike showed well, even breaking into song, as did a Corn Bunting. Butterflies were not so numerous but a Spotted Fritillary was a good find and Black-veined White butterflies were plentiful.

Returning to the hotel we stopped in at *étang* Purais. Here we watched Whiskered Terns with their acrobatic flights and Black-necked Grebes busy diving between the vast blankets of lily pads. Night Heron, Purple Heron and Great White Egret were also present along the lake's edge.

In the evening, we dined locally at the restaurant "Le Temps d'Aime". We enjoyed some delicious food and local wines and set off for the hotel and a well-deserved night's sleep.

Day 3

Friday 20th May

Following breakfast, a short drive took us to La Gabrière where we watched Purple Herons, Red-crested Pochard and heard a Great Reed Warbler give its loud, scratchy song. We got back on the minibus and headed for the Reserve of *étangs* Foucault and Massé. In the large bird hide overlooking *étang* Bénisme, we were very lucky to find seven Black-winged Stilts. Some Common Terns were nesting on the right-hand island, while Little Ringed Plover, Lapwing and Redshank were wading in the shallow margins of the lake. We also saw both White and Yellow Wagtails and on our way back to the car park, a stunning Brown Hare showed really well along the path.

We moved onto *étang* Mouton, in Migné. Our walk around the lake provided some beautiful views of White Admiral butterflies and a little meadow offered us nice views of a Woodlark singing its heart out.

We then drove to Lancosme Forest and enjoyed our picnic lunch in a glade next to Saint Sulpice Chapel. The meadow was home to many butterflies, including Brimstone, Knapweed Fritillary, Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Black-veined White and several dragonflies including the large and impressive Emperor Dragonfly. We ate our lunch with the rich, fluty song of Golden Orioles in the background. Next to the chapel, a natural spring provided us with some welcome cool refreshment and Beautiful Demoiselle astounded us with their tropical

ballet. The wooded area nearby produced a family of Marsh Tits, when suddenly a magnificent Woodland Brown landed at our feet, just long enough for us to have a good view and even take a few pictures! The *Rond point des Cinq Frères* offered Common Spotted Orchid, Bastard Balm, Branched St Bernard's Lily and a singing Bonelli's Warbler, as well as a few delicate Wood White butterflies.

After a welcome coffee break in the nearby village of Vendoeuvres, we drove to étang des Essarts. The walk to the bird hide provided us with an amazing view of a Short-toed Eagle, hovering directly over our heads. In the bird hide, we were witness to a drama which fortunately ended well for all involved: two Black Kites attempted to rob a Black-headed Gull chick from its nest but were mobbed by its parents with such force, that one of the kites fell into the water and could no longer take off! Its plumage being soaked, it was obliged to swim a good 20m to the shore, while still being harassed by the parents who were not going to let the predator get off lightly.

Day 4 May

Saturday 21st

After a drive around the quiet lanes of Martizay and Azay-le-Ferron and stopping to take a few photos of Lizard and Pyramidal Orchids, we chanced across another dandy Hoopoe, probing for grubs along a flower-rich verge. Next, we made our way to an area known to hold breeding Stone Curlew and were fortunate enough to see this curious bird crouched in a field, where we also found numerous Bee Orchids in flower.

We headed off to the little village of La Boudinière. The Suin Valley downland was simply fantastic! Our first butterfly was a handsome male Adonis Blue – in fact dozens – all of which were in mint condition, having probably emerged just a day or so earlier. Pearly Heath butterflies were also plentiful and we were accompanied by the glorious, echoing songs of Golden Oriole, Cuckoo and Nightingale all along our walk. We gazed at more Pyramidal Orchid flowers, Juniper trees and a gorgeous Broad-Bordered Bee Hawk-moth was seen nectaring on some Meadow Clary. Meanwhile, Jonathan was watching a smart pair of Hen Harriers flying over some fields a little further up the valley. On our way back to reunite with Jonathan, we were thrilled to spot a little group of Bird's Nest Orchids on a shaded bank.

For our lunch break, we stopped in the village of Lurais. We were surprised to find an archery competition taking place along the river bank. In fact, life size animal sculptures had us wondering if we hadn't arrived in North America! A fishing eagle, a bear and even a bison were planted as targets at regular intervals, transporting us to another continent! The river was refreshing and we enjoyed our food watching Banded Demoiselles, White Featherlegs and, Blue-eye damselflies skimming across the water. Good birds included a darting Kingfisher as well as Honey Buzzard.

We then drove off from Rives to the Rocher de la Dube. The roadside here hosts some wonderful and rare orchid species. We observed White, Sword-leaved and Red Helleborines, Purple Limodore and Lady Orchid! Le Rocher didn't produce a Peregrine Falcon as hoped but our second Honey Buzzard of the day was a good substitute!

The lively town of Le Blanc was our next stop. We enjoyed a nice cold drink and an ice-cream on the terrace of Café du Centre, before heading back towards the hotel, first making a brief visit to étang Purais. Here we were rewarded with excellent views of a Purple Heron and two stunning Black-necked Grebes close to the hide.

Day 5 May

Sunday 22nd

After breakfast, we made for Saulnay, a short drive to the east. Our target species was an endemic species of orchid but a brief detour to see a Bee-eater colony was popular. In the crisp morning light these rainbow-coloured beauties really started the day on a high. Black Kite, Nightingale, Yellow Wagtail and Skylark were all seen nearby and a buck Roe Deer showed well.

Unfortunately, the Ozance marshes did not produce *Orchis Brennensis*: the very local endemic Brenne Orchid. However, a chance encounter with well-known Naturetrek group leaders, John and Jenny Wilsher, led us to some interesting hybrids of Brenne and Common Spotted Orchids. Etang Vieux offered us a beautiful, shaded walk with Woodlark, Melodious and Bonelli's Warbler all in fine voice. We had been informed that a nesting pair of Bitterns had been showing well at the lake. Being a notoriously elusive species, we knew our chances of seeing this charismatic bird were slim and despite several 'scares', as Purple Heron and Marsh Harrier flew above the reedbed, we were denied views of this rare Brenne resident. In the nearby woodland, we stumbled across a Great Spotted Woodpecker's nest and stopped to watch its frequent comings and goings. Back in the car park, a clump of Maiden's Pink attracted a handsome Broad-Bordered Bee Hawk-moth – the second of the tour!

We headed to Saint Michel-en-Brenne for our picnic lunch today but the birdlife didn't stop; with Hoopoe, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Black Redstart and Woodlark making it difficult to keep up with all the activity! Then a short walk away from our picnic tables saw the group chance upon a family of Firecrests: adults were actively feeding the youngsters who were only just out of the nest.

In the afternoon, we drove to Le Blizon. The walk provided us with more views of both Southern White and White Admiral butterflies. We also observed a variety of heron species on étangs de Blizon and Péchereau. We continued our exploration of the area by walking along the wooded path to étang Massé. The bird hide allowed close views of Great-Crested Grebe, Night Heron and several European Pond Terrapins sunning themselves in the open.

Day 6 May

Monday 23rd

Etang de la Sous was our first stop of the day. The previous night's rain brought a much appreciated freshness to the air and had enticed a few Edible Snails onto the path leading to the bird hide. We enjoyed views of some showy Red-crested Pochards, Great Crested and Little Grebes, Pochard and Tufted Duck when suddenly our guide shouted "*Blongios, Blongios, Little Bittern!*" We subsequently observed two smart adult birds coming and going from the reeds in front of the hide, busy bringing food to their young chicks, expertly hidden in the vegetation. As we returned to the minibus, the rain started to fall so we decided to pay another visit to étang Ricot. From the hide, we watched some 'soggy' nature reserve staff busy catching terrapins with nets as part of a local monitoring program for this threatened species.

After a brief coffee stop in Maison de la Nature, the rain stopped and we headed for Terre de Renard. We heard Melodious Warbler, Zitting Cisticola and watched Purple and Night Herons from the hide, while the rain started once more. On our walk back we were met by a rather aggressive American Signal Crayfish, who was not afraid to threaten us with its claws raised high in the air!

We stopped for lunch in the sheltered picnic barn at Maison du Parc and sampled some delicious *carpe frites* – a new experience for just about the whole group.

Our next stop was étang Barineau and on our walk to the hide we heard the liquid “wet-my-lips” song of a Quail and saw some gaudy Yellow Wagtails. From the hide an impressive seventeen Black-Winged Stilt waded the shallow in the company of a Black-tailed Godwit, some Lapwing and three Redshank. We also witnessed close views of a Coypu swimming in open water

We then drove off to étang Vigneaux, our stop there offer us amazing views of a Hawfinch feeding on cherries in a nearby tree. Using the minibus as a hide, we experienced once in a lifetime views of this ‘king of finches’. Driving to étangs Renard and Piégu, we then had further views of Marsh Harrier and yet another Hoopoe.

Following dinner, we headed out on a crepuscular quest in search of Nightjars. On our arrival we heard the reeling song of a Grasshopper Warbler and after a brief wait under light rain, the fascinating *fern-owl* was seen and heard, over the heath just metres away. Returning to the bus the ‘songs’ of bush-crickets rang out all around and were joined by the call of a Tree Frog, piercing the still night air.

Day 7 May

Tuesday 24th

After yet another wonderful breakfast, we made our way to the Riaux lakes where we observed both Ringed and Little Ringed Plover on the first lake, giving us the opportunity to study the subtle differences between these two look-a-likes. On the second, a Shelduck was preening, we also heard Golden Oriole, Nightingale, Turtle Dove, Cuckoo and even the loud wailing call of a Black Woodpecker!

A short drive south, took us to the village of Ciron, stopping to admire a couple of unusual historical structures en route: the *Lanterne des Morts* and a monument erected in the memory of three hot air balloon pioneers whose misfortune saw them crash in the village after having reached a world record 8,600m way back in 1875. It was a brief stop but one which offered us unexpected views of two Ring-necked Parakeets flying around the car park area – a great rarity in La Brenne.

We then continued our journey to an old quarry site in Oulches. The Burnt Orchids were unfortunately passed their best, but a little exploration of the area turned up some other exciting orchids; Greater Butterfly, Pyramidal and a very nice display of Fly Orchids. Adonis Blue were also plentiful and a few dazzling Marbled Fritillary were on the wing.

From the top of the quarry, we spotted yet more Honey Buzzards, several this time. The views were very good from our elevated position, allowing us time to watch these beautiful birds make their butterfly-like nuptial display flight.

A short drive later and we arrived at the Château de Romefort, where we had lunch by the river Creuse. The water was covered in hundreds of jewel-winged Banded Demoiselles, with a colourful Grey Wagtail also present.

For the final stop of the day, we made a special visit to a site near Prissac, where we hoped to see Yellow-bellied Toads. Eventually, we had great views of this cute and rather rare amphibian and our visit was made even more worthwhile by the discovery of a pair of Woodchat Shrikes. We watched them for a long time, flying in and out

of a hedgerow and even saw them mating! Middle Spotted Woodpecker called from cover while we made our way back to the village for a well-deserved coffee break before heading back to the hotel. Back at Le Bosquet Fleuri, we convened for the last time to record the species of the day and chatted about some of the tour highlights. We agreed the group members, stunning wildlife and prime location had all combined to make a truly memorable holiday experience.

Day 8 May

Wednesday 25th

After breakfast, we bade farewell to our host and decided to spend our remaining morning re-visiting étang Monméliér. Savi's Warbler was giving its electric-like reeling song again, as well as the 'not so melodious' Melodious Warbler encountered a few days earlier. We were also rewarded with great views of Spoonbill, Night Heron and Black-Winged Stilts. We still had a little extra time, so decided to walk along the Sentier de Beauregard Lake. This lovely stroll was an absolute delight with Common Sandpiper, Bullfinch, Yellowhammer, a pair of Dartford Warblers and the find of yet another Great Spotted Woodpecker's nest.

After a final picnic in Azay-le-Ferron, we had a smooth journey, arriving back at Poitiers in plenty of time for a coffee before our return journey to the UK.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers and exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays



www.twitter.com/naturetrektours



www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays

Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2022							
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		✓		✓				
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>						✓		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		✓	.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	.	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>								✓
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	.
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		.	.	.	.	.	✓	.
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>			✓	.	.	.	.	.
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>		✓						
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			✓	.	.	✓	.	.
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	.	✓
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				✓				
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				✓	✓	✓		
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>				✓			✓	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓					
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	.	✓	
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>						✓		
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>								✓

Common name	Scientific name	May 2022							
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓	✓	•	✓	✓	✓	
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	•
Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>				✓				
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓			✓		✓
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>							✓	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		✓				✓	✓	
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓					
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						✓		
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			✓			✓		✓
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>								✓
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>			✓					✓
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			✓	•	✓	✓	✓	
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					✓		✓	
Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>							✓	
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>						✓		✓
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		•		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>							✓	
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>		✓					✓	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>					✓			
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			✓		✓	✓		
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	•	✓	•	✓	✓	•	•	•
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Yellow (Blue-headed) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava (flava)</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>		✓						✓

		May 2022							
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>						✓		✓
Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		✓	✓			✓		
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		✓	.	.	✓	.	✓	.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dartford Warbler	<i>Curruca undata</i>								✓
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>			✓		✓			
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>		✓			✓			
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			✓		✓			
Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>			✓		✓			
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓	✓	.	✓	✓	✓	
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓	.	✓	.	✓	
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodchat shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	✓	.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	.	✓	✓	
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	.	✓	✓	
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>						✓		
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	.
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓	.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>								✓
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓						✓
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	.	✓	
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			✓					

Other vertebrates

		May 2022						
Common name	Scientific name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Mammals								
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	✓		✓				
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	✓	✓					

Common name	Scientific name	May 2022						
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	✓	✓	✓				
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>					✓		
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	✓						
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>			✓				
Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>			✓				
Common Shrew	<i>Sorex araneus</i>			✓				
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>					✓		
Reptiles & Amphibians								
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>				✓			
Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>	✓						
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>	•		✓				
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	✓		✓				
Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>						•	✓
Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>							✓

Butterflies and Moths

		May 2022						
Common name	Scientific name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Butterflies								
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	✓	✓	✓				
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	•	•	✓				
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓				
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		•	•	✓			
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	•	✓	
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>		✓	✓	✓		•	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonia album</i>			✓				
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>		✓					
Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	✓						
Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>	•					✓	
Heath Fritillary	<i>Melicta athalia</i>				✓			
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>				✓			
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Woodland Brown	<i>Lopinga archine</i>		✓					
Sooty Copper	<i>Heodes tityrus</i>						✓	
Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>			✓			✓	
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	•	•	✓	•			
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	•	•	✓	•			
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>							✓
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>		✓		✓			
Moths								

		May 2022						
Common name	Scientific name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Common name	Scientific name							
5-Spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena trifolii</i>							
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>							
Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth	<i>Hemaris fuciformis</i>							
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>							
Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthocrapsis luteolata</i>							
Treble-bar	<i>Aplocera plagiata</i>							
Clouded Buff	<i>Diacrisia sannio</i>							
Straw Dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>							
Common Heath	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>							
Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>							
Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>							
Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>							
Small Emerald	<i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>							
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>							
Brown China-mark	<i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>							
Mother Shipton	<i>Euclidia mi</i>							

Other invertebrates

		May 2022						
Common name	Scientific name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	.		✓	✓	.	✓	
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>		✓		.		✓	
Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>	✓			.			
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	✓			✓			
Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	✓	.	.	✓	.	✓	.
Dainty Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion scitulum</i>	✓						
Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	✓						
Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	✓			✓			
Blue-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma lindenii</i>	.		✓	.			
White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>				✓		✓	
Migrant spreadwing	<i>Lestes barbarus</i>		✓		.		.	
Hairy Hawker	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>							
Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>	✓						
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	
White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>	✓		.	.		.	
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	✓		✓	✓		.	
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>							✓

Orchids etc

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved Helleborine
<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>	Red Helleborine

<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Limodore
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid
<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered Orchid
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	Burnt Orchid
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza brennensis</i>	Brenne Orchid – possible hybrid brennensis x fuchsii
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Spotted Orchid
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's Nest Orchid