

France - La Brenne: The Land of a Thousand Lakes

Naturetrek Tour Report

23rd – 30th May 2023



Red Helleborine by Nigel Turnbull



Black-veined White by John Hopkins



Banded Demoiselle by John Vaughan



Montagu's Harrier by John Hopkins

Tour report by Emilie Mitchell



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Summary

Based at La Gabrière hotel in Lingé, we spent a wonderful 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 and 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 132 birds, 29 butterflies, 24 dragonflies and 22 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

Tuesday 23rd May

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

Arriving at the hotel, we settled into our rooms and headed out for our first meal in 'La Gab', a neighbouring restaurant. Fed and watered, we retired to our rooms ahead of what promised to be an exciting first day exploring La Brenne.

Day 2

Wednesday 24th May

We started the day with a visit to a local nature reserve: Rosnay Common. We were greeted by a beautiful male Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly and many Black Kites, which were flying over a field which was being cut for hay. We walked a little way into the entrance of the reserve, where we saw a Hoopoe fly over, as well as hearing a Nightingale singing from some bushes. 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 Tree Pipit showed well, even breaking into song, as did a Corn Bunting. The soft purr of a Turtle Dove enchanted us. The butterflies were excellent and included Marsh, Spotted and Glanville Fritillaries along with a Southern White Admiral.

A short drive south, took us to the village of Ciron. 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 and Blue Featherleg. A colourful Grey Wagtail and a Little Egret were also present. After a nice lunch, we drove through the village and stopped 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 way back in 1875, after having reached a world record 8,600m of altitude. We then made a stop for a pleasant coffee break in Scoury.

Next we continued our journey to an old quarry site in Oulches. The Burnt Orchids were in full flower and a little exploration of the area turned up some other exciting orchids: Lady, Greater Butterfly, Pyramidal and a very nice display of Fly Orchids. Adonis Blue were also plentiful and a few dazzling Glanville Fritillary were on the wing. We also encountered Globularia, Nottingham Catchfly and some other very attractive plants and insects, which made our afternoon.

Late afternoon, we made our way to the Riaux Lakes, where we observed both Purple and Night Heron on the first lake. On the second, Red-crested Pochard was present. We also heard Golden Oriole, Nightingale, Turtle Dove, Cuckoo and even the loud wailing call of a Black Woodpecker, which we were lucky enough to see, even if it was for just a few seconds!

Day 3

Thursday 25th May

Following breakfast, a short drive took us to the Reserve of étangs Foucault and Massé. Along the path, we saw a Bloody-nosed Beetle feeding on its Gallium food plant. From the large bird hide overlooking étang Bénisme, we were delighted to find several graceful Black-winged Stilts. Some Common Terns were busy nesting on the right-hand island, while a Zitting Cisticola was “zit-zitting” in a noisy display flight. Stonechat, Blackcap and Whitethroat were singing in the many bushes around the lake. Several Whiskered Terns flew past the hide and dozens of Pochard, Red-crested Pochard and Tufted Duck were busy feeding on the water. Finally, a Marsh Harrier flew past and flushed many of the birds into the air.

The Foucault hide produced a distant, but exciting view of a Honey Buzzard and a Black Kite. A Little Grebe called and swam past the hide and finally we had the most beautiful views of a Purple Heron flying and then landing next to the hide.

Next we made a bee-line for the Chérine National Nature Reserve. On our way to the bird hide at Etang Cistude, we encountered two European Pond Terrapin sunning themselves on a fallen tree over the water. And close views allowed us to conclude with a quick look into their yellow, rather than red eyes, that they were both females! From the great hide, we observed a hundred or more Black-headed Gulls, Little Grebe and Cormorant. However, several Black-necked Grebe stole the show. On our way back the car park, we met a Southern White Admiral and a gorgeous Green Lizard both basking in the sun.

Etang Ricot was dry, as it was on “assec” 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 any leaks and eliminate invasive alien species. However, a small channel of water was still present in the middle of the lake, allowing us to catch up with Redshank, Little Ringed Plover, Spoonbill and Little Egret. Overhead, a circling Black Kite share its thermal with a majestic Short-toed Eagle.

From here, we headed to Saint Michel-en-Brenne for our picnic lunch but the birdlife didn't stop. From our picnic table, we watched Black Redstart and a Firecrest. A short walk in the local park allowed us to add Blue Chaser, Small Pincertail, Banded Demoiselle and Blue Featherleg, to our growing list of *odonates*.

We took a drive north towards Obterre and en-route, saw a Night Heron in the pond of a fish farm. On our arrival at the quarry site, we were greeted by singing Corn Bunting and lovely views of a Red-backed Shrike. The orchid

display in the quarry was a delight: Small and Early Spider Orchids, Fly, Fragrant, Burnt and Military Orchids were all present and in good condition.

Our journey back to the hotel was slowed by scanning fields for some of the ‘cereal crop specialist birds’. We were not disappointed, enjoying the most wonderful views of an exquisite male Montagu’s Harrier!

Day 4

Friday 26th May

An early morning birdwatching session took us to Etang de la Sous, in the hope of encountering the ‘Blongios’, alias the Little Bittern. Unfortunately we didn’t connect on this occasion, but we did witness a beautiful sunrise and lovely sightings of Red-crested Pochard, Pochard, Great Crested Grebe on their nest and a baby Coot being fed by its parents. The walk to and from the hide produced a purring Turtle Dove, a couple of Cuckoos singing, Zitting Cisticola displaying and both Sedge and Reed Warblers in full-song from the reedbed.

We headed back to the hotel for a well-deserved breakfast, which included some delicious homemade brioche.

We completed our morning with a beautiful walk along the shore of the well-named Beauregard Lake. A pair of Hoopoes were busy feeding on the entrance track and two Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers were seen in the top of an oak tree. A Short-toed Eagle flew over us and both Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler were singing their hearts out. A little later, we relished the rare opportunity of actually ‘seeing’ a nightingale in full song. Insects were also plentiful, with a fine male Sooty Copper and a Blue Emperor dragonfly patrolling amongst the many other species.

As we arrived at an area of heathy habitat, we heard the ‘reeling’ of a Grasshopper Warbler and had lovely views of both Dartford Warbler and Yellowhammer. A few meters later, a Woodlark was seen singing from the top of a tree. As we approached the car park and just before we entered the woods, we spotted a Wryneck in the top of a dead tree. Views lasted less than a minute but what a bird!

Lunch was taken at Maison du Parc, with a nice view out over a large pond. We sampled *carp frites* with some local Reuilly gris wine: a delightful combination, as a Night Heron entertained us by sitting pretty over the pond.

In the afternoon, we set off for étang Massé, part of the Massé-Foucault Regional Nature Reserve. In the car park area, we quickly fell upon a few very fresh and smart Black Hairstreaks, as well as a rather worn Sloe Hairstreak! As we reached the lake, we spotted a few Red-eyed Damselflies sitting on the yellow lily pads. Dozens of Cormorants were roosting in trees and a Marsh Harrier flew by. As we walked along the new boardwalk over étang Valmicky, a Black Kite landed in a magnificent dead oak tree, offering lovely views.

Walking to the northern Bénisme Lake hide, we enjoyed watching the Black-winged Stilts, while a Grey Heron caught a frog. Yellow Wagtails were plentiful, and we spotted a family of Coots. The nesting Common Terns and some Gadwall, added further interest.

Day 5

Saturday 27th May

We started with a visit to étang Puraïs which is also part of the Cherine National Nature Reserve. Here we admired the magnificent view over an extensive area of water lilies. Black-necked Grebe were numerous, as were Whiskered Terns. We even observed the beautiful nuptial display of a pair of Great Crested Grebes!

We then 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 song of a Woodlark and that of the more monotonous, yet still pleasant Yellowhammer all along our walk. We gazed at more Fly Orchids and a dazzling display of Pyramidal Orchids nestled among the Juniper trees. A Tree Pipit parachuted in a song flight and landed on a tree just in front of us. While both Dingy and Grizzled Skippers were seen, along with a stunning Scarce Swallowtail.

For our lunch break, we stopped in the village of Lurais. The cool surroundings of river Creuse were refreshing and we enjoyed our food watching Banded Demoiselles, Blue Featherlegs and Blue-eye Damselflies skimming across the still water. We also encountered Lesser Emperor and Orange-spotted Emerald patrolling over the water. A Viperine Snake swam out in front of us and quickly took refuge in the river bank. And last but not least, a male White-tailed Skimmer landed close by, allowing us to observe its diagnostic white claspers.

We then drove the road between Rives and the Rocher de la Dube. Here the roadside hosts some wonderful and rare orchid species. We observed Greater Butterfly Orchid, Sword-leaved and Red Helleborines, Purple Limodore and Lady Orchid. Blue Gromwell, Nottingham Catchfly and Wood Cow-wheat were other great little plants in flower. Arriving at Le Rocher, to our astonishment we found a newly fledged Peregrine Falcon landed on the bridge, which made for an amazing encounter and a fantastic photo opportunity!

We finished another beautiful day with a visit to Terre de Picadon, where we heard both Melodious and Garden Warbler as well as Nightingale. A stop overlooking a pond covered in lilies, rewarded us with a surprise Western Clubtail and a few female White-tailed Skimmers.

Day 6

Sunday 28th May

After breakfast, we made for Saulnay, a short drive to the north-east. Our target species was an endemic species of orchid but a brief detour to see a Bee-eater colony was very well-received. 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. As we drove away, a Marsh Harrier ‘floated’ along the road verge, offering beautiful views and a nice photo opportunity to boot.

The Ozance Marshes produced a few *Orchis Brennensis*: the very local endemic Brenne Orchid. Etang Vieux offered us a beautiful, shaded walk with both Woodlark and Melodious Warbler in fine voice. In the nearby woodland, we stumbled across an emerging Southern White Admiral. A few Downy Emerald flew over the lake, where a Purple Heron hunted in the reeds. Four-spotted Chasers were flying around the sluice gate and we had the most amazing encounter with a male Cistude (European Pond Terrapin), as it crossed the track in front of us!

After a lovely lunch break in Vendoeuvres, where Black Redstarts and Swifts were plentiful, and a Short-toed Eagle woke us up from our post-lunch nap. We drove to Lancosme Forest. We had distant but amazing views of a White-tailed Eagle landed in a pine tree, while a Nightjar sang briefly from a nearby woodland clearing! We then heard our first Bonelli’s Warbler of the trip. The wooded area nearby produced Night Heron, more Bonelli’s Warbler and a beautiful male Common Redstart. Golden Oriole were singing and playing their usual hide and seek game with us. Eurasian Baskettail dragonflies were patrolling over the lake and on our walk back to the minibus, we suddenly encountered a magnificent Woodland Brown which landed at our feet, just long enough for us to have a good view and even take a few photos!

A final detour took us to Etang Renard, Taillis Renard and Piégu lakes which produced twenty plus Black-winged Stilts and their babies, as well as several Little Ringed Plovers.

We got back to the hotel and after a chance to relax, enjoyed another delicious dinner. We then decided to give the Nightjars another chance to enchant us with their antics. We drove off towards Saint Michel-en-Brenne and were not disappointed. Nightjars called, flapped and displayed everywhere and we even encountered the largest "*sodding beast*" we had ever seen : a magnificent male Great Capricorn Beetle which settled on a reed stem and must have measured close to 7cm long. What a sight!

Day 7

Monday 29th May

We set off for a nice walk to Terre de Renard within the Cherine National Nature Reserve. We began with a lovely find: a Western Willow Spreadwing. We were again very lucky to get good views of a Nightingale in full song and enjoyed good sightings of Red-backed Shrike. Butterflies included Black Hairstreak and Marsh Fritillary, as well as Oberthur's and Grizzled Skipper. Arriving at étang Luke's hide, a Golden Oriole was singing and both Marsh Harrier and Short-toed Eagle were on the wing. On the water, a lovely Great Crested Grebe was spotted with its babies perched on its back.

We stopped at Maison de la Nature and saw a Lesser Emperor dragonfly patrolling a little pond, as well as Scarlet Darter, Black-tailed Skimmer and a female Blue Emperor egg-laying.

Our lunch break took us to étang Mouton. Cattle Egret were present in the "assec" lake and next to our picnic bench we observed a stunning Spotted Fritillary. After feasting on our lunch, we took a gentle walk around the lake and encountered several White Admirals, a Night Heron and a Golden Oriole was singing away but again, stayed well hidden in the canopy. A female Marsh Harrier flew over and finally a Bonelli's Warbler showed well, while singing along the lake's dyke.

Later, a walk along étang Miclos and Monmélier produced dozens of Stag Beetle mandibles, most likely discarded by bats from the evening before. We also encountered Purple Heron, Black Kite, many ducks species and a beautiful Greater Butterfly Orchid.

To round the day off, we visited étang Puraïs for a final time. The light was beautiful and several pairs of Black-necked Grebe posed for the photographers. Whiskered Tern landed very close to the bird hide and one even landed on a lily pad in front of the hide, allowing some great shots to be taken.

Day 8

Tuesday 30th May

After breakfast, we bid farewell to our host and headed for Saint Pierre des Corps. Arriving back at the station in plenty of time for our return journey to the UK.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023					
		24	25	26	27	28	29
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>		✓	✓		✓	✓
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>				✓		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		✓				
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023					
		24	25	26	27	28	29
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					✓	
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>						h
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓	✓		
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		✓	✓		✓	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		✓			✓	
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓			✓	
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓				
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>			✓		✓	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</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>		✓				
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	h	h	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>					✓	
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						✓
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>					✓	✓
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>			✓			
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	✓					
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		✓				
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus minor</i>			✓			
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			✓	✓		✓
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</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>	h	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					✓	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	h	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>			h			
Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	✓	h	✓		✓	✓
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	✓	h	✓		✓	✓
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>			h	✓	✓	✓
Dartford Warbler	<i>Curruca undata</i>			✓			

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023					
		24	25	26	27	28	29
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>						✓
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	✓			✓		
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>					✓	✓
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			h			
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	h	h			✓	
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>					✓	
Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>					✓	
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	h		✓	✓	✓	✓
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓		✓	
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>					✓	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>				✓		
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		✓				
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓				
Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			✓	✓	✓	

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023					
		24	25	26	27	28	29
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	✓		✓			
Black-veined white	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>			✓	✓		
Small white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>				✓		
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>						✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓				✓	✓
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>	✓	✓	✓			
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>				✓		
Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	✓					✓
Heath Fritillary	<i>Melicta athalia</i>			✓			
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023					
		24	25	26	27	28	29
Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>	✓	✓		✓		
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodland Brown	<i>Lopinga archine</i>			✓		✓	
Black Hairstreak	<i>Strymonidia pruni</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	✓		✓			
Sloe hairstreak	<i>Satyrion acaciae</i>			✓			
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓	✓			
Sooty Copper	<i>Heodes tityrus</i>	✓		✓			✓
Holly Blue	<i>Elastrina argiolus</i>				✓		✓
Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>	✓	✓		✓		
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓		✓		✓	
Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>						✓
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>			✓	✓		✓
Dingy skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>	✓			✓		
Clouded yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>			✓			
Scarce swallowtail	<i>Iphiclidus podalirius</i>				✓		

Moths

Common name

Hummingbird Hawkmoth
Yellow specked
Clouded buff
Lace Border
Mother Shipton

Scientific name

Macroglossum stellatarum
Pseudopanthera macularia
Diacrisia sannio
Scopula ornata
Callistege mi

Other invertebrates

Common name

Banded Demoiselle
Beautiful Demoiselle
Common Bluetail
Common Bluet
Azure bluet
Blue-eye
Large Redeye
Blue Featherleg
Migrant spreadwing
Hairy Hawker
Downy Emerald
Brilliant Emerald
Orange-spotted Emerald
Blue Emperor
Lesser Emperor
Western Clubtail
Small Pincertail
Eurasian Basketail
Four-spotted Chaser
Broad-bodied Chaser
Blue Chaser

Scientific name

Calopteryx splendens
Calopteryx virgo
Ischnura elegans
Enallagma cyathigerum
Coenagrion puella
Erythromma lindenii
Erythromma najas
Platycnemis pennipes
Lestes barbarus
Brachytron pratense
Cordulia aenea
Somatochlora metallica
Oxygastra curtisii
Anax imperator
Anax parthenope
Gomphus pulchellus
Onychogomphus forcipatus
Epithea bimaculata
Libellula quadrimaculata
Libellula depressa
Libellula fulva

Common name

Black-tailed Skimmer
 White-tailed Skimmer
 Broad Scarlet

Scientific name

Orthetrum cancellatum
Orthetrum albistylum
Crocothemis erythraea

Violet Carpenter Bee

Xylocopa violacea

Others noted

Mammals

Roe Deer

Capreolus capreolus

Coypu

Myocastor coypus

Brown Hare

Lepus europaeus

Fox

Vulpes vulpes

Brown rat

Rattus norvegicus

Reptiles & Amphibians

Viperine snake

Natrix maura

Grass Snake

Natrix natrix

Western Whip Snake

Coluber viridiflavus

Green Lizard

Lacerta viridis

Common Wall Lizard

Podarcis muralis

European Pond Terrapin

Emys orbicularis

Edible Frog

Rana esculenta

Pool Frog

Rana lessonae

Common Tree Frog

Hyla arborea

Fish

Catfish

Ameiurus melas

Pike

Esox lucius

Orchids etc.

Scientific name

Epipactis helleborine
Cephalanthera longifolia
Cephalanthera rubra
Limodorum abortivum
Platanthera chlorantha
Platanthera bifolia
Orchis simia
Orchis laxiflora
Orchis morio
Orchis ustulata
Orchis militaris
Ophrys aranifera
Ophrys araneola
Ophrys apifera
Ophrys insectifera

Common name

Broad-leaved Helleborine
 Sword-leaved Helleborine
 Red Helleborine
 Violet Limodore
 Greater Butterfly Orchid
 Lesser Butterfly Orchid
 Monkey Orchid
 Loose-flowered Orchid
 Green-winged Orchid
 Burnt Orchid
 Military Orchid
 Early Spider Orchid
 Small Spider Orchid
 Bee Orchid
 Fly Orchid

Scientific name

Anacamptis pyramidalis
Himantoglossum hircinum
Serapias lingua
Gymnadenia conopsea
Dactylorhiza brennensis
Dactylorhiza fuchsii
Neottia nidus-avis

Common name

Pyramidal Orchid
Lizard Orchid
Tongue Orchid
Fragrant Orchid
Brenne Orchid
Spotted Orchid
Bird's Nest Orchid