

France – La Brenne

Naturetrek Tour Report

22nd – 29th May 2024



Black-veined White by John Greenfield



Black Woodpecker by John Greenfield



Stag Beetle by Barbara Dwyer



Tongue Orchid by Margaret Smith

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. Similar 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 109 birds, 29 butterflies, 20 dragonflies and 25 orchids.

The weather was generally sunny with cloudy spells for the most part, with occasional light rain and a beautifully warm and sunny day on the last day. At its hottest, the mercury hit 25°C but most days were between 15 and 20°C.

Day 1

Wednesday 22nd May

We met at Saint Pierre-des-Corps station in Tours, with the TGV (high-speed train) arriving on time. After loading the minibuses, 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 ‘Le Gab’, a neighbouring restaurant. After a fine meal, we retired to our rooms ahead of what promised to be an exciting first day exploring La Brenne.

Day 2

Thursday 23rd May

After much travelling the previous day, we only drove a few minutes from the hotel and headed out for a pleasant walk along the Sentier de Beauregard. The Beauregard lake 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 étang (fishing lake) 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 owners to repair any leaks and eliminate invasive alien species.

On our arrival, we were greeted by brief views of a fine male Red-backed Shrike, a large Western Green Lizard and the rich song of several Nightingales, which seemed to be competing over who could sing loudest!

Barn Swallows were collecting mud in the drying lake, where a Common Tern hawked gracefully for insects and a distant Black Kite was seen soaring on thermals.

As we progressed, we observed a sparkling Four-spotted Chaser dragonfly which landed on a bramble twig, no doubt having recently emerged as an adult from its alien-like larval case.

The soft purring song of Turtle Doves accompanied us all along the walk and we were even treated to a brilliant display flight by a male, whilst we were stopped watching a Melodious Warbler, singing it's heart out from the top of a bush.

We came across a pristine Black-veined White butterfly and a flock of a dozen Cattle Egrets, playing hide and seek between the cows in a meadow. Further on, a beautiful powder-blue male Broad-bodied Chaser posed for us and a couple of very fresh Southern White Admiral butterflies fluttered over some blossom. Both Yellowhammer and Dartford Warbler were heard singing in a nearby heathland, whilst a distant Wryneck was heard giving its distinctive whining song. As we sheltered under an oak tree, we heard a Grasshopper Warbler's insect-like reeling song from deep in cover.

On our way to Maison du Parc (the administrative headquarters of La Brenne Regional Park) we spotted our first Hoopoe, which was flying past our hotel at La Gabrière!

In light rain, we found shelter for our first lunch at Maison du Parc, the perfect spot to indulge in a lovely, filling French picnic. After a coffee break, we went for a short walk to a nearby pond, which produced a family of Black Redstarts and a singing Cirl Bunting.

Our first afternoon stop was at Etang de la Sous. On arrival we stumbled upon another beautiful male Western Green lizard, which let us observe him for a few minutes before disappearing into the long grass.

The lake was fairly quiet, but several Whiskered Terns were actively hawking for insects and a pair of Great Crested Grebes were feeding their two stripy youngsters. Sadly, the elusive Little Bittern did not show, despite the presence of several eager photographers.

Our next stop was at the Maison de la Nature, a super visitor centre which is also headquarters for the Cherine National Nature Reserve. Here we visited the exhibition dedicated to the Whiskered Tern, and from the centre we watched as two European Pond Terrapins sun bathed on a tree stump. We could easily see their yellow eyes, indicating we were watching two females – the eyes of males are burnt orange.

We also admired the Laurent Zagni drawing exhibition, an artist from the Somme Bay, whose humoristic bird drawings bring a smile to any birdwatcher's face!

We then walked towards the little bird hide of Etang Cistude and from the path we heard a Golden Oriole start singing overhead. Further along, we found a beautiful Greater Butterfly Orchid in very good condition. More feeding Whiskered Terns awaited us at Cistude Hide, as well as a Grey Heron perched in a dead tree.

We finished the day at Monmélier Lake. In the woodland a Nightingale was blasting out its gorgeous refrain, accompanied by dozens of noisy frogs, providing us with a unique duet of sorts! The oaks also hid a singing Bonelli's Warbler, which gave its silvery trill.

At nearby Etang Miclos, Purple Herons were plentiful, flying to and fro from a wooded area to the back of the lake. A gorgeous male Marsh Harrier glided from left to right, then back again over the reedbed. As we walked

back to the minibus, a mewling Common Buzzard flew through the woods and landed right above our heads, then took off again, giving lovely views of its delicately barred underside.

It was then time to head back to La Gabrière, where a delicious dinner awaited us.

Day 3

Friday 24th May

This morning we set off for Paulnay, situated on the Park's northern boundary. On our arrival, we were greeted by dozens of Skylarks singing in a nearby field.

However, our attention was quickly drawn to the beautiful rainbow-coloured birds coming to and from a little chalk cliff face; Bee-eaters were flying above the crop in front of us and landing in bushes or straight onto the cliff showing off their dazzling plumage. A Corn Bunting started singing and distracted us for a spell. It was difficult to drag ourselves away, but we had more exciting sites to explore.

A brief stop by the Ozance marshes, offered up a number of endemic Brenne Orchids, which were captured on camera.

At Etang Vieux, Tree Pipits were singing and displaying in and around the car park area, where we admired a beautiful display of Carthusian Pinks.

Walking to the sluice gate, we were overwhelmed by bird song: Robin, Wren, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Bonelli's Warbler, Nuthatch, Short-toed Treecreeper and a Wood Warbler were all giving their best melodies. A Cuckoo was just as noisy and Golden Orioles were teasing us once again, by singing and calling so close, but still offered no more than the briefest glimpse.

Emilie spotted a large insect crawling on the track; a magnificent male Stag Beetle put on a show for our cameras. Paul was brave enough to handle him and provided a great sense of scale for the photographs. Then a few metres later, another Stag Beetle was found on its back, perhaps it had been fighting with the first individual we encountered?

At the sluice gate, we heard the elusive Bittern boom three times! The amazing sonorous call of this rare bird can travel up to three miles, due to its low frequency and thus be heard by females all around.

Our walk continued to enchant, with great views of Yellowhammer and a sumptuous male Red-Backed Shrike. And a fine Glanville Fritillary landed on the track, offering great views.

It was more than time for lunch by the end of our walk, and we found a lovely picnic spot in nearby Vendoeuvres. A Serin sang from a rooftop and Swallows and Swifts were dancing in the sky above, providing us with some fantastic entertainment.

After lunch, we stopped for a coffee as it had started to rain, while a male Black Redstart showed well in the village centre near our minibus parking spot.

We decided to drive a short way into Lancosme Forest. The woodland hosted more Bonelli's Warblers, Stonechats

and a Melodious Warbler sang in a little open pine copse. We observed Blackcaps bringing food to their nest, while a Cuckoo and Golden Oriole sang loudly and a Common Redstart teased us with its song. We then hopped back into the minibus for a short drive to Etang de la Fosse Noire. Here we observed a swathe of Monkey Orchids and a lovely display of Yellow Water-lilies, were a few Downy Emerald dragonflies patrolled the water's edge.

We then took another short drive to the Chapel of Saint Sulpice. Here the natural spring fountain was flowing rapidly and was adorned by both male and female Beautiful Demoiselles. These amazing jewel-like insects put on quite a show for us. The large woodland clearing was home to perhaps a hundred hunting dragonflies: Four-Spotted Chaser, Black-tailed Skimmer, Emperor and a Western Clubtail were the more showy.

It was time to call it a day but Emilie had one last stop up her sleeve. Near Mézières-en-Brenne, we parked on the side of a small private lake, which offered the most beautiful views of several duck species including Pochard, Tufted Duck, Red-crested Pochard, Gadwall and best of all, around twenty Black-necked Grebes, some carrying little chicks on their backs! A vision which will stay in our memories as one of the best birding moments of the tour.

Day 4

Saturday 25th May

This morning we awoke to a bright sunny sky. We decided to head east, and then south. Our first stop took us to the Foucault and Massé nature reserves. We gently walked to Etang Bénisme, where a Zitting Cisticola was singing loudly in a nearby field and we could hear the Black-headed Gull colony in the distance. The water was very still and a European Pond Terrapin sunned itself on an old tree stump. Meanwhile a Melodious Warbler offered great views, as it quarrelled with a Whitethroat. We enjoyed watching Great Crested Grebes feeding their young, while Geoff spotted a pair of Black-winged Stilts. Searching more widely, we found two more pairs, with one of them sat on a nest close to the bird hide. We then visited the Foucault Lake hide, where we had excellent views of a Purple Heron flying by.

We then headed south and embarked on an attractive walk between Petit and Grand Riaux - two lakes in the Ciron area. Here we observed a very close male Red-backed Shrike and our walk produced close views of a Short-toed Treecreeper, another Pond Terrapin and our first Little Grebe of the tour. We found a few Common Winter Damsels looking freshly on the wing and our first Common Bluethroat. Nearby an exceptionally tall and pristine looking Pyramidal Orchid hosted two male False Oil Beetles, more commonly called Fat-legged Beetles. Finally, some Yellow Water-lilies made the perfect landing pads for a lovely Red-eyed Damselfly.

We hopped back in the minibus and drove ten minutes to our lunch spot in Ciron. As we passed through the village, we stopped to admire some unusual historic monuments: the first was erected in memory of The Zenith and its pilots, three hot air balloon pioneers whose misfortune saw them crash in the village in 1875, after having reached a world record 8600m of altitude, and secondly, the rather attractive Lanterne des Morts – a monument dating from the 12th Century.

We enjoyed lunch with lovely views across the River Creuse to the Romefort Château. Banded Demoiselles were dancing over nearby vegetation, along with dozens of Blue Featherlegs. After a quick coffee stop, we drove to Oulches. The weather was beautifully sunny and the orchids and butterflies put on a show.

Pyramidal, Burnt, Bee and Fly Orchids and several Sword-leaved Helleborines gave a most colourful display, only rivalled by the butterflies, which included: Adonis Blue, Glanville Fritillary, Green Hairstreak and Spotted Fritillary. The flora was very interesting, with many chalk-loving species such as Globularia, Yellow-wort, Hairy Broom, White Swallow-wort, Nottingham Catchfly, Stiff Hedgenettle, also known as Pale-yellow Woundwort.

Three Common Buzzards circled high above, as if to remind us to keep an eye out for the local Honey Buzzards, but today it wasn't to be. A Broad-bordered Beehawk visited some Milkwort flowers and offered lovely views, as a fast patrolling Clouded Yellow zipped past.

We got back to the bus very happy with our findings, when a Scarce Swallowtail flew by and a Peacock butterfly decided to land on the road in front of the bus... and it wouldn't budge.

We finally got driving again and our final stop was the Communaux de Rosnay. A distant Black Woodpecker called from woodland, as we walked towards the meadow. Our guide wasn't wrong! Indeed, the 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-winged Orchids, Greater Butterfly and a few Lesser Butterfly Orchids – the latter identified by their 'parallel pollinia'. Some excellent birds were on offer too.

A Corn Bunting gave us a brief rendition but Nightingales again stole the show. Wherever we listened, there was at least one singing. We managed to catch up with a few Marsh Fritillaries, although looking just a little past their prime and we discovered yet more Black-veined Whites, a few Spotted Fritillary and some mating Heath Fritillary.

At the end of this truly lovely day, we gently walked back to the minibus giving one last look at the Tongue Orchid spectacle, before making our way back to La Gabrière where a delicious home-cooked meal awaited us

Day 5

Sunday 26th May

Today we went to explore a newly acquired part of the Chérine NNR: Etang des Fougères. A colony of Black-headed Gull was very active, with some birds sitting on nests, while others collected nesting material. It was a raucous scene, especially when a couple of Black Kites flew above the lake, alarming the gulls and a Great Crested Grebe which was also settled on its nest.

We then decided to chase a recent Woodchat Shrike sighting near Douadic. We didn't spot the Woodchat but found a handsome male Red-Backed Shrike and observed Corn Bunting and Yellow Wagtail as well as a fine Kestrel.

We then drove on to Martizay, in search of the beautiful Bee-eater once more. A colony was present on a quarry site and birds were flying right in front of our eyes, mixed with Sand Martins and the odd Swallow and Starling. We drove on towards Obterre, where we fell upon two smart Grey Partridges at the edge of a field. They gave very good views and we then carried on driving until reaching a disused quarry site this time. The grassland was covered in Fragrant Orchid spikes and many new plants awaited us. Early Spider Orchid, Military Orchid and Common

Twayblade were new species for the tour along with more Bee and Fly orchids and the beautiful Short-stemmed Thistle, *Carthamus mitissimus* was a lovely find.

Adonis Blues were on the wing and we spotted our first Pearly Heath and Small Coppers. A pale Clouded Yellow was too quick to be positively identified but was most likely a Berger's Clouded Yellow. Tree Pipit, Melodious Warbler, Yellowhammer, Zitting Cisticola were all singing in the background, as well as a Golden Oriole.

We drove back to Azay-le-Ferron for lunch, at a pleasant picnic spot near the Château. Serin and Black Redstart were singing from the tree and roof tops.

We pursued our quest for Montagu's Harrier in the nearby countryside but instead met with many Brown Hares. Still a nice find.

We finally made our way back to water and visited Etangs Piégu, Taillis-Renard and Renard. The usual suspects were present but as we were looking at a Blue Chaser dragonfly, Emilie shouted out "Black Stork", as a single bird flew above the lake before slowly heading away from us.

Etang Vigneaux showed some close Pochard, Tufted Duck, Mallard and Red-crested Pochard; all were waiting for cereal to be 'fired' from an automatic fish feeder! A Purple Heron flew over a small lake on our way back to the hotel.

After yet another delicious dinner, we drove to Saint-Michel-en-Brenne in the hope of seeing Nightjars. First we came upon a Lesser Stag Beetle on a Phragmites stem and soon the Striped Tree Frogs started to sing. As we walked towards the heath, Emilie pointed out a European Pond Terrapin crossing the path a little way in front of us. We enjoyed very close views. As we were waiting for our special guests to appear; Nightingales and Robins were busy playing 'who's loudest'?

Our first Nightjar song was heard fairly quickly, but we had to wait a little longer to see this enigmatic bird. When we did though, it came close and circled us on several occasions, even offering views of the white wing and tail patches, plus a 'bonus' wing clap! A very cool way to end the day.

Day 6

Monday 27th May

Today we headed west then south, to further explore the Parc naturel régional de la Brenne. Our first stop was Etang Purais near Lingé. We enjoyed extensive views over the beautiful White Water-lilies which covered a vast extent of the lake. Whiskered Terns were plentiful and busy strengthening their floating nests. Our first Shoveler of the trip swam serenely by and a Marsh Harrier visited the reedbed on the far side of the lake.

Next we drove to La Boudinière, where we took a gentle stroll through the beautiful chalk downland which runs along the Suin Valley. A gorgeous Sloe Hairstreak greeted us on our arrival and allowed us to take some close photos. Further on we discovered dozens of Adonis Blue and Pearly Heath butterflies. A Clouded Buff moth flew up from the track and a Tree Pipit gave its parachuting display flight. Orchids were everywhere: Pyramidal, Burnt and some tall Lizard Orchids, along with the elegant Sword-leaved Helleborine. Nightingales, Cuckoo and Golden Oriole were singing all around, while several Common Buzzard soared overhead.

We had lunch in the pretty riverside town of Lurais, and enjoyed Firecrest singing while we feasted on our picnic. A little exploration of the area afterwards, produced many Blue Featherlegs and Banded Demoiselles. Apple Blossom Beetle was also found, along with a singing Serin.

We took a short drive south to Rives, in the hope of adding more orchids to our growing list: Red Helleborine, White Helleborine and Violet Limodore were in full flower, and we also found some Lady Orchids in seed and Broad-leaved Helleborine in bud.

As we continued our drive south, we spotted a beautiful Scarce Swallowtail butterfly nectaring on some scabious flowers.

We soon arrived at Rocher de la Dube in Merigny. The resident Peregrine Falcon didn't show but we very much enjoyed a delightful walk up through some wonderful woodland, with trees covered in mosses and lichens. It was straight out of a fairytale. Some of us continued to the top of Rocher de la Dube, where we admired the view, before rejoining the others at the minibus.

On our way back to the hotel, we stopped near Ruffec to complete our orchid collection. Some beautiful specimens of Man Orchid were seen and photographed. En route we stopped at Maison du Parc, to find a few presents to bring back to the UK.

Tonight we had dinner in Migné at Auberge des deux Pierres and enjoyed some delicious locally sourced food in a friendly setting.

Day 7

Tuesday 28th May

Our last full day in La Brenne started at Etang Bellebouche, where we took a gentle walk to the hide. We encountered a cracking Black Hairstreak basking on some lichen as we walked through the woodland, which was full of bird song. A Short-toed Treecreeper showed well and a Bonelli's Warbler was giving its best tune.

As we approached the hide, we could hear the strangest gurgling sound coming from the hundred or more Cattle Egrets that awaited. The hide is very popular in the spring and it was indeed busy. However, some fellow birdwatchers soon vacated their viewing slots and we enjoyed a session watching the Cattle Egrets accompanied by good numbers of Little Egrets, Purple, Grey and Night Herons, the latter looking absolutely splendid in the morning light.

It was a great experience to witness a bustling heronry at peak season. We also heard a Little Grebe giving its strange laughing trill and a Black-necked Grebe showed so close, that we could even see its ruby coloured eye! Soon it was time to give up our spot to other birdwatchers arriving for the spectacle.

We then drove to Le Blizon to discover the newly opened interpretation trail to the north of the Foucault-Massé RNR. This beautiful 2km walk took us past the Massé bird hide, where we saw a splendid male Marsh Harrier. We discovered many hidden sculptures along the way and almost got fooled by a wooden Marten placed in an oak tree! The new boardwalk took us through a wet woodland, where we could sit and enjoy the singing birds. The path led us to a lush wet meadow where Glanville and Knapweed fritillaries were basking on some Ragged Robin.

We reached a viewing platform looking over a meadow and we admired the beautiful view. Once more, Golden Orioles and Cuckoos were singing. This newly installed walkway was truly poetic and left us feeling very zen. The last few hundred metres took us over Etang Valmicky, where we soon rejoined the minibus.

Lunch was taken at Etang Mouton. This quiet spot was heaving with Azure Bluets and Blue Featherlegs. We spied our first White-tailed Skimmer dragonfly of the trip, a cryptic-coloured female but showing the tell-tale white-tipped abdomen. Black-veined Whites were plentiful, as well as more Knapweed and Glanville fritillaries. A pristine Mother Shipton moth and a beautiful Cream-spot Tiger moth were captured on film.

As we headed back to the bus, we heard and saw yet another Bonelli's Warbler and also found our first Spotted Flycatcher of the trip. A popular find.

Then, following some 'hot off the press' info, we quickly rejoined the vehicle to drive just beyond the Park boundary to the village of Palluau-sur-Indre. There by the river Indre, in the top of a Plane tree a Black Woodpecker's nest was waiting for our eager binoculars! We sat on a picnic bench for almost an hour excitedly watching the 'soon-to-fledge' nestlings popping their heads out of the nest hole. Unfortunately, the parents didn't visit during our time there, but seeing the little ones was pure joy.

A few minutes up the road, our guide took us to a bare field where a distant tractor was working and there, half way across the field we were lucky enough to see two Stone Curlews actively feeding and walking left to right, then right to left. It was a fabulous end to a very busy day and we enjoyed the drive back to our hotel watching several Turtle Doves flying by the road, as we drove along.

Our last dinner was back at 'Le Gab' - the little restaurant two doors away from our hotel and we had a lovely meal while recalling our best moments of the week.

Day 8

Wednesday 29th May

After breakfast, Emilie came to pick us up for the drive back to the train station in Saint-Pierre-des-Corps. First we drove to Mur, to check some barley fields on our way and got recompensed for our effort by seeing a stunning male Hen Harrier. With one final little wild card - our guide drove us to a very special area in Indre-et-Loire. Here we were lucky enough to get amazing views of three Little Bustards which were chasing each other over the fields. Other exciting finds included a pair of Curlews that flew in giving their haunting song. Finally Emilie spotted a Stone Curlew sat motionless in a nearby ploughed field.

What a way to end our trip! Just before mid-day, we arrived at the station in plenty of time for our return journey to the UK.

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Species lists

Birds

Common name	Scientific name	May 2024						
		23	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>		20				1	
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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				✓			
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>					✓		
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>					✓		
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</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>							2
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>					✓		
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		✓					

Common name	Scientific name	May 2024						
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>				✓			
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>						h	
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>							3
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓						
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>						2	1
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			6				
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓						
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>							3
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓						
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	✓						
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				h			
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</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>			✓			Nest	
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓					
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>					✓		
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		✓			✓		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓			
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</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>		✓					
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓				✓		
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	✓						
Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	

Common name	Scientific name	May 2024						
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	✓						
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Dartford Warbler	<i>Curruca undata</i>	✓						
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	✓	✓				✓	
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		✓					
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>					✓		
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			✓				
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>						✓	
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>					✓		
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes 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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Serín	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓		✓	✓		
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓					
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	✓	✓		✓			
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	✓						

Other vertebrates

Mammals	
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
Reptiles & Amphibians	
Western Whip Snake	<i>Coluber viridiflavus</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>
Green Frog	<i>Rana sp.</i>
Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>

Butterflies & Moths (* = caterpillar)

Common name	Scientific name
Butterflies	
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>
Pale / Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias hyale / alfacariensis</i>
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegis</i>
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</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>
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</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>
Black Hairstreak	<i>Strymonidia pruni</i>
Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venata</i>
Moths	
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>
5-Spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena trifolii</i>
Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth	<i>Hemaris fuciformis</i>
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
6-Spot Burnet*	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>
Grass eggar*	<i>Lasiocampa trifolii</i>
Lead/July Belle	<i>Scotopteryx mucronata/luridata</i>
Lackey*	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>
Gypsy Moth*	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>
Clouded Buff	<i>Diacrisia sannio</i>
Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>
Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>

Other insects

Common name	Scientific name
Odonata	
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
Common Bluet	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>
Azure Bluet	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>
Red-eye Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>
Winter Damsel	<i>Sympecma fusca</i>
Blue Featherleg	<i>Platynemesis pennipes</i>
Migrant Spreadwing	<i>Lestes barbarus</i>
Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>
Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>
Western Clubtail	<i>Gomphus pulchellus</i>
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>
Blue Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>
White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>
Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
Coleoptera	
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>
Maybug – Cock Chafer	<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>
Black Chafer	<i>Amphimallon ater</i>
Lesser Stag Beetle	<i>Dorcus parallelipipedus</i>
Apple Blossom Beetle	<i>Tropinota hirta</i>
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>

Orchids

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>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Limodore
<i>Listera ovata</i>	Twayblade
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man Orchid
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey Orchid
<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered Orchid
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	Burnt Orchid
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	Military Orchid
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early Spider Orchid
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid

Scientific name	Common name
<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>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza brenne</i>	Brenne Orchid
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's Nest Orchid (in seed)
<i>Dactylorhiza elata</i>	Robust Marsh Orchid
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid (in seed)