

Dragonflies of La Brenne & Vienne

Naturetrek Tour Report

17th – 24th June 2024



Small Pincertail



Blue-eyed Hawker



Large Chequered Skipper



Orange Featherleg

Tour report by Jason Mitchell, photos by Carolyn Cooksey



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Summary

This two-centre holiday in the middle of France gave an excellent insight into not only the dragonflies but also the abundant butterflies, birds and other wildlife of the region. The first two days were spent in the southern Vienne, before we moved to the fascinating landscape of the Pinail reserve, and finally to Martizay where we spent three days in La Brenne, 'the land of a thousand lakes'.

The week's weather was mostly ideal for finding and photographing Odonata. Our first day in the field was a pleasant 25°C, and this set the standard for most of the week, except for a couple of showery days that never quite got into the twenties. The emphasis was on getting good, diagnostic views of all species, and by and large this was achieved. The tour was a great success, built on the camaraderie and good humour of an enthusiastic group of keen-eyed naturalists. By the end of the week, we had recorded an impressive tally of 37 species of dragonfly, along with 109 bird and 31 butterfly species, together with a wide range of other insects and plants.

The tour highlights were many, but a duo of Red-veined Darters, was right up there. Other crowd-pleasers included the rocket-fuelled Yellow-spotted Emerald, the delightful Orange Featherleg, and the more substantial Robust Spreadwing, with the latter seen at the fabulous Pinail nature reserve. Birds featured too, especially raptors, and a fine roll call of species culminated in the remarkable sighting of a mammoth Griffon Vulture! However, a busy Bee-eater colony and five different fritillary species, including the striking Spotted Fritillary, were hard to beat. All this was enjoyed in the delightfully unspoilt countryside of Vienne and La Brenne, with its gentle acoustic backdrop of Cuckoo, Turtle Dove and Nightingale heard almost everywhere.

Day 1

Monday 17th June

The tour started at St. Pancras International with a Eurostar journey to France, followed by a high-speed (TGV) train transfer, which arrived on time into Poitiers. With the minibus loaded, we made it to Montmorillon in time for a delicious evening meal, served in the hotel's excellent restaurant. We discussed our programme for the coming week, after which an early night was taken following a busy day of travel.

Day 2

Tuesday 18th June

After a hearty buffet breakfast, we drove the short distance to a small hamlet where a Woodchat Shrike had been reported the previous day. Unfortunately, we didn't relocate the shrike; however, we kicked off our dragonfly list with the charming Dainty Bluet, shortly followed by a Common Bluetail and Blue Emperor. A Tree Pipit sang from the top of a towering oak, while Blackcap song echoed from the understorey and a fine Marbled Fritillary sped by. Not far from the hamlet, we stopped at a quarry. Here we were soon rewarded with dozens of Sand Martins and rainbow-coloured Bee-eaters, with the two nesting nearby. Both species hawked for flying insects, with the latter giving its soothing rippling flight call. In the distance, the lazy flight action of a Black Kite caught our attention.

Next, we stopped at the attractive Etang de Lussac, finding Blue-eye, Blue Featherleg and Banded Demoiselle at its margins. From the dam wall, an attractive bubbling stream produced a Blue Chaser and a fine Viperine Snake.

Climbing up to the town via some weathered stone steps, we were greeted by dozens of butterflies nectaring on Red Valerian and Buddleia; the best were Comma and Holly Blue. A low cliff and old dry stone wall were home to many interesting plants, including Narrow-leaved Ragwort, Southern Polypody and Ivy Broomrape.

Lunch was taken at an étang in the commune of Persac. Etangs are shallow, man-made lakes which vary greatly in size, and are fished either commercially, for sport, or both; the target species is often Carp, but Pike, Tench and various 'silver fish' are also present. This particularly interesting site combined three habitat types: an étang, a freshwater stream and a chalk stream.

While lunch was being prepared, the group explored the chalk stream, adding Keeled Skimmer and Azure Bluet to the list. Following lunch we enjoyed a coffee, followed by a walk to the banks of the river Vienne. No new dragonfly species were added, but we did enjoy a White Admiral fluttering overhead, and the high-pitched song of a Firecrest.

A former gravel pit is situated beside the river Vienne and this provided a quite different suite of habitats, with a small lake surrounded by scrub and diverse grassland. The first of several Spotted Fritillaries delighted an appreciative audience. Bird song filled the air, with Nightingale, Cirl Bunting, Cetti's Warbler and Turtle Dove all in fine voice. Across the lake, a Purple Heron broke cover.

Reluctant to return to base, we made another visit to the étang near Persac, and we started out from the stream, where frogs sunned themselves. After this we made a tour of the lake; we were rewarded with the delightful Orange Featherleg. This species is rather localised in the Vienne and very difficult to find in La Brenne. Finally, we added an Ilex Hairstreak to the butterfly list and a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker called, but refused to show itself, capping off an excellent first day in the field, before we returned to the hotel.

Day 3

Wednesday 19th June

During breakfast, rain was falling, but fortunately it had dried up before we headed out for the day. However, in cool cloudy conditions we opted to start the day with some birding. We parked close to Etang Beaufour, and before walking to the hide, we scanned a field where an impressive 181 Cattle Egrets hunted for grubs: an official count by Ken! We also spotted several bird species with young in tow: Skylark, along with both Yellow and White Wagtails. But it was sharp-eyed Rod who found a smart, albeit distant, Grey Partridge. Overhead a Woodlark belted out its simple, yet delightful refrain.

Arriving in the bird hide, we settled in for a productive session, adding several duck species to the list, and also the attractive Great Crested Grebe. A Reed Warbler sang from fringing vegetation, but it was the extensive heronry that entertained us the most. It contained hundreds of Cattle Egrets (Ken opted not to count them this time), a few Grey Herons and a mass of Cormorants.

We then headed a little further south, and soon arrived at Bois de l'Hospice. A short walk led to a quiet étang surrounded by broad-leaved woodland. It had started to warm up nicely, and butterflies were on the wing, including Brimstone, White Admiral and dozens of Meadow Browns, but a cracking Black-veined White stole the show. All the while, Firecrest and Short-toed Treecreeper sang from the dense canopy overhead, and the metronomic call of a Cuckoo echoed through the forest. On the lake, a Blue Emperor was joined by both White- and Black-tailed

Skimmers, and as the temperature climbed further, they were joined by a couple of Four-spotted Chasers. However, the highlights for many were several Downy Emeralds which battled over territories along the shore. On the sluice gate, the wings of a newly-emerged (teneral) Ruddy Darter glistened in the dappled sunlight. Several plants of interest included Slender St John's Wort and a couple of eye-catching trees, with Red Oak and Black Cherry being especially noteworthy.

For lunch we stopped at an étang near Plaisance, where excellent picnic facilities exist, but it was the post-dragonfly walk that exceeded expectations, as well as the high tech loos! Suddenly a bright-red darter species flashed past, and with talk of Red-veined Darter, we set off in pursuit. A few short minutes later, Carolyn confirmed it was indeed this stunning *Sympetrum*. As we looked on in awe, it was joined by Broad-bodied Chaser, Four-spotted Chaser, Black-tailed Skimmer and a second Red-veined Darter! However, Rod was elsewhere, having 'locked-on' to the distant call of a Black Woodpecker, which gave its far carrying wailing cry, but which refused to show itself.

Next, we visited a stretch of the river Gartempe, where we had excellent views of several Orange Featherlegs and our first Small Pincertail, and all from the comfort of a café terrace. Suddenly, a metallic blue flash alerted us to a Kingfisher: it was gone in an instant!

Replete, we headed for L'Asse, a tributary of the river Benaize near Eports. Here we found the river in spate and with little on offer, other than the always welcome Banded and Beautiful Demoiselles. So we tried a little further downstream, at Brigueil-le-Chantre. Arriving at the pretty river crossing, groups of ovipositing Blue Featherlegs covered the surface, and both species of demoiselle darted out to intercept intruders. The grassy verge was home to dozens of Blue Chafers.

From here we travelled north, to explore a stretch of the river Benaize, but just as we arrived, the heavens opened, 'stopping play' on what had been a very productive day.

Day 4

Thursday 20th June

Today was the transition day, and we planned a visit to the very special Le Pinail National Nature Reserve near Poitiers, before making our way to our new hotel in La Brenne. The site is famed for the huge number of ponds which have been created by the extraction of millstones, the origin of which can be dated before the year 1000CE. Pinail was one of the main quarries in France until the middle of the 19th century, supplying millstones across Europe until the exhaustion of the resource and the appearance of roller mills. The cut stones were sent to the banks of the Vienne, where they were loaded on barges and transported to the banks of the Loire, the Atlantic coast, and even across to North America.

Entering the reserve, we spotted some cracking butterflies, namely our first Pearly Heath and Large Chequered Skipper of the tour; the latter 'bounced' along the path in front of us, as if leading the way. In the same area, we found several fresh male Robust Spreadwings, along with a Small Red Damselfly and a teneral Common Darter. Further along, a Western Green Lizard caught our eye as it sunned itself in the dappled shade at the path's edge. But suddenly, our attention shifted, as Rod spotted a stunning male Montagu's Harrier quartering over adjacent heathland. As we looked on in wonder, a Dartford Warbler called from cover and, with patience, we gained amazing views of a stunning male, followed by his new family.

Whilst scouring another tiny pond for a 'whiteface', we spotted another Large Chequered Skipper, when suddenly it was gone: from nowhere, a frog had found itself a snack! On our return to the minibus, we paused at the tower hide, where a Hobby gave an extremely fast and close flyby. With lunch beckoning, a final foray at yet another pond produced a teneral Blue-eyed Hawker. During lunch, we were entertained by a singing Golden Oriole and an inquisitive Western Bonelli's Warbler.

After lunch, we embarked on a cross-country drive east, taking in the unspoilt countryside of the Vienne and entered the subtly different landscape of Indre, the department home to La Brenne. Passing through the pretty village of Angles-sur-Anglin, we stopped for a coffee before a brief stroll along the river. Again, water levels were high and confirmed it would be difficult to add many 'riverine species' to the list this year. However, a few Banded Demoiselle glittered in the sun, bringing a smile to our faces. The final leg of the journey, saw us arrive at our new hotel in Martizay in good time, ahead of an excellent dinner.

Day 5

Friday 21st June

In dull, thundery conditions, we walked to Etang de la Sous, which was fairly quiet but for a few dandy Great Crested Grebes and a Great Egret, which posed nicely for the cameras. Then we moved to a pleasant walk alongside Etang Miclos. Here we quickly spied our first Southern Darter of the week, soon followed by both Small and Migrant Spreadwings, the latter sporting its distinctive bi-coloured wing-spots. However, the best find was a Common Winter Damsel, which is not so common in June. Lepidoptera were in evidence too, with both Five- and Six-spotted Burnets frequent, along with their metallic green cousin, the Forester Moth. Birds included a Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Western Bonelli's Warbler and a Short-toed Treecreeper. Back at the bus, the curious Devil's Fingers fungus was a good find along the grass verge next to the minibus.

A brief stop for a reported Ferruginous Duck at Etang Gabrière didn't produce this rare visitor, but perhaps better still, it provided us with excellent views of half a dozen summer-plumage Black-necked Grebes. This is an iconic species, and synonymous with La Brenne, which holds the majority of France's breeding population.

Lunch was taken at the Maison du Parc, where we enjoyed a helping of 'frites de carpe', a local speciality which was relished, to the pleasant surprise of some. Then followed a little retail therapy in the Parc boutique and a quick look around its attractive grounds, while others continued to search for winged beasts at a nearby small lake. Afterwards we headed to Etang Foucault, where a pair of Black-winged Stilts were actively feeding in the vicinity of their nest, suggesting they had young in need of sustenance. A Common Tern, anything but common in La Brenne, floated gracefully over the dabbling ducks below, and on nearby pastures a Zitting Cisticola, "zitted": what else?

Retracing our steps back to the hotel, we made a final stop at Etang Puraïs, one of La Brenne's largest lakes and home to the area's most substantial Whiskered Tern colony. With a heavy shower pounding the ground outside, we spent a pleasant session watching the comings and goings of the terns. We marvelled at their nests, situated precariously on lily pads, as is their habit. Then, as quickly as it had arrived, the shower passed. It was followed by bright sun and a cloudless sky, and with it, a flurry of insect activity. Marbled Whites tumbled like confetti and two impressive beetles, the rather large Capricorn and a glitzy Rose Chafer, entertained the photographers. But a sudden shout of "Short-toed Snake Eagle!", trumped them all, and we looked on as this impressive raptor hovered in diagnostic fashion, before shortly drifting out of sight.

Day 6

Saturday 22nd June

With rain tumbling, we made a circuitous route to a tower hide overlooking Etang Ricot, but despite our best efforts, we never managed to find any Stone Curlews en route. As we arrived in the hide, a Reed Warbler family was busy feeding at the edge of the reed bed, and we discussed the subtle differences between this species' song and that of the closely related Sedge Warbler. We then popped around the corner to the Maison de la Nature.

On our arrival, a well-marked juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron was an unexpected bonus, as it stood in the open, atop a dead tree trunk just metres away. Such was our admiration that most of the group missed the fly-by Kingfisher, but the slower passage of a Marsh Harrier and Spoonbill were seen by all. Another quick hop, a kilometre or so up the road, had us admiring several Black-necked Grebes with their fluffy young. Breeding success appeared to have been good; one adult corralled seven tiny chicks and another was busy with eight youngsters!

Our next, rather special visit, was in search of a bustling heronry on the shores of Etang Bellebouche, where five species breed cheek by jowl. We all enjoyed a memorable session, as the colony bustled with the to-ing and fro-ing of this popular family of birds, and who could fail to delight in the 'punk-headed' young? The return walk to the minibus was enlivened by a pair of quarrelling Western Bonelli's Warbler, several Western Willow Spreadwings, and two Short-toed Snake Eagles flying high over the canopy. But for most, a feeding Osprey stole the show. It was observed for a good ten minutes as it hovered above a distant lake, in search of its fishy prey.

Lunch was taken at a picnic site on the edge of Migné, a typically understated, yet pleasant Brenne village. To our delight, as we got stuck into another French picnic, three more Short-toed Snake Eagles flew overhead and as we trained our bins in their direction, a distant flock of ten White Storks came into focus! Yet it seemed the raptor-fest was not over; Rob pointed out a low-flying Black Kite that had caught his eye, due to its curious flight-action. As we followed said bird, from nowhere, a huge raptor came into view and was mobbed by the kite and a second bird, most likely its partner. Firstly, a White-tailed Eagle came briefly to mind, but this was a vulture, more precisely a Griffon Vulture!

After our refreshment stop, we checked out a delightful little pond to the south of the village. A *Lestes* was netted and confirmed as a Common Spreadwing, and this proved the perfect moment to discuss the shape of the claspers which separates it from the very similar, if rarer, Robust Spreadwing. A flash of red had us pondering a Red-veined Darter, but in the presence of dozens of Broad Scarlets, we put it in on the 'one that got away' list; besides, we had already seen this cool species in the Vienne. Another Dainty Bluet was a good find.

Passing through the village of Ciron en route to more lakes, we paused to study a monument dedicated to a fateful hot-air balloon expedition that crashed down there in 1875; we also admired a very well-preserved Lanterne des Morts from the 12th century. A brief stop on the river Creuse confirmed it was still well and truly in spate, but a Middle Spotted Woodpecker was some compensation.

At the Riaux lakes, a Sparrowhawk showed well and an abundance of butterflies and dragonflies along a hedgerow, made for quite a spectacle. Heading home, a final stop at the new reserve of Fougères, produced the first Clouded Yellow butterfly of the tour.

Day 7

Sunday 23rd June

Waking to a glorious day, we decided to visit the breeding colony of a very special Brenne bird: the European Bee-eater. Having carefully approached to within a hundred metres, we disembarked and used the vehicle as a screen, so as to limit any disturbance. They seemed unconcerned, and we looked on in reverence, as dozens of these exotic-looking birds hawked for insects. While some frequently returned to their burrows with food for their young, others perched on the sandy cliff face, warming themselves in the morning sun. In the fields all around, Skylarks gave their cheery chorus.

Moving on, we passed through an area which specialises in cereal crops, so it was little surprise to find Corn Bunting and Yellow Wagtails in abundance. Arriving close to Etang Vieux, we first stopped along a quiet road known for its population of Brenne Orchids, an endemic species only found in La Brenne. However, soon after we exited the vehicle, Carolyn discovered two Mercury Bluets! We were thrilled to locate this hard-to-find species in La Brenne. Then to our delight, we also found a reasonable example of a Brenne Orchid, even if it was a little past its best. Yet this was quickly upstaged by a handsome male Yellow-spotted Emerald, which circled us several times, giving amazing views.

Continuing our walk towards the lake, we eventually connected with the hoped for Variable Bluet, with a singleton of this tricky-to-identify insect found along a sunny forest track. Towards the end of the ride, another Yellow-spotted Emerald entertained us as it drifted to and fro, defending its linear territory above our heads. At the étang, both species of 'red-eyed' damselflies rested on water lilies. Other good finds included the showy Silver-washed Fritillary, a noisy Middle Spotted Woodpecker, and a gorgeous male Marsh Harrier. But the best find was surely a Lesser Purple Emperor, along with a Red Admiral settled on marten scat. Continuing in the pleasant cool shade of the forest, we spied a handsome Woodland Brown, which searched for cover in increasingly warm conditions, but not before this impressive and rare butterfly was captured on camera.

After lunch and a coffee in Vendoeuvres, we explored Chateau Robert, which lies in the extensive Lancosme forest, where a search for the Eurasian Baskettail was in vain. However, a Large Red-eye was more approachable than those in the morning, and was joined by lots of Blue-eyed Hawkers, which cruised along the woodland edge. At the Chapel of St. Sulphice, there were even more Blue-eyed Hawkers, which were joined by Blue Emperors and Ruddy Darters which fed over a flower-rich meadow.

The last visit of the day took us to the Cherine National Nature Reserve in the heart of Brenne, but the planned circular walk was under water, so we made an impromptu visit to a new boardwalk, which produced a Garden Warbler and a fly-over Black Stork: a fine end to another great day.

Day 8

Monday 24th June

Today we said our goodbyes to La Brenne, and by popular demand, returned to the wonderful Le Pinail National Nature Reserve near Poitiers. With just an hour to spare, we made a tour of the ponds closest to the car park. Although we didn't find any new species, it was a pleasure to see lots of familiar dragonflies, and this time, in sunny conditions! From here, we made the final leg of our journey, arriving in Poitiers in good time ahead of the group's return to the UK via Paris. All agreed that the week had been a great success; a friendly group, with plenty of laughs, but ultimately, the star of the show had been the diverse and exciting wildlife of La Brenne and Vienne.

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Species lists

Odonata

Common name	Scientific name	June 2024						
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>		✓	✓				✓
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓
Western Willow Spreadwing (Willow Emerald Damselfly)	<i>Lestes viridis</i>				✓		✓	✓
Migrant Spreadwing (Southern Emerald Damselfly)	<i>Lestes barbarus</i>					✓		✓
Small Spreadwing	<i>Lestes virens</i>					✓	✓	✓
Common Spreadwing (Emerald Damselfly)	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>				✓		✓	✓
Robust Spreadwing (Scarce Emerald Damselfly)	<i>Lestes dryas</i>				✓			
Common Winter Damsel	<i>Sympecma fusca</i>					✓		✓
Blue Featherleg (White-legged Damselfly)	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓
Orange Featherleg	<i>Platycnemis acutipennis</i>		✓	✓				
Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrhosoma nymphula</i>		✓				✓	
Small Red Damselfly	<i>Ceragrion tenellum</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓
Blue-eye (Goblet-marked Damselfly)	<i>Erythromma lindenii</i>		✓	✓				
Large Red-eye (Red-eyed Damselfly)	<i>Erythromma najas</i>							✓
Small Red-eye (Small Red-eyed Damselfly)	<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>		✓					✓
Mercury Bluet (Southern Damselfly)	<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>							✓
Azure Bluet (Azure Damselfly)	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Variable Bluet (Variable Damselfly)	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>							✓
Dainty Bluet (Dainty Damselfly)	<i>Coenagrion scitulum</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Common Bluet (Common Blue Damselfly)	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>		✓		✓			✓
Common Blue-tail (Blue-tailed Damselfly)	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue-eyed Hawker (Southern Migrant Hawker)	<i>Aeshna affinis</i>				✓			✓
Blue Emperor (Emperor Dragonfly)	<i>Anax imperator</i>		✓		✓			✓
Small Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>			✓				
Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>			✓				✓

Common name	Scientific name	June 2024						
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Yellow-spotted Emerald	<i>Somatochlora flavomaculata</i>							✓
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>			✓			✓	✓
Blue Chaser (Scarce Chaser)	<i>Libellula fulva</i>		✓					✓
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>		✓	✓				
Broad Scarlet (Scarlet Darter)	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
Southern Darter	<i>Sympetrum meridionale</i>					✓	✓	✓
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>			✓				
Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓

Butterflies & Moths

Common name	Scientific name	June 2024						
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>			✓		✓		✓
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>			✓				
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓		✓			
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>						✓	
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>		✓					
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		✓					✓
Lesser Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura ilia</i>							✓
White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>		✓	✓				✓
Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>							✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>		✓					
Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>				✓			
Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>							✓
Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>			✓				✓
Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>		✓					
Heath Fritillary	<i>Melicta athalia</i>			✓				✓
Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Clossiana dia</i>				✓			
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>							✓
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓				✓	✓
Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>				✓			✓
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
Woodland Brown	<i>Lopinga achine</i>							✓
Large Chequered Skipper	<i>Heteropterus morpheus</i>				✓			
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>					✓		✓
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>					✓	✓	
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venata</i>			✓	✓			✓

Common name	Scientific name	June 2024						
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Moths								
5-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena trifolii</i>					✓		
6-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>					✓		
Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellarum</i>		✓					

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	June 2024						
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>			✓		✓		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>			✓		✓		
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>			✓				
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			✓	✓			
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>							✓
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	✓		✓	H	H
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓					
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>							H
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓			✓		H
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						✓	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					✓	✓	
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>						H	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					✓		✓
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</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 hybrida</i>					✓	✓	✓
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>							1
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>						10	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>						✓	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						✓	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					✓	✓	✓
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					✓	✓	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						✓	
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>						1	
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>					✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>						✓	

Common name	Scientific name	June 2024						
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>					✓	✓	✓
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				✓			✓
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		✓					
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓				
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓			✓	H
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		✓					✓
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>		H		H		H	✓
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>		H				H	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			H				
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		H	H			H	H
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				✓		✓	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			H	✓	H	H	H
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>			✓	✓			✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		✓	✓				
Carion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>							H
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		✓	✓				✓
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓					
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	H		✓	✓	H
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓				
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>				✓	H	✓	✓
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					✓		
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		H		✓		H	✓
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			H	✓	H	H	✓
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	H	✓	✓	✓	✓
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>							H
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>					✓	✓	✓
Dartford Warbler	<i>Curruca undata</i>				✓			
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		H	H				
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	H			H	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		H	H			✓	✓
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>			✓	✓	✓	H	✓
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		H					
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H			H	H	

Common name	Scientific name	June 2024						
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				✓		✓	✓
Yellow (Blue-headed) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava (flava)</i>		✓	✓				✓
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		H	✓				
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		✓	H		✓		
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓					
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				✓			✓
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				✓			
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	H	H

Other taxa noted during tour

Common name	Scientific name
Mammals	
Bat sp.	<i>Chiroptera</i>
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Western Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Amphibians	
Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>
Edible Frog	<i>Rana esculenta</i>
Reptiles	
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>
Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>
Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>
Viperine Snake	<i>Natrix maura</i>
Other Insects	
Mayfly sp.	<i>Ephemera</i> sp.
Speckled Bush-cricket	<i>Leptophyes punctatissima</i>
Great Green Bush-cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>
Roesel's Bush-cricket	<i>Merioptera roeselii</i>
AC Milan Beetle	<i>Graphosoma italicum</i>
Fire Bug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>
Common Pond Skater	<i>Gerris lacustris</i>
Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
Western Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>
Blue chafer beetle sp.	<i>Hoplia caerulea</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Capricorn	
Spiders	
Raft Spider	
Orchids	
Heath Spotted Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>
Brenne Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza brennensis</i>
Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>
Lizard Orchid	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>