

**ORNITHOLIDAYS TOUR TO POLAND**  
*Bialowieza Forest & Biebrza Marshes*  
**30 April – 08 May 2010**

**A Personal Diary**



**Leaders: Simon Boyes and Csaba Lendvai**

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### A Personal Diary

#### Friday, 30 April

All but four of us gather in Heathrow's Terminal 1 for the morning LOT flight to Warsaw in a Boeing 737. The others meet us in the arrivals hall when we clear customs – Sally and Dick have travelled from the Ornitholidays tour to Lesvos via Athens, while Maureen and Martin have arrived from Kidderminster by train! Also here to meet us are our team: bird-guide Csaba and driver Zoli. It should take us four and a half hours to cover the 230 km northwards to Goniadz, our base for the Biebrza Marshes, for the next four nights. (It is pronounced Bee-**ebb**-sha, and derived from *bobr*, the Polish word for Beaver). However the weekend traffic leaving Warsaw is heavy and it takes us two hours just to clear the city. A stop for tea, coffee and snacks is welcome, and it starts the bird list rolling with Hobby, Skylark, Black Redstart and Raven among others. As we head north, we see White Storks feeding in the fields, and nesting on roofs and utility poles. We arrive at the welcoming Bartlowizna Hotel just after dark. There is time for a shower before dinner in a lovely rustic barn-style restaurant. Csaba welcomes us with a round of drinks as we enjoy a well deserved dinner. A persistent Thrush-Nightingale lulls us to sleep.

#### Saturday, 1 May

An hour before breakfast, I meet John who has already seen Hoopoe, Hawfinch and Serin in or over the hotel garden. We meet most of the group, and wander down the path (only a few metres) to the marshes of the Biebrza River. A Thrush-Nightingale perches in the scopes, singing a song that is (appropriately) a cross between our Nightingale's and a Song Thrush's. The marsh is heaving with Wood Sandpipers and breeding-plumage Ruffs, all feeding up before continuing northwards. Marsh Harriers fly over regularly, occasionally rearranging the wader flocks. A male Montagu's Harrier flies past too, looking noticeably more buoyant and slim than its Marsh cousins. Two families of Cranes fly over too, a wonderful sight and sound as they trumpet. Also in flight are several Garganey and breeding-plumage White-winged Terns. A Fieldfare feeds well grown young in a nest as we step back inside for an excellent buffet breakfast.

Not far away are the headquarters of the Biebrza National Park at Osowiec, where an information centre has maps and postcards for sale, as well as an interesting interpretive display. A tower overlooking a marsh nearby makes a good shelter as a light rain begins to fall. Here we watch Bluethroat, Savi's Warbler and Reed Bunting at length in the scopes, all singing their various songs. A male Penduline Tit obligingly feeds in a willow beside us, and a Great Egret flies off, showing by its black bill that it's in breeding condition. We pass the fort of Osowiec, which was regularly changing hands between German and Russian forces during both world wars; and was the scene of a deadly chlorine-gas battle in 1915. We head north through the town of Grajewo, on the way to a raised peat bog named the Red Marsh. Through the middle of day the rain is heavier, forcing us to take an early picnic in a shelter at Grzedy. Here we collect local park ranger Andre, who lets us through a locked gate. We pass a beaver lodge that has a recently felled tree beside it. The rain relents enough for an afternoon walk in a beautiful area of sand dunes, vegetated in some spots by birches and a few pines. Two viewpoints overlook the extensive marshes: we are now on the opposite bank of the Biebrza from Goniadz. An Elk – the same species as the North American Moose – feeds contentedly. The weather is too damp for either of the Spotted Eagle species to fly past for us: both are regular here. On finding Wolf droppings, Andre tells us that two small packs live here, but are rarely seen – likewise a family of Lynx. Tree Pipit and Willow Tit give views, but Cuckoo and Wood Warbler remain only heard.

After dropping Andre off, we call in at Lake Drenstwo for half an hour, where Goldeneye, Black-necked Grebe and weed-dancing Great Crested Grebes appear together. Four Little Gulls, in full black-headed breeding plumage, fly tern-like up and down, catching insects over the lake. Shoveler and Wigeon form a more distant group of duck; and three Caspian Gulls fly past. We arrive back at base at six, to dry off in our warm rooms. Dinner in the restaurant is followed by a double checklist in the conference room. A Spotted Crake calls a repeated *whit* from the marshes below.

## **Sunday, 2 May**

Early birds are like yesterday's, plus Black Redstart and Great Reed Warbler. The Thrush-Nightingale sings on the same branch. After breakfast, we explore the south-west corner of the Biebrza National Park, stopping at three panoramic viewpoints over different marsh scenes. On the way, we pass storks, herons and cranes in the fields. The first tower, near the village of Mscichy, is only just accessible by our minibus. Winter floodwater has only just receded enough, and Zoli loses his front number-plate in one deep puddle. While we scan from the tower, he finds and fixes the plate. The tower overlooks a marsh where hundreds of White-winged Terns are preparing to nest. Normally a silent species, they are all excitedly calling a rasping *kssk* and choosing likely spots on the ground: usually on the rosettes of water-soldier plants. A few Whiskered Terns fly up and down among them. Duck are in good numbers too, with many Shoveler, Wigeon, Garganey, Pochard, and Tufted Duck both in flight and on the water. John, ever alert for something different, puts us onto a pair of rare Smew that fly past. The numerous Ruff and Wood Sandpipers pause on their migration, and a single Greenshank flies past, calling. Nearby we stop to watch Whinchat and Sedge Warbler.

The second viewpoint is in the village of Brzostowo, where a large picnic table accommodates us all. Once refreshed, we scan the marshes and find plenty new: Spotted Redshank, Black-tailed Godwits and a single Dunlin are all in breeding plumage; terns include Black and Little among the abundant White-winged. A fine formation of 70 Cranes flies over twice, in different directions. Gadwall appear among the other duck, and a White-tailed Eagle soars over the forest opposite. Most interesting to watch are the aggressive male Ruff, beginning to adopt their lekking behaviour although they still have further north to fly. All combinations of black, white and chestnut can be seen in their nuptial neck plumes. As we approach the third viewpoint at Burzyn, we stop for Ortolan and Yellow Wagtail of the blue-headed subspecies, singing alongside each other on wires. Burzyn has another wonderful panorama, but only distant Red-necked Grebe is new for us. On the way back to Goniadz, one stop turns up a pair of Crossbill which soon disappear, as well as a singing Woodlark.

We are back early, for a short rest, during which a White-tailed Eagle flies over the marsh. After an early dinner, we have an evening programme: a trip out to look for Aquatic Warbler in the south-east of the national park. Arriving at Długa Luka shortly before sunset, we walk along a boardwalk where several Aquatic Warblers are singing. They have recently arrived from their winter quarters in Senegal, but are not in perching-up mode this evening. Csaba is puzzled by their skulking behaviour, as weather conditions are good and we are in position at their favoured hour for showing off. Eventually one perches long enough for half of the group to see the central crown stripe well – the clearest distinction from the commoner Sedge Warblers. Other birds seen here include a Cuckoo, displaying Black-tailed Godwit and several drumming and chittering Common Snipe.

## **Monday, 3 May**

Before breakfast we check the hotel garden more than the marsh: Serin, Lesser Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and Linnet are all active. Andrew spots a Hawfinch, and after breakfast an invisible Golden Oriole sings flutily. There is a chilling north wind that dampens the Thrush-Nightingale chorus.

We set off for a loop road to the north-east of Goniadz. By the Biebrza River, a Great Reed Warbler gives great scope views. A Marsh Harrier brings materials that will form the base of a nest in the reeds. Roe Deer graze the marshes. At Kopytkowo a welcome cup of coffee from Csaba's thermos flasks warms us as we enjoy a Skylark serenade. Lesser Spotted Eagles appear both in flight and at rest. Beyond Jaglowo, a stop by a Beaver dam and lodge proves excellent for raptors, with at least three Montagu's and as many Marsh Harriers, and a Hobby catching dragonflies overhead. A pair of Citrine Wagtails are nest-building near the bridge where we eat our picnic. These striking wagtails are extending their breeding range north and west. Here too are breeding Curlew and Black-tailed Godwit, and a prowling Fox.

As rain sets in, we drop off five of the group back at the hotel. The intrepid remainder set out again for a tower visible from the hotel, across the river along the Wolka road. Here we watch another Fox, upsetting the nesting Lapwings, and a brief Penduline Tit. Two Cuckoos perch on wires, singing, and two Common

Snipe perch on two adjacent telegraph poles, surveying their territory. After watching and listening to various warbler species, more rain forces us to retreat for the day.

### **Tuesday, 4 May**

We leave Goniadz after breakfast and head south-east, to our new base on the Belarus border, Bialowieza, pronounced something like Byow (as in cow)-o-vyay-sha. A stop at Lake Czechowizna produces three White-tailed Eagles, including a fine adult which perches in a pine tree. Recently a pair of Black Woodpeckers have nested in poplars along the road where we watch the eagles, but this year they seem to be absent. A great surprise is a Long-tailed Skua in breeding plumage, which heads north across the lake. It is heading for the Arctic, but in today's bitter wind it must think it has already arrived.

The Bialystok Fishponds are our next stop. Here we have perfect views of close-up Red-necked Grebes, and a lone Whooper Swan. These swans are recent breeding colonists to Poland. There is a large colony of Black-headed Gulls, and huge numbers of hirundines, including a few House and Sand Martins. Our first Swifts are also streaming north overhead. A curiosity is a Marsh Harrier in a tree, which makes a good subject for Dick's camera. A male Montagu's Harrier also flies high above the ponds. After our lunch picnic, we continue to Bialowieza, and settle into our warm rooms at the Gawra Guest House. There is time for a brief outing to the forest, where we enjoy the sight of a male Collared Flycatcher in the flooded forest. Nuthatch, Eurasian Treecreeper and Marsh Tit follow, but the light soon deteriorates, and we head back for dinner.

### **Wednesday, 5 May**

Despite steady rain, five of us are out early to a sheltered part of the Palace Park, named after a Tsarist hunting palace (which was destroyed by retreating Nazis in 1945). We can stand in a covered area by the lake, and watch several Hawfinches, a Great Reed Warbler that sings constantly, and a pair of Common Terns courting. At breakfast, we go round the buffet table a second time, making up sandwiches for our picnic. As usual, Csaba and Zoli fill the thermoses.

The proposed morning walk in the strictly protected reserve of Bialowieza has to be postponed as rain continues. Instead we head north to Siemianowka Reservoir, where we can watch marsh terns of all three species, one White-tailed Eagle, Gadwall and several Marsh Harriers. The usual pair of Citrine Wagtails is absent today, so we are glad of our views on Monday. On our way back, we pass a Lesser Spotted Eagle perched on one of the racks used to provide hay for the Bison in winter. This most ancient of European forests protects a herd of 400 Bison, Europe's largest mammal, which are easily seen in winter but elusive in May.

We visit a forest area named Kosy Most where we can walk on the tracks of an old German logging railway. Hoped-for woodpeckers and Hazel Grouse fail to appear, but we can enjoy a pair of Green Sandpipers (probably nesting in an old thrush's nest), a close Thrush-Nightingale, a flying Cuckoo, and a pair of Long-tailed Tits of the white-headed subspecies. After our picnic, we hurry on to our afternoon meeting with Arek, our guide in the strict reserve. Luckily the clouds have lifted, and we are able to walk with him in the most beautiful ancient forest imaginable, as he explains every aspect of its ecology. During the First World War, all the forest's Bison were shot by German troops, and vast quantities of wood were extracted for the German war effort. The strict reserve was set up in 1921 to protect the best remaining areas of the forest, and Bison re-introduced from elsewhere. (They are all descended from 12 animals, so the gene pool is very small, and they are susceptible to disease). Collared and Pied Flycatchers start us off, before we get distracted by Arek's enthusiasm about oaks, hornbeams, bracket fungi, and the root system of a huge fallen spruce. A Three-toed Woodpecker appears twice, giving views almost at ground level; and nearby a Middle Spotted Woodpecker leaves its nest and climbs the trunk above it. Outside the strict reserve again, a short drive takes us to a Grey-headed Woodpecker in its nest, but showing only head and bill. A Woodcock flies over, as dusk is approaching.

### **Thursday, 6 May**

Another pre-breakfast session in the rain does at least produce a Wryneck perched on a branch. After breakfast, we try a flooded forest spot for White-backed Woodpecker, but succeed in seeing a Great Spotted instead. Sally also finds a Middle Spotted Woodpecker. A male Collared Flycatcher and Eurasian Treecreeper are both nesting at the same spot. The unusually cold and damp conditions make bird finding

much harder, since there is so little activity and song. However, during a warming coffee stop, a Hawfinch finally obliges with lengthy scope views, followed by a large female Goshawk that sweeps overhead and along a forest track.

The next walk is among a large stand of old and dying spruces. This is a known site for Three-toed Woodpecker, but at least its absence is not so keenly felt, as we had good views yesterday. We make do with brief views of a Grey-headed Woodpecker, longer views of Wood Warbler and Red Squirrel, and further admiration of this magnificent old forest. The dead spruces have succumbed to the depredations of the spruce bark beetle, *Ips typographus*, which is being monitored and controlled by pheromone traps. Zoli, guarding the minibus, sees a Red Deer while we are out. The picnic spot has singing Common Redstart, Mistle Thrush and Nuthatch, as well as a mange-ridden but harmless dog that fancies our sandwiches.

The highlight of early afternoon is a visit to Lanczyno, a picturesque stretch of flooded forest whose landscape has been modified by Beaver activity. Two Woodlarks fly up from a field as we park. A Black Stork flies up from its frog-hunting area on the ground, to perch on one of many dead trees. It stays put, sometimes preening, for over half an hour. Only about 30 pairs nest in the Polish half of the forest. Now we are treated to an impressive parade of woodpeckers, first White-backed, showing its white-barred wings. Seeing it well, Maureen confirms she saw one at Kosy Most yesterday when she was alone. Next comes a male Black Woodpecker at the nest hole and perching nearby, a fine picture in the scope. Finally, a pair of Middle Spotted, also by a nest, are mobbed by a brave pair of Chaffinches. As we leave Lanczyno, Nigel spots a Hazel Grouse on the verge of the quiet forest road, but it soon disappears into the forest.

We return to base for a short rest and early dinner, before setting out for the Great Snipe lek. It takes 50 minutes to drive to the Narew Valley, where our local guide Matheus leads us, first through pinewoods and meadow, out onto the marsh. He has brought Soviet ex-military over-boots for the three who have no wellies. Here we wait, straining our eyes for movement in the long grass where a few male Great Snipe are gathered to display. As the light begins to fade, they begin leaping into the air, fanning their white tails. All the time they are bill-clacking very fast, just out of hearing range for most of us, but audible to the lucky ones. It helps to have sharp eyesight too, to make out the details of this strange leaping ritual in the failing light. It is amazing to me that a species so similar in appearance to the Common Snipe can have such a different display from the aerial 'drumming' we saw several times at Biebrza. Also out on the marsh are Elk, Roe Deer and several mosquitoes, as well as invisible Savi's and Grasshopper Warblers, Corncrake and Spotted Crake. A Woodcock flies over in roding flight as we head back to the minibus. We arrive back at the guest house at 2200, rounding off an enjoyable day.

### **Friday, 7 May**

At last, we awaken to sunshine. Most of us gather for an early walk round the Palace Park: until now we have only been able to shelter out of the rain. Five Wrynecks are calling, four of which are well seen. We have more views of the now-familiar Hawfinch and Thrush-Nightingale, a Middle Spotted Woodpecker, and a Red-breasted Flycatcher, recently arrived from winter quarters in India. This lovely bird is very confiding, allowing many scope views as it sings its vigorous song and feeds in the lowest strata of the canopy.

After breakfast, we head back to the flooded forest at Lanczyno, where we were yesterday. Here, the Black Woodpecker puts on another show, preening on a dead trunk as we watch in the scopes. Taking another forest track, we see the Beaver lodge and dam that has caused the flooding. It has gnawed through substantial trunks, many of which lie felled. Nuthatches and Treecreepers have nests with young, being regularly serviced by the adults. A Sparrowhawk makes a brief appearance, surprisingly our first. We have time to admire the flora, which includes carpets of wood anemones, as well as wood sorrel, may lily, spring pea, cowslips, and coral-root. We marvel at the diversity of the huge forest, partly dominated by oak, ash, lime and hornbeam, and elsewhere by alder, birch, pine and spruce. The forest is 45% in Poland, 55% in Belarus, cut in half by a two-metre fence which is impassable to Bison, though other animals can swim underneath in places. The Belarus half is more coniferous and boggy than the Polish side, and is reputedly less well conserved, with more poaching. The entire forest occupies an area of 1,600 square kilometres, which equates to a square 25 by 25 miles long. This must be similar to the area of Greater London enclosed by the M25. Of the large European mammals, only Brown Bear is missing from the Polish half – it has occasionally visited the Belarus side. One curiosity of Bialowieza is that Common Swifts nest in tree-holes, a type of site very rarely chosen in Britain.

At the picnic spot along a quiet forest road, a Red Squirrel drinks from a puddle, and another Nuthatch has young to feed. The afternoon programme is a longer walk in the Palace Park, where the Red-breasted Flycatcher is eventually re-located, often feeding in the shrubby undergrowth. In most other parts of the forest there are plenty of deer, which ensure that there is no shrub layer. Pied, Collared and Spotted Flycatchers are also here, giving a full house of flycatcher species within 200m of each other. Other species of interest are Icterine Warbler and a Lesser Spotted Eagle, which soars over the strict reserve. Being warm and sunny, it is also a good day for butterflies, with Black-veined White, Brimstone and Peacock among those seen.

After an 1830 dinner, many of us venture out for one last Bialowieza excursion: Arek has offered to meet us at 1930 to look for a local Pygmy Owl. We walk along a track close to the Belarus border, with superb open forest, dominated by spruce, on all sides. Cuckoos echo all around us, and a Woodcock flies over roding, grunting as it goes. Energetic whistling from Arek finally brings in a Pygmy Owl, a tiny but fierce predator (only the length of a Chaffinch), that weighs a third as much as a Little Owl, only 60 grams. We are back in our rooms before 2100.

### **Saturday, 8 May**

Eager to make the most of his last opportunity, John is out for a walk round the Palace Park at 0510. He achieves his aim of seeing all four flycatcher species, and finds a Grasshopper Warbler for good measure. We have breakfast at 0630, and make up our own sandwiches for an airport picnic. Csaba hands each of us a copy of a DVD he has created from photos he has taken during the week. An hour later we are on the road, with 240 km to cover to reach Warsaw Airport. One Crane stands in a field on the way, and there are a few Buzzards and Marsh Harriers. At a half-hour stop for coffee and driver's rest, two Golden Orioles appear in the canopy of an oak. We arrive at the airport at midday, and say our farewells to Csaba and Zoli, and also to Martin and Maureen who are returning to England by train. We find both check-in and security fast and hassle-free. We fly back on a Brazilian-made Embraer 170, which is a little late taking off, but we are back at Heathrow at 1650. We gather by the luggage carousels to say goodbye, before setting off to our various homes.

### **Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to Csaba for excellent guiding and to Zoli for excellent driving; also to Andre, Arek and Matheus for additional guiding. Most of all, many thanks to you all for participating in the tour with such enthusiasm and good humour despite the cold and rain! I hope we may meet up on another Ornitholiday again soon. Thanks also to Csaba for the DVDs given to us all, and to Csaba and Dick Shaw for the photographs that illustrate this report.

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May 2010

## Itinerary and Weather

Wherever possible, **shade** temperatures at dawn and midday are given. We were unlucky with the weather on this tour, with higher rainfall and lower temperatures than usual for the time of year.

- 30 April Arrive Warsaw 1420. To Goniadz.  
Mostly sunny; evening rain. 17-26°C (63-79°F)
- 1 May Goniadz. To Biebrza National Park Headquarters and boardwalk. Red Marsh. Lake Drenstwo.  
Cloudy, mostly wet. 15-16°C (59-61°F)
- 2 May Goniadz. Biebrza NP, south-west section, at Mscichy, Brzostowo, and Burzyn. Evening to Długa Luka.  
Cloudy, some light rain, sunny evening. 13-19°C (55-66°F)
- 3 May Goniadz. Jasionowo-Jaglowo Loop. In afternoon, Goniadz-Wolka Road.  
Cloudy, often wet, cold north-east wind. 9-17°C (48-63°F)
- 4 May Goniadz to Bialowieza, via Czechowizna Lake and Bialystok Fishponds. Bialowieza Forest.  
Cloudy, north wind, 9-16°C (48-61°F)
- 5 May Bialowieza Palace Park and Forest. Siemianowka Reservoir. Kosy Most. Strict Reserve.  
Cloudy, early rain, 10-12°C (50-54°F)
- 6 May Bialowieza Palace Park and Forest. Lanczyno. Narew Valley.  
Cold, often wet. 7-12°C (45-54°F)
- 7 May Bialowieza Palace Park and Forest. Lanczyno.  
Dry, sunny, 12-23°C (54-73°F)
- 8 May Bialowieza to Warsaw. Depart 1530.  
Partly sunny, 12-24°C (54-75°F)

## CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING TOUR

<b>No of days recorded</b>	<b>Abundance Scale</b> (max. seen on 1 day)
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	1 = 1 – 4 individuals
	2 = 5 - 9
	3 = 10 - 99
	4 = 100 - 999

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Mute Swan	5	2	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Whooper Swan	1	1	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>
Greylag Goose	5	4	<i>Anser anser</i>
Mallard	9	3	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Gadwall	2	2	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Northern Shoveler	2	3	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	3	3	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Garganey	3	3	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Common Pochard	3	3	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Tufted Duck	3	3	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
Common Goldeneye	1	1	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
Smew	1	1	<i>Mergus albellus</i>
Hazel Grouse	1	1	<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>
Corncrake	- 3h	1	<i>Crex crex</i>
Great Crested Grebe	4	2	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Red-necked Grebe	2	2	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>
Black-necked Grebe	3	1	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Great Cormorant	4	3	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Great Bittern	- 5h	1	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
Great Egret	3	1	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
Grey Heron	6	2	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black Stork	1	1	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
White Stork	9	3	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
White-tailed Eagle	3	1	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>
Lesser Spotted Eagle	3	1	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	7	3	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	5	2	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Common Buzzard	5	1	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1	1	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Northern Goshawk	1	1	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
Common Kestrel	2	1	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Hobby	4	1	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Spotted Crake	- 4h	1	<i>Porzana porzana</i>
Common Moorhen	- 1h	1	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	4	3	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Common Crane	5	4	<i>Grus grus</i>
Northern Lapwing	8	3	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Ruff	5	4	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Dunlin	1	1	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Common Sandpiper	2	1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Green Sandpiper	2	1	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Wood Sandpiper	4	4	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Redshank	4 2h	1	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Spotted Redshank	1	2	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Greenshank	1	1	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	2	2	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Eurasian Curlew	1 1h	1	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Eurasian Woodcock	3	1	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
Great Snipe	1	2	<i>Gallinago media</i>
Common Snipe	6 1h	2	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>



Long-tailed Skua	1	1	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>
Black-headed Gull	6	4	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Common Gull	2	1	<i>Larus canus</i>
Caspian Gull	1	1	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>
Little Gull	1	1	<i>Larus minutus</i>
Little Tern	2	1	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
Common Tern	8	1	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Black Tern	3	1	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
White-winged Tern	7	4	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
Whiskered Tern	3	3	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
Rock (Feral) Dove	6	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Common Wood Pigeon	9	3	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	5	1	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
European Turtle Dove	1	1	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Common Cuckoo	5 3h	1	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Eurasian Pygmy Owl	1	1	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>
Common Swift	4	3	<i>Apus apus</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	1	1	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Black Woodpecker	2 2h	1	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>
European Green Woodpecker	- 2h	-	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Grey-headed Woodpecker	2 1h	1	<i>Picus canus</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	4 3h	1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	3	1	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>
White-backed Woodpecker	2	1	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>
Three-toed Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>
Wryneck	2 2h	2	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
Woodlark	2	1	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Common Skylark	6 1h	3	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Common Sand Martin	2	1	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Barn Swallow	9	4	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Common House Martin	7	3	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Tree Pipit	3 1h	1	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
Meadow Pipit	2	1	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Yellow Wagtail	4	3	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Citrine Wagtail	1	1	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
White Wagtail	9	2	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Dunnock	1	1	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
European Robin	4	2	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Thrush-Nightingale	8 1h	1	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>
Bluethroat	1	1	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
Common Redstart	4 1h	1	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Black Redstart	9	1	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Northern Wheatear	1	1	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Whinchat	3	1	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
Song Thrush	5 2h	2	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Mistle Thrush	3 1h	1	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Fieldfare	8	3	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
Eurasian Blackbird	9	3	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Garden Warbler	4 2h	1	<i>Sylvia borin</i>
Blackcap	8 1h	1	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Lesser Whitethroat	7	1	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
Common Whitethroat	2	1	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Common Grasshopper Warbler	1 2h	1	<i>Locustella naevia</i>
Savi's Warbler	1 4h	1	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>
Aquatic Warbler	1	1	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>
Sedge Warbler	3 3h	2	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
European Reed Warbler	1 1h	1	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Great Reed Warbler	7 1h	1	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Icterine Warbler	1	1	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>
Willow Warbler	7 2h	2	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Wood Warbler	3 1h	2	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
Common Chiffchaff	7 1h	2	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Goldcrest	- 5h	-	<i>Regulus regulus</i>

Winter Wren	1	2h	1	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	6		1	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Red-breasted Flycatcher	2		1	<i>Ficedula parva</i>
Collared Flycatcher	5		1	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>
Pied Flycatcher	4		1	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Great Tit	7	1h	1	<i>Parus major</i>
Coal Tit	-	1h	-	<i>Pariparus ater</i>
Eurasian Blue Tit	8		2	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Marsh Tit	3	1h	1	<i>Poecile palustris</i>
Willow Tit	1		1	<i>Poecile montanus</i>
Long-tailed Tit	2		1	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Eurasian Nuthatch	4	1h	1	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Eurasian Treecreeper	3		2	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
Eurasian Penduline Tit	2	1h	1	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>
Common Magpie	9		3	<i>Pica pica</i>
Eurasian Jay	8		2	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Western Jackdaw	9		3	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Rook	8		3	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
Hooded Crow	8		2	<i>Corvus cornix</i>
Common Raven	9		2	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Common Starling	9		3	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Golden Oriole	1	2h	1	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
House Sparrow	8		2	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Tree Sparrow	8		2	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Common Chaffinch	9		3	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Common Linnet	7		2	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
European Goldfinch	8		2	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Greenfinch	9		3	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
Eurasian Siskin	1	3h	1	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
European Serin	6	2h	2	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Eurasian Bullfinch	-	1h	1	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
Hawfinch	7		2	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
Common Crossbill	1		1	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
Yellowhammer	8	1h	2	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
Reed Bunting	6		3	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Ortolan Bunting	1		1	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>

#### MAMMALS

Brown Hare	3		1	<i>Lepus capensis</i>
European Red Squirrel	2		1	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>
Red Fox	2		1	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Roe Deer	6		1	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
Elk	3		1	<i>Alces alces</i>

#### BUTTERFLIES

Small White	Holly Blue
Black-veined White	Wall Brown
Green-veined White	Map
Wood White	Speckled Wood
Brimstone	Peacock
Orange-tip	

This list represents those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.



**Fieldfare at nest**



**Hawfinch**



**Whooper Swan**



**White Stork**



**Eurasian Wryneck**



**Citrine Wagtail**



**Forest at Bialowieza**



**Hooded Crow**

**Front Cover: Red-breasted Flycatcher**

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