

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Poland
14 – 22 May 2011

Holiday participants

Peter Wilson
Keith Wallace and Ellen Lohr
Marie Watt
Peter and Elonwy Crook
Angela Turner and Pauline Skellings

Richard King
Kay Jameson
John Durdin
Adam Hudson, (private customer of
Artur's Biebrza Explorer agency)

Leaders

Ian Barthorpe and Artur Wiatr

Report by Ian Barthorpe.

Photos edged green by Ian and edged red by Artur.

Front cover – Lady's slipper orchids, the focus of our conservation contribution.

Below – the group with guide Arek (left), and Dutchman Chris (right)
at the massive gates leading into the Strict Forest at Białowieża.

In Biebrza National Park we stayed at Dwór Dobarz www.dwordobarz.pl

In Białowieża we stayed at Gawra Pensjonat www.gawra.bialowieza.com



This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust and was put towards habitat management in the Biebrza Marshes to give more space for scarce lady's slipper orchids. A total of £540 was raised for the small NGO The Workshop of Living Architecture for this purpose.

This donation brings the total given in Poland since the first Honeyguide holiday here in 2010 to £1,160. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 is £72,591 as at August 2011.

Daily diary

Day 1 – Saturday 14 May

Everyone assembled bright and early at Luton Airport for our 08.15 departure with Wizz Air. For me, the first significant moment of the trip was the superb view of the Suffolk coast as we flew offshore over Shingle Street – I could see all seven RSPB reserves that fall within my patch. I was also pleased to note that strip fields appeared to dominate Poland's agricultural landscape still, despite many appearing to have been merged into larger fields. We landed at Frederic Chopin Airport in Warsaw five minutes early, at 11.15 local time, after a very smooth flight. Artur was waiting for us along with Adam, a private customer who was joining the Honeyguide group for the week. Artur presented all the ladies in the group with a single rose. Kay arrived about 45 minutes later, having flown from Edinburgh via Amsterdam. Then it was onto the bus where Artur and our driver, Strepan, packed the cases into the trailer.

Predictably, the first birds on leaving the airport were starlings and corvids – rooks, hooded crows and jackdaws. On route to the station to collect the final group member, Ellen, I spotted a treecreeper as it landed in a roadside plane tree. Given the urban location, this was possibly short-toed, but we'll never know. Not long after leaving Warsaw's suburbs we spotted our first white storks, followed soon afterwards by a smart red fox lolloping across the fields.

Lunch was taken at a service station café, where the white borsch soup was very tasty – horseradish-based, containing sausage and served with a hard-boiled egg, this was a great introduction to Polish food. While eating we spotted a buzzard being mobbed by a kestrel. They gave a great display. Incredibly, this was to be our only kestrel of the trip.

Continuing towards Biebrza Marshes there were several other interesting sightings, including three roe deer, the first ravens and grey herons, two male Montagu's harriers and the first butterflies – large white, orange tip and brimstone. As we crossed the Narew River for the first time, we spotted our first white-winged terns. After last year, hopes were high for some impressive flocks of these stunning marsh terns. Although numbers were evidently lower, we were not to be disappointed.

The road north through the eastern side of the National Park follows a dyke for much of its route. It is known as the Tsar's Road and served to connect several important palaces during imperial times. Being constructed essentially from wooden poles laid across the marsh then piled higher with rubble, it's perhaps not surprising that the surface is deteriorating with the increasing volume of traffic, so progress was slow. From this dyke we saw our first evidence of beavers – after which the Biebrza River is named – and Artur spotted a golden oriole crossing the road.

We arrived at Dwor Dobarz, our base for the next five nights, at 17.25. Dobarz is a tiny settlement – the hotel, a farm and a family-run guest house where Artur, Strepan and I were to stay. A few of us took the chance to explore the garden before dinner, enjoying great views of black redstarts, yellowhammers and song thrushes, while listening to the first hoopoes, wood warblers, cuckoos and cranes. A pair of spotted flycatchers also showed for a lucky few. After dinner, everyone was happy to retire to bed early, and I returned to my accommodation to the accompaniment of a chorus of marsh frogs. This was to become the soundtrack of the trip.

Day 2 – Sunday 15 May

Several of us were up early for a pre-breakfast walk at 06.45. Adam, Peter W, Richard and I concentrated on the fields and woods behind the hotel, while Artur and others listened to a very vocal icterine warbler and blackcap near the road. The birdsong was a joy to behold: hoopoes, golden orioles, cuckoos, wood warblers, chaffinches, song thrushes and yellowhammers dominated, as they did throughout our stay at Dobarz. Typically, many of these remained hidden, although Adam, Peter W and I managed brief flight views of a golden oriole, and cuckoos were regularly seen throughout the trip. More obvious species included spotted flycatchers with their distinctive tumbling flight, fieldfares which were nesting semi-colonially nearby, and black redstarts on the hotel roof. Some of the group were lucky enough to spot a huge black woodpecker as it flew between two woods. Montagu's harriers, ravens and grey herons were among the bigger birds seen, while bitterns and cranes could be heard nearby. Shortly before breakfast, a great white egret was found feeding in a ditch across the marshes. I initially wrongly called this a little egret,

having not expected its bigger cousin this far north east – great whites had yet to colonise eastern Poland on my last visit ten years earlier! It was a good morning for mammals too. Adam spotted a roe deer behind the hotel, before it darted for the cover of the woods, while I found a red squirrel opposite the hotel. Most of the group were able to watch this sought-after species as it leapt among the higher branches.



Dwor Dobarz has a small formal garden with seating and a pond, surrounded by meadows, where this hoopoe was feeding, woods and marshes.

Breakfast, at 08.00, set the scene for the week: bread and rolls, meat and cheese, scrambled egg, tea and coffee. We made sandwiches from the same supplies too, before setting off at 09.15. The destination today was the southern basin, so it was a surprise to most when we set off north along the Tsar's road. The reason: there are only two river crossings and we were to do a complete circuit of the southern basin.

In the forest we admired the large clumps of lily of the valley. Passing the military base near Osowiec we came upon a sad sight: a dead beaver, the victim of road kill. Nearby, a roe deer was obligingly feeding along the railway tracks. The fields southeast of Osowiec produced wheatear, blue-headed (yellow) wagtails and skylarks, and good numbers of white storks.

Our first stop was the tiny village of Mscichy (pronounced Mu-schee-ca) from where we strolled along a good track towards the river. Our target bird was citrine wagtail, close to its

northwest range boundary. Upon leaving the bus we were rewarded with a host of singing warblers: sedge, willow and garden, plus reed buntings and the first tree sparrows of the trip. A handful of white-winged terns flitted overhead – the first of many today. I spotted three distant eagles, but specific identification was impossible. A trifle easier were the buzzard, swifts and 12 common cranes over the village. Waders were to be some of the stars here, with the wonderful sound of drumming snipe, "wicka-wicka" of black-tailed godwits, and more familiar calls of lapwing and redshank as a continuous sound track.



News from another birdwatching group was positive. The wagtails were here, and within a few minutes we had our first view of a gorgeous male perched on a fence post. Then another male and an equally dapper female fed on the track. Eventually, we were confident that we had seen at least three males, and the female (*male, left*). This was a new species for most, and a superb start to the trip.

A little further along the track several of us stopped to watch our first dragonflies – four-spotted chasers and azure damselflies – and to photograph flowering water violet, lesser

spearwort and fan-leaved water-crowfoot. We were rewarded with the first singing common rosefinch. This was good news for Artur as, like several other migrants, these lovely birds were late arriving this year. After cautiously rounding a flooded section of path, a ruff was briefly spotted among the nesting lapwings. Then came two bonuses in quick succession. A singing Savi's warbler was located by a persistent Adam and gave great views, but the calling spotted crane predictably remained hidden. Strepan met us near the end of this track to take us on the short drive to our lunch stop in the village of Brzostowo. This was an amazing place, although given the late hour (13.40), lunch took priority for most. Once we focussed on the birdwatching it was difficult to know where to look. Large flocks of white-winged terns held smaller numbers of whiskered, a

few black and a single common tern, allowing for an excellent comparison between the marsh terns. A young herring gull fed on a carcass farther out. Waders were impressive, and several of the group marvelled at the large flocks of ruffs, and especially the show-off displays of the lekking males. A single flock of 80 ruffs was particularly impressive. Equally good to see were the 20 or so wood sandpipers feeding on the closest islands. Redshanks, lapwings, snipe and black-tailed godwits were here too, and eventually a couple of dunlins were seen, sporting lovely black bellies. This was also a great site for ducks. Among the flocks of gadwalls, wigeons, mallards and shovelers were a handful of pintails, several gorgeous garganeys and a few coots. Richard's sharp eyes located a small grebe which turned out to be a black-necked grebe but proved to be very difficult to find.

It wasn't all about wetland birds here though. Our first serin sang overhead, and a lesser whitethroat rattled unusually high in a willow. Meanwhile, Keith enjoyed a post-lunch snooze (or deep trance as he called it) while trying to conjure up something special. It worked! He woke as three elk strolled out of the woods on the far side of the valley. We left here at 15.30 and stopped in the nearby farmland to search for ortolan bunting. One was heard and glimpsed briefly in flight, but despite a brief search it kept flitting on ahead of us. Our final brief stop was a tower close to Burzyn where pochard, tufted duck and great crested grebe were added to the list and more elk gave better views than earlier. On the drive back up the Tsar's road I spotted a newly arrived red-backed shrike on a roadside wire.

We returned to Dobarz at 17.40 after a long but rewarding day. Dinner was served at 18.00 and was very welcome. However, as the threatened rain arrived during the meal, our planned walk in search of aquatic warbler was postponed till later in the week.

Day 3 – Monday 16 May

The rain cleared away overnight but the morning was cool and damp as I set out at 06.30 to the usual accompaniment of golden orioles, cuckoos, yellowhammers and willow warblers. A distant crane flew over, calling, and a black woodpecker again flew between the woods. A small group of four joined Artur and I as we strolled along the road but the cool air meant fewer birds were singing. Highlights were a distant booming bittern, a whinchat, singing goldcrest and the usual spotted flycatchers and icterine warblers.

Breakfast included some delicious pancakes filled with a rather sweet mix of cream cheese and sour cream. Keith decided not to join us today as he feeling under the weather, but the rest departed at 09.05. Our first stop was a short path through birch and alder woodland to a stunning patch of raised bog. This was a good area for botanists with species such as Labrador tea, round-leaved sundew, northern and common bilberry, bog rosemary and hare's-tail cotton-grass.



Labrador tea, sundew and bog rosemary, plants adapted to the low-nutrient, acidic conditions of the raised bog – a domed mass of peat formed by the accumulation of dead plant material and fed by rainwater.

A hairy dragonfly showed well, while another species found by Peter W was identified from photos as a female white-faced darter. While Artur showed us a small patch of interrupted clubmoss, Ellen spotted a slow-worm slithering into the deeper vegetation. There weren't many birds here, but robin, whitethroat and tree pipit were all heard.

From here we drove north to Osowiec, where windy conditions made viewing from the observation tower tricky, but there were some notable highlights. The first significant sighting was a common rosefinch that sang continuously from one of several perches. A second bird also gave excellent views later on. Across the canal we could hear garden warbler and lesser whitethroat, while a distant thrush nightingale across the road would prove elusive. A male Montagu's harrier drifted by the distant woods. Scanning the marshes, we were rewarded with good numbers of white-winged terns, a few pochards and coots, a great crested grebe, and perhaps best of all, three goldeneyes, with the drake busily displaying to all and sundry. We also had excellent views of a red deer close to the tower. Crossing the road, we searched unsuccessfully for the thrush nightingale while a few of us got our eye in with some interesting dragonflies before setting off along the boardwalk. Although bluethroats refused to show, everyone was excited to watch a pair of penduline tits coming and going to their pendulous nest of reedmace "fluff". Reed buntings were prominent and reed and sedge warblers sang, but the best birds were probably the two black storks that circled low overhead.

For many in the group, it was probably the insects that really made this boardwalk special. Peter W, Marie and I could have stayed for hours photographing dragonflies, butterflies and the odd moth. The dragonflies were particularly impressive and obliging, and included many large white-faced darters and variable damselflies, alongside the more familiar azure and common blue damsels and hairy dragonflies and the odd common clubtail. Among the butterflies were holly blue and excellent numbers of orange tip. A sand lizard was another highlight.



Yellow-spotted whiteface ♀; hairy hawk ♂; and common clubtail ♂.

At the far end of the boardwalk, a great grey shrike posed on overhead wires as we headed back to the bus for a welcome lunch. This was soon interrupted by an eagle overhead. Although close at first, views were inconclusive, but the consensus was that this might have been a greater spotted eagle. Within minutes it was replaced by two enormous white-tailed eagles, while some of us also connected with a hobby here. It was difficult to tear ourselves away, but we eventually left at 14.30.

The rest of the afternoon was spent in the Goniadz area. We were unable to visit the church, as planned, due to a funeral, so instead made a couple of short visits to the observation tower just across the river. From here, the main highlights were a couple of great white egrets; two very distant eagles that appeared to have the distinguishing features of lesser spotted; great views of roe deer; and a good selection of waders, especially drumming snipe.

During the journey back to Dobarz, Adam cracked what had to be the worst joke of the trip. On seeing a cat crossing road, he called out, "It's a Polecat!" We returned to Dobarz at 17.00, allowing time for a rest before supper at 18.00.

With the weather more favourable, we headed out at 19.20 for our much anticipated evening excursion, leaving Elonwy and Keith resting at the hotel. After a 20 minutes drive, we arrived at the boardwalk of Długa Luka. The next 80 minutes were widely acknowledged as among the best on

the whole trip, with a host of wildlife performing exceptionally well. It's difficult to put into words the true experience and do it justice. The wet fen here is a breeding ground for aquatic warbler, its most accessible site in the world. We were not disappointed, with half a dozen singing and some good views. They weren't the only warblers singing either, as Savi's and grasshopper warblers gave us the chance to compare their similar buzzy songs, while willow warblers sang from the scrub adjacent to the fen. With a wonderful sunset to our left and a full moon rising on the right, the evening light took on a magical quality. We enjoyed watching Montagu's harriers quartering until dusk, and spotted both garganey and curlew dropping into the vegetation. But it was two mammals that stole the limelight. First, an incredibly obliging elk emerged from the forest and strolled slowly across the fen. At one point it was barely 200 metres away, feeding with no apparent concern for us. Then someone's sharp eyes spotted a water vole swimming through the bogbean adjacent to the boardwalk.



A wonderful evening at Długa Luka.

As the last of the light faded we reluctantly returned to the bus, then Dobarz and bed. Walking back to my accommodation I heard both corncrake and tawny owl calling in the distance. A great end to an incredible day.

Day 4 – Tuesday 17 May

The early risers were again split into several small groups. Adam and Peter W rose first and explored some of the forest areas. Marie, Richard and I headed through the forest north of the Dobarz clearing, while Artur and others stayed close to the hotel. For my group, the bird highlight was a woodlark in full song on the forest edge, while we also spotted several plants that were to become familiar during the week: chickweed wintergreen, May lily and Solomon's-seal. As well as the usual mix of birds around Dobarz, another highlight was our first European tree frog. This was quite a large example and posed for photos before we headed to breakfast.

Today's destination was the Red Marsh area in the northern basin, which meant more than an hour in the bus to start the day. The journey, however, was far from uneventful or wildlife-free. The main highlight was a female marsh harrier, carrying quite large mammalian prey (a water vole perhaps?) that flew down the middle of the Tsar's road for several hundred metres as we drove through the forest, before briefly alighting in a pine.

Our first stop was a bridge near the hamlet of Ciszewo, a good spot for raptor watching. Sadly, the strong wind was not in our favour, with only white-tailed eagle and buzzard seen. We did hear our first great reed warbler here as well as spotting blue-headed wagtail and a few white-winged terns, but we quickly decided to move on. Our next stop, another bridge near Kuligi, proved more successful. Common rosinches showed well as they sang their now familiar "pleased to meet you" ditty. As Kay botanised in the meadows, she and Artur heard a corncrake. Soon, Keith and John spotted movement near the bridge that materialised into a superb male bluethroat. It clearly had a nest nearby as it carried a large beakful of insects, and everyone enjoyed fantastic views. Then an amazing couple of minutes as first black stork, then a really pale honey buzzard and lesser spotted eagle, and finally two common cranes flew over. Some of us also searched unsuccessfully for a singing great reed warbler.

Tearing ourselves away, we drove on to the Grzedy Forest, with the area known as the Red Marsh. Artur collected our permits from the National Park office, and Strepan drove us on down a narrow forest track. A hoopoe became the second species that we followed down the road today, although for most of us we could only see its shadow on the road!

During lunch, two falconers arrived to exercise their birds, and a few of the group enjoyed the close contact with a large peregrine-type bird. The remains of an elk reminded us that this is the best area for wolves within Biebrza National Park. The plant life around the picnic area was impressive too, with carpets of May lily and lily of the valley, large clumps of hepatica (long since finished flowering), and non-flowering cow-wheats and steppe parsley. As we were about to begin our walk, Artur spotted a resting small hawkmoth. Wow, what an incredible colour this impressive moth is. The group split into two for the walk through the wonderful inland sand dunes to the observation tower. The birders went on ahead and located woodlark, tree pipit, great grey shrike and elk for the botanists who took a more leisurely pace. The shrike did a superb impression of a kestrel as it hovered above a clearing. We also spotted lesser black-backed gulls and robin here.



Elephant hawk moth, named for the caterpillar's trunk-like snout; mouse-ear hawkweed, which gets its name from its hairy oval leaves; and a first-brood map butterfly (the second brood look similar to a miniature white admiral) whose eggs are laid on the underside of nettles in chains which resemble the flowers.

This was an excellent walk for flowers. Among the highlights were pasqueflower, large clumps of orpine, Oxford ragwort, mouse-ear hawkweed, and bay willow. Artur also pointed out the latrine of a raccoon-dog, and several of the group saw a map butterfly for the first time. We eventually returned to the bus and made another brief stop near Kuligi in the hope of finding a barred warbler and the rare but impressive Siberian iris, but were unsuccessful.

We returned to Dobarz at 18.15, with dinner later tonight at 19.00. With no post dinner trip planned, Adam, Peter W, Artur and I pottered along the road in search of night-time species. We were rewarded with fox, a bat species and a distant nightjar. Adam and Peter wandered further into the forest where they also heard corncrake and spotted crane.

Day 5 – Wednesday 18 May

Our last full day in Biebrza again began sunny but cool, with a stiff breeze blowing. The pre-breakfast gang assembled from 07.00 to once again check sightings around the hotel. There were one or two notable additions to the usual sightings this morning, with raptors to the fore. A lesser spotted eagle was very welcome, while a 'normal' honey buzzard was a great contrast to yesterday's bird. A Montagu's harrier showed well, and both crane and great white egret were seen. We were also able to welcome red-backed shrikes back to the clearing at last in the form of a displaying pair around the hotel ponds. Finally, a small copper butterfly was the first of the trip.

Shortly after our departure at 09.05, a white stork became the latest species to "block" our route. We stopped briefly for some photos of the cotton-grass on the raised bog, spotted a lovely lilypad white-faced darter too, before calling into the National Park HQ in Osowiec. Souvenirs bought, we made a brief stop at the Goniadz Tower where two black storks showed exceptionally well. Common rosefinch, white-winged tern and snipe were other highlights.

Our first destination today was a reservoir to the east of the park, close to the village of Czechowizna, where Artur assured us that white-tailed eagles would be easy to see. Now there's easy, and there's ridiculously easy, and in this case it was the latter. We'd seen at least six different eagles before we left the bus, and as soon as we scanned the lake we knew what a special place it was. The maximum count was at least ten white-tailed eagles, though we probably saw several more, of all age-plumage ranges. We even saw many fishing attempts, several of which were successful. What a great way to enjoy our own lunch!



Scanning the reservoir; and in Tykocin, one of the platforms on which white storks have nested.



They weren't the only raptors here, either as we saw another honey-buzzard and a sparrowhawk soon after our arrival. The other star bird here was blue-headed wagtail, as the meadows seemed full of them. It was easy to ignore the lake itself, but careful scanning through telescopes revealed the presence of great crested grebes, a cormorant, a drake garganey, pochard, black tern and common gull, while herring gulls also flew over. Not to be outdone, two great reed warblers showed really well along the lake edge.

We left here at 13.15 for a slow, roadworks-affected drive to the historic town of Tykocin, adding black woodpecker on route. Our next stop was a bridge close to the castle in the hope of finding Syrian woodpecker. We could

see last year's hole, but the nearby roadworks had evidently disturbed them this year. We had to console ourselves with views of icterine and Savi's warblers and flocks of white-winged terns.

Our next stop was at a quarry close to the town, where bee-eaters were a possibility. Hopes were not high, as none had yet been reported this year, but this site did finally produce excellent views of ortolan, plus a nice whinchat.

There was one final stop in the Tykocin area: the European white stork village where more than 30 pairs of storks are encouraged to nest. While storks were the undoubted highlights, we all enjoyed excellent 'scope views of a male golden oriole in one tree. Out on the marshes, wood sandpiper and common tern were highlights and we heard one of only two moorhens on the trip.

We were back at the hotel by 17.50 for dinner at 19.00, then most of us returned to Długa Luka for a second look at aquatic warbler. Though the elk and water vole were missing this time, and the sunset was less impressive, this was still a magical evening. Montagu's harriers again put on a great show, with at least three seen together.

Day 6 – Thursday 19 May

After the late evening, a select few were out early this morning. For Peter W and I there was a massive surprise in store with probably the most unexpected bird of trip. Walking from my accommodation towards the hotel, a medium-sized dark raptor cruised low overhead. Expecting marsh harriers in the area, I barely gave it a second glance, but something looked wrong. The wings were bowed rather than raised and there were pale bands across the upper wing rather than cream shoulders. I yelled to Peter to check he was watching the same bird and confirm my suspicions: black kite. When it landed we were treated to amazing views of this local rarity. It returned just before breakfast to give Richard, John, Angela and Pauline the chance to catch up

with this great bird. Other pre-breakfast highlights were whinchat, hairy dragonfly, small copper, thrush nightingale and the usual golden orioles, wood warblers, black redstarts, etc.

After another lovely breakfast, we bade a sad farewell to Dobarz at 09.25 for an appointment at a very special secret location not too far away. Leaving the bus, we enjoyed a variety of butterflies feeding on shrubs in the garden: green hairstreaks were particularly obliging, with a large metallic chafer species and peacock butterflies. As we strolled across a farmed clearing in the forest, woodlarks sang above us, but our eyes were focused more on the ground for two reasons: we needed to pick our way carefully through the boggy ground, and we were checking for interesting flora. After a short walk we reached the very special location where the landowners were lovingly protecting several lady's slipper orchids. These stunning flowers are much sought after by all naturalists, and we were rewarded with some amazing views and photographs. The downside was the particularly vicious mosquitoes which, unusually, took a liking to me. The lady's slippers weren't the only orchids here as we also saw birdsnest orchid, common twayblade and a marsh orchid species (probably northern or a hybrid), as well as Jacob's ladder.

We left at 10.20 for the long drive to Białystok where we visited the superb fish ponds at Dojlidy, arriving at 11.45. Artur immediately pointed out the bell-like booming of hoards of fire-bellied toads, although we were unable to locate the toads themselves. Dojlidy is a popular urban location for leisure activities, yet is well known among birdwatchers for its black-headed gull colony and breeding grebes. The former competed with great reed, reed and sedge warblers to out-do the toads in the volume battle. Among the latter, great crested grebes are easily the most common. We heard a little grebe, but it remained hidden in emergent vegetation. We were hoping for red-necked grebe, and at the far end we had good but distant views of a pair of these dapper birds.



The fishponds at Dojlidy.

While watching the grebes, I spotted a lovely adult little gull sporting a full black hood and characteristic dark underwings. At the edge of the next lake were several frogs that from photos appeared to be edible frogs. As we began the walk back to the bus, a calling hooded crow alerted me to two raptors overhead. One was a marsh harrier, but the other was far more exciting: a goshawk. This was turning out to be a great day for raptors! There was more to come, with calling penduline tits, a nest hole that may have belonged to Syrian woodpecker, and another red-necked grebe, before the first of several tree sparrows which posed close to the bus. Best of the insects here were holly blue and blue-tailed damselfly. Walking past the gull colony, the ever enthusiastic Adam "took one for the team" as one of the gulls deposited its calling card on his hat!

After lunch we left at 14.05 for the drive to our second base of the trip, the incredible Białowieża Forest. Arriving earlier than expected, at 15.40, we took the opportunity to visit the small zoo just outside the village. Białowieża Wildlife Park holds small captive breeding stock of key native species such as European bison, wolf, konik Polski (Polish pony) and wild boar. It's also a good place for birdwatching, which began with a singing collared flycatcher above the park entrance gate. A honey buzzard circled overhead, and the distinctive machine-gun-like drumming of a black woodpecker was heard. We found out later that the nest hole close to the entrance was still active.

We arrived at our hotel, Gawra Pensionat, in the rapidly expanding Białowieża village at 17.00, giving time for a rest before the evening meal, and at 19.20, eight of us re-boarded the bus for a short drive into the forest, picking up former national park director Arek who was to be our guide for an exciting evening excursion. After a short walk through the forest, we assembled in a clearing

where Arek began whistling to mimic the call of Europe's smallest owl, the aptly named pygmy owl. He was confident that this elusive bird would show, but warned us that views may not be good. For 45 minutes the bird was silent, but the wait was enlivened by several fly-pasts by a woodcock and the arrival of a Dutch birder on his bike, fooled by Arek's perfect mimicry – we were to meet Chris several times over the next few days. Eventually Arek's persistence paid off and a pygmy owl landed on a branch above us. After a brief stay at first, she soon returned and everyone enjoyed good views through the assembled 'scopes, despite the rapidly fading light. This was the perfect, if late, end to a superb day.

Day 7 – Friday 20 May

The day started bright and early for all bar Elonwy as we set off at 05.00 for the long walk to the National Park's Strict Forest Reserve. Dutchman Chris joined us too. Even at this early hour a marsh harrier drifted over the hotel. In the village, we had good views of serin and linnet. The mist hung evocatively over the fish ponds as we listened to icterine warbler, common rosefinch and thrush nightingale, before we met up again with Arek at the far entrance to the Palace Park. Crossing the meadows between here and the park we listened to corncrakes and grasshopper warblers and spotted a whinchat.

Any visit to the Strict Forest is one to be savoured, and with Arek we had an excellent and incredibly knowledgeable guide. The botanists among us could have spent all day simply spotting new flowers – false wood anemone, coralroot bittercress, woolly bittercress and toothwort were all quickly identified – but we were also hoping to see avian inhabitants, especially woodpeckers and flycatchers. Entry to the Strict Forest is only allowed with the services of a park guide, and you certainly need their local knowledge to locate the birds. Collared flycatchers are widespread, but Arek soon pointed out the only pair of pied flycatchers within the reserve. It wasn't long before we'd added good views of a couple of red-breasted flycatchers too. Our first main target here was perhaps the most attractive and trickiest of the woodpeckers: three-toed. Locating the nest hole was easy, but despite waiting for at least 20 minutes we only saw the female poking her head out of the hole briefly.



Early morning in the Strict Forest. Because of the competition for light, most of the forest oaks have soared to great heights, unlike the broad-girthed, branching habit of oaks in the open.

Continuing through the forest we saw nuthatch and a flying black woodpecker, and heard several wrens and robins – both much harder to see than in the UK. A short boardwalk took us past some amazing root plates from fallen trees – nothing is removed from this part of the forest where the tallest trees towered up to 45 metres above us.

Returning towards the reserve gate, the plant list grew with moschatel and baneberry, before Arek showed us a lesser spotted woodpecker nest. The busy parents were running the gauntlet of an aggressive great spotted woodpecker. Barely 100 metres along the path we watched a pair of middle spotted woodpeckers tending their nest. All three spotted woodpeckers within five minutes. Wow! Tearing ourselves away, and taking a group photo at the park gate, we strolled happily back across the meadow. A singing wryneck became the sixth woodpecker before 09.00. Sadly, the grey-headed woodpecker that Chris had seen in the Palace Park earlier in the week didn't oblige, so Strepan picked us up to drive back to the hotel for a much needed breakfast at 09.40.

After the early start, everyone was happy with Artur's suggestion of a post-breakfast rest – everyone, that is, except Adam and me as we headed back to the Palace Park in search of the grey-headed woodpecker. Sadly we were unsuccessful, managing only a great spotted woodpecker and spotted flycatchers as highlights, and getting caught in a huge thunderstorm for our troubles.

At midday we re-joined the others and departed on the bus for the short drive west to a bridge near the hamlet of Tereminski, where we hoped to find white-backed woodpecker. Eventually we all had good, if distant, views of a pair making regular visits to their nest – our seventh woodpecker of the day. Other birds at this roadside stop included another wryneck and excellent views of a treecreeper. This bridge also proved to be quite successful for insects: map and wood white were the best of the butterflies, while dragonflies included hairy dragonfly and azure damselflies. Lunch was taken in a picnic area at the start of the Great Duke Oaks Trail. This was a rare break from the impressive wildlife, though between showers I spotted a swallowtail dashing along the woodland edge.

Our scheduled afternoon stop was the bridge at Białowieża Towarowa to the east of the village. Between the showers we successfully located our first singing river warbler, but it remained hidden from view. A pair of red-backed shrikes and a couple of gorgeous northern long-tailed tits were also found, but we drew a blank with barred warbler. Along the river we enjoyed great views of banded demoiselles.

The combination of the effects of the early start and the continued showers led to an early finish, and we returned to the hotel at 16.15. Adam, Peter W, Richard and I joined Artur for a short walk to a nearby meadow in search of barred warbler and were rewarded with some superb views of a singing male. Adam, Peter W and I then returned to the Palace Park for a pre-dinner stroll. This time we heard a grey-headed woodpecker but it again proved elusive. We did, however, add marsh tit to the growing list of birds.

During the evening meal, an impressive thunderstorm struck, but several of us joined Artur in search of bison in the village meadows. Thunder rumbled around us, and the lightning flashes were impressive, but no bison appeared. We did, however see woodcock, roe deer and several species of amphibian before calling it a night.

Day 8 – Saturday 21 May

The thunder still rumbled in the early hours but the morning began bright and sunny. As with most mornings, spotted flycatchers and song thrushes were easily located – compared with the UK, these are surprisingly easy to find in Polish forests. With breakfast scheduled for later, at 09.00, most of the group joined Artur and I for a morning stroll around the Palace Park. (Adam paid for an extra visit to the Strict Forest in the hope of better views of the three-toed woodpecker. He did eventually see the female leave the nest and later spotted the grey-headed woodpecker in the northern corner of the Palace Park).

We began at the bridge near the southwest corner, where icterine warbler and common rosefinch were again singing. Nearby, we located a singing wryneck and enjoyed superb 'scope views of this often elusive bird. From across the lake we could hear a river warbler that we vowed to find later. Heading into the park past some of the older buildings, we admired the massive white stork nest on a roof, as tree sparrows hopped in and out. A collared flycatcher sang and gave superb views, then I spotted our first redstart – a lovely male – high in a tree. Eventually we tore ourselves away and headed deeper into the park. Artur soon came up trumps with a tawny owl preening in the open in a huge oak. It was no doubt drying out after the storm. Nearby, we found nuthatch and marsh tit, while at the lake two great reed warblers added to the chorus.

We left at 10.10 for a long drive north. The group was, however, smaller today as Peter and Elonwy stayed behind for a quiet day in the village while Keith and Ellen hired bikes to tour the area. The long drive produced excellent views of a roadside red squirrel, and a hawfinch drinking from a puddle for those lucky enough to be sat near the front of the bus. After an hour we arrived at Lasy Naturalne ready for a short stroll to area described by Artur as Louisiana forest. The description was very apt for a huge area of flooded alder forest, rich with wildlife. Water levels have

been raised recently by the damming actions of the local beavers, and we had good views of one of their large lodges. A buzzard called overhead before we were finally rewarded with superb views of a pair of lesser spotted eagles circling low over the beaver lodge. Two green sandpipers flitted among the fallen stumps, finally allowing me to catch up with a bird seen several times by others in the group at Dobarz.

The botanists thoroughly enjoyed this site, especially the large clumps of white calla that were just bursting into bloom and the water violets. Within the woods, John did well to find leaves and seed heads of asarabacca, a classic indicator of ancient woods. Although we failed to see beavers, there was ample evidence of mammals here. A red deer hind and calf showed well in the flooded areas, and Artur found the sad remains of a wild boar that had become victim to a wolf.



Optimistic beaver endeavours on this trunk at 'Louisiana', the flooded forest.

Before heading back to the bus, we followed bison footprints and droppings in the hope of finding these huge mammals, without success. This was, however, a good site for insects, including white-faced darter, yellow-spotted whiteface and four-spotted chaser dragonflies and map butterflies.

From here it was just a short drive to the south shore of Siemianowka Reservoir, where we enjoyed our final outdoor picnic of the trip. A highlight of these picnics was the excellent cakes baked by Artur's lovely wife, and today was no exception. From the observation tower here we were staggered by the impressive count of great white egrets, which at 30+ easily outnumbered grey herons. A couple of drake garganeys showed well alongside mallards and gadwalls. This proved a good spot for waders too: redshanks, lapwings and ruffs were all located in the shallows. Towards the causeway, the obligatory white-winged terns were joined by a few whiskered terns.

As Artur pointed out the nearby Belarusian border, another lesser spotted eagle soared over the forest that marks the eastern edge of the European Union. Nearby we also enjoyed good views of a red-backed shrike. While some of the group watched the shrike and listened to a calling corncrake, Peter W, Marie and I concentrated on the dragonflies along the ditch. Red-eyed damselflies were particularly showy – a first for Peter – but a large lime green dragonfly refused to settle for good views. Despite this, I was able to identify it as green snaketail – a stunning species that completed a wonderful week for Odonata. These weren't the only insects here, though, as a pale clouded yellow flitted along the grassy bank. I spotted a field cricket crawling along the path, but regretted picking it up to show to others as it bit my finger! We left at 15.40, adding great grey shrike in nearby Siemieniakowszczyzna (try pronouncing that!), before an early supper at 17.00.

There was still one bird that was missing from our lists: great snipe. The former lek near Dobarz has sadly been deserted, but Artur knew of a site close to the town of Narew, so most of us left again at 18.20 for another long drive north. (Marie joined Peter, Elonwy, Keith and Ellen in staying behind.

Leaving the bus on a forest track at 19.30, we marched first through forest, then heath, before dropping into the valley and picking our way carefully across boggy and at times waterlogged ground. Would the effort be rewarded? It was certainly an experience to remember. All around, we

could hear great birds: crane, grasshopper, Savi's and sedge warblers, corncrake and drumming snipe. The great snipe were out there too, their strange bubbling calls difficult to pick out for those not familiar with these scarce birds. Sadly, despite careful scrutiny of the area the sounds were coming from, we failed to see the great snipe. They seemed reluctant to jump high in their amazing displays today, perhaps because a fox was prowling nearby.

The walk back in near darkness was interesting to say the least, especially when several of us thought we heard a churring nightjar which turned out to be calling green toads!

Day 9 – Sunday 22 May

After the late night, only Peter W and I ventured out early on our final morning. We had one objective: to see the elusive grey-headed woodpecker that Adam had seen the previous morning. Our early start (06.10) was richly rewarded as both adults appeared very soon after we reached their chosen nest tree near the northwest corner of the Palace Park. This left just two European woodpeckers missing for the trip: the Syrians that we failed to find in Tykocin, and one of our most familiar species, green woodpecker.

Around the park buildings we again found collared flycatcher, wryneck and nuthatch, while at the park lake we enjoyed superb views of both river and great reed warblers. The barred warbler again showed well near the old station, and a redstart sang from a rooftop aerial close to the hotel. We also added small blue to the impressive butterfly list.

After a final Polish breakfast and the obligatory group photos, we said a fond farewell to Artur as he planned to catch a bus back to Bialystok where his wife would collect him. We left Białowieża at 09.40 for the long drive back to Warsaw. Even this journey was not without its highlights, especially the broad-bodied chasers that Peter W found patrolling a pond beside a service station as we stopped for a short break.

On arrival in Warsaw, we first dropped Ellen back at the station in good time for her train to Berlin, then Adam in a city square where his Polish girlfriend was waiting. We arrived at Frederic Chopin airport at 14.00, resting over our lunch before boarding our flights back to the UK: Kay with KLM via Amsterdam to Edinburgh, the rest with Wizz Air to Luton, where we arrived safely bang on time.

Favourite moments

Richard	The early morning walk in the Palace Park on Saturday summed up the trip: very peaceful and lots of good birds.
Pauline	The tawny owl in the Palace Park; white-tailed eagles fishing; bluethroat.
Angela	Elk at sunset at Długa Luka; Saturday morning in the Palace Park; common rosefinch; lady's slipper orchid; red-necked grebe.
John	When Keith called out "sweetheart" and Artur answered!; lady's slipper orchid.
Peter W	Three spotted woodpecker species in five minutes; lunch at Brzostowo; lady's slipper orchid; map butterfly; red-eyed damselfly.
Kay	Aquatic warblers and elk at sunset at Długa Luka; dunes in the woods at Grzedy (Red Marsh); lily of the valley; calla lilies; golden oriole concert.
Keith	Lunch with white-tailed eagles as they are big and easily recognizable!
Ellen	Common rosefinch; Osowiec boardwalk; Strepan's neat and tidy picnic lunch tables.
Marie	Strict reserve, for woodpeckers; bluethroat; common rosefinch; lady's slipper orchid.
Peter	River warbler through the 'scope; aquatic warblers and elk at sunset at Długa Luka; banded demoiselle.
Elonwy	White-tailed eagles; hoopoes; lady's slipper orchids; Palace Park; Artur's help.
Adam	Penduline tit nest-making; strict reserve and the concept behind it; white-tailed eagles.
Ian	Citrine wagtails; lunch at Brzostowo; the impressive dragonfly list; lady's slipper orchid.

Species lists

BIRDS		
Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Heard at Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th)
Great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Seen at several wetland areas. Common at Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th)
Red-necked grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	3 at Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th)
Black-necked grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	1 at Brzostowo (15 th)
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1 on journey (14 th), 3 at Czechowizna Reservoir (18 th)
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Heard daily at Dobarz and other sites around Biebrza, and at Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th). Not seen
Great white egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	Singles or pairs at Dobarz and sites around Biebrza. 30+ at Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st)
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Seen daily at most sites
White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Widespread as nesting pairs and small flocks of 20+. About 40 pairs at white stork village, Tykocin (18 th)
Black stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2 at Osowiec boardwalk (16 th), one at Kuligi (17 th), 2 at Goniadz (17 th)
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Numerous at Brzostowo (15 th) & Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st), up to 4 at other wetland sites
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Small flocks at all wetland sites
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	20+ at Brzostowo & Burzyn (15 th)
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Single males at Brzostowo & Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th); common at Burzyn (15 th) & Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st)
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Widespread every day
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Pair at Brzostowo (15 th)
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Widespread sightings of males around Biebrza and at Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st). Only female at Długa Luka (16 th)
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	common at Brzostowo & Burzyn (15 th), pair at Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th)
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	3m at Burzyn (15 th), 3m, 2f at Osowiec tower (16 th), 1m at Czechowizna Reservoir (18 th)
Tufted duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	12+ at Burzyn (15 th)
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	1m, 2f at Osowiec tower (16 th)
White-tailed eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2 at Osowiec boardwalk (16 th), 1 at Ciszewo (17 th), 10+ at Czechowizna (18 th)
Lesser spotted eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Distant singles at Goniadz (16 th), Kuligi (17 th), Dobarz (17 th & 18 th) & Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st); excellent views of two at Lasy Naturalne (21 st).
Great spotted eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	A probable at lunch at Osowiec boardwalk (16 th)
Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	1 at Dobarz (19 th) – a local rarity
Marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Widespread. Daily records, usually singles
Montagu's harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Widespread within Biebrza area, usually as singles. More numerous around Tykocin
Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Widespread and common, usually as singles
Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Singles at Kuligi (17 th , pale phase), Dobarz & Czechowizna Reservoir (18 th) & Białowieża Wildlife Park (19 th)
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Singles at Czechowizna Reservoir (18 th) & Palace Park (20 th)
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	One mobbed by crows at Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th)
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	One at service station (14 th) surprisingly only record
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	One mobbing white-tailed eagle at Osowiec boardwalk (16 th)
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	One seen on journey by Artur (14 th) was only record
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	Heard at Dobarz (16 th), Kuligi (17 th), Białowieża village (20 th) & Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st). Several calling at great snipe lek (21 st). Not seen
Spotted crane	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	Heard at Mscichy (15 th) & Dobarz (16 th). Not seen
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Scarce. Heard, but not seen at Osowiec boardwalk (16 th) & Tykocin white stork village (18 th)
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Small numbers at Brzostowo & Burzyn (15 th), Osowiec tower (16 th) & Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th)

Common crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	Widespread but more often heard than seen. Only one flock, of 20 over Mscichy (15 th)
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Common and widespread, especially around Biebrza
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Two at Brzostowo (15 th)
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Large flocks (minimum 80) at Brzostowo (15 th), seven at Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st)
Great snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	At least three heard at lek near Narew (21 st). Not seen
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Widespread records of drumming birds around Biebrza and at great snipe lek
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Roding birds at Dobarz (17 th – Adam and Peter W only), pygmy owl site near Białowieża (19 th) and Białowieża village (20 th)
Black-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Common at Mscichy & Brzostowo (15 th), a few at Goniadz (16 th) & Czechowizna Reservoir (18 th)
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Heard at Długa Luka boardwalk (16 th) only
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Common in Biebrza southern basin (15 th), a few at other wetlands around Biebrza and at Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st)
Green sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Seen at Dobarz most days, two at Lasy Naturalne (21 st)
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Numerous (minimum 20) at Brzostowo (15 th), two at Tykocin white stork village (18 th)
Little gull	<i>Larus minuta</i>	Full summer plumage adult at Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th)
Black-headed gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Widespread and numerous within Biebrza area
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Two at Czechowizna Reservoir (18 th)
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Two from tower at Grzedy/Red Marsh (17 th)
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Immature feeding on corpse at Brzostowo (15 th), five over Dobarz & three at Czechowizna (18 th)
Common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Singles on journey (14 th) & Brzostowo (15 th), three at Czechowizna Reservoir (18 th) & Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th)
Black tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Several among white-winged terns at Brzostowo (15 th), singles at Osowiec tower (16 th) & Czechowizna Reservoir (18 th)
White-winged tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	Widespread and numerous (flocks in low hundreds) throughout Biebrza area, small flocks at Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th) & Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st)
Whiskered tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Numerous in Biebrza southern basin (15 th), one at Czechowizna Reservoir (18 th), four at Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st)
Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livea</i> domest.	Widespread and numerous
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Widespread, generally in small flocks
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Widespread in Warsaw and around Biebrza area, but scarce around Białowieża
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Common, widespread and vocal. Seen often
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Heard at Dobarz (16 th – Ian only), excellent views in Palace Park (21 st)
Pygmy owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	Excellent views of female at dusk near Białowieża (19 th) thanks to Arek's persistence
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Heard at Dobarz (16 th – Artur & Adam only) & (17 th – Artur & Ian only)
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Widespread in small numbers, having only just arrived
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Common and widespread, usually as singles, their call became a familiar backdrop to early walks
Black woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	Singles seen on several mornings at Dobarz, from bus on several occasions, and in Strict Forest (20 th)
Grey-headed woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	Pair nesting in Palace Park proved elusive, but eventually seen well by Adam, Ian and Peter W
Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>	Singles at many sites on most days
Middle spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus medius</i>	Pair feeding young at nest in Strict Forest (20 th)
Lesser spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus minor</i>	Pair feeding young in Strict Forest (20 th) despite attentions of great spot
White-backed woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus leucotos</i>	Pair feeding young at nest from bridge near Tereminski (20 th)

Three-toed woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactyla</i>	Female's head at nest hole in Strict Forest (20 th)
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Two singing near Strict Forest (20 th), singles singing near Tereminski (20 th), & seen well at Palace Park (21 st & 22 nd)
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Common and widespread
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Several at Grzedy/Red Marsh (17 th), singles at Dobarz (17 th) & lady's slipper orchid site (19 th)
Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Small numbers in Biebrza southern basin (15 th), Ciszewo (17 th) & around Tykocin (18 th)
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Common and widespread
House martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Common and widespread
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Singles at Mscichy (15 th – Artur only) & Długa Luka (16 th)
Tree pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Singles at raised bog (16 th – Ian only) & Grzedy/Red marsh (17 th)
Blue-headed (yellow) wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	Widespread around Biebrza area. Common at Czechowizna Reservoir (18 th)
Citrine wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Two males/one female showed well at Mscichy (15 th)
White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	Common and widespread, usually in pairs
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Heard at Dobarz (15 th), where seen by Ian (17 th). Several heard in Strict Forest (20 th)
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Singles seen/heard by Adam only at Dobarz (18 th) and Tereminski bridge (20 th)
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Much less visible than in UK, but seen or heard most days
Thrush nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	Widespread after first arrivals (16 th). A few seen well
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Red-spotted male showed well at Kuligi Bridge (17 th) after possible seen from Osowiec boardwalk (16 th)
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Male singing in Palace Park (21 st) and Białowieża village (22 nd – Ian only)
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Common and widespread, especially around villages and farms
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Several in fields around western margins of southern basin (15 th)
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Singles seen daily at various sites
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Common and widespread
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Common and widespread, nesting colonially in many places
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Common and widespread – pleasing to note this was one of the easiest birds to find
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	One seen from bus in Białowieża Forest (21 st)
Grasshopper warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Singing around Długa Luka boardwalk on both visits (16 th & 18 th), near Strict Forest (20 th) & at great snipe lek (21 st)
Savi's warbler	<i>Locustella lusinioides</i>	Singing at various sites on most days. Seen well at Mscichy (15 th)
River warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>	Two singing at Podelany 2 (20 th) and in Palace Park (21 st & 22 nd). Seen well on 22 nd
Sedge warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Common and widespread
Aquatic warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	At least six singing from Długa Luka boardwalk on both visits (16 th & 18 th)
Great reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Widespread after first arrivals (16 th). Common at Dojlidy Fishponds, where seen well
Reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Seen and heard only from Osowiec boardwalk (16 th) and at Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th)
Icterine warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	Common and widespread. Seen well at Dobarz and elsewhere
Barred warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	Male singing at Podalany 1, Białowieża village (20 th & 22 nd)
Lesser whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Singles at Brzostowo (15 th), Osowiec tower (16 th), Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th) & Palace Park (20 th)
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Widespread
Garden warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Common and widespread
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Widespread and locally common
Wood warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Common and widespread – a frequent component of early morning birdsong
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Widespread

Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Common and widespread – one of the commonest woodland birds
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Heard on several mornings at Dobarz and in Palace park (22 nd)
Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Common and widespread – pleasing to see how common they appear to be
Red-breasted flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	At least two singing and seen well in Strict Forest (20 th), one singing at Lasy Naturalne (21 st)
Pied flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	One male in Strict Forest (20 th)
Collared flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	Widespread and common with Białowieża Forest
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudata</i>	One on Osowiec boardwalk (16 th), two at Podalany 2 (20 th) – all white-headed northern birds
Marsh tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>	Singles in Palace Park (20 th , 21 st & 22 nd)
Crested tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>	One in Strict Forest (20 th) seen by Peter C only
Blue tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Singles seen on most dates, but much more elusive than in UK
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Singles daily, but more elusive than in UK
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Singles at various sites around Białowieża
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	One seen well at Tereminski Bridge (20 th)
Short-toed treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	A treecreeper seen from the bus in Warsaw (14 th) may have been this species
Penduline tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	Two showed well at nest on Osowiec boardwalk (16 th). Also heard at Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th)
Red-backed shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	After 3 probables from bus (15 th), a pair finally arrived at Dobarz (18 th). Several sightings thereafter
Great grey shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Singles from Osowiec boardwalk (16 th), Grzedy/Red Marsh (17 th), Dobarz (17 th & 18 th) and two near Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st)
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Widespread singles daily
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Widespread, though less common than in UK
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Widespread, though less common than in UK
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Widespread in farmland around Biebrza area, but very scarce within Białowieża area
Hooded crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Common and widespread, though less so with Białowieża area
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Widespread, including good views of fledglings around Dobarz
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common and widespread
Golden oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Common and widespread. A typical component of the early morning walks. Excellent views at Tykocin white stork village
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Common and widespread
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Widespread in Biebrza southern basin (15 th), two at Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th), common in Palace Park (21 st)
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common and widespread
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Singles at Brzostowo (15 th) & Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th), then several daily in Białowieża village and Palace Park
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Widespread, but never common
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Common and widespread
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	One at Dobarz (17 th)
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Two in farmyard near Red Marsh (17 th – Ian only). Male in Białowieża village (20 th)
Common rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrurus</i>	One singing at Mscichy (15 th) was first arrival. Became more common and widespread as week progressed
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Pair from bus between Dobarz and Goniadz seen only by Ian (16 th)
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	One drinking in a roadside puddle (21 st) seen only by those at the front of the bus
Ortolan bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	One in fields near Brzostowo (15 th) proved elusive. Male showed well at quarry near Tykocin (18 th) and made up for lack of bee-eaters
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Common and widespread
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza scheoniclus</i>	Common and widespread in Biebrza area and at Dojlidy Fishponds.

MAMMALS		
Red squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Showed well at Dobarz (15 th) & from bus to Siemianowka (21 st)
Water vole	<i>Arvicola amphibia</i>	One under the boardwalk at Długa Luka (16 th) was very popular
Beaver	<i>Castor fiber</i>	Roadkill near Osowiec (15 th) & lots of evidence, but no sightings
Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Several sightings in Biebrza area & one at great snipe lek (21 st)
Wolf	<i>Canis lupis</i>	Kills at Grzedy/Red Marsh (17 th) & Lasy Naturalne (21 st) confirmed their presence, but no sightings
Raccoon dog	<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>	Artur pointed out a latrine at Grzedy/Red Marsh (17 th)
Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	Plenty of evidence
Wild boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Plenty of evidence, but no sightings
Red deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Seen from Osowiec tower (16 th), Goniadz (17 th), Podalany 2 (20 th) & female with calf at Lasy Naturalne (21 st)
Roe deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Seen at Dobarz (14 th & 15 th), near Grzedy/Red Marsh (18 th) and at great snipe lek (21 st), plus from bus on several occasions
Elk	<i>Alces alces</i>	Multiple sightings in Biebrza & proved one of the week's highlights at Długa Luka boardwalk (16 th)
European bison	<i>Bison bonasus</i>	Tracks and droppings at Lasy Naturalne (21 st) but no sightings
Bat sp		Sightings at Dobarz (17 th) & Białowieża (19 th) were probably pipistrelles, one in Białowieża (20 th) was much larger

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS		
Sand lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	One showed well on Osowiec boardwalk (16 th)
Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Ellen found one at raised bog (16 th)
Fire-bellied toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>	Extremely vocal at Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th), but not seen
Green toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>	One singing near great snipe lek (21 st) was initially thought to be a nightjar!
Common toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Seen in trackside puddles in Białowieża while searching for bison after thunderstorm (20 th)
Common tree frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>	Posed for photos in garden at Dobarz (17 th). Also in Białowieża (20 th) & Lasy Naturalne (21 st)
Common frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Seen at Dobarz (17 th) & Białowieża (20 th)
Marsh frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>	Their chorus was a frequent accompaniment
Pool frog	<i>Rana lessonae</i>	Definitely seen at Dojlidy (19 th) & Lasy Naturalne (21 st)
Edible frog	<i>Rana esculenta</i>	Definitely seen at Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th)

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS		
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	One seen only by Ian at Great Dukes picnic site (20 th)
Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Common and widespread
Green-veined white	<i>Pieris napi</i>	Common and widespread
Orange tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Common and widespread
Pale clouded yellow	<i>Colias hyale</i>	One at Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st)
Brimstone	<i>Gonopteryx rhamni</i>	Common and widespread
Wood white	<i>Leptidea sinapsis</i>	Relatively widespread
Holly blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Showed well on Osowiec boardwalk (16 th) & at lady's slipper orchid site (19 th)
Small blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	One found in Białowieża village by Ian & Peter W (22 nd)
Green hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Several showed well at lady's slipper orchid site (19 th)
Small copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	One in Dobarz garden (18 th)
Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>	A handful of records in Białowieża
Map	<i>Araschnia levana</i>	Widespread, and eventually seen well by all
Speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Seen on several occasions, but not common
Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Several sightings in Biebrza area
Small elephant hawkmoth	<i>Deilephila porcellus</i>	Artur found a stunning example at Grzedy/Red Marsh (17 th)

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES		
Banded demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	Showed well at Podalany(20 th)
Azure damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	Common and widespread
Variable damselfly	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>	Showed well at Osowiec boardwalk (16 th). Possibly overlooked elsewhere
Blue-tailed damselfly	<i>Ishnura elegans</i>	Seen at Osowiec boardwalk (16 th) & Dojlidy Fishponds (19 th)
Red-eyed damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	Several in ditch at Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st)
Hairy dragonfly	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>	Common and widespread
Club-tailed dragonfly	<i>Gomphus vulgatissimus</i>	Showed well at Osowiec boardwalk (16 th)
Green snaketail	<i>Ophiogomphus cecilia</i>	One seen well in flight at Siemianowka Reservoir (21 st)
Four-spotted chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	Common and widespread. There had obviously been a mass emergence
Broad-bodied chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	Patrolling pond at service area on return drive to Warsaw (22 nd)
White-faced darter	<i>Leucorrhinia dubia</i>	Common at Lasy Naturalne (21 st)
Large white-faced darter (yellow spotted whiteface)	<i>Leucorrhinia pectoralis</i>	Seen at raised bog & Osowiec boardwalk (16 th) and Lasy Naturalne (21 st)
Dainty white-faced darter (Lilypad whiteface)	<i>Leucorrhinia caudalis</i>	Seen at raised bog (16 th & 18 th)

PLANTS

The nomenclature and systemic order of the plant list generally follows 'The Flora of Vascular Plants in the Białowieża Forest' by Sokolowski, 1995, and 'List of Vascular Plants of the Biebrza National Park and the Biebrza Valley' by Werpachowski 2003.

Bw = Białowieża National Park Bb = Biebrza National Park Siem = Siemianowka Reservoir
(locations where noted in 2010)

Ferns and allies		
Lycopodiaceae		
Interrupted clubmoss	<i>Lycopodium annotinum</i>	Raised bog in Bb
Equisetaceae		
Common horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Bw, Bb
Water horsetail	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	Bw, Bb and Siem
Shady horsetail	<i>Equisetum pratense</i>	Bw, Bb
Wood horsetail	<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>	Bw, Bb
Hypolepidaceae		
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Widespread
Woodsiaceae		
Lady fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Bw, Bb
Dryopteridaceae		
Male fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Widespread in forests
Gymnospermae		
Pinaceae		
Larch	<i>Larix deciduas</i>	Scattered records
Norway spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	Dominant in wetter forest, co-dominant in drier sites
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Locally dominant
Cupressaceae		
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Widespread. Common in places
Angiospermae – Dicotyledons		
Salicaceae		
Black poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i>	Bw
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>	Damp forest/streambanks
Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	Widespread
Bay willow	<i>Salix pentandra</i>	Red Marsh
+ various others not identified.		
Betulaceae		
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Widespread, very common
Grey alder	<i>Alnus incana</i>	Bw, Bb

Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Drier woodland
Downy birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Widespread, esp. Bb
Black alder		
Corylaceae		
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Locally common in Bw
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Bw, Bb
Fagaceae		
Common oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Widespread
Red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Around Białowieża village
Ulmaceae		
Wych elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Bw
Cannabaceae		
Hop	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Bw, Bb
Urticaceae		
Stinging nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Widespread
Loranthaceae		
Mistletoe	<i>Viscum album</i>	Widespread, most on poplar
Aristolochiaceae		
Asarabacca	<i>Asarum europaeum</i>	Bw (Lasy Naturalne)
Polygonaceae		
Bistort	<i>Polygonum bistorta</i>	Wet areas in Bw
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Widespread
Sheep's sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Local
Water dock	<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	Widespread, in leaf
Broad-leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Widespread
Caryophyllaceae		
Common mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Widespread
Ragged robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Common in wet meadows
White campion	<i>Silene alba</i>	Bw
Greater stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Local at B
Common chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>	Widespread
Wood stitchwort	<i>Stellaria nemorum</i>	B, common in woods
Nymphaeaceae		
Yellow water-lily	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Bb, Bw
Ranunculaceae		
Baneberry	<i>Actaea spicata</i>	Bb Strict Reserve
Wood anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Widespread
False wood anemone		Bb Strict Reserve
Marsh marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Widespread
Hepatica	<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Red Marsh & Lasy Naturalne (in leaf)
Eastern pasque flower	<i>Pulsatilla patens</i>	Red Marsh
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Scattered records
Common water crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	In ditches Bb
Fan-leaved water crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus circinatus</i>	In ditches Bb
Lesser spearwort	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Bb, Bw
Greater spearwort	<i>Ranunculus lingua</i>	Bb
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Widespread
Celery-leaved buttercup	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Bb
Papaveraceae		
Great celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Widespread/very common
Cruciferae		
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Widespread
Horse radish	<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	Widespread
Shepherd's purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Widespread/common
Coralroot bittercress	<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	Bw, in seed and flower
Lady's smock	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Widespread
Hedge mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Bb
+ many others not identified.		
Droseraceae		
Common sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Bb raised bog
Crassulaceae		
Wall-pepper	<i>Sedum acre</i>	Widespread
Orpine	<i>Sedum telephium</i>	Red Marsh

Saxifragaceae		
Alternate-leaved golden saxifrage	<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>	Bb, Bw
Grossulariaceae		
Redcurrant	<i>Ribes rubrum</i>	Bb, Bw
Rosaceae		
Lady's mantle	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i> + another	Bb, Bw
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Bb, Bw
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Widespread in leaf
Wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Widespread
Water avens	<i>Geum rivale</i>	Widespread/common
Crab apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Local Bb
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Widespread
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Widespread/locally abundant
Marsh cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	Bogs at Bb and Siem (in leaf)
Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Widespread
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Scattered
Bird cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>	Bw, Bb
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Scattered
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Bb
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Locally common in forests
Stone bramble	<i>Rubus saxatilis</i>	Bb
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Scattered
Leguminosae		
Spring pea	<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>	Bw
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Widespread/common
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Widespread/common
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Widespread
Polygalaceae		
Common milkwort	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Woods near great snipe lek
Oxalidaceae		
Wood sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Common
Geraniaceae		
Common stork's-bill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Widespread
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Widespread
Wood crane's-bill	<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>	Widespread
Aceraceae		
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Widespread/common
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Widespread
Hippocastanaceae		
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Widespread
Tiliaceae		
Small-leaved lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Widespread
Guttiferae		
Common St. John's-wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Bw, Bb
Violaceae		
Field pansy	<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Bw
Heath dog violet	<i>Viola canina</i>	Bb, Bw
Common dog violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Bb, Bw
Heartsease	<i>Viola tricolour</i>	Bb
Onograceae		
Evening primrose sp	<i>Oenothera</i> sp	In leaf Bb, Red Marsh
Araliaceae		
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Scattered
Umbelliferae		
Ground elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Widespread/common
Wild angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Bw, Bb
Fool's watercress	<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Bb
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Widespread/common
Sanicle	<i>Sanicula europeae</i>	Bw
Steppe parsley	<i>Peucedanum oreoselinum</i>	Red Marsh
Milk parsley	<i>Peucedanum palustre</i>	Bw (Lasy Naturalne)
Ericaceae		
Bog rosemary	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Raised bog at Bb
Ling	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Widespread/local

Labrador tea	<i>Ledum palustre</i>	Raised bog at Bb
Bilberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bw, Bb
Bog bilberry	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>	Raised bog at Bb
Cowberry	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	Widespread/local
Primulaceae		
Water-violet	<i>Hottonia palustris</i>	Bw, Bb
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	Bw, Bb
Chickweed wintergreen	<i>Trientalis europaea</i>	Local in forest at Bw, Bb
Northern androsace	<i>Androsace septentrionalis</i>	Bb (Osowiec)
Oleaceae		
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Bw, Bb
Menyanthaceae		
Bogbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bogs at Bb
Rubiaceae		
Crosswort	<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Bb, Bw
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Scattered
Sweet woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Abundant in forest at Bw
Marsh bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>	Bw, Bb
Heath bedstraw	<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Red Marsh
Polemoniaceae		
Jacob's ladder	<i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>	Bb
Boraginaceae		
Viper's bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Widespread
Water forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scorpiodes</i>	Bb, Red Marsh
Common comfrey	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Local at Bw and Bb
Changing forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis discolor</i>	Bb, Red Marsh
Callitrichaceae		
Water starwort sp	<i>Callitriche</i> sp	Waterways at Bw
Labiatae		
Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Widespread/common
Common hemp-nettle	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Bw, Bb
Ground ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Bb, Bw
Yellow archangel	<i>Lamiasstrum galeobdolon</i>	Widespread/common on roadsides
White deadnettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	Roadsides
Water mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Bb (not in flower)
Selfheal	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Widespread/common
Hedge woundwort (leaf)	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Bw (not in flower)
Thyme sp	<i>Thymus</i> sp	Red Marsh
Scrophulariaceae		
Toothwort	<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	Bb strict reserve
Wood cow-wheat	<i>Melampyrum nemorosum</i>	Bw (not in flower)
Common cow-wheat	<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Red Marsh, Bw
Yellow rattle	<i>Rhianthus minor</i>	Bb (lady's slipper orchid site)
Common figwort (leaf)	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Dojlidy
Blue water speedwell	<i>Veronica Anagallis-aquatica</i>	Bb in ditches
Brooklime	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Widespread in ditches
Bird's-eye speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Widespread/abundant
Thyme-leaved speedwell	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Widespread
Adoxaceae		
Moschatel	<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	Bw Strict reserve (not in flower)
Plantaginaceae		
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Widespread
Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	Widespread
Hoary plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>	Bb
Caprifoliaceae		
Common elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Widespread
Guelder-rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	B, Bb
Dipsacaceae		
Field scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Scattered records
Compositae		
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Widespread
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Scattered
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	Bb
Pineapple-weed	<i>Chamnomila suaveolens</i>	Scattered
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Scattered

Marsh thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Locally common
Hemp agrimony	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Widespread in leaf
Common cudweed	<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Red Marsh
Mouse-ear hawkweed	<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Locally common
Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	Scattered
Ox-eye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Scattered
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Scattered
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Widespread, in seed

Many fungi and lichens, especially at Białowieża, not identified

MONOCOTYLEDONS

Alismataceae

Water plantain	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Widespread in ditches (not in flower)
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Hydrocharitaceae

Frog-bit	<i>Hydrocharis morus-ranea</i>	Bw, Bb s
Water soldier	<i>Stratoides aloides</i>	Locally common at Bb

Iridaceae

Yellow flag	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Widespread/common (not in flower)
Siberian iris (purple)	<i>Iris sibirica</i>	In gardens only

Araceae

Bog arum or white calla	<i>Calla palustris</i>	Locally common Bw (Lasy Naturalne)
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Liliaceae

Ramsons	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Bw strict reserve
Lily of the valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Locally numerous, esp. In Bb
May lily	<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>	Locally numerous
Herb Paris	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Locally common
Solomon's seal	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Bb, Bw
Angular Solomon's seal	<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	Bw

Juncaceae

Several not identified

Gramineae (many not identified)

Grey hair-grass	<i>Corynephorus canescens</i>	Red Marsh
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Common, also fodder crop
Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Locally dominant

Lemnaceae

Common duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>	B, Bb
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Typhaceae

Great reedmace (bulrush)	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Widespread
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Cyperaceae

Common cotton-grass	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Bogs at B and Bb
Hare's tail cotton-grass	<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	Bogs at B and Bb
Wood club-rush	<i>Scripus sylvaticus</i>	Widespread
+ many others not identified		

Orchidaceae

Broad-leaved marsh orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Bw
Common twayblade	<i>Listera ovata</i>	Bb (lady's slipper orchid site)
Bird's-nest orchid	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bb (lady's slipper orchid site)
Yellow lady's slipper	<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	Bb (sponsored by Honeyguide)

