

BirdWatch Ireland

**South Dublin Branch
Trip to Poland
21st - 27th May 2007**

Trip Report



Day 1

After meeting in Dublin Airport at the early hour of 5am, we had an uneventful flight to the Polish capital, Warsaw. On arrival we transferred to our hotel on the northern outskirts of the city. En-route we added our first species to the trip list in the form of Swift, Rook, Hooded Crow, Jay, as well as one of the surprisingly few Kestrels seen during the trip.

Our hotel, the Jabłonna Palace Park Hotel, was constructed during the 17th Century for the local nobility, and consequently is set in a large area of deciduous forest and with access to the banks of the River Vistula. After a refreshing lunch we explored this amazing area encountering typical Central European species such as Serin, Short-toed Treecreeper and Garden Warbler, while Black Kite and Raven were seen briefly. Two rather ragged Middle Spotted Woodpeckers were busy feeding their young in an oak tree. Away from the woodland and in the flood plain of the river several Thrush Nightingales were heard, but remained typically elusive. A pair of Red-backed Shrikes gave fantastic views, while a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker fed rather unconcernedly only a few metres from us. Along the shore of the Vistula, Marsh Warbler, a pair of Kingfishers, several Little Ringed Plovers and Common Terns were noted. At dusk a group of Marsh Terns flew over quickly towards their roosting site, but could not be safely identified (Black/White-winged Black).



Day 2

Following our early start to the previous start, we had a relatively late start and limited ourselves to a quick scan of the Vistula. The pair of Kingfishers and Common Terns were again present, being joined by adult Little and Black Terns, as well as several Dunlin. We could easily have spent several more days exploring this wonderful area, but we had to move on! Our next destination was Biebrza National Park. Set in the north-west of Poland, it covers several hundred square kilometres of marshes, bogs and woodland in the Biebrza River valley. It harbours important populations of several threatened bird species, most notably Aquatic Warbler and Great Snipe. En-route to Biebrza we began to see our first White Storks, most seen sitting on nests, while fields around a petrol station produced Wheatear, several Yellow Wagtails and a Tawny Pipit. Following lunch in a restaurant at the edge of the marshes (Fieldfare, Reed Warbler, Black Tern, many White Storks), we moved to an observation tower overlooking the vast Ławki bog. Several Grasshopper, Savi's and Aquatic Warblers were heard, while an Icterine Warbler and a Common Rosefinch were seen briefly. Several Marsh and Montagu's Harriers, as well as a small group of Common Cranes were noted flying over the bog. In the distance we noted several European Elk.



Following dinner, we made our way to the Gugny Great Snipe lek – one of the most famous birding sites within the National Park. Around 300 pairs of this species breed within the Park and this remains one of the most accessible areas to see lekking males in spring. Although Great Snipe had been seen in the previous days, we were out of luck this evening. However, we were compensated by hearing several Corncrakes, Nightjar and a single

Spotted Crake nearby. After a long day, we were grateful to arrive at our hotel in Augustów.

Day 3

Those who got up early despite the late arrival the previous night were rewarded with the only Hobby of the trip while birding before breakfast. Our abode for the next few days was the Hotel Warszawa in Augustów, situated on the shore of lake amidst a large area of coniferous forest. The early morning birders also added Common Redstart, Great Reed Warbler and Crested Tit to our growing trip list.

Our first stop of the day was at the village of Mścichy from where a trail leads to an observation tower within the National Park. Within the village we had good views of an adult White Stork at a nest with three chicks, while several House Sparrows were seen building nests within the large Stork nest. A short distance along the trail we got good views of an adult Penduline Tit perched obligingly on top of some small willows, while a Hoopoe was seen briefly. Further along, Common Rosefinch and Icterine Warbler were noted, while a group of around 50 White Storks were reluctant to move from the trail. Shortly before the observation tower, the path passed through an area of flooded grassland, where a colony of several hundred White-winged Black Terns was busy building nests. In their midst several Black and Whiskered Terns were noted. The observation tower gave a good view over the Biebrza river valley, with many more Marsh Terns evident in the distance. Our next stop was at the observation tower at Brzostowo in the southern sector of Biebrza National Park. This site is one of the best for waders and it didn't disappoint. Ringed Plover, Wood Sandpiper and an adult male Ruff were noted, while a small flock of Common Crane was seen in the distance. During lunch, the second Hoopoe of the day flew overhead, but unfortunately was missed by most. Next we moved to the agricultural areas around Wizna, where several Montagu's Harriers and single Grey Partridge and Ortolan were noted. Our last stop of the day was at Ławki Bog where we finally got reasonable views of Aquatic Warbler.



Day 4

The early risers noted Black Woodpecker, Wryneck, Common Redstart and an Eastern Hedgehog near the hotel. The latter is one of the three European hedgehog species and occurs from central Poland eastwards. It has a distinctive white stripe along its flanks, but is similar to Irish Western Hedgehogs in other respects.



On our way to the Czerwone Bagno ("Red Bog") a Red Kite was seen from the bus, a rare breeder in eastern Poland and an unexpected addition to the trip list. Similarly unexpected was a Black Woodpecker also noted from the bus. The Red Bog consists of the wide floodplain of the Biebrza River and is one of the main breeding sites for waders such as Redshank and Black-tailed Godwit. Both species were seen frequently, performing their distinctive song-flights. Several raptors were noted, including our first Lesser Spotted Eagle of the trip. Following lunch we made our way to the Augustów forest, which consists of a mosaic of large lakes and dense woodland. Small groups of Goldeneye, Goosander and Great Crested Grebes were noted on the lakes, while Icterine Warbler, Wood Warbler, Siskin and a single

male Pied Flycatcher were seen in the forests. One nestling Ural Owl was seen sitting exposed in a dead oak tree, with the parents remaining (luckily!) out of sight.



Day 5

Back on the road again! Today we left Augustów and the Biebrza Marshes for Białowieża National Park via Białystok and Siemianówka Reservoir. Our first stop was at the Dojlidy fish ponds in Białystok, the regional capital of eastern Poland. Fish ponds are a common feature in most towns and villages in Central/Eastern Europe. They attract a wide diversity of wildlife and many have been converted to nature reserves. Within minutes of arrival, several Penduline Tits, Great Reed & Reed Warblers, as well as a Bittern had been noted. The ponds held several Gadwall and Garganey, while eight roosting summer-plumaged Red-necked Grebes were seen on one of the larger ponds. One Savi's Warbler gave good views while singing from reeds.



Our next stop was at the Siemianówka Reservoir, one of the most important wetland sites in eastern Poland, along with the Biebrza Marshes. The fish ponds at the northern end of the reservoir held a Red-necked Grebe, Whooper Swan and all three marsh terns, while a single adult White-tailed Eagle flew north overhead. After lunch at the ponds, we scanned the reservoir noting several Great White Egrets, two White-tailed Eagles, hundreds of marsh terns and Yellow Wagtails. A single Nutcracker and Barred Warbler were seen briefly. Birding around the fields of the village of Bachury added Great Grey Shrike and a small flock of Woodlarks to our trip list. One or two pairs of Roller breed in the area most years, but we were too early in the year for any real chance of seeing this species. The final stop of the day was along the southern shore of the reservoir, an

area known as Siemieniawkowszczyzna. Viewing the reservoir from here we had good views of several Great White Egrets and many marsh terns. In a nearby meadow we had fantastic views of a pair of Citrine Wagtails, a species continually expanding through Central Europe; up to 50 pairs are thought now to breed annually in Poland. Walking through the adjacent coniferous

woodland brought good views of more Woodlarks, as well as single Tree Pipit and Hoopoe. Another (or the same?) male Citrine Wagtail was noted, while a singing Hazel Grouse was an unexpected bonus. A relatively short drive brought us to our hotel in the village of Białowieża.

Day 6

Birding the woodland around Białowieża village before breakfast produced two brief views of Hazel Grouse, as well as better ones of River Warbler, Hoopoe and several Wrynecks. After breakfast we met our local guide Maciej and headed for the “Dead Forest” near the village of Topolany. This area of large, dying trees is a haven for woodpeckers and we weren’t disappointed noting Great Spotted, Middle Spotted and a distantly heard Three-toed Woodpecker. Several singing Collared Flycatchers were seen, while Lesser Spotted Eagle and a flock of Common Cranes were seen flying overhead. In Topolany, a pair of Wrynecks was observed feeding several chicks, while close by a pair of Hawfinches were busy feeding theirs. A single Grey-headed Woodpecker was seen briefly in flight.

Following lunch, we explored the woodland around Białowieża, noting several Lesser Spotted Eagles, many Woodlarks and Wood Warblers, as well as the first and only Long-tailed Tit of the trip. A sub-adult-plumaged Barred Warbler gave rather frustratingly brief views, as did a Thrush Nightingale.



After a short dinner we were back birding the “Dead Forest” at Topolany, noting again Great Spotted, Middle Spotted, Three-toed and White-backed Woodpeckers. One male Collared Flycatcher was still singing, while several Woodcocks were seen roding over the forest. Our next stop was to look for a pair of Pygmy Owls. After some initial confusion over the exact tree they were nesting in, one bird gave good views perched on a branch. A single Crested Tit was also noted. With night rapidly falling, we walked through the forest hearing several calling Tawny Owls and many more roding

Woodcocks. Unfortunately the hoped-for Tengmalm’s Owls did not oblige and with an early start the next day we had to return to our hotel.

Back in Białowieża we reflected on a wonderful trip while listening to the amazing “night chorus” of dozens of Corncrakes, Great Reed, Grasshopper and River Warblers, as well as a single Quail, while an approaching thunderstorm added a wonderful lightshow!

Day 7

Our last day in Poland; due to the early start, birding was relatively limited. However, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Black Redstart, Crested Lark and Lesser Whitethroat were recorded. The journey back to Warsaw and ultimately to Ireland passed off without a hitch.

Our final trip list came to 163 species, the highlights being almost too numerous to mention!

Thanks must go to our ever-patient driver Tomasz of Mazurkas Travel, Polish birding expert Michał Polakowski for his advice, and especially to Danuta Pawlak of OTOP, the Polish BirdLife International partner, for her invaluable assistance in organising the trip. For more information on OTOP and the excellent work that its staff and volunteers do, visit www.otop.org.pl.

Species List

1. Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

- One Little Grebe was seen from the observation tower at Brzostowo in the Biebrza Marshes.
- Several Little Grebes were noted at the Dojlidy fish ponds in Białystok.

2. Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

- Nine summer-plumaged Red-necked Grebes were seen at the Dojlidy fish ponds.
- A single bird was seen on the ponds south of Bachury at the Siemianówka Reservoir.

3. Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

- Common on the Augustów Lakes such as Necko, Serwy and Studzieniczne. Several displaying pairs were seen on Jezioro (Lake) Wigry from the observation point near Gawrych.
- Fairly common on the Dojlidy fish ponds and on Siemianówka Reservoir.

4. Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis

- Several Cormorants were seen on the River Vistula near the Palace Park Hotel in Jabłonna.
- A large colony of Cormorants was observed on Lake Serwy near Augustów.
- Cormorants in Poland are a different sub-species (*sinensis*) to those found in Ireland (*carbo*). This sub-species is found throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

5. Bittern

Botaurus stellaris

- Several “booming” Bitterns were heard in the Biebrza Marshes.
- One Bittern was seen briefly in flight in the Dojlidy fish ponds near Białystok.

6. Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

- Uncommonly seen in the Biebrza Marshes. The relatively low numbers of herons seen in Eastern Poland was rather surprising.

7. Great White Egret

Egretta alba alba

- One Great White Egret was seen from the observation tower at Brzostowo in the Biebrza Marshes.
- Uncommonly observed around the shore of the Siemianówka Reservoir.

8. White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

- Common throughout Eastern Poland. Nests with chicks were seen in most villages. Around 40 to 50 White Storks were seen in the fields around the observation tower in Mścichy.

9. Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

- Large herds of Mute Swan were noted at Brzostowo in the Biebrza Marshes, Lake Necko in Augustów, the Dojlidy fish ponds and on Siemianówka Reservoir.

10. Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus

- One pair with four cygnets was seen at the northern shore of Siemianówka Reservoir. As Whooper Swans reach their southern distribution limit in Poland, the species only sporadically breeds in small numbers. This particular pair has apparently for several years at this location.

11. Greylag Goose

Anser anser

- Around 20 to 30 Greylag Geese were seen from the observation tower at Brzostowo in the Biebrza Marshes.
- Similarly, small numbers of Greylag Goose were noted at Siemianówka Reservoir.

12. Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

- Common throughout Eastern Poland.

13. Gadwall

Anas strepera

- One adult male Gadwall was seen from the observation tower in Brzostowo.
- This species was fairly common on the Dojlidy fish ponds near Białystok and on Siemianówka Reservoir.

14. Garganey

Anas querquedula

- A male Garganey was seen briefly in Brzostowo.
- Several Garganeys were noted at the Dojlidy fish ponds and at Siemianówka Reservoir.

15. Pochard

Aythya ferina

- One Pochard was seen from the observation tower at Mścichy in the Biebrza Marshes.
- Several were also noted at Brzostowo.
- Several Pochards were observed at the Dojlidy fish ponds and at Siemianówka Reservoir.

16. Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

- Tufted Ducks were seen on several of the Augustów lakes (mainly Necko, Studzieniczne and Wigry), as well as in the Dojlidy fish ponds.

17. Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula

- A few Goldeneye were seen on Lakes Studzienniczne, Serwy and Wigry near Augustów. This species breeds mostly in abandoned woodpecker holes and the area around Augustów represents the breeding stronghold of this species in Poland.

18. Goosander

Mergus merganser

- Small groups of Goosander were seen on Lakes Necko and Studzieniczne near Augustów. As with Goldeneye, the Augustów area holds the majority of breeding Goosanders in Poland.

19. White-tailed Eagle

Haliaeetus albicilla

- Two adult and one sub-adult White-tailed Eagles were noted at the northern end of Siemianówka Reservoir. After Norway, Poland holds the second highest number of breeding pairs (ca. 500) of this impressive raptor species.

20. Lesser Spotted Eagle

Aquila pomarina

- One adult Lesser Spotted Eagle was seen perched on the ground near Kopytkowo in the Biebrza Marshes.
- At least seven were seen around Białowiesca village, at times giving quite close views.

21. Black Kite

Milvus migrans

- One Black Kite was seen briefly flying over the Palace Park Hotel in Jabłonna.
- Single birds were noted at several sites in the Biebrza Marshes.

22. Red Kite

Milvus milvus

- One adult Red Kite was seen about 20Km south of Augustów. Fewer than 700 pairs of this species breed in Poland, the majority in the west of the country. Only one or two pairs are known to breed around Augustów.

23. Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus

- Fairly common in the Biebrza Marshes and at Siemianówka Reservoir. Single birds were also seen in agricultural areas, while driving between sites.
- Two Marsh Harriers were seen briefly at Lake Wigry near Augustów.

24. Montagu's Harrier

Circus pygargus

- Single Montagu's Harriers were noted at several sites in the Biebrza Marshes. Two male Montagu's Harriers gave good views from the observation towers at Ławki Bagno and Kopytkowo.

25. Buzzard

Buteo buteo

- Small numbers of Buzzards were seen on all days.

26. Honey Buzzard

Pernis apivorus

- Single Honey Buzzards were observed flying quite high over Hotel Warszawa in Augustów.

27. Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nisus

- One was seen in the grounds of the Palace Park Hotel in Jabłonna.
- A single Sparrowhawk was noted near Siemiatycze on the drive back to Warsaw.

28. Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

- Two Kestrels were seen at Warsaw Airport.
- The only other Kestrels seen during the trip were two near Grajewo.

29. Hobby

Falco subbuteo

- Two Hobbies were seen in Augustów forest.

30. Hazel Grouse

Bonasa bonasia

- One Hazel Grouse was heard near the observation tower on the southern shore of Siemianówka Reservoir. Interestingly, the call of this species is the most highly-pitched of any European bird.
- One Hazel Grouse was seen and another heard in Białowieża Forest at the eastern end of Białowieża village.

31. Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

- A single Grey Partridge was seen while observing an Ortolan near Wizna in the Biebrza Marshes.

32. Pheasant

Phasianus colchius

- One was seen from the bus near Goniądz.

33. Quail

Coturnix coturnix

- One Quail was heard from Pensjonat Unikat in Białowieża village on the final night.

34. Corncrake

Crex crex

- Heard fairly commonly in Eastern Poland, especially in Białowieża village.

35. Spotted Crane

Porzana porzana

- A single Spotted Crane was heard near Gugny in the Biebrza Marshes on the 23/5.

36. Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

- One was heard in the Dojlidy fish ponds.
- Several Water Rails were noted at the Siemianówka Reservoir.

37. Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

- A few Moorhens were observed at most of the wetland sites visited.

38. Coot

Fulica atra

- Fairly common on the Augustów lakes.

39. Common Crane

Grus grus

- A single Common Crane was observed from the observation tower in the Ławki Bagno in the Biebrza Marshes on the 22/5.
- Six Common Cranes were seen from the observation tower at Brzostowo.
- Another single Common Crane was noted at Kopytkowo.
- In Białowieża Forest, two Common Cranes were seen near Teremiski village.

40. Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

- Six or seven Little Ringed Plovers were seen on the banks of the Vistula near the Palace Park Hotel in Jabłonna.

41. Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

- One Ringed Plover was seen from the observation tower at Brzostowo.

42. Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

- Small numbers of Lapwings were seen on all days. This species was fairly common at the wetland sites visited, while a few were even seen in rather intensively farmed areas while driving to and from Warsaw.

43. Dunlin

Calidris alpina

- Several Dunlins were noted on the Vistula at Jabłonna on the 22/5.
- 10 summer-plumaged Dunlins were seen from the observation tower at Brzostowo in the Biebrza Marshes.

44. Redshank

Tringa totanus

- Seen fairly commonly in the Biebrza Marshes, for example at Goniądz, Ławki Bagno and Brzostowo.

45. Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

- One Wood Sandpiper was observed at Brzostowo.
- Two were recorded at Siemianówka Reservoir.

46. Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochruros

- A single Green Sandpiper was seen near Budy in the Biebrza Marshes.
- Further single birds were noted at Siemianówka Reservoir and near Teremiski village in the Białowieża Forest.

47. Common Sandpiper

Actitis leucuros

- The only Common Sandpiper of the trip was recorded on the southern shore of Lake Wigry near Augustów.

48. Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa limosa

- Fairly common in the Biebrza Marshes. All Black-tailed Godwits in Poland belong to the nominate sub-species (*limosa*), whilst birds wintering in Ireland are of the Icelandic sub-species (*islandica*).
- Several were seen at Siemianówka Reservoir.

49. Woodcock

Scolopax rusticola

- One roding Woodcock was noted near Gugny in the Biebrza Marshes.
- This species was quite common in Białowieża Forest.

50. Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

- Common in the Biebrza Marshes, where many drumming males were heard.
- Several displaying Snipe were also noted at Siemianówka Reservoir.

51. Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

- One summer-plumaged male was seen briefly from the observation tower at Brzostowo. This particular male had a predominantly black "ruff", with a few white feathers interspersed.

52. Curlew

Numenius arquata

- Two Curlews were seen in the Ławki Bagno on the 23/5. As in Ireland, this species is declining throughout Poland and less than 700 pairs breed in the country.

53. Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

- Common throughout Eastern Poland, especially at Siemianówka Reservoir.

54. Common Gull

Larus canus

- One flock of Common Gulls was seen on the Vistula near Jabłonna on the first day of the trip.
- Around 10 were seen at the northern end of Siemianówka Reservoir.

55. Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

- Three or four Common Terns were seen on the River Vistula at Jabłonna.
- Small numbers were also recorded at several sites in the Biebrza Marshes, as well as at Siemianówka Reservoir.

56. Little Tern

Sterna albifrons

- One Little Tern was observed on the Vistula near Jabłonna.
- Another single Little Tern was noted from the observation tower at Brzostowo.
- A few were seen at Siemianówka Reservoir.

57. Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

- One was noted on the Vistula at Jabłonna on the 22/5.
- Uncommonly observed in the Biebrza Marshes, at the Dojlidy fish ponds in Białystok and on the Siemianówka Reservoir.

58. White-winged Black Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

- Common throughout the Biebrza Marshes. A large nesting colony of this wonderful marsh tern was observed at close range near the Mścichy observation tower.
- White-winged Black Terns were also commonly observed at Siemianówka Reservoir.

59. Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybridus

- Although not as numerous as White-winged Black Tern, Whiskered Terns were noted in good numbers at Mścichy, Brzostowo, the Dojlidy fish ponds and on Siemianówka Reservoir. Although superficially resembling a Common Tern, Whiskered Terns have distinctly greyer underparts and lack tail streamers.

60. Feral Pigeon

Columba livia (Domest.)

- Common throughout Eastern Poland.

61. Woodpigeon

Columba palumbus

- Seen on all days during the trip, but generally not as common as in Ireland.

62. Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

- Small numbers noted in a few villages in Eastern Poland.

63. Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur

- Surprisingly, the only Turtle Dove of the trip was seen briefly from the bus near Łomża on the 22/5. Given the large amount of suitable habitat, higher numbers of Turtle Doves had been expected.

64. Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

- Heard and occasionally seen on all days of the trip.

65. Ural Owl

Strix uralensis

- One well grown chick was seen at the southern shore of Lake Wigry. This species breeds uncommonly in north-east Poland, as well as in the Tatra Mountains in the south.

66. Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

- Several Tawny Owls were heard in Białowieża Forest, while searching for other owl species.

67. Pygmy Owl

Glaucidium passerinum

- One Pygmy Owl gave excellent views in Białowieża Forest after around 30 minutes of searching. Possibly several more were heard before seeing this individual after we recognised the distinctive high-pitched call, not dissimilar to that of a Hazel Grouse!

68. Nightjar

Caprimulgus europaeus

- A distant Nightjar was heard near Gugny in the Biebrza Marshes on the 22/5.

69. Swift

Apus apus

- Common in Eastern Poland and seen on all days of the trip. Fairly common in the Białowieża Forest, where this species is known to nest in hollow trees.

70. Hoopoe

Upupa epops

- There were several brief sightings of single Hoopoes in Mścichy village, from the observation tower at Brzostow, at the southern shore of Siemianówka Reservoir and in Białowieża village.

71. Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

- One pair was observed on the River Vistula at Jabłonna on the 21 and 22/5. They were observed passing fish to each other as part of a courtship ritual.

72. Black Woodpecker

Dryocopus martius

- One Black Woodpecker was seen for several minutes in the grounds of the Palace Park Hotel in Jabłonna.
- Another single Black Woodpecker was seen in flight near Goniądz in the Biebrza Marshes.
- One was noted in the coniferous forest near the Hotel Warszawa in Augustów on the 25/5.

73. Green Woodpecker

Picus viridis

- One Green Woodpecker was seen briefly near the Palace Park Hotel in Jabłonna.
- A further single was noted in Białowieża Forest.

74. Grey-headed Woodpecker

Picus canus

- The only Grey-headed Woodpecker of the trip was seen briefly in flight near Teremiski in the Białowieża Forest.

75. Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopus major

- Seen in small numbers on almost all days of the trip. A nest was found along the Żebra Żubra trail in Białowieża Forest.

76. Middle Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopus medius

- A pair of Middle Spotted Woodpeckers with an active nest was found close to the Palace Park Hotel in Jabłonna.
- Another pair with nest was found near Teremiski in Białowieża Forest.

77. Syrian Woodpecker

Dendrocopus syriacus

- One Syrian Woodpecker was seen near Bachury at the northern shore of Siemianówka Reservoir. Formerly confined to South Eastern Europe, this species has expanded its range dramatically north-westwards in the last 50 years and now breeds in Southern Germany.

78. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopus minor

- The only Lesser Spotted Woodpecker of the trip was seen near the Palace Park Hotel in Jabłonna. Similar in size to a Bullfinch, this is Europe's smallest woodpecker.

79. Three-toed Woodpecker

Picoides tridactylus

- A single Three-toed Woodpecker was heard and seen briefly near Teremiski in Białowieża Forest and later seen briefly in flight.

80. White-backed Woodpecker

Dendrocopus leucotus

- As with Three-toed Woodpecker, a single was seen briefly near Teremiski in Białowieża Forest.

81. Wryneck

Jynx torquilla

- One Wryneck was seen near the Hotel Warszawa in Augustów.
- A pair of Wrynecks with an active nest was seen well near Teremiski in Białowieża Forest.
- One bird was seen singing from telegraph poles in Białowieża village.

82. Skylark

Alauda arvensis

- Fairly common throughout Eastern Poland and recorded on almost all days of the trip.

83. Woodlark

Ulula arborea

- Several Woodlarks were heard at the southern shore of Siemianówka Reservoir. Two were flushed from a dry field near Bachury and gave great views perched on electricity wires.
- Uncommonly encountered in Białowieża forest.

84. Crested Lark

Galerida cristata

- The only Crested Lark of the trip was one seen briefly from the bus on the drive back to Warsaw on the 27/5.

85. Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

- Small numbers of Sand Martins were recorded on all days during the trip.

86. Swallow

Hirundo rustica

- Common to abundant throughout Eastern Poland.

87. House Martin

Delichon urbica

- As with Swallows, House Martins were recorded daily.

88. Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

- A single Tree Pipit was seen well in coniferous forest at the southern shore of Siemianówka Reservoir.

89. Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

- Common in the Biebrza Marshes.
- A few Meadow Pipits were noted in open areas of Białowieża Forest.

90. White Wagtail

Motacilla alba alba

- Fairly common in Eastern Poland and recorded daily.

91. Citrine Wagtail

Motacilla citreola

- A pair was noted at the southern shore of Siemianówka Reservoir. Both adults gave good views, but were not approached closely for fear of disturbing an active nest. In the last two decades, Citrine Wagtails have spread westwards throughout Eastern Europe and up to 50 pairs now breed in Poland.

92. Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava flava

- Common in Eastern Poland, especially at Siemianówka Reservoir. The subspecies in Poland (*flava*) is found throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

93. Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes

- Relatively few noted on this trip. A single Wren was heard near the Palace Park Hotel in Jabłonna. Recorded in small numbers in Augustów and Białowieża forests.

94. Dunnock

Prunella modularis

- One or two Dunnocks were heard on all days of the trip, but the species was not common at any site visited.

95. Robin

Erithacus rubecula

- Uncommon throughout Eastern Poland.

96. Thrush Nightingale

Luscinia luscinia

- Thrush Nightingales were regularly heard singing throughout Eastern Poland. A few birds were seen in Białowieża after patiently scanning the cover from which they were singing. Although the song is superficially similar to that of the Common Nightingale, it is less melodic.

97. Common Redstart

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

- Uncommon in the forested areas around Augustów and in Białowiesca Forest.
- An adult male was singing in the grounds of the Hotel Warszawa in Augustów.

98. Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochruros

- Common throughout Eastern Poland, especially in Białowieża village.

99. Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

- Common throughout Eastern Poland.

100. Stonechat

Saxicola torquata

- A single Stonechat was noted at Ławki Bagno on the 22/5.

101. Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

- Several Wheatears were noted in recently plowed fields behind a petrol station near Łomża on the 22/5.

102. Song Thrush

Turdus philomelos

- Fairly common throughout Eastern Poland.

103. Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

- Single Mistle Thrushes were noted at most sites visited.

104. Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

- Common in Eastern Poland.

105. Blackbird

Turdus merula

- As in Ireland, Blackbirds were commonly seen.

106. Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin

- Uncommonly seen throughout Eastern Poland.

107. Barred Warbler

Sylvia nisoria

- One Barred Warbler was heard singing and seen briefly at Siemianówka Reservoir.
- A sub-adult Barred Warbler was noted at the bridge over the Narewka River at the northern end of Białowieża National Park.
- A few were heard in Białowieża Forest. This species shares a habitat with Red-backed Shrike and the two are frequently found together in suitable areas in Eastern Poland.

108. Blackcap

Sylvia atricapilla

- Common throughout Eastern Poland.

109. Common Whitethroat

Sylvia communis

- Common and seen on all days of the trip.

110. Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

- As with Common Whitethroat, this species was commonly noted throughout Eastern Poland.
- A pair was seen feeding young near the Palace Park Hotel at Jabłonna.

111. Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

- Common at all wetland sites visited, such as the Dojlidy fish ponds.

112. Aquatic Warbler

Acrocephalus paludicola

- Heard fairly commonly from the observation tower and the board walk in Ławki Bagno in the Biebrza Marshes. Good views were had of one singing male from the boardwalk.
- Ławki Bagno is the main breeding stronghold of Aquatic Warbler in Poland, with around 1,000 breeding pairs. The majority of the world's population of Aquatic Warblers breeds in Poland and in neighbouring Belarus.

113. Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

- Single Reed Warblers were recorded in Goniądz, Augustów and in Białowieża village.
- Fairly common in the Dojlidy fish ponds near Białystok.

114. Marsh Warbler

Acrocephalus palustris

- Single Marsh Warblers were heard near the Palace Park Hotel in Jabłonna, the Dojlidy fish ponds and at Kopytkowo in the Biebrza Marshes.

115. Great Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus arundinaceus

- Uncommon in the Biebrza Marshes.
- Fairly common in areas of reeds in the Augustów lakes and in Białowieża village.
- Common in the Dojlidy fish ponds.

116. Grasshopper Warbler

Locustella naevia

- Several Grasshopper Warblers were heard at the Great Snipe in Barwik.
- One was noted in Białowieża village.

117. Savi's Warbler

Locustella luscinioides

- Several were heard in Ławki Bagno in the Biebrza Marshes.
- One Savi's Warbler gave close views in the Dojlidy fish ponds.
- A few were noted in Białowieża village.

118. River Warbler

Locustella fluviatilis

- Heard commonly at night in Białowieża village, forming an amazing “night-chorus” with Corncrakes and several other warbler species. One River Warbler gave close views at the eastern end of the village on 26/5.

119. Icterine Warbler

Hippolais icterina

- Icterine Warblers were commonly noted in forested areas throughout Eastern Poland.

120. Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

- Common and seen daily on the trip.

121. Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

- Fairly common in the sandy pine woods around Augustów and Białowieża.
- A single Wood Warbler was heard near the car park in Barwik.

122. Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita

- Common throughout Eastern Poland.

123. Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

- Occasionally noted in the woodlands of Augustów and Białowieża.

124. Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

- Uncommon to fairly common in all the woodland areas visited.

125. Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula hypoleuca

- One singing male was noted at the southern shore of Lake Wigry.
- As is the case with Pied Flycatchers from Central Europe eastwards, this particular had a slate grey back compared to the solid black of more westerly birds.

126. Collared Flycatcher

Ficedula albicollis

- Fairly common in Białowieża Forest, especially near Teremisky where the species reaches a population density unmatched in the rest of Poland.

127. Red-breasted Flycatcher

Ficedula parva

- The only Red-breasted Flycatcher noted was one heard on the 27/5 in woodland to the east of Białowieża forest.

128. Great Tit

Parus major

- Common

129. Coal Tit

Parus ater

- One Coal Tit was noted in the woodland around the Palace Park Hotel in Jabłonna.

130. Blue Tit

Parus caeruleus

- Common and noted daily.

131. Crested Tit

Parus cristatus

- Only two Crested Tits were recorded on the trip, a rather low total. A single bird was seen briefly near the Hotel Warszawa in Augustów, while another was heard while searching for the Pygmy Owl in Białowieża Forest.

132. Marsh Tit

Parus palustris

- A few were noted in most woodland areas in Eastern Poland.

133. Willow Tit

Parus montanus

- One Willow Tit was heard at the southern side of Siemianówka Reservoir.

134. Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

- The only Long-tailed Tit of the trip was seen briefly in flight in woodland to the east of Białowieża village.

135. Penduline Tit

Remiz pendulinus

- One male Penduline Tit was noted near Mścichy village in the Biebrza Marshes.
- Further birds were seen at the Dojlidy fish ponds and at Siemianówka Reservoir.

136. Nuthatch

Sitta europaea

- Occasionally noted at most woodland sites visited, but nowhere common.

137. Common Treecreeper

Certhia familiaris

- Fairly common in Augustów and Białowieża forests.

138. Short-toed Treecreeper

Certhia brachydactyla

- Fairly common in the woods surrounding the Palace Park Hotel in Jabłonna. The region around Warsaw marks the north-easterly limit of the distribution of this species in Europe.

139. Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio

- Common throughout Eastern Poland and noted daily.

140. Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

- One adult male seen near Bachury village to the north of Siemianówka Reservoir.

141. Magpie

Pica pica

- Common.

142. Jay

Garrulus glandarius

- Fairly common in Eastern Poland.

143. Nutcracker

Nucifraga caryocatactes

- One Nutcracker was seen flying between two forest stands at the northern end of Siemianówka Reservoir.

144. Jackdaw

Corvus monedula

- Common.

145. Rook

Corvus frugilegus

- Common and recorded daily.

146. Hooded Crow

Corvus cornix

- Common. In Central Europe, the range of the closely related Carrion Crow reaches its easterly limit in a line extending from Berlin to Vienna.

147. Raven

Corvus corax

- Fairly common throughout Eastern Poland with one or two birds noted daily.
- A large flock of Ravens was noted at a dump near Białystok on the 23/5.

148. Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

- Common.

149. Golden Oriole

Oriolus oriolus

- Fairly common in Eastern Poland. Singing Golden Orioles were heard daily and on a few occasions individuals were seen briefly in flight.

150. House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

- Common in villages.

151. Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

- Not as common as House Sparrow, but small numbers of Tree Sparrows were noted on all days of the trip.

152. Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

- Common throughout Eastern Poland.

153. Linnet

Carduelis cannabina

- A few Linnets were noted on all days of the trip.

154. Goldfinch

Carduelis carduelis

- Common.

155. Greenfinch

Carduelis chloris

- Common throughout Eastern Poland.

156. Siskin

Carduelis spinus

- A single Siskin was heard in old forest near the southern shore of Lake Wigry.

157. Serin

Serinus serinus

- Fairly common and noted on all days of the trip.

158. Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

- Fairly common in Białowieża Forest, where recently fledged chicks were observed being fed by adults.
- A few were seen on most days of the trip.

159. Crossbill

Loxia curvirostra

- A small flock was seen from the bus near Gugny in the Biebrza Marshes.

160. Common Rosefinch

Carpodacus erythrinus

- Fairly common, especially in the Biebrza Marshes. One adult male and a sub-adult bird were noted along the trail from Mścichy.

161. Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus

- Common at all the wetland sites visited.

162. Ortolan

Emberiza hortulana

- One bird was heard singing and seen briefly at the southern end of the Biebrza Marshes near Wizna.

163. Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella

- Fairly common in agricultural areas of Eastern Poland.