Poland

Ancient Wildwood

A Greentours Trip Report

15th to 22nd September 2007

Led by Lukasz Mazurek and Phil Benstead

Trip report compiled by Phil Benstead

Day 1 Saturday 15th September Arrival and journey to Bialowieza

The group negotiated themselves successfully to Warsaw where they were met off the flight by Lukasz and Phil. As we drove through the centre of the town, Lukasz gave us a potted history of the capital and pointed out a few local landmarks. Driving on we noted a gradual slide into rural north-eastern Poland. A short comfort break was followed by a brief stop at Molozew where we spotted two fine great egrets, a distant osprey and some equally distant buzzards as well as three eclipse-plumage goosander skulking in amongst the more prosaic mallard. It was decidedly chilly here though so we moved on quickly! To while away the drive time Lukasz gave us a brief introduction to the Polish language and we spotted various common birds as we made steady progress towards our destination.

The last leg of the journey through the forest was completed in the rain and darkness and we were pleased to emerge into the large clearing where our comfortable hotel was situated. After a huge dinner we listened to Lukasz as he described the forest and its history, the programme for the tour and the plans for the next day. We all looked forward to dawn and our first proper look at the forest.

Day 2 Sunday 16th September Bialowieza

Many of us were up and about before breakfast and walked around in the village or down to the river. Birds were evident despite the somewhat chilly start to the day. Between us we had good views of great grey shrike, black redstart and a number of common species that were new for the trip. Flocks of siskin were evident overhead and few migratory tree pipits were seen. Lukasz managed to see not one but three beavers in the river.

After a slap-up buffet breakfast we headed out for a three and a half hour walk around nearby Wysokie Bagno. A brief look around a series of small ponds in a derelict hay meadow produced some edible frogs and a beaver path that showed signs of recent nocturnal use. Birding was surprisingly hard work during the morning. We heard several hawfinches but only connected briefly with two high-flying birds. Likewise black woodpeckers were vocal as we walked through areas of tall, managed forest but we failed to see one. A close great spotted woodpecker called and we found evidence of recent excavations of the much scarcer white-backed woodpecker; a neat hole in a truncated birch tree complete with a bracket fungus porch. A few of the more obvious fungi attracted our attention including an enormous giant funnel (*Aspropaxillus giganteus*) and a grove of leopard earthballs (*Scleroderma areolatum*). Invertebrates were few and far between but in sunny intervals and sheltered spots we found a southern hawker *Aeshna cyanaea*, a superb basking hornet and a few red admirals. A surprising number of plants were still flowering, including some unseasonal wood anemones and we even managed to identify some species that were well past flowering including the splendid fruiting May lily and the distinctive leaves of the asarabacca (a birthwort).

After lunch we headed out for a short transfer to the start of the Zebra Zubra trail. It was still rather chilly and this seemed to dampen bird activity. We had our first red squirrel but otherwise things were quiet. The trail ended at the entrance to the mini-zoo, which we had a good look around. The zoo contained many of the mammal species high on our wanted list and we set off with renewed enthusiasm. After a short break at the hotel we headed to an area of dead wood that is often good for woodpeckers. Today we saw three great spotted woodpeckers but none of their more sought after congeners. Two red squirrels performed well here though and we all had scope views as they demolished hazel nuts. The lovely dark mullein graced the roadside here. Driving on we parked up and walked a kilometre into the forest in search of bison. No sign here but we did get our first views of wild boar. The highlight of the day came at dusk when Lukasz whistled in a superb pair of pygmy owls, which performed beautifully for us before commencing to hunt around us in the last of the available light. After ten minutes they faded away and we walked back to the van happy – spotting a woodcock on the way.

Day 3 Monday 17th September Bialowieza

A six o'clock start saw us all assembled in good time in reception for tea, coffee and biscuits. Then it was out into the van and away to meet our guide Arek for a walk in the only accessible part of the strictly protected area. Having spent the previous day in managed tall forest we were well equipped to appreciate the different nature of this last remaining wildwood fragment. Our first impressions were of a towering canopy with a surprisingly open understorey. Dead wood both standing and prone was abundant. Some of the trees especially the spruces were reaching heights in exceess of 40 metres, impressive stuff. The post-dawn atmosphere was magical and induced a feeling of serenity in some members of the group. The peace and quiet was however occasionally shattered by the stentorian roars of the nearby (but invisible) rutting male red deer.

All this splendid habitat was bound to yield results of one kind or another and the birds started to appear at regular intervals. First up was a splendid female white-backed woodpecker found by Lukasz. This bird could not have been more obliging and we all got excellent views. Great spotted woodpeckers followed swiftly and we found plenty of the work-stations of this species, pine cones wedged into various nooks and crannies to facilitate the removal of the seeds. Arek kindly took us on a very short unofficial detour to enjoy a fine clump of toothwort – a rare saprophytic fungus that is a speciality of the reserve.

Having been tormented by invisible hawfinches the day before it was very pleasant to find a flock of about ten birds enjoying the early morning sun at the tops of some tall spruce. These birds behaved impeccably and we all got excellent views of both perched and flying birds. Next on the list was another new woodpecker (a middle spotted) and this was just as obliging flying along slowly along the path and allowing us all to observe its salient features. Walking on Arek showed us yet more fungi including the gruesomely named dead-man's-fingers and the pleasantly scented bracket fungus *Gloeophyllum sepiarium*. Thanking Arek and bidding him good day we headed back to the hotel. By the time we got back to the hotel it was ten o'clock and we punished the buffet severely having built up quite an appetite during our morning stroll.

After breakfast we headed out to another area of the forest (Kosy Most) and picked up our first hazelhen, which was seen from the car by some of the party. Arriving at a car park we got organised and then strolled out to a pleasantly situated bridge and clearing. It was immediately evident that the world had become a much warmer place over breakfast and the invertebrates had noticed. Butterflies and dragonflies were on the wing. At the bridge Robin spotted a superb brown hairstreak basking in the sun. Other butterflies on the wing included red admiral, comma, peacock, brimstone and large white. You could not have had a starker contrast with the preceding day. Munching away in a clump of bedstraw was a huge bedstraw hawk-moth caterpillar. The air was full of a number of Odonates including moustached darter, black darter, southern hawker, common winter damselfly, a beautiful *Calyopteryx* and *Lestes viridis*. Whilst here we also watched a fishing kingfisher and five nutcrackers flew close by. The warmer weather had also encouraged a number of reptiles to bask out along the track and between us we managed good views of viviparous and sand lizard, grass snake and adder.

Walking back to the van we took a slight diversion to take in the observation tower. Nothing to be seen in the clearing here but on the way we enjoyed brief views of hazelhen again and a number of new fungi. Having worked ourselves hard over the two days we elected to return early to the hotel and save our energy for our last full day in the forest.

Day 4 Tuesday 18th September Bialowieza

The optional beaver patrol was taken by only the hardy few. Leaving the hotel at 5 o'clock was an effort admittedly but the cool dawn soon woke us up. Try as they might Lukasz and Phil could not get Robin onto the beavers that made occasional appearances up the channel before they went to

bed. But we did all see the splendid racoon dog that crossed the road in a leisurely fashion at rather close range well after dawn. Mind-blowing. Tree pipits were migrating overhead in good numbers and we also heard pygmy owl and bullfinch. Eventually the dawn chill crept into our bones and we headed back to the hotel for a well-deserved early breakfast.

After breakfast the complete team headed up the road to the 'dead wood' area. Here we searched in vain for three-toed woodpecker, only finding a dead great spotted woodpecker. Hawfinches were superabundant this morning and we also saw our first crested and coal tits at this spot. Those with a botanical bent spent a happy hour going along the roadside identifying the wayside plants. Other things grabbing our attention included a fine raft spider *Dolomedes fimbriatus*, carrying a large mass of eggs (?). This posed nicely for photographs. Walking on we hit the edge of a village where some well-lit flowers were full of nectaring butterflies and also a bee hawk-moth that got away before we could positively identify it. Walking down a sidetrack into a patch of woodland we fossicked about, finally getting views of wren (!) and Arthur continued his botanical survey by adding a yellow oxalis to the growing list. On the way back Andy finally got his grass snake (one of four seen during the day). Before we knew it though it was time to get back for lunch at the hotel.

After lunch we headed out to the palace park and had a walk around. Lukasz kept trying to whistle up a grey-headed woodpecker but we could not lure one into view. It was a warm afternoon and dragonflies were especially evident along the shoreline of the small lakes here. New species for the trip included ruddy darter, yellow-winged darter and migrant hawker. Michael spotted some fantastic spotted flycatchers and then turned round and found a nice swimming grass snake. Nearby we had a juvenile common redstart. Lukasz showed us some excellent beefsteak fungus growing on the oaks in front of the nature centre.

Moving on we went to the edge of the other park and here we saw a very distant great grey shrike, a middle spotted woodpecker and a few nutcrackers. After a quick stop at the shop for snacks we headed off to try one last time for bison. We had decided to try a dusk session at the bison feeding clearing. On the walk down we found a small flock of the lovely white-headed race of long-tailed tit that occurs in Poland. The stake-out was enjoyable, despite the many mosquitoes, even though we failed to connect with a bison there was some compensations. A nightjar slipped quietly through the clearing and a woodcock flew by. On the way back we got tangled up in a family party of tawny owls. We only saw them in flight in the gathering gloom but the racket they were making was impressive. The red deer rut continued throughout and the roar of these beasts had, by now, become the signature sound of Bialowieza.

Day 5 Wednesday 19th September Journey to Biebrza Marshes, including Siemianowka Reservoir & Bialystok Fishponds

The dawn beaver patrol came back empty-handed but Arthur had spotted a fine pine marten for his troubles. The weather had taken a slight turn for the worst with a rather bitter wind and much

cooler temperatures. Throughout the day we did get odd sunny intervals however and out of the wind it was then quite pleasant.

After breakfast we got into the bus for the transfer to Biebrza. The journey was broken by a number of stops in good habitat. First up was the huge and impressive Siemianovka reservoir. Our first stop here was immediately exciting as we found both white-tailed eagle (adult) and greater spotted eagle were up in the air. We watched these for some time before noticing the other wetland species. Marsh and hen harrier were quartering the marsh. Far away small numbers of whiskered tern were evident. Dense packs of coot contained a few other species including our first gadwall, shoveler and great crested grebe. Wandering along the raised bank we added a number of wetland plants to the list and found a small clump of forking larkspur. Puns concluded, we wandered back seeing the most delightful lesser spotted woodpecker feeding in small bushes right beside the path. Before we left this area we took a short walk in some nearby woodland and had a number of new fungi. Andy found a fantastic earthfan (*Thelephora terrestris*), also here were numerous *Russula* and *Lactarius* fungi and a nice *Amanita*.

Lunch was taken at the next stop on the north-east corner of the reservoir. Whilst we ate we were entertained by two hobbies hunting dragonflies over a nearby wood and a close common sandpiper tottered along the edge of the reservoir channel. A second short walk produced plenty of dragonflies including the diminutive black darter. A common lizard was captured and studied and common frogs were abundant. The high-pitched call of the penduline tit was heard and we were soon struggling to get good views as perched birds were being tossed about so violently by the high winds. Every now and then the hobbies did a flyby giving superb views. Eventually we had to get going and headed for the next stop – the Doljidy fish-ponds. This site was great but again strong winds hampered us. Although we concentrated on birds there were other things to see here including a fine smooth newt. Birds here included a storm-blown common scoter, lots of little grebes, tufted duck and pochard and we heard more penduline tits. At least 3-4 ospreys were noted, including one carrying a small male tench!

Tearing ourselves away we drove on to the hotel, crossing the marshes at dusk and arriving in the dark. The mostly wooden structure had a cosy, welcoming atmosphere and we soon felt at home and enjoyed yet another sumptuous Polish dinner.

Day 6 Thursday 20th September Biebrza Marshes

We had a leisurely 0830 start this morning for our circumnavigation of the southern section of the marshes. The day dawned bright and stayed that way throughout the day; sunny but a tad chilly. Close to the hotel at the start of our journey we stopped for a nice couple of whinchat perched on top of a roadside bush. Also here was a sizeable flock of lapwing – a surprisingly scarce bird hereabouts.

Our first stop in the marshes gave us a good impression of this fantastic wetland – huge expanses of marsh vegetation intersected by the occasional waterbody stuffed with aquatic plants. Birds were evident and we saw plenty of raptors including hen harrier, white-tailed eagle, spotted eagle, and best of all a second-year male pallid harrier (a very rare migrant in Poland). Along the track northern wheatear were feeding – taking a break from their migration. Trackside ditches were stuffed with water-soldier, frogbit and arrowhead. At the end of the track we climbed a watch-tower and noted a little bit of visible migration; mostly chaffinches but a nice female marsh harrier also made its way determinedly south during our short stay. As we drove out a late Camberwell beauty fluttered by.

Throughout the day we drove short distances and then got out at viewpoints and towers for short forays. This was a relaxing pastime and produced some great and varied wildlife. From the tower at the lunch spot we added greatly to our Polish fish list with fantastic views of roach, silver bream, perch and pike. Other stops produced the spectacle of large groups of cranes in the air, and a few of these stately birds were also spotted feeding in roadside fields. From one tower Lukasz found us a female moose, and having seen the first one more inevitably followed and we ended the day on a total of five. These included one yearling accompanied by its mother and a splendid nearby male. From the towers we also managed finally get views of a couple of red deer and three roe deer. As the sun dropped we found ourselves watching a selection of moose, roe deer and a superb perched spotted eagle.

Day 7 Friday 21st September Biebrza Marshes

The dawn patrol consisted of just Robin and the leaders this morning and we took the track down to the river. First up was the flock of cranes roosting behind the hotel, which got up and flew out to feed in the surrounding fields at about the same time as us. Walking on things were quiet but eventually we started to spot some great beasts. The highlight was two big wild boar galloping through the flooded wet grassland, spray back-lit by rising sun – magic. The recently cut meadows along the road attracted a small flock of waders that mostly consisted of ruff but eventually was found to include a single grey plover (scarce inland in Poland), a dunlin and four spotted redshank. Eventually our driver arrived to pick us up and we took the chance to drive on a short while to the river. Here we found a female and immature red-backed shrike and a couple of sedge warblers were skulking in the reeds. A pleasant walk.

After breakfast we checked out the pond near the hotel, finding some huge spadefoot toad tadpoles. We then took to the vehicle for a leisurely circumnavigation of the central basin of the marshes and a trip to some more fish-ponds. Going around the Red Marsh slowly by car we stopped at a number of points to look at roadside birds. A flock of 140 cranes held our attention for some time – the bugling call of these birds is a joyful sound. We also stopped to scan through a flock of lapwing and were rewarded with two golden plover and a stock dove for our troubles. A little further on and we are watching an immature hobby hawking for dragonflies. Our final stop of this leg of the journey comes when Andy spots a large bird in the sky which proves to be a

white stork – a very late record and rather welcome. The bird flies right over our heads and continues on to the north.

Leaving the basin we drive to Augusta Lake for our lunch, where we are entertained by six white-tailed eagles of various ages. The lake is a huge fish-rearing concern and we watch amazed as a small boat chugs across the lake with a man furiously shovelling out feed to the waiting carp. After lunch we head to the nearby Knyszyn fish-ponds for a walk. The birdwatching is great here, one pond has been drawn down and has attracted a number of waders. Amongst the large number of lapwing we find smaller numbers of ruff, dunlin, spotted redshank, common redshank, ringed plover and little stint. A mobile curlew sandpiper gives us the run around but eventually we all see it well. Other birds include the graceful whooper swan and hunting osprey and white-tailed eagle and a variety of duck.

The last stop of the day is a just a short drive up the road – the Popielewo fish-ponds. A short walk here reveals an excellent close immature whiskered tern, yet more white-tailed eagles and a small flock of waders that includes two curlew sandpiper. Bird of the day here though is a fine hunting female *Dolomedes plantarius* – the fen raft spider. Driving back we reflect on an interesting trip. During dinner we discover some great crested newts wandering past the hotel and Phil learns that he has become an uncle again!

Day 8 Saturday 22nd September Departure

Today many of us pottered around on our own around the hotel before breakfast. Andy got up particularly early to film the cranes leaving their roost behind the hotel. After breakfast we climbed aboard the van for the long haul to Warsaw. We broke the journey at the mother-of-all supermarkets for a 20-minute shopping spree; vodka, sweets and tinned fish! It was cavernous. Bang on time we arrived at the airport and the London contingent were on their way home.

Systematic List Number 1 Mammals

Square brackets indicate species recorded only by sign.

Common shrew	Sorex araneus	Bialowieza, a few seen, commonly heard. A few road casualties noted here
[Mole]	Talpa europaea	Signs regularly noted.
Pine martin	Martes martes	Single near village at Bialowieza.
[Badger]	Meles meles	Tracks at Bialowieza
[Fox]	Vulpes vulpes	Sign at Bialowieza
Racoon dog	Nyctereutes procyonoides	Single seen very well by bridge near the
		hotel at Bialowieza.
Red squirrel	Sciurus vulgaris	1-5 per day at Bialowieza.
European beaver	Castor fiber	Signs at Bialowieza and Biebrza. Dawn
		sessions at the bridge near the hotel in
		Bialowieza produced sightings for several of
		us and were well worth the effort.
Wood mouse	Apodemus sylvaticus	Dead individual at Bialowieza.
[Brown hare]	Lepus europaeus	Sign at Semianovka.
Wild boar	Sus scrofa	Abundant sign at Bialowieza, small numbers
		noted on just one day. Two seen well near
		the hotel at Biebzra.
Red deer	Cervus elephas	Sign commonly encountered in Bialowieza.
		Rutting in full swing at this site and many
		males heard. Two seen at Biebzra.
Elk	Alces alces	Biebzra – a total of ??
Roe deer	Capreolus capreolus	Heard at Bialowieza. Four seen at Biebzra.
[European bison]	Bison bonasus	Sign at Bialowieza on just one day.

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

Little grebe Tachybaptus ruficollis Small numbers at fish-ponds. Great crested grebe Podiceps cristatus Small numbers at Semianovka and Dojlidy fish-ponds. Phalacrocorax carbo **Great cormorant** Semianovka and Biebzra (small numbers). Casmerodius alba **Great egret** Widespread and frequently encountered in suitable habitat. Grey heron Scattered records. Ardea cinerea White stork Ciconia ciconia Plenty of empty nests in rural areas. Amazingly we found one late bird flying over the Red Marsh area on the last day. Mute swan Cygnus olor Small numbers at Semianovka, Biebzra and Whooper swan A total of 32 at the Knyszyn fish-ponds. Cygnus cygnus Greylag goose Anser anser Single at Semianovka. Small numbers at Biebzra. Mallard Widespread and common. *Anas platyrhynchos* Shoveler Anas clypeata Small numbers at Semianovka, Dojlidy and Knyszyn fish-ponds. Gadwall Anas strepera Small numbers at Semianovka and Dojlidy fish-ponds. Teal Anas crecca Small numbers in wetland areas. Wigeon Anas penelope Small numbers at Doilidy and Knyszyn. **Pochard** Aythya ferina Single at Dojlidy fish-ponds. Larger numbers at Augustow and Knyszyn. **Tufted duck** Aythya fuligula Small numbers at Dojlidy and Knyszyn Common scoter Single female at Dojlidy fish-ponds. Melanitta nigra Goosander Mergus merganser Three at Molozew were a surprise. Haliaeetus albicilla White-tailed eagle Single at Semianovka. Hen harrier Circus cyaneus First-year and male at Semianovka. Small numbers daily at Biebzra. Pallid harrier Circus macrourus Single second-year male was the bird of the Marsh harrier Widespread and quite common in suitable Circus aeruginosus habitat. **Sparrowhawk** Accipiter nisus Scattered records. Common buzzard Buteo buteo Very common and widespread. Lesser spotted eagle Aquila pomarina One on the last day at Biebzra. Spotted eagle Aquila clanga Single at Semianovka. Small numbers at Biebzra. Common kestrel Falco tinunculus Single at airport on arrival. Single also noted at Biebzra. Hobby Falco subbuteo Two hunting at Semianovka. Single hunting in Red Marsh area. Hazel grouse Bonasa bonasia Bialowieza - frequently heard calling and flying away. Occasionally seen. Coot Common at Semianovka. Small numbers at Fulica atra Knyszyn. Common crane Grus grus Up to 300 per day in Biebzra area.

Ringed plover Charadrius hiaticula Three birds at Knyszyn fish-ponds. Golden plover Pluvialis apricaria Two birds in Red Marsh area on last day in Biebzra. Grey plover Pluvialis squatarola Single near the hotel at Biebzra. Lapwing Vanellus vanellus Small numbers in Biebzra area. Little stint Caliidris minuta Five birds at Knyszyn fish-ponds. Curlew sandpiper Calidris ferruginea Three birds at Knyszyn fish-ponds. Dunlin Calidris alpina Six in Biebzra Marshes. Small numbers near hotel and at Knyszyn fish-ponds. Ruff Small numbers at Semianovka, near the Philomachus pugnax hotel at Biebzra and at Knyszyn fishponds.. Common snipe Gallinago gallinago Single at Semianovka. Small numbers at Biebzra and Knyszyn fish-ponds. Spotted redshank Tringa erythropus Four near hotel at Biebzra. Two at Knyszyn fish-ponds. Greenshank Tringa nebularia Single at Biebzra. Green sandpiper Tringa ochropus Small number noted at Biebzra on one day. Common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Single at Semianovka. Scolopax rusticola Woodcock Several noted in Bialowieza. Black-headed gull Larus ridibundus Noted in small numbers at Biebzra and Knyszyn fish-ponds. Yellow-legged gull Larus cachinans Single at Semianovka. Whiskered tern Chlidonias hybridus Two distant birds at Semianovka and a much more approachable bird at Knyszyn fish-ponds. Feral pigeon Columba livia Widespread in towns. Stock dove Columba oenas Single in Red Marsh area (Biebzra). Woodpigeon Columba palumbus Scattered records. Collared dove Streptopelia decaocto Widespread and common near human habitation. Pygmy owl Glaucidium passerinum Two excellent birds on the first day in Bialowieza Tawny owl Strix aluco Two birds seen and others heard at Bialowieza on the last day. Nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus Single in Bison Refuge clearing at dusk. Alcedo atthis Kingfisher Bialowieza (2 birds) Grey-headed woodpecker Picus canus Heard at Bialowieza Green woodpecker Picus viridis Heard at Bialowieza Black woodpecker Dryocopus martius Two seen at Bialowieza, several others heard. White-backed A total of three birds observed at Dendrocopus leucotos woodpecker Bialowieza. **Great spotted** Dendrocopus major woodpecker Middle spotted Four birds seen well at Bialowieza. Dendrocopus medius woodpecker Lesser spotted Dendrocopus minor Heard at Bialowieza. One seen very well at woodpecker Semianovka and a fly-over bird near the hotel at Biebzra. Alauda arvensis Skylark Biebzra (small numbers). Barn swallow Hirundo rustica Widespread and very common.

[House martin]Delichon urbicaOld nests noted at several locations.Tree pipitAnthus trivialisA few migrants noted flying overhead on

most mornings.

Meadow pipit Anthus pratensis Bialowieza and Biebzra (small numbers).

Yellow wagtailMotacilla flavaSingle at Semianovka.White wagtailMotacilla albaWidespread and common.WrenTroglodytes troglodytesBialowieza and Biebzra.

Robin Erithacus rubecula Bialowieza

Common redstartPhoenicrurus phoenicurusSingle at BialowiezaBlack redstartPhoenicrurus ochrurusLocal around habitation.

Whinchat Saxicola rubetra Small numbers on two days near the hotel

at Biebzra.

Northern wheatearOenanthe oenantheThree in Biebzra on both days.BlackbirdTurdus merulaWidespread in small numbers.

FieldfareTurdus pilarisScattered records.Song thrushTurdus philomelosScattered records.

Mistle thrush Turdus viscivorus Scattered records throughout.

Sedge warbler Acrocephalus Two birds along river near hotel at Beibzra.

schoenobaenus

Lesser whitethroatSylvia currucaBialowiezaBlackcapSylvia atricapillaBialowieza

Chiffchaff Phylloscopus collybita Very common and widespread.

Goldcrest Regulus regulus Bialowieza

[Firecrest] Regulus ignicapillus Single heard at Bialowieza.

Pied flycatcherFicedula hypoleucaBialowiezaSpotted flycatcherMuscicapa striataBialowieza (1)

Long-tailed tit Aegithalos caudatus Single group at Kosty Most (Bialowieza).

Marsh titParus palustrisBialowieza (3)Willow titParus montanusBialowieza (scarce)

Crested tit Parus cristatus Several encounters at Bialowieza.

Coal tit Parus ater Scarce at Bialowieza, seen on one day only.

Blue titParus caeruleusWidespread and common.Great titParus majorWidespread and very common.NuthatchSitta europaeaCommon in Bialowieza.Common treecreeperCerthia familiarisRecorded daily at Bialowieza.

Penduline tit Remiz pendulinus Recorded at Semianovka and Dojlidy fish-

ponds.

Red-backed shrikeLanius collurio
Two near hotel at Biebzra. Another at

Knyszyn fish-ponds.

Great grey shrike Lanius excubitor Widespread and reasonably common.

Jay Garrulus glandarius Common at Bialowieza.

Nutcracker Nucifraga caryocatactes Small numbers daily at Bialowieza.

Pica pica Magpie Widespread and common. **Jackdaw** Corvus monedula Widespread and common. Corvus frugilegus Rook Widespread and common. Hooded crow Corvus corone Widespread and fairly common. Raven Corvus corax Widespread and fairly common. Starling Sturnus vulgaris Widespread and very common.

House sparrow Passer domesticus Widespread.

Tree sparrow Passer montanus Bialowieza village and at the hotel in

Biebzra.

Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs Widespread and common.

GreenfinchCarduelis chlorisScattered records.GoldfinchCarduelis carduelisScattered records.

Siskin Carduelis spinus Widespread and locally common.

Linnet Carduelis cannabina Bialowieza,

Yellowhammer

[Bullfinch]Pyrrhula pyrrhulaHeard at Bialowieza.HawfinchCoccothraustesAbundant at Bialowieza.

coccothrustes
Emberiza citrinella Widespread but uncommon.

Reed bunting Emberiza schoeniclus Scattered records in suitable wetlands.

Systematic List Number 3 Amphibians & Reptiles

The taxonomy and systematic order follow 'A Field Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Britain and Europe' by E.Nicholas Arnold, Collins 2nd edition 2002. Square brackets indicate species not seen alive.

Smooth newt	Triturus vulgaris	Dojlidy fish-ponds
Great crested newt	Triturus cristatus	Found at night by the hotel at Biebzra.
Common spadefoot	Pelobates fuscus	Tadpoles of this species found near the hotel
		at Biebzra.
Fire-bellied toad	Bombina bombina	Biebzra
Common toad	Bufo bufo	Widespread and common.
Common frog	Rana temporaria	Widepsread and common.
Pool/edible frog	Rana lessonae/esculenta	Widespread.
Moor frog	Rana arvalis	Biebzra
[Slow worm]	Anguis fragilis	Single dead example at Bialowieza
Common lizard	Lacerta vivipara	Scattered records.
Sand lizard	Check id	Bialowieza - two at Kosy Most.
Grass snake	Natrix natrix	Bialowieza - obviously common and
		encountered fairly frequently in warm
		weather. Dead individuals noted on the
		roads in Biebzra.
Adder	Vipera berus	Bialowieza – a small individual at Kosy
	•	Most.

Systematic List Number 4 Butterflies

Large whitePieris brassicaeBialowiezaSmall whiteArtogeia rapaeBialowieza

Pale clouded yellow Colias hyale Knyszyn fish ponds.

BrimstoneGonepteryx rhamniBialowiezaSmall copperLycaena phlaeusSemianovka

Brown hairstreak Thecla betulae Bialowieza (Kosy Most)

Peacock Inachis io Bialowieza

Red admiralVanessa atlantaBialowieza, Semianovka, BiebzraSmall tortoiseshellAglais urticaeBialowieza, Semianovka, Biebzra

CommaPolygonum c-albumBialowiezaCamberwell beautyNymphalis antiopaBiebzraQueen-of-Spain fritillaryIssoria lathoniaSemianovka

Systematic List Number 5 Odonata

Beautiful demoiselle Calyopteryx virgo Bialowieza – males with completely

pigmented wings noted at Kosy Most,

unusual this far north.

White-legged damselfly Platycnemis pennipes Bialowieza (park)

Western willow

Lestes viridis

Bialowieza (park)

spreadwing

Blue-tailed damselflyIschnura eleganBialowiezaCommon winter damselSympecma fuscaBialowieza

Southern hawker Aeshna cyanea Bialowieza – the commonest Aeshna at this

site

Migrant hawker Aeshna mixta Widespread and common.

Brown hawker Aeshna grandis Widespread Moustached darter Sympetrum vulgatum Widespread

Ruddy darter Sympetrum sanguineum Widespread and common.

Yellow-winged darterSympetrum flaveolumBialowieza (park), Knyszyn fish pondsBlack darterSympetrum danaeBialowieza, Semianovka, Biebzra

Systematic List Number 6 Conifers

Pinaceae

Norway Spruce Picea abies Dominant in wetter forest. Scot's Pine

Pinus sylvestris Locally dominant.

Cupressaceae

Juniperus communis Juniper Siemianovka understory

> Systematic List Number 7 **Flowering Plants**

> > Salicaceae

Between Warsaw and Bialowieza. White Poplar Populus alba

Black Poplar Populus nigra Bialowieza.

Aspen Populus tremula Damp forest and streamsides.

Betulaceae

Alder Alnus glutinosa Widespread and very common.

Silver Birch Drier woodland. Betula pendula

Corylaceae

Hornbeam Carpinus betulus Bialowieza. Hazel Corylus avellana Bialowieza.

Fagaceae

Common Oak Quercus robur Scattered.

Ulmaceae

Bialowieza. Wych Elm Ulmus glabra

Cannabaaceae

Bialowieza. Humulus lupulus Hop

Urticaceae

Stinging Nettle Urtica dioica Urtica galeopsifolia Stingless Nettle

Loranthaceae

Mistletoe Viscum album Bialowieza, on poplar.

Aristolochiaceae

Asarabacca Asarum europaeum Locally common in leaf in forest.

Polygonaceae

Amphibious Bistort Persicaria amphibia Siemianovka, Biebzra.

Bistort *Persicaria bistorta* Biebzra. Least Water-pepper *Persicaria minor* Siemianovka.

Knotgrass Polygonum aviculare

Polygonum arenastrum Bialowieza.

Redshank Polygonum persicaria

Giant Knotweed Reynoutria sachlinensis Bialowieza.

Water Dock Rumex hydrolapathum Widespread in suitable habitat.

Chenopodiaceae

Fat Hen Chenopodium album

Chenopodium rubrum Biebzra.

Caryophyllaceae

Carthusian Pink Dianthus carthusianorum Bialowieza.

Maiden Pink Dianthus deltoides Siemianovka.

White Campion Silene alba

Bladder Campion Silene vulgaris Siemianovka. Lesser Stitchwort Stellaria graminea Bialowieza.

Wood Stitchwort Stellaria nemorum Bialowieza, common in woods.

Nymphaceae

Yellow Water-lily Nuphar lutea

Ceratophyllaceae

Hornwort Ceratophyllum demersum Ponds, Bialowieza.

Ranunculaceae

Wood Anemone Anemone nemorosa In flower in Bialowieza! Marsh Marigold Caltha palustris Biebzra, 1 in flower!

Forking Larkspur Consolida regalis Only 1 in flower at Siemianovka.

Hepatica Hepatica nobilis Leaves in forests.

Meadow Buttercup Ranunculus acris Biebzra. Lesser Spearwort Ranunculus flammula Biebzra.

Goldilocks Aster linosyris

Papaveraceae

Great Celandine *Chelidonium majus* Bialowieza. Long-headed Poppy *Papaver dubium* Semianovka.

Cruciferae

Shepherd's Purse Capsella bursa-pastoris

Rosaceae

Wild Strawberry Fragaria vesca Scattered records.

Silverweed Potentilla anserina Scattered records.
Raspberry Rubus idaeus Very common in forests.
Stone Bramble Rubus saxatilis Bialowieza.

Stone Bramble Rubus saxatilis
Rowan Sorbus aucuparia
Wild Cherry Prunus avium

Leguminosae

Narrow-leaved everlasting pea *Lathyrus sylvestris* Siemianovka, in leaf.

White Melilot
Ribbed Melilot

Melilotus albus
Melilotus officinalis

False Acacia Robinia pseudacacia Planted in shelter belts. Zigzag Clover Trifolium medium Local.

Red Clover Trifolium pratense
White Clover Trifolium repens
Lesser Trefoil Trifolium dubium

Oxalidaceae

Wood Sorrel Oxalis acetosella Common in leaf in Bialowieza.

Yellow oxalis Oxalis corniculata Bialowieza

Geraniaceae

Marsh Crane's-bill Geranium palustre Bialowieza.

Herb Robert Geranium robertianum

Hippuridaceae

Mare's-tail Hippuris vulgaris

Linaceae

Fairy Flax Linum catharticum Biebzra.

Aceraceae

Norway Maple Acer platanoides Sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus

Balsaminanceae

Small balsam Impatiens parviflora Scattered records.

Touch-me-not balsam Impatiens noli-tangere Bialowieza

Celastraceae

Spindle-tree Euonymus europaeus Around Bialowieza village, in fruit.

Rhamnaceae

Alder Buckthorn Frangula alnus

Tiliaceae

Small-leaved Lime Tilia cordata

Guttiferae

Common St.John's-wort Hypericum perforatum

Violaceae

Field Pansy Viola arvensis

Cucurbitaceae

Prickly Cucumber Echinocystis lobata Bialystok fishponds.

Lythraceae

Purple Loosestrife Lythrum salicaria Bialowieza.

Onagraceae

Hoary Willow-herb Epilobium parviflorum Siemianovka.

Evening Primrose sp. *Oenothera* sp.

Cornaceae

Dogwood Cornus sanguinea

Umbelliferae

Milk Parsley Peucedanum palustre Siemianovka.

Great Water-parsnip Sium latifolium In leaf.

Ericaceae

Ling Calluna vulgaris Local. Bog rosemary Andromeda polifolia Biebzra

Bilberry Vaccinium myrtillus Local at Bialowieza and Biebzra.

Cowberry Vaccinium vitis-idaea
Northern bilberry Vaccinium uliginosum

Labrador Tea Ledum palustre Biebzra

Plumbaginaceae

Thrift Armeria maritima Dam near Siemianovka, and Biebzra.

Oleaceae

Ash Fraxinus excelsior

Rubiaceae

Marsh Bedstraw Galium palustre

Convolvulaceae

Field Bindweed Convolvulus arvensis

Boraginaceae

True AlkanetAnchusa officinalisNear Goniadz.Viper's BuglossEchium vulgareSiemianovka.Water Forget-me-notMyosotis scorpioidesBachory fishponds.

Labiatae

Bialystok fishponds. Black Horehound Ballota nigra Wild Basil Clinopodium vulgare Bison reserve. Ground-ivy Glechoma hederacea Bialowieza. Lamiastrum galeobdolon Yellow Archangel Leaves in forest. Gipsywort Lycopus europaeus Biebzra. Self-heal Prunella vulgaris Bialowieza.

Solanaceae

Bittersweet Solanum dulcamara

Scrophulariaceae

Common Toadflax Linaria vulgaris Widespread but local.

Melampyrum nemorosum Flowering at Bialowieza.

Verbascum densiflorum Strekowa Gora and roadsides.

Dark Mullein Verbascum nigrum Bialowieza.

Green Field Speedwell Veronica agrestis Arable weed, Biebzra.

Plantaginaceae

Ribwort Plantain Plantago lanceolata Greater Plantain Plantago major

Caprifoliaceae

Common Elder Sambucus nigra
Snowberry Symphoricarpus albus
Guelder-rose Viburnum opulus

Dipsacaceae

Field Scabious Knautia arvensis Scattered records.

Sulphur Scabious Scabiosa ochroleuca Siemianovka.

Devil's-bit Scabious Succisa pratensis

Campanulaceae

Giant Bellflower

Spreading bellflower

Sheep's-bit

Campanula latifolia

Several plants in Bialowieza.

Bialowieza

Bialowieza.

Near Warsaw.

Leaves at Bachory fishponds.

Biebzra.

Jasione montana

Siemianovka and Kosy Most.

Compositae

Yarrow Achillea millefolium Very common.

Mugwort Artemisia vulgaris Common and widespread.

Nodding Bur-marigold Siemianovka. Bidens cernua

Trifid Bur-marigold Bialowieza and Siemianovka. Bidens tripartita

Scattered records. Greater Burdock Arctium lappa Siemianovka. Brown Knapweed Centaurea jacea

Centaurea pannonica

Greater Knapweed Centaurea scabiosa Scattered. Chicory Cichorium intybus Widespread.

Creeping Thistle Cirsium arvense

Cabbage Thistle Cirsium oleraceum Local.

Scattered records. Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre* Spear Thistle Cirsium vulgare Widespread.

Canadian Fleabane Conyza canadensis

Locally very common. Hemp-agrimony Eupatorium cannabinum

Annual Sunflower Helianthus annuus Siemianovka.

Jerusalem Artichoke Helianthus tuberosus Roadsides east of Warsaw.

Umbellate Hawkweed Hieracium umbellatum Grassland by Park Narodowy gate. **Nipplewort** Lapsana communis

Wall Lettuce Mycelis muralis

Butterbur Petasites hybridus

Garden Golden-rod Solidago canadensis Naturalised on verges.

Prickly Sow-thistle Sonchus asper Tansy Tanacetum vulgare Dandelion Taraxacum sp.

Scentless Mayweed Tripleurospermum inodorum

Shaggy soldier Galinsoga ciliata Mouse-ear hawkweed Pilosella officinarum

Monocotyledones

Alismataceae

Common Water-plantain Alisma plantago-aquatica

Arrowhead Sagittaria sagittifolia

Biebzra.

Hydrocharitaceae

Elodea canadensis Canadian Waterweed

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae Frog-bit Biebzra. Water Soldier Stratiotes aloides Biebzra.

Liliaceae

Lily-of-the-valley *Convallaria majalis* In fruit at Bialowieza. May Lily *Maianthemum bifolium* In fruit at Bialowieza.

Gramineae

Reed Phragmites australis

Lemnaceae

Common Duckweed Lemna minor

Sparganiaceae

Branched Bur-reed Sparganium erectum Bialowieza.

Typhaceae

Lesser Reedmace Typha angustifolia Dojlidy fishponds. Great Reedmace Typha latifolia Bialowieza.

Orchidaceae

Dark Red Helleborine Epipactis atrorubens 1 dead spike at Kosy Most.

Systematic List Number 8 Fungi

Fly agaric Amanita muscaria Bialowieza The parasol Macrolepiota procera Biebzra Honey fungus Armillaria mellea Bialowieza Giant funnel-cap Leucopaxillus giganteus Bialowieza Lilac bonnet cap Mycena pura Bialowieza Bay bolete Xerocomus badius Bialowieza Slippery jack Semianovka (under pine) Suillus luteus Cauliflower fungus Sparrassis crispa Bialowieza Smoky polypore Bjerkandera adusta Bialowieza (a bracket) Chicken-of-the-woods Laetiporus sulphureus Bialowieza (a bracket) Birch polypore Piptoporus betulinus Bialowieza (a bracket) **Root fomes** Heterobasidon annosum Bialowieza (a bracket) Tinder fungus Fomes fomentarius Bialowieza (a bracket) Red-banded polypore Fomitopsis pinicola Bialowieza (a bracket) Artist's fungus Ganoderma adspersum Bialowieza (a bracket) Tripe fungus Auricularia mesenterica Bialowieza (a bracket) Beefsteak fungus Fistulina hepatica Bialowieza (a bracket) - several fine examples on oak trees in front of visitor centre. Willow bracket Phelinus ignarius Bialowieza Anise mazegill Gleophyllum odoratum Bialowieza (a bracket) Earthfan Thelephora terrestris Semianovka - the so-called 'chocolate lingerie' fungus.

Common puffball Lycoperdon perlatum Bialowieza
Shaggy ink-cap Coprinus comatus Bialowieza, Beibzra

Common stinkhornPhallus impudicusBialowiezaCoral brittlegillRussula velenovskyiBialowiezaDead-man's fingersXylaria polymorphaBialowiezaLeopard earthballScleroderma areolatumBialowieza

Coraltooth fungus Hericium clathroides Bialowieza (Strict Protection Area)