

ESTONIA 2015: trip report and species lists

WILDLIFE TRAVEL



Estonia

25th Sept-2nd Oct 2015

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LIST OF TRAVELLERS

Philip Precey

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25th September. Our Easyjet flight to Tallinn, surprisingly calm considering it seemed to be the Stag-do Express, got us in perfectly on time, and we arrived at the baggage carousel at the same time as our bags: if only all airports were as smooth as this!

We met up with Rein and Raimo, our guides/drivers for the forthcoming week, and headed east. Forty five minutes later, and we were at the Viru Bog nature trail, on the edge of the Lahemaa National Park, with beautiful late afternoon light along the trail leading us through the pine woodland and out onto the raised bog.

The woodland was mainly Scots Pine (apparently 1 in every 3 trees in Estonia is a Scots Pine...) with smaller numbers of Norway Spruce and Silver Birch. The trees were alive with Goldcrests, with large numbers moving through the canopy on migration. Amongst them we also found a handful of Crested Tits, lovely lively little punk crested birds, with Coal Tit, Treecreeper and Great Spotted Woodpecker calling and a surprise Black Woodpecker flying silently over our heads.

Beneath the trees, the forest floor was carpeted with Bilberry and Loganberry, as well as the leaves of May Lily and the impressive Freckle Pelt Lichen, mint green with chocolate chip dots. As the trees thinned and we crossed the bog itself, yet more berries appeared (albeit without their berries...): Cloudberry, Crowberry, Cranberry and Bearberry all appeared, alongside Bog Rosemary and the lovely scented Labrador Tea.

The viewing tower gave a great view across the bog, with a Raven cronking nearby and a Buzzard flying across, and then we made our way back to the vehicles...

As the sun dropped, so did the temperature, and a low mist came up from the meadows and bogs as we drove north east through the national park, pausing along the way to watch our first Common Cranes, a group (2 families) of 7 birds feeding in roadside stubbles before being flushed by dog walkers.

26th September. Lahemaa National Park. Some of us woke to the sound of bugling cranes, with several family groups feeding in the fields near the hotel and more birds flying over. As we set off after breakfast we found a large flock of cranes (the correct collective noun is apparently a sedge of cranes) just by the roadside.

With good weather promised for the morning, we decided to head for the coast to take advantage of the sunshine.

Our first stop took us through the pine woodland to the beach beyond. Nottingham Catchfly and Wood Cow-Wheat were surprisingly in flower around our parking spot, with several late Common Darters basking in the sun. Out on the sea, we found a good variety of ducks. Mallard and Teal were in the sheltered shallows, with good numbers of Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye and Goosander in the bay, as well as a party of Red-breasted Mergansers all feeding together. Out towards the horizon, large numbers of ducks could be seen flying about, and we picked out a large group of Long-tailed Ducks together with a single Velvet Scoter, followed a while later by a line of Common Scoter and then a party of Dark-bellied Brent Geese, all heading west. Great Crested Grebes were bobbing out among the waves, and two or three Black-throated Divers flew past, although very distantly.

We then moved to Altja, walking through the tiny 500 year old fishing village to the shore beyond. More dragonflies (both Common Darter and Migrant Hawker) were flying in the sheltered sunny spots. Out on the sea was a large flock of Scaup, with a couple of Great White Egrets around the shore.

As we were leaving, Rein and Raimo spotted a Pine Marten as it ran across the track. Unfortunately, we couldn't persuade him to come out and show himself to the rest of us...

From here we headed back into the woods, to the 'beaver nature trail'. Here we struck lucky. As soon as we got to the stream, the high pitched whistle of a Hazel Grouse was heard coming from the trees. Rein

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went back to the bus to get his ipod, to try and entice the grouse out into the open, and as he left a woodpecker flew past: large, with barred wings and a white-back and pale pink under the vent, a nice male White-backed Woodpecker, who unfortunately slipped off through the trees after pecking briefly at an alder.

Finally the Hazel Grouse put in an appearance, flying in and then perching up in an alder, giving some very good views of what is normally a very shy and flighty bird.

We returned to the beaver trail after lunch, but with less luck second time round: just a male Great Spotted Woodpecker and the evidence of beaver activity in the past. Amongst the leaf litter were a couple of gone-over orchid spikes, delicate and slightly twisting, Creeping Ladies Tresses. We also found the characteristically trilobed leaves of *Hepatica*.

From here we moved back to the coast at Käsmu, where several picture-book perfect Fly Agaric toadstools were amongst the pines and a very smart and somewhat lethargic Camberwell Beauty posed for the cameras.

We ended the day at the somewhat eccentric museum, with a delicious meal of hot smoked salmon.

27th September. Lahemaa National Park. Once again, the flight of the cranes out from their roost at first light took them straight over the hotel, a wonderful sight (and sound) for the early risers amongst us.

We spent the morning exploring the parkland at Vihula and then various forest tracks in the eastern end of the National Park, in the (ultimately fruitless) search for various woodpeckers. Black, Grey-headed, Middle Spotted, Lesser Spotted and Three-toed were all in our sights... and their various sounds all came out of Rein's ipod at some point or another, but alas no one replied.

We did find a tree that had been recently 'scaled' by a Three-toed Woodpecker, and saw plenty of evidence of Black Woodpecker, including a recently excavated nest hole, but alas no birds.

A Hawfinch flew over, a pair of Marsh Tits performed nicely, a small group of Brambling were heard and one lone bird perched up on the tree tops for us. Plants included a patch of Broad-leaved Hellborine, some more Creeping Ladies Tresses and the seed heads of Yellow Birds Nest. We encountered our first 'moose flies'. And Nigel was lucky enough to see another road-crossing Pine Marten.

But of woodpeckers, neither sight nor sound.

After lunch, we headed east, via a brief spot of retail therapy, to a secret location in the forest, where we settled in to our bunk beds and sat with bated breath...

The first visitors to the hide were a few Jays, followed by one, then two, then eventually up to six Raccoon Dogs, endearing animals (if not the greatest of news for the ground nesting birds and other small mammals of Estonia's forests: Raccoon Dogs were introduced from east Asia for fur farming) who entertained us while we waited for the star attraction to show up.

And at 19.13 precisely, the star attraction made his entrance: a big dark shape emerged from the forest, and a Brown Bear was in front of us, with Raccoon Dogs scattering as he fed.

Apparently happy with his meal, he ambled off, departing stage right at 19.33... and with those twenty minutes, our visit to the bear hide was a success.

28th September. After a surprisingly restful night's sleep, during which some put in some extra watching time and were rewarded with a second bear and a pair of Wild Boar, we left the bear hide and headed through the country roads in the rain.

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A pleasant surprise on a roadside wire was a Great Grey Shrike, which appeared much paler than expected, with clean white underparts, paler silvery grey upperparts, a broad white wing patch extending over both primaries and secondaries, a lot of white in the tail and white uppertail coverts stretching up onto the rump, all features which suggested the southern Russian *homeyeri* subspecies, a very rare visitor to Europe.

Back at the hotel, we had a late breakfast, packed our bags and struck west... ending up on the shores of Haapsalu Bay, with hundreds of Cranes flying south as we had our late lunch.

The floodplain meadows of the nearby Matsalu National Park are famous for their autumn Elk rut, so to the meadows we went. Out on the meadows, with the skies filled with skeins of geese (mostly Barnacles, but also a couple of groups of Bean Geese, with their slower wingbeats and deeper call), we looked for the Elk. Some Roe Deer picked their way across the meadows, a ghostly male Hen Harrier appeared three times in the distance, we found several Common Frogs, plenty of Otter spraints and a spike of deep blue Long-leaved Speedwell. But of Elk, we saw not a thing... fingers crossed for next time.

29th September. Hiiumaa. A painfully early start (for the hardy few) saw us catching the 6.30am ferry across to Hiiumaa, crossing in the same direction as skeins of hundreds of Barnacle Geese, freshly arrived from the Arctic.

Back on *terra firma*, we drove around to Salinõmme, where we met up with our boatman and went straight back out onto the water, heading southwards, first in the shelter of the long island of Saarnaki, then across some rougher open water to Hanikatsi and onwards towards the small islet of Vares. Here the boatman cut the engines, and Rein began to whistle... Apparently out-of-season Christmas carols are irresistible to Ringed Seals. And so it proved, with around ten glistening heads of the seals bobbing high up out of the water, like oversized meerkats, trying to get a better view of the crazy boat people whistling Silent Night.

The Baltic Ringed Seals are the largest of five Ringed Seal subspecies, left here in the Baltic after the ice sheet retreated 11,000 years ago. The subspecies suffered a dramatic decline over the 20th century, from 220,000 to just 5000 by the late 1970s, of which the Estonian population, in the Gulf of Finland, is currently estimated at just 300 animals.

Happy with our success with the seals, we headed northwards again, back to Saarnaki, where we landed and spent some time exploring the island (and drinking coffee in the sun to warm up again). The island proved to be quite a sun trap, with Red Admirals, Common Darter, Migrant Hawker and a nest full of Hornets all still very active.

Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs were moving through the trees, with a couple of Robins and a Song Thrush or two in the juniper scrub.

And then back on board the boat, and back to Salinõmme, passing a pair of White-tailed Eagles soaring in the distance, to re-join Sue on dry land.

We drove north, across the island to Kärkla, the largest town on the island, where we had a very good lunch at a local café, before carrying on up to the north coast on the Tahkuna peninsula, driving through the coastal pine forests in the hope of spotting a Red Squirrel (we didn't).

At the beach, we found the trees alive with migrating Coal Tits, looking very smart in their continental finery: steely grey back, white underparts, clean white cheeks, very much smarter than the slightly grubby Coal Tits we know from back home. Great Tit, Treecreeper and Goldcrest were with them, all on the move, as well as a party of Jays which dropped in from a great height.

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Out at sea, several skeins of Dark-bellied Brent Geese headed west, looking tired after their long flight from Arctic Russia, and still with plenty of distance yet to cover before they arrive on the coastal marshes of Norfolk.

A stunning Camberwell Beauty seemed intent on heading westwards with the other migrants. Behind the beach, Sheep's Bit was in flower, and we also enjoyed the highly flammable spores of Stags-horn Club Moss, the first photographic flash powder!

Moving round to the lighthouse on Cape Tahkuna, yet more geese were flying past, with the occasional group of Wigeon and plenty of Goldeneye and Goosander also on the sea. And in the short turf, a very unseasonal flower of Small Pasque Flower, a plant which should (according to the books) be flowering in April...

30th September. This morning we headed north, to the Spithami peninsula and nearby beaches and forests. At the point, we found a sheltered spot out of the wind and settled down to watch the flocks of wildfowl migrating westwards: flock after flock of Wigeon, Teal and Scaup came by, along with smaller numbers of Common Scoter, Tufted Duck, Long-tailed Duck and Pintail. Barnacle Geese came over high up, while Brent Geese hugged the waves.

Also clearly on the move were the passerines, with two large groups of Coal Tits dropping in to the pines from high up. With them were Great Tit, Robin and a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Into the forest, and the road verge was full of spikes of Broad-leaved Helleborine, along with a couple of late flowers of Maiden Pink. Amongst the trees we heard Crested Tit again, and a small party of Parrot Crossbills few over, chup-chupping.

Further along the coast, and we found a small estuary amongst the dunes, where a pair of White-tailed Eagles sat on rocks offshore. Feeding on the muddy margins were Spotted Redshank, Dunlin, Lapwing and a couple of Ruff; a large number of Gadwall were offshore together with the usual mixture of Mallard, Teal and Goldeneye, and a party of seven Bewick's Swans flew overhead, heading westward along with all the other migrants from the Arctic.

After a couple of hours rest back at the hotel, we headed back up to the forests of the Leidissoo area, with owls on our minds.

At our first stop, along a forest track next to a patch of hazel bushes, we were immediately greeted with the laughing call of a Nutcracker. After a couple of play backs on the ipod, he flew over our heads, giving everyone a good look at his white-tipped tail and white-spotted chocolate plumage.

Carrying on, via a tempting patch of lingonberries, we got to a crossroads where the high pitched call of a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker distracted us. Again thanks to some handy technology, the bird was tempted out into the open, eventually landing in the top of a nearby pine where she sat for quite a while, twisting from side to side. From here she moved onto a birch snag where she briefly posed on the same branch as a male Great Spotted Woodpecker before disappearing over our heads.

Another Nutcracker was calling nearby, and was soon tempted closer, again landing on the top of a pine out in the open for everyone to get good views, before flying off again over our heads.

And our luck with woodpeckers also continued, when a male Black Woodpecker flew in and landed in the open on the side of a pine tree. Although he didn't stay still for long, he did hang around, flying in a big loop around us, pausing here and there, before returning to his original copse of trees.

Alas, during all this, we heard not a peep from our intended quarry, the Pygmy Owl who makes this area his home. So we moved on, ending up at a clearing in the forest where, earlier in the spring, two pairs of Ural Owls had nested. With ears tuned for the deep hooting of the Ural Owls, it was a surprise to instead

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immediately hear the piping of a Pygmy Owl, close at hand! This bird at last responded to Rein's playback, and finally gave some brief views as he flew between two groups of trees: a tiny, finch-sized owl bounding overhead: success at last.

Of the Ural Owls, we heard just a single distant hoot, and as it got darker we left, back to the hotel for a late dinner.

1st October. Matsalu National Park. This morning we headed to the coastal meadows of Matsalu National Park. At our first stop, an immature White-tailed Eagle sat sentinel on a rock in the water; the Lapwing flocks included numbers of Golden Plover, with Dunlin and Spotted Redshank and a very late Marsh Sandpiper picking delicately along the shore; Barnacle Geese were all around, our first Greylag Geese were resting out on the water alongside small numbers of freshly arrived Bewick's Swans.

Moving on to the Haeska viewing tower, we found yet more fields full of Barnacle Geese, along with a large group of Tundra Bean Geese and White-fronted Geese mixed in together. From the tower hide, the many Wigeon, Teal and Mallard hid smaller numbers of Gadwall and a party of Shoveler along the near shore, while in the deeper water two female Smew were diving, briefly joining together with a group of Goosander. More Bewick's Swans were seen out on the water, alongside larger Whooper Swans.

Amongst the Whoopers was a bird with a blue neck collar, number 1E50. This individual was first ringed as a cygnet in Latvia in July 2010. He spent his first winter near Osnabrück in Germany with his parents and three siblings. 1E50 was then seen again in Latvia in May 2011, but was back near Osnabrück by the end of October 2011 and has followed the same pattern of summer in Latvia, winter in Germany ever since. He was last seen on his wintering grounds in February 2014.

Marsh Tits 'pitchou-ed' in the hedgerow, and a freshly dead Yellow-necked Mouse was on the path.

We finished the morning with another field full of Common Cranes, before lunch in a cosy café back in Haapsalu and a visit to the town's defunct but still imperially impressive train station.

After a rest back at the hotel, we headed out again, this time around to the south side of Matsalu, to Penijõe where we set out by boat along the Penijõgi channel and then joined the wider Kasari jõgi river. Fieldfares and White Wagtails were flying about on their way to roost, and the sky was again full of thousands of Barnacle Geese all heading out to roost in the bay.

We stopped at the Kloostri viewing tower, with an impressive view across the floodplain from the top. Otter spraint and American Mink scat were both on rocks by the bridge, and a Roe Deer was grazing, distantly, out on the meadows, but unfortunately of Elk we couldn't find any sign, especially galling as we found out later that another group had been watching 6 animals the same evening out on the meadows.

So back to the boat, and back along the river... but our Beaver luck was about equal to our Elk luck. A single tail-slapping splash was glimpsed, despite us going back and forth past the territories of at least 20 animals. A rather cold Daubenton's Bat was quartering the water in front of the boat as we returned to 'port', and back to the hotel for our final dinner, toasting Rein's departure and Nigel's birthday with bubbles and chocolate cake.

2nd October. Tallinn. Our last day was spent with a city tour of Tallinn's medieval old town, and a delicious final lunch that involved pike-perch and sea buckthorn, before the delights of duty free shopping (stripey hats, anyone?) and our flight home.

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'Our' Brown Bear



Baltic Ringed Seal enjoying the carols



One of the six **Raccoon Dogs** at the bear hide

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	1st	2nd
MAMMALS (X = seen, D = dead, S = tracks or signs, H = heard)										
Bats										
	Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	One low over the river at the end of the 'beaver' trip, 1st							
	Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	1 in a crevice in the roof of the cold cellar, Käsmu, 26th							
Land Carnivores										
	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			X			X		
	Raccoon Dog	<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>	6+ watched from the bear hide, 27 th							
	Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	One showed well from the bear hide, just before dusk on 27 th . A second, larger animal was seen during the night.							
	American Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	Scat by the bridge by the tower, 'beaver' trip, 1st							
	Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>		X	X					
	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>			S	S			S	
Marine Mammals										
	Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>						D		
	Baltic Ringed Seal	<i>Pusa hispida botnica</i>	10+ inquisitive heads bobbing in the sea off Vares island, enjoying Rein's rendition of Silent Night... 29 th							
Ungulates										
	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			X		S	S	S	
	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	X	X		X			X	
Rodents and Lagomorphs										
	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europeus</i>						S		
	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	X							
	Eurasian Beaver	<i>Castor fiber</i>		S					S	
	Yellow-necked Mouse	<i>Apodemus flavicollis</i>							D	
AMPHIBIANS										
	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>				X			X	

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Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Swans)										
	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>							X	
	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>						X	X	
	European White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser (a.) albifrons</i>							X	
	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser (fabalis) serrirostris</i>				X			X	
	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>							X	
	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>				X	X	X	X	X
	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta (bernicla) bernicla</i>		X			X	X		
	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				X		X	X	
	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>							X	
	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>						X		
	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		X			X	X	X	
	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>		X				X		
	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		X				X		X
	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>					X	X		
	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>		X			X	X		
	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>		X						
	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		X			X	X		
	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>							X	
	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		X			X	X		
Family Tetraonidae (Grouse)										
	Hazel Grouse	<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>		X						
Family Gaviidae (Divers)										
	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>					X	X		
	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>		X						
Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)										
	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>								
	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		X	X	X	X	X		
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)										
	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X
Family Ardeidae (Hérons)										
	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>		X					X	
	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Vultures)										
	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				X	X	X	X	
	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				X				
	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		X			X			X
Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)										
	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					X	X	X	X
Family Gruidae (Cranes)										
	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Family Charadriidae (Plovers)										
	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					X			
	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>							X	
	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X

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Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)										
	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>						X	X	
	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>						X	X	
	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>							X	
	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>						X	X	
	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				X				
Family Laridae (Gulls)										
	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>				X	X	X	X	X
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)										
	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		X	X	X			X	X
	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Strigidae (Owls)										
	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>						H		
	Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>						X		
Family Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)										
	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		H				X		
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)										
	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	X		S		X	X		
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>		X						
	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>						X	H	
	Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>			S					
Family Alaudidae (Larks)										
	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		X			X		X	
	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>					X			
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)										
	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		X			X			
Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)										
	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				X	X	X		
	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Troglodytidae (Wrens)										
	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		X	X		X			
Family Muscicapidae (Chats and Flycatchers)										
	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>					X	X		
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>					X			
Family Turdidae (Flycatchers and Chats)										
	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		X			X	X		
	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>				X		X	X	
	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>				X			X	X
	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)										
	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		X						
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)										
	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>					X			
	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		H			X			
Family Regulidae (Crests)										
	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

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Family Paridae (Tits)										
	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X
	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	X	H				X		
	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			X				X	
Family Sittidae (Nuthatches)										
	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		X	X					
Family Certhiidae (Treecreepers)										
	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	H				X			
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)										
	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>				X		X	X	
Family Corvidae (Crows)										
	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>						X	H	
	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>							X	X
	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	H	H	H	X	X	X	X	
Family Sturnidae (Starlings)										
	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Passeridae (Sparrows)										
	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		X	X	X	X		X	
Family Fringillidae (Finches)										
	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>			X					
	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>					X			
	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>							X	X
	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>		X				H	X	
	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			X	X	H			
	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		X	X					
	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>						X		
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)										
	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		X			X			
	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>				X	X	X	X	

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Veronica longifolia, Maatsalu National Park



Pulsatilla pratensis, Tahkuna Lighthouse



Migrant Hawker on Saarnaki island



Fly Agaric, Käsmu

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	NOTES
GYMNOSPERMS			
Pinaceae			
	Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	Common forest tree
	Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	The commonest tree in Estonia
Cupressaceae			
	Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	25 th
ANGIOSPERMS: DICOTYLEDONS			
Asteraceae			
	Goldenrod	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	In the woods, 26 th
	Canadian Goldenrod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Garden escape, behind the museum, 26 th
	Michaelmas Daisy	<i>Aster amellus</i>	At the ruined manor, 1 st
	Cabbage Thistle	<i>Cirsium oleraceum</i>	Damp places along the beaver trail, 26 th
	Russian Lettuce	<i>Lactuca tatarica</i>	Blue flowers behind the beach, 26 th
	Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Saarnaki island, 29 th
	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Tahkuna lighthouse, 29 th
Balsaminaceae			
	Small Balsam	<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>	Small, pale-yellow flowers. 26 th
Berberidaceae			
	Barberry	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	Oval red berries. 28 th
Betulaceae			
	Dwarf Birch	<i>Betula nana</i>	Raised bog, 25 th
Boraginaceae			
	Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Eg at the ruined manor, 1 st
Brassicaceae			
	Hoary Alison	<i>Berteroa incana</i>	Tall white brassica with divided petals.
	Sea Rocket	<i>Cackile maritima</i>	Spithami, 30 th
	Sea Kale	<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Tahkuna lighthouse, 29 th
Campanulaceae			
	Spreading Bellflower	<i>Campanula patula</i>	Roadverge in the woods, 27 th
	Creeping Bellflower	<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	Rein's forest rest stop, 28 th
	Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Rein's forest rest stop, 28 th
	Peach-leaved Bellflower	<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	The large harebell flowers, Saarnaki island, 29 th
	Sheep's-bit	<i>Jasione montana</i>	Tahkuna lighthouse, 29 th
Caryophyllaceae			
	Maiden Pink	<i>Dianthus deltoids</i>	Spithami, 30 th
	Sea Sandwort	<i>Honkenya peploides</i>	On the sandy beach, 26 th
	Nottingham Catchfly	<i>Silene nutans</i>	In the first car park spot, 26 th
	Hybrid Campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i> X <i>S. dioica</i>	The 'pink' campion, near the coast, 26 th
	White Campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	1 st
	Soapwort	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Around the ruined manor, 1 st
Cistaceae			
	Common Rockrose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Saarnaki island, 29 th
Dipsacaceae			
	Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Eg Saarnaki island, 29 th

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	NOTES
Empetraceae			
	Crowberry	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	Raised bog, 25 th . Short, linear leaves crowded along stem.
Ericaceae			
	Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	On dryer parts of the raised bog, 25 th
	Labrador Tea	<i>Ledum palustre</i> (syn. <i>Rhododendron tomentosum</i>)	Common on the raised bog, 25 th . Very scented leaves, used in Scandinavia to protect clothes from moths.
	Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Raised bog, 25 th . Broad, dark, glossy leaves
	Cranberry	<i>Vaccinium oxycoccus</i> (syn. <i>Oxycoccus quadripetalus</i>)	Raised bog, 25 th . Small leaves, creeping plant.
	Bilberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Raised bog and pine woods, 25 th
	Lingonberry, Cowberry	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	Pine woods, 25 th . Broad, rounded, glossy leaves.
	Bog Rosemary	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Raised bog, 25 th . Rosemary-like leaves, delicate pink bell flower.
Fabaceae			
	Sea Pea	<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>	On the beach, 26 th
	Hare's-foot Clover	<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Tahkuna lighthouse, 29 th
	Crown Vetch	<i>Securigera varia</i>	Pale pink, Spithami, 30 th
	Sickle Medick	<i>Medicago falcata</i>	Yellow. Old manor, Matsalu, 1st
Grossulariaceae			
	Gooseberry	<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	26 th
	Mountain Currant	<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	26 th
Lamiaceae			
	Common Hemp-nettle	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	26 th
	Marsh Woundwort	<i>Stachys palustris</i>	Growing on the sandy beach, 26 th
	Hedge Woodwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Roadverge in the woods, 27 th
	Hairy Thyme	<i>Thymus praecox</i>	By the beach, 27 th
	Wild Basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	In the woods, 27 th
	Marjoram	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Saarnaki island, 29 th
Monotropaceae			
	Yellow Birds Nest	<i>Monotropa hypopitys</i>	Dead flower heads on the forest floor, 25 th and 26 th
Orobanchaceae			
	Drug Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia stricta</i>	Leidissoo area, 30 th
	Common Cow-wheat	<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Amongst the pine trees, 25 th
	Wood Cow-wheat	<i>Melampyrum nemorosum</i>	Stunning yellow and purple flowers. 26 th .
Pyrolaceae			
	Common Wintergreen	<i>Pyrola minor</i>	In the woodpecker woods, 27 th
Ranunculaceae			
	Hepatica	<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Glossy, trilobed leaves, along the 'beaver trail', 26 th
	Small Pasque Flower	<i>Pulsatilla pratensis</i>	Tahkuna lighthouse, in flower, 29 th
	Common Water Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	Ditches, Matsalu, 28 th
Rhamnaceae			
	Alder Buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Black berries, 28 th

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Rosaceae			
	Cloudberry	<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>	Raised bog, 25 th . Broad leaves.
	Dewberry	<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Along the road verge by the hotel, 26 th . Large glaucous blackberries.
	a rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	By the coast, with large hips. 26 th
	Goatsbeard Spiraea	<i>Aruncus dioica</i>	In the woodpecker woods, 27 th
	Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Common in wet meadows
Rubiaceae			
	Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	Eg Saarnaki Island, 29 th
Scrophulariaceae			
	Long-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica longifolia</i>	Blue spiked speedwell, Matsalu, 28 th
	Heath Speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Pine woods at Spithami, 30 th
	Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	The old ruined manor, Matsalu, 1 st
	Common Figwort	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Matsalu, 28 th
ANGIOSPERMS: MONOCOTYLEDONS			
Asparagaceae			
	May Lily	<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>	Heart-shaped leaves on the forest floor, 25 th
	Lily of the Valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Paired leaves and red berries, 26 th
	Common Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Along the beaver trail, 26 th
Hydrocharitaceae			
	Canadian Pondweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	In ditches at Matsalu, 28 th
Orchidaceae			
	Creeping Lady's Tresses	<i>Goodyera repens</i>	Some gone-over spikes in the pine forest, 26 th
	Broad-leaved Helleborine	<i>Epipactis hellborine</i>	Roadverge in the woods, 27 th
OTHERS			
	Freckle Pelt Lichen	<i>Peltigera aphthosa</i>	Viru Bog, 25 th . Mint choc chip.
	Fly Agaric	<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Pine woodlands, 26 th
	Stag-horn Club-moss		Pine woods at Tahkuna, with explosive spores. 29 th