

Tour Report South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza 18 – 25 May 2025

Great bustard



Red squirrel



Sandwich tern



Southern blue damselfly



Compiled by Ed Drewitt

Based at the exclusive Grade 1 listed Warmwell House, our week-long tour explored the best wildlife places across Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire. Ranging from displaying and nesting great bustards on Salisbury Plain, red squirrels on Brownsea Island and rare orchids and damselflies, this holiday was full of variety. Wherever we went, we saw or heard wildlife that is thriving here in particular locations on the South Coast; we saw or heard cuckoos on most days too. Each day presented us with a different habitat or environment, providing everyone with a fresh opportunity to experience something new, including nesting ospreys, a smooth snake, Dartford warblers, green hairstreak, Lulworth skipper butterflies and nesting seabirds such as Sandwich and little terns.

Sunday 18 May 2025

Day 1:

Arrival at Warmwell House

Weather: Warm and bright sunshine, 23°C

Everyone arrived late afternoon on a beautiful sunny spring day. The gardens of Warmwell House, our exquisite mansion house that would be our home for the week, were looking at their absolute best with wisteria growing profusely and draping the house and trees. A few guests enjoyed their arrival by making use of the tennis court and heated outdoor pool. We all met together for tea, coffee and cake at 5:30 pm and found out about our plans for the week. At one point we were appropriately interrupted by a beautiful fox crossing the lawns with some prey, presumably taking it back to its cubs. The owners of the house, Sam and Serena also came to say hello and talk a little about their home, built in 1620. After a delicious meal in the grand dining room, we finished off chatting and getting to know each other in the morning room before heading to bed for the night. The fox gave one more appearance that evening, crossing the lawn again with some food.

Monday 19 May 2025

Day 2:

Portland and Weymouth

Weather: Cool start with some cloud; hot and bright sunshine later, 24°C

Portland

Portland Bill, the southern tip of Portland, near Weymouth, is just half an hour from Warmwell House. We arrived just after 9.15 am by Portland Bill Lighthouse and walked towards the bird observatory. We stopped at a small disused quarry where we were treated to lovely views of a little owl sitting motionless. Nearby several common blue and three small heath butterflies were flying around. The area we were walking through is owned by the bird observatory and they are allowing the wildflowers and grasses to grow. As a result, it was busy with house sparrows foraging for insects, a displaying meadow pipit, a singing skylark, a hovering kestrel, linnets, a dunnock and a family of young starlings. Naturalised gladioli flowers provided a deep purple-pink colour to the field while birds-foot trefoil provided a food plant for the common blue butterflies. As we headed up to the observatory the blackthorn bushes were covered in the webs of ermine moth caterpillars which had eaten all their leaves. We headed into the bird observatory and field centre, which has been ringing and recording birds on the island since 1961. It is based in Portland's Old Lower Lighthouse. We met with Martin who oversees the operations here. The good weather had meant most small birds migrating over from mainland Europe were not settling on Portland. As a result, there were mostly the local birds such as house sparrows, woodpigeons, dunnocks and goldfinches, the latter singing away all morning. We were however able to look at a range of moths that had been caught in a moth trap overnight. Highlights included an eyed hawkmoth, cream-spot tiger, treble line and an l-album wainscot amongst many others. As we looked for a spotted flycatcher with mixed success, Martin appeared with a cotton bag containing a bird that had been caught in a mist net. Ed was given the honour of handling and ringing the bird; it was a tiny chiffchaff, weighing only 7.3 grams. Ed talked through the process of ringing and taking measurements before releasing it.

We headed back to the main lighthouse and stopped for a cup of coffee or tea and snacks. We then walked along the Portland stone coastline to spot seabirds. As the strong rip current flowed incredibly fast past the southern tip of the island, guillemots and razorbills also flowed past as they sat on the sea! Small numbers of gannets also flew past and slightly further along the coast over one thousand herring gulls were gathered in a long line that formed a feeding frenzy. Closer to shore we had lovely views of a small group of kittiwakes and another group of washing razorbills. Guillemots frequently flew past.

On land, we enjoyed views of a singing and displaying wheatear while a rock pipit was resting amongst the thrift and another was seen in display flight. There were many coastal specialist plants here too such as sea beet and rock samphire; thrift was in full flower and decorating the road verges and grassy areas in full pink splendour.

Ferrybridge

Adjacent to Chesil Beach we stopped at Ferrybridge for lunch, an area that overlooks a tidal lagoon, the Fleet Lagoon. This is an area important for Mediterranean salt marsh scrub with specialised plants such as sea purslane and shrubby seablite. In glorious sunshine, we ate delicious sandwiches while watching distant small numbers of ringed plovers, dunlin, sanderling and a bar-tailed godwit amongst the seaweed. A hunting hobby also flew through.

Little terns have a breeding colony on Chesil Beach. It is protected from predators and has volunteer wardens keeping watch. Many of the adults were resting and washing by the lagoon in the distance and occasionally all flying up together as a large flock. We headed up along Chesil Beach to meet the warden, hear more about the birds and see them on the nests. Little terns are a protected Schedule One species, so we watched at a safe distance behind fencing. Each nest had a special numbered sign, so we were able to spot them easily sitting on their nests. We had lovely views of little terns flying past too, often carrying a fish to feed to their partner at the nest. An oystercatcher and a ringed plover were also sitting on a nest. While watching the terns a peregrine flew across the lagoon and was quickly seen off by an oystercatcher!

Radipole and Lodmoor

After lunch, we headed north back into Weymouth. Nestled in the centre of the town sits 83 hectares (205 acres) of reedbed wetlands known as RSPB Radipole Lake. It is connected to the wider countryside by the River Wey that feeds into it and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Along our walk we experienced the loud, explosive songs of the Cetti's warbler while reed warblers strummed away in the reeds. Above the reserve, we saw lots of sand martins and a small group of swifts. Amongst the gulls near the visitor centre, we also spotted gadwall, mallards, a great crested grebe, a tufted duck, Canada geese and shelducks. Several reed buntings sang from the reed bed while in the trees a chiffchaff, robin and dunnock also sang.

The sunshine was bringing out the insects and we saw brimstone, speckled wood and red admiral butterflies. There was also a range of dragonflies including red-eyed damselflies, azure damselflies, hairy dragonfly, brown hawker and black-tailed skimmer.

We drove five minutes down the road where, on the east side of Weymouth, the RSPB also manage a saltmarsh wetland, Lodmoor. It is an area comprising open water, some reeds, saltmarsh/wet grassland and bushes. Before we had left the car park we watched a song thrush thrusting a garden snail against a small rock and finally shaking the snail free of its shell ready to eat. We walked a short distance to Lodmoor where the shingle wooden rafts out on the open water were busy with nesting black-headed gulls and smaller numbers of common terns. Other birds nearby included a shelduck, a mute swan, a little egret, a foraging cormorant and an oystercatcher. Meanwhile, the nearby scrub and larger trees were home to one or two singing greenfinches. We also had close views of a pair of collared doves and a chiffchaff. We headed back for tea, coffee and delicious cake for 5:30 pm outside in lovely afternoon sunshine while a chaffinch sang nearby and swallows flew overhead. After a rest, we met again for checklist at 7 pm and dinner at 7:15 pm.

Find out more about our [South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Tuesday 20 May 2025

Day 3:

Reptiles and Heathland Wildlife at Great Ovens, Heartlands Point, Winspit Quarry and Arne Reserves

Weather: Calm, bright sunshine and hot, 26°C

Great Ovens

The dry heath at Great Ovens, part of the wider Wareham Forest and Morden Heath is the result of extensive quarrying for clay between 1850 and 1940 for pottery industries in nearby Sandford. The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation have owned it since 1996. Our guides for the day were Terry Bagley and Howard Inns, both brilliant naturalists and conservationists. They also both have licences to look for and handle rare reptiles. We walked around the heath where Terry and Howard checked reptile tins – square pieces of corrugated tin – for reptiles warming up for the day. As we walked strategically across the heath covered in bell heather and ling we were in luck. Howard appeared with a cotton bag and presented a beautiful female smooth snake. He explained more about her biology and it gave everyone the chance to see Britain's rarest snake up close. The sun was warming up the heath and most of the reptiles were already busy out and about. While Mike was pointing out different heathers a female sand lizard ran across the sand, almost too fast for anyone to see. Across the heath, we also encountered several displaying tree pipits, two flying siskins, two flying cuckoos and one male calling, calling coal tits, singing chiffchaffs, a mistle thrush and various stonechats. To our delight, Dartford warblers were calling and singing all over the place and we had views of a few, including one with a beak full of food to feed young. We also spent time watching the rare heath tiger beetle which stood on the sandy track. Other wildlife included a dead heath dor beetle, two minotaur beetles, the used cocoon from a wasp spider, the protective case containing a bagworm moth caterpillar, a four-spotted chaser dragonfly, an emperor dragonfly, a silver-studded blue butterfly and slavemaker ants. We also saw at least four brimstone butterflies, no doubt attracted to the abundance of its caterpillar's foodplant on the heath, alder buckthorn.

Heartland Moor National Nature Reserve, Middlebere

Our next spot was Heartland Moor, an important heathland habitat that is connected to all the other important wider heaths in the area, such as the RSPB's Arne. We walked along an old tramway where the thin soil was covered in sheep's sorrel and heath bedstraw. In the bushes bordering the tramway, we saw several chaffinch fledglings and a newly fledged stonechat. We stopped for lunch looking across the heath, close to trees and bushes. Ed suddenly spotted a huge raptor overhead, an immature white-tailed eagle being chased by a buzzard, which looked tiny in comparison! The invertebrates were the stars for the rest of our visit, in particular, the butterflies: we enjoyed watching at least a dozen different green hairstreaks, one holly blue, several silver-studded blues, small heaths, one wall and four or more brimstones. Dragonflies included an emperor, a four-spotted chaser and a female keeled skimmer. We were also treated to the rare adder's tongue fern, bright green lush leaves nestled in a damp verge beneath the hawthorn trees on the tramway.

Winspit Quarry

We travelled another 20 minutes passed Corfe Castle and into the village of Worth Matravers. We then headed down to the coastline to Winspit Quarry (National Trust), a location where Star Wars had been filmed. The sea was calm and a lovely blue. As we walked down one field was covered in yellow rattle. The valley was full of hawthorn and elder trees, providing a brilliant habitat for insects and birds. We listened to two singing yellowhammers alongside a song thrush, blackbird, several whitethroats, chaffinch, greenfinch, dunnock, chiffchaff, blackcap and wren. We also spotted a few sika deer and two roe deer. Terry had also found a glow worm larva to show us.

After a kilometre, we arrived at Winspit Quarry. Amongst derelict concrete structures, there was flowering wild cabbage, the ancestor of cultivated brassicas. On the concrete slabs and shelves, we spotted six or more wall lizards, a mix of males and females, sunning themselves. At one point a male was biting the tail of a

Find out more about our [South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

female in potential mating behaviour before he let go and ran away. The thin, unimproved soil was perfect for wildflowers including kidney and horseshoe vetches. Butterflies include a dingy skipper, a small white, a large white, a red admiral, a wall, several speckled woods and at least three common blues. We also saw a day-flying mother shipton moth. Howard excitedly then took us a few minutes' walk along to another part of a nearby quarry while showing us a bloody-nosed beetle; here we spotted three or four Lulworth skippers, a butterfly that has a very restricted range along this part of the south coast. Amongst the limestone grassland, we also saw lots of ivy broomrape looking at its best. Nearby a skylark sang and out over the sea we saw flying guillemots, a fulmar gliding past amongst many small flocks of herring gulls, two great black-backed gulls, five black-headed gulls and a shag. After our walk or lift back to Worth Matravers we drove 30 minutes back to Warmwell House and had a rest before meeting for dinner and the checklist.

Wednesday 21 May 2025

Day 4:

Poole Harbour Spring Safari Cruise

Weather: Rain till early afternoon, sunshine later, up to 18°C

After an earlier start, we headed out at 7:30 am to Poole Harbour, one of the largest harbours in Britain and very shallow too, only 1.5 metres deep. We journeyed into Poole and boarded the boat at 9 am for a spring safari exploring the harbour over the next three hours. Despite the rain, we still saw a lot of birds and a wide range of habitats. During our trip, we passed salt marsh and reedbed habitats while heathlands such as Arne were always close by. In the first part of our sailing, we headed to Brownsea Island where we saw a flock of dunlin, sanderling and a single knot, all in summer plumage. Today's rain and low clouds helped ground these birds and gave them a chance to feed up to continue their journey north to the Arctic. We enjoyed sandwich and common terns flying past calling, while on the lagoon of Brownsea Island, we spotted nesting great black-backed gulls and oystercatchers. Shelducks, gadwalls and a brood of greylag geese were also seen. Introduced platforms in the protected lagoon were home to two hundred pairs of bustling sandwich terns and black-headed gulls.

Out on the flat water were numerous great crested grebes and close to eighty or more mute swans; a pair of common scoter also flew past. On the exposed mud and shallows, we saw over one hundred black-tailed godwits, a whimbrel, half a dozen bar-tailed godwits, ringed plovers, dunlin, little egrets, pairs of greylag and Canada geese, shelduck and lots of gadwalls. Over the reedbeds we watched a female, and later, a male marsh harrier alongside displaying redshanks and the odd lapwing. A skylark sang overhead while several reed buntings and numerous reed warblers sang from the reeds, especially up the River Frome close to a gravel pit. A few sika deer were also feeding in the reeds. Mike spotted three bearded reedlings, including two males, and when we turned to head back downriver into the harbour we saw another half a dozen. Out across the water herring and great black-backed gulls were common, alongside a few lesser black-backed gulls. In the distance, we could see construction diggers across Arne Moor. They are part of a huge project here creating more tidal wetland habitat for wildlife by removing the current sea wall and allowing the tide to penetrate further inland, allowing more saltmarsh to develop. We meandered back to the quay in Poole and headed off the boat around 12:10 pm. Very wet, we stopped on the quay for delicious and hot fish and chips before heading back to Warmwell House. We met again at 3 pm for scones and tea.

The rain gradually cleared away and at 3:45 pm we headed back to Heartland Moor to spot any sand lizards. The sun was out although perhaps not quite long enough for the lizards. However, stonechats were all across the heath, including a male doing his song display right in front of us. Two cuckoos were calling in the background and various other small birds were singing including chiffchaffs, blackcaps, coal tit and greenfinch. We were also treated to two calling and displaying curlews. On our walk back to the vehicles we also saw a dumbledor beetle and arriving back at Warmwell House a hobby was being seen off by some swallows!

After a day of rain, the evening cleared up and after dinner, we headed just down the road to look for nightjars. Meeting Carl, Warmwell House's chief gardener, we met on some nearby heathland just before 9 pm. The rain clouds had moved on and it was a beautiful evening, with mist setting in towards the end of

Find out more about our [South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

our visit. A song thrush sang nearby, mimicking one of the calls of nightjar and a mistle thrush flew into a tree. Other songbirds included robin and dunnock. At just before 9:20 pm a nightjar began churring and carried on for 20 minutes or so, occasionally stopping and changing location before churring again. It then appeared to be feeding and we heard it nearby giving its contact 'ke-wick' call. As the light faded some also heard a tawny owl calling. We were also enjoying watching 10 Exmoor ponies that came over to see what was happening; they are conservation grazers on this heath helping to keep the scrub at bay.

Thursday 22 May 2025

Day 5:

Carey's Secret Garden and Brownsea Island

Weather: Cool start, bright and sunny later, 20°C

Meeting for a 6:20 am breakfast we headed out an hour later and headed for Carey's Secret Garden, just on the suburbs of Wareham. We met with Mya, from Birds of Poole Harbour, who gave an introduction. We then headed up to a special osprey viewing platform to look at an osprey nest 350 metres away. The female was sat on the nest and we heard the brilliant news that one of the four eggs had hatched today! We watched the female on the nest, both through scopes and live online. At one point she raised herself up and we had a clear view of the newly hatched chick!

These are the south coast's only breeding ospreys and is the result of after several years of releasing young ospreys into the area. The male is from one of the releases and the female was a chick in a nest in the Rutland Water area. The pair arrived in 2021 and have been nesting since 2022. For 2024 and 2025 the female has laid a clutch of four eggs; this is unusual as most ospreys lay just three eggs.

While we were enjoying the ospreys we saw up to a dozen mistle thrushes, a singing song thrush, several song thrushes foraging in the field in front of us, blackbirds, siskins, a robin, nesting nuthatches and woodpigeons. We also heard a singing woodlark and two firecrests.

Just before 10 am, we headed off to Poole Quay to catch the 11 am boat across to the National Trust's Brownsea Island, a now familiar landmark after yesterday's spring safari in the harbour. We headed for the church to look for red squirrels. After continuing a walk through the sweet chestnut woodland, we were rewarded with views of one squirrel before it moved on, although we encountered it again a little further along. The trees were busy with birds including a calling spotted flycatcher, a family of long-tailed tits and a singing treecreeper. Over some damper grassland, we also saw an emperor dragonfly. After lunch on the green we headed to the lagoon hides, an area managed by Dorset Wildlife Trust. From the Tern Hide, we watched a noisy and bustling colony of sandwich terns and black-headed gulls with some common terns. Many of the gulls had young chicks, some of which were venturing into the water. At least one sandwich tern had also hatched a chick. From here we also saw shelducks, two gadwall, a dozen dunlin, a knot, Canada geese, herring gulls and great black-backed gulls. One water rail was also heard calling.

We made the 3 pm boat back. Some of the group headed back to Warmwell House with Ed while the others stopped at Great Ovens Nature Reserve looking for sand lizards. While the lizards did not show the group found plenty of signs where females had been doing investigative burrows. There were also half a dozen pairs of Dartford warblers showing well alongside tree pipits, stonechats and a calling cuckoo. The group also saw another glow worm larva.

We then all met together for tea, coffee and cake before a rest and dinner at 7:15 pm.

Friday 23 May 2025

Day 6:

New Forest

Weather: Sunny and bright with some occasional cloud, 20°C

The 290 square kilometres (112 square miles) of the ancient New Forest comprises wood pasture, forestry plantations, heathland and boglands. As soon as we entered the New Forest we were taken to a world of pollarded oaks, oak pasture and lush woodland contrasting with vast open areas of heather and gorse. After stopping briefly at Bolderwood for a toilet stop we headed to our first main stop, Acres Down, this is one of the highest points in the forest with a view across the vast landscape. We went for a walk along through woodland encountering several redstarts, one of which we finally saw singing from the top of a sweet chestnut tree. We heard several singing firecrests and most caught glimpses of it as it moved through a holly tree. Various song thrushes were busy collecting and flying past with food for young, and one male thrush was singing in an oak tree above us. We also saw a very cute treecreeper fledgling and a family of long-tailed tits. While stopped in one location, where we heard one or two willow warblers and one of the redstarts, the wrens had incorporated some wood warbler songs into their repertoire. Other birds along this lovely woodland walk included the songs of blackcap, chaffinch, robin, blackbird, siskin, chaffinch and chiffchaff, while goldcrest and a marsh tit were also seen fleetingly. A cuckoo was also calling on and off throughout our walk.

After a tea break, we headed up to the view across the forest, where we spent 20 minutes looking for raptors. A goshawk flew low overhead and in the very distance, we saw several buzzards and goshawks. A hawfinch called nearby and flew past and a greenfinch perched just enough for most people to see it.

Before lunch, we stopped by Millyford Bridge where there is grazed wood pasture. This gave everyone a chance to enjoy seeing and photographing a group of New Forest ponies that were grazing out in the open. We stopped for lunch at Bolderwood where friendly chaffinches came to feed around the picnic tables and enjoyed some delicious New Forest ice cream.

We spent the afternoon at Beaulieu Heath and headed down to Crockford Bridge where we enjoyed watching damselflies in a delightful stream. At first, a breeze was keeping birds low and just a family of robins and two singing dunnocks were on show. However, as we walked on we encountered several linnets, chaffinches, at least four meadow pipits with several in-flight displays, stonechats and three skylarks. We also saw one flying lapwing and nearby, perched in a tree, an immature peregrine feeding on prey. The pools we passed contained specialist plants adapted to this low-nutrient environment including the aromatic sweet gale or bog myrtle, bog pondweed, marsh St. John's-wort, star rush and cotton grass. We also saw saw-worth, common spotted and heath spotted orchids. At one pond a female broad-bodied chaser was laying her eggs. Our final stop at a stream by Crockford Bridge was home to stickleback fish and some pond skaters. Half a dozen beautiful demoiselles were flying around. Then, as we almost left the stream, a clump of rushes was full of blue damselflies. With closer observation and checking photos, they were confirmed to be southern blue damselflies, one of our rarest damselflies in Britain! Almost as a celebration two cuckoos flew right past as we finished. The area around us also had New Forest ponies, including some with recently born foals. Ed and Mike headed back to the vehicles before picking everyone up. After a quick toilet stop in Beaulieu, we headed back to Warmwell House.

We met again for dinner and checklist and some of the group headed out to listen for bats. Common pipistrelle and a serotine bat were picked up on the bat detectors and a tawny owl was heard calling.

Saturday 24 May 2025

Day 7:

Great bustard and wildlife tour of Salisbury Plain

Weather: Overcast and rainy spells in the morning, brighter and sunny spells later, 19°C

We headed inland and north-east, passing Stonehenge and stopping in the village Enford where we met Dave Waters, founder of the Great Bustard Group. The great bustard is a bird of open grasslands or steppe habitat, and one of the heaviest flying birds in the world. At risk of extinction globally, the project here in Wiltshire has been working on reintroducing great bustards to Salisbury Plain since 1998 and the first release happened in 2004. The first 'wild' nest was located in 2007 and the first chicks in 2009. In 2022 over twenty nests were located, although more are thought to have been across the three main great bustard release populations. There is now a self-sustaining population with over fifty birds.

After arriving at Enford village hall for tea, coffee and cake, Dave gave a brilliant talk about the great bustard, its history and its story on Salisbury Plain. We then headed out in Landrovers into the nearby countryside where we had a landscape-scale view of great bustard country. As we headed up over Enford Down we saw a female great bustard walking to the edge of a field, disappearing into some vegetation. A little further along two males were sat down in a field. And further along, incredibly, six large males were in a line together in a field. Several took off giving us amazing views of their large size and largely white wings.

We travelled on a bit further to a hide that looks across to the original release area. We passed two brown hares and a red-legged partridge. Once in the hide, there was continual wildlife activity for an hour or so. As we focused in on a female bustard sat on her nest a few males flew into the upper field, with one being mobbed by a pair of lapwings. Another female also flew in while a further female was seen sat on her nest. One of the males made his way down the grassland slope and began displaying, almost turning his wings inside out to reveal his large, white feathers and puffing up his throat to show off his bluish gular pouches and moustache-like 'whiskers'. His tail was also cocked in such a way it showed its bright white underside, which was blowing in the breeze! As this was all happening there was lots of other animal life to see. One or two hares made their way across the fields and in the grassland in front of the hide, at least three corn buntings were calling, chasing each other and singing from fence posts. At the edge of a chalky, stony field we also had views of at least three stone curlews and a pair of lapwings. A curlew and a meadow pipit were also calling in the background. A red kite or two was frequently flying low overhead, often being harried by the lapwings. Skylarks could also be heard as we headed back outside. After a fabulous experience, we went back to the village hall for a short presentation on how drones are helping the bustard team to find nesting bustards in fields that are just about to be harvested. We then popped into their small museum and shop, where there was some more information about the bustards and the opportunity to buy some tasteful merchandise. We lunched in the hall before heading off at just before 2 pm.

50 minutes later we stopped at the amazing Martin Down, a National Nature Reserve full of wildlife. The site is an example of the once widespread species-rich chalk downland full of wildflowers and animals that are scarce in the wider, more intensively farmed landscape. As we started our walk an incredibly obliging male cuckoo was calling and stayed perched long enough on the scrub for everyone to see him through a scope. As he was calling we could see him swaying his tail from side to side.

The soundscape was full of skylarks and corn buntings, with the occasional one perching very close in a bush. We also had a close encounter with a singing yellowhammer who was in a hawthorn tree right above us. We also saw one male stonechat, a kestrel, a large group of foraging rooks, swift and various whitethroats singing from a bush or flopping up and down in their display flight. Wildflowers were also around us including common spotted orchids, yellow rattle, salad burnet, chalk milkwort, crosswort, horseshoe vetch, gromwell, wild mignonette and dropwort. Five-spotted burnet moths were common and Ed found a glow worm crossing the path. The group also saw several common blue butterflies and a small blue butterfly up close. Our final delight was finding two burnt-tip orchids, one fruiting and the other still in flower. We spent time photographing and enjoying looking at this very rare orchid.

Find out more about our [South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza](#) trip or [contact us](#)

01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Leaving at 5 pm, we headed back for tea, coffee and cake at 5:45 pm and met again later for dinner at 7:15 pm.

Sunday 25 May 2025

Day 8:
Departure

After our usual 7:30 am breakfast we met together at 8:30 am and bid our farewells as everyone travelled back across other parts of the country. Despite rain first thing, we finished with sunshine and a chaffinch and greenfinch singing.





Images by: John Moore (great bustard), Charles Kinsley (red squirrel), Geoff Blamire (Sandwich tern & southern blue damselfly), Julie Wright (cuckoo), Julie Wright (great bustard).

Sign up to our e-news

Sign up to our e-news to find out more about our tours, events, late availability, offers and tour reports at <https://www.wildlifeworldwide.com/subscribe>

Find out more about our [South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

Checklist for South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
	BIRDS								
1	Canada goose (introduced)	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓		✓			✓
4	Egyptian goose (introduced)	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>				✓		✓	
5	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓		✓	✓		
6	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓		✓	✓		
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Tufted duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		✓					
9	Red-legged partridge (introduced)	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>							✓
10	Pheasant (introduced)	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	✓		✓	H	✓	✓	✓
11	Northern fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			✓				
12	Great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		✓		✓			
13	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
14	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓		✓	✓		
15	Northern gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		✓					
16	European shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			✓				
17	Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓		✓	✓		
18	Northern goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>						✓	
19	Western marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓			
20	Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓
21	Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>							✓
22	White-tailed eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>			✓				
23	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>					✓		
24	Great bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>			✓				✓
25	Water rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>					H		

Find out more about our [South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza trip](#) or [contact us](#)
 01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

26	Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓			H		
27	Eurasian coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓			H	✓	
28	Eurasian oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		✓	H		✓		
29	Eurasian stone-curlew (thick-knee)	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>			✓				✓
30	Northern lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓		✓	✓
31	Common ringed plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		✓		✓			
32	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		✓ (MD)		✓			
33	Eurasian curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			H	✓			✓
34	Bar-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		✓		✓			
35	Black-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				✓			
36	Red knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>				✓	✓		
37	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		✓		✓			
38	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		✓		✓	✓		
39	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		✓					
40	Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
41	Mediterranean gull	<i>Ichthyophaga melanocephala</i>				✓			
42	Great black-backed gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
43	European herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓
45	Sandwich tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		✓		✓	✓		
46	Little tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		✓					
47	Common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		✓		✓	✓		
48	Common guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓	✓				
49	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>		✓					
50	Rock dove / feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓			✓		
51	Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		H	H	H	H	✓	
52	Common woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
54	Common cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			✓	H	H	✓	✓
55	Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				H	H	H	
56	Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		✓					
57	European nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				H			
58	Common swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓				✓

Find out more about our [South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza trip](#) or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

59	Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			H		H	H	✓
60	Common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓
61	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓				✓	
62	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		✓		✓			
63	Eurasian jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>					✓		
64	Eurasian magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Western jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Common raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Coal tit	<i>Parus ater</i>			✓	✓	✓		
70	Marsh tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>						✓	
71	Eurasian blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
72	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	
73	Eurasian skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		H	H	✓	H	✓	✓
74	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			H		H		
75	Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓					
76	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓				✓
78	Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H		H			
79	Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓		H	✓	✓	✓
80	Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				H		✓	
81	Common chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	H	H	H	H
82	Eurasian reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		✓		✓	H		
83	Eurasian blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			H	H	H		✓
84	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			✓				✓
85	Dartford warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>			✓		✓		
86	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>					H	✓	
87	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>					H	✓	
88	Eurasian wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	H	H	✓	✓	H
89	Eurasian nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>					✓	H	
90	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>					H	✓	
91	Common starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		

Find out more about our [South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza trip](#) or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

92	Common blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
94	Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓			H		
96	European robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	H	H	✓	✓	
97	European stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓		H	✓	✓
99	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
101	Rock pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		✓					
102	Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓				✓	H
103	Tree pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			✓	H	✓		
104	Common chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
105	Eurasian bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		H (MD)			✓		
106	European greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>						✓	
108	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
109	European goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Eurasian siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			✓		✓	H	
111	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			✓				✓
112	Common reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		✓		✓		H	
113	Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			✓			H	✓
	MAMMALS								
1	Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>						✓	
2	Roe deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓
3	Sika deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>			✓	✓	✓		
4	Fallow deer	<i>Dama dama</i>						✓	
5	Brown hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>			✓				✓
6	European rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>				✓		✓	
7	Grey squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>					✓		
8	Red squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>					✓		
9	Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>							✓

Find out more about our [South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza trip](#) or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

10	Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>							✓
11	Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	✓					✓	
12	Grey seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>				✓			
13	Common (harbour) seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>				✓			
14	Brown rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>					✓		✓
15	Hungarian pigs or mangalitza	<i>Sus domesticus</i>				✓			
16	New Forest ponies	<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>						✓	
	BUTTERFLIES								
1	Dingy skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>			✓				
2	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓				
3	Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>			✓		✓		
4	Small white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓				
5	Orange-tip	<i>Anthocaris cardamines</i>			✓				
6	Green hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>			✓				
7	Common blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓				✓
8	Small blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>			✓				✓
9	Holly blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>			✓				
10	Silver-studded blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>			✓				
11	Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓			✓	
12	Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓				
13	Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>						✓	
14	Speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓		✓		
15	Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓				
16	Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓				✓
17	Lulworth skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>			✓				
	DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES								
1	Large red damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>			✓		✓	✓	
2	Blue-tailed damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>						✓	
3	Southern blue damselfly	<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>						✓	
4	Red-eyed damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>		✓	✓				
5	Azure damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>		✓	✓				
6	Common blue damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>			✓				

Find out more about our [South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza trip](#) or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

7	Emperor dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>			✓		✓		
8	Golden-ringed dragonfly	<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>			✓				
9	Four-spotted chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>			✓				
10	Broad-Bodied chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>			✓			✓	
11	Black-tailed skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>		✓					
12	Keeled skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>			✓				
13	Hairy dragonfly	<i>Beachytron pratense</i>		✓					
14	Brown hawker	<i>Aeshna grandis</i>		✓					
	REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS & OTHER								
1	Sand lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>			✓				
2	Common wall lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>			✓				
3	Smooth snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>			✓				
	OTHER SPECIES								
1	Eyed hawkmoth	<i>Smerinthus ocellata</i>		✓					
2	Buff tip	<i>Phalera bucephala</i>		✓					
3	Flame-shoulder	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>		✓					
4	Treble lines	<i>Charanyca trigrammica</i>		✓					
5	White ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>		✓					
6	L-album wainscot	<i>Mythimna l-album</i>		✓					
7	Cream-spotted tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>		✓					
8	Heart and dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>		✓					
9	Common swift	<i>Korscheltellus lupulina</i>		✓					
10	Muslin moth	<i>Diaphora mendica</i>		✓					
11	Hewbrew character	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>		✓					
12	Mother shipton	<i>Euclidia mi</i>			✓	✓			
13	Heath moth	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>				✓			
14	Pretty chalk carpet	<i>Melanthia procellata</i>							✓
15	Five-spot burnet moth	<i>Zygaena trifolii</i>							✓
16	Cinnibar moth	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>							✓
17	Minotaur beetle	<i>Typhaeus typhoeus</i>			✓				
18	Heath dumble dor beetle	<i>Trypocoprpris pyrenaesus</i>			✓		✓		
19	Common bumble dor beetle	<i>Geotrupes spiniger</i>				✓			

Find out more about our [South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza trip](#) or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com

20	Bloody-nosed beetle	<i>Timarcha tenebricosa</i>			✓				
21	Green tiger beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>						✓	
22	Heath tiger beetle	<i>Cicindela sylvatica</i>			✓				
23	Glow worm	<i>Lampyris noctiluca</i>			✓		✓		✓
24	Bagworm moth larval case	<i>Psyche casta</i>			✓				
25	Roesel's bush cricket	<i>Metrioptera roeselii</i>			✓				
26	Heath sand wasp	<i>Ammophila pubescens</i>			✓				
27	Slavemaker ant	<i>Formica sanguinea</i>			✓		✓		
28	Rose chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>			✓			✓	
29	Heath potter wasp	<i>Eumenes coarctatus</i>			✓				
30	Wasp spider (cocoon)	<i>Argiope bruennichi</i>			✓				
31	Common spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>						✓	✓
32	Heath spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>						✓	
33	Burnt-tip orchid	<i>Neotinea ustulata</i>							✓
34	Ivy broomrape	<i>Orobanche hederæ</i>			✓				

Find out more about our [South Coast Wildlife Extravaganza](#) trip or [contact us](#)
01962 302086 sales@wildlifeworldwide.com www.wildlifeworldwide.com