



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Estonia
12 – 19 June 2016

Holiday participants

Ron Fitton and Val Appleyard
Mervin Nethercoat
David Wilkins
John Rumpus and Rosemary Macdonald
Kathy and Terry Bilham
Brennan and Karin Aunger
Susi Lewis-Jones and Peter Easingwood

Leaders

Rein Kuresoo (NaTourEst) and Ivan Nethercoat

Our hosts

NaTourEst <http://natourest.ee/>.

We stayed at

Vihula Manor House in eastern Estonia near Lahemaa National Park www.vihulamanor.com/en (left, BA)
and

Altmõisa Guest House in western Estonia near Matsalu National Park www.altmoisa.ee (right, BA)



Report by Ivan Nethercoat

Photos in this report were all taken during the course of this holiday, by Brennan and Karin Aunger, Susi Lewis-Jones and Ivan Nethercoat.

Cover: top – brown bear (BA); three-toed woodpecker (IN).

Middle – Blyth's reed warbler (IN).

Bottom – wood sandpiper (IN), Tallinn (KA), Observation tower at Kõnu Suursoo bog (BA).

Below – an unusual group photo, from the tower at Kõnu Suursoo (IN).



This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution this year was £570, £40 per person topped up by gift aid from the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust. It was for the Estonian Fund for Nature (WWF Estonia), which runs volunteer camps to restore natural habitats. A current project is on wet meadows for black stork conservation.

As at July 2016, the total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £108,716.

DAILY DIARY

12 June

An early flight from Stansted went without incident and we arrived into a slightly cool but pleasant Tallinn where Rein, our NaTourEst guide, was waiting with our vehicles. After a short drive we stopped for refreshments at a modern shopping centre where we had a great choice for lunch and also saw hints of how much local people like nature in the decor of corridors and even toilets.

Lunch was followed by a short tour of the old area of the town before the drive to Lahemaa National Park, our base for the next three days. Black redstart, spotted flycatchers, lesser whitethroat and fieldfare caught our eyes in while in Tallinn, a delightful and busy old city.

In Lahemaa we stopped at Palmse Manor for a leg stretch before getting to our accommodation. Common rosefinch and icterine warbler were singing as we opened the doors of the vehicle but they were outshone by a thrush nightingale singing loudly but remaining obscured. Lesser spotted woodpeckers were busy feeding young while along the roadside wood cow-wheat gave a splash of purple to the vegetation. In the manor's lake a female goldeneye was nervously attending her young; pied flycatcher and another icterine warbler sang but remained hidden. Sticky catchfly and mouse-ear hawkweed grew alongside the path. As we headed back to the vehicles we stopped for a very smart red-backed shrike while overhead three honey buzzards played around low enough for everyone to see key details and differences in these charismatic raptors.

On then to our base and dinner in Vihula Manor, like Palmse and several other manors in the area, a place with a delightful series of buildings and grounds of lakes and woodland.



Town Hall Square in Tallinn, and fieldfare (KA); wood cow-wheat (BA).

13 June – Oandu and bear hide

A lovely morning with the grounds looking and sounding beautiful. A Blyth's reed warbler was singing a short walk away from the rooms (and typically nowhere near any reeds) and nearer the main house a scarlet rosefinch gave its characteristic song. Grey wagtails were nesting on the river, as we would expect on any similar river in the UK: here, however, they are very rare breeding birds and these were probably one of five pairs in the country.

An excellent breakfast set us up for the day and off we set for Oandu forest trail. Initially the walk took us through Scots pine forest with a light and airy feel, unlike managed forests in the UK. We walked alongside an undergrowth of cowberries before reaching a slope formed during the ice age as glacial deposits were left behind. This changes the nature of the forest and beyond here it changed to damp, rich undergrowth and huge trees of pine and fir. More clues that we were not in a UK forest were the signs of the itching, rubbing and scratching of elk, bear and even lynx.



Oandu forest trail (BA).

To get us through the forest we followed a 4.5km boardwalk and from here we got excellent views of three-toed woodpecker and crested tit. Less good for views but very vocal were wood warblers and red breasted flycatchers, which both proved difficult to see. Twinflowers were the star plant of the woodland (well, they were for me) but May lilies were also a delight.

An excellent lunch came next at a very atmospheric, traditional, windowless tavern and then back to the hotel where we split the group into two, one for the bear hide and one for a walk on the coast at Altja.

In the bear hide we settled down for a long session in a specially designed wooden building where we stayed all night hoping for a glimpse of bears and other mammals in the extended evening light. First up were raccoon dogs, descendants of escaped animals from Russian fur farms. These guys stayed around most of the evening and into the morning. A bear had started coming quite early to the hide so we waited in eager anticipation. In the meantime, three pied flycatcher families were being tended to in three nestboxes in front of the hide. Still no bear, but Peter's keen eyes spotted a black woodpecker in the woodland to the side of the hide – not easy to see but tantalisingly close. Great spotted woodpeckers on the other hand were very easy to see inspecting the trees in front of us, along with a tree creeper and the *europaea* race of nuthatch, a very pale sub-species of 'our' familiar birds. Still no bear ... but we did have an excellent sandwich to satisfy the impending hunger. Just as we were giving up hope, however, a bear sauntered into the clearing at about 10:30pm, still daylight so very good views and a hide full of very happy people. He came back an hour later as well.



Raccoon dog (KA) and black woodpecker (IN).

As it finally got darker we all eventually dragged ourselves from the window to get some sleep, which we did reasonably well. Daylight comes early here. The raccoon dogs finally left us about 4:45 and by 05:00 most of us were back at the window watching the clearing again. Then it was back to the birds – until 06:30 that is when Kathy exclaimed “there’s a wolf!” and sure enough two wolves quickly trotted into the edge of the clearing and then out again. It was over in a matter of seconds but very exciting and an incredibly rare sight.

We left the hide at 07:00 and made our way along ‘mosquito alley’ to the bus. Tree pipits were displaying and wood warbler trilling and then a strange noise as we disturbed a crane. In the soft mud at the edge of the path the wolves had left their mark.

Meanwhile, the rest of the party made their way to the coast at Altja and then to the nearby ‘Beaver Trail’, not for beaver but for the delightful route the trail takes through the forest. We did see the structures made by the animals and also the effects these had had on the ecosystem. Although we started off relatively high above the river we gradually descended to just above the water at the second stop, walking on well-constructed boards and steps. Waterside flowers were luxuriant but the main feature was the number of mosquitoes. But for these, we could have stayed longer in the glorious surroundings.

14 June – Käsmu and bear hide

After breakfast the group reunited and headed for a quick trip along the coast at Käsmu, a town with a long history of sailing and boat building and now a holiday area. Scattered along the coast and inland are many boulders, some very large, deposited during the ice age. As we approached and drove through the village the boulders were obvious as features in gardens and alongside the road and all along the coast where they also serve as resting places for terns and ducks and nesting sites for common gulls.



Erratic boulders, Käsmu (KA).

Marsh and reed warblers were singing and out at sea were black-throated divers in glorious summer plumage, eider, common terns, goldeneyes, tufted duck and many mute swans.

Lunch was back at the hotel and then we again split for a trip to the bear hide for those not visiting last night. We left a little earlier to see if we could catch the 'early bear' and also to set up a camera trap that Brennan had brought with him. This was set near to the footprints we had seen the previous morning. As we walked purposefully further up the track the quad bike that delivers food for the bears came back. Rein told us that the bears know the sound and smells of this vehicle and this is often the trigger for the 'greedy male' to come, a bear that often arrives soon after the food is delivered and tries to take as much as he can in one go. We entered the hide, warm from the quick pace, settled into our seats, practised with our cameras and waited....

As usual the raccoon dogs were first on the scene and as this was the main species for Val it was a good start. They soon located the bears' food but as it was mostly under heavy pieces of stone or wood they could not reach all of it. Seeing them try was entertaining, though.

The pied flycatchers and woodpeckers were again the main interest in between mammals. It was a different show this evening as one of the pied flycatcher boxes was now empty, probably because the young had fledged and left the box earlier in the day.

The 'greedy bear' was not an early arriver but he did amble up a lot sooner than our first bear yesterday. Consequently the light was brighter with bear and raccoon dogs often in the strong evening sunshine. True to form he tried to 'take all the pies', or rather the fish heads, scooping up as many as he could in his mouth and then his paws and trying to take them all away to eat elsewhere.

A second bear came later in the evening, again in good light, and stayed around for a long time. A fox wandered past warily and in the very early morning a large wild boar and another bear came along. The boar was rooting around near the pond, tossing large clumps of earth to one side with its snout.



Brown bear; NaTourEst's bear hide (BA).

Everyone was awake by 05:30 and, as on the previous morning, we left at 07:00. The system of staying in the hide all night means the bears don't associate food with people, just the quad bike and one farmer. If they think people feed them they can start to approach villages or roadsides and may end up being shot by the authorities, as has happened before in Estonia.

Back at the bus we explored the nearby field where greater butterfly and fragrant orchids and evening primrose looked fine in the morning sunshine. The camera trap had four bits of film recorded – two of us walking away having set it up and two of the group walking back! Hey ho.

15 June – Matsalu National Park

After an excellent breakfast, a short rest and packing, we headed off to our new hotel in the west, stopping on the way at Kõnnu Suursoo, a huge intact peat bog where wood sandpiper, greenshank and redshank breed. The day was warm and windy but the strong breeze didn't stop the dragonflies from appearing – white-faced darters, common and azure damselflies and several emperors patrolled the pools and mires as we walked along the boardwalk to the tower hide. A lone juvenile goldeneye was in one of the pools, tree pipits parachuted to the stunted Scots pine branches and a wood sandpiper warned us to stay away. The boardwalk took us over areas impossible to tread on without sinking through moss and wet peat and allowed us to see the plants well: beautiful, delicate cranberry flowers, crowberry, cowberry and round-leaved sundews.



From the tower hide at Kõnnu Suursoo (IN).

Crested tits met us as we got near the van and off we set for an excellent lunch at a small harbour on the coast, before the drive to Altmõisa, our hotel in Matsalu National Park. Here we were greeted by a thrush nightingale singing from the adjacent hedge.

16 June – Laelatu wooded meadows, Puhtu and Tuhu

Breakfast was at seven o'clock and we were on the road to the south of Matsalu NP at eight. First stop was the wooded meadow at Laelatu, one of Europe's richest plant communities with 76 species of vascular plant recorded here. Wooded meadows are a feature of Estonia and this is one of the best preserved and managed.



Laelatu wooded meadows (BA); marsh fragrant orchid (KA).

After the overnight rain the meadow was very wet but this didn't dampen enthusiasm and the soft cloudy light was perfect for photography. 'Giant' twayblades stretched high above the grasses, dropwort, fragrant, common spotted and military orchids were in bloom but the lady's slipper orchids had gone to seed. On the road Terry and Kathy saw a splendid common rosefinch and as Rein led his group back to the bus they disturbed a sea eagle feeding on something on the woodland floor.

A quick stop for coffee at the harbour and then to the woodland at Puhtu. This is a deciduous area with mature trees where lots of lily of the valley and wild garlic covered the floor, past their best now but among them birdsnest orchids made a subtle appearance. Above us red-breasted flycatchers called in the canopy but remained out of view. The path led us to the coast: out at sea were eiders and common terns. There were meadow and bloody cranesbills at the edge of the woodland and sea kale on the beach.

Back to the bus for lunch, and what a lunch it was. Rein drove us to an apparently abandoned building, approached down a remote lane. In the second bus the assumption was we were lost – our lack of faith soon turned to surprise when Rein took us to the back of the building where we were met by Meelika, owner of the railway station. The line had disappeared many years ago but the building was sound and now in the hands of a creative individual with a passion for restoring the building using traditional materials: cob fireplace, home-made heating, and plaster expertly applied to the walls made with clay from the pond outside, mixed with sand. Meelika could also cook and we were led to a large table in a room adorned with Russian and Estonian film posters and served a delicious meal followed by a quick tour of the building and tales from her life at the station.

We left to the sound of a station whistle and headed for a superb fen bog at Tuhu. Huge marsh orchids greeted us as we left the bus to head across the bog on a 'mature' boardwalk. Oblong-leaved sundew and old but very stunted pine trees hinted at the lack of nutrients here. The calls of redshank alerted us to a Montagu's harrier drifting slowly by and in the denser areas of trees a red-backed shrike was hunting insects. In the distance, black tailed godwits flew around their breeding area. A couple of Amanda's blue butterflies were hunkered down in the grass by the roadside as the weather cooled down and the wind started to get stronger.



Amanda's blue; the bog at Tuhu (IN); oblong-leaved sundew (BA).

17 June – Sassi meadow, Haeska meadows and Rõude Manor

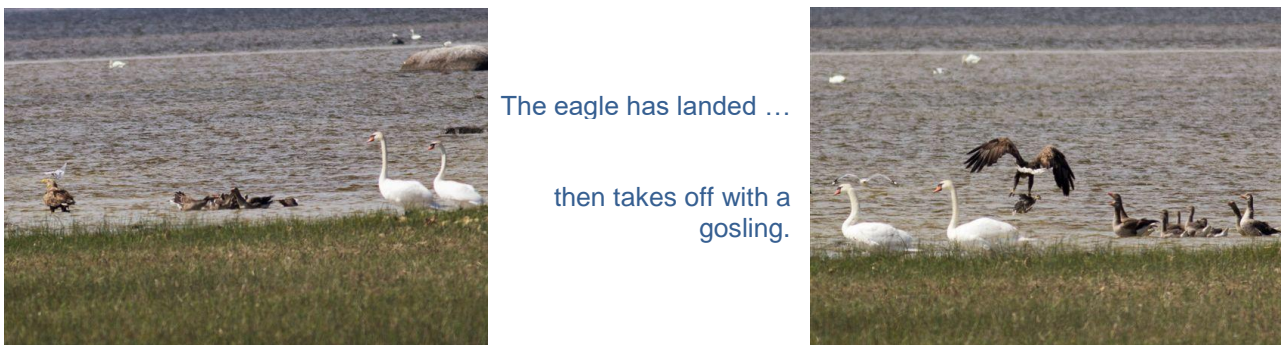
The weather overnight had deteriorated and while still not cold, the wind and rain 'stopped play' on our planned walk on the boardwalk by the hotel.

Undeterred, we set off to look over Sassi meadows. Here one of the bays comes fairly close to the road with a wet meadow between the road and the edge of the bay. A fox ran off as we started to park and with the bus as a windbreak we could watch waders and wildfowl in comfort. The ducks were teal, garganey, gadwall and shoveler; greenshank, ringed plovers and wood sandpiper were all feeding near the shore, while perched just beyond some greylag geese was the first white tailed eagle that all the group could see.

The rain was now firmly at bay so we moved on to Haeska, an area on Matsalu bay with extensive meadows and a viewing tower. Almost as soon as we were on the tower a white-tailed eagle flew low toward us and kept on going toward a small group of greylag geese. It then dropped down onto one of the birds, standing on it for a few moments and then flying off with a young goose to the other side of the bay where it proceeded to eat it, being disturbed only by some hooded crows. What a sight and all caught on camera by Susi's quick reaction.



The sea eagle flies in from the left ... over two mute swans ... talons down into a group of greylags.



The eagle has landed ... then takes off with a gosling.

After that drama we settled down to see what else was in view. More eagles, great white egrets (a recent coloniser to Estonia), summer-plumaged ruff and red-breasted merganser all showed well. By now it was time for another 'lunch by Rein', this time a few feet away from the base of the tower in a small residential building. It was another delicious home-cooked meal to set us up for the afternoon. Hares gambolled in the meadows as we headed back to the van and set off for Rõude manor as the clouds gathered.

Rõude Manor was at one time a similar estate to the one we stayed at, but is now long abandoned and more or less left to nature. Common lizards were basking on logs and common frogs jumped from the grass with what seemed like every third step. Galls were apparent along the path including the large aphid-induced *Tetraneura ulmi*, uncommon in the UK. At the end of the track is a pond with mature trees around the edge, home to white-backed woodpecker, and over the water emerald dragonflies were hunting among the vegetation, teasing photographers.

Tonight was meant to be the evening boat trip for beaver and elk but as the evening drew on the weather got worse and worse. A few intrepid souls set off in a lull in the rain but not far down the road it came back even worse, coupled with a strong wind – not a pleasant night at all.

18 June – Haapsalu and Silma reserve and Spithami Peninsular

The weather had only slightly improved as we set off to Haapsalu, a large town north of our accommodation. It is a notable site for the presence of breeding Slavonian grebes on a rather unassuming lake in the town. Here people jog, cycle and fish all day, and out on the water swims a species of bird that is a rarity in the UK, confined to remote Scottish lochs. Today however the rain cut short our viewing and while we saw the birds close-up there was little enthusiasm for staying out in the strong wind and rain. For some cultural cover we headed to the railway station. Now disused and a museum, this is an impressive building, built to accommodate the trains of the Tsar and other notable folk visiting the spa. As the website says, "*The crowned heads were regular guests in the resort town, the covered platform of the train station was built for them, so that no matter the weather, they would arrive with dry feet.*" As, indeed, did we. As well as impressive trains (and toilets, apparently) we did see fieldfare feeding young, tree sparrows and great tits feeding on spiders under the roof, keeping well out of the rain.

By now the rain had more or less finished and we set off for Silma reserve a short drive away. Here we took a sodden track to a couple of raised platforms overlooking a huge reedbed and lakes. Marsh orchids and greater butterfly orchids were alongside the track and a garden warbler and thrush nightingale gave us a musical accompaniment until we climbed the first platform to the sound of a great reed warbler. From the platforms we had a good show of birds starting with a group of red-necked grebes and a couple of male smews, so feeling quite unlike the UK at this time of year. Little gulls hunted for insects over the water and a black tern gave a nice flypast. A white-tailed eagle cruised over great white egrets and a marsh harrier hunted low over the top of the reeds. The great reed warbler climbed the reeds as it sang and eventually showed for all in the telescope as sedge warblers flitted around. The faint sound of penduline tits alerted us to their presence but they wouldn't reveal themselves.

Back to the vehicles for another Rein lunch, this time at Saare Manor, where we were seated at a long table in what is now a low-key visitor centre for the nature reserve. At one time it was a grand house on an estate that served as a boarding school where students also helped on the farming estate. The history of the estate and its farming heritage can be seen in a small museum in the grounds, again a useful respite from the foul weather. Lunch, as always, was excellent.

The rest of the afternoon was spent avoiding the rain. We drove to Spithami peninsula and took refuge in a rather odd shelter on a narrow causeway overlooking the sea. Goldeneye and a small distant flock of scoters were the few birds to show but the place and views were special.

From there we took a quiet road through the forest, quiet for birds but it put on an impressive show of greater butterfly orchids with hundreds of spikes parallel to the road for hundreds of metres.

Back then to our last night in Estonia. Again the weather stopped the boat trip from taking place so we resigned ourselves to good food and wine and some identifications from photographs taken during the week.

19 June – departure

A 7am breakfast and 8am departure and we were away, fond memories being cemented in tired brains. A stoat that tried to cross the road in front of the second bus was a new mammal for the trip, taking us up to 10 species seen along with 128 birds in a green, clean country with great people and wonderful forest and meadows.

Big thanks to Rein and NaTourEst for their work in making it happen and providing perhaps the best Honeyguide lunches ever!

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

Black-throated diver	Käsmu
Great crested grebe	Several sightings on the coast and at Silma
Red-necked grebe	Silma
Slavonian grebe	One bird in foul weather on the town lake at Haapsalu, very close to shore
Cormorant	Frequent at sea
Great white egret	4+ from tower hide at Haeska Coastal meadows, Matsalu also at Silma
Grey heron	Frequently seen around Matsalu
White stork	Regular in fields and on roadsides and nesting in many areas
Mute swan	Many, 100+ at Matsalu and several at sea at Käsmu
Greylag goose	Sassi and Heaska meadows. One taken as prey by WT eagle at Haeska
Gadwall	Haeska coastal meadows, Matsalu
Teal	Haeska coastal meadows, Matsalu
Garganey	Pair at Sassi meadows Matsalu
Mallard	Small numbers at most wetland sites
Shoveler	Haeska coastal meadows, Matsalu
Tufted duck	Frequent on the less salty Baltic Sea
Pochard	Silma
Eider	At sea from Altja Puhtu
(Common?) scoter	1 seen briefly at Spithami peninsula
Goldeneye	At sea and with young at Palmse
Red-breasted merganser	Haeska
Goosander	Frequent
Smew	2 males at Silma
Honey buzzard	3 birds together at Palmse Manor, singles throughout the week
White-tailed eagle	3 at Laidevahe on Saaremaa and 3 on Haeska Coastal meadows, Matsalu
Marsh harrier	Silma and Sassi
Montagu's harrier	1 at Tuhu and another near Haeska
Sparrowhawk	Seen once flying across the road and into woodland
Buzzard	Seen occasionally, fewer than normal due to bad weather, apparently
Kestrel	1 on route to Almoisa
Hazel grouse	1 at beaver trail
Corncrake	Calling and seen at Vilhula manor
Coot	Matsalu
Crane	Frequent family parties in fields around Matsalu, less common in the east.
Oystercatcher	Altja and Silma
Ringed plover	Sassi
Little ringed plover	Altja
Lapwing	Frequently seen from the vehicles whilst driving
Dunlin	Sassi
Black-tailed godwit	Tuhu bog
Ruff	Male in fine breeding plumage at Haeska coastal meadows
Common sandpiper	One on the river at Vilhula
Spotted redshank	Altja
Greenshank	Sassi meadows, occasional elsewhere
Wood sandpiper	Calling from trees at Konnu Soorsuu
Black-headed gull	Frequent
Little gull	Several from tower at Silma
Common gull	Frequent, nesting in Tallinn
Great black-backed gull	Nesting on rocks at the ferry terminal
Herring gull	Frequent
Sandwich tern	1 on Saaremaa
Common tern	Over castle moat at Kuressaare on Saaremaa and Haapsalu town lake.
Black tern	Silma
Woodpigeon	Singles throughout the week
Collared dove	Vilhula
Cuckoo	Especially frequent in the NE & calling very early morning in woodland near bear hide
Swift	Frequent
Kingfisher	Vilhula
Wryneck	Heard only
Black woodpecker	From the bear hide
White-backed woodpecker	Seen briefly by a few flying over a known site near Haeska
Great spotted woodpecker	Frequent. Active in front of bear hide.
Three-toed woodpecker	1 female seen very well by the whole group at Oandu
Skylark	Most days
Sand martin	Frequent. Nesting in bank at Vilhula
Barn swallow	Frequent
House martin	Frequent, nesting at Vilhula
Tree pipit	Bear hide and Konnu Suursoo
Meadow pipit	Silma
White wagtail	Frequent
Grey wagtail	Breeding at Vilhula, one of a handful of pairs known in Estonia
Wren	Heard occasionally in woodland

Dunnock	Singing at Rõude Manor
Robin	Heard occasionally in woodland
Thrush nightingale	Heard frequently
Black redstart	Palmse
Redstart	In Tallinn and Puhtu
Whinchat	Palmse, Altja and road near Haeska
Wheatear	Vilhula
Blackbird	Frequent
Fieldfare	Our first bird in Tallinn, adult with food in city park; seen across the country
Song thrush	Seen occasionally, Vilhula especially
Mistle thrush	Seen occasionally
Sedge warbler	Silma
Grasshopper warbler	Vihula
Blyth's reed warbler	Seen very well singing at Vilhula
Reed warbler	Heard at Käsmu
Marsh warbler	Seen briefly and heard at Käsmu
Great reed warbler	Singing and showing well at Silma
Icterine warbler	Palmse
Lesser whitethroat	Tallinn
Whitethroat	Several throughout the week
Garden warbler	Palmse, Silma and Vilhula
Blackcap	Frequent
Wood warbler	Frequent in the woodlands of the NE
Chiffchaff	Heard fairly frequently all week
Willow warbler	Heard in woodland areas occasionally
Goldcrest	In the Oundu forest in the NE
Spotted flycatcher	Vilhula and Palmse
Red-breasted flycatcher	Heard several times in NE woodland – never seen well
Pied flycatcher	3 nestboxes active outside bear hide
Long-tailed tit	Vilhula
Crested tit	Oandu and Konnu Suursoo
Blue tit	Puhtu and Vilhula
Great tit	Regular
Coal tit	Beaver trail
Penduline tit	Heard at Silma
Nuthatch	On feeder in bear hide wood – the pale Eastern race Europae
Treecreeper	Very active from the bear hide
Golden oriole	Seen at Vilhula
Red-backed shrike	Palmse, Tuhu and several other sites
Jay	In the forest areas, very active in front of the bear hide.
Magpie	Frequent
Jackdaw	Tallinn and elsewhere
Hooded crow	Everywhere
Raven	Regular fly-overs
Starling	Many small post-breeding flocks
House sparrow	Occasional
Tree sparrow	Occasional
Chaffinch	Everywhere!
Greenfinch	Frequent in parks/gardens
Goldfinch	Frequent in parks/gardens
Siskin	Palmse and Vilhula and forest at Spithami peninsula
Linnet	Less frequent than expected, seen on day 7
Scarlet rosefinch	Singing and seen at Palmse and Vilhula, heard in several other areas
Bullfinch	On walk to bear hide. Very fresh dead female on the path and male calling nearby.
Yellowhammer	Fairly frequent on Matsalu
Reed bunting	Beaver trail and Silma

MAMMALS				
Roe deer	Brown bear	Fox	Raccoon dog	Pine marten
Red squirrel	Stoat	Hedgehog	Brown hare	
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS				
	Common frog	Common lizard		
BUTTERFLIES				
Brimstone	Painted lady	Bog fritillary	Moorland clouded yellow	
Large white	Peacock	Map	Speckled wood	
ODONATA				
Brown hawk	White-faced Darter (Small Whiteface)		Beautiful Demoiselle	
Emperor	Black-tailed Skimmer		Common Blue Damselfly	
Brilliant Emerald	Four-spotted Chaser		Azure Damselfly	Red-eyed damselfly
OTHER NOTABLE INVERTEBRATES				
Clouded buff	Rose chafer	Dor beetle	7 spot ladybird	
Chimney sweep	Scarabaeus beetle	<i>Graphosoma italica</i>	Hornet	Crab spider sp.

PLANTS

Names are mostly taken from The Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe by R. Fitter, A. Fitter and M. Blamey.
NiF = not in flower

Trees and shrubs	
Norway spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>
Sallow	<i>Salix</i> sp.
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosus</i>
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>
Ferns, Grasses & Sedges	
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Horsetails – Equisetaceae	
Water horsetail	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>
Field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>
Wild flowers Dock family – Polygonaceae	
Alpine bistort	<i>Polygonum viviparum</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Sheep sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>
Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Heath sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>
Pink family – Caryophyllaceae	
Ragged robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>
Sticky catchfly	<i>Lychnis viscaria</i>
White campion	<i>Silene alba</i>
Red campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
Nottingham catchfly	<i>Silene nutans</i>
Water lily family– Nymphaeaceae	
Yellow water lily	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>
Buttercup family – Ranunculaceae	
Marsh marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i> NiF
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Lesser spearwort	<i>Ranunculus lingua</i>
Wood anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i> NiF
Hepatica	<i>Hepatica nobilis</i> leaves
Common meadow-rue	<i>Thalictrum flavum</i>
Poppy family – Papaveraceae	
Common poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>
Greater celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>
Nettle family – Urticaceae	
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Cabbage family – Cruciferae	
Sea kale	<i>Crambe maritima</i>
Warty cabbage	<i>Bunias orientalis</i>
Sundew family – Droseraceae	
Common sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>
Oblong-leaved sundew	<i>Drosera intermedia</i>
Stonecrop family – Crassulaceae	
Biting stonecrop	<i>Sedum acre</i>
White stonecrop	<i>Sedum alba</i>
Rose family – Rosaceae	
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
Dropwort	<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>
Lady's mantle	<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i>
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>
Hoary cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla argentea</i>
Wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria viridis</i>
Marsh cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla palustris</i>
Water avens	<i>Geum rivale</i>
Herb bennet	<i>Geum urbanum</i>

Rose family – Rosaceae (cont'd)	
Wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
'Wrinkled' rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>
Cloudberry	<i>Rubus chaemorus</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Pea family – Leguminosae/Fabaceae	
Kidney vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> + subsp. <i>coccinea</i>
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>
Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
Bush vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>
Wood vetch	<i>Vicia sylvatica</i>
Birdsfoot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Lucerne (yellow subsp.)	<i>Medicago sativa falcate</i>
Dragon's teeth	<i>Tetragonobulus maritimus</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Mountain clover	<i>Trifolium montanum</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Hop trefoil	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>
Wood-sorrel family – Oxalidaceae	
Wood-sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i> NiF
Spurge family – Euphorbiaceae	
Dog's mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i> NiF
Geranium family – Geraniaceae	
Wood cranesbill	<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>
Bloody cranesbill	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Balsam family – Balsaminaceae	
Small balsam	<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>
Carrot family – Apiaceae /Umbelliferae	
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Ground elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>
Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>
Wintergreen family – Pyrolaeae	
One-flowered wintergreen	<i>Moneses uniflora</i>
Round-leaved wintergreen	<i>Pyrola rotundifolia</i>
Heath family – Ericaceae	
Bog rosemary	<i>Andromeda posifolia</i>
Bilberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>
Bog whortleberry (Northern bilberry)	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>
Cowberry	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>
Crowberry	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>
Cranberry	<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>
Labrador tea	<i>Ledum palustre</i>
Primrose family – Primulaceae	
Chickweed wintergreen	<i>Trientalis europaea</i>
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i> NiF
Yellow loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>
Birdseye primrose	<i>Primula farinosa</i>
Bogbean family – Menyanthaceae	
Bogbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> NiF
Milkweed family	
White swallowwort	<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>
Bedstraw family – Rubiaceae	
Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
Marsh bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>
Northern bedstraw	<i>Galium boreale</i>
Borage family – Boraginaceae	
Forget-me-not sp.	<i>Myosotis</i> sp.
Purple gromwell	<i>Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum</i>

Labiata family – Lamiaceae/Labiataeae	
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>
Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>
Figwort family – Scrophulariaceae	
Germander speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Spiked speedwell	<i>Veronica spicata</i>
Common figwort	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>
Yellow rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>
Common cow-wheat	<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>
Wood cow-wheat	<i>Melampyrum nemorosum</i>
Butterwort family – Lentibulariaceae	
Butterwort sp., probably common	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris?</i> NiF
Plantain family – Plantaginaceae	
Hoary plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>
Sea plantain	<i>Plantago maritima</i>
Valerian family – Valerianaceae	
Common valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>
Honeysuckle family – Caprifoliaceae	
Twinflower	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
Teasel family – Dipsacaceae	
Field scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>
Bellflower family – Campanulaceae	
Clustered bellflower	<i>Campanula glomerata</i>
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>

Daisy family – Compositae	
Mountain everlasting	<i>Antennaria dioica</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Ox-eye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>
Sawwort	<i>Serratula tinctoria</i>
Marsh thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
Goatsbeard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>
Mouse-ear hawkweed	<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>
Lily family – Liliaceae	
Lily of the valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>
May lily	<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>
Angular Solomon's seal	<i>Polygonatum angulatum</i>
Herb paris	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i> NiF
Iris family – Iridaceae	
Yellow flag	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Orchid family – Orchidaceae	
Lady's slipper	<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>
Fly orchid	<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>
Military orchid	<i>Orchis militaris</i>
Early marsh orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>
Baltic marsh orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza baltica</i>
Common spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsia</i>
Fragrant orchid	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>
Common twayblade	<i>Listera ovata</i>
Greater butterfly orchid	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>
Lesser butterfly orchid	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>
Birdsnest orchid	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>

On this trip we also had a plant gall expert. Here is Mervin's list of sightings from the week and if this sparks an interest in the subject the British Plant Gall Society might be for you: www.britishplantgallsociety.org

PLANT GALLS – ESTONIA JUNE 2016			
Host plant	Gall inducer	Type of organism	Comments
Aegopodium	Puccini aegopodii	Fungus	
	Plasmophora nivea	Fungus	
Alnus	Eriophyes laevis	Mite	
	Dasineura tortilis	Diptera fly: Cecidomyiidae	
Betula	Massalongia ruber	Diptera fly: Cecidomyiidae	
	Cecidophyopsis betulae	Mite	
Corylus	Mikomya coryli	Diptera fly: Cecidomyiidae	
Crataegus	Phyllocoptes goniothorax	Mite	
Filipendula	Dasineura pustulans	Diptera fly: Cecidomyiidae	
Malus	Dysaphis devectora	Aphid	
Picea	Adelges laricis	Hemiptera	
Populus	Harmandiola tremulae	Diptera fly: Cecidomyiidae	
Quercus	Cynips divisa	Hymenoptera wasp	
	Andricus curvator	Hymenoptera wasp	
Salix	?Aceria iteina	Mite	
	Aculus laevis	Diptera fly: Cecidomyiidae	
	Pontania dolichura	Hymenoptera sawfly	
	Pontania cf proxima	Hymenoptera sawfly	
Salix rosemariifolia	?Eupontania collactanea	Hymenoptera sawfly	Host needs checking: not in Stace
Sorbus	Eriophyes pyri	Mite	
	Phyllocoptes sorbeus	Mite	
Tilia	Eriophyes leisoma	Mite	
	Eriophyes tiliae	Mite	
Ulmus	Eriosoma patchiae	Aphid	
	Tetraneura ulmi	Aphid	large balloon
	Eriosoma ulmi or grossulariae	Aphid	
Rosa	Diplolepis rosae	Hymenoptera wasp	Last year's bedaguar