

# **BIALOWIEZA LYNX TOUR**

**November 2010**

**Steve Morgan**

**2/12/10**

# **Bialowieza Lynx Tour**

## **Introduction**

This report describes a four day trip to Bialowieza in Eastern Poland, running from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

## **Objectives and Expectations**

Our single objective was to find and observe the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in its wild habitat. Having failed to do on several previous occasions (in Romania, Poland, Belarus and so on) we were due a little bit of luck – though we were only too well aware that Eurasian Lynx is one of the hardest cats to see anywhere in the world.

Other good mammals were possible, notably Pine Marten, Western Polecat, European Beaver and European Bison and we hoped also to account for several of these species.

We expected birds to be scarce, though resident raptors, woodpeckers, tits and finches might, we thought, fill in the long hours between mammal sightings!

## **The Target Area**

We planned to concentrate on the forested areas to the west and south-west of the Bialowieza Primeval Forest, in particular the zone between Hajnowka and Bialowieza in the general area around Budy and Teremiski. There are many driveable tracks which criss-cross the forest and we planned to explore as many of these as possible.

## **Approach**

Obviously, we expected Lynx to be primarily nocturnal (or at least crepuscular) and so most of our activity was therefore concentrated on the hours of darkness. We used daylight hours to reconnoitre promising areas and to catch up on sleep.

We hired a 4WD vehicle in Lodz from which all of our spot-lighting activities were conducted. With a team of three we were able to spot-light simultaneously both sides while the driver focused on the road ahead; (never a bad idea!).

## **The Team**

Our group comprised Phil Telfer, Mark Bibby and myself, Steve Morgan.

## **Summary of Results**

We achieved our aim at last! The second night produced a close sighting of Lynx of about 20 seconds duration. Euphoria!

In total we recorded 9 mammal species (including European Beaver) and 28 bird species, (including White- backed Woodpecker).

### **Daily Record of Activities**

#### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

Flying by Ryanair, we arrived in Lodz at about 21.15 local time and picked up our Volvo 4WD from Avis. The drive to our hotel at Hajnowka was planned to take about five or six hours and we had alerted them to expect a very late arrival.

However, we had barely left the airport car park before being stopped by Police, who demanded to see our documents. Not an auspicious start! Eventually we were allowed to go on our way and, with the help of our Polish friend , Radek, (whom we dropped off in Lodz) we found our way out of town and onto the main road towards Warsaw.

Our route took us north-east through Lowicz, Sochachew and Blonie to Warsaw and thence on the main north-east road to Bialystok and, finally, southwards to Hajnowka via Narew. In general it was easy driving on the largely empty roads – though at Zambrowka (between Warsaw and Bialystok) we were stopped by Police once again and asked to produce documents. Poland was starting to look like a very over-policed country, since there was no apparent reason why we were stopped on either occasion.

After Bialystok, the roads were very quiet and somewhere around Narew we encountered our first mammal of the trip : a Brown Hare. Eventually we arrived in Hajnowka and found our hotel. With the clock saying 05.20, we had been on the road for over six hours.

#### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

Phil and Mark were up at 09.00 for breakfast and a daylight recce of the target area. Made of lesser stuff, I decided to skip breakfast and take a lie-in.

The recce, apparently, produced little. My compatriots had met some park rangers who were testing some animal surveillance equipment and had been told that we would be extremely unlikely to find Lynx. They had had only one sighting in four years. However, we are used to receiving discouraging news of this sort while searching for elusive mammals and it didn't unduly concern us.

We made a start at 15.30 just as dusk was beginning to fall. Turning off the main Hajnowka-Bialowieza road onto the Zwierzyniecka Droga we headed north and then turned right into Budy village. There is rough pasture here on both sides of the road and we had been told that Bison sometimes come out of the forest at dusk and dawn to feed. However, a sweep in both directions produced no Bison eye-shine and we continued on through the next village of Teremiski to the public road heading north to Narewka.

Driving very slowly and scanning both sides of the road we got our first mammal of the evening shortly afterwards. It was a mouse, sitting up on its hind legs. We could see straight away that it was either Wood Mouse or Yellow-necked Mouse and the larger size and its pure white underparts delineating crisply with its russet-brown back led us to suspect the latter. This was confirmed as it lowered its paws conveniently to reveal its neck – where a yellowish vertical patch was clearly visible.

We continued northwards, moving through areas of dense spruce (difficult to spot-light) and more open areas of deciduous woodland. In the latter we found several groups of Red Deer, a species we were to see every evening.

Not far south of Narewka we turned left into a narrower track which penetrated deep into the forest. This produced more Red Deer, whose brilliant white-green eye-shine we now getting used to seeing. At about 20.00 we decided to turn around and head back to Bialowieza for dinner.

However, we hadn't got far before vehicle headlights could be seen approaching. The car stopped in front of us, blocking our progress, and a uniformed officer got out and walked over to us. He turned out to be a Forest Guard. Anticipating this sort of situation we had had a short note explaining what we were doing translated into Polish by our friend Radek in Lodz. This clearly eased what would otherwise have been a difficult conversation and we were able to ascertain the nature of the problem by continuing in broken German. Apparently the road we were using was not a public road and we were not allowed to drive it – though we could walk it if we wished, even after dark. Our spot-lighting, unless we wanted to proceed on foot, would have to be limited to the relatively few public roads. The side roads were out of bounds. This was a severe setback and we gloomily retreated to the Best Western hotel in Bialowieza for dinner and to consider our options.

At the crossroads where the Budy/Teremiski road meets the Narewka road we headed left to take a short cut to Bialowieza via Pogorzelce. Though this is a rather busier road we still were able to spotlight it and rough pasture to our right produced a very handsome Red Fox, an enormous dog with a big brush. And a little further on, where marshy fields flank the road to the left, we found a Beaver dam piled up on a tiny stream running practically adjacent to the roadside. Stopping to inspect its handiwork we were delighted to find the craftsman himself sitting right out in the open only about six or seven metres away. For a few seconds he stared back at the spotlight, before sliding into the water and disappearing into his lodge. We thus went to dinner in a slightly better frame of mind!

After dinner we headed back north-eastwards towards Pogorzelce, intending to re-do the Narewka road. There was no sign of our Beaver but Mark did briefly re-sight the dog Fox close to the road on the left. We had not even reached Pogorzelce we were once more stopped by a forest guard. This time some of the fault was certainly ours – we had not switched off our main headlight as he approached us – and he pulled us over to complain

about it. Once more our Polish explanation of who we were and what we were doing helped get us out of trouble.

The rest of the evening produced relatively little despite a determined effort. We managed a few more Red Deer and some Wild Boar but by the time we at last reached Narewka it was after midnight. We decided to call it a night and at around 01.00 we were back at our hotel in Hajnowka, having taken the main 687 road home.

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

Careful study of the map indicated that north of the Hajnowka-Bialowieza road we would be limited mainly to the Narewka road and the Budy/Teremiski loop. We therefore examined our options to the south and found a promising road leading down to a wetland area at Przewloka. After breakfast we set off on a recce to see what sort of Lynx potential it might have.

Conditions were cool and overcast with air temperatures hovering around zero or minus one degree. A light smattering of old snow still hung around in the forest though the roads were clear.

Just before Bialowieza we spun the car round and turned south into a quiet track that joins the main road at an inconveniently oblique angle. The forest here was more open with logging having thinned the trees over the years and the understorey largely removed. It therefore didn't look ideal for Lynx though we did find a mixed flock of birds. In an area called Titowka we quickly accounted for three species of woodpecker: White-backed, Great Spotted and Lesser Spotted, as well as Marsh Tit, Nuthatch, Jay and Great Tit.

We continued a bit further but found, to our dismay, that after only about two kilometres the road was closed to cars and progress thereafter was only allowed on foot. We turned round at a parking area next to a railway track and re-traced our way back to Bialowieza, where we got ourselves tea at the Bialowieza Hotel.

We decided that there was no need to go back to Hajnowka and spent the afternoon exploring a public road just south of Narewka that leads to Kosy Most, a noted area for Bison. Parking at the border of the Bialowieza Park we proceeded on foot for about a kilometre to what we expected to be a lookout tower. However the tower was no more, its remains lying on the ground and its foundations now just useless stumps. We found a few Red Deer along the way but no Bison, so with darkness falling we made our way back to the car.

The air temperature had fallen to minus two degrees. We re-traced our route towards Narewka and worked southwards along the Narewka Road once more.. All was very quiet indeed, repeating the pattern of the previous evening. In theory, dusk should produce a flurry of activity among mammals, but here, where there is some human disturbance in the

daytime, it seems that mammalian activity only gets going well after dark. At about 19.00 we turned round, not far south of Narewka, and spot-lighted our way back to Bialowieza.

However, not long after that Phil got eye-shine on our left side at about forty metres range. The animal paused briefly before bounding in an apparently undulating motion away from us. Phil thought he got the vague, dark outline of a mustelid but wasn't sure. We were unable to confirm the ID but strongly suspected Pine Marten or Polecat. Nothing of any further interest happened on our way back to Bialowieza and, taking the Pogorzelce short-cut, we were disappointed not to see our Beaver again.

We had dinner at the Bialowieza Hotel and considered our next move. Having done the Narewka road twice now we were desperate to find something different to try and we realised that one of the few roads we had not yet covered was the link between the Hajnowka-Bialowieza main road and the Budy/Teremiski crossroads – in other words the southern section of the Narewka road running up through Bondowka. This turned out to be an inspired decision!

We turned onto the Southern Narewka Road and slowly began moving north. The forest here is a little different to that further north in that it contains quite a lot of Hazel and Aspen. This creates a bit more understorey, though there are still quite open areas in what is mainly deciduous woodland.

After about one kilometre we found eye-shine on our left side and stopped to get a closer look. It turned out to be a Roe Deer (our first of the trip) sitting quietly on the ground. We had just reversed a tad to allow Mark, who was sitting on the “wrong” side of the car, to sight the deer when I noticed something unusual in an open area about twenty metres away. At first I assumed it was a tree stump but there was something strange about the grey-russet colouration and the shape that made me come back to it. I had been staring at it for several seconds before the penny dropped and I realised that it must be some sort of animal. I just managed to say “what’s that?” before the “tree stump” suddenly got to its feet. Now all was revealed! I could see a short stumpy, black-tipped tail and I realised straight away that we had in front of us what we had spent countless hours on previous trips hoping to see. I called “Lynx, Lynx, Lynx!” and all three of us got on it (thankfully!). The Roe Deer by now had got up and was running away to our left. The cat responded by bounding away in an apparent attempt to intercept it – or at least keep up with it. Obviously, we now realised, the Lynx had been stalking the Deer. We watched as the cat moved towards heavy cover. It never turned round once to look at us. It briefly stopped (presumably to check what the Deer was doing) and gave us a profile view at about eighty or ninety metres, before heading leftwards and out of sight. We tried reversing to catch one last distant glimpse but to no avail.

We were absolutely stunned. A miracle had just happened and at a moment when we least expected it. We had been gazing the Deer for several minutes oblivious to the cat which,

clearly, had been sitting in front of us in full view. Moreover, during that time, the cat had taken no notice of us whatsoever, despite spotlights, the noise of the car and our noisy conversation. It seemed that it only had eyes for the Roe Deer and was prepared to accept our presence as little more than a mildly irritating distraction. Obviously a cat with attitude!

We decided to let the area settle down and return to it half an hour later in the hope that the Lynx would re-appear. It didn't, but we were still euphoric. Finally, after so many failed Lynx trips we had hit our target! It was three very happy cat-watchers that returned to the hotel a few hours later.

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

Keen to see a Black Woodpecker, Mark wanted to try the marshy area near Budy Bridge after breakfast. Feeling the need for some fresh air and a chance to stretch my legs I decided to join him and so Mark and I set off, leaving Phil to catch up on his beauty sleep.

Snow had fallen overnight and we now had a fair covering of several inches. It hadn't got any warmer either and the daytime temperature had now sunk to minus two or three degrees.

We proceeded out of town on somewhat treacherous roads and headed up the Zwierzyniecki Droga to Budy Bridge. Parking just past the bridge we set off on foot to see what was about. The little River Krynica was partially frozen and the marshy fields had become a winter wonderland of snow and ice. But no signs of birdlife were evident at all and, in the bone-chilling morning air, we didn't hang around. Moving on to Teremiski we found a mixed flock of birds at a feeder in someone's front garden, consisting mainly of Tree Sparrows but containing also Blue Tits and a House Sparrow.

With birdlife so scarce we decided to check out the area where we had seen the Lynx the previous evening, which lay only a few kilometres away. With a fresh blanket of snow, the southern Narewka Road now had a story to tell and we stopped several times to examine animal tracks. Red Fox tracks were everywhere and at one place several Foxes had clearly had an intense interaction. The tracks converged in a convoluted tangle – where obviously a wild vulpine party had taken place earlier that morning! Elsewhere, Deer and Wild Boar had left their marks and smaller animals, presumably Pine Martens, had also been through.

There was, however, no sign of Lynx tracks, so we headed to the nearby woods at Titowka to see what might be around. Here there were also Pine Marten tracks, though the birdlife, as elsewhere, was conspicuously absent.

We returned for lunch and a rest and later in the afternoon the snow began falling once more.

That evening we started by spot-lighting the Titowka woods in the hope of a Pine Marten. Nothing materialised however and I began thinking about buying some cake as bait the next

day. Frustratingly, even more Pine Marten tracks had appeared, indicating considerable activity, even in daytime. Where were they?

While we were examining the Pine Marten tracks we noticed a vehicle coming up behind us. It overtook our parked car and pulled up ahead. The forest guard we had inconvenienced with our headlight previously got out to find out what we were up to – but on seeing it was *us* he stopped in his tracks and with a groan of despair and a dismissive wave he got back into his vehicle and drove off. This time everyone could see the funny side of it!

Our next, predictable, move was to re-do the southern Narewka Road in the hope of coming across “our” Lynx again. But this time all was quiet – though we did find a Roe Deer near to where we had seen one the previous evening. Was it the same one? If so, perhaps the Lynx had gone hungry? We did a bit more of the road before turning round to head for Bialowieza and dinner at the Best Western, taking the Pogorzelce route to see if the Beaver was out. He was indeed and we enjoyed a good second sighting of the animal in exactly the same place. As before, once subjected to the spot-light, he quietly slipped into the water and back into his lodge.

After dinner, we flogged away at the now very familiar Narewka Road, heading as far north as the junction with the Kosy Most Road. But all remained quiet and only a few Red Deer broke the monotony till, about half way back, a mouse ran across the road in front of us. Our view was brief but we could clearly see that the tail was longer than the (small) body and that it moved with a very light skipping motion. Of the few mouse species present it could only be Northern Birch Mouse. We stuck at it till 02.00 but failed to find anything else of significance.

### **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

Phil and I took a long lie-in after our long stint the previous evening while Mark, still full of enthusiasm, went birding in the hope (apparently) of Hazel Hen.

He returned at about 14.00 while Phil and I were tucking into pizza and chips in the hotel restaurant. Unsurprisingly the bird activity had been quiet with only Crested Tit to add to his list. However, of infinitely more interest was news that sizeable round footprints, presumed to be Lynx, were visible along the Narewka Road just north of where our earlier sighting had taken place.

We got going soon afterwards and headed for what we now presumed to be a Lynx territory on the southern Narewka Road. This, however, was our quietest evening of the whole trip. Driving was becoming difficult in the increasingly deep snow, (now about a foot or more deep) and spotting was problematic in the windswept snow flurries. It didn't help that air temperatures had fallen to around minus six or seven degrees and spotting through open windows was getting to be arduous.



Nevertheless, we crawled up the road to about half way to Narewka before turning back for dinner. We found only one animal – a single Wild Boar, which was limping from an injury to one of its rear legs. Possible future catfood!

Heading back for Bialowieza we saw lights ahead at the Budy/Pogorzelce crossroads and were flagged down once more – the sixth time we had been stopped by officialdom. These turned out to be Border Police who, it seemed, were amused to read our Polish translation about looking for wildlife. They made a routine check of our boot and, finding no Belorussian refugees, sent us on our way.

Taking the short cut via Pogorzelce we found our first and only Owl of the trip. It turned out to be a Tawny Owl, in unfamiliar grey morph, and we enjoyed excellent binocular views for a minute or two in the spot-light.

The post-dinner session produced nothing at all – either on the Narewka Road or on the Kosy Most Road, which we tried one last time. With the snow now dangerously deep – our undercarriage was leaving a trail in the snow – we gave up the chase the right side of midnight and headed back to the hotel for a celebratory glass of sparkling wine.

## **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

We took a fairly prompt breakfast intending to be on the road by 10.00 for the long drive back to Lodz and our flight home at 21.50. With about three hours of contingency we certainly didn't expect any difficulty making the flight, despite the worsening weather.

But things didn't quite go according to plan. Our first problem, once we had de-snowed the car and scraped ice off the windscreen wipers, was that the parking brakes had frozen solid overnight. We spent thirty or forty minutes rocking the car backwards and forwards, trying desperately to free the rear wheels, but to no avail. Just as things looked hopeless, the hotel manager turned up and offered us a solution. Obviously familiar with what must be a perennial problem in Poland's severe winters, he produced a huge heater, fuelled by an enormous gas canister. We helped him lug it out into the car park and aimed its hot draft at each wheel in turn. Miraculously, the wheels soon began turning freely and we were set to go. We thanked him profusely and offered to pay him for the gas we had used but he refused. What a star!

We were very eager to get started before the brakes re-froze; (it was around minus seven degrees). But just as we were about to go we spotted a pair of woodpeckers in a tree overlooking the car park. Through freezing fingers we examined them in the binoculars, though they flew off before the identification was certain. We thought they were Syrian Woodpeckers.

Once on the road we made quite good progress westwards through Bielsk-Padlowski and Bransk and then on up to Zambrowska on the main Warsaw-Bialystok road. En-route we

found a few new birds for the trip: Rook, Grey Partridge, Mallard and Common Buzzard and a lone Roe Deer standing in a snow-bound field. By lunchtime we had made it past Zambrowska and were progressing nicely towards Warsaw.

Stopping for lunch at a service station cafe, we gazed at a television screen where a story of chaos and confusion unfolded before us. Although the report was of course in Polish we could not mistake the message. The snow had caused roads to be closed ahead of us and some twenty or more serious accidents had already occurred. Long delays were expected and with the weather closing in, conditions were likely to deteriorate further.

Fearing the worst, we got going straight away. It was not too bad before Warsaw but then the traffic just got worse and worse. It took us two hours to clear Warsaw and even then on reaching the main Poznan road we were reduced to a crawl. By Blonie, time was starting to run short, especially after a long hold up at traffic lights. For a while we did make steady progress to Sochachew and then south to Lowicz. But just north of Lowicz we came to a standstill again, this time for twenty minutes. The road was now a sheet of black ice and the air temperature had sunk to minus thirteen degrees.

Eventually getting south of Lowicz we hoped that traffic might ease with most of the lorries that had so badly held us up turning off for the larger city of Poznan. And for a time we did make better progress. But about ten kilometres north of Lodz the traffic slowed once more to a crawl. Several times we passed vehicles in ditches or lorries that had broken down or "timed out" and at one icy stretch of road we had to change lanes to pass an articulated bus that had jack-knifed across the road.

We crawled into Lodz at a snail's pace on roads of ice and compacted snow. Avis phoned us to check why we hadn't yet returned the vehicle and gave us the slightly encouraging news that our flight was delayed till 22.00. We hoped it might be further delayed or even cancelled! Better to lose the flight and stay in Lodz at Ryanair's expense than to miss it at ours!

But somehow, against all odds, we struggled through the chaos to the airport, arriving at 21.40. The flight had long since closed but at 21.45 we found a Ryanair representative who, after much pleading, let us through. We paid £35 each baggage surcharge to get our stuff checked in and triumphantly we marched across the tarmac to our waiting plane. Naturally, we were the last three on board!

Much later, driving home from Stansted, I encountered a young Red Fox, the last mammal of a memorable trip and a truly unforgettable epic journey home.

### **Lessons for Future Lynx Watchers**

We learned a lot about looking for Lynx and about the practicalities of wildlife watching in the Bialowieza area. Some of these might be helpful to future Lynx watchers.

Firstly, there are relatively few driveable roads in good Lynx habitat. It is necessary to stick to public roads and the minor forest tracks are out of bounds. It is not worth flouting these rules, as the forest guards *will* pick you up and a difficult situation will develop.

Secondly, even when driving in completely legitimate areas and minding ones own lawful business, you will probably get stopped by Police, forest guards or Border Police. They will demand documentation and an explanation of why you are driving around late at night with spot-lights. It is practically essential to have a well-crafted written explanation of who you are, what you are doing and how long you will be in the area. And, obviously, it needs to be translated into Polish. Without this, and unless you can speak fluent Polish, you will meet situations that, I imagine, could easily get out of hand. It is worth remembering that the Belarus border is only a few kilometres away and the authorities are doubtless used to dealing with illegal immigration and smuggling.

Thirdly, it is best to look for Lynx (and other nocturnal mammals) in late Autumn or early Spring. Summer would be hopeless on account of the high level of human disturbance, the short nights and the luxuriant foliage, which would inhibit spot-lighting into the forest. Also, deepest Winter might be very difficult on account of the weather. If temperatures dropped to very low levels, (and they do drop to minus thirty degrees sometimes), then simply keeping the vehicle running would be problematic. And in deep snow many of the minor roads, including the key Narewka Road, would probably become completely impassable. The best shot would be November through to early December or late February through to the end of March.

Fourthly, a 4WD vehicle is almost essential. An ordinary saloon would risk getting stuck in snow or mud and would lack the necessary ground clearance.

Fifthly, it is worth spot-lighting late into the night. We got our Lynx at 23.35. The area is disturbed somewhat during the daytime and the first few hours of darkness seem to be very quiet. About two or three hours after sunset, things seem to liven up.

Lastly, a team of three would probably be more productive than a lone wolf. We expected to see a Lynx, if we saw one at all, crossing the road ahead as we drove along. But in four long nights of spot-lighting, only one mammal (a Northern Birch Mouse) was seen actually on the road. Every other mammal sighting was off-road and thus spotters working each side simultaneously would be likely to be much more successful.

So what are the chances of seeing a Lynx? Well, we spotted for some 26 hours after dark for one sighting. Combining our experience with that of others, I would guess that we were a little fortunate and that, on average, around 50 to 100 hours might be required to get a Lynx. My instinct is that a very determined ten night trip might provide a better than evens shot. But of course – you could be lucky first time out!

We wish anyone reading this and having a go the very best of luck!

## List of Mammal Sightings

The full breakdown of mammal sightings was as follows:

Species	Latin Name	25/11	26/11	27/11	28/11	29/11	30/11
Eurasian Lynx	Lynx Lynx			X			
Red Fox	Vulpes Vulpes		X	X			
Pine Marten	Martes Martes			?			
European Beaver	Castor Fiber		X		X		
Red Deer	Cervus Elephas		X	X	X	X	
Roe Deer	Capreolus Capreolus			X	X		X
Brown Hare	Lepus Europaeus	X					
Wild Boar	Sus Scrofa		X	X	X	X	
Northern Birch Mouse	Sicista Betulina				X		
Yellow-necked Mouse	Apodemus Flavicollis		X				
<b>Total Confirmed Species = 9</b>							
<b>Total Possible Species = 10</b>							

## List of Bird Sightings

The full breakdown of bird sightings was as follows:

Species	Latin Name	Notes
<i>Mallard</i>	<i>Anas Platyrhynchus</i>	<i>Group near Bielsk-Padlowski.</i>
Common Buzzard	Buteo Buteo	One near Zambrowska.
<i>European Sparrowhawk</i>	<i>Accipiter Nisus</i>	<i>One overhead in Bialowieza town.</i>
Grey Partridge	Perdix Perdix	Covey on roadside near Bransk.
Feral Pigeon	Columba Livia	Common in Hajnowka.
<i>Collared Dove</i>	<i>Streptopelia Decaocto</i>	<i>One in hotel car park, Hajnowka.</i>
Tawny Owl	Stryx Aluco	One roadside near Pogorzelce.
Syrian Woodpecker?	Dendrocopus Syriacus	Pair in hotel car park, Hajnowka.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopus Major	One in woods, Titowka.
White-backed Woodpecker	Dendrocopus Leucotus	One in woods, Titowka.
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopus Minor	One in woods, Titowka.
<i>Robin</i>	<i>Erithacus Rubecula</i>	<i>One near Bialowieza.</i>
Fieldfare?	Turdus Pilaris	Flock in fields near Bransk.
Mistle Thrush	Turdus Viscivorus	One in woods, Titowka.
<i>Crested Tit</i>	<i>Parus Cristatus</i>	<i>Pair in woods, Titowka.</i>
<i>Marsh Tit</i>	<i>Parus Palustris</i>	<i>Several in woods, Titowka.</i>
<i>Coal Tit</i>	<i>Parus Ater</i>	<i>Hotel car park, Hajnowka.</i>
Great Tit	Parus Major	Fairly common throughout.
Blue Tit	Parus Caeruleus	Several around Teremiski/Pogorzelce.
Nuthatch	Sitta Europaea	One in woods. Titowka.
Treecreeper	Certhia Familiaris	One near Pogorzelce.
Jay	Garrulus Glandarius	Several around Bialowieza/Titowka.
Black-billed Magpie	Pica Pica	Several in Bransk.
Rook	Corvus Frugilegus	Several en-route Bransk-Zambrowska.
Jackdaw	Corvus Monedula	Common throughout.
Starling	Sturnus Vulgaris	Several in Hajnowka outside supermarket.

<i>Tree Sparrow</i>	<i>Passer Montanus</i>	<i>Flock at bird feeder, Teremiski.</i>
<i>House Sparrow</i>	<i>Passer Domesticus</i>	<i>One at bird feeder, Teremiski.</i>
<i>Chaffinch</i>	<i>Fringilla Coelebs</i>	<i>One near Teremiski.</i>
<i>Yellowhammer</i>	<i>Emberiza Citrinella</i>	<i>One in woods, Titowka.</i>
<b>Total Confirmed = 28</b>		
<b>Total Possible = 30</b>		

(Species in italics not seen by all members of group).