

FIELD REPORT

**GERMANY: BIRDS AND ART
IN BERLIN AND BRANDENBURG**

SEPTEMBER 19–28, 2021



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LIST COMPILED BY: RICK WRIGHT**

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September 19: Departures for the new Berlin Brandenburg Airport, arrivals the next morning.

September 20: Arrivals. Cool (high 50s), cloudy, calm. **5:00 pm**, group assembles at hotel. 5:05-5:50 pm, birding Tiergarten. S-Bahn to Brandenburg Gate. Dinner 6:30-8:15 pm, Hopfingerbräu. At hotel 8:40 pm.



Charlottenburg Palace, seen from its birdy gardens. Photo Rick Wright

September 21: Breakfast in hotel beginning 6:30 am. Birding Tiergarten **8:00-10:45** am. Cool (high 40s to low 50s), cloudy then partly cloudy, calm. Train at 11:10 to Hackescher Markt; lunch and snack at Espresso Cafe, Heiligegeiststrasse, 11:35-12:30. Neues Museum and Pergamon Museum, gift shop, 12:45-3:25 pm. Pharmacy. At hotel 4:05 pm. Low 50s, cloudy. Dinner and checklist 6:00-7:55 pm, Tiergartenquelle. At hotel 8:00 pm. Humidity and temperature rising, with breeze; low 50s.

September 22: Breakfast in hotel beginning 6:30 am. Light fog, low 50s. Left hotel **8:10** am; arrived Strengsee 9:20 am. Walk to blind, blind 9:30-12:40, return to van. Lunch at Hotel Markgraf 1:00-2:45 pm. Mostly sunny, high 60s, calm. Lehnin Monastery 2:50-4:00 pm. At Berlin hotel 5:00 pm. Dinner in hotel 6:30-8:45 pm.



Our Berlin "backyard," the Tiergarten. Photo Rick Wright

September 23: Breakfast in hotel beginning 6:30 am. Clear, calm, high 50s. Left hotel **8:30** am. Sunny, then cloudy; high 60s and windy. Charlottenburg Palace grounds 8:55-12:05. Lunch in Neue Orangerie. Scharf-Gerstenberg and Berggruen Museums 2:05. Some back at hotel 3:35. Dinner at Lindenbräu Sony Center, 6:00-8:10. At hotel 8:30. Warm, windy, very light rain.



Mandarin Ducks were in especially good supply this year. Photo Rick Wright

September 24: Breakfast in hotel beginning 6:30 am. Left hotel **8:05** am; partly cloudy, windy, high 50s. To Gülper See by way of Pessin; windy, cloudy, high 50s. Gülper See 10:20-12:30. Lunch Zur alten Stadtmauer, Rathenow, 1:00-2:35. At hotel 3:50 pm. Dinner at Marjan 6:00-8:25 pm. Light breeze, partly cloudy, low 60s.

September 25: Breakfast in hotel beginning 6:30 am. Mostly cloudy, low 60s, light breeze. Some to Tiergarten, some to Königliche Porzellanmanufaktur, leader to covid

test. Assembly at hotel and departure for lunch **11:30** am. Lunch at Teehaus in the English Garden, 12:00-1:15 pm. Cloudy, mist followed by light drizzle followed by some sun; high 60s. Museum of Decorative Arts and Painting Gallery 1:40-4:20 pm. At hotel 4:40 pm. Dinner at Lindenbräu Sony Center, 5:55-7:50 pm. High 60s, partly cloudy, calm.



Geese at the Strengsee. Photo Rick Wright

September 26: Breakfast in hotel beginning 6:30 am. Cloudy, low 60s, calm. Tiergarten **8:05-9:55** am. Sun breaking through; low 70s. Leave for Altfriedland 10:10. Altfriedland 11:30-1:55. Lunch at Klosterschänke 2:00-3:35 pm. At hotel 6:00 pm. Clear, low 60s, Dinner at Käfer 7:20-9:50 pm. Reichstag dome 9:50-10:30. At hotel 11:00 pm.

September 27: Breakfast in hotel beginning 6:30 am. 7:45-8:30 am, train station

for tickets, information, etc., for all participants. Leave hotel **10:00** am. Gray, low 60s, very light mist. Spandauer Forst 10:25-noon; cloudy, low 60s, calm. Lunch 12:15-3:00 pm at Himmel und Havel. Arrive Linum 4:00. Linum Ponds 4:00-5:00; high 60s, dry, mostly cloudy. Kuhhorst crane site 5:05-6:25 pm. Partly cloudy, high 60s, light breeze. At hotel 7:20 pm. Dinner in hotel 7:50-9:00 pm.



The English Teahouse. Photo Rick Wright

September 28:
Breakfast in hotel
beginning 6:30 am.
Tour ends.

Would you rather go straight to dinner or do a little birding first?

The answer was one to warm the leader's heart, and it was barely a minute before we were all gathered to walk across the street for a first glimpse of the treasures of the Tiergarten, the nearly 500-year-old forested park that is just one of Berlin's wonderful hoard of green space. Delaying our dinner those few minutes was well worth it: The pond across from our hotel produced our first Common Moorhens, Wood Pigeons, Blackcaps, and Mandarin Ducks, along with a surprise European Kingfisher on a low and nearby perch. Even more surprising, though, was the Tawny Owl that flew through the lights of Pariser Platz as we returned from our first meal together; the species is common enough in the Tiergarten and other Berlin city parks, but it is devilishly hard to see, making this a favorable omen indeed as we looked forward to our first full day to come.

That full day established the rhythm of the rest of our tour, a delightful and varied mix of experiences natural and cultural. We began with another stroll through the



The so-called Royal House at Lehnin, a masterpiece of the red-brick Gothic. Photo Rick Wright

Tiergarten, right outside our hotel door.

Birds and art fed the soul, but our more purely physical appetites didn't come up short, either. Two of our favorite meals this time around were at restaurants new to the itinerary: the Hotel Markgraf in Lehnin combined small-town charm with outstanding traditional German food, while the exquisite lunch at Himmel und Havel in Spandau was rivaled only by that fine restaurant's location right at the ferry crossing. In Berlin itself, we especially enjoyed the local color and hearty food



Two crows (Corvus graniticus?) confront each other on a bridge over the Landwehrkanal. Photo Rick Wright

Tiergarten, followed by a visit to two of the finest museums anywhere: the Pergamon Museum and Berlins' Neues Museum, where we paid our respectful respects, respectively, to the Ishtar Gate and the façade of the Miletus marketplace and to the Golden Hat and, of course, the bust of Nefertiti. Such startling conjunctions of art and nature were the rule on most of our days, combining as we did some intensive birding of the Charlottenburg palace gardens and the modern art of the Berggruen Museum, the waterfowl spectacle of the Strengsee and the medieval seclusion of the monastery at Lehnin, the woods and waters of Altfriedland and Norman Foster's amazing Reichstag Dome, and the veritable art historical encyclopedia of the Gemäldegalerie and yet another visit to the forests and fields of the

of the Tiergartenquelle and the bustle of Lindenbräu beneath the sublime canopy of the Sony Center; an elegant outdoor lunch at the English Teahouse, right in the Tiergarten a few minutes from our hotel, was the perfect prelude to our visit to the Kunstgewerbemuseum and the almost overwhelmingly rich collections of the Gemäldegalerie.

Our congenial group ended the tour with memories full of these and so many other experiences, and our ears still a-ring with the clangor of the thousands of Common Cranes

passing by to roost at Kuhhorst on our final evening together. It was good to be back in Berlin!

BIRDS

Waterfowl

Graylag Goose, *Anser anser*: more than 1000 at Strengeesee September 22, with twice that many at the Gülper See September 24. Large numbers audible at Altfriedland September 26, and many hundreds at Linum and in the surrounding countryside September 27.



Graylag and Tundra Bean Geese. Photo Rick Wright

Greater White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons*: low hundreds at Strengeesee September 22. Dozens at the Gülper See September 24, and a few heard at Altfriedland September 26; numbers mixed in with graylags and bean geese over Linum September 27.

Tundra Bean Goose, *Anser serrirostis*: thousands at Strengeesee

September 22. The sight, and above all the sound, of so many birds in the sky and on the water there was easily among the highlights of the tour. Hundreds at the Gülper See September 24, though most were rather distant. A few seen overhead at Altfriedland September 26. Hundreds at Linum September 27.

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis*: eight in the large goose flocks on the Strengeesee September 22. This is a decidedly uncommon bird this far inland in September.

Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*: 2 in Tiergarten September 20, 3 there September 21. Two at Charlottenburg September 23. A fairly common introduced species across much of the continent, though nowhere approaching the plague status it has attained in parts of the UK.

Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*: 3 at Charlottenburg September 23. A few at Gülper See September 24. One at Linum September 27; one of the memorable scenes of the tour was of a low bird swimming on the Havel as we dined at the window earlier that same day.

Mandarin Duck, *Aix galericulata*: 4 in Tiergarten September 20, about 7 there September 21. An amazing 35 at Charlottenburg September 23; a few have always been reliable there, but this was a startling count. Established in small numbers in several German cities, but probably more readily seen in Berlin and Brandenburg than anywhere else.

Northern Shoveler, *Spatula clypeata*: more than 100 at Strengsee September 22; similar numbers at the Gülper See September 24. About 30 at Linum September 27.

Gadwall, *Mareca strepera*: one (!) on the Strengsee September 22. A dozen or so at the Gülper See September 24. Five or six at Linum September 27. These were unusually low numbers for what is usually one of the commonest ducks in the area.

Eurasian Wigeon, *Mareca penelope*: about 30 at the Gülper See September 24, at first only poor views of distant birds, then good looks at females and (eclipse) males mixed in with geese on the near shoreline.

Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*: a dozen in Tiergarten September 20 and 21, all wild-type in plumage and structure on the former date, joined by a handsome barnyard duck on the latter. A dozen or so at the Strengsee September 22. Among the 15 at Charlottenburg September 23 were 3 domestic-type feral birds. A score or more at the Gülper See September 24. A few overhead at Altfriedland September 26. A dozen at Linum September 27.

Northern Pintail, *Anas acuta*: a couple of dozen on the Strengsee September 22. One at the Gülper See September 24. The usual large numbers of fall pintails had obviously not arrived yet.

Common Teal, *Anas crecca*: a hundred or more on the Strengsee September 22. Common but distant on the Gülper See September 24, with the best views of flyby birds from our blind.

[Baikal Teal, *Sibirionetta formosa*: a female-plumaged bird with mallards in Tiergarten September 21, certainly an aviary escape. At prices of around \$350 a pair, some waterfowl collector is no doubt very sad.]



"Countable"? You decide! A female Baikal Teal in the Tiergarten. Photo Rick Wright

Common Pochard, *Aythya ferina*: a couple of dozen on the Gülper See September 24.

Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula*: four at Tiergarten September 21, all of them brown. Half a dozen distant birds on the Stengsee September 22. Stunningly close looks at one bird at Charlottenburg September 23. Five in the Tiergarten September 25. Four or five at Linum September 27.

Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula*: five on the Stengsee September 22. At this date, these may have been local breeders.

Pheasants

Ring-necked Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus*: a roadside male September 24, unfortunately seen only by the leader. Most of the pheasants in Germany lack the eponymous neck ring.

Grebes

Little Grebe, *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: ten or more on the Stengsee September 22. An immature, still stripe-faced, in the Tiergarten September 26.

Eared Grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis*: one frustratingly active bird on the Stengsee September 22.

Great Crested Grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*: common on the Gülper See September 24, numbers approaching 50.

Pigeons



The distinctively patterned rectrix of a Common Wood Pigeon.
Photo Rick Wright

Feral Pigeon, *Columba livia*: common throughout in cities and farmyards.

Common Wood Pigeon, *Columba palumbus*: about 20 over the Tiergarten September 20, where comparison of a conveniently fallen rectrix of this species and one of the Feral Pigeon let us appreciate the differences in tail pattern and length. Common in and over Tiergarten September 21. Total of only about 25 at the Stengsee September 22. About 40 at and over Charlottenburg

September 23. Common in the countryside September 24. An arrival was apparent

September 25, when many were in and over the Tiergarten. Common at Spandau and at Linum September 27.

Eurasian Collared Dove, *Streptopelia decaocta*: one or two in many of the villages we passed through on our van excursions. The best views were in Linum September 27.

Bustards

Great Bustard, *Otis tarda*: the wet summer had made many of the sites we have found bustards in the past unhospitable, with vegetation too dense and too high for these birds. We were very happy, then, to discover a group of eight loafing on a field just outside Pessin. The birds were not as close as we sometimes are fortunate enough to view them, but they were much nearer than the small group the leader had found the day before the tour began, which were more than half a mile from the road.

Rails

Eurasian Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*: 3 or 4 in Tiergarten September 20, a similar number September 21, 25, and 26, when one was floating casually down the Landwehrkanal on a piece of flotsam.

Eurasian Coot, *Fulica atra*: 2 in Tiergarten September 21, offering splendid comparison with nearby moorhens. Four at Charlottenburg September 23.

Cranes

Common Crane, *Grus grus*: a few dozen at the Stengsee September 22. Scattered small groups on fields and in the air every day. Constantly audible at Linum September 27; thousands streaming across the sky and landing nearby on harvested fields at Kuhhorst September 27, an amazing sight against the evening sky. The official count September 21 had been more than 21,000 individuals, and numbers seemed clearly larger on our evening visit.

Plovers

Northern Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus*: we eventually saw good numbers of these spectacular plovers, including a total in the low hundreds at Linum, but never did we find birds visible on the ground. Instead, we saw flocks of dozens in the air, identifiable by their loose, floppy wing beats and striking black and white plumage.

Gulls

Black-headed Gull, *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*: 80 at the Stengsee September 22. A few dozen at the Gülper See September 24. Four at Linum September 27.

Common Gull, *Larus canus*: four or five adults at the Gülper See September 24. This species has recently been (re-)split, with the North American counterpart now known as the Short-billed Gull.

Caspian Gull, *Larus cachinnans*: one on the Spree September 21. Half a dozen large white-headed gulls at the Stengsee September 22 may have been, some or all, of this species. Especially good looks at half a dozen (among a few score large white-headed gulls) at the Gülper See September 24.



Great Cormorants and Caspian Gulls, two species on the increase in central Europe. Photo Rick Wright

Cormorants

Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*: one over Tiergarten September 20, half a dozen or so there September 21, 25, and 26. Forty at Stengsee September 22. A few over Charlottenburg September 23. More than 100 at Gülper See September 24. Five or six over Altfriedland September 26, with twice that many at Linum September 27.

Hérons

Gray Heron, *Ardea cinerea*: at least three at Tiergarten September 21, with similar numbers on each subsequent visit. About 25 at Stengsee September 22, including birds feeding next to the following species; it is striking in direct comparison how small this common heron is. Five or so at Charlottenburg September 23. Surprisingly, only a few at the Gülper See September 24. A fine sight was the 14 in a single tree at Linum September 27.

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*: a new and now very common resident in this area. Ten or so at Stengsee September 22. Eight to ten at the Gülper See September 24. Half a dozen visible at Altfriedland September 26. None on the ponds at Linum, though we found several on fields in the surrounding countryside that afternoon.

Hawks

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*: 2, 1 adult and 1 juvenile, fishing the Stengsee September 22.

Eurasian Marsh Harrier, *Circus aeruginosus*: a fantastic view of a female hunting just off the blind at the Stengsee September 22.

Red Kite, *Milvus milvus*: a very distant bird at the Stengsee September 22. Two at the Gülper See September 24. One at Linum September 27.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter nisus*: one over the Tiergarten September 25.

Northern Goshawk, *Accipiter gentilis*: a juvenile chasing a Hooded Crow, then in turn chased by a dozen Hooded Crows, in the Tiergarten September 21.

White-tailed Eagle, *Haliaeetus albicilla*: about four at the Stengsee September 22, in flight, perched low above the water, and surveying the scene from a distant dead tree. At least five at the Gülpsee September 24, including four perched more or less together on the edge of the lake, seeking whom they might devour among the geese and ducks.

Common Buzzard, *Buteo buteo*: one being mobbed by Hooded Crows at Charlottenburg September 23. Several each of the days we were outside of the city, including one extremely white bird. Particularly dramatic views of one at the English Tea-house in the Tiergarten as it flew out of the woods and across the Altonaer Strasse. Three in a single field at Linum September 7 included a very dark bird, a very pale bird, and one light individual with a black crown, black throat, and starkly white face like a chickadee.

Owls

Tawny Owl, *Strix aluco*: one flying over the brightly illuminated Pariser Platz and Brandenburg Gate after dinner September 20 (that is to say, following our dinner and probably in pursuit of its own).

Kingfishers

Common Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis*: one perched low and nearby in the Tiergarten September 20, giving great views for several minutes before flashing past, electric blue, on its way to the Landwehrkanal; at least two there September 21. At least one seen on the Neuer See in the Tiergarten September 25 and 26. This species is usually hard to find in the Tiergarten, but for some reason, it was virtually can't-miss this fall, to our delight.

Woodpeckers

Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos major*: three or four heard in the Tiergarten September 21, one of them, a beautiful male, giving outstanding close views. One offering equally good looks at the Stengsee September 22. Two at Charlottenburg September 23. One at the Gülpsee September 24. Fine looks in the Tiergarten September 25 and 26, with one at Altfriedland on the latter date. Especially common (as this species tends to be when one is in search of other, rare picids) in the Spandauer Forst September 27, with a total of six or even more.

Eurasian Green Woodpecker, *Picus viridis*: a priority species for several of us, the gorgeous Green Woodpecker made its first appearance on the side of the road at the Gülpsee September 24, when most of us saw it only as a yellow rump

receding into the distance. Much more satisfying views came from the Tiergarten, where one laughed and played around us for several minutes in the dead trees.



Foliage notwithstanding, Green Woodpeckers are often easier to see in the trees than they are on the ground, where they spend most of their feeding time. Photo Rick Wright

Black Woodpecker, *Picus martius*: one crossing the road southeast of Berlin on September 26 was frustratingly quick for most of us.

Falcons

Eurasian Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus*: one or two seen most days when we left Berlin, perched on a roadside post or, more often, hovering over a field.

Shrikes

Great Gray Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*: one hunting the open meadow behind the blind at Strengsee September 22 declined to perch for better views.

Crows and Jays

Eurasian Jay, *Garrulus glandarius*: a score or so in total September 22, all seen in flight, most with acorns in their bills. Half a dozen at Charlottenburg September 23. The usual roadside dozen September 24. There was an obvious arrival September 25, when nearly 20 in the Tiergarten gave good views, perched and in flight; similar numbers persisted there September 26, and the species was common in Linum September 27. This seemed to be a year of only a modest flight, with much larger numbers seen in some autumns.

Eurasian Magpie, *Pica pica*: a few roadside birds September 22, 24, 26, and 27, with especially good views of 2 in Linum on the last date.

Eurasian Jackdaw, *Corvus monedula*: quite local in the area until the arrival of the hordes of winterers in October and November, this species played hard to get until September 27, when four in the town of Linum gave good scope views; later that evening, we saw at least five times that many on the fields of Kuhhorst with Common Cranes and Hooded Crows.

Carrion Crow, *Corvus corone*: two in a parking lot in Friesack September 24. A few of the crows on the fields at Kuhhorst September 27 looked like intergrades between this and the following species.

Hooded Crow, *Corvus cornix*: good looks and listens September 20 of what would quickly become one of the most familiar birds of the tour. This was usually the first bird of the day and the last, and it was nearly impossible to step outside our hotel

(or even to the window inside the hotel) and not see and hear these endearing gray corvids.

Common Raven, *Corvus corax*: a few roadside birds most days, with the best views of about 10 total at Linum September 27.

Chickadees

Marsh Tit, *Poecile palustris*: one at Strengsee September 22.

Crested Tit, *Lophophanes cristatus*: one at Altfriedland September 26.

Eurasian Blue Tit, *Cyanistes caeruleus*: half a dozen in Tiergarten September 21, with similar totals there on all of our other visits. A similar number at the Strengsee September 22, some of them singing. About 10 at Charlottenburg September 23. A few at the Gülper See September 24. A couple at Altfriedland September 26, and four or five in the Spandauer Forst September 27.

Great Tit, *Parus major*: ten or more in Tiergarten September 21; each of our visits there turned up similar numbers. A dozen at the Strengsee September 22, at least one in song. About 10 at Charlottenburg September 23. Two or three in the woods at the Gülper See September 24. A couple at Altfriedland September 26. Six at Linum September 27.

Larks

Wood Lark, *Lullula arborea*: four birds flew in and landed in the grass in front of the blind at the Gülper See September 24, and immediately disappeared into cover, never to be seen again. This was the first time this species had been seen on this tour.

Swallows

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*: common overhead at the Strengsee September 22. Only two at the Gülper See September 24, and only one at Linum September 27. Pulses of southbound migrants occur well into October most years.

Bushtits

Long-tailed Tit, *Aegithalos caudatus*: one bird in the birches at Linum September 27.

Sylviids

Eurasian Blackcap, *Sylvia atricapilla*: at least two in Tiergarten September 20, neither giving very good views, but made up for the following day, when males and females were seen well. Another male in the Tiergarten September 25.

Leaf Warblers

Common Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus collybita*: one in Tiergarten September 21. A few at Strengsee September 22, including at least one singing bird. Two in Tiergarten September 25 and one there September 26. One at Linum September 27.

Nuthatches

Eurasian Nuthatch, *Sitta europaea*: good looks at three or four in Tiergarten September 20, with at least that many on each subsequent visit. Very good looks at about 8 at Charlottenburg September 23. Remarkable numbers in the Spandauer Forst September 27, perhaps as many as a dozen birds.

Treecreepers

Eurasian/Short-toed Treecreeper, *Certhia sp.*: one in Tiergarten September 21; silent. Both species are possible, the Short-toed much more likely.

Short-toed Treecreeper, *Certhia brachydactyla*: one calling at Charlottenburg September 23. Another vocal bird in the Tiergarten September 25.

Wrens

Eurasian Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes*: one fleetingly seen in Tiergarten September 21.

Starlings

European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*: many dozens headed to roost over Tiergarten September 20; about 20 there the next day. Total of about 100 September 22. About ten at Charlottenburg September 23. Common in the countryside whenever we left Berlin, with an especially impressive flock of a couple of thousand feeding on the fields at Kuhhorst September 27.

Thrushes

Song Thrush, *Turdus musicus*: two in Tiergarten September 21.

Eurasian Blackbird, *Turdus merula*: seven or eight eating crataegus apples in Tiergarten September 21; at least one seen there on each of our visits thereafter, too. Two fine males at Charlottenburg September 23. At least three secretive individuals at the Spandauer Forst September 27. This is a common bird year-round in Berlin, but early autumn is probably the time when they are least easy to see.

Chats



A European Robin forgets for the moment just how shy it is. Photo Rick Wright

European Robin, *Erithacus rubecula*: two in Tiergarten September 20, heard but not seen by all. Beautiful views there September 25, and good if fleeting looks at one at Linum September 27. Unlike the birds found in Great Britain, continental robins tend to be quite shy and unobtrusive, requiring patience and luck to see well.

Black Redstart, *Phoenicurus ochruros*: a male on a roof in Altfriedland as we ate lunch September 26; in most years, this is the only site where we find this

common bird.

Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*: one male in Tiergarten September 20. Forty or more in Tiergarten September 21, most in a single flock at a construction site; this same flock remained reliable during our entire stay. In cities and villages September 22, including 35 in Netzen. About 40 at Charlottenburg September 23. Common in the countryside whenever we ventured out of Berlin.



Eurasian Tree Sparrow. Photo Rick Wright

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus*: four feeding at our feet in Charlottenburg September 23, all still showing the remains of the yellow gape flanges of juvenile birds. This is traditionally a good site for the species,

though it can occasionally be found right in the center of Berlin.

Wagtails



A White Wagtail keeping the lawns of Charlottenburg Palace safe from insects. Photo Rick Wright

White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba*: at least ten in the gardens of Charlottenburg September 23.

Finches

Common Chaffinch, *Fringilla coelebs*: a flock of ca. 20 flying over Charlottenburg September 23. Fifteen quickly passing over Linum September 27.

Hawfinch, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*: a quick flyby at Charlottenburg September 23, unfortunately not seen by all. This species is very common in some years, scarce in others.

European Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*: a dozen feeding high in the treetops in Tiergarten September 21.

Old World Buntings

Reed Bunting, *Emberiza schoeniclus*: four flying out of the reeds at Linum September 27 gave only poor views.

MAMMALS

European Rabbit, *Oryctolagus cuniculus*: several on the edges of the Tiergarten.

Eurasian Red Squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*: one of the most beautiful sciurids anywhere and common in the Tiergarten.

Roe Deer, *Capreolus capreolus*: common in the countryside.



The odd little Roe Deer, a common grazer in the German countryside. Photo Rick Wright

BUTTERFLIES

Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*



The Io, or peacock butterfly, is the commonest and most beautiful butterfly of the German autumn. Photo Rick Wright

Io Butterfly, *Aglais io*

Cabbage White, *Peris rapae*



This beautifully fresh Polygonia was at Altfriedland. Photo Rick Wright

Anglewing sp., *Polygonia* sp.