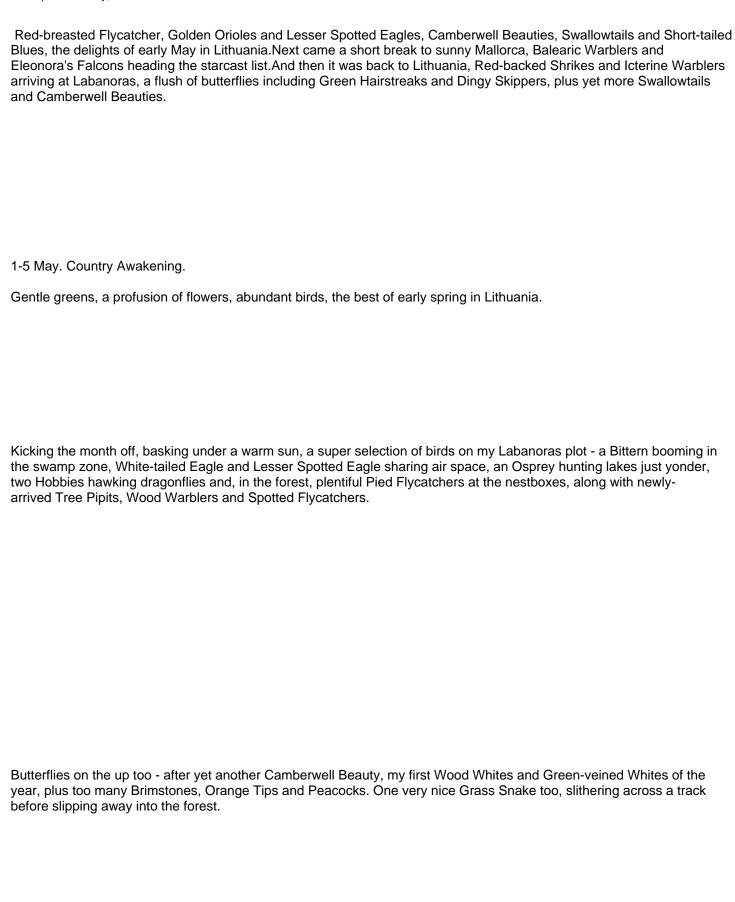
## May 2012. Spring Fresh.

Contributed by Jos Last Updated Friday, 01 June 2012



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Back in Vilnius, the nestbox tally in the garden:
Starling - two boxes occupied.
Pied Flycatcher - interest in two boxes
Common Redstart - one box
Great and Blue Tits - one box each.
Also Spotted Flycathers now arrived, plus voices of the night - Bittern and Thrush Nightingale echoing up from beyond the pines.
5-6 May. Flurry of Birds and Butterflies.
All most pleasant, a country bathed by warm sunshine and dotted with birds and butterflies a plenty.
In what is turning out to be an excellent season for the species, yet another Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell was spotted near Vilnius on the 5th, while Swallowtail and Short-tailed Blue graced Labanoras on the 6th, all accompanied by numerous Orange Tips, Brimstones, Peacocks and Map Butterflies, plus lesser numbers of Wood Whites and Greenveined Whites.
On the bird front, still plenty of incoming migrants at Labanoras, including two very nice Golden Orioles, a swirl of Black Terns, plus my first Swifts, Garden Warblers and Thrush Nightingales at this location this year. Of more interest, continuing a colonisation of Beaver-cleared forest, Sedge Warblers were also noted, at least one churring away in the swamp-zone.
Star of the weekend however, a nice complement to the Spotted Flycatchers and numerous Pied Flycatchers singing alongside, was a rather showy Red-breasted Flycatcher. Not easy to find in Lithuania, the swampy forest on my land is just about perfect habitat - but even here, I am by no means guaranteed to find them in any given year. This year's individual, a first-year male, is singing on a territory held by another bird in 2010.

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10-14 May. Mallorca, Endemics and More.

Escaping the confines of Lithuania, a mini trip to the Mediterranean and the holiday island of Mallorca. An impressive few days in the stunning settings of the Serre de Tramuntana mountains and the Formentor Peninsula, with highlights including Eleonora's Falcons, Black Vulture and both Balearic and Moltoni's Warbler. Also Long-eared Owls and Barn Owls in the island's interior, Marbled Teal and Purple Swamphens in the wetlands of S'Albufera and a whole host of other species. All in all, an excellent trip, also adding Viperine Snake and Algerian Hedgehog. For a full account, CLICK HERE for a trip report. 18-26 May. Spring Heights in Lithuania. With a mini heatwave and unbroken sunshine, all was pleasant in Lithuania. Pretty much on schedule, the two weekends of middle and late May saw the return of the final batch of incoming migrants, a bunch of highly charasmatic and welcome visitors - up at Labanoras, Red-backed Shrikes and Icterine Warblers on the 19th, Corncrakes, Marsh Warblers and Common Rosefinch on the 26th, plus good numbers of Golden Orioles, Wrynecks still in good voice and increasing numbers of Thrush Nightingales. Also one very smart Black Redstart appeared on a roof top. Pleasant indeed it is to sit and listen to the choral backdrop of grating Corncrakes and melodious Golden Orioles while overhead a Hobby hurtles through, Cranes and White Storks make the occasional flyover and Black Terns whip across, taking a short cut from lake to lake. Also in this period, a good flush of butterflies -Amanda's Blue and Dingy Skipper at Labanoras, a Swallowtail in my Vilnius garden and, all in the forests south of the capital, heaps and heaps of both Green Hairstreaks and Grizzled Skippers, a couple more Amanda's Blues, yet another Swallowtail, one Camberwell Beauty and assorted other species.

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