

Albania in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

21st – 28th May 2025



European Bee-eaters



Albanian Pool Frog



Large Wall Brown



Greater Flamingoes

Tour report by Neil Anderson



Naturetrek

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Tour Participants: Neil Anderson & Dea Zyruku (leaders) with fourteen Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Wednesday 21st May

Arrive Tirana

It seemed strange leaving Heathrow in the first wet morning in weeks after the driest spring on record, and then landing in Tirana in similar conditions. Fortunately, the weather soon improved as we headed to our lunch spot just over half an hour's drive from the airport, where we met our local leader, Dea. We all had an excellent and substantial lunch, and as we departed we noticed some Barn Swallows nesting just above the exit.

Feeling sated, we continued the drive south to the Divjake Resort Hotel, at the northern end of the Karavasta Lagoon, which was a good two-hour drive away. After settling into our hotel, I took many of the group out of the back of the hotel along the boardwalk. We soon met some of the other residents, including a pair of Ostriches, several peafowl and some domestic pigeons! With my telescope I was able to show the group our first Dalmatian Pelicans in the distance, alongside six Caspian Terns. Waders were few (unlike during the April tour), with just a couple of non-breeding Grey and Kentish Plovers. Common and Little Terns flew over us, and we also saw a pair of Red-backed Shrikes in the corner of a small field.

Other faunal interest was provided by some sea hares and among molluscs were numerous snails, identified by one of our members as *Theba pisana*, which were aestivating on the trunks of many of the trees and bushes by the boardwalk. Botanical interest was provided by the plentiful Sea Rocket flowering on the sand.

Day 2

Thursday 22nd May

Karavasta area

As there were heavy downpours before breakfast, we abandoned our plans to have a pre-breakfast walk. Following a fine buffet breakfast, the weather had improved dramatically yielding a warm and sunny day. We met up with our driver, Zamir, who had arrived overnight, and would be our regular driver for all of the remainder of the tour, except for the short trips up mountain tracks, and on our final day.

At our first stop, we walked through the sand, the junipers and by large, formidable clumps of Sharp Rush. In a clearing there was an extensive patch of Purple Viper's-bugloss which had attracted about a dozen Cleopatras: they were stunningly beautiful butterflies. A couple of Southern Darters were perched on the rushes, and we then heard the song of an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler. After some effort, most people had glimpses of this bird; a few others were heard and occasionally seen. On the track a couple of friendly stray dogs had discovered a Hermann's Tortoise, which after photographing was moved to safety from the hounds.

As we reached the open water we could see scattered Pygmy Cormorants and some Dalmatian Pelicans, including some nesting on the distant Pelican Island. A couple of Common and Little Terns flew over us. Wild flowers seen included Pitch Trefoil, Southern Red Bartsia, Hairy Canary Clover and two Cistus species. On the way back to our bus, a Hobby rapidly flew into a gap where there were many dragonflies, the most common being Green-eyed (or Norfolk) Hawkers.

Lunch was taken at a fish restaurant opposite our hotel: we had very substantial and delicious meal! We then headed to the Visitor Centre, where the group could find out more about the history and wildlife of the Karavasta Lagoon, an internationally important and diverse ecosystem. We met Johnny and friend, two Dalmatian Pelicans being cared for as they are unable to be returned to the wild. The small open pond here was being defended by four strikingly red male Scarlet Darters, the only ones of the trip.

Our day ended with a trip to Spilla, one of the trip's highlights, with some special birds, good numbers of butterflies, and a very varied flora. A couple of Turtle Doves were seen on the wires as we pulled up. Several gaudy male Black-headed Buntings sang from the wires, along with the odd Corn Bunting. Rollers took more effort, but in the end we all had good views from the bus. Butterflies included a pair of Swallowtails, a Southern Gatekeeper, Clouded Yellows and an Eastern Bath White. The hills were carpeted in Spanish Broom, but the verges held tongue orchids, Yellow Bartsia, *Bellardia trixago*, *Vicia grandiflora*, *Vicia villosa*, *Echium italicum* and *Orlaya grandiflora*.

After a very successful day we returned to our hotel for a fine meal and liquid refreshment.

Day 3

Friday 23rd May

Babunge, Narte

Those who ventured out for a pre-breakfast walk behind the hotel were treated to the spectacle of about sixty Greater Flamingos flying towards us, honking and then circling above us in glorious blue skies. The colours on their wings was spectacular, and just as they flew away, they returned for an encore!

After breakfast, our first stop was a site called Babunge, where there is a large Bee-eater colony. Many of these colourful birds were sitting on the nearby wires with bees and dragonflies in their bills, while others entered their nest holes in the sandy bank. The colony holds about 200 birds. We spent some twenty minutes watching this spectacular sight.

We then headed for the Narte lagoons area. The weather was changing, and it became overcast and pretty windy. An upside of this was that biting insects were not a problem; a first for me here after several visits! Our first stop here was by the badly-situated new airport, built in a supposedly protected area! We watched a Marsh Harrier and spotted a Little Owl on a fence by some dilapidated buildings. An Alpine Swift flew over our heads and more Bee-eaters were present. A Zitting Cisticola performed its typical display flight opposite us. The pink-flowered thistle *Galactites tomentosa* provided some colour in the otherwise grey and green landscape.

As we drove on, a Collared Pratincole flew up close to where we disembarked. We then saw another five of these attractive, atypical waders along a dry dusty track. Both Greater Short-toed Larks and Skylarks were singing here. Continuing our slow drive, we saw good numbers of Gull-billed Terns, and in a grassy area a large number of Mediterranean Gulls. While watching these, one of the group sitting behind me asked what the bird ahead of us on the road was. To my amazement, I quickly realised that it was a Great Spotted Cuckoo, in the same area where I had seen a pair on the April tour. It kept disappearing into the grassy verge finding insects to feed on. We drove on and had some amazingly close views of this stunning bird as it flitted from tamarisk to tamarisk, often right next to us! Later, we saw a second one further along the track.

A packed lunch was eaten in shelter near some ponds. A couple of Pyramidal Orchids and the blue-flowered Dyer's Alkanet were spotted here. Following our break we drove alongside the salinas. Various waders were identified, including good numbers of Black-winged Stilts and Avocets, and a couple of Kentish Plovers and Little Stints. Several striking Black-headed Wagtails were also seen, while a male Montagu's Harrier was briefly spotted, flying low over the vegetation.

Continuing our slow drive, Dea spotted a Stone-curlew very close to our bus, giving the closest views we had all had of this unique bird. We soon realised a second bird was present, and a little while later a small chick was with them, with beautiful, patterned plumage. That was a real highlight for us all! A final stop before heading back produced a couple of Curlew Sandpipers, and several nesting Avocets and Common Terns.

Day 4

Saturday 24th May

Kukes, Prizren, Valbona

We moved on today, under grey skies. We headed north from our base at Divjake, initially towards Kukes. Here, we changed to a small 'tough bus' to visit the serpentine rock, which has a spectacular flora. We did eventually find some leaves and fruits of the endemic *Tulipa albanica*. In flower were Wild Gladioli, striking *Dictamnus albus* spotted from the vehicle, a stunning plant in *Salvia ringens*, with blue and white flowers, *Echium russicum* and a couple of cruciferous nickel accumulators, *Alyssum murale* and *Odontarrhena smolikana*. As we walked through the wet vegetation we were treated to the delicious fragrance of Wild Thyme. We saw our only pair of Rock Buntings here, and Red-backed Shrikes.

Though the weather wasn't ideal for insects a roosting Spotted Fritillary was photographed, and the attractive Nine-spotted Moth and the burnet moth *Zygaena punctum* were also recorded.

Changing back into our regular bus, we were soon having a wonderful lunch at a restaurant overlooking a reservoir surrounded by mountains. Sated, we then passed through border control into neighbouring Kosovo, and with the weather now wet, had a very brief stop in the historic city of Prizren. With the weather now deteriorating we didn't have any more nature stops, and headed for a restaurant close to our hotel in the Albanian Alps. It had been a long day of travel, and people were keen to get to bed.

Day 5

Sunday 25th May

Sneak Meadows, Xhema Lake

A pre-breakfast walk near our base, the Breezy Hotel, yielded several Serins, a couple of Black Redstarts and Red-backed Shrike, as well as familiar species such as Linnet and Greenfinch. A couple of invisible Cuckoos were busy singing.

After breakfast we got into two 'tough' mountain buses to head towards a local shepherd's home. At our first stop on our ascent, we were revelling in floral delights. The fruit trees were festooned in a variety of lichens, while in the grass sward there were a couple of species of Yellow Rattle, reducing the vigour of the grass and allowing a

number of other species to flourish, including Burnt-tip and Green-winged Orchids, Perfoliate Alexanders, a distinct subspecies of Wild Pansy, and Blue Bugle.

As conditions were cool and windy, it wasn't a day for flying insects. Returning to the vehicles, we continued to near the farmhouse and walked along the higher and muddy trail in Sneak Meadows. Birds seen included Buzzard, Raven, Red-backed Shrike, Lesser Whitethroat and Yellowhammer, while we could hear the songs of Mistle Thrush, Blackbird and Field Crickets. Botanically the highlights were some fine Lady Orchids and also a couple of Fragrant Orchids.

We were then treated to the hospitality of the local farmer's family; we ate locally-sourced produce including a dish with local herbs. Some of us also sampled *raki*, a local alcoholic drink made from fermented plums.

Following lunch, we headed back down to the main road and drove on to Xhema Lake. Frustratingly, we heard a close Black Woodpecker, but were unable to see it through the canopy. The boulders in the wood were decorated with Wall Rue, Rustyback and Maidenhair Spleenwort ferns. The leaves of *Hepatica nobilis* were seen. More orchids were found, including flowering White Helleborine and Bird's-nest Orchid, while yet to flower were Red and Broad-leaved Helleborines.

At the lake itself the real treat was several colonies of *Ramonda serbica*. The lilac flowers of these plants, nestled down in rock crevices, were very attractive. A final stop before returning to our base was at the old watermill. Crossing the rough bridge, one of the group spotted a Dipper posing on a large boulder in the middle of the Valbona River. We watched it for ten minutes as it barely moved; only a slight movement of the head proved it was a living bird, and not stuffed!

Day 6

Monday 26th May

Kukaj Trail, Motima Valley

This morning, we headed in the opposite direction from our hotel and up to the start of the Kukaj Trail, where we walked the lower part. One of the first birds we saw was a Mistle Thrush collecting food for its young. This seems very much a bird of the mountains here. Both Buzzard and Peregrine was spotted during our ascent; the latter brought a mobbing flock of about twenty Alpine Choughs into view.

The Black Pine forest was fairly quiet for birds, though the webs of Pine Processionary Moth were obvious in many of the trees, and we did observe two caterpillars nose to tail. Many of the birds we heard singing were familiar to back home: Blackcaps, Chaffinch, Blackbird and Cuckoo. The avian highlights were a brief view of a Short-toed Treecreeper, and a Crested Tit feeding a well-grown juvenile in a Beech tree.

One of the group spotted a group of three Chamois on a lower area of scree across the valley; we all watched them through the scope. The other mammalian interest was of scat probably from a Stone (or Beech) Marten.

Sunny conditions prompted more insect activity, with many Speckled Yellow moths on the wing, and Dingy Skipper the most numerous butterfly. Painted Ladies and a Red Admiral were attracted to Wild Thyme, while a fresh Green-underside Blue was more interested in minerals from dung! Several Dukes of Burgundy posed for us,

and other species included Glanville Fritillary, Chequered Blue and Wood White. The sunshine also prompted reptile activity, with several Common Wall and Eastern Green Lizards appearing, as well as a small Smooth Snake. Among the floral delights were *Aquilegia dinarica*, *Cynoglossum montanum*, *Euphorbia myrsinites*, *Veronica austriaca* and *Globularia cordifolia*.

Just after midday, we returned to our hotel for a light lunch, before heading out again to explore part of Motima Valley. The weather was now more overcast but warm and humid. A variety of raptors was seen, including a soaring pair of Golden Eagles, a Honey Buzzard across the valley, Peregrine and Kestrel. Grey Wagtails gave brief views along the river. This proved a good orchid site, with one of our keen botanists finding a delightful group of about fifteen Woodcock Orchids looking at their finest. We also saw a single Common Twayblade and some White Helleborines.

Day 7

Tuesday 27th May

Valbona Valley, Konan Ferry, Shkodra

On a fairly bright morning, it was time to move on from our mountain base to our final hotel in the city of Shkodra. As our ferry wasn't departing until 1.00pm, we had time to make several stops in the Valbona Valley.

At the first stop we saw a Dipper feeding a juvenile and a Grey Wagtail on a wire. The second stop had another Dipper feeding three well-grown youngsters at the edge of the river, and a Common Sandpiper sneaking behind them. Much lower down we had a very different stop, which produced several Bee-eaters, a pair of Cirl Buntings and another Honey Buzzard. Butterflies here included Queen of Spain Fritillary, several Adonis Blues and a Small Heath. We also found some fine plants of *Campanula lingulata* and a *Polygala* sp.

Our final stop before reaching the ferry terminus was at a dam. Here, a female Goosander landed on the water, and a Common Sandpiper was seen. A pair of Golden Eagles soared high above us. Several Amanda's Blues mudpuddled on the rough tarmac.

The ferry was very crowded and set sail slightly early. Nightingales could be heard for much of the journey. A female Goosander with six well-grown juveniles swam against the bank in the opposite direction to us. Cormorants and a few Yellow-legged Gulls were the other species on the water. There was some entomological interest with a male Cleopatra flying over us at the start, a Scarce Swallowtail by the shore as we picked up small group of people along the route, and a magnificent Bladetail dragonfly cruised past us. About fifty Alpine Choughs were seen above the mountains, and as we came to the end of our ferry journey, we saw two very close, being mobbed by Crag Martins by a cave.

Heading south, we had a stop at a lake, where there were good numbers of Little and Great Egrets, several Pygmy Cormorants, and a Little Ringed Plover. Raucous song was provided by a couple of Great Reed Warblers close to us, and we could also hear Marsh Frogs calling.

Our day finished with a brief stop at the edge of Lake Shkodra. Great Crested Grebes were seen with young, and Coots were new for the trip. Good numbers of Pygmy Cormorants, Grey Herons and Little Egrets were seen, and an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler was singing below us.

On arrival at the hotel, we said our goodbye to the hard-working Zamir: he had another job to go to!

Day 8

Wednesday 28th May

Shkodra to Tirana to Heathrow.

A small number of the group came with me for a short pre-breakfast walk across the wooden bridge and along the river. We were rewarded with a couple of fine Squacco Herons, and a bird we had surprisingly not seen yesterday afternoon: Whiskered Tern. A small number flew and called low over the bridge, and we watched them go to and fro. As we headed back to the hotel for breakfast a high group of eleven flew over us. A Cetti's Warbler sang by the bridge, and we had excellent views of a singing Albanian Pool Frog; we could see him inflating his grey vocal sacs.

It was soon time for breakfast and then move towards the capital, Tirana. We arrived in good time; the plane left slightly late and landed at Heathrow shortly after 4.00pm.

It took some time to get our luggage, but this gave us time to reflect on a great trip around Albania with delightful and knowledgeable company, before saying our goodbyes.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025							
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			✓					
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓						
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>							✓	
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>			✓			✓		
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>			✓					
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>					✓		✓	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			✓	✓				
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓						
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓	✓				✓
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>							✓	✓
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>							✓	✓
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>							✓	✓
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		✓	✓					
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>		✓	✓					
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			✓					
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		✓	✓					
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			✓					
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	✓							
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			✓					
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			✓				✓	
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>	✓		✓					
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>							✓	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			✓					
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			✓					
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		✓						
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	✓		✓	✓				
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>								✓
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			✓					
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>			✓					
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			✓				✓	✓
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓					✓	✓
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	✓							
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	✓	✓	✓					
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>						✓	✓	
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>						✓	✓	
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>							✓	
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>			✓					

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025							
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			✓					
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>							✓	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			✓					
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		✓						
European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		✓	✓				✓	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>					✓			
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>						✓		
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>			✓					
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		✓						
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						✓		
Red-backed shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	✓			✓	✓		✓	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Northern Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		✓						
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>						✓	✓	
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>				✓			✓	✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>						✓		
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>							✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			✓					
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓					
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>			✓					
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			✓					
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
European Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			✓		✓	✓		
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>			✓				✓	✓
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		✓	✓					
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>					✓			
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		✓						
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>						✓		
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓		✓	✓				
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>					✓			
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>					✓	✓		
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>					✓		✓	
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓						
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>				✓			✓	
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>							✓	

		May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		✓	✓					
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>			✓					
Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>			✓					
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					✓	✓	✓	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>				✓				
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>					✓	✓	✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>					✓			
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				✓			✓	
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>							✓	
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>		✓						
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			✓					

Mammals

		May 2025						
Common name	Scientific name	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Alpine Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>					✓		
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			✓				
Stone Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>					S		

Reptiles and amphibians

		May 2025						
Common name	Scientific name	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Nose-horned Viper	<i>Vipera ammodytes</i>					✓		
Smooth Snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>					✓		
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>					✓		
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>		✓			✓		
Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>					✓		
Hermann's Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>	✓						
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>						✓	
Albanian Pool Frog	<i>Pelophylax shqipericus</i>							✓

Butterflies and moths

Common name	Scientific name
European Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclidides podalirius</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>
Chequered Blue	<i>Scolitantides orion</i>
Amanda's Blue	<i>Polyommatus amanda</i>
Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>
Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>
Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Southern Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia cecilia</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>
Mediterranean Skipper	<i>Gegenes nostradamus</i>
Nine-spotted Moth	<i>Amata phegea</i>
a burnet moth	<i>Zygaena punctum</i>
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseuopanthera macularia</i>
Coppice Beauty	<i>Olethreutes arcuella</i>

Damselflies and dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name
White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>
Hairy Dragonfly	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>
Green-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna isocetes</i>
Bladetail	<i>Lindenia tetraphylla</i>
Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
Southern Darter	<i>Sympetrum meridionale</i>

Selected plants

Common name	Scientific name
Mastic Tree	<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>
	<i>Orlaya daucooides</i>
	<i>Cionura erecta</i>
Swallow-wort	<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>
	<i>Doronicum orientale</i>
	<i>Ptilostemon afer</i>
an ox-eye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum adustum</i>
Purple Gromwell	<i>Aegonychon purpureocaeruleum</i>
	<i>Onosma sp</i>
Dyer's Alkanet	<i>Alkanna tinctoria</i>
Purple Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>
	<i>Echium italicum</i>
	<i>Pontechium maculatum</i>

Common name	Scientific name
a houndstongue	<i>Cynoglossum montanum</i>
an alyssum	<i>Odontarrhena smolikana</i>
	<i>Alyssum murale</i>
Sea Rocket	<i>Cakile maritima</i>
	<i>Campanula lingulata</i>
Sweet William Catchfly	<i>Atocion armeria</i>
	<i>Cistus creticus</i>
	<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>
	<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>
	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>
Cypress Spurge	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>
	<i>Euphorbia glabriflora</i>
Spanish Broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>
Bladder Senna	<i>Colutea arborescens</i>
Fodder Vetch	<i>Vicia villosa</i>
	<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>
	<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>
	<i>Lotus hirsutus</i>
Pitch Trefoil	<i>Bitumanaria bituminosa</i>
Bloody Cranesbill	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>
	<i>Lamium ringens</i>
	<i>Ramonda serbica</i>
Blue Bugle	<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>
	<i>Clinopodium alpinum</i>
	<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>
a mullein	<i>Verbascum speciosum</i>
a mullein	<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>
a figwort	<i>Scrophularia canina</i>
a toadflax	<i>Linaria angustissima</i>
	<i>Veronica austriaca</i>
Yellow Bartsia	<i>Parentucelia viscosa</i>
Southern Red Bartsia	<i>Parentucelia latifolia</i>
	<i>Bellardia trixago</i>
	<i>Valeriana montana</i>
Wild Pansy	<i>Viola trixago</i> ssp. <i>Macedonica</i>
St. Bernard's Lily	<i>Anthericum liliago</i>
	<i>Tulipa albanica</i>
Red Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>
White Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>
Broad-leaved Helleborine	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>
Common Twayblade	<i>Neottia ovata</i>
Bird's-nest Orchid	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>
Fragrant Orchid	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>
Green-winged Orchid	<i>Anacamptis morio</i>
Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>
Burnt Orchid	<i>Neotinea ustulata</i>
Toothed Orchid	<i>Neotinea tridentata</i>
Lady Orchid	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>
Woodcock Orchid	<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>
a tongue orchid	<i>Serapias parviflora</i>