

# Albania in Spring

## Naturetrek Tour Report

4th – 11th May 2026

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Dalmatian Pelicans



Red-backed Shrike



Eastern Olivaceous Warbler



Bee-eater

Tour report by Neil Anderson

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Tour participants: Neil Anderson (leader) and Dea Zyruku (local guide) with 14 Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

Monday 4th May

### Heathrow – Tirana – Karavasta Lagoon

We departed a grey Heathrow slightly late, and arrived in a sunny and warm Tirana just after midday, where we met our local guide, Dea, and our driver for the week, Zamir. Once all the luggage was packed on board we set off for a sumptuous lunch at a very popular restaurant near Durres, a city about half an hour's drive from the capital. We then had a two-hour drive to our destination, the Divjake Resort Hotel on the north side of the Karavasta Lagoon. During the drive, Dea gave the group a potted history of Albania, and explained the geography of this small Balkan country. As we approached our hotel, we saw a small flock of Cattle Egrets in some brackish grassland, while a Little Egret shared a small pool with a Greenshank.

People had an hour to settle into their rooms with the option of then joining me for a walk out the back of the hotel to see what was about. We had our first views of a variety of birds, including Dalmatian Pelican, and Caspian and Little Terns, as well as close encounters with Crested Larks, a constant companion in the lowlands. The meadows before we reached the water had a good showing of orchids, including a couple of tongue orchid species, Bug Orchids and *Anacamptis palustris* ssp. *elegans*.

As the group assembled outside the dining area for drinks, we were fortunate to witness about fifteen Honey Buzzards migrating in off the sea, heading inland.

## Day 2

Tuesday 5th May

### Karavasta Lagoon

Warm and sunny, but breezy and overcast in the afternoon

Before breakfast, some of us went 'out the back' to see what was on offer. A good variety of waders was observed, including both Ringed and Grey Plovers, Curlew, Greenshank and Oystercatcher, as well as obliging Common and Little Terns. A Tawny Pipit was seen on a wire, while both Barn and Red-rumped Swallows hawked over us.

Following breakfast, our first stop was outside the village of Spille. We immediately spotted a ringtail Montagu's Harrier, which we all eventually got onto. Several Bee-eaters were catching insects and perching on the wires alongside Corn Buntings. Eventually we located four Rollers, one of our main targets, though they had a habit of disappearing. A male Red-backed Shrike was spotted in some old Fennel stems, our only one of the trip, as they hadn't returned in numbers yet.

A few butterflies were seen including Brown Argus, Small Copper, Swallowtail, Clouded Yellow, and numerous Small and Large Whites. The handsome assassin bug *Rhynocoris rubricus* was spotted by one of the group. Floral colour was provided by Field Poppies, always looking more intense here than at home, purple Fodder Vetch, various clovers, Pitch Trefoil and the ornamental looking umbellifer, *Orlaya grandiflora*. As we drove off, we spotted

a male Black-headed Bunting (our other main target here): everyone eventually had good views of this stunning Balkan speciality from the bus.

We then headed for a very full lunch at the popular fish restaurant opposite our hotel. Feeling sated we headed to the Karavasta NP visitor centre, a few minutes' drive away, where we would have close views of the two habituated Dalmatian Pelicans which can't be returned to the wild. We read about the history and wildlife of the area. We also found our first Hermann's Tortoise in a flower bed, while the small pond supported several Marsh Frogs and a patrolling male Broad-bodied Chaser.

The day finished at an area of the lagoon which was fairly quiet, though we did hear Nightingale, had a brief sighting of a Hobby, and saw our first fine male Black-headed Wagtail, and a pair of Black-winged Stilts. A few flowers included the last of the blue Dyer's Alkanet, Pitch Trefoil with its tarry smelling leaves, and Hairy Canary-clover.

## Day 3

Wednesday 6th May

### Vjose-Narte National Park

Dry, with much cloud and some sunshine

The pre-breakfast walk yielded decent views of a Hoopoe and many waders, including good numbers of Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints, while a pair of Kentish Plovers was observed at a nest. Our first stop this morning was at a Bee-eater colony at Babunge, where we had close views as they sat on wires and entered their holes on the sandy cliff. We didn't see much feeding action. A Great Spotted Woodpecker on the telegraph pole was a slight distraction from the main event. the gaudy *Salvia viridis* was seen, with its showy, bluish bracts.

We then headed for the Vjose National Park, where some controversial developments are taking place; after our trip some big protests developed against the government's plans. A stop by the airport development turned up four Little Owls, as well as more Bee-eaters and a Hoopoe.

Further on, we could see some of the vegetation was being cut. About thirty Cattle Egrets followed the tractor, while some hundred-and-fifty Mediterranean Gulls flew over a field further back. The highlight was a migrating flock of Red-footed Falcons. This was the first time I'd seen this species in Albania, and Dea hadn't seen them either. There were about fifteen of them, and they were catching insects on the wing. In a ditch, some Water Plantain was flowering, and we found a fresh Small Copper and Meadow Browns, plus a couple of immature Common Darters. Further along the road we spotted a Wood and a Common Sandpiper on opposite sides.

As our usual lunch spot was fenced off, we took lunch on the beach. A flock of about fifty Glossy Ibises passed over us, and three Mediterranean (formerly Yelkouan) Shearwaters sheared across the sea on the horizon.

Following lunch, we drove along the track by the salt pans. Outside the bus were thousands of midges: we opted to bird from the safety of the bus! Highlights included a close Stone-curlew on the beach, small flocks of Curlew Sandpipers, about forty Black-winged Stilts and about a hundred Avocets. Many Greater Flamingoes and a couple

of Dalmatian Pelicans were also observed. As we were leaving, a Purple Heron flew up from a creek, before joining a Little Egret further back.

## Day 4

Thursday 7th May

### Karavasta via Kukes and Kosovo – Valbona National Park

Damp, drizzly

Today it was time to head north. Our first natural history stop was at a botanically rich site on serpentine rock close to Kukes. We changed vehicle for this mini expedition. Fortunately, the rain hadn't reached here, so we had dry, overcast conditions for our foray.

Among the botanical riches were the broom *Chamaecytisus purpureus* with pale flowers, magenta *Gladiolus palustris*, *Salvia ringens*, *Pontechium maculatum*, the Burning Bush *Dictamnus albus* and the bellflower *Campanula lingulata*. Some dramatic Musk Thistles supported a plethora of insects despite the cool conditions, including the longhorn beetle *Agapanthia cynarae* and the handsome shieldbug *Carpocoris purpureipennis*.

We headed for lunch at a picturesque dam surrounded by the mountains in the Drin Valley. The food and service here is always superb, and nobody left feeling hungry!

Our journey necessitated travelling through Kosovo, where we had to present our passports and at least one of the group was keen to get a stamp. We then had a brief stop in the historic city of Prizren to take photos, but parking is extremely tricky here. It was interesting to see the differences in culture, and that Kosovo was a wealthier-looking country than Albania.

It was time to carry on, and we reentered the north of Albania and headed for the Vila Dini guesthouse in Valbona National Park, via some dramatic scenery.

## Day 5

Friday 8th May

### Valbona National Park

Cool and overcast, but dry

Following breakfast, we headed up towards Snake Meadow in local robust vehicles over rough tracks. Our first stop was in an old orchard with a rich ground flora. Green-winged Orchids were abundant, and we also found quite a few pristine Burnt-tip Orchids. A delightful fragrance was around us as we walked on the plentiful Thyme, and Southern Red Bartsia was also observed. A Cuckoo was singing, as were Mistle Thrush and Blackcap, while a Raven was seen flying over, mobbed by a Hooded Crow.

We headed to the shepherd's cottage and walked a trail to the viewpoint. One of the group was lucky enough to spot a Nutcracker on one of the pines. Most of the group observed a Marsh Tit entering its nest hole in an old apple tree, carrying small caterpillars. A Field Cricket was seen retreating into its burrow, occasionally venturing

out before nervously vanishing again. We could hear the loud stridulation of this species, which is a real rarity back home. Some Early Purple Orchids added to our orchid tally. Conditions were far from ideal for spotting either reptiles or insects, but one of our group spotted an Eastern Green Lizard in a stone wall, of which most of us had decent views.

We were now ready to sample a traditional lunch from the mountains: a delicious home-made soup, fresh salad, and a herb-filled pastry; some of us tried the local alcoholic beverage, *raki*, here made with plums. Following our delicious meal we were driven down to Motima Valley. Here, we saw several Crag Martins up close, and the first vehicle saw a Gull Bunting. Grey Wagtails were seen along the swift river. Dea found a juvenile Fire Salamander in the river, and we also saw a juvenile Eastern Green Lizard.

The rocks had a rich fern flora in the very humid conditions. Limestone Fern was good to find as well as the attractive Rustyback and Maidenhair Spleenworts on the boulders themselves. We also found *Achillea ageratifolia* by one rock. Other plants seen included Woodcock Orchid, the blue-flowered *Globularia cordifolia*, the fragrant foliage of Winter Savory, and a distinctive buckthorn, *Rhamnus alpina*.

## Day 6

Saturday 9th May

### Valbona

Mild, misty at first, a little light rain

Eleven of us set off on the lower part of the popular Kukaj Trail; three people opted not to come. We noticed a prominent Beech tree with a storm damaged bare top, which proved popular with a variety of birds. The highlight here was a perched Grey-headed Woodpecker. We also saw Great Spotted Woodpecker, Mistle Thrush, Greenfinch and Serin in the same tree over a ten-minute period.

Mistle Thrushes were omnipresent on the walk, and adults were collecting food for their young. Cuckoos were constantly heard, and some saw two birds chasing each other. A Crested Tit feeding in a Black Pine by the track was popular, while an open area yielded a pair of Black Redstarts and a Northern Wheatear. Many of the pines had the distinctive cocoons of Pine Processionary Moth at their tops. Though a native species, it can be quite destructive, especially in commercial forests. It was fascinating to watch a procession of the caterpillars, about twenty in number, moving head to tail together in a tight line.

On our way back to our hotel for a light lunch, we had a brief stop at the old watermill across the Valbona River. Here, two Grey Wagtails were collecting insects for their young; the nest was presumably somewhere under the bridge. The valerian *Valeriana montana* grew on some of the rocks, and by the roadside the delightful white flowers of *Saxifraga rotundifolia* were admired.

Following lunch, we walked to Xhena Lake, a relatively small waterbody surrounded by woodland. Some of us were fortunate enough to see a Black Woodpecker which I called out as it flew over. Frustratingly, a large fritillary flew out and disappeared. It gave the impression of having been a Silver-washed. The botanical highlight at the lake was several colonies of the rare *Ramonda serbica*, with bluish-pink flowers. This plant favours cool damp

environments on north-facing limestone rocks. As its specific name suggests, it was originally discovered in Serbia, and belongs to a family of mainly tropical plants, Gesneriaceae, which includes African Violets!

Walking under the dense beech canopy, we added a couple more orchid species to our list: the brown Bird's-nest Orchid, a non-photosynthetic plant which derives its nutrition from a mycorrhizal fungus, and White Helleborine in bud. A woody legume, *Hippocrepis emerus*, brightened up the woodland with its bright yellow flowers. Other plants of interest were the distinctive leaves of *Hepatica nobilis* and *Asarum europaeum*.

Dea then took us down the road to a site on the river which she said was reliable for Dipper: sadly, they didn't show up! We did see some fine Toothed Orchids on our way, as well as the blue-flowered *Aquilegia ottonis* and some patches of Deadly Nightshade on the gravel.

## Day 7

Sunday 10th May

### Valbona – Shkodra

Sunny, overcast later

It was a glorious morning, and the stunning snow-capped mountains were beautifully illuminated: but we were due to leave the highlands. We made several stops along the Valbona River. A pair of Dippers were briefly seen by some from the viewpoint, while numerous House Martins were breeding under the road bridge. Much lower down the valley, we encountered Bee-eaters once more, as we were serenaded by Nightingale and a male Eastern Subalpine Warbler perched on top of a small pine. One lucky client saw her first ever male Golden Oriole. Warmer conditions here revealed some insect activity, with Rose Chafers buzzing around a flowering Dogwood, and a couple of Wall Browns and a Grizzled Skipper. Entertaining the group was a hard-working dung beetle rolling a ball of dung around. Wildflowers on the side included an *Onosma* species, the bright *Polygala nicaeensis* and *Lotus dorycnium*.

At our final brief stop before boarding the ferry, one of the group spotted a bird which turned out to be a male Blue Rock Thrush. Unfortunately, it was quite flighty. On the river, we saw a pair of Little Ringed Plovers and a Purple Heron.

We arrived in good time for our 1.00pm departure on the Koman Ferry; by now conditions were cool and overcast. Koman Lake is a reservoir for a hydroelectric power project, set among dramatic limestone gorges. It is situated on the Drin River, though the Shola and Valbona Rivers also feed into it. The small ferry was very full and there was some exceptionally tight manoeuvring to fit all the vehicles on the lower deck, with ours the last to board. It was not for the squeamish to watch, and we had much admiration for our skilful driver.

It was a relatively quiet journey for wildlife, with Cormorants and Yellow-legged Gulls the most frequently seen species, though a single female Goosander was seen and several Crag Martins were around a cave near the end of the crossing.

Eastern Black-eared Wheatears were seen after we disembarked, and we had one more stop before heading to our hotel in Shkodra. At the wetland site we were greeted by a noisy chorus of a Great Reed Warbler and several Marsh

Frogs. Also here were several Pygmy Cormorants and Little Egrets. After our final evening meal, some of us were treated to a vocal Scops Owl in the garden.

## Day 8

Monday 11th May

### Shkodra – Tirana – Heathrow

A few keen birders had a pre-breakfast walk to have a look at the lake close to our hotel. There were good numbers of Pygmy Cormorants with smaller numbers of their larger cousins. New for the trip were both Great Crested and Little Grebes, but perhaps more exciting were several Whiskered Terns flying back and forth with some Common Terns. We also saw two Squacco Herons, while a couple of Great Reed Warblers were singing. We also saw some Marsh Frogs.

After breakfast, it was time to go to the airport in Tirana and to say our farewells to each other, after a very enjoyable week of Albanian hospitality.

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## Species lists

### Birds

| Common name               | Scientific name                    | May 2026 |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
|                           |                                    | 4        | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Common Shelduck           | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>             |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Goosander                 | <i>Mergus merganser</i>            |          |   |   |   |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Mallard                   | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>          |          | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Greater Flamingo          | <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>       |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Little Grebe              | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>      |          |   |   |   |   |   |    | ✓  |
| Great Crested Grebe       | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>          |          |   |   |   |   |   |    | ✓  |
| Common Cuckoo             | <i>Cuculus canorus</i>             |          |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |    |    |
| European Turtle Dove      | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>         |          | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Eurasian Collared Dove    | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>       | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   |   | ✓  | ✓  |
| Common Wood Pigeon        | <i>Columba palumbus</i>            |          |   |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |    |    |
| Rock Dove                 | <i>Columba livia</i>               | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  |
| Common Moorhen            | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>         | ✓        |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |    | ✓  |
| Eurasian Coot             | <i>Fulica atra</i>                 |          |   |   |   |   |   |    | ✓  |
| Eurasian Stone-curlew     | <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>       |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Pied Avocet               | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>      |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Black-winged Stilt        | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>       |          | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Eurasian Oystercatcher    | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>       |          | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Grey Plover               | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>        |          | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Common Ringed Plover      | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>        |          | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Little Ringed Plover      | <i>Thinornis dubius</i>            |          |   |   |   |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Kentish Plover            | <i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>    |          | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Eurasian Curlew           | <i>Numenius arquata</i>            |          | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Common Sandpiper          | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>          |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Wood Sandpiper            | <i>Tringa glareola</i>             |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Common Greenshank         | <i>Tringa nebularia</i>            | ✓        | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Curlew Sandpiper          | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>         | ✓        | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Dunlin                    | <i>Calidris alpina</i>             | ✓        | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Little Stint              | <i>Calidris minuta</i>             | ✓        | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Little Tern               | <i>Sterna albifrons</i>            | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Caspian Tern              | <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>          | ✓        |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Gull-billed Tern          | <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>       |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Whiskered Tern            | <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>          |          |   |   |   |   |   |    | ✓  |
| Sandwich Tern             | <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>     |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Common Tern               | <i>Sterna hirundo</i>              |          | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    | ✓  |
| Slender-billed Gull       | <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>       |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Black-headed Gull         | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>  |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   | ✓  | ✓  |
| Mediterranean Gull        | <i>Ichthyophaga melanocephalus</i> |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Yellow-legged Gull        | <i>Larus michahellis</i>           | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    | ✓  |
| Mediterranean Shearwater  | <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>           |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| White Stork               | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>             |          |   |   |   |   |   |    | ✓  |
| Pygmy Cormorant           | <i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>         |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   | ✓  | ✓  |
| Great Cormorant           | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>         | ✓        | ✓ |   |   |   |   | ✓  | ✓  |
| Glossy Ibis               | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>        |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Dalmatian Pelican         | <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>           | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Little Egret              | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>            | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   |   | ✓  | ✓  |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>       |          |   |   |   |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Squacco Heron             | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>           |          | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    | ✓  |

| Common name                 | Scientific name                  | May 2026 |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
|                             |                                  | 4        | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Great Egret                 | <i>Ardea alba</i>                | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Western Cattle Egret        | <i>Ardea ibis</i>                | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    | ✓  |
| Purple Heron                | <i>Ardea purpurea</i>            |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Grey Heron                  | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>             |          |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |   | ✓  | ✓  |
| Little Owl                  | <i>Athene noctua</i>             | ✓        |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Eurasian Scops Owl          | <i>Otus scops</i>                |          |   |   |   |   |   | ✓  |    |
| European Honey Buzzard      | <i>Pernis apivorus</i>           | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk        | <i>Accipiter nisus</i>           |          |   |   |   | ✓ |   |    |    |
| Montagu's Harrier           | <i>Circus pygargus</i>           |          | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Western Marsh Harrier       | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>        |          | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Common Buzzard              | <i>Buteo buteo</i>               | ✓        |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓  | ✓  |
| Common Hoopoe               | <i>Upupa epops</i>               | ✓        |   | ✓ |   |   |   | ✓  |    |
| European Roller             | <i>Coracias garrulus</i>         |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| European Bee-eater          | <i>Merops apiaster</i>           | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Grey-headed Woodpecker      | <i>Picus canus</i>               |          |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |    |    |
| European Green Woodpecker   | <i>Picus viridis</i>             |          |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |    |    |
| Black Woodpecker            | <i>Dryocopus martius</i>         |          |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |    |    |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker    | <i>Dendrocopos major</i>         |          |   | ✓ |   |   | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  |
| Lesser Kestrel              | <i>Falco naumanni</i>            | ✓        | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Common Kestrel              | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>         | ✓        |   |   |   |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Red-footed Falcon           | <i>Falco vespertinus</i>         |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Eurasian Hobby              | <i>Falco subbuteo</i>            |          | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Eurasian Golden Oriole      | <i>Oriolus oriolus</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>   |          |   |   |   | ✓ |   |    |    |
| Western Jackdaw             | <i>Coloeus monedula</i>          |          |   |   | ✓ |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Northern Raven              | <i>Corvus corax</i>              |          |   |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  |    |
| Hooded Crow                 | <i>Corvus corone cornix</i>      | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  |
| Eurasian Blue Tit           | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>       |          |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |    |    |
| Great Tit                   | <i>Parus major</i>               | ✓        |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |    |    |
| Coal Tit                    | <i>Parus ater</i>                |          |   |   |   |   | ✓ |    |    |
| Crested Tit                 | <i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>     |          |   |   |   |   | ✓ |    |    |
| Marsh Tit                   | <i>Poecile palustris</i>         |          |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |    |    |
| Crested Lark                | <i>Galerida cristata</i>         | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |    | ✓  |
| Calandra Lark               | <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>    |          |   | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Zitting Cisticola           | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>        |          | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Great Reed Warbler          | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</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>           | ✓        | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  | ✓  |
| Long-tailed Tit             | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>       |          |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |    |    |
| Cetti's Warbler             | <i>Cettia cetti</i>              | ✓        | ✓ |   |   |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Common Chiffchaff           | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>    |          |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |    |    |
| Eurasian Blackcap           | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>        |          | ✓ |   |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  |    |
| Lesser Whitethroat          | <i>Curruca curruca</i>           |          |   |   |   |   | ✓ |    |    |
| Common Whitethroat          | <i>Curruca communis</i>          |          | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |

|                              |                                | May 2026 |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Common name                  | Scientific name                | 4        | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Eastern Subalpine Warbler    | <i>Curruca cantillans</i>      |          |   |   |   |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Common Starling              | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>        |          |   | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |    | ✓  |
| White-throated Dipper        | <i>Cinclus cinclus</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>   |          | ✓ |   | ✓ |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Black Redstart               | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>    |          |   |   |   | ✓ | ✓ |    |    |
| Blue Rock Thrush             | <i>Monticola solitarius</i>    |          |   |   |   |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Whinchat                     | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>        | ✓        |   | ✓ |   | ✓ |   |    |    |
| European Stonechat           | <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>       |          | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Eastern Black-eared Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>    |          |   |   |   |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Northern Wheatear            | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>       |          |   | ✓ | ✓ |   | ✓ |    |    |
| Spanish Sparrow              | <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>   |          | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| House Sparrow                | <i>Passer domesticus</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>         |          | ✓ |   | ✓ |   | ✓ |    |    |
| European Goldfinch           | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>     |          |   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓  |    |
| European Serin               | <i>Serinus serinus</i>         |          |   |   |   |   | ✓ |    |    |
| Black-headed Bunting         | <i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>  |          | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Corn Bunting                 | <i>Emberiza calandra</i>       |          | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |   |    |    |
| Cirl Bunting                 | <i>Emberiza cirlus</i>         |          |   |   |   | ✓ |   |    |    |
| Yellowhammer                 | <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>     |          |   |   |   |   | ✓ |    |    |

## Mammals

|                   |                         | May 2026 |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Common name       | Scientific name         | 4        | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| a pipistrelle bat | <i>Pipistrellus</i> sp. | ✓        |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Red Fox           | <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>    |          |   |   | ✓ |   |   |    |    |

## Amphibians &amp; reptiles

|                           |                              | May 2026 |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Common name               | Scientific name              | 4        | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Fire Salamander           | <i>Salamandra salamandra</i> |          |   |   |   | ✓ |   |    |    |
| Marsh Frog                | <i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i> |          | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |
| Mediterranean House Gecko | <i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i> |          |   |   |   |   |   | ✓  |    |
| Eastern Green Lizard      | <i>Lacerta viridis</i>       |          |   |   |   | ✓ |   |    |    |
| Hermann's Tortoise        | <i>Testudo hermanni</i>      |          | ✓ |   |   |   |   |    |    |

## Butterflies

| Common name             | Scientific name               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Common Swallowtail      | <i>Papilio machaon</i>        |
| Common Grizzled Skipper | <i>Pyrgus malvae</i>          |
| Clouded Yellow          | <i>Colias croceus</i>         |
| Large White             | <i>Pieris brassicae</i>       |
| Small White             | <i>Pieris rapae</i>           |
| Common Orange-tip       | <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i> |
| Small Copper            | <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>        |
| Chequered Blue          | <i>Scolitantides orion</i>    |
| Brown Argus             | <i>Aricia agestis</i>         |
| Painted Lady            | <i>Vanessa cardui</i>         |
| Red Admiral             | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>       |
| Wall Brown              | <i>Lasiommata megera</i>      |
| Meadow Brown            | <i>Maniola jurtina</i>        |

## Moths

| Common name     | Scientific name                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Coppice Beauty  | <i>Olethreutes arcuella</i>     |
| Speckled Yellow | <i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i> |
| Common Heath    | <i>Ematurga atomaria</i>        |

## Dragonflies

| Common name          | Scientific name             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Broad-bodied Chaser  | <i>Libellula depressa</i>   |
| Blue (Scarce) Chaser | <i>Libellula fulva</i>      |
| Common Darter        | <i>Sympetrum striolatum</i> |

## Other invertebrates

| Common name              | Scientific name                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Egyptian Grasshopper     | <i>Anacridium aegypticum</i>     |
| a ground bug             | <i>Spilostethus saxatilis</i>    |
| a shieldbug              | <i>Carpocoris purpureipennis</i> |
| Red-and-black Froghopper | <i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>        |
| an assassin bug          | <i>Rhynocoris rubricus</i>       |
| Violet Carpenter Bee     | <i>Xylocopa violacea</i>         |
| a dung beetle            | <i>Scarabaeoidea</i> sp.         |
| Rose Chafer              | <i>Cetonia aurata</i>            |
| a longhorn beetle        | <i>Agapanthia cynarae</i>        |

## Plants

| Scientific name                 | Common name              |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Asplenium ceterach</i>       | Rustyback Fern           |
| <i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>   | Wall Rue                 |
| <i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>  | Heart's-tongue Fern      |
| <i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>    | Maidenhair Spleenwort    |
| <i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i> | Limestone Fern           |
| <i>Juniperus communis</i>       | Juniper                  |
| <i>Pinus halepensis</i>         | Aleppo Pine              |
| <i>Pinus nigra</i>              | Black Pine               |
| <i>Pinus pinea</i>              | Stone Pine               |
| <i>Asarum europaeum</i>         | Asarabacca               |
| <i>Aquilegia ottonis</i>        | Macedonian Columbine     |
| <i>Hepatica nobilis</i>         | Hepatica                 |
| <i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i> | Million-leaved Buttercup |
| <i>Thalictrum minus</i>         | Lesser Meadow-rue        |
| <i>Papaver rhoeas</i>           | Field Poppy              |
| <i>Dictamnus albus</i>          | Burning Bush             |
| <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>        | Desert False Indigo      |
| <i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>   | Pitch Trefoil            |
| <i>Chamaecytisus purpureus</i>  | Purple Broom             |
| <i>Colutea arborescens</i>      | Bladder Senna            |
| <i>Cytisus procumbens</i>       | Procumbent Broom         |
| <i>Lotus dorycnium</i>          | Canary Broom             |
| <i>Lotus hirsutus</i>           | Hairy Canary Clover      |
| <i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>      | False Acacia             |
| <i>Spartium junceum</i>         | Spanish Broom            |
| <i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>  | Narrow-leaved Clover     |
| <i>Trifolium arvense</i>        | Hare's-foot Clover       |
| <i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>     | Crimson Clover           |
| <i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>     | Small White Clover       |
| <i>Trifolium pannonicum</i>     | Hungarian Clover         |
| <i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>    | Reversed Clover          |
| <i>Vicia grandiflora</i>        | Large-flowered Vetch     |
| <i>Vicia sativa</i>             | Common Vetch             |
| <i>Vicia villosa</i>            | Fodder Vetch             |
| <i>Fragaria moschata</i>        | Hautbois Strawberry      |
| <i>Fragaria vesca</i>           | Wild Strawberry          |
| <i>Potentilla pedata</i>        | Five-finger Cinquefoil   |
| <i>Sanguisorba minor</i>        | Salad Burnet             |
| <i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>   | Christ's Thorn           |
| <i>Rhamnus alpina</i>           | Alpine Buckthorn         |
| <i>Carpinus betulus</i>         | Hornbeam                 |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i>         | Hazel                    |
| <i>Ficus carica</i>             | Fig                      |
| <i>Malva sylvestris</i>         | Common Mallow            |
| <i>Tilia tomentosa</i>          | Silver Lime              |
| <i>Daphne cneorum</i>           | Garland Flower           |
| <i>Alyssum desertorum</i>       | Desert Madwort           |
| <i>Arabis glabra</i>            | Tower Mustard            |
| <i>Cakile maritima</i>          | Sea Rocket               |
| <i>Odontarrhena smolikana</i>   | Smolika Alyssum          |

| Scientific name                                  | Common name                |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Linum bienne</i>                              | Pale Flax                  |
| <i>Linum hirsutum</i>                            | Downy Flax                 |
| <i>Linum nervosum</i>                            | Veiny Flax                 |
| <i>Polygala alpestris</i>                        | Mountain Milkwort          |
| <i>Polygala nicaeensis</i>                       | Nice Milkwort              |
| <i>Atocion armeria</i>                           | Sweet William Catchfly     |
| <i>Minuartia setacea</i>                         | Bristly Sandwort           |
| <i>Petrorhagia dubia</i>                         | Hairless Pink              |
| <i>Silene colorata</i>                           | Pink Catchfly              |
| <i>Eryngium campestre</i>                        | Field Eryngo               |
| <i>Cistus creticus</i>                           | Pink Rockrose              |
| <i>Cistus salvifolius</i>                        | Sage-leaved Rockrose       |
| <i>Fumana arabica</i>                            | Arabian Rockrose           |
| <i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>                  | Common Rockrose            |
| <i>Xanthium strumarium</i>                       | Cocklebur                  |
| <i>Cornus mas</i>                                | Cornelian Cherry           |
| <i>Cornus sanguinea</i>                          | Dogwood                    |
| <i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>                       | Scarlet Pimpernel          |
| <i>Primula veris</i> subsp. <i>columnae</i>      | Cowslip                    |
| <i>Saxifraga rotundifolia</i>                    | Round-leaved Saxifrage     |
| <i>Geranium lucidum</i>                          | Shining Cranesbill         |
| <i>Geranium molle</i>                            | Dove's-foot Cranesbill     |
| <i>Geranium robertianum</i>                      | Herb Robert                |
| <i>Geranium sanguineum</i>                       | Bloody Cranesbill          |
| <i>Cotinus coggygria</i>                         | Smoke Bush                 |
| <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>                        | Mastic Tree                |
| <i>Fraxinus ornus</i>                            | Manna Ash                  |
| <i>Olea europaea</i>                             | Olive                      |
| <i>Ramonda serbica</i>                           | Serbian Ramonda            |
| <i>Plantago media</i>                            | Hoary Plantain             |
| <i>Linaria angustissima</i>                      | Narrow-leaved Toadflax     |
| <i>Linaria pelisseriana</i>                      | Jersey Toadflax            |
| <i>Linaria peloponnesiaca</i>                    | Peloponnesian Toadflax     |
| <i>Veronica austriaca</i>                        | Austrian Speedwell         |
| <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>                       | Germander Speedwell        |
| <i>Scrophularia canina</i> subsp. <i>bicolor</i> | Dog Fennel-leaved Figwort  |
| <i>Verbascum phoeniceum</i>                      | Purple Mullein             |
| <i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>                        | Wavy-leaved Mullein        |
| <i>Bellardia trixago</i>                         | Mediterranean Linseed      |
| <i>Euphrasia</i> sp.                             | an eyebright               |
| <i>Orobanche</i> sp.                             | a broomrape                |
| <i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>                   | Southern Red Bartsia       |
| <i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>                     | Yellow Bartsia             |
| <i>Rhinanthus melampyroides</i>                  | Balkan Yellow Rattle       |
| <i>Ajuga genevensis</i>                          | Blue Bugle                 |
| <i>Ajuga reptans</i>                             | Bugle                      |
| <i>Clinopodium acinos</i>                        | Basil Thyme                |
| <i>Clinopodium alpinum</i>                       | Alpine Basil Thyme         |
| <i>Lamium garganicum</i>                         | Large-flowered Dead-nettle |
| <i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>                   | Bastard Balm               |
| <i>Origanum vulgare</i>                          | Wild Marjoram              |
| <i>Salvia glutinosa</i>                          | Jupiter's Distaff          |

| Scientific name                                | Common name                 |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Salvia officinalis</i>                      | Sage                        |
| <i>Salvia ringens</i>                          | Balkan Sage                 |
| <i>Salvia viridis</i>                          | Red-topped Sage             |
| <i>Satureja montana</i>                        | Winter Savory               |
| <i>Teucrium capitatum</i>                      | Felty Germander             |
| <i>Thymus</i> sp.                              | a thyme                     |
| <i>Atropa belladonna</i>                       | Deadly Nightshade           |
| <i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>                  | Cantabrian Bindweed         |
| <i>Alkanna tinctoria</i>                       | Dyer's Alkanet              |
| <i>Anchusa hybrida</i>                         | Hybrid Alkanet              |
| <i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>                    | Blue Hound's-tongue         |
| <i>Cynoglossum montanum</i>                    | Mountain Hound's-tongue     |
| <i>Echium italicum</i>                         | Pale Viper's-bugloss        |
| <i>Echium plantagineum</i>                     | Purple Viper's-bugloss      |
| <i>Echium vulgare</i>                          | Viper's Bugloss             |
| <i>Myosotis suaveolens</i>                     | Sweet-scented Forget-me-not |
| <i>Onosma echioides</i>                        | Golden-drop                 |
| <i>Onosma pseudoarenaria</i>                   | False Sand Golden-drop      |
| <i>Pontechium maculatum</i>                    | Spotted Viper's-bugloss     |
| <i>Cionura erecta</i>                          | White Swallow-wort          |
| <i>Cynanchum acutum</i>                        | Acute Swallow-wort          |
| <i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>                  | Yellow-wort                 |
| <i>Asperula taurina</i>                        | Pink Masterwort             |
| <i>Cruciata laevipes</i>                       | Crosswort                   |
| <i>Galium verum</i>                            | Lady's Bedstraw             |
| <i>Sherardia arvensis</i>                      | Field Madder                |
| <i>Viola riviniana</i>                         | Common Dog Violet           |
| <i>Viola tricolor</i> subsp. <i>macedonica</i> | Wild Pansy                  |
| <i>Tamarix</i> sp.                             | a tamarisk                  |
| <i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>                      | Fly Honeysuckle             |
| <i>Valeriana montana</i>                       | Mountain Valerian           |
| <i>Valeriana rubra</i>                         | Red Valerian                |
| <i>Sambucus ebulus</i>                         | Dwarf Elder                 |
| <i>Cephalaria transsylvanica</i>               | Transylvanian Cephalaria    |
| <i>Campanula lingulata</i>                     | Tongue Bellflower           |
| <i>Campanula ramosissima</i>                   | Branched Bellflower         |
| <i>Edraianthus graminifolius</i>               | Grass-leaved Edraianthus    |
| <i>Globularia cordifolia</i>                   | Heart-leaved Globe Daisy    |
| <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>                    | Perforate St. John's-wort   |
| <i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>                   | Cypress Spurge              |
| <i>Euphorbia glabriflora</i>                   | Smooth-flowered Spurge      |
| <i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>                    | Myrtle Spurge               |
| <i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>                     | Eggleaf Spurge              |
| <i>Euphorbia paralias</i>                      | Sea Spurge                  |
| <i>Daucus carota</i>                           | Wild Carrot                 |
| <i>Echinophora spinosa</i>                     | Prickly Parsnip             |
| <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>                      | Fennel                      |
| <i>Orlaya grandiflora</i>                      | White Laceflower            |
| <i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>                   | Perfoliate Alexanders       |
| <i>Achillea ageratifolia</i>                   | Balkan Yarrow               |
| <i>Carduus nutans</i>                          | Musk Thistle                |
| <i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>                      | False Yellowhead            |

| Scientific name                                   | Common name                  |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Doronicum orientale</i>                        | Leopard's Bane               |
| <i>Leucanthemum adustum</i>                       | Mountain Oxeye Daisy         |
| <i>Ptilostemon afer</i>                           | Ivory Thistle                |
| <i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>                       | Goatsbeard                   |
| <i>Urospermum picroides</i>                       | Prickly Goldenfleece         |
| <i>Anacamptis coriophora</i>                      | Bug Orchid                   |
| <i>Anacamptis laxiflora</i>                       | Loose-flowered Orchid        |
| <i>Anacamptis morio</i>                           | Green-winged Orchid          |
| <i>Anacamptis palustris</i> subsp. <i>elegans</i> | Elegant Marsh Orchid         |
| <i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>                   | White Helleborine            |
| <i>Neotinia tridentata</i>                        | Toothed Orchid               |
| <i>Neotinia ustulata</i>                          | Burnt-tip Orchid             |
| <i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>                         | Bird's-nest Orchid           |
| <i>Ophrys scolopax</i>                            | Woodcock Orchid              |
| <i>Orchis mascula</i>                             | Early Purple Orchid          |
| <i>Serapias cordigera</i>                         | Heart-shaped Tongue Orchid   |
| <i>Serapias lingua</i>                            | Common Tongue Orchid         |
| <i>Serapias parviflora</i>                        | Small-flowered Tongue Orchid |
| <i>Serapias vomeracea</i>                         | Long-lipped Tongue Orchid    |
| <i>Gladiolus communis</i>                         | Wild Gladiolus               |
| <i>Gladiolus palustris</i>                        | Marsh Gladiolus              |
| <i>Iris pallida</i>                               | Dalmatian Iris               |
| <i>Anthericum liliago</i>                         | St. Bernard's Lily           |
| <i>Asparagus maritimus</i>                        | Sea Asparagus                |
| <i>Ornithogalum divergens</i>                     | Lesser Star of Bethlehem     |
| <i>Juncus acutus</i>                              | Sharp Rush                   |
| <i>Juncus maritimus</i>                           | Sea Rush                     |
| <i>Scirpioides holoschoenus</i>                   | Round-headed Clubrush        |
| <i>Arundo donax</i>                               | Giant Reed                   |
| <i>Festucopsis serpentina</i>                     | Serpentine Fescue            |
| <i>Hordeum bulbosum</i>                           | Bulbous Barley               |
| <i>Lagurus ovatus</i>                             | Hare's-tail Grass            |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i>                       | Common Reed                  |
| <i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>                    | Annual Beard Grass           |
| <i>Sorghum halepense</i>                          | Johnsongrass                 |
| <i>Stipa pulcherrima</i>                          | Feathery Needle Grass        |
| <i>Tropidium ravannae</i>                         | Ravenna Grass                |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i>                       | Common Reed                  |
| <i>Sorghum halepense</i>                          | Johnsongrass                 |
| <i>Tropidium ravannae</i>                         | Ravenna Grass                |
| <i>Lagurus ovatus</i>                             | Hare's-tail Grass            |