

Albania in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

12th – 19th May 2026



Bee-eater



Small Bluetail



Little Owl



Black-headed Bunting

Tour report by Neil Anderson



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

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

Day 1

Tuesday 12th May

Heathrow to Tirana – Karavasta Lagoon

As I was meeting the group in Tirana having led the previous week's tour along with the local guide, Dea, we were pleased the group arrived slightly early, just after midday. Conditions were warm, sunny and breezy. Zamir, our trusty driver for the week, loaded the luggage, and we set off for an upmarket restaurant near Durres, where we had a hearty lunch. We had a couple of hours to relax, while Dea gave us an introduction to the history and geography of Albania.

From the bus we saw quite a few Red-rumped Swallows, alongside more familiar Barn Swallows and House Martins. We arrived at the comfortable Divjake Hotel, situated on the northern side of the Karavasta Lagoon, our base for the next three nights, and clients were given the option of a walk after unpacking. One of the highlights was on the back door! A Striped Hawk-moth was spotted by an eagle-eyed client at the base of the door. There was a large influx of this migrant species to the UK during the time we were away.

In some grassland were large numbers of orchids: at least two species of tongue orchid, a few Bug Orchids, Loose-flowered Orchids and *Anacamptis palustris* ssp. *elegans*. Other plants here included the semi-parasitic Yellow Bartsia, Yellow-wort, Round-headed Clubrush and Sharp Rush, along with more mosquitoes than we would have liked! We also saw the first of many Painted Ladies and our only Eastern Dappled White. From the boardwalk, we observed a good variety of waders, including small numbers of Ringed Plovers, Curlew Sandpipers, Dunlins and Little Stints, as well as our first Dalmatian Pelicans, a Balkan speciality.

Day 2

Wednesday 13th May

Spille – Karavasta Lagoon

Today was a day of mixed weather, with some early sunshine, before it clouded over and we saw some heavy thundery downpours in the late afternoon.

Many of the group joined me for a walk before breakfast, during which a Golden Oriole could be heard. We were treated to some close views of a few Dalmatian Pelicans, as well as a good variety of waders, including some Kentish Plovers, as well as both Common and Little Terns. Growing in the sand were Sea Rocket and Annual Beard Grass.

Following a delightful buffet breakfast, we headed to Spille. Rollers were highly cooperative, and we were spoilt with some good views as they flew around and perched on the wires. The wires were also popular with Bee-eaters, a pair of Turtle Doves, Black-headed and Corn Buntings, as well as a pair of Eastern Olivaceous Warblers. Zitting Cisticolas were singing in flight; we were also treated to a Golden Oriole briefly perched on a Spanish Broom, while a Cuckoo flew through. A Hermann's Tortoise was discovered in vegetation at the edge of the road while butterflies observed included several whites, Clouded Yellow, Brown Argus, Meadow Brown and our only Green-underside Blue of the trip. Nearby, we also spotted a couple of Blue (Scarce) Chasers, a Hairy Dragonfly and Violet

Carpenter Bee. The verges were a floral delight and full of colour. We found tongue orchids, Pitch Trefoil, Horseshoe Vetch, Fodder Vetch, *Lathyrus grandiflorus*, various clovers and a single Wild Gladiolus.

We then returned close to our hotel to have a wonderful meal at the popular fish restaurant opposite. A Squacco Heron was spotted from our bus. We set off again and had a brief stop at the nearby Karavasta Visitor Centre, where learned more about this important protected wetland. Some of us had a look at the pond, where there were several Marsh Frogs and a single male Broad-bodied Chaser.

We then headed to a local trail with Aleppo Pine and saltmarsh by the lagoon. The sky was starting to look ominous with threatening cloud and some lightning. A pair of Woodchat Shrikes and a Spotted Flycatcher were perched on the wires, and a few Small Spreadwing damselflies were among the sedges. Heading to the more open area looking out to the lagoon and across the saltmarsh, we saw about forty Greater Flamingoes in the distance, two Pygmy Cormorants flying over, several Black-winged Stilts, an Avocet, and both Common and Little Terns.

By now the rain was coming down heavily as the thunder rumbled. Before we retreated, we had some prolonged views of a Dice Snake in the water in front of us, disappearing and reappearing many times. It was one of the many highlights of the day, and the only snake of the trip. Given the turn in the weather, we returned to the comfort of our hotel.

Day 3

Thursday 14th May

Babunge – Vjose-Narte Lagoon

Following breakfast, we headed south, stopping at a large Bee-eater colony near Babunge. The colony comprised over two hundred birds, and we all enjoyed watching these colourful birds as they perched on the wires or entered the holes in the sandbanks. A couple of times the whole colony flew up and around; initially the cause of the alarm wasn't obvious, but on the second occasion, a male Levant Sparrowhawk rapidly flew through, solving the mystery!

Having enjoyed this wonderful experience, we continued to the Narte Lagoons. We initially stopped by the controversial airport development, located in what is supposed to be a protected area. Here we saw no fewer than five Little Owls, thirteen Cattle Egrets feeding near the dilapidated outbuildings, and a flock of some fifty Mediterranean Gulls high overhead. Also here were a hunting Marsh Harrier, a couple of Hoopes, and some smart Black-headed Wagtails. A flock of about thirty Alpine Swifts appeared; they were likely freshly arrived, as none was seen the previous week.

Colour was provided by the yellow flowers of Spanish Oyster Plant and pink of the thistle, *Galactites tomentosa*. Among the grasses we spotted numerous froglets and alongside the many tiny fish in the ditch were three Dark Spreadwings, including a mating pair, and a male Small Bluetail (Scarce Blue-tailed) Damselfly.

As we drove further along the track, I spotted a close male Montagu's Harrier hunting over the fields; there was a second distant bird further on. We also spotted a flock of about sixty Cattle Egrets in a field, several Little Egrets along the ditches, a Squacco Heron and several Gull-billed Terns passing by.

We then proceeded to the beach, with views across to Saran Island, controversially under acquisition by President Trump's son-in-law. A fence was being erected along part of the beach, and when we went to depart, we were trapped! Zamir persuaded them to remove a couple of sections to allow us to safely exit. Large protests ensued in the following days over this potentially illegal development, on what is supposed to be an important protected area.

Having escaped this tricky situation, we had great views of a pair of Stone-curlews at the water's edge as we headed down the track by the salt pans. We suspected they had a nest nearby. Due to the vast numbers of mosquitos, we opted to stay on the bus and watch from the safety of our vehicle. Several hundred Greater Flamingoes were seen, as well as three close Dalmatian Pelicans. We also observed Black-winged Stilts, Avocets and Shelducks, while a few Black-headed Wagtails flitted about. A small number of Slender-billed Gulls were on the water. On our way back to our hotel, we stopped at a service station, where we were able to watch some nesting Spanish Sparrows.

Day 4

Friday 15th May

Karavasta – Valbona National Park via Kosovo

A few of us had a final look from the back of the hotel before breakfast, and some saw a pair of Red-backed Shrikes and a smart Lesser Grey Shrike. With our luggage on Zamir's bus, we headed off for a long day of travel to the north of the country. The weather was fine, and we had decent conditions for our first proper stop at the serpentine rocks near Kukes. Several good birds were spotted in this area, including Rock and Ortolan Buntings, and both Sardinian and Eastern Subalpine Warblers. The intermittent sunshine brought out a few butterflies: Scarce Swallowtail, Chequered Blue, Queen of Spain Fritillary and a couple of Wood Whites.

The main point of this stop was to see the botanical riches. A couple of attractive grasses here were *Stipa pulcherrima* and *Festucopsis serpentini*. Providing colour were *Gladiolus palustris*, Sweet William Catchfly, large Musk Thistles, Toothed Orchids and *Salvia ringens*. Now hungry, we had a short drive for a substantial but excellent lunch at a restaurant overlooking a dam and surrounded by scenic mountains.

Following our meal, we had to go through passport control at the Kosovan border before having a brief five-minute stop for photos in the historic city of Prizren. A Grey Wagtail was noted on the small river running through the busy centre. We then had a long drive through the countryside, and noticed many contrasts with Albania. Heading back into the north of Albania, we enjoyed the dramatic scenery of the Valbona National Park. A couple of the group managed to spot a Dipper from the bus along the Valbona River.

When we arrived at our base, the Vila Dini guesthouse, the temperature was notably cooler. The final wildlife delight came while we were having dinner. As we were eating, a small moth was noticed fluttering around. Fortunately, it eventually settled on the back of one of the chairs and was identified as Gold-based Tubic (*Oecophora bractella*), a very smart-looking micro, which is quite a rarity back home!

Day 5

Saturday 16th May

Valbona area

Today was a very wet day with mist and thunder. Given the conditions, we delayed our start until 10.00am. We then got in our rough terrain vehicles to head up toward Snake Meadows. The rain eased slightly, so we got out to explore the area by an old orchard. Given the prevailing conditions we saw little fauna, but delighted in the plethora of Green-winged Orchids, with fewer but pristine Burnt-tip Orchids, while also in flower were Bugle, Crosswort and fragrant Thyme.

Further up the track we found a colony of Woodcock Orchids, a single Toothed Orchid and an in-bud butterfly orchid species. Other flowers encountered included Bastard Balm, a yellow rattle species, Alpine Calamint and Musk Strawberry. We could hear Cuckoos calling, and the most abundant songster during our stay in the mountains, the very familiar refrain of Blackcaps.

Approaching the shepherd's huts, we had planned to walk the trail to the viewpoint, but as we got out of the vehicles, the rain became torrential. The consensus was to go to the shelter, where we would have lunch. The lady of the household kindly brought us some herbal tea, made from locally collected plants. We had our delicious lunch slightly early, and the hot soup was very welcome given the conditions. It was followed by salad and a choice of pastries, one containing local herbs.

Sadly, there was no let up in the conditions, with heavy, thundery rain persisting, so we returned to base early. After dinner, a couple of people heard a Nightjar churring outside our hotel.

Day 6

Sunday 17th May

Valbona area

On a cool and largely overcast morning, we had a local pre-breakfast walk. Among the birds seen were a pair of Red-backed Shrikes, a couple of Black Redstarts, Crag Martins, a pair of Marsh Tits collecting grubs for their young, and a singing Lesser Whitethroat, which eventually showed in a small pine. On the floor of some dense Beech forest, we added Bird's-nest Orchid and White Helleborine.

Following breakfast, we headed to the start of the popular Kukaj trail, where we would explore just the lower part. At the start, we had good views of a pair of Serins, a Lesser Grey Shrike giving good close views, a Black Redstart and some thirty Alpine Choughs whirling high above us over the mountain. A good start! We then paused along the trail, overlooking a closely cropped area of grass. Here we watched a pair of Black Redstarts, a male Northern Wheatear, and then spotted a group of four Water Pipits feeding among the vegetation.

Moving slightly higher, we were surprised to find a pair of Rock Buntings at the edge of the Black Pine woods. A Nuthatch was spotted here too, and a pair of Crossbills landed on a pine; we later saw another four of these charismatic finches. The bird song was familiar, with Cuckoo, Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Chaffinch and Chiffchaff dominating the soundscape. A few Pine Processionary Moth caterpillars were found, and we saw a couple of Speckled Yellow moths too.

Among the flora was the distinctive and attractive variegated rosettes of the thistle, *Ptilostemon afer* and at least four *Euphorbia* species including *E. myrsinites* and *E. cyparissias*. Following our descent, we returned to our hotel for a light lunch and walked to Xhena Lake, a small waterbody surrounded by Beech. On our way we saw a well-grown male Slow-worm, its sides decorated with blue spots. Among the ground flora we saw the leaves of *Hepatica nobilis* and *Asarum europaeum*, as well as a good variety of ferns, most notably Limestone Fern, Wall Rue, Rustyback and Maidenhair Spleenwort. From the lake we were able to view the rare Balkan speciality, *Ramonda serbica*, growing in the crevices of north-facing rocks in the humid environment.

We then rejoined the road, where Zamir picked us up, and drove for a quick look at the old watermill. A couple of botanical treats here were *Valerian montana* growing on the rocks and *Saxifraga rotundifolia* flowering by the road. Zamir dropped us by the bridge in the village, where we watched a couple of Hooded Crows mobbing a Buzzard, and saw both White and Grey Wagtails along the river gravel. A small number of Linnets, Serins and Goldfinches were seen among the trees.

Following our evening meal, several of us assembled outside to see if there might be a repeat of the previous evening's Nightjar performance. As it got dark, a pipistrelle bat flew by, and eventually the Nightjar began calling. It was clearly quite close, though only one of the group had a brief view. As it moved further away, a distant Tawny Owl was picked up, to end the nocturnal treats.

Day 7

Monday 18th May

Valbona to Shkodra via Koman Ferry

After the lack of any sunshine so far in the mountains, which had limited our reptile and insect sightings, our final morning broke with brilliant sunshine. A couple of us out early had good views of a Honey Buzzard by our hotel. As the pre-breakfast group assembled, I managed to spot some Alpine Chamois on a grassy slope on the mountain behind the hotel. As we watched them, we also spotted a group of Alpine Choughs feeding in the same area. A couple of Black Woodpeckers were heard calling, but sadly not seen.

Having left our hotel, we had a number of stops down the Valbona Valley. At the first, we saw Grey Wagtails, and one of the group picked up the song of a Cirl Bunting. With much perseverance, we eventually all had good views, as it had flown into a small bush across the river. From the viewpoint we saw a couple of Dippers, with good views of a juvenile. A pair of Golden Orioles flew over, and we also saw Crag Martins, Spotted Flycatcher and a pair of Alpine Swifts here.

Our next stop was a new one for the itinerary: Bee-eaters were hawking insects, and we saw several Red-backed Shrikes and a pair of Lesser Grey Shrikes. We also heard a *Curruca* warbler song which we couldn't identify. The bird was elusive, often singing from dense scrub. Merlin suggested Barred Warbler, a species neither I nor Dea had recorded in Albania before. We finally saw it: it was greyish above and looked bulky. With a lot of team effort, we eventually had sufficient views to confirm the bird as Merlin had suggested. This meant a lot of excitement for us all: Barred Warbler is very rare breeder in Albania. Other wildlife included a Lace Border moth and some attractive flowers of a small toadflax, *Linaria pelisseriana*.

We then visited a *kulla* house situated by a walnut grove. These distinctive northern Albanian structures are heavily fortified, with thick stone walls and thin slit windows, designed for defence and clan security.

At our penultimate stop before boarding the ferry, we saw a good variety of wildlife. Birds included Eastern Subalpine Warbler, and we saw another Hermann's Tortoise, which was much photographed. Lepidoptera included a constant stream of migrating Painted Ladies, a male Adonis Blue, and Common Heath and Speckled Yellow moths. Flowers included *Campanula lingulata*, *Onosma echioides* and *Polygala nicaeensis*.

Finally, before the ferry terminus, we stopped by the river, where we saw four Common Sandpipers and a pair of Little Ringed Plovers, while above the cliffs there were over two hundred Alpine Choughs wheeling around.

The ferry departed promptly at 1.00pm, and as we left, we managed to watch a pair of Golden Eagles being mobbed by a Buzzard and a Hooded Crow. It was a treat to sail along Lake Koman, an artificial dam on the Drin, in glorious sunshine, admiring the dramatic limestone cliffs and gorges. We also saw another couple of Golden Eagles, one being mobbed by a pair of Alpine Swifts, as well as good numbers of Cormorants and a few Yellow-legged Gulls. We also saw Lesser Kestrel and three Goosanders.

After the two-hour journey on the ferry, it was time to head towards the northern city of Shkodra, via a brief stop to watch a couple of Eastern Black-eared Wheatears. Time was getting on, but we had a brief stop beside Lake Shkodra, the largest lake in the Balkans (much of it is in Montenegro). We saw over a hundred Pygmy Cormorants, and Great Crested Grebes carrying their young on their backs. The attractive umbellifer *Orlaya grandiflora* was seen, as well as lots of the invasive *Amorpha fruticosa*. We then headed for our hotel in the attractive city, and after our final dinner we heard a Scops Owl calling in the garden.

Day 8

Tuesday 19th May

Departure

Prior to breakfast, on an overcast but warm morning, I took most of the group for a walk near the hotel; we crossed the Buna River over the bridge, sharing with pedestrians, cyclists and mopeds. Both Whiskered and fewer Common Terns passed back and forth over the bridge, and it was good to hear the calls of the former. Over fifty Pygmy Cormorants were seen, plus a close Squacco Heron, and a Night Heron in flight. Great Reed Warbler and Marsh Frogs provided the soundscape for our walk.

Following breakfast, it was time to head for Tirana Airport. One couple from the group were extending their holiday, venturing to southern Albania before crossing to Corfu, while another couple were heading back across Europe by train and bus. Everyone else returned safely to Heathrow, where we said our farewells.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek email list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers.

naturetrek.co.uk/e-newsletter-signup

Scan to
sign up!



Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky and X and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers, exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



[instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays](https://www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays)



[facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays](https://www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays)



naturetrek.bsky.social



x.com/naturetrektours (formerly Twitter)

Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			✓					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>							✓	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				✓				
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	✓	✓	✓					
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	✓		✓					
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	✓		✓					
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</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 melanocephala</i>			✓					
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</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>		✓	✓					✓
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>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>					✓	✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>			✓				✓	✓
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓							
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	✓	✓	✓					
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>							✓	
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>							✓	
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>							✓	
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyspiza brevipes</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>						✓	✓	
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>				✓			✓	✓
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>				✓		✓	✓	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>						✓	✓	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				✓		✓	✓	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</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>						✓	✓	
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>						✓	✓	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				✓			✓	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>			✓					
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		✓						
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</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>					✓	✓	✓	
Barred Warbler	<i>Curruca nisoria</i>							✓	

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>					✓	✓		
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		✓		✓				
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca cantillans</i>				✓			✓	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>						✓		
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				✓			✓	
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>					✓	✓		
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>					✓	✓		
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>							✓	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				✓		✓		
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>							✓	✓
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		✓	✓					
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				✓		✓	✓	
Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>		✓	✓					
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	✓	✓	✓					
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>					✓	✓		
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>							✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>						✓	✓	
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</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>		✓	✓				✓	
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				✓		✓		
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>				✓				
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>							✓	
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>					✓			

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>			✓					
a pipistrelle bat	<i>Pipistrellus</i> sp.						✓		
Alpine Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>						✓	✓	

Amphibians & reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026							
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓
Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>			✓					
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>		✓	✓	✓				
European Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>						✓		
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>		✓						
Hermann's Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>		✓						

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Chequered Blue	<i>Scolitantides orion</i>
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>

Moths

Common name	Scientific name
Gold-base Tubic	<i>Oecophora bractella</i>
Reed Leopard	<i>Phragmataecia castaneae</i>
Striped Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles livornica</i>
a geometrid	<i>Idaea distinctaria</i>
Lace Border	<i>Scopula ornata</i>
Yellow Shell	<i>Campptogramma bilineata</i>
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>
Common Heath	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name
Small Spreadwing	<i>Lestes virens</i>
Dark Spreadwing	<i>Lestes macrostigma</i>
Small Bluetail	<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>
Hairy Hawker	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>
Blue Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>

Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name
A shieldbug	<i>Carpocoris purpureipennis</i>
Red-and-black Froghopper	<i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
a potter wasp	<i>Polistes</i> sp.
Mottled Sea Hare	<i>Aplysia fasciata</i>

Plants

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rustyback Fern
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Heart's-tongue Fern
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall Rue
<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 pinea</i>	Stone Pine
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Black Pine
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke Bush
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Bush
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo
<i>Echinophora spinosa</i>	Prickly Parsnip
<i>Smyrnium perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Orlaya grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered Orlaya
<i>Asarum europaeum</i>	Asarabacca
<i>Cionura erecta</i>	White Swallow-wor
<i>Cynanchum acutum</i>	Acute Swallow-wort
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Sticky Fleabane
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Cocklebur
<i>Achillea ageratifolia</i>	Balkan Yarrow
<i>Leucanthemum adustum</i>	Mountain Oxeye Daisy
<i>Doronicum orientale</i>	Leopard's Bane
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk Thistle
<i>Ptilostemon afer</i>	Ivory Thistle
<i>Urospermum picroides</i>	Prickly Golden Fleece
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Onosma pseudoarenaria</i>	a golden drop
<i>Onosma echioides</i>	a golden drop
<i>Alkanna tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Alkanet
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss
<i>Echium italicum</i>	Italian Viper's-bugloss
<i>Pontechium maculatum</i>	Spotted Viper's-bugloss
<i>Anchusa hybrida</i>	Hybrid Alkanet
<i>Myosotis suaveolens</i>	Sweet-scented Forget-me-not
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-tongue
<i>Cynoglossum montanum</i>	Mountain Hound's-tongue
<i>Arabis glabra</i>	Tower Mustard
<i>Odontarrhena smolikana</i>	Smolikas Alyssum
<i>Alyssum desertorum</i>	Desert Alyssum
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket
<i>Campanula lingulata</i>	Tongue Bellflower
<i>Campanula ramosissima</i>	Blair's Bellflower
<i>Edraianthus graminifolius</i>	Grassy Bells
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Fly Honeysuckle
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf Elder
<i>Minuartia setacea</i>	Bristly Sandwort
<i>Silene colorata</i>	Pink Mediterranean Catchfly
<i>Atocion armeria</i>	Sweet William Catchfly
<i>Petrorhagia dubia</i>	Hairless Pink
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Pink Rock-Rose
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Rock-Rose
<i>Fumana arabica</i>	Arabian Sunrose
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rockrose
<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	Pink Bindweed
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian Cherry
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
<i>Cephalaria transylvanica</i>	Transylvanian Cephalaria
<i>Euphorbia glabriflora</i>	Smooth-flowered Spurge
<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>	Balkan Spurge
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	Myrtle Spurge
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge
<i>Cytisus procumbens</i>	Trailing Broom
<i>Chamaecytisus purpureus</i>	Purple Broom
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia
<i>Colutea arborescens</i>	Bladder Senna
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False Indigo Bush
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch
<i>Vicia grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered Vetch
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover
<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>	Small White Clover
<i>Trifolium pannonicum</i>	Hungarian Clover
<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	Narrowleaf Crimson Clover

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	Crimson Clover
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Persian Clover
<i>Lotus dorycnium</i>	Five-leaved Canary Clover
<i>Lotus hirsutus</i>	Hairy Canary Clover
<i>Hippocrepis emerus</i>	Scorpion Senna
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Cranesbill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Cranesbill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Cranesbill
<i>Ramonda serbica</i>	Serbian Ramonda
<i>Globularia cordifolia</i>	Heart-leaved Globe Daisy
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's-wort
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Blue Bugle
<i>Teucrium capitatum</i>	Felty Germander
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard Balm
<i>Lamium garganicum</i>	Large-flowered Dead-nettle
<i>Satureja montana</i>	Winter Savory
<i>Clinopodium acinos</i>	Basil Thyme
<i>Clinopodium alpinum</i>	Alpine Basil Thyme
<i>Thymus</i> sp.	a thyme
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Wild Marjoram
<i>Salvia ringens</i>	Balkan Sage
<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	Sage
<i>Salvia glutinosa</i>	Sticky Sage
<i>Salvia viridis</i>	Annual Clary
<i>Linum hirsutum</i>	Downy Flax
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax
<i>Linum nervosum</i>	Blue Flax
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna Ash
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive
<i>Orobancha</i> sp.	a broomrape
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Field Poppy
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain
<i>Polygala nicaeensis</i>	Nice Milkwort
<i>Polygala alpestris</i>	Mountain Milkwort
<i>Primula veris</i> subsp. <i>columnae</i>	Cowslip
<i>Helleborus odoratus</i>	Fragrant Hellebore
<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica
<i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i>	Million-leaved Buttercup
<i>Aquilegia ottonis</i>	Columbine species
<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	Lesser Meadow-rue
<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	Christ's Thorn
<i>Rhamnus alpina</i>	Alpine Buckthorn
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet
<i>Potentilla pedata</i>	Footed Cinquefoil

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Fragaria moschata</i>	Musk Strawberry
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder
<i>Asperula taurina</i>	Pink Bedstraw
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort
<i>Dictamnus albus</i>	Burning Bush
<i>Saxifraga rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Saxifrage
<i>Verbascum phoeniceum</i>	Purple Mullein
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavy-leaved Mullein
<i>Scrophularia canina</i> subsp. <i>bicolor</i>	Dog Fend
<i>Linaria pelisseriana</i>	Jersey Toadflax
<i>Linaria angustissima</i>	Narrow-leaved Toadflax
<i>Linaria peloponnesiaca</i>	Peloponnesian Toadflax
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Veronica austriaca</i>	Austrian Speedwell
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp.	Eyebright species
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Southern Red Bartsia
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Mediterranean Linseed
<i>Rhinanthus melampyroides</i>	Rhinanthus Rattle
<i>Atropa belladonna</i>	Deadly Nightshade
<i>Tamarix</i> sp.	a tamarisk
<i>Daphne cneorum</i>	Rose Daphne
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver Lime
<i>Valeriana montana</i>	Mountain Valerian
<i>Valeriana rubra</i>	Red Valerian
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog Violet
<i>Viola tricolor</i> subsp. <i>macedonica</i>	Wild Pansy
<i>Ornithogalum divergens</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Asparagus maritimus</i>	Sea Asparagus
<i>Anthericum liliago</i>	St. Bernard's Lily
<i>Scirpoides holoschoenus</i>	Round-headed Clubrush
<i>Gladiolus communis</i>	Wild Gladiolus
<i>Gladiolus palustris</i>	Marsh Gladiolus
<i>Iris pallida</i>	Dalmatian Iris
<i>Juncus maritimus</i>	Sea Rush
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp Rush
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's-nest Orchid
<i>Anacamptis palustris</i> subsp. <i>elegans</i>	Elegant Marsh Orchid
<i>Anacamptis laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered Orchid
<i>Anacamptis coriophora</i>	Bug Orchid
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid
<i>Neotinia ustulata</i>	Burnt-tip Orchid
<i>Neotinia tridentata</i>	Toothed Orchid
<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock Orchid
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Common Tongue Orchid
<i>Serapias cordigera</i>	Heart-shaped Tongue Orchid

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Ploughshare Tongue Orchid
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid
<i>Festucopsis serpentini</i>	Fescue Grass species
<i>Hordeum bulbosum</i>	Bulbous Barley
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	Annual Beard Grass
<i>Stipa pulcherrima</i>	Feather Grass
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed
<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