

Bulgaria in Autumn

Naturetrek Tour Report

10 - 18 September 2011



Bee-eater on Steppe lands north of Kaliakra peninsular



Eastern Rhodope Mountain foothills



Steppe lands north of Kaliakra peninsular



Red-breasted Flycatcher

Report and images compiled by John Willsher



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour leaders: John Willsher (Naturetrek Leader)
 Assen Ignatov (Local Guide)

Participants: Guy Wilkerson
 Val Kirkham
 Ray Phillips
 Ken Williams
 Carole Smith

Summary

This was a very successful nine day trip, in very warm and sunny weather, exploring the varied habitats in the Eastern Rhodope Mountains and the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria.

An interesting journey east from the capital Sofia was followed by two nights spent in a comfortable well situated hotel overlooking the River Arda. The varied country produced many interesting species and trips to a vulture feeding area gave us good views of Black, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures. Other species included Lesser Spotted Eagles, Black Storks, Sombre Tit, Rock Nuthatch and numerous Red-backed Shrikes.

Moving to the coast at Pomorie we explored the very productive lagoons in and around Burgas, seeing large numbers of Pelicans and other wetland species including Broad-billed Sandpiper and Temminck's Stint.

We then moved north to Kavarna and explored the much less populated coast and steppe lands towards the Romanian border. A Wildcat was spotted and a good range of birds seen. The very warm fine weather did limit the amount of visible migration but many interesting species such as Levant Sparrowhawk, Bee-eaters, Hoopoes, Rollers and Syrian Woodpeckers were observed.

Finally after a very short night we had a magnificent walk on Vitosha Mountain near Sofia seeing many Nutcrackers, Crossbills and other more northern species making up our bird list to 174 species.

Day 1

Saturday 10th September

London to Complex Arda west of Madzarovo

Landing early at Sofia we were soon found by Assen and quickly loaded onto our bus driven by Miriu. We were soon on our way out of the city onto the motorway heading east noting the many lampposts adorned with now empty Storks nests. The weather was warm and clear with views south of the Rila mountain range highest mountains in the Balkan Peninsula. We sped past fields of Sunflowers and Maize all ready for harvesting. Here we began to see our first birds: Kestrel, a hunting Marsh Harrier and large flocks of Starlings. There were Little Egrets, Common Buzzards, Hooded Crows and an all too brief view of our first Lesser-spotted Eagles.

Summer visitors still included many Barn Swallows and several groups of Bee-eaters perched on roadside wires. At Plovdiv we headed towards Kardzali and the Eastern Rhodope Mountains. More roadside birds included a Common Cuckoo and a Roller. After a drinks stop in Kardzali, we headed into rolling country which was beautiful in the evening sunlight - an interesting area geologically; with old mines and bright white cliffs with pinnacles of ancient volcanic tuff. We stopped on a hilltop viewpoint where a juvenile Red-backed Shrike, Spotted Flycatcher and Red-rumped Swallow were added to our list. Moving on towards our destination we passed through several very rural villages surrounded by fields growing tobacco an important cash crop in the area. On one roof we saw our first Little Owl and a Northern Wheatear was spotted.

Arriving at our hotel, superbly positioned overlooking the Arda River with cliffs beyond, we were soon settled into our comfortable rooms and enjoying a drink in the warm evening air.

Day 2

Sunday 11th September

Arda Valley

The first bird of the morning as we set off for an early morning walk down to the river in the cool clear early morning light was a Little Owl peering down on us from its perch on the hotel chimney. In the tree clad gully leading down to the river and in the riverside willow thicket, birds were getting active with Blackbird, Blackcaps, Green and Great-spotted Woodpeckers, numerous Spotted Flycatchers and Jays.

On the high cliff above the river a Kestrel was seen and there was a lone Egyptian Vulture perched on the lip waiting for the sun's warmth to arrive. Along the river a couple of Kingfishers and a Grey Wagtail were busy. High overhead Alpine Swifts, Red-rumped Swallows and Crag Martins were busy feeding. Grey Herons and a Little Egret flew over and a large flock of Cormorants passed over us heading upstream towards the reservoir. Returning back up the edge of the gully things had warmed up a bit. A Nightingale was photographed Whitethroats were active and good views of several Sombre Tits were certainly the highlight of our pre-breakfast walk.

Breakfast was on the terrace, very pleasant in the warm morning sunshine. After another look at the chimney Little Owl we set off westwards for Studen Kladenetz a large dam creating the second largest reservoir in Bulgaria for hydroelectric power generation. There was some delay entering through the area checkpoint which gave us ample opportunity to explore the habitat below the dam. Spotted Flycatchers and Willow Warblers were feeding, a Cirl Bunting was heard and a Tree Frog was seen. Carrying on and after stopping for a Woodchat Shrike on roadside wires we made our way to an area of hillside used as a Vulture feeding station.

We walked uphill through stunted oak woodland to a viewpoint overlooking the feeding area. We could see many Griffon Vultures on the ground accompanied by three adult and one juvenile Egyptian Vultures. They were all waiting patiently for a dog to finish feeding but it was in no hurry. A Hobby flew over and two Ravens arrived. Overhead we became aware of a very large bird, a Black Vulture was circling. Eventually it settled on a ridge opposite beside a Griffon giving us a good view for comparison.

A Black Stork flew over and a long winged Falcon shot past which may have been an Eleanora's Falcon but it was not a good view. The dog retreated away from the dead sheep giving the Vultures a brief opportunity for a feeding frenzy but then a second dog arrived driving them off again. So we retraced our steps back down the by now very hot hillside to the bus and set off to look for a shady picnic spot by the river. We were delayed by a quick stop as we heard a call resembling a Wryneck; it proved however to be a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Down by the river we did enjoy a very good picnic prepared by Assen and Miriu, accompanied by Chaffinch, Blackcaps and White Wagtails. Assen showed us the leaves of *Haberlea rhodopensis* unfortunately now brown and crisp, one of the many endemic plants for which this area of Eastern Rhodope mountains is well known. After leaving the dam area we stopped for a walk up the hill out of the valley and were rewarded with a family of Black Storks overhead. Heading back towards Complex Arda there were more Red-backed Shrikes and Northern Wheatears and brief views from the bus of Hawfinches. We walked down a track to the river where a Red Squirrel was seen, plus Fryor's Emperor and Great Banded Grayling Butterflies.

The weather was hot and back at the hotel some made use of the swimming pool. Later as we prepared for dinner the light was fading many Black Storks appeared above the river circling, they then settled on the high ridge overlooking the hotel.

Day 3

Monday 12th September

Complex Arda-Pomorie

Another fine morning and an early walk to the river produced a family of Nightingales and another very amenable Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. We enjoyed breakfast on the terrace in the warm sunshine before setting off for our next venue the Black Sea coast. Not long into our journey a Fox was spotted then we headed for the rocky gorge overlooking a beautiful meander in the Arda at Madzarovo. We had an all too brief view of a Rock Nuthatch and heard another two birds calling from the rock walls. Overhead Griffon and Egyptian Vultures were seen. A Blue Rock Thrush perched on a rock pinnacle was watched and a Goshawk flew over. The rock walls here in spring are home to an important Griffon Vulture breeding colony.

Continuing on through Borislavci we stopped on a bridge overlooking a reservoir where several distant birds were picked out; including Common Snipe, Greenshank, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Common Kestrel and Common Buzzard. In a woodland area we stopped to admire a roadside snake which sadly proved to be dead it was a Caspian Whipsnake. A Short-toed Eagle was seen near Lozen and in and around villages many House Martins were still busy feeding.

We stopped for drinks in Ljubmec before crossing the Marica River and heading north through dry country where we stopped to look for Masked Shrike at a breeding site but sadly they probably were far south by now as were the Olive-tree Warblers which also breed in the area. Another breeder of this zone, Imperial Eagle was another target but today luck was not with us.

It was now getting very hot but we had an excellent picnic under a tree near Hljabovo watching Spotted Flycatchers and a White Admiral. And all the while we looked for that elusive Imperial Eagle. In open arable farmland country with dotted tree shelterbelts near Topolvohrad several Lesser Spotted Eagles and a Long-legged Buzzard were seen. A drinks stop in oak woodland just before Sredec was welcome and then it was on towards and through Burgas. A stop at Atanasovsko Lake in the centre of Burgas gave us an introduction to the varied waders and water birds we would be targeting during our stay at Pomorie just to the north in this area of varied lagoons. On our way back Assen pointed out a Penduline Tit's nest hanging from a tree. We then soon reached our hotel overlooking the Black Sea shore.

Day 4

Tuesday 13th September

Pomorie area

The morning began with a spectacular sunrise east across the Black Sea. We headed out for a pre-breakfast walk round to the Pomorie Lake Saline Lagoon, a Ramsar and EU Natura 2000 protected site. First bird on the wire was the ubiquitous juvenile Red-backed Shrike and across the lagoon where many Little and Great-crested Grebes were fishing, numerous Sandwich and Common Terns roosted on the boundary banks. At the Salt Lake Museum the early morning light was perfect for observing and identifying Black-winged Stilts, Marsh Sandpiper, Ringed and Kentish Plover, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Little Stints, Redshank and many Ruff. Finally we had to tear ourselves away to get back for breakfast.

Breakfast done we headed towards the east side of Atanasovsko Lake where it was already getting quite hot. Our first sight was masses of White Pelicans in the distant sky, and across the lake more were roosting. They were all in very large groups making a good comparison with a single small group of Dalmatian Pelicans. Above us large numbers of House Martins were hawking for insects. We walked past a small reed fringed freshwater lake but only a few Mallard, Moorhens and lots of fishermen here. A Cetti's Warbler sang from the bushes as we made our way to a reedy canal where a Kingfisher shot past. We reached a high point giving us good views of a number of lagoons with numerous waders: Spotted Redshank, Ruff, Marsh Sandpiper, Dunlin and Little Stint. Above the reeds several Marsh Harriers quartered, and overhead numerous vocal Bee-eaters passed. Back near the canal a Nightingale and a Night Heron were spotted and a Grey-headed Woodpecker flew into some nearby willows.

Moving along the raised dyke we saw many Ringed Plovers plus Lapwings and in the distant heat haze a large number of Avocets were feeding. Numerous Little Egrets and Grey Herons were fishing, a Pygmy Cormorant perched on a post and a single female Pallid Harrier flew past. On the edge of a freshwater pond were European Pond Terrapins and a Small Emperor Dragonfly. Tree Sparrows flew over and a Thrush Nightingale was seen feeding on berries and more birds were calling. Heading back to the vehicle we watched a Black Stork descend to the distant lagoon.

After stopping for a cool drink and for some ice creams we continued to the hide overlooking the southern part of Atanasovsko Lake where conveniently the reserve warden was present so we could eat our picnic and watch the water in the cool of the hide.

Lunch done we headed back through the trees to the bus, unfortunately at this point Ken tripped and fell on the edge of the walkway. Luckily he did not suffer major injury but did have some nasty grazes, for which he was efficiently treated, in a modern nearby hospital.

Returning towards Pomorie around the west side of Atanasovsko we had a photo session with many wire perching Bee-eaters. A walk produced a couple of juvenile Penduline Tits, Little Stint and another Marsh Sandpiper plus a group of 200 or so Pygmy Cormorants. In a roadside wet sedge area on the way back a Glossy Ibis and two Great White Egrets were seen and a last look at the Salt Lake produced several Little Gulls, Wood Sandpiper plus other waders.

Day 5

Wednesday 14th September

Burgas Area

Another early walk to the Salt Museum and area beyond produced a Whinchat but sadly not the Terek Sandpiper recently reported. We did however have good views of two more Broad-billed Sandpipers, numerous Kentish and Ringed Plovers, plus Little and Temminck's Stints. Three Slender-billed Gulls with bright red legs and bills looked stunning in the morning sunlight. Amongst the many waders a Curlew Sandpiper was still in rusty red partial breeding plumage.

Out again at 9.30 we set off for the lagoons south of Burgas, we passed the Glossy Ibis in the same marsh as yesterday and continued to Lake Burgas or Vaya which was swarming with Pelicans, Cormorants and rod fishermen. Large groups of White Pelicans in the distance were fishing, surrounded by a white haze of hundreds of terns and gulls. Several Dalmatian Pelicans fishing solitarily came quite near us on the shore. On the lake were numerous Pochard Coot and Great-crested Grebes and flying past, several Night Herons, Gull-billed Terns and a juvenile Goshawk. A little further south in a small bay some Squacco Herons were stalking in the shallows.

Travelling further south to Mandra Lake along a causeway a Common Snipe was trying to be invisible, also seen a Wood Sandpiper and a young Grey Wagtail. We walked near the shore of the northern part of the lake. Unfortunately it was now getting extremely hot and the only birds seen were a group of migrant Yellow Wagtails, some Little Egrets and Pygmy Cormorants. Turning right towards Dimcevo we stopped and piled out of the bus for two Lesser Spotted Eagles. Carrying on to a viewpoint overlooking a reed fringed lake we saw our first Ferruginous Duck with a group of Coot plus the usual Marsh Harrier over the reeds. In a flooded river valley, one of the feeder rivers of the lake, we saw our first Purple Heron, an immature bird. Later a Spoonbill flew in. Unfortunately no sign of the White-tailed Eagle which nests in the area.

It was then on to try and find a shady spot for our picnic excellently prepared by Assen and our driver Miriu which today included refreshing Water Melon. Nearer the lake's western end we walked across a stubble field and followed the lake shore around a small bay where numerous birds were roosting. There were more Purple Herons, Little Egrets, Wood Sandpiper and our first Whiskered and Caspian Terns plus a couple of Tree Pipits and more Yellow Wagtails.

Later on walking near a village a large raptor was spotted, hopes were raised for a White-tailed but it turned out to be another Lesser Spotted Eagle. It was then time to return to Pomorie passing through Burgas past the Sea Gardens where many local people were enjoying the shady cool-looking park.

Day 6

Thursday 15th September

Pomorie to Kavarna

A last look at the Salt Museum produced a very tame juvenile Red-backed Shrike for the photographers and the usual waders plus two Little Ringed Plovers. A roosting flock of gulls contained mostly Little and Mediterranean Gulls. Leaving the hotel after breakfast we made for the west side of the Salt Lake investigating some fresher salt pans. Here were lots of Little Stints, Little Ringed Plover numerous Shelducks and three Lesser Spotted Eagles. A distant Sparrowhawk was seen determinedly pursuing a ball shaped mass of Starlings. A little further on, we walked past a vineyard towards the reedy margin of the lake. Blackcaps and several Red-backed Shrikes were feeding and in the reeds three Penduline Tits were high up amongst the seed heads giving us good views. Over the water a lone Black Tern circled with typical buoyant flight.

Continuing northwards we turned off south of Obzor down a wooded valley towards the sea. The road was bordered by extensive bramble scrub that had many feeding warblers: Willow Warblers, Blackcaps, Whitethroats and Lesser Whitethroat. On reaching the beach area we had a stroll seeing Goldfinch, more Willow Warblers, Robin and Nightingale. Overhead Red-rumped and Barn Swallows hawked for insects. At Goritza we had an excellent lunch in a roadside restaurant. Our next stop after passing through extensive oak forest was an area of more open mature oak woodland. We had a walk seeing Nuthatch, Middle-spotted and Green Woodpecker, Wood Warbler and Short-toed Treecreeper. Numerous Bee-eaters could be heard high in the sky above.

At a pleasant cool river estuary south of Varna we walked through the riverine woodland down towards the sea seeing Song Thrush and on the open estuary Hooded Crows and Yellow-legged Gulls. Returning through the woodland, a couple of Nuthatches feeding on two sunflower heads provided photo opportunities. A Lesser-spotted Woodpecker was heard calling. We continued north through the interesting town of Varna third largest in Bulgaria and after a search for Eagle Owl on cliffs east of Kavarna we had to settle for a Syrian Woodpecker. Arriving at our family run hotel we were settled in with much care and soon provided with an excellent meal.

Day 7

Friday 16th September

Durankulak and Shabla area

Out for a quick look down the neighbouring wooded valley produced numerous Bee-eaters and two Hawfinches. After a good breakfast we set off, stopping to stock up on picnic supplies at the local shop. Soon out of the town we were in a farmland of large fields and shelterbelts. A stop for a raptor, a Common Buzzard was beneficial as two White Storks were spotted feeding in one corner of the field, stragglers of this migratory species already gone south. Also on the sunflower stubble stalks were many Whinchats.

Later a recently irrigated cabbage field had large numbers of Corn Buntings with some Linnets and Yellow Wagtails. An Osprey flew over heading south and several Turtle Doves were seen on the roadside wires. We continued northwards past harvested fields of predominantly sunflowers with maize and wheat. At a point north of Ecerets just a few kilometres short of the Romanian border we turned towards the coast to investigate a reed fringed lake separated from the sea by a sandbar. Local net fishermen on the beach were clearing up after their catch. Along the shore and on rocky reefs many gulls and Cormorants roosted. Over the reeds Marsh Harriers and Purple Herons flew and several Pygmy Cormorants were on the reedy pools. The sea was calm and we enjoyed drinks in a beach bar whilst watching a couple of Mute Swans, Black-necked Grebes on the sea and a passing flock of Little Egrets. At the southern end of the lagoon we passed through some un-harvested sunflower fields with large mixed feeding flocks of House and Spanish Sparrows.

A walk around some dry lagoons bordering the wet area proved a little more difficult than expected but did produce a Great Reed Warbler and more Purple Herons and Marsh Harriers. A few butterflies including Cardinal and Clouded Yellows were seen. After a welcome picnic it was back up the track to the road; Redstart, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Willow Warbler and Whitethroat were busy in the shelterbelt beside the track. At the birding lodge a little further south we enjoyed a drink overlooking out towards the lagoons across crops this time full of Tree and Spanish Sparrows. Upstairs we looked at interesting exhibits of artefacts from studies of the 5000BC lagoon island settlement that produced some of Europe's first stone buildings.

Near Shabla we explored a wooded area near the beach. The area had many Red-breasted Flycatchers and in the watered gardens of new houses were Northern Wheatear and Whinchat. On the dunes an Isabelline Wheatear perched on a boat and beyond, on the lagoon, a good collection of waders were feeding including Knot and Grey Plover. A lone Spoonbill slept. Continuing south near the coast we passed a region of small oil wells with their 'knodding donkeys' and the old Shabla lighthouse. Heading south the road took us through a strip of uncultivated steppe land some of the last left in Europe, large numbers of Swallows and Martins were feeding above it and the arable fields further inland. A distant grey bird on a bush turned out not to be the usual Red-backed Shrike but our first Lesser Grey Shrike.

Further on south, activity increased as evening progressed, several Kestrels, another Isabelline Wheatear, then a Hoopoe and a Roller. The excitement continued with three more Rollers and another two Hoopoes. A juvenile Montagu's Harrier, then another chasing a Sparrowhawk, more Rollers and large numbers of Red-backed Shrikes were seen. A last look at a steppe area near Kavarna before returning to our hotel gave us distant views of a large flock of Calandra Larks.

Day 8

Saturday 17th September

Cape Kaliakra area

The first birds of the day in the hotel garden were a female Golden Oriole and a Syrian Woodpecker. An early breakfast gave us a good start to explore the peninsula. First stop was the steppe area checked the previous evening; the Calandra Larks were still present although still at some distance. Unfortunately the weekend shooters were active, shooting what appeared to be Quail flushed from the short grass.

Moving on we explored more wooded areas towards the point. Along a long deserted road leading into a no-go military area we spotted a distant large cat in the road, Guy's photos showing the tail confirmed this was a Wildcat.

Later we walked in the Bolata Valley with canyon like limestone rock walls where we searched for Eagle Owl, sadly without success. A Water Rail squealed from the reeds around a small pond and thick scrub full of berries had numerous Blackcaps, Willow Warblers and Red-breasted Flycatcher. At Bolata beach there were Shags on rocky cliffs and Cormorants flying over. Moving on to the point at Kaliakra we enjoyed drinks looking out to sea. We watched down on a lone Cormorant fishing in and around a large ball of small fish and on larger fish, moving along at the cliff base. Returning to the car park we spotted several Wheatears, one being a Pied.

We then moved on and had a good lunch at Hotel Hipodruma on the outskirts of Balgarevo. We then spent a leisurely afternoon mostly in the shade of a tree, as it was now very hot, around the upper reaches of the Bolata Valley. Raptors were on the move with two Hobbies, Sparrowhawks, Levant Sparrowhawks and a Goshawk seen. Later in the steppe area near Rusalka we saw Rock Doves, many Calandra Larks and up to 200 Corn Buntings. Additional birds here included Hoopoe, Long-legged and several Common Buzzards, Roller and Raven. Returning to the hotel via the harbour at Kavarna we added Red-rumped Swallow to our list for the day.

Day 9

Sunday 18th September

Kavarna-Varna-Sofia-Vitosha-London

Today was going to be a long one as our plane left Varna for Sofia at a very early time but it did mean we would get to see the mountain birds of Vitosha. We made our farewells to Assen and Miriu at Varna very early in the morning thanking them for their good driving, attention and knowledge.

We arrived at Sofia at 6.30am to be met by Nikolay our guide and his son who was driving. We stopped in a modern garage cafe for some breakfast before starting our climb up the mountain which is over 2000m high. When we reached a high area covered with the endemic Macedonian Pine and other conifers we walked and enjoyed the clear morning air. The sounds of Nutcrackers and Crossbills were immediately heard and we spent an hour or so watching many of these birds plus Coal Tits and many Chiffchaffs. We found Wrens, Black Redstart, Tree Pipit and overhead, Common and Pallid Swifts. As we walked along the mountain road there were singing Firecrests and more Nutcrackers. Further on we saw Marsh and Great Tits, Goldcrest, Blackbird and Whinchats.

By now it was time to make our way back down the mountain, find some lunch and get our afternoon plane to London ending a very interesting and enjoyable time exploring this country of many rich habitats.

Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			50	✓	✓	✓	✓		
2	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>				1	3	2	2	2	
3	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
4	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	200	✓	✓	1000+	✓	✓	✓	
5	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>								✓	
6	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>				25	100s				
7	White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			✓	1000s	1000s				
8	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>				✓	✓				
9	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					1				
10	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					10+				
11	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				2	7				
12	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1			2	30+		2		
13	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	1	✓	✓	100+	✓	✓		
14	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	
15	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					4		✓		
16	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					2		2		
17	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				2	1				
18	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>							2		
19	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		60	1	1					
20	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			15		6		✓		
21	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			✓	✓		24	✓		
22	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
23	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>							2		
24	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓	✓				
25	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>			✓						
26	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					100				
27	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					1				
28	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>		6	✓						
29	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		60	✓						
30	Black Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		3							
31	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>							1		
32	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			1	1	1				
33	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1		3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
34	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						1	4	1	
35	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>				1					
36	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			1			4	2	✓	
37	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>			1		1			1	
38	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>								6	
39	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
40	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>			1					1	
41	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	2		12		3	2			
42	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		1						4	
43	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	1	✓	3	2	✓	✓	✓	H
44	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>					H			H	
45	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				2	✓		3		
46	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					✓	✓	✓		
47	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				50+			30		
48	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓	✓	✓			
49	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				✓	4	✓			
50	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
51	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>						3			
52	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>				✓	✓	✓			
53	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>							1		
54	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				10					
55	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>				1	2	✓			
56	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>							1		
57	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				1	1		✓		
58	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					1	1	✓		
59	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				✓	2	30	✓		
60	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>					1	1			
61	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				✓	5		✓		
62	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					1				
63	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>					1				
64	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>			✓	✓	10	✓	✓		
65	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			
66	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>			1	6	2				
67	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			1	✓	4				
68	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				2	6	✓			
69	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			1	1	1				
70	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
71	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>				✓		20			
72	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>				✓		✓			
73	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>					3	1	4		
74	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	✓	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
75	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>			2		4				
76	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			
77	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>					2				
78	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
79	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>					5				
80	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>						1			
81	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>					1				

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
82	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		4	1	1	1			✓	✓	
84	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>									3	
85	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>								6	✓	
87	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	1									
88	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	✓	2	1							
89	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓		✓	✓			2		2	✓
90	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>										4
91	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓	
92	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		2		✓	4	H	2			
93	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>								4	2	
94	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
95	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1							6	1	
96	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>				1						
97	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	1	1	✓		H	H			H	
98	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>							2	1	1	
99	Great-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1	✓				1	2	1	
100	Middle-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>							1			
101	Lesser-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>		1	2				H		1	
102	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			1							
103	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>										
104	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			✓	✓	2			H		
105	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>								✓	200+	
106	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓			✓	✓			✓		
107	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	✓	✓	✓							
108	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
109	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
110	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	✓	✓					1		5	
111	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>						2				1
112	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
113	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓				3	2	✓		
114	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>						10		✓		
115	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>										2
116	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>										1
117	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>				3				1		
118	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		1	3	1			1			
119	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1	H				3	✓	✓	
120	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>						1	1	20+	1	2
121	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>										3
122	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>								2	1	
123	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
124	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>							4		
125	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>							1	1	
126	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			1						
127	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓						
128	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		1				1	2		
129	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>				1				1	
130	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>							1		
131	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		3	3	✓		✓	✓	✓	
132	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>						2	✓	✓	
133	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		3		1		✓		✓	
134	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>						1			
135	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓				✓		✓
136	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		✓	2	✓	1		✓	✓	
137	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>									2
138	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>									3
139	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
140	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>							✓	✓	
141	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	✓	✓							
142	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>				2		3			
143	Sombre Tit	<i>Parus lugubris</i>		6							
144	Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>									1
145	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>									✓
146	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
147	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	2	✓	✓		
148	Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>			1+2H						
149	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>						4			
150	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>						2			
151	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>									2
152	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>							1		
153	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
154	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		1							
155	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓		3	✓	✓	✓	
156	Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>									15+
157	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
158	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	✓	1	✓		1	✓	✓		
159	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	6				
160	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	✓	✓					1	
161	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>							2	1	
162	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
163	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>							✓		
164	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
165	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		1	✓	✓	✓		✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
166	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓		✓
167	Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>							6		
168	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓			2	✓	✓	
169	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>					2		1		
170	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		✓	✓				2	H	
171	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>									20
172	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>							✓	✓	
173	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			1						
174	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>		H							

Mammals

1	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		1							
2	Wildcat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>								1	
3	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			1						

Butterflies

1	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	14	Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>
2	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	15	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>
3	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	16	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
4	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	17	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
5	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	18	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>
6	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	19	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>
7	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	20	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
8	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	21	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
9	Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>	22	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>
10	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	23	Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>
11	Short-tailed Blue	<i>Cupido argiades</i>	24	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
12	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	25	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
13	Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>			

Reptiles & Amphibian

1	Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>	4	Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>
2	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ribibunda</i>	5	Tortoise sp	<i>Testudo sp.</i>
3	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	6	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>

Dragonflies

1	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	4	Green metallic Damselfly	<i>Lestes sp</i>
2	Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	5	Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>
3	Small Emperor	<i>Anax</i>			

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!



Kaliakra peninsular