

# Bulgaria in Autumn

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 – 20 September 2015

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Nutcracker



Juvenile Pied Wheatear



Young Red-backed Shrike



Male Red-footed Falcon

Report and images by Dave Smallshire

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## Summary

Mostly fine, sunny and warm weather blessed this tour, which focussed on the raptors of the Eastern Rhodope Mountains and the 'Via Pontica' migration at the Black Sea coast. The settled weather kept migrants moving, typically at high elevation in the case of raptors. The amazing total of 24 species of raptor illustrates well the importance of this part of Europe for this group, which included Black Vulture, Eastern Imperial Eagle, and Saker and Red-footed Falcons. British rarities like Black Stork, European Bee-eater, Red-backed Shrike and Red-breasted Flycatcher were frequently encountered, but local specialities such as Pygmy Cormorant, Dalmatian Pelican, Ruddy Shelduck, Ferruginous Duck, and Pied and Isabelline Wheatears were also seen. Amongst the more memorable sightings were large flocks of White Pelicans, both feeding and migrating, a close hovering Short-toed Snake Eagle, an obliging Middle Spotted Woodpecker, a Spotted Nutcracker hammering a pine cone, and the tiniest Hermann's Tortoise imaginable. A total of 201 species of birds were encountered, plus a variety of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and a nice range of invertebrates.

## Day 1, Saturday 12th September

### London to Krumovgrad

The morning flight from Heathrow arrived at Sofia in the early afternoon more or less on time. We soon found Lyubo, Dancho and our driver, Nikki who quickly loaded up the bus and handed out welcome bottles of cold water. After the short drive to Terminal 2 we found Dave, Peter and Richard, who had flown from Manchester, waiting outside and soon we were on our way out of the city.

There were some good bird sightings on the journey to Krumovgrad in the Eastern Rhodope Mountains. The highlights were a thermalling flock of about 50 Black Storks with Bee-eaters, and a Short-toed Snake Eagle that hovered very close to a service station during a comfort break. From the coach we also saw a Lesser Spotted Eagle and several Marsh Harriers. After checking in to our rooms, we soon reconvened for our first Bulgarian dinner, cool beer and local wine.

## Day 2, Sunday 13th September

### Arda Valley

A pre-breakfast walk to the Krumovitsa River bridge produced a few Bee-eaters, Syrian Woodpecker and Red-backed Shrike. The last species was to become almost omnipresent during the trip, albeit nearly all juveniles. Although the day started cloudy, the subsequent week remained sunny and warm with temperatures into the mid-20s C.

After breakfast we left for Potochnica and walked along an exposed ridge near the vulture feeding station. About 20 Griffon Vultures began circling as the morning warmed up, as did single Egyptian and Cinereous (Black) Vultures and several Ravens. On the ridge itself we had good views of Tree Pipit, Woodlark and two juvenile Woodchat Shrikes, all perched on overhead wires. Several Northern Wheatears and Cirl Buntings were around

buildings and a few Hawfinches flew over. One of the spurge plants we passed hosted two large, colourful Spurge Hawk-moth caterpillars.

We stopped for a picnic lunch near Studen Kladenetz, overlooking the Arda River, where several Grey Wagtails were feeding and Crag Martins flew around the basalt rocks. On the journeys to and from here we found a flock of Bee-eaters, a Hoopoe, two Little Owls and, best of all, a superb male Red-footed Falcon on roadside wires.

We spent the rest of the afternoon in the rocky surroundings of Dolna Kula valley where we had good views of Black Storks, both wading upriver and perched on rocks. As we walked up the valley a tiny Hermann's Tortoise, barely three centimetres long, was nearly stepped on as it crossed the road: it was honorary 'bird of the day' for some! Sardinian Warblers called but remained hidden, and a pair of Sombre Tits was seen. Chukars called from the rocks and five were eventually located. Further up the valley we found a resplendent male Black-eared Wheatear (of the black-throated form) perched on rocks, while a flurry of raptors overhead gave us Black Kite, Golden Eagle, Hobby and finally a juvenile Eastern Imperial Eagle - an excellent end to a day that brought 13 raptor species.

## Day 3, Monday 14th September

### Krumovgrad to Pomorie

After an early breakfast, we left Krumovgrad at 8.30am and made our way beyond Studen Kladenats to Madjarovo, where we stopped above the Arda River at Kovan Kaya. A male Blue Rock Thrush soon appeared, and we 'scoped Griffon Vultures and Peregrine on the towering cliffs above us, where Alpine Swifts and Crag Martins swarmed amongst other hirundines. As the skies warmed, about 50 Griffon Vultures and an Egyptian Vulture took to the thermals, and later a Honey Buzzard flew over. Hawfinch and Cirl and Rock Buntings called but gave no more than fleeting views, while Rock Nuthatch called frequently but refused to be seen.

We had lunch at a roadside restaurant and later stopped in an area known for breeding Eastern Imperial Eagle. After scanning the open in vain for its preferred food (Suslik), we located one eagle and then a pair soaring high. Several wheatears included Northern and two Isabelline. A Tawny Pipit flew over, while several Woodchat Shrikes, Tree Pipits and Yellow Wagtails were also seen. We stopped at a filling station for ice creams and had three Black Kites, Long-legged Buzzard, and Booted and Lesser Spotted Eagles overhead, bringing our raptor total to 18 species.

As we approached the coast we started to add more new species from the bus, but as it was late we pushed on to our hotel at Pomorie. After checking in, there was just about time to scan the Black Sea and the adjacent salt pans, where a range of grebes, cormorants, ducks, waders, terns, gulls and an unidentified skua whetted our appetite for the next day. Lyubo, our guide for the rest of the trip, joined us at dinner, which featured a delicious Bulgarian salad for starter.

## Day 4, Tuesday 15th September

### Pomorie-Burgas area

The salt pans were full of birds as we strolled to the Salt Museum before breakfast. Large numbers of Pygmy Cormorants, dwarfed by the occasional Great Cormorant, perched on the rows of wooden posts, while other posts were occupied by Sandwich and Common Terns. This spectacle was enhanced by hundreds of gulls, including Little and Mediterranean, Coot, grebes, and a good variety of dabbling ducks. In amongst these we found Slender-billed Gull, Black Tern, Red-crested Pochard, Ferruginous Duck and Black-necked Grebe. A Hoopoe flew past and a Red-breasted Flycatcher appeared briefly in a bush next to the Museum, the first of many that we encountered over the coming days. The high water level meant that waders were rather few and mostly distant, though Little Ringed Plover, Wood Sandpiper and the only Oystercatcher of the trip were reasonably close.

After breakfast we looked first for Stone Curlews, but saw only distant harriers and a fly-over Red-throated Pipit, plus Southern and Red-veined Darter dragonflies. A short drive then took us to the north-eastern corner of Atanasovsko Lake, where researchers had several mist nets up for bird ringing. We walked over a drain to view the reedbeds and lake beyond, where two Pallid Harriers - a female and juvenile - were flying around. In the distance we could just discern four Greater Flamingoes, looking slightly pink compared with the off-white Dalmatian Pelicans nearby. The latter were joined by further birds arriving at some height. A group of Spotted Redshanks could be seen through the reeds, feeding in an area of open water. As we returned to the coach, two juvenile Penduline Tits called and then showed themselves to some of the group; we had seen the curious hanging nest of this species earlier nearby.

Moving close to the south-eastern corner of the northern part of the lake, we joined a group of Dutch and other visiting birders who were carrying out the annual migration counts. Due to the continuing fine weather, most of the birds seen were passing high overhead, barely visible to the naked eye, or even with binoculars! Nevertheless, we did see flocks of Black Storks, Bee-eaters and Spanish Sparrows moving through, with smaller numbers of Black Kites, Short-toed, Booted and Lesser Spotted Eagles, Honey Buzzard and Steppe Buzzard. Lyubo arranged for us to have a picnic lunch in the shade nearby.

After lunch we looked at the western side of the southern part of Atanasovsko Lake, where a group of Dalmatian Pelicans gave us better views than those seen earlier. Waders were more distant, but included Avocet, Curlew, Redshank and three Knot, an uncommon species in Bulgaria. A channel nearby held a juvenile Squacco Heron, Kingfisher and Pond Terrapins, while a Redstart came down onto the path briefly. Finally, we checked the northern salt pans at Pomerie, eventually finding a few waders that included some Little Stints.

## Day 5, Wednesday 16th September

### Pomorie-Burgas area

A second pre-breakfast walk to the Salt Museum revealed similar birds to the first, although two juvenile Black-winged Stilts were new, and Green and Wood Sandpipers feeding together provided a good companion. After breakfast we drove back to Burgas to view Vaya Lake, where a huge flock of White Pelicans was feeding: the mass of perhaps 5,000 birds moved around continuously, dipping their huge bills into the water in synchronized fashion. A few Dalmatian Pelicans swam in front of us for comparison. Other species included a flock of

Pochard and small numbers of Whiskered Terns. We then checked the southern part of Mandra Lake where we found a group of Night Herons perched unusually in the open on a small pylon in a sheltered arm of the lake. Several Garganey were here also, while Lyubo drew our attention to a distant Goshawk and then three Caspian Terns circling over the main lake. Further on, Peter found the White-tailed Eagle that we had been scanning for; an adult showing its white tail. Two Squacco Herons showed briefly and a Purple Heron was seen in flight, the only one of the trip. A further stop to scan from a river bridge yielded a Dice Snake from one side and a Grass Snake from the other, both no doubt hunting the Marsh Frogs sitting amid the floating vegetation. A few stunning Scarlet Darter dragonflies were also around the riverbank, while birds included a flyover Booted Eagle and Red-rumped Swallows.

We had our picnic lunch at a local restaurant, taking advantage of the cool drinks that were available. Then we returned to Pomorie to look at parts of the salt pans where we had seen distant waders in the morning. The first viewpoint revealed large numbers of duck including Tufted and Ferruginous Ducks, Spoonbills and a summer plumage Grey Plover. As we returned to the coach, a Little Owl glared at us from the end of a hollow concrete structure - the close views making it bird of the day for some of the group. Closer to the town, we finally located reasonable numbers of waders including our first Kentish Plovers, and three Black Terns. Peter and Richard opted to continue further, finding several more wader species, including Curlew Sandpiper, Sanderling, Turnstone and Golden Plover, while the rest of the group returned to Pomorie town for a little shopping.

## Day 6, Thursday 17th September

### Pomorie to Kavarna

The coach took us a short distance north of the hotel before breakfast. We walked on through the dunes, from where scans of the sea revealed Red-necked and Black-necked Grebes, the latter also visible on the salt pan. Two Pallid Swifts flew low overhead, their throat pouches bulging with midges bound for their second brood chicks. Some of the group saw a Quail running along the track, while on the way back there were all-too-brief sightings of Great Reed and Sedge Warblers and a Thrush Nightingale. After loading our luggage, we set off, first to buy local pottery and brandy, and then to head for the western side of Pomorie Salt Lake to check some fresher lagoons. In reeds on the way were two groups of young Penduline Tits, while the open water yielded three Glossy Ibises, two Spoonbills, Spotted Redshanks and a Ruff. An Osprey flew by and a Honey Buzzard went over, but pride of place went to three Collared Pratincoles that circled over the marsh in front of us.

Heading north over what is, in effect, the eastern end of the Balkan Mountains (Stara Planina), we took an inland route, stopping first to check an open woodland/grassland area. Hawfinches called and eventually flew over. Sky watching also produced Long-legged Buzzard, Booted Eagle and Black Storks that went over very high. Later we stopped along the road to marvel at some 200 White Pelicans soaring up on a thermal. Amongst various grasshoppers and bush-cricket we saw the peculiar Slant-faced Grasshopper and a Praying Mantis. Viewing a reservoir from a distant vantage point, we saw Tawny Pipit, White-winged Black Tern and two groups of Ruddy Shelduck, totalling 16 in all. We had a splendid lunch in a restaurant in the village of Goritza and then walked through the oak woodland nearby. Although September can be quiet in woodland, we succeeded in finding two Middle Spotted and one Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Short-toed Treecreeper, Nuthatch and our only Yellowhammer of the trip.

Our final stop, as the sun was getting low in the sky, was in the hope of finding Eagle Owl on the white cliffs at Topola. We tried two sites but we were out of luck, so we continued the short distance to our final overnight destination, the small family-run Unza Haus hotel in Kavarna. After freshening up, we met at the bar in the garden for drinks. The ample dinner was enhanced by samples of Bulgarian wine and beer, and some were tempted to try the home-made Rakia.

## Day 7, Friday 18th September

### Durankulak & Shabla areas

Before breakfast we watched from in front of the hotel, which overlooked a wooded valley going down to the harbour. A Syrian Woodpecker perched conveniently on the top of a utility pole, while Hawfinches provided 'scope views; it was quite a novelty to look down on the latter, rather than having crane necks as is usual with this species.

After breakfast we headed north towards the Romanian border, but had to stop twice en route to look at Rollers, the first spotted by Nikki. As well as the Rollers, the wires in this area also held plenty of Bee-eaters, Turtle Doves, Starlings, Corn Buntings and smaller numbers of Yellow Wagtails and Tree Pipits. Having eventually reached our destination, Durankulak Lake, it took us quite a while to leave the car park, such was the interest there. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker called and eventually gave good views, while some puddles held half a dozen Grey Wagtails, Snipe, Squacco Heron and one of several Red-breasted Flycatchers in the area. A party of gulls, mostly Mediterranean, flying over the lake were attacked by a large brown, long-tailed falcon: it had to be a Saker - our 24th species of raptor! A Montagu's Harrier below almost went unnoticed. We walked along a path between the sand dunes and the reeds marking the edge of the lake. Views of the lake were obscured by tall reeds, but out to sea an Osprey was fishing, a few Black Terns and Little Gulls fed close inshore and Sanderlings ran up and down the beach.

We then headed back to Shabla Tuzla Lake, where Red-breasted Flycatchers were again in evidence, but this time with a gorgeous male. Amongst the hordes of waterfowl at this shallow coastal lake were Black-necked Grebe, Garganey, Ferruginous Duck, Water Rail (but not the hoped-for Little Crake!) and distant waders that included Knot and Grey Plover. We had lunch in the shade near the sea, after which we walked a short circuit around woodland, where the highlights were a Red Squirrel and a juvenile Hobby perched in a treetop. Driving back towards Kavarna, we stopped to check steppe grassland near Rusalka, finding a few Whinchats and Willow Warblers and three more Rollers. Finally, we walked out over steppe at Bulgarevo, flushing first two and then 26 Calandra Larks.

## Day 8, Saturday 19th September

### Cape Kaliakra area

We got Nikki up before breakfast so that he could drive us to the top of the cliffs that overlooked Kavarna harbour from the north. It was very atmospheric as the early mist burned off, but birds were scarce. A Black Redstart appeared fleetingly and Corn Buntings sat on wires. After breakfast, we stopped to buy local pottery souvenirs and then drove the short distance to Cape Kaliakra. Red-breasted Flycatchers and Red-backed Shrikes seemed to be everywhere and Swallows moved through continuously, but other migrants were scarce. The

highlight was three young Pied Wheatears feeding just inside the ancient walls. Shags of the local Black Sea race sat on rocks below us and a few Harbour Porpoises were spotted offshore. We checked steppe grassland near the Cape, finding two Rollers on the way. Our targets were Stone Curlew and Short-toed Lark. We were successful only with the former, although Richard and Peter found a Wryneck.

We had our picnic lunch in the shade at a hotel nearby, after which we drove to the Bolata Valley, to the north of the Cape. We walked up the valley and saw Blackcap, a couple of Sparrowhawks and the now expected Red-breasted Flycatchers. After a stop at the Bulgarevo steppe we returned to the hotel for well-earned refreshments.

## Day 9, Sunday 20th September

### Kavarna to London via Sofia

Our final day began very early indeed, with tea and coffee before leaving the hotel at 3am for Varna airport. We said our thanks to Lyubo and Nikki, who had been excellent guide and driver/lunch provider, respectively. The airport formalities were quick and easy and the 5.30am flight arrived at Sofia 40 minutes later. Soon after 6.30am we had collected our luggage and been met by Milo with two minibuses. We loaded our bags, collected bottles of water and set off around Sofia for the journey up to the tree line on Mount Vitoshka. As we zigzagged up the winding, cobbled road, we wondered how long it must have taken to build. We were the first arrivals at Aleko and the sun was quickly warming the forest. A singing Black Redstart greeted us, but before long the star bird, a Nutcracker, called and then appeared close by. We had stunning views as it collected a fresh pine cone and proceeded to peck out the pine nuts, probably caching them later in readiness for the winter. A Siskin came down to drink and Crossbills called from the treetops, some of them singing in the morning sun. Goldcrest, Firecrest and Coal Tits were spotted, and we still hadn't left the car park! Walking on through the forest, we were reminded of birds at home: Wren, Dunnock, Treecreeper and very obliging Willow Tits (of the Alpine race). A Black Woodpecker was heard in the distance. Nutcrackers called regularly from the conifers and showed several times, one once again hacking away at a cone as we returned to the car park. A Comma took our butterfly list up to 24 and this final burst of new birds had brought the trip list up to an amazing 201 species.

We ate packed lunches that Milo had brought, and returned in good time to Sofia airport where we said goodbye to Peter, Richard and Milo. After minimal formalities, we had a comfortable wait for our 2.30pm British Airways flight back to London. We arrived on time and bade our fond farewells around the luggage carousel, before we all headed off to our various destinations.

## 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](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

## Species Lists

Birds (M = many; F = few; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			M	50	M	F		2	
2	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>							1		
3	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>			1	6	F	F	F	F	
4	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				F	M	M	1		
5	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		2	M	M	M	M	M	F	
6	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>								F	
7	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>			F	250	M	M		1	
8	White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				12	5000	250			
9	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>				60	14	4			
10	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				1	3		1		
11	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					10				
12	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1			F	F	F			
13	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	F		F	M	M	M			
14	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	2	2	F	F	M	M	1		
15	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					1				
16	European Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				1	13	2			
17	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>						3			
18	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	1			3					
19	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	50	F	25	50					
20	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>				4					
21	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			F	M	M	M	3		
22	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				M	F	F	2		
23	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>						16			
24	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		8	F	M	M	M	3		
25	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>			F	F	F	F	F		
26	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>				F	40		F		
27	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				M	M	M	M	2	
28	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>				2	7		20		
29	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				2	2		3		



	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
30	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				30	25	F	F		
31	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>				1					
32	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>					2				
33	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				1	200				
34	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				3	9			3	
35	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>		2	1						
36	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		30	50						
37	Cinereous (Black) Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		1							
38	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		1	3	2	2				
39	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						1	2		
40	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	4	F	1	3	2	1			
41	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	6	F	1	8	F	F	F	F	
42	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				2?			1		
43	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>				2					
44	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	F	F	F	F	1	F	F	
45	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>					1				
46	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	F	F	M	F	F	F		F	
46a	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>				1		1	2		
47	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>			1		1	1			
48	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			1	1		1		1	
49	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>			1	1	1	1			
50	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Aquila albicilla</i>					1				
51	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		1							
52	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>		1	2						
53	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	1		F	F	3	F		1	
54	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			1						
55	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>							1		
56	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	2	2		1			1	1	
57	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	F	F	F	F	F		F	F	1
58	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>		1							
59	Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>		5							
60	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>						1			

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
61	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				H	1	H	1		
62	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				F	M		F	1	
63	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			M	M	M	M	M		
64	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				1					
65	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				1	2				
66	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				F					
67	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>								1	
68	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>						3			
69	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				F	F	1			
70	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				M	M		F		
71	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>					F	1	1		
72	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					1		2		
73	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>					1				
74	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				2	F	2			
75	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>					3		1		
76	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					1	2	10		
77	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				F	50		12		
78	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					2				
79	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				12	F	F	1		
80	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>						1	1		
81	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				5		1	1		
82	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				F	1	1			
83	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				25		F			
84	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				30	F		2		
85	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				2	12	2			
86	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				4	20	F	F		
87	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		1			1				
88	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				1	1	1			
89	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				1	1				
90	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				3		8	15		
91	a Skua (possibly Arctic)	<i>Stercorarius (parasiticus)</i>			1						
92	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>			M	M	M	M	M	F	

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
93	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>			3	12	F	F	25	M	
94	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>			F	20	F	F	M	M	
95	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>				2	1				
96	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	M		M	M	M	M	M	M	
97	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>			1	1	F				
98	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			M	M	M	M	F	F	
99	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			M	M	M	M	F	F	
100	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>					3				
101	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>				3	3		7		
102	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						1			
103	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>					20	F			
104	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
105	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	F	F	F	F	F	1			
106	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	
107	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	1	2	F				25	F	
108	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		1							
109	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	1	2	2		1		H		
110	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	F		F	1	F	F	F		
111	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	3		F			2			
112	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>			20			F		H	
113	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		1	1	2	2	1	1		
114	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		1		1	1	1	1		
115	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	25	100	F	M	F	F	M	M	H
116	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>							5	2	
117	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>									H
118	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		F	1		1	H	H		
119	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>		F				H	2	2	
120	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>						1			
121	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>						2			
122	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>		H	1				1		
123	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>								1	
124	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		6					3		

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
125	Common Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>							2		
126	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	2	2	F	F	F	3	F	H	
127	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>							26		
128	Common Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			F	F	M	F	F	F	
129	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		35	M						
130	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	F	M	M	M	M	M	M	F	
131	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	F	F	M	M	M	M	M	M	F
132	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	1	1		F	F	F		F	
133	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		20	M	1	F	1	F	F	2
134	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>				1					
135	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	H		1			1			
136	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1	F	M	M	M	M	M	M	
137	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		6	F		2	1	8	1	
138	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i> (incl. <i>feldegg</i> )	1	H	F	F	F	F	M	M	
139	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>									2
140	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>									6
141	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>						1			
142	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H							2
143	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1	1	2			1	10	5	
144	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		1						1	2
145	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				1			1	F	
146	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		5	F			2	F	F	
147	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>			2						
148	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>		1							
149	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>								3	
150	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			1						
151	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	1	F	F	F		F	F	F	
152	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		1							
153	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					1	1	1		
154	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>				H		H			
155	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				1		1			
156	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						1	H		

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
157	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>					1			1	
158	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		F		F			1	1	
159	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>				2	F		F	F	
160	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>		2H							
161	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		F						F	2
162	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>						1			1
163	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		F	F		F	F	F	F	F
164	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>									F
165	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>									2
166	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		F	F	F	F	1	F	F	1
167	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				1	1	1	20	50	
168	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>				2	H	10			
169	Sombre Tit	<i>Parus lugubris</i>		2							
170	Willow Tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>									3
171	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>									F
172	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
173	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>		2		H	F	H	1	H	
174	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>			H						
175	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			H			F			
176	Common Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>									2
177	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>						1			
178	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	2	F	F	F	M	M	M	M	
179	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		2	3						
180	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		F	F		1	F	F	F	2
181	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>									6
182	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	F	F	M	M	M	M	F	F	F
183	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	F	M	M	F	F	F	F		
184	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	F	M	F	F	F	F	F	F	
185	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	2	F	F			1			2
186	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				2					
187	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	M	F	M	M	M	M	M	M	
188	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	F	F		M					

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
189	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		M	M	M	M	M	M	M	
190	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		F	F	F		F	F	F	
191	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		F	F		H	F	F		F
192	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		F	F			F	H		
193	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>									1
194	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		M	F	F	F		F	F	
195	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	1	2			H	H	1	1	
196	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		6	1			10	20	1	
197	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>									30
198	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	F	F	F		1		20	30	
199	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			F						
200	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>						1			
201	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>		F	F						

## Mammals (S = signs; D = dead)

1	Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>								S	
2	Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>		X							
3	Nathusius' Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>		X							
4	Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>		X							
5	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>									D
6	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>								2	
7	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>							2		
8	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>		1				1		1	

## Herptiles (H = heard)

Green Toad, *Bufo viridis*Balkan Wall Lizard, *Podarcis taurica*Hermann's Tortoise, *Testudo heermanni*Dice Snake, *Natrix tessellata*Kotschy's Gecko, *Cyrtopodion kotschy*Marsh Frog, *Rana ribibunda*Grass Snake, *Natrix natrix*Common Tree Frog (H), *Hyla arborea*Erhard's Wall Lizard, *Podarcis erhardii*European Pond Terrapin, *Emys orbicularis*

## Insects & other invertebrates recorded

Migrant Spreadwing, *Lestes barbarus*  
 Holly Blue, *Celastrina argiolus*  
 Migrant Hawker, *Aeshna mixta*  
 Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*  
 Scarlet Darter, *Crocothemis erythraea*  
 Cardinal, *Argynnis pandora*  
 Red-winged Grasshopper, *Oedipoda germanica*  
 Great Banded Grayling, *Brintesia circe*  
 White-fronted Wart-biter, *Decticus albifrons*  
 Wall Brown, *Lasiommata megera*  
 Large White, *Pieris brassica*  
 Humming-bird Hawk-moth, *Macroglossum stellatum*  
 Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*  
 Wasp Spider, *Argiope bruennichi*

Lang's Short-tailed Blue, *Peptotes pirithous*  
 Blue-eyed Hawker, *Aeshna affinis*  
 Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*  
 Vagrant Emperor, *Anax ephippiger*  
 Comma, *Polygonum c-album*  
 Southern Darter, *Sympetrum meridionale*  
 Spotted Fritillary, *Melitaea didyma*  
 Slant-faced Grasshopper, *Acrida ungarica*  
 Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*  
 Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*  
 Marbled Skipper, *Carcharodus lavatherae*  
 Eastern Bath White, *Pontia edusa*  
 Hornet, *Vespa crabro*  
 Lesser Fiery Copper, *Lycaena thersamon*

Blue-tailed Damselfly, *Ischnura elegans*  
 Brown Argus, *Aricia agestis*  
 Lesser Emperor, *Anax Parthenope*  
 Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*  
 Red-veined Darter, *Sympetrum fonscolombii*  
 Eastern Knapweed Fritillary, *Melitaea telona*  
 Blue-winged Grasshopper, *Oedipoda caerulea*  
 Meadow Brown, *Maniola jurtina*  
 Praying Mantis, *Mantis religiosa*  
 Mallow Skipper, *Carcharodus alceae*  
 Small White, *Artogeia rapae*  
 Spurge Hawk-moth, *Hyles euphorbiae*  
 Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*  
 Roman Snail, *Helix pomatia*

## Plants recorded

Squirting Cucumber, *Ecballium elaterium*  
 Smoke Bush, *Cotinus coggyria*  
 Field Eryngo, *Eryngium campestre*  
 Flowering Rush, *Butomus umbellatus*

Christ's/Jerusalem Thorn, *Paliurus spina-christi*  
 Yellow-Star-thistle, *Centaurea solstitialis*  
 Sea Holly, *Eryngium maritimum*

Chickory, *Cichorium intybus*  
 Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*  
 Globe Thistle, *Echinops ritro*

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