

Bulgaria in Autumn

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 - 20 September 2009



Dalmatian Pelican (Dave Smallshire)



Red-breasted Flycatcher (Dave Smallshire)



Swallowtail (Dave Smallshire)



Curlew Sandpiper (Assen Ignatov)

Report by Dave Smallshire
Images courtesy of Assen Ignatov and 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 reduced the extent of visible migration, but the amazing total of 28 wader species seen illustrates the importance of the coastal wetlands for this group, which included eastern specialities such as Broad-billed and Marsh Sandpipers, and a vagrant Pectoral Sandpiper. Raptors included Eastern Imperial and Golden Eagles in the Eastern Rhodope, and migrant Levant Sparrowhawk, Lesser Spotted Eagle and Red-footed Falcon near the coast. British rarities like Black Stork, Bee-eater, Red-backed Shrike and Red-breasted Flycatcher were frequently encountered, but local specialities such as Pygmy Cormorant, Dalmatian Pelican, Ferruginous Duck and Pied Wheatear were also seen. Amongst other memorable sightings were a Black Woodpecker and multiple sightings of Nutcrackers at Mount Vitosha on the final morning. A total of 191 species of birds were encountered, plus a good variety of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

Day 1

Saturday 10th September

London to Krumovgrad

The morning flight from Heathrow arrived at Sofia in the early afternoon, more or less on time. We soon found Assen and Margaret, who had spent a couple of days in Sofia. Our driver, Elias, quickly loaded up the coach, Assen handed out welcome bottles of water, and soon we were on our way out of the city, heading for Krumovgrad in the Eastern Rhodope. The highlights en route were about 10 Pygmy Cormorants as we crossed a river close to a recently occupied nesting site for the species. A few White Storks were the only ones of the trip, most having departed earlier. Unfortunately only Assen, sitting at the front, caught sight of a Wildcat that ran across the road as we approached Krumovgrad. After checking in to our rooms, we soon reconvened for our first Bulgarian dinner, cool beer and local wine.

Day 2

Sunday 11th September

Arda Valley

As with the previous day, today was mainly cloudy, with weak sun at times and even a few spots of rain. The rain was rather surprising, given the parched state of the countryside: many trees were going brown and water bodies had little, if any, water. After breakfast we headed north towards Potochnica, but stopped en route at a bridge over the River Krumovitsa, which held only discontinuous patches of water. Most surprisingly, Ian drew our attention to a Black Woodpecker in flight over the road. Beyond Potochnica we walked to a viewing area discretely overlooking a vulture feeding station, finding an obliging migrant Wood Warbler on the way. More than 20 Griffon Vultures began circling as the morning warmed up, as did groups of Ravens. Overhead, the first of several Black Storks and Marsh Harriers flew over, with smaller numbers of Honey Buzzard, Peregrine and Hobby, while several flocks of Bee-eaters passed over too. It was nice to see a few Fallow Deer, which were probably finding it hard to find greenery to eat, and several Red-veined Darters. As we returned to the coach, some had fleeting views of an Egyptian Vulture, but the highlight for many was an immature Golden Eagle sitting on a pylon. After a while it took off and soared up to meet a second bird, the two then giving us a breathtaking aerial display.

We stopped for a picnic lunch by a stream near Studen Kladenetz, where a young Balkan Whip Snake was found dead on the road and a livelier young Balkan Green Lizard (unstriped form) ran across the rocks below the bridge. During a walk after lunch we heard an Eastern Bonelli's Warbler singing, but had better luck seeing a young Black-eared Wheatear, Syrian Woodpecker, Cirl Bunting, more Fallow Deer and finally a group of Chukars.

We spent the rest of the afternoon in the rocky surroundings of Dolna Kula valley, which proved rather disappointing, though we did see a few more Black Storks, Hobby, Peregrine and a skyline Red Fox, but the resident Rock Nuthatches eluded us.

Day 3

Monday 12th September

Krumovgrad to Pomorie

Today was sunny and set the scene for nearly all of the remainder of the tour, with temperatures in the upper 20's Celsius. After an early breakfast, we left Krumovgrad at 8am and made our way beyond Studen Kladenatz to Madjarovo, where we stopped above the Arda River. As we walked towards the crags where vultures bred at Kovan Kaya, Dave found gaudy Spurge Hawk-moth caterpillars at the roadside, and then Assen identified strange calls as made by young Golden Jackals. He had never heard them calling in daylight and we scanned the hillside keenly for a glimpse. What seems likely to have been a jackal was seen briefly, but eventually we had to move on. A male Blue Rock Thrush appeared on the rocks, swiftly followed by a scaly immature, while a cave provided some welcome relief from the heat of the morning, plus a Common Toad and an Agile Frog. Griffon Vultures, Booted Eagle, Hobby and Peregrine made appearances over the towering cliffs above us, where Crag Martins swarmed like flies. Chukar and Rock Nuthatch called but refused to show themselves.

We had lunch at a picnic table set in woodland. Some saw a Black Woodpecker fly over, while other sightings as lunch was being prepared included Cardinal and Brown Argus butterflies and a congregation of Firebugs. Moving on further towards the coast, we stopped near Topolovgrad in an area renowned for its breeding Eastern Imperial Eagles. Here we found a pair of Long-legged Buzzards and finally a juvenile eagle flew over.

As we approached the coast, we started to add more new species from the bus, but it was late and we pushed on to our hotel at Pomorie. After checking in, there was just about time for those with a sea view to scan the Black Sea, where at least five Arctic Skuas chased some of the many Sandwich Terns feeding offshore.

Day 4

Tuesday 13th 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 Mediterranean), Coot, Great Crested, Little and Black-necked Grebes, and a variety of dabbling ducks including several Garganey. A Black Tern was feeding delicately over the lagoon, while on the muddy shoreline we had good views of Kentish and Little Ringed Plovers, Wood Sandpiper, Dunlin and best of all Curlew Sandpiper which had clearly had a good breeding season.

After breakfast, we drove back to Burgas to view Vaya (Burgas) Lake, but even before we got there we saw flocks of Dalmatian and White Pelicans circling southwards over the city. At the lake, large numbers of White Pelicans were arriving to join hundreds of others, while a few Dalmatian Pelicans flew right overhead for comparison. As well as masses of Coots and fewer Pochard, our only Squacco Heron of the trip landed on floating algae just offshore, next to some of the many Whiskered Terns fishing over the lake. In the shallows a tiny Dice Snake was spotted with a fish in its mouth. We then checked the southern part of Mandra Lake where we found Garganey, Ferruginous Duck, and Blue-eyed and Migrant Hawker dragonflies. And then a flurry of passing raptors included Lesser Spotted Eagle, Honey Buzzard and a fine male Levant Sparrowhawk. In lower airspace, the only Alpine Swift of the trip flew over, and a local White-tailed Eagle tussled with an Osprey.

We had our picnic lunch at a local restaurant, taking advantage of the cool drinks that were available, after which we walked to a hill overlooking a bird-rich bay where a river enters the lake. Some 50 Bee-eaters were feeding actively from wires near the hilltop, accompanied by Sand Martins and other hirundines. From the top we could see Spoonbill, Ruff, Little Gull, two White-winged Black Terns and two Caspian Terns, while a Southern Darter heavily laden with mites and a pristine Swallowtail butterfly were viewed at much closer range.

We returned through Burgas to a viewpoint on the edge of the southern part of Atanassovo (Atanasovsko) Lake, where we saw some Dalmatian Pelicans, and added several waders to our list including Avocet and Spotted Redshank. Back at the hotel, most of us spent half-an-hour looking at the sea. There was less activity than the previous evening, but a Red-necked Grebe and two Arctic Skuas were found, while Crested Larks foraged on the sand beneath the beach umbrellas.

Day 5

Wednesday 14th September

Pomorie-Burgas Area

A second pre-breakfast walk to the Salt Museum revealed similar birds to the first, the highlight being an Osprey which plunged several times but failed to catch its breakfast. We had more success with our breakfast, after which a short drive took us to the north-eastern corner of Atanasovsko Lake, where researchers had mist nets up for bird ringing. An Osprey gave us good views while we were being shown Common Whitethroat, Reed Warbler and Sedge Warbler in the hand. We flushed a Purple Heron as we crossed a drain to view the lake, where we had distant views of pelicans and other waterfowl. A few Gadwall flew around and Penduline Tits called nearby. Returning via the mist net, we discovered that a Lesser Whitethroat had been caught, making a fourth species seen in the hand.

For our lunch we revisited the western side of the southern part of Atanasovsko Lake, where we had noticed a shady picnic table the previous day. We had good views of both pelican species on the lake and flying over. Some of us had ice creams and/or coffee at a nearby filling station, after which Dave went to investigate a bird glimpsed in the bushes. Failing to find it, however, he did spot a juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper in the saltmarsh at the edge of the lagoon. Three blasts on his whistle soon had the rest of the group watching it, although views got progressively worse as it walked into taller *Salicornia* and finally disappeared. This proved to be the sixth Bulgarian record of this American vagrant, the previous four all being around this date and at Black Sea coastal wetlands. Rather overshadowed were a flock of about 45 Black-tailed Godwits and several Ruff.

We spent the rest of the afternoon watching a great variety of waders from the western edge of Pomorie Lake. Some of the group saw a Hoopoe on the walk to the lake, while others saw Penduline Tits in the reeds. At the lake, pride of place amongst the 20 wader species present went to a juvenile Broad-billed Sandpiper and a Marsh Sandpiper with an injured leg. Our only Oystercatchers and Black-winged Stilt of the trip were somewhat less exciting, but there was a good supporting cast of Ringed, Little Ringed and Kentish Plovers, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Greenshank and Wood Sandpiper. A group of Black Terns fed delicately over the lake, while even smaller Little Terns buzzed around busily.

Day 6

Thursday 15th September

Pomorie to Kavarna

Before breakfast we watched a Slender-billed Gull feeding with Black-headed Gulls in the salt lagoon, showing nicely pink in the early morning sun. Then we walked north from the hotel, along the road between the lake and the sea, finding a couple of Red-breasted Flycatchers. Casualties on the road included a Horned Viper and a probable Nathusius' Pipistrelle bat. A brief look at the sea on returning to the hotel revealed a fine Black-throated Diver in breeding plumage that Assen spotted landing offshore, while Margaret saw four Sanderlings on the beach before walkers disturbed them.

After loading our luggage, we set off for the western side of Pomorie Lake where, unfortunately, we found most of the freshwater lagoons completely dry. Red-throated and Tawny Pipits called as they flew over, while Penduline Tits were also noisy but took a while to pin them down ... in flight. At the first lagoon holding water we watched two Caspian Terns fly by and then another two. We spent some time viewing the muddy reed fringe and were rewarded with glimpses of Water Rails and a Spotted Crake, plus Great Reed, Reed, Sedge and Cetti's Warblers. After some of the group had started back to the coach, a Temminck's Stint flew in with a few waders. The first back to the coach saw two Red-footed Falcons flying over.

Heading north over what is, in effect, the eastern end of the Balkan Mountains (Stara Planina), we had a splendid lunch in a restaurant in the village of Goritza, finding a Praying Mantis on a tree next to the coach. It began to thunder as we made our way to oak woodland nearby, then to rain lightly as we began our walk. September can be quiet in woodland, but we succeeded in finding Short-toed Treecreeper, Nuthatch, Large Wall Brown butterfly and several tiny Snake-eyed Skinks. Turning over a dead Mole, we discovered a red-and-black Sexton Beetle, a species instrumental in burying dead animals and helping to decompose them. But the rain eventually forced a retreat to the coach, where we learned that Assen had seen a Middle Spotted Woodpecker flying across the road!

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 were out of luck with the owl, though some of the group saw Red-breasted Flycatcher and Hawfinch as we waited. Amazingly, a juvenile Levant Sparrowhawk was spotted in a tree near the cliff-top, telescope views revealing the distinctive patterning on its underparts. We continued the short distance to our next destination; the small family-run Unza Haus hotel in Kavarna. After freshening up, we met at the bar in the garden for drinks, where a Black Redstart called as dusk fell. The ample dinner was enhanced by samples of Bulgarian wine and beer, and some were tempted to try other, home-made, alcoholic beverages.

Day 7

Friday 16th September

Durankulak and Shabla Area

Before breakfast, we watched from in front of the hotel, which overlooked a wooded valley going down to the harbour. Syrian Woodpecker and two Black Redstarts put in appearances, but Hawfinches flying over proved rather frustrating for those hoping for better views. After breakfast, we headed north towards the Romanian border. We checked all the birds on roadside wires and stopped to have a good look at three Red-footed Falcons: adult male, female and a juvenile, sitting beautifully for us to compare their plumages. Reaching our destination, Durankulak Lake, we dallied in the car park for a while, such was the interest there. Red-breasted Flycatcher was our main target, though a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker called. We walked along a path between the sand dunes and the reeds marking the edge of the lake. Two Penduline Tits sat on a bush for all to see and a Purple Heron appeared twice, but views of the lake were obscured by tall reeds. Booted Eagle and Hobby were also seen, while out to sea an Osprey was fishing. Groups of Sanderlings chased the waves in and out on the beach, where more Spurge Hawk-moth caterpillars were found. We had better views of Red-breasted Flycatcher as we walked through the open wooded area of the campsite, before having our picnic lunch at the restaurant tables.

We then headed back to the coastal Shabla Tuzla Lake, where Red-breasted Flycatchers were again in evidence. The water level was very low, with a very restricted area of open water crowded with dabbling ducks and waders; the latter including Grey Plover, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and Ruff. An Osprey came in for a look, but decided against a dip in the shallow water! Driving back further towards Kavarna, we stopped to check steppe grassland at Vailata, finding a few Shags on the rocks and feather remains of a Nightjar near the road. We spent the final hours of daylight in the Bolata Valley. Humming-bird Hawk-moths flew around the roadside flowers as we walked up the valley, where we saw our only Song Thrush, Blackcap and Greenfinch of the trip. More interesting were various warblers, Red-breasted Flycatchers and a Redstart, which led to us seeing a Red Squirrel running across the rocks. Odd calls from a woodpecker proved to come from a Grey-headed Woodpecker, though views were fleeting. We had much better views of a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker soon afterwards. As the sun went down, groups of White and Yellow Wagtails came into the reedbeds to roost. All the time we had been checking the rocks and certain big trees for roosting Eagle Owls, but sadly to no avail. Before and after dinner, we were amused by an enormous Green Toad in the hotel garden.

Day 8

Saturday 17th September

Cape Kaliakra and transfer to Sofia

After breakfast, we loaded our luggage into the coach and then drove a short distance to walk across a remnant of steppe grassland at Bolgarevo. We caught distant glimpses of Calandra Lark, our target bird, as we walked towards some ploughed land, and Heather was delighted to spot a pair of Hoopoes which distracted us for a while. Tawny Pipits and then a Whinchat pretended to be one of the many Red-backed Shrikes perched on the tall plant stems. Short-toed Larks flew by and drew us again towards the ploughed area, where we saw a Northern Wheatear and Skylarks. A group of Bee-eaters delighted us as they swooped around calling and catching insects. After more glimpses of Calandra Larks, eventually a flock of about 30 flew up and straight past us. On our return to the coach, we diverted in the direction of Stone-curlew calls heard earlier and were rewarded with views of at least four birds.

Our final venue for the morning was Cape Kaliakra, where we were soon watching a young Pied Wheatear just inside the ancient walls. Shags of the local Black Sea race sat on rocks below us, and looking out hopefully from the very end we all saw a Bottlenose Dolphin surfacing offshore; in fact it was even visible under the water and once leapt right out, much to our delight. Sparrowhawk and Levant Sparrowhawk were both seen as we returned to the coach.

After picking up a packed lunch from Kosta as we drove through Kavarna, we headed for Varna Airport, where the afternoon flight took us to Sofia. We were then transported to the comfortable Hotel Jasmin on the outskirts of the city. We had plenty of time to relax and savour the food and drink, and to wonder whether our driver Elias would make it to Sofia in time to collect us in the morning.

Day 9

Sunday 18th September

Mount Vitosha and return to London

We needn't have worried for there was Elias, ready to load our bags! At 8am we set off up to the tree line on Mount Vitosha, taking the winding, cobbled road to the ski centre at Aleko. The temperature had fallen from 20 to 15°C as we ascended, but the sun was quickly warming the forest. As we got out of the coach, Crossbills called from the treetops and nearby a Firecrest sang, coming down to give us good views. Redstart and Black Redstart were seen on boulders, while both Red Squirrel and Red Fox crossed the road below us. We didn't have long to wait before the star bird, Nutcracker, called and then appeared close by. In fact Nutcrackers called regularly throughout our stay here and showed frequently, maybe a dozen in all. Walking on through the forest, we were reminded of birds at home: Wren, Robin, Dunnock and Willow Tit (of the Alpine race), the last looking rather out of place in conifers. A Grey-headed Woodpecker was heard in the distance and then a Black Woodpecker rather closer. Soon the enormous, highly distinctive shape of a Black Woodpecker came bounding over us and landed in the top of a nearby conifer: excellent! Goldcrest, Coal Tit and Treecreeper were seen on the way back, plus glimpses of a young Ring Ouzel that we'd heard calling earlier. This final burst of new birds had brought the trip list up to a very creditable 191 species.

Assen bought sandwiches for us as we returned to Sofia airport, where we said goodbye to him and Elias and thanked them for their expert guiding and driving, respectively. After minimal formalities, we had coffees, went through the checklist and then boarded our 2.20pm British Airways flight back to London. We arrived about 20 minutes early 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 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																	
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18									
1	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>							1											
2	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				M	M	F												
3	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>				1	2	1												
4	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>				F	40	25	F											
5	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				M	M	M	H											
6	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		6	M	M	M	M	M	M										
7	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>									F	20								
8	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	10		F	M	M	M	1											
9	White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				000s	100													
10	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>				00s	50+													
11	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				1														
12	Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1	1	1	F	M	F	1											
13	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1	5	F	M	M	F												
14	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	F	12	F	M	M	F												
15	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					1		1											
16	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				6	20	F												
17	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	1			3														
18	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	1	12	F	F														
19	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			1	M	M	M	F											
20	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			F	M	F	F	2											
21	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			F	M	M	M	F											
22	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>					4	8	2											
23	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>					1		2											
24	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				F	M	M	M											
25	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>				F	F		2											
26	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				F	F	F												
27	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				F	F	F	F											
28	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				F	F													
29	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				2														
30	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>		1	2															
31	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		30	20															
32	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		1		1	2		3											
33	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1	2	1	F			1											
34	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	2	6		F	F	F	F	F										
35	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		2	1	F	1	1	1	2	2									
36	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>				1		1	6											
37	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	M	F	F	F	1	F	F											
38	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>			2															
39	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		F		1		1												
40	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>			1	2			1											
41	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				1														
42	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		2																
43	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>			1															
44	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>				20														
45	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		3	1															
46	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		2	1					1										
47	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F									

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
48	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>							2	3		
49	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>		5	H							
50	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>							1			
51	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>						H	3	H		
52	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				F				F		
53	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				000s	000s	M				
54	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>						2				
55	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			F			1				
56	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			F	F	F					
57	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>									4	
58	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				1	30	F	F			
59	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				F	F	F	M			
60	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>				F	30	F				
61	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					25	H	5			
62	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>					10	1				
63	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>					1					
64	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>						4	60			
65	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				M	M	M	M			
66	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				M	M	F	F			
67	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					6		10			
68	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>						1				
69	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>					1					
70	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				15	8		10			
71	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					50		2			
72	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				2	4					
73	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				4	H					
74	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				50	M	F				
75	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatalis</i>					1					
76	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				F	25	F				
77	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				F	F	F	F			
78	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				1						
79	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				1	1	1				
80	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				2	5					
81	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>					2	1	F			
82	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			5	2						
83	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>			M	M	M	M	M			
84	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>			1	12	F		5			
85	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>			F	F	F	F	M	F		
86	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>				1		1				
87	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	M		M	M	M	M	M	M		
88	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			2						1	
89	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>				1	5					
90	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			M	M	M	M	F	F		
91	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			F	M	M	M				
92	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>				2		4				
93	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>			2	1	8	1	1			
94	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				2						
95	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>				M						
96	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
97	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	F	F	1	F	1		F	1	1	
98	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	F	F	F	F	F	F	M	F	F	

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
99	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	30		1	1			2	F	F	
100	Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto tyto</i>			H							
101	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		1						3	H	
102	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		H	H							
103	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	F	1								
104	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>				2			2		F	
105	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>				1						
106	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		3	1	2	3	1	1			
107	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>					1				3	
108	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	1	100	F	50				30	30	
109	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		1	1							1
110	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>								1		H
111	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		F	F				1			
112	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>		1	F	H			1	4	1	
113	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1	1	1			1			H
114	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>							1			
115	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>								1	H	
116	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>										25
117	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			1	3			2			F
118	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>										3
119	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>										30
120	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				30	F			1		
121	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		F	M							
122	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	
123	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	F
124	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	2	F	F	1	F	1	F		10	
125	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		H	H				H		1	
126	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>							1			
127	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>							2		10	
128	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		F	F	M	M	M	M	M		
129	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		F	1				H		4	1
130	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i> (incl. <i>feldegg</i>)			1	F	F	F	F	M	M	
131	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>										F
132	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>										F
133	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1	1							1
134	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>			1				1			
135	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>					2				1	
136	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		1							1	2
137	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					1			1		1
138	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		1	2					3	1	
139	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>		1								
140	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>									1	
141	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			2							
142	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		F	F				H	F	F	F
143	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>										1
144	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>								F		
145	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>										8
146	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>					2	2	H			
147	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					2	F	F			
148	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>						2				
149	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					1	2				

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			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
150	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>					1		1		
151	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		H		F	F	H	F		
152	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>							F		
153	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		1							
154	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		F	F	F		F	F	3	F
155	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					1			1	F
156	Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>		H							
157	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>									2
158	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>									F
159	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		F	F	1	F	1	F		
160	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				1		4	10	H	
161	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			H						
162	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					4	2	2		
163	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>									F
164	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		F	F	F	H		F	F	F
165	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			1	1	F	F	F		
166	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>									4
167	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>									H
168	Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>			H						
169	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>						1			
170	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>									1
171	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>						2			
172	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	F	F	F	2	F	F	F	M	
173	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
174	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>									12
175	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
176	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	
177	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	M	M	M	F	F	F	F	F	
178	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		20	F	2					
179	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	F	F	F	M	M	M	M	M	
180	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	H		F			H			
181	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		F	F	M	M	M	M	M	F
182	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			1	1	5		F	F	
183	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		F	F	F		1	F	F	30
184	Common Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>		1							
185	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		F		F	F	F	F		
186	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>							F		
187	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>									2
188	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>			1			F	8	F	
189	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>									30
190	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>							10	F	
191	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>		F	F						

Mammals (D = dead)

1	Eastern Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>	D		D	D		D			
2	Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>						D			
3	Nathusius' Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>						D			
4	Bat sp.	<i>Chiroptera sp.</i>		F		1					
5	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>			H						
6	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		1				D	D		1
7	Wildcat	<i>Felis sylvestris</i>	1								

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8	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>									1	
9	Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>		F								
10	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			2							
11	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>							1			1
12	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>			1						1	

Herptiles (D = Dead; H = heard)

Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>
Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>	Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis taurica</i>
Eastern Tree Frog (H)	<i>Hyla orientalis</i>	Erhard's Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis erhardii</i>
Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>	Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i>
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ribibundus</i>	Glass Lizard	<i>Pseudopus apodus</i>
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbiculais</i>	Caspian Whip Snake	<i>Dolichoplis caspius</i>
Kotschy's Gecko	<i>Cyrtopodion kotschy</i>	Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>	Horn-nosed Viper (D)	<i>Vipera ammodytes</i>

Insects

Migrant Spreadwing	<i>Lestes barbarus</i>	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Peptotes pirithous</i>
Blue-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna affinis</i>	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Southern Darter	<i>Sympetrum meridionale</i>	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>
Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Slant-faced Grasshopper	<i>Acrida ungarica</i>	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
White-fronted Wart-biter	<i>Decticus albifrons</i>	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Cricket sp. (H)	<i>Acheta sp.</i>	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>
Praying Mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatum</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassica</i>	Spurge Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>
Wood White sp.	<i>Leptidea sp.</i>	Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	A Sand Wasp	<i>Ammophila sp.</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	A Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia sp.</i>
Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>	A Burying or Sexton Beetle	<i>Nicrophorus sp.</i>

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Black Tern (Aspen Ignatov)



Southern Darter (Dave Smallshire)