

Bulgaria in Autumn

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 – 15 September 2019



Dalmatian Pelican by Dave Smallshire



Pied Wheatear by Dave Smallshire



Broad-billed Sandpiper by Dave Smallshire



Crested Lark by John Jasinski

Report by Dave Smallshire
Images by Dave Smallshire and John Jasinski



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With 14 Naturetrek clients

Summary

Hot and sunny 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 rather settled weather reduced the extent of visible migration, but the amazing total of 27 wader species seen illustrates well the importance of the coastal wetlands for this group, which included eastern specialities such as Broad-billed and Marsh Sandpipers. Raptors included Eastern Imperial Eagles in the Eastern Rhodope, and migrant Spotted and Lesser Spotted Eagles and Red-footed Falcons near the coast. British rarities like Black Storks, Bee-eaters, Red-backed Shrikes and Red-breasted Flycatchers were frequently encountered, but local specialities such as Pygmy Cormorant, Dalmatian and White Pelicans, Ruddy Shelduck, Ferruginous Duck, Syrian Woodpecker, Sombre Tit, Western Rock Nuthatch and Pied, Eastern Black-eared and Isabelline Wheatears were also seen. Amongst other memorable sightings were Little Bitterns, Little Crakes, Collared Pratincoles, Slender-billed Gulls, Caspian Terns, Middle Spotted Woodpeckers, Penduline Tits, Hawfinches and good numbers of Nutcrackers at Mount Vitoshka on the final morning. A total of 196 species of birds was encountered, plus a good variety of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

Day 1

Saturday 7th September

London to Krumovgrad

Despite a slightly late take-off, the morning flight from Heathrow arrived at Sofia on time in the early afternoon. We soon found Dancho and our driver, who quickly loaded up the minibus. Dancho handed out welcome bottles of water and snacks and soon we were on our way out of the city, heading for Krumovgrad in the Eastern Rhodope. The highlights en route were a few Short-toed and Lesser Spotted Eagles, Marsh Harriers, Levant Sparrowhawk, Long-legged Buzzard, Little Owl (the first of several on rooftops), Rollers, Red-rumped Swallows and small groups of Hawfinches. After checking in to our rooms, we soon reconvened for our first Bulgarian dinner, cool beer and local wine.

Day 2

Sunday 8th September

Arda Valley

Most of the group went for a pre-breakfast birding stroll to the Krumovitsa River on the edge of town, where Kingfishers and Crag Martins were active around the bridge, Night Herons flew away and a Hobby was perched up. We also saw a large flock of Bee-eaters overhead and Red-backed Shrikes, two species that were especially noticeable throughout the following week. A few Pallid Swifts were overhead as we returned for breakfast. Later we headed north towards Potochnica, via a stop on a bridge over the Krumovitsa River. We drove on, passing the only Glossy Ibis of the trip at a tiny reservoir, to a viewpoint above Potochnica that overlooked a vulture feeding station. Griffon Vultures sitting rocks began to take to the air as thermals developed in the morning heat, joined for a while by two Egyptian Vultures, as did groups of Ravens. Overhead, the first of several Black Storks, Honey Buzzard and Goshawk were seen, while a flock of Bee-eaters foraged from overhead cables. The bushes held Sombre Tit, Redstart, lots of Spotted Flycatchers and well-hidden Fallow Deer. Purple Hairstreaks gave us

good views as they perched in trackside bushes, while Lesser Fiery Copper and Adonis and Chapman's Blues added colour to the otherwise parched ground flora.

Dancho saw a Dipper while our picnic lunch was being prepared beside a shady stream at Studen Kladenetz, where the rest of the group found Southern White Admiral and Sooty Copper nearby. A short stop at spectacular columnar basalt formations produced Eastern Willow Spreadwing, Southern Skimmer, Yellow-bellied Toad and a local speciality, Krueper's Small White butterfly, the food-plant of which grows on the rocks. Our final destination for the day was the adjacent Dolna Kula valley, where the first bird we saw was an immature Eastern Black-eared Wheatear. Chukar called, but could not be found, while the resident Rock Nuthatches also eluded us – a view of their old nest had to suffice instead. Booted Eagle, Black Storks and a single White Stork, were seen, most of the last species having departed a week or two earlier. Two Blue Rock Thrushes on the rocks were later replaced by two or three Eastern Black-eared Wheatears. As we returned to the minibus, a pair of Sombre Tits and Syrian Woodpecker appeared: a nice end to an excellent day!

Day 3

Monday 9th September

Krumovgrad to Pomorie

Today was again sunny, with temperatures in the high 20s Celsius. After an early breakfast, we left Krumovgrad at 8am and made our way beyond Studen Kladenets to crags near Madjarovo, above the Arda River. A Blue Rock Thrush appeared briefly, Chukar called and finally we all had good views of Western Rock Nuthatch. As we looked skywards at Griffon Vultures taking to the thermals, Honey Buzzard, Booted and Golden Eagles and Alpine Swifts were spotted. Moving away from the mountains, we stopped to view a reservoir – which was dry! Along the roadside we found a Cirl Bunting, and a Booted Eagle flew overhead.

Driving on beyond Svilengrad, we stopped for lunch at a vantage point near Levka, from where we watched Eastern Imperial Eagles soaring around. Several migrant Whinchats were perched on tall plants in the adjacent field and, just as we were about to leave, Dave spotted a Mediterranean Mantis right where we had been standing for the last hour! Nearby was a re-establishment site for Lesser Kestrel, where Dancho explained how the species had been lost as a breeding species in Bulgaria, but had recolonised traditional nest-sites in farm buildings. Dozens of nestboxes and nest holes had been provided for the birds and a very convincing pairs of decoys installed, but sadly, the real things had left the area and migrated recently. We had to make do with a group of Crested Larks instead. A comfort stop later in the afternoon produced a Lesser Spotted Eagle. As we approached the coast, we started to add more new species from the bus, but time was getting on and we pushed on to our splendid hotel at Pomorie. After checking in, there was time to look the Black Sea, but a persistent northeast wind made for a choppy sea throughout our stay on the coast, and sadly, seawatching proved somewhat unrewarding.

Day 4

Tuesday 10th September

Pomorie-Burgas Area

The salt pans were full of birds at Pomorie Salt Museum before breakfast. We quickly found a juvenile Broad-billed Sandpiper feeding close to us on the mud with Curlew Sandpipers and Dunlins, while later a Marsh Sandpiper appeared. Other waders included Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers, Wood and Green Sandpipers,

Greenshanks and Turnstone. Large numbers of Pygmy and Great Cormorants perched on the rows of wooden posts, alongside hundreds of noisy Sandwich Terns. This spectacle was enhanced by hundreds of gulls (including Mediterranean and Little), Coots, Little Grebes and a variety of dabbling ducks, including Garganey, Pintail and Shoveler. After breakfast, we drove back towards Burgas to view the saltpans near the causeway across Lake Atanasovsko. Five young Greater Flamingos sat asleep nearby, while waders here included Kentish Plover, Little Stint and Spotted Redshank and gulls included a dozen Slender-billed as well as Little and Mediterranean. A dozen Spoonbills flew over us, preceded by their shadows! To the west, raptors began to appear: the star was a Greater Spotted Eagle and the supporting cast included Lesser Spotted Eagles and Long-legged Buzzards; a distant ring-tailed harrier was, surprisingly, the only one of the trip. Next stop was Vaya (Burgas) Lake, where we saw flocks of Dalmatian and White Pelicans, mostly the latter. We had distant views of Whiskered, Black and White-winged Terns, while Black-necked Grebe and Ferruginous Duck were also found.

We then checked a cut-off on the southern edge of Mandra Lake, finding two Squacco Herons, Garganey, seven Ferruginous Ducks and, skulking in the reedbed fringe, two juvenile Little Bitterns. Skywards there were one or two White-tailed Eagles, plus Short-toed and Booted Eagles, while on the roadside were the remains of a Wildcat, presumably a traffic casualty. We had our picnic lunch at a local restaurant, taking advantage of the cool drinks that were available, after which we viewed a bird-rich bay where a river enters the lake. From a viewpoint, we found no less than nine Caspian Terns and briefly a Gull-billed Tern and Caspian Gull with waterbirds that included a group of White Pelicans and two Ruddy Shelducks. A distant Osprey was also seen. Nearby, two juvenile Little Crakes were found feeding on floating vegetation among and beyond the emergent vegetation fringing an inlet channel. Returning back to Pomorie, we stopped at a viewpoint overlooking the southern part of Lake Atanasovsko, where there were small flocks of Dalmatian Pelicans and Avocets.

Day 5

Wednesday 11th September

Pomorie-Burgas Area

It was breezy again first thing as we took a pre-breakfast walk between the sea and Pomorie Lake, but we saw a couple of Red-necked Grebes bobbing among waves. We had good views of a Whimbrel on the beach, a Peregrine flew along the coast and as many as a dozen Penduline Tits spied us from the tops of the reeds. After breakfast, we drove to view the western side of Pomorie Lake, where 22 Collared Pratincoles were resting on offshore artificial nest platforms. Six Slender-billed Gulls and two Little Terns flew by, a Marsh Sandpiper was seen and passing raptors included several Honey Buzzards and Lesser Spotted Eagles. As we returned to the minibus, a large, venomous *Scolopendra* centipede crossed the track in front of us. A look at the lagoons around the salt works at the northern end of Pomorie Lake revealed 30 Spoonbills and a few Ruffs.

We had lunch by the viewing screen beside the southern part of Atanasovsko Lake, from where we could see 10 Curlews and a group of Dalmatian Pelicans. A Red-breasted Flycatcher and Redstart were in the bushes, while Southern Darters basked in sheltered spots. After lunch we headed for the north-eastern corner of Atanasovsko Lake, where ringers operate a regular mist-net site. We were shown the impressive ringing totals for this season, but unfortunately weren't able to see ringing in action because of the wind. Spanish Sparrows were hiding in bushes and we crossed a drain to view the lake and surrounding reedbeds. Dabbling ducks included groups of Wigeon and Gadwall, while distant terns proved to be Whiskered, Black and Little. Cetti's and Reed Warblers and Nightingale were located as we returned to the minibus. An ice-cream stop at a nearby fuel station led to the discovery of a group of Alpine Swifts overhead and a Kite, the identity of which was put down to Red on a

majority verdict. Our final location for the day proved profitable, although it required balancing on heaps of old tyres to look over a marshy area that was backed by short grassland. Green and Wood Sandpipers and four Snipe flew up from the wet area, where Yellow Wagtails included a smart Black-headed male and groups of Corn Buntings came down to drink and bathe. An Isabelline and several Northern Wheatears were found in the open areas, where a Souslik (ground squirrel) was also seen briefly.

Day 6

Thursday 12th September

Pomorie to Kavarna

A second pre-breakfast look around the Salt Museum proved less exciting than our earlier visit, although a Hoopoe flew by and a few Tree Sparrows were a welcome sight in the bushes. After breakfast we loaded our luggage and set off inland to look at Poroy Reservoir, where the water level was very low. We saw two Spoonbills, a Peregrine and the local speciality: a flock of 15 Ruddy Shelducks. A good selection of waders feeding on the expanse of mud and in shallow water included good numbers of Little Stints and Ruff, while four Black-tailed Godwits were new for our wader list. A walk around adjacent open grassland produced a Tawny Pipit and Slant-faced Grasshoppers, while a young Woodchat Shrike was identified retrospectively from photos and a Cardinal Fritillary was seen. Five Hawfinches flew over quickly, typical of the small numbers we had been seeing in previous days. As we gathered at the minibus, Dancho spotted a White Stork high above us.

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. September can be quiet in woodland, but in Goritza Forest we succeeded in finding Nuthatch and Middle Spotted Woodpeckers. A tiny Snake-eyed Skink wriggled across the track before disappearing into the leaf litter where they normally live. Beyond Varna we descended to the coast and spent a while in mature floodplain forest at Albena, finding another Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Short-toed Treecreepers, Red-breasted Flycatchers and a Red Squirrel, while Wrens and Robin lent an air of familiarity to the woodland.

Our final stop was in the hope of finding Eagle-Owl on the white cliffs at Topola. We were out of luck with the owl, but were greeted by three Red-footed Falcons catching insects in flight, along with a few Alpine Swifts and many House Martins. We continued the short distance to our destination, the small family-run Unza Haus hotel in Kavarna, where we were greeted warmly by Kosta. After freshening up at the hotel, we reconvened for drinks at the bar in the garden, before moving indoors for an ample dinner enhanced by flasks of locally made rakia.

Day 7

Friday 13th September

Durankulak and Shabla Area

Most of the group gathered in front of the hotel before breakfast to look over the wooded valley that went down to the harbour. The wind had turned more northerly and strengthened today, but Black Redstart and Golden Oriole put in appearances and Lesser Whitethroats and Sedge Warbler were located in bushes. However, the stars were 15 or more Hawfinches that gathered in the top of an Elm below us, giving great scope views. After breakfast, we headed north towards the Romanian border and Durankulak Lake. We made first for 'Big Island', the site of Europe's earliest stone building, dating back 7,500 years. Flocks of Corn Buntings and Turtle Doves caught our attention first, and then an Osprey and a covey of Grey Partridges. After crossing on a causeway

through the reeds, we saw archaeologists in action. In comparison, birds rather paled into insignificance, although we did see two Caspian Terns, a few warblers and Lang's Short-tailed Blue before returning to the minibus. A short drive took to the coast, where we found two Black-necked Grebes on the sea and groups of Sanderlings chasing the waves in and out on the beach. Dancho told us that the three Rooks flying north overhead were sure to be heading back over the Romanian border. A short walk between the coastal sand dunes and the reeds marking the edge of the lake proved frustrating in the wind, but we had nice views of Bee-eaters. In the sheltered areas around the car park and campsite we had good views of Red-backed Shrike, Squacco Heron, Wood and Green Sandpipers and plenty of Red-breasted Flycatchers, before having our picnic lunch at the restaurant tables. A Cardinal trapped behind the plastic windbreak provided us with unusually good views of this large fritillary.

We then headed back south to the coastal Shabla Tuzla Lake, where the water level was extremely low: not good for the ducks but there was a nice selection of passage waders, including Grey Plover. A Red Squirrel in an isolated bush next to our viewpoint was rather unexpected! A short distance inland lies another of the Shabla lakes, where we found Purple Heron and Dave spotted the first of two Tree Frogs. Driving back further towards Kavarna, we stopped first to look at a large group of Cormorants and Shags roosting on an offshore platform, then to check steppe grassland at Kamen Bryag, finding only a Northern Wheatear here. Finally, we looked at the cliffs in the Bolata Valley in the hope of finding Eagle-Owl, but again, in vain. We did, however, see several Sparrowhawks, one of which photos confirmed as a juvenile Levant, and Dancho spotted a male Pied Wheatear high on the crags.

Day 8

Saturday 14th September

Cape Kaliakra and transfer to Sofia

Once again, Hawfinches were very much in evidence during pre-breakfast scans from the hotel, with around 30 seen, again often in the top of a favoured Elm. A Golden Oriole finally perched at the top of a tree for all to see, albeit briefly. Our main venue for our last morning on the coast was Cape Kaliakra, where it was clear that good numbers of Red-backed Shrikes and Red-breasted Flycatchers were present and, continuing the 'red' theme, a Red-necked Grebe sat on the sea in the lee of the cliffs. Entering the archaeological site, we were greeted by three very obliging Pied Wheatears. More Red-breasted Flycatchers, Common Redstart and Hoopoe were in the garden of a weather station and about 25 Alpine Swifts flew overhead. Migrants were rather scarce, however, no doubt due to the continuing clear skies and tail wind. We weren't sure whether a Great Spotted Woodpecker fitted into the migrant category or not! Several new butterflies and Hummingbird Hawk-moths were also noted.

On the way back to Kavarna, we stopped to walk across a remnant of steppe grassland at Bolgarevo. As we disembarked, four Stone-curlews took flight. While we walked out to have a closer look at them, the first of several Tawny Pipits was spotted, but Skylarks were the only larks found. Whinchats were everywhere it seemed, while scanning through these and the inevitable Red-backed Shrikes on twigs and bushes, a young Lesser Grey Shrike was found. After a picnic lunch back at the hotel, we headed for Varna Airport for our afternoon flight to Sofia. We were transported from Sofia Airport to the comfortable Hotel Jasmin on the outskirts of the city. As we relaxed in the evening, we wondered whether our minibus driver would make it to Sofia in time to collect us in the morning.

Day 9

Sunday 15th September

Mount Vitosha and return to London

We needn't have worried, for there he was 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. It was a little chilly as we disembarked, but the sun was quickly warming the forest. A Firecrest gave us good views and it wasn't long before our main target here, Nutcracker, flew over – the first of several. We located several Willow Tits of the Alpine race feeding in tall trackside plants, while a juvenile and later a male Ring Ouzel were also of the Alpine race. After seeing or hearing occasional Crossbills, it was nice to see two lovely red males at close range near a little stream. Other birds also reminded us of home: Mistle and Song Thrushes, Wren, Robin, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Coal Tit, Nuthatch and Bullfinch were all added to our list. This final burst of new birds had brought the trip list up to a very creditable 196 species.

We stopped to buy sandwiches as we returned to Sofia airport, where we said goodbye to Dancho and the driver, and then to Mike and Elaine, who were staying on for a while in Sofia. Our 2.20pm British Airways flight back to London arrived a little early at Heathrow. We bade fond farewells after collecting our luggage, before we all headed off to our various destinations.

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Levant Sparrowhawk by John Jasinski

Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	September											
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
1	Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>		H	H									
2	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>									7			
3	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>									1			
4	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
5	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				80	150	✓						
6	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>				2		15+						
7	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				6	4							
8	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>				50	50	✓	✓					
9	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>					15							
10	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>				2	10							
11	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
12	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				1	2	1						
13	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓					
14	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓	1			1				
15	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				8								
16	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>			20		20+	10				25		
17	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				✓	2							
18	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓	✓	1	✓								
19	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2		
21	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
22	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
23	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>						H						
24	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>				2								
25	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				✓					4			
26	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓						
27	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				✓	✓							
28	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>						2				1		
29	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			✓	✓	✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
30	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>				2	2		2		
31	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>				5					
32	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>								4	
33	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>					8				
34	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				25	2				
35	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				2	6	2	3		
36	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>							1		
37	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				20	✓	✓	✓		
38	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				✓	✓	30	✓		
39	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>				6					
40	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					1				
41	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				2	10				
42	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						4			
43	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				1		1			
44	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				1	✓	20	✓		
45	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>				1					
46	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				2		✓			
47	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>							20		
48	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				20		✓	✓		
49	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				1		20	10		
50	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				1	4	3			
51	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				1	2	✓			
52	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				3	1	1	2		
53	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				✓	✓	✓	1		
54	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatalis</i>				1	1				
55	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				30	✓	20	10		
56	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				10	1	✓			
57	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				15	15	✓			
58	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>					22				
59	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>				12	6				
60	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
61	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				50+	50+	1	✓	20	

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
62	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>			1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
63	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				1					
64	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
65	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				✓	1	✓	5	✓	
66	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>				1					
67	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>				9			2		
68	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
69	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					7				
70	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				1	3				
71	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				2					
72	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>				2	4				
73	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		5	20+		1	1			
74	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		1				1			
75	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>			2	✓	✓	✓			
76	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>							✓	20	
77	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
78	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		1							
79	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				12	30	2			
80	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>				2					
81	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		2							
82	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				2			1		
83	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	50+	✓	✓		
84	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			6				1		
85	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			1	8	1				
86	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓			
87	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				✓	✓				
88	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>				50	120				
89	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				1			1		
90	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>		2							
91	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		1	1	1	4				1
92	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		30+	20						
93	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	2		1	1	✓	1	1		

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
94	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>	4		1	12	8	1			
95	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>				1					
96	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		1	3	1					
97	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>			2						
98	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			1						
99	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	1	?	2+	?	?	?	1		
100	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		6	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	1	1
101	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		1							
102	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓			20	20	15	20	1	
103	Harrier sp	<i>Circus sp</i>				1					
104	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>					1				
105	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				2					
106	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	1			2	✓				
107	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
108	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	1	1	2						
109	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		1		1	1	1	1	2	
110	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	2								
111	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		4	1	✓	✓		2		
112	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	200	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	50	
113	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>						3			
114	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>		2	1			1	H	2	
115	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1				1		1	
116	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		2	2			H		H	H
117	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	
117	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>						3			
119	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		1	1			1		1	
120	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>					1	1	1		
121	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
122	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>								1	
123	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>						1			
124	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			2	1	1		1	1	
125	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		1	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
126	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
127	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>									8
128	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓	100	✓	✓	✓		✓
129	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓						3		
130	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	25	✓	✓			
131	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	20	✓			1			
132	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>									✓
133	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>		4							
134	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>									4
135	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	H	2	✓		6	
136	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓	H	✓
137	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					12				
138	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>								2	
139	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	8	H	5				
140	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
141	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
142	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	✓	30	20						
143	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
145	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>					1				
146	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		✓	✓		1		✓	✓	✓
147	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>						H			2
148	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				1	1		1		
149	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					1				
150	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓		
151	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>			2				✓	1	
152	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		1						1	
153	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>									1
154	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>									3
155	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>						2			H
156	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>						2			H
157	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>			1						

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
158	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>							2			
159	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
160	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>										2
161	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	2	1	2	✓	H	✓	
162	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		2		1			3			1
163	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		3								1
164	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	
165	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H		H		2				✓
166	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		2			H					
167	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		2	H							
168	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				1	2	3	15	10+		
169	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>							1	2	✓	
170	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		1	1		1		1	2	1	
171	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		2	2							
172	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		2	✓		1		1	25		
173	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			2							
174	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		2	✓		4	1	1	✓		
175	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>		1			1					
176	Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca</i>		3								
177	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>							1	3		
178	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		1								
179	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
180	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
181	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>					1	✓	✓			
182	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>										3
183	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava (incl. feldegg)</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
184	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		3	1	2				1		
185	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
186	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>						1		6		
187	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		8	1	✓				3	2	
188	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	H		✓	
189	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	13	✓	✓	1		5	15+	30		

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
190	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>										6
191	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓			1		3		
192	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓					100	✓		
193	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>										4
194	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
195	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			1			30	2	✓		
196	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		✓	2							

Mammals (D = dead)

1	Eastern Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>				D						
2	Wildcat	<i>Felis sylvestris</i>				D						
3	Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>		3								
4	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			1			1	1			
5	European Sousek	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>					1					
6	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>						1		1		

Herptiles

Yellow-bellied Toad, *Bombina variegata*
 Balkan Wall Lizard, *Podarcis taurica*
 European Pond Terrapin, *Emys orbicularis*

Eastern/Balkan Green lizard, *Lacerta viridis/trilineata*
 Marsh Frog, *Pelophylax ribibundus*
 Snake-eyed Skink, *Ablepharus kitaibelii*

Eastern Tree Frog, *Hyla orientalis*
 Kotschy's Gecko, *Cyrtopodion kotschyi*

Insects

Eastern Willow Spreadwing, *Chalcolestes parvidens*
 Lesser Fiery Copper, *Lycaena thersamon*
 Small Bluetail, *Ischnura pumilio*
 Adonis Blue, *Polyommatus bellargus*
 Broad Scarlet, *Crocothemis erythraea*
 Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*
 Southern Darter, *Sympetrum meridionale*
 Silver-washed Fritillary, *Argynnis paphia*
 Slant-faced Grasshopper, *Acrida ungarica*

Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*
 Common Bluetail, *Ischnura elegans*
 Brown Argus, *Aricia agestis*
 Migrant Hawker, *Aeshna mixta*
 Chapman's Blue, *Polyommatus thersites*
 Red-veined Darter, *Sympetrum fonscolombii*
 Southern White Admiral, *Limnitis reducta*
 Red-winged Grasshopper, *Oedipoda germanica*
 Great Banded Grayling, *Brintesia circe*

Migrant Spreadwing, *Lestes barbarus*
 Lang's Short-tailed Blue, *Peptotes piriithous*
 Lesser Emperor, *Anax parthenope*
 Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*
 Southern Skimmer, *Orthetrum brunneum*
 Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*
 Common Darter, *Sympetrum striolatum*
 Cardinal, *Argynnis pandora*
 Praying Mantis, *Mantis religiosa*

Meadow Brown, *Maniola jurtina*
 Small White, *Artogeia rapae*
 Oriental Marbled Skipper, *Carcharodus orientalis*
 Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*
 Hummingbird Hawk-moth, *Macroglossum stellatum*

Mediterranean Mantis, *Iris oratoria*
 Wall Brown, *Lasiommata megera*
 Eastern Bath White, *Pontia edusa*
 Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrgus armoricanus*
 Sooty Copper, *Lycaena tityrus*

Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*
 Krueper's Small White, *Pieris krueperi*
 Orbed Red Underwing Skipper, *Spialia orbifer*
 Purple Hairstreak, *Favonius quercus*
 Spurge Hawk-moth, *Hyles euphorbiae*



Krueper's Small White by Dave Smallshire



Lesser Fiery Copper by Dave Smallshire