

# Bulgaria in Autumn

Naturetrek Tour Report

2nd – 10th September 2023

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Masked Shrike



European Bee-eater



European Tree Frog



River Arda in the Rhodope Mountains

Tour report by Mark Davis

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Tour participants: Mark Davis and Dancho Kutsarov (Leaders) with 15 Naturetrek clients.

## Summary

This nine day tour seen us travel the breadth of Bulgaria, a country complete with diverse and wild landscapes, a long and varied history and most importantly a great diversity of birds and other wildlife. We explored mountainsides, Spruce forests, Oak forests, swamps, lakes, salt pans and the remarkable Black Sea Coast. We saw many species of raptor including Eastern Imperial Eagle, Levant Sparrowhawk, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Lesser Spotted Eagle and large numbers of migrating Honey Buzzards. A huge diversity of wetland species included eight species of tern, twenty-six species of wader, both Pelicans and huge concentrations of herons and migrating Storks. In the woodlands we found eight species of woodpecker as well as a nice mix of eastern specialities like Sombre Tit, Eastern Black-eared Wheatear, Syrian Woodpecker and Masked Shrike.

All in all it was a very successful trip that ran very smoothly; credit is due to our local guides and driver with mostly fantastic weather and great company.

## Day 1

## Saturday 2nd September

We arrived in the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, late morning. We met our local guides and as soon as we were outside loading up the bus a Lesser Spotted Eagle was spotted soaring nearby giving us a taste of things to come. We got some tasty sandwiches to eat while we began our bus journey to the East on to the small town of Krumograd where we would be spending the next couple of nights. As we made our way along Bulgaria's motorways, then wound our way up into the Eastern Rhodope Mountains we picked up many roadside bird ticks like Sparrowhawk, Goshawk, Marsh Harrier and Bee-eater.

After a few hours we made a brief stop over-looking a grand valley with a view to a dam and reservoir beyond. After a short wait we were treated to some close flybys from the local Griffon Vultures. We carried on to Krumograd and checked into our first of four hotels on the trip.

There was still a bit of time before dinner so most of us headed out to a nearby river valley for our first proper birding. The valley was devoid of people but bird diversity was high. A Green Woodpecker called from a nearby grove of trees. A couple of lovely Eastern Black-eared Wheatear graced the rocky slopes above us along with Whinchat and Red-backed Shrike. A group of Crag Martin were landing and preening on a small cliff and Ortolan and Cirl Bunting perched up in scrub. On the return to the hotel, we saw our first Little Owl of the trip on a chimney pot.

The hotel provided an excellent first evening meal as the sun went down while Common, Pallid and Alpine Swifts swirled overhead. After dark a few Kotschy's Gecko could be seen on the hotel walls, concluding a promising first day.

## Day 2

## Sunday 3rd September

Our first proper morning began with a short, pre-breakfast walk down to the river in Krumograd where some large riparian trees are found. From a bridge we spotted our first Syrian Woodpeckers in some standing deadwood,

then a Nightingale showed well, feeding beneath some bushes below us. A Kingfisher was fishing and more Crag Martins, Red-rumped Swallows and House Martins flew up and down the river. Black Stork and Little Egrets passed overhead. We made our way along the riverbank and heard a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, which before long was showing exceptionally well at close range. On the way back to the hotel another Little Owl was spotted, perched on a rooftop.

After breakfast we departed in the bus for an hour's drive north to an area of dramatic rocky cliffs, towering over a wide, meandering river where we hoped for further views of vultures. The location did not disappoint as we were soon observing more mighty Griffon Vultures, circling above us and cruising by at eye level. A giant Black Vulture passed over, as did Booted Eagle, Black Kite, several Black Stork and a Peregrine. We made a slow and gentle walk along the road picking up a Lesser Whitethroat, our first pair of Sombre Tit and a showy Blue Rock Thrush that posed nicely to be enjoyed in the scopes.

The bus met up with the group and we made our way to a nearby restaurant for a nice three course lunch, then we were off again to try and connect with Egyptian Vulture. En route we stopped in a small village to observe some Crested Larks and several migrants were also around including Whinchat, Spotted Flycatcher and a nice Isabelline Wheatear.

We arrived at some quiet, scenic hills and began scanning in all directions. Very soon however an Egyptian Vulture appeared followed by two more and we were able to watch these beautiful raptors at length soaring over the hillsides in front of us. A pair of Tawny Pipit also showed briefly but gave us the slip.

There was time once again before dinner to return to the same spot as the previous evening to see what else we could see. This proved to be a good idea as before even arriving we had incredible views of a Roller perched on a wire right out the bus windows. Only spending an hour here we still managed to get great views of another pair of Sombre Tit, Sardinian and Garden Warbler, Whitethroat and Bee-eater.

## Day 3

## Monday 4th September

We began the day by repeating our walk down to the river in Krumograd which yielded another, extremely close viewing of Syrian Woodpecker, a few Great spotted Woodpecker but best of all a Black Woodpecker, posing nicely on a large dead trunk! Always impressed by these beasts. We also had repeat views of Nightingale and added our first Black Redstart.

It was time to mount up and continue east today and finally reach the Black Sea coast but there were a few delights to stop for on the way first. After a fair drive we stopped in some lovely oak-clad hills, for a picnic lunch at a viewpoint. In the forest we managed to get several glimpses of Middle Spotted Woodpecker, but they proved difficult to pin down. A huge swirling flock of Black Stork could be seen in the distance, migrating south and both Lesser Spotted Eagle and Booted Eagle showed well overhead.

Continuing on we reached an area of semi-natural steppe and a known territory of Eastern Imperial Eagle. We scanned the ground while we waited, spotting several Souslik, a type of ground squirrel and in the distance a Golden Jackal trotted between bushes. Soon though the Imperial Eagle pair appeared and performed well! For a

good forty minutes we observed them hunting over the woods and grassland, allowing fantastic views of this most impressive raptor.

Shortly after leaving another large raptor was spotted flying over the bus - a Short-toed Snake Eagle, which fortunately landed a short distance away on a pylon. We bailed out of the bus again and got excellent views in the scopes. It had been a raptor-rich day but now we had to reach our hotel on the coast in the small, ancient town of Sosopol. The hotel was perched atop a small hill, affording great views over the harbour and Black Sea coast and delivered some excellent dinners.

## Day 4

## Tuesday 5th September

Today the usual hot sunshine we had been experiencing had been replaced with rains and thunderstorms. We nevertheless headed out to a nearby forest to try our luck with the local race of White-backed Woodpecker. Despite our efforts though, none showed but we did at least manage a Hobby, Short-toed Treecreeper and brief glimpses of Red-breasted Flycatcher. The rain only got heavier, so our guides decided to bird from the only places that had any cover. First off, we went to the salt museum at Pomorie where there is a covered picnic area overlooking salt pans and a coastal bay. This was a great stop with a wide variety of gulls, waders and terns that included the likes of Mediterranean, Black-headed, Yellow-legged and a Slender-billed Gull. Little, Common, Sandwich and Black Tern and several Black-winged Stilt, Marsh, Wood, Green, Broad-billed and Curlew Sandpipers.

The second stop was at the nature reserve at Poma, where there is a comfortable visitor centre, observation windows and covered platform. This made an excellent lunch spot while we continued birding. The new species kept coming, with Spotted and Common Redshank, Greenshank, Snipe, Shelduck, Shoveler, Gadwall, Teal, Osprey, Great Reed Warbler and a very showy pair of Water Rail. We spent the rest of the day here but the rain never eased so we returned to the hotel a little early to recharge before a more intensive birding day tomorrow.

## Day 5

## Wednesday 6th September

As hoped the rain and wind eased overnight resulting in a fine sunny morning and the expected visible bird migration down the coast was already apparent, with a group of thirty Honey Buzzards passing over the hotel first thing. After breakfast we travelled the short distance up the coast to the shores of Lake Burgas. On the open water were huge numbers of White Pelican, with many flying about in great formations. Also on the water were many Great Crested Grebe with some Little and Black-necked Grebe as well, plus Pochard and Pygmy Cormorants. Over the water many Black, Black-winged and Whiskered Tern hawked about and in the surrounding reed fringed edges, Squacco, Grey and Purple Heron, Great and Little Egret and Spoonbill all fed.

High overhead the migrants continued to stream through, including several more large groups of Honey Buzzard, Booted Eagle, a Dalmatian Pelican, Black Stork and a huge flock of hundreds of White Stork. The spectacle of all these species and in such great numbers was quite overwhelming and probably made for the most memorable part of the trip for many of the group.

We tried a few other lake spots, but the rain returned again so we headed back to the salt museum at Pomorie where the sun returned again. Here we had lunch at the picnic tables while once again enjoying all the gulls, terns and waders. A similar mix of species was present again today but incredibly close views of Broad-billed Sandpipers

and Little Stint were a highlight as were Little Ringed Plover, Yellow Wagtail, Dunlin, Black-winged Tern, Pygmy Cormorant and Peregrine.

We then headed to a lagoon on the edge of Pomorie lake, where we spent a couple of hours walking around and had many nice encounters, with the highlights being Kentish and Grey Plover, Whimbrel, Curlew, up to five Collared Pratincole, Gull-billed and Caspian Tern, more Slender-billed Gull, some Penduline Tit and Hoopoe.

To end the day we went to a lagoon on the edge of Antanasovsko Lake where there was a bird viewing screen. Here were hundreds of Greater Flamingo gracing the shallow waters along with hundreds of Avocet and Shoveler and a few Dalmatian Pelican sat on some rafts. A small flock of Black-tailed Godwit and a Sanderling appeared to conclude a bird-heavy day. We returned to the hotel in Sosopol very satisfied.

## Day 6

## Thursday 7th September

Leaving the pleasant coastal town of Sosopol for the last time we headed to a few spots along the shores of the nearby Mandra Lake. Here some of us were lucky enough to see a retiring Thrush Nightingale, Cetti's Warbler and another Great Reed Warbler. A reed fringed marsh provided excellent opportunities to observe Purple Heron and a lovely flyby Black-crowned Night Heron, while overhead Hobby, Lesser Spotted and Booted Eagle put on a show. A final stop further along the shore line yielded the only Glossy Ibis of the trip, White Pelican, Squacco Heron, a pair of distant, soaring White-tailed Eagle and a pair of Hoopoe in a field. It was now time to head much further north up the coast near to the Romanian border but unfortunately our bus had become stuck while trying to turn. The resourceful driver Stefan, was however able to free us and we were on our way again within fifteen minutes. Disaster averted.

Making our way up the scenic, sunny coast line we passed several beach resorts and over several forested hill ranges stopping at a nice restaurant for lunch before carrying on to the resort of Baltata where there was some lovely, old Ash forest and the chance to find Grey-headed Woodpecker. This took a bit of work as they are not too responsive at this time of year, but we eventually managed to get it in the scope for satisfactory views. The woods were reasonably quiet, but we also saw Short-toed Treecreeper, Wood Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher.

The afternoon was drawing in but there was time for one more stop along the white cliffs just before reaching our hotel for the evening in Kavarna. Here we searched for a day roosting Eurasian Eagle Owl and after a little work picked one up on one of the ledges, allowing half-decent scope views. While here we also picked up a dozen Golden Oriole, several Hawfinch and Lesser Whitethroat. We got to the hotel to enjoy dinner in the pleasant courtyard and bed down before another action-packed day to come.

## Day 7

## Friday 8th September

We started out a little early this morning, in order to make the most of the day. We drove close to the Romanian border, to a small campsite on the shore of Lake Duvankulka. In the car park here we spent sometime as migrant passerines were much in evidence among the bushes and trees. We were treated to excellent views of several Red-breasted Flycatcher, Common Redstart, a Wryneck and best of all a juvenile Masked Shrike, which showed well at very close range. Also around were Syrian Woodpecker, our only Golden Plover of the trip and a brief Levant Sparrowhawk.

We walked along the sand dunes between the reed fringed lake and the Black Sea, hearing Bearded Reedling, and seeing Purple Heron, Pygmy Cormorant and best of all many Yelkouan Shearwater passing out at sea.

After this we back tracked south and stopped at a lovely restaurant overlooking the sea from which we could continue watching the shearwaters. We then carried on to some areas of arid steppe habitat. Initially we had some good views of Corn Bunting but not much else, so we moved on to another spot which was much better as we soon bumped into a small flock of Stone Curlew which posed nicely in the open allowing for some superb viewing. They even called a few times. Here we also had Isabelline Wheatear and great views of Eurasian Sparrowhawk.

## Day 8

## Saturday 9th September

Today was our last full day in the country and with an internal flight back to Sofia to catch in the middle of the day we headed out early to make the most of the morning. We went straight to Point Kaliakra, a scenic headland with an ancient fort and a famous migrant spot. It is also popular with visitors so it paid to be there early. As soon as we got out of the bus the bird activity was noticeable. Pied and Isabelline Wheatear hopped about on the rocks, while Red-backed Shrike, Lesser and Common Whitethroat, Redstart, Red-breasted Flycatcher and a Wryneck were in the bushes. Out at sea more Yelkouan Shearwater, Shag and Sandwich Terns were present. We gradually made our way to the tip of the headland. A large flock of Alpine Swifts cruised passed us at eye level along the cliffs and raptors like Hobby passed over. It was very bird-rich and very pretty. On the return to the bus, we managed to connect with and got good views of Eastern Olivaceous Warbler.

It was getting busy with day visitors so we returned to the steppe one last time to try for Long-legged Buzzard. Unfortunately this was not to be but we did get much better views of Tawny Pipit, plus Hoopoe, Bee-eater, more Hobby and another Short-toed Snake Eagle. It was time to catch our internal flight however, so we said goodbye to the coast and beat a retreat to Varna.

We smoothly passed through the small airport here and after a short delay were on our fifty minute flight back to Sofia.

Upon landing we spotted our only Rooks of the trip on the airport grass, then got on a new bus to head up Vitosha mountain for our final birding foray of the trip and an opportunity to add some new species. The bus took an hour to bounce its way up a winding cobbled road to the high-altitude ski resort. Once there the coolness of the air was apparent and many of us wore fleeces for the only time on the trip. Up here Spruce woods were the main habitat and it did not take long to locate our main target, the Nutcracker. Their distinctive rasping call echoed across the mountainside and soon we had one in the scope atop a tree. More followed and soon we had seen a dozen or more. Ring Ouzels also posed for us and we added Dunnock, Goldcrest, Willow Tit, Coal Tit, Bullfinch and nice views of Nuthatch.

We returned to Sofia as darkness was falling for our final dinner together in a very comfortable hotel.

## Day 9

## Sunday 10th September

The timing of our flight meant there was no time for much birding this morning other than what we could do immediately around the hotel. Some nice things were seen though with another Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Jay, Tree Sparrow and Coal Tit.

Once at the airport some of us tried to squeeze in a bit more birding from the terminal windows but only picked up Buzzard, Kestrel, Red-backed Shrike and some Bee-eaters and with that our tour of Bulgaria was concluded.

A very memorable trip with some excellent eastern specialities that was enjoyed by all.

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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	September 2023									
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				✓	✓		✓			
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>							✓			
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>				✓	✓		✓			
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>				✓	✓					
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓	✓					
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>						✓	✓			
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartus melba</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>		✓	✓							
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>								✓		
Feral Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					✓					
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				✓						
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓	✓				
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					✓					
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>							✓			
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓	✓					
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					✓					
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>							✓			
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					✓					
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					✓		✓			
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>					✓					
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					✓					
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>					✓					
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				✓	✓					
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>				✓	✓					
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				✓	✓					
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					✓		✓			



Common name	Scientific name	September 2023									
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				✓	✓		✓			
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					✓		✓			
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				✓	✓					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				✓	✓					
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				✓	✓					
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>				✓	✓					
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				✓	✓					
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					✓					
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>					✓					
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>				✓	✓					
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>				✓	✓		✓			
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>					✓					
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					✓		✓	✓		
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓		
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>				✓	✓					
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chidonias hybrida</i>					✓	✓				
White-winged Tern	<i>Chidonias leucopterus</i>					✓					
Black Tern	<i>Chidonias niger</i>				✓	✓					
Yelkuan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>					✓		✓	✓		
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓					
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓		✓		✓					
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>					✓		✓	✓		
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>						✓				
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						✓				
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					✓	✓				
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					✓	✓				
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					✓	✓				
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				✓		✓	✓			
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>		✓								
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>					✓	✓				

Common name	Scientific name	September 2023									
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	✓	✓	✓							
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		✓								
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓	✓					✓		
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>	✓		✓			✓				
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraartus pennatus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>			✓							
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>						✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	✓									
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>					✓					
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓			✓					
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				✓		✓				
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	✓	✓		✓						
Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>						✓				
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>							✓	✓		
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>			✓							
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>		✓	✓							
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus syriacus</i>		✓	✓				✓			
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			✓							
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>				✓	✓					
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓			✓					
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		✓	✓							
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>							✓			
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>								✓		
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>								✓		
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>								✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	September 2023									
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>		✓								
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			✓							
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>								✓		
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓		
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					✓	✓				
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biamurcus</i>							✓			
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		✓	✓		✓					
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>						✓				
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>						✓				
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>					✓	✓				
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				✓	✓					
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					✓					
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Inuda pallida</i>								✓	✓	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		✓								
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		✓								
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>								✓		
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			✓	✓				✓		
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>				✓		✓				
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓		
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓							
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>								✓		
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓				
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					✓					
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		✓	✓							
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				✓			✓	✓		
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			✓				✓	✓		
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>						✓	✓	✓		
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monicola solitarius</i>		✓								
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		

Common name	Scientific name	September 2023									
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			✓							
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			✓	✓				✓		
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>		✓					✓	✓		
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>	✓									
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>								✓		
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>									✓	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>								✓		
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>		✓					✓	✓		
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>								✓		
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓			
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>							✓			
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			✓				✓			
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	✓									
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	✓									
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				✓						

## Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	September 2023									
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	✓			✓						
European Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>			✓							
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>					✓					
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>			✓							
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>								✓		

## Reptiles and Amphibians

Common name	Scientific name	September 2023									
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
European Tree Frog	<i>Hyla orientalis</i>		✓								
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓			
Hermann's Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>		✓								
Kotschy's Gecko	<i>Mediodactylus kotschyi</i>	✓									

Common name	Scientific name	September 2023									
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>		✓				✓				
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>							✓			
Caspian Whip Snake	<i>Dolichophis caspius</i>				✓			✓			
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>			✓							

## Others

Common name	Scientific name	September 2023									
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<b>Insects</b>											
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>					✓					
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>			✓							
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>				✓						
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓								
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atlanta</i>							✓			
Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>			✓			✓				
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>			✓							
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>						✓				
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>					✓		✓			
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>			✓							
Southern Darter	<i>Sympetrum meridionale</i>							✓			