

Bulgaria in Autumn

Naturetrek Tour Report

6th – 14th September 2025



Griffon Vulture



Black-tailed Skimmer



Slender-billed Gull



Pied Wheatear

Tour report by Jason Mitchell
Photos by Julie Furze



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Tour participants: Jason Mitchell (leader) and Minko Madzharov (local guide) with ten Naturetrek clients

Summary

This nine-day tour saw us travel the breadth of Bulgaria, a country with a long and varied history, replete with diverse and wild landscapes and, most importantly, a great diversity of birds and other wildlife. We explored mountains, spruce and oak forests, marshes, lakes, salt pans and the remarkable Black Sea coast. We saw many species of raptor including Eastern Imperial and Lesser Spotted Eagles, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Levant Sparrowhawk and good numbers of migrating Honey Buzzards. An excellent diversity of wetland species included six species of tern, twenty-eight species of wader, both pelicans and concentrations of herons, and migrating storks. In the woodlands, we found eight species of woodpecker, and elsewhere, these were complemented by a nice mix of eastern specialities, like Sombre Tit, Eastern Black-eared Wheatear and Red-breasted Flycatcher.

Day 1

Saturday 6th September

Our Bulgaria Air flight arrived on time, and we were soon on the road heading for Krumovgrad and the Rhodope Mountains, some 300km to the south-east. After a couple of hours, we stopped at a service station for refreshments. In adjacent fields, a Marsh Harrier made steady progress south, as did four Turtle Doves. As the surrounding countryside became more varied, we started to see dozens of Red-backed Shrikes perched on fencing bordering the road, along with a few Northern Wheatears. Overhead, migrating Bee-eaters, Red-rumped Swallows and Marsh Harriers were at times abundant, while two Black Storks were the pick of the bunch. We soon started to pass through small villages, where Little Owls perched conspicuously on rooftops and the impressively large (empty) nests of White Storks stood proud. With the sun slowly descending, we crossed over a large reservoir the very moment an Egyptian Vulture drifted past, without as much as a flap. Arriving at the hotel, we settled into our rooms before reconvening for our first dinner. Afterwards, a few of us headed outside to see the Kotschy's Geckos clinging to the hotel walls.

Day 2

Sunday 7th September

We woke to a clear blue sky, which set the trend for virtually all of the rest of the week. As we gathered at the bus, a 'clattering' of eastern subspecies Jackdaws careered over the rooftops, while a Little Owl looked on sternly. After a short drive, we stopped to explore a hillside dotted with patches of scrub. Almost immediately, our first woodpecker broke cover, a Syrian, which perched obligingly, allowing us to view its characteristic head pattern. In surrounding bushes, a number of migrant passerines included Lesser Whitethroat, Common Redstart and Spotted Flycatcher. A juvenile Red-backed Shrike initially played hard to get, but eventually showed well; it proved to be the first of many during the week. The flight call of Tree Pipit rang out overhead, as did the more tuneful rippling calls of a flock of Bee-eaters.

Minko, our local guide, pointed out a vulture feeding station in the near distance, where several grounded Egyptian Vultures loafed around; these included a couple of rather sullied-looking juvenile birds. On nearby ledges a dozen Griffon Vultures waited for thermals to develop, which would aid their take-off. Shortly afterwards, we started to notice several soaring birds of prey: a huge Black Vulture made a dramatic low flyby, which was shortly followed by two White-tailed Eagles, an adult and immature. But the raptor fest was far from over, with Booted Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Eurasian Sparrowhawk and two Goshawks wowing an appreciative audience: amazing! Other

migrants were also on the move, notably a small flock of Alpine Swifts, along with Barn Swallows and House Martins. Moving on, we paused briefly to watch a Hobby stoop over distant woodland. Further on, we parked and took a short walk through some woodland pasture in search of Sombre Tit; after a while we were treated to excellent views of this dandy titmouse. Other passerines included Willow Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and Cirl Bunting.

Heading to our lunch destination, we stopped briefly to peruse a rocky outcrop, where a couple more Sombre Tits were active. Our target, the Western Rock Nuthatch, was only heard, but it was still fun to scope its distinctive mud-built nest high above on the cliff face. Other interest included yet another Goshawk, and a Black Stork soaring majestically overhead.

After an excellent al fresco lunch at a little restaurant near Madzharovo, we did some birding around the terrace, connecting with both Short-toed Treecreeper and a Eurasian Nuthatch, but a Semicollared Flycatcher created the most excitement. Next, we stopped at a spectacular viewpoint overlooking meanders in the Arda River, which was home to a number of familiar wetland species. However, the cliffs towering overhead hosted several Crag Martins and a Peregrine, along with both Griffon and Egyptian Vultures.

Our final stop of the day was at the Borislavtzi Reservoir, where we watched three Ospreys, one of which had caught an impressively large fish. Other raptors included a pale-morph Booted Eagle and Eurasian Sparrowhawk. The arid fields around held a few Crested Larks, a large flock of Corn Buntings, and lots of Bee-eaters. In a small creek, a dozen Black Storks waded in the shallows, along with Common, Green and Wood Sandpipers. Nearby, a vast flock of Yellow Wagtails chased insects, building up their reserves before recommencing their migration. On our return to the hotel, an Egyptian Vulture was seen roosting on a pylon.

Day 3

Monday 8th September

Before breakfast, we drove to a rocky ridge in search of the often-elusive Chukar Partridge, and it proved to be difficult indeed! With the exception of two brief views and some calling, it kept largely hidden, but a Blue Rock Thrush was some consolation. On the river below, a Kingfisher gave its shrill piping calls, and two Hobbies dashed overhead, along with a couple of Alpine Swifts. We then returned to the hotel.

With breakfast complete, we checked out of the hotel and embarked on a lengthy transfer east to the Black Sea coast. After around two hours, a pause in some woodland produced both Booted and Short-toed Snake Eagles, and excellent views of a Collared Flycatcher. Barely five minutes further on, a soaring Lesser Spotted Eagle resulted in a rapid stop, followed by views of a second bird perched in a nearby tree.

Lunch was enjoyed at an attractive picnic site near Topolovgrad, where several butterflies flitted around the rides. Then, a short drive took us to the territory of an Eastern Imperial Eagle, where almost immediately this impressive species was located perched on a pylon. With care we approached more closely, spotting Red-backed Shrike and Northern Wheatear along the way. Then, the eagle was on the wing, allowing us to study its diagnostic upperwing markings as it soared majestically over the arid landscape. Returning to the minibus, we were delighted to spy a Souslik, a type of ground-squirrel, at the entrance to its burrow. With plenty of road still to cover, we made a final push to our next hotel, where we were greeted with fantastic views over the Sozopol Peninsula.

Day 4

Tuesday 9th September

The first stop of the day was at a discreet viewpoint overlooking Bourgas Lake, which held a substantial flotilla of pelicans. Though dominated in numbers by Great White, on closer examination we picked out a few dozen larger, paler Dalmatian Pelicans in their ranks. In a distant corner, Teal, Pintail and Mallard dabbled in the shallows alongside a flock of waders, which included a couple of Black-winged Stilts. In more open water, a few Black Terns dip fed close to several Great Crested Grebes. In the reedy margins, both Reed Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat called, but it was a showy juvenile Penduline Tit that created the most excitement.

We next made another brief roadside stop, again overlooking water. A fine Booted Eagle drifted past, shortly followed by an even closer juvenile Levant Sparrowhawk. Our next lookout gave impressive views over a sweeping valley; here the sky offered some serious raptor action, including Lesser Spotted Eagle and more Levant Sparrowhawks. Having moved on to another lake, we revelled in great views of several Pygmy Cormorants; a Squacco Heron broke cover from the reed-lined margin, a Purple Heron skulked in the shadows, and a Water Rail squealed from the reedy depths. In nearby scrub, a Middle Spotted Woodpecker showed in the top of a small tree, and a sombre-coloured leaf warbler was subjected to our discerning gaze, eventually being identified as a northern Willow Warbler (subspecies *acredula*). Before lunch, we stopped at a high viewpoint overlooking the lake, where yet another common species, a Mute Swan, briefly had us scratching our heads; we finally decided that the blackish neck was simply due to staining. Elsewhere, both Caspian and Whiskered Terns skimmed over the still surface.

After a short drive, we arrived at the local visitor centre of the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, where we had our picnic lunch. From a tower look-out, we watched a number of Wood Sandpipers and Snipe probing the wet soil. An Osprey was quartering a distant lake, while two more Levant Sparrowhawks flew over, and a high-flying adult White-tailed Eagle showed off its pristine tail feathers. We then took a walk along a track, which led to a marshy area bordering the main lake. Here we started to find more wader species, with Greenshank, Grey Plover and a few Lapwings new for our lists.

Our last stop of the day overlooked Atanasovsko Lake, where a distant pink haze proved to be hundreds of Greater Flamingoes. Closer to the shore, a mixed-species aggregation of birds offered several interesting waders; some were familiar (if scarce) species like Ruff, Spotted Redshank and Wood Sandpiper, while others were more exotic, like Marsh Sandpiper and Temminck's Stint. In an instant, a large group of Avocets lifted from the middle of the lake, and a couple of eagle-eyed members of the group picked out a single Collared Pratincole flying with them! After a full and exciting day, we returned to our hotel for another delicious evening meal.

Day 5

Wednesday 10th September

Even before breakfast was complete, anticipation flickered through the party as a Honey Buzzard glided serenely past the terrace. Shortly after departure, the journey was broken with an impromptu stop on the side of the road: Minko had spotted a bird of prey. We disembarked, and a growing dot in the sky turned into a Short-toed Snake Eagle, which was shortly followed by a Marsh Harrier. We then spent the next twenty minutes under a steady passage of seven species of raptor! The others included a chunky Lesser Spotted Eagle, an Osprey, a few Levant Sparrowhawks, a Kestrel and a dashing Hobby. In the midst of this raptor fest, our only White Stork of the trip was spotted soaring in the distance, while in surrounding fields, a dozen Spanish Sparrows balanced on seed heads, and a trickle of Tree Pipits gave their reedy flight calls as they migrated overhead.

Our next stop was at a pleasant wooded pasture near Kableshekovo, where a Red-breasted Flycatcher kept busy as it flickered around the canopy, joined briefly by an equally furtive Wood Warbler. Fortunately, a Spotted Flycatcher and Common Redstart made for easier viewing. Other interest was offered by two vocal woodpecker species (Middle Spotted and Green), which briefly flirted in the same tree as a striking Hoopoe. Overhead, Raven and Booted Eagle were noted and, almost underfoot, a delicate Lang's Short-tailed Blue butterfly nectared on some late flowers.

We then progressed to the Salt Museum at Pomorie. Before lunch, Minko left us scouring through the avian delights scattered along the shore of a salt-pan, while he made a quick check for anything special in the next bay. A few short minutes later, he reappeared and excitedly pronounced he had found a Broad-billed Sandpiper! Returning to the scene of the find, we soon relocated this diminutive, streaked beauty, picking actively at the sand. With tummies rumbling, we eventually returned to a terrace overlooking the shore, where we enjoyed our picnic and the waterbirds on show. Three species of tern were joined by numerous gulls, including the delectable Slender-billed Gull. Waders were numerous and diverse: we saw all three small plovers, both common 'shanks, all three classic autumn calidrids (Dunlin, Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint), Whimbrel, Turnstone, three Marsh Sandpipers and an Oystercatcher. Further out, both Black-necked Grebe and Osprey fished for their lunch. What a feast it was: there was plenty to distract us from the mud-smeared bipeds in search of bodily purification!

Following our success at Atanasovsko Lake the previous day, we decided a re-run was in order. Setting up on the shoreline, we soon relocated the Temminck's Stints, Marsh Sandpipers and a healthy number of Ruffs. Avocets were again numerous, albeit in the middle distance, where they were dwarfed by the very much Greater Flamingoes. It was also a treat to watch a group of Dalmatian Pelicans flying into roost: they are among the world's largest and heaviest birds, with a wingspan up to 3.5m and weighing more than 11kg!

Returning to the hotel to collect one client, we made a quick stop to check a creek for other migrants. A hovering Short-toed Snake Eagle performed brilliantly, but sadly a Black Kite was less obliging and quickly disappeared over the horizon. On the shore, a few Common Snipes, Little Ringed Plovers and thirteen Grey Herons were upstaged by a showy Kingfisher. With our group once again complete, we made a short drive south, where a reedbed held both Common and Lesser Whitethroats. Back at the hotel, one client did a quick seawatch, and was rewarded with an Arctic Skua and a Lesser Black-backed Gull, which was probably of the Baltic-breeding subspecies *fuscus*.

Day 6

Thursday 11th September

Today we transferred to our next hotel, some distance to the north of Varna. However, a worrying noise from the minibus prompted a stop at a garage in Bourgas. While the mechanic refitted a loose hose, we did a little birding in the back streets, adding Common Redstart to the day list. Back on the road, we soon arrived at a promising area overlooking a dry valley close to Poroy, where a light passage of raptors included Lesser Spotted Eagle, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Marsh Harrier, Black Kite, Common and Honey Buzzards, both sparrowhawks and a very noisy Hobby! Among the melée, there were also good numbers of Alpine Swifts and Bee-eaters, while in a cereal field, a swirling flock of sparrows showed all the hallmarks of the Spanish species. In surrounding trees, some migrant Tree Pipits were feeding ahead of their onward migration, and an inquisitive Syrian Woodpecker showed well. As we drove from the site, a Crested Lark popped up on a fence post right alongside the minibus, giving great views, to those on the left side at least!

After a very tasty lunch in the little village of Goritsa, we continued our journey, breaking it once more in a mature Ash forest on the edge of a holiday complex. Here we almost immediately made contact with a Middle Spotted Woodpecker and a confiding Short-toed Treecreeper. Then, the loud, desolate cry of a Black Woodpecker rang out around the woods. With some encouragement, it made a brief flyby, just enough to show the large proportions and jet-black plumage of this epic species. As almost everywhere, Spotted Flycatchers were present, and the 'yaffle' of a Green Woodpecker was heard in the distance. However, the call of yet another woodpecker got our pulses racing, this time a Grey-headed. Its call is very distinctive and easily imitated, and suddenly not one but two of these fine birds were chasing through the canopy above. With patience and a little neck-strain, we all managed good views.

Pressing on, we made a final stop below a cliff known for Eagle Owl. A quick scan drew a blank, but while we scoped a Golden Jackal resting high on a cliff ledge, Minko took a look further down the road. Suddenly, he was excitedly beckoning us towards him: he had found the owl! We then looked on in awe, as this majestic bird quietly perused its territory with piercing, burnt-orange eyes. For good measure, a Red-breasted Flycatcher flitted in the bushes just metres away.

A final short drive took us to our new hotel in Krapets Village, and after settling into our rooms, we reconvened for dinner and to discuss the agenda for the following days.

Day 7

Friday 12th September

A pre-breakfast walk from the hotel proved most productive. Bee-eaters, Blackcaps, and a Song Thrush kicked off proceedings nicely, shortly followed by four Hawfinches perched prominently in the top of a dead tree. Nearby, a Syrian Woodpecker was quickly upstaged by its Lesser Spotted cousin, which showed extremely well. Then a swift-flying flash of yellow alighted in the top of a tree, and with a rub of our eyes we were studying a juvenile Golden Oriole; it was not as flashy as a male, but was a vision of beauty nonetheless. Warblers were mingled in the scrub, with the usual species joined by both Common and Lesser Whitethroats. There were a number of Red-breasted Flycatchers, but these were soon forgotten when news broke of a skulking Wryneck. Sadly, it remained largely concealed, with just a few lucky observers catching a glimpse.

The sky was producing as well, with a handful of Turtle Doves, some swifts and a juvenile Hobby passing through, but the cherry on top was a low-flying juvenile Honey Buzzard, so close that we could pick out its dark eye and mask. Over the sea, we spied three Black-necked Grebes, some Shag, and a fishing Osprey with several Harbour Porpoises breaking the surface below it. The sky was darkening, and the well-forecast (but only) rain arrived, so we strolled back for our breakfast, enjoying a flyby from a dozen handsome Ruddy Shelducks. But the best was waiting until last: from nowhere, a dusky-coloured wheatear alighted on top of a bush right in front of us. It was a Pied Wheatear, which rounded off the morning perfectly.

After breakfast, we took a drive north to Durankulak, which led to a coastal lagoon, complete with a reedbed. It was clear that a fall of Red-breasted Flycatchers had occurred, with birds hopping in every other bush. An Eastern Tree Frog was a popular find, before we made a short walk out along the dunes that separated the lagoon and sea. A few raptors were now moving; another fine Honey Buzzard and the now familiar forms of Marsh Harrier and Osprey drifted past. The latter had a fish and was duly mobbed by a gull. On the beach, Dunlins and a few Little Stints mingled, and a small flock of clockwork Sanderlings chased the breaking surf. Other waders included the

not-so-common Common Redshank, and both species of ringed plover. Out at sea, a short but dramatic passage of forty or so Little Gulls was a treat, and was further enlivened by an Arctic Skua and dozens of Mediterranean Gulls, Shags and Great Cormorants. With the rain intensifying, we returned to the hotel, noting a flight of eight Wood Sandpipers with a single Common Snipe in tow.

Back at the hotel, a warming coffee was incorporated into a seawatch from the hotel terrace. Although dominated by gulls, we did see three Arctic Skua battle past on the horizon, and a Black-throated Diver was a nice find for many as it passed north close in to the shore. But the greatest surprise was a Hoopoe that flew in off the sea.

After a cracking lunch, we boarded the minibus for a tour of the area, dodging the showers as best we could. From the van, a Black Redstart and Little Owl made the daily list of sightings. Following an unsuccessful stop at a grain store for the region's only Laughing Doves, we came to a rapid stop when a Roller was seen perched on a bush. As we enjoyed scope views of this iconic bird, a Goshawk cruised effortlessly along the horizon.

Next, we stopped outside Balgarevo in a dry area covered with browning vegetation, at the precise time a shepherd arrived with his herd. Minko quickly put us on to a single Stone-curlew, fearing it would be disturbed and disappear from sight at any moment. However, we couldn't have timed it better, as suddenly the bird took to the wing, quickly followed by twenty more, which proceeded to circle in the sky just over our heads! With the rain increasing once more, we turned for the hotel, making a final impromptu road-side stop for a 'ringtail' harrier, that turned out to be a juvenile Montagu's, with two more seen in the distance. Furthermore, these were briefly joined by a Kestrel, a Hobby, and a young male and adult female Red-footed Falcon: what luck!

Day 8

Saturday 13th September

Following the success of the previous morning's pre-breakfast walk, we decided on a re-run! Again, there were good numbers of Blackcaps and Lesser Whitethroats, along with the now almost expected Red-breasted Flycatchers. Both Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler were noted, but a sturdy Garden Warbler was the only new species for the tour. What appeared to be a family group of Turtle Doves perched quietly in a dead crown, allowing great views. We noted that there appeared to have been a small fall of Song Thrushes, and possibly Hawfinches too. On the shoreline, a nervous flock of Sanderling was kept company by a few Ringed Plovers.

Loading our suitcases onto the minibus, we made our way to Cape Kaliakra, where the Pied Wheatears were only outnumbered by tourists. The point is well known as a migration hotspot, and although conditions weren't at their best, we still enjoyed a steady trickle of Honey Buzzards, both Levant and Eurasian Sparrowhawks, Hobby, Kestrel and several Marsh and Montagu's Harriers. High in the clouds, a twenty-strong flock of Alpine Swifts pushed through, joined by good numbers of Bee-eaters. The short drive to our lunchtime restaurant was broken for a quick look across an area of relict steppe; the hoped-for Long-legged Buzzard didn't show, but a Roller was ample recompense!

After another excellent lunch, we headed to Varna airport for our internal flight back to Sofia. And, as had become customary, a quick road-side stop saw us finally clinch a Long-legged Buzzard in the company of a few fine Steppe (Common) Buzzards. Once at the airport, our gaze remained on the overhead passage, not just of aircraft but of eagles, buzzards and harriers! Following a delay, we finally made it to the last hotel of the tour in Sofia. Here, we enjoyed a delicious last dinner together, before turning in after what had been a long, eventful day.

Day 9

Sunday 14th September

With our flight not departing until the early evening, Minko had another busy day planned, but not before we watched a couple of Black Redstarts hopping on roofs around the hotel. We then rattled up an impressive pre-war cobbled road, that led to Vitosha ski resort, high above Sofia. Our first stop was along a pleasant forest road where we had delightful views of a pair of Willow Tits. Overhead, a large flock of Alpine Swifts was intercepted by a migrating female Montagu's Harrier. We soon arrived at the top, where we mingled with local day-trippers and Nutcrackers! One particular chilled bird searched for food just metres from people enjoying a coffee on a bar terrace. At our highest stop (1860m), we took a short stroll past a quaint church onto a slope where we spotted even more Nutcrackers, along with both Goldcrest and Firecrest, Coal Tit, and a handsome male Bullfinch.

We then embarked on an hour-long drive to the Dragoman hills, north-west of Sofia, where we had lunch in a restaurant. After another excellent meal, where we added Pallid Swift, Willow Warbler and Black Stork to the day list, we headed for a nearby ringing station. Here we watched as a few warblers were delicately measured and fitted with numbered alloy rings, before being released unharmed to continue their migration south. We then explored an adjacent wetland area that produced a real surprise in the form of a family group of Rock Buntings, with a few Yellowhammers in tow.

Then followed two more short stops, where we added Whinchat, Corn Bunting, Crested Lark and Ravens to the daily tally. Our final stop before heading to the airport was eventful, with another (albeit distant) Long-legged Buzzard perched in a tree, and a dogfight between a Montagu's Harrier and Marsh Harrier above a high ridge. The run to the airport was enlivened by a soaring Lesser Spotted Eagle. and a field full of Rooks and Jackdaws.

After saying our goodbyes to one client, Minko planned to take us for a wander around the small park next to the airport. However, as we approached the metal stairway leading down to the park, it appeared to have been roped off and closer inspection revealed that a large part of it had been removed entirely! There was some light-hearted speculation about the possibility of forming a human chain, but thankfully, Minko knew another route. The unintended detour proved extremely fruitful, as we found a small flock of Tree Sparrows on a fence; this was not only a new species for the trip, but one we would have missed had we not taken the 'scenic' route.

We wound our way down to the small park, a mini-oasis of tranquillity away from the busy airport. Flocks of Goldfinches flitted back and forth overhead, and a couple of Moorhen skulked at the edge of a pond. There was a brief moment of excitement when something looking very much like a Pine Martin was spotted in a tree across the water, but closer scrutiny revealed it was just a broken branch doing a very good impression!

Unfortunately, our time was growing short, so we followed the footpath that would lead us back to the airport, adding Blackbird, Red-backed Shrike and, of course, the obligatory Spotted Flycatcher to our list, along with an unidentified species of blue butterfly. As we wound our way back to the terminal, we managed to squeeze in one final species for the trip: a shield bug on the footpath. Then, sadly, it was time to bid a final farewell to Minko and Valentine, before making our way to the check-in desk, reflecting on what had been an exciting foray into Bulgaria's stunning wildlife, in the excellent company of a friendly group of wildlife enthusiasts.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

I=Introduced		September 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				✓	✓					
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				✓	✓					
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>							10			
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>				✓	✓					
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>				✓	✓					
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓			
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				✓						
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓	✓		✓			
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓	✓					
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				1						
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				✓						
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>								✓		
Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>			4							
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓	50	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓			
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓		✓	✓					✓	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	4						15	✓		
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				H						
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>					1	3				
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>				✓	✓					
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>						20				
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>					2					
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				2						
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				✓	✓					
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				2						
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					✓		✓	✓		
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					✓		✓			
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				4						
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>					✓					
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					✓					
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				2						
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				✓	✓		✓			
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1								
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		2		2	✓		H			
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>				4	5					
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		2			20		10			
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					✓		✓			
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				1						

I=Introduced		September 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				2	20					
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					✓					
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>				10	✓					
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>					1					
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					20					
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>				3	2					
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				1			✓	✓		
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				✓	✓		✓			
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					1		3			
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>				1	2					
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					✓					
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>				20				H		
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓						
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>				✓						
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓					
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				✓	✓		✓			
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>					1		40			
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>					5					
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>					✓					
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>					✓		3			
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>							1			
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2	20	✓						1	
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>				1						
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>							✓			
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				1						
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		1		✓	✓				✓	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				1						
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				✓	✓					
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>				30	✓					
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		3		5	2		2	✓		
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	1	10								
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>					20	1	2	30		
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		1								
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓								
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			2	✓	2	2				
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>			5	8	4	3		2	1	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		2	4	2	3	2	1	3		
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>			1							
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyspiza brevipes</i>				4	5	2		4		
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		2	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Goshawk	<i>Astur gentilis</i>		4					1			

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Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				1	1		3	1	2	
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>					1	1				
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		2		1						
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>								4		
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>								1	1	
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	✓	✓					✓			
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>						1				
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>					1		1	1		
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>							1	1		
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			H	✓	✓					
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>							✓			
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>		1		1	1	1				
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>							1			
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>		3				2	1	1		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>					H				✓	
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		H				1				
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		H	✓	H	✓	✓				
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>						2				
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>							2			
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1		1						
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>							1	1		
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>					1					
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>									20	
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓							✓	✓	
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓		2	
Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>									✓	
Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>		3	1		H					
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>									H	
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>									2+	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>				1						
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>						H				
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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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European Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>	50	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>				H						
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		H		✓						
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>					1					
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</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>				H	H	H				
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>					✓		✓	✓		
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>									H	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>									H	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>									H	
Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>		H								
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>							✓	✓		
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			H			✓				
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Semicollared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>		1								
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>			1							
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>							✓	✓	✓	
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		1	1							
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>									✓	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓			
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>							1	3		
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>		1	1							
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>									✓	
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			H		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓		✓				✓	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>					✓		✓	✓		
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>									✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				H			✓	✓		
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>						✓	✓			
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>									2	

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Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>									5
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		✓	✓						

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>
European Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>
a bat	Chiroptera sp.
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>

Amphibians & reptiles

Common name	Scientific name
Eastern Tree Frog	<i>Hyla orientalis</i>
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>
Kotschy's Gecko	<i>Mediodactylus kotschy</i>
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirthous</i>
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>
Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Eastern Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea ornata</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Wall Brown	<i>Iasionmata megera</i>
Woodland Grayling	<i>Hipparchia fagi</i>
Great Banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>

Moths

Common name	Scientific name
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
Rose-lined Saffron	<i>Lythria purpuraria</i>

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name
Eastern Willow Spreadwing	<i>Chalcolestes parvidens</i>
Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>
Southern Darter	<i>Sympetrum meridionale</i>

Orthoptera

Common name	Scientific name
European Mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>
Migratory Locust	<i>Locusta migratoria</i>
Long-nosed Grasshopper	<i>Acrida ungarica</i>

Cnidaria

Common name	Scientific name
Barrel Jellyfish	<i>Rhizostoma pulmo</i>