

Bulgaria in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

9 - 18 May 2014



Glossy Ibis



Large Copper



Black-eared Wheatear



Queen of Spain Fritillary

Report & images compiled by Andy Harding



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Day 1

Friday 9th May

20 degrees C in Sofia; cooler in Rhodope Mountains

The whole group met in the departure lounge of Terminal 5 of Heathrow, before a smooth flight to Sofia, arriving 10 minutes ahead of schedule. Baggage reclaim in a largely empty modern airport was equally straightforward. It was great to see old friends Nikolay, our local expert biologist and guide and his strong right arm, Pancho. We were soon all aboard the bus and heading south-east down the E80 motorway, while Nikolay told us something about Sofia in particular and Bulgaria in general. Eventually we broke the journey at a 'services' near Saraja, where we turn south on slightly smaller roads. Great Reed Warbler and Nightingale were heard singing in the nearby riverside vegetation, while the star bird was a smart male Black-headed Bunting.

The roads became narrower and more winding as we got into the Rhodope Mountains proper. The beautiful pale leaf green deciduous trees admixed with the darker pines gradually disappeared at an elevation of around 1000 metres. We needed another stop and at random chose one near Lake Siroka Poliana. This proved an inspired choice, with plenty of birds to see. The more contrasting grey/white/black Coal Tits here mingled with Crested Tit and then an unexpected Sombre Tit appeared. What a bonus. Arguably a bigger bonus was, albeit briefly, when two calling Grey-headed Woodpeckers appeared on either side of the group. What a superb start!

When we reached Hotel Dabrash beyond Dospat town it was the sensational view which captivated. Those who could not resist walking out to the veranda viewpoints saw a male Red-backed Shrike just below. It will be there in the morning... The traditional Bulgarian salad followed by veal stew got full marks, while every portion of the retro fruit salad served a la Knickerbocker Glory was consumed without demur.

Day 2

Saturday 10th May

Dry 18 degrees C, Fine during the morning, then rain, sometimes heavy, en route, but dry subsequently

The view from the hotel in the morning before breakfast was, as usual, breathtaking, and there were plenty of birds. Crag Martins swooped low; Black Redstarts fed their young and Red-backed Shrikes patrolled. One of two singing Woodlarks was aloft above the group for over 10 minutes. Mistle Thrush, Yellowhammer and Bullfinch provided variety, while Crossbills appeared and reappeared in the surrounding Pines, sometimes at point blank range - Richard's favourite part of the trip. The overall wall of bird sound here and at other sites was Joe's overriding memory of the trip.

A short stroll downhill from the hotel provided the icing on the cake. A Nutcracker perched atop a nearby pine: these are really secretive at this time of year, and finally a Cirl Bunting sang in the open for all to see. And then we went for breakfast! An hour later we were on our way to Trigrad Gorge where the first stunning find was a nationally protected giant beetle *Procerus gigas*. Only a Marsh Tit at this first stop was noteworthy on the birding front. So we moved up in the bus to our favoured Wallcreeper stop and immediately struck gold before the bus had stopped moving. Fantastic views, flights, song and its extraordinary behaviour were enjoyed, with occasional gaps, for the next 45 minutes before we walked through the tunnel up to the Devil's Mouth! A pair of Peregrines, a Raven, Black Redstarts and a constant movement of nesting Crag and House Martins kept our interest, even when we enjoyed an outdoor coffee. These were the best moments of the trip for David while Trigrad Gorge in total was Trisha's favorite.

Then it was on to our lunch stop. An adult and two young Dippers delayed us awhile on the bridge as we crossed to the restaurant, before we tucked into Brown Trout – a unanimous choice. It started to rain as we re-embarked onto the bus and it continued for the first two hours of our journey: but no planned stops were affected. A comfort and refuelling stop in Smolyan also produced Black Redstarts. A nesting Black Stork was seen briefly in the Arda River valley, but our next major stop was a bridge across that river near Varbina. Honey Buzzard, Red-rumped Swallow and another Cirl Bunting were obvious birds of note, but for the first time butterflies took advantage of a little sun; Sooty Copper, Woodland Ringlet and Eastern Dappled White being the standouts. An avian oddity - flocks of Cormorant totalling at least 75, were seen as we passed through Kardzhali - presumably from the nearby large reservoirs. Not far from our final destination a Little Owl on a village roof prompted disembarkation, and while there we added Whitethroat to the list. We reached the Hotel Via in Krumovgrad at 7.30 pm and dined enjoyably an hour later. We hope for fine weather tomorrow.

Day 3

Sunday 11th May

25 degrees C. Sunny

We took breakfast early, with no pre-breakfast walk, enabling us to leave by 8.00 am. Our first stop was a bridge over the River Krumovista near the village of Potochnitsa. It was simply sensational in terms of noise and variety of birds. The individuals in the group and leaders didn't know where to look. 2 Hobbies permanently stationed in a tree; a Black Stork fishing in the river; a Montagu's Harrier patrolling the fields; Syrian Woodpeckers and Golden Orioles in the riverside trees; Little Ringed Plovers on the single banks ... and never mind the Bee-eaters.

Eventually we had to move to the Vulture watch point beyond the same village. The Vulture count was not only the largest recorded for this trip, but amazingly for our famous local guide anywhere in Bulgaria. 95 Griffon Vultures, 9 Black Vultures and 8 Egyptian Vultures were minimum counts. Utterly fantastic in terms of numbers and views! However that site offers so much more. In the sunny weather butterflies abounded, included Glanville and Queen of Spain Fritillaries, Eastern Wood White, Scarce Swallowtail and Green Hairstreak. The insect life was numerically excellent and in size significantly even if most species remained unidentified. Dung Beetles and Giant Green Bush Crickets attracted attention, but an insect with no English name, *Libelloides lacteus*, was probably the most memorable. The whole visit to the site and not just the Vultures was the most important visit of the trip to Norma, Brian and Mary. There were other raptors as well. Honey Buzzards patrolled and a Black Kite drifted over. Woodchat Shrikes were a new easy to see bird with migrant Whinchats and resident Crested Larks ever present. Both Isabelline and Northern Wheatear were clearly breeding. Towards the end of our visit after an excellent lunch we had brilliant views of Barred Warbler, but only very brief and unsatisfactory views of Olive-tree Warbler. The interaction of Barred Warbler with a Red-backed Shrike was Bill's best moment.

Finally we moved a fairly short distance to the Dolnakula Valley where yet more delights awaited us we walked slowly perhaps three kilometres along the deserted road. Roller was immediately obvious and on getting off the bus a pair of Levant Sparrowhawks and a Black Stork performed brilliantly. The latter landed on its Cliffside nest. More butterflies accompanied this walk. Many Fritillaries and both sexes of the excellent Southern Festoon and an amazing Camberwell Beauty. The better birds were those which enjoyed the cliffy terrain. 2 pairs of Black-eared Wheatear and a Western Rock Nuthatch were the most obvious in this category. A Sombre Tit was much enjoyed while Squacco Heron and Chukar were less expected. And don't forget the beautiful Black-headed Buntings and constant Nightingale song. It was difficult to bring an end to a fabulous if ultimately tiring day. Nonetheless it was only a fairly short journey to our hotel and after a relaxing hour a much enjoyed dinner and a very long log of species...

Day 4

Monday 12th May

24 degrees C, cloudy early but sunny later

We had an early breakfast and an early departure from our excellent Krumovgrad hotel. We made a planned stop after about 45 minutes around the village of Studen Kladenets. A couple of Black Storks, a Raven, some Red-rumped Swallows as well as the usual Golden Orioles were all we managed in breezier conditions. However as we left the village over the dam a male Blue Rock Thrush was spotted right next to the road. Most saw it but a subsequent search found only a Cirl Bunting.

Our next stop at the Liaskovets Junction is surrounded by rolling wooded hills. A Short-toed Eagle, rather distantly, a much closer Lesser Spotted Eagle, six migrating Honey Buzzards and a superb Goshawk hunting Pigeons were our reward. A short unintentional diversion produced the first Lesser Grey Shrike of the trip and a few more Rollers were also seen en route without us stopping. Having seen a number of White Stork nests also populated by mini-colonies of Spanish Sparrows we stopped to look at and photograph one in Ivanovo and had an interesting coffee break with most of the group obtaining coffee from a tyre and car repair centre!! ... not at all like one in the UK with a café and a toilet! The village was festooned with Festoon butterflies, but none landed long enough to find out which species.

A new piece of motorway enabled us to reach Yerusalemovo more quickly than we anticipated but there our luck partly ran out. A briefly seen, by just a few, male Masked Shrike took well over an hour and much trudging up and down hill before we pinned it down and had superb views. There was no time to look for the hoped-for and usually difficult Olive-tree Warblers. Hoopoes and a couple of Woodchat Shrikes, on this occasion, were inadequate compensation. Nonetheless elated by the Shrike, we took in the Lesser Kestrel re-introduction programme at Lefka, with a splendid introduction from Simon, who works on the programme followed by an excellent picnic lunch and about 8 different Lesser Kestrels. The programme seems to be succeeding.

We then needed to choose one of the four Eastern Imperial Eagle territories we know in the area - and chose correctly. Within 15 minutes we had excellent views of a male bird with a Black Kite for dessert. The Eagle is such a rare and iconic bird we decided to try a second site near Simapovo. No eagles but Calandra and Sky Larks were new and the area was full of birds and much enjoyed - particularly Bee-eaters and a Montagus' Harrier. We were by now running quite late, so drove straight to our hotel at Pomorie passing fairly easily through the large city of Bourgas, and seeing several new species in and around the lakes adjacent to the city and the road out to Pomorie. Dinner was at 9.00 pm.

Day 5

Tuesday 13th May

Heavy rain early morning, cleared by 9.00 am – 20 degrees C. Sunny

Hearts sank between 6.30 am and 8.45 am with either significant drizzle or very heavy rain. Fortunately after doing an early morning species log of the preceding days observations and after breakfast, we saw not a single further drop of rain! Our first stop was a mere few hundred metres away at the local Balkan Green Centre. Superb views of a number of Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers, both in immaculate and beautiful breeding plumage were simply excellent. Single Kentish and Little Ringed Plovers, a few Little Terns, Black-winged Stilts, Avocets and Greenshanks joined them on the nearby sand spits. 3 of the much prized Slender-billed Gulls lounged in the lagoon and a Lesser Grey Shrike stalked prey in adjacent vegetation. Tree Sparrows, often missing in the UK, behaved like House Sparrows.

Our next stop was a lay-by off the dual carriageway adjacent to Lake Vaya, but amazingly unaffected by the nearby traffic. Here we had about eight flight views of Little Bitterns, two fly pasts of Night Heron; 2 Dalmatian Pelicans and many White Pelicans. Black and White-winged Black Terns were very distant and a Drake Garganey was a little nearer. Here we got some indication that some movement was happening with numbers of Honey Buzzard and a sizeable 'kettle' of White Storks in the sky.

While not far distant, we changed lakes to Lake Mandra and here, while we were most immediately attracted to the Glossy Ibises, Squacco Herons and a Wood Sandpiper in the marshy area below us, our eyes were drawn upwards to soaring Lesser Spotted Eagles, Honey Buzzards, White and Black Storks and loads of Bee-eaters - all on the move. A fantastic sight! The best moments for David, Bob and Tony. Time had passed without us noticing, so we moved to our regular lunch spot, where Hawfinches were seen by some, and Golden Orioles and Turtle Doves by others. A superb location! Our final Lake Mandra stop was also enjoyed by Pygmy Cormorants and a couple of Marsh Harriers, while there was still evidence of migration high in the sky. We tailored the rest of the day to provide a rather earlier end time than yesterday. So after a coffee and excellent views of an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler in the village of Dimcheno, we went to the 'hide' overlooking the Salinas at Bourgas.

Unfortunately there were no flocks of waders on the mud in front of us. However we did quite well. 3 Caspian Terns, 4 Mediterranean Gulls, 30 Shelduck, single Spotted Redshanks, Curlews and Turnstones and 4 Dunlins all represented new species for the trip. 2 more of the much-desired Slender-billed Gulls and fly-by Marsh Harrier severely persecuted by Avocets were also much enjoyed. An early return to our hotel before a traditional dinner was also appreciated. Let's hope the weather is as kind to us tomorrow.

Day 6

Wednesday 14th May

18- 20 degrees C. Cloudy, sunny, foggy then sunny again

An informal wander before breakfast did add Reed Warbler to the list, but after tucking into various sausages and warm egg and cheese offerings we left for the ½ km journey to the Pomorie Lagoon which is too good to miss. Ringed Plover joined the Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints, but the stars of the show were Flava or Yellow Wagtails - a mixture of two subspecies or species depending on your taxonomic viewpoint - Feldegg (Black headed) and dombrowskii, with at least a couple of interesting, pretty, but indeterminate intergrades.

Our next stop was very touristy – Nesebar, an ancient Thracian port going back to the 5th Century BC, with ruins, ancient churches (much later), mixed with restaurants and gift shops. A different but enjoyed stop. Our next sortie out of the bus was not quite random, but one of several we could have chosen close to the main road in the foothills of the Balkan Range. Woodchat Shrikes, Black-headed Buntings, Golden Orioles, Whitethroats and Bee-eaters were expected. However a couple of static Hawfinches were a bonus while an adult Rose-coloured Starling was a very early migrant. It was so good we lingered a little longer than intended.

Higher into the Balkan Range it became quite foggy. So there was no birding in the garden of our lunchtime restaurant in Goritsa Village. The lunch was sensational - delicious soup followed by roast pork and a light superb pudding. The family providing this fare were equally delightful. Three minutes up the road and we were in Goritsa Forest itself. Our main quarry, Semi-Collared Flycatcher was located more easily than in recent years with two males showing very well on favourite perches. These fabulous Oak woods seem to support fewer species than most people expected: No Tits were seen at all, for instance.

Having driven through the large city of Varna we tried a short diversion just before our final destination, into Topola Valley, to try for Eagle Owl on the cliffs. No luck, but we'll have another go on Friday. Then to the hotel and after some excellent local birding which produced Middle-spotted Woodpecker, Levant Sparrowhawk and easy Hawfinches a superb dinner including stuffed peppers of which seconds were demanded. Another great day!

Day 7

Thursday 15th May

An early start after a superb breakfast saw us at Lake Durankulak by 8.40 am. We didn't move more than 50 metres from the bus in the first hour! A mere list is inadequate... Night Squacco, Purple Herons, Great White and Little Egrets and Little Bitterns all put in an appearance. 4 wonderful Gull-billed Terns and 6 Whiskered Terns flew past. Great Reed Warblers and Bearded Tits intermingled right in front of us. A male Marsh Harrier caroused two females. Red-crested Pochards and flighty Ferruginous Ducks were on the water. Male and female Pied Wheatears were engaged in nest-building.

We moved another 50 metres on and the hoped-for Paddyfield Warbler performed brilliantly. A flock of Pygmy Cormorants flew over and a Black-headed Wagtail sang. A Little Ringed Plover landed on the beach, and that drew attention to Yellow-Horned Poppy, whose petals looked as though they were waxed. Eventually ... we wended our way back to the campsite restaurant for a coffee and enjoyed the Swallows nesting next to the Oryx head in the restaurant and flying around the bar. The latter was Steve's extraordinary event of the trip.

Shabla Marsh, through very pleasant habitat and an excellent lunch stop was comparatively birdless, with just a modest subset of the species we had seen earlier in the morning. We moved on to Karmen Briag, an ancient Thracian settlement with some cave dwelling. We concentrated on Calandra Lark, Tawny Pipit and the Wild Peony. Just before we left two grey Partridges, presumably first-year birds given their very plain heads, were discovered.

From there we went to Bolata Valley which though beautiful with such varied habitat, did not live up to the leader's hype! The Purple Heron and so many Bee-eaters were nonetheless beautiful. We moved on to Cape Kaliakra, where the group split into two; those wishing to concentrate on the pre-Ottoman ruins and the tiny chapel, and those who continued birding. The former scored with a Black Sea Bottlenose Dolphin and latter with an Ortolan, a Lesser Grey Shrike and four low Alpine Swifts. Our last stop was on the semi-steppe at Balgarevo where those first out of the bus had found the hoped-for Stone Curlew before the last had even stood up. A superb end to the day and John's favourite moment! Only the wonderful evening meal could match the rest of the day's highlights...

Day 8

Friday 16th May

20 degrees C - some heavy rain, but not on us!

Another sunny start, but again no Eagle Owl was on view at Topola: just the usual Alpine Swifts. Our first stop was beyond the village of Yolovo at a traditional Long-legged Buzzard nest site. The head of the sitting bird was visible at extreme range, but one in flight was a little more co-operative. However a very obliging Woodlark and a dazzling Large Copper butterfly drew far more attention. The end of a pleasant coffee stop coincided with the start of a violent thunderstorm, which accompanied us for about 10 km.

We made two stops overlooking the spectacular Srebarna Lake Reserve, the second included lunch. Below us Pygmy Cormorants Little Bitterns, Purple and Squacco Herons flew across the reed beds in front of the Dalmatian Pelican colony. As always Golden Orioles and Cuckoos abounded and at last a Syrian Woodpecker performed for everybody. Most spectacular were about 20 Red-footed Falcons which hawked insects above the reed beds. A flock of around 70 White Storks hardly produced a comment!

As lunch finished, the clouds became darker and probably the storm we had outrun earlier was nearly upon us. So we didn't take the intended walk, but drove 5km to Vetren and our comfortable guesthouse, enjoyed a cup of tea, while the heavens opened, and then returned to Srebarna, and walked on a little to another panoramic view. En route a Penduline Tits nest was found with the male making frequent feeding visits ... a brilliant moment. A plethora of Silver-studded Blue butterflies emerged after the rain, sitting around on the vegetation. The viewing spot itself was even better for birds than the last one, with Spoonbills flying over and to top it all an adult White-tailed Eagle then made a successful kill. Vaughan's best moment!

We probably spent about two hours here and even the tree tops alongside us were home to Black Hairstreak butterflies. Seeing so many new birds after many years birding was Rod's best overall experience. Then it was back 'home' to a wonderful dinner prepared by Nikolay's wife Dora. That ended a fabulous day where again the rain cost us no birding time in the end.

Day 9

Saturday 17th May

The recording day started around 4.00 am with a Golden Jackal 'barking' outside the guest house! A sunny day dawned on Vetren and those who went out before breakfast (7.15 am) saw Golden Orioles, Cuckoos, Turtle Doves as per usual. We set off at 8.15 am simply to go to the banks of the Danube, seeing tiny fishermen's craft about to set off and colossal coal-laden barges moving strongly against the current. Our first planned birding stop is an unnamed fishing lake where a pair of Ruddy Shelduck has hatched 13 young. A pair of Little Ringed Plovers was on the shore. Bee-eaters circled. A Marsh Warbler sang invisibly from the depths of the scrub. A lively place!

We then made two stops at Malak Preslavets Lake. The first impromptu stop had Savis Warbler singing, with a few Whiskered Terns and other regular marshland species for company. The second stop was more organised with shade from the sun and parking but as usual – no other people. A large Whiskered Tern colony was nesting. A variety of herons/egrets appeared on the far bank. Hawfinches passed by regularly and Kingfisher was new to the list. Our next stop was also unnamed – a huge fantastic Bee-eater colony. Based on previous experience we didn't leave the bus, so the birds performed as though we were not there. The number of Bee-eaters was Andy's favourite thing on the trip.

There was then a decision to bird, followed by lunch or vice versa at Nova Cherna. This is a huge nature reserve based on derelict fish ponds from the Communist era. Two Marsh Warblers - one seen and another heard were the scarcity-lovers predilection but their visual similarity to Reed Warbler made others less enthusiastic. Andy had fabulous views of a Penduline Tit collecting nesting material. Fortunately a subsequent largely finished nest c500 metres distance had an even more attentive and visible male present. Apart from the general brilliance of the habitat and range of birds Red-nested Grebe was the most noted – the 202nd and final bird on the group list (Leader only birds are not included). Our picnic lunch at the reserve entrance was as good as ever and included a few more butterflies one of which was a Marbled Skipper type which will require expert Bulgarian adjudication. Then with one comfort and coffee stop it was a long run to our rather flashy hotel near Gabrovo. Dinner was excellent during which we heard that Arsenal had won the cup after extra time.

Day 10

Sunday 18th May

A rather sad day but everyone was up for breakfast and departure way ahead of schedule. This had been a very helpful feature of the trip. Thank you all for that. Just a few km to Gabrovo where we dropped off Pancho, suitably eulogized, by Joe, so he could get the bus back to his home in Kavarna. A few species unusual in the United Kingdom were noted en route to Sofia of which the best was Long-legged Buzzard, but nothing new. A couple of comfort stops also allowed purchase of traditional Bulgarian pottery. A snack before reaching the airport saw us at Sofia airport bang on time, with sad farewells to Dancho and Nikolay, who had respectively driven us so well and guided, interpreted and told us so much about Bulgaria.

The flight back and baggage collection at Terminal 5 was absolutely straightforward followed by more sad farewells between a group that had enjoyed one another's company so much...and weren't we lucky with the weather!

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Black-headed Wagtail



Black-winged Stilt

Species List

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May													
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
1	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>			1											
2	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>								2				2		
3	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>										1		2		
4	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>										15				
5	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>						6	5	23	✓		✓			
6	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>						30	20	1						
7	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>												2 + 13		
8	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>						6	1	2	1					
9	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
10	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>						1								
11	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>									3					
12	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						10				2		15		
13	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>						1		12	✓	✓				
14	Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>									2					
15	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						h				1		h		
16	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>												2		
17	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>						100				✓	✓			
18	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		1	5	4		20				5				
19	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		450	✓			70	✓	✓		
20	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>						4				✓				
21	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>										3		1		
22	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>						6			2	5		1		
23	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						2			6	✓		2		
24	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			1			12			✓	✓		1		
25	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			2	5		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
26	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>						2			3	✓				
27	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>									1	3				
28	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				1		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
29	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				20		✓								
30	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>						27				50				
31	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				✓		6			20	✓		✓		
32	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>						3	✓							
33	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		75		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
34	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		1	4	10		50	1			3				1
35	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			1	2										
36	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>										1				
37	Black Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>			9											
38	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			8	1										
39	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			95	2										
40	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>				1		1								
41	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				1		6	2	8	5					3
42	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>			1	1					1					
43	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>			5				1	2						
44	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			2				1							
45	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>				1			1							
46	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1		1	✓		✓	✓	3	1					✓
47	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>			1							1				1
48	Spotted eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>						1								
49	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>				1		50		2						
50	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>				1										
51	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>						2								
52	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>				8										

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
54	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>									20		
55	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		2									
56	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			4		1		1	3	1		
57	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					4		h	2	1		
58	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Eurasian Stone-Curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>								2			
60	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					✓	✓	✓				
61	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					20	6					
62	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>					2						
63	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					2						
64	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>							3				
65	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			5		3	1	1		2		
66	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>					3	1					
67	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>					1						
68	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					1						
69	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>							3				
70	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>											
71	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					2	h					
72	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					1						
73	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					25	12					
74	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					50	23					
75	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>					4						
76	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>							4				
77	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>					5						
78	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					✓			✓	✓		
79	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaelus melanocephalus</i>					4	1					
80	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>							4				
82	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					3						
83	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>					✓	✓	✓				
84	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					15	3					
85	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
86	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>							6	30	80		
87	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					✓						
88	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					✓			13			
89	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓		2	3	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
91	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			2	6	2	1	8	20	6	✓	✓
92	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
94	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		h	h	h							
95	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		1									
96	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>			8			✓	4				
97	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>		✓									
98	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
99	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			4	3	2	5		3	1		
100	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>									1		
101	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓		✓	✓	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			1	2	h	2	1	2	2		
103	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>						h					
104	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>						1					
105	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>			3	1				1			
106	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2					3		1	1	
107	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>								1			
108	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	2							h			
109	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>				1	2	2	3				

	Common name	Scientific name	May											
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
111	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			6	6	1	12	1					
112	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>				1	1							
113	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		1										
117	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
118	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓											
119	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
120	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	1	6	3	2					2			
121	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		1										
122	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>	1		1									
123	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	✓	✓										
124	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	2											
125	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
126	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			1				1	1				
127	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>									1	2		
128	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>								6				
129	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>				4				✓				
130	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>								1				
131	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓						
132	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		3	2						1			
133	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				3			h	✓				
134	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>						2	12	✓	✓			
135	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
136	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						
137	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
138	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		4	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
139	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>						h						
140	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		4										4
141	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	h	h	h	h					1	3		
142	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>							h					
143	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>						1	1					
144	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	h					6		12	✓	✓		
145	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>								3				
146	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>							4	1			2	
147	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>											2	
148	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>			h	h	1	h						
149	Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>			1	h								
150	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>								h	h	h		
151	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓				h	h				
152	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>			1					1				
153	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>									1			
154	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		1		3		1	4	3	1			
155	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	1											
156	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		1										
157	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		h										
158	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>			1									
159	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		2										
160	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>							h					
161	Treecreeper sp	<i>Certhia sp</i>		1										
162	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>							1					
163	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
164	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
165	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		h					3		2	1		
166	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		3		2								
167	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		4					h		1			

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
168	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	h	h	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
169	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		2	1								
170	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			3				2	1			
171	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			1					3	1		
172	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>			1								
173	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			1	2	3	1	1	2			
174	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>										12	
175	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>				4	1						
176	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					1						
177	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			4	1	1	1	6				
178	Semicollared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>							3				
179	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		3									
180	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
181	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>			6	100	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
182	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				1	8	6	1	1			
183	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		h									
184	Romanian' Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava dombrowskii</i>							6	3			
	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>				1	1	4	3			2	
185	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		8	2								
186	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
187	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>							3				
188	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
189	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		2			h						
190	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
191	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
192	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>			1					1			
193	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		20									
194	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		1									
195	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				2	3	9	2	4	4	✓	
196	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		h	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
197	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		1				1					
198	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>							1			2	
199	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		2	1	1							
200	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1		5	✓	2	✓	✓	✓			✓
201	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>							1				

Mammals

Red Squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*
 Roe Deer, *Capreolus capreolus*
 Suslik, *Spermophilus citellus*

Brown Hare, *Lepus europaeus*
 Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*
 Bottlenose Dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus*

Reptiles,

Spur-thighed Tortoise, *Testudo graeca*

Balkan Green Lizard, *Lacerta trilineata*

Butterflies

Scarce Swallowtail, *Iphiclides podalirius*
 Black-veined White, *Aporia crataegi*
 Green-veined White, *Artogeia napi*
 Orange Tip, *Anthocaris cardamines*
 Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow, *Colias erate*
 Eastern Wood White, *Leptidea duponcheli*
 Green Hairstreak, *Callophrys rubi*
 Large Copper, *Lycaena dispar*

Southern Festoon, *Zerynthia polyxena*
 Small White, *Artogeia rapae*
 Eastern Dappled White, *Euchloe ausonia*
 Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*
 Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*
 Black Hairstreak, *Satyrion pruni*
 Sooty Copper, *Lycaena tityrus*
 Green-underside Blue, *Glaucopteryx alexis*

Silver-studded Blue, *Plebejus argus*
Meleager's Blue, *Meleageria daphnis*
Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*
Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*
Queen of Spain Fritillary, *Issoria lathonia*
Knapweed Fritillary, *Melitaea phoebe*
Woodland Ringlet, *Erebia medusa*
Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria*
Orbed Red-underwing Skipper, *Spialia orbifer*
Large Skipper, *Ochlodes venatus*

Brown Argus, *Aricia agestis*
Chapman's Blue, *Agrodiaetus thersites*
Camberwell Beauty, *Nymphalis antiopa*
Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*
Glanville Fritillary, *Melitaea cinxia*
Meadow Brown, *Maniola jurtina*
Wall Brown, *Lassiommatata megera*
Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*
Mallow Skipper, *Carcharodus alceae*

Moths

Common Carpet, *Epirroe alternata*
Willow Beauty, *Peribatodes rhomboidaria*
Yellow Belle, *Semiaspilates ochrearia*
Delicate, *Mythimna vitellina*
Silver Y, *Autographa gamma*

Speckled Yellow, *Pseudopanthera macularia*
Ringed Carpet, *Cleora cinctaria*
Hummingbird Hawkmoth, *Macroglossum stellatarum*
Angle Shades, *Phlogophora meticulosa*
Burnet Companion, *Euclidia glyphica*

Other notable insects,

Libeloides ottomanus lacteus
Dung Beetle sp, *Scarabaeina sp*

Giant Carab Beetle, *Procerus gigas*