

Bulgaria in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

8 – 17 May 2015



Semi-collared Flycatcher



Ferruginous Duck



Wallcreeper



Striped Hawk-moth

Report & images compiled by Andy Harding



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire GU34 3HJ UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Once in the gorge, the rushing stream seemed ideal habitat for both Dipper and Grey Wagtail and, indeed, both were seen from the moving bus, but the highlight of our first stop for Wallcreeper searching was a female Dingy Skipper butterfly, extracting liquid and possibly nutrients from a patch of damp mud and sand. But no Wallcreeper.....yet.

At our more favoured spot at the tunnel entrance, it was perhaps 15 minutes before a Wallcreeper appeared. Unfortunately, about half of the group obtained no serious view before it disappeared upstream around a vast cliff. The search was widened for the next half an hour, but eventually, with the group back together, presumably the same male returned and performed beautifully on the wall of the Gorge opposite. It then really turned up the heat investigating holes and crevices just above us. There was huge delight all round, and the favourite moment of the trip for Keith, Terry, Margaret, John and Peter.

We walked through the tunnel and up to the 'Dragons Mouth' where the coach awaited us in the small car park. From here, it was not far up river to our now traditional lunch stop, known for its beautiful trout (alternatives available). Serin sang and Dipper shot upstream, as the rain started. There were several nice additions to the moth list in the porch including The Streamer and Brindled Beauty. The fine lunch was augmented by celebratory drinks.

The fact that the rain coincided with our onward journey eastwards through the Rhodope Mountains was convenient and, by the time we had reached the bridge over the River Arda near Virbina, it was sunny and warm. A Honey Buzzard soared with two Common Buzzards for an interesting comparison. A Common Sandpiper was on the river bank and, as usual, Crag Martins and Red-rumped Swallows were overhead. It was thinking of raining again as we continued for another two hours, until a stop not near any village but c25km short of Krumovgrad. Another Honey Buzzard was the only bird of note but, not long after moving off, a male Golden Oriole flew in front of and then alongside the bus, for most of get a clear view of its brilliant colours and pattern.

We checked into the Hotel Via in Krumovgrad, our home for two nights, bang on schedule.

An excellent dinner and lively log and post-log discussion sent everyone off to bed in good spirits.

Day 3

Sunday 10th May

Max 25°C, sunny

A bright morning dawned, and we had an early start, to the nearby bridge over the River Krumovitsa, near Potochnitsa. A Black-headed Bunting and a Cirl Bunting sang from tree tops, while a Marsh Harrier patrolled distant fields. Nightingales were cacophonous. Little Ringed Plovers were resting on the single banks and a surprise Northern Wheatear was in a treetop!

Our main destination this morning was the Vulture feeding station in the nearby hills. Staying close to the village, but on the other side, we parked the bus well short of the Vulture watch point, and set off for a few hours in the field. A very showy Subalpine Warbler singing from the same elevated position was the star bird on the way up, while others were temporarily delayed by Green Hairstreak, Eastern Wood White and Glanville Fritillary butterflies. The odd over-flying Griffon Vulture obviously attracted attention. Once in position, only a couple of Egyptian Vultures and Ravens were in attendance at a recent deposited sheep carcass. It seemed as though the

Griffons lounging on the hill were pretty well sated since, while we saw quite a few, they seemed to ignore the carcass. Honey Buzzards occasionally moved past and a solitary Black Kite gave nice views. Butterflies were quite exciting, with three fairly exotic Blues – Green-underside, Chapman’s and Chequered, in addition to Holly and Common. A singing Woodlark was only briefly seen. On the way down, two amazingly showy male Golden Orioles were fabulous value and, in one of the Oriole trees, a Syrian Woodpecker appeared a few minutes before lunch. Ones, twos and even a five of Black Stork drifted by and, during our lunch, alongside the bus, a Woodchat Shrike watched us eating throughout. Inconveniently, a low-flying Egyptian Vulture drove people to their cameras, despite greasy lunch fingers. The follow up was even better - a female Honey-Buzzard flew in low and landed close by on a bush – and stayed there – fabulous! This was Mike’s favourite moment.

Our post-lunch venture to the area around the nearby Gypsy Village was far less successful, with very fleeting views of a singing Barred Warbler and a couple of Crested Larks to show. So we moved to the Dolnakula Valley where two Rollers on wires brought the bus to a halt. After a few more metres, two Lesser Grey Shrikes had the same effect, so we disembarked and the Shrikes moved ahead of us down the near deserted road. Two Black Stork nests were in a ‘quarry’ with a Western Rock Nuthatch nest of unknown usage just below one of them. A pair of Hobbies were challenged by a third bird (probably a rival male) and Spanish Sparrows, heard chirruping in the riverside Poplars, were occasionally seen.

The left hand-side of the road became more precipitous, but only two male Black-eared Wheatears reflected this change of habitat. As we descended to a slightly gentler environment Black-headed Buntings sang and, while we were watching Cirl Bunting, Golden Oriole (not well) and Whitethroat, a male Eastern Orphean Warbler was found singing at length from dead twigs at the top of a small tree – so wonderfully viewable.

Our last hurrah was back in the rocky area, since birds were getting more lively in the early evening. Not a songster, but two very obliging Chukars in lovely light were our last birds of the day. Rather tired, but on a high, we returned to a splendid meal and a few beers. A smashing day – again.

Day 4

Monday 11th May

18-20°C, significant rain at times – the right times!

The couple of nights at the Hotel Via had been extremely comfortable, so we moved on somewhat reluctantly. We set off eastwards along the same road as yesterday, and stopped briefly in the village adjacent to the Vulture watch point, where Nikolay briefly met and thanked the man responsible for supplying the Vultures with carcasses.

Soon after, the rain started, mainly fairly light, and then got heavier. A fruitless stop at a regular site was mainly a bit of exercise for those keen to test their waterproof trousers. We rejigged the itinerary slightly, as the weather improved. So we took in Yerusalemovo, which proved to be an absolute bird bonanza. The star bird – Masked Shrike – was again a pain, located half-way up a hill in fairly dense woodland. It was a full 90 minutes later that everyone connected with this superb creature – Barbara’s favourite bird.

In between, a wonderful Barred Warbler and another Eastern Orphean Warbler were seen really well by different subsets of the group. Most got views of three different Olive-tree Warblers. Black Kite and Long-legged Buzzard were the best raptors. Great views of Hawfinch and Cuckoo supplemented several Cirl Buntings and Hoopoes.

A Syrian Woodpecker was alongside two Woodchat Shrikes, and a couple of Mistle Thrushes Woodlarks sang overhead. Everything had woken up after the rain. Paradise!

Our plan was then to go to Lefka to see the Lesser Kestrel reintroduction programme. Just short of the village, we had nice views of Eastern Imperial Eagle – very lucky. At the now-successful Lesser Kestrel project we, of course, had enjoyed wonderful views of these birds when the Eagles re-appeared and started displaying. Then a second pair appeared. All four were displaying, almost above us –utterly fantastic. So, no need for specific Eagle stops later. No need either for further specific Spanish Sparrow stops – there were dozens in the buildings occupied by the Kestrels.

We took our picnic lunch here in a covered gazebo provided by the reserve centre staff especially for us. Financial contributions to the project from the group were most welcome. A not very energetic stroll subsequently enabled the whole group to see the same Nightingale singing, as well as more of the fabulous Kestrels. Photographing the latter in flight was Marie's highlight, but shared with her flight shots of Egyptian Vulture and Hobby.

Amazingly, within minutes of setting off, it started raining again. Fortunately, as we sped east, there was no rain at our last stop near Sinapovo. Here, several Calandra Larks and a Stonechat with a young bird were new species, but a Marsh Harrier, Northern Wheatear and Black-headed Bunting provided added interest. It was still a long way to Pomorie, but we were still at our hotel just before 7pm.

The live muzak gently playing during dinner was mercifully silenced during the log, but resumed subsequently – not a bad compromise!

Day 5

Tuesday 12th May

Max 25°C, fine

Our early morning excursion was in very blistering conditions – just a few hundred metres to the Pomorie Nature Centre. The water level was rather higher than in previous years. Nevertheless, two pairs of Kentish Plovers and a few Little Stints wandered past the enormously long legs of Black-winged Stilts. Avocets were nesting out on the artificial 'rafts' and occasionally came rather closer. The huge local population of Swifts was very much in evidence, as were around 15 Little Terns – mainly sitting on the beach because of the wind. Just as we left for breakfast, 20 Ruff dropped in.

We were a little late back so departure through Bourgas for Lake Vaya was at 9.15am. Just a few hundred metres from our stop, amidst the trees along the dual carriageway, at least 1000 White Pelicans glided over in squadrons. The group were surprised at Night Herons flying close by and Great Reed Warblers singing just yards from the traffic.

We missed out our usual first Lake Mandra stop, due to it having become a rubbish tip. At our next stop on the same lake, two Lesser Grey Shrikes alternated with a male Red-backed Shrike for occupation of a strategic dead tree – there seemed no antagonism, just a rota. An adult White-tailed Eagle patrolled distantly and hundreds of House Martins seemed to occupy the underside of small bridges, which was Colin's highlight of the trip. A

sizeable Dice Snake swam across a substantial piece of water, its prey clearly not digested about 10 cm down its length, bulging out in all directions!

We took our picnic lunch into the outside tables of the local café in Dimchevo, with a substantial amount of beer being purchased as a result.

Just before entering the village, considerable flooding was noted and we were luckily able to access much of this from a side road, with spectacular results. On one side, all three species of *Chlidonias* or Marsh Terns were flying: about four each of Black and Whiskered, but at least 30 of the beautiful White-Winged Black Terns.

On the muddier side, we found a small number of Curlew Sandpipers in summer plumage, rather more Little Stints, plenty of Ruffs, and a single Turnstone accompanied that spectacular wader, Collared Pratincole, of which around 10 were either assailing the local Marsh Harrier or sitting on the mud. Pairs of both Shelduck and Ruddy Shelduck were there with three, well separated, pairs of the beautiful Garganey. Twelve Glossy Ibis fed in the background, and the odd Honey Buzzard and Lesser Spotted Eagle flew over.

We reluctantly drove away, just a few yards before we saw Wood Sandpiper, and eventually about 15 in total were seen, together with Great White Egrets and Spoonbills. This prompted leaving the bus yet again, for more relaxed viewing, which produced more waders much closer, including Ringed Plovers, and two lively Temminck's Stints alongside Little Stints. A couple of Turtle Doves, now so scarce in England, were camped out on the mud for a good while.

The nearby bridge was at least 50 metres further on and from there we saw more Great Reed Warblers, a perched Hawfinch and three Purple Herons. The mega-highlight was an estimated 2700 White Pelicans flying directly overhead plus four Dalmatian Pelicans, for good measure. No fewer than nine of the group put this spectacle in second place for highlight of the trip.

How could another site live up to this? Well, it couldn't. However Bourgas Salt Pans gave us 10 Spotted Redshanks, two Little Gulls and single Oystercatcher and Curlew as new species, and a single flock of 79 Curlew Sandpipers right in front of us. This species in summer plumage was Geoff's favourite. What an end to a fantastic day.

One sad note, the excellent Pancho was being recalled to Sofia by his company. Nikolay's son, Peter would join the trip the following evening to provide extra help.

After such a day, surely the next would be an anti-climax... wouldn't it?

Day 6

Wednesday 13th May

26°C, fine and calm

The same pre-breakfast routine saw us back at the Pomorie Nature Centre watching Kentish Plovers, Little, Sandwich and Common Terns, as well as Stilts and Avocets. A first-summer Mediterranean Gull was a newcomer, while a Little Gull was in more advanced plumage than those seen yesterday. Three Curlew Sandpipers dropped in while two Turnstones were on concrete blocks out in the bay.

After breakfast, our departure was delayed a little by an obliging Olivaceous Warbler of the Eastern variety which was clearly holding territory just outside the hotel. Once on our way, we stopped where we could access the Bourgas Saltpans. Here some very distant waders were in large numbers but almost certainly the same species as previously seen. Two Rollers were enjoyed as much as usual.

Our next stop was the tourist paradise of Nesebar. This ancient Thracian port, dating back to the 5th century BC, has much to offer to the history and architecture student, with churches and a splendid museum. It also has a large array of gift shops and other offerings to attract the less cerebral tourist.

After an hour, we moved north into mixed farmland and woods in the foothills of the Balkan Range. A more or less random stop produced five Lesser Grey Shrikes, with two Woodchats and the usual Red-backed making this Shrike City, but there was so much more: Turtle Doves, Golden Orioles, Black-headed Buntings and Nightingales, which we agreed we would miss when we returned to the UK.

As usual, our huge and superb lunch was taken in Goritsa Village and, as we staggered out, a weak and weedy song was identified as Semi-collared Flycatcher and it showed obligingly and close by - and we weren't even in the Forest! That is where we went next. Beautiful oak woods, but it was so difficult to see birds. On the plus side, another male Semi-collared Flycatcher was watched through scopes by all. Yellowhammers were a big surprise in this habitat. An active Nuthatch nest was enjoyed while Spotted Flycatcher was added to the list. However Short-toed Treecreeper was only heard singing. Four species of Woodpecker were recorded: Black and Great Spotted were only heard, while Middle-spotted and Grey-headed were seen by small subsets of the group - albeit well. We persisted longer than usual in trying to get whole-group views of those species more exotic to a UK clientele, but without success.

Then it was on to the city port of Varna, and a further 60km on to the family guest house in Kavarna, with its homely atmosphere and more huge meals. Nobody ate the whole four courses!

Day 7

Thursday 14th May

25°C, largely fine

An early start saw us at Lake Durankulak in excellent shape. In all honesty, despite only very light winds and fine weather, the birding was surprisingly slow. Over the next couple of hours, two Gull-billed Terns and a couple of Purple Herons were supplemented by small numbers of White-winged Black and Whiskered Terns, which peeled off from a very distant flock over the reserve. Some Bearded Tits showed splendidly, against the noise of Great Reed Warblers and Marsh Frogs. Perhaps the star bird was Ferruginous Duck which gave a good number of fly-pasts, some of which were nicely close. However, one of our target species, Paddyfield Warbler, proved elusive. It was definitely seen and heard in one place, and definitely heard in another but, sadly, most of the group had little contact with this iconic if unspectacular species. Too few birds having yet arrived from their winter quarters was probably more important than the breeze.

Somewhat reluctantly we retreated to the local café with Swallows flying indoors, even in the toilet. We then moved to Shabla Marsh where Spotted Flycatcher was one of the star birds. There were about 30 Ferruginous Ducks on the choppy lake. However, a warbler seen by all, but unfortunately not photographed, was almost

certainly a very grey northern form of Willow Warbler. Even those who thought they liked only brightly-coloured birds got enthused!

Moving up the coast to Karmen Briag, the group obtained first views of Tawny Pipit and Pied Wheatear, as well as a female Black-headed Wagtail bathing. The endemic wild Peony was in splendid condition. We then moved on to Cape Kiliakra, where Pied Wheatears were plentiful and a couple of Alpine Swifts drifted through. (The savage end to the local Chief's occupation of this site and its female population is best consigned to history.) Nearby Bolata Valley was our next stop, where a statuesque Squacco Heron and a disturbed Purple Heron were the best birds.

Our last stop was meant to be easy, but it was only after quite a lot of walking the group had excellent views of Tawny Pipit and Isabelline Wheatear. However, a Polish group, whose path we had crossed on some previous days, appeared and flushed three fabulous Stone Curlews, which obligingly flew past. Then, on the way back to the bus Short-toed Larks landed close to the track - a full-house for the site.

And so, elated, we returned to the hotel for dinner.

Day 8

Friday 15th May

26°C, fine; very humid late afternoon

Early morning saw us in a wooded valley quite close to the hotel. A Long-legged Buzzard was nice, but the real star was a singing male Golden Oriole which showed beautifully for four separate periods, and won Diane's vote for best moment of the trip.

Packed and off on time as usual, our first random stop near Onogur produced the same delightful handful of species scarce in the UK as usual. A Blood-vein moth was an interesting find. Near Yelovo, two excellent views of Long-legged Buzzard and a Lesser Spotted Eagle overhead were more exciting. Speckled Yellow and Burnet Companion moths were more obvious than the Silver-studded Blue butterflies enjoying the tar on the road.

As it was really quite hot and bird activity was definitely drying up, we went straight to our Vetren guesthouse for lunch followed by a short period of rest and relaxation, before moving the short distance to the Srebarna Reserve. Nesting Dalmatian Pelicans are the main rationale for the reserve and they did not disappoint. A Syrian Woodpecker showed well, but only a distantly heard Savi's Warbler was a new bird for the trip until a half-built Penduline Tit's nest was found, with the male bird present- an excellent discovery. While Glossy Ibis and Ferruginous Ducks enlivened proceedings, most of the fare was standard for Bulgaria! Common Glider and Large Copper were the pick of the butterflies, if only on appearance.

So we went down to the bank of the River Danube and, while looking across to Romania, saw a regular movement of Night Herons and Pygmy Cormorants following the river, with a few birds flying in the wrong direction. That took us to wash and brush up time, which was very welcome in the humid conditions, followed by a lovely meal prepared by Nikolay's wife Dora.

Day 9

Saturday 16th May

23°C, more cloudy midday, brighter later

We returned to the bank of the Danube for our pre-breakfast walk. Our early reward of a flock of eight Squacco Herons was completely eclipsed by prolonged superb views of a Black Woodpecker trying to destroy a very large tree. It ignored both us and a lady standing in a rustic coffee bar under its selected perch. This was John's, Dennis and Graham's best moment. Such an excellent breakfast deserves a special mention, but the options and highlights are too many to record. Thank you Dora!

We pulled into Srebarna Village to pick up a few additions to picnic but stayed for a while to enjoy the preliminaries for a folk dance and music contest. The community spirit involved is something to be envied. To the surprise of the group, we made our next stop miles from anywhere, alongside a Bee-eater colony. Unusually these birds had arrived very late – just two days before – but gave wonderful views, so long as we stayed in the bus.

Nova Cherna Reserve, comprising a vast complex of overgrown fish ponds from the communist era, was our next point of call. In effect, we saw all the highlights, some of them quite surprising, in the first 200 metres. Two showy Barred Warblers (Gordon's favourite of the trip) were much admired, competing for top billing with two Penduline Tits nest building. A singing Marsh Warbler, watched through scopes won the rarity prize and Nikolay's vote for best of the trip. Many Pygmy Cormorants, even more Whiskered Terns and other Heron/Egret species flew back and forth, while the brilliantly coloured Black-headed Wagtail seemed to take a back seat to Golden Orioles and even more Cuckoos. Overflying Lesser Spotted Eagles and Honey Buzzards attracted casual interest, and a distant Booted Eagle was only seen by some of the group.

Our picnic lunch was, however, missed by nobody. As we left the site, a Wildcat crossing the track was seen by three members of the group as well as Nikolay. The others were being distracted by a Roller. There was a long drive south towards the Balkan Range, and an attractive stop about 30km short of our hotel in Etara was as much a leg stretch as a 30 minutes birding session. In the event a rather tatty Large Tortoiseshell was added to the butterfly list.

Dinner was beautifully laid out and presented in our rather upmarket last hotel, and it tasted great. We felt it promised well for breakfast, too.

Day 10

Sunday 17th May

22°C, misty early, but clearing

A Dipper family in the stream next to the hotel and a White Stork feeding in the garden seemed somehow emblematic of the whole holiday, before we packed for the drive to Sofia airport. A pale phase Booted Eagle, seen by just a couple of the group, was the highlight from the moving bus. After a couple of stops en route, we reached the airport, where we said farewell to Nikolay, Peter and our driver, Christov. Margaret eloquently expressed our grateful thanks to all of them, and Pancho. Sofia airport was comparatively uncrowded and check-in and security were very smooth as was the return flight to Heathrow.

Many thanks to all for the uncomplaining way you dealt with the inevitable lengthy bus journeys to cover all the necessary habitat to make this such a bird-filled trip. Your good humour and camaraderie were an essential ingredient of an excellent trip.

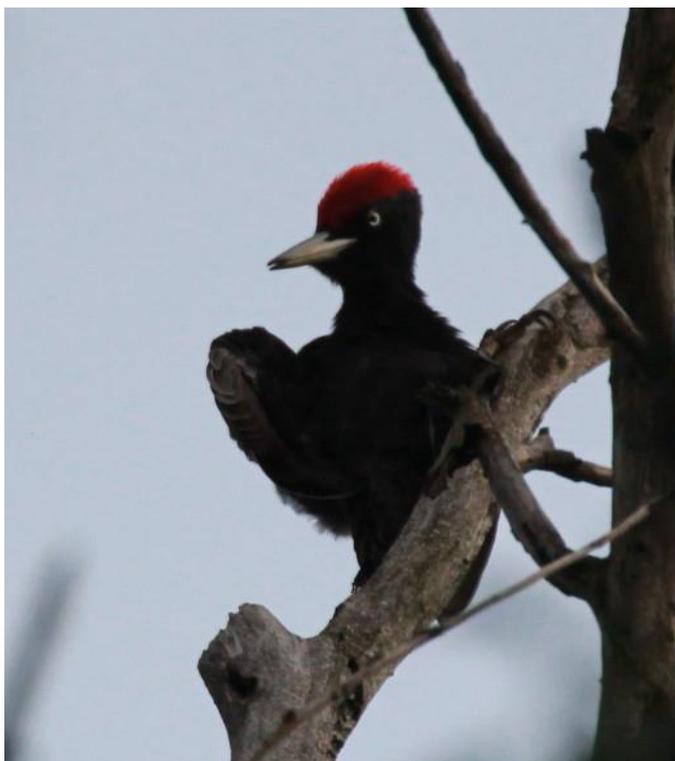
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Black Woodpecker

Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May														
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17					
1	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>			2												
2	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				1						H	2				
3	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	1			2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
4	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>					2	2	8								
5	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>					2										
6	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>					8	1			1						
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1			1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>					6								1		
9	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					3					8	6				
10	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>								40	5	✓					
11	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					✓			2	4						
12	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			15	3	1	1				5	1				
13	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>					25			1	6	12					
15	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					6				2						
16	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					1						1				
17	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					7					16	10				
18	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					3			1	1	13					
19	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		1	3	2	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					3			10	2	3					
21	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					3			3	2	1					
22	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1			✓	✓			3	4	7					
23	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					4500										
24	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					9				12	2					
25	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>								10	25	50					
26	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>								3							
27	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		11		6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		2	10	5	7	1			2	1					
29	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			1	1	1										

	Common name	Scientific name	May											
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
30	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					2							
31	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			6									
32	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			20									
33	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			1	1	6		4	1	4			
34	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				2			1					
35	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>							1					
36	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	1	1					1				
37	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	2	3	2	2	1	1	3	1	1		
38	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				1				2				
39	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>					4		1	1	1			
40	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>				4								
41	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>									1	1		
42	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>				8								
43	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	5	2	4	2	6	1	1					1
44	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	1		4	1	1	1	2	2	1			
45	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					3			1	1			
46	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					6		✓	✓	✓			
47	Eurasian Stone-Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedichnemos</i>							3					
48	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>					1							
49	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					✓	✓	6					
50	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					✓	✓						
51	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>					10	2	3	2	1			
52	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					2							
53	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			2		3	1	1					
54	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>					4	2						
55	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>					1							
56	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					10							
57	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					1							
58	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					1							
59	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					15							
60	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1										
61	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				4	1	2						

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
62	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					19	10				
63	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>					2					
64	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					100	150				
65	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>					1					
66	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>					50	✓	1			
67	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>					10		2			
68	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					20					
69	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>					2	1				
70	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>						1	7			
71	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>			3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
72	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
73	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>					3		2			
74	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					15	12				
75	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓	✓	✓		2	
76	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>					4		4	2	50	
77	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					30		30			
78	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					4					
79	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			1		1	6	1	3	3	
81	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
82	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	H	3	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		H	2H	H						
85	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			1	1						
86	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>			✓				4	6		
87	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
88	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓						✓	✓		
89	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			5	5	10	4	1	7	6	
90	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>									1	
91	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			3	3	✓		4	30	40	
92	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			1	2	1	H	2	H	H	
93	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>						1				

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
94	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>			1	1	1				1	1	
95	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>							H		2	2	
96	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	H						H		H	1	
97	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	H	1	1	1	1	1	H		H		
98	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>							1				
99	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>			6		2	6	2				
101	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			3	3		2	1	2			
102	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>				1							
103	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		1	2	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
104	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		5	3	2	1			6	5	1	
105	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>										1	
108	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		5	8	1	1						
110	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	H	✓									
111	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	1	✓	✓	1	2	1	4	✓	✓	✓	✓
112	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	H						1		2	1	
113	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>									1	3	
114	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>								5			
115	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>				6		1	6				
116	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>							5				
117	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	1		2	10	✓	✓	✓				
118	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			H	2					H		
119	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				H				1		H	
120	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					5		8				
121	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
122	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	10	✓	✓								
123	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓
125	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>					2+						

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
126	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	H	H	H			H		H	H	
127	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>						1	2			
128	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>					8	1	✓	✓	✓	
129	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>							1			
130	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					H		1		2	
131	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>				H					1	
132	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>			H	H	H	2				
133	Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>				2						
134	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>								H		
135	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	H	H		H	H	H	H	1
136	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>			1	1					2	
137	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		H	1					H	1	
138	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>			1	1						
139	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		H	3	1	2	1	1		1	
140	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>			1							
141	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H								
142	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>						1				
143	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		1								
144	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>						H				
145	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
146	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
147	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		3				1		1	2	
148	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	1	5	2	2						
149	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H								
150	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
151	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		2								1
152	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>				2			1			
153	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>							4			
154	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			2	1		1	3	1		
155	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>							13			
156	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>			2							
157	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>						2	3			

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
158	Semicollared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>						3					
159	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		3								2	
160	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
161	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>			2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
162	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		1				2	2	2	1		
163	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1										
164	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		3								1	
165	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>		1					1		2		
166	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1	4	4	1	1	1	1		1	1	
167	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>							3				
168	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	H		
169	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		6			H						
170	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	H	✓				H	1	2	1		
171	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
172	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			4				2				
173	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		6									
174	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		2	1								
175	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>			2	3	1	2		4			
176	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
177	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>						3					
178	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>				1	3						
179	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		H	2	4							
180	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>			5	2	6	6	6	1			
181	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>							1				

Mammals

Red Fox

Golden Jackal (heard and roadside corpse)

European Wildcat

Roe Deer

Bottlenose Dolphin

Bat sp x 2

Red Squirrel

Reptiles and Amphibians

Dice Snake

Balkan Green Lizard

Sand Lizard

Spur-thighed Tortoise

Marsh Frog

Fire-bellied Toad (heard)

Butterflies

Scarce Swallowtail

Large White

Small White

Green-veined White

Eastern Wood White

Orange Tip

Clouded Yellow

Brimstone

Green Hairstreak

Large Copper

Grecian Copper

Sooty Copper

Holly Blue

Green-underside Blue

Chequered Blue

Silver-studded Blue

Brown Argus

Chapman's Blue

Common Blue

Common Glider

Large Tortoiseshell

Red Admiral

Painted Lady

Knapweed Fritillary

Glanville Fritillary

Small Heath

Speckled Wood

Wall Brown

Dingy Skipper

Grizzled Skipper

Large Skipper

Moths

Forester

Blood-vein

Carpet (*Epirrhoe*) sp

Red-Green Carpet

Early Tooth-striped

Streamer

Shoulder Stripe

Speckled Yellow

Brindled Beauty

Striped Hawk-moth

Orange Footman

White Ermine

Silver Cloud

Hebrew Character

Delicate

Bordered Straw

Green Silver-lines

Burnet Companion

Four-spotted

Fanfoot sp



Eastern Olivaceous Warbler