

Bulgaria in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 - 14 May 2017



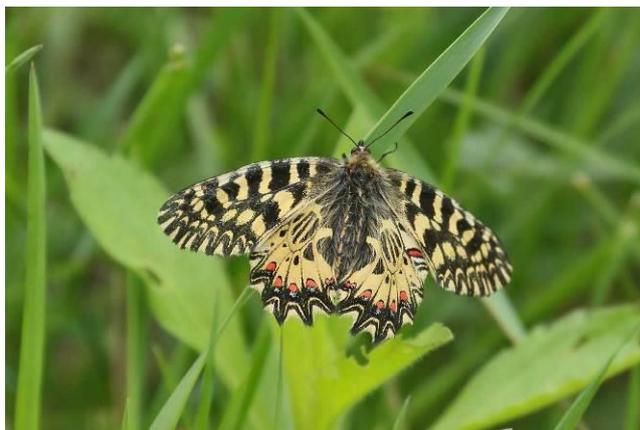
Squacco Heron, Lake Mandra



Black-headed Bunting male, Lake Mandra



Common Glider, Srebana



Southern Festoon, Strelkevo

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Day 1

Friday 5th May

The sixteen members of the group who were flying from Heathrow had all met up with Andy before embarkation. The flight from Terminal 5 was problem free with a slightly early arrival at Sofia airport, which was anything but busy. So baggage reclaim was straightforward and we immediately met up with Petar, the manager of our sister organization in Bulgaria, who was there to ensure we started the tour on the right footing. Also there were Yordan, our guide, his wife Theodora, who was assisting him and Mitko, our driver. They would be looking after us all week. Then onto our bus, which gave us plenty of room and the microphone also allowed the tour briefing to take place as we drove.

Our first taste of continental birds was a White Stork on its nest on a lamp standard above the motorway. However our rural leg-stretch near Vakarel was a real eye-opener with three Corn Crakes calling and Nightingales singing while Red-rumped Swallows wheeled around. Tree Sparrow, Corn Bunting and Yellowhammer are now scarce in England - but not here! Male Golden Orioles chased one another in a nearby belt of trees. A lovely introduction!

The sunshine disappeared as we re-embarked and continued heading south into the Besparski Hills in heavy rain. However we managed a pleasant coffee stop to further break the journey. We were soon climbing steadily in pine-clad mountains and fortuitously the rain ceased and we were able to have a birding stop next to Beglika Reservoir - and very good it was too. Three Ring Ouzels showed nicely, as did two Whinchats. Crested Tits required a bit of neck ache and two Green Woodpeckers didn't stay long enough. However Crag Martins above were quite new to many of the group.

We reached Hotel Dabrash beyond Dospat town before dusk, and still early enough for us to get an insight into the local birdlife. The hotel is usually virtually empty when we arrive, but a huge local High School graduation party was underway with students and their entire families in attendance. Fortunately there is an upstairs dining room and bar which catered for us beautifully. The dinner was a traditional Bulgarian meal and all the ingredients were both local and organic. It was accompanied by music from the party downstairs and sheet lightning outside as the storm raged!

Day 2

Saturday 6th May

A beautifully clear, if cold, morning gave superb viewing conditions and while there was plenty to see, bird activity was perhaps a little suppressed by the low temperatures. Red-rumped Swallows competed with Crag Martins for old House Martin nests at the hotel. A superb male Black Redstart popped up occasionally. Poor views of an apparent Cirl Bunting singing from the top of a pine tree turned out to be the rather scarcer Rock Bunting. Eventually, below the hotel, first a Rock and then a Cirl Bunting sang from the same and rather closer tree. Mass viewing precluded error in this surprising situation. Both Song and Mistle Thrushes were seen and Cuckoos called endlessly. A Black Woodpecker called and was briefly seen, while probably three Grey-headed Woodpeckers called tantalizingly. Most enjoyed were the Crossbills, at least 40 of them, including some superb

males, which sat for minutes on end at head height; not as usual around the tops of lofty pines. It was difficult to call the group inside for our breakfast.

Once on our way, our first stop was at the Roman bridge, which was much photographed, but is in a sufficiently rural situation to allow observation of a Black-headed Wagtail and Crag Martins overhead, while a distant Woodlark sang. As we drove up the valley into Trigrad Gorge it became increasingly obvious that this was a serious gorge and not just a rocky valley. Dipper and Grey Wagtail were periodically seen in the fast-flowing river and males of the latter were seen singing from trees, which seemed unusual compared with their behaviour in the UK. Strangely, few Crag and House Martins appeared as we scanned the cliffs. Unfortunately all our hard work of scanning the sides of the gorge came to nought, as this previously very reliable site yielded no Wallcreeper. Subsequent to our visit, other groups have also failed to see Wallcreeper, so it now seems the accessible sites in the gorge have been deserted for the last two years. Nonetheless a beautiful endemic flower, *Haberlea rhodopensis*, and several Marsh Tits were enjoyed as we anticipated the Trout we were to have at lunch, and a very fine lunch it was. It coincided with deterioration in the weather and it continued to rain as we headed off eastwards along the Rhodope Mountains.

Rain came and went, but it didn't stop us seeing a couple of Black Storks en route and by the time we stopped near Leska at a bridge over the River Arda, the sun came out. The butterflies started to wake up with Silver-studded Blue, Brown Argus, Holly Blue and Wall Brown seen, accompanied by a couple of common day-flying moths: Burnet Companion and Common Heath. Cirl Buntings were again singing atop trees, but more special were two Short-toed Eagles which gave nice views.

As we rolled into Krumovgrad we saw a new White Stork nest right next to the Hotel Via, our 'home' for the next two nights. An excellent dinner consisted of a delicious cold cucumber soup, a hearty meat and potato stew and a sweet and syrupy pudding. We then had a mutual introduction session (that hadn't really been possible last night), and then a lively log and post-log discussion sent everyone off to bed in good spirits.

Day 3

Sunday 7th May

It was a bright morning for our pre-breakfast walk down to the bank of the River Krumovitsa. An Eastern Olivaceous Warbler showed off in Tamarisk bushes on a sandbar in the middle of the river. Nightingales were also much in evidence with several singing on all sides. The bridge was a great spot, with Crag Martins actually flying below us, Little Ringed Plover and Common Sandpiper on the sandbars and a Little Bittern which crossed from one side to the other. When we approached the bushes on the other side, a very well-marked Barred Warbler greeted us. Eventually we saw three, with different degrees of barring, getting quite superb views of these often difficult birds. Red-backed Shrikes also clamoured for attention.

Then to an excellent breakfast and a prompt start on the short ride to Potochnitsa. Because it was getting warm quite rapidly and there were signs of raptors lifting off, we went immediately to the vulture feeding site, but while some Griffon Vultures were aloft, there were none actually on the station. A couple of the much smaller and scarcer Egyptian Vultures also made regular circuits. Two Honey Buzzards showed well, as did two Woodlarks, of which everyone obtained nice telescope views. The sun came and went which wasn't ideal for butterflies, but in the good patches we did well. Glanville Fritillaries, Green-underside Blue, Green Hairstreak, Orbed Red Underwing Skipper and Balkan Zephyr Blues joined the more numerous Silver-studded Blues.

We then moved back downhill to explore the rather open area nearby. This proved a good move with a beautiful Lesser Grey Shrike and Woodchat Shrikes giving lovely views. Woodlark sang up above while we all got some kind of view of a not very obliging Eastern Orphean Warbler.

Back to the village for celebratory beer and/or ice-cream, and we were allowed to take our picnic lunch in the bar – a good arrangement! Then we went to a very rocky area outside the village of Studen Klavenets. This excellent spot produced three Black-eared Wheatears, two Chukar Partridges, a Subalpine Warbler, a Syrian Woodpecker and, for the butterfly enthusiasts, Lesser Spotted Fritillary.

Moving to the valley at Dolna Kula there was still intermittent sunshine, but gloomy skies in the distance. Butterflies were easy to pick out as they prepared for bad weather. Queen of Spain and (probably Eastern) Knapweed Fritillaries were the highlight. A Little Egret in the river below and a couple of Hobbies were new for the trip, while just before we re-embarked on the bus, at least four Kestrels were circling above. The real star though was our first Roller of the trip which performed brilliantly in an adjacent field.

After another excellent dinner, the log was attended by another full house, which was impressive following an excellent but tiring day.

Day 4

Monday 8th May

The dull misty early morning made for an atmospheric walk down to the river again, to the accompaniment of Golden Orioles and Nightingales. Overall there was a marked reduction in bird activity; just one Barred Warbler for example. A Black Stork was fishing in the river but the conditions precluded really successful photography. The couple of nights at the Hotel Via had been extremely comfortable, so after an excellent breakfast we moved on somewhat reluctantly, setting off eastwards along the same road as yesterday.

The edges of the extinct volcano near Madzharovo provided us with two great stops. The first held an active if distant Western Rock Nuthatch nest, even if looking through a scope was *de rigueur*. A couple of Subalpine Warblers, and particularly the bright and showy male, were very much appreciated. Griffon Vultures patrolled closely overhead or could be seen up on the cliffs. The second stop in this area is known as Kovan Kaya. An Ortolan Bunting sang on a small shrub just above us, while a Peregrine Falcon was on sentry duty on a more distant crag. Somewhat nearer was a very obliging male Blue Rock Thrush. Although we had seen and heard many Golden Orioles by now, a superb male, viewable at length through a telescope, was just brilliant.

Our next stop has been a highlight of the trip at Yerusalemovo, with the specific target of Masked Shrike and Olive-tree Warbler. Both species had become tricky in the last couple of years, and this year luck was not with us. So we spent a long period of time here, somewhat fruitlessly, which meant our picnic lunch was going to be late.

So on to Lefka to see the Lesser Kestrel reintroduction programme, where the organizers normally set up a place for our picnic lunch. In fact very heavy rain made lunch a shambles. There was minimal shelter to organize the lunch, so that both Yordan and Theodora were soaked. Our hope of using their exposition area for lunch was thwarted by the presence of other visitors. We did, of course, get views of the lovely Lesser Kestrels, a Little Owl

on a nearby building and dozens of Spanish Sparrows. However the weather made this a disappointing stop and we chose to move on, albeit still behind schedule.

We had missed all opportunities thus far for Eastern Imperial Eagle, but we tried again at Sinapovo in dry weather...and bingo...success! As we continued, a 'colony' of five Montagu's Harriers and a couple of Marsh Harriers were seen from the moving bus, and we decided to make another stop, as a last ditch attempt for Masked Shrike. In the event a bird was found in front of us just as someone called another bird behind, so most of us turned round and just three lucky souls got decent views. Unfortunately we couldn't relocate it. As we trudged back to the bus a lovely male Red-footed Falcon circled above to relieve some of the gloom.

As we pushed into Bourgas it was obvious that the city is surrounded by lakes, so we saw several water bird species we had not encountered before, but since we would certainly see them again, we went straight through and on to our hotel, Pavel and Petar, in Pomorie on the Black Sea coast.

Day 5

Tuesday 9th May

Before breakfast we walked the few hundred metres to the reserve and museum centre for the Pomorie saltpans. The rather narrow strand above water held some Avocet nests, surviving simply because of the lack of a tide. Black-winged Stilts also spend the summer here, but the Curlew Sandpipers, mainly in superb summer plumage, were only stopping over on their journey to their high arctic breeding grounds. A single Mediterranean Gull stood out among the Sandwich Tern colony on concrete and wood structures out in the lagoon. Little Terns fished mainly inshore, looking tiny in comparison.

It was only a few kilometres to the nearby Bourgas saltpans, where it became obvious that there was a significant migration movement happening. The first few Honey Buzzards eventually amounted to about 40, with a dark phase Long-legged Buzzard for company. Two Dalmatian Pelicans, by far the scarcer of the pelican species, flew majestically by. Two Little Gulls did the same. On the mud some Ruff and around 30 Little Stints were constantly on the move. We had the impression that if we stayed here all day we would have an excellent day, but there was much more to do.

En route through busy Bourgas city more Honey Buzzards could be seen 'kettling' among the high rise buildings...probably around 95 in total. We pulled into a lay-by to view Lake Vaya only a few metres from a busy dual carriageway. This is always a shock to visitors...but the birds don't mind. White Pelicans were spectacular if rather distant, with a smattering of equally distant Dalmatian Pelicans. Singles of Night Heron, Squacco Heron and Pigmy Cormorant flew past occasionally at quite close range. Much more distantly, good numbers of Black Terns and a few of the even more beautiful White-winged Terns hawked over the lake's surface. A couple of Great Reed Warblers could often be heard singing, but remained invisible to our left and right in deep reedbeds. We kept looking skywards for more evidence of raptor migration and were rewarded with a couple of decent views of Lesser Spotted Eagle.

We moved just a few kilometres to Lake Mandra, or a corner of it, where a dozen Squacco Herons mooched about in front of us, and a couple of Purple Herons and Glossy Ibis decided that they didn't want to be watched by us. Male Ashy-headed and Western Yellow Wagtails showed how different males of the Yellow Wagtail complex can be; but all are very attractive. This also proved a good spot for eagles. An adult White-tailed Eagle

passed by at reasonable range, not requiring the use of the telescopes. Then another eagle was seen lumbering directly towards us across the large lake. It was in slow active flight unlike our earlier Lesser Spotted Eagles, but looked distinctly different and interesting. It was mobbed by corvids and eventually veered away from us. Our very tentative conclusion was Greater Spotted Eagle - a much rarer species. This verdict was confirmed by Sean's amazing photographs, and after the trip it was also confirmed by Europe's foremost raptor expert.

Simply crossing the road allowed us to view a small marsh and wooded ponds, and a different array of species. Marsh Harriers were on constant patrol. Two Penduline Tits were well seen by most of the group while others were entranced by Grecian Copper, Large Copper and Southern Festoon butterflies. As we reluctantly returned to the bus, a Wood Sandpiper and a lovely Temminck's Stint revealed themselves on a small puddle.

Our picnic lunch was taken in the local café at Dimchevo, where a Scarce Swallowtail was the wildlife highlight, cruising over the empty beer crates. The fields near Dimchevo, which are sometimes flooded and a good birding site, were covered in crops this year, so we took in a low hillside, again adjacent to Lake Mandra. Three splendid male Black-headed Buntings were the top birds, while more Grecian Coppers joined many Glanville Fritillaries and a couple of Chequered Blues on the plentiful flowers.

Our last stop, as the weather closed in, was Poda nature reserve. The reserve centre itself produced no new species, but as we walked towards the Black Sea shore, three Little Gulls, a Spotted Redshank and a Lesser Grey Shrike demanded our attention. The walk proved rather longer than anticipated, and the weather was worrying, but those who made it to the end saw a single Slender-billed Gull, a few Turnstones and even more Curlew Sandpipers; and also got pretty wet! Not surprisingly, that ended proceedings for the day and we returned to the hotel.

The dinner was excellent and the log rather long, before bed.

Day 6

Wednesday 10th May

Despite it being a transfer day and it was also drizzling, a decent crowd turned out for the pre-breakfast walk to the local Reserve Centre, as yesterday. The fare was very similar, but the number of birds fewer.

The drizzle had stopped while we made three stops around the Bourgas saltpans at the beginning of our journey north. The heavy rain during the night had turned some of the paths to very heavy mud, which made walking difficult and much cleaning was required upon each return to the bus. This did not stop us doing some interesting birding. Little Stints in lovely gingery summer plumage were joined by Ruffs and Wood Sandpipers, as well as the regular Avocets and Black-winged Stilts. A distant flock of 55 Little Gulls were joined by three Slender-billed Gulls and eventually all flew past us. We managed a view of the Black Sea, and while five Black-throated Divers, a couple of which were in summer plumage, and four Red-necked Grebes were quite close in, more distant scanning revealed totals of 16 and 14 respectively. As usual in this area, we also saw a very odd looking moth; the semi-transparent *Pentapthera morio*, a relative of the Burnet moths.

We then drove north to cross the Balkan range and, as usual, took our huge and superb lunch in Goritsa village where, for the more discerning, the large snails of which we had seen so many were on the menu. Yum yum! It was just a short hop from there to Goritsa Forest proper. Firstly we explored the mature Oak woods to the east

of the main road, where the highlight was excellent views of a Short-toed Treecreeper. We then took the bus two kilometres to the western side where a Swedish ornithologist has provided dozens of new nestboxes. This clearly did the trick with excellent views of Semi-collared Flycatcher, though the foliage and lack of leafless snags in these much younger trees sometimes made viewing difficult. In total, probably seven birds were seen. To top it all a Middle-spotted Woodpecker put on a great show; something of a surprise for quite a shy species. So it was a very happy busload which headed off for the journey through the city port of Varna.

It was a further 60 kilometres to our final destination, but we hadn't quite finished. A speculative stop alongside a cliff between Topola and Balchik produced a superb species: Eagle-Owl, even if we couldn't quite see all of it as it waited for dusk. Then it was 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 11th May

Outside our Kavarna guesthouse we overlooked a wooded valley with enough bird interest to make an early morning walk unnecessary. Despite fleeces and coats being the order of the day, Cuckoos, Bee-eaters and the local Black Redstart kept us entertained. Then as one or two drifted off towards breakfast, a definite if distant Levant Sparrowhawk put in an appearance. So the mood was pretty buoyant during the extensive breakfast.

There were no long journeys planned for today, and in just over half an hour we made the first of two stops at Durankulak. The first involved a walk which took us along the edge of a lake to an ancient settlement on an island accessed by a wooden walkway. The walk was enhanced by a very close White Stork and a pair of Stonechats, while the reedbed held some nicely visible Great Reed Warblers and two Savi's Warblers. Amazingly both of the Savi's Warblers showed well! A Little Bittern, of course only seen in flight, was a good addition. Clouded Yellow and Brown Argus butterflies flitted around the ruins of the settlement.

The second stop was to walk along the Black Sea coast with a freshwater lake to the west. An amazingly close Little Bittern was such a surprise that no-one obtained a photograph. Ferruginous Ducks wheeled around frequently enough to show all their key features. A flock of nine Squacco Herons took off in response to one of the many passes of Marsh Harriers. Rather more important to the rarity hunter; three Paddyfield Warblers showed brilliantly. This was one of the main reasons for coming here and a huge improvement on recent years. As we walked back towards our picnic restaurant, the local eastern subspecies of Reed Bunting decided to sing prominently, and a mixed flock of Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint flitted up and down the beach. We retired to an area of al fresco seating at the beachside café for our picnic and, of course, bought some drinks.

Another shortish stop was made at Shabla Lake, which added nothing new to our list. We then moved to some cliff top steppe at Kamen Briag, but hardly had we had time to take in some airborne Calandra Larks, when Yordan received a phone call that a Demoiselle Crane was now standing in Shabla Lake. This is such rare bird in Europe that we high-tailed it back towards Shabla, only to receive news en route that it had taken off. Half an hour had been wasted, but it was worth a go.

Because of the delay we went directly to Cape Kaliakra. It was a good move since, in addition to the expected Pied Wheatears and Alpine Swifts, a raft of Yelkouan Shearwaters were moving well offshore, but one was much closer in company with a Black-throated Diver, with both being harried by the local Yellow-legged Gulls. Better

still, two Red-breasted Flycatchers and a female Collared Flycatcher were well seen in the last bushes before the sea.

There was still time to visit another steppe area at Balgarevo, where we quickly picked out two Stone-curlews. Tawny Pipit and Short-toed Lark were less well seen and there was no sign of Isabelline Wheatear. So we took a side road in the same area and eventually managed good views of all of the above.

What a huge day and, given we had taken a roughly circular route, it was only a short hop back to our guesthouse for drinks, dinner and another long, but enjoyable log.

Day 8

Friday 12th May

Early morning saw some of the group looking over the wooded valley next to the guesthouse in the not unreasonable hope of seeing Levant Sparrowhawk again, and they were rewarded with excellent views of a male. After a lovely breakfast, the 'lazies' who had slept in were rewarded. While the bus was being loaded they had views of both male and female Levant Sparrowhawks!

We set off north-west and after about 110 kilometres, turned off the main road and were immediately rewarded with a Long-legged Buzzard motionless on a telegraph pole right in front of the bus. It was only a short detour to the lovely valley near Strelkevo. Raptors were again to the fore including three Booted Eagles. We all got nice views of at least three Sombre Tits. This was good news since the only previous sighting had been brief and involved just a couple of people. The regular species, such as Golden Oriole, simply abounded. This was a great area for butterflies. A host of skippers and several species of blue, all on some old cheese discarded from a picnic, was perhaps the oddest sight. More spectacular were both Southern and Eastern Festoons, joined by Scarce Swallowtail. Idas Blue, Sooty Copper and Map Butterfly were certainly also new for the trip.

We left this spot somewhat reluctantly and headed for the huge nature reserve of Srebana, which was quite close to our final destination for today. We made three different stops and all were great. There were no new bird species; simply lots of wonderful birds. Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill and Roller abounded. A drake Garganey and Ferruginous Ducks sat on the water at fairly close range and were joined by a Muskrat. The mud and tarmac on another section were a huge draw for vast numbers of Silver-studded Blues, several Knapweed Fritillaries and a single Common Glider which landed at our feet, while Penduline Tits were nest-building and even singing above. The important breeding colony of Dalmatian Pelicans was very distant: around 60 -70 pairs rely on this site.

We could not resist driving down to the bank of the Danube, where some of the group tried to get interesting species on their Romanian list! A mixture of Pigmy Cormorants, a variety of herons and egrets and a few Dalmatian Pelicans drifted past in either direction, while huge barges carrying coal or even passengers headed towards the Black Sea.

We were actually in Vetren at this point and we were soon at our two neighbouring guesthouses, with many of the common but, by now, favourite birds close by. Golden Jackals called loudly about an hour after we had finished our excellent dinner, which the whole group ate in the Pelican guesthouse.

Day 9

Saturday 13th May

You didn't really need to leave either of the gardens with Golden Orioles and Nightingales for company, but before breakfast we walked out through the village for a bit more variety, and where a Lesser Grey Shrike was the star bird.

Our first stop is always in Srebana village where a regional dance and song competition takes place on this Saturday. Things seemed to be a little less advanced this year, but soon teams of exotically dressed women were arriving from every village in the area.

Our first natural history stop was at Gavran Marsh where distant Whiskered Terns and Sooty Coppers were the main attraction. Then to Kolarovo, a nice spot with plenty of butterflies and birds, but the artificial lake is much to the liking of Ruddy Shelducks. However, none were present until we were about to turn back for the bus when a pair flew in right on cue.

Malak Presvalets is an extremely reliable site for Whiskered Tern with a large colony just in front of us on the lily pads. There are often other interesting birds present and three Night Herons on the far bank of the lake were out-shone by a Little Bittern on the lily pads. A Kingfisher was one of only a couple seen during our trip, and a Common Redstart sang in the trees above us as we took our picnic, well sheltered from the heavy rain. Another lucky break!

The rain had stopped as we parked up next to the Bee-eater colony near Tutrakan. The spectacle simply blew us away. The lovely weather meant we stayed rather longer than we should, and in addition to the wonderful Bee-eaters we had amazing views of Long-legged Buzzard and the Adonis Blue butterfly.

We got even more carried away at Nova Cherna, where a Penduline Tit making a nest in full view was the star attraction, with others of this species also seen very well. All the herons, cormorants and egrets with which we had become familiar were usually in the air, with an amazing number of Common Cuckoos. Large Copper and Provencal Short-tailed Blue butterflies were well photographed new species here.

Ultimately, after a lovely walk, we left way behind schedule; a situation which Mitko, our amazing driver, tried to mitigate. Our luck ran out just as we arrived at our hotel in Etara, when the heavens opened. Amidst us all dashing about, Donna cut her head quite badly on the boot lid of the bus, but fortunately it did not stop her coming to enjoy the last evening with the rest of the gang (she is absolutely fine, by the way).

Fortunately the rain had abated by the time we needed to walk round outside our hotel to the dining room for some fabulous local cuisine: the starters were as big as any main course, followed by amazing flatbreads accompanying a pork and mushroom dish served in gondolas. An excellent and jolly last night culminated in tributes to the group – what a group! - and from the group to those leading and driving, amidst much mirth.

Day 10

Sunday 14th May

Fortunately the rain had moved through during the night and some of the group took the opportunity for a final short early morning walk before breakfast, at which the coffee was not self-service as in most of our other hotels and in some cases arrived post-breakfast!

Birding activity did not cease while the bags were loading and cameras clicked relentlessly while Pallid Swifts zoomed about. Nonetheless we made a prompt getaway on the longish journey to Sofia airport, albeit on trunk roads. A couple of Long-legged Buzzards were the best sightings on the journey south. At a petrol station we all ordered sandwiches for lunch which were rapidly made up for us.

Once at the airport we said farewell to Yordan, Theodora and Mitko, who had done so much to make our trip special. Sofia airport was comparatively un-crowded and check-in and security were very smooth, as was the return flight to Heathrow.

In conclusion, Andy says many thanks to each and every one of the group for the uncomplaining way you dealt with more than one storm which knocked the odd hole in our trip, and the inevitable lengthy bus journeys to cover all the habitats necessary to make this such a bird-filled trip. He was amazed and gratified by how such an apparently disparate group pull together, finding things, helping one another with identifications and ensuring that everyone obtains the best possible views. And particularly how we laughed together! This trip was full of so much fun and good humour.

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Long-legged Buzzard, Tutrukan

Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>									4	h	
2	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>					6	2	20	6			
4	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>										2	
5	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>					8	2	2	6			
6	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>									4	2	
8	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>									5	5	
9	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>								5	15	6	
10	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>			2								
11	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		h		1			h	1	h	5	
12	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>							17	6			
13	Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>								15			
14	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>									1	h	
15	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>							14				
16	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	
17	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					14		37				
18	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>					1						
19	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		2	6	6						1	
20	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	3	3	12	✓	100	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				10	5		3	✓	50		
22	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					6			4			
23	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>			1		1		2	3	3		
24	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					4	1		10	✓		
25	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					20	2	12	✓	✓		
26	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			4	✓	✓	✓	1	5	✓		
27	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					6		3	1	1		
28	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					1			2			
29	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			1	1	✓	✓	1	✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
30	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					✓				1		
31	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					20				60	3	
32	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>					20	3	2	✓	✓		
33	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>							9				
34	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	20	1		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			2		135					1	1
36	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			2								
37	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			15	✓							
38	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		2	1	1					2		
39	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>				1	2						
40	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>					2						
41	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>			1	1					4		
42	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>				1							
43	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>							1	4			
44	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1			1					1	
45	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				4	10	3	12	1	2		
46	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				6							
47	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					1						
48	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>					1		2	2	3	2	
49	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	3	2	✓		✓	1	1	✓		
50	Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>	h										
51	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					2				1	1	
52	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓		
53	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedichnemus</i>							2				
54	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>					2	1					
55	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓				
56	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				✓	✓	✓					
57	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	1			1		1				3	
58	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>							1				
59	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					1						
60	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			2	2		2	4				
61	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					1						

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
62	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					1						
63	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					2	4	8				
64	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			1				1		1		
65	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					6						
66	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>					25	✓	6				
67	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					20	40	25				
68	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>					1	1					
69	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					40	30	18				
70	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>					1	3					
71	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					✓	✓					
72	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>					5	55	3				
73	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>					1						
74	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓				
76	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>				✓	✓	✓					
77	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	1		
78	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>					2		6	✓	✓		
79	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				1	40	3		5			
80	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					20		2				
81	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					1						
83	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>								5	✓		
84	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			6	✓	h	h	25	✓	✓		
85	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
87	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		h								2h	
88	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>							1				
89	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		2	1	4							
90	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		5					3	10			
91	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
92	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>		4	1	4	1						✓
93	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			1		2		6	18	1		

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
94	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>									1	1	
95	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
96	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	h			2				5	2	h	
97	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>							2		2		
98	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>									2		
99	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>			1					1			
100	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1	2		1			1	1	1	2	
101	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		1									
102	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	2		1	1	1	1			3		
103	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		5h	h				h				
104	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>			1	20							
105	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	1	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				1	2	1					
107	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			2		1			4	3	2	
108	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				1	1						
109	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	1	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>			2	2	1			6	1	1	
111	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			4	2				2	1		
112	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>				1							
113	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	3		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
114	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	2	5	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>									10	20	
118	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		3	4	2							
120	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	1	✓									
121	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	2	h									
122	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>			1						3		
123	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		5									
124	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>							3	1	✓		
125	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
126	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					2				5	5	
127	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>					h			1			
128	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		h	3	2					h	h	
129	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	h		1	1							
130	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
131	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>								5			
132	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>								✓			
133	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓			
134	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
135	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	4	✓	✓	✓							✓
136	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
137	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	1	7	✓	✓			1	3	✓	✓	
138	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>					h			h	h		
139	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		2							2	2	
140	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					1	1	h				
141	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		1	h	h			3		1	h	
142	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>								h			
143	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>					✓	h	✓	✓	✓	✓	
144	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					1					1	
145	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>								3			
146	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					h	h					
147	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>										h	
148	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>			6	5	5	h	h				
149	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>								4	h		
150	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>											
151	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	2	2					1		1	✓	
152	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>			4	2	1	1	2			1	
153	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>							1	2		4	
154	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>			2	1							
155	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	1		1	✓	5		h			h	
156	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>			1	3							
157	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		1									

	Common name	Scientific name	May											
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
158	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		h										
159	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>							6				1	
160	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>				2								
161	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>							1					
162	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
163	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	3											
164	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
165	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		2		2			2		2		1	
166	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	1	4										
167	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>							7					
168	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1							1			
169	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>								h				
170	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
171	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>								1				
172	Semicollared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>							7					
173	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>								2				
174	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	1	1	1				1	1	1			1
175	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				1							1	
176	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				1								
177	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	2		1			2		8				
178	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>								2	1			
179	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			3			1	1	3				
180	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>								1				
181	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>			3									
182	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>								8				
183	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		5										
184	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
185	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
186	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
187	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		1										
188	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava spp.</i>				1	5			3				
	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>		1		1			2	1	1	2		

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	Ashy-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flave cinereocapilla</i>					✓						
189	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓									
190	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓			1	✓		✓	
191	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>								5			
192	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>							2				
193	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓			✓	✓	✓
194	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				6			2	1	10	6	
195	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		1									
196	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	1		1	✓			
197	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			6				2				
198	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	6	40									
199	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
200	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		2									
201	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>		1									
202	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
203	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	1			1							
204	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>		4		1							
205	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	1	h	h	2							
206	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		2	1	✓	h						
207	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>			1	4	3	2			3	1	
208	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>								1			

Mammals

Roe Deer

European Hare

Red Squirrel

Red Fox

Wild Boar

Muskrat

Reptiles and Amphibians

Marsh Terrapin

European Pond Terrapin

Balkan Green Lizard

Balkan Wall Lizard

Giant Legless Lizard

Grass Snake

Green Tree Frog

Marsh Frog

Fire-bellied Toad

Green-backed Toad

Butterflies

Orbed Red Underwing Skipper
 Eastern Festoon
 Orange Tip
 Clouded Yellow
 Sooty Copper
 Provencal Short-tailed Blue
 Balkan Zephyr Blue
 Common Blue
 Weaver's Fritillary
 Glanville Fritillary
 Map Butterfly

Grizzled Skipper
 Clouded Apollo
 Eastern Dappled White
 Pale Clouded Yellow sp
 Large Copper
 Holly Blue
 Silver-studded Blue
 Adonis Blue
 Marsh Fritillary
 Lesser Spotted Fritillary
 Common Glider

Large Skipper
 Common Swallowtail
 Green-veined White
 Brimstone
 Grecian Copper
 Chequered Blue
 Idas Blue
 Queen of Spain Fritillary
 Knapweed Fritillary
 Red Admiral
 Wall Brown

Southern Festoon
 Scarce Swallowtail
 Small White
 Small Copper
 Green Hairstreak
 Green-underside Blue
 Brown Argus
 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary
 Eastern Knapweed Fritillary
 Painted Lady
 Small Heath

Moths

Forester
 Speckled Yellow
 Blood-vein
 Silver Y
 Fern

Pentapthera morio
 Common Heath
 White Ermine
 Pine Beauty

Common Carpet
 Pale Oak Beauty
 Cream-spot Tiger
 Burnet Companion

Dwarf Pug
 Lesser Belle
 Yellow Belle
 Four Spotted



Curlew Sandpiper, Durankulak



Adonis Blue, Tutrakan



Middle-spotted Woodpecker, Goritsa