

Spring Birding in Bulgaria

Naturetrek Tour Report

5th – 14th May 2023



Collared Flycatcher



Masked Shrike



Curlew Sandpiper

Tour report by Brian Small; images by Jon Watson



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Summary

Another superb ‘Grand Tour’ of Bulgaria: starting at Sofia we headed initially into the high western and warm eastern Rhodope Mountains. Then followed the numerous and exciting coastal wetland areas near Bourgas, Pomorie and Durankulak, plus spectacular and colourful coastal steppe at Karmen Bryag and Balgarevo, where birds were incredibly numerous. Finally, we headed inland through the Danube floodplain to the wooded valleys and lakes, like Srebarna, that line the south side of the river.

Like a lot of Europe, we experienced quite cool northerly winds, but this meant that many birds were held up in their migration. Among the highlights were Collared Flycatcher, Masked Shrike, many Bee-eaters and Rollers, Lesser Kestrel, Eurasian Wolf, Eagle Owl, plus Golden Orioles and Turtle Doves as a background soundtrack to many areas. Flocks of fine breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints observed at close range and Honey Buzzards migrating overhead added to the excitement of spring birding in Bulgaria.

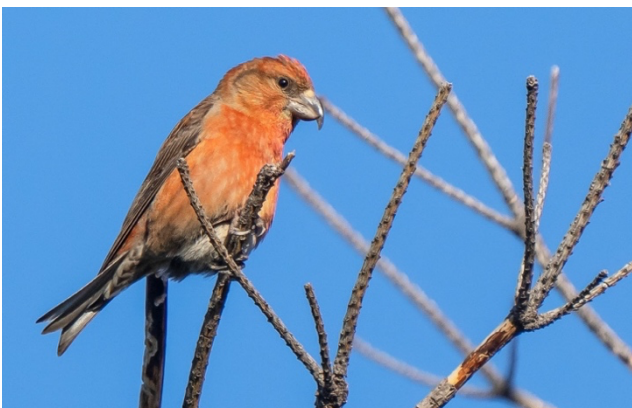
Day 1

Friday 5th May

Arriving at Sofia, we were greeted by Dancho and Giorgi (Teodora would meet us later). With the bus loaded, we headed through the outskirts of Sofia. Many Pallid and occasional Alpine Swift occupied us before our first stop in an area of lush damp fields near Vakarel. Greeted by a Wryneck before we had exited the bus, we quickly found Cuckoos, Bee-eaters and Tree Sparrows, heard Ortolan Bunting and had great views of two Short-toed Snake-eagles before heading on. As we climbed into the mountains, we stopped close to Dospat at a small campground on the north of the lake. The cold air hit us though we soon saw and heard various montane species including Crested Tit. We arrived at our hotel tired, welcomed by the nesting House Martins.

Day 2

Saturday 6th May



We awoke to a clear day, with snow visible on the distant Mt Falakro in Greece, and had a short, chilly walk about the environs of the hotel. Straight up were excellent views of Crossbill (above left) at close range – a mix of adults and juveniles, our only Serin (above right), Firecrest singing, Mistle Thrush, several Cuckoo heard, Common Whitethroat, grey-backed continental Coal Tit and bright local Greenfinches; the big surprise was a Merlin dashing

north through the mountain valley. As we headed to breakfast and the air began to warm, Pallid Swifts joined the chattering House Martins about the hotel.

After breakfast we drove southeast to the gorge at Trigrad and the 'Devil's Throat'. As Giorgi pulled over by the tunnel, we started scanning the cliffs and pretty rapidly found two male Wallcreepers chasing each other about the cliffs – first on our side of the valley then switching to the other, where we gained our best views. Sadly, they promptly flew around a buttress and were lost. Both Black Woodpecker and Black Redstart were seen, then we moved up the valley to gain a different vantage point from where a few managed to see one of the Wallcreepers flap to the near cliffs again.

We continued south through Trigrad village and walked briefly prior to lunch. Superb views of Red-rumped Swallows and a relaxed Dipper were gained by the stream and a cracking fresh Common Swallowtail sipped something (!) in a horse paddock. A fine lunch (delayed by a smart male Black Woodpecker by the restaurant) was followed by an afternoon drive east, broken by brief stops en route for birding, fuel and ice creams: the first gained us excellent eye-level views of Short-toed Treecreeper and Hobby overhead, but in reality we largely made do with views of the spectacular landscape of the eastern Rhodope Mountains as we drove. We arrived at our hotel in Krumovgrad in good time, ate dinner and settled into our rooms for two nights. Scops Owls could be heard calling through the night from our rooms attracting some out...

Day 3

Sunday 7th May

A fine but chilly start greeted the whole group for a walk through Krumovgrad down to the bridge over the Krumovitsa River, here flowing north to meet the Arda River. The calls of 100s of House Martin and Pallid Swift over the town were drowned out by the song of the numerous Nightingales and you had to listen carefully to pick out the singing Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Bee-eater and Golden Oriole. Another Black Woodpecker called and flew in to feed at extremely close range – almost destroying a tree stump - and migrant flycatchers included Spotted and a female Collared, notable for the large white patch at the base of the primaries, hint of a collar and general greyness. At the bridge we gained nice views of Nightingale and Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, plus many Crag Martin and a Lesser Grey Shrike, before breakfast called us back to the hotel.

For the rest of the day we drove northwest of Krumovgrad, initially to another bridge over the Krumovitsa River south of Potochnitsa. Strolling the road, again accompanied by the song of Nightingales, Orioles and Bee-eaters – as well as Balkan Marsh Frog – we were thrilled to see and hear Turtle Doves purring in the trees (an almost forgotten song that was once common in the UK). Raptors above the local hillside included Griffon and Egyptian Vultures, a couple of Honey Buzzard and Booted Eagle plus several Black Stork that appear to be increasing in number. Our first look at the local butterflies found Queen of Spain and Knapweed Fritillaries, Clouded Yellow and Grizzled Skipper.

Passing the locals sat at the bar (at 10:00am!!) we drove onto the hillside above Potochnitsa for a fine few hours of birding. Five Egyptian Vulture cruised the rocky hillside, while Black Kite plus several Griffons and Honey Buzzard and a lone Black (Cinereous) Vulture joined the mix; a Short-toed Snake Eagle was also found later. Woodlarks fed on the road, Phil found an Eastern Orphean Warbler (our only one on the trip) and we saw several singing Eastern Subalpine Warbler: completing the trio of 'eastern' warblers we also saw and heard Eastern Bonelli's Warbler.



Scanning of the hillside gave one of the highlights of the tour, when two Eurasian Wolf were seen on the brow of the hill. All too briefly they walked off over the skyline, but luckily they reappeared and we gained good views through the 'scope. As we wandered down the road, butterflies also drew our attention, with Glanville, Knapweed and Queen of Spain Fritillaries, Clouded Yellow, Brown Argus, Green-underside Blue and Scarce Swallowtail most notable. In a wooded valley closer to the village, we heard and saw Olive-tree Warbler plus good views of Sardinian Warbler, fine Woodchat Shrikes (above) and yet more Turtle Dove.

A picnic lunch was taken by the stream below the Studen Kladenets dam, then after tidying up and a quick look for butterflies (seeing Eastern Festoon) we drove via Gorna Kula to follow the Krumovitsa again as it meanders north to Dolna Kula. Parking at the rocky viewpoint, we checked unsuccessfully for Western Rock Nuthatch, but did find a pair of Rollers (including rolling), a smart male Black-headed Bunting and on the river below a pair of Little Ringed Plover. One of the targets here is Eastern Black-eared Wheatear and we had very fine views of a pair – the female looking quite russet above – and then also saw a pair of Northern Wheatear – the latter of the pale race *libbanotica*. A Levant Sparrowhawk raced over and other raptors passing at height included Honey Buzzard and Booted Eagle.

An early return allowed some to have another walk down by the river and others a more relaxed spell before dinner. It was relatively quiet by the tree-lined river, but Nightingales still sang and Bee-eaters and Pallid Swift hawked above us. After dinner we walked up to the local park where numerous Scops Owls called: one showed briefly for some, however luckily as we strolled back to the hotel we found another at eye level for great looks at this tiny owl.

Day 4

Monday 8th May



A return walk down to the bridge for a small group produced our first proper views of Barred Warbler as well as Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. After breakfast, we drove east through small villages to Madzharovo, where a couple of stops below the cliffs produced Blue Rock Thrush, Griffon Vultures perched on ledges and a Black Vulture too; the nest of Western Rock Nuthatch; both Rock and Girl Bunting; Honey Buzzards moved north joined by Black Storks and a Peregrine; Eastern Black-eared Wheatear was seen again, and we had good views of Sombre Tit.

Time pressed on, so reluctantly we had to move - passing just 6km from the Greek border - to our next stop at Yerusalimovo, near Lyubimets. Here we found several Masked Shrikes, Golden Oriole, Turtle Dove, Woodlark and Great Spotted Woodpecker. Another fine picnic lunch was taken at Lefka, distracted by the Lesser Kestrel colony (above) as well as Crested Larks, Cuckoo, Turtle Dove, spirals of White Storks and our only Eastern Imperial Eagle.

After lunch, we continued to the coast, seeing a handful of roadside Montagu's Harrier and Lesser Spotted Eagles, making our last stop of the day at the Bourgas saltpans for waders with the light behind us. The wind was whipping across the pans and we found 100's of Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and Ruff plus Spotted Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit and Avocet as well as a huge flock of Greater Flamingo. Wood Sandpipers called and a fine male Black-headed Wagtail was seen by some, but the lone Black Tern only hinted at what was to come tomorrow. We arrived at Pomorie tired and with Sandwich, Little and Common Terns flying over the hotel.

Day 5

Tuesday 9th May

A traditional early walk to the salt museum was eventful, with 100's of hirundines passing through, especially numerous Sand Martins; migrant Willow Warblers too were present and we saw 20 or so in the coastal scrub and trees. On or by the salt pans were the usual Little, Sandwich and Common Terns perched nicely on posts and with them sat Pygmy and Great Cormorants, Turnstone and Black-winged Stilt. However, it was the assemblage of Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers on the small pans, where several Avocet were nesting, that caught the eye. Seeing these waders at such close range was a real highlight and the burnt sienna colours beginning to emerge were stunning. In addition, on the deeper water we saw two Red-breasted Merganser and our first Red-footed Falcon flew north overhead before we walked back for breakfast, seeing Whinchat and Black-headed Bunting as we went.

Our first stop of the day was by the busy road near Bourgas with a view over Vaya Lake. The marsh terns were incredibly numerous, especially Black Terns – maybe 3,000 here alone – and they were joined by many Whiskered and White-winged making close flypasts. Great White Pelicans crammed onto a concrete island which was surrounded by flocks of duck including Common and Ruddy Shelduck plus Garganey, with the Great Crested Grebes joined by a single breeding-plumaged Red-necked. A Penduline Tit called and dashed past while Great Reed Warblers croaked loudly from the tall reeds; Purple, Night and Squacco Herons also flew by – what an amazing spot!



Next was Mandra Lake, which we viewed from several spots along its southern shore. The first was near the overflow chutes and looking out over the lake the surface was teeming with Sand Martins (over 100,000 would be a conservative estimate) and Black Terns (10,000+); Cettis', Reed and Great Reed Warblers sang as did Golden Oriole. Across the road blue-billed Squacco Herons sat hunched over small pools picking off the tadpoles and several Red-backed Shrikes (above right) perched and fed about the scrub – and wherever they are you also look for Barred Warbler (above left), which we duly found. Turning to head back to the bus we spotted an adult White-tailed Eagle carrying a huge fish, eventually seeming to get tired and dropping onto a hillside to feed. And all the while hirundines and Bee-eaters poured over and Golden Orioles chased about.

From a hillside near Dimchevo – a village lined with White Stork nests - we had views across the lake and yet more marsh terns, plus Great White Pelican, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Purple Heron and yet more Corn Bunting. The reedbed of the Fakiyska river held loud Great Reed Warblers, stunningly close views of all three marsh terns, notably White-winged (below), a young male Montagu's Harrier swept over the trees and two Honey Buzzard did likewise – the latter actually dropping into the trees at one point. We headed for lunch at a seaside restaurant near

Kraymorie before heading for a stroll near the Poda reserve, taking a track to a viewpoint giving a view north towards Bourgas. The walk began with a fine movement of Honey Buzzards and Bee-eaters, continued with a singing Thrush Nightingale – typically not seen – and ended with a scan of the sea and reedbeds.



Our day was not quite done, as with time on our hands we made another stop at the Bourgas salt pans at the southern end of lake Atanasovsko. The wind was less strong than yesterday, and we walked a little further to check the waders: 100's of Little Stint and Curlew Sandpipers; many Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit and Wood Sandpiper; handfuls of Curlew, Black-headed Wagtail, Spotted Redshank and Garganey. The hour passed quickly, but target wader species eluded us, so we headed back to base.

Day 6

Wednesday 10th May

Our early walk this morning again took us to the salt museum, with a new mix of migrants to make things interesting: a Lesser Grey and several Red-backed Shrikes, another Thrush Nightingale – this time glimpsed by a persistent few – and Barred Warbler. The Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers were still about on the salt pan and it was nice to watch the Little Terns displaying with the male offering the female small fish, angling the head to make the fry shine in the sun. After breakfast, we drove round to the SW side of the Pomorie salt pans for a brief (as if!) stop to check the waders on the slightly sheltered pools here. Yet more Little Stint and Curlew Sandpipers, but this time mixed in were fine breeding-plumaged Dunlin, Ringed and Kentish Plovers, Ruff, Grey Plover and with careful searching we picked out at least two Broad-billed Sandpipers and a female Red-necked Phalarope. Making sure we all got good looks at the waders and that we had not missed anything took time, but eventually we had to move on.

Next up was Poroy, where we found Bee-eater and Isabelline Wheatear; a flock of Glossy Ibis flew over as did Lesser Spotted, Booted and Short-toed Eagles. A female Red-footed Falcon sat on fence posts and as we were about to leave a large kettle of White Pelicans cruised overhead. After a delicious lunch we watched a couple of spots in the forest at Goritsa, seeing Middle Spotted Woodpecker and Nuthatch well, and eventually a pair of Semi-collared Flycatcher showed to a very lucky one or two.



Taking the coastal route through Topola near Kavarna produced another highlight moment. As we stopped to scan the cliffs, a couple of Hobbies and Jays were making a fuss – the former divebombing something on the cliffs. With binoculars raised, a large brown lump transformed into a Eurasian Eagle Owl (above) that flew a short distance into a tree where it sat being fussed by the Jays. Getting our ‘scopes focused we watched the bird as it watched us, soaking up the moment. After 30 minutes it was time to drive up to our hotel at Kavarna looking down into a valley.

Day 7

Thursday 11th May

Another tradition is to stand just outside the hotel for an hour before breakfast looking down into the valley – the viewpoint gives eye-level views of several species. Today it produced superb views of several Hawfinch, Syrian Woodpecker, Golden Oriole, Nightingale and Tree Sparrows. For some, two male Levant Sparrowhawks flew up from the valley and displayed overhead – one doing a fine slow-wingbeat butterfly impression.

After breakfast we drove north to Durankulak for a walk to the island where the oldest stone buildings in Europe exist. The lake, reedbed, scrub and fields produce a mix of species: in the reeds Great Reed and Savi's Warblers; over the lake more marsh terns plus Squacco and Purple Herons, Ferruginous Ducks and a distant Black-necked Grebe; in the scrub, Barred Warbler, Red-backed Shrike and Corn Buntings; over the fields Marsh Harrier, Roller, Lesser Grey Shrike and a couple of Northern Wheatear. On the island, where the ancient site exists, we enjoyed the small colony of Bee-eaters.

Round at the campsite by the beach at the northern end of the lake we walked the shore, checking the sea and reeds for various species. We picked up Grey Plover, Curlew Sandpipers, Little Stints, Sanderling and Little Ringed Plover, cacophonous Great Reed Warblers, and many White-winged, Black and Whiskered Terns. A Tawny Pipit – our first – sat in the dunes calling and as well as Red-throated Pipit and Yellow Wagtails a Citrine Wagtail showed well as it flew past calling. The perseverance of a few was rewarded with views of a Paddyfield Warbler over 1km south of the campsite. As we walked back, almost as exciting were the Baltic Gulls that flew north along the beach.



After lunch, a brief search of the sheltered trees got us views of Spotted, Pied and Red-breasted Flycatchers and a small number of Yellow Wagtails including a ‘dombrowskii’ intergrade. At the coastal lagoon of Shabla Tuzlata we watched briefly from the platform finding a nice variety of waders and several Garganey, before driving to Shaba Lighthouse and Karmen Bryag for the coastal steppe. This proved to be a good move not only for the ice creams that were enjoyed, but also the migrants in the trees: best of all were Pied Wheatear and Collared Flycatcher – both stunning males, but these were added to by more Red-breasted Flycatchers, Shag, Willow Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat. On the richly coloured, clifftop fields at Karmen Bryag, we found yet more Pied Wheatears, several singing Calandra Larks, Whinchats, Tree and Tawny Pipits (above left) and a nice female Lesser Grey Shrike (above right).

It had been an amazing day, but it was not yet over as en route to the hotel we stopped near the village of Balgarevo and within 30 metres of the bus found two Stone-curlew, many Greater Short-toed and Calandra Larks, Isabelline Wheatear, nine Lesser Grey Shrikes and Hoopoe. The grand total for the day was 132, but it was the sheer quality of the views, landscape and light that made it truly memorable.

Day 8

Friday 12th May

After the pre-breakfast watch near the hotel - during which we again saw Whinchat, Hawfinch, Syrian Woodpecker and a Common Rosefinch - our morning started with a visit to Cape Kaliakra and Bolata valley. At the Cape it was pretty windy and in sheltered spots we enjoyed Pied, hybrid Pied x Eastern Black-eared and Northern Wheatears. Walking amongst the ruins we gained clifftop flypasts of Alpine Swift, Bee-eaters passed over, struggling in the wind – as were we - and we eventually saw several Red-breasted Flycatchers. Phil found an Ortolan Bunting and along the road Lesser Whitethroat and more Red-breasted Flycatchers. Down in the Bolata Valley, where we hoped for more shelter, we saw and heard numerous Great Reed Warblers, Night and Squacco Herons, a male Eastern Black-eared Wheatear; a Provencal Short-tailed Blue butterfly was new as was a dark variant of Variable Damselfly, but generally it was quieter for migrants than the cape.

Returning to Kavarna, we had a filling lunch at the hotel then headed west via Balchik and Dobrich to the River Danube at Srebarna Lake. We stopped at Onogor Valley, where amongst the scrubby grass we saw butterflies, whilst birds included nesting Great Spotted Woodpecker, Hawfinch and Marsh Tit. A slight detour took us past a dry valley where there were numerous butterflies; the Bee-eater colony was yet to form, but a Goshawk was compensation. We arrived at Vetren late afternoon, and some had a stroll down the road listening to the Golden Orioles, Turtle Doves and Nightingales.

Day 9**Saturday 13th May**

Our pre-breakfast walk towards the river produced Woodlark, Wryneck, Red-backed Shrike and several Red-rumped swallows, with Bee-eaters, Glossy Ibis and a Montagu's Harrier flying overhead. After breakfast we drove down to Srebarna Lake and took the track along the western edge to a couple of viewpoints. Scanning above the reeds – cacophonous with Great Reed and Savi's Warblers - we finally saw our first Dalmatian Pelicans, though numbers are currently low. Plenty of wildfowl included Greylag Goose, Ferruginous Duck plus both Common and Red-crested Pochards, a pair of Black-necked Grebe, Cuckoos and various herons. A Red-footed Falcon flew over as did Honey Buzzard and we also saw various butterflies including our first Sooty Copper and Duke of Burgundy, but the Penduline Tit that sat calling at the tops of the trees was the star moment here.



At the southwest corner of the lake, another walk produced several Squacco Heron, another Penduline Tit, Rollers, Little Bittern, Sedge Warbler and Large Copper. We then drove west to Malak Preslavets, where after a quick look at a couple of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, we headed to the picnic site, on the shore of the Danube. Whilst the food was laid out, we checked the lake, getting close views of Great Reed Warbler (above right), Red-backed Shrike and the first of two Little Bittern (above left) feeding along the edge of the reeds. After lunch we saw Kingfisher, another Little Bittern, Barred Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Whiskered Terns and Downy Emerald dragonflies; a Grey-headed Woodpecker called in the trees and some saw it perched whilst others made do with a couple of flight views.

The Danube at Polpina often has birds on a sandy island, but the high water meant that this was almost covered, though Ruddy Shelduck and various Marsh Terns heading downriver were found – plus a surprise Little Gull. A White-tailed Eagle crossed north into Romania above a flock of both Great White and Dalmatian Pelicans. Our final stop was just east of Dobrotitsa, at an open grassy field where Sousliks have a colony and there is a water fountain. On arrival two Booted Eagles paid close attention to the Sousliks, making several dives at them – all seemingly unsuccessful – and were shown how it should be done by a fine pale Long-legged Buzzard that caught and ate one in front of us. Crested Larks, many Black-headed Wagtails and an Ortolan Bunting were also seen, before we headed back to Vetren for a slightly earlier finish and a leisurely dinner.

An after-dinner walk by a handful of stalwarts was interesting if relatively uneventful but did produce a distant Nightjar and a couple of Scops Owls.

Day 10

Sunday 14th May

Our final day proved to be largely one of travel, though an early walk south of the lodge found more Red-backed Shrike, Barred Warbler and Wryneck. all against the background song of Golden Oriole and Turtle Dove. A warbler singing from some scrub was at the time thought to be an Icterine, but the recordings once listened to carefully proved to be a Marsh Warbler, albeit mimicking Icterine at times!

Finally, after breakfast we loaded the bus, drove to Silistra where we crossed the Danube, passing various roadside lagoons, where we saw four species of grebe, Great Egret, Whiskered Tern and then through huge open fields, arriving in good time at Bucharest for our flight home. With farewells said to Dancho, Teodora and Giorgi, we checked in and that, as they say, was that!

What a great tour! Such a lovely group, with many laughs and many, many great birds. A big thanks to Jon for letting me use his photos in the report.



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Species lists

Birds

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023										
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>										✓	
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>					✓			✓	✓	✓	
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>					✓			✓		✓	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>					✓			✓		✓	
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>					✓	✓					
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>										✓	
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					✓			✓		✓	✓
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>										✓	
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>						✓					
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>								✓			
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	✓										
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>										✓	
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>								✓			
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓					✓		✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						✓		✓		✓	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>										✓	✓
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>						✓					✓
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>						✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>								✓		✓	
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>								✓			
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓					✓					
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				✓	✓	✓					
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>					✓			✓		✓	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					✓	✓	✓				

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023									
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓			
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>					✓	✓			✓	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>					✓	✓				
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				✓	✓					
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>							✓			
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>						✓				
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>						✓				
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>						✓	✓			
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				✓						
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					✓		✓			
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>					✓					
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>					✓				✓	
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Baltic (Lesser Black-backed) Gull	<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>							✓			✓
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					✓	✓	✓			✓
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>					✓		✓		✓	✓
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					✓		✓		✓	
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>					✓		✓			
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>							✓	✓		
Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>						✓	✓	✓		
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>							✓	✓		
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>						✓			✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023										
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					✓					✓	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>										✓	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓			✓	✓	✓	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					✓			✓	✓	✓	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓										✓
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>										✓	✓
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			✓	✓							
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓	✓	✓							
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>			✓	✓							
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓		
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		✓	✓				✓			✓	
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>				✓							
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>			✓					✓	✓		
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			✓		✓						
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>									✓	✓	
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓							
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					✓	✓				✓	
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>								✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		✓	✓						✓	✓	
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>							✓				
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>										✓	
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	✓									✓	✓
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>							✓				
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>		✓		✓			✓			✓	
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>								✓	✓	✓	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓					✓		✓	✓	✓
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		✓	✓								

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023									
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>						✓			✓	
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>				✓			✓			
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>					✓	✓			✓	✓
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	✓			✓			✓			
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		✓								
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			✓	✓		✓				
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>				✓						
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓						✓		✓	✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	✓	✓								
European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	✓									
Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>				✓						
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>								✓		
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓				✓		✓	✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					✓		✓		✓	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			✓					✓	✓	
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓		
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>						✓	✓	✓		
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>							✓	✓		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				✓		✓		✓		✓
Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>			✓				✓			
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		

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Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>									✓	
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>							✓			
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>										✓
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>			✓	✓		✓		✓		
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>							✓		✓	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barred Warbler	<i>Curruca nisoria</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>		✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca crassirostris</i>			✓							
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>			✓							
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca cantillans albistriata</i>			✓	✓						
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		✓								
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	✓									
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	✓					✓		✓	✓	
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		✓								
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		✓				✓				
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	✓	✓								
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					✓	✓				
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>			✓		✓		✓	✓		
Semicollared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>						✓				
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>							✓			
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>			✓				✓	✓		
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>								✓	✓	
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				✓						
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>					✓		✓	✓		
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>				✓			✓			
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓		

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023									
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Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>						✓	✓		✓	
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>			✓	✓				✓		
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>							✓	✓		
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		✓								
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	✓									
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>									✓	✓
Black-headed (Yellow) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>				✓	✓				✓	✓
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>								✓		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓								
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>								✓	✓	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		✓							✓	
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>								✓		
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>								✓		
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			✓					✓	✓	
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	✓	✓								
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓								
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	✓	✓								
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>								✓		
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				✓						
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	✓								✓	✓
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			✓	✓			✓			
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						✓				✓

Others

Common name	Scientific name
Mammals	
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>
Beech Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>
Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
Eurasian Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>
Red Fox	<i>Canis vulpes</i>
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
Dragonflies	
Variable Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>
Vagrant Emperor	<i>Anax ephippiger</i>
Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>
Bulgarian Emerald	<i>Somatochlora borisi</i>
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>
Scarce Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>
Butterflies	
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>
Orbed Red-underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia orbifer</i>
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>
Common Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>
Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>
Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias erate</i>
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>
Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
Eastern Short-tailed Blue	<i>Cupido decoloratus</i>
Provencal Short-tailed Blue	<i>Cupido alcetas</i>
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>
Brown Argus	<i>Plebejus agestis</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>
Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana euphrosyne</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>
Peacock Butterfly	<i>Inachis io</i>
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>