

Spring Birding in Bulgaria

Naturetrek Tour Report

3rd – 12th May 2025



Balkan Green Lizard



European Bee-eater



Black Stork



Pied Wheatear

Tour report by Neil Murphy
Photos by Neil Murphy and Simon Satchell



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Summary

It was exciting to set off on a 'Grand Tour' of Bulgaria to experience this fabulous country and to observe its many different birds in a variety of incredible scenery and habitats. The weather started warm, sunny, and largely rain free, but it was distinctly milder on the Black Sea coast, where a fresh northerly breeze blew most days. Starting at Sofia, we drove into the high western, then eastern Rhodope Mountains, then to the coastal wetland areas near Burgas and Sozopol, before heading north along the coast to Krapets. After the attractive coastal steppe at Rusalka and Balgarevo / Cape Kaliakra, we ended by heading inland through the Danube floodplain, to the wooded valleys and lakes near Vetren and Srebarna, which line the southern side of the river.

Among the many highlights were Pygmy Cormorant, Dalmatian Pelican, Cinereous Vulture, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Levant Sparrowhawk, Eagle-Owl, Black Woodpecker, Lesser Kestrel, Masked Shrike, Calandra Lark, River and Eastern Orphean Warblers, Red-breasted and Semi-collared Flycatchers, Pied Wheatear and Rock Bunting. Migrating overhead were regular Honey Buzzards and both Bee-eaters and Rollers in exceptional numbers, with Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Common Nightingale, Golden Oriole and Turtle Dove as a background soundtrack in almost all areas. We had hoped to record around 200 species during the trip, but this was well and truly smashed, and we ended up with just shy of 230!

Day 1

Saturday 3rd May

We left London Heathrow on time and arrived in Sofia at 2.00pm local time. Bags collected and local guides Tihomir (Tisho) and Pavel met, we headed south out of the city on the main road towards the Rhodope mountains. Our first stop was for a break at a service area, where we heard our first Common Nightingale, and a pair of Marsh Harriers quartered the fields and reedbeds. We began to climb into the hills, passing White Storks in the fields and about a dozen Pygmy Cormorant at Golyan Beglik reservoir. At around 7.00pm we reached our hotel in Dospat, which had stunning views down the valley, and Pallid Swift, Red-rumped Swallow and Serin in the grounds. After a long day of travelling, we settled down to a good meal and an early night, ready for a full day's birding tomorrow.

Day 2

Sunday 4th May

The morning was bright and sunny, and our pre-breakfast walk was rewarded with superb views of many Crossbills, Black Redstart, Spotted Flycatcher and our only Bullfinch of the trip, along with the three species from yesterday evening. Balkan Green Lizards were basking in the morning sunshine, allowing exceptional views of these emerald beauties. After breakfast, we headed to Trigrad Gorge to search for Wallcreeper. As we scoured the rock faces, Crag Martins and Alpine Swift were constantly in view, before the cry went up and our elusive quarry was in the 'scope for all to see and admire: the perfect crimson start. We moved along the valley following the river, where several Dippers were seen from the bus, and on arriving at Kesten we found two recent fledglings under a bridge waiting to be fed by their parents and allowing us point blank views, while a Smooth Snake crossed our path.

Lunch was taken nearby, where two Grey-headed Woodpecker called and some of the group, saw Willow Tit. We continued east towards Krumovgrad, but stopped at Rozhen meadows to stretch our legs and do some birding.

This was a particularly productive area, and over the next forty-five minutes we enjoyed great views of Barred Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Sombre Tit, Ortolan and Cirl Buntings, and a flock of thirty Bee-eaters migrating overhead. By the time we arrived in Krumovgrad, had checked in and had dinner, it was too late for an evening walk in the local park for Scops Owl: that would have to wait for tomorrow.

Day 3

Monday 5th May

It was warm and sunny as we set off for our early morning walk to the Kumovitsa River: the birds were singing and we started with an obliging Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, the first of many during the trip. As we approached the river we saw both Golden Oriole and Bee-eater, and a Black Stork was feeding on the river bank. Pallid Swift and Red-rumped Swallow were also seen, but the best bird was a perched Levant Sparrowhawk, which allowed good 'scope views.



Little Tiger Blue



Red-backed Shrike

After breakfast, we headed toward Dolna Kula, which was a particularly bird-rich valley. The plan was to walk the country road, and then have the bus pick us up further on. The walk was slow, as great birds just kept being found, the highlights being Goshawk, nesting Black Stork, Egyptian and Griffon Vultures cruising low overhead, Western Rock Nuthatch, and plenty of Hoopoes, Rollers and Bee-eaters.

With careful scanning of the rocky hillsides, Chukar Partridges were found, five being an exceptional count of this elusive species. Good views of Red-backed and Woodchat Shrikes were had, together with more distant Eastern Black-eared Wheatear. White Storks were on their nests in the villages, and these nests also held colonies of Spanish Sparrows. More Red-rumped Swallows and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers were seen, and many Common Nightingales heard. Cirl Buntings were also seen together with the hoped-for Black-headed Bunting, and Tisho rescued a Spur-tailed Tortoise from the road. Butterflies were much in evidence here, especially Green Hairstreak, and both Queen of Spain and Knapweed Fritillaries.

Eventually, we dragged ourselves away for a picnic lunch, where good views of Eastern Subalpine Warbler and Little Tiger Blue butterfly were had, before we headed up to the Potochnitsa vulture feeding station. Here, we had more great views of Egyptian and Griffon Vultures, Black Stork, Hoopoe, Roller, Bee-eater, and Red-backed and Woodchat Shrikes. Woodlarks were singing and showed on the ground before disappearing into the grass, while the bushes contained Eastern Orphea, Sardinian and Eastern Subalpine Warblers, and Hawfinch zipped overhead. We found an odd insect, the carnivorous Milky Owl-Fly, and tried hard to find Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, but unfortunately it eluded us; we'd have to save this one for another day. More Eastern Olivaceous Warblers, Common Nightingales and Golden Orioles were singing, and Red-rumped Swallows gave good views.

Back at Krumovgrad, we had a night walk, but it was rather cool, which meant that Eurasian Scops Owl activity was limited; we did hear four, with more heard overnight from the hotel bedrooms. Phil brought his phone bat detector out with him, which very impressively identified three species for our checklist.

Day 4

Tuesday 6th May

Our ultimate goal today was to travel to the coastal town of Sozopol, but before that we still had a lot of birding to do, both locally near Krumovgrad and en route. We started with the usual pre-breakfast walk across the town square to the bridge over the river. All the usual culprits were singing well (Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Common Nightingale, Golden Oriole), but best of all was a flock of sixty Bee-eater, which were absolutely stunning to watch and listen to. Also noted were more Red-backed Shrikes, while Crag Martins were nesting under the road bridge over the river.



European Red-rumped Swallow



Icterine Warbler

Bags packed and loaded, we set off to Studen Kladenetz, where we viewed the dam from the roadside and added Booted Eagle and Golden Jackal to our trip list. We then moved on to Madzharovo gorge, where we birded the area overlooking the limestone cliffs where Griffon Vultures nest. On our arrival, the wardens informed us that we had just missed a Cinereous Vulture, and that by now it might be back in Greece, just 50km south. Never mind: the area was great for birds and we enjoyed more great views of Egyptian and Griffon Vultures, together with Eastern Orphean, Sardinian and Eastern Subalpine Warblers. A picnic lunch was taken, but this was quickly disrupted by not one but two Cinereous Vultures cruising over the limestone crags. These impressive birds are even larger than Griffon Vultures!

After lunch we moved just slightly down the gorge, to an area that is good for Blue Rock Thrush. This species was quickly found, together with a singing Ortolan Bunting, and also a Rock Bunting which was admired by all through the 'scope. Our next stop was Levka, where Lesser Kestrel has been reintroduced. They were thriving, with many nest boxes occupied, and we had lovely views of this attractive falcon. Tisho had been tipped off about a pair of Masked Shrikes in the village; we found them and they were greatly admired by the whole group. We pressed onwards, stopping at Topolgrad, a site for Isabelline Wheatear. As we left the bus, a Short-toed Snake Eagle drifted overhead, and as we walked the track we had brief views of Eastern Imperial Eagle and Long-legged Buzzard. Four Isabelline Wheatears were found among the European Souslik (ground-squirrels), but unfortunately it was now quite cool, so no Olive-tree Warblers were singing. We continued the final leg of the journey to Sozopol, admiring a fine male Montagu's Harrier from the bus near Elhovo, a stronghold for this raptor whose numbers

have declined sharply in recent years. The next stop was our hotel, overlooking the picturesque and historic harbour town of Sozopol.

Day 5

Wednesday 7th May

A brisk pre-breakfast walk into the old town and about the harbour added Black-necked Grebe and the Black Sea subspecies of European Shag, but few of the hoped-for migrants. After a hearty breakfast, we were soon on our way and heading to the extensive area of lakes and wetlands around Burgas, with the first stop being Lake Vaya. The whole area was alive with three species of marsh terns, and Great White and Dalmatian Pelicans, the former in a feeding flock of 500+ birds. The reedbeds were full of singing Great Reed Warbler and we saw at least ten Red-backed Shrike, while a few Lesser Spotted Eagles migrated overhead. Just as we left, a flock of 250 late migrant White Storks passed overhead: a real spectacle.

Our next stop was Mandra Dam at the east end of Lake Mandrensko. As we exited the van, a superb Squacco Heron was found, the first of several here, together with a few Glossy Ibises. Again, Red-backed Shrikes were much in evidence here; there had clearly been a big fall overnight, and we recorded about forty for the day. A Barred Warbler sang and showed pretty well, but the singing Thrush Nightingale was not so cooperative, with just brief glimpses for most of the group. More Lesser Spotted Eagles were passing overhead, and the local pair of White-tailed Eagles also exercised their wings. Our picnic lunch was taken at the superb NCC Poda reserve in the heat of the day. Afterwards, we enjoyed great views of the nesting Black-winged Stilts, while more European Honey Buzzards migrated over us as we watched from the rooftop viewing platform. This viewpoint allowed us a little height to view over the reeds to a muddy lake edge, where a sleeping Temminck's Stint was located. Waders were a little thin on the ground, until a party of thirteen brick-red Curlew Sandpipers dropped in, together with a superb Broad-billed Sandpiper; it was such a smart, clean bird. They were all soon on their way, but as we stood, waited and observed, we were treated to fine views of Purple Heron, Pygmy Cormorant, more Great Reed and Barred Warblers, and a calling, fly-over Red-throated Pipit.

Eventually, we moved on to Atanasovsko Lake (Burgas salt pans) which was packed with Greater Flamingoes, Spotted Redshanks and a few Wood Sandpipers. The sky was getting darker, and thunder and lightning were around, so we left early, and just in time. The heavens opened to the most torrential rain, which quickly flooded the roads as the grass turned white due to the hailstones. We made our way back to the hotel for an earlier finish than normal, and a well-earned rest.

Day 6

Thursday 8th May

From the hotel balcony overlooking a small patch of scrub, it was clear that the overnight rain had brought with it a fall of birds. Both Marsh Warbler and Thrush Nightingale were singing, and Bee-eaters flew north over us and up the coast. The latter were a feature all day long, with over eighty seen. A walk to a scrubby cliff by the harbour found more warblers and Red-backed Shrikes, while a Red-breasted Flycatcher remained elusive.

We were moving hotels again today, and we were soon on our way to Pomorie salt pans. On arrival, another Red-breasted Flycatcher was briefly seen and then disappeared. Waders included some distant Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints, but the best bird was a very showy Lesser Grey Shrike, which afforded excellent photo opportunities. Our next stop was not far away near Laka, at some wet roadside meadows. Once again, good birds were much in

evidence: Ruddy Shelduck, Collared Pratincole, Wood Sandpiper, Isabelline Wheatear and Red-throated Pipit were all seen. However, our local guides were most impressed with the flock of 21 Gull-billed Terns, the largest by far that either of them had ever seen in Bulgaria.

Again, time forced us to move on, with our next location being some woodland near Dabnik. Common Nightingales were singing everywhere, and the habitat looked ideal for woodpeckers and treecreepers, but with it being early afternoon, they failed to show. However, we did see Hawfinch and Turtle Dove, as a flock of seventy Great White Pelicans migrated overhead, looking very prehistoric in flight. Lesser Spotted Eagle and Long-legged Buzzard were also recorded, but the best bird was found by a client while checking holes for woodpeckers. He called me over saying 'owl!' and I could hardly believe my eyes to see a Scops Owl peering back at us from its hole. The group quickly assembled and all enjoyed great views: definitely the find of the week!



European Roller



Lesser Grey Shrike

After a superb lunch at a rural restaurant, we continued north, but had a break at Albena Baltata Forest, the best site in Bulgaria for Semi-collared Flycatcher. Being late afternoon, it was initially fairly quiet, but the deeper we went into the forest, the better it became. Hawfinch, Middle Spotted Woodpecker and Short-toed Treecreeper were all seen well, and eventually Tisho saw a black-and-white flycatcher high in the canopy, which then (typically) disappeared. A tense couple of minutes later, the short song-phrase of a male Semi-collared Flycatcher could be heard; he remained hidden, but a female showed fairly well as it flitted from branch to branch, flycatching.

We continued north to Krapets, though our birding day was not yet done. Winding along picturesque coastal cliffs, we arrived at a roadside stop looking up at white cliffs near Topola, for one of the birding highlights of the trip. The group spread out to scan the cliffs, and sure enough we found the roosting Eagle-Owl perched on the cliffs! With all the 'scopes quickly trained on the spot, we had great views of this huge and stately bird. It made a great end to a superb day, during which we had seen both Bulgaria's smallest and largest owls.

Day 7

Friday 9th May

The hotel at Krapets was literally beside the sea, with some superb cliff-top bushes, an area of scrub and an old abandoned caravan site: ideal migrant country. It did not disappoint, the first bird being a very showy Thrush Nightingale feeding on the grass like a Song Thrush! Again, Red-backed Shrikes were everywhere, as Golden Orioles and Bee-eaters zipped overhead. A quick look at the sea produced several Black-throated Divers, but our attention was soon elsewhere, to view a lovely Red-breasted Flycatcher.

After breakfast we headed to Lake Durankulak, a superb area of wetlands and reedbeds. It was difficult to know where to look here, the bird highlights being Glossy Ibis, Squacco Heron, Ferruginous Duck, Wood Sandpiper, Short-toed Snake Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Syrian Woodpecker and singing Savi's Warbler, as three European Otter played among them. Having driven round to the north side of the lake, we walked down the beach towards the hide. Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint were on the beach, and a Tawny Pipit gave good flight views. The lake was alive with flocks of Whiskered Terns, many lingering, some feeding and then continuing their journey northwards. More Ferruginous Ducks gave stunning views in front of the hide, as did several fly-by Purple Herons. As we returned to the bus, we were delighted to discover a pair of Red-footed Falcons, and six Caspian Terns flew north over the sea.

After lunch back at the hotel, we headed to the Rusalka steppe to look for Calandra Lark. Almost immediately, we found them singing and doing display flights, and they also treated us to good 'scope views on the deck. More Red-footed Falcons were hunting dragonflies here, and the area was particularly good for Lesser Grey and Red-backed Shrikes. Other good birds included Short-toed Snake Eagle, Roller, Tawny Pipit and a pair of Black-headed Bunting. Our final stop of the day was Lake Shabla, which was alive with Squacco Herons, Wood Sandpipers and Garganeys, plus a lone limping Marsh Sandpiper and a fly-through Osprey. The lake was bordered by bushes, and these were productive, holding a smart male (Black-headed) Yellow Wagtail, Wood Warbler, another Red-breasted Flycatcher, and a particularly showy Icterine Warbler to finish another superb day.

Day 8

Saturday 10th May

The day started grey, damp and breezy, so we sheltered in the hotel's external restaurant for a pre-breakfast seawatch. Several Black-throated Divers were noted, as were some distant Yelkouan Shearwaters, and a couple of Icterine Warblers were in the bushes. Overnight conditions looked good for a fall of birds, so after breakfast we set off for the coastal steppe at Balgarevo and the headland at Cape Kaliakra. At Balgarevo we quickly located a Stone-curlew, and the whole area was alive with several Lesser Grey Shrikes, Tawny Pipits, Calandra Larks, two Greater Short-toed Larks and Isabelline Wheatear. We hoped for more at the headland, so we drove further east to the car park at Cape Kaliakra.

At the cape it was breezy with light drizzle, but we were able to find an area out of the wind which the birds were favouring too. Almost immediately, we nearly tripped over a fine pair of Pied Wheatear offering superb photographic opportunities, while several Alpine Swifts hung in the breeze above, affording more great views. Red-backed Shrikes and Spotted Flycatchers were everywhere, and a large fig tree held a Marsh Warbler. Another pair of Pied Wheatears was found below the cafe, but our attention was soon distracted by a lovely pair of Ortolan Buntings perched on the rocks below us. Then a gorgeous male Red-breasted Flycatcher was spotted nearby, which stole the show. A strange *Phylloscopus* warbler was also in the vicinity, with a very odd head pattern. It resembled a Dusky Warbler, but didn't seem quite right. Luckily, many photos and video were taken, and then posted online, where the consensus of expert opinion was of a very odd Common Chiffchaff: it was certainly the strangest Chiffchaff I think any of us had ever seen!

Time was pressing on, so we reluctantly prised ourselves away from this great area and moved on for lunch, then headed west towards our ultimate destination of Vetren by Srebarna Lake. We stopped en route at the wooded Onogur Gorge for some more birding, and for those who wanted, a brisk walk to the rock-hewn monastery. A Long-legged Buzzard flew over us, as a Grey-headed Woodpecker called and then showed really well, the first we

had seen on the trip. Then, a Eurasian Wryneck flew into a neighbouring tree and also showed well, if briefly. Moving on, we reached our lovely rural hotel in Vetren, checked in and then enjoyed another superb Bulgarian meal with great hospitality, before quickly running through the checklist and going to bed.

Day 9

Sunday 11th May

Our pre-breakfast walk in the Vetren valley, in which the hotel sat, did not disappoint. Golden Orioles were everywhere, with several seen well, together with Wryneck, Red-rumped Swallow and Barred, Marsh and Icterine Warblers. However, the stars of the show were four singing River Warblers, one right by the stream beside the hotel garden! The rest of the morning was spent at a lake by the River Danube at Malak Preslavetz, where many Whiskered Terns flew about, most settling to nest on the lily pads. Dalmatian Pelicans were seen, and the whole area was great for herons, with Squacco, Black-crowned Night and Purple all on view, as Booted Eagles drifted overhead. We also enjoyed good views of Great Reed Warblers, and Red-rumped Swallows collecting mud for their nests from the car park.

We moved on to a nearby site at Popina, where a large sandbank has formed in the River Danube. A few Gull-billed Terns flew up-river as an immature White-tailed Eagle sat on the sandbank, looking massive even at 500m range! Then we had a real piece of luck, when a Black Woodpecker flew across the Danube from Romania and into Bulgaria. After lunch back at the hotel, we visited two locations along the edge of Srebarna Lake. The first area was generally fairly quiet, but birds included Ferruginous Duck, Black Stork, Lesser Spotted Eagle and a singing Savi's Warbler. The second area started well, with great views of a male Penduline Tit, followed by Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Egret, Ruddy Shelduck, Red-crested Pochard, Wood Sandpiper, Black-headed Yellow Wagtail and Dalmatian Pelican. Little Bittern had been a bird that had eluded us all week, but we were now in its prime habitat. A male was briefly seen in flight by two clients, but then promptly disappeared. However, as we kept scanning the reed-tops, it eventually did the decent thing and flew several more times, even alighting on the reed-tops for some 'scope views. Finally, as we walked back to the bus at the end of another fine day, a Eurasian Scops Owl began to sing at the early time of 6.00pm, but remained well hidden in cover.

Day 10

Monday 12th May

Our final pre-breakfast walk provided us with more Hawfinches, a fine singing Ortolan Bunting in a vineyard, and a distant singing Common Quail. Once packed, it was a seamless drive to Silistra for customs checks and the ferry across the River Danube, from which we saw Black Tern and Ruddy Shelduck, and then into Romania. We headed for Bucharest, passing intensively cultivated farmland dotted with wetlands, where we saw yet more White Storks, Squacco Heron, a Dalmatian Pelican and two Red-footed Falcons. As ever Bee-eaters were much in evidence; surely the bird of the trip for their sheer numbers and daily place on our nightly checklist.

I'd like to thank the whole group for their great company over the ten days. Everyone contributed to finding birds, recounting tales, telling jokes or just general good humour: it was a pleasure to lead. Special thanks must go to Tisho and Pavel for their knowledge, enthusiastic and help on the tour. It was Tisho's last tour after twenty years, and in his own words 'it was one of the best'.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025									
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>									40	✓
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				1	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>					20	12	✓	2	2	
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>						15			10	6
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>							3			
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>					3	4	2		4	
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>							1		1	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		1		2	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>					1		2		1	
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>									1	
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>									15	30
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>							20		25	
Ferruginous x Pochard hybrid	<i>Aythya nyroca x ferina</i>									1	
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	1						✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>										1
Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>			5							
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		50	2	6			2	40		
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			10	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	8	100	20	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	2	6	10	2	1	1	3	3	8	2
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	1		10	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			8	6	1	6	10	25	10	2
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>							1			
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					1		1		1	

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025									
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					✓	1	✓		✓	✓
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>							1		1	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					✓	4	✓	50	12	✓
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					13	13		6		
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>					1000	12				
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>								1		
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>					6		2		1	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					✓	6	16		25	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					12	12			6	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					2		1			
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			2	1	10		1		1	
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>					2	16	6		4	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>						2				
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>					1					
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					6					
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>					3					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					1		2			
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>							1			
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					5	10	20		2	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>							3			
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					200					
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					3	1				
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					2	1				
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>					150		12		1	
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>					1					
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					13	3	7		4	
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>					1					
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					1					
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>									3	
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						12	6		2	

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025									
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>						4				
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					3	4			2	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>						21		2	4	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>							6	2		
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>					250	1	150		250	20
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					30	10	2	20	10	10
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					10					
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				2	✓	✓	2	1	6	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>					✓	✓	✓	2	.	
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>					40					
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					✓	1	2	2	2	
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>					10	5	4	10	2	
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>							2	2	1	
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	1	4		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>					1	1				
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>							8	6		
Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>								50		
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			10	8	2				2	
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	5	2	12	20	250	30		12	40	25
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>	12			1	✓	✓	12		6	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	2	2	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>					✓	✓		40		
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>					1		20	7	1	
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					2				1	
Little Bittern	<i>Botaurus minutus</i>									1	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					1	1			4	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			2		✓	✓	4		2	6
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					4	1	20		6	3
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>									2	2
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		1	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	6	4

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025									
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				2	3		2	1	2	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					250	70				
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					12				8	2
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>							1			
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			12	8						
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			4	2	40	2		10	3	
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>				2						
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			30	50						
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			2	3			2			
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>					6	1	3	1	4	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>				5					6	
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>				2						
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyspiza brevipes</i>			1							
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1	1	1	4		2	1		
Eurasian Goshawk	<i>Astur gentilis</i>			1							
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				3		1				
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	2				10	10	20	2	2	2
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			2	2	1					
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					2		1		2	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1		6	6	1	10	3	6	6	4
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				1		1	1	3	2	
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			2							
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		4H	6H			1			2H	
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>						1				
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>			1							
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			8	1		1	4	6	3	1
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			8	3	4	2	12	8	3	1
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				1						1
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		30	50	60	40	80	50	25	40	10
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>								1	3	1

		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>						4			1	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>			1H			1H			2H	1
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>				1			2	1	2	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2	1			2		2	2	1
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>									1	
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		1	2	2	1	1		2	2	
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		2						1	2	
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>				25						
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1		4	4	2	3	5	5	4	6
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>							5	6		1
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		1	1	1	1	1	5	6	6	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				1						
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			10	4	5	6	8	3	30	6
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>				1						
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>						1	6	3		
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			8	6		1	3			
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		3	12	10	40	15	35	20	8	6
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	2						7			✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	2	2	2	1		2	1	1		
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	1	6								
Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>		1								
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		2								
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			1			1	1		✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					2H		1H		1	
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>							2			

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025									
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			4							
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>						2	10	6		
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			4	8	1	2	2	2		
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>								8		
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>							12	8		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			1		2		✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		40	40	50				6		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>	2	6	12	12	12	4	15	20	20	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>					6		4		3	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>							2			
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>							4	1	1	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	2	3	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>					6		10		20	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					2	1	2			
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					2		3		2	
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>		1H				1		1	2H	
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>			6	8	2	6	2			
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>							1	2	5	1
River Warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>									4H	
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>							2H		1H	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1	2	1	1	2	5	4	6	5	2
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>								1H		
Barred Warbler	<i>Curruca nisoria</i>		1		1	2		3		1	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>		3				1	2	3	1	1
Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca crassirostris</i>			2	2						
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>			2	2						
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca cantillans</i>			6	4						

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025									
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>			3	3	1	4	5	5	2	
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		6								
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		2								
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓								
Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>			1							
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>								1	1	
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		1								
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>						3				
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>						2	1	2	4	2
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	2	✓	✓							
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		2				4	8	10	6	2
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1				2		1	1	
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					1	2	2H			
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	1	1	18	10	3	12	4	6	8	3
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>						2	2	1	1	
Semicollared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>						2				
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>							1			
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>		8							1	
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				2						
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		1					6	3		
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>				1			1			
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				3	1	1	1	3		
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>				4		1	1	4		
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>								6		
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>			4							
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		8								
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			✓				2		12	4
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>			25	50	20	12	20	✓		12

		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				1	1		6		1	
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	1	✓								
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>							5	2		
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>					1		2	1		
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>					1	1				
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>			4			4		2	6	2
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		1								
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		1					✓	✓		2
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		30								
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	1	3								
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>		3								
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	2
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		1								
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				1						
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>		1		1				2		2
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		1	6	4	1	1				
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>			2	1			2	1		
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>							1			

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
European Sousek	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>
Leisler's Noctule	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Nathusius' Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>
Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>
Common Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>

Reptiles and amphibians

Common name	Scientific name
European Pond Turtle	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>
Spur-tailed Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix helvetica</i>
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>
Smooth Snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>
European Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>
European Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>
Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina orientalis</i>

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Little Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Common Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>

Moths

Common name	Scientific name
Blood-vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>
The Engrailed	<i>Ectropis crepuscularia</i>

Damselflies and dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>

Miscellaneous

Common name	Scientific name
Milky Owl-fly	<i>Libelloides lacteus</i>
Lady Orchid	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>