

Spring Birding in Bulgaria

Naturetrek Tour Report

2nd – 11th May 2026



Black Stork



Eagle-Owl



Collared Pratincole



Dalmatian Pelican

Tour report by Neil Murphy



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Tour Participants: Neil Murphy and Minko Madhzarov (leaders) with 13 Naturetrek clients

Summary

Bulgaria is slightly smaller than England, with a reasonable road network and a large variety of stunning scenery, most of it devoid of people and habitation, and totally unspoilt. It is located on a major migration route as birds skirt around the west coast of the Black Sea on their migration to northern Europe and beyond. However, this year's spring migration was delayed due to cold, wet weather further south and east, and thus some species were absent, and others were in smaller numbers than expected.

Over ten days we completed an anti-clockwise circuit of the country, stopping at many stunning places which included Trigrad gorge, Krumovgrad, Studen Kladenets, beautiful Sozopol on the Black Sea coast, the bird-rich lakes and wetlands around Burgas, then heading north to Kavarna via the Goritsa Hills, the impressive Cape Kaliakra, then Vetren and Srebarna Lake, before finally crossing the River Danube into Romania and flying home from Bucharest. As usual, we stayed in five different hotels, for two nights in each: they were simple in nature but clean and comfortable, with superb Bulgarian hospitality. We were treated to some fabulous food in this very friendly country.

During the tour we enjoyed great views of a very wide range of eastern European migrant and resident birds. We managed an admirable trip list of over two hundred species, which for ten days in Europe is quite outstanding.

Day 1

Saturday 2nd May

We left London Heathrow on time and arrived in Sofia at 2.00pm local time; we collected our bags and met our local guide, Minko. We then headed south out of the city on the main road towards the Rhodope mountains. Our first stop was at a service station where we saw our first Red-backed Shrike and our only Grey Partridge of the trip. We began to climb into the hills, taking another comfort break in Devin, where we saw fly over Black Stork, Short-toed Snake Eagle and Crag Martin. We finally arrived at Yagodina, high in the mountains, at 7.00pm: we enjoyed stunning views and a superb, traditional evening meal.

Day 2

Sunday 3rd May

This morning, we had quite a surprise: snow had fallen overnight and had transformed the valley into a winter wonderland! Our pre-breakfast walk was decidedly cold, but we were rewarded with a Red Squirrel, fabulous views of Willow Tit, and several Crossbills overhead, while a Black Redstart sang in the village.

After breakfast, we headed to the Trigrad gorge to search for Wallcreeper, but we were up against it as the snow continued to fall. As we scoured the rock faces, Crag Martins and Alpine Swift were constantly in view, and a Peregrine Falcon was seen. Time was pushing on, and we had a long four-hour drive ahead of us, so we moved on along the valley to Kesten, where several White-throated Dipper were seen, including two recently-fledged birds. We also saw Black Stork and Crested Tit, with a Firecrest by the lunch restaurant. We quickly tried the gorge again, and just as we were about to leave, a pair of Wallcreepers appeared from further down the gorge and flew around the crag face for several minutes before disappearing out of sight. What a result, and just in the nick of time! Elated,

we headed east towards Krumovgrad, seeing a roadside Nutcracker en route, before arriving and having dinner, as well as great views of Scops Owl in the local park.

Day 3

Monday 4th May

Luckily, today was warm and sunny, and the birds were singing as we set off on our early morning walk to the Kumovitsa River. We had soon seen Black Stork, Red-backed Shrike, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Common Nightingale and Black-headed Wagtail, the latter glowing in the early morning sunlight. Jackdaws of the nominate subspecies *monedula* are present in eastern Europe as well as in Scandinavia, and it was good to appreciate their subtle differences from British birds at close range.

After breakfast, we headed toward the Dolna Kula valley, which is a particularly bird-rich area. The plan was to walk the country road and have the bus pick us up further on. The walk was slow, as we saw many great birds, the highlights being nesting Black Stork, Griffon Vulture, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Black Kite, Hoopoe, Roller, Bee-eater and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Good views of Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrikes were also had, together with Eastern Black-eared Wheatear, of both the pale-throated and dark-throated forms. White Storks were on their nests in the villages, and the nests also held colonies of Spanish Sparrows. Red-rumped Swallows hawked overhead, and many Common Nightingales and Cirl Buntings sang. Butterflies included Green Hairstreak and Knapweed Fritillary. We heard Sombre Tit nearby, with several showing well, together with Barred and Sardinian Warblers. The final good bird was an Eastern Bonelli's Warbler just before our picnic lunch, just after lunch a Chukar was spotted. These had proved elusive all morning, so we were glad to get some views of one.

In the afternoon, we moved further up the valley to the Potochnitsa vulture feeding station. Here, we had superb views of Egyptian and Griffon Vultures, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Black Kite, Roller, Bee-eater, Red-rumped Swallow, Cirl Bunting, and both Red-backed and Woodchat Shrikes. This is an exceptional area for warblers, although Eastern Olivaceous Warbler were very thin on the ground during the whole trip (as were Black-headed Buntings), perhaps held up on their way north by bad weather around Greece. However, we did see a Olive-tree Warbler very well (it came to investigate our song recording), and also found a pair of Eastern Orphean Warblers. On the other side of the valley, at Studen Kladenets, Minko had a site for Eastern Subalpine Warblers, and they showed brilliantly as they sang just a few metres in front of us.

Back at Krumovgrad, after dinner and the checklist, we had another night walk to the park, and enjoyed great views of Scops Owl once again.

Day 4

Tuesday 5th May

Our ultimate goal today was to travel the five hours to the coastal town of Sozopol, but before that we still had a lot of birding to do en route. We skipped the pre-breakfast walk so that we could leave earlier and begin our journey. We hadn't got very far before a Chukar was spotted, but again it quickly disappeared into the hills.

We moved on to Madzharovo crater where we birded the area overlooking the limestone cliffs where Griffon Vultures nest. The area was great for birds, and we enjoyed more brilliant views of Egyptian and more than forty Griffon Vultures, together with Short-toed Snake Eagle, Black Stork, Blue Rock Thrush, Hoopoe, Red-rumped Swallow and more Eastern Black-eared Wheatears. Two Cinereous Vultures then cruised over: these are enormous

birds with a three-metre-plus wingspan, and are one of the few species that can make a Griffon Vulture look 'small'. The crater is also particularly good for buntings, and we had soon seen Cirl, and heard Ortolan. Rock Bunting is the star species here, and we usually hope to find a singing male: this year our luck was in, and three were found, one just ten meters away. A delicious lunch we taken at a nearby restaurant, with another fly-over Cinereous Vulture for good measure, before we continued our journey east. A brief stop at Ivaylovgrad Reservoir provided us with distant views of two adult White-tailed Eagles, along with Black Tern, Black and White Storks, Little Owl and a pair of Red-backed Shrikes.

We moved on to the village Levka where Lesser Kestrels have been reintroduced. These attractive, colonial falcons were thriving, with many nest boxes occupied, and they afforded us lovely views. The site was great for Spanish Sparrows too, and we also recorded fly-over Honey Buzzard and Eastern Imperial Eagle. Unfortunately, the village failed to produce Masked Shrike, and as time was against us, we had to omit the Topolygrad site for Isabelline Wheatear and European Souselik: we would hopefully catch up with these elsewhere. We continued with the final leg of the journey to Sozopol, arriving at 7.00pm. Our hotel overlooked the picturesque and historic harbour town.

Day 5

Wednesday 6th May

A pre-breakfast scan from the hotel terrace provided several of the Black Sea form of Shag, plenty of Yellow-legged Gulls nesting on an offshore islet, while hundreds of Yelkouan Shearwater streamed past. 'Yelkouan' is derived from the Turkish for 'wind-chaser', a very apt name for a bird that flies vast distances with little effort. After a hearty breakfast, we were soon on our way and heading to the extensive area of lakes and wetlands around Burgas, the first stop being at Mandra dam, at the eastern end of Lake Mandrensko. This is a superb birding area and we were soon enjoying Little Gull, Black and White-winged Terns, Pygmy Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Herons and a very showy Purple Heron, a Red-backed Shrike sharing a bush with a Whinchat, Penduline Tit and singing Great Reed Warblers.

As the temperatures rose and thermals began to form, we noted Honey Buzzard, and Lesser Spotted, Booted and White-tailed Eagles overhead, together with Collared Pratincole, Red-footed Falcon and Hobby. With birds actively migrating, we carried on to the NCC reserve at Poda, where we could observe from the rooftop viewing platform. More Honey Buzzards came over, along with Black Kites and a colourful flock of Bee-eaters. This viewpoint allowed us a little extra height to view over the reeds to the muddy lake edge, where waders included nesting Black-winged Stilts, Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank, Ruff, Little Stint and over sixty Collared Pratincole hawking over the reedbeds for insects. We also saw Garganey, Red-crested Pochard, Pygmy Cormorant, Spoonbill and Purple Heron, and more Great Reed Warblers sang from the tops of reeds. We walked down to the sea, where we had excellent views of the pratincoles flying directly overhead, and also found breeding-plumaged Red-necked, Black-necked and Slavonian Grebes.

Our picnic lunch was taken back at the visitor centre, before we moved on to Atanasovsko Lake (Burgas salt pans), where we saw Black-winged Stilt, Avocet, over forty Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank, Ruff and a single Black Tern, but amazingly not a single Greater Flamingo. We then started to head back towards Sozopol, stopping briefly at Lake Vaya to view Great White and Dalmatian Pelicans, Mediterranean Gull, Pygmy Cormorant and Great Reed Warbler. Some people then elected to walk around Sozopol, while the remainder headed to Alepu Marsh and saw Grey Plover, Common Sandpiper, Black-necked Grebe, Black-throated Diver, Black Stork, Crested Lark, Whinchat and a fly-over Collared Pratincole. A superb dinner in the hotel and the checklist completed another fabulous day.

Day 6

Thursday 7th May

Today we headed to the nearby Arkutino Marsh for our pre-breakfast walk. A few lucky people had brief views of an Otter, and the birding highlights were Hoopoe, Golden Oriole, Red-backed and Woodchat Shrikes, and Great Reed Warbler, but unfortunately no Semi-collared Flycatcher. We were changing hotels again today, and we were soon on our way to Kableskovo Forest, where we found both Lady and Monkey Orchids, and saw Lesser Spotted, Booted and Short-toed Snake Eagles, along with Red-footed Falcon. This site does sometimes host Masked Shrike, but we didn't find any: we did enjoy Short-toed Treecreeper, Common Nightingale and Hawfinch instead.



Cinereous Vulture



Red-backed Shrike



Lesser Kestrel



Red-breasted Flycatcher

We continued to Pomorie salt pans, but unfortunately the water level here was too high for any migrant waders. We still enjoyed Little and Mediterranean Gulls, and Little and Sandwich Terns. After a superb lunch at a rural restaurant in Goritsa, we continued north, but had a break at Baltata Forest, the best site in Bulgaria for breeding Semi-collared Flycatcher. Being late afternoon, it was initially fairly quiet, but the deeper we went into the forest, the better it got. Short-toed Treecreeper, and Grey-headed and Middle Spotted Woodpeckers were all seen well, but unfortunately no Semi-collared Flycatcher could be found, only Spotted. Never mind: compensation came in an unusual way when a small bird flew out of the flooded woodland floor and perched in a tree. We could hardly believe our eyes: it was a male Little Bittern! There he sat, pretending to be invisible, but giving us fantastic scope views, and showing that almost anything can turn up anywhere.

We continued north towards Krapets, winding along the picturesque coastal cliffs and stopping near Topola to scan the white cliffs for roosting Eagle-Owls. We checked all the usual favourite ledges, but had no joy today. We hoped for more success tomorrow.

Day 7

Friday 8th May

The hotel at Krapets is right beside the sea with some superb cliff top bushes, an area of scrub and an old abandoned caravan site: ideal migrant bird country. Golden Orioles and Bee-eaters zipped overhead, and we quickly heard and then saw several Red-breasted Flycatchers. A quick look at the sea produced several Black-throated Divers, and finally we added Greater Flamingo to the trip list when a flock of eighty headed south. After breakfast, we headed to Lake Durankulak, a superb area of wetlands and reedbeds. Having driven round to the north side of the lake, we parked and immediately saw Red-backed Shrike, Golden Oriole, Common Redstart, Spotted and Red-breasted Flycatchers, and Eastern Black-eared Wheatear from the car park. We walked down to the beach and towards the hide. Red-crested Pochard and Ferruginous Duck were soon spotted, and a Eurasian Bittern made a quick fly-by as a Savi's Warbler sang from the reeds.

The sea held Black-necked Grebe, Yelkouan Shearwater, and both Great White and Dalmatian Pelicans loafing on buoys. Small flocks of Whiskered Tern kept heading north, with some lingering over the lake where Purple and Squacco Herons were seen, and Great Reed and Cetti's Warblers sang. On the beach, a Tawny Pipit gave good views as it performed its display flight, and waders included Little Stint and Whimbrel. On the west side of the lake, we were delighted to record more Ferruginous Ducks, Wood Sandpiper, several Squacco and Purple Herons, at least five Red-footed Falcons, Red-backed Shrike, Savi's Warbler, Tawny Pipit and Coypu. On the way back for lunch, we quickly called in at Tuzla Lake, but the high water level meant that few birds were seen, bar Black-winged Stilt and Garganey.

After lunch back at the hotel, we headed to the Sveti Nikola steppe, to look for Calandra Lark. Almost immediately, we found them singing and doing display flights, and they treated us to some good scope views. Other good birds included Turtle Dove, Long-legged Buzzard, Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Golden Oriole, Roller, Red-backed Shrike, Woodlark, Stonechat, Tawny Pipit and Ortolan Bunting. At the nearby coastal steppe of Balgarevo, we quickly located two Stone-curlews, while a Booted Eagle circled overhead. The whole area was alive with birds, and we quickly saw Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Hobby, Red-backed Shrike, more Calandra Lark, Isabelline Wheatear, Tawny Pipit, Crested Lark, and four Greater Short-toed Larks.

Day 8

Saturday 9th May

Overnight it had clouded over and some light rain had fallen, which promised good conditions for a fall of migrants, but unfortunately the coastal bushes were relatively quiet, apart from several Red-backed Shrikes, a Barred Warbler and the 'usual' Golden Orioles and Bee-eaters. The sea was more productive, with six Black-throated Divers and hundreds of Yelkouan Shearwaters.

After breakfast, we set off for the headland at Cape Kaliakra, which juts out into the Black Sea and is a famous migration watch-point. We immediately found a pair of Pied Wheatears, while several Alpine Swifts flew overhead, together with more Bee-eaters. On the sea below, we noted ten Black-throated Divers, Shags, and hundreds more Yelkouan Shearwater passing the tip of the cape: we headed in that direction for closer views. Several Cirl Buntings, Red-backed Shrikes and Spotted Flycatchers were seen, before a Levant Sparrowhawk shot past, hunting along the cliff sides. As we walked to the cape, we heard and saw many Red-breasted Flycatchers, most of them beautiful males, and found a female Emperor Moth. The tip of the cape was relatively quiet, but we had superb close views of the 'wind-chaser' shearwaters, two Common Dolphins and many Common Porpoises.

We moved around the headland to Bolata Bay, another Eagle-Owl site, but despite more cliff face scanning, we again drew a blank. Compensation came in the form of a very showy Savi's Warbler, Great Reed Warbler, Water Rail and more Red-breasted Flycatchers. Lunchtime was approaching, but we just had time for one final (desperate) visit to Topola Cliffs, as we were passing by. Finally, our luck changed, and there on the cliff was a most majestic Eagle-Owl, casually glancing down at us as we celebrated some five hundred metres away! I don't think any of us were expecting to see it, it being midday. We all assumed that it would be tucked away behind cover of in one of the numerous caves, but there it was: what a magical moment.

After a very enjoyable celebratory lunch we headed west towards Vetren by Srebarna Lake. We arrived at our lovely rural hotel around 6.00pm, and enjoyed another superb Bulgarian meal with great hospitality, as Common Nightingales, Golden Orioles and Scops Owls sang.

Day 9

Sunday 10th May

Our pre-breakfast walk in the Vetren valley, in which the hotel was located, did not disappoint. Turtle Doves could be heard purring, with other highlights being Common Cuckoo, Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Golden Oriole, Wryneck, Red-rumped Swallow, Common Redstart and several fly-over Hawfinches. Common Nightingales were singing everywhere, and two River Warblers were heard singing, but as usual were impossible to see.

We then headed towards Malak Preslavetz, pausing en route to admire Lesser Grey and Red-backed Shrikes, and also a Barred Warbler. In the village, a Little Owl was spotted on a chimney, and while we watched it we had great views of a Syrian Woodpecker in another garden. At the lake, we saw about twenty-five pairs of Whiskered Tern snoisily flying around and settling on their nests on the lily-pads. A Dalmatian Pelican was fishing on the lake, which was superb for herons, with Black-crowned Night and Purple Herons, and Great Egret all noted. Overhead were Booted and Lesser Spotted Eagles, together with more Bee-eaters, Golden Orioles and Red-rumped Swallows. The lake fringes were excellent for views of Great Reed Warbler, while a Middle Spotted Woodpecker was attending a nest. As usual there were plenty of Common Nightingales, Turtle Doves and Common Cuckoos singing, with a pair of Little Tern and a single Pygmy Cormorant also seen.

We moved on to a nearby site at Popina, where a large sandbank has formed in the River Danube. It was good to meet Megan and Milko here, and they updated us on their recent sightings as we all scanned the sandbanks for waders, which included Avocet, Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint. A few Black Tern flew along the Danube, and a large flock of around a hundred-and-fifty White Storks was seen migrating northward. After lunch at the riverside hotel, with a lovely Balkan Green Lizard and a fly-over White-tailed Eagle, we moved on to Dobrotitsa, a small area of steppe. This is a known site for European Sousek, and we soon located a few of these charming rodents. Good birds included Turtle Dove, Hoopoe, Bee-eater, Roller, Red-footed Falcon, Golden Oriole, Red-backed Shrike, Isabelline Wheatear and Black-headed Wagtail. Corn Buntings were much in evidence here, and finally we found a single, singing Black-headed Bunting on a distant telephone wire: it was our only one of the trip!

Next, we visited Srebarna Lake, where birds included Ruddy Shelduck, Ferruginous Duck, Whiskered Tern, Dalmatian Pelican, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Red-footed Falcon, Hobby, and Red-backed Shrike, while we listened to Great Reed and Savi's Warblers. A Penduline Tit could be heard nearby and, with a little encouragement from Merlin, he came to investigate and showed superbly. Time was pushing on, but just as we were preparing to

leave a Levant Sparrowhawk circled overhead and finally gave everyone good views of this impressive *Accipiter*. Again, after dinner and the nightly checklist, a Scops Owl was singing from the hotel grounds.

Day 10

Monday 11th May

Our final pre-breakfast walk provided us with more avian delights, species which we had seen lots of times but of which we were not tired! It also allowed us to compare singing Thrush and Common Nightingales and to appreciate the subtle differences. Again, two River Warblers could be heard, one directly outside our hotel, but they proved impossible to see. Once packed, it was a short drive to Silistra for a customs check and the ferry across the River Danube, from which we saw Booted Eagle, Little Stint and Whiskered Tern, and which took us into Romania. We headed for Bucharest, passing intensively-cultivated farmland dotted with wetlands, where we saw yet more White Storks and a Dalmatian Pelican. A quick petrol station break provided us with lovely views of a pair of Red-footed Falcons as they hawked insects above us. Then it was on to the airport, and our flight home to Heathrow.

This had been a hugely successful tour of fabulous Bulgaria, which had provided us with many memorable wildlife highlights. It had been made extra special by Minko, the whole group contributing to finding birds, and everyone's easy-going nature and good humour.

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	May 2026										
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>									1	✓	
	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>					40		✓	2			
	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>										3	
	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>					2		3				
	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>					40						
	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>					2					4	
	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>					2		2	2			
	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					3					2	✓
	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>							12			4	
	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	6										
	Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				1	1		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>			2	1							
	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>	2	4	2				6		15		
	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>		12	6	2							
	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			4	1	1	1	2	2	12	2	
	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			4	3		2	8	6	12	3	
	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>									1		
	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>							1			1	
	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					4		✓		✓	✓	
	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>										2	
	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					1						
	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				1	120	1	4	2	6	✓	
	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>					1						
	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					6		25	3			
	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>							80				

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	May 2026									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>							2			
	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				1	2			1	1	
	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					30	12	20			20
	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					30	80			12	
	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					1				1	
	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					1		4		2	
	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			6	2	4		2			
	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>						4			5	4
	Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>							1			
	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					1					
	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>							1			
	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					60					
	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>					12				1	
	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					50				20	
	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>						60			4	
	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					4		3		8	3
	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>					70					
	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>						2			2	
	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>							50		70	
	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>				30	100				30	20
	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					6					
	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				4	✓	✓	2		6	4
	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>					15	150	6	✓		
	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>					20	2				
	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					6	6			2	✓
	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>					15	10		6	6	6
	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>										4
	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>					3		15	15		
	Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>					✓	2	200	500		
	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	1	1	8	10	2					
	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	16	2	6	✓	10	30	2	15	150	6
	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>					50	8			2	
	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>					40	30	4	30		

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	May 2026											
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				120	✓							
	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					15	4						
	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>							1					
	Little Bittern	<i>Botaurus minutus</i>						1						
	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				1	1					5		
	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1	1		1	6	4				2	2	
	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>								3				
	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				2	2					2	2	
	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	✓	✓	
	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				1	4			6		2		
	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					12	6				2		
	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					7			4		6	1	
	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			6	1								
	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	1		2	1	8							
	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>				3								
	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			8	40								
	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1		1	1			1					
	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>			1	1	6	1				1		
	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>				1	2	3	1			2	1	
	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>				1								
	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachypiza brevipes</i>									1	1		
	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1	2									
	Eurasian Goshawk	<i>Astur gentilis</i>									1	1		
	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	1				1							
	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				1	8	6	10	4	4	4	2	
	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			4	2	6							
	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				3	1					3		
	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	6	2	4	4	4		
	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>							1	1				
	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		1		2						2		
	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		4	4						1	1		
	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>									1			
	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			2	2		2	5	2	8	2		
	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			6	3	1		2	3	2			
	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			1									

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026									
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			2	5	36	2	15	35	20	8
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>									2	1
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>						2			1	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>			1							
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>			1	1			1		2	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1				1			1	
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			5	1		1			1	
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>						1			1	
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>				40						
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>					3	1	5	1	3	2
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	2		2		8	2	1	3	6	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1		1						
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			5	2		4	5	6	24	6
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>			2					1	2	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			4	1		1				
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	1	1	10	6	4	4	3	8	5	2
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		1								
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓						2	✓		✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		4	2	2	1		1	1	2	
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓								
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>		2								
Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>			4							
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		1	1							
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		2								
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>						4			✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					1				1	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>							2			
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>						4		2	1	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	1		2	6	4	2	4	6	2	

I=Introduced	Scientific name	May 2026									
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Greater Short-toed Lark							4			
	Calandra Lark							6	2		
	Sand Martin	✓				✓					
	Eurasian Crag Martin		10	✓	✓						
	Barn Swallow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Western House Martin	200	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	European Red-rumped Swallow	2	2	25	10	4	4	4	4	6	2
	Cetti's Warbler					6	1	4	2	1	
	Long-tailed Tit		✓	✓	✓		✓				
	Eastern Bonelli's Warbler			1							
	Willow Warbler			1	1	2		1	1		1
	Common Chiffchaff		✓			2	1	1	2		1
	Great Reed Warbler					10	3	4	4	12	
	Common Reed Warbler					3	2	2	1	2	
	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler			2	1						
	Olive-tree Warbler			3							
	River Warbler									2	2
	Savi's Warbler							3	1	1	
	Eurasian Blackcap			1		1	1	1	4	1	
	Garden Warbler									1	
	Barred Warbler			4					1	1	
	Lesser Whitethroat					2	1	1	5	2	2
	Eastern Orphean Warbler			2							
	Sardinian Warbler			4							
	Eastern Subalpine Warbler			3							
	Common Whitethroat	2		1		1	4	3	6	2	
	Common Firecrest		1								
	Eurasian Wren		✓			1					
	Eurasian Nuthatch		1								
	Wallcreeper		2								
	Short-toed Treecreeper						3				
	Common Starling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Song Thrush		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Mistle Thrush	✓	✓								
	Common Blackbird	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

I=Introduced		May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			1			3	2	4		
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	1			✓			✓	
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>									1	1
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>			18	10	1	6	6	4	12	4
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>							4	12		
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1	2				1	1	2		1
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>							1		4	2
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				4						
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>					5	1	1			
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>				1			3			
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				1				1		
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>							3		5	
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>								5		
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>			4	2			1			
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		2								
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		6	6		2				✓	✓
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	20		12	✓	12		✓	✓		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1		1	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		1								
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			2		1	1	3	1	6	2
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓								
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>							3			
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>						5	1		12	1
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	1	1	2	1	1	4	2	2	✓	2
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>							✓	2		
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		8								
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	1		15	12	6	4	8	4	12	4
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		2								
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				3						
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>				2			2			
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			25	12						
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>									1	

Mammals

I=Introduced		May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>			1	4			1			
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>							2			
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		1								
European Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>									3	
Northern White-breasted Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus roumanicus</i>	several dead on roads									
Black Sea Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis ponticus</i>								2		
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>					20			40		
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		✓	✓	✓						
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>				2						
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>										H
Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>						1				

Reptiles

		May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>						1	1			
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>									1	
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>					1					

Butterflies & moths

I=Introduced		May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>			1	1	1	1	1		1	
Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>				1						
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>					2					
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			1	1						
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>			6	✓	2		1		1	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>			✓	✓						

I=Introduced		May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>			✓	✓						
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			✓	✓						
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			✓	✓						
Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>					1					
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			1							
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>			12	4	2					
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>				✓						
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>			✓							
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			✓	✓	2					
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>						1	1			
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>			✓							
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>				✓						
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>					✓					
Emperor Moth	<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>								1		

Damselflies & dragonflies

I=Introduced		May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>									10	
Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>									1	
White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>									1	

Other invertebrates

		May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Milky Owlfly	<i>Libelloides lacteus</i>			✓							

Orchids

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026									
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Monkey Orchid	<i>Orchis simia</i>						1				
Lady Orchid	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>						4				