

Bulgaria's Dragonflies

Naturetrek Tour Report

2 – 10 July 2011



Banded Darter (*Sympetrum pedemontanum*)



Black Pennant (*Selysiotthemis nigra*)



Blue-eyed Hawker (*Aeshna affinis*)



Scarce Copper (*Lycaena vigeureae*)

Report compiled and images provided by Dave Smallshire



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leaders: Dave Smallshire (Naturetrek Leader)
 Tihomir (Tisho) Stephanov (Local Guide)
 Yordan (Dancho) Kutsarov (Local guide)

Participants: Colin Adams
 Rosemary Blasdale
 Steve Blasdale
 Lorraine Ellison
 Richard Ellison

Summary:

This circuit of central and southern Bulgaria gave us a good insight into both the dragonfly fauna and abundant other wildlife of the region. After visiting streams in the Sredna Gora Mountains, we moved south-east to the low mountains of the biodiversity-rich Eastern Rhodope. Here, two days looking at varied habitats produced a good range of dragonflies and other insects, including the extraordinary Odalisque – a damselfly that looks rather like a dragonfly. Our next two days were spent in the higher Western Rhodope Mountains, where a select range of dragonflies were found, including lots of Spearhead (Northern) Bluets at their southernmost locality in the world. After exceptionally close encounters with Wallcreepers feeding young and good numbers of the beautiful little Banded Darter, we arrived at Melnik, the base for our final two nights. At Rupite Hot Springs, we were greeted by a small flock of wandering Eleonora's Falcons while the final climax to a superb trip was seeing Black Pennant at a new, third location for the species in Bulgaria. The group saw an excellent total of 47 species of dragonflies (excluding possible Brilliant Emerald, 71 butterflies and 120 birds, not to mention a wide range of other animals and plants that the combined talents of the group helped to find and identify.

Day 1

Saturday 2nd July

Sunny; maximum 27°C

After an uneventful flight from London Heathrow, we met our Bulgarian guides and drivers, Tisho and Dancho, at Sofia airport. We loaded our gear into the minibus and were soon heading east on a lovely sunny afternoon. We made what was to have been a brief stop for refreshments at a roadside shop, but we soon took our ice creams off to a nearby river ... and over an hour later we had to drag ourselves away! Amongst lots of other insects we found Ornate Bluets, Small Bluetails, Southern Skimmers, Blue-spot Hairstreak, Large Copper, Short-tailed Blue and Freyer's Purple Emperor, plus a singing Marsh Warbler: an excellent impromptu start! We continued on to our first scheduled dragonfly site, a small stream running into the Topolnica River.

Amongst the diverse wetland plants we located more Ornate Bluets and a Small Pincertail sat on the track. The drier areas were adorned with myriad wildflowers and seethed with grasshoppers, bush-crickets, butterflies and day-flying moths, giving us a foretaste of the abundance of insect life that was to come. Colourful Black-headed Buntings sang nearby. We arrived at our destination, a small, family-run hotel in the historic village of Koprivshitsa, in good time to relax before a splendid Bulgarian dinner.

Day 2

Sunday 3rd July

Cloudy with rain late in the day; 13 - 21°C

Most of the group ventured out before breakfast, taking in the cool, damp morning air and the sense of going back a century in time. The rustic nature of Koprivshitsa was very apparent as we became accustomed to seeing horse-drawn carts as often as cars. The White Storks had well-grown young in their traditional nest on the edge of the village: another taste of what was to become a frequent sight on our travels. Dippers and Grey Wagtails were found along the river but the biggest surprise came when the rasping song of a Corncrake began in some uncut grassland; July is very late for its song still to be heard. Perhaps this was a frustrated unmated male, because much to our astonishment he responded to a song recording by flying straight past us!

Although we had a long journey ahead today, our first stop was quite close to the village. We walked along another small tributary of the Topolnica, but the dull weather meant little insect activity. Whinchats were present, but sadly not the Eastern Imperial Eagle and Rock Thrush of previous years. A brief mid-morning stop next to a Bee-eater colony near Panicheri gave us good views of not just these beauties, but also Lesser Spotted and Booted Eagles, Honey Buzzard and Isabelline Wheatear; Bulgaria is almost the only place in Europe to see the last species breeding.

At our next venue, the Maritsa River near Milevo, we found Golden Orioles and more Bee-eaters and later our first Roller. Apart from Blue Featherlegs, dragonflies and butterflies were unusually scarce; no doubt they were around but inactive, due to the cloudy conditions. We did find an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler and a pair of Lesser Grey Shrikes and shutters clicked away at an antlion (and an 'ant line!').

We stopped twice more in the afternoon, first at a small fishing lake where we watched Great Reed Warblers but few dragonflies and later at Susam Reservoir. Interest there came in the form of both Migrant and Robust Spreadwings, both being caught for a close inspection. Finally, as rain and thunder set in for the evening, we arrived at a new venue in Krumovgrad, a very comfortable small hotel which supplied most welcome drinks and a hearty meal.

Day 3

Monday 4th July

Cloudy until mid-morning, then hot and sunny; 17 - 32°C

Before breakfast, with low cloud still hanging over the hills, a walk down to the Krumovitz River yielded dewy Small Pincertail and White-tailed Skimmer still at their roost sites in low vegetation. A pair of Crag Martins sat on the bridge near their mud nest underneath, while a couple of Kingfishers zoomed by.

After breakfast, we spent a couple of hours in a spectacular valley near Dolna Kula, where Black Storks, Rock Nuthatches and Black-eared Wheatears nested among the crags, although fortunately the last two species had brought their young lower down. While we were waiting for the sun to burn off the clouds, a Chukar began calling and eventually a pair was found high up on the rocks.

While we searched for them, we located a Short-toed Eagle and a Rock Bunting on the highest crags. Better views, however, were had of Hobbies and Cirl Bunting. As the valley began to warm rapidly, Southern Skimmers, Mallow Skipper, White-fronted Wart-biters, antlions and lots of other insects began to appear. Moving on towards Studen Kladenetz, we stopped for a couple of Spur-thighed Tortoises on the road.

Our main destination today was the lovely Valchi Dol reserve, where we had lunch at a picnic table next to a shady stream. It was towards the end of the season for the strange Odalisque damselfly, but we managed to locate a male and two females on perches above one of the few remaining sunny sections of stream. This species is the only one in its genus and is unusual in that the wings are spread at rest and the whole of the male becomes pruinose. A few Eastern Spectres patrolled along the shadier stretches of the stream and one was caught so that we could appreciate its attractive though complex colour scheme. Lots of butterflies, including Scarce Swallowtail, gathered to 'puddle' and an indeterminate festoon flew rapidly through. Griffon and Egyptian Vultures and a Mole Cricket were also seen in the area.

Tempted by the remote possibility of seeing Yellow-spotted Whiteface (*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*), which had been discovered a few weeks earlier, we decided to visit the site: a marsh adjacent to copper mine tailings near Madzharovo. Our first attempt to get to the site was thwarted when we discovered that the path had been washed away to leave a deep ravine. The alternative route took us past a local vulture conservation centre, where we took the opportunity to refresh ourselves with very welcome beer and ice cream. There Tisho and Dancho learned of a grasshopper 'problem' at the large expanse of poorly-vegetated tailings we would have to walk across. On arrival, we could see many insects flying over the site and as we began to walk along a track we began to appreciate the scale of the 'problem'. At every step hundreds of grasshoppers jumped or took flight, our crude estimates putting the total number possibly between one and ten million individuals! Bulgaria is home to over 250 species of Orthoptera and putting a name to this one was not possible, but the experience was reminiscent of a locust plague.

We found Green-eyed Hawk, Emperor and Eastern Spectres patrolling a stream below the tailings, before finally reaching the marshy area where the Whiteface had been seen. The marsh was rapidly drying out and we did not see our quarry, though Colin and Dancho found what turned out to be a Downy Emerald. Our accommodation for the next two nights was the nearby Arda Complex, a new hotel right next to the Arda River and overlooked by a huge natural arch on the cliffs beyond.

Day 4

Tuesday 5th July

Sunny and humid after early mist, cloud with light rain in evening; maximum 30°C

Emerging for a pre-breakfast walk, we found a Little Owl on the hotel roof. During a walk down to the river and back we saw a pair of Sombre Tits, while a flock of Alpine Swifts called overhead. After breakfast on the terrace, we headed towards the Greek border at the Deimin Dere River, where the Bulgarian Emerald was first discovered as recently as 1999 – although we were a week after the end of the known flight period for this species. Looking from the road bridge we found Blue Chaser and several Small Pincertails and Southern Skimmers. A walk up the valley took us through clouds of butterflies to a wooded section of the river.

Making our way carefully down the rocky banks, we positioned ourselves ready for the any emeralds to show. A few emeralds took up territory in this shaded section of the river, though one persistently hovered in sunlight – much to the delight of photographers. Both this and another caught later proved to be Balkan Emeralds, close relatives of Brilliant Emerald. Eastern Spectres were also here.

After a brief stop to photograph a White Stork nest brim full of chicks and with many Spanish Sparrows as sub-tenants, we drove a short distance towards Gugutka for lunch. As we drove up the rough track through a meadow, masses of butterflies moved out of our path. We watched crowds of blues and Sandy Skippers puddling in a dry stream bed. After lunch, we first checked a tiny reservoir nearby: it held lots of Marsh Frogs, Balkan Terrapins, Dainty Bluets and Small Red-eyes. But the main attraction was a small wooded stream: here there was a constant flow of patrolling Eastern Spectres, looking for females, and another Balkan Emerald. Both male and female Turkish Goldenring flew by, but evaded capture.

The next dragonfly site was a reservoir near Zhelezhari. We soon located Blue-eyes, egg-laying Robust Spreadwings, Lesser Emperor, Green-eyed Hawker and a beautiful and exceptionally persistent hovering Blue-eyed Hawker, that after ten minutes was the subject of several gigabytes worth of flight images! A Small Spreadwing, the only one of the trip, and Ruddy and Red-veined Darters added to our list, as did a Little Bittern on the edge of the reeds.

An impromptu stop on the way home at a tiny drinking pond was successful in producing Small Bluetails, which brought our dragonfly total for the day to a very respectable 30 species. We also had frustratingly brief glimpses of large newts and their larvae, which were subsequently identified as Balkan Crested Newts. To conclude another superb day, two Eleonora's Falcons flew past the hotel during very welcome pre-dinner drinks.

Day 5

Wednesday 6th July

Sunny after early mist, thundery shower in afternoon; 16 - 30°C

Today we moved from the hot Eastern Rhodope to the higher, cooler Western Rhodope Mountains. We stopped at the small, well-vegetated Sestrinko Reservoir for an hour or so in mid-morning, where large numbers of darters, mainly Broad Scarlets, were emerging. European Pond Terrapins, Grass Snake and Lesser Emperor were seen among masses of commoner dragonflies, before we continued our journey.

We reached the mountain Smolyan Lakes in time for a late lunch, which was eaten during a heavy shower, in a setting reminiscent of a Scottish lochan. There were lots of Spearhead Bluets in the sedges, plus a few Four-spotted Chasers and Blue Hawkers emerging.

We walked up to the higher lake, where a couple of Downy Emeralds appeared during a brief sunny spell and Firecrests sang. At one of the lower lakes nearer Smolyan town, we saw more Downy Emeralds, but the temperature was falling, so we made our way to the Hotel Elitsa in Pamporovo, situated next to conifer forest that we would explore next morning.

Day 6

Thursday 7th July

Mainly sunny; 11 - 27°C

An hour's walk through the forest before breakfast produced Firecrests, a pair of Crested Tits, Pallid Swifts, Crossbills and fleeting views of a Nutcracker. Large plants by the hotel were finally pinned down to White False Helleborine. After breakfast, we moved on to the spectacular Trigrad Gorge, stopping briefly at a roadside Alpine Swift colony and then to view the historic town of Siroka Laka (and a young Dipper). A walk along a side valley from the bottom of the gorge produced several butterflies of interest, including Scarce Swallowtail, Black-veined White, Scarce Copper, Pearly Heath, Large Ringlet, Oriental Marbled Skipper and a Poplar Admiral down on the track. Tisho managed to photograph a Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth in flight. We then drove up the gorge nearly to the top and parked right next to what must be the best Wallcreeper stakeout in Europe! A pair was making frequent visits to well-grown young in their nest barely 10m away, flying in and out over our heads. Definitely 'birds of the day'!

We moved above Trigrad to a restaurant for a trout lunch. A brief look in the adjacent meadow produced the hoped-for Apollo, plus a few Ascalaphids. Then we made our way back down the gorge and continued our journey to Dospat. We stopped to walk along a small stream near Borino to look for Balkan Goldenring: Colin found one which promptly landed well up in a conifer and two exuviae were found. Balkan Copper added to a good butterfly day list.

Our final stop for the day was at the Sarnena River, where the floodplain includes a reedy lake and extensive seasonal wetland. Disappointingly, Yellow-winged Darters were not in evidence at this regular site, but we succeeded in finding two territorial emerald dragonflies on territory that looked for all the world like Brilliant (which is normally found at high altitude lakes in Bulgaria). Water Rails called, Ortolan Buntings sang nearby and our only Chestnut Heath and Tree Frog of the trip were seen here. We arrived at Dabrash Hotel at Dospat in time for a walk in the evening sun. The day ended with a hearty meal and a good sample of the local beverages.

Day 7

Friday 8th July

Mainly hot and sunny; maximum 33°C

A walk around the hotel grounds before breakfast produced excellent views of Crossbills and a Rock Bunting, and then we continued our journey westwards towards the Pirin Mountains. We stopped mid-morning to look some flooded gravel workings stocked with fish near the Mesta River. Green-eyed Hawker and lots of Broad Scarlets were notable among a range of common dragonflies, but pride of place went to two Common Clubtails found by Lorraine. Great Reed Warblers and a Little Bittern were also seen.

Dancho had the 'pleasure' of driving a long section into the Pirin Mountains, the road surface having been extensively removed in preparation for resurfacing. Around midday we arrived at Papaz Tchair, Bulgaria's largest area of peat bog. We walked down to a stream through hundreds of orchids and many other colourful flowers. Soon we found, and caught, the first of several Sombre Goldenrings. The track running alongside the stream attracted a Camberwell Beauty and several Nettle Tree Butterflies, an Apollo flew by and eventually we had good views of a family of Nutcrackers in the conifers. Colin took the 'scenic route' back to a café where we had lunch.

The final stop on the way to Melnik was the Pirinska Bistritza River near Katuntzi. Walking down to the small stream that has in the past held goldenrings, we were delighted to find lots of gorgeous Banded Darters. Keeled and Southern Skimmers sat close to each other giving a nice comparison.

We arrived in Melnik in time for those who wished to take a stroll around this well-preserved historic town. After a splendid outdoor dinner at the lovely Hotel Boliarka, which was enlivened by the appearance of a Stag Beetle, we walked to the first dark area at the edge of town. Here we were greeted by the magical sight of males Fireflies flashing signals in flight to unseen females below. Unfortunately, an increase in street lighting seems to have driven the Fireflies further out of town. Also well beyond the town lights was a Scops Owl, which sang well but didn't show itself. By contrast, back in town, several Kotschky's Geckos were in full view on the wall of an old building.

Day 8

Saturday 9th July

Hot and sunny after a cool start; maximum 36°C (hottest day of the year to date)

A pre-breakfast walk in the surprisingly cool morning air produced glimpses of Syrian Woodpecker, Golden Oriole, Hawfinch and a Nightingale feeding in the open. Travelling a short distance west from Melnik we stopped to try and see Calandra Larks spotted from the minibus, but had to make do with Woodchat Shrikes instead.

The morning was spent at Rupite Hot Springs, where we were greeted by 10 Eleonora's Falcons in the air together. Other raptors here included Long-legged Buzzard and Levant Sparrowhawk. Further away from the hot, muddy bathing pools, where the water was cooler, Southern Skimmers and Broad Scarlets were joined by dozens of Blue Featherlegs egg-laying into the floating vegetation. Several Small Bluetails, including a lovely orange immature, were also found. Marsh Frogs and a couple of European Pond Terrapins skulked around looking for potential prey. On the return back to for lunch at the café, we found several Little Tiger Blues, Eastern Bath White and Eastern Baton Blue.

After lunch we drove up through forest to Belasitsa mountain resort, near the Greek border. Another group had found Green Snaketail (*Ophiogomphus cecilia*) on the road the day before, but we were out of luck. However, we did find an immature Moustached Darter, uncommon in Bulgaria, by the roadside. We then returned to the Struma Valley, to flooded gravel workings near General Todorov. This site is known to hold a great variety of dragonflies over the summer period, including Black Pennant formerly, at its first known location in Bulgaria. Much of the open water here has been encroached by reedmace and shrubs in recent years, but we still managed a good range of species, including a few newly-emerged Common Winter Damsels and Spotted and Banded Darters.

A short distance away from this site is a larger flooded gravel pit where Bulgaria's first Bladetails (*Lindenia tetraphylla*) were found in 2009. So our final journey of the day took us here. There was a brief fly-by glimpse of what might have been this species, but our attention was diverted by shouts from a couple on the far side of the lake. Although we couldn't hear what they said, we knew they also were in search of Bladetail, so we hastened in their direction.

Passing two Large Whip Snakes in a bush, we arrived to discover that the couple had found two Black Pennants! This species is currently known only from a site on the Black Sea coast, so a new location had been found. Finally, we had to return to the hotel to begin packing, as sadly this was our last evening in Bulgaria – though brightened by another good meal and plenty of liquid refreshment and knowing that we had had a splendid final full day in this wonderful country.

Day 9

Sunday 10th June

Hot and sunny after a cool start; maximum 30+°C

We had an early breakfast in order to give us time in the Kresna Gorge on our return to Sofia. Searching around the bridge over the Struma River, we found Small Pincertails and Sombre Goldenring, but otherwise it was disappointing – given that this general area is a well-known biodiversity hot-spot. After gathering for a group photograph, we began the final leg of our journey.

We grabbed some lunch at a fuel station on the edge of Sofia, before being taking on a whistle-stop tour of the city. Our guides pointed out several fine buildings and gave us a nice flavour of the country's history. The Sunday traffic allowed us a relatively quick passage to the airport, where we said goodbye to Tisho and Dancho, and also to Rosemary and Steve, who spent the next two days in Sofia. We sailed effortlessly through check-in and security and breezed through Terminal 5 at Heathrow before bidding our final farewells.

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Species Lists

Dragonflies (Ex = Exuvia)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	July									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
2	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Odalisque	<i>Epallage fatime</i>			✓							
4	Migrant Spreadwing (Southern Emerald Damselfly)	<i>Lestes barbarus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
5	Robust Spreadwing (Scarce Emerald Damselfly)	<i>Lestes dryas</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓				
6	Small Spreadwing	<i>Lestes virens</i>				✓						
7	Blue Featherleg (White-legged Damselfly)	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Common Winter Damsel	<i>Sympecma fusca</i>									✓	
9	Large Red Damsel	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			
10	Small Redeye	<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		
11	Blue-eye	<i>Erythromma lindenii</i>				✓	✓			✓		
12	Spearhead (Northern) Bluet	<i>Coenagrion hastulatum</i>					✓					
13	Ornate Bluet	<i>Coenagrion ornatum</i>	✓									
14	Azure Bluet	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
15	Dainty Bluet	<i>Coenagrion scitulum</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		
16	Common Bluet	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>		✓		✓	✓			✓		
17	Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
18	Small (Scarce) Bluetail	<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>	✓			✓				✓		
19	Blue-eyed (Southern Migrant) Hawker	<i>Aeshna affinis</i>				✓						
20	Blue (Southern) Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>					✓	✓				
21	Green-eyed (Norfolk) Hawker	<i>Aeshna isosceles</i>			✓	✓			✓			
22	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
23	Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>				✓	✓					
24	Eastern Spectre	<i>Caliaeschna microstigma</i>			✓	✓	✓					
25	Common Clubtail	<i>Gomphus vulgatissimus</i>							✓	✓		
26	Small Pincertail	<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>	✓	Ex	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
27	Sombre Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster bidentata</i>							✓		✓	
28	Balkan Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster heros</i>						✓				
29	Turkish Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster picta</i>				✓						
30	Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>			✓		✓					
31	Balkan Emerald	<i>Somatochlora meridionalis</i>				✓						
	Brilliant-type Emerald	<i>Somatochlora (metallica)</i>						✓				
32	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>					✓	✓				
33	Blue (Scarce) Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>				✓				✓		
34	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
35	Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		
36	White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓		
37	Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
38	Keeled Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
39	Broad Scarlet (Darter)	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
40	Spotted (Marshland) Darter	<i>Sympetrum depressiusculum</i>								✓		
41	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		
42	Southern Darter	<i>Sympetrum meridionale</i>	?	✓						✓		
43	Banded Darter	<i>Sympetrum pedemontanum</i>							✓	✓		
44	Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>				✓	✓			✓		
45	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>			✓	✓	✓	?	?			
46	Moustached (Vagrant) Darter	<i>Sympetrum vulgatum</i>								✓		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	July										
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
47	Black Pennant	<i>Selysiothemis nigra</i>										✓	

Butterflies

	Common name	Scientific name	July										
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>				✓							
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
3	Eastern/Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisy/polyxena</i>			✓								
4	Apollo	<i>Parnassius Apollo</i>						✓	✓				
5	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
6	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	✓			✓		✓					
7	Small or Southern Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae/manii</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		
8	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>									✓		
9	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>							✓				
10	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
11	Berger's/E. Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis/erate</i>						✓					
12	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>				✓			✓	✓			
13	Wood White sp	<i>Leptidea sp</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
14	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>				✓							
15	Blue-spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium spini</i>	✓										
16	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			✓	✓		✓		✓			
17	Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>	✓						✓				
18	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>							✓	✓	✓		
19	Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>			✓			✓					
20	Balkan Copper	<i>Lycaena candens</i>						✓					
21	Grecian Copper	<i>Lycaena ottomana</i>				✓							
22	Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena vigaureae</i>						✓					
23	Little Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i>										✓	
24	Short-tailed Blue	<i>Everes argiades</i>	✓						✓	✓			
25	Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>									✓		
26	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓									
27	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
28	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>	✓					✓	✓				
29	Anomalous Blue	<i>Agrodiaetus admetus</i>				✓							
30	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
31	Nettle-tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>							✓				
32	Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>	✓										
33	Poplar Admiral	<i>Limenitis populi</i>						✓					
34	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>			?	✓		✓		✓			
35	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>							✓				
36	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>						✓	✓				
37	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
38	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓									
39	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>							✓				
40	Comma	<i>Polygonum c-album</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
41	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>			✓	✓		?					
42	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>					✓	✓					
43	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>			✓								

	Common name	Scientific name	July									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
44	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		
45	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>							✓			
46	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>	✓									
47	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓			
48	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>								✓		
49	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>	✓					✓				
50	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
51	E. Rock/Woodland Grayling	<i>Hipparchia syriaca/fagi</i>						✓				
52	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Kanetisa circe</i>				✓						
53	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>						✓	✓			
54	Large Ringlet	<i>Erebia eurale</i>						✓				
55	Bright-eyed Ringlet	<i>Erabia oeme</i>					✓					
56	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
57	Eastern Large Heath	<i>Coenonympha rhodopensis</i>	✓									
58	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓						✓		
59	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>						✓				
60	Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>						✓				
61	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>						✓				
62	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓						✓	
63	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	?						✓			
64	Sandy Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus cinariae</i>				✓						
65	Oberthür's Gr. Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>								✓		
66	Hungarian Skipper	<i>Spialia orbifer</i>				✓						
67	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>			✓							
68	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>	✓									
69	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>						✓				
70	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓			
71	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	✓					✓	✓			

Moths

	Common name	Scientific name	July									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	China mark moth sp.	<i>Acentropinae</i>					✓					
2	Plume moth sp	Pterophoridae		✓								
3	Forester	<i>Adscita statures</i>	✓									
4	Nine-spotted	<i>Amata phegea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓					
5	Scarlet Tiger	<i>Callimorpha dominula</i>					✓					
6	Cream-spot Tiger Moth	<i>Arctia epicalia</i>						✓	✓			
7	Clouded Buff	<i>Diacrisia sannio</i>						✓				
8	Broad-bord'd Bee Hawk-moth	<i>Hemaris fuciformis</i>						✓				
9	Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓		
10	Chimney Sweeper	<i>Odezia atrata</i>				✓	✓	✓				
11	Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>		✓			✓	✓				
12	Five-spotted Burnet	<i>Zygaena trifolii</i>		✓				✓				
13	Six-spotted Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipenulae</i>	✓									
14	Transparent Burnet	<i>Zygaena purpuralis</i>	✓					✓				

Birds (H = heard only)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	July									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓			✓					
2	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutas</i>				✓			✓			
4	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		✓								
5	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓								
6	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
7	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
8	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
9	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>			✓	✓	✓					
10	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			✓							
11	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓								
12	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	✓		✓		✓					
13	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>									✓	
14	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	✓	✓	✓							
15	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>									✓	
16	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
17	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>									✓	
18	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		✓		✓					✓	
19	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		✓								
20	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>		✓		✓						
21	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>				✓					✓	
22	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			✓	✓						
23	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
24	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	H	H				H				
25	Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>			✓							
26	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>		✓								
27	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>						H			H	
28	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓	H	✓	H		
29	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		✓								
30	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		✓	H	✓			✓	✓		
31	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>							✓			
32	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓		✓						
33	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓							✓
34	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓			
35	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
36	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
37	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			✓	✓	✓					
38	Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>							H			
39	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
40	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓				?	✓	✓			
41	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>			H	✓	✓	✓			H	
42	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		H	✓	✓	✓				✓	
43	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
44	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		✓	✓	H			✓	✓		
45	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		✓							✓	
46	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		H	✓	H	H		✓	H	H	
47	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		H	✓		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	July									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
48	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
49	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>		H		✓	✓					
50	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>					H					
51	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓		✓	✓					
52	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		✓			H		✓	✓		
53	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>								✓		
54	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓								
55	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
56	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
57	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
58	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
59	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
60	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
61	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>						✓				
62	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	H	H	✓	✓	H			✓		
63	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>					✓	✓	H	✓		
64	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		✓								
65	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓								
66	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>					✓	✓				
67	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>		✓								
68	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓								
69	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>			✓							
70	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
71	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			H	H			H	✓		
72	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
73	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>								H		
74	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	✓									
75	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		✓			H		✓	H		
76	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais elaeica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
77	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			✓							
78	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	H					H	H	✓		
79	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	H				✓	✓	H			
80	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>					✓	✓	H			
81	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓	✓			✓			
82	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>				✓						
83	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>						✓				
84	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>						✓	H			
85	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>					✓	✓	✓			
86	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
87	Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>			✓							
88	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			✓				✓			
89	Wallcreeper	<i>Trichodroma muraria</i>						✓				
90	Common Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>							✓			
91	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>			H							
92	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>					✓	✓	H	H		
93	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓				
94	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>		✓								
95	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			✓					✓		
96	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		

	Common Name	Scientific Name	July									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
97	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
98	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
99	Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>							✓	✓		
100	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓						
102	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓		✓		✓			✓	
103	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓	✓	✓	H			H	✓	H
104	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
105	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
106	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
107	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
108	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
109	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	H	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
110	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
111	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
112	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>					H	H			✓	
113	Hawfinch	<i>C. coccothraustes</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
114	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓			
115	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
116	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			✓					✓		
117	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			✓						✓	
118	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	H				✓	✓	✓			
119	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>						✓				
120	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	

Reptiles and Amphibians (D = Dead)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	July									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	Balkan Crested Newt	<i>Triturus karelinii</i>				✓						
2	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>					✓					
3	Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>				✓						
4	Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>				✓					✓	
5	Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>						✓				
6	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>			✓							
7	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>	✓		✓	✓						
9	Hermann's Tortoise	<i>Eurotestudo hermanni</i>									✓	
10	Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>			✓							
11	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>		D			✓		✓	✓		
12	Balkan Terrapin	<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>				✓						
13	Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>			✓	✓			✓			
14	Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>				D						
15	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>			✓			✓	✓			
16	Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>				✓						
17	Kotschy's Gecko	<i>Mediodactylus kotschy</i>							✓	✓		
18	Slow Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>						✓				
19	Large Whip Snake	<i>Dolichophis caspius</i>									✓	
20	Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>			✓						?	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	July										
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
21	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>				✓	✓	✓					

Mammals (D = Dead - road kill)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	July										
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1	Small bat sp.	Chiroptera										✓	
2	Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	D					D					
3	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>				✓							✓
4	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>							✓				
5	Water Vole	<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>							✓				

Miscellaneous invertebrates (H = Heard only; La = Larvae; D = Dead)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	July										
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1	Mayfly spp.	<i>Ephemeroptera</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓			
2	Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>										✓	
3	Grasshopper sp.	Acrididae				swarm							
4	Slant-faced Grasshopper	<i>Acrida ungarica</i>										✓	
5	A saw-tailed bush-cricket	<i>Barbitistes</i> sp.		✓	✓	✓				✓			
6	Speckled bush-cricket sp	Tettigoniidae						✓					
7	Great Green Bush-cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>	✓		✓	✓							
8	Wartbiter	<i>Decticus verrucivorus</i>										✓	
9	White-fronted Wartbiter	<i>Decticus albifrons</i>			✓							✓	
10	A bush-cricket	<i>Poecilimon zwicki</i>	✓										
11	A bush-cricket	<i>Poecilimon</i> sp.					✓						
12	Field cricket sp.	<i>Gryllus</i> sp.					H	H					
13	Marsh Cricket	<i>Pteronemobius heydenii</i>		H	H	✓	H			H			
14	Mole Cricket	<i>Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa</i>		D	✓					H			
16	Pyjama Bug	<i>Graphosama lineatum</i>	✓	✓									
18	A cicada	<i>Cicada orni</i>				H	H			H	H		
19	Red-and-black Froghopper	<i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>						✓					
20	An ant-lion	<i>Euroleon nostras</i>		✓								✓	
21	An ant-lion	<i>Macronemurus appendiculatus?</i>			✓								
22	An Ascalaphid (Owl-fly)	<i>Libelloides macaronius</i>							✓				
23	Scorpion fly sp.	Mecoptera	✓						✓				
24	Mosquito spp.	Culicidae		✓				✓					
25	Horse-fly spp.	Tabanidae					✓			✓			
26	Bee-fly spp.	Bombyliidae					✓		✓				
27	Robber-fly spp.	Asilidae		✓			✓			✓	✓		
28	Mammoth Wasp	<i>Scolia flavifrons</i>			✓							✓	
29	Paper wasp sp.	<i>Polistes</i> sp.										✓	
31	Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>				✓	✓						
32	Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>					✓						✓
33	Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>				✓				✓	✓		
34	Dor Beetle	<i>Geotrupes stercorarius</i>				✓	✓						
35	A scarab beetle	<i>Scarabaeus sacer</i>											✓
36	Small chafer beetle spp.	Scarabaeidae		✓	✓					✓			

	Common Name	Scientific Name	July									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
37	Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>			✓	✓				✓		✓
38	Firefly	<i>Luciola lusitanica</i>								✓		
39	A Clerid beetle	<i>Trichodes alvearius</i>			✓							
40	Musk Beetle	<i>Aromia moschata</i>		✓								
41	A longhorn beetle	Cerambycidae			✓	✓						
42	Colorado Beetle	<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>		La								
43	A large weevil sp.	Curculionidae		✓								
44	Wasp Spider	<i>Argiope bruennichi</i>		✓						✓	✓	
45	A green spider	Araneae			✓							
46	A large orb-web spider	Araneidae			✓							
47	Roman Snail	<i>Helix pomatia</i>			✓				✓	✓		
48	Turkish Snail	<i>Helix lucorum</i>		✓		✓						
49	Large Black Slug	<i>Arion ater rufus</i>		✓								
50	A freshwater crab	<i>Potamon ibericum</i>				✓						
51	A crayfish sp.	Astacidea							✓			