

Bulgaria's Dragonflies

Naturetrek Tour Report

18 – 26 June 2014



Black Pennant immature male (*Selysiothemis nigra*)



Green Snaketail (*Ophiogomphus cecilia*)



The 2014 Naturetrek Group at Kresna



Wallcreeper

Report and images 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

Day 1

Wednesday 18th June

Mainly cloudy with rain and hail in late afternoon; maximum c20°C

After an uneventful flight from London Heathrow to Sofia, we met up with local leader Dancho and his wife, helper Pancho, and our driver, confusingly also called Dancho! 'Driver Dancho' loaded up the minibus and we were soon heading east from the city. We stopped for refreshments at a roadside café conveniently situated next to a small river and stream, where we gained some idea of the abundance of insect life that was to come. We soon found our target, Ornate Bluet, plus a few Keeled Skimmers, together with Freyer's Purple Emperor, Sloe Hairstreak and mating Lesser Spotted Fritillaries, while a Lesser Spotted Eagle flew over and a Corn Crake 'craked' nearby. Dancho caught a Yellow-bellied Toad, which turned over and played dead in spectacular fashion.

We continued on to the Topolnica River, but clouds had gathered and rain threatened. The flower-rich grassland held some roosting butterflies, including Dusky Grizzled Skipper and what was later identified as Balkan Zephyr Blue. A splendid Hungarian Glider taunted us by flying around the riverside willows but landing out of sight. We boarded the coach just as rain began and we arrived at our final destination, a small, family-run hotel in the picturesque, historic village of Koprivshitsa, just as enormous hailstones began to thunder down. Later, as we tucked into a splendid Bulgarian dinner, we heard that not far away even larger hailstones had caused damage, as had severe floods in the north-east of the country.

Day 2

Thursday 19th June

Misty early, then mainly cloudy with occasional showers; sunny late afternoon

Yesterday's hail meant cool and misty conditions for those who emerged for some pre-breakfast birding. The rustic nature of Koprivshitsa was enhanced by the occasional horse-drawn carts passing by. The water level in the Topolnica River was high, so Dippers had to perch on higher artefacts and Grey Wagtails fed along the road. The riverside trees held Redstart, Black Redstart and Spotted Flycatcher, all collecting insects near the river. Serins sang from rooftops and young White Storks were in their nest on the edge of the town, miraculously having survived the hailstorm.

We left after a hearty breakfast, in glorious sunshine, though it didn't last for long. We had a long journey to the Eastern Rhodope, but stopped regularly en route, first for a White Stork nest and its Spanish Sparrow tenants. Next stop was at a small roadside Bee-eater colony, where a pair of Isabelline Wheatears performed well and a Tawny Pipit sang from wires. Another stop at a small reservoir produced Variable Damselfly and Southern Darter.

We arrived before lunch at the large Maritza River (known as the Evros when it reaches Greece) near Mirovo. Before having a picnic lunch by the river, we managed to locate a Green Snaketail and several Small Pincertails. The only Roller of the trip flew past and a splendid Spurge Hawk-moth caterpillar was found on its food plant.

We stopped twice more in the afternoon, first at Susam Reservoir, where unfortunately it rained, making dragonflies hard to find, although we did see Small Bluetail. A final stop at a tiny reservoir yielded Robust and

Migrant Spreadwings, raising our total to 17 species. A Pygmy Cormorant was seen in flight we crossed the Arda River, en route for Krumovgrad, our base for the next three nights.

Day 3

Friday 20th June

Sunny early and late; maximum c28°C

Some of the group headed out from our hotel to the banks of the Krumovitzza River before breakfast. A Black Stork and Little Ringed Plovers were along the river, a Barred Warbler was seen in bushes with Olivaceous Warblers and both Syrian and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers were in the riverside trees.

We spent the first part of the morning in a spectacular valley near Dolna Kula, where Chukars called from prominent rocks and Black Storks tended their young in a nest on the cliffs, but Rock Nuthatches failed to show at their mud nest nearby. A family of Black-eared Wheatears entertained us, as did a pair of Spur-thighed Tortoises, White-fronted Wart-biters and lots of other insects, including a huge violet ground beetle.

The next destination was the Valchi Dol Reserve, near Studen Kladenetz, where we had lunch at a picnic table next to a stream. As the sun broke through, first a presumed Turkish Goldenring patrolled, then Beautiful Demoiselles took up positions and a mating pair of pair of Eastern Spectres flew in. Finally, male Odaliques appeared, one landing by the picnic area. More Odaliques also appeared upstream, but soon vanished into the trees as the sun went in. A male Lesser Emperor perched for all to get good views and photographs: Mike was beside himself! As thermals formed, dozens of Griffon Vultures took to the air, accompanied by a single Egyptian Vulture.

In the afternoon we stopped first by the Arda River dam, where we found another Lesser Emperor and a dark, *valezina*-form Silver-washed Fritillary. Next call was a small reservoir near Golobradovo, where we soon found ourselves looking at an immature male Black Pennant at what may be the third known site in Bulgaria for this highly localised species; David later photographed a female. A good variety of other dragonflies were present, including Dainty Bluets, plus several Eastern Festoons. On the way back to Krumovgrad, we stopped to admire spectacular basalt cliffs, finding Krueper's Small White, Southern Skimmers and a couple of Dice Snakes. After dinner, three Scops Owls called around the town park, but the highlight for everyone who went owling was a Stone (Beech) Marten running through the park and back.

Day 4

Saturday 21st June

Sunny periods; one afternoon shower; maximum c23°C

Today we headed towards the Greek border at the Deimin Dere River, where the Bulgarian Emerald was first discovered as recently as 1999. A walk up the valley took us to a wooded section of the river, over which three Honey Buzzards circled. We found lots of butterflies and a Common Clubtail on the way. Making our way carefully down the rocky bank, we were soon looking at half a dozen emerald dragonflies feeding high over the river.

A few emeralds took up territory in this shaded section of the river, but disappointingly all of them proved to be Balkan. An egg-laying female was particularly obliging, while a male that Dancho caught allowed us to appreciate the stunning metallic colours of this genus.

After a picnic lunch, we stopped briefly to photograph White Stork chicks in the nest, and then drove on a short distance towards Gugutka. Here a track took us to a small reservoir, from which flew a pair of Lesser Spotted Eagles as we disembarked. They circled above us for a while with four Black Kites. Despite a shower, we found Robust Spreadwings, Dainty Bluets, Small Bluetails and a few newly-emerged Common Winter Damsels around the reservoir. Nearby was a small wooded stream with a few Eastern Spectres and Turkish Goldenrings patrolling; we watched one of the latter egg-laying. A male Goldenring was caught and its appendages examined closely! The surrounding meadow held a lot of insects, but the rain suppressed activity. Some of the group saw a Grecian Copper here, the only one of the trip.

The final dragonfly site for the day was a larger reservoir near Zhelezhari. Here we soon located a Blue-eye and Ruddy and Red-veined Darters. A pair of elusive Barred Warblers lurked in bushes. The journey back to Krumovgrad was enlivened by a gathering of about 200 White Storks in fields, no doubt feeding up prior to migration.

Day 5

Sunday 22nd June

Cool and misty at first, mainly sunny and warm later

Today we moved from the Eastern Rhodope to the higher, cooler Western Rhodope Mountains. We stopped en route at a small river near Plazishte and were soon admiring a group of spectacular Balkan Lizard Orchids. Along the river were plenty of demoiselles and Brenda spotted an emerging Balkan Emerald. A Night Heron was roosting in the riverside trees and Dancho found Blue-eyed Hawker exuviae, though no adults could be found.

Lunch was taken in a shady bus shelter (and the adjacent bar even supplied ice creams!). Butterflies included Green Hairstreak and Heath Fritillary, but hawkers provided the main interest, despite not being near any water. Both Blue-eyed and Green-eyed Hawkets fed over the wide verge, a lovely male of the former being caught for all to appreciate.

Spearhead Bluets were present in good numbers in the fringing sedge beds at Smolyan Lake. Some males had unusual amounts of black on the abdomen, suggesting Dainty or Ornate Bluet, but close examination of images shows the shape of the pronotum to be that of Spearhead. Lots of Four-spotted Chasers and a Downy Emerald were flying over the floating bog, where Heart-shaped Marsh-orchids stood tall. Eastern Large Heath and Woodland Ringlet were found in a nearby meadow.

Finally, we made our way to our hotel above the magnificent Trigrad Gorge. On the way, we stopped to see Crag Martins and Alpine Swifts nesting in roadside rocks. The hotel was set amidst craggy mountains and meadows, with a river in front for good measure: a splendid location and good food to boot!

Day 6

Monday 23rd June

Sunny morning, mainly cloudy afternoon with one shower; warm after a cool start

It was chilly for the start of the pre- breakfast walk, but the rising sun warmed things up nicely. Rock Bunting and Firecrest gave good views. The whole morning was spent walking down the gorge and along a side valley, rich in butterflies and plants. Near the entrance to the 'Devil's Throat' cave was the endemic plant *Haberlea rhodopensis*, while further down we had a lengthy wait before a male Wallcreeper appeared at its nest site, where it began to sing. It gave us typically excellent views on the rock face just in front of us for several minutes, fluttering past us like a crimson butterfly. Further on still, orchids growing on the roadside included both Red and White Helleborines and Fragrant and Wedge-lipped Marsh Orchids. Butterflies included Swallowtail and Scarce Swallowtail, Amanda's Blue, Nettle-tree Butterfly, Glanville Fritillary, Woodland Ringlet, Large Wall Brown, Pearly Heath and Chequered Skipper.

For lunch we had trout at a restaurant just above the gorge, after which we made our way back down the gorge and continued our journey to Dospat. We stopped at a small stream near Borino to look for Balkan Goldenring, which unfortunately only Dancho saw, then on to our final stop for the day at a picturesque Roman bridge over the Sarnena River. Here the floodplain includes a reedy lake and extensive seasonal wetland. Only a few dragonflies were to be seen because of cloudy conditions, though Balkan Copper and Nickerl's Fritillary were seen, Water Rail squealed from the lake fringe and an Ortolan Bunting sang in the distance. We arrived at Dabrash Hotel, near Dospat, in good time for a hearty dinner and a good sample of the local beverages.

Day 7

Tuesday 24th June

Hot and sunny, after cool start; maximum c35°C

A walk around the hotel grounds before breakfast produced Rock Bunting, Crested Tits, Crossbills and Pallid Swifts. On the edge of the pinewoods were some impressive Violet Limodore orchids, while the flower-rich meadows held Fragrant, Burnt-tip and Green-winged Orchids, Tassel Hyacinth and Wild Gladiolus.

After breakfast we continued our journey westwards towards the Pirin Mountains. We stopped first near the Mesta River to look at some flooded gravel workings stocked with fish. Here there were Green-eyed Hawks, Lesser Emperor, Common Clubtail, Downy Emeralds and lots of Broad Scarlets among a range of common dragonflies, plus Little Bittern, Water Rail, Freyer's Purple Emperor and European Pond Terrapin.

At Papaz Tchair, Bulgaria's largest area of peat bog, in the lower part of the Pirin Mountains, we made our way down to a stream through masses of orchids. Sections of the peaty turf had been stripped: not good for the flowers and butterflies, although large numbers of Nettle-tree Butterflies, several Camberwell Beauties and a Large Tortoiseshell were basking on the bare ground. Apollo, Clouded Apollo, Turquoise Blue and Oriental Meadow Brown were also seen, but dragonflies were disappointing. A Nutcracker called distantly.

Next stop was what proved to be a quick look near the Pirinska Bistritza River near Katuntzi, as the area was dry apart from a small puddle. Here Diane noticed an incredibly long, thin Horsehair Worm, identified by Fred as a parasite of Orthoptera; the dead Wartbiter in the puddle was assumed to have been its unfortunate host. As we all stood around in amazement, a Mole Cricket was spotted almost under our feet.

Our final stop on the way to Melnik was further along the Pirinska Bistritza River and very close to the Greek border at Novo Hodzhovo. Common Clubtail, Small Pincertail, Sombre and Balkan Goldenrings, Ruddy Darter and Eastern Spectre were in evidence, though a Masked Shrike quickly vanished into the woodland.

We arrived at the lovely Hotel Boliarka in Melnik in good time for an outdoor dinner, which was enlivened by the appearance of a Kotschy's Gecko. After dinner, some of us walked to dark areas at the edge of town and found Fireflies.

Day 8

Wednesday 25th June

Hot and humid with sunny morning, cloudy afternoon; maximum c34°C

A pre-breakfast walk produced Hawfinches and Cirl Buntings and a White-letter Hairstreak. A few Calandra Larks and a pair of Lesser Grey Shrikes were seen from the coach as we headed out to Rupite Hot Springs. We soon found the first of two of Europe's largest insects: a huge flightless bush-cricket, *Bradyporus dasyptus*, appropriately dubbed 'Chunky' Bush-cricket. Later we were to find the impressive predatory *Saga natoliae*, also a bush-cricket. We tested the very hot water in the springs and walked past bathers coated in supposedly-therapeutic mud. As the water cooled, we found Keeled and Southern Skimmers and Broad Scarlets, while further on there were dozens of Blue Featherlegs and a few Blue-eyes, Small Red-eyes and Blue Chasers, plus European Pond Terrapins. A Penduline Tit called and we found its pendulous nest, but not the occupant. Over the towering crags, some 15 Eleonora's Falcons appeared for a while, accompanied by Long-legged Buzzards and lots of Bee-eaters, while in the bushes at the bottom of the slope a pair of Masked Shrikes led to the discovery of first a Grey-headed Woodpecker and then a Sombre Tit. We returned to the welcome shade of a café for lunch and cold drinks.

We spent the afternoon in the Struma Valley, at old gravel pit sites near General Todorov. The first site was flooded and we had a long walk to find a couple of Spotted Darters. Then we drove part way down to the second, larger lake, checking all the dragonflies on the track in case one should be a Bladetail. A few of these impressive Gomphids have occurred fairly regularly in the area in small numbers in recent years, perhaps wanderers from Greece, but always too early for this trip. However, as we disembarked one landed right in front of us! Most of the group managed to see it before it was chased off by a Black-tailed Skimmer. Near the lake we found the other speciality of the site: a mature male Black Pennant perching in typical fashion on short pieces of vegetation. Among the supporting cast were Winter Damsels, Green-eyed Hawker, Red-veined Darter, Little Bittern, Large Copper, Short-tailed Blue, Black-headed Buntings and a Tree Frog.

We returned to Melnik via a grassy valley, where Rock Sparrows were said to occur. We failed to find them, but instead found a large, very photogenic antlion. What a splendid final full day in this wonderful country!

Day 9

Thursday 26th June

Warm and sunny, though cloudier in Sofia

We had an early breakfast in order to give us time in the Kresna Gorge biodiversity hot-spot on our return to Sofia.

We searched around the bridge over the Struma River, finding Balkan Marbled White, a gaudy Owl-fly, a Thread-winged Lacewing, a 1.8 m-long Large Whip Snake and eventually catching a Goldenring that surprisingly was Balkan (Sombre is usually seen here). As time was pushing on, we took some quick group photographs on the bridge, before continuing on the final leg of our journey.

As we drove speedily along the dual carriageway, a loud bang signalled a blow-out in one of the rear tyres. By incredibly good fortune, a short distance away was a tyre repair workshop, so, after checking that it was safe to continue, the group was dropped to collect lunch and refreshments at a nearby fuel station. Seemingly no time later the coach returned and we continued our journey.

In Sofia, Dancho pointed out the Alpine Swifts that nested in the high-rise buildings and soon after we arrived at Sofia airport. We said our goodbyes to Dancho, Pancho and Dancho, and then to Alastair and Ann, who were spending some time in Sofia. We sailed effortlessly through check-in and security and later breezed through Terminal 5 at Heathrow, except for Fred - who we hope did make it through passport control eventually!

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Species Lists

Dragonflies

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

Butterflies (L = larva)

	Common name	Scientific name	June									
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓	✓					✓	✓	
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	L	
4	Apollo	<i>Parnassius Apollo</i>								✓		
5	Clouded Apollo	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>								✓		
6	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>		✓	✓						✓	
10	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	✓						✓			
11	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>							✓	✓	✓	
13	Wood White sp.	<i>Leptidea</i> sp.			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
14	Sloe Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
15	White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium w-album</i>								✓	✓	
16	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>								✓	✓	
18	Grecian Copper	<i>Lycaena ottomana</i>				✓						
19	Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓
20	Purple-shot Copper	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>						✓		✓		
21	Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>									✓	✓
22	Balkan Copper	<i>Lycaena candens</i>							✓	✓		
23	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>			✓							
24	Short-tailed Blue	<i>Cupido argiades</i>									✓	
25	Eastern Short-tailed Blue	<i>Cupido decoloratus</i>		✓								
26	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Balkan Zephyr Blue	<i>Plebejus sephirus</i>	✓									
28	Silver-studded(-type) Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>						✓	✓			
29	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
30	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			
31	Amanda's Blue	<i>Agrodiaetus amanda</i>			✓				✓	✓		
32	Anomalous Blue	<i>Agrodiaetus admetus</i>								✓		
33	Turquoise Blue	<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>								✓		
34	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
35	Nettle-tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>							✓	✓		
36	Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>	✓							✓		
37	Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>		✓						✓	✓	
38	White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>				✓	✓					
39	Hungarian Glider	<i>Neptis rivularis</i>	✓									
40	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>			✓					✓		
41	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>								✓		
42	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
43	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓		
44	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>						✓	✓	✓		
46	Comma	<i>Polygonum c-album</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			
47	Southern Comma	<i>Polygonum</i>	✓									
48	Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>								✓		
49	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>			✓	✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	June								
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
51	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
52	Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
53	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>						✓	✓		
54	Eastern Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea telona</i>		✓							
55	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓			
56	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	
57	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>				✓	✓				
58	Nickerl's Fritillary	<i>Melitaea aurelia</i>						✓			
59	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
60	Balkan Marbled White	<i>Melanargia larissa</i>									✓
61	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Kanetisa circe</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
62	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>					✓	✓	✓		
63	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Oriental Meadow Brown	<i>Hyponephele lupina</i>							✓		
65	Eastern Large Heath	<i>Coenonympha rhodopensis</i>					✓	✓			
66	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
67	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>				✓		✓		✓	✓
68	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>				✓			✓		
69	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓
70	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>						✓			
71	Lattice Brown	<i>Kirinia roxelana</i>			✓	✓	✓				
72	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>			✓			✓	✓		
73	Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>						✓			
74	Dusky Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus cacaliae</i>	✓								
75	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓
76	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>								✓	
77	Chequered Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>						✓	✓		
78	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>				✓					
79	Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	✓					✓			
80	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
81	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Moths (L = larva)

	Common name	Scientific name	June								
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1	Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓		
2	Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>					✓	✓			
3	Chimney Sweeper	<i>Odezia atrata</i>					✓	✓	✓		
4	Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>					✓	✓			
5	Fiery Clearwing	<i>Pyropteron chrysidiformis</i>				✓					
6	Fox Moth	<i>Macrothylacia rubi</i>				✓					
7	Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Latticed Heath	<i>Semiothisa clathrata</i>	✓	✓				✓			
9	Nine-spotted (or similar)	<i>Amata (phegea)</i>	✓		✓	✓				✓	
10	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>		✓	✓		✓				
11	Six-spotted Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipenulae</i>		✓	✓	✓					
12	Small Forester	<i>Adscita albenica</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓				
13	Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>	✓	✓				✓			
14	Spurge Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>		L	L						
15	Transparent Burnet	<i>Zygaena purpuralis</i>	✓					✓			

	Common name	Scientific name	June									
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
16		<i>Rhodostrophia calabra</i>				✓					✓	

Birds (H = heard only)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June									
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
1	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓		✓				✓	✓
2	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>		✓								
3	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>								✓	✓	
4	Black-crowned 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	Sparrowhawk sp.	<i>Accipiter</i> sp.									✓	
13	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
14	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>									✓	
15	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		✓	✓	✓						
16	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>			✓							
17	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	✓			✓						✓
18	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonorae</i>									✓	
19	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			✓							
20	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	
21	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	H									
22	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>							H	H		
23	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓					✓	✓	
24	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		✓	✓						H	
25	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>								✓		
26	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓	✓	✓						
27	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓						✓
29	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	
30	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
31	Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		H	✓	✓						
32	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
33	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>		✓					✓	✓		
34	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>					✓	✓				✓
35	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓		✓			✓		
36	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		H	H	✓	✓					
37	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
38	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		✓								
39	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>										✓
40	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			✓	H	H			✓		
41	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>			✓	✓				✓	✓	
42	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	✓						H	✓	✓	
43	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>			✓	✓					H	
44	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		H			H					
45	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	H	✓					✓	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June									
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
46	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		✓						✓	✓	
47	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓								
48	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
50	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
51	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓			
52	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>		✓								
53	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
54	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	H	H	✓	✓	✓			✓
55	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava fledgegg</i>		✓								
56	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>						H	H			
57	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	H	H	H	H	✓		H	✓		H
58	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓		
59	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		✓								
60	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓			H
61	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>		✓								
62	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>			✓							
63	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	H	✓				✓				
65	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓			✓	✓				
66	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>									H	
67	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓		
68	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais elaeica</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		H
69	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			✓					✓		
70	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>			✓							
71	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>			✓	✓						
72	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	H					✓	✓	✓		
73	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				H	✓	✓	✓			
74	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>					H	✓	H			
75	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓			✓					
76	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>							✓	H		
77	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>								✓		
78	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>					✓	✓	✓			
79	Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>							✓			
80	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
81	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>					✓		✓			
82	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>									H	
83	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				✓						
84	Wallcreeper	<i>Trichodroma muraria</i>						✓				
85	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>						H				
86	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓				
87	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>			✓						✓	
88	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		✓							✓	
89	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>							✓	✓		
90	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
91	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
92	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
93	Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>							H			
94	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
95	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓					

	Common Name	Scientific Name	June								
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
96	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
97	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
98	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
99	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
100	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
101	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	
102	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
103	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓		
104	Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>					✓	✓	✓		
105	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
106	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
107	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>						✓	✓		
108	Hawfinch	<i>C. coccothraustes</i>		H		✓			✓	✓	
109	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>							✓		
110	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
111	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>						✓	✓		
112	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>		H	H	✓			H	✓	H
113	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	✓	H							
114	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>						✓		H	
115	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>		✓	✓					H	✓

Mammals

Common Name	Scientific Name	June								
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Stone (Beech) Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>			✓						
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>					✓				
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>						✓	✓		

Reptiles and Amphibians

Common Name	Scientific Name	June								
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>	✓		✓						
Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>								✓	
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Newt sp	Salamandridae		✓							
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>			✓						
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>							✓	✓	
Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>			✓			✓			
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis taurica</i>						✓		✓	
Kotschy's Gecko	<i>Mediodactylus kotschyi</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		
Large Whip Snake	<i>Dolichophis caspius</i>						?			✓
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>			✓				✓		
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>							✓		

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

Common Name	Scientific Name	June									
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Mayfly spp.	Ephemeroptera				✓		✓	✓	✓		
Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>		✓		✓				✓		
A saw-tailed bush-cricket	<i>Barbitistes serricauda</i>				✓						
Speckled Bush-cricket	<i>Leptophyes punctatissima</i>	✓									
Roesel's Bush-cricket	<i>Metrioptera roeseli</i>					✓					
Great Green Bush-cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>			✓	✓						
White-fronted Wartbiter	<i>Decticus albifrons</i>			✓					✓		
'Balkan Predatory Bush-cricket'	<i>Saga natoliae</i>								✓		
'Chunky' bush-cricket	<i>Bradyporus dasypus</i>								✓		
Field cricket sp.	<i>Gryllus</i> sp.	H	✓	✓	✓		H				
Marsh Cricket	<i>Pteronemobius heydenii</i>		H	H	H				H		
Mole Cricket	<i>Gryllotalpa</i> sp.			✓				✓			
Cockroach sp.	Blattodea			✓	✓						
Minstrel Bug	<i>Graphosama lineatum</i>						✓	✓			
A red & black froghopper	<i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>							✓			
Cicada sp(p).	Cicadidae				H						
Water scorpion	Nepidae	✓									
Large ant-lion	<i>Palpares libelluloides</i>								✓		
Antlion sp(p).	Myrmeleonidae		✓		✓				✓		
An Ascalaphid (Owl-fly)	<i>Libelloides macaronius</i>								✓	✓	
Thread-winged Lacewing	<i>Nemoptera sinuata</i>									✓	
Lacewing spp.	Neuroptera		✓	✓	✓		✓				
Caddis-fly spp.	Trichoptera				✓	✓		✓			
Scorpion fly sp.	Mecoptera		✓				✓				
Mosquito spp.	Culicidae		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Anthrax Fly	<i>Anthrax anthrax</i>							✓	✓		
Bee-fly sp.	Bombyliidae	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Robber-fly spp.	Asilidae	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Soldier-fly sp.	Stratiomyidae								La		
Parasitic wasp sp.	Hymenoptera		✓								
Mammoth Wasp	<i>Scolia flavifrons</i>		✓	✓				✓			
Paper wasp sp.	<i>Polistes</i> sp.			✓	✓						
Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>				✓						
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>				✓				✓	✓	
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>				✓						
Rose-type chafer spp.	<i>Cetonia</i> spp.				✓		✓	✓	✓		
Firefly	<i>Luciola lusitanica</i>							✓			
7-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Tiger beetle sp.	Cicindelinae							✓			
Colorado Beetle	<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>						✓				
Tick sp.	<i>Ixodes</i> sp.			✓		✓					
Wasp Spider	<i>Argiope bruennichi</i>			✓					✓		
A large (wolf?) spider	<i>Lycosa</i> sp.?								✓		
A large orb-web spider	Araneidae							✓	✓		
A large centipede	<i>Scolopendra cingulata</i>						✓				
Roman Snail	<i>Helix pomatia</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
A freshwater crab	<i>Potamon ibericum</i>			✓							

Vascular Plants

A small selection of noteworthy plants, many of which could not be identified to species.

Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Larkspur	<i>Linaria (peliseriana?)</i>
Balkan Lizard Orchid	<i>Himantoglossum caprinum</i>	Large Self-heal	<i>Prunella grandiflora</i>
Bellflower sp.	<i>Campanula sp.</i>	Meadow clary	<i>Salvia sp.</i>
Birthwort sp.	<i>Aristolochia sp.</i>	Mock Orange sp.	<i>Philadelphus sp.</i>
Bladder Campion	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Mullein sp.	<i>Verbascum sp.</i>
Bogbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Pale Bugloss	<i>Echium italicum</i>
Bug Orchid	<i>Anacamptis coriophora</i>	Pink Cistus	<i>Cistus sp.</i>
Burnt Orchid	<i>Neotinea ustulata</i>	Plane	<i>Platanus sp.</i>
Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Potentilla sp.	<i>Potentilla sp.</i>
Clary	<i>Salvia sclarea</i>	Purple Gooseneck Loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia atropurpurea</i>
Common Bistort	<i>Persicaria bistorta</i>	Quaking-grass sp.	<i>Briza minor / media</i>
Common Dodder	<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Ragged-Robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>
Clustered Bellflower	<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	Red Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>
Common Rock-rose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Restharrow	<i>Ononis repens</i>
Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Rhodope Haberlea	<i>Haberlea rhodopensis</i>
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sp.</i>	Rose Campion	<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>
Dropwort	<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Sainfoin sp.	<i>Onobrychis sp.</i>
Dwarf Elder	<i>Sambucus ebulis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>
Elecampane	<i>Inula helenium</i>	Smoke Bush	<i>Cotinus coggyria</i>
False Acacia	<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	Soapwort	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>
Field Eryngo	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Spurge sp.	<i>Euphorbia sp.</i>
Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	St. John's-wort sp.	<i>Hypericum olympicum</i>
Flowering Rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	<i>Muscari comosum</i>
Fragrant Orchid	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Thyme sp.	<i>Thymus sp.</i>
Globe Thistle	<i>Echinops ritro</i>	Violet Limodore	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>
Goat's-beard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>
Grecian/Woolly Foxglove	<i>Digitalis lanata</i>	Water Avens	<i>Geum rivale</i>
Green-winged Orchid	<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Wedge-lipped Marsh- orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza saccifera</i>
Heart-shaped Marsh- orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza cordigera</i>	White Helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>
Heath Spotted-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>
Jerusalem/Christ's Thorn	<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	Wild Gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus communis</i>
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	Yellow Thistle	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>
Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla sp.</i>		