

The Reptiles & Amphibians of Bulgaria

Naturetrek Tour Report

25th April – 3rd May 2026



Reddish Whip Snake



Leopard Snake



Eagle-Owl



Ottoman Viper



Dorcadion quadrimaculatum



Giant Peacock Moth

Checklists compiled by Vladimir Mladenov
Photos by Dr Peter Vaughan and N. Sherman



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Tour participants: Vladimir Mladenov (leader) with six Naturetrek clients

Species lists

Amphibians

Common name	Scientific name	April - May 2026							
		25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>								
Smooth Newt	<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>		✓		✓	✓			
Alpine Newt	<i>Ichthyosaura alpestris</i>								
Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>								
Macedonian Crested Newt	<i>Triturus macedonicus</i>								
Danube Crested Newt	<i>Triturus dobrogicus</i>								
Buresch's Crested Newt	<i>Triturus ivanbureschi</i>		✓						
Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>		✓	✓					
Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>								✓
Common Spadefoot Toad	<i>Pelobates fuscus</i>								✓
Balkan Spadefoot Toad	<i>Pelobates balcanicus</i>								
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>								
Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>			✓	✓	✓			
Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>								
Eastern Tree Frog	<i>Hyla orientalis</i>		✓						
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>								
Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>			✓					
Greek Stream Frog	<i>Rana graeca</i>								
Pool Frog	<i>Pelophylax lessonae</i>								
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Balkan Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax kurtmuelleri</i>						✓		

Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	April - May 2026							
		25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Mediterranean House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i>							✓	
Kotschy's Gecko	<i>Mediodactylus kotschy</i>							✓	
Bulgarian Gecko	<i>Mediodactylus danilewskii</i>			✓					
European Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i>								
Turkish Snake-eyed Lizard	<i>Ophisops elegans</i>						✓	✓	
Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>								
Eastern Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta diplochondrodes</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>								
Viviparous Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>								
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>								✓
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>								
Erhard's Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis erhardii</i>								
Balkan Meadow Lizard	<i>Darevskia hungarica</i>								
European Glass Lizard	<i>Pseudopus apodus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
European Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>								
Eastern Slow-worm	<i>Anguis colchica</i>								
European Worm Snake	<i>Xerotyphlops vermicularis</i>		✓				✓	✓	
Western Sand Boa	<i>Eryx jaculus</i>								

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		25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>								
Asp Viper	<i>Vipera aspis</i>								
Nose-horned Viper	<i>Vipera ammodytes</i>								
Ottoman Viper	<i>Montivipera xanthina</i>						✓		
Eastern Montpelier Snake	<i>Malpolon insignitus</i>		✓						
Caspian Whip Snake	<i>Dolichophis caspius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Dahl's Whip Snake	<i>Platycephalus najadum</i>					✓	✓		
Red Whip Snake	<i>Platycephalus collaris</i>		✓						
Four-lined Snake	<i>Elaphe quatuorlineata</i>								
Blotched Snake	<i>Elaphe sauromates</i>			✓	✓		✓		
Common Aesculapian Snake	<i>Zamenis longissimus</i>			✓					
Leopard Snake	<i>Zamenis situla</i>		✓						✓
Common Smooth Snake	<i>Coronella austriaca</i>								
Cat Snake	<i>Telescopus fallax</i>								
Eastern Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>						✓		
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>		✓	✓		✓			
Hermann's Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
Balkan Terrapin	<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>						✓		

Birds

Common name	Scientific name	April - May 2026							
		25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>			✓				✓	
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>			✓				✓	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>			✓				✓	
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>			✓					
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>			✓					
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>			✓					
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>			✓					
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>					✓			
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>				✓				✓
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>			✓					
Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>			✓					
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>							✓	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			✓					
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			✓					
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>			✓					
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedipnemus</i>			✓					

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Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				✓				
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>							✓	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			✓					
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		✓						
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>					✓		✓	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>							✓	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			✓					
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>							✓	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>							✓	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>							✓	
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>							✓	
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>							✓	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>							✓	
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>							✓	
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>			✓					
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>								✓
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>							✓	
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>			✓				✓	
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>			✓				✓	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		✓		✓				
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>			✓				✓	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓				✓	
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>								✓
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>		✓		✓				
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>				✓				
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>						✓		
Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>			✓					
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						✓	✓	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		✓	✓					
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓		✓	✓		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			✓				✓	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			✓	✓				
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>			✓					
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>					✓			
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>								✓
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>					✓			
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>					✓		✓	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyspiza brevipes</i>					✓			✓
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>							✓	✓
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				✓			✓	✓
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				✓				
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			✓					
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>				✓	✓			
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>							✓	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓						
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>		✓	✓					
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓		✓			
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			✓		✓			
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		✓						
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>				✓				
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				✓		✓		
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		✓				✓	✓	
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>							✓	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				✓				
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>			✓					
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓		✓			
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>			✓					
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>								✓
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>				✓		✓	✓	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓	✓					
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>					✓		✓	✓
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓	✓					
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓			✓	✓		
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>			✓					
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			✓				✓	✓
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		✓	✓					
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>						✓		✓
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>		✓				✓		✓
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>			✓					

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Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓			✓			
Barred Warbler	<i>Curruca nisoria</i>						✓		
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>		✓						
Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca crassirostris</i>				✓				
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		✓					✓	✓
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>					✓			
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>					✓			
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>					✓			
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓			✓			
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>							✓	
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓					✓	
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>					✓			
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>				✓	✓			
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>							✓	✓
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		✓						✓
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓		✓	✓			
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>		✓		✓				
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				✓			✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>				✓	✓			
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓

Orchids

Common name	Scientific name	April - May 2026							
		25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Green-winged Orchid	<i>Anacamptis morio</i>				✓				
Late Spider Orchid	<i>Ophrys fuciflora</i> subsp. <i>fuciflora</i>							✓	
Early Spider Orchid	<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>mammosa</i>		✓					✓	✓
Four-spotted Orchid	<i>Orchis quadripunctata</i>								✓
Naked Man Orchid	<i>Orchis italica</i>								✓
Lady Orchid	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>			✓		✓			
Monkey Orchid	<i>Orchis simia</i>								✓
Long-lipped Tongue Orchid	<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>						✓		

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