

Georgia's 'Raptor Spectacular!'

Naturetrek Tour Report

23 - 30 September 2018



Thermals of Raptors by Geraldine Moore



Booted Eagle by Graham Fellows



Broad-billed Sandpiper by Graham Fellows



The Group raptor watching by Rob Murray

Report compiled by Rob Murray
Images courtesy of Geraldine Moore, Graham Fellows & Rob Murray



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With seven Naturetrek clients

Summary

This tour focused on witnessing the unbelievable scale of raptor migration from two vantage points in attractive mountainous scenery. We saw huge numbers of birds passing by, including 107,000 on one day, with a total of 23 species. The rare Crested Honey Buzzard and the formidable Imperial Eagle were undoubtedly individual highlights. Beaches, lakes and forests were explored. Finding Broad-billed Sandpipers on a Black Sea shore was pleasing. The weather was fine, warm and dry which meant that we didn't experience a decent fall of passerines, but the raptors certainly made up for that. Hunting was not prevalent and we heard very few shots during the week. A boat ride on a large lake with navigable channels was a welcome diversion as White-tailed Eagles featured. It wasn't all about standing on mountain tops as we undertook a strenuous forest walk and covered a decent distance along the shoreline in search of waders. Georgian cuisine was interestingly different to our western palates and each evening we enjoyed local food at a pleasant restaurant with plenty of wine and local brandy. Nowhere was more than an hour's drive away so we maximised time in the field and were based at a single hotel for the duration of the tour.

Day 1

Sunday 23rd September

The tour started with a Wizzair flight from Luton to Kutaisi. It was raining when we arrived in the early hours of the morning, but we were soon on a comfortable bus ready for the two and a half hour drive to Batumi. After checking in it was straight to bed, Georgia being three hours ahead of UK time.

Day 2

Monday 24th September

Breakfast couldn't be taken until 9am at the Best Western Plus Hotel so there was ample time for early risers to explore the palm tree-lined promenade areas and black pebbled foreshore of the Black Sea. There were many local people out running, walking, exercising or working out at an outdoor gym while others were swimming in the calm sea. Feeding stray dogs is another popular early morning pastime among the local population. Hooded Crows and White Wagtails were scattered along the promenade and offshore Great Crested Grebes, Cormorants and Great Egrets flew past. A few migrants such as Whinchats and Wheatears were on the foreshore. After breakfast we called into a downtown money exchange then continued to the Shuamta Raptor Watching Station. Our bus could only climb so far; after which we had a walk of about 25 minutes up a steep, rough track, followed by 357 steps to a fork in the trail. Up to this point all we had seen were two Red-breasted Flycatchers, but that was about to change dramatically. To the left stood the raptor count lookout point where detailed analysis of bird movements takes place. Understandably, they prefer not to be disturbed so we went to the right, where more steps led to a small cafe, comfortable chairs, tables and a toilet. Luxury! Raptors were streaming through continuously for the whole day. Great columns of Steppe Buzzards whirled in thermals as Sparrowhawks followed a more direct route by flapping and gliding across the mountain divides.

There were so many eagles that we made no attempt to count them. Booted, Steppe, Short-toed and Lesser Spotted Eagles poured through. Other species were far less numerous but included Eastern Imperial Eagle, Golden Eagle and Greater Spotted Eagle. The star turn was a superb Crested Honey Buzzard which sailed into

view in the company of two European Honey Buzzards and was within photographic range. An adult Egyptian Vulture was another exciting find. Other raptors recorded were Hobby, Kestrel, Black Kites, Red Kite (apparently a real rarity here), Pallid Harriers, Long-legged Buzzard and Marsh Harriers bringing the raptor species list to 18. Other enjoyable passage migrants included a Black Stork, many Bee-eaters. Ravens and Swallows. All agreed that it had been a truly wonderful day, the official count for today's passage being 11,700 birds. For us this session was more about getting our collective eye in and honing or refreshing our identification skills than about counting. Inevitably many raptors passed through without hearing their name echoing across the mountains. Raptor identification is notoriously difficult, with plumage variations, age, moult and feather wear all affect outlines, while wind strength and direction affect flight attitude. There are many species which are easily confused and it is true to say that the more knowledge you have the more cautious you become, because you are fully aware of the pitfalls. It is unrealistic to expect to pronounce correct and indisputable identifications for more than a small proportion of birds which pass overhead for just a few seconds. The high number of eagles recorded by the expert counters as "unidentified" emphasises this point. Just enjoy the spectacle!

Day 3

Tuesday 25th September

At 7am most of the group assembled for an early morning search for migrants. We walked south for 40 minutes to the end of the road where a river forms a small estuary. It has to be admitted that the surroundings were unattractive. A malodorous stench from the sewage works and festering rubbish tip was overpowering and apart from a Whinchat and a few Yellow Wagtails there was little to see. Over 60 Black Kites wheeled over the tip and the odd Sparrowhawk flashed through. Sea-watching from the hotel balcony produced a Black-necked Grebe.

After breakfast we visited Mtirala National Park which is a unique habitat of high humidity and rain forest-like vegetation. The winding road up to the start of the walking trail is festooned with hazards from narrow, hairpin bends to nomadic cows. Once at the National Park Office we disembarked and viewed the displays portraying the wildlife of the area. The trail up to a waterfall attraction is steep and slippery in a few places, and involves crossing a stream via stepping stones. Regrettably, you do experience days in the field when a dearth of species is evident and sadly this turned out to be one of those days. The forest was silent and despite our efforts in negotiating the demands of the trail, all we found was a Middle Spotted Woodpecker and a Nuthatch. A small, black scorpion was unearthed lurking beneath a rock bordering the footpath but no salamanders were found. However, spirits were lifted after our descent by a splendid meal of fresh trout accompanied by a range of local specialities and cold beers in a rustic restaurant standing by a boulder-strewn dipper-inhabited river - a very pleasant setting.

Because of the strong wind and deteriorating weather we took our time over lunch and delayed our arrival at Sakhalvasho Raptor Viewpoint until 4pm. As we eased our tiring joints up the final staircase of earth steps to the summit it became obvious from the body language of the raptor counters that nothing much was happening. One Sparrowhawk was all that passed. Seeing a Grass Snake in the pool at the top was poor compensation for our disappointment.

We took our evening meals at a local restaurant in Batumi, and tonight it was a prodigious feast indeed! Different dishes kept appearing before us and we struggled to keep up. Birds may have been in short supply today but food and wine certainly were not!

Day 4

Wednesday 26th September

At first light this morning there was a roar of waves being whipped up into a foamy frenzy by a strong south-westerly wind and whooshing sounds as cars forged ahead into falling rain. An extra couple of hours in bed appealed more than venturing out searching for battered migrants and getting a soaking, so there was no pre-breakfast walk today. A change of plan was necessary as raptor movements would cease in these conditions, but a visit to the Kolkheti wetlands could be quite productive. This area lies an hour's drive away and the rain continued and at times lashed down, but once we had arrived at Kolkheti it had cleared up and a dry but dull and cool day followed. The National Park Visitors Centre had facilities available so we took a break before heading for the beach area. Here the rain had collected in shallow sandy hollows forming ideal feeding habitat for waders. This stretch of coast is bleak with a great deal of shoreline debris and litter but it does attract some interesting birds. Some local beach combers were collecting wave-washed walnuts and others piled trailers with driftwood. The strand line is backed by sandy shrub with patches of Mediterranean Sea Holly and remains of earlier flowering Sea Daffodils. Stray dogs, cows and vehicles on the beach were a bit of a distraction and progress along the beach could only be made by wading through less than ankle deep water. Some of the group didn't want to attempt this so they remained behind whilst the rest crossed the watery divide and receded into the far distance. Happily, upon comparing notes when we regrouped, it appeared that both parties were satisfied with what they had seen. All of the important species paraded before both groups. This included three Broad-billed Sandpipers, five Little Stints, three Caspian Terns and a decent list of assorted waders. The biodiversity was high but the number of individuals was low. Black-necked and Red-necked Grebes were on the inlet.

At 3pm we left the beach having devoured our packed lunches rather late, and a rendezvous with a boatman on Paliastromi Lake had been set for 3.30pm. Fortunately the wind had abated and crossing the lake to some channels on the far side did not prove to be too challenging. Almost immediately the number one target bird was spotted as an immense White-tailed Eagle circled the lake and a second one was soon observed perched in a tree. Kingfishers were especially in evidence along the side channels but the best bird on the return crossing was an Armenian Gull. It was 5.40pm when we moored back at the quayside. A brief scan of a well vegetated waterway called the Kaparchina River failed to produce any crakes although we did hear Water Rails. Beautifully plumaged White-winged Terns bounded and dipped gracefully up and down this stretch of river extremely close to us. Marsh Frogs scattered as we approached their basking sites on the bank above beds of Frog Bit fringing the river. Lingered here left us with insufficient time to return to the hotel to freshen up so we drove directly to the restaurant for another sumptuous evening meal. It was still raining in Batumi so we had certainly made the right choice of location today.

Day 5

Thursday 27th September

The day started damp but insufficiently so to deter one early riser from bagging all four grebes. Although rain threatened, the day did remain dry. Today's plan was to explore the Chorokhi Delta this morning, then reassess the situation after lunch depending on the level of passerine migration. A seaward bound, rough track crossed an open scrubby area which looked ideal for migrants. Red-backed Shrikes were soon located, as were eastern races of Stonechat appearing very similar to accompanying Whinchats. A few Tawny Pipits danced along the track amongst some White and Yellow Wagtails, but it was clear that despite the inclement weather of yesterday no fall of warblers had occurred. A couple of Whitethroats, Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs had to suffice until a brighter, greener warbler was spotted in a tree. It was a Green Warbler which we would all have liked time to

study but it flitted away all too quickly. A low flying eagle-sized raptor had us guessing for a while until it perched and a better view was secured. It was a Lesser Spotted Eagle and it rather optimistically thought it could seize a nearby passerine by launching off its perch and giving chase. With long legs outstretched it lunged forward but was far too slow to secure a capture.

Once we reached the seashore it was natural to begin a sea watch. An adult summer plumaged White-winged Tern skipped northwards past a group of Slender-billed Gulls dipping to feed at the coloured current interface. A flock of Purple Herons were also on the move. At the first lagoon we watched 12 Wood Sandpipers supported by floating pondweed as they probed about. An immature Red-necked Grebe had remained on the pool whilst both adults were out on the sea. The next area produced five Purple Swamphens but they were partially concealed and a bit too distant to be fully appreciated. As there wasn't a great deal to see here we retraced our steps, had lunch and then tried another approach. A narrow road snaking up through the village of Avgia to a hill proved to be a very good raptor watch point. We had seen the odd kettle of spiralling raptors and flocks of Black Kites so we thought it prudent to get up amongst them. We enjoyed a productive hour of sky watching. The passage included Black Kites, Honey Buzzards, Marsh Harriers, Kestrels and a spectacular immature Steppe Eagle. This magnificent bird flew just high enough to reveal the broad white edge to the coverts and then dropped to below eye level to display its characteristic upper wing pattern. Booted and Lesser Spotted Eagles were seen too.

There was still much to squeeze into today's programme, so we descended to the coast again and wandered around the perimeter of an artificial lake where unfortunately there was a great deal of litter and a number of stray dogs. They were not at all aggressive and they didn't jump up but they rush about scaring birds and barking at cows and generally getting in the way. The strange thing about them is that most have been caught, neutered, vaccinated and ear tagged but then let loose again. There wasn't much to see here except for a couple of Hobbies, two Red-Crested Pochards and some Garganey so we moved on to Batumi Boulevard Park. This linear recreational zone is lined with pine trees and can hide scores of migrants, but not today! We saw two Common Redstarts, a Spotted Flycatcher and two Great Tits; scant reward for the effort we put in but that is the nature of searching for migrating birds. Our day in the field had been varied and quite tiring so we called it a day and returned to the hotel at 5pm.

Day 6

Friday 28th September

Only one of the group ventured out early, but the reward was a Bluethroat and some new waders for the trip. There had been a fall of Wheatears on the beach area and a good passage of Sandwich Terns. After breakfast we headed straight up to the Shuamta Raptor Viewpoint and stayed there for the whole day. Not all of the group felt able to walk up the steep road and 357 steps so a local Lada owner agreed to ferry them to the top for a modest fee! Much of the gear of those walking was also packed into the old car along with our packed lunches. It was a good decision to visit Station Two as it turned out to be amongst the best days they have ever experienced at the Raptor Viewpoints. "Wow!" "Amazing!" "Good grief!" These and other utterances were repeated over and over again as streams of raptors poured past in spirals of up to 500 to 1000. There was a veritable blizzard of buzzards; evocations of eagles; kettles of kites. Tight spirals of rising raptors like a whirlwind reached up from ground level to the wispy, ethereal cloud base where they transformed into shimmering, ghostly apparitions. The vast majority of birds were Steppe Buzzards. Some 45,000 crossed the airspace above the counting station. We also picked out a good number of Lesser Spotted Eagles, a magnificent Steppe Eagle which came over us quite

low, and 89 Black Storks. From the Sakhalvasho station a total of 75,156 were counted today. The figure for Shuamta was 32,613 making a grand total of 107,769. It was exceptionally thrilling and time raced by. We had been constantly alert and entertained for 5 hours. Then movements ceased, so we began our descent at 4pm with animated discussion accompanying heavy footfalls as we clomped down the steps to our bus. Calling in at Station One with the intention of purchasing some T shirts proved fruitless as no one turned up to serve us, so after waiting in hope for quite a while we returned to the hotel empty handed.

Day 7

Saturday 29th September

It was a warm and sunny start to the day. The early morning risers found some interesting migrants but there was some shooting taking place and fishermen had already arrived at the pools before dawn making finding crakes rather unlikely.

Straight after breakfast we went directly to the Shuamta Raptor Watch point again for another whole day of high quality skywatching. Being careful of the cows and dogs scattered in the road is just one of the essential driving skills alongside avoiding people crossing the street and staying calm when other drivers cut you up or barge out of side roads. There are no give way signs in Georgia so no one does! Once again a local car owner was deployed to take two of the group up to the watch point with all of our gear and lunches freeing us to negotiate the steep road and steps. Steppe Buzzards were already in kettles and peeling off from the apices, gliding across to the next thermal and effortlessly regaining lost height. We set up our telescopes and settled down to scan the never ending flocks. It was another excellent passage with eagles featuring strongly. An Eastern Imperial Eagle got us off to a brilliant start. Lesser Spotted Eagles were especially well represented throughout the day with sometimes four or five at a time. Short-toed, Booted and Steppe Eagles also came through. Hearing that we had missed a Crested Honey Buzzard flying over Station One didn't dampen our spirits as we found two of our own. Just One Griffon Vulture passed overhead but what a sight that was; it dwarfed the buzzards gyrating in the same thermal. Black Storks were a lovely sight. A few lucky watchers saw a flock of seven followed by one of four. Despite being on the lookout for them we only detected two Levant Sparrowhawks and a single Peregrine. Similarly, only one Pallid Harrier sailed over. A Praying Mantis flying down from a tree and landing on someone's shoe was an amusing diversion. The official raptor counts for today were: Shuamta 20,213 Saghalvasho 12,242, and the total for this autumn so far is now over 1 million raptors. We really appreciated the slower pace of movement today as we were able to focus on flight details of individual birds and secure more photographs to clinch identifications. It was 4.50pm when we left the site.

Day 8

Sunday 30th September

This morning we left the hotel at 7.30am and had breakfast at the restaurant in Batumi at 8am then continued on to Kutaisi airport in good time for our flight to Luton. Despite passing interesting- looking habitats the drive was practically birdless. Georgia does not appear to have much by way of resident birds but it is certainly outstanding for migration which was what we came to see. Our flight landed at Luton ahead of schedule and we were soon saying farewell after a memorable trip.

Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
1	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		2					1	
2	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>			5					
3	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				✓				
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓	✓				
5	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>			2	3				
6	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓				
7	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>					2			
8	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			6	✓				
9	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			1					
10	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			3	✓	✓	✓		
11	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>			1	✓	✓	✓		
12	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
13	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		1	1	1	✓	✓		
14	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	1					89	11	
15	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					3			
16	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>							2	
17	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			4					
18	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				✓				
20	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2				3	26	✓	
21	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
23	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	✓	1		✓	✓	✓		
24	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	2							
25	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>			2					
27	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>							1	
28	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	2							
29	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	✓					✓	✓	
30	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓	1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	4						✓	
32	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	1					1	2	
33	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
34	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	1							
35	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>	✓	1		✓	✓	✓		
37	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>	✓				✓		2	
38	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1							
39	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	✓				1	1	1	
40	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	✓						1	
41	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	✓	1		✓	✓	✓		
42	Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	1						2	
43	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2			✓	✓	✓		
44	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	2		1	4				
45	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>							2	
46	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>			H		H	H		
47	Western Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>				5				

	Common name	Scientific name	September						
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
48	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	
49	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		4		✓	✓	✓	
50	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			4				
51	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				5			
52	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓			
53	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>				H			
54	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			✓			✓	
55	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		3	✓			✓	
56	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					1		
57	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>			2				
58	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			1	1	2		
59	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			1				
60	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			1				
61	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				H			
62	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>						1	
63	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					1		
64	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			1	12	3	1	
65	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1	1		2		
66	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			1				
67	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			✓				
68	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			5				
69	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			✓				
70	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			✓			6	
71	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>			3			1	
72	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>			✓				
73	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			2	✓	✓	✓	
74	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	
75	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>			✓	1			
76	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				1	1		
77	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
78	Armenian Gull	<i>Larus armenicus</i>			1		1		
79	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>					2		
80	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	2		✓		3		
81	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			3				
82	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		2	✓		✓		
83	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			✓		✓	✓	
84	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>					2		
85	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>			7	1	3	3	
86	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>			?				
87	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			1				
88	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>				1			
89	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		1		6	2	55	
90	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓	✓	1	1	
91	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓						
92	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>		1					
93	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			2				
94	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>				3			
95	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			1				
96	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓			3		H	
98	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		H	✓	2			

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
99	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>							1	
100	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			✓	✓				
101	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
102	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				2	1			
103	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				3	1	1		
104	Mountain Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus sindianus</i>		H						
105	Green Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>				1				
106	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				1				
107	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	H			2				
108	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				2				
109	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		2						
110	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1	H					
111	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>					1			
112	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				4		1		
113	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1	1		2				
114	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>				4		2		
115	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>					1			
116	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	1		2	6	✓	2		
117	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>						1		
118	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				2				
119	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	2							
120	European Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		1						
121	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		1						
122	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
123	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			1					
124	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
125	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
126	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>				6				
127	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>					H	H		
128	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>				H				
129	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	H		✓	✓		

Butterflies

1	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	
2	Clouded Yellow	<i>Coleas croceus</i>	✓				✓	✓	
3	Silver Washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	✓					✓	
4	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓				✓	✓	
5	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓			✓	✓	
6	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓					
7	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓					
8	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	✓				✓		
9	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>						✓	

Amphibians & Reptiles

1	Tree frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>	H				H		
2	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>		1		1			
3	Marsh/Pool Frog	<i>Pelophylax sp</i>			✓	✓			
4	Rock Lizard	<i>Darevskia rudis bischoffi</i>	✓	1				✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	September						
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Dragonflies

1	Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanoacrylate</i>		✓					
2	Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	✓	✓					
3	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombei</i>	✓				✓	✓	
4	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		

Other Invertebrates

1	Black Scorpion	<i>Euscorpium mingrelicus</i>		✓					
2	Praying mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>						✓	

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The Group raptor watching by Rob Murray