

Greece - Lake Kerkini in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

28th April – 5th May 2026



Red-footed Falcon



Roller



White Pelicans



Mountain views

Tour report by Adam Davison
Plant list by Adrian Davies and Catherine Whitmarsh



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Tour participants: Adam Davison (leader), Laventris Sidopolous and Georgios Spiridakis (local guides) with 13 Naturetrek clients

Summary

Lake Kerkini and its surrounding wetlands rank among the finest birdwatching areas in Greece. Fringed by river channels, marshes, riparian woodland, flooded fields and farmland, and with nearby montane habitats, the region supports an impressive range of breeding birds and offers excellent potential for migrants moving through in spring. Based in the small village of Chrysochorafa on the lake's western shore, we explored a wide variety of habitats and enjoyed a memorable week of birding, wildlife and scenery.

Day 1

Tuesday 28 April

Although this was primarily a travel day, there was plenty to enjoy. The first species of the tour was a Common Shelduck, spotted from the aircraft as we approached Thessaloniki, and it was quickly followed by six more species as the group walked from the plane to the arrivals hall.

We met our local wildlife guide, Lavrentis, and set off in two minibuses, negotiating Thessaloniki's heavy traffic and extensive roadworks on the ring road. After passing several toll stations and leaving the main roads behind, we stopped to watch a pale-morph Booted Eagle soaring low overhead, while Nightingales sang from the roadside scrub. Their song would become one of the defining sounds of the week, even if the birds themselves were often difficult to see.

After arriving at our hotel, we made a quick turnaround before heading out for the first proper birding session, along the reed-fringed canals on the western side of Lake Kerkini. Bee-eaters gave superb views as they hawked insects close to the minibuses and perched prominently on bare branches. Seen and heard throughout the week, these dazzling birds were later voted 'bird of the trip' by two members of the group. As we worked towards our first view of the lake, we also watched a nest box full of young Kestrels, admired clouds of drifting white poplar seed, and saw our first Coypus.

Our pre-ordered evening meal was taken at a local taverna, where we enjoyed a traditional spread of Greek salad, *tzatziki* and *moussaka*, accompanied by local beer and wine. The final client, arriving later from Manchester, was transferred privately to the hotel and settled in ahead of the early start the following morning.

Day 2

Wednesday 29 April

After breakfast, we left the village and soon stopped to admire a male Red-footed Falcon in a ploughed roadside field. It then flew towards the minibus and perched on a cable almost directly above us. By the time we had radioed the second vehicle, it was clear that we were surrounded by Red-footed Falcons. Small groups of males and females were scattered across the nearby fields, while a flock of around forty birds became increasingly active in the warming morning light, making low sorties after insect prey. A Roller added to the spectacle by perching on telegraph wires opposite the minibuses.

At the 'triangle' stop, we marvelled at the large colony of ground-nesting Bee-eaters and flocks of Wood Sandpipers, while in the distance pelicans rose in great numbers into the thermals above the lake.

Driving slowly through the wetlands at the southern end of the lake, the landscape made it feel almost as if we were on safari. Water Buffalos moved through the shallow water, distant flocks of pelicans circled above the shimmering heat, and a White-tailed Eagle flew over, disturbing flocks of waders and cormorants.

Day 3

Thursday 30 April

We drove above the eastern edge of Vyroneia to a small disused quarry, where we connected with a Rock Nuthatch beside its mud nest and enjoyed fine views over Lake Kerkini, helping to place the surrounding landscape in context. Nearby, from a small church overlooking deciduous woodland dominated by Plane trees, we witnessed the remarkable sight of three newly-arrived male Levant Sparrowhawks 'skydancing', as they called and displayed to a female. We also obtained perched views of a brightly marked male. Lavrentis explained just how special this spectacle was, noting that there is only a brief seasonal window in which newly-arrived birds perform in this way, and that seeing four birds so well together was exceptional.

Dropping to a lower elevation along the sandy shore of the Strymonas River, we found broad wildflower meadows full of life. A Long-legged Buzzard perched on the ground, while another bird soaring low gave us an excellent opportunity to study its subtle field characters. Wildflowers, butterflies and frogs all added to the richness of the scene, while hidden Quails called in the distance.

We later drove to a small pond above a monastery, where we enjoyed a picnic in a shelter overlooked by a singing Eastern Subalpine Warbler. The site also allowed time to explore, revealing orchids, Green Hairstreaks and a bewildering variety of blue butterflies. As forecast, light rain gradually became heavier, so we headed back to the hotel, pausing on the way to watch a Syrian Woodpecker that persistently disappeared behind a telegraph pole.

In the afternoon rain, we visited a heron and egret colony in a large stand of Poplars. There was constant activity as hundreds of birds moved to and from nests at various levels in the trees. In the surrounding fields, a range of Yellow Wagtail forms fed around the feet of Water Buffalo,s the striking black-headed birds being the most conspicuous, although all showed subtly different head patterns above their bright yellow underparts and green-toned mantles. White Storks fed in the crop fields, while the wet ditches resounded with croaking frogs.

That evening, we ate at the historic railway station at Vyroneia, completing the daily log under cover as the rain continued. We later shared the restaurant with another visiting Naturetrek group, who were finishing dinner on their final night.

Day 4

Friday 1 May

After breakfast, we returned to the Masked Shrike territory to ensure that everyone had the chance to see this outstanding species. Both the male and female showed well, while a singing Olive-tree Warbler remained much more elusive. As it was a bank holiday, local people were beginning to arrive in pick-ups, vans and motorbikes to prepare for an afternoon gathering. Overhead, larger birds continued to hold our attention, including Lesser Spotted Eagle, Short-toed Snake Eagle and Black Stork. One member of the group also had a close encounter with

an Egyptian Grasshopper, Europe's largest insect, while a stunning Purple Emperor remained less approachable, perched motionless on newly emerged oak leaves.

We later drove down to the dam and explored the lakeside, eventually finding a quiet spot for our picnic. The site offered fine views and held small numbers of purring Turtle Doves. Continuing clockwise around the lake, we stopped repeatedly at hides and viewpoints, adding new birds at almost every halt.

We ended the day with the wet woodland walk at Vyronia in search of woodpeckers, though without success, before returning to Chrysochorafa. It had remained cold throughout, and the evening news later confirmed that this was the coldest May Day in seventy years.

Day 5

Saturday 2 May

An early start was required to catch sunrise from two boats booked with Nikos. Conditions were ideal: bright, cloudless and calm, and thus perfect for viewing wildlife as we travelled along the reed-fringed shores of the lake. Mist drifted across the margins before clearing to reveal snow-capped peaks reflected in the still water, and as the morning developed, huge numbers of birds became active along the shoreline and nearby banks.

Out on the open water, the boats were surrounded by hundreds of terns, and the superb summer-plumaged White-winged Terns secured 'bird of the trip' for one member of the group. The 7500ha lake supports more than 1500 pairs of Great Crested Grebes, and we watched many of them engaged in courtship, including head-shaking, weed presentation and low, confrontational posturing. One of the boats also located several Black-necked Grebes in summer plumage.

It was cold out on the water as we searched through flocks of waders along the muddy banks. After three hours afloat, the return journey coincided with a movement of thousands of Great and Pygmy Cormorants, along with large numbers of pelicans flying low over the lake beside the boats. The spectacle of breeding White and Dalmatian Pelicans, together with the abundance of other wetland birds, was among the most impressive wildlife experiences of the tour and proved enough to earn pelicans 'bird of the trip' for another client.

That evening, over dinner, we said our goodbyes and thanks to Lavrentis, and were joined by our new local guide, George. He reviewed the checklist with us and, after some discussion, suggested possible itinerary adjustments to target species still missing from the trip list.

After breakfast at the hotel, we returned to the nearby canal area to watch a Penduline Tit continuing to build its nest. There were further excellent views of Bee-eaters, and another visit to the lake edge added a good selection of waders, together with Glossy Ibis and a large flock of Mediterranean Gulls.

Day 6

Sunday 3 May

Now well into our daily routine, we left the hotel promptly and headed for the hills, climbing on a broad gravel road to more than 1000m above the village of Ano Poroia. In the mature deciduous forest, we heard woodpeckers drumming, and George had a brief view of the rare White-backed Woodpecker. The cold, quiet conditions became

even more atmospheric when snow began to fall. As the skies cleared and we continued higher, we encountered new species including Rock Bunting and Yellowhammer.

Later, we continued our search for woodpeckers at lower elevations, before returning to the canal area near the hotel.

Day 7

Monday 4 May

Heading north-east from the hotel, we made for Orvilos Mountain above Achladochori. Scanning the area, we soon picked out Alpine Swifts, a Peregrine Falcon and large numbers of Crag Martins. Continuing east from Sidirokastro, we entered more mountainous country and wound our way towards the high agricultural plain. Over the open country, we watched the aerial display flights of Calandra and Greater Short-toed Larks, while Northern Wheatears stood out on isolated bushes.

At the highest point on the road, we stopped to admire a perched Eastern Black-eared Wheatear and a Woodchat Shrike. The road then descended into a canyon flanked by limestone cliffs. At its head, a shelter with tables provided an ideal place for our picnic lunch, overlooked by a cave containing Christian paintings dedicated to the Ascension of Mary.

In this peaceful setting, we spent several hours enjoying the wildflowers and butterflies, including Sooty Copper, Adonis Blue, Brown Argus and Green Hairstreak. A Golden Eagle soared high above us, and a singing Eastern Bonelli's Warbler gave those interested in recent taxonomic splits the chance to confirm its identity by song, as well as plumage.

We stopped for coffee and ice cream in the attractive square at Ano Poroia, before returning to the hotel for a short break. Later, on our final evening, we revisited the reed-fringed channel near the eastern shore that we had explored on the first night. Driving slowly, we again enjoyed excellent views of Great Reed Warblers singing from exposed reed tops. Little Bitterns showed well, and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers were also present. At the channel where we had first seen a Penduline Tit's nest, we were pleased to watch the bird collecting nesting material from the reed seedheads.

Day 8

Tuesday 5 May

After breakfast, we loaded the vans for the drive to Thessaloniki Airport, where we said goodbye to George and checked in for our flight home. The final two species of the tour were a Ring-necked Parakeet seen from the minibus near the city, and Pallid Swifts flying around the terminal.

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Species lists

Birds

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	April - May 2026						
			28	29	30	1	2	3	4
	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓		✓		✓	
	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		✓		✓	✓		
	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓					
	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					✓		
	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				✓	✓		
	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>							
	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓			
	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					✓		
	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	
	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					✓		
	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					✓		
	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				✓			
	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Thinornis dubius</i>			✓				
	Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>		✓	✓		✓		
	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			✓	✓	✓		
	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		✓	✓		✓		
	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		✓			✓		
	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					✓		
	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					✓		
	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>					✓		
	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					✓		
	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>					✓		
	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				✓	✓		
	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>				✓			
	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		✓			✓		
	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>					✓		
	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					✓		
	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					✓		
	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				✓	✓		
	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓		✓	✓		
	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>					✓		
	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>					✓		

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	April - May 2026						
			28	29	30	1	2	3	4
	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		
	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		
	Little Bittern	<i>Botaurus minutus</i>					✓		
	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	✓						
	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartus melba</i>							✓
	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓			✓			
	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓						✓
	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>							
	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>		✓		✓			
	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓		✓			✓
	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓
	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓
	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</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>				✓	✓		
	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		✓					
	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>			✓				
	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	✓	✓					
	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>				✓			
	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		✓				✓	✓
	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>			✓			✓	
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	H					H	
	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>		✓	✓				
	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	✓						
	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	✓				✓		
	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						✓	
	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>							✓
	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
	Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>		✓		✓			
	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>		✓					
	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓
	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	April - May 2026						
			28	29	30	1	2	3	4
	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓	✓		✓	
	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓					✓	
	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓				
	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	✓	✓			✓		
	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>				✓			
	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>						✓	
	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		✓		✓			✓
	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>							✓
	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>							✓
	Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>				✓			
	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					✓	✓	
	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓		✓	✓	
	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>							✓
	Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>							✓
	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>					✓	✓	✓
	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>			✓			✓	✓
	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca crassirostris</i>		✓				✓	✓
	Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓
	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	✓	✓		✓			
	Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca cantillans</i>		✓			✓		
	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>		✓					
	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>						✓	
	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>						✓	
	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>						✓	
	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>						✓	
	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓					
	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓					
	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>						✓	✓
	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>						✓	
	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			✓			✓	
	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>						✓	

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			28	29	30	1	2	3	4
	Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>			✓				
	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						✓	
	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓			✓	
	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>							✓
	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>			✓				✓
	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓					
	Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>						✓	
	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>						✓	
	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>					✓		

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>
Northern White-breasted Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus roumanicus</i>
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
European Wildcat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Stone Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>

Amphibians & reptiles

Common name	Scientific name
Balkan Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax kurtmuelleri</i>
Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>
European Glass Lizard	<i>Pseudopus apodus</i>
Hermann's Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>
Balkan Terrapin	<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
Eastern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisy</i>
Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>
Common Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>
Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>
Small Bath White	<i>Pontia chloridice</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>
Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
Little Tiger Blue	<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i>
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>
Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>
Eastern Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea ornata</i>
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>
Nettle-tree Butterfly	<i>Libythea celtis</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
Green-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna isoceles</i>
Hairy Hawker	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>
White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>

Selected plants

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Adonis</i> sp.	an adonis
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper
<i>Alnus</i> sp.	an alder
<i>Carpinus</i> sp.	A hornbeam
<i>Aristolochia clematitis</i>	Common Birthwort
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords and Ladies
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Dragon Arum
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth
<i>Ornithogalum nutans</i>	Drooping Star of Bethlehem
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved Helleborine
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard Orchid (last years' spike)
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early Spider Orchid
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue Orchid
<i>Iris</i> sp.	an iris
<i>Anemone pavonina</i>	Peacock Windflower
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine
<i>Euphorbia</i> spp.	Various spurges (including Silver and Myrtle)
<i>Ziziphus spina-christi</i>	Christ's Thorn
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
<i>Alyssum saxatile</i>	Golden Alyssum
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip
<i>Kohlruschia</i> sp.	a pink
<i>Silene</i> spp.	Various catchflies and campions
<i>Buglossoides purpuro-caerulea</i>	Purple Gromwell
<i>Cynoglossum</i> spp.	hound's tongues (Common and Blue)
<i>Onosma heterophylla</i>	Golden Drops
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Thorn Apple
<i>Periploca graeca</i>	Silkvine
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Yellow Bugle
<i>Orobancha</i> spp. (x5)	Broomrapes
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Red Bartsia
<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	Clustered Bellflower
<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>	Large Venus's Looking Glass
<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	Coralroot
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo
<i>Orlaya</i> sp.	A laceflower
<i>Scabiosa</i> spp.	Scabious
<i>Centaurea benedicta</i>	Blessed Thistle
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle
<i>Tragopogon</i> spp.	salsifies/goatsbeards