

Go Slow ... In Northern Greece

Naturetrek Tour Report

13 - 20 May 2017



Lake Kerkini



Great Crested Grebe

Report compiled by Philip Thompson
Images courtesy of Richard Reid



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Day 1

Saturday 13th May

The tour started with a flight from Gatwick to Thessaloniki. With the group arriving at midday we took advantage of the airport restaurant to have a light lunch before commencing the transfer north to Lake Kerkini. The journey went smoothly with our arrival in Lithotopus only taking an hour and a quarter.

Once we had settled into our rooms and rested for a short time, we were then able to take a short drive to the dam wall. Feeding in the shallow marshy waters below were an interesting mix of birds that included Black and White Storks, Pygmy Cormorant and Little and Great Egrets. Singing from the scrubby bushes nearby was our first Eastern Olivaceous Warbler that showed intermittently.

We then moved to the lakeshore where we continued birding in the warm late afternoon conditions. We were able to admire an attractive group of Dalmatian Pelicans resting on a small fishing boat, unbothered by our close proximity, whilst several Common Terns passed by on fishing forays. Behind us in the scrubby open fields a Black-headed Bunting was firstly heard singing before being picked out, perched prominently atop a small tree. As we were making our way to leave and return to the hotel a Black Kite drifted over as a final highlight for the day.

Day 2

Sunday 14th May

Today was spent birding the eastern side of the lake. We began by driving to the Pumping Station where we took our first stop. Our main aim was to admire the wonderful downy nest of a pair of Penduline Tits. After a short wait the first of the parents returned to the nest, providing brief but excellent views as it entered the nest. After a couple more nest visits we began to turn our attentions to the surrounding area. Nightingales were noisily singing from seemingly every available patch of cover with a couple of typical brief views obtained. Similarly, a couple of Golden Orioles made a rapid fly-past before vanishing into the dense foliage of the tall poplars. Another noisy presence was announced by the raucous singing of Great Reed Warblers from the reed-lined ditches. After a short spell of watching, a couple of birds overcame their caution and moved to sing from the top of the tallest stems, to be admired by the group.

Driving up onto the raised embankment, we obtained a fine view of the lake. After slowly driving along and trying to avoid the potholes, we made a couple of short stops at suitable spots to observe the vibrant birdlife. Most notable and admired were the abundant European Bee-eaters actively feeding from perches on the low bushes and herbaceous stems. Excellent and prolonged views were obtained of a singing territorial Eastern Olivaceous Warbler that favoured a couple of prominent perches in a bramble thicket. Another bird prominent in this area was several pairs of European Cuckoos calling and chasing each other, often giving some fantastic close views of both the male and female of this declining bird in the UK. These were all rather eclipsed when we spotted a European Roller feeding from a couple of favoured perches ahead of the vehicle. We were able to disembark and admire this stunning bird through the telescope before it moved on, out into the surrounding countryside.

As we continued on our slow progress around the embankment, several Squacco and Black-crowned Night Herons were flushed from the lakeshore and small numbers of Whiskered Terns were seen joining the abundant Common Terns feeding over the lake. Pelicans of both species could be seen distantly roosting on the areas of dry land within the lake boundary.

After a wonderful easy morning's excursion, we headed on to visit the old railway station of Vironia, now converted to very popular restaurant, for a delightful lunch of local specialties. Here we relaxed and enjoyed our meal surrounded by the busy vibrant locals, all similarly enjoying a Sunday lunch, before we moved on for our next destination. This was the old quarry set in the Belles Mountains above the village where we took a short walk. Several interesting butterflies were seen as we made our way into the quarry floor and the wonderful view out across to the lake. Singing and displaying from the rocks above us was a pair of Black-eared Wheatears that, although distant, gave excellent views. We were next witness to a scene, read about but always viewed with a little skepticism, of a Golden Eagle carrying a tortoise in its talons and being dropped a couple of times from great height, until the bird was finally seen carrying what appeared to be the carcass of this unfortunate reptile minus its shell: no doubt to be devoured at leisure on a ledge out of sight! So the story of Aeschylus being killed by a dropped tortoise on his bald head must be true, and we rather cautiously took cover within a roofed pagoda seating area when the eagle drifted directly overhead carrying its prize!

Elated, we returned to our hotel for a rather unexpectedly outsize evening meal.

Day 3

Monday 15th May

This morning was spent enjoying the spectacle of a boat trip visit to the Drowned Forest breeding colonies of the many fish-eating birds of the lake. As we slowly drove around the western flank of the lake approaching Kerkini village, a Lesser Spotted Eagle was sighted, drifting across the road and into the thickly forested hills nearby. With this bit of excitement over, we moved on to the small harbour where we boarded the small boat that was to take us across the lake.

Resting Common Tern completed the harbour entrance posts as we set out. The huge numbers of Great Cormorant became apparent as we crossed the mirror-smooth lake, joined by impressive numbers of Great Crested Grebes. Large numbers of both Great White and Dalmatian Pelicans could be seen resting in groups on the shore while smaller numbers drifted among the cormorants. We stopped first among the abundant floating vegetation where we were able to pick out a small number of Black-necked Grebes among their larger relatives. Moving on, we approached a drowned fenced tree plantation that provided perfect resting posts for a mix of Black-crowned Night Herons, Black-headed Gulls and Common and Whiskered Terns. Having cut the engine and as we gently drifted ever closer, the birds remained unconcerned allowing for some incredible close views. Our next stop was to drift within the trees of the Drowned Forest bedecked with many thousands of nesting birds going about the business of raising their young. With our silent passage we were, once more, rewarded with unbeatable views of the mix of birds present. By far the majority of birds were Great Cormorants, numbering many thousand, but these were joined, in impressive numbers, by Spoonbills, Squacco and Black-crowned Night Herons, Little Egret and Pygmy Cormorants. We were fortunate in finding a small flock of feeding Glossy Ibis that nest in an inaccessible area of the forest to add the 'icing on the cake'. This was an experience that must rank as one of the great birding highlights for many and a real treat to experience.

Making our way out of the forest, we approached the artificial breeding platform and mounds created for the important colony of Dalmatian Pelicans. The birds present were mainly the young juveniles, their parents feeding elsewhere on the lake. The colony has been augmented by the recent colonization of breeding Great White Pelicans, of which a few could be picked out among the throng of birds. We then headed back to Kerkini where we drove a short distance to have a look around the Visitor centre with their informative displays and history of the area.

We then took lunch in a small taverna offering typical local fare that went down well with the group! We next took the opportunity to check out a small marsh and pool nearby. Things seemed initially fairly quiet except for a couple of European Reed Warblers, until a chance scan of the reed bases picked out a bird moving unobtrusively at the waters edge. By sheer luck we had chanced upon an elusive Moustached Warbler that allowed just enough of a view in quality and duration to ascertain its identity before it melted into the reeds and out of sight. We persevered with a patient wait for a second view but it was not to be.

To complete the day we drove on and took a dirt road into the Mavrovouni Hills for a short walk and exploration. Several interesting butterflies and plants were seen along the way as we picked out Back-headed Bunting and Woodchat and Red-backed Shrikes. The bird highlight was a couple of singing Olive-tree Warblers. If only they would allow a decent view! They kept within the thick canopy of a small Olive grove, all of which were of equal size and density, allowing no view through. We only managed a couple of fleeting disappearing shapes as the birds moved rapidly through the trees leaving us rather disappointed. We headed back in good time to relax before dinner and reflect on our earlier successes.

Day 4

Tuesday 16th May

Today was spent away from the lake when we travelled east towards Sidirokastro. The day started well with the sighting of a small flock of Red-footed Falcons feeding over the flat agricultural fields we were passing through. Having stopped to admire these handsome birds, we were elated when they were joined in their aerial forays by a trio of Eleanora's Falcons. After much swooping overhead, both species then settled to rest on nearby power lines allowing for a detailed examination through the telescope!

From here we continued on into the hills with, firstly, a visit to an abandoned quarry set among an impressive and attractive landscape. On arrival it did not take long before we had picked out both Black-eared Wheatear and Blue Rock Thrush and numerous Red-rumped Swallows. It took a little more patience and keen searching before those of the group could connect with the pair of Crag Martins patrolling the steep rock face above us.

Next we drove the short distance lower to take a pleasant short walk to an impressive man-made waterfall. The piercing calls and song of grey Wagtail could be heard above the noise of the tumbling water, although it took a little while before the bird could be found close-by, perched half way up a tree! A great discovery was a pair of obliging Dippers that were clearly nesting behind the sheet of water, although our presence seemed to inhibit their visit with a beakful of food so we deemed it sensible to retreat and leave the birds in peace, although not before being given a wonderful show by six Alpine Swifts in close formation, sweeping back and forth above us. The pair of Crag Martin on the rock face here were a little easier to get to grips with as they swept back and forth within inches of the rock.

Another short drive was then taken to an elevated viewpoint looking across to the area we had just come from and with a clear view of the higher rocky crags above. We were hoping for some decent raptor sightings as we waited, only to be disappointed. We were reconciled with several attractive flowers, a scarce Iolas Blue butterfly and a pleasant sit down in the covered seating area.

Having failed to find Rock Nuthatch at both of the previous stops, we were left with the final option of driving into Sidirokastro town centre and a scan of the rock face at the head of the town. It took all of three minutes before we were watching both parents on their nest carrying out a little construction work. We obtained some excellent views through the telescope of these charismatic, bobbing birds before heading out of town and stopping at a small restaurant for lunch.

Having been well fed (and having saved our scraps for the local dogs) our next stop was a woodland to the north on the border with Bulgaria. As we approached the border and our turn-off, we came upon a huge backlog of transport lorries lined up along the motorway, obviously experiencing difficulties with the border. Luckily we skipped past and turned off to take the quiet road through Promachonas and a stop and walk into the majestic White Poplar wood on its outskirts. Woodpeckers were our main targets with the result that we were able to obtain views of Middle Spotted, Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers during our walk. Of other interest were a couple of Balkan Terrapins on a small pond and a rich mix of butterflies. With our walk completed, we were soon heading back to relax before dinner.

Day 5

Wednesday 17th May

We took our longest drive of the trip today with a fast and straightforward journey to Vafliochoi Dam, to explore a different mix of birds found there. Things got off to a good start with the sighting of a pair of Lesser Spotted Eagles warming themselves on the ground facing the sun on the marsh alongside Lake Kerkini. We stopped to have a good look, which upset the birds and caused one to fly screeching angrily into a nearby tree! We thought it best to move on and leave them in privacy in their realm.

A little further on it became apparent that there had been a mass hatching/eruption of Nettle Tree Butterflies almost overnight as there were many thousands flying up from the roadside as we sped past; luckily they were swept over the vehicle rather than coming to an untimely end on our radiator!

We were soon at the dam which is a small affair built for irrigation, but with a couple of large earth islands created in its centre for the birds. The most notable initial highlight was up to 40 Ferruginous Ducks spread about the lake, joined by small numbers of other wildfowl. Fishing from the lake were good numbers of Common and Little Terns, joined by a single Black Tern and an immature Little Gull. After some careful scanning of the birds present, we undertook a slow drive around the earthen embankment with a couple of stops along the way. During this drive we had another amazing bit of luck when a mammal stood on the track ahead looking in our direction. We stopped to check it out and were shocked to discover it was a Wild Cat that promptly scampered down the embankment! We drove on to where it had dropped down, to then have it burst from cover and race across the weedy ground and into the thick reed-fringed vegetation alongside a nearby drainage ditch, never to be seen again! After this massive adrenalin rush for the group, none of whom had ever seen one before, a humble Red Fox a little further on was rather an anticlimax.

We next returned to Lake Kerkini and drove into the hills and visited the attractive village of Ano Parroia where we stopped for lunch, passing along the way through the drifts of Nettle Tree Butterflies once more. At the top of the village we stopped at a restaurant specializing in trout raised in the fast flowing clear mountain spring. Most of the group enjoyed some trout for lunch as we relaxed in this quiet and peaceful place. As we left the restaurant, a recently emerged Sombre Goldenring dragonfly was found resting on the ground that allowed for some close-up photography.

For the remains of our day we drove the short distance down to Mandraki Harbour where we spent a relaxing and peaceful hour enjoying the birds on the lake. The highlight was a pair of Little Bitterns feeding from the nearby reed bases allowing prolonged views through the telescope. A rich collection of herons, egrets and waterbirds were on show, providing a lovely wind down at the end of the day.

Day 6

Thursday 18th May

Today started well with our journey into the mountains north of Serres and a visit to the summit area of Mount Vrontou. As we steadily climbed up from the city of Serres, the vegetation changed as we passed through forest and reached the open grazed higher slopes with a different selection of birds on offer.

On arrival at the car park of the small Ski Centre, our luck ended when one of the group had a nasty fall in the car park, resulting in an ambulance being needed and a transfer to Serres Hospital. Whilst waiting for the arrival of the ambulance, a varied and different mix of birds could be heard singing around us such as Red Crossbill, Firecrest, Chiffchaff, Mistle Thrush and Short-toed Treecreeper, but our thoughts and attention were obviously elsewhere and with concern for the injured party. Once at the hospital, treatment was mercifully promptly received and diagnosis made. The group ultimately returned to our hotel for a late lunch with time remaining for a short walk along a dirt track into the forested Mavrovouni Hills, with the highlights being another Lesser Spotted Eagle sighting, singing Olive-tree Warbler and the discovery of a single Little Tiger Blue at our feet in the track; a stunningly-marked tiny butterfly!

After dinner it was decided on an early evening visit to a nearby quarry in the hope of spotting the resident Eagle-Owl leaving its roost. We were once more out of luck with only the distant churring of European Nightjars to add to our experiences.

Day 7

Friday 19th May

We had the opportunity for a second boat trip out onto the lake that was gratefully taken. We began with a couple of short stops and explorations on the way to Kerkini. Our first stop was at an area of wet flooded grassland adjoining the lake that held a good mix of birds. A short drive further on, we stopped once more to walk among an area of rocky cliffs and waterfront. Here we spotted another pair of Black-eared Wheatear on territory above us, whilst on the rocky ground a good mix of flowers, reptiles and insects, the highlight being an Eastern Baton Blue butterfly. A singing Marsh Warbler unfortunately could not be picked out from deep within a large patch of scrub.

Moving on for our appointed boat trip, we set out once more doing a similar trip in reverse order to previously. The trip was not diminished in its attractions and appeal for being repeated, but merely helped to cement the

experience as the highlight that it was. On the return leg of the trip our luck returned with encountering a mixed flock of Black and White-winged Terns feeding from the lake surface. We received some fantastic views of these birds in full breeding plumage as they periodically swept up the lake to then rise as a tight flock into the air and fly back downwind to repeat the circuit.

Back in the harbour, we disembarked and drove the short distance to a nicely located restaurant alongside the small marsh visited previously. Despite the presence of a school party of small children, this was a relaxing and pleasant lunch spot in which to enjoy another typical Greek lunch.

With lunch completed, we made an unscheduled quick visit to Mandraki Harbour once more to look for a pair of lost binoculars, unfortunately with no luck. The birds were still good! This left us with time for another short walk into the hills. This produced several good finds on several fronts. Bird-wise, these were a small number of breeding Bee-eaters, Hawfinch and Cirl Bunting. A new butterfly found was the cryptic and shade-loving Lattice Brown, keeping characteristically within the canopy of the small trees lining the track. An interesting and stunningly beautiful member of the Antlion Family of the *Aescalaphidae* was the subject of several sightings: the Spoonwing Lacewing *Nemoptera sinuata*. Attractive plants included the striking Aroid *Dracunculus vulgaris*, the Dragon Arum and the Lizard Orchid *Himantoglossum caprinum*. All in all a productive and interesting walk to end the trip.

Day 8

Saturday 20th May

Our flight time meant we only had time to have a last relaxing breakfast before completing our loading of the vehicle and a safe and timely journey to the airport, where we were met by the numerous Pallid Swifts swooping around the terminal building. Then we caught the plane back to the UK, where the tour ended.

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Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			1		9			
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2		10		20		✓	
3	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>			2		4			
4	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>					1			
5	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			7		7		9	
6	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					40			
7	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			1		2		2	
8	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	20	✓	✓		✓		✓	
9	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>			6		6		1	
10	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2	1		1				
11	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	12	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			9					
13	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		6	20		1		✓	
14	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					1		4	
15	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		15	✓				✓	
16	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		15	✓		8		✓	
17	Great Egret	<i>Ardea albus</i>	1		10		1		1	
18	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	6	12	✓	✓	✓		✓	
19	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		3			2		2	
20	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	20	✓	✓		✓		✓	
21	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>		250	✓		✓		✓	
22	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	20	200	✓		✓		✓	
23	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	6	20	✓		30		✓	
24	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1	✓	✓		✓		✓	
25	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	1	1					1	
26	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	4	1	3	2	2	2	
27	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>				1				
28	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		2						
29	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>			1		2	1	1	
30	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		1						
31	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		2		2	2			
32	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				8	1			
33	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>				3				
34	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		4	1				2	
35	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			10		20		6	
36	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>					1			
37	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			2					
38	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1						
39	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>					1			
40	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓				✓	
41	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>			2					
42	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>					3			
43	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					12			
44	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	20	40	✓		60		✓	
45	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>		20	✓				16	
46	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>							10	
47	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					1		20	

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
48	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
50	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		H	6	H	2		H	
51	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		10	H	3	1	1	H	
53	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	1	H	H	H				
54	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>			H				H	
55	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>				6				
56	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>					2		6	
57	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓							✓
58	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		1		1				
59	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		100	6	12	20		15	
60	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1	H				1	H	
61	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>				2				
62	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		H		4				
63	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>				1			1	
64	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	1	4	2		1			
65	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>					3			
66	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		2	3			✓	✓	
67	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	H	4	H	6		1	H	
68	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	4	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	
69	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓			✓		✓		
72	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>						H		
73	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		1		2			H	
74	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				H				
75	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>		10		H			1	
76	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
77	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			3					
78	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>				4				
80	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	1	6		20	2	6		
82	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H						
83	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>						H		
84	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		12	H	H	✓	✓	✓	
85	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			6					
86	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>							H	
87	Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>			1					
88	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>	2	20	6	8	✓	✓	✓	
89	Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>			2			H		
90	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				H				
91	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			H		1			
92	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>						H		
93	Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>				2				
94	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>				H		✓	✓	
96	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>					1			
97	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				H				
98	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
99	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>							1	
100	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>		2		4		2	2	
101	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				2				
102	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		1			1			
103	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
104	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓		
106	Black-headed Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>		2			2			
107	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				2				
108	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				2				
109	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				✓		✓	H	
110	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>				3				
111	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		2		✓			✓	
112	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>						6		
113	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>							2	
114	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>				H				
115	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		4	H	✓			✓	
116	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	1		4		2	4	H	
117	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			6		✓	✓	✓	

Mammals

Eastern Hedgehog, *Erinaceus concolor*
Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*

Red Squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*
Wild Cat, *Felis silvestris*

Amphibian & Reptiles

Common Toad, *Bufo bufo*
Greek Marsh Frog, *Rana balcanica*
Hermann's Tortoise, *Testudo hermanni*
European Pond Terrapin, *Emys orbicularis*
Turkish Gecko, *Hemidactylus turcicus*
Balkan Green Lizard, *Lacerta trilineata*
European Glass Lizard, *Ophisaurus apodus*
Aesculapian Snake, *Elaphe longissima*
Dice Snake, *Natrix tessellata*

Green Toad, *Bufo viridis*
Tree Frog, *Hyla arborea*
Spur-thighed Tortoise, *Testudo graeca*
Balkan Terrapin, *Mauremys rivulata*
Kotschy's Gecko, *Cyrtodactylus kotschy*
Common Green Lizard, *Lacerta viridis*
Balkan Wall Lizard, *Podacris taurica*
Grass Snake, *Natrix natrix*

Butterflies

Scarce Swallowtail, *Iphiclides podalirius*
Black-veined White, *Aporia crataegi*
Small White, *Pieris rapae*
Eastern Bath White, *Pontia edusa*
Orange Tip, *Anthocharis cardamines*
Berger's Clouded Yellow, *Colias alfajariensis*
Ilex Hairstreak, *Satyrrium ilicis*
Little Tiger Blue, *Tarucus balkanicus*
Iolas Blue, *Iolana iolas*
Brown Argus, *Arica agrestis*
Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*

Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*
Large White, *Pieris brassicae*
Green-veined White, *Pieris napi*
Eastern Dappled White, *Euchloe ausonia*
Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*
Sloe Hairstreak, *Satyrrium acaciae*
Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*
Eastern Baton Blue, *Pseudophilotes vicrama*
Silver-studded Blue, *Plebejus argus*
Mazarine Blue, *Cyaniris semiargus*
Nettle-tree Butterfly, *Libythea celtis*

Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*
 Eastern Knapweed Fritillary, *Melitaea ornata*
 Lesser Spotted Fritillary, *Melitaea trivia*
 Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria*
 Lattice Brown, *Kirinia roxelana*
 Essex Skipper, *Thymelicus lineola*

Comma Butterfly, *Polygonia c-album*
 Spotted Fritillary, *Melitaea didyma*
 Queen of Spain Fritillary, *Issoria lathonia*
 Meadow Brown, *Maniola jurtina*
 Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrgus armoricanus*
 Large Skipper, *Ochlodes sylvanus*

Dragonflies & Damselflies

Beautiful Demoiselle, *Calopteryx virgo ssp. festiva*
 Large Red Damsel, *Pyrrhosoma nymphula*
 Green-eyed Hawker, *Aeshna isosceles*
 Sombre Goldenring, *Cordulegaster bidentata*
 Broad-bodied Chaser, *Libellula depressa*
 White-tailed Skimmer, *Orthetrum albistylum*
 Keeled Skimmer, *Orthetrum coerulescens*
 Southern Darter, *Sympetrum meridionale*

Common Bluetail, *Ishnura elegans*
 Blue-eyed Hawker, *Aeshna affinis*
 Lesser Emperor, *Anax parthenope*
 Broad Scarlet, *Crocothemis erythraea*
 Blue Chaser, *Libellula fulva*
 Black-tailed Skimmer, *Orthetrum cancellatum*
 Red-veined Darter, *Sympetrum fonscolombii*
 Ruddy Darter, *Sympetrum sanguineum*

Other Taxa

Mammoth Wasp, *Megascolia maculata*
 Paper Wasp, *Polistes sp.*
 Owlfly, *Libelloides macaronius*
 a Mantis, *Empusa fasciata*
 Dung Beetle, *Scarabaeus sacer*

Velvet Ant, *Mutilla marginata*
 Spoonwing Lacewing, *Nemoptera sinuata*
 Violet Carpenter Bee, *Xylocopa violacea*
 Horned Dung Beetle, *Copris lunaris*