Spring in Northern Greece

Naturetrek Tour Report

28th April - 5th May 2022

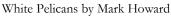




Spur-thighed Tortoise by Mark Howard

Scarce Swallowtail by Roger Forder







Red-footed Falcon by Mark Howard

Tour report by Philip Thompson



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Day 1

Thursday 28th April

Having all arrived and met up with two early arrivals and Georgos we negotiated the usual minibus arrangements reasonably quickly and were then able to drive a short distance from the airport where we called in at a small café where we had a light lunch. Early birding enthusiasts in the group were happy with the sighting of a Golden Oriole from the car-park after both Pallid and Alpine Swifts over the airport terminal.

Now fed and relaxed we set off on the long transfer to Dadia Forest close to the Turkish border. We broke the journey with a visit to one of the saltpans within the Porto Lagos complex of lakes, lagoons and marshes. Waders were the main focus of our attentions with 11 species sighted including a few summer-plumage Curlew Sandpipers. A clear highlight was a small party of beautiful White-winged Terns feeding over the saltpan allowing for prolonged and close views of these stunning summer-plumaged birds. Both Greater Short-toed and Calandra Larks were noted passing overhead, but the Red-throated Pipit was only heard as it made a rapid transit. With a fine tally of bird species under our belts we completed our journey to Dadia where we checked in to the forest lodge where we had a short time to relax before heading into the nearby village for our evening meal and a briefing on the days ahead.

Day 2 Friday 29th April

After an early breakfast we met the Dadia Forest park rangers with their vehicle to transfer us the short distance through the forest to the hide overlooking the Vulture feeding station. From our drop off point a short walk led to the hide where we were very fortunate to find a number of birds already present loafing and squabbling among the scraps left from previous feeds. The forest's reputation for raptors did not disappoint as we tallied nine species during the couple of hours spent at the hide. Of particular importance and significance were the vultures seen, mainly comprising the huge and impressive Cinereous Vultures, but also a small number of Griffon and Egyptian Vultures, the latter comprising almost the entire Greek population! Among them several Black Kites, Northern Ravens and Hooded Crows kept a look-out for any morsels. Soaring over the forested hills behind the site we picked up Short-toed Snake Eagle and very distant displaying Lesser Spotted Eagles. Joining the raptors were several Black Storks, something that would become almost a daily occurence of this usually scarce and elusive species.

With our time at the hide over we undertook a slow and gentle walk back through the forest to the lodge where lunch awaited us. Birds were a little scarce but did include a Short-toed Treecreeper and Lesser Whitethroat. The forest still held other attractions as we passed, notably the stunning Reichenbach's Irises, *Iris reichenbachii*, Violet Limadore, *Limadorum arbortivum* and Southern Festoon butterfly.

Back at the lodge we enjoyed our lunch outside on the terrace during which we continued to keep vigilant, spotting a passing Booted Eagle overhead and a stunning orange Grecian Copper on the lawn alongside some fine examples of the orchid *Ophrys sphegodes subsp. taurica*.

The afternoon was then spent exploring a number of different habitats within the Dadia Forest starting with a riverine environment. Our first stop to admire some Bee-eaters soon produced several other notable sightings

such as Woodchat Shrike, Hobby and Whinchat. After a further short drive we disembarked for a riverside walk where a range of interesting species were seen. Our most notable find was a handsome pair of Masked Shrikes after having already spotted both Red-backed and Woodchat, making for a three-shrike walk. Not too bad! On the river a couple of Little Ringed Plovers and Green Sandpiper were seen and drifting close by were a number of Lesser Spotted Eagles and Black Storks. A number of interesting and notable butterflies were seen. Among the fairly abundant Common Blues were a few Green-underside and a single Escher's, whilst the Fritillaries comprised the Queen of Spain and Glanville.

A final move was made with a drive to higher ground and an area of fine mature Oak forest. Our target species here were Eastern Bonelli's Warbler and woodpeckers. We achieved this in record time, hearing a singing Bonelli's Warbler close by the vans and after a little patient scanning of the nearby oaks this bird was found and proceeded to continue singing strongly for all to see, even if it's song is rather unnoteworthy! Woodpeckers were somewhat harder, but a nearby Middle-spotted Woodpecker put in a brief appearance for a few before being lost within the foliage and presumably making its exit unnoticed. The woodland flora was just starting to awaken and come in to flower with the highlight being the numbers of beautiful Anemones spread around us comprising both Crown Anemone, *Anemone coronaria* and Peacock Anemone, *Anemone hortensis subsp. pavonina*. It was soon time to head back to freshen up before dinner in the village once more where we encountered a very busy restaurant where a local celebration was underway.

Day 3

Saturday 30th April

Today was spent exploring various sections of the protected Evros Delta. We began with a visit to Feres where a few formalities were completed with the local police before we set out along a series of banked agricultural tracks scanning along the way. Our first stop was alongside a rather uninteresting ploughed field of brown earth which contained numerous resting Collared Pratincoles. Almost undetectable on the ground they were a delight as they swooped above us calling all the time. Further stops produced numerous exciting sightings of sought-after birds. Our first encounter with one of the iconic birds of this periphery of mainland Europe, the Spur-winged Lapwing, was a rather distant affair of three birds. As the day went on we had increasingly closer encounters, ultimately meeting a pair resting and mating in the middle of the track requiring our vehicles to wait patiently for them to finish their coupling and then slowly 'push' past!

A range of waders, herons, terns and gulls were notched up including a single Temminck's Stint that required some careful examination and debate before it was deemed lunchtime. A huge flock of mainly Great White Pelicans flew up ahead of us at one point to then drop in amongst the creeks and marshes delaying our progress. We ultimately paused at the end of a long banked cul-de-sac where we ate with one eye on the birds around us. We failed to spot the approach of a Giant Peacock Moth, *Saturnia pyri*, Europe's largest moth which appeared behind us, on the wall we had been leaning against as we ate, as if from nowhere! We continued our circuit after finishing lunch, checking any likely waders and encountering several good birds.

We then relocated to the western edge of the delta and visited the Anthia Marshes. This held plentiful floods of fresh water and an abundance of birds. Here were numerous Glossy Ibis, Egrets, marsh terns, Wood Sandpipers, Ruff and a small number of wildfowl, notably eight Ruddy Shelduck and approximately a dozen Garganey. Handsome Yellow Wagtails of the Black-headed *feldegg* form popped up regularly to be admired. We continued to the beach to scan the waders and terns, finding a couple of Caspian Terns and Kentish Plovers before we ran out

of time and needed to continue on into Alexandroupoli where we checked into our new waterfront hotel before dinner in a beach side restaurant.

Day 4 Sunday 1st May

We returned to the Anthia Marshes where the highlight was a large flock of breeding plumage Spotted Redshanks forming a black mass of birds. Back at the beach we had plentiful time to walk towards the mouth of one of the large coastal lagoons with it's long offshore sandbar. On the sea we were amazed by the spectacle of many hundreds of Yelkouan Shearwaters feeding and resting on the water close to the shore among which a few Scopoli's Shearwaters were also cruising by. A diverse mix of waders were present with large numbers of Sandwich Terns. Coming in from the sea, a couple of European Honey Buzzards and Red-footed Falcons were joined by several Black Terns, all clearly on migration heading north. Resident birds included the pair of White-tailed Eagles that put in an appearance, landing on the sandbar before lifting off and soaring overhead.

We returned to the vehicles and began an exploration of the low hills to the north where we planned on having lunch with a wonderful panoramic view across the entire Evros Delta from a small chapel. Having eaten we explored independently the hilltop scrub with a notable find of a pair of Eastern Subalpine Warblers putting in a brief appearance in the windy conditions. We opted to drive a short way back down the track to find more sheltered conditions where we succeeded in finding another more obliging Subalpine Warbler and Sardinian Warbler. An abundant emergence of fresh Glanville Fritillaries were widespread. Curiously, above us, a pair of Ruddy Shelduck were spotted on several occasions flying around the rocky cliffs, apparently scouting for a nest site.

Continuing our journey back within the Evros complex we explored dryer farming country. An initial stop was taken to admire a group of half a dozen Turtle Doves on overhead wires by the roadside. Pleased with this sighting of this rapidly declining species, we were then stunned when a flock of over a hundred birds flew out from the adjacent scrub - a sight none of the group had ever previously witnessed!

Continuing on we reached a line of power cables and posts, attached to which were a few nest-boxes, these having been placed to help the local breeding population of Rollers, of which a couple pairs of birds were guarding their desirable residences. Retracing our route, we reached a small area of open water edged with reeds and willows. Here sharp eyes had picked out a Little Bittern which we were able to align the various 'scopes on. Amazingly, by sheer luck, a Little Crake appeared creeping through the vegetation right alongside the bittern, making for an incredible chance encounter. By now, once more, time was against us so we returned to our hotel before our evening meal.

Day 5 Monday 2nd May

Today was our transfer day, leaving the Evros delta and heading west to Lake Kerkini where we stayed for the remainder of the holiday.

En-route we broke the journey, firstly with a roadside stop where we saw a pair of Masked Shrikes and Mistle Thrushes, and then at the coastal lagoon at Imeros Platanites. The lagoon held a small number of regular birds plus a small group of roosting Greater Flamingos, that woke up during our time here to begin feeding. A small

party of three Garganey flew in from the sea to create some excitement. As we walked from the car park we came upon a fine colony of Pink Butterfly Orchids, *Anacamptis papilionacea*, among several other interesting plants on the specialised shingle habitat. A fine show of deep blue Large Venus's Looking Glass, *Legousia speculum-veneris*, also caught the group's attention. Birdwise, the highlight was the discovery of a couple of Stone Curlew roosting on the shingle beach among the light vegetation.

We drove on towards Porto Lago, before which we detoured to check the flat agricultural plains around Lake Mitrikou on the lookout for any interesting harriers. We only found a couple of Western Marsh Harriers, but were compensated with a small number of the colonial Lesser Kestrels perched on wires and feeding overhead, giving an excellent view of some of the diagnostic features of these increasingly threatened birds. Driving on we circumnavigated the lake with its broad fringe of reeds, making seeing the lake all but impossible. The low hills adjacent to the western side of the lake were creating an updraft and an accumulation of hatching insects, which in turn were attracting a fantastic flock of mixed Hobbies and Red-footed Falcons eagerly feasting on the bonanza. We stopped to enjoy this amazing spectacle of birds swooping overhead, similarly causing some interest from the local policeman, who paused on the road to doubtless check our vehicle details before deciding we were harmless and driving on. A rough track leading to a viewing area above the lake was deemed a bit too rough for our vehicles, so we drove on finding another raised viewing area to the east of the lake where we stopped for lunch. Our highlight here was firstly hearing, and then spotting, a Great Spotted Cuckoo that made a couple of flights allowing everyone a great view.

We continued with our journey, returning to the Porto Lagos saltpans which we visited on our first day, this time approached from a different direction. We searched hard through the assembled small waders for any new noteworthy species, finding a nice mix of birds, all of which had already been seen previously during the trip. We still had a lengthy distance to cover, so were soon back on the road, arriving at our hotel in Lithotopus overlooking Lake Kerkini in good time for check in and freshen up before a fine Greek dinner at the hotel.

Day 6 Tuesday 3rd May

For our first exploration of the Lake Kerkini area we drove the short distance to the Pumping Station canal on the eastern flank of the lake. Once out of the vehicles the many Great Reed Warblers in the reed-lined canal could be heard and seen, joined by several Golden Orioles and Common Cuckoos in the surrounding poplar plantations. We took a slow wander along the edge of the drainage canal during which we flushed a Little Bittern and a couple of Black-crowned Night herons flew past. As we retraced our steps back to the buses a Little Owl which was spotted perched on some nearby hay bales glared at us for a while before flying into a dilapidated barn only to reappear once more on a new perch.

Our next stop was at a roadside where we could observe a new 'heronry' in one of the many poplar plantations, formed in the last couple of years. It mainly comprised Eurasian Spoonbill, but also held smaller numbers of Little Egret, Grey and Squacco Herons. It was a slightly incongruous sight seeing herons strolling within the wood on the lookout for nest material. Carrying on we soon drove up on to the eastern embankment of the lake in its far north-eastern corner. A number of isolated pools here held a rich assortment of birds plus several Coypu. An excellent discovery was of a few Ferruginous Duck and Garganey sleeping and feeding among the lilies. Driving further along the embankment we could then view across the vast expanse of grazing marshes, complete with numerous Water Buffalo, and the lake itself backed on two sides by hills and mountains. Birds

were abundant, if distant, with a 'scope required to carefully scan through the range of species present. Large numbers of pelicans formed massed flocks around which all others were dwarfed by comparison. Squacco Herons were abundant feeding on the meadows and around small pools. Resting among this abundance of prey a Peregrine sat on a small log surveying the birds on offer.

After spending a pleasant morning birding we drove a little further along to a small fishermen's hut with some rocks and seating for our lunch as we continued to enjoy the spectacle on offer. Once finished we headed on for a coffee in the village of Nea Petritis before relocating to the quarry above Vironia. Apart from the splendid view down and across the lake we were to find some choice and exciting birds here. First off, we had a singing Eastern Orphean Warbler that, despite their usually shy demeanour, showed well in the top of a nearby tree. Moving into the quarry floor we scanned the rock face soon finding a Blue Rock Thrush and the nest of a Western Rock Nuthatch with a few glimpses of a bird looking out from its mud entrance hole. High above us on the rocky summit an Eastern Black-eared Wheatear contested the best perch with the Blue Rock Thrush before accepting defeat and vanishing from sight. As we continued birding the cry went up that, surprisingly a Common Rock Thrush had also been sighted. We were soon all admiring a resplendent male of the species on the same rockface; a rare sight at this low altitude. Satisfied with our successes we began to make moves to leave before the calls of the Rock Nuthatch brought us to a halt. It was not long before we picked out the bird calling loudly as it moved about the rock face making for a great finale!

Heading back towards the lake we stopped before the Stimonas River bridge to check an area of marsh and mature forest with a number of dead stumps in the hope of a woodpecker or two. We succeeded in finding Spotted Flycatcher, Golden Oriole and Hobby before heading back for an early dinner in Lithotopus before heading out for an evening visit to a nearby quarry. Our hoped-for Eagle Owl failed to appear, but we did however spot Ortolan Bunting, Eastern Black-eared Wheatear and Hoopoe within the quarry before heading back in the darkness, disturbing a European Nightjar from the track as we passed.

Day 7

Wednesday 4th May

Today was mainly spent in areas of interest to produce species missed so far in the trip. We began by taking a short drive on the track to the south of the Strimonas River bringing the instant success of a couple of pairs of Lesser Grey Shrikes that were engaged in a minor territorial dispute with much displaying, singing and chasing involved with a little nest building also carried out. Overhead passing migrating swifts included a few Alpine Swifts. Our attention was also caught by the fantastic sight of the wing-clapping 'butterfly' display of the European Honey Buzzard. Great stuff!

We then crossed the bridge to drive the northern side of the river along the rough embankment. Among several interesting birds seen our main target was again soon achieved by finding a pair of Long-legged Buzzards soaring over the arable fields, many ablaze with scarlet Field Poppies, *Papaver rhoeas*. A further stop was taken when an 'interesting' song was heard from trackside bushes. This resolved to be a passage Icterine Warbler that showed well if you were lucky to be viewing from a good angle! Our route eventually led back to the tarmac from where we headed up past the Vironia quarry and on to the nearby church where we could enjoy our lunch at ease enjoying the view spread out below us. Behind us in the forested lowlands of the Belles Mountains a soaring Golden Eagle was a nice touch.

We then returned to the riverine forest tracks still on the quest for a woodpecker or two with no success unfortunately. Our time was now approaching for our appointment in Kerkini village where we were to take a boat trip across the lake to explore the drowned forest and pelican breeding platforms. Arriving in good time we were met by Nicos our boatman, and were soon cruising across the tranquil lake, allowing us to take in the wonderful setting and scenery. We were soon approaching a large flock of feeding marsh terns comprising mainly Black but also a few White-winged. There followed a magical twenty minutes as we drifted silently among the calling birds actively feeding from the lakes surface as they passed within metres of our boat. We then continued on our way passing numerous Great Crested Grebes with a few diminutive resplendent Black-necked Grebes mixed among them.

We headed into the flow of the river feeding into the lake, passing groups of loafing White Pelicans, Great Cormorants, a very unexpected lone Bewick's Swan, a wonderful feeding group of Little Gulls, a single immature Greater Flamingo and numerous Ruff and Wood Sandpipers. Moving on we slowly cruised alongside the large breeding colonies of mixed Cormorants and herons in the drowned forest that create such an amazing spectacle of many hundreds of birds. Finally we approached as close as permitted to the platforms and stone islands created to accommodate the breeding Dalmatian and Great White Pelicans for which the lake is internationally important. A final bonus was a pair of Gull-billed Terns in a flypast as we headed back to the Kerkini harbour.

Back on dry land we drove around the northern shore of the lake calling in at Mandraki Harbour to check out the reedbeds and marshlands on the lakeshore. Unfortunately, an unforeseen rain shower drifted off the mountain bringing a close to the day's birding. We headed on to Vironia and the Railway Station restaurant for dinner and a chance to digest and discuss the highlights of the past week. We were given a send-off by the calling local Scop's Owls in the trees above our heads (unfortunately remaining unseen!).

Day 8 Thursday 5th May

Our returning flight time left us no time for further birding as we loaded the vehicles after breakfast and headed back to Thessaloniki. We were soon distracted from our journey by a trio of European Rollers on the roadside wires and a Little Owl in a nearby barn. Back on track we enjoyed a pleasant transfer through attractive scenery back to the airport and our final journey home.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

	I = Introduced ✓ = recorded but not counted. H = heard only				Ap	ril/Ma	y 2022	:		
	Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
1	Greylag Goose	Anser anser						√	√	
2	Mute Swan	Cygnus olor			√	✓	√	√	√	
3	Bewick's Swan	Cygnus columbianus							1	
4	Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	✓		√	√	√			
5	Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea			8	√				
6	Garganey	Spatula querquedula			10	✓	3	2		
7	Northern Shoveler	Spatula clypeata						√		
8	Gadwall	Mareca strepera						√		
9	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos		√	√	√	√	√	√	
10	Northern Pintail	Anas acuta						√	1	
11	Common Pochard	Aythya ferina						√		
12	Ferruginous Duck	Aythya nyroca						4		
13	European Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus						1		
14	Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba	✓						√	
15	Common Swift	Apus apus		√						
16	Pallid Swift	Apus pallidus	✓							√
17	Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus					Н	√	√	
18	Great Spotted Cuckoo	Clamator glandarius					1			
19	Rock Dove	Columba livia	✓	✓	√	✓	√	√	√	√
20	Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus						√		
21	Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocta	√	✓	√	√	√	√	√	✓
22	European Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur		✓	√	√	√	√		
23	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus			✓	✓		√	√	
24	Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	✓		✓	✓	√	√	✓	
25	Little Crake	Zapornia parva				1		1		
26	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis			√	√		√		

	only	April/May 2022									
	Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	ţ	
27	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus			✓	✓		✓	✓		
28	Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis				2			10		
29	Scopoli's Shearwater	Calonectris diomedea				✓					
30	Yelkouan Shearwater	Puffinus yelkouan			✓	✓					
31	Eurasian Stone-curlew	Burhinus oedicnemus					2			Г	
32	Eurasian Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	√		√	√	✓			Г	
33	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	√		√	√	✓			١.	
34	Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta	√			√	√			Г	
35	Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus			√	√				Г	
36	Spur-winged Lapwing	Vanellus spinosus			√	√				T	
37	Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola			√	√	√			T	
38	Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula			√	√					
39	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius		√	-				1	H	
40	Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus			√	√	√				
41	Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa			√	,			1	\vdash	
42	Eurasian Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus			, v	√	√			+	
43	Eurasian Curlew	Numenius arquata			√	√	_ v			╁	
44	Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres	√		√	√	√			╁	
45	Ruff	Calidris pugnax	√		✓ ✓	✓ ✓	_ v	/	√	\vdash	
46	Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea			V		,	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	V	⊢	
4 0 47	Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii	√		1	√	✓			⊬	
4 7 48	Sanderling	Calidris alba			'	,				-	
40 49	Dunlin					√				H	
	Little Stint	Calidris alpina Calidris minuta	,			√	√			L	
50			✓		√ 4	✓	✓			-	
51	Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago			1					L	
52	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	✓					✓	✓	L	
53	Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	✓	✓							
54	Common Redshank	Tringa totanus	✓		✓	✓	✓				
55	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
56	Spotted Redshank	Tringa erythropus			✓	200					
57	Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	✓		✓	✓	✓				
58	Collared Pratincole	Glareola pratincola			✓	✓	✓				
59	Slender-billed Gull	Chroicocephalus genei			1						
60	Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus			✓		✓	✓	✓		
61	Mediterranean Gull	Ichthyaetus melanocephalus	✓		✓	✓	✓				
62	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
63	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus					✓			Г	
64	Little Gull	Hydrocoloeus minutus				√			10	Г	
65	Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica						√	2	Г	
66	Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia			2	1				Г	
67	Sandwich Tern	Thalasseus sandvicensis	√		√	√	√			T	
68	Little Tern	Sternula albifrons	✓		√	√	√			T	
69	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	√		√	√	√		√	T	
70	Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida			√	✓			✓		
71	White-winged Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus	√		√	√			√	\vdash	
72	Black Tern	Chlidonias niger	•		√	√	√		√	\vdash	
73	Black Stork	Ciconia nigra	√	√	√	√	√		√	+	
74	White Stork	Ciconia ciconia	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
75	Pygmy Cormorant	Microcarbo pygmaeus	V	_ v	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	V	✓ ✓	✓ ✓		
76	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo			✓ ✓	✓ ✓	√	✓ ✓	√		

	I = Introduced √ = recorded to only	April/May 2022									
	Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	
77	European Shag	Gulosus aristotelis				✓	✓				
78	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus			√			✓		~	
79	Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia			√			√	√		
80	Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus					√		1		
81	Eurasian Bittern	Botaurus stellaris			Н						
82	Little Bittern	Ixobrychus minutus				2		√	1		
83	Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax						√	√		
84	Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides			√	√		√	√		
85	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	√		√	√	√	√	√	V	
86	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea			√	√	√				
87	Great Egret	Ardea alba			√	√			√		
88	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	√		√	√	√	/	√		
89	Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus			120	•		· ✓	√		
90	Dalmatian Pelican	Pelecanus crispus			6	2		\ \	√		
91	Egyptian Vulture	Neophron percnopterus		√				, v	7		
92	European Honey Buzzard	Pernis apivorus		V	2	2			√		
93	Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus		√	_				V		
94	Cinereous Vulture	Aegypius monachus		√	1						
95	Short-toed Snake Eagle	Circaetus gallicus		✓ ✓	1	1					
96	Lesser Spotted Eagle	Clanga pomarina			1	2		,	,		
97	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus		√ √	'			√	✓		
98	Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos		V					1		
99	Levant Sparrowhawk	•			2	1		,			
	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter brevipes		,		1		√	✓	V	
100	·	Accipiter nisus		✓				✓	,		
101	Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	√		✓	✓	✓		√ 4		
102	Black Kite	Milvus migrans	✓	✓	4	_			1		
103	White-tailed Eagle	Haliaeetus albicilla	4		1	2					
104	Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus	1						2		
105	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	✓	✓	✓	✓		√	✓		
106	Little Owl	Athene noctua						1		1	
107	Eurasian Scops Owl	Otus scops							Н		
108	Tawny Owl	Strix aluco	Н		Н						
109	Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
110	European Roller	Coracias garrulus				4				3	
111	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis						✓			
112	European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	
113	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocoptes medius		√							
114	Syrian Woodpecker	Dendrocopos syriacus		✓				√			
115	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major							√		
116	European Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis		Н		Н					
117	Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni					✓				
118	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	✓	✓	√	√	✓		✓		
119	Red-footed Falcon	Falco vespertinus		✓	√		✓	√			
120	Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo		✓	✓	✓	√	√			
121	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus						1			
122	Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio		√	√	√	√		√		
123	Lesser Grey Shrike	Lanius minor							✓		
124	Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator		√		√			-		
125	Masked Shrike	Lanius nubicus		· ✓		2	/				
126	Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus	√	Н		Н	Н	/	/	_	

	I = Introduced √ = recorded I only	April/May 2022									
	Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	
127	Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius			1		✓	√		√	
128	Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica		✓	√	✓	√	√	√	V	
129	Western Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula	√		√	✓	✓	√	√	√	
130	Rook	Corvus frugilegus								1	
131	Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix	√	V							
132	Northern Raven	Corvus corax		√	√	√		√			
133	Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus		Н	√						
134	Great Tit	Parus major		√	√			√	√		
135	Eurasian Penduline Tit	Remiz pendulinus			Н	√	Н	Н	Н		
136	Woodlark	Lullula arborea		√	√	√					
137	Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis			√						
138	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	√	√	√	√	√		√	_	
139	Greater Short-toed Lark	Calandrella brachydactyla	√		√						
140	Calandra Lark	Melanocorypha calandra	√		√						
141	Sand Martin	Riparia riparia			√	√		√	√	\vdash	
142	Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris						✓		\vdash	
143	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
144	Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	√	· ✓	√	· ✓	· ✓	√	√		
145	Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica	√	√	•	√	√	\ \	√		
146	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	•	•	√	√		Н	Н	H,	
147	Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus			•	•		/	√	\vdash	
148	Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	Phylloscopus orientalis		√				V	V	-	
149	Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita		√					√	-	
150	Great Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus arundinaceus		V	Н			√	Н	-	
151	Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus			√			•			
152	Eurasian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus				√		√			
153	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	Iduna pallida		Н		Н			√	Т	
154	Icterine Warbler	Hippolais icterina							1	Т	
155	Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla		Н					Н	Т	
156	Lesser Whitethroat	Curruca curruca		1						T	
157	Eastern Orphean Warbler	Curruca crassirostris						1			
158	Sardinian Warbler	Curruca melanocephala		√		√					
159	Eastern Subalpine Warbler	Curruca cantillans				✓				\vdash	
160	Common Whitethroat	Curruca communis			√	✓			/		
161	Western Rock Nuthatch	Sitta neumayer						1		\vdash	
162	Short-toed Treecreeper	Certhia brachydactyla		√						\vdash	
163	Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Ι,	
164	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus		•	·	•	√	_	Ť	T	
165	Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	√	√	√		-	√			
166	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata		√	,			√	√	\vdash	
167	European Robin	Erithacus rubecula		√				,	_		
168	Common Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	Н	√	Н	√	Н	Н	Н	H	
169	Common Rock Thrush	Monticola saxatilis	<u> </u>	•	<u> </u>	•		1	_	Ť	
170	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius						2		\vdash	
171	Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra		√					1	\vdash	
172	Eastern Black-eared	Oenanthe melanoleuca		√	√			2	·	+	
	Wheatear										
173	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus							✓		
174	Spanish Sparrow	Passer hispaniolensis	√		√	✓	✓				
175	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	√	١,							

	I = Introduced ✓ = recorded but not counted. H = heard only			April/May 2022									
	Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5			
176	Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava		√	√	√	√	√	√				
177	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba		√	√				√				
178	Red-throated Pipit	Anthus cervinus	Н										
179	Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris			1	1							
180	Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs		√	√	√							
181	European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris		√	√								
182	Common Linnet	Linaria cannabina					√						
183	European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	✓	√	√	√	√	√	√				
184	European Serin	Serinus serinus		√									
185	Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra	✓	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			
186	Ortolan Bunting	Emberiza hortulana						1					
187	Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus	√	√	√			√		√			
188	Black-headed Bunting	Emberiza melanocephala			√				√				

Other vertebrates

Common name Scientific name

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES:

European Pond Turtle Emys orbicularis Spur-thighed Tortoise Testudo graeca Hermann's Tortoise Testudo hermanni Balkan Terrapin Mauremys rivulata Turkish Gecko Hemidactylus turcicus Balkan Emerald Lizard Lacerta trilineata Lacerta viridis Eastern Green Lizard Erhard's Wall Lizard Podarcis erhardii Crimean Wall Lizard Podarcis tauricus European Glass Lizard Pseudopus apodus Grass Snake Natrix natrix Dice Snake Natrix tessellata Agile Frog Rana dalmatina Marsh Frog Pelophylax ridibundus

MAMMALS:

Red Fox
Vulpes vulpes
Stone Marten
Martes foina
Least Weasel
Mustela nivalis
European Roe Deer
Capreolus capreolus
European Hare
Lepus europaeus
Coypu – (Introduced)
Myocastor coypus

Invertebrates

Common name Scientific name

BUTTERFLIES:

Eastern Festoon

Southern Festoon

Scarce Swallowtail

Swallowtail

Large White

Zerynthia cerisyi

Zerynthia polyxena

Iphiclides podalirius

Papilio machaon

Pieris brassicae

Common name Scientific name

BUTTERFLIES:

Small White Pieris rapae Eastern Bath White Pontia edusa Eastern Dappled White Euchloe ausonia

Anthocharis cardamines Orange Tip

Clouded Yellow Colias crocea Brimstone Gonopteryx rhamni Green Hairstreak Callophrys rubi **Small Copper** Lycaena phlaeas Grecian Copper Lycaena ottomana Green-underside Blue Glaucopsyche alexis **Brown Argus** Arica agrestis Escher's Blue Agrodiaetus escheri Common Blue Polyommatus icarus Small Tortoiseshell Aglais urticae Red Admiral Vanessa atalanta Painted Lady Vanessa cardui Comma Butterfly Polygonia c-album Glanville Fritillary Melitaea cinxia

Queen of Spain Fritillary Issoria lathonia Speckled Wood Pararge aegeria Wall Brown Lasiommata megera

Plants

Scientific Name **Common Name**

PINOPSIDA CONIFERS

Cupressaceae Juniper Family Cupressus sempervirens Italian Cypress Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus Prickly Juniper

Ephedraceae Joint Pine Family

Ephedra foeminea Joint Pine

Pinaceae Pine Family Turkish Pine Pinus halepensis subsp. brutia Black Pine Pinus nigra Pinus sylvestris Scots Pine

FLOWERING PLANTS **MAGNOLIOPSIDA**

Aceraceae **Maple Family** Acer hyrcanum Balkan Maple Acer monspessulanum Montpelier Maple Acer platanoides Norway Maple

Amaranthaceae **Pigweed Family** Amaranthus albus White Pigweed Amaranthus retroflexus Common Amaranth Atriplex prostrata Spear-leaved Orache

Chenopodium album Fat Hen

Common Name

Anarcardiaceae Cotinus coggyria Pistacia terebinthus **Sumach Family** Smoke-tree **Turpentine Tree**

Apiaceae

Carrot Family Ground Elder Aegopodium podagraria Lesser Water-parsnip

Berula erecta Bunium ferulaceum Chaerophyllum temulum Conium maculatum

Rough Chervil Hemlock a Wild Carrot Field Eryngo a Ferulago Hogweed

Balkan Pignut

Daucus carota subsp. maximus Eryngium campestre Ferulago sylvatica Heracleum sphondylium

Myrrhoides nodosa

Orlaya daucoides Physospermum cornubiense Pimpinella saxifraga Smyrnium perfoliata Torilis japonica Torilis nodosa Torilis ucranica

an Orlaya Bladder Nut **Burnet Saxifrage** Perfoliate Alexanders Upright Hedge Parsley Knotted Hedge Parsley

Aquifoliaceae

Holly Family Holly

Ilex aquifolium

Aralaceae Ivy Family Hedera helix lvy

Aristolochiaceae Aristolochia clematitis Aristolochia pallida Aristolochia rotunda

Birthwort Family Common Birthwort

Round-leaved Birthwort

Asclepiadacae

Cionura erecta

Cynanchum acutum Periploca graeca

Milkweed Family

Stranglewort Silk-vine

Asteraceae

Daisy Family Anthemis arvensis Corn Chamomile Arctium minus Lesser Burdock Bellis perennis Daisy Family Carduus pycnocephalus Plymouth Thistle

Carduus thoermeri Centaurea cyanus Chamaemelum nobile Chrondrilla juncea Cichorum intybus

Cornflower Chamomile Chrondrilla Chicory

Creeping Thistle Cirsium arvense Cirsium vulgare Spear Thistle Filago vulgaris Common Cudweed

Lapsana communis

Matricaria recutita Mycelis muralis

Onopordum tauricum

Picris echioides
Silybum marianum
Sonchus asper
Taraxacum officinale
Tephroseris integrifolia

Tragopogon dubius
Tragopogon porrifolius
Tragopogon pratensis

Xanthium spinosum

Betulaceae

Alnus glutinosa Carpinus betulus Carpinus orientalis

Corylus avellana

Ostrya carpinifolia

Boraginaceae

Anchusa arvensis
Anchusa officinalis

Cynoglossum creticum

Echium italicum Echium vulgare Onosma heterophylla Symphytum ottomanum

Brassicaceae

Alliaria petiolata Alyssum minus Arabis turrita Aurinia saxatile Barbarea sicula Berteroa obliqua

Calepina irregularis
Capsella bursa-pastoris
Erysimum cuspidatum
Erysimum diffusum
Erysimum drenowski
Hesperis sylvestris

Raphanus raphinastrum

Rorippa amphibia

Rorippa nasturtium-aquticum

Rorippa sylvestris

Sinapis alba
Sinapis arvensis
Sisymbrium irio
Sisymbrium officinale
Sisymbrium orientale

Common Name

Nipplewort

Scented Mayweed Wall Lettuce

_

Bristly Oxtongue
Milk Thistle
Pickly Sowthistle
Dandelion

a Goats-beard Salsify Goat's-beard Spiny Cocklebur

Birch Family

Alder Hornbeam

Oriental Hornbeam

Hazel

Hop Hornbeam

Borage Family

Small Bugloss Alkanet

Blue Hound's-tomgue

Pale Bugloss Viper's Bugloss Golden Drops a Comfrey

Cabbage Family

Garlic Mustard an Alyssum Towercress Basket of Gold a Wintercess an Alison

White Ball Mustard Shepherd's Purse a Treacle Mustard a Treacle Mustard a Treacle Mustard

_

Wild Raddish

Great Yellow-cress

Watercress

Creeping Yellow-cress

White Mustard Charlock London Rocket Hedge Mustard Eastern Rocket

Common Name

Campanulaceae

Campanula lingulata

Legousia speculum-veneris

Bellflower Family

Large Venus's Looking-glass

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera caprifolium Sambucus ebulus

Sambucus nigra

Honeysuckle Family

Perfoliate Honeysuckle

Thyme-leaved Sandwort

Dwarf Elder Elderberry

Pink Family

Corncockle

Caryophyllaceae

Agrostemma githago

Arenaria serpyllifoia subsp. leptoclados

Kohlrauschia glumacea Minuartia saxifraga Moenchia mantica Petrorhagia obcordata Petrorhagia velutina

Silene dichotoma Forked Catchfly Sliene italica Italian Catchfly Silene latifolia White Campion

Silene subconica Silene tenuiflora

Silene vulgaris Stellaria graminea Stellaria media

Bladder Campion Lesser Stitchwort Chickweed

Cistaceae

Cistus creticus Cistus laurifolius

Rock-rose Family

Convolvulaceae

Calystegia sepium

Convolvulus althaeoides

Bindweed Family

Hedge Bindweed

Mallow-leaved Bindweed

Cornaceae

Cornus sanguinea

Dogwood Family

Stonecrop Family

Dogwood

Crassulaceae

Sedum hispanicum Umbilicus rupestris

Navelwort

Dipsacaceae

Dipsacus fullonum

Knautia orientalis

Teasel Family Teasel

Ericaceae

Erica arborea

Heath Family

Tree Heath

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia amygdaloides

Euphorbia characias Euphorbia cyparissias Euphorbia helioscopia

Spurge Family

Wood Spurge

Large Mediterranean Spurge

Cypress Spurge Sun Spurge

Common Name

Euphorbia myrsinites Euphorbia seguieriana Broad-leaved Glaucous Spurge

Fabaceae

Pea Family Desert False Indigo

Amorpha fruticosa Astragalus hamosus

Calicotome villosa Hairy Thorny Broom Colutea arborescens Bladder Senna Cytisus hirsutus Hairy Broom

Cytisus triflorus

Dorycnium pentaphyllum

False Senna Hippocrepis emerus

Lathyrus laxiflous Lathyrus sphaericus Lathyrus venetus

Lotus corniculatus Bird's-foot Trefoil Medicago arabica Spotted Medick Medicago lupulina Black Medick Medicago minima **Bur Medick** Melilotus officinalis Ribbed Melilot

Ornithopus compressus Compressed Bird's-foot

Robinia pseudacacia False Acacia Spartium junceum Spanish Broom Trifolium arvense Hare's-foot Clover Trifolium campestre Hop Trefoil White Clover Trifolium repens

Vicia grandiflora

Vicia hirsuta Hairy Tare

Vicia melanops

Vicia tetrasperma Smooth Tare Vicia villosa Fodder vetch

Fagaceae

Beech Family Sweet Chestnut Castanea sativa

Fagus sylvatica Beech Quercus coccifera Kermes Oak Quercus frainetto Hungarian Oak Quercus pubescens Downy Oak

Fumariaceae

Fumitory Family Fumaria capreolata White Ramping Fumitory

Fumaria parviflora

Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium Common Stork's-bill Erodium malacoides Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill Geranium dissectum Cut-leaved Crane's-bill Geranium molle Dove's-foot Cranes's-bill Herb Robert

Geranium robertianum

Geranium sanguineum Bloody Crane's-bill

Hypericaceae

Hypericum cerastioides

St. John's- Wort Family

Geranium family

Common Name

Juglandaceae

Juglans regia

Lamiaceae

Ajuga genevensis Glechoma hirsuta

Lamiastrum galeobdolon Lamium amplexicaule

Lamium maculatum Marrubium peregrinum Stachys sylvatica Thymus longicaulis

Thymus pulegioides

Malvaceae Malva sylvestris

MenyanthaceaeNymphoides peltata

Nympnoides peitata

Ficus carica Morus alba Morus nigra

Moraceae

Nymphaeaceae Nymphaea alba

Oleaceae Fraxinus ornus Jasminum fruticans Phillyrea latifolia

OrobanchaceaeParentucellia latifolia

Papaveraceae

Hypercoum imberbe Papaver albiflorum

Papaver rhoeas

Plantaginaceae

Linaria genistifolia Linaria pelisseriana Plantago arenaria Plantago coronopus Plantago lagopus Plantago lanceolata Plantago major

PlatanaceaePlatanus orientalis

Walnut Family

Walnut

Dead-nettle Family

Blue Bugle

-

Yellow Archangel

Henbit

Spotted Dead-nettle Branched Horehound Hedge Woundwort

-

Large Thyme

Mallow family Common Mallow

Bogbean family Fringed Water-lily

Mulberry Family

Fig

White Mulberry
Common Mulberry

Water-lily Family White Water-lily

Olive Family Flowering Ash Wild Jasmine Phillyrea

Broomrape Family

Poppy Family

Common Poppy

Plantain Family

Jersey Toadflax Branched Plantain Buck's-horn Plantain Hare's-tail Plantain Ribwort Plantain Greater Plantain

Plane Tree Family Oriental Plane

Common Name

Polygonaceae

Persicaria amphibia Polygonum aviculare Rumex acetosella Rumex conglomeratus Rumex crispus

Rumex palustris Rumex sanguineus

Ranunculaceae

Anemone coronaria

Anemone hortensis subsp. pavonina

Clematis vitalba Ranunculus muricatus Ranunculus sardous Ranunculus sceleratus

Ranunculus trichophyllus

Resedaceae

Reseda lutea

Rhamnaceae

Paliuris spina-christi

Roseaceae

Agrimonia eupatoria Crataegus monogyna

Fragaria vesca Geum urbanum Potentilla argentea Prunus spinosa Pyrus amygdaliformis

Pyrus pyraster Rubus fruticosa agg. Sanguisorba minor

Rubiaceae

Galium aparine Sheradia arvensis

Salicaceae

Populus nigra
Populus tremula

Populus x canadensis

Scrophulariaceae

Verbascum sinuatum

Verbascum xanthophoenicium

Knotweed Family

Amphibious Bistort

Knotgrass Sheep's Sorrel Clustered Dock Curled Dock Marsh Dock Wood Dock

Buttercup Family

Crown Anemone Peacock Anemone Traveller's Joy

Rough-fruited Buttercup

Hairy Buttercup

Celery-leaved Buttercup
Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot

Mignonette Family

Wild Mignonette

Buckthorn Family

Christ's Thorn

Rose Family

Agrimony Hawthorn Wild Strawberry

Herb Bennet
Hoary Cinquefoil
Blackthorn

Almond-leaved Pear

Wild Pear Bramble Salad Burnet

Bedstraw Family

Cleavers Field Madder

Willow Family

Black Poplar Aspen

Italian Black Poplar

Figwort Family

a Mullein

Solanaceae N

Solanum dulcamara Solanum nigrum

Nightshade Family

Bittersweet

Black Nightshade

Common Name

Tamaricaceae

Tamarix parviflora

Lime Tree Family

Tamarisk Family

Tiliaceae Tilia tomentosa

Silver Lime

Ulmaceae Celtis australis Ulmus minor

Elm Family Nettle Tree Small-leaved Elm

Urticaceae

Nettle Family

Parietaria officinalis Urtica dioica Urtica pilulifera Urtica urens

Large Pellitory of the Wall Common Nettle Roman Nettle

Violaceae Viola odorata Viola sieheana **Violet Family** Sweet Violet

Small Nettle

Vitaceae

Grape-vine Family

Vitis vinifera subsp. sylvestris

Grape-vine

Liliidae

Asparagaceae

Asparagus Family Prickly Asparagus Tassel Hyacinth

Asparagus acutifolius Leopoldia(Muscari) comosa

Muscari neglectum

Ornithogalum montanum

Ornithogalum nutans Ornithogalum oligophyllum Drooping Star of Bethlehem

Asphodelaceae

Asphodel Family Asphodeline lutea

Asphodelus ramosus

Yellow Asphodel Branched Asphodel

Araceae

Arum family Italian Arum

Arum italicum subsp. italicum Lords and Ladies Arum maculatum Dracunculus vulgaris Dragon Arum

Flowering Rush family

Butomus umbellatus Flowering Rush

Dioscoreaceae

Butomaceae

Yam Family

Dioscorea(Tamus) communis

Black Bryony

Iridaceae

Iris family

Iris pseudacorus Iris reichenbachii Yellow Flag

Reichenbach's Iris

Orchidaceae

Anacamptis papilionacea Limodorum arbortivum Ophrys sphegodes subsp. taurica **Common Name**

Orchid Family
Pink Butterfly Orchid
Violet Limadore