

# Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Private Group – Natural History Society of Northumbria

Naturetrek Tour Report

2 - 11 September 2019



White-tailed Eagle



Great White Pelican



Silver-washed Fritillary



Red-backed Shrike

Report & images by Matt Collis



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Tour participants: Matt Collis (leader), Florin Stavarache (local guide) with 13 group members

## Day 1

Monday 2nd September

### Arrival – Bucharest

Meeting in the arrival gate of Bucharest's Otopeni Airport, the group were met by Naturetrek leader Matt, Romanian guide Florin and our driver Christian, who warmly welcomed the group before leading them away to our transport for the trip. Having arrived late in the afternoon, the group were taken to a nearby hotel where they had the opportunity to freshen up before an evening meal and a more detailed introduction to the tour. Unlike the standard itinerary, our trip would be starting in the Dobrogea region en route to Tulcea and the Danube Delta, followed by a few days exploring the spectacular Transylvanian forest of the Carpathian Mountains.

With appetites sufficiently whetted and all formalities completed, it was time to head off to bed ready for the beginning of our 10-day adventure in Romania, beginning tomorrow morning.

## Day 2

Tuesday 3rd September

### Vadu and Babadag Plateau

Following a minor delay, we started our day joining the highway and heading east towards Tulcea, breaking up our long drive with a few stops along the way. The initial part of the journey was through the intensively flat and farmed landscapes which are typical of the Dobrogea region, with the only birds of note being many beautiful Rollers and European Bee-eaters which perched on roadside wires. It wasn't until we reached the coastal pools of Vadu when our birdwatching truly began but this time with a mammal, our first Souslik, better known as the European Ground Squirrel and a common inhabitant of this area.

With the Souslik having been scared off by the hovering Rooks, we left the bus to begin our first walk of the day. We barely got a few metres before birds were being spotted thick and fast. Starlings, Bee-eaters, Yellow Wagtails and Corn Bunting frequently passed overhead, while a few smart looking Northern Wheatears, Crested Larks and Red-backed Shrikes could also be seen perched on various rocks and fence posts, unfazed by our appearance. A single Hoopoe which perched just a few metres from us before flying off to a more distant stone perch was a clear crowd-pleaser, as was the appearance of our first raptor, a light-phase Booted Eagle which sat grounded on a mound, tucking into one of the Sousliks we'd seen earlier.

Once we'd finally managed to take more than a few steps without another new bird, we spent the next few hours exploring the site, particularly focusing on a couple of the shallow marshy ponds in the hope of picking out some waders. We weren't disappointed: within about 20 minutes we had picked out Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover, Wood Sandpiper, Ruff and a Temminck's Stint, all from the same small pool of water. Little Gull, Caspian Tern and the odd Dalmatian Pelican flying overhead added to the excitement, but it was the appearance, if not all too brief, of a Broad-billed Sandpiper which was the cherry on the cake. At the second larger pool we managed to add a few new species of wader including Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Dunlin, Avocet and Black-winged Stilt whilst also picking out a couple of terns perched together, both Common and Whiskered Tern.

Returning to the bus, we briefly stopped in a local cafe for a refreshing ice cream and a packed lunch, before heading off towards Babadag Plateau and the Babadag Forest. We spent a good hour walking around the site, picking up our first Spotted Flycatcher, another Booted Eagle, a mega flock of Bee-eaters and few common passerines, including some beautifully white-headed Long-tailed Tits. A couple of Balkan Wall Lizards became our first reptiles of the trip but unfortunately, we saw no others. Our visit ended with a very distant Pallid/Montagu's Harrier which we were unable to distinguish at such a distance. After a long day of travelling and birding, we were pleased to arrive in Tulcea at our lovely guesthouse, where some heart-warming soup and a home-cooked meal finished our day off perfectly.

## Day 3

Wednesday 4th September

### Celec-Dere & the Macin Mountains

First stop of the day was to the Parches viewpoint overlooking the Danube Delta; a spectacular vantage point giving amazing panoramic views over a small section of this magnificent wetland. Although we spent little time focused on picking out birds, we still managed a few nice sightings including Great Egret, Great Cormorant and a large skein of Greylag coming in to land. From the viewpoint we encountered another Souselik which provided the photographers plenty of opportunities for close shots before it scurried away into its burrow. A couple of Turtle Dove overhead and a dead Grass Snake by the side of the road were our other sightings of interest here.

We then moved on to Celec-Dere to walk around the grounds of the monastery, where the vegetation was alive with birds from the moment we got there. One fenced corner, proving particularly productive, gave us excellent views of Common Redstart, Pied Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher and Red-breasted Flycatcher all within five minutes. Excitement rose when the first of many Middle Spotted Woodpeckers appeared on a neighbouring tree, as did a Syrian Woodpecker and Great Spotted Woodpecker which were both a little more elusive. Continuing our walk around the site we crossed an open orchard where Bee-eaters, Spotted Flycatcher and Yellow Wagtail were abundant, but the special bird here was a Grey-headed Woodpecker which bounded low between the fruit trees as it attempted to stay out of sight.

Dropping down into a woodland clearing, we came across a thistle patch alive with butterflies; Silver-washed Fritillary was by far the most abundant, but a Silver-studded Blue, Lesser Fiery Copper and Clouded Yellow were also seen here as was a Hummingbird Hawk-moth which drew much attention. More Red-breasted Flycatchers were seen, as was a large number of Hawfinch, viewable through the scope, perched in the tops of trees.

For lunch we travelled to a well known picnic spot at the foot of the Macin Mountains, which was quiet for birds except a lone Hoopoe which also didn't stick around for long. Refuelled, we headed along the base of the mountain, birding between the loose woodland and steppe habitats. Here we encountered some excellent birds, including a large flock of Woodlark, a Black-eared Wheatear, Middle Spotted Woodpecker and a number of Sombre Tits. With the day drawing to an end, we began to head back to the vehicle, but not before two new raptors appeared, with a close fly-by of a Steppe Buzzard and a more distant view of two Levant Sparrowhawks actively hunting over the neighbouring woodland.

Returning to Tulcea, it was time to leave our trusty minibus and begin the next part of our adventure aboard the floating hotel. Once onboard, we settled ourselves into our cabins before coming onto deck for our first of many three-course meals backdropped by the Delta.

## Day 4

Thursday 5th September

### Danube Delta

Having slept reasonably well aboard the boat, the group were up and ready for a full day exploring the various channels in and around the Danube Delta. Leaving the floating hotel behind, we boarded our smaller boat which enabled us to navigate the smaller channels. The morning route included a trip through Sirasi Channel, followed by a looped route back to the main channel via Furtuna Lake and Sontaa Lake.

Birding was excellent from the start, with a Little Bittern our first new bird of day which posed wonderfully for several minutes before walking off into the undergrowth. This was one of many herons seen during the morning, including lots of Black-crowned Night Herons, Squacco and Grey Herons. Other birds which were notably common included Coots, Moorhens, Little Egrets, Great Egrets, a variety of Terns, several Gulls and many many Kingfishers; at least 50 of these sapphire gems were seen, with three seen flying in tandem! Pygmy Cormorant, Bee-eater, Caspian Gull and several waders including Wood, Green and Common Sandpipers were all seen on numerous occasions, whilst White Pelican, Black Stork and the magnificent White-tailed Eagle were seen regularly flying overhead. The highlight of the morning came when one eagle perched on the top of a dead tree next to the boat which allowed everyone to get stunning photos.

Whilst passing Nebunu lake, a protected area of the delta where boats are now allowed to enter, we were able to watch a mass gathering of thousands of birds including many either new to our day or the trip: Ruff, Greenshank, Teal, Lapwing, Caspian Tern, Garganey, Spotted Redshank and Black-tailed Godwit. Some additional special encounters included a male and female Red-footed Falcon flying high above the delta, a Grass Snake which swam next to the boat, and an array of Terns including Whiskered, Sandwich, Common, Black, and White-winged Terns all seen in various plumages giving great opportunities for comparison.

Having travelled a bit further into the delta during lunch, we took a second voyage aboard our small boat, searching along Chaamurila Channel and Litcov Channel ending at Iacob Lake. The channels provided many of the same species we'd seen earlier in the day but with a few notable encounters including a second Little Bittern seen flying across the channel just in front of the boat, a calling Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and our first Purple Herons. Our arrival at the lake was a special experience as immediately to our right, just 50 metres away, stood a group of approximately 60 magnificent White Pelicans. Although a small group took off, the majority stayed, giving us excellent views of their comically beautiful facial mask and bill and adorable personalities.

In addition to the Pelicans, the lake was teeming with bird life and we spent a long time scanning from the boat. Alive with Whiskered Tern, Coots, Herons and Greylag Geese, other birds of note included smaller groups of Garganey and Shoveler, a hunting Hobby and hundreds of Ferruginous Ducks which flew into the heavily vegetated areas to feed. To top off a great day's birding, we also had a lovely encounter with a small group of Bearded Tits which showed nicely for a few minutes before heading on their way. Our first full day on the delta was complete, so it was back to the floating hotel for a lovely three-course dinner before a restful and relaxed evening moored up in the delta.

## Day 5

## Friday 6th September

### Danube Delta

Our second day aboard the boat saw us visit Caraorman, an old sand quarry with a post-apocalyptic looking town defined by many towering shells of buildings built on a rather barren sandy landscape. Fortunately for us, much of the area had been recolonised by nature and many of the quarries were now a series of brackish wetland pools. It was here we spent most of our time picking out a large number of Caspian Terns, Black-headed Gulls and a wide variety of waders including a Curlew, Black-winged Stilt, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Avocet and Black-tailed Godwit. Away from the water we found a few other good birds, including our first cuckoo sat on an electric pylon, a Little Owl perched inside the roof of an abandoned building, and two Spoonbills which flew over just as we were about to leave.

Our journeys up and down the channels were equally productive with many birds spotted just metres away, foraging in the shallows of the banks. Sandpipers were particularly common with Wood, Green and Common Sandpipers seen multiple times, as were Snipe and Greenshank. As for new birds, we managed two others during our morning session: a single Stonechat sat on some Tamarisk and a very confiding Glossy Ibis which posed fantastically for some photos. We also encountered a new reptile, a Dice Snake, which swam along the side of the boat on its way towards the reeds where it rested for a few minutes before slinking away into cover.

Following another delicious three-course lunch and a short siesta, our afternoon session saw us exploring the Bogdaproste channel and stopping off in three large lakes; Lake Bogdaproste, Lake La Amiaza and Trei Iezere. In these channels we encountered habitats of a different kind: banks full of dead standing trees and large open pools of water with enormous rafts of floating lily and other aquatic vegetation, perfect for nesting waterbirds. It was no surprise that woodpeckers featured, with a Grey-headed and Great Spotted Woodpecker both making brief appearances, but a very showy Lesser Spotted Woodpecker perched in the open for several minutes in the glorious sunshine was the stand-out bird of the three.

Once within the lakes we were able to spend time with the engines off stopping to scan for birds. The usual cohorts of Coot, Whiskered Terns, Mute Swans, grebes and ducks were present but there were also plenty of birding gems, including a particularly close view of a Dalmatian Pelican and a single Red-necked Grebe. Closer views of Ferruginous Duck and Garganey were also pleasing, as was a close encounter with two Pygmy Cormorants and a Black-crowned Night Heron which perched artistically on an upright wooden post.

Other birds of note included brief views of some Penduline Tits as they flew over the reeds, a juvenile Great Reed Warbler, several Eurasian Reed Warblers, a Bearded Tit and a Water Rail heard squealing. Away from birds, another highlight from our afternoon was a surprise Raccoon Dog which was spotted foraging on the wooded banks and posed for a few minutes before slinking off over the bank. With the sun setting, we had a delightful 20 minutes slowly making our way to our new mooring point deep within the delta, where we tucked into our evening meal before turning in for the night.

## Day 6

Saturday 7th September

### Danube Delta

Our final day in the delta started with an amazing encounter with eight Bearded Tits appearing in the reeds behind us as we tucked into our breakfast. After a minor scramble as people grabbed binoculars, they were kind enough to linger long enough for all to gain good views as they continued to feed on the reed heads. As if these birds weren't enough of a breakfast treat, a male Red-footed Falcon spotted commuting fast over the reeds was also a welcome sight.

Boarding the small boat for the last time, we explored several new channels and lakes including Lake Ligheanca and Lake cu Ciulini. New birds to our list included a very confident Water Rail which sat out in the open for five minutes calling away, our first proper perched view of Penduline Tit and an Osprey sat in a dead tree. However, bird of the day had to be the fantastic view of a Pallas's Gull which cautiously allowed us to float up to it, about 30 metres away, before taking to the air and giving us some great in-flight views. What a cracker of a bird!

Other good encounters included more White Pelicans but this time busily feeding in a group of about 50 birds, another close encounter with a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, and a Squacco Heron which had predated the most enormous Marsh Frog and was having great trouble trying to negotiate it into its mouth – we will never know the outcome. Other notable encounters included more Ferruginous duck, a lone Pochard and some nice close views of Garganey; a bird which up until now had been very flighty.

After returning to the boat for lunch, we began our long afternoon aboard the floating hotel as we were tugged back through the touristic channels back toward Tulcea to spend the evening. With the weather so hot, and many birds now inactive, most of the group took the opportunity for some much-needed leisure time, either choosing to read books, have a drink or attempting to get photos of the numerous dragonflies and damselflies which were landing on our boat. Once back in Tulcea, we disembarked the boat to walk along the promenade and stretch our legs before our last evening meal and an early night in preparation for tomorrow's transfer day.

## Day 7

Sunday 8th September

### Drive Tulcea to Zarnesti

Having spent three wonderful days aboard the floating hotel, it was now time to disembark and make our way to Zarnesti in the Carpathian Mountains. This meant a rather long drive, crossing from eastern to central Romania and entering the region of Transylvania. Although this meant a significant amount of our day was spent on the road, we did stop several times for both loo breaks and some birdwatching at some lakes en route, including Hasarlac and Glodeanu.

Most of our encounters were with familiar species found during our time in the Delta: Mallard, Pochard, Garganey, Little Grebe, Greylag Geese and several waders, including Wood Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper and Snipe. The reed beds on the periphery provided a few smaller birds of interest including Reed Warblers, Willow Warbler and a few tantalising calls from Penduline Tit, Bearded Tit and a Water Rail, although none were seen well on this occasion. The only new bird for our list was a couple of Black-necked Grebe which were spotted milling around with the large numbers of Little Grebe, giving people a good challenge picking them out.

Away from the lakes we did encounter a few other good birds, either occupying the neighbouring farmland/steppe habitat or spotted from the bus. Red-footed Falcon was particularly prevalent with birds seen on at least four different occasions. Another pale-morph Booted Eagle gave good close views and although a Short-toed Eagle was spotted, we had no possible means of stopping to take a better look, so it remained a 'from the bus' tick for our list.

Arriving into the mountainous areas of Transylvania, there was a notable change in habitat with the open landscape of the lowlands transformed into rolling vast areas of Pine Forest mixed with luscious areas of grassland and small-hold farmland. Arriving late into the afternoon we didn't have time to look or explore locally but a brief stop allowed us to pick up our first Ravens and a Nutcracker – a good omen for the days to come!

## Day 8

Monday 9th September

### Stramba Valley & Bran Castle

Following a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast, we travelled out about an hour to Stramba Valley; a woodland-glade walk at the foot of a mixed Pine and Beech forest. Before we'd reached the valley, however, we spent a short while checking some of the neighbouring fields for Lesser Spotted Eagle but only found Common Buzzards and many Grey Herons. Our fortunes changed when, just before reaching the valley, we managed to catch up with a Lesser Spotted Eagle temptingly perched on top of a pylon right next to the road. Finding somewhere safe to stop, we carefully disembarked and enjoyed fantastic close views of just 30 metres away watching this adult in its prime.

Once we'd reached the valley, we spent the next few hours wandering up the well-established gravel track occasionally veering into the neighbouring grasslands to hunt for butterflies. We did well for butterflies with a few new ones to add to our list including Large Copper, Eastern Short-tailed Blue and Chestnut Heath. These weren't the only insects we found either, as we spent a delightful few minutes with a Field Cricket tempted out of its burrow with a grass stem, and a couple of Migrant Hawker which were seen patrolling the adjacent stream.

The early part of the morning was the most fruitful for birds, with many Nutcrackers seen flying over, many Willow Warblers and Chiffchaff flitting around the scrub, and well over 1,000 House Martins dancing in the skies above us, gleaning insects on their southerly migration. A highlight for many was having further views of Lesser Spotted Eagle, including one moment when five were in the air at once. A few new birds encountered included much-improved sightings of Marsh Tit, a group of four Whinchat picking at seed heads in the grass, a brief fly-over Siskin and a perched Tree Pipit which called loudly, drawing our attention.

We also encountered several mammals and a reptile here. A group of three Red Deer came sprinting across the path, spooked by an oncoming vehicle, a Roe Deer stood frozen a few metres from the track, seemingly oblivious of our group until the last moment, and a Common Viper (Adder) was spotted basking by the side of the track before slowing slinking onto the adjacent bank, allowing everyone the chance to see it. Unfortunately, though, the best mammal of the day was only spotted by our driver Christian who had three Stoats while following us in the bus a bit later.

After lunch we stopped off at Pestera to take in an epic panoramic view of the Carpathians, including the Piastra Craiului ridge which forms a striking backdrop to the valley below. From here we headed to Bran Castle, a 13th-

century castle built on top of the rocks which is the supposed home of Vlad the Impaler and Dracula and, more recently, the much beloved and revered Queen Marie of Romania. Here we spent the rest of the afternoon either walking around the castle or exploring the neighbouring market and park. Between us we managed a few good birds, including a Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Hawfinch and a White-throated Dipper foraging underneath a rather dingy-looking bridge – hardly the place for such a lovely looking bird. It was then back to the hotel for our evening meal before retreating to our rooms for the night.

## Day 9

Tuesday 10th September

### Zarnesti Gorge & Bear Hide

Following breakfast, the best part of the day was spent in Zarnesti Gorge: a two-kilometre corridor of vertical limestone walls exceeding 200 metres in places, creating a dramatic atmosphere in which to walk and explore. Driving the first part of the track, we closely flanked the stream in search of White-throated Dipper and Grey Wagtail and got lucky when both were seen perched together on the edge of a small waterfall, allowing us to get within a few metres of them using the minibus. About half-way up the track we disembarked and then took a slow walk up through the dense mature Beech and Pine woodland before entering the main gorge.

Goldcrest, Coal Tit and Marsh Tit were numerous, as were Willow Tit, which showed really well when they came down to feed on the Wild Basil seed heads. Treecreeper could be heard but remained elusive, as did a Black Woodpecker which flew across the path into the nearside woodland where it briefly perched on a thick tree trunk. Despite our best efforts, it remained difficult to see and before long it had moved on, calling as it went. A bonus of this encounter was it drew our attention to a Red Squirrel which sat very close to us up a tree and proved some consolation for those who missed the woodpecker.

Once in the main gorge we spent a lot of time scouring the cliffs for both Chamois and Wallcreeper but alas neither appeared at any point. We did manage to pick up a few other new species here, including a Peregrine Falcon which spent a few minutes circling overhead, while a couple of Robins dropped down on to the path and a juvenile Dunnock fed with the Willow Tit on some seed heads. We also managed to pick up a few new butterflies too, with the highlights a Speckled Wood, a stunning male Wall and a large group of Water Ringlet hanging in a small rocky clearing.

After lunch we made our way towards Coltul Chiliilor via the National Park visitor centre where we stopped to take a brief look around and learn a bit more about the local area. Arriving at Coltul Chiliilor, we slowly climbed up through the emerging forest in search of a good view of Nutcracker. Despite several seen flying and many heard calling, it took us a good while before we eventually found two individuals feeding on the ground and had one sat perched on top of a pine which looked wonderful through the scope. We also had a few bonus encounters here, with Tree Pipits, Mistle Thrush, Lesser Whitethroat and a Crested Tit all seen at various points.

Our final stop for the day was at the much-anticipated Brown Bear hide at Plaiul Fcii. Arriving a few hours before dusk, we wandered up to the hide to find a Red Fox sat watching, and as we turned the corner, three enormous Brown Bears were already visible, tucking in at the feed station. We spent the next few hours sat in the hide engrossed as we watched up to five bears taking advantage of this artificial food source and interacting softly, as well as with the five Red Foxes and numerous birds which had come to join the feast. While the majority of the bears were mature males, one young female, seemingly pregnant and with a two-year-old cub in



tow, seemed the most dominant of the bears and appeared to consume most of the food, meaning she stayed the longest.

Once all the food was consumed, it wasn't long before the bears left and we spent our last 20 minutes watching the interactions of the foxes which got very animated when a female appeared to come into heat, causing a lot of screeching and fighting as males lined up to be the best suitor. After a very long day, we arrived back at the hotel to a warm evening's supper before heading off to bed in preparation of making our way back to Bucharest ready for our flights home.

## Day 10

Wednesday 11th September

### Rasnoavei Gorge & Bucharest

Our final day saw our time split between our transfer to Bucharest airport and a short morning walk through Rasnoavei Gorge on our route out of the Carpathians. Although we only had just a short few hours, we still managed to enjoy a lovely walk along the main track flanked by scrub/meadow on one side and dense forest on the other. Many of the birds we saw were found either perched on the tops of trees in the meadow, like Tree Pipit, Whinchat and Blackcap, or feeding on the dead seed heads adjacent to the path, which included Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers and a few Goldfinch. Several Ravens and a pair of Buzzards were seen soaring across the face of the gorge whilst two Lesser Spotted Eagles soared high above the ridge. The addition of a few Hummingbird Hawk-moths and a Red Squirrel added to a rather pleasant and peaceful final walk to cap of our wonderful trip.

Arriving at the airport we said our fond farewells to our wonderful driver Christian, who'd given us all a comfortable and smooth ride the entire trip, and to Florin, our wonderful Romanian guide, whose knowledge of the land, culture and wildlife was second to none.

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## Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			✓	✓					
2	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
4	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	✓					✓			
5	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			
6	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>			✓	✓					
7	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				
8	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
9	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			
10	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			
11	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>			✓	✓	✓				
12	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				1					
13	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓							
16	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				H	✓	H			
18	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			
19	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
20	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			
21	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>				1					
22	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				
23	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>						✓			
24	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓			1					
25	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	✓			1					
26	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓				
27	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	✓			✓					
28	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				1					
29	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>			✓	✓	✓				
30	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	1		✓	✓	✓				
31	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	✓								
32	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	5								
33	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	1								
34	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	1								
35	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	2								
36	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
37	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			✓	✓	✓				
38	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			✓	✓		✓			
39	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			✓						
40	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			
41	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>			✓	✓					
42	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			✓	✓					
43	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
44	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	✓								
45	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>					1				
46	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>			✓	✓	✓				
47	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
48	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓					
49	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			1	1	✓					
50	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			10	✓	✓					
51	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>			✓	✓	✓					
52	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>			8		✓					
53	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>			✓	✓						
54	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			✓	✓						
55	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>			✓	✓	✓					
56	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓					
57	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				1						
58	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				2						
59	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>			✓							
60	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			✓	✓	✓					
61	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	1		✓	✓	✓					
62	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			3	✓	✓					
64	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
65	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓	✓	✓					
66	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			✓	✓	✓					
67	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	✓			1	1					
68	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>					1					
69	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>						1				
70	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>							8	1	2	
71	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	3	✓				1				
72	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>										
73	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>		2								
74	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>						2	1			
75	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>								1		
76	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
77	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	✓									
78	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	✓									
79	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>			✓	✓	✓					
80	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>		✓								
81	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				1						
82	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1	1		1						
83	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓
84	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
85	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
86	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>		4					✓			
87	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>			1	1	✓					
88	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>		2								
89	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
90	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>								✓		
91	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		✓								
92	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓			
93	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
94	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>			2		1	4				
95	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			4	✓	✓					
96	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>								1		
97	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	

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			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
98	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	✓									
99	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓	
100	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
101	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>						1	✓	✓		
102	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓
103	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
104	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
105	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	
106	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>							✓	✓	✓	
107	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>									✓	
108	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>		3								
109	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓	
110	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>									✓	✓
111	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
112	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
113	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>				✓	✓	H				
114	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>			✓	H	8	H				
115	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		30								
116	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓								
117	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓		✓		✓					
118	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
120	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
121	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
122	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
123	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				1	✓					
124	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				✓	✓	✓				
125	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓								✓
126	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>									✓	
127	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>							✓	✓	✓	
128	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			✓						✓	
129	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	
130	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			✓		H		✓	✓	✓	
131	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
132	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	
133	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>							✓	✓		
134	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓					✓	✓	✓	
135	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>								✓		
136	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓			
137	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>									✓	✓
138	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		1								
139	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		✓	✓	✓						
140	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>							2			✓
141	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		✓								
142	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		1					4			1
143	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>				1						
144	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓								
145	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>		1								
146	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>							1	1		
147	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
148	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			✓	✓		✓		✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
149	Dunnoek	<i>Prunella modularis</i>								✓	✓
150	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					
151	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>								✓	✓
152	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
153	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>							✓	✓	✓
154	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
155	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		✓					✓		
156	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓							
157	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓							✓
158	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓								
159	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>								✓	
160	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	✓		✓	✓					

### Mammals

1	Raccoon Dog	<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>				✓					
2	Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>				✓					
3	Eurasian Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>					✓				
4	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>						✓			
5	Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>						3			
6	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>								5	
7	European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos arctos</i>								5	
8	European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>						✓			
9	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>						✓			✓
10	European Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>	✓	✓							

### Amphibians & Reptiles

1	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>							✓		
2	Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>									
3	Edible Frog	<i>Rana kl. esculenta</i>			✓	✓	✓				
4	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibundus</i>			✓	✓	✓				
5	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>			✓						
6	Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>		✓							
7	Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>	✓								
8	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>		✓							
9	Viviparous Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>								✓	
10	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix persa</i>		✓	✓						
11	Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>				✓					
12	Common Viper	<i>Vipera berus</i>							✓		

### Butterflies

1	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	✓								
2	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓	
3	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>								✓	
4	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓					✓	✓	
5	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	✓	✓							
6	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>				✓				✓	
7	Purple Hairstreak	<i>Favonius guercus</i>	✓								
8	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>								✓	
9	Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>							✓		
10	Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>		✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	Eastern Short-tailed Blue	<i>Everes decoloratus</i>							✓		
12	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓				✓			
13	Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>	✓						✓		
14	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>				✓			✓	✓	
15	Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>							✓	✓	
16	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>							✓	✓	✓
17	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonum c-album</i>								✓	
19	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>		✓					✓	✓	
20	Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Clossiana dia</i>							✓		
21	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Kanetisa circe</i>	✓	✓							
22	Water Ringlet	<i>Erebia pronoe</i>							✓		
23	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓				✓			
24	Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>						✓			
25	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria tircis</i>							✓		
26	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>							✓		



Black-crowned Night Heron



Pallas's Gull