

Romania – Wildlife of Transylvania

Naturetrek Tour Report

31 May – 7 June 2014



Black-veined Moth



Brown Bear



Narcissus poeticus



The Black Church, Brasov

Report and images compiled by Rob Murray



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Tour Summary

Exploring this fascinating region of limestone gorges, snow-clad mountains, pine and beech forests and eutrophic lakes introduced us to a very diverse range of wildlife and culture. Meadows of Yellow Rattle, orchids, Globe Flowers and Campanulas gave the botanists plenty to study. We were a little unfortunate in that we didn't benefit from enough sunny days to fully exploit the potential of the area for butterflies, but thirty species were identified during the trip. However, the highlights of the tour were provided by the mammals. Up to fifteen Chamois on the rugged cliff face by the hotel were a daily delight. Two visits to bear hides gave us close encounters with a total of nine Brown Bears! Excellent views of Lesser Spotted Eagles, Black Woodpeckers and Nutcrackers even convinced the botanists just how spectacular birds can be. Similarly, birders were struck by the beauty of the Lady Orchid and splendour of alpine meadows in full bloom. Traditional farming methods including hand-scything of hay, horse-drawn ploughing of strips, shepherding with the help of a pack of dogs to ward off wolves and bears, and the widespread use of horse-drawn wooden carts made us appreciate how tough the farm workers have to be. Cultural visits to the medieval town of Brasov, and a Saxon church were enjoyed, as was the celebrated Bran Castle of Dracula fame.

Day 1

Saturday 31st May

The flight departed and arrived on time and Simona was already waiting for us when we emerged from the customs hall so we were able to set off without delay. Our bus was very comfortable and air-conditioned for which we were grateful as at the start of the long journey to Magura as it was twenty four degrees and rather humid. It was a pleasant drive along the E60 through flat agricultural land up to our comfort stop at a service station where snacks and drinks could be purchased. Loudly chirping Field Crickets squatted at their burrow entrances on a grassy incline. After this the landscape changed as we snaked along the line of a classic esker. We meandered through the foothills of the Carpathian ridge seeing a Buzzard and a few White Storks on the way. Suddenly the topography rose starkly as we ascended the mountain up a very rough road festooned with potholes to the village of Magura and the Mosorel Guesthouse. On the way up we saw Dippers and Grey Wagtails by the babbling stream which snakes along beside the bumpy road.

The guest house stands opposite a ridge overlooking magnificent scenery which already had 15 Chamoix clambering about the sheer rock face when we arrived. Our host George loaded our cases in his car as the bus was unable to ascend the last 75 metres of steeply inclined rutted track. Our first meal was soon on the table and included a delicious soup made with fresh vegetables grown in the garden of the hotel and a delicious rhubarb-filled pancake. It didn't take the group long to discover George's stock of Ursus beer and his varied collection of local wines and potent plum brandy. Replete and full of anticipation for tomorrow, most of the group opted for an early night...

Day 2

Sunday 1st June

The day began with thick mist and visibility of virtually zero, so all ideas of a pre-breakfast walk were abandoned. At 7.30 we eagerly rushed down for breakfast. This was a prodigious feast of cereals, toast, home-made rhubarb jam, fruits, meats and salads. By 8.15 we were on the bus and heading for the Narcissus fields in marshy oakwoods. There has been a great deal of rain recently and the woodland trails and open meadows were muddy. The woodland flora was rich and diverse but only about 20 white Narcissus flowers, *Narcissus poeticus*, were still in bloom. Lesser Butterfly Orchids were scattered throughout the woods and White False Helleborine caught our attention. The fluty calls of Golden Orioles added an exotic atmosphere to the woodland chorus, but the birds remained steadfastly concealed until a Black Kite appeared causing two gaudy, yellow birds to dart out from cover and launch an attack. They succeeded in driving the kite away. Great and Middle Spotted Woodpeckers were vocal and good views of Middle Spotted were secured by most of the group.

Although no mammals were actually observed in the wood, we enjoyed interpreting the tracks and trails laying testimony to their presence. A bear had been toiling at unearthing an ants' nest and had left a trail of flattened grass. Evidence of the snuffling and scraping activities of Wild Boars at the edges of the pathway were so frequently encountered that it seemed odd that we failed to unearth one. Lepidopterists fared rather poorly today due to the cool, overcast conditions but a Checkered Skipper, Amanda's Blue and Wall butterflies were found. Chimney Sweeper moths were new for most of us as were the conspicuous Black-veined moths. It is always pleasing to stumble upon a few Red-backed Shrikes, but we were especially fortunate to find several Lesser Grey Shrikes in this area as well. A flock of Bee-eaters flew high overhead but could only be heard. Probably the ornithological highlight of the day was the discovery of two singing male Collared Flycatchers.

This fascinating woodland is full of surprises, not least of which was a squid-like red fungus known as Devil's Fingers. It certainly was a bizarre sight. A large, shiny, metallic green beetle became christened 'The Bling Beetle' which caused some amusement. Suddenly we heard the clear, piping laugh of a Grey-headed Woodpecker and it sounded very close. It was very close indeed. In fact the cries emanated from Dan's pocket! Every time this happened I found myself fooled and unable to habituate and ignore it. I wish he had chosen an Emperor Penguin as his mobile ring tone!

Day 3

Monday 2nd June

Today's pre-breakfast session was held under a grey mantle of low cloud hugging the mountain tops which suggested that rain was to follow. A Black Woodpecker was the pick of the early morning sightings. It flapped across a field and landed on the side of a Silver Birch giving all three early risers a splendid view. We walked as far as the Globe Flower meadow which was an impressive sight despite the poor light.

After another sustaining breakfast we negotiated the winding, pot-holed descent from Magura to Zarnesti. A brief pause alongside the babbling brook unearthed a Dipper and Grey Wagtail. Dan was waiting to join us for our excursion into the valley of Coltii Chilieii. The pathway initially traverses an area of cultivation which appeared to be prime habitat for Corncrakes and indeed two or three were calling this morning. As the path meandered upwards the habitat changed to one of scattered bushes, trees and sloping flower-rich meadows. Many Tree Pipits were engaged in their flamboyant display flights, parachuting down to a favoured tree-top. They synchronise alighting and the final note of the song with unerring precision.

Our walk basically follows the contour line running parallel to the mountain chain which gave us superb scenery constantly in view despite the drizzle and low cloud. The diversity of life in these flower rich grasslands was enthralling. We found numerous Fragrant Orchids, Lesser Butterfly Orchids and a superb Bird's Nest Orchid. A large, long established nest of the Wood Ant (*Formica rufa*) was more than of passing interest. I incited the soldiers to attack a handkerchief which I then passed round the group. The pungent, acidic vapour assaulted the nostrils with the efficacy of smelling salts. I then demonstrated its acidity with a strip of litmus paper. These little tricks worked just fine which is more than can be said for my attempt to demonstrate the fire-fighting abilities of these busy, highly efficient Hymenopterans. They failed to make any impression on a lighted birthday candle! Two Red Squirrels entertained us as they wrenched cones off a spruce tree.

Our picnic lunch was provided by Simona and her mother. They had cooked freshly prepared local produce and provided Moldavian red wine and would have offered us home-made Elderberry cordial had the bottle not exploded on the drive up the steep track. During lunch a Nutcracker remained perched aloft a pine giving us splendid views. After lunch we reached the monastery and then trudged up the steps to a sacred cave adorned with religious paintings and oil lamps. After a long descent we rejoined our bus and drove back to the start of the trail. We listened to Corncrakes for a while then visited a huge White Stork's nest in the centre of town.

An early evening meal was enjoyed at George's mother's hotel in Zarnesti and by 6.30pm we were on our way to the Najila bear hide. The area of clearing in front of the hide is small and narrow allowing any bears in the vicinity to remain concealed for much of the time. After two hours of vigilance most of us saw a bear descending the slope to our left. However, it did an about turn and disappeared back up into the wood. Eventually another bear of about three years of age came to investigate the goodies on offer. It seemed to be quite nervous suggesting that a larger, more dominant bear was in close proximity. Certainly, a demonstrative, rumbling growl supported this analysis. The light had faded and we left at 9.20pm amid animated discussion of our first bear encounter.

Day 4

Tuesday 3rd June

Support for the pre-breakfast foray has dwindled to just three stalwarts despite it being the most beautiful of mornings. For the first time we could really appreciate the glorious setting of the guest house with snow-capped mountains rising to over 2000m in one direction and glistening limestone peaks in the other. The highlight of an interesting saunter along the lower track was the discovery of a confiding Black Woodpecker hammering at the thickened base of an old Beech tree. Thirty Alpine Swifts wheeled noisily overhead. A black Red Squirrel, appearing out of place, bounded through the grassy swards at the fringe of the wood and a Roe Deer had ventured out into the middle of a lush, green field. Only one Chamois was on the usual ledge.

After breakfast we began a very slow and leisurely descent into the Zarnesti Gorge in the Piatra Craiului National Park. Lady Orchids, Twayblades, Fragrant Orchids and Green-winged Orchids were found by the wayside but these magnificent flowers were upstaged by the exquisite Bladder and Field Gentians. It took us two hours to reach the stream-crossing point from which we began the gentle ascent into the jaws of a very imposing and impressive gorge. Bird's Nest Orchids grew robustly and tall here. Superb plants such as Alpine Clematis and Alpine Bells adorned the path edges. Steady rain curtailed butterfly activity but a single Duke of Burgundy was a good find.

Lunch arrived via Shanks's pony as Simona, her mother and our driver marched past us to set it up beneath an overhang to shelter us from the persistent rain. Courgette fritters, stuffed tomatoes, delicious cherries and Moldovian wine were amongst the exceptionally creative fare. "Wallcreeper!" I exclaimed as a small grey-backed passerine shuffled up the bare rock high up on the escarpment face. The bird then took flight and flew mockingly over our heads to reveal its true identity as a mischievous Nuthatch! "Wallcreeper!" announced Dan as a flash of red from a small, grey bird on the rock face caught his eye. A Black Restart quivered its tail derisively at him! We had both tried our best but once again the Wallcreeper remained as elusive as ever...

We walked back to the barrier and made use of the bus to take us further down-stream to an old quarry. Here we enjoyed very pleasing views of a Dipper which even permitted the taking of photographs. These showed it to be a Black-bellied Dipper. Opposite the quarry lies a scree slope with some fine, flowering Fringed Dianthus plants in an accessible position. The rain returned so we retreated to the guesthouse a little earlier than planned, but this gave us much needed time to consult reference books to pin down those species which our botanists found difficult to identify in the field.

Day 5

Wednesday 4th June

There was no pre-breakfast walk this morning as breakfast was at 6.30am so that we could arrive early at the fish ponds. However, despite the day dawning bright and sunny up in the mountains, it was quite a different story on the plains. Dan received a call informing him that thick fog enshrouded the lakes and visibility was very poor. That only meant that we had to reverse our itinerary for the morning. The fog dissolved quite quickly and a very pleasant day followed. Passing by remnants of the communist era was chilling as one derelict expanse of uninspiring architecture was a munitions factory that used to employ 15 000 workers under the guise of a bicycle factory. The tower blocks of dilapidated flats are used to house only the destitute now, but once supported the munitions factory employees. Passing through the settlement of Vulcan showed us Saxon and Germanic influences. The frontages of the residences had huge wooden doors of adequate height to permit the entry of a hay-laden horse and cart.

We soon began a thorough exploration of the Dumbrovita Fish Ponds complex both on foot and by bus. We were greeted by a park guide who explained that although this is a RAMSAR site it is far from safe as the owner of the fish farm would prefer there to be no birds here. We identified a spectacular range of birds including Great White and Little Egrets, Marsh Harriers and Purple Herons. A Great Reed Warbler was singing loudly from a prominent reed perch. Everyone in the group was able to see it and appreciate its size. Two Savi Warblers were reeling loudly and persistently from the sanctity of a dense reed bed. One was soon located and the entire group saw it really clearly as it issued its reeling song with gaping bill and tossed back head.

A Little Bittern gave us excellent flight views as did a good number of Night Herons. In the heronry amongst numerous Grey Herons there were a few nests of Pygmy Cormorants. Exciting though these aquatic species were, it will surely be the diversity of warblers we engaged with that will linger in the memory; especially Savis and Great Reed Warblers with their distinctive songs.

Next we moved on to visit the large fishing lake where Great Crested Grebes were well represented. Many couples were busily maintaining their pair bonds with displays of head tossing and mock preening. Five immaculate Whiskered Terns sailed past. A Muskrat entertained the few very fortunate observers who happened to be on the bridge by the channel as it swam back and forth scattering frogs in all directions as it scurried about. Then two Small Grass Snakes slithered into the water just below us. This really was wildlife watching without effort!

The lake close to the village of Rotbav has a breeding colony of Black-headed Gulls and provides superb habitat for Penduline Tits. We found one of these masked bandits feeding a newly fledged offspring and then feeding on the seed-head of a Reed Mace. The day ended with a cultural visit to the interesting town of Brasnov. The Black Church was the focus of our visit where Dan gave us a very informative tour of its strange interior with oriental carpets draped from every overhanging beam or pewage and its immense organ. We had spent 12 hours in the field today and encountered a bewildering range of wildlife and culture.

Day 6

Thursday 5th June

We left the hotel at 8.15am to visit the environs of Sinca Nova. On the way we stopped to explore a road-side meadow where Bug Orchids were flowering in profusion. A little further on we paused to investigate trailers of bee hives which were parked in open ground bordering the foothills. Panels daubed in rich primary colours advertised the entrances to a tenement of bee hives. No doubt the workers of each individual hive had imprinted on their specific coloured home. I hope they have a good homing instinct too as we inadvertently transported one hapless bee in the bus for at least 10 miles before it was released. The bee-keepers begin the season in the Danube Delta where early flowering blooms provide the first rash of pollen and nectar. From here they disperse to all parts of the country.

As we arrived in Sinca Nova village two horse-drawn carts resembling medieval coffins rumbled down the road to greet us. Stately horses adorned with gory-red tassels waited patiently for us to scramble onto blanket-covered boards ready to be transported to the Vala Strambeii meadows. Although bird-watching was difficult due to constant jolting we did see Red-backed Shrikes and lots of Fieldfares. The second cart followed the leading one exceedingly closely. So close in fact that Malcolm, who was seated sideways at the rear of the leading cart, wore a fixed expression of consternation. This was partly accounted for by playful nibbling and tormenting by the second horse on Malcolm's vulnerable form. However, it was the halitosis suffered by the mouth-gaping, heavy breathing stallion that caused Malcolm most grief. His plea to the cart-man to obey the two chevrons rule passed unheeded. Those of us seated directly to the rear of this metabolically active animal could justifiably claim to be suffering an even worse assault on our senses! After a jaunt of several kilometres we alighted in the foothills of the Vala Strambeii. Ambling unhurriedly up the track and across flower rich meadows in search of plants, insects and birds was how we passed the rest of the morning.

A Lesser Spotted Eagle was perched on top of a low conifer and as it sat preening it gave enough time for the entire group to appreciate its hefty bill and regal appearance. It finally took off and sailed effortlessly and lazily along the tree line revealing the pale upper-wing patches and the white, 'u' shaped upper tail coverts. A Buzzard hovered like a cumbersome, giant Kestrel above an open meadow where no doubt voles cowered in fear.

Simona and her intrepid mother had overtaken us to set up another of their renowned lunches. Today's featured plum dumplings and fresh, succulent Romanian cherries! Roger demonstrated how to entice a field cricket out of its burrow using a long grass stalk. This was certainly amusing but surprisingly effective. No doubt 'The Journal of the West Sussex Field Cricket Tickling Society' will feature as the guest publication in the next series of Have I Got News For You! Further up the track we found some bear and fox tracks in thick mud. Two of the group decided to take too close a look and confirmed that the mud was indeed very thick but additionally they discovered that it was also pretty deep! After more meadow exploration we returned to the road and stopped to admire a patch of white Foxgloves.

Our final stop in the village of Sinca before our early evening meal at 4.30pm was for a cultural visit to a wooden church. This unusual place of worship is one of only four remaining in Romania and it was built in 1762. The meal was taken in a large village homestead and we were treated to a tour of the attached barns, cow-sheds and market garden. It was not far to the bear hide from here. An unarmed ranger accompanied us. Gingerly shuffling across an insecure-looking footbridge and cautiously heaving ourselves up a muddy slope led us to the steep steps of the hide. We were safely ensconced within as the ranger filled the hollow logs and feeding troughs with maize and other assorted goodies. Silent anticipation filled the confined space of the hide. Last minute adjustments to cameras were completed shortly before the first bear emerged warily from the forest. It strode purposefully up to the feeding trough and raised itself on its hind legs to an imposing height. Another bear attempted to join the gluttonous beast but an angry exchange of barred teeth and growls ensued and the would-be usurper loped away. Then a male bear sidled up to a female. He sniffed her in the usual places and began licking her back with long, strokes of his drooling, pink tongue. His advance seemed promising as they surreptitiously sauntered off into the concealment of the trees together. They sat quietly for a while then..... nothing happened! Seven bears visited the feeding station during our sojourn; 5 males and 2 females.

As activity ceased we opted to leave the hide and watch the valley flanks for crepuscular animals. A few Roe Deer emerged in the gathering gloom. It was 10.45pm when we tackled the incline back up to the guesthouse reflecting upon our superb encounters with Europe's largest carnivore. I wished I had asked the ranger to measure the height of the feeding trough and length of the log so that the upright stance of the bear and its length could be calculated from photographs. Then, using published data, it would be possible to estimate the mass of each bear!

Day 7

Friday 6th June

Each day brings new birds to the pre-breakfast walk which was joined again by 3 of the group. This morning it was male Common Restarts that appeared. Today's activity centred upon a leisurely stroll up the Barsa Valley as far as a viewpoint where shepherds have erected a shelter. The weather was kind to us at last and we had a full day of sunshine and little wind.

We made slow progress because there were so many tracks and signs to look out for and interpret. Bear tracks, Roe Deer trails, Wild Boar diggings and a spectacular Wolf print suggested that we were not alone. Although we saw none of these animals, it was likely that many had seen us. A very grey looking Red Squirrel bounded across the path and this was the only mammal we saw but we were very noisy so it was unrealistic to expect to encounter much else. Two White-backed Woodpeckers made a cameo appearance and just before reaching the summit one of a pair of Nutcrackers perched on the topmost pinnacle of a Spruce tree. Woodlarks and Tree Pipits were singing and displaying. A pair of Honey Buzzards was also in amorous mood and gave us a magnificent aerial display. Dan disappeared into the scrub for an undisclosed purpose and re-emerged to inform me that he had just flushed a roosting Ural Owl...but the bird had flown well away into dense cover down a steep slope.

There were spectacular views from the summit in all directions. At the end of a tricky and somewhat challenging descent to the roadway through Beech and Hornbeam woodland, we were greeted by the now familiar sight of Simona's jeep, indicating that feeding time was nigh. We ravenously devoured yet another of Simona's and her mother's haute cuisine picnic lunches. These lunch time feasts had become an eagerly awaited daily feature of the tour. The variety of home-cooked food never ceased to amaze. After lunch we wandered as we wished, across alpine meadows continuing our search for flowers and butterflies. It was then time to say farewell to Dan and Ciprian who had both served us exceptionally well throughout a fascinating week of wildlife and Romanian culture.

Day 8

Saturday 7th June

It was a gloriously sunny day as the usual pre-breakfast group ventured up and down the lanes in a last effort to find Sombre Tits. We failed! However, Red-backed Shrikes, displaying Tree Pipits and the expected fare of Black Redstarts, Alpine Swifts and 10 Chamois kept spirits high.

After breakfast we loaded the bus to make our way to Bucharest. There was one more stop to come; a sojourn at the infamous Bran Castle. Here atrocities were committed by the mythical Count Dracula and the all too real Vlad the Impaler. Simona's many talents included acting as a guide to the castle and she told us stories and facts about this labyrinthine building. There are very few historical artefacts remaining. Most from the period of medieval conquest to the time when one of Queen Victoria's granddaughters lived here with the King of Romania, have been removed. The plethora of deplorable souvenirs on sale from a multitude of kiosks was a source of amusement. The gardens are wooded and attract a variety of birds. Swifts, Ravens and Black Redstarts were at home here. Before midday we resumed our journey to Bucharest.

Our lunch stop by the war memorial was an inspired choice. The shout of "Camberwell Beauty" sent our two indomitable lepidopterists scrambling for the door, bustling past more soporific members of the group who awoke from their slumber bewildered as to the cause of the emergency evacuation. During lunch a magnificent Black Woodpecker put on a superb performance. It flew past us then clamped itself to the side of a tree as if drawn to it by a powerful magnet. A singing Serin was a bonus as these petite songsters had been inexplicably very scarce on this trip. There were no hitches at the airport to hinder our return to the UK. We could relax and re-run the highlights of the week, which for all of us would certainly include the magical moments with bears.

Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May/June							
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Hazel Grouse	<i>Bonasa bonasia</i>		H						
2	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>					9			
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>					17			
4	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>					4			
5	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					100+			
6	Ferruginous uck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					1			
7	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					2			
8	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					57			
9	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>					1			
10	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	6	10	5		3	3	1	8
11	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					3			
12	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					23			
13	Squacco Heron	<i>Areola ralloides</i>					3			
14	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		2			30	1		
15	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					5			
16	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					6			
17	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					3			
18	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>					5			
19	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					15			
20	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>					1	2	2	
21	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		1						
22	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		1			20			
23	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>					1			
24	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	6	4	2	3	6	5	
25	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>				?		2		
26	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	6	1	3	2	1		2	
27	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>					H			
28	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>			3H					
29	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					1			
30	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	1				50			
31	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	1	1			2			
32	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					100			
33	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	1				3			
34	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>					5			
35	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>	50+		20+	10	30	20	40	
36	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		1	7	5	3	2	1	
37	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	10	6	10		10	2	4	2
38	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	1	5	H	H	8	10	3	H
39	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		1		30	3	6	2	8
40	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	12	6			12	8		30+
41	Kingfisher	<i>Alceo atthis</i>					1			
42	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		H						
43	Hoopoe	<i>Upa epops</i>		2		H		1	H	H
44	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>		4						
45	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>							2	
46	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>						1		
47	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2	2	2		7	4	1

	Common name	Scientific name	May/June							
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
48	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			1	2				1
49	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		1	H	H		2		
50	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		12	17	2	1	10	2	3
51	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>		3				2		
52	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		4	H		H	2	H	
53	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		5	11	3	2	12	9	2
54	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	8	20	45	2	35	15	10	4
55	Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>			5				2	
56	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	20	3	2		2			
57	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>			12		100			
58	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	15	3	15	2	20	2	2	
59	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		6	4	H	H	8	7	5
60	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		1		6			1	2
61	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>							2	
62	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		1	10	6		2	6	6
63	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			1					
64	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		12	14	4	3	5	10	
65	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		2				4	1	
66	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					2			
67	Woodlark	<i>Lulula arborea</i>							1	
68	Skylark	<i>Alaluda arvensis</i>		2	H		H	H		
69	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					12			
70	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	50	10	12	4	40	20	15	3
71	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	30	25	20	20	6	12	20	15
72	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aeghitalos caudatus</i>				5				
73	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		1	H	1		1	2	2
74	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		1		H				
75	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>					5			
76	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					4			
77	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					2			
78	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>					5			
79	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					3			
80	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	2	H	H	H	H	H
81	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>					1			
82	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>					1			1
83	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			3		6			
84	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			4				H	
85	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				1		H		
86	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		6	5	9		2	4	3
87	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		2						
88	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	40	30	40	4	2	10		
89	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		8	10	8	1	4	3	4
90	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		15	6	5	3	30	1	7
91	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		2	4	4	1	2	2	1
92	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	1	3	7	3	1	2	5	2
93	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H	1	2			H	1
94	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>							H	
95	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		2	6	4	4	2	2	3
96	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				1			3	
97	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		1	4					
98	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>		2						

	Common name	Scientific name	May/June							
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
99	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	1	2	1	2		2	1	1
100	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	50+	20+	20+	2	20+	30	20+	20+
101	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		4	6	2	25	6	1	
102	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>					4			
103	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	3	2	2	13	3	15	10	5
104	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	2	4	8	3		20	8	2
105	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>					1			
106	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		6	20			1	2	
107	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		4	6	2			1	2
108	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			2		1	1		1
109	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			6					2
110	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			3			6	4	
111	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>			10		1			
112	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			1					
113	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		H	17	2	2	4	2	2
114	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					4			

Mammals

1	Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>		✓	✓					
2	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			2	1	1	1	1	
3	Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>			1	3		1		
4	Musk rat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>					3			
5	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>						1		
6	Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>			2			7		
7	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			2	2	2	4	2	
8	Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>	15	8		2	3			10

Reptiles

1	Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
2	Slow Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>		✓						
3	Caspian Whip Snake	<i>Coluber jugularis</i>					✓			
4	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>					3			

Amphibians

1	Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>				✓				
2	Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>		✓	✓			H	✓	
3	Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>		✓						
4	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>					✓	✓		
5	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>		✓					✓	

Butterflies (Thanks to Daphne MacFarlane Smith)

Orange Tip, *Anthocharis cardamines*

Small White, *Artogeia rapi*

Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Mountain Green-veined White, *Pieris bryoniae*

Amanda's Blue, *Polyommatus amanda*

Mazarine Blue, *Polyommatus semiargus*

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, *Boloria selene*

Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*

Green-veined White, *Artogeia napi*

Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*

Large White, *Pieris brassicae*

Little Blue, *Cupido minimus*

Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*

Duke of Burgundy, *Hamearis lucina*

Marsh Fritillary, *Euphydryas aurinia*

Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*

Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*
 Wall Brown, *Lasiommata megera*
 Chequered Skipper, *Carterocephalus palaemon*
 Sooty Copper, *Lycaena tityrus*
 Reverdin's Blue, *Plebejus argyrognomon*
 Swallowtail, *Papilio machao*
 Silver-studded Blue, *Plebejus argus*
 Little Blue, *Cupido minimus*
 Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrgus armoricanus*
 Glanville Fritillary, *Melitaea cinxia*

Woodland Ringlet, *Erebia medusa*
 Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria*
 Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrgus malvae*
 Chestnut Heath, *Coenonympha glycerion*
 Purple-shot Copper, *Heodes alciphron*
 Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow, *Colias erate*
 Green-underside Blue, *Glaucopteryx alexis*
 Small Tortoiseshell, *Aglais urticae*
 Pearl-bordered Fritillary, *Boloria euphrosyne*
 Knapweed Fritillary, *Melitaea phoebe*

Moths

Speckled Yellow, *Pseudopanthera macularia*
 Forester moth, *Adscita statices*
 day-flying moth, *Penthapora morio*
 Common White Wave, *Cabera pusaria*
 Lewes Wave, *Scopula immorata*
 Burnet Companion, *Euclidea glyphica*

Black-veined moth, *Siona lineata*
 Chimney Sweeper, *Odezia atrata*
 Silver y, *Autographa gamma*
 Yellow Shell, *Camptogramma bilineata*
 Heart and Dart, *Agrotis exclamationis*
 caterpillar of 6-spot Burnet moth, *Zygaena filipendulae*

Dragonflies

Blue-tailed Damselfly, *Ischnura elegans*
 White-legged damselfly, *Platycnemis pennipes*
 White-tailed Skimmer, *Orthetrum albistylum*

Ornate Bluet Damselfly, *Coenagrion ornatum*
 Broad-bodied Chaser, *Libellula depressa*
 Black-tailed skimmer, *Orthetrum cancellatum*

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