

Romania - The Wildlife of Transylvania

Naturetrek Tour Report

27 May - 3 June 2017



Brown Bear cub by Lisa Morris



Red-backed Shrike by Stuart Allen



Penduline Tit by Stuart Allen



Poplar Admiral by Lisa Morris

Report compiled by Andy Buntten
Images courtesy of Stuart Allen, Lisa Morris & Andy Buntten



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Andy Bunten (leader) & Dan Marin (local guide) with 14 Naturetrek clients

Summary

This was a fantastic place to explore with wonderful limestone gorges, beautiful flower-rich meadows and vast swathes of natural forests. To experience the traditional agriculture and learn about the ways of the shepherds was fascinating, and to see the horse-drawn carts, the shepherds' dogs and the hand-scything of hay brought it all to life.

There was wildlife in abundance too with beautiful and plentiful orchids, Alpine Bells and Hungarian Snowbells; fabulous birds with Black Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Eagle and our own personal Red-backed Shrike and Black Redstart at the guest house; and fantastic butterflies with striking Large Coppers and an exhibitionist Poplar Admiral. However it was the mammals that really enthralled with daily shows by Chamois and amazing views of European Brown Bear not only from the hide but also from the guest house.

Add to this the most amazingly good weather, some stunning picnics and excellent food and you get a pretty perfect trip!

Day 1

Saturday 27th May

Stansted airport was a little on the crowded side as it was a bank holiday weekend, however fortunately our flight was pretty much on time and we set off to Bucharest, arriving a few hours later at 2pm. There we met Costi, our driver, and Dragos who was to guide us to our guest house. Once we'd negotiated the rather odd lift to take us to our bus, we loaded up and set off to the hills.

It was a fairly uneventful trip, occasionally livened up by examples of some eccentric driving from other road users. A few birds were seen including a White Stork, a few Kestrels and a glimpse of a Squacco Heron.

As we approached our destination the landscape got distinctly more mountainous and we drove up a steep, rough road with ample hairpin bends to the village of Magura. Our guesthouse was magnificently sited overlooking a dramatic gorge and high forest and meadow clad mountains. Our minibus was unable to make the last few metres up to the front door of the guest house so we disembarked at the car park and walked gently up the last few steps to our new home. Even during this brief time we had a taste of the wonderful wildlife around us with Common Cuckoos calling, House Martins dashing around the eaves and a Fieldfare in a nearby field.

We settled in for the first of many wonderful meals - this time a delicious soup followed by ham, potatoes and dumplings - and hadn't got very far through it before our host, George, sauntered in to tell us there was a Bear on the hillside. One quick mass exodus later revealed a rather distant Bear on a hillside on the other side of the gorge which we viewed through the telescopes for a while before returning to our meal. What a start!

After our meal we had a quick catch up to discuss the rest of the week and the things we were each particularly hopeful of seeing, before we repaired for a relatively early night - lulled to sleep by the gentle music emanating from a house across the valley.

Day 2

Sunday 28th May

An early morning group found the thunderstorms of the previous day had dispersed leaving a cool overcast weather, but which was to later turn into a hot and sunny day. We walked gently up the nearby path to the beautiful accompaniment of a Common Redstart song; the bird itself hidden away in a nearby tree. Lots of other birds were singing and calling too: Tree Pipit, Common Cuckoo, Song Thrush and Yellowhammer. Sharp eyes picked out a Chamois on the rock face opposite the guest house. In fact a sight we were going to get quite used to seeing. No other mammals were seen on this particular walk apart from a distant horse lurking behind a mound in a field. There were more birds though, with a calling Marsh Tit, distant Chiffchaff and our regular Red-backed Shrike and Black Redstart.

A fabulous breakfast followed, full of berries, meats, salads and cheeses, all of which come from local farms in the area, before we met with our guide Dan and headed off for our first full day out, to the Barsa area and the Piatra Craiului National Park.

After a short drive we walked along the valley with Dan explaining to us that the season was a little late this year following some extremely cold spring weather with blizzards on the 21st April! A huge Roman Snail glided past some Dusky Cranesbills and Dwarf Elders, and a Grey Wagtail flew ahead of us down the stream. We then had excellent views of White-throated Dippers as a noisy juvenile plonked himself onto a rock and begged insistently to be fed by the adult. An excellent opportunity for the keen photographers amongst us to get some decent shots!

In the first of many fascinating discussions about Romanian life, Dan talked to us about the rich heritage of woodland management in this country. Later also explaining some of the benefits and dis-benefits of such management under the communist regime as well, as some of the elements of corruption that have an inevitable negative impact.

We continued our walk passed Nettle-leaved Speedwell, Water Forget-me-not and White Helleborine before the birds reasserted themselves with a great showing by a number of Marsh Tits calling and feeding in small tress just to the side of the path. More photo-bait! Cuckoo-pint or Lords and Ladies (*Arum*) flowers were hidden away in the trees shade and Dan talked to us more about the herbal uses of plants like Coltsfoot and St John's Wort. Best of all we heard the fascinating folk tale of Swallow wort (*Vincetoxicum*) which had magical properties to undo locks – hence its local name of 'unlocker'. The only slight problem being the requirement of a hedgehog to explain the exact right time to use the herb! From the undergrowth we could hear Eurasian Blackcap and Garden Warbler singing and the relatively rare, from a UK perspective, and lovely purring of Turtle Dove.

Following a short drive we carried on walking, this time going past a large flock of sheep and a collection of very small huts which gave Dan a great opportunity to tell us the fascinating story of shepherding in Romania. It was amazing to hear about the tough outdoor lives these hardy folk lead, sleeping in tiny huts no bigger than coal bunkers, tending large numbers of people's sheep and having to milk these sheep three times a day! Amazing too to learn that lamb is rarely eaten –mainly just at Easter – and the value of the sheep is the milk and cheese. It was a fascinating piece of European history. More gentle walking took us passed a field full of Saffron leaves, Ravens croaking overhead as they tussled with Buzzards and the first of many specimens of Yellow-bellied Toad that we would encounter over the next few days.

We continued our walk along the track, finding all sorts of wonderful things: a Lesser Whitethroat trilled away and then obligingly came and sat in full view; Red-backed Shrike, Eurasian Blackcap and Garden Warbler appeared; a Great Spotted Woodpecker flew onto a fence post and a Nutcracker appeared on a tree top to bring group members scurrying back to try to see it before it flew. Sticky Catchfly was abundant, as were fine specimens of Spreading Bellflower, plentiful Common Spotted Orchids and Wild Pansy. Insects weren't to be out-done with a field full of loudly chirping Field Crickets showing themselves well from a myriad of burrows. Dan continued his fascinating story of Romanian forestry and then suddenly Simona and her mother appeared with a huge picnic of mushroom, chicken, cheese, bread, tomato and lovely wine - just perfect!

After lunch and inspecting nearby Scorpion Flies, Caddis Flies and Rose Chafers, we continued our walk into a nearby valley. Here we found Twayblade, the leaves of Dark Red Helleborine, Coralroot, Sanicle, Narrow-leaved White Helleborine and more Common Spotted Orchid. A little further on, and after we'd delighted in finding a 'funky' green spider which was later identified as *Micromatta virescens*, we were treated to a masterclass of tracking as Dan had found some Wolf footprints and explained how he recognised them and what they told him about the animal in question. Fascinating stuff! We added Red Squirrel to our mammal list before heading back to the hotel for food and to sort out our bulging list of sightings.

While meeting to do our list we spotted a Chamois on the rock face opposite and had some excellent views through the telescope. Then, as with last night, our excellent meal, this time soup and goulash, was interrupted by George who had found a Bear. This time it was much nearer than last night – right opposite our guesthouse. After finishing our dinner we went out again and in the gloaming saw three more Bears – one large female and two cubs, all on a near vertical cliff face. A marvellous way to finish what had been a great first full day in Romania.

Day 3

Monday 29th May

Today dawned absolutely beautifully with a clear blue sky and perfect visibility, if a cool wind. A group of us headed down the track to see what may be around. Common Cuckoos were calling and our usual Common Redstart, Chiffchaff and Black Redstart were seen. The mammal list was expanded by two Brown Hares in a nearby field and Roe Deer, while close examination of the cliff opposite our guest house revealed five Chamois. A Brown Bear was reported too. The meadows were full of orchids, speedwell, Thyme and Basil Thyme, and at houses, dogs were barking as we made our way back for a delicious breakfast.

Today we were walking from our guesthouse down into the valley, so Dan came to meet us around 8.30am and we headed off down the track. Once again we started hearing from Dan about the marvellous way in which the communities in this area work with, and not against, the grain of nature. We heard how Magura is a typical shepherds' village and how the beautiful flower-rich meadows nearby are used to harvest hay. Indeed we saw an elderly lady using the traditional scythe in a very ergonomically efficient way, doing her scything early in the morning when the dew adds lubrication. The tall haystacks can keep the hay sweet for up to two years and hay is still a key currency in this area. The other is cheese, as we had heard yesterday. As we walked down a narrow green lane we saw how willow trees are used as fence posts and how willow is used as a medicine both for humans (aspirin) but also for the sheep. Inevitably the compost from the sheep is used to fertilise the soil and the resulting old and 'unimproved' meadows were fabulous for orchids as we saw with Military, Heart-shaped

and Green-winged Orchids, as well as other wonderful flowers such as Martagon Lily, Bladder Gentian, Dusky Cranesbill to mention but a few.

We saw a very typical house with wooden shingles offering excellent insulation both in the cold winters and the hot summers. Equally as practical are bear-proof doors with large nails protruding through to the outside. We admired an old outside oven where dough would have been mixed with boiled potato to ensure it goes that bit further.

The beautiful meadows we were wandering through were inevitably very attractive for butterflies and in the warm sun were many Speckled Woods, Small Blues, Woodland Ringlets, Orange Tips as well as the ubiquitous Speckled Yellow moths. Birds were getting a look in too and we had great views of a male Common Redstart, Common Buzzard flew overhead and Eurasian Bullfinch and Tree Pipit called in their respectively distinctive ways.

We walked down a steep woodland ride passed a wonderful Bird's-nest Orchid and then negotiated a short, but interesting, little bridge before gaining the main path into the gorge. Along the sides of the wood we could hear Coal Tit and Eurasian Blackcap and the beautiful song of Wood Warbler too, with its wonderful silvery trill. Along the woodland edge we found *Daphne mezereum*, Leopardbane, the endemic Transylvanian Columbine as well as beautiful Alpine Bells, Hungarian Snowbells and Alpine Clematis. Beautiful plants where everywhere we looked. There were plants with superstition attached too as we heard about Toothwort, defender of the forest, and how these plants will turn into vengeful angels to destroy any evil doer.

Lunch was near and a few of us hurried down to the gate into the gorge to help Simona and her mother with yet another lunchtime feast, which we ate as Alpine and Common Swifts wheeled around us and we looked at Siberian Ibis on distant rocks – blissful.

Continuing up the gorge, we marvelled at more wonderful plants including a tuft of old Edelweiss flowers on the gorge side and at numbers of Orange Tip, Green-veined White and Wood White butterflies flitting around areas of damp vegetation. While gazing up at the sheer gorge sides Lisa spotted a Chamois, our nearest yet, which provided us with good views and even half-decent photographs.

We waited for a while at a potential Wallcreeper site but sadly had no luck, although we did see a nice Map butterfly (spring version) and shortly after that a Tau Emperor moth flapped its way majestically past us. Claire and Clara then decided to walk home along a path leading off the gorge so we loaded them with such maps, compasses and advice as we had and we set off back whence we'd come. We walked back past the rather sad sight of a dead Fire Salamander, but more optimistically Kate and Stuart caught site of our first reptile – a handsome Sand Lizard.

So it was back to meet Costi and be driven back to our guest house where we arrived around 5pm. We were getting together for our meal when Claire and Clara finally appeared, having got slightly disorientated and ended up being given a lift back by an ex-Prime Minister of Romania! Not much can beat that, but the sight of another 12 or so Chamois on the cliffs opposite us got pretty close.

Day 4

Tuesday 30th May

It was another beautiful day with the sun shining brightly off the white limestone gorge opposite, and a small but select group set off around 6am for a wander along the track by the guesthouse. Our usual birds were doing their usual serenading and we had particularly fine views of a Yellowhammer perched on top of the bright green new shoots of a Spruce tree. A Green Woodpecker called from a flower and doubtless ant-rich pasture, and a handful of Alpine Swifts shot overhead from the crevices on the other side of the gorge.

Today we were heading to Sinca Noua so we drove to Zarnesti to collect Dan, complete with his mushroom hat, and set off on our way. By around 9.30am we arrived at a lovely flowery bank with butterflies and moths galore. Among the flowers were Carthusian Pink and Sticky Catchfly, and the butterflies and moths included lots of Small Heath, Little Blue and the day-flying Burnett Companion moth.

As we arrived in Sinca Noua village, two horse-drawn carts trundled down the road for us. We scrambled into these over-sized seed hoppers with varying degrees of elegance while the horses regarded us with quiet amusement. Once settled onto our blanket-covered boards, we were ready to be transported to the Vala Strambei meadows.

It was not easy to birdwatch from the carts although a, sadly dead, Little Owl on the road was straightforward enough to identify. Fortunately we saw living birds of prey too as a Hobby flew rapidly past us and a Lesser Spotted Eagle stayed longer on the wing giving us all pretty good views. Three Storks in a nest peered down at us as we clattered by and by straining our ears we were able to pick out the beautiful song of a Woodlark. We turned off the road and through a lovely hay meadow which was full of Yellow Rattle and Eyebright and various butterflies enjoying the warm sunshine.

Time now for Shanks's Pony and we set off through these lovely open meadow areas. Skylark had joined the chorus, we heard Golden Oriole calling from the depths of the woodland and another Lesser Spotted Eagle appeared hovering over fields away to our right. Butterflies were to the fore – there were magnificent Large Coppers, gorgeous Amanda's and Green Underside Blues, a stunning and very obliging Poplar Admiral that briefly became the most photographed butterfly in the world, and then a Swallowtail racing over the meadow plants. Bug Orchids were found, Fox footprints identified, Corn Crakes heard and European Bee-eater seen overhead – a naturalist's dream.

Once again our lunch came to us in this rural idyll and included the most addictive freshly made doughnuts ever. The fields around our picnic site abounded in False White Helleborine, Autumn Crocus and various different orchids including Lesser Butterfly and Early Marsh Orchids. A Hawfinch appeared out of the trees and flew across a ride into another tree, offering brief views before disappearing off into the distance.

Lunch over we continued our walk and came across a small pool with a Broad-bodied Chaser dashing around it, an aggressive looking aquatic beetle larva inside it together with a host of displaying newts: Great Crested and, it was assumed, Smooth Newts. Into a denser, and muddier, area of woodland and we were hearing Eurasian Treecreeper, Grey-headed and Syrian Woodpeckers and some distinctively split open Hornbeam seeds – Hawfinch.

These muddy paths were perfect for Dan to do his animal tracking and we quickly learned about Fox, Badger, Brown Bear and Wild Boar. We also heard about the bear management by the Forestry department who will grow sacrificial maize crops for the bears to try to discourage them from going into towns.

As we drove away from this lovely spot we sped past a large number of Ostrich Fern fronds on the roadside and, slowing to look at these, found a Lesser Spotted Eagle perched on a tree just in front of us. As we approached it took flight but gave many of us excellent views as it circled away.

Our final stop was in the village of Sinca. Before our early evening meal was a cultural visit to a wooden church. This unusual place of worship is one of only four remaining in this part of Romania and is wooden to allow it to be quickly dismantled and moved away to safety and worship elsewhere. It was built in 1762 and provided a place of worship for the local people. Although there is now a new church, at Easter the entire village gathers for worship at the wooden one.

Our meal was provided by a well-known local family who do catering for many of the village's festivities. It was a wholesome meal too held beneath a canopy of vines roofing a spacious courtyard and accompanied by copious amounts of local wine, plum and cherry brandy for those who wished to indulge. Afterwards we had a tour around the very impressive garden allotments although it was a little worrying to see so many very fat, healthy looking Colorado beetles.

It was now time to head out for the Bear hide. We drove past some massive dogs before following the ranger who was transporting bags of assorted bear bait, mainly maize and biscuits, to the prepared clearing. Carefully negotiating the 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 rangers filled the hollow logs and feeding troughs with maize and what looked like tons of biscuits. Silent anticipation filled the confined space of the hide. Last minute adjustments to cameras were completed with flash and focussing beams switched off. Then the first Bears emerged warily from the forest, lumbering down the slope and into the clearing. One Bear stood upright on its hind legs showing its immensity and causing gasps from within the hide. For two hours we were captivated by their comings and goings; a cub climbed very cutely up a tree stump; another bear indulged in a bit of back scratching; and yet another was giving his bottom a good going over on a horizontal log to everyone's amusement.

A Red Fox appeared and trotted around busily picking up morsels of food, always acutely aware of where the Bears were. A Eurasian Jay flew in too, also seeking some unconsidered trifles. By the end of the session we had seen 13 different individual Bears – adults and cubs, males and females. It was 8.30pm when we cautiously left the hide and drove home, although the wildlife viewing continued with two Roe Deer trotting before us for a while and a large bat swooping in front of our bus.

Back to our guest house around 10pm we reflected on a wonderful day of wildlife culminating with a superb encounter with mainland Europe's largest land carnivore.

Day 5

Wednesday 31st May

Today we were heading to the beginning of the Barsa Valley and to the Coltii Chiliei (a shrine in a cave), and the day's weather had started perfectly. A gaze out of the window in the early morning brought, in addition to the breath-taking scenery, the by now usual swooping House Martins, Common Redstart, Black Redstart and Red-backed Shrike.

Another huge and magnificent breakfast was laid before us of most amazing local and home produced goods. Well fortified, we climbed into our bus for the short trip to the Coltii Chiliei trail.

Setting off on our walk Dan, told us more about the old two year cycle of transhumance where large numbers of sheep (5-10,000) would be walked down to the Danube Delta area before returning to the mountains. This journey of around 4-500 kilometres was part of a system which was very common in the 18th and 19th centuries. We saw some of the shepherds' dogs with short lengths of stick dangling from a spiked collar around their necks. The collar was to help protect from Wolf attacks and the piece of stick designed to strike the dog's front legs when it was running and so aimed to stop it from going too far before trotting back to its flock.

The trail we took more or less followed the contours and we climbed gently but steadily through some magnificent flower-rich meadows. There was a real profusion of colours from Yellow Rattle, Twayblade, Flax, Trumpet Gentian and Meadow Clary galore, and lots of different orchids as well including Fragrant, Butterfly, Heath Spotted and Broad-leaved Marsh Orchids. A botanist's paradise!

There were plenty of birds as well with Tree Pipits performing particularly well using the tall conifers as song posts from which to launch themselves on their arcing display flights. A Spotted Flycatcher took up position on top of a tree and all the while Chiffchaff, Coal Tit and Common Chaffinch sang from nearby perches.

We made our way steadily uphill on a track which occasionally became rather damp and muddy and revealed some very clear, and rather recent, huge Brown Bear footprints. Nearby to this area we found a scuttling juvenile Sand Lizard, and while watching that heard the very distinctive 'rain call' of a Black Woodpecker.

Orange Tip, Woodland Ringlet and Brimstone butterflies vied for our attention, together with Globe Flower and Trumpet Gentian, but then Stuart's cry of "Nutcracker!" trumped all of these delights and we hastily gathered to where he'd been tracking a flying bird until it landed in a tall tree across a shallow valley. A fabulous bird and a good way to lead into lunch, which we had after we'd climbed a little way further up into the wood. Once again Simona and her mother had done us proud with gorgeous home-made food and the most delicious cherries. Not a bad spot for our picnic either as we found a veritable colony of Lizards –Sand and Viviparous - (proudly shown to us by Simona's son), heard singing Lesser Whitethroat, Chiffchaff and Eurasian Bullfinch, and admired the nearby Early Purple Orchids.

After lunch it was a gentler uphill as we approached the monastery and ascended the steps towards the shrine. Here in the woodland we could hear Wren and Nuthatch plus a nearby Black Woodpecker that we managed a glimpse of as it lurked around the corner of a wooded rise.

Leaving the monastery area we heard a very strange call from a tall tree which took us a minute or two to decide was just that of an aberrant Bullfinch. Much more certain was another loud and ringing Black Woodpecker's call and then drumming before the bird itself flew across the valley and landed at the top of a Spruce tree. Excellent! We made our way back down the hillside to the accompaniment of Song Thrush, European Robin and Chiffchaff song, and Small and Wood Whites and Orange Tip butterflies flitting along ahead of us.

We climbed back into our bus and expected to be home a few minutes later, but the rough track up to Magura was in the process of being dug up and so we had to call George and Oona from the guest house to drive down in their cars and pick us up.

Once back we had the inevitable delicious meal and then decided we'd have a walk along the track to see if we could pick up any owls. We crept along as quietly as circumstances would allow but, despite our best endeavours, we couldn't hear anything. Instead we had to content ourselves with the glorious quiescence of a truly rural situation.

Day 6

Thursday 1st June

Our early morning group was slightly depleted but those who had made the 6am reveille were rewarded with another great view of Chamois; this time a female suckling her young baby. Common Cuckoos were as vocal as ever, Fieldfare darted between trees, and Tree Pipit, Yellowhammer and Song Thrush sang as a Fox trotted along in a field. We pressed ourselves against the willow tree hedges as an elderly woman ushered her cows past us. It was another beautiful bucolic morning.

Today we were off to the fishpond system at Brasov and the Dumbravita Lake. We headed into Zarnesti to collect Dan and pressed on north. En route we saw Raven and White Stork and heard from Dan about the fate of the Saxons in Romania, with tens of thousands of Germans sold back to Germany. The settlement of Vulcan showed us Saxon and Germanic influences on the architecture. The frontages of the residences had huge wooden doors of adequate height to permit the entry of a hay-laden horse and cart.

As we entered the area of the fishponds we were immediately struck by the sheer wealth of birds with grebes, egrets and gulls galore, and then Lesser Spotted Eagle and Purple Heron flying past. Not a bad start. We spent the next few hours walking around these fishponds which were so rich in all sorts of wildlife that it was difficult to know whether to look down for the plants and butterflies or up for the birds flying past. There were plenty of herons around: Grey Herons sentinel-like on far banks, Black-crowned Night Herons flying to and fro across the paths, and both Great and Little Egrets in regular evidence.

Smaller birds were in abundance too with singing Garden Warbler, Sedge Warbler and a wonderfully mimetic Marsh Warbler that we saw later on, singing away from the top of the bush and providing us with excellent views and even photographs. Savi's Warbler reeled away intermittently in the distance challenging some of us to pick it up as the song faded and rose in volume. No such problem with a very raucous Great Reed Warbler which belted out its song from a small group of reeds. Not to be outdone, Marsh Frogs bubbled and gurgled away incessantly from the nearby ditches.

Out on the water were many Great Crested Grebes, a brief view of a pair of Ferruginous Ducks, Common Pochard and a few Mute Swans, while overhead we saw a few Pygmy Cormorants and a lovely whisk past of three Black Terns. Cuckoos flew, calling, past us giving great views. Malcolm found a Grass Snake, no doubt attracted by the very plentiful and vocal Marsh Frogs. There were some wonderful butterflies too including many Common Blues, Sooty Copper and a couple of beautiful Large Coppers. Also lots of dragonflies and damselflies were seen including White-legged Damselfly, Broad-bodied Chaser and Variable Damselfly.

Before lunch we walked along another bank and Kate's sharp eyes picked out that the group of herons on the far bank also included a new bird for our day; Squacco Heron. As we waited for our lunch to come we looked over an undulating field where there was a flock, a parliament, of around 60 Rooks searching diligently for their food and a couple of Cattle Egrets. Lunch, inevitably, was delicious and the red wine went down well too, as we ate to the accompaniment of Eurasian Blackcap, Lesser Whitethroat and the monotonous calls of a Reed Bunting.

Then we headed off to another, this time more eutrophic, lake festooned with pond weed and marginal vegetation near to the village of Rotbav. If anything this was an even better site than the fishponds, certainly a little more natural looking, with some 30 plus Whiskered Terns to greet us as we began our walk round. More dragonflies buzzed around us: Norfolk (Green-eyed) Hawker, Four-spotted Chaser and Blue-tailed and Small Red-eyed Damselflies. Hundreds of Black-headed Gulls swarmed around their colony and two, really attractive, male Garganeys were seen in amongst Great Crested Grebes, Mallards and Common Pochards.

A particular target bird here was Little Bittern and one appeared, flying in front of us, soon after we'd started our walk. This bird flew in front of us a few times and later during our stay at this lake we had more excellent views of two of these marvellous little birds. Another highlight appeared further round the lake in the shape of a wonderful Penduline Tit constructing its highly impressive nest. We watched the bird moving to and fro from nearby Reed Mace from which it was collecting material and then weaving this into its gradually developing nest. We had magnificent views and probably took as many photographs of this bird as we had the Poplar Admiral a few days earlier. As we left the site we saw a Muskrat, one of three in total, swimming determinedly across the lake –an excellent end to our visit.

Reluctantly we dragged ourselves away from this fantastic site and headed off to Brasov where Dan led us to the famous Black Church which was built by the German community of the city and is the main Gothic-style monument in the country, as well as being the largest and one of the most important Lutheran places of worship in the region. Here we saw some very interesting interpretative panels, the guild's carpets and other artefacts before having a little wander around the town and heading off to a local restaurant. Here we had a great choice of food, including some welcome fish, and drink; thoroughly enjoyed our meal before heading back to our guest house.

Day 7

Friday 2nd June

Yet another lovely morning appeared and we set off for our last full day of searching for Romanian wildlife. Today we were heading to the Narcissus Forest near the town of Vad. On the way we stopped in Sinca Noua to take photographs of the White Stork's nest we'd trotted past on Tuesday, and then half an hour later we stopped to see a collection of multi-coloured beehives that are taken around the country to exploit the optimum flowering periods. While we were looking at these hives we noticed large flocks of Starlings flying around, a

Golden Oriole called in its fluty manner, and a search around the area revealed a number of spikes of the handsome Bug Orchid.

We then walked into this damp woodland with Tree Pipit and Whinchat singing as we entered, and a distant Hoopoe and Great Spotted Woodpecker calling as we made our way further in. A Great Spotted Woodpecker's nest was found with the adults 'pic-pic-ing' nearby until we moved away from the site. Lots of insects were out in the warm muggy weather, many of them mosquitoes but also the more welcome Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Speckled Wood, Small Heath and Large and Chequered Skippers. We made our way deeper into the woods and found some nice Poet's Narcissus flowers. The mosquitoes were gaining the upper hand so to the accompaniment of Wood Warbler, Golden Oriole, Hoopoe and Cuckoo, we retraced our footsteps and settled down to wait for our lunch to come and join us. While we waited we learned more about Romanian folklore and the use of plants, hearing that bedstraw was used both in cheese making and also, if kept under a maiden's pillow, in conjuring up a dream about future husbands.

After yet another wonderful lunch we walked back into the woods, finding some attractive Cow Wheat and the endemic Blue-spiked Rampion. Stuart had found a Grass Snake before lunch, we had seen Sand and Viviparous Lizards as well and now we added to our reptile list with a Slow Worm making a rapid escape through Philip's legs and into the undergrowth. A little further on and the amphibians clearly wanted to join the fun as we found a few Agile Frogs lurking in the damp grassy areas by the track side.

Spreading Bellflower, Lily of the Valley and more of the beautiful bi-coloured Cow Wheat brightened up the woodland floor and our ears were brightened too by the distinctive call of Bee-eaters. We moved a few hundred yards to get a better view of them, which we did, but in so doing missed a group of five Golden Orioles and a Lesser Grey Shrike that the remaining part of the group saw.

So we gradually walked back to the bus, through a field with more Field Crickets in it, and drove back to the hotel for our last delightful meal and a lengthy session of doing our bulging wildlife list for today and the previous day.

Day 8

Saturday 3rd June

Our last early morning was again a beautiful one and the few early risers were treated to no fewer than twelve Chamois on the rock face opposite. Cuckoo called, Common Redstart sang and White Wagtail wagged as we gazed around at this gorgeous landscape with its traditional farms so fantastic at supporting this wonderful wildlife we'd been enjoying all week. Alpine Swifts trilled overhead as we said our sad farewells to our hosts and headed off towards Bran, en route to the airport.

We arrived at Bran Castle on a very crowded day indeed and though we were really intent on artefacts, Lillian did a double spot of *Dianthus spiculifolius* and then Grey-headed Woodpecker as we entered the heaving Bran Castle site under the guidance of Simona. Here we heard about the atrocities 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 authentic historical artefacts remaining in the castle as most have been relocated to museums. Items exist from the period of medieval conquest to the time when one of Queen Victoria's granddaughters lived here with the King of Romania. Large numbers of Common

Swifts screamed around the castle and many more visitors were doing so inside, so we quickly bought a few souvenirs, mainly honey and cheese, and made our way south towards the airport.

Traffic was extremely busy so we didn't have time to stop for lunch and instead Simona rather miraculously managed to do a very good air hostess act in the minibus and fed us all – very royally as always. One very brief stop was made to allow Paul to quickly scoop up a couple of tasteful gnomes and then we continued on our way arriving at the airport in ample time to get our various flights home.

Special thanks must go to our first class bus driver, Costi. His careful driving, willingness to please and his very cheerful personality made him a major factor in the success of this trip. The inexhaustible knowledge and patience of our brilliant local guide, Dan, brought tremendous pleasure to all of us. Simona and her wonderful mother cannot be thanked enough for their ability to bring food of outstanding quality out to us in the wilds of Transylvania. Thanks to Lillian for producing a list of some of the special plants we found, and finally many thanks to all the group who gelled so well, who helped each other so selflessly and who made the trip an absolute delight.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!



Large Copper by Andy Buntten



Sand Lizard by Andy Buntten

Species Lists

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

| | Common name | Scientific name | May/June | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----|----|----|----|---|------|---|---|
| | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 1 | Mute Swan | <i>Cygnus olor</i> | | | | | | | 7 | | |
| 2 | Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | ✓ | | | 4 | 1 | ✓ | 2 | | |
| 3 | Garganey | <i>Anas querquedula</i> | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 4 | Common Pochard | <i>Aythya ferina</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 5 | Ferruginous Duck | <i>Aythya nyroca</i> | | | | | | | 4 | | |
| 6 | Great Crested Grebe | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> | | | | | | | 30 | | |
| 7 | White Stork | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | 1 | 2 | | 3 | | | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| 8 | Little Bittern | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> | | | | | | | 4 | | |
| 9 | Black-crowned Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 10 | Squacco Heron | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> | 1 | | | | | | 5 | | |
| 11 | Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 12 | Purple Heron | <i>Ardea purpurea</i> | | | | | | | 10 | | |
| 13 | Great Egret | <i>Ardea alba</i> | | | | | | | 6 | | |
| 14 | Little Egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | | | | | | | 10 | | |
| 15 | Western Cattle Egret | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 16 | Pygmy Cormorant | <i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i> | | | | | | | 8 | | |
| 17 | Great Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | | | | | | | 3 | | |
| 18 | European Honey Buzzard | <i>Pernis apivorus</i> | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 19 | Lesser Spotted Eagle | <i>Clanga pomarina</i> | | | | 3 | | | 1 | 1 | |
| 20 | Eurasian Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 21 | Western Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | | | | | | | 12 | | |
| 22 | Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| 23 | Common Moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | | | | | | | 8 | | |
| 24 | Corn Crane | <i>Crex crex</i> | | | | H | H | | | | |
| 25 | Eurasian Coot | <i>Fulica atra</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 26 | Northern Lapwing | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 27 | Black-headed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> | | | | | | | 400+ | | |
| 28 | Yellow-legged Gull | <i>Larus michahellis</i> | | | | | | | 6 | | |
| 29 | Whiskered Tern | <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i> | | | | | | | 40 | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | May/June | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|----|----|------|----|------|----|-----|---|
| | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 30 | Black Tern | <i>Chlidonias niger</i> | | | | | | | 4 | | |
| 31 | Rock Dove | <i>Columba livia</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 32 | Common Wood Pigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| 33 | European Turtle Dove | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | | H | | | | | | | |
| 34 | Eurasian Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 6 | 12 | ✓ | |
| 35 | Common Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | H | H | 1 | H | H | 4 | H | H | |
| 36 | Little Owl | <i>Athene noctua</i> | | | | Dead | | Dead | | | |
| 37 | Alpine Swift | <i>Tachymarptis melba</i> | | | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| 38 | Common Swift | <i>Apus apus</i> | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 4 | 80+ | |
| 39 | Common Kingfisher | <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 40 | European Bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster</i> | | H | | 1 | | | 4 | | |
| 41 | Eurasian Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 42 | Syrian Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i> | | | | H | | | | | |
| 43 | Great Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | | 2 | 2 | 2 | H | | 6 | | |
| 44 | Black Woodpecker | <i>Dryocopus martius</i> | | | H | | 2 | | | | |
| 45 | European Green Woodpecker | <i>Picus viridis</i> | | 1 | | H | | | | | |
| 46 | Grey-headed Woodpecker | <i>Picus canus</i> | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 47 | Common Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 48 | Eurasian Hobby | <i>Falco subbuteo</i> | | | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | |
| 49 | Red-backed Shrike | <i>Lanius collurio</i> | | 3 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 4 | |
| 50 | Great Grey Shrike | <i>Lanius excubitor</i> | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 51 | Lesser Grey Shrike | <i>Lanius minor</i> | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 52 | Eurasian Golden Oriole | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> | | H | | H | | | 5 | | |
| 53 | Eurasian Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | | 10 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | |
| 54 | Eurasian Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> | 10 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 30 | 10 | 10 | |
| 55 | Spotted Nutcracker | <i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i> | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | |
| 56 | Western Jackdaw | <i>Coloeus monedula</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | |
| 57 | Rook | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | | 80+ | ✓ | | |
| 58 | Hooded Crow | <i>Corvus cornix</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | 6 | 4 | 6 | ✓ | |
| 59 | Northern Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | | 30 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 4 | 6 | |
| 60 | Coal Tit | <i>Parus ater</i> | | H | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | | 1 | |
| 61 | Marsh Tit | <i>Poecile palustris</i> | | 6 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | May/June | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 62 | Willow Tit | <i>Poecile montanus</i> | | | | | | | | |
| 63 | Eurasian Blue Tit | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> | | | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| 64 | Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| 65 | Eurasian Penduline Tit | <i>Remiz pendulinus</i> | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 66 | Woodlark | <i>Lullula arborea</i> | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 67 | Eurasian Skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | | | | H | | | 2 | |
| 68 | Crested Lark | <i>Galerida cristata</i> | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 69 | Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | 4 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 15 | 10 |
| 70 | Common House Martin | <i>Delichon urbicum</i> | 6 | 15 | 10 | 15 | 20+ | 40+ | 30+ | 20 |
| 71 | Common Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | | H | H | H | 1 | | | H |
| 72 | Wood Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> | | H | H | | | | H | |
| 73 | Bonelli's Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i> | | | H | | | | | |
| 74 | Great Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 75 | Sedge Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> | | | | | | 4 | | |
| 76 | Marsh Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i> | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 77 | Savi's Warbler | <i>Locustella luscinioides</i> | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 78 | Eurasian Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | H | H | H | H | H | H | H | |
| 79 | Garden Warbler | <i>Sylvia borin</i> | | H | | 1 | H | H | H | H |
| 80 | Lesser Whitethroat | <i>Sylvia curruca</i> | | 1 | | | H | H | | |
| 81 | Common Whitethroat | <i>Sylvia communis</i> | | | | | H | H | | |
| 82 | Goldcrest | <i>Regulus regulus</i> | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 83 | Eurasian Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | | | H | | 1 | | | |
| 84 | Eurasian Nuthatch | <i>Sitta europaea</i> | | | | | H | | H | |
| 85 | Eurasian Treecreeper | <i>Certhia familiaris</i> | | | | 2 | | | | |
| 86 | Common Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | ✓ | 6 | 8 | 30 | 10 | 20 | ✓ | ✓ |
| 87 | Common Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | ✓ | 10 | 10 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| 88 | Fieldfare | <i>Turdus pilaris</i> | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 12 |
| 89 | Song Thrush | <i>Turdus philomelos</i> | H | H | H | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| 90 | Mistle Thrush | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> | | 4 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| 91 | Spotted Flycatcher | <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 92 | European Robin | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | | 1 | H | | H | | H | |
| 93 | Black Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 |

| | Common name | Scientific name | May/June | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 94 | Common Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> | | 1 | 2 | H | H | H | H | 1 |
| 95 | Whinchat | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | | | | | | | H | |
| 96 | White-throated Dipper | <i>Cinclus cinclus</i> | | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | |
| 97 | House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | 6 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 12 | ✓ | 2 |
| 98 | Eurasian Tree Sparrow | <i>Passer montanus</i> | | 6 | | 2 | 2 | 4 | 12 | |
| 99 | Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| 100 | White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | | 6 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| 101 | Tree Pipit | <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | | H | 1 | 2 | 6 | | 6 | H |
| 102 | Common Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 | | 4 | |
| 103 | Hawfinch | <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 104 | Eurasian Bullfinch | <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> | | | H | 2 | 3 | | | |
| 105 | European Greenfinch | <i>Chloris chloris</i> | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 106 | Common Linnet | <i>Linaria cannabina</i> | | | | 1 | | | H | |
| 107 | Red Crossbill | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 108 | European Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | | | H | 6 | 1 | 6 | | 4 |
| 109 | Corn Bunting | <i>Emberiza calandra</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 110 | Yellowhammer | <i>Emberiza citrinella</i> | H | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 6 | 2 |
| 111 | Common Reed Bunting | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> | | | | | | 6 | | |

Mammals

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------|----------------------------|---|-------|----|-------|---|---|-------|--|
| 1 | Red Squirrel | <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 | Muskrat | <i>Ondatra zibethicus</i> | | | | | | 3 | | |
| 3 | Brown Hare | <i>Lepus europaeus</i> | | | 2 | | | | | |
| 4 | Weasel | <i>Mustela nivalis</i> | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 5 | Wolf | <i>Canis lupus</i> | | Track | | | | | | |
| 6 | Red Fox | <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | | |
| 7 | Brown Bear | <i>Ursus arctos</i> | 1 | 4 | 3 | 16 | 3 | | Track | |
| 8 | Red Deer | <i>Cervus elephas</i> | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Roe Deer | <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> | | 2 | 3 | 3 | | 2 | 1 | |
| 10 | Chamois | <i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i> | | 2 | 12 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 7 | |
| 11 | Wild Boar | <i>Sus scrofa</i> | | | | Track | | | | |
| 12 | Badger | <i>Meles meles</i> | | | | Track | | | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | May/June | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------|--------------------------|----------|----|----|------|----|---|---|---|
| | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 13 | Brown Rat | <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> | | | | Dead | | | | |
| 14 | Bat sp | | | | | 1 | | | | |

Reptiles

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Viviparous Lizard | <i>Zootoca vivipara</i> | | | | | ✓ | | 4 | |
| 2 | Sand Lizard | <i>Lacerta agilis</i> | | | 1 | | 6 | 1 | 6 | |
| 3 | Slow Worm | <i>Anguis fragilis</i> | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 4 | Grass Snake | <i>Natrix natrix</i> | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |

Amphibians

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------------------|--|------|------|----|-----|---|---|--|
| 1 | Smooth (Common) Newt | <i>Triturus vulgaris</i> | | | | 3 | | | | |
| 2 | Fire Salamander | <i>Salamandra salamandra</i> | | | Dead | | | | | |
| 3 | Common Toad | <i>Bufo bufo</i> | | Dead | | | | | | |
| 4 | Yellow-bellied Toad | <i>Bombina variegata</i> | | 6 | | 8+ | 12+ | | 2 | |
| 5 | Agile Frog | <i>Rana dalmatina</i> | | | | | | | 4 | |
| 6 | Marsh Frog | <i>Rana ridibunda</i> | | | | 6+ | | ✓ | | |
| 7 | Crested Newt | <i>Triturus cristatus</i> | | | | 2 | | | | |

Butterflies

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|----|---|---|---|----|--|
| 1 | Swallowtail | <i>Papilio machaon</i> | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 2 | Orange Tip | <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i> | | | 10 | 4 | 8 | | | |
| 3 | Black-veined White | <i>Aporia crataegi</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 4 | Green-veined White | <i>Pieris napi</i> | | | 6 | | | | | |
| 5 | Small White | <i>Pieris rapae</i> | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 6 | Brimstone | <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i> | | 4 | 4 | | 6 | | 12 | |
| 7 | Wood White sp. | <i>Leptidea sp.</i> | | | 12 | | 2 | | | |
| 8 | Large White | <i>Pieris brassicae</i> | | | | | 1 | 2 | ✓ | |
| 9 | Brown Argus | <i>Aricia agestis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 10 | Little Blue | <i>Cupido minimus</i> | | | 8 | 8 | 8 | | | |
| 11 | Large Copper | <i>Lycaena dispar rutilus</i> | | | | 4 | | 2 | | |
| 12 | Sooty Copper | <i>Heodes tityrus</i> | | | | | | 1 | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | May/June | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
| | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 13 | Green-underside Blue | <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 14 | Adonis Blue | <i>Lysandra bellargus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 15 | Amanda's Blue | <i>Polyommatus amanda</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 16 | Common Blue | <i>Polyommatus icarus</i> | | | 6 | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 17 | Map butterfly | <i>Araschnia levana</i> | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 18 | Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary | <i>Boloria selene</i> | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| 19 | Poplar Admiral | <i>Limenitis populi</i> | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 20 | Red Admiral | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 21 | Painted Lady | <i>Vanessa cardui</i> | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 22 | Peacock | <i>Inachis io</i> | | | ✓ | | 1 | | | |
| 23 | Small Heath | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> | | 1 | | 20 | | | ✓ | |
| 24 | Woodland Ringlet | <i>Erebia medusa</i> | | | 10 | | 6 | | ✓ | |
| 25 | Meadow Brown | <i>Maniola jurtina</i> | | 1 | | 1 | | | ✓ | |
| 26 | Speckled Wood | <i>Pararge aegeria</i> | | | ✓ | 1 | | | ✓ | |
| 27 | Chequered Skipper | <i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i> | | | | | | | 4 | |
| 28 | Large Skipper | <i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i> | | | | | | | 2 | |

Moths

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Tau Emperor | <i>Aglia tau</i> | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | Speckled Yellow | <i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i> | | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | | ✓ | |
| 3 | Burnett Companion | <i>Euclidia glyphica</i> | | | | 8 | | | | |
| 4 | Mother Shipton | <i>Callistege mi</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 5 | Green Silver Lines | <i>Pseudoips prasinana</i> | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 6 | Black-veined Moth | <i>Siona lineata</i> | | | | 1 | | | 1 | |

Dragonflies & Damselflies

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| 1 | Emperor Dragonfly | <i>Anax imperator</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 2 | Beautiful Demoiselle | <i>Calopteryx virgo</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 3 | Azure Damselfly | <i>Coenagrion puella</i> | | | | | 2 | | | |
| 4 | Small Red-eyed Damselfly | <i>Erythromma viridulum</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 5 | Blue-tailed Damselfly | <i>Ischnura elegans</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 6 | Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly | <i>Ischnura pumilio</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | May/June | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----|----|----|----|---|-------|---|--|
| | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 7 | Broad-bodied Chaser | <i>Libellula depressa</i> | | | | 1 | | | ✓ | | |
| 8 | Four-spotted Chaser | <i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 9 | White-legged damselfly | <i>Platycnemis pennipes</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 10 | Large Red Damselfly | <i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i> | | | | | | | poss. | | |
| 11 | Variable Damselfly | <i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 12 | Green-eyed Hawker | <i>Aeshna isosceles</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |

Other Invertebrates

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Rose chafer | <i>Cetonia aurata</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 2 | Field Cricket | <i>Gryllus campestris</i> | | ✓ | | | 1 | | ✓ | |
| 3 | Rove Beetle | <i>Staphylinid sp.</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 4 | Ground Beetle | <i>Carabid sp.</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| 5 | Soldier Beetle | <i>Cantharid sp.</i> | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| 6 | Scorpion Fly | <i>Panorpa sp</i> | | ✓ | | | 1 | | ✓ | |
| 7 | Green Spider | <i>Micrommata virescens</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 8 | Roman Snail | <i>Helix pomatia</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 9 | Bee Fly | <i>Bombylius major</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 10 | Cockchafer | <i>Melolontha melolontha</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 11 | Colorado Beetle | <i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 12 | Red Crab Spider | <i>Thomisid sp.</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 13 | Mayfly sp | <i>Ephemeroptera sp.</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 14 | Stonefly sp | <i>Plecoptera sp.</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 15 | Caddis Fly | <i>Trichoptera sp.</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |