

Romania – The Wildlife of Transylvania

Naturetrek Tour Report

31st May – 7th June 2022



Fire Salamander



Green-winged Orchid



Wallcreepers



Map Butterfly

Report and images by Andy Bunten



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Summary

This was a fantastic place to explore with wonderful limestone gorges, beautiful flower-rich meadows, bird filled fishponds and vast swathes of natural forests. To experience the traditional agriculture and learn about the ways of the shepherds was fascinating, and to experience 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 fabulous birds such as the much sought after Wallcreeper, Spotted Nutcrackers, Black Woodpeckers, Red-backed Shrikes galore and Lesser Spotted Eagles.. There were beautiful and plentiful orchids, Alpine Bells and Hungarian Snowbells and fantastic butterflies with blues, hairstreaks and fritillaries. 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 our wonderful guest house.

Add to this weather which far exceeded our expectations, some stunning picnics and excellent food and you get a pretty perfect trip!

Day 1

Tuesday 31st May

The group gathered early in Heathrow terminal 3 for 11.55 flight. There was a slight delay but once on our way we luxuriated with our free bag of crisps and bottle of water and settled, relaxed, until we arrived into Bucharest few minutes early at around 17.00

Once through security we met our driver and just made it into our bus in time as the heavens opened. It continued to rain absolutely torrentially for the next hour or so before easing off.

In the lashing rain we didn't see a great deal on the early, lowland part of the trip - mainly the odd Common Kestrel, Hooded Crows, Wood Pigeons and Collared Doves.

As we entered the mountains a dash of 6 Alpine Swifts shot past and Andy had a brief glimpse of a Little Owl perched low on a fence stump as we drove swiftly past. Our final climb to the guest house was on a steep, gravelly road with some interesting hairpin bends before we arrived on the open plateau.

The Magura Guesthouse is in a stunning setting, and we pulled into the car park at the rear of the house with a jaw dropping view across the gorge.

We were met by our lovely hosts Oona and George then it was quickly into our rooms and back down to the dining room for a lovely meal of soup, dumplings and vegetables washed down with local beer and, for some, a glass or two of home-made cherry brandy.

Then to bed!

Day 2

Wednesday 1st June

Zarnesti Gorge and Barsa Valley

The first day of June dawned beautifully with an egg-shell blue sky and bright sun.

A group of us rose early to explore this gorgeous plateau. Chiff-chaffs and Yellowhammers sang from nearby trees, the Yellowhammer with an odd stutter in its song, and some very persistent Common Cuckoos called away from the mid distance. Three Chamois, two adults and a kid, showed themselves on the far side of the gorge and we watched through the telescope as they melted away into the vegetation.

A movement down from the track revealed itself to be a lovely Red-backed Shrike and we watched it as it, in turn, watched for prey. A little later it had grabbed itself a beetle for breakfast and was busily eating this. It then flew to the top of a bush where its predatory nature obviously upset a female Common Redstart which flitted around it scolding furiously.

In another bush the rattling song of a Lesser Whitethroat alerted us to the presence of that bird and it emerged from a bush and flipped away.

Field Crickets were chirping and a Green Woodpecker 'yaffled' all of which added to the constant background songs of Common Cuckoos, Yellowhammers, Song Thrushes and Common Blackbirds. Wonderful to hear such rich birdsong.

A Great Spotted Woodpecker 'kick-kicked' away and landed in a low fruit tree where it proceeded to investigate various nooks and crannies for insects.

Some orchids in a field were a little too far away for definite identification but seemed quite 'open' flowered so we wondered if they may Green Winged.

It was time for our breakfast so we settled down to yoghurts, cheeses, bread and jams before clambering into our bus to head to the Zarnesti Gorge.

The weather continued to be lovely as we left our minibus and walked, reasonably briskly, up the impressive Zarnesti Gorge. Our intention was to get to the site where we may find Wallcreeper fairly early on and then meander much more slowly back down again.

Notwithstanding this we obviously couldn't resist stopping to have a good look at a wonderful Fire Salamander which was so perfectly marked and shiny that it almost looked as it had just emerged from a mould. As we walked along a party of screaming Alpine Swifts raced overhead plus Speckled Woods and Speckled Yellow Moths danced around the vegetation in front of us.

We arrived at a site near to where we hoped the Wallcreeper may emerge and settled down to wait and see what may happen.

As luck would have it, it was International Children's Day. This is a moveable feast in the UK occurring on different summer dates each year but in Communist and post-Communist countries it's on the 1st June.

A wonderful festival though it is, it doesn't always sit well with the quiet seeking of Wallcreepers so as wave upon wave of excitable and voluble youngsters trotted noisily past us we realised that Wallcreeper watching may be tricky.

We were right and after a while some of the party decided to explore the other delights of this amazing gorge while the few that remained were rewarded with a single sighting of a Wallcreeper travelling at 100 miles an hour as it shot out of a cleft in the rock and disappeared off onto the vast cliffs of the gorge sides.

The tension dissipated, we were released to enjoy the Grey Wagtails flitting around the channels and the many butterflies – including an impressive Camberwell Beauty – that had started to emerge now the sun was illuminating the flowers in the gorge.

The yellows of the Yellow Archangels, Violas and Carpathian Leopardsbane, the bright blues of the forget-me-nots, the delicate purple and pinks of the Alpine Bells and Snowbells and the subtlety of the Water Avens, Fly Honeysuckle and Comfrey made the sides of the gorge a delight to be in and clearly attractive to many butterflies. We even did a bit of telescope botany seeking out the tiny deep purple Dwarf Iris nestled high above us on a small grassy ledge.

We arrived back at our bus at around 12.30 in time to meet our lunch which had been wonderfully prepared by Mariealane and her mother.

The meal of cheese, chicken and bread washed down by red or white wine and followed by lovely cake and bowlfuls of glistening ripe cherries and strawberries was just what we needed.

While we ate various butterflies including a Map and Grizzled Skipper landed nearby giving us excellent views.

It had started to rain quite heavily now and we all gathered in the small information hut with its plentiful photographs of the special wildlife of this area while Ionut talked about the management of the park and the issues caused by the communist and successive regimes. Interestingly we learned that Capercaillie, doing so badly in the UK, appears to be thriving in the park though oddly Black Grouse is not doing so well.

As it was still raining steadily we decided to spend some time in the national park information centre where there was a plethora of information, photographs and videos.

Around the information centre there we found Fieldfares calling with their harsh chacking and it felt slightly strange to see these birds we associate so much with winter in this green lush landscape in their breeding mode.

The rain easing, temporarily at least, we headed off to the nearby Barsa Valley where we quickly caught up with a couple of White Wagtails and a very smart Black Redstart moving up and down a stream where we also found Crosswort and Alpine Lady's Mantle

Ornithological interest centred around a high-flying Black Stork – not at all a commonly seen bird around here – while the plant hunters found Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage, a red form of Lungwort and One-flowered Wintergreen – a great find.

The damp conditions also seemed to bring out the amphibians with Common Toads (plus strings of their spawn) and a fine Montandon's Newt.

It continued to rain as we forded various small streams going in to the woods before we decided that conditions weren't really in our favour and we retraced our footsteps back to the bus.

We deposited Ionut in Zarnesti and drove up the steep gravel path to our guesthouse where we did our listing, had a lovely meal (including some delicious cakes with homemade blackberry jam) and then spent the rest of the evening looking at around 15 or more Chamois that were climbing around the cliffs plus one that was literally in the field beneath the guesthouse so giving us excellent views.

Day 3

Thursday 2nd June

Narcissus Forest

A beautiful morning dawned with clear blue skies and today it was hot and sunny all day – mid-afternoon large thunderclouds notwithstanding

As usual the early morning walk group were treated to incessant and lovely birdsong - Eurasian Blackcaps, Black Redstarts, Common Blackbirds, European Robins, Chiffchaffs, Yellowhammers, Song Thrushes and, of course, Common Cuckoos. Our resident pair of Fieldfares hopped around the Green-winged Orchid rich small meadows seeking their own breakfast.

Bugloss, Nottingham Catchfly and Spreading Bellflowers were in abundance and whirring Cockchafers flew regularly past our heads – an obvious indication of why this area is so good for shrikes.

Two wonderful Alpine Swifts swept past us, their white breasts shining in the sun, as we boarded our bus and headed off to our day's destination at the Narcissus Wood.

Bullfinches appeared in the trees and a White-breasted Dipper shot past us on the stream on our right-hand side as we made our way down towards Zarnesti.

Ionut's sharp eyes picked out a Lesser Spotted Eagle flying distantly over an area of mixed trees and open fields and we tumbled out of the bus to get better views. The bird was some way away but did give us good views of its distinctively downcurved wings.

We arrived at our destination and started our walk which for the morning was through the meadows around the outside of the wood to maximise the 'edge effect'.

Small ponds were alive with Marsh Frogs with Broad-bodied Chasers, Azure and Beautiful Demoiselles all zipping around in the increasingly hot sun.

Beautifully rich coloured Carthusian Pinks dotted around the meadows mingled in with the lighter pink of the Ragged Robins while Small Heath and Little Blue butterflies flitting around them.

Another small pond revealed around a dozen small Yellow-bellied Toads with more dragon- and damselflies

We were watching Tree Sparrows feeding young birds in a low bush when the highly distinctive calls of European Bee-eaters reached our ears. We only managed very distant views of these harlequin-plumaged birds but while we watched we found another Black Stork, soaring distantly over the woods.

Golden Orioles, characteristically hidden in the canopy, called in their flutey way, a Eurasian Hoopoe flopped its way in front of us and lots of butterflies danced around the meadows in the increasingly hot sun with a Black-veined White engaged in laying its eggs.

There were a great many Red-backed Shrikes perched, alertly, on the scattered bushes and then some sharp eyes picked out another shrike on a far bush. It turned out to be a Great Grey - another good bird to find.

As we made our way towards some blissful shade and lunch more European Bee-eaters flew over us and we paused to inspect some interesting looking orchids which revealed themselves as Bug Orchids.

Once again Simona and her sister had prepared a delicious lunch with some wonderful pea and onion mix, mushrooms, chicken followed by the usual fresh and mouth-watering fruit and small choux pasties. And all washed down with local red and white wine.

We had entertainment laid on too as a large flock of head-down sheep came, bells ringing, past us together with eager dogs and a chatty shepherd.

Into the wood after lunch, we found Common Swallow-wort, a relatively inconspicuous plant but one which is poisonous and steeped in medicine, magic and folklore. In Romania it's known as 'unlocker' as, if you enlist the aid of a hedgehog, it can unlock any door!

Also in the wood were lots of Sticky Catchfly, Common Figwort, Lesser Butterfly Orchids – and a few older specimens of the wood's eponymous plant - the Poet's Narcissus.

Consistent begging calls drew our attention to a woodpecker's nest nearby and the calls of a Middle-spotted confirmed what species we were hearing. We moved swiftly on to avoid disturbing the nest and also to avoid the gathering number of hungry mosquitoes.

As we emerged our familiar Red-backed Shrikes were lurking on top of bushes and we caught a very brief glimpse of a Golden Oriole and a longer view of a Common Cuckoo as it sped past.

We left the Narcissus Wood and drove the short distance to the Monastery where a lovely group of European Bee-eaters circled, calling, overhead and an equally lovely group of Lesser Butterfly Orchids nestled amongst areas of heather – Spiked Heath – an evergreen native to this area of south-east Europe and the Latin name of which, Bruckenthalia, comes from the 1st Saxon governor of Transylvania.

At the cave church a resident monk gave us an interesting perspective on the orthodox church and its relationship with the peoples in the region.

On our way home we stopped near a small rise and walked up through a meadow to get some elevation and then along and through some grassland. The meadows were full of Ragged Robins, Hay Rattle, Buttercups, Clovers, Heath Speedwell and some lovely Solomon's Seal plus being alive with different bees.

Overhead we saw another Black Stork and Lesser Spotted Eagle and heard croaking Northern Ravens.

Lower down among the bushes we found Yellowhammers, Corn Buntings, the inevitable Red-backed Shrike and then a group of four Woodlarks.

We left this fabulous place and, after dropping Ionut off, bounced our way back up onto the plateau and our guesthouse.

We'd hardly got off the bus before Tim's young sharp eyes picked up a Brown Bear on the opposite side of the gorge. Fabulous. We quickly got the scopes out and had excellent views even though the bear was a bit tricky to find at times as it vanished from view behind the low trees before emerging again.

Then it was time for our evening meal before settling down to do our list and watch the Chamois that had appeared on the vertical cliffs opposite.

Day 4

Friday 3rd June

Walk down to Gorge

Another lovely morning dawned and while one group stayed by the guesthouse another took a wander along the usual path.

In the gorge a Peregrine whizzed by as the usual suspects of Common Redstarts, Cuckoos and Tree Pipits sang from the valley sides. A Roe Deer grazed in the meadow and on the haystacks while a Black Woodpecker called and a Raven also from the other side of the gorge

Then the Brown Bear appeared again – but only brief views before it wandered into the trees.

The other group also had great success with good views of a Collared Flycatcher and a preening Grey-headed Woodpecker.

We gathered at the guesthouse entrance to meet Ionut and do a walk down when Tim spotted the bears again this time an adult with a cub and then later another adult. By its behaviour we thought another female

Fabulous views were had and we watched the bears ambling around on the steep slopes seeming to be grazing on vegetation – the small cub was definitely doing well in the endearing stakes.

Eventually we dragged ourselves away and strolled down the track through meadows and woods that lead down to the gorge.

Our walk was wonderful with the sun filtering through the trees and illuminating the hay meadows. Various Blues, Orange tips, Woodland Ringlets and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries flitted around the Round-headed, Military, Fragrant and Green-winged Orchids with startlingly blue Spring Gentians dotted around like discarded sapphires.

As we walked Ionut explained a little of the land management issues which sadly are resulting in these beautiful hay meadows falling in to disrepair.

In the communist past collectivisation led to a lot of traditional practices being abandoned. This was less pronounced in the mountain areas, like Zarnesti, where collectivisation wasn't really a viable option. However, the drive to establish a large munitions factory meant many of the population would have to walk down from the plateau to the factory and then back again. Not leaving a lot of time to manage the land.

Latterly, with the establishment of the National Park, the area has increasingly become a tourist destination and many houses are being bought as holiday homes or tourist lets. Add to this the lack of enthusiasm of the young people in the area to take up the hard work of traditional management and one can see why unfortunately the old management techniques are fading away and the meadows are fairly rapidly scrubbing over as they gradually revert to the woodland they would formerly have been

A lovely male Redstart sang to us from near an old cottage and a Northern Goshawk dashed by briefly exuding tremendous muscularity.

We felt the woodland should be good for Bird's Nest Orchid and some determined hunting found a few specimens. It seemed we got our eye in for this intriguing non-photosynthetic species which derives all its nutrition from mycorrhizal fungus. We also found some nice examples of Sanicle while Kevin, with his excellent fern knowledge, pointed out the differences between Green and Maidenhair Spleenwort.

At the conclusion of our walk, we'd arrived back down in the gorge bottom where our delicious lunch awaited us this time comprising some guacamole and tomato to accompany the pasta and raspberry cake to go with the fresh cherries and strawberries. Fabulous!

After lunch we had a discussion about what to do next and the group split into two with one party walking back up the gorge to have another go at the Wallcreeper (now International Children's Day was behind us) while the other opted to go for a walk with Ionut into some meadows on the higher land of the plateau.

The Wallcreeper group took around three-quarters of an hour to reach the site where we hoped to see our quarry and we'd hardly settled in behind screening vegetation when the bird appeared! A gorgeous male bird landed at the bottom of a narrow split in the rock and fed the female before flitting off again.

We remained hidden away for another hour and half with the bird reappearing every twenty minutes or so and giving us absolutely fantastic views. In all, this much sought after and spectacular bird gave us seven separate curtain calls. Perfect.

Satiated, we made our way past the plentiful Leopard's Bane and delicate Alpine Bells with Grey Wagtails bobbing down the gullies to the side of the track and newt efts and caddis fly larvae in the pools, to meet our bus and return to our guesthouse.

We met the other group who had had a longish walk without seeing a great deal other than a Sparrowhawk kill and an irate woman chasing a Red Fox away and returning to her house with the deceased chicken that the fox had pilfered.

We were delighted to see our bears were back again and we watched the two adults and one cub as they scoured the undergrowth for food.

Then we settled in to our usual routine of feeding ourselves, doing our lists and talking through our wonderful sightings before getting some sleep, in anticipation of a long day tomorrow.

Day 5

Saturday 4th June

Sinca Noua and Bear Hide etc

Many of us were woken this morning by the blood-curdling yowls of a couple of cats which were facing off to the rear of the guest house.

Once again, the weather Gods were smiling on us and our early morning wander up the track was to the accompaniment of the usual songs of Common Cuckoos, Tree Pipits, Common and Black Redstarts.

This morning a large, friendly dog decided we were an ideal group to accompany and it trotted contentedly beside us as we strolled up the path in glorious sunshine. The meadows were a riot of yellows, blues, reds and whites and our Red-backed Shrike was on his usual perch and we noticed a hawthorn and a rose bush nearby and wondered if either may contain a larder?

Jonathan's sharp eyes picked out our constantly calling Common Cuckoo on a the top of a distant pine. It left just as the scope was set up – of course!

A Roe Deer was found in a distant field near a church and a Yellowhammer called, traditionally this time, from a low bush and on the crags of the gorge we could see a small group of Chamois, Here too there were four Northern Ravens which were feeding on something they'd found. We couldn't see any signs of casualties among the Chamois so assumed the Ravens had found their food elsewhere.

Then it was back to the guest house at around 7.30 for another lovely breakfast of local cheeses, eggs, yoghurt, fruit and meats.

After breakfast we boarded our bus and set off to collect Ionut from Zarnesti and onwards towards the village of Sinca Noua. Here we changed transport modes and clambered in to the horse pulled, coffin-shaped carriages and trotted on our way.

The sun was intensifying now as we slowly joggled our way along the road through some very rich and traditional countryside with Lesser Whitethroats singing and Banded Demoiselles bouncing around in the stream sides.

An hour or so later we turned into the meadows, waved goodbye to our noble steeds and continued our journey on foot, making our way up onto a low ridge to give us the best views across the fields and woodland.

A Common Whitethroat sang with gusto from the tops of Birch trees with Fritillaries and Blues revelling in the hot weather. Common Buzzards soared over the wooded hills and we were hearing Golden Orioles calling from Poplar trees. We waited and watched and were rewarded with the Orioles flying to and fro across an open area on a fairly regular basis but, despite their bright yellow and black plumage, being remarkably difficult to pick out.

Jonathan picked up a couple of Turtle Doves flying rapidly away from us. It was really good to see these increasingly very rare birds. In the distance we found more Common Buzzards but also the more sought after Lesser Spotted Eagles - this area always being a happy hunting ground for these exciting raptors.

Corn Buntings sang from the low bushes and we watched a male Red-backed Shrike male feeding a female in low tree. Our final sighting before we sheltered from the very hot sun was another Black Stork -we'd done very well for this species on our trip – soaring over some mature woods on our left-hand side.

Then we tucked in to some perfectly prepared liver for lunch, or tuna if that was one's preference, with the usual lovely local wines, home-made cake and fresh fruit. What could be better?

A little bit of post-lunch surgery as Andy removed a tick which had designs on Brian for lunch and then we again split the group as some felt the heat was becoming too much and decided to go ahead to where we were going to have our early evening meal. The remaining party walked along a track through a meadow and back up onto another low ridge to give us panoramic views of the surrounding habitat.

Speckled Woods, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, Brimstones, Small Heaths and Little Blues revelled in the strong sun and we found Common Spotted Orchids, Twayblades and some lovely Butterfly Orchids.

We watched a lovely Woodlark with a bright green caterpillar in its beak in a small tree and were able to get the scope on to it for perfect views.

No sooner had Pam expressed surprise that, in this hot sun, we hadn't seen any lizards when a large bright green Sand Lizard made an appearance amongst the plentiful Spiked Heath. A little later we found a very impressive spider lurking in its hole and devouring a couple of grasshoppers.

We were on the last bit of walk towards the bus with our patient driver Ciprian when we had our best view so far of a Lesser Spotted Eagle. The bird soared overhead and we were able to see the distinctive paler forewing both underneath and on the upper-wing and glimpses of the small white primary patches. Beautiful.

We then joined our comrades in the welcome shade of the guest house and some indulged in the cooling properties of a local beer.

At the pond there had been a Viviparous Lizard, Broad-bodied Chasers, a Large Red Damselfly and our first Mistle Thrush of the trip.

After a good sausage-based meal washed down, by some, with the fiery fruit brandy and followed by some very agreeable pancakes.

Food consumed, we headed further down the valley to collect our guides and make our way into the bear hide. We arrived at the hide around 18.30 but some bears were already there anticipating the food delivery.

Under the careful supervision of the rangers, we climbed up the stairs into the elevated hide and settled down to watch the bears come and go, always interacting and very wary when any big, adult male bears arrived. As is normally the case the bears put on a great show with a very impressive moment when a male bear reared up on its hind legs to its full, and awesome, height.

We estimated we'd seen 13 different animals with two cubs, six females and five males making their different appearances. We learned that one of the females was 14 years old with one of the males an impressive 24. We also heard that the females' polygamous behaviour may be a strategy that makes a male that has just mated less likely to kill the female's cubs as it could be that one of the cubs is his.

Then it was back to the guest house about 21.20 where a couple of us had a walk along the track to see if we could find any owls or nightjars. We heard the former but there was no sign of the latter -though we did get excellent views of a Common Cuckoo perched up on a post.

Day 6

Sunday 5th June

Fish ponds day

Due our later night there wasn't an organised walk this morning but Jonathan sallied forth and found a nice calling Willow Tit down the track and outside the guesthouse there were five big croaking Northern Ravens, a calling Black Woodpecker from across the valley and the usual lovely songs of Redstarts.

Once again the sun was out and today we were heading to a very different habitat - the Dumbravita and Rotbav fish ponds.

We drove through fields full of different Corvids arriving through Dumbravita Village, parked up next to a large lake at around 09.30 and wandered into the scrubby field.

A Common Whitethroat was belting away from the telegraph wire and a White Stork was feeding in a nearby field when we heard the mimic laden song of a Marsh Warbler coming from a group of low bushes ahead of us.

After a while it started to appear and we were even able to get the telescope onto it for a short while.

Whinchats clearly had a nest nearby as we were seeing a couple of these birds with caterpillars in their beaks and perching around on teasels. Common Linnets flittered around the wires and first a Common Cuckoo and then a Eurasian Hobby shot past us.

We crossed over the road to join the many fishermen at the water's edge to find Little and Great White Egret, Grey Herons, Common Pochard and more Common Cuckoos.

A short drive away were another set of ponds and we gained entry through an unlocked gate and drove along the bank.

These were excellent ponds with Marsh Harriers, lots of Black-Crowned Night Herons, more Marsh Warblers and a typically vociferous Great Reed Warbler.

We had great views of Pygmy Cormorant and Red-eyed and Blue-tailed Damselflies hunted around the low vegetation. At the end of the track we found the amazingly perfect nest of a Penduline Tit and had brief glimpses of the birds before retracing our footsteps.

Back at our bus we found that our lunch had arrived and, as we ate, Jonathan found a group of terns that included Black and White-winged – an excellent spot.

Out on the water there were Ferruginous Duck and smart looking Great Crested Grebes and a Red Fox appeared at the far corner of the pond and trotted along towards us without a care in the world.

After lunch we drove around half an hour to reach some more fishponds near Rotbav. We hadn't walked far before we found another Penduline Tit busy building its nest. We had excellent views of this beautiful bird with its amazing nest.

A Squacco Heron flapped its way past and a Purple Heron rose and flew away from us. We walked around the lake past a colony of Black-crowned Night Herons and Little Egrets. Sand Martins catching insects over the water was a new species for us as were a small group of Caspian Gulls.

At around 15.00 we re-boarded our bus and made our way to Brasov where we had a trip around the famous Black Church with a choir from the USA practicing therein.

Brasov is an interesting town steeped in history and, after our church visit, we then separated and wandered around at our own pace.

After our town stroll, we returned to our guest house for the usual routine of listing and feeding.

Chamois were present on the far side of the gorge but we couldn't find our bears which must have moved to another hunting ground.

Day 7

Monday 6th June

Coitul Chiliilor Monastery

This was going to be our last full day and the weather had changed slightly to be a little cooler and overcast morning which was actually rather welcome following the very hot previous day.

Our usual early morning walk produced our usual set of familiar birds – but how lovely it was to hear the constant background song, see Red-backed Shrikes, sentinel like, on their lookout posts, hear 'Tree Pipits' descendant trilling, watch Chamois effortlessly negotiating the vertical cliffs, watch Common Redstarts collecting caterpillars and hear Black Redstarts with their odd 'crunchy ball-bearing' song.

Today our constant companion was a large cat which padded along after us and watched, as we watched, an elderly man scything expertly on a 1 in 2 slope. And at 6.30 in the morning!

After breakfast we headed down to the gorge once again and this time our plan was to do the lovely walk along the flank of the National Park and then up to the Coitul Chiliilor Monastery.

We drove past the park HQ then walked gently along the track – there were wagtails and House Martins and lots of Eurasian Magpies checking out the bushes in case of nests.

As we walked past a series of bushes, we heard the very distinctive 'pleased to meet you' song of a Common Rosefinch – not a bird seen in the park before so we stopped to check where it may be,

This took some time but eventually we tracked it down and got some reasonable views of a young 1st year bird yet to acquire the full red plumage.

The meadows were alive with colours – the pink of Sainfoin, the blues of Flax, Meadow Clary and Milkwort and the fiery orange of Fox and Cubs or Orange Hawkweed.

A Northern Goshawk was briefly seen and a Eurasian Sparrowhawk dashed into a low bush pursued by Magpies. Once again our familiar Red-backed Shrikes were dotted around on Hawthorn bushes, European Greenfinches wheezed from taller trees and an obliging Tree Pipit remained long enough on its perch to allow us to get excellent views through the telescope.

Field Crickets kept up a continual chorus from within their holes by the clusters of Fragrant and Broad-leaved Marsh Orchids and fruiting bodies of Cowslip plants

A puddle of water in the track held ten very smart Yellow-bellied Toads before our eyes were directed elsewhere where a beautiful European Bee-eater was perched. Another very rare bird for the National Park

We then made our way steeply downhill to meet up with our lunch angels and tuck in to yet another lovely meal.

The weather had been very pleasantly cool for the morning but now the sun started to emerge as a number of us made to walk up the hill through the open woodland. A Spotted Nutcracker made a brief visit before flying off, while Twayblades, Fragrant and Lesser Butterfly Orchids filled the small meadow areas.

We found a number of spectacular Globe Flowers and the equally yellow Marsh Marigolds in the damp path edges. While looking at these lovely plants we found the massive footprints of a Brown Bear. Close up views like this really bring it home to you just how huge these mammals are.

We reached the monastery area with its collection of interesting dogs and walked up the wooden stairs to visit the small cave monastery.

We relaxed a while here before, to the accompaniment of calling Black Woodpeckers, European Robins and Chiffchaff, we made our slow descent back to our bus passing more collections of Orchids, Helleborines, Cowslips and attractive Mountain Clover.

We drove back to Zarnesti where we parted company for the last time with our guide Ionut. We said our fond farewells and grateful thanks to him and then returned to our guesthouse for our usual routine with, this time, added packing.

Day 8

Tuesday 7th June

Bran Castle and to the airport

Our last morning was yet another beautiful one and as always, we scanned the huge limestone slab of the gorge for mammals and also, as always, we found a number of Chamois looking chestnut in the slanting sun and scaling impossibly steep looking inclines.

A group of four of us, plus an enthusiastic dog and a very friendly tortoiseshell cat, wandered down the track finding a Common Cuckoo perched high in a tree calling enthusiastically.

Today our Red-backed Shrikes were in vocal mode and their strong rasping calls drew our attention to these beautiful birds, illuminated by the sun.

Our guide dog looked rather disappointed as we headed back and a Common Redstart 'wheeted' and 'ticked' as it moved around the branches with a caterpillar in its beak – a nest clearly nearby.

A later member of the group also walked along the path and found a Willow Tit calling from the vegetation.

At around a quarter to 10 we said goodbye to this wonderful guesthouse and our ever-attentive hosts, drove into Zarnesti where we picked up Simona and headed to Bran.

The grounds of the castle were alive with Common Swifts, Spotted Flycatchers, European Serins and Common Redstarts as Simona, in guide mode, told us stories and facts about this labyrinthine building. She told us about

the real, and very interesting, history of the castle while the Count Dracula and Vlad the Impaler images were there for all of us to see

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.

Most of the group had a walk around the castle while some enjoyed the surrounding gardens and the various souvenir stands among those selling jams, honey and cheeses.

We gathered in the park for an early picnic lunch before getting back into the bus and making our way to Bucharest and its airport.

Our driver Ciprian sped through the Romanian countryside and we saw a few nice birds including around half a dozen White Storks and a number of hovering Common Kestrels.

After a brief stop at a service station for a coffee or ice cream we arrived at the airport in good time for our flights, waited patiently for the check-in desks to open and then boarded the plane for a thankfully uneventful flight home.

Thanks must go to our speedy driver, Ciprian and the gentle knowledge and patience of our lovely local guide, Ionut, who brought tremendous pleasure to all of us.

Simona and her wonderful sister and mother cannot be thanked enough for their ability to bring food of outstanding quality out to us in the wilds of Transylvania. Thanks also, obviously, to our hosts George and Oona at the Mosorel guest house – excellent home-made food, beer and wine and what must be one of the most gorgeous locations and views in Romania.

Finally, many thanks to all the group who made the trip an absolute delight.

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Species lists

Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Pinaceae		
<i>Abies alba</i>	European Silver Fir	Day 2
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	Day 2
Cupressaceae		
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	✓
Melanthiaceae		
<i>Veratrum album</i>	White False-helleborine	✓
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Meadow Saffron	Day 7
Orchidaceae		
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Helleborine	Day 7 and 8
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's-nest Orchid	Day 4 and 7
<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Common Twayblade	Day 4
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid	Day 3, 5 and 7
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Long-spurred Fragrant Orchid	Day 4,5 and 7
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid	Day 5
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Common Heath Spotted Orchid	Day 3
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	Military Orchid	Day 4
<i>Traunsteinera globosa</i>	Round-headed Orchid	Day 7
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>	Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid	Day 5 and 7
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	Day 3 onwards
Asparagaceae		
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal	Day 3
Amaryllidaceae		
<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>	Poet's Narcissus	Day 3
Iridaceae		
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris	✓
<i>Gladiolus imbricatus</i>		
<i>Iris pumila</i>	Dwarf Iris	Day 3,4 5
Ranunculaceae		
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	Day 3
<i>Clematis alpina</i>	Alpine Clematis	✓
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globeflower	Day 4 and 7
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Buttercup	Day 3
Fabaceae		
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	Day 3
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	✓

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow Vetch	✓
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	✓
<i>Trifolium montanum</i>	Mountain Clover	Day 7
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot Trefoil	✓
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Common Kidney-vetch	✓
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Common Sainfoin	Day 7
Polygalaceae		
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort	✓
Rosaceae		
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	✓
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens	Day 2 and 4
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	✓
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	✓
<i>Pyrus pyraster</i>	Wild Pear	Day 5
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Common Hawthorn	✓
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	✓
<i>Prunus padus</i>	Bird Cherry	✓
<i>Alchemilla alpinae</i>	Alpine Lady's Mantle	Day 2
Fagaceae		
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European Beech	✓
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	✓
Betulaceae		
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	✓
<i>Alnus incana</i>	Grey Alder	✓
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	European Hornbeam	Day 2
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	✓
Oxalidaceae		
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood Sorrel	Day 2
Violaceae		
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Wild Pansy	Day 3
Linaceae		
<i>Linum perenne</i>	Perennial Flax	✓
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax	✓
Geraniaceae		
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow Cranesbill	✓
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Dusky Cranesbill	Day 4
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Day 4
Sapindaceae		
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	✓
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	✓
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	✓

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Cistaceae		
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rock-rose	Day 4
Brassicaceae		
<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	Coralroot Bittercress	Day 7
<i>Lunaria rediviva</i>	Perennial Honesty	Day 2 and 4
Loranthaceae		
<i>Loranthus europaeus</i>		
Caryophyllaceae		
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow-in-summer	Day 4
<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin	Day 2 and 4
<i>Silene viscaria</i>	Sticky Catchfly	Day 2, 4 and 5
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham Catchfly	✓
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion	Day 2 and 4
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Champion	Day 2, 4 and 5
<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>	Carthusian Pink	Day 2 and 4
Primulaceae		
<i>Primula veris</i>	Common Cowslip	Day 4
<i>Cortusa matthioli</i>	Alpine Bells	Day 2 and 4
<i>Soldanella hungarica major</i>	Hungarian Snowbells	Day 2 and 4
Ericaceae		
<i>Bruckenthalia spiculifolia</i>	Spike Heath	Day 5
Rubiaceae		
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	✓
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	✓
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	✓
Gentianaceae		
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring Gentian	Day 2 and 4
<i>Gentianella uliginosa</i>	Bladder Gentian	✓
Apocynaceae		
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Common Swallow-wort	Day 3
Boraginaceae		
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss	Day 2, 4
<i>Symphytum cordatum</i>		Day 2 and 4
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forgetmenot	Day 3
Oleaceae		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Common Ash	✓

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Plantaginaceae		
<i>Digitalis grandiflora</i>	Yellow Foxglove	Day 3 and 5
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell	Day 3
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime	Day 4
Scrophulariaceae		
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort	Day 3
Lamiaceae		
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Blue Bugle	
<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel	Day 3
<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	Betony	Day 5
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	✓
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	✓
<i>Clinopodium acinos</i>	Basil-thyme	✓
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary	✓
Orobanchaceae		
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common Cow-wheat	✓
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle	Day 3
Campanulaceae		
<i>Campanula carpatica</i>	Carpathian Bellflower	?
<i>Campanula patula</i>	Spreading Bellflower	✓
Asteraceae		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Common Yarrow	✓
<i>Doronicum carpaticum</i>	Carpathian Leopardsbane	Day 2 and 4
<i>Cirsium erisithales</i>	Yellow Melancholy Thistle	Day 4
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Common Cornflower	Day 3
<i>Tragopogon orientalis</i>	Eastern Goat's-beard	Day 3
<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>	Orange Fox-and-cubs	Day 4 and 7
Adoxaceae		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Common Elder	✓
Caprifoliaceae		
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teasel	✓
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small Scabious	✓
<i>Scabiosa ochroleuca</i>	Pale Scabious	Day 4
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Fly Honeysuckle	Day 2
Apiaceae		
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle	Day 4
<i>Astrantia major</i>	Great Masterwort	Day 4
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Common Hogweed	✓
<i>Moneses uniflora</i>	One-flowered Wintergreen	Day two

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May - June 2022							
		31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>						12		
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>						2		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓					✓		✓
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						✓		
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>						6		
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	6	8	2	2			4	4
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		6		2	2	2		20+
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	1	H	1	✓	H	1
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>					2			
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						✓		
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						✓		
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						H		
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>						✓		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>						✓		
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>						✓		
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓							✓
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						✓		
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>						2		
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		1	2		1			
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	8	4	✓		2	8	1	6
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>						20		
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						40		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						30		
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>						1		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			2		1	✓		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>						6		
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>						2		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						8		
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>			2		3			
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				1			1	
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>				1			1	
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>						10		
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		1	4	1	4	✓	6	2
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				H	H	H		
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	1 L							
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			1					
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			4				1	
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>			1					
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1		H		2	2	3
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		1		H		H	H	H
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		1			H			
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>				1				1
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	1	2	1		4	2	2
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>						1		
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				1				

Common name	Scientific name	May - June 2022							
		31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		1	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	2
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>			1					
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			1		4			
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1	3	2	2	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>							1	
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓			60	✓	✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	6	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		2	1	8	6	✓	✓	4
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		H		H	H	H	✓	H
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>						2		2
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		1	1		1	✓	✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	1	1	✓	✓	H
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>						3		
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			4		1			
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			2					1
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>						10		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H	1	H	H	H	1	H
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>						2		
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						1		
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>						2		
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>						2		
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>					H	H		
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>		1	H		H	H		1
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>			H		1	2		
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>							1	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		1	H				H	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			4					H
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		1		2				
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	1	1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	2	2	4	2	✓	✓	2	4
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	H
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>					1		2	
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>								1
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	H	1	H
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>				1				
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		3	2	✓	2	2	2	2
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		2	1	2	H	H	2	4
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>						2		
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>			1	1				
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			6	3	✓	✓		
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>							1	1
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		6		2				
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		4	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			2	1	H	H	3	

Common name	Scientific name	May - June 2022							
		31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	H	H	H	H
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			2	2				
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>							6	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		3	4	✓		6	6	
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>							1	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		10	✓	✓		2	8	4
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		5					3	2
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			1		2			
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		2	4	2	✓	H	6	2
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						1		

Other vertebrates

	Common name	Scientific name	May - June 2022							
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mammals										
1	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>							D	
2	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		1					2	1
3	Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>			1	3	13			
4	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>				1	3			
5	Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>		3	✓	✓	6	8	12	10
Reptiles										
1	Viviparous Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>					1		1	
2	Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>					1			
3	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>					D			
Amphibians										
1	Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>		1						
2	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>		✓	✓					
3	Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>			12	1			10	
4	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>			✓			H		
5	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>							1	
6	Montadon's Newt	<i>Triturus montandoni</i>		1						
7	Newt sp Efts					✓				

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	May - June 2022								
		31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Pieridae										
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>								✓	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓		✓					
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>			✓						
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>			✓		✓				
				.		.				
Lycaenidae										
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		1	✓	✓	✓			✓	

Common name	Scientific name	May - June 2022							
		31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>				✓				
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>					2			
Nymphalidae									
Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>		2		1				
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		1					1	
Map	<i>Araschnia levana</i>		1						
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			1			1	2	
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>		1						
Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana selene</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Eurodryas aurinia</i>					✓			
Satyridae									
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>								✓
Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓			✓			
Hesperiidae									
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>		✓	✓					

Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	May - June 2022							
		31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Macro Moths									
Geometridae									
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>		1	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>					✓		✓	✓
Arctiidae									
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>			✓				✓	
Dragonflies and Damselflies									
Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>						✓		
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>				✓				
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>			✓		✓	✓		
Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>			✓					
Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>						✓		
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>						✓		
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>			3		2			
Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>			1		1			
Other invertebrates									
Froghopper	<i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>					✓			
Wood Ant	<i>Formica rufa</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>		✓	✓		✓			
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>		H	H	H	1	H	H	H

Common name	Scientific name	May - June 2022							
		31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Millipede sp	<i>Diplopoda sp</i>		1		✓				
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Violet Ground Beetle	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>		1						
Soldier Beetle sp	<i>Cantharidae sp</i>				✓	✓			
Long-horn Beetle sp	<i>Cerambycidae sp</i>				✓				
Caddis Fly sp	<i>Trichoptera sp</i>		✓		✓				
Roman snail	<i>Helix pomatia</i>		2			2			
Tick sp	<i>Ixodes sp?</i>					1			
Spider sp -tunnel web type						1			
Carpathian bush-cricket	<i>Pholidoptera transsylvania</i>					1			
Cockchafer	<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓