

Romania – The Wildlife of Transylvania

Naturetrek Tour Report

23rd – 30th May 2023



Small Heath



Wallcreeper



Brown Bear



Fire Salamander

Tour report and images by Andy Foster



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

Summary

What a wonderful eight days we spent in the beautiful Carpathian Mountains! Our guesthouse was located in a unique position with breathtaking views in all directions across the Piatra Craiului National Park and Bucegi mountains. We had some fantastic wildlife sightings including Brown Bear, crossing the path by the side of the guesthouse, Chamois on the gorge opposite the guesthouse, Wallcreepers showing off their bright red wings, White Storks, Fire Salamanders, Bee-eaters, Black Woodpecker, Black Stork and plenty of orchids including Green-winged, Marsh, Fragrant, Common heath-spotted, Bird's nest and Lesser butterfly! Butterflies didn't disappoint with Camberwell Beauty showing well, Orange-tip, Green-veined White, Map butterfly and Duke of Burgundy Fritillary amongst others, and all topped off with a visit to the historical town of Brasov and Bran Castle!

Day 1

Tuesday 23rd May

Half of the group met up at Heathrow airport for the 3.5 hour uneventful flight to Bucharest where we landed on time at 17.15. Here we met with other group members who had flown in earlier from Stanstead, Leeds and others who were already in Romania.

The journey up to the guesthouse took us just under four hours with a stop approximately halfway for refreshments and to use the bathrooms.

We arrived at Mosorel guesthouse in Magura just before 22.00, where we met our hosts Oana and George and were shown to our rooms. Shortly afterwards dinner was served, and we had a quick briefing on the following days activities before retiring for a well-earned rest.

Day 2

Wednesday 24th May

The day started well with beautiful clear skies and the most spectacular views in all directions, the Mosorel guesthouse really does have a very privileged position overlooking the Piatra Craiului National Park and Bucegi mountains.

We met up pre-breakfast at 07.00 and started scanning the distant slopes, soon picking up our first Chamois of the trip. A few minutes later Chris W appeared saying he had seen a Brown Bear! He quickly showed us the photograph he had taken on his mobile phone from his balcony! Suddenly a Brown Bear ran up the hill by the guesthouse and quickly crossed the road...an amazing site, but unfortunately not all of the group had yet gathered.

After so much excitement we headed in for a great breakfast at 07.30 and our local guide Iounut arrived at 08.30. After introductions were made, we set off for a walk from the guesthouse down into the valley below, walking through wildflower meadows and orchards. We started to identify some of the commoner wildflowers, which included Heath Dog-violet, Germander Speedwell, Smooth Bedstraw, Sweet Woodruff and our first Green-winged Orchid of the trip. There were a handful of Fieldfares around in stunning summer plumage, Common Redstart and some Marsh tits. As we dropped further into the valley and the morning started to warm up, we were soon seeing our first butterflies including Orange-tip, Map and Speckled Wood.

As we joined the main road that leads up to the guesthouse, a Black Woodpecker called very close by, and we soon had the most handsome male Black Woodpecker giving us all excellent views. What a stunning bird! We continued to walk down towards our picnic spot, picking up great views of White-throated Dipper in the process. New flowers continued to appear including Dusky Crane's-bill, White Ballmustard, Wood Spurge, Common Rock-rose and Common Kidney Vetch. Next up was Yellow Archangel, Greater Celandine and Hairy Chervil.

We arrived at our picnic spot where two wonderful ladies had laid out the most impressive picnic I have ever seen, and we all enjoyed a wonderful lunch, washed down with water, wine and beer!

After lunch, we took a 20-minute drive out beyond Zarnesti where we stopped at a local site for Beaver. We found fresh evidence with newly chewed vegetation, but unfortunately no Beavers, although we did have wonderful views of a Yellow Wagtail. With rain threatening we drove on towards another access road to the Piatra Craiului National Park, stopping along the way for great views of a nesting White Stork. Shortly afterwards the heavens opened, but thankfully it was whilst driving to our next spot some 30 minutes away. By the time we arrived, the rain had almost stopped.

We arrived at Plaiul Foil and set off for a walk of a couple of hours. Although quiet bird wise with only Chaffinch, Common Buzzard, White-throated Dipper and a Grey Wagtail, we did amazingly well on reptiles and amphibians, obviously the rain had attracted all of these things out! First up was a beautiful Fire Salamander that Richard spotted (we subsequently saw a further four), Yellow-bellied Toad, Common Frog, Carpathian Newt and a Slowworm, so all in all a very productive first day in the field!

We arrived back at the guesthouse just before 17.30 and met up again for dinner, followed by completion of our daily checklist and an identification session to identify the butterflies we had photographed earlier in the day, together with a handful of plants.

Day 3

Thursday 25th May

We awoke to a somewhat overcast morning and met up pre-breakfast at 07.00 to scan the distant ridge for Chamois and Brown Bears. We struck lucky with the Chamois again, seeing at least 10 individuals. Breakfast was served at 07.30, after which we departed for an hour's drive into the lowlands, picking up our local guide Iounut on the way. We arrived at Poiana Narciselor in Vad in good time and had a quick stop for a very close White Stork that was feeding in one of the meadows. Hannah picked up our first Golden Orioles of the day, with good scope views for the group, followed by a Great-grey Shrike and one of our main target birds of the day, a Lesser-spotted Eagle which gave great flight views. We drove on for a short while, parked up and set off towards a forested area. We had soon picked up some excellent views of Red-backed Shrike, Cuckoo and a wonderful Hoopoe, that again, gave some great scope views. There were also several Tree Sparrows moving through the vegetation by the roadside and a pair of Whinchat.

We wandered into one of the meadows, finding some White Narcissus which this area is famous for together with Siberian Iris, Ragged Robin and some wonderful Wild Thyme mixed in with Dyer's Greenweed. There were several brief sightings of more Golden Orioles followed by a Great-spotted Woodpecker. It was quiet on the butterfly front as unfortunately it had clouded over and started to rain. We came across lots of Arctic Rattlebox and endless amounts of Common Milkwort.

A wonderful picnic lunch was served just after 12.00 and we took a short walk into the forest picking up good views of a Middle-spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch and some of the group saw a pair of Spotted Flycatchers. As we were all climbing back into the minibus, Iounut spotted a distant Black Stork flying in our direction, everyone came out of the minibus, but unfortunately the stork had different ideas and dropped down below the distant treeline.

At around 14.00 we started our short 20-minute journey towards the Sinca Veche Monastery where we hoped to see some European Bee-eaters. A short distance into the journey, Hillary and Alan spotted a Lesser-spotted Eagle perched by the roadside, but by the time we had stopped and reversed, it had unfortunately departed.

Shortly before our arrival at the Monastery we came across several Bee-eaters, what a spectacular bird! We parked and visited the Monastery and made our way back down to the minibus and set off towards Sinca Noua where we stopped for an hour or so to wander through a wildflower meadow. The sun was just pushing its way through the clouds, and we had a bit of butterfly activity, finding Common Blue, Marsh Fritillary, Small White, Brimstone and Small Heath. We also came across some beautiful Lesser Butterfly Orchids.

It was now just gone 17.00 and we started our hour's drive back to the guesthouse, arriving at 18.00. Dinner was served at 18.30, followed by the completion of our daily checklist and ID session, always great fun to relive such a productive day!

Day 4

Friday 26th May

The day started with a beautiful morning as we met up at 07.00 to scan the nearby limestone gorge, picking up a couple of Chamois in the process. As usual, breakfast was served at 07.30 and by 08.30 we were departing for a short drive down to the Zarnesti Gorge where we were to spend the morning.

Our main target today was Wallcreeper - a beautiful little bird that lives within and around the limestone cliffs. We took a slow walk up the gorge watching our first Speckled Woods and Green-veined Whites of the day. The path edges were lined with Honesty with its impressive purple coloured flower. We arrived at the nest spot of the Wallcreeper and were expecting to wait for up to an hour to see the bird. Within 10 minutes, the bird suddenly appeared as we all scrambled for our binoculars and cameras! We all managed good but brief views and waited for a second appearance! After around 20 minutes, the bird was back, this time we managed better views but still quite brief. We decided to give it another shot and waited some 40 minutes, but without luck. We did however watch as several Alpine Swifts flew in and out of a small crack in the cliff above us giving the whole group great views. We decided to head on up the gorge, as we left the nest site, someone shouted out Wallcreeper, and sure enough, there were a pair of Wallcreepers! It was such a pleasure to watch them displaying as they clung to the limestone cliff, quite an amazing site and we couldn't have hoped for a better start to the day!

We watched a Kestrel being mobbed by a couple of Crag Martins, whilst shortly afterwards a Buzzard flew high over the gorge.

There were several Small Whites in the area together with Orange-tips flying over the beautiful flowers of the Leopard's-bane. Further along the path, Diane identified some Tuberous Comfrey and the small purple flowers of Alpine Snowbell that was dotted around the damp gorge edges.

Further up the gorge we came across a beautiful Grey Wagtail, sitting out in the sun, its yellow breast and belly almost glowing! We turned around and headed back towards the minibus and shortly after 12.00 we were once again served a delicious picnic lunch!

The afternoon was kept free in case we needed to return to the gorge to see Wallcreeper, but having had such a successful morning there was really no need to return, so we hatched a plan to visit another gorge located close to Rasnov, just a half hour drive away.

By 14.00 we arrived at the Cheile Rasnoavei gorge, parked up the minibus and set off. Shortly after we left, we picked up a couple of Pygmy Iris growing on the cliffside above us, just as a Grey-headed Woodpecker started to call. Despite much effort, unfortunately we could not locate the bird. Further up the gorge we watched a pair of Peregrine Falcons displaying, flying high in the sky, followed shortly afterwards by a couple of Buzzards. A small family party of Long-tailed Tits moved through the trees in front of us, whilst some of the group up ahead had located a Camberwell Beauty! There were a couple of Woodland Ringlets flying around, which again were joined by Orange-tips. We managed to locate some Yellow-bellied Toads in a small ditch by the track and also a cool looking Sand Lizard.

It had just gone 16.00 as we climbed aboard the minibus to start our journey back to the guesthouse, passing several White Storks and a Kestrel along the way.

As usual dinner was served at 18.30, followed by our daily checklist.

Day 5

Saturday 27th May

After breakfast we took a short walk near to the guesthouse prior to our departure towards Sinca Noua at 09.00. It was quiet with only a Garden Warbler and Green Woodpecker being heard.

We arrived at Sinca Noua around 10.00 and transferred to a horse and cart (a traditional form of transport in Romania) to be taken further into the flowering meadows where we spent the remainder of the morning.

As we trotted along the road, we spotted a Lesser-spotted Eagle in the distance and a few Fieldfares in the nearby meadows. We passed under the nest of a White Stork that had made its home on top of a pylon and spotted some Red-backed Shrikes in the distance. We pulled off the road and into a large meadow where we left our rural transport behind!

The meadows in this area were amazing and so diverse, so many beautiful flowers and completely deserted of humans, such a luxury! With distant Golden Orioles calling we started to identify our first wildflowers of the day that included Lady's Bedstraw, Dyer's Woad, Sticky Catchfly, Winged Broom, plenty of Heath Dog-violets and beautiful Guelder Roses. We heard a distant Corn Bunting calling, so set out to find it, eventually seeing two incredibly well. There were plenty of Skylarks around and a distant Tree Pipit was calling but failed to show itself.

We used some playback to try to find Corncrake, but unfortunately despite much effort we had no response. Small heath butterflies were quite common today together with Green-veined White and Large White.

Once again, a delicious picnic lunch was served shortly after 13.00, just as we were finishing the thunder that we had been hearing distantly suddenly became much closer and the heavens opened. We took cover in the minibus for around 30 minutes whilst the storm passed and amazingly, shortly afterwards the sun came out again!

We set off on foot and continued to walk the meadows looking for wildflowers and birds, picking up good views of Tree Pipit and Black Stork along the way. We then come across some Common Twayblade, looking much like an orchid and some Sword-leaved Helleborine. We tried to find Red-breasted Flycatcher but had no luck. Our next patch of orchids was amazing, with Fragrant Orchid, Lesser-butterfly Orchid, Green-winged Orchid and Heath-spotted Orchid, all in close vicinity of each other, dotted amongst these was Tormentil, Common Rock-rose, Squinancy Wort (what a name!) and a single Spreading Bellflower.

We were some 30 minutes away from the minibus when the heavens opened again, this time, with nowhere to hide we got a proper drenching! Soaked to the skin, we boarded the minibus and took a short drive to Marias house where we were to have dinner later. Very kindly, she welcomed us in, although we were somewhat early, made us some tea and gave us some local brandy to warm us through, it really was most welcomed. At 17.00 we took the 45 minutes drive way into the back of the forest slopes and met the two wardens who were to take us to the bear observation hide. We parked some 200m away from the hide and glancing up into the forest, we saw this large Brown Bear heading down through the trees! Once in the hide, there were ten Brown Bears of various sizes, all feeding in front of us, really quite a sight! We sat in silence for the next hour watching Bears come and go, it was a great experience watching how the bears interact and the hierarchy between them.

Having had our “fill” of Bears we set off back to the minibus and drove back to Marias house. She had prepared a wonderful dinner for us, washed down with more homemade brandy and wine. After a wonderful and somewhat damp (!) day we returned to the guesthouse just before 22.00

Day 6

Sunday 28th May

Another beautiful but chilly morning as we met up on the decking area overlooking the gorge. Several Chamois were sunning themselves on the rocky outcrops, but still no sign of any Bears.

We set off after breakfast and picked up Iounut from Zarnesti on the way through towards the lakes at Dumbravita where we were to spend the morning. After an hour's drive we arrived at our first port of call and soon started to pick up new birds. These included Reed Warbler, Great-crested Grebe, Pochard, Shelduck, Marsh Harrier, some beautiful Black terns, Whiskered Tern, Black-headed Gull, Great Egret, Pygmy Cormorant, Little Grebe, Common Tern, Gadwall, Teal and Mute Swan. Not a bad start.

We boarded the minibus again and drove on towards the fish lakes where they breed mostly carp. Bird activity was great for the remainder of the morning with Black-crowned Night Heron, Squacco Heron, more Marsh Harriers, Great Reed Warbler, a very obliging Penduline Tit and a Savi's Warbler that eventually showed itself briefly but well! Further along the track we located the Penduline Tit's nest, a rather cool structure that was in the process of being built that according to Chris W “once complete was, in the past, used as children's slippers”!

We were served another wonderful picnic lunch with such enthusiasm (!), during which time a Purple Heron flew over and Greylag Geese were on the nearby pond. In the same vicinity was a Cuckoo, Peacock butterfly and some Blue-tailed Damselflies.

After lunch, we took a 30-minute drive to the lakes at Rotbav where we hoped to see a couple of target birds. As we arrived the thunder started to rumble and we were a little concerned we would have a repeat of yesterday, but thankfully the weather held and we had more good views of Black Tern, Hannah spotted a Shoveler and one of our targets, the Little Bittern flew across the lake in front of us, so far so good. Suddenly Julia spotted a Grass Snake swimming along the water by our side and just as we were about to leave, our second target popped up in a tree in front of us, a beautiful Kingfisher!

With mission complete and rain threatening, we boarded the minibus again and took a further 30-minute drive into the historical city of Brasov to visit the Black Church and see some of the wonderful architecture of the town. We departed just after 17.00, arriving back at our guesthouse just before dinner at 18.30, which was a lovely BBQ cooked by one of our hosts, George.

After dinner, we were busy working through our two day's worth of checklists when George appeared and said a Brown Bear was on the gorge opposite, I ran to get the scope and thankfully returned in time with most of the group getting good views before it wandered back into the forest. A great end to a great day!

Day 7

Monday 29th May

Another beautiful morning as we met up for our pre-breakfast scan of the gorge. As usual, we picked out several Chamois, many of which were young. After about 15 minutes, I spotted a Brown Bear come over the ridge, which thankfully made its way slowly along the ridge giving excellent scope views, what a fantastic sight!

After breakfast we took our now familiar drive down the track towards Zarnesti, picking up Ionuts on the way. Today we were to spend a full day walking the lower meadows below Piatra Craiului National Park. After a short 20-minute drive we arrived and set off on a beautiful walk that took us through to our lunch spot. It was a productive morning with many wildflowers and various species of birds and butterflies. We heard a distant Garden Warbler singing and used some playback to try to lure it in and although it came close, only Richard had a really good view. We came across our first Pink Sanfoin of the trip followed shortly afterwards by a perched Woodlark that was singing its heart out at the top of a pine tree. Further along the track we picked up a very cooperative Tree Pipit and best of all, a perched Nutcracker that gave good scope views for the group. We stumbled upon some lovely Perennial Flax and our first Broad-leaved Marsh Orchids.

As the sun started to burn off the clouds, the first butterflies of the day started to fly, and we soon had Orange-tip and Speckled Wood doing regular flypasts. Several Common Buzzards were now soaring above us and a Greenfinch was spotted at the top of another nearby pine followed by a male Black Woodpecker which showed very well. Our last new plant of the morning was Prostrate Speedwell with its lovely blue flowers.

Lunch was served in the usual wonderful style, and we recharged our batteries for the afternoon walk up to the Coltul Chililor Monastery. This was a steep uphill walk which soon levelled out a little. As we had climbed in

altitude, we were still finding new wildflowers, the best of which was an Elder Flower Orchid. We arrived at the Monastery and visited the nearby cave that had been used as a site of worship and appeared to be somewhat of a shrine!

There was little bird activity and despite much effort, we never had a response from the Grey-headed Woodpecker or Red-breasted Flycatcher, we did however have a wonderful day's walking in the most fabulous scenery! This was our last day with Iounuts, so we said our thanks and goodbyes, he had been a great and knowledgeable guide for us during the week.

We arrived back to the comfort of our guesthouse just after 16.30 and met up again for dinner at 18.30, followed by our daily checklists.

Day 8

Tuesday 30th May

Our last day of the tour had arrived, time had just flown by! We met for a quick pre-breakfast scan of the gorge and breakfast as usual was served at 07.30. We had a short while after breakfast to settle our bills and finish packing before setting off at 09.00 for a visit to the famous Bran castle. We spent around an hour wandering around the castle and learning about Vlad the Impaler. Upon leaving the castle, Richard picked up a Collared Flycatcher and we also watched as a pair of Great Spotted Woodpeckers were displaying in a nearby tree. We set off back towards the minibus and had our final picnic lunch before setting off for our 3.5 hour drive down to Bucharest for our flights home, picking up a Crested Lark at our bathroom break!

We said our goodbyes at the airport as people set off to check in for their flights or head into Bucharest as some were staying for some additional nights in Romania. It had been a wonderful week of wildlife watching with so many great highlights, excellent company, mainly good weather and a lot of laughs along the way.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023						
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>					2		
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>					✓		
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>					✓		
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>					1		
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>					2		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		2			✓		
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>					1		
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					✓		
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartus melba</i>	1		✓			1	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	H		✓				
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	H	4	H	H	3	H	
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		4	✓		2	4	
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1				2		
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					2		
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					✓		
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					1		
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					✓		
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		1					
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					6		
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>					✓	✓	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					2		
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>					4		
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					✓		
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		1		1			
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	4	6	✓	4	✓		
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>					7		
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					✓		
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					2		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓		
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					2		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		2		2	✓		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					1		
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					4		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					3		
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		3		1	1		
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1						
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		1			5		
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	2	4	✓	5		✓	
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				H		H	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		2					
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					1		

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023						
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		8			H		
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>		1		H			
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2	H				2
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	1					1	
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		H		1	H		
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			H				
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		4	2	1	1		
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>					1		
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			3				
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	1	✓	1	✓		✓	
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		2					
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓		H			
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	6	2	2	3	2	3	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	5	✓	✓	✓	
Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>						2	
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>					✓		
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	1	5	2			4	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	4	3	5	2	2	6	
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	1		2			2	
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	4			H			
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	2	✓	4	2	2	5	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2	2	2	2		2	
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					2		
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>						1	
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		2		4			
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>							1
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓		2	✓	✓	
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			4				
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓			3	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1	H	H	H		1	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>					5		
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					1		
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	1				1		
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					1		
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	2	H		H	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				H		1	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>					H		
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	1		1	1	1	H	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>						H	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	H		1	1		1	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		2		1			
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>			2				
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023						
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	✓	✓	3	✓	3	✓	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	1	H			5	
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>						1	
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		2					
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1	2	2	1		2	
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>							1
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>						3	
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	3	2	2	1	1	3	
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		2					
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			1	3			
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	2		1	1			
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>					✓	✓	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		4			2		
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	2						
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	5		2	2		2	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	4	1		1	1	3	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				1		1	
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	3		✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>						2	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			4			6	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	H	4	3	2		2	
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				2			
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	1	1		2		2	

Mammals (D = Dead)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023						
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Common Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>					2D	1D	
Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>				1D			
Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	1			10		2	
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elephas</i>							
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	1			3		2	
Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>	✓	✓	✓	8	3	✓	

Reptiles & Amphibians

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023						
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>			1			1	
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>					1		
Alpine Newt	<i>Triturus alpinus</i>			1				
Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>					1		
Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>			✓			✓	

Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>					✓		
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	✓		2				

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023						
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Pieridae								
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓			1	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>				1			
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			4	4			
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	✓						
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	✓	✓		4		2	
Lycaenidae								
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓		2			
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>				2			
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	✓	✓				1	
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓					
Riodinidae								
Duke of Burgundy Fritillary	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>	✓						
Nymphalidae								
Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>			1	1		1	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>					1		
Map	<i>Araschnia levana</i>	✓						
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>						1	
Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana selene</i>						1	
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Eurodryas aurinia</i>		✓		✓			
Satyridae								
Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>	✓		2	1		2	
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓		✓		✓	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		5	

Additional species recorded by tour participant Chris Davis

Butterflies - Sooty Copper, Heath Fritillary, Dingy Skipper, Peacock, Green Hairstreak, Eastern Short-tailed Blue, Pearl Bordered Fritillary, Titiana's Fritillary

Moths – Latticed Heath, Speckled Yellow, Willow Beauty, Common Heath, Burnet Companion, July Belle, Clouded Buff, Yellow Shell

Other invertebrates

Black-veined Moth – *Siona lineata*, Mother Shipton – *Callistege mi*, Field Cricket – *Gryllus campestris*, Common Blue Damselfly – *Enallagma cyathigerum*, Blue-tailed Damselfly – *Ischnura elegans*, Scorpion Fly, Rose Chafer, Soldier Beetle sp

Flora

Scientific Name	Common Name
Pinaceae	
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce
Melanthiaceae	
<i>Veratrum album</i>	White False-helleborine
Orchidaceae	
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine
<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Common Twayblade
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Long-spurred Fragrant Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Common Heath Spotted Orchid
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
Ranunculaceae	
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globeflower
Saxifragaceae	
<i>Saxifraga cuneifolia</i>	Spoon-leaved Saxifrage
Fabaceae	
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Greenweed
<i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i>	Wild Liquorice
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow Vetch
<i>Vicia pannonica</i>	Hungarian Vetch
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot Trefoil
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Common Kidney-vetch
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Common Sainfoin
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Lesser Bird's-foot Trefoil
Polygalaceae	
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort
Rosaceae	
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Common Hawthorn

Scientific Name	Common Name
Betulaceae	
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
Oxalidaceae	
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood Sorrel
Violaceae	
<i>Viola declinata</i>	Dark blue pansy
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Wild Pansy
Linaceae	
<i>Linum austriacum</i>	
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax
Geraniaceae	
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow Cranesbill
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Dusky Cranesbill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
Onagraceae	
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	Common Evening-primrose
Sapindaceae	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
Cistaceae	
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rock-rose
Brassicaceae	
<i>Lunaria rediviva</i>	Perennial Honesty
Caryophyllaceae	
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Field Mouse-ear
<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin
<i>Silene viscaria</i>	Sticky Catchfly
<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>	Carthusian Pink
Balsaminaceae	
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Indian Balsam
Primulaceae	
<i>Primula veris</i>	Common Cowslip
Rubiaceae	
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort

Scientific Name	Common Name
Boraginaceae	
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Common Comfrey
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forgetmenot
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Wood Forgetmenot
Convolvulaceae	
<i>Cuscuta europaea</i>	Greater Dodder
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
Plantaginaceae	
<i>Veronica urticifolia</i>	Nettle-leaved Speedwell
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
Lamiaceae	
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Blue Bugle
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Common Bugle
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Wall Germander
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Common Hemp-nettle
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy
<i>Clinopodium alpinum</i>	Alpine Calamint
<i>Thymus pulegioides</i>	Large Thyme
<i>Mentha longifolia</i>	Horse Mint
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary
Orobanchaceae	
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle
Campanulaceae	
<i>Campanula carpatica</i>	Carpathian Bellflower
Asteraceae	
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp Agrimony
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Common Yarrow
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy
<i>Doronicum carpaticum</i>	Carpathian Leopardsbane
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Common Chicory
Adoxaceae	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Common Elder
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Gelder-rose
Caprifoliaceae	
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common Valerian
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teasel

Scientific Name	Common Name
Apiaceae	
<i>Astrantia major</i>	Great Masterwort
<i>Chaerophyllum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Chervil
<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Burnet-saxifrage
<i>Carum carvi</i>	Caraway
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Common Hogweed
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
Additional plants recorded	
	Greater Celandine
	Lesser London Pride
	Field Chickweed
	Wood Spurge
	White Ballmustard
	Slender Bedstraw
	Garlic Mustard
	Monkshood
	Mouse-eared Hawkweed
	Eyebright
	White Narcissus
	Red Lungwort
	Star of Bethlehem
	Cypress Spurge
	Tuberous Comfrey
	Alpine Snowbell
	Yellow Wood Violet
	Water Avens
	Sibiricus Iris
	Pygmy Iris
	White Butterbur
	Ribwort Plantain
	Dyer's Woad
	Sword-leaved Helleborine
	Squinancy Wort
	Wild Hop
	Common Hawkweed
	Alpine ladies Mantle
	Blue Flax
	Early purple Orchid
	Bulbous Buttercup
	Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid
	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
	Thyme-leaved Sandwort
	Elder-flowered Orchid
	Common Toothwort