

# Romania – The Wildlife of Transylvania

Naturetrek Tour Report

30th May – 6th June 2023

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European Bee-eater



Nutcracker



European Brown Bear



Orange-tip

Tour report and images by Andy Foster

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## Summary

A wonderful eight days were spent in the Carpathian Mountains with wonderful wildlife, great weather and fantastic company! Highlights were many, on the bird front it was undoubtedly the Wallcreepers that we watched in Zarnesti Gorge, the numerous White Storks with their high balancing nests and the stunning Bee-eaters in the Sinca Noua area. Mammals were wonderful with Brown Bear and Chamois sighted on several occasions from the guesthouse, with much closer views of Brown Bear from the hide. Butterflies were plentiful with highlights being Camberwell Beauty, Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary and Green-underside Blue. Orchids galore pleased the plant enthusiasts with Green-winged orchid, Marsh orchid, Fragrant orchid, Common heath-spotted orchid, Bird's nest orchid and Lesser butterfly orchid all being recorded.

### Day 1

**Tuesday 30th May**

Some of the group met up at Heathrow airport for the 3.5 hour flight to Bucharest and landed on time at 17.15. The rest of the group, some of which were already in Romania assembled in the arrivals hall and by 19.00 we had set off for the four hour drive up to our accommodation for the week - the Mosorel guesthouse.

We arrived at Mosorel guesthouse in Magura at 22.15, were met by our hosts Oana and George and 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 31st May**

We were greeted by a clear morning 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, but strangely there were no Chamois to be found, although Alasdair did pick up a very nice Hawfinch. Breakfast was served at 07.30 and by 08.30 our local guide Iounut had arrived.

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 picked up good views of Cuckoo, Lesser Whitethroat, Common Redstart, White Wagtail and Marsh Tit. We also 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 several Fieldfares around in stunning summer plumage and we also had good views of Tree Sparrow and a couple of Ravens flying over the distant ridge. As we dropped further into the valley and the morning started to warm up, we were soon seeing our first butterflies including Small Blue and Orange-tip.

We continued to walk down towards our picnic spot and came across some Bird's-nest Orchids and several Common Swifts flying high above us. As we arrived at the stream in the bottom of the valley, we came across several Grey Wagtails and a White-throated Dipper. New flowers included Dusky Crane's-bill, White Ballmustard, Wood Surge and Common Kidney Vetch.

We arrived at our picnic spot where we were served with a wonderful picnic lunch, a much welcomed sight!

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 and a dam, but unfortunately no Beavers, although we did have wonderful views of a Yellow Wagtail, Hobby, Garden Warbler and some more Ravens. We set off back towards Zarnesti, stopping to look at a White Stork nest located on top of a local house that contained an adult and three chicks!

After a further 30 minute drive, we arrived at Plaiul Foil and set off for a walk of a couple of hours. Although quiet bird wise with White-throated Dipper and a Grey Wagtail we did amazingly well on reptiles and amphibians, with the light rain that had started to fall attracting several of our targets out into the open. First up was a Common Frog followed by a Yellow-bellied Toad, that Martin managed to “place” in such a position that we could clearly see its yellow belly. Our main target, the Fire Salamander was still eluding us until about 30 minutes later when we located one by the path, such a wonderful creature! We also found some Carpathian Newts in some standing water. We walked further into the forest, locating some Goldcrests along the way, a Mistle Thrush and finally a pair of Black Redstarts.

We arrived back at the guesthouse just after 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. A wonderful first day in the Carpathian Mountains!

## Day 3

## Thursday 1st June

We awoke to a cool morning, it had clearly rained overnight and started to rain again as we met up on the decking area for a pre-breakfast scan of the distant ridge for Chamois and Brown Bears. We managed to locate our first Chamois of the trip observing at least eight 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. Today we were to spend the morning in the forests and meadows that run adjacent to it.

It wasn't long before we heard our first Hoopoe of the day, but try as we might, we couldn't locate it! We strolled through the meadow with Karen picking up some Goldfinches and we spotted our first Golden Oriole of the day which ended up giving good scope views. Next up, Adam spotted a Red-backed Shrike and a Green Woodpecker flew over us, but was definitely not stopping! As we wandered through the meadow, we started looking at some of the wildflowers, identifying the beautiful pink flowers of Bistort, a whole swathe of yellow Meadow Hawk-weed and a collection of Field Pansies. Small Blue butterflies were drifting low over the meadow as did Woodland Ringlet and a single rather faded Painted Lady. Some Tree Sparrows moved through the distant small bushes, and we also observed a Kestrel hovering close by. Next up, Ionut called “Eagle” and sure enough, there was our first Lesser-spotted Eagle of the day, which gave us some excellent views.

Further along, Andrew spotted a pair of Whinchat which showed well, and we finally caught up with Hoopoe as one flew low across the meadow in front of us, unfortunately it didn't stick around for longer views.

We wandered on through the meadows, finding some White Narcissus which this area is famous for together with some rather tired looking Siberian Iris, Ragged Robin and Wild Thyme. Adam found us a Black Stork, flying high over the forest, but it gave very acceptable views and Andrew spotted several Hooded crows in a nearby field. Further along, Bee-eater put in an appearance, giving the group good views.

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 Nuthatch, Spotted Flycatchers, a very cooperative Wood Warbler and a pair of Collared Flycatchers. Further into the forest we had brief views of another Hoopoe and a Great Spotted Woodpecker.

At around 14.30 we started our short 20 minute journey towards the Sinca Veche Monastery where we hoped to get closer views of the European Bee-eaters. Shortly before our arrival at the Monastery we came across several Bee-eaters. What a spectacular bird! We parked up and wandered over towards them and watched from a safe distance so as not to flush them. Just after 16.00, we started our journey back towards the guesthouse, having had a very enjoyable day. We arrived at around 17.15 and met up again at 18.30 for dinner, followed by our daily checklist. Just as we came to the end of the checklist, the guesthouse owner Oana came dashing into the room to tell us that there was a Brown Bear on the ridge opposite. We rushed for our binoculars and telescope and within minutes were all having the most fantastic views of our first Brown Bear! What a great end to a fantastic day!

## Day 4

## Friday 2nd June

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. Grant suddenly shouted from his balcony that he had a Bear in the field below, we were blocked from where we were standing and by the time we had repositioned to the other side of the guesthouse, the Bear had unfortunately gone.

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. The walk started with several Red-backed Shrikes showing well whilst Garden Warblers and Whitethroats were calling around us. We picked up a lovely male Yellowhammer and shortly afterwards had a couple of Common Buzzards circling above us. A couple of Mistle Thrushes were chasing Magpies in some nearby trees and a Hobby drifted over the ridge in front of us. It was quite quiet on the butterfly front with Small Heath, Small Blue and a Red Admiral being recorded.

The meadows did not disappoint with a large selection of wildflowers including Common Sanfoin, Blue Flax, Meadow Clary, Common Rock-rose and our first Early-purple Orchids. As we continued, clouds were slowly building, hopefully it would wait until later in the day to rain! Campbell and Adam spotted a Tree Pipit which gave good scope views for the group and a Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen in a nearby tree, whilst a Chiffchaff started to call nearby.

We managed to locate a Common Rosefinch, a rare visitor to the National Park, this was followed shortly afterwards by a Greenfinch, that sat in the top of a pine tree calling away. We soon came across some more orchids, this time they were Fragrant Orchids, and indeed they were a little fragrant! Nearby Ionut located a White Helleborine whilst we started to search for Spotted Nutcracker, a bird that can be found in this area.

As we dropped down the track to another wonderful picnic lunch that was awaiting us, distant thunder started to rumble, and the sky was slowly becoming darker. Amazingly we managed to have lunch without any rain but as we set off for the afternoons walk to the Coltul Chililor Monastery, it had indeed started to rain.

It was an uphill walk to start with which soon levelled out, so we started to look for Nutcracker again. After several attempts in various places, we suddenly struck lucky as a Nutcracker flew overhead and perched briefly in the top of a tree. As we all shuffled around to try to see the bird, it flew, thankfully into an adjacent tree where it remained for the next 20 minutes, giving the most fantastic views for the whole group!

The wildflowers continued to impress with Broad-leaved marsh orchids, Sword-leaved Helleborine, Greater Masterwort and Wood Avens. We watched as a Red Squirrel moved through on the forest floor, it's amazing just how camouflaged it was! We arrived at the Monastery and before visiting the cave, set off into another patch of quality forest, but unfortunately, with the onset of rain there was little activity, apart from another Red Squirrel.

We headed up to the cave that had been used as a site of worship and appeared to be somewhat of a shrine and also took the opportunity to take cover and put our waterproofs on as the rain had now started to fall properly!

There was little activity on the walk down and we arrived back at the minibus around 16.45, arriving back at the guesthouse at 17.30. As usual dinner was served at 18.30, followed by our daily checklists.

After dinner, Alasdair had a flock of Alpine Swifts flying along the top of the gorge.

## Day 5

## Saturday 3rd June

We met up as usual shortly after 07.00 and watched some Chamois on the nearby gorge and Karen spotted several Alpine Swifts flying overhead.

After breakfast we took the 1 hour drive towards Sinca Noua 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 with the horse owners dog running proudly alongside, we spotted several Red-backed Shrikes and some of the group saw a Lesser-spotted Eagle. We pulled off of the road and into a large meadow where we left our rural transport behind! Almost instantly we came across a small flock of several Woodlarks, that perched up on a nearby wire and showed well in the scope and were followed shortly afterwards by a cooperative Corn Bunting. We wandered along the track with beautiful meadows either side of us and identified Carpathian Pinks, Sorrel, Grass Pea, Hairy Vetch, Common Bird's-foot Trefoil and Common Comfrey before we arrived at our picnic spot for an early lunch, as dinner would too be served early to work with the timings to visit the Bear hide later that afternoon.

After yet another brilliant picnic lunch (these really were turning out to be one of the daily highlights) we set off on foot and continued to walk the meadows looking for wildflowers and birds, picking up good views of Hobby and another Woodlark. We then tried to find Corncrake and within a minute heard one from fairly close by. We came across some Lesser Butterfly Orchids, Heath-spotted Orchids, Sticky Catchfly, Eurasian Catchfly, Grass-like Starwort and plenty of Gipsywort and Martin flushed a Roe Deer for us!

Butterflies were few and far between at the start of the day, but slowly started to fly as the weather gradually improved and we had good looks at Green-underside Blue and Chestnut Heath.

We came to the edge of the forest and ventured in for 20 minutes or so, finding some beautiful mature forest that looked like it should be home to many woodpeckers! It was possible to see Black, Grey-headed and White-backed Woodpecker in this area and thankfully, we did see White-backed which showed relatively well for the group. It was now nearing our early dinner time of 16.00 so we set off back towards the small village of Sinca Noua, with Adam spotting a Little Owl perched on top of a barn roof! We quickly stopped and ended up with excellent views of this small owl.

We arrived at Maria's house, a local lady who had cooked us up some traditional Romanian food for dinner. Having eaten well and consumed several glasses of local brandy and homemade wine, we set off for the 30 minute drive where we 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 a total of ten Brown Bears of various sizes, eight females and two males. We sat in silence for the next hour watching Bears come and go together with a Raven, it was a great experience watching how the bears interact and the hierarchy between them.

Having had great looks at the Bears, we started our 1.5 hour journey back to the guesthouse, arriving shortly after 20.30 and retired for the evening to recharge our batteries for another busy day tomorrow.

## Day 6

## Sunday 4th June

Another beautiful but chilly morning as we met up on the decking area overlooking the gorge. Several Chamois were walking up on the ridge and a Peregrine Falcon called, but despite a thorough search, we could not locate it. We set off after breakfast and picked up Ionut 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 stop where Lucy C spotted a Roe Deer with fawn. We started birding and soon started to see many new trip species, these included Little Gull, Great-crested Grebe, Grey Heron, Pochard, Shelduck, Yellow-legged Gull, Squacco Heron, Marsh Harrier, some distant Black Terns, Black-headed Gull, Great Egret, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Teal and Mute Swan, not a bad start to the day!

We boarded the minibus again and drove on towards the nearby fish lakes. Bird activity was great for the remainder of the morning which started with a Black Stork as soon as we left the minibus! Other sightings included Black-crowned night Heron, Pygmy Cormorant, more Marsh Harriers, Sedge Warbler, Great Reed Warbler, a very obliging Penduline Tit, Cuckoo and a Purple Heron showed well as it flew overhead. Some of the group had brief views of a Kingfisher as it flew fast over the water and Andrew spotted a couple of Lapwing. Further along the track we located the Penduline Tit's nest which was an impressive sight!

We were served another wonderful picnic lunch during which time another Purple Heron flew over, allowing those of the group who had missed it previously some good looks.

After lunch we took a 30 minute drive to the lakes at Rotbav. Our main target here was Little Bittern which was soon located and showed very well for the group. There were plenty of Sand Martins feeding over the water, together with Barn Swallows and House Martins. We managed to locate a Squacco Heron nesting in some nearby bushes which again was great for those who had missed it earlier in the day. Just as we were leaving the lake, Ionut spotted another new bird for us, a Ferruginous Duck.

Now mid-afternoon and feeling quite hot, we boarded our minibus again and took a 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 had a little free time to explore before heading back towards the guesthouse just after 17.00, arriving shortly after 18.00. After dinner, we completed two days of checklists as we had arrived late the previous night having been at the bBear hide. Another very productive and enjoyable day!

## Day 7

Monday 5th June

Unfortunately, we were greeted with rain this morning as we met up for our pre-breakfast scan of the gorge. Down in the valley we could see brighter skies and hoped that they would come towards the gorge! 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, meeting Ionut by the entrance of the gorge.

Our main target today was Wallcreeper, a beautiful little bird that lives within and around the limestone cliffs. As we made our way up the gorge towards the territory of the Wallcreeper, thankfully the weather started to improve, so much so that we had our first Orange-tip of the day! Further up the gorge the path edges were lined with Honesty with its impressive purple coloured flower together with Alpine Clematis and Annual Pearlwort. We arrived at the nest spot of the Wallcreeper and within 15 minutes we had our first glimpses, although they were rather brief!

After around 30 minutes, the bird was back, this time we managed better views! As the male came in to feed the female she appeared from the crevice where the nest is located and the male fed her and also displayed, a truly great sight that the whole group enjoyed, we even managed to get views through the telescope! Several Alpine Swifts flew overhead and as we took a side track, we also located a couple of Crag Martins, our first of the tour. We came across a large patch of Dusky Cranesbill that seemed to be excellent for butterflies including our first Map of the tour, more Orange-tips, Green-veined White and plenty of Speckled Woods.

Having had a very successful morning, 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, so instead we headed off 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 took a look at a couple of Pygmy Iris growing on the cliffside above us. Further along the track we found a couple of young Peregrine Falcons perched up on the gorge, giving quite a good view through the telescope. We continued our walk coming across a small mixed tit flock that included Marsh Tit, Long-tailed Tit, then Adam found a Crested Tit amongst them, what a great find! We then came across our first Camberwell Beauty butterfly, whilst Woodland Ringlets were drifting around in the sunny glades, together with another Map butterfly. We found some Yellow-bellied and Common Toads along the side of the path and managed to locate a singing Blackcap whilst others managed to find a Garden Warbler, not the easiest of birds to see!

It had just gone 16.15 as we climbed aboard the minibus to start our journey back to the guesthouse, arriving shortly after 17.00 having said our thanks and goodbyes to our guide Ionut as he would not be joining us to visit Bran Castle the following morning.

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

## Day 8

Tuesday 6th June

Our last day of the tour had arrived, where had the week gone?!

We met for our usual pre-breakfast scan of the gorge and breakfast was served at 08.00. We had a short while after breakfast to settle our bills and finish packing before setting off at 09.30 for a visit to the famous Bran Castle. We spent around an hour wandering around the castle and learning about Vlad the Impaler!

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, arriving on time at 15.30.

We said our thanks and goodbyes to George our driver, who had done a wonderful job all week. We also said our goodbyes to Lucy and Grant as they headed off back to Bucharest for an extra night.

It had been a wonderful week of wildlife watching in the Carpathian Mountains! The group had been fantastic, sharing their varied knowledge with many laughs along the way!

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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May – June 2023							
		30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>						4		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			1			✓		
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>						4		
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						✓		
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>						1		
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>				✓	6		✓	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓			✓		4
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		2	3	H	H	3	H	H
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			2	2	✓	✓	✓	2
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		2	2			2	✓	
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>					H			
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>						✓		
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						1		
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>						3		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>						✓		
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>						6		
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>						✓		
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>						✓		
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			2			1		
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	1	4	6	1	3	✓	✓	✓
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>						5		
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						✓		
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>						3		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						✓		
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>						2		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					1	✓		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>						3		
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>						6		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						✓		
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>			2		3	1		
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1					1	
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>						7		
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>					H	H		
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>					1			
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			2					
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>						1		

Common name	Scientific name	May – June 2023							
		30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			8					
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1	2	2	2	H	1	1
White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus leucotos</i>					1			
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			H					
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		H	1	H				
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	1	2			2	1	
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		1		1	1	1		
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>					H	H	3	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			✓	✓	✓	1	1	
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			4		H			
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		5	✓	✓	✓	2	4	1
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>				1				
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓					
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>						5	✓	
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		2	✓	✓	5	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	1	6		
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		H		1		1	2	1
European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>							1	
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		1			1		4	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			2					
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	4	2	2	2	
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>						2		
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			1		7			
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			1		2			1
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>						✓		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>							2	
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				1			✓	
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>			2				H	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		1	H	2	1		H	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>						4		
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		H				2		
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>						H		
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>						H		
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	H	1	H	H	1	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		1		H			1	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		1	1	3		1		
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				H		H		
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		2		H			H	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		1		H			1	

Common name	Scientific name	May – June 2023							
		30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		1	1	1	H		1	H
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>							2	
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	5	2	2	✓	
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		✓	✓	6	4	4	✓	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	2	2	2		2	
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		1		4				1
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			1					
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		5	4	1	1		1	1
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>			3					
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		2					1	
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		5	2	3	2	2	2	2
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			2					
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		2		1	1		2	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	2	✓		✓	✓	5
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		2	5			✓		
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		3						
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		6	6	5	2		✓	2
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		4	✓	2	3	2	2	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				1				
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		2	✓	✓	2	3	✓	1
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		1		1				
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				1		H		
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				2			1	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			2	2				
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus Erythrinus</i>				1				
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>					2			
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		H	2	2	1		1	
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						H		

## Other vertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	May - June 2023							
		30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Mammals</b>									
Eastern Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>								
Common Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>								
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>				2				
Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>								
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>								
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	1		1					
Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>								
Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>								

Common name	Scientific name	May - June 2023							
		30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>								
Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>			1	3	10			
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elephas</i>								
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>				1	3	2		
Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>			✓	✓	2	2	✓	
<b>Reptiles &amp; Amphibians</b>									
Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>								
Viviparous Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>								
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>			1	3			1	
Slow Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>				1			1	
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>			1					
Alpine Newt	<i>Triturus alpinus</i>								
Smooth or Common Newt	<i>Triturus vulgaris</i>								
Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>		2						
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>							2	
Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>		1		✓	3		✓	
Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla europaea</i>								
Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>								
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>						✓		
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	2			2			3	
Carpathian Newt	<i>Lissotriton montandoni</i>	2							

## Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	May – June 2023							
		30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Pieridae</b>									
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		1	1		1		2	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>			1	2				
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>							1	
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	5			2		✓	✓	
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			1	1				
<b>Lycaenidae</b>									
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			1					
Small blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	2		2	1	1			
Green-underside blue						1			
<b>Nymphalidae</b>									
Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>							2	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				1		1	1	
Map	<i>Araschnia levana</i>							2	
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			1	1		1		

Common name	Scientific name	May – June 2023							
		30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana selene</i>		1						
Nickerl's Fritillary	<i>Mellicta aurelia</i>		1						
<b>Satyridae</b>									
Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>		✓	3		3		2	
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		1	2	4	1			
Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha leander</i>			1		2			
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>				1	1		✓	

## Other invertebrates

Wood Ant (*Formica rufa*), Field Cricket (*Gryllus campestris*), Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)

## Flora

Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Pinaceae</b>	
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce
<b>Orchidaceae</b>	
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's-nest Orchid
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Common Heath Spotted Orchid
	Marsh orchid
<b>Iridaceae</b>	
	Sibiricus iris
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	
<i>Clematis alpina</i>	Alpine Clematis
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globeflower
<b>Fabaceae</b>	
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Greenweed
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow Vetch
<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	Grass Vetchling
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot Trefoil
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Common Kidney-vetch
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Common Sainfoin
<b>Polygalaceae</b>	
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort
<b>Rosaceae</b>	
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Hoary Cinquefoil
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Common Hawthorn
	Walnut
<b>Fagaceae</b>	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European Beech
<b>Betulaceae</b>	
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood Sorrel
<b>Violaceae</b>	
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Wild Pansy
<b>Linaceae</b>	
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax
<b>Geraniaceae</b>	
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Dusky Cranesbill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
<b>Cistaceae</b>	
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rock-rose
<b>Brassicaceae</b>	
<i>Lunaria rediviva</i>	Perennial Honesty
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	
<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin
<i>Silene viscaria</i>	Sticky Catchfly
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham Catchfly
<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>	Carthusian Pink
	Field Chickweed
<b>Primulaceae</b>	
<i>Primula veris</i>	Common Cowslip
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<b>Gentianaceae</b>	
	Snow gentian

Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	
<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
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<b>Lamiaceae</b>	
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Blue Bugle
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel
<i>Clinopodium alpinum</i>	Alpine Calamint
<i>Thymus pulegioides</i>	Large Thyme
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsywort
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>	
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle
<b>Campanulaceae</b>	
<i>Campanula carpatica</i>	Carpathian Bellflower
<i>Campanula patula</i>	Spreading Bellflower
<b>Asteraceae</b>	
<i>Telekia speciosa</i>	Yellow Oxeye
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Common Cornflower
<b>Adoxaceae</b>	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Common Elder
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose
<b>Apiaceae</b>	
<i>Chaerophyllum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Chervil
<i>Carum carvi</i>	Caraway
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
Additional plants	
	Heath Dog-violet
	White Ballmustard
	Lesser London Pride
	Wood Spurge
	Green-winged Orchid
	Garlic Mustard
	White Narcissus
	Red Lungwort

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<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
	Yellow Wood Violet
	Water Avens
	Pygmy Iris
	Ribwort Plantain
	Sword-leaved Helleborine
	Blue Flax
	Early Purple Orchid
	Bulbous Buttercup
	Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid
	Bistort
	Meadow Hawkweed
	Grass-like Dtarwort
	Tower Rock-cress
	Hairy Vetch
	Sorrel
	Annual Pearlwort
	Field Scabious