

Romania - The Wildlife of Transylvania

Naturetrek Tour Report

20th – 27th May 2025



Brown Bear



European Bee-eaters



Wallcreeper



Knapweed and Heath Fritillaries

Tour report by David Phillips
Photos by David Phillips and Nev Wright



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: David Phillips and Remus Cucu (leaders) with fourteen Naturetrek clients

Summary

The village of Măgura in the Piatra Craiului National Park is a stunning location from which to enjoy the varied wildlife the Carpathian Mountains have to offer. We saw many interesting birds, including Wallcreepers in the Zărnești Gorge, a Nutcracker on one of our walks in the mountains, and stunning Bee-eaters in the Șinca Noua area. We had wonderfully close views of wild Brown Bears at a purpose built hide, and we saw Chamois daily from the guesthouse. Although spring had arrived late, we still enjoyed lots of wildflowers in bloom including Globeflower, Alpine Clematis, Alpine Bells and various species of orchid and campanula. Butterflies were abundant, with highlights being Knapweed and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, and Map.

Day 1

Tuesday 20th May

Eleven members of the group met at Heathrow for a flight to Bucharest via Frankfurt. The remainder met in the arrivals hall in Bucharest airport. From there we had a three-and-a-half-hour journey to our guesthouse in the mountains by bus. Before darkness fell, as we headed north towards the mountains, we had our first views of the local birdlife, seeing White Storks, Kestrels and Swallows flying around in the arable fields around Bucharest.

We arriving at the Mosorel Guesthouse, in the village of Măgura, at 9.00pm, where we were greeted by Oana, the owner, who showed us to our rooms and provided us with a late dinner.

Day 2

Wednesday 21st May

Before breakfast, the early risers in the group gathered on the guesthouse terrace to enjoy the view of the rock face opposite. From the terrace we could see Alpine Chamois (both adults and kids), while Cuckoos called and Black Redstarts flitted about. We had a good view of a Cuckoo perched on top of a pine tree through the scope, vocalising its signature call. What a great start to the week!

Following breakfast we met Remus, our local guide, who lives in the village below Zărnești. Remus joined us at 9.00am to start our walk towards the Zărnești Gorge, a narrow ravine between limestone cliffs which starts below the guesthouse. On our descent into the gorge we passed meadows of alpine flowers, including Spring Gentian and Early Purple Orchids. We then entered an area of Beech woodland and dropped down to the path running along the floor of the gorge. Here we heard many Wood Warblers and Red-breasted Flycatchers. These proved difficult to spot in the tree canopy, although we did catch the odd glimpse of them.

From the gorge floor we headed up a small tributary valley where we hoped to find salamanders in the vegetation by the stream. After a short search, we found a strikingly marked Fire Salamander. There were also a number of butterfly species, including Map, Swallowtail, Orange-tip and Dingy Skipper.

When we arrived at the entrance to the gorge (we had started our walk halfway along) we stopped for a picnic lunch. The lunchtime picnics on this trip were a highlight in themselves. Two ladies, Marilena and her mother Elena, prepared the lunches from vegetables, herbs and fruit from their garden, and the daily changing menu was a delicious feast that greeted us at some prearranged, and invariably beautiful, spot in the countryside.

After lunch we drove on to Valea Tămaşului, a valley in the north-west of Piatra Craiului mountain range. We walked upstream along a small river and spotted Fire-bellied Toads, Alpine Newts, Dipper, Grey Wagtail and long, thin horsetail worms of the genus *Gordia*. Butterflies seen included Camberwell Beauty and Map.

In a meadow in a valley on the north west side of the mountains we found an area where the soil have been overturned (clear evidence of Wild Boar) and a tree which a Bear had used to scratch its back on. Here we also found a White False-helleborine. On our return to the minibus, we were lucky to spot an Eastern Slow-worm. We arrived back at the guesthouse at 6.00pm for dinner at 7.00pm.

Day 3

Thursday 22nd May

Following breakfast, we drove down the hill to the town of Zărneşti, where we collected Remus. The drive took us north through the villages of Şinca and Vad to a mixed broadleaf woodland and surrounding meadows called Poiana Narciselor: the Narcissus Forest. We spent most of the day walking in that area. We hadn't walked far before we saw a Black Stork fly over. In the meadows we had views of Red-backed Shrike, a Great Grey Shrike and a Hoopoe, and heard a number of Golden Oriole and Whinchat.

The flowers for which this area is famed, the wild *Narcissus poeticus*, were stunning with their white petals and orange fringed, yellow trumpets. Lesser Butterfly Orchids and Ragged Robin were also in bloom, and butterflies were flying in abundance as we climbed up through the meadows into the Narcissus Forest; most notably Knapweed, Heath and Glanville Fritillaries, Silver-studded Blues, Small Heaths, and Mother Shipton and Fox Moths. A male Sand Lizard, with its vibrant green colouration, was a delightful find, as was another Eastern Slow-worm, with its distinctive blue markings.

Following another delicious picnic lunch prepared by Marilena and Elena, we drove round to another part of the forest, where we had extraordinarily good views of a Tawny Owl and chick. We spent some time watching these and were able to take some great photos. Also in this area we saw a Collared Flycatcher and heard a Wood Warbler. Driving back through Şinca we spotted a Little Owl tussling with a Grass Snake. It was a big snake for a little bird!

The last stop of the day, just south of Şinca, was to see a colony of Bee-eaters. The birds nest in holes in a low sandy cliff, and they flew around alighting on juniper bushes, providing us with views of these most colourful of European birds. Still better were the views we had from the bus as we departed. Acting as a hide, the bus allowed us to see the birds from as close as five metres; having ended the day with this wonderful experience, we returned to our guesthouse for dinner at 7.00pm.

Day 4

Friday 23rd May

The day started with great excitement when, during breakfast, the guesthouse manager alerted us to the presence of two Brown Bears on the rock face opposite the guesthouse. The group spent the next forty minutes or so watching the bears through spotting telescopes and binoculars as they slowly made their way across the rock face. Later, on showing our photographs to Remus, he said he recognised one of the bears, from its distinctive patch of light fur, as being a female of about four or five years of age.

Once the bears had disappeared from view, we drove into Zărnești to pick up Remus, before driving a little distance along the road towards the National Park centre. Our walk began just off the road, but soon took us up through meadows rich with flowers such as Flax, Meadow Clary and Wild Pansy. The scenery above us was striking, with mountains covered by Spruce, White Fir and Beech, and above the treeline a face of limestone rose to a jagged ridge at an altitude of nearly 2000m.

Our trail climbed slowly across open meadows with extensive views along the valley, and later into a mix of forest with meadow-filled glades. Throughout the walk we made stops to examine the flora and other wildlife along the way, which included another Sand Lizard and a European Field Cricket. Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid and Great Masterwort were in bloom. We saw several Red-backed Shrikes in the trees, as well as Ravens and Buzzards overhead. We were also very pleased to spot a Nutcracker, a bird which we had particularly hoped to see here.

Although we had had a clear morning, about two hours into our walk the heavens opened and the group had to shelter under some trees for about fifteen minutes, waiting for the rain to subside. Dropping back down the hill a little, we met the ladies who had brought us lunch. They had set up their table under a tree, as it was still slightly drizzly, but thankfully it didn't rain heavily at that point.

After lunch, we climbed back up through woodland to a monastery comprising a small church below a cave, where local people had sheltered during various invasions. Now the cave is full of Christian orthodox icons. Flowers spotted along the way included Globeflower and Elder-flowered Orchid. On our return downhill the group stopped at some pools where we found several Yellow-bellied Toads.

The sun eventually broke through the clouds, and by the time we returned to the guesthouse it was sunny again. The group had time to rest before dinner when, from the south-facing panoramic dining room windows, we were treated to the sight of a beautiful double rainbow against the backdrop of the Bucegi Mountains.

As the sun was going down, a Bear appeared again on the rock face opposite the guesthouse. A few of the group stayed to watch it through the telescope until it became too dark to see.

Day 5

Saturday 24th May

After breakfast we drove to the village of Șinca Nouă, stopping to look at a White Stork on its nest on top of a telegraph pole. We then drove on and turned off the road a little north of Șinca Nouă, to look at a dam which Beavers had built across the river Stramba. We could see where the Beavers had been hard at work placing twigs and branches.

We then walked around a wet meadow area. We saw a pair of Golden Orioles, both a brightly coloured male and a less colourful female. Having heard them the previous day, it was lovely to be able to see them. We also saw Red-backed Shrikes in the bushes.

Driving on, we stopped again for a walk through another meadow, which was a little drier as it was on an incline. We spotted a single spike of Purple Mullein on our way up, and as we came to the top of a rise we entered a field where Fragrant and Lesser Butterfly Orchids were in bloom, and we also found Small Cow-wheat under some oak

trees. A Cuckoo was calling from a tree fairly close by. He stayed there for quite a long time, cuckoo-ing, and we enjoyed watching him through the scope before retracing our steps back down to the minibus.

At lunchtime we met up with the ladies who had set up their picnic under cover at a little guesthouse higher up the valley. After lunch, we continued our walk around the meadows. Silver-studded Blues were found among the grasses; unfortunately the weather was too wet for them to fly. A Grey-headed Woodpecker was spotted at the top of a tree. Due to it being a rather late spring this year, there were not so many flowers in bloom, but a striking stand of Ostrich Ferns was found growing along the river.

In the evening we were due to visit a bear hide, so an early dinner with wine had been arranged at the guesthouse in the Stramba valley, where we had had our picnic lunch earlier in the day. After dinner we drove further into the valley and met the ranger, who briefed us on how we should conduct our visit to the bear hide. After a further drive and short walk, which we had been instructed to make in silence, we reached the hide. Bears could be seen as we approached, climbed the steps and settled into the hide for what was a memorable hour and three quarters. About twenty bears visited the site during the evening, including at least five mothers, each with two cubs. A single large male arrived, and it was interesting to see the dynamics between him and the females, a lot of them being very concerned about their cubs. The cubs would often rear up onto their hind feet to see what the male was doing, to ensure they were safe. One female and her two cubs climbed about ten metres up into a tree and stayed there for the whole time the male bear was there. There were two mature female bears without cubs, and the male was showing interest in them. A second male arrived later on, this one showing signs it had been in a fight with another male, and again we observed the interactions between him and the females.

During the ninety-minute hour drive back, we saw a Roe Deer. By the time we arrived back at the guesthouse, it was nearly 10.00pm and almost dark.

Day 6

Sunday 25th May

Today we woke up to a rather drizzly, overcast morning; we could not see the rockface opposite the guesthouse due to the low grey clouds hanging over the gorge. Nevertheless, we set off, picking up Remus from Zărnești and heading north to a wetland area east of the village of Dumbrăvița.

By the time we parked up beside the first of the lakes the weather had dried up, although the cloud remained for the rest of the day. As we got out of the minibus a male Cuckoo flew past. We crossed the road to scan the lake and the islands in it, and saw a variety of wetland birds including Great Crested Grebes, Spoonbills, Great and Little Egrets, and Pochard. We heard a Marsh Warbler and a number of Great Reed Warblers singing in the bushes. A White-tailed Eagle flew over the lake.

We then moved to another area of lakes a few kilometres on where, as we got out of the minibus, we immediately had very close views of Squacco Herons. A Whiskered Tern sat on a raft out in the lake. We walked between two lakes where we could hear a Great Reed Warbler and a Savi's Warbler singing. Several Marsh Harriers were flying around, both male and female. A Penduline Tit nest was hanging from a willow tree, although no birds visited it while we were there. It's said that the nests used to be used as slippers for children and, looking at them, I could imagine they would be comfortable. We also had good views of Night Herons and Little Egrets in a heronry.

From the lakes a half-hour drive took us into the historic city of Braşov, where Remus led the group to see the historic fortifications and gates to the city, and up to the Black Church. The group were then free to enjoy the town at their leisure for a couple of hours, before reconvening at the minibus for the return journey to the guesthouse.

Day 7

Monday 26th May

The morning's visit was a walk along the Zărneşti gorge. The bus took us as far as the gorge entrance, where we picked up Remus. We took a slow walk up between the cliffs of the gorge, hearing Wood Warblers all around us, and we also saw and heard a Rock Bunting. The cool air and dappled light filtering down into the gorge provides a suitable climate for ferns, spleenworts and flowering plants including Alpine Clematis, Alpine Bells and Snowbell, which we found in bloom.

We reached a rock wall where, in previous years, Wallcreepers had nested. We were very lucky to find a Wallcreeper quite low down on the rock face, and for several minutes enjoyed really good views of this iconic bird. After it had flown away, and did not appear to be returning, we carried on walking up the track through and out of the gorge into a tree-covered area beyond the rock faces. At one point we saw a Crested Tit in some fir trees high above us.

We then started to retrace our steps, and as we came down we continued looking at flowers and admiring the general scenery of the gorge with its towering rocks and river flowing beside us. A Fire Salamander was spotted in the leaf litter at the side of the track. The bright yellow spots on its glossy black body are an indicator of its toxicity, and give it a striking appearance. Unfortunately, the weather was drizzly throughout our walk but even so, it was lovely to be surrounded by the impressive scenery.

The ladies had set up our picnic lunch at the entrance to the gorge, and here we said goodbye to Remus, as he was not going to be accompanying us that afternoon. After lunch we were driven to Bran, where Simona, the sister of Marilena, was to be our guide around the famous castle. She told us about Queen Marie and King Ferdinand of Romania who lived in the castle in the early twentieth century. She briefly mentioned Dracula, but stressed that it was a story and the true history of the castle and its inhabitants was more interesting! It was still raining when we left the castle for our half-hour drive back to the guesthouse.

Day 8

Tuesday 27th May

Following heavy rain overnight, we woke up to a misty morning with clouds cloaking the mountains. We could however still see Chamois on the rock face opposite the guesthouse, as well as Cuckoos, Black Redstarts and a Raven. After breakfast we left the guesthouse at 9.00am, heading down through the mist into the valley. The river which runs through the Zărneşti gorge had swollen with the rain, and overnight had dislodged mud onto the road in the town, which was being cleared as we passed through.

As we dropped down out of the mountains towards Bucharest the rain stopped, and by the time we reached the airport the weather was warm and sunny.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025							
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>						✓		
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>						✓		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>						✓		
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						✓		
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			✓			✓	✓	
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	
Feral Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>								
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>					H			
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						✓		
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						✓		
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>						✓		
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>						✓		
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	✓					✓		
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>						✓		
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>						✓		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>						✓		
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>						✓		
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			✓					
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						✓		
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>						✓		
Little Bittern	<i>Botaurus minutus</i>						✓		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						✓		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						✓		
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>						✓		
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>						✓		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>						✓		
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>					✓			
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>					✓			
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>						✓		
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			✓					
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>			✓		H		H	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓					
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓					
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			✓		✓			
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>					✓			
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>					H			
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>					✓		✓	
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					✓			
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓			✓	✓			
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			H		✓			

		May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>			✓					
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			✓	✓	✓			
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>				✓				
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>			✓	✓		✓		
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>							✓	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>						✓		
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			✓					
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			✓					
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>						H	H	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					✓			
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		✓	H				H	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>						✓		
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>					✓			
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					H			
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				H				
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>				✓		H		
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>						H		
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>				✓				
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		✓					✓	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				✓			H	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>								
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>							✓	
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		✓						
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓						
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				✓				
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓					✓	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		✓						
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>			✓					
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			✓					
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			✓					
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		✓						
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			✓			✓		

		May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>						✓		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			✓	✓	✓			
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓		✓				
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				✓				
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				✓				
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			✓	✓				
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			H	✓	✓			
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>							✓	
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						✓		

Mammals

		May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>			✓			✓		
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	✓							
European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>				✓	✓			
Carpathian Chamois	<i>Rupicapra carpatica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		S		S	S			
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>				✓	✓			

Reptiles and amphibians

		May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>		✓					✓	
Alpine Newt	<i>Ichthyosaura alpestris</i>		✓						
Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>		1						
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>						H		
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>			✓	✓				
Eastern Slow-worm	<i>Anguis colchica</i>		✓	✓					
Eastern Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>			✓					

Butterflies

		May 2025							
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓						
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓						
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓						
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓		✓				
Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>			✓					

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025							
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>			✓					
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>		✓			✓			
Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>		✓						
Peacock Butterfly	<i>Aglais io</i>			✓					
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓					
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓	✓				
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>			✓					
Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>			✓	✓				
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana selene</i>			✓					
Weaver's (Violet) Fritillary	<i>Clossiana dia</i>			✓					
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>			✓					
Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>			✓					
Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>			✓					
Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>			✓	✓				
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓					
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓						
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓						
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>		✓	✓					
Chequered Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>		✓						

Moths

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025							
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Mother Shipton Moth	<i>Callistege mi</i>			✓	✓				
Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>					✓			
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>				✓				
Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>			✓					
Heart and Dart	<i>Agrotis exclamations</i>			✓					
Fox Moth	<i>Macrothylacia rubi</i>			✓					

Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025							
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>			✓		✓			
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>					✓			
European Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>				✓				
Common Cockchafer	<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>			✓					
Black-spotted Longhorn Beetle	<i>Rhagium mordax</i>								
Ulrich's Beetle	<i>Carabus ulrichii</i>				✓				

Plants

Scientific name	Common name
Selaginellaceae	Lesser Clubmosses
<i>Selaginella helvetica</i>	
Equisetaceae	Horsetails
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail
Cystopteridaceae	Bladder Ferns
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder Fern
Aspleniaceae	Spleenworts
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall-rue
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Common Hart's-tongue
Onocleaceae	Sensitive Ferns
<i>Onoclea struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich Fern
Pinaceae	Pine Family
<i>Abies alba</i>	European Silver Fir
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce
Cupressaceae	Cypress Family
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus lanuginosus</i>	Woolly Buttercup
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	European Globeflower
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh-marigold
<i>Anemonoides nemorosa</i>	European Wood Anemone
<i>Clematis alpina</i>	Alpine Clematis
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family
<i>Saxifraga cuneifolia</i>	Wedge-leaved Saxifrage
<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>	Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage
Fabaceae	Pea Family
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Greenweed
<i>Genista sagittalis</i>	Winged Greenweed
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Common Kidney-vetch
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
Polygalaceae	Milkworts
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort
<i>Polygala comosa</i>	Tufted Milkwort
Rosaceae	Rose Family
<i>Prunus padus</i>	Bird Cherry
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Common Pear
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Common Rowan
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	Snowy Mespilus
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Common Hawthorn
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Argentina anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Hoary Cinquefoil
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Common Tormantil
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine Lady's-mantle
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorns
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	European Buckthorn
Ulmaceae	Elm Family
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm
Urticaceae	Nettle Family
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
Fagaceae	Beech Family
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European Beech
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
Betulaceae	Birch Family
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	European Alder
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	European Hornbeam
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	European Hazel
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White Bryony
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrels
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Common Wood Sorrel
Violaceae	Violets
<i>Viola biflora</i>	Yellow Wood Violet
<i>Viola kitaibeliana</i>	Dwarf Pansy
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Wild Pansy
Salicaceae	Willow Family
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge
Linaceae	Flaxes
<i>Linum</i> sp.	Flax
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax
Geraniaceae	Crane's-bills
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Dusky Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Common Herb Robert
Sapindaceae	Soapberry Family
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Common Sycamore
Malvaceae	Mallow Family
<i>Althaea silvestris</i>	Common Mallow
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rock-rose

Scientific name	Common name
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Common Dame's-violet
<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	Coralroot Bittercress
<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	Flixweed
<i>Erysimum odoratum</i>	Hawkweed-leaved Treacle-mustard
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Common Shepherd's-purse
<i>Lunaria rediviva</i>	Perennial Honesty
<i>Pseudoturritis turrita</i>	Tower mustard
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard
Polygonaceae	Knotgrass Family
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Amphibious Bistort
<i>Bistorta officinalis</i>	Common Bistort
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Common Knotgrass
Caryophyllaceae	Campion Family
<i>Scleranthus perenis</i>	Perennial Knawel
<i>Stellaria nemorum</i>	Wood Stitchwort
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Field Mouse-ear
<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>	Carthusian Pink
<i>Dianthus spiculifolius</i>	Spike-leaved Pink
<i>Viscaria vulgaris</i>	Sticky Catchfly
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham Catchfly
<i>Silene dichotoma</i>	Forked Catchfly
<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin
Primulaceae	Primrose Family
<i>Primula veris</i>	Common Cowslip
<i>Primula matthioli</i>	Alpine Bells
<i>Soldanella hungarica</i>	
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping Jenny
Ericaceae	Heath Family
<i>Erica spiculifolia</i>	Spike-leaved Heath
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Common Bilberry
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Common Cleavers
<i>Cruciata glabra</i>	Glabrous Crosswort
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Common Crosswort
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family
<i>Gentiana asclepiadea</i>	Willow Gentian
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring Gentian
Boraginaceae	Borage Family
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Common Viper's-bugloss
<i>Pulmonaria rubra</i>	Red Lungwort
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Common Comfrey
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Wood Forget-me-not
<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	Tufted Forget-me-not
<i>Myosotis discolor</i>	Changing Forget-me-not
<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>	Corn Gromwell

Scientific name	Common name
Oleaceae	Olive Family
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	European Ash
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family
<i>Verbascum phoeniceum</i>	Purple Mullein
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Common Ground-ivy
<i>Thymus sp.</i>	Thyme
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Common Marjoram
<i>Mentha spicata</i>	Spear Mint
<i>Clinopodium alpinum</i>	Alpine Basil-thyme
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Blue Bugle
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Common Bugle
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family
<i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i>	Small Cow-wheat
<i>Rhinanthus minor agg.</i>	Lesser Yellow Rattle agg.
<i>Euphrasia sp.</i>	Eyebright sp.
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family
<i>Campanula patula</i>	Spreading Bellflower
Asteraceae	Daisy Family
<i>Cirsium erisithales</i>	Yellow Melancholy Thistle
<i>Cirsium heterophyllum</i>	Melancholy Thistle
<i>Hypochaeris maculata</i>	Spotted Cat's-ear
<i>Pilosella caespitosa</i>	Yellow Fox-and-Cubs
<i>Doronicum carpathicum</i>	Carpathian Leopard's-bane
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Common Butterbur
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Common Daisy
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed
<i>Tanacetum sp.</i>	Tansy sp.
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common Fleabane
Viburnaceae	Viburnum Family
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	European Elder
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Fly Honeysuckle
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Common Teasel
<i>Valeriana montana</i>	Mountain Valerian

Scientific name	Common name
Apiaceae	Umbellifers
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	European Sanicle
<i>Astrantia major</i>	Greater Masterwort
<i>Chaerophyllum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Chervil
<i>Carum carvi</i>	Caraway
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Common Hogweed
<i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Water-Dropwort
Melanthiaceae	Bunchflower Family
<i>Veratrum album</i>	White False-helleborine
Colchicaceae	Meadow Saffron Family
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Meadow Saffron
Orchidaceae	Orchids
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Helleborine
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's-nest Orchid
<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Common Twayblade
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Chalk Fragrant Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>	Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid
Iridaceae	Iris Family
<i>Gladiolus imbricatus</i>	Imbricate Gladiolus
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris
<i>Iris sibirica</i>	Siberian Iris
Amaryllidaceae	Amaryllis Family
<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>	Pheasant's-eye Daffodil
Cyperaceae	Sedge Family
<i>Eriophorum latifolium</i>	Broad-leaved Cottongrass
<i>Scirpus sylvaticus</i>	Wood Club-rush
Poaceae	Grasses
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Common Cock's-foot
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed