

# Romania - The Wildlife of Transylvania

Naturetrek Tour Report

27th May – 3rd June 2025

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Wallcreeper



Brown Bears



Lesser Spotted Eagle



European Bee-eaters

Tour report by David Phillips  
Photos by Tim Oliver and Barbara Evans



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

## Summary

This was a wonderful week of wildlife in the Carpathian Mountains, in great company! We saw many interesting birds, including a pair of Wallcreepers in Zărnești Gorge, Black Woodpeckers on one of our walks in the mountains and stunning Bee-eaters in the Șinca Noua area. In addition to the close views of wild Brown Bears from a purpose-built hide, we had regular sightings of Brown Bear and Chamois from our guesthouse. The meadows throughout the National Park were full of wild flowers in bloom, including Globeflower, Meadow Clary and various species of orchid and campanula. Butterflies were abundant, with highlights being Weaver's and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries.

## Day 1

**Tuesday 27th May**

Nine members of the group met on their arrival at Bucharest Airport. The majority of the group had flown in from Stansted, and were joined in the arrivals hall by three members who had travelled out the night before and a gentleman who had arrived earlier in the day. Another couple would be following on later.

From the airport we made the journey north across the plains to our guesthouse in the mountains. The weather was warm and sunny for our drive, and we had our first views of the local birdlife with Kestrels, Swallows, House Martins and Yellow-legged Gulls seen flying around the fields. As we approached the mountains the weather became overcast and rainy. We headed across the mountains and as we approached our guesthouse in Măgura we passed through the town of Zărnești. The river which runs through the Zărnești gorge had become swollen by recent heavy rain, and at one point had broken its banks and was flowing over the road. George, our driver, had to drive very carefully along the road which zigzagged up towards our guesthouse.

It was very windy when we arrived at the Mosorel Guesthouse at 6.30pm. We were greeted by Oana, the owner, who showed us to our rooms and provided us with dinner.

## Day 2

**Wednesday 28th May**

Our local guide Remus joined us after breakfast for a very enjoyable walk starting from the guesthouse, passing through village of Măgura and out into the valleys and the wider countryside. On the way we paused to scan the cliffs with our telescope and binoculars and saw a number of Chamois (family groups and single males) on the rock face, and also a Peregrine Falcon flying over the gorge. Some interesting plants found on the way included Green-winged Orchids, Catsfoot (*Antennaria dioica*), clumps of Alpine Calamint and banks of Mouse-ear Chickweed (*Cerastium arvensis*). Our walk led us through lovely green rolling hills with fields of sheep and cattle. We had very good views of a Red-backed Shrike flitting between the tops of the trees, and at one point a Goshawk flew through. Many Common Swifts, Swallows and House Martins were flying around, plus a couple of Alpine Swifts.

On our way back, we were passed by some shepherds herding a large flock of sheep with their dogs. A Cuckoo flew past us and settled on a nearby telegraph wire. It stayed there long enough for us to get some good photographs. As soon as we arrived back at the guesthouse Remus spotted a Brown Bear on a far rock face. With much excitement we watched it through the telescope for about ten minutes, before it disappeared from view.

We then 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. Today however, due to the recent heavy rain, they brought the picnic to us in the guesthouse.

After lunch we set off for another walk, again starting in the village of Măgura, but this time heading down through an area of Beech woodland. In the wood we found Lesser London Pride and Woodruff in bloom. At the bottom of the wood the path crossed a shallow river, which David helped to guide the group across on a small wooden bridge.

We then jumped into the minibus and drove around to Valea Tâmașului, a valley on the north west of the Piatra Craiului mountain range. Here we had good views of Dippers and Grey Wagtails feeding in and around the river that runs through the valley. We walked up through alpine meadows to some ponds, where we found Alpine Newts, before enjoying a scenic walk back to the minibus through a valley of conifer trees.

During dinner we were visited by a friendly local Red Fox which appeared at the dining room door.

## Day 3

## Thursday 29th May

At 8.30am we drove down the hill to the town of Zărnești, where we collected Remus. We headed north over a mountain pass and dropped down the other side to the village of Șinca Nouă. Just past the village we spotted a Common Crane on the side of the road and stopped to take photographs. When it eventually flew off, it did so making its distinctive bugling call, which was lovely to hear.

We then drove on to a location just south of Șinca Nouă 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. We had excellent views of them from the minibus. Acting as a hide, the minibus allowed us to see these most colourful of European birds from as close as five metres. From this location we also had good views of Whinchat, Yellowhammer, a Woodlark, a Hobby and some Ravens.

Moving on, we passed the small village of Vad where we spotted a Little Owl sitting on a chimney. We then drove on to a mixed broadleaf woodland and surrounding meadow called Poiana Narciselor: the Narcissus Forest. We entered the wood and soon had a lovely view of a Tawny Owl. It was a very obliging bird; although it was perched fairly low down in its tree, it did not appear to mind our presence and we were able to see it very well through the telescope and binoculars.

Emerging from the woodland, we met up with the ladies who had set up our picnic lunch. They had set up their table under an oak tree. It was a beautiful spot to eat our lunch with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.

After lunch, we hopped back onto the bus and drove a short distance down the road to a second site in the Narcissus Forest, this one on the northern side. Here the ground was very wet, with numerous pools of water having formed as a result of the recent heavy rain. These were ideal conditions for the many European Tree Frogs

we found here. There were so many frogs around our feet that we had to take extra care where we were stepping. In a small pool we also spotted another Yellow-bellied Toad.

In the woodland glades Ragged Robin, Siberian Iris, Lesser Butterfly Orchid and Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid were all in flower. We spotted quite a number of butterfly species, including Heath and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, Chequered Skipper and Swallowtail. All around us we could hear Golden Orioles calling.

We then headed back along a trail that skirted the edge of the woodland, and had views of Red-backed Shrikes and a Hoopoe. Interesting entomological finds included an Oil Beetle and several European Field Crickets. We headed home, stopping briefly in Șinca Nouă again to look at a White Stork on its nest. It had built its nest on a platform which had been provided by the local people.

On arrival back at the guesthouse, while we were resting before dinner, another Brown Bear was spotted on the rock face opposite. Some of the group watched the bear for a while; it was a lovely sight to end the day.

## Day 4

## Friday 30th May

The morning's visit was a walk along the Zărnești gorge. The bus took us as far as the gorge entrance, where we picked up Remus, and on our arrival we spotted a Red Squirrel in the woodland before we stopped to get out. We took a slow walk up between the cliffs of the gorge, hearing Wood Warblers all around us. Within a few minutes' walk, a Fire Salamander was spotted along the stream. The bright yellow spots on its glossy black body are an indicator of its toxicity and give it a striking appearance.

Walking through the lower part of the gorge felt like entering another world. The cool air and dappled light filtering down into the gorge provided 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, Wallcreeper has nested. Knowing patience is key, we settled in and watched the cliff. After about an hour, we were rewarded, and a male and a female Wallcreeper appeared. We had very good views of them as they flitted about the cliff, always on the move, possibly looking for a suitable nesting site. We watched them for about around ten minutes, before they flew off along the gorge. Satisfied that we had had a good view of these iconic birds, we made our way back down the gorge to the entrance, where we met the ladies who had prepared our picnic in a grassy area, next to the river.

In the afternoon we drove to a beautiful alpine valley to the north of the Piatra Craiului National Park for a walk in an area of pine woodland, where we found a pair of Crossbills high in a tree. Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid, Elder-flowered Orchid and Trumpet Gentian were in bloom in the meadow flowers, and after a very enjoyable time rambling through picturesque woodland and alpine meadows we made our way back to the minibus. On our return we could hear a Black Woodpecker in the distance. Searching the trees with the telescope we first found a female, and then a male. They stayed long enough that we were able to enjoy very good views of both. We returned to our guesthouse in the late afternoon.

## Day 5

Saturday 31st May

Before breakfast, the group took a walk up the lane from the guesthouse, heading towards the countryside. We had good views of a Red-backed Shrike flying from one tree to another. In a clearing looking out towards the gorge we spotted a Brown Bear on a distant rock face, and spent about ten minutes watching it through the telescope, before returning to the guesthouse for breakfast.

After breakfast we gathered in the car park to await the minibus. As we were waiting, we scanned the area with binoculars, and spotted both Common and Black Redstarts, both of which were nesting somewhere in the vicinity of the guesthouse. We also spotted Chamois on the rock face.

Today brought a change of scene and habitat. We descended from the mountains to a wetland area east of the village of Dumbrăvița. Approaching the village, we saw a Lesser Spotted Eagle on the ground. We pulled over to observe it, and as we got out of the minibus a second individual flew almost overhead.

Parking up by the first of the lakes, we spotted a singing male Cuckoo. The sunny weather had brought the butterflies out, and we spotted a Clouded Yellow and a Knapweed Fritillary. We then crossed the road to scan the lake and saw a variety of wetland birds, including Great Egret, Great Cormorant, Pochard and Caspian Gull. In the reeds we found Great Reed and Marsh Warblers. One of the group spotted a Large Copper butterfly.

We then moved to a quieter area a few kilometres on. Here, we had views of Squacco and Black-crowned Night Herons, and Savi's Warbler. At the end of a path a Penduline Tit's nest was hanging from a willow, and we spent some time watching the birds bringing in material to continue with its construction. 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.

Our picnic lunch was set up by one of the lakes and, while we ate, we watched Marsh Warblers and a Black-winged Stilt. A Grey Heron and Great Egret standing close together enabled us to compare their relative sizes.

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.

After dinner we scanned the rock face, where we watched a group of female Chamois and their calves. The mothers were guiding their calves across the cliff, seemingly teaching them how to traverse the rock face. We also spotted a Brown Bear higher up on the cliff, which we watched until the light faded.

## Day 6

Sunday 1st June

Before breakfast, a few of the group walked down to a meadow just below the guesthouse, where we looked at the various flowers which included Astrantias, Globeflowers and Fragrant Orchids. We then entered the woodland that drops down towards the gorge to listen to the birds singing.

After breakfast, we left in the minibus to pick up Remus in Zărnești, and headed north towards the Stramba Valley. Our first target was to find some Golden Orioles, as we knew that they nested nearby; we briefly saw some flying. We also saw two Lesser Spotted Eagles flying high overhead, and Red-backed Shrikes perched on low bushes. The day was warm, and our morning walk in the meadows surrounding the river was packed with interesting butterflies and plants. Along the banks of the river grew great stands of Ostrich Fern. The red flowers of Sticky Catchfly were prevalent everywhere and attracted Painted Lady butterflies. Other flowers of interest included Nottingham Catchfly, Lesser Butterfly Orchid, Eastern (Spiked) Heath and Common Cow-wheat. We also saw Weaver's and False Heath Fritillaries, as well as Comma and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies.

We dropped down from a high meadow towards the road, where we drove on to meet up with the ladies who provide our lunches. We met them at a guesthouse further along the valley where there was shade from the sun. In the afternoon the temperature rose and, since it was humid in the valley, we made a return visit to see the Bee-eaters near Șinca Noua. The Bee-eater nests are on a hill where the light breeze was welcome. The birds, once again, gave marvellous views and photo opportunities.

After an early dinner at the same guesthouse where we had had lunch, we prepared to visit a bear hide. We drove up the valley along a road that had been repaired after heavy rains earlier in the week had almost washed it out. On the way, we had a close view of a Roe Deer from the bus. Stopping a short distance from the hide, the ranger instructed us to walk quietly and keep together as we crossed the river on a wooden footbridge and made our way up a hill. From the hide, several bears could already be seen in the woodland clearing, including one large male. A number of females with cubs were being very cautious around the male; several of the cubs were hanging back and climbing up trees when the male looked in their direction. During the evening, we saw a total of twelve bears: one male, five single females and two females each with two cubs. It was a great experience to watch the interactions between them.

## Day 7

## Monday 2nd June

Collecting Remus in Zărnești we drove a short distance along the road towards the National Park centre. Our walk began near the road opposite the offices of the National Park, and before climbing away from the road we passed a few houses, one of which had Little Owl under the eaves. Entering the meadows, we were greeted by a rich carpet of flowers, including Flax, Meadow Clary, Sanfoin, Wild Pansy and Spreading Bellflower. 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 frequent stops to examine the flora and other wildlife along the way. The glades had numerous orchids, including Broad-leaved Marsh and Fragrant, and many other interesting plants such as Great Masterwort and Globeflower. Under the trees, White Helleborine were abundant. We saw several Red-backed Shrikes in the surrounding trees and an abundance of butterflies including Woodland Ringlet and Wood Whites; these were so mobile they rarely settled long enough for us to take a photo.

Dropping back down the hill a little we met the ladies who brought us lunch. Once again, they had set up their table in a beautiful location. Climbing back up through the woodland, we stopped to peer up through the branches of a conifer which had a Nutcracker at the top. Unfortunately, the bird flew before we had the chance to see it

well. Onwards we walked to the monastery, which comprised a small church below a cave, where local people sheltered during various invasions. Now the cave is full of Christian orthodox icons. On our way we passed clearings with Elder-flowered Orchids, Whorled Solomon's Seal and many more Globeflowers.

Returning downhill, we caught glimpses of a Lesser Whitethroat. It eluded us at first; we could hear it calling but struggled to find it. But then further down the hill we managed to spot one. Our bus was waiting where we had had lunch. It was time to say goodbye to Remus as we dropped him off in Zărnești, as he wouldn't be with us for the final day of the tour.

In the evening, after dinner, we had *another* sighting of a Brown Bear on the rock face opposite. It had been an extraordinary week for bear sightings from the guesthouse and it was good to see one on our final evening.

## Day 8

**Tuesday 3rd June**

Our final day dawned bright and sunny and so, with the sound of cow bells and a Cuckoo calling, Chamois on the rock face, and Black and Common Redstarts still coming and going from the nests, it was with sadness that we had to depart the guesthouse.

A half-hour drive brought us to Bran and the famous castle, loosely implicated in the Dracula 'industry'! Guiding our group around the castle was Simona (the sister of Marilena) who told us of its history and the reason for building the castle at the narrowest cutting through the mountains. In the shady town park below the castle we all enjoyed our final lunch provided by Marilena and Elena, and said our goodbyes before driving to Bucharest for our flights home.

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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May-June 2025							
		27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>								✓
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓		✓			
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					✓			
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		✓						✓
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓	✓	H	✓	✓	H	H
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>				✓				
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓				
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>			✓					
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				H				
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓				
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓				
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓				
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓				
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				✓				
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓				
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</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>				✓				
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>			✓					
Eurasian Goshawk	<i>Astur gentilis</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>			✓					
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓					
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			✓			✓		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			✓					
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			H	✓				
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>							H	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			✓		✓			
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓				✓		
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			H			✓		
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Common name	Scientific name	May-June 2025							
		27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
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>Parus ater</i>				✓	H		✓	
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>				H				
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			H			✓		
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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓					✓	
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		H		✓	✓			
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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>						✓		✓
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>		✓					✓	
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>					✓			
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>							✓	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		H		H			✓	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				H	✓		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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
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>		✓		✓				
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</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>			✓		✓			
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>		H	✓		✓	✓	✓	

Common name	Scientific name	May-June 2025							
		27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>								
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>						✓		
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>				✓				
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				H			✓	
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>						✓		
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>						✓	✓	

## Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	May-June 2025							
		27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>				✓				
Red Deer	<i>Cervus Elaphus</i>			✓					
European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>						✓		
Carpathian Chamois	<i>Rupicapra carpatica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	

## Reptiles and amphibians

Common name	Scientific name	May-June 2025							
		27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>			✓				✓	
Eastern Slow-worm	<i>Anguis colchica</i>							✓	
Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>				✓				
Alpine Newt	<i>Ichthyosaura alpestris</i>		✓						
Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>			✓			✓	✓	
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>					H	✓		
European Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>			✓					

## Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	May-June 2025							
		27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>			✓					
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>				✓				
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>							✓	
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>					✓			
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>					✓	✓	✓	
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>							✓	
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>						✓		
Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>					✓			
Small Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>			✓					
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			✓					
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>							✓	

Common name	Scientific name	May-June 2025							
		27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓			✓	✓	
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglaia urticae</i>						✓		
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>						✓		
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana selene</i>			✓			✓	✓	
Weaver's (Violet) Fritillary	<i>Clossiana dia</i>						✓		
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>				✓				
Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>			✓					
Marsh Frillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>						✓		
Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>			✓	✓			✓	
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>							✓	
Common Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>				✓				
Chequered Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>			✓					

## Moths

Common name	Scientific name
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>

## Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>
European Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>
Common Cockchafer	<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>
Black Oil Beetle	<i>Meloe proscarabaeus</i>

## Selected plants

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	European Globeflower
<i>Clematis alpine</i>	Alpine Clematis
<i>Soldanella hungarica</i>	Snowbells
<i>Primula matthioli</i>	Alpine Bells
<i>Saxifraga cuneifolia</i>	Wedge-leaved Saxifrage
<i>Gentiana acaulis</i>	Trumpet Gentian
<i>Astrantia major</i>	Great Masterwort
<i>Viola biflora</i>	Yellow Wood Violet
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens
<i>Stellaria nemorum</i>	Wood Stitchwort
<i>Viscaria vulgaris</i>	Sticky Catchfly
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham Catchfly
<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin
<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>	Carthusian Pink
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Dusky Crane's-bill
<i>Erica spiculifolia</i>	Spike-leaved Heath
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Campanula patula</i>	Spreading Bellflower
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath Spotted Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>	Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid
<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Common Twayblade
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine
<i>Iris sibirica</i>	Siberian Iris
<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>	Pheasant's-eye Daffodil
<i>Polygonatum verticillatum</i>	Whorled Solomon's-seal
<i>Veratrum album</i>	White False-helleborine