

# Romania - The Wildlife of Transylvania

Naturetrek Tour Report

26th May – 2nd June 2026

---



Red-breasted Flycatcher



Brown Bears



Map



Penduline Tit

Tour report by Simon Woolley



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire GU34 3HJ UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour participants: Simon Woolley (leader) with 13 Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

**Tuesday 26th May**

Everyone's travel plans worked according to plan, and we successfully met up in arrivals at Bucharest airport, Simon having just delivered the previous week's group ready for their flight home.

In warm and bright sunshine, we boarded our minibus, driven by the excellent and very dependable George, and headed off north towards the Carpathians. We stopped for a rest break just over halfway, hearing our first Field Crickets on a sunny slope, and then pushed on into the hills, cresting the Pârâul Rece pass and thus entering Transylvania! About an hour later, with dusk falling, we climbed the hill from Zărnesti and finally arrived in Măgura, where we checked in to our wonderfully-located guest house, having been welcomed by our hostess, Oana.

We had a late supper (with some deadly homemade plum brandy!) and met the final member of our team, who had arrived independently in the afternoon. Then it was time for bed, ahead of our first day in the field tomorrow.

## Day 2

**Wednesday 27th May**

We started with a half hour scanning the cliffs opposite the guest house, seeing a good few Carpathian Chamois, Alpine Swifts, Ravens and a Kestrel, and hearing a distant Black Woodpecker. Our local guide, Ionut, appeared at 9.00am, and after introductions, we set off for a slow walk along the lane through the village, then down through the meadows and orchards towards the valley. We enjoyed Fieldfares, Black and Common Redstarts, Woodland Ringlet, Little Blue, a Pale or Berger's Clouded Yellow (better views required) and a variety of wild flowers, including Early Purple and Green-winged Orchids. A Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth was an exciting find.

On entering the woods, the flora changed, and we found Bird's-nest Orchid, Wedge-leaved Saxifrage and others, and excitingly located a male Collared and a pair of Red-breasted Flycatchers, plus Treecreeper, Nuthatch and other common woodland birds, and a Bank Vole and some Red Squirrels.

We emerged at the valley floor and made rendezvous with Simona and her mother Elena, who provided an excellent, slap-up picnic, which we enjoyed between sightings of Duke of Burgundy, Wood White and Common Swallowtail butterflies, plus Grey Wagtails, and a brief Willow Tit for some.

We had hardly set off in the bus after lunch before we came to a screeching halt, so that we could 'debus' and enjoy not one but two highly desirable and spectacular Camberwell Beauty butterflies! We proceed via Zărnesti to the northern side of the mountain ridge, and headed up the Bârsa Valley, where we took a decent walk through meadows and up into the spruce woods. We racked up a really good list of species: Dipper, Sand and Wall Lizards, Common Frog, Alpine and Carpathian Newts, Queen of Spain Fritillary, another Camberwell Beauty, Map butterfly, White False Helleborines, Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage, Monk's Rhubarb and many more. It was a really lovely walk, enjoyed by all.

We returned at about 6.30pm, ahead of our first checklist session and an excellent dinner.

## Day 3

Thursday 28th May

We set off at our usual 8.30am for the fifty-minute drive to Poiana Narciselor (the Narcissus Forest), enjoying an introduction to recent Romanian history and politics from Ionut on the way! We made an emergency stop just before arriving to admire a soaring Lesser Spotted Eagle. It was a bright and slightly breezy morning, but as soon as we arrived it was clear that insect activity in the meadows was high. Serenaded by a Whinchat and Golden Orioles, and having seen both Bee-eaters and a Hoopoe, we slowly worked our way along a drainage ditch across the fields, finding Chequered Skipper, Violet and Large Coppers, Silver-studded Blue, Brown Argus, Queen of Spain Fritillary and more, plus Black-veined Moth and Mother Shipton, and a splendid Bug Orchid. Some lucky clients later identified Spotted Fritillary and Eastern Baton Blue from photos!

Well pleased, we entered the woods, adding Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Duke of Burgundy, another Violet Copper, and even a Sooty Copper, a new butterfly for everyone, including the leader! The Pheasant's-eye Daffodils were pretty much over, but a few were still highly-recognisable, in among Siberian Irises and Ragged Robin. Other plants included Lesser Butterfly Orchid, False Lily-of-the-Valley, Common Cow-wheat, Solomon's Seal and a variety of other wet woodland plants.

We had our excellent picnic in the open, surrounded by Tree Sparrows and with a White Stork patrolling the nearby pasture. We then relocated a short way and re-entered the woods. The birds were decent, if sometimes frustrating: we saw three male Collared Flycatchers, Tree Pipit, Nuthatch, Marsh Tit, Great Spotted Woodpeckers at the nest and (for a few clients) a recently-fledged Tawny Owl, but we could only hear a Wood Warbler, and the same went for the quite common but invisible Golden Orioles! The habitat itself was the real star: open, wet wood pasture, highly reminiscent of parts of the New Forest, but on limestone soil and with almost none of the same plants!

Very pleased with our haul, we drove a little south and visited the Sinca Veche monastery, perched on top of a really interesting ridge of juniper-dotted grassland. Here, we enjoyed brilliant and sustained views of up to twenty Bee-eaters, along with Yellowhammer and various other birds, plus plants like Carpathian Heather, Winged Greenweed, Early Purple and Green-veined Orchid, Carthusian Pink and Spreading Bellflower. Butterflies were rather few, but included Silver-studded Blues.

It was soon time to depart, and we trundled happily back to Zărnesti to drop off Ionut, and then ascended the thirteen hairpins and arrived back in Măgura for dinner.

## Day 4

Friday 29th May

Today was a tale of two gorges. We spent the morning in the Zărnesti Gorge, very close to our base: after a refreshingly short bus ride, we strolled happily up the gentle slope in the gorge, enjoying the cool beech and spruce forests, the intermittently gushing stream, the towering cliffs either side, and a good range of wildlife. An early star turn was provided by a stunning Fire Salamander in the stream. A Red-breasted Flycatcher was in song near the bus, and we added Black Woodpecker, Firecrest and Goldcrest (all heard), plus Alpine Swifts, Crag Martins, Grey Wagtails, a brief Peregrine and a nesting pair of Kestrels. New plants included Alpine and Hungarian Bells, Orange Saxifrage (of the entirely non-orange southern Carpathian subspecies *demissa*), *Iris pumila*, Alpine Clematis and more, while butterflies included Swallowtail and Duke of Burgundy.

But the main avian target was, we hoped, to be found about a mile and a half up the gorge. And we were in luck! Immediately upon our arrival, a male Wallcreeper soared/flopped over our heads, approaching the nest site on the cliffs some fifty metres above our heads! Almost everyone had a decent view right out of the gate! It didn't take long for the bird to return, to be joined by the female, briefly, on the rocks. They did a nest changeover: from earlier reports it seems likely that the eggs were right on the cusp of hatching. The pair certainly seemed excited! We had two more contacts over the next hour and a half: what a fantastic result!

Elated, we returned to the foot of the gorge for our now to-be-expected superb picnic. In the afternoon, we transferred about half an hour to the Râsnov Gorge, towards Brasov. This was an altogether less dramatic site, being wider and less rocky, and the wind had got up a bit. Nonetheless, we had a great walk up the valley and back, finding Honey Buzzard, Yellow-bellied Toad, White Helleborine, Queen of Spain Fritillary, Painted Lady and a good selection of other species, including Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth.

Our final stop of the day was at a roadside meadow towards Zărnesti, full of Meadow Clary and other wildflowers, and supporting a fair few insects despite the wind. Highlights were Common Blue, Heath Fritillary, Field Cricket and a shy Red Fox. We returned home with Wallcreeper Day complete, and celebrated over an excellent evening meal, with stunning light on the Bucegi mountains, the near-full moon rising over their peaks.

## Day 5

Saturday 30th May

Today was irritatingly windy once again, but we saw (and heard) plenty nonetheless! We spent the entire day in the Stramba valley to the north of the Piatra Craiului National Park. Either side of lunch, we explored meadows and woodland edges. Birds were few and difficult to find, but a highlight was hearing at least three Corn Crakes over the day: despite our best efforts, we got nowhere close to seeing one! Also new were Common Whitethroat, Grey Heron and Linnet, and we had decent views of a second Honey Buzzard in two days. Another big bird highlight came with (eventually) excellent views of a Grey-headed Woodpecker feeding on ants on a grassy bank.

Butterflies entertained once again: new were Heath and Marsh Fritillaries (the former including a bizarre aberrant individual with huge orange wing patches!), and Green Hairstreak, and we saw a decent range of others, including Sooty Copper once again. The plants were simply gorgeous: the meadows were studded with Bug, Chalk Fragrant and Lesser Butterfly Orchids, and we found a couple of Sword-leaved Helleborines on a woodland edge, plus Common Twayblades. Also featuring were Sticky and Nottingham Catchflies, Common Tansy, White Swallow-wort and many others.

After a bizarrely early 4.00pm sit-down dinner, we transferred to the meeting point for the bear hide, and walked in silence up to the river crossing. Bears were visible before we even reached the hide! Once safely housed, we gaped in awe at no fewer than *eleven*. And shortly afterwards, a mother with two four-month-old (and adorable) cubs appeared, plus perhaps two more sub-adults. It was an amazing couple of hours deep in the Carpathian forests.

## Day 6

Sunday 31st May

Rather tired after a late finish yesterday, it was a relief to be heading to a relatively "easy" wildlife location today: the Dumbrăvita fish ponds a little north of Brasov. After about an hour's drive, via an incredible thirteen (!) Lesser

Spotted Eagles in just two, adjacent, newly-mown meadows, we arrived and started adding easy water birds to our list: Greylag Goose, Great Crested Grebe, Pochard, Great and Little Egrets and so on. There were stacks of Sand Martins about, and we quickly had excellent views of a Squacco Heron beside one of the ponds.

We finally debussed for our main morning session, and enjoyed an excellent, slow walk along the fringes of two of the ponds. Great Reed and Marsh Warblers were constantly in song, giving occasional glimpses, and we heard Water Rail and Savi's Warbler too. Cuckoo, Hobby, and Lesser and Common Whitethroats were a little more obliging, and everyone eventually got outstanding views of a male Penduline Tit. Pygmy Cormorants and Black-crowned Night Herons occasionally crossed the bund to and from their nest site, and Caspian Gulls were frequent. A few Common and a handful of Whiskered Terns entertained, and a few clients had distant views of a Black Stork in flight. Having climbed a low ridge at the edge of the ponds, we added Reed Bunting, Brown Hares and Lapwings to the list.

We relocated a little way for lunch, after a short, sharp shower, and during/after another splendid feed, we saw a Ferruginous Duck in with Mallards and Pochards, many more Sand Martins, and some distant Black Terns over the next pit along. We walked up there to take a closer look, and were enchanted by seventy or so of them dancing over the water, occasionally forming into a "bait ball" and rising as one at the appearance, or fear of, a raptor. They were fooled by a Cuckoo on one occasion! Excitingly, we located a singleton of their rarer cousin, the White-winged Tern, in among the flock, and everyone got to see the Black Stork this time. We could hear a Golden Oriole singing constantly, and chased it gently: sadly, only one client saw it before it vanished into thick cover!

It had been a brilliant two-thirds of a day, but we had a final mission: a cultural visit to Brasov. We relocated on a busy Bank Holiday Sunday, with a half-marathon happening in the city, but reached our drop off point, and went on an hour's walking tour of the Romanian and Saxon towns with Ionut. We visited Catherine's Gate and the mighty Black Church, an impressive Romanesque/Gothic edifice dating from the fourteenth century, with blackened oak pews, guild-sponsored artwork, a few surviving frescoes, and an important collection of ancient hanging Ottoman rugs, donated to the church by local worthies in the early modern period. Afterwards, everyone had some free time, variously used to eat ice cream, to walk up the hill to the Saxon fortifications, or to drink coffee/beer! It was a lovely contrast with the wild landscapes we had been enjoying so far, and a memorable visit.

The traffic was slow getting out of town (mainly due to an accident involving a car almost having driven through some bridge railings into a fast-flowing river!), but we returned to Măgura only about twenty minutes later than planned, ready for yet another slap-up evening meal courtesy of the (rather harassed!) Oana. The Bank Holiday weekend concludes tomorrow!

## Day 7

**Monday 1st June**

For our final full day, we returned to the Bârsa valley, but this time the wider, lower reaches just outside Zărnești. After just a short drive, we set off on the immediately steep climb up the southern valley side, gaining altitude through old, abandoned hay meadows and terraces with invading scrub. The weather was cloudy and cool, so very few insects were on the wing, but we enjoyed plenty of plants: new ones included Masterwort, Elder-flowered Orchid and the beautiful Purple Viper's-grass (which is not a grass but a large-flowered, pinkish-white member of the Compositaceae family). We saw birds such as Red-backed Shrikes, Marsh Tit and a responsive Firecrest. Working our way into the ever-denser forest edge up towards the Colțul Chililor monastery, we heard the

distinctive calls of Nutcrackers, and succeeded in seeing at least three of them in the tops of spruce trees. After a hearty effort by all, we reached the monastery, had a rest, and then descended the way we had come, for a later-than-usual picnic down by the road.

Rain threatened, and for a time fell, so we decided against an ambitious afternoon, and spent some time exploring a side valley a little way uphill, meeting some shepherd's and their twelve (!) fierce-looking, but actually rather mild, bear-repelling dogs. We added a few new plants, such as Nettle-leaved Speedwell, White-flowered Rush and Peach-leaved Bellflower.

Quite tired, and with the weather still looking iffy, we beat a slightly early retreat, and dropped in at Zărnesti for an ice cream and to say goodbye to Ionut, who had been an excellent local guide and companion to us all week.

## Day 8

Tuesday 2nd June

On an exceedingly wet morning, we had a later-than-normal start at 9.15am, and drove the short distance to Bran. There, we met up with Simona one last time: she introduced us to the history of the town and the famous castle (which has precisely nothing to do with either Vlad Tepes or the fictional Dracula!), and set us off on a self-guided tour, which proved a fascinating experience.

After a little retail therapy/coffee, we met up once more and headed to the still very damp park, where Marilena and Elena were waiting for us with a final picnic. All too soon, we reboarded the bus, and hit the road for Bucharest, making just one stop on the way. We arrived at the airport in plenty of time for our flight, which got us home to Heathrow pretty much on schedule, after a wonderful, wildlife-filled week in Transylvania.

### Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek email list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers.

[naturetrek.co.uk/e-newsletter-signup](https://naturetrek.co.uk/e-newsletter-signup)

Scan to  
sign up!



### Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky and X and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers, exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



[instagram.com/naturetrek\\_wildlife\\_holidays](https://www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays)



[facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays](https://www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays)



[naturetrek.bsky.social](https://naturetrek.bsky.social)



[x.com/naturetrektours](https://x.com/naturetrektours) (formerly Twitter)

## Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May-June 2026							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>						✓		
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>						✓		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓			✓		✓
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						✓		
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>						1		
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		✓		✓				
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	✓		H	✓	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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>						H		
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>			1			✓		
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>						10		
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>						70		
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						1		
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>						✓		
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>						✓		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>						✓		
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	✓					✓		
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>						1		
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>						✓		
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			1			✓		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						✓		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						✓		
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>						2		
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>						✓		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					1	✓		
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>				1	1			
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>			1		2	14		
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>						✓		
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	H		1+					
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		1	2		1			
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		H	✓					
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			✓		✓			
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		H		H				
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>					H			
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					2+			
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	May-June 2026							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>						1		
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				1				
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			H		H	1		
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>			1					
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>			1				3+	
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>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			1				1	
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		1						
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>						1		
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>						2		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>						✓		
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</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>		H	H	H		H	H	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>						✓		
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						H		
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>						✓		
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>		4				✓		
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>						H		
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	H	✓	H	H	H	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			H	H	✓	H	H	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>			H		H	✓	H	
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>					H	✓		
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		H		H			1	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		1		H				
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H		H	H			
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓	H	✓			
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>				2				
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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			✓	✓	✓		H	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		2		H				
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>		1	3					

Common name	Scientific name	May-June 2026							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		✓					✓	✓
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			1		1			
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		1	1	3				
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			
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓						
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			H		1			
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>					✓		✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>								H
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>					2			
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			✓		✓		✓	
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						✓		

## Mammals

S=signs, H=heard		May-June 2026							
Common name	Scientific name	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>							S	
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>						2		
Eurasian Beaver	<i>Castor fiber</i>		S						
Bank Vole	<i>Myodes glareolus</i>		1					1	
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		3						
European Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>		S	S	S	S		S	
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>					1			
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>					2			
Carpathian Chamois	<i>Rupicapra carpatica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		S	S				S	
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	1	1		1	H		1	
Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>				S	14		S	

## Amphibians & reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	May-June 2026							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>				✓				
Montandon's Newt	<i>Lissotriton montandoni</i>		✓						
Alpine Newt	<i>Ichthyosaura alpestris</i>		✓		✓				
Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>				✓	✓		✓	
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>		✓					✓	
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Eastern Slow-worm	<i>Anguis colchica</i>							✓	

## Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	May-June 2026							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓		✓		✓		
Chequered Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>			✓					
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>		✓						
Common Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>		✓						
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Pale/Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias hyale/alfacariensis</i>		✓						
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>		✓						
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓					
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>				✓				
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>				✓				
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓		✓			✓	
Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Violet Copper	<i>Lycaena helle</i>			✓					
Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>			✓					
Sooty Copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>			✓		✓			
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓						
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>					✓			
Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>			✓					
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓					✓	
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>			✓		✓	✓		
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>			✓		✓			
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓		✓	✓			
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>			✓	✓				
Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>		✓		✓				
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>				✓	✓	✓		
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓				
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		✓	✓					
Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>			✓					
Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>						✓		
Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>				✓				
Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>					✓	✓		
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>			✓					
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓						
Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>		✓	✓	✓				

## Moths

Common name	Scientific name
Tau Emperor	<i>Aglia tau</i>
Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth	<i>Hemaris tityus</i>
Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth	<i>Hemaris fuciformis</i>
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
Blood-vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>
a pug	Larentiinae sp.

Common name	Scientific name
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>
Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>
Common Heath	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>
Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>
Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>
Setaceous Hebrew Character	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>

## Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name	May-June 2026							
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>						✓		
Common Bluet	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>						✓		
Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>		✓						
Blue Featherleg	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>						✓		
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>			✓					
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>			✓					

## Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name
a door snail	Clausiliidae sp.
a millipede	Diplopoda sp.
European Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>
Wart-biter	<i>Decticus verrucivorus</i>
Roesel's Bush-cricket	<i>Metroptera roeselii</i>
Red-and-black Leafhopper	<i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>
Juniper Stink Bug	<i>Chlorochroa juniperina</i>
a stink fly	Chrysopa sp.
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>
a ground beetle	Carabidae sp.
Common Scorpionfly	<i>Panorpa communis</i>

## Plants (partial list)

Scientific name	Common name
<b>Aspleniaceae</b>	<b>Spleenworts</b>
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Common Hart's-tongue
<b>Pinaceae</b>	<b>Pine Family</b>
<i>Abies alba</i>	European Silver Fir
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce
<b>Cupressaceae</b>	<b>Cypress Family</b>
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper
<b>Melanthiaceae</b>	<b>Bunchflower Family</b>
<i>Veratrum album</i>	White False-helleborine
<b>Colchicaceae</b>	<b>Meadow Saffron Family</b>
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Meadow Saffron
<b>Orchidaceae</b>	<b>Orchids</b>
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Helleborine

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-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 coriophora</i>	Bug Orchid
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid
<b>Iridaceae</b>	<b>Iris Family</b>
<i>Iris sibirica</i>	Siberian Iris
<i>Iris pumila</i>	
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>	<b>Amaryllis Family</b>
<i>Narcissus poeticus</i>	Pheasant's-eye Daffodil
<b>Asparagaceae</b>	<b>Asparagus Family</b>
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Common Solomon's-seal
<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>	False Lily of the Valley
<b>Juncaceae</b>	<b>Rushes</b>
<i>Luzula luzuloides</i>	White Wood-rush
<b>Papaveraceae</b>	<b>Poppy Family</b>
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	<b>Buttercup Family</b>
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	Great Meadow-rue
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	European Globeflower
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh-marigold
<i>Anemonoides nemorosa</i>	European Wood Anemone
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy
<i>Clematis alpina</i>	Alpine Clematis
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>	<b>Saxifrage Family</b>
<i>Saxifraga cuneifolia</i>	Wedge-leaved Saxifrage
<i>Saxifraga mutata</i> subsp. <i>demissa</i>	Orange Saxifrage
<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>	Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage
<b>Fabaceae</b>	<b>Pea Family</b>
<i>Genista sagittalis</i>	Winged Greenweed
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crown Vetch
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust - I
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium medium</i>	Zigzag Clover
<i>Trifolium ochroleucon</i>	Sulphur Clover

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Common Sainfoin
<b>Polygalaceae</b>	<b>Milkworts</b>
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort
<b>Rosaceae</b>	<b>Rose Family</b>
<i>Spiraea chamaedryfolia</i>	Elm-leaved Spiraea
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Prunus avium</i>	European Wild Cherry
<i>Prunus padus</i>	Bird Cherry
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Common Rowan
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Common Hawthorn
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Wild Raspberry
<i>Argentina anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Common Tormentil
<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
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>	<b>Buckthorns</b>
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder Buckthorn
<b>Cannabaceae</b>	<b>Hemp Family</b>
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Common Hop
<b>Urticaceae</b>	<b>Nettle Family</b>
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<b>Fagaceae</b>	<b>Beech Family</b>
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European Beech
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<b>Betulaceae</b>	<b>Birch Family</b>
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	European Alder
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	European Hornbeam
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	European Hazel
<b>Celastraceae</b>	<b>Spindle Family</b>
<i>Euonymus verrucosus</i>	Warty-barked Spindle
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	<b>Wood-sorrels</b>
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Common Wood Sorrel
<b>Hypericaceae</b>	<b>St John's-worts</b>
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-wort
<b>Violaceae</b>	<b>Violets</b>
<i>Viola hirta</i>	Hairy Violet
<i>Viola biflora</i>	Yellow Wood Violet
<i>Viola declinata</i>	
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Wild Pansy
<b>Salicaceae</b>	<b>Willow Family</b>
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar
<i>Populus tremula</i>	European Aspen
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>	<b>Spurge Family</b>
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge
<b>Linaceae</b>	<b>Flaxes</b>
<i>Linum extraaxillare</i>	Carpathian Flax
<b>Geraniaceae</b>	<b>Crane's-bills</b>
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Dusky Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Common Herb Robert
<b>Sapindaceae</b>	<b>Soapberry Family</b>
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Common Sycamore
<b>Cistaceae</b>	<b>Rock-rose Family</b>
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rock-rose
<b>Brassicaceae</b>	<b>Cabbage Family</b>
<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	Coralroot Bittercress
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Common Shepherd's-purse
<i>Lunaria rediviva</i>	Perennial Honesty
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard
<b>Loranthaceae</b>	<b>Showy Mistletoes</b>
<i>Loranthus europaeus</i>	Yellow-berried Mistletoe
<b>Polygonaceae</b>	<b>Knotgrass Family</b>
<i>Bistorta officinalis</i>	Common Bistort
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex alpinus</i>	Monk's-rhubarb
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	<b>Campion Family</b>
<i>Rabdera holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>	Carthusian Pink
<i>Viscaria vulgaris</i>	Sticky Catchfly
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham Catchfly
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion
<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin
<b>Amaranthaceae</b>	<b>Amaranth Family</b>
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat-hen
<b>Cornaceae</b>	<b>Dogwood Family</b>
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Common Dogwood
<b>Primulaceae</b>	<b>Primrose Family</b>
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip
<i>Primula veris</i>	Common Cowslip
<i>Cortusa matthioli</i>	Alpine Bells
<i>Soldanella hungarica</i>	Hungarian Bells

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>
<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
<b>Ericaceae</b>	<b>Heath Family</b>
<i>Erica spiculifolia</i>	Spike-leaved Heath
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Common Bilberry
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	<b>Bedstraw Family</b>
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Common Cleavers
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Common Crosswort
<b>Gentianaceae</b>	<b>Gentian Family</b>
<i>Gentiana asclepiadea</i>	Willow Gentian
<b>Apocynaceae</b>	<b>Periwinkle Family</b>
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Common Swallow-wort
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	<b>Borage Family</b>
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Common Viper's-bugloss
<i>Pulmonaria rubra</i>	Red Lungwort
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Common Comfrey
<i>Symphytum cordatum</i>	
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Water Forget-me-not
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>	<b>Bindweed Family</b>
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
<b>Oleaceae</b>	<b>Olive Family</b>
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	European Ash
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	<b>Plantain Family</b>
<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 officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	<b>Figwort Family</b>
<i>Verbascum lychnitis</i>	White Mullein
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort
<b>Lamiaceae</b>	<b>Dead-nettle Family</b>
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsywort
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Common Selfheal
<i>Thymus pulegioides</i>	Large Thyme
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Common Marjoram
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Common Bugle
<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>	<b>Broomrape Family</b>
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common Cow-wheat
<i>Rhinanthus major</i>	Greater Yellow Rattle
<b>Campanulaceae</b>	<b>Bellflower Family</b>
<i>Campanula patula</i>	Spreading Bellflower
<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	Peach-leaved Bellflower
<b>Asteraceae</b>	<b>Daisy Family</b>
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Common Cotton Thistle
<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Greater Burdock

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>
<i>Scorzonera purpurea</i>	Purple Viper's-grass
<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>	Orange Fox-and-Cubs
<i>Doronicum carpathicum</i>	Carpathian Leopard's-bane
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Common Colt's-foot
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Common Butterbur
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Common Daisy
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	Common Wormwood
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Common Tansy
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy
<b>Viburnaceae</b>	<b>Viburnum Family</b>
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf Elder
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	European Elder
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>	<b>Honeysuckle Family</b>
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Fly Honeysuckle
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small Scabious
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Common Teasel
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common Valerian
<b>Apiaceae</b>	<b>Umbellifers</b>
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	European Sanicle
<i>Astrantia major</i>	Greater Masterwort
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Common Angelica
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock