

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

2 - 11 May 2009



European Brown Bear



Bran Valley near Brasov



Black Redstart



Green Lizard

Report and images compiled by Geoff Carr



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Day 1

Saturday 2nd May

Bucharest – Zarnesti Sun/Cloud/Rain, 12°c

After an early BA flight from Heathrow we descended some three and a half hours later towards the Romanian Plain and the city of Bucharest. We were quickly through customs and collected our baggage and were then met in the arrivals hall by Florin, who was our Romanian guide throughout the tour. Onto our coach and north out of Bucharest airport with a landscape of arable agricultural land and our first birds, White Stork, Kestrel, Whiskered Tern, House Martin and Swallow to start the list. After a couple of hours we were on the edge of the Carpathian Mountains and stopped for a coffee near Sinaia. Now we experienced a changed landscape of steep wooded hillsides of Hornbeam, Beech and Spruce with the snow-clad mountains in the distance. Also, new birds, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, White Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Black Redstart, Fieldfare and Hawfinch.

After a further two hours we reached the village of Zarnesti and the Elena Hotel, our accommodation for the next two nights. It had been a long day and after the evening meal most people were quickly to bed.

Day 2

Sunday 3rd May

Zarnesti Gorge – Rasnoavei Gorge Cloud/Sun, 12°c

After an excellent breakfast we departed for the Zarnesti Gorge, a limestone habitat rich in flora and topped with spruce forest. At the start of the walk we had a brood of fledged Dipper of the “black-bellied race” being fed by the adults, Common Sandpiper and a number of Grey wagtail along the stream. A short detour track took us to a meadow zone with views across the next valley with swirling Alpine Swift, House Martin, Swallow, Woodlark, Redstart, Fieldfare and Nutcracker.

The slopes of the gorge contained Alpine Snowbell, Wood Sorrel, Yellow Wood Anemone and Early Purple Orchid. We had our lunch on a long cut spruce log while Peregrine and Raven drifted overhead. Then back down the gorge to the bus which took us to the Rasnoavei Gorge, another limestone habitat with a bungee jump for entertainment. Further along and into the wooded zone we had Buzzard, Cuckoo, Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Yellow-bellied Toad in a small pool.

Back to the Elena Hotel where we split into two groups, with one group having an early dinner before departing to a bear hide out in the Stramba Valley and the other group a beer and leisure time before a later dinner.

The bear hide group left the hotel at 1730 and were taken by mini-bus out to the forest where we met the ranger who was already feeding the site in front of hide with chocolate chips for the Brown Bears. One impatient individual already started coming out of the forest towards the feeding area before the ranger had finished. Within ten minutes a couple of 2-3 year old lone Brown Bears had arrived at the feeding area giving excellent photographic opportunities. A mother with large cubs arrived then a large male moved the other bears away to feed. Altogether we had 11 individual Brown Bears coming to feed at the site before we had to leave the site as darkness approached. A fantastic, and close spectacle of one of Europe's largest and little seen mammals! Back then to the hotel by late evening after a full day of Romanian wildlife.

Day 3

Monday 4th May

Damboviciora Gorge – Stramba Valley Sun/Cloud, 15°c

After breakfast we drove to the Damoviciora Gorge, another limestone habitat, and walked through the lower part alongside the stream with both Dipper and Grey Wagtail evident. Our target bird, a Wallcreeper, flew high along the gorge but was quickly lost to view so we continued and surprisingly we found a pair of Wallcreeper feeding on the cliff-face and giving really good views for everyone. Then the male flew down towards the group and nearly landed on some-ones hat before alighting low on the cliff behind us giving even closer views for a few moments. Well satisfied, we walked back down the gorge with a couple of odd-coloured Dinky Skippers on the flowers and Orange Tips flickering around.

We drove back the same route and stopped for lunch beside an open high meadow area which looked promising. While having our lunch looking towards the distant snow-clad mountains we had Hobby, Bee-eater, Fieldfare, Northern Wheatear, Woodlark and Tree Pipit.

After lunch we continued on to the Stramba Valley where the Bear hides are located. This was a fantastic habitat of Hornbeam, Beech and Spruce woodland with open meadow zones, rich with various wild flowers such as Green-winged Orchid, Elderflower Orchid, Oxlip, Cowslip and Ladies Mantle. We walked a few kilometres of this valley and had a pair of Greater Spotted Eagle which is a rare breeding bird in Romania, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Black Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Cuckoo, Golden Oriole, Hoopoe and Hawfinch.

After an excellent afternoon half of the group was collected by the hotel manager and headed back to the hotel with the other part of the group continuing in the mini-bus to the Bear hide. Again, in good light, the Brown Bears were eager to sample the chocolate chips put out and before long there were brilliant views of various sized individuals. By last light of the evening the group had experienced 16 Brown Bear visiting the site, another very good evening and thrilling experience.

Day 4

Tuesday 5th May

Zarnesti – Tulcea Sun/Thunderstorms, 26°c

We were up early and after breakfast we said our goodbyes and departed at 0800 on the long drive to Tulcea on the Danube Delta. The route took us back out of the mountains where we had Raven, Buzzard and lots of Swifts and House Martins. North of Bucharest we then turned east crossing arable farmland of cereal crops and sunflowers.

We stopped for lunch at a Poplar woodland plantation just as a thunderstorm started and had to retreat to the mini-bus to eat our lunch. The sun soon came out and we went back into the wood with lots of Golden Oriole calling, Red-footed Falcons and Hobby drifting over. Within the woodland we found a pair of Long-eared Owl with one of the birds on the nest, Red Backed Shrike, Wood Warbler, Collared Flycatcher, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher, Pied Flycatcher, Icterine Warbler and Olivaceous Warbler. A real hive of activity! We continued on and within a half hour stopped at a roadside lake with lots of migrant Ruff present, Spotted Redshank, Spoonbill, Honey Buzzard, White-winged Tern, Black Tern and Great Reed Warbler.

Off again, crossing the Danube at one point then rolling agricultural land and stopping again at another lake with Ruddy Shelduck, Roller, Bee-eater, Red-footed Falcon and Corn Bunting nearby singing their jangling song from post-tops. From here we drove past redundant old collective farms from the communist era and then descended through vast areas of vineyards to the town of Tulcea. Here we boarded our houseboat and home for the next few days and sat down to a welcome evening dinner.

Day 5

Wednesday 6th May

Tulcea - Lehta Channel Sun/Cloud, 26°c

We awoke on the houseboat in Tulcea to a clear, sunny morning and the pre-breakfast highlight of a Hobby chasing first a Sand Martin and then a Hoopoe over the Danube with a Thrush Nightingale singing in the willows beside the boat.

After breakfast we boarded a small boat which took us down the Danube and then into a quiet water channel where we stopped the engine and drifted with the current. We had a fantastic late dawn chorus of Thrush Nightingales, Golden Oriole, Redstart, Cuckoo and Blackcap to start the day. We continued along the channel with the Ukrainian border within a kilometre at one point and enjoyed the sheer numbers of various bird species that makes the Danube Delta so special. Lots of White-winged Tern was passing overhead and north to their breeding grounds in Poland or Russia...Also, lots of Pygmy Cormorants flying overhead to feeding areas nearby.

By lunchtime we had rejoined the houseboat along the main Danube channel and sat down to an excellent three course lunch while watching White-winged and Black Terns flying past. After lunch we departed on the houseboat down the main channel and a journey of around 3 hours before turning left into the old Danube loop. During the journey we had really good views of the surrounding Delta over the flood-bank from the top lounge area on the boat. White-tailed Eagles, Lesser Spotted Eagles, Marsh Harriers, Red-footed Falcon, White Pelican, Purple Heron, Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, Great White Egret, Roller, Black Woodpecker and Grey-headed Woodpecker to name the highlights were seen on the afternoon journey.

A distant thunderstorm threatened but kept away as we moored the houseboat on the bank-side of the old Danube loop with vast areas of Common Reed making up the landscape all around. Cuckoos were calling everywhere and Savi's Warblers making their reeling song every 100 metres along the reed fringe. After mooring we had a short walk along the flood-bank with Bittern calling, Great Reed Warbler, a chorus of Marsh Frogs and the strange booming of Fire-bellied Toads.

As the sun went down we had our evening meal and reflected on the vast numbers of birds we had seen with a full moon rising in the east over the distant Black Sea. A fantastic place to be and a remote wilderness treasure in Eastern Europe.

Day 6

Thursday 7th May

Lehta Village – Old Danube Loop Sun/Cloud/Showers, 18°C

We awoke to a dawn chorus of Cuckoo and Great reed Warbler and after breakfast departed from the houseboat on the small boat down a narrow channel towards the distant village of Letia. On route we had Hobby perched in the channel-side willows waiting for passing Dragonfly, Bittern calling, Montagu's Harrier, Bluethroat, Penduline Tits with nests dangling low over the water and surprisingly, a Roe Deer grazing in a clearing in the reeds.

We reached the village by mid-morning and were driven in an open small truck to the ancient Oak forest nearby. The forest was formed a few thousand years ago on a linear dune system and is a relic of the ancient wildwood and one of the last examples in Europe. Here we walked a few kilometres in the forest to look at the old Oaks and endemic Ash with a ground cover of Lily of the Valley, Star of Bethlehem, Wild Garlic and various Orchids. Birds included Spotted Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Hobby, Red-footed Falcon, Golden Oriole, Woodlark, Wood Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler and Red-breasted Flycatcher. We walked to another woodland zone which contained the oldest Oak in the area and reputed to be some 800 years old.

From here we were driven back to the village with its old wooden houses many dating back to the 1920's when the village was formed when the original inhabitants were deported there from another part of Russia. We boarded the small boat and retraced our route along the narrow channel back to the houseboat for a late lunch. After lunch and with the weather threatening rain, some of the group chose to stay on the houseboat while others bravely boarded the small boat in a cold wind to journey along other water channels. Before long the sun came out and the small boat journey became more pleasant with Bittern booming again, breeding Red-necked Grebe, lots of Whiskered Terns and a migrating party of at least 50 White-winged Tern passing through. A lone Musk Rat gave some entertainment and before dusk we rejoined the houseboat for evening dinner after a very full day in the Delta.

Day 7

Friday 8th May

Old Danube Loop – Tulcea Sun/Cloud, 15°C

Awoke to more Cuckoo calling and after breakfast we set off in the houseboat on the journey back to Tulcea. We continued along a secondary channel and generally retraced our route on the way out from Tulcea passing through vast red-beds, willow carr woodland and open lakes.

We had splendid views from the top deck of the houseboat and seeing many of the species we had encountered earlier but with the added highlights of Booted Eagle, Spoonbill, lots of Wood Sandpiper, Dalmatian Pelican and Black-tailed Godwit on an open grass-marsh habitat, large numbers of Ruff, Garganey and Merlin. En route another usual three course lunch as we passes through dense expanses of reeds with hunting Hobby overhead. By late afternoon we neared Tulcea with more White-winged Terns passing over and Golden Oriole singing from the bank-side willows.

We reached Tulcea by around 1930 and after mooring most people had a walk around the promenade on the edge of the Danube. Amazing, that this mighty river started life in southern Germany, passing through a host of other countries before reaching where we were now. As the sun went down we went back to the houseboat for our last evening meal there, we had a fantastic experience cruising the waterways of the Danube Delta.

Day 8

Saturday 9th May

Tulcea – Vadu Sunny, 26°C

Some people were up at 0600, breakfast at 0700 and away from the boat and onto the mini-bus by 0800 for our day in the steppes of Dobrogea. It was a clear, sunny morning as we said goodbye and left the houseboat and the Danube. Our first stop was the Babadag Forest near the still Turkish town of Babadag. This is an ancient and protected woodland zone of various Oak species, Hornbeam and Lime with various rich ground flora of both woodland species and steppe species. We saw lots of Lady Orchid, Monkey Orchid and Steppe Flax with Scarce Swallowtail flicking along the glades and basking Adder on the open, dry zones. A distant group of migrating White Stork had a couple of Black Stork tagging along, Honey Buzzard soaring on the thermals and Levant Sparrowhawk dashing overhead. Ortolan Bunting were singing in the open glades and it was difficult to leave such a rich tranquil place but as time rolled on we had to move on to Histria on the Black Sea coast.

Before Histria we visited a coastal saltmarsh where we hoped to find Pallas Gull which has started breeding nearby and a big jump west from the traditional breeding area around the Caspian Sea. The group were overjoyed to find one Pallas Gull in full breeding plumage with a full black head and another bird still in winter plumage, a real find for the trip. Also, at the same place a Caspian Tern stood among the Caspian Gulls and standing out with its bright orange bill.

From here on towards Histria which is a remnant Roman port but had its origins from the Greeks and Alexander. Here we had large numbers of wader – Ruff, Wood Sandpiper, Sanderling, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper with Collared Pratincole flying around and Paddyfield Warbler singing from the reed-beds. We had lunch here watching the spectacle of these birds before moving on to Vadu further south along the Black Sea coast. At this site there was a number of Bee-eater catching insects, a large Common Tern Colony with a couple of Little Tern and more Collared Pratincole.

We drove to the edge of the Black Sea where we had Grey Plover, Turnstone, Sandwich Tern, Gull-billed Tern and Tawny Pipit in the dunes. Some of the group did little more than dip a toe in the Black Sea for the record before we had to set off back to Tulcea. It had been a really eventful day of varied habitats and wildlife as we finally arrived at the Ibis Guest House on the edge of the town. A few beers and wine with the evening meal to end the day.

Day 9

Sunday 10th May

Tulcea – Macin Mountains Sunny, 28°c

After breakfast we were away from the guest house by 0800 for a visit to the northern part of Dobrogea and an area of steppe, woodland and the Macin Mountains. The Macin Mountains are the oldest rock formation in Romania and compare with our “Caledonian Period”. Our first stop was at Telita Ogurlui, a semi-open wood-pasture habitat very similar to the Dehasa habitat in central Spain. The open woodland consisted of Oak, Hornbeam and Wild Pear with a sloping ground cover of various grasses and Wild Strawberry. Here we had 6 Honey Buzzard, Lesser Spotted Eagle, 4 Levant Sparrowhawk, Red-backed Shrike, 3 Wryneck, 6 Woodlark, Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Ortolan Bunting and 3 Red-rumped Swallow, obviously a very good mixed habitat. We photographed a large Green Lizard sat in the sun, Spur-thighed Tortoise and Glandville Fritillary and High Brown Fritillary butterflies to add to our image collection. The day was quite hot now as we drove to our picnic spot on the northern edge of the Macin Mountains. As we ate lunch Levant Sparrowhawks drifted over and Isabelline Wheatears flew from stone perch to stone perch while searching for insects.

After lunch we ventured into a nearby gorge and had Long-legged Buzzard, Rock Thrush and Pied Wheatear along with a rich variety of butterfly species coming to salts on the edge of a small stream. A short drive to an open steppe area gave us Stone Curlew and more Isabelline Wheatear, a Long-legged Buzzard sat on a nest, a brief Sombre Tit and a number of Suslik, a type of steppe ground squirrel. From here we drove back to our guest house in Tulcea for drinks, musical entertainment and the evening meal.

Day 10

Monday 11th May

Tulcea – Bucharest – London Sunny, 28°c

Breakfast at 0800, said goodbyes and departed on the drive to Bucharest airport. It was probably the hottest day of the trip as we drove away from Tulcea and west across the expanse of vineyards and onto the rolling agricultural land. We had a brief stop near a large lake with Golden Oriole calling in the nearby woodland and Ruddy Shelduck out on the water. We were soon off again and kept going until we reached the airport. Check-in was quite fast as the BA aircraft only had around 50 passengers and we were soon on our way back to Heathrow. We all had a really informative and eventful tour, thanks to Florin and Mihai and thanks to all the tour group for finding all sorts of wildlife and being good company.

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Species Lists

Birds

	Scientific name	Common name	May									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					6		36			
2	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					2					
3	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				10	50	50	50			
4	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					6	7	6			
5	White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				1	200	200	100	200		
6	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>					1	3	6	20		
7	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				6	✓	✓	✓	✓		1
8	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>					200+	✓	✓			
9	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>					2	5		2		
10	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					3			1		
11	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				2	50	50	50	50	6	
12	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					50+	100+	50+			
13	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>					12	10	10	4	2	1
14	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				3	50+	20	50+	50+	6	5
15	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1	2	2	4	30+	10	5	4		
16	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					15	30	4	10		
17	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	23	2	1	40	18	4	12	150	8	80
18	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				1				2		
19	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>					110	25	30			
20	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				3	4	6	26	4		
21	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				152	309	7	316		150	40
22	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				4	20	10	20	30		
23	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				2				10		
24	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>				4						2
25	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	3				50+	20	30	20		10
26	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>					10	50	30	20		
27	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>								3		1
28	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>					5		2	2		
29	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				10	40	100	50	6		

	Scientific name	Common name	May									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
30	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				2	10	100+	20	2		
31	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					8	2	3			
32	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>								1		
33	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>			2		2		4	5	3	
34	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>			2							
35	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>									3	
36	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>							1			
37	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>					1					
38	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				4	20	10	10	30	2	
39	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				1		1	2	1		
40	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>									3	
41	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	2	3	10	10	4	5	5	2	6	
42	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>				1		1	2	3	6	
43	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1		1					1		
44	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>							2		8	
45	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			1	2	17	25	16		2	1
46	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	4	3	2	15	3	1	2	2		2
47	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco verspertinus</i>				10+	20+	10	10	3	2	
48	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		3								
49	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>							1			
50	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>				2				2	1	
51	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				1	8	3	3		2	
52	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				1	1	2	6			
53	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				4	20	20	20	2		
54	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				8		1	2	6		
55	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				20				9		
56	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>									2	
57	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>								20		
58	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								3		
59	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>								1		
60	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>								6		
61	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>								1		

	Scientific name	Common name	May									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
62	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				10	4	2	10	30		
63	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>								7		
64	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								15		
65	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				1				15		
66	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>								1		
67	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				3	7		120	200		
68	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					1					
69	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1			2		2	3		
70	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>								4		
71	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				1			2	6		
72	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>							1			
73	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>							100			
74	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>								7		
75	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>							1			
76	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				40			200+	400+		
77	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
78	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>								4		
79	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
80	Pallas's Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>								2		
81	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>								2		
82	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>								1		
83	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				2	50	50	50	300		
84	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>								2		
85	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>								1		
86	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					130		10			
87	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				1	450	50	230	2		
88	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	4			10	✓	✓	✓			
89	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					6	10	6			
91	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	50	10	2	2	6	10	6	5	2	
92	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
93	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				4		2		2	1	

	Scientific name	Common name	May									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
94	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		1	5	3	23	20	15	1	3	2
95	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>				2						
96	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>								1	1	
97	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>		20	2							
98	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	4	4	6	50		100	100	2	8	
99	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					25	2	2			
100	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			1	2	2	5	1	10	8	2
101	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			2			7	4	20	60	
102	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				3	20	6	7	1	1	4
103	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			1		1					
104	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					6	4	3		1	
105	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		h	h							
106	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>									1	
107	Great-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			1		3	1	1		1	
108	Middle-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>									1	
109	Lesser-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>			1			1				
110	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>									3	
111	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			1	7				7	2	5
112	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>				2				2	6	1
113	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		1				4		1	6	
114	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>				6				1		
115	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				2						
116	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		10								
117	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	4	50	20	300	10		50	1	10	30
118	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	50	50	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>									3	
120	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>								1		
121	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			3							
122	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1	10	10	1	10	10	10	10	5	
123	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	2	10	6	3						
124	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			3	5	1		4	40		
125	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		2								

	Scientific name	Common name	May											
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
126	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		5										
127	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		3										
128	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>							2					1
129	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>							1					
130	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		1				38	11	8			1	
131	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1		2								6	
132	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>											50+	
133	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			2	2			2			2		
134	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>											1	
135	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>											3	
136	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>										3	1	
137	Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>											4	
138	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		10	10	6	1	1	2				2	
139	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	1	5	10	1								
140	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	4	3	1								
141	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		4	4									
142	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			1		1	4	1					
143	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		3	10	3	18	10	6	2				
144	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		1			2	1	1					
145	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			1	1								
146	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						1						
147	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					8	11	2					
148	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>						2						
149	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				1	1	10	6					
150	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>						1						
151	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>										3		
152	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				3	12	15	20	20				
153	Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>				1								
154	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>				1					2			
155	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>				2		1						
156	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				1					5			
157	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		3	1	1	5	5	2			2		

	Scientific name	Common name	May										
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
158	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		1		4					12	1	
159	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				2					2		
160	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>				1	1				1		
161	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>				1		1					
162	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		4	6	2	10	✓	6	2	6	2	
163	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	1				10	10	2				
164	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	1	4									
165	Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>		2									
166	Willow Tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>		1									
167	Sombre Tit	<i>Parus lugubris</i>										1	
168	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			3		3						
169	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>				3		10	4	3			
170	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>						4	2				
171	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>			2								
172	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			1	4				3	3	2	
173	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>								2	2		
174	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	20	20	10	✓	✓	6	20	20	20	30	
175	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1	2	1	3	1	1		2	3		
176	Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		2									
177	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	10			✓	✓	✓	✓	10	✓	✓	
178	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	20	10	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
179	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
180	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	2	6	4	2							
181	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	50	10	40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
182	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			2	5	11	6	8	2	2	6	
183	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>								30			
184	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
185	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>					10	2	5		10	20	
186	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	10	20	20	10	20	10	10		6	2	
187	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	4		2	2	2						
188	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	1							6			
189	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	4		6	6		4			1	2	

	Scientific name	Common name	May									
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
190	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	2		1						1	
191	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>		1								
192	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			4							
193	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>						2				
194	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>								3	6	
195	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						10	2	2		
196	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>				5				10	10	6

Mammals

Brown Bear

Golden Jackal

Roe Deer

European Otter

Brown Hare

Suslik

Stoat

Muskrat

Mole

Reptiles & Amphibians

Dice Snake (Water Snake)

Grass Snake

Adder

Marsh Frog

Tree Frog

Edible Frog

Balkan Wall Lizard

Green Lizard

Spur-thighed Tortoise

European Pond Terrapin

Red-eared Terrapin

Fire-bellied Toad

Yellow-bellied Toad

Salamander spp

Snake-eyed Skink

Butterflies

Painted Lady

Scarce Swallowtail

Swallowtail

Large White

Small Heath

Russian Heath

Balkan Clouded Yellow

Berger's Clouded Yellow

Common Blue

Small Copper

Brown Argus

Wall

Dingy Skipper

Brimstone

Glanville Fritillary

High Brown Fritillary

Orange Tip

Small White

Idas Blue

Lesser Fiery Copper

Selected Trees & Plants recorded – Mihai Petrescu

Tulcea Area

Ulmus minor
Pyrus pyraster
Salix triandra

Carpinus betulus
Crataegus monogyna
Descurainia sophia

Quercus pedunculiflora
Fraxinus excelsior
Cornus sanguinea

Morus alba
Fraxinus ornus
Sambucus nigra

Telita – Ogurlui

Quercus pedunculiflora
Vicia tenuifolia
Carex praecox
Loranthus europaeus

Quercus pubescens
Lathyrus nissolia
Medicago minima
Pyrus bulgarica

Orlaya grandiflora
Festuca valesiala
Trifolium campestre
Pyrus pyraster

Vicia sativa
Phlomis tuberosa
Thymus pannonicus
Achillea setacea

Macin Mountains

Salvia aethiopsis
Ajuga chamaepytis
Campanula romanica
Anthemis austriaca

Valerianella dentate
Silene clereii
Achillea lepophyllia
Artemisia austriaca

Xeranthemum annuum
Moebringia grisebachii
Eleagnos nardiformis

Linum austriacum
Lagula viminea
Festuca callieri

Babadag Forest

Nectaroscordum siculum spp bulgaricum
Lithospermum purpureo- caeruleum
Tilia tomentosa
Stipa pulcherrima
Melica uniflora
Euphorbia dobrogensis

Fraxinus coriariifolia
Fraxinus excelsior
Lamium maculatum
Stipa capillata
Anthriscus nemorosa
Orchis morio

Carpinus betulus
Acer platanooides
Mercurialis perennis
Stipa lessingiana
Nonea pulla

Aegopodium podagraria
Lorylus avellana
Cardamine (dentaria) bulbifera
Dactylis glomerata
Euphorbia glareosia

Histria

*Alopecurus arunbinaceus**Spergularia media**Aster tripolium**Artemisia santonica**Halimium pedunculata**Salicornia herbacea**Halimium verrucifera**Suaeda maritima*

Vadu

*Onopordum acanthium**Orchis laxiflora**Typha laxmannii**Elymus sabulosus**Astragalus varius**Ranunculus sceleratus**Centaurea cineraria**Hordeum hystrix**Ranunculus trichophyllum**Secale silvestre**Typha angustifolia**Euphorbia seguieriaum*