

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

6 - 15 August 2011



Purple Emperor by Mick Tilley



Little Bittern by Martin Johnson



Red-footed Falcon by Margaret Bell



Silver-washed Fritillary by Martin Johnson

Report compiled by Andy Harding

Images courtesy of David Wilkinson, Mick Tilley, Margaret Bell and Martin Johnson



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Drivers	Ionel and Mitica
Participants:	Douglas Bell Margaret Bell Julie Grant Alison Higgins Alicia Hulse Art Hulse Martin Johnson Peter Mason Hannah O'Regan Hugh Quarterman Chris Tilley Mike Tilley David Wilkinson Chris Wilson

Day 1

Saturday 6th August

Eleven of the group, plus the UK leader, joined the 11 am flight from Heathrow. That flight was problem free and even a few minutes early into Bucharest, where we met Julie and our Romanian leader Laurentiu and driver, Ionel. With the luggage loaded in the trailer we set off through the outskirts of Bucharest and onto the flat and largely birding-free plain to the north. Having passed the major industrial town of Ploiesti we obtained the first real indication of non-British birding with a huge string of White Storks following a plough in company with Yellow-legged Gulls.

As we climbed gently into the sub-Carpathians the countryside became more interesting. A pleasant refreshment (mainly beer) stop produced a Crag Martin and a few commoner species. Having climbed quite high we descended into the Brasov Plateau and then to Zarnesti and Elena Pension, our extremely comfortable hotel, where Margaret and Doug joined the party. A welcoming glass of pear brandy met us as an aperitif before our splendid dinner. Then to bed after a tiring day...

Day 2

Sunday 7th August

Sunny, hot, 32 deg C

We didn't travel far out of Zarnesti before taking a long track up through the alpine meadows and conifer belt towards Coltul Chiliilor, a still active monastery.

We actually took 20 minutes to get 25 metres from the bus, largely due to an impressive 'Wasp' Spider, a host of other small creatures and an obliging Little Owl. Subsequently the birding was generally hard work, but a single White Stork, a calling but flying Nutcracker, Lesser Whitethroat, Spotted Flycatcher and 3 Bee-eaters, which are rather scarce for this area were the better birds. One spot well away from water occupied the group for a while as it produced Yellow-bellied Toad and Common Frog, Balkan Wall and Sand Lizard, all within a couple of metres. The butterfly tally included 'ordinary' and Scarce Swallowtail, Common and Hungarian Glider and darker forms of Marbled White.

The monastery's chapel was a modern wooden building, albeit beautifully decorated inside, but 5 minutes walk away the original cave chapel provided a very different atmosphere. Crossbills were heard on the way up, and 4 eventually seen as we started back. Having strolled back to the road, accompanied by Red-backed Shrikes every step of the way, we travelled the short distance back to the hotel for a 3 course lunch and a rest.

Later in the afternoon we picked up our evening sandwiches and drove to Stramba Valley. The birding highlight of a 2 hour walk was 3 Lesser Spotted Eagles which performed excellently. The often heard Marsh Tits eventually gave views and an Icterine Warbler compensated for the lack of commoner congeners. Two jousting male Beautiful Demoiselles, observed by a single female were as attractive a sight as anything else all day, while Small Pearl-bordered and Silver-washed Fritillary added to the butterfly list.

Our final focus of the day, and the reason we had brought evening sandwiches was to look for European Brown Bear, of which there is a population of about 36 in this relatively small area of the Carpathian Mountains. At 7pm we met our (armed) ranger guide, and we drove higher on a restricted track into the mountains. Some of the group were fortunate enough to see a Wild Cat cross the track in front of the bus. Having parked up, we walked the last few hundred metres, in complete silence, to the Bear watching hide. We didn't wait long before a single female and then a female with 3 smallish cubs appeared. Alarm spread when a third female with 3 significantly larger cubs appeared. However by warily moving around the area they managed to avoid actual conflict and all remained on view, and were eventually joined by a fourth female: so 10 bears in all – fantastic! Just before it became completely dark we left the hide. It was around 11pm when we arrived back at the hotel, for bed or a late night snack and celebratory drink.

Day 3

Monday 8th August

Hot, sunny 30-33 deg C

At our excellent breakfast, we made our packed lunches and then took just a short trip to the start of Zarnesti Gorge. As yesterday the pace of progress was extremely and enjoyably slow. On the bird front a young Dipper, family parties of Grey Wagtail and even more exciting, a family party of at least 4 Goshawks caught the attention. The number of butterfly enthusiasts grew by the minute: lots of Hungarian Gliders, Arran Browns and more spectacularly Purple Emperors and Camberwell Beauties were the most impressive of a wide variety. The group's range of interest was spread wide enough to encompass spiders, micro-moths, and some fresh Lynx tracks, which were carefully photographed and measured in situ.

In the tree lined places Marsh Tits and Nuthatches appeared, with many more heard than seen. A loud rustling in the leaves at the base of a cliff attracted a couple of the group, one of whom saw a movement a couple of metres higher – a juvenile Wallcreeper, which performed brilliantly for all. Certainly one of the week's targets being seen ensured a happy lunch in situ. The Wallcreeper was Chris T's, Julie's, Art's, Hugh's, Martin's and Andy's favourite bird of the trip. The steady descent provided similar fare as the ascent, with the addition of a Grass Snake, but the gorge was just as spectacular this way round.

Spectacular views were also sought later in the afternoon, after a welcome beer and a market stop in Bran. The views towards both the Kingstone Mountains and the Bucegi Mountains from the highest point were enhanced by perfect visibility at Moiceu. Then we returned to Bran for views of Dracula's Castle and after the requisite photos had been taken, we returned for another excellent dinner.

Day 4

Tuesday 9th August

Sunny 34 deg C

We were quite sad to leave the mountains and Elena Pension, where the hospitality had been second to none. However there was also excitement at the prospect of going to the Danube Delta, despite the lengthy journey. We punctuated our trip with a stop at a small service station, then a birding stop at a small Poplar wood west of Ciorani. Hobby and Red-footed Falcon performed on cue, but a female Golden Oriole was only heard.

Lake Rodeanu was our next stop where a decent selection of waders awaited us: predominately Ruff, but a few Spotted Redshanks, single Common and Marsh Sandpiper and a couple of Ringed Plovers. The ducks included our first Gadwall. Shortly after we passed through a Gypsy village, where the huge, and to our taste garishly coloured tombs, mirrored the frontages of many of the houses. Lunch was taken in an air conditioned fast food truck stop, where excellent skinless but meaty sausages, delicious pickled gherkins, perfectly acceptable chips and a complete range of beverages put fast food chains to complete shame.

Our final stop was at least a half-hour of birding at Lake Hassan in superb light. Glossy Ibis, c40 Pygmy Cormorants, Black-tailed Godwits, Green Sandpipers, Snipe, Flava (Yellow) Wagtails, and adult and juvenile Whiskered Tern, showed to their best effect to the accompaniment of calling Quail and Bee-eaters. One of the latter with a Roller in the same bush put the icing on the cake.

Thence to Tulcea, the quay, our floating hotel and a glass of welcoming sour cherry brandy, before a shower and our excellent dinner, the centrepiece of which was roast catfish.

Day 5

Wednesday 10th August

Sunny 34 deg C

A slightly earlier start saw us on the 'small' boat – it has 16 seats from which to bird watch – for our first taste of cruising the channels, both wide and narrow, of the Danube Delta.

Our first 'destination' was Lake Nabunu, but en route we saw many Squacco and Night Herons as well as the more familiar Great White and Little Egrets. A couple of White-tailed Eagles and a few Hobbies provided raptor interest. Whiskered and Common Terns were ever present and the Glossy Ibis count rose steadily. Then the first small flocks of White Pelican drifted over, with a single example of the much less common Dalmatian Pelican for rapid comparison. The above says little of the physical splendour of these 'giant Norfolk Broads'. Later in the morning around 5 Purple Herons showed well and then in some shallows 17 Black-tailed Godwits and a couple of Wood Sandpipers. The profusion of species and number of individual birds was, at times, mind-boggling. The morning was topped off by a splendid 3 course lunch while the 'hotel' was towed for an hour and a half to a new reed bed berth.

Our afternoon sojourn, back in the little boat eventually aimed at Lake Jacob, but one of the broader channels we took en route had vegetated sand-banked shores allowing waders, if no new species, to be enjoyed in some numbers. The lake itself saw everyone enjoying Little Stint and Marsh Sandpiper, Pool Frogs and Grass Snake against a cacophony of hundreds of Terns and Gulls and a decent raft of White Pelicans.

Having joined back up with the mother ship, we were then towed for another couple of hours down the old course of the Danube in the pleasant evening sun, with beer and white wine much in evidence and binoculars occasionally raised ... to dinner: another delight, taken moored against a reed bed on the course of the old Danube.

Day 6

Thursday 11th August

Warm, becoming windy. 24 – 28 deg C

Our idyllic situation allowed an optional (everybody came) pre-breakfast walk along the heavily vegetated dyke which separated the Danube from a huge reed bed, which had been a giant fish farm in the Communist era. As well as permitting many decent views of Reed Warbles, which had been noted only fleetingly from the moving boat, Rollers, Hobbies and 2 young Cuckoos were much enjoyed, but best of all was an adult Little Bittern and an obliging Grey-headed Woodpecker.

Breakfast was consumed with even greater eagerness before we took the small boat again for our leisurely and bird-filled journey to Letea. Only Caspian Tern was new for the trip, but we had excellent views of a large number of Ferruginous Ducks and more Purple Herons than previously.

Letea can only be accessed by water and is a large village inhabited by Ukrainians who first settled here 200 years ago. Nearly all of the houses are wattle and daub with thatched roofs painted in the traditional blue and white. A fascinating and beautiful place, which also had some birds; a Hoopoe was an early find, but one old orchard was something of a mecca: 3 Spotted Flycatchers, a male Redstart, 2 Red-backed Shrikes, our first Lesser Grey Shrike seen by everybody, our first Syrian Woodpecker which stayed for ages, and a well-photographed 'Pied-type' Flycatcher; which may prove to be Semi-collared, but whose photograph will be circulated among the flycatcher-identifying elite for comment in the coming weeks.

Five Wood Sandpipers and a small flock of 'flava' Wagtails occupied some small shallow pools close to where we met the boat and while embarking the number and size of the Frog population provoked comment, as did Laurentiu demonstrating large Common Leeches eagerly, if temporarily, attaching them to his hand! We then retraced our steps to the mother ship and our superb lunch.

The wind had not been a huge problem in Letea, but when we set out again at 5 pm, it had become so brisk that it significantly affected visible birdlife. It also made traversing 3 lakes rather more exciting. The highlight was perhaps an amazing concentration of around 50 Squacco Herons on a relatively sheltered sheet of lily pads. The wind had no effect on the excellent dinner.

Day 7

Friday 12th August

Fairly hot, quite windy. 30 – 32 deg C

We awoke to a decreased, but still significant wind speed, and a largely clear blue sky. We again took a rather early breakfast before embarking on a 4 hour tour along yet further waterways, some extremely narrow, in the Delta. In the event it was bird wise pretty productive. Bearded Tit and Sedge Warbler were quickly added; the Kingfisher count continued to astonish; one of the larger lakes produced both Red-necked and Black-necked Grebes, though the slightly choppy water made them harder work than one would wish. A couple of White-tailed Eagles and a few Marsh Harriers kept raptor watchers on their toes and what at very long range initially appeared to be more if slightly odd Marsh Harriers, eventually provided excellent view of two Black Kites.

We thought the day's Squacco Heron count already high at about 50, but we then entered a lake completely covered by water chestnuts and among hundreds of Whiskered Terns and Black-headed Gulls, 265 Squaccos! The last 20 minutes of our morning jaunt gave us much larger numbers of White Pelican than previously, low and right above us. This spectacle continued through much of the excellent lunch, and surely 1000 birds were involved: no anticlimax here! This was Alicia and David's favourite birding moment.

After lunch the mother ship made its way back to Tulcea and some diehards spent the whole 5 hours on the top deck. Little Bittern, several Muskrat sightings, more Black-necked Grebes, 5 Black Storks and White-tailed Eagle were the highlights, but there was a continual accompaniment of 6 species of Heron/Egret, both Cormorants, regular White Pelicans; Bee-eaters, and for a lucky few, Lesser-spotted Woodpecker. Having docked in Tulcea, we had our last splendid dinner on the floating hotel with its fantastic, champagne accompanied, dessert, and looked forward to new habitats tomorrow.

Day 8

Saturday 13th August

Hot - 34 deg C

We left our packed cases and bags on the floating hotel, so they could be transferred the half-mile to our final hotel.

We, on the other hand, simply took what was necessary to go into the field and joined a new bus and driver, Mitica, and headed for new habitats: firstly in the Mircin Range National Park, near Greci. This proved a most productive area, with good numbers of Isabelline Wheatears, as well as a few Northern Wheatears as we drove slowly along and then parked in the shade. In the skies a pale phase Booted Eagle, a Short-toed Eagle carrying a snake and a Long-legged Buzzard joined the more numerous Common Buzzards, some of whom were of the distinctive sub-species *vulpinus*, or Steppe Buzzard. Bee-eaters and Rollers were also numerous, and a family party of Woodchat Shrikes, in the same tree as two of the latter and two Hoopoes was the centrepiece of the cameo. Redstarts, Woodlarks and Hawfinches added to the passerine interest, and we were very lucky to come across a most obliging static juvenile Middle-spotted Woodpecker.

Staying in the Mircin area we had lunch in a shady picnic spot near Zorul Damadurii Monastery before returning up a beautiful valley where Pied Wheatear and Montagu's Harrier, and particularly Levant Sparrowhawk which performed three times, were the star birds. Butterflies and other insect life abounded. While we had already overdosed on Bee-eaters we still stopped briefly at one of the largest colonies in the area, where just a few birds were still occupying some of the huge number of nest holes.

Our final stop of the day was at a steppe forest of scattered oaks near Somova, which produced the largest number of Golden Orioles thus far, and eventually the hoped-for Sombre Tits. We then returned to our new hotel, Ibis Headquarters in Tulcea, after a long, rewarding but tiring day to be welcomed by Sour Cherry Schnapps and cookies followed by a shower and dinner.

Day 9

Sunday 14th August

Sunny...with a breeze. 32 deg C

The coast was our main target today and after a fairly long drive we stopped at our furthest point from Tulcea in the Vadu area. Some pools near a large deserted mineral extraction factory produced a good range of waders including our first Temminck's Stints, Avocets, Curlew Sandpiper and, strangely, Redshank. A good number of Gull-billed Terns and three Little Gulls were good value, and the location was enhanced by the usual Bee-eaters, Rollers, Hoopoes, about 20 Marsh Sandpipers and both male and female Levant Sparrowhawks.

A coastal bay was also good for waders including at least 30 Wood Sandpipers, Black-tailed Godwits and Lapwings, (Laurentiu's favourite bird of the trip). Many more Gull-billed Terns were dwarfed by two settled Caspian Gulls which showed exactly how big they were. The highlight here, however, was around 70 Collared Pratincoles, performing overhead and on the deck nearby. Lesser Grey Shrikes were regular in the whole area, both from the bus and at every stop. We then visited what even late in the season, is a huge Common Tern colony on a large island in an enormous bowl created by the now defunct industrial activities noted above. The waters edge gave opportunity to enjoy adult Little Stints at close quarters.

Lunch was taken at what is probably the best wader spot in the whole area so long as there is water. Unfortunately this year it was completely dry, so 3 Stone Curlews and a flyover flock of 5 Black Storks were the only avian compensation.

Our last stop of the Vadu area was a bit of the Black Sea itself, but generally this was disappointing except for those wishing to observe a multitude of barely dressed humans!

After the heat of the coast we sought some respite in Babadag Forest where the main attraction proved large numbers of Silver-washed Fritillaries and Large Whites sometimes congregating on small clods of mud, extracting both liquid and minerals. On the bird front a male Redstart was seen and some of the group came upon a roving Tit flock which contained Long-tailed and Sombre Tit as well as a Treecreeper.

Then it was onto our very last birding stop of the holiday: a barren, steppe covered hill shaped like a tortoise shell call Danistepe. Isabelline and Northern Wheatear were both there as well as the hoped for Tawny Pipit, a family party of which allowed the group to compare adult and juvenile plumages at close range.

We were back in Tulcea bang on 7pm with our final dinner together which included excellent champagne with the dessert.

Day 10

Monday 15th August

After the usual splendid breakfast and settling of bills, we set out at 9am on the longish transfer to Bucharest airport. The variety of regular, if often exotic species were seen from the bus, but this is essentially a travelling as opposed to a birding day. We had a very smooth journey across country to arrive at the airport with plenty of time to spare, where we left our superb Romanian guide, Laurentiu and Mitica. The rebuilt Henri Coanda airport provided an airy and cool environment before the flight to Heathrow, the luggage carousel and sad farewells.

Summary: This was a great group, considerably enhanced by the range of interests, indeed expertise, across the group. Everybody contributed and we all learned so much from one another. However I'm sure none of you will mind me expressing particular thanks to Martin Johnson for the large and very diligently researched butterfly and dragonfly list. The diversity of nationalities was another source of enhancement, and everyone gelled so well. Perhaps the great good humour, which exemplified the group, was as important as the habitats and creatures we saw, in making this trip so enjoyable. Thank you all!

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2011 Naturetrek Group photo by David Wilkinson

Species Lists

Birds (h = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	August										
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
1	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>								8			
2	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					✓	✓	✓				
3	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
4	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>								1			
5	White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					✓	✓	1000			✓	
6	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>						1				1	
7	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>				40	✓	✓	✓			✓	
9	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>						1	2	1			
10	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				2	✓	100+	300+			1	
11	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓	✓	✓				
12	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>				2	✓	4	✓				
13	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
15	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					10	20	30			1	
16	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	300	5	7	✓	3	6	1	8	8	8	50
17	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>					17		5	2	5		
18	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				10	80+	10	150+				
19	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					1	4	3				
20	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	August									
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>					✓	✓	100+			
22	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>									✓	
23	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
24	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				✓						
25	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>										2
26	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				1			4			
27	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					8	35	✓			
28	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					4		5		2	
29	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>		3								
30	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>								1		
31	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>								1		1
32	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>							3	2	3	
33	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓	1	6	✓	✓	✓	
34	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>								2		
35	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>								2		
36	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			1	✓	✓	1
37	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>								3		
38	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		2		2						
39	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>								1	2	
40	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentillis</i>			4							
41	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				3	6	✓	6	2	2	
42	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
43	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco verspertinus</i>				1		2			2	

	Common name	Scientific name	August									
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
44	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				1	1					
45	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>				h						
46	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>							h			
47	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓	✓	✓			
48	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
49	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>					20					
50	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓						✓
51	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>										150+
52	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>										3
53	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>										70+
54	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				2						
55	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>										2
56	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>										1
57	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				2	✓	✓	✓			✓
58	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>										15
59	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>										1
60	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					1					8
61	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>										2
62	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				1	7	5	3			35
63	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				6	11		3			2
64	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				1	4		2			2
65	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>										3
66	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				6			1			5

	Common name	Scientific name	August									
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
67	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					6		3		1	
68	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>				1	1				20+	
69	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				2	35	✓	25		30+	
70	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				10						
71	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				25	5				✓	
72	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>							2			
74	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	
75	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
76	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>									3	
77	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>									50+	
78	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
79	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>						4	2		2	
80	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>							1			
81	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>				3	✓	✓	✓		✓	
82	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
83	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					2					
84	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
85	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>								3		
87	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>					1	2	1			
88	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		1		1				1		
89	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>			20							

	Common name	Scientific name	August										
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
90	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>											
91	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>					10	20	40				
92	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		3		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100s	
93	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				✓	4	✓		✓	✓		
94	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					h	2	2				
95	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>							1		h		
96	Great-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>					1	2	3	✓	1		
97	Middle-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>								1	h		
98	Lesser-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>					h		1	h			
99	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>								✓	✓		
100	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>								16			
101	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓			✓		✓		✓	✓		
102	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	1										
103	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
104	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>										4	
106	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			8								
108	Flava Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				35		10	1	✓	✓		
109	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		h	h								
110	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>			1								
111	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		h	h								
112	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					2	1		1	1		

	Common name	Scientific name	August										
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
113	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		2	1	2						1	
114	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				1		1			✓	✓	
115	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellinus</i>									30+	4	
116	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>									1		
117	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>									h		
118	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>											
119	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		1		2							
120	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>								1			
121	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					✓	✓	✓			h	
122	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>		1								1	
123	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		✓							1		
124	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	h		h	h	h	h	h		
125	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		1	1		1	3			15	2	
126	Semi/Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semitorquata/albicollis</i>						1					
127	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
128	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
129	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓								
130	Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>		8									
131	Willow Tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>		h	h								
132	Sombre Tit	<i>Parus lugubris</i>									2	1	
133	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					✓		✓			✓	
134	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>								2		4+	
135	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					h						

	Common name	Scientific name	August										
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
136	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			1						1	h	
137	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>			1								
138	Common Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			h							1	
139	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>									4		
140	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
141	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	1						1		2	20	✓
142	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
143	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		5							2		
144	Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	1										
145	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				✓	✓	✓					
146	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
147	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>					✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
148	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	1	4	4	1					1		
149	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	100s		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
150	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				h	4	1	4	6	1		
151	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
152	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		1	1		✓	✓	✓	✓			
153	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓		✓		h	✓	✓		
154	Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>		✓	h								
155	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		h	h			✓					
156	Serín	<i>Serinus serinus</i>				1							
157	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓			✓		✓		✓			
158	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>								6	1		

	Common name	Scientific name	August									
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
159	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		4								
160	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						3	1		2	
161	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>		1								

Butterflies - courtesy of Martin Johnson

1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	26	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	27	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>
3	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	28	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
4	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	29	Map Butterfly	<i>Araschina levana</i>
5	Green-veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>	30	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
6	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	31	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
7	Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias erate</i>	32	Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonum c-album</i>
8	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	33	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>
9	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	34	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>
10	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	35	High Brown Fritillary	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>
11	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	36	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana selene</i>
12	Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>	37	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>
13	Scarce Copper	<i>Lycaena vigaureae</i>	38	Dryad	<i>Minois dryas</i>
14	Short-tailed Blue	<i>Everes argiades</i>	39	Arran Brown	<i>Erebia ligea</i>
15	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	40	Scotch Argus	<i>Erebia aethiops</i>
16	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>	41	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
17	Brown Argus	<i>Atricia agestis</i>	42	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>
18	Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Lysandra corridon</i>	43	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
19	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra hellargus</i>	44	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeri</i>
20	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	45	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>

21	Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura iris</i>	46	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>
22	White Admiral	<i>Limenitis camilla</i>	47	Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>
23	Common Glider	<i>Neptis sappho</i>	48	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>
24	Hungarian Glider	<i>Neptis rivularis</i>	49	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus flavus</i>

Dragonflies courtesy of Martin Johnson

1	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	6	Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
2	White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platynemis pennipes</i>	7	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombei</i>
3	Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	8	Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>
4	Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	9	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>
5	Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>			



White Pelicans by Martin Johnson



Birding on the Danube by David Wilkinson