

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

3 - 12 May 2014



Brown Bears



Traditional thatching

Report compiled by Terry Goble
Images courtesy of Terry Lacy



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	Janette Lenz	
	Eva Karlsson	
	Peter Brown	
	Roger Gooch	
	Mary Gooch	
	Peter Dale	
	Lynne Dale	
	Chris Williams	
	Phil Williams	
	Peter Zelenyj	
	Alec MacIntyre	

Day 1

Saturday 3rd May

After a mainly uneventful flight from Heathrow we arrived in Bucharest airport and met up with Eva, Michael and Jeanette, who had flown out earlier. Daniel our local guide welcomed us and we made our way to the minibus to take us to Zarnesti. The journey out of the airport was straightforward and we drove along the flat farmlands for a while until we stopped for a coffee and an ice cream. The weather was fine and quite warm. We had seen a few birds on route including a Kestrel, White Stork and Crested Lark along with other common birds.

After our refreshment stop we continued and soon entered into more hilly country the snow-capped mountains providing a beautiful backdrop. We arrived at Pension Elena about 20:00hrs and quickly got ready for an evening meal. After dinner we discussed the itinerary for the next few days. As it was still a holiday period in Romania it was thought best not to go to areas that may become busy. After a long journey from Heathrow most people then retired to bed.

Day 2

Sunday 4 May

A hardy group assembled at 6:45am for a morning walk around the back of the pension. A singing male Black Redstart was a nice start. Alec had already seen Raven and White Stork from his balcony. On the way through the houses we saw Common Swift overhead and many House Sparrows and Collard Doves were apparent. We then walked across the open farmland towards the stream. A White Stork called and flew by and a distant Common Cuckoo was heard. The rain began to get a little heavier as we walked on and signs of birdlife were not very evident beyond the Hooded Crows. We did hear Garden Warbler singing by the stream and later saw a Little Owl flying low, but as the rain became increasingly heavy we decided to return for breakfast and hope for a clearer afternoon.

Due to the threat of heavier rain to come we changed plans and gambled on a trip to Bran Pass and Damboricioara Gorge. We knew that there was a possibility of these areas being busy due to the holiday but thought that the rain would keep numbers down. In some respects the gamble paid off as there were few tourists around, however it proved to be a tough day to spot wildlife. The highlights were watching a family of Dippers at the gorge (although we missed out on the Wallcreeper) and a Honey Buzzard was at the same location. Earlier we had enjoyed a few birds at the Bran Pass including a smart Lesser Whitethroat and four Crossbills. At Bucegi Nature Park amphibians were the main attraction with Alpine Newt and a tiny Yellow-bellied Toad enjoyed by the group. We then return to the pension stopping for a few birds on the way including a party of 14 White Storks and two Whinchats.

Back at Pension Elena some of the group went out on a quick walk to see if better views of the Little Owl could be had, the Owl was not found and Yellowhammer was added to the list. Damp but in good spirits we all returned to the pension for a warming coffee and a lovely open fire and to get ready for our evening meal.

Day 3

Monday 5th May

We woke to a rainy morning, but four of us ventured out at 6:45am. It was actually quite a good morning with good views of Black Redstart and Little Owl, but best of all a pair of Lesser Grey Shrike perching nicely low down. We returned for breakfast upbeat and happy with the mornings birding. However the rain continued to get steadily worse as we prepared to leave for the mountains.

We arrived at Zarnesti Gorge and decided to walk up the track to seek out birds and Chamois. However as we went up, the rain turned to sleet and visibility was poor... We picked a few birds such as Coal Tit, Jay and Mistle Thrush, but generally the birdlife was quiet. Peter and Lynne were the only ones lucky enough to get a sighting of the Chamois. There were few other creatures around, so we decided to cut our losses and head back to Elena Pension for coffee and to warm up. We had an early lunch to spend more time in the Stramba Valley where we hoped it would be drier and warmer.

We reached the Stramba Valley in much brighter and warmer conditions and eventually the rain stopped and we were treated to the impressive avian delights that this region holds. Some of the highlights included several stunning male Red-backed Shrikes, Hawfinch, Lesser Greater Spotted Woodpecker and Grey and Green Woodpeckers. Great views of four Lesser Spotted Eagles were a magnificent sight. Others included Willow Tit and the White-headed race of Long-tailed Tit and a variety of Finches and Thrushes.

It was approaching 6pm and time to liaise with the local ranger to transport us to the bear hide. It was to prove to be quite a special evening of bear watching with no fewer than 15 individual bears, which included a mother and four cubs. We watched a range of behaviour as the bears interacted with each other and we were surprised to see the mother eat with a young male as they are often intolerant of one another. It was interesting to see the mother after she had eaten her fill, lower her head and growl as she backed away facing the young male until she felt safe to turn away. The cubs provided the comedy moments - two large cubs trying to squeeze into a trough to eat was one example. Sadly this spectacle had to come to an end, and we made our way back for the journey back to Elena. After a long and enjoyable day it was lovely to come back to coffee and biscuits before people drifted up to their rooms.

Day 4

Tuesday 6th May

Some were up and ready at 6:45am to enjoy our first dry and clear day. It was a little chilly, but it was great to be able to really appreciate the magnificent backdrop of the Carpathians for the first time. The fresh snow gave extra drama to the mountains. The Garden Warbler was singing and occasionally joined by a Common Whitethroat. A Yellowhammer and distant Cuckoo were heard before we decided to head back for breakfast.

After breakfast we set off towards Tulcea and watched as the scenery changed from the dramatic and spectacular Carpathians to gentle hills then down onto the plains that spread out almost to the coast. During the drive through the plains we began to pick up a few Marsh Harriers, which became increasingly common. We soon realised that there was a raptor migration happening, probably held up by the bad weather. We parked and scanned around finding four Lesser Spotted Eagles, Several Marsh Harrier and a few Hen Harriers. In addition there was at least one Long-tailed Buzzard with the Common Buzzards, the raptors were completed by a number of Kestrels. In addition to the raptors there were also Whinchat, Stonechat and Yellow Wagtails in the Rape fields.

We were soon on our way again and continued our journey to the lunch stop at the Poplar plantation. Here we stopped to eat our packed lunches and enjoyed many falcons including a few Red-footed, two Hobbys and many Kestrels. We heard Golden Orioles and eventually saw them as two males chased a female around the woods. A European Hare was a nice addition to the mammal list. We drove on a short distance to stop at a lake and get an idea of some of the species that we were to encounter in great numbers. A male Garganey was much appreciated as were some more familiar ducks such as Shoveler, Gadwall and Pochard, a few terns were around and Lynne picked out our first Black-Headed Gull. Daniel managed to get the 'scope on a Savi's Warbler, which as a first for many. It was soon time to head off. As we neared Tulcea the birdlife began to change and soon colourful birds such as Rollers, Bee eaters and Red-backed Shrikes were being enjoyed by all. Our final stop was perhaps even more of a taste of what lay in store as we enjoyed a Little Bittern that flew in and held up his head for people to get 'scope views. Pygmy Cormorant joined its larger cousin amongst many other terns, waders and waterfowl.

We still had quite a journey ahead so pressed on to our final destination, Tulcea Harbour. The day was warm and the group started getting sleepy as we drove along. When we finally reached our destination we were welcomed aboard the boat with a 'plum brandy' and a chocolate chip cookie. It was a relief to arrive and get settled. We gathered to get the briefing on the journey into the extraordinary habitat and concluded the evening meal by finishing the log of sightings. The group then dispersed to their cabins after a long and enjoyable journey.

Day 5

Wednesday 7th May

With much anticipation we set off into the Danube Delta from Tulcea on a smaller boat, whilst the floatel went down the main Sulina channel to moor up and wait for us. The Thrush Nightingale sang from the riverine forest as we made our way through some of the smaller channels. We saw a variety of water birds as the scenery changed from riparian forest to more open lakes and reed beds. Herons were prominent along with grebes, ducks and the lovely Glossy Ibis in breeding finery. The 'Flying door' was also seen regularly as magnificent White-tailed Eagles were encountered at close quarters.

We met up with the floatel for lunch and we were then towed to tonight's mooring place. Most of us gathered at the top of the boat and enjoyed extensive views over the massive reed beds. There was a constant procession of wetland birds, the Squacco Herons, looking resplendent in their breeding colours. We also had distant views of both pelican species. The one dark spot of the whole trip was the extensive burning of large tracts of reed bed for agriculture. Daniel expressed his concern at this practice and his determination to prevent it continuing to damage this magnificent wetland. This concern aside, everyone was in awe of the sheer size and extent of the reed beds and wildlife it harboured. We eventually moored up and got ready for our evening meal, before retiring to bed after a long and enjoyable first day in the Danube Delta.

Day 6

Thursday 8th May

A group got up early and were rewarded when Lynne spotted an Otter down the side of the floatel. A few others saw the Otter, but most unfortunately didn't see it before it disappeared back into the reed-beds, still a special moment for a lucky few. The group also had close views (particularly Rodger, who was up earliest) of Night Heron, Great White Egret and Purple Heron.

After breakfast we set off up a small channel to the village of Letea. En route we diverted down a very small side channel and listened out for birds along the way. We enjoyed a few birds including some smart male Reed Buntings and the usual views of herons and waterfowl. We also had a Grass Snake of a sub-species unique to the area. A fly-by Little Bittern was missed and the Bluethroat were not singing, however our luck changed when we had three beautiful Bearded Reedlings in full view, with their subtle colours picked out in the morning sun. Buoyed by this sighting we pressed on to Letea. Just before mooring up we enjoyed Penduline Tit eventually getting good views but they were flitting amongst the vegetation for a while. Around the village we picked up some familiar birds, Tree Sparrows, Black Redstart, Lesser Whitethroat, Hoopoe and Little Owl. We also added a few new species including Icterine Warbler and Fire-bellied Toad.

It was soon time to leave the village and make our way back to the floatel. Once on board we had lunch and relaxed whilst we were towed to our next destination via the Sulina Channel. Before we reached our mooring point most elected to join the small boat for an excursion around the lakes and channels before meeting at Channel Eracla. En route there were a few birding highlights including our first Black-necked Grebes in their stunning summer plumage and an adult and juvenile Pallas Gull - a gull much sought after by bird watchers, the adult seen in summer plumage, sporting a jet black head. We also managed a flight view of the tricky Little Bittern. We then gathered for lunch and boarded the floatel. There was a little time to relax before a later dinner at 8pm, most had a drink and chatted. Others kept a watch for the elusive Eurasian Bittern, which had been heard giving its strange booming call. A procession of Pygmy Cormorants and herons went by and a lovely male Marsh Harrier was bombed by two Hobbies and soon left the area. It was then time for dinner. It was a light and happy atmosphere as everyone appeared to have enjoyed a fabulous day in the delta.

Day 7

Friday 9th May

Today was the last day in the Delta, we woke to a chilly and cloudy day, but everyone seemed in good spirits and many gathered at the top of the floatel to watch over the vast reed-beds and a beautiful setting.

No new birds were added but we had some great sightings of both Pelicans, Hobbies and Marsh Harrier as well as the usual terns, herons and other wildfowl. A Eurasian Bittern was heard Booming and Savi's and Great Reed Warbler began to sign heartily.

After breakfast we set off in the smaller boat to navigate some of the smaller channels and lakes. As well as winding through typical regional habitat we also went passed some agricultural land. This section of the trip added a mass of wheeling waders, which were predominately Ruff but a few Wood Sandpipers as well. Other birds included the Eurasian Spoonbill and Glossy Ibis in good numbers. We also saw the introduced Musk Rat as one crossed the channel in front of the boat. It was fascinating to watch it swim under water in the clear waters of the channel. About the same time Alec also spotted a Grass Snake to add to the days tally.

We then met up with the floatel and had lunch. This time we could all relax and watch the scenery go by as we were towed back to Tulcea via the backwaters and Sulina Channel. As the current was running strong it took just over four hours to get back, but was a lovely journey from our high vantage point. We did not see any new birds but enjoyed a great view of White-tailed Eagle, which sat in a tree overlooking the channel. The Grey-headed Woodpecker was nice to see, but the hoped for Black Woodpecker eluded us yet again despite a lot of searching. We arrived back in Tulcea just after six and got ready for dinner at 7pm. After dinner we discussed the next couple of days itinerary and the settled down for the all-important checklist. After this was completed most people drifted off to bed to get ready for an early start tomorrow, exploring the forests and steppe in the Tulcea region.

Day 8

Saturday 10th May

In the morning we met up with George, our new driver for the next few days. We had a lot to pack-in in the next couple of days so left our bags to be transported to The Ibis Hotel and set off to our first stop, overlooking the delta. The day was cool and overcast so there were few insects on the wing and even fewer reptiles. We did however have a splendid view over the vast wetland that is the delta and reacquainted with some familiar birds, including marsh terns, herons and egrets. Due to the inclement weather we decided to go to the more sheltered woodland for lunch. Before we settled down to eat we spent time exploring the dense woodland. We could hear Wood Warbler's trilling song from many places and were eventually able to track one down and get reasonable views despite its constant flitting. Daniel next heard a Red-breasted Flycatcher and very soon we were enjoying excellent views of a singing male complete with a red breast! An Icterine Warbler was a nice addition just as we started on the picnic lunch. During this break the wildlife was still very evident as a few butterflies were starting to fly and an Agile Frog hopped on to Mary's shoes!

It was soon time to move off and the improving weather was encouraging. When we arrived at the steppe area (Valley of the Sousliks) it was a little quiet but very soon Isabelline Wheatears began to show and as the weather continued to improve we soon saw Sousliks appearing everywhere. Over the mountains Long-legged Buzzards soared regularly and were briefly joined by a Lesser Spotted Eagle. We then came to a dehesa-type woodland. Here a few woodpeckers were seen flying around including Middle Spotted although views were often fleeting. A Levant's Sparrowhawk flew out of the woodland and later returned, indicating it was probably nesting there. The final treat was to get scope views of a Long-legged Buzzard nest, containing four white fluff balls. This was a lovely way to end the day and we then made our way back to Tulcea to the very comfortable Ibis Hotel and enjoy our evening meal.

Day 9

Sunday 11th May

We woke on our last day very much looking forward to seeing the Black Sea, however we had a few stops to make on the way. First destination was an area of Steppe that had previously produced a good selection of Larks. On this occasion it was a little quiet, apart from Crested, Skylarks and Short-toed Larks. In addition we saw a few Grey Partridge, Spanish Sparrow and Tawny Pipit. We could not stop long as we had a lot of places still to explore. Next stop was the fabulous Babadag Forest, which was bathed in glorious sunshine. We enjoyed a few birds as Ortolan Buntings sang from tops of trees and Common Buzzards flew overhead, in the distance a huge flock of Pelicans were a reminder of the delta's proximity. We also saw many lovely butterflies, including many Scarce Swallowtails, some strange bugs and reptiles (Balkan Whip Snake, Spur-thighed Tortoise, Green and Balkan Wall Lizard). However the stars of the forest were probably the beautiful and fragrant flowers including many Orchid species and a lovely Peony amongst others.

The pace was still fast and furious as we set off for our lunch stop and then on to an excellent wader site. At lunch we heard and eventually saw Paddyfield Warblers, which were a first for many. At the marshland and pools there was an array of waders, warblers, Bee eaters and a myriad of other species. The Collared Pratincoles were very much appreciated and seeing Ruff and Curlew Sandpipers in near breeding plumage was also a real treat. Peter amongst all of the birdlife managed to video a likely Musk Rat and a few amphibians were also found by Alec and Phillip. After enjoying the bird feast and picking up a few migrants en route we arrived at the Black Sea.

A few people went for a paddle, for Lynne it was another to add to her collection of seas she had paddled in! There were a few birding delights as well as Little Terns plunged into a seaside lake catching small fish. The day was drawing to a close and we bid a reluctant farewell to the Black Sea and made our way back to Tulcea. It had been a great final day filled with a variety of wildlife everyone appeared to have thoroughly enjoyed the spectacle. We rounded off the evening with chocolate cake and complimentary champagne and thanked our local guide, whose experience and local knowledge had ensured that we got the most from the habitats we visited.

Day 10

Monday 12th May

Today was mainly a drive back to Bucharest to catch the flight home. We said goodbye to Michael and Jeannette, who had been excellent company. The rest of the group set off back to the airport. We made a final birding stop at Lake Hasavlic and managed to add a handsome Ruddy Shelduck to our list as well as a pair of Teal. The road back was also bird filled with many harriers, larks and shrikes amongst other birds. We also managed to add the striking Black-headed Bunting before we reached Bucharest. At the airport we said goodbye to Eva, who had a long trip back to Sweden ahead. Eva was another of our well travelled group members that had and shared her excellent knowledge of wildlife. The rest of us checked in for our flight back to the UK

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Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted, H = heard only; L/O = leader only)

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>									5	2
2	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>									H	
3	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				2	2	1		10	1	1
4	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				3	✓	✓	✓	1	10	
5	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				1					15	
7	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>										1
8	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>					20		8		10	
9	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	4	1	2	✓	30	20	10	2	10	
10	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				✓			2		2	
11	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>									1	
12	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>				4	2	1	2		2	
13	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>										2
14	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>									5	
15	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				10	20	20	✓		2	5
16	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				2	10	✓	8		8	2
17	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				1						
18	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					10	10	✓		1	
19	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				10	✓	✓	✓	10	✓	10
20	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>						2	8			
21	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	3	16	3	✓	15	2	10	✓	10	5
22	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				15	20	30	✓	20	10	20
23	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				1	3	1	9	1	4	1
24	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>						H	H	H	1	
25	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>				1		2	1			
26	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓	✓	✓	1		

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
27	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					✓	✓	✓	10	6	
28	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				2	✓	✓	15	1	9	1
29	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				1	10	20	3	1	2	2
30	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				1	10	15	5	1	2	1
31	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	10	✓	✓
32	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					✓	20	✓	✓	✓	1
33	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					3	4	10			
34	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				10	✓	✓	✓	✓		4
35	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		2			1					
37	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				12	1	2	1			
38	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				10	6	12	10	1	10	1
39	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				5					1	2
40	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>								5	2	
41	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		2	4	10		1		2	2	6
42	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				1		1		10		
43	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>			4	4				1	1	1
44	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>								2	2	
45	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	3	1		✓	5	5	2	4	10	6
46	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				✓	2		10		4	6
47	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				2	4	4	20	2	2	
48	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			1							
49	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				1	6	2	4		2	
50	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3	✓
51	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>									2	
52	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				10					30	
53	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				2					30	
54	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				20	✓	✓	2		20	✓
55	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>									1	

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
56	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>										10	
57	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>										2	
58	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>										1	
59	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>										6	
60	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>										1	
61	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>										1	
62	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				2				11		7	
63	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					1	1					
64	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>										15	
65	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>						8				✓	
66	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>										5	
67	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>								200		✓	
68	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>										6	
69	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>										2	
70	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>						4				20	
71	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>											
72	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				10	✓	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	
73	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>					1					30	
74	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>										6	
75	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>						2					
76	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>						5	3			1	
78	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>					1						
79	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>						1					
80	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>										4	
81	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				2	20	✓	20	2	✓	✓	
82	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	1			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				6	40	✓	20			2	
84	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					40	✓	✓			✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
85	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					4		4			
87	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			1	2	10	4	12	6	4	
88	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				4	1	2	2	4		
89	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	10	10	4
91	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		1	1			3			2	
92	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		1		10						
93	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	4	✓	✓
94	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				20	20	20	20	4	4	6
95	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					10	4	5			
96	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				30	15	20	3	6	30	
97	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				2	3	8	3	10	✓	4
98	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>								1		
99	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>		1		2	1					
100	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>				H	1			2		
101	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>						1		1		
102	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			6	1	10	2	1	1		
103	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			2							
104	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			2		4	4	2			
105	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			6	✓	1	2	3	2	✓	6
106	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		1	4	3	12	6	4	H	H	
108	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	1					
109	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10	✓	✓	✓
110	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		1								
111	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5	✓	✓	✓
112	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
113	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
114	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		4	2	2						
115	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>								1		
116	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>			2							
117	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		6	4							
118	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>		H								
119	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		2	✓	2	4	✓	✓	5	2	
120	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		2	10	1	3	✓	✓	3		
121	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					H	2	H	H		
122	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>						3	H		2	
123	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>									10	
124	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>								5	1	
125	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	4			✓				2	4	
126	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			1					H		
127	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				✓				1	✓	
128	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				1		2	15	10	✓	4
129	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
130	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
131	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>								2		
132	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			H							
133	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			4							
134	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>						2	2		1	
135	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		1	H	H	1	6	H	H		
136	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>				H				1	1	
137	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				H	2	10	2	H	H	H
138	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>									1	
139	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>									2	
140	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					H	2	H	H	H	
141	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>						1		2		
142	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>				1	H	H	H	H	H	

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
143	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	1	4	2	2	6	H	1	
144	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H			
145	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		1				2	H	1		1
146	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		H		H	1	H	H	H		
147	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		L/O								
148	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		6								
149	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H								
150	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>								1		
151	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
152	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	2	2	H	4	H	1	
153	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		1	6							
154	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		2	5			H		1	H	
155	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		2	2							
156	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		2	1							
157	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					H	H	H		3	
158	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>						H		H		H
159	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓		2	1	1		
160	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					2	2	8	H	1	
161	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		2	2	4					1	
162	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>				1				1		
163	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>								✓		
164	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		1				2		1	10	2
165	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>						1				
166	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			1		3	3	5	2	6	1
167	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>					1					
168	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>					L/O		1	1	1	
169	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		5								
170	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
171	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
172	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				10	1	✓	10		6	
173	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			H							
174	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				✓		✓		✓	✓	
	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>M. flava feldegg</i>				5		1			✓	
	'Balkan' Wagtail	<i>M flava dombrowskii</i>								3	2	
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>M flava thunbergii</i>								1		
175	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓							
176	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
177	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>									4	
178	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>									5	
179	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				H					1	
180	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>						H				
181	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>				10						
182	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	1	10	✓	✓	✓	
183	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				1			1	2	2	H
184	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		1		2	6	2		2	4	
185	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>								4		
186	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			4							
187	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				3						
188	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		1		10	2		4	✓	✓	
189	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			1	2	H					
190	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>								3	2	
191	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>										5
192	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					1	20	10	H	1	

Mammals

1	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		L/O			H					
2	European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>			15							
3	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			1							

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4	Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>			4							
5	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>				1						
6	European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>				1						
7	Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>			1							
8	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>						1				
9	Musk Rat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>							1		1	
10	Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>								✓	✓	

Amphibians

1	Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>								✓	✓	
2	Yellow bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>		✓								
3	Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax sp</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Fire bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>						✓				
5	Alpine Newt	<i>Ichthyosaura alpestris</i>		✓								

Reptiles

1	Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>						✓				
2	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix persa</i>						✓				
3	Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>									✓	
4	Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>									✓	
5	Spur-thighed Tortise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>									✓	
6	Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i>									✓	
7	Balkan Whip Snake	<i>Hierophis gemonensis</i>									✓	

Butterflies

Small White, *Pieris rapae*
 Orange Tip, *Anthocharis cardamines*
 Large White, *Pieris brassicae*
 Scarce Swallowtail, *Iphiclides podalirius*

Small Tortoiseshell, *Aglais urticae*
 Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*
 Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*
 Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrgus malvae*

Mallow Skipper, *Cacharodus tripolinus*
 Brown Argus, *Aricia agestis*
 Balkan Clouded Yellow, *Colias Myrmidone*
 Glandville Fritillary, *Melitaea cinxia*

Heath Fritillary, *Melitaea athalia*
 Painted Lady, *Vanessa virginiensis*
 Wall Brown, *Lasiommata maera*

Green-veined White, *Pieris*
 Adonis Blue, *Polyommatus bellargus*
 European Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*

Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*
 Lesser Firey Copper, *Lycaena thersamon*
 Eastern Baton Blue, *Pseudophilotes vicrama*

Other Invertebrate

Field Cricket, *Gryllus Campestris*
 Roman snail, *Helix pomatia*
 Oil Beetle, *Meloe sp*
 Great Diving Beetle, *Dytiscus marginalis*
 Leaf-footed Bug (Squash Bug), *Coreidae sp*
 Plain Golden Y Moth, *Autographa jota*
 Clam Shrimps, *Phyllopoda sp*

Bush Cricket *Tettigoniidae sp*
 Violet Ground Beetle, *Carabus scarosus*
 Scorpion Fly, *Panorpa communis*
 Water Stick Insect, *Ranatra sp*
 Rose Chaffer, *Cetonia aurata*
 Nursery Web Spider, *Pisaura mirabilis*

Bee Fly, *Bombylius sp*
 Blue Carpenter Bee, *Xylocopa violacea*
 (Large Cricket), *Bradyporus dasypus*
 Fire Bug, *Pyrrhocoris apterus*
 Silver Y Moth, *Autographa gamma*
 Ant Lion, *Myrmeleontidae sp*

Selected Plants – courtesy of Mary and Roger Gooch

Lesser Butterfly Orchid, *Plantanthera bifolia*
 Green-winged Orchid, *Anacamptis morio*
 Violet limodore, *Limodorum abortivum*
 Bloody Cranesbill, *Geranium sanguineum*
 Grecian Foxglove, *Digitalis lanata*
 Taylor's Clematis, *Clematis integrifolia*

Greater Butterfly Orchid, *Plantanthera chlorantha*
 Monkey Orchid, *Orchis simia*
 Red Helleborine, *Cephalanthera ruba*
 Spurge species, *Euphorbia stepposa*
 Toothwort, *Lathraea squamaria*
 Purple gromwell, *Lithodora diffusa*

Wild Peony (Romanian), *Paeonia peregrinus*
 Lady Orchid, *Orchis purpurea*
 Milkwort, *Polygala major*
 Viper's Bugloss, *Echium vulgare*
 Purple Mullein, *Verbascum phoeniceum* (
 Eastern Larkspur, *Consolida orientalis*

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