

Romania's Danube Delta and the Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 - 14 August 2014



Immature White-tailed Eagle



European Roller



Lesser Spotted Fritillary



Purple Heron

Report & images compiled by Andy Harding



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Day 1

Tuesday 5th August

36 degrees C in Bucharest, 20 degrees C in Zarnesti

Most of the group had met one another before the plane took off and Andy found the last member of the group early into the flight. At Bucharest we were met by Dan Petrescu, and our driver, Tudor. We had a choice of seats in our spacious bus, replete with plenty of sparkling and still water. The air conditioning was essential as it was extremely warm in Bucharest. As we headed out through the suburbs and across flat agricultural land towards Ploesti, Dan gave us an introduction to Bucharest, Romania and the agricultural area through which we were passing. The occasional Marsh Harriers and some White Storks whetted the appetite from the bus. The landscape changed as we moved into the hills following the Prahova River valley towards Sinaia and stopped for coffee or beer amidst beautiful mountain forest. Thence to our Pension Elena in the town of Zarnesti and a welcoming drink of plum brandy followed by a rather late but much enjoyed dinner helped down with Prahova Valley wine. And so to bed...

Day 2

Wednesday 6th August

26 degrees C max in the morning and fine. Rain early afternoon. Fine and 23 degrees C late afternoon and evening

A bright and lovely morning greeted us for an early morning stroll (for some) followed by an excellent breakfast, during which we also made up our individual packed lunches for later. We drove the short distance to the entrance to the Zarnesti Gorge and, with the bus never far away, took three fairly short walks. Two were up the first parts of the gorge itself and we soon found 4 Dippers, one of which was eating a small Trout, which no-one, including Dan, had seen before.

A couple of Grey Wagtails were as expected, but a male Goshawk circling above us was regarded as rather more exciting. Marsh Tit was the only other species enthusiastically received on the valley floor. The bright sunshine provided excellent conditions for butterflies wherever it lit up the still vibrant flora. Silver-washed Fritillaries, Hungarian Gliders and Dusky Meadow Browns were the most numerous of the 'special' butterflies, but Arran Brown, Large Wall Brown and Sudetan Ringlet were also enjoyed by most of the group.

The third walk was quite sharply uphill through the mature coniferous woodland to the outskirts of the village of Magura. Goldcrests and Coal Tits were topped by a Firecrest and a showy Treecreeper. It was at the top of this walk that we were first warned of impending bad weather, with gathering dark clouds and distant thunder. We were actually still in the sunshine, so while Marbled White and Little Blue butterflies raised the spirits a little, it was with some trepidation that we returned to the valley floor, and collected all we needed for the longer walk up the gorge proper, including our lunch, water and, of course, waterproofs.

The first drops of rain fell lightly quite soon after and the next few hundred metres saw us gradually increasing our protection from the rain and securing photographic gear. Strangely, a few day-flying moths appeared in the light drizzle, including Shaded Broad-bar and Common Footman, which are thought of as predominately night-fliers in the UK. We took our lunch sheltering under a large overhang. However we didn't miss the Eastern Imperial Eagle which flew slowly down the gorge or a handful of Alpine Swifts. By now we regarded the prospect of finding Wallcreeper in these conditions nigh on impossible, so we returned rapidly to the bus, and promptly changed the itinerary drastically.

We returned to the guesthouse for coffee and drying out and then at 5pm took the track, rather than the road to Bran. This afforded us excellent views of Red-backed Shrikes and more distant Fieldfares seeking insects in some recently harvested field strips...and all this in now lovely weather! As the tree-size increased, so did hopes of Woodpeckers, and we were not disappointed. A showy Great-spotted was followed by an even more showy Grey-headed...always a prized species. Another male Goshawk, probably hunting chickens in the village, flew off a nearby pylon. We had time to stop, admire and photograph Bran Castle, once home to Vlad the Impaler, the historical personage, upon whom the Dracula legend is based. A few kilometres further onwards and upwards we had an amazing panoramic view of the whole area, further enhanced by two Nutcrackers flying over. Then it was back to an excellent dinner and the species log of today's sightings.

Day 3

Thursday 7th August

Fine all day. 24 degrees C in the morning, rising to 28 degrees, but 21 degrees C in the evening

The day dawned clear and bright and a few doughty souls breached the bounds of the town to find a few common farmland birds such as Yellowhammer and Fieldfare, while Black Redstarts could be found on the houses within the town. After breakfast we drove for about 30 minutes to the start of Stramba Valley, where the bus was able to follow our walk at a discrete distance. Immediately there were views of one of the resident Lesser-spotted Eagles carrying prey, while there were simply hordes of Red-backed Shrikes feeding on insects in the recently cut hay meadows. Three migrant Whinchats replaced a Buzzard on the top of a leafless tree, while other Buzzards jousted with another of the local Eagles in the distance.

Silver-studded and Common Blue butterflies were expected additions to the list, but Scarce Copper was a surprise at this low altitude (c 600m). Our first real coup of the day was a Lesser-spotted Woodpecker, now so rare in the UK, which attached itself to a small spindly tree tight next to us...for about 15 minutes.....allowing amazing photo opportunities. Neither of the leaders had ever seen the like before. The Lesser-spotted Eagle, flying low overhead carrying a mouse was almost ignored! After another 50m, a Wryneck was the centre of attention, showing well in a fallen dead Willow, with a Golden Oriole for company for several minutes. Riches beyond compare!

We took the bus deeper into the valley to genuine forest...in all its glory. As well as a Red-breasted Flycatcher, there were actually more butterflies here than in the hay fields, with Silver-washed and Fritillary and Scotch Argus predominating. A beautiful Jersey Tiger moth posed on a large yellow flower head.

Having returned to the Pension for an excellent, but arguably too large, chicken lunch we made up sandwiches for our evening picnic dinner in the bear hide. Very heavy rain over the past two weeks had wrecked the track to our usual bear hide, so instead we went to one in Barsa Fieruli. We still had time for a short walk in that general area, which yielded another Nutcracker, before following the ranger's jeep deep and high into the forest. When we eventually stopped the first couple of people out of the bus were able to see a large adult male Brown Bear on the reforested slopes opposite, but most of the party saw only swaying saplings after the bear had moved into cover. The scenic views here were spectacular, but certainly eclipsed as we walked up the bear hide itself. A flock of around 60 Ravens were circling, so there was clearly meat around.

The first Brown Bear appeared within 5 minutes of us settling in and in total 4 male bears showed up as well as one small bear. Given it was so early the photo opportunities were superb, and we were able to eventually descend, in full daylight, and return to our Pension where freshly made delicious Cheese Puffs awaited us with celebratory beer and wine. Given the early hour, unusually for this day on this tour, we had time to interrupt the jolly chat, and complete a very exciting log.

Day 4

Friday 8th August

21 degrees C following overnight rain, rising to 32 degrees,, but cooler after a brief storm

We sadly left Elena Pension en route for Tulcea, but apart from a comfort stop didn't seriously raise the binoculars until our lunch stop in a Poplar plantation near Giorani. An adult Cuckoo was a surprising and obliging first encounter, but as we were enjoying our lunch a few other nice species appeared. 3 or 4 Red-footed Falcons stooged about. They were probably the remnants of the colony which would have been fully active here a few weeks ago. A splendid male Golden Oriole gave a couple of fly-pasts and our first Short-toed Eagle soared overhead.

Not much further on, we stopped in a lay-by, with no shade, adjacent to a lake near Jilavele. This was really worthwhile, with many new species. 20+ of each of Avocet, Spotted Redshank and Ruff, 3 Black-necked Grebes and a very obliging Great Reed Warbler were the pick of a good selection of birds. After just 20 minutes we felt forced to move on and eventually made a lengthy stop for drinks and ice-creams. Our timing was impeccable for just as we were paying the bill, the heavens opened and we sped on.

As we approached the River Danube, the birdlife started to proliferate with a few Black Storks, and larger numbers of Glossy Ibises, Little Egrets, Marsh Harriers and distant Terns. After the bridge and its small band of fisherman holding up some very substantial fish for sale, kettles of White Storks rose on both sides of the road. At least 1000 birds were involved and possibly twice that number!

Not far short of our final destination we stopped at Lake Hasarlik. This was a rather chaotic situation, simply due to the number of species on show in all directions, with only a limited number of scopes for all to get good views of them. Whiskered Terns, Glossy Ibises and Great White Egret needed no scopes, but Wood Sandpiper and Black-tailed Godwits were a little more distant. On the water these were all topped by a Red-necked Grebe. If you turned round you could see Hoopoe, Bee-eater and Roller...all in the same small tree...incredible. It is very difficult to engage a group with the plumage detail of an immature Whiskered Tern, with that trio on offer in the opposite direction. Squacco Herons, Green Sandpipers and Black-winged Stilts provided further competition, while Bee-eaters wheeled constantly above us. A small flock of Spanish Sparrows was more or less ignored.

That last planned stop proved not to be our final one – 45 Red-footed Falcons saw to that. It also provided an opportunity to see a few Susliks, a medium sized Ground Squirrel which frequents semi-steppe areas. And then to Tulcea and our introduction to the floating hotel, it's welcome of plum brandy, its superb dining room and a briefing on the Delta from Dan. The group can hardly wait until tomorrow!

Day 5

Saturday 9th August

28 degrees C rising to 32 degrees, but 22 degrees C after a brief storm

A large gathering of Terns opposite the floating hotel were all adult and juvenile Whiskered, a species which was to be with us more or less constantly for the next few days. After a hearty breakfast we set off in the small boat down a main channel, with high water levels and a very muddy coloration, both caused by floods way inland a week ago. Having seen a little of the Tulcea waterfront, we turned off down a much narrower channel and cut the engine. Bird noise, such as the calls of Thrush Nightingales and more visible activity in the shape of Spotted and Collared or Pied Flycatchers were immediately evident. So long as the water remained entirely muddy there was little heron activity, but gradually the increased presence of Little Egrets and Kingfishers indicated that visibility at the margins was improving.

The first Pelican seen was, surprisingly, a Dalmatian, cruising majestically by on its huge wings. Then small numbers of its White congener started appearing, mainly flying over but occasionally in the channel ahead of us. One or two Pygmy Cormorants became dozens flying to and fro from a colony invisible behind the trees. Single Great White Egrets were usually in the shadows and then an adult White-tailed Eagle was in full view, atop a large tree around 400m distant, oblivious to us and to the Whiskered Terns which mobbed it. A couple of Marsh Harriers were similarly ignored. A Black Woodpecker in a dead tree close to the stationery boat, but frustratingly with the light directly behind it, was still another highlight. A vast flock of Pygmy Cormorants with many Pelicans were on a lake with 'restricted access', so we could only view from the small entrance channel and not go into the lake proper. Squacco Herons became a more familiar sight and 6 more White-tailed Eagles were seen including an amazingly obliging juvenile, which set all the camera shutters clicking. Rollers and Bee-eaters were taken for granted...there were exciting birds everywhere.

Freyer's Purple Emperor butterflies, a Delta speciality, were regularly seen, always appearing orange in flight, while both Dice and Grass Snakes and an aquatic Stoat provided other faunal interest. We met up with the mother ship elsewhere in the Delta for a three-course lunch and a break from the heat, and went back on deck as we were towed down another main channel. We were royally entertained by hundreds of Whiskered Terns and smaller numbers of the other two species in the genus...Black Tern and the beautiful White-winged Black Tern.

Our evening foray in the small boat was interrupted after half an hour by a brief but torrential storm as we huddled under the sun/storm canopy on the boat. It was really very exciting. The rest of the evening was quite fabulous...both bird-filled and beautiful, particularly as the sun set. An excellent dinner (how do they cook this well on this modest 'houseboat') and drinks were followed by the now customary log, which took a while!

Day 6

Sunday 10th August

Fine all day - 32 degrees max

Navigating down increasingly narrow channels our destination this morning was the village of Letea, occupied by Ukrainians since the Crimean War, and the birthplace of our guide, Dan. The journey there was breath-taking for birds, with Purple Herons to the fore, Rollers on the channel-side trees, regular parties of the amazing little Penduline Tits and all of yesterday's major species, frequently crossing our path. A young Hobby which steadfastly refused to leave its perch as we passed slowly and silently by was much admired, even though we had already seen many of them in flight. Eventually all bushes and trees disappeared and there were only reeds. Having directed the boat straight at part of the reedbed, Dan jumped offand didn't sink despite the water depth being 4 metres. The vast reedbeds here are all simply enormous floating islands.

Letea itself is on a gigantic sandbank formed hundreds of years ago and is the hottest, and indeed, coldest place in Romania. So the houses have amazingly thick reed roofs to provide all year insulation, while the bottom couple of feet of the walls are constructed so that during the inundation which occurs every few years, the mud and straw simply wash away, but as soon as the floods subside, they can be easily repaired. As we walked along the channel bank a Little Bittern appeared, but quite unlike all the others we had seen which had giving fleeting views, this one flew around us three times before reversing for yet another circuit....quite astonishing. Obliging Hoopoes gave us our best views of that species, a Little Owl glared at us in the village and eventually 4 Syrian Woodpeckers gave good views....they like villages.

For lunch we again retraced our steps to the 'mother ship' and were towed to yet another stop-over. The two-hour journey gave the opportunity for a snooze or much excellent birding along the way, including our first Lesser Grey Shrike. Before dinner another narrow channel excursion was initially focused on smaller birds which tend to come back to life as the heat of the day subsides. Most were Reed Warblers and Blue Tits, but a Redstart, a Willow Warbler and nice views of an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler were a good reward. Repeat views of the superb Grey-headed Woodpecker were equally enjoyed. Our destination was Lake Cazanele, which we could only just enter because of its shallowness and dense vegetation. It held over 1000 Squacco Herons spread at intervals over its entire surface. At least that number of Black-headed Gulls sat in three flocks with many Glossy Ibises and myriad Whiskered Terns also in attendance. No new species, but what a spectacle.

A lovely evening was further enlivened by a series of waders scattered individually along the muddy shore. At low speed we could study Ruffs, Greenshanks, Black-tailed Godwits, Wood and Green Sandpipers and Spotted Redshanks at fairly close range - a more relaxed occasion than when we first encountered most of these at Lake Hasarlik. Of course Pygmy Cormorants, Squacco Herons, Glossy Ibises and Little Egrets were also interspersed among the waders for a couple of kilometres, while the odd Night Heron and two giant Caspian Terns drifted over. A glorious end to our birding day, and then there was dinner.

Day 7

Monday 11th August

25 degrees C rising to 35 degrees, but cooler after a brief storm during lunch

We were parked against the reeds, and from the top deck, looking across the short stretch of water, Squacco Herons hunted the lily pads, a couple of White Pelicans robbed a fisherman's net and two young White-tailed Eagles sat together serenely surveying their domain. We could then take breakfast watching this from a lower level through the large windows kept beautifully clean early every morning.

As usual we took the small boat mainly down narrow channels and naturally, most of the many, many birds were the same species as on previous days, although Bearded Tit and a calling Water Rail were, surprisingly, new additions to our list. There were more Garganey today, but they were as skittish as ever. A very large, pale-foliaged, solitary tree seemed dotted with fruit at a distance, but as we got closer they proved to be hundreds of Pygmy Cormorants! The next lake we entered had a very large flock of the same species at its far end, while in front a small number of pairs of Black-necked Grebes with their young drifted to and fro. Then the trees became sparser and raised levees protected the power lines alongside this channel. Here Rollers became almost common and Lesser Grey Shrikes used the same power lines as hunting perches. A pair of Stock Doves seemed quite out of place. Night Herons were increasingly frequent and a greater proportion seemed to be the spotty juveniles, so perhaps their breeding colony was close at hand.

Our last turn off before lunch was into Lake Fortuna and the sight which became increasingly apparent as we crossed it was difficult to conceive. Around 100 White Pelicans and several hundred Whiskered Terns attended at least 3000 Great Cormorants in an enormous feeding frenzy. The densely packed necks and heads didn't really translate into these numbers until a small fishing boat insisted they fly and we could see the real size of this flock. It was an amazing morning from which I have thus far omitted White-winged Black Terns, Hobbies, several White-tailed Eagles including one being mobbed by Hobbies and a Grey-headed Woodpecker!

Lunch was another super three-course affair, enhanced by the Red Underwing moth caught by our waitress, Roxanna. As the first mouthfuls were taken, the heavens opened again, with much thundering, but 30 minutes later, all was sweetness and light once again. With the exception of a couple of Red-necked Grebes and White-tailed Eagles, the four hour journey back to Tulcea was a jovial river cruise and much enjoyed for that.

Thanks and plaudits were heaped upon the crew of both boats and the catering staff before dinner. Thanks to Dick for that laudatory oration, who also paid tribute to Dan, to whom we bade farewell since he was travelling to the UK the next day...to visit the Bird Fair at Rutland Water.

Day 8

Tuesday 12th August

Hot and sunny. 36 degrees C in early afternoon

Our guide for the next two days, Laurentiu, met us on the boat well before 8 am. Having repeated our very grateful thanks to those who had looked after us for the past few days, we set for our day's birding, leaving our major luggage to be taken to our Ibis guesthouse.

Our first stop, near Parches gave us an opportunity for a panoramic view of the Delta floodplain and nearby Ukraine from some sparsely vegetated hills. Two Lesser Grey Shrikes and a friendly Lesser Spotted Fritillary made life easy for the photographers. We were very conscious of the potential heat, adapted our itinerary appropriately, and stopped next at Celic Dere, where there were plenty of opportunities to birdwatch from the shade and where, from the outset Woodpeckers abounded. We saw six species in all, with excellent views of Middle-spotted, which we had seen only in flight previously. On the lofty Thistles at the edge of the village, several Cardinal Fritillary butterflies held court. The obvious bird species here was Hawfinch, which flew over repeatedly and occasionally perched in the tree tops. We saw at least a dozen well. A female Honey Buzzard was much enjoyed, but eventually soared too high to make out the detail.

We then moved entirely into the shade with a forest walk. Our main target was Red-breasted Flycatcher and we were successful, even if the male we saw best had an orange breast (they all have orange breasts). When we eventually moved into a clearing a splendid dark-phase Booted Eagle soared over us, and, suitably sated, we returned to the bus. A low altitude Beech forest was the site for our picnic lunch, while Woodpeckers and Nuthatches tapped, largely unseen around us, and three Marsh Tits were seen. The picnic was simply brilliant with the deep-fried mushrooms combining so well with the slightly salty cheese and wonderful tomatoes.

We then made a slightly longer journey to the Macin Mountains National Park and stopped past the village of Greci. We were still out in the open when a raptor was seen from the bus. This proved to be a female Goshawk, so we all got out and were able to get some good views. We were hardly back in the bus, when its male partner took off from the only nearby tree. With Susliks and Isabelline Wheatears giving decent views on both sides of the track were we able stop to enable the plumage detail of the Wheatear to be studied. A Lesser-spotted Eagle did not provoke disembarkation, but that Falcon mobbing it looked very big. So we were out again to enjoy a magnificent female Saker Falcon not at all happy with the Eagle.

At last we were able to get close to a grove of scattered trees on the edge of this semi-steppe. Although the temperature was dropping now, we still needed some shade and clearly the birds were seeking it also. A Woodchat Shrike was in a small scrubby, tree. While usually invisible a Barred Warbler, and possibly two, a Red-backed Shrike and a Wryneck, equally hard to see, shared the same tiny space. 25 Woodlarks sat in the shade nearby. Hoopoes were flushed and a pair of Long-legged Buzzards was still holding their territory, though their young had long departed. A fantastic place - which we seemed to have visited at exactly the right time of day! We stopped in Greci as we started the return journey, to take on water, and, more importantly, beer, for the fairly long drive back to Tulcea and our now expected plum brandy welcome. Dinner was a little late, because of what we had packed into the day, but was no less delicious for that. Such effort had gone into the table decorations, just as had been the case on the floating hotel, and the service was again delightful. We look forward to seeing the Black Sea tomorrow!

Day 9

Wednesday 13th August

Sunny 36 degrees C

With another hot day in prospect we rejigged the programme again. We left earlier than usual and after thirty minutes we were out at the foot of Deniz Tepe. Two Long-legged Buzzards drifted over periodically and single Booted and Short-toed Eagles behaved similarly. More consistent were several adult and juvenile Lesser Grey Shrikes, which surrounded us, calling frequently. Also calling, but invisibly, was a very vocal and mobile Quail. Several Isabelline Wheatears and Susliks were equally attentive, but a family party of Tawny Pipits stayed at a more respectful distance. However the differences between adult and juvenile plumage could still be determined. A flock of 200 White Storks hove into view gliding past until they found their next thermal, then forming a kettle to soar upwards. A covey of 17 Grey Partridges were watched alongside the track: they were mainly juveniles and their plumage instructive.

As the temperature rose we drove to a section of Babadag Forest, where, in truth, birds were hard to see. Eastern Bath White and a probable female Berger's Clouded Yellow were the best of the butterflies among the mature but rather stunted Oaks. Since the temperature was still rising we headed for the Black Sea. As we approached the last village we had tantalizing views over wader-filled lagoons, but reluctantly left those for later in the day and more sensible temperatures. As had been pre-arranged we had a leisurely picnic, under the shade of umbrellas at a local café. The picnic had been prepared in the guesthouse and we purchased beer and other drinks at the café in return for them affording us protection from the sun. Watermelon seemed a highly appropriate dessert.

Finally we set off the fairly short distance along a bumpy track to the coast, passing another excellent birding site. The breeze at the coast was very welcome and much paddling was enjoyed. Three of the party swam in the warm Black Sea water and even a few birds were seen; particularly about 20 Black Terns drifted past and the first of two interesting male *Flava* Wagtails was seen well. Both fitted the subspecies *superviliaris* better than the other available options.

At last the temperature had dropped sufficiently for us to return to birding full-time. The huge Common Tern colony was our first stop. As well as every possible plumage and stage of that species, including tiny chicks, a dozen or so Collared Pratincoles showed well, with another more distant flock of c 130. Small numbers of Black, White-winged Black and Little Terns enhanced the scene as well as a Little Gull.

A further ice-cream stop at the Vadu café preceded a much lengthier stop overlooking the previously ignored lagoons. Bee-eaters cruised below us, giving fantastic views of their brilliant colours. On the lagoons themselves were waders such as Ruff, Dunlin, Wood Sandpiper and new-for-the-trip Little Stints and Little Ringed Plovers. Several Little Gulls, in different plumages, were instructive and adult and juvenile Gull-billed Terns were of particular interest, because of their rarity in the UK. However there was better to come in the shape of a Temminck's Stint, Marsh Sandpiper and Broad-billed Sandpiper. Real quality birds! It was very difficult to keep up and ensure that everybody saw every species. Not all the species seen are listed above and it is difficult to imagine a more cornucopic wader collection, and watched in superb light. However we eventually had to leave and set off on the lengthy drive back to Tulcea and a superb last evening meal with a number of farewell tributes, including birthday treats for Big Jim.

Day 10

Thursday 14th August

Fine all day 36 degrees C

After the usual splendid breakfast and settling of bills, we set out at 9 am 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 punctuated only by a comfort stop and another to eat our packed lunch to arrive at the airport with plenty of time to spare, where we left our second Romanian guide, Laurentiu and Tudor. The rebuilt Henri Coanda airport provided an airy and cool environment before the flight to Heathrow, the luggage carousel and sad farewells.

This was an excellent group, considerably enhanced by the range of interests, indeed expertise, across the group. Everybody contributed and we all learned so much from one another. Perhaps the great good humour, which was still evident in a variety of quite extreme weather conditions, was as important as the habitats and creatures we saw, in making it so enjoyable. Thank you all!

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Lesser Grey Shrike

Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	August											
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
1	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>											17	
2	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>			h								h	
3	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				1			1				1	
4	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				40	200	12	20					
5	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x			
6	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>											10	
7	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>					4		2					
8	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	x			x	x	x	x					
9	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>					2	4	16					
10	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				5	15	2	4					
11	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				1	1	1						
12	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					25	16	20				3	
13	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				1	1		6			2		
14	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>				1	3		4					
15	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				3	12	10	x			1		
16	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>				3			6					
17	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				3								
18	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	x	15	33	1000	8	1	5			250	x	
19	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				17	50	60	x					
20	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					16	4	2					
21	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>				1	1	6	3					
22	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					10	40	70					
23	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				1	50	1000	x			1		
24	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				x	12	x	x			1		
25	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					3	40	20	1		8		
26	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				1	12	20	12			1		
27	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
28	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					350	200	200	25		x		
29	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					3	1						
30	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				50	1000	x	x					
31	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				1	50	x	3000			5		
32	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>										1		
33	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					7	1	9					
34	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>				1						1		
35	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	5	1		6	6	6	2	1		8	6	
36	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>				1						1		
37	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			2									
38	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		2								2		
39	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo (buteo) vulpinus</i>										3	2	
40	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	6	1	20							1	2	x
41	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>										2	2	
42	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>			3							1	1	
43	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>		1										
44	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>										1	1	
45	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>										1		
46	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>								h				
47	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				3	x	x	x				2	

	Common name	Scientific name	August										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
48	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	x			x	x	x	x			1	x
49	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				6	2					2	
50	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				25							
51	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				10	20	40	10			1	x
52	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				1						8	
53	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>						1				1	
54	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				2	1	18					
55	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				28		8					
56	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>										1	
57	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>										1	
58	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>						10	1			2	
59	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				4	4	5	4			1	
60	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				6	1	10	3			12	
61	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				1		3				2	
62	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>										15	
63	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>										2	
64	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>										3	
65	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>										4	
66	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>										1	
67	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				25		20				25	
68	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>										150	
69	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		2		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
70	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>										7	
71	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>						2					
72	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				x	x	x	x	1	x	x	
73	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>										2	
74	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>										9	
75	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					5	4					
76	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				2	x	x	x	x	x		
77	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				x	x	x	x	100	1	x	
78	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					70		2			2	
79	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					20		1			20	
80	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	x	x	x	x					x	x	x
81	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>			1	2				2			
82	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	1	2	10	x	2	6	2	x			x
83	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				3			1	2			
84	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
85	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				1	1	3	2			4	
86	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						1					
87	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		2									
88	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			1	1							
89	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				12	15	x	x	30	x	x	
90	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					12	15	20				
91	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			30	60	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
92	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				8	2	8	4	3	8	4	
93	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>			1					1			
94	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>			1		h	1	h	1			
95	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>					1			3			
96	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>						4		2			
97	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1	1		1	1	6	4			
98	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>					2						

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			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
99	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>									2		
100	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		2	2			2	8	1	1		
101	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	1	5	40	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
102	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>							1	2	2	20	3
103	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			1	2	6	4	h	h			
104	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			2	6					2		
105	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
106	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		2	1								
107	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	x	x		x	x			20	x	x	x
108	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	x			x				8		x	x
109	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
110	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		4	60	1	1				2		
111	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		3	5						3		
112	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		10									
113	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	1	1	6	10	2	x	x	x	x	x	x
114	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				2			20	x	x		
115	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					3	36	10				
116	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>								3			
117	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			2							10	
118	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>									30		
119	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>											
120	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
121	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	x	x	x	x					x	x	x
122	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					2	10	10				
123	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>						1					
124	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		1	1		h						
125	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				2	3	2	x				
126	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					4	x	x				
127	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>						1					
128	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>					1						
129	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					1	1					
130	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>					h						
131	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>									1		
132	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		1	1	1							
133	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		1									
134	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		4									
135	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		4	1						6		
136	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		1	2						1		
137	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	x			500		x		x	x	x	x
138	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>			h								
139	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>						1		2			
140	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		21	2								
141	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			5								
142	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>									1		
143	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					2						
144	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		6	8	1							
145	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		1				1					
146	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			4								
147	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						1				2	
148	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellinus</i>									30	6	
149	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			2		10	2		1			

	Common name	Scientific name	August											
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
150	Collared/Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula sp.</i>					3							
151	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>			1						2			
152	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		3	1									
153	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
154	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>				8								
155	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		4	11	12			2	1			12	
156	Romanian' Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava dombrowskii</i>				1								
	S E Russia' Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava superciliaris</i>											2	
157	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		10										
158	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		8	1	4	8	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
159	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>											5	
160	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		10	5		h		h	x				
161	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		10										
162	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		1							h			
163	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		8			6	3			2			
164	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>			2						12			
165	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>									12	10		
166	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		1	7	2								
167	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>												

Mammals

Red Squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*
 Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*
 Suslik, *Spermophilus citellus*

Brown Hare, *Lepus europaeus*
 Brown Bear, *Ursus ursus*
 Stoat, *Mustela erminea*

Reptiles

Spur-thighed Tortoise, *Testudo graeca*
 Dice Snake, *Natrix tessellata*
 Balkan Green Lizard, *Lacerta trilineata*

Grass Snake, *Natrix natrix*
 Sand Lizard, *Lacerta agilis*

Butterflies

Small White, *Artogeia rapae*
 Berger's Clouded Yellow, *Colias alfacariensis*
 Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*
 Large White, *Pieris brassicae*
 Little Blue, *Cupido minimus*
 Lesser Fiery Copper, *Lycaena thersamon*
 Holly Blue, *Celestrina argiolus*
 Queen of Spain Fritillary, *Issoria lathonia*
 Silver-washed Fritillary, *Argynnis paphia*
 Lesser Spotted Fritillary, *Melitaea trivia*
 Hungarian Glider, *Neptis rivularis*
 Peacock, *Inachis io*
 Arran Brown, *Erebia ligea*
 Scotch Argus, *Erebia aethiops*
 Ringlet, *Aphantopus hyperantus*
 Meadow Brown, *Maniola jurtina*
 Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria*
 Large Skipper, *Ochlodes sylvanus*

Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow, *Colias erate*
 Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*
 Wood White sp., *Leptidea sp*
 Eastern Bath White, *Pontia edusa*
 Scarce Copper, *Lycaena virgaureae*
 Silver-studded Blue, *Plebejus argus*
 Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*
 High Brown Fritillary, *Argynnis adippe*
 Cardinal, *Argynnis pandora*
 Freyer's Purple Emperor, *Apatura metis*
 Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*
 Comma, *Polygonium c-album*
 Sudeten Ringlet, *Erebia sudetica radnaensis*
 Dusky Meadow Brown, *Hyponephele lycaon*
 Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*
 Marbled White, *Melanargia galathea*
 Large Wall Brown, *Lasiommata maera*

Moths

Tau Emperor

Common Footman

Shaded Broad-bar

Red Underwing

Jersey Tiger

Brown China-mark

Other Insects

Purple Carpenter Bee

Beautiful Demoiselle

Dung Beetle sp

Cicada