

# Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

30 April - 9 May 2016



European Brown Bears



Dalmatian Pelican



*Salvia nemorosa*



Golden Jackal

Report and images by Jon Stokes



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Tour participants: Jon Stokes (leader) and Laurentiu Petrencu (local guide) with 12 Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

Saturday 30th April

Whilst our flight from Heathrow involved a change of gate and was delayed, by the time we landed in Bucharest we were only five minutes late.

Driving through the flat lands surrounding Bucharest we saw a few Squacco Herons on a small pond and some Ferruginous Ducks. After an hour of driving we stopped in the foothills of the Carpathians for a coffee. Field Crickets were calling in the grasslands in the warm sunshine but as we drove into the mountains, cloud descended on us as we passed through the Beech and Spruce forests.

We arrived at our hotel at 8pm and had time to wash and brush up before dinner. Outside the evening air was chilly but a few Common Pipistrelle bats were flying around the hotel for our first mammal sighting of the trip. After dinner we retired to bed - full, tired but happy.

## Day 2

Sunday 1st May

Morning dawned bright, clear and cold and the sound of cockerels, sparrows and Collard Doves were our dawn chorus. Today was Orthodox Easter in Romania and we started the morning with highly coloured Easter Eggs for breakfast.

After breakfast we set out for the Zarnesti gorges where our first bird of the day was a superb Grey Wagtail which posed beautifully. We then wandered up the Beech and Spruce lined gorge through the limestone countryside. At times the imposing limestone cliffs made the neck hurt just looking at their tops. On one bluff a Chamois was wandering about, on another cliff Common Kestrels were breeding, but our main prize, a Wallcreeper, remained absent for the moment.

Along the path edge, blue Snowbells (*Soldanella hungarica*) grew with beautiful yellow Anemones (*Ranunculus carpatica*) and as the morning warmed, the first butterflies began to be seen. First a Mountain Small White, then a Mountain Green-veined White flew past. In the trees Common Firecrests and Goldcrests tinkled their call and on fallen logs a bracket fungi called Red Belted Bracket (*Fomitopsis pinicola*) was found.

Arriving at a clearing in the gorge, we sat for lunch with Brimstone and Orange-tip butterflies around us. David located a stunning Click Beetle (*Ctenicera virens*) which he photographed. Suddenly John called out "Wallcreeper" as one flew above our heads. A stunning male Wallcreeper flew over and landed on a cliff face where it hopped about for a few minutes. Unfortunately we were looking into the sun which made viewing difficult, but eventually all the group saw this marvel of European birding.

Our next destination was the legendary Castle Bran. Being Easter Sunday it was very busy so we went elsewhere for a while to look at the views of the mountains whose snow-lined tops glistened in the bright sunshine. Having looked at the beautiful landscape with its pastures full of cows and sheep, photographed some Green-winged Orchids (*Orchis morio*) and Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum kochii*), we returned to the castle which is linked to Dracula!

Bran Castle is a 13th century beauty, linked closely with the rulers of the regions of Transylvania, particularly Vlad the Impaler. During the visit we learned about this link and how Bram Stoker chose to use the castle for his anti-hero Dracula - a derivation of the name given to Vlad's father 'Dracul' meaning Evil. Leaving the castle grounds, a large pond held Great Crested Newts and another smaller individual seen was either Alpine or Carpathian Newt but a firm identification wasn't possible.

On our return to the hotel we stopped to photograph some White Storks in a meadow as the sun began to set towards the hills. Dinner was a local delicacy called sarmale and after dining we discussed the day's sightings. Then for a valiant few, Jon led a bat walk around the village which turned out to be a success recording Noctule, Common Pipistrelle, Leisler's and Serotine Bats, plus Nathusius Pipistrelles which were emerging from the local church. It was a super way to end a great day in the mountains.

### Day 3

Monday 2nd May

We woke up to a clear, bright and cold start this morning and after breakfast set off to the National Park. As we drove, a few birds caught our eye including Black Redstart and Whinchat, but the cold wind pushed us on to our parking spot. Here, in the valley bottom, we set off to walk to a monastery, looking at Fringed Polypore (*Polyporus ciliatus*), Orange-tip Butterflies and Red-backed Shrike as we went. Amongst the turf we found rare Elder-flowered Orchids (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*) and Spring Gentians (*Gentiana verna*) plus the striking Black Morel fungus (*Morchella elata*) and in the rotten trees, various click beetles including the stunning Click Beetle (*Ctenicera cuprea*).

After lunch back at the hotel we set out to look for bears. Upon arrival in the bear's valley, we set off for a walk along the valley floor. Golden Orioles fluted from the trees, Woodlarks called from further along the valley, and then a huge bird left a tree, revealing itself to be a Lesser Spotted Eagle. It landed a few hundred yards away and was almost immediately joined by a second, younger bird. They fed in the grass and then flew to a small tree which gave the photographers the chance to take some images. They were quite stunning and the experience was enhanced by the background sound of Golden Oriole. We also spotted Yellow-bellied Toad in a small puddle, Tree Sparrows in some Hawthorn and a huge flock of sheep with their attendant Shepherd.

We then arrived at the meeting point for our bear trip. As we walked to the hide, huge paw prints showing their enormous claws were an early warning of what was in the woods! We also passed a large clump of Toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*). We settled into the hide and the bait was set. We prepared ourselves for the potentially long wait needed for the bears to arrive, and two minutes later a mother and two one-year-old cubs appeared! It was stunning to see these magnificent creatures appear silently from the trees and then feed in front of us. Over the next two hours we were treated to nine different European Brown Bears, the largest of which was estimated by the ranger to be a 375 kilogram male - a superb creature.

Then the darkness began to fall and for our safety, we had to leave while there was still light. Three bears were still present as we left the hide and walked back through the woods. It was a hair-raising experience seeing the bears outside the raised hide, and realising that there were at least another six somewhere nearby to add to the three we could actually see. It made us realise just how exciting living in the woods with these beautiful creatures would be. We arrived back at the bus without incident (other than seeing one bear running through the woods) and we set off for home, managing to spotlight a few Roe Deer to add the mammals list.

## Day 4

Tuesday 3rd May

Today was a travelling day and after saying goodbye to Mimi and our guesthouse, we drove out of the mountains. Unfortunately the weather had become wet so our first stop at a castle was a bit damp. Nevertheless we managed great views of a few Red-breasted Flycatchers, stunning views of a couple of Common Firecrests, and a pair of Dippers entertained us, doing what their name suggests.

We continued towards the delta with a few coffee stops and finally crossed over the mighty Danube. West of the Danube the landscape is flat. East of the Danube the land begins to roll and small limestone hills and ridges make for a much more varied and interesting vista, spoilt only by arrays of wind turbines slowly rotating in the wind. A stop at a lake revealed Whiskered Tern, Thrush Nightingale, Pygmy Cormorant and Red-crested Pochard, plus tens of thousands of hirundines which were obviously on migration.

Continuing our journey, on the north slope of the limestone hills dense forests of Silver Lime (*Tilia tomentosa*) trees draw wandering bee-keepers from across Europe, although they hadn't yet arrived in Tulcea county in great number as the lime still had a few weeks to go before flowering. We stopped to buy some Lime Honey to try as it contains a slightly addictive chemical, close in nature to LSD! We finally arrive at the floating hotel which was to be our base for a few nights. After a tasty dinner, some of the group went for a walk along the Tulcea Promenade to take in the sights of the Delta before finally retiring to bed.

## Day 5

Wednesday 4th May

The dawn was wet, cold and rainy this morning so we remained on the floating hotel and travelled down the main Sulina branch of the delta. As we travelled, between bouts of rain White-winged and Whiskered Terns flew in vast numbers together with Black Terns and the occasional Common Tern. Overhead White Pelicans and Glossy Ibis passed by, and the occasional White-tailed Eagle. The main channel through the delta was lined with meadows full of ancient willows and poplars, and occasionally there were small villages lining the shore. Around the villages, herds of cattle and pigs roamed free and amongst them Glossy Ibis and Little Egrets fed.

Turning down a side channel we spotted flocks of Ruff and Wood Sandpipers and the occasional Common Redshank. A male Red-footed Falcon flew under a White-tailed Eagle and multiple Western Marsh Harriers searched for food over the reeds.

The awful weather persisted through the early part of the afternoon but eventually we came to rest in a beautiful spot under some old White Willows. To add to our weather woes, the engine of the little boat had become waterlogged and needed some attention before we could take a side trip down the smallest channels. We birded from the hotel for a while and spotted a male Collared Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher, Common Nightingale and Grey-headed Woodpecker.

Eventually the boat was repaired and we headed towards a small lake, passing Pygmy Cormorants and White Pelicans, and in the reeds Great Reed Warblers croaking their calls. A Penduline Tit also called from the reeds but remained invisible. In the lake White Pelicans were actually more pink than white as they were in breeding plumage, and around them Ferruginous Ducks swam.

After dinner we tried bat detecting from the boat and around the Willows, *Narthusius Pipistrelles* and Kuhl's *Pipistrelles* were feeding. Over the water Daubenton's bats were actively feeding and around us the calls of Savi's and Great Reed Warblers added to the cacophony from the Pool Frogs. Finally we retired to bed for our first night in the middle of the Delta.

## Day 6

Thursday 5th May

We awoke to a grey and cold start, but at least it wasn't raining! We set off in the small boat for some abandoned fish lakes, watching Whiskered and White-winged Black Terns feeding low over the water. Half a dozen Eurasian Spoonbills were feeding along the water's edge and everywhere there were swallows, martins and herons. Ahead in the channel, the White Pelicans had hidden amongst their number a stunning Dalmatian Pelican, but as we stopped the boat the cold wind began to bring rain. After dismounting from the boat, over the small lake we spotted a Red-rumped Swallow mixed in with the other martins, and a Gull-billed Tern flew past. Returning to the boat, we set off back to the floating hotel as the rain had set in. We passed more spoonbills and terns on the way but most of the group was only thinking of a cup of tea.

After a warm drink we had planned to set off again in a small boat at 11am, but the weather worsened so we moved the hotel instead to keep warm whilst birding. Whilst the boat was readied, John spotted a mammal running along the opposite bank. It turned out to be a stunning Golden Jackal; an Asiatic species that has recently moved naturally into the delta. This caused great excitement for us all, and especially Jon for whom it was a new mammal species.

As we sailed slowly to our new destination the weather cleared and by the time we had arrived, the weather had improved considerably. En route there were thousands of terns, huge flocks of pelicans and more Western Marsh Harriers than you could count. At our new destination Savi's Warblers were calling in every direction, Eurasian Bitterns were booming and pelicans of both species were everywhere. On a neighbouring dead tree, two White-tailed Eagles were preening and, as we boarded the small boat after lunch, the sun came out.

About a hundred yards from the hotel there was a call of "Otter in the river ahead" and sure enough an Otter was swimming leisurely around in the channel. Further on, a mass of Squacco Herons were feeding from the riverside Willows, one catching and playing with a newt for a considerable few minutes. In another channel, a Black Woodpecker put on a show, whilst Golden Orioles called continuously from the trees, only giving us brief glimpses when they flew. We continued exploring, seeing a Eurasian Hobby in a dead tree close to the boat, pelicans everywhere, and for 90% of the trip the sun was out, albeit with a cold wind.

Later we enjoyed dinner and the table 'napkin art' increased in quality. After dinner the new hotel location yielded three species of bat: Particoloured, Kuhl's and *Narthusius Pipistrelle*, adding a species to the extending bat list. Bed then called to a soundtrack of Savi's Warbler, cuckoo and bittern.

## Day 7

Friday 6th May

Today dawned bright and clear and last night's chorus continued apace. Cuckoos, Savi's Warbler, bitterns, White-tailed Eagle and Black-crowned Night Herons were all up and about, making a noise. A Northern Shoveler shot across the reeds and the sky was literally filled with birds in all directions.

After breakfast we sailed around the channels on the small boat with a beautiful Eurasian Penduline Tit, Common Kingfisher and Bluethroat being the stars of the morning. The day was finally warm and Grey-headed Woodpeckers appeared to call from every clump of trees and pelicans were, frankly, everywhere. One particularly beautiful willow-lined channel had a couple of Musk Rats swimming in it, and from the bushes Thrush Nightingales called. Our first European Honey Buzzard passed overhead and as we arrived back at the hotel, Beautiful Demoiselle damselflies were flying around the decks.

Our return to Tulcea on the hotel took us through small channels, but the afternoon's excitement was a stunning and exceptionally loud thunderstorm that broke overhead, throwing pea-sized hail at us for about 20 minutes. Ahead of it, the birds flew at speed away from the approaching storm, including one astonishing flock of over 500 pelicans silhouetted against the jet black sky. After the storm, sunny and warm weather returned, with White-backed Woodpeckers and Spotted Flycatchers in the trees and in the channel a massive mixed flock of Pygmy Cormorants and pelicans fed, allowing the boat only so close before moving 100 yards downstream, and then repeating the process all over again.

Arriving in the evening in Tulcea, we had dinner with superb 'napkin art' gracing the tables, and a beautiful sunset over the less beautiful Aluminium works. For those with the need to stretch their legs, a group of us walked into town and visited a local pub, where the beer was rated 7/10 by the CAMRA members. We finally returned to the floating hotel to bed.

## Day 8

## Saturday 7th May

After wishing the boat crew a fond farewell, we set off for a morning in Babadag. Our first stop was a rounded hill sticking up from the plain. Spanish Sparrows abounded, Tawny Pipits sang loudly and Isabelline and Northern Wheatears allowed comparison. Overhead European Bee-eaters made their 'proop proop' call and this was mixed with the sounds of Greater Short-toed Lark, Ortolan Bunting and Eurasian Skylark.

Our next stop was a complex of lagoons where Lanceolated Warblers competed for space with Great Reed Warblers. On the pools, Little Stints fed with Spotted Redshank, and Black-winged Stilts vied with Kentish Plovers to attract our attention. The air was filled with the weird sounds of Fire-bellied Toads and Whiskered Terns, and an Icterine Warbler called from a bush containing a Red-backed Shrike. It was a lovely stop, but lunch was calling so we continued and stopped at a roadside shrine for food.

At our final stop by the Black Sea, Eurasian Hoopoes were everywhere, Lesser Grey Shrikes were on bushes, Grass Snakes were in the pools, and Collared Pratincoles were flitting around. In the Black Sea were Black Sea Bottle-nosed Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus* ssp. *Ponticus*) which are a genetically distinct population, smaller than the populations elsewhere in the North Atlantic and possess a uniquely shaped skull (although the obvious feature in the field was the smaller dorsal fin). Overhead Gull-billed and Sandwich Terns flew past.

Whilst we watched the birds, the Romanian Border Force arrived to see what this large group of people were doing; concerned that we might be illegal immigrants arriving on the shoreline. Their minds were put at rest. Further along the beach, a Spur-thighed Tortoise was located by David and enjoyed by everyone. However, the day was coming to an end, so we returned to the Guest House, ate dinner, discussed our sightings and went to bed.

## Day 9

Sunday 8th May

We had two stops on our last full day. The first was a beautiful area of wood pasture where Sombre Tits were feeding in the small fruit trees. However before we found the tits, we located Middle Spotted Woodpeckers, more Golden Orioles than it seemed possible to house in a small valley, stunning Hawfinch and the most bizarre sounding Common Chaffinches probably in Europe!

In an old orchard, shrikes and Spanish Sparrows were everywhere. Overhead, as the sun warmed the air, European Honey Buzzards and Lesser Spotted Eagles flew with Eurasian Sparrowhawks and Eurasian Hobbies. Nearby, morning Mass was taking place in the abbey and the sound of singing drifted across the orchard, adding unusual aural accompaniment to the excellent views we had of Souselic.

Next we went to the Machin mountains; ancient granite hills where butterflies were flying in flower-filled meadows of *Salvia nemorosa*. The butterflies were everywhere and sightings included Scarce Swallowtail, Green-underside Blue, Cardinal and Silver-washed Fritillary. The beetles were good also, with a super Rove Beetle and an eastern longhorn beetle called *Dorcadion pedestre*. Walking up the hills, we scanned for Pied Wheatear and located one on a high granite tor. Further up a couple of Common Rock Thrushes adopted similar positions. Booted Eagles and Peregrine Falcons flew high over the hills and amongst the flowers, Forester Moths were everywhere. As we headed down the hill to the bus, a striking Oil Beetle drew the eye, and just when we thought it was all over, a Short-toed Snake Eagle flew into view and hovered over the bus as if to say 'Goodbye'.

Our return to the hotel was uneventful and after our last dinner, we bade farewell to our assistant guide Christian before heading to bed.

## Day 10

Monday 9th May

Today was our last day and the drive back to the airport passed surprisingly quickly, with one or two stops including the purchase of some more of that exceptional lime honey.

We dropped off Judith in the middle of Bucharest for a short extension to her holiday. This allowed us to make a quick sightseeing tour of the capital including an impromptu visit to the rural life museum which was fascinating and had some stunning windmills. Then it was on to the airport where we said our goodbyes to Laurentiu (our local guide) and Dimitrii (our driver), both of whom had been exceptional. We then caught our flight back to the UK where another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

It had been a great week with some exceptional wildlife, good food, superb 'napkin art', great company and memorable weather. Frankly, what more can you ask of a holiday!

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## Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May										
			30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>									✓	✓	
2	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>										✓	
3	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				✓						✓	
4	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>			✓	✓						✓	
5	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			✓	✓							✓
6	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>									✓		
7	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				✓	✓						
8	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓		✓		✓						
9	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>								✓			
10	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>				✓							
11	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					✓						
12	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	✓										
13	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					✓	✓	✓				
14	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					✓	✓	✓				
15	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>									✓		
16	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>					✓						
17	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
19	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
20	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
21	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
22	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				
23	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
24	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					✓	✓	✓				
25	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
26	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
27	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
28	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>							✓	✓			
29	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
30	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
31	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>							✓	✓	✓		
32	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
33	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>										✓	
34	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
35	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>							✓				
36	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>										✓	
37	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		✓								✓	
38	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	
39	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>									✓	✓	
40	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>			✓							✓	
41	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>									✓	✓	
42	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓
43	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				✓	✓				✓	✓	
44	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				✓	✓				✓	✓	
45	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>										✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May										
			30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
46	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>										✓	
47	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						✓	✓				
48	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
49	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>					✓			✓			
50	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>								✓			
51	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>								✓			
52	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓				✓						
53	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					✓			✓			
54	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								✓			
55	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>								✓			
56	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					✓			✓			
57	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>								✓			
58	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>								✓			
59	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					✓			✓			
60	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					✓		✓	✓			
61	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					✓			✓			
62	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
63	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>							✓	✓			
64	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>								✓			
65	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								✓			
66	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>								✓			
67	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>								✓			
68	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
69	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>								✓			
70	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
71	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					✓	✓	✓				
72	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>					✓	✓					
73	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>								✓			
74	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
75	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
76	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>						✓		✓			
77	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>								✓			
78	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
79	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
80	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
81	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					✓	✓	✓				
82	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓			
83	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
84	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				✓		✓		✓	✓		
85	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
87	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>								✓			
88	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>								✓			
89	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
90	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
91	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					✓		✓				
92	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>								✓	✓		
93	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓		
94	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>							✓	✓			

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May									
			30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
95	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>							✓		✓	
96	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>						✓			✓	
97	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>							✓			
98	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>						✓			✓	
99	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>									✓	
100	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	
101	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓	
102	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>								✓	✓	
103	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
104	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>							✓			
105	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
106	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
107	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓							✓
108	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
109	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	✓	✓							✓
110	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			
111	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>										✓
112	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	✓				✓		✓		✓	
113	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓							✓
114	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	
115	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	
116	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					✓	✓	✓			
117	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>				✓					✓	
118	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>									✓	
119	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>				✓					✓	
120	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			✓						✓	✓
121	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>									✓	
122	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
123	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
125	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>						✓				✓
126	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
127	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					✓	✓	✓			
128	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓			
129	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>										✓
130	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
131	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>							✓			
132	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>									✓	
133	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>							✓			
134	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>									✓	
135	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>						✓	✓	✓		
136	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓			✓
137	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓			
138	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
139	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				✓						
140	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		✓								
141	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		✓		✓						
142	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	✓							✓
143	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May											
			30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
144	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		✓										
145	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>											✓	
146	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
147	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		
148	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		✓	✓									
149	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓	✓								✓	
150	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓									
151	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓											
152	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>								✓				
153	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>						✓	✓	✓				
154	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>						✓					✓	
155	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			✓							✓	✓	
156	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>								✓				✓
157	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			✓									
158	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>										✓		
159	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>										✓		
160	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>											✓	
161	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>											✓	
162	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>						✓	✓					
163	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>						✓						
164	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>			✓	✓								
165	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		✓				✓						
166	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
167	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>										✓		
168	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			✓								✓	
169	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	✓					✓				✓	✓	
	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>M. f. feldegg</i>	✓			✓						✓	✓	
	Romanian Yellow Wagtail	<i>M. f. dombrowskii</i>	✓									✓	✓	
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>M. f. thumbergi</i>	✓									✓		
170	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		
171	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓		
172	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>											✓	
173	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			✓									
174	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
175	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	✓								✓	
176	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓								✓	
177	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓									✓	
178	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>											✓	
179	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			✓									
180	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>											✓	
181	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				✓							✓	
182	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			✓								✓	
183	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>										✓	✓	
184	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>							✓	✓		✓		

## Mammals

Roe Deer, *Capreolus capreolus*

Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*

European Brown Bear, *Ursus arctos*

Chamois, *Rupicapra rupicapra*

Otter, *Lutra lutra*  
 Souselik, *Spermophilus citellus*  
 Common Noctule, *Nyctalus noctula*  
 Serotine Bat, *Eptesicus serotinus*  
 Soprano Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*  
 Kuhl's Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus kuhlii*  
 Golden Jackel, *Canis aureus*

Musk Rat, *Ondatra zibethicus*  
 Daubenton's Bat, *Myotis daubentoni*  
 Leisler's Bat, *Nyctalus leisleri*  
 Common Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*  
 Nathusius's Pipistrelles, *Pipistrellus nathusii*  
 Particoloured bat, *Vespertilio murinus*  
 Bottle-nosed Dolphins, *Tursiops truncatus* ssp. *Ponticus*

## Amphibians

Yellow-bellied Toad, *Bombina variegata*  
 Fire-bellied Toad, *Bombina bombina*

Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog, *Pelophylax sp*  
 Great Crested Newt, *Triturus cristatus*

## Reptiles

Grass Snake, *Natrix natrix persa*  
 Balkan Wall Lizard, *Podarcis tauricus*  
 Snake-eyed Skink, *Ablepharus kitaibelii*

Green Lizard, *Lacerta viridis*  
 Spur-thighed Tortoise, *Testudo graeca*

## Butterflies

Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*  
 Black-veined White, *Aporia crataegi*  
 Southern Small White, *Artogeia manni*  
 Mountain Green-veined White, *Artogeia napi bryoniae*  
 Eastern Bath White, *Ponthis edusa*  
 Danube Clouded Yellow, *Colias myrmidone*  
 Lesser Clouded Yellow, *Colias chrysotheme*  
 Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*  
 Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*  
 Green-underside Blue, *Glaucopsyche alexis*  
 Chapman's Blue, *Agrodiaetus thersites*  
 Painted lady, *Vanessa cardui*  
 Cardinal, *Argynnis pandora*  
 Silver-washed Fritillary, *Argynnis paphia*  
 Glanville Fritillary, *Melitaea cinxia*  
 Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Scarce swallowtail, *Iphiclides podalirius*  
 Small White, *Artogeia rapae*  
 Mountain Small White, *Artogeia ergane*  
 Orange-tip, *Anthocharis cardamines*  
 Berger's Pale Clouded Yellow, *Colias alfacariensis vihorlatensis*  
 Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*  
 Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow, *Colias erate*  
 Wood White, *Leptidea sinapis*  
 Holly Blue, *Celastrina argiolus*  
 Brown Argus, *Aricia agestis*  
 Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*  
 Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*  
 Lesser Marbled Fritillary, *Brethis ino*  
 Spotted Fritillary, *Melitaea didyma*  
 Queen of Spain Fritillary, *Issoria lathonia*  
 Grizzled skipper, *Pyrgus malvae*

## Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!