

Romania's Danube Delta and Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 16 May 2016



European Brown Bear



White-tailed Eagle



European Roller



Squacco Heron

Report compiled by Marcus John
Images courtesy of Judith Rolfe



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Marcus John (leader) & Florin Stavarache (guide) with 14 Naturetrek clients

Summary

We all enjoyed every part of this varied trip, from the dramatic Carpathian Mountains to the intricate backwaters of the vast Danube Delta. After some cloudy weather and a thunderstorm in the mountains, the weather was mainly dry and sunny for the rest of our time in Romania. An early highlight was the evening visit to the bear hide. This was an extraordinary experience; we saw a total of 12 Brown Bears, who were constantly on view for over two hours, interacting right in front of us! Next, we drove across the plains to Tulcea and spent four days aboard the floating hotel, which took us into the very heart of the Danube Delta. The sheer abundance of water birds was breathtaking; hundreds of herons and egrets thronged the muddy margins and reed beds, pelicans massed in hidden lakes and White-tailed Eagles were a majestic presence. Kingfishers, terns and a variety of waders added to the spectacle. Finally, we spent two days exploring the Baltic Sea coast where we witnessed visible migration, as small birds thronged the coastal scrub.

Day 1

Saturday 7th May

London Heathrow - Bucharest - Zarnesti

We had an uneventful flight to Bucharest, where we were landed in the late afternoon. We were met by our driver and local guide, who were both called Florin! We boarded our comfortable coach for the long drive north to Zarnesti. The weather was cool and showery as we drove through the flat plains but we were surprised to see a lot of snow on the ground as we approached the foothills of the Carpathians. We arrived at our charming little hotel in Zarnesti, where we were greeted by the genial host with a glass of "Dracula's Tears", a dramatic name for a local drink! After a good dinner, we headed off to bed in preparation for our first full day in the mountains.

Day 2

Sunday 8th May

Piatra Craiului National Park - Coltul Chililor - Valea Stramba (bear hide)

Most of us went for a short walk before breakfast, through the village to an open area with a clear view of the mountains. The sun shone and we saw our first Black Redstart, a male singing from a rooftop. A pair of Whinchats was sitting up nicely in a fruit tree in a roadside orchard.

After a good breakfast, we drove the short distance to Piatra Craiului National Park. Here we walked up picturesque alpine meadows into the forest above, following the path that leads to the monastery of Coltul Chililor. As it was a Sunday, there were a few worshippers making their way up the steep path. An unusual sight was that of the less mobile being driven by a monk on a tractor! In the more open areas were lots of singing Tree Pipits and a group of migrant Whinchats. We heard a singing Firecrest but, despite Florin's best efforts, we didn't see it. More obliging were several smart Fieldfares, which breed in these mountains. Our main target was Nutcracker, and we soon found one in a forest clearing. It immediately flew off but soon returned, enabling us all to get a good view through the scope.

We returned to our hotel for a cooked lunch and to gather our sandwiches for the long evening ahead. In the late afternoon, we set off for Valea Stramba. Before we had even stepped out of the coach, we saw a pair of Lesser Spotted Eagles on the ground close to the road. One was a dark individual which soon took off to fly low past

the coach; its partner was a paler bird, which stayed on the ground for several minutes, affording us excellent views. In the immediate vicinity we also found eight Red-backed Shrikes, including two displaying pairs. Finally, a Honey Buzzard flew over to complete an excellent range of birds in a short space of time.

As we drove up towards the bear hide, we saw two adult Wild Boar with young and two Roe Deer. We drove into the forest, parked the coach, walked across a wooden footbridge and entered the large and well-constructed hide. Almost immediately, Brown Bears came to visit the clearing in front of us; over the next two hours, a total of 12 bears were seen! At different times, there were eight females of varying ages, three well-grown cubs and one young male. It was a privilege to have the opportunity to watch these big, powerful animals at such close quarters. On the drive back through the darkening forest, we saw a Red Fox and a superb Ural Owl, which sat briefly in our torchlight.

Day 3

Monday 9th May

Zarnesti Gorge - Bran

We repeated our pre-breakfast walk and saw more Black Redstarts and a Whinchat then a pair of Serin, the male performing his high, fizzing song.

This morning we took a walk through the Zarnesti Gorge, where spectacular sheer walls rise hundreds of metres on either side of the narrow path. We were pleased to find a Dipper on the stream that flows through the gorge. As we disembarked, a group of Common Buzzards were riding thermals and a pair of Common Kestrels were displaying. The weather was cool and increasingly cloudy, which meant limited bird activity. We walked into the most precipitous section of the gorge, where we stopped to scan for Wallcreepers. After several minutes, Florin saw one flying at the top of a cliff, high above us. We saw it in flight on several occasions over next ten minutes but frustratingly, it would not perch in view. Then Val saw another bird flying much lower across the path and onto the opposite rock face. Finally, we had a proper look at the grey-black plumage and bright crimson flight feathers. Wallcreeper is an enigmatic species that is always a challenge to find, so we were very glad to get such good views!

A big thunderstorm broke as we walked back down to the coach, so we ate our sandwiches as we drove to the town of Bran. Some of us decided to visit the famous castle (which dates back to the time of Vlad the Impaler), while others looked for birds in the parkland at foot of the hill. A good range of birds were seen feeding in large Sycamores, including a singing male Redstart and a pair of Spotted Flycatchers. When we went for a walk around the town, we also found some very obliging Red Squirrels in Bran Park (despite the name, they are mainly dark grey in this part of Europe). After coffee and local cake, we set off to return to our hotel after another memorable day. On the way back, we saw several White Storks in fields by the roadside and flying over Zarnesti.

Day 4

Tuesday 10th May

Zarnesti - Lake Sinaia - Lake Fundata - Lake Hasir - Tulcea

We took our last walk through the village of Zarnesti before breakfast; the most exciting birds were a pair of Hobbies that flew over us on the edge of the village. A little later, it was time to say farewell to our hosts and board the coach for the long drive south east to Tulcea. We drove for about two hours before our first coffee

stop. Around the service station, we added Crested Lark and Skylark to the list, though we were more impressed by a stunning male Yellow Wagtail of the black-headed “feldegg” race.

Due to road closures, we followed an alternate route across the plains. We set off down a minor road where we soon found a close Cuckoo, perched up on a roadside wire. Along the same stretch, we saw a good variety of birds including Roller, Marsh Harrier, Bee-eater and more Yellow Wagtails (of the “dombrowski” and “superciliaris” races).

We made our way along more back roads then, in the early afternoon, we stopped by a small wetland. Although the rain kept us in the coach, we had good views of around 20 Whiskered Terns and a Purple Heron. We were also fascinated to see a powerful waterspout, which stretched down from the base of the rain clouds.

The sky had cleared by the time we reached Fundata Lake. There was a big flock of Bee-eaters all around us as climbed out of the coach. We walked out past an abandoned tourist development, finding a handsome Long-legged Buzzard and two Hoopoes on the grassy banks. There was a good selection of waders on the muddy margins, including Avocet and Black-winged Stilt. We could hear Golden Oriole and, as we prepared to leave, we found a lovely Turtle Dove feeding in between lines of sprouting maize.

Our last stop was closer to Tulcea, at Lake Hasar. Here we had a foretaste of the birds we could expect to see on the delta, including Pygmy Cormorant, Great Crested Grebe, Great Egret and Great Reed Warbler. Not much farther along the road, we drove very slowly through a large rookery which also contains breeding Red-footed Falcons, a nice way to complete our birding for the day. We arrived in Tulcea and boarded the floating hotel, our home for the next four days.

Day 5

Wednesday 11th May

Danube Delta: Sulina Branch - Mila 26 Channel - Lake Fortuna - Litcoy Channel - Ceamurlia Channel - Lake Iacob

After an excellent breakfast, we left the Floatel (which would be towed to a mooring in the heart of the delta) and set off in the smaller launch down the wide Tulcea Channel, before turning off onto the quieter Sulina Channel, where several Nightingales could be heard singing on either side. Soon we found an immature White-tailed Eagle, which was quickly followed by an adult, perched at the top of a waterside tree. Two Honey Buzzards flew high overhead and several Cuckoos were seen - we counted 30 by the end of the day! When we heard a Grey-headed Woodpecker, Florin quickly whistled a response; it flew back and stayed on view for several minutes. During the rest of the day, we also saw both Great Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers.

It was a sunny afternoon when we visited Fortuna Lake, where we found our first Squacco and Black-crowned Night Herons. Dozens of Whiskered Terns were sitting on mats of floating vegetation; this is where they make their nests! We ventured across the lake to get a closer view of a huge feeding flock of Pelicans (with dozens of Great Cormorants); it was an exhilarating experience as they swam across in front of us then flew up around the boat.

As we sailed slowly along narrow channels and past small lakes, there were birds everywhere. Bee-eaters, Rollers and Great Reed Warblers flew across; shy Ferruginous Ducks kept their distance as a variety of herons and

egrets fed at the water's edge, while Marsh Harriers quartered the reed beds. Supporting all this bird life is an abundance of small fish and frogs, which could be seen in the water all around us.

As the sun sank in the sky, we returned to the floating hotel for another delicious dinner in the surprisingly spacious dining room, with its panoramic windows. It was a real pleasure to be able to relax with a cold drink as we completed the checklist.

Day 6

Thursday 12th May

Sanctuarul Pasarilor - Caraorman - Lakes Trei Izere, Cazanel, Radacinas - Eracle Channel

It was another bright, warm day as we set out on the launch to visit the nature reserve of Sanctuarul Pasarilor. We disembarked and walked along a grassy bank with views across a large lake. We could hear booming Bitterns and we soon found four male Red-Crested Pochard, in their distinctive breeding plumage. We saw both Hobby and Hoopoe in flight but better still was a diminutive Penduline Tit, which showed briefly in tall reed stems close to the path. Some of the group missed this bird so we went in search of more. After some time, we found a pair feeding close to the edge of the reeds with a Lesser Whitethroat - this time, everyone had great views!

After lunch, we visited the village of Caraorman and walked across an abandoned industrial site to view the wide, shallow lagoons beyond. Breeding waders included both Lapwing and Black-winged Stilt; passage Black-tailed Godwits were feeding in a drier area. On the main lagoon was a flock of smaller waders containing Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Dunlin and Little Ringed Plover.

As we walked back to the jetty where the launch was waiting, Bee-eaters and Sand Martins showed well and an immature White-tailed Eagle flew over. A pair of Kestrels was breeding in the broken roof of a derelict block of flats and we were delighted to see three young Red Foxes emerge from an empty doorway, unable to control their curiosity. As we were about to leave, Roger found a Little Owl sitting unobtrusively on a concrete pillar.

After lunch, as we made our way along a wider channel, some of us were lucky enough to see a Golden Jackal walking along the shore; they breed near the villages on the delta. We spent the rest of the afternoon exploring the area around the Eracle Channel. We travelled along the narrowest of channels, where we could barely squeeze between the overhanging trees. In this way we gained access to small, hidden lakes, on one of which we found our first Dalmatian Pelicans. We saw more superb Red-necked Grebes and immaculate Black Terns, breeding alongside the much commoner Whiskered Terns. Then it was time to return to the floating hotel, now positioned at the junction of two waterways, with a panoramic view across the water and surrounding reed beds.

Day 7

Friday 13th May

Lake Catavaia - Eracle, Stipoc and Razboinita Channels - Lake Baclanasti - Tulcea

We rose at dawn to enjoy the wide vista and were rewarded with the stunning spectacle of hundreds of White Pelicans flying past in a seemingly endless undulating line. When we scanned the lilies around the floating hotel, we counted a total of nine Squacco Herons! Two Hobbies also flew in to perch in a tall tree, quite close to the Floatel.

After breakfast, we set off once again on the launch to visit Lake Catavaia, where we found our only Black-necked Grebes of the tour, along with several more Red-necked Grebes. We passed close by many nesting Whiskered Terns, and enjoyed picking out several Black Terns and a solitary White-winged Tern, all in immaculate breeding plumage. We saw several Night Herons but these were eclipsed by Squacco Herons - we saw 30 before 9am!

We spent the rest of the morning following the Eracle, Stipoc and Razboinita channels. Several pairs of Rollers were perched up on wires; less obliging were the Black Woodpeckers, which we could hear calling from adjacent woodland. To our delight, a pair suddenly flew out and perched briefly, before heading across in front of the boat - we all enjoyed excellent views. Soon after this, we found a pair of copulating Red-footed Falcons in a bankside willow, then a White-tailed Eagle flew high overhead, being mobbed by a Hooded Crow. Just before returning to the Floatel, we visited a colony of Red-footed Falcons, which were nesting in the midst of a large rookery. It had been an amazing morning that encapsulated what birding in the Danube Delta is all about!

The fine weather finally broke in the afternoon, with heavy rain blowing in after lunch. However, it soon cleared and we sat out in brilliant sunshine as we made our way back to Tulcea. Relaxing on the roof deck of the Floatel, we saw several more White-tailed Eagles, Red-footed Falcons and Hobbies. We had another chance to enjoy the songs of both Nightingale and Golden Oriole as they serenaded us from deep cover.

Day 8

Saturday 14th May

Tulcea - Vadu

We enjoyed our last breakfast on the Floatel before saying a fond farewell to the lovely crew, who had looked after us so well. We were met at the dockside by our driver, Florin, before heading straight off for a day on the Black Sea coast. Our main destination was Vadu, a seaside resort that remains relatively under-developed. Although a number of local tourists joined us on the rough road that leads to the beach, it did not spoil our enjoyment of a classic site for both migrants and breeding birds.

Arriving at Vadu, the derelict remains of a sand mining operation can be off-putting, but this scrubby area is a great place to find migrants. The first birds that caught our attention were Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrikes, several of each were sitting up on prominent perches. Hoopoes were feeding in open grassy areas, alongside Northern Wheatears. As we walked through an area of scattered bushes, we began to notice a lot of Spotted Flycatchers; we saw more and more as we walked out towards the coast. Many were obviously tired and sat tight when we walked to within a few metres of them. By the time we left Vadu to return to Tulcea, we approximated that we had seen 100 Spotted Flycatchers!

The reed beds held a good selection of birds and we soon had great views of Savi's and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers. With some diligent work from Florin, we also tracked down three Paddyfield Warblers, a very special bird with a restricted breeding range in Europe. A little later, everyone enjoyed watching our first Bearded Reedlings of the trip. Nearer the coast were a number of shallow lagoons and scrapes, which held a range of wildfowl and waders; we added both Temminck's Stint and Ruff to the tour list.

Collared Pratincoles breed at Vadu in good numbers and we spent some time admiring these beautiful birds as they flew over or sat on their nests, where we could appreciate their superb plumage through the scopes. As we

headed back out towards the main road, we had an unexpected encounter with a very close Eurasian Bittern, as it looked out from reeds right next to the track! This was a great way to complete a memorable day.

Day 9

Sunday 15th May

Danube viewpoint - Somova Forest - Macin Mountains

After a superb breakfast in the dining room of our Tulcea guesthouse, we headed west towards Macin. We broke the journey with a stop at a viewpoint over the upper Danube Delta, which proved to be a superb spot. We paused to photograph a big colony of Sand Martins and then walked down a grassy slope to sandy cliffs where Roller and Bee-eater breed in good numbers, with nearby large poplars holding a colony of Golden Orioles. We had fantastic views of all three species.

The open, oak woodland of Somova Forest held several pairs of Lesser Grey Shrike. We tried to attract Wryneck without success but we had extended views of Middle Spotted Woodpecker and two pairs of Sombre Tit. We had tantalisingly brief views of a Levant Sparrowhawk before it finally glided overhead, giving better views.

We drove on to the Macin Mountains, an area of steppe habitat which offered a real contrast. After a delicious picnic lunch supplied by the guesthouse, we walked along the track over open ground, with a rocky, wooded ridge to our left. It was another bright, sunny day and we saw some superb raptors including Booted Eagles, a Lesser Spotted Eagle and four Long-legged Buzzards. There were several breeding pairs of Isabelline Wheatears and we had unbelievably close views of a pair of Stone-curlews, as they sat close to the path. However, it was the Souseliks that stole the show! This area is home to a high density of these ground squirrels, which nest in loose colonies. As we scanned the dry grassland, their heads kept popping up at regular intervals; we estimated at least a hundred animals were present in this area.

We returned to Tulcea with plenty of time to relax before our last dinner. It was nice to have sole use of the comfortable guesthouse, which has a charming dining room where they serve excellent local cuisine.

Day 10

Monday 16th May

Tulcea - Hasar Lake - Bucharest - London Heathrow

We packed our bags and set off after breakfast for the long drive back to Bucharest. About an hour into the journey, we took a break to check out Hasar Lake, which lies next to the main road. It was a very productive stop! We enjoyed good views of Great Egret, Purple Heron, Squacco Heron and Spoonbill. There were several pairs of Great Reed Warbler and we had superb views of three singing males very close to the road. Other species included Ferruginous Duck, Pygmy Cormorant and Turtle Dove, as well as a couple of large Terrapins.

The drive to the airport went smoothly and we arrived in good time to catch our flight back to Heathrow. We said our farewells to both Florins, who had provided such excellent support throughout our time in Romania. From the Brown Bears in the Carpathians to the huge flocks of Pelicans in the Danube Delta, we had thoroughly enjoyed every day of this superb tour.

Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				4	3	6	5	3		2
2	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				✓				✓		
5	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferrunginea</i>				2						
6	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>					6	12	4	4		
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
8	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>							2			
9	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>						4				
10	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				10	6	40	15			5
11	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					22	40	7	6		3
12	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>								3		
13	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					20	10	6			
14	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				20	35	35	14			11
15	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>							18			
16	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				2						
17	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>			4	85	3	4	2	10	12	32
18	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				2	50	40	13			
19	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					4	9	1			1
20	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>					H	H		1		
21	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				2	14	16	21	2		1
22	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					40	25	45		1	2
23	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		1		2	13	18	8	4	1	5
24	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				2	8	10	6	1		1
25	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				2	6	6	17		2	2
26	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				1	300	100	350	220	500	
28	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
29	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		1			2		1		2	
31	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>					1					
32	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					3	3	11			
33	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				1	8	12	3	11		2
34	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>									1	
35	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				1						
36	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		15	12	8	2			2	2	1
37	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				1					7	
38	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>		2							1	
39	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>									3	
40	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	2	2	9	1	3	1	6	1	4
41	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				6			19	2	1	3
42	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				3	1	2	14	5	4	
43	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓			
44	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
45	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>									2	
46	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				8		8		8		
47	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				4				7		
48	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
49	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				2		1				
50	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				2	1			2		
51	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						3				
52	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						1		2		
53	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					3	1				
54	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				6		10		10		
55	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				6		15		10		
56	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>								2		
57	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				10		4		5		
58	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				8		1				
59	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>								2		
60	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>								30		

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
61	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				✓	✓	✓				
63	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>				1						
64	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				3	30	14	24	650	✓	
66	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					25	4	1	6		
68	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					15	3	6	10		
69	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
70	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					2					
71	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
72	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				2			1	2	2	1
73	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H	3	30	30	22	15	3	5
75	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>		1								
76	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						1				
77	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
78	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				6	6	5	13	1	15	9
79	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					14	3	5		H	1
80	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				30	4	6		28	30	1
81	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				4	1	1	2	12	4	2
82	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>					1		1			
83	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>									1	
84	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>					2	H	1			
85	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		H					2			
86	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					5	1	3			
87	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		8		4	2	3	3	17	2	8
88	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>				3				8	10	2
89	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				H	1	H	H		7	H
90	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		3	5	1						
91	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
92	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		1								

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
93	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
94	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		8	6	2		1				
97	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>									4	
98	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		H	2							
99	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		H	3	4	4	6	6			
100	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			2	2	4	6	5		2	
101	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					H	4	1			
102	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>								3		
103	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>								3		
104	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>				2				2	2	
105	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				3				4	H	1
106	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
108	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		2								
110	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		H			H	H	H			
111	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		2	2		H	1	H		H	
112	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				2	6	6	4	2		8
113	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					H			H		
114	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>								3		
115	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				1	1	2	H	16		2
116	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>								2		
117	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>							H		H	
118	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>						H	H	2		
119	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	1	1	2	H	2		H	
120	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>						H				
121	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		H		1		2	H			
122	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>						H	H			H
123	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		H								
124	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		2	1							

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
125	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			H			H				
126	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			2							
127	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>			2							
128	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
129	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		6	2	1	4	1	1		H	
130	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		4	10	3						
131	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		2	1				H		H	
132	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		3	2							
133	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		2	1		H					
134	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>					H		H		H	
135	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>		2	4	1		1			1	
136	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			1	1	2		3			
137	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		10	1	1				10		
138	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>									30	
139	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		1		1		2		10	2	
140	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			2				7	100		
141	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>					H		H			
142	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>			1							
143	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>				1						
145	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>					1		6	12	4	6
146	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>							1			
147	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>M. f. feldegg</i>				6				2		
148	Romanian Yellow Wagtail	<i>M. f. dombrowskii</i>				1				3		
149	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>M. f. thunbergi</i>				1						
150	Superciliaris intergrade	<i>M. f. superciliaris</i>				4		1		2		
151	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		3	6	2						
152	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
153	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				2						
154	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		6								
155	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
156	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			2							

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
157	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		2	1	2			1		2	2	
158	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			1	1				2	3	3	
159	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		2									
160	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				4				2	5	6	
161	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		2									
162	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				1	1	8			4		
Mammals													
1	European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>											1
2	Greater Mouse-eared Bat	<i>Myotis myotis</i>			1								
3	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>						1					
4	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		1				3				1	
5	Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>		12									
6	European Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>							1				
7	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		2+									
8	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		2		1							
9	Red Squirrel	<i>Scirus vulgaris</i>			2								
10	European Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>									15	100+	
11	European Water Vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>								1			
Amphibians													
1	Yellow- bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>		2+									
2	Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax sp</i>		H		H	1000+	1000+	1000+	H			
3	Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>		2									
Reptiles													
1	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix persa</i>					3		3	5			
2	Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>								1			
3	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>					1						2
4	Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>		2									
5	Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>										1	
Butterflies													
1	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓									
2	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglias urticae</i>						✓					
3	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓								✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
4	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>							✓		✓	✓	
5	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>										✓	
6	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓					✓			✓	
7	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>		✓								✓	
8	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>										✓	
9	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>										✓	
10	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓							✓		
11	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>				✓						✓	
12	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓							✓		
13	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓						✓			
14	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>		✓								✓	
15	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>							✓				
16	Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>									✓		
17	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>										✓	
Other insects													
1	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>							✓	✓			
2	Great Diving Beetle	<i>Dytiscus marginalis</i>											✓

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

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 is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!