

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 - 30 May 2016



Mayfly by Terry Goble



Cardinals by Jean Nobbs



European Roller by Terry Goble



European Brown Bear by Brian Nobbs

Report Compiled by Terry Goble
Images courtesy of Brian & Jean Nobbs & Terry Goble



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Driver: Sorin (Carpathians) and Sorin (Tulcea)

Summary

This tour of Romania gives a flavour of its habitat and species diversity from the cool woodlands and mountains through the hot, flat plains to the incredible Daube Delta. On this visit we enjoyed very warm weather in the mountains and encountered thundery showers in the delta, which was quite unusual. In the mountains, we sought and found a variety of birdlife including Lesser Spotted Eagle, Black Woodpecker and Dipper. However, the highlight of this part of the tour is undoubtedly the European Brown Bear. On this trip, we had superb views of nine bears, including one large impressive male. We were also fortunate that, on this occasion, the bears appeared early in the evening, giving excellent photographic opportunities in good light.

The delta was as spectacular as ever with huge numbers and variety of bird life, from the imposing White-tailed Eagle to the tiny Kingfisher. Many of the group just seem to enjoy the endless procession of cuckoos, egrets, herons, ducks and cormorants passing the boat when we moored up. An unexpected but delightful bonus was a flock of Rose-coloured Starlings, giving excellent views. For some, the sight of a number of freshly emerged Freyer's Purple Emperor was also a lasting memory of this stunning butterfly.

The last two days we spent exploring the habitats surrounding the delta region and enjoyed some more excellent birds. The highlights were probably an Eastern Imperial Eagle and Common Rock Thrush; however, excellent views of Rollers, Bee-eaters and Hoopoes were also greatly enjoyed. The endearing Sousliks also deserve a mention, as these entertaining ground squirrels were encountered in many steppe areas.

By the end of the trip, we had experienced a large variety of birds, mammals and insects, including beautiful butterflies and the slightly alarming Bronze Cricket. However, the enthusiasm and humour of the group made this trip not only interesting but very enjoyable. It was a pleasure to work with you all.

Day 1

Saturday 21st May

Heathrow to Zarnesti

Most of the group met at Terminal Five, Heathrow to catch the 10.55 flight to Bucharest, where we arrived after a smooth flight of just over three hours. We met up with the rest of the group and our local guide Laurentiu, and then made our way to the waiting coach where we met Sorin, our driver for the next few days.

We made our way out of the city, through the mainly arable plains with scattered villages, to our first comfort stop for a drink and stretch. En route, we saw a few relatively common birds, including a pair of Cuckoos, a small flock of White Storks and a smart male Stonechat at the service station. After a few refreshments, we were soon on our way again, and the landscape was slowly beginning to change as we approached the foothills of the Carpathians. We continued to climb through the hills until we reached a peak of around 1000m, before winding back down to a valley below. In the distance we had great views of the Carpathian peaks, some still with snowy caps.

As we drove into Zarnesti, the light was beginning to fade but we made out a few Black Redstarts and a single Little Owl before we reached our first destination, the Pension Elena. After a warm welcome, we were shown to our rooms before meeting up for our evening meal.

Dinner was a delicious home-cooked dumpling stew and we ate in a relaxed and chatty atmosphere. Despite the tiring journey, everyone seemed in good spirits. After dinner we discussed the plans for tomorrow and meeting for a pre-breakfast bird walk. A rather weary group then started to make their way to their rooms as a good night's sleep was seemingly very appealing.

Day 2

Sunday 22nd May

Coltul Chililor Monastery and Stramba Valley

A group of eight met for a pre-breakfast bird walk at 6.30am. We walked around the back of the pension, out towards some open fields with a small stream at the bottom. It was a clear, sunny morning and the snowy peaks looked superb in the morning light. There were many House Sparrows around, Collared Doves calling and Common Swifts wheeling overhead. As we approached the fields, we heard the Black Redstart singing from a rooftop. It unfortunately didn't linger but most had a brief view of the bird. Then a couple of Little Owls grabbed our attention. One flew into a roof cavity, but the second sat obligingly posing for photographs, although keeping a wary eye out. We heard and saw Great Tit, Yellowhammer and Common Cuckoo, and a smart Red-backed Shrike was seen very well in excellent light, showing what a handsome bird the shrike is. An 'acro' Warbler came into view and was a bit of a challenge to identify; however, by elimination and snatches of song we finally called a Marsh Warbler. It was now time to head back for breakfast and get ready for the day ahead.

After breakfast, we set off the short distance to the start of the walk to Coltul Chililor Monastery. It was already a warm morning and we enjoyed pleasant sunshine throughout the walk. En route, we encountered a variety of wildlife including Yellow-bellied Toad, Eastern Green Lizard, and a host of Butterflies, including a fast-flying Silver-washed Fritillary. The birds were also good, with Tree Pipit eventually showing well and Coal Tits calling from seemingly every pine tree. We managed to see about four Nutcrackers, but they were frustratingly skittish and we had mainly flight views. On the slow ascent we also managed to stop and admire the orchids, seeing Green-winged and Lesser Butterfly Orchid. At the monastery, we enjoyed the views and watched the monks going about their business. After a little rest, we headed back down to the bus. En route, Jean found a Camberwell Beauty which was much admired by the group. There were a few more butterflies to add to the growing list as we found some Small Blues. The birds were much the same as on the way up and the Nutcrackers remained elusive. We all reached the bus after an enjoyable walk in the sun, and headed back to the pension for lunch and to rest.

Elena had prepared a three-course lunch and, as we were not going to be back for the evening meal, we also made a packed supper to eat en route. After about an hour of free time, we met again at 3.30pm and set off for the Stramba Valley. After a drive of around an hour, we parked and walked up the valley. It was, by now, quite a hot day, which meant the birds were a little more subdued and harder to find than on previous trips. We saw several Common Buzzards before we eventually located a rather distant Lesser Spotted Eagle, one of the target birds of the day. The warm weather meant that there were many butterflies on the wing, including some very lovely Fritillaries, such as Lesser Marbled and Small Pearl-bordered. A Sooty Copper was also a nice addition to

the butterfly list. Perhaps the bird of the day was an obliging Black Woodpecker which twice flew over our heads giving excellent views of this impressive species. We also later managed to add Middle Spotted and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Among the other avian highlights were Tree Sparrows, Marsh Tits and a Raven, but the valley was unusually quiet for birds.

It was then time to meet up with the ranger and go to the bear hide. At the hide, the ranger scarcely had time to fill the feeders before a mother and two cubs appeared, keen to feed. We watched these bears come and go a few times and then others arrived after they had left. During a lull in bear activity, a Red Fox took full advantage and raided the food, caching it in the surrounding woods! Then the bears returned and on this occasion a large, impressive, male Brown Bear arrived with an adult female and smaller female. Eventually we enjoyed sightings of nine different bears, all in excellent light. It was a fantastic end to a hugely enjoyable day and we made our way back out the hide and to our bus thanking the ranger for our great evening with the bears. As we left the valley it began to get dark, but we were able to see two Roe Deer before we left and drove back to the pension. We arrived back just after 10pm and, after a long day, we skipped the listing and retired to get some welcome sleep.

Day 3

Monday 23rd May

Zarnesti Gorge, Bran and Moieciu Viewpoint.

We started the day with a pre-breakfast walk at 6.30am, with a slightly diminished group. We had much the same birds with good views of the Little Owl and Red-backed Shrike. The Marsh Warbler remained elusive although we could hear three birds singing from the willow thicket. We then made our way back for breakfast and to prepare our packed lunches. On the way back we saw the Little Owl lit up with the morning sun, and managed brief views of the Black Redstart before reaching the pension.

After breakfast we all met up at the bus to leave at 8.30am for Zarnesti Gorge. We drove the short distance through the village and alighted just before the car barrier. From here we walked in glorious sunshine up through the spectacular gorge. During the walk we heard a few Wood Warblers 'trilling', but they remained deep in the Beech forest. We did see Grey Wagtails, Coal and Marsh Tits, but generally birding was quiet. There were a number of butterflies around including some fresh Duke of Burgundy and Dark-veined (also called Mountain Green-veined) White. There were also some larger fritillaries, but they were difficult to identify as they flew by fast (possibly High Brown). Others included Orange Tip and a variety of other whites. We eventually reached the crossroads, which is the most productive area for the Wall Creeper; however, despite a scanning of the cliff faces and listening out for the whistle we were unable to locate the bird. Overhead, there were four Common Buzzards, a Common Kestrel and a small party of Alpine Swifts.

It was soon time to make our way back to the bus and eat our packed lunches by the stream. The woods were still alive with the calls of Song Thrush, Chaffinch and Robins as we sat and finished our lunches. We were soon off again to spend some time at Bran visiting the famous castle and enjoying a coffee in the town. We met back at the bus at 4pm, once everyone had had finished shopping and sightseeing. We did manage some wildlife as the small park next to the minibus had Nuthatches, Linnet, Fieldfare and other common birds. We then set off to a viewpoint, which gave great views of the Piatra Craiului (Prince's Stone) Ridge. We also saw Field Crickets here, but few birds were around. There were also plenty of flowering Green-winged Orchids on the hillside. We then made our way back to the pension stopping to photograph the castle and a very shiny church! We arrived back at the pension at 5.30pm, to get ready for dinner and pack for our journey south towards Tulcea in the morning.

Day 4

Tuesday 24th May

Journey from Zarnesti to Tulcea (Stopping at Pelisor Castle and Lake Hasarlac)

Our first stop today was a walk through a Beech Forest to the Pelisor Castle. After a short time, we heard a calling Red-breasted Flycatcher that was eventually seen well by the group, although it was an immature and lacked the red breast. We also had great views of a Firecrest that flared its crest, displaying the vivid orange crown. At the castle we saw a Dipper by the stream, which unusually stayed in place for quite a while, ensuring everyone had excellent sightings. We then had a walk around the castle, noting mostly common birds, with a singing Black Redstart high on a castle turret. We then strolled back to the minibus to continue our journey.

En route, we had two more comfort stops, which produced two races of Yellow Wagtail at the first stop (*flava* and *drombrowskii*) and a few Corn buntings, which became very common as we continued toward Tulcea. One noteworthy sighting was a small flock of Rose-coloured Starlings that flew over the bus. They were unfortunately only seen by a few of the group and were travelling quite fast, so we were unable to appreciate the detail of these lovely birds, but it was still a pleasure to see them. The second stop produced little of note and we were soon on our way after enjoying an ice cream in the warm afternoon.

Our final stop, at Hasarlac Lake, was very productive and gave the group a flavour of what to expect in the delta. There were a few duck species, including Ferruginous Duck, Pygmy Cormorant, egrets and a Night Heron. In the surrounding woods there were calling Golden Orioles, and Bee eaters were gliding around. A Green-underside Blue butterfly was also seen well and enjoyed by the group. Nearing Tulcea, we also saw a few Red-footed Falcons, which had taken up residency in a Rook colony. In addition, we saw Hoopoe, Hobby and lots of common birds as we drove along. The number of White Stork nests were appreciated by the group, most containing chicks. We arrived at Tulcea around 6pm and quickly got settled on board our floating hotel, with a welcoming plum brandy! We went to our rooms to get set up for the next three days ahead and then all met for dinner.

Day 5

Wednesday 25th May

Tulcea to Caraorman (Lake Iacob) area via Mile 36, Lake Furtuna and Maliuc Village

We met for breakfast at 7.30am; it was a hearty three-course meal. Everyone seemed to be in good spirits despite the gloomy weather forecast. After breakfast we met again at 8.30am to board the smaller boat, and set off down the Sulina Channel to Mile 36. In the meanwhile, the floatel was towed to Maliuc Village to rendezvous with the small boat in the afternoon. The main channel produced little of note, with gulls and cormorants being the most common species; however, when we turned off the main channel, we began to birdwatch in earnest. Very soon the number of species seen and heard was racking up. The elusive Thrush Nightingale was calling all along the channel, but remained out of view. Common Redstart was also, as its name suggests, common, but only a few were seen. Tree Sparrow were also frequently seen flitting amongst the Silver Willows. European Kingfisher was also seemingly everywhere and flew at speed, with a cobalt blue flash as it streaked past. Other highlights included several European Rollers, White-tailed Eagles, Golden Orioles, and a host of warblers, ducks, grebes, terns and herons. We also had our first distant views of Dalmatian and White Pelicans. Not only had we enjoyed great birding but remarkably, despite the forecast, the day was predominantly bright and sunny, and quite warm at times, in total contrast to the storms and hail we thought might be in store. It was therefore a happy group

that met with the floatel at lunchtime; everyone seemed excited about the spectacle of scenery and wildlife that we had enjoyed throughout the morning, and tucked in to a tasty vegetable soup for lunch.

After lunch we had a relaxing few hours being towed to our next destination. Most of the group elected to go to the top deck and continue to watch the unfolding spectacle of birdlife flying in all directions: Rollers, Marsh Harrier and countless other species. We also managed to add European Pond Terrapin to our sightings, amongst the throng of birdlife. We arrived and moored up in the Caraorman area at around 4.30pm. We then met again to board the smaller vessel, and we explored the area around the mooring site. We went down the Litcov channel, which is the longest channel in the delta, stretching from just East of Tulcea down to the Black Sea. We only explored a small section of it, and saw mostly a similar suite of birds, but had close views of Great Reed Warbler singing lustily from the tops of reed stems. On the way back to the floatel, we stopped at Lake Iacob and followed a small group of White Pelicans and one Dalmatian Pelican to the open lake. Here we saw a larger group of White Pelicans, some of which were sporting their vivid red faces in readiness for breeding. We sat for a while and enjoyed the magnificent birds in the glorious evening sunshine. As we turned to leave, the 'barking' Little Bittern climbed to the top of some reeds and flew in front of the boat, a cracking bonus to a delightful day.

We then made the short journey back to the floatel and got ready for the evening meal. We still had enough time to sit on the top deck and watch the continuous passage of birds, whilst listening to Marsh Frogs and Fire-bellied Toads in a warm and stunning evening. Dinner was at 8pm and so we all gathered in the dining room and chatted happily, enjoying our evening meal. After the meal, Laurentiu recapped the day's journey and outlined the plan for the next day. We then went through the bird list and then relaxed for a while before retiring on what had been a great day.

Day 6

Thursday 26th May

Caraorman to Lopatna area

After breakfast, we all met at 8.30am to board the smaller boat to go to visit a nearby village. It was a cloudy and cool morning as we set off; en route we saw most of the usual birds including a fly-over from a Purple Heron. After about 20 minutes we arrived at the village, which had been an industrial mining village. A lot of it was now derelict, but the area had also some fish ponds, which contained some nice birds. As we stepped on shore, we were greeted with calling Hoopoe and Bee-eater: not a bad start. There was a pool at the landing site that contained a flock of feeding Spoonbills in their breeding finery. We picked our way through the derelict site and saw Little Owl and Northern Wheatear, as well as having good views of Hoopoe and Bee-eaters. We walked on to the fish ponds and watched Black-tailed Godwits in flight displays, calling as they tumbled. We had a pair of Collared Pratincole flying overhead but, unfortunately, could not locate them on the ground. Other highlights were a small group of Caspian Terns, Avocets and Black-winged Stilts.

It began to rain lightly, so we decided to make our way back to the small boat, watching for birds as we went. After some coffee and biscuits, we got news that a rainstorm was heading our way so we decided to return to the floatel, to see what would happen with the weather before deciding the itinerary for the afternoon. As we made our way back up the channel, the full force of the rain hit us, luckily we were prepared in our waterproofs and sat out a heavy downpour. We arrived back at the floatel at 11.30am and decided to have an early lunch at 1pm, before seeing how the weather would turn. The thunder, lightning and heavy rain didn't bode well!

We made the decision to go to Lopatna with the floatel and, in between the showers, we watched the birdlife as we gently made our way. We saw lots of the now-familiar birds: Rollers, Cuckoos, Purple Herons, Glossy Ibis and many others. At the mooring site, we even managed to pick up a few new birds, with Black Tern seen and Savi's warbler heard. We all met up at 5.30 to board the smaller boat to explore the channels; however, a thundery storm and heavy downpour delayed setting off. In this break we watched a White-tailed Eagle land on a willow stump and managed to get telescope views. Eventually the rain eased, and we set off to explore a side channel. This was also an entrance to a lake, in which we saw a few Pelicans, Ferruginous Ducks and a number of nesting Great Crested Grebes. As we turned to re-enter the channel, the rain returned and we decided to head for the floatel. As we were leaving, we heard a Penduline Tit and most people eventually managed to get a sighting of the bird, but it was restless. Further on, we saw two Dalmatian Pelicans at close quarters and could appreciate the difference between them and the White Pelican.

We finally arrived back at the floatel as the rain became heavier, and went to warm up before dinner.

Day 7

Friday 27th May

Lopatna to Tulcea

We woke to steely grey skies and the threat of more rain. There were still many birds to see and hear; the Savi's Warblers were reeling loudly, Black Terns rested on the lily pads and a parade of cormorants and herons flew by. After breakfast, we made the decision to go out on the smaller boat to explore the northern section of the delta, winding through narrow channels and along the banks of some of the agricultural areas that had been drained in the Communist era. The decision proved to be an excellent one, as the day brightened and we also enjoyed periods of warm sunshine. It was enough even to bring out some butterflies, such as the stunning Large Copper and some small damselflies. However the birdlife was exceptional, in terms of its diversity and the sheer volume of birds. We had close views of the many Rollers, Squacco, Night and Purple Herons, Red-footed Falcons, Cuckoos and many others. Perhaps the highlights were our first good views of a Penduline Tit, a large flotilla of White Pelicans fishing along a small channel and, best of all, a flock of Rose-coloured Starlings that flew into a bank-side bush, giving excellent views.

We eventually met up with the floatel at 12.30pm, having enjoyed four hours of serenely meandering through the delta backwaters. Now it was time for our lunch, whilst overlooking an enormous reed bed and listening to the bird song whilst we ate. We were even graced with a Penduline Tit giving excellent views a few metres from the side of the floatel.

After a delicious lunch, we set off on the floatel, being towed towards Tulcea at around 2.30pm. The views from up high on the roof terrace were superb: we were at eye-level with the willows and had panoramic views of the enormous reed beds that stretched off into the distance. All the usual suspects were encountered in large numbers, but the highlights included a huge White-tailed Eagle sitting in a tall willow just a few metres from the boat, giving superb views, and many kingfishers whizzing around like cobalt tracer bullets. We also had several Freyer's Purple Emperor, a gorgeous butterfly that we all eventually managed to see as it flew very rapidly around the boat.

All too soon, we reached the main Sulina Channel and then made our way to the mooring point in Tulcea. We were still being accompanied by Caspian and Black-headed Gulls and also Whiskered and Common Terns, but

we had now seen the last of the magical diversity of the delta, at least for this trip. Now our focus turned to the days ahead, exploring the special birds on the land surrounding this amazing wildlife site.

Day 8

Saturday 28th May

Tulcea to the Black Sea (Via: Denis Tepe (Steppe area), Wolf Bank and Vadu)

After breakfast we set off at 8.30am in the minibus, our bags making a separate journey to the Ibis Guesthouse, while we drove south in the direction of the Black Sea coast. Our first stop was in a small steppe area that often contains bird species specific to this habitat type. We turn off the main road and were immediately seeing a variety of species including Spanish Sparrow, Yellow Wagtail races and a sumptuous Black-headed Bunting. This bird, with its canary yellow front, coal black head and chestnut back, drew lots of admiring comments. We watched it for a while before moving on to the steppe at the base of a large rocky hillside. Around the steppe area, we connected with both Northern and Isabelline Wheatears, Tawny Pipit and Greater Short-toed Lark, whilst overhead a Long-legged Buzzard glided over the hilltop, only to be dwarfed by the majestic Eastern Imperial Eagle, one of the largest of European eagle species. In addition to the fantastic birdlife, we also had a European Hare, our first Souseliks, and a few lovely butterflies including a pristine Cardinal. Our busy schedule demanded we move on but, despite its small size, the steppe was giving excellent wildlife viewing.

We next went to the Wolf Bank region, along a poor and rutted road that hampered progress. On the way to our stop, we enjoyed a great variety of birdlife including Lesser Grey Shrike, Rollers, Common Buzzard, Marsh Harrier and several smaller species. We even just had enough time to admire a field of blood-red poppies and purple Larkspur. This also produced a nice Eastern Bath White and several Yellow Wagtails including *flava*, *drombrowskii* and *feldegg* races. We also passed a colony of Bee-eaters, before arriving at a reed bed. Here we managed to locate the sought-after Paddyfield Warbler, but also had brief views of Bearded Reedlings and heard a distant 'boom' of a Bittern. Walking back to the bus, we found a gorgeous Queen of Spain Fritillary with its 'mother-of-pearl' hindwing spots and an Amanda's Blue to add to our butterfly list.

On the way back to the main road, we stopped at a shelter with a small chapel. This was originally planned to avoid having our lunch in the heat without shade, but a thundery shower made the decision even more welcome! We were still able to enjoy Spanish Sparrow and Red-backed Shrike at close quarters as we ate our picnic lunch. After a filling picnic, we were on our way again to the Black Sea coast via a Biosphere reserve near an abandoned factory. On the approach road we saw one or two Calandra Larks flying up from the road ahead. These large larks are always a good sighting.

The pools at the reserve are generally excellent for waders and terns. Although they did not produce the usual variety, as some species had already moved on, there were still many birds to enjoy. The Collared Pratincole were seen well and a pair of Marsh Sandpipers were a good find. We also had 'booming' Bitterns and eventually saw two birds cross over the reed bed. A Stone-curlew was a little unexpected as it flew overhead, but the Redshank, Avocets and Black-winged Stilts were more the usual fare. After admiring a Hoopoe and spotting a Dice Snake, it was time to move on. It was sunny and warm, but a large black thundery cloud was threatening!

Finally we made it to the Black Sea coast. Here we added to our sightings a few new terns: Sandwich, Gull-billed and Little. We also added a few more waders, with Kentish Plover perhaps the highlight. We would have probably stayed a little longer but the threatening storm finally arrived with heavy rain and lightning. We got

back to the van just in time and, despite a slightly premature end, it had been a fantastic day birding in the south of the region. Now we made the trip back to Tulcea, spotting birds on the way.

We arrived back at the guesthouse at 6.30pm and got settled into our comfortable rooms. We all met back up at 7.30 for dinner and enjoyed a relaxed dining atmosphere. Laurentiu outlined the programme for the last full day and then we started the checklist. It was lovely to run back over some of the great bird sightings we had today, and the group seemed to have enjoyed the slightly less frenetic pace, which these last two days can sometimes have. After the list was complete, we all drifted off to our rooms for some much-needed sleep.

Day 9

Sunday 29th May

Babadag Forest to Macin Mountains, back to Tulcea

We all met after breakfast to board the bus for 8.30am. It was a clear sunny morning and everyone was in good spirits for another fine day of birding. Our first stop was at a Hornbeam woodland. There were many good birds around but, as with any summer woodland birding, views were frustratingly brief or partial. We managed to find two Hawfinches out in the open on the path, giving us excellent views of this handsome species. The Icterine Warbler was more difficult and most only had fleeting glimpses. The raptors were a good deal easier to see and it was great to get a nice selection of Steppe and Honey Buzzards, and a fine Booted Eagle (Light Phase) and a few Levant's Sparrowhawks were very much appreciated. There was also a very brief sighting of a Sombre Tit but only Rowan managed to get on to it. There were other birds heard or partially seen, including Woodlark and Ortolan Bunting. After we had meandered along a muddy woodland track, we then boarded the bus and headed off towards the Macin Mountains.

After a drive of just over an hour, we stopped for a comfort stop and then drove the short distance to the mountains. We parked in the shade and Laurentiu and Sorin set up the picnic whilst the rest went in search of birds and butterflies. A pair of Turtle Doves flew rapidly by but most had a glimpse of them, and a Spotted Flycatcher was a little more obliging. Golden Orioles sang close by but, despite searching, no one could spot them until they flew out the back of the tree. Butterflies included a varieties of blues, whites and skippers and a few fritillaries. Lunch was lovely and relaxing in the shade, as it began to get very warm on the mountain side. However, we wanted to find a few of the special birds so we left the comfort of the shade and walk up a path through a valley up into the Macin Hills. We quickly found a Rock Thrush and it was a gorgeous male; unfortunately, it did not linger and only a few of the group got a sighting of it. A little while later we also had great views of an Ortolan Bunting and a pair of Pied Wheatears, whilst over the peaks, a variety of Buzzards were seen, including Long-legged and Honey Buzzards.

We carried on up the valley and saw some lovely butterflies, including Large Copper, Cardinal, Adonis Blue and Clouded Yellow. The Ortolan Bunting could be heard frequently as we ascended. We had better views of the Pied Wheatears and a Northern Wheatear, but it wasn't until we climbed high into the valley that we managed to connect with a pair of Rock Thrush and most of the group finally got reasonable views. On the return walk it was lovely to hear a Nightingale burst into song.

The afternoon was very warm and we slowly walked back to the bus and headed out, spotting a Grey Partridge on the way. The drive back was a bit sleepy as the tiring walk and hot afternoon took its toll! We did still manage about seven Turtle Doves and a number of Rollers, Bee-eaters and a Lesser Grey Shrike on the way back.

We arrived back at the guesthouse about 6pm and then took some time to freshen up after a hot day in the field. We met in the lobby at 6.30 to do the on-line check-in and have a drink, before going to the dining-room downstairs. The atmosphere seemed friendly and relaxed and we toasted a great ten days with some complimentary wine. We thanked our hosts and in particular Laurentiu who had done a great job with logistics as well as his exceptional birding skills. We then did our penultimate checklist before bidding goodnight. The loudest cheer was saved for the news that we didn't have to get up until 8am for breakfast!!

Day 10

Monday 30th May

Road to Bucharest.

We all enjoyed our lie-in and late breakfast before getting our luggage ready for loading on the minibus. We were soon under way and during the five-hour trip we did a little bit of 'birding from the bus'. This proved reasonably productive as we had two Lesser Spotted Eagles and a number of other species including Roller, Bee-eater, Hobby and Lesser Grey Shrike, amongst others.

We stopped for a break after two hours and, in the very warm conditions, had an ice cream to keep us cool. We set off again and continued on to Bucharest. The roads were fine and relatively traffic free so we made good time. The initial ring road was a little slow, but we soon picked up again and arrived at the airport with three hours to spare. We had a little wait to check in and then went through to the gate to board the flight to Heathrow. After a delay, we took off and enjoyed an uneventful flight and made up some of the lost time en route. We all met at the baggage carousel and said a fond farewell after a hugely enjoyable tour.

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Floatel by Brian Nobbs

Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
1	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>										1	
2	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>					4	1	1	1		H	
3	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>					15	✓	1				
4	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>						2			6		
6	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				2	4	10	6	2			
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	10			6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>					2	2		2			
9	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				15	✓	✓	✓				
10	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				2	✓	✓	✓	4			
11	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					H						
12	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					8		20				
13	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				12	✓	✓	✓	12			
14	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					4		4				
15	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	10	3	3	✓	10	3	10	10	6	✓	
16	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	1			
17	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					6	15	1	1			
18	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>								2			
19	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					1						
20	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				1	✓	✓	✓				
21	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				1	✓	✓	✓	6			
22	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	4			✓	✓	✓	✓	12			
23	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					6	10	✓	4			
24	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				4	✓	✓	✓	3	1		
25	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	12			
26	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					✓	✓	✓	12			
27	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					2	6	3	2			

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
28	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				10	✓	✓	✓			
29	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				6	✓	✓	✓	✓		
30	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>									4	
31	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					3	2	4			
32	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				2	✓	✓	✓	10	1	2
33	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>									3	
34	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>				1						
35	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		10	6	6				6	6	
36	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>									4	
37	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>								1	2	
38	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>		1								2
39	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>								1		
40	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>									2	
41	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	4	1	1	10	3	1		4	2	2
42	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				3			6	2		
43	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				3	6	10	6	2	1	2
44	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					10	✓	✓			
45	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
46	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>								1		
47	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>								H		
48	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					2	20		✓		
49	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						20		20		
50	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				6	6	30	2	4		
51	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>									2	
52	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>							5		1	
53	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>									10	
54	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>									2	
55	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>						1				
56	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>									1	
57	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>									1	
58	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>						4			✓	
59	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
60	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>										1	
61	Greater Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>									1		
62	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
63	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>										1	
64	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>								5			
65	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>										1	
66	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>									4		
67	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					2	✓	✓	✓	✓		
68	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>					8	✓	✓	✓	✓		
69	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>								2			
70	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>						4	7				
71	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	6	2			10	2	4	2	2		
73	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>										9	
74	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	2	1	H	3					2	2	10
76	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>							H				
77	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		H									
78	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	1	2	1	1		1		1			
79	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>			9								
80	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
81	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				6	✓	✓	✓	✓		10	10
82	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					✓	1	6				
83	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				4		10	2	✓	✓		4
84	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				2	2	4	2	12	2		
85	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>					H						
86	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>		2									
87	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2	2	2		1					
88	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		1				1	1				
89	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>										H	
90	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					3	2	4				
91	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		10	2	2				3	10		10

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
92	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>				10	1		1	2	4	1
93	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				H	1	H	4	2		
94	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		2	3	1						
95	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		4								
97	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
99	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		1		1						
101	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		3	6							
102	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>									1	
103	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		✓	✓							
104	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	2	2	2	6	1	4	
105	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		3			10	2	✓			
106	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					H	1	2			
107	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>								2		
108	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>								4		
109	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>								1		
110	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>								3	1	
111	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>									3	
112	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	1	1		✓				3		
113	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					12	10				
114	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>									1	
117	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		1					H			
118	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>							H			
119	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	1	H	H	H			
120	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>			H						H	
121	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				H	6	H	6	3		
122	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>							4			
123	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>								4		

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
124	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					2	H	6	H		
125	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>		1	H							
126	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>									2	
127	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					H	H	H	H		
128	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	H		H	H	H		H	
129	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		H				H	H			
130	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		H		H	H	H	H			
131	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		H	H	H						
132	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		H	H	1						
133	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		H		H						
134	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	H							
135	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			3							
136	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>					1					
137	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>				8			15			
138	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
139	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	6	
140	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		6	15	2						
141	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		2		H	H				2	
142	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		1	2							
143	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		3	✓	H						
144	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					H		H			
145	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>				H	H				H	
146	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		2	6	2						
147	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					4		2			
148	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	1									
149	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>								2		
150	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						3		12	3	
151	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>									4	
152	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>									3	
153	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>									1	
154	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				2						
155	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		1	2	1						

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
156	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
157	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>								✓		
158	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		3		1	✓		2	✓	6	✓
159	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				1			2		✓	
160	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>								2	✓	
161	Romanian Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava dombrowskii</i>				1					✓	
162	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		6	12							
163	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		10	✓	✓	4	10	10	✓	✓	✓
164	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>								4	1	
165	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>										
166	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	H	H		✓	
167	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		1	1	1					✓	
168	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			2	20		10	6	6	✓	10
169	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		4								
170	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			H							
171	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>									✓	
172	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				✓				1	✓	✓
173	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		10	4	4					✓	
174	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>									H	10
175	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>									2	
176	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						2	1	3		

Mammals

1	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		2								
2	European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>		9								
3	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		1								
4	European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>				1				1		
5	Musk Rat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>							1			
6	Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>								4	3	

Amphibians

1	Yellow bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>		✓								
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	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
2	Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax sp</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	Fire bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>					H	H	H	H	H	
4	Alpine Newt	<i>Ichthyosaura alpestris</i>		3								
5	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>		1								
6	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>					✓					

Reptiles

1	Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>							2			
2	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix persa</i>					1	2	2			
3	Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>		✓							1	
4	Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>										
5	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>		✓								
6	Slow Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>		1								

Butterflies

Large White, *Pieris brassicae*

Dark-veined White, *Artogeia bryoniae*

Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*

Black Hairstreak, *Satyrium pruni*

Scarce Copper, *Lycaena virgaureae*

Brown Argus, *Aricia agestis*

Adonis Blue, *Polyommatus bellargus*

Freyer's Purple Emperor, *Apatura metis*

Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*

Queen of Spain Fritillary, *Issoria lathonia*

Silver-washed Fritillary, *Argynnis paphia*

Woodland Ringlet, *Erebia medusa*

Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria*

Large Skipper, *Ochlodes venatus*

Small White, *Pieris rapae*

Eastern Bath White, *Pontia edusa*

Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*

Little Blue, *Cupido minimus*

Mazarine Blue, *Cyaniris semiargus*

Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*

Camberwell Beauty, *Nymphalis antiopa*

Map Butterfly, *Araschnia levana*

Comma Butterfly, *Polygonia c-album*

Lesser Marbled Fritillary, *Brenthis ino*

Meadow Brown, *Maniola jurtina*

Olive Skipper, *Pyrus serratulae*

Green-veined White, *Pieris napi*

Orange Tip, *Anthocharis cardamines*

Wood White, *Leptidea sinapis*

Large Copper, *Lycaena dispar*

Green-underside Blue, *Glaucopsyche alexis*

Amanda's Blue, *Agrodiaetus amanda*

Duke of Burgundy Fritillary, *Hamearis lucina*

Peacock Butterfly, *Inachis io*

Painted Lady, *Vanessa virginiensis*

Cardinal Fritillary, *Argynnis pandora*

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, *Clossiana euphrosyne*

Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Mallow Skipper, *Cacharodus tripolinus*

Moths

Burnet Companion, *Euclidia glyphica*
Speckled Yellow, *Pseudopanthera macularia*

Common Heath, *Ematurga atomaria*
Long-horned Moth sp, *Adelidae* sp

Latticed Heath, *Chiasmia clathrata*

Dragonflies

Norfolk Hawker, *Aeshna isosceles*
Black-tailed Skimmer, *Orthetrum cancellatum*
Common Blue Damselfly, *Enallagma cyathigerum*

Common Darter, *Sympetrum striolatum*
Broad bodied Chaser, *Libellula depressa*
Banded Demoiselle, *Calopteryx splendens*

Migrant Hawker, *Aeshna mixta*
Blue-tailed Damselfly, *Ischnura elegans*
Beautiful Demoiselle, *Calopteryx virgo*

Others

Rose Chafer sp, *Cetonia* sp
Red-tailed Bumblebee, *Bombus lapidarius*
Hoverfly sp, *Syrphidae* sp
Hornet, *Vespa crabro*

Dor Beetle, *Geotrupidae stercorarius*
Honey Bee, *Apis mellifera*
Field Cricket, *Gryllus campestris*
Great Diving Beetle, *Dytiscus marginalis*

Buff-tailed Bumblebee, *Bombus terrestris*
Bee-fly, *Bombylius major*
Bronze Cricket, *Bradyporus dasypus*
Chafer sp, *Oxythera funesta*

Plants

Asarabacca, *Asarum europaeum*
Bladder campion, *Silene vulgaris*
Ragged robin, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*
Kidney vetch, *Anthyllis vulneraria*
Mountain valerian, *Valeriana Montana*
Yellow wood violet, *Viola biflora*
Bladder gentian, *Gentiana utriculosa*
Greater Meadow Rue, *Thalictrum aquilegiifolium*
Viper's bugloss, *Echium vulgare*
Basil-thyme, *Clinopodium acinos*
Large speedwell, *Veronica austriaca teucrium*
Sainfoin, *Onobrychis vicifolia*
Great Masterwort, *Astrantai major*
Honey-scented Wallflower, *Erysium odoratum*

Nottingham catchfly, *Silene nutans*
Carthusian pink, *Dianthus carthusianorum*
Transsylvanian columbine, *Aquilegia transsylvanica*
Dusky cranesbill, *Geranium phaeum*
Wild pansy, *Viola tricolour*
Common rockrose, *Helianthemum nummularium*
Carpathian gentian, *Gentianella* sp
Sickle-leaved Hare's-ear, *Bupleurum falcatum*
Meadow clary, *Salvia pratensis*
Yellow toadflax, *Linaria vulgaris*
Swallow-wort, *Vincetoxicum album*
Coral-root Bittercress, *Cardamine bulbifera*
Sanicle, *Sanicula eurpaea*
Spurge Laurel, *Daphne mezerium*

Sticky catchfly, *Lychnis viscaria*
Pink, *Dianthus spiculifollius*
Globeflower, *Trollius europaeus*
Alpine flax, *Linum alpinum*
Violet, *Viola declinata*
Alpine bells, *Cortusa matthiola*
Willow Gentian, *Gentiana asclepiadea*
Mountain Clover, *Trifolium montana*
Whorled Meadow Clary, *Salvia verticillara*
Nettle-leaved speedwell, *Veronica urticifolia*
Large Yellow Foxglove, *Digitalis grandiflora*
Shining Cranesbill, *Geranium lucida*
Orpine, *Hylotelephium telephium*
Water Avens, *Geum rivale*

Eidelweis , *Leontopodium alpinum*

Elecampane, *Inula helenium*

Cream scabious, *Scabiosa ochroleuca*

Peach-leaved bellflower, *Campanula persicifolia*

Purple vipergrass, *Scorzonera purpurea*

Mountain sisyrinchium, *Sisyrinchium montanum*

Sword-leaved helleborine, *Cephalanthera longifolia*

Common Twayblade, *Listera ovate*

Heath spotted orchid, *Dactylorhiza maculata var transsilvanica*

Heart-shaped marsh orchid, *Dactylorhiza cordigera*

Bug orchid, *Anacamptis coriophora*

Bog orchid type, *Orchis elegans*

Crested Lousewort , *Pedicularis comosa*

Cornflower, *Centaurea cyanus*

Spiked rampion, *Phyteuma spicatum*

Arnica, *Arnica Montana*

Martagon lily, *Lilium martagon*

White false helleborine, *Veratum album*

Broad-leaved helleborine, *Epipactis helleborine*

Lesser butterfly orchid, *Platanthera bifolia*

Heath spotted orchid, *Dactylorhiza maculate var schurri*

Pink globe orchid, *Traunsteinera globosa*

Early purple orchid, *Orchis mascula*

Military Orchid, *Orchis militaris*

Wood Cow-wheat, *Melampyrum nemorosum*

Cypress Spurge, *Euphorbia cyparissias*

Spreading bellflower, *Campanula patula*

Carpathian leopardsbane, *Doronicum sp*

Siberian iris, *Iris sibirica ruthenica*

White helleborine, *Cephalanthera damasonium*

Bird's nest orchid, *Neottia nidus-avis*

Fragrant orchid, *Gymnadenia conopsea*

Early marsh orchid, *Dactylorhiza incarnate*

Green-winged orchid, *Anacamptis morio*

Bog orchid, *Orchis palustris*



Dalmatian Pelicans by Brian Nobbs



White-tailed Eagle by Brian Nobbs