

# Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

10 - 19 September 2016



Crested Tit, Carpathian Mountains



Wood Sandpiper, Tulcea area



Juvenile Little Bittern



Lesser Fiery Copper

Report compiled by Jason Mitchell  
Images courtesy of Angie & Paul Gavens



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Tour participants: Jason Mitchell (Naturetrek), Florin Palade (Local Guide) with 13 Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

Saturday 10th September

Sunny, 31°C

Florin and I met with the group at Bucharest Airport, whose flight had arrived on time. With luggage safely stowed, we drove north across the plains to Ploiesti and then north-west into the mountains. We arrived at our comfortable guest house in the small Transylvanian town of Zarnesti in time to enjoy a glass of 'Dracula's tears', compliments of our wonderful hosts, Gigi and Elena. After finding our rooms, we settled down to enjoy the first of many wonderful meals together.

## Day 2

Sunday 11th September

Sunny, 28°C

Our first morning was spent enjoying the splendour of the Zarnesti Gorge, a breath-taking location used in several Hollywood feature films. As we entered the gorge, following the route of a small stream, a Grey Wagtail flashed by and both Coal and Marsh Tits called frequently from deep within the emerald-green foliage. It was not long before we heard the distinctive, nasal calls of Willow Tit and, once located, we were able to discuss some key plumage features that help separate it from the confusingly similar Marsh Tit. Progressing along the gorge, a high-speed Alpine Swift proved to be the only of its kind seen during the tour and was shortly followed by a high-flying Crag Martin. With the sun climbing higher in the sky, rising temperatures in the gorge encouraged several species of butterfly to take to the wing, included such exciting species as Camberwell Beauty and Water Ringlet. As we headed back to the waiting bus, the cries of a Black Woodpecker echoed around the gorge, but frustrated us by staying well hidden.

Returning to the guest house, we were treated to a three-course meal before heading out once more, this time to the Stramba Valley. Immediately on arrival a large bird was identified as a Black Stork, just before it disappeared into adjacent woodland. Ambling at a gentle pace, enjoying the views and good weather, we spotted several small birds in the hedgerows, the best being a small group of migrating Willow Warblers and a family of Yellowhammers. However, the hoped-for breeding pair of Lesser Spotted Eagles didn't show, perhaps having already left for their winter quarters.

Leaving the lower slopes behind, we headed further up the valley to our evening destination, a hide where we hoped to observe Brown Bears. On meeting the warden, we quietly made our way to the hide which overlooks a large woodland clearing. After a short wait, a female Brown Bear entered the clearing and started to search for food which had been hidden in various logs and trunks. Later, we were joined by a second bear, along with a feral dog and shortly the two entered into a brief stand-off. Initially it appeared the bear had the upper hand but the increasingly agitated dog started to bark and this sent the bear running into the forest. However, our disappointment was short-lived as, after a while, a third female returned and was later joined by two fine males. Leaving the reserve, we headed home feeling most privileged by what we had witnessed. But there was more to come, as at the edge of the forest a Ural Owl sat motionless on a fence allowing us incredible, close views before eventually slipping silently into the darkness; this much sought-after, elusive species rounded the day off nicely.

## Day 3

Monday 12th September

Sunny, 28°C

Following breakfast, a short drive found us in the Piatra Craiului National Park. We parked in view of the towering limestone ridge and, on leaving the minibus, we started on a walk along the base of the slope. It was not long before we heard the metallic, Jay-like call of a Nutcracker and, moments later, one came into view as it flapped on broad wings overhead, showing off its white vent and tail tips. The species spends much of its time within the conifer forest but in the autumn is often tempted from cover by the hazelnut crop. A solitary Red-backed Shrike was seen on its bush-top lookout in search of prey and dozens of Tree Pipits passed overhead, betrayed by their thin, reedy flight-calls. Birds of prey were in short supply, so two Honey Buzzards were a welcome sight and a vocal Kestrel was never far from view. Butterflies in contrast were numerous, with at least two species of Clouded Yellow on the wing; this is a tricky family to identify and, in the absence of a net, we could only guess at their precise identification, with Berger's and 'common' Clouded Yellow being the most likely candidates.

Our next destination was Castle Bran, the reputed former abode of Vlad the Impaler, where the group spent a pleasant hour, with some also finding time for afternoon tea before returning to the bus. Assembled by the carpark, a powerful raptor cruised overhead and we all enjoyed exciting views of a hunting Goshawk.; moving on to a local beauty spot which boasts breath-taking views of the surrounding Carpathian landscape we were flabbergasted when two more flew past, a male shortly followed by a juvenile female!

En route to the hotel we made a final stop in search of a pair of breeding Great Grey Shrike; our luck was in, with both posing in the late afternoon sun. As we looked on, several falcons came into view and, before long, about 30 Red-footed Falcons were hunting high in the sky above us. As we enjoyed the spectacle, the large and distinctive silhouette of a Lesser Spotted Eagle flew south. Still buzzing, we returned to our accommodation for our final evening in Zarnesti.

## Day 4

Tuesday 13th September

Sunny, 28°C

Bidding farewell to our hosts in Zarnesti, we left the mountains for the Danube Delta, via Ploiesti. Our route took us across the open plains fairly close to Bucharest then east towards Tulcea. On this occasion there was little evidence of raptor migration, with relatively few birds seen other than a couple of Common (Steppe) Buzzards and Marsh Harriers.

At midday, a walk around a poplar plantation produced some interesting small birds; Spotted Flycatchers were particularly numerous, with smaller numbers of Willow Warblers and a single Common Redstart, but it was a Red-breasted Flycatcher that produced the greatest excitement. Great Spotted and Syrian Woodpeckers put in brief appearances but both were reluctant to hang around. Other interest was added by a large Wasp Spider and several butterflies, including a stunning Queen of Spain Fritillary.

Following a second stop for refreshments and ice creams (the latter a popular choice), we took a walk along the shore of a lake which boasted several species of wader; the first to catch our attention was a small flock of Black-tailed Godwit which soon took to the air showing off their striking broad, white wing bars. Lapwing were

numerous but we were a little surprised to find 20 or so Golden Plover flying alongside them. A posse of 10 Spotted Redshank flew over calling noisily, but it was a stunning juvenile Marsh Sandpiper, posing beautifully on the shore, which proved to be the bird of the day.

Our last stop took in Lake Hasar, which was alive with a wide variety of water birds. Here we enjoyed our first views of Pygmy Cormorant and a few distant White Pelicans. Ducks were numerous and included Shoveler, Gadwall and a couple of Garganey. On the shoreline, three confiding Wood Sandpipers shone in the low sun, highlighting the beauty of their gold-spangled plumage, while both White and Yellow Wagtails picked at the mud for morsels.

A final leg saw us arrive in Tulcea in time to enjoy an aperitif ahead of a sumptuous dinner aboard the floating hotel which would be home for the next few days.

## Day 5

## Wednesday 14th September

Sunny, 29°C

After breakfast, we boarded a launch allowing us to explore some of the Delta's network of smaller channels. With Kingfishers zig-zagging ahead of the boat, we enjoyed views of Little and Great Egrets, a fly-over Night Heron and our first Squacco Herons of the trip; a popular species that featured many times during our time on the Delta. Raptors were in evidence too, with Marsh Harrier, Common Buzzard and the mighty White-tailed Eagle seen during our first foray into the Delta. Stopping at the entrance to a protected lake, we searched through the masses of waterbirds in search of scarcer species, and were happy to find our first Dalmatian Pelican and Ferruginous Duck, singletons of each. After a welcome hot drink, we continued on our way and soon saw the first of many large flocks of White Pelicans, some numbering several hundred, circling on thermals high overhead. Shortly before arriving back at the floating hotel, we spotted a juvenile Purple Heron struggling to swallow an unfortunate Grass Snake: of course, its fate was sealed. Moments later this was followed by perhaps the most popular sighting of the morning, another heron, this time the diminutive Little Bittern; a juvenile with streaked plumage rather similar to its 'great' cousin.

Following lunch on the floating hotel, we headed out on the smaller vessel once more, turning onto the 'Old Danube' channel. Again, Squacco Herons were numerous, as were Hobbies, with dozens hawking tirelessly for their dragonfly prey. With our afternoon spent on a larger channel, sightings were fewer, but this was amply compensated by the sighting of a perched Osprey eating a fish, 'guarded' by a Hobby and two Magpies, the latter no doubt hoping for some left-overs. With the floating hotel in sight, a final sortie down a smaller channel produced wonderfully close views of two young Hobbies which seemed to be sparring, perhaps honing their new-found aerial skills, with both beautifully lit by the glow of the setting sun.

## Day 6

## Thursday 15th September

Sunny, 26°C

Again, we woke to cloudless skies but with more of an autumnal chill in the air. Leaving the floating hotel behind, we entered the same smaller channel we'd briefly explored the evening before, this time heading for Letea, a small, sleepy Delta village with a largely Ukrainian population. Once more, Hobbies and Squacco

Hérons were abundant, with plenty of Kingfishers as well. Our first duck of the morning came in the form of the rather splendid Ferruginous Duck; a drake was quietly dabbling in a small bay alongside two females and the low sun highlighted their attractive, rusty-toned plumage. A little further on, three more ducks were also dabbling for their breakfast; these were Garganey, but having already moulted into eclipse plumage, they were a little trickier to identify.

Reaching the village, we set about a short walk, admiring the traditional buildings which are attractively painted in blue and white, except for the church which was pink and white! Small frogs leapt in all directions as we crossed an area of damp grass and a flowery corner held several species of butterfly, ranging from the stunning, almost gaudy Large Copper to the more sombre but delicately marked Lang's Short-tailed Blue. In the same area Red-breasted Flycatchers seemed to call from every bush, no doubt 'snacking' on the abundance of butterflies on the wing!

Returning to the boat, we retraced our 'steps' back to the floating hotel in good time for lunch. En route a similar list of bird species was noted, but we did add a Musk Rat and Grass Snake to the day's sightings.

The afternoon outing took us on a route crossing a series of lakes and gave the opportunity to see some large flocks of ducks: Ferruginous Duck was the most numerous totalling hundreds of birds, with good numbers of Shoveler, Gadwall and Teal also present. Dalmatian Pelicans were spotted mostly as singletons, with one in particular eyeing-up a fisherman's net, probably looking for a free meal! Terns were also active and new species seen included a single Black Tern and several Caspian Terns; an impressively large tern, approaching a Herring Gull in size and with a large, 'carrot-like' beak. As ever, herons were well represented: a Little Bittern delighted all as it posed beautifully out in the open and Squacco numbers were very nearly surpassed by those of Night Heron, which seemed to erupt from every Willow thicket we passed. Possibly the greatest surprise of the day was the sighting of a European Mink, seen scurrying along the river bank in full daylight; sadly, it seemed to be carrying an injury to its tail and this may have explained why this typically nocturnal Mustelid was active by day. However, the most popular finds were birds of prey, with an immature White-tailed Eagle making a very nice fly-by at the final lake, bathed in late afternoon sun, but this was surpassed by an Osprey carrying a large carp whilst being mobbed by a Marsh Harrier also in search of a fish supper!

## Day 7

Friday 16th September

Sunny 24°C

Under a clear sky, most of the group headed out for an optional pre-breakfast boat trip to watch the sun rise over a nearby lake. As we progressed through narrow channels, several Night Herons burst from cover, flapping frantically. Once at the lake, the engine was switched off and we admired a lone White Pelican with pink-flushed plumage enhanced by the rising sun. Good numbers of Ferruginous Duck were present too and, as we scanned the expanse of water, an impressive variety of other waterfowl were identified. With breakfast calling, we headed back enjoying views of Purple Heron, Wood Sandpiper and Garganey along the way.

Breakfast over, we boarded the launch and headed towards Lake Fortuna, exploring some smaller channels along the way. A smart Little Bittern was first to break cover; as previously, it was a juvenile, with most of the adults having already left the Delta for their wintering quarters. As we approached a small lake, three Kingfishers seemed to take turns in posing for the cameras, each darting off when we got too close. At the mouth of the

lake, the distinctive 'pinging' of Bearded Tits alerted us to their presence and we were delighted to spot them feeding at the top of some reeds, just metres from the boat. The males were striking with their outlandish moustache-like malar stripes, the females were less showy but still a treat to see. Suddenly, the tits took to the wing, flew over the boat and vanished into the reeds. Turning our attention to the open water, three Spotted Redshank caught our eye as they flew past calling noisily before eventually landing on a sandbank in a far corner of the lake. Back out on one of the larger channels, we headed to a spot known to be a good haunt for Caspian Terns and were not disappointed as we found at least 30 birds resting in amongst a larger flock of gulls. Rising up, they did a short circuit of the boat before alighting once more on the mud. Moving on, we continued through the maze of waterways before reaching Lake Fortuna; distant Pygmy Cormorants were fishing in large groups but it was a huddle of 11 White Pelicans doing the same that drew our attention. With the skipper gently edging us closer, he cut the engine and we looked on in awe as these magnificent birds gave an expert demonstration of synchronised swimming worthy of the Olympics! As we had come to expect, Squacco Herons, various ducks and swans were all numerous, the latter especially so with perhaps 40 drifting serenely close to the lake shore. Leaving the lake behind we were soon back at the 'flotel'.

After another fine lunch, the remainder of the day was a relaxed affair, birdwatching from the top deck as we slowly returned to Tulcea. During the journey, a number of impressive White-tailed Eagles soared high above, as did the odd Marsh Harriers, and the dashing Hobby was only outdone by an even quicker Peregrine that put in a rare appearance so early in the season. With Tulcea almost in view, the group reflecting on what had been an enjoyable time on the mighty Danube.

## Day 8

Saturday 17th September

Sunny, 32°C

Our first stop of the day was at an area of wooded steppe close to Tulcea, and it was not long before our key target species made it onto the list, the Sombre Tit. Coloured in shades of brown and black, it lives up to its name, but its cheery call and active nature more than compensate for this. Woodpeckers were much in evidence too, with Middle Spotted seen well, along with Great Spotted, and Grey-headed. The sweet, high notes of a Woodlark wafted on the breeze as it made a song-flight over the trees. A fine, adult Long-legged Buzzard made a flight across the slope, allowing us to view its un-barred rufous tail, the most reliable identification feature of this majestic bird of prey. Returning to the bus, a Praying Mantis posed patiently for the cameras on Neil's shoulder and a Spur-thighed Tortoise added even more variety.

After another short drive, we arrived at a large woodland adjacent to a monastery known as Cilic Dere where we enjoyed lunch. Almost immediately, a couple of Hawfinch landed in trees above us; although views were brief, there were dozens flying over open areas between the trees, with everyone eventually making contact with this usually elusive species. The site is well-known for its diverse woodpecker fauna and we weren't to be disappointed as the air was full of their calls. Moving up a slope into an orchard at the edge of the woodland, we were rewarded with excellent views of a Syrian Woodpecker. Other interest came in the form of butterflies with a total of five fritillary species identified: Silver-washed, Queen of Spain, Knapweed, Weaver's and the large and impressive Cardinal.

Well-fed and back on the bus, we headed towards the town of Macin. After passing through the town we were soon on a dusty track which leads to the National Park. Our search for Susliks, a type of ground squirrel, was

unsuccessful; this was most likely due to the unseasonably hot weather as they seemed to have already retreated underground to hibernate. However, the same conditions had led to a mass invasion of Migrant Hawker dragonflies dispersing in search of water and literally thousands swarmed in all directions, making for quite a spectacle. Disembarking, we set off on a short walk into the Oriental Hornbeam woodland at the base of the Macin Hills, the home of Sombre Tit and Grey-headed Woodpecker; the first was only heard but the latter was seen making its distinctive bounding flights between trees. Leaving the woodland, we walked to a ridge with amazing 360° views of the hills, and a perfect spot from which to look for passing raptors. No sooner had we made it to the ridge than a smart, pale-phase Booted Eagle drifted overhead, closely followed by the distinctive silhouette of a Short-toed Eagle, bringing the tour total to an impressive four species of eagle!

## Day 9

Sunday 18th September

Sunny with late cloud, 29°C

Leaving the hotel for the last time, we were back on the bus once more and heading south. We drove a short way to Denize Tepe (Hill of the Sea), an impressive steppe-land hill which towers over the surrounding flat-lands which were once covered by water. Careful scanning produced a Little Owl perched on a telegraph pole, and one of the location's specialities, a Long-legged Buzzard, glided low overhead, revealing its distinctive rusty-coloured tail.

Moving on, we stopped briefly at a service station and an adjacent area of rough ground held some Crested Lark sporting their spiky crests. Turning off the main road, we travelled a rough track before reaching a spot with extensive views over a lake below. Although distant, with the aid of a scope it was possible to pick out several waders: Ruff, Avocet and Spotted Redshank were scattered along the shore. Ducks were also plentiful and included good numbers of Pintail and Shoveler. A trio of Black-necked Grebe were a welcome addition as was a single Dalmatian Pelican. Our next stop failed to locate any Pallas's Gulls at their traditional roost site but we did find a number of Curlew; being juveniles with shorter bills they required careful scrutiny to distinguish them from the very similar Whimbrel. Leaving the site, a watchful Little Owl surveyed us from its burrow in a small sandstone cliff.

With lunch on our minds, we drove to a shady spot where a small chapel nestles at the edge of a False Acacia plantation. Yet another Little Owl (making it three for the day) was spied as it perched briefly on top of an old Spanish Sparrow's nest. Little else moved within the dense tree cover but dozens of Southern Darter dragonflies rested along a wire fence.

Our next stop was Lake Sinoie in search of waders, but before reaching the water we were pleased to flush three Turtle Doves from the edge of a field, immediately followed by a Hoopoe. At the lake shore there were many dozens of birds, a quick scan revealing eight species of wader; Dunlin were the most numerous with a supporting cast of Little Stint and Curlew Sandpiper which were a delight to watch as they picked at the mud.

Leaving the lake, the same Hoopoe seemed to escort us away, while we spotted the equally exotic-looking Bee-eater hawking for insects at the edge of a village; having stopped to watch its graceful antics for a while we pressed on towards the Black Sea. On arrival some of us headed along the shore in search of birds, while others enjoyed a paddle and an intrepid Jenny went for a swim. Caspian Gulls were ever-present but these were outnumbered by hundreds of elegant Mediterranean Gulls with lesser numbers of Yellow-legged Gulls. Terns



were few but a handful of Sandwich Terns fished a little way off-shore where a couple of winter-plumaged Black-necked Grebes bobbed in the surf. A distant flock of waders chased breaking waves, behaviour so typical of Sanderlings. Just before leaving, a small group of porpoises were spotted off-shore and it was something of a highlight to admire the behaviour this endemic subspecies of the Black Sea. With a drive of an hour or more ahead of us, we made a final, brief stop at a basin where two Little Gulls roosted in the company of several waders, including a single Little Ringed Plover and Black-winged Stilt.

Reluctantly we boarded the bus and headed back to Tulcea for our final dinner of the tour and to reflect on what had been an amazing holiday, experiencing some of Romania's best wildlife and landscapes.

## Day 10

Monday 19th September

Cloudy with showers, 18°C

Leaving Tulcea behind, we set-off for Bucharest airport. Due to the dull weather conditions, there was no evidence of any raptors or pelicans on the move. However, we were delighted to have enjoyed such fine weather during the tour and it was almost a relief to undertake the airport transfer without the need for air conditioning. We arrived at the airport in good time to say our goodbyes and after a smooth flight, the group arrived safely back in the UK a few hours later.

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## Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
1	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>										5
2	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	✓						✓			✓
3	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>					1000s	✓	✓			✓
4	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
5	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				✓						✓
6	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>										4
7	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				✓		✓	✓			✓
8	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
9	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				✓		✓				✓
10	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				✓						✓
11	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>				2		3	3			
12	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
13	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
14	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					1	100s	100s			
15	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
16	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓		✓	✓			
17	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>										3
18	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		1		3	6	3	3			
19	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				5	4	2	3			
20	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					1	1	2			
21	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					1	50+	15+			
22	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					50+	100+	40+			
23	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
24	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					2	2	1			1
25	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		1
26	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
27	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				6	1000s	10+	30+			50+
28	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					1	6				1
29	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				20+	100+	30+	100+			6

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
30	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
31	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>					1	3	1		
32	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			2						
33	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				1	5	3	6		
34	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			1?					1	
35	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			1	10+	2	5	5	2	15+
36	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>									1?
37	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		2	3	3	1	1		4	
38	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>			3						
39	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	2	2	4	6	1			3	1
40	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>								3	8
41	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>			1					1	
42	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>								1	
43	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	3	2	6	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
44	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>			30+	2	2				
45	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				1	20+	30+	15+	2	
46	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				1			1		
47	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>					1		1		
48	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
49	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
50	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>									2
51	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>									100+
52	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓		✓	✓		
53	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>				20+					
54	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>									2
55	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>									2
56	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>									1
57	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				✓	✓		✓		✓
58	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				20+	1		2		
59	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>									4
60	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				10	3		3		20+
61	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>				1					

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
62	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				3			2		10+
63	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					4				
64	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				4	2	11	3		1
65	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>									20+
66	Curllew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>									15+
67	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>									60+
68	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>									20+
69	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				1					30+
70	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>				h					
71	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
72	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>									2
73	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>									100+
74	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>									40+
75	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					3	10+	30+		
77	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>					1				10+
78	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				✓	✓		✓		
79	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
80	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>						1			
81	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓	✓					✓
82	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>									3
84	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
85	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>		1							
86	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>									3
87	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		1							
88	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓								
89	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>								1	
90	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
91	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		h							1
92	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>									2
93	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>		2h			3h	2	2	3	

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
94	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>									6	
95	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>				1					4	
96	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2		1	✓	✓	✓	✓		
97	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		1h			2					
98	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		2	h							
99	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					3	3	2	4		
100	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>			2							
101	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		1	2			1		2	4	
102	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓		
103	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
104	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		h	20+							
105	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	
106	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓			✓				✓	✓	
107	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
108	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		4	10+							
109	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓								
110	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>									10+	
111	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		4								
112	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		✓	✓							
113	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>		h	6							
114	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
115	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
116	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					h		h			
117	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>				1+			6			
118	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>										2
119	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>										3
120	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>									2	
121	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>										✓
122	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
123	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		1								
124	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		h	h		h		h			
125	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		2		6			h	h		

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
126	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
127	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>						1			
128	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>							1		
129	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>				h					
130	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>								h	
131	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>								h	
132	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		h							
133	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		h	h						
134	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	✓						
135	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓					✓	
136	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
137	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓					✓	
138	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓						
139	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓	✓			✓			
140	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓						
141	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				1				1	
142	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			✓						
143	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			✓	20+		✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				1+		10+			
145	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
146	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>					✓	✓	✓		
147	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓							
148	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				20+	✓				✓
149	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓							
150	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
151	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			h						
152	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			✓	✓		✓		✓	
153	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
154	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>						1			
155	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				✓				✓	✓
156	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>								20+	
157	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
158	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					✓	✓	✓		

## Mammals

European Brown Bear, *Ursus arctos*

Wild Boar, *Sus scrofa*

Alpine Chamois, *Rupicapra rupicapra*

European Mink, *Mustela lutreola*

Musk Rat, *Ondatra zibethicus*

Black Sea Harbour Porpoise, *Phocoena phocoena relicta*

## Amphibians

Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog, *Pelophylax sp*

Common Frog, *Rana temporaria*

Common Tree Frog, *Hyla arborea*

## Reptiles

Grass Snake, *Natrix natrix persa*

Spur-thighed Tortoise, *Testudo graeca*

Green Lizard, *Lacerta viridis*

Balkan Wall Lizard, *Podarcis tauricus*

## Butterflies

Small White, *Pieris rapae*

Brown Argus, *Aricia agestis*

Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrgus malvae*

Painted Lady, *Vanessa virginiensis*

European Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*

Comma, *Polygonia c-album*

Water Ringlet, *Erebia pronoe*

Peacock, *Aglais (Inachis) io*

Lang's Short-tailed Blue, *Leptotes pirithous*

Silver-washed Fritillary, *Argynnis paphia*

Clouded Yellow sp. (pale), *Colias sp.*

Small Tortoiseshell, *Aglais urticae*

Large White, *Pieris brassicae*

Green-veined White, *Pieris napi*

Lesser Firey Copper, *Lycaena thersamon*

Eastern Bath White, *Pontia edusa*

Camberwell Beauty, *Nymphalis antiopa*

Scotch Argus, *Erebia aethiops*

Queen of Spain Fritillary, *Issoria lathonia*

Freyer's Purple Emperor, *Apatura metis*

Knapweed Fritillary, *Melitaea phoebe*

Clouded Yellow sp. (dark), *Colias sp.*

Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*

Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*

Wall Brown, *Lasiommata maera*

Weaver's Fritillary, *Boloria dia*

Meadow Brown, *Maniola jurtina*

Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Large Copper, *Lycaena dispar*

Cardinal, *Argynnis pandora*

Grayling sp.,



## Dragonflies

Beautiful Demoiselle, *Calopteryx virgo*  
Blue-tailed Damselfly, *Ischnura elegans*  
Southern Darter, *Sympetrum meridionale*

Banded Demoiselle, *Calopteryx splendens*  
Migrant Hawker, *Aeshna mixta*

Willow Emerald, *Lestes viridis*  
Common Darter, *Sympetrum striolatum*



Juvenile European Hobby



Queen of Spain Fritillary



Male Bearded Tit