

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

17 – 26 September 2016



Brown Bears by Gillian Cole



Squacco Heron by Andy Bunten



Wild Boar by Andy Bunten



Autumn Crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*) by Gillian Cole

Report compiled by Andy Bunten
Images by Andy Bunten and Gillian Cole



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Day 1

Saturday 17th September

Transfer from Bucharest Airport to Zarnesti

Sunny and warm. Our slightly delayed flight arrived safely and, with our baggage collected, we met Laurentiu and our driver Toader before heading off north. Across the plains to Ploiesti our main sightings were various corvids with starlings and pigeons thrown in, before we turned more north-west as the dusk set in towards the mountains. We arrived at the small Transylvanian town of Zarnesti at a little after 8.30pm and enjoyed a refreshing glass of 'Dracula's tears' courtesy of our hosts Gigi and Elena before settling down to very substantial meal, our first of many!

Day 2

Sunday 18th September

Piatra Craiului National Park and Stramba Valley

Blue sky and sunny. A beautiful day dawned and a brief pre-breakfast birding session revealed Black Redstart and Fieldfare in the area just around our hotel. Following breakfast, a short drive found us in the Piatra Craiului National Park, where we parked in view of the towering limestone ridge. Chiffchaffs called from the nearby bushes and White Wagtails seemed to be everywhere as we climbed steadily up a stony track towards the forest edge. We were scanning for Nutcrackers when, sure enough, two appeared from the trees and flew past us, calling raucously. Thereafter they appeared regularly, always perching just long enough on the tops of Spruce trees to allow the telescope to be trained on them for a split second before they flew off again. Jays competed with the Nutcrackers for our attention and Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers and Marsh Tits called from the nearby bushes, before a Lesser Whitethroat suddenly appeared and presented us all with excellent views of its masked face. A Firecrest joined the groups of Goldcrests and mixed tits and, aware that it was no longer the breeding season, we attracted it closer by using a sound recording.

Birds of prey started appearing now as the morning wore on: a Sparrowhawk circled above the trees and rapidly gained height before being joined by a Peregrine Falcon which soared briefly over us before heading rapidly away to the north. In a distance a Black Woodpecker called in flight and then produced its 'rain' call. We hoped it might approach a little closer but we had to be satisfied with this distinctive call alone. Still higher up the valley, under some delicate birch trees, we found a lovely Fly Agaric fungus which became the focus of some concentrated photographic effort. To the deep croaking accompaniment of two Ravens we returned to our minibus and thence to our guest house for a very satisfying three course lunch.

After lunch we headed back out to the Stramba Valley and hadn't travelled very far before Laurentiu saw a big bird of prey sitting in a dead tree across a field from us. It was quickly identified as a Lesser Spotted Eagle which some of us saw well through the coach windows but it flew as we poured out of the coach. Fortunately it didn't fly off but gradually gained height above us enabling us to see the distinctive two-tone underwing and the white carpal marking of the upper side. A walk along the valley produced more

Jays screeching away in the lines of trees and Marsh Tits calling from nearby bushes. Just as we were re-entering the coach to leave, another Lesser Spotted Eagle appeared, more distant this time, soaring high above the woodland edge.

Then we were off further up the valley to the hide where we hoped we'd find the main quarry of the day – Brown Bears. We met the warden and drove slowly up the old track before climbing out of our coach and making our way as quietly as possible the short distance to the hide. The tension was palpable as we sat in our rows in the hide, watched the warden put out some food, and waited patiently. For three-quarters of an hour we scrutinised the woodland with baited breath and then a female bear appeared from the left slope and made her way carefully to some food. A fantastic experience for us all, and added to when three more bears, cubs this time, joined in the fun with one of them approaching very close to the hide in the fading light. After about 20 minutes of fantastic viewing the cubs scampered off uphill and we carefully made our way back to coach and back to our comfortable guest house. It had been an amazing and very moving experience for us all.

Day 3

Monday 19th September

Zarnesti Gorge and Castle Bran

There was lots of cloud turning to quite persistent rain, and it was cool. Today we visited the Zarnesti Gorge and the early part of the morning was spent slowly walking up the beautifully wooded lower part of the valley. Mixed flocks of tits called from the trees, including the distinctive trilling of Crested; a Bullfinch's low whistle was just discernible. A Yellow-bellied Toad in a small pond resisted our attempts to obtain a closer view but another one nearby allowed itself to be caught and permitted a detailed examination of its beautiful yellow under-surface and spotted upper-side. Further along, a couple of very black Red Squirrels danced around a tree and peered at us from behind branches. More tits, Marsh, Blue and Great called away and a White-backed Woodpecker joined in the chorus but sadly didn't put in an appearance. We continued upwards to the accompaniment of thunder, darkening clouds and high flying House Martins.

The gorge proper was hugely spectacular but sadly persistent rain set in which eventually meant we felt it best to leave this amazing site and head back to the coach and some drier places. And so we travelled, a little earlier than planned, to Bran Castle and watched hundreds of House Martins circling around, feeding themselves for their migration, while Laurentiu nobly queued in the steady rain for our tickets.

A dramatic roll of thunder and flash of lightening later, we made our way up the hill to enter this fascinating place, steeped in Romanian history and ably interpreted by Laurentiu. With rain abating, we circled the Bran Castle area for some spectacular valley views, Buzzards and Fieldfares before stopping for a while beside a river, in some spate, for views of the Castle unencumbered by unnecessary modern day artefacts but accompanied by wagtails and Black Redstarts.

Then it was back to the welcoming charms of Gigi and Elena and another delicious meal.

Day 4

Tuesday 20th September

Transfer from Zarnesti to Tulcea

Cool, wet and occasionally windy. We'd had a great time in Zarnesti so, rather sadly and to the accompaniment of singing Black Redstarts, we headed off east to the Danube Delta via Ploiesti. We crossed the open plains with hundreds of Rooks, Jackdaws, Starlings and Hooded Crows and learned more fascinating aspects of Romanian history from our ever-knowledgeable guide, Laurentiu. Further east still, we saw Marsh Harriers and Kestrels before our lunchtime stop which had a Hobby flying low overhead as we entered the service station.

The rain continued steadily during the day but some had views of circling Black Stork and more Kestrels and harriers as we headed remorselessly east. Through Giurgeni we had great views of the huge White Stork nests on the pylons – abandoned by the birds themselves now but still with sparrows buzzing to and fro from their undersides. We stopped briefly at Lake Hasar which was clearly a great site but the cool, wet weather and quite windy conditions meant we didn't linger. We were there long enough though to have very good views of a Long-legged Buzzard hunting over a hill to our rear and various ducks and grebes on the lake.

After a final short drive we arrived at our wonderful floating hotel in Tulcea where the river had hundreds of low-flying, feeding Swallows, wheeling Whiskered Terns and young Little Gulls also picking off the myriad of flying insects. A delicious welcoming drink and lovely meal rounded off our day of travelling and set us up for the adventures to come.

Day 5

Wednesday 21st September

Danube Delta – Tulcea to Crisan

Bright, clear cool day. After a delightful breakfast with sun streaming in through the windows, we set off on our smaller boat along the yellow channel route heading east and into the wonderful Danube delta. Chiffchaffs 'wheeted' from the bushes as we glided past and numerous other small birds – Chaffinches, Long-tailed Tits and Spotted Flycatchers – called and flitted in the shadows. Woodpeckers joined in the chorus with Lesser Spotted and Grey-headed being picked up and Black flying past us across the narrow channels.

There were waterbirds galore too, with increasing numbers of Little and Great Egret, two Black Storks and a lovely fly-past of 19 Glossy Ibis. Flocks of Greylag Geese honked noisily across the sky and we encountered our first of many Pygmy Cormorants as we drifted past a lake which also had numbers of Ferruginous Duck, Grey Heron and more egrets. As we rounded a corner we noticed a big dark lump in a tree which quickly resolved itself into a wonderful adult White-tailed Eagle. Reversing engines, we got close to this magnificent bird of prey as it gazed across the distant reeds. Soon after there was more excitement as our first Dalmatian Pelicans, four of them, flew over the boat enable brief, but clear, views of their underwing pattern.

Squacco Herons were appearing very regularly now as we pulled into the edge of Lake Nebunu for some coffee and biscuits and to look across this bird-filled lake. A White Pelican perched on low jetsam a little way in front of us, Squacco Herons were dotted around the floating vegetation looking like so many cream-chocolate decorations and perched Pygmy and Great Cormorants gave a great opportunity to compare and contrast these two species – one very familiar to us all and one most definitely not. Suddenly the assembled throng of more distant geese and ducks rose as one and we scanned the skies to find the cause, quickly seeing two White-Tailed eagles circling high over the lake. A little later the two birds re-appeared, this time low and with hunting intent as they swooped over the lake but without seeming to catch anything on this occasion.

Reluctantly we left this wonderful avian theatre and wended our way back down the reed- and tree-lined waterways. Kingfishers darted to and fro across the river in front of us giving tantalising glances, fleetingly perching and then off again just as camera shutters were poised. We were seeing more waders now, with Wood and Green Sandpipers dashing off the mud banks and Greenshank giving alarm calls as they flew over the boat. A soft but distinctive call was picked up by Laurentiu and we peered into the nearby reeds, straining to catch sight of the Penduline Tits we knew were in there somewhere. Eventually they appeared and we able to get brief views of that distinctive black mask.

We headed slowly back to our floating hotel passing more Pygmy Cormorants, Squacco Herons, Coots, Moorhens and the first of the huge Caspian Terns we were to see in the Delta. We also recorded our first definite fish species as one of the many fishermen was triumphantly hoisting a small Pike onto his boat as we glided past.

A delicious lunch on the floating hotel was followed by some idyllic ‘cruising’, as the tug pulled us serenely along a channel and we sat atop the hotel watching the by now common sight of hawking Hobbies, Marsh Harriers, Greenshanks and Caspian Terns. Allen’s persistent vigilance was rewarded as we gently passed a Golden Jackal trotting along rough paths among the reeds and low bushes.

Later in the afternoon we re-boarded our smaller boat and headed off along Channel Litkov. Huge numbers of White Wagtails, clearly moving through, lined the banksides as they fed up for their migration. More waders appeared too, with Snipe, Green and Wood Sandpipers busily feeding at the water’s edge. Even a Grey Wagtail appeared at the water side – a sure sign of colder weather higher up in the hills. A group of magnificent Caspian Terns, among various gulls, loafed on a mud bank and gave excellent views of their huge red bills.

With engine off we glided along in wonderful silence, disturbing more Kingfishers which flashed ahead of us like little blue bolts of lightning. Bizarrely, a Reed Warbler was still singing from the reeds while in the sky our usual Hobbies were joined by a slightly unexpected fly-past of a male Red-footed Falcon. In the early evening we approached Lake Iacob and were treated to a delightful little cameo of a handful of beautiful white-headed Long-tailed Tits. The lake itself teemed with herons, egrets and cormorants and another Glossy Ibis was added to our list before we set off back to our hotel and girded our loins for another huge meal.

Day 6

Thursday 22nd September

Danube Delta – Crisan to Mila 23

Clear sunny skies, still. A beautiful morning with mist rising gently from the water around the floating hotel was truly idyllic and we watched terns, Pygmy Cormorants, two Black Storks and a Red-backed Shrike from atop before, fortified by our breakfast, we set off on the small boat along more narrow channels. Two distant lumps of earth started a moving around, and we saw that what we'd been looking at were two Wild Boar rooting around for water chestnuts and other aquatic vegetation. As we floated gently towards them, they seemed absorbed in their feeding until we got close when they rapidly beat a retreat back onto firmer ground

Our by now familiar fare of Squacco Herons, sandpipers, Snipe and terns was joined by some excellent views of a juvenile Little Crake, tucked into a gap in the reeds and busily feeding away. A little further on we picked up the distinctive, twanging call of Bearded Tits and quickly found these delightful birds moving around in the tops of the nearby *Phragmites* reeds. At around 9.30am we landed and boldly walked the plank to gain access to a cow-grazed river bank where we had excellent views of a small lake full of Gadwall and with many Mute Swans and Teal as well as Lapwing, Ruff and Greenshank. More Bearded Tits called from the extensive areas of reeds and another juvenile Red-backed Shrike posed low in a hawthorn bush for us.

Back onto our boat for a short period, we landed at an odd site of part dereliction and part inhabited village near Padurea Caraorman. The site was excellent for birds though, and some of the group, picking their way carefully through lumps of old masonry and twisted wire, had excellent views of a Grey-headed Woodpecker flying from a derelict building to old concrete columns and back. Shortly afterwards a swirl of 20 or so Black Storks rose into the air, and various small warblers and shrikes whisked about in the low hawthorn bushes. By the edge of a small lake there were lots of Caspian Terns and a Common Gull too, lurking among the Black-headed Gulls. A flock of fantastic White Pelicans appeared high above us and we watched their slow motion, coordinated flight as they rose and rose above us. We'd scarcely finished looking at these magnificent birds when a Roller was seen in characteristic pose on a telephone wire. Fortunately, though fairly distant, it remained in situ to allow all who wished to get the telescopes onto this much sought-after bird. Walking around the pond, we found a few waders including a Little Stint and, a little later, a pair of Spoonbills flew directly overhead. Shortly afterwards, a Little Owl called from a group of increasingly dilapidated buildings (though with lots of very desirable tiles still present) and John's sharp eyes finally picked it out hiding at the back of an area of collapsed roof.

Back onto our small boat and heading to the floating hotel for lunch, we saw more waders including Ruff, Snipe and a Black-tailed Godwit. We then had another delightful period of smoothly progressing along the Danube's channels, sitting on the top of the hotel and watching the birds and the world pass by. At 5pm we headed off again and soon saw a huge White-tailed Eagle with its 'familiar', a Hooded Crow, perched in a tree ahead. As we approached the eagle took off and its slow wingbeats and huge size seemed to emphasize the great power and regal quality of this marvellous bird. An equally efficient, if perhaps less impressive, predator was in operation on the bank side – this time a Squacco Heron with its

beak full of a massive (and no doubt puffed-up) frog. The bird retreated gracefully behind a tree as we approached to conclude the gulping process of its meal.

At around 5.30 we arrived at Lake Trei Iezere, where Pygmy Cormorants, Hooded Crows and terns perched on emerging sticks and either digested, or looked for, their supper. Coots were abundant and both Little and Great Crested Grebe dived amongst the lush water vegetation. Wood Sandpipers, amazingly well camouflaged, pottered around the floating plants and Whiskered Terns, including one in near adult plumage, dodged and weaved around us. Then it was back once more to our marvellously comfortable floating hotel for more food, beer, wine and birthday celebrations.

Day 7

Friday 23rd September

Danube Delta – Mila 23 to Tulcea

Today's weather was sunny and dry but with a cool wind. It was another beautiful, morning as we gathered before breakfast for our last full Danube day. A patient Hobby was perched on a dead branch, doubtless waiting for the sun to warm up the abundant dragonflies; also of note were two distant White-tailed Eagles, Greylag Geese and calling Reed Buntings. Breakfast itself was somewhat disrupted when a flock of 113 White Pelicans did a majestic fly-past, causing a rapid downing of forks and scooping up of cameras.

Heading off as usual on our small boat we quickly encountered our usual Kingfishers and Little Grebes but then also found a late pair of Red-breasted Flycatchers flitting around in the Bulrushes. A new bird of prey, Osprey, circled briefly above us before heading away south as we emerged from a channel by Mile 23 village and sailed west past another group of sunning Caspian Terns. Arriving at Lake Ligheanca in time for more coffee and chocolate, we saw large numbers of White Pelicans on the distant shore and watched entranced as a White-tailed Eagle came swooping down. After one or two attempts, it struck successfully and we saw it flying away with an (unidentified) fish in its talons.

Sailing along with Kingfishers galore whizzing ahead of us, Marsh Harriers floating across nearby reeds and Great Cormorants perched heraldically on pylons, we were treated again to a swirling mass of some 60 or more White Pelicans rising effortlessly into the sky. The fishermen were out in force today and we added to our fish list by watching one swing in a medium sized Perch and another – our own crew member – capturing a Roach. A bird of prey perched on a tree as we drifted by caused us to about-turn a bit and find out, as it flew off, that it was a Peregrine – which made a change from the abundant Hobbies we were seeing again today. Another lunch welcomed us as we arrived back 'home' and the rest of the day was a very relaxed and enjoyable one gradually returning to Tulcea accompanied by more White-tailed Eagle sightings, Kingfishers, egrets and terns.

Our time in the Danube and on our floating hotel had been a massively enjoyable one and we reflected on some wonderful wildlife sightings and looked forward to the next few days with eager anticipation.

Day 8

Saturday 24th September

Deniz Tepe, Babadag Forest and Black Sea Coast

Today was bright, sunny and dry, although still cool at times. We enjoyed one last breakfast on our floating hotel before we boarded our bus to head south. Before we left we noticed that the river, teeming with swallows when we arrived, was now much quieter with no swallows and only a few terns flitting to and fro: migration in action indeed.

We arrived at the Steppe habitat of Deniz Tepe shortly after 9am and scanned the skies for signs of hoped-for raptor movement. Sadly it was all fairly quiet, although we did see a Long-legged Buzzard floating along and then over the impressive ridge. Kestrels and Marsh Harrier were the only other birds of prey although a few smaller birds –Tawny Pipit, Yellow Wagtail and the ubiquitous White Wagtails – were moving in the tawny, dry grassland vegetation.

After sorting an issue of a rock trapped in our tyres, we drove the short distance to Babadag Forest. A Quail rose up and shot away, giving a few at the front of the group a sighting, and Jays called from the trees but, all in all, it was fairly quiet on the bird front. However insects and reptiles were in evidence. A beautiful Green Lizard and smaller Balkan Wall Lizard scuttled in the dry grass and various unidentified blue butterflies flitted around with Red Admirals and Woodland Graylings. Stars of the show though were a couple of wonderfully sinister-looking Praying Mantids.

A toilet stop at a service station provided us with two Crested Larks and we headed past pepper pickers on our way to the wetland areas at Sinoie. Along the track we saw Red-backed Shrikes, Yellow Wagtails, Marsh Harriers and Kestrels as well as two White Pelicans in the medium distance. Getting out of the coach and walking over some drying out, but still muddy, channels, we noticed a group of Red-footed Falcons sweeping backwards and forwards over a reed bed, together with various gulls and terns. Both male and female falcons were present and we all had good views of these very handsome birds. Waders were in evidence as well, with a dozen Curlew and a few Grey Plovers. Leaving Sinoie, we headed off to a little place of worship with a small garden surround that Laurentiu had specially chosen for lunch. As he and Toader, our driver, set about preparing the meal, the rest of us looked for warblers in the surrounding bushes and found a group of disused Spanish Sparrow nests in the trees nearby.

After our lunch we headed east to Corbu and the Black Sea Coast. At our first stop we found a number of Teal, Gadwall and Mute Swans as well as five Avocets, some Ruff and a Little Ringed Plover that scuttled around the low vegetation and proved quite difficult to get a fix on. Our next stop, by a lake, proved very rewarding with a number of Curlew Sandpipers, Dunlin, Little Stint, Spotted Redshank and a glimpse of a Black-winged Stilt. Two Little Gulls allowed close examination but pride of place went to a lovely Red-throated Pipit found by Sally and John and smartly identified by Allen. As we moved to the coast itself, Laurentiu had a brief glimpse of a Golden Jackal but, sadly, it didn't re-appear. However there was plenty to make up for this as the ponds by the coast had Pygmy Cormorants, egrets, Coot and lots of Little Grebes, while out to sea there were Black-Necked Grebes, that we were able to see well through telescopes, three Dalmatian Pelicans and dozens of Great Cormorants on fishing structures a little off

shore. Sandwich Terns and various gulls flew along the coast and then two distant Pallas's Gulls, among a group of Caspian Gulls, Mediterranean Gulls and Sandwich Terns, were viewable through the telescopes. Gil found a small and beautifully marked Dice Snake gliding across the sand, and to wrap up our visit he also spotted a small pod of Cetaceans –thought most probably to be Harbour Porpoises – just a few hundred yards offshore.

After another great day, we reluctantly dragged ourselves away from this site to go back to our guest house for a welcoming drink and delicious meal.

Day 9

Sunday 25th September

Celic Dere and Macin Mountains

Sun with cloud. We boarded our bus after the now customary filling breakfast and drove south and then west to Celic Dere – a monastery, with some excellent wooded habitat around it, to the north and east of Muntii Macin. We were hoping for woodpeckers and were very quickly successful. We were hardly out of the coach before first Syrian, then Great Spotted and then Grey-headed all appeared in the Walnut trees surrounding the car park. A few minutes later a Middle Spotted appeared and then, walking just a short distance away, we heard a Wryneck and then heard and had good views of a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Green Woodpeckers, not to be left out, started calling from more distant trees but were overshadowed by a nearby Sombre Tit that scolded away in the bushes and then Walnut trees. Seven woodpecker species seen or heard in about three-quarters of an hour!

As we walked along the valley with woods to either side, various tits called; a Blackbird – our first of the trip – flew past as did three Song Thrushes. A Little Owl put on a good show glaring at us from the top of a low chimney stack. Invertebrates drew our attention too with various butterflies enjoying the sun, some very impressive Wolf Spiders emerging from their silken holes, and a colourful *Argiope*-type Wasp Spider crawling over Norman's hands. Hawfinches were known to be present and eventually we tracked at least one down with a flock of Chaffinches, descending from an oak tree to the ground before flying back up to the tree top to allow some telescopic views. The walk back to the coach through the beautiful Hornbeam woodland was less eventful from a bird point of view but a lovely walk all the same.

Back at our coach, we headed off through the town of Macin to the west part of the Muntii Macinului National Park. Here we had our picnic lunch at the base of a granite ridge before going on a short walk into the hills. Frogs called from damp, marshy areas and again various butterflies skipped around and we found a number of different types of beetles including the familiar Devil's Coach Horse. A Woodlark put on an excellent show – singing lustily while perched on a high boulder – and we were all able to get excellent views of this wonderful song bird. A Sparrowhawk circled as we climbed up the ridge and Chiffchaffs called as we descended on what was a lovely walk into a very interesting-looking National Park. I think we all would have welcomed the opportunity to stay longer and walk a little further on the well set-out trail. However this was our last day so we set off back to our guest house fairly early to have our final delicious dinner, do our final wildlife list and sort out the packing!

Day 10

Monday 26th September

Transfer from Tulcea to Bucharest Airport

Our final day dawned with a clear blue sky and sun, but turning cloudy and damp later. We waved goodbye to Tulcea and set off towards Bucharest. Passing Lake Hasar in better conditions than on our outward journey, we had a glimpse of Gadwall and Teal, and a little later near Giurgeni, with its impressive White Stork nests, we saw a swirl of 20 or so Black Storks together with various mixed egrets. Lunch was eaten on the bus and we arrived in good time for the return flight and home.

It had been a wonderful trip with some fantastic sightings – we all agreed we needed to come back to Romania before too long!

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Laurentiu, for his expertise and efforts, to Toader for his careful driving, and to the various hotel staff that made our stay so enjoyable. And thanks too, to the members of the group for making it such an enjoyable and memorable trip.

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Green Lizard by Andy Bunten



Spotted Nutcracker by Gillian Cole

Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>								1		
2	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>					4				3	
3	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	
4	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>					12	40+	40+		✓	
5	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>									12	
6	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>						100+		50+		✓
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	40+				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>									6	
9	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				5	4	10	10+	80		✓
10	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>								10	1	
11	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	2				4	30+	6			
12	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					6	2	4	20		
13	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					2	20+			1	
14	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>				2		1			4	
15	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				2	4	21				20
16	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			8	25	1					
17	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>						2				
18	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					2	1	2			
19	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					60+	✓	30			
20	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			4	50+	✓	6	5		1	
21	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					2	1				
22	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					2	40+	20+	20+	6	
23	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1				2	✓	✓	30+	6	
24	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				1	12	80+	100+	2		
25	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					4				3	
26	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>					✓	✓	✓	20+		
27	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				2	✓	✓	✓	✓	60+	
28	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>							1			

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					4	1	6			
30	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>										
31	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				6	20	12+	10+	18	2	1
32	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1	1				1		3	
33	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>										
34	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		1	2	1	1			1	3	2
35	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				1				1		
36	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>		2								
37	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	4	1	1	10+		2		10	4	2
38	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>					1			7		
39	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				6	20	15	12	2	3	
40	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1					1			
41	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>						1				
42	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					8	8	6			
43	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	40	100+	✓	18		✓
44	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>								1		
45	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>								5		
46	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>					1	20+	6	2		
47	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>								4		
48	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>								1		
49	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				6	4		3			
50	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					1	3				
51	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>								12		
52	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					1		8			
53	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					4	10		2		
54	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					2	2				
55	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					4	3				
56	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					1	1				
57	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						1		2		
58	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								14		
59	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>							7			

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			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
60	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>								8		
61	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>						9		1		
62	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				20+	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
63	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>			6	6				2		
64	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>								2		
65	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>							100+			
66	Mew (Common) Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>						2				
67	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	3			4	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
68	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>								H		
69	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					8	100+	60+	6		
70	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>					1			8		
71	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				15	10	4	12	9		
72	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>			4							
73	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	4	✓	H	5		4	6			✓
75	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>									2	
76	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		H				1		H	1	
78	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>						1				
79	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					20+	6	12	2		
80	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>								H		
81	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>					H				1	
82	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>									2	
83	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>			H							
84	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>									2	
85	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		H			1	H		H	4	
86	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		H			2					
87	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			H						2	
88	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					4	2	H		2	
89	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>						3	1	8		
90	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		20+	✓					2	6	

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91	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
92	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		20+								
93	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
94	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	2	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	2	6	1		1		2			
97	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓	10+							6
98	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>										2
99	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		15+	10+							
100	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			2							
101	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			6		✓	✓	✓		12	
102	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			6+		✓	✓	✓			6
103	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>				3						
104	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>					8+					
105	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>								4		
106	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>								H	2	
107	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
108	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		300+	30		1					
109	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			5		12		H			
110	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>						2				
111	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		6+			12	6		1	2	
112	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					2					
113	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					3					
114	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>						2				
115	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		1								
116	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		1								
117	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		4	1							
118	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H								
119	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			2						4	
120	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
121	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>								1	1	

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122	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		1	4							
123	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>									3	
124	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		1	3							
125	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		2	H							
126	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		2	6						5	
127	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					1		1			
128	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>					4	4			2	
129	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>								2		
130	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2	1	20	6	H	6		✓	✓	✓
131	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						20	6			✓
132	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>								6		
133	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		1	2		2	1				
134	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		30+	1	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
135	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>									1	
136	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>									1	
137	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		6+	6							✓
138	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	H	2							2	
139	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>						7				
140	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	6	30+	10							
141	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>								H		
142	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				H						
143	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>									1	
144	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>								H		
145	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		1								
146	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					1		4			

Mammals

1	European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>		4								
2	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			2							
3	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>				2				1		
4	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>						2				

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			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5	Vole sp									1		
6	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>								3		

Amphibians

1	Yellow bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>				2						
2	Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax sp</i>					1	20+	10+		H	
3	Tree Frog sp.										H	

Reptiles

1	Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>								1		
2	Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>								1	1	
3	Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>								1	2	

Butterflies

1	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓								
2	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>									✓	
3	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>										
4	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓			1	2			1	
5	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>					1				1	
6	Danube Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias myrmidone</i>		✓			1				1	
7	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓								
8	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓			1		1			
9	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>								1		
10	Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>		✓								
11	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata magera</i>		✓						2		
12	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓								
13	Mountain White	<i>Pieris ergane</i>		✓								
14	False Comma	<i>Nymphalis vau-album</i>		✓								
15	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>								1		
16	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>									1	
17	Woodland Grayling	<i>Hipparchia fagi</i>								2		

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Other invertebrates

1	Devil's Coach Horse	<i>Ocypus olens</i>									1	
2	Long Nosed Grasshopper sp									✓		
3	Praying Mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>								2		
5	Wolf Spider	<i>Lycosa narbonensis</i>									2	
6	Wasp spider	<i>Argiope sp</i>									1	
8	Roman Snail	<i>Helix pomatia</i>		1								



Wolf Spider by Andy Bunten



Brown Bear by Andy Bunten

*Crocus banaticus* by Gillian Cole