

# Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

27 April - 6 May 2017

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Grey-headed Woodpecker



Lesser Spotted Eagle



European Brown Bear

Report and images by Jon Stokes



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Tour participants: Jon Stokes (leader) and Florian Stavarache (local guide) with 14 Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

Thursday 27th April

The flight from Heathrow was a simple affair, arriving in Bucharest on time. Driving through the flat lands surrounding Bucharest we saw a few White Storks on the fields and some Mallards on a pond. After an hour of driving we stopped in the foothills of the Carpathians for a coffee, and then we drove into the mountains and passed through the Beech and Spruce forests.

Arriving at our hotel at 8pm, we went for dinner. After food, we went out for a bit of bat detecting in a nearby gorge with great results, picking up Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Daubenton's Bat, Serotine Bat, Northern Bat and best of all a Barbastelle Bat. The sky was also clear and the stars stunning - so a great way to spend our first evening. Then bed - tired but happy.

## Day 2

Friday 28th April

The morning dawned bright, clear and cold, and the sound of cockerels, sparrows and Collard Doves were the dawn chorus. After breakfast we set out for the Zarnesti gorges. Along the path edge, beautiful yellow Anemones (*Ranunculus carpatica*) grew with the white Anemones (*Isopyrum thalictroides*) and as the morning warmed, the first butterflies began to be seen. First up entomologically - a Mountain Small White, then an amazing display from Tau Emperor moths (*Aglia tau*) where the males were trying to locate a female. Finding her, one male paired and then they settled on a Beech twig, looking like an old beech leaf. In the trees, Coal Tits tinkled their call and on fallen logs a bracket fungi called Red Belted Bracket (*Fomitopsis pinicola*) was very beautiful.

On the cliff tops above us four or five Chamois were climbing around in the rocky scree, allowing great views with the telescope. Arriving at a clearing in the gorge, Brimstone and Orange Tip butterflies abounded. Then we located a stunning Wallcreeper which was on one of the vertical rock faces. It flew over the gorge and settled on another cliff face, and then we realised there were in fact two, around a nest site. Much 'ooohing and 'aaahing' and many photographs followed!

Descending the gorge, we returned to the hotel for our main meal of the day before setting out for a valley where we hoped to find bears. Arriving, we set off for a walk along the valley floor seeing White Wagtails and eventually a huge Lesser Spotted Eagle soaring overhead. It then descended and joined a second bird in a nearby tree allowing great views and even better pictures for those with long lenses.

In the pasture, large numbers of Field Crickets (*Gryllus campestris*) were in their burrows and we managed to coax one out for a picture, whilst an Eastern Green Lizard and a Green-winged Orchid (*Orchis morio*) or two enlivened the walk.

One huge flock of sheep with their attendant shepherd later, we arrived at the meeting point for the bear trip. As we walked up to the hide, the huge paw prints with their enormous claws were early warnings of what was in the woods. We also passed a large clump of Toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*). We settled into the hide and the bait was set. We prepared ourselves for the potentially long wait needed for the bears to arrive and it took 40 minutes

before the first one appeared. This large female Brown Bear spent 20 minutes 'hoovering up' the food before being disturbed by something, probably another bear, and ran into the woods. Shortly after, a young male Brown Bear arrived, followed by a larger male and finally a different female. These three bears then spent the next 30 minutes eating and interacting with each other before, as darkness settled in, we had to leave the hide to exit the woods safely, with three bears only 50 feet away in the clearing! Overhead a Soprano Pipistrelle could be seen, and as we walked down the track another bear ran through the trees to our left, before we finally got back to the bus in the deepening darkness.

Travelling down the valley we spotted a few Foxes, howled unsuccessfully for Wolves, and found some Roe Deer, Noctule Bats and a Lesser Horseshoe Bat before heading home for bed. The only other mammal was a drive-by Eastern Hedgehog. Then it was finally to bed, or the bar for a beer, at the end of a great day.

## Day 3

Saturday 29th April

We woke up to a clear, bright and cold start this morning and after breakfast set off to the National Park. As we drove, a few birds caught our eye including a Black Redstart and a Nutcracker or two, plus a few amazing pollarded Willow trees. Then we set off for the Dambovicioara gorge, where the first bird was a young Dipper and the flowers were amazing, including *Hepatica transilvanica*. We then explored the cave in the valley to see if we could find any bats, but although the bat detector picked up Greater Horseshoe Bat, we couldn't find any. In the river valley Red Lungwort (*Pulmonaria rubra*) was flowering alongside the stream and further Dippers flashed up and down the valley.

Then we went back to Castle Bran, which is linked in the mind of the public with Dracula! Bran Castle is a 13th century beauty, linked closely with the rulers of the regions of Transylvania, particularly Vlad the Impaler, and was used by Bram Stoker for his anti-hero Dracula; a derivation of the name given to Vlad's father 'Dracul' - Evil. In the castle grounds there were no Newts in the pond, but Grey-headed Woodpecker and Spotted Flycatcher made the list, whilst Fieldfares sang from the treetops; a sound none of the group was familiar with.

On our return to the hotel the sun began to set towards the hills and after dinner went bat hunting, recording Noctule Bats, Common Pipistrelle and Nathusius' Pipistrelle to end a great day in the mountains.

## Day 4

Sunday 30th April

Today was a travel day and after goodbyes to the guesthouse staff, we drove out of the mountains. Unfortunately, the weather had become wet and so our first stop at a castle was a bit damp. Nevertheless, we managed great views of a pair of Firecrests, which was a much sort after species for some of the group. The stop at the castle was heaving in people, being a Bank Holiday, but we found a Common Vole to add to the mammal list and enjoyed some warming hot chocolate and tea.

Then it was onwards towards the delta with a few stops to look for birds. At one we had massed ranks of Red-footed Falcons and masses of Yellow Wagtails of many different types including Grey-headed and Black-headed. At another stop we found Great Reed Warbler, Whiskered Tern and three Little Bitterns which showed to most of the group as they flew around the reeds. These Little Bitterns also sat in the reeds barking like small dogs; frustratingly only a few yards into the reeds, but completely hidden.

As the afternoon progressed, we finally crossed over the mighty Danube, where we spotted Black-winged Stilt and Purple Heron along the roadsides. West of the Danube the landscape is flat and frankly boring. East of the Danube the land begins to roll and small limestone hills and ridges make for a much more varied and interesting vista, spoilt only by arrays of wind turbines slowly rotating in the wind.

Continuing our journey, on the north slope of the limestone hills we found a Rookery where Rooks shared their old nests with Red-footed Falcons, and where dense forests of Silver Lime (*Tilia tomentosa*) trees act as magnets for bee keepers. Stopping briefly to buy some lime honey for the group to try (it contains a slightly addictive chemical - close in nature to LSD!), we finally arrive at the floating hotel which was to be our base for a few nights. After a tasty dinner, some of the group went for a walk along the Tulcea Promenade to take in the sights of the Delta and go to the pub, before finally retiring to bed. However, the bat detectors once again picked up Nathusius' Pipistrelles to end a very long, but enjoyable day.

## Day 5

## Monday 1st May

The dawn was bright but overcast, with a promise of sun and warmth later. However, as we set off in the small boat there was still a chill in the air. As we sailed we saw Kingfishers galore and by mid-morning we had also found our first flocks of White Pelicans. As we sailed, the channels got smaller and smaller and we found Black-necked Grebes and White-tailed Eagles.

The small on-board toilet featured heavily in the next hour of the day, starting with a visit to the loo which cost one of the group the first Otter of the trip. Then another member of the group went to the loo, but due to a mistake by another member of the party, was inadvertently locked in. This tragic mistake was not noticed by the remaining party – even their spouse! Then the day's highlight – a Pallas's Gull in full summer plumage graced a bank before taking off and flying in front of us. As the engine was stopped to watch the bird, Florian became aware of the plaintive shouts of "Help" from the loo and the remaining member of the party was discovered - just after the Pallas's Gull had disappeared! Much hilarity followed!

On a small channel a woodpecker called and a pair of Grey-headed Woodpeckers gave spectacular views around their nest hole, just before we returned to the floating hotel for lunch. We then spent a few pleasant hours sailing on the floating hotel as it was towed down the main channel, passing Hoopoe, pelicans, Glossy Ibis and many more birds. The sun also came out and the temperature rose, and as the day went on it became very warm indeed.

After a few hours, we moored the hotel and made our way out for the afternoon on a small boat. In the channels, Ferruginous Ducks swam in small lakes, Cuckoo and Hobby graced many trees, Red-footed Falcons shot overhead and in another small lake a pair of Garganey was superb.

After returning to the hotel and soaking up the sheer wonder of being moored in the middle of nowhere, we had dinner, watched Nathusius' Pipistrelle, photographed the stars, saw shooting stars and satellites, and then finally went to bed at midnight, amazed at the noise of the millions and millions of frogs. A truly great day in the delta!

## Day 6

Tuesday 2nd May

Overnight the calls of Savi's and Great Reed Warblers added to the cacophony from the Pool Frogs, and as dawn rose on a beautiful morning, the noise increased – something that one can only be amazed by. For the early risers, there was a magnificent sunrise with Bitterns booming and Kingfishers calling, and around us there were simply birds everywhere.

After breakfast, we set off in the small boat for the traditional village of Letta, which sits in a part of the delta only a couple of miles from the border with Ukraine. In Letta we could walk on the land for the first time in a couple of days, and on wet areas Wood and Marsh Sandpipers, Ruff and Black-winged Stilt could all be seen. A surprise for many was a beautiful European Tree Frog, and a Grass Snake showed well and was photographed. One of the aspirations of the guide for Letta was to find a Mole Cricket (*Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa*). Tragically he did not find one, but was exceptionally frustrated when a male Red-footed Falcon caught one in front of the group and then proceeded to eat it slowly! Exceptionally frustrating if you wanted to photograph a Mole Cricket - fantastic if you wanted to photograph a Red-footed Falcon at a range of only 20 or 30 feet! Then back onto the small boat after a look around the village and the return to the hotel. This return trip, like all moments in the delta, was filled with birds, plus another two Otters which showed well as we sailed back for lunch.

We travelled on the big boat for a while over lunch, before decamping back into a small boat for the afternoon. The steaming 30-degree heat had cooled slightly by the time we boarded and the birds began to move as the afternoon cooled. One striking highlight was a pair of Penduline Tits constructing one of their amazing nests – something we stopped to watch for a good half hour. Then on a lake we managed to find a large group of White Pelicans. Numbering over 500, they swam on the lake, demonstrating communal fishing and formation flying. It was a truly stunning way to spend a late afternoon. Another Pallas's Gull passed overhead and a couple of White-tailed Eagles flew around. Finally we returned to the hotel, surrounded by Squacco Herons and Night Herons and yet another Otter which showed exceptionally well.

On the hotel we watched the sun set over the reedbeds, had dinner, then did some bat watching and star gazing, surrounded as always by the cacophony of the frogs – it really is magical! The bats were good, with Pond and Daubenton's Bats flying around over the river and showing well. Overhead four species of Pipistrelle: Nathusius', Kuhl's, Soprano and Common Pipistrelles, flew around and were joined by Parti-coloured Bats, Common Noctules and Serotines. Then amazingly we picked up the exceptionally low calls of a Greater Noctule Bat. This massive and rare bat is a rarity anywhere in Europe, but apparently likes to feed over wetlands and roosts in woodpecker holes. What do we have in abundance in the delta? – wetlands and woodpeckers! Much debate followed about the identification as the references we had with us showed them not to be present in the Delta or even in this part of Romania, but the recording looked very good to the guide. Therefore, overnight the recording was sent off to additional bat experts in Hungary and elsewhere in Romania and fingers were well and truly crossed as we went to bed.

## Day 7

Wednesday 3rd May

Another stunning and sunny day dawned and news was already in from around Europe. The Greater Noctule Bat uses very lower frequencies (15 kHz or even lower), which are frequencies not used by Common Noctule Bats. The calls we had recorded even descended to 14,7 kHz and therefore the European consensus was that our

bats (there were two) were Greater Noctules. Further information reached us during the morning that the species had been recorded in the Delta in 2007 and occasionally since, but that information hasn't yet been published - hence the absence from the reference material. Our sighting, however, was from an area where they hadn't been seen and will lead to survey work to attempt to locate the colony.

After breakfast, we boarded another small boat and sailed through lakes of breeding Whiskered and Black Terns, found our first Dalmatian Pelicans, steered through ancient Willow-lined channels and discovered one of Europe's largest moths – the Great Peacock moth (*Saturnia pyri*). We watched masses of feeding frogs, spotted Hobby and Cuckoo and had another splendid morning.

Finally via a Musk Rat and more Pelicans and Pygmy Cormorants, we arrived at the hotel again and had lunch. Then the floating hotel headed for Tulcea and in the baking heat of the afternoon we sailed through the Willows watching more Otter, had stunning views of White-tailed Eagles and finally moored back in Tulcea. Here there was a surprise for the guide as Florian's wife brought a Mole Cricket to be photographed!

Arriving in the evening in Tulcea, we had dinner with frankly superb 'napkin art' gracing the tables, and a beautiful sunset over the less beautiful Aluminium works. Then another trip along the water front with ice-cream, and for the night owls, another trip to the pub. Mind you, the remaining night owls also heard Scops Owl and a mass of Nathusius' Pipistrelles before finally returning to the floating hotel to bed.

## Day 8

## Thursday 4th May

After wishing the boat crew a fond farewell, we headed out for a morning in Babadag. Our first stop was a hill sticking from the plain, where Spanish Sparrows abounded, Tawny Pipits sang loudly and Isabelline and Northern Wheatears allowed comparison. There was also a great view of a Long-Legged Buzzard, a stunning Ortolan Bunting, Bee-eaters, masses of Dung Beetles and a few enormous bodied Oil Beetles. Finally, Calandra Larks and Skylarks sang their hearts out, whilst amongst the grassland, Souselic ran around amongst their burrows.

Our next stop was a small roadside quarry where Bee-eaters were nesting (such amazing birds) plus Short-toed Larks were calling and flying around. Then the Babadag Gorge, a beautiful area of karst limestone, which had the most stunning Eastern Pied Wheatears as we arrived. The grassland in the gorge was heaving in Souselics and overhead, Kestrels and Rollers filled the air. For many of the group, the next half an hour was also one of the highlights of the trip, with a pair of Rollers engaging in an amazing aerial display. Woodlarks called from the woods and those Eastern Pied Wheatears kept displaying.

Then to a gorge with masses of Nightingales and a couple of Levant Sparrowhawks which displayed overhead. In the grassland, masses of flowers drew the eye including an amazing purple Iris (*Iris pumila*). A cave proved too tricky for the group to enter, but the guides discovered a group of Mehely's Horseshoe Bats, one of the rarest and most difficult European species to find.

Then onwards to the coast for our final stop by the Black Sea, which had Hoopoes everywhere, Temminck's and Little Stints, plus Pond Terrapins and the most amazing male Golden Oriole. Arriving at the beach, the guide and two of the party went for a swim in the Black Sea, whilst many others paddled. Overhead Little Terns, Great

Black-backed Gulls, Sandwich Terns and Gull-billed Terns passed by. On the beach a couple of Spur-thighed Tortoise were located and we then returned to the lagoons to watch the birds. The next hour proved to be amazing with masses of Avocets, Black and Whiskered Terns, Collared Pratincoles, Bitterns and Purple Herons merged with waders, ducks and herons. Then the most amazing sight – skein after skein of Pelicans rose from a pool as an estimated 2,000 Pelicans took to the air half a mile away and then passed over our heads. They were very close, silhouetted by the setting sun and their wings creaked as they flew. It was an astonishing sight that will last long in the minds of all who were there. Simply breathtaking!

However, the day was coming to an end, so we returned to our guest house, ate dinner, discussed our sightings and went to bed, with a quick look at the bats.

## Day 9

## Friday 5th May

Our last full day had three stops - the first a beautiful area of wood pasture where Sombre Tits were feeding in the old Pear trees, whilst overhead a Booted Eagle shared the sky with Short-toed Eagle, Levant Sparrowhawk and Common and Long-legged Buzzards. We also saw Pallid and Marsh Harriers and Hobby during the morning, taking the morning's 'Bird of Prey' count to eight. A meadow by a stream and more fruit trees yielded Golden Oriole, Hawfinch and Green, Grey-headed and Middle Spotted Woodpeckers. Here we also had a fantastic picnic under the shade of the trees, and tried a local white wine – made by the bus driver from his own vineyard.

Then onwards to the Machin Mountains, where after an ice-cream and in scorching heat, we watched Stone-curlew and Spanish Sparrow whilst overhead Honey Buzzard and Lesser Spotted Eagle flew with Levant Sparrowhawk. In the grassland we had excellent views of Souselic, whilst at the base of the ancient granite hills butterflies flew amongst *Salvia nemorosa*, including Scarce Swallowtail, Green-underside Blue and Queen of Spain Fritillary.

Finally, after watching a pair of Levant Sparrowhawks displaying, we set off back. What then followed was one of the most bizarre experiences of the week as we located a cat stalking through the grassland. The guide called it as a Wildcat and the creature was photographed. Getting off the coach, the group began to doubt the 'wildness' of the Wildcat as it didn't run, and as we moved towards it, another cat was found in the grass asleep. So convinced was one of the party that these were domestic 'moggies' that he approached the cat with no care, whereupon it awoke, saw the person and bolted at high speed to join up with its companion. What this and all the photographs revealed, was that both cats were true Wildcats. They had dark stripes on the back that stopped at the base of the tail, heavily ringed tails, large heads and heavily striped sides. So it was a great learning exercise and a pair of Wildcats for the list!

Our return to the hotel was uneventful but added Red-footed Falcon and Kestrel, taking the bird of prey count to 12. After our last dinner, we did the final list tally, watched a few bats and finally went to bed. However, there was then a power cut which took out all the city lights for a few hours, during which flocks of migrating Bee-eaters could be heard passing over the dark city.

## Day 10

Saturday 6th May

Finally our last day dawned. The drive back to the airport passed surprisingly quickly with one or two stops where sightings included Little Bittern, Great Reed Warbler and Nightingale. Then we had a sightseeing tour of the capital to look at the imposing national buildings and a quick visit to the rural life museum for lunch.

Then it was on to the airport and the flight home, saying our goodbyes to Florin (the guide) and Sorin (the driver), both of whom had been exceptional. Once back in the UK, another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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

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

## Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May												
			27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6			
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
2	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
3	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>										✓			
4	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>												✓	
5	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>									✓	✓			
6	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓						
7	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>					✓	✓				✓			
8	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓						
9	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					✓	✓	✓						
10	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
11	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					✓	✓	✓						
12	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					✓	✓	✓						
13	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓					
14	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serratus</i>										✓			
15	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
17	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>							✓						✓
18	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓					
19	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>				✓									✓
20	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓	✓	✓						✓
21	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓						✓
22	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
23	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
24	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
25	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
26	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>								✓	✓				
28	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>					✓	✓	✓						✓
29	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>													✓
31	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>													✓
32	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		✓											✓
33	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>													✓
34	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>								✓	✓	✓			
35	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓	✓										
36	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
37	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>													✓
38	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					✓	✓	✓						
39	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>										✓	✓	✓	
40	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓
41	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>							✓	✓					
42	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓						
43	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓						
44	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicanus</i>													✓
45	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>											✓		
46	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
47	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					✓					✓			

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May									
			27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
48	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		
49	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								✓		
50	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>								✓		
51	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				✓	✓					
52	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					✓			✓		
53	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>								✓		
54	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>						✓				
55	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					✓					
56	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>								✓		
57	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>						✓	✓	✓		
58	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					✓					
59	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>								✓		
60	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>								✓		
61	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>								✓		
62	Curllew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								✓		
63	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>								✓		
64	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓		
65	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>								✓		
66	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
67	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>								✓		
68	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>					✓	✓				
69	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>								✓		
71	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>								✓		
72	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>								✓		
73	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
74	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrid</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
75	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>							✓	✓		
76	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
77	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
78	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
79	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
80	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
81	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>								✓		
82	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				✓				✓		
83	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>								✓		
84	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulous</i>								✓		
85	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
86	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>								✓	✓	✓
87	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>									✓	
89	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>					✓		✓			
90	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>						✓	✓			
91	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		
92	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>						✓				
93	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>									✓	
94	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓			
95	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				✓	1		✓		✓	
98	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrines</i>			✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May										
			27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	
99	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>									✓		✓
100	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>									✓		✓
101	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
102	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		✓	✓								
104	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>				✓	✓			✓	✓		
105	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>			✓	✓							
106	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓							
108	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓			
109	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>											✓
110	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓									
111	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
112	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
113	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>								✓			
114	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>								✓			
115	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>									✓	✓	
116	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>									✓		
117	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>				✓					✓		
118	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>									✓		
119	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓	✓				✓		
120	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
121	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			✓	✓					✓		
122	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>											✓
123	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					✓						
124	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					✓			✓	✓		
125	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
126	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				✓	✓			✓	✓		
127	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				✓	✓			✓			
128	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>									✓		
129	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					✓			✓			
130	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
131	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓									
132	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>									✓	✓	
133	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>			✓						✓		
134	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>				✓							
135	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				✓							
136	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	✓	✓							
137	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			✓	✓							✓
138	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		✓									
139	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>					✓						
140	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
141	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓							✓	✓
142	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>			✓	✓							
143	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓									
144	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓									
145	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			✓	✓	✓						
146	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓								
147	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>						✓					
148	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
149	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>					✓		✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May												
			27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6			
150	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			✓	✓									
151	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					✓	✓							
152	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>											✓		
153	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>							✓			✓	✓	✓	
154	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>										✓	✓		
155	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>										✓			
156	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		✓	✓										
157	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
158	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>											✓		
159	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
160	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				✓									
161	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
162	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓					
163	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
164	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>											✓		
165	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			✓										
166	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>											✓		
167	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
168	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>												✓	
169	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>												✓	
170	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>												✓	
171	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>												✓	
172	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				✓				✓	✓				✓
173	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>		✓		✓									
174	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>											✓		
175	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓				

## Mammals (28 recorded)

Roe Deer, *Capreolus capreolus*

European Brown Bear, *Ursus arctos*

Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*

Chamois, *Rupicapra rupicapra*

Musk Rat, *Ondatra zibethicus*

Common Vole, *Microtus arvalis*

Eastern Hedgehog, *Erinaceus concolor*

Greater Horseshoe Bat, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*

Daubenton's Bat, *Myotis daubentoni*

Common Noctule, *Nyctalus noctula*

Parti-coloured Bat, *Vespertilio murinus*

Soprano Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*

Kuhl's Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus kuhlii*

Greater Noctule, *Nyctalus lasiopterus*

Golden Jackal, *Canis aureus*

European Hare, *Lepus europaeus*

Otter, *Lutra lutra*

Souslik, *Spermophilus citellus*

Wildcat, *Felis silvestris*

Lesser Horseshoe Bat, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

Mehely's Horseshoe Bat, *Rhinolophus mehelyi*

Pond Bat, *Myotis dasycneme*

Serotine Bat, *Eptesicus serotinus*

Common Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

Nathusius' Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus nathusii*

Western Barbastelle, *Barbastella barbastellus*

Northern Bat, *Eptesicus nilssonii*

## Amphibians

Agile Frog, *Rana dalmatina*

Fire-bellied Toad, *Bombina orientalis*

Fire-bellied Salamander, *Salamandra atra*

Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog, *Pelophylax sp*

European Tree Frog, *Hyla arborea*

## Reptiles

Grass Snake, *Natrix natrix persa*  
Spur-thighed Tortoise, *Testudo graeca*  
Pond Terrapin, *Emis orbicularis*

Eastern Green Lizard, *Lacerta viridis*  
Snake-eyed Skink, *Ablepharus kitaibelii*  
Sand Lizard, *Lacerta agilis*

## Butterflies

Small White, *Pieris rapae*  
Green-veined White, *Pieris napi*  
Orange Tip, *Anthocharis cardamines*  
Scarce Swallowtail, *Iphiclides podalirius*  
Grizzled Skipper, *Pyrgus malvae*  
Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*  
Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*  
Queen of Spain Fritillary, *Issoria lathonia*  
Holly Blue, *Celastrina argiolus*  
Brown Argus, *Aricia agestis*

Large White, *Pieris brassicae*  
Danube Clouded Yellow, *Colias myrmidone*  
Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*  
European Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*  
Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*  
Small Tortoiseshell, *Aglais urticae*  
Lesser Fiery Copper, *Lycaena thersamon*  
Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamn*  
Green-underside Blue, *Glaucopsyche alexis*